

AGENCY

The **Alcoholic Beverage Control Board** is an entity of the State of Alabama. It controls alcoholic beverages through distribution, licensing, enforcement and education. The Board conducts **“Under Age, Under Arrest”**, a school-based, anti-underage drinking program that has reached more than 200,000 middle school, junior high and high school students. The Board also operates a chain of retail stores that sell liquor to consumers.



WET and DRY COUNTIES

State law allows local jurisdictions to hold a vote on being wet or dry and to what extent alcoholic beverages may be sold.

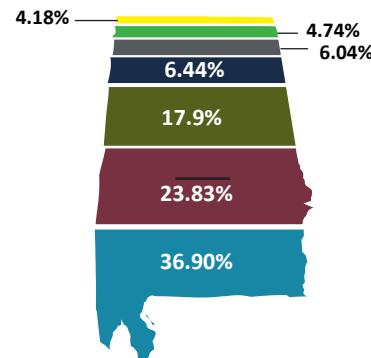
Twenty-four (24) of Alabama’s 67 counties are dry; however, there are 70 wet cities in dry counties. For a full list of Alabama’s wet and dry counties and cities , please visit <https://alabcboard.gov/licensing-compliance/wet-cities>.

Population 21 and over
(Estimate) (2014) **3,500,000**

NET REVENUE

- General Fund - \$130.5 M (36.90%)
- Human Resources - \$84.4 M (23.83%)
- Mental Health - \$63.4 M (17.9%)
- Education Trust Fund - \$22.8M (\$6.44%)
- Department of Revenue - \$21.4 M (6.04%)
- Alabama Law Enforcement Agency - \$16.8 M (4.74%)
- Cities and Counties - \$14.8 M (\$4.18%)

Note: FY 2021-2022 financial information unaudited as of January 2023.



HISTORY

The Alcoholic Beverage Control Act of 1937 established the Alabama ABC Board and ended 22 years of prohibition. It gave the board control over the manufacture, import, distribution, sale and transportation of alcoholic beverages within the state. The act provided citizens with “protection of the public welfare, health, peace and morals”. It also prohibited transactions of liquor, alcohol, malt and brewed beverages by those within the state, except those under control of the board. In 1997, its responsibility expanded to regulating retail sales of tobacco and tobacco products.

ENFORCEMENT

The Alabama ABC Board currently regulates the sale of alcohol, tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and electronic nicotine delivery systems. The Alabama ABC Board has civilian Licensing and Compliance Inspectors who monitor licensees/permittees for compliance with Title 28, Code of Alabama 1975 and ABC Rules and Regulations. The inspectors have a broad range of duties, including but not limited to: routine administrative inspections, applications investigations, investigation of complaints, citations for administrative violations, speaking to schools and civic groups, and monitoring responsible vendor training programs. Criminal cases are now investigated by the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency.

The board budgeted more than \$20.7 million for enforcement in fiscal year 2017-2018.

\$354,440,191

FY 2021-2022 Net Revenue

Since 1937, the Alabama ABC Board has contributed more than \$8.6 billion to the state.

Figures are from 2021-2022

DISTRIBUTION

The state is involved in both wholesale and retail operations. The state is responsible for spirits and independent wholesalers are responsible for wine and beer.

The state delivers the spirits to its stores and to other retailers that purchase the product. Wine and beer are distributed by the wholesalers and delivered directly to the licensee. All licensees who hold a retail license to sell spirits must purchase from state wholesale stores.

Does jurisdiction allow direct shipping of wine?



Tax per standard drink:

SPIRITS: \$0.137

WINE: \$0.066

BEER: \$0.050

OUTLETS AND GROCERY STORES

The Alabama ABC Board licenses all manufacturers, importers, wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic beverages.

Alabama Maintains control of spirits at the wholesale and retail level. The state operates 159 retail and 9 wholesale outlets.

- The state does not regulate the density of off-premise outlets in a neighborhood/precinct/condensed area.
- Convenience stores are not permitted to sell spirituous liquors. They may have a separate location that holds a package store license next door to the convenience store, but both locations must have a dedicated entrance and exit. Each location must function on its own and there must be no way for customers to pass through the interior between the two locations. All sales and records must be maintained separately as well.
- No one under the age of 21 may serve or dispense beer, wine or spirits in an on-premises location. Nineteen (19) and 20-year olds may serve, but not dispense, spirits in an establishment that holds a Restaurant Retail Liquor License only if that licensee has been certified by the ABC Board's Responsible Vendor Program (RVP).
- The sale of beer and wine is permitted in grocery stores.
- Sunday sales are not allowed, unless authorized by legislative or local government act.
- For every 100,000 residents ages 21 and older, there are 25.1 spirits outlets.
- Responsible Vendor Program is voluntary in the state.

ALABAMA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD IN ACTION



In 2013, the Alabama ABC Board began a school-based anti-underage and binge drinking public awareness program titled Under Age, Under Arrest. The program is aimed at middle school, junior high school and high school students. By the end of the 2022-2023 school year, the program was presented 150 times to more than 25,000 students located throughout Alabama.

Under Age, Under Arrest is presented in partnership with Alabama mothers who lost loved ones to drunk driving, Operation Save Teens and the Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, and is made possible through a grant provided by the National Alcohol Beverage Control Association.

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: 2018 Survey Database, Alcohol Beverages Revenues & Taxes 2020 Report (June 2022), Educational Awards Program Reports for 2020-2021, Alabama Alcoholic Beverage Control Board, Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS), Census.gov.