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2) Alcohol and Driving

- An estimated 7,800 people were killed or injured when at least one driver was over the drink-drive limit in 2019.
- The total number of accidents where at least one driver was over the alcohol limit was 5,350 in 2019.
- In 2019, the number of killed or seriously injured (KSI) casualties in drink-drive accidents rose while all casualties fell. This, says DfT, was because the number of seriously injured casualties in accidents in which at least one driver or rider failed a breath test rose, while the number of slightly injured in these accidents fell compared to 2018.

3) The Cost of Alcohol on the NHS

The cost of alcohol on the NHS has increased by approximately 19% in the last three decades alone. This is evidently due to the increase in affordability and availability of alcohol as well as the general increase in binge drinking. Recent reports have suggested that there are about 10.5 million adults in England alone that drink above what they should and there's around 1.1 million who have some form of alcohol addiction or dependence. It's actually the third leading cause of disease in the UK and, as a result, the costs of this are spiralling. If some sources are to be believed, the NHS will not be able to sustain the increased cost if this trend continues.

The latest figures estimate that alcohol costs the NHS around £3.5 billion each year, which is a staggering amount. This up from the estimates in 2006/7 which was around £2.7 billion. There are many difficulties in recording costs for alcohol-related harm and, as such, it would not be surprising if both of these figures were actually higher.

It isn't just drunken admissions to A&E for excessive drinking that are costing the NHS so much, although this is undeniably one factor. Studies suggest that around 50% of violent assaults are related to alcohol and, as such, where the cause of the admission to hospital may be an injury, the primary cause of that injury is a direct link with alcohol consumption.

Other statistics show that, for rape victims requiring treatment, 58% of rapists had drunk alcohol before carrying out their attack. Alcohol is also a key player in accidental deaths, of which around a fifth are due to alcohol consumption. Suicides are also heavily related to alcohol consumption. We can see that these are just some of the reasons how alcohol can cost the NHS billions of pounds.

4) Spirits & Liqueurs industry in the UK

- According to a report by the Statistics firm Statista, the total UK spirits industry generated £9.3 billion worth of revenue in the UK in 2019.
- Industry sales amounted to £4.5 billion, while consumer spending reached £7.6 billion in 2020. The number of spirits enterprises grew to 688 in 2019. About six million hectolitres (a hectolitre is 100 litres) of spirits were produced that same year.
- Spirits and liqueurs had a combined export value of £4.9 billion and an import value of £754 million in 2020. Exports saw a significant decline due to Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic. The leading country of origin for spirits imported to the UK in 2020 was Italy, with £125.7 million worth of imports, while the leading destination for exports of spirits was the U.S.

- Liqueurs reach a much wider audience than spirits. The brand most popular among UK consumers was Jägermeister. The most popular spirit was Jose Cuervo Tequila, at home and out of home consumption, on average, a person buys 64 millilitres of spirits per week in the UK.

5) Beer industry in the UK

According to the same report, it appears that the beer industry in the United Kingdom is at a saturation point when it comes to new breweries. With a turnover close to £9 billion, the number of breweries has increased for several years. The main reason for this increase was the growing number of small and microbreweries producing craft beers.

- The sales of beer in the UK, came to £3.4 billion.
- The turnover mentioned above was generated with close to 28 thousand barrels of beer sold. Due to lockdowns and a sharp drop in demand production of beer in the UK dropped substantially in 2020.
- In terms of trade, UK beer imports totalled £510 million in 2020, a small increase compared to 2019. Ireland was the single biggest trade partner in terms of beer imports. The pandemic coupled with Brexit took its toll on UK beer exports, totalling just £401 million, the lowest level in over a decade. Europe was the largest trading partner for beer exports in 2020.
- Adding imported beer cleared for consumption to the amount of UK produced beer totalled 41 million hectolitres approved for consumption in 2020, a steep decline compared to 2019. On an individual level, 73 litres of beer were consumed per capita on average. The most popular type of beer in the UK was lager, followed by India pale ale. Budweiser was the brand with the largest number of drinkers in Britain, followed by Stella Artois. In terms of sales, Carling led lagers and Sharp's Doom Bar led cask ales.

- 1) [Reported road casualties in Great Britain, final estimates involving illegal alcohol levels: 2019 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- 2) [The Cost of Alcohol on the NHS | LAPE.org.uk](#)
- 3) [Spirits and liqueur market in the UK - Statistics & Facts | Statista](#)
- 4) [Beer industry in the UK - statistics & facts | Statista](#)