VERSION 1: DECEMBER 2024

PAPER AND PAPERBOARD

CONSUMPTION AND RECOVERY

2022–2023 FACTSHEET

Australian
Packaging Covenant
Organisation

APCO

Summary
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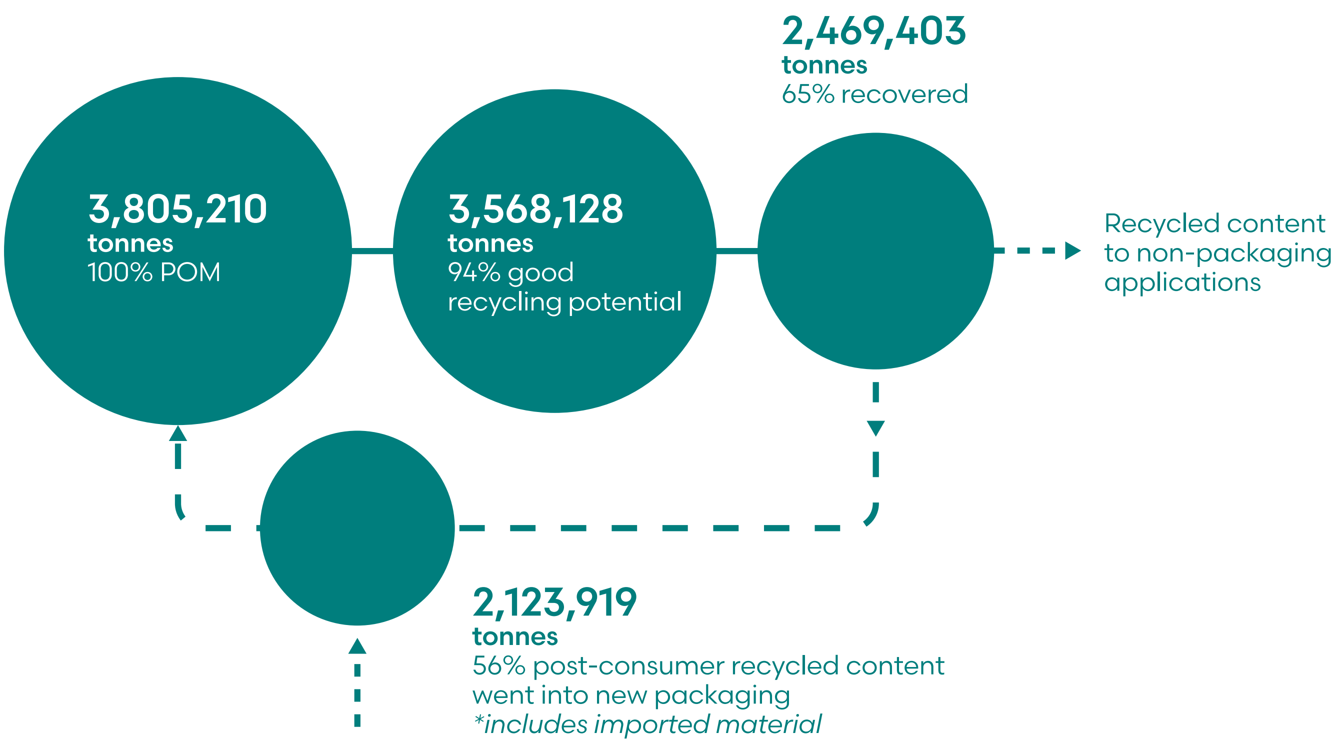
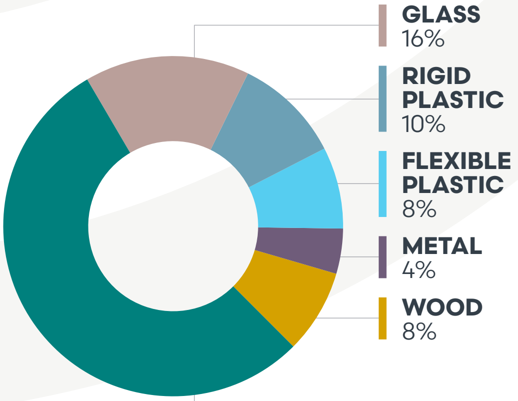
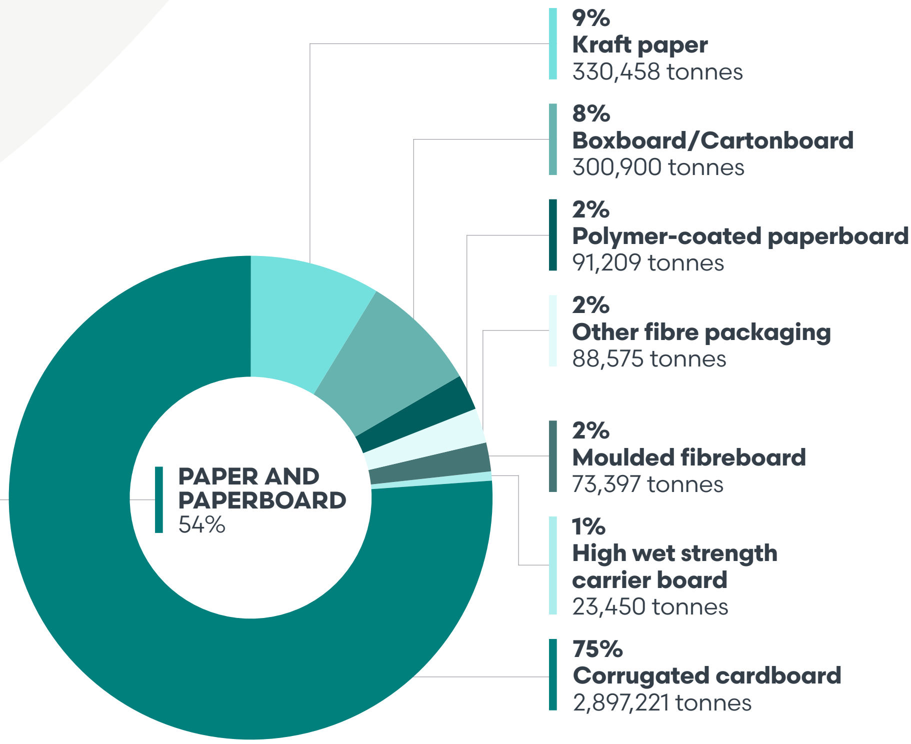
- Most packaging material placed on market (POM) is made from paper and paperboard (54%). That's 3,805,210 tonnes.
- Its volume POM means **paper and paperboard have a significant ability to influence the packaging targets**.
- **2,123,919 tonnes of paper and paperboard (56%) POM was from post-consumer sources**.
- **The amount of post-consumer recycled content used has grown**, with an additional 134,171 tonnes of post-consumer recycled content placed on market vs 2021-22 levels.
- **Paper and paperboard recovery has declined slightly**, with approximately 65% of paper and paperboard POM recovered in 2022-23, compared with 68% in 2021-22.
- **Further improvements to paper and paperboard recovery represents the largest opportunity for advancing packaging recovery rates**. A 10% lift in paper and paperboard recovery would deliver an additional 380,521 tonnes of packaging recovery.
- There is **more paper & paperboard going to landfill (1,335,807 tonnes) than total plastic packaging POM (1,264,766 tonnes)**.
- **Despite 94% of paper and paperboard packaging POM receiving a "good recycling potential" rating, only 65% of paper and paperboard was collected throughout 2022-23**.
- Paper and paperboard POM is estimated to grow at a rate that is above population growth, with a 5-year projected compound annual growth rate (CAGR) POM of 4.0%/yr across the 2022–23 to 2027–28 period compared to a population CAGR of 1.4%.
- Paper and paperboard relies heavily on export markets for recovery and as fibre export bans come into effect, the domestic reprocessing capacity for paper and paperboard will need to further increase to deliver on required recovery rates.

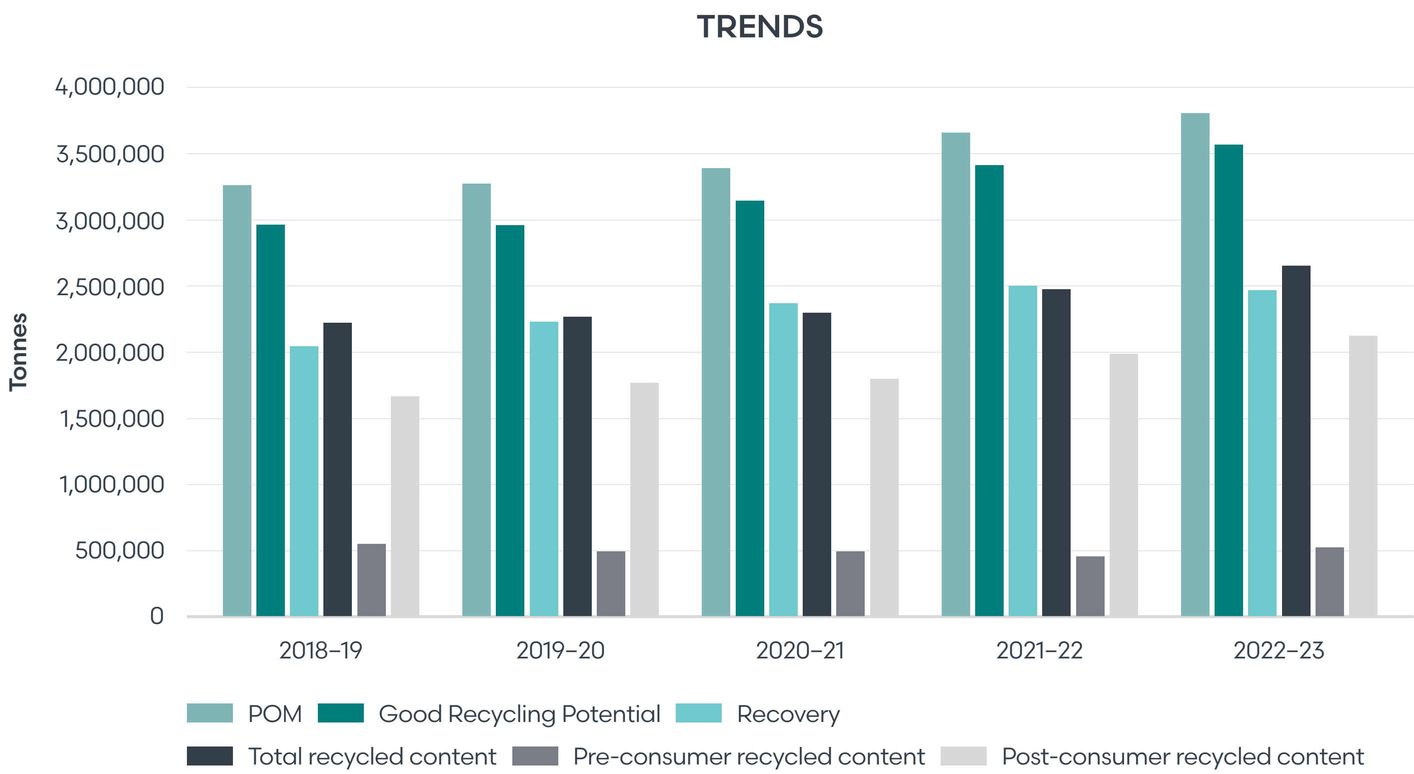
Material recovery



Placed on market
PAPER AND PAPERBOARD







Reprocessing capacity

Top 3 priorities
PAPER AND PAPERBOARD

The following three component groups represent 93% of all paper and paperboard packaging placed on market (POM) in 2022-23.

	POM (tonnes)	Recovery (tonnes)	Pre-consumer recycled content (tonnes)	Post-consumer recycled content (tonnes)
Corrugated cardboard	2,897,221	2,118,637	383,200	1,919,910
Boxboard/ cartonboard	300,900	106,573	73,400	105,500
Kraft paper	330,458	0	56,730	19,108

Progress towards the National Packaging Targets

OUTCOME	TARGET	PROGRESS
Packaging designed for circularity and sustainability	**100%** of packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable	**94%** was classified as having good recycling potential
	Problematic and unnecessary single-use plastic packaging will be phased out	*NOT APPLICABLE*
Harmonised and expanded reuse and recovery systems are in place	**70%** of plastic packaging is recycled or composted	*NOT APPLICABLE*
Deep and resilient markets exist for recycled materials	**60%** recycled content included across Paper & Paperboard *Target across all materials is 50%*	**56%** of Paper & Paperboard was made with post-consumer recycled material

For more information on 2022-23 Australian Packaging and Consumption Recovery data visit:

www.apco.org.au or contact APCO.

All data provided within this document is from or estimated based on the data available within the sources outlined below.

These figures do not include packaging lost to litter or with extended shelf life.

Population data sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics – National, State and Territory Population data sets.

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