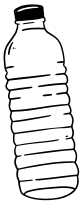
BEVERAGE CONTAINER RECYCLING FAST FACTS

CONTAINER RECYCLING INSTITUTE

July 2024

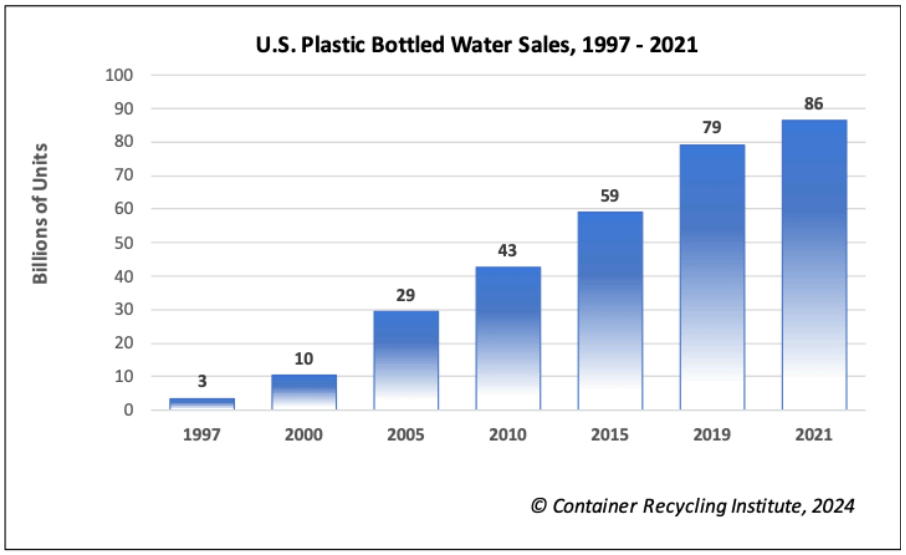
All numbers represent U.S. Data and come from the Container Recycling Institute's 2021 Beverage Market Data Analysis (BMDA) unless otherwise specified.

Beverage Container Sales & Waste



Plastic Water Bottles:

Plastic water bottle sales have skyrocketed over the last 25-plus years. The following data includes PET and HDPE plastic water bottles combined. PET bottles account for 98% of the total.



Data displayed consist of non-sparkling water of ≤ 1 gallon packaged in PET (98% of total sales) and HDPE (1% of total sales). Not shown is the 1% packaged in aluminum cans, glass, cartons and pouches. Prior to 2018, excluded imported water (0.3 billion units in 2018). Data source: Beverage Marketing Corporation, 1998-2024

• Plastic water bottle ***sales increased by 2,767% from 1997 (3 billion units) to 2021 (86 billion units)*** – a 25-fold increase.

• Of the 86 billion plastic water bottles sold in 2021, ***29% (25 billion) were recycled*** and ***71% (61 billion) were wasted***.

Aluminum Containers:

In 2021, ***107 billion aluminum beverage containers were sold***, with ***54% wasted.***

Glass Containers:

In 2021, ***35 billion glass beverage containers were sold***, with ***72% wasted.***

Americans' Beverage Container Use

• On a per capita basis, U.S. residents use an average of **899 beverage containers annually**. Of these, **34% are recycled** and **66% are wasted**.

Beverage Container Recycling Waste Scrap Value

• The **total scrap value** of the **197 billion beverage containers** wasted annually in the U.S. totals **$3.8 billion**.

Beverage Container Recycling Jobs Data

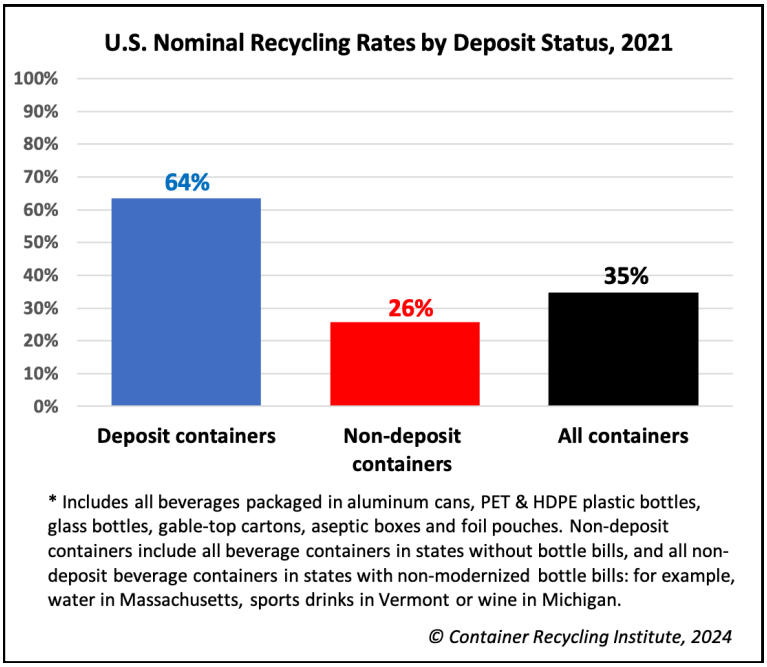
• Depending on system parameters and performance, deposit return systems create **11 to 38 times more jobs** than curbside recycling systems for beverage containers.*

• A national beverage container deposit return system with a 10-cent deposit would support **more than 112,000 full-time-equivalent jobs**.*

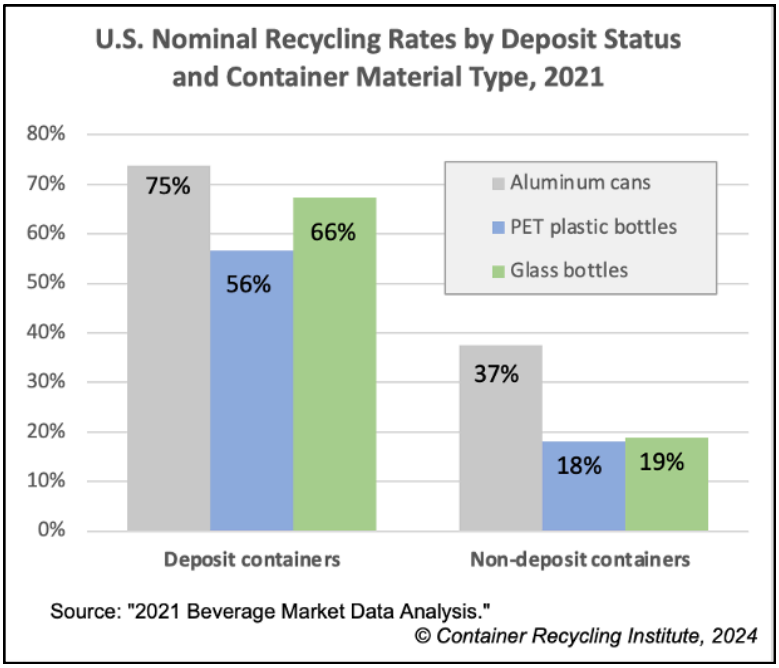
**Data source: "Returning to Work: Understanding the Jobs Impacts From Different Methods of Recycling Beverage Containers," © Container Recycling Institute, December 2011*

The nonprofit Container Recycling Institute (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.

Beverage Container Recycling Rates



* Includes all beverages packaged in aluminum cans, PET & HDPE plastic bottles, glass bottles, gable-top cartons, aseptic boxes and foil pouches. Non-deposit containers include all beverage containers in states without bottle bills, and all non-deposit beverage containers in states with non-modernized bottle bills: for example, water in Massachusetts, sports drinks in Vermont or wine in Michigan.



Source: "2021 Beverage Market Data Analysis."

Beverage containers with deposits have significantly higher recycling rates than those without deposits. Ten U.S. states currently operate beverage container deposit return systems (DRS, aka bottle bills). Details on these programs are available at www.bottlebill.org under "Existing Programs."

Beverage Container Recycling Environmental Data

• The energy required to replace wasted beverage containers each year is enough to power ***3.4 million U.S. households***. (assumes 77.1 million British thermal units (MBtu) per household per year)

• A total of **15.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide** (MTCO2) are emitted each year in the U.S. to replace wasted beverage containers. This equates to the annual emissions from **3.3 million cars**. (assumes 4.6 MTCO2 per passenger car per year)

Beverage Container Deposit Systems: World Map

For more information on specific deposit return systems across the globe, visit www.bottlebill.org.