

2018 MAJOR LEAGUE AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

This is a brief summary of 2018 Major League and Minor League Baseball attendance. It includes league and team attendance totals in the pages that follow the notes below. The Minor League highlights summary, and their team and league attendance listings, can be found starting on Page 16, after the Major League notes and statistics.

The 2018 full Minor League Baseball Attendance Analysis has been posted on numbertamer.com. The 2018 complete Major League Analysis should be ready by May, 2019. The full analyses for each season from 2009 through 2017 are available on the 'Baseball Reports' page of numbertamer.com. An updated version of the 2017 Major League Analysis, showing 2017 and 2018 attendance data in other sports besides baseball, was updated and posted on December 12, 2018.

If you need any further information before the 2018 comprehensive reports are published, please contact David Kronheim – d.kronheim@verizon.net, 718-591-2043. This data will be provided free-of-charge.

SOURCES:

Major League attendance data was obtained from the Major League Baseball Information System. The office of Minor League Baseball (formerly known as the NAPBL) provided figures for the Major League affiliated leagues. Independent leagues data came from each league's Website. In general, Major and Minor League attendance data is compiled from figures announced in box scores, includes tickets sold but not used, and may include tickets distributed for free or at deep discounts. Note the box below for at least one team's decision to exclude free, or deeply-discounted tickets in their official crowd numbers. Attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league, and only includes tickets sold and used. That league does not count 'no-shows' in its attendance.

A NOTE ON HOW MIAMI AND TORONTO CHANGED THE WAY THEY COMPILED THEIR OFFICIAL 2018 ATTENDANCE, AND WHY DECLINES BY THESE TEAMS MAY BE LESS THAN THE FIGURES INDICATE

In 2018, both the Miami Marlins and Toronto Blue Jays revised their methods of compiling their official attendance. These changes resulted in both teams, particularly the Marlins, reporting huge attendance declines in 2018, compared to 2017. While both of these decreases were among the largest in Major League history, some context is needed in reporting them.

In 2017, the Marlins included tickets sold at deep discounts, or distributed for free, in their official reported attendance of 1,651,997. Their new ownership group decided to change this policy in 2018, and only include tickets actually sold at, or close to, the regular price, in their official attendance. As a result of this change, 2018 official Marlins' attendance was listed as 811,104, a decline of 840,893 (50.9%). It was the first time, at least officially, that a team had its attendance cut in half from one year to the next since 1950.

According to a March 29, 2018 article in the Miami Herald, if the Marlins had used the same method of calculating attendance in 2017, as they were planning to do in 2018, their 2017 attendance would have been around 820,000. So virtually their entire 2018 listed attendance decline is due to them no longer reporting free, or deeply-discounted tickets, in the official attendance figures announced by the team, and compiled by the Major League Baseball Information System.

As for Toronto, according to an article by Maury Brown in the October 3, 2018 issue of Forbes, the Blue Jays released far fewer tickets to resellers in 2018, compared to previous years. Toronto's attendance fell 878,605 (27.4%) in 2018. Much, or perhaps even most of, this decrease could be attributed to the Blue Jays finishing 35 games out of first place in the American League East. But the change in ticket distribution policy was certainly a factor in the decline.

This report, and probably all other news media reports about Major League Baseball attendance, use the official figures provided by Major League Baseball. So the 2018 attendance declines listed for Miami and Toronto are official. But wherever they are noted in this report, and in future editions of the Number Tamer Major League Baseball Attendance Analysis, the change in how these teams compiled their attendance in 2018 will be mentioned.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – 2018 Attendance Overview and Summary

These notes come from the official regular season attendance figures, issued by MLB on December 7, 2018. Attendance figures include the two extra games played on October 1 at Wrigley Field and at Dodger Stadium to determine the winners of the National League Central and West. All statistics from those games are included in the 2018 regular season stats. The final official attendance figures were reported in the 2018 Major League Baseball Official Averages Book, issued in early December.

-) Mother Nature was not kind to Major League, and especially Minor League Baseball in 2018. In the Major Leagues, there were 54 postponements in 2018, tying 1997 for the most since 1989. Early season games that were played often took place in terrible conditions. Of the 351 games scheduled for outdoor stadiums in April, 27 were postponed due to rain, snow, or cold. 98 games began with temperatures under 50 degrees, including 28 games under 40 degrees, and one game each in Minnesota and Colorado with a gametime temperature of 27 degrees. In April, 10 of 15 games played in Cleveland, and 10 of 14 games in Detroit, started with temperatures under 50. 5 of the games in Detroit had gametime temperatures of less than 40 degrees.
-) The bad weather in 2018 caused a decline in the official announced attendance, which includes tickets sold, but not used. But perhaps more significantly, it likely caused declines in short-term advance and day-of-game ticket sales, and in the number of people who actually did attend the games. Many of those early-season bad-weather games were played in front of very sparse crowds. With more and more ballpark revenue generated from sources other than ticket sales, such as parking, concessions, ballpark dining and bar facilities, and merchandise sales, bad weather is now costlier to teams than it's ever been.
-) Major League Baseball's 2018 total attendance was 69,625,244. This is down 3,045,179 (4.2%) from 2017, and is the lowest total since 2003. It was the 5th decline in the last 6 years, and the 8th decrease in the last 11 seasons. Total MLB attendance had topped 73 million for 13 years in a row (2004-2016). Since 2010, until 2018, the yearly changes have been small. Attendance fell 0.7% in 2017, 0.8% in 2016, rose less than 0.1% in 2015, fell 0.4% in 2014 and 1.1% in 2013, rose 2.0% in 2012 and 0.5% in 2011, and fell 0.4% in 2010, and 6.6% in 2009.
-) Home games played in American League parks had a combined 2018 loss of 1,988,992 (5.8%) to 32,374,617. Attendance for games in National League parks fell 1,056,187 (2.8%) to 37,250,627. The National League was up 0.5% in 2017 total attendance, but the American League had a 1.9% dip. In 2016, the American League had a 0.5% total attendance increase, while the National League was down 2.0%. In 2015, the American League was up 1.1%, while National League total attendance fell 0.9%. In 2014, the A.L. was down 0.3%, and the N.L. fell 0.5%. Each league was down a combined 1.1% in 2013.
-) Average attendance per date was 28,830 in 2018, down 1,212 from the 2017 average of 30,042. This ended a streak of 14 straight years with average per date above 30,000. It was the lowest average per date since 2003. American League teams averaged 26,845 per date (down 1,625 from 2017), while the National League teams averaged 30,811 (down 795). These league averages include interleague games. American League teams hosted one less date in 2018 than in 2017. National League teams hosted 3 fewer dates in 2018 than in 2017.
-) 2018 post-season attendance was 1,497,352 for 33 games, an average of 45,374 per game. 2017 post-season attendance was 1,746,109 for 38 games, an average of 45,950 per game. 2016 post-season attendance was 1,552,257 for 35 games, averaging 44,350 per game. Total 2015 post-season attendance was 1,634,763 for 36 games, an average of 45,410 per game.
-) Two teams accounted for more than half of the 2018 attendance decline. Toronto's total attendance fell 878,605 (27.4%). This was the 4th worst decrease in total attendance in Major League history. Only the 1967 Dodgers, 2009 Mets (first season in Citi Field, a much smaller park than Shea Stadium, where the 2008 Mets topped 4 million), and 2003 Indians, had bigger declines. There was one less date played in Toronto than in 2017, as a game was postponed after snow falling off the CN Tower caused damage to the roof of the Rogers Centre. As noted in the box on the previous page, the Blue Jays released far fewer tickets to resellers in 2018, and this was a factor in their decline.
-) Miami had an 840,893 (50.9%) decrease, becoming the first team since the 1950 Philadelphia Athletics to have their attendance cut in half from one season to the next. It was the 6th worst total decline in MLB history. But the main reason for this huge decrease was that the Marlins didn't include free and deeply-discounted tickets in their official attendance in 2018, something they did do in 2017.

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY

-) Unlike in 2017, no games had to be rescheduled in other ballparks due to storms. But there were games scheduled for non-Major League ballparks. Minnesota played 2 home games in San Juan, Puerto Rico, which drew a total of 39,053. San Diego had a 3-game series in Monterrey, Mexico, that drew a total of 65,116. Williamsport, PA hosted a Phillies' home date that drew 2,429 to its Minor League park, in salute to Little League.
-) In 2017, Hurricanes Harvey and Irma caused 3 teams to play 'home' games away from their regular home ballparks. Houston was the home team for a series played at Tampa Bay, with a 3-game combined total attendance of 12,993. Tampa Bay played a 'home' series with the Yankees at Citi Field in New York. (Yankee Stadium was not available due to a soccer game scheduled there.) Those 3 games drew a combined 49,510. A 3-game home series for Miami was played in Milwaukee, and drew a total of 68,983. Attendance from all these games is credited to the original home team. For example, even though Tampa Bay's series with the Yankees was moved to New York, the attendance from that series is included in the 2017 total attendance, and in the number of 'home' dates for the Rays, but not in the 2017 total or the number of home dates for the Yankees.
-) The A's celebrated the 50th anniversary of their first game in Oakland by offering free admission to their April 17th game. 46,028 fans took them up on that offer. Attendance from that game is not included in the A's total for 2018, and the game is also not included in the number of dates played.
-) The Los Angeles Dodgers had their best total attendance ever, thanks to that extra game needed to determine the winner of the National League West. They led the Majors, drawing 3,857,500, up 91,644 (2.4%), and an average of 47,043 per date (their 2nd best ever), up 551. This was also the 6th highest total attendance ever by a National League team. The Dodgers had 15 sellouts, and topped 50,000 at 22 games.
-) The New York Yankees led the American League in total attendance for the 55th time, drawing 3,482,855, up 335,889 (10.7%). Average per date was an American League-high 42,998, up 3,163. They extended their Major League record by topping 3 million for the 20th consecutive season.
-) The Yankees had led the American League in total attendance for a record-setting 13 years in a row through 2015. (Toronto led in 2016 and 2017.) The previous record for consecutive seasons leading a league was 11 by the Yankees from 1949 to 1959. Among National League teams, the Dodgers hold the record for the longest streak as league attendance champion – 10 straight years from 1977 through 1986.
-) Top 2018 road attendance honors went to the Giants. They drew 2,747,164 (33,916 per date) away from San Francisco. The Yankees led American League teams on the road, drawing 2,454,838 (30,685 per date).
-) For the 5th time in MLB history, the gap between the team with the highest and lowest attendance topped 3 million. The Dodgers outdrew the Marlins in 2018 by 3,046,396. The other occurrences were in 1991 (Toronto over Montreal), 1993 (Colorado over San Diego), 2004 (Yankees over Montreal), and 2006 (Yankees over Marlins).
-) The Dodgers had the highest combined 2018 Major League home/road attendance, drawing 6,538,203 (40,112 per date). The Yankees drew a combined 5,937,693 (36,880 per date) to lead the American League. From 1999 through 2015, the Yankees had the top combined home/road American League attendance each year. Toronto led the A.L. in combined home/road attendance 2016, and the Yankees led in 2017.
-) Miami had the lowest total attendance in the Major Leagues in 2018, drawing just 811,104 (10,014 per date). It was the lowest attendance in the Majors since the Montreal Expos drew 748,550 in 2004, and the lowest attendance for a team in a post-1990 ballpark. The Expos split their 2004 home games between Montreal and San Juan, and became the Washington Nationals in 2005. Note again, that the Marlins stopped including free and deeply-discounted tickets in their official attendance in 2018.
-) Despite winning 90 games, Tampa Bay had the lowest American League attendance, drawing 1,154,973, an average of 14,259 per date. The 1978 Baltimore Orioles, who drew 1,051,724 in 73 dates, were the last team to win at least 90 games, and have a lower total attendance than 2018 Tampa Bay. The Rays' 2018 average per date was the lowest for a team with at least 90 wins since the 1976 Pirates, who averaged 14,054 per date.
-) Minnesota, Cleveland, the White Sox, Detroit, Kansas City, Baltimore, Oakland, Pittsburgh, and Cincinnati were the other teams under 2 million.

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-) In addition to the Yankees and Dodgers, St. Louis averaged over 40,000 per date in 2018. 9 other teams averaged over 30,000 per date. There were 14 teams averaging at least 30,000 per date in both 2017 and 2016. 17 teams averaged 30,000+ per date in 2015, and 15 teams did it in 2014.
-) 5 American League teams, and 8 National League teams, had gains in total attendance in 2018. These 13 teams also had average per date increases. 4 teams (Houston, Yankees, Milwaukee, Philadelphia) had total increases of at least 200,000. Those same 4 teams also had percentage gains of at least 10%.
-) Defending World Champion Houston posted a Major League-best increase of 576,878 in total attendance. The Astros also had the best percentage (24.0%), and average per date (7,122) gains in Majors. Milwaukee, up 292,153 in total attendance and up 3,607 per date, had the best National League gains in those categories. Philadelphia had 13.3% total gain, best percentage growth in the N.L. Also increasing at least 2,000 in average per date were the Yankees, Seattle, and Philadelphia.
-) Largest 2018 total attendance decrease was 878,605 by Toronto, followed closely by Miami (down 840,893). Other big losses were by Baltimore (464,232), Detroit (464,629), Kansas City (555,263), Texas (400,653), and Pittsburgh (454,131). Cincinnati and the Mets were down more than 200,000.
-) Miami, down 50.9%, had the worst total percentage loss since the 1950 Philadelphia Athletics. Baltimore (22.9%), Detroit (20.0%), Kansas City (25.0%), Toronto (27.4%), and Pittsburgh (23.7%), also had losses of at least 20%. Texas and Cincinnati were down at least 10%.
-) According to data in 'Total Baseball,' the 1950 Philadelphia A's had a 62.1% decline in total attendance from 1949. Retrosheet.org data shows a 59.9% drop for the 1950 A's, who shared Shibe Park with the N.L. Champion Phillies.
-) Toronto had the worst average per date decline down 10,488. Miami was close behind with an average per date loss of 10,381. Toronto's average per date decline was the 10th worst in MLB history, and Miami's was 12th worst. Kansas City was down 7,198, Detroit fell 5,450, Baltimore was down 4,988, Texas dipped 4,946, and Pittsburgh fell 4,911. Cincinnati and the Mets exceeded 2,000 in average per date decline.
-) The Dodgers were the only team to set a new total attendance record in 2018. The extra game for the N.L. West title allowed them to outdraw their 2007 attendance by 464. They did not set a new record for average per date. Houston fell 107,323-short of their all-time high in total attendance.
-) The 299 interleague dates drew 9,278,727 in 2018, an average of 31,033 per date. Non-interleague games averaged 28,519 per date, so the interleague games averaged 8.8% higher than the non-interleague average. This is the biggest gap between interleague and non-interleague average per date since 2012. Interleague games average per date was just 0.3% higher than non-interleague games in 2017, 4.1% higher in 2016, and 4.2% higher in 2015. The interleague games averaged only 1.4% more than non-interleague games in 2014, and 2.0% higher in 2013. But in 2012, interleague games averaged 34,693 per date. This was 13.9% above the average of 30,454 per date for non-interleague games.
-) In most seasons prior to 2013, interleague games averaged about 10-12% higher attendance than non-interleague games. But until 2013, nearly all interleague games were played from late May to early July when attendance is higher than at the start and end of the season. With each league having 15 teams due to the move of the Astros to the American League in 2013, there was at least one interleague game played nearly every day of the season.
-) 15 single admission doubleheaders were played in 2018, all of them making up rained-out games. The last doubleheader on a team's original schedule was in Tampa Bay on Saturday, June 10, 2017. It drew 17,775.
-) A monthly comparison shows that 2018 vs. 2017 average per date was down 9.4% for March-April dates, due, in good part, to terrible weather, down 3.9% in May, down 2.0% in June, down 5.1% in July, down 2.1% in August, and down 1.5% for September-October. Combined average per date for March, April, May, and June was 28,179 in 2018, down 5.2% from those same months in 2017. The combined July, August and September-October average per date was 29,504, down 2.8%. July dates had the best average in 2018 (31,131), 2017 (32,805), 2016 (33,259), 2015 (33,007), 2014 (32,168) and 2013 (32,399). March-April had the lowest average per date in 2018 (26,867), May had the lowest average in 2017 (28,715), September-October had the low average per date in 2016 (28,977), and in 2015 (28,989). April had the low average per date in 2014 (28,911), and in 2013 (28,822).

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-) In 2018, there were 4 fewer dates played than in 2017, 10 less than in 2016, 2 less than in 2015, 6 less than in 2014, and 11 less than in 2013. The 2018 and 2013 total number of dates included 'Tiebreaker' games to determine Division Champions or who made the post-season as a Wild Card team. Officially, those are extra regular season games, so all statistics, including attendance, are included in the regular season stats.
-) 7 teams (Angels, Yankees, Dodgers, Cardinals, Giants, Rockies, Cubs) topped 3 million. 7 teams also drew at least 3 million in 2017 and 2016. 5 teams reached 3 million in 2015 and 2014. The season record for the most teams above 3 million is 10 teams. In 2018, 12 teams surpassed 2.5 million, and 19 teams reached 2 million. The White Sox, A's, Rays, Marlins, Reds, Pirates, Orioles, Indians, Tigers, Twins, and Royals drew under 2 million.
-) 2013 and 2012 were the only seasons that every Major League team surpassed 1.5 million in attendance. Miami, Tampa Bay, and Pittsburgh fell below that figure in 2018.
-) As is usually the case, the Astros had a nice gain (576,878) in 2018, after winning the 2017 World Series. But the Chicago Cubs followed up their 2016 World Series win with a 32,858 decline in total attendance. The 2017 Cubs were just the 11th team since 1971 to have an attendance decline in the season following a World Championship. This excludes strike affected seasons. Prior to 1971, 42 of 67 defending World Champions saw attendance fall.
-) 2015 World Champion Kansas City also had an attendance dip the following year. In 2015, the Royals had the biggest gains in the Majors in total attendance (up 752,067), percentage gain (up 38.4%) and average per date (up 9,285). The Royals had ranked 25th in average per date in 2014. But they moved up to 10th best in the Majors in 2015. They ranked #12 in 2016, but fell to 17th in 2017, and 23rd in 2018. Kansas City's 2015 total attendance gain was the best for any team not moving into a new ballpark since the Angels had a 755,525 gain in 2003.
-) The Chicago Cubs had an estimated 51 sellouts in 2018, while Boston had 45. The Cubs don't list sellouts in their Game Notes, so an estimate was made that crowds above 39,000 were sellouts. San Francisco's National League record-high sellout streak ended in July, 2017. At the end of the streak, the Giants had 530 regular season, and 555 combined regular and post-season consecutive sellouts, going back to 2010. This was the 2nd longest sellout streak in Major League history. Boston sold out 794 straight regular season dates, plus 26 post-season dates, from 2003 to 2013. The Giants' streak is the 8th longest in North American sports history. The Minor League Baseball Dayton Dragons have an active sellout streak of 1,316 regular season games through 2018, going back to their first game in 2000. The Red Sox' streak, noted above, is the 2nd longest. NBA teams hold the 3rd through 6th longest streaks, which include playoff games: Portland – 814; Dallas – 745 (still active after 2017-18); Boston – 662; Chicago – 610. Montreal of the NHL had the 7th longest streak -- 583 games, a streak that ended on October 15, 2018.
-) In 2018, there were 90 dates that failed to draw at least 10,000. This was more than in the previous 8 years combined, and the highest number since 2002. Miami drew under 10,000 at 51 dates, including 9 dates that drew less than 6,000. Other 'under 10' figures were by Oakland (13 times), Tampa Bay (9), Baltimore and Pittsburgh (7 each), Cincinnati (2), and Cleveland (1). In 2016, just 3 dates, all in Cleveland, drew under 10,000. Miami had the smallest 2018 crowd in a Major League park when they drew 5,265 on July 11. A Philadelphia 'home game' was played at a Minor League park in Williamsport, PA, and drew a sellout crowd of 2,429.
-) The largest crowd of the 2018 regular season was 56,310 at Oakland on July 21, as the A's celebrated their 1989 World Champion team. The Dodgers drew 53,904 on June 26, which was the year's highest attendance at a National League park. Highest 2018 post-season crowd through the Championship Series was 54,502 at Dodger Stadium for Game 5 of the NLCS.
-) In 2018, Cincinnati, Oakland, Atlanta, and Seattle set new records for the highest regular season single game attendance in their current ballparks.
-) 3 of the 10 teams that made the 2018 post-season had declines in attendance. Cubs' attendance fell 18,473, Cleveland was down 121,437, and Boston dipped by 22,103.
-) The Dodgers surpassed 2 million for an MLB record 46th consecutive season. Atlanta reached 2 million for the 28th straight year. Boston achieved this mark for an American League record 24th year in a row. The Yankees, Cubs, and Cardinals each have drawn over 2 million for 23 straight years through 2018.

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-) The Dodgers have now reached 2.5 million for a Major League record 45 times. St. Louis has done it 29 times. The Yankees topped 2.5 million for the 25th time, the most ever for an American League team.
-) The 5 teams who have drawn over 3 million more often than anyone, did it again in 2018. The Dodgers reached this level for the 32nd time. St. Louis (22 times), the Yankees (20), San Francisco (17), and the Angels (16) are next on the list. In 2018, the Cubs drew 3 million for the 11th time, and Colorado reached 3 million for the 10th time.
-) The Yankees topped 3 million for record-high 20th straight year. The Dodgers drew 3 million in 15 straight seasons from 1996 through 2010. The Angels had their 16th year in a row above 3 million. St. Louis did it for the 15th straight year, and the Giants achieved it for the 9th year in a row, and for the 17th time in the last 19 years.
-) 48 of the 228 teams in the World Series from 1903 through 2018 led all of Major League Baseball in attendance that year. This includes the 2018 and 2017 Dodgers. 47 additional World Series teams led their league, but not all of the Majors. From 1903 through 1978, 83 of the 150 World Series teams were league leaders in attendance. Starting in 1979, just 12 of the 78 World Series participants led their league in attendance. The labor dispute cancelled the 1994 World Series. Since 1995, the only league attendance leaders who played in the World Series were the 2003 and 2009 Yankees, the 2002 Giants, and the 2017 and 2018 Dodgers. There have been 27 World Series with each league's attendance leader participating, but only one (1992-Toronto-Atlanta) since 1982.
-) The 2016 Indians became just the 3rd team to play in the World Series in a year when they had the 3rd lowest attendance in the Major Leagues. 2003 Florida and 1974 Oakland are the others. No team with a year's lowest or 2nd lowest Major League attendance, or the lowest attendance in their league, ever played in the World Series.
-) 19 of the 30 teams played their full 81-date home schedules in 2018. Actually, the Cubs and Dodgers had 82 home dates, including the Division Tiebreaker games. The Orioles and Pirates lost 3 dates each, the Mets and Phillies lost 2 apiece, and the White Sox, Indians, Tigers, Twins, Blue Jays, and Nationals each lost one date. Oakland officially lost a date when they provided free admission to one game.
-) Until 2014, Pittsburgh had been the only recent non-expansion team whose current all-time attendance record was set in a year when they had a losing record. The Pirates reached their old high mark in 2001, the year PNC Park opened. But in 2014, the Pirates had a winning season, and a new attendance record-high, and they broke that mark in 2015, another winning year. Miami, Colorado, Tampa Bay, Washington, and Arizona, each set their records in their first season.
-) Attendance declines in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013, 2010 and 2009 pushed average per date figures back below levels reached prior to the 1994 strike. 2018 average attendance per date of 28,830 is 2,507 below the 1993 average of 31,337. If 1998 expansion teams Tampa Bay and Arizona are excluded, the 2018 average for the 28 teams that operated in 1993 (including Montreal, who moved to Washington in 2005) rises to 29,395 per date, which is a loss of 1,942 from 1993. Only 9 of the 28 teams that played in 1993 were still in the same home ballpark in 2018 (Baltimore, Boston, Chicago White Sox, Kansas City, Los Angeles Angels, Oakland, Toronto, Chicago Cubs, Los Angeles Dodgers).

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – AMERICAN LEAGUE**

) **Baltimore** – Had one of the worst seasons in Major League history on the field with 115 losses, and a bad year at the gate. Total attendance was 1,564,192, down 464,232 (22.9%), with 3 lost dates. Average per date fell 4,988 to 20,054. The total and average per date were the lowest in a full season for the Orioles since 1978. But the Orioles have drawn at least 2 million in all but 5 seasons since 1989.

) **Boston** – Drew 2,895,575, down 22,103 (0.8%). Average per date fell 273 to 35,748. But this was 95.1% of Fenway Park's seating capacity, which was the best % of capacity of any MLB team. Total attendance has topped 2 million in 32 of the last 33 seasons (shorter 1994 season is the exception). The 24 consecutive years above 2 million through 2018 is an American League record. Attendance has been above 2.5 million for 19 straight seasons. Average per date has topped 30,000 for 20 years in a row.

There were 45 sellouts at Fenway Park in 2018. For more than 9 full seasons, starting on May 15, 2003, and ending on April 10, 2013, the Red Sox sold out 794 consecutive regular season games, and 820 in a row if post-season games are included. This is the longest sellout streak in North American Major League sports history, breaking the record of 814 held by the Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA. The Dayton Dragons of the Minor League Baseball Midwest League, now have the longest sellout streak in American sports, having sold out all 1,316 regular season dates in their history from 2000 through the end of the 2018 season.

) **Chicago White Sox** – After a Major League record 8 straight attendance declines, the White Sox saw attendance rise in 2015. But it's fallen each year since. The White Sox were down 20,653 (1.3%) in 2018 to 1,608,817, their lowest total since 1999. There was one lost date. Average per date was 20,110, lowest since 1999, down 516.

) **Cleveland** – Easily won the A.L. Central, but couldn't follow-up the 456,471 gain in attendance of 2017. Total 2018 attendance was down 121,437 (5.9%), in part due to cold early-season weather. Average per date was 24,084, down 1,202. There were 9 sellouts. 2017 is the only year above 2 million for the Tribe since 2008.

The Indians also had a big attendance increase (202,762) in 2016. But their total of 1,591,667 was the lowest for a division winner since Pittsburgh in 1979, and for a pennant winner since the Wild-Card Florida Marlins in 2003. Progressive Field renovations have resulted in seating capacity being reduced from 42,487 to 36,675 in 2015, to 35,225 in 2016, 35,051 in 2017, and 35,041 in 2018.

) **Detroit** – Had terrible weather in April. Total attendance fell 464,629 (20.0%) to 1,856,970, and average per date dropped 5,450 to 23,212, both the lowest figures since 2003. The Tigers have reached 3 million 4 times in the last 12 years, and had topped 2 million in 13 straight years until 2018. A streak of 11 years in a row with average above 30,000 per date ended in 2017. Until 2006, the Tigers reached 30,000 per date just twice in their history.

) **Houston** – **Followed up their 2017 World Series win with big attendance growth. The Astros drew 2,980,549, up 576,878 (24.0%). Average per date rose 7,122 to 36,797. It was the best attendance in Houston since 2007. The increases in total attendance, average per date, and percentage gain, were the best in the Majors for 2018. There were 17 sellouts, the most since 2007. Astros' attendance is up 1,372,816 (85.4%) since 2012.**

In 2013, the Astros became the 16th team in MLB history to lose at least 110 games in a season, and the 17th team to suffer 100 losses in 3 straight years. The Astros drew 1,651,911, which isn't even close to the record attendance for a team with 110+ losses. In 2004, 111-loss Arizona drew 2,519,560. The 1965 Mets, who drew 1,768,389, hold the record for a team with at least 3 straight 100-loss seasons.

) **Kansas City** – After total attendance declined 337,342 (13.2%) in 2017, it fell 555,263 (25.0%) in 2018, to 1,665,107. Average per date dipped 7,198 to 20,557. These were the smallest total and average per date since 2010. Compared to the record-highs of 2015, when the Royals won the World Series, total attendance has fallen 1,043,442 (38.5%), and the average per date is down 12,882.

In 2015, the Royals drew a team record-high 2,708,549, (33,439 per date) breaking the old marks of 2,477,700 (30,971 per date) set in 1989. It was the first time since 1991 that they topped 2 million. The Royals led the Majors in total attendance gain (up 752,067), percentage gain (up 38.4%), and average per date gain (up 9,285). The total gain was the best for any team not moving into new park since the Angels were up 755,525 in 2003.

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – AMERICAN LEAGUE**

) **Los Angeles Angels** – Reached 3 million in total attendance, and 37,000 in average per date, for the 16th straight year. Had a total gain of 633 (0.0%) to 3,020,216. All but 4 dates drew over 30,000, and there were 13 sellouts. The Angels have drawn at least 2 million for 21 straight years, and in all but 2 non-strike seasons since 1979.

) **Minnesota** – A streak of 11 consecutive seasons above 2 million had ended in 2016. The Twins topped 2 million in 2017. But in 2018, attendance was 1,959,197, down 92,082 (4.5%). Average per date was 24,490, down 1,151. These figures include 2 home games played in Puerto Rico, which drew a total of 39,053. Target Field dates drew an average of 24,617. Since their first year at Target Field (2010), Twins' attendance is down 1,264,443 (39.2%), and average per date has declined by 15,308. In 2014, Minnesota set a record for best attendance by a team with at least 4 straight seasons with 90+ losses, when they drew 2,250,606. The previous record-highs for such teams were 2,062,382 by Milwaukee in 2004, and in the A.L., by Detroit (2,024,485) in 2005.

) **New York Yankees** – Led the American League in attendance for the 55th time. The Yankees drew **3,482,855, up 335,889 (10.7%), topping 3 million for a Major League record-high 20th consecutive season.** The Dodgers, who topped 3 million in 15 straight years from 1996 through 2010, hold the N.L. record. **The Yanks led the American League with a 42,998 average per date, up 3,163.** Every home game drew at least 32,000, and attendance surpassed 40,000 at 67 dates, with a current-Yankee Stadium high of 23 sellouts. 2018 was the 23rd year in a row above 2 million for the Yankees, the 2nd longest American League streak in that category (Boston-1995-2018 holds the A.L. record). It was also their 25th time above 2.5 million, which is an A.L. record. Average per date was above 35,000 for the 21st straight year. There were 17 road sellouts.

Through 2015, the Yankees led the American League in total attendance for the 13th straight years, the longest streak of leading a league in Major League history. Also through 2015, the Yankees had the best A.L. combined home/road attendance for the 17 years in a row. They did it again in 2017 and in 2018. Toronto had the highest A.L. home, and combined home/road totals in 2016. The Yankees drew under 30,000 for one date in 2016, ending an MLB record streak of 990 straight home dates (957 regular season and 33 post-season) with attendance of at least 30,000. The Cardinals surpassed this streak a few days after the Yankee streak ended.

) **Oakland** – Total 2018 attendance rose 51,867 (3.5%) to 1,527,588, and average per date was up 648 to 19,095. 32 dates drew less than 15,000, and at 13 of those dates, attendance was below 10,000. Listed attendance and number of dates excludes 46,028 on April 17, when admission was free, to celebrate the team's 50th anniversary in Oakland. The A's drew 56,310 on July 21, a team record-high, and the 2018 Major League top crowd, when the 1989 World Series Champions were honored. Progress is being made on a new ballpark to be built in Oakland.

) **Seattle** – Drew 2,299,489, up 164,044 (7.7%). Average per date was 28,389, up 2,025 with 5 sellouts. This was Seattle's best attendance since 2008. The Mariners have topped 2 million in all but 3 years since 1996, after doing it just twice from 1977 through 1995.

) **Tampa Bay** – Despite reaching 90 wins for the 6th time in the last 11 seasons, the Rays had the lowest total attendance (1,154,973, down 98,646 – 7.9%) and the lowest average per date (14,259, down 1,411) in the American League for 2018. This was the lowest attendance for a team that won at least 90 games since 1978 Baltimore, and the lowest average per date for a 90-win team since 1976 Pittsburgh. A very striking-looking, new ballpark design in Tampa was released, and it could have been the new home for the Rays by 2022. However the deal could not be approved, so the search for a new park for the Rays will continue.

2018 was the 13th time in this team's 21 years that it drew under 1.5 million. Attendance was under 15,000 at 59 dates, and below 10,000 at 9 dates. This was the lowest Tampa Bay attendance since 2005. The Rays have posted the A.L.'s worst attendance in 13 of the last 18 years, and reached 2 million only in 1998, their first year. Their 2013 total was the lowest for any team in the playoffs since Florida in 2003, and the lowest for an A.L. playoff team since the 1975 Oakland A's. The 2013 Rays were the first team to ever make the post-season in a year in which they had the lowest attendance either in their own league or in the Majors overall. They had the best record ever (92-71, including a Wild Card Tiebreaker game) for a team that finished last in MLB attendance.

) **Texas** – Drew its lowest attendance since 2008. The total fell 400,653 (16.0%) to 2,107,107, and average per date was 26,014, down 4,946. Total attendance is down 1,353,173 (39.1%) from the 2012 total of 3,460,280. Despite this decline, the Rangers have topped 2 million in 28 of the last 30 years, and reached 2.5 million 16 times. Construction continues on their new ballpark, next to their current one, with an expected opening in 2020.

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – AMERICAN LEAGUE**

-) **Toronto** – After leading the American League in total attendance in both 2016 and 2017, the Blue Jays suffered some of the worst attendance losses in Major League history in 2018. Toronto had the biggest 2018 declines in total attendance, down 878,605 (27.4%) to 2,325,281, and in average per date, down 10,488 to 29,066. This was the 4th worst total attendance loss, and 10th worst average per date decline, in Major League history. The Blue Jays lost a home date when snow fell from the adjacent CN Tower and damaged the roof of the Rogers Centre.

In 2016, the Blue Jays had the best MLB increases in total attendance, average per date, and percentage gain. Total attendance rose 597,208 (21.4%) to 3,392,099. That was the best total for the Blue Jays since they drew 4,057,947 in 1993. Average per date was 41,878, up 7,373, with 39 sellouts. This followed an A.L.-best gain of 419,366 (5,178 per date) in 2015. Average per date topped 40,000 in 2016 for the 7th time in team history, but for the first time since 1989 through 1994. Toronto's attendance nearly doubled from 2010 to 2017, up 97.1%.

TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – NATIONAL LEAGUE

-) **Arizona** – The Diamondbacks have topped 2 million in all 21 years of operation. In 2018, they drew 2,242,695, up 108,320 (5.1%), and average per date rose 1,338 to 27,688. The 2018 figures were the best since 2008.
-) **Atlanta** – Attendance usually falls in the 2nd year of a new ballpark. But the Braves did better than expected at the gate, and on the field as well. The N.L. East champions drew their best total and average per date since 2007. Total attendance was up 50,529 (2.0%) to 2,555,781, and average per date grew by 624 to 31,553. There were 16 sellouts. In 2017, the first year at SunTrust Park in suburban Atlanta, the Braves had the best total and average per date increases in the Major Leagues. Total attendance was up 484,338 (24.0%), and the average per date rose 5,979. That average per date gain is 5,825 if the 2016 home game in a temporary ballpark at Fort Bragg, NC, is excluded. The Braves have reached 2 million for 28 straight years, after doing it just once (1983) from 1966, their first year in Atlanta, through 1990.
-) **Chicago Cubs** – The Cubs played an extra home date to determine the winner of the National League Central. But their total attendance declined 18,473 (0.6%) to 3,181,089. Bad weather early in the season caused this decline. There were 4 postponements in April, and 9 games that were played began with temperatures under 50 degrees. But this was still the 5th best total in team history. Average per date was down 707 to 38,794, which is 93.7% of Wrigley Field's seating capacity. It was the 11th time in the last 15 years that the Cubs topped 3 million. Since 1984, the Cubs have drawn 2 million in all full seasons, except 1986. They've averaged at least 30,000 per date for 21 straight years. The Cubs didn't list sellouts in their Game Notes or Media Guide, but based on listed attendance, around 51 games were sold out, which was the most by a Major League team in 2018.
-) **Cincinnati** – A 4th straight last place finish in the N.L. Central led to another decline in attendance in 2018. Total attendance fell 207,561 (11.3%) to 1,629,356, the lowest total since 1984, including strike seasons. Average per date was 20,116, also the lowest since 1984, down 2,562. The Reds finished in last place in 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2015, for the only times since 1983. It was the longest a team in the 4 major sports (MLB, NFL, NBA, NHL) had gone without being last in their division. San Antonio of the NBA now has the longest 'non-cellar' streak. The Spurs haven't finished last since 1986-87, and have been in the playoffs in 21 straight years (1998-2018), all with Head Coach Gregg Popovich.
-) **Colorado** – The Rockies had their best attendance since 2001. The total was 3,015,880, up 62,230 (2.1%). Average per date rose 768 to 37,233, with 12 sellouts. This was the 10th time that the Rockies have exceeded 3 million. It was also the 11th straight year above 2.5 million, the 11th year in a row with average per date over 30,000, and the 13th season that the average per date topped 35,000. The Rockies have surpassed the 2 million mark in 25 of their 26 seasons, and they hold the all-time Major League attendance record (4,483,350) set in 1993.
-) **Los Angeles Dodgers** – Drew a team record-high 3,857,500, which was the 6th best total ever by a National League team, and the 14th best Major League total. Led MLB in attendance for the 6th straight year, and for the 28th time since moving to Los Angeles in 1958. It was the 34th year the Dodgers have led the N.L. since then. The Dodgers played an extra home date to decide the winner of the National League West. Also led the Majors in combined home/road attendance, drawing 6,538,203 (40,112 per date).

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – NATIONAL LEAGUE**

The Dodgers have surpassed 3 million in 22 of the last 23 years, and an MLB-best 32 times overall, and reached 3.5 million for the 14th time. Attendance has topped 2 million for 46 seasons in a row. 2018 had a gain of 91,644 (2.4%). Dodger average per date was 47,043, up 551, which was 2nd best ever for this team, and has now reached 40,000 for the 14th time in the last 15 years. There were 15 sellouts, 22 crowds topped 50,000, and 53 were above 45,000. Every game drew at least 39,000. In 2017, the Dodgers had 104 wins. Among teams winning at least 100 games in a season, only the 1993 Braves, and the 2004 Yankees, had higher attendance.

) **Miami** – The Marlins drew a team record-low 811,104 in 2018, which was also the lowest attendance by any team since the 2004, lame-duck, Montreal Expos, who moved Washington the following year. The Expos also played many home games in San Juan in 2004. Miami had the lowest attendance in the National League for the 12th time in the last 13 years. It was the 2nd time the Marlins have failed to draw one million in a season. 2002 was the other year. This was also the lowest attendance ever for any team playing in a ballpark built since 1990.

2018 Marlins' total attendance, at least officially, plunged 840,893 (50.9%). According to data in Total Baseball, the last time any team had their attendance cut by more than half was in 1950, when the Philadelphia Athletics had a 62.1% decline. (Attendance data in retrosheet.org shows a 59.9% decrease for the 1950 A's.) 13 teams in Major League history have seen attendance reduced by at least 50% from one season to the next. The numerical decline in total attendance was the 6th worst ever. Average per date fell 10,381 to 10,014. That is the 12th worst drop in average per date in MLB history.

It is important to note nearly all of this decline is due the Marlins changing the guidelines of how they report attendance. Their 2018 official attendance, unlike in 2017, only included tickets sold at or close to full price. It did not include tickets distributed for free or at very large discounts. According to an article in the Miami Herald, had the Marlins reported 2017 attendance using the same method as in 2018, their 2017 attendance would have been around 820,000, which is very similar to the 2018 total.

51 dates drew less than 10,000, with 9 of them failing to attract 6,000. Note that those figures are for tickets sold and include 'no-shows.' The smallest crowd, for the Marlins, and in the Majors in 2018, was 5,265 on July 11. Only 5 dates drew at least 20,000, and those were the only dates that topped 15,000. How bad was it? On Friday, August 10, the Marlins were outdrawn by 22 Minor League teams. 24 Minor League games had higher attendance than Miami on Friday, August 24, and 23 Minor League games outdrew the Marlins on Saturday, August 25. Attendance for some of these Minor League games may have included tickets distributed for free.

) **Milwaukee** – Attendance rose a National League best 292,153 (11.4%) to 2,850,875, with 7 sellouts. This was the 5th best total in team history. Average per date was up 3,607 to 35,196. The Brewers have topped 2 million for 15 straight years. Their average per date has been above 30,000 for 11 of the last 12 seasons. That's quite a feat for the smallest TV market (A.C. Nielsen data) in the Majors.

) **New York Mets** – Drew 2,224,995, down 235,627 (9.6%), with 2 lost dates. Average per date dipped 2,594 to 28,164. There were 4 sellouts. Had the top National League increase of 2015, and the 2nd best N.L. gain in 2016, in both total and average per date.

) **Philadelphia** – Lost 2 dates, but total attendance rose 252,770 (13.3%) to 2,158,124. Average per date increased by 3,200 to 27,318. The Phillies played a home game in a Minor League park in Williamsport, PA, that drew 2,429. Games in Philadelphia averaged 27,637 per date. Prior to a gain in 2016, attendance had fallen 592,772 (24.5%) in 2015, 588,551 (19.5%) in 2014, and 553,315 (15.5%) in 2013. It was the first time that a team has suffered declines of at least 500,000 in 3 straight years. The combined 3-year decline of 1,734,638 was the worst in MLB history. Cleveland was down 1,726,377 from 2000 through 2003. But before 2014, the Phillies had topped 3 million for 7 straight years, with a high of 3,680,718 in 2011, and their average per date reached 30,000 for 10 years in a row.

) **Pittsburgh** – After 5 years in a row (2012-2016) above 2 million, the Pirates drew 1,919,447 in 2017. Prior to 2012, the Pirates reached 2 million just 3 times. In 2018, total attendance fell 454,131 (23.7%) to 1,465,316, with 3 lost dates. Average per date was 18,786, down 4,911. It was the lowest total and average for the Pirates since 1996. Weather hit the Pirates hard in April. Of the 14 home dates in Pittsburgh that month, 10 began with temperatures under 50 degrees, and at 5 of those dates, the gametime temperature was less than 40 degrees.

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**TEAM-BY-TEAM SUMMARY – NATIONAL LEAGUE**

-) **St. Louis** – The Cardinals drew 3,403,587, down 44,350 (1.3%). They averaged 42,040 per date, down 547, with 27 sellouts. These were the 3rd best figures in the Majors for 2018. It was their 15th straight year above 3 million, and the 22nd time they've reached that mark. Cardinals' attendance has been over 2 million in all full seasons since 1982. The Cards have averaged over 30,000 per date for 23 straight seasons, topped 35,000 per date in each of the last 21 years, and have drawn better than 40,000 per date in 13 of the last 14 seasons. Attendance topped 40,000 at 58 of 81 dates, and was above 33,000 at every game. **St. Louis has drawn at least 30,000 for a Major League record-high 1,163 straight dates (1,120 regular season, 43 post season) from May 5, 2005 through the end of 2018.** (A Yankees' streak of 990 straight dates of 30,000+ ended in 2016.) For the 38 dates in 2018 that were played on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, the Cards had 25 sellouts, and averaged 45,121 per date. This is 101.4% of Busch Stadium's 2018 seating capacity.
-) **San Diego** – Attracted 2,168,536, up 30,045 (1.4%). Average per date rose 371 to 26,772. 3 home games were played in Monterrey, Mexico, and drew a total of 65,116. Games in San Diego averaged 26,967 per date. The Padres have reached 2 million in 22 of the last 23 years. They hit 2 million only twice in their first 27 seasons.
-) **San Francisco** – Total attendance was 3,156,185, down 147,467 (4.5%). Average per date fell 1,821 to 38,965, with 21 sellouts. Since AT&T Park opened in 2000, through the end of the 2018 season, 1,007 of 1,539 (65.4%) regular season dates there have been sellouts, and 1,522 (98.9%) of those dates have had crowds of at least 30,000. The Giants had a sellout streak of 530 regular season dates, plus 25 post-season dates, that ended in July, 2017. It was the 2nd longest regular-season sellout streak in MLB history behind Boston (794), and the 8th longest sellout streak, including post-season games, in North American sports history. Longer streaks are: Dayton (Minor League Baseball) – 1,316 regular season dates and still active going into 2019; Boston Red Sox (820); from the NBA, Portland (814); Dallas (a current streak of 745 going into the 2018-19 season); Boston Celtics (662); Chicago (610); and Montreal of the NHL – 583 games, ending on October 15, 2018.
- Average per date has been above 35,000 in all 19 seasons in this park, and has surpassed 40,000 for 12 seasons during this period. Total attendance has topped 3 million in 17 of these years, including the last 9 in a row. The Giants have averaged 39,829 per date in their 19 years (2000-2018) at AT&T Park, which is 95.0% of capacity. In 2018, total regular season attendance at AT&T Park hit 60 million in its 19th year, needing fewer seasons, and the fewest number of dates, to reach this total, of any ballpark in Major League history. San Francisco has drawn at least 35,000 at 658 straight regular season dates (plus 25 post-season dates), starting in September, 2010, through the end of the 2018 season. The Yankees had 655 straight regular season dates (plus 32 post-season dates) of at least 35,000 from late in the 2004 season until April, 2013. The record for consecutive regular season dates above 35,000 is 666 (plus 2 post-season) by Colorado from their first-ever game in 1993, through July, 31, 2001.
-) **Washington** – Attendance increased 4,624 (0.2%) to 2,529,604, and average per date was up 447 to 31,620, with 5 sellouts. This was the 7th straight year that the Nationals have averaged 30,000+ per date.

TEAM-BY-TEAM ATTENDANCE TABLES

The table on Page 12 shows each Major League team's 2018 and 2017 total attendance, the change in 2018 vs. 2017 total attendance, both on a number and percentage basis, and the 2018 average per date for each team.

The Page 13 table shows changes in average per date, and also ranks the teams from 1-30, from the highest to the lowest average per date for both 2018 and 2017. Seating capacity is for 2018, and was obtained from 2018 team media guides. The Cubs don't list the number of games sold out in either their game notes or media guides. So their number of sellouts was estimated.

A table on Page 14 lists all Major League and Minor League 2018 attendance, including Spring Training, All-Star Games and events, and Wild Card, Division Series, Championship Series, and World Series games. (2018 Major League post-season data will be added after the World Series.) Attendance for the 2018 Arizona Fall League will also be included after their season is completed in mid-November.

The table on Page 15 shows 2018 Major League month-by-month attendance, and compares monthly average per date in 2018 with the monthly average per date in 2017.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL HOME ATTENDANCE - 2018 vs. 2017

Final - Official

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM	# DATES	2018 ATTENDANCE	2018 AVG/DATE	2017 ATTENDANCE	2018 vs. 2017	
					# DIFFERENCE	% CHANGE
Baltimore	78	1,564,192	20,054	2,028,424	(464,232)	(22.9)
Boston	81	2,895,575	35,748	2,917,678	(22,103)	(0.8)
Chicago White Sox	80	1,608,817	20,110	1,629,470	(20,653)	(1.3)
Cleveland	80	1,926,701	24,084	2,048,138	(121,437)	(5.9)
Detroit	80	1,856,970	23,212	2,321,599	(464,629)	(20.0)
Houston	81	2,980,549	36,797	2,403,671	576,878	24.0
Kansas City	81	1,665,107	20,557	2,220,370	(555,263)	(25.0)
L.A. Angels - Anaheim	81	3,020,216	37,287	3,019,583	633	0.0
Minnesota	80	1,959,197	24,490	2,051,279	(92,082)	(4.5)
New York Yankees	81	3,482,855	42,998	3,146,966	335,889	10.7
Oakland	80	1,527,588	19,095	1,475,721	51,867	3.5
Seattle	81	2,299,489	28,389	2,135,445	164,044	7.7
Tampa Bay	81	1,154,973	14,259	1,253,619	(98,646)	(7.9)
Texas	81	2,107,107	26,014	2,507,760	(400,653)	(16.0)
Toronto	80	2,325,281	29,066	3,203,886	(878,605)	(27.4)
American Lea. Total	1,206	32,374,617	26,845	34,363,609	(1,988,992)	(5.8)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Arizona	81	2,242,695	27,688	2,134,375	108,320	5.1
Atlanta	81	2,555,781	31,553	2,505,252	50,529	2.0
Chicago Cubs	82	3,181,089	38,794	3,199,562	(18,473)	(0.6)
Cincinnati	81	1,629,356	20,116	1,836,917	(207,561)	(11.3)
Colorado	81	3,015,880	37,233	2,953,650	62,230	2.1
Los Angeles Dodgers	82	3,857,500	47,043	3,765,856	91,644	2.4
Miami	81	811,104	10,014	1,651,997	(840,893)	(50.9)
Milwaukee	81	2,850,875	35,196	2,558,722	292,153	11.4
New York Mets	79	2,224,995	28,164	2,460,622	(235,627)	(9.6)
Philadelphia	79	2,158,124	27,318	1,905,354	252,770	13.3
Pittsburgh	78	1,465,316	18,786	1,919,447	(454,131)	(23.7)
St. Louis	81	3,403,587	42,020	3,447,937	(44,350)	(1.3)
San Diego	81	2,168,536	26,772	2,138,491	30,045	1.4
San Francisco	81	3,156,185	38,965	3,303,652	(147,467)	(4.5)
Washington	80	2,529,604	31,620	2,524,980	4,624	0.2
National Lea. Total	1,209	37,250,627	30,811	38,306,814	(1,056,187)	(2.8)
Major League Total	2,415	69,625,244	28,830	72,670,423	(3,045,179)	(4.2)

In 2018, Minnesota played 2 home games in San Juan, Puerto Rico that drew a total of 39,053. Games in Minnesota averaged 24,617. San Diego played 3 home games in Monterrey, Mexico that drew a total of 65,116. Games in San Diego averaged 26,967 per date. Philadelphia played a home game in Williamsport, PA that drew a sellout of 2,429. Games in Philadelphia drew 27,637 per date. Oakland's 2018 total and number of dates excludes the April 17th 'free admission' game, which drew 46,028.

In 2017, Pittsburgh played a home game in Williamsport, PA that drew a sellout of 2,596. Games in Pittsburgh averaged 23,961 per date. In 2017, Houston had 3 games moved to Tampa Bay due to Hurricane Harvey. The games drew a total of 12,993. Astros' games in Houston averaged 30,650 per date.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma forced Tampa Bay to play 3 home games at Citi Field in New York. Those games drew a total of 49,510. Rays' games in Tampa Bay averaged 15,638 per date. Irma also moved 3 Marlins' home games to Milwaukee. They drew 68,983. Marlins' games in Miami averaged 20,295 per date. Houston, Tampa Bay, and Miami get home game attendance credit for these games.

Attendance comparison for 2018 vs. 2017 is based on total home attendance for each year, regardless of the number of home dates.

SOURCES: MLB Information System; Team Game Notes

2018 MLB AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE - Rankings, vs. 2017, Sellouts

AMERICAN LEAGUE

TEAM	2018 AVG. per DATE	2017 AVG. per DATE	2018 v. 2017 # CHANGE	2018 MLB Rank	2017 MLB Rank	2018 SEATING CAPACITY	2018 as a % of Capacity	# of 2018 SELLOUTS
Baltimore	20,054	25,042	(4,988)	26	23	45,971	43.62	1
Boston	35,748	36,021	(273)	9	9	37,599	95.08	45
Chicago W. Sox	20,110	20,626	(516)	25	27	40,615	49.51	2
Cleveland	24,084	25,286	(1,202)	21	22	35,041	68.73	9
Detroit	23,212	28,662	(5,450)	22	16	41,083	56.50	1
Houston	36,797	29,675	7,122	8	15	41,168	89.38	17
Kansas City	20,557	27,755	(7,198)	23	17	37,903	54.24	1
L.A. Angels	37,287	37,279	8	6	7	45,477	81.99	13
Minnesota	24,490	25,641	(1,151)	20	21	38,885	62.98	1
N.Y. Yankees	42,998	39,835	3,163	2	4	47,309	90.89	23
Oakland	19,095	18,447	648	27	27	48,592	39.30	3
Seattle	28,389	26,364	2,025	14	19	47,715	59.50	5
Tampa Bay	14,259	15,670	(1,411)	29	30	31,042	45.93	1
Texas	26,014	30,960	(4,946)	19	12	48,114	54.07	1
Toronto	<u>29,066</u>	<u>39,554</u>	(10,488)	13	5	<u>49,286</u>	58.97	<u>1</u>
A.L. Avg./Date	26,845	28,470	(1,625)			42,387	63.33	124

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Arizona	27,688	26,350	1,338	16	20	48,618	56.95	2
Atlanta	31,553	30,929	624	12	13	41,084	76.80	16
Chicago Cubs	38,794	39,501	(707)	5	6	41,395	93.72	51
Cincinnati	20,116	22,678	(2,562)	24	26	42,319	47.53	2
Colorado	37,233	36,465	768	7	8	46,897	79.39	12
L.A. Dodgers	47,043	46,492	551	1	1	56,000	84.01	15
Miami	10,014	20,395	(10,381)	30	28	37,446	26.74	0
Milwaukee	35,196	31,589	3,607	10	10	41,900	84.00	7
N.Y. Mets	28,164	30,758	(2,594)	15	14	41,922	67.18	4
Philadelphia	27,318	24,118	3,200	17	24	43,035	63.48	4
Pittsburgh	18,786	23,697	(4,911)	28	25	38,747	48.48	0
St. Louis	42,020	42,567	(547)	3	2	44,494	94.44	27
San Diego	26,772	26,401	371	18	18	40,209	66.58	4
San Francisco	38,965	40,786	(1,821)	4	3	41,915	92.96	21
Washington	<u>31,620</u>	<u>31,173</u>	447	11	11	<u>41,336</u>	76.50	<u>5</u>
N.L. Avg./Date	30,811	31,606	(795)			43,154	71.40	170
MLB Avg./Date	28,830	30,042	(1,212)			42,771	67.41	294

"MLB Rank" column shows each team's rank in 2018 and 2017 average attendance per date, from highest (rank #1) to lowest (rank #30).

* - Fenway Park-Boston capacity is 37,305 (day), and 37,755 (night). Listing above is pro-rated for 28 day and 53 night games in 2018.

In 2018, Minnesota played 2 home games in San Juan, Puerto Rico that drew a total of 39,053. Games in Minnesota averaged 24,617. San Diego played 3 home games in Monterrey, Mexico that drew a total of 65,116. Games in San Diego averaged 26,967 per date. Philadelphia played a home game in Williamsport, PA that drew a sellout of 2,429. Games in Philadelphia drew 27,637 per date. Oakland's 2018 total and number of dates excludes the April 17th 'free admission' game, which drew 46,028.

In 2017, Pittsburgh played a home game in Williamsport, PA that drew a sellout of 2,596. Games in Pittsburgh averaged 23,961 per date. In 2017, Houston had 3 games moved to Tampa Bay that drew a total of 12,993. Games in Houston averaged 30,650 per date.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma forced Tampa Bay to play 3 home games at Citi Field in New York. Those games drew a total of 49,510. Rays' games in Tampa Bay averaged 15,638 per date. Irma also moved 3 Marlins' home games to Milwaukee. They drew 68,983. Marlins' games in Miami averaged 20,295 per date. Houston, Tampa Bay, and Miami get home game attendance credit for these games.

2018 sellouts are estimated for a few teams. These figures will be updated upon publication of 2019 media guides.

SOURCES: MLB Information System, 2017, 2018 Team Media Guides, Team Game Notes

2018 MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TOTAL ATTENDANCE

	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u># of Dates</u>	<u>Average per Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>MAJOR LEAGUES</u>				
Spring Training	3,670,709	485	7,568	
Regular Season	69,625,244	2,415	28,830	
Wild Card Games	89,771	2	44,886	at Chicago Cubs, New York Yankees
Division Series	626,751	14	44,768	Milwaukee, Atlanta, Cubs, Dodgers, Boston, Houston, Cleveland, Yankees
Championship Ser.	541,851	12	45,154	Boston, Houston, Dodgers, Milwaukee
World Series	238,979	5	47,796	Boston, Dodgers
Post-Season Total	1,497,352	33	45,374	
Futures Game	38,071	1		at Washington
Home Run Derby	43,698	1		at Washington
All-Star Game	43,843	1		at Washington
Major League Total	74,918,917	2,936	25,517	
<u>MINOR LEAGUES</u>				
NAPBL Regular Sea.	40,450,337	10,215	3,960	
NAPBL Post-Season	1,168,446	228	5,125	
NAPBL All-Star	84,650	12	7,054	
Indy Regular Season	5,919,353	2,540	2,330	
Indy Post-Season	107,495	56	1,920	
Indy All-Star Games	9,506	2	4,753	
Arizona Fall League	64,262	91	706	
Minor League Total	47,804,049	13,144	3,637	
Majors/Minors Total	122,722,966	16,080	7,632	

Post-season independent attendance is for Can-Am, Atlantic, United Shore, Frontier Leagues, and the American Association. Mexican League post-season games (included in NAPBL) drew 822,575 for 83 games, an average of 9,911.

2018 ATTENDANCE OVERVIEW -- SUMMARY**MAJOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH**

2018 Major League average attendance per date was down vs. 2017 in every month. The biggest year-to-year change was a 9.4% decline in April, when many teams were hit with brutal weather. No games were played in March in 2017, but there were games in October of both years. 2018 average attendance per date was down 5.2% vs. 2017 for the combined months of March, April, May, and June, and fell 2.8% for the combined months of July, August, September, and October.

The total attendance shown in this table is 10 higher than the total seen elsewhere in this report. This is due to a reduction by 10 in Yankees' attendance reported when the 2018 Official Averages Book was issued. It's a very minor adjustment, and has no effect on average per date, or percent changes, in any tables here.

2018 MAJOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

Month	2018 # of Dates	2018 Total Attendance	2018 Average per Date	2017 Average per Date	% Change in Avg. per date- 2018 vs. 2017
March - April	416	11,176,665	26,867	29,654	(9.4)
May	413	11,392,490	27,585	28,715	(3.9)
June	399	12,034,805	30,162	30,790	(2.0)
July	370	11,518,482	31,131	32,805	(5.1)
August	413	12,052,604	29,183	29,794	(2.1)
September-October	404	11,450,208	28,342	28,779	(1.5)
March - June Total	1,228	34,603,960	28,179	29,712	(5.2)
July - October Total	1,187	35,021,294	29,504	30,363	(2.8)
Season Total	2,415	69,625,254	28,830	30,042	(4.0)

The figures in this table were compiled month-by-month during the 2018 and 2017 seasons from the MLB Information System. No attendance adjustments were reported after the 2017 season.

One factor to note in this table is that teams that draw well may have played more games in certain months than in others. For example, if a month has a higher than usual number of home games by the Dodgers, Yankees, Rockies, Giants, Cubs, Cardinals, or Angels, the month's average per date will tend to be higher.

Combined – Major League Affiliated Leagues and Independent Leagues

- J The Minor Leagues that begin play in April were hit very hard by bad weather in 2018. (Much more detail about the effects of weather on 2018 attendance will be found on page 18.) This helped lead to a combined 3.5% decline in total attendance for the Major League affiliated (NAPBL) and independent Minor Leagues.
- J Weather can also affect attendance significantly even if games are played. Cold weather early in the season, brutal summer heat, and storm threats, can result in lower attendance, even if it does not postpone games. This was a big issue in 2018. Forecasts of bad weather, or if it rains shortly before gametime, can cut down on short-term advance, and day-of-game ticket sales. Also, if postponements or bad weather occur on weekends or summer weekdays, it hurts attendance more than if they happen on an early-season school night. So just looking at how many more or fewer dates were played by a team or league from one year to the next, doesn't always provide a full picture on how weather influenced attendance.
- J The U.S. NAPBL leagues had 523 dates lost to weather in 2018, compared to 504 dates in 2017, and 422 in 2016. Combine this with the reduction by one game of each Class AAA team's 2018 home schedule, and the result was the fewest number of home dates in these leagues since 2003. Add in the Mexican League, and it was the fewest number of dates since 2004. On the other hand, independent leagues played their most dates since 2012.
- J Combined regular season attendance for NAPBL – also known as 'Minor League Baseball' (Major League affiliated) leagues, and from those independent league teams who reported regular season attendance, was 46,369,690 in 2018, down 1,682,962 (3.5%) from 2017. Combined attendance rose 0.9% in 2017, fell 2.6% in 2016, had gains of 0.6% in 2015, and 0.7% in 2014, fell 0.3% in 2013, rose 0.7% in 2012, and had declines of 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009.
- J 6 NAPBL teams and one independent team established new team record-highs in total attendance in 2018, along with the Northwest League, the United Shore League, and the Pacific Association. Average per date records were set by 7 NAPBL teams, the Northwest League, the United Shore League, and 3 independent teams. Single game records were set by 20 NAPBL teams.
- J The 228 post-season NAPBL games in 2018, including the Mexican League, drew 1,168,446, an average of 5,125 per game. The Mexican League basically played 2 separate seasons – March through May, with a set of playoffs in June, and then July through early September, with another round of playoffs that continued into October. Mexican League teams averaged 11,645 per game in the June playoffs, and 8,217 per game in the September-October rounds. In the 2018 regular seasons, the Mexican League averaged 4,376 per date. Attendance was available for 56 independent league post-season games in 5 leagues, and they drew 107,495, an average of 1,920 per game. Combined NAPBL and independent playoff attendance was 1,275,941, an average of 4,493 per date.
- J 12 NAPBL All-Star games in 2018 drew a combined 84,650. There were 2 independent league All-Star games, and they drew 9,506. Other than on page 13, All-Star game and post-season figures are not included in totals listed elsewhere in this report. Grand total combined NAPBL and independent 2018 Minor League attendance including All-Star and playoff games was 47,737,606, with the 2018 Arizona Fall League season to be added. It was 49,006,819 in 2017, 48,658,372 in 2016, and 49,901,030 in 2015.
- J In 2018, there were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games, the same number as in 2017. Attendance was reported by 59 independent teams, up from 57 in 2017, 55 in 2016, 52 in 2015, 50 in 2014, 53 teams in 2013, and 55 teams in 2012. The 6-team Empire Pro Baseball League didn't report attendance. The 4-team United Shore Baseball League played all of its games in the same park in Utica, Michigan.
- J Only one NAPBL team played in a different market in 2018 than in 2017. A team in the Mexican League moved from Veracruz to the Laredo area, and split their home schedule with 30 games (not dates) in Laredo, Texas, and 27 games in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The only new NAPBL ballpark was in Augusta of the South Atlantic League.
- J U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams had 37 fewer dates in 2018 than in 2017. Attendance was listed for 23 more combined NAPBL/independent playing dates in 2018 compared to 2017. 7 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games had more dates in 2018 than in 2017, while the Florida State and Northwest Leagues had no change. The Mexican League played 38 more dates than in 2017, the New York-Penn League had 14 more dates, the Southern League had 10 more, and the Eastern League played 6 more. Also up, were the California, Carolina, and Texas Leagues. Top decline was by the South Atlantic League, with 32 fewer dates. The Midwest League played 15 fewer dates, the Pioneer League had 10 fewer dates, and the Appalachian League played 7 less. With reduced schedules, both the International and Pacific Coast Leagues each had 6 fewer dates.

Combined – Major League Affiliated Leagues and Independent Leagues

-) The Mexican League played two separate 57-game seasons in 2018, up from a single 111-game season in 2017. For the 2nd straight year, the International and Pacific Coast Leagues reduced each team's schedules by 2 games apiece. If the Mexican League is included, NAPBL teams lost 2 fewer dates to weather in 2018 than in 2017, and played only one less date than a year earlier. But in 2018, NAPBL leagues didn't recover from the 'dates played' losses of 2017, when they had 134 fewer dates than in 2016.
-) Independent leagues combined for 24 more dates than in 2017, mainly due to expansion in the American and Pacific Associations. The American Association dropped a road team and added the Chicago Dogs (named after hot dogs, not canines), who opened a new ballpark. Bridgeport was replaced by a road team in the Atlantic League. Two teams were added to the Pacific Association, and the Ruidoso took over for Hollywood in the Pecos League. The Can-Am League played extra home games that counted in the standings with teams from the Dominican Republic, and with Salina of the Pacific Association. The Empire Pro League, which did not report attendance, added two teams. More dates were played in 2018 than in 2017 by the Pacific Association (85 more), the American Association (19), and the United Shore League (1). Independent leagues with a reduction in dates were the Atlantic (50), Pecos (21), Frontier (8), and Can-Am (2) Leagues.
-) Combined NAPBL/independent average attendance per date was 3,635, down 139 from 2017.
-) The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 40,450,337, which is a loss of 1,382,027 (3.3%) from 2017. These 15 leagues averaged 3,960 per date, down 135 from 2017.
-) The 59 teams, in the 7 independent leagues that reported attendance, drew 5,919,353, down 300,935 (4.8%) from 2017. Their average per date fell by 142 to 2,330. Unreported Empire League attendance was likely quite low.
-) Combined NAPBL/independent regular season attendance surpassed 40 million for the 20th straight year. It has been above 45 million in each of the last 17 seasons. The record combined high is 51,576,409 in 2008.
-) Among the 227 combined NAPBL/Independent teams that played in the same markets in both 2018 and 2017, there were 85 teams that posted increases in total attendance, while 142 were down. 78 teams had gains in average per date, 148 had declines, and one team (Garden City, KS of the Pecos Baseball League) had the exact same average per date in both 2018 and 2017.
-) The 11 full-season NAPBL leagues averaged 3,760 per date in March/April 2018, down 226 from April 2017, 4,037 in May, up 18, 4,364 in June, down 143, 4,313 in July, down 301, 4,475 in August/September, down 147, and 4,203 overall for the season, down 159. With its new schedule, the Mexican League began their season in March, and had no regular season games in June.
-) The 4 short-season NAPBL leagues, who begin play in June, averaged 2,616 per date in June 2018, down 18 from June 2017, 2,435 in July, down 36, 2,389, in August/September, up 50, and 2,451 over their entire seasons, up 13.
-) The independent Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association averaged a combined 2,770 per date in April/May 2018, down 93 from April/May 2017, 2,881 in June, down 12, 2,974 in July, down 217, 3,009 in August/September, down 123, and 2,926 overall, down 111. The Atlantic League season started on April 26, and ended on September 16. The other 3 leagues began their seasons on May 10 (Frontier) or May 17 (American Association and Can-Am), and ended on September 2 or 3. Tables showing monthly average per date for each NAPBL league, and for the 4 independent leagues listed here, can be found on Pages 35-37.
-) Despite the attendance declines of 2018, Minor League Baseball attendance remains fairly close to its all-time record-high level. 2018 NAPBL total attendance was 6.5% below its all-time high, and the average per date was down 214 (5.1%) from its record-high of 4,174. Attendance has been relatively flat, with small increases and decreases since around 2005. This is in part, due to fewer new ballparks being built, and especially for the NAPBL leagues, fewer team relocations, and no expansion in the number of teams. If Major League Baseball adds teams, as expected in about 5 years, there will be an expansion of teams in the NAPBL Minor Leagues.
-) There are plans for a new independent league, the Southwest League of Professional Baseball, which now expects to play a 112-game per team schedule in 2019. Some of its teams will be Waco, Royce City, and Dallas, all in Texas, plus Joplin, Missouri.

'MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL' (Major League Affiliated Leagues – Formerly NAPBL)

-) Mother Nature made it a tough year as total 2018 attendance fell 1,382,027 (3.3%) to 40,450,337. It was the lowest total since 2004, but still the 14th straight year above 40 million. The average per date of 3,960, down 135 (3.3%), was the lowest since 2003. The record high average per date is 4,174 in 2008. Record total attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008.
-) The 160 United States/Canadian teams drew 36,678,534 in 2018, down 1,111,225 (2.9%). They averaged 3,922 per date, down 102 (2.5%). The 16 Mexican League teams, drew 3,771,803, down 270,802 (6.7%). Their average per date of 4,376 was down 530 (10.8%).
-) Of the 175 teams playing in the same markets in 2018 as in 2017, 63 NAPBL teams achieved attendance increases, while 112 had losses. 60 of these 175 teams had more home dates in 2018 than in 2017, while 70 teams had fewer home dates, and 45 teams had the same number as in 2017. In 2017, there were 82 'same market' NAPBL teams with increases and 88 had declines. In 2016, there were 61 NAPBL teams with total attendance growth, while 113 suffered declines. In 2015, 81 NAPBL teams had increases in total attendance, and 93 had losses. In 2014, 87 teams saw gains in total attendance, while also 87 teams were down. 85 teams had gains and 89 suffered declines in 2013. Total attendance rose for 67 teams in 2012, and fell for 104 teams. 87 teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 86 teams had declines. 83 teams had gains in 2010, with 90 teams showing a decline. In 2009, just 57 teams had gains while 114 were down.
-) In average attendance per date for 2018, 59 'same market' teams did better than in 2017, while 116 teams had a lower average. In 2017, 90 teams were up, and 80 were down. In 2016, 57 teams had increases, and 117 teams suffered declines. In both 2015 and 2014, 81 teams were up, while 93 were down. There were 91 teams with average per date increases in 2013, and 83 had declines. In 2012, 65 teams achieved increases, and 106 teams had declines. 96 teams had increases in 2011, while 77 were down. 64 teams had average per date increases in 2010, while 109 were down. 63 teams had gains in 2009. These figures only include teams that played in the same city for both years compared, so for 2018 it excludes Dos Laredos of the Mexican League, who played in Veracruz in 2017. All these figures do include teams moving to a new ballpark in the same market.
-) There are multiple possible reasons for the attendance decline, which will be noted here. But weather was almost certainly the biggest factor. It was awful in April, with cold weather, rain and snow, and wet during much of the summer, in many places. There was no recovery in 2018 from big increase in the number of lost dates in 2017. The impact of bad weather on team revenue can be even greater than what is seen in loss of attendance. Major and Minor League Baseball, except for the Pecos League, use tickets sold for their official attendance figures. This includes tickets sold, but not used. The Pecos League does not include these 'no-shows.' Bad weather leads to many 'no-shows,' which means less parking, concessions, and merchandise revenue. It is likely that some of the brutally cold Minor League games in 2018 were played in virtually empty ballparks.
-) The 14 U.S. leagues had 523 lost dates in 2018, up from 504 in 2017, and 422 in 2016. These leagues had a combined 37 fewer dates in 2018 than in 2017. The total number of dates played (single-admission doubleheaders count as one date) was 9,353 in 2018, the lowest since 2003. Include the Mexican League, and it still was the lowest number of dates since 2004. The 2018 total NAPBL figure of 10,215 dates is only one less than in 2017. But it is 135 less than in 2016, and 190 less than in 2012. The U.S. number of dates in 2018 (9,353) is down 39 from 2017, down 149 from 2016, 170 from 2015, 147 from 2014, 203 from 2012, and 238 from 2010. U.S./Canadian teams had 9,556 dates in 2012, and 9,591 dates in 2010.
-) The following is based on data compiled by the office of Minor League Baseball (Thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Director of Communications) and by Number Tamer: For the 120 United States full-season NAPBL teams, whose season began in early April, there were 141 postponed games in April, 2018, compared to 96 in 2017. In April 2018, 245 games began with a temperature of less than 50 degrees, and 73 of them started in temperatures of less than 40 degrees. In April, 2017, just 58 games began with temperatures of less than 50 degrees, and none started when it was less than 40 degrees. 499 games began with temperatures under 60 degrees in 2018, but only 234 games started with temperatures that low in 2017. The average gametime temperature was 63.4 degrees in April, 2018, and 70.4 degrees in April, 2017. Keep in mind that this includes many games played in warm weather locations. In April, 2018, 9.7% of originally scheduled dates for these 120 teams were postponed.
-) It is impossible to exactly quantify the impact of weather on attendance, but it may be safe to assume that the number of day-of-game ticket sales to some of those very cold games was close to zero. With better weather, it can also be assumed that far fewer teams would have had attendance declines.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) Among the 112 NAPBL teams with 2018 declines in total attendance, 51 were down less than 10,000, with 28 of them down under 5,000. 48 teams had a total attendance decline of not more than 5%, with 32 down less than 3%. Of the 116 teams with decreases in average per date, 32 were down less than 100 per date, and for 19 of those teams, the loss was under 50. The dip in average per date was not more than 5% for 54 teams, and under 3% for 37 teams. So just normal Spring weather would have turned some of those declines into gains.

OTHER FACTORS THAT MAY HAVE ACCOUNTED FOR THE 2018 MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE DECLINE:

-) Just the normal ups and downs of sports attendance. Even in a very good attendance year, around one in three Minor League teams have attendance declines.
-) A reduction from 71 to 70 home dates by each of the 30 Class AAA teams. These 30 teams averaged 6,615 per date in 2018. The 30 dates not scheduled would most likely have been weekday early-season games, played on school nights. The average crowd for the 143 Monday through Thursday, April, 2018 Class AAA dates, excluding home openers, was 4,116. This probably accounts for an attendance loss of at least 100,000. April, 2018 openers and Friday through Sunday dates for these 30 teams averaged 6,497 per date.
-) 2018 had only one team change markets (Veracruz to Dos Laredos in the Mexican League), and only one team opened a new park (Augusta of the South Atlantic League). Movement of teams to new markets and new ballparks has been a major component of attendance growth since the early 1990's. So, in a year when this doesn't occur, growth is often reduced.
-) On-field issues such as too many walks, pitching changes, and strikeouts, not enough balls put in play, along with length and pace of games. This is more likely to affect Major League attendance (which was down 4.2% in 2018), than Minor League attendance, but it still could've been a small factor.
-) Tim Tebow – In 2017 he split his season between Columbia of the South Atlantic League and St. Lucie of the Florida State League, areas near where he played college football for the University of Florida. Both of those teams set home attendance records in 2017, but had significant declines in 2018. Columbia was down 63,448 (20.1%) in 2018, the 3rd worst loss in total attendance among U.S. NAPBL teams. St. Lucie had a 33,536 (25.3%) decline, the 3rd worst percentage decrease among U.S. teams.
-) On the road in 2017 with Tebow on the team, Columbia averaged 5,843 per date. Without him on the team in 2017, they averaged 3,885 per date. Columbia averaged 3,473 per date on the road in 2018. On the road with Tebow in 2017, St. Lucie averaged 3,865 per date. Without him, St. Lucie averaged 1,150 per date. In 2018, St. Lucie's road average per date was 1,406. Tebow played at Binghamton of the Eastern League in 2018. Their home attendance rose 29,514, which was the 3rd best gain in total attendance among U.S. teams. Binghamton had its best total attendance since 2008, and their highest average per date since 1992, the team's first season. On the road in 2018, Binghamton drew 384,234, averaging 5,822 per date. In 2017, the Rumble Ponies drew 301,110 for away games, an average of 4,562 per date.
-) Only the Eastern, Appalachian, and Northwest Leagues had total attendance increases in 2018. 11 of the 15 leagues were up in 2017, but the Mexican League had the only gain in 2016.
-) The Eastern League had the best increase in total attendance, up 44,661 (1.2%). The Appalachian League had a 35,769 (10.1) gain.
-) **The Northwest League drew a league record-high total of 1,089,930, up 949 (0.1%), with an average per date of 3,597, up 3, which was also a new league record.**
-) Besides the Northwest League, other leagues with gains in average per date in 2018 were the Eastern (up 20), Appalachian (up 139), and Pioneer Leagues (up 24). 11 leagues had average per date gains in 2017. Only the Northwest and Mexican Leagues were up in 2016.
-) By classification, combined Class AAA attendance topped 13 million for the 19th straight year, and it was also 19 years in a row with combined attendance of better than 8 million for the Class AA leagues. Full-season Class A leagues drew a combined 11 million plus for the 14th year in a row. Short-season leagues topped 3 million for the 23rd year in row, and were above 3.4 million for the 17th straight season.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) Even with the 2018 declines, many leagues posted attendance figures near their all-time highs in the categories of total attendance, average attendance per team, and average attendance per date.
-) For the 21st year in a row, the International League topped 6 million, and averaged over 450,000 per team. Pacific Coast League average per date was above 6,000, and the average total per team topped 400,000, each for the 19th consecutive season.
-) Appalachian League total attendance was the best since 1997, and average per date reached the highest level since 1994. It was a nice retirement gift for league president Lee Landers, who spent 60 years in baseball.
-) The Florida State League drew over one million for the 13th year in a row. The Midwest League's average per date surpassed 3,700 for the 12th straight season.
-) The Texas League has drawn over 2 million for 19 consecutive years. Southern League attendance reached 2 million for the 28th year in a row. In the last 16 years, the South Atlantic League has been above 3 million 13 times. Pioneer League total attendance was above 600,000, and average per date reached 2,000 for the 16th straight year.
-) On the down side, the Mexican League had a 270,802 (6.7%) total decline. Their Spring season averaged 4,831 per date, and the Summer season averaged 3,914. The International and Pacific Coast Leagues were each down more than 200,000, in part due to shorter schedules. The Carolina, Florida State, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues were all down more than 100,000. The total and average per date for the New York-Penn League was their lowest since 2000. Carolina League average per date fell under 3,000 for the first time in 13 years.
-) The Mexican League had the biggest average per date decline, down 530. The Carolina League had a 213 decrease. Average per date also dropped by at least 100 for the International, Pacific Coast, Southern, Texas, Florida State, and New York-Penn Leagues.
-) Class AAA leagues had a combined total attendance decline of 3.2%. Their average per date was down 177. The Class AA leagues had a combined 0.9% decrease in total attendance and a 79 loss in average per date. Combined total attendance for the 5 full-season Class A leagues fell 5.1%, and their average per date was down 122. The 4 short-season leagues had gains of 0.3% in total attendance, and 13 in average per date.
-) From 2013 through 2017, all teams in the Northwest League averaged at least 2,130 per date every year. These were the only times that every team in a short-season league has averaged at least 2,000 per date. This streak ended in 2018 when Salem-Keizer averaged 1,897 per date.
-) There were 3 leagues where a majority of teams had increases in total attendance. The Appalachian, Eastern, and Northwest Leagues each had more teams that drew a higher total in 2018 than in 2017. This included 7 of the 10 teams in the Appalachian League. The number of teams with a gain was the same as the number with a loss in the New York-Penn and Pioneer Leagues. The International, Pacific Coast, Mexican, Southern, Texas, California, Carolina, Florida State, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues each had more teams with declines than teams with gains. This includes 12 of 14 teams down in the International League, 8 of 10 with declines in the Carolina League, and 13 of 14 with losses in the South Atlantic League. 10 South Atlantic League teams played fewer home dates in 2018 than in 2017.
-) In average per date, the Eastern (7 of 12 teams), Northwest (5 of 8), and Appalachian (8 of 10) all had a majority of teams post gains. The Texas, and Pioneer Leagues each had the same number of their teams with increases and decreases. 13 of 14 International League teams had average per date declines, as did 9 of 10 teams in the Carolina League, and 12 of 16 teams in both the Pacific Coast and Midwest Leagues.
-) **The NAPBL teams that achieved their highest total attendance ever in 2018 were Pulaski, Johnson City, Augusta, Nashville, and Hartford (which includes all teams that ever played either in Hartford or New Britain). Spokane set a record for a short-season team in that market. Eugene had its highest total in its current ballpark.**
-) **Average per date highs were set in 2018 by Johnson City, Pulaski, Dos Laredos, Tri-City, WA (Northwest League), Asheville, Augusta, and Hartford (including teams in New Britain).**

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) Single game attendance highs for current teams or ballparks were set in 2018 by 20 teams: Augusta; Birmingham; Corpus Christi; Frisco; Great Lakes; Johnson City; Myrtle Beach; Pulaski; Salem; Winston-Salem; Binghamton; Charlotte, NC; Erie; Grand Junction; Hillsboro; Louisville; Omaha; Richmond; Tri-Cities, WA; Albuquerque. (Information courtesy of Minor League Baseball)
-) **Charlotte topped all NAPBL teams in total attendance (619,639), and had the 3rd best (and U.S. best) average per date (8,980). The Knights had the top average per date among U.S. teams in 2014, 2015, and 2016. There were 23 sellouts in 2018. In 2014, Charlotte's gain of 432,881 was the 3rd best gain ever for a team moving to a new park in their same market. Since moving to BB&T Ballpark, the Knights have averaged 9,238 per date, with 133 sellouts.**
-) **The Monterrey Sultanes had the highest total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball in 2017, and the top average per date in 2018. They drew a 6th best 563,296 in 2018, averaging 10,059 per date. However, for the 2nd straight year, they had a big decline. In 2018, their total fell 96,495, and average per date was down 1,516, both the 3rd worst dips of any team. In 2017, average per date was down 1,208, the largest 2017 vs. 2016 decline of any team. The 8 Spring 2018 playoff games in Monterrey each drew at least 17,000, with a sellout high of 21,909 at 4 games. All but one Fall playoff game there drew over 10,000, with a high again of 21,909 at 3 games. In 2016, the Sultanes led the Minors in total attendance, average per date, increase in total attendance, and increase in average per date. They drew 690,305 (12,783 per date), in just 54 dates. Attendance topped 10,000 at 36 dates, was over 15,000 at 16 dates, and 8 dates drew over 20,000. Sultanes' total attendance rose by 173,070, and average per date was up 3,379. Monterrey had the largest total attendance decline in 2015. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2012, when they drew 645,302, and in 2006, with an incredible 989,454.**
-) **For the 3rd straight year, Indianapolis finished 2nd in total attendance (619,122). The Indians averaged 8,845 per date, which was also 2nd among U.S. teams, and 4th best overall. The Indians had the best U.S. total in 2017. 26 dates drew at least 10,000 in 2018, the same number as in 2017. In 2013, the Indians led the Minors in total attendance. In 2014, they set a new attendance high, and had the highest average per date (9,433) of any U.S. team that played in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They also finished 3rd in total attendance and in average per date. Their 2015 total attendance of 662,536 was another team record-high, and 3rd best in the Minor Leagues, and the average per date of 9,331 was the 4th highest in that category. They've topped 535,000 for 23 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 12 of these seasons.**
-) Round Rock drew 616,636, which was the 3rd highest total, and their average of 8,809 was 5th best. It was the 14th time in 19 seasons above 600,000 for the Express.
-) **Nashville's total attendance of 603,135 broke their team record set in 2017. The Sounds averaged an NAPBL 6th best 8,741 per date.**
-) Columbus, OH was 5th in total attendance (587,067) and 7th in average per date (8,633) in 2018, continuing their record of attendance excellence. The Clippers have led Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 1977, 1979, 1987, and 2009. Since 1979, they've topped 500,000 for a record-high 32 seasons.
-) Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) finished 7th in total attendance (561,745) and 9th in average per date (8,511). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity for 39 of 66 dates, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 19 dates. Lehigh Valley had been the only team to draw more than 600,000 in all 9 seasons from 2008 through 2016. But 6 rainouts in 2017 really hurt attendance. They've averaged 8,900 per date in an 8,089-seat park in their 11-year history, with an above-seating capacity sellout at 562 of 754 dates, and a total sellout, including all lawn seating and standing room, at 196 dates.
-) Tijuana drew 556,371, which ranked #8. Los Toros (Bulls) had the 2nd best average per date of any team (9,761).
-) Sacramento had the 12th best total (538,785). It was just the 3rd time in their 19-year history that the River Cats didn't reach 600,000. They've led the Minors in total attendance in 10 different seasons.
-) Besides the 9 teams noted above, topping 500,000 were: Class AAA Buffalo (for a record 31st straight year); Toledo; Albuquerque; Durham; El Paso; and Class A Dayton.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) Yucatan averaged 8,606 per date, which was 8th highest average. Buffalo had an 8,250 average per date.
-) In addition to the teams noted above, Albuquerque, Dayton, El Paso, Sacramento, Durham, Toledo, and Iowa all topped 7,000 in average per date.
-) Lowest average per date by classification were AAA: Gwinnett (3,062); AA: Mobile (1,121); full-season A: Buies Creek, in a 1,500-capacity park (359); short-season: Elizabethton (529); Mexican: Campeche (1,394).
-) Highest average per date by classification were AAA: Charlotte (8,980); AA: Frisco (6,886); full-season A: Dayton (7,868); short-season: Vancouver (6,292); Mexican: Monterrey (10,059).
-) There were 28 teams, from all levels, that averaged at least 6,000 per date in 2018. 29 teams topped 6,000 in 2017, and 30 teams did it in 2016. In 2015 and 2014, 28 teams, and in 2013, 25 teams, reached that level.
-) 56 teams, including 26 of 30 in Class AAA drew more than 300,000 in 2018. Colorado Springs, New Orleans, Syracuse, and Gwinnett were the Class AAA clubs under 300,000. This level was reached by 60 teams in 2017, 56 teams in 2016, 58 teams in 2015 and in 2014, 54 teams in 2013, and 55 teams in 2012.
-) 26 of the 30 Class AA teams drew at least 200,000 in 2018. Frisco (468,259) led Class AA for the 14th straight season. But 2018 was just the 7th time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000. 25 Class AA teams drew 200,000+ in 2017, 24 teams did it in 2016, and 26 teams reached this level in 2015.
-) 24 of 60 full-season Class A teams drew at least 200,000 in 2018. 26 teams topped 200,000 in 2017, 23 teams did it in 2016, and 26 teams reached this level in 2015 and 2014.
-) **Dayton drew 550,725, to lead Class A for the 19th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 1,316 regular season games in their 19-year history. This is the longest sellout streak in North American sports history. In 2011, the Dragons broke the old consecutive sellouts record of 814 (including playoff games) by the NBA Portland Trail Blazers, set from 1977 to 1995. The Boston Red Sox exceeded Portland's sellout total in 2012, reaching a combined 820 straight sellouts, including post-season games.**
-) In 2016, Vancouver ended Brooklyn's 15-year run as the short-season leader in total attendance and average per date. The Canadians did it again in 2017, drawing 239,527, the highest short-season total ever for that market. In 2018, Vancouver again led short-season teams, drawing 239,086. They sold out a team record-high 32 of 38 dates, and averaged 6,292 per date, which is 98.1% of their ballpark's capacity. Brooklyn also drew over 200,000 in 2018, and 12 other short-season teams drew at least 100,000.
-) Class A Augusta, GA, playing in their new ballpark, was up 76,886, the largest increase in total attendance in 2018. This was followed by Tabasco of the Mexican League, up 58,758. Class AA New Hampshire had a 34,991 increase. Leon (Mexican) rose 31,157, and Binghamton was up 29,514. Oklahoma City, up 18,971, had the best Class AAA increase. Among short-season teams, Brooklyn (up 15,642), and Pulaski (up 13,346) had the best growth. Pulaski's total of 91,226 was the best ever for any short-season Appalachian League team.
-) In average per date, Augusta (up 1,307), Tabasco (up 981), Mexico City (up 540), Greeneville TN of the Appalachian League (up 410), and Pulaski (up 404), had the largest increases. New Hampshire's gain of 330 per date was best in Class AA, and Oklahoma City, up 180 per date, had the top Class AAA increase.
-) Class AAA New Orleans had the largest NAPBL decline in total attendance in 2018, down 97,269. 3 Mexican League teams had the next largest decreases -- Aguascalientes down 97,144, Monterrey, down 96,495, and Laguna, down 73,665. Iowa fell 72,261. Columbia, sans Tim Tebow, had the worst full-season Class A loss (63,448). Mississippi, down 39,293, had the largest decline in Class AA, and Billings posted a 16,845 decline, the worst loss among short-season teams.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) New Orleans had the largest average per date decline, down 1,727. 5 Mexican League teams had the next 5 worst declines in average per date. Aguascalientes fell 1,662. Monterrey, despite having the Minors' highest average per date in 2018, had the 3rd worst average per-date decline – 1,516. Campeche fell 1,511, Laguna was down 1,179, and Tijuana dipped 1,111. Among full-season Class A teams, Columbia, SC had the worst loss, down 1,018 per date. In Class AA, the top loss was by Mississippi, down 630. Aberdeen suffered the largest short-season team decline, down 481. Overall, 13 teams had a decline of at least 500 per date.
-) Gwinnett's total of 195,955 was the lowest among Class AAA teams in 2018. Mobile, which moves to Madison, AL in 2020, had the lowest Class AA total (69,504). Buies Creek, in a tiny ballpark, drew 24,068, the lowest among full-season Class A teams. This team moves into their permanent home in Fayetteville, NC in 2019. Also in full-season Class A, Dunedin drew just 30,569. Elizabethton had the lowest total (15,329) among short-season teams.
-) On a percentage basis, best gains in total attendance were by Tabasco (Mexican League – 81.8%), full-season Class A Augusta (43.1%), short-season Princeton (36.8%), and short-season Greeneville, TN (36.0%). Oklahoma (up 4.3%) had the top Class AAA gain, and Binghamton's 15.5% increase was highest in Class AA.
-) Top percentage average per date increases were by Tabasco (68.3%), Augusta (47.6%), Princeton (45.7%), and Greeneville (36.0%). Oklahoma City (2.8%) had the top Class AAA gain. Binghamton (8.0%) was Class AA best for the 2nd year in a row.
-) In total attendance, the biggest percentage losers were Aguascalientes of the Mexican League (49.5%), Campeche (46.8%), and full-season Class A Florida (Kissimmee) (42.4%). Mobile (down 25.2%) had the worst Class AA percentage loss, New Orleans' 27.8% drop was the worst in Class AAA, and Elizabethton, down 18.2% suffered the worst short-season total percentage loss.
-) The largest percentage losses in average per date were by Campeche (52.0%), Aguascalientes (46.5%), full-season Class A Florida (44.5%), and Class AAA New Orleans (31.1%). Mobile, down 25.2% had the worst Class AA decline, and Aberdeen's 12.1% drop was worst among short-season teams.
-) Changes for 2019 include a 3-way move. The Helena Brewers of the Pioneer League move to Colorado Springs, replacing the Class AAA Pacific Coast League Sky Sox, who move to San Antonio, replacing the Class AA Missions, who move to Amarillo. The Buies Creek Astros move to a new ballpark at their permanent home in Fayetteville, NC. Las Vegas of the Pacific Coast League opens a new ballpark. Will Mexico City's new park be ready?
-) The Arizona Fall League drew 61,045 for its 90 regular season games, up 7,857 (14.8%) and averaging 678 per date. All 6 teams had increases. The league's championship game drew 3,217. Figures from this league are not included in any totals in this report.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

-) The same 8 independent leagues operated in 2018 as in 2017. 63 teams played home games, and 59 of them reported attendance. Attendance for the 4 teams in the Empire Professional League that had home games was not provided, but most likely, it was very low.
-) The United Shore Baseball League played its 3rd season. All 4 teams in this league played their games in the same ballpark in Utica, Michigan. A team attendance breakdown was not available, but a league average was.
-) 2018 changes in the independent leagues included the American Association adding the Chicago Dogs to replace road-team Salina, KS, borrowed from the Pecos League. A road team replaced Bridgeport of the Atlantic League. Two teams were added to the Empire Pro League. The Pacific Association added Martinez and Napa. Ruidoso replaced Hollywood in the Pecos League.
-) Attendance was compiled by 59 teams in 2018, up from 57 teams in 2017, 55 teams in 2016, 52 teams in 2015, and 50 in 2014. 53 independent teams reported attendance in 2013. 55 teams listed attendance in 2012. The figures for the 12 Pecos League teams were provided by the league office. Figures for the other independent leagues came from their Websites.
-) 22 of the 52 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2017 had gains in total attendance in 2018. 19 of those teams posted gains in average per date, 32 were down, and one team had the same average per date as in 2017. 22 of these teams had more home dates in 2018 than in 2017, 25 had fewer dates, and 5 played the same number as in 2017. (The United Shore League is counted as one team.)
-) In 2017, 22 of 48 'same market' teams were up in total attendance, and 22 had an average per date increase, with one team having no change. 14 of 46 'same market' teams had total attendance gains in 2016, and 20 of them were up in average per date. In 2015, 23 of 45 'same market' teams had total attendance gains, and 15 of them were up in average per date. In 2014, 14 of 47 teams had total gains, with 13 gaining in average per date. 15 of 48 teams showed growth in total attendance in 2013, with 15 up in average per date. 20 of 46 'same market' independent teams had gains in total attendance in 2012, with 17 posting increases in average per date. Just 12 'same market' independent teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 37 were down. 9 of those teams had gains in average per date and 40 had declines.
-) Total independent leagues reported attendance was 5,919,353 in 2018, down 300,935 (4.8%). Combined average per date fell by 142 to 2,330, which is the lowest independent combined average since 1998. There were 24 more dates with recorded or estimated attendance among independent teams in 2018 than in 2017.
-) 3 of the 7 leagues that compiled attendance had gains in total attendance. The American Association had a total gain of 24,884 (1.3%), with 19 more dates than in 2017, and with one more team playing home games. Teams that were in that league in both 2018 and 2017 were down a combined 113,971 (6.1%). The United Shore League was up 7,100 (2.9%). The Pacific Association gained 25,146 (68.2%) with 2 additional teams, and 85 more dates. The 4 returning Pacific Association teams rose 9,867 (26.8%).
-) Frontier League attendance topped one million for the 16th straight year, drawing 1,194,851. But that was down 93,691 (7.3%). The league played 8 fewer dates than in 2017. The Can-Am League had a 31,625 (5.0%) loss.
-) The Atlantic League replaced Bridgeport with a road team, so the remaining 7 teams still had about the same number of scheduled home dates. Total attendance declined 221,480 (10.7%) with 50 fewer dates than in 2017. The returning 7 teams had a combined total loss of 24,563 (1.3%). This league still had the best average per date (3,894) of any independent league. However, it was the 3rd time since 2005 that average per date was under 4,000. In 2012, this league drew 2,367,578, the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. The all-time high average per date for a modern-day independent league is 4,621 by the Northern League in 2008.
-) Figures for the Pecos League were provided by the league office. Pecos League attendance fell 11,269 (14.5%) to 66,344, in great part due to Tucson moving to a much smaller park. The league had 21 fewer dates than in 2017. All Pecos League ballparks are quite small, and their attendance figures are for tickets actually used, and do not include 'no-shows.' So their ticket sales are higher than announced attendance. All other minor leagues, and the Major Leagues, do include 'no-shows' in official attendance.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

-) In average per date, the American Association was down 65. The 11 returning teams in that league dipped by 39. The United Shore League had a gain of 50, with 61 of their 75 dates, including 3 playoff games, selling out. The Pecos League was down 20. The Atlantic League had a loss of 51, with the 7 returning teams down a combined 190. The Can-Am League had a 92 loss, and the Frontier League was down 140. The Pacific Association was up by 20, with the 4 returning teams up 55.
-) **The St. Paul Saints of the American Association drew 408,921, and averaged 8,178 per date. Both of those figures were once again, the best among all independent teams. 45 of their 50 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with attendance topping 8,000 at 32 dates. There were 5 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 9,791. Since moving into CHS Field in 2015, the Saints have outdrawn the park's seating capacity at 184 of 198 regular season dates.**
-) St. Paul drew 406,501 in 2017, with 46 of 49 dates topping seating capacity. 36 dates drew at least 8,000.
-) In 2016, St. Paul drew the highest total ever (413,482) for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other indy leagues. The Saints averaged 8,438 per date, which is a record-high for any independent team. The previous records (404,528, averaging 8,091) were set by St. Paul in 2015, their first year at CHS Field. Prior to 2015, the independent average per date record was 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003. In 2016, 47 of the 49 dates in St. Paul above CHS Field's seating capacity, topped by a crowd of 10,443. In 2015, 46 of the 50 dates topped seating capacity, and 18 dates had crowds of at least 1,000 above seating capacity.
-) Long Island had the top independent attendance for 12 straight years from 2000 through 2011. Long Island, Sugar Land, and Somerset were the other independent teams, in addition to St. Paul, that topped 300,000 in 2018. Except for St. Paul, all the teams that topped 300,000 play in the longer-schedule Atlantic League. Southern Maryland, Lancaster PA, and Winnipeg, also drew more than 200,000 in 2018.
-) After St. Paul, Somerset had the next best average per date (5,110). Long Island averaged 4,916, and Sugar Land had a 4,562 average per date. Winnipeg, who had the highest independent average per date 12 times in 15 years through 2014, averaged 4,477.
-) Sugar Land (near Houston) of the Atlantic League drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest total ever by a modern independent league team. The previous record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001.
-) Lowest 2018 total attendance among American Association, and Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier League teams was 63,498 by Sioux City IA of the American Association. This team's average per date of 1,323 was the 2nd lowest in these 4 leagues. Cleburne had the lowest average per date (1,285). No other teams in these leagues averaged under 1,500 per date. Also failing to top 80,000 in total attendance were Cleburne, Windy City, and Sussex County (NJ).
-) Biggest total attendance declines in these leagues were by Wichita, down 49,368, Southern Illinois, down 41,830, Cleburne, down 39,038, York, down 31,817, and Traverse City, down 31,368. Wichita will not have a team in 2019. That city plans to build a new ballpark in time for the 2020 season. New Orleans of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League is expected to move there. Traverse City and Normal, both from the Frontier League, will play in college summer leagues in 2019.
-) All 18 of the teams in the Pecos League and Pacific Association averaged below 1,000 per date, and for 16 of these teams, average per date was under 400. San Rafael of the Pacific Association averaged 452. Sonoma, from the same league averaged 438. Most of these teams play in tiny ballparks, some with only a few hundred seats.
-) The Florence (KY) Freedom of the Frontier League had the best total increase (18,260) among independent teams in 2018. Texas (Grand Prairie) had a 14,524 gain, Trois Rivieres was up 12,377, Sugar Land gained 10,770, and Sioux Falls, SD rose by 10,621.
-) Texas had the best increase in average per date, up 519. Lake Erie had a gain of 300, Florence was up 267, Trois Rivieres gained 252, and Sonoma had a 181 increase.

SUMMARY OF 2018 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

-) Wichita, in its final American Association season, had the worst 2018 decline in average per date, down 835. Southern Illinois fell by 552, Cleburne was down 495, Traverse City dipped 456, and Quebec had a loss of 452. 8 other teams had losses of at least 200 per date.
-) By percentage change in the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association, Texas had the best total attendance gain, up 22.1%, Florence gained 20.9%, Trois Rivieres was up 15.6%, Washington, PA had a 13.3% increase, and Sioux Falls was up 9.4%.
-) On the down side, in percent change of total attendance, Cleburne fell by 37.8%, Wichita was down 31.2%, Southern Illinois had a 27.6% loss, Traverse City declined 26.2%, and Gateway's total attendance dipped 15.3%.
-) Best percentage growth in average per date in the 4 leagues noted above was by Texas (up 45.1%), Trois Rivieres (up 15.6%), Lake Erie (up 15.0%), Florence (up 12.8%), and Normal, in its final season in the Frontier League, (up 10.2%).
-) Worst percentage average per date losses were by Cleburne (down 27.8%), Wichita (down 27.0%), Traverse City, in its final Frontier League season, (down 16.8%), Southern Illinois (also down 16.8%), and Quebec (down 15.9%).
-) **The Pacific Association, and Monterey, CA of the Pecos League, set new highs in total attendance in 2018. Trois Rivieres, White Sands, and Monterey each had a record-high in average per date.**
-) Some of the changes planned for 2019 include the Milwaukee Milkmen (Franklin, WI) replacing Wichita in the American Association, and both Traverse City and Normal leaving the Frontier League, and instead playing in summer collegiate leagues. Also, the Atlantic league will add High Point, NC, replacing the 2018 road team. The new Southwest League of Professional Baseball, with at least 4 teams, and a 112-game schedule for each of them, expects to begin play.

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TEAM	2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017	BALLPARK OPENED:
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA)						
Buffalo Bisons	527,988	64	8,250	526,574	1,414	1988
Charlotte Knights	619,639	69	8,980	628,526	(8,887)	2014
Columbus (OH) Clippers	587,067	68	8,633	616,059	(28,992)	2009
Durham Bulls	536,304	70	7,661	547,841	(11,537)	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Braves	195,955	64	3,062	210,075	(14,120)	2009
Indianapolis Indians	619,122	70	8,845	641,141	(22,019)	1996
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	561,745	66	8,511	555,146	6,599	2008
Louisville Bats	466,026	70	6,658	467,024	(998)	2000
Norfolk Tides	341,369	64	5,334	359,263	(17,894)	1993
Pawtucket Red Sox	394,811	66	5,982	409,960	(15,149)	1942
Rochester Red Wings	437,974	67	6,537	445,581	(7,607)	1997
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	386,819	63	6,140	439,412	(52,593)	2013
Syracuse Chiefs	277,332	66	4,202	292,054	(14,722)	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	507,965	69	7,362	533,014	(25,049)	2002
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,460,116	936	6,902	6,671,670	(211,554)	
PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA)						
Albuquerque Isotopes	556,330	70	7,948	542,502	13,828	2003
Colorado Springs Sky Sox	262,657	64	4,104	265,095	(2,438)	1988
El Paso Chihuahuas	539,520	69	7,819	544,668	(5,148)	2014
Fresno Grizzlies	405,403	67	6,051	428,341	(22,938)	2002
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	463,399	63	7,356	535,660	(72,261)	1992
Las Vegas 51s	332,224	70	4,746	359,059	(26,835)	1983
Memphis Redbirds	340,476	68	5,007	350,007	(9,531)	2000
Nashville Sounds	603,135	69	8,741	593,679	9,456	2015
New Orleans Baby Cakes	252,614	66	3,827	349,883	(97,269)	1997
Oklahoma (City) Dodgers	463,195	69	6,713	444,224	18,971	1998
Omaha Storm Chasers	345,830	65	5,320	358,777	(12,947)	2011
Reno Aces	351,298	70	5,019	347,502	3,796	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	616,636	70	8,809	610,681	5,955	2000
Sacramento River Cats	538,785	69	7,808	562,237	(23,452)	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	477,528	69	6,921	483,202	(5,674)	1994
Tacoma Rainiers	372,780	69	5,403	374,951	(2,171)	1960
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,921,810	1,087	6,368	7,150,468	(228,658)	
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	13,381,926	2,023	6,615	13,822,138	(440,212)	
EASTERN LEAGUE (AA)						
Akron Rubber Ducks	344,754	69	4,996	343,351	1,403	1997
Altoona Curve	297,118	65	4,571	294,486	2,632	1999
Binghamton Rumble Ponies	220,279	62	3,553	190,765	29,514	1992
Bowie Baysox	230,347	67	3,438	234,789	(4,442)	1994
Erie SeaWolves	205,055	64	3,204	214,394	(9,339)	1995
Harrisburg Senators	259,243	65	3,988	262,872	(3,629)	2010
Hartford Yard Goats	408,942	68	6,014	395,196	13,746	2017
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	319,099	63	5,065	284,108	34,991	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	346,341	61	5,678	356,153	(9,812)	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	388,510	68	5,713	411,698	(23,188)	1951
Richmond Flying Squirrels	396,686	64	6,198	386,185	10,501	1985
Trenton Thunder	351,297	70	5,019	349,013	2,284	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,767,671	786	4,793	3,723,010	44,661	

2018 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Biloxi Shuckers	160,364	66	2,430	167,151	(6,787)	2015
Birmingham Barons	391,061	68	5,751	391,725	(664)	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	214,811	67	3,206	209,948	4,863	2000
Jackson (West Tenn) Generals	110,798	67	1,654	120,695	(9,897)	1998
Jacksonville (FL) Jumbo Shrimp	317,335	63	5,037	325,743	(8,408)	2003
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	151,352	67	2,259	190,645	(39,293)	2005
Mobile BayBears	69,504	62	1,121	92,898	(23,394)	1997
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	238,538	70	3,408	228,376	10,162	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	300,002	69	4,348	298,108	1,894	2012
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	308,069	66	4,668	313,796	(5,727)	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,261,834	665	3,401	2,339,085	(77,251)	
<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	296,847	66	4,498	328,347	(31,500)	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	340,607	70	4,866	331,242	9,365	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	468,259	68	6,886	470,003	(1,744)	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	263,024	68	3,868	282,146	(19,122)	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	304,526	68	4,478	304,026	500	2008
San Antonio Missions	327,276	67	4,885	305,351	21,925	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	326,362	67	4,871	331,259	(4,897)	2003
Tulsa Drillers	350,396	67	5,230	374,976	(24,580)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,677,297	541	4,949	2,727,350	(50,053)	
TOTAL CLASS AA	8,706,802	1,992	4,371	8,789,445	(82,643)	
<u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers	193,992	70	2,771	202,336	(8,344)	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	214,955	70	3,071	199,661	15,294	1994
Lancaster JetHawks	155,573	70	2,222	169,237	(13,664)	1996
Modesto Nuts	145,028	70	2,072	147,562	(2,534)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	171,767	70	2,454	171,622	145	1993
San Jose Giants	147,668	70	2,110	163,373	(15,705)	1942
Stockton Ports	187,966	69	2,724	184,164	3,802	2005
Visalia Rawhide	124,208	70	1,774	126,419	(2,211)	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,341,157	559	2,399	1,364,374	(23,217)	
<u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Buies Creek Astros	24,068	67	359	30,518	(6,450)	2013
Carolina Mudcats	181,122	66	2,744	190,420	(9,298)	1991
Down East (Kinston) Wood Ducks	116,835	66	1,770	145,780	(28,945)	1949
Frederick Keys	275,001	64	4,297	303,930	(28,929)	1990
Lynchburg Hillcats	112,228	63	1,781	137,566	(25,338)	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	219,589	66	3,327	233,126	(13,537)	1999
Potomac Nationals	237,244	63	3,766	236,010	1,234	1984
Salem Red Sox	192,621	66	2,919	215,244	(22,623)	1995
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	249,746	65	3,842	230,677	19,069	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	292,774	66	4,436	304,607	(11,833)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,901,228	652	2,916	2,027,878	(126,650)	

2018 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Bradenton Marauders	79,874	67	1,192	79,331	543	1923
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	104,193	63	1,654	120,685	(16,492)	1987
Clearwater Threshers	181,686	68	2,672	200,201	(18,515)	2004
Daytona Tortugas	120,728	59	2,046	136,224	(15,496)	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	30,569	68	450	38,956	(8,387)	1977
Florida (Kissimmee) Fire Frogs	33,017	55	600	57,324	(24,307)	1984
Fort Myers Miracle	123,882	67	1,849	121,438	2,444	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	69,095	65	1,063	69,064	31	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	49,551	59	840	52,191	(2,640)	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	64,008	62	1,032	58,832	5,176	1998
St. Lucie Mets	98,823	65	1,520	132,359	(33,536)	1988
Tampa Tarpons	71,835	65	1,105	93,823	(21,988)	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,027,261	763	1,346	1,160,428	(133,167)	
<u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Beloit Snappers	64,574	63	1,025	64,236	338	1982
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	178,329	66	2,702	179,839	(1,510)	2009
Burlington (IA) Bees	53,259	62	859	67,044	(13,785)	1947
Cedar Rapids (IA) Kernels	160,165	68	2,355	166,427	(6,262)	2002
Clinton LumberKings	121,678	67	1,816	121,302	376	1937
Dayton Dragons	550,725	70	7,868	554,638	(3,913)	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	376,422	66	5,703	409,253	(32,831)	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	187,220	65	2,880	202,433	(15,213)	2007
Kane County (IL) Cougars	350,028	64	5,469	394,567	(44,539)	1991
Lake County (OH) Captains	202,124	66	3,062	212,747	(10,623)	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	313,592	68	4,612	303,843	9,749	1996
Peoria Chiefs	208,275	66	3,156	212,659	(4,384)	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	215,061	68	3,163	230,006	(14,945)	2004
South Bend Cubs	343,763	70	4,911	354,070	(10,307)	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	386,609	67	5,770	383,983	2,626	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	225,897	65	3,475	230,326	(4,429)	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,937,721	1,061	3,711	4,087,373	(149,652)	
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Asheville Tourists	170,389	60	2,840	184,019	(13,630)	1992
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	255,155	63	4,050	178,269	76,886	2018
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	305,040	68	4,486	305,622	(582)	1997
Columbia (SC) Fireflies	251,586	67	3,755	315,034	(63,448)	2016
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	201,329	65	3,097	207,131	(5,802)	1996
Greensboro Grasshoppers	322,156	66	4,881	350,743	(28,587)	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	313,507	65	4,823	328,222	(14,715)	2006
Hagerstown Suns	64,957	56	1,160	84,181	(19,224)	1931
Hickory Crawdads	125,394	66	1,900	136,225	(10,831)	1993
Kannapolis Intimidators	64,688	58	1,115	69,112	(4,424)	1995
Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws	293,413	63	4,657	338,544	(45,131)	2001
Lexington (KY) Legends	281,134	63	4,462	281,210	(76)	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	146,276	64	2,286	161,444	(15,168)	2003
West Virginia (Charleston) Power	112,273	61	1,841	133,679	(21,406)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,907,297	885	3,285	3,073,435	(166,138)	
TOTAL FULL SEASON A	11,114,664	3,920	2,835	11,713,488	(598,824)	

2018 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Aberdeen IronBirds	121,907	35	3,483	130,823	(8,916)	2002
Auburn Doubledays	43,343	36	1,204	46,132	(2,789)	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	29,005	37	784	27,389	1,616	1996
Brooklyn Cyclones	202,495	38	5,329	186,853	15,642	2001
Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers	75,810	37	2,049	73,439	2,371	1995
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	148,156	37	4,004	147,936	220	1994
Lowell Spinners	118,319	35	3,381	126,565	(8,246)	2000
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	97,204	36	2,700	107,894	(10,690)	1999
State College Spikes	119,986	37	3,243	123,401	(3,415)	2006
Staten Island Yankees	72,894	35	2,083	71,401	1,493	2001
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	140,036	34	4,119	142,922	(2,886)	2002
Vermont Lake Monsters	83,956	38	2,209	82,674	1,282	1922
West Virginia Black Bears	69,430	38	1,827	75,064	(5,634)	2015
Williamsport Crosscutters	68,475	36	1,902	61,082	7,393	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,391,016	509	2,733	1,403,575	(12,559)	
<u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Boise Hawks	126,192	38	3,321	121,455	4,737	1989
Eugene Emeralds	125,967	38	3,315	125,297	670	2010
Everett AquaSox	111,599	38	2,937	110,161	1,438	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	130,286	38	3,429	128,416	1,870	2013
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes	72,094	38	1,897	81,011	(8,917)	1997
Spokane Indians	198,423	38	5,222	196,653	1,770	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	86,283	37	2,332	86,461	(178)	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	239,086	38	6,292	239,527	(441)	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,089,930	303	3,597	1,088,981	949	
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays	20,018	31	646	21,595	(1,577)	1939
Bristol (VA) Pirates	21,941	31	708	20,813	1,128	1969
Burlington (NC) Royals	36,541	32	1,142	34,483	2,058	1960
Danville (VA) Braves	34,766	33	1,054	32,634	2,132	1993
Elizabethton (TN) Twins	15,329	29	529	18,746	(3,417)	1974
Greeneville (TN) Reds	48,021	31	1,549	35,305	12,716	2004
Johnson City (TN) Cardinals	68,881	31	2,222	65,202	3,679	1956
Kingsport (TN) Mets	28,928	32	904	29,742	(814)	1995
Princeton (WV) Rays	24,208	31	781	17,690	6,518	1988
Pulaski Yankees	91,226	33	2,764	77,880	13,346	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	389,859	314	1,242	354,090	35,769	

2018 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Billings Mustangs	93,466	35	2,670	110,311	(16,845)	2008
Grand Junction Rockies	84,416	38	2,221	79,547	4,869	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	47,625	34	1,401	47,260	365	1956
Helena Brewers	31,086	37	840	33,843	(2,757)	1939
Idaho Falls Chukars	101,448	37	2,742	90,816	10,632	2007
Missoula Osprey	65,919	35	1,883	71,936	(6,017)	2004
Ogden Raptors	129,285	38	3,402	128,348	937	1997
Orem (UT) Owlz	51,092	38	1,345	55,981	(4,889)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	604,337	292	2,070	618,042	(13,705)	
TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE	3,475,142	1,418	2,451	3,464,688	10,454	
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	99,295	52	1,910	196,439	(97,144)	1938
Campeche Pirates	71,096	51	1,394	133,641	(62,545)	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	165,465	54	3,064	147,416	18,049	2006
Dos Laredos Owlz	191,668	55	3,485	151,671	39,997	2008, 2012
Laguna Cotton Makers	176,931	55	3,217	250,596	(73,665)	1932
Leon Braves	139,827	54	2,589	108,670	31,157	1973
Durango Generals	156,118	50	3,122	180,118	(24,000)	1986
Mexico City Red Devils	155,185	51	3,043	127,671	27,514	1993
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	344,283	55	6,260	392,795	(48,512)	1975
Monterrey Sultans	563,296	56	10,059	659,791	(96,495)	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	129,794	53	2,449	141,217	(11,423)	1950
Puebla Parrots	143,744	53	2,712	152,923	(9,179)	1972
Saltillo Sarape Makers	274,802	57	4,821	266,847	7,955	1963
Tabasco Olmecas	130,587	54	2,418	71,829	58,758	1964
Tijuana Toros	556,371	57	9,761	608,819	(52,448)	1976
Yucatan Lions	473,341	55	8,606	452,162	21,179	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,771,803	862	4,376	4,042,605	(270,802)	
<i>Dos Laredos played in Veracruz in 2017. They split their 2018 schedule between Laredo, TX and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.</i>						
TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES	40,450,337	10,215	3,960	41,832,364	(1,382,027)	
<u>ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - Figures from this league are not included in any 'all leagues' totals</u>						
Glendale Desert Dogs	5,878	15	392	5,083	795	2009
Mesa Solar Sox	11,501	15	767	10,620	881	2014
Peoria Javelinas	9,907	15	660	7,533	2,374	1994
Salt River Rafter	14,102	15	940	10,657	3,445	2011
Scottsdale Scorpions	11,635	15	776	11,424	211	1992
Surprise Saguros	8,022	15	535	7,871	151	2011
LEAGUE TOTAL	61,045	90	678	53,188	7,857	

2018 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017	BALLPARK OPENED:
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION						
<i>Chicago Dogs</i>	138,855	47	2,954	-----	-----	2018
Cleburne (TX) Railroaders	64,226	50	1,285	103,264	(39,038)	2017
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	166,717	49	3,402	176,086	(9,369)	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	167,152	47	3,556	181,612	(14,460)	2003
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	189,981	48	3,958	211,599	(21,618)	2003
Lincoln Saltdogs	160,124	48	3,336	172,712	(12,588)	2001
St. Paul Saints	408,921	50	8,178	406,501	2,420	2015
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	63,498	48	1,323	58,407	5,091	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	124,127	50	2,483	113,506	10,621	1964
Texas (Grand Prairie) Airhogs	80,196	48	1,671	65,672	14,524	2008
Wichita (KS) Wingnuts	108,627	48	2,263	157,995	(49,368)	1934
Winnipeg Goldeyes	219,370	49	4,477	219,556	(186)	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,891,794	582	3,251	1,866,910	24,884	
<i>In 2018, Chicago replaced Salina, KS, a road team.</i>						
ATLANTIC LEAGUE						
<i>Bridgeport Bluefish</i>	0	0		196,917	(196,917)	
Lancaster Barnstormers	249,792	64	3,903	255,251	(5,459)	2005
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	349,058	71	4,916	341,830	7,228	2000
New Britain Bees	183,147	69	2,654	194,744	(11,597)	1996
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	352,603	69	5,110	342,231	10,372	1999
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	205,947	66	3,120	210,007	(4,060)	2008
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	328,491	72	4,562	317,721	10,770	2012
York Revolution	180,807	64	2,825	212,624	(31,817)	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,849,845	475	3,894	2,071,325	(221,480)	
<i>Bridgeport did not operate in 2018.</i>						
FRONTIER LEAGUE						
Evansville Otters	94,498	43	2,198	100,337	(5,839)	1915
Florence (KY) Freedom	105,805	45	2,351	87,545	18,260	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	125,536	47	2,671	148,176	(22,640)	2002
Joliet Slammers	88,198	47	1,877	100,160	(11,962)	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	101,229	44	2,301	94,035	7,194	2009
Normal (IL) CornBelters	81,716	44	1,857	75,804	5,912	2010
River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals	85,036	48	1,772	94,958	(9,922)	1999
Schaumburg Boomers	149,255	47	3,176	160,644	(11,389)	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	109,691	40	2,742	151,521	(41,830)	2007
Traverse City Beach Bums	88,176	39	2,261	119,544	(31,368)	2006
Washington (PA) Wild Things	87,534	44	1,989	77,233	10,301	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	78,177	47	1,663	78,585	(408)	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,194,851	535	2,233	1,288,542	(93,691)	
EMPIRE PRO LEAGUE						
Puerto Rico Islanders (Road)				N/A	-----	
New Hampshire (Concord) Wild Aguada (PR) Explorers						1936
Old Orchard Beach (ME) Surge	N/A			N/A	-----	1984
Plattsburgh (NY) Redbirds	N/A			N/A	-----	2003
New York Bucks	N/A			N/A	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A			N/A		

Plattsburgh replaced Watertown, and Puerto Rico replaced New Hampshire in 2017.

2018 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2018 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2018 vs. 2017	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>						
New Jersey Jackals	83,610	49	1,706	91,892	(8,282)	1998
Ottawa Champions	93,395	51	1,831	92,654	741	1993
Quebec (City) Capitales	126,483	53	2,386	141,923	(15,440)	1938
Rockland Boulders	129,599	47	2,757	145,005	(15,406)	2011
Sussex (NJ) Miners	74,827	48	1,559	80,442	(5,615)	1994
Trois Rivieres Aigles	91,605	49	1,869	79,228	12,377	1938
LEAGUE TOTAL	599,519	297	2,019	631,144	(31,625)	
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	6,600	24	275	6,912	(312)	1947
Bakersfield Train Robbers	10,250	41	250	10,058	192	1941
Garden City Wind	2,175	29	75	2,400	(225)	1936
California City Whiptails	1,950	26	75	3,584	(1,634)	
Roswell Invaders	7,866	38	207	7,564	302	1939
High Desert Yardbirds	5,250	35	150	8,246	(2,996)	1991
Monterey (CA) Amerjacks	6,300	21	300	3,598	2,702	
Santa Fe Fuego	10,850	35	310	10,842	8	1947
<i>Ruidoso Osos</i>	150	2	75	101	-----	
Trinidad Triggers	4,900	28	175	5,518	(618)	1960
Tucson Saguaros	2,250	31	73	15,010	(12,760)	1998
White Sands Pupfish	7,803	27	289	3,780	4,023	2003
LEAGUE TOTAL	66,344	337	197	77,613	(11,269)	
In 2017, Tucson played 20 dates at Tucson (14,020 total, 701 per date), and 10 dates at Bisbee (990 total, 99 per date).						
In 2017, Monterey played 14 dates at Monterey (2,968 total, 212 per date), and 7 dates at Hollister (630 total, 90 per date).						
<i>Ruidoso replaced Hollywood in 2018.</i>						
<u>UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE - League Estimated Attendance</u>						
Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers						
East Side Diamond Hoppers						
Utica Unicorns						
Westside Woolly Mammoths						
LEAGUE TOTAL	255,000	75	3,400	247,900	7,100	2016
<i>All of this league's games were played in Utica, MI.</i>						
<u>PACIFIC ASSOCIATION</u>						
<i>Martinez Clippers</i>	9,015	40	225	-----	-----	
<i>Napa Silverados</i>	6,264	40	157	-----	-----	
Pittsburg (CA) Diamonds	3,044	40	76	2,678	366	
San Rafael Pacifics	18,081	40	452	18,236	(155)	1950
Sonoma Stompers	17,501	40	438	10,031	7,470	
Vallejo Admirals	8,095	39	208	5,909	2,186	
LEAGUE TOTAL	62,000	239	259	36,854	25,146	
GRAND TOTAL						
8 Independent Leagues in 2018	5,919,353	2,540	2,330	6,220,288	(300,935)	

Independent leagues are not affiliated with Major League Baseball, or with the National Association.
Attendance for independent leagues was obtained from league Web sites, or from the league directly (Pecos League).
Number of Independent league dates in the 'Grand Total' line above excludes xx dates from the Empire League.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - By League - 2018 vs. 2017

NAPBL AFFILIATED <u>LEAGUES</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>		
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	Change-2018 vs. 2017		<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u># Change</u> <u>2018 vs. 2017</u>
			<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>			
International	6,460,116	6,671,670	(211,554)	(3.17)	6,902	7,082	(180)
Pacific Coast	6,921,810	7,150,468	(228,658)	(3.20)	6,368	6,542	(174)
AAA Total	13,381,926	13,822,138	(440,212)	(3.18)	6,615	6,792	(177)
Mexican	3,771,803	4,042,605	(270,802)	(6.70)	4,376	4,906	(530)
Eastern	3,767,671	3,723,010	44,661	1.20	4,793	4,773	20
Southern	2,261,834	2,339,085	(77,251)	(3.30)	3,401	3,571	(170)
Texas	2,677,297	2,727,350	(50,053)	(1.84)	4,949	5,051	(102)
AA Total	8,706,802	8,789,445	(82,643)	(0.94)	4,371	4,450	(79)
California	1,341,157	1,364,374	(23,217)	(1.70)	2,399	2,450	(51)
Carolina	1,901,228	2,027,878	(126,650)	(6.25)	2,916	3,129	(213)
Florida State	1,027,261	1,160,428	(133,167)	(11.48)	1,346	1,521	(175)
Midwest	3,937,721	4,087,373	(149,652)	(3.66)	3,711	3,799	(88)
South Atlantic	2,907,297	3,073,435	(166,138)	(5.41)	3,285	3,352	(67)
Full Season A Total	11,114,664	11,713,488	(598,824)	(5.11)	2,835	2,957	(122)
New York - Penn	1,391,016	1,403,575	(12,559)	(0.89)	2,733	2,836	(103)
Northwest	1,089,930	1,088,981	949	0.09	3,597	3,594	3
Appalachian	389,859	354,090	35,769	10.10	1,242	1,103	139
Pioneer	604,337	618,042	(13,705)	(2.22)	2,070	2,046	24
Short Season Total	3,475,142	3,464,688	10,454	0.30	2,451	2,438	13
NAPBL TOTAL	40,450,337	41,832,364	(1,382,027)	(3.30)	3,960	4,095	(135)
<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>							
American Association	1,891,794	1,866,910	24,884	1.33	3,251	3,316	(65)
Atlantic	1,849,845	2,071,325	(221,480)	(10.69)	3,894	3,945	(51)
Can-Am	599,519	631,144	(31,625)	(5.01)	2,019	2,111	(92)
Frontier	1,194,851	1,288,542	(93,691)	(7.27)	2,233	2,373	(140)
United Shore	255,000	247,900	7,100	2.86	3,400	3,350	50
Pecos Baseball	66,344	77,613	(11,269)	(14.52)	197	217	(20)
Pacific Association	62,000	36,854	25,146	68.23	259	239	20
Empire Professional			-----	-----			-----
Independent Total	5,919,353	6,220,288	(300,935)	(4.84)	2,330	2,472	(142)
GRAND TOTAL	46,369,690	48,052,652	(1,682,962)	(3.50)	3,635	3,774	(139)

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

This section lists 2018 monthly attendance for each of the 15 NAPBL leagues, and for 4 independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Frontier, and Can-Am Leagues.) Since the number of dates played varies by month, the most important figure is the average per date. There are also monthly combined totals for the 11 full-season NAPBL leagues, the 4 NAPBL short-season leagues, and the 4 listed independent leagues. Monthly attendance from the other independent leagues is not available. The 2018 monthly average per date for each league is compared with 2017 monthly data.

The 2017 data was compiled by Major League Baseball Advanced Media. Special thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Director of Communications for Minor League Baseball, for his help. August and September are combined, since, except for the Atlantic far fewer regular season games are played by these leagues in September.

Note that monthly average attendance per date for a league can be affected by how many dates are played in that month by teams that draw well or poorly. For example, if teams that draw very well played a higher number of home dates in a certain month in 2018 than they did in 2017, it increases the chance that the league will show an increase in 2018 average per date vs. the same month in 2017. More dates in a month by poorly-drawing teams vs. the same month a year earlier, increases the chances that the league will show a decrease in average per date vs. a year earlier.

For the Mexican League, the 2018 regular season was divided into 2 parts - March 22 - May 25, and July 3 - September 8. Playoffs were held after each part of the season. Full-season NAPBL leagues opened on April 5. The Florida State League closed on September 2, and all others closed on September 3. Short-season league schedules were: New York-Penn and Northwest - June 15-September 3; Appalachian - June 19 - August 30; Pioneer - June 15 - September 6. Independent leagues: Atlantic - April 26 - September 16; Can-Am and American Association - May 17 - September 3; Frontier - May 10 - September 2.

<u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u>						<u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17			2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	142	748,669	5,272	5,797	(9.1)	April	186	1,041,870	5,601	5,820	(3.8)
May	203	1,242,953	6,123	6,201	(1.3)	May	234	1,414,121	6,043	6,223	(2.9)
June	189	1,371,169	7,255	7,328	(1.0)	June	212	1,335,863	6,301	6,592	(4.4)
July	185	1,406,561	7,603	7,973	(4.6)	July	204	1,373,069	6,731	7,016	(4.1)
August-Sept.	217	1,690,764	7,792	7,667	1.6	August-Sept.	251	1,756,887	7,000	6,887	1.6
League Total	936	6,460,116	6,902	7,082	(2.5)	League Total	1,087	6,921,810	6,368	6,542	(2.7)
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						<u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17			2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	256	1,292,809	5,050	5,658	(10.7)	April	127	456,582	3,595	3,760	(4.4)
May	178	803,829	4,516	4,384	3.0	May	167	770,311	4,613	4,248	8.6
June	0	0		4,676		June	156	778,051	4,988	4,798	3.9
July	194	745,260	3,842	4,576	(16.1)	July	152	791,182	5,205	5,337	(2.5)
August-Sept.	234	929,905	3,974	5,603	(29.1)	August-Sept.	184	971,545	5,280	5,361	(1.5)
League Total	862	3,771,803	4,376	4,906	(10.8)	League Total	786	3,767,671	4,793	4,773	0.4
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u>						<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17			2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	115	388,533	3,379	3,806	(11.2)	April	90	409,643	4,552	5,028	(9.5)
May	135	454,661	3,368	3,597	(6.4)	May	116	574,096	4,949	4,856	1.9
June	125	446,481	3,572	3,630	(1.6)	June	100	517,263	5,173	5,355	(3.4)
July	144	501,363	3,482	3,605	(3.4)	July	117	571,262	4,883	4,982	(2.0)
August-Sept.	146	470,796	3,225	3,296	(2.2)	August-Sept.	118	605,033	5,127	5,062	1.3
League Total	665	2,261,834	3,401	3,571	(4.8)	League Total	541	2,677,297	4,949	5,051	(2.0)

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE**

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
April	99	241,920	2,444	2,611	(6.4)
May	116	280,118	2,415	2,314	4.4
June	104	248,978	2,394	2,341	2.3
July	116	267,266	2,304	2,507	(8.1)
August-Sept.	124	302,875	2,443	2,491	(1.9)
League Total	559	1,341,157	2,399	2,450	(2.1)

CAROLINA LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
April	112	291,289	2,601	2,681	(3.0)
May	136	376,373	2,767	2,952	(6.3)
June	123	365,222	2,969	3,127	(5.0)
July	136	398,495	2,930	3,263	(10.2)
August-Sept.	145	469,849	3,240	3,489	(7.1)
League Total	652	1,901,228	2,916	3,129	(6.8)

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
April	136	197,618	1,453	1,620	(10.3)
May	141	184,002	1,305	1,304	0.1
June	149	187,759	1,260	1,341	(6.0)
July	160	229,117	1,432	1,833	(21.9)
August-Sept.	177	228,765	1,292	1,477	(12.5)
League Total	763	1,027,261	1,346	1,521	(11.5)

MIDWEST LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
April	155	379,071	2,446	2,444	0.1
May	235	770,216	3,278	3,335	(1.7)
June	202	826,575	4,092	4,075	0.4
July	217	900,749	4,151	4,412	(5.9)
August-Sept.	252	1,061,110	4,211	4,374	(3.7)
League Total	1,061	3,937,721	3,711	3,799	(2.3)

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
April	152	454,793	2,992	3,309	(9.6)
May	179	556,888	3,111	3,367	(7.6)
June	170	600,042	3,530	3,514	0.4
July	182	609,138	3,347	3,353	(0.2)
August-Sept.	202	686,436	3,398	3,241	4.9
League Total	885	2,907,297	3,285	3,352	(2.0)

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
June	101	283,610	2,808	3,064	(8.4)
July	193	517,053	2,679	2,854	(6.1)
August-Sept.	215	590,353	2,746	2,748	(0.1)
League Total	509	1,391,016	2,733	2,836	(3.6)

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
June	63	231,651	3,677	3,451	6.5
July	121	433,269	3,581	3,673	(2.5)
August-Sept.	119	425,010	3,572	3,593	(0.6)
League Total	303	1,089,930	3,597	3,594	0.1

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE

2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	% Chg.		
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>		
June	52	66,873	1,286	1,241	3.6
July	134	175,747	1,312	1,136	15.5
August-Sept.	128	147,239	1,150	1,026	12.1
League Total	314	389,859	1,242	1,103	12.6

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	56	129,550	2,313	2,166	6.8
July	112	237,634	2,122	2,239	(5.2)
August-Sept.	124	237,153	1,913	1,862	2.7
League Total	292	604,337	2,070	2,046	1.2

<u>NAPBL FULL-SEASON LEAGUES TOTAL</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	1,570	5,902,797	3,760	3,986	(5.7)
May	1,840	7,427,568	4,037	4,019	0.4
June	1,530	6,677,403	4,364	4,507	(3.2)
July	1,807	7,793,462	4,313	4,614	(6.5)
August-Sept.	2,050	9,173,965	4,475	4,622	(3.2)
Full-Sea. Total	8,797	36,975,195	4,203	4,362	(3.6)

<u>NAPBL SHORT SEASON LEAGUES TOTAL</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	272	711,684	2,616	2,634	(0.7)
July	560	1,363,703	2,435	2,471	(1.4)
August-Sept.	586	1,399,755	2,389	2,339	2.1
Short Sea. Tot.	1,418	3,475,142	2,451	2,438	0.5

<u>ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April-May	113	420,997	3,726	3,690	1.0
June	111	450,100	4,055	3,881	4.5
July	93	378,558	4,071	4,069	0.0
August	108	406,070	3,760	4,129	(8.9)
September	50	194,120	3,882	4,135	(6.1)
League Total	475	1,849,845	3,894	3,945	(1.3)

<u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	75	225,849	3,011	3,009	0.1
June	159	511,288	3,216	3,325	(3.3)
July	161	525,655	3,265	3,464	(5.7)
August-Sept.	187	629,002	3,364	3,318	1.4
League Total	582	1,891,794	3,251	3,322	(2.2)

<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	35	60,518	1,729	1,653	4.6
June	93	181,914	1,956	1,956	0.0
July	78	156,466	2,006	2,380	(15.7)
August-Sept.	91	200,621	2,205	2,222	(0.8)
League Total	297	599,519	2,019	2,111	(4.4)

<u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	94	170,711	1,816	1,908	(4.8)
June	148	329,031	2,223	2,334	(4.7)
July	133	322,236	2,423	2,678	(9.5)
August-Sept.	160	363,289	2,271	2,418	(6.1)
League Total	535	1,185,267	2,215	2,373	(6.6)

<u>4 INDEPENDENT LEAGUES TOTAL</u>					
2018	2018	2017	'18 vs. '17		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April-May	317	878,075	2,770	2,863	(3.2)
June	511	1,472,333	2,881	2,893	(0.4)
July	465	1,382,915	2,974	3,191	(6.8)
August-Sept.	596	1,793,102	3,009	3,132	(3.9)
League Total	1,889	5,526,425	2,926	3,037	(3.7)