

Consumption Overview for Wine & Spirits

Calculation of Local Volume Averages

Calculation of Localized Volume Averages

States	Adult Gallons Per Capita		Adult Population	Gallons 2010	
	Spirits	Wine		Spirits	Wine
Connecticut	2.41 #2	4.88 #2	2,615,000	6,309,780	12,755,849
Massachusetts	2.32	5.70	4,855,000	11,255,063	27,674,601
Rhode Island	2.48	4.74	770,000	1,908,276	3,647,711
New York State	1.96	4.26	14,198,000	27,867,049	60,477,109
Totals			22,438,000	47,340,186	104,555,270
Gal. Avg./Adult <i>All 4 states</i>				2.11	4.66



about 40% alcohol



about 12% alcohol

Table totals have been *confirmed* with data sourced from (national institute of alcohol abuse & alcoholism. www.niaaa.nih.gov)

Connecticut Ranks #2 in “Both” Spirit and Wine consumption compared to its border states

Massachusetts Ranked #3 in Spirits & # 1 in Wine

Rhode Island Ranked #1 in Spirits & # 3 in Wine

New York State Ranked #4 in both Wine & Spirits

This data illustrates that Connecticut’s consumption levels are on par with its bordering states as Connecticut consumes higher than average volume levels when compared to the local states in its region.

When Connecticut is removed from the regional equation, our bordering states average consumption level drops to **2.06** gallons of spirits and 4.6 gallons of wine per adult. This further demonstrates Connecticut’s consumption level boost its localized state averages for wine and spirits.

For example, to take the top spot in spirits Connecticut falls only .07th of 1 gallon to Rhode Island which is ranked #1

When calculating the total ethanol averages of Wine & Spirits Connecticut continues to stay ranked #2 in consumption

High Alcohol Consumptions Local Impact on Connecticut

Information by State



Click on your state on our interactive map and find total traffic deaths in each state that are DUI Related.

The ranking system is based on the percentage of total traffic deaths in each state that are DUI related, with the state ranked 1 having the lowest percentage of DUI related deaths & the state ranked 51 (D.C. is included as a separate entry) as having the highest percentage of DUI related deaths in 2010.

-2011 Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) www.nhtsa.gov/FARS



In a total 2010 U.S Census reported by MADD, Connecticut Ranked **3rd Highest** DUI related Deaths in the Country. The most recent numbers show that in 2014 Connecticut had a **14 % Increase** from the previous year in DUI related fatalities. **Over 41 %** of all traffic deaths in Connecticut are from drunk driving. The state taxpayer subsidy was also estimated at **786 Million dollars**.

Screen Snippets were sourced from www.madd.org

CONNECTICUT

In 2014, Connecticut passed legislation that greatly improves the state's all-offender ignition interlock law. As a result, more than 6,500 first-time offenders who receive diversion in lieu of a first-time drunk driving conviction will now have to install ignition interlock devices. Now, Connecticut will begin to see a reduction in drunk driving deaths. MADD calls on lawmakers to protect its children by passing a child endangerment law.



RECENT YEAR PAST 5 YEARS LAWS TAKE ACTION



Drunk Driving:

Drunk driving fatalities (.08 BAC or higher): 114 representing 41.3% of all total traffic deaths, a 14% increase from last year.

Taxpayer subsidy of drunk driving fatalities: \$786 million

For more information on statistics, please contact MADD's Government Affairs department at policy@madd.org.

Hartford Courant

Survey: Connecticut Tops Nation In Youth Alcohol Use

By [Stephen Busemeyer](#)
contact the reporter

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014, 10:56 PM

A recent national survey found that nearly 18 percent of Connecticut 12- to 17-year-olds used alcohol in the previous month, the highest rate in the country.

Youth alcohol use is more common in the northeast than anywhere else in the country: New Jersey, Vermont, New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts follow Connecticut at the top of the list.

Conclusion: From viewing Connecticut's high Consumption Levels illustrated in the previous tables, and further confirming the social harms related to alcohol in our state, one could conclude that our drinking intensities are not at any real loss.

Especially when you incorporate the taxpayer subsidies and overall rank in health & safety risk exhibit.

“Beyond Minimum Bottle”

Taxes & Operating Costs in Connecticut

State Excise Tax Table: Border state averages compared to Connecticut

Beverage Type	Size	CT	NY	RI	MA	Border State Average	CT. Alc. Tax Premium VS Border States
Still Wines <i>Not in excess of 21% Alc. by volume</i>	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$0.72	\$0.30	\$0.60	\$0.55	\$0.48	50%
Still Wines Produced by Small Wineries <i>Not in excess of 21% alc. by volume</i>	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$0.18	\$0.30	\$0.60	\$0.55	\$0.48	-168%
Fortified Wines <i>In excess of 21% alc. by volume & Sparkling Wines</i>	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$1.80	\$2.54	\$0.75	\$0.70	\$1.33	35%
Beer & other Malt Liquors <i>Draft Barrels Only</i>	<i>Barrel</i>	\$7.20	\$4.20	\$3.00	\$3.30	\$3.50	105%
Beer & Other Malt Liquors <i>Other Containers</i>	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$0.24	\$0.14	\$0.10	\$0.11	\$0.11	118%
Distilled Liquors	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$5.40	\$6.43	\$3.75	\$4.05	\$4.74	14%
Liquor Coolers <i>Not More than 7% Alc. by volume</i>	<i>Wine Gallon</i>	\$2.46	-	\$1.10	\$1.10	\$0.73	236%
Alcohol <i>In excess of 100 proof</i>	<i>Proof Gallon</i>	\$5.40	\$6.43	\$3.75	\$4.05	\$4.74	14%

Rhode Island and Massachusetts have repealed the State Sales Tax on Alcohol.

Aside from the lesser tax rate applied to lower volume small wineries, Connecticut's tax premiums are increasingly higher than our border state averages as illustrated in the above table.

When compared on an individual bases, Connecticut had the highest applied tax rate in every category through 17 out of 24 comparisons with our border states. Connecticut then placed 2nd highest tax rate only 3 times to New York.

Aside from Rhode Island, Connecticut also is ranked one of the most expensive small business climates in the country.

Minimum Pricings current definition of posted bottle price is not the defining factor of

Connecticut’s retail prices. The impact of many influences makes Connecticut a unique climate to do business in that affects various consumer goods and services across the board. *(Continued)*

The Wider Scope

Connecticut's Cost of living and Business Environment

Impacts on Goods and Services

2014 Annual Average Cost of Living								
State	Rank	Index	Grocery	Housing	Utilities	Transportation	Heath	Misc.
Connecticut	50	145.2	117.1	208.4	127.7	118.5	110.7	122.7
New York	48	133.3	109.8	191.7	106.1	112.0	104.4	113.1
Massachusetts	43	123.5	104.7	140.9	126.1	114.7	118.7	119.5
Rhode Island	42	122.4	106.7	135.3	124.8	104.5	118.9	124.6

Screen Snippets from Missouri Economic Research and Information center. www.missourieconomy.org

The overall cost of doing business and living in Connecticut comes through on the 2014 Cost of living index. For example, the cost of groceries in Connecticut, a product not similarly governed by a minimum pricing structure or highly taxed because of its potential social harms, cost considerably higher in Connecticut when compared to our bordering states. In Connecticut the cost of food is 6.7% higher on the index than in the state of New York, 11.8% higher than in Massachusetts and 9.8% higher than in Rhode Island.

Our 3 bordering states average a 9.4% savings on food when compared to Connecticut on the index.

Connecticut's overall cost of living and doing business openly affect many other segments of our economy including other sectors of consumer goods and services. As seen in previous examples, the added excise taxes to alcohol beverage products are lower overall in our border states. The absence of a state sales tax on alcohol also impacts the general cost of Alcohol Beverages in Connecticut for consumers when compared to the states of Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

This is not a retail issue that can be solved by telling the shop keeper that they can now sell their products for no profit at all. Companies need to make profits to support their business standing, pay their employees and contribute.

Changing Minimum pricing won't bring in any added revenue and is not a solution. Any real change must be addressed by improving the overall climate in Connecticut and by pursuing real answers to the more complex issues for business and living. Those are the same issues impacting the cost of everything in our state. On the full index, Connecticut ranks only second overall to Hawaii followed by Alaska placing it at the highest in the Continental U.S. If the real problems are addressed in our state any so called price discrepancies will likely follow. The Current Minimum bottle is not the issue.

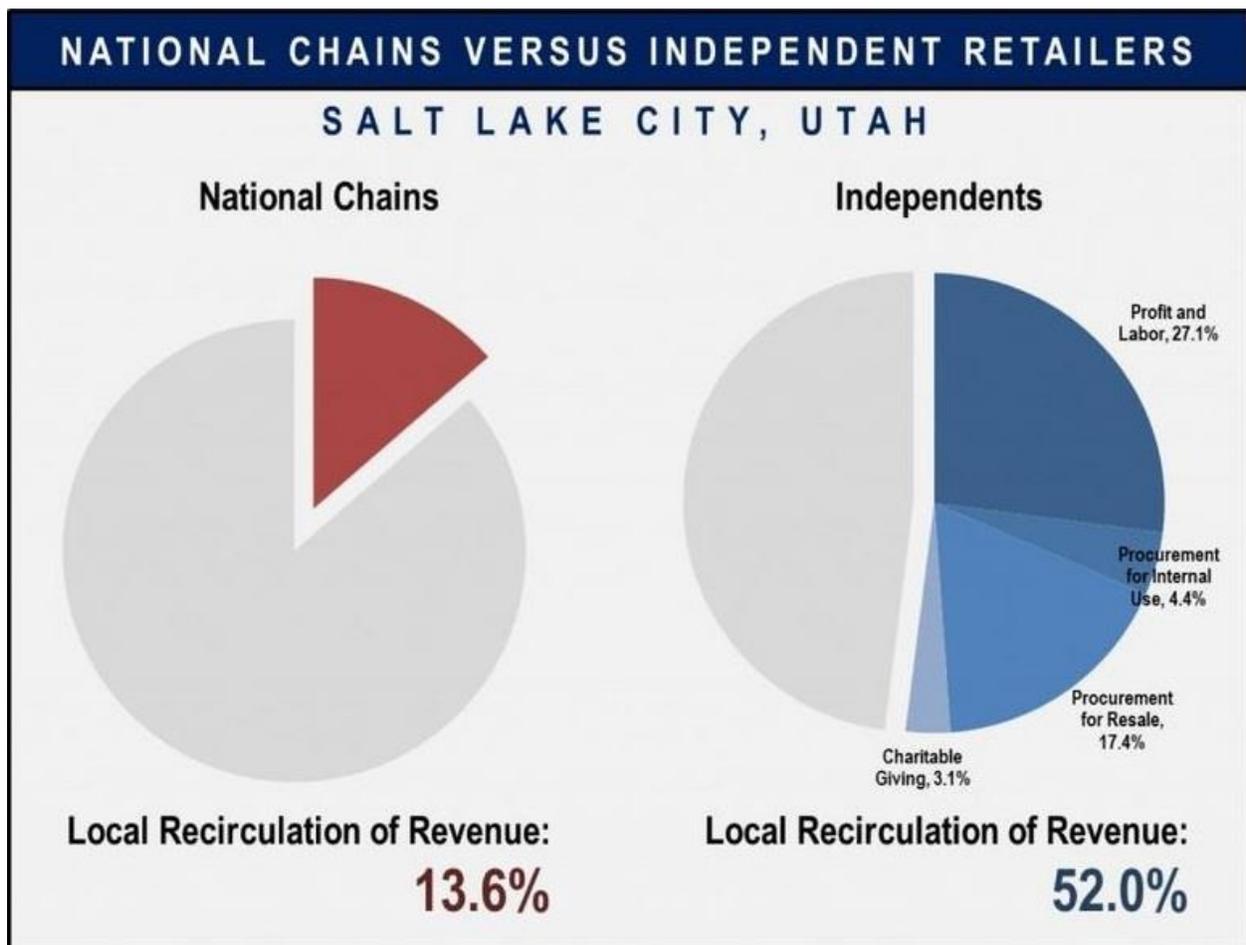
Note: Minimum Pricing is a common practice in all segments of retail, across all product lines and exist in nearly every industry. Changing its current definition will likely lead to nothing more than an increase of national brand products which will then replace more locally produced brands on store shelves. This change will harm Connecticut's local distilleries and smaller brand producers in the region, which are also small businesses, limiting consumer choice and variety. Many of the dominantly family owned independent retailers in our state will likely be harmed with the proposed box store permit expansion by national chains pushing their own private labels. Our local distributors will have less retail outlets to sell to and this will all surely follow with less Jobs on every tier and less money in our local communities. That is why the big box retailers and the big national brands are in favor of these proposed changes. They are simply looking to expand their ground and marketplace.

Worth your Consideration

Local impact of independent Business

Local Recirculation of Revenue Cycle

Many recognize the fruitful impact that locally owned small businesses have throughout all our communities in Connecticut. The profits that these independent businesses generate are more greatly reinvested in our local towns and cities when compared to their big box competitors. The extra dollars they produce create more jobs for Connecticut residents and a more abundant and varied investment in commercial and residential districts all over the state. These investments contribute greater tax revenues for local governments, and enhanced support for local nonprofits and charities. In many ways these small businesses create better places to live and a better Connecticut.



Each year their important standing, as a key factor to the overall health of Connecticut's economy and wellbeing, is challenged by the emerging interest of outside companies who wish to take the profits from our local communities and send them elsewhere. The reinvestment of those profits locally and the wide-ranging value of these many small businesses must continue to be fully recognized. *10% Shift Expansion*

Testimony of

Michael Scalise

