

# 5. KEY FIGURES

## Overall results for Belgium

The overall results for Belgium are calculated using a European calculation method, which was completely revised as of 2020. The old European method applied up to the end of 2019 and was used to calculate the figures for that year. The new European method has applied to figures reported since the beginning of 2020.

To calculate the overall Belgian figures, only the applicable European calculation method has ever been used, without any adjustment. This explains the deviation in the trend observed in the figures for 2020, particularly for plastics. You will find these figures in Section 5.5 below.



## Results of Fost Plus and Valipac

As from 2020, the IRPC chose to adapt the internal Belgian method used to calculate the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac to incorporate some of the principles of the new European method for calculating the European recycling targets. This is the “new” method for calculating the results of Fost Plus and Valipac.

## Different objectives

The separate calculations (for the results of the accredited compliance organisations Fost Plus and Valipac, on the one hand, and for the overall Belgian results, on the other) will continue to co-exist, as each has different objectives.



## 5.1. Fost Plus results for 2022

### NEW CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	190,642	175,768	92.2	580	176,348	92.5
Paper/ Cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	201,670	185,019	91.7	931	185,950	92.2
Glass	285,156	285,156 [348,599]	100.0 [122.2]	0	285,156 [348,599]	100.0 [122.2]
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	202,478	123,155	60.8	10,923	134,078	66.2
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	206,154	124,033	60.2	12,781	136,814	66.4
Metals: ferrous metals	31,091	31,091 [32,663]	100.0 [105.1]	0	31,091 [32,663]	100.0 [105.1]
Metals: aluminium	34,937	32,791	93.9	0	32,791	93.9
Drink cartons	14,704	10,128	68.9	2,209	12,337	83.9
Other	2,444	84	3.4	0	84	3.4
Total tonnages actually recycled (without capping)	761,452	723,188	95.0	13,712	736,900	96.8

Fields shaded in grey are for information only.

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].

The targets are 80% for recycling, and 90% for total recovery.

To enable comparison with previous years, the figures calculated using the old method are also shown below.

## OLD CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard (excluding drink cartons portion)	190,642	179,105	93.9	580	179,685	94.3
Paper/ Cardboard (including drink cartons portion)	201,670	191,406	94.9	931	192,337	95.4
Glass	285,156	285,156 [353,990]	100.0 [124.1]	0	285,156 [353,990]	100.0 [124.1]
Plastic (excluding drink cartons portion)	202,478	148,706	73.4	10,923	159,629	78.8
Plastic (including drink cartons portion)	206,154	152,806	74.1	11,040	163,846	79.5
Metals: ferrous metals	31,091	31,091 [32,877]	100.0 [105.7]	0	31,091 [32,877]	100.0 [105.7]
Metals: aluminium	34,937	33,164	94.9	0	33,164	94.9
Drink cartons	14,704	14,704 [16,401]	100.0 [111.5]	468	14,704 [16,869]	100.0 [114.7]
Other	2,444	106	4.3	0	106	4.3
Total tonnages actually recycled (without capping)	761,452	761,452 [764,349]	100.0 [100.4]	11,971	761,452 [776,320]	100.0 [102.0]

Fields shaded in grey are for information only.  
Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].  
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 90% for total recovery.

## 5.2. Valipac results for 2022

### NEW CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard	445,370	443,673	99.6	29,903	445,370 [473,576]	100.0 [106.3]
Plastic	101,786	63,217	62.1	43,533	101,786 [106,750]	100.0 [104.9]
Ferrous metals	35,820	33,405	93.3	0	33,405	93.3
Wood	184,323	157,069	85.2	52,688	184,323 [209,757]	100.0 [113.8]
Other	5,428	624	11.5	121	746	13.7
Total	772,726	697,988	90.3	126,246	765,630 [824,234]	99.1 [106.7]

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].  
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 85% for total recovery.

*The new calculation method relates to the results obtained by the accredited compliance organisation under the take-back obligation set out in the Cooperation Agreement and does not include corrections for free-riders. These corrections will be made when calculating the Belgian figures to be reported to Eurostat. The new calculation method does include full corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.*

To enable comparison with previous years, the figures calculated using the old method are also shown below.

## OLD CALCULATION METHOD

	Quantity in tonnes	Recycling in tonnes	Recycling as %	Other recovery in tonnes	Total recovery in tonnes	Total recovery as %
Paper/ Cardboard	445,370	445,370 [456,984]	100.0 [102.6]	29,903	445,370 [486,887]	100.0 [109.3]
Plastic	101,786	63,854	62.7	43,533	101,786 [107,387]	100.0 [105.5]
Ferrous metals	35,820	33,405	93.3	0	33,405	93.3
Wood	184,323	159,368	86.4	52,688	184,323 [212,056]	100.0 [115.0]
Other	5,428	624	11.5	121	746	13.7
Total	772,726	714,235	92.4	126,246	824,234 [840,481]	100.0 [108.8]

Uncapped quantities and rates are in [square brackets].  
The targets are 80% for recycling, and 85% for total recovery.

*The old calculation method does not include corrections for free-riders, but it does make partial corrections for product residues, increase in moisture content (compared with materials placed on the market) and sorting losses at recyclers. The quantities recycled by recyclers are calculated at the start of the recycling process, based on the various reports by and checks on waste collection services, sorting plants, traders and recyclers. In accordance with the new calculation method, ferrous metals recovered from incinerator scrap are limited to the estimated quantities of metal packaging waste in the streams destined for incineration, and to which the average extraction rate of the ferrous metal processing plants (0.85) is then applied. Where necessary, all figures are capped at 100%.*

### 5.3. Results of the individual responsible companies in 2022

A total of 72 companies fulfilled the take-back obligation for 2022 themselves. This mainly concerns industrial and commercial packaging waste.

The table below shows the tonnages and rates obtained after analysing all declarations for 2022 and applying the new calculation method. The declarations were corrected to comply with the European calculation method.

	Paper/Cardboard	Plastic	Ferrous metals	Wood	Other materials	TOTAL
Quantity of packaging placed on the Belgian market (in tonnes)	32,153	2,238	429	18,334	884	54,038
Recycling (in tonnes)	29,753	2,072	427	15,653	684	48,589
Incineration with energy recovery (in tonnes)	29	79	0	281	10	399
Recycling rate (in %)	92.5	92.6	99.7	85.4	77.4	89.9
Recycling and recovery rate (in %)	92.6	96.1	99.7	86.9	78.5	90.7

## 5.4. Beverage packaging figures

Article 13(1) of the Cooperation Agreement sets a collection and recycling target of 90% for beverage packaging from 2022.

The table shows the quantities of beverage packaging collected and recycled in 2022 for Fost Plus members.

The figures comply with the new European calculation method (deduction of contamination, moisture content, etc.).



	Recycling compared to Fost Plus members – Capped (%)	Recycling compared to Fost Plus members – Capped (tonnes)
PET drink bottles	80.8	42,825
HDPE drink bottles	100.0	3,223
Metal beverage packaging	93.2 <sup>1</sup> (64.2 <sup>2</sup> )	26,370 <sup>1</sup> (18,159 <sup>2</sup> )
Drink cartons	88.3	9,087
Glass bottles	100.0	184,544
<b>TOTAL Beverage packaging</b>	<b>95.2</b>	<b>266,049</b>

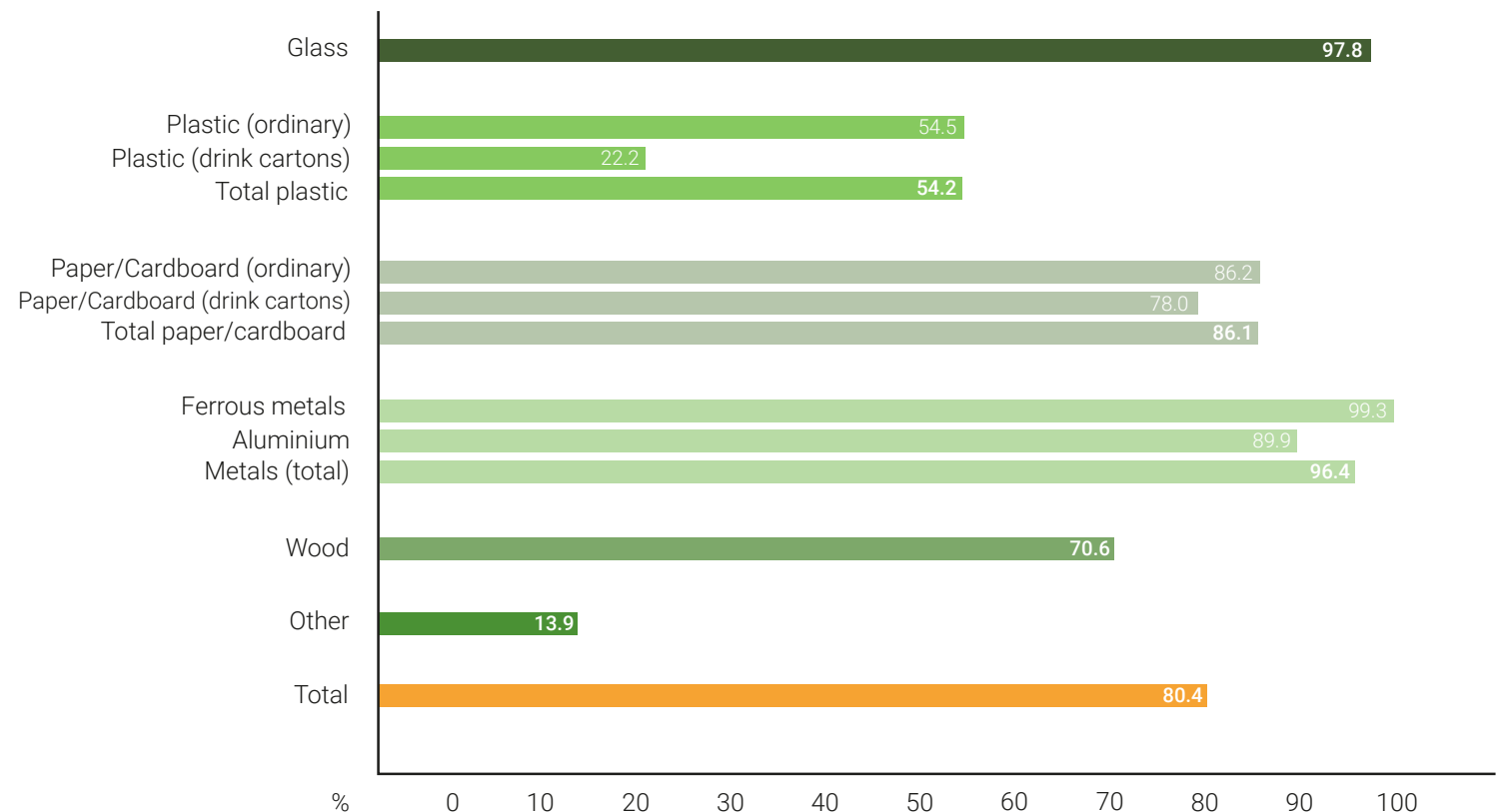
<sup>1</sup>Including ferrous metal materials recovered from incinerator scrap.

<sup>2</sup>Excluding ferrous metal materials recovered from incinerator scrap.

## 5.5. Overall results for 2022 – Belgian recycling figures (in percentages)

Due to the specific calculation method used for the European figures, the overall Belgian results cannot be compared with those of the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies. The figures that Belgium has to report to Eurostat (the European Commission) are not merely the sum of the one-way packaging placed on the market and recycled by the accredited compliance organisations and the individual responsible companies; they also take into account free-riders, parallel imports (imports by private individuals), etc. In addition, reusable packaging placed on the market for the first time or taken out of circulation is also included.

We applied the new European calculation method in its entirety.





## Recycling trends in Belgium in percentages

Reporting year →	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Glass	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	96.9	97.5	97.8
Plastic (ordinary)	42.6	43.4	44.5	42.4	47.3	45.2	49.6	54.5
Plastic Drink cartons <sup>1</sup>	---	---	---	---	---	0.0	14.7	22.2
Plastic (total)	42.6	43.4	44.5	42.4	47.3	44.7	49.2	54.2
Paper/Cardboard (ordinary)	90.7	89.2	93.0	95.7	92.3	89.7	88.7	86.2
Paper/Cardboard Drink cartons <sup>1</sup>	88.6	97.3	89.3	93.3	93.8	72.3	82.8	78.0
Paper/Cardboard (total)	90.7	89.2	93.0	95.7	92.3	89.3	88.6	86.1
Ferrous metals <sup>2</sup>	---	---	---	---	---	98.3	99.1	99.3
Aluminium <sup>2</sup>	---	---	---	---	---	88.7	89.7	89.9
Metals <sup>2</sup> (total)	98.1	98.3	98.5	98.2	95.1	96.2	96.6	96.4
Wood	74.9	80.9	83.7	90.6	80.5	71.6	71.8	70.6
Other	5.5	3.2	6.2	6.7	6.3	5.7	4.3	13.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81.5</b>	<b>81.9</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>85.3</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>79.7</b>	<b>80.4</b>	<b>80.4</b>

<sup>1</sup> Since the 2020 reporting year, drink cartons have been split into two fractions in the figures reported to the EU: a paper/cardboard fraction (added to the paper/cardboard total) and a PolyAl fraction (added to the plastic total), for which recycling must be demonstrated separately.

<sup>2</sup> Since the 2020 reporting year, the "metals (total)" stream has been separated into a ferrous metal fraction and an aluminium fraction..



## Total quantity recycled in tonnes, pallet repair included

Reporting year	Total
2015	1,427,814
2016	1,458,417
2017	1,491,975
2018	1,534,745
2019	1,541,551
2020	1,575,268
2021	1,628,806
2022	1,600,665