

# THE ALUMINUM CAN ADVANTAGE

## Sustainability Key Performance Indicators



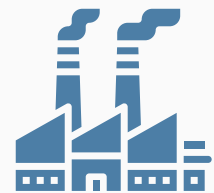
The Aluminum Association and Can Manufacturers Institute (CMI) are committed to providing up-to-date, complete and accurate information on aluminum beverage can industry sustainability. To that end, here are descriptions and results of the key sustainability performance indicators (KPI) for one of our best-known and widely used consumer products – the aluminum can.

### INDUSTRY RECYCLING RATE

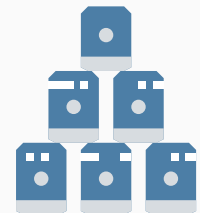
The industry recycling rate reflects aluminum companies' stewardship and efficiency by measuring the amount of aluminum can scrap recycled by U.S. aluminum producers as a percentage of finished cans shipped by the industry during a one-year time period.

This rate was just 15.4 percent when it was first recorded in 1972. This rate has dramatically improved, and was measured at 59.7 percent for 2020. This corresponds with the industry recycling 46.7 billion cans this past year.

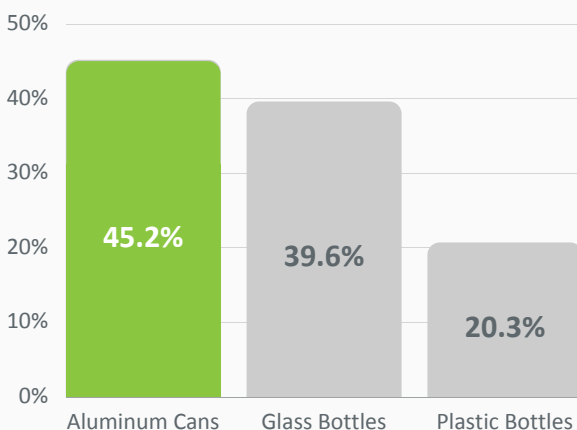
**59.7%**  
INDUSTRY  
RECYCLING RATE



**46.7**  
BILLION  
CANS RECYCLED  
BY INDUSTRY IN  
2020



Recycling Rate for Competing Packaging Types



### CONSUMER RECYCLING RATE

The consumer recycling rate provides a snapshot of how well municipal recycling programs are performing nationwide. The rate measures the amount of domestic aluminum can scrap recycled as a percentage of cans available for recycling in the United States during a one-year time period.

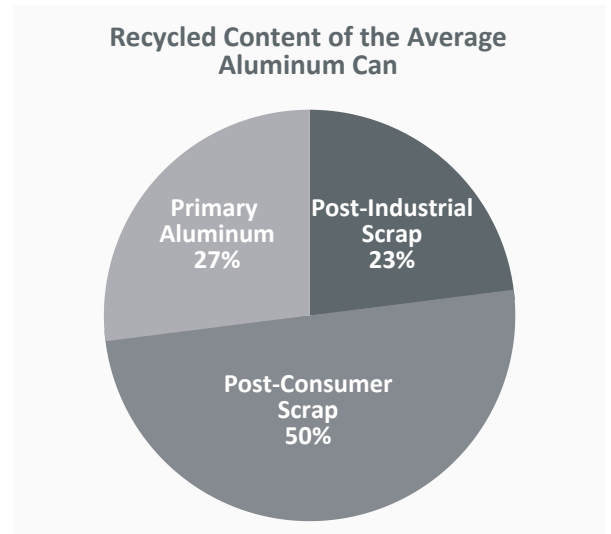
This rate declined throughout the 1990s before rebounding in the 2000s. In 2020, the rate was measured at 45.2 percent, a slight decline from the previous year, but still above competing containers, plastic and glass bottles.

## RECYCLED CONTENT

Recycled content data measures the proportion of recycled aluminum versus new aluminum in the average aluminum can. Because of its high recovery rates and closed-loop recycling nature, aluminum sets itself apart as a sustainable beverage container

The report found that aluminum cans contain on average 73 percent recycled content, as opposed to 23 percent for glass bottles, and just 3-10 percent for plastic bottles.

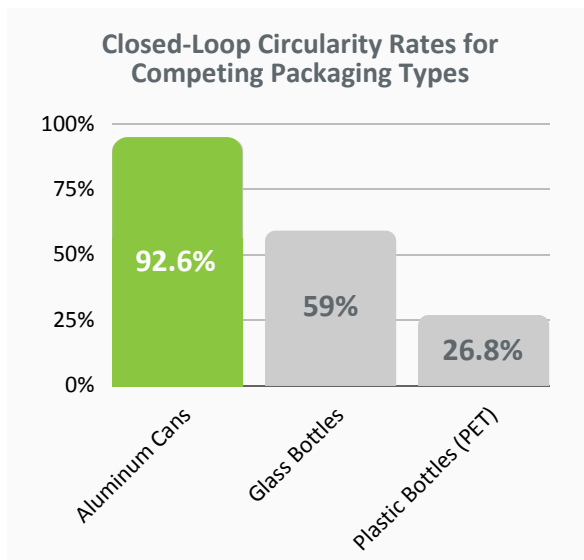
By far the largest percentage of material in the average aluminum can is postconsumer scrap generated from the UBC recycling stream and other scrap sources.



## CLOSED-LOOP CIRCULARITY RATE

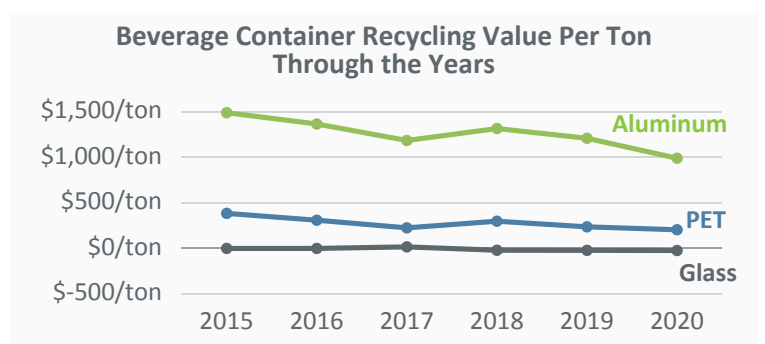
The closed-loop circularity rate reflects the percentage of recycled material used to go back into the same product - in this case new beverage containers.

When products are recycled, the recovered materials can be used to make the same or higher-grade product (closed-loop recycling) or a different and sometimes lower grade product (open-loop recycling). Closed-loop recycling is preferred because the recycling process can be repeated over and over again - saving energy and resources. On average, 92.6 percent of recycled aluminum can material is made back into an aluminum can.



## VALUE OF MATERIAL

The value of material data measures the dollar value of aluminum can scrap. The high value of aluminum in the scrap stream means that, without it, very few curbside pickup programs would be financially viable.



To read the full report on The Aluminum Can Advantage Sustainability Key Performance Indicators and to read additional life-cycle assessment on various aluminum products, visit [aluminum.org/sustainabilityreports](https://aluminum.org/sustainabilityreports)

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