

# Construction and demolition waste recovery in Victoria 2007-08

The Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 collects information on the Victorian reprocessing industry via a voluntary survey. Victorian reprocessors of secondary-use materials (waste material) report on their reprocessing activities over the financial year. The survey conducted during November 2008, sought data from 88 Victorian reprocessors. A total of 66 out of the 88 reprocessors provided data for the survey, representing a 75% response rate. It is estimated that these responses covered 90% of the industry by tonne of recovered waste material. An additional 34 plastic reprocessors surveyed for the 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*<sup>1</sup> were also included in the report findings.

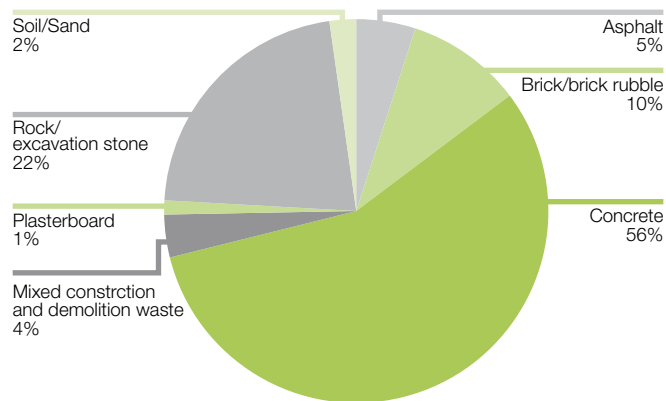
For more information or to download a copy of the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 report, please refer to the Sustainability Victoria website [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)

The information presented is an extract of the construction and demolition waste recovery figures from the report.

## Recovery and trends

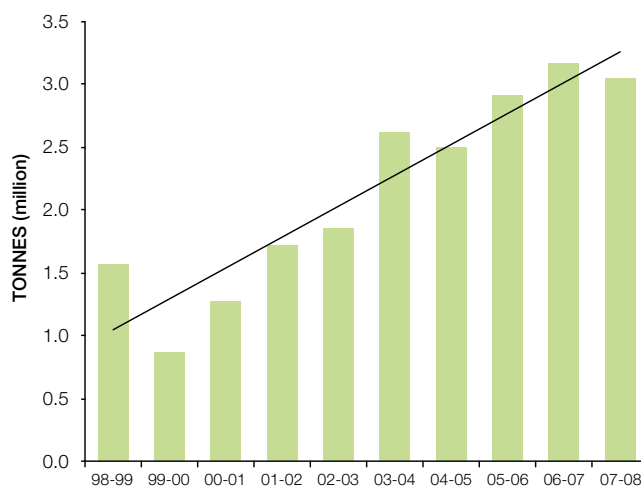
Recovery of construction and demolition waste material decreased by 4% (131,000 tonnes) during 2007–08 to 3.04 million tonnes. Concrete accounted for the majority of material recovered (56% by weight) and remained relatively unchanged from the previous year with a small increase of 1% (see Figure 1). Other material categories displayed large changes from the previous year with a 70% decrease in soil / sand, and a 50% increase in plasterboard recovered (see Table 1).

<sup>1</sup> 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey, report to the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association*



**Figure 1** Composition of construction and demolition waste (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

Figure 2 illustrates the historical trend in Victorian construction and demolition waste recovery over the past 10 years. Recovery in 2007–08 steadied after the strong growth trend displayed over recent years. The increased processing capacity and demand, coupled with the expansion and establishment of suburban collection points, and the extension of recycling services to the C&D sector have contributed to the growth in recovery displayed in previous years.

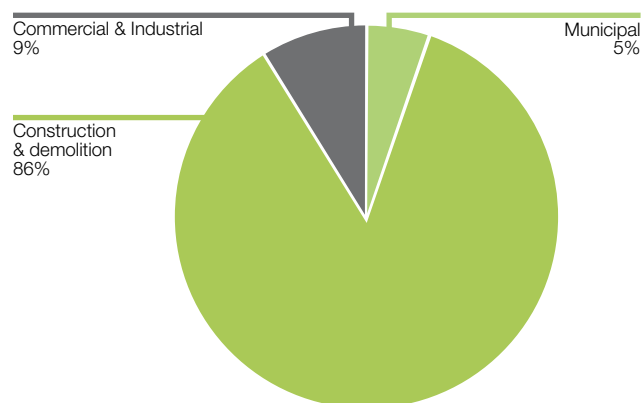


**Figure 2** Construction and demolition waste recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

## Sources of recyclables

Material from the construction and demolition sector understandably made up the bulk of recovery (86%), while a small amount still continues to be recovered through the commercial & industrial and municipal sectors (see Figure 3).

Concrete, brick rubble, asphalt, rock and excavation stone were primarily sourced from construction and demolition activities at commercial and civil sites, which provide high-volume, largely homogenous streams of materials. Most of the plasterboard recycled in Victoria is sourced from manufacturers as process off cuts. However, an increasing number of waste service providers are recovering waste plasterboard from construction projects and diverting it for recycling.



**Figure 3** Sources of construction and demolition waste (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2007-08

	Asphalt	Brick/brick rubble	Concrete	Mixed demolition & construction	Plasterboard	Rock/ excavation stone	Soil & Sand	Total construction and demolition waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)								
1998-99	371	271	899	-	27	-	-	1,568
1999-00	59	228	577	-	5	-	2	871
2000-01	68	318	811	-	4	56	16	1,273
2001-02*	65	293	942	-	8	359	49	1,716
2002-03	84	250	1,161	-	21	293	42	1,852
2003-04	170	425	1,525	-	22	428	49	2,618
2004-05	162	395	1,477	-	24	397	68	2,492
2005-06	139	385	1,734	-	27	419	209	2,913
2006-07	190	438	1,695	81	22	505	239	3,170
2007-08	152	293	1,717	111	33	668	72	3,047

**Table 1** Construction and demolition waste material recovered in Victoria for reprocessing over the past 10 years, Victoria 1998-99 to 2007-08

\* Evaluation and cross-referencing of reported and actual data has led to an adjustment of previous financial year data.