Activity Report of Správca zálohového systému for the Second Half of 2025

SPRÁVCA ZÁLOHOVÉHO SYSTÉMU

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DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

When, together with my colleagues, I looked back at the end of last year on what we have already achieved in deposit return in Slovakia, and on the progress we have made, I felt a strong sense of pride. Pride in the fact that Slovakia is highly successful in deposit return and ranks among the leading countries in Europe in this field. Return rates for beverage containers remain above 90%, and at the end of last year we passed the milestone of four billion containers collected since the launch of the deposit return system. Particularly encouraging are the findings of the latest survey conducted by the 2muse agency, which confirm that people perceive deposit return very positively, show active interest in it, and understand its importance.

This is the Activity Report of Správca zálohového systému for the Second Half of 2025, which presents, in concise form, the specific projects and activities we work on every day to ensure that deposit return in Slovakia continues to be a success. In brief, 2025 can be described as a year focused on maintaining high return rates, optimising and streamlining deposit return processes, and, at the same time, on intensive communication with the public, local and regional authorities, educational institutions, and partners from across public life about deposit return and its importance for the environment.

While the deposit return system in Slovakia is working well, there is always scope to further improve, refine, and modernise its individual components. In the second half of 2025, we therefore concentrated, among other things, on improving communication with producers registered in the deposit return system, implementing measures to increase efficiency and convenience for collection points and retailers, systematically developing the network of alternative collection points, and optimising logistics processes. These steps were aimed at making the collection of deposited containers more efficient, reducing the number of kilometres travelled, and making better use of the available vehicle fleet.

In the area of social responsibility and cooperation with partners, we signed a Memorandum of Cooperation in June 2025 between Správca zálohového systému and the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia. In the field of environmental education, as in previous years, we organised numerous activities aimed primarily at children and young people. The second half of 2025 also saw a stronger focus on research and innovation. A research project was presented to the public that is being implemented in cooperation with the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava and recycling companies, with the aim of improving the efficiency of PET recycling processes and increasing the quality of rPET suitable for the production of new beverage containers.

These are just a few examples of the projects described in more detail in this report. In conclusion, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all colleagues and partners for their cooperation to date. Much lies ahead of us again in 2026. Our results, however, strongly motivate us to continue moving forwards, as we are convinced that the effort invested is worthwhile and meaningful.

JUDr. Marián Áč

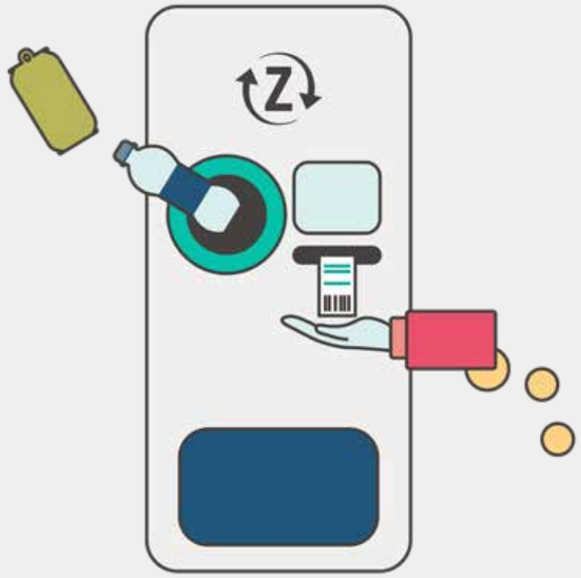
Director General
Správca zálohového systému

SPRÁVCA ZÁLOHOVÉHO SYSTÉMU



Photo Credit: Trend.sk

WHY USE THE DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM?



The deposit return system for beverage containers is one of the most effective ways to reduce litter and conserve natural resources. Thanks to the deposit return system, every bottle or can returned is transformed from potential waste into a valuable secondary raw material that can be reused to produce new packaging.

- **The deposit return system helps to:**

- **keep the environment cleaner: it significantly reduces the amount of litter from beverage containers;**
- **collect more material of higher quality for recycling: the system collects more material, and that material is of a higher quality;**
- **conserve natural resources: every bottle or can returned helps to save the natural resources that would otherwise be needed to make new packaging, by reusing the material;**
- **support the circular economy: the material used to make a deposit bottle or can is repeatedly reused to produce new beverage containers. This process, where the same material is continually put back into circulation, is called circularity.**

7 YOUR SEVEN-STEP GUIDE TO THE DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM

The deposit return system follows the principle of the circular economy, closing the material loop "bottle to bottle" and "can to can", helping to conserve natural resources.

1. Do not crush or discard beverage containers – return them through the deposit return system.
2. On the packaging, note the "Z" deposit symbol near the EAN code.
3. When you buy a drink in a deposit beverage container, you pay a deposit for the container.
4. Do not crush deposit beverage containers; return them with the cap on to a collection point. Non-deposit containers should still go into the yellow recycling bin, as before.



5. For every deposit container with a legible EAN code that you return, your deposit will be refunded. Deposits are refunded at the collection point where you return the packaging.
6. Collected containers are recycled and used to make new beverage containers, again and again.
7. The deposit return system is the only proven way to collect 90 per cent or more of beverage containers.

Overview of the deposit return system in the second half of 2025



PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS OF BEVERAGES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, SPRÁVCA RECORDED

454 **PRODUCERS ACTIVELY INVOLVED**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, A TOTAL OF

6 129 **ACTIVE EAN CODES WERE REGISTERED**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2025 SPRÁVCA RECORDED MORE THAN

587 MILLION

DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS PLACED ON THE MARKET IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

In the second half of 2025, Správca introduced several optimisation measures through amendments to the annexes to producer contracts. One such measure involved adjusting the fee for the collection and processing of waste from deposited packaging marked with an international barcode (I-EAN). With effect as of 1 January 2026, Správca will reduce the special surcharge for placing deposited packaging bearing an international I-EAN barcode on the market in the Slovak Republic. At the same time, during this reporting period Správca temporarily waived fees for the re-registration of international barcodes to national barcodes, enabling producers to avoid higher charges associated with above-average return rates for packaging with international barcodes.

A further change concerned a more precise definition of producers' rights and obligations in connection with the registration of deposit packaging bearing an international I-EAN barcode, as well as with its excessive return into the deposit return system of the Slovak Republic above 100%. Správca's objective is to ensure clear, consistent, and comprehensible communication with producers registered in the deposit return system.

Since 1 January 2025, legislation has required producers to place on the Slovak market PET beverage bottles containing at least 25% recycled PET plastic, calculated as a proportion of the total volume of PET packaging they place on the market. Under section 7(1)(v) of Act No 302/2019 on the deposit return system for single-use beverage containers and amending certain other acts, Správca must submit to the Ministry of the Environment of the Slovak Republic an annual report on the recycled plastic content in single-use deposit beverage containers for each producer, no later than 30 April of the following calendar year.

To support the effective fulfilment of this new obligation, Správca prepared a technical solution enabling beverage producers to submit reports on recycled content. The solution was tested in cooperation with producers after the first half of the year, and producers were subsequently given access to submit reports covering the first half of 2025.

Správca's objective remains the systematic development and improvement of established processes. In the near future, digitalisation of the verification process is planned, with the aim of simplifying and accelerating the entire procedure for registering deposit beverage containers.

Of the registered EAN codes:

58 %



were national EAN codes

42 %



were international EAN codes

Of the containers placed on the market:

57 % WERE BEVERAGES IN PLASTIC BOTTLES

43 % WERE BEVERAGES IN CANS

Breakdown of beverage types placed on the market in 2025:



28%	BOTTLED WATER
9%	ENERGY DRINKS
30%	SOFT DRINKS
1%	OTHER ALCOHOLIC DRINKS
2%	FRUIT JUICES
29%	BEER
1%	WINE

RETAILERS AND COLLECTION POINTS

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, SPRÁVCA RECORDED

431

ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING RETAILERS

NUMBER OF COLLECTION POINTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025

3 639

Breakdown of collection points:

2021	2 000
2022	2 993
2023	3 269
2024	3 435
31. 12. 2025	3 639

VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING COLLECTION POINTS

66 %

COLLECTION POINTS WITH AUTOMATED COLLECTION

71 %

MANDATORY COLLECTION POINTS

34 %

COLLECTION POINTS WITH MANUAL COLLECTION

29 %

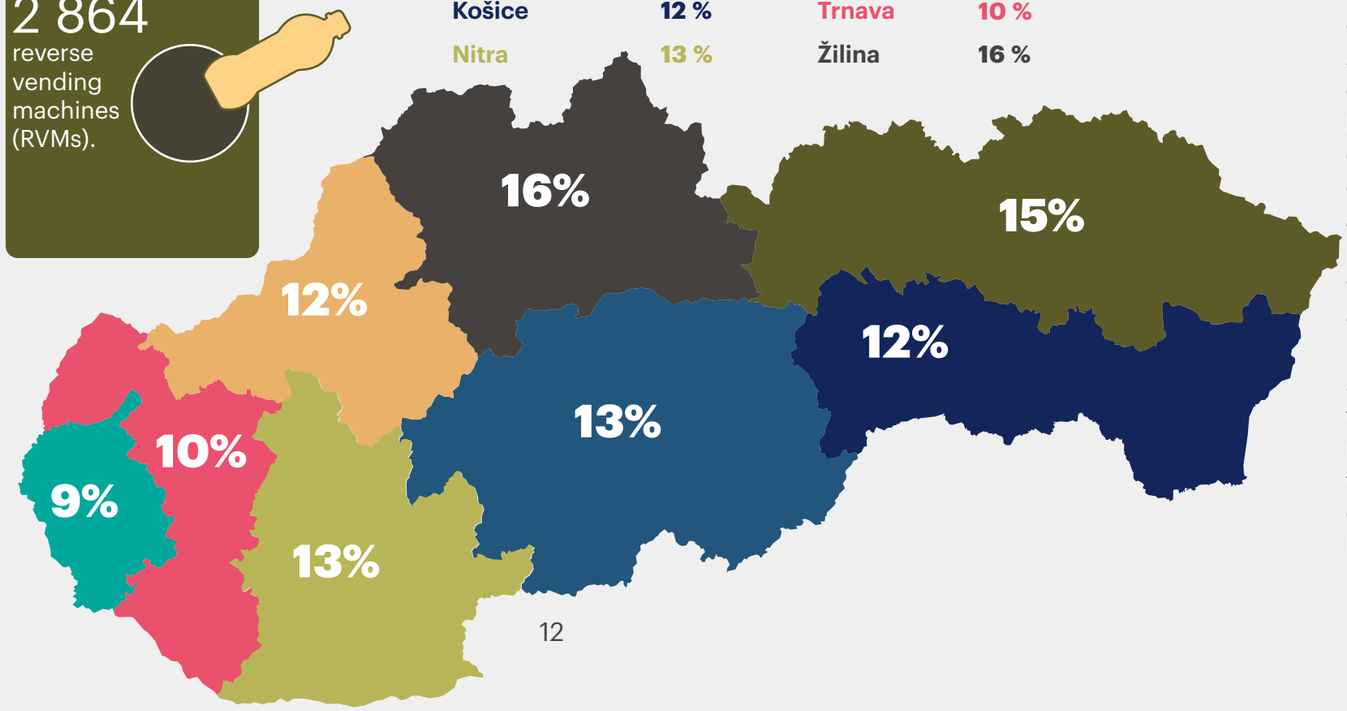
As at 31 December 2025, the collection network had

2 864

reverse vending machines (RVMs).

Proportion of collection points by region:

Banská Bystrica	13 %	Prešov	15 %
Bratislava	9 %	Trenčín	12 %
Košice	12 %	Trnava	10 %
Nitra	13 %	Žilina	16 %



During the second half of 2025, Správca continued the systematic optimisation of the deposit return system and implemented further improvements aimed at increasing efficiency and convenience for collection points and retailers.

In cooperation with retailers, Správca continued to promote a more environmentally responsible approach to the use of bags and the transport of materials by setting standards for bag fill levels. The minimum requirement for transport from a collection point was adjusted from one sealed bag containing collected deposit beverage containers to two such bags. For collection points with manual collection, where retailers collect uncompressed deposit beverage containers, Správca identified new types of bags with a square base that allow more compact handling; these are scheduled to be introduced into practice in 2026.

As part of technological improvements focused on increasing convenience and enabling more efficient resolution of issues related to manual scanners, a software update was implemented in August 2025. The update allows for better identification of technical issues, faster resolution, and improved communication between the system and the device.

In the area of process optimisation and the digitalisation of logistics services, an updated version of the Správca zálohového systému mobile app for drivers was deployed in October 2025. The update brought greater clarity to the collection of bags containing deposit beverage containers. At the same time, a new feature called “Logistics contacts” was introduced in the information system. By assigning a contact to a collection point, retailers can ensure that notifications of the number of bags collected are sent after each completed collection, and they receive an alert if a collection does not take place. This functionality provides collection points with greater convenience and a clearer real-time overview of logistics processes.

At the end of the year, Správca once again reviewed the segmentation of collection points. This review is carried out regularly with the aim of improving the efficiency of collections of deposit beverage containers from individual regions of the Slovak Republic on a year-on-year basis.

To support collection points, Správca prepared and distributed, in the second half of 2025, a “Manual for Reporting a Malfunction of Equipment for the Collection of Deposit Beverage Containers”. The manual provides methodological guidance for collection points on the procedure to be followed in the event of a technical malfunction of a reverse vending machine (RVM) or a manual scanner that prevents the collection of deposit beverage containers during operating hours. The aim is to help retailers establish internal procedures enabling them to document and demonstrate due professional care when addressing a malfunction, thereby reducing the risk of sanctions imposed by state supervisory authorities (SIŽP, SOI).

The market for equipment used in the collection of deposit beverage containers continues to expand, with new types of devices becoming available. Správca assesses and verifies these devices and, in 2025, added further high-capacity machines to the range available to retailers.

To maintain or increase consumer engagement with the system, attention must also be paid to the quality and cleanliness of collection points. In August 2025, Správca zálohového systému launched the “Most Popular Collection Point” competition, which encouraged collection points to maintain the quality and cleanliness of reverse vending machines (RVMs) and their surroundings. Consumers were able to nominate their preferred stores via social media or through posters with QR codes displayed in stores. Thanks to close cooperation with retailers, who actively supported both the communication and the set-up of the competition, its reach was significantly expanded. The campaign highlighted not only the importance of clean and high-quality collection points for the smooth functioning of the system, but above all the fact that every returned container reflects a joint effort by retailers, employees, and consumers alike. It reinforced the understanding of deposit return as a collective endeavour, in which each link in the chain contributes to a convenient and reliable system for everyone.



ALTERNATIVE COLLECTION METHODS

Alternative collection points are an important complement to the standard retail collection network, enabling consumers to return deposit beverage containers outside shops, i.e. in locations with a high concentration of people, at public, cultural, sports, or social events, and in tourist-intensive areas.

In the second half of 2025, Správca continued the systematic development of the network of alternative collection points. These contribute to higher return rates for deposit beverage containers, help to reduce litter, and at the same time support public-benefit and charitable activities in municipalities and regions. The network includes both year-round and seasonal solutions, designed to respond flexibly to the specific characteristics of individual locations, events, and the needs of municipalities or organisers.

During the second half of 2025, a total of 450,102 deposit beverage containers were collected through alternative collection points, confirming their growing importance as a flexible and accessible collection solution.

Further municipalities, organisations, and institutions joined the network of alternative collection points, including the Museum of the Second World War. In many cases, the proceeds from the collected containers were used to support public-benefit and charitable purposes, e.g. in the municipalities of Most pri Bratislave, Dunajská Lužná, Spišský Hrhov, and Modra, as well as in the Bratislava district of Staré Mesto (Old Town).

In August 2025, the Office of the President of the Slovak Republic also joined the alternative collection system. During open-day events, visitors were able to hand in deposit beverage containers to specially placed collection containers directly at the event venue.

Alternative collection points were also established in connection with municipal, social, and institutional events, including Beckov Festival, Artistic Lančár, Wine Under the Stars, Good Market, the From the Heart Festival, Skalica Fair, and the Christmas markets in Bratislava.







During the second half of 2025, a total of

450 102 deposit beverage containers

were collected through alternative collection points.



Správca's aims are to continue expanding this network, to identify new opportunities for the collection of deposit beverage containers outside retail outlets, and to motivate municipalities, event organisers, and other institutions to participate in the system.

In August 2025, Správca also supported the municipality of Veľká Ves nad Ipľom by supplying protective gloves and bags so that the River Ipeľ and its surroundings could be cleaned. The materials provided contributed to the successful implementation of the clean-up activities and to an improvement in the local environment.

In the area of social responsibility and cooperation with partners, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed in June 2025 between Správca zálohového systému and the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia. This cooperation aims to expand opportunities for the deposit return of single-use beverage containers at public church events, support charitable and public-benefit projects, and promote education and public awareness in the field of environmental protection.

The cooperation was implemented in practice for the first time during the National Pilgrimage in Šaštín, held on 15 September 2025 on the occasion of the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. Visitors were able to hand in empty plastic bottles and cans at designated collection containers, helping to reduce litter at the event venue. The proceeds from the donated deposits were used to ensure adequate hydration for children and young people from the Oratory in Šaštín.

In the second half of 2025, deposit return was also present at major sports events with a long tradition and high attendance. The International Peace Marathon, held in Košice ever since 1924 and among the oldest marathon events in the world, once again attracted thousands of runners and spectators to the city centre in 2025. As usual, the Tour of Slovakia cycling race, in its 69th year, passed through several regions of Slovakia and was accompanied by increased concentrations of participants and the public, particularly at the start and finish points of individual stages. At events of this kind, providing the option to return deposit beverage containers played an important role in keeping public spaces clean and encouraging responsible behaviour among visitors. Alternative collection points are therefore an effective tool for increasing access to deposit return, protecting the environment, and supporting local communities and public-benefit activities.

YEAR-ROUND ALTERNATIVE COLLECTION POINTS

Municipalities

- Veľká ves nad Ipľom
- Kálnica
- Horné Turovce
- Veľké Turovce
- Tuhár
- Most pri Bratislave
- Skalité
- Modra
- Žilina
- Staré Mesto Bratislava

Educational facilities

- Cambridge International School
- Grammar School Einsteinova, Bratislava
- Nursery School, Šaľa

Companies and institutions

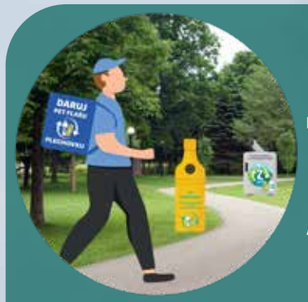
- Hotel Aréna, s.r.o.
- SBA Marketing, s.r.o.
- Delirest Slovakia, s.r.o.
- ASO Vending, s.r.o.
- Duslo, a.s.
- Adeli Medical Center
- Mayser Slovakia, s.r.o.
- IKEA Bratislava, s.r.o.
- TAURIS, a.s.
- Hrnčiarske Zalužany Agricultural Cooperative
- Kúpele Dudince, a.s.
- Aldea - disco Club
- DAMIAN JASNÁ HOTEL RESORT & RESIDENCES, s.r.o
- CPI Hotels Slovakia, s.r.o.
- Fields, s.r.o. - Saint Coffee, Prešov

Companies and institutions

- Mgr. Monika Ferletiaková - Márius
- Aldea club, s.r.o.
- Šoky, s.r.o.
- Bratislava Administration of Sports and Recreational Facilities

Foundations and charities

- Úsmev ako dar Foundation
- AXIS Foundation
- Balloo Charity



DEPOSIT RETURN DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS AND THE TOURIST SEASON

During the summer months, beverage consumption typically rises, alongside increased attendance at cultural, sports, and social events, and higher footfall in tourist areas across Slovakia. In the second half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému therefore focused on expanding deposit return in places where large volumes of empty beverage containers are generated over short periods.

During the summer season, deposit return was in place at a wide range of major events throughout Slovakia. Among the best-attended events was the Východná Folklore Festival, where Správca took part for the first time at the festival's 70th anniversary edition, bringing deposit return into the context of traditional culture. The summer programme also included the Pohoda and Grape festivals in Trenčín, the LOVESTREAM festival in Bratislava, and major sports events such as the European Junior Swimming Championships (Under 23) and the European Frisbee Championships. Deposit return was also in place at community and regional events, including municipal celebrations, wine and food events, and charitable activities.

At many events, deposit beverage containers were collected via mobile collection points, temporary stands, and on-site staff, who provided visitors with guidance on correct return procedures and explained the purpose of the deposit return system. This approach allowed empty bottles and cans to be returned directly at the point of consumption and played an important role in keeping event venues and their surroundings clean.

The summer season also saw deposit return linked with public-benefit and charitable activities. At a number of events, the proceeds from collected deposit beverage containers were used for specific purposes, including support for environmental initiatives, charitable organisations, and community projects in municipalities.

National parks and popular tourist locations also play a key role in the collection of deposit beverage containers during the summer months and the tourist season, as large numbers of visitors tend to gather there over short periods. In 2025, deposit return continued in several national parks, in particular Slovak Paradise National Park, Slovak Karst National Park, Poloniny National Park, Pieniny National Park, Veľká Fatra National Park, NAPANT, and the TANAP area. Compared with 2024, some locations recorded an increase in the number of containers collected, confirming growing awareness among visitors of the importance of returning deposit beverage containers even when spending time in nature.

Summer activities also included the active involvement of employees of Správca zálohového systému, who take part in voluntary activities focused on environmental protection and litter reduction at half-yearly intervals. In the second half of 2025, this took the form of a clean-up in the Tatranská Lomnica area of the High Tatras National Park. Through this activity, Správca symbolically promoted responsible behaviour among visitors and highlighted the importance of preventing littering in heavily visited tourist areas.

Once again in 2025, expanding access to deposit return during the summer months and the tourist season through alternative collection points proved to be a practical and flexible approach. It responds effectively to increased visitor numbers, helps to reduce litter, and strengthens public awareness of responsible behaviour towards the environment.

WHERE CAN YOU USE THE DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM IN SUMMER?

NATIONAL PARKS – 25 LOCATIONS

- TANAP obec Štrba – Štrbské Pleso, turn-off to Koliba Patria
- TANAP obec Štrba – Štrbské Pleso, Poštová
- TANAP obec Štrba – Štrbské Pleso, K vodopádom 106
- TANAP obec Štrba – Štrbské Pleso, turn-of near Heliose
- TANAP Hrebienok Mountain Lodge
- TANAP, Tatranská Lomnica Ski Resort
- TANAP, Bachledova Valley
- Low Tatras National Park (NAPANT), Donovaly
- NAPANT, Jánska Dolina
- NAPANT, Trangoška – Zázvor Chalet
- NAPANT, Hiadeľské Saddle
- NAPANT, Demänovská Valley
- NAPANT, Kráľova hoľa
- Slovak Paradise National Park, Podlesok Campsite
- Slovak Paradise National Park, Dedinky – Ecocentre
- Slovak Paradise National Park, Dobšinská Ice Cave car park
- Slovak Karst National Park, Domica Cave
- Slovak Karst National Park, Gombasecká Cave
- Slovak Karst National Park, Zádiel Gorge Lodge – Bôrka
- Pieniny National Park (PIENAP), Červený Kláštor, Pieniny
- Poloniny National Park, Nová Sedlica
- Poloniny National Park, Nová Sedlica – Grófske chyžky
- Veľká Fatra National Park, Ľubochnianska Valley
- Veľká Fatra National Park, Gaderská Valley
- Veľká Fatra National Park, Hotel Kráľova Studňa







Festivals

- Pohoda festival
- Grape festival
- 70th Východná Folklore Festival
- LOVESTEAM festival
- Vrbovské vetry
- Festival Skaly
- Festival Atmosféra
- Uprising festival
- KAUFLAND CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL, Liptovský Mikuláš
- Punkáči deťom

Sports events

- European Junior Swimming Championships
- European Frisbee Championships
- Tour of Slovakia (cycling)
- Mariánsky Štvanec – Marianka near Bratislava
- Štrbarace 2025 – Štrbské Pleso
- Košice International Peace Marathon

Local government authorities

- Ratkovce Days
- Bystrá Days & Horehronie Tourism Days 2025
- Staré Mesto Bratislava – collection for food donations to a social food distribution centre
- Vlkanová Days
- Badín – beer tasting

Cultural events

- PRIDE, Bratislava
- Beckov Festival
- Výtvarný Lančár
- Víno pod hviezdami
- Hontianska Paráda
- Presidential Palace – Open Day
- Dobrý trh
- External exhibition of the Museum of the Slovak National Uprising, Svidník
- Zo srdca
- Nationwide Pilgrimage of Slovakia to the Patroness of Slovakia
- Skalica Fair
- Christmas markets in Bratislava and Košice



DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Municipal and regional authorities are among Správca zálohového systému's natural partners. For this reason, projects implemented in municipalities are coordinated directly with local authorities or with their representative associations. In particular, we value our cooperation with the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, with which we jointly deliver a range of educational activities for nursery and primary schools. Alongside these joint educational initiatives, mayors, municipal leaders, and schools were informed throughout the reporting period about ways in which the deposit return system and deposit bottles can be used to support public-benefit or charitable projects at municipal level.







Cooperation between Správca zálohového systému, local authority representatives, schools, and nursery schools has led to a variety of practical examples of how deposit return can support communities, people in need, and local projects. In the past half-year, particular attention was drawn to an initiative in Tuhár, where the proceeds from deposit bottles donated by residents were used to help fund the purchase of a defibrillator. Similarly, the Secondary School of Gastronomy and Services in Prešov collects deposit beverage containers as part of the Green School scheme, with the proceeds used to support further activities related to ecology and environmental protection. We welcome the fact that such initiatives are becoming increasingly common across Slovakia, and that municipalities, schools, and other institutions are actively using deposit return as a practical tool to support their own projects.

In the second half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému, in cooperation with the Bratislava borough of Staré Mesto (Old Town), launched a community initiative linking deposit return with support for social activities. A collection container for deposit beverage containers was installed at the local municipal office, allowing residents to voluntarily donate their deposit containers.







The deposits donated by residents are used to purchase food for a social food distribution centre, directly connecting deposit return with support for the local community. This initiative demonstrates that, alongside its environmental benefits, the deposit return system can also deliver social benefits and strengthen cooperation with local authorities, which are best placed to understand the needs of their residents.



"By showing children, in a playful way and from an early age in nursery schools, why it is important to protect the environment, we are raising a responsible generation that will be able to pass these values on."

Jozef Božik, Chair of the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia.



Cooperation with the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia

In June 2025, Správca zálohového systému signed a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia. The purpose of this cooperation, as set out in the Memorandum, is to extend opportunities for the deposit return of single-use beverage containers to public events held under the auspices of the Conference of Bishops of Slovakia. This partnership also covers support for charitable projects, as well as education and public information activities related to environmental protection and responsible environmental behaviour. The first practical outcome of this cooperation was the National Pilgrimage in Šaštín in September 2025, which also had an environmental and charitable dimension. Pilgrims were able to donate empty plastic bottles and cans for charitable purposes. We are glad that the proceeds were used to support children from marginalised groups.











FLOW OF COLLECTED PACKAGING

Throughout 2025, the processing of collected deposit beverage containers at the Kočovce Sorting Centre ran smoothly. Over the year as a whole, the centre processed 6,829 tonnes of aluminium cans and 18,960 tonnes of PET containers.

In the second half of 2025, several technical and operational improvements were introduced at the Kočovce Sorting Centre to streamline material flow and improve sorting performance.

On the production side, a warehouse application was deployed to improve, and make clearer, the recording of incoming collections at interim warehouses and directly at the sorting centre. This has strengthened oversight of material movements and brought greater consistency to recording procedures. From a technical perspective, a timer was added to the magnetic separator for iron on the beverage can processing line. This allows magnet activation to be precisely timed, reducing electricity consumption and lowering the risk of equipment failure, particularly by limiting bearing wear.



Adjustments were also made to the speed control of the input conveyor on the plastic bottle processing line, allowing processing to be better matched to actual material volumes. As a result, throughput in the handling of collection bags increased by approximately 25%. In the second half of 2025, the changes implemented at the Kočovce Sorting Centre therefore contributed to the smoother flow of collected containers, more efficient use of technical equipment, and stable handling of higher material volumes during peak seasonal periods.

Systematic logistics optimisation also continued in the second half of 2025, with a focus on improving collection efficiency, reducing the distances driven, and making better use of the available vehicle fleet. The introduction of new analytical models and more detailed reporting significantly improved transport planning and allowed daily monitoring of vehicle utilisation. Compared with the second half of 2024, when average vehicle utilisation stood at 83.3%, the utilisation rate rose to 90.4% in the second half of 2025.

Digitalisation of intake processes for collected deposit beverage containers continued through the use of the warehouse application, which supports the receipt and recording of bags delivered as part of individual collections. Bags are scanned by collection, data are checked against the driver's records, and any discrepancies are resolved. Once confirmed, the collection is closed by the driver using a QR code.

The application also allows authorised data corrections and uses colour, sound, and vibration signals to distinguish between bag types. At the same time, the driver mobile application was simplified, improving continuity between collection and warehouse operations and reducing the administrative burden associated with the processing of collection data.

The warehouse application has therefore become a key digital tool within Správca's warehouse operations, improving information flow across the system. The data generated can also be used to support further process adjustments and optimisation.



"The Kočovce Sorting Centre is one of the pillars of the deposit system. In 2025, our focus was on improving sorting efficiency, strengthening process control, and maintaining stable operations even at higher material volumes."

František Mažerik, Operations Director of the Kočovce Sorting Centre, Správca zálohového systému







LOGISTICS – THE HEART OF THE SYSTEM





Logistics is one of the core pillars of the deposit return system, as it directly affects the availability of collection points, the smooth operation of collections, cost efficiency, and the system's environmental footprint. In 2025, Správca zálohového systému focused on further optimising logistics processes in response to rising volumes of collected containers, seasonal fluctuations, and the need to ensure stable and reliable collection coverage across Slovakia.

As part of these efforts, digital support for drivers was introduced through a new mobile application, simplifying on-site processes and improving the flow of operational information. During the same period, Správca also carried out the selection of logistics service providers and suppliers of plastic collection bags.

During the summer months, Sunday collections were piloted in selected regions. In parallel, the separate transport of bags from manual-collection sites was tested in eastern Slovakia. The testing of these measures provided valuable input for further decisions on optimising collections during peak seasonal periods.

"By making better use of transport-planning software, working closely with transport companies on the daily evaluation of actual collections, providing regular driver training, and optimising the segmentation of collection points, we made a marked improvement in our key logistics indicators."

Ján Franek, Logistics Director, Správca zálohového systému



Compared with 2024, the total distance driven by collection vehicles in 2025 decreased by 326,146 kilometres. Over the same period, total collection time was reduced from 171,778 hours to 154,286 hours, a reduction of 17,492 hours. The average number of collection vehicles deployed fell from 76 to 69, while the number of visits to collection points declined only slightly, from 377,950 to 372,891 visits.

Positive developments were also recorded in transfer transport, i.e. the movement of returnable containers from interim warehouses to the sorting centre by lorry. Year on year, the distance driven by transfer lorries fell by 282,421 kilometres, while the number of transfers decreased from 4,257 to 2,934. Despite the lower number of journeys, utilisation of transfer lorries increased from 6,723 to 7,983, confirming more efficient planning and improved use of vehicle capacity.

In 2025, Správca also worked with retailers to set the technical parameters of plastic collection bags in a more economical way. This led to a reduction in plastic material consumption and savings of approximately 230 tonnes of plastic.

In 2026, Správca plans to continue close cooperation with retailers to further improve the segmentation of collection points. During the summer months, Sunday collections are planned for selected high-volume sites, with the aim of optimising use of the vehicle fleet and increasing convenience at collection points.

In addition, the purchase of four new specialised dual-compartment refuse collection vehicles is planned for the third quarter of 2026. These vehicles will allow more efficient material collection and contribute to further reductions in both the logistics burden and the environmental impact of the system.

REDUCTION IN DISTANCE DRIVEN

-608 567 km

Contributing to fuel savings and the conservation of natural resources

REDUCTION IN DRIVER TIME SPENT DRIVING

-17 492 hours

Reflecting more efficient transport and route planning enabled by the driver mobile application

LOWER NUMBER OF VISITS TO COLLECTION POINTS

-5 059 visits

As a result of more efficient segmentation of collection points

DROP IN COLLECTION VEHICLES DEPLOYED PER DAY

-7 vehicles

REDUCTION IN PLASTIC MATERIAL CONSUMPTION

-230 tonnes

Achieved through more economical technical settings for plastic collection bags

SPRÁVCA AS AN EMPLOYER





In the second half of 2025, the Human Resources Department focused on the day-to-day delivery of HR and payroll administration, with an emphasis on stability, continuity, and effective support for individual operations. Taking a flexible, partner-led approach, the team responded to current organisational needs and worked closely with senior management and line managers to address staffing challenges.

Targeted recruitment activity continued, including repeat attendance at job fairs. During the second half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému attended Profesia Days in Košice, where visitors could learn not only about employment opportunities within the organisation, but also about how the deposit return system works and its importance for the circular economy and environmental protection.
The event also helped to build awareness of Správca as a responsible and stable employer offering work with a clear social purpose.

Long-term efforts and cross-departmental cooperation in the field of HR have helped to maintain a low staff turnover rate, which averaged 1.3% during the reporting period. This result reflects the effectiveness of the processes in place and the quality of the working environment.

Alongside the systematic development of employees' professional skills, the Human Resources Department also continues to focus on strengthening team spirit and internal motivation. Správca zálohového systému builds a cohesive workforce through activities that connect everyday work with the organisation's values and encourage natural employee engagement.

Strong operational results are achieved not only through high professional competence, but also through management support, clear direction, open communication, and teamwork. This approach also includes regular employee involvement in voluntary activities focused on environmental protection and litter reduction. In the second half of 2025, employees once again took part, on a six-monthly cycle, in a clean-up in the High Tatras National Park, this time in the Tatranská Lomnica area.

This way of working – involving employees, management, the Human Resources Department, and external partners – provides a solid foundation for the organisation's long-term stability and further development, while also reinforcing Správca zálohového systému's environmental and socially responsible activities.



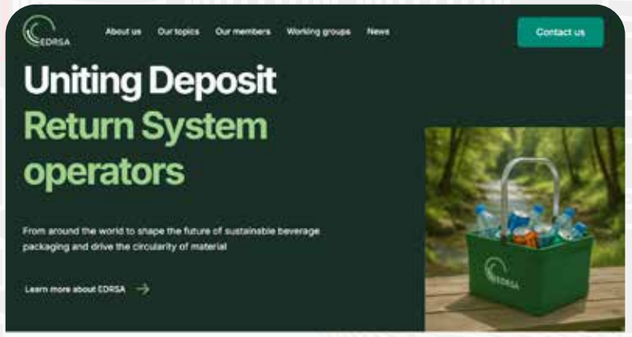


COOPERATION WITH PARTNERS ABROAD AND EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE

Our cooperation with partners abroad continues to intensify. Over the past half-year, we welcomed visits to Slovakia from countries where the introduction of a deposit return system is either being considered or prepared, including Poland and Spain. We also hosted representatives of our partner deposit return system from Malta. All of these partners have shown a strong interest in Slovak know-how in deposit return, from system introduction, through to day-to-day operation, and on to system innovation and meeting statutory targets.
Activity within the European Deposit Return Systems Association has also developed rapidly. The Association was founded in January 2025 by us and 16 partners, and by the end of 2025 it had around twenty members.



We held repeated discussions with representatives of the European Commission in Brussels, communicated with partner associations abroad, and shared information, experience, and knowledge through the Association's seven working groups, which focus on different aspects of deposit return (see more at https://edrsa.eu/). Towards the end of the year, we worked with the Norwegian deposit return system, Infinitum, on sharing pre-Christmas communications. This cooperation resulted in a video clip, which was also published on our social media channels.





In the first half of 2025, Správca also presented the deposit return system at the following webinars and conferences:

Profesia Days Košice

Profesia Days Bratislava

TOTAL: ATTENDANCE AT THREE CONFERENCES

Kariéra Expo



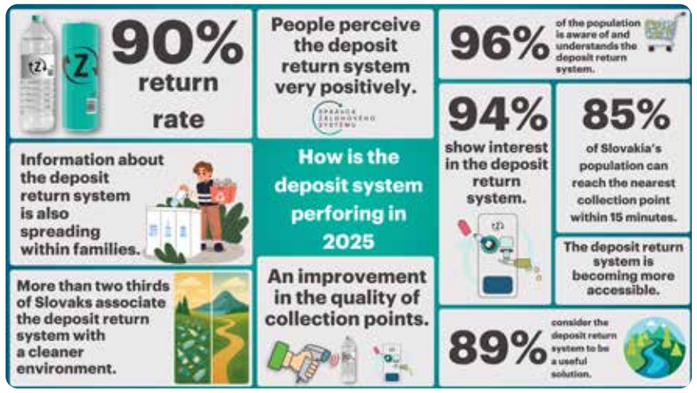
PUBLIC AWARENESS

Deposit return for single-use beverage containers has become an established part of everyday life in Slovakia. Plastic bottles and cans are now routinely returned at collection points in retail outlets, either via reverse vending machines or through manual collection, as well as at alternative collection points in national parks, at cultural and social events, and seasonally at festivals. Precisely because deposit return has become so familiar, a continued emphasis is needed to ensure that the system remains visible, easy to understand, and accessible to all sections of the public over the long term.



In the second half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému continued its systematic communication with the public on how deposit return for single-use beverage containers operates, its benefits, and its importance for environmental protection. The purpose of this communication was not only to explain how the system works, but also to reinforce the message that deposit return in Slovakia is functional, meaningful, and easy to use. Through themed and seasonal campaigns, Správca sought to maintain and strengthen return rates by clearly presenting the environmental benefits of the system, including reductions in littered beverage containers and savings in natural resources through repeated material use. At the same time, communication activities also aimed to identify and support additional motivations for consumers to return deposit beverage containers. This communication naturally drew on a sense of pride in a transparent system that consistently achieves high return rates and, thanks to active public participation, ranks among the most successful in Europe. It also strengthened awareness of the system itself, its operation, and the organisation responsible for managing it, with the aim of building trust and securing long-term public support.

A key milestone in the second half of 2025 was the publication of the results of a regular representative survey conducted by the agency 2muse in August and September 2025. The survey confirmed a high level of public awareness and acceptance of deposit return: 96% of the population in Slovakia stated that they are familiar with deposit return and understand it, 94% expressed an interest in deposit return, and 89% consider it a useful solution. Year-on-year comparisons showed that these indicators have remained stable for the third consecutive year, confirming both the long-term sustainability of the system and the consistently positive public attitude towards deposit return. Return rates for beverage containers have remained at approximately 90% over the long term, and by the end of 2025 the cumulative total of collected plastic bottles and cans since the launch of deposit return exceeded four billion.



During the summer months, communication activities focused on the mini-series “Leto so zálohovaním” (Summer with Deposit Return), which reminded the public to think about deposit return while travelling, on holiday, and during leisure activities. Through short videos and photographs, Správca highlighted where and how single-use beverage containers can be returned. This was followed by the regular educational video series “Malá škola zálohovania” (The Little School of Deposit Return), which presents individual topics and areas of Správca’s work in a clear and accessible format.





In the autumn, communication efforts placed a greater emphasis on strengthening environmental motivation to return deposit containers and reinforcing a sense of pride in a deposit return system that is demonstrably successful.

As part of this activity, Správca renewed its cooperation with the influencer Fero Joke, with whom it had previously worked during the introduction of the Slovak deposit return system. A series of three videos and one radio spot presented the collection and transport of deposit beverage containers, their processing at the sorting centre, and expressed thanks to consumers for their active participation by holding a competition for them. The campaign aimed to strengthen trust both in the deposit return system itself and in Správca zálohového systému, while also reinforcing environmental motivation by clearly explaining the principles of circularity, which are a key but less widely understood benefit of deposit return.



Throughout the second half of 2025, communication activities were designed to support the continued maintenance of high return rates, strengthen trust in the system, and deepen public awareness of its environmental benefits. Deposit return has proven to be an effective tool of the circular economy, with its success depending on cooperation among all participants in the system and on active public engagement. Looking ahead, Správca remains committed to clear, factual, and credible communication that supports the further development of the system and its positive environmental impact in Slovakia.









EDUCATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SPRÁVCA ZÁLOHOVÉHO SYSTÉMU

Education has formed part of Správca zálohového systému's activities since the launch of the deposit system. We believe that informed and curious young people can use deposit return as a gateway to understanding broader societal and environmental issues. We therefore see education as a responsibility towards the younger generation. Through the individual components of a complex system such as deposit return, from logistics and economics to downstream processing, we are able to introduce young people to more demanding topics, including the circular economy

Supporting projects for the youngest

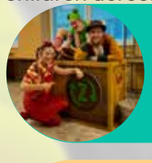
In the second half of 2025, educational activities for the youngest audiences continued through popular events featuring Miro Jaroš, including Disko turné s Lipánkom and So Spievankovom – Letíme k vám! Together with Spievankovo, a new education project for nursery schools was launched, bringing children closer to the basic principles of deposit return and environmental responsibility. In the second half of the year, the new interactive programme was seen by almost 800 nursery-school children in Partizánske, Bernolákovo, and Svit.

"We see Spievankovo as an excellent partner, thanks to whom we are able to present even seemingly more demanding topics to children. We are very pleased that through this project we are reaching younger generations and helping them, through interactive and playful education, to develop positive habits in their relationship with nature and the environment."



Marián Áč, Director General, Správca zálohového systému

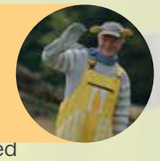
In cooperation with Spievankovo, a new video clip aimed at pre-school children was prepared in September 2025. The clip Zálohuj! (Return It!) is available on Spievankovo's YouTube channel as well as on music platforms including Deezer, Spotify, and iTunes, and can also be found in the updated Spievankovo mobile application. "Small hands can do big things..." and "see the Z, return it" are now familiar to thousands of children across Slovakia.



"Our aim was to create a song and video clip that would not only entertain children, but also teach them something. Deposit return is a simple step through which everyone can help nature."

Mária Podhradská, Spievankovo

"It's a great project! It's brilliant that children know what to do with bottles marked with the 'Z'."



Ján Kuric, musician

Preparation of a colouring book for first-year primary-school pupils was also completed and distributed to schools. Teachers thus gained an additional teaching aid to help the youngest pupils understand the purpose and meaning of deposit return.







Škola zálohovania a triedenia so Spievankovom - figures

Location	Number of children
PARTIZÁNSKE	300
BERNOLÁKOVO	200
SVIT	250











Škola zálohovania a triedenia

In cooperation with the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia and OZV NATUR-PACK, activities under Škola zálohovania a triedenia continued. This programme consists of a series of performances for primary-school pupils. Support was also provided for Braňo Jobus's publication on waste and deposit return (Šporko Šamrolka a vrecožrúti). As one of the core performers within the programme, he motivates children through his performances to take an active approach to deposit return and sorting. In Čadca, Ružomberok, and Trstená, Škola zálohovania a triedenia was attended by almost 1,400 primary-school pupils.

"I am very pleased to be part of the approach to sorting and deposit return. The messages of the books are further developed through our joint performances in schools."



Branislav Jobus, musician

In October 2025, Škola zálohovania a triedenia was expanded to include a new partner, OZV ENVI-PAK, and bilingual Slovak–Czech performances. In the second half of the year, these performances reached a further almost 1,400 children in Banská Štiavnica, Levoča, Svidník, Žiar nad Hronom, and Považská Bystrica.



"Škola zálohovania a triedenia demonstrates how education, entertainment, and practical environmental behaviour can be effectively combined. Children learn that even a small action – returning a bottle or a drinks can to a reverse vending machine – can have a significant impact on our planet."

Monika Farka, Head of External Relations, Správca zálohového systému









Škola zálohovania a triedenia s NATUR-PACK - figures

Location	Number of children
ZVOLEN	600
TREBIŠOV	600
BRATISLAVA - RUŽINOV	350
ČADCA	500
TRSTENÁ	350
RUŽOMBEROK	500

Škola zálohovania a triedenia s ENVI-PAK - figures

Lokalita	Number of children
BANSKÁ ŠTIAVNICA	172
LEVOČA	175
SVIDNÍK	493
ŽIAR NAD HRONOM	260
POVAŽSKÁ BYSTRICA	247

Total: 14 locations a 5 367 children

Methodological materials for schools

Building on the gradual roll-out of methodological materials for secondary-school pupils, Správca zálohového systému, n.o. decided to commission the preparation of methodological materials also for younger pupils and their teachers at primary schools. The aim of this project is to raise awareness and foster a positive relationship among children aged 6 to 10 towards the deposit return of plastic bottles and cans, while deepening their interest in the principles of a sustainable way of life. The objective is to create a set of methodological materials for teachers at the first stage of primary schools, supporting the development of environmental literacy among younger pupils in the context of the domain-specific literacies defined in the 2023 State Educational Programme for Primary Education. The author team comprises teachers at the first stage of primary schools with experience in project-based and integrated teaching, expert consultants in environmental education and curriculum reform, as well as students of primary-education teaching.



"The younger generation needs to be continuously guided towards environmentally responsible behaviour and an awareness of how each individual can contribute to better and more efficient use of available resources. Deposit return is, in essence, an easily accessible step within the otherwise demanding process of environmentally responsible behaviour, yet one that can have a significant impact on our environment. And that is something immensely important for our children and their future."

Mgr. Jana Raffay, member of the expert team preparing the materials.

Following the completion of methodological materials and worksheets for pupils in the upper years of primary schools and for secondary-school pupils and their teachers in the first half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému worked together with the National Institute of Education and Youth, under the leadership of project expert Mgr. Peter Učeň, PhD, and with the participation of year-seven pupils from the Bieloruská Primary School in Bratislava, to prepare a model lesson aimed at making it easier for pupils and teachers to work with the prepared materials. During the lesson, pupils also tested the activities in the methodological materials and worksheets. The lesson included the creation of a video recording which, once edited, will serve as a practical educational tool for pupils and their teachers.





According to Petra Fridrichová, Director of the Department for the Support of Formal Education at the National Institute of Education and Youth of the Slovak Republic and expert consultant to SZS, n.o.: "The methodological materials give teachers new opportunities to integrate environmental topics into teaching in an innovative and practical way. This form of education focuses on developing the cognitive abilities of the young generation, while also supporting the development of ecological values, entrepreneurship, initiative, cooperation and presentation skills. To a significant extent, the materials also address the development of critical thinking. They make a major contribution to the Slovak education system."

Odpad je poklad

Support continued for **Odpad je poklad**, a project that links education with art and helps motivate audiences to take a deeper interest in a responsible approach to the environment, including deposit return. The texts and musical genres are tailored to different age groups, and their diversity encourages audiences to take an active approach to waste sorting and deposit return.



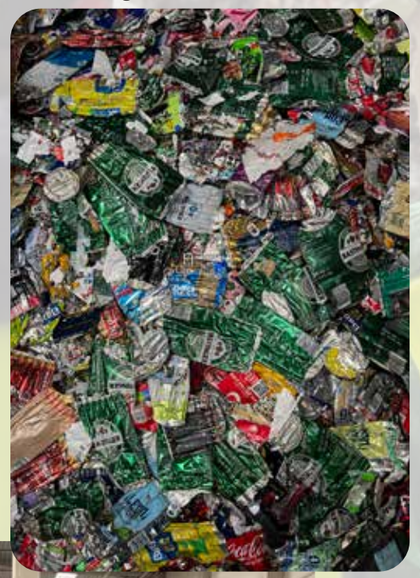
Sorting centre excursions

Educational visits for pupils of primary schools, secondary schools and grammar schools, as well as for university students, to Správca zálohového systému's Sorting Centre in Kočovce continue to attract growing interest. Through ongoing cooperation with the Kočovce Environmental Centre, visitors to the sorting centre have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the principles of environmental protection and all stages of deposit return, including the preparation of returned deposit beverage containers for further processing.

In the past half-year, the sorting centre was visited by pupils and students from Martina Rázusa Primary School in Zvolen, Kulíškova Primary School in Bratislava, Albert Einstein Grammar School in Bratislava, and the Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra. Over the whole of 2025, nearly 400 pupils and students gained a closer understanding of the deposit-return process directly at the sorting centre.

School	Number of students
Slovak University of Agroculture in Nitra	92
Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava	30
Albert Einstein Grammar School, Bratislava	40
Odborárska Primary School, Nové Mesto nad Váhom	38
Štrba Primary School	48
Radovan Kaufman Primary School, Partizánske	41
Martina Rázusa Primary School, Zvolen	40
Kulíškova Primary School, Bratislava	40

TOTAL: 8 schools, 370 students







Universities

In addition to leading educational visits for university students, employees of Správca zálohového systému continued to provide information and explanations about deposit return at several Slovak universities and secondary schools.

Support for research at Slovak universities

In 2024, together with the recycling companies General Plastics, a.s. and Greentech Slovakia, we entered into an agreement with the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava to support research in the field of deposit return and recycling. The research, carried out by a scientific team led by Associate Professor Ing. Roderik Plavec, PhD, focuses on analysing how recycled PET (rPET) material affects both the processing characteristics and the functional properties of the resulting material. The analysis covers not only its use in the production of new bottles as packaging material, but also its application in other products. One of the main objectives of the research is to optimise the quality of final recycled products, with a particular emphasis on ensuring that rPET retains properties comparable to those of primary (non-recycled) PET material. At the same time, it is essential to ensure that the resulting material remains suitable for food contact, meaning that it continues to meet hygiene and safety requirements.



In addition to research activities, the cooperation within the project also includes a strong educational dimension. The project outputs will serve as a basis for final theses (bachelor's and master's theses) prepared by students of the Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology at the Slovak University of Technology, thereby linking academic teaching with real-world industrial challenges. The project also includes expert lectures and study visits – either at the premises of Správca zálohového systému or directly at recycling facilities – enabling students to gain an insight into the practical operation of the deposit return system and recycling technologies. Upon completion of the project, it is also expected that specialist literature will be enriched by an authored article presenting the research results.



malá ŠKOLA ZÁLOHOVANIA







This is the title of a long-running series of our information and educational videos focused on deposit return. We are fully aware, and this is also confirmed by public-opinion surveys, that despite the availability of information, there is still a need to explain and illustrate the basic facts and principles of deposit return and how the system works, using an appropriate format. We regularly publish short video spots on social media and believe that these contribute to better public understanding of deposit return. We continued this activity during the past half-year and intend to continue doing so in the future.

Linking education with real-world practice in primary schools

In 2025, Správca zálohového systému expanded its educational activities for primary schools to include a practical dimension that allows children to engage actively in deposit return directly within a school setting. A total of 500 paper collection containers for deposit beverage containers were donated to primary schools. Thanks to cooperation with the Association of Towns and Municipalities of Slovakia, these are being gradually distributed to schools across Slovakia.

The aim of this initiative is to link theoretical knowledge about deposit return with hands-on experience and deliver a tangible outcome. Pupils are able to collect deposit plastic bottles and cans at school, and the collected deposit can then be used for purposes chosen jointly with teachers, e.g. to support school activities, community projects, or charitable causes. In this way, children naturally learn not only how the deposit return system operates, but also that deposit return can take different forms and can have a direct positive impact on their immediate surroundings.

Through this activity, Správca zálohového systému supports the development of environmental awareness among children, strengthens their relationship with responsible behaviour, and at the same time demonstrates that deposit return is not merely a technical process, but also a tool for cooperation, solidarity, and active participation in community life.



COMPETITION FOR THE MOST POPULAR COLLECTION POINT

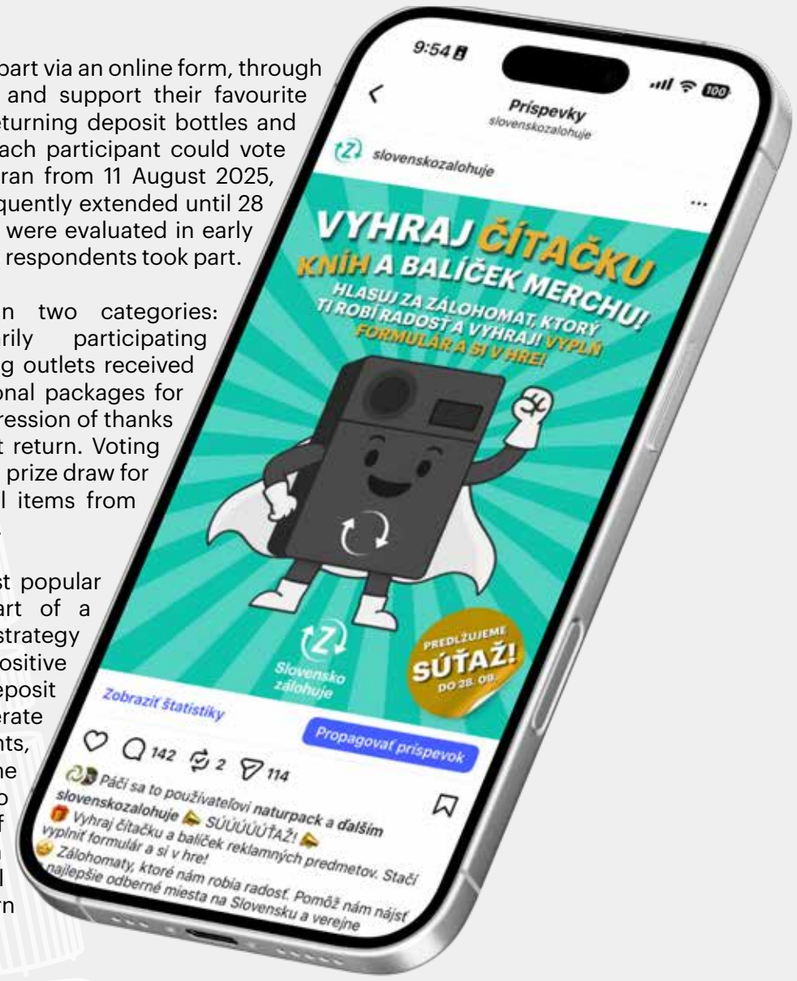
In the second half of 2025, Správca zálohového systému organised a competition to recognise collection points that consistently provide high-quality and convenient conditions for the return of deposit beverage containers. The competition also served as a way of thanking retail employees, whose everyday work plays a crucial role in the smooth operation of the deposit return system.

The aim of the competition was to highlight the fact that a clean and well-functioning reverse vending machine depends primarily on the responsible approach of shop staff. At the same time, the initiative drew attention to good practice and to the importance of systematic care for collection points, both from the perspective of consumer convenience and the overall performance of the deposit return system.

Consumers were able to take part via an online form, through which they could nominate and support their favourite store, i.e. the place where returning deposit bottles and cans works best for them. Each participant could vote only once. The competition ran from 11 August 2025, with the voting period subsequently extended until 28 September 2025. The results were evaluated in early October 2025. A total of 4,746 respondents took part.

Awards were presented in two categories: mandatory and voluntarily participating collection points. The winning outlets received material prizes and promotional packages for employees as a symbolic expression of thanks for their approach to deposit return. Voting consumers were included in a prize draw for an e-reader and promotional items from Správca zálohového systému.

The competition for the most popular collection point formed part of a broader communication strategy aimed at building a positive public relationship with deposit return, encouraging considerate behaviour at collection points, and strengthening trust in the system as a whole. It also helped to raise the profile of retail employees, who are an integral part of the successful operation of the deposit return system in Slovakia.



MEETING RETURN TARGETS

IN 2025, A TOTAL OF

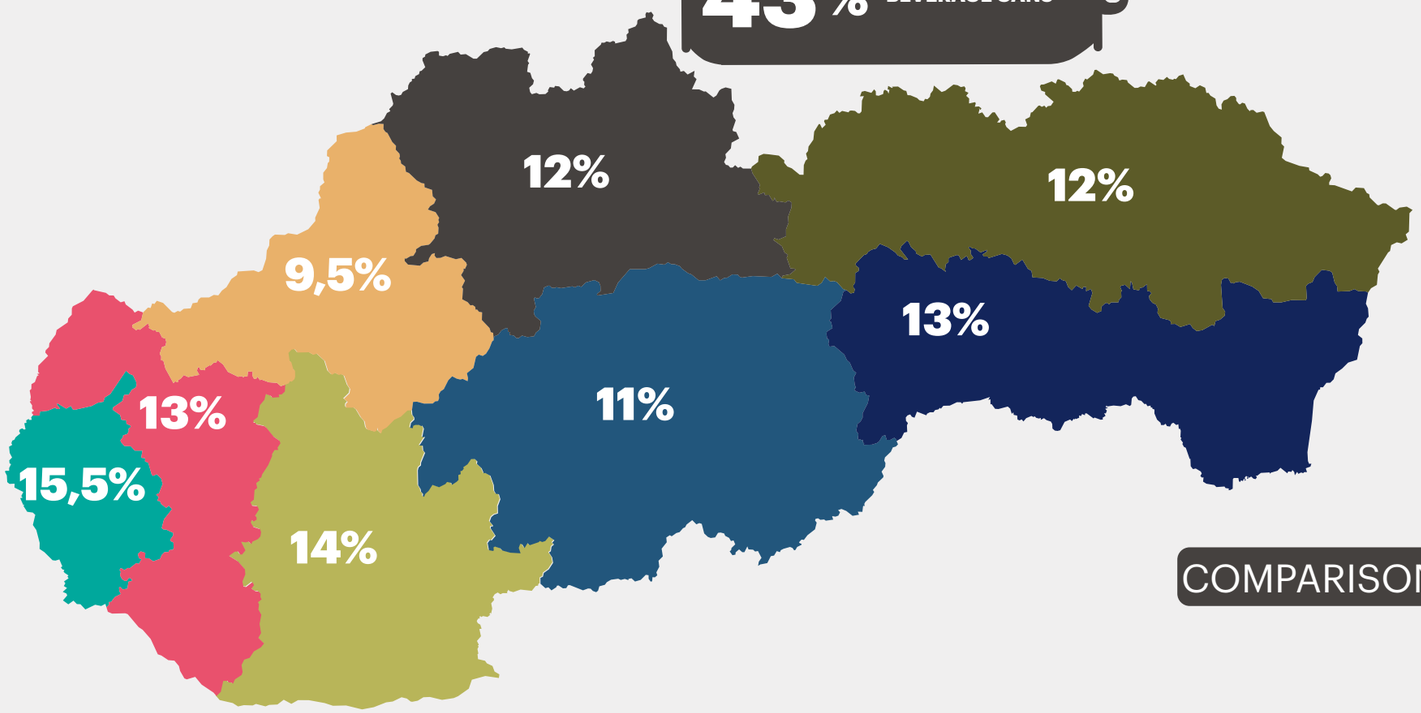
1 088 690 120

DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WERE COLLECTED.

OF THIS TOTAL:

57 % WERE DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES

43 % WERE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CANS



How much was collected in individual regions in 2025?

Banská Bystrica	119 173 763	Prešov	129 845 317
Bratislava	170 815 888	Trenčín	106 141 674
Košice	142 856 459	Trnava	137 720 327
Nitra	152 897 423	Žilina	129 239 269

FROM THE LAUNCH OF THE SYSTEM UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2025, MORE THAN

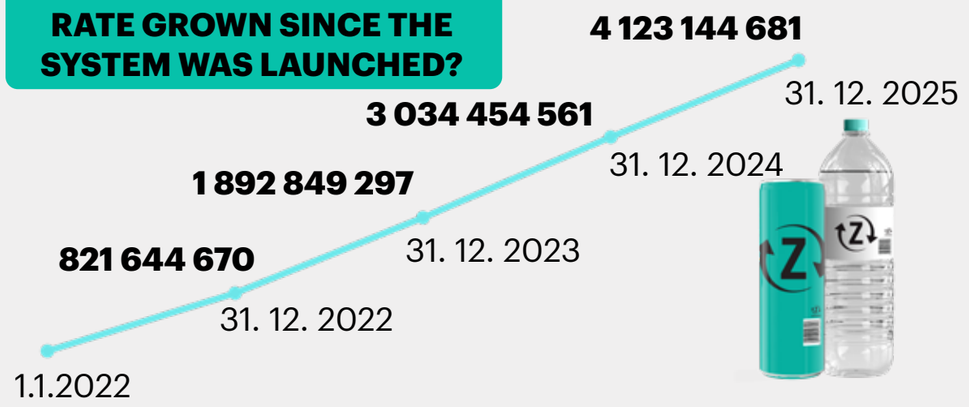
4 123 144 681

DEPOSIT PLASTIC BOTTLES AND CANS WERE COLLECTED.

57 % DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES

43 % DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CANS

HOW HAS THE COLLECTION RATE GROWN SINCE THE SYSTEM WAS LAUNCHED?



THE RETURN RATE FOR DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN 2025 WAS

95%

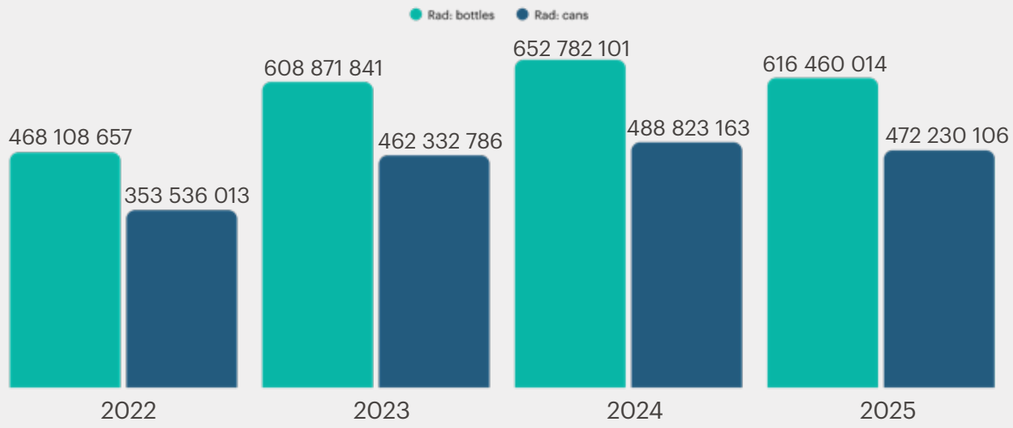
THE RETURN RATE FOR DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN THE PERIOD FROM 2023 TO 2025 WAS

92%

These figures are approximate and are derived from preliminary estimates of containers placed on the market.

Final figures will be available in the next report.

COMPARISON: how many deposit plastic bottles and cans have been collected in individual years since the introduction of the system?



DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM CHALLENGES FOR 2026

The results achieved in 2025 confirmed that the deposit return system in Slovakia is stable, high-performing, and widely accepted by the public. It is precisely this high level of performance that naturally shifts Správca zálohového systému's focus from system construction to long-term sustainability, careful fine-tuning, and the systematic development of individual areas. The year 2026 will therefore be defined primarily by efforts to maintain the system's high operating standard while at the same time responding to new operational, environmental, and social challenges.

One of the key priorities remains maintaining a high return rate for deposit beverage containers above the 90% threshold. With the behaviour of the majority of consumers already stabilised, the challenge will lie mainly in working with less active population groups, locations with specific local conditions, and seasonal fluctuations in consumption. Closely linked to this is the further improvement of access to deposit return through the continued development of alternative collection points, particularly in tourist-intensive areas, during the summer season, at events, and in cooperation with local authorities.

Another major focus for 2026 will be the continued optimisation of logistics and operational processes. Experience from the second half of 2025 demonstrated that systematic digitalisation, more accurate collection planning, and better use of the vehicle fleet deliver tangible environmental and operational benefits. The challenge for the coming period is to further develop these measures, respond effectively to seasonal peaks, and ensure the smooth handling of growing volumes of collected containers without negatively affecting the convenience of collection points or consumers.

Further development of cooperation with producers and retailers also remains a priority. In 2026, Správca will focus on continuing the simplification of processes, the digitalisation of administrative tasks, and the introduction of technological improvements within the DRS registration portal.

An additional challenge for the coming period is maintaining public trust in the deposit return system and in Správca zálohového systému as its non-profit and transparent operator. Given the high level of general awareness of the system, it will become increasingly important in 2026 to deepen understanding of its broader benefits, particularly its environmental and social value. This will involve clearer communication of circularity principles, the links between deposit return and nature protection, the reduction of litter, and the support of public-benefit and charitable activities in cooperation with local authorities and communities.

Education remains a distinct priority. In 2026, Správca will continue the systematic development of educational activities for all age groups – from nursery and primary schools, through to secondary schools and universities, and on to the general public. The challenge lies in sustaining long-term interest among younger generations in environmental topics and in linking theoretical knowledge with practical experience, which the deposit return system naturally offers.

Finally, 2026 will also be a period of strengthening international cooperation and the exchange of experience. The Slovak deposit return system is regarded as an example of good practice in Europe, bringing with it a responsibility to engage actively in expert discussions, working groups, and joint initiatives at European level.

All of these challenges and priorities point towards a shared objective: to preserve the deposit return system in Slovakia as a long-term, reliable, and sustainable tool for environmental protection, one that is firmly embedded in everyday life while remaining flexible enough to adapt to changing conditions and evolving societal expectations.









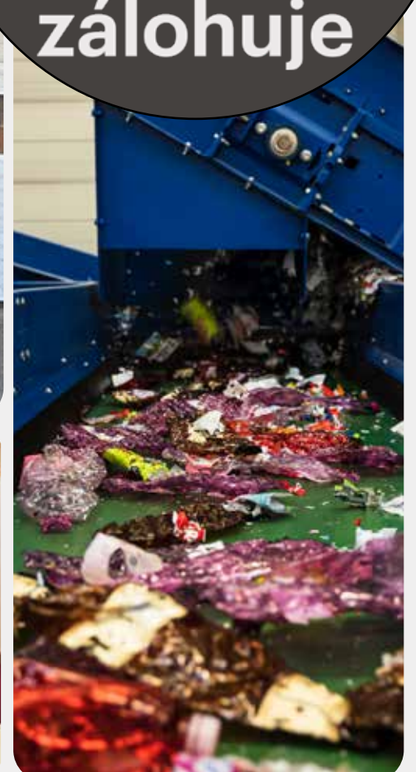


Slovensko zálohuje









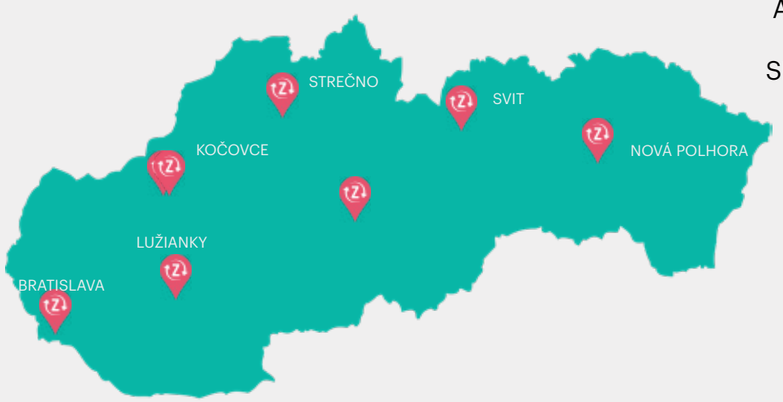


SPRÁVCA
ZÁLOHOVÉHO
SYSTÉMU

SPRÁVCA ZÁLOHOVÉHO SYSTÉMU n.o.
slovenskozalohuje.sk

Statistical overview:

WHERE CAN YOU FIND OUR INTERIM WAREHOUSES AND SORTING CENTRE?



AS OF THE SECOND HALF OF 2025, SPRÁVCA OPERATES:

- **5** INTERNAL INTERIM WAREHOUSES **IN KOČOVCE, NOVÁ POLHORA, LUŽIANKY, VLKANOVÁ, AND STREČNO**
- **1** EXTERNAL INTERIM WAREHOUSE **IN BRATISLAVA**
- **1** EXTERNAL TRANSSHIPMENT POINT **IN SVIT**
- **1** SORTING CENTRE IN KOČOVCE – RAKOĽUBY

INTERIM WAREHOUSE

Serves as a temporary facility where collected packaging from collection points is stored before being transported to the sorting centre.

Returned containers from consumers are taken from the collection point to the interim warehouse according to efficiently planned collection routes.

In the interim warehouses, the containers are checked and counted, then compacted into bales and transported to the sorting centre.

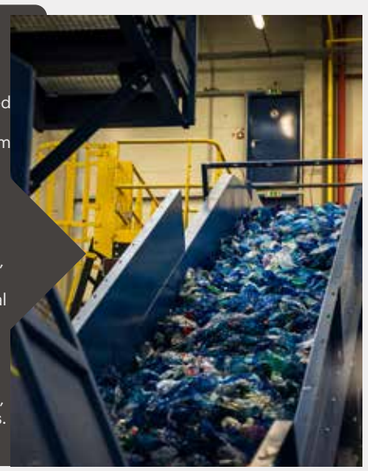


SORTING CENTRE

Checks, records, and processes material received from individual interim warehouses or directly from collection points.

At the sorting centre, collected plastic bottles are sorted into five colour streams (clear, blue, green, light mix, and dark mix). Cans are sorted by material into steel and aluminium.

The final product of the processing in the sorting centre is compacted bales, which are sent to recyclers.



IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025, THE SORTING CENTRE PROCESSED ALMOST

9 572 tonnes

OF PLASTIC BOTTLE MATERIAL AND MORE THAN

3 604 tonnes

OF CAN MATERIAL.

HOW DID WE IMPROVE LOGISTICS YEAR ON YEAR?



Primary logistics

Year-on-year reduction in kilometres driven

284,000

reduction of

50,63%

compared with the previous period

Decrease from 560,000 to 277,000 kilometers.



Secondary logistics

Year-on-year reduction in kilometres driven

627,000

Logistics efficiency improved by

13,94 %

compared with the previous period

decrease from 4,50 milion to 3,87 milion kilometers.

Statistical overview:

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, SPRÁVCA RECORDED

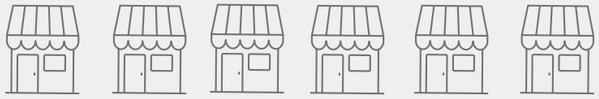
431

ACTIVELY PARTICIPATING RETAILERS

THERE WERE

3 639

COLLECTION POINTS AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025



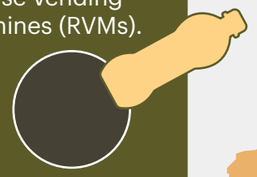
Breakdown of collection points:

2021	*2 000*
2022	*2 993*
2023	*3 269*
2024	*3 435*
2025	*3 639*

As at 31 December 2025, the collection network had

2 864

reverse vending machines (RVMs).



VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING COLLECTION POINTS:

66 %

COLLECTION POINTS WITH AUTOMATED COLLECTION:

71 %

MANDATORY COLLECTION POINTS:

34 %

COLLECTION POINTS WITH MANUAL COLLECTION:

29 %

Proportion of collection points by region:

Banská Bystrica	476	Prešov	536
Bratislava	331	Trenčín	440
Košice	460	Trnava	355
Nitra	459	Žilina	582

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, SPRÁVCA RECORDED

454 **PRODUCERS ACTIVELY INVOLVED**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, A TOTAL OF

5 781 **ACTIVE EAN CODES WERE REGISTERED**

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2025, FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 2025 SPRÁVCA RECORDED MORE THAN

568 milion

DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS COLLECTED

IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025, MORE THAN

587 milion

DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WERE PLACED ON THE MARKET IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Of the EAN codes registered in the second half of 2025:

58 %



were national EAN codes

42 %



were international EAN codes

Of the packaging placed on the market in the second half of 2025:

57 % **WERE BEVERAGES IN PLASTIC BOTTLES**

43 % **WERE BEVERAGES IN CANS**

Breakdown of beverage types placed on the market in 2025:

28%	BOTTLED WATER
9%	ENERGY DRINKS
30%	SOFT DRINKS
1%	OTHER ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
2%	FRUIT JUICES
29%	BEER
1%	WINE



IN THE SECOND HALF OF 2025, A TOTAL OF

568 665 614

DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WERE COLLECTED.

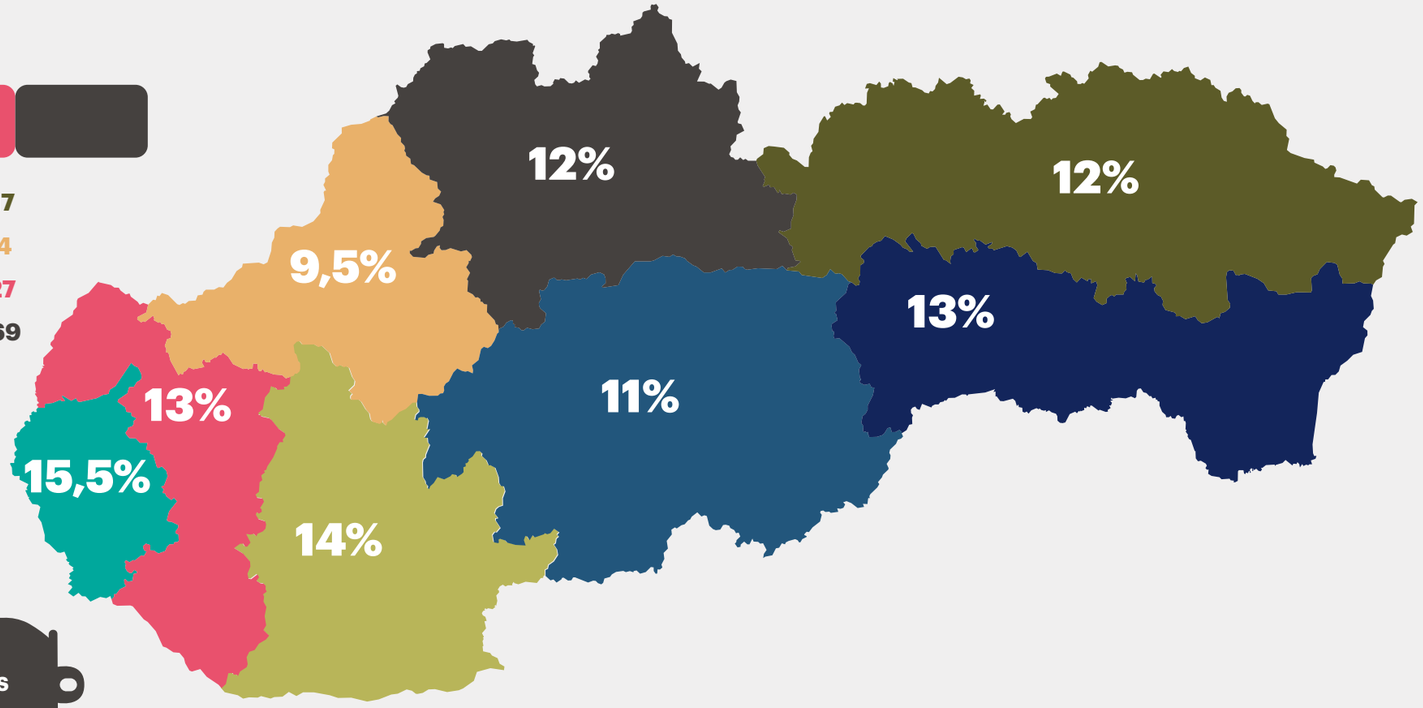
OF THIS TOTAL:

57 % DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES

43 % DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CANS

How much was collected in individual regions in 2025?

Banská Bystrica	119 173 763	Prešov	129 845 317
Bratislava	170 815 888	Trenčín	106 141 674
Košice	142 856 459	Trnava	137 720 327
Nitra	152 897 423	Žilina	129 239 269



IN 2025, A TOTAL OF

1 088 690 120

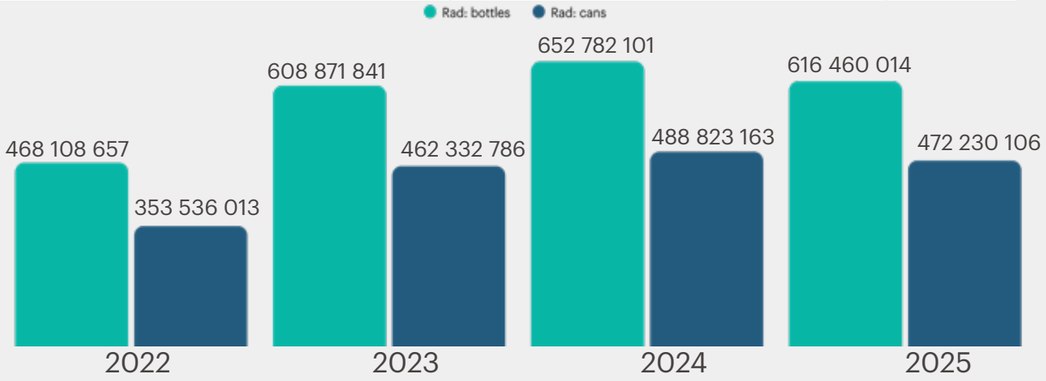
DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WERE COLLECTED.

OF THIS TOTAL:

57 % WERE DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES

43 % WERE DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CANS

COMPARISON: how many deposit plastic bottles and cans have been collected in individual years since the introduction of the system?



FROM THE LAUNCH OF THE SYSTEM UNTIL 31 DECEMBER 2025, MORE THAN

4 123 144 681

DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES AND CANS WERE COLLECTED.

57 % DEPOSIT PLASTIC BEVERAGE BOTTLES

43 % DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CANS

THE RETURN RATE FOR DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN THE PERIOD FROM 2023 TO 2025 WAS

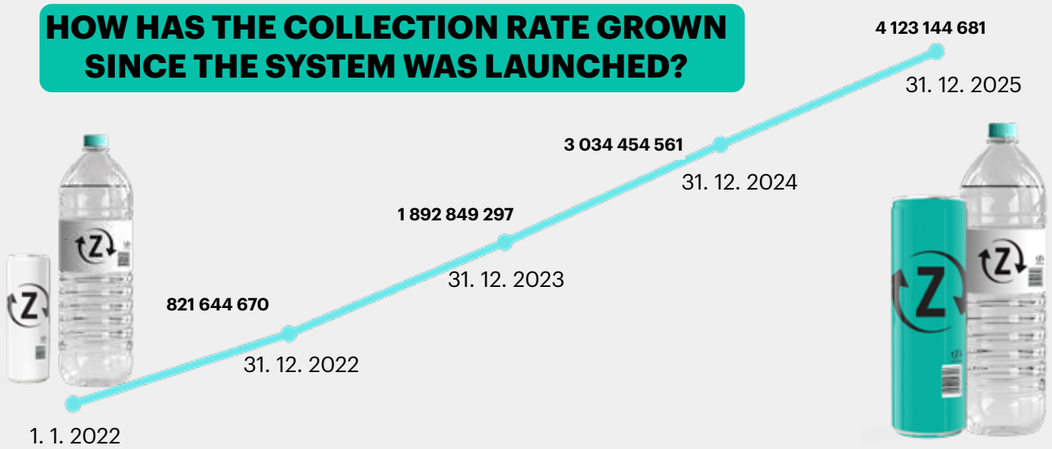
95%

THE RETURN RATE FOR DEPOSIT BEVERAGE CONTAINERS IN THE PERIOD FROM 2023 TO 2025 WAS

92%

These figures are approximate and are derived from preliminary estimates of containers placed on the market. Final figures will be available in the next report.

HOW HAS THE COLLECTION RATE GROWN SINCE THE SYSTEM WAS LAUNCHED?



REDUCTION IN DISTANCE DRIVEN

-608 567 km

Contributing to fuel savings and the conservation of natural resources

REDUCTION IN DRIVER TIME SPENT DRIVING

-17 492 hours

Reflecting more efficient transport and route planning enabled by the driver mobile application

LOWER NUMBER OF VISITS TO COLLECTION POINTS

-5 059 visits

As a result of more efficient segmentation of collection points

DROP IN COLLECTION VEHICLES DEPLOYED PER DAY

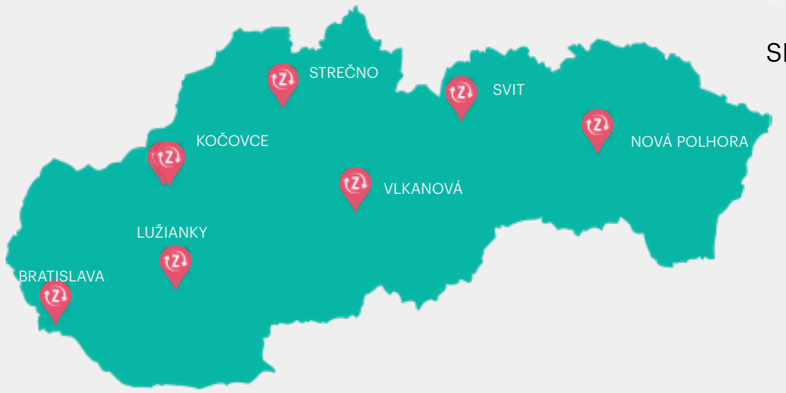
-7 vehicles

REDUCTION IN PLASTIC MATERIAL CONSUMPTION

-230 tonnes

Achieved through more economical technical settings for plastic collection bags

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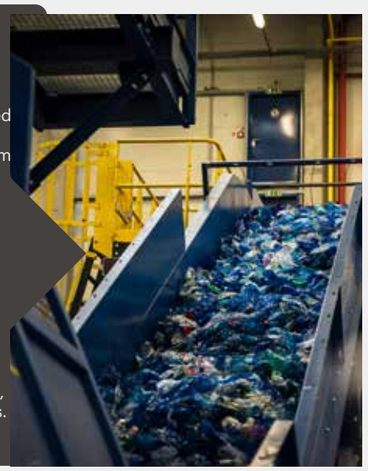
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IN 2025, THE SORTING CENTRE PROCESSED ALMOST

18 900 tonnes

TONNES OF PLASTIC BOTTLE MATERIAL AND MORE THAN

6 800 tonnes

OF CAN MATERIAL.