

Quick Facts – Liquor

(April 2017)

Liquor Retailing in Alberta – Before and After Privatization

Alberta privatized liquor retailing in September 1993.

CURRENTLY <i>(As of March 31, 2017)</i>		BEFORE PRIVATIZATION <i>(From ALCB Annual Report, year ended Jan 5, 1993)</i>	
Retail liquor stores	1,451	Alberta Liquor Control Board stores	208
Off-sales <i>(hotel/manufacturer/other)</i>	481	Hotel off-sales	530
General merchandise liquor stores	96	Private retailers <i>(beer / wine / agency)</i>	65
Other liquor retailers <i>(commercial caterer/sacramental wine/ delivery service)</i>	108		
Total liquor retailers	2,136	Total liquor retailers	803
Products available	22,815	Products available	2,200
Pricing: Retailers set shelf price based on market conditions and competition.		Pricing: Government set shelf price, which was consistent in all stores.	

Sales

<i>(2015-16)</i>	Volume <i>(1hl = 100L)</i>	Dollars <i>(thousands)</i>
Spirits	278,574 hl	\$763,792
Wine	453,192 hl	\$601,670
Coolers/Ciders	291,593 hl	\$141,639
Beer	2,756,429 hl	\$1,127,155
Total:	3,779,788 hl	\$2,634,256

Revenue to government **\$856 million**

(Fiscal year 2015-16)

Consumption

- Among adult Albertans, 74 percent said they've enjoyed alcohol in the last 12 months, and 88 percent say they drink in moderation based on Canada's Low Risk Drinking Guidelines.
(AGLC Survey of Albertans, fiscal year 2015-16)

Public satisfaction

- 93 percent of Albertans are satisfied with the conduct of Alberta's liquor business.
(AGLC Survey of Albertans, fiscal year 2015-16)

Pricing and supply

- Manufacturers (or their agents) of spirits, wine and beer ship their product to privately operated warehouses approved by the AGLC.
- Licensees, including retailers, buy their liquor products at wholesale prices.
- The wholesale price includes the manufacturer's cost, federal customs and excise duties (where applicable), AGLC's flat markup, recycling costs, bottle deposit and GST.
- The province retains the revenue from the flat markup.

Manufacturing in Alberta

(As of April 1, 2017)

Breweries*	54
Distilleries	16
Wineries/Meaderies	13
Packaging	2

**Two licensees produce beer plus spirits. They are counted under the brewery category only.*

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Licences in effect

(As of December 31, 2016)

Class A MINORS ALLOWED	3,962
Class A MINORS PROHIBITED	1,343
Class B	663
Class C	787
Class D	2,136
Class E	85
Other (Duty Free/Liquor Agency)	538
Total licences	9,514

Explanation of licence classes

Class A: Applies to the sale and consumption of liquor in premises open to the public. This class has two categories:

MINORS ALLOWED (*e.g. Restaurant*)

MINORS PROHIBITED (*e.g. Nightclub*)

Class B: Applies to the sale and consumption of liquor in premises open to those who have paid an entrance fee, purchased a ticket, or are entitled to use the facility.

(*e.g. Convention centre, racetrack, stadium*)

Class C: Applies to the sale and consumption of liquor in premises restricted to members or other specified individuals.

(*e.g. Private club, military or police canteen*)

Class D: Applies to the retail sale of liquor for off-premises consumption.

(*e.g. Retail store, hotel off-sales*)

Class E: Applies to the manufacture, blending or packaging of liquor.

(*e.g. Distillery, winery, brewery, brewpub*)

Inspections

(As of March 31, 2017)

- AGLC inspectors conducted 26,985 inspections at licensed premises in 2016-17.
- Inspectors check licensees for compliance in a number of areas, including but not limited to patron proof of age, selling to minors, serving to intoxicated patrons and serving after hours.
- 87 licensees received administrative sanctions in 2016-17.

Encouraging Responsibility

DrinkSense

- The AGLC encourages Albertans to make positive choices for themselves by following Canada's Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines, and avoiding alcohol-related harms. Visit drinksenseAB.ca

Responsible Service

- Patrons may not possess more than two standard drinks at one time after 1 a.m.
- At no time may a licensee sell a drink for less than:
Spirits/liqueur \$2.75 / 1 oz or less
Beer/cider/cooler \$2.75 / 341 ml bottle
/ 355 ml can
Draft beer..... \$0.16 / oz
Wine..... \$0.35 / oz

Training for Licensed Premises Staff

ProServe

Available online, in seminar or by home study. Mandatory since January 1, 2010 for anyone involved in security, or the sale or service of liquor.

- 367,166 certificates issued since program began in 2004
- In 2016-17, 44,295 certificates were issued

ProTect

Online training for security staff and managers of licensed premises. Mandatory for employees whose position requires them to respond to problems within a licensed premises.

- 35,135 certificates issued since the program began in 2008
- In 2016-17, 6,134 certificates were issued

Funding for Alcohol Treatment

Funding for Alberta Health Services alcohol treatment programs is provided through the Alberta Lottery Fund.

Alberta Health Services Addiction Helpline

1-866-332-2322