

# Smoke-free areas

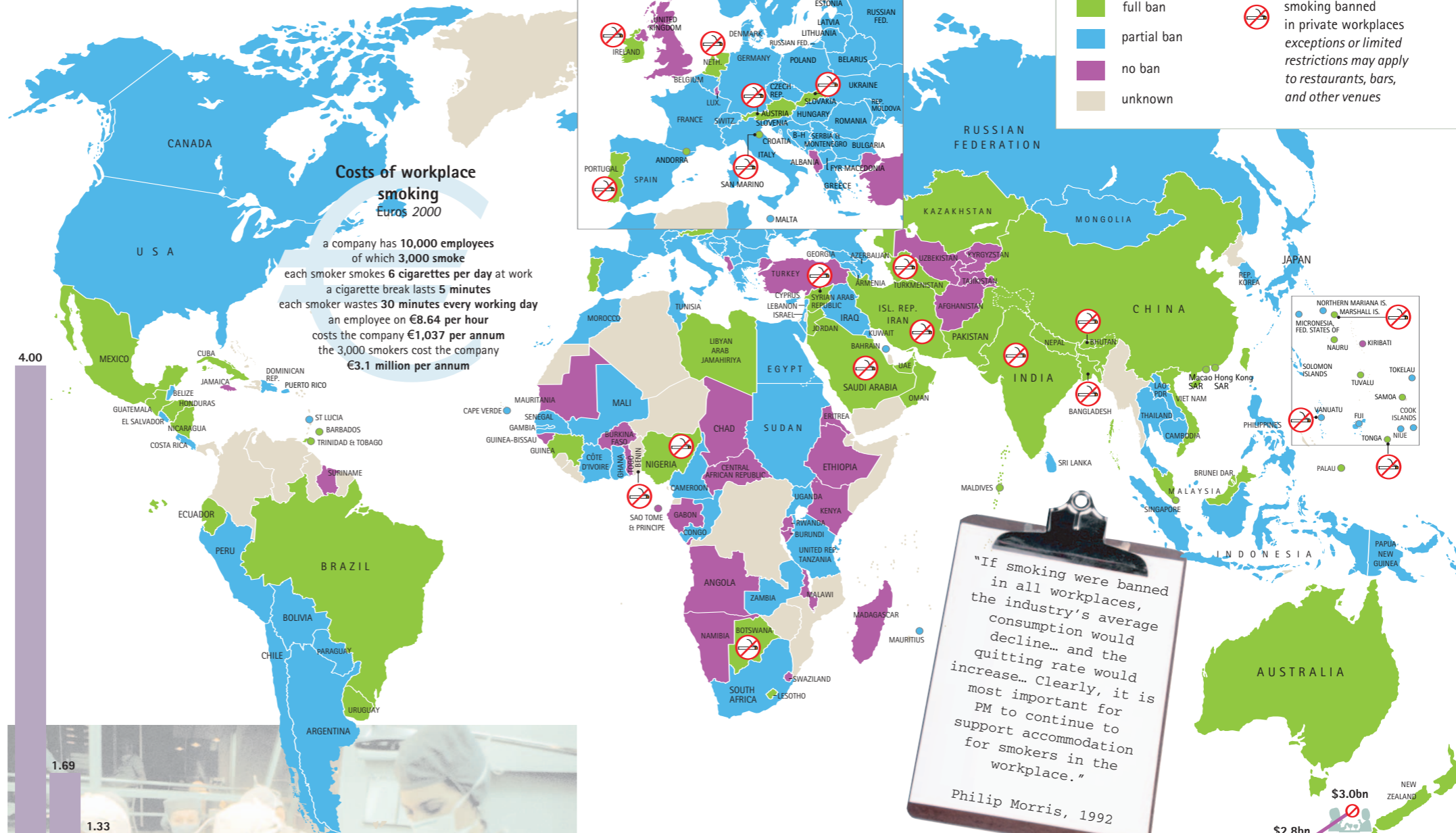
"Fears in the hospitality industry that smoking bans may damage business interests are largely unfounded." World Bank, 2002

There is no safe level of exposure to environmental tobacco smoke.

Smoking bans benefit non-smokers and smokers alike. Non-smokers are exposed to significantly less second-hand smoke, while smokers tend to smoke less, have greater cessation success, and increased confidence in their ability to quit. These effects are more significant under a full ban than under a partial one. When indoor smoking areas are allowed, ventilation is inadequate to eliminate second-hand smoke and the reduction in smoking among smokers is less significant.

Smoking bans are economically beneficial to employers. Smoking bans are relatively inexpensive to implement, and lead to a reduction in accidental fires, lower insurance premiums, and reduced employee absenteeism.

Support is growing for smoking bans in public places. In many countries with little or no legislation on smoke-free areas, the public is overwhelmingly in favour of bans being put into place. In many areas where smoking bans are mandated by law, employees, customers, and business owners report satisfaction with the results.



### Costs of workplace smoking

Euros 2000  
a company has 10,000 employees of which 3,000 smoke  
each smoker smokes 6 cigarettes per day at work  
a cigarette break lasts 5 minutes  
each smoker wastes 30 minutes every working day  
an employee on €8.64 per hour costs the company €1,037 per annum  
the 3,000 smokers cost the company €3.1 million per annum

