

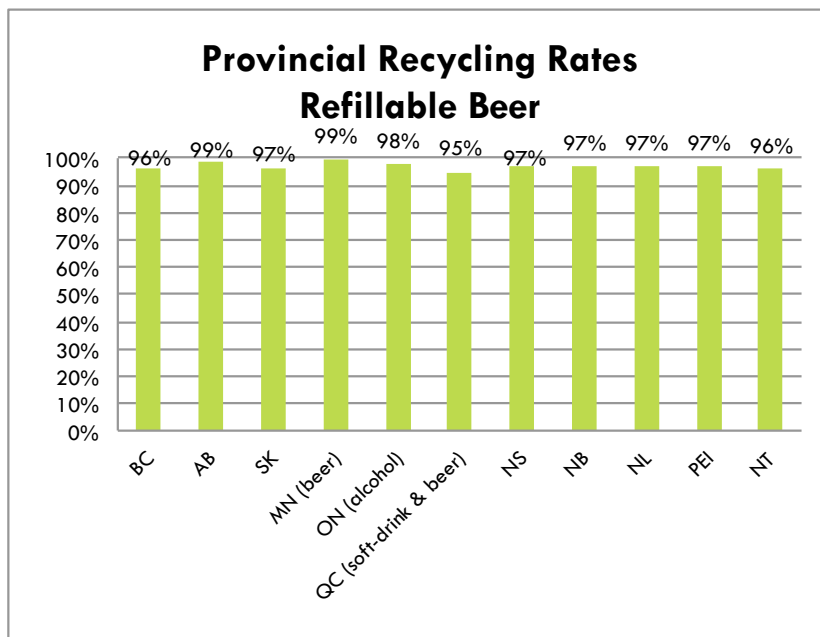
Executive Summary

Beverage Container Recycling Rates for 2014

Refillable Beer Bottles

Canada's recycling rate for these containers has been consistently high. In 2014, the rate was 97%. Figure 1 summarizes the recycling rates for refillable beer bottles collected through brewer-run provincial programs in fiscal year 2014. These rates will likely decline over the next few years as more and more brewers switch to non-refillable, one-way containers for beer, such as aluminum and plastic.

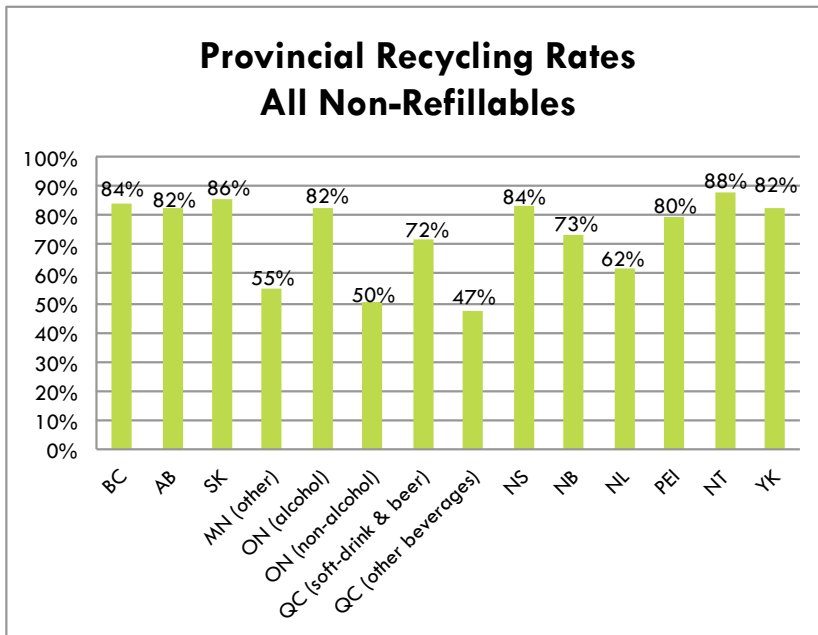
FIGURE 1 PROVINCIAL RECYCLING RATES, REFILLABLE BEER (2014)



Non-Refillable Containers

Non-refillable containers include all aluminum or steel cans, PET bottles, glass bottles, and gabletop/Tetra Pak containers. These are recycled at higher rates in jurisdictions that have deposit-return. For example, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories show non-refillable recycling rates of 86% and 88%, respectively, in 2014. In contrast, Ontario's non-refillable recycling rate (non-alcohol containers) was only 50%.

FIGURE 2 PROVINCIAL RECYCLING RATES, ALL NON-REFILLABLES (2014)



Environmental Benefits

In 2014, Canadians recycled and/or reused approximately 12 billion beverage containers. This level of diversion saved 18.5 million GJ of energy and eliminated over 1 million metric tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions, equal to taking more than 240,000 cars off the road. Other environmental benefits include avoided landfill space and litter reduction.

Economic Benefits of Deposit-Return Systems

Deposit-return creates significantly more (11 to 38 times more!) jobs than curbside recycling. According to a recent study, Nova Scotia's deposit-return system (DRS) creates approximately 600 jobs and \$20.1 million in salaries and wages. DRSs also result in big cost savings for municipalities. These savings come from the reduced or avoided costs of collection, treatment, disposal, and litter abatement. In this report, we present a compilation of 20 studies that examined the costs and benefits to municipalities of implementing (or expanding) DRS for beverage containers. The results are compelling; each study found that DRSs have only net-positive effects on municipal budgets.