



Presentation on Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Interstate Flow in the Northeast in 2018

September 22, 2021

Prepared by the [NEWMOA Solid Waste Metrics Workgroup](#)

State environmental agencies in the Northeast have a responsibility to monitor and manage municipal solid waste (MSW) disposal capacity. To fulfill this responsibility, they gather data from the MSW facilities that they regulate on their waste imports, and most collect data on waste shipped out-of-state (exports). This information helps them assess disposal capacity and waste diversion activities. Starting in 2000, NEWMOA's members began to share data and prepare reports to characterize the regional flow of MSW for disposal to validate their information and inform state MSW policy and program development. For the purposes of this analysis, MSW includes non-hazardous waste generated by residential and commercial sources and does not include construction and demolition debris or non-hazardous industrial by-products. This data presentation covers MSW that is disposed of in landfills or waste-to-energy (WTE) facilities and does not include MSW that is diverted from disposal for composting, anaerobic digestion, reuse, or recycling.

Most MSW collection and disposal facilities in the northeast are owned and/or operated by private haulers and waste management companies. A small number are owned by municipal or county level government. When a disposal facility is publicly-owned, it can limit the geographic area from which it accepts MSW, and in certain situations can mandate that the MSW generated within that area be managed at that facility (these restrictions are known as "flow control"). With the exception of MSW generated in flow control areas, MSW functions as a commodity with disposal markets that can vary year-to-year depending on tipping fees, transportation costs, and contract arrangements. State government agencies do not direct where disposal of MSW occurs.¹

The figures displayed below present available state and northeast MSW disposal information for calendar year 2018 along with comparisons to [previous years](#). NEWMOA performed this analysis annually from 1999 to 2006. In 2006, NEWMOA decided to collect and analyze the data every other year. The figures below compare 2018 data with 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016 data.

Solid Waste Metrics Workgroup

State solid waste program directors appoint representatives to serve on NEWMOA's [Solid Waste Metrics Workgroup](#). The purpose of this Workgroup is to oversee NEWMOA's MSW data

¹ Except in Rhode Island (RI) where the Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation (RIRRC) is enabled by law to control MSW generated in RI. (Reference: RI Law, TITLE 23, Health and Safety, CHAPTER 23-19, Rhode Island Resource Recovery Corporation, SECTION 23-19-13, § 23-19-13 Municipal participation in state program. (a)(1) Any person or municipality which intends to transfer, treat, or dispose of solid waste originating or collected within the state, or which intends to make arrangements to do so, shall utilize, exclusively, a system or facility designated by the corporation as provided under this chapter.)

collection and analysis and the development of this presentation. By working together since 2000, the Workgroup members have improved the accuracy of their state data.

Data Analysis Methodology

NEWMOA followed the data quality assurance procedures in its EPA-approved Quality Management Plan (www.newmoa.org/about/2011QMP.pdf) to prepare this presentation. NEWMOA's Workgroup members start developing this presentation by sharing summaries of the MSW data they collect from facilities. Prior to sending NEWMOA their state's data, the Workgroup members conduct their own quality assurance review of it. The NEWMOA staff reviews the data and prepares draft figures using Microsoft Excel. If the staff has a question or concern about the data, they contact the appropriate Workgroup member to address the issue. The Workgroup members review a draft of the data, figures, and text and provide comments and corrections. After the NEWMOA staff makes the recommended corrections, a revised draft is shared with the NEWMOA Board of Directors and the Solid Waste and Sustainable Materials Management Steering Committee for their review and approval prior to publication online.

Data Caveats & Notes

This presentation focuses on the flow of MSW in the Northeast U.S., including Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. These are the states that are members of NEWMOA. Waste imports from and exports to non-NEWMOA states and/or Canadian provinces are aggregated into the "non-NEWMOA" or "Other" category in the figures.

Workgroup members resolve discrepancies that arise once NEWMOA staff have compiled the MSW data. A typical discrepancy involves a situation where the waste data from transfer facilities in one state disagree with the data from disposal facilities in another state. Unless otherwise noted below², the graphs are based on information from the disposal facilities, since the Workgroup considers their data to be more accurate. Therefore, the numbers might vary from those published by individual states for two primary reasons:

- If MSW is hauled directly from the pick-up route to an out-of-state disposal facility or transfer station, the MSW does not pass through a regulated facility in the state of origin (called the generating state) and, therefore, that state does not receive a report on it.

² Data Notes:

- a) Connecticut: A WTE did not report the state of origin for MSW received from out-of-state. Half the amount was attributed to MA and the other half to New York.
- b) Massachusetts: to account for pass-through (MA to another state and back to MA for disposal) imports from CT, NY, and RI were reduced by 372 tons, 18,910 tons, and 35,192 tons, respectively. 54,474 tons was added to in-state disposal of in-state generated MSW. In addition, a WTE in MA did not report the state of origin for the MSW received and NEWMOA assumed the same percentage split as in 2016 (10 percent from NH and 90 percent from MA).
- c) New Hampshire: for some or all years prior to 2010, NEWMOA staff determined that the import data might not have been limited to MSW and therefore, might overstate quantities generated in the exporting state and corresponding quantities disposed at NH facilities. For 2018, a WTE in NH did not report the state of origin for MSW received from out-of-state. A MA transfer station reported sending 10,065 tons to the NH WTE and the report reflects that amount.
- d) New York: for some or all years prior to 2006, DEC reported that there might be data quality issues for in-state disposal of in-state generated MSW that might overstate disposal. In 2018, to account for pass-through, imports from CT were reduced by 4,741 tons.
- e) Vermont: export data provided by VT DEC is used.
- f) For exports to states and provinces outside the northeast: 2018 data reported by the exporting state was used for MSW disposal in OH because the Workgroup determined it to be more reliable. Imports to PA from NJ were reduced to account for pass-through from NY (a total of 246,323 tons in 2018); imports to PA from NY were increased by the pass-through quantity.

- If waste is transported to an out-of-state transfer station and then to a disposal facility in a third state (referred to as “pass through” in the footnote below); the disposal facility records the MSW as imported from the transfer station state rather than the generating state.

By closely examining the states’ MSW data, the Workgroup adjusts for these situations, and the figures reflect these types of corrections.

Observations

Since NEWMOA began publishing these presentations in 2000, the Workgroup has found that all of the Northeast states export MSW to facilities in other NEWMOA states for disposal, and with the exception of Rhode Island and Vermont, disposal facilities in all of the NEWMOA states import MSW from other northeast states. Historically, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont all exported more MSW than they imported, and by a wide margin for some of these states. In the past, Maine and New Hampshire have imported significantly more MSW than they exported. However, starting in 2014, the quantity of MSW imports to Maine decreased significantly compared to prior years due to the closure of a waste-to-energy facility, and the quantity imported to Maine was similar to the quantity exported from Maine. Since 2014, New Hampshire is the only NEWMOA-state that imports more MSW for disposal than it exports.

Key observations about 2018 MSW flow in the Northeast include:

- Approximately 31.2 million tons of MSW was generated in the region and disposed of in 2018, about the same amount as in 2010 and an approximately 7 percent increase from 2016. The amount of MSW requiring disposal is affected by economic activity and trends and the availability of reuse, recycling, and organics diversion (including composting and anaerobic digestion) markets and infrastructure:
 - Region-wide, 70 percent remained in the state of origin for disposal, ranging from a high of 93 percent for Maine to a low of 50 percent for New Jersey
 - Region-wide, 6 percent was exported from the state of origin to another state within the region for disposal, ranging from a high of 18 percent for Rhode Island and 23 percent for Vermont, to a low of less than 1 percent for New Jersey
 - Region-wide, 24 percent was exported to disposal facilities outside of the region, ranging from a high of 50 percent for New Jersey to a low of zero, or nearly zero for Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont
- Region-wide, 0.73 tons per person per year of MSW was generated and disposed of in 2018; with the rate ranging from 0.61 tons per person per year for New Hampshire to 0.87 tons per person per year for Rhode Island.³
- Figure 4 shows a relatively steady state in the amount of MSW generated and disposed of within the same state, with a recent increase in New York.
- Figure 5 reveals the large year-to-year changes in waste shipment patterns that can occur. Imports from other NEWMOA states in 2018 were similar to 2016 quantities, with the exception of the significant increase in imports to disposal facilities in New York and a smaller increase in New Hampshire.
- Figure 6 also shows large year-to-year changes in exports to other NEWMOA states. In 2018, waste facilities in Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island exported somewhat less MSW for disposal to facilities in other NEWMOA states than they did in 2016; while Connecticut, and Vermont exported somewhat more MSW to other NEWMOA states in 2018 than in 2016. Larger changes occurred in Massachusetts and New Jersey. Exports from facilities in Massachusetts for disposal in other NEWMOA states have increased

³ Per capita estimates were calculated using 2010 U.S. Census population data.

significantly since 2014 and exceeded 700,000 tons in 2018. Exports from facilities in New Jersey for disposal in other NEWMOA states decreased to almost zero in 2018.

- Figure 7 shows a general decline in the quantity of MSW exported for disposal from each of the Northeast states to states and provinces outside of the region since 2004. Exports from Connecticut and Massachusetts to non-NEWMOA states have decreased significantly since their highs in 2002 and 2004, respectively. However, facilities in Connecticut significantly increased exports to states outside the NEWMOA region in 2018 compared to other recent years. Exports from facilities in New Jersey to states outside the region have been increasing since 2012. An overall region-wide decline has occurred from a high of approximately 10.6 million tons in 2002 to approximately 7.4 million tons in 2018 – a 30 percent reduction.

About NEWMOA

The Northeast Waste Management Officials' Association ([NEWMOA](http://www.newmoa.org)) is a non-profit, non-partisan, interstate association whose membership is composed of the state environment agency programs that address pollution prevention, toxics use reduction, sustainability, materials management, hazardous waste, solid waste, emergency response, waste site cleanup, underground storage tanks, and related environmental challenges in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

NEWMOA provides a strategic forum for effectively solving environmental problems through collaborative regional initiatives that advance pollution prevention and sustainability, promote safer alternatives to toxic materials in products, identify and assess emerging contaminants, facilitate adaptation to climate change, mitigate greenhouse gas sources, promote reuse and recycling of wastes and diversion of organics, support proper management of hazardous and solid wastes, and facilitate clean-up of contaminant releases to the environment.

NEWMOA's long term goals are to:

- Support and strengthen state efforts to implement policies, regulations, and programs
- Promote interstate coordination and develop innovative strategies to solve critical and emerging environmental problems
- Develop and enhance the capabilities and knowledge of state officials so that they are well trained, able to adjust to rapid changes in technology, and respond effectively to emerging environmental challenges
- Articulate state program views on federal policy developments, programs, and rulemakings
- Cultivate and enhance relationships among member states, federal agencies, colleges and universities, and stakeholders
- Engage with and educate the regulated community and the public

For more information, visit www.newmoa.org.

Acknowledgements

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- Pete Brunelli, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
- Brian Beneski and Megan Pryor, Maine Department of Environmental Protection
- Thomas Adamczyk, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

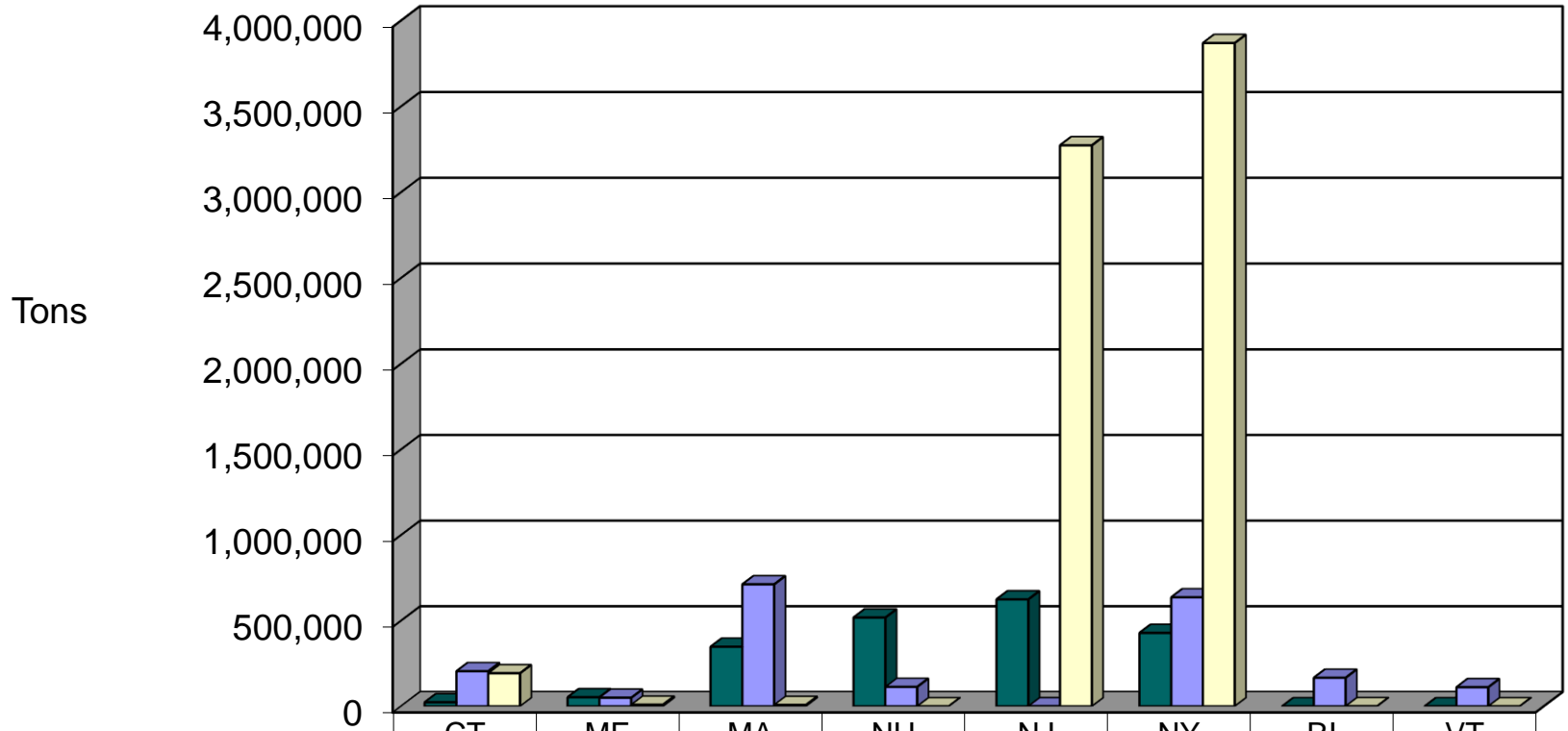
- Laura Filiu and Michael Nork, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services
- Corey Dues and Kyle McHenry, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
- Jaime Lang and Steven Naukam, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
- Kasandra McKenzie, Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management
- Kasey Kathan and Elyssa Eiklor, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

Jennifer Griffith, NEWMOA Project Manager led this project and compiled the spreadsheet and prepared the presentation. Terri Goldberg, NEWMOA Executive Director supervised the project.

Disclaimer

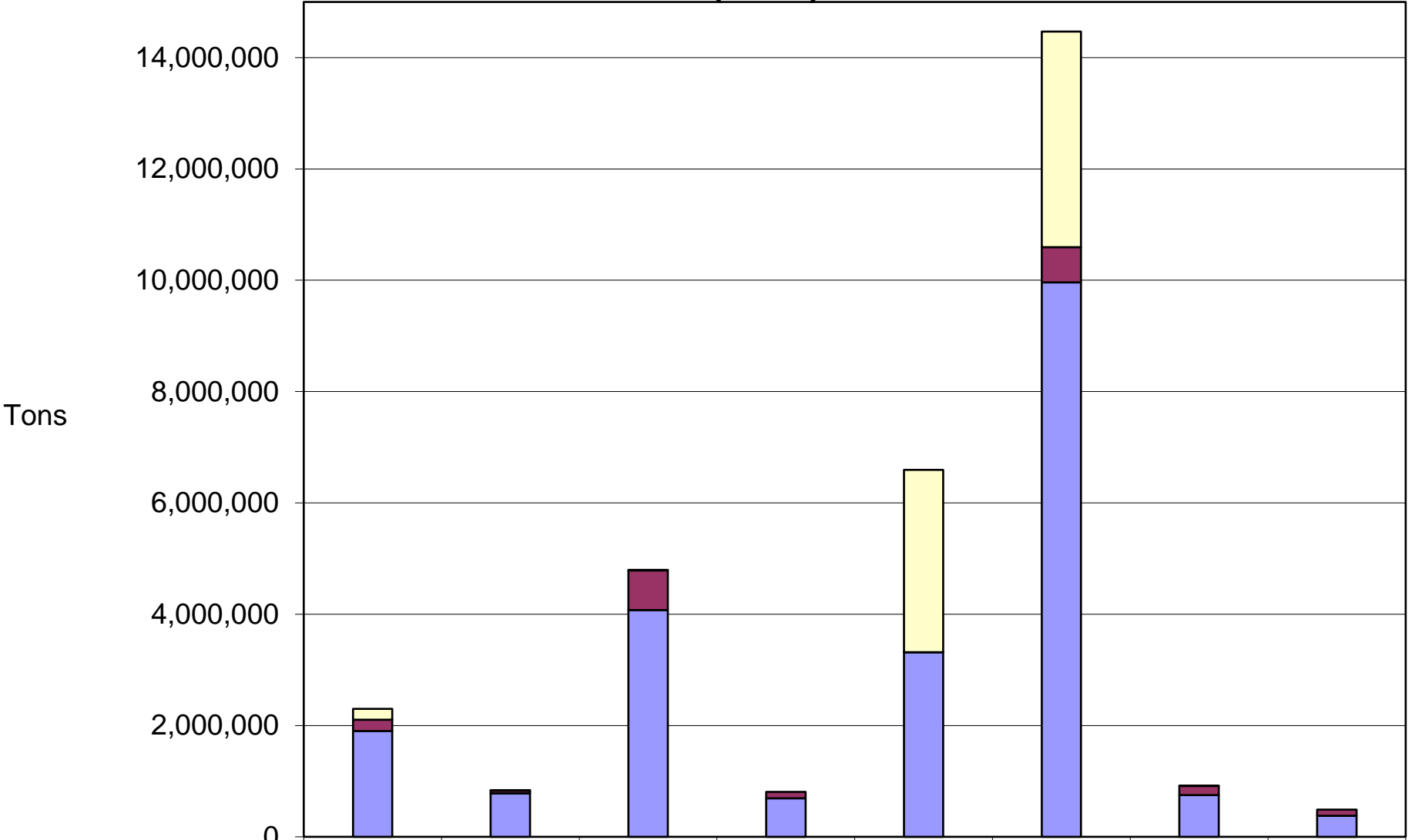
The views expressed in this presentation do not necessarily reflect those of each of the NEWMOA-member states or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA). Mention of any company, process, or product name should not be considered an endorsement by NEWMOA, NEWMOA-member states, or the U.S. EPA.

Figure 1: 2018 MSW Imports & Exports for Disposal (Tons)



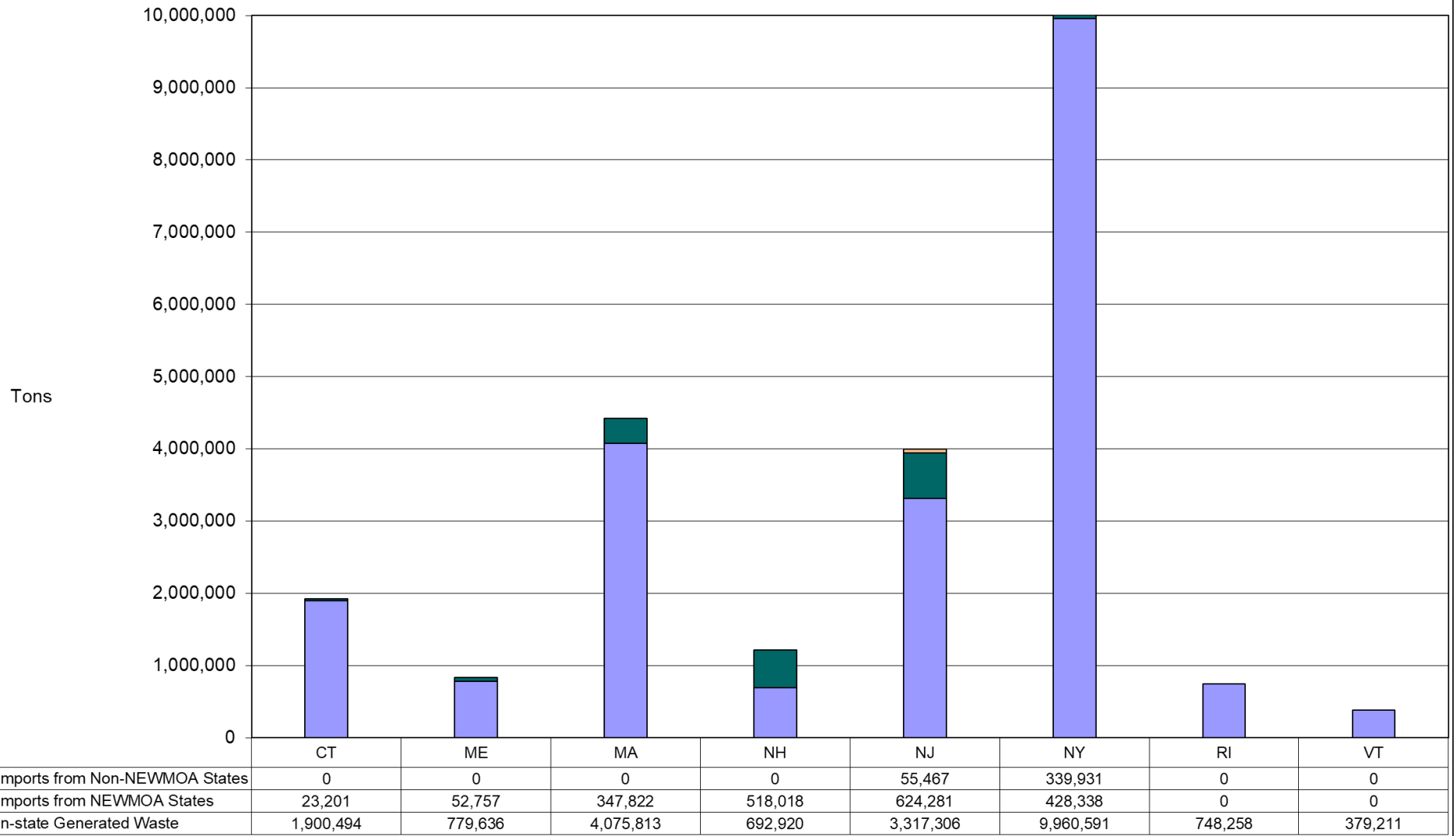
	CT	ME	MA	NH	NJ	NY	RI	VT
■ Imports from NEWMOA States	23,201	52,757	347,822	518,018	624,281	428,338	0	0
■ Exports to NEWMOA States	204,932	50,066	711,989	113,185	211	636,112	166,508	111,414
■ Exports to Non-NEWMOA States & Provinces	192,971	9,288	8,012	0	3,273,28	3,869,43	567	0

Figure 2: 2018 MSW Generated by State & Disposed (Tons)

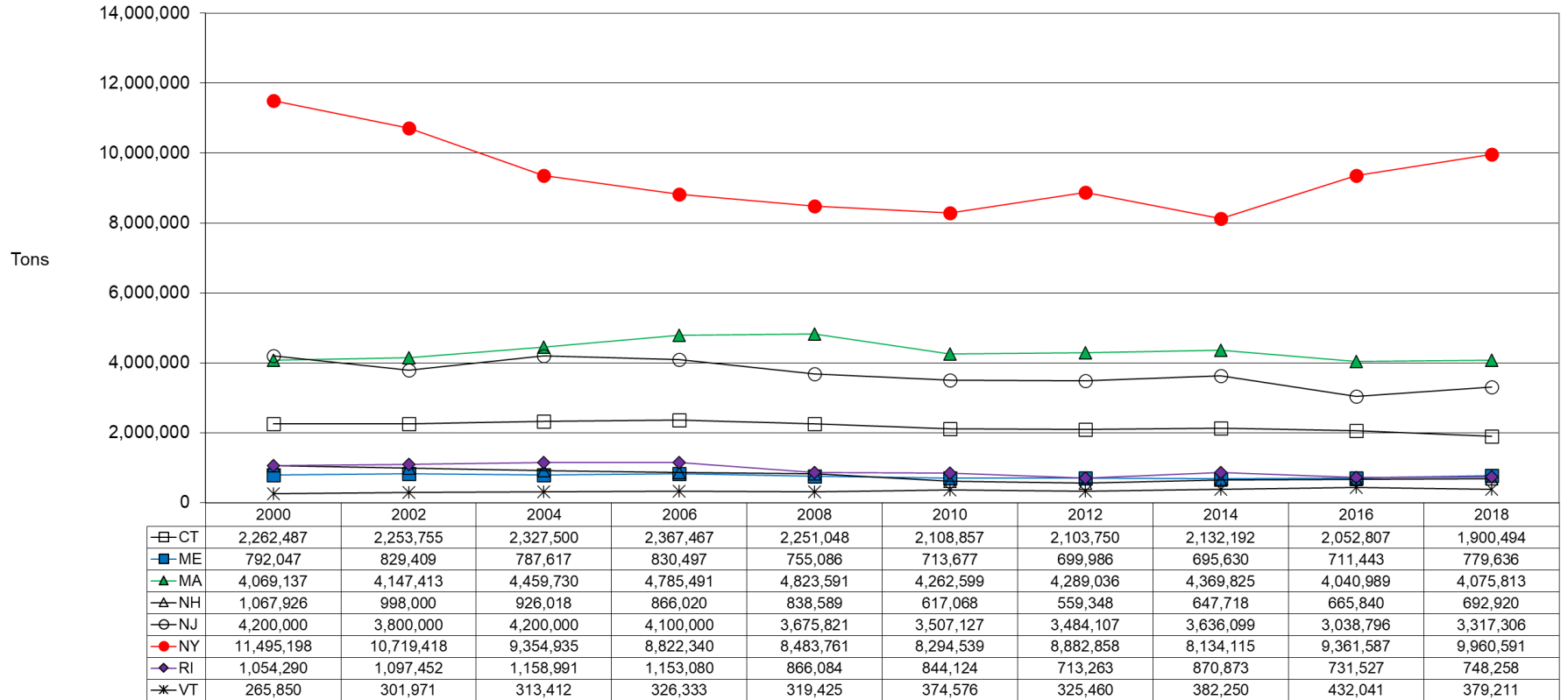


	CT	ME	MA	NH	NJ	NY	RI	VT
Exports to Non-NEWMOA	192,971	9,288	8,012	-	3,273,284	3,869,438	641	0
Exports to NEWMOA States	204,932	50,066	711,989	113,185	211	636,112	166,508	111,414
Disposed In-state	1,900,494	779,636	4,075,813	692,920	3,317,306	9,960,591	748,258	379,211

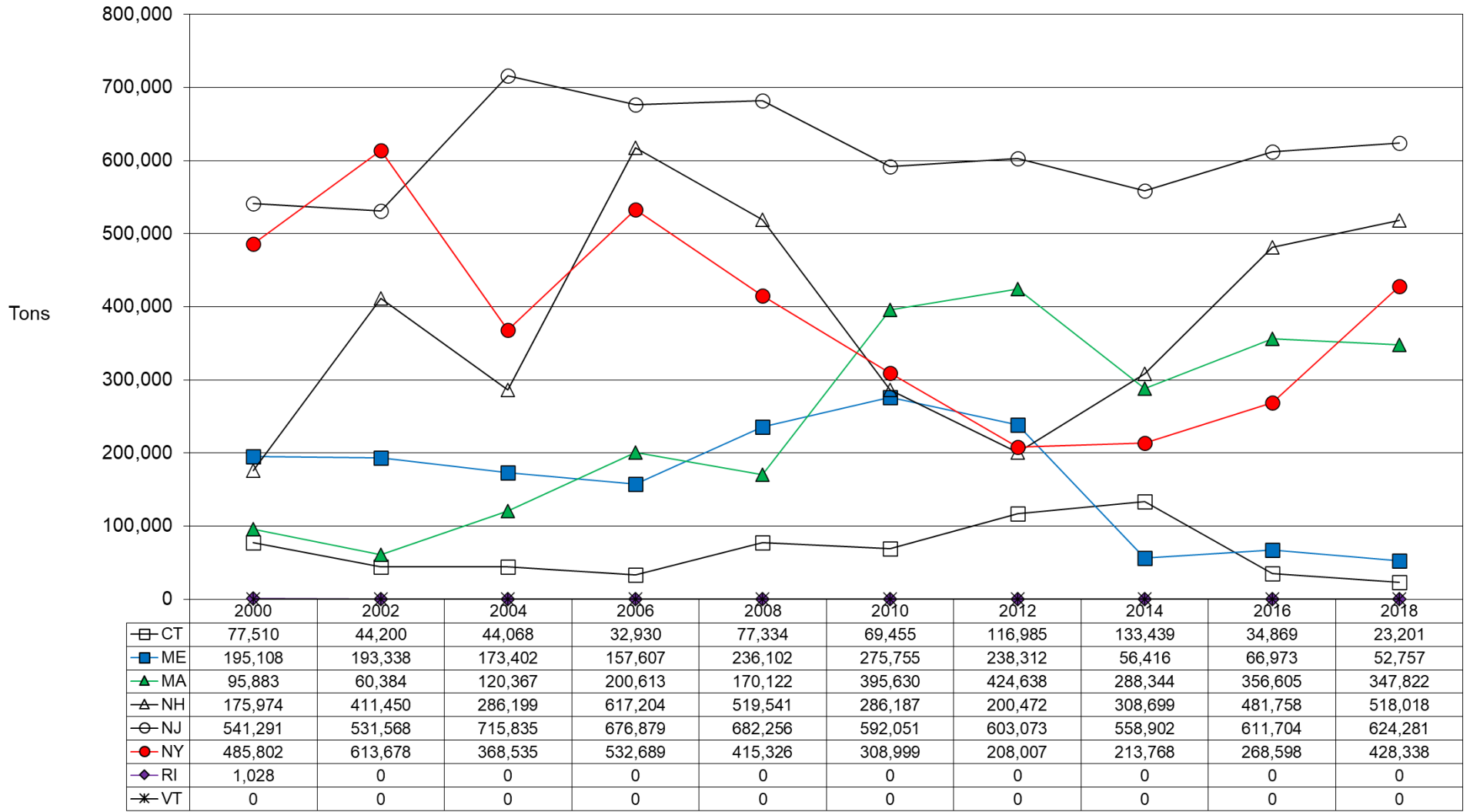
Figure 3: 2018 Total Quantity of MSW Disposed of In-State (Tons)



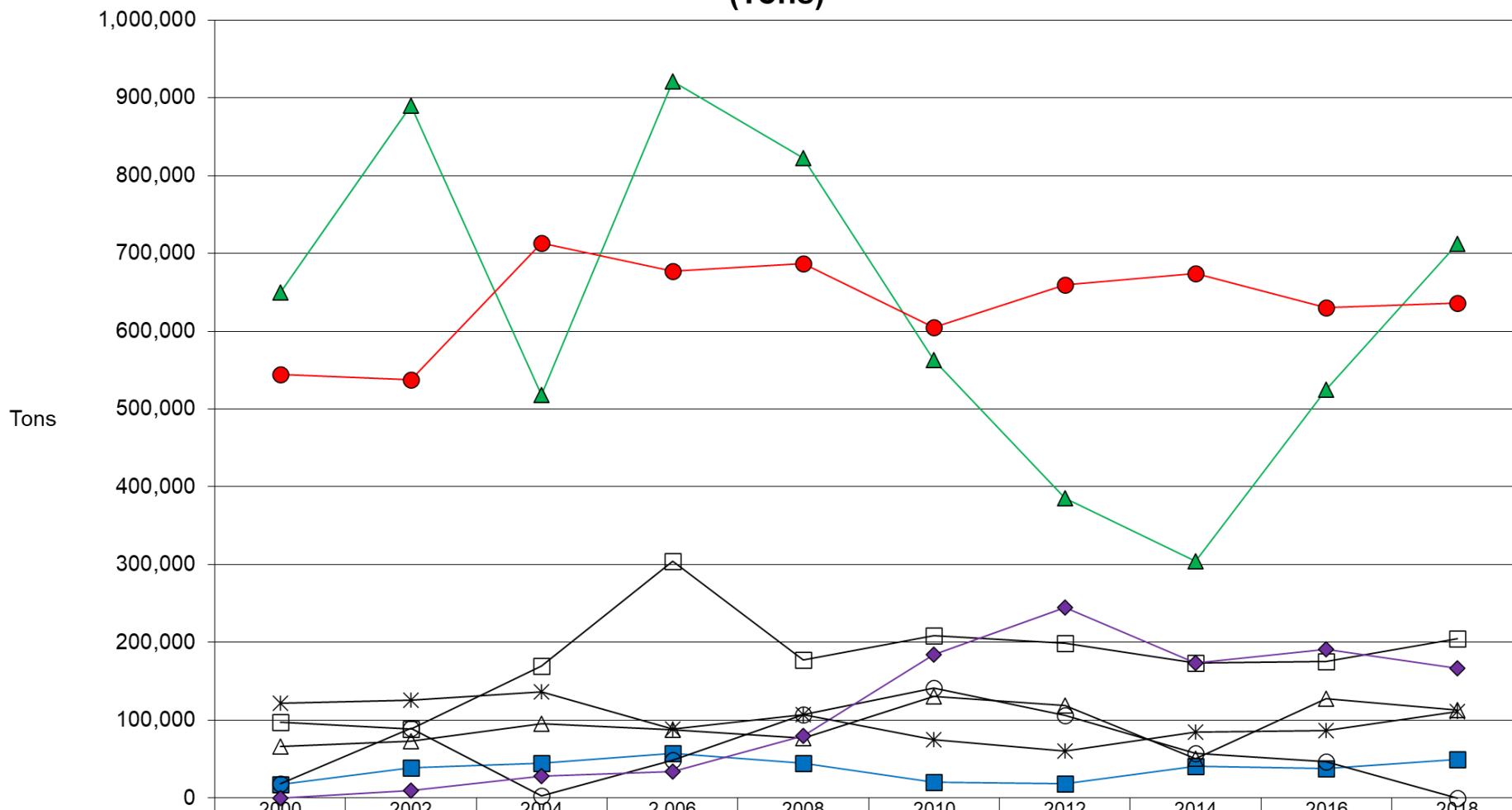
**Figure 4: In-State Disposal of MSW Generated In-State: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 5: MSW Imports from NEWMOA States: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 6: MSW Exports to NEWMOA States: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



	2000	2002	2004	2,006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
□ CT	97,788	88,633	169,963	303,970	177,752	208,927	199,399	173,740	175,321	204,932
■ ME	17,057	38,643	44,346	57,142	45,025	20,375	18,220	41,194	38,410	50,066
▲ MA	649,476	889,635	517,812	921,115	822,837	562,658	385,512	304,211	524,557	711,989
△ NH	66,688	73,404	95,756	87,344	77,125	130,960	118,989	50,752	127,390	113,185
○ NJ	18,312	90,008	2,414	48,866	106,930	141,413	106,086	57,738	46,742	211
● NY	544,181	537,838	712,979	677,051	686,707	604,663	659,073	673,718	630,362	636,112
◆ RI	0	10,101	28,266	34,061	79,562	183,996	245,250	173,420	191,359	166,533
* VT	121,546	126,256	136,870	88,373	107,337	75,085	60,161	84,668	86,366	111,414

**Figure 7: MSW Exports to Non-NEWMOA States & Provinces
2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

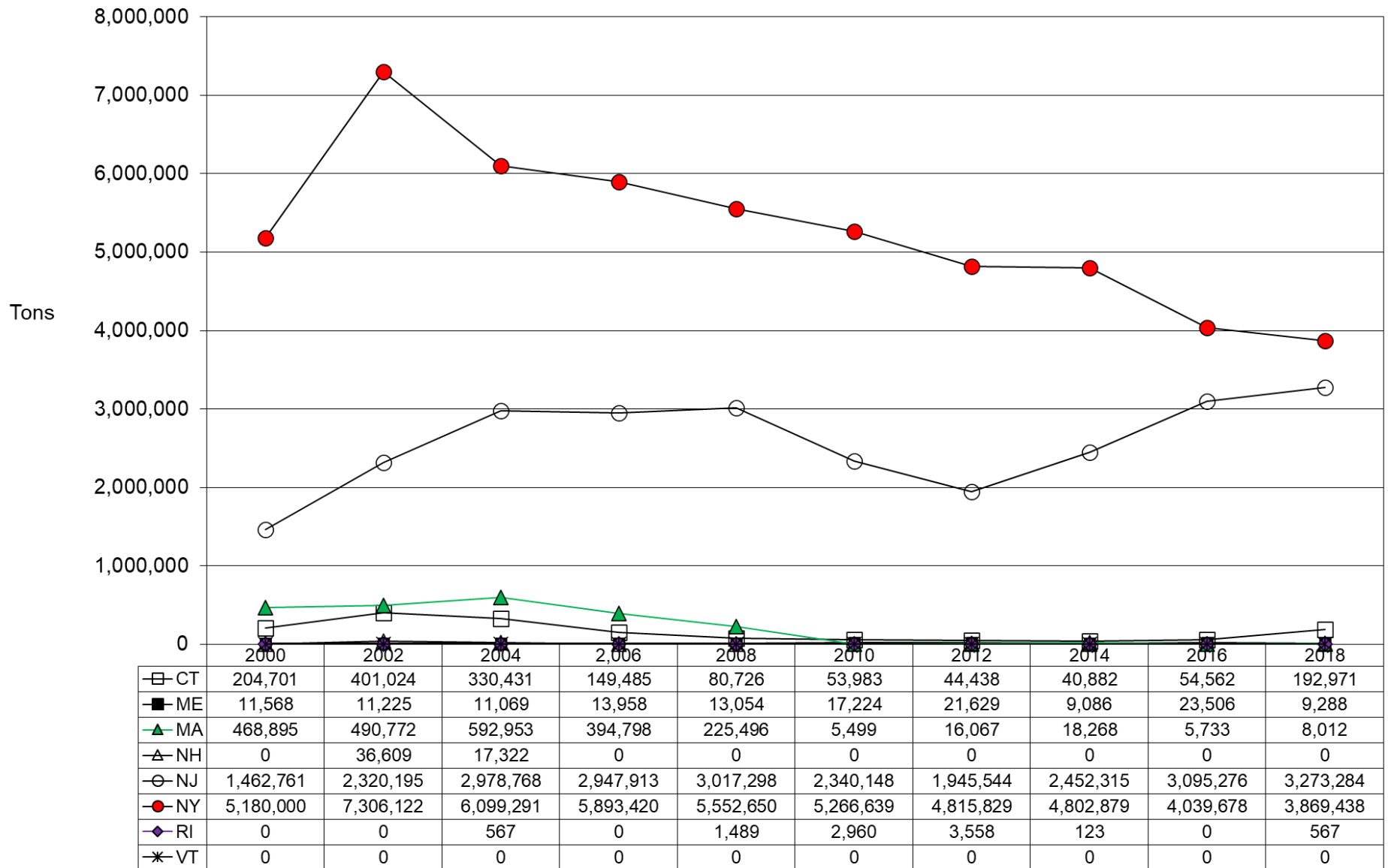
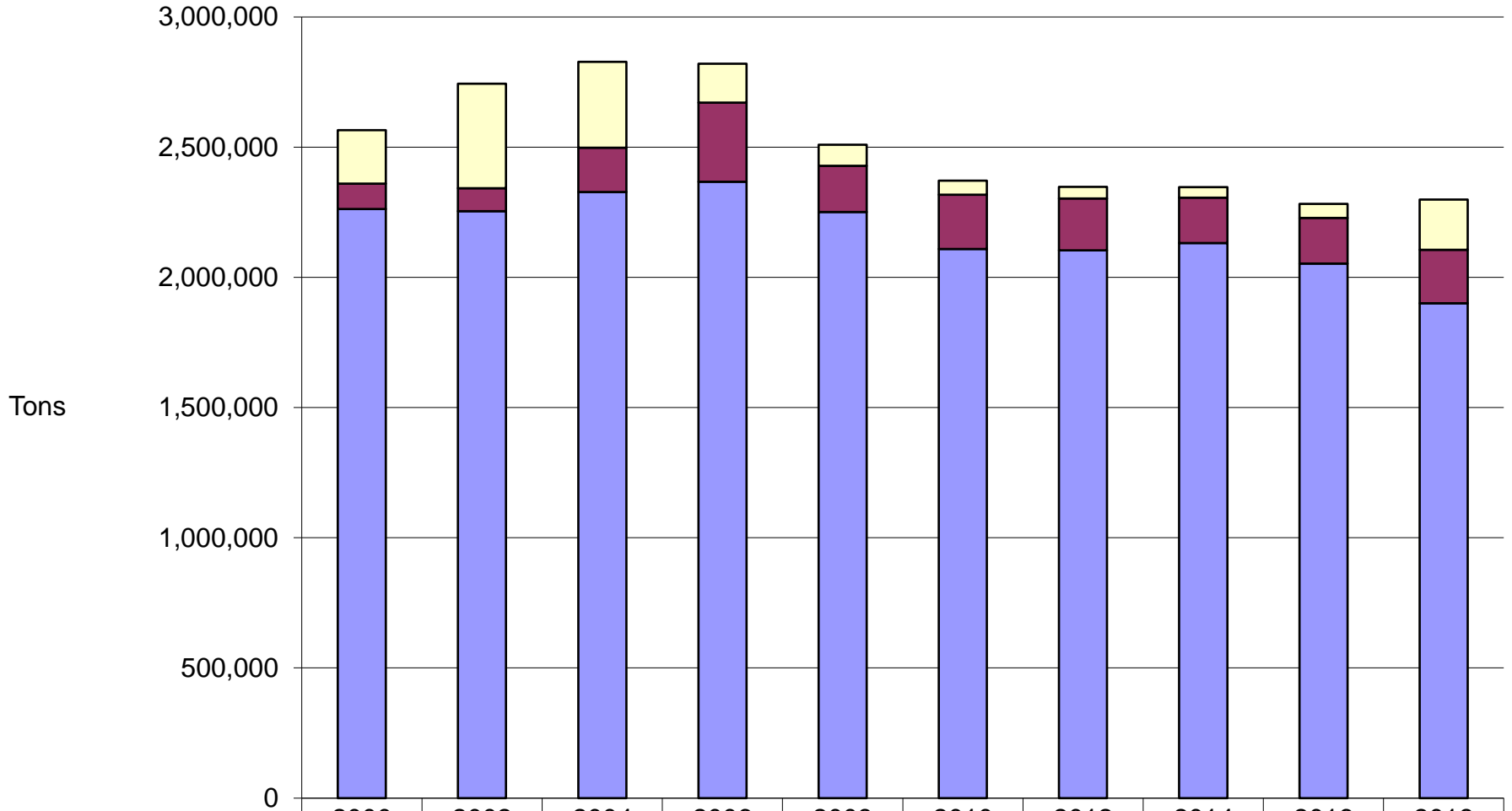
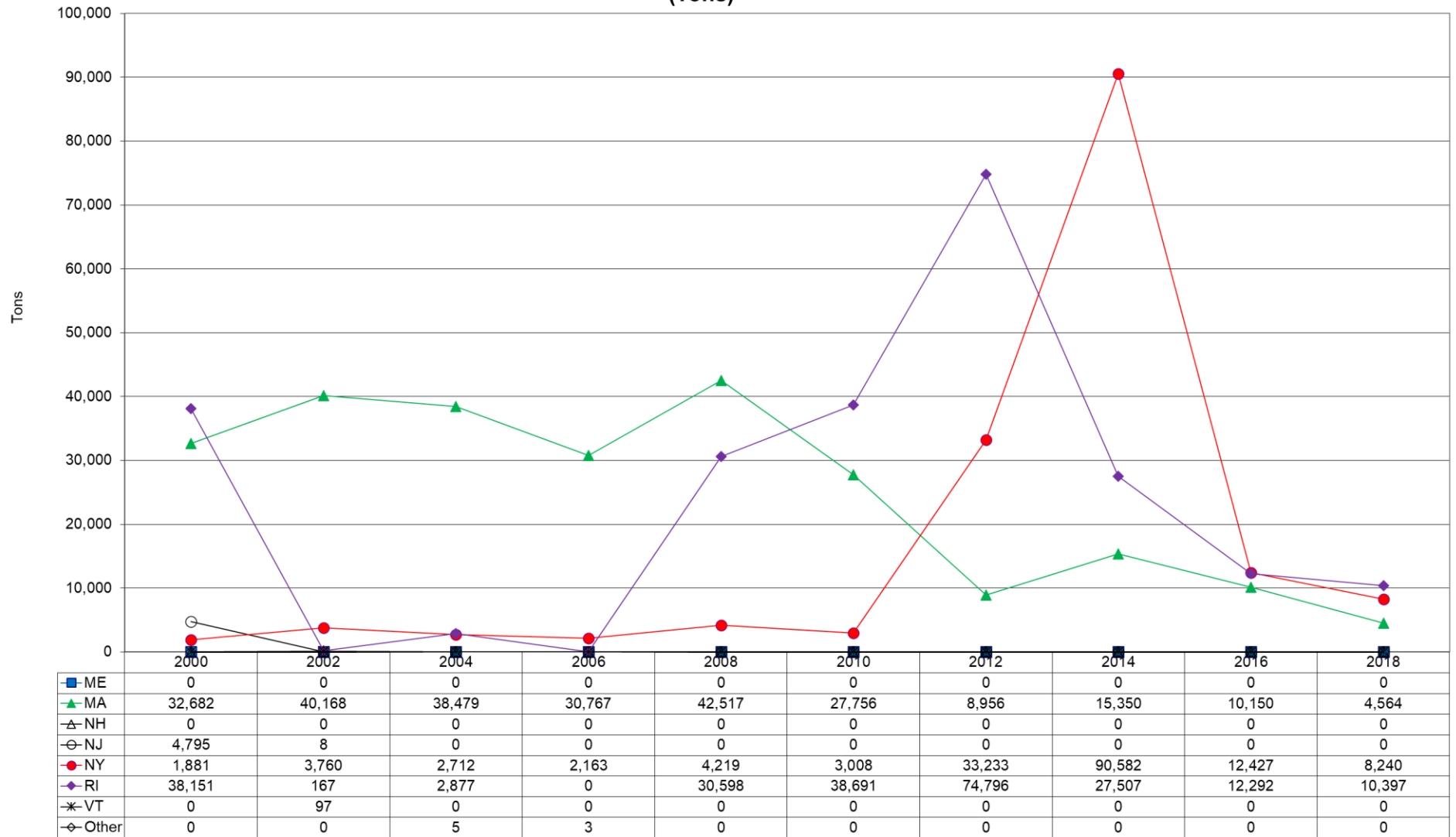


Figure 8: MSW Generated in Connecticut & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018 (Tons)

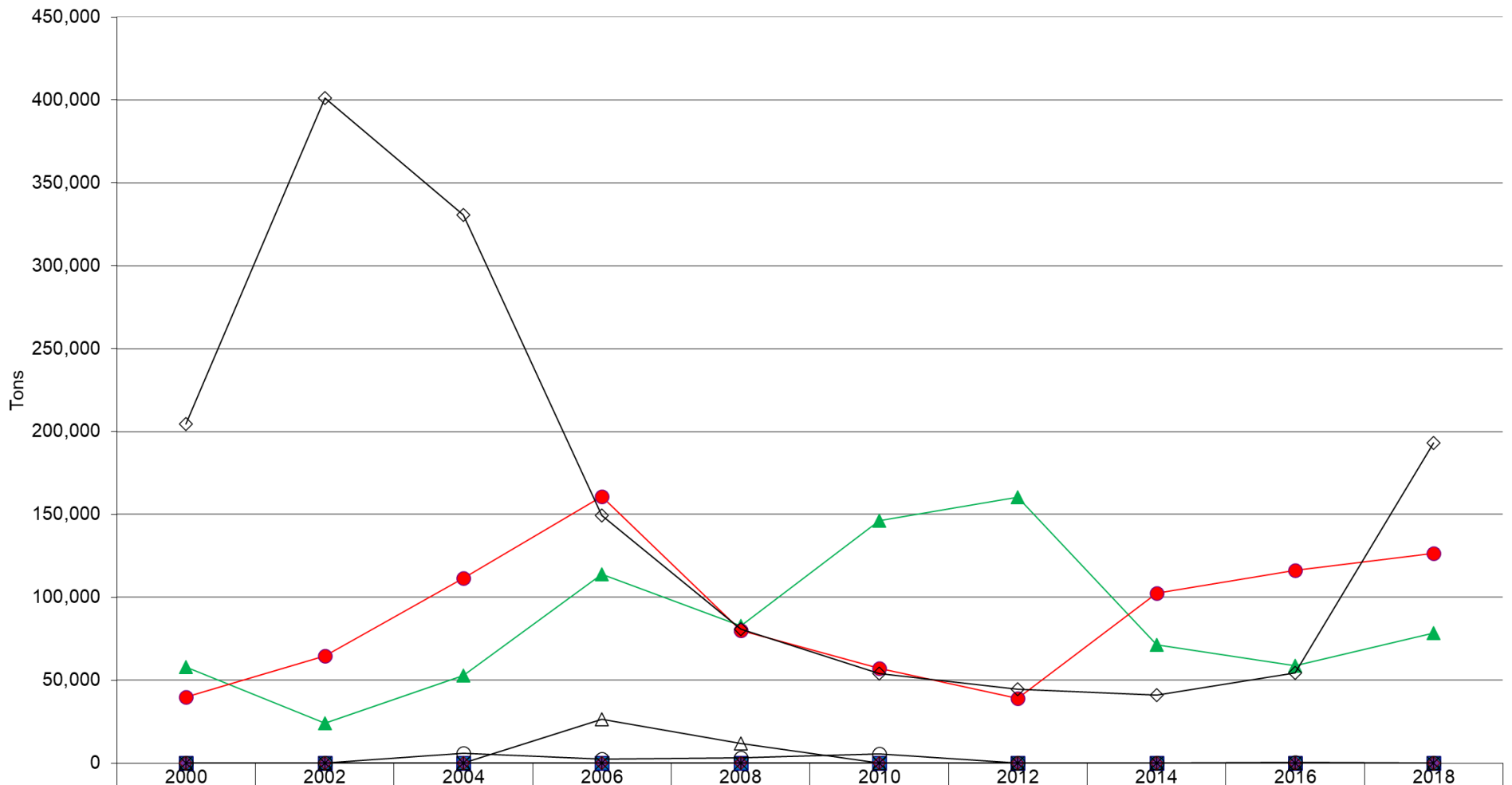


	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Exported to Non-NEWMOA	204,701	401,024	330,431	149,485	80,726	53,983	44,438	40,882	54,562	192,971
Exported to NEWMOA	97,788	88,633	169,963	303,970	177,752	208,927	199,399	173,740	175,321	204,932
Disposed In State	2,262,487	2,253,756	2,327,500	2,367,467	2,251,048	2,108,857	2,103,750	2,132,192	2,052,807	1,900,494

**Figure 9: MSW Imports to Connecticut: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

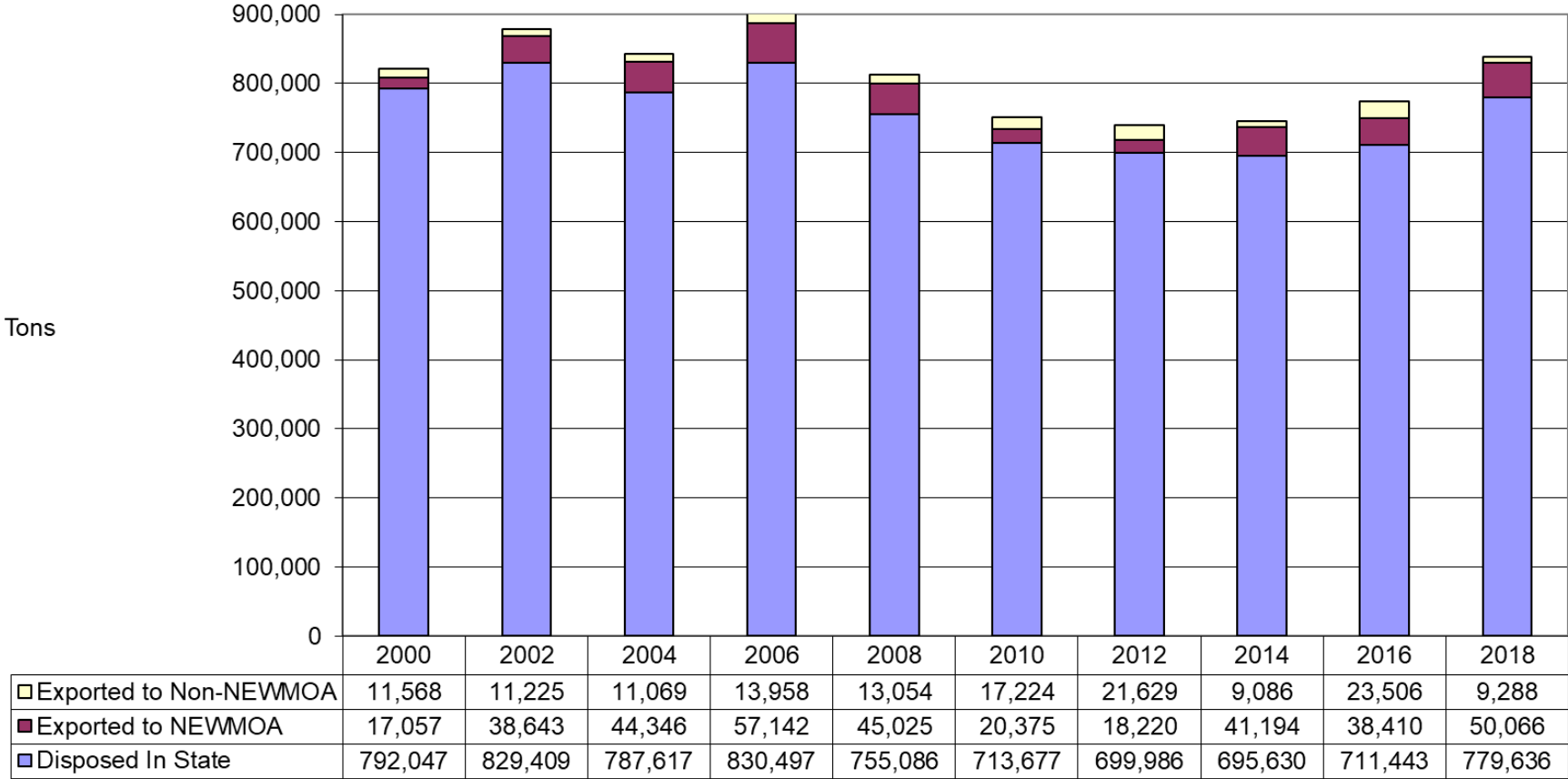


**Figure 10: MSW Exports from Connecticut: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

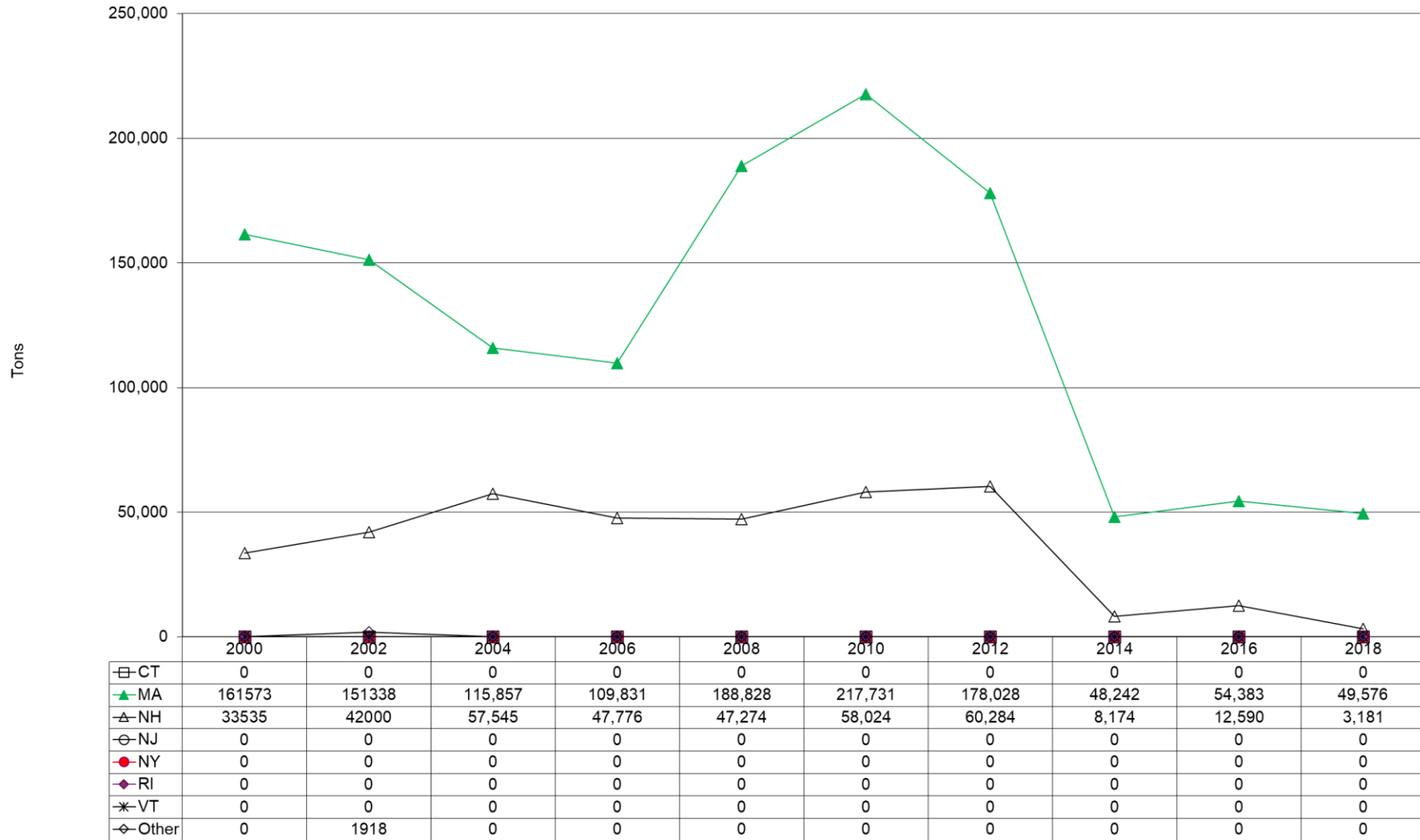


	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
■ ME	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
▲ MA	58,019	24,155	52,680	113,980	82,861	146,190	160,299	71,344	58,619	78,383
▲ NH	77	0	0	26,474	11,845	0	0	0	0	0
○ NJ	0	7	5,804	2,571	3,213	5,671	87	4	242	0
● NY	39,685	64,471	111,479	160,945	79,833	57,066	39,013	102,392	116,460	126,549
◆ RI	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
* VT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
◇ Other	204,701	401,024	330,431	149,485	80,726	53,983	44,438	40,882	54,562	192,971

**Figure 11: MSW Generated in Maine & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 12: MSW Imports to Maine: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 13: MSW Exports from Maine: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

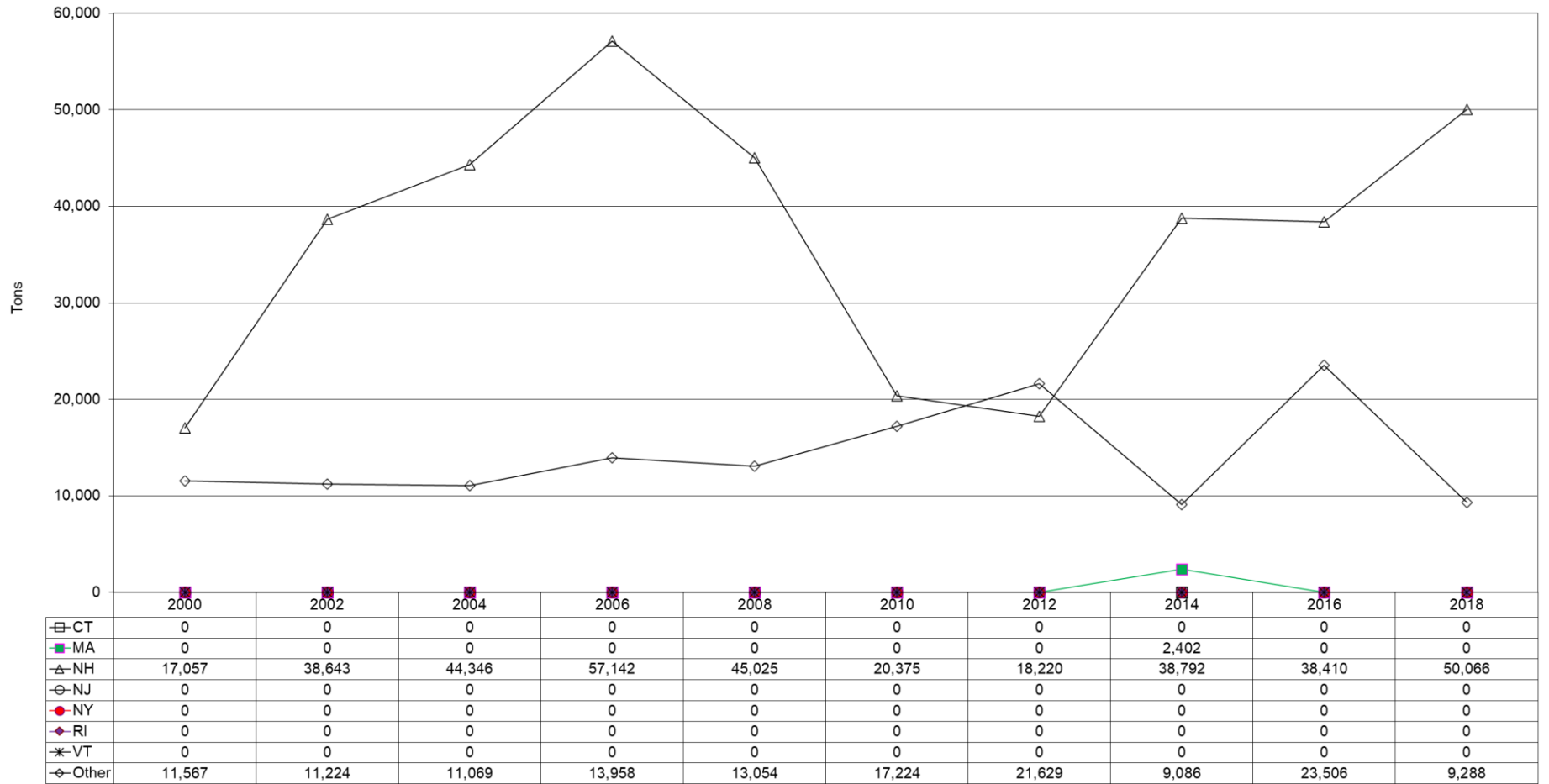
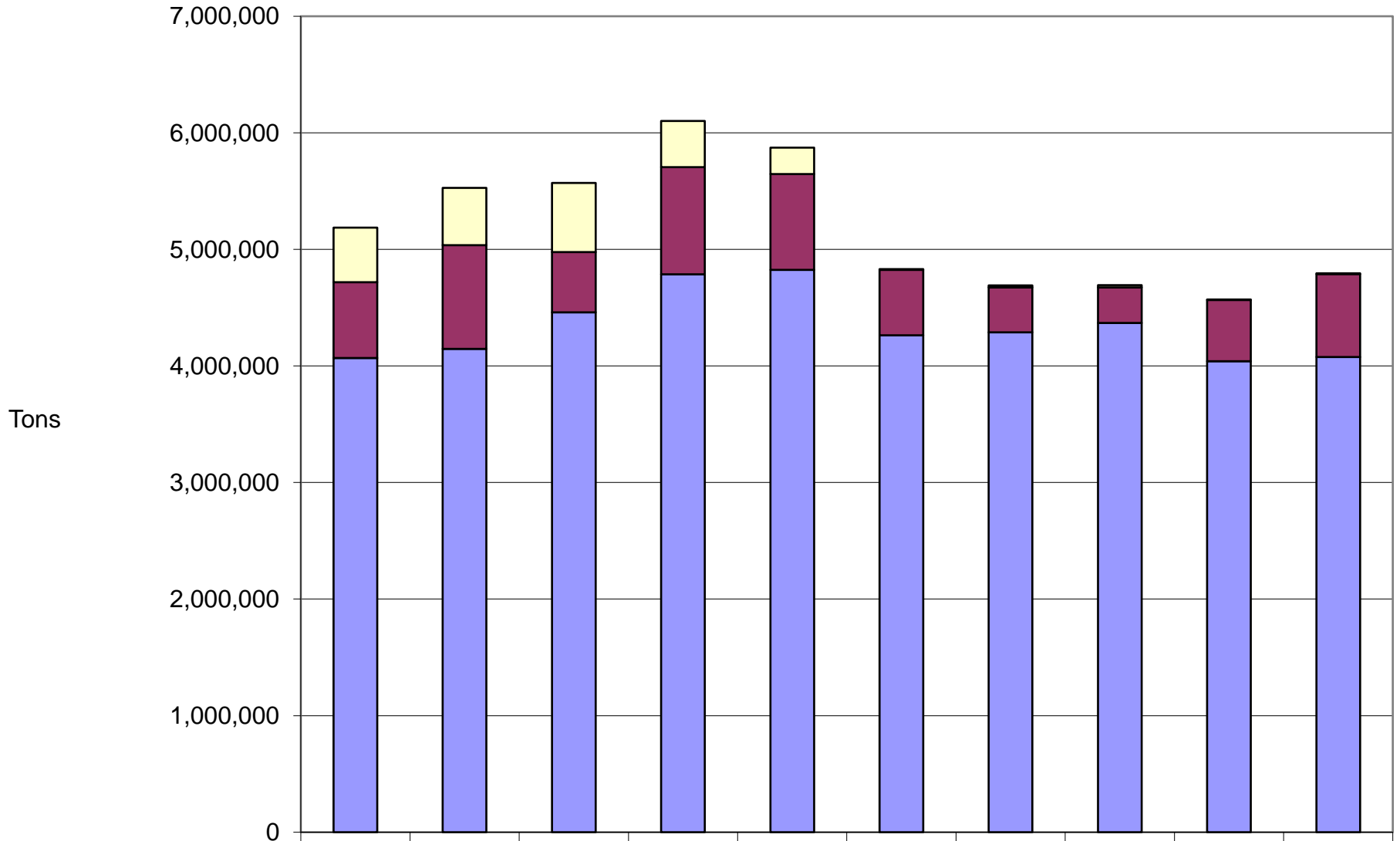
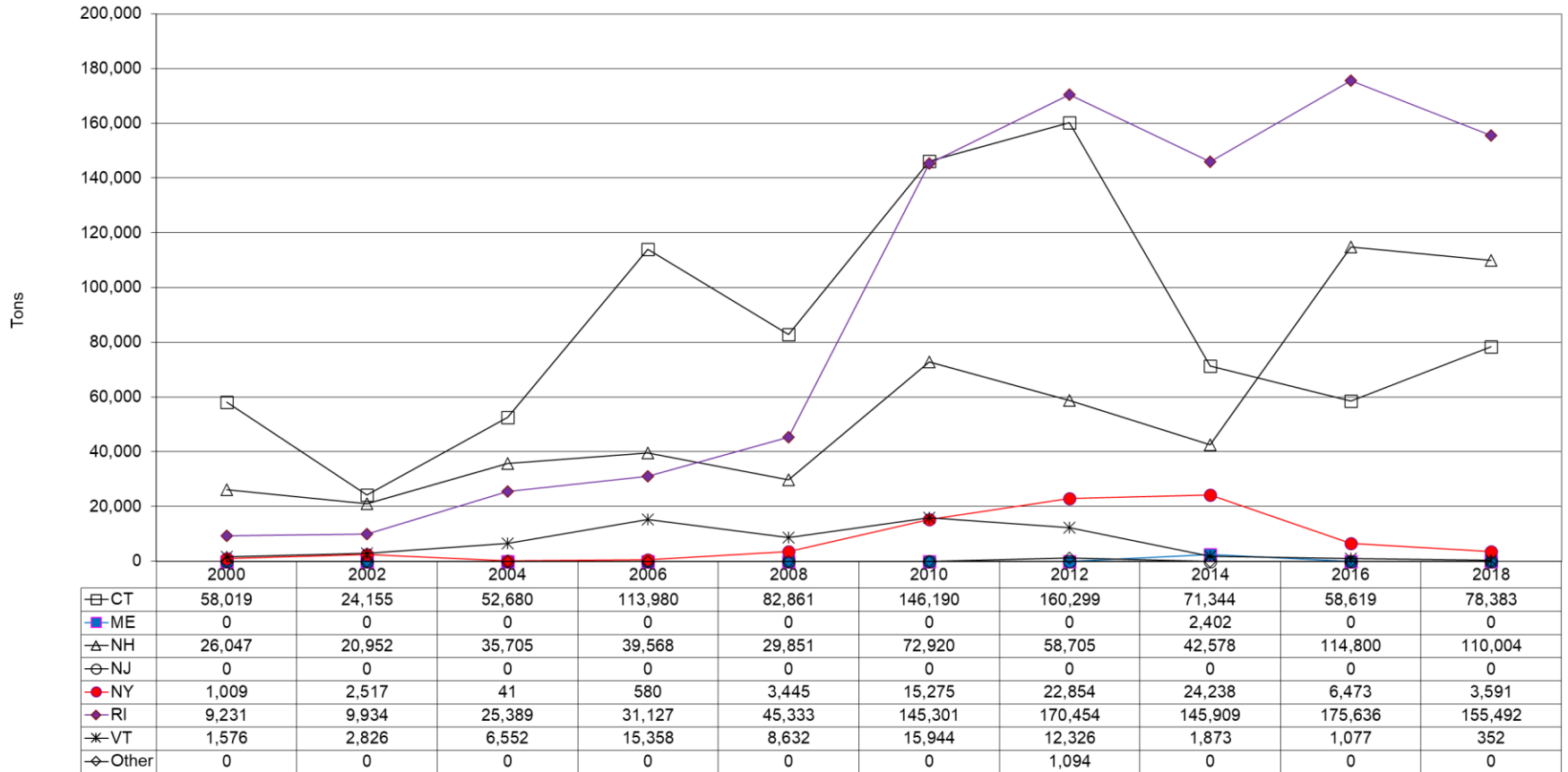


Figure 14: MSW Generated in Massachusetts & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018 (Tons)

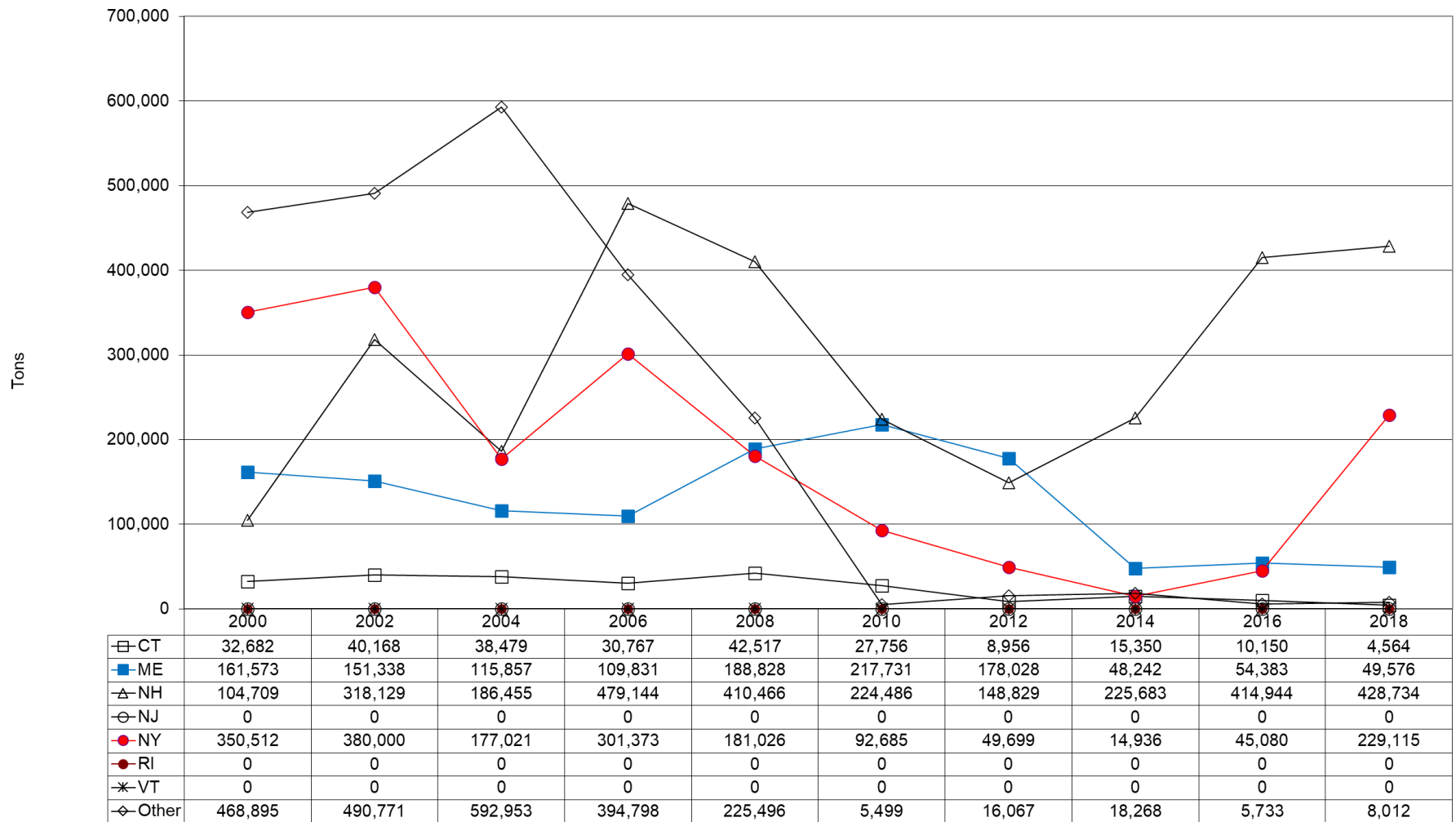


	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
Exported to Non-NEWMOA	468,895	490,772	592,953	394,798	225,496	5,499	16,067	18,268	5,733	8,012
Exported to NEWMOA	649,476	889,635	517,812	921,115	822,837	562,658	385,512	304,211	524,557	711,989
Disposed In State	4,069,137	4,147,413	4,459,730	4,785,491	4,823,591	4,262,599	4,289,036	4,369,825	4,040,989	4,075,813

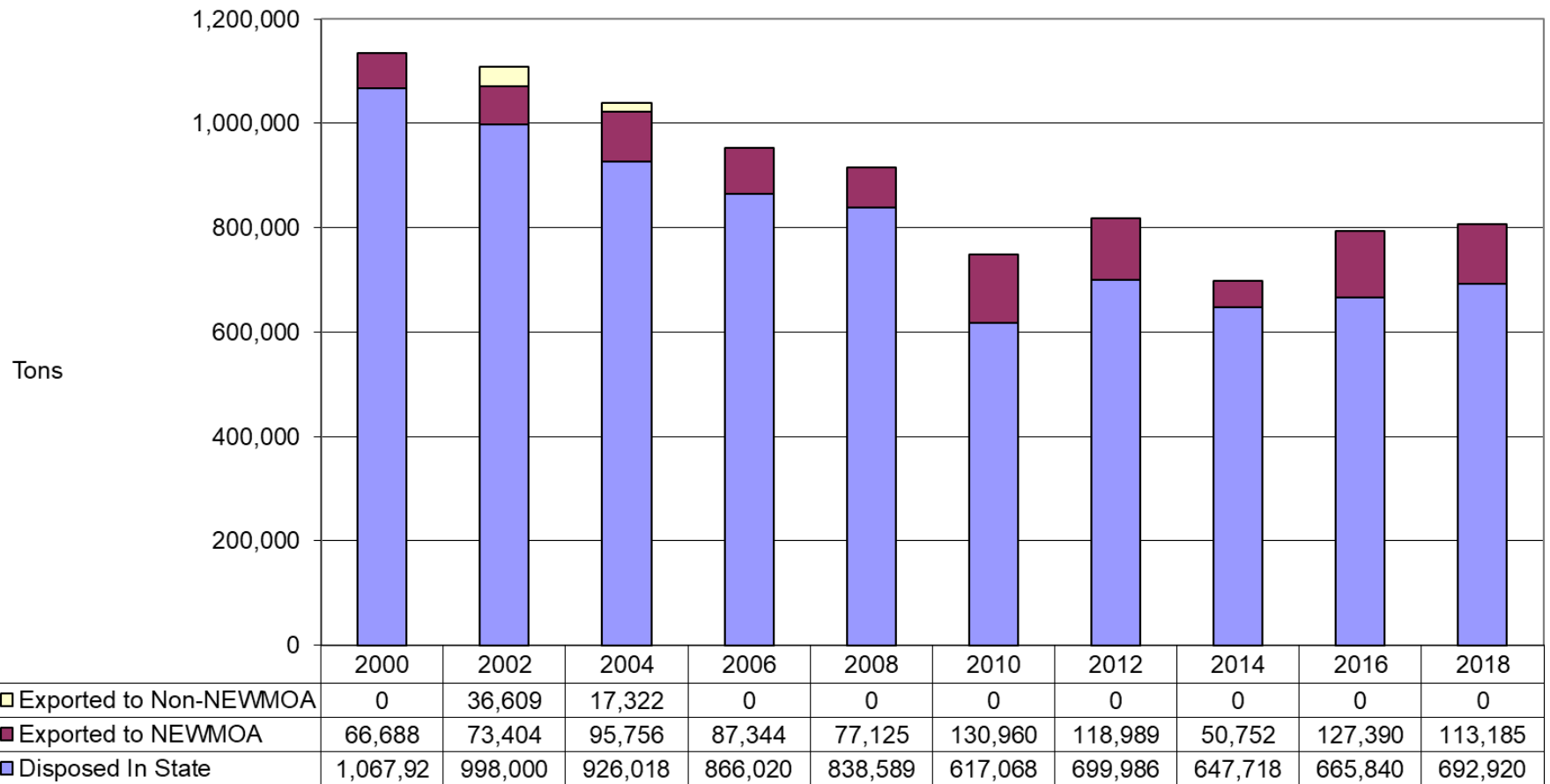
**Figure 15: MSW Imports to Massachusetts: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



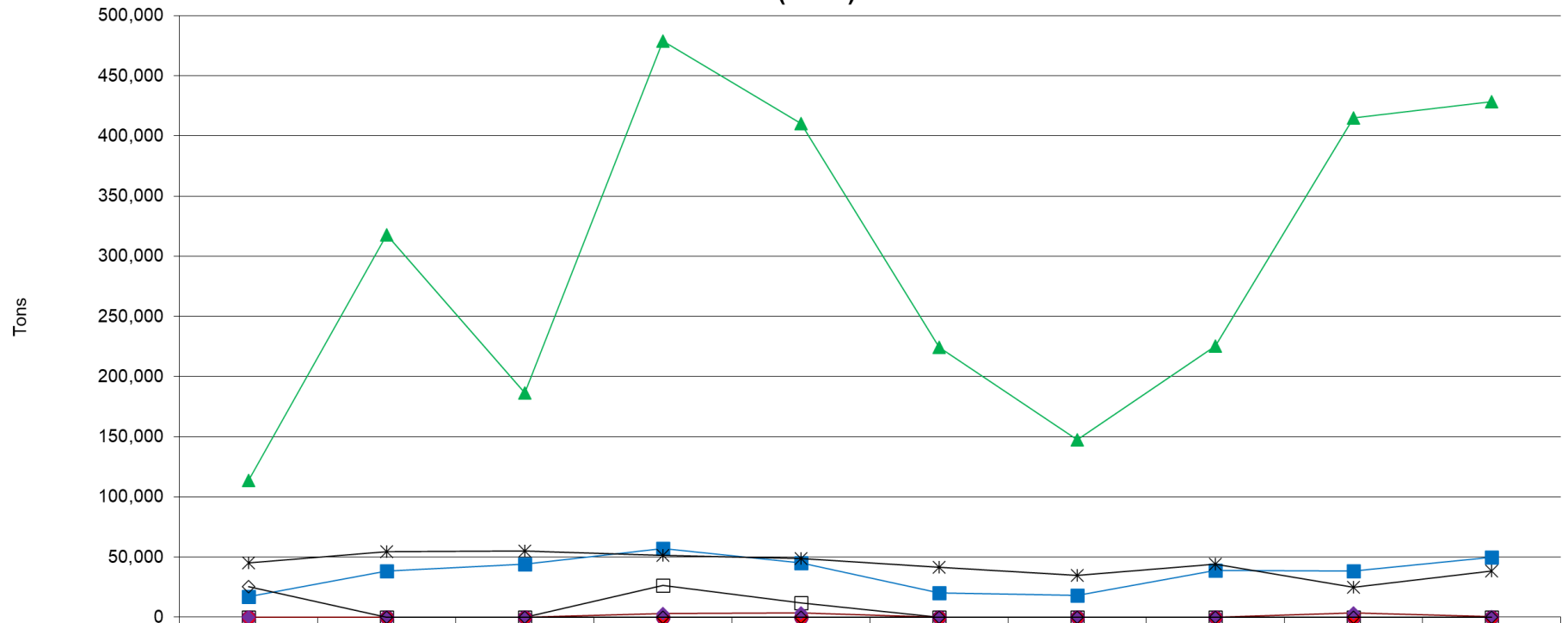
**Figure 16: MSW Exports from Massachusetts: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 17: MSW Generated in New Hampshire & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

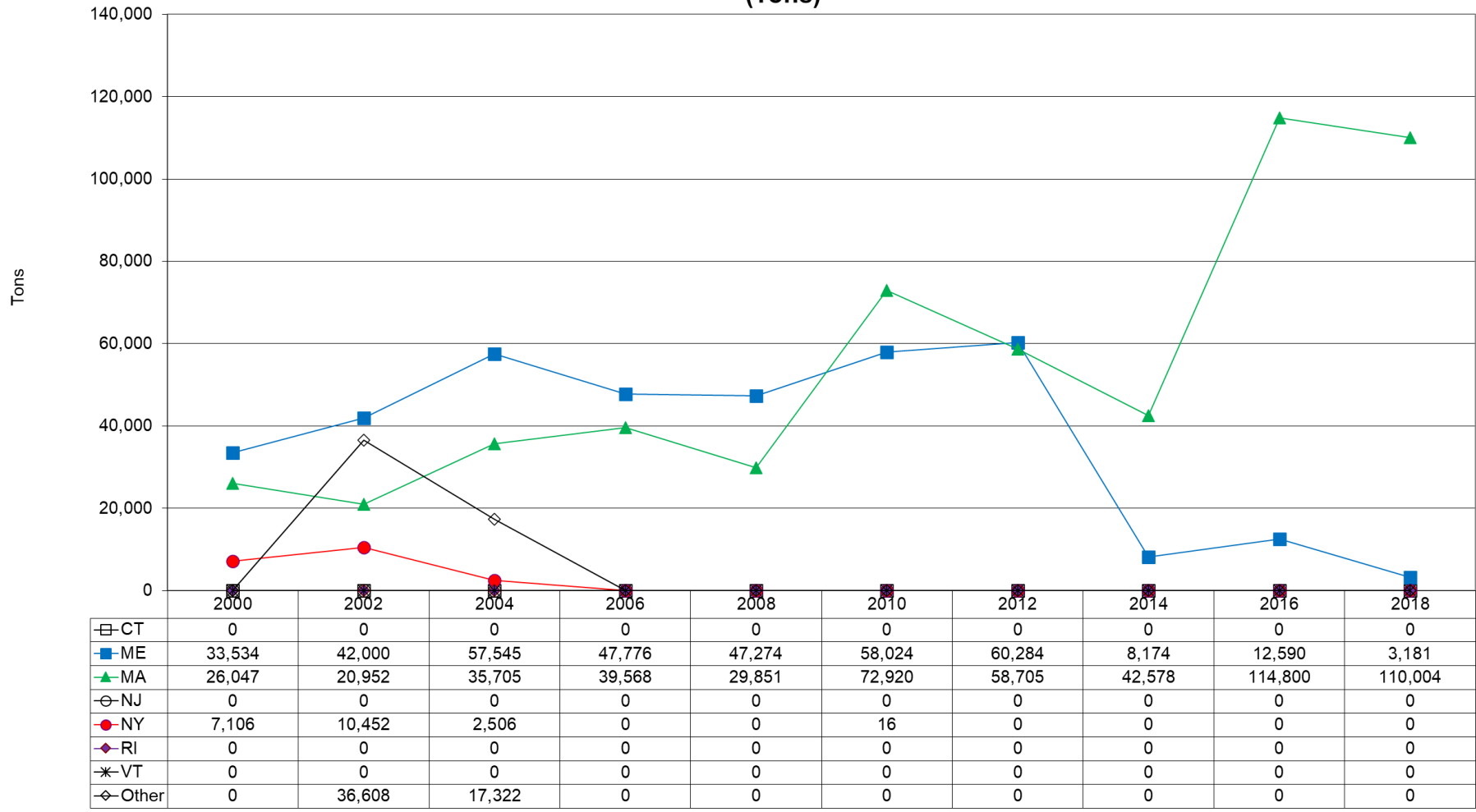


**Figure 18: MSW Imports to New Hampshire: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

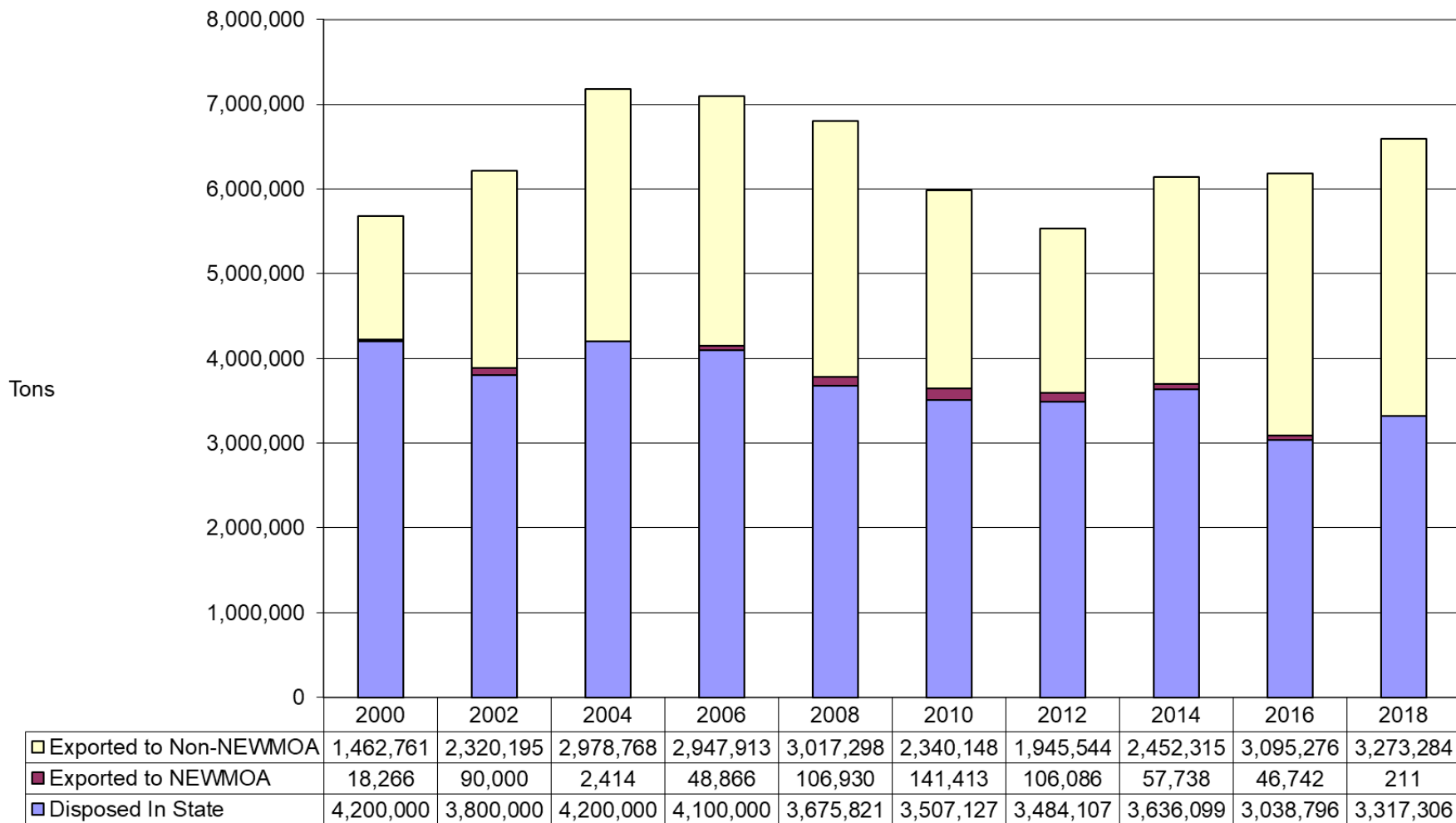


	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014	2016	2018
CT	77	0	0	26,474	11,845	0	0	0	0	0
ME	17,057	38,643	44,346	57,142	45,025	20,375	18,220	38,792	38,410	50,066
MA	113,852	318,129	186,455	479,144	410,466	224,486	147,626	225,683	414,944	428,734
NJ	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NY	0	0	195	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RI	0	0	0	2,934	3,631	4	0	4	3,431	619
VT	44,988	54,678	55,203	51,510	48,574	41,322	34,626	44,220	24,973	38,599
Other	25,424	0	0	0	0	124	0	0	0	0

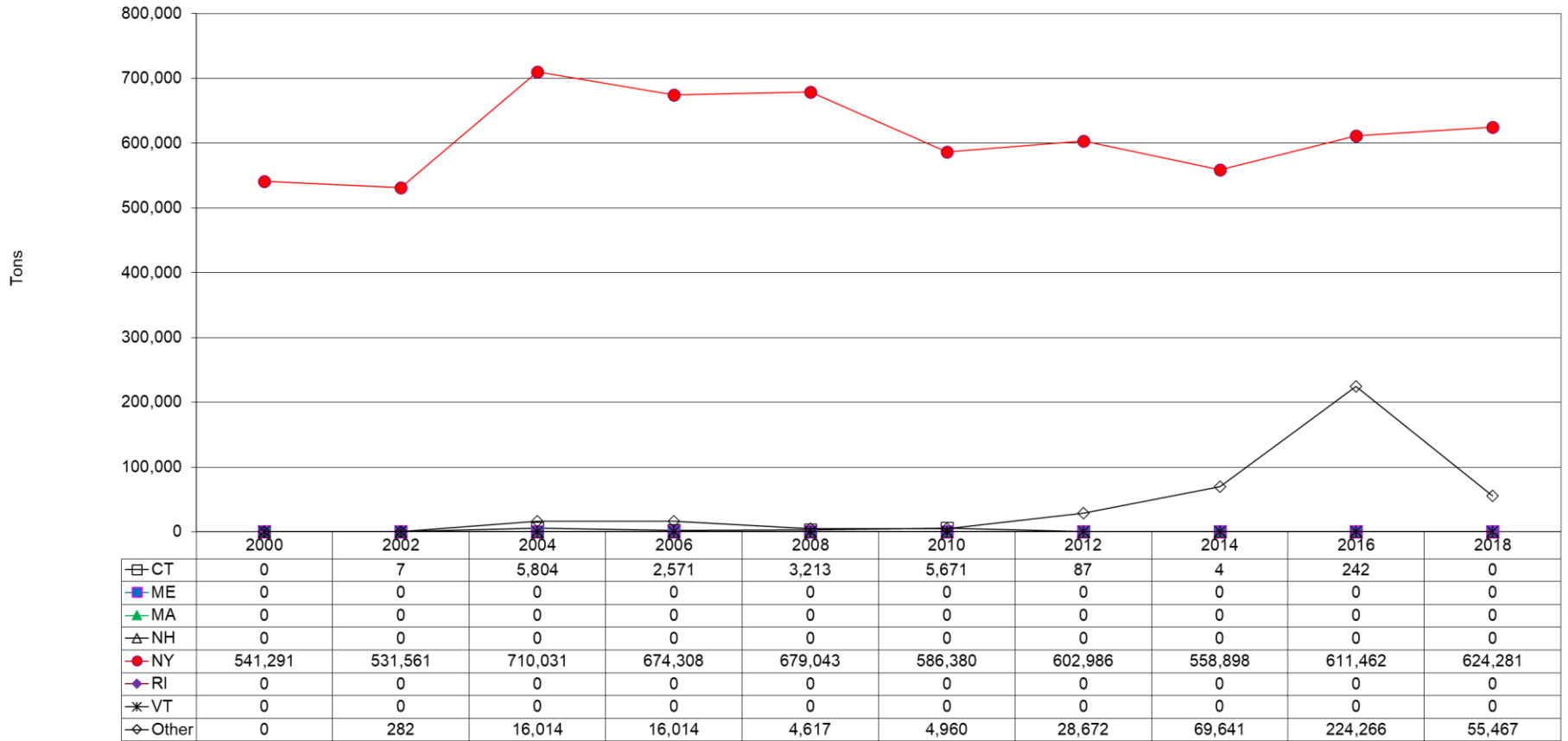
**Figure 19: MSW Exports from New Hampshire: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



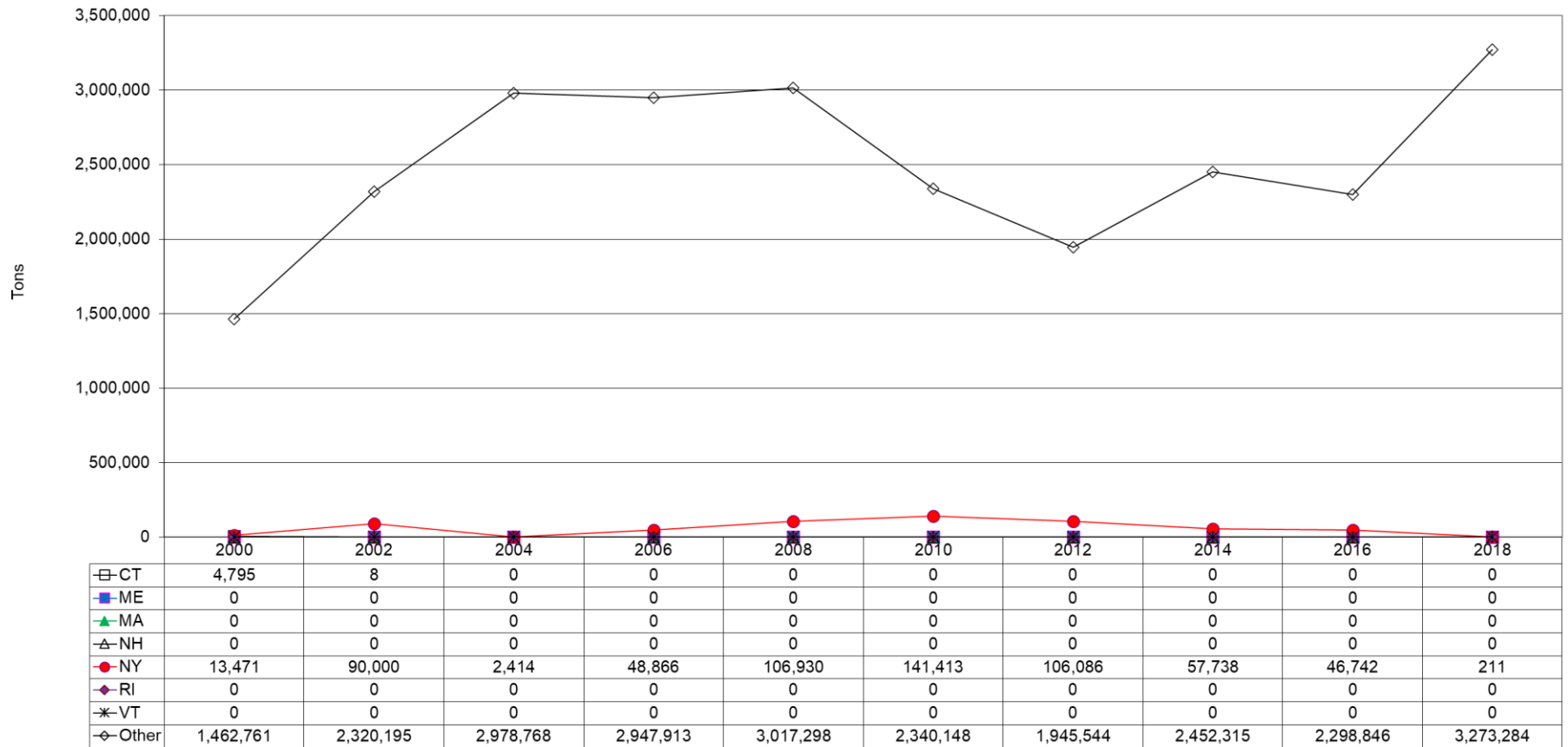
**Figure 20: MSW Generated in New Jersey & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



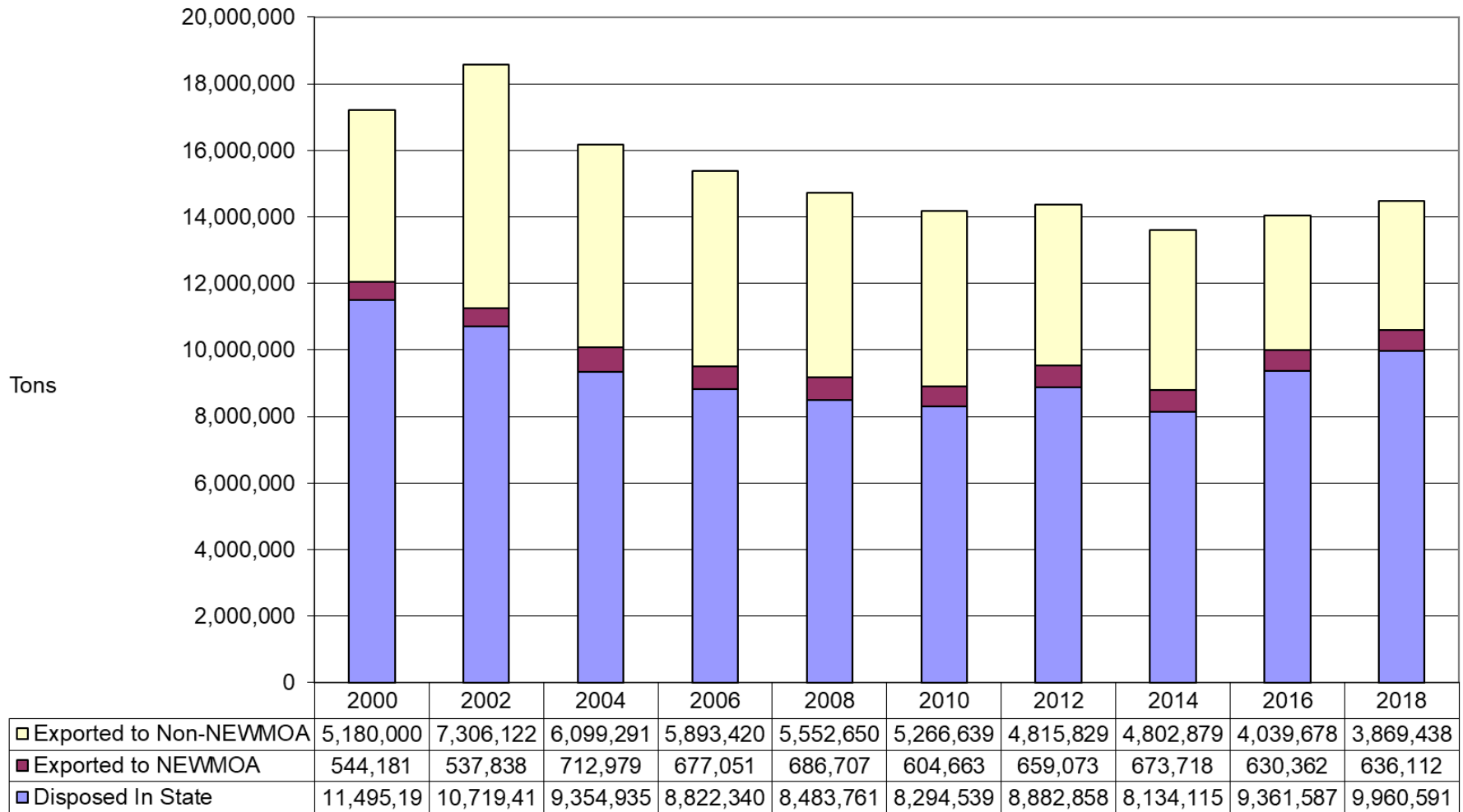
**Figure 21: MSW Imports to New Jersey: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



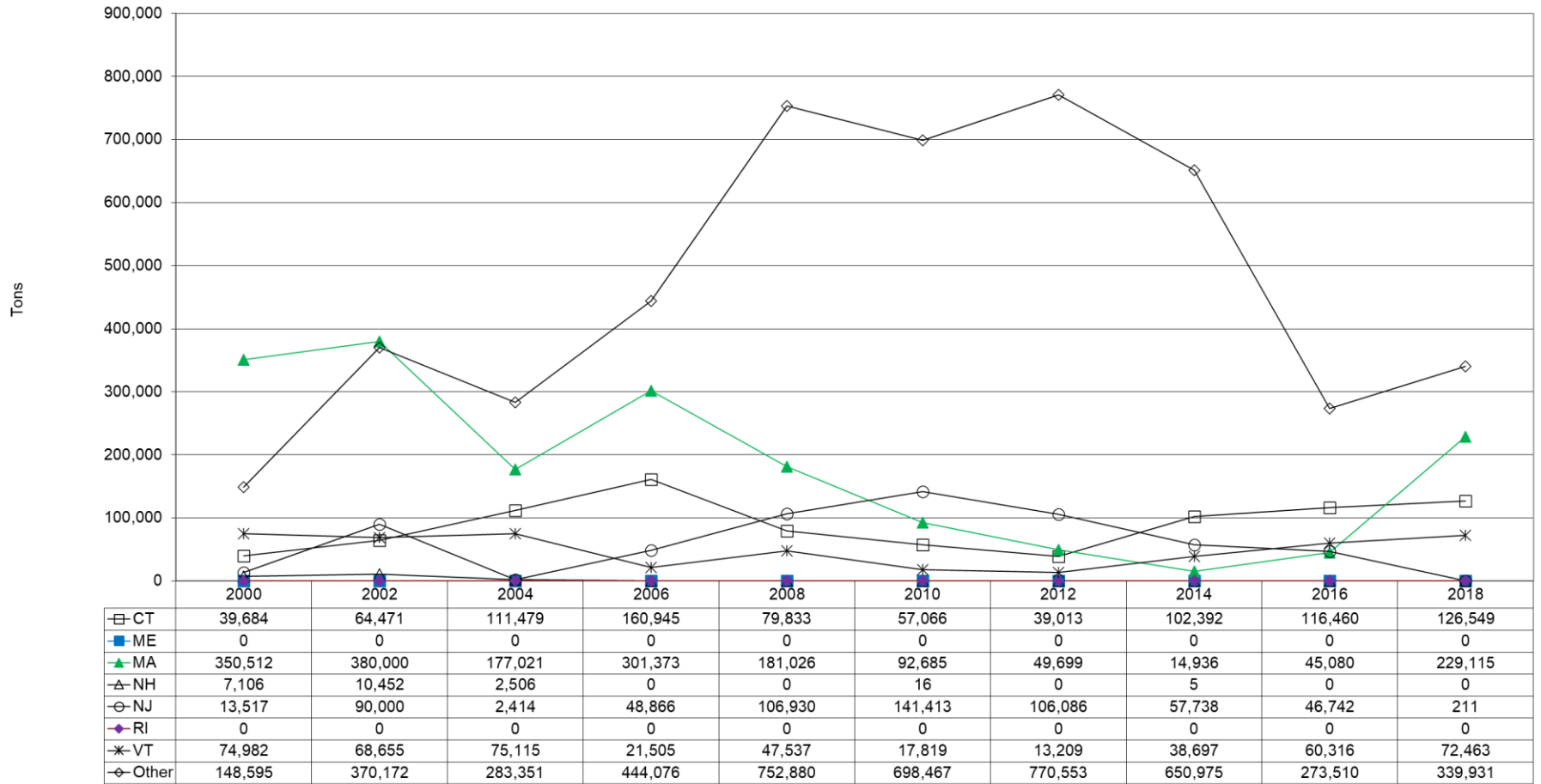
**Figure 22: MSW Exports from New Jersey: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



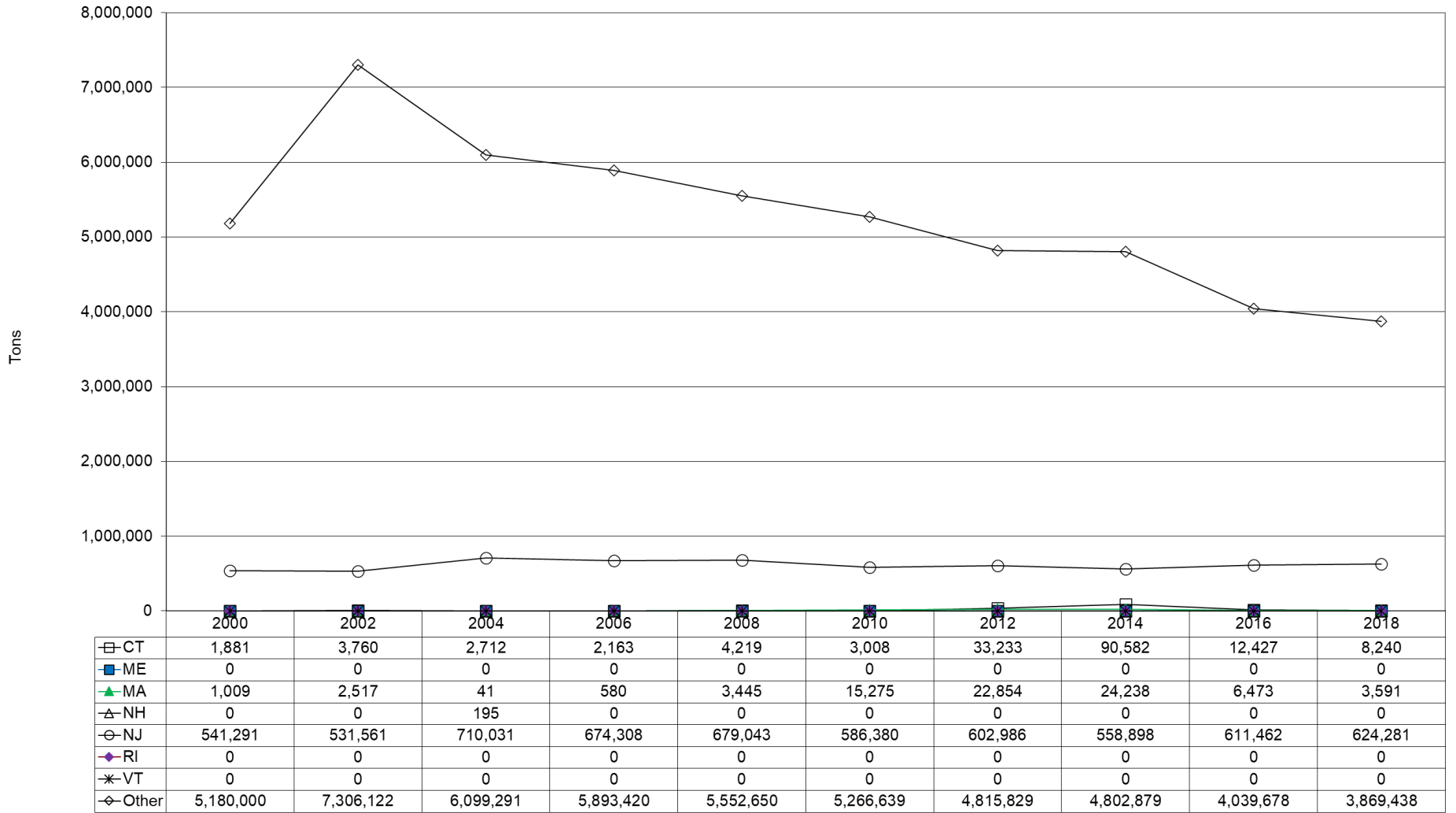
**Figure 23: MSW Generated in New York & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



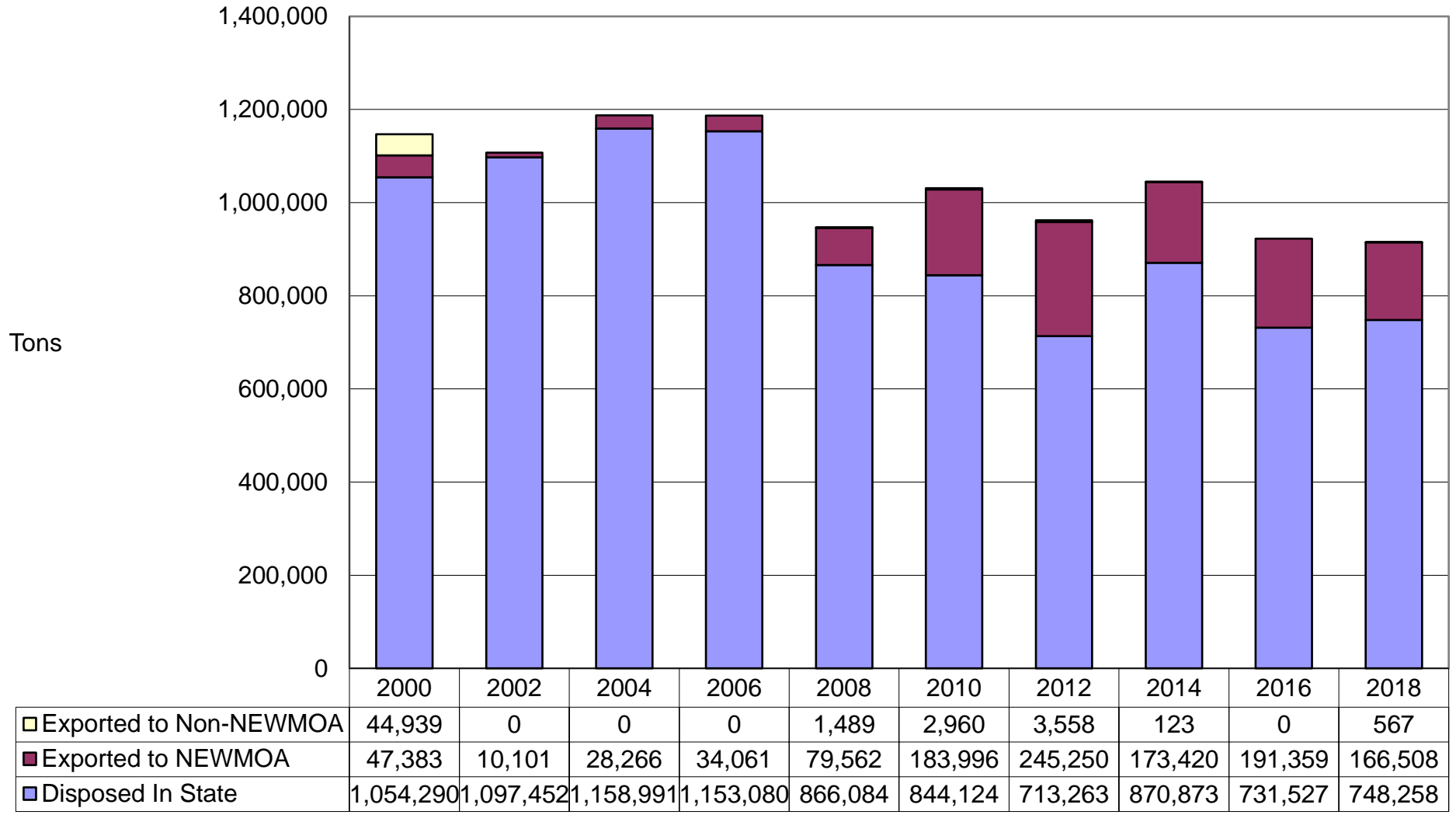
**Figure 24: MSW Imports to New York: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



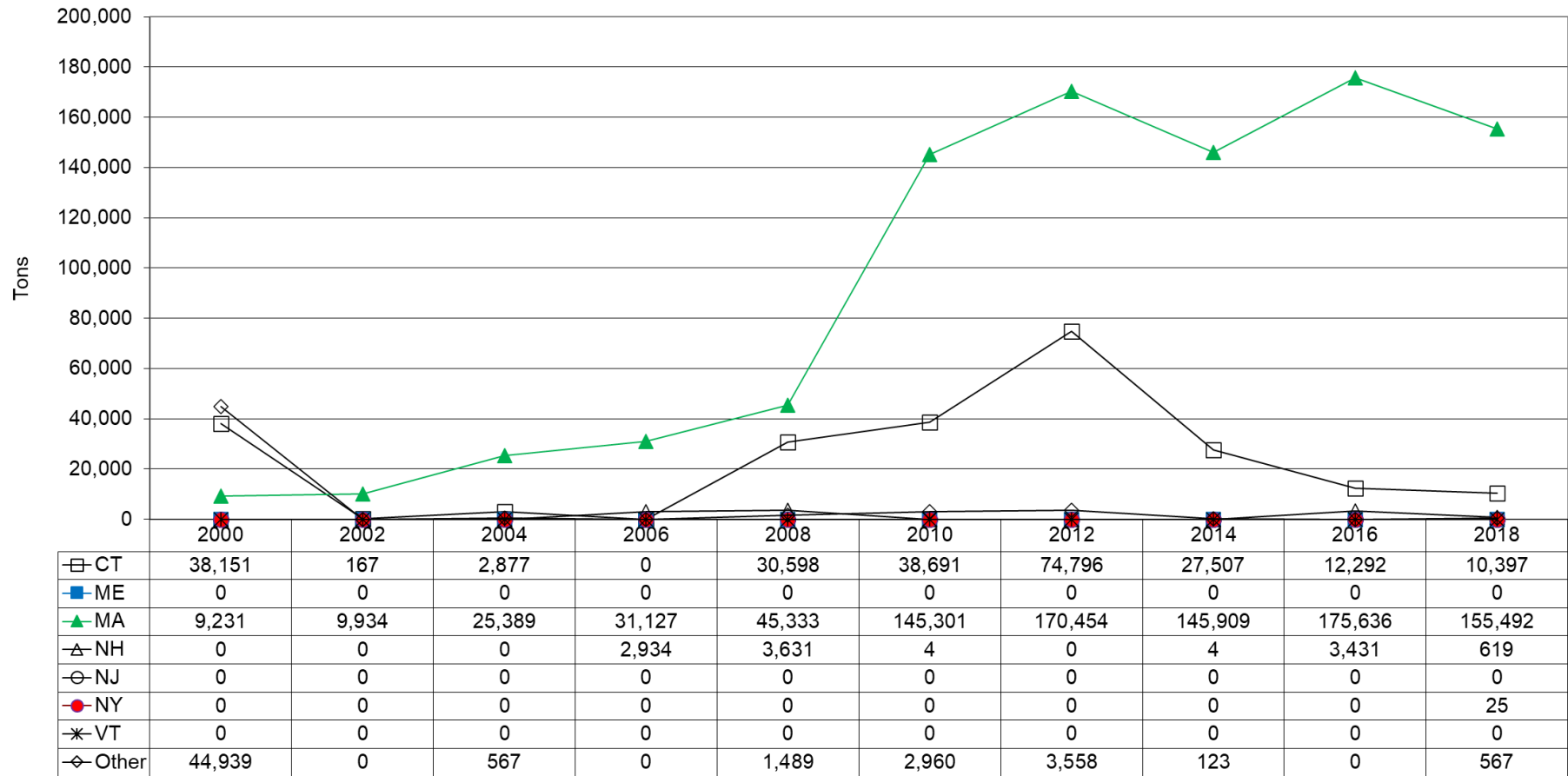
**Figure 25: MSW Exports from New York: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



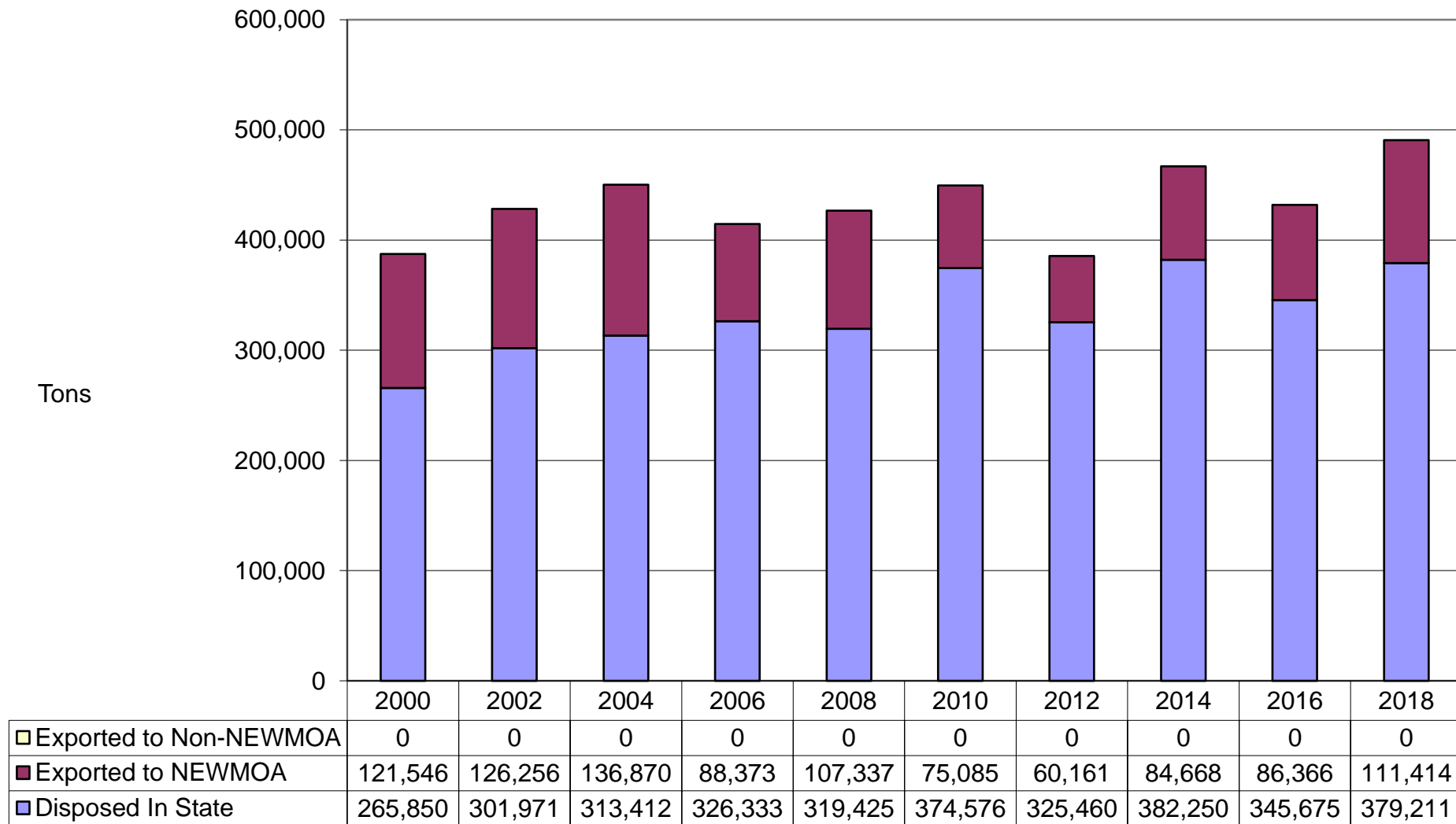
**Figure 26: MSW Generated in Rhode Island & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 27: MSW Exports from Rhode Island: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 28: MSW Generated in Vermont & Disposed of: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**



**Figure 29: MSW Exports from Vermont: 2000 through 2018
(Tons)**

