



# News Release

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## **Oregon Distilled Spirits Sales Continue to Break Records Despite Severe Weather**

**PORTLAND, Ore.** – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission announces record-breaking distilled spirits sales in November and December 2016. Gross spirits sales in November 2016 exceeded \$50 million - \$3.4 million (7.3%) higher than November 2015. December 2016 gross sales were nearly \$70 million - \$4.5 million (6.9%) higher than December of the previous year.

“December is the biggest shipping month of the year due to the holiday season,” said Steven Marks, OLCC Executive Director. “Despite the severe weather in many parts of the state, our distribution center crew worked with transportation carriers to get products on store shelves in time for the holidays.”

Total distilled spirits sales in Oregon are higher than ever, generating more than \$1.12 billion in gross revenue for fiscal years 2014-2016. This is \$100 million (10 percent) higher than the previous two years (2012-2014).

Sales and distribution statistics indicate that the primary factor for the growth is that customers are purchasing more expensive products. That, coupled with the population growth in Oregon are driving the increase. Through retail expansion, four additional liquor stores have opened in the Portland metro area during 2016, increasing the availability of product and buying convenience to distilled spirits consumers.

OLCC Chairman Rob Patridge said that this is a good result for the state and, “through retail expansion, OLCC can play a positive role in contributing to Oregon’s budget challenges.”

Distilled spirits sales makes up 96 percent of the total gross revenue collected by the OLCC. Other sources of income the OLCC collects include: tax on beer and wine (3%), license fees and miscellaneous income (1%). The total revenue collected is \$1.16 billion. A complete list of distributions to cities and counties is available [by month](#) or [by fiscal year](#). Distributions to cities and counties are based on population.

*Did you know that in the last two years, the OLCC distributed nearly **\$446 million** to Oregon's General Fund, Cities, Counties, and Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs? [See the distribution of dollars on OLCC's Website.](#)*