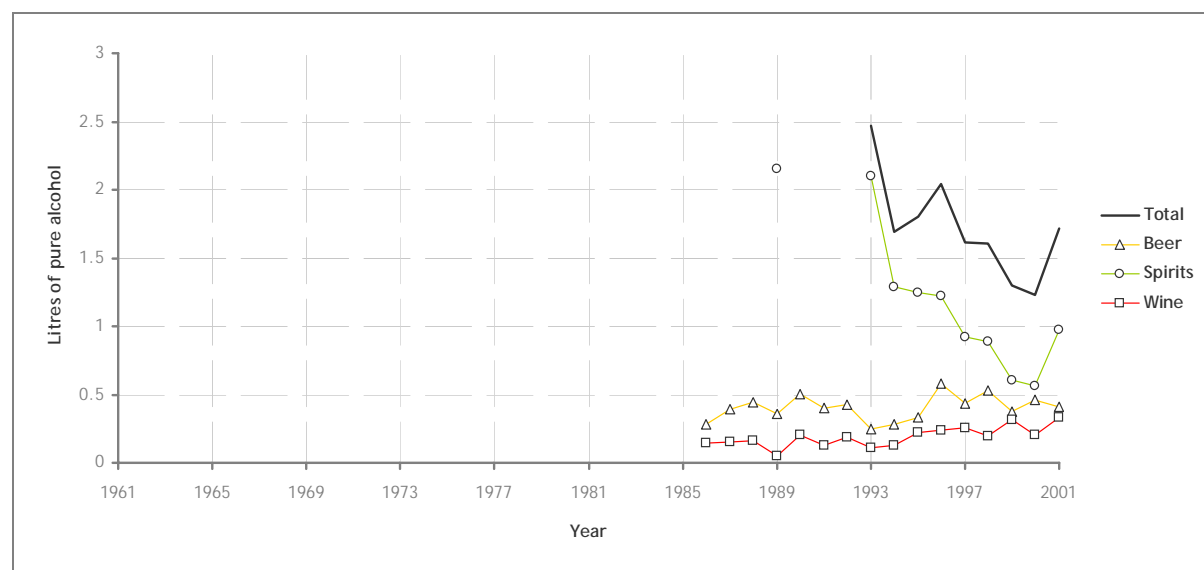


MALDIVES

Recorded adult per capita consumption (age 15+)



Note: Yearly data on spirits not available before 1993, thus total alcohol consumption has not been calculated for those years.

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

Maldives is a strictly Muslim country with a ban on the consumption of alcohol. There is no particular legislation on alcohol, as it is controlled under the law of Islamic Shari'ah. The Ministry of Justice recorded 44 cases of offences related to alcohol in 1998, 42 in 1999, 27 in 2000 and 46 in 2001 (source: Statistical Yearbook 2002). Alcohol is available for non-Muslim residents or visitors through permits or licenses from the Ministry of Trade and Industries for importation of alcoholic beverages (unlimited amount) through a local authorized warehouse. In total there are some 3–4 warehouses that supply the resorts also.¹

Traditional alcoholic beverages

The local brew is *raa*, a sweet toddy tapped from the crown of the palm trunk.²

Country background information

Total population 2003	318 000	Life expectancy at birth (2002)	Male	66.5
Adult (15+)	184 440		Female	65.6
% under 15	42	Probability of dying under age 5 per 1000 (2002)	Male	38
Population distribution 2001 (%)			Female	43
Urban	28	Gross National Income per capita 2002	US\$	2090
Rural	72	In Maldives, approximately 100% of the population are Muslim.		

Sources: Population and Statistics Division of the United Nations Secretariat, World Bank World Development Indicators database, The World Factbook 2003, The World Health Report 2004

References

1. Luna JM. WHO Representative to the Maldives. Personal communication. 27 February 2004.
2. *Maldives: Culture*. Lonely Planet Publications, 2003 (http://www.lonelyplanet.com/destinations/indian_subcontinent/maldives/culture.htm, accessed 13 April 2004).