

Brett Robinson, President  
Beer Distributors of Oklahoma  
405.833.3024  
[www.oklahomabeer.org](http://www.oklahomabeer.org)



## **Independent Distributors Celebrate Craft Beer Week; *Oklahoma Craft Brewers Growing Steadily***

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – May 16, 2016** – America’s more than [3,000 licensed, independent beer distributors](#), including members of the Beer Distributors of Oklahoma, are celebrating the excitement that new, entrepreneurial brewers bring to the beer industry and consumers across the country during [American Craft Beer Week](#), May 16-22. This week, the culture and contributions of local breweries across the United States will be highlighted.

According to [data released in March](#) by the Brewers Association (BA), craft brewers enjoyed continued growth during 2015 as American craft beer production volume increased 13 percent. Data indicates these brewers now represent a 12 percent market share of the overall beer industry.

More than 4,000 breweries were in operation across the United States in 2015 – a 15 percent increase from 2014 and the most at any time in American history. It includes more than 600 new breweries that opened for business across the country in 2015.

“[Craft beer](#) continues to provide a significant contribution to the American beer industry,” said Tulsa native and OU graduate Craig Purser, president of the National Beer Wholesalers Association. “This success is due in large part to the [effectiveness of the open and independent distribution system](#) that allows access to market for brewers of all sizes and a state-based regulatory system that works to level the playing field between brewers, distributors and retailers.”

“The Beer Distributors of Oklahoma are proud of the role [that our independent distributors play](#) to help the craft beer industry thrive,” said Brett Robinson, BDO president. “The growth in craft beer sales underscores the excitement of independent beer distributors in [partnering with America’s craft brewers](#) to help them reach a wide network of retailers and increase their value.”

According to a recent survey of NBWA distributor members:

- 97% of distributors have added at least one new brewer partner in the past year
- 94% of distributors carry products from local, in-state craft breweries
- 94% of distributors carry the brands of multiple local brewers

Robinson added, “Thanks to thousands of different distribution channels, today’s marketplace offers an unparalleled number of styles, varieties and flavors of beer to consumers from coast to coast. American Craft Beer Week is a great opportunity to celebrate this variety.”

For more information about American Craft Beer Week, including celebratory events, visit [www.craftbeer.com/ACBW](http://www.craftbeer.com/ACBW).

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*The [National Beer Wholesalers Association](#) (NBWA) represents the interests of America’s more than 3,000 licensed, independent beer distributor operations in every state, congressional district and media market across the country. [Beer distributors](#) are committed to ensuring alcohol is provided safely and responsibly to consumers of legal drinking age through the [three-tier, state-based system of alcohol regulation and distribution](#). To learn more about America’s beer distributors, visit [www.AmericasBeerDistributors.com](http://www.AmericasBeerDistributors.com)*

*Founded in 1938, the purpose of the Beer Distributors of Oklahoma is to provide leadership which enhances the independent beer wholesale business; to advocate before government and the public on behalf of its members; to encourage the responsible consumption of beer and to provide programs and services that will enhance members’ efficiency and effectiveness.*