

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.

Office of the Governor
 Governor
 Chief of Staff
 Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security
 Virginia ABC

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.

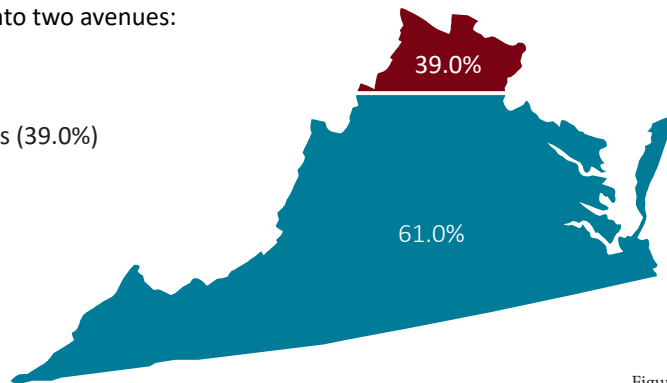
Thirty of the 95 counties are dry. Those counties are: Bland, Buchanan, Caroll, Charlotte, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Henry, Highland, King William, Lee, Louisa, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Surry, Tazewell, Warren, Washington, Wise and Wythe.

Population 21 and over
 (Estimate) (2017) **6,299,254**

NET PROFIT

VA distributes its net profit into two avenues:

- General Fund (61.0%)
- Appropriation Act Transfers (39.0%)



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. On January 15, 2018, Virginia ABC transitioned from an executive branch agency to an authority.

ENFORCEMENT

Virginia ABC employs nearly 100 special agents who oversee 19,842 total ABC licenses held by establishments that sell and serve alcohol in the commonwealth. Virginia ABC licenses permit the sale and/or service of beer and wine and/or mixed beverages.

Although ABC agents have full police power, the men and women in ABC’s Bureau of Law Enforcement focus on helping business comply with Virginia’s alcohol laws, rules and regulations. Virginia ABC 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.

\$180,818,377
 FY2018 Net Profit



Since its organization in 1934, Virginia ABC has contributed more than \$10.4 billion to the state in the form of profits and taxes.

Figures are from 2018

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 over 375 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 5.9 spirits outlets
- Beverage service training is voluntary in the state

VIRGINIA ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL AUTHORITY 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.

HIGHER EDUCATION ALCOHOL & DRUG STRATEGIC UNIFIED PREVENTION

The mission of HEADS UP is to inform and equip individuals to effectively promote healthy decision-making and advocate for substance misuse education and prevention programming on college campuses. HEADS UP provides a series of free online training, resources and materials to increase knowledge of substance misuse and high-risk drinking among college faculty, staff, students and their parents. Additionally, HEADS UP builds the capacity of student leaders on college campuses to hold substance misuse education or awareness events. During fiscal year 2018, approximately 92% of all higher education institutions in Virginia engaged in this program. There were 2,770 downloads of resources and an estimated reach of 21,584 students through the use of HEADS UP promotional materials at campus events.

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

Programs are held regionally and via online training. Classes are conducted by Virginia ABC special agents to help those who sell and serve alcohol become more responsible and to better understand ABC laws, rules and regulations. During fiscal year 18 there were 101 RSVP classroom programs that trained 1,463 participants and 1,894 participants took RSVP online. Additionally, there were 18 MART classroom programs that trained 140 participants and 532 participants took MART online.

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)