

Alberta's liquor model

Since 1993, Alberta's unique liquor model has created an open and competitive marketplace, providing ample business opportunity and consumer choice. AGLC is responsible for managing the liquor supply chain in Alberta and ensuring progressive developments in the industry while building strong relationships with liquor stakeholders.

Before privatization*	
Alberta Liquor Control Board stores	208
Hotel off-sales	530
Private retailers (beer / wine / agency)	65
Total liquor retailers	803
Products available	2,200
Pricing: Government set shelf price, which was consistent in all stores.	
*From ALCB Annual Report, year ended January 5, 1993.	

Currently*

Retail liquor stores	1,516
Off-sales** (hotel/manufacturer/other)	571
General merchandise liquor stores	98
Other liquor retailers (commercial caterers/ sacramental wine resellers/delivery services)	168
Total liquor retailers	2,352
Products available	27,769

Pricing: Retailers set shelf price based on market conditions and competition.

*As of March 31, 2021.

**Effective March 17, 2020, Class A Minors Allowed and Minors Prohibited licensees are permitted to sell liquor for off-site consumption. Liquor may be sold through take-out or delivery from licensed establishments with or without the purchase of food.

Pricing and supply

- Suppliers of spirits, wine and beer (or agencies that represent them) ship their product to privately operated warehouses approved by 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), liquor markup, recycling costs, bottle deposit and GST.
- Revenue from the markup is retained by AGLC and remitted to the Government of Alberta's General Revenue Fund (less expenses).

Financial results As at March 31.

Liquor markup revenue (in thousands of dollars).

	2021 ¹	2020 ²
Liquor net revenue	\$ 921,524	\$ 874,774
Operating expenses	(33,458)	(42,162)
Other revenue	9,039	12,245
Liquor net income (Revenue to GoA) ³	\$ 897,105	\$ 844,857

¹For the years ended March 31 (in thousands of dollars).

²AGLC Annual Report 2020-21, page 72.

³Government of Alberta.

Sales¹

Liquor that's sold to licensees (e.g. retailers) at wholesale prices.

	2021 (AGLC Annual Report 2020-21, page 43)		2020 (AGLC Annual Report 2020-21, page 43)	
	(in thousands of dollars)	(in hectolitres, hL)	(in thousands of dollars)	(in hectolitres, hL)
Beer	\$ 951,896	2,352,229	\$ 972,456	2,365,873
Spirits	907,086	313,168	835,818	286,805
Wine	647,502	466,639	629,657	457,786
Refreshment beverages	276,515	558,088	183,312	367,538
Total	\$ 2,783,000	\$ 2,783,000	\$ 2,621,243	3,478,002

¹For the years ended March 31. Liquor that is sold to licensees (e.g., retailers) at wholesale prices.

Licensing & compliance

Licences / registrations in effect*

As at March 31, 2021.

Class A (restaurants/bars/lounges/taprooms)	5,309
Class B (sports stadiums/convention centers/racetracks)	835
Class C (private clubs/military or police canteens)	758
Class D (retail stores/hotel off-sales/delivery services)	2,352
Class E (breweries/distilleries)	213
Class F (fermentation/winemaking facilities)	25
Total*	9,492
Liquor agencies	694

*Totals do not include an additional four duty free store licenses.

Licence classes

For more information on classes of liquor licences, visit aglc.ca/liquor/liquor-licences.

Inspections Between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

- AGLC inspectors conducted **38,260** inspections at liquor licensed premises, **7,960** licensees were inspected and **47** licensees were issued penalties.
- 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.
- 99.4** per cent of liquor licensees complied with legislation, regulation and policy.

Public satisfaction

- 85** per cent of Albertans who purchased liquor in the past 12 months are satisfied with the conduct of Alberta's liquor business.

AGLC Survey of Albertans, fiscal year 2020-2021.

Recycling

- As part of our commitment to providing a high level of responsible liquor service, AGLC works in partnership with the Beverage Container Management Board in container recycling efforts throughout the province.
- In 2020, over **2 billion** beverage containers (soft drink, juice, water and liquor bottles and cans) were returned to recycling depots with a return rate of **82.2** per cent.*

*Beverage Container Management Board

Manufacturing in Alberta As at March 31, 2021.

Breweries	134
Distilleries	47
Wineries/meaderies	21
Refreshment beverage* manufacturers	9
Packaging facilities**	2
Total	213

* Ready-to-drink beverages such as coolers, ciders and/or kombucha.

** Licensees who blend, flavour and/or package liquor for, or on behalf of, a liquor supplier as approved by AGLC.

Encouraging responsibility

DrinkSense

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.

Dry9

The Dry9 program encourages women and their supporters to not drink alcohol while pregnant or trying to conceive and to share their healthy choice with others. Visit Dry9.ca.

Responsible consumption

Among Albertans surveyed, **79** per cent report they have purchased alcohol and **89** per cent reported that they drink responsibly based on Canada's Low-Risk Drinking Guidelines.

Training for staff at licensed premises

As at March 31, 2021.

ProServe Liquor Staff Training

Certification is mandatory for anyone involved in liquor sales, service or delivery, or providing security at licensed premises.

538,193

certificates issued since program began in 2004

ProTect Security Staff Training

Mandatory for security staff, managers and supervisors of security at minors prohibited licensed premises and Commercial Public Resale Special Events. Owners, managers and security staff of companies contracted to provide security must also be ProTect-certified.

55,454

certificates issued since program began in 2008

Visit smartprograms.aglc.ca.