

Glass 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*¹ 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

The information presented is an extract of the glass waste recovery figures from the report.

Recovery and trends

The total quantity of glass recovered for reprocessing in Victoria in the 2007–08 financial year was almost 174,000 tonnes, a decrease of 14%. Glass containers (bottles and jars) and mixed glass waste constituted the majority of glass recovered at 94% of the total (see Figure 1). Based on historical records, it can be assumed that the mixed glass waste category is dominated by glass containers (see Table 1, Appendix B).

Despite the decrease in the recovery of glass in Victoria during the 2007–08 period, the amount recovered is still a significant increase on 2004–05 volumes (see Figure 2). This significant increase is due to an upgrade at the VISY Recycling glass recovery facility at Laverton in 2005–06.

¹ 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*, report to the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association

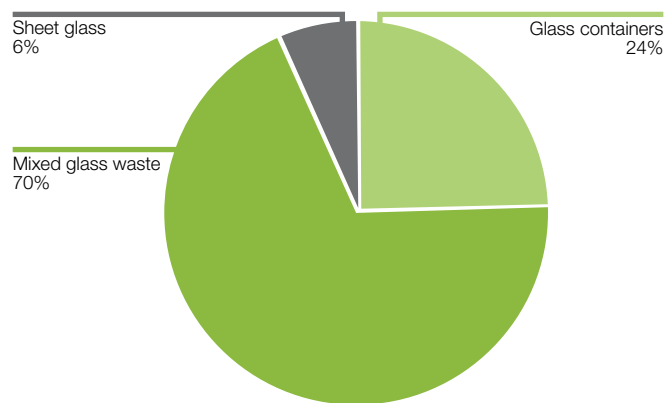


Figure 1 Composition of glass (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

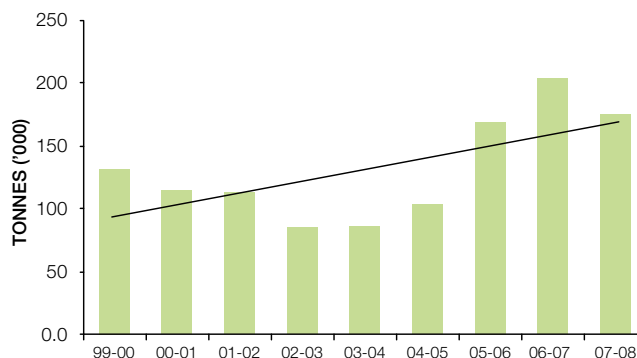


Figure 2 Glass recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1999–00 to 2007–08

Sources of recyclables

Of the glass received for reprocessing during 2007–08, the majority was sourced from the municipal sector (94%), principally glass containers collected through kerbside recycling systems (see Figure 3).

Sheet glass, by contrast, was received largely from the commercial and industrial sector in the form of windscreens, broken windows and off-cuts from the manufacture of glass products.

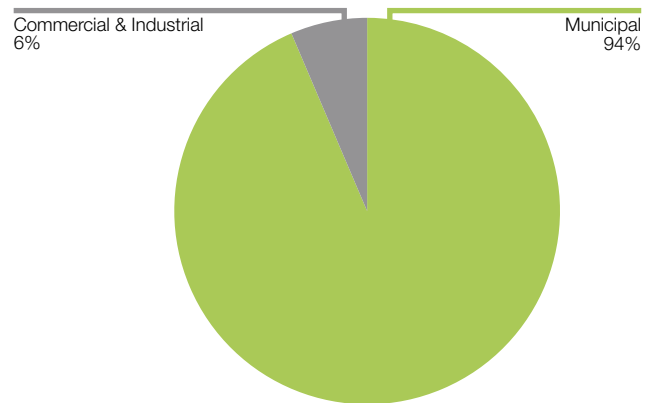


Figure 3 Source sectors of glass (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

	Glass containers	Sheet/laminated glass	Mixed glass waste	Total glass waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)				
1998-99	158	10	-	168
1999-00	116	15	-	131
2000-01*	100	14	-	114
2001-02	100	14	-	114
2002-03	73	12	-	85
2003-04	73	13	-	86
2004-05	83	20	-	103
2005-06	143	25	-	168
2006-07	188	14	-	202
2007-08	42	11	120	174

Table 1 Glass 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.