OECD Health Statistics 2021
Definitions, Sources and Methods

Tobacco consumption in grams per capita (age 15+)

Annual consumption of tobacco items (e.g. cigarettes, cigars) in grams per person aged 15 years old or more.

Note: The methodology to convert tobacco items into grams may differ across countries. Typically a cigarette weighs approximately 1 gram of which the tobacco content can vary between 65-100% depending on the type of cigarette; a cigar weighs approximately 2 grams and contains a similar proportion of tobacco as a cigarette.

Sources and Methods

Australia

Sources:

Methodology:
- Data are based on the volume of tobacco cleared through excise and customs.
- Coding changes from duty paid on weight to duty paid on number of sticks of cigarettes occurred in 1999-2000.
- One cigarette stick is assumed to contain 0.8 grams of tobacco.

Break in time series in 2011 due to a change in methodology.


Austria

Source: Statistics Austria, Statistisches Handbuch, Tables 2.12 and 23.19 (several issues).
Note: No recent data on tobacco consumption in grams per capita are available.

Further information: http://www.statistik.at/web_en/.

Belgium

Source: Centre de Recherche et d'Information des Organisations de Consommateurs. Data are no longer available after 1994.

Further information: http://www.crioc.be/.

Canada

Source: Statistics Canada, Production and Disposition of Tobacco Products, Survey, monthly. Data not available after 2005
2004-2005: Table 16-10-0044-01 (formerly CANSIM 303-0062).
1968-2003: Table 16-10-0057-01 (formerly CANSIM 303-0007).

**Coverage:** Population aged 15 years old and over.

**Methodology:**
- Calculation derived from four main variables: total domestic cigarette sales multiplied by 0.76 grams of tobacco per cigarette; total domestic cigar sales times (rough estimate) of 4 grams of tobacco per cigar; total grams of domestic sales of fine cut tobacco; total grams of domestic sales of pipe tobacco and other tobacco. These four variables were added together and then divided by the population aged 15 years old and over, in that particular year, to arrive at the value of tobacco consumption per capita age 15 years old and over from 1968 to 2005.
- The Canadian tobacco sales of pipe and fine cut manufactured tobacco were reported in kilograms, while the definition requested grams per person 15 years of age and over. This may increase the measurement error due to rounding. The suppression of some data to meet confidentiality requirements (e.g. pipe tobacco sales since 1991, cigar sales since 2001) is likely to produce some degree of under-estimation.
- Instead of the per capita tobacco consumption by Canadians, the data report per capita sales in Canada of domestically manufactured tobacco products; imported tobacco products are excluded.
- Because tobacco sales in Canada are now composed of a considerably larger proportion of imported tobacco products, starting in 2006 these data are no longer an adequate substitute for a measurement of tobacco consumption by Canadians.

**Further information:** [http://www.statcan.gc.ca/](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/).

**Chile**

Data not available.

**Colombia**

Data not available.

**Costa Rica**

Data not available.

**Czech Republic**

**Source:** [Czech Statistical Office](http://www.czso.cz/), Consumption of food statistics. Calculation per capita aged 15 years old and over by the Institute of Health Information and Statistics of the Czech Republic.

**Methodology:**
- Consumption reflects only cigarettes, including home produced cigarettes; cigars and particular types of tobacco (pipe, chewing, snuff, etc.) are not included.
- Data include estimate of consumption of home-rolled cigarettes.
- One cigarette is considered equivalent to 1 gram of tobacco.
- In 1997, there was an announcement of raising the price of cigarettes for 1998.
- Total consumption is derived from data on industrial production, imports and exports of cigarettes.

**Further information:** [https://www.czso.cz/cs/](https://www.czso.cz/cs/).

**Denmark**

**Sources:**
- [Statistics Denmark](http://www.statistikbanken.dk), 1996 onwards.

**Methodology:**
- 1970-1995: Cigarettes were assumed to weigh 0.65 grams of tobacco per cigarette, and cigars, cigarillos and cheroots were assumed to weigh 2 grams per item.
- **Break in time series in 1996** due to a change in source.

**Further information:** [http://www.statistikbanken.dk](http://www.statistikbanken.dk) and [http://sundhedsdatastyrelsen.dk/da](http://sundhedsdatastyrelsen.dk/da).

**Estonia**
Data not available.

**Finland**

**Sources:**
- Until 2009: Statistics Finland.

**Methodology:**
- Rates for each year are the annual wholesale trade purchases and imports before the year 1994.
- Due to increases in the cigarette tax rate that entered into force in the beginning of 2009, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020, the amount of tobacco products released for consumption was exceptionally high at the end of the previous years.

**France**

**Sources:**
- Tobacco data: Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies (OFDT).
- Population data: Institut national de la statistique et des études économiques (Insee).
- Coverage: Metropolitan France (excluding Corsica).

**Methodology:**
- Data refer to all types of tobacco.
- Data do not include tobacco purchased outside of France nor on the black market, but provide a good estimate of tobacco sales in mainland France.
- Daily tobacco consumption in grams per adult aged 15 years old and over per day. This number was multiplied by the number of days per year.
- 2010, 2011 and 2012: Data are estimates and have been calculated as follows: [Tons of tobacco sold x 1000000 (in order to obtain grams)] / (population aged 15 years old and over), using OFDT data (Observatoire français des drogues et des toxicomanies), available at Insee, Ventes totales de tabac, [http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=NATTEF06236](http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/tableau.asp?reg_id=0&ref_id=NATTEF06236).
- Since the 1991 Evin Law, the price of tobacco has increased several times and purchases at constant prices have dropped by 3.4% per year on average. Strong price increases have led to a drop of nearly 30% of purchases in the volume of tobacco in France between 2002 and 2004. However, this trend was accompanied by additional purchases in neighbouring countries (about 6% of all tobacco purchases in France in 2004). In 2005, price and volume of tobacco purchases have stabilised. By devoting 1.7% of their budget on tobacco in 2004, French people are below the average for the EU-25 (2.0%): prices are higher in France, but consumption is lower (Source: *Insee Première* No 1110, 01/12/2006, [http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/document.asp?ref_id=ip1110](http://www.insee.fr/fr/themes/document.asp?ref_id=ip1110)).
- Break in time series in 1990: Data prior to 1990 refer to cigarettes and cigars only.


**Germany**


**Methodology:** Consumption of tobacco in grams per capita (15 years and more) recalculated on the basis of 1 gram per cigarette and 2 grams per cigar/cigarillo. Consumption of pipe and fine cut tobacco is also included.

**Break in time series in 1991:**
- Starting from 2011, the population numbers are based on the Federal Census 2011 (census data as of 27 November 2015).
- On the basis of the 2011 census, the population figures were recalculated for methodological purposes for the reporting years 1991 to 2010. The results of this recalculation only serve to adjust statistical time series and results; however, they do not represent an official revision of the previous population figures before the census. Therefore, for the years from 1991 onwards, differences to previous publications of population-related numbers are possible.
- The population numbers prior to 1991 are taken from the Update of the Population based on earlier censuses (Former Federal Republic of Germany 1987, German Democratic Republic 1990).

Greece

Sources:
From 2009 onwards: Data derived from the Greek Household Budget Survey conducted yearly by the Hellenic Statistical Authority.

Methodology:
From 2009 onwards: 1 cigarette or 1 cigar contains 1 gram of tobacco.
Coverage: Population aged 14 years old and over.
1983-2008:
- Data are based on sales of tobacco.
- Number of cigarettes consumed only.
- The weight of 1000 cigarettes equals to 1000 grams (in accordance to EU specifications).

🚨 Break in time series in 2009 due to a change of source.
🚨 Break in time series in 1994: There is a break between 1993 and 1994, due to the lack of data concerning imported cigarettes, which were consumed in Greece before 1994.

Further information:
- For more information on the Household Budget Survey (HBS), see http://www.statistics.gr/el/statistics/-/publication/SFA05/.

Hungary

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH), Statistical Yearbook of Hungary.

Methodology: Data are calculated on the basis of production and external trade statistics.

Further information: http://www.ksh.hu.

Iceland

Source: Statistics Iceland.

Methodology:
- Based on sales figures from State Wine, Spirit and Tobacco Authority.
From 1965 onwards: a cigarette equals 1 gram, and a cigar equals 2.0 grams.
1960-1964: a cigarette equals 1 gram, and a cigar equals 2.5 grams.

Further information: http://www.statice.is/.

Ireland


Methodology:
- Assumed 1 cigarette is 1 gram. All other tobacco types (including cigars) are given by weight of tobacco.
- Tobacco refers to cigarettes, cigars (tobacco content), Fine Cut tobacco and other smoking tobacco.
- Figures are based on excise duty data on tobacco products retained for home use.

⚠️ Note: Cigarette clearances in 2017 were higher than normal due to the stockpiling of cigarettes with branded packs before the cut-off date for the introduction of plain packaging for cigarettes. The higher clearances in 2017 resulted in reduced clearances in 2018.


Israel


Coverage: Cigarettes and role-your-own (RYO) tobacco.
Methodology:
- The data are based on the official government publication on taxation, which presents data on all aspects of tax collection in Israel.
- The estimate for annual cigarette consumption is based on sales tax charged on cigarette packs and on roll-your-own (RYO) tobacco for cigarettes.
- The annual consumption of cigarettes was multiplied by 0.7 grams of tobacco per cigarette, and then divided by the average population aged 15 years old and over, to arrive at the value of tobacco consumption per capita.
- One cigarette is counted as 0.7 grams of tobacco.
- These estimates exclude consumption of cigarettes purchased at duty free stores.

**Deviation from OECD definition:** Data only include cigarettes and role-your-own (RYO) tobacco.

**Note:** The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.

**Italy**

**Source:** ISTAT, Istituto Nazionale di Statistica (National Institute of Statistics). “Household Consumption Survey”.

**Coverage:** Population aged 15 years old and over.

**Methodology:** Till the year 1979 data were available by quantity of goods consumed and expressed in grams, litres and units. After a methodological revision in the year 1979 the survey observes the monthly household expenditure and does not provide data in terms of quantity. Data are thus not available after 1979.


**Japan**

**Sources:**
- 1985-2016: Japan Tobacco Inc. (Tobacco Institute of Japan) and Statistics Japan, Labour Force Survey.

**Korea**

**Sources:**

**Methodology:**
- Data are provided by the Korea Tobacco Association, Ministry of Health and Welfare and Korea Customs Service, and calculated by the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs.
- Data are calculated on the assumption that a cigarette contains 1 gram of tobacco.

**Latvia**

Data not available.

**Lithuania**

Data not available.

**Luxembourg**

Data not available. Data on smoking habits are collected by a national foundation on its own initiative. They determine the questions asked. Currently, the question asked is “Are you currently: non-smoker / ex-daily smoker / ex-occasional smoker / daily smoker / occasional smoker?”
Mexico

Data not available.

Netherlands

Sources:
From 2002, up to 2009: Statistics Netherlands, Consumption of food, drinks and tobacco. Data are based on fiscal data (banderollen), which are no longer available (data stop in 2009).
Up to 2001: Vademecum Gezondheidsstatistiek Nederland (several issues).

Methodology:
- Grams are calculated by assuming a weight of 2 grams for a cigar and 1 gram for a cigarette.
- 2007-2009 estimates: The consumption of tobacco via cigars has been estimated; the average number of cigars bought (and supposedly smoked) has been estimated as the same as in 2006.


New Zealand

Sources:
Up to 2009: Statistics New Zealand.

Coverage:
Annual Returns (1997-2018): All tobacco manufacturers and importers are required to complete an Annual Return form and provide this to the Ministry of Health.
- Statistics New Zealand (1970-2009): The three largest companies were covered, i.e. 97% of the market.
2010-2018:
- Tobacco consumption per capita from 2010 onwards is derived from the Annual Tobacco Returns. Manufacturers and importers of cigarettes are required to provide the Ministry of Health with the recommended retail price of each brand and brand variant of products sold in the previous year as a requirement under section 35 of the Smokefree Environments Act 1990.
There were changes to the exclusion of duty-free sales in the Annual tobacco returns during this period:
- Data from 2014 to 2018 exclude duty-free sales, which were always relatively small – about 3% in 2012 with about half the sales to travellers from overseas. Legislative change in New Zealand in 2014 reduced the amount of duty-free tobacco a traveller can bring into New Zealand.
- Prior to 2014 the Annual Returns data included both domestic and duty free sales except for one company where duty free sales were excluded.
1970 to 2009:
1997-2009: Annual Tobacco Returns were used alongside data from Statistics New Zealand.
1970-2009: The quantity of cigarettes and tobacco available for consumption on the New Zealand market was obtained up to 2009 from Statistics New Zealand External Trade Statistics and New Zealand Customs Service. The data series “Cigarettes and tobacco available for consumption” was discontinued by Statistics New Zealand in September 2010 for reasons of confidentiality of published statistical information; therefore data are not available from 2010 onwards from this source.

Methodology:
- Data on tobacco products refer to products cleared for local consumption on which duty has been paid.
- Grams of tobacco were calculated by multiplying the volume of tobacco in metric tonnes by 1000000 grams and adding to the volume of cigarettes assuming each cigarette contains 1 gram of tobacco. More recently it has been assumed that each cigarette contains 0.8 grams of tobacco.

The statistics are a measurement of the amounts of tobacco released to the market, and therefore available for consumption. The statistics do not necessarily apply to actual consumption. Information is not available to measure the change in the level of stocks that may be held pending sale, and therefore not yet consumed.
- Tobacco consumption data relate to the year ending in December.
- Statistics New Zealand data for the estimated resident population aged 15 years old and over for the mean year ending on 31 December were used for the denominators of the calculations.
Breaking in time series in 2010 due to a change in data source and methodology.

**Norway**

Source: Directorate of Customs and Excise / Norwegian Directorate of Health. Department for Tobacco Control

Coverage: Population aged 15 years and older.

Methodology:
- Sales statistics based on data from the Directorate of Customs and Excise for all kinds of tobacco: cigarettes, roll-your-own, smokeless tobacco, cigars. All amounts are originally given in grams, except cigarettes (pieces). The figures are based on sales data from importer to retailer during the period from July until June. Unregistered sales are not included.
- One cigarette is counted as 1 gram, but the real figure is probably lower.


**Poland**

Source: Statistics Poland.


2001: Multi-dimensional Living Conditions Questionnaire Survey.


Methodology: Consumption of cigarettes only. One cigarette=1 gram.


**Portugal**

Source: Ministry of Health, Departamento de Estudos e Planeamento da Saúde.

Note: Data are not available since 1982.

**Slovak Republic**

Data not available.

**Slovenia**

Data not available from NIJZ databases.

**Spain**


Methodology:
- Data elaborated by the Directorate General of Public Health, Quality and Innovation based on information provided by the Commissioner for the Tobacco Market (sales of cigarettes, cigars, fine cut tobacco, pipe tobacco) and population figures from the National Statistics Institute (INE).
- The conversion rate is 1 gram of tobacco per cigarette and 2 grams of tobacco per cigar. Total grams of fine cut tobacco and pipe tobacco are also included in the calculation.

Coverage:
- Population aged 15 years old and over.
- Data from the Iberian Peninsula and the Balearic Islands are included; data from the Canary Islands, Ceuta and Melilla are excluded, due to the different taxation rules in these regions.


Sweden

Sources:
Up to 1996: Statistics Sweden, National Survey of living conditions (ULF).
Methodology: Up to 1996, the surveys were conducted as personal interviews with a random sample from the population (including the institutionalised) aged 16-84 years old. From 12000 to 13000 people were interviewed over a two-year period.

Break in time series in 1997: Break in 1997 due to a change in source and methodology.

Switzerland

Sources: Federal Statistical Office, Neuchâtel.
From 2009 onwards: Data from Federal Department of Finance, Federal Customs Administration.
Up to 1982: Health Statistics Section, unpublished data.
Methodology:
- Calculated by the number of cigarettes sold in Switzerland (figures from the Communauté de l’industrie suisse de la cigarette), divided by the population aged 15 years old and over (one cigarette equals 1 gram).
- From 2009 onwards, figures are on registered sales of cigarettes.
- From 2002, data include imported cigarettes (in 2002: +2%), and is calculated with the mid-year population (in 2002: minus 0.5%). Data from Association Swiss Cigarette.

Note: The sales figures do not closely correspond to the amount consumed by the Swiss resident population. The amount sold is significantly influenced by the development of cross-border sales, sales to foreign tourists, smuggling, imports and by ordering on the Internet, the switch to hand-rolled cigarettes, and stock purchases by consumers in case of announced price increases.

Turkey

Sources:
2016 onwards: Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.
1960-2006: Tobacco, Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Drinks Market Regulation Board (Turkish state monopoly).
Methodology: From 2008 onwards, tobacco content in a cigarette is calculated based on Tobacco and Alcohol Market Regulatory Authority estimations. For previous years, the last available data on tobacco content belonging to 2008 are used.

Break in time series in 1987 following a structural reorganisation of the Tobacco, Tobacco Products and Alcoholic Drinks Market Regulation Board.

United Kingdom

Source: ONS using data derived from HM Revenue and Customs and Excise (previously HM Customs and Excise).
2010: Table 3 - Quantities released for consumption.
2008 and 2009: Table 1 - Quantities released for consumption.
2007: Table 2 - Tobacco - Historic Quantities Released for Consumption.
Methodology:
- Data are based on sales and are calculated from financial year data from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) ‘smoothed cigarette clearances’ (1 cigarette equals1 gram). Totals of cigars, hand-rolling tobacco and ‘other smoking and chewing tobacco’ (in kg) published in HMRC Tobacco Bulletin.
2007-2011 data revised due to revision in population estimates published since last year by ONS.

⚠️ **Break in time series in 1977:** Data from 1960 to 1976 are for manufactured and hand-rolled cigarette consumption only and are not compatible with data from 1977, which cover all types of tobacco including both cigarettes and chewing tobacco.

**Further information:** [https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/TaxAndDutyBulletins.aspx](https://www.uktradeinfo.com/Statistics/Pages/TaxAndDutyBulletins.aspx)

**United States**

**Sources:**

**Coverage:** US per capita estimates are based on population aged 18 years old and over.

**Methodology:**
- **2000 onwards:** Estimate based on excise tax data from the U.S. Department of Treasury’s Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau.
- **1960-1999:** US estimates are based only on cigarette consumption per capita. These estimates exclude the following tobacco products: cigars, smokeless tobacco, pipe, chewing tobacco, and dry snuff. Estimates are based on unstemmed processing weight. Estimates include overseas sales-shipment to U.S. military bases.
- Consumption estimates were based on all combustible tobacco. All combustible tobacco includes cigarettes, small cigars, and large cigars, and per-cigarette equivalents for pipe tobacco and roll-your-own tobacco based on the conversion rate in the Master Settlement Agreement: 0.00325 oz. (0.9g) of tobacco equals one cigarette.
- CDC measure of cigarette and combustible tobacco consumption only accounts for product taxed for legal sale in the U.S. and does not account for illicit cigarette sales, such as those smuggled into our out the country, or for untaxed cigarettes that are produced or sold on American Indian sovereign islands.
- CDC estimates differed against the US Department of Agriculture (i.e. 2000-2006) by a median of only 0.15% and a mean of 0.76%.
- Adult per capita was estimated by dividing total consumption by the number of person aged 18 years old and over in the United States each year using data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

⚠️ **Break in time series in 2000:** Data from 1960-1999 come from the US Department of Agriculture. Data from 2000-2017 come from the Office on Smoking and Health Promotion, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion.

**Further information:**

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[http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm](http://www.oecd.org/health/health-data.htm)