AGENCY

The mission of the Idaho State Liquor Division (ISLD) is to provide control over the importation, distribution, sale, and consumption of distilled spirits; curtail intemperate use of beverage alcohol; and responsibly optimize the net revenues to the citizens of Idaho. The Idaho Constitution authorizes the ISLD to regulate the manufacture, transportation, storage, sale, and delivery of distilled spirits. It also authorizes the Division to operate retail liquor stores.

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.

All counties are wet.

Franklin and Madison Counties prohibit liquor by the drink.

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HISTORY

The Idaho State Liquor Division was established in 1935, following the repeal of Prohibition. The ISLD has been organized in the Executive Office of the Governor since 1974.

ENFORCEMENT

The Idaho State Police’s Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC) Bureau is responsible for licensing on-premise and off-premise beer and wine outlets, and enforcing state alcohol laws. Idaho ABC is a separate agency from the Liquor Division.

Idaho ABC ensures all establishments selling or producing alcoholic beverages, including liquor, beer, and wine are properly licensed and conform to the law. Idaho ABC is active in providing Seller and Server training to licensees and retail establishments across the state.

NET REVENUE

- General Fund (42.4%)
- Public Schools (1.0%)
- Substance Abuse Treatment (1.8%)
- Cooperative Welfare Fund (0.6%)
- Community Colleges (0.7%)
- Cities (24.3%)
- Counties (17.5%)
- Court Services (5.6%)
- Court Supervision Fund (0.4%)
- Magistrate Courts (5.7%)

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$115,600,000
FY 2022 Net Revenue

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Figures are from 2022.
DISTRIBUTION

Distilled spirits are only sold in state-operated liquor stores and contract retail stores that are authorized by the ISLD. The ISLD ships to all retail stores (state-run and contractors) via a third-party contract carrier. Bars and restaurants purchase distilled spirits from the State’s retail stores. Generally, they pick up their orders, but delivery by ISLD is not prohibited. The ISLD does not have oversight of beer and wine. Beer and wine are handled through private distributors who generally deliver products to the retailers.

The Division operates a central warehouse in Boise from where all liquor products are distributed. The warehouse capacity is 325,000 cases of distilled spirits.

OUTLETS AND GROCERY STORES

The Idaho State Liquor Division has complete oversight of all wholesale and retail aspects of distilled spirits in the state. The ISLD operates 67 state-run retail stores and 105 contract-operated retail stores. There are 1,150 off premise beer and wine outlets in Idaho operated by independent retailers.

The Idaho Liquor Division operates or contracts with private businesses for all off-premise locations selling distilled spirits. ISLD has restrictions on locating near schools.

- Idaho has policies that regulate the density of off-premise outlets in a neighborhood/precinct/condensed area
- Jurisdiction does allow the sale of spirits in convenience stores if the store is a contractor of the ISLD
- Servers must be at least 19 years old to serve alcohol at on- and off-premise outlets
- The sale of beer, low proof spirits up to 14% alcohol, wine up to 16% alcohol, and ports, sherries and madeiras up to 24% are permitted in grocery stores
- Sunday sales are allowed by county option, and are approved in 32 of Idaho’s 44 counties
- Keg registration is required
- For every 100,000 residents ages 21 and older, there are 14 retail spirits outlets
- Beverage service training is not required by law

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.