

Funding for the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB)

Efficient Tax Collection

The TTB is the federal government's third-biggest revenue generating agency after the Internal Revenue Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, according to government statistics. The TTB also is the most efficient tax-collection agency, collecting \$436 for every \$1 spent. By comparison, the IRS collects \$275 for every \$1 spent.

Consumer Safety

The TTB protects consumers by enforcing regulations established by the Federal Alcohol Administration Act related to production, permitting, labeling and marketing.

The TTB also investigates the illegal manufacture, distribution and sale of alcoholic beverages to prevent counterfeit, adulterated or illegally-produced products from reaching consumers.

In contrast to the U.S., countries with less effective regulatory systems have reported problems with adulterated and counterfeit alcohol and are experiencing widespread public health problems.

Effective Regulation

The TTB regulates 48,000 permitted alcohol beverage operations in the U.S., including more than 20,000 permitted wholesalers (distributors); 6,100 permitted breweries; nearly 10,400 permitted wineries; 1,900 liquor producers; and 10,000 alcohol importers.¹ The TTB also works to enforce trade practice regulations at 620,000 licensed retailers across the country. The agency also reviews more than 100,000 labels and thousands of product formulas each year.

Support for TTB Funding

The number of businesses that the TTB regulates has increased by 50 percent over the past five years, while TTB staffing has been reduced. In order to ensure that TTB may continue to regulate the alcohol industry effectively, Congress is encouraged to fully fund the TTB. Last session, a coalition of licensed beverage organizations sent a letter to appropriations committee chairmen in the House and the Senate, praising the successful working relationship between the beverage alcohol industry and its primary federal regulator.

NBWA encourages Congress to fund the TTB so it can regulate the alcohol industry and collect federal excise taxes in an effective manner.

¹ Not all TTB-permitted operations are actively engaged in business activities.