



## Alcohol consumption comparisons for OECD countries

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- For international comparison purposes, a useful measure is per person consumption of pure alcohol. This is a method of taking into account the different alcohol content of different beverages—for example, a typical Australian beer contains 5% alcohol per volume, meaning that a 375 mL bottle will contain about 19 mL of pure alcohol.
- Using this measure, in 2006 Australia ranked in the middle of the Organisation for Economic and Co-operation Development (OECD) countries, at around 10 litres of alcohol per person aged 15 years or over per year (Figure 4.10).
- The pattern of change over time in per person alcohol consumption varies among the OECD countries. For the majority, including Australia, there appears to have been a peak of consumption in the 1970s and 1980s, then reductions over the 1990s and early 21st century. A few countries, notably Ireland and the United Kingdom, had an increase in consumption over the past 40 years, whereas Portugal and Italy had a major decrease.

