

Fact Sheet: Public Support for Deposit Return Systems (2003-2021)

TABLE 1 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC OPINION POLLS SHOWING SUPPORT FOR DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEMS (2003-2021)

| Jurisdiction | Year | Type and level of support | Notes |
|--|------|--|--|
| Australia (South Australia) ⁱ | 2004 | 92% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | 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 | 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 | Poll conducted January/February 2015Sample size: 608 |
| Australia (Victoria) ^{iv} | 2018 | 84% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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, defactor 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) | 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%) |
| Australia (New South | 2019 | 86% in favour of existing deposit legislation | Kantar December 2019 Return and Earn consumer research results |





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| Wales) ^{vii} | | | |
| Australia (Queensland) viii | 2013 | 85% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | Newspoll commissioned by Greenpeace and Boomerang Alliance 67% strongly in favour 18% partly in favour |
| Australia (Queensland) | 2015 | 86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | Poll conducted January/February 2015 via telephone survey Sample size: 407 |
| Australia (Australian Capital Territory)* | 2015 | 81% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 | Survey conducted by Instinct & Reason in February 2019 |
| Australia (Australian Capital Territory) ^{xii} | 2021 | 83% in favour of existing deposit legislation | According to the ACT CDS 2019-20 Annual Statutory Report, support for the scheme rose from 71% in August 2019 to 83% in April 2020. Additionally, 51% stated they believe it is the best way to reduce litter and increase recycling of containers. |
| Australia (National) ^{xiii} | 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) ^{xiv} | 2011 | 91% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | |
| New Zealand ^{xv} | 2017 | 83% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xvi} | 2020 | 81% in favour of introducing a deposit on PET bottles | Poll conducted between July 30-August 5, 2020 via online interview Poll carried out by Research Affairs Sample size: 1,000 |
| | | 76% in favour of introducing a deposit | |





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| | | on cans | |
| | | 84% in favour of introducing a deposit on glass bottles | |
| Austria ^{xvii} | 2020 | 83% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xviii} | 2011 | 62% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | |
| Belgium ^{xix} | 2015 | 80% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xx} | 2017 | 66% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxi} | 2018 | 82% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | Poll conducted May 30-June 7, 2018Sample size: 5,134 |
| France ^{xxli} | 2019 | 90% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxiii} | 2019 | 89% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | Online poll conducted September 17-20, 2019 by Ipsos Sample size: 2,138 |
| Germany ^{xxiv} | 2016 | 83% in favour of existing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxv} | 2013 | 89.4% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 |





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| Ireland ^{xxvi} | 2020 | 88% in favour of introducing an "all-in" DRS model | Poll conducted October 1-5, 2020 by RedC, a well-respected polling company in Ireland, and commissioned by Voice Ireland Sample size: 1,006 66% of respondents "strongly agree" that Ireland's DRS should include as wide a scope as possible, while 22% "somewhat agree" (total 88% agree) Some 78% of those questioned also said they supported the introduction of a variable deposit fee, where consumers pay a deposit that varies based on the size and material of the container 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 ^{xxvII} | 2018 | 97% in favour of existing deposit legislation | 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 xxviii | 2016 | 74% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Dutch consumer programme Radar 74% support the expansion of deposits to small plastic bottles and cans |
| Netherlands **ix | 2018 | 80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Survey carried out by GfK Research |
| Netherlands xxx | 2021 | 90.1% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Survey conducted February 4, 2021 via online poll Sample size: 7,130 90.1% agree with the government's decision to extend the deposit system to cans from 31 December 2022 |
| Romania ^{xxxi} | 2020 | 96% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxxii} | 2013 | 86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | Sample size: 5,175 |





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| Scotland ^{xxxIII} | 2015 | 78.8% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxxiv} | 2019 | 77% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxxv} | 2015 | 60% in favour of producer responsibility approach to beverage-related litter; out of them 81% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxxvi} | 2019 | 74% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xxxvII} | 2008 | 82% in favour of introducing 5 pence deposit80% in favour of introducing 10 pence | |
| | | deposit | |
| UK | 2010 | 89% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | |
| UK ^{xxxviii} | 2017 | 63% in favour of introducing deposit | |





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| | | legislation | |
| UK ^{xxxix} | 2017 | 73% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{XI} | 2018 | 74% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xII} | 2019 | 72% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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"; 31⁸ "tend to support" |
| UK ^{xIII} | 2020 | 84% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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 ^{xliii} | 2019 | 86% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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. |





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| USA (Iowa) ^{xIIv} | 2017 | 88% in favour of existing deposit legislation | 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) ^{xlv} | 2018 | 30% in favour of existing deposit legislation 27% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to include juice and water bottles | 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 (Iowa) ^{xlvi} | 2021 | 54% in favour of existing deposit legislation 38% in favour of expanding deposit legislation (to include all single use beverage containers and/or to raise deposit/handling fee) | Independent survey conducted in January 2021 by Kristi Cooper Consulting Sample size: 600 54% of respondents said to "keep" the existing bottle bill; 21% said to keep the bottle bill and raise the deposit/handling fee; 17% said to keep and expand the bottle bill, and 8% said to eliminate it. |
| USA (Indiana) ^{xlvii} | 2012 | 73% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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) ^{xlviii} | 2013 | 80.5% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Sample size: 334 |
| USA (Massachuset ts) ^{xlix} | 2003 | 84% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | |
| USA (Massachuset ts) ^I | 2011 | 77% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Poll conducted January 5-8, 2011 via telephone interviews Sample size: 400 53% strongly support 24% somewhat support |





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| USA (New York) ^{li} | 2004 | 84% in favour of existing deposit legislation | |
| | | 70% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | |
| USA (Vermont) ^{lii} | 2010 | 93% in favour of existing deposit legislation86% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | 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) ^{liii} | 2013 | 80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Sample size: 139 Annual survey conducted by Senator Bill Doyle |
| USA (Tennessee) ^{liv} | 2008 | 80.4% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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) ^{lv} | 2011 | 71% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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) ^{lvi} | 2006 | 75% in favour of introducing deposit legislation | 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) ^{lvii} | 2017 | 91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation | Poll conducted March 4-7, 2017 via online survey Sample size: 800 Margin of error: +/- 3.5%, 19 times out of 20 |





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| | | | 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) ^{Iviii} | 2016 | 88% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to water bottles 91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to wine bottles | 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 |
| Canada (Quebec) ^{lix} | 2017 | 86% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to water bottles91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to wine bottles | 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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