

SCIENCE NEWS IN NUMBERS

Minimum alcohol pricing



Alcohol sales in Scotland fell during the first year of minimum pricing, while sales increased south of the border.

NHS research found the volume of pure alcohol sold per person dropped from 7.4 to 7.1 litres – a decrease of 3.6%.

In England and Wales, where minimum pricing was not implemented, the volume increased from 6.3 to 6.5 litres.



The only drink to show an increase in Scotland was fortified wine, which was not affected by the price increase.

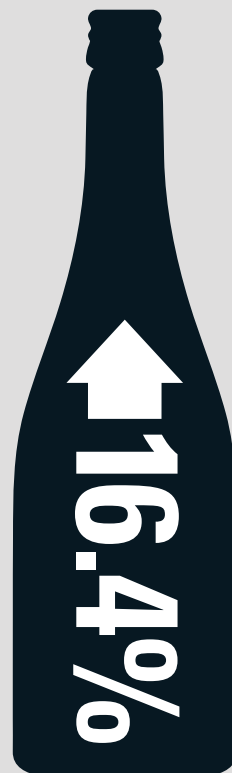
The sales figures are:

Cider – down 18.6%

Spirits – down 3.8%

Beer – down 1.1%

Fortified wine – up 16.4%



£6000

Some women in the UK have paid at least £6000 for a procedure to delay the onset of the menopause by over 10 years.

The procedure involves surgically removing a small portion of one of the ovaries – which is then formed into tiny strips and frozen.

Private doctors provide the procedure and the strips can be reinserted later in life.

49,029 CASES



Prostate cancer is now the most commonly diagnosed cancer in England.

In 2018 there were nearly 50,000 registered cases – around 8000 more than in 2017.

Public Health England says it is because more men are getting tested.

In 2018, there were 316,680 cancers of any kind diagnosed – the equivalent of 868 cases a day. Prostate was the most common type – 49,029 cases, followed by breast – 47,476 cases.

1100 CASES

The NHS is failing to detect about 1100 cases of bowel cancer a year in England, because diagnostic services are so short-staffed, according to Cancer Research UK.

£10,000

NICE has rejected a ketamine-based antidepressant for use on the NHS.

It said there is not enough evidence and the £10,000+ price for the average course is too high. If approved, it would have been the first antidepressant with a new mechanism of action to be licensed in 30 years.