

A publication of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism at Stockton University Rummy Pandit, L.P.D., M.B.A., C.H.A., Executive Director

### **Atlantic City Gaming Win & Total Casino Revenue**

Source: N.J. Division of Gaming Enforcement

| Monthly Revenue<br>(Industry, \$ In Thousands)               | June 2019 | % Change<br>from Prior<br>Year | June 2018 | YTD<br>June 2019 | % Change<br>from Prior<br>Year | YTD<br>June 2018 |
|--|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Total Gaming Win<br>(includes Internet & Sports<br>Wagering) | \$278,137 | 20.2                           | \$231,360 | \$1,522,263      | 21.0                           | \$1,258,360      |
| Sports Wagering Revenue                                      | \$4,074   | -                              | \$1,180   | \$41,191         | -                              | \$1,180          |
| Internet Gaming Win  | \$38,058  | 67.8                           | \$22,684  | \$217,459        | 55.8                           | \$41,191         |
| Casino Gaming Win  | \$236,005 | 13.7                           | \$207,496 | \$1,263,612      | 13.1                           | \$1,117,640      |

| Quarterly Revenue<br>(Industry, \$ In Thousands) | Q1<br>2019 | % Change<br>from Prior<br>year | Q1<br>2018 | YTD<br>March 31,<br>2019 | % Change<br>from Prior<br>Year | YTD<br>March 31,<br>2019 |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Casino   | \$408,421  | 11.35                          | \$366,775  | \$408,421                | 11.35                          | \$366,775                |
| Rooms  | \$119,612  | 22.14                          | \$97,923   | \$119,612                | 22.14                          | \$97,923                 |
| Food & Beverage                                  | \$126,166  | 24.79                          | \$101,101  | \$126,166                | 24.79                          | \$101,101                |
| Entertainment & Other                            | \$50,439   | 46.5                           | \$34,428   | \$50,439                 | 46.5                           | \$34,428                 |
| Casino Licensees Total<br>Revenue                | \$704,638  | 17.6                           | \$619,2246 | \$704,638                | 17.6                           | \$619,2246               |

#### **Atlantic City Casino Hotel Lodging**

Source: N.J. Division of Gaming Enforcement

| Casino Hotel Lodging Statistics<br>For the Period Ended<br>March 31, 2019 | Q1 2019  | Q1 2018  | YTD 2019 | YTD 2018 |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Occupancy percentage  | 72.6     | 77.9     | 72.6     | 77.9     |
| Average Daily Room Rate (ADR)   | \$125.78 | \$121.47 | \$125.78 | \$121.47 |
| Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR)*                                      | \$91.32  | \$94.63  | \$91.32  | \$94.63  |

<sup>\*</sup> RevPAR= ADR X Occupancy Percentage

#### **Atlantic City Statistical Transportation Data**

Source: South Jersey Transportation Authority

| Travel Mode   | May<br>2019 | Change<br>from Prior<br>Year | May<br>2018 | YTD<br>May<br>2019 | Change<br>from Prior<br>Year | YTD<br>May<br>2018 |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| AC Expressway   |             |                              |             |                    |                              |                    |
| Total Toll-Paying Traffic<br>Pleasantville Toll Plaza | 1,716,467   | 4.6                          | 1,640,810   | 7,596,021          | 6.3                          | 7,144,554          |
| AC Airport  |             |                              |             |                    |                              |                    |
| Scheduled Service Passengers                          | 83,329      | -0.6                         | 83,817      | 484,512            | 460,920                      | 5.1                |
| Charter Passengers                                    | 8,164       | -12.0                        | 9,280       | 35,887             | 41,695                       | -13.9              |
| Total Air Passengers                                  | 91,493      | -1.7                         | 93,097      | 520,399            | 502,615                      | 3.5                |

Note: NJ Transit Rail Service to A.C. suspended to install federally mandated Positive Train Control (PTC) equipment. Service expected to resume May 12, 2019

**In LIGHT of the data above...** June continued a positive trend for Atlantic City with significant year-over-year percentage gains in internet (55.8%) and land-based (13.1%) gaming. Total casino gaming revenue (excluding racetracks) in June 2019 (\$278 million) increased 20.2 percent over June 2018 (\$231.4 million) and at \$1.52 billion 2019 is 21 percent ahead for the year to date compared to 2018 (\$1.26 billion).

Month-to-month June 2019 total gaming revenue (\$278 million) exceeded May 2019 (\$266.8 million) by 4.26 percent. June casino win (\$236 million) was up 5.88% over May (\$222.9 million), however internet gaming (\$38 million) was flat, down 0.74% compared to (\$38.3 million), and sports wagering (\$4.07 million) was down 26.18% compared to (\$5.5 million).

Atlantic City revenues continue to show growth and resilience within the gaming sector further strengthening its position as the premier gaming destination resort on the East Coast. This is a trend we should expect to see through 2019 and beyond, however year-over-year and month-to-month comparisons will likely be less pronounced, as revenues will now be compared to an industry with nine casino operators and sports betting.

## **Atlantic City Information**

Atlantic City Tourism District open-container bill passes state Senate Law and Public Safety Committee - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, Bill S3502, which would allow alcoholic beverages to be consumed outdoors in the Atlantic City Tourism District, passed the state Senate Law and Public Safety Committee on June 6. The City Council of Atlantic City, Police Department and chairman of the City Alcohol Beverage Control Board have all endorsed the bill.

**Showboat enters long-term luxury rental business -** According to **The Press of Atlantic City**, the Showboat Atlantic City Hotel will make studio, one- and two-bedroom luxury apartments available for weekly and monthly rentals in Summer 2019.

**South Inlet Businesses seek rebranding as North Beach -** As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, business operators along Atlantic City's South Inlet, including the Tennessee Ave/Orange Loop development projects, seek to rebrand the area as North Beach, a walkable entertainment area with a variety of different amenities. The properties clustered along the north end of the Boardwalk plan to jointly promote the area in Summer 2019

## **New Jersey Gaming News**

Eldorado Resorts, approved as Atlantic City Casino Operator, seeks merger with Caesars

Entertainment - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, the Casino Control Commission granted

Eldorado Resorts Inc. a plenary license as a casino holding company on June 11. The approval of

Eldorado as an Atlantic City Casino operator finalized the company's acquisition of Tropicana Atlantic

City. In a June 24 Press Release Eldorado announced its intention to merge with Caesars Entertainment

to form the largest owner operator of US gaming assets. If finalized, the merger would put four of Atlantic City's nine casinos under the ownership of a single company.

Gaming industry professionals gather for 23<sup>rd</sup> annual East Coast Gaming Congress and NextGen Gaming Forum - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, gaming industry professionals gathered at Harrah's Waterfront Conference Center for the annual gaming forum. Further details and a recap of last year's event can be found at the ECGC site.

Hard Rock and Ocean celebrate one-year anniversary - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, Hard Rock Hotel & Casino and Ocean Casino Resort celebrated the anniversary of their opening in Atlantic City and reflected on the past year.

New Jersey surpasses Nevada in sports betting handle in May - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, New Jersey sports betting operators handled a higher volume of wagers in May 2019 than their west coast counterparts. For the first time since the launch of legal sports betting in New Jersey, casino and race track operators surpassed Nevada operators in both handle and revenue for the month.

## **National Gaming News**

**Federal court rules on Interstate Wire Act -** As reported by **Forbes**, on June 3 the U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire held that the Interstate Wire Act applies only to "activities associated with sports gambling" and not to the interstate sale of online lottery tickets. The judgement contradicts the November 2018 memorandum from the US Department of Justice which expanded the interpretation of the Wire Act to include all interstate gambling transactions.

Illinois legalizes sports betting- As reported by Legal Sports Report, Illinois Governor J. B. Pritzker signed sports betting into law on June 28. The State Gaming Board is currently drafting sports betting regulations, but they are expected to include prohibitions against wagering on Illinois collegiate sports teams, a mandate that official league data be purchased for use with in-game wagering, and in-person registration requirements for online sports wagering accounts for the first 18 months. Initial licensing fees are not to exceed \$10 million and the state will levy a 15 percent tax on operators' sports betting revenue.

New Hampshire passes sports betting legislation- According to Legal Sports Report, New Hampshire legislators passed sports betting legislation on June 13. The bill (HB480) authorizes the New Hampshire Lottery Commission to oversee both retail and mobile sportsbooks, creates a division of sports wagering within the commission, and prohibits wagering on N.H. collegiate teams and collegiate games occurring within the state. The bill does not include provisions for payment of an integrity fee to sports leagues or mandate the use of official league data. New Hampshire governor Chris Sununu signed the bill into law on July 12.

## **Regional Hospitality & Tourism News**

**Department of Environmental Protection closes beaches along Lake Hopatcong due to harmful algal bloom -** According to **NJ.com**, two beaches were closed along the N.J. lake when water tests found harmful cyanobacteria levels. The bacteria, naturally present in lakes and streams, can form both toxic and

non-toxic algal blooms. Toxic/Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB) pose a risk to humans and animals, and can cause skin rashes, abdominal pain, headaches, vomiting, nausea, blistering around the mouth and flu-like symptoms. DEP officials strongly advise against recreational use of the lake while HAB conditions persist. Boating is still permitted.

New Jersey Legislature passes bill relieving private home renters from 'Airbnb' tax - As reported by The Press of Atlantic City, on June 27 New Jersey legislators passed a bill (A4814/4520) that exempts privately rented homes from transient accommodation taxes. If passed into law, properties that are not professionally managed or brokered through a marketplace will not be subject to a 2018 law that extended New Jersey's 6.625% sales and use tax and its 5% hotel and motel occupancy fee to private rentals of less than 90 days.

**New Jersey remembers celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain with food trail -** As reported by **The Asbury Park Press**, the chef's home state is celebrating his life with the launch of the Anthony Bourdain Food Trail. The trail, launched on June 13-14, includes 10 restaurants which Bourdain featured in a 2015 food and travel show for CNN, "Parts Unknown."

# National/International Hospitality & Tourism News

Airbnb launches luxury lodging portfolio 'Airbnb Luxe' - As reported by The New York Times, Airbnb, which evolved from a tech start-up offering cheap lodging on couches and in spare bedrooms, has now entered the high-end vacation rental business. Speaking to The New York Times, LIGHT's Executive Director, Rummy Pandit, said "Airbnb has a reputation of being a more affordable alternative to a hotel, and the company needs to build a track record in a new area and appeal to a new demographic of travelers. That's not easy to do in a market that's ultracompetitive."

**Dominican and American authorities investigate the deaths of tourists -** As reported by **The New York Times**, nine American tourists have died in the Dominican Republic over the past year. Dominican and American authorities are investigating the deaths, which family members of the deceased have claimed they suspect are related.

Las Vegas poised to become Virtual Reality Hub - As reported by Variety, the city known as a gambling hub, has been adapting to new technologies including virtual reality (VR). VR 'bays' which provide guests with interactive gaming opportunities, are being featured on casino floors as another amenity or experience. Operators view the technology as an opportunity to engage a new generation of tech-savvy consumers and VR developers view Las Vegas as an opportunity to bring their technology to a diverse audience.

**Site of Chernobyl disaster to become official tourist attraction -** As reported by **CNN Travel**, the site of the 1986 nuclear accident that caused 31 immediate deaths and exposed millions to dangerous levels of radiation has become a popular destination for tourists. The release of an HBO mini-series about the tragedy is being credited with renewed interest in the site. Visitation to Chernobyl is part of an expanding phenomenon known as dark tourism - a term for visiting sites associated with death and suffering.