

AGENCY

The **Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (Virginia ABC)** is an executive branch authority 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.

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

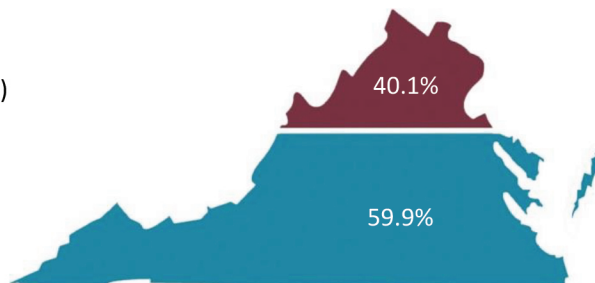
Population 21 and over
(Estimate, 2017)

6,299,254

NET PROFIT

VA distributes its net profit into two avenues:

- General Fund (59.9%)
- Appropriation Act Transfers (40.1%)



Figures are from
2017

HISTORY

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's Bureau of Law Enforcement employs approximately 110 ABC special agents, who are sworn and certified police officers with full police powers. These men and women oversee more than 19,200 ABC establishments licensed to sell alcohol.

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.

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.

\$172,864,529

FY2017 Net Revenue



Since its origination in 1934, Virginia ABC has contributed more than \$9.9 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 distribution 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 370+ 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 high school students 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 strategic prevention plans. More than 450 adults and teens from across the commonwealth participated in the youth-led year-long prevention partnership.

HIGHER EDUCATION ALCOHOL and DRUG STRATEGIC UNIFIED PREVENTION

HEADS UP provides tools and resources for students, professionals and parents to understand substance abuse and recognize its role in overall college student wellness and academic success. HEADS UP provides a series of strategic planning initiatives, trainings and resources to strengthen and support the mission of healthy and safe campus-communities.

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 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 17 there were 107 RSVP classroom programs that trained 1,566 participants and 531 participants took RSVP online. Additionally there were 23 MART classroom programs that trained 345 participants and 150 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), ESRI, Arc GIS 2017 Business Analyst data

January 2018

