

Glass waste recovery in Victoria 2008–09

The Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2008–09 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, commenced in August 2009, sought data from 90 Victorian reprocessors. A total of 72 out of the 90 reprocessors provided data for the survey, representing an 80% response rate. It is estimated that the respondent reprocessors cover over 90% of the material recovered in Victoria by weight. An additional 36 plastic reprocessors surveyed for the *2009 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 2008–09 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 2008–09 financial year was almost 186,000 tonnes, an increase of 7%. Glass containers (bottles and jars) and Mixed glass waste constituted the majority of glass recovered at 90% 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 with mixed glass as a category coming into affect in 2007–08 (Table 1).

Figure 1 Composition of glass (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2008–09

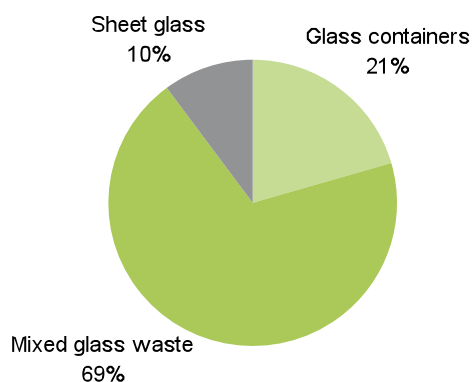
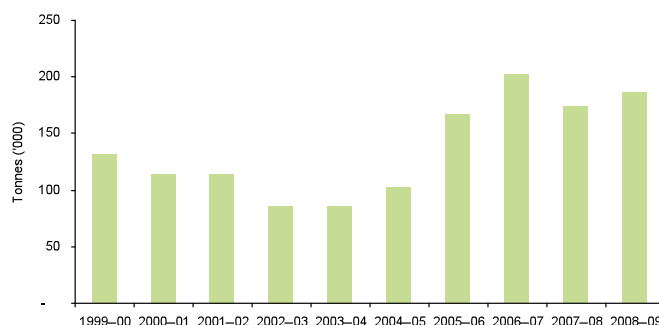


Figure 2 indicates that there was a jump in the recovery of glass in 2005–06. This increase was due to a Victorian Government assisted upgrade at the VISY Recycling glass recovery facility at Laverton. This upgrade has since allowed for consistently higher recovery of glass in Victoria.

Figure 2 Glass recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1999–00 to 2008–09



Sources of recyclables

Of the glass received for reprocessing during 2008–09, the majority was sourced from the municipal sector (87%), principally glass containers collected through the municipal kerbside collection service offered by councils to residents (see Figure 3). Figures calculated from the, *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2008–09 and Kerbside Garbage Composition: Recent Findings*², indicate that the recovery rate of glass within the municipal kerbside collection service is around 85%. Sheet glass, by contrast, is not accepted through the municipal kerbside service and 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 2008–09

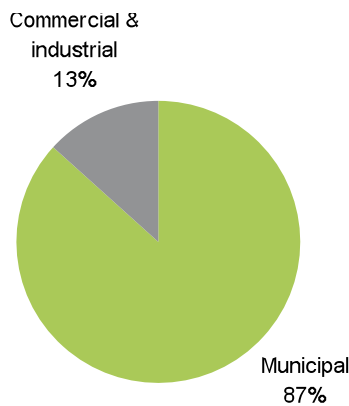


Table 1 Glass waste material recovered in Victoria for reprocessing, Victoria 1999–00 to 2008–09

	Glass containers	Sheet / laminated glass	Mixed glass waste	Total glass waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)				
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
2008–09	38	19	128	186

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

1. 2009 National Plastics Recycling Survey, report to the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association

2. Composition used to calculate the recovery rate of materials was taken from Figure 1. Garbage bin composition from bin audits of four metropolitan local governments, 2008