

PAPER PRODUCTION, COLLECTION AND RECYCLING STATISTICS

SOUTH AFRICA

2024

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	70 028	35 386	8 718	96 696
Printing/writing	308 727	456 384	109 467	655 645
Corrugated materials/container board	1 299 039	273 900	385 656	1 187 283
Other wrapping papers	31272	-	-	31 272
Tissue	265 785	30 917	48 594	248 108
Other paper and board	72 156	18 479	8 011	82 624
Total	2 047 008	815 067	560 447	2 301 628

WASTE PAPER AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Consumption of paper, packaging and tissue in SA	2 301 628
Adjusted for net trade of secondary corrugated packaging (imports minus exports)	-107 317
Less paper that cannot be collected ⁽¹⁾	-248 108
Waste paper available for collection and recycling	1 946 203



DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

	Paper received by recycling mills	Waste paper imports	Waste paper exports	Used in new packaging paper & tissue
Newspapers	51 461	63	31 008	20 517
Magazines & coated papers	26 771	18	5 590	21 199
Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers	974 982	28 331	149 211	854 102
Office papers, graphic papers	91 175	1 601	11 419	81 357
Mixed and other papers	22 441	2 640	12 519	12 562
Total	1 166 830	32 653	209 747	989 737

RECYCLING RATES

	2022	2023	2024
Paper recycling rate (paper diverted from landfill as a % of available paper)	60.7%	60.4%	60.0%
% of recycled paper fibre used to make packaging paper and tissue in SA	58.4%	50.4%	48.4%

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

