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Atlantic City Gaming Win & Total Casino Revenue

Source: N.J. Division of Gaming Enforcement

Monthly Revenue (Industry, \$ In Thousands)	March 2020	% Change from Prior Year	March 2019	YTD March 2020	% Change from Prior Year	YTD March 2019
Total Gaming Win (includes Internet & Sports Wagering)	\$156,714	-42.7%	\$273,718	\$702,145	-3.4%	\$726,658
Sports Wagering Revenue	\$6,422	-43.8%	\$11,419	\$34,602	38.1%	\$25,051
Internet Gaming Win	\$64,822	65.5%	\$39,134	\$171,896	64.5%	\$104,477
Casino Gaming Win	\$85,470	-61.7%	223,164	495,646	-17.0%	597,129

Note: Due to circumstances related to the Coronavirus Pandemic, the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement has postponed fourth quarter 2019 reporting deadlines for gaming operators. Please look for Q4 2019 data to be released on May 7th. Read more: [The Press of Atlantic City](#).

Atlantic City Statistical Transportation Data

Source: South Jersey Transportation Authority

Travel Mode	February 2020	Change from Prior Year	February 2019	YTD February 2020	Change from Prior Year	YTD February 2019
AC Expressway						
Total Toll-Paying Traffic Pleasantville Toll Plaza	1,479,501	9.4%	1,352,663	2,938,407	8.3%	2,713,764
AC Airport						
Scheduled Service Passengers	97,341	4.0%	93,642	190,043	1.7%	186,935
Charter Passengers	6,497	3.1%	6,299	12,525	4.0%	12,046
Total Air Passengers	103,838	3.9%	99,941	202,568	1.8%	198,981

In LIGHT of the data above... Prior to the closures related to COVID-19 March 2020 was on track to be the 22nd consecutive month of year-over-year monthly total gaming revenue increases for Atlantic City's casinos. March, the beginning of the spring shoulder season, was expected to be particularly strong in 2020 with gaming and non-gaming events aligning to bring larger crowds to the resort. Sports wagering on the NCAA Championship Tournament, MAAC Men's and Women's Basketball Tournament at Boardwalk Hall, Atlantic City Boat Show at the Convention Center, Atlantic City Restaurant Week, St. Patrick's Day Parade, and various concerts and live events were all expected to contribute to a positive if not record setting month. Unfortunately most of these events had to be canceled or shortened in response to the outbreak of Coronavirus.

In a week that started with the declaration of a public health emergency for New Jersey (March 9), continued with the cancellation/postponement of most professional sports seasons (March 12) and ended with the closure of Atlantic City's casinos (March 16); much changed for Atlantic City and the state as a whole.

The March casino revenue report from the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) provides us with the first direct measurement of how COVID-19 is impacting casino revenue. As anticipated, with barely two weeks of operation, brick-and-mortar gambling in March 2020 fell short of 2019, and with most professional sports leagues suspending or postponing their seasons, sports wagering also fell behind year-over-year. Unlike brick-and-mortar gambling, sports wagering can continue during the shutdown via online and mobile platforms provided gamblers have something to wager on. Sportsbooks nationwide have been getting creative offering odds on international sports and events that wouldn't, under normal circumstances, be on the radar. The shortage of mainstream sporting events to bet on has also, to a degree, accelerated the acceptance of wagering on non-traditional contests such as competitive video gaming tournaments.

Internet gaming is the current MVP for casino operators, continuing to grow in popularity and generate significant revenue for the industry. In March 2019 internet gaming (\$ 31.9 million) represented 14.3% of total gaming revenue (\$273.7 million) in March 2020 internet gaming (\$64.8 million) represents 41.4% of total gaming revenue (\$156.7 million).

Atlantic City Information

24th annual East Coast Gaming Congress & NexGen Forum rescheduled - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, Atlantic City's largest annual gaming conference has been postponed from April 27-28 to October 26-27 out of concerns related to the coronavirus.

Atlantic City casinos donate excess food - According to **The Press of Atlantic City**, all nine of Atlantic City's casinos donated food to the region's food banks, community centers and social service agencies. Various organizations including the Community Food Bank of New Jersey, Southern Branch, Turning Point Day Center for the Homeless, the Atlantic City Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army and the Boys and Girls Club of Atlantic City received food donations for distribution to the community.

Atlantic City change of government referendum postponed six weeks - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, a special election to decide the future structure of Atlantic City's government was postponed from March 31 to May 12. The election will be vote-by-mail only. For the referendum to be considered valid, at least 30% of the turnout in the last general election, or 1,870 people, must cast ballots in favor of the proposed change.

Atlantic City Convention Center chosen as site for field hospital - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, in a March 24 briefing state officials announced that, as part of the State's response to COVID-19, the Convention Center would be designated as one of four locations (including the Meadowlands, the Convention Center in Edison, and an Urban Search and Rescue Facility) to serve as a Federal Emergency Management Agency hospital. The Convention Center site will become the primary hospital for non-COVID-19 patients.

Atlantic City officials, the CRDA and Atlantic City Electric partner to repair broken streetlights- As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), the City, Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) and Atlantic City Electric are partnering on a project to repair and improve streetlights citywide. On March 17, the CRDA approved an agreement, not to exceed \$500,000, to finance the inspection, repair and maintenance of street lights with the goal of having a significant number of the lights fixed or repaired by Memorial Day.

New Jersey Gaming News

Freehold Raceway petitions for sports betting license – As reported by [Online Poker Report](#), Freehold Raceway, owned by Pennwood Racing, received unanimous support from the Freehold Borough Council on March 2 to offer sports betting. Pennwood Racing, a joint venture of Penn National Gaming and Greenwood Racing has petitioned the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement for a sports betting license, which, if granted, would make Freehold Raceway the state’s 11th land-based venue to offer on-site sports betting. Penn National Gaming owns Parx Casino in Pennsylvania and operates an online casino in partnership with Ocean Casino Resort in Atlantic City.

New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement non-traditional wagering opportunities – As reported by [The Lines](#), the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) has approved non-traditional wagering opportunities as sportsbooks get creative in filling the void left by sports shutdowns related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The DGE has provisionally approved such leagues/events as Belarusian Extraleague Hockey, Chinese Professional Baseball, Indian Premier League Cricket, International Table Tennis, Bowls Grand Prix Lawn Bowling, and World Snooker for wagering through April 20.

National Gaming News

G2E Asia conference postponed to July due to coronavirus outbreak - As reported by [Las Vegas Review Journal](#), organizers of G2E Asia, a spinoff of the Global Gaming Expo sponsored by the American Gaming Association and produced by Reed Expositions, have postponed the three-day conference scheduled to take place at the Venetian Macao on May 19-21. The postponement to July 28-30, is in response to the COVID-19 outbreak and related travel and commercial restrictions impacting the organizers ability to hold the show as planned. Approximately 18,000 people attended G2E Asia in 2019.

Illinois becomes 15th state to launch legal sports betting - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), on March 9, Rivers Casino in Des Plaines became the first casino in Illinois to take a sports bet. Five other casino operators and one racetrack have received temporary operating permits to offer sports betting. There is no timeline for the launch of mobile sports betting in Illinois.

International online poker tournament sees record number of entries - As reported by [ESPN](#), the March 22 “Sunday Million” international online poker tournament hosted by PokerStars, saw a record number of entries (93,016) with nearly 61 thousand players generating a prize pool of \$18.6 million. The previous record for entries in a “Sunday Million” tournament was set in 2011 with 62,116 entries. The March 22 tournament took third place for largest prize pool for an online poker tournament, behind two \$20 million tournaments hosted by online site Partypoker in 2018 and 2019.

Maryland Senate unanimously passes sports betting bill - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), on March 10, Maryland Senators unanimously passed (**SB 4**) which would legalize sports betting in the state. The bill allows wagering on professional and collegiate teams, including college teams in Maryland, as well as wagering on esports events sanctioned by an esports governing entity. The bill includes no integrity fee nor mandate to use official league data. Revenues would be taxed at 20%.

Michigan become the 16th state to launch legal sports betting - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), MGM Resorts' MGM Grand Detroit and Penn National's Greektown casinos accepted the state's first sports bets on March 11. The state's third commercial casino MotorCity opened its sportsbook on March 12. Michigan's 23 tribal casinos are also making deals with sportsbook providers. State gaming regulators anticipate a launch of online sports betting in early 2021.

Mobile sports betting not included in New York state budget - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), the New York state budget will not include mobile sports betting or an expedited licensing process for three downtown casinos. Advocates for New York gaming continue to promote mobile sports betting as an option for generating revenue for the state. If, due to COVID-19 precautions, New York legislators do not continue their session scheduled to end on June 2, gaming advocates may begin the three-year process of confirming the legality of mobile sports betting by constitutional amendment.

Montana becomes 17th state to launch legal sports betting - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), Montana became the 17th state to launch legal sports betting with the Montana Lottery installing terminals at more than 100 licensed sales agents beginning March 9. As of March 11, 'Sports Bet Montana' is official and operating.

Nevada allows sportsbooks to accept wagers on esports - As reported by [ESPN](#) and [Legal Sports Report](#), the state of Nevada voted to allow sports betting operators to accept wagers for season 11 Counter-Strike ESL Pro League esports matches. William Hill, the first Las Vegas sportsbook to adopt esports betting, released odds for the first two eligible matches on March 26. Other than Nevada, only New Jersey has allowed betting on esports.

South Dakota to put legalization of sports betting to public vote - According to [Legal Sports Report](#), on March 3 South Dakota legislators narrowly passed a resolution (**SJR 501**) to allow the legalization of sports betting to go to a public referendum vote in November. If the referendum is passed legislators will begin to discuss the specific details of launching sports betting in the state. This could include the expansion of commercial sports betting beyond Deadwood, the only city where gambling is legal in the state.

Virginia Governor signs online lottery bill into law, legislature passes sports betting bill - According to [Online Poker Report](#), Virginia became the 7th state to legalize online lottery sales on March 4 when Gov. Ralph Northam signed bill **S 922** into law. According to [Legal Sports Report](#), Virginia legislators passed a sports betting bill on March 8. The **bill** bans betting on Virginia collegiate sports and prop bets on any college sport, it also requires the use of official league data for in-play betting, although operators can use any data source to settle end-of-game bets. Sportsbook operators would pay \$250,000 for a three year license with a \$200,000 renewal fee and revenues would be taxed at a rate of 15%.

Washington Governor signs sports betting bill into law- According to **Legal Sports Report**, Washington state Governor, Jay Inslee signed into law on March 25 **ESHA 2638**, a bill allowing tribal casinos to offer sports betting with mobile sports betting limited, by geofence, to tribal properties.

Hospitality & Tourism News

Atlantic City being considered as host for NBA playoffs - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, a source with the NBA shared that Atlantic City, along with Orlando, Hawaii and Louisville, is being considered as a possible host should the NBA choose to have its playoffs in a single location this year. The NBA suspended its season on March 11 due to the coronavirus pandemic; it is unclear when the season will resume.

Cape May County advises private campgrounds to push back seasonal opening - As reported by **NJ.com**, officials in Cape May County, N.J. announced a recommendation that private campgrounds in their jurisdiction postpone opening until May 11 in an effort to reduce and discourage visitation during the coronavirus outbreak. The campgrounds typically open for business in April, around Easter weekend.

South Jersey Transportation Authority considers toll increase- As reported by **NJ.com**, on March 18 the South Jersey Transportation Authority (SJTA) voted to set public hearing dates for a proposed 'revenue enhancement' and capital program. The Atlantic City Expressway is the third toll road in New Jersey that could see a toll hike, The New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway have also proposed increases. The SJTA anticipates the proposed toll hike (an average of \$0.57 per passenger vehicle, capped at 3% annually) will raise \$497.4 million to fund 11 capital projects. Projects include plans to install cashless electronic toll collection systems (\$40 million), build a direct connector to the Atlantic City Airport (\$17.4 million) and fund design support for a proposed Camden-Gloucester light rail line (\$200 million). Tolls on the expressway were last increased in November 2008.

U.S. Hotel industry could lose 4 million jobs due to COVID-19 closures - As reported by **Travel Weekly** on March 23, The American Hotel and Lodging Association (AHLA) and Oxford Economics estimate 4 million hotel jobs have been eliminated or are at risk due to closures related to COVID-19. California is expected to lose the most jobs (414 thousand hotel-supported jobs), with Florida (305.1 thousand), Texas (268.8 thousand), New York (215.7 thousand) and Nevada (161.4 thousand) also facing significant impacts.

U.S. Travel sector could lose 4.6 million jobs by end of April - As reported by **Lodging Magazine**, the U.S. Travel Association predicts the industry could lose 4.6 million travel-related jobs and \$202 billion in direct travel spending before May.