

## AGENCY

The **Wyoming Liquor Division** is a part of the state's Department of Revenue. It is responsible for wholesale liquor operations, liquor licensing and enforcement. It is committed to establishing successful relationships with all of its partners of the trade. The division is run as a business equally concerned about the welfare of its employees and the survival of the liquor industry, as it serves the citizens of Wyoming.

Department of Revenue  
Wyoming Liquor Division

## WET and DRY COUNTIES

State law prohibits dry localities.

All counties are wet.

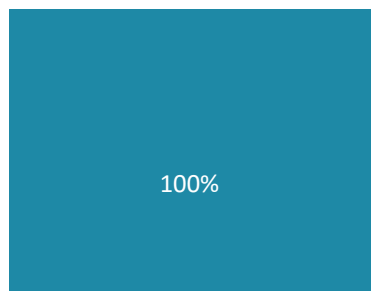
Population 21 and over  
(Estimate) (2014)

**421,000**

## NET REVENUE

WY distributes its net revenue into one avenue:

- Genreal Fund (100%)



## HISTORY

On May 15, 1933, Wyoming voters elected to ratify the 21st Amendment. On April 1, 1935, the legislative bills creating the Wyoming Liquor Commission became law. The Liquor Commission consisted of the Governor, Secretary of State and the State Treasurer. In 1949, the legislature created a bill adding the State Auditor and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to the Liquor Commission. In 1996, under government reorganization, the legislature dissolved the Liquor Commission and created a separate division within the Department of Revenue.

## ENFORCEMENT

The Compliance Section within the Wyoming Liquor Division is responsible for enforcement, licensing and education. Although liquor licenses are issued at the local level, law requires that every application for a new, transfer or renewal of a liquor license be reviewed by the Liquor Division. The Liquor Division is also a licensing authority for a total of 1,594 licenses: 776 Retail, 273 Restaurant, 62 Bar and Grill, 118 Limited Retail (Club), 61 Retail County Malt Beverage, 35 Malt beverage wholesalers, 32 Microbrewery, 8 Winery, 7 Manufacturer, 10 Manufacturer Satellite, 38 Resort, 3 Importer, and 171 Industry Representative (broker).

Compliance Agents perform on average over 2,000 on-site unannounced liquor inspections per year. In 2016, compliance performed approx 2,427 on premise inspections with 97.71% compliance rate. They also work very closely with local law enforcement agencies that have primary responsibility of enforcement. The Compliance Section works with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chiefs of Police (WASCO) to distribute materials for all compliance checks and acts as a resource for interpretation of Title 12.

**\$17,200,939**

FY 2016 Net Revenue



From 2003 through 2016, the WLD has contributed more than \$173 million to the state.

## DISTRIBUTION

The Wyoming Liquor Division moved into a new facility in February 2012. The 140,000 square foot warehouse has 17 dock doors to accommodate all shipping and receiving. The warehouse has incorporated new technologies such as pick-to-voice computer assisted, paperless picking methods, pushback racking, and a new bottle line for filling single bottle orders.

Wyoming's control state model is based on providing timely and efficient distribution of wine and spirits to a geographically vast but sparsely populated state. Wyoming's more than 1,250 privately-owned retail establishments enjoy unparalleled service, minimal markup at the wholesale level, and access to virtually any product in the marketplace. 2,315 wines and spirits are available to licensees daily. 47,910 cases of special items were shipped to retailers in FY 2016. There were 1,000,643 standard nine-liter cases sold in FY 2016.

Does jurisdiction allow direct shipping of wine?



Direct ship wine program:  
918 out of state wine shippers

Tax per standard drink:

**SPIRITS: \$0.026**

**WINE: \$0.090**

**BEER: \$0.054**

## OUTLETS AND GROCERY STORES

Wyoming has control of spirits and wines at wholesale. The Wyoming Liquor Division serves over 1,250 privately-owned retail establishments throughout the state.

- Wyoming statutes require that liquor licenses are issued via a population formula in statute. Liquor licenses are issued by local licensing authorities. For locations within an incorporated city or town, the licensing authority is the city/town council. For locations outside of an incorporated city/town, the local licensing authority would be the board of county commissioners.
- Jurisdiction allows 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 must be 21 years old to sell beer
- The sale of beer, spirits 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 68.9 spirits outlets
- Beverage service training is voluntary

## WYOMING LIQUOR DIVISION IN ACTION



The Compliance Section is responsible for enforcement of Wyoming's Alcohol Beverage Control Laws, Licensing and the various education programs. In 2007, the Wyoming Liquor Division Compliance Section partnered with the Wyoming State Liquor Association to bring alcohol server training to Wyoming. To date, they have trained over 22,000 people in the TIPS program. With an education grant from NABCA, this last year the Compliance staff created an ID Scanner library for the various community events throughout Wyoming, such as rodeos, concerts, brewfests and holiday celebrations.

## 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, Wyoming Liquor Division, The Beverage Information Group's 2015 Fact Book, Alcohol Policy Information System (APIS)