

Countries Consuming the Most Chocolate in the World



Did you know that

if you live in one of the 11 countries that consume the most chocolate in the world, you have a higher chance of winning a Nobel Prize?

There's even a study published in New England Journal of Medicine that proved a strong correlation between the amount consumed per capita and the number of Nobel Prize winners. Correlation doesn't imply causation of course, but there's too much positive data to just dismiss this connection as coincidence. If causation does exist, there are two possibilities. Either consuming chocolate leads to such a drastic improvement in cognitive abilities that it can boost a nation's overall scientific output, or higher levels of intelligence lead to an increased craving. But even the author of the study, Franz Messerli, MD, from Columbia University, says that further research is needed to determine the true causes of this correlation.

Chocolate was introduced in Europe from Americas by Spaniards in the 17th century. Ironically, there isn't a single country from either Central or South America. In fact, 4 of top 5 cocoa producers (Ivory Coast, Indonesia, Ghana, Nigeria and Cameron) are from Africa, where it was brought in 19th century and quickly spread to form a backbone of these countries' exports.

Similar to the list of 11 countries that consume the most milk, there aren't any Asian countries on this list as well. What's more, all 11 countries that consume the most chocolate in the world are from Europe, while Australia, Canada and the United States get an honorable mention. Being considered a luxury item and taxed as such, it makes sense that it is most consumed in countries with

the high standard of living. Still, with the consumption on the rise, it is only matter of time before the rest of the world catches up with Europe and gain a spot on the list of 11 countries that consume the most in the world.

11. Russia

Annual consumption: 5.3 kilograms

The countriesâ€™ ultimate comfort food. Perhaps that is why Russians love it so much. It tastes much better than vodka.

10. Finland

Annual consumption: 5.3 kilograms

With just 54 sunny days in a year, Finns need a lot of it to be able to survive under gloomy skies.

9. Slovakia

Annual consumption: 5.4 kilograms

Improved standard of living has led to a sharp increase in consumption for Slovakia. This just goes to show that everyone loves it, unfortunately, not everyone can afford it as much as they would like to.

8. Sweden

Annual consumption: 5.4 kilograms

A part of Swedenâ€™s consumption must be credited to Norwegians, who, in a desperate move to avoid paying their countryâ€™s high taxes on chocolate, smuggle it across the border. Still, Sweden would probably make it on the list even without the boost from their neighbors.

7. Estonia

Annual consumption: 6 kilograms

Estonians love it so much that in 1970s, during the cocoa crisis, they invented fake chocolate, called Kama bars. Once the crisis was over and prices returned to the regular level, it was quickly forgotten. But in 2001, the production started again and many older Estonians are buying from purely sentimental reasons.

6. Norway

Annual consumption: 6.6 kilograms

Norway would be even higher on the list if it werenâ€™t for high taxes on chocolate which forces some of them to buy it in Sweden. We feel it is a cruel thing to force people to seek comfort of chocolate in a foreign land, but Norwegian government loves their taxes.

5. UK

Annual consumption: 7.5 kilograms

With companies like Cadbury, Rowntree and Fry being some of the biggest chocolate manufacturers in the world in 19th century, the United Kingdom has a long tradition of enjoying chocolate. That is why they are number 5 on the list of 11 countries that consume the most chocolate in the world.

4. Ireland

Annual consumption: 7.5 kilograms

It is said that a trip to Ireland canâ€™t be considered complete with a visit to one of Butlers Chocolate Caf s, owned by Butlers Chocolate company, one of the best chocolate manufacturers on the green island.

3. Austria

Annual consumption: 7.8 kilograms

Inventors of Mozartkugel (Mozart ball) have a long standing love relationship with chocolate.

2. Germany

Annual consumption: 7.9 kilograms

With domestic brands like Ritter Sport and Kinder Schokolade, it is no wonder Germans eat as much chocolate as they do.

1. Switzerland

Annual consumption: 9 kilograms

Annual per capita consumption of 9 kg has placed Switzerland in the first place of 11 countries that consume the most chocolate in the world. About half of all chocolate manufactured in Switzerland is consumed domestically, with other half going to the rest of the world. Seems a bit unfair.

[Aleksandar Jevtic](#)

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Date Created

June 10, 2015

Author

sephra

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