The Tramp Index.

A Quantitative Analysis of the Drinks Market from the Perspective of a Tramp

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Abstract.

There are those in the fortunate position of living with no concern as to the cost of standard commodities and items. This researcher is, however, part of that population who must pay regard to the vagaries of the market economy, and take the position of a well-informed consumer in an open market.

This paper defines a standard measure of drink value (the "Tramp Index"), provides a

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This researcher has spent some time in initial investigation, along with a good-sized team of motivated and committed researchers.

Initial investigations revealed that what some term the "taste" of a drink is of little importance in the long term. We are really concerned with the efficacy of the drink in its role as an inebriatative and social lubricant.

The Tramp Index (tI) is the relation between cost (ct - £), drink size (sz - ml) and relative strength (sg - %vol) and is defined thus;

Fieldwork

Teams of experts, including the author have spent some time gathering the information necessary for this report. This has meant time in some very insalubrious joints, and unacceptable drinks, such as Midori, and other gay liqueurs, however much research has been interesting, especially the strip joints.

mathematical basis for this measure and finally combines this with other metrics to provide one way of comparing the overall benefit of each drink in turn. It is not always easy to judge the mathematics of the situation at the bar, so we provide a ready reckoner and series of graphs to assist in this high pressure environment.

Finally, we turn our attention to an examination of the tramp as a perfect consumer in an idealised market.

$$tI = sz * \frac{\left(sg / 100\right)}{ct}$$

To get units, we perform dimensionless analysis to get;

$$tI = l^3 * \frac{l^3}{£}$$

This resolves to

$$= \frac{l^3 * l^3}{l^3 * £} = \frac{l^3}{£}$$

Giving us units of ml/£ (millilitres per pound).

Below is a table of results, this includes off sales, rough and normal pubs, bars, festivals and Jason's house, where there is always a bottle of cheap spirits.

A second measure has also been introduced "Pints to Get Pissed", this measure (based on the metric standard of eight pints of strong lager) will be explained later in the text.

Drink	Vol (ml)	Strength (%)	Cost (£)	Tramp Index ml/£	Pints to get pissed
Cristal	750	13.0	£110.00	0.9	3.1
Twatty Wine	750	13.0	£32.00	3.0	3.1
Nice Pub G 'n T	50	47.0	£7.00	3.4	0.9
Champagne	750	13.5	£19.99	5.1	3.0
Pub Bottle Lager	330	4.0	£2.50	5.3	10.0
Festival Lager	500	3.7	£3.00	6.2	10.8
Cheap Pub Double	50	40.0	£1.89	10.6	1.0
Shandy	330	2.0	£0.60	11.0	20.0
Premium Pub Lager	568	5.0	£2.50	11.4	8.0
Cheap Pub Lager	568	4.0	£1.80	12.6	10.0
Nice Wine	750	13.5	£7.99	12.7	3.0

Offy Bottle Lager	330	5.0	£1.05	**15.7**	**8.0**
Baileys	1000	20.0	£12.00	**16.7**	**2.0**
Absinth	750	70.0	£30.00	**17.5**	**0.6**
Nice Whisky	750	40.0	£16.99	**17.7**	**1.0**
Guiness can	440	4.2	£1.00	**18.5**	**9.5**
Holts Bitter (Salford)	568	3.9	£1.12	**19.8**	**10.2**
Tequila	750	40.0	£14.00	**21.4**	**1.0**
Mid Price Spirit	750	40.0	£13.50	**22.2**	**1.0**
Carlsberg Export (single can)	500	5.0	£1.12	**22.3**	**8.0**
Skol Can	440	3.7	£0.70	**23.3**	**10.8**
Cheap Wine	750	12.0	£3.70	**24.3**	**3.3**
Carlsberg Export (multi)	5280	5.0	£9.99	**26.4**	**8.0**
Black Label Smirnoff	750	40.0	£11.00	**27.3**	**1.0**
Cheap Rum	700	37.5	£8.99	**29.2**	**1.1**
Cheap Whisky	700	37.5	£8.99	**29.2**	**1.1**
French Stubby	250	5.0	£0.42	**29.8**	**8.0**
Special Brew	500	9.0	£1.40	**32.1**	**4.4**
Buckfast	750	13.5	£3.00	**33.8**	**3.0**
Bottle Sherry	750	15.0	£3.25	**34.6**	**2.7**
Supermarket Lager	440	2.5	£0.30	**36.7**	**16.0**
Duty Free/European Spirit	750	40.0	£7.50	**40.0**	**1.0**
Cheapo Bottle Cider	3000	5.0	£1.99	**75.4**	**8.0**

Fig 1 – Table of results.

Some surprises stand out, that very weak supermarket lager that Chris Rivers always drinks does very well, however, the authors consider this is not rational behaviour, and the "pints to get pissed" metric was introduced for comparison. This shows that one would have to drink 16 pints to reach any level of inebriation and this backs up the authors opinion that this behaviour is silly and bladder damaging. The results are best summarised on the graph on the next page (Fig 2).

Analysis.

It is the contention of the author that there is a minimum acceptable value for the tramp index, and this varies with location. For example, in the home one would expect to see a tramp index of at least 15, whereas in a night-club one would be forced to go down to a value of under ten, which is clearly unfortunate.

Shandy does surprisingly well, undoubtedly due to the low tax burden. Again, one finds that an unacceptable amount must be drunk to reach the correct level.

Cheap spirits are clearly good value, especially from the off licence, where a really dodgy cheap bottle approaches a tI of 30. Little stubby French bottles prove good value, although this author cannot be arsed with going to the fridge for a new one every seven seconds.

Tequila and absinth do less well than expected, some academics have suggested that a Galactic Constant should added to the equation to take account of their special, hallucinogenic qualities although this author prefers to leave that as a surprise to the drinker.

Special brew is also a high achiever, although it must be mentioned that the cost shown is not truly representative – it does not include the cost of a piece of string, or a dog.

Buckfast deserves a special mention as one of the highest value drinks, its generous measure of caffeine is welcome, but it does dreadful things to carpet in the inevitable vomiting fits.

Sherry proves something of a winner, although there is no planet where anybody could drink over 2½ pints of the stuff. Supermarket lager has already had a mention, a later study will attempt distillation, to reduce this volume.

Duty free spirits (or low cost European spirits) have a good showing, although their utility is reduced somewhat by the distance to an appropriate off licence, they will not be considered further.

Coming out a winner, as expected, is the dodgy cheap cider. This proves, once and for all that teenagers are smarter than adults, who won't touch the stuff.
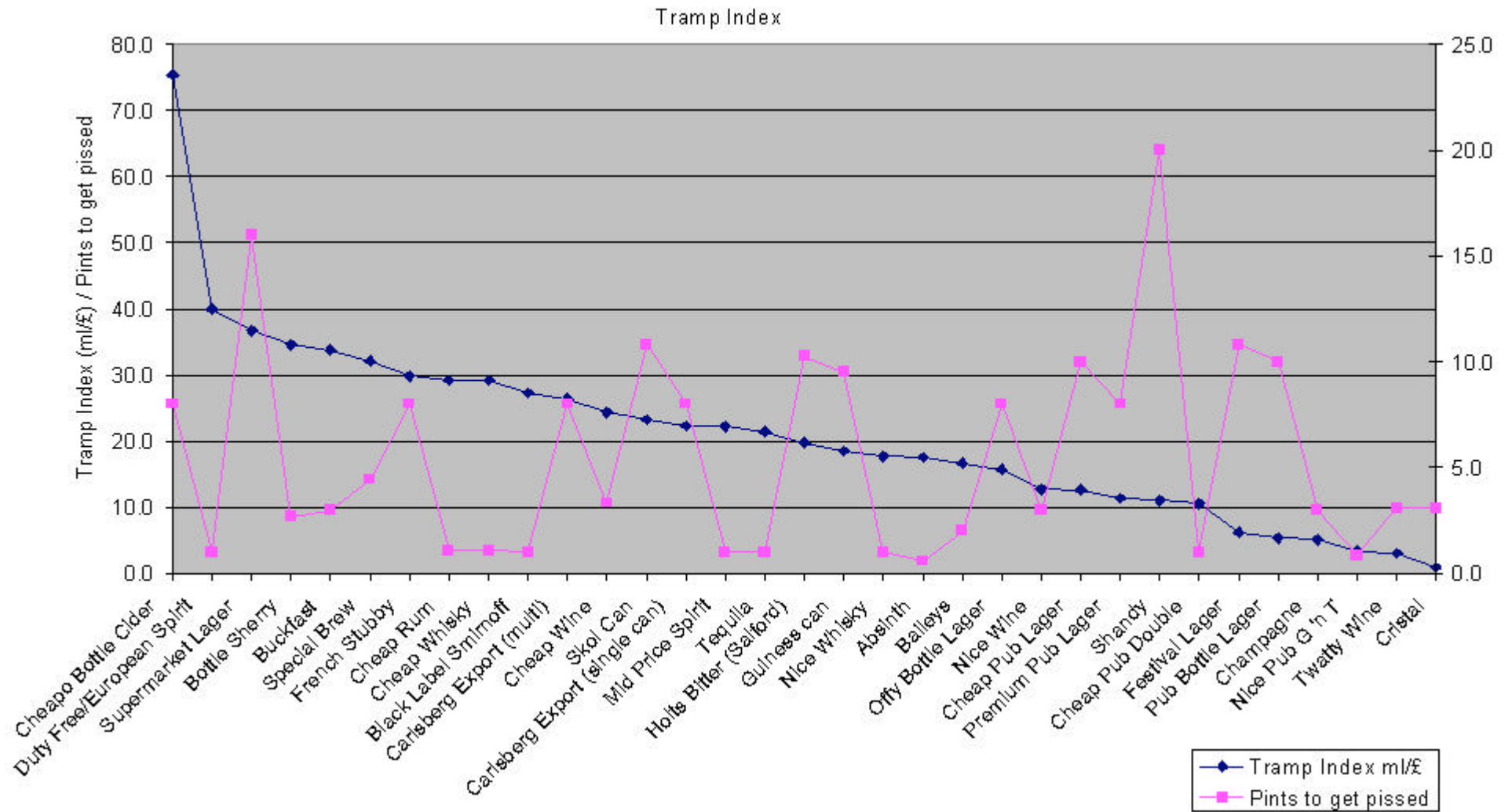
Fig 2 – Tramp index comparative graph.

Conclusions

From observations of tramps, and other alcoholics it can be seen that they provide a pure model of capitalism, in that they make decisions commensurate with formal studies of the market. They are well informed, have a freedom to make choices about the alcohol they buy and can often be found in shop doorways smelling of wee.

For the rest of us information about cirrhosis, the stomach wall and credit cards enables us to move further down the tramp index, trading off some price for taste. Those who drink from the top of the index (expensive wines and champagnes) deserve to be mocked and robbed, because they drive range rovers and are clearly showing off.