

# PAPER PRODUCTION, COLLECTION AND RECYCLING STATISTICS

## SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's paper recycling rate represents the volumes of waste paper collected and thus diverted from landfill. It is calculated as a percentage of the waste paper received by South African paper recycling mills out of the volumes available for collection and recycling.

However, not all waste paper can be collected and recycled. For this reason, the volume of waste paper available for collection and recycling is calculated as follows: Apparent consumption less paper types unavailable for collection (toilet paper, cigarette papers). We also exclude exports (corrugated boxes that leave our shores along with the fruit, wine and other exports) from the waste paper available for collection and recycling. Secondary imports and exports of corrugated boxes are accounted for in the volumes available for collection.

### PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

(All values in metric tonnes)

	Production	Imports	Exports	Consumption
Newsprint	75 197	33 380	20 626	87 951
Printing/writing	263 951	563 693	124 578	703 066
Corrugated materials/container board	1 256 725	381 802	314 987	1323 540
Other wrapping papers	16 021			16 021
Tissue	270 677	24 237	42 508	252 405
Other paper & board	80 402	27 770	37 509	70 663
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 962 973</b>	<b>1 030 881</b>	<b>540 208</b>	<b>2 453 647</b>

### WASTE PAPER AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Consumption of paper, packaging and tissue in SA	2 453 647
Adjusted for net trade of secondary corrugated packaging (imports minus exports)	-138 691
Less paper that cannot be collected <sup>(1)</sup>	-252 405
<b>Waste paper available for collection and recycling</b>	<b>2 062 551</b>

**60.7%**

Paper recycling rate for 2022



5 YEAR AVERAGE  
**67%**

### DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

	Paper received by recycling mills	Waste paper imports	Waste paper exports	Used in new packaging paper & tissue
Newspapers	94 963	332	51 938	43 358
Magazines & coated papers	32 046	66	10 242	21 871
Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers	952 717	44 304	62 707	934 314
Office papers	148 351	281	18 480	130 153
Mixed and other papers	23 241	7179	13 167	17 254
<b>Total</b>	<b>1 251 319</b>	<b>52 163</b>	<b>156 533</b>	<b>1 146 949</b>

### RECYCLING RATES

	2022	2021	2020
% of recycled paper fibre used to make packaging paper and tissue in SA	<b>58.4%</b>	53.0%	55.1%
Paper recycling rate (paper diverted from landfill as a % of available paper)	<b>60.7%</b>	63.8%	69.8%

### EXPLANATORY NOTES

<sup>1</sup> Papers unsuitable for collection and recycling include tissue products (such as toilet paper) and cigarette papers due to their function. Tissue paper dissolves and degrades, and cigarette paper is incinerated on consumption making them unavailable for collection and recycling.



Watch our video

