



For Immediate Release
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Colorado Brewers Guild Announces Recent Economic Impact of Colorado Craft Beer to State Economy

Denver, CO - Colorado remains the state of craft beer, at the forefront of the craft brewing industry. Colorado ranks among the top states for number of breweries, per capita production, and economic impact. The Colorado Liquor Enforcement Division identified 309 manufacturing brewery and brew pub licenses as of August 2015, marking 178% growth in the number of breweries since the recession ended in 2009. When asked to summarize the Colorado brewing scene, John Carlson, CBG Executive Director, says "the fascinating thing about Colorado, the state of craft beer, is how the industry continues to evolve from its origins in 1859. It's exciting and diverse. We are experiencing massive growth yet maintaining our continuity of culture."

Material Economic Contributions

Colorado, craft brewers recorded total economic benefits of \$1.15 billion in 2014. Converting mostly raw materials such as hops and water into the craft beers sold domestically and internationally, the industry tallied \$247 million in direct value added in 2014. Contributing to this economic impact are the workers—in 2013 there were an estimated 5,268 workers and in 2014, workers on both the brewery and restaurant sides of the business totaled 6,021.

Brewery Growth in 2015

Most Colorado brewers are planning for growth in excess of 20% in 2015 and 56% in 2016. Important issues for Colorado brewers are maintaining critical access to market and lower taxes, followed by increased access to distribution channels and additional financing. Factors that could slow growth include the cost of brewery equipment, the cost of employees, and cumbersome regulations.

Brewers Build Community

Craft brewers are a source of economic benefits totaling \$1.15 billion in output in 2014 disbursed throughout Colorado's urban cities and rural communities. More than 53% of this is in direct brewer and brewpub economic activity. Direct industry employment totaled 5,269 in 2013 and 6,021 in 2014, and wages totaled an estimated \$136 million and \$162 million, respectively.

The majority of Colorado craft brewers reported participating in fund-raising and charitable events. While these contributions are largely intangible and cannot fully be quantified, they reveal Colorado craft brewers' and brewpubs' continued participation in, and commitment to, their local community.

About the Colorado Brewers Guild

The Colorado Brewers Guild (CBG) is a non-profit trade association representing the leading Colorado craft breweries and brewpubs. CBG is dedicated to the improvement of business conditions and is an advocate for its members. CBG sponsors a variety of beer events each year designed to increase the awareness and appreciation of Colorado-brewed beer. For more information about the Guild, visit www.coloradobeer.org.

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