

Fact Sheet: Public Support for Deposit-Return Systems (2003-2020)

Table 1 Public Support for Deposit-Return Systems on a Global Scale (2003-2020)

Jurisdiction	Year	Type & Level of Support	Notes
Australia (South Australia) 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 • Support was the highest among grocery buyers with children (92%)

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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 (Australian Capital Territory) ^x	2019	82% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey conducted by Instinct & Reason in February 2019
Australia (National) ^{xi}	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) ^{xii}	2011	91% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Austria ^{xiii}	2020	83% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted between February 4-11, 2020 via online survey • Poll carried out for Changing Markets Foundation by YouGov • Sample size: 1,000 • 83% were in support of the introduction of a DRS; 8% neither supported nor opposed; 8% opposed; and 1% didn't know
Belgium ^{xiv}	2011	62% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Belgium ^{xv}	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 ^{xvi}	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 ^{xvii}	2018	82% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted May 30-June 7, 2018

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		legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 5,134
France ^{xviii}	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
France ^{xix}	2019	89% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online poll conducted September 17-20, 2019 by Ipsos • Sample size: 2,138
Germany ^{xx}	2016	83% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted March 15-18, 2016 • Sample size: 1,310 • 87% of respondents believe that deposit money in Belgium can reduce litter
Hungary	2013	66% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Ireland ^{xxi}	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	
Lithuania ^{xxii}	2018	97% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January 15-23, 2018 via standardised direct interview and questionnaire • Sample size: 1,004 • 97% of respondents felt that the deposit system is necessary: 64% believed that such a system is “highly” necessary, and 33% that it is “rather” necessary.
Netherlands	2006	78% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Netherlands ^{xxiii}	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
Netherlands ^{xxiv}	2018	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey carried out by GfK Research
Spain ^{xxv}	2013	86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 5,175
Scotland ^{xxvi}	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

Jurisdiction	Year	Type & Level of Support	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ^{xxvii}	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 ^{xxviii}	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
Wales ^{xxix}	2019	74% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The research consisted of two online panel surveys: one with 1,453 adults aged 16+ and one with 372 children aged 11-15. • Survey was conducted online in March 2019 using Kantar's online access panel Lightspeed as the main sample source • The extent to which survey respondents supported or opposed the introduction of a deposit return scheme: 39% strongly support; 35% support; 16% neither agree or disagree; 6% oppose; 4% strongly oppose • Surveyed children aged 11-15 were also in support of a DRS: 85% supported the introduction of the scheme while only 3% opposed it • An 'all-in' scheme, where all containers carried the same deposit cost, regardless of size, was considered by participants to be the most effective scheme.
UK ^{xxx}	2008	82% in favour of introducing 5 pence deposit 80% in favour of introducing 10 pence deposit	
UK	2010	89% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
UK ^{xxxi}	2017	63% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
UK ^{xxxii}	2017	73% in favour of introducing deposit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online survey conducted by YouGov on behalf of the Marine



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		legislation	<p>Conservation Society between August 7-8th, 2017</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 ^{xxxiii}	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 ^{xxxiv}	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 ^{xxxv}	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) ^{xxxvi}	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 5 support keeping the law in some form; if anything, voters are open to expansion. • 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



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			with recycling
USA (Iowa) ^{xxxvii}	2018	30% in favour of existing deposit legislation 27% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to include juice and water bottles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January 28-31 by Selzer & Co. (for The Des Moines Register and Mediacom) via telephone interviews • Sample size: 801 • Margin of error: plus or minus 3.5 percentage points
USA (Indiana) ^{xxxviii}	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) ^{xxxix}	2013	80.5% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 334
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xi}	2003	84% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xii}	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) ^{xiii}	2004	84% in favour of existing deposit legislation 70% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Vermont) ^{xiiii}	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) ^{xliv}	2013	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 139 • Annual survey conducted by Senator Bill Doyle
USA	2008	80.4% in favour of introducing deposit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted March 12-20, 2008 via random telephone interviews



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(Tennessee) ^{xlv}		legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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) ^{xlvi}	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) ^{xlvii}	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) ^{xlviii}	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) ^{xlix}	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 habits • 84% of respondents said that extending the deposit to water bottles would result in them always or often bringing back plastic water



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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> bottles 89% of respondents said that extending the deposit to wine bottles would result in them always or often bringing back their wine bottles
Canada (Quebec) ⁱ	2017	<p>86% 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"> Poll conducted June 29-July 1, 2017 via online survey Sample size: 1,065 Margin of error: 3.9% (at 95% confidence level) Data is weighed to represent the gender, age, language, and regional distribution of the province 92% totally or somewhat agree that the Quebec government should modernize the deposit system

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