

FACT SHEET: ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN RECYCLING INDUSTRY

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Recycling achievements

- **The industry contributed almost \$19 billion to the Australian economy and provided nearly 95,000 jobs in 2021–22.**
- Australia's overall recycling rate is 63.1 per cent, equating to 1,568 kilograms of recycled material for each person in 2021–22.
- Australia's recycling sector processed 40.6 million tonnes of material in 2021–22.

Economic contribution

- **\$465 in net economic activity is created for every tonne of material recycled.**
- Collective industry turnover of over \$14.6 billion.
- Contributed \$5.1 billion in direct economic activity and an additional \$5.8 billion indirect value-add to GDP through flow-on demand for goods and services.
- Over \$1 billion invested in land, buildings, plant and equipment and vehicles in 2021–22.

Jobs

- **One job is supported for every 431 tonnes of material recycled.**
- 30,606 direct jobs to Australians and another 25,709 indirect jobs through flow-on activity.
- Provides for one in every 142 jobs in the Australian economy.
- Pays over \$2.5 billion in wages and salaries and an additional \$253 million in superannuation.
- Higher average employee livelihood in the recycling sector of \$82,618, compared to the Australian average weekly earnings of \$69,103.
- Recycling industry employment grew by 68.8 per cent compared to Australia's nationwide employment growth of 17.4 per cent over the same period.
- 1,828 recycling businesses operating in Australia.

Delivering growth

- The recycling sector's value-add in current prices grew by 117 per cent over the past decade – significantly faster than Australia's gross domestic product of 45.8 per cent over the same period.

Enabling Australian manufacturing

- The recycled materials delivered into the economy create further benefit, with usage of recycled materials valued at \$7.9 billion in 2021–22 and providing an estimated 37,920 jobs.