

REED'S, INC.  
Form 10-K  
April 24, 2017

**UNITED STATES**

**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

**Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 10-K**

**ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF  
THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934**

**For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016**

**Commission File Number 000-32501**

**REED'S, INC.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

<b>Delaware</b>	<b>35-2177773</b>
State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization	I.R.S. Employer Identification Number

<b>13000 South Spring Street</b>	
<b>Los Angeles, California</b>	<b>90061</b>
Address of principal executive offices	Zip Code

**(310) 217-9400**

Registrant's telephone number, including area code

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<b>Title of Class</b>	<b>Name of each exchange where registered</b>
Common Stock, \$.0001 par value per share	NYSE MKT

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act.  
Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Web site, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T (§ 232.405 of this chapter) during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers pursuant to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer or a smaller reporting company. See definition of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "small reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act.

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Large Accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common equity held by non-affiliates (excluding voting shares held by officers and directors) as of June 30, 2016 was \$28,320,000.

13,982,230 common shares, \$.001 par value, were outstanding on December 31, 2016.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<u>PART I</u>	5
Item 1. <u>Business</u>	5
Item 2. <u>Properties</u>	12
Item 3. <u>Legal Proceedings</u>	12
Item 4. <u>Mine Safety Disclosures.</u>	12
<u>PART II</u>	13
Item 5. <u>Market for Registrant’s Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	13
Item 6. <u>Selected Financial Data</u>	15
Item 7. <u>Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	15
Item 7A. <u>Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	22
Item 8. <u>Financial Statements</u>	23
Item 9. <u>Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	24
Item 9A. <u>Controls and Procedures</u>	24
Item 9B. <u>Other Information</u>	24
<u>PART III</u>	25
Item 10. <u>Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	25
Item 11. <u>Executive Compensation</u>	30
Item 12. <u>Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	32
Item 13. <u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	32
Item 14. <u>Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	33
<u>PART IV</u>	35
Item 15. <u>Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules</u>	35

## **CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS AND INFORMATION**

This Annual Report on Form 10-K (“Annual Report”), the other reports, statements, and information that we have previously filed or that we may subsequently file with the Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) and public announcements that we have previously made or may subsequently make include, may include, incorporate by reference or may incorporate by reference certain statements that may be deemed to be forward-looking statements. The forward-looking statements included or incorporated by reference in this Annual Report and those reports, statements, information and announcements address activities, events or developments that Reed’s, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “we,” “us,” “our” or “Reed’s”) expects or anticipates will or may occur in the future. Any statements in this document about expectations, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions or future events or performance are not historical facts and are forward-looking statements. These statements are often, but not always, made through the use of words or phrases such as “may,” “should,” “could,” “predict,” “potential,” “believe,” “will likely result,” “expect,” “will continue,” “a,” “seek,” “estimate,” “intend,” “plan,” “projection,” “would” and “outlook” and similar expressions. Accordingly, these statements involve estimates, assumptions and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in them. Any forward-looking statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to the factors discussed throughout this document. All forward-looking statements concerning economic conditions, rates of growth, rates of income or values as may be included in this document are based on information available to us on the dates noted, and we assume no obligation to update any such forward-looking statements.

The risk factors referred to in this Annual Report could cause actual results or outcomes to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by us, and you should not place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which it is made and we do not undertake any obligation to update any forward-looking statement or statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which such statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict which will arise. In addition, we cannot assess the impact of each factor on our business or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Management cautions that these statements are qualified by their terms and/or important factors, many of which are outside of our control, involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results and events to differ materially from the statements made, including, but not limited to, the following risk factors.

Our ability to generate sufficient cash flow to support capital expansion plans and general operating activities,

Decreased demand for our products resulting from changes in consumer preferences,

Competitive products and pricing pressures and our ability to gain or maintain its share of sales in the marketplace,

The introduction of new products,

Our being subject to a broad range of evolving federal, state and local laws and regulations including those regarding the labeling and safety of food products, establishing ingredient designations and standards of identity for certain foods, environmental protections, as well as worker health and safety. Changes in these laws and regulations could have a material effect on the way in which we produce and market our products and could result in increased costs,

Changes in the cost and availability of raw materials and the ability to maintain our supply arrangements and relationships and procure timely and/or adequate production of all or any of our products,

Our ability to penetrate new markets and maintain or expand existing markets,

Maintaining existing relationships and expanding the distributor network of our products,

The marketing efforts of distributors of our products, most of whom also distribute products that are competitive with our products,

Decisions by distributors, grocery chains, specialty chain stores, club stores and other customers to discontinue carrying all or any of our products that they are carrying at any time,

The availability and cost of capital to finance our working capital needs and growth plans,

The effectiveness of our advertising, marketing and promotional programs,

Changes in product category consumption,

Economic and political changes,

Consumer acceptance of new products, including taste test comparisons,

Possible recalls of our products,

Our ability to make suitable arrangements for the co-packing of any of our products, and

Our ability to find alternative copacking and production facilities for our Kombucha and Private Label products if our Los Angeles production facility is damaged by a disaster.

Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements are reasonable, we cannot guarantee future results, levels of activity, performance, or achievements.

## **PART I**

### **Item 1. Business**

#### **Background**

We develop, manufacture, market and sell natural non-alcoholic carbonated soft drinks, Kombucha, candies and ice creams. We currently manufacture, license, market and sell several unique product lines:

Reed's Ginger Brews,

Virgil's Root Beer, Cream Sodas, Dr. Better and Real Cola, including ZERO diet sodas,

Culture Club Kombucha,

China Colas,

Reed's Ginger candy and other products,

Sonoma Sparkler and other juice based products.

We also have a private label business.

We sell our products throughout the US and in select international markets. We started in specialty gourmet and natural food stores and have moved more into mainstream over time. We estimate that our products are sold in well over 22,000 natural, conventional, drug, club and mass merchandise accounts in the US, with approximately 10,000 of those being mainstream supermarkets. We sell our products through a network of natural, gourmet and beer distributors and direct to certain large national retailers.

We produce and co-pack our beverage products in part at our facility in Los Angeles, California, known as the Brewery and at contracted co-packing facilities in Pennsylvania and Indiana. These co-pack facilities typically service the eastern half of the United States and nationally for certain products that we do not produce at The Brewery.



Key elements of our business strategy include:

increase our relationship with and sales to the approximately 15,000 supermarkets that carry our products in natural and mainstream and capture more of the 30,000 supermarkets nationwide,

expand our distribution network by adding regional direct store delivery (DSD's) and additional direct accounts,

stimulate consumer demand and awareness for our existing brands and products through promotions and advertising,

develop additional product flavors under our brands (brand extensions) and other new products, including specialty packaging and alternative uses for our products,

develop and produce private-label products for select customers,

lower our cost of sales for our products by gaining economies of scale in our purchasing, and

optimize the size and focus of our sales force to manage our relationships with distributors and retail outlets.

We create consumer demand for our products by:

supporting in-store sampling programs of our products, and

generating free press through public relations, and

advertising in store publications, and

maintaining a company website ([www.reedsinc.com](http://www.reedsinc.com)), and

active social media campaigns on facebook.com, twitter.com and youtube.com, and

participating in large public events as sponsors, and

in the recent past deployed a national television commercial on cable television networks.

Our principal executive offices are located at 13000 South Spring Street, Los Angeles, California 90061. Our telephone number is (310) 217-9400. Our Internet address is ([www.reedsinc.com](http://www.reedsinc.com)). Information contained on our website or that is accessible through our website should not be considered to be part of this Annual Report.

## Historical Development

Reed's Original Ginger Brew created in 1987 by Christopher J. Reed, our founder, former Chief Executive Officer, and current Chief Innovation Officer was introduced to the market in Southern California stores in 1989. By 1990, we began marketing our products through United Natural Foods Inc. (UNFI) and other natural food distributors and moved our production to a larger facility in Boulder, Colorado.

In 1991, we incorporated our business operations in the state of Florida under the name of Original Beverage Corporation and moved all production to a co-pack facility in Pennsylvania. Throughout the 1990's, we continued to develop and launch new Ginger Brew varieties. Reed's Ginger Brews reached broad placement in natural and gourmet foods stores nationwide through UNFI and other major specialty, natural/gourmet and mainstream food and beverage distributors.

In 1997, we began licensing the products of China Cola and eventually acquired the rights to that product in 2000. In 1999, we purchased the Virgil's Root Beer brand from the Crowley Beverage Company. In 2000, we moved into an 18,000-square foot warehouse property, the Brewery, in Los Angeles, California, to house our west coast production and warehouse facility. The Brewery also serves as our principal executive offices. In 2001, pursuant to a reincorporation merger, we changed our state of incorporation to Delaware and also changed our name to "Reed's, Inc."

On December 12, 2006, we completed the sale of 2,000,000 shares of our common stock at an offering price of \$4.00 per share in our initial public offering. The public offering resulted in gross proceeds of \$8,000,000. Following the public offering, we expanded sales and operations dramatically, initially using a direct store delivery strategy in Southern California, along with other regional independent direct store distributors (DSD). The relationships with DSD's were supported by our sales staff. In 2007 we raised a net of \$7,600,000 in a private placement. We re-focused our sales strategy to eliminate company direct store delivery sales and to expand sales to DSD's and natural food distributors on a national level. We also started selling directly to supermarket grocery stores, which has become a significant portion of our business today.

We continually introduce new products and line extensions, such as our California Juice Company products in 2009, Virgil's diet line of ZERO beverages introduced in 2010 and Dr. Better and Light 55 Calories Extra Ginger Brew in 2011. We commenced offering private label products in 2010 and in 2012 we launched our Culture Club Kombucha line that has been expanded as sales have grown. In 2015 we launched Stronger Ginger Brew that contains 50% more fresh ginger than our best-selling Reed's Extra Ginger Brew.

## Industry Overview

We offer natural premium carbonated soft drinks (CSD), which are a growing segment of the estimated \$10 billion CSD market nationwide. Within natural food store markets, we are among the top-selling natural soft drinks. This market is steady and growing. We also sell in major grocery chains nationally. The trend in grocery stores is to expand offerings of natural products and we have the scale and capability to develop these direct customer relationships.

## **Our Products**

We primarily manufacture and sell beverages and candies or other ginger related products. We make all of our products using premium all-natural ingredients and our beverage line is GMO free. Our primary brands are our Reed's ginger brew line, our Virgil's line of root beer and our Culture Club Kombucha. Our candy products that include Reed's Crystallized Ginger Candy and Reed's Chews represent a lesser portion of revenues. We have sold ginger ice cream in prior years.

### *Reed's Ginger Brews*

Ginger ale is the oldest known soft drink. Before modern soft drink technology existed, non-alcoholic beverages were brewed at home directly from herbs, roots, spices, and fruits. These handcrafted brews were highly prized for their taste and their tonic, health-giving properties. Reed's Ginger Brews are a revival of this lost art of home brewing sodas. We make them with care and attention to wholesomeness and quality, using the finest fresh herbs, roots, spices, and fruits.

We believe that Reed's Ginger Brews are unique in their kettle-brewed origin among all mass-marketed soft drinks. Reed's Ginger Brews contain between 8 and 39 grams of fresh ginger in every 12-ounce bottle. We use pure cane sugar as the sweetener. Our products differ from commercial soft drinks in three particular characteristics: sweetening, carbonation and coloring for greater adult appeal. Instead of using injected-based carbonation, we produce our carbonation naturally, through slower, beer-oriented techniques. This process produces smaller, longer lasting bubbles that do not dissipate rapidly when the bottle is opened. We do not add coloring. The color of our products comes naturally from herbs, fruits, spices, roots and juices and our beverages are GMO free.

In addition, since Reed's Ginger Brews are pasteurized, they do not require or contain any preservatives. In contrast, modern commercial soft drinks generally are produced using natural and artificial flavor concentrates prepared by flavor laboratories, tap water, and highly refined sweeteners. Typically, manufacturers make a centrally processed concentrate that will lend itself to a wide variety of situations, waters and filling systems. The final product is generally cold-filled and requires preservatives for stability. Colors are added that are either natural, although highly processed, or artificial.

Our Reed's line contains the following products:

*Reed's Original Ginger Brew* was our first creation and is a Jamaican recipe for homemade ginger ale using 17 grams of fresh ginger root, lemon, lime, honey, raw cane sugar, pineapple, herbs and spices. Reed's Original Ginger Brew is 20% fruit juice.

*Reed's Premium Ginger Brew* is sweetened only with honey and pineapple juice. Reed's Premium Ginger Brew is 20% fruit juice and contains 17 grams of fresh ginger root.

*Reed's Raspberry Ginger Brew* is brewed from 17 grams of fresh ginger root, raspberry juice and lime. Reed's Raspberry Ginger Brew is 20% raspberry juice.

*Reed's Spiced Apple Brew* uses 8 grams of fresh ginger root, the finest tart German apple juice and such apple pie spices as cinnamon, cloves and allspice. Reed's Spiced Apple Brew is 50% apple juice.

*Reed's Cherry Ginger Brew* is naturally brewed from 17 grams of fresh ginger root, cherry juice from concentrate and spices.

*Reed's Light 55 Calories Extra Ginger Brew* is a reduced calorie version of our top selling Reed's Extra Ginger Brew that was made possible by using Stevia. We use the same recipe of 26 grams of fresh ginger root, honey, pineapple, lemon and lime juices and exotic spices.

Reeds Extra Ginger Brew *is the same recipe as Original Ginger Brew, but has 26 grams of fresh ginger root for a stronger bite.*

Reeds Stronger Ginger Brew has 50% more ginger than the Extra Ginger Brew and has the highest ginger content of any of our beverage products.

*Reed's Natural Energy Elixir* is an energy drink infused with all natural ingredients designed to provide consumers with a healthy and natural boost to energy levels

*Reed's Nausea Relief* is based on our Ginger Brews with added B vitamins. Both ginger and B vitamins have been studied for their effectiveness in combating nausea.

*Virgil's Root Beer*

Virgil's is a premium craft root beer. We use all-natural ingredients, including filtered water, unbleached cane sugar, anise from Spain, licorice from France, bourbon vanilla from Madagascar, cinnamon from Sri Lanka, clove from Indonesia, wintergreen from China, sweet birch and molasses from the southern United States, nutmeg from Indonesia, pimento berry oil from Jamaica, balsam oil from Peru and cassia oil from China. We collect these ingredients worldwide and gather them together at the brewing and bottling facilities. We combine these ingredients under strict specifications and finally heat-pasteurize Virgil's Root Beer, to ensure quality. We sell Virgil's Root Beer in three packaging styles: 12-ounce bottles in a four-pack, a special swing-lid style pint bottle and a 5-liter self-tapping party keg. The Virgil's soda line is GMO free.

In addition to our Virgil's Root Beer, we also offer the following products under our Virgil's brand:

Virgil's Cream Soda,

Virgil's Orange Cream Soda,

Virgil's Black Cherry Cream Soda,

Virgil's Real Cola,

Virgil's Dr. Better,

Virgil's ZERO line, including Root Beer, Cream Soda, Real Cola, Dr. Better and Black Cherry Cream Soda. (Our ZERO line is naturally sweetened with Stevia), and

*Reed's Culture Club Kombucha*

We introduced our Culture Club Kombucha in 2012. Kombucha is a fermented tea that dates its origin back thousands of years. Among consumers, Kombucha is believed to have healing and cleansing characteristics. Sweetened tea is introduced to a "starter" culture and lightly fermented to produce an acetic drink. We make the finest Kombucha possible, using a combination of Oolong and Yerba Mate teas, spring water and a combination of ginger, organic juices and flavors. Initially, we produced four flavors, Goji Ginger, Hibiscus Ginger Grapefruit, Lemon Ginger Raspberry and Cranberry Ginger. We introduced four additional flavors in 2013, Pomegranate Ginger, Coconut Water Lime, Cabernet Grape, and Passion Mango Ginger.

### *Other Beverage Brands*

We have other popular brands that currently have limited distribution, including China Cola, California Juice, Sonoma Sparkler and Flying Cauldron Butterscotch Beer. We are continually developing new brands and products.

### *Private Label Products*

We design and manufacture drinks for private label customers in multiple facilities. We are experts in flavor development and in matching existing products in the market. We develop the recipe and may design the label and/or the bottle style. We do not private label any of our own branded product recipes.

Our private label products have been variations of any of our offerings. We develop the sources for glass and ingredients. We have a variety of packaging options, including swing-lid bottles, foil capsules and various label types. Our Los Angeles facility is certified as SQF level 2 compliant.

### **New Product Development**

We are always working on ideas and products to continue expanding our Reed's Ginger Brews, Virgil's product line, Reed's Ginger Candy product lines and packaging styles. Current focus in our research is for reduced sugar offerings. Among the advantages of our self-operated Brewery are the flexibility to try innovative packaging and the capability to experiment with new product flavors at less cost to our operations or capital.

We have developed and are currently field testing an all-natural fountain offering. We expect the testing to be completed in 2017 and to begin distribution later in the year.

Our private label products require continual product development. We are able to be nimble and innovative, producing new products in a short amount of time.

### **Manufacture of Our Products**

We produce our carbonated beverages in multiple facilities:

a facility in Los Angeles, California, known as The Brewery, at which we currently produce Kombucha, certain soda products and our private label products, and

two packing, or co-pack facilities in Pennsylvania and an additional co-packer in Indiana which supplies us with product we do not produce at The Brewery. The co-packer assembles our products and charges us a fee, generally by the case, for the products they produce.

We follow a “fill as needed” manufacturing model to the best of our ability and we have no significant backlog of orders. Substantially all of the raw materials used in the preparation, bottling and packaging of our products are purchased by us or by our contract packers in accordance with our specifications. Reed’s Crystallized Ginger is made to our specifications in Fiji. Reed’s Ginger Candy Chews are made and packed to our specifications in Indonesia.

Generally, we obtain the ingredients used in our products from domestic suppliers and each ingredient has several reliable suppliers. We have no major supply contracts with any of our suppliers. As a general policy, we pick ingredients in the development of our products that have multiple suppliers and are common ingredients. This provides a level of protection against a major supply constriction or calamity.

We believe that as we continue to grow, we will be able to keep up with increased production demands. The LA Brewery is nearing the completion of a major renovation that we believe will allow the Brewery to handle the entire West Coast business and to absorb significant increases in general sales. To the extent that any significant increase in business requires us to supplement or substitute our current co-packers, we are developing a pre-qualification for all prospective co-packers, so that there would not be a significant delay or interruption in fulfilling orders and delivery of our products. In addition, we do not believe that growth will result in any significant difficulty or delay in obtaining raw materials, ingredients or finished product that is repackaged at the Brewery.