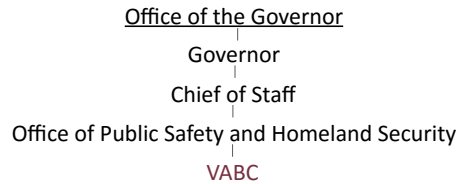


## AGENCY

The **Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (VABC)** is an executive branch agency under the Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security. It is responsible for wholesale and retail operations of spirits, enforcement of state liquor laws, and licensing.



## WET and DRY COUNTIES

State law allows local jurisdictions to hold public referendums and/or approve local laws or regulations on alcohol sales.

All cities are wet.

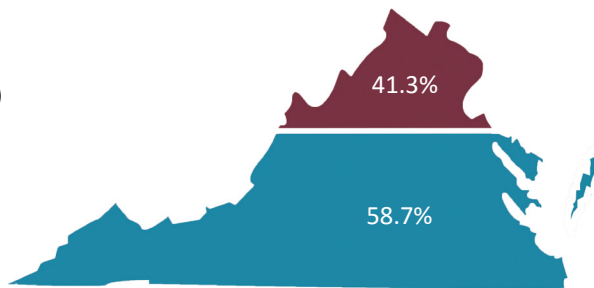
Nine of the 95 counties are dry. Those counties are: Bland, Buchanan, Charlotte, Craig, Grayson, Highland, Lee, Patrick, and Russell.

Population 21 and over  
(Estimate) (2015) **6,104,688**

## NET REVENUE

VA distributes its net revenue into two avenues:

- General Fund (58.7%)
- Appropriation Act Transfers (41.3%)



Figures are from 2016

## HISTORY

The Virginia ABC has existed since 1934, and the first four ABC stores opened in Richmond on May 15 of that year. In 1936, the General Assembly granted full police powers to the Department's designated agents to enforce the laws against bootlegging and moonshining. Local and federal officials had originally been expected to perform the enforcement functions, but more help was needed.


## ENFORCEMENT

The VABC Bureau of Law Enforcement employs approximately 85 ABC special agents, who are sworn and certified police officers with full police powers. VABC special agents oversee more than 18,900 ABC establishments licensed to sell alcohol.

VABC special agents also conduct investigations involving underage sales, fake IDs and other alcohol-related crimes, narcotics trafficking, tobacco smuggling, money laundering, tax fraud, counterfeiting and more.

There are more than 18,900 retail licenses throughout the commonwealth. Virginia ABC licenses allow for sales and/or service of beer and wine and/or mixed beverages.

**\$164,888,413**  
FY2016 Net Revenue



From 2003 through 2016, Virginia ABC has contributed \$3.5 billion to the state in the form of profits and taxes.

## DISTRIBUTION

Spirits are only sold in state operated ABC stores. Spirits, mixers and a selection of Virginia wines are shipped statewide from the Central Warehouse in Richmond. Virginia ABC ships to its stores and licensee restaurants purchase from the store of their choosing. Virginia ABC operates on a bailment system, where the agency is not charged for the product until it is shipped out of the warehouse.

Beer and wine are handled through private distributors who generally deliver products to the retailers. Retail to retail or retail to restaurant is not allowed, as the seller would be acting as a wholesaler, which is not allowed.

Does jurisdiction allow direct shipping of wine?



Tax per standard drink:

**SPIRITS: \$0.034**

**WINE: \$0.119**

**BEER: \$0.072**

## OUTLETS AND GROCERY STORES

Virginia has control of spirits at wholesale and retail. It has 351 state operated retail stores.

- Virginia does not have policies that regulate the density of off-premise outlets in a neighborhood/precinct/condensed area
- Jurisdiction does not allow the sale of spirits in convenience stores
- Servers must be 18 years old and older to serve beer at on-premise outlets, and employees at off-premise outlets have no minimum age specified to sell beer
- The sale of beer and wine are permitted in grocery stores
- Sunday sales are allowed
- Keg registration is required
- For every 100,000 residents ages 21 and older, there are 5.7 spirits outlets
- Beverage service training is voluntary in the state

## VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL IN ACTION



### YOUTH ALCOHOL and DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION PROJECT

YADAPP is a youth leadership program empowering teens to become involved in keeping their schools and communities alcohol and drug free. Its mission is to empower Virginia's youth to assume positive peer leadership roles in their schools and communities through the implementation of youth-led action plans. More than 450 adults and teens from across the commonwealth participated in the youth-led year-long prevention partnership.

### COLLEGE TOUR

College Tour is a series of events that promote best-practice strategies that reduce underage and high-risk drinking, strengthen campus and community partnerships and improve the health, safety and quality of student life on and off-campus. College Tour unites student leaders, community members, law enforcement, licensees, and college administrators and staff who have the common goal of making a difference on their campuses and within their communities. College Tour provides an opportunity for key stakeholders to receive tools and resources that will improve collaborative efforts in reducing the consequences associated with high-risk drinking. Additionally, College Tour challenges all participants to individually and collectively create campus, community and cultural change through evidence based action.

### RESPONSIBLE SELLERS and SERVERS: VIRGINIA'S PROGRAM (RSVP) and MANAGER'S ALCOHOL RESPONSIBILITY TRAINING (MART)

Trainings are held regionally and conducted by ABC Special Agents to help licensees become more responsible and to better understand ABC laws, rules and regulations. The mission is to ensure licensees are prepared to follow Virginia laws in service and sale of alcohol. There were 109 RSVP classes totaling 1,867 participants and 23 MART classes totaling 379 participants in FY2016.

## DEFINITIONS

Control systems -- jurisdictions that directly control the distribution and sale of beverage alcohol in their borders.

Three-tier system -- the method of alcohol distribution developed after Prohibition in the United States. Producers/manufacturers (first tier) can sell products only to wholesalers/distributors (second tier) who then sell to retailers (third tier).

Revenue Per Capita -- revenue per person.

Wet and dry counties -- Wet jurisdictions are those that permit the sale of spirits, wine, or beer for on-premise and off-premise consumption. Dry jurisdictions prohibit some or all alcohol sales, whether on- or off-premise.

Sources: 2016 Survey Database, State Alcohol Tax Rates (July 2016), Educational Awards Program Reports for 2014-2015, Virginia Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, The Beverage Information Group's 2015 Fact Book, Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)