

## Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use

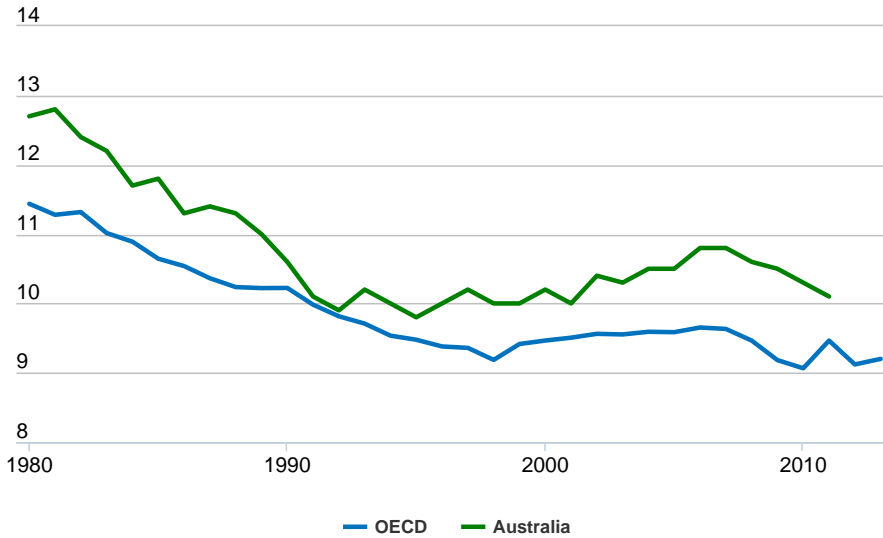
### Country note - Australia

#### Consumption Trends

Levels of alcohol consumption in Australia are close to the OECD average. After a decrease from 1980 to 1992, consumption has rebounded to some extent. In 2011, 10 litres of pure alcohol per capita were consumed in Australia, on average, compared with an estimate of 9.5 litres in 2011 in the OECD.

#### Annual alcohol consumption per capita

litres 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 Australia, women with high education are more likely to be hazardous drinkers than 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

	Australia		[Country 2]	
	men	women	men	women
Low education	5.6	1.0		
Medium education	7.0	2.2		
High education	6.3	2.6		

## Taxes & Legal Framework

Compared with other countries in the OECD area, Australia has relatively high levels of taxation of alcohol, particularly for beer and spirits. 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). Australia has adopted a wide-range of policies to regulate on-/off-trade sales of alcoholic beverages, but it does not have other legally binding regulations (e.g. on sponsorships, product placement and health warnings on alcohol containers) at the national level.

	Australia	[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)	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	
professional drivers	0	
Legally binding regulations of		
advertisement	Y	
product placement	N	
sponsorship	N	
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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