# Graph Analysis

This graph shows how many percent of paper, glass, metals and plastics get recycled in the United States, referring to the material generated in municipal solid waste streams, starting from the year 1960 and going to 2019.

The most recycled materials are paper and paperboard. Whilst the other materials barely got recycled in the 1960s, 20 percent of paper already got recycled. Since 1970 the percentage started increasing slightly exponentially. The biggest upwards jump was between 1990 and 2000. After 2010 the percentage stabilized at around 70 percent with two minor dips before 2020.

Metals are the second most recycled materials, very close to metals. Recycling slowly rises to around 10 percent till 1980. In the next 20 years metal recycling surges to 35 percent before very slowly declining in the next two decades.

Glass recycling follows metals very closely till 1990 where it lies at about 18 percent for about 10 years. It drops a few precent mid 2000s before rising to 20 percent and flattening from there onwards.

Plastics only started getting recycled after 1980. Recycling increased linearly to about 10 percent in 2015. After that it starts to trend downwards.

One main trend noticeable in this graph is that the recycling percentage of all material either stagnated or is declining in the past decade. It would be better if recycling would increase, instead of decreasing.

Chart, line chart

Description automatically generated