

Fact Sheet: Public Support for Deposit-Return Systems (2003-2019)

(updated August 2019)

Table 1 Public Support for Deposit-Return Systems on a Global Scale (2003-2019)

Jurisdiction	Year	Type & Level of Support	Notes
Australia (South) ⁱ	2004	92% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted June 9-17, 2004 via interviews • Sample size: 803 • 78% strongly support • 13% slightly support
Australia (Northern Territory) ⁱⁱ	2011	79% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newspoll survey commissioned by the Boomerang Alliance • 79% support the NT government's plan to introduce a South Australian style scheme of 10-cents deposit on bottles and cans • 87% believe a 10-cent deposit will encourage more people to recycle these items
Australia (Victoria) ⁱⁱⁱ	2015	79% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January/February 2015 • Sample size: 608
Australia (Victoria) ^{iv}	2018	84% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted June 22-27, 2018 via online survey • Sample size: 503 • Poll commissioned by the Total Environment Centre • Support was highest among those living in households with 5 or more people (87%) and lowest among single-person households (77%) • Support was also high among those with an associate diploma (89%), bachelor's degree (87%), and skilled vocational (87%). • Widowed people (94%), as well as those living common law, de-facto or with a partner (87%), married (85%), or divorced/separated (84%) showed more support than those who were single or never married (77%).
Australia (New South Wales) ^v	2012	80% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Australia (New South Wales) ^{vi}	2015	90% in favour of deposit legislation (decision taken)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January/February 2015 via telephone survey • Sample size: 669 • Newspoll commissioned by the Total Environment Centre

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support was the highest among grocery buyers with children (92%)
Australia (Queensland) ^{vii}	2013	85% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspoll commissioned by Greenpeace and Boomerang Alliance 67% strongly in favour 18% partly in favour
Australia (Queensland) ^{viii}	2015	86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted January/February 2015 via telephone survey Sample size: 407
Australia (Australian Capital Territory) ^{ix}	2015	81% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted via online survey; poll closed January 13, 2015 Sample size: 624
Australia (National) ^x	2012	82% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Australia (National)	2013/1	87% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Australia (National)	2013/2	87% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Australia (Tasmania) ^{xi}	2011	91% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Belgium ^{xii}	2011	62% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Belgium ^{xiii}	2015	80% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The news paper 'Het Belang van Limburg' did a poll among 1,000 people living in Limburg (a province in Flanders). 80% of respondents supported the introduction of deposits on bottles and cans to fight litter.
Belgium ^{xiv}	2017	66% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consumer organisation Test-Achats / Test-Aankoop did a poll among 1150 of its members (both Dutch and French speaking). 66% of them supported the introduction of deposits on bottles and cans.
Belgium ^{xv}	2018	82% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted May 30-June 7, 2018 Sample size: 5,134
France ^{xvi}	2019	90% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted March 20-22, 2019 via self-administered online questionnaire Sample size: 1,004 55% strongly in favour of introducing a DRS on glass bottles; 35% partly in favour
Germany ^{xvii}	2016	83% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted March 15-18, 2016 Sample size: 1,310

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87% of respondents believe that deposit money in Belgium can reduce litter
Hungary	2013	66% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Ireland ^{xxviii}	2013	89.4% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted April 20-May 10, 2013 via paper and online surveys Sample size: 1,426 Only 6.1% were against such a scheme and 4.5% gave a conditional approval
Lithuania	2016	78.2% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Netherlands	2006	78% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Netherlands ^{xxix}	2016	74% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutch consumer programme Radar 74% support the expansion of deposits to small plastic bottles and cans
Spain ^{xx}	2013	86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size: 5,175
Scotland ^{xxi}	2015	78.8% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted February 12-17, 2015 via online panel Sample size: 1,011 Margin of error: +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level 39.1% strongly support 35.9% somewhat support Highest support was among 16-24 year olds (50.8%)
Scotland ^{xxii}	2019	77% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted July 16-18, 2019 via online survey Sample size: 1,019 Strongly support: 46%; tend to support (31%); neither support nor oppose (9%); tend to oppose (5%); strongly oppose (7%); don't know (2%)
Wales ^{xxiii}	2015	60% in favour of producer responsibility approach to beverage-related litter ; out of them 81% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey carried out during September 2015; sent out over social media to the general public Although this methodology can only provide a snapshot of data and responses are somewhat subjective, results were largely consistent with few anomalies
UK ^{xxiv}	2008	82% in favour of introducing 5 pence deposit 80% in favour of introducing 10 pence	

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		deposit	
UK	2010	89% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
UK ^{xxv}	2017	63% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
UK ^{xxvi}	2017	73% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Marine Conservation Society between August 7-8th, 2017 • Sample size: 2,137 • 40% strongly support and 33% support introducing a deposit return system across the UK for single-use drinks bottles and cans • Most support comes from those aged over 45 years
UK ^{xxvii}	2018	74% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted April 3, 2018 via online survey • Sample size: 1,002 • The survey also reveals what people do with their used empty plastic bottles when they are away from home. Of those that use plastic bottles away from home, 42% say they are likely to keep their bottle and reuse it, 32% say they will go out of their way to find a recycling bin, and 26% say they will just throw it in the nearest bin.
UK ^{xxviii}	2019	72% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, between June 9-11, 2019 • Sample size: 3,386 • 41% “strongly support”; 31% “tend to support”
Slovakia ^{xxix}	2019	86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted in January 2019 by the AKO polling agency for the Slovak Environment Inspection • Sample size: 1,030 • More than 86% of Slovaks support the introduction of PET bottle and can deposits, while only 10% oppose this proposal. The poll further showed that 96% don't mind paying a deposit while buying a drink that will be returned to them when they bring PET bottles or cans back to a shop. • Asked about whether the deposits will influence their waste separation habits, 77% of respondents answered they will keep separating plastics as they did until now, while 3% of respondents admitted they would limit separation of plastics.
USA (Iowa) ^{xxx}	2017	88% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted February 23-26, 2017 • Sample size: 700 (only includes registered voters) • 88% say the bottle bill has been good for the state, while nearly 4 in

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			<p>5 support keeping the law in some form; if anything, voters are open to expansion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89% agree that the combination of the bottle bill and curbside recycling programs is the best way to decrease the amount of materials going into landfills, including 54% who strongly agree • 78% agree that there should be a national bottle bill • 81% agree that if the bottle bill were ended, people would not bother with recycling
USA (Indiana) ^{xxxii}	2012	73% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll managed by Ball State University Bowen Center using Princeton Survey Research Associates • Sample size: 600 • Tested seven possible outcomes associated with a refundable deposit program – very strong support for all (78% to 87%) • 67.7% agreed that a refundable deposit is not a tax
USA (Michigan) ^{xxxiii}	2013	80.5% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 334
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xxxiii}	2003	84% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xxxiv}	2011	77% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January 5-8, 2011 via telephone interviews • Sample size: 400 • 53% strongly support • 24% somewhat support
USA (New York) ^{xxxv}	2004	84% in favour of existing deposit legislation 70% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Vermont) ^{xxxvi}	2010	93% in favour of existing deposit legislation 86% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted November 15-17, 2010 via telephone interviews • Sample size: 400 • Margin of error: plus or minus 4.9 percentage points at the level of 95% confidence • 93% thought Vermont’s current bottle bill was a ‘good idea’ (75% strongly agreed) • 61% strongly favoured expansion
USA (Vermont)	2013	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 139 • Annual survey conducted by Senator Bill Doyle

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USA (Tennessee) xxxviii	2008	80.4% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted March 12-20, 2008 via random telephone interviews • Sample size: 777 (only includes registered voters) • Margin of error: Plus or minus 3.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level • 44.4% strongly support • 36% support
USA (Tennessee)	2009	83.2% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
USA (Texas) ^{xxxix}	2011	71% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January 18-20, 2011 via telephone interview of N=501 randomly selected registered voters in the State of Texas • Margin of error: +/- 4.4% at the 95% confidence level
Canada (Ontario) ^{xi}	2006	75% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted September 30-October 3, 2006 via random telephone interview • Sample size: 500 • The aggregate survey results are accurate plus or minus 4.4%, 19 times out of 20. • Data was weighted for gender and age to match the 2001 Canadian census results for Ontario • 75% strongly support • 12% somewhat support
Canada (Ontario) ^{xii}	2017	91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted March 4-7, 2017 via online survey • Sample size: 800 • Margin of error: +/- 3.5%, 19 times out of 20 • Data is weighed to represent the gender, age, and regional distribution of the province • 69% strongly support • 23% somewhat support • Most common explanations for support of expanding the deposit-return program: promotes recycling (26%), reducing trash (25%), and rewarding returning bottles (24%)
Canada (Quebec) ^{xiii}	2016	<p>88% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to water bottles</p> <p>91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to wine bottles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 1,234 • 93% totally or somewhat agree that the Quebec government should modernize the deposit system • 63% said that increasing the deposit from 5-cents to 10-cents would make them always return their containers; 22% said it would make them return them more often; and 14% said it would not change their

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> habits 84% of respondents said that extending the deposit to water bottles would result in them always or often bringing back plastic water bottles 89% of respondents said that extending the deposit to wine bottles would result in them always or often bringing back their wine bottles

ⁱ McGregor Tan Research. "Community awareness and acceptance of Container Deposit Legislation." Prepared for the Environment Protection Authority. <www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/4771405_cdl_survey.pdf>

ⁱⁱ "Territorian's back NT Government on 10cent bottle refund." 8 February 2011.

<https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/boomerangalliance/pages/102/attachments/original/1438368223/MEDIA_RELEASES_2004-15.pdf?1438368223>

ⁱⁱⁱ Newspoll polling results provided by Jeff Angel of Boomerang Alliance on May 17, 2017.

^{iv} O'Shannessy, M. OmniPoll. June 2018. "Container Deposit in Victoria." Prepared for Jeff Angel, Total Environment Centre.

^v Pauka, C. 7 August 2012. "Container deposit scheme gathers momentum." <www.tandlnews.com.au/2012/08/07/article/container-deposit-scheme-gathers-momentum/>

^{vi} Needham, K. 25 January 2015. "Poll shows 90 per cent support for NSW Premier Mike Baird's recycling scheme." <www.smh.com.au/nsw/poll-shows-90-per-cent-support-for-nsw-premier-mike-bairds-recycling-scheme-20150123-12wvh5.html>

^{vii} Williams, B. 19 June 2013. "Most Queenslanders want container deposit laws introduced but the Government cans the idea."

<www.couriermail.com.au/news/queensland/most-queenslanders-want-container-deposit-laws-introduced-but-the-government-cans-the-idea/news-story/7bc49b1878d7da94e8f76a21d1f0b0ff>

^{viii} Newspoll polling results provided by Jeff Angel of Boomerang Alliance on May 17, 2017.

^{ix} Lawson, K. January 5, 2015. "Canberra likely to follow NSW into refunds for drinks containers." <www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/canberra-likely-to-follow-nsw-into-refunds-for-drinks-containers-20150105-12i7m0.html>

^x Pauka, C. 7 August 2012. "Container deposit scheme gathers momentum." <www.tandlnews.com.au/2012/08/07/article/container-deposit-scheme-gathers-momentum/>

^{xi} Serpo, A. 21 May 2012. "Tasmania on the verge of a CDS?" <www.insidewaste.com.au/general/news/1013102/tasmania-verge-cds>

^{xii} L'avenir. "Canettes." <www.lavenir.net/Polls/index.aspx?pageName=report&surveyid=703>

^{xiii} <http://www.hbvl.be/krant>

^{xiv} Statiegeld: een oplossing voor zwerfvuil die 66% van de bevrageden ziet zitten. March 21, 2017. <www.test-aankoop.be/familie-prive/supermarkten/nieuws/reactie-statiegeld>

^{xv} GfK. 14 June 2018. "Press release: 82% of Belgians want a deposit on plastic bottles and cans." <<https://www.gfk.com/insights/press-release/82-percent-of-belgians-want-a-deposit-on-plastic-bottles-and-cans/>>

^{xvi} Ifop pour Agir pour l'environnement. March 2019. "Les Français et le plastique."

<https://www.agirpourenvironnement.org/sites/default/files/communiqués_presses/190401%20-%20Sondage%20Plastique.pdf>

^{xvii} "Dosenpfand kommt mittlerweile gut an." <<https://yougov.de/news/2016/04/02/dosenpfand-kommt-mittlerweile-gut/>>

^{xviii} Coastwatch Ireland. May 2013. "Tackling Drinks Container Litter on Irish shores - Opinion Poll Results." <<http://coastwatch.org/europe/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CW-opinion-poll-drinks-containers.pdf>>

^{xix} "Drie kwart wil statiegeld op flesjes en blikjes. October 11, 2016. <<https://radar.avrotros.nl/testpanel/uitslagen/detail/drie-kwart-wil-statiegeld-op-flesjes-en-blikjes/>>

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- ^{xx} www.lavanguardia.com/participacion/encuestas/20131015/54392004094/retorno-envases-bebidas-comercio.html
- ^{xxi} Survation. Scottish Attitudes Poll (February). <www.haveyogotthebottle.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Survation-Poll-February-2015.pdf>
- ^{xxii} Zero Waste Scotland. September 1, 2019. "Scots back recycling scheme that gives them a role in fighting climate emergency." <<https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/press-release/scots-back-recycling-scheme-gives-them-role-fighting-climate-emergency>>
- ^{xxiii} Keep Wales Tidy. November 1, 2015. "Drink Related Litter: A Report on the Survey Findings on the Subject of Drink Related Litter in Wales in September 2015." <www.keepwalestidy.org/login/kcfinder/upload/files/Drink%20Related%20Litter%20Report%202015.pdf>
- ^{xxiv} "Bring back deposits on bottles, say public." 17 December 2008. <www.daelnet.co.uk/countrynews/country_news_17122008.cfm>
- ^{xxv} Carrell, S. 22 February 2017. "Green campaigners welcome Coca-Cola U-turn on bottle and can recycling scheme." <www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/feb/22/green-campaigners-welcome-coca-cola-bottle-can-recycling-scheme-scotland>
- ^{xxvi} Marine Conservation Society. "Public Support for Deposit Return Systems across the UK." <www.mcsuk.org/media/cleanseas/Public%20support%20for%20Deposit%20Return%20Systems%20across%20the%20UK%20YG%20Approved.pdf>
- ^{xxvii} "Survey: 74% of UK Public Support Bottle and Can Return Deposit Scheme." <<https://www.dcyfor.com/re-return-deposit-scheme-09-05-18>>
- ^{xxviii} "Public supports Michael Gove's call for deposits on drinks cans and bottles." 26 July 2019. <<https://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/5161-public-supports-michael-gove-s-call-for-deposits-on-drinks-cans-and-bottles>>
- ^{xxix} "Poll: 86 Percent of Slovaks Support Idea of PET Bottle and Can Deposits." <<http://www.tasr.sk/tasr-clanok/TASR:20190222TBB00037>>
- ^{xxx} "Voter Polling Results on Iowa's Bottle Bill." <<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3514320/2017-iowa-bottle-bill-poll-results.pdf>>
- ^{xxxi} Environmental Quality Service Council. August 28, 2013. "Buried Treasure in Indiana Landfills." <www.in.gov/legislative/interim/committee/minutes/EQSCG8S.pdf>
- ^{xxxii} Heinze, K. October 15, 2013. "Guest column: Possible changes to Michigan's bottle bill? We all need to pay attention." <www.mlive.com/environment/index.ssf/2013/10/possible_changes_to_michigans.html>
- ^{xxxiii} Center for Policy Alternatives, 2003 Policy Summary, Environment/Bottle Bill.
- ^{xxxiv} Massachusetts League of Environmental Voters. Statewide Ombibus Poll Results. January 10, 2011. <<https://pincdn.s3.amazonaws.com/assets/402a5bc275163acd2bca52a1c780d215/MLEV-Bottle-Bill-Crosstabs.pdf>>
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- ^{xxxvi} Grove Insight. November 2010. "Vermonters' Views of the Bottle Bill and Plans to Expand or Repeal It." <www.vpirg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/BB-Poll-Excerpt.pdf>
- ^{xxxvii} Legislative Report 3/14/2013 - Doyle Poll Results. <www.mikeyantachka.com/2013/03/legislative-report-3142013-doyle-poll.html>
- ^{xxxviii} Results of the March 2008 Recycling Poll: Responses to Question 3. <www.bottlebill.org/assets/pdfs/campaigns/tennessee/2008-UTpoll.pdf>
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- ^{xl} SES/Osprey Media Poll. November 13, 2006. "Ontario Perceptions on LCBO Deposit/Return System." <www.nanosresearch.com/sites/default/files/POLONT-F06-T201.pdf>
- ^{xli} Gandalf Group. March 2017. "Environmental Defence: Deposit Return Program Survey." Provided by Ashley Wallis, Environmental Defence Canada on May 19, 2017.
- ^{xlii} SOM.ca. December 2016. "Étude sur la modernisation du système de consigne au Québec."