

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 (New South Wales) ^{vii}	2019	86% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kantar December 2019 Return and Earn consumer research results
Australia (Queensland) ^{viii}	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) ^{ix}	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) ^x	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) ^{xi}	2019	82% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey conducted by Instinct & Reason in February 2019
Australia (National) ^{xii}	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) ^{xiii}	2011	91% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
New Zealand ^{xiv}	2017	83% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size: 1,000 Research commissioned by WasteMINZ's Territorial Authority (TA) Forum 58% were strongly in support 78 per cent of respondents support all types of beverage containers being included in the DRS
Austria ^{xv}	2020	<p>81% in favour of introducing a deposit on PET bottles</p> <p>76% in favour of introducing a deposit on cans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted between July 30-August 5, 2020 via online interview Poll carried out by Research Affairs Sample size: 1,000

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		84% in favour of introducing a deposit on glass bottles	
Austria ^{xxvi}	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 ^{xxvii}	2011	62% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Belgium ^{xxviii}	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 ^{xxix}	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 ^{xxx}	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 ^{xxxi}	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 ^{xxxii}	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 ^{xxxiii}	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 ^{xxxiv}	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
Ireland ^{xxxv}	2020	88% in favour of introducing an "all-in" DRS model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted by Voice Ireland • Some 78% of those questioned also said they supported the

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			introduction of a variable deposit fee, where consumers pay a deposit that varies based on the size and material of the container <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opinion was relatively consistent across the age ranges surveyed, with 90% of 25-34 year olds calling for a scheme that includes as many drinks containers as possible
Lithuania	2016	78.2% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Lithuania ^{xxvi}	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 ^{xxvii}	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 ^{xxviii}	2018	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey carried out by GfK Research
Romania ^{xxix}	2020	96% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted August 17-24, 2020 via computer assisted telephone interviews Sample size: 820 (people living in Romania over 18 years of age) Sampling tolerance: +/-13.4% at a 95% confidence level
Spain ^{xxx}	2013	86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size: 5,175
Scotland ^{xxxi}	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 ^{xxxii}	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%)

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Wales ^{xxxiii}	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 ^{xxxiv}	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 ^{xxxv}	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 ^{xxxvi}	2017	63% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
UK ^{xxxvii}	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 ^{xxxviii}	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

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			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 ^{xxxix}	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”
UK ^{xi}	2020	84% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted May 29-31, 2020 by Populus • Sample size: 2,087 members of the UK public aged 18 and over • 84% agreed that all drinks containers should be included in the government’s proposed deposit return scheme, up from 69% in May 2019 • Almost 4 in 5 said they believe the scheme should have a variable deposit
Slovakia ^{xii}	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) ^{xiii}	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 with recycling
USA (Iowa) ^{xiiii}	2018	30% in favour of existing deposit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted January 28-31 by Selzer & Co. (for The Des Moines

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		legislation 27% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to include juice and water bottles	Register and Mediacom) via telephone interviews <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 801 • Margin of error: plus or minus 3.5 percentage points
USA (Indiana) ^{xliv}	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) ^{xlv}	2013	80.5% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 334
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xlvi}	2003	84% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Massachusetts) ^{xlvii}	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) ^{xlviii}	2004	84% in favour of existing deposit legislation 70% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
USA (Vermont) ^{xlix}	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) ⁱ	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 (Tennessee) ⁱⁱ	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

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			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 44.4% strongly support 36% support
USA (Tennessee)	2009	83.2% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
USA (Texas) ^{lii}	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) ^{liii}	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) ^{liv}	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) ^{lv}	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 bottles 89% of respondents said that extending the deposit to wine bottles would result in them always or often bringing back their wine bottles

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Canada (Quebec) ^{lvi}	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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