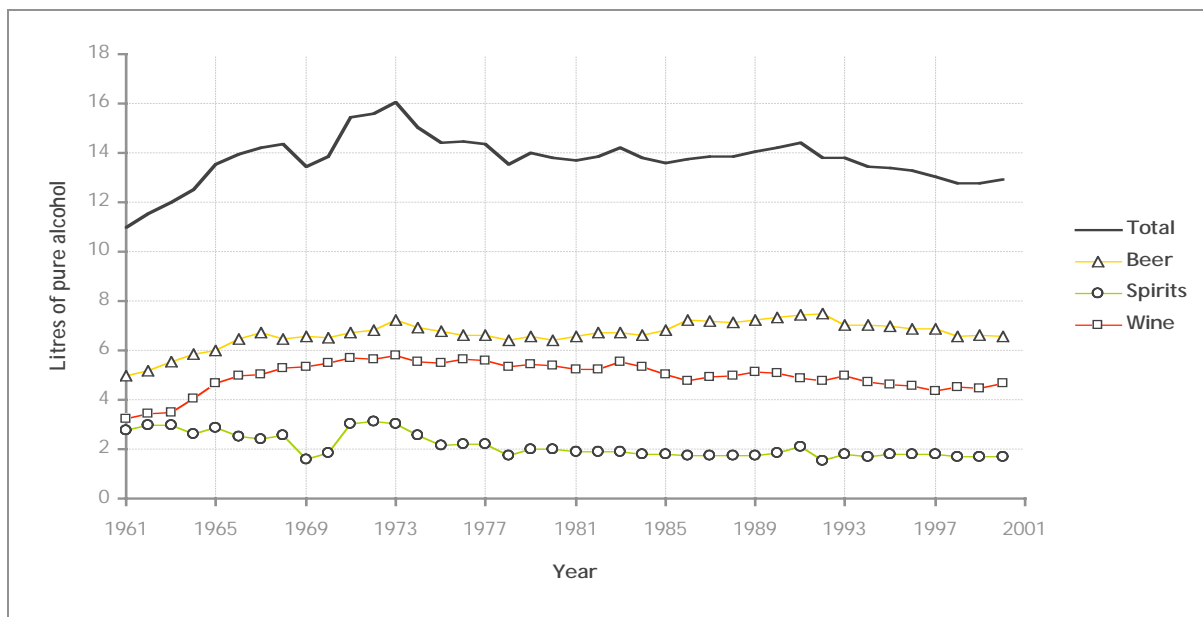


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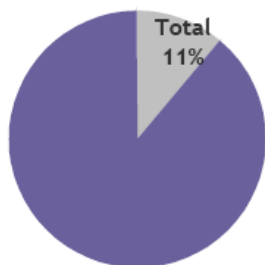
Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



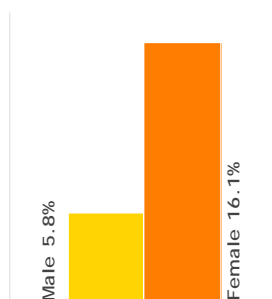
Sources: FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations), World Drink Trends 2003

Alternative figures from the Austrian Ministry of Health vary slightly due to different average alcohol content of beer and wine, and adjustments for previous population figure errors. Data covering the same period are available in table 1 at the end of this profile.

Last year abstainers



Total 11%



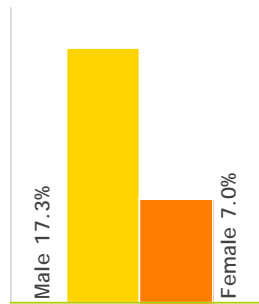
Data from the WHO GENACIS study. National survey conducted in 1993 (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 6020$; males $n = 2937$ and females $n = 3083$.¹

Estimates from key alcohol experts show that the proportion of adult males and females who had been abstaining (last year before the survey) was 13% (males) and 33% (females). Data is for after year 1995.²

Data from a 1993/1994 survey (total sample size $n = 11\ 150$; males $n = 5330$ and females $n = 5819$) show that the rate of current abstainers was 23.3% (total), 13.2% (males) and 32.8% (females).³ (The definition of abstaining/almost abstaining was at the maximum on drinking occasion in 3 months) (A new survey has been done 2004 – I am currently analysing the data – but I have no results yet)

According to a national survey conducted in 2003 (total sample size $n = 1022$; aged 15 years and over), the average number of drinks consumed per drinking day was 1.88.⁴

Heavy and hazardous drinkers (among drinkers)



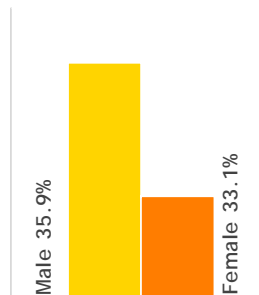
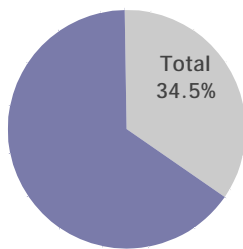
Data from the 2003 WHO GENACIS study. National survey (age group 20 to 64 years). Total sample size $n = 6020$; males $n = 2937$ and females $n = 3083$. Definition used: average consumption of 40 g or more of pure alcohol a day for males and 20 g or more of pure alcohol a day for females.³

Data from a 1993/1994 survey (total sample size $n = 11\ 150$; males $n = 5330$ and females $n = 5819$; raw sample data adjusted for under-sampling and under-reporting) show that the rate of heavy drinkers (among drinkers) was 18.3% (total), 28.7% (males) and 8.5% (females). Heavy drinking was defined as daily drinkers who drink over 60 g of pure alcohol on average for men and over 40 g of pure alcohol on average for women. The survey also found that the average consumption of pure alcohol was 31.2 g (total), 50.9 g (males) and 13.2 g (females).³

Heavy episodic drinking

According to a national survey conducted in 2003 (total sample size $n = 1022$; aged 15 years and over), the average number of times that respondents had consumed the equivalent of one bottle of wine, five pints/bottles of beer or five measures of spirits on one drinking occasion was 0.86.⁴

Youth drinking (drink at least weekly)



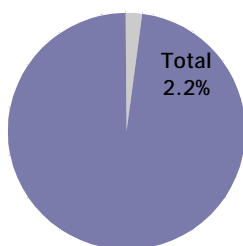
HBSC survey 2001/2002. Data shows proportion of 15-year-olds who report drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly. Total sample size $n = 1298$.⁵

According to the 1997/1998 HBSC survey (total sample size $n = 1376$), 39% of 15-year-old boys and 23% of 15-year-old girls reported drinking beer, wine or spirits at least weekly.⁶

Youth drinking (drunkenness)

According to the 2001/2002 HBSC survey (total sample size $n = 1298$), the proportion of 15-year-olds who reported ever having been drunk two or more times was 37.8% for boys and 34.9% for girls.⁵

Alcohol dependence



A random sample of the general population drawn in 1996 ($n = 531$). The ratio of male to female alcohol dependence was 4:1. Alcohol dependence was measured as having four positive CAGE answers. The same survey also found that 16–24% of the general population were rated as problem drinkers (two or more positive CAGE answers).⁷

The official estimate of alcohol dependence adjusts raw results (such as those above) for under-sampling and under-reporting, as well as for false positives. This results in an estimate of the prevalence of alcohol dependence of 5%.¹⁴

Drunkenness

Data from a 1993/1994 survey (total sample size $n = 11\ 150$; males $n = 5330$ and females $n = 5819$) show that 2.8% of males and 0.6% of females reported experiencing drunkenness once a week. Drunkenness was defined as being very intoxicated and having memory blanks the next day.³

Traditional alcoholic beverages

Cherry liquor and schnapps are occasionally consumed, but beer and wine predominate.

Unrecorded alcohol consumption

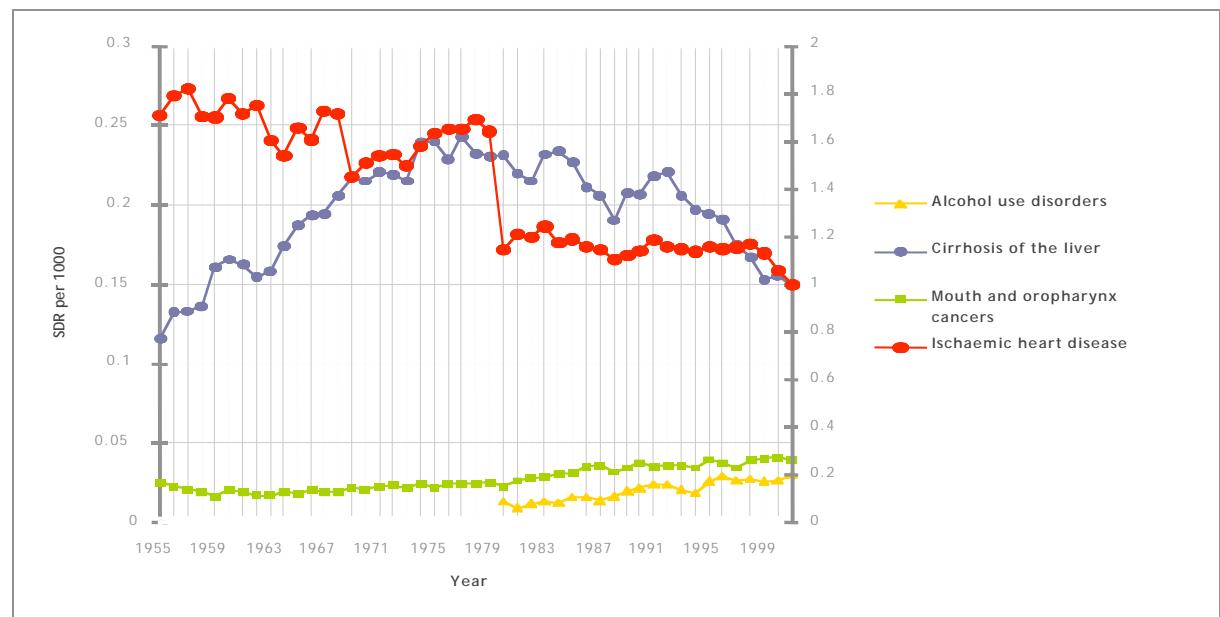
A recent survey estimate that 6% of legally unrecorded pure alcohol is in the form of cider and apple wine. Some other production is in the form of illegally produced spirits from farmers, where production is not intensively controlled.¹⁴

The unrecorded alcohol consumption in Austria is estimated to be 1.0 litre pure alcohol per capita for population older than 15 for the years after 1995 (estimated by a group of key alcohol experts).²

Mortality rates from selected death causes where alcohol is one of the underlying risk factors

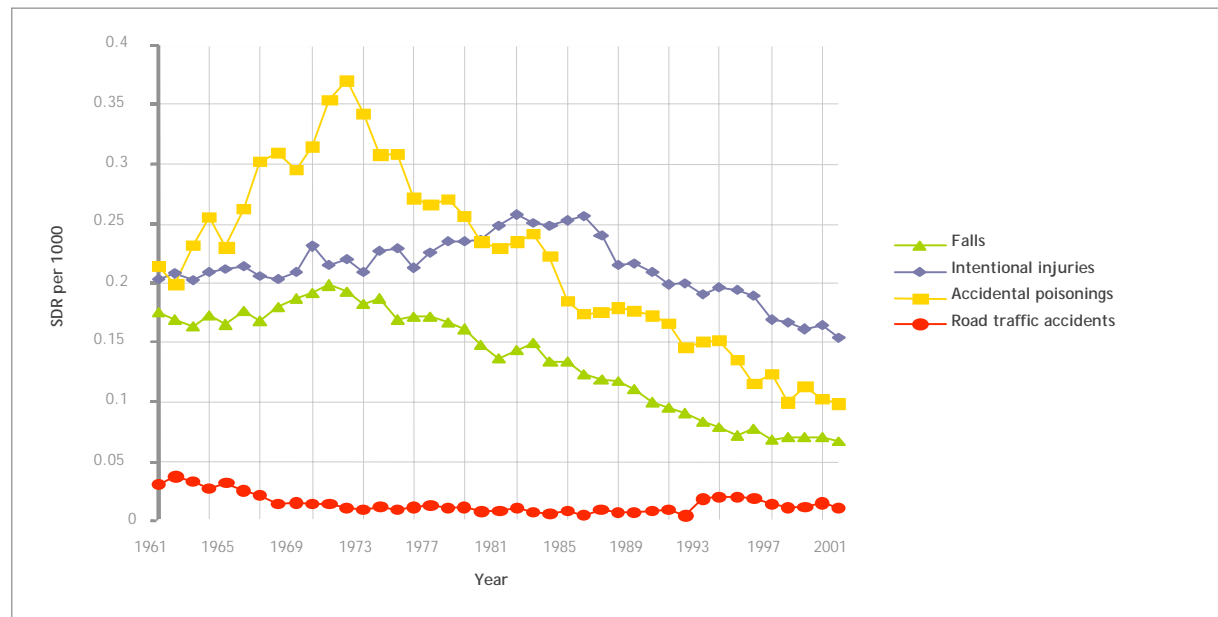
The data represent all the deaths occurring in a country irrespective of whether alcohol was a direct or indirect contributor.

Chronic mortality



Note: Chronic mortality time-series measured on two axes, ischaemic heart disease on right axis and the other causes on the left.

Acute mortality



Source: WHO Mortality Database

Morbidity, health and social problems from alcohol use

In a blood sample analysis of all patients (269) involved in a traffic accident and admitted to the Emergency Room of the University Hospital of Trauma Surgery in Innsbruck, alcohol was the most commonly found drug in all groups (drivers: 36.9%, passengers: 15.1%, cyclists: 29.4%, pedestrians: 18.2%), with a mean BAC (blood alcohol concentration) high above the legal limit at the time of the study in Austria of 0.8 g/l (drivers: 1.49 +/- 54 g/l; passengers: 1.52 +/- 71 g/l; cyclists: 1.72 +/- 51 g/l; pedestrians: 1.67 +/- 25 g/l). The percentage of alcohol users was highest in drivers.⁸

A study of 402 victims of ski accidents found that 20% of the samples were positive for alcohol. The prevalence of alcohol was significantly higher among male accident victims.⁹ (Without knowing how many skiers are intoxicated under comparable conditions – drinking hot wine and spirits is widespread among skiers – these results can hardly be interpreted.)

The number of alcohol-related accidents dropped slightly from 2574 cases in 2000 to 2559 cases in 2001, and 6.5% of all fatalities were alcohol-related.¹⁰ The number of alcohol-related road traffic accidents per 100 000 population was 31.74 in 2000 and 31.47 in 2001.¹¹

Austria records the highest liver cirrhosis mortality rates in Europe with 47.1 deaths per 100 000 men and 15.1 deaths for 100 000 women.¹² The SDR per 100 000 population for chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 18.88 in 2001 and 17.69 in 2002.¹¹ Since the rate of autopsies is very high in Austria compared to other countries, this very high rate may be – at least partly - a result of this tradition.

Alcohol consumption during methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) often becomes a problem. A group of 68 patients undergoing MMT were investigated. A set of risk factors for problematic alcohol use ('alcohol indicators') was set up consisting of patients' account and laboratory parameters. 52% of patients were positive for these 'alcohol indicators' and 32% of patients fulfilled more severe criteria for alcohol abuse. While patients without 'alcohol indicators' showed an improvement of liver parameters over time, those with 'alcohol indicators' suffered a considerable deterioration, indicating that alcohol consumption had increased.¹³

Country background information

Total population 2003	8 116 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	76.4
Adult (15+)	6 817 440		Female	82.2
% under 15	16	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	6
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	4
Urban	67	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	23 390
Rural	33			

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

Year	% of Population Under- 15	Litres of drink per adult (15-99)		Litres of pure alcohol per adult (15-99)					Alcohol per day (g)
		beer	wine	spirits	beer	wine	cider	total	
1955	22,1%	76,9	17,4	0,9	3,8	2,0	0,4	7,2	15,5
1956	21,8%	79,2	20,6	1,0	4,0	2,4	0,5	7,8	16,9
1957	21,8%	90,0	22,2	1,2	4,5	2,6	0,5	8,7	18,9
1958	21,8%	93,5	21,9	1,4	4,7	2,5	0,5	9,1	19,8
1959	21,9%	88,3	25,7	1,4	4,4	3,0	0,6	9,3	20,2
1960	22,3%	93,3	24,1	1,4	4,7	2,8	0,6	9,4	20,4
1961	22,7%	97,1	26,3	1,6	4,9	3,0	0,6	10,0	21,7
1962	22,8%	104,8	24,9	1,3	5,2	2,9	0,6	10,0	21,6
1963	23,0%	111,0	26,4	1,6	5,5	3,0	0,6	10,8	23,4
1964	23,3%	120,6	27,1	1,6	6,0	3,1	0,7	11,4	24,7
1965	23,6%	120,9	35,2	1,2	6,0	4,0	0,7	12,0	25,9
1966	23,8%	129,8	41,2	1,8	6,5	4,7	0,8	13,9	30,1
1967	24,1%	129,8	41,6	1,4	6,5	4,8	0,8	13,5	29,3
1968	24,3%	136,0	43,6	1,6	6,8	5,0	0,9	14,3	30,9
1969	24,3%	128,9	43,8	1,7	6,4	5,0	0,8	14,0	30,4
1970	24,4%	130,4	45,4	1,6	6,5	5,2	0,9	14,2	30,7
1971	24,3%	131,8	47,2	1,8	6,6	5,4	0,9	14,7	31,9
1972	24,2%	139,3	46,6	2,1	7,0	5,4	0,9	15,4	33,2
1973	23,9%	140,5	47,8	2,1	7,0	5,5	0,9	15,6	33,7
1974	23,6%	141,2	46,0	2,2	7,1	5,3	0,9	15,5	33,6
1975	23,2%	134,7	45,5	2,1	6,7	5,2	0,9	15,0	32,4
1976	22,7%	135,3	46,7	2,1	6,8	5,4	0,9	15,1	32,7
1977	22,2%	136,5	46,1	2,2	6,8	5,3	0,9	15,2	32,9
1978	21,6%	133,4	44,4	1,7	6,7	5,1	0,9	14,4	31,1
1979	21,0%	129,6	45,0	2,0	6,5	5,2	0,9	14,5	31,4
1980	20,4%	130,2	44,7	2,0	6,5	5,1	0,9	14,5	31,4
1981	20,0%	130,7	43,5	1,9	6,5	5,0	0,9	14,3	30,9
1982	19,5%	132,8	43,2	1,9	6,6	5,0	0,9	14,4	31,1
1983	19,1%	135,7	46,1	1,9	6,8	5,3	0,9	14,9	32,2
1984	18,7%	137,5	44,7	1,8	6,9	5,1	0,9	14,7	31,8
1985	18,3%	133,9	41,8	1,8	6,7	4,8	0,8	14,1	30,6
1986	18,0%	143,1	39,8	1,9	7,2	4,6	0,9	14,5	31,3
1987	17,8%	138,2	41,1	1,9	6,9	4,7	0,9	14,4	31,2
1988	17,6%	140,2	41,4	1,9	7,0	4,8	0,9	14,5	31,5
1989	17,5%	142,8	42,4	1,9	7,1	4,9	0,9	14,8	31,9
1990	17,4%	145,9	42,1	1,8	7,3	4,8	0,9	14,9	32,2
1991	17,4%	145,0	40,6	2,1	7,3	4,7	0,9	14,9	32,3
1992	17,5%	150,0	40,0	1,5	7,5	4,6	0,9	14,5	31,4
1993	17,6%	144,5	39,5	1,8	7,2	4,5	0,9	14,4	31,2
1994	17,6%	138,4	37,5	1,3	6,9	4,3	0,8	13,3	28,9
1995	17,5%	138,6	38,7	2,0	6,9	4,5	0,9	14,3	30,9
1996	17,4%	136,0	38,2	2,3	6,8	4,4	0,9	14,3	31,0
1997	17,3%	134,8	36,2	2,0	6,7	4,2	0,8	13,8	29,8
1998	17,1%	136,5	37,3	1,8	6,8	4,3	0,8	13,8	29,8
1999	16,9%	136,2	36,7	1,8	6,8	4,2	0,8	13,7	29,6
2000	16,7%	136,9	37,1	2,1	6,8	4,3	0,8	14,1	30,4
2001	16,8%	132,0	37,1	1,5	6,6	4,3	0,8	13,2	28,5
2002	16,6%	133,2	34,1	1,5 ^e	6,7	3,9	0,8	12,9	27,9
2003	16,4%	133,3	35,4	1,6 ^e	6,7	4,1	0,8	13,1	28,3

Table 1 – Austrian Ministry of Health data (inc. unrecorded consumption estimates) ¹⁴

Table 2 – Traffic accident trends in Austria ^{14,15}

<i>Year</i>	<i>Accidents involving injury</i>	<i>People involved in accidents</i>	<i>Casualties</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Alcohol accidents</i>	<i>Alcohol injured</i>	<i>Alcohol deaths</i>	<i>km per year per motor vehicle</i>	<i>Motor vehicles</i>	<i>Population</i>
1961	42.653	58.131	56.491	1.640	3.642	5.219	268		1.421.092	7.086.299
1962	41.954	57.155	55.533	1.622	3.720	5.438	280		1.528.245	7.129.864
1963	43.736	59.774	57.963	1.811	3.983	5.845	350		1.620.456	7.175.811
1964	45.784	62.703	60.720	1.983	4.144	6.139	328		1.710.007	7.223.801
1965	44.970	61.816	59.987	1.829	3.984	5.900	318		1.809.770	7.270.889
1966	47.250	65.342	63.241	2.101	4.072	5.949	357		1.902.969	7.322.066
1967	49.539	69.113	66.733	2.380	4.632	6.873	407		1.981.526	7.376.998
1968	48.963	68.492	66.076	2.416	4.460	6.726	409		2.057.407	7.415.403
1969	50.189	70.206	67.886	2.320	4.524	6.810	370		2.123.730	7.441.055
1970	51.631	72.653	70.146	2.507	4.649	7.118	412	14.545	2.201.021	7.467.086
1971	52.763	74.864	72.082	2.782	4.828	7.522	420		2.336.520	7.500.482
1972	52.696	74.968	72.020	2.948	4.737	7.255	449		2.486.529	7.544.201
1973	49.716	70.851	68.086	2.765	4.369	6.741	413		2.542.617	7.586.115
1974	48.853	68.438	65.939	2.499	4.758	7.397	417		2.653.016	7.599.038
1975	49.132	68.348	65.881	2.467	4.416	6.757	409		2.767.463	7.578.903
1976	45.016	62.771	60.640	2.131	4.140	6.057	394		2.919.324	7.565.525
1977	46.183	64.133	62.042	2.091	4.163	6.115	323	12.584	3.099.268	7.568.430
1978	43.592	60.929	58.817	2.112	3.768	5.585	300		3.191.905	7.562.305
1979	45.425	63.000	60.871	2.129	4.100	6.070	317		3.319.766	7.549.425
1980	46.214	64.367	62.416	1.951	4.001	5.999	274		3.384.492	7.549.433
1981	46.690	64.213	62.315	1.898	4.022	5.905	256		3.494.065	7.568.710
1982	47.067	64.132	62.249	1.883	4.229	6.296	293		3.567.821	7.575.717
1983	48.825	66.540	64.573	1.967	4.219	6.344	295	11.774	3.650.446	7.567.016
1984	48.146	63.982	62.168	1.814	4.146	5.970	251		3.725.963	7.570.529
1985	46.275	61.338	59.814	1.524	3.757	5.537	192	11.868	3.801.531	7.578.261
1986	45.015	59.783	58.288	1.495	3.334	4.853	174	12.300	3.873.574	7.587.989
1987	43.947	58.664	57.195	1.469	3.341	4.821	197	13.270	3.946.117	7.598.154
1988	44.243	59.289	57.669	1.620	3.025	4.354	206	13.270	4.059.084	7.615.279
1989	46.565	62.025	60.455	1.570	3.227	4.698	172	13.630	4.185.692	7.658.801
1990	46.338	62.041	60.483	1.558	3.034	4.273	141	13.850	4.239.784	7.729.236
1991	46.013	61.740	60.189	1.551	2.851	4.165	115	13.770	4.341.042	7.812.971
1992	44.730	58.876	57.473	1.403	3.056	4.258	123	13.760	4.504.078	7.913.812
1993	41.791	55.270	53.987	1.283	2.699	3.956	117	13.720	4.639.065	7.991.485
1994	42.015	55.156	53.818	1.338	2.840	4.015	131	13.630	4.772.520	8.029.717
1995	38.956	51.974	50.764	1.210	2.645	3.875	113	13.470	4.914.538	8.046.535
1996	38.253	50.700	49.673	1.027	2.525	3.530	81	13.580	5.038.207	8.059.385
1997	39.695	52.696	51.591	1.105	2.465	3.459	95	13.527	5.162.243	8.072.182
1998	39.225	52.040	51.077	963	2.217	3.113	82	13.825	5.309.220	8.078.449
1999	42.348	56.046	54.967	1.079	2.454	3.405	93	13.393	5.470.948	8.092.254
2000	42.126	55.905	54.929	976	2.557	3.643	66		5.581.444	8.110.244
2001	43.073	57.223	56.265	958	2.559	3.517	69	13.702	5.684.244	8.032.926
2002	43.175	57.640	56.684	956	2.736	3.901	92		5.419.073	8.053.106
2003	43.426	57.812	56.881	931	2.841	4.020	84		5.505.927	8.117.754

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