re⇆use
FEDERACE

Five Years in Circulation

Reuse Federation's Member Network Report 2021–2025

Joining forces for a zero-waste Czechia

August 2026

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Summary

Reuse Federation brings together organisations that prevent waste through the reuse of items, while also delivering significant social and economic benefits. Since its founding in 2021, Reuse Federation has become the leading platform for the Czech reuse sector, and by the end of 2025 it brought together 40 members across the Czech Republic.

This report summarises the results of member organisations for the period 2022–2025 and presents the first overall picture of the impact of the reuse sector in Czechia. The data are drawn from voluntary reporting by members and from projects carried out in cooperation with the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA ČR) and the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MPSV).

For the period under review, reporting member organisations returned more than 2.5 million kilograms of material and over 1.2 million items to circulation, items that did not become waste thanks to reuse operations. By weight, the most significant category remains furniture and household furnishings, which was given a second chance in this way.

Reuse sector also has a strong social impact. Member furniture banks supported a total of 16,333 people in housing need or a socially unfavourable situation in the years 2022–2025. Reuse operations create job opportunities for people with specific needs, work together with social services, and a significant part of their operation is supported by volunteers. In total, more than 48 thousand hours of volunteer work were reported, worth almost 12 million crowns.

The report also shows that the reuse sector in the Czech Republic still operates without a stable systemic financial framework and without clear legislative anchoring, which significantly limits its development and, as a result, its potential. Despite these barriers, reuse organisations already demonstrably reduce municipal costs for waste disposal, and over the period under review they **delivered savings of more than 10.8 million crowns**.

The findings show that a network of organisations that handle items and return them to circulation is an important part of a modern circular economy. If we want to fulfil the vision and goals of the Circular Czechia 2040 strategy, it is essential to systematically support reuse infrastructure, develop cooperation with municipalities, and create stable conditions for the further development of a sector that brings environmental, social and community benefits, and whose potential remains unfulfilled for now.

Foreword

The items around us hold value – material, social and environmental. Yet every day, on an enormous scale, we lose this value: we throw away what could still serve a purpose, and we manufacture new items where repair or handover would have been enough. The global economy names this problem clearly: a linear economy – make, use, discard – steadily destroys the value of materials, products and human labour[1]. Products are disposed of before it is necessary, materials needlessly end up as waste, and the impact on nature and society remains hidden in prices. Reuse is a direct answer to this waste. It is not only a matter of ecology – it is a matter of how we, as a society, handle resources, household budgets and labour-market opportunities for people on the margins of society.

Reuse Federation aims for a Czech Republic without needless waste, where items are kept in circulation for as long as possible. To live up to this vision, we must evaluate and share the positive effects that reuse operations generate. We have been collecting this data since 2022, when a pilot data-collection system was set up with member organisations of Reuse Federation, one that keeps improving and evolving over time.

This report summarises five years of operation of Reuse Federation and its member organisations. It captures the outputs, results and first steps towards systematically measuring the impact of the reuse sector – environmental, social and economic. The data come from voluntary reporting by members and from two research projects. Building a reuse data foundation in Czechia is still only beginning; this report is its first, more comprehensive review.

On behalf of the Reuse Federation team
Jitka Hofmanová, Anika Chalupská,
Lucie Deptová

Member data 2022–2025

Environmental benefit

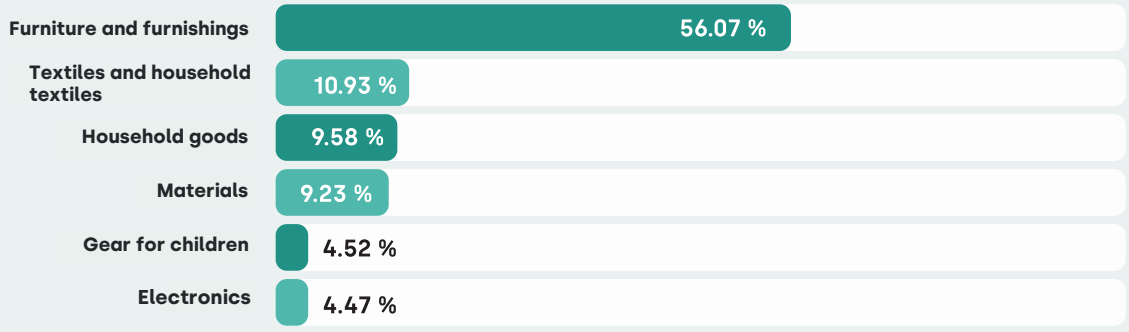
2 568 722

kg returned to circulation
(data from 70 reports)

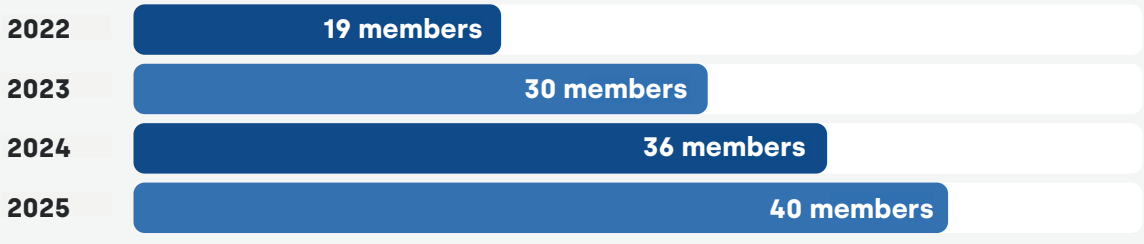
1 283 138

items returned to circulation
(data from 68 reports)

Product categories by weight



Growing membership base



Social benefit

16 333

people supported by furniture banks

19

reported organisations cooperating with 10reuse operators in 2025

2.2

average number of employees with specific needs

Economic benefit

10 841 066 Kč

municipal disposal costs saved thanks to the reuse of items and materials

144 758

customers at reuse centres

11 944 013 Kč

value of volunteer work (hours converted using the median gross wage for the final three months of the year)

Reuse Federation and its direction

Reuse Federation was founded in May 2021 out of the conviction that if reuse is to have a future in Czechia, operators need to be brought together and the sector needs systemic support. At the end of 2025 the network had 40 members, differing in the type of operation – reuse centres, furniture banks, material banks, charity and swap organisations operating across the whole country. These organisations share one thing in common – **they return items back to circulation, create jobs for people who would otherwise struggle in the labour market, and preserve the value of materials instead of letting it disappear in incinerators or landfills**.

Despite the fact that **reuse is a practical tool of the circular economy**, waste prevention in the Czech Republic has a complicated standing. Under the Waste Act[2], this very prevention should rank first in the waste-management hierarchy, yet this premise is not fulfilled in practice. Reuse is anchored neither strategically nor legislatively, and no financial framework has been created that would support the creation and operation of a reuse network. As a result, recycling is prioritised over reuse, and the potential of the sector goes unfulfilled.

The current situation calls for a focus on systemic change, which will help the prevention of waste in the Czech Republic, with all its positive impacts on the environment and society. **Reuse Federation is taking steps towards systemic change: we support and help professionalise the network of reuse operations in the Czech Republic, and we are engaged in intensive discussions with representatives of towns, municipalities, regions and the state.** We are part of strategic working groups focused on putting the circular economy into practice, and we motivate the public to change consumption habits. We operate at both an expert and

a human level, and we are clearly pursuing our stated vision of **the Czech Republic without needless waste by 2050.**

This report summarises data that Reuse Federation collected in cooperation with member organisations in the years 2022–2025. It captures **the environmental, social, economic and awareness-raising impact of the sector and is the first review of the activities of Reuse Federation to date**. The data are drawn from data reports by members for the years 2022–2025 and from an analysis carried out as part of the projects Data Collection, Evaluation and Reporting System for the Prevention of Selected Waste (TAČR)[3] and Development of the Furniture Bank Network in Cooperation with the MPSV – Implementation (MPSV).[4]

The data in this report show that reuse is not a marginal activity, but a functional part of a modern and responsible economy. If we truly want to prevent waste in the Czech Republic, we need to start systematically supporting solutions that extend the life of items while also strengthening the social and environmental resilience of society.

Reuse in the Czech Republic – legislation

Thanks to European Union legislation, the principles of reuse and the circular economy are gradually gaining a significantly stronger position in the Czech Republic. Key support comes above all from **Act No. 541/2020 Coll., on waste**, which defines waste as an item that its holder discards, and which clearly builds on a waste-management hierarchy in which reuse takes precedence over recycling. Current legislation also allows municipalities to set up reuse operations as places for depositing items that still work – from furniture through toys to sporting goods – thanks to which these items never enter the waste regime at all, nor are they counted towards the production of municipal waste by a municipality.

In practice, however, reuse remains, compared with recycling, more of a voluntary tool. While recycling has clearly set binding targets and reporting, reuse lacks any such anchoring and is neither systematically mandated nor evaluated at municipal level as the producers of waste. The result is an imbalance, whereby the system often favours a solution applied only at the end of the material flow, even though the legislative logic of the waste-management hierarchy states the opposite.

From the point of view of the reuse sector, it is therefore significant that the new Czech Waste Management Plan (POH ČR) is shifting the whole discussion towards waste prevention and towards keeping product value in circulation more consistently. Although it still lacks detailed mechanisms for financing reuse infrastructure and a clearly defined systemic support for reuse centres, it represents an important step towards reuse gradually becoming a solid and fully-fledged part of Czech environmental and circular policy.

Forthcoming European legislation, such as the **Circular Economy Act**, will have a fundamental effect on the development of reuse in the Czech Republic, because it shifts the emphasis from recycling alone towards waste prevention and the reuse of products. Another important milestone is the so-called Right to Repair. This European directive aims to support more sustainable consumption by increasing the repair and reuse of goods, both within and beyond the statutory warranty. This is gradually fulfilling the priorities of the European Commission in the field of green transformation, specifically the European Green Deal[5].

A further key driver is **the expansion of extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes** to areas such as textiles, footwear and furniture. This step strengthens the responsibility of producers for the entire life cycle of products and supports their longer lifespan, repairability and reuse, which overall strengthens the role of reuse within the circular economy.

Composition of the network – types of operations

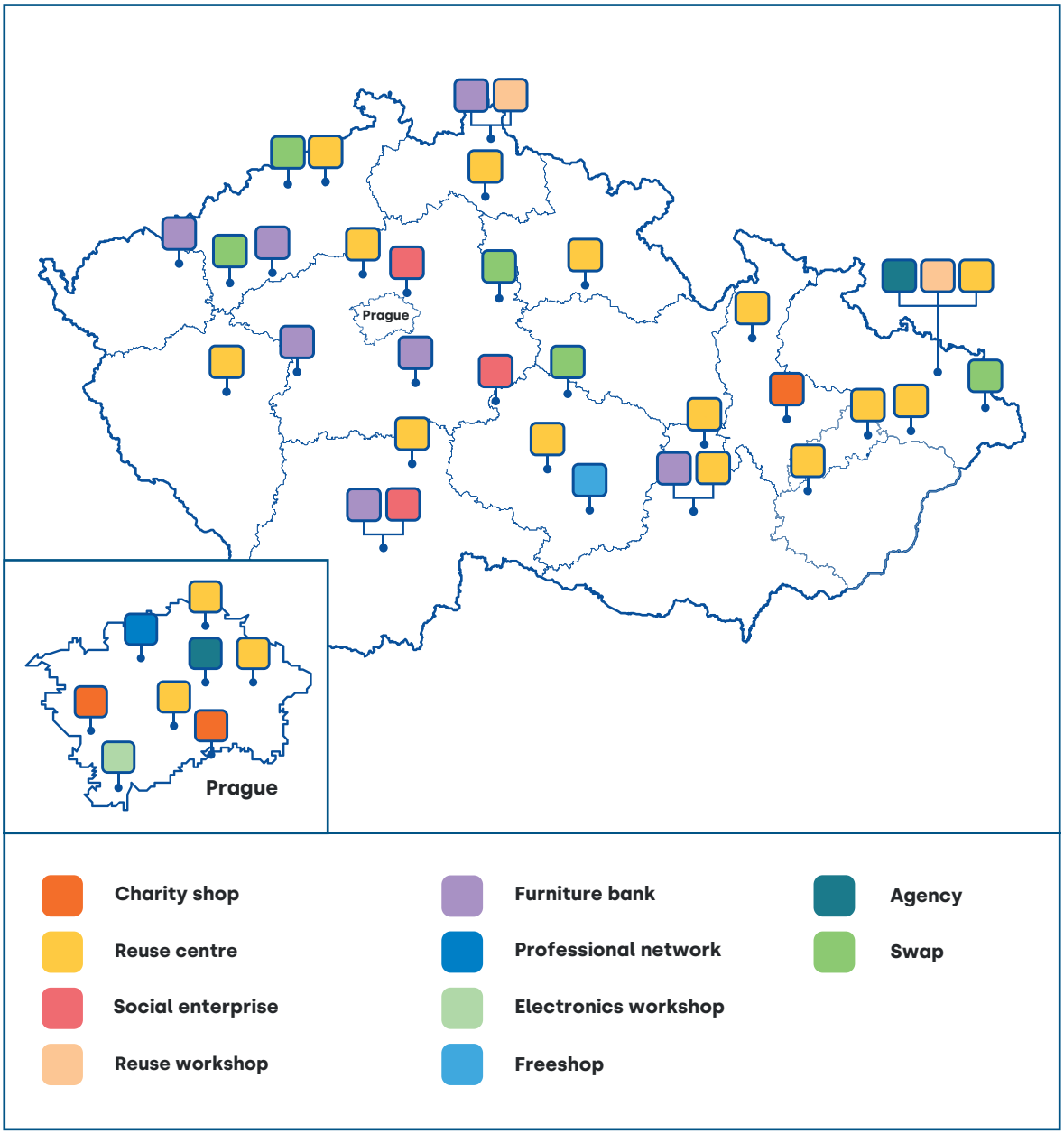
At the end of 2025, the member network of Reuse Federation comprised a professional network, two agencies and 37 operators; these are mainly the following types of operations:

Reuse centre or a charity shop is a place where anyone can bring items they no longer need but which still have potential for further use. Staff clean and, where needed, repair the items before offering them for sale again. At a reuse centre it is possible to shop just as in an ordinary store. Items are available at various price levels, though these generally reflect the value of the item. At the same time, it is a place that forms a community of people for whom not throwing items away comes naturally, and who, by valuing items and choosing to shop this way, support sustainability. A reuse centre often also plays an educational role, running courses, workshops, swaps or awareness-raising activities.

Furniture bank is an organisation or service that systematically ensures the collection, receipt, storage, basic maintenance, repair and redistribution of used furniture and household furnishings. Its purpose is to provide these furnishings to people and households in housing need or in a socially unfavourable situation, thereby helping to improve their living conditions while also reducing waste and supporting the principles of the circular economy.

Swap initiatives and free shops – a swap is the English term for exchanging items, and in the reuse world it is most often a community event at which clothes, books, household items or items for children are exchanged, and flower or other themed swaps may also appear. The principle, though, is always the same: whatever does not suit one person is brought to the event, and someone else takes it away for free. Swaps tend to be one-off, very popular events that allow people to both give away and obtain items. They can, however, also take the form of a permanent place where items are exchanged for free or for a small fee – that is, a freeshop.

Reuse Federation member network



Data-collection methodology and its limitations

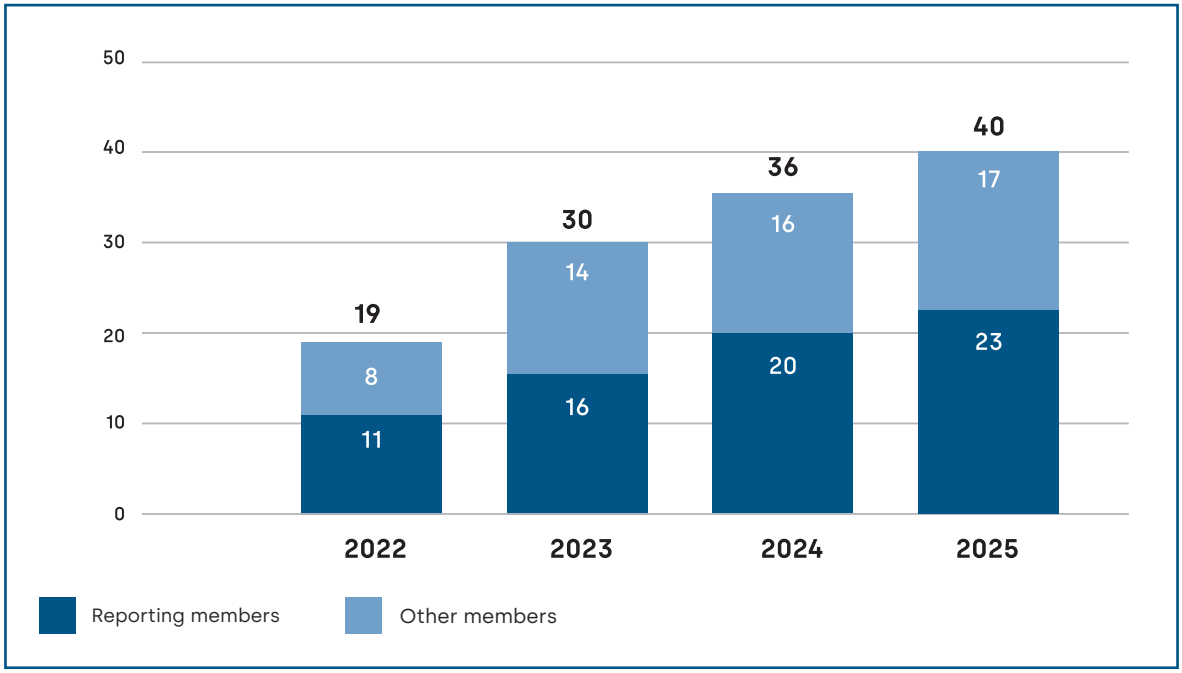
Reuse Federation has put together a methodology for collecting data from its member organisations so that selected environmental, social and economic aspects of operations can be mapped. In preparing this report and interpreting the data, the following had to be taken into account:

- reporting by members of Reuse Federation is voluntary (there is no official system for reuse data collection and reporting),
- inconsistent granularity,
- members report performance in different units,
- reporting members show differing continuity of reporting,
- as the number of members grows, the database gradually expands.

For the coming years of data collection and evaluation, reporting therefore needs to:

- standardise parameters,
- unify units,
- motivate members towards continuity.

Growth of the reporting membership base



Environmental benefit

Reuse activities generate a whole range of measurable environmental benefits. The best-mapped indicator is the number of tonnes of material diverted from waste – that is, items that, thanks to reuse, did not end up in an incinerator or a landfill. This figure is collected and reported regularly.

An internationally accepted methodology for the environmental benefit of reuse platforms is still lacking, one that would calculate the benefit as a combination of avoided product carbon footprint and emissions arising from the operation of the reuse platform[6]. This calculation methodology is used, for example, by the Dutch reuse network Kringloop, through a tool kept up to date by the consultancy Ecoras – in 2024 they calculated a saving of 339 million kg of CO2 this way.

It would also be possible, for instance, to map the reduction in extraction of primary raw materials, savings in water and energy linked to the manufacture of new products, or the reduction of chemical burden in the production of textiles and electronics.

In the Czech context, we are for now focusing primarily on the volume of non-waste, because calculating a carbon footprint needs shared LCA coefficients, a uniform methodology and data on the material composition of reused items and materials. It is therefore a matter of data infrastructure, not a lack of will to measure the benefits.

Total amount of material and items reused

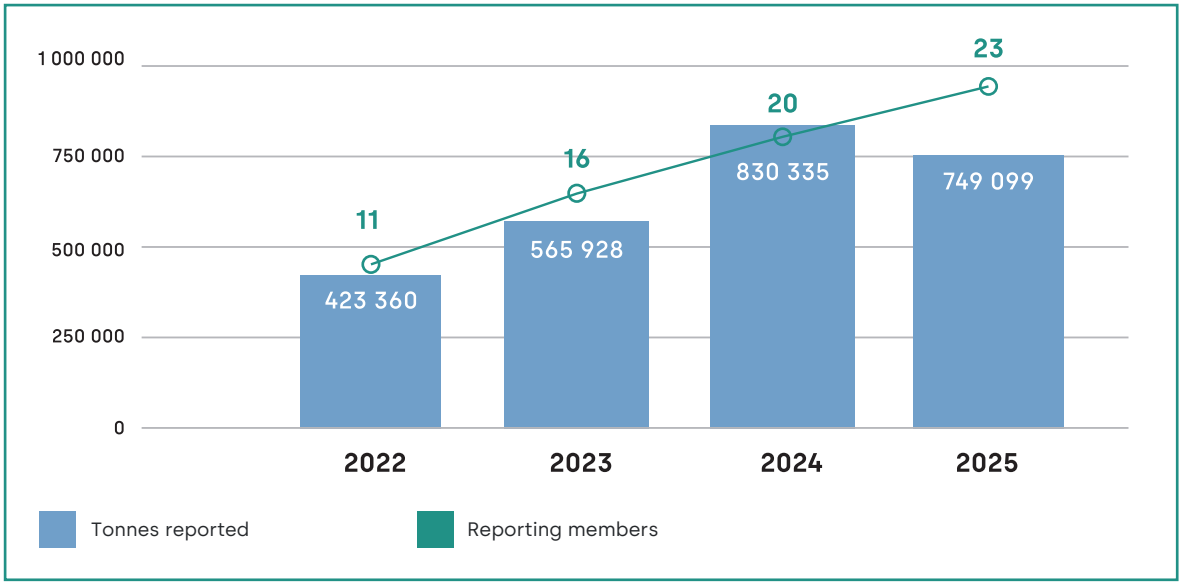
Amount by weight

The most fundamental indicator that member organisations of Reuse Federation report longest and most consistently is the weight of items handed over for reuse. **Over the whole period under review, 2022–2025, members collectively reported 2,568,722 kg of material and items that did not become waste** — from a total of 70 reports.

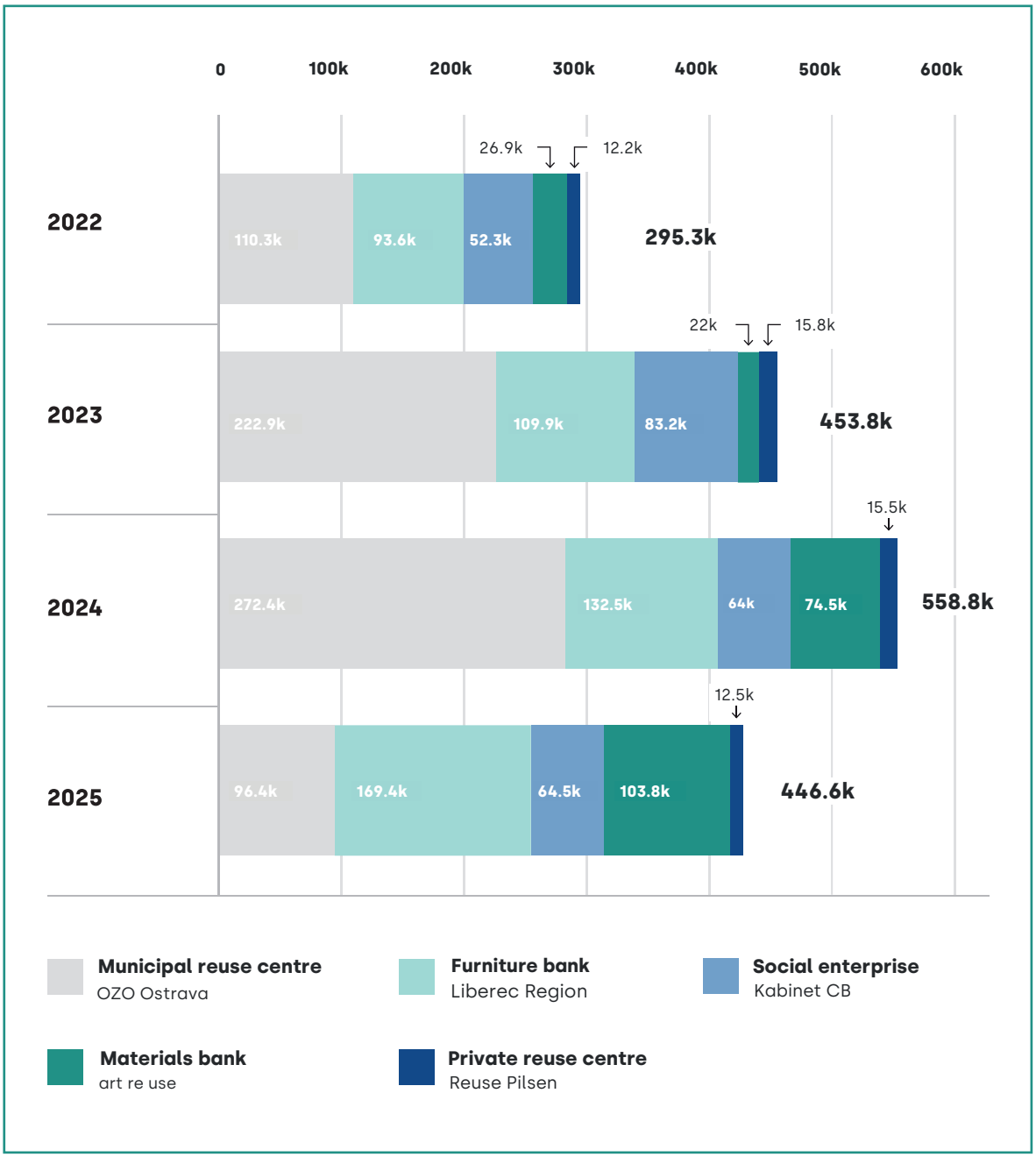
In 2025, 749,099 kg was handed over for reuse. The year-on-year drop in this figure does not mean a decline in activity within the sector, but reflects fluctuations in the reporting base. In this particular year we had the highest number of reporters to date [23], but we did not receive reports from two furniture banks. The best-performing member reuse centre – OZO Ostrava – was hit by floods in autumn 2024, which affected its figures for both 2024 and 2025.

For a more detailed view, we select five different types of operations that report continuously, thus their data provide a more precise view of how the sector has developed over time. Without the external effect – the clean-up after the September 2024 floods at OZO Ostrava – the trend would have continued to grow.

Number of tonnes reported and number of reporting members



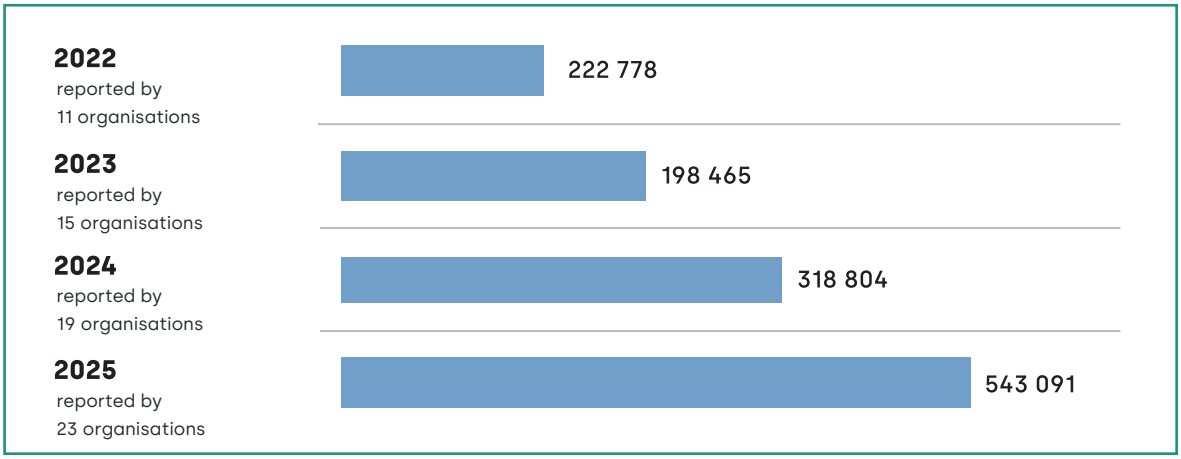
Development of reuse volume across five different types of member operators (kg)



Amount by number of items

In parallel with weight, we also track the number of items – that is, how many specific items were handed over for a further life. Across the whole period **we record a total of 1,283,138 items** from 68 reports. Reuse operators receive and record a diverse range of items – from small items through furniture to bulk material – and this chart shows a rising trend in public use of the service.

Total number of items handed over for reuse



Items handed over by category

Reuse operators receive, repair and hand out a wide range of items and materials. For recording purposes, more than ninety line items are grouped into these eleven categories: **Household textiles, Decorations and home accessories, Items for children, Household goods, Electronics, Pet supplies, Books, CDs, DVDs, Materials, Furniture and furnishings, Sporting goods, and Textiles.**

Shoe rack · **Sofa** · Clock · Painting · Mirror · **Storage wall unit** · **Shelving unit** · Other decorations · **Bedside table** · Other small decorations · Flowers · Musical instrument · Food · **Low cabinet** · Car seat · Child · Small furniture · Large furniture for children · Small toys · Large toys · Pushchair · Mattress (child) · Balance bike · **Armchair** · Other items for children · Small glassware · **Dining table** · Large glassware · Small plastic items · Large plastic items · **Bookcase** · Small wooden items · Large wooden items · Small stainless steel items · Large stainless steel items · Small ceramics · Large ceramics · **Office desk** · **Coffee table** · Storage box · **Chair**

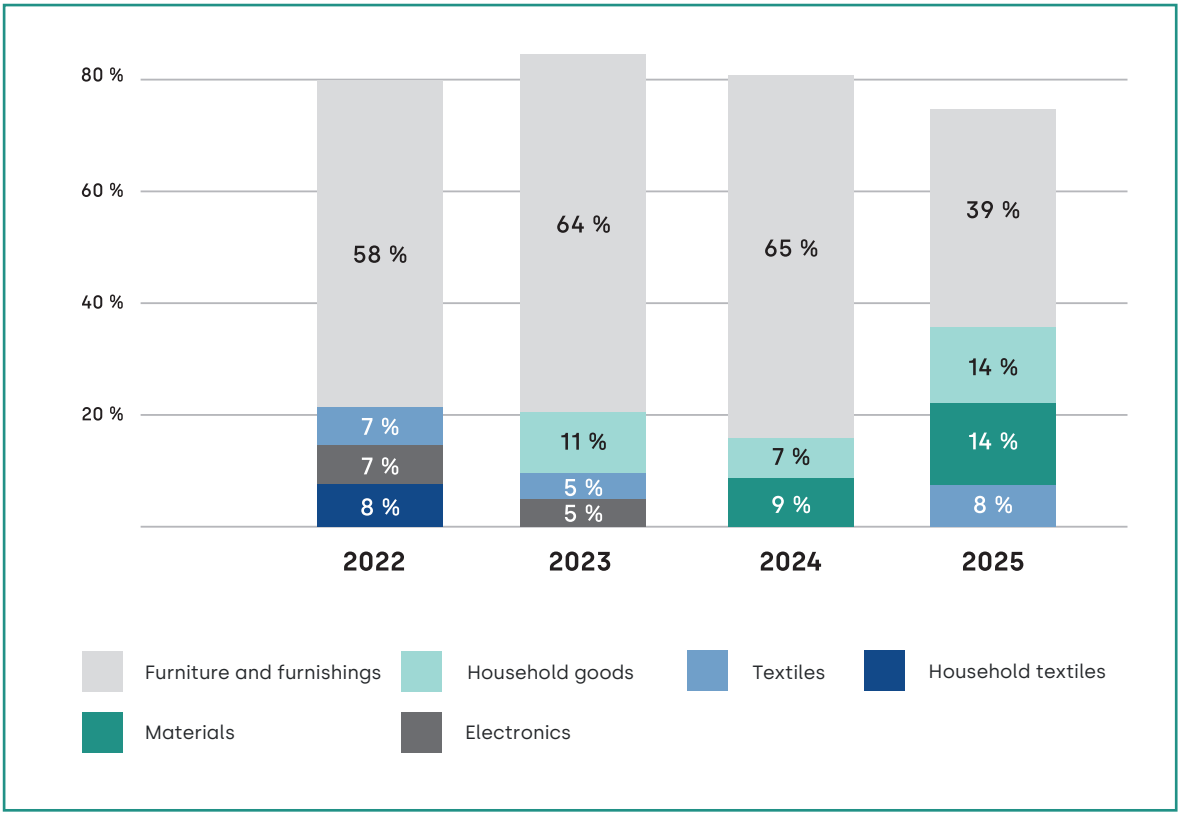
Small items · **Other furniture** · Other household goods · Blanket · Small rug · Large rug · Bed linen · **Bench** · Mattress · Cushion · Towels/cloths · **Adjustable bed** · Curtains · Other household textiles · Clothing · Footwear · Bags · Suitcase · Other textiles · **Bed** · Fridge · **Sofa bed** · Microwave oven · Dishwasher · Television · **Tall cabinet** · Laptop · Desktop computer · Monitor · Washing machine · **Bathroom cabinet** · Cooker · Tumble dryer · Oven · Other electronics · **Chest of drawers** · Bicycle · Skis/cross-country skis · Ski boots · Skates/ cross-country boots · Other sports gear · **Bed frame** · Aquarium · Cage/carrier · **Shelf** · Other pet supplies · CD/DVD · Book

In all four years under review, the category of furniture and household furnishings dominates – in the weight of items handed over it accounts for 58 to 65% of the total. This is not surprising: furniture is heavy. Its reuse has a direct and easily measurable environmental value, because manufacturing new furniture belongs among the most material- and energy-intensive processes, and its repairability is high. The high share of furniture also reflects the composition of the member network, which includes several furniture banks.

In this respect, 2025 brings an interesting shift: the share of furniture falls markedly for the first time – to 39%. At the same time, the categories of household goods (14%) and materials (14%) increase significantly. This shift reflects changes in the composition of the reporting base in 2025 – namely that, compared with previous years, two furniture banks did not supply data. Even so, it suggests that as the member network grows and diversifies, the picture of what reuse operations handle also becomes more varied.

Most significant categories of items

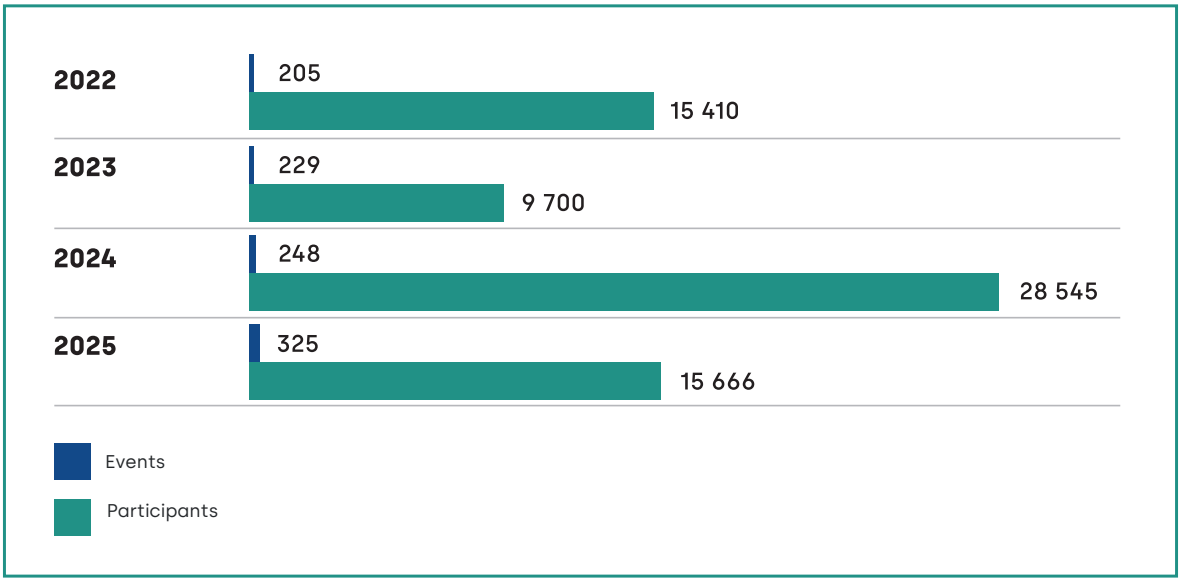
In each year of the 2022–2025 period, the categories of items that account for the largest share, by %, of the total weight of items and materials handed over for reuse were selected.



Environmental education, upbringing and awareness

Member organisations are also actively engaged in raising awareness on the topic of sustainability. They repeatedly organise events for the public, for schools and nurseries, and also run repair courses. The most popular concepts are swaps, or events such as Reuse Days, which reach a broad public, while so-called Repair cafés are also becoming newly popular, where experts help repair electronics and household items. These events popularise the idea of not throwing things away and of repairing, and reach tens of thousands of individuals every year.

Environmental activities of reuse operations – participation and number of events



Social benefit

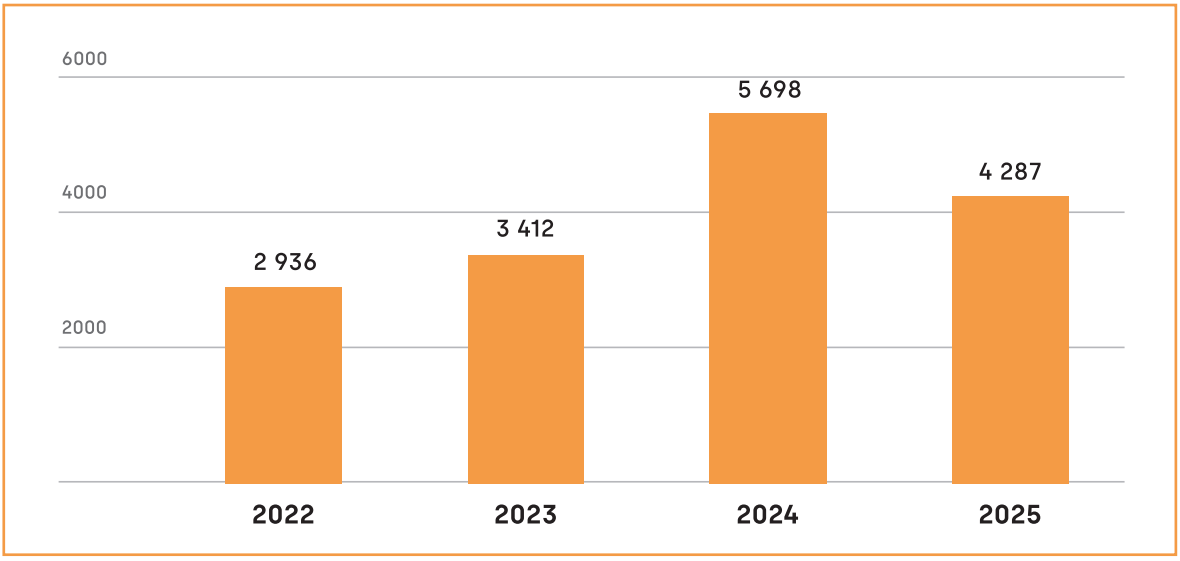
Reuse organisations in the Czech Republic bring, alongside their environmental impact, significant social value too — and this in several respects at once. The most easily tracked indicator is direct support for people in material need, chiefly through furniture banks, which provide affordable household furnishings to families who could not otherwise afford new furniture.

The second key dimension is the employment of people disadvantaged in the labour market: people with disabilities, recipients of social benefits, people in a difficult life situation or in the process of integration. This benefit is mapped as the number of supported people across member operations.

Material assistance to households

Material assistance to households in housing need or a socially unfavourable situation is one of the most concrete social outcomes of our members, particularly furniture banks. In the period under review, 2022–2025, **member furniture banks supported a total of 16,333 people**.

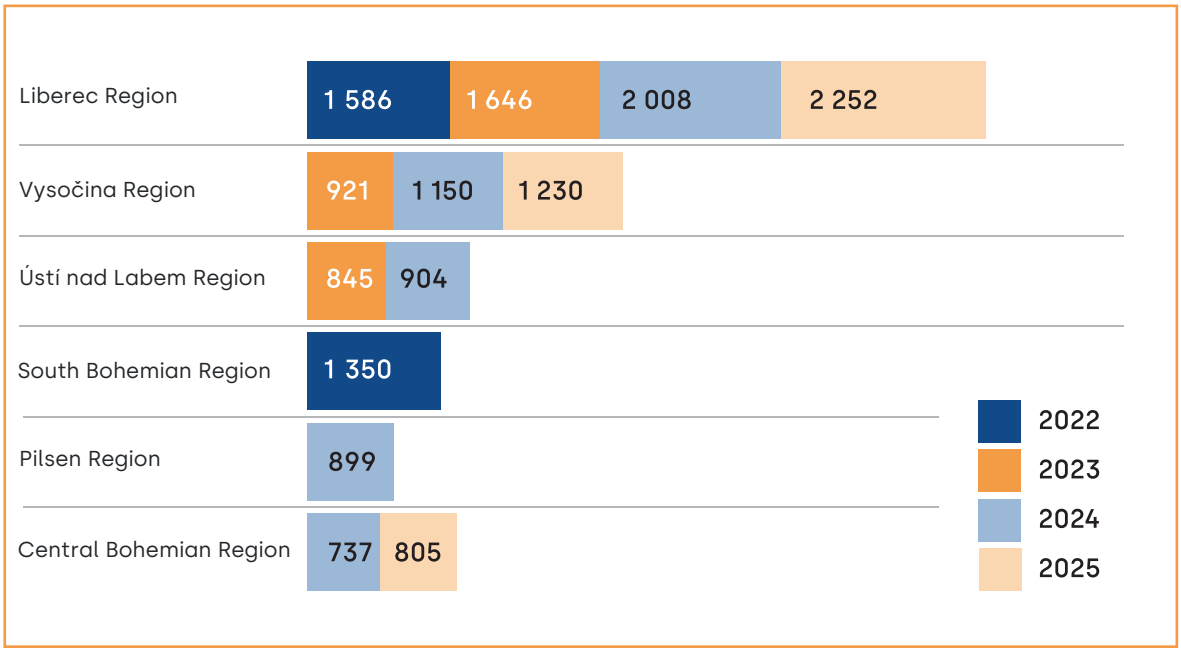
People supported by furniture banks



The consistently best-performing organisation is the Furniture Bank of the Liberec Region, the only one to report in all four years and to show steady growth – from 1,586 people in 2022 to 2,252 in 2025. The Central Bohemian Region, by contrast, has reported since 2024 and recorded modest growth (737 → 805 people). Some furniture banks, however, faced staffing and financial crises and had to suspend their operations. Differences between regions chiefly reflect whether a furniture bank was supported by the region and able to distribute material assistance in a given year or not. The decline in results points to instability in the sector – not necessarily to differences in need or demand.

Number of people supported through material assistance by region

These are the numbers of people supported in 2022–2025, as reported by member operations, i.e. furniture banks.



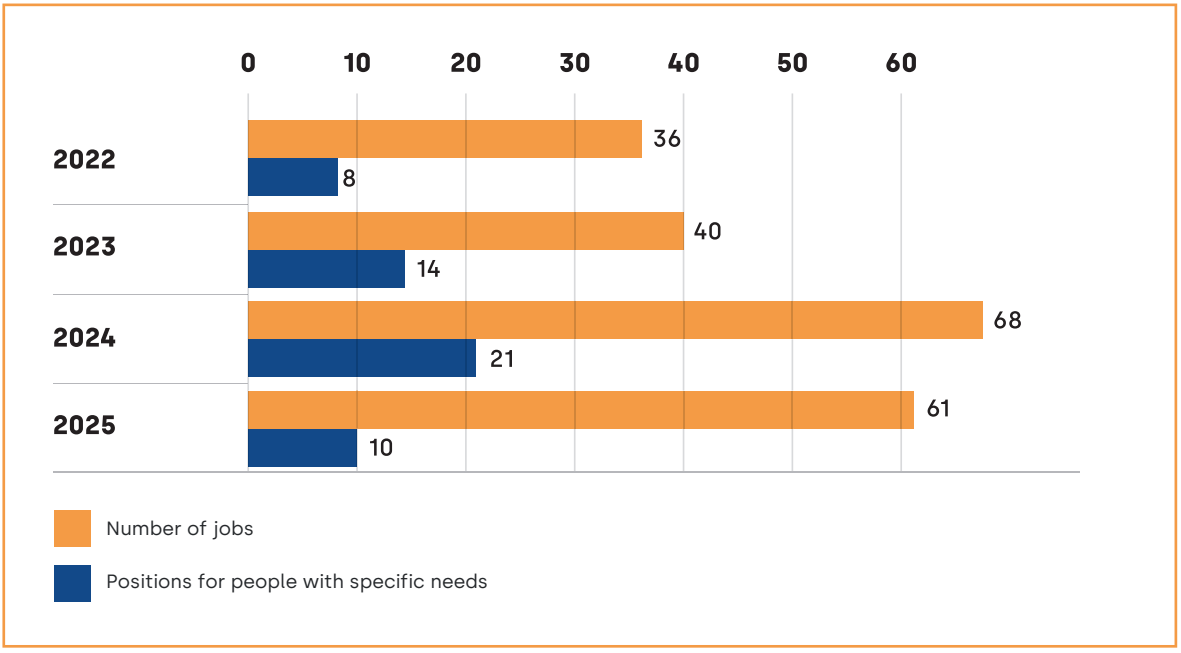
Number of jobs

Reuse operations are not just places where items change owners – they are also employers who give job opportunities, often to people who face difficulty accessing the labour market. The orange part of the bar shows what proportion of the total number of positions are jobs designated for people with specific needs. This proportion has remained relatively stable over time, and shows that including disadvantaged workers is, for many operations, a structural part of how they function, not a random occurrence.

Not every reuse operation offers positions for people with specific needs; this is a deliberate choice made by organisations that combine an environmental and a social mission. The chart shows the total number of positions for these people across reporting operations.

Reuse operations from the perspective of jobs

Average number of jobs per operation, on permanent and agreement-based contracts, for the period. Not all operations offer positions for people with specific needs.



Economic benefit

Reuse activities do not bring value only in the form of avoided waste or help to people — they also generate a measurable economic benefit, one that shows up in municipal budgets, in communities, and in the operations themselves. This chapter captures three dimensions that we are able to document on the basis of available data.

The first is the development of the customer base, as a signal of rising demand and public interest in reuse. The second is municipal savings on waste disposal – that is, money that municipalities did not have to spend, thanks to items ending up at a reuse operation instead of in an incinerator or a landfill. The third dimension is volunteer work, the volume of which is not captured in any accounts, yet whose economic value is real and can be measured.

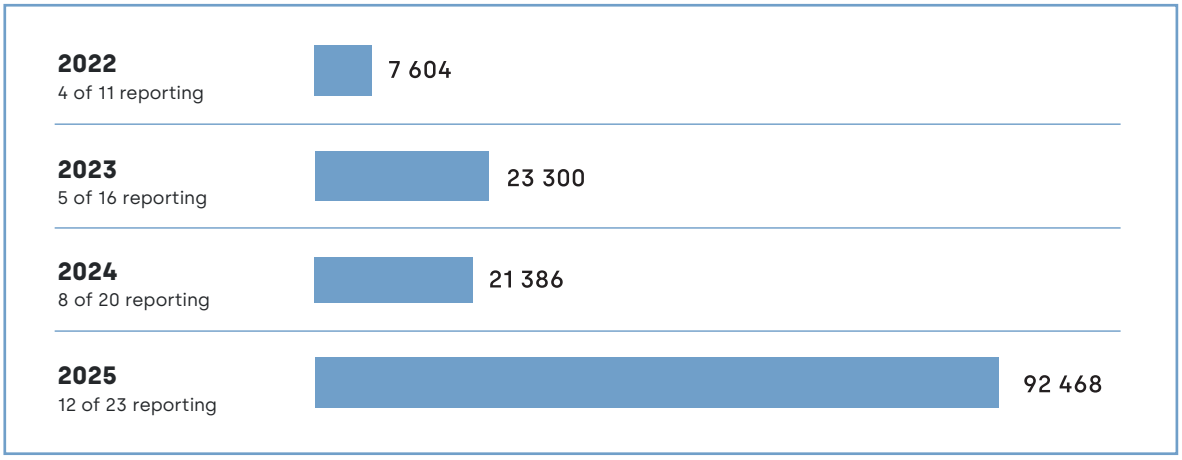
The economic benefit of reuse naturally has a broader scope than what we are currently able to measure reliably. Data are lacking, for instance, on the total turnover of the sector, on the financing structure of individual types of operations, or on household savings resulting from obtaining items through reuse at a fraction of their original price. This data gap is not the result of a lack of interest — it reflects the fact that systematic collection of this input data still needs to be developed.

Development of the customer base as an economic indicator

According to data from member organisations, we record a growing number of customers every year. This fact signals greater public interest and better availability of services. The marked rise in 2025 is due to the arrival of a new member organisation – Nadace Veronica, which runs charity shops in Brno.

Number of customers of Reuse Federation reuse operations

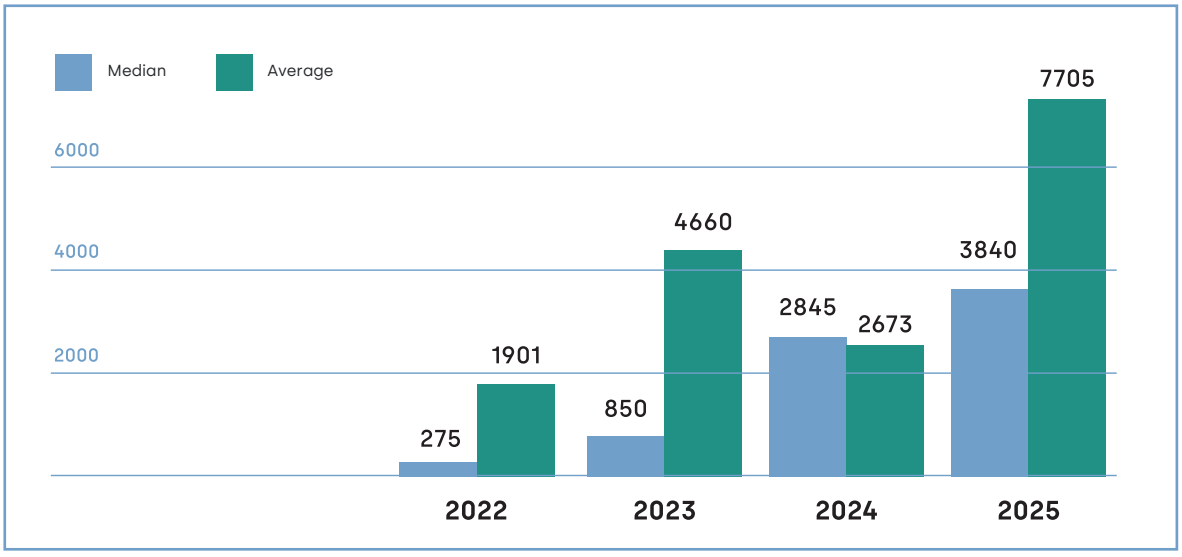
Each year in the period 2022–2025 reflects a different number and a different mix of operations.



The arrival of such a significant member, in terms of customer interest, is confirmed by this chart too: a median of 3,840 and an average of 7,705 customers, where the large gap between the two figures (as also, for example, in 2023) shows that among the reported data there are some operations with a markedly higher number of customers, which pull the average upward. In 2023, two members that report customers joined, and OZO Ostrava also recorded a marked rise in interest that year.

Development in the number of customers

Four operations reported this parameter in 2022, five operations in 2023, eight operations in 2024 and twelve operations in 2025. Furniture banks do not report customers; they record supported people.



Savings made by municipalities on waste disposal

Through reuse, municipal spending on the disposal of mixed municipal waste from residents is reduced; however, comprehensive data on waste prevention are lacking, and municipalities are not obliged to report this type of non-waste. Every year, the company EKO-KOM collects data on municipal waste management through a survey and, in August, publishes data on waste volumes and municipal costs for the previous year. The overview therefore lists the costs of municipalities, by region, that did not arise thanks to our reporting member organisations. The volume of reused items for 2025 is converted using the 2024 cost level, because at the time this report was published, EKO-KOM had not yet published the figures for 2025.*

Fluctuations from year to year are influenced by the number of reporters, but also, for example, by external natural or financial factors (a shortfall in funding for operations from public sources).

Region	Total	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Moravian-Silesian Region	**2 772 530.95 Kč**	351 763.45 Kč	880 578.05 Kč	1 103 029.65 Kč	437 159.79 Kč
Liberec Region	**2 484 162.49 Kč**	397 002.51 Kč	511 610.66 Kč	710 884.44 Kč	864 664.87 Kč
Prague (Capital City)	**1 710 601.98 Kč**	263 739.64 Kč	226 013.42 Kč	553 112.33 Kč	667 736.60 Kč
South Bohemian Region	**1 368 089.72 Kč**	422 561.09 Kč	300 509.33 Kč	257 080.45 Kč	387 938.86 Kč
Central Bohemian Region	**917 434.06 Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	389 671.17 Kč	527 762.89 Kč
Ústí nad Labem Region	**668 657.03 Kč**	- Kč	164 350.02 Kč	356 797.23 Kč	147 509.78 Kč
Pilsen Region	**384 171.23 Kč**	44 783.17 Kč	65 174.50 Kč	228 905.45 Kč	45 308.10 Kč
Vysočina Region	**271 734.21 Kč**	26 260.89 Kč	79 403.73 Kč	66 479.86 Kč	99 589.73 Kč
South Moravian Region	**134 641.38 Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč	134 641.38 Kč
Olomouc Region	**109 933.44 Kč**	- Kč	16 312.92 Kč	5 910.02 Kč	87 710.50 Kč
Hradec Králové Region	**19 109.87 Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	8 673.21 Kč	10 436.66 Kč
Karlovy Vary Region	**- Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč
Pardubice Region	**- Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč
Zlín Region	**- Kč**	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč	- Kč

Volunteer work

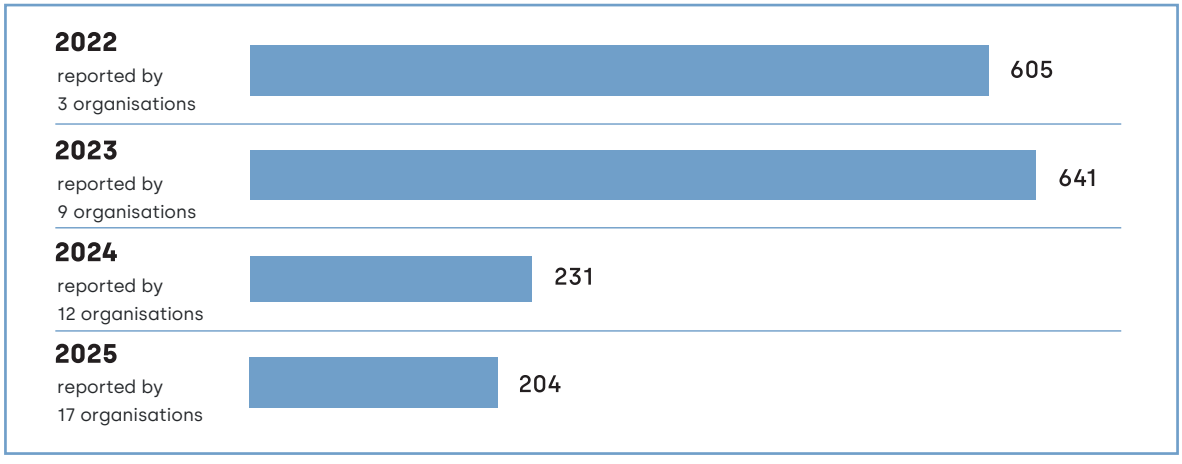
Alongside measurable municipal savings, there is another form of economic value that does not appear in the accounts of reuse operations – volunteer work.

Volunteering is part of how many reuse operations function – volunteers help with taking in and sorting goods, serving customers and organising events. Its scope, however, is so far recorded by only a portion of members, and it is precisely the expansion of the reporting base that strongly affects how the figures look.

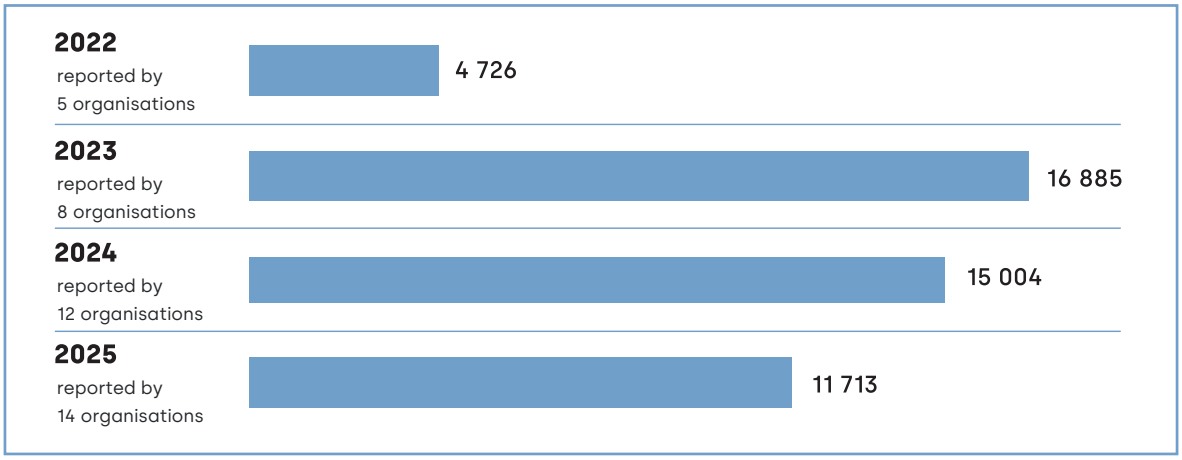
The number of volunteers involved is, at first glance, surprising: while in 2022 and 2023, 3 and 9 organisations respectively reported a total of 605 and 641 volunteers, in 2024, 12 organisations reported only 231, and in 2025 as many as 17 organisations reported just 204 volunteers. More reporters therefore paradoxically produced lower figures. The explanation is methodological: in 2022 and 2023 the reporting group was dominated by organisations running swap events, where volunteers are counted in the hundreds for a single event. From 2024, operations were added that involve volunteers on an ongoing basis in smaller numbers. The figures therefore do not indicate a decline in volunteering, but rather a change in who is supplying the data.

The average number of hours per organisation is falling, but this reflects the growing number of smaller operations in the reporting group. Over the whole period under review, members of Reuse Federation reported a total of 48,328 volunteered hours, whose value, converted at the median gross wage, comes to over 11.9 million crowns:

Total number of volunteers involved in reuse operations and activities

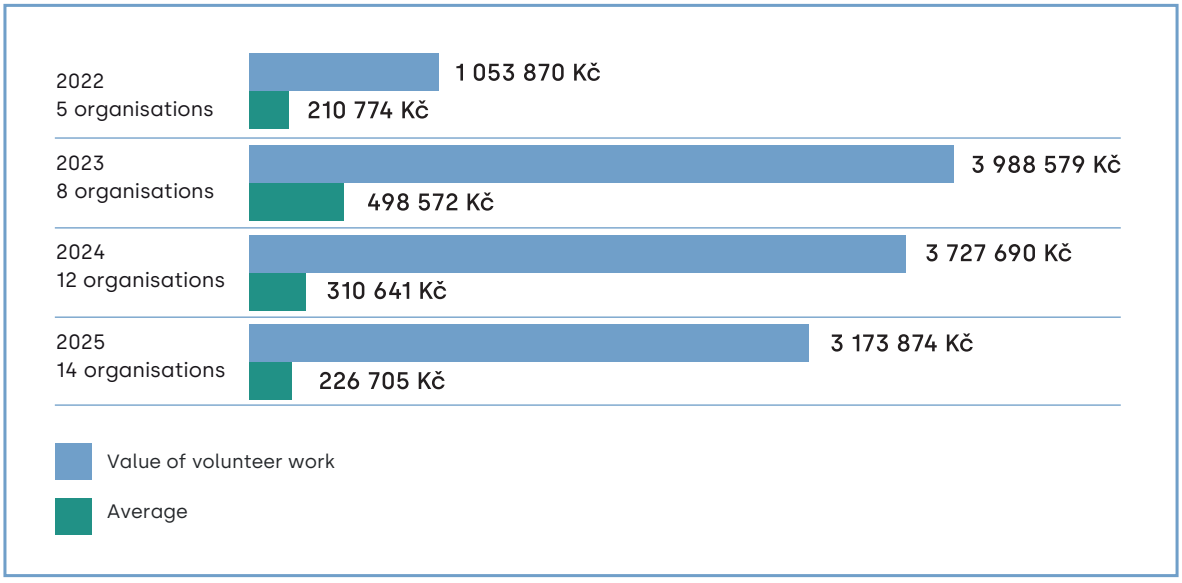


Total number of hours worked by volunteers in reuse operations



Value of volunteer work

Hours worked by volunteers in Reuse Federation operations are converted at the median gross wage for the last three months of the respective year.



Conclusions and recommendations

Main findings

Over the four years under review, member organisations of Reuse Federation returned more than 2.5 million kilograms of material and more than 1.2 million items to circulation, while supporting 16,333 people in housing need through furniture banks. Reuse in the Czech Republic is therefore not a marginal activity: it is a functional part of waste prevention and of social assistance, one that grows every year.

Environmental benefit is measurable and consistent, even though a methodology for calculating carbon footprint has yet to be developed. Furniture remains the dominant category, one whose manufacture ranks among the most demanding processes – and whose reuse therefore brings the greatest measurable impact. The social dimension of the sector is evidenced by jobs for people with specific needs, tens of thousands of hours worked by volunteers, and cooperation with charities, shelters and other social services across the country.

The financial operation of reuse operations is varied and depends on the model: while charity shops and centres linked to municipal technical services can come close to a balanced budget, furniture banks remain structurally dependent on grants. Without a systemic financial framework, the potential of the sector cannot be fully realised.

Challenges and risks facing the sector

Based on five years of activity by Reuse Federation in the regions of the Czech Republic in support of, and in embedding the principles of reuse into, local and regional practice, we identify the following key challenges and risks:

→Lack of national reuse targets

Without clearly defined national targets, indicators and strategic anchoring, it is not possible to systematically steer the development of the reuse sector, nor to set appropriate support. Absence of reuse targets represents a fundamental systemic obstacle, one that affects legislation, financing, data collection and the motivation of public administration.

→Lack of a financial framework for stable support of the reuse sector

Unstable, project-based financing fundamentally limits the long-term sustainability of the reuse sector. Without systemic financial support it is not possible to

build infrastructure, professionalise, or ensure the availability of services in individual regions. This is also evidenced by the missing data foundation from 2 of 5 furniture banks.

→Ambiguous legislative standing of reuse activities

The ambiguous definition of reuse in legislation complicates the everyday operation of businesses, cooperation with municipalities and the development of new services. Legal uncertainty at the same time reduces the willingness of public institutions and partners to actively support reuse activities.

→Lack of a methodology for record-keeping, data collection and reporting from reuse operations

Without a unified system of record-keeping and reporting it is not possible to reliably measure the results of the reuse sector, nor to demonstrate its environmental and social benefits. A lack of reliable data also complicates the case for public support and the design of effective policies. Missing data reduce the credibility of the sector with the state, with donors and with the public.

→Insufficient involvement of municipalities and public administration

Towns and municipalities represent key partners for the development of reuse infrastructure, yet their involvement remains very uneven. Without active, systemic support from local authorities, it is not possible to create a functional and accessible system of reuse services nationwide.

→No stable reuse network in Czechia

The network of reuse centres is regionally unbalanced and is entirely missing in many areas. The limited availability of reuse services reduces the ability of residents to take part in waste prevention and limits the development of the circular economy at local level.

→Financial and waste-industry lobbying

The dominant position of the traditional waste-management industry and commercial interests can hold back systemic support for waste prevention and reuse activities. Compared with established waste-management structures, the reuse sector has a markedly weaker negotiating position.

→Low public awareness of the reuse principle

Although interest in the circular economy is gradually growing, reuse is still not a routine part of the consumption behaviour of most people. Low awareness limits the use of reuse services and the willingness of the public to actively prevent waste.

→Competition from cheap goods and short product lifespans

The market for cheap and often inferior goods reduces the economic attractiveness of repairing and reusing products. This trend limits the potential of reuse, especially for certain categories of consumer goods.

Recommendations for public policy and partners

The findings of this report are not merely a record of past years – they are an argument for concrete steps that state administration, local authorities and partners can take starting today.

→Support the creation of national waste-prevention targets

Towns, municipalities and their associations should actively initiate and support the creation of clearly defined national targets in the field of waste prevention, including reuse. These targets, complemented by measurable indicators, should form part of key strategic documents at all levels of public administration.

→Create stable financial support through Envirofunds

Towns and municipalities should systematically set up and develop their own Envirofunds as a key tool for stable, long-term financing of reuse activities. These funds should ensure a predictable form of the reuse system, reduce dependence on short-term grant programmes, enable strategic investment planning, and strengthen the integration of reuse into waste-management policies.

→Support reuse as part of the financial framework of future EPR schemes

Towns and municipalities should actively support the inclusion of reuse as a fully-fledged part of future extended producer responsibility schemes – that is, promoting a design that, alongside recycling and waste management, provides financial support for the reuse of products through reuse activities. The aim is to secure a long-term, systemic financial flow into reuse infrastructure, reduce dependence on public budgets and strengthen the role of reuse as a key tool of the circular economy.

→Strengthen the role of local authorities

Local authorities should systematically integrate reuse into waste management. We recommend setting up reuse points at collection yards, reuse centres and furniture banks in towns, supporting community repair activities, building partnerships with the non-profit sector, and applying the principles of reuse in public procurement and in the management of municipal property.

→Invest in public awareness and education

A key tool for developing reuse is long-term work with the public. Municipalities can organise information campaigns, community events (SWAPs, reuse days) or school programmes (Circular Schools), which strengthen the positive perception of reuse as a normal and socially responsible part of everyday life.

With this report we aim to define the real effects of the reuse network on the Czech economy, to support existing operations and to help launch new projects. Once reuse becomes the norm, it will generate real benefits for people and for the environment.

At the end of 2025, Reuse Federation was made up of the following members:

art re use, Bleška Poděbrady, Centrum Chůvička, z.s., CIRAA, CIRKUL z.s., Cirkulární centrum Recy Upcy, DejBer, Dílna Zauhlovačky, Druhá dobrodruhá, EKOLTES Hranice, a.s, .Háta, o.p.s., Kabinet CB, MAS Krajina srdce: Šatník Tábor, MAS Střední Polabí: Dobromysl, Nábytková banka Jihočeského kraje, Nábytková banka Libereckého kraje, Nábytková banka Plzeňského kraje, z.s., Nábytková banka Středočeského kraje, z.s., Nábytková banka Ústeckého kraje, z.s., Nábytková farma, Nadace Veronica, Navzdory, Opravme Česko, OZO Ostrava, ReŠaNa Kroměříž, Reuse Centrum Prostředník, Reuse Plzeň, Reuse Praha 11, z.s., ReUse-CEntrum Ústí nad Labem, z.s., STO.RE, Sue Ryder, Swap Prague, SWAP STORE, Swap Teplice z. s., SWAP Třinec, TESSEA, TS Příbor – sběrný dvůr Točna, Útulek věcí / Silo Jihlava, Vestibul interier, ZAzemí, z.s., Zerowasters, z.ú.

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Reuse Federation is an expert organisation bringing together initiatives focused on preventing waste. It works to make the principle of reuse – that is, reusing items – a natural part of everyday life and of public policy. It supports the creation and development of furniture banks and reuse centres across the country, provides methodological guidance to their operators, and brings expert input into the design of systemic solutions. Through cooperation with municipalities, non-governmental organisations and business, it helps return usable items back to circulation, save resources, and at the same time create better living conditions and job opportunities for disadvantaged groups.

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1st edition
Published by Reuse federace in 2026
www.reusefederace.cz

The text of this publication was partly translated and part of the data interpretations were produced with the help of artificial intelligence (Claude, Anthropic); the content underwent editorial review by Reuse federace. Chart templates: Datawrapper.