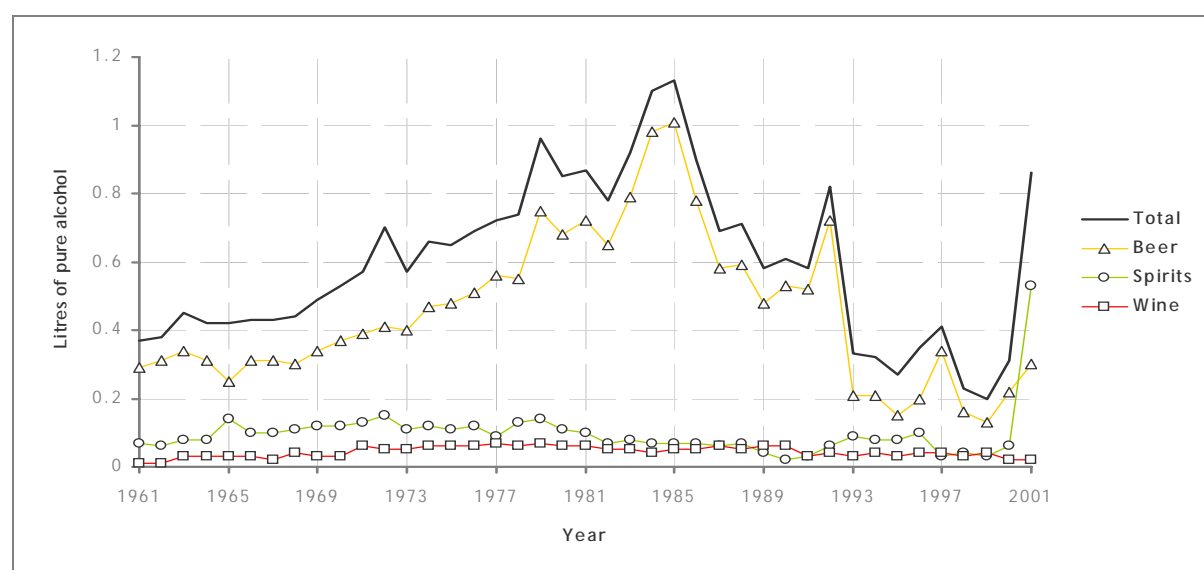


SOLOMON ISLANDS

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



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

Data from the Customs Department and from a local manufacturer show that the per capita consumption of pure alcohol among those 15 years and older in 1994 was 0.7 litres. This level is far below that of many other South Pacific nations reflecting, in part, the fact that some 90% of the Solomon Island's population live in rural villages where they have only limited involvement in the cash economy. It also reflects the concentration of liquor outlets in the capital, Honiara, and the main provincial centres. Locally produced beer accounted for some 80% of the total absolute alcohol consumed in 1994 with imported beer accounting for 17% and imported spirits 3%.¹

Traditional alcoholic beverages

It is generally believed that the unlawful production of alcoholic beverages (home brew, *toddy* and *kaleve*) is not uncommon.

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In 1992, 54% of reported criminal offences were alcohol-related.²

Country background information

Total population 2003	477 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	63.6
Adult (15+)	276 660		Female	67.4
% under 15	42	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	86
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	75
Urban	20	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	570
Rural	80			

Sources: Population and Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, World Bank World Development Indicators database, The World Health Report 2004

References

- McDonald D, Elvy G, Mielke J. Alcohol in the South Pacific: the mid-1990s. *Drug and Alcohol Review*, 1997, 16(4):383–390.
- Han ST. Current problems of alcohol abuse in the Western Pacific Region and future prospects. *Alcoholism: Clinical and Experimental Research*, 1998, 22(3):177S–180S.