

A publication of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism at Stockton University  
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## Atlantic City Gaming Win & Non-Gaming Revenue

Source: N.J. Division of Gaming Enforcement

Month of September (Current Operators, \$ In Thousands)	September 2017	Change from Prior Year	September 2016
<b>Total Gaming Win (includes Internet)</b>	235,803	7.9	218,461
<b>Internet Gaming Win</b>	20,392	25.6	16,232

Second Quarter Ended June 2017 & 2016 (Current Operators, \$ In Thousands)	Q2 - 2017	Change from Prior Year	Q2 - 2016
<b>Total Revenue (Gaming &amp; Non-Gaming)</b>	\$ 876,655	7.3%	\$ 816,654

For the Six Months Ended June 2017 & 2016 (Industry, \$ In Thousands)	June 30, 2017	Change from Prior Year	June 30, 2016
Casino Licensees:			
Casino	\$ 1,237,518	2.4%	\$ 1,208,618
Rooms	\$ 183,871	-5.0%	\$ 193,649
Food & Beverage	\$ 200,808	-4.6%	\$ 210,385
Entertainment & Other	\$ 71,060	-0.1%	\$ 71,146
<b>Casino Licensees Total Revenue</b>	\$ 1,693,257	0.6%	\$ 1,683,798
Third Party Business Sales	\$ 89,812	-3.8%	\$ 93,381
<b>Combined Sales</b>	\$ 1,783,069	0.3%	\$ 1,777,179

## Atlantic City Statistical Transportation Data

Source: South Jersey Transportation Authority

Travel Mode	Jan-September 2017	Change from Prior Year	Jan-September 2016
<b>AC Expressway</b>			
Total Toll-Paying Traffic Pleasantville Toll Plaza	14,365,436	-1.8%	14,628,713
<b>AC Airport</b>			
Scheduled Service Passengers	759,488	-13.7%	879,753
Charter Passengers	77,959	28.9%	60,476
<b>Total Air Passengers</b>	837,447	-10.9%	940,229
<b>Casino Buses</b>			
Casino Buses to A.C.	45,470	-6.0%	48,365
Casino Bus Passengers	782,583	-11.7%	885,760
<b>NJ Transit Rail Service to A.C.</b>			
Rail Passengers	764,639	-9.9%	848,518

## Legislative Update

**NJ Congressmen Request Sports Betting Oversight Hearings-** As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), US Representatives Frank LoBiondo and Donald Norcross, have requested the House Judiciary Committee conduct oversight hearings regarding sports betting. The hearings would prepare congress to respond in the event the Supreme Court approves New Jersey's appeal of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA).

**NJ State Senate Approves Bill Renaming Boardwalk Hall-** As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), NJ state Senators voted on Oct. 5 to approve a bill renaming Atlantic City's Boardwalk Hall, Jim Whelan Boardwalk Hall, in honor of the late senator, and former mayor, teacher, and lifeguard in Atlantic City.

**US Supreme Court Announces December Dates for New Jersey's appeal of PASPA-** As reported by [CalvinAyre.com](#), the US Supreme court has set a Dec. 4 date to hear the oral arguments of New Jersey's case to appeal prior court rulings prohibiting sports betting at Atlantic City casinos and state racetracks.

## Atlantic City Information

**CRDA Approves 2017-18 Operating Budget-** As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority Board of Directors approved the 2017-18 operating budget at their meeting Oct. 17. The budget of more than \$8.7 million is a reduction of 14 percent or \$1.4 million from the 2016-17 budget. The board also voted on the budget for Meet AC, the resort's convention and visitors bureau. Meet AC's budget of \$7 million will remain the same in 2017-18.

**CRDA Holds Public Meetings to Discuss Atlantic City Tourism District Zoning and Land Use -** As reported by [SNJToday.com](#), The CRDA held two public hearings for proposed changes to the rules and regulations governing land use in the Atlantic City Tourism District. By updating the existing regulations, the CRDA hopes to attract more development projects and investment opportunities to the city.

**S&P Global Ratings raises Atlantic City's credit rating to CCC+ from CCC -** As reported by [CalvinAyre.com](#) the international credit ratings agency cited improved finances and timely debt service payments as reasons to upgrade Atlantic City's rating. While S&P noted that the city was still 'vulnerable to nonpayment,' this is the second time within a year that the company has upgraded the city's status. Some, including Gov. Chris Christie view the upgrades as "early signs our efforts are working, that we will successfully revitalize Atlantic City and restore the luster of this jewel on the Jersey Shore."

**Newest Section of Boardwalk Opens-** As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on Oct.12 a section of Boardwalk located between Madison and Melrose avenues, near Oscar E. McClinton Junior Waterfront Park, officially opened to the public. The section, which includes a rock seawall and steel bulkhead is part of the second phase of a \$50 million project to extend the Boardwalk to Gardner's Basin.

**Oct. 10 Marks One-Year Anniversary of Taj Mahal Closure-** [The Press of Atlantic City](#) marked the one-year anniversary of the Taj Mahal closure with a look back at how much Atlantic City has changed in the past year. The property, purchased and renovated by the Hard Rock, will continue to play a role in the Atlantic City narrative when it reopens in summer 2018.

## Local Gaming News

**New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) Director Issues Advisory Bulletin-** As reported by **OnlinePokerReport.com**, David Rebeck, Director of the NJDGE, has issued an Advisory Bulletin, *Impact of Operations in Grey Markets on Suitability for Licensure*, advising NJ licensed gaming operators not to do business in Australia. The bulletin is a response to the tightening of online gambling restrictions in Australia and a letter from Richard Bean, Acting Chairman of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), which alleges that New Jersey-based online gambling companies have been violating international gaming law by providing their services to Australian residents. As of Sept.29, New Jersey regulators will consider Australia a black market, and operators who do business with the country will risk forfeiture of their NJ licenses.

**New Jersey, Nevada and Delaware to Pool Online Poker Players-** As reported by **OnlinePokerReport.com**, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie **announced** on Oct.13 that New Jersey would be entering into an **interstate liquidity agreement** with Nevada and Delaware. Licensed online casino operators in each state will be permitted to pool or share online poker players and increase the size of their progressive jackpots. The addition of New Jersey players into Nevada and Delaware's online markets, and vice versa, could jumpstart an online poker industry, which has suffered from a relatively low number of live players.

**Owners of the Shuttered Atlantic Club Announce Pending Sale-** As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, TJM Properties, the current owners of the Atlantic Club, announced on Oct. 9 that they had a serious buyer interested in the purchase of the former casino hotel. Prior deals to purchase the property, including one in April 2017, have fallen through.

**Revel May Have a Buyer (or Two) -** According to **The Press of Atlantic City**, Glenn Straub has entered into an agreement with a Colorado-based company, Mile High Dice MGR, LLC, to sell the former Revel Casino. The Atlantic County Clerk's Office has an agreement of sale filed Aug. 31, 2017 between TEN RE ACNJ LLC (Mile High Dice) and Polo North Country Club Inc. (Straub) for Atlantic City Lots 62-1 (Hotel- 500 & 601 Boardwalk) and 68-3.02 ( Utility Plant- 117 S. Mass. Ave). No information was available regarding the purchase price or a possible closing date for the sale. Another, New York-based company, Keating & Associates LLC, had previously made a \$225 million offer for the property and, according to **The Press of Atlantic City**, is still interested in purchasing the property despite the agreement of sale filed with the clerk's office.

## National Gaming News

**American Gaming Association (AGA) Releases Analysis of Tribal Gaming's Economic Impact-** In an Oct. 17 **press release**, the AGA announced the completion of the report, **The Economic Impact of Tribal Gaming: A First-Ever State-by-State Analysis**. According to the report, tribal gaming supports 635,000 jobs, generating \$33 billion in employee wages. Tribal Gaming's \$97 billion economic impact includes \$16 billion in taxes and direct payments to federal, state and local governments.

**Annual Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Continues in the Wake of Las Vegas Shooting-** The American Gaming Association and its event partner Reed Exhibitions released a **statement** on Oct. 2, confirming that the annual G2E would open as planned and “strive to honor the victims of this tragic event. The organizers’ “thoughts and prayers are with those that were affected, and with the people of Las Vegas and Nevada.” Some 26,000 gaming professionals were expected to attend the event, which ran from October 3 through 5.

**Florida Pursues Legalizing Daily Fantasy Sports-** as reported by [LegalSportsReport.com](#), Florida legislators have filed Daily Fantasy Sports Bills (Senate Bill 374 and House Bill 223) which will be reviewed when state lawmakers reconvene in 2018. This will be the third time such bills have been proposed since 2015.

**Pennsylvania Legislators Pass Gaming Expansion-** As reported by [OnlinePokerReport.com](#) on October 26, members of the Pennsylvania House and Senate passed a ‘wide-ranging’ gaming package **H271**. The bill, which includes provisions for online and sports betting, has been transmitted to Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf. Governor Wolf will have 10 days to either pass or veto the bill before it becomes law. In addition to the provisions for online and sports betting, H271 would regulate Daily Fantasy Sports, authorize the sale of online lottery products, authorize Video Gaming Terminals (VGTs) for truck stops and allow tablet gaming at airports.

**Illinois, Michigan, New Hampshire Make Late Push for Online Gambling Legislation-** As reported by [OnlinePokerReport.com](#), three other states are also currently considering online gambling legislation. The Illinois state legislature is expected to revisit **H479** an online gambling and daily fantasy sports bill passed by the senate and stalled in the house earlier this year. The New Hampshire Legislature discussed an online gambling bill (**H562**) during an executive session on Oct. 25. Meanwhile, Legislators from Michigan have hinted that a discussion of online gambling in the state could come before Thanksgiving.

**MGM Purchases WNBA’s San Antonio Stars-** As reported by [LegalSportsReport.com](#), MGM Resorts International has purchased a WNBA franchise, which has plans to move to Las Vegas. Among its network of entertainment businesses, MGM also operates a sportsbook in Nevada. Some believe the casino’s ownership of a pro sports team has implications for the future of regulated sports betting.

**Nevada Gaming Board Releases August 2017 Numbers-** As reported by [LegalSportsReport.com](#), Nevada sportsbooks reported their best August on record. Revenue for the month topped \$30 million and handle was \$301 million, \$112 million more than the previous best August (\$189 million in 2016). Gains were chiefly due to wagering on the Mayweather-McGregor fight, which alone accounted for \$65 million in handle. Wagering on football increased by \$14 million year-over-year and baseball wagering was up by \$40 million.

**The Solicitor General Submits Supreme Court Brief Supporting the Sports Leagues in the New Jersey Sports Betting Case-** As reported by [LegalSportsReport.com](#), the Office of the Solicitor General has released a **brief** in support of the NFL, NHL, NBA, Major League Baseball and the NCAA in opposition to New Jersey’s intent to offer legal sports betting. In the opinion of the Solicitor General, PASPA falls within the bounds of the federal government’s “supremacy” over state law.

**Tropicana Celebrates Grand Opening of New Land-Based Casino in Evansville, Indiana-** According to a [Press Release](#) from the Tropicana Evansville, the company celebrated the opening of its newest land-based casino on October 20. The new 75,000-square-foot entertainment complex will replace the company's original riverboat casino.

**West Virginia Hires Researchers to Study the Potential Economic Impact of Legalizing Sports Betting-** As reported by [GamingToday.com](#), West Virginia has entered into a \$106,000 contract with gaming research firm, Eilers and Krejcik, to study the potential economic impact of legalizing sports betting in the state. With legislative approval, the West Virginia Lottery Commission wants to 'move expeditiously' to offer sports betting to better compete with neighboring states.

## Hospitality News

**Hospitality Procurement Services Provider Avendra to be Acquired by Aramark-** As reported by [LodgingMagazine.com](#), the board of managers of Avendra, a North American hospitality procurement services provider, announced the company's pending sale to Aramark for \$1.35 billion. Formed 16 years ago when founding shareholders, Marriott International, Hyatt, Accor, ClubCorp, and IHG, merged procurement divisions, Avendra currently serves 8,500 hotels, golf clubs, universities, multi-family housing buildings and other hospitality business in the Americas.

**Hotel Construction Pipeline in United States Increases 8.8 percent Year-Over-Year-** As reported by [HospitalityNet.org](#), numbers released by the TOPHOTELPROJECTS online database show more than 500,000 rooms for nearly 5,000 projects in the U.S. construction pipeline as of Aug. 1, 2017. This is an 8.8 percent increase over August 2016. Major new tourist destinations such as Austin, Texas, Portland, Oregon, and Nashville, Tennessee were well represented in the pipeline with developers continuing to invest heavily in these and other destinations.

**Hotels, Wineries and Other Hospitality Businesses Among Properties Damaged by California Wildfires-** As reported by [The New York Times](#) and [TravelWeekly.com](#), a number of hotels, wineries and restaurants are among the over 5,700 structures damaged in the fires which began Oct. 8. Among the properties destroyed by the fires were the Paradise Ridge Winery, the Signorello Estate winery, the Fountaingrove Inn, the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country hotel, Willi's Wine Bar, and the Cricklewood steakhouse. These devastating and deadly fires will likely affect the multi-billion tourism industry of the California wine region.

**Travel Weekly Releases 2017 Travel Industry Survey-** Travel Weekly Announced the release of its [annual survey](#) of travel sellers. The study identifies key industry statistics and trends. Notably, the ratio of Domestic vs. International bookings has shifted from 60% Domestic Travel and 40% International Travel in 2003 to 41% Domestic Travel and 59% International Travel in 2016.