

Research Briefing

7 December 2023

By Francesco Masala

The new alcohol duty system



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Summary

On 1 August 2023, the Government implemented a major restructure of the taxation of alcohol. This briefing analyses the structure of the new system, rates, and reliefs, in comparison to the former arrangements. It discusses the parliamentary and professional commentary of the new system and looks at the process through which the changes were implemented.

What is alcohol duty?

Alcohol duty is a tax [charged at the point of production or importation of drinks](#) of alcoholic strength exceeding 1.2% alcohol by volume (abv - the percentage of pure alcohol per litre of product). Duty rates differ for beers, ciders and perries, and wines, spirits, and other fermented products.

The principle of the duty system is that stronger products (with a higher abv) will pay a higher rate of alcohol duty, though some exceptions apply.

[VAT is charged](#) on the duty-inclusive price.

Alcohol duty and Northern Ireland

The new alcohol duty system applies in Northern Ireland as well. Originally, some changes to the alcohol duty system [would only have applied in Great Britain](#), due to the terms of the Northern Ireland Protocol.

However, the [agreement between the UK and the EU on changes to the Protocol \(the 'Windsor Framework'\)](#) agreed by both entities in February 2023 meant that the changes to the alcohol duty system would apply to Northern Ireland too. However, some EU legislation still applies.

What alcohol duty reliefs are available?

Small Producer Relief

Small producers of alcoholic products below 8.5% abv [may be entitled to a lower rate of duty](#). To be eligible, the total product made in the previous production year has to contain less than 450,000 litres of pure alcohol. Producers also have to reasonably expect that the total production in the current production year will not exceed the 450,000 litre limit. Producers of cider and other fermented products below 8.5% abv may be subject for [a full duty exemption for the first 5,000 litres of pure alcohol produced](#) (PDF). Additional conditions on overall production apply in Northern Ireland.

Draught relief

Alcoholic products below 8.5% abv sold in venues such as pubs [may be entitled to a lower rate of duty](#). To qualify, products must also be able to be connected to a pump system or a drinks tap, and be contained in a container of capacity of 20 litres or higher.

The previous alcohol duty system

A different alcohol duty system applied until 31 July 2023.

The [previous system had more duty rates than the current one](#). The structure of various duties also varied across, and often within categories. This often resulted in different products at the same alcoholic strength being taxed at significantly different rates. There was broad consensus that the system needed to be reformed and simplified.

How much do alcohol duties raise?

The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) estimates that [alcohol duties will raise £13.0 billion in 2023/24](#), rising to £17.1 billion in 2028/29.

The Government has forecast that [the reforms will slightly reduce alcohol duty revenue](#) (PDF). Nevertheless, the OBR predicted that the overall revenue will increase in the forecast period. This is because the rates of alcohol duty are forecast to increase year on year.

How are alcohol duty rates increased?

In absence of specific policy initiatives, public finance forecasting assumes that [alcohol duties will be increased](#) year-on-year. This typically happens on 1 February, based on the rate of Retail Price Index (RPI) measure of inflation. This process is known as ‘uprating’.

The OBR notes in its [webpage on alcohol duties](#) that many policy decisions on alcohol duties since 2010 have differed from this uprating assumption. Until August 2023, no type of alcohol duty had been uprated since 2020, with some having been frozen since 2017.

1 The alcohol duty system from 1 August 2023

1.1 What is alcohol duty?

Alcohol duty is a tax charged on the production or importation of alcoholic products. It is charged at a certain value per litre of pure alcohol contained in a product (known as alcohol by volume, or abv). This is usually expressed in the percentage number on a product's label. Only products above 1.2% abv are liable for duty.¹

Different rates of duty apply to different categories of alcoholic products.

VAT on alcoholic drinks

The standard rate of VAT (20%) applies to all alcoholic products. VAT is charged following the charge of alcohol duty, meaning that VAT is levied on the unit price of the product and the associated alcohol duty.²

1.2 How is alcohol duty structured?

For duty purposes, alcoholic drinks are classed in the following categories as of 1 August 2023:

- Beer
- Cider (including perry)
- Wine, spirits, and other fermented products.

Within categories, there is mostly no tax differentiation between still and sparkling products. Only sparkling ciders between 5.5% and 8.4% abv have a different duty treatment than still ciders.³

¹ HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC), [Work out how much Alcohol Duty you need to pay](#), GOV.UK, 29 June 2023

² HMRC, [VAT rates on different goods and services – Food and drink, animals, animal feed, plants and seeds](#), GOV.UK, updated 11 July 2022 (accessed on 14 August 2023). The OBR also mentions this as part of a worked example in their [webpage on Alcohol duties](#) (last updated April 2023)

³ HMRC, [Alcohol Duty: rate changes](#), GOV.UK, 7 July 2023

1.3 Alcohol duties revenue

In 2022/23, alcohol duties raised £12.4 billion in revenue. The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) forecast that alcohol duty revenue will rise to £17.1 billion in 2028/29.⁴ For 2023/24, the forecast includes revenue under both regimes, as the new system was implemented on 1 August 2023.

The OBR produces forecasts for receipts by type of alcohol duty. They are reproduced in the table below:

Alcohol receipts forecast							
£ billion							
	Outturn	Forecast (accrued receipts)					
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29
Beer and cider	3.9	3.8	3.9	4.2	4.5	4.8	5.1
Wine	4.4	4.7	4.9	5.2	5.3	5.6	5.8
Spirits	4.1	4.5	4.7	5.1	5.4	5.8	6.2
Total	12.4	13	13.5	14.5	15.2	16.2	17.1

Source: OBR, [Economic and Fiscal Outlook Supplementary Fiscal Tables](#), November 2023

1.4 What is the principle behind the new system?

The alcohol duty system broadly follows a principle where stronger drinks are taxed more.

Alcohol duties are mostly harmonised across all types in most abv bands. This means that, in a majority of cases, products at the same alcoholic strength will incur the same duty rate regardless of whether they are a wine, a beer, or a spirit.

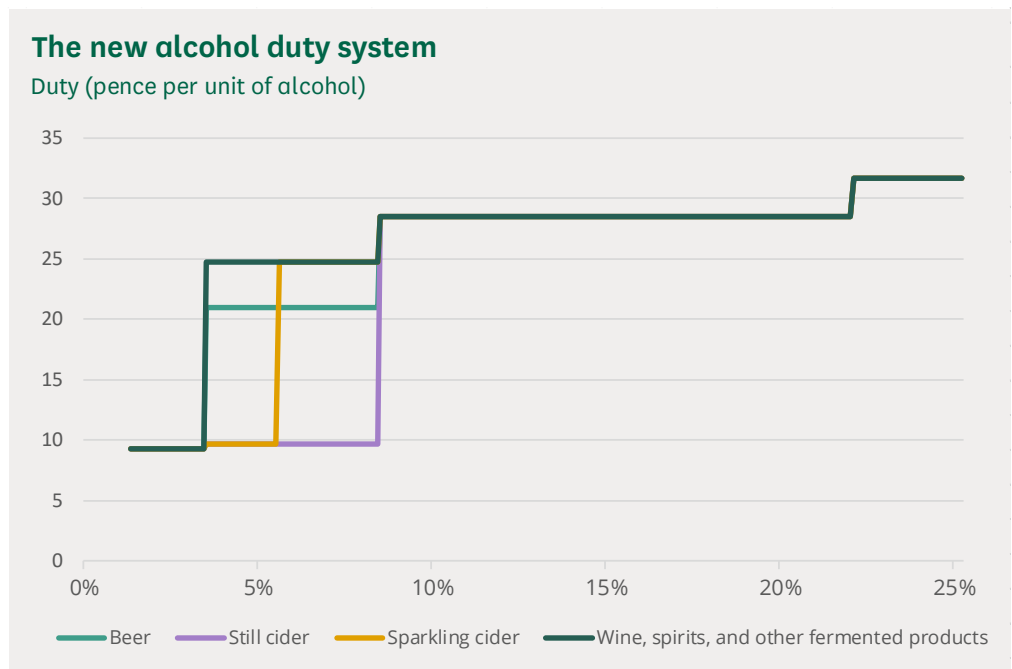
Between 3.5% and 8.4% abv, beers and still ciders are charged at a lower rate than spirits, wines, and other fermented products.⁵ Sparkling ciders are also charged a lower rate, but only between 3.5% and 5.5% abv.⁶ For other alcoholic strengths, all types of alcohol are taxed at the same rate.

The duty system is shown in the following chart.

⁴ OBR, [Economic and Fiscal Outlook – March 2023](#) (PDF), p148

⁵ HM Treasury, [The new alcohol duty system: final consultation response](#), updated 23 March 2023

⁶ HMRC, [Alcohol Duty: rate changes](#), GOV.UK, 7 July 2023



Source: HMRC, [Alcohol Duty: rate changes](#), GOV.UK, 7 July 2023

Arrangements for the wine industry

The wine industry in particular was recognised to be facing a particular challenge in getting ready to implement the new rules.

For instance, this is because “wine production is less predictable than that of beer or spirits” as it is an agricultural product.⁷ Producers added that “ABV levels can vary between vintages, and sometimes within them.”⁸ Additionally, since wines may have been stored for years, or decades, producers warned that many warehouses would not have comprehensive records for the strengths of some products.⁹

Wine producers and industry representatives had highlighted this to the Government during its consultation on the new system.¹⁰ As a result, the Government has implemented the following arrangements to simplify the transition for the industry:

- All wines with an alcoholic strength between 11.5% and 14.5% abv are to be treated as if they had a strength of 12.5% abv for calculating alcohol duty.

⁷ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022, paras 2.18-2.24, pp10-13

⁸ As above

⁹ As above

¹⁰ As above

- This arrangement is transitional and will last for 18 months until 1 February 2025.¹¹

1.5 How does alcohol duty work in practice?

Box 1 shows an example of alcohol duty in practice.¹²

1 Alcohol duty application example

Beth is a small drinks producer. She produces beer, still cider, and low-strength wine. The alcoholic strength of each finished product is 7% abv. She makes 1,000 litres of each product.

The amount of pure alcohol for each type of product is therefore:

7% of 1,000 litres = 70 litres

Beer duty at 7% abv is liable at a rate of £21.01 per litre of pure alcohol. Therefore, the duty on 70 litres of pure alcohol is calculated as follows:

$70 \times £21.01 = £1,470.70$

Still cider at 7% abv is liable to a rate of £9.67 per litre of pure alcohol. The duty is calculated as follows:

$70 \times £9.67 = £676.90$

Wine at 7% is liable to the rate of duty of £24.77 per litre of pure alcohol. The duty is as follows:

$70 \times £24.77 = £1,733.90$

Alcohol duty or alcohol duties?

The alcohol duty system in place until 31 July 2023 had been created over many years “in a product-specific approach which was developed

¹¹ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022, p24. The Government has said that the 11.5% to 14.5% abv band is expected to cover a large proportion of the wine market

¹² The prices and alcoholic strength are used purely for illustrative purposes, and may not reflect actual prices in the market. The calculations do not take into account any reliefs that may be available

piecemeal.”¹³ The former primary legislation for alcohol duties, the Alcohol Liquor Duties Act (ALDA) 1979, included separate provisions for each major type of alcohol. This meant that the charging and administration of different products had different requirements.¹⁴ This is why there was technically no overall ‘alcohol duty’, but separate beer, cider, spirits, and wine duties.

The Finance (No. 2) Act 2023, which replaces ALDA 1979 as the primary legislation for alcohol duty, will create a “single alcohol production approval”, meaning that all types of alcohol will have to undergo the same administrative processes.¹⁵ This will create a single ‘alcohol duty’ to be paid, rather than separate duties. The change to approvals is not yet implemented (see section 1.8).

1.6 What alcohol duty reliefs are available?

The Small Producer Relief

The Small Producer Relief (SPR) reduces the tax burden on smaller producers of wine, cider, spirits and other fermented products. Provision for the relief is in the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023.¹⁶

Small producers may be eligible for a lower rate of duty on their products if they satisfy the following requirements:

- The products have an alcoholic strength below 8.5%
- The products made in the previous production year (1 February to 31 January) contained 450,000 or less litres of pure alcohol
 - As an example, this would be roughly the equivalent of 9 million litres (or 16 million pints) of beer of alcoholic strength of 5% abv
- There is a reasonable expectation that the production in the current year will contain 450,000 or less litres of pure alcohol
- Less than half of the alcohol produced in the production year is made under licence¹⁷

¹³ HMRC, [Explanatory Memorandum to The Alcoholic Products \(Excise Duty\) Regulations 2023](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 17 July 2023

¹⁴ HMRC, [Explanatory Memorandum to The Alcoholic Products \(Excise Duty\) Regulations 2023](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 17 July 2023

¹⁵ HMRC, [Explanatory Memorandum to The Alcoholic Products \(Excise Duty\) Regulations 2023](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 17 July 2023

¹⁶ [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023](#), pt 2, ch 3, and sch 9

¹⁷ HMRC, [Check if you're eligible for Small Producer Relief on Alcohol Duty](#), GOV.UK, 27 July 2023. Production under licence happens when a production point (such as a brewery) gives another one permission to produce its product. For example, section 8.2 of HMRC's [Excise Notice 226: Beer Duty](#) gives further detail of this.

The Small Producer Relief extends the application of the pre-existing Small Brewers Relief (SBR). The SBR applied a similar principle, however it was limited to the production of beer.¹⁸ The history and structure of the SBR is explained in more detail in the Library research briefing on [alcohol taxation: government policy up to 2020](#).¹⁹

There are additional requirements for SPR eligibility in Northern Ireland, where some EU legislation still applies. This is explained in section 2.4 of this briefing.

Full duty relief

Small producers may also be entitled to a full duty relief if they produce no more than 5,000 litres of pure alcohol in a production year. The relief rates are shown in the table below. They differ for products between 1.2%-3.4% abv, and 3.5%-8.4% abv.

Alcohol duty reduction on the first 5,000 litres of pure alcohol produced				
Alcoholic strength	Beer	Cider	Wine and other fermented products	Spirits
1.2% to 3.4% abv	100% duty reduction	100% duty reduction	100% duty reduction	65% duty reduction
3.5% to 8.4% abv	90% duty reduction	100% duty reduction	100% duty reduction	80% duty reduction

Source: HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Final consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, March 2023

Spirits, as well as beers between 3.5% and 8.4%, are not eligible for a full duty discount.

This duty relief system replaces and expands the former small cidemaker's exemption, which exempted producers from registering for alcohol duty if they produced less than 7,000 litres of product in a rolling 12-month period.²⁰ Whilst the new rules mean that small cidemakers will have to register for alcohol duty in the future (even if they can claim full duty relief), the Government has said that "in all cases, the discount will be more generous than what [was available]."²¹

The draught relief

The draught relief reduces duty rates on draught alcoholic products (below 8.5% abv) to support trade in venues such as pubs. The relief decreases duty:

¹⁸ HMRC, [Excise Notice 226: Beer Duty](#), GOV.UK, updated 1 August 2023 (accessed on 14 August 2023)

¹⁹ Commons Library research briefing CBP-1373, [Alcohol taxation: government policy up to 2020](#)

²⁰ HMRC, [Excise Notice 162: cider production](#), GOV.UK, updated 1 August 2023 (accessed on 14 August 2023)

²¹ HM Treasury, [The new alcohol duty system: final consultation response](#), updated 23 March 2023

- On qualifying beer and cider by 9.2%
- On qualifying wines, spirits, and other fermented products by 23%²²

Provision for this is included in the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023.²³

The reduced rate is not applicable to all alcoholic products below 8.5% abv sold in venues. Conditions apply:

- The product has to be packed in an eligible draught container of capacity of at least 20 litres
- The container must be set up so it can connect to a pump system, or a gas pressurised drinks tap²⁴

For instance, this means that a product served from a bottle, can, or an optic (a device that dispenses measures of drinks from an inverted bottle), would not qualify for the relief.²⁵

1.7

Relevant legislation

Most of the measures implemented on 1 August are legislated in the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023. The Act is supported by two statutory instruments:

- The Alcoholic Products (Excise Duty) Regulations 2023. This instrument was made on 14 July 2023²⁶
- The Finance (No. 2) Act 2023, Part 2 (Alcohol Duty) (Appointed Day, Savings, Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions). This statutory instrument was made on 31 July 2023²⁷

Prior to 1 August, the primary legislation for alcohol duties was ALDA 1979. Although the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023 repeals ALDA 1979, some provisions of the latter will remain in force for an unspecified period of time.²⁸

²² HMRC, [Excise Notice 162: cider production](#). GOV.UK, updated 1 August 2023 (accessed on 14 August 2023)

²³ [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023](#), pt 2 ch2, and sch 8

²⁴ HMRC, [Check if you can pay less Alcohol Duty on draught products](#), GOV.UK, updated 29 June 2023 (accessed on 14 August 2023)

²⁵ HC Deb [19 April 2023](#), cc325-326

²⁶ [The Alcoholic Products \(Excise Duty\) Regulations 2023, SI 2023/806](#)

²⁷ [The Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023, Part 2 \(Alcohol Duty\) \(Appointed Day, Savings, Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions\) Regulations 2023, SI 2023/884](#)

²⁸ [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023](#), pt 2, s113. See [SI 2023/884](#) for the parts of ALDA 1979 that are not yet repealed

1.8

How is the system being implemented?

The new alcohol duty system is being implemented in two parts.

Part 1: Rates and reliefs

On 1 August, the following reforms to the alcohol duty system were implemented:

- The new rates, and the strength-based system shown above
- The Small Producer Relief
- The draught relief

Part 2: Administrative changes

The scale of change involved in the implementation of the new system means that not all reforms contained in the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023 were implemented as of 1 August. Specifically, provisions in chapter 5 of the Act will be implemented at a later date (under current plans, in the second half of 2024).²⁹ These are the administrative provisions that create a single ‘alcohol duty’, a single approval point and associated administrative system.

Until then, the previous arrangements remain (including parts of ALDA 1979 and attached secondary legislation).³⁰

²⁹ HMRC, [Explanatory Memorandum to The Alcoholic Products \(Excise Duty\) Regulations 2023](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 17 July 2023

³⁰ As above

2

Alcohol duty and Northern Ireland

The new alcohol duty system largely applies to the entirety of the UK, including Northern Ireland. This was made possible following the agreement between the UK and the EU on the Windsor Framework in February 2023. The Framework amends the Northern Ireland Protocol to permit the application of the Small Producer Relief and draught relief to Northern Ireland as well.³¹

Some EU directives still apply to Northern Ireland.

2.1

Relevant EU legislation

With respect to alcohol duty, the following EU legislation is relevant:

- Council Directive 92/83/EEC harmonised excise duties on alcohol across member states. The directive created a requirement to apply alcohol duty rates and established maximum production limits to be eligible for reliefs³²
- Council Directive 92/84/EEC sets minimum rates of duty applicable to different types of alcoholic products³³
- Council Directive EU 2020/1151 amends 92/83/EEC and adds further requirements to certain alcoholic products³⁴

When the UK was part of the EU, these directives were implemented in the UK. Under the terms of the original Northern Ireland Protocol, they continued to apply in Northern Ireland after the UK's exit from the EU.³⁵

³¹ HM Government, [Decision of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on laying down arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 24 March 2023

³² [Q.J.L. 316, 31 October 1992](#)

³³ [Q.J.L. 316, 31 October 1992](#)

³⁴ [Q.J.L. 256, 5 August 2020](#)

³⁵ HM Government, [Northern Ireland Protocol – Command Paper](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, January 2021, paras 42-44

2.2

The Northern Ireland Protocol

When the 2021 consultation on the new alcohol duty system was published, the Government said that it would seek a new settlement with the EU in order to extend the application of the new duty system to Northern Ireland:

The Government is aware that under Article 8 of the Northern Ireland Protocol of the Withdrawal Agreement, this Directive and other EU legislation continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Accordingly, the Government has announced [...] that it is seeking a more flexible settlement regarding excise laws applicable in Northern Ireland.³⁶

At the time, this issue was raised in PQs in the House of Lords. Answering, then Treasury and Cabinet Office Minister Lord Agnew said that the Government would continue to engage with the EU on the application of the alcohol duty review to Northern Ireland. He also referred peers to the Command Paper published by the Government in July on the next steps of the Northern Ireland Protocol.³⁷

2.3

The Windsor Framework

On 27 February 2023, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and European Commission President Ursula Von Der Leyen announced a new agreement to amend some provisions of the Northern Ireland Protocol. The agreement, which amends the Protocol, is referred to as the ‘Windsor Framework’.³⁸ In a statement to the Commons on that day, the Prime Minister said that the new agreement ensured that Northern Ireland benefited from being part of the UK in every respect. He added that the Government had “amended the legal text of the treaty so that [...] reforms to alcohol duty to cut the cost of a pint in pubs will now apply in Northern Ireland.”³⁹ The Library briefing on [the Windsor Framework](#) provides further detail on this.⁴⁰

The EU-UK Joint Committee (responsible for implementing the Withdrawal Agreement, including the Northern Ireland Protocol and Windsor Framework) published Decision No. 1/2023 on 24 March 2023.⁴¹ The Decision amends the Northern Ireland Protocol in several aspects, including excise duties. Article 3(2) of the Decision amends Annex 3 of the Protocol with respect to alcohol

³⁶ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system – Consultation](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, October 2021, p5

³⁷ PQ HL4617 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 14 December 2021 –the Command Paper referenced can be found on the Cabinet Office’s webpage on the [next steps of the Northern Ireland protocol](#).

³⁸ Prime Minister’s Office, 10 Downing Street press release, [Windsor Framework unveiled to fix problems of the Northern Ireland Protocol](#), 27 February 2023

³⁹ HC Deb [27 February 2023](#), c572

⁴⁰ Commons Library research briefing CBP-9736, [Northern Ireland Protocol: The Windsor Framework](#)

⁴¹ HM Government, [Decision of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on laying down arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 24 March 2023

duty. The Decision allows the UK Government to apply its alcohol duty rates UK-wide, provided that duty rates in Northern Ireland do not fall below the EU minima set by Council Directive 92/84/EEC. Additionally, the Decision allows the application of the small producer relief in Northern Ireland.⁴²

Eligibility for the Small Producer Relief in Northern Ireland

There are additional maximum production limits for producers to be eligible for the SPR in Northern Ireland. These reflect the limits set out by the EU in Directive 92/83/EEC, as amended by EU Directive 2020/1151:

- 20 million litres of finished product for beers (Article 4(1) of Directive 92/83/EEC)
- 100,000 litres of finished product for wines, including sparkling and fortified wines (Article 4 of Directive 2020/1151)
- 1.5 million litres of finished product for ciders, as well as perries and other fermented products (Article 7 of Directive 2020/1151)
- 1,000 litres of pure alcohol for spirits (Article 22(1) of Directive 92/83/EEC)⁴³

The Joint Committee Decision 1/2023 specifies that these requirements still apply in Northern Ireland (but not in Great Britain).⁴⁴

Small producers in Northern Ireland still have to satisfy the UK-wide requirements of not exceeding the 450,000 litre of pure alcohol threshold and other SPR eligibility criteria.⁴⁵

⁴² HM Government, [Decision of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on laying down arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 24 March 2023

⁴³ HMRC, [Check if you're eligible for Small Producer Relief on Alcohol Duty](#), GOV.UK, updated 17 July 2023

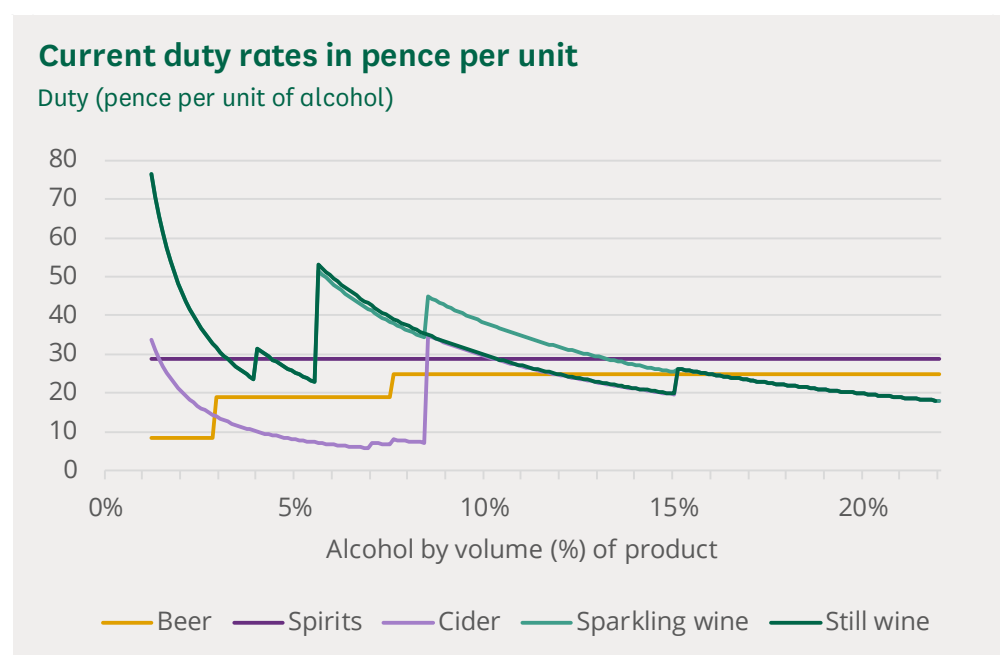
⁴⁴ HM Government, [Decision of the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee on laying down arrangements relating to the Windsor Framework](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, 24 March 2023

⁴⁵ HMRC, [Check if you're eligible for Small Producer Relief on Alcohol Duty](#), GOV.UK, 29 June 2023.

3 How was the new alcohol duty system shaped?

3.1 What did the former duty system look like?

The chart below shows the alcohol duty system up to 31 July 2023.



Source: HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: consultation](#) (PDF), October 2021, p30

3.2 Why did the system change?

It is noticeable that the previous system had a higher number of rates, and alcohol was not always taxed according to strength. There were also several differences in the structure of duties on different types of alcohol.

To give an example, spirits paid a flat rate across all strengths, whereas beers faced increasing rates of duty as the strength of the product increased.⁴⁶ Additionally, wine was taxed on the overall unit of product rather

⁴⁶ HM Treasury, [Alcohol Duty Review: call for evidence](#), GOV.UK, 1 October 2020

than its alcoholic strength, and it was banded according to strength. This created a ‘zig-zag’ effect.⁴⁷

Duty rates also varied significantly depending on whether the alcohol was produced from malt, grapes, or apples. For instance, “ciders fermented from other fruits or having other fruits/hops added later” faced ‘made-wine’ duty rates as they did not qualify for cider duty.⁴⁸ This meant that a can of apple and blackberry cider was charged roughly three times as much duty as the same unit of apple cider (at the same alcoholic strength).

Overall, “similar strength products at the same abv could [have faced] significantly different tax treatments.”⁴⁹ There was broad consensus that the system, which had not been subject of major reform in decades, needed to be restructured.⁵⁰

3.3 Timeline of the alcohol duty review

The Government believed that the alcohol duty system needed reform. The Conservative Party had already indicated in its 2019 electoral manifesto that it wanted to initiate a review of alcohol duties to “ensure that [the] tax system is supporting British drink producers.”⁵¹ In a statement to the Commons in October 2021, then Chancellor Rishi Sunak described the alcohol duty system as “outdated, complex and full of historical anomalies.”⁵² Some of these anomalies are explained in the section above.

The timeline of the alcohol duty review is summarised in the following table.

Timeline of the review of the alcohol duty system		
When	Who	What
Autumn 2019	Conservative Party	The Conservative Party manifesto for the 2019 general election includes a pledge to review alcohol duties
Budget 2020	Johnson Government	The 2020 Budget includes a commitment into looking at the alcohol duty system following Brexit
1 October 2020	Johnson Government	Call for evidence on the alcohol duty review is published
Autumn Budget 2021	Johnson Government	Then Chancellor Rishi Sunak announces the implementation of a new alcohol duty system as of 1 February 2023. The Government publishes a consultation on the proposals.

⁴⁷ HM Treasury, [Alcohol Duty Review: call for evidence](#), GOV.UK, 1 October 2020

⁴⁸ As above, p25

⁴⁹ As above, pp25-26

⁵⁰ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022, paras 2.3-2.5, p8

⁵¹ Conservative Party, [Conservative Party 2019 General Election Manifesto](#) (PDF), November 2019, p46

⁵² HC Deb [27 October 2021](#), c284

September 2022	Truss Government	The Government publishes its response to the consultation and delays the implementation of the new system to 1 August 2023.
December 2022	Sunak Government	The Government announces an extension to the freeze of alcohol duties to 1 August 2023.
February 2023	Sunak Government	The Prime Minister announces that, following the agreement on the Windsor Framework, the alcohol duty reforms will apply to Northern Ireland as well.
March 2023	Sunak Government	Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announces an increase to the value of draught relief for products below 8.5% abv.
1 August 2023	Sunak Government	The new alcohol duty system is implemented.

Sources: Conservative Party, [Conservative Party 2019 General Election Manifesto](#) (PDF), November 2019, p46; HM Treasury and The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, [Budget 2020: documents](#), GOV.UK, 12 March 2020 HM Treasury, [Alcohol Duty Review: call for evidence](#), GOV.UK, 1 October 2020; HM Treasury, [The new alcohol duty system: consultation](#), GOV.UK, last updated 14 October 2022; HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022; HC Deb [19 December 2022](#), cc56-57; HC Deb [27 February 2023](#), c572; HM Treasury, [Spring Budget 2023: Policy Costings](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, p26

The Government published a [call for evidence](#) on reforming alcohol duty on 1 October 2020, in order to simplify the current system.⁵³

In the 2021 Autumn Statement, then Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced proposals for the new alcohol duty system, and the Government published a [consultation on the alcohol duty review](#) on the same day.⁵⁴ Rishi Sunak said that the reforms would “help to end the era of cheap, high-strength drinks which can harm public health and enable problem drinking.”⁵⁵ The Government planned for the reforms to be implemented on 1 February 2023.

In September 2022, the response to the consultation was published. Following the feedback received, the Government partly amended its proposals:

- The implementation of the new system was delayed from February to August 2023⁵⁶
- A transitional arrangement was announced to support the wine industry. The Government planned this as a result of the high level of change the wine industry was going to face to comply with the new regime⁵⁷
- The draught relief, originally only proposed for beer and cider, was expanded to wines and spirits-based drinks below 8.5% abv following feedback from those industries. Additionally, the eligibility requirement

⁵³ HM Treasury, [Alcohol Duty Review: call for evidence](#), GOV.UK, 1 October 2020

⁵⁴ HM Treasury, [The new alcohol duty system: consultation](#), GOV.UK, last updated 14 October 2022

⁵⁵ HC Deb [27 October 2021](#), c284-285

⁵⁶ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022

⁵⁷ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022, p24

of a 40 litre keg size to qualify for draught relief was reduced to 20 litres⁵⁸

In the Spring Budget 2023, Chancellor Jeremy Hunt announced that the discount available via the draught relief would be increased.⁵⁹ The Treasury's policy costings document, published alongside the Budget, said that the cut to alcohol duty on draught products would increase from 5% to 9.2% on qualifying beer and cider, and from 20% to 23% on qualifying wine, spirits, and other fermented products.⁶⁰

3.4 How was the new system implemented?

The new alcohol duty system is legislated in the Finance (No. 2) Act 2023, introduced after the Budget in March 2023 as the Finance (No. 2) Bill 2022-23.

Chapter 2 of the Act legislates the draught relief, and Chapter 3 the Small Producer Relief.

Schedule 7 of the Act outlines the alcohol duty rates, Schedule 8 the draught relief rates, and Schedule 9 the Small Producer Relief ones.⁶¹

Debate on the provisions of the Bill

With relation to alcohol duty reforms, most of the debate in the Commons regarded the treatment of the wine and spirit industry. Parties mostly agreed that alcohol duties needed to be reformed.

The structure of the new system

MPs broadly agreed that the former system needed reform and supported the principles of the review. Speaking for the Opposition during the Finance Bill's Committee of the Whole House stage, Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) largely expressed support for the measures directly related to alcohol duty. She noted that there were sectors that felt more excluded by reliefs and noted that these changes may be enacted too late for many hospitality businesses which were suffering due to high energy bills.⁶²

The spirits and wine trade

During the Committee of the Whole House debate, many MPs voiced concerns about the differential treatment the spirits trade would face in comparison to the cider or beer trade, particularly in venues. Many Members voicing these

⁵⁸ HM Treasury and HMRC, [The new alcohol duty system: Consultation response](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, September 2022, pp26-27

⁵⁹ HC Deb [15 March 2023](#), c835

⁶⁰ HM Treasury, [Spring Budget 2023: Policy Costings](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, p26

⁶¹ [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023](#), schs 7-9

⁶² [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 2023](#), schs 7-9

concerns represented Scottish constituencies (where many distilleries are based, especially for Scotch Whisky).

Alistair Carmichael (Liberal Democrat) asked what the impact of the differential rates would be for the spirits trade in venues. Then Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury James Cartlidge responded saying that pre-mixed spirits sold on tap would benefit from the differential rates.⁶³

Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrat) said that port and sherry (types of fortified wines) traders would “feel the force of a full £20 million increase, despite fortified wine being only 3% of the total wine trade” and asked for fortified wine to be taxed at a midpoint of 17.5% abv. She added that this change would simplify the system for fortified wine traders.⁶⁴

Alistair Carmichael proposed amendment 7, which aimed to exempt spirits from the increase in alcohol duty rates on 1 August.⁶⁵ He said that many constituencies in Scotland had distilleries, and those were important to local communities. He added that a duty freeze should have been suggested, saying that Treasury data showed that freezes often had a positive effect on revenue obtained. The amendment was supported, among others, by the Scottish National Party, with Kirsty Blackman making the point that Scotch Whisky made up 4.9% of the Scottish economy. She added that taxing spirits much more than other alcoholic products would have a “massive negative impact on Scotland.”⁶⁶ The amendment was negated on division (54 ayes to 290 noes).⁶⁷

Speaking for the Opposition, Abena Opong-Asare also voiced concern that wine and spirit producers would be excluded by the design of the draught relief, and largely excluded by the design of the SPR. She then asked the Government whether further measures for those industries would be introduced.⁶⁸

Answering those arguments, the then Exchequer Secretary said that:

- Spirits producers had been supported in nine out of 10 of the previous budgets, where the duty rate on spirits had been either frozen or cut. Not introducing an increase in duty rates would come at a significant cost (between £1.7 and £2 billion)⁶⁹
- The system proposed by the Government already represented a significant simplification from the previous one⁷⁰

⁶³ HC Deb [19 April 2023](#), cc325-326

⁶⁴ As above, c327

⁶⁵ House of Commons, [Finance \(No. 2\) Bill \(Amendment Paper\)](#) (PDF), 19 April 2023, p8

⁶⁶ HC Deb [19 April 2023](#), c331

⁶⁷ As above, cc337-338

⁶⁸ As above, c333

⁶⁹ HC Deb [19 April 2023](#), cc334-336

⁷⁰ As above, c327

3.5

How will the changes affect alcohol duty income?

The Government estimated the new duty system would reduce alcohol duty receipts by £115 million in 2023/24, rising to £155 million in 2026/27.⁷¹

The OBR assigns an uncertainty rating to each policy costing, as explained in Box 3. The OBR gave this forecast a high uncertainty score due to uncertainty on the degree of the behavioural response of several stakeholders, as well as the quality of data provided (the OBR added that this is a common factor in forecasting costings of anti-avoidance measures).⁷²

3 The OBR's uncertainty ratings

The OBR assigns uncertainty ratings to its forecasts to highlight potential risks. The OBR assesses three sources of potential uncertainty to come up with its rating:

- “The data underpinning the costing;
- The complexity of the modelling required;
- And the possible behavioural responses to the policy change.”⁷³

The OBR then assigns each costing an uncertainty rating between ‘low’ and ‘very high’. The OBR’s [policy costings uncertainty database](#) provides a full breakdown explaining why ratings were given.⁷⁴

Additionally, in the March 2023 Economic and Fiscal Outlook, the OBR forecast that the following measures in total would cost the Government £155 million in 2022/23, decreasing to £85 million in 2027/28:

- Freezing alcohol duty rates to August 2023
- Increasing duty rates by RPI inflation on 1 August 2023
- Increasing the value of the draught relief to 9.2% for beer and cider, and to 23% for wine, spirits, and other fermented products

⁷¹ HM Treasury, [Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, October 2021, p134

⁷² OBR, [Economic and Fiscal Outlook: October 2021](#) (PDF), October 2021, para A.33, p215. The OBR gives more detail on this process in paragraph B.4 of its [March 2023 Economic and Fiscal Outlook](#) on p161

⁷³ As above, para B.4, p161

⁷⁴ OBR, [Policy costings](#), updated 15 March 2023 (accessed on 29 March 2023)

The OBR assigned a ‘medium-low’ uncertainty rating to this forecast.⁷⁵

3.6 Professional commentary on the new duty system

Institute for Fiscal Studies

The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) said that the proposed reforms to alcohol duty were a welcome step. However, Associate Director Kate Smith added that an anomaly remained whereby cider was still being taxed more lightly under the new proposals.⁷⁶

Wine and spirits industry professionals

There were a variety of responses to the Government’s proposals from trade bodies. The Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA) argued that the Government’s proposals did not “right the wrongs of the current system” or “meet the Government’s stated aims.” The WSTA added that spirits and wine would still be taxed more harshly than other alcoholic products, which would not rebalance the market distortions created by the previous system. Furthermore, they said that changing the way of taxing wine and spirits would be difficult for producers:

Introducing taxation by degree (i.e., based on the ABV percentage of the product) will be complicated, costly, and impractical. Unlike other categories of alcoholic drink, there is a far greater permitted tolerance for the alcoholic content for wine, meaning that without testing every wine at the point excise duty becomes payable it is not possible to accurately determine alcoholic strength.⁷⁷

The Scotch Whisky Association argued the Government should “go further if it is to meet its promise to ensure the tax system is supporting Scotch Whisky.” They added that it seemed as though Scotch Whisky would continue to be at a disadvantage against beer and cider.⁷⁸

Beer industry professionals

On the other hand, the British Beer and Pub Association welcomed the lower duty rate on beer, as well as the reform of the Small Brewers Relief. This was echoed by the Society of Independent Brewers. In terms of the new Small Producer Relief, the Society said that the rate proposed was more

⁷⁵ OBR, [Economic and fiscal outlook – March 2023](#), March 2023, p159

⁷⁶ Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), [Autumn Budget and Spending Review 2021 – Initial reaction from IFS researchers – In full](#), 28 October 2021

⁷⁷ Wine and Spirit Trade Association, [Impact of the Government’s proposed changes to alcohol duty](#), 21 January 2022

⁷⁸ SWA press notice, [Freeze on alcohol duty welcome relief for Scotch Whisky industry](#), 27 October 2021

manageable than what had been proposed in the consultation; and that the changes would also remove ‘cliff-edges’ that had hindered brewers previously.⁷⁹

Institute for Alcohol Studies

The Institute for Alcohol Studies welcomed the principles of the proposed system. However, it proposed further changes related to improving public health and reducing alcohol harm:

- Increasing overall duty rates
- Ending “cider exceptionalism” (noted above)
- Reducing the lower limit of the upper band
- Automatically increasing alcohol duties in line with inflation each year.

They added that “even a smaller increase [in alcohol duties] would have a positive impact on alcohol harm”.⁸⁰ They cited research from the University of Sheffield which had concluded that a 2% increase above inflation in alcohol duty from 2020-2032 would save over 5,000 lives and prevent around 170,000 hospital admissions in England and Scotland.⁸¹ Alcohol Change UK also pointed out that the proposed rates of duty were “too low overall to make a difference to public health.”⁸²

3.7

Other parliamentary proceedings

In recent years, MPs have often tabled Parliamentary Questions (PQs) on alcohol duty, particularly in 2021 and 2022. In most cases, these have related to either the overall rates of alcohol duty or have asked for changes to alcohol duties for specific types of products (for instance, ciders).

Alcohol duty rates

Many PQs asked for assessments of or changes to the overall rates of alcohol duty.⁸³ Others have asked for changes to alcohol duties for specific types of

⁷⁹ SIBA press notice, [SIBA responds to Treasury publication of Small Breweries’ Relief changes](#), 30 November 2021

⁸⁰ Institute for Alcohol Studies, [The new alcohol duty system: consultation response](#) (PDF), February 2022

⁸¹ Carolin Kiligan and others (2021) [Modelling the impact of increased alcohol taxation on alcohol-attributable cancers in the WHO European Region](#), *The Lancet Regional Health*, Vol 11 No 100225, 14 September 2021

⁸² Alcohol Change UK, [Response to the new alcohol duty system consultation](#), January 2022 pp2-3

⁸³ For instance, PQ 159037 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 3 March 2021, PQ 10247 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 14 June 2021, PQ 57356 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Taxation](#)], 20 October 2021, PQ

products (for instance, ciders or Scotch Whisky).⁸⁴ Answering PQs, the Government has mostly stated that the rates of alcohol duty would be kept under review.⁸⁵

Alcohol duty review

Since the new alcohol duty system was announced in 2021, there have been a few PQs asked on this subject as well. These questions have often asked about the impact of the review on specific categories of product. For instance, in February 2022, Martin Docherty-Hughes (Scottish National Party) asked what steps the Government was taking to support the Scotch Whisky industry through the alcohol duty review. Answering, then Treasury minister Helen Whately said that the difference between Scotch, wines and high-strength ciders would be narrowed since rates would be equalised for all alcoholic products above 8.5% abv.⁸⁶

Additionally, on 7 July 2022, Alun Cairns (Conservative) opened a debate selected by the Backbench Business Committee on alcohol taxation.⁸⁷ During the debate, members commented on the proposals of the alcohol duty review and offered ideas to improve the new duty system. For instance, Alun Cairns suggested that the new low-rate band for products between 2.8% to 3.4% abv could be increased to include 3.5% abv.⁸⁸ It also gave the opportunity for Members to raise issues on behalf of producers in their constituencies. For instance, John Penrose (Conservative) mentioned that Thatchers Cider, based in his constituency of Weston-Super-Mare, were concerned about the increase in complexity of the new duty system on the cider industry.⁸⁹ Other members, such as Flick Drummond (Conservative) and Daisy Cooper (Liberal Democrats) also raised concerns about the impact of the new system on producers, retailers, and importers.⁹⁰ Speaking for the Opposition, Abena Oppong-Asare (Labour) said that the Opposition welcomed the principles of the alcohol duty review, but that careful consideration needed to be given to individual changes.⁹¹

119887 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 15 February 2022, PQ 9177 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Business](#)], 6 June 2022, PQ 69550 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 31 October 2022

⁸⁴ For instance, PQ 3890 [on [Whisky: Excise Duties](#)], 24 May 2021, PQ 10246 [on [Beer: Excise Duties](#)], 24 June 2021, PQ 51896 [on [Wines: Excise Duties](#)], 23 September 2021, PQ 32978 [on [Beer and Cider: Excise Duties](#)], 14 July 2022, PQ 76036 [on [Spirits: Excise Duties](#)], 8 November 2022

⁸⁵ For example, PQ 76036 [on [Spirits: Excise Duties](#)], 1 November 2022

⁸⁶ PQ 122692 [on [Alcoholic Drinks: Excise Duties](#)], 21 February 2022

⁸⁷ HC Deb [7 July 2022](#), cc1074-1093

⁸⁸ As above, c1074

⁸⁹ As above, c1075

⁹⁰ As above, cc1078-1079

⁹¹ HC Deb [7 July 2022](#), cc1087-1088

4 Recent developments

4.1 Autumn Statement 2023

Chancellor Jeremy Hunt delivered the Autumn Statement on 22 November 2023.⁹² During the statement, he told the Commons that the Government would freeze the rates of alcohol duties until 1 August 2024.⁹³

The Government's costing of this measure, certified by the OBR, states that this measure will cost £315 million by 2024-25.⁹⁴

Normally, alcohol duties would be increased in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation on 1 February.⁹⁵ This was also the date when the new alcohol duty system was due to be implemented, until its implementation was delayed by 6 months to 1 August 2023. On that day, duty rates were also increased, six months after the usual timetable.

Reactions

The contents of the Autumn Statement, and the UK's fiscal and economic outlook, were debated in the Commons on 22, 23, and 27 November. Although most of the debate focussed on other measures announced by the Chancellor, several MPs reacted positively to the duty freeze.⁹⁶

Although no negative views were expressed about the proposal, Scottish National Party (SNP) MP Drew Hendry said that although it was positive news that alcohol duty would be frozen, the Chancellor had "frozen [alcohol duty] at the rate he already increased it to, so the Scotch whisky industry is still paying 75% tax under this Tory UK Government."⁹⁷

During the debate on 27 November, Richard Thomson (SNP) added that the freeze would not "undo the damage of the Spring Budget, where a 10.1% levy was whacked on the spirit, but at least it makes things no worse."⁹⁸

⁹² HC Deb [22 November 2023](#), cc325-337

⁹³ As above, c327

⁹⁴ HM Treasury, [Autumn Statement 2023: Policy costings](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, November 2023, p34

⁹⁵ HC Deb [19 December 2022](#), c56

⁹⁶ For instance, Peter Bottomley (HC Deb 22 November 2022, c346), Jim Shannon (HC Deb 23 November 2023, c473), Simon Baynes (HC Deb 27 November 2023, c612), and Wendy Morton (c628)

⁹⁷ HC Deb [22 November 2023](#), c345

⁹⁸ HC Deb [27 November 2023](#), c588

The SNP MP argued that the level of duty not only affects the level of domestic consumption, but also influences reactions in key foreign markets. He said:

If they see the UK Government setting a rate of duty where there is a gigantic differential between indigenous spirits such as Scotch Whisky and other drinks in the market, then they have absolutely no qualms about following suit. That depresses potential sales in key emerging markets and reduces the opportunities we have to drive growth and innovation in that key sector at home.⁹⁹

The Treasury Select Committee held three oral sessions on the Autumn Statement, which included receiving evidence from the Chancellor, HM Treasury, and the OBR. Alcohol duty was not mentioned in these sessions.¹⁰⁰

Following the statement, the Independent reported that the industry had welcomed the alcohol duty freeze as a “huge relief”.¹⁰¹ In the article, the chief executive of the Wine and Spirit Trade Association (WSTA), Miles Beale, asked the Government to maintain the current alcohol duty levels until the end of the current Parliament at least.

He, alongside Ed Baker (managing director of Kingsland Drinks) also pointed out that the increase in rates implemented on 1 August 2023 was leading to negative consequences for the sector, and added that “an additional rise would have damaged our industry even further.”¹⁰²

The managing director of Brighton Gin, Kathy Caton, also added that sales had been damaged by the duty increase on 1 August, and that she was glad that a freeze would be implemented.¹⁰³

In the Financial Times, chief executive of the trade body UKHospitality Kate Nicholls welcomed the freeze, saying it was “one less additional cost venues have to worry about.” However, the paper reported that smaller independent venues added that “the depressing effect on profits of increased minimum wages might outweigh the combined effect of the alcohol duty freeze and the extension of 75 per cent business rates relief for single-site operators.”¹⁰⁴

⁹⁹ HC Deb [27 November 2023](#), c588

¹⁰⁰ Treasury Committee, [Autumn Statement 2023: Inquiry](#), accessed on 30 November 2023

¹⁰¹ “[Industry welcomes alcohol duty freeze as ‘a huge relief’](#)”, Independent, 22 November 2023

¹⁰² As above

¹⁰³ As above

¹⁰⁴ “[Autumn Statement 2023: Alcohol duty frozen to ‘defend the great British pint’](#)”, Financial Times, 22 November 2023

5 Alcohol duty rates up to 1 August 2024

The alcohol duty rates until 1 August 2024 are shown in the table below.

Alcohol duty rates, 1 August 2023 to 1 August 2024				
Duty rate per litre of pure alcohol				
Alcoholic strength (abv)	Beer	Still cider	Sparkling cider	Wine, made-wine, and spirits
1.3% - 3.4%	£9.27	£9.27	£9.27	£9.27
3.5% - 5.5%	£21.01	£9.67	£9.67	£24.77
5.6% - 8.4%	£21.01	£9.67	£24.77	£24.77
8.5% - 22%	£28.50	£28.50	£28.50	£28.50
Over 22%	£31.64	£31.64	£31.64	£31.64

Source: HMRC, [Alcohol Duty: rate changes](#), GOV.UK, 7 July 2023.

Notes: The table reflects the duty rates being frozen until 1 August 2024

5.1 How are duty rates increased?

In absence of policy initiatives that state otherwise, alcohol duty rates would increase year-on-year in line with Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation. The increase would typically take place on 1 February.¹⁰⁵ More detail on this process is provided in Box 1 below.

2 Increasing thresholds in line with inflation

The process of increasing rates, thresholds and allowances is known as ‘uprating’. It is a common process in the tax and benefits system. For instance, a number of thresholds and allowances in the tax system (such as those for income tax and National Insurance contributions) are assumed to be uprated in line with Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation year-on-year as well. The Library briefing on [fiscal drag](#) discusses this in more detail.¹⁰⁶

However, the OBR notes that a number of policy decisions since its first forecast in 2010 have [differed from this approach](#).¹⁰⁷ For instance, the rate of

¹⁰⁵ HM Treasury, [Sprint Budget 2023 Policy Costings](#) (PDF), GOV.UK, Annex A, p63

¹⁰⁶ Commons Library briefing, [Fiscal drag: An explainer](#), 4 April 2023

¹⁰⁷ OBR, [Alcohol duties](#), November 2022

beer duty was cut by 1 penny per pint at Budgets in 2013, 2014, and 2015. The rate of spirits duty was frozen at every budget between 2014 and 2023 (except in the Budget 2015, where the duty was cut by 2%).¹⁰⁸

¹⁰⁸ OBR, [Alcohol duties](#), November 2022

6 Further reading

- [Chapter 2 of the response to the October 2021 consultation](#) gives further detail of the various industry views expressed by respondents.¹⁰⁹
- On the day of the March 2023 Budget, HMRC published a policy paper with [further detail on the changes to alcohol duty](#) from 1 August.¹¹⁰
- In the [Spring Budget 2023 overview of tax legislation and rates \(OOTLAR\)](#), HMRC said that it would also seek to simplify administrative processes for domestic alcoholic product makers. HMRC added this would take place from late 2024.¹¹¹
- Alongside the Spring Budget 2023, HM Treasury published a [final consultation response document](#) on the alcohol duty review.¹¹²
- The Library briefing on [alcohol taxation: government policy up to 2020](#) has more detailed information on the recent history of alcohol taxation in the UK.¹¹³

¹⁰⁹ OBR, [Economic and Fiscal Outlook – March 2023](#), table 3.2, pp8-21

¹¹⁰ HMRC, [Alcohol Duty: rate changes](#), GOV.UK, 15 March 2023

¹¹¹ HMRC, [Spring Budget 2023 – Overview of tax legislation and rates \(OOTLAR\)](#), GOV.UK, 15 March 2023

¹¹² HM Treasury, [The new alcohol duty system: final consultation response](#), GOV.UK, 23 March 2023

¹¹³ Commons Library research briefing SN-1373, [Alcohol taxation: government policy up to 2020](#)

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