

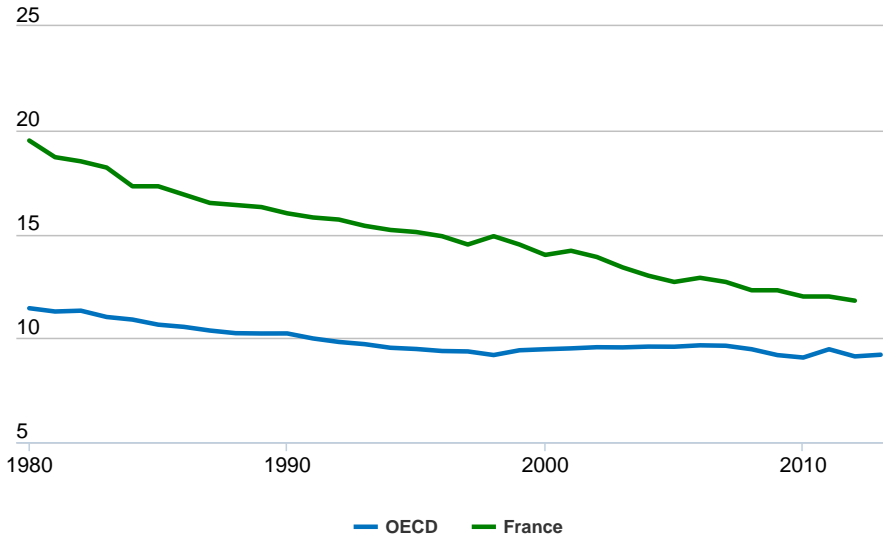
Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

Country note - France

Consumption Trends

Levels of alcohol consumption in France are among the highest in the OECD, but have been declining in the past 30 years. In 2012, an average of 11.8 litres of pure alcohol per capita was consumed in France, compared with an estimate of 9.1 litres in the OECD.

Annual alcohol consumption per capita
liters of pure alcohol component, 15-year-olds and older



Drinking and Social Disparities

Large socio-economic disparities in hazardous drinking rates exist, but social gradients differ in men and women. The probabilities of an average individual aged 40 to engage in hazardous drinking (i.e. having a weekly amount of pure alcohol of 140 grams or more for women, and 210 grams or more for men) are depicted below by level of education. In France, women with high education are twice as likely to be hazardous drinkers as less educated women, while men with a low and intermediate level of education are more likely to drink at risk.

Share of hazardous drinkers by education level and gender

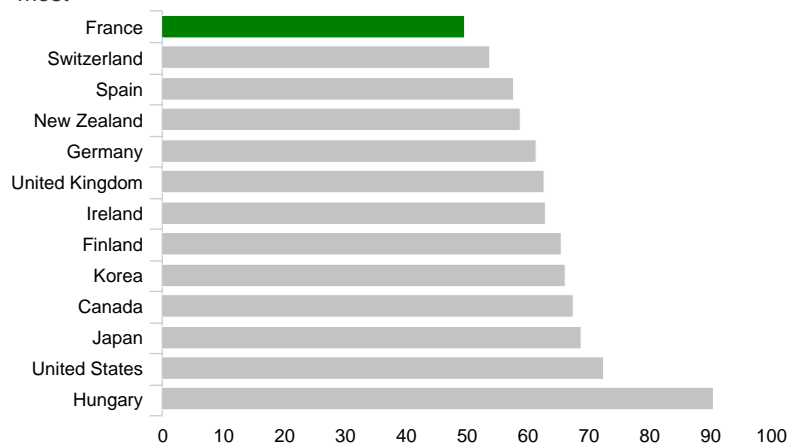
	France		Country 2	
	men	women	men	women
Low education	2.1	0.7		
Medium education	3.3	0.9		
High education	1.9	1.4		

Heavy Drinkers

The distribution of alcohol drinking is heavily concentrated. In France the heaviest-drinking 20% of the population drink about 50% of all alcohol.

Concentration of alcohol consumption

Share of total alcohol consumed by the 20% of the population who drink the most



Taxes & Legal Framework

Compared with other countries in the OECD area, France has milder levels of taxation of alcohol, particularly for wine. The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for drivers is 0.05%, in line with most OECD countries (22 out of 40 OECD countries and Key Partners - i.e. Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Russian Federation and South Africa - have the same limit). However, France enforces the same BAC limit for young and professional drivers, with the exception of those in the public transportation system (0.02%), while most OECD countries apply lower limits in these special categories of drivers (but a project of law aims to reduce the BAC limit to 0.02% for young drivers). France has adopted a wide-range of policies to restrict the promotion of alcoholic beverages, and to restrict on- and off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages (e.g. to minors and in petrol stations).

	France	[Country 2]
National legal minimum age for off-premise sales		
beer	18	
wine	18	
spirits	18	
National legal minimum age for on-premise sales		
beer	18	
wine	18	
spirits	18	
Restrictions for on-/off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages		
time (hours/day)	N/N	
location (place/density)	Y/Y	
specific events	Y	
intoxicated persons	Y	
petrol stations	Y	
National maximum legal blood alcohol concentration (%)		
all drivers	0.05	
young drivers	0.05	
professional drivers	0.05/0.02	
Legally binding regulations of		
advertisement	Y	
product placement	Y	
sponsorship	Y	
sales promotion	Y	
health warnings (advert/containers)	Y/Y	

Related Publication

Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

<http://www.oecd.org/health/tackling-harmful-alcohol-use-9789264181069-en.htm>



Contacts at OECD Health Division

Annalisa Belloni – Health Policy Analyst: +33-1-4524 1354 - annalisa.belloni@oecd.org

Michele Cecchini – Health Policy Analyst: +33-1-4524 7857 - michele.cecchini@oecd.org

Marion Devaux – Statistician/Junior Policy Analyst: +33-1-4524 8261 - marion.devaux@oecd.org

Franco Sassi – Senior Health Economist: +33-1-4524 9239 - franco.sassi@oecd.org