

Enligt våra data tycks den icke-registrerade konsumtionen på Island uppgå till cirka en tredjedel av den registrerade. Detta är något högre än i exempelvis Finland och Danmark, men ungefär lika mycket som i Norge (Österberg 1990). Det är tydligt att den icke-registrerade konsumtionen varierar över tid. Det kan bero på livsstilsförändringar och på alkoholpriset. På Island kommer det att vara särskilt intressant att följa med vad som händer med den icke-registrerade importen av öl sedan ölförbudet upphävts.

Det verkar som om det på Island, liksom i andra länder, inte är avgörande om den registrerade alkoholkonsumtionen är hög eller låg, det kommer alltid att finnas en viss mängd oregistrerad alkoholkonsumtion.

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English Summary

Ása Guðmundsdóttir: Icke-registrerad alkoholkonsumtion på Island (Unrecorded alcohol consumption in Iceland)

This article tries to estimate unrecorded alcohol consumption in Iceland in the mid-eighties, to look at changes in its quantity and composition in recent decades, and to discuss the problems encountered in making such estimates. The data has been collected in connection with a Nordic project initiated in 1988 to estimate the quantity and composition of unrecorded alcohol consumption in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The information has been gathered from various sources: survey data on home production, official statistics on the numbers of travellers and ships sailing overseas and on resales of tax-free alcohol imports by travellers, statistics on the production and import of "non-alcoholic" beer and various qualitative information from civil servants, merchants, travel agencies and others.

In Iceland there has been a tendency towards a gradual increase in the unrecorded consumption of alcohol. The main contributive factor is the very large increase in foreign travel by Icelanders and their bringing in tax-free alcohol or alcoholic beverages bought abroad.

Another factor contributing to increased unrecorded imports of alcohol has been that fishing boats are more often sailing abroad to sell their catch. Fishermen are allowed to bring into the country more alcohol at a time than ordinary travellers are.

Consumption of beer that has an alcohol content so low that it is not registered as an alcoholic beverage has increased in Iceland since 1986. In 1987 this added almost 13 % to recorded consumption. The consumption of "non-alcoholic" beer increased about 50 per cent in the years 1980 to 1987.

Home-made alcohol production was rather popular ten years ago, but has now become less common and more steady. With increased travel, a decrease in smuggling can also be assumed, since people have more opportunities to buy cheaper alcohol, either tax-free or abroad.

According to the date, unregistered alcohol consumption seems to be about the third of registered consumption. This is somewhat higher than in Finland, for example and in Denmark, but about the same as in Norway. It is clear that unrecorded alcohol varies in the course of time, depending on life style and the price of alcohol. In Iceland it will be especially interesting to follow what happens with unrecorded imports of beer after the repeal of the beer prohibition.