

Metal 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 metal waste recovery figures from the report.

Recovery and trends

Victorian metal waste recovery increased to around 1.35 million tonnes in 2007–08. This represents an increase of 7% or nearly 89,000 tonnes from 2006–07. An increase was reported in both the export of steel and steel recovered for reprocessing in Victoria.

Figure 1 shows that steel (including packaging steel) made up the greatest proportion of metal waste recovered, despite a 7% decrease. The decrease seen in car bodies and steel (incl. packaging steel) may be explained by the increase of other & mixed metal waste which increased from less than 1% to 15%.

The market for recyclable metals in the 2007–08 period remained steady, particularly for ferrous scrap. As has been the case for much of the past decade, export demand, coupled with the growth in domestic consumption, has led to steadily increasing prices.

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

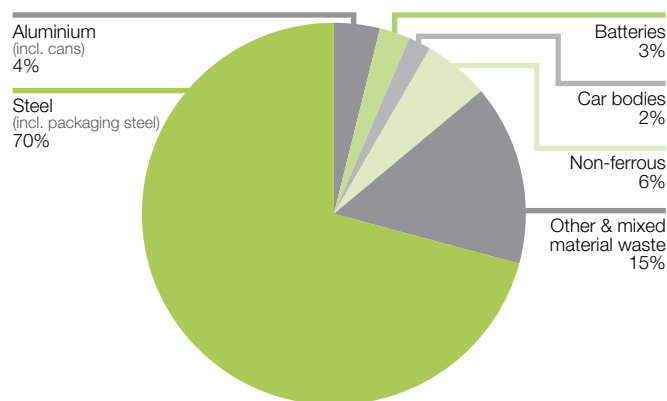


Figure 1 Composition of metal wastes (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

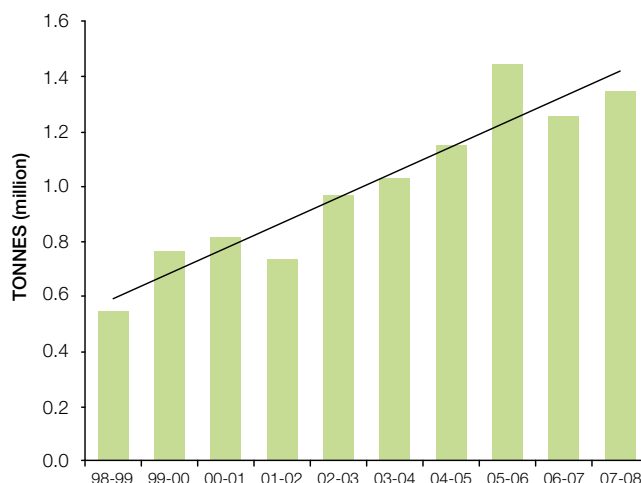


Figure 2 Metal waste recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

Sources of recyclables

Figure 3 shows that the sources of metal waste received for reprocessing is predominately from the commercial and industrial sector. The proportion of material sourced from interstate or overseas remained at 3% in 2007–08. Material sourced from the municipal sector decreased to 6%, down 9 percentage points, while material sourced from the construction and demolition sector increased by 7 percentage points.

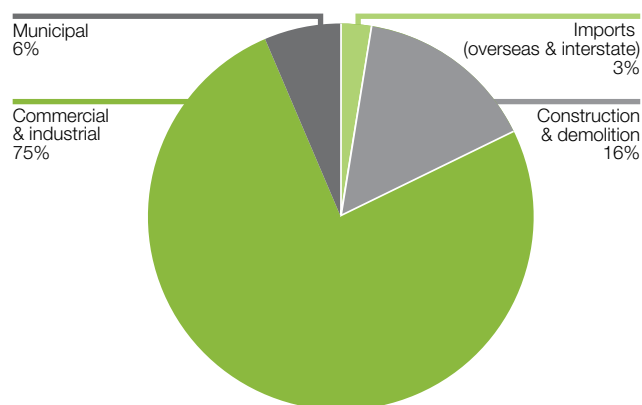


Figure 3 Source sector of metal waste (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

	Aluminium (incl. cans)	Batteries	Car bodies	Non-ferrous	Other & mixed materials	Steel (incl. packagin steel)	Total metal waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)							
1998-99	12	-	-	21	-	513	546
1999-00	35	-	-	35	-	698	768
2000-01*	44	-	-	24	-	745	813
2001-02*	33	29	-	12	-	667	741
2002-03*	41	35	60	28	-	807	971
2003-04	62	30	80	13	-	848	1,032
2004-05	88	33	65	19	-	951	1,157
2005-06	83	34	78	19	-	1,234	1,448
2006-07	63	15	120	65	1	997	1,261
2007-08	51	36	26	77	206	955	1,350

Table 1 Metal 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.