

SDG Goal 3

Good health and well-being

SDG Target 3.5	Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol
SDG Indicator 3.5.2	Alcohol per capita consumption (aged 15 years and older) within a calendar year in litres of pure alcohol
Time series	Alcohol consumption

1. General information on the time series

- Date of national metadata: January 16, 2026
- National data: <http://sdg-indicators.de/3-5-2/>
- Definition: The time series shows per capita alcohol consumption among the population aged 15 and over, expressed in litres of pure alcohol per capita. Total consumption comprises the consumption of beer, sparkling wine, wine, intermediate products, spirits and alcopops.
- Disaggregation: age group

2. Comparability with the UN metadata

- Date of UN metadata: March 2023
- UN metadata: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/files/Metadata-03-05-02.pdf>
- The time series is compliant with the UN metadata.

3. Data description

- The data for the indicator is calculated by the Deutsche Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen (DHS). Information on the consumption of beer, sparkling wine, spirits, intermediate products and alcopops is based on tax statistics from the Federal Statistical Office. The data on wine consumption comes from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Regional Identity (BMELH) and is based on foreign trade statistics and agricultural statistics on wine from the Federal Statistical Office.

Regarding the individual types of beverages:

- Beer: Beer consumption also includes beer provided free of charge to brewery employees. Non-alcoholic beer and malt beverages are not included. An average alcohol content of 5%_{vol.} is assumed for the calculation of alcohol consumption.
- Sparkling wine: No data from the sparkling wine and intermediate product tax statistics are available for the 2010 reporting year. Therefore, the average value from 2009 and 2011 is used for 2010. An average alcohol content of 12%_{vol.} is assumed for the calculation of alcohol consumption.
- Wine: Wines intended for distilleries or vinegar production are excluded from wine consumption. Consumption is recorded over the so-called wine year (August to July). The larger part of the wine year is used as a basis for the respective reporting year (1

January to 31 July = 7 months). Example: The wine year 2023/2024 corresponds to consumption for the year 2024. An average alcohol content of 12%_{vol.} is assumed for the calculation of alcohol consumption.

- Intermediate products: The intermediate product statistics distinguish between products with an average alcohol content of less than 15%_{vol.} and more than 15%_{vol.}. As no more precise data is available, an alcohol content of 10%_{vol.} is assumed for products below 15% and an alcohol content of 20%_{vol.} for products above 15%.
- Spirits: Alcohol consumption for spirits is taken directly from alcohol tax statistics.
- Alcopops: No quantity data is available for alcopops in the tax statistics. Consumption is calculated on the basis of the taxes paid on the quantity of alcohol consumed (5,550 euro per hectolitre of pure alcohol).

Total alcohol consumption is also adjusted for so-called unregistered consumption. This includes alcohol that is not taxed and is consumed outside the state control system, including, for example, home-brewed or informally produced alcohol (legal or illegal), smuggled alcohol, substitute alcohol (not intended for human consumption) and alcohol purchased across borders, which is recorded in another jurisdiction. For Germany, the share of unregistered consumption in 2021 was estimated at 3.8% in an international survey.

In addition, alcohol consumption is adjusted for the amount of alcohol consumed by German tourists abroad and the amount consumed by foreign tourists in Germany. These so-called tourism factors are estimated annually by the World Health Organisation (WHO). For Germany, the factor is usually slightly net positive, as German tourists consume more alcohol abroad than foreign tourists consume in Germany.

The population data is based on the population update, which is based on the 2022 census. It is updated taking into account statistical results on natural population change (births, deaths) and migration.

4. Access to data source

- Alcohol per capita consumption (only available in German):
<https://osf.io/xkv4h/files/uwn65>
- Sales of beer, breweries in operation, consumption of beer – GENESIS online 73421-0001:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=73421-0001&bypass=true&language=en>
- Sales, consumption and producers of sparkling wine – GENESIS online 73423-0001:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=73423-0001&bypass=true&language=en>

- Distilleries, consumption of alcohol – GENESIS online 73441-0001:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=73441-0001&bypass=true&language=en>
- Revenue from taxes: Germany, years, types of taxes prior to distribution – GENESIS online 71211-0001:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/datenbank/online/table/71211-0001/search/s/NzEyMTEtMDAwMQ%3D%3D>
- Statistical Yearbook (only available in German):
<https://www.bmel-statistik.de/archiv/statistisches-jahrbuch>
- Average population – GENESIS online 12411-0041:
<https://www-genesis.destatis.de/genesis//online?operation=table&code=12411-0041&bypass=true&levelindex=1&levelid=1639396599054#abreadcrumb>

5. Metadata on source data

- Calculation of per capita alcohol consumption (PKA) – basis for reporting by the Deutschen Hauptstelle für Suchtfragen:
<https://osf.io/xkv4h/files/p83x9>
- Quality reports – Excise duties statistics (only available in German):
https://www.destatis.de/DE/Themen/Staat/Steuern/Verbrauchsteuern/_inhalt.html#sprg383062
- Quality report – Survey on beer tax / brewery industry (only available in German):
<https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Qualitaet/Qualitaetsberichte/Steuern/biersteuer.pdf?>
- Quality report – Sparkling wines tax and survey on provisional product tax (only available in German):
https://www.destatis.de/DE/Methoden/Qualitaet/Qualitaetsberichte/Steuern/schau_mweinsteuер.pdf?
- Quality Report – Intercensal population updates:
<https://www.destatis.de/EN/Methods/Quality/QualityReports/Population/einfuehrung.html>

6. Timeliness and frequency

- Timeliness:
Beer: t + 13 months;
Spirits: t + 4 months;
Sparkling wine and intermediate product: t + 5 months;
Wine: t + max. 12 months
- Frequency: Annual

7. Calculation method

- Unit of measurement: Litres of pure alcohol per capita
- Calculation:

$$APC = \frac{\sum_i \text{Over } i \text{ used alcohol [l]}}{\text{Population 15 years and older [number]}} + \text{unrecorded consumption} + \text{tourist consumption}$$

with:

i = {beer; sparkling wine; wine; spirits; intermediate products; alcopops}

$$\text{unrecorded consumption} = \frac{\text{recorded consumption [l]} \cdot 3,8 [\%]}{100 - 3,8 [\%]}$$

tourist consumption = estimates by WHO