



Scotland court weighs pricing alcohol by volume to combat alcoholism

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Members of the public examine whisky samples inside the Diageo Claive Vidiz Collection, the world's largest collection of Scottish Whisky on display at The Scotch Whisky Experience in Edinburgh, Scotland. Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images

A court decision on a new way to price alcohol in Scotland could have ramifications beyond the country.

On Tuesday, a Scottish court will hear whether the country can price alcohol by the unit, specifically 50 pence (about 72 cents) for 10 milliliters of pure alcohol, reports the [Wall Street Journal](#).

Under the scheme, a 20-pack of beer would set drinkers back some US \$30. The legislation was passed in 2012, but has been tied up in court.

Proponents of the measure say that floor pricing would reduce alcoholism in Scotland. Opponents argue, however, that the law penalizes those who drink responsibly and in moderation.

Alcohol makers outside of Scotland are also eyeing Tuesday's decision, which is expected in August, bracing for a ripple effect in other countries if the law is left to stand in Scotland.

Guests:

[David Jernigan](#), an associate professor of public health at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. His work focuses on public health practice with a particular interest in alcohol policy.

[Dan Mitchell](#), an economist and a senior fellow at the CATO Institute. He specializes in tax policy.