



**Connecticut's Beverage Container Redemption Rate Rises 27%  
From 2024 to 2025, With Nearly All Other Deposit-Return System (DRS)  
States Not Experiencing Significant Redemption Rate Changes**

***The Container Recycling Institute Points to the Ongoing Need for Program  
Modernizations, But Also to Key DRS Overhauls in Vermont and Maine  
and California's Expansion of Bottle and Can Redemption Options for Consumers***

**Highlights:**

- Connecticut, which implemented major beverage container deposit-return system (DRS) program upgrades over the past several years, saw its beverage container redemption rate jump by 27 percentage points (65% to 92%) from 2024 to 2025 after climbing from 44% to 65% from 2023 to 2024.
- Among the nine (of 10 total) DRS states with available data, only Connecticut and Maine (-5%) experienced redemption rate changes of more than +/-2% from 2024 to 2025.
- Due to the placement of deposits on additional beverage types in California (in 2024) and Connecticut (in 2023), over 2 billion more beverage containers are now on deposit in the U.S. compared to just a couple of years ago.
- Maine and Vermont are working on important DRS program overhauls, while California is implementing nearly a dozen new grant programs to expand its beverage container redemption infrastructure – positive steps focused on improving their programs' performance.
- CRI is nearing completion of a guidebook on approaches to minimize DRS program fraud, free riding and errors – issues identified in Connecticut but successfully addressed in other DRS jurisdictions worldwide.
- Overall, DRS program modernization and maintenance remain the most important means of ensuring long-term sustainable redemption rate increases.

CULVER CITY, CA, Aug. 3, 2026 – Beverage container redemption rates for calendar year 2025 in the U.S. deposit-return system (DRS, aka bottle bill) states – with the exception of Connecticut and, to a lesser extent, Maine – showed relatively small changes compared to the rates in calendar year 2024, according to data released today by the [Container Recycling Institute](#) (CRI), a national nonprofit recycling industry authority.

Below are findings from CRI's data compilation for redemption rates in nine (of the 10 total) DRS states with available information. See the end of this release for more comprehensive charts.

| Deposit State | CY 2024<br>Redemption Rate | CY 2025<br>Redemption Rate | Redemption Rate<br>Change: 2024 to 2025 |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| California    | 60%                        | 59%                        | -1%                                     |
| Connecticut   | 65%                        | 92%                        | +27%                                    |
| Hawaii        | 54% (FY 2023-2024)         | 52% (FY 2024-2025)         | -2%                                     |

| Deposit State | CY 2024<br>Redemption Rate | CY 2025<br>Redemption Rate | Redemption Rate<br>Change: 2024 to 2025 |
|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Iowa*         | N/A                        | N/A                        | N/A                                     |
| Maine         | 74%                        | 69%                        | -5%                                     |
| Massachusetts | 35%                        | 33%                        | -2%                                     |
| Michigan      | 70%                        | 69%                        | -1%                                     |
| New York      | 69%                        | 68%                        | -1%                                     |
| Oregon        | 87%                        | 88%                        | +1%                                     |
| Vermont       | 70%                        | 68%                        | -2%                                     |

*\*For Iowa, a detailed study conducted by CRI determined the state's 2022 recovery rate for beverage containers on deposit at 49%. Recovery rate refers to containers redeemed through the state's DRS, as well as those recycled through curbside or drop-off programs.*

CRI President Susan Collins said that DRS programs represent the “gold standard” for increasing beverage container recycling rates, with containers on deposit recycled at a 64% rate in the U.S. and containers not on deposit at 26% (2021 data). She added that given the decade-long decline in redemption rates in several DRS states, program maintenance and modernizations – higher container deposit amounts, coverage of more beverage types, additional convenient options for bottle and can returns, and enforcement of program requirements – remain the best practices for long-term increases in redemption rates.

Based on legislation that placed deposits on more beverage types in California (starting in 2024) and Connecticut (starting in 2023), CRI can conclusively say that 2 billion-plus more beverage containers are now on deposit in the U.S. compared to just a couple of years ago. Redemption of more containers on deposit is crucial to ensuring a greater supply of clean, high-quality material for manufacturing new products.

### **State DRS Program Improvements**

Collins also pointed to positive developments in several DRS states. “Maine and Vermont earn kudos for working to implement DRS program overhauls to lay the groundwork for future program upgrades, while California receives credit for expanding beverage container redemption options for consumers, which CRI had advocated for over the course of seven years,” she said.

“The redemption rates in Massachusetts (a troubling deposit state low of 33%) and Michigan, both of which have lagged in making any program improvements, have dropped the most among DRS states since 2019 – 17% and 20%, respectively,” she noted. “This provides a clear indication of the importance of legislative and regulatory action to stabilize and ultimately increase redemption rates.”

### **Connecticut: A 27% Redemption Rate Increase**

Signed into law in 2021, Connecticut's SB 1037 was the most significant DRS expansion/modernization legislation passed in the U.S. in about a decade. Its phased-in implementation of improvements included: 1) raising handling fees for retailers and redemption centers to cover increases in operating costs (effective Oct. 1, 2021); 2) requiring chain stores that meet certain criteria to provide at least two reverse vending machines (RVMs), effective Oct. 1, 2021, which added 300 new redemption sites for consumers; 3) placing deposits on non-carbonated beverages and malt-based hard seltzer (effective Jan. 1, 2023); and 4) increasing the deposit-refund for covered beverages from 5¢ to 10¢ (effective Jan. 1, 2024).

Connecticut's beverage container redemption rate jumped from 44% to 92% from 2023 to 2025 and the number of beverage containers redeemed rose by more than 925 million over that same time period.

| Total Beverage Containers Sold + Redeemed in CT and NY, CY 2023-2025              |                 |               |               |               |                                        |                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------|
|  |                 | 2023          | 2024          | 2025          | Change in containers from 2023 to 2025 | % change from 2023 to 2025 |
| Connecticut                                                                       | Sold            | 1,961,616,329 | 1,886,618,222 | 1,949,375,010 | -12,241,319                            | -1%                        |
|                                                                                   | Redeemed        | 858,974,572   | 1,216,971,368 | 1,784,030,840 | 925,056,268                            | 108%                       |
|                                                                                   | Redemption Rate | 43.8%         | 64.5%         | 91.5%         |                                        | 109%                       |
| New York                                                                          | Sold            | 9,333,342,418 | 9,401,765,911 | 9,426,691,943 | 93,349,525                             | 1%                         |
|                                                                                   | Redeemed        | 6,376,291,019 | 6,453,720,563 | 6,374,365,912 | -1,925,107                             | 0%                         |
|                                                                                   | Redemption Rate | 68.3%         | 68.6%         | 67.6%         |                                        | -1%                        |

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Given the data showing a significant increase in Connecticut's DRS program performance since the implementation of major upgrades, it is clear that the legislation that authorized the modernization is making a difference.

Despite the positive news, the state's DRS also is currently struggling with claims of over-redemption by some distributors, and CRI estimates that beverage sales in the state are higher than what beverage distributors are reporting. In addition, there are reports of empty beverage containers being brought across state borders by individuals seeking to take advantage of the deposit-refund price differential from state to state. Based on the data above, between 2023 and 2025 New York's redeemed beverage containers decreased by about 2 million containers.

Collins said, "Connecticut legislators are working on solutions to these issues, which could be inflating the actual beverage container redemption rate." SB 457, signed into law in May, prohibits collecting or charging a refund on a beverage container not purchased in the state. However, CRI's analysis indicates that the law's language creates practical and legal concerns, including that it appears unworkable in the context of modern retail supply chains. (Read CRI's [letter of testimony](#) for more information.)

#### CRI Guidebook on Fraud and Free Riding

While the DRS challenges Connecticut is facing may seem novel in the state, many of the 65-plus DRS programs worldwide have successfully tackled these problems, both through legislation and effective day-to-day program management by third-party organizations.

CRI is nearing completion of a comprehensive guidebook that identifies practical solutions for minimizing beverage container DRS fraud, free riding and errors. The guidebook also provides model legislative language and policy approaches for use when DRS programs are modernized. CRI will share the finished product when it is available. (*Redemption fraud refers to obtaining a refund for a beverage container through an illegal or unauthorized means. Free riding means selling beverage containers within a deposit system without properly initiating or paying the required deposits, thereby shifting financial responsibility to other system participants.*)

## **California: Expansion of Redemption Infrastructure**

The Golden State continues to roll out provisions included in legislation (SB 1013) and budget bill AB 179, both signed into law in 2022, that authorized more than \$1 billion in spending on its DRS program. This includes funding via nearly a dozen grants for new redemption centers, RVMs, mobile recycling, bag drops and high-volume counting equipment. However, not all of the legislative provisions specifically address greater consumer access to redemption centers. CRI will continue to advocate for the need to maximize use of program monies to restore availability of redemption centers lost over time, given that half of the state's centers closed from 2013 to 2022.

California also added deposits on wine and spirits effective Jan. 1, 2024 and closed a program loophole by adding coverage to 100% fruit and vegetable juices in larger sizes than previously included.

Not all DRS legislation receives the visibility California's has. But Collins noted that in Maine and Vermont, legislative developments are overhauling the states' DRS program structures to establish a smoother path toward larger program modernizations moving forward.

## **Maine: Simplified Container Sorting at Redemption Centers**

LD 1909, signed into law in 2023, mandates creation of a "commingling cooperative" of brand owners to coordinate the pickup of and payment for redeemed containers; and to establish a plan to simplify and optimize the redemption center container sorting process. Effective July 15, unredeemed deposits are now the property of the cooperative to fund DRS program improvements instead of going back to beverage companies. And by Oct. 1 of this year, brand-level sorting (typically requiring hundreds of bins) will shift to material-type sorting to streamline the process for redemption center employees, lower center costs and increase the DRS program's overall efficiency.

## **Vermont: A Producer Responsibility Organization Stewardship Plan**

Signed into law June 17, H.915 took effect July 1, with an immediate 1¢ increase in the handling fee for redemption centers to support their financial viability. Other key provisions include formation of a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO) by Jan. 1, 2027; an April 1, 2028 deadline for submittal of a PRO stewardship plan to the state; and implementation of the PRO stewardship plan by March 1, 2029. As part of efforts to ensure consumers have convenient beverage container redemption options, the plan must include at least three redemption points per county.

Collins said that the number of bills introduced on new and expanded state DRS programs continues to increase. She added, "We know that DRS programs work. The interest is there and progress is occurring on several fronts, though it doesn't always get enough attention. CRI will continue our original research, objective analysis and responsible advocacy to support the passage of legislation that establishes successful DRS programs and provides effective upgrades to current ones – a vital way to benefit industry, consumers and the environment."

*The nonprofit Container Recycling Institute ([www.container-recycling.org](http://www.container-recycling.org)) is a leading authority on the economic and environmental impacts of used beverage containers and other consumer product packaging. Its mission is to make North America a global model for the collection and quality recycling of packaging materials.*

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To download this press release, visit [www.container-recycling.org/media/](http://www.container-recycling.org/media/). See next pages for charts with redemption rates and other features of U.S. state DRS programs. Visit [www.bottlebill.org/compare-all-states/](http://www.bottlebill.org/compare-all-states/) for additional DRS state redemption rate information and other program details.

| <b>Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Beverage Container Deposit Programs, Prepared by the Container Recycling Institute (Part 1 of 2)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| State                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Redemption Rates of Containers Through DRS, as Reported by State Agencies (no curbside) |      |      |      |      |      |      | Estimated Percent of Deposit Bev. Sales Recycled Via Curbside (in addition to those redeemed) (2025 unless indicated) (a) | Estimated Total Recycling of Covered Beverage Containers |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 2019                                                                                    | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
| California                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 67%                                                                                     | 58%  | 58%  | 60%  | 60%  | 60%  | 59%  | 12%                                                                                                                       | 71%                                                      |
| Connecticut                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 50%                                                                                     | 44%  | 46%  | 45%  | 44%  | 65%  | 92%  | 5%                                                                                                                        | 97%                                                      |
| Hawaii*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 64%                                                                                     | 61%  | 62%  | 58%  | 55%  | 54%  | 52%  | No records exist on curbside collection of beverage containers in Hawaii.                                                 | 52%                                                      |
| Iowa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                         |      |      | 49%  |      |      |      | For 2022, the 49% recovery rate includes DRS as well as curbside & dropoff.                                               | 49%                                                      |
| Maine                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                         | 76%  | 75%  | 78%  | 77%  | 74%  | 69%  | 10%                                                                                                                       | 79%                                                      |
| Massachusetts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 50%                                                                                     | 43%  | 38%  | 38%  | 36%  | 35%  | 33%  | 13%                                                                                                                       | 46%                                                      |
| Michigan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 89%                                                                                     | 73%  | 75%  | 76%  | 73%  | 70%  | 69%  | 10%                                                                                                                       | 79%                                                      |
| New York                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 64%                                                                                     | 64%  | 70%  | 70%  | 68%  | 69%  | 68%  | 10%                                                                                                                       | 78%                                                      |
| Oregon                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 86%                                                                                     | 77%  | 81%  | 86%  | 87%  | 87%  | 88%  | 6%                                                                                                                        | 94%                                                      |
| Vermont                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                         | 78%  | 76%  | 71%  | 72%  | 70%  | 68%  | 10%                                                                                                                       | 78%                                                      |
| Source (for citation purposes): "Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs," Container Recycling Institute, 2026.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
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| * Hawaii data for 2023 are Calendar Year; all other years are Fiscal Year.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                                                                           |                                                          |
| (a) CalRecycle provides data on beverage containers recycled through curbside and dropoff programs. For all other states, estimated percentages are sourced from CRI's dynamic scale of percentages of beverage containers recycled through curbside and dropoff programs in deposit jurisdictions. The scale was developed using historical data from the few jurisdictions that track such data. You may read more about this here: <a href="https://www.container-recycling.org/images/2024/Curbside%20recycling%20Factsheet%20FINAL%20.pdf">https://www.container-recycling.org/images/2024/Curbside%20recycling%20Factsheet%20FINAL%20.pdf</a> |                                                                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |                                                                                                                           |                                                          |



**Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Beverage Container Deposit Programs,  
Prepared by the Container Recycling Institute (Part 2 of 2)**



| State                | Amount of Deposit                                                                             | Handling Fee                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Beverages Covered (as of July 1, 2026)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | % of Beverage Units Sold Covered by Deposit (2025) (b) | Population with Curbside and Dropoff Access (c) |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>California</b>    | < 24 ounces: 5¢<br>≥ 24 ounces: 10¢. Wine & Distilled Spirits in a box, bladder or pouch: 25¢ | As of 07-01-2026: Handling Fee of \$0.01289 per container paid to handling fee sites only. Processing payments for glass, PET, and HDPE average \$0.011 per container to redemption centers, curbside programs and other programs. All RCs and programs also keep revenue from scrap sales. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water</li> <li>- All other non-alcoholic beverages</li> <li>- Wine coolers &amp; distilled spirits coolers</li> <li>- Wine and Spirits</li> <li>- Excluded: milk and milk substitutes</li> </ul>                                                              | 93%                                                    | 95%                                             |
| <b>Connecticut</b>   | 10¢                                                                                           | Beer: 2.5¢; Other beverages: 3.5¢ **<br><i>Liquor "nips" have 5¢ sales fee</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All beverages except wine, distilled liquor, spirit-based hard seltzers, hard ciders, electrolyte beverages labeled as "medical food", dairy milk and plant-based milk, and infant formula.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                    | 90%                                                    | 91%                                             |
| <b>Hawaii*</b>       | 5¢                                                                                            | Variable fees, effective 10-01-2024: aluminum & bi-metal: 3.4¢ glass 9.7¢, plastic 4.4¢<br>RCs also keep revenue from scrap sales.                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water</li> <li>- All other non-alcoholic beverages</li> <li>- Wine coolers &amp; distilled spirits coolers</li> <li>- Excluded: milk, wine, spirits</li> </ul>                                                                                                | 89%                                                    | 64%                                             |
| <b>Iowa</b>          | 5¢                                                                                            | Dealer agents 1¢<br>Redemption centers and dealers: 3¢                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water (mineral water: both carbonated and non-carbonated)</li> <li>- Wine coolers</li> <li>- Wine &amp; Liquor</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     | 67%                                                    | 64%                                             |
| <b>Maine</b>         | Wine & liquor ≥ 50mL: 15¢<br>All others: 5¢                                                   | 6¢                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All beverages except dairy products, dairy-derived products, frozen products, syrups, infant formula, Maine produced apple cider, and blueberry juice.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                         | 93%                                                    | 78%                                             |
| <b>Massachusetts</b> | 5¢                                                                                            | Redemption centers: 3.25¢<br>Retailers: 2.25¢                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 41%                                                    | 82%                                             |
| <b>Michigan</b>      | 10¢                                                                                           | None. No redemption centers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks, sparkling water, kombucha</li> <li>- Wine coolers &amp; distilled spirits coolers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                 | 59%                                                    | 68%                                             |
| <b>New York</b>      | 5¢                                                                                            | 3.5¢                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water</li> <li>- Water that does not contain sugar</li> <li>- Wine Products/Wine Coolers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                           | 80%                                                    | 89%                                             |
| <b>Oregon</b>        | 10¢                                                                                           | None; OBRC funds redemption centers in partnership with retailers.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Water or flavored water</li> <li>- Mineral water, soda water, or similar carbonated drinks; kombucha and hard seltzer; and all other non-alcoholic beverages</li> <li>- Wine in a can</li> <li>- Excluded: milk, plant-based milk, infant formula, all other wine &amp; distilled spirits</li> </ul> | 89%                                                    | 82%                                             |
| <b>Vermont</b>       | Liquor: 15¢<br>All others: 5¢                                                                 | As of 07-01-26:<br>Non-commingled brands: 5¢<br>Commingled brands: 4.5¢                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Beer &amp; malt beverages</li> <li>- Carbonated soft drinks &amp; sparkling water</li> <li>- Wine coolers</li> <li>- Liquor</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 48%                                                    | 92%                                             |

Source (for citation purposes): "Redemption Rates and Other Features of 10 U.S. State Deposit Programs," Container Recycling Institute, 2026.

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\*\* Redemption centers in CT processing > 50 million containers (all types on deposit) without automated barcode/UPC scanning have their handling fee reduced by 1¢ (from 05-1-26 to 6-30-27).

(b) Source: Container Recycling Institute, "2023 Beverage Market Data Analysis"; 2026. CRI uses data from 2023 but updates the number of containers to reflect what was on

(c) Source: "The State of Recycling: The Present and Future of Residential Recycling in the US, 2024", The Recycling Partnership, 2023; Oregon data from personal