

Paper and Cardboard 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.

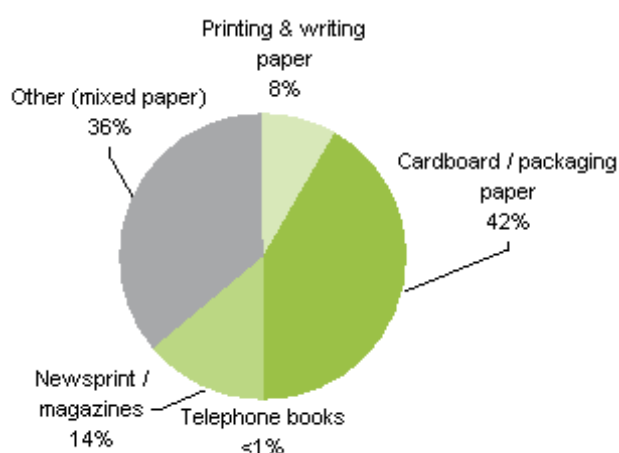
For more information or to download a copy of the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2008–09 report, please refer to the Sustainability Victoria website www.sustainability.vic.gov.au

The information presented is an extract of the paper and cardboard waste recovery figures from the report.

Recovery and trends

The total amount of waste paper recovered for recycling in Victoria has increased by 19% to around 1.13 million tonnes (see Figure 2). This is the second time since conducting this survey that the total tonnes of paper and cardboard recovered has exceeded that of metals. Cardboard / packaging paper makes up the largest proportion representing 42% of all waste paper recovered (see Figure 1). Export of waste paper continues to increase, up 7% from the previous year.

Figure 1 Composition of paper / cardboard waste (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2008–09



The recovery of Other (mixed paper) continues to increase and has become a larger proportion of the composition of paper recovered while Printing & writing paper continues to decrease in tonnes recovered. The decline in Printing & writing paper tonnes may be due to this waste material being mixed in with the Other (mixed paper) category for reporting. These two categories combined have increased by over 100,000 tonnes or 26% from the previous year.

Figure 2 Paper / cardboard waste recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1999–00 to 2008–09

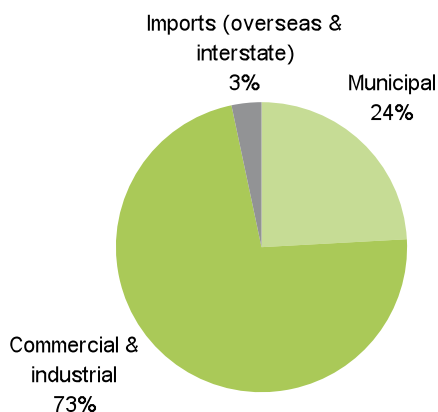


Note: Figures for periods 2004–05 and 2005–06 have been over reported but these amounts have not been able to be quantified.

Sources of recyclables

The largest proportion (73%) of waste paper received for reprocessing in 2008–09 was sourced from the commercial and industrial sector (see Figure 3). Waste paper sourced from the municipal sector (kerbside recycling) decreased from 27% to 24% as did imports dropping from 7% to 3%.

Figure 3 Source sectors of paper / cardboard waste (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2008–09



Retailers and industrial facilities are important suppliers of cardboard and paper packaging to reprocessors, whilst most printing and writing paper comes from commercial collections from offices and schools.

Other (mixed paper), by contrast, was sourced predominantly from the municipal sector. These materials are mostly discarded in the home and are readily retrieved from the kerbside recycling system. Figures calculated from the *Victorian Local Government Annual Survey 2008–09 and Kerbside Garbage Composition: Recent Findings*², indicate that the recovery rate of paper within the municipal kerbside collection service offered by councils to residents is almost 80%.

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

	Cardboard / paper packaging	Newsprint / magazines	Printing & writing paper	Telephone books	Other (mixed paper)	Total paper / cardboard waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)						
1999–00	490	173	-	-	-	663
2000–01	388*	133*	141*	-	-	662*
2001–02	332*	187*	136*	-	91*	746*
2002–03	414	196	174	10	24	818
2003–04	366	194	246	10	34	850
2004–05	376	200	262	9	90	937
2005–06	461	232	238	10	146	1,087
2006–07	389	122	73	2	236	822
2007–08	422	132	124	1	275	954
2008–09	468	160	93	<1	410	1,132

* 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