



**BEVERAGE CONTAINER
DEPOSIT AND REDEMPTION
STATISTICS**

**As Reported
For The Period**

October 1, 2006 - September 30, 2007

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-7253**

Beverage Container Deposit and Redemption Statistics

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Beverage Container Deposit and Redemption Statistics

A. INTRODUCTION

Each year the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (Department) conducts a Deposit Initiator Survey to obtain data from deposit initiators on beverage containers sold and redeemed in New York State. The data in the Survey are reported for the 12-month period of October 1 through September 30. "Deposit initiators" are, in the case of refillable beverage containers, bottlers or brewers and, in the case of non-refillable containers, beverage distributors.*

This Beverage Container Deposit and Redemption Statistics Report was developed using deposit information obtained from the 2007 Deposit Initiator Survey. This information is required to be provided to the Department by deposit initiators pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 367.11, under authority granted by Title 10, Article 27 of the Environmental Conservation Law. The data as reported are unaudited and no independent verification of data has been done. Accordingly, the extent of underreporting, if it occurred, is unknown.

The data are provided for areas of the State according to the Department's regions (see Figure 1).

B. DEPOSIT SYSTEM IN NEW YORK STATE*

The container deposit system in New York State requires a minimum of five cents deposit to be initiated by the first distributor for each filled beverage container sold. The distributor (deposit initiator) receives the five cents from the dealer (retailer), who purchases the filled beverage container, and the retailer in turn passes along this charge to the consumer.

During redemption, the transactions occur in reverse. Upon returning an empty beverage container, the consumer receives five cents from the retailer, and the retailer in turn is reimbursed five cents plus a two cent handling fee from the deposit initiator for the empty container.

C. DEPOSIT INITIATOR SURVEY METHODOLOGY

This survey was initiated in November 2007 with the mailing of survey forms to all known potential deposit initiators, with a response deadline of December 31, 2007. Of the original 203 survey forms sent to potential deposit initiators, 22 were determined to:

- no longer be a deposit initiator;
- no longer be an operating business;
- never have been a deposit initiator; or
- have not initiated any deposits during the reporting period.

Therefore, this Report is based on a statistical field of 181 survey forms.

* The description of deposit initiators and the deposit system in New York State is based on the Returnable Container Act provisions in effect prior to the April 2009 amendments to the law.

After receipt, the forms were reviewed for obvious reporting omissions, incomplete information, or any other apparent errors. When necessary, deposit initiators were contacted by telephone for clarification of the reported data. After review, the data were entered into a computer database for tabulation.

Many of the respondents combined soda and wine product dollar amounts with beer amounts when reporting deposits initiated and redeemed and handling fees paid. However, for deposit initiators whose primary market is beer, soda is typically only one or two percent of the total sales, and wine products may be even less. This fact has been verified by New York State Beverage Industry Association representatives. Therefore, the error from the combined reported soda and wine product figures with the beer figures is considered insignificant.

D. SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

A tabulation of data from the 2007 Deposit Initiators Survey is contained in Tables 1 through 5. A summary of these statistics is as follows:

- The overall Statewide redemption rate for all beverage containers was about 66.8 percent, which was a decrease of 1 percent from the previous year.
- The redemption rate for beer containers was 75.2 percent, a decrease of 1.3 percent from the previous year.
- The redemption rate for soda containers (which includes carbonated water and other carbonated drinks) was 56.8 percent, a decrease of 1.9 percent from last year.
- The redemption rate for wine product containers was 64.7 percent, an increase of 3.9 percent from last year.
- Northern and central New York State demonstrated the highest overall redemption rates. Redemption rates for beer, soda and wine product containers by DEC region are shown in Table 3. These rates are based on the domicile of the deposit initiator, not on the place of sale or redemption.
- Consumers paid a reported total of \$311.4 million in deposits, an increase of \$21.9 million over last year's total, and redeemed \$207.9 million worth of empty containers, an increase of \$11.8 million from last year.
- There was an estimated \$103.4 million worth of unredeemed deposits, an increase of \$10.2 million from the previous year.
- According to the surveys for the period of October 1, 2006 to September 30, 2007, an estimated 6.2 billion beverage containers were sold in New York State, an increase of 0.4 billion from last year.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 Bureau of Waste Reduction & Recycling
 Deposit and Redemption Statistics
 (10/1/2006 - 09/30/2007)

Table 1
 Yearly Deposits Initiated and Redeemed by Beverage Type

Beverage Type	Deposits Charged	Deposits Redeemed	Unclaimed Deposits	Redemption Rate
Beer : Non-refillable	\$152,779,122	\$114,216,966	\$38,562,155	74.8%
Beer : Refillable	\$15,798,744	\$12,608,666	\$3,190,077	79.8%
Total Beer	\$168,577,865	\$126,825,632	\$41,752,233	75.2%
Soda : Non-refillable	\$142,651,264	\$81,010,832	\$61,640,432	56.8%
Soda : Refillable	\$52,409	\$34,274	\$18,135	65.4%
Total Soda	\$142,703,673	\$81,045,106	\$61,658,567	56.8%
Wine products	\$68,149	\$44,121	\$24,028	64.7%
Total: All Beverages	\$311,349,688	\$207,914,860	\$103,434,828	66.8%

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Table 2

Consolidated Redemption Rate by Region

Region	Deposits Charged	Deposits Redeemed	Unclaimed Deposits	Redemption Rate
1	\$32,703,425	\$16,212,324	\$16,491,101	49.6%
2	102,581,308	63,072,397	39,508,911	61.5%
3	23,337,334	10,585,850	12,751,484	45.4%
4	18,823,185	14,448,139	4,375,046	76.8%
5	15,234,214	13,263,008	1,971,205	87.1%
6	9,807,967	7,766,062	2,041,906	79.2%
7	24,419,207	21,342,098	3,077,109	87.4%
8	26,029,172	20,645,710	5,383,463	79.3%
9	36,757,145	27,801,578	8,955,567	75.6%
Out of State	21,656,730	12,777,693	8,879,037	59.0%
Total	\$311,349,688	\$207,914,860	\$103,434,828	66.8%

Note: Data are by Region of domicile of the Deposit Initiator, not Region where redemption occurred.

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**Table 3
Redemption Rate by Region and Beverage Type**

BEER				
Region	Deposits Charged	Deposits Redeemed	Unclaimed Deposits	Redemption Rate
1	\$14,419,337	\$8,172,038	\$6,247,299	56.7%
2	59,139,079	43,535,062	15,604,017	73.6%
3	9,178,162	4,394,648	4,783,514	47.9%
4	3,630,125	3,141,444	488,680	86.5%
5	12,321,161	11,576,404	744,757	94.0%
6	5,897,802	5,117,772	780,030	86.8%
7	13,022,800	12,231,983	790,817	93.9%
8	11,972,951	9,795,551	2,177,401	81.8%
9	29,051,161	22,185,126	6,866,035	76.4%
Out of State	9,945,286	6,675,604	3,269,682	67.1%
Total Beer	\$168,577,865	\$126,825,632	\$41,752,233	75.2%
SODA				
Region	Deposits Charged	Deposits Redeemed	Unclaimed Deposits	Redemption Rate
1	\$18,278,088	\$8,040,280	\$10,237,808	44.0%
2	43,386,577	19,495,980	23,890,598	44.9%
3	14,159,172	6,191,202	7,967,970	43.7%
4	15,193,060	11,306,694	3,886,365	74.4%
5	2,912,719	1,686,604	1,226,114	57.9%
6	3,910,165	2,648,290	1,261,875	67.7%
7	11,394,806	9,108,751	2,286,055	79.9%
8	14,055,001	10,849,183	3,205,818	77.2%
9	7,704,495	5,616,038	2,088,457	72.9%
Out of State	11,709,590	6,102,084	5,607,507	52.1%
Total Soda	\$142,703,673	\$81,045,106	\$61,658,567	56.8%
WINE PRODUCTS				
Region	Deposits Charged	Deposits Redeemed	Unclaimed Deposits	Redemption Rate
1	\$6,000	\$6	\$5,994	0.1%
2	55,652	41,355	14,297	74.3%
3	0	0	0	0.0%
4	0	0	0	0.0%
5	334	0	334	0.0%
6	0	0	0	0.0%
7	1,601	1,364	237	85.2%
8	1,220	976	244	80.0%
9	1,489	414	1,075	27.8%
Out of State	1,854	6	1,848	0.3%
Total Wine products	\$68,149	\$44,121	\$24,028	64.7%

Note: Data are by Region of domicile of the Deposit Initiator, not Region where redemption occurred.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
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Table 4
 Beverage Containers by Type

Beverage Type	Number of Containers on which Deposits were Initiated
BEER CONTAINERS	
Non-refillable	3,055,582,431
Refillable	315,974,872
TOTAL BEER CONTAINERS	3,371,557,303
SODA CONTAINERS	
Non-refillable	2,853,025,289
Refillable	1,048,172
TOTAL SODA CONTAINERS	2,854,073,461
WINE PRODUCTS CONTAINERS	1,362,988
TOTAL - ALL CONTAINERS	6,226,993,752

Note: Many survey respondents reported deposits initiated on refillable and non-refillable containers as combined totals. Unspecified containers were considered to be non-refillable.

Table 5
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Solid & Hazardous Materials
Bureau of Solid Waste, Reduction & Recycling
Deposit and Redemption Statistics for the Returnable Container Law

Year	Deposits Initiated*	Number of Containers**	Deposits Redeemed*	Number of Redeemed Containers**	Unredeemed Deposits	Handling Fees Paid*	Redemption Rate	Tons Recycled by Material***			Total Tons Recycled
								Glass	Aluminum	Plastic	
06-07	\$311,340,688	6,226,002,752	\$207,014,860	4,158,207,200	\$103,434,828	\$82,028,128	66.8%	121,620	47,810	62,274	231,814
05-06	\$289,349,647	5,786,992,947	\$196,114,730	3,922,294,600	\$93,234,918	\$80,153,998	67.8%	114,727	45,097	58,834	218,658
04-05	\$270,467,903	5,409,358,057	\$178,634,776	3,572,695,520	\$91,833,127	\$79,770,804	66.0%	104,502	41,077	53,590	199,169
03-04	\$264,160,791	5,283,215,828	\$182,829,685	3,656,593,700	\$81,331,106	\$74,817,543	69.2%	106,956	42,042	54,849	203,846
02-03	\$283,595,561	5,671,911,220	\$196,159,448	3,923,188,960	\$87,436,113	\$72,356,444	69.2%	114,753	45,107	58,848	218,708
01-02	\$296,583,854	5,931,677,078	\$208,338,950	4,166,779,000	\$88,244,904	\$83,797,610	70.2%	121,878	47,908	62,502	232,288
00-01	\$283,743,554	5,674,871,080	\$197,965,983	3,959,319,660	\$85,777,571	\$76,559,855	69.8%	115,810	45,522	59,390	220,722
99-00	\$274,520,919	5,490,418,380	\$189,732,465	3,794,649,300	\$84,788,454	\$72,044,695	69.1%	110,993	43,629	56,919	211,541
98-99	\$294,391,713	5,887,834,260	\$211,743,854	4,234,877,080	\$82,647,859	\$75,624,666	71.9%	123,870	48,690	63,523	236,083
97-98	\$264,008,276	5,280,165,520	\$197,139,245	3,942,784,900	\$66,869,031	\$59,141,774	74.7%	115,327	45,332	59,142	219,801
96-97	\$255,963,632	5,119,272,620	\$194,787,384	3,895,747,680	\$61,176,248	\$58,436,215	76.1%	219,136	46,213	24,348	289,697
95-96	\$247,927,163	4,958,543,260	\$187,617,980	3,752,359,600	\$60,309,183	\$56,285,394	75.7%	211,070	44,512	23,452	279,034
94-95	\$276,789,553	5,535,791,060	\$214,808,135	4,296,162,700	\$61,981,418	\$61,401,026	77.6%	241,659	50,963	26,851	319,473
93-94	\$285,233,845	5,704,676,900	\$217,964,111	4,359,282,220	\$67,269,734	\$62,780,311	76.4%	245,210	51,712	27,246	324,168
92-93	\$285,548,074	5,710,961,480	\$218,450,417	4,369,008,340	\$67,097,657	\$62,584,910	76.5%	245,757	51,827	27,306	324,890
91-92	\$290,856,000	5,817,120,000	\$222,322,000	4,446,440,000	\$68,534,000	\$65,029,000	76.4%	250,112	52,746	27,790	330,648
90-91	\$307,943,000	6,158,860,000	\$233,125,000	4,662,500,000	\$74,818,000	\$66,697,000	75.7%	262,266	55,309	29,141	346,716
89-90	\$309,933,000	6,198,660,000	\$224,740,000	4,494,800,000	\$85,193,000	\$64,360,000	72.5%	252,833	53,320	28,093	334,246
88-89	\$297,545,500	5,950,910,000	\$213,135,700	4,262,714,000	\$84,409,800	\$59,360,800	71.6%	239,778	50,566	26,642	316,986
87-88	\$301,589,000	6,031,780,000	\$221,928,000	4,438,560,000	\$79,661,000	\$64,011,000	73.6%	249,669	52,652	27,793	330,114
86-87	\$288,755,652	5,775,113,043	\$222,341,852	4,446,837,043	\$66,413,800	\$61,528,054	77.0%	250,135	52,751	27,741	330,627
85-86	\$290,879,524	5,817,590,476	\$229,794,824	4,595,896,476	\$61,084,700	\$61,980,609	79.0%	258,519	54,519	28,724	341,762
84-85	\$282,964,000	5,659,280,000	\$226,722,600	4,534,452,000	\$56,241,400	\$62,112,639	80.1%	255,063	53,790	28,340	337,193
83-84	\$192,165,297	3,843,305,940	\$137,608,265	2,752,165,300	\$54,557,032	\$40,946,581	71.6%	154,809	32,648	17,201	204,658
Total	\$6,746,265,146	134,925,302,901	\$4,931,920,264	98,638,405,279	\$1,814,344,883	\$1,603,809,056	73.10%	4,486,462	1,155,742	960,639	6,602,842

* Data reported by deposit initiators.

** Assumes that all containers have a minimum five cents deposit

*** Assumes the following distribution:

Market Share of Containers Sold

Glass - 13%
Aluminum - 63%
Plastic - 24%

Container Weight

0.45 lb
0.0365 lb
0.125 lb

Percentages adjusted during the 1997-98 report period. Prior to that, glass was 25%; aluminum 65%; and plastic 10%

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