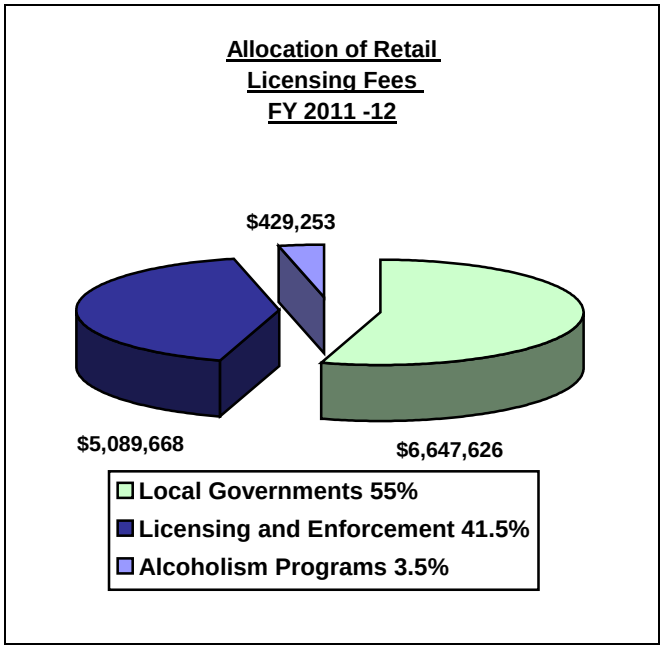
Licensing

The Michigan Liquor Control Commission licenses all retailers, wholesalers and other individuals or businesses involved in the manufacture, purchase, sale, or use of alcohol beverages.



Just under 16,000 retail businesses, including bars, grocery stores, restaurants, hotels, convenience stores and pharmacies have one or more active licenses to sell alcohol beverages. In addition to retail licenses, the MLCC had almost 10,800 issued licenses to manufacturers and other agents. The MLCC began issuing direct shipping licenses in May 2006. These licensed U.S. wineries may deliver ordered wine products to Michigan residents' homes. There are currently 801 wineries that hold Direct Shipper Licenses.

The types of licenses available and licensing requirements are set by state law and the administrative rules of the Commission. The number of certain types of licenses available is governed by population quota for the local governmental unit.

Retail license fees are distributed according to state statute. As shown in the chart above, 55% of the returnable retail licensing fees collected by the MLCC are earmarked for local governments. The MLCC collected over $16.0 million in retail license and transfer fees in fiscal year 2011-12. This amount included $12,166,547 in returnable retail license fees.

The Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council receives the non-retail license fees collected by the MLCC. This fiscal year, these fees amounted to $650,311.

Active Retail Liquor Licensed Businesses (by type)

On-Premise Licensed Businesses: Total 8,375

Class C: 5,926 Class C Resort: 919 B-Hotel: 185 B-Hotel Resort: 127
(Bars/Restaurants/Hotels) Consumption on the premises: Liquor, beer, wine and mixed spirit drink
A-Hotel: 1 A-Hotel Resort: 0 Tavern: 161 Tavern Resort: 8
Consumption on the premises: Beer and Wine only
Clubs: 977
(Membership required) Consumption on the premises: Liquor, beer, wine and mixed spirit drink
Other : 71 (*Aircraft,Watercraft,Train)* *Consumption on the premises: Liquor, beer, wine and mixed spirit drink*

Off-Premise Licensed Businesses: Total 7,586

SDD: 3,851 SDD-Resort: 249 — *Package Liquor Take-out*
SDM: 3,486 — *Beer and Wine Take out*

Total Number of Retail Licensed businesses: 15,961