

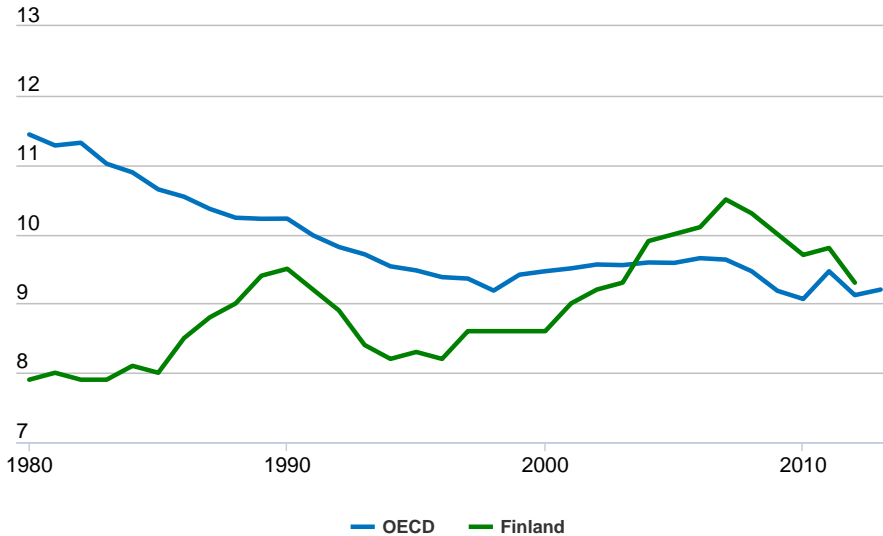
## Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

### Country note - Finland

#### Consumption Trends

Levels of alcohol consumption in Finland are close to the OECD average and have increased in the last 30 years. In 2012, an average of 9.3 litres of pure alcohol per capita (among people aged 15 and over) was consumed in Finland (registered consumption), compared with an estimate of 9.1 litres in the OECD.

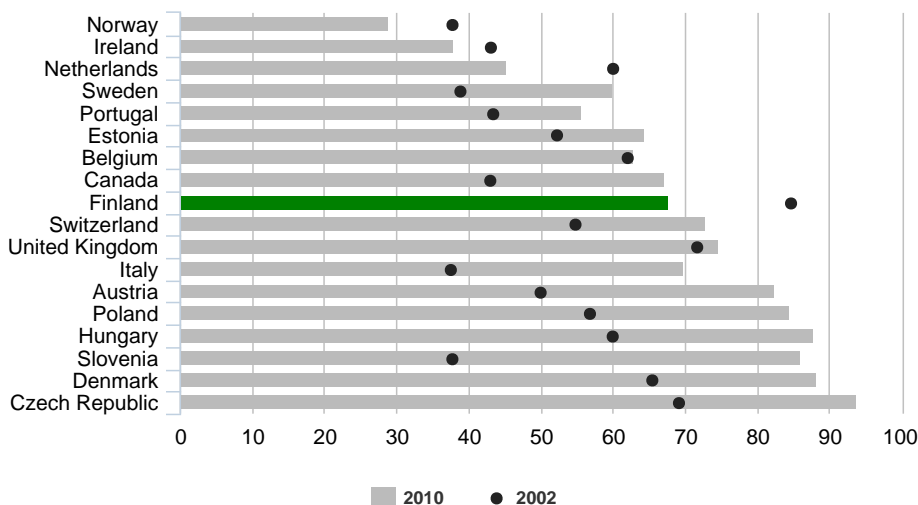
**Annual alcohol consumption per capita**  
litres of pure alcohol component, 15-year-olds and older



#### Youth Drinking

Finland is one of few countries in which the proportion of 15 year olds who have experienced alcohol decreased from 2002 to 2010, although this proportion is still high (68%).

**Share of 15-year-olds who have drunk alcohol**  
boys and girls, 2002 vs 2010



## Drinking and Social Disparities

Large socio-economic disparities in hazardous drinking rates exist in both 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 Finland, women with high education are more likely to be hazardous drinkers than less educated women, while the social gradient for men is less clear. However there is evidence that alcohol related harms are more concentrated among people in low socio-economic status (e.g. see Martikainen P., et al. Epidemiology 2014)

## Share of hazardous drinkers by education level and gender

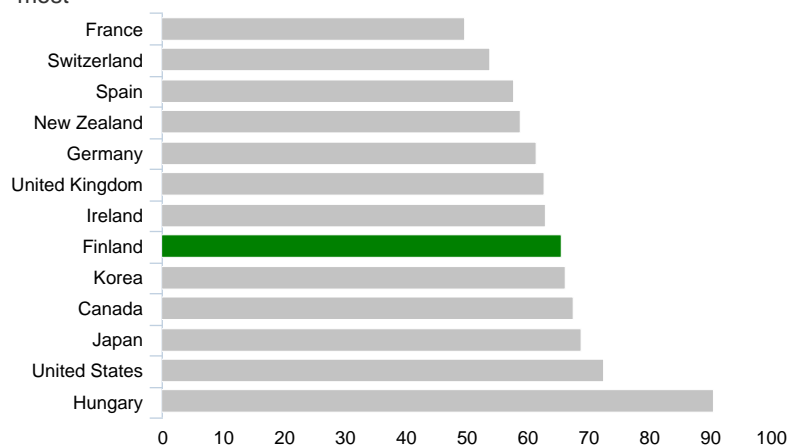
	Finland		[Country 2]	
	men	women	men	women
Low education	13.4	3.1		
Medium education	16.0	4.2		
High education	14.9	5.8		

## Heavy Drinkers

As in other countries, the distribution of alcohol drinking is heavily concentrated. In Finland the heaviest-drinking 20% of the population drink almost 66% 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, Finland has relatively high levels of taxation for all types of alcoholic beverages. 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) but higher than neighbouring countries (i.e. Sweden, Estonia and Norway enforce a BAC limit of 0.02%). Finland has adopted a wide-range of policies to regulate on- and off-premise sales of alcoholic beverages as well as policies to regulate promotion and advertisement, including in new media (e.g. Internet).

	Finland	[Country 2]
National legal minimum age for off-premise sales		
beer	18	
wine	18	
spirits	20	
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)	Y/Y	
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	
Legally binding regulations of		
advertisement	Y	
product placement	Y	
sponsorship	Y	
sales promotion	Y	
health warnings (advert/containers)	N/N	

## Related Publication

### Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

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



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