

About

THE DISTILLED SPIRITS INDUSTRY

Distilleries



Are found in virtually every Congressional district with more than 2000 distilleries nationwide.



Generate jobs. The distilled spirits industry supported more than 1.6 million jobs in 2018.



Contribute to the vibrancy of the hospitality and tourism industries in their communities.



Are highly regulated and taxed. The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax & Trade Bureau (TTB) within the Department of Treasury approves permits and labels and establishes other industry standards. TTB has overseen a 90 percent increase in the number of permitted distilleries over the past five years.



Serve as an important partner to farmers and agricultural producers who supply corn, wheat, barley, rye, fruit, honey, nuts, and botanicals.

As Congress considers further relief in 2021, we urge Congress to look for ways to support the hospitality industry.

800
Distilleries

More than 800 distilleries across the country pivoted to produce hand sanitizer during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many distillers donated the hand sanitizer they produced to first responders and health care facilities.

41%
Revenue Decline

As fewer Americans gather to prevent the spread of COVID-19, distillers have seen dramatic declines in revenue. In 2020, craft distillers saw a 41 percent decline in revenue and were forced to lay off or furlough 31 percent of their employees.

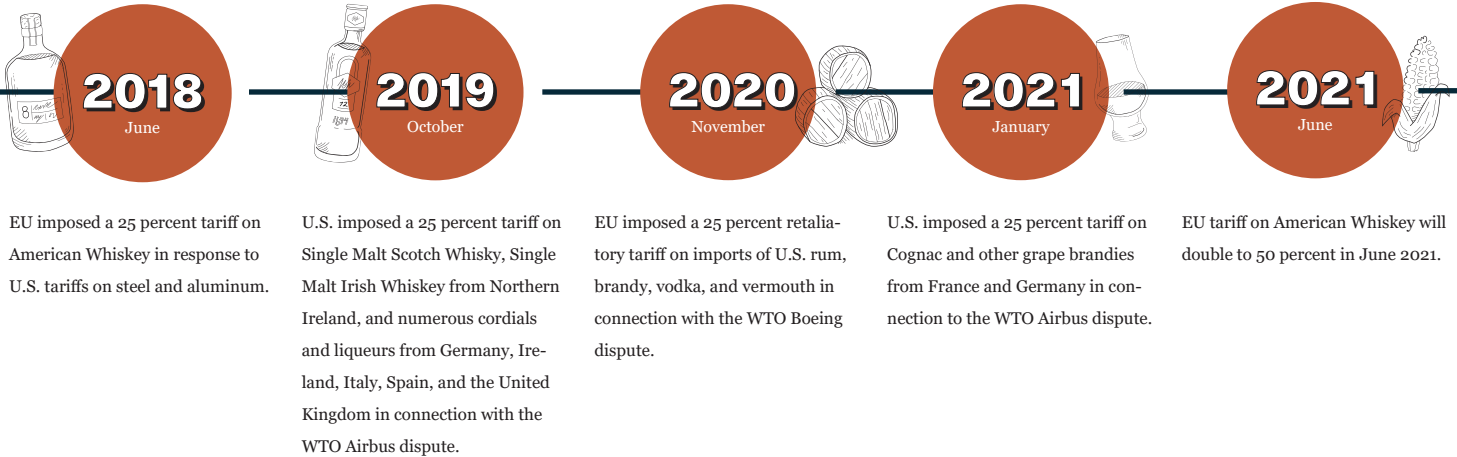
Distillers and others in the hospitality industry face an uncertain future. As Congress considers further relief for businesses, Congress should look for ways to support food and beverage establishments affected by COVID-19.

On behalf of distillers across the country, we thank Congress for passing the **Craft Beverage Modernization and Tax Reform Act** and for providing federal excise tax relief during this uncertain time.

We ask Congress to work with the administration to de-escalate trade tensions with the European Union (EU) and United Kingdom (UK) and seek the simultaneous removal of all tariffs on distilled spirits.

Exports represent an important way for distillers to grow their businesses and create jobs. In 2019, distillers in 45 states exported their products overseas.

Since 2018, there has been a steady escalation in the number of retaliatory tariffs on distilled spirits products on both sides of the Atlantic as part of unrelated trade disputes.



Tariffs have resulted in lost jobs, hurt the hospitality industry, and harmed producers of all sizes on both sides of the Atlantic. These tariffs are compounding the negative impacts COVID-19 closures are having on the hospitality sector.

About DISCUS

The Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS) represents distilled spirits producers, marketers, and importers. DISCUS advocates on issues impacting distilled spirits producers, promotes the distilled spirits sector by raising awareness and opening markets in the United States and around the globe, and encourages responsible consumption among adults who choose to consume distilled spirits products.

Responsibility

DISCUS encourages responsible and moderate consumption of distilled spirits among those of age who choose to consume distilled spirits products. DISCUS and its members are strongly committed to the principles of responsible alcohol consumption and the elimination of impaired driving. The *Dietary Guidelines for Americans, 2020-2025*, reaffirms the longstanding definition of moderate alcohol consumption among adults of drinking age as two drinks or less in a day for men and one drink or less in a day for women. For nearly 40 years, our industry has advocated for effective legislative countermeasures to eliminate underage drinking and impaired driving, which are both at all-time low levels.

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