

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	67 588	16 251	9 264	74 575
Printing/writing	312 796	397 881	120 344	590 333
Corrugated materials/container board	1 314 321	282 221	314 043	1 282 499
Tissue	281 286	29 486	48 831	261 941
Other paper and board	74 101	17 463	9 327	82 237
Total	2 050 092	743 302	501 809	2 291 585

60.4%

Paper recycling rate for 2023



5 YEAR AVERAGE
64.3%

WASTE PAPER AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Consumption of paper, packaging and tissue in SA	2 291 585
Adjusted for net trade of secondary corrugated packaging (imports minus exports)	-112 369
Less paper that cannot be collected ⁽¹⁾	-261 941
Waste paper available for collection and recycling	1 917 275

DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

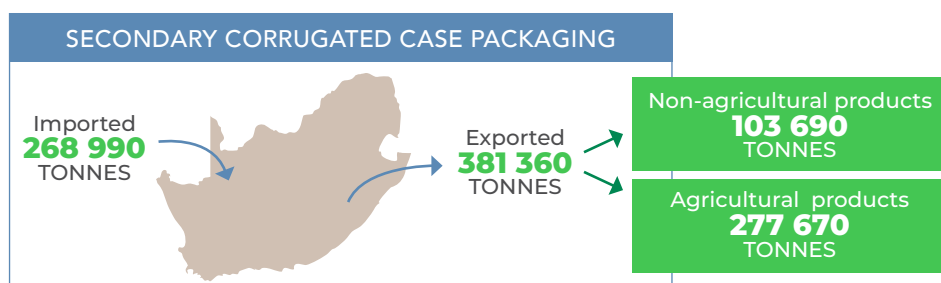
	Paper received by recycling mills	Waste paper imports	Waste paper exports	Used in new packaging paper & tissue
Newspapers	53 714	357	38 203	15 868
Magazines & coated papers	28 051	73	7 824	20 300
Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers	901 551	30 850	106 025	826 376
Office papers, graphic papers	159 711	3 664	6 137	157 238
Mixed and other papers	15 575	5 228	7 585	13 218
Total	1 158 602	40 172	165 774	1 033 000

RECYCLING RATES

	2021	2022	2023
Paper recycling rate (paper diverted from landfill as a % of available paper)	63.8%	60.7%	60.4%
% of recycled paper fibre used to make packaging paper and tissue in SA	53.0%	58.4%	50.4%

EXPLANATORY NOTES

¹ 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

