



FACT SHEET

National Packaging Statistics

The good news is that a comprehensive national survey by Statistics Canada of packaging use, consumption, re-use, recycling and disposal, covering both industrial and residential sectors, exists. The bad news is that it was undertaken back in 2000. The National Packaging Task Force's [Final Report](#) on this third of three national surveys is available on the Canadian Council of Ministers for the Environment (CCME) website.

Basically it found that 8.9 million tonnes of packaging was consumed in Canada in 1996; 4.1 million tonnes re-used; 2.2 million tonnes sent for recycling; and 2.6 million tonnes disposed. Over 70% of packaging in Canada was therefore re-used or recycled with industry being responsible for 91% of this (mainly the re-use of wooden shipping pallets and glass bottles, and the recycling of corrugated boxes). Packaging was found to represent 13% of solid waste (by weight).

The only other national surveys since 1996 which touch on some packaging materials are the bi-annual Statistics Canada [Waste Management Industry Surveys of Business and Government Sectors \(WMIS\)](#). Unfortunately, the WMIS surveys do not cover all packaging materials or include all sources of packaging.

In the absence of current national statistics, PPEC, which was a member of the National Task Force on Packaging (NAPP), has frequently had to resort to using the 1996 data to rebut false and misleading claims made about packaging waste in Canada. This includes the July, 2010 article [The inconvenient truth about packaging waste in Canada](#) and the more recent rebuttals: [CCME's false claims perpetuate packaging myths](#) and [setting the facts straight on packaging diversion in Canada](#).

Two videos background [the formation of PPEC](#) (because of the creation of the National Packaging Task Force) and the [Task Force's work and achievements](#).

