



National Recycling Economic Information Study

How The U.S. Economy Benefits From Recycling

Why is this industry an important contributor the nation's manufacturing base?

- More than 56,000 public and private sector facilities
- 1.1 million jobs
- \$236 billion in gross, annual sales
- \$37 billion in annual payroll

How does the size of the recycling industry compare to other major industries?

- Comparable to the auto and truck manufacturing industry
- Significantly larger than mining and waste management and disposal industries
- Wages for workers in the recycling are notably higher than the national average for all industries

What types of businesses make-up the recycling and reuse industry?

- Long-established sectors like paper and steel making
- New entrepreneurial ventures, such as composting and plastic and rubber product manufacturers
- Companies that refurbish used electronic appliances, computer equipment and office and home furnishings

What are the largest sectors of the recycling industry?

- Recycled paper and paperboard mills, with 139,375 employees and \$49 billion in annual receipts
- Steel mills, with 118,544 employees and \$46 billion in annual receipts
- Recycled plastics converters, with 178,700 employees and \$28 billion in annual receipts
- Iron and steel foundries, with 126,313 employees and \$16 billion in annual receipts



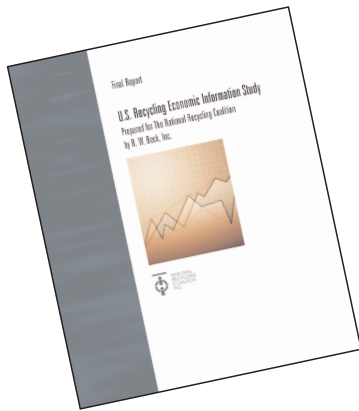
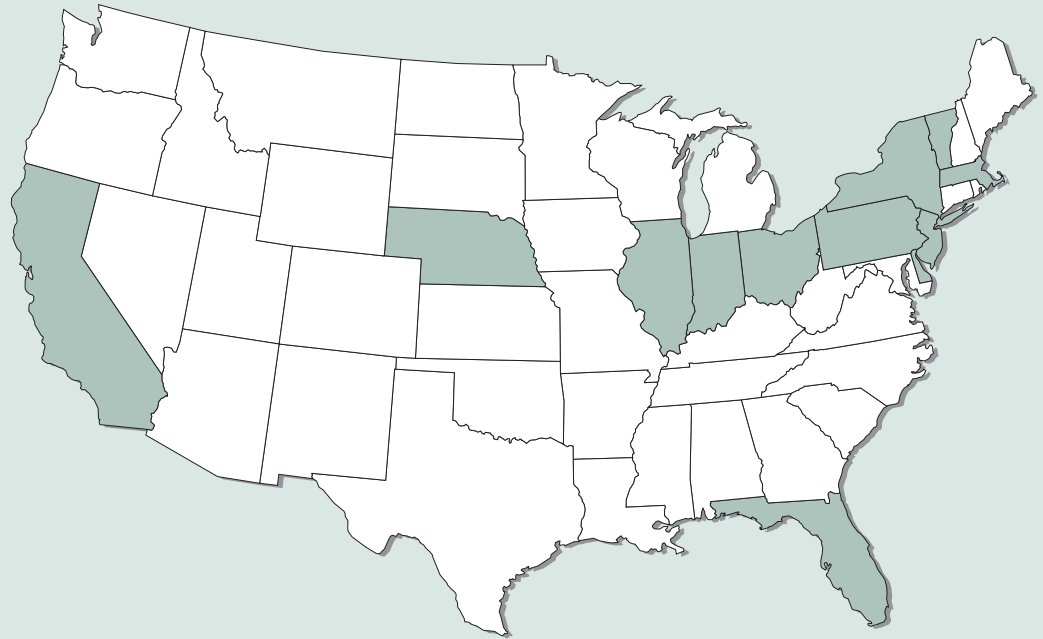
NATIONAL
RECYCLING
COALITION
INC.

The National Recycling Coalition (NRC), based in Alexandria, VA, is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and improvement of recycling, source reduction, composting and reuse. R.W. Beck, Inc., was commissioned to produce the National Recycling Information Study to define the economic impact of recycling to the U.S. economy.

States Where Individual State REI Studies Were Prepared by NRC/R. W. Beck

- California
- Delaware*
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts*
- Nebraska
- New Jersey*
- New York*
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania*
- Vermont*

* Northeast Recycling
Council Study



The National Recycling Information Study, conducted by R. W. Beck on behalf of the NRC, and commissioned by the U.S. EPA, identified and documented the impact of the recycling/reuse industries in the United States.

**Visit The NRC Website at www.nrc-recycle.org.
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