

VERSION 1: OCTOBER 2025

METAL

CONSUMPTION AND RECOVERY

2023–2024 FACTSHEET



Australian
Packaging Covenant
Organisation

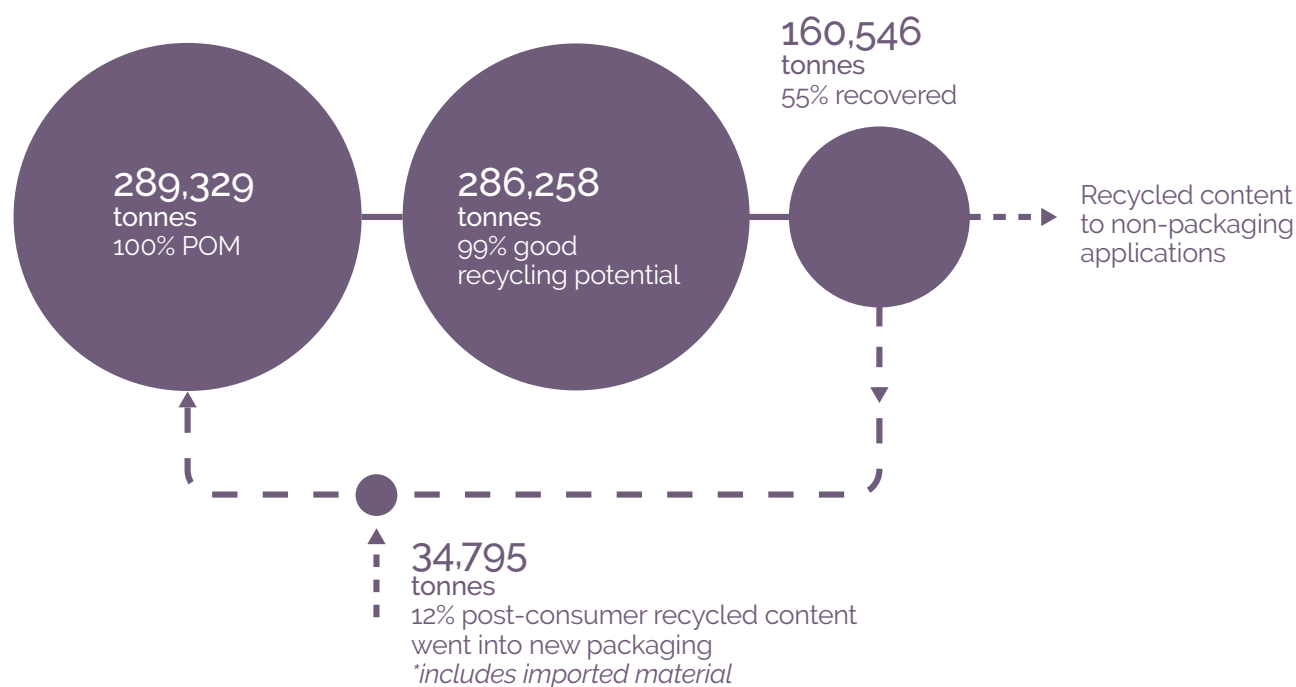


Summary

METAL

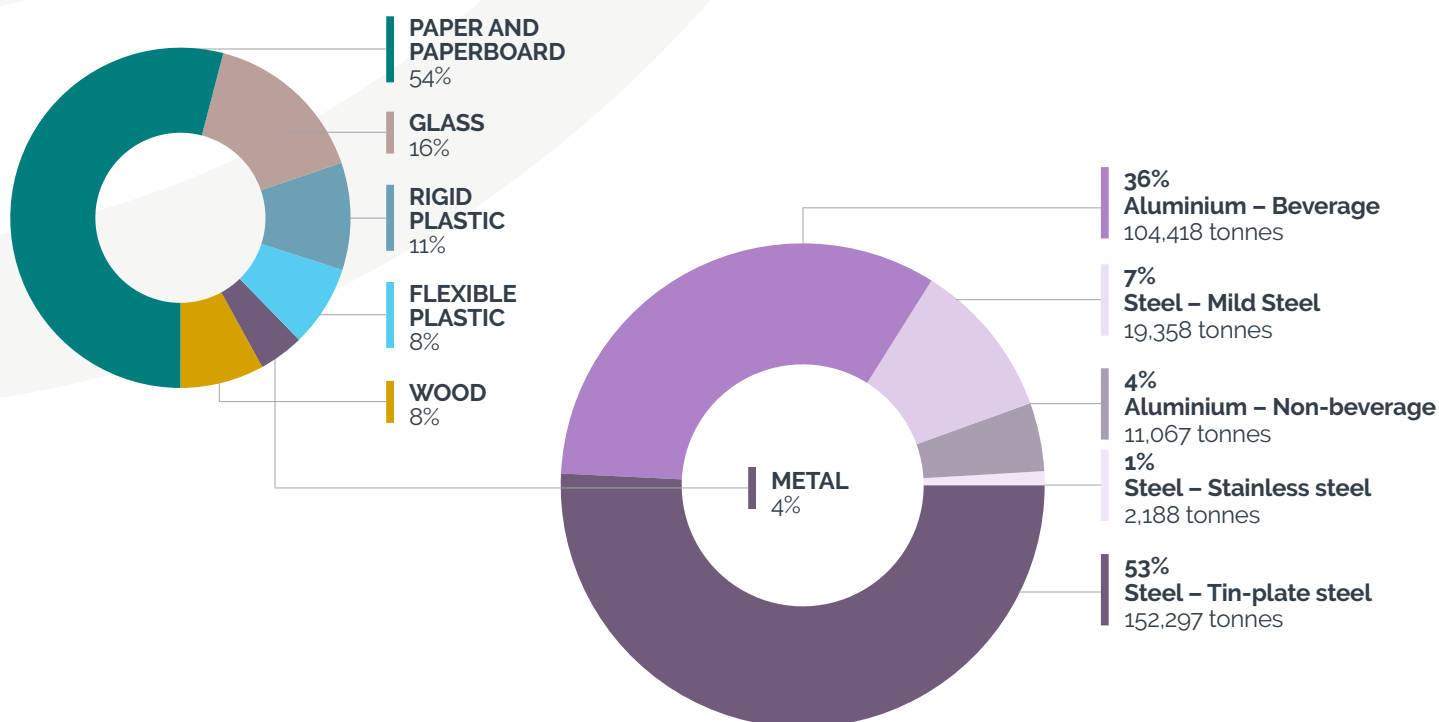
- 4% of packaging placed on market (POM) was metals, representing 289,329 tonnes. This is a small decrease of 4% on the 2022-23 POM of 302,104 tonnes.
- **The post-consumer recycled content for metal packaging has increased slightly from the previous year**, comprising 12% of metal placed on market in 2023-24, representing 34,833 tonnes.
- **Metal recovery has improved slightly between 2022-23 (52%) and 2023-24 (55%)**, but still remains lower than the 56% recovery rate in 2018-19.
- Despite almost all metals having good recycling potential and over half of all metals being collected for reprocessing, **Australia's domestic metals reprocessing capacity remains low**. Metal exports offer a high price per tonne on international markets and are subject to fewer export restrictions than other material types. As such, **export is likely to remain the primary avenue for metals recovery**.

Material recovery

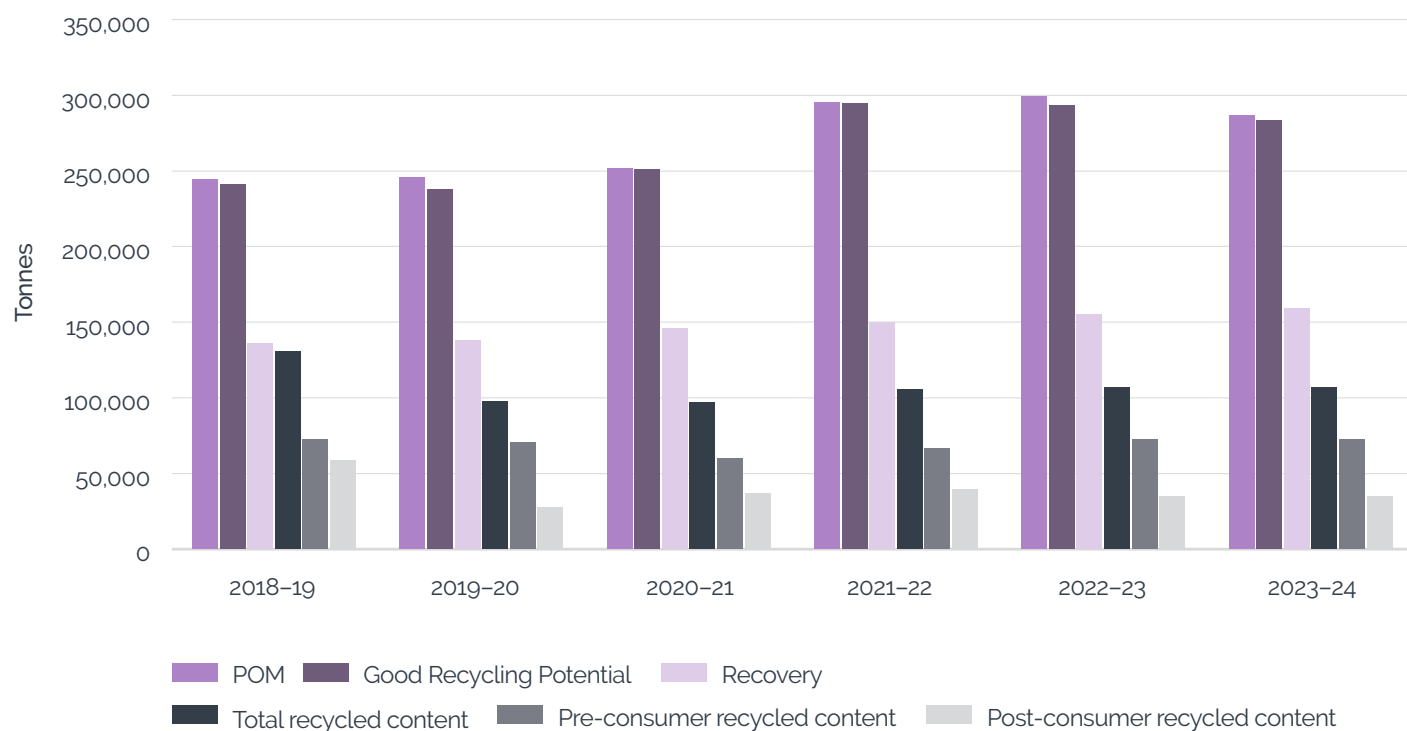


Placed on market

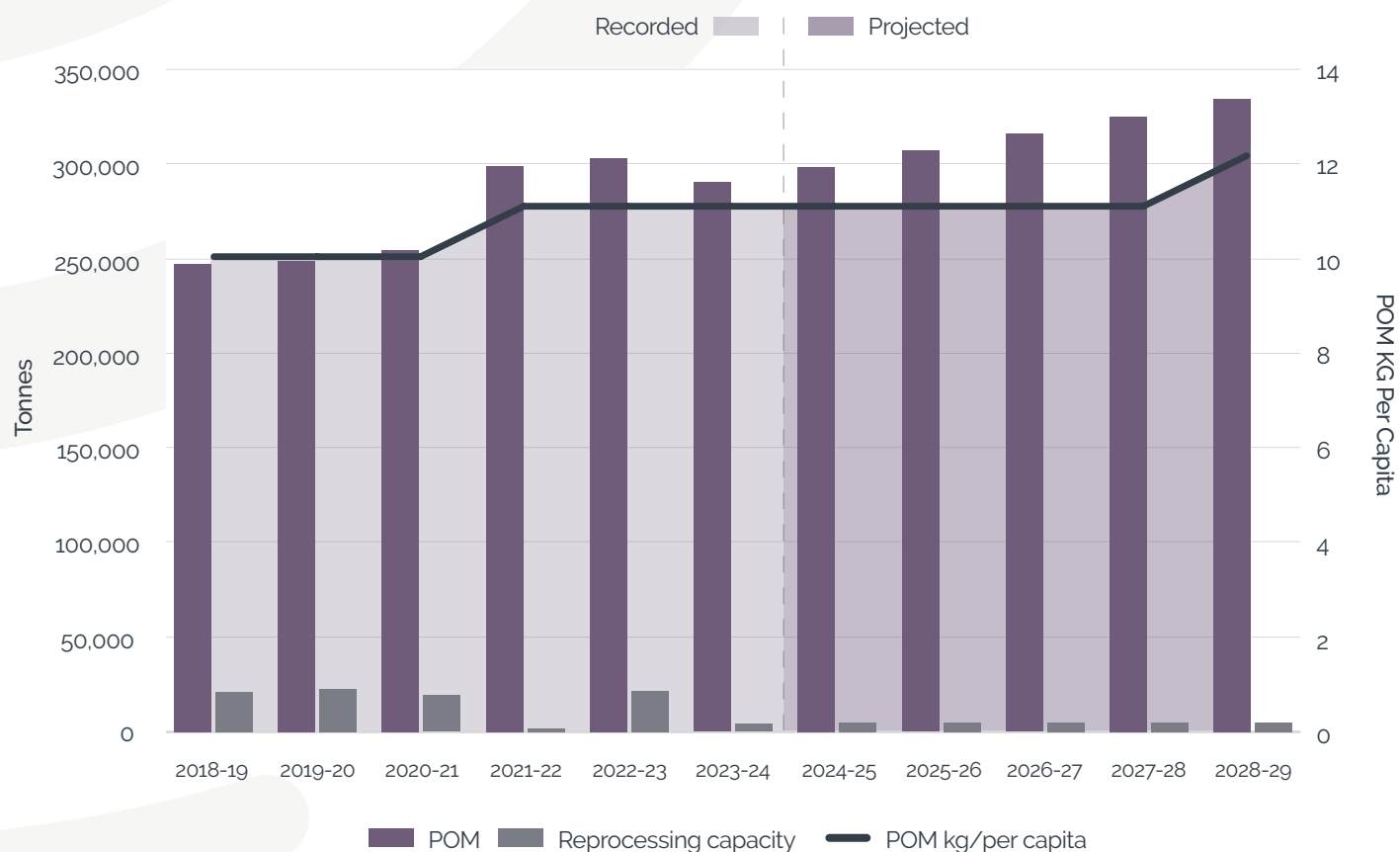
METAL



TRENDS



Reprocessing capacity



Top 3 priorities

METAL

The following three component groups represent 91% of all metal packaging POM in 2023-24.

	POM (tonnes)	Recovery (tonnes)	Pre-consumer recycled content (tonnes)	Post-consumer recycled content (tonnes)
Steel – Tin-plate steel	152,297	75,507	19,983	9,679
Aluminium – Beverage	104,418	67,342	48,692	21,424
Steel – Mild steel	19,358	14,817	997	2,436

Progress towards the National Packaging Targets

OUTCOME	TARGET	PROGRESS
 Packaging designed for circularity and sustainability	100% of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	98% was classified as having good recycling potential
	Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out	<i>NOT APPLICABLE</i>
 Harmonised and expanded reuse and recovery systems are in place	70% of plastic packaging is recycled or composted	<i>NOT APPLICABLE</i>
 Deep and resilient markets exist for recycled materials	35% recycled content included across Metal <i>Target across all materials is 50%</i>	12% of Metal was made with post-consumer recycled material

For more information on 2023-24 Australian Packaging and Consumption Recovery data visit:

www.apco.org.au or contact APCO.

All data provided within this document is from or estimated based on the data available within the sources outlined below.

These figures do not include packaging lost to litter or with extended shelf life.

Rounding of percentage data may result in discrepancies among totals. For more details, please refer to the Consumption and Recovery Report 2023-24.

Population data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics – National, State and Territory Population data sets.

This factsheet was developed by the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation (APCO) using information collated from publicly available sources. Such collated information could not be, and was not, independently verified by APCO and this information may contain typographical and other errors or inaccuracies. Although all reasonable attempts were made to ensure the accuracy and Aon an "as is" basis without any representation, warranty or guarantee of any kind. To the maximum extent permitted by law, APCO accepts no liability or responsibility whatsoever for any use of or reliance upon this factsheet by any third party.