



## **Ohio Department of Commerce's Division of Liquor Control**

Every state in some form regulates the manufacturing, wholesale distribution, and retail sale of alcoholic beverages. There are no unrestricted free markets for alcohol sales in the United States.

In Ohio, the Department of Commerce's Division of Liquor Control is responsible for regulating the manufacture, distribution, licensing, regulation, and merchandising of beer, wine, mixed beverages, and spirituous liquor as the law is outlined in the Ohio Revised Code Chapters 4301 and 4303.

### **What is a "Control" state?**

Seventeen states, including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia on our borders, as well as local jurisdictions within the states of Alaska, Maryland, Minnesota, and South Dakota, have also adopted form of the "control" model. They control the sale of distilled spirits and, in some cases, wine, and beer through government agencies at the wholesale level. Thirteen of those jurisdictions also exercise control over retail sales for off-premises consumption; either through government-operated package stores or designated agents.

Currently, control jurisdictions represent approximately 24.8 percent (Census Bureau) of the nation's population and account for roughly 23 percent (2017 Handbook Advance, Beverage Information Group) of distilled spirit sales and a significantly smaller percentage of beer and wine sales.

Ohio is a control state for the wholesale and retail sale of spirituous liquor (over 21% alcohol by volume or over 42 proof), which is made through private businesses on contract with the Division of Liquor Control and the JobsOhio Beverage System. Wholesale and retail sales of beer, wine, and prepackaged mixed beverages (low proof) are made by manufacturers, wholesale distributors, and retail permit holders.

### **Liquor Permits in Ohio**

As of June 9, 2020, the Division had 61,507 active permit holders. We have provided you with a breakdown of permits by class. Also, you can review the descriptions for each of the permit classes [here](#). Permit holders may have more than one permit class at a business location. The total number of permits represents approximately 26,524 unique business locations.

## High Proof Spirituous Liquor Revenue

The data below shows retail (private consumer) and wholesale (permit holder) sales for high proof spirituous liquor in Ohio for Fiscal Year 2020 (through May 31, 2020).

