CAMEROON

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)

Note: From 1996 the wine category includes fermented beverages, which before 1996 were included in the overall total consumption figure.

Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

Abstainers in Biyem-Assi (do not drink alcohol)

In a study evaluating the habitual diet of a rural and urban population in Cameroon, it was found that the intake of alcohol was higher in rural men and women than in urban subjects. It was concluded that the habitual diet in rural Cameroon contained more alcohol than the diet in urban Cameroon.2

Traditional alcoholic beverages

Palm wine, or locally known as *fitchuk*, is made from raffia palms and has a high alcohol content.3

Guinea corn beer is also drunk and it has a lower alcohol content, usually between 3% to 5% by volume.

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Cameroon is estimated to be 2.6 litres pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).4
Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

What is problematic in Cameroon is the high cost of purchasing even one beer a week given the income of an average rural family. When comparing the price of two major beers sold in a rural village in 1983 as a percentage of male and female wages, it was found that the cost of one beer represented 60–84% of women’s and 36–50% of men’s daily wages. Drinking even in these small amounts means that one day’s wages is quickly consumed. The danger is when individuals start forsaking paying children’s school fees because their money is spent on beer. Such individuals are considered disruptive of community life because their negligence impedes others from doing their work or meeting obligations toward friends, association members and kin.5

Country background information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total population 2003</th>
<th>16 018 000</th>
<th>Life expectancy at birth (2002)</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>47.2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adult (15+)</td>
<td>9 290 440</td>
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<td>Female</td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>162</td>
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<tr>
<td>% under 15</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)</td>
<td>Female</td>
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<td>Population distribution 2001 (%)</td>
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<td>Rural</td>
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References