

## Summary

In Sweden, a downward trend in the consumption of alcohol began in 2004, the same year that questions on drinking habits were first included in the Monitor survey. It can be observed that it is mainly men's consumption that has decreased. Still, in 2022, the volumes drunk by men were almost twice as large as those drunk by women (84 percent greater). Among men, more than half of the consumption was in the form of beer (54 percent of consumption). Among women, wine dominated (65 percent).

Some slight effects of the pandemic can be noted. The volume consumed decreased temporarily in 2020–2021, as did hazardous consumption, but the differences were small and had no lasting effect, as the levels for 2022 are on par with the levels for 2019. The only lasting difference after the pandemic is that the proportion consuming alcohol monthly has been 75 percent since 2020, compared with 77 percent in the two preceding years.

The age group 17–29 years reported the highest annual consumption in 2022. Compared with those who drink the least (65–84-year-olds), the youngest group's consumption was 20 percent higher. However, in 2004, the youngest group drank more than twice as much as the oldest group. In other words, the gap between the age groups has shrunk, in part because of decreased drinking among younger people and in part because of increased drinking among older people. In 2022, the difference in annual consumption between different age groups was the smallest in the history of the survey.

In addition to the decreasing differences between age groups and genders, a geographic equalisation tendency can be seen over time. This is due in no small part to the volume of consumption having decreased in areas where it has previously been high. This applies both at the county level and if municipalities are grouped based on population density and proximity to population centres.

The annual consumption was greatest in urban municipalities and decreased with decreasing population density. One exception from this was that alcohol consumption was relatively high in the group 'rural municipality with hospitality establishments'. There, consumption was more in line with that in urban municipalities. As regards counties, annual consumption in 2022 was highest in Stockholm county and lowest in Jönköping county and Västernorrland county.



The analyses also showed that while there have been equalisations in drinking habits since 2004, in regard to gender, age group, and geographic area, there are still clear differences between the different groups. Though drinking habits are more similar across the Swedish population nowadays, primarily because consumption has decreased in the groups that drink most, the differences in alcohol consumption are far from eliminated.