

PAPER PRODUCTION, COLLECTION AND RECYCLING STATISTICS

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's paper recycling rate represents the volumes of waste paper collected and thus diverted from landfill. It is calculated as a percentage of the waste paper received by South African paper recycling mills out of the volumes available for collection and recycling.

However, not all waste paper can be collected and recycled. For this reason, the volume of waste paper available for collection and recycling is calculated as follows: Apparent consumption less paper types unavailable for collection (toilet paper, cigarette papers). We also exclude exports (corrugated boxes that leave our shores along with the fruit, wine and other exports) from the waste paper available for collection and recycling. Secondary imports and exports of corrugated boxes are accounted for in the volumes available for collection.

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

(All values in metric tonnes)

	Production	Imports	Exports	Consumption
Newsprint	67 588	16 251	9 264	74 576
Printing/writing	312 796	397 881	120 344	590 333
Corrugated materials/container board	1 198 540	282 221	314 043	1 166 718
Other packaging grades	98 551	17 463	9 328	106 687
Tissue	281 286	29 486	48 831	261 941
Total	1 958 761	743 302	501 809	2 200 254

63.5%

Paper recycling rate for 2023



5 YEAR AVERAGE
65%

WASTE PAPER AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION AND RECYCLING

Consumption of paper, packaging and tissue in SA	2 200 254
Adjusted for net trade of secondary corrugated packaging (imports minus exports)	-112 369
Less paper that cannot be collected ⁽¹⁾	-261 941
Waste paper available for collection and recycling	1 825 944

DIVERTED FROM LANDFILL

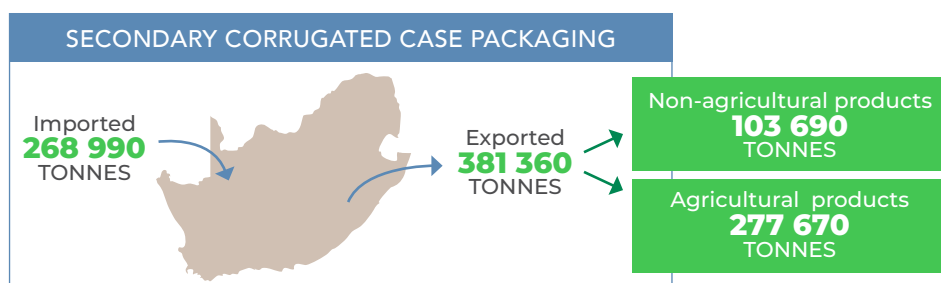
	Paper received by recycling mills	Waste paper imports	Waste paper exports	Used in new packaging paper & tissue
Newspapers	53 714	357	38 203	15 868
Magazines & coated papers	28 051	73	7 825	20 300
Corrugated, solid cases, kraft papers	901 551	30 850	106 025	826 377
Office papers, graphic papers	159 711	3 664	6 136	157 238
Mixed and other papers	15 575	5 228	7 585	13 218
Total	1 158 602	40 172	165 775	1 033 000

RECYCLING RATES

	2023	2022	2021
Paper recycling rate (paper diverted from landfill as a % of available paper)	63.5%	60.7%	63.8%
% of recycled paper fibre used to make packaging paper and tissue in SA	52.7%	58.4%	53.0%

EXPLANATORY NOTES

¹ Papers unsuitable for collection and recycling include tissue products (such as toilet paper) and cigarette papers due to their function. Tissue paper dissolves and degrades, and cigarette paper is incinerated on consumption making them unavailable for collection and recycling.



Watch our video

