



5 Votes

VOTE

Brewing up a success story: Michigan Summer Beer Festival to celebrate its 12th year

Posted: 9:18 a.m. July 22, 2009

0 Comment. [Comment Now](#)



July is Michigan Craft Beer Month, and some 8,000 brew fans expected at a festival in Ypsilanti's Depot Town this weekend will serve as testament to one of the state's rare growth industries.

The 12th annual [Michigan Summer Beer Festival](#) takes over Riverside Park July 24-25, bringing together brewers from across the state and the people who like to drink hand-crafted suds.

Organizers expect more than 50 microbreweries and brewpubs to showcase more than 300 specialty beers.

"I think the real news is that industry wide, we're looking at another year of growth, in fact another year of growth that outpaces the

national trend. So we're a success story in a troubled economic environment, that's for sure," said Scott Graham, executive director of the [Michigan Brewers Guild](#).

Annual craft beer sales volume in Michigan was up more than 10 percent in 2008, Graham said, compared to a nationwide growth of 6 percent.

The East Lansing-based Brewers Guild says Michigan's \$133 million beer-brewing industry contributes more than \$24 million in wages and ranks No. 6 nationally at more than 70 licensed breweries, brewpubs and microbreweries employing 500-600 workers.

Other estimates go much higher.

The Washington D.C.-based trade association [Beer Institute](#) estimates the U.S. beer industry directly and indirectly contributes more than \$4.6 billion to Michigan's economy and provides 54,000 jobs in the state, paying \$1.4 billion in wages.

The attendance expectations for the two-day beer festival would be an increase over previous years and continue a trend. In February, the Brewers Guild sold 45 percent more tickets for its Winter Beer Festival in Comstock Park than the previous year.