

# ECONOMY

## The Recycling Connection



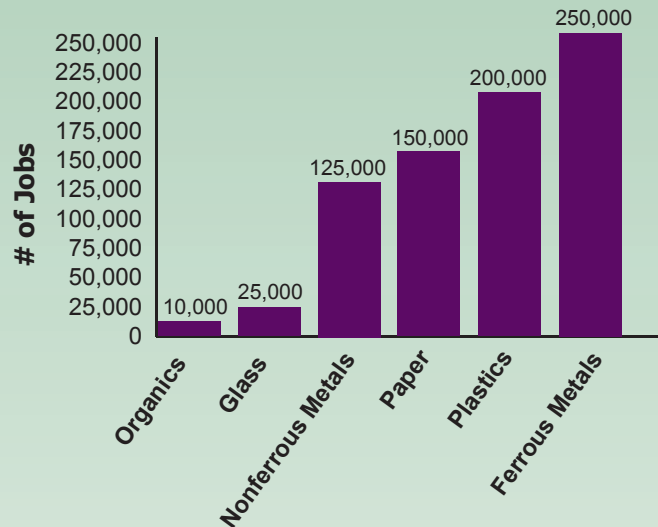
### RECYCLING

The U.S. recycling industry consists of approximately 29,345 establishments, that employ over 950,000 people, generate an annual payroll of nearly \$34 billion, and gross over \$222 billion in annual revenues.

### REUSE

The reuse industry employs nearly 170,000 workers in more than 26,000 establishments, supports an annual payroll of over \$2.7 billion, and generates more than \$14.1 billion in revenues.

### How Many People are Employed by the Recycling Manufacturing Industry?



- Source for all information on this page: U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study by R.W. Beck for the Environmental Protection Agency and NRC, July 2001

### Estimated U.S. Annual Economic Activity in the Recycling Industry

	Recycling Collection	Recycling Processing	Recycling Manufacturing	Reuse and Remanufacturing	Industry Total
Establishments	9,247	12,051	8,047	26,716	56,061
Employment	32,010	160,865	759,746	169,183	1,121,804
Annual Payroll	\$956,875,000	\$3,826,360,000	\$29,181,749,000	\$2,747,498,000	\$36,712,482,000
Estimated Revenues	\$1,974,516,000	\$41,753,902,000	\$178,390,423,000	\$14,182,531,000	\$236,301,371,000
Estimated Tonnage Recycled*	191,082,000	191,082,000	157,545,000	N/A	N/A

\* Estimated tonnage recycled includes manufacturing scrap sent for recycling and excludes materials prepared for fuel use and in-house process scrap returned to the manufacturing process. These estimates are summed to avoid triple counting at collection, processing, and manufacturing stages.



presented by the

**WSRA Education Committee**



**Washington State Recycling Association**

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Local recycling contact:

*Place local contact info sticker here*

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- If the 25.5 million tons of durable goods now discarded were reclaimed through reuse operations, more than 220,000 new jobs could be created in this industry alone.

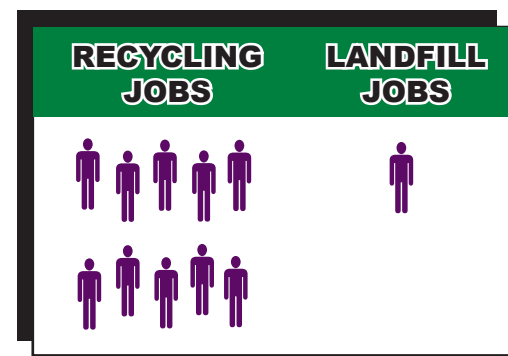
Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1997

- In the year 2000, recycling contributed 80.7 million tons of metal, valued at about \$17.7 billion, or **more than half** of U.S. metal supply.

Source: U.S. Geological Survey, Dec. 2001

- On a per-ton basis, for every job created at a landfill, recycling sustains 10 more jobs just through sorting materials.

Source: Institute for Local Self-Reliance, 1999



## Industry Contacts for this **HOT TOPIC**

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## Visit these websites for more information on the economic benefits of recycling

- Institute for Local Self-Reliance -- <http://www.ilsr.org/recycling>
- EPA Jobs through Recycling -- <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/recycle/jtr/econ/econres.htm>
- Recycler's World Post-Consumer Recyclables Index -- <http://www.recycle.net/price/post.html>
- US Geological Survey commodity information -- <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/>
- U.S. Recycling Economic Information Study (REI), July 2001 - R.W. Beck for EPA/NRC  
-- <http://www.epa.gov/jtr/econ/rei-rw/result.htm>