

= Alcoholic beverages in Oregon =

The U.S. state of Oregon has an extensive history of laws regulating the sale and consumption of alcoholic beverages , dating back to 1844 . It has been an alcoholic beverage control state , with the Oregon Liquor Control Commission holding a monopoly over the sale of all distilled beverages , since Prohibition . Today , there are thriving industries producing beer , wine , and liquor in the state . Alcohol may be purchased between 7 a.m. and 2 : 30 a.m. As of 2007 , consumption of spirits is on the rise , while beer consumption is holding steady . Also , 11 % of beer sold in Oregon was brewed in @-@ state , the highest figure in the United States .

Oregon wine production began in the mid @-@ 19th century , before it was a state . By 1919 , the industry had collapsed due to prohibition , and after prohibition ended fruit wines dominated the industry . The modern era of Oregon wine began in 1961 , and the industry cemented its reputation in 1975 by winning a French award . In 2007 , wine making was a \$ 207 @.@ 8 million business . Beer production began in 1852 with Henry Saxer 's liberty brewing in Portland . In 1862 Henry Weinhard 's bought the Liberty brewery . The company is now a part of the Miller Brewing Company , but it helped Portland to become the microbrewing capital of the world . Portland hosts North America 's largest beerfest , and Oregon has produced a number of national and international award winning beers .

In 1844 , the Oregon territories voted to prohibit alcoholic beverages . This was repealed in 1845 , but prohibition was reinstated in a 1915 , four years before the national alcohol prohibition . When national prohibition was repealed in 1933 , the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) was created . Unlike states that allow liquor sales in grocery stores , liquor in Oregon is sold only in OLCC run liquor stores and establishments that have liquor licenses , and the OLCC has strict guidelines and training to ensure that all licensed venues understand how to safely sell and serve alcoholic beverages . Alcohol and alcoholism are also studied by the state at the Portland Alcohol Research Center .

= = Consumption = =

Alcohol laws in Oregon permit the sale of beer , wine , and liquor , for on- or off @-@ premises consumption , between 7 a.m. and 2 : 30 a.m. In 2004 , Oregonians consumed 5 @,@ 103 @,@ 000 US gallons (19 @,@ 320 @,@ 000 L) of distilled spirits , 11 @,@ 132 @,@ 000 US gallons (42 @,@ 140 @,@ 000 L) of wine , and 80 @,@ 415 @,@ 000 US gallons (304 @,@ 400 @,@ 000 L) of beer , ranking it 27th , 19th , and 27th respectively of US states . Oregon had an estimated population of 3 @,@ 594 @,@ 586 in 2004 , ranking it 27th among US states .

In 2007 , sales of spirits increased 9 % over the previous year . Whiskey and vodka were the top sellers , while tequila had the largest percentage increase . Oregonian 's top buy was Jack Daniel 's , with 412 @,@ 000 bottles sold . This was during a national spirits trend where manufacturers introduced new products and advertising aimed at young drinkers . Again in 2007 , Oregon 's 2 @.@ 6 million adults on average drank 32 gallons of beer each , versus 4 gallons of wine and 2 gallons of spirits , but sales of beer hadn 't increased like sales of spirits . The Oregon Department of Human Services reported that while drinking among 8th ? 11th graders has fallen nationally , it has increased in Oregon . The number of DUI offenses dropped between 2002 and 2005 , from 25 @,@ 342 to 23 @,@ 455 .

= = Beer consumption = =

The following table lists the amount of beer consumed in Oregon for the years 1997 ? 2004 as reported in the 2005 Beer Handbook . The scale is in 1,000s of cases of beer . A case of beer is 24 12 @-@ ounce beers , for a total of 2 @.@ 25 gallons per case .

= = Production = =

=== Wine ===

Wine grapes were planted in Oregon in the Willamette Valley starting in 1847 . A census in 1860 revealed that Oregon 's wine production was 2 @, @ 600 gallons . In the 1880s and 1890s , German immigrants began planting wine grapes in Southern Oregon . In the 1880s , Ernest Reuter garnered a reputation for his Klevner wines , grown in the Willamette Valley , west of Forest Grove . By 1919 , the Oregon wine industry had collapsed due to the temperance movement and resulting prohibition . Fruit wines dominated Oregon 's wine industry post @-@ prohibition , and by 1938 there were 28 bonded wineries , producing wines based on berries , Concord grapes , and other American hybrids .

Oregon 's modern wine industry dates to 1961 when Hillcrest Vineyard in Roseburg began planting Riesling and small amounts of other grapes . In 1965 , Oregon pinot noir was established when The Eyrie Vineyards planted grapes near Corvallis . Oregon 's wine reputation was made in 1979 when a French magazine ranked The Eyrie 's 1975 Pinot noir third among 330 wines of the world . By 2007 , Oregon wineries were producing 1 @. @ 7 million cases of wine for a total of \$ 207 @. @ 8 million in sales .

There are several official American Viticultural Areas entirely within the state , including the Willamette Valley , Southern Oregon , Umpqua Valley , and Rogue Valley AVAs . Parts of the Columbia Gorge , Walla Walla Valley , and Snake River Valley AVAs lie within Oregon . Pinot noir and Pinot gris are the top two grapes grown .

=== Beer ===

In 1862 , German immigrant Henry Weinhard founded a brewery in Portland . By the early 1880s it had become the Northwest 's largest brewery . Weinhard once attempted to pump free beer through Portland 's Skidmore Fountain . He died in 1904 , but the company continued to do well , making it through prohibition by brewing soft drinks and merging with Arnold Blitz , a local competitor . Blitz @-@ Weinhard was sold to the Pabst Brewing Company in 1979 , and then again to the Miller Brewing Company in 1999 . The company helped prepare Oregon beer drinkers for the arrival of microbrewing .

Portland , Oregon is considered to be the nation 's microbrew capital . A microbrewery is defined as one that produces less than 15 @, @ 000 barrels a year . Portland hosts the Oregon Brewers Festival , North America 's largest beer festival . The microbrewery industry began in 1979 when President Jimmy Carter legalized home brewing . In 2006 , 14 beers from eight Oregon breweries won medals at the Great American Beer Festival , out of 2 @, @ 800 entries . Also in 2006 , Oregon won 11 times at the World Beer Cup , in a field of 2 @, @ 200 beers . In 2007 , 11 % of beer sold in Oregon was brewed in @-@ state , the highest figure in the United States . According to the Oregon Hop Commission , in 2007 , Oregon was also the second largest U.S. hops producer , after Washington .

=== Spirits ===

As of 2008 , Oregon contains 12 of the nation 's 142 craft distilleries , up from six in 2006 . In 2007 , a law was approved allowing tasting rooms and direct sales to the public . Jim Dodge , purchasing manager for the OLCC , believes that the distilleries are an outgrowth of the microbrew industry , instead of the wine industry , as well as a societal change . Dodge explained that " there 's been a recent shift from beer , and to some degree wine , to distilled spirits as the alcohol of choice . "

In 2008 , the U.S. Food and Drug Administration determined that absinthe was legal , though it had been understood to be illegal for about 80 years . Portland distillery Integrity Spirits responded by releasing the second American @-@ made absinthe , which was in high demand immediately upon its release .

= = Legislative history = =

Oregon has been regulating alcohol through its laws for over 150 years . In 1844 , the Oregon Territory voted to prohibit alcoholic beverages . This is often referred to as the first prohibition in the United States . The law was repealed in 1845 . From 1845 to 1915 , various local laws governing alcohol were passed . In 1915 , Oregonians voted to ban all alcohol , preceding national alcohol prohibition by four years .

In 1933 , national prohibition ended with a repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution . Oregon 's governor , Julius Meier , appointed Dr. William S. Knox to study the situation . Knox recommended adopting the Canadian system of sales of alcohol by the state . The reasoning was that this would provide revenue and lower alcohol abuse .

The Oregon Legislative Assembly held a special session and the OLCC was created days after the repeal of national prohibition . Eighteen states in total chose to regulate alcohol . Oregon Revised Statutes Chapters 471 , 472 , 473 and 474 were the commission 's enabling statutes . OAR Chapter 845 governed its administrative rules . The OLCC 's mission is " to effectively regulate the sale , distribution , and responsible use of alcoholic beverages in order to protect Oregon 's public health , safety and community livability . "

In 1939 , the advertising of hard liquor on billboards and in newspapers was voluntarily discontinued . Also , in 1939 , a " club bill " was passed by the Legislative Assembly . The bill gave regulatory power to the OLCC over hotels , restaurants and private clubs where liquor was served . Lobbyists then succeeded in having the bill referred to the voters in 1940 . Voters passed the bill in 1940 .

In 1944 , the " Burke Bill " became law : wines with more than 14 % alcohol could only be sold by Commission stores and agencies . Also in the 1940s , a " service bars " license was established . This restricted liquor licenses to establishments serving food . In 1949 , the Legislative Assembly approved a method where establishments that sold liquor could ask for proof of age from patrons they thought were under the age of 21 . Measure 15 ? passed in 1952 ? amended the Constitution (Article I , section 39) to regulate the sale of liquor by the individual glass .

Five more types of licenses were created in the 1950s , dealing with liquor @-@ by @-@ the @-@ drink operations , industry agents , salesmen , out @-@ of @-@ state manufacturers of malt beverages , and conventions , group meetings , etc . In 1960 , establishments were required to have food sales equal to 25 % of their total sales . In the 1970s , the OLCC began enforcing the Oregon Bottle Bill and wines of up to 20 % alcohol became allowed with certain licenses . In the 1980s , the number of OLCC commissioners was changed from three to five , to reflect the number of congressional districts . The 1990s saw a flurry of laws passed governing the OLCC 's oversight of the newly numerous Oregon wineries and microbreweries . House Bill 4028 ? passed in 2002 ? allowed liquor stores to operate on Sunday ; they had previously been restricted to six days a week .

This sort of licensing is very important for maintaining safe production and sales of alcoholic beverages in Oregon . Under Oregon law , specifically ORS 471 @.@ 565 , bars and restaurants can be held legally responsible for any damages to property or injuries incurred when an intoxicated person is served alcohol and causes a car crash .

= = = Ballot measures relating to alcohol = = =

The following ballot measures changed state policy on alcohol :

Measure 3 (1904) , a " local option " law , passed .

Measure 17 (1914) , Prohibition Constitutional Amendment : passed 57 @.@ 7 %

Measure 9 (1916) , Prohibition Amendment Forbidding Importation of Intoxicating Liquors for Beverage Purposes : passed with 51 @.@ 2 % .

Measure 7 (1932) , Bill to Repeal State Prohibition Law of Oregon : passed 59 @.@ 8 %

Measure 7 (1944) , Burke Bill ; Only State Selling Liquor over 14 Hundredths Alcohol : passed 55 @.@ 95 %

Measure 15 (1952) , Constitutional Amendment Authorizing Alcoholic Liquor Sale by Individual Glass : passed 56 @. @ 4 %

The following alcohol @-@ related ballot measures have failed :

Measure 3 (1906) , Amendment to local option law giving anti @-@ prohibitionists and prohibitionists equal privileges : failed with 43 @. @ 9 % support .

Measure 22 (1910) , Prohibiting Liquor Traffic : failed 41 @. @ 6 % .

Measure 23 (1910) , Prohibiting the Sale of Liquors and Regulating Shipments of Same , and Providing for Search for Liquor : failed 40 @. @ 2 % .

Measure 8 (1916) , Permitting Manufacture and Regulating Sale 4 Percent Malt Liquors : failed with 38 % support .

Measure 11 (1938) , Bill Regulating Sale of Alcoholic Liquor for Beverage Purposes : failed 34 @. @ 7 %

Measure 6 (1940) , Bill to Further Regulate Sale and Use of Alcoholic Liquor : failed 40 @. @ 2 %

Measure 9 (1950) , Making Sale of Promotively Advertised Alcoholic Beverage Unlawful : failed 23 @. @ 1 %

Measure 5 (1988) , Finances Intercollegiate Athletic Fund by Increasing Malt Beverage , Cigarette Taxes

= = Research = =

The Portland Alcohol Research Center is a NIH @-@ established effort funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism . About 20 scientists and 60 people , mostly at OHSU , are investigating science organized around ten components :

Dependency using mice .

Molecular genetics responses affecting alcohol withdrawal and preference .

Quantitative trait locus which relates gene expression to genotypes .

Genetic analysis of gene expression .

Characterization of ethanol response on chromosome 11 .

Massive search strategy for ethanol @-@ related genes .

Genetic models of variation in impulsivity and alcoholism .

Genetics of alcohol @-@ associated traits in monkeys .

A dedicated section (Pilot projects) launches 2 to 4 projects annually .

Educational outreach with three aims : K @-@ 12 schools , scientific education , and publication .

Additional themes and focuses include :

Genetic contributions to alcohol sensitivity

Permit is needed to make Alcohol .

Behavioral predispositions to the drug , such as impulse effects and dependency .

The center has trained medical students in alcohol @-@ related issues for more than 30 years and has published more than 380 papers and articles since 1996 .