

DRS Fact Sheet: Public Support for Deposit Return Legislation

Table 1 Summary of Public Opinion Polls Showing Support for Introduction of DRS Legislation (2003-2021)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
Northern Territory, Australia ⁱ	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
Victoria, Australia ⁱⁱ	2015	79% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted January/February 2015 Sample size: 608
Victoria, Australia ⁱⁱⁱ	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-factor or with a partner (87%), married (85%), or divorced/separated (84%) showed more support than those who were single or never married (77%).
New South Wales, Australia ^{iv}	2012	80% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
New South Wales, Australia ^v	2015	90% in favour of introducing 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%)
Queensland, Australia ^{vi}	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
Queensland, Australia ^{vii}	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

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
Australian Capital Territory, Australia ^{viii}	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) ^{ix}	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	
Tasmania, Australia ^x	2011	91% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
New Zealand ^{xi}	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 ^{xii}	2020	81% in favour of introducing a deposit on PET bottles 76% in favour of introducing a deposit on cans 84% in favour of introducing a deposit on glass bottles	<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
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
Austria ^{xiv}	2021	87% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poll conducted February 8-15, 2021 via online survey • Poll carried out by Greenpeace Austria by Marketagent • Sample size: 500 • Margin of error: 4.3% • The poll also found that 87.4% of respondents were in favor of expansion of refillables in retail.
Belgium ^{xv}	2011	62% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
Belgium ^{xvi}	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 ^{xvii}	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 1,150 of its members (both Dutch and French speaking). 66% of them supported the introduction of deposits on bottles and cans.
Belgium ^{xviii}	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
Belgium ^{xix}	2021	88% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online poll conducted April 10-19, 2021 by Ipsos België Sample size: 6,742
France ^{xx}	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 ^{xxi}	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
Hungary	2013	66% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	
Ireland ^{xxii}	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 ^{xxiii}	2020	88% in favour of introducing an "all-in" DRS model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Romania ^{xxiv}	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 ^{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 Margin of error: +/-3.1% at the 95% confidence level

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
UK ^{xxxiii}	2018	74% in favour of introducing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most support comes from those aged over 45 years • 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”
UK ^{xxxv}	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 ^{xxxvi}	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.
Indiana, USA ^{xxxvii}	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
Tennessee, USA ^{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: ± 3.5% at the 95% confidence level • 44.4% strongly support • 36% support
Tennessee, USA	2009	83.2% in favour of	

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
		introducing deposit legislation	
Texas, USA ^{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
Ontario, Canada ^{xl}	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

Table 2 Summary of Public Opinion Polls Showing Support for Expansion of DRS Legislation (2003-2021)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
South Australia, Australia ^{xli}	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
Netherlands ^{xlii}	2016	74% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to small plastic bottles and cans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dutch consumer programme Radar
Netherlands ^{xliii}	2018	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey carried out by GfK Research
Netherlands ^{xliiv}	2021	90.1% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
Iowa, USA ^{xliv}	2018	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
Iowa, USA ^{xlvi}	2021	38% in favour of expanding deposit legislation (to include all single use beverage containers and/or to raise deposit/handling fee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent survey conducted in January 2021 by Kristi Cooper Consulting • Sample size: 600 • 21% of respondents 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.
Connecticut, USA ^{xlvii}	2020	81% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey conducted by live telephone interviews among both landline and cell phone respondents from January 6-9, 2020 • Sample size: 500 • Margin of error: ±4.4% at the 95% confidence level • 64% strongly support, 17% somewhat support
Michigan, USA ^{xlviii}	2013	80.5% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sample size: 334
Massachusetts, USA ^{xlix}	2003	84% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
Massachusetts, USA ^l	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

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% strongly support 24% somewhat support
New York, USA ⁱⁱ	2004	70% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	
Vermont, USA ⁱⁱⁱ	2010	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: $\pm 4.9\%$ at the level of 95% confidence 93% thought Vermont's current bottle bill was a 'good idea' (75% strongly agreed) 61% strongly favoured expansion
Vermont, USA ⁱⁱⁱ	2013	80% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size: 139 Annual survey conducted by Senator Bill Doyle
Vermont, USA ^{iv}	2021	83% in favour of expanding deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample size: 400 VPIRG poll conducted via telephone interviews among voters from March 11-14, 2021 Margin of error: $\pm 4.9\%$ at the 95% confidence level Support for expanding bottle bill to include more types of containers such as sports drinks, water bottles, and wine bottles: 64% strongly support, 19% somewhat support
Ontario, Canada ^{iv}	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: $\pm 3.5\%$, 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%)
Quebec, Canada ^{vi}	2016	88% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to water bottles 91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to wine bottles	<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
Quebec, Canada ^{vii}	2017	86% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to water bottles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted June 29-July 1, 2017 via online survey Sample size: 1,065 Margin of error: $\pm 3.9\%$ (at 95% confidence level)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
		91% in favour of expanding deposit legislation to wine bottles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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

Table 3 Summary of Public Opinion Polls Showing Support for Existing DRS Legislation (2003-2021)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
New South Wales, Australia ^{lviii}	2019	86% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kantar December 2019 Return and Earn consumer research results
New South Wales, Australia ^{lix}	2020	88% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kantar June 2020 Return and Earn consumer research results
Australian Capital Territory, Australia ^{lx}	2019	82% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey conducted by Instinct & Reason in February 2019
Australian Capital Territory, Australia ^{lxi}	2021	83% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Denmark ^{lxii}	2017	92% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Denmark ^{lxiii}	2018	95% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Germany ^{lxiv}	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
Iceland ^{lxv}	2018	88% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey conducted in 2018
Lithuania	2016	78.2% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Lithuania ^{lxvi}	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.
Lithuania ^{lxvii}	2019	98% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted October 19-29, 2019 by Spinter Research via standardised direct interview and questionnaire Sample size: 1,009
Netherlands	2006	78% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Iowa, USA ^{lxviii}	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)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
Iowa, USA ^{lxxix}	2018	30% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<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
Iowa, USA ^{lxxx}	2021	54% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
Hawaii, USA ^{lxxxi}	2008	60% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted via telephone survey from February 15-March 19, 2008 Sample size: 701 Maximum margin of error for n=701 is ±3.6% at the 95% confidence level 35% very supportive, 25% somewhat supportive
New York, USA ^{lxxxi}	2004	84% in favour of existing deposit legislation	
Oregon, USA ^{lxxiii}	2019	97% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted May 16-23, 2019 via online survey Sample size: 600 Margin of error: ±4.0% 91% of Oregonians think the deposit return program is “good for the state”
Vermont, USA ^{lxxiv}	2010	93% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Poll conducted November 15-17, 2010 via telephone interviews Sample size: 400 Margin of error: ±4.9% at the level of 95% confidence 93% thought Vermont’s current bottle bill was a ‘good idea’ (75% strongly agreed)

Jurisdiction	Year	Level of support	Notes
Vermont, USA ^{xxv}	2021	88% in favour of existing deposit legislation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 61% strongly favoured expansion • Sample size: 400 • VPIRG poll conducted via telephone interviews among voters from March 11-14, 2021 • Margin of error: ±4.9% at the 95% confidence level • Support for existing bottle bill: 65% strongly support, 23% somewhat support

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Endnotes

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