

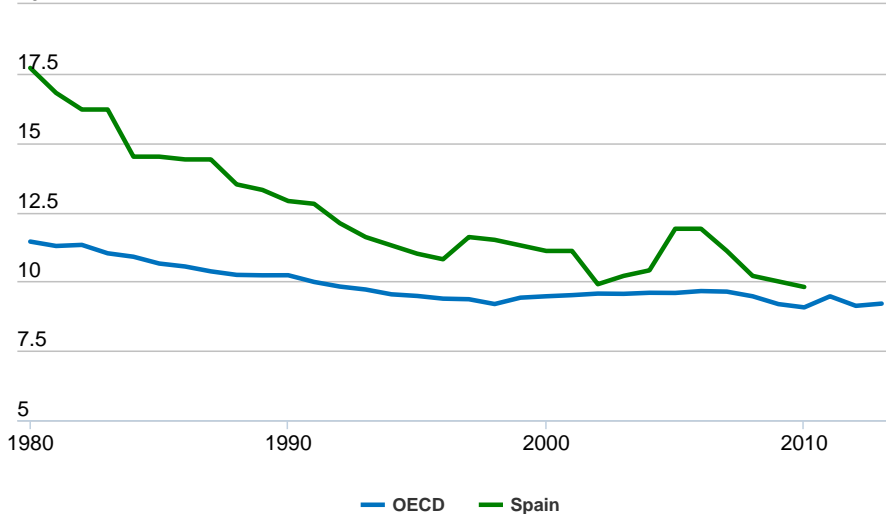
Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

Country note - Spain

Consumption Trends

Levels of alcohol consumption in Spain have been decreasing progressively over the past 30 years, although they remain above the average of OECD countries. In 2010, an average of 9.8 litres of pure alcohol per capita is consumed in Spain, compared with an estimate of 9 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 Spain, women with high education are more likely to be hazardous drinkers than less educated women, while men with low education are more likely to drink at risk.

Share of hazardous drinkers by education level and gender

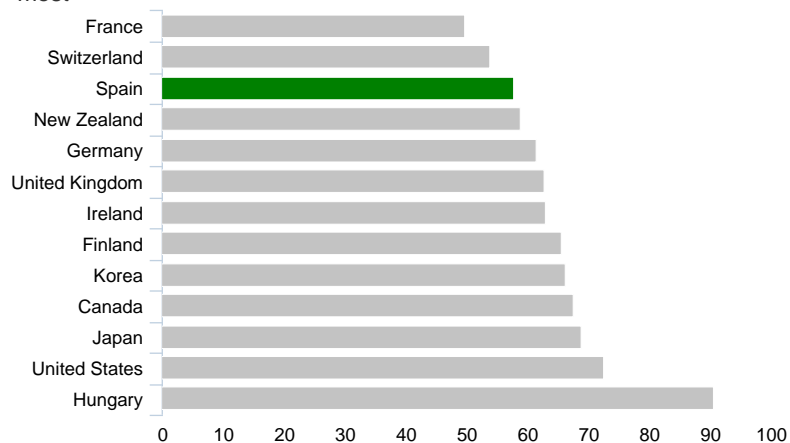
	Spain		Country 2	
	men	women	men	women
Low education	15.7	4.5		
Medium education	11.8	5.0		
High education	12.7	5.8		

Heavy Drinkers

The distribution of alcohol drinking is heavily concentrated. In Spain, the heaviest-drinking 20% of the population drink 58% 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, Spain has somewhat milder levels of taxation for all the alcoholic beverages. The blood alcohol concentration (BAC) limit for the general population 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). Spain has a national policy of minimum age for selling alcohol which is set at 16, although all of the 17 Autonomous Communities have policies in place to ban the sale and serving of any type of alcohol under age 16. Spain has adopted policies of sales restriction of alcoholic beverages (e.g. in petrol stations or at specific events) as well as regulations of advertisement of alcohol products. However, other legally binding regulations (e.g. regulation of sponsorships, health warning on alcoholic products and sales to intoxicated persons) are not put in place.

	Spain	[Country 2]
National legal minimum age for off-premise sales		
beer	16	
wine	16	
spirits	16	
National legal minimum age for on-premise sales		
beer	16	
wine	16	
spirits	16	
Restrictions for on-/off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages		
time (hours/day)	N/N	
location (place/density)	Y/N	
specific events	Y	
intoxicated persons	N	
petrol stations	Y	
National maximum legal blood alcohol concentration (%)		
all drivers	0.05	
young drivers	0.03	
professional drivers	0.03	
Legally binding regulations of		
advertisement	Y	
product placement	N	
sponsorship	N	
sales promotion	N	
health warnings (advert/containers)	N/N	

Related Publication



Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

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



OECD

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