

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN THE UNITED STATES

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

2011 FACTS AND FIGURES

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**MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN
THE UNITED STATES:
2011 FACTS AND FIGURES**

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**MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE
IN THE UNITED STATES: 2011 FACTS AND FIGURES
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

OVERVIEW

This report describes the national municipal solid waste (MSW) stream based on data collected for 1960 through 2011. The historical perspective is useful for establishing trends in types of MSW generated and in the ways it is managed. In this Executive Summary, we briefly describe the methodology used to characterize MSW in the United States and provide the latest facts and figures on MSW generation, recycling, and disposal.

In the United States, we generated 250 million tons of MSW in 2011—six million tons less than generated in 2007, which was a peak year for waste generation. Excluding composting, 66.2 million tons of MSW were recycled, an increase of 3 million tons from 2007. This is a 5 percent increase in recycling of MSW. The tons of food waste and yard trimmings recovered for composting were 20.7 million tons in 2011 compared to 21.7 million tons in 2007. This is a 5 percent decrease in food waste and yard trimmings recovered for composting. The recovery rate for recycling (including composting) was 34.7 percent in 2011, up from 33.1 percent in 2007. (See Table ES-1.)

MSW generation in 2011 declined to 4.40 pounds per person per day. This is a decrease of 6 percent from 2007 to 2011. The recycling rate in 2011 was 1.53 pounds per person per day compared to 1.54 pounds per person per day in 2007. Discards sent for combustion with energy recovery decreased about 12 percent from 0.58 pounds per person per day in 2007 to 0.51 pounds per person per day in 2011. Discards sent to landfills after recycling and combustion with energy recovery declined to 2.36 pounds per person per day in 2011. This is a decrease of 7 percent from 2007 to 2011.

Figure ES-1 shows a decrease in MSW generation in recent years. Figure ES-2 shows an increase in recycling over time. The state of the economy has a strong impact on consumption and waste generation. Waste generation increases during times of strong economic growth and decreases during times of economic decline.

Table ES-1. Generation, Materials Recovery, Composting, Combustion with Energy Recovery, and Discards of Municipal Solid Waste, 1960 – 2011

(In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420
Recovery for recycling	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total Materials Recovery	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
Discards after recovery	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
Combustion with energy recovery**	0	400	2,700	29,700	33,730	31,620	31,970	29,010	29,260	29,260
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	82,510	112,640	134,420	145,330	140,260	142,320	139,720	132,870	136,110	134,260

	Pounds per Person per Day									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	2.68	3.25	3.66	4.57	4.74	4.69	4.66	4.36	4.44	4.40
Recovery for recycling	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.64	1.03	1.10	1.15	1.10	1.15	1.16
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.09	0.32	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.36	0.37
Total Materials Recovery	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.73	1.35	1.48	1.54	1.47	1.51	1.53
Discards after recovery	2.51	3.03	3.31	3.84	3.39	3.21	3.12	2.89	2.93	2.87
Combustion with energy recovery**	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.65	0.66	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.52	0.51
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	2.51	3.02	3.24	3.19	2.73	2.63	2.54	2.37	2.41	2.36
Population (thousands)	179,979	203,984	227,255	249,907	281,422	296,410	301,621	307,007	309,051	311,592

	Percent of Total Generation									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Recovery for recycling	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	14.0%	21.8%	23.3%	24.6%	25.2%	25.9%	26.4%
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.0%	6.7%	8.1%	8.5%	8.5%	8.1%	8.3%
Total Materials Recovery	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%
Discards after recovery	93.6%	93.4%	90.4%	84.0%	71.5%	68.6%	66.9%	66.3%	66.0%	65.3%
Combustion with energy recovery**	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%	14.2%	13.9%	12.5%	12.5%	11.9%	11.7%	11.7%
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	93.6%	93.1%	88.6%	69.8%	57.6%	56.1%	54.4%	54.4%	54.3%	53.6%

* Composting of yard trimmings, food waste and other MSW organic material. Does not include backyard composting.

** Includes combustion of MSW in mass burn or refuse-derived fuel form, and combustion with energy recovery of source separated materials in MSW (e.g., wood pallets and tire-derived fuel). 2011 includes 25,930 MSW, 520 wood, and 2,810 tires (1,000 tons)

† Discards after recovery minus combustion with energy recovery. Discards include combustion without energy recovery. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Figure ES-1. MSW Generation Rates, 1960 to 2011

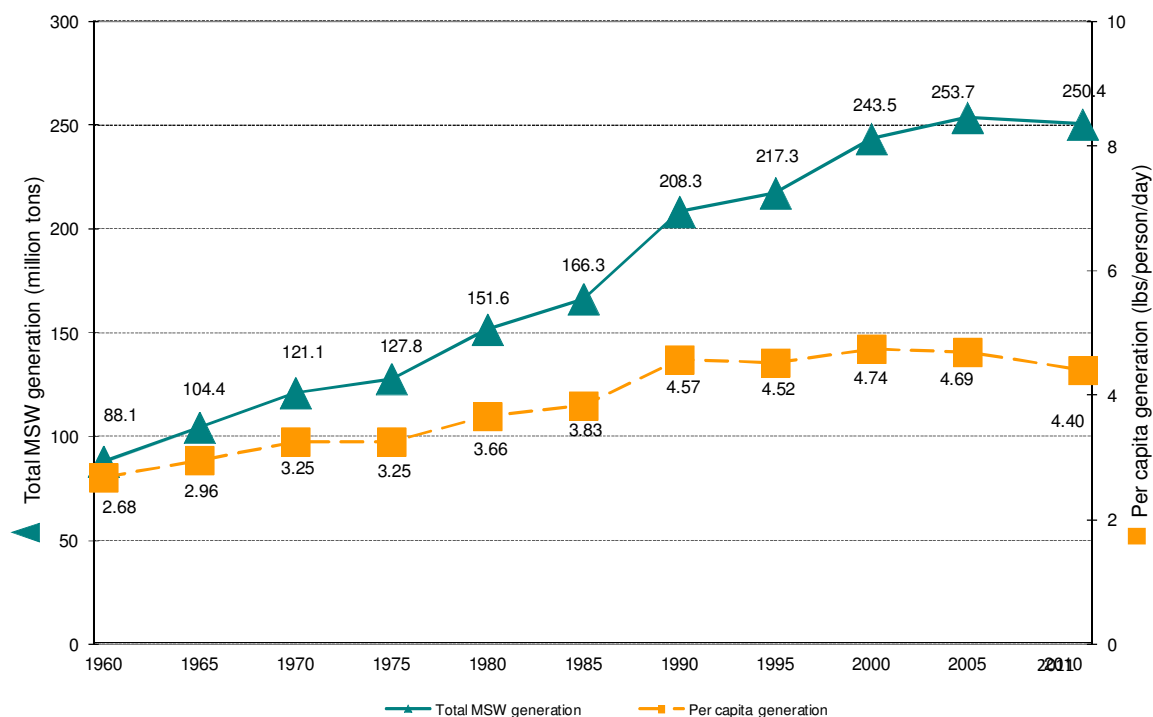
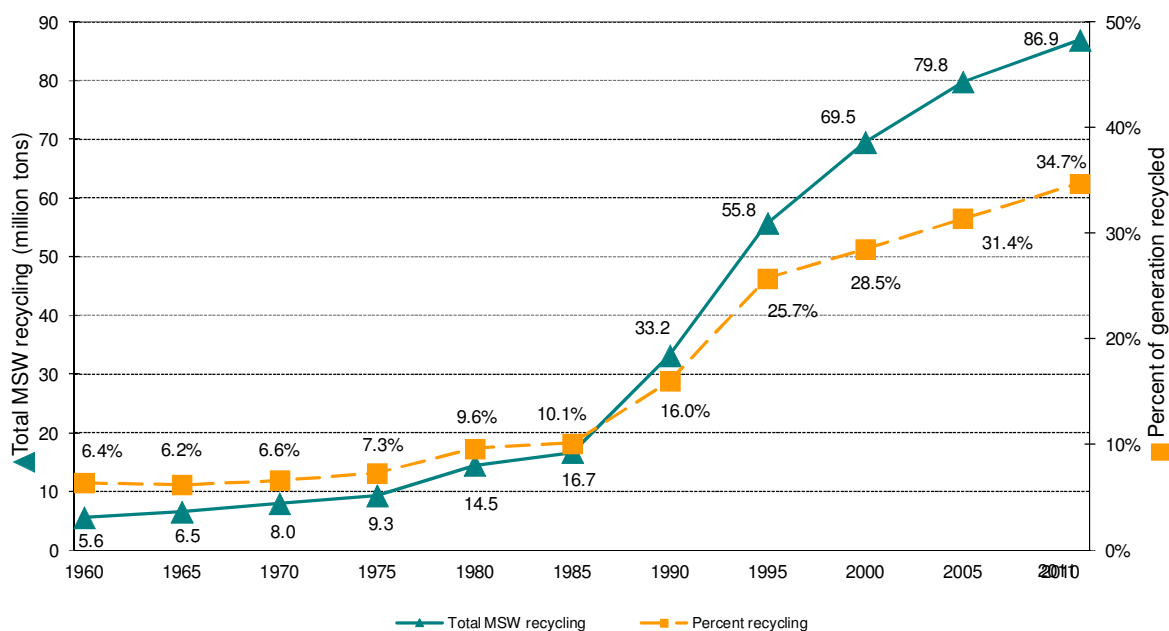


Figure ES-2. MSW Recycling Rates, 1960 to 2011



WHAT IS INCLUDED IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE?

MSW—otherwise known as trash or garbage—consists of everyday items such as product packaging, grass clippings, furniture, clothing, bottles, food waste, newspapers, appliances, and batteries. Not included are materials that also may be disposed of in landfills but are not generally considered MSW, such as construction and demolition materials, municipal wastewater treatment sludges, and non-hazardous industrial wastes.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN PERSPECTIVE

Trends Over Time

Over the last few decades, the generation, recycling, and disposal of MSW have changed substantially (see Table ES-1 and Figures ES-1 and ES-2). Annual MSW generation continued to increase from 1960, when it was 88 million tons, until 2007, when it was 257 million tons. After 2007, the tons of MSW generated started to decrease until 2011, when it was 250 million tons. The generation rate in 1960 was just 2.68 pounds per person per day; it grew to 3.66 pounds per person per day in 1980, reached 4.74 pounds per person per day in 2000, and decreased to 4.69 pounds per person per day in 2005. Since 2005, MSW generation per capita rate has continued to decrease. The generation rate was 4.40 pounds per person per day in 2011.

Over time, recycling rates have increased from just over 6 percent of MSW generated in 1960 to about 10 percent in 1980, to 16 percent in 1990, to about 29 percent in 2000, and to over 34 percent in 2011. Disposal of waste to landfills has decreased from 94 percent of the amount generated in 1960 to under 54 percent of the amount generated in 2011.

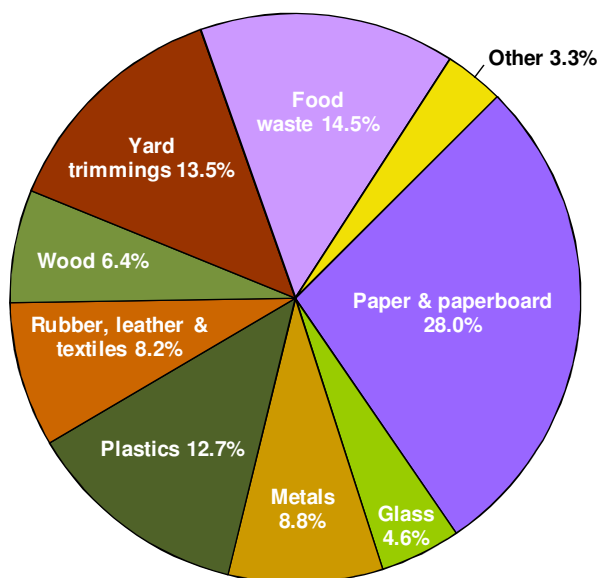
MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE IN 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses two methods to characterize the 250 million tons of MSW generated in 2011. The first is by **material** (paper and paperboard, yard trimmings, food waste, plastics, metals, glass, wood, rubber, leather and textiles, and other); the second is by several major **product** categories. The product-based categories are containers and packaging; nondurable goods (e.g., newspapers); durable goods (e.g., appliances); food waste; yard trimmings; and other materials. See Figure 1-B in Chapter 1 for product category definitions.

Materials in MSW

A breakdown, by weight, of the MSW **materials** generated in 2011 is provided in Figure ES-3. Paper and paperboard made up the largest component of MSW generated (28.0 percent), food waste was the second-largest component (14.5 percent) and yard trimmings were the third largest (13.5 percent). Metals, plastics, and wood each constituted between 6 and 13 percent of the total MSW generated. Rubber, leather, and textiles combined made up 8.2 percent of MSW, glass made up 4.6 percent, while other miscellaneous wastes made up 3.3 percent of the MSW generated in 2011.

Figure ES-3. Materials Generation in MSW, 2011
250 Million Tons (before recycling)



A portion of each material category in MSW was recycled or composted in 2011. The highest rates of recovery were achieved with paper and paperboard, yard trimmings, and metals. Over 65 percent (45.9 million tons) of paper and paperboard was recovered for recycling in 2011. About 57 percent (19.3 million tons) of yard trimmings was recovered for composting or mulching in 2011. This represents almost a five-fold increase since 1990. Recycling paper and paperboard and yard trimmings alone diverted about 26 percent of municipal solid waste generated from landfills and combustion facilities. In addition, about 7.5 million tons, or 34.2 percent, of metals were recovered for recycling. Recycling rates for all materials categories in 2011 are listed in Table ES-2.

Table ES-2. Generation, Recovery, and Discards of Materials in MSW, 2011**(In millions of tons and percent of generation of each material)**

Material	Weight Generated	Weight Recovered	Recovery As a Percent of Generation	Weight Discarded
Paper and paperboard	70.02	45.90	65.6%	24.12
Glass	11.47	3.17	27.6%	8.30
Metals				
Steel	16.52	5.45	33.0%	11.07
Aluminum	3.47	0.72	20.7%	2.75
Other nonferrous metals*	1.96	1.34	68.4%	0.62
<i>Total metals</i>	<i>21.95</i>	<i>7.51</i>	<i>34.2%</i>	<i>14.44</i>
Plastics	31.84	2.65	8.3%	29.19
Rubber and leather	7.49	1.31	17.5%	6.18
Textiles	13.09	2.00	15.3%	11.09
Wood	16.08	2.38	14.8%	13.70
Other materials	4.59	1.28	27.9%	3.31
<i>Total Materials in Products</i>	<i>176.53</i>	<i>66.20</i>	<i>37.5%</i>	<i>110.33</i>
Other wastes				
Food, other**	36.31	1.40	3.9%	34.91
Yard trimmings	33.71	19.30	57.3%	14.41
Miscellaneous inorganic wastes	3.87	Negligible	Negligible	3.87
<i>Total Other Wastes</i>	<i>73.89</i>	<i>20.70</i>	<i>28.0%</i>	<i>53.19</i>
<i>TOTAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE</i>	<i>250.42</i>	<i>86.90</i>	<i>34.7%</i>	<i>163.52</i>

Includes waste from residential, commercial, and institutional sources.

* Includes lead from lead-acid batteries.

** Includes recovery of other MSW organics for composting.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Figures ES-4 and ES-5 depict each material as a percent of total recovery and total discards, respectively. As a percent of total recovery, paper and paperboard make up over half of the materials recovered at 52.8 percent. Yard trimmings comprise the next largest portion of total materials recovery at 22.2 percent. All other materials account for less than 10 percent each of total recovery.

Food waste is the largest material in discards at 21.3 percent. Plastic is next largest at 17.8 percent followed by paper and paperboard at 14.8 percent and rubber, leather, and textiles at 10.6 percent. As a percent of total discards, the other materials account for less than 10 percent each.

Figure ES-4. Materials Recovery in MSW, 2011
87 Million Tons

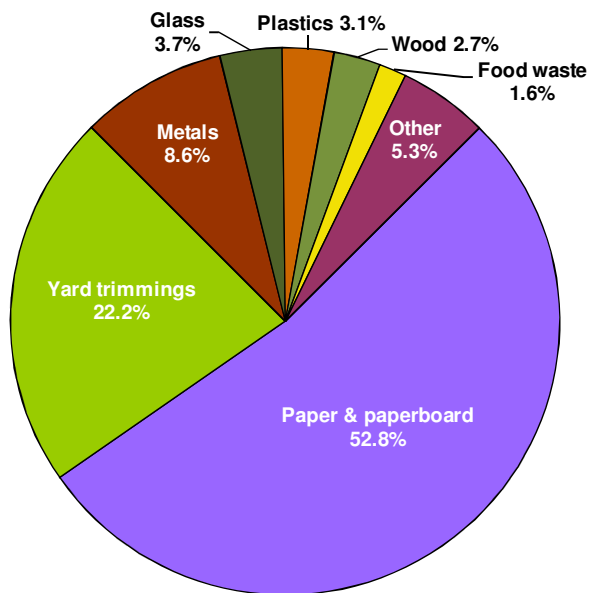
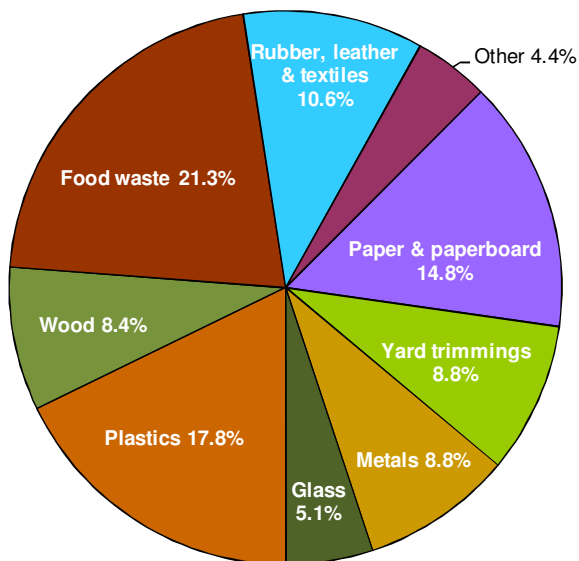


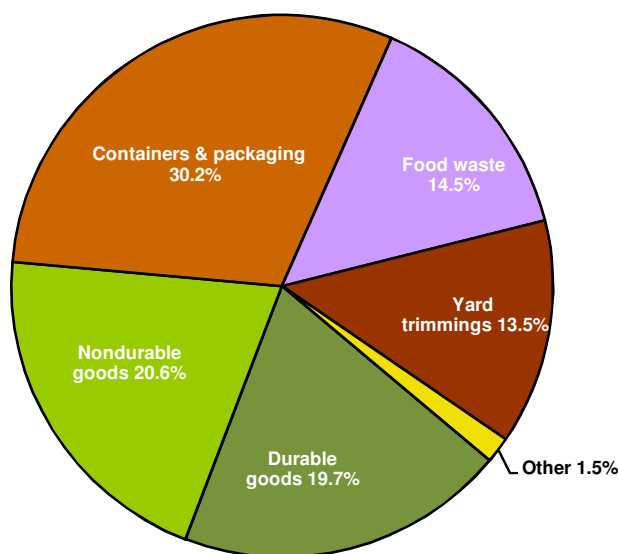
Figure ES-5. Material Discards in MSW, 2011
164 Million Tons (after recycling and composting)



Products in MSW

The breakdown, by weight, of **product categories** generated in MSW in 2011 is shown in Figure ES-6. Containers and packaging comprised the largest portion of products generated in MSW, at 30.2 percent (75.6 million tons). Nondurable goods were the second-largest fraction, at 20.6 percent (51.6 million tons). The third-largest category of products is durable goods, which made up 19.7 percent (49.3 million tons) of total MSW generation.

Figure ES-6. Products Generated in MSW, 2011
250 Million Tons (before recycling)



The generation and recovery of the product categories in MSW in 2011 are shown in Table ES-3. Overall, *durable goods* were recovered at a rate of 18.4 percent in 2011. Nonferrous metals other than aluminum had one of the highest recovery rates, at 68.4 percent, due to the high rate of lead recovery from lead-acid batteries. Recovery of steel in all durable goods was 27.1 percent, with high rates of recovery from appliances. Recovery of selected consumer electronic products was 24.9 percent.

Overall recovery of *nondurable goods* in MSW was 36.5 percent in 2011. Most of this recovery comes from paper products such as newspapers and high-grade office papers (e.g., white papers). Newspaper/mechanical papers constituted the largest portion of this recovery, with 72.5 percent of these paper products generated being recovered for recycling. Starting in 2010,

newspapers (including newsprint and groundwood inserts) were expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing. An estimated 46.6 percent of other nondurable paper products were recovered in 2011. Total nondurable paper and paperboard product recovery is at 53.9 percent. The nondurable goods category also includes clothing and other textile products—over 16 percent of these combined products were recovered for recycling or export in 2011.

Table ES-3 shows that recovery of containers and packaging was the highest of the three product categories—50.7 percent of containers and packaging generated in MSW in 2011 were recovered for recycling. Over 54 percent of all aluminum cans in MSW was recovered (38.9 percent of all aluminum packaging, including foil), while 72.0 percent of steel packaging (mostly cans) in MSW was recovered. Paper and paperboard containers and packaging were recovered at a rate of 75.4 percent; corrugated containers accounted for most of that amount.

Approximately 34 percent of glass containers in MSW were recovered, while about 24 percent of wood packaging (mostly wood pallets removed from service) was recovered for recycling. About 13 percent of plastic containers and packaging in MSW were recovered—mostly bottles and jars. Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles and jars were recovered at about 29 percent. Recovery of high density polyethylene (HDPE) natural (white translucent) bottles was also estimated at about 29 percent.

The results of recovering containers and packaging are illustrated in Figures ES-7 and ES-8. Corrugated boxes account for 39 percent of total containers and packaging generation but, due to a high recovery rate, only account for seven percent of discards. Wood packaging makes up 13 percent of containers and packaging generation and 20 percent of discards. Plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are five percent of generation and nine percent of discards. Although steel and aluminum containers and packaging have high recovery rates (see Table ES-3), each account for two to three percent of generation and discards. This is due to the relatively small amounts of these products generated.

One of the products with a very high recovery rate was lead-acid batteries, recovered at a rate of about 96 percent in 2011. Other products with particularly high recovery rates were corrugated boxes (91 percent), newspapers/mechanical papers (72.5 percent), steel packaging (72.0 percent), major appliances (64.2 percent), aluminum cans (54.5 percent), yard trimmings (57.3), and mixed paper (46.6 percent). About 45 percent of rubber tires in MSW were recovered for recycling. (Other

tires were retreaded, and shredded rubber tires were made into tire-derived fuel.) See Chapter 2 of this report for additional detail on product recovery rates.

Table ES-3. Generation, Recovery, and Discards of Products in MSW by Material, 2011

(In millions of tons and percent of generation of each product)

Products	Weight Generated	Weight Recovered	Recovery as a Percent of Generation	Weight Discarded
Durable Goods				
Steel	14.34	3.88	27.1%	10.46
Aluminum	1.43	Negligible	Negligible	1.43
Other non-ferrous metals*	1.96	1.34	68.4%	0.62
Glass	2.19	Negligible	Negligible	2.19
Plastics	11.42	0.74	6.5%	10.68
Rubber and leather	6.44	1.31	20.3%	5.13
Wood	6.03	Negligible	Negligible	6.03
Textiles	3.84	0.52	13.5%	3.32
Other materials	1.69	1.28	75.7%	0.41
Total durable goods	49.34	9.07	18.4%	40.27
Nondurable Goods				
Paper and paperboard	31.99	17.24	53.9%	14.75
Plastics	6.52	0.11	1.7%	6.41
Rubber and leather	1.05	Negligible	Negligible	1.05
Textiles	8.95	1.48	16.5%	7.47
Other materials	3.10	Negligible	Negligible	3.10
Total nondurable goods	51.61	18.83	36.5%	32.78
Containers and Packaging				
Steel	2.18	1.57	72.0%	0.61
Aluminum	1.85	0.72	38.9%	1.13
Glass	9.28	3.17	34.2%	6.11
Paper and paperboard	38.02	28.66	75.4%	9.36
Plastics	13.90	1.80	12.9%	12.10
Wood	10.00	2.38	23.8%	7.62
Other materials	0.35	Negligible	Negligible	0.35
Total containers and packaging	75.58	38.30	50.7%	37.28
Other Wastes				
Food, other**	36.31	1.40	3.9%	34.91
Yard trimmings	33.71	19.30	57.3%	14.41
Miscellaneous inorganic wastes	3.87	Negligible	Negligible	3.87
Total other wastes	73.89	20.70	28.0%	53.19
TOTAL MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE	250.42	86.90	34.7%	163.52

Includes waste from residential, commercial, and institutional sources.

* Includes lead from lead-acid batteries.

** Includes recovery of other MSW organics for composting.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Figure ES-7. Containers and Packaging Generated in MSW, 2011
75.6 Million Tons (before recycling)

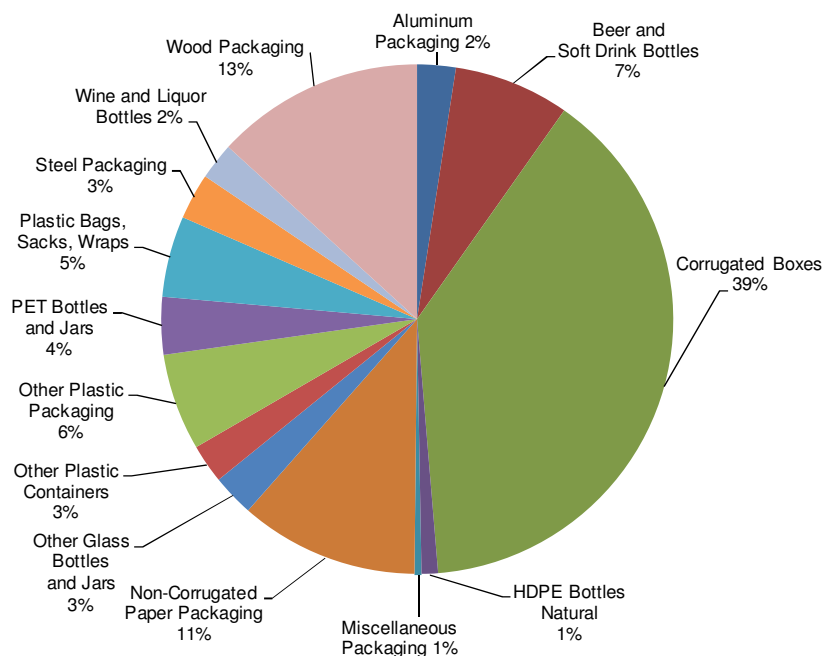
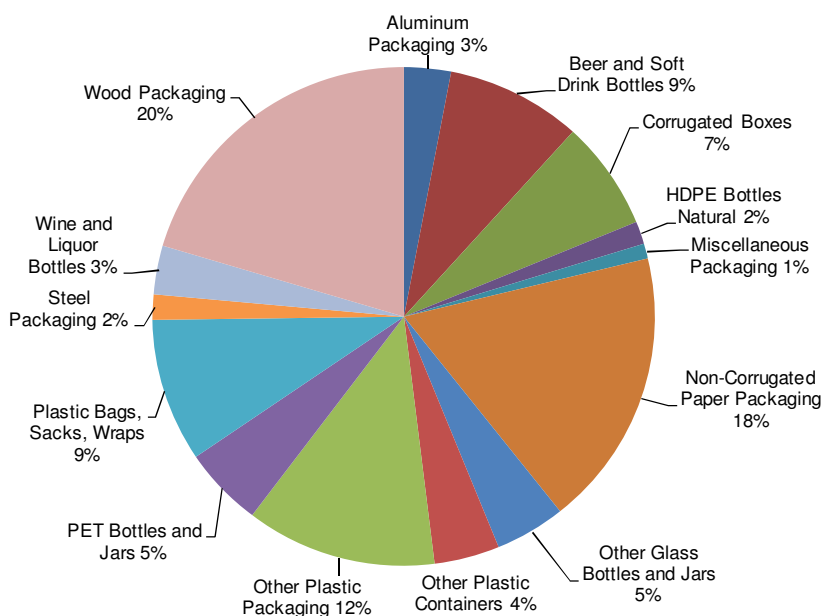


Figure ES-8. Containers and Packaging Discarded* in MSW, 2011
37.3 Million Tons (after recycling)



*Discards in this figure include combustion with energy recovery.

RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL SOURCES OF MSW

Sources of MSW, as characterized in this report, include residential waste (including waste from apartment houses) and waste from commercial and institutional locations, such as businesses, schools, and hospitals.

MANAGEMENT OF MSW

Overview

EPA's integrated waste management hierarchy, depicted below, includes the following four components:

- Source reduction (or waste prevention), including reuse of products and on-site (or backyard) composting of yard trimmings
- Recycling, including off-site (or community) composting
- Combustion with energy recovery
- Disposal through landfilling.



Although we encourage the use of strategies that emphasize the top of the hierarchy whenever possible, all four components remain important within an integrated waste management system.

Source Reduction

Our waste management hierarchy emphasizes the importance of *reducing* the amount of waste created, reusing whenever possible, and then recycling whatever is left. When the amount of municipal solid waste generated is reduced or materials are reused rather than discarded, this is called “source reduction”—meaning the material never enters the waste stream.

Source reduction, also called waste prevention, includes the design, manufacture, purchase, or use of materials, such as products and packaging, to reduce their amount or toxicity before they enter the MSW management system. Examples of source reduction activities are:

- Designing products or packaging to reduce the quantity or the toxicity of the materials used or make them easy to reuse.
- Reusing existing products or packaging, such as refillable bottles, reusable pallets, and reconditioned barrels and drums.
- Lengthening

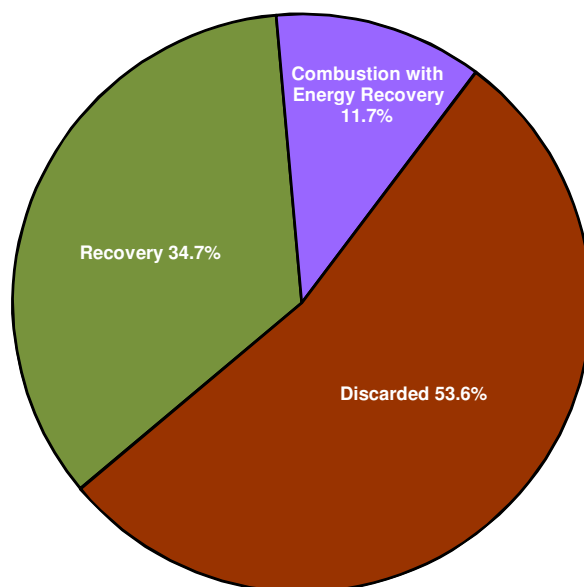
- Recycling (including community composting) recovered 34.7 percent (86.9 million tons) of MSW generation in 2011.
- There were over 9,800 curbside recycling programs in the United States in 2011.
- In 2011, about 3,090 yard trimmings composting programs were documented.

Combustion with Energy Recovery

MSW combustion with energy recovery increased substantially between 1980 and 1990 (from 2.7 million tons in 1980 to 29.7 million tons in 1990). From 1990 to 2000, the quantity of MSW

MSW management through recovery for recycling (including composting), combustion with energy recovery, and discard to disposal in 2011 is shown in Figure ES-7. In 2011, 86.9 million tons (34.7 percent) of MSW were recycled, 29.3 million tons (11.7 percent) were combusted with energy recovery, and 134.3 million tons (53.6 percent) were landfilled or otherwise disposed. (Relatively small amounts of this total undoubtedly were incinerated without energy recovery, littered, or illegally dumped rather than landfilled.)

Figure ES-9. Management of MSW in the United States, 2011



recovery at 45.9 million tons resulted in a reduction of 134.5 MMTCO₂E in 2011. This is equivalent to removing 28 million cars from the road in one year.

In 2011, nationally, we recycled and composted 86.9 million tons of MSW. This provides an annual benefit of more than 183 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions reduced, comparable to removing the emissions from over 34 million passenger vehicles.

Table ES-4. Greenhouse Gas Benefits Associated with Recovery of Specific Materials, 2011
(In millions of tons, MMTCO₂E and in numbers of

their life cycle, an SMM approach seeks to use materials in the most productive way with an emphasis on using less; reducing toxic chemicals and environmental impacts throughout the material life cycle; and assuring we have sufficient resources to meet today's needs and those of the future. Data on municipal solid waste generation, recycling and disposal is an important starting point for the full SMM approach. Viewing materials through an SMM lens changes how we think about our resources for a better tomorrow. Our policy is Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

This report and related additional data are available on the Internet at
www.epa.gov/epawaste/nonhaz/municipal/msw99.htm.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY

INTRODUCTION

This report is the most recent in a series of reports sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to characterize municipal solid waste (MSW) in the United States. Together with the previous reports, this report provides a historical database for a 51-year characterization (by weight) of the materials and products in MSW.

Management of the nation's municipal solid waste (MSW) continues to be a high priority for communities in the 21st

- Source reduction (or waste prevention), including reuse of products and on-site (or backyard) composting of yard trimmings.
- Recycling, including off-site (or community) composting.
- Combustion with energy recovery.
- Disposal through landfilling.



approach. Using data gathered from industry associations, key businesses, and similar industry sources, and supported by government data from sources such as the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Census Bureau, we estimate tons of materials and products generated, recycled, or discarded. Other sources of data, such as waste characterizations and surveys performed by governments, industry, or the press, supplement these data.

To estimate MSW generation, production data are adjusted by imports and exports from the United States, where necessary. Allowances are made for the average lifespans of different products. Information on amounts of disposed MSW managed by combustion comes from industry sources and the press. MSW not managed by recycling (including composting) or combustion is assumed to be landfilled.

In any estimation of MSW generation, it is important to define what is and is not included in municipal solid waste. EPA includes those materials that historically have been handled in the municipal solid waste stream—those materials from municipal sources, sent to municipal landfills. In this report, MSW includes wastes such as product packaging, newspapers, office and classroom papers, bottles and cans, boxes, wood pallets, food waste, grass clippings, clothing, furniture, appliances, automobile tires, consumer electronics, and batteries.

A common error in using this report is to assume that *all* nonhazardous wastes are included. As shown later in this chapter, municipal solid waste as defined here does *not* include construction and demolition debris, biosolids (sewage sludges), industrial process wastes, or a number of other wastes that, in some cases, may go to a municipal waste landfill. These materials, over time, have tended to be handled separately and are not included in the totals in this report. EPA has addressed several of these materials separately, for instance, in *Biosolids Generation, Use, and Disposal in the United States*, EPA530-R-99-009, September 1999, and *Estimating 2003 Building-Related Construction and Demolition Materials Amounts*, EPA530-R-09-002, March 2009. Recycling (including composting) is encouraged for these materials as well.

In addition, the source of municipal solid waste is important. EPA's figures include municipal solid waste from homes, institutions such as schools and prisons, and commercial sources such as restaurants and small businesses. MSW does not include wastes of other types or from other sources, including automobile bodies, municipal sludges, combustion ash, and industrial process wastes that might also be disposed in municipal waste landfills or combustion units.

HOW THIS REPORT CAN BE USED

Nationwide. The data in this report provide a nationwide picture of municipal solid waste generation and management. The historical perspective is particularly useful in establishing trends and highlighting the changes that have occurred over the years, both in types of wastes generated and in the ways they are managed. This perspective on MSW and its management is useful in assessing national solid waste management needs and policy. The consistency in methodology and scope aids in the use of the document for reporting over time. The report is, however, of equal or greater value as a solid waste management planning tool for state and local governments and private firms.

Local or state level. At the local or state level, the data in this report can be used to develop approximate (but quick) estimates of MSW generation in a defined area. That is, the data on generation of MSW per person nationally may be used to estimate generation in a city or other local area based on the population in that area. This can be of value when a “ballpark” estimate of MSW generation in an area is needed. For example, communities may use such an estimate to determine the potential viability of regional versus single community solid waste management facilities. This information can help define solid waste management planning areas and the planning needed in those areas. However, for communities making decisions where knowledge of the amount and composition of MSW is crucial, (e.g., where a solid waste management facility is being sited), local estimates of the waste stream should be made.

Another useful feature of this report for local planning is the information provided on MSW trends. Changes over time in total MSW generation and the mix of MSW materials can affect the need for and use of various waste management alternatives. Observing trends in MSW generation can help in planning an integrated waste management system that includes facilities sized and designed for years of service.

While the national average data are useful as a checkpoint against local MSW characterization data, any differences between local and national data should be examined carefully. There are many regional variations that require each community to examine its own waste management needs. Such factors as local and regional availability of suitable landfill space, proximity of markets for recovered materials, population density, commercial and industrial activity, and climatic and groundwater variations all may motivate each community to make its own plans.

Specific reasons for regional differences may include:

- Variations in climate and local waste management practices, which greatly influence generation of yard trimmings. For instance, yard trimmings exhibit strong seasonal variations in most regions of the country. Also, the level of backyard composting in a community or region will affect generation of yard trimmings.
- Differences in the scope of waste streams. That is, a local landfill may be receiving construction and demolition wastes in addition to MSW, but this report addresses MSW only.
- Variance in the per capita generation of some products, such as newspapers and telephone directories, depending upon the average size of the publications. Typically, rural areas will generate less of these products on a per person basis than urban areas.
- Level of commercial activity in a community. This will influence the generation rate of some products, such as office paper, corrugated boxes, wood pallets, and food waste from restaurants.
- Variations in economic activity, which affect waste generation in both the residential and the commercial sectors.
- Local and state regulations and practices. Deposit laws, bans on landfilling of specific products, and variable rate pricing for waste collection are examples of practices that can influence a local waste stream.

While caution should be used in applying the data in this report, for some areas, the national breakdown of MSW by material may be the only such data available for use in comparing and planning waste management alternatives. Planning a curbside recycling program, for example, requires an estimate of household recyclables that may be recovered. If resources are not available to adequately estimate these materials by other means, local planners may turn to the national data. National data are also useful in areas where appropriate adjustments in the data can be made to account for regional conditions as mentioned above.

In summary, the data in this report can be used in local planning to:

- Develop approximate estimates of total MSW generation in an area.
- Check locally developed MSW data for accuracy and consistency.
- Account for trends in total MSW generation and the generation of individual components.
- Help set goals and measure progress in source reduction and recycling (including composting).

CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE: IN PERSPECTIVE

The Two Methodologies for Characterizing MSW: Site-Specific Versus Materials Flow

There are two basic approaches to estimating quantities of municipal solid waste at the local, state, or national levels—site-specific and materials flow. This report is based on the materials flow approach because site-specific approaches are problematic for national estimates.

Site-specific studies. In the first methodology, which is site-specific, sampling, sorting, and weighing the individual components of the waste stream could be used. This methodology is useful in defining a local waste stream, especially if large numbers of samples are taken over several seasons. Results of sampling also increase the body of knowledge about variations due to climatic and seasonal changes, population density, regional differences, and other factors. In addition, quantities of MSW components such as food waste and yard trimmings can only be estimated through sampling and weighing studies.

A disadvantage of sampling studies based on a limited number of samples is that they may be skewed and misleading if, for example, atypical circumstances were experienced during the sampling. These circumstances could include an unusually wet or dry season, delivery of some unusual wastes during the sampling period, or errors in the sampling methodology. Any errors of this kind will be greatly magnified when a limited number of samples are taken to represent a community's entire waste stream for a year. Magnification of errors could be even more serious if a limited number of samples was relied upon for making the national estimates of MSW. Also, extensive sampling would

be prohibitively expensive for making the national estimates. An additional disadvantage of sampling studies is that they do not provide information about trends unless performed in a consistent manner over a long period of time.

Of course, at the state or local level, sampling may not be necessary—many states and localities count all materials recovered for recycling, and many weigh all wastes being disposed to generate state or local recycling rates from the “ground up.” To use these figures at the national level would require all states to perform these studies, and perform them in a consistent manner conducive to developing a national summary, which so far has not been practical.

Materials flow. The second approach to quantifying and characterizing the municipal solid waste stream—the methodology used for this report—utilizes a materials flow approach to estimate the waste stream on a nationwide basis. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, EPA’s Office of Solid Waste and its predecessors at the Public Health Service sponsored work that began to develop this methodology. This report represents the latest version of this database that has been evolving for over 30 years.

The materials flow methodology is based on production data (by weight) for the materials and products in the waste stream. To estimate generation data, specific adjustments are made to the production data for each material and product category. Adjustments are made for imports and exports and for diversions from MSW (e.g., for building materials made of plastic and paperboard that become construction and demolition debris.) Adjustments are also made for the lifetimes of products. Finally, food waste, yard trimmings, and a small amount of miscellaneous inorganic wastes are accounted for by compiling data from a variety of waste sampling studies.

One problem with the materials flow methodology is that product residues associated with other items in MSW (usually containers) are not accounted for. These residues would include, for example, food left in a jar, detergent left in a box or bottle, and dried paint in a can. Some household hazardous wastes, (e.g., pesticide left in a can) are also included among these product residues.

Municipal Solid Waste Defined in Greater Detail

As stated earlier, EPA includes those materials that historically have been handled in the municipal solid waste stream—those materials from municipal sources, sent to municipal landfills. In this report, MSW includes wastes such as product packaging, newspapers, office and classroom

paper, bottles and cans, boxes, wood pallets, food waste, grass clippings, clothing, furniture, appliances, automobile tires, consumer electronics, and lead-acid batteries. For purposes of analysis, these products and materials are often grouped in this report into the following categories: durable goods, nondurable goods, containers and packaging, food waste and yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes.

Municipal solid wastes characterized in this report come from residential, commercial, institutional, or industrial sources. Some examples of the types of MSW that come from each of the broad categories of sources are shown below.

The materials flow methodology used in this report does not readily lend itself to the quantification of wastes according to their sources. For example, corrugated boxes may be unpacked and discarded from residences, commercial establishments such as grocery stores and offices, institutions such as schools, or factories. Similarly, office papers are mostly generated in offices, but they also are generated in residences and institutions. The methodology estimates only the total quantity of products generated, not their places of disposal or recovery for recycling.

Sources and Examples

Example Products

Residential (single- and multi-family homes)

Newspapers, clothing, disposable tableware, food packaging, cans and bottles, food waste, yard trimmings

Commercial (office buildings, retail and wholesale establishments, restaurants)

Corrugated boxes, food waste, office papers, disposable tableware, paper napkins, yard trimmings

Institutional (schools, libraries, hospitals, prisons)

Cafeteria and restroom trash can wastes, office papers, classroom wastes, yard trimmings

Industrial (packaging and administrative; *not* process wastes)

Corrugated boxes, plastic film, wood pallets, lunchroom wastes, office papers.

Other Subtitle D Wastes

Some people assume that “municipal solid waste” must include everything that is landfilled in Subtitle D landfills. (Subtitle D of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act deals with wastes other than the hazardous wastes covered under Subtitle C.) As shown in Figure 1-A, however, RCRA Subtitle D includes many kinds of wastes. It has been common practice to landfill wastes such as municipal sludges, nonhazardous industrial wastes, residue from automobile salvage operations, and

construction and demolition debris along with MSW, but these other kinds of wastes are not included in the estimates presented in this report.

Figure 1-A. Municipal Solid Waste in the Universe of Subtitle D Wastes

Subtitle D Wastes	
The Subtitle D Waste included in this report is Municipal Solid Waste, which includes: Containers and packaging such as soft drink bottles and corrugated boxes Durable goods such as furniture and appliances Nondurable goods such as newspapers, trash bags, and clothing Other wastes such as food waste and yard trimmings.	
Subtitle D Wastes not included in this report are:	
Municipal sludges	Agricultural wastes
Industrial nonhazardous process wastes	Oil and gas wastes
Construction and demolition debris	Mining wastes
Land clearing debris	Auto bodies
Transportation parts and equipment	Fats, grease, and oils

Figure 1-B. Definition of Terms

The materials flow methodology produces an estimate of total municipal solid waste generation in the United States, by material categories and by product categories.

The term **generation** as used in this report refers to the weight of materials and products as they enter the waste management system from residential, commercial, institutional, and industrial sources and before materials recovery or combustion takes place. Preconsumer (industrial) scrap is not included in the generation estimates. Source reduction activities (e.g., backyard composting of yard trimmings) take place *ahead of* generation.

Source reduction activities reduce the amount or toxicity of wastes before they enter the municipal solid waste management system. Reuse is a source reduction activity involving the recovery or reapplication of a package, used product, or material in a manner that retains its original form or identity. Reuse of products such as refillable glass bottles, reusable plastic food storage containers, or refurbished wood pallets is considered to be source reduction, not recycling.

Recovery of materials as estimated in this report includes products and yard trimmings removed from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling (including composting). For recovered products, recovery equals reported purchases of postconsumer recovered material (e.g., glass cullet, old newspapers) plus net exports (if any) of the material. Thus, recovery of old corrugated containers (OCC) is the sum of OCC purchases by paper mills plus net exports of OCC. If recovery as reported by a data source includes converting or fabrication (preconsumer) scrap, the preconsumer scrap is *not* counted towards the recovery estimates in this report. Imported secondary materials are also not counted in recovery estimates in this report. For some materials, additional uses, such as glass used for highway construction or newspapers used to make insulation, are added into the recovery totals.

Combustion of MSW with energy recovery, often called “waste-to-energy,” is estimated in Chapter 3 of this report. Combustion of separated materials—wood and rubber from tires—is included in the estimates of combustion with energy recovery in this report.

Discards include MSW remaining after recovery for recycling (including composting). These discards presumably would be combusted without energy recovery or landfilled, although some MSW is littered, stored or disposed onsite, or burned onsite, particularly in rural areas. No good estimates for these other disposal practices are available, but the total amounts of MSW involved are presumed to be small.

For the analysis of municipal solid waste, products are divided into three basic categories: durable goods, nondurable goods, and containers and packaging. The durable goods and nondurable goods categories generally follow the definitions of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Durable goods are those products that last 3 years or more. Products in this category include major and small appliances, furniture and furnishings, carpets and rugs, tires, lead-acid batteries, consumer electronics, and other miscellaneous durables.

Nondurable goods are those products that last less than 3 years. Products in this category include newspapers, books, magazines, office papers, directories, mail, other commercial printing, tissue paper and towels, paper and plastic plates and cups, trash bags, disposable diapers, clothing and footwear, towels, sheets and pillowcases, other nonpackaging paper, and other miscellaneous nondurables.

Containers and packaging are assumed to be discarded the same year the products they contain are purchased. Products in this category include bottles, containers, corrugated boxes, milk cartons, folding cartons, bags, sacks, and wraps, wood packaging, and other miscellaneous packaging.

Materials and Products Not Included in These Estimates

As noted earlier, other Subtitle D wastes (illustrated in Figure 1-A) are not included in these estimates, even though some may be managed along with MSW (e.g., by combustion or landfilling). Household hazardous wastes, while generated as MSW with other residential wastes, are not identified separately in this report. Transportation parts and equipment (including automobiles and trucks) are not included in the wastes characterized in this report.

Certain other materials associated with products in MSW are often not accounted for because the appropriate data series have not yet been developed. These include, for example, inks and other pigments and some additives associated with packaging materials. Considerable additional research

would be required to estimate these materials, which constitute a relatively small percentage of the waste stream.

Some adjustments are made in this report to account for packaging of imported goods, but there is little available documentation of these amounts.

OVERVIEW OF THIS REPORT

Following this introductory chapter, Chapter 2 presents the results of the municipal solid waste characterization (by weight). Estimates of MSW generation, recovery, and discards are presented in a series of tables, with discussion. Detailed tables and figures summarizing 2011 MSW generation, recovery, and discards of products in each material category are included.

In Chapter 3 of the report, estimates of MSW management by the various alternatives are summarized. These include recovery for recycling and composting, combustion, and landfilling. Summaries of the infrastructure currently available for each waste management alternative are also included in Chapter 3.

A brief discussion of the materials flow methodology for estimating generation, recycling, and disposal is presented in Appendix A.

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CHAPTER 2

CHARACTERIZATION OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE BY WEIGHT

INTRODUCTION

The tables and figures in this chapter present the results of the update of EPA's municipal solid waste characterization report through 2011. The data presented also incorporate some revisions to previously reported data for 2000 through 2010. The revisions are generally due to improvements in the data available from data sources used in developing this report.

This chapter discusses how much municipal solid waste (MSW) is generated, recovered, and disposed. First, an overview presents this information for the most recent years, and for selected years back to 1960. This information is summarized in Tables 1 to 3 and Figures 10 to 13. Then, throughout the remainder of the chapter, MSW is characterized in more detail. Findings are presented in two basic ways: the first portion of the chapter presents data by *material type*. Some material types of most use to planners (paper and paperboard, glass, metals, plastics, and rubber and leather) are presented in detail in Tables 4 to 8 and Figures 2 to 9, while data on other materials also are summarized in Figures 12 and 13.

The second portion of the chapter presents data by *product type*. This information is presented in Tables 9 to 23 and Figures 14 to 17. Products are classified into durable goods (e.g., appliances, furniture, tires); nondurable goods (e.g., newspapers, office-type papers, trash bags, clothing); and containers and packaging (e.g., bottles, cans, corrugated boxes). A fourth major category includes other wastes—yard trimmings, food waste, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes. These wastes are not manufactured products, but to provide complete information in each table, they are included in both the product and the material tables.

This chapter provides data on generation, recovery, and discards of MSW. (See Figure 1-B in Chapter 1 for definitions of these terms.) Recovery, in this report, means that the materials have been removed from the municipal solid waste stream. Recovery of materials in products means that the materials are reported to have been purchased by an end user or have been exported from the United States. For yard trimmings and food waste, recovery includes estimates of the material delivered to a composting facility (not backyard composting).

Under these definitions, residues from a materials recovery facility (MRF) or other waste processing facility are counted as generation (and, of course, discards), since they are not purchased by an end user. Residues from an end user facility (e.g., sludges from a paper deinking mill) are considered to be industrial process wastes that are no longer part of the municipal solid waste stream.

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE: CHARACTERIZED BY MATERIAL TYPE

Generation, recovery, and discards of materials in MSW, by weight and by percentage of generation and discards, are summarized in Tables 1 through 3. Figures 10 and 11 (later in this chapter) illustrate these data over time. A snapshot, by material, for 2011 is provided in Figures 12 and 13. In the following sections, each material is discussed in detail.

Table 1

MATERIALS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
Materials	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Paper and Paperboard	29,990	44,310	55,160	72,730	87,740	84,840	82,530	68,430	71,310	70,020
Glass	6,720	12,740	15,130	13,100	12,770	12,540	12,520	11,780	11,530	11,470
Metals										
Ferrous	10,300	12,360	12,620	12,640	14,150	15,210	15,940	15,860	16,820	16,520
Aluminum	340	800	1,730	2,810	3,190	3,330	3,360	3,440	3,500	3,470
Other Nonferrous	180	670	1,160	1,100	1,600	1,860	1,890	1,900	2,000	1,960
Total Metals	10,820	13,830	15,510	16,550	18,940	20,400	21,190	21,200	22,320	21,950
Plastics	390	2,900	6,830	17,130	25,550	29,380	30,910	30,050	31,290	31,840
Rubber and Leather	1,840	2,970	4,200	5,790	6,670	7,290	7,500	7,3		

Table 2

RECOVERY* OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation of each material)

	Thousands of Tons									
Materials	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Paper and Paperboard	5,080	6,770	11,740	20,230	37,560	41,960	44,480	42,500	44,570	45,900
Glass	100	160	750	2,630	2,880	2,590	2,880	3,000	3,130	3,170
Metals										
Ferrous	50	150	370	2,230	4,680	5,020	5,280	5,310	5,760	5,450
Aluminum	Neg.	10	310	1,010	860	690	730	690	680	720
Other Nonferrous	Neg.	320	540	730	1,060	1,280	1,300	1,300	1,390	1,340
<i>Total Metals</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>480</i>	<i>1,220</i>	<i>3,970</i>	<i>6,600</i>	<i>6,990</i>	<i>7,310</i>	<i>7,300</i>	<i>7,830</i>	<i>7,510</i>
Plastics	Neg.	Neg.	20	370	1,480	1,780	2,110	2,120	2,500	2,650
Rubber and Leather	330	250	130	370	820	1,050	1,140	1,310	1,300	1,310
Textiles	50	60	160	660	1,320	1,830	1,920	1,970	2,010	2,000
Wood	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	130	1,370	1,830	2,020	2,200	2,300	2,380
Other **	Neg.	300	500	680	980	1,210	1,240	1,240	1,320	1,280
Total Materials in Products	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	680	690	810	850	970	1,400
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	15,770	19,860	20,900	19,900	19,200	19,300
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total MSW Recovered - Weight	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
	Percent of Generation of Each Material									
Materials	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Paper and Paperboard	16.9%	15.3%	21.3%	27.8%	42.8%	49.5%	53.9%	62.1%	62.5%	65.6%
Glass	1.5%	1.3%	5.0%	20.1%	22.6%	20.7%	23.0%	25.5%	27.1%	27.6%
Metals										
Ferrous	0.5%	1.2%	2.9%	17.6%	33.1%	33.0%	33.1%	33.5%	34.2%	33.0%
Aluminum	Neg.	1.3%	17.9%	35.9%	27.0%	20.7%	21.7%	20.1%	19.4%	20.7%
Other Nonferrous	Neg.	47.8%	46.6%	66.4%	66.3%	68.8%	68.8%	68.4%	69.5%	68.4%
<i>Total Metals</i>	<i>0.5%</i>	<i>3.5%</i>	<i>7.9%</i>	<i>24.0%</i>	<i>34.8%</i>	<i>34.3%</i>	<i>34.5%</i>	<i>34.4%</i>	<i>35.1%</i>	<i>34.2%</i>
Plastics	Neg.	Neg.	0.3%	2.2%	5.8%	6.1%	6.8%	7.1%	8.0%	8.3%
Rubber and Leather	17.9%	8.4%	3.1%	6.4%	12.3%	14.4%	15.2%	17.8%	17.6%	17.5%
Textiles	2.8%	2.9%	6.3%	11.4%	13.9%	15.9%	15.8%	15.2%	15.3%	15.3%
Wood	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	1.1%	10.1%	12.4%	13.3%	14.1%	14.5%	14.8%
Other **	Neg.	39.0%	19.8%	21.3%	24.5%	28.2%	27.3%	26.7%	28.1%	27.9%
Total Materials in Products	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	19.8%	29.7%	32.0%	33.8%	35.8%	36.6%	37.5%
Other Wastes										
Food, Other^	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	12.0%	51.7%	61.9%	64.1%	59.9%	57.5%	57.3%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.8%	25.4%	29.9%	31.0%	28.7%	27.6%	28.0%
Total MSW Recovered - %	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes; does not include converting/fabrication scrap.

** Recovery of electrolytes in batteries; probably not recycled.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

^ Includes recovery of paper and mixed MSW for composting.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 3

MATERIALS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of total discards)

	Thousands of Tons									
Materials	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Paper and Paperboard	24,910	37,540	43,420	52,500	50,180	42,880	38,050	25,930	26,740	24,120
Glass	6,620	12,580	14,380	10,470	9,890	9,950	9,640	8,780	8,400	8,300
Metals										
Ferrous	10,250	12,210	12,250	10,410	9,470	10,190	10,660	10,550	11,060	11,070
Aluminum	340	790	1,420	1,800	2,330	2,640	2,630	2,750	2,820	2,750
Other Nonferrous	180	350	620	370	540	580	590	600	610	620
<i>Total Metals</i>	<i>10,770</i>	<i>13,350</i>	<i>14,290</i>	<i>12,580</i>	<i>12,340</i>	<i>13,410</i>	<i>13,880</i>	<i>13,900</i>	<i>14,490</i>	<i>14,440</i>
Plastics	390	2,900	6,810	16,760	24,070	27,600	28,800	27,930	28,790	29,190
Rubber and Leather	1,510	2,720	4,070	5,420	5,850	6,240	6,360	6,040	6,100	6,180
Textiles	1,710	1,980	2,370	5,150	8,160	9,680	10,250	10,970	11,090	11,090
Wood	3,030	3,720	7,010	12,080	12,200	12,960	13,170	13,390	13,580	13,700
Other **	70	470	2,020	2,510	3,020	3,080	3,310	3,400	3,370	3,310
Total Materials in Products	49,010	75,260	94,370	117,470	125,710	125,800	123,460	110,340	112,560	110,330
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,020	32,240	32,750	34,420	34,770	34,910
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	30,800	14,760	12,210	11,730	13,300	14,200	14,410
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	57,560	48,280	48,140	48,230	51,540	52,810	53,190
Total MSW Discarded - Weight	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
	Percent of Total Discards									
Materials	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Paper and Paperboard	30.2%	33.2%	31.7%	30.0%	28.8%	24.7%	22.2%	16.0%	16.2%	14.8%
Glass	8.0%	11.1%	10.5%	6.0%	5.7%	5.7%	5.6%	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%
Metals										
Ferrous	12.4%	10.8%	8.9%	5.9%	5.4%	5.9%	6.2%	6.5%	6.7%	6.8%
Aluminum	0.4%	0.7%	1.0%	1.0%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.7%	1.7%	1.7%
Other Nonferrous	0.2%	0.3%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
<i>Total Metals</i>	<i>13.1%</i>	<i>11.8%</i>	<i>10.4%</i>	<i>7.2%</i>	<i>7.1%</i>	<i>7.7%</i>	<i>8.1%</i>	<i>8.6%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>	<i>8.8%</i>
Plastics	0.5%	2.6%	5.0%	9.6%	13.8%	15.9%	16.8%	17.3%	17.4%	17.9%
Rubber and Leather	1.8%	2.4%	3.0%	3.1%	3.4%	3.6%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.8%
Textiles	2.1%	1.8%	1.7%	2.9%	4.7%	5.6%	6.0%	6.8%	6.7%	6.8%
Wood	3.7%	3.3%	5.1%	6.9%	7.0%	7.5%	7.7%	8.3%	8.2%	8.4%
Other **	0.1%	0.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.7%	1.8%	1.9%	2.1%	2.0%	2.0%
Total Materials in Products	59.4%	66.6%	68.8%	67.1%	72.3%	72.3%	71.9%	68.2%	68.1%	67.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	14.8%	11.3%	9.5%	13.6%	17.3%	18.5%	19.1%	21.3%	21.0%	21.3%
Yard Trimmings	24.2%	20.5%	20.1%	17.6%	8.5%	7.0%	6.8%	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Total Other Wastes	40.6%	33.4%	31.2%	32.9%	27.7%	27.7%	28.1%	31.8%	31.9%	32.5%
Total MSW Discarded - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes.

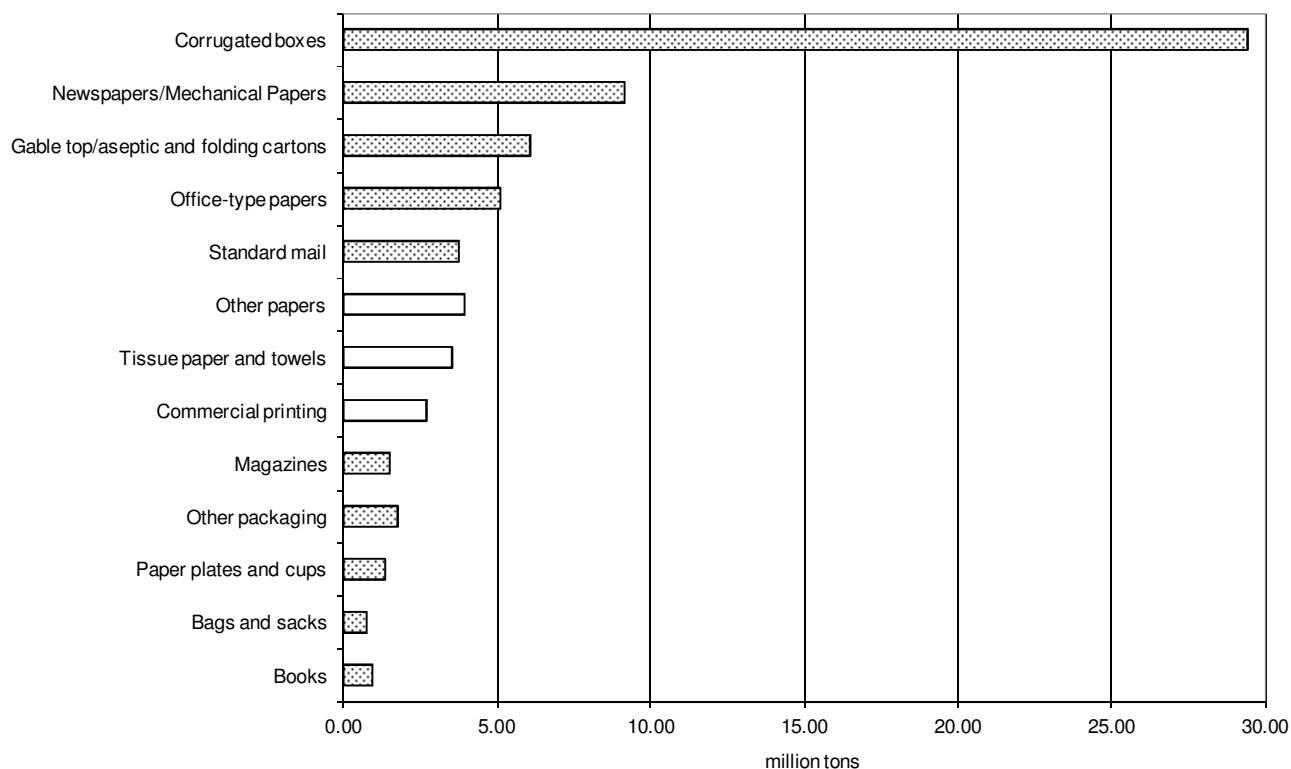
** Includes electrolytes in batteries and fluff pulp, feces, and urine in disposable diapers.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Paper and Paperboard

Collectively, the many products made of paper and paperboard¹ materials comprise the largest component of MSW. The paper and paperboard materials category includes products such as office papers, newspapers, corrugated boxes, milk cartons, tissue paper, and paper plates and cups (Figure 2 and Table 4).

Figure 2. Paper and paperboard products generated in MSW, 2011



Total generation of paper and paperboard in MSW has grown from 30 million tons in 1960 to 70.0 million tons in 2011 (Table 1). Generation peaked in 2000 at approximately 88 million tons. As a percentage of total MSW generation, paper represented 34 percent in 1960 (Table 1). The percentage has varied over time, but is estimated to be 28.0 percent of total MSW generation in 2011.

¹ The term “cardboard” is often used for products made of paperboard (boxboard and containerboard), but this inexact term is not used in the paper industry.

Table 4
PAPER AND PAPERBOARD PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation)

Product Category	Generation	Recovery		Discards
	(Thousand tons)	(Thousand tons)	(Percent of generation)	(Thousand tons)
Nondurable Goods				
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	9,150	6,630	72.5%	2,520
Books	930			
Magazines	1,510			
Office-type Papers*	5,100			
Standard Mail**	3,750			
Other Commercial Printing	2,710			
Tissue Paper and Towels	3,510			
Paper Plates and Cups	1,340			
Other Nonpackaging Paper***	3,940			
Subtotal Nondurable Goods				
excluding Newspaper/Mechanical Papers§	22,790	10,610	46.6%	12,180
Total Paper and Paperboard Nondurable Goods	31,940	17,240	54.0%	14,700
Containers and Packaging				
Corrugated Boxes	29,440	26,800	91.0%	2,640
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons‡	540			
Folding Cartons	5,540			
Other Paperboard Packaging	80			
Bags and Sacks	750			
Other Paper Packaging	1,670			
Subtotal Containers and Packaging				
excluding Corrugated Boxes§	8,580	1,860	21.7%	6,720
Total Paper and Paperboard Containers and Packaging	38,020	28,660	75.4%	9,360
Total Paper and Paperboard^	69,960	45,900	65.6%	24,060

† Starting in 2010, newsprint and groundwood inserts expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.

* High-grade papers such as copy paper and printer paper; both residential and commercial.

** Formerly called Third Class Mail by the U.S. Postal Service.

*** Includes paper in games and novelties, cards, etc.

§ Valid default values for separating out paper and paperboard sub-categories for recovery and discards were not available.

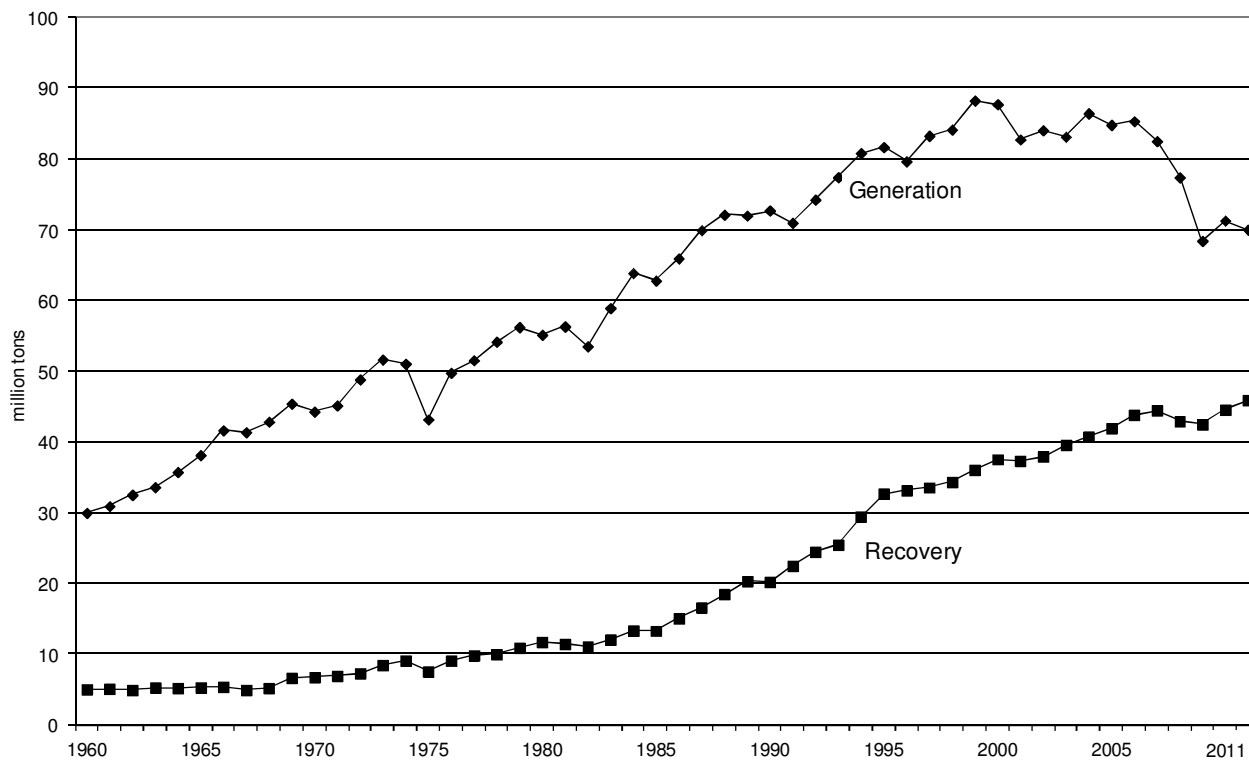
‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

^ Table 4 does not include 10,000 tons of paper used in durable goods and 50,000 tons tissue in disposable diapers (Table 1).

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

As Figure 3 illustrates, paper generation has generally increased since 1960, peaked at about 88 million tons in 2000, and declined after 2000 to 70.0 million tons in 2011.

Figure 3. Paper and paperboard generation and recovery, 1960 to 2011



The sensitivity of paper products to economic conditions can be observed in Figure 3. The tonnage of paper generated in 1975—a severe recession year—was actually less than the tonnage in 1970. Similar but less pronounced declines in paper generation can be seen in other recession years. This sensitivity is most obvious after 2005.

The wide variety of products that comprise the paper and paperboard materials total is illustrated in Table 4 and Figure 2. In this report, these products are classified as nondurable goods or as containers and packaging, with nondurable goods being the larger category.

Generation. Estimates of paper and paperboard generation are based on statistics published by the American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA). These statistics include data on new supply (production plus net imports) of the various paper and paperboard grades that go into the products found in MSW. The AF&PA new supply statistics are adjusted to deduct converting scrap, which is generated when sheets or rolls of paper or paperboard are cut to make products such as envelopes or boxes. Converting scrap rates vary from product to product; the rates used in this report were

developed as part of a 1992 report for the Recycling Advisory Council, with a few more revisions as new data became available. Various deductions also are made to account for products diverted out of municipal solid waste, such as gypsum wallboard facings (classified as construction and demolition debris) or toilet tissue (which goes to wastewater treatment plants).

Recovery. Estimates of recovery of paper and paperboard products for recycling are based on annual reports of recovery published by AF&PA. The AF&PA reports include recovery of paper and paperboard purchased by U.S. paper mills, plus exports of recovered paper, plus a relatively small amount estimated to have been used in other products such as insulation and animal bedding. Recovery as reported by AF&PA includes both preconsumer and postconsumer paper.

To estimate recovery of *postconsumer* paper products for this EPA report, estimates of recovery of converting scrap (preconsumer industrial process waste) are deducted from the total recovery amounts reported by AF&PA. In earlier versions of this EPA report, a simplifying assumption that all converting scrap is recovered was made. For more recent updates, various converting scrap recovery rates ranging from 70 percent to 98 percent were applied to the estimates for 1990 through 2011. The converting scrap recovery rates were developed for a 1992 report for the Recycling Advisory Council. Because recovered converting scrap is deducted, the paper recovery rates presented in this report are always lower than the total recovery rates published by AF&PA.

When recovered paper is repulped, and often deinked, at a recycling paper mill, considerable amounts of sludge are generated in amounts varying from 5 percent to 35 percent of the paper feedstock. Since these sludges are generated at an industrial site, they are considered to be industrial process waste, not municipal solid waste; therefore they have been removed from the municipal waste stream.

Recovery of paper and paperboard for recycling is among the highest rates overall compared to other materials in MSW (Table 2). As Table 4 shows, 91 percent of all corrugated boxes were recovered for recycling in 2011; this is up from 67.3 percent in 2000 (Table 21). Newspapers/mechanical papers were recovered at a rate of 72.5 percent. Recovery of other paper and paperboard products is estimated as mixed paper; 46.6 percent of mixed nondurable paper products and 21.7 percent of mixed paper containers and packaging were recovered. Approximately 46 million tons of postconsumer paper were recovered in 2011—65.6 percent of total paper and paperboard generation. This is up from 42.8 percent in 2000 (Table 2). Starting in 2010, newspapers (including newsprint and

groundwood inserts) were expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.

Discards After Recovery. After recovery of paper and paperboard for recycling, discards were 24.1 million tons in 2011, or 14.8 percent of total MSW discards (Table 3).

Glass

Glass is found in MSW primarily in the form of containers (Table 5 and Figures 4 and 5), but also in durable goods like furniture, appliances, and consumer electronics. In the container category, glass is found in beer and soft drink bottles, wine and liquor bottles, and bottles and jars for food, cosmetics, and other products. More detail on these products is included in the later section on products in MSW.

Table 5
GLASS PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation)

Product Category	Generation	Recovery		Discards
	(Thousand tons)	(Thousand tons)	(Percent of generation)	(Thousand tons)
Durable Goods*	2,190	Neg.	Neg.	2,190
Containers and Packaging				
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	5,520	2,270	41.1%	3,250
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1,770	600	33.9%	1,170
Other Bottles and Jars	1,990	300	15.1%	1,690
Total Glass Containers	9,280	3,170	34.2%	6,110
Total Glass	11,470	3,170	27.6%	8,300

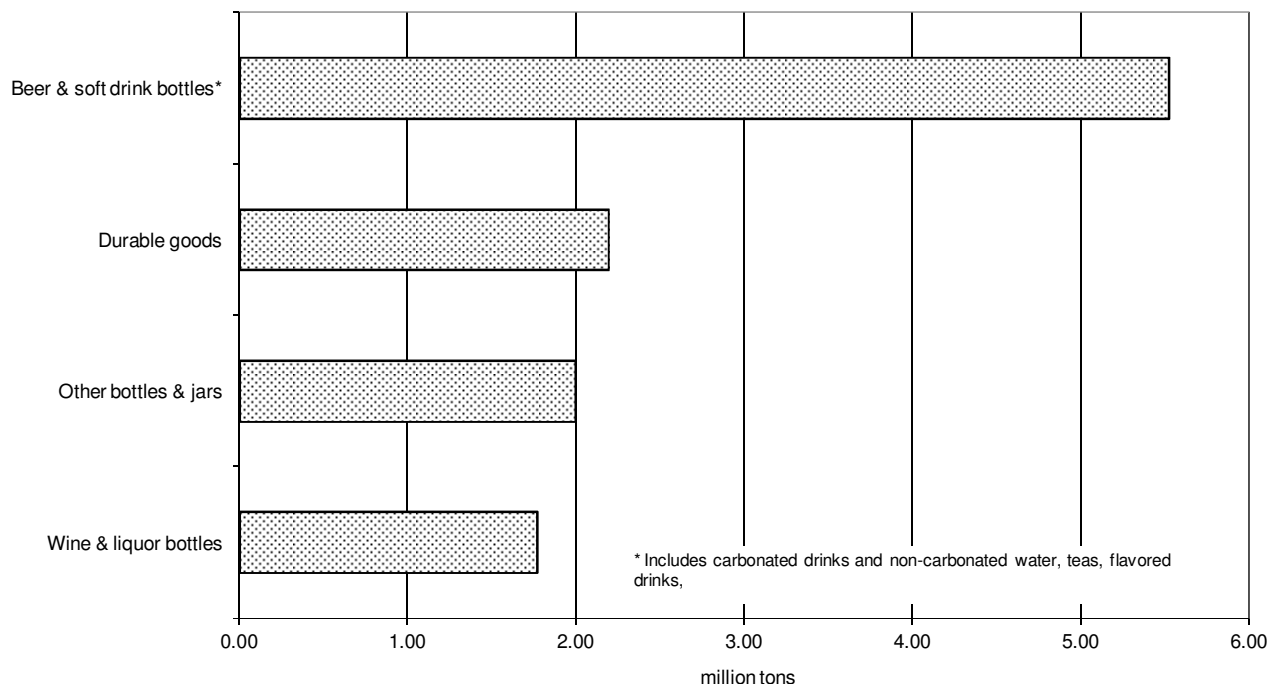
* Glass as a component of appliances, furniture, consumer electronics, etc.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Figure 4. Glass products generated in MSW, 2011

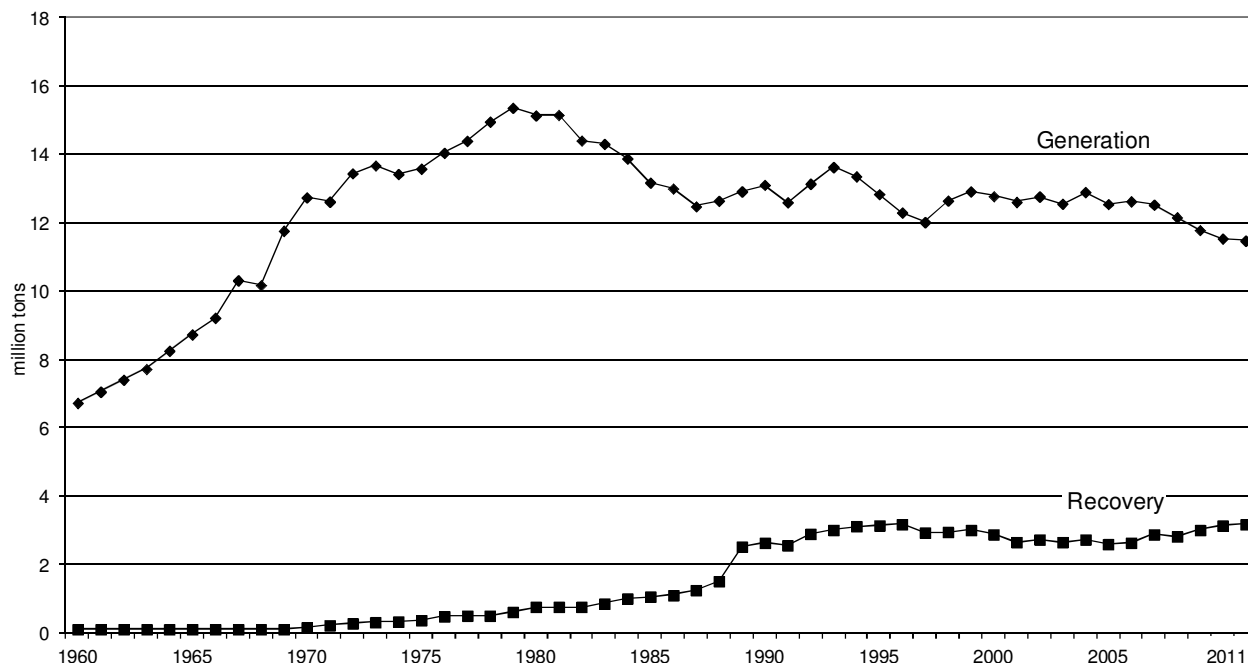


Generation. Estimated glass container generation is based on Glass Packaging Institute statistics on glass container shipments. Glass accounted for 6.7 million tons of MSW in 1960, or 7.6 percent of total generation. Generation of glass continued to grow over the next two decades, but then glass containers were widely displaced by other materials, principally aluminum and plastics. Thus the tonnage of glass in MSW declined in the 1980s, from approximately 15.1 million tons in 1980 to 13.1 million tons in 1990. Beginning about 1987, however, the decline in generation of glass containers slowed (Figure 5). During the 1990s glass generation varied from 12.0 to 13.6 million tons per year. After 2000, glass generation trended downward from 12.8 to 11.5 million tons in 2011. Glass was 10 percent of MSW generation in 1980, declining to 4.6 percent in 2011.

Recovery. Recovered glass containers (bottles) are used to make new glass containers and other uses such as fiberglass insulation, aggregate, and glassphalt for road construction. Recovery of glass containers is based on a combination of data from the Glass Packaging Institute and state environmental agencies. Recovery of glass containers was estimated at 3.2 million tons in 2011, up from an estimated 2.9 million tons in 2007.

Discards After Recovery. Recovery for recycling lowered discards of glass to 8.3 million tons in 2011 or 5.1 percent of total MSW discards (Table 3).

Figure 5. Glass generation and recovery, 1960 to 2011

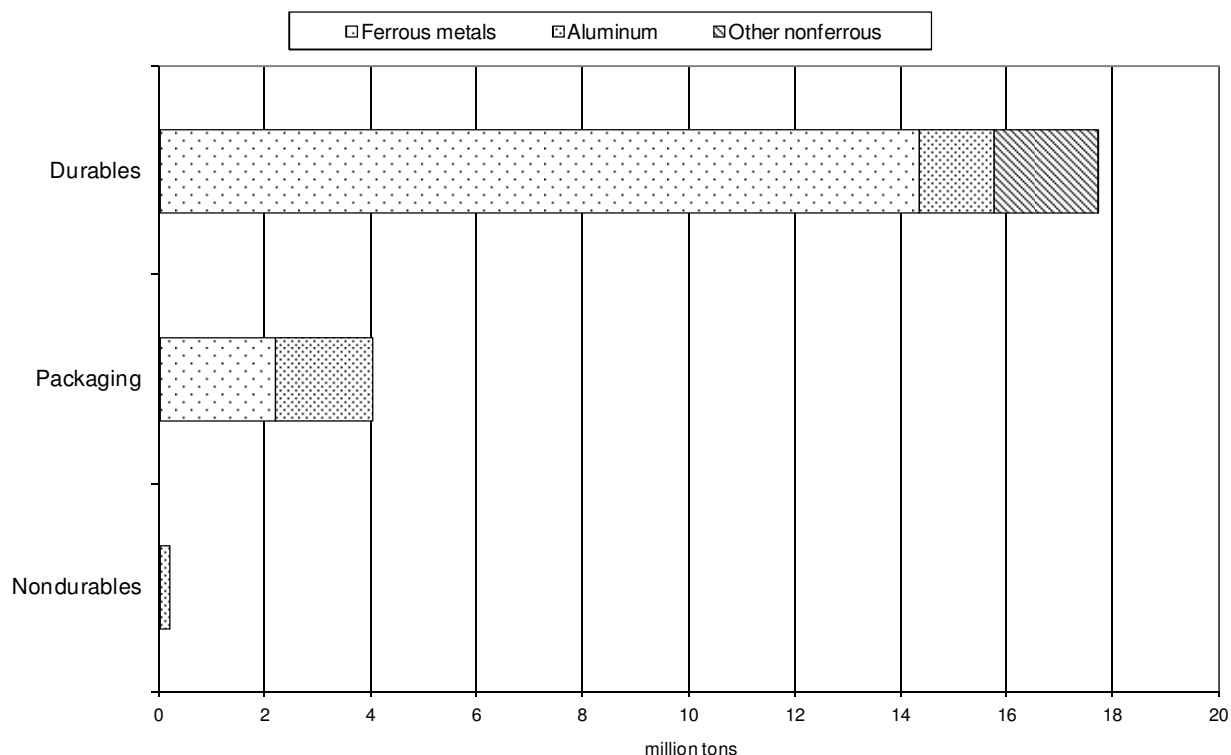


Ferrous Metals

By weight, ferrous metals (iron and steel) are the largest category of metals in MSW (Table 6 and Figure 6). The largest quantities of ferrous metals in MSW are found in durable goods such as appliances, furniture, and tires. Containers and packaging are the other source of ferrous metals in MSW. Large quantities of ferrous metals are found in construction materials and in transportation parts and products such as automobiles, locomotives, and ships, but these are not counted as MSW in this report.

Total generation and recovery of metals in MSW from 1960 to 2011 are shown in Figure 7.

Figure 6. Metal products generated in MSW, 2011



Generation. Based on industry data, including statistics from the Steel Recycling Institute, approximately 10.3 million tons of ferrous metals were generated in 1960. Like glass, the tonnages grew during the 1960s, but began to slow as lighter materials like aluminum and plastics replaced steel in many applications. Since 1970, generation of ferrous metals has varied between about 12.4 million tons in 1970 to 16.5 million tons in 2011 (Table 1). The percentage of ferrous metals generation in total MSW has declined from 11.7 percent in 1960 to 6.6 percent in 2011.

Table 6
METAL PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation)

Product Category	Generation	Recovery		Discards
	(Thousand tons)	(Thousand tons)	(Percent of generation)	(Thousand tons)
Durable Goods				
Ferrous Metals*	14,340	3,880	27.1%	10,460
Aluminum**	1,430	NA		1,430
Lead†	1,390	1,340	96%	50
Other Nonferrous Metals‡	570	Neg.	Neg.	570
Total Metals in Durable Goods	17,730	5,220	29.4%	12,510
Nondurable Goods				
Aluminum	190	Neg.	Neg.	190
Containers and Packaging				
Steel				
Cans	1,800	1,270	70.6%	530
Other Steel Packaging	380	300	78.9%	80
Total Steel Packaging	2,180	1,570	72.0%	610
Aluminum				
Beer and Soft Drink Cans§	1,320	720	54.5%	600
Other Cans	70	NA		70
Foil and Closures	460	NA		460
Total Aluminum Packaging	1,850	720	38.9%	1,130
Total Metals in Containers and Packaging	4,030	2,290	56.8%	1,740
Total Metals	21,950	7,510	34.2%	14,440
Ferrous	16,520	5,450	33.0%	11,070
Aluminum	3,470	720	20.7%	2,750
Other nonferrous	1,960	1,340	68.4%	620

* Ferrous metals (iron and steel) in appliances, furniture, tires, and miscellaneous durables.

** Aluminum in appliances, furniture, and miscellaneous durables.

† Lead in lead-acid batteries.

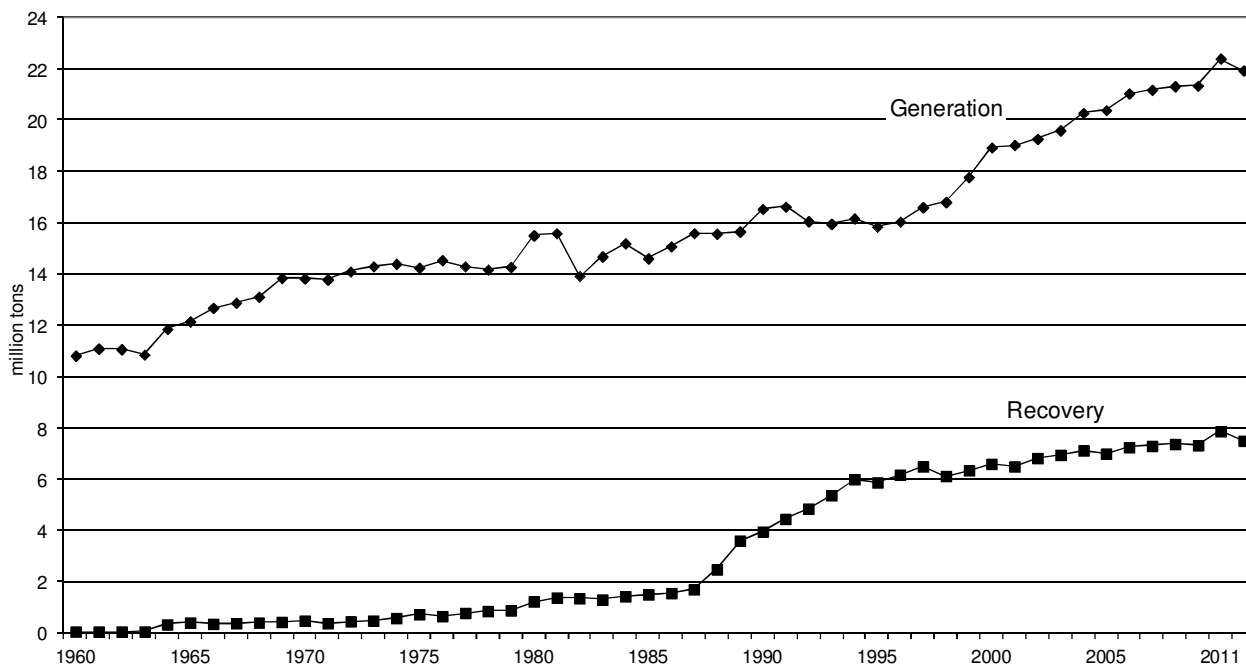
‡ Other nonferrous metals in appliances and miscellaneous durables.

§ Aluminum can recovery does not include used beverage cans imported to produce new beverage cans.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent. NA = Not Available

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Figure 7. Metals generation and recovery, 1960 to 2011



Recovery. The renewed emphasis on recovery and recycling in recent years has included ferrous metals. Based on data from the Steel Recycling Institute, recovery of ferrous metals from appliances (“white goods”) was estimated at a rate of 90 percent in 2011. Recovery of all materials in appliances (including ferrous metals) was estimated at 64.2 percent (Table 13). Overall recovery of ferrous metals from durable goods (large and small appliances, furniture, and tires) was estimated to be 27.1 percent (3.9 million tons) in 2011 (Table 6).

Steel cans were estimated to be recovered at a rate of 70.6 percent (1.3 million tons) in 2011. Approximately 300,000 tons of other steel packaging, including strapping, crowns, and drums, were estimated to have been recovered for recycling in 2011. Recovery of ferrous metals includes material collected through recycling programs as well as metal recovered at combustion facilities.

Discards After Recovery. In 2011, discards of ferrous metals after recovery were 11.1 million tons, or 6.8 percent of total discards (Table 3).

Aluminum

The largest source of aluminum in MSW is aluminum cans and other packaging (Table 6 and Figure 6). Other sources of aluminum are found in durable and nondurable goods.

Generation. Estimated aluminum generation is based on Aluminum Association industry statistics. In 2011, 1.9 million tons of aluminum were generated as containers and packaging, while approximately 1.6 million tons were found in durable and nondurable goods. The total—3.5 million tons—was 1.4 percent of total MSW generation in 2011 (Table 1). Aluminum generation was only 340,000 tons (0.4 percent of MSW generation) in 1960.

Recovery. Similar to generation, recovery of aluminum beverage containers is based on industry data from the Aluminum Association. Aluminum beverage containers were recovered at a rate of 54.5 percent of generation (0.7 million tons) in 2011, and 38.9 percent of all aluminum in containers and packaging (beverage containers, food containers, foil, and other aluminum packaging) was recovered for recycling in 2011.

Discards After Recovery. In 2011, about 2.8 million tons of aluminum were discarded in MSW after recovery, which was 1.7 percent of total MSW discards (Table 3).

Other Nonferrous Metals

Other nonferrous metals (e.g., lead, copper, zinc) are found in durable products such as appliances, consumer electronics, etc. Lead in lead-acid batteries is the most prevalent nonferrous metal (other than aluminum) in MSW. Note that only lead-acid batteries from passenger cars, trucks, and motorcycles are included. Lead-acid batteries used in large equipment or industrial applications are not included.

Generation. Generation of other nonferrous metals in MSW totaled 2.0 million tons in 2011. Lead in batteries accounted for 1.4 million tons of this amount. Generation of these metals has increased slowly, up from 180,000 tons in 1960, 1.1 million tons in 1990, and 1.6 million tons in 2000. As a percentage of total generation, nonferrous metals have never exceeded one percent.

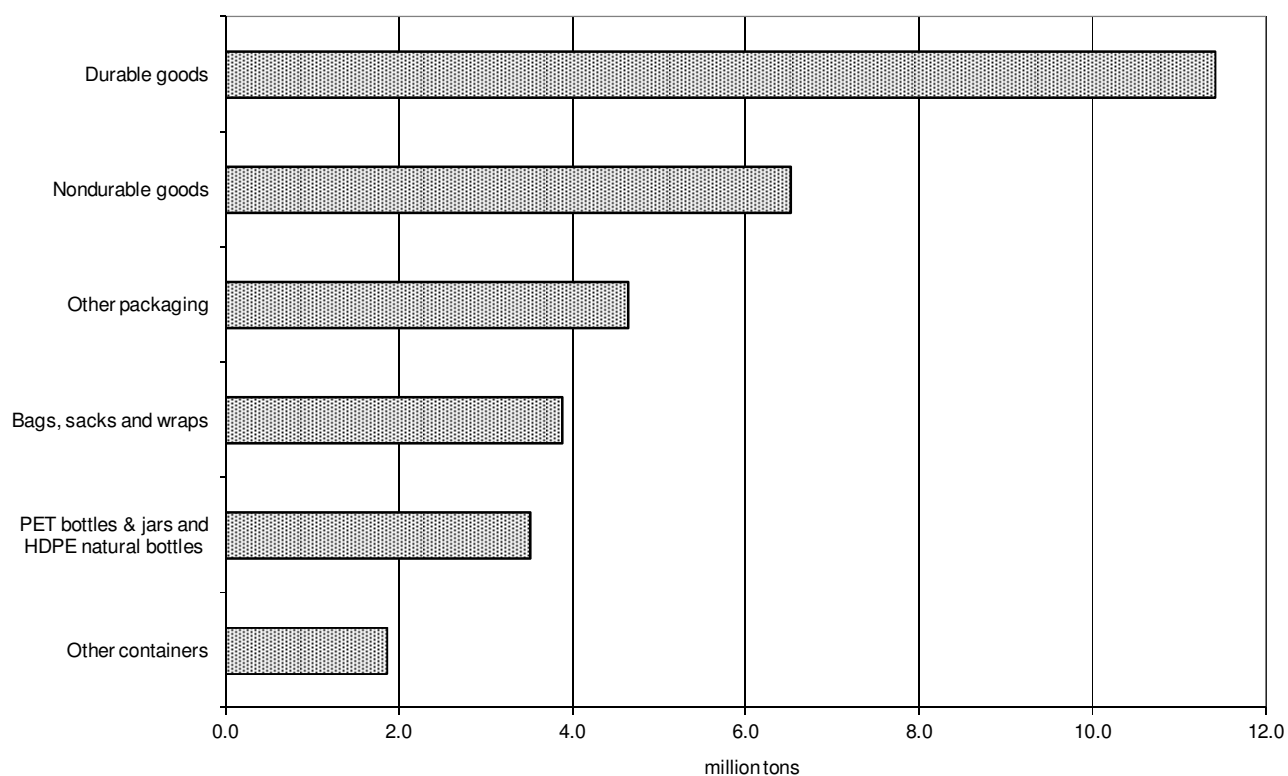
Recovery. Recovery of the other nonferrous metals was 1.3 million tons in 2011, with most of this being lead recovered from batteries. It was estimated about 96 percent of battery lead was recovered in 2011.

Discards After Recovery. In 2011, 620,000 tons of nonferrous metals were discarded in MSW. Percentages of total discards remained less than one percent over the entire period.

Plastics

Plastics are a rapidly growing segment of MSW. While plastics are found in all major MSW categories, the containers and packaging category (bags, sacks, and wraps, other packaging, PET bottles, jars and HDPE natural bottles, and other containers) has the most plastic tonnage at 13.9 million tons in 2011 (Figure 8 and Table 7).

Figure 8. Plastics products generated in MSW, 2011



In durable goods, plastics are found in appliances, furniture, casings of lead-acid batteries, and other products. (Note that plastics in transportation products other than lead-acid batteries are not included in this report.) As shown in Table 7, a wide range of resin types is found in durable goods. While some detail is provided in Table 7 for resins in durable goods, there are hundreds of different resin formulations used in appliances, carpets, and other durable goods; a complete listing is beyond the scope of this report.

Table 7
PLASTICS IN PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons, and percent of generation by resin)

Product Category	Generation (Thousand tons)	Recovery		Discards (Thousand tons)
		(Thousand tons)	(Percent of Gen.)	
Durable Goods				
PET	270			
HDPE	1,270			
PVC	240			
LDPE/LLDPE	2,000			
PP	3,820			
PS	630			
Other resins	3,190			
Total Plastics in Durable Goods	11,420	740	6.5 %	10,680
Nondurable Goods[‡]				
Plastic Plates and Cups [§]				
LDPE/LLDPE	20			20
PLA	10			10
PP	160			160
PS	840			840
Subtotal Plastic Plates and Cups	1,030	Neg.	Neg.	1,030
Trash Bags				
HDPE	220			220
LDPE/LLDPE	790			790
Subtotal Trash Bags	1,010			1,010
All other nondurables [*]				
PET	480			
HDPE	500			
PVC	260			
LDPE/LLDPE	1,190			
PLA	30			
PP	1,240			
PS	200			
Other resins	580			
Subtotal All Other Nondurables	4,480	110	2.5 %	4,370
Total Plastics in Nondurable Goods, by resin				
PET	480			
HDPE	720			
PVC	260			
LDPE/LLDPE	2,000			
PLA	40			
PP	1,400			
PS	1,040			
Other resins	580			
Total Plastics in Nondurable Goods	6,520	110	1.7 %	6,410
Plastic Containers & Packaging				
Bottles and Jars ^{**}				
PET	2,740	800	29.2%	1,940
Natural Bottles [†]				
HDPE	770	220	28.6%	550

[‡] Nondurable goods other than containers and packaging.

[§] Due to source data aggregation, PET cups are included in "Other Plastic Packaging".

^{*} All other nondurables include plastics in disposable diapers, clothing, footwear, etc.

^{**} Injection stretch blow molded PET containers as defined in the 2010 Report on Postconsumer PET Container Recycling Activity Final Report. National Association for PET Container Resources.

Recovery includes caps, lids, and other material collected with PET bottles and jars.

[†] White translucent homopolymer bottles as defined in the 2007 United States National Postconsumer Plastics Bottles Recycling Report. American Chemistry Council and the Association of Postconsumer Plastic Recyclers.

Neg. = negligible, less than 5,000 tons

Table 7 (continued)
PLASTICS IN PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons, and percent of generation by resin)

Product Category	Generation (Thousand tons)	Recovery		Discards (Thousand tons)
		(Thousand tons)	(Percent of Gen.)	
Plastic Containers & Packaging, cont.				
Other plastic containers				
HDPE	1,480	270	18.2%	1,210
PVC	30	Neg.		30
LDPE/LLDPE	30	Neg.		30
PP	240	20	8.3%	220
PS	90	Neg.		90
Subtotal Other Containers	1,870	290	15.5%	1,580
Bags, sacks, & wraps				
HDPE	700	60	8.6%	640
PVC	50			50
LDPE/LLDPE	2,350	370	15.7%	1,980
PP	660			660
PS	120			120
Subtotal Bags, Sacks, & Wraps	3,880	430	11.1%	3,450
Other Plastics Packaging‡				
PET	790	30	3.8%	760
HDPE	650	Neg.		650
PVC	320	Neg.		320
LDPE/LLDPE	1,140	Neg.		1,140
PLA	10	Neg.		10
PP	1,060	10	0.9%	1,050
PS	290	20	6.9%	270
Other resins	380	Neg.		380
Subtotal Other Packaging	4,640	60	1.3%	4,580
Total Plastics in Containers & Packaging, by resin				
PET	3,530	830	23.5%	2,700
HDPE	3,600	550	15.3%	3,050
PVC	400	Neg.		400
LDPE/LLDPE	3,520	370	10.5%	3,150
PLA	10	Neg.		10
PP	1,960	30	1.5%	1,930
PS	500	20	4.0%	480
Other resins	380	Neg.		380
Total Plastics in Cont. & Packaging	13,900	1,800	12.9%	12,100
Total Plastics in MSW, by resin				
PET	4,280	830	19.4%	3,450
HDPE	5,590	550	9.8%	5,040
PVC	900			900
LDPE/LLDPE	7,520	370	4.9%	7,150
PLA	50			50
PP	7,180	30	0.4%	7,150
PS	2,170	20	0.9%	2,150
Other resins	4,150	850	20.5%	3,300
Total Plastics in MSW	31,840	2,650	8.3%	29,190

HDPE = High density polyethylene

LDPE = Low density polyethylene

LLDPE = Linear low density polyethylene

PET = Polyethylene terephthalate

PLA = Polylactide

PP = Polypropylene

PS = Polystyrene

PVC = Polyvinyl chloride

‡ Other plastic packaging includes coatings, closures, lids, PET cups, caps, clamshells, egg cartons, produce baskets, trays, shapes, loose fill, etc.
PP caps and lids recovered with PET bottles and jars are included in the recovery estimate for PET bottles and jars.

Other resins include commingled/undefined plastic packaging recovery.

Some detail of recovery by resin omitted due to lack of data.

Plastics are found in such nondurable products as disposable diapers, trash bags, cups, eating utensils, medical devices, and household items such as shower curtains. The plastic food service items are generally made of clear or foamed polystyrene, while trash bags are made of high-density polyethylene (HDPE) or low-density polyethylene (LDPE). A wide variety of other resins are used in other nondurable goods.

Plastic resins are also used in a variety of container and packaging products such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET) beverage bottles, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) bottles for milk and water, and a wide variety of other resin types used in other plastic containers, bags, sacks, wraps, and lids.

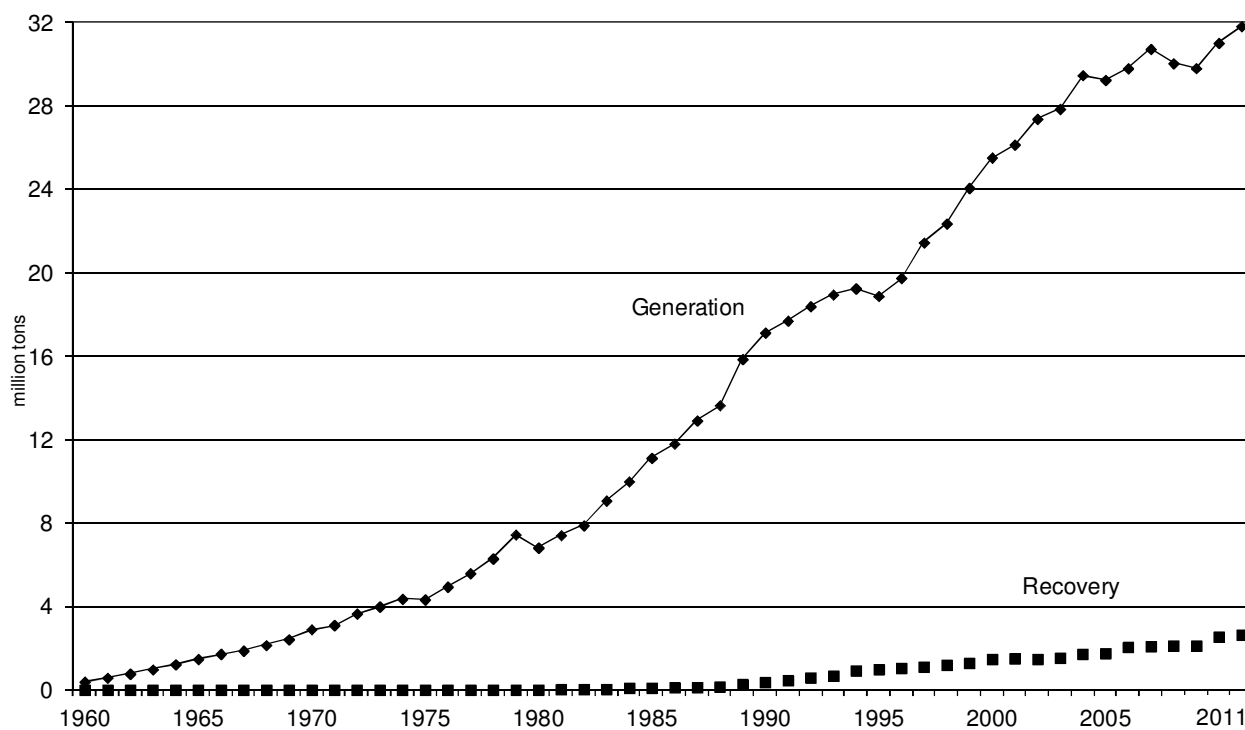
Generation. Production data on plastics resin use in products are taken from the American Chemistry Council's annual resin reports. The basic data are adjusted for product service life, fabrication losses, and net imports of plastic products to derive generation of plastics in the various products in MSW.

Plastics made up an estimated 390,000 tons of MSW generation in 1960. The quantity has increased relatively steadily to 31.8 million tons in 2011 (Figure 9). As a percentage of MSW generation, plastics were less than one percent in 1960, increasing to 12.7 percent in 2011.

Recovery for Recycling. While overall recovery of plastics for recycling is relatively small – 2.7 million tons, or 8.3 percent of plastics generation in 2011 (Table 7) – recovery of some plastic containers is more significant. PET bottles and jars were recovered at a rate of 29.2 percent in 2011. Recovery of high-density polyethylene natural bottles was estimated at 28.6 percent in 2011. Significant recovery of plastics from polypropylene lead-acid battery casings and from some other containers was also reported. The primary sources of data on plastics recovery are annual product recovery surveys conducted for the American Chemistry Council and the National Association for PET Container Resources (NAPCOR).

Discards After Recovery. Discards of plastics in MSW after recovery were 29.2 million tons, or 17.9 percent of total MSW discards in 2011 (Table 3).

Figure 9. Plastics generation and recovery, 1960 to 2011



Other Materials

Rubber and Leather. The predominant source of rubber in MSW is rubber tires from automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles (Table 8). Other sources of rubber and leather include clothing and footwear and other miscellaneous durable and nondurable products. These other sources are quite diverse, including such items as gaskets on appliances, furniture, and hot water bottles, for example. Note that only tires from passenger cars, trucks, and motorcycles are included. Tires used in large equipment, aviation, or industrial applications are not included.

Generation. Generation of rubber and leather in MSW has shown slow growth over the years, increasing from 1.8 million tons in 1960 to 7.5 million tons in 2011. One reason for the relatively slow rate of growth is that tires have been made smaller and longer-wearing than in earlier years.

As a percentage of total MSW generation, rubber and leather has been about 3 percent for many years.

Recovery for Recycling. The only recovery for recycling identified in this category is rubber from tires, and that was estimated to be 1.3 million tons in 2011. This is 44.6 percent of rubber in tires in 2011 (Table 8). (This recovery estimate does not include tires retreaded or energy recovery from tires.) Overall, 17.5 percent of rubber and leather in MSW was recovered in 2011.

Table 8
RUBBER AND LEATHER PRODUCTS IN MSW, 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation)

Product Category	Generation (Thousand tons)	Recovery (Thousand tons)	(Percent of generation)	Discards (Thousand tons)
Durable Goods				
Rubber in Tires*	2,940	1,310	44.6%	1,630
Other Durables**	3,500	Neg.	Neg.	3,500
Total Rubber & Leather Durable Goods	6,440	1,310	20.3%	5,130
Nondurable Goods				
Clothing and Footwear	800	Neg.	Neg.	800
Other Nondurables	250	Neg.	Neg.	250
Total Rubber & Leather Nondurable Goods	1,050	Neg.	Neg.	1,050
Total Rubber & Leather	7,490	1,310	17.5%	6,180

* Automobile and truck tires. Does not include other materials in tires.

** Includes carpets and rugs and other miscellaneous durables.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Discards After Recovery. Discards of rubber and leather after recovery were 6.2 million tons in 2011 (3.8 percent of total discards).

Textiles. Textiles in MSW are found mainly in discarded clothing, although other sources were identified to be furniture, carpets, tires, footwear, and other nondurable goods such as sheets and towels.

Generation. An estimated 13.1 million tons of textiles were generated in 2011 or 5.2 percent of total MSW generation (Table 1). Significant amounts of textiles enter the reuse market. However, the reused garments and wiper rags re-enter the waste stream eventually becoming part of MSW generation. Since reuse occurs prior to generation, the amount of reused textiles is not included in the generation estimates (or estimated separately).

Recovery for Recycling and Discards. It was estimated that 13.9 percent of textiles in clothing and footwear and 17.6 percent of items such as sheets and pillowcases was recovered for export or reprocessing in 2011 (1.5 million tons) (Table 16). The recovery rate for all textiles is 15.3 percent in 2011 (2.0 million tons) (Table 2).

Wood. The sources of wood in MSW include furniture, other durable goods (e.g., cabinets for electronic equipment), wood packaging (crates, pallets), and some other miscellaneous products. Generation and recovery methodologies for wood pallets are based on data from the Center for Forest Products Marketing and Management (Virginia Polytechnic Institute).

Generation. Generation of wood in MSW was 16.1 million tons in 2011 (6.4 percent of total MSW generation).

Recovery for Recycling and Discards. Wood pallet recovery for recycling (usually by chipping for uses such as mulch or bedding material, but excluding wood combusted as fuel) was estimated at 2.4 million tons in 2011.

Accounting for recovery for recycling, wood discards were 13.7 million tons in 2011, or 8.4 percent of total MSW discards (Table 3).

Other Materials. Generation of “other materials” waste is mainly associated with disposable diapers, which are discussed under Products in Municipal Solid Waste. The only other significant sources of materials in this category are the electrolytes and other materials associated with lead-acid batteries that are not classified as plastics or nonferrous metal.

Food Waste

Food waste included here consist of uneaten food and food preparation wastes from residences, commercial establishments such as grocery stores and sit-down and fast food restaurants, institutional sources such as school cafeterias, and industrial sources such as factory lunchrooms. Preconsumer food waste generated during the manufacturing and packaging of food products is considered industrial waste and therefore not included in MSW food waste estimates.

Generation. No production data are available for food waste. Food waste from residential and commercial sources were estimated using data from sampling studies in various parts of the country in combination with demographic data on population, grocery store sales, restaurant sales,

numbers of employees, and numbers of prisoners, students, and patients in institutions. Seventeen residential food waste measurement studies provided the basis for the average per capita generation factor (0.357 pounds per person per day) applied to population. Numerous food waste retail and institutional measurement studies provided the factors applied to appropriate economic data for the commercial portion of the food waste generation estimate. Generation of residential and commercial food waste was estimated to be 36.3 million tons in 2011 (14.5 percent of total generation) (Table 1). Food waste generation has increased, from earlier versions of this report, due to increased population and revised residential sampling study data.

Significant amounts of food products are donated by residents and commercial establishments (such as grocery stores and restaurants) to local food banks and charities. A good portion of these food donations (in particular, the commercial establishment donations of wholesome but not-for-retail food products) represents waste diversion by removing food waste that would otherwise need to be managed either through composting or disposal. Data on these types of programs are limited. For example, Portland, Oregon reported 14,000 tons of food products diverted from the commercial sector through donations. This diversion takes place prior to generation and therefore is not included in the generation estimates presented in this report.

Recovery for Composting and Discards. Beginning in 1994 for this series of reports, a significant amount of food waste composting from commercial sources was identified. As the data source (a survey published by *BioCycle* magazine) improved, it became apparent that some other composted materials (e.g., industrial food processing wastes) had been included with food waste classified as MSW in the past. Beginning in 2004, *BioCycle* staff conducted more targeted data gathering of MSW food waste composting from primary sources including state solid waste officials, large-scale municipal and commercial composting facilities, and large generators (e.g., supermarkets and restaurants). Starting in 2010, food waste composting data published by state environmental agencies are used to estimate the tonnage of food waste composted. The quantity of food waste reported as recovered will vary up or down from year-to-year due to data availability.

The targeted data gathering of MSW food waste composting operations resulted in an estimate of 900,000 tons of food waste composted in 2011. A separate *BioCycle* publication estimated 500,000 tons of MSW composted in 2011. MSW composting includes the composting of

food waste as well as other organic materials found in MSW. The total – 1.4 million tons of food waste and other organic materials composted in 2011 – is shown in the recovery tables.

Yard Trimmings

Yard trimmings² include grass, leaves, and tree and brush trimmings from residential, institutional, and commercial sources.

Generation. In earlier versions of this report, generation of yard trimmings was estimated using sampling studies and population data. While in past years generation of yard trimmings had been increasing steadily as population and residential housing grew (i.e., constant generation on a per capita basis), in the 1990s local and state governments started enacting legislation that discouraged yard trimmings disposal in landfills.

Legislation affecting yard trimmings disposal in landfills was tabulated, using published sources. In 1992, 11 states and the District of Columbia—accounting for more than 28 percent of the nation’s population—had legislation in effect that bans or discourages yard trimmings disposal in landfills. The tabulation of current legislation shows 22 states—representing about 40 percent of the nation’s population—has legislation affecting disposal of yard trimmings. In addition, some local and regional jurisdictions regulate disposal of yard trimmings. This has led to an increase in backyard composting and the use of mulching mowers to allow grass trimmings to remain in place since the early 1990’s. However, we are unable to estimate the influence of backyard composting and use of mulching mowers on a yearly basis.

Using these facts, it was estimated that yard trimmings generation has declined since 1990. In the absence of significant new legislation, yard trimmings generation has been increasing slightly since 2000 (i.e., increasing as natural population and residential dwelling units increase). An estimated 33.7 million tons of yard trimmings were generated in MSW in 2011.

Recovery for Composting and Discards. Recovery for composting of yard trimmings was estimated using information from state composting programs that estimated tonnages composted or mulched in 2011. State reported composting tonnages may vary on a yearly basis with the amount of storm debris composted. Analysis of this information resulted in an estimate of 19.3 million tons of

yard trimmings removed for composting or wood waste mulching in 2011 – a significant increase over the 2000 estimate of 15.8 million tons.

It should be noted that the estimated 19.3 million tons recovered for composting in 2011 does not include yard trimmings recovered for direct landspreading disposal. It also should be noted that these recovery estimates do not account for backyard composting by individuals and practices such as less bagging of grass clippings. These are source reduction activities taking place onsite, while the yard trimmings recovery estimates are based on material sent off-site.

Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes

This relatively small category of MSW is derived from sampling studies. It is not well defined and often shows up in sampling reports as “fines” or “other.” It includes soil, bits of concrete, stones, and the like.

Generation, Recovery, and Discards. This category contributed an estimated 3.9 million tons of MSW in 2011. No recovery of these products was identified; discards are the same as generation.

Summary of Materials in Municipal Solid Waste

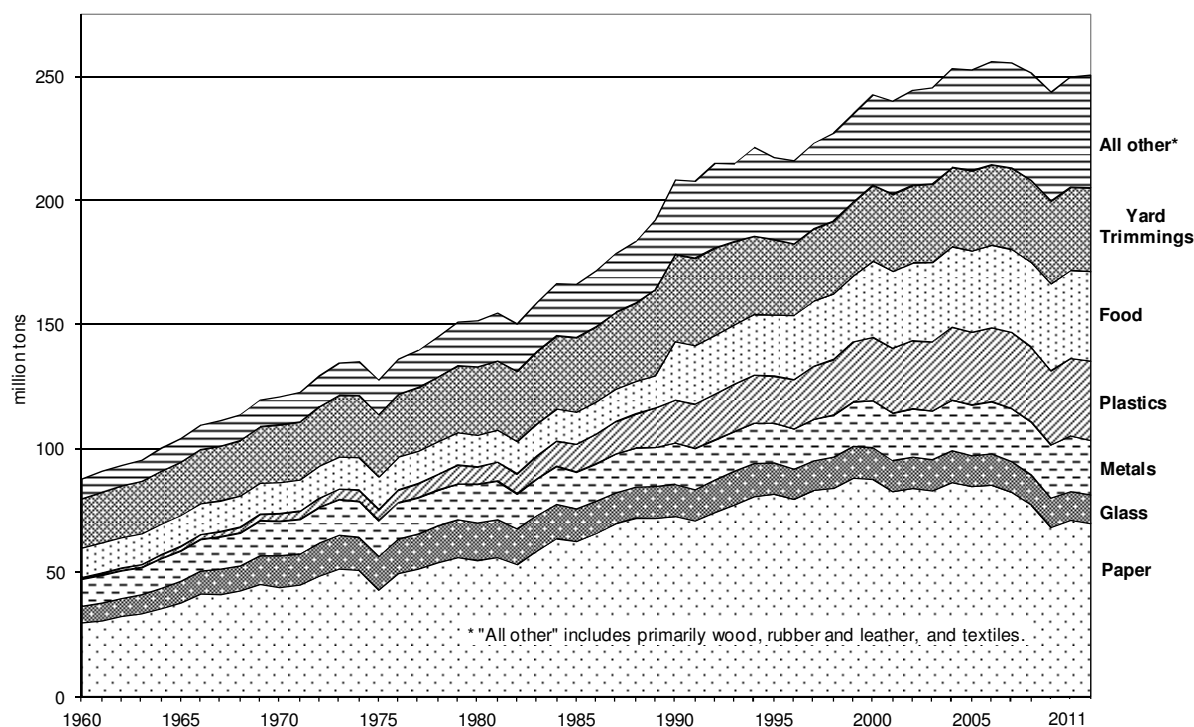
Generation. Changing quantities and composition of municipal solid waste generation are illustrated in Figure 10. Generation of MSW has grown relatively steadily, from 88.1 million tons in 1960 to 250.4 million tons in 2011.

Over the years paper and paperboard has been the dominant material category generated in MSW, accounting for 70.0 million tons (28.0 percent of generation) in 2011. Food waste, the second largest material component of MSW at 36.3 million tons (14.5 percent of MSW generation) has increased in terms of MSW tonnage and percentage of total MSW. Yard trimmings, the third largest material component of MSW at 33.7 million tons (13.5 percent of generation) has declined as a percentage of MSW since 1990, due to state and local legislated landfill disposal restrictions and increased emphasis on backyard composting and other source reduction measures such as the use of mulching mowers.

² Although limited data are available on the composition of yard trimmings, it is estimated that the average composition by weight is about 50 percent grass, 25 percent brush, and 25 percent leaves. These are “ballpark” numbers that will vary widely according to climate and region of the country.

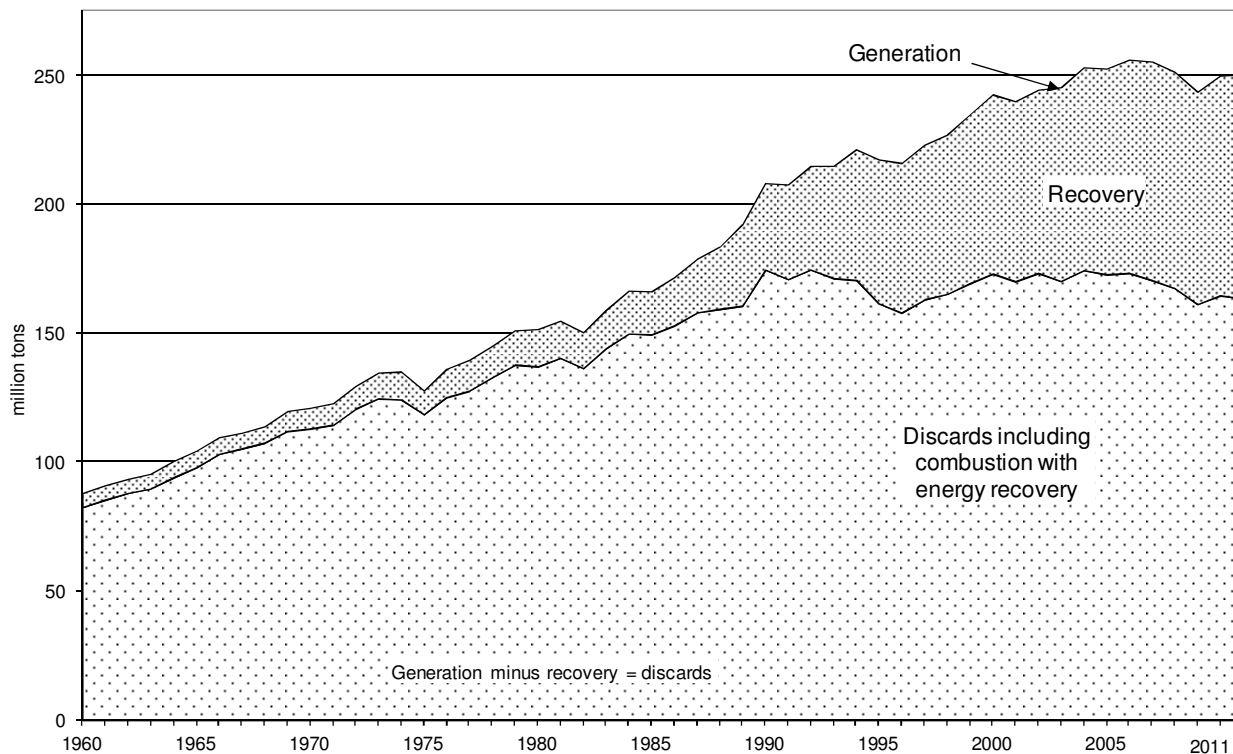
Metals account for 22 million tons (8.8 percent of MSW generation) and have remained fairly constant as a source of MSW since 2000. Glass increased until the 1980s; decreasing in tonnage and as a percent of MSW generation since the 1990s. Glass generation was 11.5 million tons in 2011, 4.6 percent of generation. Plastics have increasingly been used in a variety of products and thus have been a rapidly growing component of MSW. In terms of tonnage contributed, they ranked fourth in 2011 (behind paper, food waste, and yard trimmings) at 31.8 million tons, and account for 12.7 percent of MSW generation.

Figure 10. Generation of materials in MSW, 1960 to 2011



Recovery and Discards. The effect of recovery on MSW discards is illustrated in Figure 11. Recovery of materials for recycling and composting grew at a rather slow pace from 1960 to the 1980s, increasing only from 5.6 million tons (6.4 percent of generation) in 1960 to 14.5 million tons (9.6 percent) in 1980. Renewed interest in recycling (including composting) as waste management alternatives came about in the late 1980s, and the recovery rate in 1990 was estimated to be 33.2 million tons (16.0 percent of generation), increasing to 69.5 million tons (28.5 percent) in 2000, and 86.9 million tons (34.7 percent of generation) in 2011.

Figure 11. Recovery and discards of materials in MSW, 1960 to 2011



Estimated recovery of materials (including composting) is shown in Figure 12. In 2011, recovery of paper and paperboard dominated materials recovery at 52.8 percent of total tonnage recovered, while yard trimmings contributed 22.2 percent of total recovery. Recovery of other materials, while generally increasing, contributes much less tonnage, reflecting in part the relatively smaller amounts of materials generated in those categories.

**Figure 12. Materials recovery in MSW,* 2011
87 Million tons**

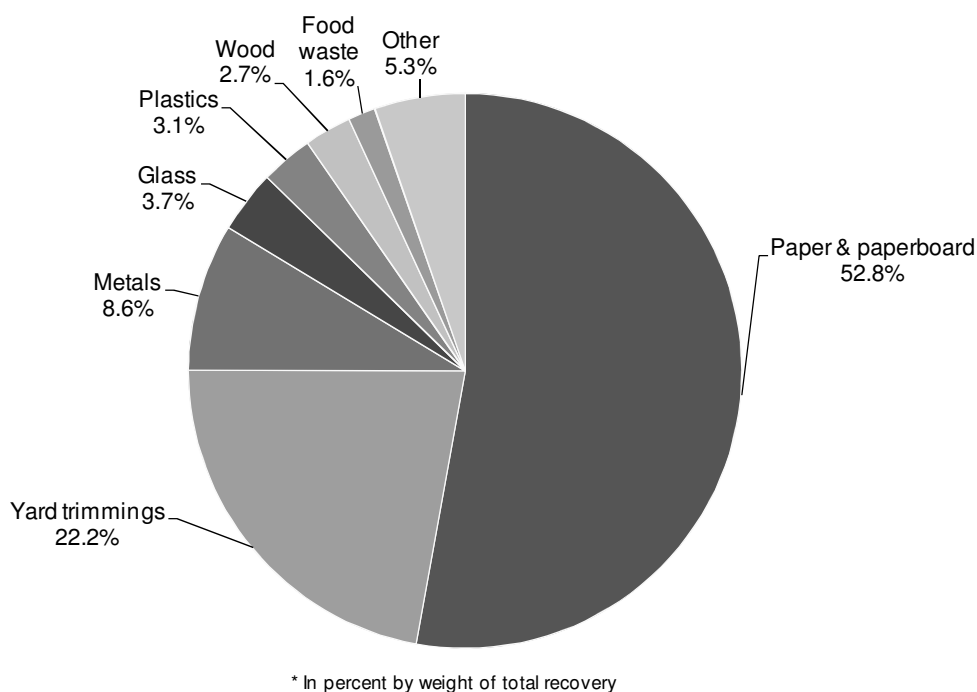
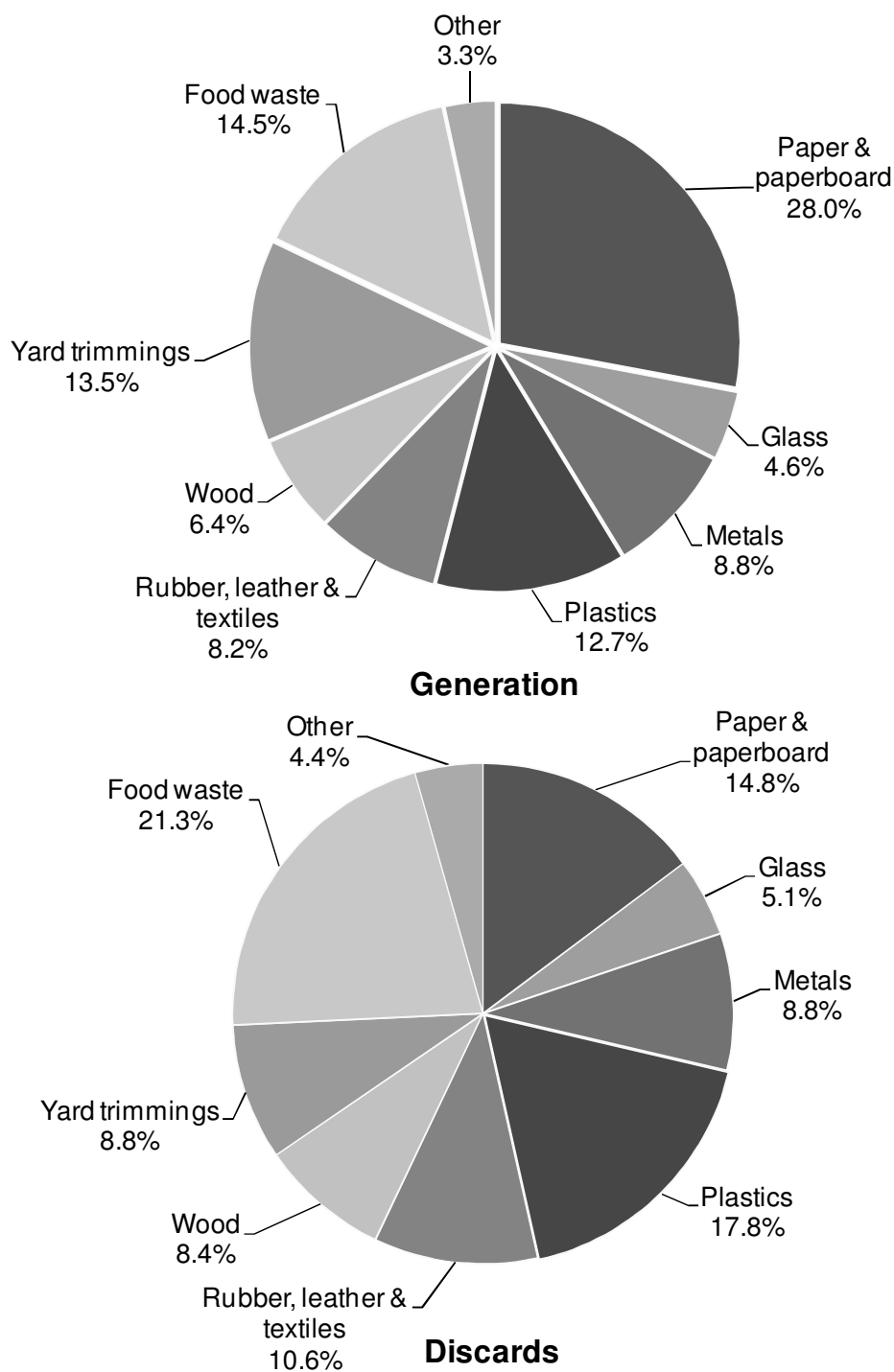


Figure 13 illustrates the effect of recovery of materials for recycling, including composting, on the composition of MSW discards. For example, paper and paperboard products were 28.0 percent of MSW generated in 2011, but after recovery, paper and paperboard products were 14.8 percent of discards. Materials that have less recovery exhibit a larger percentage of MSW discards compared to generation. For example, plastic products were 12.7 percent of MSW generated in 2011 and, after recovery, were 17.9 percent of discards.

**Figure 13. Materials generated and discarded*
in municipal solid waste, 2011
(In percent of total generation and discards)**



*Discards in this figure include combustion with energy recovery.

The Chapter 2 section above gave a breakdown of municipal solid waste by material. It described how the 250.4 million tons of MSW were generated, recycled (including composted) and disposed of. The following section breaks out the same 250.4 million tons of MSW by product.

PRODUCTS IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

The purpose of this section is to show how the products that make up municipal solid waste are generated, recycled (including composted) and discarded. For the analysis, products are divided into three basic categories: durable goods, nondurable goods, and containers and packaging. These three categories generally follow the definitions of the U.S. Department of Commerce, one of EPA's data sources. By these definitions, durable goods, (e.g., appliances) are those that last 3 years or more, while nondurable goods (e.g., newspapers and trash bags) last less than 3 years. For this report, containers and packaging are assumed to be discarded the same year the products they contain are purchased.

The following 15 tables (Tables 9 through 23) show generation, recycling (including composting) and discards of municipal solid waste in the three categories—durable goods, nondurable goods, and containers and packaging. Within these three categories, products are listed by type – for instance, carpets and rugs, office paper, or aluminum cans. The material the product is made of may be stated as well (for instance, glass beverage containers or steel cans), or may be obvious (for instance, magazines are made of paper.) Some products, such as tires and appliances, are made of several different material types.

At the bottom of each of these 15 tables (Tables 9 through 23) there is a section titled “Other Wastes.” This contains information on food waste, yard trimmings, and miscellaneous inorganic wastes. These wastes are not products that can be estimated through the materials flow methodology, but they are estimated by other means, as described earlier.

Within Tables 9 through 23, the first three tables – Tables 9 through 11 – serve as an index to the other tables. Table 9 shows what tables to consult for detailed information on generation; Table 10 shows what tables to consult for detailed information on recovery; and Table 11 does the same for detailed information on discards. The tables on generation all have the same “bottom line” – 250.4 million tons in 2011 – with detail provided in different categories – durable goods, nondurable goods, or containers and packaging. For Table 10 and related tables, the “bottom line” is MSW is recovered

– 86.9 million tons; and for Table 11 and related tables, the “bottom line” is MSW discarded – 163.5 million tons. The “bottom line” for each of the quantity tables is calculated by adding the major category subtotal lines.

Durable Goods

Durable goods generally are defined as products having a lifetime of three years or more, although there are some exceptions. In this report, durable goods include large and small appliances, furniture and furnishings, carpets and rugs, rubber tires, lead-acid automotive batteries, consumer electronics, and other miscellaneous durable goods (e.g., luggage, sporting goods, miscellaneous household goods) (see Tables 12 through 14). These products are often called “oversize and bulky” in municipal solid waste management practice and they are generally handled in a somewhat different manner than other components of MSW. That is, they are often picked up separately, and may not be mixed with other MSW at the landfill, combustor, or other waste management facility. Durable goods are made up of a wide variety of materials. In order of tonnage in MSW in 2011, these include: ferrous metals, plastics, rubber and leather, wood, textiles, glass, other nonferrous metals (e.g., lead, copper), and aluminum.

Generation of durable goods in MSW totaled 49.3 million tons in 2011 (19.7 percent of total MSW generation). After recovery for recycling, 40.3 million tons of durable goods remained as discards in 2011.

Table 9

CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	9,920	14,660	21,800	29,810	38,870	45,060	46,430	47,220	48,680	49,340
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	17,330	25,060	34,420	52,170	64,010	63,650	61,760	53,440	53,200	51,610
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 18)	27,370	43,560	52,670	64,530	75,840	76,330	78,370	71,320	75,640	75,580
Total Product** Wastes	54,620	83,280	108,890	146,510	178,720	185,040	186,560	171,980	177,520	176,530
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,700	32,930	33,560	35,270	35,740	36,310
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	35,000	30,530	32,070	32,630	33,200	33,400	33,710
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	61,760	64,730	68,690	69,940	72,290	72,980	73,890
Total MSW Generated - Weight	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420
	Percent of Total Generation									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	11.3%	12.1%	14.4%	14.3%	16.0%	17.8%	18.1%	19.3%	19.4%	19.7%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	19.7%	20.7%	22.7%	25.0%	26.3%	25.1%	24.1%	21.9%	21.2%	20.6%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 19)	31.1%	36.0%	34.7%	31.0%	31.2%	30.1%	30.6%	29.2%	30.2%	30.2%
Total Product** Wastes	62.0%	68.8%	71.8%	70.3%	73.4%	72.9%	72.7%	70.4%	70.9%	70.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	13.8%	10.6%	8.6%	11.5%	12.6%	13.0%	13.1%	14.4%	14.3%	14.5%
Yard Trimmings	22.7%	19.2%	18.1%	16.8%	12.5%	12.6%	12.7%	13.6%	13.3%	13.5%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Total Other Wastes	38.0%	31.2%	28.2%	29.7%	26.6%	27.1%	27.3%	29.6%	29.1%	29.5%
Total MSW Generated - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Generation before materials recovery or combustion. Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes.

** Other than food products.
Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Table 10

RECOVERY* OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation of each category)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	350	940	1,360	3,460	6,580	7,970	8,230	8,540	9,070	9,070
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	2,390	3,730	4,670	8,800	17,560	19,770	20,970	18,890	19,190	18,830
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 20)	2,870	3,350	8,490	16,780	28,870	31,500	33,900	34,210	36,700	38,300
Total Product** Wastes	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Other Wastes										
Food, Other^	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	680	690	810	850	970	1,400
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	15,770	19,860	20,900	19,900	19,200	19,300
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total MSW Recovered - Weight	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
	Percent of Generation of Each Category									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	3.5%	6.4%	6.2%	11.6%	16.9%	17.7%	17.7%	18.1%	18.6%	18.4%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	13.8%	14.9%	13.6%	16.9%	27.4%	31.1%	34.0%	35.3%	36.1%	36.5%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 21)	10.5%	7.7%	16.1%	26.0%	38.1%	41.3%	43.3%	48.0%	48.5%	50.7%
Total Product** Wastes	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	19.8%	29.7%	32.0%	33.8%	35.8%	36.6%	37.5%
Other Wastes										
Food, Other^	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	12.0%	51.7%	61.9%	64.1%	59.9%	57.5%	57.3%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.8%	25.4%	29.9%	31.0%	28.7%	27.6%	28.0%
Total MSW Recovered - %	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes; does not include converting/fabrication scrap.

** Other than food products.

^ Includes recovery of paper and mixed MSW for composting.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding. Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Table 11

CATEGORIES OF PRODUCTS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(In thousands of tons and percent of total discards)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	9,570	13,720	20,440	26,350	32,290	37,090	38,200	38,680	39,610	40,270
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	14,940	21,330	29,750	43,370	46,450	43,880	40,790	34,550	34,010	32,780
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 22)	24,500	40,210	44,180	47,750	46,970	44,830	44,470	37,110	38,940	37,280
Total Product** Wastes	49,010	75,260	94,370	117,470	125,710	125,800	123,460	110,340	112,560	110,330
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,020	32,240	32,750	34,420	34,770	34,910
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	30,800	14,760	12,210	11,730	13,300	14,200	14,410
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	57,560	48,280	48,140	48,230	51,540	52,810	53,190
Total MSW Discarded - Weight	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
	Percent of Total Discards									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	11.6%	12.1%	14.9%	15.1%	18.6%	21.3%	22.2%	23.9%	24.0%	24.6%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	18.1%	18.9%	21.7%	24.8%	26.7%	25.2%	23.8%	21.3%	20.6%	20.0%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 23)	29.7%	35.6%	32.2%	27.3%	27.0%	25.8%	25.9%	22.9%	23.5%	22.8%
Total Product** Wastes	59.4%	66.6%	68.8%	67.1%	72.3%	72.3%	71.9%	68.2%	68.1%	67.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	14.8%	11.3%	9.5%	13.6%	17.3%	18.5%	19.1%	21.3%	21.0%	21.3%
Yard Trimmings	24.2%	20.5%	20.1%	17.6%	8.5%	7.0%	6.8%	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Total Other Wastes	40.6%	33.4%	31.2%	32.9%	27.7%	27.7%	28.1%	31.8%	31.9%	32.5%
Total MSW Discarded - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes.

** Other than food products.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Major Appliances. Major appliances in MSW include refrigerators, washing machines, water heaters, etc. They are often called “white goods” in the trade. Data on unit production of appliances are taken from *Appliance Manufacturer Market Profile*, *Appliance Manufacturer Shipments Forecasts*, and *Appliance Statistical Review*. The unit data are converted to weight using various conversion factors developed over the years, plus data on the materials composition of the appliances. Adjustments are also made for the estimated lifetimes of the appliances, which range up to 25 years.

Generation of major appliances has increased very slowly over the years. In 2011, generation was 4.1 million tons, or 1.6 percent of total MSW generation. In general, the number of units of appliances has increased but average weight per unit has decreased over the years. Ferrous metals (steel and iron) are the predominant materials in major appliances, but other metals, plastics, glass, and other materials are also present.

Data on recovery of ferrous metals from major appliances are taken from a survey conducted by the Steel Recycling Institute. Recovery of ferrous metals from shredded appliances was estimated to be 2.6 million tons in 2011, leaving 1.5 million tons of appliances to be discarded.

Small Appliances. This category includes items such as toasters, hair dryers, electric coffee pots, and the like. Information on shipments of small appliances was obtained from Department of Commerce data and *Appliance Statistical Review*. Information on weights and materials composition of discarded small appliances was obtained through manufacturer specifications and interviews. It was estimated that 1.8 million tons of small appliances were generated in 2011. A small amount of ferrous metals in small appliances is recovered through magnetic separation. Small appliance 2010 generation was revised from the 2010 version of this report due to revisions in the import data available from data sources used in developing these estimates.

Table 12
PRODUCTS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON DURABLE GOODS)
(In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	1,630	2,170	2,950	3,310	3,640	3,610	3,620	3,760	4,020	4,080
Small Appliances**				460	1,040	1,180	1,390	1,630	1,720	1,770
Furniture and Furnishings	2,150	2,830	4,760	6,790	8,120	9,340	9,930	10,500	10,820	11,130
Carpets and Rugs**				1,660	2,460	2,960	3,170	3,550	3,720	3,830
Rubber Tires	1,120	1,890	2,720	3,610	4,930	4,910	5,020	4,570	4,600	4,600
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	820	1,490	1,510	2,280	2,750	2,820	2,810	2,990	2,890
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					1,900	2,630	3,010	3,190	3,320	3,410
Other Miscellaneous Durables					14,500	17,680	17,470	17,210	17,490	17,630
<i>Total Miscellaneous Durables</i>	5,020	6,950	9,880	12,470	16,400	20,310	20,480	20,400	20,810	21,040
Total Durable Goods	9,920	14,660	21,800	29,810	38,870	45,060	46,430	47,220	48,680	49,340
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	17,330	25,060	34,420	52,170	64,010	63,650	61,760	53,440	53,200	51,610
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 18)	27,370	43,560	52,670	64,530	75,840	76,330	78,370	71,320	75,640	75,580
Total Product Wastes†	54,620	83,280	108,890	146,510	178,720	185,040	186,560	171,980	177,520	176,530
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,700	32,930	33,560	35,270	35,740	36,310
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	35,000	30,530	32,070	32,630	33,200	33,400	33,710
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	61,760	64,730	68,690	69,940	72,290	72,980	73,890
Total MSW Generated - Weight	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420
	Percent of Total Generation									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	1.8%	1.8%	1.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.6%	1.6%
Small Appliances**				0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Furniture and Furnishings	2.4%	2.3%	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	3.7%	3.9%	4.3%	4.3%	4.4%
Carpets and Rugs**				0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%
Rubber Tires	1.3%	1.6%	1.8%	1.7%	2.0%	1.9%	2.0%	1.9%	1.8%	1.8%
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%	1.2%	1.2%
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					0.8%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%
Other Miscellaneous Durables					6.0%	7.0%	6.8%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
<i>Total Miscellaneous Durables</i>	5.7%	5.7%	6.5%	6.0%	6.7%	8.0%	8.0%	8.4%	8.3%	8.4%
Total Durable Goods	11.3%	12.1%	14.4%	14.3%	16.0%	17.8%	18.1%	19.3%	19.4%	19.7%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	19.7%	20.7%	22.7%	25.0%	26.3%	25.1%	24.1%	21.9%	21.2%	20.6%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 19)	31.1%	36.0%	34.7%	31.0%	31.2%	30.1%	30.6%	29.2%	30.2%	30.2%
Total Product Wastes†	62.0%	68.8%	71.8%	70.3%	73.4%	72.9%	72.7%	70.4%	70.9%	70.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	13.8%	10.6%	8.6%	11.5%	12.6%	13.0%	13.1%	14.4%	14.3%	14.5%
Yard Trimmings	22.7%	19.2%	18.1%	16.8%	12.5%	12.6%	12.7%	13.6%	13.3%	13.5%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Total Other Wastes	38.0%	31.2%	28.2%	29.7%	26.6%	27.1%	27.3%	29.6%	29.1%	29.5%
Total MSW Generated - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Generation before materials recovery or combustion. Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

† Other than food products.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

*** Not estimated separately prior to 1999. For more information on consumer electronics see the website <http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/materials/ecycling/manage.htm> which references the report Electronics Management in the U.S. Through 2009. This 2009 electronics report shows a lower generation tonnage for consumer electronics than does the table above, due to examining a smaller selection of types of electronics.

Table 13
RECOVERY* OF PRODUCTS IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON DURABLE GOODS)
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation of each product)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	10	50	130	1,070	2,000	2,420	2,430	2,510	2,610	2,620
Small Appliances**				10	20	20	20	110	120	120
Furniture and Furnishings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	10	10	10
Carpets and Rugs**				Neg.	190	250	280	260	270	270
Rubber Tires	330	250	150	440	1,290	1,640	1,770	2,040	2,050	2,050
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	620	1,040	1,470	2,130	2,640	2,700	2,700	2,880	2,780
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					190	360	550	600	650	850
Other Miscellaneous Durables					760	640	480	310	480	370
Total Miscellaneous Durables	10	20	40	470	950	1,000	1,030	910	1,130	1,220
Total Durable Goods	350	940	1,360	3,460	6,580	7,970	8,230	8,540	9,070	9,070
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	2,390	3,730	4,670	8,800	17,560	19,770	20,970	18,890	19,190	18,830
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 20)	2,870	3,350	8,490	16,780	28,870	31,500	33,900	34,210	36,700	38,300
Total Product Wastes†	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	680	690	810	850	970	1,400
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	15,770	19,860	20,900	19,900	19,200	19,300
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total MSW Recovered - Weight	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
	Percent of Generation of Each Product									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	0.6%	2.3%	4.4%	32.3%	54.9%	67.0%	67.1%	66.8%	64.9%	64.2%
Small Appliances**				2.2%	1.9%	1.7%	1.4%	6.7%	7.0%	6.8%
Furniture and Furnishings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Carpets and Rugs**				Neg.	7.7%	8.4%	8.8%	7.3%	7.3%	7.0%
Rubber Tires	29.5%	13.2%	5.5%	12.2%	26.2%	33.4%	35.3%	44.6%	44.6%	44.6%
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	75.6%	69.8%	97.4%	93.4%	96.0%	95.7%	96.1%	96.3%	96.2%
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					10.0%	13.7%	18.3%	18.8%	19.6%	24.9%
Other Miscellaneous Durables					5.2%	3.6%	2.7%	1.8%	2.7%	2.1%
Total Miscellaneous Durables	0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	3.8%	5.8%	4.9%	5.0%	4.5%	5.4%	5.8%
Total Durable Goods	3.5%	6.4%	6.2%	11.6%	16.9%	17.7%	17.7%	18.1%	18.6%	18.4%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	13.8%	14.9%	13.6%	16.9%	27.4%	31.1%	34.0%	35.3%	36.1%	36.5%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 21)	10.5%	7.7%	16.1%	26.0%	38.1%	41.3%	43.3%	48.0%	48.5%	50.7%
Total Product Wastes†	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	19.8%	29.7%	32.0%	33.8%	35.8%	36.6%	37.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	12.0%	51.7%	61.9%	64.1%	59.9%	57.5%	57.3%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.8%	25.4%	29.9%	31.0%	28.7%	27.6%	28.0%
Total MSW Recovered - %	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes;
does not include converting/fabrication scrap.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

† Other than food products.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

*** Not estimated separately prior to 1999. For more information on consumer electronics see the website <http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/materials/ecycling/manage.htm> which references the report Electronics Management in the U.S. Through 2009. The EPA website referenced above and the 2009 electronics report show a higher recovery rate for consumer electronics than does the table above, due to examining a smaller selection of types of electronics.

Table 14
PRODUCTS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON DURABLE GOODS)
(In thousands of tons and percent of total discards)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	1,620	2,120	2,820	2,240	1,640	1,190	1,190	1,250	1,410	1,460
Small Appliances**				450	1,020	1,160	1,370	1,520	1,600	1,650
Furniture and Furnishings	2,150	2,830	4,760	6,790	8,120	9,340	9,930	10,490	10,810	11,120
Carpets and Rugs**				1,660	2,270	2,710	2,890	3,290	3,450	3,560
Rubber Tires	790	1,640	2,570	3,170	3,640	3,270	3,250	2,530	2,550	2,550
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	200	450	40	150	110	120	110	110	110
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					1,710	2,270	2,460	2,590	2,670	2,560
Other Miscellaneous Durables					13,740	17,040	16,990	16,900	17,010	17,260
<i>Total Miscellaneous Durables</i>	5,010	6,930	9,840	12,000	15,450	19,310	19,450	19,490	19,680	19,820
Total Durable Goods	9,570	13,720	20,440	26,350	32,290	37,090	38,200	38,680	39,610	40,270
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	14,940	21,330	29,750	43,370	46,450	43,880	40,790	34,550	34,010	32,780
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 22)	24,500	40,210	44,180	47,750	46,970	44,830	44,470	37,110	38,940	37,280
Total Product Wastes†	49,010	75,260	94,370	117,470	125,710	125,800	123,460	110,340	112,560	110,330
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,020	32,240	32,750	34,420	34,770	34,910
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	30,800	14,760	12,210	11,730	13,300	14,200	14,410
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	57,560	48,280	48,140	48,230	51,540	52,810	53,190
Total MSW Discarded - Weight	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
	Percent of Total Discards									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods										
Major Appliances	2.0%	1.9%	2.1%	1.3%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	0.9%
Small Appliances**				0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%
Furniture and Furnishings	2.6%	2.5%	3.5%	3.9%	4.7%	5.4%	5.8%	6.5%	6.5%	6.8%
Carpets and Rugs**				0.9%	1.3%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%
Rubber Tires	1.0%	1.5%	1.9%	1.8%	2.1%	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%	1.5%	1.6%
Batteries, Lead-Acid	Neg.	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Miscellaneous Durables										
Selected Consumer Electronics***					1.0%	1.3%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%
Other Miscellaneous Durables					7.9%	9.8%	9.9%	10.4%	10.3%	10.6%
<i>Total Miscellaneous Durables</i>	6.1%	6.1%	7.2%	6.9%	8.9%	11.1%	11.3%	12.0%	11.9%	12.1%
Total Durable Goods	11.6%	12.1%	14.9%	15.1%	18.6%	21.3%	22.2%	23.9%	24.0%	24.6%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	18.1%	18.9%	21.7%	24.8%	26.7%	25.2%	23.8%	21.3%	20.6%	20.0%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 23)	29.7%	35.6%	32.2%	27.3%	27.0%	25.8%	25.9%	22.9%	23.5%	22.8%
Total Product Wastes†	59.4%	66.6%	68.8%	67.1%	72.3%	72.3%	71.9%	68.2%	68.1%	67.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	14.8%	11.3%	9.5%	13.6%	17.3%	18.5%	19.1%	21.3%	21.0%	21.3%
Yard Trimmings	24.2%	20.5%	20.1%	17.6%	8.5%	7.0%	6.8%	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Total Other Wastes	40.6%	33.4%	31.2%	32.9%	27.7%	27.7%	28.1%	31.8%	31.9%	32.5%
Total MSW Discarded - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

*** Not estimated separately prior to 1999. For more information on consumer electronics see the website <http://www.epa.gov/waste/conserve/materials/ecycling/manage.htm> which references the report Electronics Management in the U.S. Through 2009. This 2009 electronics report shows a lower discards tonnage for consumer electronics than does the table above, due to examining a smaller selection of types of electronics.

† Other than food products.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Furniture and Furnishings. Data on sales of furniture and furnishings are provided by the Department of Commerce in dollars. These data are converted to tons using factors developed for this study over the years. For example, factors are developed by applying sales growth statistics (expressed as constant dollars) in household and office furniture, curtains, and mattresses to textile consumption (in tons) in household and office furniture, curtains, and mattresses manufacturing for those years where consumption data are available. These factors are then applied to those years where sales statistics are available but consumption data are not available. Adjustments are made for imports and exports and adjustments are made for the lifetimes of the furniture.

Generation of furniture and furnishings represents products at the end-of-life (after primary use and reuse by secondary owners). Generation of furniture and furnishings in MSW has increased from 2.2 million tons in 1960 to 11.1 million tons in 2011 (4.4 percent of total MSW). The only recovery of materials from furniture identified was mattress recovery. According to an industry representative, mattress recovery is estimated at 10,000 tons. Wood is the largest material category in furniture, with ferrous metals second. Plastics, glass, and other materials are also found in furniture.

Carpets and Rugs. An industry publication, *Carpet and Rug Industrial Review*, publishes data on carpet sales in square yards. These data are converted to tons using pounds per square yard factors developed for this report. In recent years, carpet sales from the Department of Commerce Current Industrial Report Carpet and Rug series have been used. An estimated 3.8 million tons of carpets and rugs were generated in MSW in 2011, which was 1.5 percent of total generation.

Recovery of carpet fiber, backing, and padding – estimated from industry data – was 270,000 tons in 2011 (7.0 percent of carpet generation). Carpet and rug generation and recovery estimates were revised from previous versions of this report due to revisions in the data available from data sources used in developing these estimates.

Vehicle Tires. The methodology for estimating generation of rubber tires for automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles is based on data on replacement tires purchased and vehicles deregistered as reported by the U. S. Department of Commerce. It is assumed that for each replacement tire purchased, a used tire enters the waste management system, and that tires on deregistered vehicles also enter the waste management system. Retreaded tires are treated as a diversion out of the waste stream; they are assumed to re-enter the waste stream after two years of use.

The quantities of tires in units are converted to weight and materials composition using factors developed for this series of reports. In addition to rubber, tires include relatively small amounts of textiles and ferrous metals. Generation of rubber tires increased from 1.1 million tons in 1960 to 4.6 million tons in 2011 (1.8 percent of total MSW). Since 2000, the generation of rubber tires has remained fairly constant; decreasing slightly since 2007. Note that only tires from passenger cars, trucks, and motorcycles are included. Tires used in large equipment, aviation, or industrial applications are not included.

Data on recovery of tires are based on data from the Scrap Tire Management Council. The tire recovery rate increased from 26.2 percent in 2000 to 44.6 percent in 2011. From 2005 to 2009, the quantity of tires generated and recovered through recycling remained relatively steady. Starting in 2009, the quantity of tires generated decreased and recovery through recycling increased. After recovery, 2.6 million tons of tires were discarded in 2011. (Tires going to combustion facilities as fuel are included in the combustion estimates in Chapter 3.) Tire 2005 through 2010 generation and 2009 and 2010 recovery estimates were revised from previous versions of this report due to revisions in the numbers of deregistered vehicles and the quantity of tires recycled from data sources used in developing these estimates.

Lead-Acid Batteries. The methodology for estimating generation of lead-acid batteries is similar to the methodology for rubber tires as described above. An estimated 2.9 million tons of lead-acid batteries from automobiles, trucks, and motorcycles were generated in MSW in 2011 (1.2 percent of total generation).

The Battery Council International provided the most recent data on recovery of batteries. Recovery of batteries for recycling has fluctuated between 70 percent and 96 percent; recovery has increased since 1980 as a growing number of communities have restricted batteries from disposal at landfills or combustion facilities. In 2011, 96.2 percent of the lead in these batteries was estimated to be recovered for recycling as well as substantial quantities of the polypropylene battery casings. Discards after recycling of these batteries were 110,000 tons in 2011. (Some electrolytes and other materials in batteries are removed from the municipal solid waste stream along with recovered lead and polypropylene; these materials are counted as “recovered” along with the recyclable materials.)

Battery 2009 and 2010 generation and recovery estimates were revised from previous versions of this report due to revisions in replacement batteries import data and numbers of deregistered vehicles available from data sources used in developing these estimates.

Miscellaneous Durable Goods. Miscellaneous durable goods include consumer electronics such as television sets, videocassette recorders, and personal computers; luggage; sporting equipment; and the like. An estimated 21.0 million tons of these goods were generated in 2011, amounting to 8.4 percent of MSW generated.

As in recent previous updates of this report, generation of selected consumer electronic products was estimated as a subset of miscellaneous durable goods. In 2011, an estimated 3.4 million tons of these goods were generated. Of this, 850,000 tons of selected consumer electronics were collected for recycling (24.9 percent recovery rate). This is up from the 2010 recovery rate for selected consumer electronics, which was 19.6 percent. The higher rate for the 2011 figure is due primarily to better data, rather than a sudden growth in recycling. Selected consumer electronics include products such as TVs, VCRs, DVD players, video cameras, stereo systems, telephones, and computer equipment. EPA has analyzed television, computer products, and cell phone management separately in the 2010 report *Electronics Waste Management in the United States Through 2009*. The 2010 EPA report examines a smaller selection of electronic products which results in lower quantity estimates and different recycling rates than are shown in Tables 12 through 14.

The miscellaneous durable goods category, as a whole, includes ferrous metals as well as plastics, glass, rubber, wood, and other metals. An estimated 170,000 tons of ferrous metals were estimated to have been recovered from this category through pre-combustion and post-combustion magnetic separation at MSW combustion facilities in 2011, bringing total recovery from this category to 1.2 million tons. Discards of miscellaneous durable goods were 19.8 million tons in 2011.

Nondurable Goods

The Department of Commerce defines nondurable goods as those products having a lifetime of less than three years, and this definition was followed for this report to the extent possible.

Products made of paper and paperboard comprise the largest portion of nondurable goods. Other nondurable products include paper and plastic plates, cups, and other disposable food service

products; disposable diapers; clothing and footwear; linens; and other miscellaneous products. (See Tables 15 through 17.)

Generation of nondurable goods in MSW was 51.6 million tons in 2011 (20.6 percent of total generation). Recovery of paper products in this category is quite significant, resulting in 18.8 million tons of nondurable goods recovered in 2011 (36.5 percent of nondurables generation). This means that 32.8 million tons of nondurable goods were discarded in 2011 (20.0 percent of total discards).

Paper and Paperboard Products. Generation, recovery, and discards of paper and paperboard products in nondurable goods are summarized in Tables 15 through 17. A summary for 2011 was shown earlier in Table 4. Generation of paper and paperboard nondurable products declined from 47.8 million tons in 2000 to 31.9 million tons in 2011. Each of the paper and paperboard product categories in nondurable goods is discussed briefly below.

- Newspapers/mechanical papers are the largest single component of the paper products in the nondurable goods category, at 9.2 million tons generated in 2011 (3.7 percent of total MSW). In 2011, an estimated 6.6 million tons of newspapers/mechanical papers generated were recovered for recycling. Starting in 2010, newspapers (including newsprint and groundwood³ inserts) were expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.
- Books amounted to approximately 930,000 tons, or 0.4 percent of total MSW generation, in 2011. Books are made of both groundwood and chemical pulp.
- Magazines accounted for an estimated 1.5 million tons, or 0.6 percent of total MSW generation, in 2011. Magazines are predominantly made of coated groundwood, but some uncoated groundwood and chemical pulps are also used.
- Many different kinds of papers are generated in offices. For this report, office-type paper estimates include the high grade papers such as copier paper, computer printout, stationery, etc. Generation of these office papers was 5.1 million tons, or 2.0 percent of total MSW generation in 2011. These papers are almost entirely made of uncoated chemical pulp, although some amounts of groundwood are also used. It should be

³ Groundwood papers, like newsprint, are made primarily from pulp prepared by a mechanical process. The nature of the pulp (groundwood vs. chemical) affects the potential uses for the recovered paper.

noted that some of these office-type papers are generated at locations other than offices, including homes and institutions such as schools. Also, other kinds of papers (e.g., newspapers, magazines, and packaging) are generated in offices, but are accounted for in other categories.

- Standard mail includes catalogs and other direct bulk mailings; these amounted to an estimated 3.8 million tons, or 1.5 percent of MSW generation, in 2011. Both groundwood and chemical pulps are used in these mailings. The U.S. Postal Service has implemented a program to increase recovery of bulk mail, and many curbside collection programs also include mail.
- Other commercial printing includes a wide range of paper items, including brochures, reports, menus, and invitations. Both groundwood and chemical pulps are used in these varied items. Generation was estimated at 2.7 million tons, or 1.1 percent of MSW generation, in 2011.
- With the exception of newspapers/mechanical papers recovery, other nondurable paper product recovery, by individual products, is not well documented. Industry provided nondurable goods recovered paper estimates are presented as a total for books, magazines, office-type papers, standard mail, and other commercial printing. Total recovery (excluding newspapers/mechanical papers) was estimated at 10.6 million tons, or 46.6 percent of nondurable goods paper generation (Table 4).
- Tissue paper and towels generation includes facial and sanitary tissues and table napkins, but not bathroom tissue, which is nearly all diverted from MSW into the wastewater treatment system. Other examples include decorative and laminated tissue papers and crepe papers. Tissue products are used in homes, restaurants, other commercial establishments, and institutions such as hospitals. Tissue paper and towels (not including bathroom tissue) amounted to 3.5 million tons (1.4 percent of total MSW generation) in 2011. No significant recovery of tissue products for recycling was identified, although there is some composting of these items.

- Paper plates and cups include paper plates, cups, bowls, and other food service products used in homes, in commercial establishments like restaurants, and in institutional settings such as schools. Generation of these products was estimated at 1.3 million tons (0.5 percent of total MSW generation) in 2011. No significant recovery for recycling of these products was identified, although there is some composting of these items.
- Other nonpackaging papers—including posters, photographic papers, cards, and games – accounted for 3.9 million tons (1.6 percent of total MSW generation) in 2011. No significant recovery for recycling of these papers was identified.

Overall, generation of paper and paperboard products in nondurable goods was 31.9 million tons in 2011 (Table 4). While newspapers were recovered at the highest rate, other paper products, such as books, magazines, office papers, directories, standard mail, and other commercial printing also were recovered for recycling, and the overall recovery rate for paper in nondurables was 54.0 percent in 2011. Thus 14.7 million tons of paper in nondurables were discarded in 2011 (Table 4).

Plastic Plates and Cups. This category includes plastic plates, cups, glasses, dishes and bowls, hinged containers, and other containers used in food service at home, in restaurants and other commercial establishments, and in institutional settings such as schools. These items are made primarily of polystyrene resin. An estimated 1.0 million tons of these products were generated in 2011, or 0.4 percent of total MSW (Table 15). No significant recovery for recycling was identified in 2011.

Trash Bags. This category includes plastic trash bags made of high-density polyethylene and low-density polyethylene for both indoor and outdoor use. Generation of plastic trash bags amounted to 1.0 million tons in 2011 (0.4 percent of MSW generation). No significant recovery for recycling was identified.

Disposable Diapers. This category includes estimates of both infant diapers and adult incontinence products. Generation was estimated using data on sales of the products along with information on average weights and composition. An estimated 3.6 million tons of disposable diapers were generated in 2011, or 1.4 percent of total MSW generation. (This tonnage includes an adjustment for the urine and feces contained within the discarded diapers.) The materials portion of

the diapers includes wood pulp, plastics (including the super-absorbent materials now present in most diapers), and tissue paper. No significant recycling or composting of disposable diapers was identified in 2011. Diaper 2010 generation was revised from the previous version of this report due to revisions in the data available from the Census Bureau used in developing these estimates.

Clothing and Footwear. Generation of clothing and footwear was estimated to be 9.0 million tons in 2011 (3.6 percent of total MSW). Textiles, rubber, and leather are major materials components of this category, with some plastics present as well. Generation estimates for these products are based on sales data from the Department of Commerce along with data on average weights for each type of products included. Adjustments are made for net imports of these products based on Department of Commerce data.

The Council for Textile Recycling has reported on recovery of textiles for exports, reprocessing, and reuse. Based on their data, it was estimated that 1.3 million tons of textiles in clothing were recovered for recycling in 2011. (Reuse occurs before generation and is not included in the generation or recycling estimates.) Clothing and footwear 2010 generation was revised from the previous version of this report due to revisions in the data available from the Census Bureau used in developing these estimates.

Towels, Sheets, and Pillowcases. An estimated 1.3 million tons of towels, sheets, and pillowcases were generated in 2011. Generation was estimated using a methodology similar to that for clothing. An estimated 230,000 tons of these textiles were recovered for export or recycling in 2011.

Other Miscellaneous Nondurables. Generation of other miscellaneous nondurables was estimated to be 3.7 million tons in 2011 (1.5 percent of MSW). The primary material component of miscellaneous nondurables is plastics, although some aluminum, rubber, and textiles also are present. Typical products in miscellaneous nondurables include shower curtains and other household items, disposable medical supplies, novelty items, and the like.

Generation of plastic products in miscellaneous nondurables is taken from resin sales data published annually by the American Chemistry Council. Generation of other materials in these nondurable products is estimated based on information in past reports in this series.

Table 15
 PRODUCTS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
 (WITH DETAIL ON NONDURABLE GOODS)
 (In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	9,920	14,660	21,800	29,810	38,870	45,060	46,430	47,220	48,680	49,340
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	7,110	9,510	11,050	13,430	14,790	12,790	10,780	7,760	9,880	9,150
Directories†**				610	680	660	760	650	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	1,920	2,470	3,390							
Books**				970	1,240	1,100	1,270	960	990	930
Magazines**				2,830	2,230	2,580	2,550	1,450	1,590	1,510
Office-Type Papers***	1,520	2,650	4,000	6,410	7,420	6,620	6,060	5,380	5,260	5,100
Standard Mail§				3,820	5,570	5,830	5,910	4,650	4,340	3,750
Other Commercial Printing†	1,260	2,130	3,120	4,460	7,380	6,440	6,200	3,490	2,480	2,710
Tissue Paper and Towels	1,090	2,080	2,300	2,960	3,220	3,460	3,500	3,490	3,490	3,510
Paper Plates and Cups	270	420	630	650	960	1,160	1,230	1,170	1,350	1,340
Other Nonpackaging Paper	2,700	3,630	4,230	3,840	4,250	4,490	4,260	4,420	4,190	3,940
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									23,690	22,790
Disposable Diapers	Neg.	350	1,930	2,700	3,230	3,410	3,730	3,810	3,700	3,630
Plastic Plates and Cups§			190	650	870	930	860	900	890	1,030
Trash Bags**				780	850	1,060	1,070	1,000	980	1,010
Clothing and Footwear	1,360	1,620	2,170	4,010	6,470	7,890	8,320	9,080	9,050	9,020
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				710	820	980	1,100	1,230	1,290	1,310
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	100	200	1,410	3,340	4,030	4,250	4,160	4,000	3,720	3,670
Total Nondurable Goods	17,330	25,060	34,420	52,170	64,010	63,650	61,760	53,440	53,200	51,610
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 18)	27,370	43,560	52,670	64,530	75,840	76,330	78,370	71,320	75,640	75,580
Total Product Wastes†	54,620	83,280	108,890	146,510	178,720	185,040	186,560	171,980	177,520	176,530
Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	61,760	64,730	68,690	69,940	72,290	72,980	73,890
Total MSW Generated - Weight	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420
	Percent of Total Generation									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	11.3%	12.1%	14.4%	14.3%	16.0%	17.8%	18.1%	19.3%	19.4%	19.7%
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	8.1%	7.9%	7.3%	6.4%	6.1%	5.0%	4.2%	3.2%	3.9%	3.7%
Directories†**				0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	2.2%	2.0%	2.2%							
Books**				0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Magazines**				1.4%	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Office-Type Papers***	1.7%	2.2%	2.6%	3.1%	3.0%	2.6%	2.4%	2.2%	2.1%	2.0%
Standard Mail§				1.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	1.9%	1.7%	1.5%
Other Commercial Printing†	1.4%	1.8%	2.1%	2.1%	3.0%	2.5%	2.4%	1.4%	1.0%	1.1%
Tissue Paper and Towels	1.2%	1.7%	1.5%	1.4%	1.3%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%	1.4%
Paper Plates and Cups	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Nonpackaging Paper	3.1%	3.0%	2.8%	1.8%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.8%	1.7%	1.6%
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									9.5%	9.1%
Disposable Diapers	Neg.	0.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.4%
Plastic Plates and Cups§			0.1%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Trash Bags**				0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Clothing and Footwear	1.5%	1.3%	1.4%	1.9%	2.7%	3.1%	3.2%	3.7%	3.6%	3.6%
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	0.1%	0.2%	0.9%	1.6%	1.7%	1.7%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Total Nondurables	19.7%	20.7%	22.7%	25.0%	26.3%	25.1%	24.1%	21.9%	21.2%	20.6%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 19)	31.1%	36.0%	34.7%	31.0%	31.2%	30.1%	30.6%	29.2%	30.2%	30.2%
Total Product Wastes†	62.0%	68.8%	71.8%	70.3%	73.4%	72.9%	72.7%	70.4%	70.9%	70.5%
Other Wastes	38.0%	31.2%	28.2%	29.7%	26.6%	27.1%	27.3%	29.6%	29.1%	29.5%
Total MSW Generated - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Generation before materials recovery or combustion. Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

† Starting in 2010, newsprint and groundwood inserts expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

*** High-grade paper such as printer paper; generated in both commercial and residential sources.

§ Standard Mail: Not estimated separately prior to 1990. Formerly called Third Class Mail and Standard (A) Mail by the U.S. Postal Service.

§ Plastic Plates and Cups: Not estimated separately prior to 1980.

‡ Other than food products.

- Detailed data not available.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Table 16
RECOVERY* OF PRODUCTS IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON NONDURABLE GOODS)
(In thousands of tons and percent of generation of each product)

Products	Thousands of Tons									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	350	940	1,360	3,460	6,580	7,970	8,230	8,540	9,070	9,070
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	1,820	2,250	3,020	5,110	8,720	9,360	8,550	6,840	7,070	6,630
Directories**				50	120	120	140	240	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	100	260	280							
Books**				100	240	270	360	320	-	-
Magazines**				300	710	960	1,010	780	-	-
Office-Type Papers***	250	710	870	1,700	4,090	4,110	4,300	3,990	-	-
Standard Mail§				200	1,830	2,090	2,380	2,950	-	-
Other Commercial Printing†	130	340	350	700	810	1,440	2,790	2,310	-	-
Tissue Paper and Towels	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Paper Plates and Cups	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Nonpackaging Paper	40	110	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									10,650	10,610
Disposable Diapers				Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Plastic Plates and Cups§			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Trash Bags**				Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Clothing and Footwear	50	60	150	520	900	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250	1,250
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				120	140	170	190	210	220	230
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	110
Total Nondurable Goods	2,390	3,730	4,670	8,800	17,560	19,770	20,970	18,890	19,190	18,830
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 20)	2,870	3,350	8,490	16,780	28,870	31,500	33,900	34,210	36,700	38,300
Total Product Wastes†	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total MSW Recovered - Weight	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
Products	Percent of Generation of Each Product									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	3.5%	6.4%	6.2%	11.6%	16.9%	17.7%	17.7%	18.1%	18.6%	18.4%
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	25.6%	23.7%	27.3%	38.0%	59.0%	73.2%	79.3%	88.1%	71.6%	72.5%
Directories**				8.2%	17.6%	18.2%	18.4%	36.9%	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	5.2%	10.5%	8.3%							
Books**				10.3%	19.4%	24.5%	28.3%	33.3%	-	-
Magazines**				10.6%	31.8%	37.2%	39.6%	53.8%	-	-
Office-Type Papers***	16.4%	26.8%	21.8%	26.5%	55.1%	62.1%	71.0%	74.2%	-	-
Standard Mail§				5.2%	32.9%	35.8%	40.3%	63.4%	-	-
Other Commercial Printing†	10.3%	16.0%	11.2%	15.7%	11.0%	22.4%	45.0%	66.2%	-	-
Tissue Paper and Towels	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Paper Plates and Cups	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Nonpackaging Paper	1.5%	3.0%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									45.0%	46.6%
Disposable Diapers				Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Plastic Plates and Cups§			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Trash Bags**				Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Clothing and Footwear	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	13.0%	13.9%	15.8%	15.0%	13.8%	13.8%	13.9%
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				16.9%	17.1%	17.3%	17.3%	17.1%	17.1%	17.6%
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Nondurables	13.8%	14.9%	13.6%	16.9%	27.4%	31.1%	34.0%	35.3%	36.1%	36.5%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 21)	10.5%	7.7%	16.1%	26.0%	38.1%	41.3%	43.3%	48.0%	48.5%	50.7%
Total Product Wastes†	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	19.8%	29.7%	32.0%	33.8%	35.8%	36.6%	37.5%
Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.8%	25.4%	29.9%	31.0%	28.7%	27.6%	28.0%
Total MSW Recovered - %	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes; does not include converting/fabrication scrap. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

† Starting in 2010, newspaper and groundwood inserts expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

*** High-grade paper such as printer paper; generated in both commercial and residential sources.

§ Standard Mail: Not estimated separately prior to 1990. Formerly called Third Class Mail and Standard (A) Mail by the U.S. Postal Service.

§ Plastic Plates and Cups: Not estimated separately prior to 1980.

‡ Other than food products.

- Detailed data not available.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Table 17

PRODUCTS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON NONDURABLE GOODS)
(In thousands of tons and percent of total discards)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	9,570	13,720	20,440	26,350	32,290	37,090	38,200	38,680	39,610	40,270
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	5,290	7,260	8,030	8,320	6,070	3,430	2,230	920	2,810	2,520
Directories†**				560	560	540	620	410	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	1,820	2,210	3,110							
Books**				870	1,000	830	910	640	-	-
Magazines**				2,530	1,520	1,620	1,540	670	-	-
Office-Type Papers***	1,270	1,940	3,130	4,710	3,330	2,510	1,760	1,390	-	-
Standard Mail§				3,620	3,740	3,740	3,530	1,700	-	-
Other Commercial Printing†	1,130	1,790	2,770	3,760	6,570	5,000	3,410	1,180	-	-
Tissue Paper and Towels	1,090	2,080	2,300	2,960	3,220	3,460	3,500	3,490	-	-
Paper Plates and Cups	270	420	630	650	960	1,160	1,230	1,170	-	-
Other Nonpackaging Paper	2,660	3,520	4,230	3,840	4,250	4,490	4,260	4,420	-	-
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									13,040	12,180
Disposable Diapers	Neg.	350	1,930	2,700	3,230	3,410	3,730	3,810	3,700	3,630
Plastic Plates and Cups§			190	650	870	930	860	900	890	1,030
Trash Bags**				780	850	1,060	1,070	1,000	980	1,010
Clothing and Footwear	1,310	1,560	2,020	3,490	5,570	6,640	7,070	7,830	7,800	7,770
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				590	680	810	910	1,020	1,070	1,080
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	100	200	1,410	3,340	4,030	4,250	4,160	4,000	3,720	3,560
Total Nondurable Goods	14,940	21,330	29,750	43,370	46,450	43,880	40,790	34,550	34,010	32,780
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 22)	24,500	40,210	44,180	47,750	46,970	44,830	44,470	37,110	38,940	37,280
Total Product Wastes‡	49,010	75,260	94,370	117,470	125,710	125,800	123,460	110,340	112,560	110,330
Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	57,560	48,280	48,140	48,230	51,540	52,810	53,190
Total MSW Discarded - Weight	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
	Percent of Total Discards									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	11.6%	12.1%	14.9%	15.1%	18.6%	21.3%	22.2%	23.9%	24.0%	24.6%
Nondurable Goods										
Newspapers/Mechanical Papers†	6.4%	6.4%	5.9%	4.8%	3.5%	2.0%	1.3%	0.6%	1.7%	1.5%
Directories†**				0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	-	-
Other Paper Nondurable Goods										
Books and Magazines	2.2%	2.0%	2.3%							
Books**				0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	-	-
Magazines**				1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	0.9%	0.4%	-	-
Office-Type Papers***	1.5%	1.7%	2.3%	2.7%	1.9%	1.4%	1.0%	0.9%	-	-
Standard Mail§				2.1%	2.1%	2.2%	2.1%	1.1%	-	-
Other Commercial Printing†	1.4%	1.6%	2.0%	2.1%	3.8%	2.9%	2.0%	0.7%	-	-
Tissue Paper and Towels	1.3%	1.8%	1.7%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.2%	-	-
Paper Plates and Cups	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	-	-
Other Nonpackaging Paper	3.2%	3.1%	3.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.6%	2.5%	2.7%	-	-
Total Other Paper Nondurable Goods									7.9%	7.4%
Disposable Diapers	Neg.	0.3%	1.4%	1.5%	1.9%	2.0%	2.2%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%
Plastic Plates and Cups§			0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%
Trash Bags**				0.4%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Clothing and Footwear	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%	2.0%	3.2%	3.8%	4.1%	4.8%	4.7%	4.8%
Towels, Sheets and Pillowcases**				0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Other Miscellaneous Nondurables	0.1%	0.2%	1.7%	1.9%	2.3%	2.4%	2.4%	2.5%	2.2%	2.2%
Total Nondurables	18.1%	18.9%	21.7%	24.8%	26.7%	25.2%	23.8%	21.3%	20.6%	20.0%
Containers and Packaging (Detail in Table 23)	29.7%	35.6%	32.2%	27.3%	27.0%	25.8%	25.9%	22.9%	23.5%	22.8%
Total Product Wastes‡	59.4%	66.6%	68.8%	67.1%	72.3%	72.3%	71.9%	68.2%	68.1%	67.5%
Other Wastes	40.6%	33.4%	31.2%	32.9%	27.7%	27.7%	28.1%	31.8%	31.9%	32.5%
Total MSW Discarded - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

† Starting in 2010, newsprint and groundwood inserts expanded to include directories and other mechanical papers previously counted as Other Commercial Printing.

** Not estimated separately prior to 1990.

*** High-grade paper such as printer paper; generated in both commercial and residential sources.

§ Standard Mail: Not estimated separately prior to 1990. Formerly called Third Class Mail and Standard (A) Mail by the U.S. Postal Service.

‡ Plastic Plates and Cups: Not estimated separately prior to 1980.

‡ Other than food products.

- Detailed data not available.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

Containers and Packaging

Containers and packaging make up a major portion of MSW, amounting to 75.6 million tons of generation in 2011 (30.2 percent of total generation). Table 18 shows generation trended downward by 9 percent between 2007 and 2009, followed by a 6 percent increase between 2009 and 2011 (to 75.6 million tons). Generation of most types of packaging declined from 2007 to 2009 due to the economic downturn. Between 2009 and 2011 generation of some types of packaging continued to decline while others increased.

Glass packaging generation declined 7.2 percent between 2007 and 2009 and another 3.9 percent between 2009 and 2011. Steel packaging exhibited the greatest percentage decline; a 16.1 percent decrease between 2007 and 2009 and a 2.7 percent decrease between 2009 and 2011. Aluminum packaging generation declined only 1.6 percent over the four year period 2007 to 2011.

Paper and paperboard packaging generation declined 12.5 percent between 2007 and 2009 and increased 8.8 percent between 2009 and 2011. Plastic packaging generation decreased 8.1 percent from 2007 and 2009 and increased 10.9 percent between 2009 and 2011.

Generation, recovery, and discards of containers and packaging are shown in detail in Tables 18 through 23.

There is substantial recovery of many container and packaging products, especially corrugated containers. In 2011, 50.7 percent of containers and packaging generated was recovered for recycling. Because of this recovery, containers and packaging comprised 22.8 percent of total MSW discards in 2011.

Containers and packaging in MSW are made of several materials: paper and paperboard, glass, steel, aluminum, plastics, wood, and small amounts of other materials. Material categories are discussed separately below.

Glass Containers. Glass containers include beer and soft drink bottles (which include carbonated drinks and non-carbonated waters, teas, flavored drinks containing not more than 10 percent fruit juice and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails), wine and liquor bottles, and bottles and jars for food and juices, cosmetics, and other products. Prior to 2009, generation of glass containers was estimated using Department of Commerce data. Beginning in 2009, the Glass

Packaging Institute provided production data. Adjustments are made for imports and exports of both empty glass containers and containers holding products, e.g., imported beer.

Generation of these glass containers was 9.3 million tons in 2011, or 3.7 percent of MSW generation (Tables 18 and 19). This tonnage is lower than was generated in almost all of the previous years.

An estimated 3.2 million tons of glass containers were recovered for recycling, or 34.2 percent of generation, in 2011. Glass container discards were 6.1 million tons in 2011, or 3.7 percent of total MSW discards.

Steel Containers and Packaging. Steel food and other cans, and other steel packaging (e.g., strapping, crowns, and steel barrels and drums), totaled 2.2 million tons in 2011 (0.9 percent of total MSW generation), with most of that amount being cans for food products (Tables 18 and 19). Generation estimates are based on data supplied by the Steel Recycling Institute (SRI). Estimates include adjustments for net imports.

The Steel Recycling Institute also provided recovery data for steel containers and packaging. An estimated 1.6 million tons of steel packaging were recovered in 2011, or 72.0 percent of generation. The estimates include recovery from residential sources; pre-combustion and post-combustion magnetic separation of steel cans and other ferrous products at MSW combustion facilities; and recycling of drums and barrels not suitable for reconditioning.

Aluminum Containers and Packaging. Aluminum containers and packaging include beer and soft drink cans (including all carbonated and non-carbonated soft drinks, tea, tonic, waters, and juice beverages), other cans, and foil and closures (including semi rigid foil containers, caps, closures, and flexible packaging). Aluminum can generation has been estimated based on the Aluminum Association data on number of cans consumed domestically and average can weight, while estimates of the net import of unfilled aluminum cans is based on Department of Commerce data. Other aluminum packaging is based on Aluminum Association data.

Prior to 2000, the Can Manufacturers Institute published data on consumption of beverages in aluminum cans. After 2000, the Aluminum Association provided consumption data. The consumption data are adjusted for imports and exports of beverages in cans, and therefore are more accurate for

generation calculations than shipments alone. Total aluminum container and packaging generation in 2011 was 1.9 million tons, or 0.7 percent of total MSW generation.

Aluminum can recovery data are provided by the Aluminum Association; the industry association recovery number includes imported used beverage cans (UBC). The imported UBC are subtracted from the tonnage of UBC reported by the Aluminum Association to have been melted by U.S. end-users and recovered for export. Thus, the aluminum can recovery rate reported here is somewhat less than that published by the Aluminum Association.

Recovery of aluminum beverage cans in 2011 was 720,000 tons, or 54.5 percent of generation. Recovery data for the other aluminum packaging categories are not available for 2011. After recovery for recycling, 1.1 million tons of aluminum packaging were discarded in 2011.

Paper and Paperboard Containers and Packaging. Corrugated boxes are the largest single product category of MSW at 29.4 million tons generated, or 11.8 percent of total generation, in 2011. Corrugated boxes also represent the largest single category of product recovery; at 26.8 million tons of recovery in 2011, 91.0 percent of boxes generated were recovered. After recovery, 2.6 million tons of corrugated boxes were discarded, or 1.6 percent of MSW discards in 2011.

Other paper and paperboard packaging in MSW includes gable top and aseptic cartons (includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons), folding cartons (e.g., cereal boxes, frozen food boxes, some department store boxes), bags and sacks, wrapping papers, and other paper and paperboard packaging (primarily set-up boxes such as shoe, cosmetic, and candy boxes). Overall, paper and paperboard containers and packaging totaled 38.0 million tons of MSW generation in 2011, or 15.2 percent of total generation.

While recovery of corrugated boxes is by far the largest component of paper packaging recovery, smaller amounts of other paper packaging products are recovered (estimated at about 1.9 million tons in 2011). The overall recovery rate for paper and paperboard packaging in 2011 was 75.4 percent. Other paper packaging such as cartons and sacks is mostly recovered as mixed papers.

Table 18
PRODUCTS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
(In thousands of tons)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	9,920	14,660	21,800	29,810	38,870	45,060	46,430	47,220	48,680	49,340
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	17,330	25,060	34,420	52,170	64,010	63,650	61,760	53,440	53,200	51,610
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	1,400	5,580	6,740	5,640	5,710	6,540	6,760	6,000	5,670	5,520
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1,080	1,900	2,450	2,030	1,910	1,630	1,620	1,710	1,700	1,770
Other Bottles & Jars	3,710	4,440	4,780	4,160	3,420	2,290	2,030	1,950	1,990	1,990
Total Glass Packaging	6,190	11,920	13,970	11,830	11,040	10,460	10,410	9,660	9,360	9,280
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	640	1,570	520	150	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	3,760	3,540	2,850	2,540	2,630	2,130	2,430	1,880	2,300	1,800
Other Steel Packaging	260	270	240	200	240	240	240	360	440	380
Total Steel Packaging	4,660	5,380	3,610	2,890	2,870	2,370	2,670	2,240	2,740	2,180
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	100	850	1,550	1,520	1,450	1,420	1,360	1,370	1,320
Other Cans	Neg.	60	40	20	50	80	30	60	70	70
Foil and Closures	170	410	380	330	380	400	430	460	460	460
Total Aluminum Packaging	170	570	1,270	1,900	1,950	1,930	1,880	1,880	1,900	1,850
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	7,330	12,760	17,080	24,010	30,210	30,930	31,230	27,190	29,050	29,440
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons†			790	510	550	500	500	460	540	540
Folding Cartons			3,820	4,300	5,820	5,530	5,530	4,980	5,470	5,540
Other Paperboard Packaging	3,840	4,830	230	290	200	160	150	90	90	80
Bags and Sacks			3,380	2,440	1,490	1,120	1,140	910	1,040	750
Wrapping Papers			200	110	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Other Paper Packaging	2,940	3,810	850	1,020	1,670	1,400	1,390	1,310	1,490	1,670
Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg									8,630	8,580
Total Paper & Board Pkg	14,110	21,400	26,350	32,680	39,940	39,640	39,940	34,940	37,680	38,020
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			260	430	1,720	2,540	2,840	2,570	2,670	2,740
HDPE Natural Bottles			230	530	690	800	820	760	800	770
Other Containers	60	910	890	1,430	1,740	1,420	1,910	1,750	1,830	1,870
Bags and Sacks			390	940	1,650	1,640	1,010	660	770	
Wraps			840	1,530	2,550	2,810	3,180	3,190	3,160	
Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps			1,230	2,470	4,200	4,450	4,190	3,850	3,930	3,880
Other Plastics Packaging	60	1,180	790	2,040	2,840	3,210	3,870	3,600	4,450	4,640
Total Plastics Packaging	120	2,090	3,400	6,900	11,190	12,420	13,630	12,530	13,680	13,900
Wood Packaging	2,000	2,070	3,940	8,180	8,610	9,230	9,520	9,790	9,940	10,000
Other Misc. Packaging	120	130	130	150	240	280	320	280	340	350
Total Containers & Pkg	27,370	43,560	52,670	64,530	75,840	76,330	78,370	71,320	75,640	75,580
Total Product Wastes†	54,620	83,280	108,890	146,510	178,720	185,040	186,560	171,980	177,520	176,530
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,700	32,930	33,560	35,270	35,740	36,310
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	35,000	30,530	32,070	32,630	33,200	33,400	33,710
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	61,760	64,730	68,690	69,940	72,290	72,980	73,890
Total MSW Generated - Weight	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420

* Generation before materials recovery or combustion.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

- Detailed data not available.

Table 19
PRODUCTS GENERATED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
(In percent of total generation)

Products	Percent of Total Generation									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 12)	11.3%	12.1%	14.4%	14.3%	16.0%	17.8%	18.1%	19.3%	19.4%	19.7%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 15)	19.7%	20.7%	22.7%	25.0%	26.3%	25.1%	24.1%	21.9%	21.2%	20.6%
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	1.6%	4.6%	4.4%	2.7%	2.3%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	2.3%	2.2%
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1.2%	1.6%	1.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Other Bottles & Jars	4.2%	3.7%	3.2%	2.0%	1.4%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%
Total Glass Packaging	7.0%	9.8%	9.2%	5.7%	4.5%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%	3.7%	3.7%
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	0.7%	1.3%	0.3%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	4.3%	2.9%	1.9%	1.2%	1.1%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%
Other Steel Packaging	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%
Total Steel Packaging	5.3%	4.4%	2.4%	1.4%	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.9%	1.1%	0.9%
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	0.1%	0.6%	0.7%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%
Other Cans	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.03%
Foil and Closures	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Total Aluminum Packaging	0.2%	0.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	8.3%	10.5%	11.3%	11.5%	12.4%	12.2%	12.2%	11.1%	11.6%	11.8%
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons†			0.5%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Folding Cartons			2.5%	2.1%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.0%	2.2%	2.2%
Other Paperboard Packaging	4.4%	4.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Bags and Sacks			2.2%	1.2%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%
Wrapping Papers			0.1%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Other Paper Packaging	3.3%	3.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%
Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg									3.4%	3.4%
Total Paper & Board Pkg	16.0%	17.7%	17.4%	15.7%	16.4%	15.6%	15.6%	14.3%	15.0%	15.2%
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			0.2%	0.2%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%	1.1%
HDPE Natural Bottles			0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Other Containers	0.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Bags and Sacks			0.3%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%
Wraps			0.6%	0.7%	1.0%	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	1.3%	0.0%
Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps			0.8%	1.2%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.5%
Other Plastics Packaging	0.1%	1.0%	0.5%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	1.5%	1.5%	1.8%	1.9%
Total Plastics Packaging	0.1%	1.7%	2.2%	3.3%	4.6%	4.9%	5.3%	5.1%	5.5%	5.6%
Wood Packaging	2.3%	1.7%	2.6%	3.9%	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%
Other Misc. Packaging	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Total Containers & Pkg	31.1%	36.0%	34.7%	31.0%	31.2%	30.1%	30.6%	29.2%	30.2%	30.2%
Total Product Wastes†	62.0%	68.8%	71.8%	70.3%	73.4%	72.9%	72.7%	70.4%	70.9%	70.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	13.8%	10.6%	8.6%	11.5%	12.6%	13.0%	13.1%	14.4%	14.3%	14.5%
Yard Trimmings	22.7%	19.2%	18.1%	16.8%	12.5%	12.6%	12.7%	13.6%	13.3%	13.5%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.5%	1.5%	1.5%	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.5%	1.6%	1.5%	1.5%
Total Other Wastes	38.0%	31.2%	28.2%	29.7%	26.6%	27.1%	27.3%	29.6%	29.1%	29.5%
Total MSW Generated - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Generation before materials recovery or combustion.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

- Detailed data not available.

Table 20
RECOVERY* OF PRODUCTS IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
(In thousands of tons)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	350	940	1,360	3,460	6,580	7,970	8,230	8,540	9,070	9,070
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	2,390	3,730	4,670	8,800	17,560	19,770	20,970	18,890	19,190	18,830
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	90	140	730	1,890	1,530	2,000	2,340	2,340	2,350	2,270
Wine and Liquor Bottles	10	10	20	210	430	250	240	430	540	600
Other Bottles & Jars	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	520	920	340	300	230	240	300
Total Glass Packaging	100	150	750	2,620	2,880	2,590	2,880	3,000	3,130	3,170
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	10	20	50	40	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	20	60	150	590	1,530	1,340	1,570	1,240	1,540	1,270
Other Steel Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	60	160	160	160	290	350	300
Total Steel Packaging	30	80	200	690	1,690	1,500	1,730	1,530	1,890	1,570
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	10	320	990	830	650	690	690	680	720
Other Cans	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	NA	NA	NA
Foil and Closures	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	20	30	40	40	NA	NA	NA
Total Aluminum Pkg	Neg.	10	320	1,010	860	690	730	690	680	720
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	2,520	2,760	6,390	11,530	20,330	22,100	22,980	22,100	24,690	26,800
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons†			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	30	-	-
Folding Cartons			520	340	410	1,190	1,550	2,490	-	-
Other Paperboard Packaging			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Bags and Sacks			Neg.	200	300	320	420	450	-	-
Wrapping Papers			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Paper Packaging	220	350	300	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
<i>Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg</i>									2,160	1,860
Total Paper & Board Pkg	2,740	3,110	7,210	12,070	21,040	23,610	24,950	25,070	26,850	28,660
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			10	140	380	590	700	720	780	800
HDPE Natural Bottles			Neg.	20	210	230	230	220	220	220
Other Containers	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	20	170	140	190	290	300	290
Bags and Sacks										
Wraps										
<i>Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps</i>			Neg.	60	180	230	380	360	450	430
Other Plastics Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	20	90	90	90	130	100	60
Total Plastics Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	10	260	1,030	1,280	1,590	1,720	1,850	1,800
Wood Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	130	1,370	1,830	2,020	2,200	2,300	2,380
Other Misc. Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Containers & Pkg	2,870	3,350	8,490	16,780	28,870	31,500	33,900	34,210	36,700	38,300
Total Product Wastes†	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	680	690	810	850	970	1,400
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	15,770	19,860	20,900	19,900	19,200	19,300
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total MSW Recovered - Weight	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes; does not include converting/fabrication scrap. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

NA = Not Available

- Detailed data not available.

Table 21
RECOVERY* OF PRODUCTS IN MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
(In percent of generation of each product)

Products	Percent of Generation of Each Product									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 13)	3.5%	6.4%	6.2%	11.6%	16.9%	17.7%	17.7%	18.1%	18.6%	18.4%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 16)	13.8%	14.9%	13.6%	16.9%	27.4%	31.1%	34.0%	35.3%	36.1%	36.5%
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	6.4%	2.5%	10.8%	33.5%	26.8%	30.6%	34.6%	39.0%	41.4%	41.1%
Wine and Liquor Bottles	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	10.3%	22.5%	15.3%	14.8%	25.1%	31.8%	33.9%
Other Bottles & Jars	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	12.5%	26.9%	14.8%	14.8%	11.8%	12.1%	15.1%
Total Glass Packaging	1.6%	1.3%	5.4%	22.1%	26.1%	24.8%	27.7%	31.1%	33.4%	34.2%
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	1.6%	1.3%	9.6%	26.7%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	Neg.	1.7%	5.3%	23.2%	58.2%	62.9%	64.6%	66.0%	67.0%	70.6%
Other Steel Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	30.0%	66.7%	66.7%	66.7%	80.6%	79.5%	78.9%
Total Steel Packaging	Neg.	1.5%	5.5%	23.9%	58.9%	63.3%	64.8%	68.3%	69.0%	72.0%
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	10.0%	37.6%	63.9%	54.6%	44.8%	48.6%	50.7%	49.6%	54.5%
Other Cans	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	NA	NA	NA
Foil and Closures	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.1%	7.9%	10.0%	9.3%	NA	NA	NA
Total Aluminum Pkg	Neg.	1.8%	25.2%	53.2%	44.1%	35.8%	38.8%	36.7%	35.8%	38.9%
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	34.4%	21.6%	37.4%	48.0%	67.3%	71.5%	73.6%	81.3%	85.0%	91.0%
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons†			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.5%	-	-
Folding Cartons			Neg.	Neg.	7.0%	21.5%	28.0%	50.0%	-	-
Other Paperboard Packaging			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Bags and Sacks			Neg.	Neg.	20.1%	28.6%	36.8%	49.5%	-	-
Wrapping Papers			Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Paper Packaging	7.5%	9.2%	35.3%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
<i>Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg</i>									25.0%	21.7%
Total Paper & Board Pkg	19.4%	14.5%	27.4%	36.9%	52.7%	59.6%	62.5%	71.8%	71.3%	75.4%
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			3.8%	32.6%	22.1%	23.2%	24.6%	28.0%	29.2%	29.2%
HDPE Natural Bottles			Neg.	3.8%	30.4%	28.8%	28.0%	28.9%	27.5%	28.6%
Other Containers	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	1.4%	9.8%	9.9%	9.9%	16.6%	16.4%	15.5%
Bags and Sacks										
Wraps										
<i>Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps</i>			Neg.	2.4%	4.3%	5.2%	9.1%	9.4%	11.5%	11.1%
Other Plastics Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	1.0%	3.2%	2.8%	2.3%	3.6%	2.2%	1.3%
Total Plastics Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	3.8%	9.2%	10.3%	11.7%	13.7%	13.5%	12.9%
Wood Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	1.6%	15.9%	19.8%	21.2%	22.5%	23.1%	23.8%
Other Misc. Packaging	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Containers & Pkg	10.5%	7.7%	16.1%	26.0%	38.1%	41.3%	43.3%	48.0%	48.5%	50.7%
Total Product Wastes†	10.3%	9.6%	13.3%	19.8%	29.7%	32.0%	33.8%	35.8%	36.6%	37.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.2%	2.1%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	3.9%
Yard Trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	12.0%	51.7%	61.9%	64.1%	59.9%	57.5%	57.3%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Total Other Wastes	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	6.8%	25.4%	29.9%	31.0%	28.7%	27.6%	28.0%
Total MSW Recovered - %	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%

* Recovery of postconsumer wastes; does not include converting/fabrication scrap. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

NA = Not Available

- Detailed data not available.

Table 22
PRODUCTS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
(WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
(In thousands of tons)

	Thousands of Tons									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	9,570	13,720	20,440	26,350	32,290	37,090	38,200	38,680	39,610	40,270
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	14,940	21,330	29,750	43,370	46,450	43,880	40,790	34,550	34,010	32,780
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	1,310	5,440	6,010	3,750	4,180	4,540	4,420	3,660	3,320	3,250
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1,070	1,890	2,430	1,820	1,480	1,380	1,380	1,280	1,160	1,170
Other Bottles & Jars	3,710	4,440	4,780	3,640	2,500	1,950	1,730	1,720	1,750	1,690
Total Glass Packaging	6,090	11,770	13,220	9,210	8,160	7,870	7,530	6,660	6,230	6,110
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	630	1,550	470	110	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	3,740	3,480	2,700	1,950	1,100	790	860	640	760	530
Other Steel Packaging	260	270	240	140	80	80	80	70	90	80
Total Steel Packaging	4,630	5,300	3,410	2,200	1,180	870	940	710	850	610
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	90	530	560	690	800	730	670	690	600
Other Cans	Neg.	60	40	20	50	80	30	60	70	70
Foil and Closures	170	410	380	310	350	360	390	460	460	460
Total Aluminum Pkg	170	560	950	890	1,090	1,240	1,150	1,190	1,220	1,130
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	4,810	10,000	10,690	12,480	9,880	8,830	8,250	5,090	4,360	2,640
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons‡			790	510	550	500	500	430	-	-
Folding Cartons			3,300	3,960	5,410	4,340	3,980	2,490	-	-
Other Paperboard Packaging	3,840	4,830	230	290	200	160	150	90	-	-
Bags and Sacks			3,380	2,240	1,190	800	720	460	-	-
Wrapping Papers			200	110	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Paper Packaging	2,720	3,460	550	1,020	1,670	1,400	1,390	1,310	-	-
<i>Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg</i>									6,470	6,720
Total Paper & Board Pkg	11,370	18,290	19,140	20,610	18,900	16,030	14,990	9,870	10,830	9,360
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			250	290	1,340	1,950	2,140	1,850	1,890	1,940
HDPE Natural Bottles			230	510	480	570	590	540	580	550
Other Containers	60	910	890	1,410	1,570	1,280	1,720	1,460	1,530	1,580
Bags and Sacks										
Wraps										
<i>Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps</i>			1,230	2,410	4,020	4,220	3,810	3,490	3,480	3,450
Other Plastics Packaging	60	1,180	790	2,020	2,750	3,120	3,780	3,470	4,350	4,580
Total Plastics Packaging	120	2,090	3,390	6,640	10,160	11,140	12,040	10,810	11,830	12,100
Wood Packaging	2,000	2,070	3,940	8,050	7,240	7,400	7,500	7,590	7,640	7,620
Other Misc. Packaging	120	130	130	150	240	280	320	280	340	350
Total Containers & Pkg	24,500	40,210	44,180	47,750	46,970	44,830	44,470	37,110	38,940	37,280
Total Product Wastes†	49,010	75,260	94,370	117,470	125,710	125,800	123,460	110,340	112,560	110,330
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	12,200	12,800	13,000	23,860	30,020	32,240	32,750	34,420	34,770	34,910
Yard Trimmings	20,000	23,200	27,500	30,800	14,760	12,210	11,730	13,300	14,200	14,410
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1,300	1,780	2,250	2,900	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,820	3,840	3,870
Total Other Wastes	33,500	37,780	42,750	57,560	48,280	48,140	48,230	51,540	52,810	53,190
Total MSW Discarded - Weight	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

- Detailed data not available.

Table 23
PRODUCTS DISCARDED* IN THE MUNICIPAL WASTE STREAM, 1960 TO 2011
 (WITH DETAIL ON CONTAINERS AND PACKAGING)
 (In percent of total discards)

	Percent of Total Discards									
Products	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Durable Goods (Detail in Table 14)	11.6%	12.1%	14.9%	15.1%	18.6%	21.3%	22.2%	23.9%	24.0%	24.6%
Nondurable Goods (Detail in Table 17)	18.1%	18.9%	21.7%	24.8%	26.7%	25.2%	23.8%	21.3%	20.6%	20.0%
Containers and Packaging										
Glass Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Bottles**	1.6%	4.8%	4.4%	2.1%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%	2.3%	2.0%	2.0%
Wine and Liquor Bottles	1.3%	1.7%	1.8%	1.0%	0.9%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%	0.7%
Other Bottles & Jars	4.5%	3.9%	3.5%	2.1%	1.4%	1.1%	1.0%	1.1%	1.1%	1.0%
Total Glass Packaging	7.4%	10.4%	9.6%	5.3%	4.7%	4.5%	4.4%	4.1%	3.8%	3.7%
Steel Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	0.8%	1.4%	0.3%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Cans	4.5%	3.1%	2.0%	1.1%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.3%
Other Steel Packaging	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%
Total Steel Packaging	5.6%	4.7%	2.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%
Aluminum Packaging										
Beer and Soft Drink Cans	Neg.	0.1%	0.4%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Other Cans	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.
Foil and Closures	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Total Aluminum Pkg	0.2%	0.5%	0.7%	0.5%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%	0.7%
Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Corrugated Boxes	5.8%	8.8%	7.8%	7.1%	5.7%	5.1%	4.8%	3.1%	2.6%	1.6%
Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg										
Gable Top/Aseptic Cartons†			0.6%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	-	-
Folding Cartons			2.4%	2.3%	3.1%	2.5%	2.3%	1.5%	-	-
Other Paperboard Packaging	4.7%	4.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	-	-
Bags and Sacks			2.5%	1.3%	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	-	-
Wrapping Papers			0.1%	0.1%	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	-	-
Other Paper Packaging	3.3%	3.1%	0.4%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	-	-
<i>Subtotal Other Paper & Paperboard Pkg</i>									3.9%	4.1%
Total Paper & Board Pkg	13.8%	16.2%	14.0%	11.8%	10.9%	9.2%	8.7%	6.1%	6.5%	5.7%
Plastics Packaging										
PET Bottles and Jars			0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	1.1%	1.2%	1.1%	1.1%	1.2%
HDPE Natural Bottles			0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Other Containers	0.1%	0.8%	0.6%	0.8%	0.9%	0.7%	1.0%	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%
Bags and Sacks										
Wraps										
<i>Subtotal Bags, Sacks, and Wraps</i>			0.9%	1.4%	2.3%	2.4%	2.2%	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%
Other Plastics Packaging	0.1%	1.0%	0.6%	1.2%	1.6%	1.8%	2.2%	2.1%	2.6%	2.8%
Total Plastics Packaging	0.1%	1.8%	2.5%	3.8%	5.8%	6.4%	7.0%	6.7%	7.2%	7.4%
Wood Packaging	2.4%	1.8%	2.9%	4.6%	4.2%	4.3%	4.4%	4.7%	4.6%	4.7%
Other Misc. Packaging	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
Total Containers & Pkg	29.7%	35.6%	32.2%	27.3%	27.0%	25.8%	25.9%	22.9%	23.5%	22.8%
Total Product Wastes†	59.4%	66.6%	68.8%	67.1%	72.3%	72.3%	71.9%	68.2%	68.1%	67.5%
Other Wastes										
Food Waste	14.8%	11.3%	9.5%	13.6%	17.3%	18.5%	19.1%	21.3%	21.0%	21.3%
Yard Trimmings	24.2%	20.5%	20.1%	17.6%	8.5%	7.0%	6.8%	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%
Miscellaneous Inorganic Wastes	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.7%	2.0%	2.1%	2.2%	2.4%	2.3%	2.4%
Total Other Wastes	40.6%	33.4%	31.2%	32.9%	27.7%	27.7%	28.1%	31.8%	31.9%	32.5%
Total MSW Discarded - %	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

* Discards after materials and compost recovery. In this table, discards include combustion with energy recovery.

Does not include construction & demolition debris, industrial process wastes, or certain other wastes. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

** Includes carbonated drinks and non-carbonated water, teas, flavored drinks, and ready-to-drink alcoholic coolers and cocktails.

† Other than food products.

‡ Includes milk, juice, and other products packaged in gable top cartons and liquid food aseptic cartons.

Neg. = Less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

- Detailed data not available.

Plastic Containers and Packaging. Many different plastic resins are used to make a variety of packaging products. Some of these include polyethylene terephthalate (PET) soft drink and water bottles, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) milk and water jugs, film products (including bags and sacks) made of low-density polyethylene (LDPE), and other containers and other packaging (including clamshells, trays, caps, lids, egg cartons, loose fill, produce baskets, coatings, closures, etc.) made of polyvinyl chloride (PVC), polystyrene (PS), polypropylene (PP), and other resins. Estimates of generation of plastic containers and packaging are based on resin sales data by end use, published annually by the American Chemistry Council's annual plastics resin survey.

Plastic containers and packaging have exhibited rapid growth in MSW, with generation increasing from 120,000 tons in 1960 (0.1 percent of generation) to 13.9 million tons in 2011 (5.6 percent of MSW generation). (Note: plastic packaging as a category in this report does not include single-service plates and cups and trash bags, which are classified as nondurable goods.)

Estimates of recovery of plastic products are based on data published annually by the American Chemistry Council supplemented with additional industry data. PET bottles and jars were estimated to have been recovered at a 29.2 percent rate in 2011 (800,000 tons). Recovery of HDPE natural bottles (e.g., milk and water bottles) was estimated to have been 220,000 tons, or 28.6 percent of generation. Overall, recovery of plastic containers and packaging was estimated to be 1.8 million tons, or 12.9 percent in 2011. Discards of plastic packaging thus were 12.1 million tons in 2011, or 7.4 percent of total MSW generation.

The plastic container and packaging recycling estimates, similar to other product estimates in this report, may include other recyclable and nonrecyclable materials. For example, the quantity of PET bottles recovered includes caps, lids, labels and adhesives collected along with the bottles. Although NAPCOR, the industry association supplying the data for this report, has sufficient detail to separate the non-PET materials from the PET, statistics from other industry sources do not have the same level of detail. To maintain consistency across material categories, the "gross" recycling rate is used instead of the "net" recycling rate throughout this report.

Wood Packaging. Wood packaging includes wood crates and pallets (mostly pallets). Data on production of wood packaging are from the National Wood Pallet and Container Association, and the USDA Forest Service Southern Research Station and Virginia Polytechnic Institute. In 2011, 10.0

million tons of wood pallets and other wood packaging were estimated to have been generated, or 4.0 percent of total MSW generation.

Wood pallet recovery for recycling (usually by chipping for uses such as mulch or bedding material, but excluding wood combusted as fuel) was estimated at 2.4 million tons in 2011.

Accounting for pallet reuse and recovery for recycling, wood packaging discards were 7.6 million tons in 2011, or 4.7 percent of total MSW discards.

Other Packaging. Estimates are included for some other miscellaneous packaging such as bags made of textiles, small amounts of leather, and the like. These latter quantities are not well documented; it was estimated that 350,000 tons were generated in 2011.

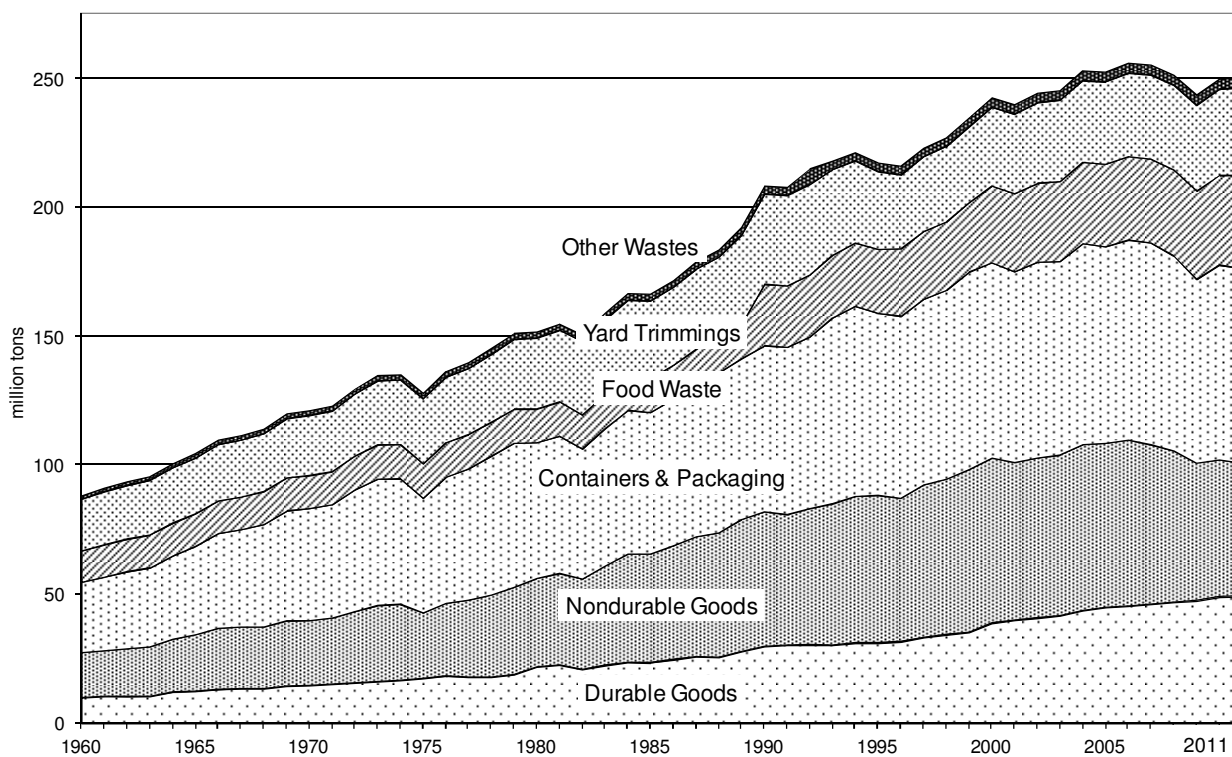
Summary of Products in Municipal Solid Waste

The materials composition of municipal solid waste generation by product category is illustrated in Figure 14. This figure shows graphically that generation of durable goods has increased very gradually over the years. Nondurable goods and containers and packaging have accounted for the large increases in MSW generation.

The materials composition of nondurable goods in 2011 is shown in Figure 15. Paper and paperboard made up 62.2 percent of nondurables in MSW generation, with plastics contributing 12.7 percent, and textiles 17.4 percent. Other materials contributed lesser percentages. After recovery for recycling, paper and paperboard were 46.7 percent of nondurable discards, with plastics being 19.7 percent, and textiles 22.9 percent.

The materials composition of containers and packaging in MSW in 2011 is shown in Figure 16. By weight, paper and paperboard products made up 50.3 percent of containers and packaging generation; plastics accounted for 18.4 percent. Glass was 12.3 percent, wood was 13.7 percent, and metals were 5.3 percent.

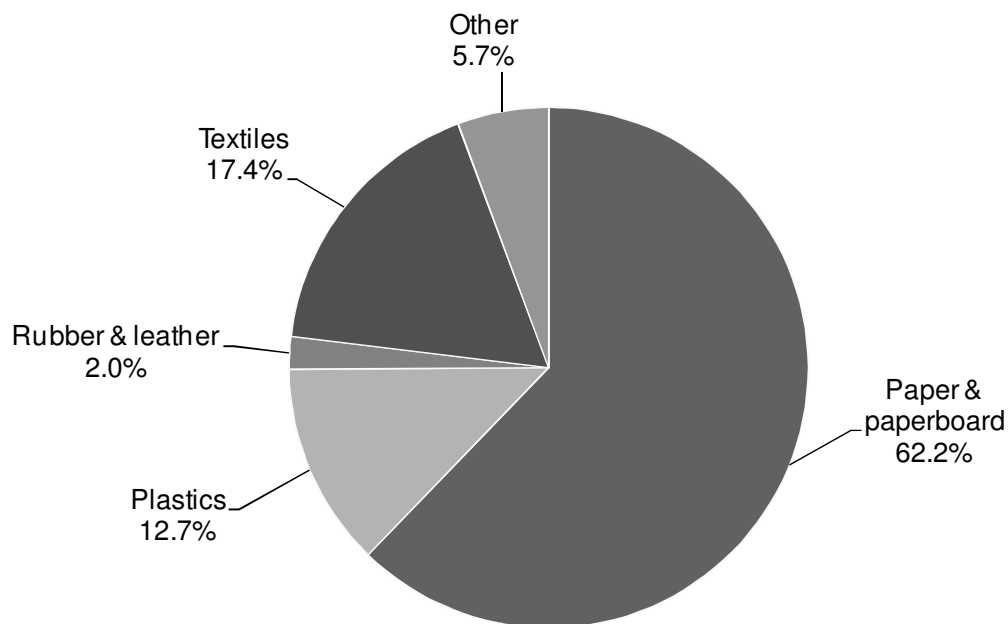
Figure 14. Generation of products in MSW, 1960 to 2011



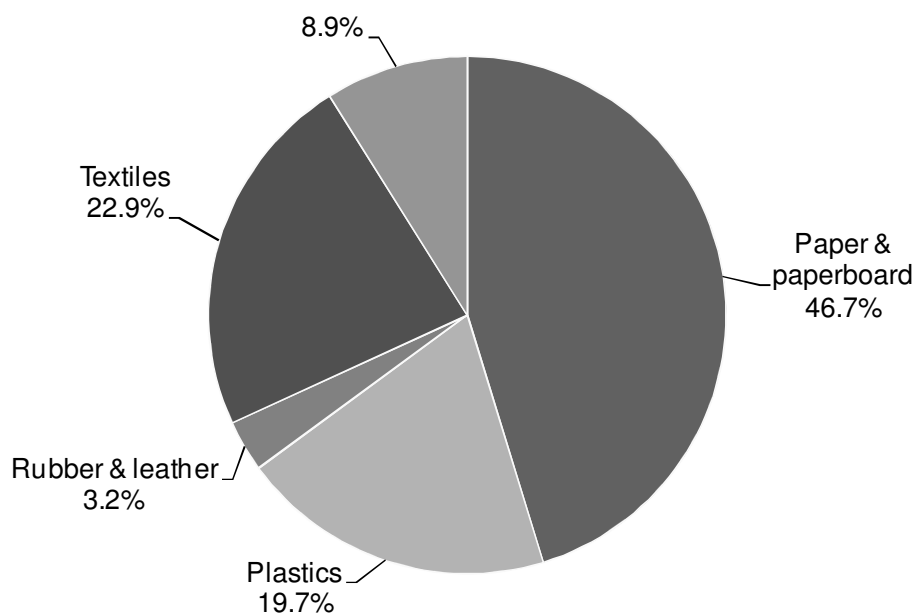
The percentage of materials discards from containers and packaging is affected by recovery for recycling. After recovery for recycling, paper and paperboard dropped to 25.1 percent of discards. Glass containers accounted for 16.4 percent of discards of containers and packaging, plastics were 32.5 percent, wood was 21.4 percent, and metals were 4.7 percent.

Additional containers and packaging detail is shown in Figure 17. Corrugated boxes account for 39 percent of total containers and packaging generation but, due to a high recovery rate, only account for seven percent of discards. Wood packaging makes up 13 percent of containers and packaging generation and 20 percent of discards. Plastic bags, sacks, and wraps are five percent of generation and nine percent of discards. Although steel and aluminum containers and packaging have high recovery rates (see Table 17), each account for two to three percent of generation and discards. This is due to the relatively small amounts of these products generated.

**Figure 15. Nondurable goods generated and discarded*
in municipal solid waste, 2011
(In percent of total generation and discards)**



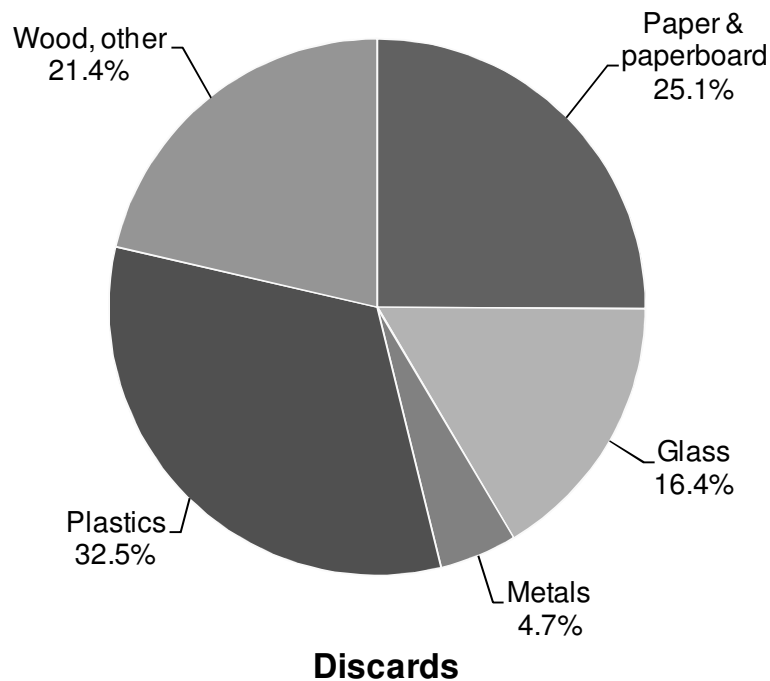
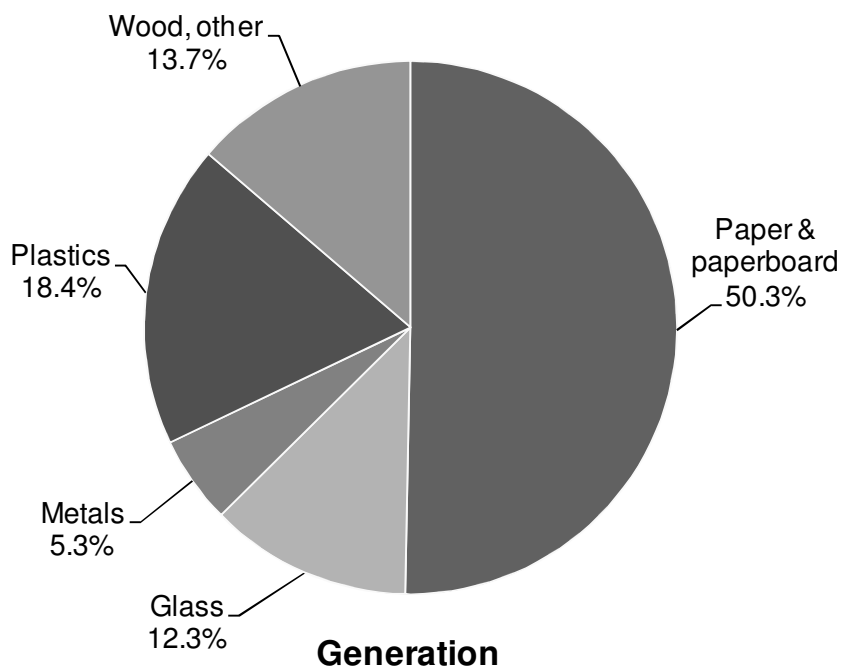
Generation



Discards

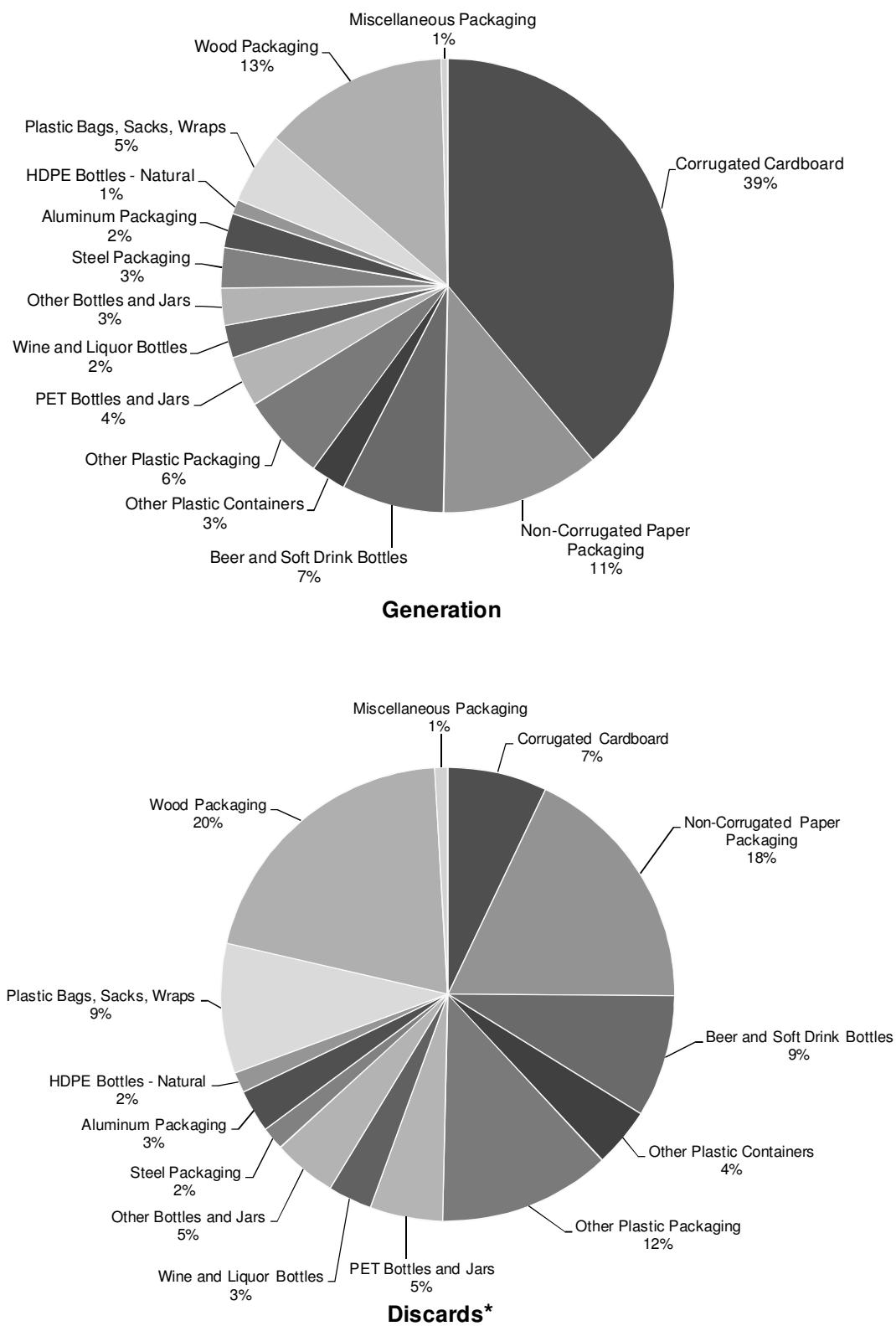
*Discards in this figure include combustion with energy recovery.

**Figure 16. Containers and packaging materials generated and discarded*
in municipal solid waste, 2011
(In percent of total generation and discards)**



*Discards in this figure include combustion with energy recovery.

**Figure 17. Containers and packaging generated and discarded*
in municipal solid waste, 2011
(In percent of total generation and discards)**



SUMMARY

The data presented in this chapter can be summarized by the following observations:

MSW Generation

- Total generation of municipal solid waste in 2011 was 250.4 million tons, which was less than the 253.6 million tons generated in 2005. This compares to 1990, when total generation of MSW was 208.3 million tons.
- Paper and paperboard products made up the largest percentage of all the materials in MSW, at 28.0 percent of total generation. Generation of paper and paperboard products declined from 87.7 million tons in 2000 to 70.0 million tons in 2011. Generation of newspapers has been declining since 2000, and this trend is expected to continue, partly due to decreased page size, but mainly due to increased use of electronic communication of news. Generation of office-type (high grade) papers also has been in decline, due at least partially to increased use of electronic transmission of reports, etc. Paper and paperboard products have ranged between 36 and 28 percent of generation since 2000.
- Yard trimmings comprised the third largest material category, estimated at 33.7 million tons, or 13.5 percent of total generation, in 2011. This compares to 35.0 million tons (16.8 percent of total generation) in 1990. The decline in yard trimmings generation since 1990 is largely due to state legislation discouraging yard trimmings disposal in landfills, including source reduction measures such as backyard composting and leaving grass trimmings on the yard.
- Plastic products generation in 2011 was 31.8 million tons, or 12.7 percent of generation. This was an increase of 930,000 tons from 2007 to 2011. This increase in plastics generation came from durable goods and the containers and packaging categories. Although plastics generation has grown from 8.2 percent of generation in 1990 to 12.7 percent in 2011, plastic generation as a percent of total generation has remained fairly steady over the past three years.

- In 2011, an estimated 3.4 million tons of selected consumer electronics were generated. This represents less than 2 percent of MSW generation. Selected consumer electronics include products such as TVs, VCRs, DVD players, video cameras, stereo systems, telephones, and computer equipment.

MSW Recovery

- Recovery of materials in MSW increased from 5.6 million tons in 1960 (6.4 percent of total generation) to 69.5 million tons in 2000 (28.5 percent of generation) to 86.9 million tons in 2011 (34.7 percent of generation).
- Recovery of paper and paperboard products, the largest component of recovery, increased from 16.9 percent in 1960 to 42.8 percent in 2000 to 65.6 percent in 2011.
- The increase in recovery of paper and paperboard products over the longer term has been due to increases in recovery, over time, from all categories: newspapers, books, magazines, office papers, directories, Standard mail (advertisements, circulars, etc.), and other commercial printing.
- Newspaper/mechanical paper recovery rate increased from 71.6 percent to 72.5 percent between 2010 and 2011. Prior to 2010, newspaper recovery was reported separately from mechanical papers (and therefore not comparable to earlier years). Newspaper/mechanical paper generation decreased from 9.9 million tons to 9.2 million tons from 2010 to 2011.
- Containers and packaging recovery increased from 33.9 million tons in 2007 to 38.3 million tons in 2011; percentage recovery increased from 43.3 percent to 50.7 percent.
- Nondurable goods recovery decreased from 21 million tons in 2007 to 18.8 million tons in 2011. However, due to decreased generation, the percentage recovery of nondurable goods increased from 34.0 percent to 36.5 percent.
- Selected consumer electronics recovery increased to 850,000 tons (24.9 percent recovery rate). This is up from the 2010 recovery rate for selected consumer electronics, which was 19.6 percent. The higher rate for the 2011 figure is due primarily to better data, rather than a sudden growth in recycling.

- Measured by tonnage, the most recovered products and materials in 2011 were corrugated boxes (26.8 million tons), yard trimmings (19.3 million tons), mixed nondurable paper products (10.6 million tons), newspapers/mechanical papers (6.6 million tons), glass containers (3.2 million tons), lead-acid batteries (2.8 million tons), major appliances (2.6 million tons), wood packaging (2.4 million tons), tires (2.1 million tons), and mixed paper containers and packaging (1.9 million tons). Collectively, these products accounted for 90 percent of total MSW recovery in 2011.
- Measured by percentage of generation, products with the highest recovery rates in 2011 were lead-acid batteries (96.2 percent), corrugated boxes (91.0 percent), newspapers/mechanical papers (72.5 percent), steel packaging (72.0 percent), major appliances (64.2 percent), yard trimmings (57.3 percent), aluminum cans (54.5 percent), mixed nondurable paper products (46.6 percent), tires (44.6 percent), and glass packaging (34.2 percent).

Long Term Trends

- Generation of MSW has increased (except in recession years), from 88.1 million tons in 1960 to 250.4 million tons in 2011. After 2007, generation decreased due to the depressed economy. Generation decreased 4.8 percent between 2007 and 2009 followed by a rise in generation of 2.5 percent from 2009 to 2011.
- Generation of paper and paperboard, the largest material component of MSW, fluctuates from year to year, but has decreased from 87.7 million tons in 2000 to 70.0 million tons in 2011. Generation of yard trimmings has increased since 2000. Generation of other material categories also fluctuates from year to year, but overall MSW generation increased from 1960 to 2007, with the trend reversing after 2007.
- In percentage of total MSW generation, recovery for recycling (including composting) did not exceed 15 percent until 1990. Growth in the recovery rate to current levels (34.7 percent) reflects an increase in the infrastructure for recovery and expansion of domestic and foreign markets over the last decade.

- Recovery (as a percentage of generation) of most materials in MSW has increased dramatically over the last 41 years. Some examples:

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2011
Paper and paperboard	15%	21%	28%	43%	66%
Glass	1%	5%	20%	23%	28%
Metals	4%	8%	24%	35%	34%
Plastics	Neg.	<1%	2%	6%	8%
Yard trimmings	Neg.	Neg.	12%	52%	57%
Selected Consumer Electronics				10%	25%
Lead-acid batteries	76%	70%	97%	93%	96%

Neg. = less than 5,000 tons or 0.05 percent.

CHAPTER 2

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CHAPTER 3

MANAGEMENT OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE

INTRODUCTION

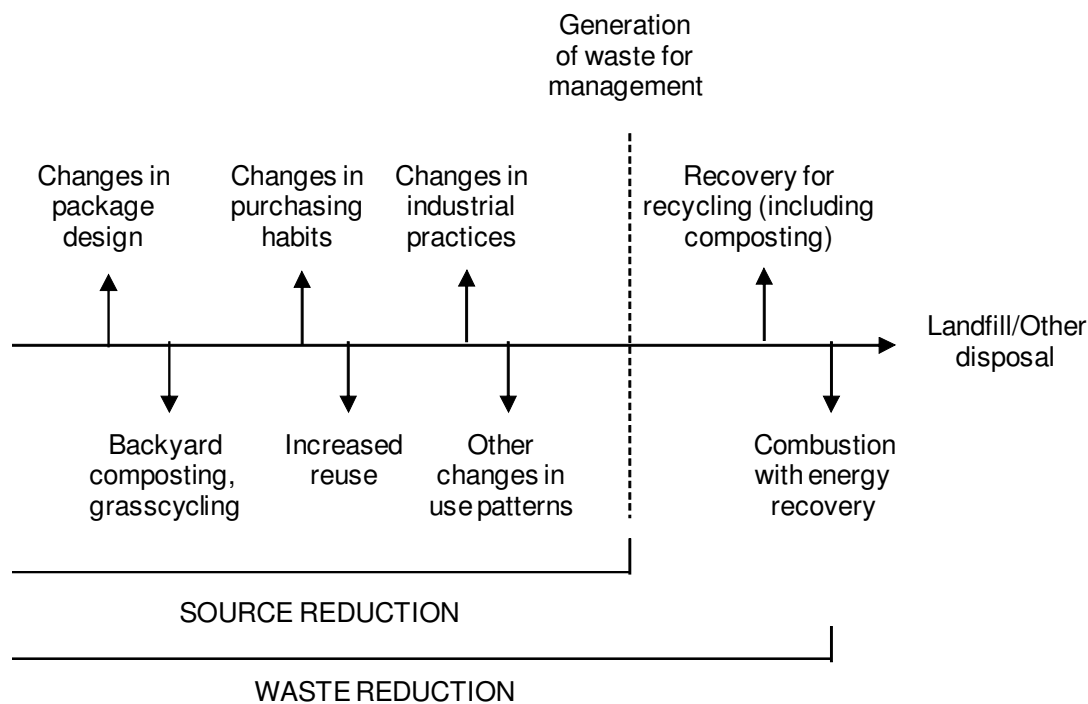
EPA's integrated waste management hierarchy, depicted below, includes the following four components:

- Source reduction (or waste prevention), including reuse of products and on-site (or backyard) composting of yard trimmings.
- Recycling, including off-site (or community) composting.
- Combustion with energy recovery.
- Disposal through landfilling.



Although we encourage the use of strategies that emphasize the top of the hierarchy whenever possible, all four components remain important within an integrated waste management system. The four components are put into context in Figure 18.

This chapter addresses the major activities within an integrated waste management system: source reduction, recycling (including composting), combustion with energy recovery, and disposal. Source reduction activities have the effect of reducing MSW generation, while other management alternatives deal with MSW once it is generated.

Figure 18. Diagram of solid waste management

Estimates of the historical recovery of materials for recycling, including composting, are presented in Chapter 2. Chapter 3 discusses the current MSW management infrastructure. Current solid waste collection, processing, combustion with energy recovery, and disposal programs and facilities are highlighted with tables and figures. It also presents estimates for quantities of waste landfilled, which are obtained by subtracting the amounts recovered for recycling and composting and the amounts combusted with energy recovery from total MSW generation.

SOURCE REDUCTION

Since 1960, the amount of waste each person creates has increased from 2.68 to 4.40 pounds per day. An effective way to stop this trend is by preventing waste from being generated in the first place.

Source reduction is gaining more attention as an important solid waste management option. Source reduction, often called “waste prevention,” is defined by EPA as “any change in the design, manufacturing, purchase, or use of materials or products (including packaging) to reduce their

amount or toxicity before they become municipal solid waste. Prevention also refers to the reuse of products or materials.” Thus, source reduction activities affect the waste stream before the point of generation. In this report, MSW is considered to have been generated if it is placed at curbside or in a receptacle such as a dumpster for pickup, or if it is taken by the generator to another site for recycling (including composting) or disposal.

Source reduction encompasses a very broad range of activities by private citizens, communities, commercial establishments, institutional agencies, and manufacturers and distributors. Examples of source reduction actions (Table 24) include:

- Redesigning products or packages so as to reduce the quantity of materials or the toxicity of the materials used, by substituting lighter materials for heavier ones and lengthening the life of products to postpone disposal.
- Using packaging that reduces the amount of damage or spoilage to the product.
- Reducing amounts of products or packages used through modification of current practices by processors and consumers.
- Reusing products or packages already manufactured.
- Managing non-product organic wastes (food waste, yard trimmings) through backyard composting or other on-site alternatives to disposal.

Table 24
SELECTED EXAMPLES OF SOURCE REDUCTION PRACTICES

Source Reduction Practice	MSW Product Categories			
	Durable Goods	Nondurable Goods	Containers & Packaging	Organics
Redesign				
Materials reduction	• Downgauge metals in appliances	• Paperless purchase orders • Concentrates	• Container lightweighting	• Xeriscaping
Materials substitution	• Use of composites in appliances and electronic circuitry		• Cereal in bags • Coffee brick • Multi-use products	
Lengthen life	• High mileage tires • Electronic components reduce moving parts	• Regular servicing • Look at warranties • Extend warranties	• Design for secondary uses	
Consumer Practices				
	• Purchase long lived products	• Repair • Duplexing • Sharing • Reduce unwanted mail • Purchasing concentrated products	• Purchasing products in bulk • Reusable bags	• Food donation
Reuse				
By design	• Modular design	• Envelopes	• Reusable pallets • Returnable secondary packaging	
Secondary	• Borrow or rent for temporary use • Give to charity • Buy or sell at garage sales	• Clothing • Waste paper scratch pads	• Loosefill • Grocery sacks • Dairy containers • Glass and plastic jars	
Reduce/Eliminate Toxins				
	• Eliminate PCBs	• Soy ink, waterbased • Waterbased solvents • Reduce mercury	• Replace lead foil on wine bottles	
Reduce Organics				
Food scraps				• Backyard composting • Vermi-composting
Yard trimmings				• Backyard composting • Grasscycling

Source Reduction Through Redesign

Since source reduction of products and packages can save money by reducing materials and energy costs, manufacturers and packaging designers have been pursuing these activities for many years. Combined with other source reduction measures, redesign can have a significant effect on material use and eventual discards. Design for source reduction can take several approaches. An example of materials reduction is the lightweighting of aluminum beverage cans. In 2011, an

aluminum beverage can weighs 0.462 ounces; down from 0.546 ounces per can in 1996 (over a 15 percent reduction).

Materials substitution can make a product or package lighter. For example, there has been a continuous trend of substitution of lighter materials such as plastics and aluminum for materials such as glass and steel. The substitution also may involve a flexible package instead of a rigid package. A product or package can be redesigned to reduce weight or volume. Toxic materials in products or packaging can be replaced with non-toxic substitutes. Considerable efforts have been made in this area in the past few years.

Lengthening product life delays the time when the product enters the municipal waste stream. The responsibility for lengthening product life lies partly with manufacturers and partly with consumers. Manufacturers can design products to last longer and be easier to repair. Since some of these design modifications may make products more expensive, at least initially, manufacturers must be willing to invest in new product development, and consumers must demand the products and be willing to pay for them to make the goal work. Consumers and manufacturers also must be willing to care for and repair products.

Modifying Practices to Reduce Materials Use

Businesses and individuals often can modify their current practices to reduce the amounts of waste generated. In a business office, electronic mail can replace printed memoranda and data. Reports can be copied on both sides of the paper (duplexed). Modifying practices can be combined with other source reduction measures to reduce generation and limit material use.

Individuals and businesses can request removal from mailing lists to reduce the amount of mail received and discarded. When practical, products can be purchased in large sizes or in bulk to minimize the amount of packaging per unit of product. Concentrated products also can reduce packaging requirements. The use of reusable shopping bags reduces the quantity of plastic and paper bags produced.

Dining services across the country are finding significant reductions in food waste simply by going trayless. Trayless dining has on average, reduced post-consumer plate waste by 30 percent.

Reuse of Products and Packages

Similar to lengthening product life, reuse of products and packaging delays the time when the items must finally be discarded as waste. When a product is reused, presumably manufacture, purchase and use of a new product is delayed, although this may not always be true.

Many of the products characterized for this report are reused in sizable quantities (e.g., furniture, wood pallets, and clothing). The recovery of products and materials for recycling (including composting) as characterized in Chapter 2 does *not* include reuse of products, but reuse is discussed in this section.

Durable Goods. There is a long tradition of reuse of durable goods such as large and small appliances, furniture, and carpets. Often this is done informally as individuals pass on used goods to family members and friends. Other durable goods are donated to charitable organizations for resale or use by needy families. Some communities and other organizations have facilitated exchange programs for citizens, and there are for-profit retail stores that deal in used furniture, appliances, and carpets. Individuals resell other goods at garage sales, flea markets, and the like. Borrowing and sharing items like tools can also reduce the number of products ultimately discarded. There is generally a lack of data on the volume of durable goods reused in the United States, and what the ultimate effect on MSW generation might be.

Nondurable Goods. While nondurable goods by their very nature are designed for short-term use and disposal, there is considerable reuse of some items classified as nondurable. In particular, footwear, clothing, and other textile goods often are reused. Much of the reuse is accomplished through the same types of channels as those described above for durable goods. That is, private individuals, charitable organizations, and retail outlets (consignment shops) all facilitate reuse of discarded clothing and footwear. In addition, considerable amounts of textiles are reused as wiping cloths before being discarded.

Another often-cited waste prevention measure is the use of washable plates, cups, napkins, towels, diapers, and other such products, instead of the disposable variety. (This will reduce solid waste but will have other environmental effects, such as increased water and energy use.) Other reusable items are available, for example: reusable air filters, reusable coffee filters, and reconditioned printer cartridges.

Containers and Packaging. Containers and packaging can be reused in two ways: they can be used again for their original purpose, or they can be used in other ways.

Glass bottles are a prime example of reuse of a container for its original purpose. Refillable glass beer bottles can be collected, washed, and refilled for use again. Some years ago large numbers of refillable glass soft drink bottles were used, but single-use glass bottles, plastic bottles, and aluminum cans have largely replaced these. According to a 2011 USA Today article, hundreds of brewpubs, breweries and even grocery stores are cashing in on the growing popularity 64-ounce refillable glass bottles called growlers.⁴

Another example in this category is the use of refurbished wood pallets for shipping palletized goods. It is estimated that over 10 million tons of wood pallets were refurbished and returned to service in 2011. It is also common practice to recondition steel drums and barrels for reuse.

Many other containers and packages can be recycled, but are not often reused, although this practice can achieve a notable source reduction in packaging. As an example, some grocery stores will allow customers to reuse grocery sacks, perhaps allowing a refund for each sack brought back for reuse. Also, many parcel shippers will take back plastic packaging “peanuts” for reuse.

Many ingenious reuses for containers and packaging are possible in the home. People reuse boxes, bags, jars, jugs, and cans for many purposes around the house. There are no reliable estimates as to how these specific activities affect the waste stream.

Management of Organic Materials

Food waste and yard trimmings combined made up about 28 percent of MSW generation in 2011, so source reduction measures aimed at these products can have an important effect on waste generation. Composting is the usual methodology for recovering these organic materials. As defined in this report, composting of organic materials after they are taken to a central composting facility is a recycling activity. Estimates for these off-site composting activities are included in this chapter.

There are several types of source reduction that take place at the point of generation (e.g., the yard of a home or business). The backyard composting of yard trimmings and certain food discards is a growing source reduction practice. There also is a trend toward leaving grass clippings on lawns,

⁴ Canfield, Clarke. “Reusable ‘growlers’ grow popular for carrying draft beer.” October, 18, 2011. USA Today.

often through the use of mulching mowers. Other actions contributing to reduced organics disposal are: establishment of variable fees for collection of wastes (also known as unit-based pricing or Pay-As-You-Throw), which encourage residents to reduce the amount of wastes set out; improved technology (mulching mowers); xeriscaping (landscaping with plants that use minimal water and generate minimal waste); and certain legislation such as bans on disposal of yard trimmings in landfills.

Part of the impetus for source reduction and recycling of yard trimmings is the large number of state regulations discouraging landfilling or other disposal of yard trimmings. The Composting Council and other sources reported that in 1992, 11 states and the District of Columbia (amounting to over 28 percent of the nation's population) had in effect legislation affecting management of yard trimmings. By 2011, 22 states (amounting to about 40 percent of the nation's population) had legislation discouraging the disposal of yard trimmings. In addition, some local and regional jurisdictions regulate disposal of yard trimmings.

Measuring Source Reduction

Although source reduction has been an increasingly important aspect of municipal solid waste programs since the late 1980s, the goal of actually measuring how much source reduction has taken place—how much waste prevention there has been—has proved elusive. Early attempts by localities and states often consisted of measuring a single waste stream in a single community. In time, additional research enabled proxy, or estimated values, to be developed for specific waste streams, to use on a state-wide or national level. EPA's *Source Reduction Program Potential Manual* and planning packet, published in 1997 (EPA530-E-97-001) provides an example of this approach. Unlike recycling, where there are actual materials to weigh all through the process, measuring source reduction means trying to measure something that no longer exists.

The November 1999 *National Source Reduction Characterization Report for Municipal Solid Waste in the United States* (EPA 530-R-99-034) provides additional information including an explanation of a methodology that has been used to generate source reduction estimates.

RECOVERY FOR RECYCLING (INCLUDING COMPOSTING)

Recyclables Collection

Before recyclable materials can be processed and recycled into new products, they must be collected. Most residential recycling involves curbside recyclables collection, drop-off programs, buy-back operations, and/or container deposit systems. Collection of recyclables from commercial establishments is usually separate from residential recyclables collection programs.

Curbside Recyclables Collection. In 2011, more than 9,800 curbside recyclables collection programs were reported in the United States. As shown in Table 25 and Figure 19, the extent of residential curbside recycling programs varies by geographic region, with the most extensive curbside collection occurring in the Northeast.

Curbside collection programs commonly require residents to do at least some sorting of the recyclable materials put at the curb. In recent years, however, there has been a trend toward single-stream curbside collections programs, in which no sorting is required of the residents. The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) estimated that 65 percent of curbside recyclables collection programs were single-stream in 2010.⁵ These programs require that the materials be taken to a materials recovery facility (MRF) for processing.

In 2011, over 70 percent of the U.S. population had access to curbside recyclables collection programs (based on data from states representing 71.2 percent of the U.S. population and shown in Table 25). In comparison, a 2009 American Beverage Association study estimated that 74 percent of the U.S. population had access to curbside recycling programs.⁶ The Northeast region had the largest population served – 47 million persons. In the Northeast, 85 percent of the population had access to curbside recyclables collection, while in the West 59 percent of the population had access to curbside recycling. The largest numbers of programs were located in the Northeast and Midwest regions of the country.

⁵ AF&PA. “2010AF&PA Community Survey Executive Summary.” This report also estimated that 63 percent of the U.S. population is served by curbside recyclables collection.

⁶ American Beverage Association. “2008 ABA Community Survey. Final Report.” September 2009.

Table 25
NUMBER AND POPULATION SERVED BY
CURBSIDE RECYCLABLES COLLECTION PROGRAMS, 2011

Region	Number of Programs	Population* (in thousands)	Population Served	
			(in thousands)	Percent**
NORTHEAST	3,465	47,380	40,430	85%
SOUTH	1,692	91,374	71,950	79%
MIDWEST	3,706	40,019	23,850	60%
WEST	1,004	43,215	25,630	59%
Total	<u>9,867</u>	<u>221,989</u>	<u>161,860</u>	<u>73%</u>
Total U.S. Population		311,592		

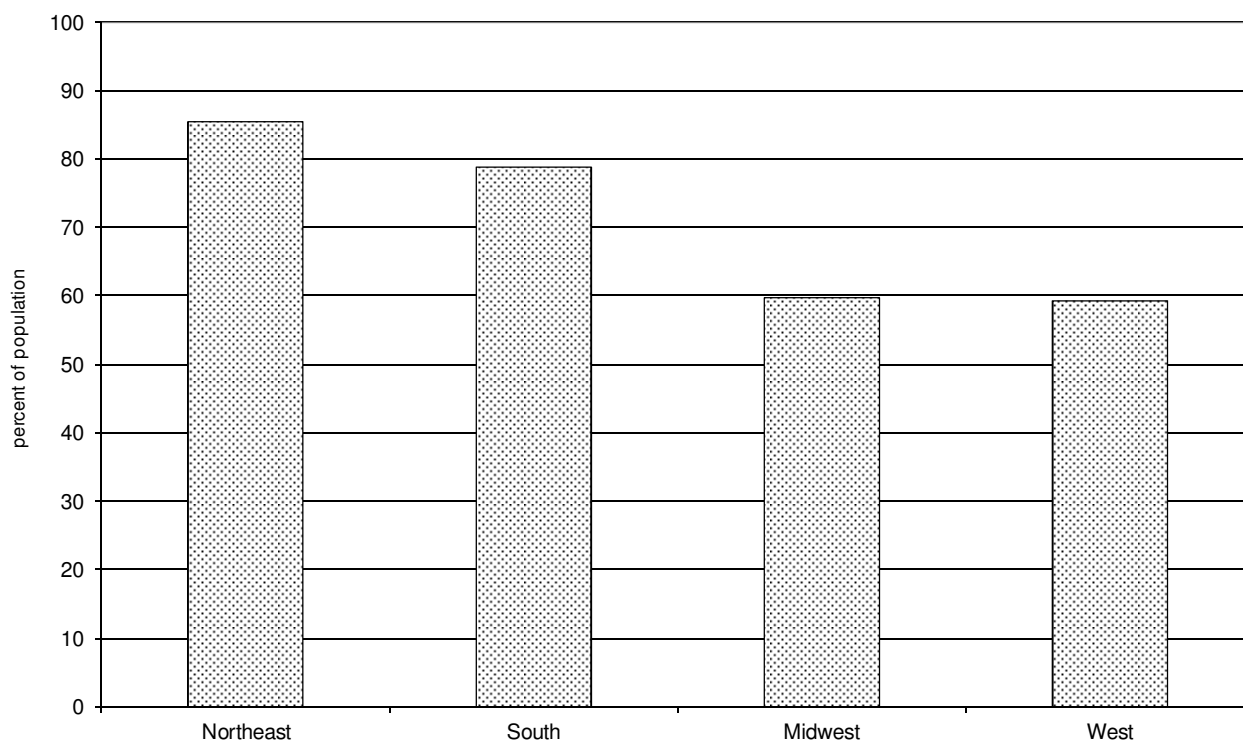
* Population in states reporting population served data.

** Percent of population served by curbside programs was calculated using population of states reporting data.

Sources:

U.S. Census Bureau, *BioCycle* State of Garbage data received August 2010, *BioCycle* The State of Garbage in America, October 2010, and data from the following state agency websites: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Figure 19. Population served by curbside recycling, 2011



U.S. Census Bureau, *BioCycle* State of Garbage data received August 2010, *BioCycle* The State of Garbage in America, October 2010, and data from the following state agency websites: Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maine, Massachusetts, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Drop-off Centers. Drop-off centers typically collect residential materials, although some accept materials from businesses. They are found in locations such as grocery stores, sheltered workshops, charitable organizations, city-sponsored sites, and apartment complexes. Types of materials collected vary greatly; however, drop-off centers can usually accept a greater variety of materials than a curbside collection program.

It is difficult to quantify drop-off centers in the United States. It is estimated that there were 12,694 programs in 1997, according to a *BioCycle* survey. In 2010, the “2010 AF&PA Community Survey Executive Summary” estimated over 21,000 communities have drop-off centers. The 2009 American Beverage Association study estimated 83 percent of the U.S. population has access to drop-off collection programs. Both of these studies stated that many communities have access to both curbside and drop-off recyclables collection. In some areas, particularly those with sparse population, drop-off centers may be the only option for collection of recyclable materials. In other areas, they supplement other collection programs.

Buy-Back Centers. A buy-back center is typically a commercial operation that pays individuals for recovered materials. This could include scrap metal dealers, aluminum can centers, waste haulers, or paper dealers. Materials are collected by individuals, small businesses, and charitable organizations.

Deposit Systems. Ten states have container deposit systems: California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New York, Oregon, and Vermont (Figure 20). In these programs, the consumer pays a deposit on beverage containers at the point of purchase, which is redeemed on return of the empty containers. In California, beverage distributors also pay a per container fee. In addition to these fees, handling fees are also assessed in most of the states listed.

Deposit systems generally target beverage containers, which account for about 5 percent of total MSW generation (dairy products are typically excluded). The 2007 version of this report series estimated that about 35 percent of all recovery of beverage containers comes from ten of the eleven states with deposit legislation⁷, and an additional 20 percent of recovered beverage containers come from California. (Note: These recovery estimates reflect not only containers redeemed by consumers for deposit, but also containers recovered through existing curbside and drop-off recycling programs.

⁷ Delaware deposit legislation was repealed by Senate Bill 234. Deposit collection ceased on December 1, 2010. <http://www.bottlebill.org/legislation/usa/delaware.htm>

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

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Multi-family residence recycling could be classified as either residential or commercial recyclables collection. Multi-family refuse is usually handled as a commercial account by waste haulers. These commercial waste haulers may handle recycling at multi-family dwellings (typically five or more units) as well.

Recyclables Processing

Processing recyclable materials is performed at materials recovery facilities (MRFs), mixed waste processing facilities, and mixed waste composting facilities. Some materials are sorted at the curb and require less attention. Other materials are sorted into categories at the curb, such as a paper category and a container category, with additional sorting at a facility (MRF). There is a more recent trend towards MRFs that can sort recyclable materials that are picked up unsorted (single-stream recycling). Mixed waste can also be processed to pull out recyclable and compostable materials.

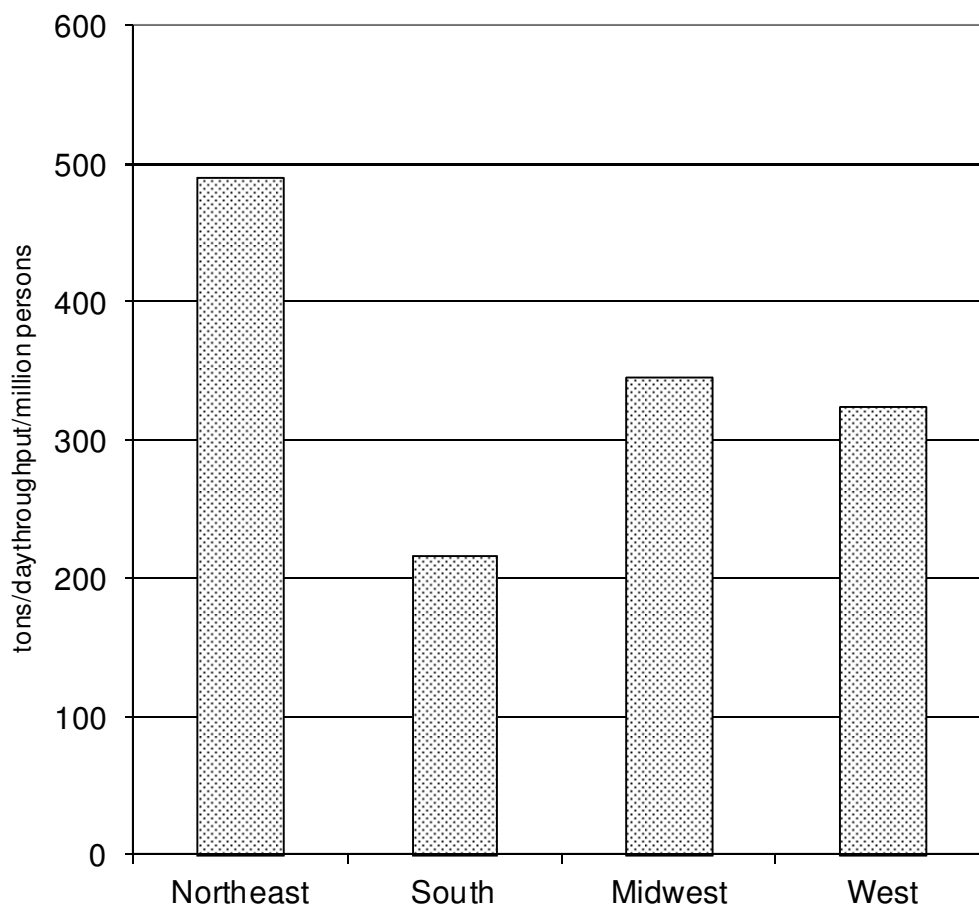
Materials Recovery Facilities. Materials recovery facilities vary widely across the United States, depending on the incoming materials and the technology and labor used to sort the materials. In 2011, 633 MRFs were operating in the United States, with an estimated total daily throughput of over 98,000 tons per day (Table 26). The most extensive recyclables processing throughput occurs in the Northeast and Midwest (Figure 21).

Table 26
MATERIAL RECOVERY FACILITIES (MRF), 2011

Region	Number	Estimated Throughput (tpd)
NORTHEAST	153	27,186
SOUTH	195	24,754
MIDWEST	153	23,118
WEST	132	23,391
<i>U.S. Total</i>	633	98,449

Source: Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc. Data provided July 2011.

**Figure 21. Estimated MRF throughput, 2011
(Tons per day per million persons)**



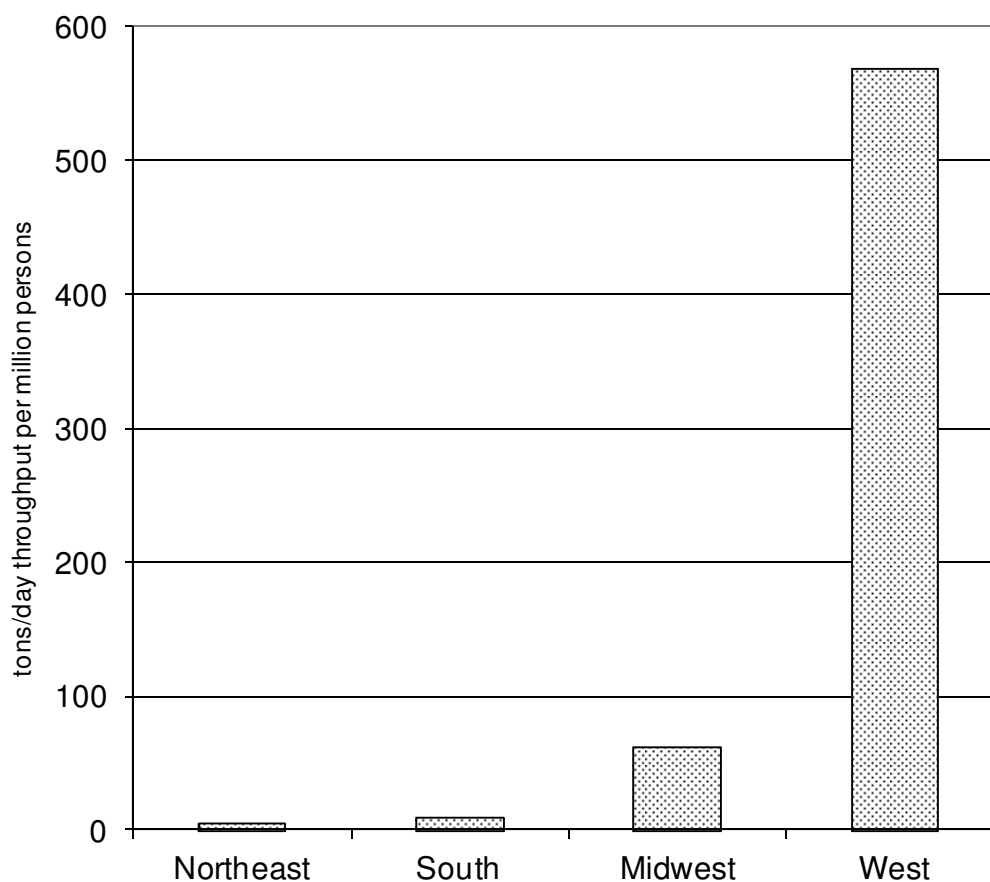
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc. Data provided July 2011.

Many MRFs are considered low technology, meaning the materials are predominantly sorted manually. MRFs classified as high technology sort recyclables using eddy currents, magnetic pulleys, optical sensors, and air classifiers. As MRFs change and grow, many low technology MRFs add high tech features. However, high technology MRFs usually include some manual sorting, reducing the distinction between high and low technology MRFs.

Mixed Waste Processing. Mixed waste processing facilities are less common than conventional MRFs, but there are several facilities in operation in the United States, as illustrated in Figure 22. Mixed waste processing facilities receive mixed solid waste (including recyclable and non-

recyclable materials), which is then loaded on conveyors. Using both mechanical and manual (high and low technology) sorting, recyclable materials are removed for further processing. In 2011, there were reported 43 mixed waste processing facilities in the U.S., handling about 46,700 tons of waste per day. The Western region has the largest concentration of these processing facilities (representing almost 90 percent of the daily throughput).

**Figure 22. Mixed waste processing estimated throughput, 2011
(tons per day per million persons)**

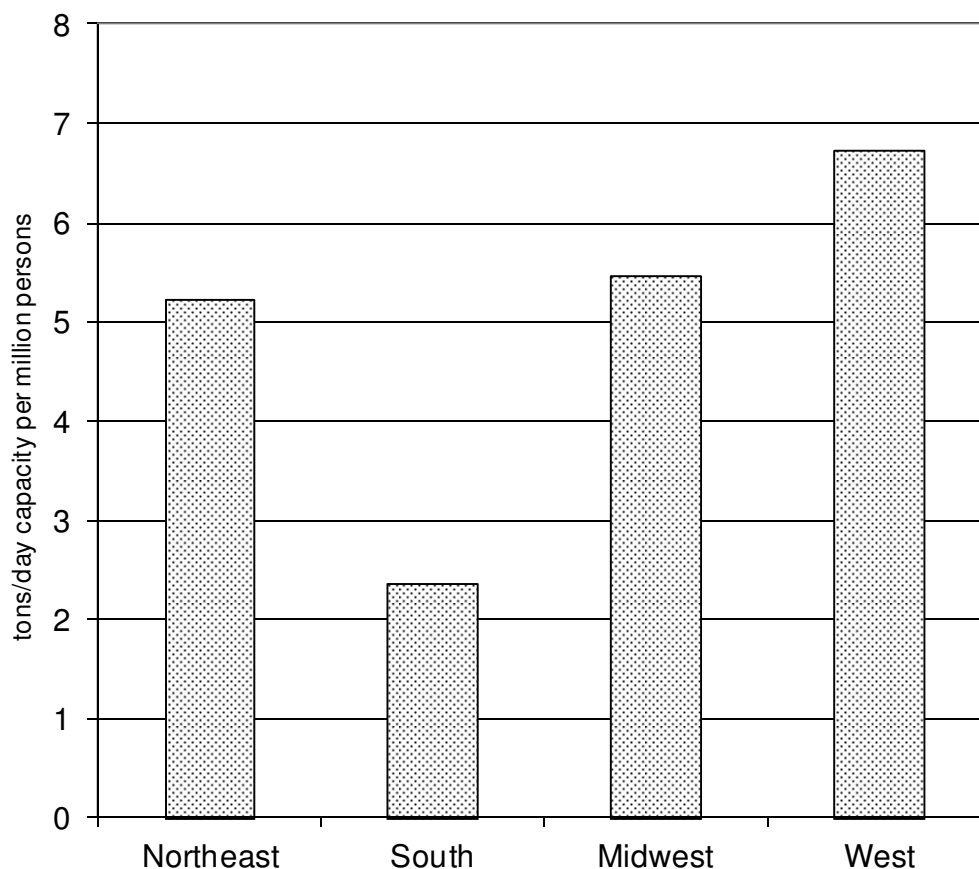


Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Governmental Advisory Associates, Inc. Data provided July 2011.

Mixed Waste Composting. Mixed waste composting starts with unsorted MSW. Large items are removed, as well as ferrous and other metals, depending on the type of operation. Mixed waste composting takes advantage of the high percentage of organic components of MSW, such as paper, food waste and yard trimmings, wood, and other materials. In 2011, there were 12 mixed waste composting facilities, the same number of facilities reported in 2009.

Nationally, mixed waste composting facilities handled about 1,400 tons per day in 2011, up from 1,100 tons per day in 2009. In 2011, the highest processing capacity per million persons was found in the West and Midwest, as shown in Figure 23.

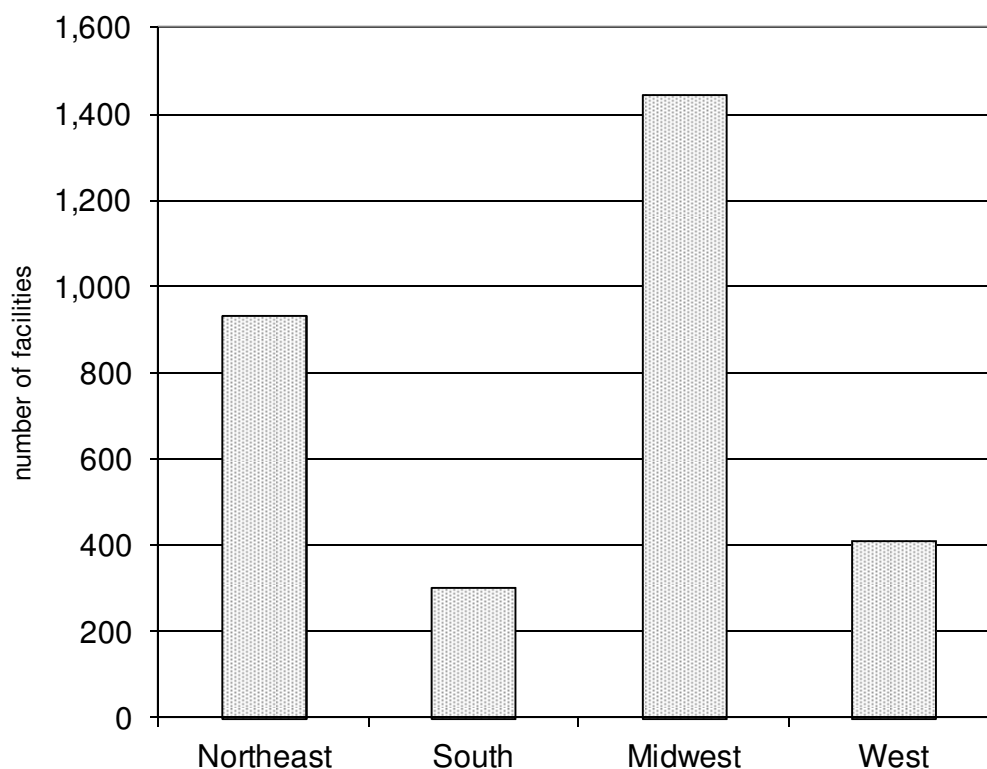
**Figure 23. MSW composting capacity, 2011
(Capacity in tons per day per million persons)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau; *BioCycle*, November 2011, Medina County, Ohio and West Wendover, Nevada websites.

Yard Trimmings Composting. Yard trimmings composting is much more prevalent than mixed waste composting. On-site management of yard trimmings (back yard composting) is discussed earlier in this chapter, and is classified as source reduction, not recycling. In 2011, about 3,090 yard trimmings composting programs were documented from a search of state environmental websites. In 2011, about 50 percent of these programs were in the Midwest region, as shown in Figure 24. Based on 19.3 million tons of yard trimmings recovered for composting in the United States (Table 2, Chapter 2), yard trimmings composting facilities handled approximately 52,900 tons per day in 2011.

**Figure 24. Yard trimmings composting facilities, 2011
(In number of facilities)**



Source: Internet search: includes data for 47 states and the District of Columbia.

COMBUSTION WITH ENERGY RECOVERY

Most of the municipal solid waste combustion currently practiced in this country incorporates recovery of an energy product (generally steam or electricity). The resulting energy reduces the amount needed from other sources, and the sale of the energy helps to offset the cost of operating the facility. In past years, it was common to burn municipal solid waste in incinerators solely as a volume reduction practice; energy recovery became more prevalent in the 1980s.

Total U.S. MSW combustion with energy recovery, referred to as waste-to-energy (WTE) combustion, had a 2011 design capacity of about 96,200 tons per day. There were 86 WTE facilities in 2011 (Table 27), down from 102 in 2000. In tons of capacity per million persons, the Northeast region had the most MSW combustion capacity in 2011 (Figure 25).

In addition to facilities combusting mixed MSW (processed or unprocessed), there is a small but growing amount of combustion of source-separated MSW. In particular, rubber tires have been used as fuel in cement kilns, utility boilers, pulp and paper mills, industrial boilers, and dedicated scrap tire-to-energy facilities. In addition, there is combustion of wood wastes and some paper and plastic wastes, usually in boilers that already burn some other type of solid fuel. For this report, it was estimated that about 3.3 million tons of MSW were combusted in this manner in 2011, with tires contributing a majority of the total.

Table 27
MUNICIPAL WASTE-TO-ENERGY PROJECTS, 2011

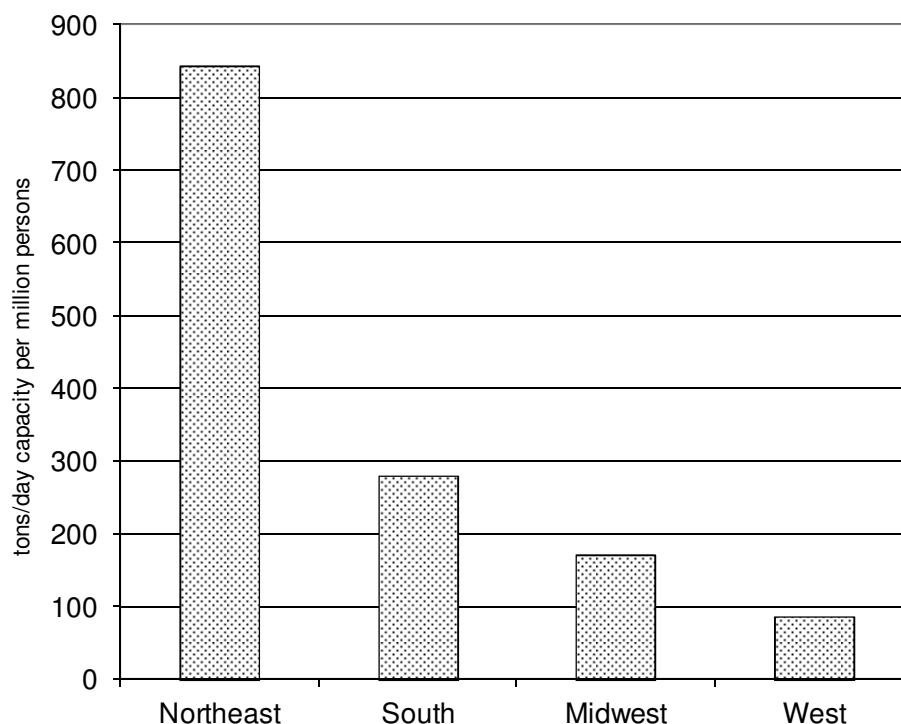
Region	Number Operational	Design Capacity (tpd)
NORTHEAST	40	46,704
SOUTH	22	31,896
MIDWEST	16	11,393
WEST	8	6,171
<i>U.S. Total*</i>	86	96,164

* Projects on hold or inactive were not included.

WTE includes mass burn, modular, and refuse-derived fuel combustion facilities.

Source: "The 2010 ERC Directory of Waste-to-Energy Plants." Energy Recovery Council (ERC). December 2010.

**Figure 25. Municipal waste-to-energy capacity, 2011
(Capacity in tons per million persons)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Energy Recovery Council (ERC). December 2010.

RESIDUES FROM WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

Whenever municipal wastes are processed, residues will remain. For the purposes of this report, it is assumed that most of these residues are landfilled. Materials processing facilities (MRFs) and compost facilities generate some residues when processing various recovered materials. These residues include materials that are unacceptable to end users (e.g., broken glass, wet newspapers), other contaminants (e.g., products made of plastic resins that are not wanted by the end user), or dirt. While residue generation varies widely, 5 to 10 percent is probably typical for a MRF. Residues from a MRF or compost facility are generally landfilled. Since the recovery estimates in this report are based on recovered materials purchased by end users rather than materials entering a processing facility, the residues are counted with other disposed materials.

When municipal solid waste is combusted, a residue (usually called ash) is left behind. Years ago this ash was commonly disposed of along with municipal solid waste, but combustor ash is *not*

counted as MSW in this report because it generally is managed separately⁸. (There are a number of efforts underway to reuse ash.) As a general “rule of thumb,” MSW combustor ash amounts to about 25 percent (by weight) of unprocessed MSW input. This percentage will vary from facility to facility depending upon the types of waste input and the efficiency and configuration of the facility.

LANDFILLS

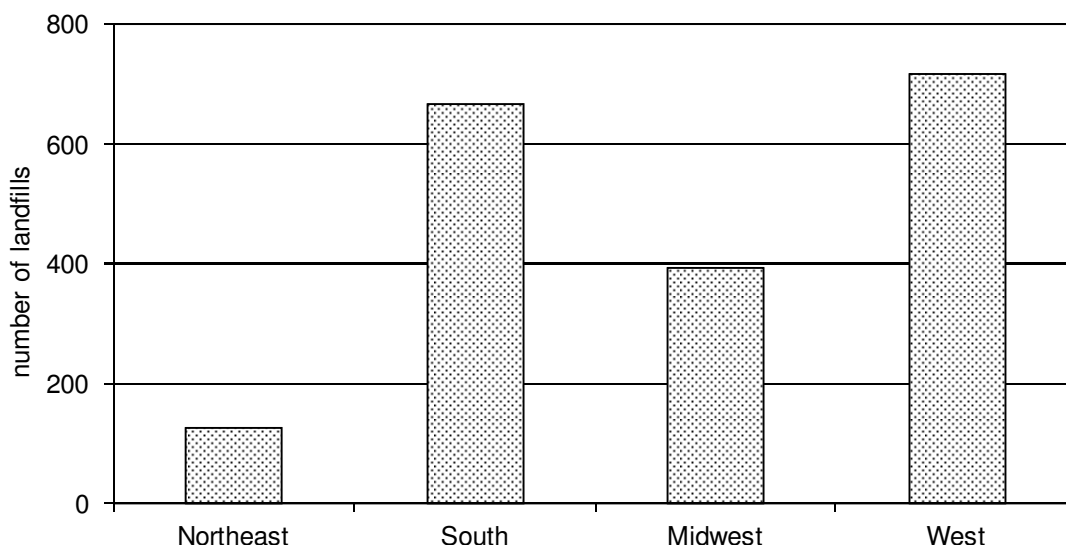
In 2011, there were 1,908 municipal solid waste landfills reported in the United States. Table 28 and Figure 26 show the number of landfills in each region. The South and West had the largest number of landfills. Thirty-eight percent of the landfills are located in the West, 35 percent in the South, and 21 percent in the Midwest. Less than 7 percent are located in the Northeast.

Table 28
LANDFILL FACILITIES, 2011

Region	Number of Landfills
NORTHEAST	128
SOUTH	668
MIDWEST	394
WEST	718
<i>U.S. Total</i>	1,908

Source: *BioCycle* October 2010. Latest report available.

⁸ Note that many combustion facilities do magnetic separation of residues to recover ferrous metals, e.g., steel cans and steel in other miscellaneous durable goods. This recovered steel is included in the total recovery of ferrous metals in MSW reported in Chapter 2.

Figure 26. Number of landfills in the U.S., 2011

Source: *BioCycle* October 2010. Latest report available.

RECYCLING AND JOB CREATION

A recent Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI) report noted that the scrap recycling industry in 2011, indirectly and directly created 459,140 jobs with \$26 billion in wages and \$90.1 billion in economic activity. That amounts to 137,640 direct jobs by the manufacturing and brokerage operations of the scrap recycling industry in the United States that includes purchasing, processing and brokering of scrap materials made of ferrous and nonferrous metals, paper, electronics, rubber, plastics, glass and textiles. These jobs paid an average wage and benefits of \$66,704.

The Tellus Institute prepared the 2011 *More Jobs, Less Pollution: Growing the Recycling Economy in the U.S.* that noted a possible 1.5 million more jobs could be created with the doubling of the recycling rate over the next two decades. In the late 1990's and early 2000's, EPA carried out the U.S. Recycling Economic Information Project to establish the Jobs through Recycling and recycling economic analysis efforts across the country. From early EPA community case study efforts, the Institute for Local Self Reliance developed these initial job creation estimates:

<u>Type of Operation</u>	<u>Jobs per 10,000 TPY</u>
Product Reuse	
Computer Reuse	296
Textile Reclamation	85
Misc. Durables Reuse	62
Wooden Pallet Repair	28
Recycling-based Manufacturers	25
Paper Mills	18
Glass Product Manufacturers	26
Plastic Product Manufacturers	93
Conventional Materials Recovery Facilities	10
Composting	4
Landfill and Incineration	1

Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance. Washington, DC. 1997.

The estimation of economic impacts of recycling and source reductions has been carried on by various states and regional entities completing their own studies since EPA's seminal work.

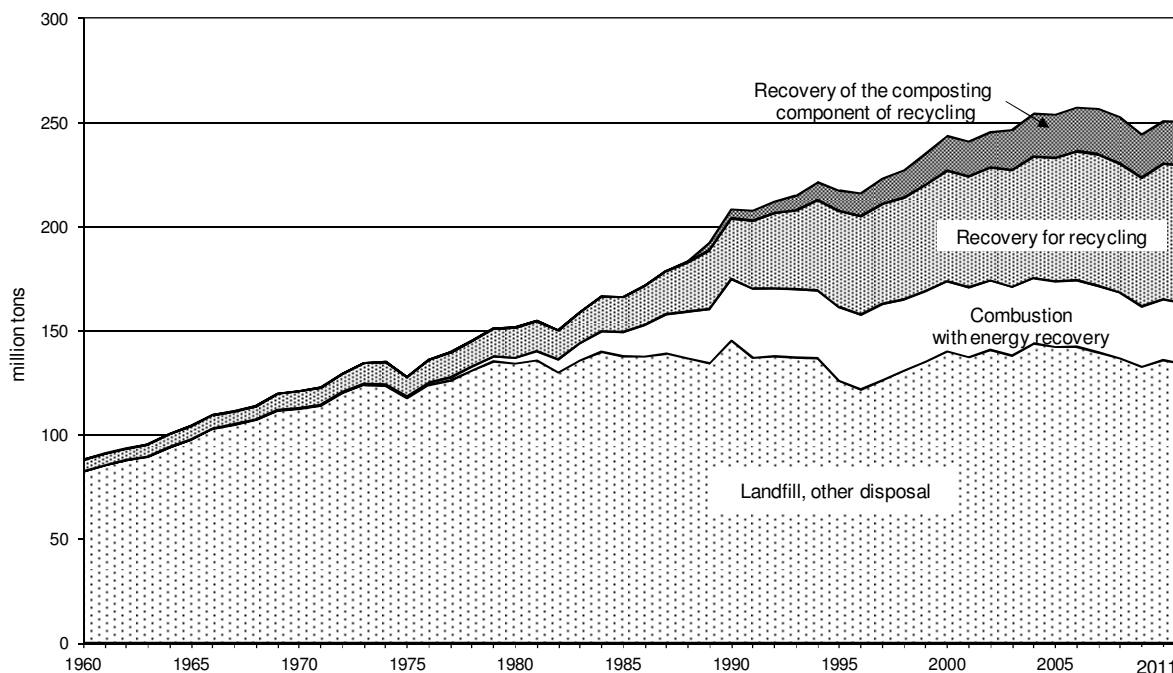
SUMMARY OF HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MSW MANAGEMENT

This summary provides some perspective on historical and current municipal solid waste management practices in the United States. The results are summarized in Table 29 and Figure 27.

Historically, municipal solid waste generation has grown steadily (from 88.1 million tons in 1960 to 250.4 million tons at present). In the 1960s and early 1970s a large percentage of MSW was burned, with little recovery for recycling. Landfill disposal typically consisted of open dumping, often accompanied with open burning of the waste for volume reduction.

Through the mid-1980s, incineration declined considerably and landfills became difficult to site, and waste generation continued to increase. Materials recovery rates increased very slowly in this time period, and the burden on the nation's landfills grew dramatically. As Figure 27 shows, discards of MSW to landfill or other disposal apparently peaked in 1990 and then began to decline as materials recovery and combustion with energy recovery increased.

Figure 27. Municipal solid waste management, 1960 to 2011



Recovery has increased steadily. Combustion with energy recovery, as a percentage of generation, has been declining (11.7 percent of generation in 2011). MSW discards to landfills rose to about 142.3 million tons in 2005, and then declined to 134.3 million tons in 2011. As a percentage of total MSW generation, discards to landfills or other disposal has consistently decreased—from 88.6 percent of generation in 1980 to 53.6 percent in 2011.

Table 29
**GENERATION, MATERIALS RECOVERY, COMPOSTING, COMBUSTION,
 AND DISCARDS OF MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE, 1960 TO 2011**
 (In thousands of tons and percent of total generation)

	Thousands of Tons									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	88,120	121,060	151,640	208,270	243,450	253,730	256,500	244,270	250,500	250,420
Recovery for recycling	5,610	8,020	14,520	29,040	53,010	59,240	63,100	61,640	64,960	66,200
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	4,200	16,450	20,550	21,710	20,750	20,170	20,700
Total Materials Recovery	5,610	8,020	14,520	33,240	69,460	79,790	84,810	82,390	85,130	86,900
Discards after recovery	82,510	113,040	137,120	175,030	173,990	173,940	171,690	161,880	165,370	163,520
Combustion with energy recovery**	0	400	2,700	29,700	33,730	31,620	31,970	29,010	29,260	29,260
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	82,510	112,640	134,420	145,330	140,260	142,320	139,720	132,870	136,110	134,260

	Pounds per Person per Day									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	2.68	3.25	3.66	4.57	4.74	4.69	4.66	4.36	4.44	4.40
Recovery for recycling	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.64	1.03	1.10	1.15	1.10	1.15	1.16
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	0.09	0.32	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.36	0.37
Total Materials Recovery	0.17	0.22	0.35	0.73	1.35	1.48	1.54	1.47	1.51	1.53
Discards after recovery	2.51	3.03	3.31	3.84	3.39	3.21	3.12	2.89	2.93	2.87
Combustion with energy recovery**	0.00	0.01	0.07	0.65	0.66	0.58	0.58	0.52	0.52	0.51
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	2.51	3.02	3.24	3.19	2.73	2.63	2.54	2.37	2.41	2.36
Population (thousands)	179,979	203,984	227,255	249,907	281,422	296,410	301,621	307,007	309,051	311,592

	Percent of Total Generation									
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007	2009	2010	2011
Generation	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Recovery for recycling	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	14.0%	21.8%	23.3%	24.6%	25.2%	25.9%	26.4%
Recovery for composting*	Neg.	Neg.	Neg.	2.0%	6.7%	8.1%	8.5%	8.5%	8.1%	8.3%
Total Materials Recovery	6.4%	6.6%	9.6%	16.0%	28.5%	31.4%	33.1%	33.7%	34.0%	34.7%
Discards after recovery	93.6%	93.4%	90.4%	84.0%	71.5%	68.6%	66.9%	66.3%	66.0%	65.3%
Combustion with energy recovery**	0.0%	0.3%	1.8%	14.2%	13.9%	12.5%	12.5%	11.9%	11.7%	11.7%
Discards to landfill, other disposal†	93.6%	93.1%	88.6%	69.8%	57.6%	56.1%	54.4%	54.4%	54.3%	53.6%

* Composting of yard trimmings, food waste and other MSW organic material. Does not include backyard composting.

** Includes combustion of MSW in mass burn or refuse-derived fuel form, and combustion with energy recovery of source separated materials in MSW (e.g., wood pallets and tire-derived fuel). 2011 includes 25,930 MSW, 520 wood, and 2,810 tires (1,000 tons)

† Discards after recovery minus combustion with energy recovery. Discards include combustion without energy recovery. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.

CHAPTER 3

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APPENDIX A

MATERIALS FLOW METHODOLOGY

The materials flow methodology is illustrated in Figures A-1 and A-2. The crucial first step is making estimates of the generation of the materials and products in MSW (Figure A-1).

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Data on domestic production of materials and products were compiled using published data series. U.S. Department of Commerce sources were used where available, but in several instances more detailed information on production of goods by end use is available from industry associations. The goal is to obtain a consistent historical data series for each product and/or material.

CONVERTING SCRAP

The domestic production numbers were then adjusted for converting or fabrication scrap generated in the production processes. Examples of these kinds of scrap would be clippings from plants that make boxes from paperboard, glass scrap (cullet) generated in a glass bottle plant, or plastic scrap from a fabricator of plastic consumer products. This scrap typically has a high value because it is clean and readily identifiable, and it is almost always recovered and recycled within the industry that generated it. Thus, recovered converting/fabrication scrap is *not* counted as part of the postconsumer recovery of waste.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR IMPORTS/EXPORTS

In some instances imports and exports of products are a significant part of MSW, and adjustments were made to account for this.

DIVERSION

Various adjustments were made to account for diversions from MSW. Some consumer products are permanently diverted from the municipal waste stream because of the way they are used. For example, some paperboard is used in building materials, which are not counted as MSW. Another example of diversion is toilet tissue, which is disposed in sewer systems rather than becoming MSW.

In other instances, products are temporarily diverted from the municipal waste stream. For example, textiles reused as rags are assumed to enter the waste stream the same year the textiles are initially discarded.

ADJUSTMENTS FOR PRODUCT LIFETIME

Some products (e.g., newspapers and packaging) normally have a very short lifetime; these products are assumed to be discarded in the same year they are produced. In other instances (e.g., furniture and appliances), products have relatively long lifetimes. Data on average product lifetimes are used to adjust the data series to account for this.

RECOVERY

Data on recovery of materials and products for recycling are compiled using industry data adjusted, when appropriate, with U.S. Department of Commerce import/export data. Recovery estimates of yard trimmings or food waste for composting are developed from data provided by state officials and processors of these materials.

DISCARDS

Mathematically, discards equal that portion of generation remaining after recovery for recycling and composting. Discards can be disposed through combustion with or without energy recovery or landfilling. The amount of MSW consumed at combustion facilities with energy recovery is estimated, and the difference between total discards and the amount sent to combustion for energy recovery is assumed to be landfilled or combusted without energy recovery. (This assumption is not quite accurate, as some MSW is littered or disposed on-site, e.g., by backyard burning. These amounts are believed to be a small fraction of total discards.)

MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE GENERATION, RECOVERY, AND DISCARDS

The result of these estimates and calculations is a material-by-material and product-by-product estimate of MSW generation, recovery, and discards.

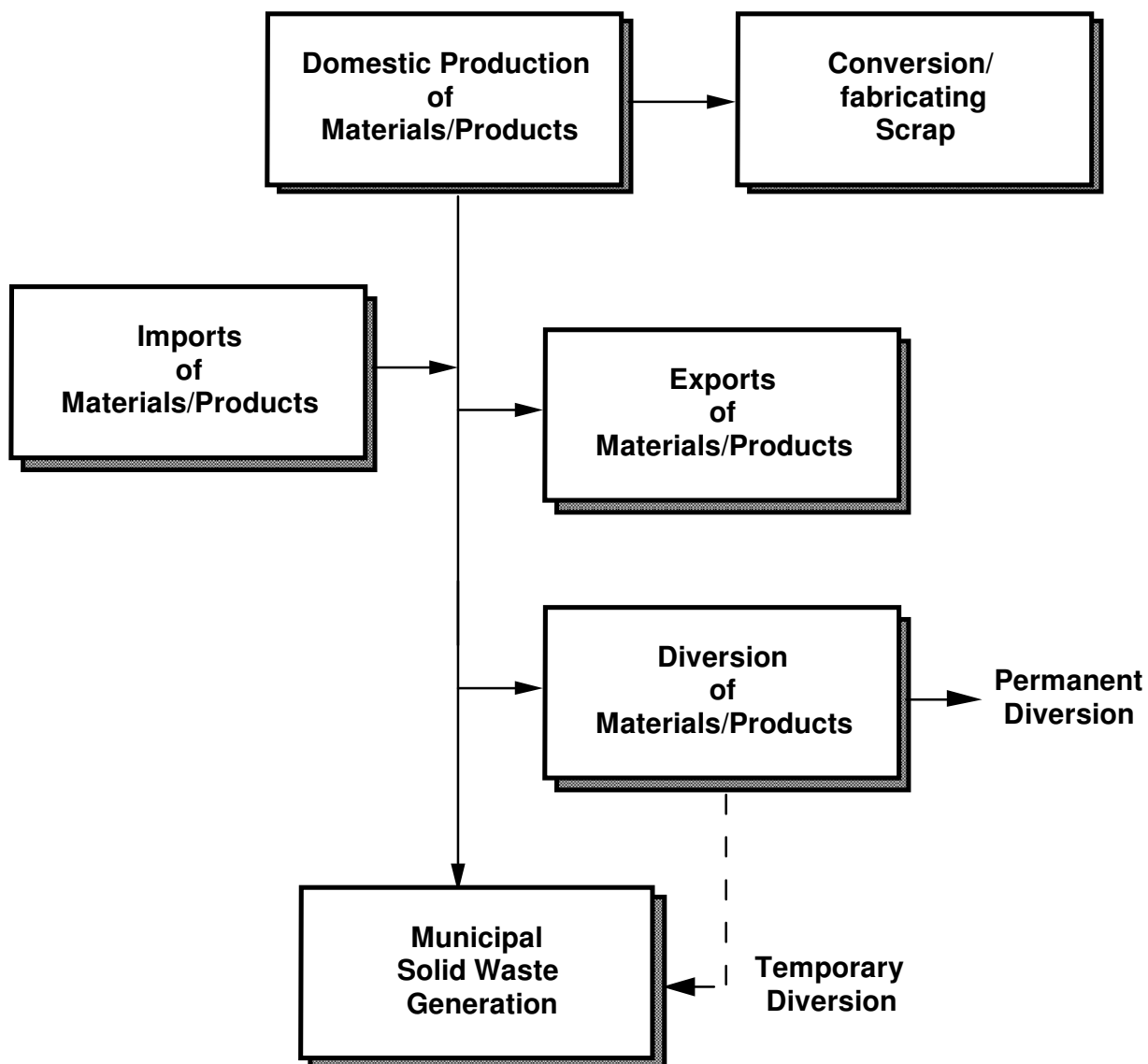


Figure A-1. Material flows methodology for estimating generation of products and materials in municipal solid waste.

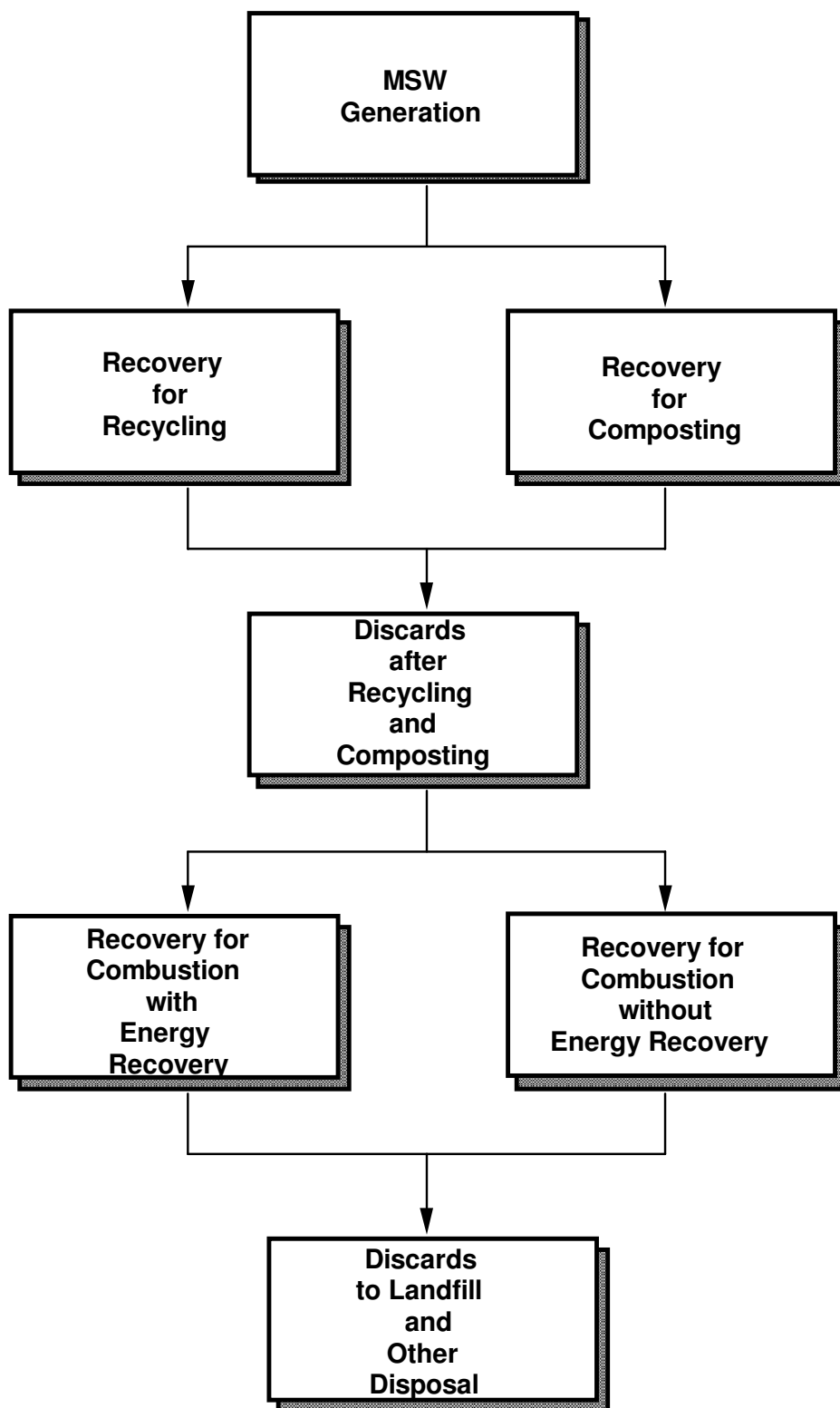


Figure A-2. Material flows methodology for estimating discards of products and materials in municipal solid waste.



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