



# **NUMBER TAMER™**

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# **MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

  

# **2023 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS**

## **INCLUDES SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUE DATA**

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# 2023 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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# 2023 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2023 season. Features include:

- J A complete listing of the reorganized Minor League system.
- J The summary of **2023** Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- J Attendance notes for each league and for all individual teams.
- J Listing of **2023** total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- J Comparing **2023 vs. 2022** attendance. Tables show attendance for these seasons for all teams. League comparisons differ from past reports due to the reorganization of the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues. Tables also note the year current Minor League ballparks opened.
- J Listings of MLB-affiliated and independent league teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in total attendance and average attendance for **2023 vs. 2022**.
- J 1990-2023 total attendance and average per date yearly figures and changes for each league. This includes all the current reorganized MLB-affiliated leagues, and their predecessor leagues.
- J The growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets, and in markets that have teams in the NBA, NFL, and NHL. These tables are updated to include 2023 data.
- J A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 54 years. Tables show how league attendance has grown vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. There is a comparison of Minor League attendance growth with attendance gains for other sports.
- J Comparing individual team attendance in 2023 with attendance in 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, and 1973.
- J 2023 Minor League Playoff attendance.
- J 1963-2023 Season total attendance for full-season, MLB-affiliated teams.
- J Looking back at 1949, when Minor League attendance was a then-record-high 39,640,443. That record was not broken until 1999 (for the combined total of NAPBL and Independent leagues), and 2004, just for NAPBL teams. There were many more teams and leagues in 1949 than now. This section lists attendance for each 1949 league, and also lists the individual teams with the highest and the lowest attendance in each league. It also notes attendance in cities which had Minor League teams in 1949, but now are in the Major Leagues.
- J A look back at 1961, when Minor League average attendance per team reached its lowest post World War II low, and at 1962, when total attendance was at its post-war low.
- J A yearly listing of teams leading the Major League-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor Leagues in attendance, which includes all full-season and short-season leaders since 1940. Yearly total MLB-affiliated Minor League attendance since 1940, and total full-season leagues attendance since 1963, is listed.
- J Yearly total independent leagues attendance since 1993, along with team leaders.
- J Each current Minor League market's record-high season attendance, and average per date.
- J Noting record-high Minor League attendance in cities that later joined the Major Leagues.
- J A listing of teams that have drawn at least 500,000 in a season.
- J Information about teams that were in professional Minor Leagues in 2019, but are now in Summer Collegiate Leagues.

**SOURCES**

The Communications and Media Relations Department of Minor League Baseball (formerly known as the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues), provided attendance data for the Major League Baseball affiliated leagues for 1994 through 2019. 1997-2023 independent league data, and figures from the Summer Collegiate leagues, is from each league's official Website. 2021-2023 data from Major League Baseball affiliated teams and leagues, plus the Mexican, Atlantic, Appalachian, and MLB Draft Leagues, comes from the MLB Stats Reporting Platform. Information from individual teams sometimes came from that team's Website. Major League attendance data is from the Major League Baseball Information System, and from the MLB Stats Reporting Platform.

MLB-affiliated teams data from years prior to 1994 is from The Sporting News Official Baseball Guides, (1949, 1961, 1969-1980, 1989-1993 seasons), the Website 'thebaseballcube.com' (1982-1988), the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, Third Edition (pre-1969 and 1980's NAPBL), edited by Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff (2007 – Baseball America), and from "Mud Hens and Mavericks" by Judith Blahnik and Phillip S. Schulz (1995 – Viking Penguin). Much of this data was verified with attendance books provided on loan by Minor League Baseball. Special thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Manager of Communications of Major League and Minor League Baseball for this information.

Independent league data prior to 1997 came from the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, the "Independent Baseball Page" Website, "The History of Independent Baseball Leagues 1993-2002" by David Kemp and Miles Wolff, and league Media Guides. Some 2015 playoff data is from Bob Wirz of Indy Baseball Chatter.

The Websites 'oursportscentral.com,' 'baseballparks.com,' 'ballparkbiz.com,' and 'ballparkdigest.com,' plus the "Baseball America Directory," were sources of some information about ballparks, and Summer Collegiate leagues.

The Website 'archive.org' posted the 1950 and 1962 Sporting News Baseball Guides online, from the University of Florida library. This is how the league and team 1949 and 1961 attendance figures were obtained.

The raw data was compiled and analyzed by David P. Kronheim of Number Tamer, which is a marketing research service with clients in the sports industry. He has visited more than 120 Minor League ballparks over the past 4 decades.

There is a section on 2023 and prior years, post-season attendance. All other figures in this report are for regular season games only, and exclude exhibition, All-Star, and post-season games, unless noted otherwise.

With the exception of the Pecos League, baseball's Minor Leagues follow the current policy of all North American professional sports leagues, which is that official announced attendance is for tickets sold, not for actual in-stadium attendance. It includes 'no-shows,' which are tickets sold, but not used. In addition, Minor League announced attendance figures often include fans who are admitted to games for free. A 'sellout' usually means that all fixed seats were sold-out for a particular game. For some teams, it might mean that the total number of tickets sold, including lawn seating, exceeded the number of fixed seats. Many parks have standing-room, or lawn seating tickets available, and all those tickets don't have to be sold for most teams to list a game as a 'sellout.' The independent Pecos Baseball League does not include 'no-shows' in their attendance, so their actual ticket sales may be higher than the figures they report.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES ATTENDANCE FOR SOME YEARS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED**

Actual 2010, and 2012 through 2023 total attendance for independent leagues was slightly higher, and average per date was a bit lower, than what is listed in this report. In 2010, the Continental League didn't finish its season, and no attendance figures were compiled. It is doubtful that average attendance per date in that league was more than 200. Total attendance for the Continental League in 2010 was probably not above 17,000, and perhaps, considerably less.

In 2014, the Independent Baseball League did not report attendance, which was estimated to be very low. The Freedom Pro League didn't report attendance in 2012 and 2013, the 2 seasons that it operated. It too, was low.

2016-2023 attendance from the Empire League, was unavailable, but was probably quite low. 2011-2023 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office, as was some Mavericks League and United Shore League attendance.

**ATTENTION, ENGLISH TEACHERS:**

Team names in this report are spelled exactly as they appear in the Information Guide of Minor League Baseball, and on the Websites of the independent leagues. Starting in 2022, Class AAA is referred to as 'Triple-A' and Class AA is referred to as 'Double-A.' Class A leagues are either 'High-A' or 'Single-A' (formerly 'Low-A'). The terms 'NAPBL' and 'MLB-affiliated' both describe Major League farm leagues and teams.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE OR GAME GUIDELINES USED IN NUMBER TAMER REPORTS**

**2020 through 2023 average attendance per date or per game figures in any of these Number Tamer reports, are only, as far as can be determined, for games played with fans in attendance. Games played with no fans in attendance are not counted, when figuring an average per date or game figure. Some leagues in various sports, have included all games, whether fans were in attendance or not, in their reported average attendance per date or game. This is why their 2020 through 2023 reported average attendance per date or game figures are sometimes lower than those shown in these Number Tamer reports. In 2021, 2022, and 2023 Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League played some games with no fans in attendance.**

**WHAT'S MISSING FROM THE 2023 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS**

Every attempt has been made to get full attendance data from each league and team. In certain cases, attendance data was missing from some games, and figures reported on league Websites were incorrect. This was a problem, particularly with the independent leagues. With the help from league and team officials, some of the missing data was found. To those who provided assistance – Thank you so much.

Attendance is still missing is from 10 home dates of the New Jersey Jackals of the Frontier League, from 2 dates of the Kansas City Monarchs of the American Association, and from the Empire League.

The Empire League has never reported attendance.

As for New Jersey and Kansas City, the average per date for games with reported attendance was applied to those dates with missing attendance. New Jersey had an average per date of 909 for 40 dates with listed attendance. That 909 figure was applied to the 10 games where attendance was not reported. For Kansas City, their reported average of 1,818 per date was applied to the 2 dates with missing attendance. It is not a perfect formula to determine total attendance for a team, but it is better than listing nothing for those dates.

In the event these missing figures are released, the data in this report will be updated. The goal is to provide a complete and accurate listing of Minor League attendance, and any assistance given is much appreciated.

**NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, MEDIA, AND WEBSITES**

You can download this report, and the 2009 through 2023 Major and Minor League Baseball Attendance Analyses, at [numbertamer.com](http://numbertamer.com). Go to the site's 'Major League' and 'Minor League' pages for the PDF links to each report.

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**“PRE-GAME WARM UP” - AN OVERVIEW OF HOW BASEBALL'S MINOR LEAGUES ARE ORGANIZED**

There are two types of 'leagues' in Minor League Baseball. The majority of them are affiliated with Major League Baseball, as part of its player development program, or 'farm system.'

**MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES** (Formerly part of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues)

Until 2021, the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL), also known as “Minor League Baseball,” had been the governing body of those minor leagues which are affiliated with Major League Baseball. Starting in 2021, Major League Baseball has taken over the operation of its affiliated Minor Leagues.

These leagues are divided into 5 classifications: Triple-A (International and Pacific Coast); Double-A (Eastern, Southern, and Texas); High-A (South Atlantic, Midwest, Northwest); Single-A (Carolina, Florida State, California); Rookie Level Complex Leagues (Arizona and Gulf Coast Leagues) that play at Major League Spring Training sites in Florida and Arizona, and don't charge admission to their games, and the Dominican Summer League. All Triple-A, Double-A, and A Leagues now play a full-season schedule, as noted in the next few pages. The short season MLB-affiliated leagues that operated through 2019, and charged admission, have been eliminated.

Admission is charged at games of the Arizona Fall League, which is a brief extra season for advanced Minor Leaguers. Each Major League team sends a few of their Minor League players to this league. Arizona Fall League attendance is noted in the Page 322 table, and is in the 2023 professional baseball attendance table on Page 40. But figures for this league are not part of other tables, and are not included in total Minor League attendance.

Every Major League team has a Triple-A, Double-A, High-A, and Single-A team, plus one or two Complex League teams. 25 Major League teams have at least one team in the Dominican Summer League.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**

9 independent leagues operated in **2023**. The same leagues also operated in 2022. Some are now considered to be MLB-Partner Leagues, and have been laboratories for rules experiments. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues have gone from being MLB-affiliated leagues to being independent leagues, effective in 2021. Otherwise, the independent leagues are independent of Major League Baseball. Their players, managers, and coaches are under contract to their individual leagues or teams. (Uniformed personnel, such as players, managers, coaches, and trainers in MLB-affiliated leagues are under contract to their specific Major League parent teams.) Major League organizations can, and quite often do, sign independent league players to contracts. Independent leagues were once the rule in Minor League Baseball. But as the modern Major League farm systems developed, Minor League teams began to affiliate with Major League teams, and independent leagues and teams pretty much disappeared.

The current generation of independent leagues began in 1993 with the start of the Northern and the Frontier Leagues. All independent leagues have been through major reorganizations, and in some cases, name changes. The Can-Am League first played in 1995, as the Northeast League. This league was merged into the Frontier League for 2021. The American Association is a combination of former Northern League and Central League teams. The Central League began as the Texas-Louisiana League in 1994. Some leagues were unable to survive even one full season.

A significant reorganization of independent leagues took place in 2011. The Northern, Continental, United Baseball, and Golden Baseball Leagues disbanded. Some teams from those leagues played in the new North American and Pecos Baseball Leagues. Others moved into the Frontier League or the American Association.

In 2023, 2022, and 2021, the 9 independent leagues that operated are the American Association, Atlantic League, Mexican League, Frontier League, Pioneer Baseball League, Pecos Baseball League, Empire Baseball League, United Shore Baseball League (all games in Utica, MI), and the Mavericks League (all games in Keizer, OR). The Empire and United Shore Leagues began play in 2016, and 2021 was the first season for the Mavericks League.

**In order to avoid confusion, this report will refer to leagues and teams affiliated with Major League Baseball as “MLB-affiliated” leagues or teams. In reports prior to 2020, these leagues and teams were often called “NAPBL” leagues or teams, and that term still occasionally appears in this report. Attendance listings and individual league analyses for MLB-affiliated leagues and teams will be kept separate from the data of the independent leagues, unless otherwise noted.**

This report has attendance data for Summer Collegiate leagues that sell tickets. There is also data from teams that recently were in the pro Minor Leagues, but now play in Summer Collegiate leagues



## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2021 REALIGNMENT

Significant changes were made to the structure of Minor League Baseball for the 2021 season, as Major League Baseball has taken over the operation of its affiliated Minor leagues.

The number of U.S./Canadian Minor League teams that charge admission to their games, and that are affiliated with Major League teams, was reduced by MLB from 160 in 2019, to 120 in 2021, 2022, and 2023. They all play a full-season schedule (120 games for Double-A, High-A, and Single-A (formerly Low-A), and 130 games for Triple-A in 2021, 132 games for High-A and Single-A, 138 games for Double-A, and 150 games for Triple-A from 2022 through 2024). Each of the 30 MLB teams still has a Triple-A, Double-A, High-A and Single-A team. Also, each MLB team has one or two short-season 'Complex' teams that play at their Spring Training facility, and don't charge admission to their games.

All MLB-affiliated short-season leagues operating through 2019, either no longer exist, are now in Independent or Summer Collegiate MLB-Partner Leagues, or for 9 teams from those short-season leagues, now play in full-season MLB-affiliated leagues. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues have become MLB-Partner independent leagues.

Traditional league names returned in 2022 for the MLB-affiliated leagues, but numerous teams have changed classification since 2019. 3 former independent league teams (St. Paul, Sugar Land, and Somerset) are now MLB farm clubs, while some former MLB-affiliated teams now play in pro independent leagues, or in Summer Collegiate leagues.

The 2021-2024 International League now includes some former PCL teams. Most former Triple-A Pacific Coast League teams remain there. In Double-A, nearly all Eastern, Southern, and Texas League teams are in the same leagues in 2021-2024 as in 2019.

All Midwest League teams played in that league in 2019. All current Northwest League teams played in the short-season league of that name in 2019. The South Atlantic League is made up of teams that had been in 4 different leagues in 2019. The Carolina League has former South Atlantic League and Carolina League teams. All Florida State League teams were 2019 members of that league, and all but one California League team was in that league in 2019.

The Pioneer League is now a professional independent MLB Partner League, and the Appalachian League is an MLB Partner Collegiate Summer League. Both of these leagues had been in the short-season Rookie league classification through 2019. Most of the teams from the short-season Class A Northwest League are now in the High-A Northwest League. Teams from the former short-season Class-A New York-Penn League are scattered among the South Atlantic League, independent leagues, the MLB Draft League, Summer Collegiate Leagues, or are not playing.

6 former MLB-affiliated Minor League clubs are now part of the Summer Collegiate MLB Draft League.

Some of the other independent and Summer Collegiate leagues are also now 'MLB Partner' Leagues, with a closer association to Major League Baseball. All of the independent leagues, except for the United Shore League, had some changes in their roster of teams for 2021. Can-Am League teams were merged into the Frontier League. The Pacific Association did not play after 2019, but two of their former teams are now in the Pecos League. The Mavericks League, has all 4 of its teams playing in Keizer, OR, the location of a Short-A Northwest League club through 2019.

The tables on the next few pages list the 2023 Minor League Baseball leagues and teams that charge admission to their games. This listing also includes each team's 2023 MLB parent club, and what league the team played in 2019, the last 'normal' Minor League season until 2022. There is also a roster of teams from each of the independent leagues, including the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, and from the Summer Collegiate Appalachian, and MLB Draft Leagues. Another table lists the 43 teams that had been MLB farm clubs in 2019, but no longer have that relationship.

Major League Baseball has stated that the main purpose of this realignment was to reduce the number of Minor League players they have under contract, and to save some money on team travel. There may be future changes in which places have Minor League teams, as MLB is instituting more standards regarding Minor League ballparks.

Whether all these changes will be successful in terms of attendance is yet to be determined. Due to Covid-19, there was plenty of uncertainty going into the 2021 season. Teams couldn't do much of their normal off-season marketing and ticket selling. Quite a few teams began the 2021 season only being able to admit a reduced number of fans to their ballparks. Minor league teams based in Canada were forced to play much of their seasons in the United States.

2022 was close to being a normal season. But there were some Covid-related postponements. Uncertainty due to Covid outbreaks probably did have some negative effect on attendance. 2023 was a totally normal season.

## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – 2022, 2023, 2024 LEAGUES AND TEAMS

**MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES**–120-game schedule for A and Double-A, 130 for Triple-A in 2021

**TRIPLE-A INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE**–20 Teams (March 31-Sep. 24 in 2023, March 29-Sep. 22 in 2024–150 games)

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Buffalo Bisons	Blue Jays	International	Memphis Redbirds	Cardinals	Pacific Coast
Charlotte Knights	White Sox	International	Nashville Sounds	Brewers	Pacific Coast
Columbus Clippers	Indians	International	Norfolk Tides	Orioles	International
Durham Bulls	Rays	International	Omaha Storm Chasers	Royals	Pacific Coast
Gwinnett Stripers	Braves	International	Rochester Red Wings	Nationals	International
Indianapolis Indians	Pirates	International	St. Paul Saints	Twins	American Assn. (Independent)
Iowa Cubs	Cubs	Pacific Coast	Syracuse Mets	Mets	International
Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp	Marlins	Southern (AA)	Scranton/Wilkes Barre RailRiders	Yankees	International
Lehigh Valley IronPigs	Phillies	International	Toledo Mud Hens	Tigers	International
Louisville Bats	Reds	International	Worcester Red Sox (Pawtucket in 2019)	Red Sox	International

**TRIPLE-A PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE**–10 Teams (March 31-Sept. 24 in 2023, March 29-Sept. 22 in 2024–150 games)

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Albuquerque Isotopes	Rockies	Pacific Coast	Round Rock Express	Rangers	Pacific Coast
El Paso Chihuahuas	Padres	Pacific Coast	Sacramento River Cats	Giants	Pacific Coast
Las Vegas Aviators	Athletics	Pacific Coast	Salt Lake Bees	Angels	Pacific Coast
Oklahoma City Dodgers	Dodgers	Pacific Coast	Sugar Land Space Cowboys	Astros	Atlantic (Independent)
Reno Aces	Diamondbacks	Pacific Coast	Tacoma Rainiers	Mariners	Pacific Coast

**DOUBLE-A EASTERN LEAGUE**–12 Teams (April 6 - Sept. 17 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 15 in 2024 - 138 games)

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Akron Rubber Ducks	Indians	Eastern	Hartford Yard Goats	Rockies	Eastern
Altoona Curve	Pirates	Eastern	Portland Sea Dogs	Red Sox	Eastern
Binghamton Rumble Ponies	Mets	Eastern	New Hampshire Fisher Cats	Blue Jays	
Bowie Baysox	Orioles	Eastern	Reading Fightin' Phils	Phillies	Eastern
Erie Seawolves	Tigers	Eastern	Richmond Flying Squirrels	Giants	Eastern
Harrisburg Senators	Nationals	Eastern	Somerset Patriots	Yankees	Atlantic (Independent)

**DOUBLE-A TEXAS LEAGUE** – 10 Teams (April 6 – Sept. 17 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 15 in 2024 – 138 games)

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Amarillo Sod Poodles	Diamondbacks	Texas	Northwest Arkansas Naturals	Royals	Texas
Arkansas Travelers	Mariners	Texas	San Antonio Missions	Padres	Pacific Coast
Corpus Christi Hooks	Astros	Texas	Springfield Cardinals	Cardinals	Texas
Frisco Roughriders	Rangers	Texas	Tulsa Drillers	Dodgers	Texas
Midland Rock Hounds	Athletics	Texas	Wichita Wind Surge (New Orleans in 2019)	Twins	Pacific Coast

**MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES**—120-game schedule for A and Double-A, 130 for Triple-A in 2021**DOUBLE-A SOUTHERN LEAGUE – 8 Teams (April 7 – Sept. 17 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 15 in 2024 – 138 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Biloxi Shuckers	Brewers	Southern	Montgomery Biscuits	Rays	Southern
Birmingham Barons	White Sox	Southern	Pensacola Blue Wahoos	Marlins	Southern
Chattanooga Lookouts	Reds	Southern	Rocket City (Madison, AL) Trash Pandas (Mobile in 2019)	Angels	Southern
Mississippi Braves	Braves	Southern	Tennessee Smokies	Cubs	Southern

**HIGH-A SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE – 12 Teams (April 6–Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5–Sept. 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Aberdeen Ironbirds	Orioles	New York-Penn	Hickory Crawdads	Rangers	South Atlantic
Asheville Tourists	Astros	South Atlantic	Hudson Valley Renegades	Yankees	New York-Penn
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	Rays	Midwest	Jersey Shore (Lakewood) Blue Claws	Phillies	South Atlantic
Brooklyn Cyclones	Mets	New York-Penn	Rome Emperors	Braves	South Atlantic
Greensboro Grasshoppers	Pirates	South Atlantic	Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	Nationals	Carolina
Greenville (SC) Drive	Red Sox	South Atlantic	Winston-Salem Dash	White Sox	Carolina

**HIGH-A MIDWEST LEAGUE – 12 Teams (April 6 – Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5 – Sept, 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Beloit Sky Carp	Marlins	Midwest	Lansing Lugnuts	Athletics	Midwest
Cedar Rapids Kernels	Twins	Midwest	Peoria Chiefs	Cardinals	Midwest
Dayton Dragons	Reds	Midwest	Quad Cities River Bandits	Royals	Midwest
Fort Wayne Tincaps	Padres	Midwest	South Bend Cubs	Cubs	Midwest
Great Lakes Loons	Dodgers	Midwest	West Michigan Whitecaps	Tigers	Midwest
Lake County Captains	Indians	Midwest	Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	Brewers	Midwest

**HIGH-A NORTHWEST LEAGUE – 6 Teams (April 7 – Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Eugene Emeralds	Giants	Northwest	Spokane Indians	Rockies	Northwest
Everett Aquasox	Mariners	Northwest	Tri-City (WA) Dust Devils	Angels	Northwest
Hillsboro Hops	Diamondbacks	Northwest	Vancouver Canadians	Blue Jays	Northwest

**SINGLE-A CALIFORNIA LEAGUE – 8 Teams (April 7 – Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Fresno Grizzlies	Rockies	Pacific Coast	San Jose Giants	Giants	California
Inland Empire 66ers of San Bernadino	Angels	California	Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	Dodgers	California
Lake Elsinore Storm	Padres	California	Stockton Ports	Athletics	California
Modesto Nuts	Mariners	California	Visalia Rawhide	Diamondbacks	California

**MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES**—120-game schedule for A and Double-A, 130 for Triple-A in 2021**SINGLE-A CAROLINA LEAGUE – 12 Teams (April 7 – Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Augusta Greenjackets	Braves	South Atlantic	Fayetteville (NC) Woodpeckers	Astros	Carolina
Carolina Mudcats	Brewers	Carolina	Fredericksburg Nationals (Potomac-2019)	Nationals	Carolina
Charleston (SC) Riverdogs	Rays	South Atlantic	Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (Intimidators-2019)	White Sox	South Atlantic
Columbia (SC) Fireflies	Royals	South Atlantic	Lynchburg Hillcats	Indians	Carolina
Delmarva Shorebirds	Orioles	South Atlantic	Myrtle Beach Pelicans	Cubs	Carolina
Down East (Kinston, NC) Wood Ducks	Rangers	Carolina	Salem (VA) Red Sox	Red Sox	Carolina

**SINGLE-A FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE—10 Teams (April 7 – Sept. 10 in 2023, April 5 – Sept. 8 in 2024 – 132 games)**

Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League	Team	MLB Affiliate	2019 League
Bradenton Marauders	Pirates	Florida State	Jupiter Hammerheads	Marlins	Florida State
Clearwater Threshers	Phillies	Florida State	Lakeland Flying Tigers	Tigers	Florida State
Daytona Tortugas	Reds	Florida State	Palm Beach Cardinals	Cardinals	Florida State
Dunedin Blue Jays	Blue Jays	Florida State	St. Lucie Mets	Mets	Florida State
Fort Myers Mighty Mussels (Miracle-2019)	Twins	Florida State	Tampa Tarpons	Yankees	Florida State

Source: Minor League Baseball Information Guide. Traditional league names returned in 2022.

**2022, 2023, AND 2024 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES****MEXICAN LEAGUE – (90 games - April 21 – August 6 in 2023, 94 games April 12 – August 1 in 2024)**

Equipo (Team)	Equipo (Team)
Rieleros de Aguascalientes (Railroadmen)	Saraperos de Santillo (Sarape Makers)
Algodoneros de Union Laguna (Cotton Makers)	Olmecas de Tabasco (Olmecs)
Bravos de Leon (Braves)	Toros de Tijuana (Bulls)
Diablos Rojos de la Ciudad de Mexico (Red Devils)	Tecolotes de Dos Laredos (Owls of the Two Laredos)
Acereros de Monclova (Steelers)	Piratas de Campeche (Pirates)
Sultanes de Monterrey (Sultans)	Leones de Yucatan (Lions)
Guerreros de Oaxaca (Warriors)	Generales de Durango (Generals)
Pericos de Puebla (Parrots)	Charros de Jalisco – Guadalajara (Cowboys)
Tigres de Quintana Roo – Cancun (Tigers)	El Aguila de Veracruz (Eagle)
Dorados de Chihuahua (Golden)	Conspiradores de Queretaro (Conspirators)

Chihuahua and Queretaro were added in 2024. Jalisco (Guadalajara) and Veracruz were added for 2021. All other Mexican League teams also played in the league in 2019.

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE –10 Teams 126 games (April 28 – Sept. 17) in 2023, April 25 – Sept. 15 in 2024.**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Gastonia Honey Hunters	Expansion Team	Long Island Ducks	Atlantic
High Point Rockers	Atlantic	Southern Maryland Blue Crabs	Atlantic
Lancaster (PA) Stormers	Atlantic	Charleston (WV) Dirty Birds	South Atlantic
Lexington (KY) Legends	South Atlantic	York Revolution	Atlantic
Hagerstown Flying Boxcars	South Atlantic	Staten Island Ferry Hawks (2022)	New York-Penn
Spire City(Frederick)GhostHounds	Expansion Team		

Spire City played in Lexington, KY in 2022. The team might not play in 2024.

**2021-2023 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES**

**FRONTIER LEAGUE – 16 Teams (one road team), 96 games (May 11–Sept. 3 in 2023)  
16 Teams. 96 games (May 9 – Sept. 1 in 2024)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Tri-City (Troy, NY) Valley Cats	New York-Penn	Florence (KY) Y'all's	Frontier
Trois Rivières Aigles	Can-Am	Evansville Otters	Frontier
Ottawa Titans	Can-Am	Quebec Capitales (2022)	Can-Am
New York Boulders	Can-Am	Windy City (IL)Thunderbolts	Frontier
New Jersey Jackals	Can-Am	Lake Erie (OH) Crushers	Frontier
Sussex County (NJ) Miners	Can-Am	Joliet Slammers	Frontier
Washington (PA) Wild Things	Frontier	Schaumburg Boomers	Frontier
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	Frontier	N.E. Knockouts (Brockton,MA)	New team – 2024

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – 12 Teams, 100 games, (May 11 – Sept. 4 in 2023, May 9 – Sept. 2 in 2024)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Chicago Dogs	American Assn.	Cleburne Railroaders	American Assn.
Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks	American Assn.	Kansas City (KS) Monarchs	American Assn.
Gary-Southshore RailCats	American Assn.	Lincoln Saltdogs	American Assn.
Kane County Cougars	Midwest	Sioux City (IA) Explorers	American Assn.
Milwaukee Milkmen	American Assn.	Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	American Assn.
Winnipeg Goldeyes	American Assn.	Lake Country (WI) DockHounds	New Team in 2022

**PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – 16 teams in 2022 and 2023, number of games based on team location,  
(May 25 – July 31 in 2023, May 22 – July 28 in 2024, 19 to 34 home games – varies by team)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Alpine Cowboys	Pecos	North Platte (NE) 80's	New in 2024
Austin Weirdos (2022)	Road team in 2024	Pecos, (TX) Bills	New in 2024
Bakersfield Train Robbers	Pecos	Roswell Invaders	Pecos
Blackwell, OK Flycatchers	New in 2023	San Rafael Pacifics	Pacific Assn.
Colorado Springs Snow Sox	Out in 2023	Santa Cruz Seaweed	New-2021,out-2023
Garden City (KS) Wind	Pecos	Santa Fe Fuego	Pecos
Lancaster, CA Sound Breakers	New-2023,out-2024	Santa Rosa Scuba Divers	New 2022, out 2024
Martinez Sturgeon	Pacific Assn. (2018)	Trinidad Triggers	Pecos
Marysville Drakes	New in 2023	Tucson Saguaros	Pecos
Monterey (CA) Amberjacks	Pecos-out in 2024	Wasco Reserve	Pecos–Out in 2023
Vallejo Seaweed	New in 2024	Weimar, TX Hormigas (2022)	Out in 2023

In 2023, the Pecos League adds Lancaster and Marysville, CA, and Blackwell, OK. 3 teams, noted above, are dropped

**UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE – 4 Teams, all in Utica, MI, 56 scheduled in 2023 (May 19 – Sept. 2),  
55 dates scheduled in 2024 (May 17 – August 31)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers	United Shore	Utica Unicorns	United Shore
Eastside Diamond Hoppers	United Shore	West Side Wooley Mammoths	United Shore

**2021-2023 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES****PIONEER LEAGUE–10 teams, 96 games both years (May 23–Sept. 9, 2023), and 12 teams (May 21–Sept. 8, 2024)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Billings Mustangs	Pioneer	Idaho Falls Chukars	Pioneer
Boise Hawks	Northwest	Missoula Paddleheads	Pioneer
Grand Junction Jackalopes	Pioneer	Ogden Raptors	Pioneer
Great Falls Voyagers	Pioneer	Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs) Vibe	Pioneer
Glacier Range Riders (Kalispell, MT)	New team in 2022	Northern Colorado Owlz	New team in 2022
Oakland Ballers	New team in 2024	Yolo (Davis, CA) High Wheelers	New team in 2024

**EMPIRE BASEBALL LEAGUE – 4 Teams, 80 games (June 8 – July 26 2022)****5 Teams (one road team), 80 games (June 9 – July 19 in 2023)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Malone Border Hounds	New in 2023	Saranac Lake Surge	Empire
Plattsburgh Thunderbirds	Empire	Tupper Lake Riverpigs	New team in 2021
Japan Islanders (2022)	Road Team		

**MAVERICKS LEAGUE – 4 Teams, all in Keizer, OR (May 12 – August 28 in 2022)****4 Teams – 96 games for the league (May 10–August 27, 2023, May 8-August 25, 2024)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Campeños de Salem-Keizer	None	Salem Senators	None
Portland Mavericks	None	Salem-Keizer Volcanoes	Northwest

**SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES WITH TEAMS THAT WERE ALL IN 2019 MINOR LEAGUES****MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT LEAGUE – 6 Teams, 68 games (May 24 – August 13) in 2021****6 Teams, 80-games (June 2 – September 6) in 2022, (June 1 – Sept. 2) in 2023, (June 4 – September 4) in 2024**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Frederick Keys	Carolina	Trenton Thunder	Eastern
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	New York-Penn	West Virginia Black Bears	New York–Penn
State College Spikes	New York–Penn	Williamsport Crosscutters	New York–Penn

**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – 10 Teams, 54 games (June 3 – August 7 in 2021), 10 Teams 58 games (June 2 – August 6 in 2022), 10 teams, 48 games (June 6 – July 31 in 2023), (June 4 – July 31) in 2024**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Bluefield Ridge Runners	Appalachian	Greeneville (TN) Flyboys	Appalachian
Bristol State Lines	Appalachian	Johnson City Doughboys	Appalachian
Burlington (NC) Sock Puppets	Appalachian	Kingsport Axmen	Appalachian
Danville Otterbots	Appalachian	Princeton Whistle Pigs (no 2024)	Appalachian
Elizabethton River Riders	Appalachian	Pulaski River Turtles	Appalachian
Tri-State (Huntington, WV) Coal Cats	Princeton in 2023		

**2019 MLB AFFILIATED TEAMS NOT IN MLB AFFILIATED LEAGUES IN 2021-2023**

2019 Team	2019 League	2023 League	2019 Team	2019 League	2023 League
Trenton Thunder	Eastern	MLB Draft	Jackson, TN Generals	Southern	Prospect
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	New York-Penn	MLB Draft	West Virginia Black Bears (Morgantown)	New York-Penn	MLB Draft
Williamsport Crosscutters	New York-Penn	MLB Draft	Staten Island Yankees	New York-Penn	None in 2021 Atlantic in 2022
Lancaster JetHawks	California	None	Kane County (IL) Cougars	Midwest	American Assn.
Frederick Keys	Carolina	MLB Draft	Bluefield Blue Jays	Appalachian	Appalachian
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	Florida State	None	Bristol Pirates	Appalachian	Appalachian
Florida Fire Frogs	Florida State	None	Burlington (NC) Royals	Appalachian	Appalachian
Burlington (IA) Bees	Midwest	Prospect	Danville Braves	Appalachian	Appalachian
Clinton Lumberkings	Midwest	Prospect	Elizabethton Twins	Appalachian	Appalachian
Hagerstown Suns	South Atlantic	None	Greeneville (TN) Reds	Appalachian	Appalachian
Lexington Legends	South Atlantic	Atlantic	Johnson City Cardinals	Appalachian	Appalachian
West Virginia Power (Charleston)	South Atlantic	Atlantic	Kingsport Mets	Appalachian	Appalachian
State College Spikes	New York-Penn	MLB Draft	Princeton Rays	Appalachian	Appalachian
Auburn Doubledays	New York-Penn	Perfect Game	Pulaski Yankees	Appalachian	Appalachian
Batavia Muckdogs	New York-Penn	Perfect Game	Billings Mustangs	Pioneer	Pioneer
Norwich Sea Unicorns	New York-Penn	Futures Colleg.	Grand Junction Rockies	Pioneer	Pioneer
Lowell Spinners	New York-Penn	None	Great Falls Voyagers	Pioneer	Pioneer
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	New York-Penn	Frontier	Idaho Falls Chukars	Pioneer	Pioneer
Vermont Lake Monsters	New York-Penn	Futures Collegiate	Missoula Paddleheads	Pioneer	Pioneer
Boise Hawks	Northwest	Pioneer	Ogden Raptors	Pioneer	Pioneer
Salem-Keizer Volcanoes	Northwest	Mavericks	Rocky Mountain Vibes (Colorado Springs)	Pioneer	Pioneer
Orem	Pioneer	None			

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE CHANGES SINCE 2019**

2019 Team	2019 League	2021-23 League	Team	2019 League	2021 League
St. Paul Saints	American Assn.	International – MLB Affiliated	Ottawa Champions	Can-Am	None in 2021, Frontier in 2022
Sugar Land Skeeters	Atlantic	Pacific Coast – MLB Affiliated	O'Fallon (MO) Hoots – River City in 2019	Frontier	Prospect Summer Colleg.
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	Atlantic	Eastern–MLB Aff	High Desert Yardbirds	Pecos	None
New Britain Bees	Atlantic	Futures Colleg.	California City Whiptails	Pecos	None
Texas Airhogs	American Assn.	None	White Sands Pupfish	Pecos	None
Southern Illinois Miners	Frontier	Prospect			

The Appalachian League has gone from a professional Minor League to an MLB-Partner Summer Collegiate league. The MLB Draft, Prospect, Perfect Game, Futures Collegiate, and Appalachian Leagues are Summer Collegiate. The Atlantic, American Association, Frontier, Pecos, Mexican, Empire, Pioneer, United Shore, and Mavericks Leagues are pro independent leagues.

## **MINOR LEAGUE SCHEDULING IN RECENT SEASONS**

Close to normality returned to Minor League Baseball in 2022, and fully in 2023. But the landscape was quite different, as noted in the tables on the previous pages, from what it was in 2019, the last 'normal' season before 2022.

The 2021 season was unlike any other in Minor League history. The Major League affiliated leagues underwent a large realignment, with leagues getting reorganized, and the number of teams and leagues were reduced. This reorganization was planned before the Covid-19 outbreak. Teams often didn't know if they would be part of Minor League Baseball until December, 2020, so their usual off-season marketing, ticket sales, and promotional planning was delayed. There were changes to the independent leagues as well.

Then there was the Covid-19 pandemic. Would games be played? Would fans be admitted, and if so, how many? The 4 Canadian Minor League teams had to be relocated to the United States for much of the season since the U.S./Canadian border was closed. As it turned out, a few teams played some home games without fans in attendance, and other games were cancelled due to Covid breakouts. The 2021-22 off-season was closer to normal, but there were still some uncertainties due to Covid, and those concerns probably influenced 2022 attendance.

All this uncertainty, especially going into 2021, led to reductions in planned ticket sales campaigns, promotions, and group sales, all of which had a significant impact on Minor League attendance. A particular example of this, was the very sharp decline in the number of Monday through Friday day games in the Minor Leagues in 2021. These games, which usually draw very well, attract many school and summer-camp groups. Many more Monday-Friday day games were back on the schedule in 2022, and 2023 had a significant increase in the number of such games.

The table below shows the number of Monday-Friday (excluding Opening Day and holidays) day games scheduled by the 120 U.S. full-season Major League-affiliated teams, each year from 2016 through 2024. It has the same data for almost all U.S./Canadian independent leagues. This table includes scheduled games that were postponed due to weather, and the 2020 scheduled games, which of course, were not played.

### MINOR LEAGUE MONDAY-FRIDAY DAY GAMES SCHEDULED

Year	MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES			INDEPENDENT LEAGUES		
	# of Full - Season Teams	# Teams with Mon-Fri Day Games	# of Mon-Fri Day Games Scheduled	# of Full - Season Teams	# Teams with Mon-Fri Day Games	# of Mon-Fri Day Games Scheduled
2024	120	108	430	51		
2023	120	106	409	47	35	154
2022	120	99	353	49	31	97
2021	120	46	122	40	18	44
2020	118	112	517	29	25	80
2019	120	111	548	36	32	105
2018	120	112	503	37	31	90
2017	120	113	517	38	31	98
2016	119	114	488	38	31	93

In 2016, Hartford played all its games on the road, and is not included in the number of teams.

The number of 2020 teams in this table only includes those who listed game times in their 2020 schedules.

Almost all Jupiter and Palm Beach day games were closed to the public, and are not included in this table.

### **Other Schedule Notes**

110 of the 120 MLB-affiliated 2021 teams had a shorter schedule in 2021 (120 or 130 games each) than in 2019 (140 games each). The St. Paul Saints, now in the International League, had a 100-game schedule in the independent American Association in 2019. 9 other teams played the 2019 season in now-eliminated short-season leagues with 76-game schedules. The 120 MLB-affiliated teams had 1,050 fewer scheduled dates in 2021 than the 120 full-season MLB-affiliated teams had scheduled in 2019. The 2021 season started in early May. The 2022 season began on April 5.

Among the 2021 independent leagues, the Mexican League played a shortened 66-game schedule in 2021, compared to 120 games in 2019, when they were an NAPBL League. The Atlantic League had a 120-game schedule in 2021, down from 140 games in 2019. The Frontier League had 96-game schedule in both 2021 and 2019. The Can-Am League, which merged into the Frontier League in 2020, played a 100-game schedule in 2019. American Association schedules were the same length, 100 games, in both 2021 and 2019. The Pioneer League had a 96-game 2021 schedule, compared to a 76-game schedule in 2019, when it was an MLB-affiliated Rookie League. The United Shore Baseball League, with all of its teams based in Utica, Michigan, played a slightly shorter schedule in 2021, than in 2019.



**2022 Attendance vs. 2021 Attendance** – shown in the 2022 Number Tamer reports, but not in the 2023 reports

No changes were made in the lineup of Major League-affiliated teams and leagues from 2021 to 2022. But any comparison of **2022 vs. 2021** attendance can be somewhat distorted due to the reduced number of games played in 2021, and the number of games played with reduced capacity, or with no fans in attendance, in 2021.

The independent leagues also were affected by capacity restrictions in 2021, especially the Mexican League, whose teams played only a 66-game regular season schedule.

The 2022 Minor League report does not have 'full-capacity' 2021 average per date figures. It just lists each team's or league's average per date for all dates played with fans in attendance. We just don't know how many 2021 dates each team had with full-capacity permitted. But only dates played with fans in attendance are included in the 'number of dates' figure which is used to compile the average per date. Games played with no fans in attendance, for 2022 as well, are excluded when compiling average per date figures.

**So the Number Tamer Major League Baseball reports compare 2022 average attendance per date for all dates, with 2021 average per date for full-capacity dates only. The Minor League reports compare 2022 average attendance per date for all dates with fans in attendance, with 2021 average per date for all dates when fans were admitted, regardless of whether full capacity was permitted.**

**2022 or 2023 Attendance vs. 2019 Attendance** – noted occasionally in 2023 Minor League reports, commonly in 2022

Due to the 2021 reorganization of the Minor Leagues, **2022 or 2023 vs. 2019** total attendance and average per date comparisons **for leagues**, have limited value. The 2019 MLB-affiliated leagues no longer exist in their exact 2019 form. But most of the 2021-2024 leagues consist of teams which played together in a league in 2019. The 2022 or 2023 vs. 2019 league comparisons in these reports are **2022 or 2023 attendance vs. what the league's 2022 or 2023 members drew in 2019, regardless of which league they played in for the 2019 season.** To be consistent, this same type of comparison was also made for the independent leagues. However, the overview of each league's attendance had a note mentioning what that league, **in the way it was made up in 2019**, drew that year.

**2022 vs. 2019 individual team comparisons had more value, and were often noted in the 2022 reports.** But scheduling changes since 2019, should be taken into account. The Triple-A teams have gone from a 140-game schedule in 2019, to a 150-game schedule in 2022-2024. Double-A clubs had a 140-game schedule in 2019, and a 138-game schedule in 2022-2024. High-A and Single-A clubs have gone from a 140-game schedule in 2019, to 132 games in 2022-2024. Within some of these leagues, are teams whose number of scheduled games changed significantly from 2019 to 2022-2024. In particular, major schedule changes occurred for teams that moved from MLB-affiliated leagues to independent leagues, and vice-versa, and for teams that were in short-season leagues in 2019. These changes are mentioned in team and league notes. Among the independent leagues, the biggest change was a large reduction in scheduled games by the Mexican League from 120 games in 2019 to 66 games in 2021, and to 90 games in 2022-2024.

**2023 SCHEDULES**

Triple-A teams played 150 games, from March 31 through September 24. Double-A teams played 138 games, from April 6 through September 17. High-A and Single-A teams played 132 games, from April 6 through September 10.

All the schedule changes starting in 2021 hurt some teams, and helped others. Some of the teams that were in professional minor leagues prior to 2021, but are now in Summer Collegiate leagues, ended their 2021 season while schools in their area were still on summer vacation. But prior to 2021, some short-season teams didn't have any home games during the first 3-4 weeks of school vacation time. Now, the teams which moved into full-season leagues, or many of the teams in Summer Collegiate leagues, play home games for the entire school vacation period.

MLB-affiliated teams that played short-season schedules prior to 2021, now sometimes play in cold weather, as their seasons begin much earlier. They also have many more games when school is in session.

**A NOTE OF CAUTION:**

In the 2022 reports, there were separate tables comparing 2022 vs. 2021, and 2022 vs. 2019 attendance for individual teams and leagues. Except for the previous season and changes figures, these tables have an identical appearance. The 2022 reports can be found on the 'Major League' and 'Minor League' pages of numbertamer.com. A similar **2023 vs. 2019** table is not being published in the reports this year, but is available for free, upon request.

**2023 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS****2023 Minor League Regular Season MLB-affiliated League and Team Attendance**

- J **In 2023, 90 of the 120 MLB-affiliated Minor League teams had increases in total attendance vs. 2022, and 91 of those teams had growth in average per date. It was the largest percentage of 'same market' teams showing attendance increases in decades (certainly since at least 1970, and probably ever). The significance of this achievement is that it was done with a smaller group of teams. The last time at least 90 teams had gains was in 2007, when 114 of 171 NAPBL 'same market' teams, including Mexican League teams, did it. That year 104 of 158 (65.8%) U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams (excludes the Mexican League) showed gains in total attendance. In 1991, 99 of the 148 (66.9%) U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams posted increases, the highest percentage of teams achieving gains between 1970 and 2019.**
- J Since 1970, the other seasons with at least 90 'same market' U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams with total attendance gains vs. the previous year were: 1993 – 90 of 140 teams (64.3%); 1991 – 99 of 148 teams (66.9%); 1990 – 96 of 148 teams (64.9%). In 1987, 66.7% (88 of 132) 'same market' teams achieved increases. The term 'same market' team only includes teams that played in the same market in the two seasons being compared. It does include teams that moved into a new ballpark in their same market.
- J The 120 Major League affiliated Minor League teams had a total **2023** attendance of 32,152,384. That total was up 1,231,662 (4.0%) from **2022**. There were 10 more dates in **2023** compared to 2022. 406 dates were lost in **2023**, vs. 408 lost dates in **2022**, 503 lost dates in **2021**, and 402 lost dates (for these same 120 teams) in **2019**. Lost dates include games that were played with no fans in attendance. Average per date was 4,084 in **2023**, up 151 (3.8%) vs. **2022**. Average per team in **2023** was 267,937, up 10,264 (4.0%) vs. **2022**. All 2023 MLB-affiliated Minor League teams played in the same markets as in 2022 and 2021.
- J **The 4.0% increase in total attendance for 2023 vs. 2022 is very impressive because it was accomplished without any team relocations or new ballparks. Teams moving to new markets or new ballparks have accounted for much of Minor League Baseball's yearly attendance growth over the past 4 decades. Since 2000, and until 2023, the largest yearly percentage increase in total attendance among the U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams playing in the same market and ballpark in the 2 years being compared, was 1.5% for 2007 vs. 2006. (If the now independent Mexican League is included, the 2007 vs. 2006 gain was 1.1%).**
- J **The last time U.S./Canadian 'same market-same ballpark' teams had a combined gains of at least 4% was in 1991, when they had a 4.6% increase. In 1990, these types of teams had a 6.3% gain. Figures through 2019 include the short-season MLB-affiliated leagues that were in operation during that period. The numerical 2023 'same market, same ballpark' attendance increase of 1,231,662 was the highest since 1990.**
- J **Each of the 11 leagues had a 2023 vs. 2022 increase in both total attendance and average per date.** The Midwest League posted the top total attendance growth, up 283,618 (10.3%). The Eastern League had the highest average per date gain, up 323 (7.3%). The Texas, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues, also were up at least 200 in average per date.
- J **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) had the highest 2023 total attendance (567,322) and average per date (7,990) among the MLB-affiliates**, followed in total attendance by Columbus, OH (557,131), Nashville (556,962), and Indianapolis (556,775). 9 teams surpassed 500,000 in total attendance, and 22 teams drew over 400,000.
- J Following Lehigh Valley in average per date were High-A Dayton (7,885), Columbus (7,847), Indianapolis (7,842), Nashville (7,736), and Worcester (7,424). 8 teams averaged over 7,000 per date, 20 teams topped 6,000, and 36 teams reached 5,000 per date.
- J Wichita had the best numerical and percentage increases for **2023 vs. 2002** of any MLB-affiliated team, with total attendance up 102,109 (46.3%), and average per date up 1,335 (39.9%). Dayton, who sold out every game again, had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best numerical gain (76,087), followed by Binghamton (60,232), and Bowie (59,990). Best increases in average per date following Wichita were by Binghamton (817), Bowie (815), and Norfolk (791).
- J Besides Wichita, the highest percentage increases in **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance and average per date were posted by Binghamton (41.1%-total, 34.6%-average per date), and Bowie (34.4%-total, 30.4%-average per date).
- J 13 teams had total attendance increases of at least 30,000, and 14 teams had 400+ gains in average per date. On a percent basis, 24 teams were up at least 10% in total attendance, with 19 teams up 10%+ in average per date.

**2023 Minor League Regular Season MLB-affiliated League and Team Attendance**

- J Only 30 MLB-affiliated teams had declines in **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance, and only 29 had average per date losses. New Hampshire had the largest dip, down 45,705, mainly due to 11 lost dates, and 7 fewer dates played than in 2022. Charlotte, down 32,649, had the only other loss of more than 30,000. Just 5 teams suffered declines of at least 16,000. Fayetteville, down 488, and Charlotte, down 447, were the only teams with average per date declines of more than 264.
- J On a percentage loss basis, New Hampshire (16.2%), and Jupiter (15.8%) had the highest declines in total attendance. Only 5 teams sustained total attendance losses of at least 10%. In average per date, Fayetteville, down 14.1%, and Modesto, down 11.9%, had the only declines greater than 10%.
- J The 120 Major League Baseball affiliated Minor League teams drew a total regular season attendance 30,920,722 in **2022**, averaging 3,933 per date, and 257,673 per team. They drew 22,089,014 in **2021**, with 6,814 dates with fans in attendance. Average per date with fans in attendance was 3,242. Average per team was 184,075. Many early season games were played with stadium capacity restrictions.
- J In **2019**, these same 120 teams, regardless of what league, or what market, they were in that year, drew a total of 33,740,110 in 7,675 dates, an average of 4,396 per date.
- J Comparing **2023** attendance with **2019** attendance for the same 120 MLB-affiliated teams, regardless of what league, or what market they played in for 2019, shows that their 2023 total attendance was down 1,587,726 (4.7%), and their average per date fell 312 (7.1%).
- J The **2019** U.S. MLB-affiliated, 120 full-season teams, **that year**, drew a total of 33,321,002 in 2019, averaging 4,201 per date. In **2023**, the 120 full-season MLB-affiliated teams (not all were full-season teams in 2019), had a decline of 1,168,618 (3.5%) in total attendance from the full-season 2019 teams, and average per date dipped 117 (2.8%).
- J 117 of the 120 teams of **2023** played in the same markets in **2023 as in 2019**. This includes Fredericksburg, who played at nearby Potomac (Woodbridge, VA) in 2019. 38 of these teams had increases in **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance, and 38 teams had gains in average per date. The 117 teams exclude Worcester (Pawtucket in 2019), Wichita (New Orleans in 2019), and Rocket City – Madison, AL (Mobile in 2019).
- J Kannapolis, who moved into a new park in 2021, had the biggest numerical and percentage increases in total attendance for **2023 vs. 2019**, up 119,569 (157.5%), and average per date, up 1,922 (169.6%). The top numerical losses were by Round Rock, down 186,378 in total attendance, and 2,981 in average per date.
- J **The Dayton Dragons sold out every game again in 2023. Dayton has now sold out 1,507 straight regular season dates since the team began play in 2000. This streak, which excludes 2021, is the longest sellout streak ever for a North American sports team.**
- J The largest 2023 crowd among MLB-affiliated teams was 15,851 in Buffalo.

**2023 Minor League Regular Season Independent League and Team Attendance**

- J As noted earlier, the Empire League has never reported attendance. In addition, attendance was missing for 2 games from the Kansas City Monarchs, and for 10 games from the New Jersey Jackals. Each of those teams was credited with their average per date figure for games with reported attendance for their missing games. Not a perfect solution, but better than listing attendance for those games as zero, or not including those games in the number of dates played.
- J The 82 independent league teams (United Shore Baseball League, and Mavericks League, each count as one team because all of each of those league's teams play in the same ballpark, and Northern Colorado of the Pioneer League is excluded.) drew an estimated 10,160,535 in **2023**, up 569,915 (5.9%) from **2022**. Average per date was 2,761 in **2023**, up 148 (5.7%) from **2022**. There were 3,680 independent league dates played in 2023, 10 more than in 2022. **These figures include playoff games from the United Shore, Pecos, and Mavericks Leagues.**
- J There were 134 lost dates among the 5 top independent leagues in **2023**, 149 in **2022**, 164 in **2021**, and 126 in **2019**.

**2023 Minor League Regular Season Independent League and Team Attendance**

- J 7 of the 8 independent leagues with reported attendance had a **2023 vs. 2022** gain in average per date. The United Shore league was down in total attendance and average per date. The Atlantic League had a total attendance decline, but that was due to playing 24 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022. Their average per date rose. **The Mexican League had the biggest increase in total attendance, up 476,779 (13.4%), and in average per date, up 563 (11.9%), to a league record-high (since at least 1992) 5,304.**
- J Among the 77 independent teams playing in the same market in **2023 and 2022**, 46 had gains in total attendance, and 31 had declines. 47 teams were up in average per date, 29 were down, and one team (Lake Country, WI), had the same average per date for both years.
- J **Los Leones (Lions) de Yucatan had the top 2023 total attendance among the independent teams (506,765), and their average per date of 10,558, was the best among all Minor League teams. Yucatan's total was the highest ever by a modern independent league team.** Other total attendance leaders were los Diablos Rojos de la Ciudad de Mexico (Mexico City Red Devils), who drew 451,884, and los Toros de Tijuana (Bulls), who drew 418,462. The Long Island Ducks had the top independent total (297,745) among U.S./Canadian teams. Mexican League teams had 11 of the 18 highest independent total attendance figures.
- J **Following Yucatan's 10,558 in average per date, were Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and los Sultanes (Sultans) de Monterrey (8,438). These 4 teams had a higher average per date than all MLB-affiliated teams.** 13 of the 18 independent teams with the highest 2023 average per date play in the Mexican League. Kane County (5,571) and Long Island (4,652), posted the top average per date figures among U.S./Canadian teams.
- J The largest numerical attendance increases were by Mexico City, up 207,039 (84.6%) in total attendance, and up 4,066 (63.1%) in average per date. Among U.S./Canadian teams, Quebec, up 36,502 (28.0%), had the best numerical total gain, and York, up 629 (23.7%) had the highest average per date increase. On a percentage basis, Tabasco had the best growth, up 130.5% in total attendance, and up 112.3% in average per date. Quebec's 28.0% gain in average per date was tops among U.S./Canadian teams. 5 of the 7 best total attendance percentage increases were by Mexican League teams, as were 7 of the top 10 average per date percentage gains.
- J Campeche, down 107,396 (61.7%) in total attendance, and down 2,796 (62.6%) in average per date, had the biggest decline among independent teams. The 57,586 decline in total attendance, and 840 average per date dip in average per date, by Lexington, KY, were the largest among U.S./Canadian teams.
- J **The largest crowd of the season in all of Minor League Baseball was 18,842 in Mexico City.**
- J 70 teams in independent leagues in **2023** played professional Minor League baseball in **2019**. 27 of those teams had **2023 vs. 2019** increases in total attendance, and 25 teams were up in average per date. Tucson of the Pecos League had the same average per date in both years. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, which had been MLB-affiliated leagues in 2019, are included in this group.

**2023 Combined MLB-Affiliated and Independent League Regular Season Attendance**

- J Combined Major League-affiliated and independent leagues regular season attendance in **2023** was an estimated 42,312,919 in 11,552 dates, an average of 3,663 per date. **These figures include playoff games from the United Shore, Pecos, and Mavericks Leagues, but do not include playoff attendance from any other leagues.**
- J **2023** combined total attendance rose 1,801,577 (4.4%), and average per date increased by 150 (4.3%) **vs. 2022**, with 20 more dates. 136 teams had gains in total attendance, and 61 had declines. 138 teams posted average per date increases, 58 had declines, and one team had the same average per date in both seasons. 540 dates were lost in 2023 among the leagues that report daily attendance. There were 557 combined lost dates in 2022, and 667 combined lost dates in 2021, compared to 546 in 2019.
- J Teams that were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019**, but played in Summer Collegiate leagues in 2021, 2022, and 2023, played around 600 dates with fans in attendance in 2021, 713 dates in 2022, and 682 dates in 2023.

**2023 MLB-affiliated and Independent League Post-Season Attendance**

- J All leagues had playoffs in 2023. The MLB-affiliated leagues drew 227,582 for 70 playoff dates, an average of 3,251 per date. The largest playoff crowd was 8,556 at Las Vegas for the Triple-A Championship Game. Largest crowd at a home playoff game was 8,120 in Norfolk.
- J While the Mexican League continued to play a shorter regular season than prior to **2021**, they had their usual playoff format, and those games drew very well. The 73 Mexican League playoff dates drew 693,528, averaging 9,500 per date. 29 of these games drew over 10,000, with 3 of them topping 15,000. Mexico City had the largest crowd (20,062), and they averaged 16,457 for their 6 playoff dates.
- J The 125 independent league playoff games (from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association) drew 807,397, averaging 6,459 per date. The 4 U.S./Canadian Independent Leagues drew 113,869 in 52 dates, an average of 2,190 per date. Lancaster (4,956) had the largest crowd among this group of leagues. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent league **2023 playoff attendance** was 1,034,979 in 195 dates, averaging 5,308 per date. United Shore, Pecos, Mavericks, and Empire Leagues playoff data was not available.

**7 New Minor League Ballparks in 2021, but Just One in 2022, and None in 2023**

- J Worcester replaced Pawtucket in 2021. Most games at new Polar Park drew near-capacity, or sellout crowds. In **2022**, the Woosox drew a City of Worcester record-high of 532,152 in total attendance, and 7,290 in average per date. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> best total attendance, and the 6<sup>th</sup> best average per date among MLB-affiliated teams. Total attendance was 201,142 (60.8%) higher, and average per date was 2,036 (38.7%) higher than it was in Pawtucket in **2019**. In **2023**, Worcester drew 519,651 in total attendance, which ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among MLB-affiliated teams, and a team-record-high 7,424 per date, which was 6<sup>th</sup> best.
- J Kannapolis, NC more than doubled its 2019 attendance, and set team records in 2022 for total attendance and average per date in their new downtown park. **The 2022 vs. 2019 total attendance growth of 116,230, and the average per date gain of 1,778, along with the percentage increases in these categories, were best among all teams that played in the same market in 2022 and 2019. The Cannon Ballers set new record-highs in both total attendance (195,500), and average per date (3,055) in 2023.**
- J Fredericksburg, VA replaced relatively nearby Woodbridge VA (Potomac). In **2022**, their total attendance (260,546), and average per date (4,136), was higher than it ever was in Woodbridge. The total was up a same market 3<sup>rd</sup> best 68,072, and average per date rose 873, which was 2<sup>nd</sup> best among teams in the same market in **2022 and 2019**. Attendance rose in **2023** to new record-highs, with a total of 267,400, and an average per date of 4,178.
- J Wichita's new park (replacing New Orleans) was a big attendance and marketing success in 2021. While their attendance was lower in 2022 than in 2021, the **2022** Wind Surge still drew 32,436 (402 per date) above their **2019** attendance in larger market of New Orleans. **Wichita drew 322,637, averaging 4,676, in 2023, and had the biggest increase in both total attendance and average per date for 2023 vs. 2022 among MLB-affiliated teams.**
- J Rocket City (Madison, AL) more than tripled what they drew in Mobile in 2019. The Trash Pandas posted a **2022 vs. 2019** increase of 231,930 (243.9%) in total attendance, and a 3,446 (217.4%) gain in average per date. In **2023**, Rocket City drew 314,306, and averaged 4,911 per date.
- J Beloit's new park wasn't ready until August, 2021, so they didn't get all the attendance benefits from it in 2021. But in **2022**, they set new team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date. Total attendance was up a 5<sup>th</sup> best 29,594 **vs. 2019**, and average per date rose a 4<sup>th</sup> best 451, among same market teams. The Sky Carp set another total attendance record-high in **2023** (104,411), and they averaged 1,606 per date.
- J Gastonia got a new Atlantic League independent team in 2021, and a new park. But attendance fell in **2023**.
- J Glacier (Kalispell, Montana), a 2022 Pioneer League expansion team, had the only park that opened in **2022**. The Range Riders had a 21.0% increase in total attendance and average per date in 2023. The average per date percentage gain was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best among U.S./Canadian independent teams.
- J According to Ballparkdigest.com, new ballparks are expected to be completed for the Northern Colorado Owlz of the Pioneer League, and Hagerstown, a new Atlantic League team, in **2024**. New ballparks may open in **2025** for Tennessee (Knoxville), Hillsboro, Salt Lake, Richmond, and in Spartanburg, SC for a relocated Carolina League team.

**2023 League and Team Attendance Leaders**

- J The Triple-A International League had the most teams (20), the most dates played (1,420), the highest total attendance (8,609,245) and average per team (430,462), and the top average per date (6,063) of any league. The 10-team Pacific Coast League averaged 423,538 per team and 5,762 per date.
- J In Double-A the Eastern League posted the best total (3,706,509), average per team (308,876), and average per date (4,722). The Texas League was close behind averaging 301,607 per team, and 4,468 per date.
- J The Midwest League had the top High-A total (3,039,726), average per team (253,311), and average per date (3,984).
- J Best drawing Single-A league was the Carolina (2,378,278 total, 198,190 average per team, 3,171 average per date).
- J In the independent leagues, the Mexican League (18 teams), had the top total (4,041,303), best average per team (224,517), and highest average per date (a league record-high since at least 1991- 5,304). The American Association drew 1,555,057, averaging 129,588, and 2,667 per date, to lead the U.S./Canadian independent leagues.
- J Among MLB-affiliated teams, Lehigh Valley – Allentown, PA had the **2023** highest total attendance (567,322), followed by Columbus, OH (557,131), Nashville (556,962), Indianapolis (556,775), Albuquerque (521,521), and High-A Dayton (520,433). 9 teams drew over 500,000, with 22 teams topping 400,000, and 44 teams above 300,000.
- J In **2023** average per date, Lehigh Valley was the top draw (7,990), followed by Dayton (7,885), Columbus (7,847), Indianapolis (7,842), Nashville (7,736), and Worcester (7,424). 8 teams averaged over 7,000 per date, 20 teams topped 6,000, and 36 teams drew an average of better than 5,000 per date.
- J In **2022**, High-A Dayton led the MLB-affiliated leagues in average per date (7,935). (The last Class A team to lead Minor League Baseball in total attendance was Denver in 1952, but Toronto had a higher average per date that year.) Average per date for 1952 Denver is not available.
- J For the independent teams, Yucatan had the highest **2023** total attendance (506,765), followed by Mexico City (451,884), Tijuana (418,462), and Monterrey (371,262). Long Island (297,745) had the highest total among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Yucatan had the top average per date (10,558), which was the best in all of Minor League Baseball in **2023**, followed in the independent leagues by Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and Monterrey (8,438). Kane County, IL (5,571) had the highest average per date among U.S./Canadian indy teams.

**July 3 and July 4 Crowds in Full-Season MLB-Affiliated Leagues, plus the pre-2021 Northwest League**

- J July 3 and July 4 are often the best attendance days of the Minor League season, with most teams having Fireworks shows after their games on at least one of these days.
- J On **July 3, 2023**, 52 MLB-affiliated teams had home games, which drew a total of 320,382, an average of 6,161 per game. 7 Triple-A teams, drew at least 10,000. (Triple-A teams tend to have bigger parks than can host such large crowds.) The biggest crowd was 15,192 at Buffalo. Also drawing at least 10,000 were Albuquerque (11,601), Las Vegas (10,554), Jacksonville (10,280), Lehigh Valley (10,100), Sacramento (10,267), and Syracuse (10,058).
- J 59 MLB-affiliated teams hosted games on **July 4, 2023**, drawing 457,919, averaging 7,761 per game. 15 teams drew at least 10,000. Salt Lake (14,354) had the largest crowd. Other 10,000+ crowds were in Triple-A Charlotte (10,990), Durham (11,090), Gwinnett (10,067), Indianapolis (14,130), Nashville (10,704), Reno (10,275), Rochester (10,507), Round Rock (11,639), Scranton-Wilkes Barre (10,000), and Toledo (10,374), at Double-A Frisco (12,045), and at Class-A Fresno (11,076), Lansing (11,521), and Winston-Salem (10,200).
- J In **2022**, 58 MLB-affiliated games drew 359,268 on July 3, an average of 6,194 per game, with 7 crowds of at least 10,000. On July 4, 58 games drew 413,258, an average of 7,125 per game, also with 7 crowds of at least 10,000.
- J In **2021**, the 59 July 3 games drew 333,120, an average of 5,646 per game, with 5 crowds above 10,000. On July 4, 2021, 60 teams drew 362,632, an average of 6,044 per game, with 8 crowds of 10,000+. In **2019**, the 64 games on July 3 in full-season or Northwest League parks, drew 437,811, averaging 6,841, with 14 above 10,000, and 60 July 4 games drew 444,947, (7,416 average), with 12 games drawing at least 10,000. The 64 July 3, **2018** games drew 443,697, averaging 6,933, with 9 10,000+ crowds. The next day, 62 games drew 459,594 (7,413 average), with 13 games reaching 10,000. In **2017**, July 3 attendance for 64 games was 469,814, averaging 7,341, and on July 4, 482,776 attended 64 games (average-7,543). On each of these days in 2017, 14 games drew at least 10,000.

**Largest 2023 Crowds**

- ) The largest Triple-A and MLB-affiliated league **2023** single game attendance was 15,851 in Buffalo, followed closely by a crowd of 15,817 in Albuquerque. Frisco had the biggest crowd in Double-A (12,045), Lansing's 11,521 crowd was tops in High-A, and Fresno drew a Single-A best crowd of 11,076. Among the independent leagues, Mexico City of the Mexican League, drew the largest crowd for any regular season game in 2023 (18,842), and for a playoff game (20,062). The biggest crowds in each of the other independent leagues that reported daily attendance were: Kane County (American Association-10,181); Southern Maryland (Atlantic-8,176); Schaumburg (Frontier-7,914); and Rocky Mountain-Colorado Springs (Pioneer-6,134).

**Record Highs for Total Attendance, Average per Date, and Single Game Attendance, set in 2023**

- ) 16 teams, and the Pioneer, Mavericks, Frontier, and Pecos Leagues, set new record-highs in total attendance in **2023**. 24 teams and the Pecos, Mavericks, and Mexican Leagues had all-time highs in average per date. At least 20 teams had or tied their biggest-ever single game attendance.
- ) **In their 3<sup>rd</sup> season as an independent, the Pioneer League, playing a longer schedule than they did as an MLB-affiliated short-season league, drew a league record-high 960,775, breaking a mark set in 2022.** This total does not include 27,581 drawn by Northern Colorado, whose new park was not ready, and so had to play in a small park. The Pioneer League is not counting Northern Colorado's attendance in their official 2023 attendance.
- ) **The Pecos Baseball League drew an estimated league record-high total of 130,635, and a league record-high average per date of 324.** Most of this league's teams play in very small ballparks. The Pecos League has operated for 13 seasons, which is longer than any 'small-market' independent league since independent leagues were re-established in 1993. This is the only league that does not count 'no-shows' in their attendance. So the number of tickets they sell is higher than their announced attendance.
- ) The estimated attendance for the Mavericks League of 116,000, an average of 1,172 per date, was the highest in this league's 3 seasons of operation. These figures include playoff games.
- ) Wichita, Myrtle Beach, Fredericksburg, and Kannapolis set new record-highs in both total attendance and average per date in 2023. Independent teams with the same accomplishment were Glacier, Northern Colorado, and Chicago, and Bakersfield and Lancaster, CA had their highest totals and average per date as independent teams. Lancaster had the highest total and average per date ever by a Pecos League team. (Bakersfield and Lancaster drew higher figures when they were in the MLB-affiliated California League.)
- ) Single game record-highs were set by Wichita, Myrtle Beach, Charlotte, Hartford, Altoona, Erie, Amarillo, and Winston-Salem, plus independent league teams Glacier, Northern Colorado, Schaumburg, Lincoln, Chicago, and Milwaukee in 2023. There were 5 other teams that tied their record-high, sellout, single-game attendance. It is possible that some other independent teams also drew single-game record-high crowds.

**ATTENTION INDEPENDENT LEAGUE TEAMS:**

The Number Tamer Minor League Attendance Analysis is missing single game record high attendance figures for many independent teams. If you know what's the largest crowd your team has ever drawn, and in what season this record was set, please inform David Kronheim ([d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net)), and your team's record will be included in the section listing team record-highs. Thank you for your assistance.

**RECORD-HIGHS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, OR SINGLE GAMES, SET OR TIED IN 2023**

The following MLB-affiliated teams set or tied their team attendance records in **2023** in season total attendance, average per date, or for a single game. Some teams set a single-game record in 2023, for their current park, but have drawn bigger crowds in a larger, former park, in the same market. Attendance records set by Rocket City (Madison, AL) broke records set by the Huntsville Stars. Records set by Worcester are for any team in that market.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE		AVERAGE PER DATE		SINGLE GAME RECORD	
Wichita	322,637	Wichita	4,676	Wichita	10,442
Myrtle Beach	268,600	Myrtle Beach	4,197	Myrtle Beach	6,600
Tacoma	384,498	Asheville	3,001	Charlotte	10,990
Beloit	104,411	Augusta, GA	4,195	Lehigh Valley, PA	10,100-T
Hillsboro	158,723	Worcester	7,424	Worcester	9,508-T
Spokane	249,012	Hartford	6,293	Hartford	7,587
Tri-City, WA	120,444	Visalia	1,913	Altoona	10,164
Fredericksburg	267,400	Fredericksburg	4,178	Erie	7,070
Kannapolis	195,500	Kannapolis	3,055	Portland, ME	7,368-T
Everett	140,937	Winston Salem	4,743	Pensacola	5,038-T
				Rocket City, AL	7,500-T
Glacier	100,661	Glacier	2,097	Amarillo	7,588
Northern Colorado	27,581	Northern Colorado	641	Winston-Salem	10,200
Quebec	166,916	Lake Country, WI	1,874	Great Lakes	6,906
Chicago Dogs	206,258	Chicago Dogs	4,125		
Bakersfield	11,022	Bakersfield	334	Glacier	3,079
Lancaster, CA	32,580	Lancaster, CA	1,810	Northern Colorado	1,657
		Milwaukee	1,793	Schaumburg	7,914
				Lincoln	8,298
		Leon	4,605	Chicago	6,827
		Mexico City	10,509	Milwaukee	3,694
		Quintana Roo	4,836		
		Tabasco	4,953		
		Veracruz	4,858		
		Yucatan	10,558		
		Santa Fe	448		
Frontier League	1,637,559				
Mavericks League	116,000	Mavericks League	1,172		
Pioneer League	960,775	Mexican League	5,304		
Pecos League	130,635	Pecos League	324		

T – Tied single game record-high, and may be for multiple games. This is usually the ballpark's full sellout figure.

Largest Single-Game Crowds (based on available data)

**2023** - Overall – Mexico City (18,842); Triple-A – Buffalo (15,851); Double-A – Frisco (12,045)  
High-A – Lansing (11,521); Single-A – Fresno (11,076); U.S. Independent - Kane County (10,181)

**2022** - Overall – Tijuana – Mexican League (17,986); Triple-A – Albuquerque (15,619); Double-A – Richmond (9,810)  
High-A – Lansing (10,055); Single-A – Fresno (11,302); U.S. Independent - Kane County (9,421)

**2021** - Overall – Tijuana - Mexican League (15,240); Triple-A – Albuquerque (13,035); Double-A – Richmond (9,560);  
High-A – Lansing (10,109); Single-A – Fresno (10,877); U.S. Independent - Atlantic – Kane County (8,415).

SOURCES: Office of Minor League Baseball, MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Independent leagues, Brennan Mense, Director of Broadcasting and Media Relations of the Daytona Tortugas.

**NOTE TO MINOR LEAGUE TEAM PERSONNEL:** If your team set a single-game record high in 2023, and it does not appear not on this list, please contact David Kronheim ([d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net)) with the data, and your team will be added. Thank you for your assistance.



**Numerical Attendance Increases - 2023 vs. 2022**

- J These MLB-affiliated teams had the biggest numerical gains in total attendance: Wichita (102,109); Dayton (76,087); Binghamton, NY (60,232); Bowie (59,900); Norfolk (46,137); Wilmington, DE (37,446); Corpus Christi (36,995).
- J The MLB-affiliated teams with the best numerical gains in average attendance per date: Wichita (1,335); Binghamton (817); Bowie (815); Norfolk (791); Delmarva (666); Lake County, OH (643); Harrisburg (617); Wilmington, DE (573).
- J Among the independent leagues, the highest total attendance numerical gains were by: Mexico City (207,039); Tabasco (106,552); Yucatan (66,600); Union Laguna (59,435); Saltillo (50,508); Quebec (36,502); Charleston, WV (26,738). The Mavericks League was up 29,798. Mexican League teams had 11 of the 15 biggest gains in total attendance among the independent league teams, including the 5 biggest.
- J Top independent league average per date numerical growth: Mexico City (4,066); Tabasco (2,620); Saltillo (1,515); Puebla (1,188); Veracruz (1,172); Union Laguna (1,133); Yucatan (776); York (629); Leon (596); Lancaster, PA (565); Oaxaca (522); Kane County (503). Mexican League teams had 10 of the 14 biggest gains, including the top 7.

**Percentage Attendance Increases – 2023 vs. 2022**

Percentage gains and losses rankings exclude Pecos League teams, since relatively minor changes in their total attendance and average per date figures, result in distortedly high percentage changes. Most of their teams play in very small ballparks.

- J MLB-affiliated teams with the top percentage gains in total attendance: Wichita (46.3%); Binghamton (41.1%); Bowie (34.4%); Wilmington, DE (31.5%); Dunedin (27.9%); Fort Myers (25.2%); Tampa (24.7%); Delmarva (22.6%).
- J MLB-affiliated top percentage gains in average per date: Wichita (39.9%); Binghamton (34.6%); Bowie (30.4%); Wilmington, DE (29.4%); Dunedin (27.9%); Delmarva (26.7%); Bradenton (23.7%); Lake County (22.4%).
- J Independent best total attendance percentage gains: Tabasco (130.5%); Mexico City (84.6%); Guadalajara (34.8%); Oaxaca (33.6%); Union Laguna (29.6%); Quebec (28.0%). U.S. teams with the best gains were Charleston, WV (22.4%) and Sioux Falls, SD (21.1%). The Mavericks League was up 34.6%. Mexican League teams had 11 of the top 21 increases.
- J Best independent average per date percentage growth: Tabasco (112.3%); Mexico City (63.1%); Puebla (36.3%); Veracruz (31.8%); Oaxaca (30.5%); Ottawa (26.6%). Best among U.S. teams were York (23.7%) and Glacier-Kalispell, MT (21.0%). The Mavericks League was up 30.5%. Mexican League teams had 7 of the top 10 gains.

**Numerical Attendance Declines – 2023 vs. 2022**

- J The MLB-affiliated teams with biggest numerical total attendance declines were: New Hampshire (45,705); Charlotte (32,469); Fayetteville, NC (27,275); Louisville (27,195); Amarillo (23,589); Vancouver (15,819).
- J MLB-affiliated teams with the largest average per date decreases were: Fayetteville (488); Charlotte (447); New Hampshire (263); Tulsa (260); Vancouver (259); Louisville (219).
- J For the independent leagues, the largest total attendance decreases were by: Campeche (107,386); Lexington (57,586); Tijuana (35,499); United Shore League (24,790); Joliet (23,087); Evansville (19,955); del Norte-Monclova (19,428).
- J The biggest independent average per date declines were by: Campeche (2,796); Lexington (840); Tijuana (789); Joliet (453); Evansville (449); Dos Laredos (423).

**Percentage Attendance Declines - 2023 vs. 2022**

- J MLB-affiliated teams with the largest percentage declines in total attendance were: New Hampshire (16.2%); Jupiter (15.8%); Fayetteville, NC (12.7%); Modesto (11.9%); Palm Beach (10.3%); Lake Elsinore (8.3%).
- J MLB-affiliated teams with the worst percentage losses in average per date were: Fayetteville (14.1%); Modesto (11.9%); Palm Beach (8.0%); Jupiter (7.1%); Charlotte (6.1%); New Hampshire (6.1%).
- J Independent 'same market' teams with the biggest total attendance percentage decreases were: Campeche (61.7%); Lexington, KY (38.3%); Kansas City, KS (17.1%); Joliet (16.7%); Evansville (16.3%); Gastonia (14.8%).
- J 'Same market' independent teams with the worst percentage losses in average per date were: Campeche (62.6%); Lexington (35.2%); Evansville (18.0%); Gastonia (17.5%); Joliet (16.7%); Kansas City, KS (13.7%).

An Excel worksheet with complete top to bottom rankings of MLB-affiliated teams, and independent teams, in the categories of total attendance and average per date, is available. It includes **2023 vs. 2022** changes ranked by team from the highest increase to the largest decline in total attendance and average per date, by both numerical and percentage change. If you'd like a copy, please contact David Kronheim ([d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net) or at 718-380-3851 or 718-591-2043) and it will be e-mailed to you, of course, for free.

**2023 Lost Dates due to Weather**

- J Postponed games in the Minor Leagues are almost always made up as part of a single-admission doubleheader. Sometimes these postponed games are never made up. In both of these cases, they are listed as 'lost dates.' Almost never in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and rarely in the independent leagues, are postponed games made up as part of a separate-admission doubleheader. There were many Covid postponements in 2021, but only a handful in 2022, and likely none in 2023.
- J There were 406 lost dates among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams in 2023, 2 fewer than in 2022. Independent league teams from the American Association, and the Frontier, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Mexican Leagues, had a combined 134 lost dates, 15 fewer than in 2022. The combined 11 MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 5 independent leagues noted, had a combined 540 lost dates in 2023, 17 fewer than in 2022.
- J Jupiter and Palm Beach (Florida State League) share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter. These two teams played some home games in 2021, 2022, and 2023 with no fans in the park. They will do that again in 2024. In this report, these games count as 'lost dates.' In 2023, Jupiter had 26 lost dates, of which 8 were weather postponements. The rest were played without fans. Palm Beach had 28 lost dates, 5 of which were weather postponements. Due to construction at Roger Dean Stadium, many Jupiter and Palm Beach home games in the latter weeks of the 2023 season were played in West Palm Beach.
- J Eugene of the Northwest League had to play a 6-game homestand at Tri-Cities (Pasco, WA) because the University of Oregon, who they share their ballpark with, needed the park for NCAA College Baseball post-season games. No attendance was reported for those games, so they are counted as lost dates.
- J Other MLB-affiliated teams with a high number of **2023** postponements include: New Hampshire and Lake County, OH (11 each), Syracuse (8), Buffalo and Jacksonville (7 each), Jersey Shore, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Carolina, Delmarva, Tampa (6 each). The independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues (Atlantic, Mexican, Frontier, Pioneer, and the American Association) with the most postponements were: Tabasco and Puebla (7 each); Aguascalientes (6), Campeche, Spire City-Frederick, MD, Lancaster, PA, Trois Rivières (5 each).
- J Blessed with good weather and no **2023** postponements, were 15 teams from the MLB-affiliated leagues (El Paso, Sacramento, Midland, Wichita, Pensacola, Dayton (they had 10 postponements in 2022), Quad Cities, Hillsboro, Fresno, Tri-Cities WA, Modesto, San Jose, Rancho Cucamonga, Stockton, Visalia), and 11 independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues (Yucatan, Tijuana, Chicago, Cleburne, Sioux Falls SD, Florence KY, Schaumburg, Windy City, Quebec, Glacier, Grand Junction).
- J 14 MLB-affiliated teams, and 20 independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues, had only one lost date each.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Triple-A** – The 30 Triple-A teams drew a combined 12,844,626 in **2023**, averaging 428,154 per team and 5,960 per date, with 95 lost dates. They had 17 fewer dates in **2023 than in 2022**. These same teams drew 12,641,390 in **2022**, averaging 421,380 per team, and 5,820 per date, with 78 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 13,621,821, an average of 6,808 per date, with 78 lost dates. Due to a longer schedule in 2023, they had 154 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**. **The 30 teams that played in Triple-A in 2019** drew 13,500,376, averaging 6,697 per date that year.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** Triple-A total attendance was up 203,236 (1.6%), and average per date rose 140 (2.4%). 20 teams had gains in total attendance, and 23 were up in average per date. 9 teams had more dates in 2023 than in 2022.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance for the 30 teams in Triple-A in 2023, fell 777,195 (5.7%), and average per date was down 848 (12.5%). 8 of the 29 'same market' teams had increases in total attendance (excludes Worcester, who played in Pawtucket in 2019), and 6 teams had gains in average per date.
- ) **International League** – 20 teams. The league consists of all 14 teams from the 2019 International League, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, from the Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, from the Double-A Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in 2019.
- ) This league has the most teams of any league, and it drew the highest attendance of any league in **2023**. Total **2023** attendance was 8,609,245, averaging 430,462 per team, and 6,063 per date. The league had 80 lost dates, and played 18 fewer dates than in **2022**. 5 teams (Nashville, Lehigh Valley, Indianapolis, Columbus, Worcester) drew over 500,000, and 8 other teams from this league topped 400,000. The league had the top 4, and 12 of the top 17, MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance, and 13 of the 22 MLB-affiliated teams with the highest average per date. 6 teams averaged at least 7,000 per date, and 6 other teams averaged better than 6,000.
- ) **Lehigh Valley drew 567,322, the best total of any Minor League team in 2023, and averaged 7,990 per date, the best average per date among all MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) For **2023 vs. 2022**, total attendance was up 117,857 (1.4%), and average per date rose 158 (2.7%). 13 teams had gains in total attendance, and 15 teams were up in average per date. Norfolk had the largest gains (46,137 in total, 791 in average per date). Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, and Toledo also had 20,000+ increases in total attendance. Both Durham and Indianapolis had average per date growth of better than 400.
- ) Charlotte had the league's largest declines, with total attendance down 32,649, and average per date dipping by 447. Louisville was down 27,195 in total attendance and down 219 in average per date.
- ) Buffalo had the largest crowd (15,851) of 2023 among all MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) **In 2019, the 14-team International League** drew 6,445,838, and averaged 6,887 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, no matter where each of the 2023 International League teams played in 2019, total attendance fell 282,475 (3.2%), and average per date was down 699 (10.3%). There were 105 more dates played in 2023.
- ) 5 'same market' teams (excludes Worcester) had gains in total attendance for **2023 vs. 2019**, while 14 were down. St. Paul had the biggest gain, up 65,948, mainly due to playing 22 more dates in 2023 than the Saints played in 2019, when they were in the independent American Association. Norfolk's total was up 61,343, and they had the top average per date gain (491). The biggest decline was by Memphis in total attendance, down 96,055, and in average per date, down 1,792.
- ) Worcester's **2023** total attendance was 188,641 higher, and their average per date was up 2,170, from what they drew in Pawtucket in **2019**. **They drew a team-record-high average per date of 7,424 in 2023.**

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Pacific Coast League** – 10 teams. 9 of the teams in this league played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
- ) Total **2023** attendance was 4,235,152, up 85,150 (2.1%) from **2022**. Average per team was 423,515. Average per date rose 108 (1.9%) to 5,762. There was one more date in **2023 than in 2022**, and 15 dates were lost. 7 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Reno, up 36,847. 8 teams had average per date gains, topped by Salt Lake, up 286. The declines were small. Las Vegas dipped 12,174 in total attendance and 71 in average per date.
- ) Albuquerque led the league with 521,521 in total attendance, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams in **2023**, followed closely by El Paso and Las Vegas, who also topped 500,000. Albuquerque had the best average per date in the league (7,048), and the largest crowd of the year (15,817). **Tacoma drew a team record-high 384,498**.
- ) Round Rock and Salt Lake City also topped 400,000 in total attendance, and El Paso, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake also averaged better than 6,000 per date. Sugar Land was the only team that didn't average at least 5,000 per date.
- ) Compared to **2019**, when this league's **2023** teams drew 4,730,101, averaging 6,895 per date, total **2023** attendance was down 494,720 (10.5%) and average per date dipped 1,133 (16.4%), with 49 more dates in 2023, as Triple-A had a longer schedule. Reno and Tacoma had **2023 vs. 2019** gains in total attendance and average per date, and Salt Lake had an increase in total attendance. Round Rock had the largest **2023 vs. 2019** declines in total attendance (186,378) and average per date (2,981) among all MLB-affiliated teams. Sacramento and Las Vegas had the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> worst declines among MLB-affiliates in each of these categories.
- ) Total **2019** attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.
- ) **Double-A** – The 30 teams drew 8,598,442 in **2023**, averaging 286,615 per team, and 4,330 per date, with 84 lost dates, and 5 more dates played. In **2019**, **these same 30 teams**, no matter what league they played in that year, drew 8,877,600 averaging 4,459 per date, with 107 lost dates. **The 30 teams playing in Double-A in 2019** drew 8,782,607, an average of 4,429 per date.
- ) **2023** Double-A total attendance was up 434,248 (5.3%) **from 2022**, and average per date grew by 208 (5.1%). 24 teams had increases in total attendance, and 22 teams had gains in average per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, for these same 30 teams, total attendance fell 279,158 (3.1%), and average per date declined 129 (2.9%), with 5 fewer dates. 9 'same market' teams had gains in total attendance, with 19 down, while 11 teams rose in average per date. 'Same market' teams exclude Rocket City (Mobile in 2019), and Wichita (New Orleans in 2019).
- ) **Texas League** – 10 teams. Made up of all 8 of the 2019 Texas League teams, plus San Antonio, who played in the Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
- ) The league drew a **2023** total of 3,016,072, with just 15 lost dates, averaging 301,607 per team, and 4,468 per date. The total was up 161,987 (5.7%) from **2022**, and average per date rose 202 (4.7%), with 6 more dates. The largest crowd of 2023 was 12,045 in Frisco.
- ) **Wichita had the best numerical and percentage gains among all MLB-affiliated teams, up 102,109 (46.3%) in total attendance, and up 1,335 (39.9%) in average per date. They also drew team record-highs in total attendance (322,637) and average per date (4,676).** Biggest loss was by Amarillo in total attendance, down 23,589, with 3 fewer dates than in 2022. Tulsa, down 260, had the largest average per date decline. Tulsa had the top total (356,002), just ahead of Amarillo (355,440) and Frisco (347,758). Amarillo led in average per date (5,385), followed by Tulsa (5,235), and Frisco (5,190).
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, same team total attendance fell 300,684 (9.1%), and average per date was down 431 (8.8%), with 2 fewer dates. All 9 'same market' teams had declines in total attendance and only Arkansas had an average per date gain. Largest decreases were by Frisco (total down 108,007, and average per date down 1,612). Wichita was up 134,545 in total attendance, and up 1,737 in average per date, **from what New Orleans drew in 2019**.
- ) The 8 teams that played in the Texas League in 2019, drew 2,791,180 that year, averaging 5,131 per date.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Eastern League** – 12 teams. 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League that year.
- ) The league drew 3,706,509 in **2023**, averaging 308,876 per team, and 4,722 per date. These figures are the highest among the Double-A leagues. There were 43 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates played than in **2022**. Richmond had the top total attendance (428,541) and average per date (6,396) among all Double-A teams. **Hartford set a record high in average per date (6,293)**, and topped 400,000. Portland, ME also drew over 400,000 in total attendance, and 6,000 in average per date. Reading, and Somerset drew over 350,000 in total attendance and above 5,100 per date. The league's largest crowd of 2023 was 10,164 in Altoona.
- ) Teams in the **2019 Eastern League** drew 3,749,124, and averaged 4,764 per date.
- ) Looking at **2023 vs. 2022**, total attendance was up an MLB-affiliated league 2<sup>nd</sup> best 236,031 (6.8%), and average per date rose an MLB-affiliated league best 323 (7.3%). 11 teams were up in total attendance, and 10 achieved average per date gains. Binghamton had the league's top increases, up an MLB-affiliated 3<sup>rd</sup> best 60,232 (41.1%) in total attendance, and up an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 817 (34.6%) in average per date. Bowie's total attendance growth of 59,990 (34.4%) in total ranked 4<sup>th</sup> best, and their average per date gain of 815 ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among MLB-affiliated teams. New Hampshire, down 45,705 (16.2%), had the top total attendance decline of any MLB-affiliated team. That was mainly due to 11 lost dates, and 7 fewer dates played than in 2022. Their average per date fell 263 (6.1%).
- ) **2023 vs. 2019** figures show a 46,551 (1.2%) dip in total attendance, and a 35 (0.7%) decrease in average per date, with 4 fewer dates in 2023. 6 of the 12 teams had gains **vs. 2019** in total attendance, and 7 were up in average per date. Portland, up 46,310 in total attendance and up 444 in average per date, had the best growth. Akron, down 74,249 in total attendance, and 1,048 in average per date, had the worst losses.
- ) **Southern League** – 8 teams, all of whom played in the Southern League in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 1,875,861, averaging 234,483 per team, and 3,566 per date, with 26 lost dates. Rocket City (Madison, AL) had the league's best attendance, with a 314,306 total and a 4,911 average per date. Pensacola and Tennessee also topped 290,000 in total attendance, and averaged above 4,200 per date. Largest crowd of the season was 8,038 in Birmingham.
- ) Compared to **2022**, the **2023** total was up 36,230 (2.0%), and average per date rose by 49 (1.4%), with 3 more dates. 6 teams were up in both total attendance and average per date. Chattanooga had the league's top total attendance increase, up 15,255. Tennessee's 219 gain was the league's best in average per date. Birmingham had the worst total loss (13,689 with 2 fewer dates), and Rocket City had the biggest decline in average per date (120).
- ) The 10-team **2019 Southern League** drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.
- ) In **2021**, the Rocket City (Madison, AL) Trash Pandas, who moved from Mobile, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. They led the league in total attendance (274,858), and led all of Double-A in average per date (5,726), despite 12 lost dates. Their **2021** total was up 179,771, and the average per date rose 4,141, **from 2019 in Mobile**. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, Southern League total attendance rose 68,077 (3.8%), average per date was up 123 (3.6%), with one more date. But this increase was due to the relocation of the Mobile team to Rocket City. The **2023** Trash Pandas had a 219,219 increase in total attendance, and a 3,326 average per date gain, **vs. 2019 Mobile**. Exclude Rocket City, and **the 7 'same market' teams** drew 1,561,555 in **2023**, down 151,142 (8.8%) **from 2019**, with a 3,380 average per date in **2023**, down 303 (8.2%), **from 2019**.
- ) 3 'same market' teams had **2023 vs. 2019** growth in total attendance and average per date. Among this group of teams, Tennessee had the top total gain, up 14,895, and the best average per date increase, up 229. Birmingham suffered a league-high total attendance loss of 126,475, and an average per date decline of 1,587.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **High-A** – The 30 teams in this group drew a total of 6,522,330 in **2023**, averaging 217,411 per team, and 3,458 per date, with 94 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 6,550,350, an average of 3,797 per date. High-A consisted of the Florida State, California, and Carolina Leagues in **2019**. Those 3 leagues drew a combined total of 4,234,494 in **2019**, and averaged 2,188 per date.
- ) All Class A leagues now play 132-game schedules, as opposed to the 140-game schedules that the full-season Class A teams played through 2019. This accounts for some of the **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance declines.
- ) **2023** High-A total attendance was up 455,172 (7.5%) **from 2022**. Average per date rose 207 (6.4%), with 20 more dates. 26 teams were up in total attendance **vs. 2022**, with Dayton, up 76,087, playing 10 more dates, having the best gain. 25 teams had average per date increases, led by a 643 gain by Lake County, OH. Vancouver had the largest declines, down 15,819 in total attendance, and 259 in average per date. Top crowd was 11,521 in Lansing.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the 30 teams in High-A in 2023 had a combined decline of 28,020 (0.4%) in total attendance, and a 339 (8.9%) dip in average per date, with 161 more dates played by these teams in **2023 than in 2019**. 9 teams were in short-season leagues in 2019. 15 teams had total attendance gains and 13 were up in average per date.
- ) **Midwest League** – 12 teams. All of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019.
- ) Drew 3,039,726 in **2023**, averaging 253,311 per team, and 3,984 per date, which were the highest figures by any Class A league. There were 29 lost dates. Lansing had the highest single game attendance – 11,521.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose an MLB-affiliated league best 283,618 (10.3%), and average per date was up 259 (7.0%), with 23 more dates. All 12 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Dayton, up an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 76,087, as they had 10 more dates than in 2022. 9 teams were up in average per date, led by Lake County, whose 643 increase was 6<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams. Cedar Rapids, Peoria, and South Bend also had 300+ average per date gains. Dayton had the largest average per date loss, but it was only (a rounded off) 49. **Beloit set a new team record-high in total attendance (104,411).**
- ) For the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Triple-A, drawing an MLB-affiliated 6<sup>th</sup> best 2023 total of 520,433. They averaged 7,885 per date, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among the MLB-affiliates. In 2022, the Dragons led all MLB-affiliated teams with a 7,935 average per date. This may have been the first time a Class A team led the Minor Leagues in average per date. Class-A Denver had the highest Minor League total attendance in 1952, but Triple-A Toronto had a higher average per date. Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 top season attendance totals by a Class A team. West Michigan had the other Top 21 total.
- ) **Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports.** It was 1,385 regular season dates from the team's inception in 2000 **through the 2019 season**. The Dragons started the **2021** season with a greatly reduced allowable capacity in their ballpark. They did draw at least 6,000 to 33 dates. Their final **2021** Game Notes didn't mention sellouts, so it can be assumed that they didn't sell out every game in **2021**. But it really wouldn't be fair to end such a great streak under circumstances mostly beyond the team's control. They sold out all 2022 dates. **In 2023, all 66 Dayton home dates drew above their park's seating capacity, an amazing feat, especially considering they had no rainouts, and thus didn't have any redeemed rainchecks to add to their daily attendance. The sellout streak through 2023 is at 1,507, again excluding 2021.** Every date in Dayton drew over 7,000 in **2023**, with 20 dates attracting more than 8,000.
- ) Dayton, Fort Wayne, South Bend, and West Michigan drew over 300,000. Lansing missed that mark by just 551. West Michigan and Fort Wayne, along with Dayton, topped 5,000 per date.
- ) The same 12 teams that played in this league in both **2023 and 2019** drew 3,094,931 in **2019**, averaging 3,883 per date. The 16-team Midwest League drew 3,824,807 in 2019, averaging 3,612 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance fell 55,205 (1.8%). But average per date rose 101 (2.6%), with 34 fewer dates. 5 teams were up in total attendance, and 9 had average per date growth. The best gains were by Beloit, up 31,211 in total attendance, and by Lake County, up 428, and Beloit, up 425, in average per date. Peoria had the largest declines vs. 2019, with a 40,336 decrease in total attendance, and a 448 dip in average per date.

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- ) **South Atlantic League** – 12 teams. Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, were in the South Atlantic League in 2019. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
- ) This league drew 2,370,155 in **2023**, averaging 197,513 per team, and 3,181 per date, with 47 lost dates. Greenville SC led the league in both total attendance (303,328) and average per date (4,973). Jersey Shore (Lakewood, NJ), and Greensboro also topped 4,000 in average per date, **as did Winston-Salem, and Asheville, who each set new team-record highs for average per date.** Top crowd was 10,822 at Jersey Shore.
- ) Comparing **2023 with 2022**, total attendance increased 127,566 (5.7%), and average per date was up 203 (6.8%), with 8 fewer dates. 9 teams had gains in total attendance, and 11 were up in average per date, led by Wilmington, DE, up 37,446 in total and up 573 in average. Jersey Shore rose 524 in average per date. Greenville had the largest total decline (13,822), due to 4 fewer dates played in 2023. All other declines were tiny. Bowling Green was down 528 in total attendance, and Hudson Valley's total dipped 406, and their average per date fell by 6.
- ) The same 12 teams drew 2,550,443 in **2019**, and averaged 3,643 per date. Aberdeen, Brooklyn, Hudson Valley played short-season schedules in 2019, and those 3 teams played a combined 83 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance was down 180,288 (7.1%), and average per date fell 462 (12.7%), with 45 more dates. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 4 had average per date increases. Hudson Valley had the top total attendance increase (35,491), playing 28 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**. Winston-Salem had the only gain (29,167) among the S.A.L. teams that played a full-season schedule in 2019, and the Dash had the largest increase in average per date, up 471. Wilmington DE had the worst total attendance decrease (75,125) in the league, and Brooklyn's average per date decline of 1,991 was the largest. It should be noted that as a short-season team until 2021, Brooklyn wasn't playing any cold-weather games, and yearly, had very few, or no games, on school nights.
- ) The 14-team South Atlantic League drew 2,978,718 in **2019**, averaging 3,176 per date. The Carolina League, with 10 teams, had a **2019** total attendance of 2,018,496, and had an average of 3,139 per date. The now-defunct short-season New York-Penn League's **2019** total was 1,316,873, and that league averaged 2,644 per date.
- ) **Northwest League** – 6 teams, all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 1,112,449, **averaging a league record-high 185,408 per team**, and 2,943 per date. There were 18 lost dates, which include a Eugene home series relocated to Tri-City. **Record-highs in total attendance were achieved by Hillsboro, Spokane, Tri-City, and Everett.** The short-season Northwest League record for average per team occurred in 2019, when the 8-team league averaged 139,452 per team.
- ) Vancouver led the league, drawing 297,437, with a 4,876 average per date, and 21 sellouts. But the Canadians had the only **2023 vs. 2022** declines in the league, down 15,819 in total attendance, and down 259 in average per date. As usual, Spokane drew well, with a 249,012 total, and a 3,953 average per date.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 43,988 (2.1%), and average per date was up 78 (2.7%), with 5 more dates. Spokane posted the top gains in total attendance (17,931), and average per date (285), and also had the league's largest crowd (6,946). Eugene had to relocate one 2023 series to Tri-City (Pasco, WA) because the University of Oregon had use of the ballpark they share for NCAA Baseball post-season play.
- ) In **2019**, the same 6 teams drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. The **2019 Northwest League**, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.
- ) The Northwest League played a short-season schedule (76 games) in **2019**, as opposed to a 132-game schedule in **2023**. Total **2023 vs. 2019** attendance for the 6 teams in the league in both years, was up 207,473 (22.9%), but average per date fell 1,026 (25.9%), with 150 more dates played in 2023. All 6 teams had gains in total attendance, but all 6 had losses in average per date. Vancouver, up 61,457, had the biggest total attendance increase, but also had the largest average per date dip (1,334). Tri-City had the smallest average per date decline, down 465.
- ) With the longer schedule starting in 2021, the Northwest League now has more lost dates than in the past. There were 21 lost dates in 2022. The 6 teams in the league had no lost dates in 2019, 1 each in 2018 and 2017, 4 in 2016 and 2013, 2 in 2015, and 3 in 2014 and 2012. The teams also play more games now on school days and nights.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- J **Single-A (formerly Low-A)** – Combined total attendance for the 30 teams in **2023** was 4,186,986. Average per team was 137,566, and average per date was 2,269. There were 133 lost dates, which include games played by Jupiter and Palm Beach when fans were not allowed to attend. Top crowd was 11,076 at Fresno.
- J In **2019**, these same 30 teams, in whatever league they played in, drew 4,690,339, averaging 2,395 per date. The Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues were the Low-A leagues in 2019, and they drew a combined 6,803,525, averaging 3,407 per date.
- J **2023 vs. 2022** Single-A total attendance was up 139,006 (3.4%). Average per date rose 73 (3.3%), with 2 more dates with fans in attendance. 20 teams had gains in total attendance, and 21 were up in average per date. Delmarva had the largest gains in total attendance (34,963) and average per date (666). Fayetteville, NC suffered the biggest declines, down 27,275 in total attendance, and 488 in average per date.
- J For **2023 vs. 2019**, the Single-A total declined 503,353 (10.7%), and average per date fell 126 (5.3%), with 113 fewer dates. 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 achieved gains in average per date.
- J **Carolina League** – 12 teams, 7 were in the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League, in 2019.
- J **2023** total attendance was a Single-A best 2,378,278, averaging 198,190 per team, and 3,171 per date, with 42 lost dates. The largest crowd was 8,024 at Columbia.
- J It was a very close race for the total attendance lead with Charleston, SC drawing 270,170, followed by Myrtle Beach (268,600), Fredericksburg, VA (267,400), and Augusta, GA (260,060). Charleston also had the best average per date (4,288), with Myrtle Beach (4,197), Augusta (4,195), and Fredericksburg (4,178), close behind.
- J **Fredericksburg, Kannapolis, and Myrtle Beach, all set new team record-highs in total attendance in 2023. Augusta, Fredericksburg, Myrtle Beach, and Kannapolis, achieved team record-highs in average per date.**
- J **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 63,818 (2.7%). Average per date was up 130 (4.3%), with 11 fewer dates. 7 teams had increases in total attendance and 10 were up in average per date. Delmarva, MD had the biggest gains (34,963 in total attendance, 666 in average per date). Fayetteville had the largest declines (27,275 in total, 488 in average per date). None of the other 4 teams in the league with total attendance declines were down more than 4,200, and the only other decrease in average per date was 10, by Down East (Kinston, NC).
- J In **2019**, the same 12 teams, no matter what league they were in, drew 2,366,810, averaging 2,973 per date, with 43 lost dates. The **2019 Carolina League** drew 2,018,496, averaging 3,139 per date.
- J For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance rose 11,468 (0.5%), and average per date was up 198 (6.7%), with 46 fewer dates. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 rose in average per date. The Southern and Midwest Leagues were the only other MLB-affiliated leagues whose 2023 teams had a higher combined average per date than they had in 2019.
- J Kannapolis moved into a new downtown ballpark in **2021**. Their **2022** total attendance was up 116,230 (153.1%) **from 2019**, with average per date increasing by 1,778 (156.9%). **The 2022 vs. 2019 numerical increase in total attendance was the best of any 'same market' Minor League team, which includes the independent teams, and the average per date gain topped all 'same market' MLB-affiliated teams. Kannapolis had the best total attendance percentage growth among all MLB-affiliated teams, and the highest average per date percentage increase among all Minor League teams. The Cannon Ballers surpassed those 2022 record-high total attendance and average per date figures in 2023.**
- J Fredericksburg was relocated from Woodbridge, VA (Potomac) in 2021. Their **2023** total attendance was 74,926 higher vs. **2019**, and their average per date rose by 916.
- J Largest **2023 vs. 2019** increase was by Kannapolis, up 119,569 in total attendance, and up 1,922 in average per date. Biggest declines were by Fayetteville, down 59,766 in total attendance and 661 in average per date.



**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Florida State League** – 10 teams, all played in the 2019 Florida State League.
- ) The league drew 695,800 in **2023**, an average of 69,580 per team, and 1,214 per date. There were a Minor League high 85 lost dates, which include 41 dates played by Jupiter and Palm Beach with no fans allowed to attend.
- ) Clearwater led the league in **2023** total attendance (157,072), and average per date (2,493), and had the largest crowd (8,847). The Threshers have led the Florida State League in attendance in each of the last 12 seasons, and in 18 of 19 years since 2004. Fort Myers was the only other team in the league topping 100,000 in total attendance or 1,600 in average per date.
- ) Both Jupiter and Palm Beach share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. In 2021, local Covid-19 restrictions forced both teams to play many home games with no fans permitted to attend. This policy continued in 2022, 2023 and 2024. In **2023**, Palm Beach had 28 lost dates, which included 5 rainouts. Jupiter lost 26 dates, including 8 that were rained out. Only dates with fans in attendance are counted in this report for compiling average per date. These teams also played home games at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach due to ballpark construction in Jupiter.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance was up 52,020 (8.1%). Average per date rose 56 (4.8%), with 17 more dates. 8 teams had total attendance gains, led by Fort Myers, up 21,892. 6 teams had average per date increases, led by Bradenton, up 206. Jupiter had the biggest total decline (6,641), and Palm Beach had the top average loss (75).
- ) In **2019**, the same 10 teams drew 824,223, an average of 1,334 per date. The **2019 Florida State League** drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the total fell 128,423 (15.6%), and average per date was down 120 (9.0%), with 45 fewer dates. 2 teams were up in total and 2 were up in average per date. Dunedin had the best growth, up 19,453 in total, and up 292 in average per date, **from 2019**, when ballpark renovations forced them to play in the old ballpark in Clearwater. Daytona had the biggest declines **vs. 2019**, down 43,676 in total attendance, and 577 in average per date.
- ) **California League** – 8 teams. 7 of these teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, replacing Lancaster. In 2023, Lancaster played in the independent Pecos League, and set all-time highs for any team in that league in total attendance and average per date.
- ) Total attendance was 1,112,908 in **2023**, averaging 139,114 per team, and 2,132 per date. Just 6 dates were lost. Fresno, which had been in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League through 2019, was the league attendance leader by a wide margin, with a 277,089 total, a 4,198 average per date, and drew the league's top crowd of the year (11,076). Rancho Cucamonga came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, drawing 151,082, and averaging 2,289 per date. **Visalia drew a team record-high average per date.**
- ) The **2023 vs. 2022** comparison shows a 23,168 (2.1%) increase in total attendance, and a 60 (2.9%) gain in average per date, with 4 fewer dates played. 5 of the 8 teams had increases in both categories. Fresno had the biggest increase in total attendance (15,437), and Rancho Cucamonga had the best average per date gain (190). Modesto had the largest declines, down 11,176 in total attendance and down 169 in average per date.
- ) The league's same 8 teams drew 1,499,306 in **2019**, an average of 2,756 per date. The **2019 California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811**, averaging 2,342 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance decreased 386,398 (25.8%). Average per date was down 624 (22.6%), with 22 fewer dates. All 8 teams had declines in total attendance, and 7 teams were down in average per date. Fresno had the biggest declines, down 103,001 in total attendance, and down 1,561 in average per date. Visalia had the only average per date increase, up 14.
- ) Weather, other than heat, is rarely an issue in the California League. There were 6 postponements in 2023, and only 2 dates were postponed in 2022, one in Fresno, and the other in Lake Elsinore. Weather was a slight issue in 2021 and 2019, with 12 lost dates each year. Only one game in 2018 was postponed. 3 dates were lost in 2017, and there were 4 in 2016. There were 8 lost dates in 2015, including one due to high winds. There were 2 lost dates in 2014, 4 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 in 2009. The most rainouts over the last 25 years of this league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.

**Independent Leagues 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) The same 9 independent leagues played in **2023, 2022, and 2021**. Attendance was available for the American Association, and the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, Pioneer, United Shore, Mavericks, and Pecos Baseball Leagues. Attendance has never been reported, in any season, by the 4-team Empire Baseball League.
- ) Also missing is attendance from 10 dates played by New Jersey of the Frontier League, and from 2 dates played by Kansas City of the American Association. Numerous attempts to get this data were not successful. So the average per date that each of these teams drew for those dates with reported attendance was applied to those dates with missing attendance. It's not a perfect solution, but is still better than not listing any attendance for those dates. If attendance from those 12 dates is reported in the future, figures in this report will be updated.
- ) The Mexican League was a Major League-affiliated 'Minor League Baseball' member league through 2019. The league was not considered to be an independent league, even though none of its teams were MLB 'farm' teams. The Pioneer League was an MLB-affiliated short-season Rookie league through 2019, and became an MLB-Partner independent pro league in 2021.
- ) 95 teams played in these 9 independent leagues in **2023**, and 94 teams played in those leagues in **2022**. Attendance was found for 83 individual teams in **2023**, and for 79 individual teams in **2022**. In addition, there are league totals for both years for the 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, and the Mavericks League, whose 4 teams all play in Keizer, OR. **The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues are each counted as one 'team' in this attendance report.**
- ) The Frontier League had a road team in **2023 and 2022**. The Pecos League had a road team in 2022. Also in **2023 and 2022**, the planned new park for the Pioneer League's Northern Colorado Owlz wasn't open. They played home games in several locations, that drew 27,581 in 43 dates in 2023, and 3,004 in 40 dates in 2022. The Pioneer League does not officially count Northern Colorado's attendance in their official figures, so this report will not include them in any league totals either. But their attendance will be noted in the Pioneer League summary.
- ) The 82 teams with attendance (counting the United Shore and Mavericks Leagues as one team each, but excluding N. Colorado of the Pioneer League) drew an estimated total of 10,160,535 in **2023**. **This is the highest combined total independent league attendance since the return of such leagues in 1993.** This total is up 569,915 (5.9%) vs. **2022**, but down 523,372 (4.9%) from what these same teams drew in **2019**, regardless of what league they played in that year. Average per date was 2,761 in **2023**, up 148 (5.7%) vs. **2022**, but down 407 (12.8%) vs. **2019**.
- ) **Yucatan led all independent teams with a total attendance of 506,765, and an all Minor Leagues leading 10,558 average per date. This was the highest total attendance and average per date ever by an independent team.** Mexico City and Tijuana also topped 400,000. Leading the U.S./Canadian teams was Long Island in total attendance (297,745), and Kane County in average per date (5,571). Mexico City had the biggest 2023 vs. 2022 gains, up 207,039 in total, and up 4,066 in average per date. Tabasco's total grew by 106,552. Quebec had the best U.S./Canadian total gain (36,502), and York had the top average per date increase (629). Campeche had the largest declines in both total attendance and average per date, and Lexington, KY had the biggest losses in both categories (57,586 in total attendance, 840 in average per date) among U.S. and Canadian independent teams.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2022**, 46 teams in the same markets in both years had increases in total attendance and 31 were down. 47 of these teams posted gains in average per date, while 29 had declines, and Lake Country had the same average per date in both years. Comparing **2023 vs. 2019** same market teams, 27 were up in total attendance, with 42 down, and 25 teams had gains in average per date, while 43 teams had declines, and one team had the same average in both years.
- ) In **2023**, these independent teams played 10 more dates than in **2022**, and 306 more dates than in **2019**. Teams in the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, and Pioneer Leagues, and the American Association, had a combined 134 lost dates in **2023**. Their **2023** teams had 149 lost dates in 2022, 164 lost dates in **2021**, and 126 lost dates in **2019**.
- ) Teams that played in independent leagues in **2019 (regardless of where they played in 2021-2023,)** drew a total of 5,690,513 that year, and averaged 2,341 per date. Add the Mexican League and Pioneer League attendance to the **2019** independent league figures, and total attendance was 11,029,912, and the average per date was 3,037.
- ) In 2023, the Atlantic League replaced its second team in Lexington, KY with a team in Frederick, MD. The MLB Draft League team in Frederick also played there in 2023. Hagerstown joins the Atlantic League in 2024.

**Independent Leagues 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Mexican League** – The same 18 teams played in 2023 and 2022. 16 of these teams played in the Mexican League in 2019, with los Mariachis de Guadalajara and El Aguila de Veracruz added in 2021. 2 more teams join in 2024.
- ) Covid-19-forced changes hit this league very hard in **2021**. The schedule was reduced from 120 games to 66 games. It was raised to 90 games for 2022 and 2023. **Total attendance was 4,041,303 in 2023, an average of 224,517 per team, with a post-1991 league record-high, 5,304 average per date.** This was the highest total attendance and average per date of any independent league. There were 48 lost dates in 2023. Total attendance rose 476,779 (13.4%), and average per date was up 563 (11.9%) **vs. 2022**, with 10 more dates. 13 teams had a higher total in 2023 than in 2022, and 13 teams were up in average per date. Numerically, Mexican League teams had 9 of the top 11 independent team total attendance **2023 vs. 2022** increases, including the top 5. They had 8 of the 9 best gains in average per date, including the top 7.
- ) **Yucatan led the league, and all independent teams, in 2023 attendance, with a total of 506,765, the highest total ever by an independent team. Their all-time high independent league average per date of 10,558 was the best in Minor League Baseball in 2023.** Other teams with high average per date were Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and Monterrey (8,438). **These 4 teams had the 4 highest 2023 average per date figures among all Minor League teams, including those in the MLB-affiliated leagues.** Among independent league teams, Mexican League teams had 11 of the 18 highest total attendance figures of **2023**, including the top 5, and 13 of the top 18 average per date figures, including the top 6.
- ) **Leon, Mexico City, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Yucatan, all drew team record-high average per date figures in 2023.** This is based on data going back to 1992, so it is possible that they may have had a higher average per date in a year prior to 1992.
- ) Los Tecolotes de Los Dos Laredos (Owls of the Two Laredos) split their season, between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. 22 dates in Texas drew an average of 3,505, and the 22 dates in Mexico averaged 3,778 per date.
- ) **Mexico City's increases of 207,039 in total attendance, and 4,066 in average per date vs. 2022, were the best of any Minor League team in 2023.** They also had the largest Minor League crowds for a regular season game (18,842), and for a post-season game (20,062). Also with increases of at least 1,000 per date were Tabasco (2,620), Saltillo (1,515), Puebla (1,188), Veracruz (1,172), and Union Laguna (1,133). On the down side, Campeche had the largest declines of any Minor League team, down 107,386 in total attendance, and down 2,796 in average per date.
- ) In **2019**, the 16-team Mexican League drew 4,618,131, an average of 5,058 per date. The **2023** total is down 576,828 (12.5%), but the average per date is up 246 (4.9%) **vs. 2019**. There were 151 fewer dates in **2023 vs. 2019**.
- ) If the expansion teams are excluded, **the 16 teams that also played in 2019** drew 3,740,578 in **2023**, averaging 5,509 per date. The **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance loss for these 16 teams is 877,553 (19.0%), but the average per date gain is 451 (8.9%). These 16 teams played 234 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2019. 4 teams had higher total attendance in **2023 vs. 2019**, and 7 teams were up in average per date. Mexico City (up 62,243), Tabasco (61,760), and Union Laguna (60,873), had the biggest increases, keeping in mind the shorter schedules in 2023 vs. 2019. Tijuana had the largest 2023 vs. 2019 declines, down 259,002 in total attendance, and 1,992 in average per date.
- ) The Mexican League annually has the longest, most intense, and best attended playoffs in the Minor Leagues, with 4 full rounds of best-of-7 series. The **2023** playoffs drew 693,528 for 73 games, averaging 9,500 per game. 29 games drew over 10,000, with 3 of them topping 15,000. Mexico City averaged 16,457 for its 6 playoff games.
- ) In **2022**, the post-season drew 762,112, averaging 11,375 per date, as the teams with the biggest ballparks made it deep into the playoffs. **37 of the 67 games drew over 10,000, with 15 of them topping 15,000. Monterrey averaged 17,030 in the playoffs, with 4 games topping 21,000.** Despite the short season in **2021**, the full playoffs did occur, and they drew 412,739 in 74 dates, an average of 5,578 per date. Tijuana's 13 playoff dates drew an of 12,595, with a high of 17,687. The **2019** Mexican League playoffs drew 519,686, averaging 12,086 per date.
- ) **United Shore Baseball League** – 4 teams, all based in Utica, MI. – League is counted as one team in this report.
- ) In **2023** the league drew 226,310, averaging 2,794 per date. The total was down 24,790 (9.9%), and average per date fell by 306 (9.9%) **vs. 2022**, with the same number of dates in both years. Compared to **2019**, total attendance fell 32,410 (12.5%), and average per date declined by 656 (19.0%), with 6 more dates. In 'normal' times, this league sells out around 80% of its games.

**Independent Leagues 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Atlantic League** – 10 teams in 2023 and 2022. 5 of the 2023 teams played in this league in 2019. Gastonia was added as an expansion team in 2021, and Lexington, KY, and Charleston, WV, came in from the South Atlantic League. In 2022, the league added a second team (Kentucky) in Lexington, which moved to Frederick, MD in 2023. Also added in 2022 was Staten Island, who last played in the New York-Penn League in 2019. Teams played a 120-game schedule in 2021, instead of the usual 140 games. They had 132 games in 2022, and 126 games in 2023. Each year, these were the longest schedules in the independent leagues. Hagerstown joins the league in 2024.
- ) The league drew 1,492,896 in **2023**. Average per team was 149,290, and average per date was 2,505, with 30 lost dates. Due to 24 fewer dates, the **2023 vs. 2022** total was down 42,135 (2.7%). Average per date rose 29 (1.2%). 5 of the 9 teams in the league in both years had gains in total attendance, and 6 were up in average per date. These 9 returning teams had a combined total attendance increase of 2,531 (0.2%), and an average per date gain of 55 (2.2%), with 11 fewer dates in **2023**. Charleston, WV had the top total attendance gain, up 26,738. **York's 629 increase in average per date was the best among U.S./Canadian independent teams.** Top crowd was 8,176 at Southern Maryland.
- ) Compared to **2019**, regardless of what league they played in that year, the **2023** Atlantic League teams had combined declines of 120,344 (7.5%) in total attendance, and 702 (21.9%) in average per date, with 93 more dates. Exclude the expansion teams Gastonia and Squire City (Frederick), and the other 8 teams combined for a 269,270 (16.7%) decrease in total attendance, and a 459 (14.3%) dip in average per date vs. **2019**, with 14 fewer dates. Charleston had the top gains vs. 2019, up 27,892 in total attendance, and up 618 in average per date. Lexington was down 177,415 in total attendance, and 2,547 in average per date, from what their South Atlantic League team drew in **2019**.
- ) In **2019**, the 8 teams that played in the Atlantic League **that year** drew 1,940,590, an average of 3,648 per date. The league lost two of its best-drawing teams in 2021, as Somerset joined the Eastern League, and Sugar Land joined the Pacific Coast League. In **2019**, Somerset and Sugar Land drew a combined 649,394, averaging 4,775 per date. Exclude those 2 teams, and the **2019** Atlantic League average per date would have been 3,261.
- ) **Among all U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023, Long Island led in total attendance (297,745) and their 4,652 average per date was 2<sup>nd</sup> to Kane County.** The Ducks had the best U.S./Canadian independent total, and 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date in **2022**. They were best in both categories in **2021**, and were 3<sup>rd</sup> best in **2019**. York, Lancaster PA, and Southern Maryland, also averaged above 3,000 per date in **2023**.
- ) **American Association** – In **2023 and 2022**, there were 12 teams. 10 of the 2023 teams were also in this league in 2019. Kane County, IL came in from the MLB-affiliated Midwest League in 2021. St. Paul, who had the top attendance among all independent teams in 2019 (394,970 total, 8,061 average per date), moved to the MLB-affiliated International League in 2021. 2023 attendance from 2 dates at Kansas City, KS was missing. So it was estimated, using their average per date from their other 46 dates.
- ) The A.A. drew an estimated 1,555,057 in **2023**, up 44,716 (3.0%), averaging 129,588 per team, and 2,667 per date, up 77 (2.9%), with 15 lost dates, and the same number of dates played as in **2022**. 8 teams had total attendance gains, led by Winnipeg (14,500), and Chicago (14,274). 8 teams were up in average per date, led by Kane County, up 503. One team had the same average per date as in 2022. Kansas City had the largest losses vs. **2022**, down an estimated 18,058 in total attendance and 288 in average per date. **Chicago had its best-ever total (206,258) and average per date (4,125). Lake Country (not county) and Milwaukee had average per date record-highs.**
- ) Kane County led the league in **2023** total attendance (261,836 – 2<sup>nd</sup> best U.S./Canadian independent total). **The Cougars had the best U.S./Canadian independent average per date (5,571), and the year's top crowd (10,181).**
- ) Comparing **2023 with 2019** for the league's 2023 teams, regardless of their 2019 league: Total attendance fell 116,056 (6.9%), and average per date dipped 394 (12.9%), with 37 more dates. The 11 teams that played in **2023 and in 2019** (excludes Lake Country) had a combined total decline of 207,895 (12.4%), and were down 321 (10.5%) in average per date. 3 teams had **2023 vs. 2019** gains in total attendance, led by Chicago, up 39,586, and 4 were up in average per date, led by Milwaukee (554). Kane County had the largest total loss (88,469), but they had 20 fewer dates than in **2019**, when they played in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League. Next biggest total decline was by Kansas City (an estimated 68,814), and the Monarchs also had the worst average per date drop (1,650).
- ) The 12-team American Association drew 1,775,249 in 2019, an average of 3,082 per date. Remove St. Paul's figures from the 2019 season, and the average per date was 2,619.

**Independent Leagues 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Frontier League** – 16 teams, including a road team, in **2023**. 8 of the teams played in the Frontier League in **2019**. 6 played in the Can-Am League, and joined the Frontier League in a merger. Tri-City (Troy, NY) came from the New York-Penn League. The road team will be replaced by the New England Knockouts (Brockton, MA) in 2024. 2023 attendance was estimated for New Jersey, since they did not report attendance for 10 dates. New Jersey's average per date for games with listed attendance was assigned to the 10 dates with unreported attendance figures.
- ) **2023 attendance was an estimated league record-high 1,637,559** for the 15 teams who had home games, with an average per team of 109,171, and an average per date of 2,213. 25 dates were lost, with 5 more played than in 2022. Total attendance was up 34,371 (2.1%) **vs. 2022**, and average per date rose 32 (1.5%). 9 teams had increases in total attendance and 8 were up in average per date. **Quebec had the best increase in total attendance, up 36,502, and drew a team record-high of 166,916.** Schaumburg had the top gain in average per date (470). Joliet had the league's top declines, down 23,087 in total attendance, and 453 in average per date. Evansville had a 449 average per date dip.
- ) Schaumburg had the league's best **2023** total attendance (230,023), and the top average per date (4,510). The total was 5<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date was 3<sup>rd</sup> best, among U.S./Canadian independent teams. The Boomers also had the league's biggest crowd of the year – 7,914.
- ) The **2023 vs. 2019** comparison shows that the 15 teams in the league had a combined 79,646 (5.1%) gain in total attendance, and a drop of 45 (2.0%) in average per date, with 50 more dates in **2023**. All **2023** teams played in professional leagues in **2019**. 8 of them had higher total attendance in **2023 vs. 2019**, and 4 were up in average per date. Schaumburg had the best **2023 vs. 2019** increases, up 73,640 in total attendance, and up 1,319 in average per date. Gateway (31,799), and New Jersey (estimated 31,191) had the worst total attendance declines **vs. 2019**, and Tri-City (Troy, NY) had the largest average per date decline (1,031).
- ) The 10-team **2019 Frontier League** drew 1,028,721, and averaged 2,266 per date. The 6-team **2019 Can-Am League** drew 565,936, and averaged 1,986 per date. **Combined total 2019** attendance for the 2 leagues was 1,594,657, with a 2,158 average per date. These leagues officially merged after the 2019 season.
- ) **Pioneer Baseball League** – 10 teams in 2022 and 2023, 12 in 2024. 7 of these teams played in the MLB-affiliated Rookie Class Pioneer League in 2019. Boise joined from the Short-A Northwest League in 2021. 2023 was the Pioneer League's 3<sup>rd</sup> season as an independent league. In **2022**, the league added teams in Kalispell, Montana (Glacier Range Riders), and Windsor, Colorado (Northern Colorado Owlz). However Northern Colorado's park was not ready for the 2022 or 2023 seasons, so the team played on various fields. They listed their attendance as 3,004 in 40 dates in 2022, and 27,581 in 43 dates in 2023. Northern Colorado's 2022 and 2023 attendance is excluded from the league's official attendance figures, and from this report's listed attendance totals and average per date.
- ) **The league played a 96-game schedule in 2023, and drew a league record-high total of 960,775**, averaging 2,310 per date. The total was up 37,412 (4.1%), and average per date rose 121 (5.6%), with 6 fewer dates than in 2022. 16 dates were lost. **The league averaged its record-high per team - 106,753.** 5 teams had gains in total attendance, and 6 teams were up in average per date.
- ) **Ogden drew 164,561, averaging 3,501 per date, to lead this league for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year.** Boise had its best total (162,561) since 1996, and averaged 3,466 per date. Rocky Mountain had the largest crowd (6,134). Glacier set new record-highs in total attendance and average per date, but it was only their 2<sup>nd</sup> season.
- ) Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs) had the league's largest total attendance increase, up 19,491. Best increases in average per date were by Glacier (363), Billings (353), and Rocky Mountain (325). Idaho Falls had the biggest total attendance decline, down 11,936 with 4 fewer dates. Grand Junction had the top average per date decline (120).
- ) The **pre-2021** league record-high was 802,682 in 1948, when this league played a full-season schedule. The **2019** Pioneer League had a 76-game schedule, and drew 721,268, averaging a league record-high 2,504 per date.
- ) Comparing **2023 vs. 2019**, for the teams playing in this league in 2023, the total was up 155,263 (19.3%), and the average per date fell 477 (17.1%), with 127 more dates. Excluding Glacier, which did not have a team in 2019, the total rose 54,602 (6.8%), but the average fell 450 (16.1%) with 79 more dates. 5 teams were up in total attendance, and 3 had average per date gains. Best total gain was by Boise, up 33,117. Missoula, up 214, had the best average per date increase. Rocky Mountain had the biggest losses, down 23,253 in total attendance, and 1,497 in average per date.

**Independent Leagues 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- J **Pecos Baseball League** – 16 teams in 2023. Blackwell OK, and Dublin, Lancaster, and Marysville, all in California, were added in 2023. Colorado Springs, Santa Rosa, Weimar, and a road team were dropped.
- J The Pecos League has now been in operation for 13 seasons, the longest tenure of any ‘small-market’ independent Minor League since the rebirth of independent leagues in 1993. Most of the league’s ballparks are tiny.
- J **The Pecos League was the only North American professional baseball league, on any level, to have higher attendance in 2021 than it did in 2019, playing a roughly similar-length or shorter, schedule.**
- J **2023 total attendance was a league record-high estimated 130,635, and average per date was a league record-high 324.** The total was up 13,764 (11.8%) vs. 2022, and average per date rose by 17 (5.5%). 22 more dates were played. 5 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 were up in average per date. Vallejo had the league’s best increase in total attendance (2,484), and in average per date (100). Martinez played 10 fewer home dates, resulting in a league-high total attendance decline of 10,028. Tucson, down 200, had the largest average per date dip.
- J The same teams that played home games in this league in both **2023 and 2022** had a combined total attendance decline of 23,035 (20.2%), and an average per date loss of 54 (16.0%), with 55 fewer dates.
- J **Lancaster, CA, in its only season in the league, drew an all-time league record-high total of 32,580, and a league record-shattering 1,810 average per date. The previous league record-high average was 631 by Garden City, KS in 2022. Lancaster’s average per date was higher than the reported average per date of 17 MLB-affiliated teams, and 17 teams from the larger-capacity independent leagues. Considering that the Pecos League does not include ‘no-shows’ in its reported attendance, and all other Minor leagues do include them, Lancaster almost certainly outdrew even more teams if only tickets sold and used are compared.**
- J **Bakersfield (as a Pecos League team), drew record-highs in total attendance and in average per date.**
- J Since Lancaster played in the MLB-affiliated California League in 2019, with 51 more home dates than in 2023, comparing Pecos League same team 2023 attendance with 2019, would lead to very distorted figures. In **2019**, the Pecos League, as it was then, drew 76,058, averaging 217 per date. Their **2023** total attendance is up 54,577 (71.8%) from 2019, and average per date is up 107 (49.3%), with 53 more dates in 2023 than in 2019.
- J The Pecos League is the only professional baseball league that does not include ‘no-shows’ (tickets sold but not used) in its attendance. So the number of tickets sold by this league is higher than its announced attendance.
- J In 2024, the league will add teams in Pecos, TX (Bills), and North Platte, NE (80’s). Lancaster CA, due to ballpark changes will not return, nor will Monterey and Santa Rosa. Austin will be a road team.
- J **Mavericks League** – 4 teams, all based in Keizer, Oregon. – League is counted as one team in this report.
- J The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes had played in the MLB-affiliated Northwest League in 2019. In 2021, they formed a 4-team independent league which played all of its games in their park in Keizer, OR. This is the same type of arrangement used by the United Shore Baseball League.
- J **2023 total attendance was estimated at 116,000, up 29,798 (34.6%), with an average per date of 1,172, up 274 (30.5%). These figures include playoff games, and were the highest in the league’s 3 seasons.** There were 3 more dates in 2023 than in 2022.
- J The league drew 86,202 in **2022**, averaging 898 per date. The total rose 5,837 (7.3%), and the average per date fell 48 (5.0%) vs. **2021**, with 11 more dates. Compared to what Salem-Keizer drew in **2019**, the **2023** total was up 35,167 (43.5%), and the average per date was down 955 (44.9%), with 61 more dates in 2023. In 2019, the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, playing 38 home dates in the Northwest League, drew 80,833, averaging 2,127 per date.
- J **Empire Baseball League** – 5 teams in **2023**, 4 located in upstate New York, plus Japan (a road team). A new team in Malone, NY was added in **2023**. This league has never provided any attendance data in its history, despite multiple requests. They had 61 dates in 2023, 65 in 2022, 75 in 2021, and 55 in 2019.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****Summer Collegiate Leagues Reported Attendance**

- ) 195 Collegiate Summer League teams listed attendance in **2023**, and they drew a total of 5,592,207, averaging 1,203 per date. As usual, the Northwoods League had the top total attendance (**a league, and likely all-time Summer Collegiate League, record-high 1,297,864**). The MLB Draft League had the highest average per date (2,669). Madison, WI led all teams in total attendance (228,692), and average per date (6,353). If Madison was in a pro Minor League, that average per date would have ranked as 15<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliated teams, and highest among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Trenton of the MLB Draft League finished second in total attendance (196,669) and average per date (5,463). Savannah continued to be very successful as an exhibition team, but no longer plays in any Collegiate Summer League.
- ) The 178 Collegiate Summer League teams with **2022** reported attendance drew 5,402,435, an average of 1,178 per date. The Northwoods League had the highest announced league total (1,160,821). The 6-team MLB-Draft League, made up of former MLB-affiliated pro Minor League teams, had the highest average per date (2,839). Madison, WI of the Northwoods League, had the **2022** top total (199,785), and the best average per date (5,550), among all Summer Collegiate teams. Trenton of the MLB-Draft League drew 195,610, averaging 5,016 per date. Savannah, which has a very unique and entertaining way of presenting its games, sold out every game as usual, averaging 4,256 per date.
- ) In **2021**, the 173 teams that reported attendance drew 3,981,808, an average of 959 per date. Frederick of the MLB Draft League had the top total (125,378), and average per date (4,179). In **2019**, 164 teams reported attendance and drew 3,998,646, an average of 1,003 per date. Madison (218,866 / 6,080 per date) was the leader.

**2023 SUMMER COLLEGIATE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN THE MINOR LEAGUES IN 2019**

26 teams that played in professional Minor Leagues in 2019 played in Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023. 6 of these teams have played in the MLB Draft League since 2021. The Appalachian League became an MLB-Partner Summer Collegiate League in 2021, and all its 2019 teams continued to play there in 2023. In 2019, 22 of these teams were in MLB-affiliated leagues, and 4 were independent league teams.

- ) **MLB Draft League** – 6 teams. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for this league. It is sort of a combination of Summer Collegiate League for the first part of the season, and pro Minor League in the latter part of the year. Frederick came from the Class A Carolina League, Trenton played in the Class AA Eastern League, and State College, Mahoning Valley OH, West Virginia (Morgantown), and Williamsport, had all been in the New York-Penn League in **2019**.
- ) In **2023**, the league drew 589,815, averaging 2,669 per date, with 19 lost dates. Total attendance fell 57,294 (8.9%), and average per date was down 169 (6.0%). 7 fewer dates played than in 2022. Top crowd was 8,440 in Frederick.
- ) 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams were up in average per date. West Virginia posted the best total attendance gain (5,004), and Trenton had the highest average per date increase (447). Frederick had the biggest declines, with total attendance down 62,422, and average per date down 1,857. Those big losses were caused, in great part, due to an Atlantic League team sharing Frederick's ballpark in 2023.
- ) Trenton led the league in **2023**, drawing 196,669, averaging 5,463 per date. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date figure among all Summer Collegiate teams. If Trenton were in an MLB-affiliated league, its 2023 average per date would have ranked 27<sup>th</sup> among the 120 teams there. If the Thunder were an independent pro team, their 2023 total would have been 15<sup>th</sup> best among the 82 teams, and 8<sup>th</sup> best among the 64 U.S./Canadian teams. Trenton would have had the 8<sup>th</sup> best average per date among all independent teams, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best among those teams in the U.S. and Canada.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the 6 MLB Draft League teams had a total attendance loss of 359,365 (37.9%), and an average per date decline of 873 (24.6%), with 47 fewer dates. All teams had lower total attendance in 2023 than in 2019. Frederick had the largest total declines (171,179 in total attendance and 1,827 in average per date), as expected, since they were in a full-season league in 2019, playing a much longer schedule. Trenton, also in a full-season league in 2019, had the league's only **2023 vs. 2019** average per date gain, up 221.
- ) Frederick had led the 30 MLB-affiliated High-A teams in attendance in 7 of 8 years from 2012 through 2019. Since 1991, they topped 300,000 in attendance in 16 seasons, and drew over 250,000 each year from 1990 through 2019.

**2023 SUMMER COLLEGIATE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN THE MINOR LEAGUES IN 2019**

- J **Appalachian League** – 10 teams, all of whom played in the Rookie class Appalachian League in 2019. All of the 2019 teams played in their same markets in 2021, 2022, and 2023, but all were given new team names.
- J **The league drew 360,226 in 2023, averaging a league record-high 1,707 per date, with 29 lost dates.** The former league record-high average per date was 1,404 in 1994. Total attendance was up 24,309 (7.2%) from 2022, despite a shorter schedule in 2023. Average per date rose by 410 (31.6%). There were 48 fewer dates played than in 2022, with 29 lost dates. 6 teams had gains in total attendance, with 8 up in average per date. Johnson City posted the largest increases, up 30,853 in total attendance, and up 1,549 in average per date. Pulaski had the biggest total attendance decrease (14,047), and Princeton had the top average per date decline (136).
- J **Johnson City led the league in total attendance, drawing a team record-high 87,719. Their record-high average per date of 3,655 may have been the highest average per date ever in this league's long history. It is certainly the highest average per date since at least 1991. Johnson City also had the largest crowd of the year – 5,261.**
- J **Also setting team record-highs in average per date in 2023 were: Bristol (1,351); Elizabethton (1,010); Greeneville, TN (2,263); Kingsport (2,093).**
- J The **2023** total attendance was down 50,963 (12.4%) **vs. 2019**, but average per date was up 453 (36.1%), with 117 fewer dates, as the league now has a shorter schedule. 6 teams had gains in total attendance **vs. 2019**, and 8 were up in average per date. Kingsport had the highest increases, up 14,403 in total attendance and up 1,197 in average per date. Johnson City had a 1,136 average per date gain. Pulaski suffered the worst declines, down 69,747 in total attendance, and down 1,368 in average per date.
- J In **2019**, Pulaski drew 95,897, with a 2,821 average per date. That was the highest total attendance for any team in this league since it began playing a short-season schedule in 1957.
- J Huntington, WV will replace Princeton in 2024, with a team named the Tri-State Coal Cats. This team will be run by Marshall University, and will share a ballpark with that school's baseball team.
- J **Other 2019 Professional Teams Now in Collegiate Summer Leagues** – 10 teams. Burlington, IA and Clinton went from the Midwest League to the Prospect League, as did O'Fallon from the Frontier League. Jackson, TN, formerly in the Southern League, and Marion, IL, formerly the Southern Illinois Miners of the Frontier League (now named the Thrillville Thrillabillies), joined the Prospect League in 2023. Auburn and Batavia of the New York-Penn League moved to the Perfect Game League. The Futures Collegiate League took Norwich and Burlington, VT from the New York Penn League, and New Britain from the Atlantic League.
- J No attendance was available from Auburn in 2023. The other 9 teams drew a combined announced 463,646 in **2023**, averaging 1,855 per date. **For the 7 teams with reported attendance in both 2023 and 2022**, total attendance was 353,627, up 10,977 (3.2%), and average per date rose 108 (6.4%), to 1,804, with 6 fewer dates. 4 teams had gains **vs. 2022** in total attendance and 5 were up average per date.
- J Clinton, IA had the top attendance in this group of teams drawing 80,904, with a 2,790 average per date.
- J Compared to **2019**, when these teams played much longer schedules in professional Minor Leagues, the **2023** total was down 326,365 (excluding Auburn). But the average per date rose by 84 (4.7%). The teams had a combined 196 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2019. Batavia had increases in both total attendance and average per date. Vermont, Clinton, and Thrillville posted gains in average per date.



## 2023 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	3,175,704	452	7,026	
Regular Season	70,747,365	2,416	29,283	
Wild Card Games	290,328	8	36,291	Tampa Bay, Minnesota Philadelphia, Milwaukee
Division Series	632,314	14	45,165	Baltimore, Texas, Houston, Minnesota, Atlanta, L.A. Dodgers, Philadelphia, Arizona
Championship Series	621,336	14	44,381	Texas, Houston Philadelphia, Arizona
World Series	230,388	5	46,078	Arizona, Texas
MLB Post-Season Total	1,774,366	41	43,277	
Futures Game	42,755	1		at Seattle
Home Run Derby	46,952	1		at Seattle
All-Star Game	47,159	1		at Seattle
Major League Total	75,834,301	2,912	26,042	
<u>MINOR LEAGUES</u>				
MLB Affiliated Regular Sea.	32,152,384	7,873	4,084	
MLB Affiliated Post-Season	227,582	70	3,251	
MLB Affiliated All-Star	0	0	0	None played
Independent Regular Sea.	10,160,535	3,680	2,761	
Independent Post-Season	807,397	125	6,459	
Independent All-Star	14,738	3	4,913	Mexican, Frontier, American Assoc.
Arizona Fall League	37,796	91	415	
Minor League Total	43,400,432	11,842	3,665	
Majors/Minors Total	119,234,733	14,754	8,082	

Post-season independent attendance is for Atlantic, Mexican, Frontier, and Pioneer Leagues, and the American Association.

Mexican League post-season games (included in Indys) drew 693,528 for 73 games, an average of 9,500.

Arizona Fall League Total Includes the Fall Stars Game and 2 playoff games, which drew a total of 4,081.

## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - By League and Classification - 2023 vs. 2022

	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>CHANGE</u> <u>2023 vs. 2022</u>		<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>		<u>CHANGE</u> <u>2023 vs. 2022</u>	
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u># Change</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u># Change</u>	<u>% Chg.</u>
<b>MLB AFFILIATED LEAGUES</b>								
International	8,609,245	8,491,388	117,857	1.4	6,063	5,905	158	2.7
Pacific Coast	4,235,381	4,150,002	85,379	2.1	5,762	5,654	108	1.9
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	12,641,390	203,236	1.6	5,960	5,820	140	2.4
Texas	3,016,072	2,854,085	161,987	5.7	4,468	4,266	202	4.7
Eastern	3,706,509	3,470,478	236,031	6.8	4,722	4,399	323	7.3
Southern	1,875,861	1,839,631	36,230	2.0	3,566	3,517	49	1.4
Double-A Total	8,598,442	8,164,194	434,248	5.3	4,330	4,121	209	5.1
Midwest	3,039,726	2,756,108	283,618	10.3	3,984	3,724	260	7.0
South Atlantic	2,370,155	2,242,589	127,566	5.7	3,181	2,978	203	6.8
Northwest	1,112,449	1,068,461	43,988	4.1	2,943	2,865	78	2.7
High-A Total	6,522,330	6,067,158	455,172	7.5	3,458	3,251	207	6.4
Carolina	2,378,278	2,314,460	63,818	2.8	3,171	3,041	130	4.3
Florida State	695,800	643,780	52,020	8.1	1,214	1,158	56	4.8
California	1,112,908	1,089,740	23,168	2.1	2,132	2,072	60	2.9
Single-A Total	4,186,986	4,047,980	139,006	3.4	2,269	2,196	73	3.3
All Full-Season-A	10,709,316	10,115,138	594,178	5.9	2,870	2,727	143	5.2
Full-Season MLB Affiliated Total	32,152,384	30,920,722	1,231,662	4.0	4,084	3,933	151	3.8
<b>MLB PARTNER AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</b>								
American Association	1,555,057	1,510,341	44,716	3.0	2,667	2,591	76	2.9
Atlantic	1,492,896	1,535,031	(42,135)	(2.7)	2,505	2,476	29	1.2
Frontier	1,637,559	1,603,188	34,371	2.1	2,213	2,181	32	1.5
Mexican	4,041,303	3,564,524	476,779	13.4	5,304	4,740	564	11.9
Pioneer	960,775	923,363	37,412	4.1	2,310	2,188	122	5.6
United Shore	226,310	251,100	(24,790)	(9.9)	2,794	3,100	(306)	(9.9)
Pecos Baseball	130,635	116,871	13,764	11.8	324	307	17	5.5
Mavericks	116,000	86,202	29,798	34.6	1,172	898	274	30.5
Empire	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A		
Independent Total *	10,160,535	9,590,620	569,915	5.9	2,761	2,613	148	5.7
All Minor Leagues Total	42,312,919	40,511,342	1,801,577	4.4	3,663	3,513	150	4.3

Attendance for the Empire Pro League was not available.

Attendance for 2 Kansas City Monarchs (American Association) and 10 New Jersey Jackals (Frontier) games was missing. The average per date for the other games of these teams was applied to the missing games.

Northern Colorado (Pioneer) drew 27,581 in 43 dates. The league is not counting this figure in their official total for 2023. They had to play in a temporary facility. Their total and average are not included in the Pioneer League figures in this table.

Sources: MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Minor League Baseball, Independent Leagues and their Websites

**COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW****Combined MLB-Affiliated and independent league attendance had gone up for 24 straight years – 1985-2008!**

MLB-affiliated attendance rose every year from 1985 through 1994. From 1995 through 2008, 3 years had small declines in MLB-affiliated attendance. But when attendance for independent leagues, the first of which began play in 1993, gets added to the affiliated figures for those years, the combined Minor League attendance shows an increase.

**2019** combined MLB-affiliated and independent attendance was the 14<sup>th</sup> highest ever.

**COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE REGULAR SEASON ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993**

1993 - 30,756,828	2001 - 44,812,314	2009 - 49,609,703	2017 - 48,052,202
1994 - 35,279,284	2002 - 45,049,213	2010 - 49,537,502	2018 - 46,367,880
1995 - 36,208,800	2003 - 45,627,906	2011 - 48,062,456	2019 - 47,194,590
1996 - 36,747,940	2004 - 46,446,200	2012 - 48,405,979	2021 - 28,136,361
1997 - 38,228,842	2005 - 48,857,969	2013 - 48,262,074	2022 - 40,511,342
1998 - 39,294,427	2006 - 49,268,793	2014 - 48,577,155	2023 - 42,312,919
1999 - 40,051,268	2007 - 51,298,733	2015 - 48,876,927	
2000 - 43,229,652	<b>2008 - 51,576,409</b>	2016 - 47,603,412	

The record-high combined MLB-affiliated Minor League and independent league regular season attendance was **51,576,409 in 2008**. Also in **2008**, the 176 MLB-affiliated Minor League teams that charged admission set their record-high of 43,263,740. The independent league record-high came in **2007**, when 9 leagues, with 67 teams that played home games, drew 8,485,921.

The overall number of Minor League teams has declined since 2019, even though the number of independent leagues teams has increased. The 2023 group of MLB-affiliated and independent league teams averaged a combined 3,663 per date. The 2019 group of MLB-affiliated and independent league teams averaged 3,718 per date.

**THE PHILLIES AND THE IRONPIGS ACHIEVED AN ATTENDANCE FIRST IN 2011!**

In 2011, the Triple-A Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Allentown, PA) led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance. Their parent team, the Philadelphia Phillies, was the Major League Baseball attendance leader.

That was the first time that a team led the Majors in attendance in the same season that one of its Minor League affiliates led all of the Minors in attendance. A team has led the American League, but not the Majors in attendance, in the same year that one of their affiliates had the best attendance in the Minor Leagues, in these 7 seasons: 1931 and 1932 Yankees (Newark, NJ); 1955 and 1956 Yankees (Denver); 1979 Yankees (Columbus, OH); 1980 Yankees (Class AA Nashville); 1999 Cleveland (Buffalo).

Two other Philadelphia affiliates led their leagues in attendance in 2011. Reading topped the Eastern League, and Clearwater led the Florida State League. The last time the Major League attendance leader had so many affiliates who led their leagues in attendance was in 1987. That year, the St. Louis Cardinals posted the best attendance in the Majors, and 4 of their farm teams topped their respective leagues.

In 2012, Philadelphia had the Majors' best attendance, and Lehigh Valley topped all U.S. Minor League teams. Phillies affiliates Clearwater (Florida State), and Lakewood (South Atlantic), also led their leagues. Reading, Clearwater, and Lakewood led their leagues in 2016, Reading and Clearwater were leaders in 2017, and Clearwater led the Florida State League in 2018 and 2019, and the Low-A Southeast 2021. Lehigh Valley and Reading just barely missed leading their leagues in 2019. In **2022**, Lehigh Valley had the top average per date among all Triple-A and Double-A teams. Clearwater led the Florida State League in total attendance and average per date.

In 2023, Lehigh Valley had the highest total attendance in the Minor Leagues, and the best average per date among MLB-affiliates. Clearwater again led the Florida State League. So the Phillies' Minor League affiliates continue to excel at the gate.

**TOTAL 2023 PRO BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT UP 8.9% vs. 2022, BUT WAS DOWN 2.4% vs. 2019**

**2023** regular season attendance for Major League Baseball was 70,747,365, highest since 2017, and up 6,190,707 (9.6%) from 64,556,658 in **2022**, and up 2,254,272 (3.3%) from **2019**. **This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest numerical increase (to 1946) in Major League history, excluding expansion years, and years where the previous season was a shorter season, and excluding 2022, which followed the unique 2021 season.**

**On a percentage basis, the 2023 gain in total attendance was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest, since 1946. Only 1946, 1966, 1954, 1959, and 1987, had higher percentage gains during this period. Again, this excludes the types of seasons noted above.**

Total **2023** Major League/Minor League attendance, including Spring Training, the MLB All-Star Game and Home Run Derby, playoffs, and the Arizona Fall League, was 119,234,733. This was up 9,729,837 (8.9%) vs. 109,504,896 in **2022**, but down 2,944,503 (2.4%) vs. 122,179,236 in **2019**. These figures include independent leagues. There were fewer Minor League teams operating in 2023 and 2022 than in 2019.

Total **2019** Major League/Minor League attendance, including Spring Training, All-Star Games, Playoffs, and the Arizona Fall League was 122,179,236, down 562,923 (0.5%) from 122,742,159 in **2018**. The all-time high is probably 136,466,114 in **2007**. That 2007 figure excludes the Major League Home Run Derby, and independent league playoffs.

Combined **2023** Major League/Minor League **regular season** attendance, including independent leagues, was 113,060,284, up 7,992,284 (7.6%) **vs. 2022**, but down 2,627,399 (2.3%) **vs. 2019**.

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 68,493,093 in **2019**, down 1.6% from **2018**. Combined Major League/Minor League **regular season** attendance in **2019** was 115,687,683. This was down 0.3% from 115,994,934 in **2018**. The all-time record-high combined Major/Minor League regular season total attendance is 130,801,908, set in **2007**. All these figures include independent minor leagues.

**2023 vs. 2022 MLB-AFFILIATED LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY CLASSIFICATION**

MLB-affiliated teams with the biggest **2023 vs 2022** total attendance gains in each classification were: Norfolk (among all Triple-A teams); Wichita (Double-A); Dayton (High-A); Delmarva (Single-A).

By classification, MLB-affiliated teams with the worst total attendance losses in **2023 vs. 2022** were: Charlotte (Triple-A); New Hampshire (Double-A); Vancouver (High-A); Fayetteville (Single-A).

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest total attendance gains and losses for **2023 vs. 2022** in both the MLB-affiliated and independent leagues can be found on page 68. A listing of teams with the biggest **2023 vs. 2022** gains and losses in average attendance per date is on page 79.

**MINOR LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE**

None of the MLB-affiliated leagues played an All-Star Game in **2023**. Among the independent leagues, the Frontier League All-Star Game in Windy City (Crestwood, IL drew 4,513, the American Association All-Star Game in Milwaukee drew 2,255, and the Mexican League All-Star Game in Tabasco drew 7,970. Total for these 3 games was 14,738, an average of 4,913 per game. No other Independent All-Star Games reported attendance.

In **2022**, the 3 independent league All-Star Games drew a total 16,391, an average of 5,464 per game. There were no Minor League All-Star Games in **2021**.

12 MLB-affiliated leagues played All-Star Games in **2019**, drawing a combined 81,906. Top All-Star crowd was 13,514 for the Mexican League at Mexico City. The Texas League at Tulsa drew 7,449. The Triple-A game at El Paso, which matched the International vs. the Pacific Coast Leagues, drew 9,706. The Eastern at Richmond drew 9,560. The Southern at Biloxi drew 4,209. Others were – California (San Bernadino-4,846), Carolina (Frederick-6,927), Florida State (Jupiter-5,380), Midwest (South Bend-7,464), South Atlantic (Charleston, WV-6,327), Northwest/Pioneer (Boise-3,873), New York-Penn (Staten Island-2,651). Independent leagues that recorded 2019 All-Star Game attendance were the Atlantic (York-6,773), American Association (St. Paul-7,565), and Can-Am/Frontier (Rockland-4,403).

**MAJOR LEAGUE AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TV MARKETS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA**

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,726,580 TV households, and 9 Minor league teams, in addition to the Mets and Yankees. The biggest TV market without a summer Minor League team that charges admission is Phoenix, which ranks #11, and has 2,138,870 households. Phoenix has the Diamondbacks, and is host to Major League Spring Training, and to the Arizona Fall League. It is also home to the Arizona Complex Rookie League, which does not charge admission to its games.

The biggest market with no Major League Baseball team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #16 (1,775,140 households). New Orleans, ranked #51, is the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2023. Great Falls, Montana (Market #191 - 65,790 households) in the now-independent Pioneer League, is the smallest 2023 Minor League market. Bowling Green, Kentucky, market rank #184, is the smallest market with an MLB-affiliated team. There are 210 U.S. TV markets.

Alaska, Wyoming, and Hawaii were the only U.S. states without a professional baseball team in 2019. Since then, Rhode Island (lost a team in Pawtucket), Vermont (now in the Summer Futures Collegiate League), and Louisiana (lost a team in New Orleans), have each lost their one and only Minor League teams. Baton Rouge, Louisiana is home to LSU Baseball, the team that posts the best college baseball attendance almost every year. Alaska has never had a professional team. Wyoming's last team played in Casper through 2011. Hawaii had a Pacific Coast League team from 1961 through 1987 that often drew quite well in the 1960's and 1970's, and last had an independent league team in 2012. SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen for 2023 Households estimates.

Toronto, which is the largest of Canada's 40 TV markets, and ranks #4 in size for combined U.S./Canadian TV markets, does not have a Minor League team, but of course does host the MLB Blue Jays. Minor League teams are in 4 of the 10 Canadian provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia). Vancouver (Rank #3 in Canada) is the biggest Canadian market with a Minor League team, and Trois Rivieres, Quebec (Rank #20 in Canada) is the smallest. SOURCE: Numeris

**POSTPONEMENTS – DUE TO WEATHER AND OTHER FACTORS**

*"Into each life some rain must fall"...*Henry Wadsworth Longfellow – Source: brainyquote.com

**2023 Lost Dates due to Weather**

- J Postponed games in the Minor Leagues are almost always made up as part of a single-admission doubleheader. Sometimes these postponed games are never made up. In both these cases, they are listed as 'lost dates.' Almost never in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and rarely in the independent leagues, are postponed games made up as part of a separate-admission doubleheader. There were many Covid postponements in 2021, but only a handful in 2022, and likely none in 2023.
- J There were 406 lost dates among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams in 2023, 2 fewer than in 2022. This was 4.90% of scheduled dates. Independent league teams from the American Association, and the Frontier, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Mexican Leagues, had a combined 134 lost dates (4.15%), 15 fewer than in 2022. The combined 11 MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 5 independent leagues noted, had a combined 540 lost dates in 2023, 17 fewer than in 2022.
- J Jupiter and Palm Beach (Florida State League) share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter. These two teams played some home games in 2021, 2022, and 2023 with no fans in the park. They will do that again in 2024. In this report, these games count as 'lost dates.' In 2023, Jupiter had 26 lost dates, and 8 were weather postponements. The rest were played without fans. Palm Beach had 28 lost dates, 5 of which were weather postponements. Due to construction at Roger Dean Stadium, many Jupiter and Palm Beach home games in the latter weeks of the 2023 season were played in West Palm Beach.
- J Eugene of the Northwest League played 6 home games at Tri-Cities (Pasco, WA) because the University of Oregon, who shares their park, was playing NCAA post-season games. Those 6 Eugene games are considered as lost dates.
- J Other MLB-affiliated teams with a high number of **2023** postponements include: New Hampshire and Lake County, OH (11 each), Syracuse (8), Buffalo and Jacksonville (7 each), Jersey Shore, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Carolina, Delmarva, Tampa (6 each). The independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues (Atlantic, Mexican, Frontier, Pioneer, and the American Association) with the most postponements were: Tabasco and Puebla (7 each); Aguascalientes (6), Campeche, Spire City-Frederick, MD, Lancaster, PA, Trois Rivieres (5 each).
- J Blessed with good weather and no **2023** postponements, were 15 teams from the MLB-affiliated leagues (El Paso, Sacramento, Midland, Wichita, Pensacola, Dayton (they had 10 postponements in 2022), Quad Cities, Hillsboro, Fresno, Tri-Cities WA, Modesto, San Jose, Rancho Cucamonga, Stockton, Visalia), and 11 independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues (Yucatan, Tijuana, Chicago, Cleburne, Sioux Falls SD, Florence KY, Schaumburg, Windy City, Quebec, Glacier, Grand Junction).
- J 14 MLB-affiliated teams, and 20 independent teams from the 5 best drawing leagues, had only one lost date each.

**In the Unusual 2021 Season, Postponements Were Due to More Than Rain, Snow, and Cold**

The early May, instead of early April, start to the **2021** Minor League season at least meant no postponements due to snow and cold weather. But in addition to the usual rainouts, games were postponed, cancelled, or relocated due to Covid-19 breakouts, a flooded ballpark in Somerset, and smoke from forest fires in the western part of the U.S.

For Jupiter and Palm Beach, local Covid-19 restrictions resulted in both teams playing many home games without fans in attendance. Including these games, and rainouts, Jupiter had 31 lost home dates, and Palm Beach had 29. Dunedin, also in Low-A Southeast (Florida State League), was forced to play 11 home dates in either Clearwater or Tampa, with no fans in attendance, because the Toronto Blue Jays were playing in Dunedin in April and May. Including rainouts, Dunedin had 19 lost dates.

Other MLB-affiliated teams with a high number of 2021 postponements include: Rocket City (Madison, AL) and Binghamton (12 each); Reading and Portland, ME (10 each); Chattanooga, Syracuse, Rome, and Clearwater (9 each); and Somerset (8). Among independent league teams, Tri-City (Troy, NY) had 9 postponements, while Kansas City, Lake Erie, and Sussex County, NJ each had 7.

16 teams were blessed with good weather and no 2021 postponements. They were Nashville, St. Paul, Las Vegas, Sacramento, Fresno, Kannapolis, Lake Elsinore, San Jose, and Visalia, from the MLB-affiliated leagues, and Veracruz, Fargo-Moorhead, Gary-Southshore, Boise, Florence, Joliet, and Province of Quebec (with few home dates) from independent leagues. 16 MLB-affiliated teams, and 14 independent teams, had only one lost date each in 2021.

**POSTPONEMENTS – DUE TO WEATHER AND OTHER FACTORS**

There were 56 fewer MLB-affiliated teams charging admission to games in **2023, 2022, and 2021** than in **2019**. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues are now independent leagues, and other 2019 MLB-affiliated teams have moved into full-season MLB-affiliated leagues, independent pro leagues, Collegiate Summer leagues, or are no longer in operation.

Despite playing shorter schedules in **2021**, MLB-affiliated teams still had 503 lost dates. This was 6.84% of scheduled dates. In **2019, these same 120 teams**, regardless of what city or league they played in that year, had 402 lost dates. Independent teams in the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, and Pioneer Leagues, plus the American Association had 164 lost dates in **2021**. This same teams had 127 lost dates in 2019. Overall, the MLB-affiliated and independent leagues had a combined 667 lost dates in **2021**. The same teams had a combined 529 lost dates in 2019. Low-A Southeast (named the Florida State League in all years except 2021), had 122 lost dates in 2021, which was 20.3% of scheduled dates. The lost dates include home games for Jupiter, Palm Beach, and Dunedin that were played, but with no fans allowed to attend.

**2019** MLB-affiliated leagues had 557 playing dates lost to weather in 2019, compared to 560 lost dates in 2018, 562 lost dates in 2017, and 463 lost dates in 2016. 3 fewer postponements occurred in 2019 than in 2018, but there were 94 more lost dates in 2019 than in 2016. 5.15% of scheduled MLB-affiliated dates were postponed in 2019, compared to 5.20% in 2018, 5.21% in 2017, and 4.28% in 2016. Among U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams, there were 516 postponements in 2019, 523 in 2018, 504 in 2017, but just 422 in 2016.

In **2019**, the Florida State League had 92 lost dates, which was 11.0% of all dates scheduled. This included the entire final weekend of the season due to Hurricane Dorian. The Midwest had 57 lost dates. The Carolina lost 56 dates, the Eastern had 53 lost dates, there were 47 lost dates in the Southern, 43 in the International, and 41 each in the Southern and Mexican Leagues.

In **2018**, the South Atlantic League lost 92 dates, the Florida State had 77, the Midwest suffered 59 lost dates, and the Eastern League had 54. In **2017**, the Florida State League had 74 lost dates, followed by the South Atlantic (60 lost dates), Eastern (59), Mexican (58), International (51), and Carolina (50) Leagues. In **2016**, only the Florida State League (57 lost dates), and the South Atlantic League (50) had at least 50 lost dates.

On the other hand, the Northwest League didn't have a single **2019** postponement. That league had a total of 2 rainouts combined in its last 3 seasons. The Appalachian and California Leagues, with 12, had the next fewest postponements, which was a high figure for the California League. The Texas and Pioneer Leagues lost 16 dates each.

**IN 2018, EARLY-SEASON WEATHER WAS AWFUL. IN 2019, IT WAS MUCH WARMER**

Among the 4 leading independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues), there were 73 lost dates in 2019, compared to 84 in 2018, 76 in 2017, and 79 in 2016. The American Association lost 22 dates, while the Atlantic League had 21, the Frontier League lost 17 dates, and the Can-Am League had 13 rainouts.

There were 13 MLB-affiliated teams in **2023** with at least 6 lost dates. 14 MLB-affiliated teams had at least 6 postponements in **2022**. 28 MLB-affiliated teams had at least 6 lost dates in **2021**. There were 27 MLB-affiliated teams with at least 6 lost dates in 2019. 33 teams suffered at least 6 lost dates in 2018, and 34 teams had 6+ lost dates in 2017. Only 15 teams lost at least that many dates in 2016.

23 MLB-affiliated teams, and 6 teams from the 4 leading independent leagues didn't have any postponements in 2019. 33 MLB-affiliated, and 9 independent teams only had one lost date each. In 2018, there were 34 MLB-affiliated teams, and 8 independent teams, without any postponements. 27 MLB-affiliated and 8 independent teams had just one. 29 MLB-affiliated, and 6 independent league (from the 4 leagues listed above) teams didn't have any rainouts in 2017, and 25 MLB-affiliated and 11 independent teams had just one. In 2016, 24 MLB-affiliated, and 9 independent teams were never rained out, and 37 MLB-affiliated teams, plus 6 independent teams had just one postponement.

13 MLB-affiliated teams, (Louisville, Tijuana, Las Vegas, Reno, Round Rock, Corpus Christi, and 7 of 8 teams in the Northwest League – excludes Tri-City WA), and 3 independent teams from the top 4 leagues (Quebec, Cleburne, Schaumburg), didn't have any lost dates in both 2019 and 2018.

The early part of the **2018** season had some of the worst Spring weather in years, and it really hurt Minor League Baseball attendance. There were 137 postponements in April **2019**, compared to 141 in April 2018, and 96 in 2017. 72 of the April 2019 postponements occurred on either Fridays, Saturdays, or Sundays, compared to 79 postponements on those days of the week in April 2018. The season had one more day of play in April 2019 than in April 2018, but had the same number of weekend days in both years.

The weather was much warmer in April 2019 than in April 2018 for the 120 MLB-affiliated U.S. Minor League teams that began play on April 4. In 2019, 14 April games (excluding second games of single-admission doubleheaders) began in temperatures in the 30's (67 games began in the 30's in April 2018). Temperatures were in the 40's at 100 of the April 2019 games (173 in 2018), in the 50's at 198 games in 2019 (247 in 2018), in the 60's at 361 games in 2019 (320 in 2018), in the 70's at 477 games in 2019 (351 in 2018), and at 80 degrees or above at 232 games in 2019 (161 in 2018). Overall, 114 games began in temperatures below 50 degrees in April 2019, compared to 240 games in April 2018. 709 April games began with temperatures of at least 70 degrees in 2019, compared to 512 games in 2018.

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. (Thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Manager of Communications of Major League Baseball for some of this weather data.) In April, 2018, 9.7% of originally scheduled dates for these 120 teams were postponed. 9.0% of scheduled games in April, 2019 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 in 2018.

There were 176 teams in MLB-affiliated leagues charging admission to their games in all but 2 seasons from 1999 through 2019. 175 teams played in 2007, and 174 played in 2011. The differing number of home dates played from season to season, as shown in the table on the next page, is almost always due to the varying number of dates rained out. There are few single-admission double-headers, other than games to make up for postponements, yearly scheduled.

But the rise and fall of the number of lost dates in a given year, on an overall Minor League basis, and in particular, on an individual team level, does not always reflect the influence of weather on attendance.

A team may have many rainouts in a given season. But if those rainouts take place on weeknights in April, and they have good weather for almost all other games, the effect on the season's total attendance is minimal.

On the other hand, a team may have very few or even no rained out games in a season, yet attendance could still be adversely affected by weather. Cold weather early in the season certainly cuts down on crowds. This was a huge factor in the Major and Minor League attendance decreases in 2018. Brutal summer heat also reduces attendance, and this did happen to quite a few teams during the very hot summer in 2012. Rain within a few hours of gametime, or a threatening weather forecast, often results in a sharp decline in day-of-game ticket sales. So cold, heat, and pre-game showers won't often postpone games, but it will cut down on attendance.



**2023 HAD ABOUT THE SAME NUMBER OF PLAYING DATES AS 2022**

The 120 MLB-affiliated teams had a combined 10 more dates in 2023 than in 2022. 48 teams had more dates in 2023, 49 had fewer, and 23 teams had the same number in both years. Independent teams had combined 10 more dates. 35 independent teams had more dates in 2023 than in 2022, 34 had fewer dates, and 9 teams had the same.

Among the MLB-affiliated leagues, the Midwest League had the biggest increase in the number of dates in **2023**, up 23. The International League had 18 fewer dates in 2023. By classification (30 teams in each group), Triple-A played 17 fewer dates, Double-A had 5 more, High-A had 20 more, and Single-A had 2 more dates in 2023. Among independent leagues, biggest changes were by the Pecos League (22 more dates in 2023), and the Atlantic League (24 fewer dates).

Due to the Minor League reorganization in 2021, comparing the number of 2023 and 2022 dates with prior years lacks context. 2019 had the fewest number of dates for 14 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated leagues since 2003. 2018 had the fewest number of dates since 2004 for all 15 MLB-affiliated leagues combined, including the Mexican League. The Mexican League added a combined 6 games for each team, from a 114-game schedule in 2018, to 120 games in 2019.

The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues went from MLB-affiliated leagues to being independent leagues in 2021.

**# OF HOME DATES FOR MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES THAT RECORDED ATTENDANCE**

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AFFILIATED LEAGUES</u>	<u>INDY – EXCL. MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>	<u>ALL INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
2023	7,872	2,917	3,680
2022	7,862	2,918	3,670
2021	6,814	2,476	2,988

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AFFILIATED LEAGUES</u>	<u>AFFIL. EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
2019	10,262	9,349	2,431
2018	10,215	9,353	2,540
2017	10,216	9,392	2,516
2016	10,350	9,502	2,498
2015	10,371	9,523	2,517
2014	10,347	9,500	2,399
2013	10,285	9,437	2,514
2012	10,405	9,556	2,643
2011	10,238	9,534	2,622
2010	10,379	9,591	2,840
2009	10,269	9,431	2,773
2008	10,364	9,532	2,889
2007	10,303	9,455	3,113
2006	10,305	9,472	2,599
2005	10,369	9,503	2,701
2004	10,067	9,378	2,186
2003	10,119	9,256	2,521
2002	10,354	9,486	2,384
2001	10,382	9,424	2,362
2000	10,296	9,376	2,255
1999	10,390	9,448	1,904
1998	10,325	9,368	1,821
1997	10,009	9,029	N/A
1996	9,944	9,026	N/A
1995	9,959	9,036	N/A
1994	9,915	8,971	N/A
1993	9,766	8,756	N/A
1992	9,654	8,610	None

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2024**

Mid-week day games have become very popular for many Minor League teams in recent years. They are used primarily to attract school and camp groups. Many of the games start early, so the kids can stay for the entire game.

The table on this page lists the number of Monday through Friday day games that each team listed on their original 2024 schedules. It excludes Opening Day and holidays. The '#' columns list the total number of games with a scheduled start of no later than 4:10 P.M. The 'A.M.' column is the number of games with a scheduled start earlier than 12 noon.

Games scheduled, but rained out are included here. But postponed games, rescheduled as weekday day games, or as early starting twi-night double-headers are not listed. This list will be updated as more teams announce game times.

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>			<u>EASTERN</u>			<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC</u>		
Buffalo	7	1	Akron	4	1	Aberdeen	1	0
Charlotte	3	2	Altoona	4	2	Asheville	2	2
Columbus	8	0	Binghamton	3	2	Bowling Green	4	3
Durham	3	2	Bowie	4	3	Brooklyn	6	2
Gwinnett	6	2	Erie	7	2	Greensboro	6	2
			Harrisburg	6	2	Greenville	1	0
Indianapolis	8	2						
Iowa	15	0	Hartford	0	0	Hickory	4	3
Jacksonville	4	1	New Hampshire	4	2	Hudson Valley	4	2
Lehigh Valley	4	3	Portland, ME	5	2	Jersey Shore	4	3
Louisville	5	3	Reading	4	3	Rome	4	2
			Richmond	3	1	Wilmington, DE	2	2
Memphis	9	3	Somerset	4	3	Winston-Salem	2	0
Nashville	0	0						
Norfolk	11	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	48	23	LEAGUE TOTAL	40	21
Omaha	6	1						
Rochester	8	3	<u>SOUTHERN</u>			<u>CAROLINA</u>		
			Biloxi	1	1	Augusta	2	2
St. Paul	6	2	Birmingham	3	3	Carolina	3	3
Syracuse	3	2	Chattanooga	1	1	Charleston	1	1
Scranton-Wilkes	3	2	Mississippi	3	2	Columbia	2	1
Toledo	5	3				Delmarva	3	3
Worcester	10	1	Montgomery	2	2	Down East	5	3
			Pensacola	2	2			
LEAGUE TOTAL	124	33	Rocket City	2	2	Fayetteville	3	3
			Tennessee	0	0	Fredericksburg	3	0
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	14	13	Kannapolis	4	3
Albuquerque	5	3				Lynchburg	0	0
El Paso	4	2	<u>MIDWEST</u>			Myrtle Beach	1	0
Las Vegas	0	0	Beloit	5	3	Salem	3	3
Oklahoma City	4	3	Cedar Rapids, IA	5	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	30	22
Reno	4	3	Dayton	0	0			
			Fort Wayne	1	0	<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>		
Round Rock	1	0	Great Lakes, MI	3	2	Bradenton	3	3
Sacramento	7	0	Lake County, OH	8	3	Clearwater	3	0
Salt Lake	5	1				Daytona	0	0
Sugar Land	2	2	Lansing	5	3	Dunedin	2	2
Tacoma	4	2	Peoria	6	3	Fort Myers	0	0
LEAGUE TOTAL	36	16	Quad Cities	0	0			
			South Bend	3	2	Jupiter	0	0
<u>TEXAS</u>			West Michigan	4	1	Lakeland	2	2
Amarillo	1	1	Wisconsin	10	0	Palm Beach	0	0
Arkansas	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	50	17	St. Lucie	9	2
Corpus Christi	1	1				Tampa	1	0
Frisco	3	2	<u>NORTHWEST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	20	9
Midland	2	2	Eugene	1	0			
			Everett	3	0			
N.W. Arkansas	3	2	Hillsboro	2	1			
San Antonio	1	1	Spokane	2	2			
Springfield, MO	3	3	Tri-City, WA	3	1			
Tulsa	6	1	Vancouver	11	0			
Wichita	3	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	22	4			
LEAGUE TOTAL	26	15						

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2024**

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>			<u>UNITED SHORE</u>			<u>2024 CLASSIFICATION TOTALS</u>		
Fresno	3	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	TRIPLE-A	160	49
Inland Empire	1	1				DOUBLE-A	88	51
Lake Elsinore	1	1	<u>PECOS</u>			HIGH-A	112	42
Modesto	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	0	SINGLE-A	70	44
Rancho Cucamon.	3	3	<u>EMPIRE</u>			MLB AFFILIATED	430	186
San Jose	8	2	LEAGUE TOAL			TOTAL		
Stockton	2	2				INDEPENDENTS	118	96
Visalia	2	1	<u>MAVERICKS</u>			MLB COLLEGIATE	5	3
LEAGUE TOTAL	20	13	LEAGUE TOAL			PARTNER LGS.		
						GRAND TOTAL	553	285
<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>			<u>MLB DRAFT</u>			<u>TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</u>		
Chicago			Frederick	2	1	2023	570	274
Cleburne	2	2	Mahoning Valley			2022	456	198
Fargo	4	1	State College			2021	167	30
Gary-Southshore	3	1	Trenton	2	1	2020 (Preliminary)	624	346
Kane County	4	4	West Virginia			2019	687	392
Kansas City, KS	2	2	Williamsport	0	0	2018	623	378
Lincoln	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	4	2	2017	642	379
Milwaukee	2	2						
Sioux City, IA	0	0	<u>APPALACHIAN</u>					
Sioux Falls, SD	5	2	Bluefield	0	0			
Winnipeg	3	2	Bristol	0	0			
Lake Country, WI	4	2	Burlington, NC	1	1			
LEAGUE TOTAL	31	20	Danville	0	0			
			Elizabethton	0	0			
<u>ATLANTIC</u>			Greeneville, TN	0	0			
Charleston, WV	4	4	Johnson City, TN	0	0			
Hagerstown	4	4	Kingsport, TN	0	0			
High Point	2	1	Tri-State					
Lancaster, PA	3	3	Pulaski	0	0			
Hagerstown	4	4	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	1			
Lexington, KY	5	2						
Long Island	1	1	<u>PIONEER</u>					
Southern Maryland	3	3	Billings	0	0			
Staten Island	6	6	Boise	0	0			
York	3	3	Glacier	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	35	31	Grand Junction					
			Great Falls, MT	0	0			
<u>FRONTIER</u>			Oakland	0	0			
Evansville	1	0	Yolo					
Florence	2	2	Idaho Falls					
Gateway	3	3	Missoula					
Joliet	4	4	Northern Colorado					
Lake Erie, OH	7	5	Ogden, UT	0	0			
New Jersey	6	6	Rocky Mountain	1	1			
New York	4	4	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	1			
New England								
Ottawa	2	2						
Quebec	0	0						
Schaumburg	5	2						
Sussex, NJ	2	2						
Tri-City, NY	3	3						
Trois Rivieres	0	0						
Washington, PA	2	2						
Windy City, IL	9	9						
LEAGUE TOTAL	50	44						

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2023**

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<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>			<u>EASTERN</u>			<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC</u>		
Buffalo	8	1	Akron	3	1	Aberdeen	0	0
Charlotte	4	2	Altoona	5	3	Asheville	2	2
Columbus	5	0	Binghamton	3	2	Bowling Green	4	3
Durham	2	2	Bowie	3	2	Brooklyn	4	2
Gwinnett	5	2	Erie	6	2	Greensboro	6	2
			Harrisburg	7	2	Greenville	1	0
Indianapolis	10	3				Hickory	4	3
Iowa	15	0	Hartford	0	0	Hudson Valley	3	3
Jacksonville	6	1	New Hampshire	4	2	Jersey Shore	4	3
Lehigh Valley	3	3	Portland, ME	5	2	Rome	2	2
Louisville	5	3	Reading	4	3	Wilmington, DE	2	2
			Richmond	3	1	Winston-Salem	3	0
Memphis	7	2	Somerset	4	3			
Nashville	0	0				LEAGUE TOTAL	35	22
Norfolk	12	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	47	23			
Omaha	9	1				<u>CAROLINA</u>		
Rochester	8	3	<u>SOUTHERN</u>			Augusta	2	2
			Biloxi	3	3	Carolina	3	3
St. Paul	5	2	Birmingham	2	2	Charleston	0	0
Syracuse	7	2	Chattanooga	1	1	Columbia	2	0
Scranton-Wilkes	2	2	Mississippi	2	1	Delmarva	3	3
Toledo	5	3				Down East	5	3
Worcester	5	0	Montgomery	2	2			
			Pensacola	2	2	Fayetteville	2	2
LEAGUE TOTAL	123	32	Rocket City	3	3	Fredericksburg	3	0
			Tennessee	0	0	Kannapolis	4	3
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	15	14	Lynchburg	0	0
Albuquerque	4	3				Myrtle Beach	0	0
El Paso	4	2	<u>MIDWEST</u>			Salem	2	2
Las Vegas	0	0	Beloit	2	2			
Oklahoma City	4	2	Cedar Rapids, IA	6	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	26	18
Reno	5	3	Dayton	0	0			
			Fort Wayne	1	0	<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>		
Round Rock	2	0	Great Lakes, MI	4	2	Bradenton	3	0
Sacramento	5	0	Lake County, OH	7	3	Clearwater	3	0
Salt Lake	5	1				Daytona	0	0
Sugar Land	3	3	Lansing	4	3	Dunedin	2	2
Tacoma	4	2	Peoria	3	3	Fort Myers	1	0
			Quad Cities	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	36	16	South Bend	3	2	Jupiter	2	1
			West Michigan	5	2	Lakeland	2	2
<u>TEXAS</u>			Wisconsin	8	0	Palm Beach	1	1
Amarillo	1	1				St. Lucie	2	2
Arkansas	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	43	17	Tampa	0	0
Corpus Christi	0	0						
Frisco	3	3	<u>NORTHWEST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	16	8
Midland	2	2	Eugene	1	0			
			Everett	5	1			
N.W. Arkansas	3	2	Hillsboro	4	1			
San Antonio	1	0	Spokane	2	2			
Springfield, MO	4	2	Tri-City, WA	2	0			
Tulsa	5	2	Vancouver	10	0			
Wichita	2	0						
			LEAGUE TOTAL	24	4			
LEAGUE TOTAL	24	14						

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2023**

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>			<u>UNITED SHORE</u>			<u>2023 CLASSIFICATION TOTALS</u>		
Fresno	3	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	TRIPLE-A	159	48
Inland Empire	3	1				DOUBLE-A	86	51
Lake Elsinore	2	2	<u>PECOS</u>			HIGH-A	102	43
Modesto	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	0	SINGLE-A	62	38
						MLB AFFILIATED	409	180
Rancho Cucamon.	2	2	<u>EMPIRE</u>			TOTAL		
San Jose	7	1	LEAGUE TOAL	37	1	INDEPENDENTS	154	90
Stockton	2	2				MLB COLLEGIATE	7	4
Visalia	1	1	<u>MAVERICKS</u>			PARTNER LGS.		
			LEAGUE TOAL	0	0	GRAND TOTAL	570	274
LEAGUE TOTAL	20	12				<u>TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</u>		
			<u>MLB DRAFT</u>			2022	456	198
<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>			Frederick	2	1	2021	167	30
Chicago	4	4	Mahoning Valley	0	0	2020 (Preliminary)	624	346
Cleburne	0	0	State College	1	0	2019	687	392
Fargo	4	1	Trenton	2	2	2018	623	378
Gary-Southshore	4	2	West Virginia	0	0	2017	642	379
Kane County	4	4	Williamsport	0	0			
Kansas City, KS	4	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	5	3			
Lincoln	2	2	<u>APPALACHIAN</u>					
Milwaukee	1	1	Bluefield	0	0			
Sioux City, IA	0	0	Bristol	0	0			
Sioux Falls, SD	2	0	Burlington, NC	1	1			
Winnipeg	2	2	Danville	0	0			
Lake Country, WI	2	2	Elizabethton	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	29	20						
			Greeneville, TN	0	0			
<u>ATLANTIC</u>			Johnson City, TN	0	0			
Charleston, WV	3	2	Kingsport, TN	0	0			
Gastonia	4	4	Princeton	1	0			
High Point	2	1	Pulaski	0	0			
Frederick	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	2	1			
Lancaster, PA	3	3						
			<u>PIONEER</u>					
Lexington, KY	5	1	Billings	0	0			
Long Island	1	1	Boise	0	0			
Southern Maryland	3	3	Glacier	0	0			
Staten Island	3	3	Grand Junction	0	0			
York	4	3	Great Falls, MT	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	30	23						
			Idaho Falls	0	0			
<u>FRONTIER</u>			Missoula	1	0			
Evansville	2	0	Northern Colorado	0	0			
Florence	0	0	Ogden, UT	0	0			
Gateway	2	2	Rocky Mountain	1	1			
Gateway	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	2	1			
Joliet	4	4						
Lake Erie, OH	6	5						
New Jersey	12	12						
New York	6	6						
Ottawa	2	2						
Quebec	0	0						
Schaumburg	6	2						
Sussex, NJ	2	2						
Tri-City, NY	2	2						
Trois Rivieres	3	0						
Washington, PA	1	1						
Windy City, IL	7	7						
LEAGUE TOTAL	55	45						

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2022**

Midweek day games returned to the Minor League schedules in larger numbers in 2022, though still below levels found in 2019.

The table on this page lists the number of Monday through Friday day games that each team listed on their original 2022 schedules. It excludes Opening Day and holidays. The '#' columns list the total number of games with a scheduled start of no later than 4:10 P.M. The 'A.M.' column is the number of games with a scheduled start earlier than 12 noon.

Games scheduled, but rained out are included here. But postponed games, rescheduled as weekday day games, or as early starting twi-night double-headers are not listed. This list will be updated as more teams announce game times.

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>			<u>EASTERN</u>			<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC</u>		
Buffalo	7	1	Akron	3	2	Aberdeen	0	0
Charlotte	4	3	Altoona	3	2	Asheville	0	0
Columbus	4	0	Binghamton	2	1	Bowling Green	5	3
Durham	1	1	Bowie	4	1	Brooklyn	3	0
Gwinnett	4	1	Erie	6	2	Greensboro	6	2
			Harrisburg	5	2	Greenville	1	0
Indianapolis	15	2						
Iowa	14	0	Hartford	0	0	Hickory	3	2
Jacksonville	5	1	New Hampshire	2	1	Hudson Valley	2	2
Lehigh Valley	1	1	Portland, ME	3	1	Jersey Shore	4	4
Louisville	3	2	Reading	3	3	Rome	3	2
			Richmond	3	1	Wilmington, DE	1	1
Memphis	7	3	Somerset	4	4	Winston-Salem	1	0
Nashville	1	0						
Norfolk	10	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	38	20	LEAGUE TOTAL	29	16
Omaha	4	2						
Rochester	11	3	<u>SOUTHERN</u>			<u>CAROLINA</u>		
			Biloxi	1	1	Augusta	1	1
St. Paul	5	1	Birmingham	2	2	Carolina	2	2
Syracuse	3	2	Chattanooga	1	0	Charleston	0	0
Scranton-Wilkes	2	2	Mississippi	2	1	Columbia	3	0
Toledo	5	2				Delmarva	2	2
Worcester	5	0	Montgomery	1	1	Down East	3	3
			Pensacola	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	111	27	Rocket City	1	1	Fayetteville	1	1
			Tennessee	0	0	Fredericksburg	2	1
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	8	6	Kannapolis	3	2
Albuquerque	3	2				Lynchburg	0	0
El Paso	3	2	<u>MIDWEST</u>			Myrtle Beach	0	0
Las Vegas	0	0	Beloit	1	1	Salem	3	2
Oklahoma City	4	1	Ceder Rapids, IA	4	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	20	14
Reno	5	3	Dayton	0	0			
			Fort Wayne	2	0	<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>		
Round Rock	3	0	Great Lakes, MI	2	2	Bradenton	6	0
Sacramento	6	0	Lake County, OH	4	3	Clearwater	5	0
Salt Lake	2	1				Daytona	0	0
Sugar Land	3	3	Lansing	5	3	Dunedin	1	1
Tacoma	4	2	Peoria	3	3	Fort Myers	3	1
LEAGUE TOTAL	33	14	Quad Cities	0	0			
			South Bend	2	2	Jupiter	1	0
<u>TEXAS</u>			West Michigan	5	2	Lakeland	0	0
Amarillo	2	2	Wisconsin	7	0	Palm Beach	0	0
Arkansas	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	35	16	St. Lucie	2	0
Corpus Christi	0	0				Tampa	0	0
Frisco	3	2	<u>NORTHWEST</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	18	2
Midland	2	2	Eugene	0	0			
			Everett	7	2			
N.W. Arkansas	2	2	Hillsboro	4	1			
San Antonio	0	0	Spokane	2	0			
Springfield, MO	2	2	Tri-City, WA	0	0			
Tulsa	4	2	Vancouver	11	0			
Wichita	2	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	24	3			
LEAGUE TOTAL	20	14						

**GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2022**

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>			<u>UNITED SHORE</u>			<u>2022 CLASSIFICATION TOTALS</u>		
Fresno	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	TRIPLE-A	144	41
Inland Empire	1	1				DOUBLE-A	66	40
Lake Elsinore	0	0	<u>PECOS</u>			HIGH-A	88	35
Modesto	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	LOW-A	55	25
						MLB AFFILIATED	353	141
Rancho Cucamon.	2	2	<u>EMPIRE</u>			TOTAL		
San Jose	7	0	LEAGUE TOAL			INDEPENDENTS	97	54
Stockton	2	2				MLB COLLEGIATE	6	3
Visalia	3	2	<u>MAVERICKS</u>			PARTNER LGS.		
LEAGUE TOTAL	17	9	LEAGUE TOAL	7	0	GRAND TOTAL	456	198
						<u>TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</u>		
<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>			<u>MLB DRAFT</u>			2021	167	30
Chicago	2	2	Frederick	2	0	2020 (Preliminary)	624	346
Cleburne	0	0	Mahoning Valley	0	0	2019	687	392
Fargo	4	0	State College	2	1	2018	623	378
Gary-Southshore	3	1	Trenton	1	1	2017	642	379
Kane County	4	4	West Virginia	0	0			
Kansas City, KS	1	1	Williamsport	0	0			
			LEAGUE TOTAL	5	2			
Lincoln	3	1						
Milwaukee	1	1	<u>APPALACHIAN</u>					
Sioux City, IA	0	0	Bluefield	0	0			
Sioux Falls, SD	2	0	Bristol	0	0			
Winnipeg	1	1	Burlington, NC	1	1			
Lake Country, WI	1	1	Danville	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	22	12	Elizabethton	0	0			
<u>ATLANTIC</u>			Greeneville, TN	0	0			
Charleston, WV	1	1	Johnson City, TN	0	0			
Gastonia	0	0	Kingsport, TN	0	0			
High Point	0	0	Princeton	0	0			
Kentucky	10	2	Pulaski	0	0			
Lancaster, PA	3	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	1			
Lexington, KY	10	2	<u>PIONEER</u>					
Long Island	1	1	Billings	0	0			
Southern Maryland	3	3	Boise	0	0			
Staten Island	0	0	Glacier	0	0			
York	4	4	Grand Junction	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	32	16	Great Falls, MT	0	0			
<u>FRONTIER</u>			Idaho Falls	0	0			
Evansville	2	0	Missoula	0	0			
Florence	0	0	Northern Colorado	4	0			
Gateway	2	2	Ogden, UT	0	0			
Joliet	4	4	Rocky Mountain	1	0			
Lake Erie, OH	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	5	0			
New Jersey	2	2						
New York	4	4						
Ottawa	1	0						
Quebec	0	0						
Schaumburg	5	3						
Sussex, NJ	0	0						
Tri-City, NY	2	2						
Trois Rivieres	1	1						
Washington, PA	0	0						
Windy City, IL	6	6						
LEAGUE TOTAL	31	26						

**MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE**

All leagues had playoffs in **2023**. The MLB-affiliated leagues drew 227,582 for 70 playoff dates, an average of 3,251 per date. The largest playoff crowd was 8,556 at Las Vegas for the Triple-A Championship Game. Largest crowd at a home playoff game was 8,120 in Norfolk.

While the Mexican League continued to play a shorter regular season than prior to **2021**, they had their usual playoff format, and those games drew very well. The 73 Mexican League playoff dates in 2023 drew 693,528, averaging 9,500 per date. 29 of these games drew over 10,000, with 3 of them topping 15,000. Mexico City had the largest crowd (20,062), and they averaged 16,457 for their 6 playoff dates.

The 125 independent league playoff games (from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association) drew 807,397, averaging 6,459 per date. The 4 U.S./Canadian Independent Leagues drew 113,869 in 52 dates, an average of 2,190 per date. Lancaster (4,956) had the largest crowd among this group of leagues. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent league **2023 playoff attendance** was 1,034,979 in 195 dates, averaging 5,308 per date. United Shore, Pecos, Mavericks, and Empire Leagues playoff data was not available.

There was more post-season play among the MLB-affiliated leagues in **2022**, as all leagues had playoffs. The MLB-affiliated leagues drew 194,438 for 66 playoff dates, an average of 2,946 per date. The largest playoff crowd was 9,159 at Fresno.

While the Mexican League played a shorter regular season than normal in **2022**, they had their usual playoff format, and those games drew very well. The 67 Mexican League playoff dates drew 762,112, averaging 11,375 per date. 37 of these games drew over 10,000, with 15 of them topping 20,000. Monterrey had the 3 largest crowds (all were 21,909). The 120 independent league playoff games (from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association) drew 871,321, averaging 7,261 per date. The 4 U.S./Canadian Independent Leagues drew 109,209 in 53 dates, an average of 2,061 per date. Southern Maryland (6,259) had the largest crowd among this group of leagues. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent league **2022 playoff attendance** was 1,065,759 in 186 dates, averaging 5,730 per date. United Shore, Pecos, Mavericks, and Empire Leagues playoff data was not available.

There was limited post-season play among the MLB-affiliated leagues in **2021**. No playoffs were held in the Triple-A leagues, while all of the other 9 leagues only had a best-of-5 championship series. The MLB-affiliated leagues drew 77,438 for 32 playoff dates, an average of 2,420 per date. The largest playoff crowd was 7,337 at Fresno.

While the Mexican League played a shorter **2021** regular season than normal, they had their usual playoff format. The 74 Mexican League playoff dates drew 412,739, averaging 5,578 per date. 36 of these games drew over 5,000. Just 6 playoff games in all other leagues drew at least 5,000. Tijuana had the largest crowd (17,687). The 111 independent league playoff games (from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association) drew 499,184, and averaged 4,497 per date. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent league playoff attendance was 576,622 in 143 dates, averaging 4,032 per date. Some independent leagues' playoff data was not available.

All MLB-affiliated and independent leagues, except for the Florida State League, had playoff games in **2019**. A hurricane caused the Florida State League to cancel its playoffs. The Mexican League had only one set of playoffs in 2019, unlike 2018, when they split their season, and had a full set of playoffs in June, and another set in September and October. This change resulted in 193 post-season games played by MLB-affiliated teams in 2019, down from 228 in 2018. The 2019 MLB-affiliated playoff games drew 902,103, averaging 4,674 per date. In 2018, the MLB-affiliated playoffs drew 1,168,446, an average of 5,125 per date. The difference was due to the extra 2018 Mexican League games.

The 43 Mexican League playoff games in **2019** drew 519,686, an average of 12,086 per game. Every game drew at least 5,000, 23 games attracted at least 10,000, and at 18 games, attendance topped 14,000, with a high of 18,965 for a game at Monterrey. The 6 games in Mexico City averaged 16,246 per game. 7 playoff games in Tijuana drew an average of 15,551, and the last 5 games in Yucatan all drew a sellout crowd of 14,917. During the 2019 regular season, the Mexican League drew a league record-high 5,058 per date.

In **2018**, the 41 Mexican League Spring playoff games drew 477,463, an average of 11,645 per game. The 42 Summer playoff games drew 345,112, averaging 8,219 per game. Overall, the 83 Mexican League playoff games in **2018** drew 822,575, an average of 9,910 per game. Attendance at 66 of these games surpassed 5,000, 30 topped 10,000, and 18 games drew better than 15,000. Monterrey drew 332,817 for 18 playoff games, averaging 18,490 per game. In the 2018 regular seasons, the Mexican League averaged 4,376 per date.



**MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE**

The 35 Mexican League playoff games in **2017** drew 418,401, an average of 11,954 per game. Attendance at every game topped 5,000, and at 20 games, it reached 10,000. Tijuana drew 130,165, an average of 16,271, for its 8 playoff games. Monterrey averaged 20,510 for its 5 games, with a high of 23,176.

In **2016**, the 37 Mexican League playoff games drew 469,242, averaging 12,682 per game. All but one game drew at least 5,000, and 27 games drew over 10,000, led by 25,896 for a game at Monterrey. All 19 semi-finals and finals games topped 11,000. The 8 playoff games in Tijuana drew 132,225, an average of 16,528 per game, while the 6 games in Monterrey had an average attendance of 18,958 per game.

The 49 Mexican League playoff games in **2015** drew a total of 466,129, an average of 9,513 per game. 43 of these games attracted at least 5,000, and attendance topped 10,000 at 15 games, with a high of 17,242 at Tijuana.

In **2014**, the Mexican League drew 335,945 for its 38 post-season games, an average of 8,841 per game. All but 5 of these games drew over 5,000. 11 games topped 10,000 in attendance, with a high of 24,999 at Mexico City. All 4 games in the final round topped 14,000. In the **2013** playoffs, there were 7 games in Monterrey, and they drew 131,980, an average of 18,854 per game. 4 of these games drew better than 20,000.

Year-to-year comparisons of Minor League post-season attendance serve little purpose since the number of games played, and the cities they're played in, can vary greatly from one year to the next. For example, the very high 2018, 2017, 2016 and 2013 playoff attendance in the Mexican League was due in large part to Monterrey going all the way to the finals in both playoff seasons in 2018, and in 2013, and to the semi-finals in 2016 and 2017. Their ballpark's capacity is over 21,000.

There are several reasons why, with the exception of the Mexican League, Minor League playoff games often don't draw well. Some leagues play split-seasons, with playoff teams for each half of the season, so at least one or two playoff teams are known well ahead of time. But there is often little time for advance ticket sales to these games.

Group ticket sales, and promotions and giveaways, which are major components of Minor League attendance, are difficult to plan on short notice. Mexican League Spring 2018 playoff games were in June (mostly in August prior to 2018, in September and early October in 2019, and in August and September in 2022 and 2023). But all other playoffs take place in September to early October, when school is open, and the NFL and college and high school football seasons have begun. Minor league teams often provide free playoff tickets to season ticketholders, or may have a 'Buy a ticket to the first playoff game, and get a free ticket to all other playoff games' promotion. Other teams allow fans who have leftover unused regular season tickets to trade them in for playoff tickets. So attendance listed for Minor League playoff games often includes a large number of free or exchanged tickets.

## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2023 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE - INDEPENDENT LEAGUES BY TEAM

League and Teams	Total Attendance	# Games	Avg./Game
<b>MEXICAN</b>			
Del Norte	13,132	2	6,566
Union Laguna	91,603	12	7,634
Mexico City	98,741	6	16,457
Veracruz	39,458	6	6,576
Yucatan	101,563	8	12,695
Tabasco	14,157	2	7,079
<b>Puebla</b>	108,760	12	9,063
Saltillo	28,609	3	9,536
Monterrey	85,121	7	12,160
Dos Laredos	44,489	8	5,561
Quintana Roo	20,792	3	6,931
Tijuana	47,103	4	11,776
<b>Total – Mexican League</b>	<b>693,528</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>9,500</b>
<b>ATLANTIC</b>			
Gastonia	12,412	5	2,482
Hi Point	5,860	3	1,953
Lancaster, PA	15,608	4	3,902
Long Island	4,499	1	4,479
<b>Total – Atlantic League</b>	<b>38,379</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,952</b>
<b>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</b>			
Chicago	14,240	6	2,373
Sioux Falls, SD	936	1	936
Cleburne, TX	586	1	586
Kane County, IL	1,714	2	857
Kansas City, KS	6,588	5	1,318
Fargo-Moorhead	1,296	1	1,296
Milwaukee	1,004	2	502
Sioux City, IA	953	2	477
<b>Total – American Association</b>	<b>27,317</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>1,366</b>
<b>FRONTIER</b>			
Evansville	12,409	4	3,102
Schaumburg	2,605	1	2,605
Sussex	N/A	0	0
Gateway	2,174	2	1,087
<b>Quebec</b>	14,632	4	3,658
New Jersey	N/A	0	0
<b>Total – Frontier League</b>	<b>31,820</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2,893</b>
<b>PIONEER</b>			
Rocky Mountain	3,120	1	3,120
Missoula	2,316	2	1,158
<b>Ogden</b>	6,089	3	2,030
Billings	4,828	2	2,414
<b>Total – Pioneer League</b>	<b>16,353</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,044</b>
<b>Grand Total – 5 Leagues</b>	<b>807,397</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6,459</b>

Playoff Attendance for the United Shore, Pecos, Mavericks, and Empire Leagues was not available.

## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2023 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE – MLB-AFFILIATED LEAGUES BY TEAM

League and Teams	Total Attendance	# Games	Avg./Game
<b>Norfolk – IL and Triple-A Champion</b>	21,844	3	7,281
Durham	0	0	0
<b>Oklahoma City – PCL Champion</b>	12,046	2	6,023
Round Rock	0	0	0
Triple-A Championship at Las Vegas	8,556	1	8,556
<b>TRIPLE-A TOTAL</b>	<b>42,446</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7,074</b>
<b>DOUBLE-A EASTERN</b>			
<b>Erie</b>	10,440	2	5,220
Binghamton, NY	9,958	2	4,979
Richmond	7,074	1	7,074
Somerset, NJ	6,205	1	6,205
<b>Total – Eastern League</b>	<b>33,677</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5,613</b>
<b>DOUBLE-A SOUTHERN</b>			
Montgomery	2,817	1	2,817
Pensacola	6,127	2	3,064
Chattanooga	2,352	1	2,352
<b>Tennessee</b>	6,747	2	3,374
<b>Total – Southern League</b>	<b>18,043</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3,007</b>
<b>DOUBLE-A TEXAS</b>			
Springfield, MO	2,798	1	2,798
Arkansas	10,976	3	3,659
<b>Amarillo</b>	13,960	3	4,653
San Antonio	5,748	2	2,874
<b>Total – Texas League</b>	<b>33,482</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3,720</b>
<b>DOUBLE-A TOTAL</b>	<b>85,202</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,057</b>
<b>HIGH-A SOUTH ATLANTIC</b>			
Jersey Shore (Lakewood)	2,183	1	2,183
Hudson Valley (Fishkill, NY)	9,087	3	3,029
Hickory	1,207	1	1,207
<b>Greenville, SC</b>	9,495	2	4,748
<b>Total – South Atlantic League</b>	<b>21,972</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3,139</b>
<b>HIGH-A MIDWEST</b>			
<b>Cedar Rapids</b>	7,674	4	1,919
Great Lakes (Midland, MI)	6,200	3	2,067
Fort Wayne	3,657	1	3,657
Peoria	1,252	1	1,252
<b>Total – Midwest League</b>	<b>18,783</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2,087</b>
<b>HIGH-A NORTHWEST</b>			
Everett	2,482	2	1,241
<b>Vancouver, BC</b>	12,826	2	6,413
<b>Total – Northwest League</b>	<b>15,308</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3,827</b>
<b>HIGH-A TOTAL</b>	<b>56,063</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,803</b>

## MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2023 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE – MLB-AFFILIATED LEAGUES BY TEAM

League and Teams	Total Attendance	# Games	Avg./Game
<b>SINGLE-A CAROLINA</b>			
<b>Charleston, SC</b>	9,927	2	4,964
Down East (Kinston, NC)	2,262	3	754
Carolina	1,815	1	1,815
Myrtle Beach	8,365	2	4,183
<b>Total – Carolina League</b>	<b>22,369</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,796</b>
<b>SINGLE-A FLORIDA STATE</b>			
<b>Jupiter</b>	437	2	219
Lakeland	673	1	673
Palm Beach	249	1	249
Clearwater	5,020	4	1,255
<b>Total – Florida State League</b>	<b>6,379</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>797</b>
<b>SINGLE-A CALIFORNIA</b>			
<b>Modesto</b>	5,311	2	2,656
Inland Empire (San Bernadino)	3,005	1	3,005
Rancho Cucamonga	5,296	3	1,765
San Jose	1,511	1	1,511
<b>Total – California League</b>	<b>15,123</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2,160</b>
<b>SINGLE-A TOTAL</b>	<b>43,871</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,907</b>
<b>MLB AFFILIATED LEAGUES TOTAL</b>	<b>227,582</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3,251</b>

League champions shown in bold

**MINOR LEAGUE 2023 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE BY LEAGUE, AVERAGE PER GAME, BIG AND SMALL CROWDS**

League	Total Attendance	# of Playoff Games	Average Attend. per Game	Crowds under 1,000	# of Crowds 5,000+	Largest Crowd	Site of Largest Crowd
<b>NAPBL-Affiliated</b>							
International	21,844	3	7,281	0	3	8,120	Norfolk
Pacific Coast	12,046	2	6,023	0	2	6,123	Oklahoma City
Triple-A Championship	8,556	1			1		Las Vegas
<b>Total – Triple-A</b>	<b>42,446</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7,074</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
Eastern	33,677	6	5,613	0	3	7,074	Richmond
Southern	18,043	6	3,007	0	0	3,382	Tennessee
Texas	33,482	9	3,720	0	2	5,403	Amarillo
<b>Total – Double-A</b>	<b>85,202</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4,057</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7,074</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
South Atlantic	21,972	7	3,139	0	1	5,102	Greenville, SC
Midwest	18,783	9	2,087	0	0	3,657	Fort Wayne
Northwest	15,308	4	3,827	0	2	6,413	Vancouver (2 games)
<b>Total – High-A</b>	<b>56,063</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,803</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6,413</b>	<b>Vancouver (2)</b>
Carolina	22,369	8	2,796	3	1	5,314	Charleston, SC
Florida State	6,379	8	797	5	0	1,753	Clearwater
California	15,123	7	2,160	0	0	3,573	Modesto
<b>Total – Single-A</b>	<b>43,871</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,907</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5,314</b>	<b>Charleston, SC</b>
<b>Total – Affiliated</b>	<b>227,582</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>3,251</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>8,556</b>	<b>Las Vegas</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>							
Mexican	693,528	73	9,500	0	70	20,062	Mexico City
Atlantic	38,379	13	2,952	0	0	4,956	Lancaster, PA
American Association	27,317	20	1,366	10	0	2,978	Chicago
Frontier	31,820	11	2,893	0	0	4,632	Evansville
Pioneer	16,353	8	2,044	1	0	3,184	Billings
<b>Total – Independent</b>	<b>807,397</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>6,459</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>20,062</b>	<b>Mexico City</b>
<b>Total – All Leagues</b>	<b>1,034,979</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>5,308</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>20,062</b>	<b>Mexico City</b>

29 Mexican League playoff games drew at least 10,000, and 3 games topped 15,000.

Sources: MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Minor League Baseball (Affiliated Leagues); Individual League Websites and MLB Stats Reporting Platform (Independent Leagues); Bob Wirz of Wirz & Associates, publisher of the Indybaseballchatter.com. Separate playoff attendance for Pecos, United Shore, Mavericks, and Empire Pro Leagues, was not available. Data for Frontier League games at New Jersey was not reported.

**MINOR LEAGUE 2022 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE BY LEAGUE, AVERAGE PER GAME, BIG AND SMALL CROWDS**

League	Total Attendance	# of Playoff Games	Average Attend. per Game	Crowds under 1,000	# of Crowds 5,000+	Largest Crowd	Site of Largest Crowd
<b>NAPBL-Affiliated</b>							
International	5,280	1					
Pacific Coast	6,542	1					
Triple-A Championship	6,497	1					All games played
<b>Total – Triple-A</b>	<b>18,319</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6,106</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6,542</b>	in Las Vegas
Eastern	35,828	7	5,118	0	2	9,159	Richmond
Southern	31,417	9	3,491	0	0	4,974	Tennessee
Texas	21,762	6	3,627	0	2	6,203	Frisco
<b>Total – Double-A</b>	<b>89,007</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4,046</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
South Atlantic	11,449	9	1,272	2	0	1,588	Aberdeen
Midwest	19,098	9	2,122	0	0	3,899	Great Lakes
Northwest	9,944	3	3,315	0	1	5,991	Vancouver
<b>Total – High-A</b>	<b>40,491</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>1,928</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5,991</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>
Carolina	21,949	7	3,136	1	1	6,092	Charleston, SC
Florida State	4,544	7	649	6	0	1,345	Fort Myers
California	20,128	6	3,355	0	1	5,718	Fresno
<b>Total – Single-A</b>	<b>46,621</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2,331</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6,092</b>	<b>Charleston, SC</b>
<b>Total – Affiliated</b>	<b>194,438</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>2,946</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9,159</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>							
Mexican	762,112	67	11,375	0	61	21,909	Monterrey (3 games)
Atlantic	38,621	13	2,971	0	2	6,259	Southern Maryland
American Association	26,980	21	1,285	7	0	3,046	Chicago
Frontier	33,499	11	3,045	0	0	4,428	Quebec
Pioneer	10,109	8	1,264	0	0	1,463	Ogden
<b>Total – Independent</b>	<b>871,321</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>7,261</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>21,909</b>	<b>Monterrey (3 games)</b>
<b>Total – All Leagues</b>	<b>1,065,759</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>5,730</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>21,909</b>	<b>Monterrey (3 games)</b>

37 Mexican League playoff games drew at least 10,000, and 15 games topped 15,000.

All Triple-A playoff games were played in Las Vegas.

Sources: MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Minor League Baseball (Affiliated Leagues); Individual League Websites and MLB Stats Reporting Platform (Independent Leagues); Bob Wirz of Wirz & Associates, publisher of the Indybaseballchatter.com. Separate playoff attendance for Pecos, United Shore, Mavericks, and Empire Pro Leagues, was not available.

**MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE****MINOR LEAGUE 2019 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE BY LEAGUE, AVERAGE PER GAME, BIG AND SMALL CROWDS**

League	Total Attendance	# of Playoff Games	Average Attend. per Game	Crowds under 1,000	# of Crowds 5,000+	Largest Crowd	Site of Largest Crowd
<b>MLB-Affiliated</b>							
AAA-International	50,871	10	5,087	0	4	10,100	Columbus, OH
AAA-Pacific Coast	55,095	13	4,238	0	4	8,187	Las Vegas
AAA Championship	9,123	1	9,123	0	1	9,123	At Memphis
<b>Total – Class AAA</b>	<b>115,089</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4,795</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10,100</b>	<b>Columbus, OH</b>
<b>Mexican – Total</b>	<b>519,686</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12,086</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>18,965</b>	<b>Monterrey</b>
AA-Eastern	32,953	11	2,996	0	0	4,812	Trenton
AA-Southern	27,588	14	1,971	0	0	3,906	Pensacola
AA-Texas	53,052	15	3,537	0	4	5,809	Amarillo
<b>Total – Class AA</b>	<b>113,593</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>2,840</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5,809</b>	<b>Amarillo</b>
High-A-California	18,008	11	1,637	1	0	3,117	Rancho Cucamonga
High-A-Carolina	29,128	13	2,241	1	0	4,558	Wilmington, DE
High-A-Florida State	Cancelled	0					
Low-A-Midwest	22,993	18	1,277	7	0	2,550	South Bend
Low-A-South Atlantic	28,434	8	3,554	0	1	6,323	Lexington, KY
<b>Total – Full Sea. A</b>	<b>98,563</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>1,971</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6,323</b>	<b>Lexington, KY</b>
Short-A-New York-Penn	15,808	9	1,756	1	0	2,499	Brooklyn
Short-A-Northwest	17,110	10	1,711	1	0	2,791	Spokane
Rookie-Appalachian	8,000	9	889	7	0	1,947	Pulaski
Rookie-Pioneer	14,254	8	1,782	2	0	3,485	Ogden
<b>Total – Short Season</b>	<b>55,172</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1,533</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>Ogden</b>
<b>Total – MLB-Affiliated</b>	<b>902,103</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>4,674</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>18,965</b>	<b>Monterrey, Mexico</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT</b>							
Atlantic	44,277	12	3,690	0	2	5,074	Sugar Land
Can-Am	11,337	11	1,031	7	0	1,989	Trois Rivieres
American Association	19,140	12	1,595	5	1	5,353	St. Paul
Frontier	15,706	11	1,428	2	0	2,235	Florence
United Shore	4,926	1	4,926	0	0	4,926	Utica, MI
Pacific Association	2,054	4	514	4	0	712	Sonoma
<b>Total – Independent</b>	<b>97,440</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>1,911</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5,074</b>	<b>Sugar Land</b>
<b>Total – All Leagues</b>	<b>999,093</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>4,095</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>18,965</b>	<b>Monterrey, Mexico</b>

Hurricane Dorian forced the cancellation of the Florida State League playoffs.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (Affiliated Leagues); Individual League Websites (Independent Leagues); Bob Wirz of Wirz & Associates, publisher of the Indybaseballchatter.com. Attendance for Pecos, and Empire Pro Leagues was not available.

Attendance from one Pacific Association game (at San Rafael), two Can-Am League games (at Rockland County, and New Jersey), and United Shore League semi-finals were missing.

**COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW****NUMBER OF MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2022**

In 2023, 90 of the 120 MLB-affiliated Minor League teams had increases in total attendance vs. 2022, and 91 of those teams had growth in average per date. It was the largest percentage of 'same market' teams showing attendance increases in decades (certainly since at least 1970, and probably ever). The significance of this achievement is that it was done with a smaller group of teams. All of this excludes 2022 vs. 2021.

The last time at least 90 teams had gains was in 2007, when 114 of 171 NAPBL 'same market' teams, including Mexican League teams, did it. That year 104 of 158 (65.8%) U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams (excludes the Mexican League) showed gains in total attendance. In 1991, 99 of the 148 (66.9%) U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams posted increases, the highest percentage of teams achieving gains between 1970 and 2019.

Since 1970, and excluding 2022 due to restricted capacity in 2021, the other seasons with at least 90 'same market' U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams with total attendance gains vs. the previous year were: 1993 – 90 of 140 teams (64.3%); 1991 – 99 of 148 teams (66.9%); 1990 – 96 of 148 teams (64.9%). In 1987, 66.7% (88 of 132) 'same market' teams achieved increases. The term 'same market' team only includes teams that played in the same market in the two seasons being compared. It does include teams that moved into a new ballpark in their same market.

Longer schedules and few Covid restrictions resulted in all but 2 teams (Wichita and Lake Elsinore) posting **2022 vs. 2021** total attendance increases. Tampa and Daytona, each with one less date than in 2021, were the only teams with fewer dates for 2022 vs. 2021. Vancouver is excluded since they played their 2021 home games in Hillsboro.

Due to the shorter schedule, fewer teams, and Covid-19 restrictions, only 3 of the 104 MLB-affiliated teams that played a full home schedule in **2021** in the same market as in **2019**, had higher total attendance in **2021 than in 2019**.

The table on the next page shows how many teams that played in the same market as in the previous year, had increases in attendance. It covers 1977 vs. 1976 through 2023 vs. 2022, plus 1970 vs. 1969.

The first 3 data columns cover all MLB-affiliated teams, including the Mexican League, which was affiliated with the NAPBL through 2019. But the Mexican League is excluded after 2019. That league became an independent league when play resumed in 2021. No independent teams are included in this table. The 3 columns on the right side of the table only include United States or Canadian MLB (NAPBL) affiliated teams

Mexican League attendance for 1981 is not available, so no comparisons can be made for 1982 vs. 1981, and 1981 vs. 1980 in the 'All Teams' columns.



**YEARLY NUMBER OF MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH**

# MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS IN **SAME MARKETS AS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR** -  
 SHOWING TOTAL ATTENDANCE GAIN/LOSS VS. PREVIOUS YEAR  
 “# of TEAMS” COLUMN INCLUDES MEXICAN AND PIONEER LEAGUES THROUGH 2019  
 ‘# of U.S./CANADIAN TEAMS EXCLUDES MEXICAN LEAGUE IN ALL SEASONS

Year	ALL MLB-AFFILIATED or NAPBL TEAMS				U.S./CANADIAN MLB-AFFILIATES ONLY		
	# Teams	# w. Gain	% w. Gain	# w. Loss	# Teams	# w. Gain	% w. Gain
2023	120	90	<b>75.0</b>	30	120	90	<b>75.0</b>
2022 v. 2021	119	117	98.3	2	119	117	98.3
2022 v. 2019	117	28	23.9	89	117	28	23.9
2019	174	83	47.7	91	158	69	43.7
2018	175	63	36.0	112	160	57	35.6
2017	170	82	48.2	88	156	76	48.7
2016	174	61	35.1	113	158	54	34.2
2015	174	81	46.6	93	158	75	47.5
2014	174	87	50.0	87	159	84	52.8
2013	174	85	48.9	89	158	77	48.7
2012	171	67	39.8	104	158	60	38.0
2011	173	87	50.3	86	159	74	46.5
2010	173	83	48.0	90	157	79	50.3
2009	171	57	33.3	<b>114</b>	156	54	34.6
2008	172	86	50.0	86	157	76	48.4
2007	171	<b>114</b>	66.7	57	158	<b>104</b>	65.8
2006	174	88	50.6	86	159	82	51.6
2005	170	98	57.6	71	154	88	57.1
2004	169	87	51.5	82	156	82	52.6
2003	169	58	34.3	111	154	51	33.1
2002	173	84	48.6	88	157	79	50.3
2001	169	86	50.9	83	153	79	51.6
2000	170	71	41.8	99	155	61	39.4
1999	169	64	37.9	105	154	59	38.3
1998	164	83	50.6	81	150	75	50.0
1997	169	78	46.2	91	153	71	46.4
1996	165	64	39.4	101	152	61	40.1
1995	166	63	38.0	103	151	61	40.4
1994	159	93	58.5	66	143	78	54.5
1993	155	102	65.8	53	140	90	64.3
1992	162	87	53.7	75	148	77	52.0
1991	162	99	61.1	63	148	99	66.9
1990	162	109	67.3	53	148	96	64.9
1989	154	89	57.8	65	141	84	59.6
1988	151	82	54.3	69	138	78	56.5
1987	146	100	68.5	46	132	88	66.7
1986	149	81	54.4	68	134	76	56.7
1985	146	79	54.1	67	132	76	57.6
1984	144	60	41.7	84	130	52	40.0
1983	141	75	53.2	66	127	68	53.5
1982	139				124	57	46.0
1981	133				117	74	63.2
1980	132	72	54.5	60	116	72	62.1
1979	132	79	59.8	53	116	73	62.9
1978	121	53	43.8	68	105	49	46.7
1977	114	70	61.4	44	99	60	60.6
1970	119	75	63.0	44	110	72	65.5

Lowell had no change vs. the previous year in 2002 and 2005, as they sold out all their games.

**COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW****NUMBER OF TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2022, PLUS PREVIOUS YEARS****MLB-Affiliated Teams - Average per Date Increases and Declines**

**2023 had one of the highest, if not the highest, percentage of MLB-affiliated teams posting increases in average per date. 91 of the 120 teams had a higher average per date in 2023 than in 2022. Every league had more teams with average per date increases than declines.** In the South Atlantic League, 11 of the 12 teams had gains, and the only team with a decline, Hudson Valley, was down by just 6.

For **2022 vs. 2021**, 111 teams were up in average per date, and 8 were down. This group of teams excludes Vancouver. All Triple-A teams had increases. The only teams with declines were Wichita, Birmingham, Montgomery, and Rocket City from Double-A, Quad Cities and Rome from High-A, and Palm Beach and Lake Elsinore from Single-A.

For **2023 vs. 2019**, 38 'same market' teams had average per date increases, and 79 teams were down. This group excludes Worcester (Pawtucket in 2019), Wichita (New Orleans in 2019), and Rocket City (Mobile in 2019). It does include Fredericksburg VA, who played at nearby Potomac in 2019.

Jacksonville, who played in the Double-A Southern League in 2019, was the only 2022 Triple-A team whose average per date was higher in **2022 than in 2019**. The other teams with **2022 vs. 2019** average per date gains were Portland ME, Somerset NJ, and Tennessee from Double-A, Beloit, Dayton, Lansing, Quad Cities, West Michigan, Wisconsin, Greenville SC, and Winston-Salem from High-A, and Augusta, Fredericksburg VA, Kannapolis, Myrtle Beach, Salem, and Dunedin from Single-A.

Kannapolis and Fredericksburg, who opened new parks in 2021, plus Quad Cities and Myrtle Beach, were the only MLB-affiliated teams to achieve increases in **2021 vs. 2019** average per date attendance.

The number of MLB-affiliated teams with gains in average per date rose sharply in **2019**. 82 teams posted gains for **2019 vs. 2018**, while 92 teams had declines. This group excludes Rocky Mountain and Amarillo.

In **2018**, 59 teams posted increases in average per date, and 116 teams had declines. There were 90 teams that achieved average per date gains in **2017**, while 80 teams had losses. In **2016**, 57 teams had increases, while 117 teams saw declines. In **2015**, 81 teams were up in average per date, while 93 were down, the same numbers as in **2014**.

In **2013**, 91 'same market' teams were up in average per date, while 83 had losses. In **2012**, 65 teams had increases in average attendance per date, and 106 posted declines.

There were 96 teams with gains in average per date in **2011**, and 77 had declines. In **2010**, 64 teams had increases, and 109 teams showed declines in average attendance per home date. It rose for 63 teams in **2009**, while 107 recorded a decline, and one had no change. In **2008**, average attendance per home date increased for 72 teams and fell for 100 teams. In **2007**, average per date was up for 110 teams, fell for 60, and one team had no change.

**COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW****NUMBER OF TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2022, PLUS PREVIOUS YEARS****Independent Teams - Total Attendance and Average per Date Increases and Declines**

In 2023, the Independent teams posted their best performance in many years in terms of how many of them had increases in total attendance and average per date. Of the 77 teams playing in the same market as in 2022, 46 teams were up in total attendance, and 31 were down. In average per date, 47 teams had increases, 29 had declines, and Lake Country of the American Association had the same average per date in both years.

71 independent teams played in the same market in 2022 as in 2021. The United Shore League (4 teams, all based in Utica, MI), and the Mavericks League (4 teams, all based in Keizer, OR) each count as one team. Excluded from this group are expansion teams Kentucky and Staten Island of the Atlantic League, Lake Country (not county) of the American Association, Glacier of the Pioneer League, and Austin, Santa Rosa, and Weimar from the Pecos League. Also excluded are Quebec and Trois Rivieres of the Frontier League, who had very limited home schedules in 2021, and Ottawa of the Frontier League, who did not play in 2021. 58 of these teams had increases in 2022 vs. 2021 total attendance, and 13 had declines. In average per date, 55 of these teams were up, 15 were down, and one team had the same average per date in both seasons.

70 independent teams played in the same market in 2023 as in 2019. The other 13 teams didn't play anywhere in 2019. 27 teams had gains in 2023 vs. 2019 total attendance, and 43 teams had declines. 25 of these teams were up in average per date, 44 were down, and Tucson of the Pecos League had the same average per date in both years. The Mexican League had a significantly shorter schedule in 2022 than in 2019. As a result, the 16 teams in the league in both seasons, played between 11 and 25 fewer dates in 2022 than in 2019, and 14 of them had declines in total attendance. Only Union Laguna, and Campeche, had increases.

There were 67 independent teams who played a full 2021 season in the same markets that they were in for the 2019 season. This includes teams that changed leagues for the 2021 season. 13 of these teams had higher total attendance in 2021 than in 2019. The Milwaukee Milkmen had the largest gain. But they started the 2019 season in Kokomo, IN, until their park in Wisconsin was ready. 5 Pioneer League teams (Great Falls, Missoula, Billings, Ogden, and Idaho Falls) were up, but this league played a longer season in 2021 than it did in 2019. 4 Pecos League teams (Santa Fe, Garden City, Alpine, Roswell) had total attendance increases, as did Sioux City, IA, Sussex County, NJ, and Schaumburg. 11 independent teams had 2021 vs. 2019 average per date gains, including Milwaukee, Schaumburg, Sioux City, and Great Falls. The other 7 teams were all in the Pecos League (Garden City, Santa Fe, Bakersfield, Alpine, Roswell, Trinidad, and Monterey, CA).

50 independent teams played in the same market in both 2019 and 2018. This includes the 4-team United Shore Baseball League counting as one team. All teams in that league played in Utica, MI. Total attendance rose for 18 of these teams, while 32 had declines. In average per date, 17 of these teams were up, 30 were down, and 3 had the same average per date as in 2018. 17 of these 50 teams played more dates in 2019 than in 2018, 25 teams had fewer dates, and 8 played the same number in both years.

There were 52 'same market' teams in the independent leagues in 2018. 22 of them had total attendance gains, and 30 suffered decreases. 19 of these teams were up in average per date, 32 were down, and one team had the same average as in 2017. In 2017, 22 'same market' independent teams posted total attendance increases, while 26 had declines. In average per date, 22 were up, 25 were down, and one team had the same average as in 2016.

46 independent league teams played in the same market in 2016 as in 2015. Just 14 of them had a total attendance increase, and 20 teams were up in average per date.

In 2015, 23 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2014, had increases in total attendance in 2015, while 22 were down. 15 of these independent teams posted gains in average per date. 14 independent teams had total increases in 2014, while 13 were up in average per date. In 2013, there were 15 'same market' independent teams with gains in total attendance. Average per date rose also for 15 teams.

In 2012, 20 independent teams had increase in total attendance, while 26 showed declines. 17 of those 46 teams had gains in average per date. Just 12 independent league teams had gains in total attendance in 2011, and 37 saw losses. Only 9 teams had increases in average per date. In 2010, 28 of 55 independent league teams had increases in total attendance, with 24 up in average per date. 16 of 55 teams had a total attendance gain in 2009, with 19 up in average per date.

**SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

As the table on Page 61 shows, the number of teams achieving increases in attendance from one year to the next tends to vary, often by wide margins. But because this variation is frequently caused by some very small increases or decreases in an individual team's yearly attendance, the year-to-year change in the number of teams posting gains or losses may be less significant than it seems.

In **2023**, total attendance increases of less than 5,000 were posted by 16 MLB-affiliated, and 12 independent teams. For one of the MLB-affiliated teams, and 2 independent teams, the gain was under 1,000. 11 MLB-affiliated and 9 independent teams had total attendance declines of less than 5,000, and for 3 of those MLB-affiliates, and one of those independent teams, the dip was under 1,000. In average per date, 4 MLB affiliates and 8 independents were up by less than 30 per date, while 7 MLB-affiliated teams, and 3 independent teams had declines of under 30.

On a percentage basis in **2023**, 40 MLB-affiliated teams **were up** less than 5.0% in total attendance, with 19 of them up less than 3.0%. 9 independent teams had total attendance gains of under 5.0%, with 5 of them up less than 3.0%. 19 MLB affiliates, and 5 independent teams **were down** less than 5.0%, and in that group of teams, 16 MLB affiliates and 3 independent teams had declines of less than 3.0%. In average per date, **up less than 5.0%** were 43 MLB-affiliated teams, and 14 independent teams, with 21 MLB-affiliates, and 7 independents, having gains of less than 3.0%. **Declining less than 5.0%** in average per date were 22 MLB-affiliated, and 5 independent teams. 19 of those MLB-affiliated teams, and 3 of the independent teams, were down under 3.0% in average per date.

Small changes were fewer than usual when comparing **2022 vs. 2021** attendance, since so many teams had large increases as a result of more games played, and no capacity restrictions in 2022. No MLB-affiliated team had a **total attendance gain** of less than 5,000. 10 independent teams did have total attendance increases of less than 5,000, with 4 of these teams up less than 1,000. Just one MLB-affiliated team, and 6 independent teams had **total attendance declines** of under 5,000, with that MLB-affiliated team, and 2 independent teams, down under 1,000. In **average per date**, 2 MLB-affiliated teams, and 4 independent teams, had increases of less than 30 per date. No MLB-affiliated teams, and 2 independent teams were down under 30 per date.

**On a percentage basis for 2022 vs. 2021**, one MLB-affiliated team and 3 independent teams had **total attendance** increases of less than 5%, with 2 of those independent teams up less than 3%. One MLB-affiliated team, and 4 independent teams, were down less than 5% in total attendance, and that MLB-affiliated team, plus 2 independent teams, were down less than 3%. **In average per date**, 10 MLB-affiliated teams and 2 independent teams had gains of less than 5%, with 3 of the MLB-affiliated teams, and the 2 independent teams up less than 3%. 2 MLB-affiliated teams, and 4 independent teams, had average per date declines of less than 5%, with one of the MLB-affiliated teams, and 2 of the independent teams, down less than 3%.

There were also few small numerical changes when comparing **2022 vs. 2019** attendance. 3 MLB-affiliated teams, and 10 independent teams had **total attendance increases** of less than 5,000. No MLB-affiliated team, and 3 independent teams, were up less than 1,000. 2 MLB-affiliated teams, and 5 independent teams, had **total attendance decreases** of less than 5,000, with one MLB-affiliated team, and one independent team, down less than 1,000. **In average per date**, 2 MLB-affiliated teams, and one independent team, had increases of less than 30 per date. 4 MLB-affiliated teams, and one independent team, were down less than 30 per date.

**On a percentage basis for 2022 vs. 2019**, 8 MLB-affiliated teams, and 4 independent teams, had **total attendance increases** of less than 5%, with 6 of the MLB-affiliated teams, and the 4 independent teams, up less than 3%. 9 MLB-affiliated teams, and 5 independent teams, had **total attendance declines** of less than 5%, with 2 of the MLB-affiliated teams, and the 5 independent teams, posting declines of less than 3%. **In average per date**, 10 MLB-affiliated teams, and 3 independent teams, had **increases** of less than 5%, with 8 of those MLB-affiliated teams, and one independent team, up less than 3%. 15 MLB-affiliated teams, and 4 independent teams, had **average per date declines** of less than 5%, with 8 of the MLB-affiliated teams, and 3 of the independent teams, down less than 3%.

For what it's worth, due to the unique situation of **2021 vs. 2019**, besides the 3 MLB-affiliated teams that had increases, just one team, St. Paul, had a decline of less than 23,000. The Saints played 65 dates in 2021, compared to 49 dates in 2019, when they were in the American Association. 13 independent teams were up in total attendance vs. 2019, with 4 up less than 1,000. 7 independent teams had total declines of less than 5,000. But 5 of these teams were in the Pecos League, and drew season totals of less than 10,000. Also in this group were Boise, which played a longer schedule than in 2019, and Mavericks League attendance for the entire league (all games in Keiser, OR) was compared to Salem-Keiser of the MLB-affiliated short-season Northwest League in 2019.

**SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

In **2019**, total attendance was up less than 5,000 for 8 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 13 short-season teams, and 9 independent teams. One full-season, 4 short-season, and 5 independent teams, had gains of less than 1,000. 10 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 11 short-season MLB-affiliated, and 12 independent teams, had total declines of under 5,000. For 2 full-season, 4 short-season, and 4 independent teams, the loss was less than 1,000. In average per date, 9 full-season, one short-season, and 2 independent teams, were up less than 30 per game. 3 independent teams had the same average per date in 2019 as in 2018. On the down side in average, 3 full-season, 3 short-season, and 8 independent clubs, were down less than 30 per date.

On a percentage basis, in **2019** total attendance, 38 MLB-affiliated teams had a gain of 5% or less, and for 19 of these teams, the gain was 3% or less. 42 affiliated teams posted total attendance declines of 5% or less, and for 26 of them, the loss was 3% or less. In average per date, 48 affiliated teams were up 5% or less, with 32 of them up by no more than 3%. 49 teams had average per date declines of 5% or less, with 29 of these teams down 3% or less.

**2018** total attendance rose less than 5,000 for 16 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 18 short-season affiliated teams, and 9 independent teams in 2018. The gain was under 1,000 for 6 of these full-season, 4 short-season, and 5 independent teams. Total 2018 attendance fell less than 5,000 for 18 full-season affiliated teams, 10 short-season affiliated teams, and for 9 independent league teams. In average per date, 11 full-season affiliated teams had gains of less than 30, as did 5 short-season teams, and 2 independent league teams. Losses of less than 30 per date were posted by 9 full-season teams, 4 short-season teams, and 4 independent teams.

In **2017**, total attendance gains were less than 5,000 for 19 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 10 short-season teams, and 9 independent teams. Within this group, 7 full-season, 3 short-season, and 3 independent teams had gains of under 1,000. Total attendance losses were under 5,000 for 20 full-season, 12 short-season, and 10 independent teams. One full-season, 2 short-season, and 2 independent teams were down less than 1,000. 2017 average per date was up less than 30 for 9 full-season, one short-season, and 5 independent teams. One independent team had the exact same average. 7 full-season, 3 short-season, and 3 independent teams had declines of less than 30 per date.

In **2016**, total attendance rose less than 5,000 for 12 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 13 short-season affiliated teams, and for 6 independent teams. Gains were under 1,000 for 5 of these full-season, 4 short-season, and 2 independent teams. Total fell less than 5,000 for 13 full-season affiliated teams, 13 short-season affiliated teams, and 12 independent teams. Among this group, losses were under 1,000 for 2 full-season teams, one short-season team, and one independent team. 2016 average per date rose by less than 30 for 7 full-season, 4 short-season, and 4 independent teams. Average per date fell by under 30 for 8 full-season, 3 short-season, and 3 independent league teams.

In **2015**, 20 full-season MLB-affiliated teams, 11 short-season affiliated teams, and 13 independent league teams had total attendance increases of less than 5,000 vs. 2014. Among these teams, 3 full-season, 3 short-season, and 5 independent teams were up less than 1,000. On the down side, 21 full-season, 10 short-season, and 8 independent teams had declines of less than 5,000. In this group, 7 full-season, one short-season, and 3 independent teams were down less than 1,000. In average attendance per date in 2015, there were 14 affiliated teams, and 3 independent teams with gains of less than 30. 8 affiliated and 2 independent teams had declines that were below 30 per date.

In **2014**, there were 41 teams (22 full-season MLB-affiliated, 11 short-season affiliated, 8 independent) with total attendance increases of less than 5,000. The gain was under 1,000 for 5 of these full-season teams, 3 short-season teams, and 3 independent teams. 42 teams (21 full-season affiliated, 11 short-season affiliated, and 10 independent teams), had declines of less than 5,000. The decline was under 1,000 for one of these full-season and 3 short-season affiliated teams, and for 4 of these independent teams.

In **2013**, 16 full-season and 14 short-season MLB-affiliated teams, along with 3 independent teams, had total attendance increases of less than 5,000 vs. 2012. For 3 full-season and 5 short-season teams, the gains were less than 1,000. 13 full-season, 12 short-season, and 7 independent teams has declines of less than 5,000. 3 full-season teams and one short-season team saw losses of less than 1,000.

**SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

In **2012**, there were 34 teams (16 full-season and 11 short-season MLB-affiliated teams, plus 7 independent teams) who had gains of less than 5,000 vs. 2011. 8 of these teams were up less than 1,000. 42 teams posted losses of less than 5,000 (17 full-season, 17 short-season, and 8 independent teams). 10 teams were down less than 1,000.

In **2011**, 18 full-season and 14 short-season MLB-affiliated teams, and 5 independent teams had gains of less than 5,000 vs. 2010. 13 teams were up less than 1,000. 12 full-season affiliated, 10 short-season affiliated, and 7 independent teams saw attendance fall less than 5,000 from 2010, with 3 of those teams down less than 1,000.

In **2010**, 42 teams overall (38 MLB-affiliated, 4 independent) had gains of under 5,000, with 16 teams (15 affiliated) up less than 1,000 from 2009. There were 30 teams (27 affiliated, 3 independent) whose attendance fell less than 5,000, with 5 teams (all affiliated) down less than 1,000.

In **2009**, 23 MLB-affiliated teams and 4 independent teams had increases of less than 5,000, with 6 of the affiliated and 2 of the independent teams up less than 1,000. There were 24 affiliated and 5 independent teams with declines of less than 5,000. The decline was less than 1,000 for 4 of the affiliated teams, and one independent team.

In **2008**, there were 25 MLB-affiliated teams, and 3 independent teams with gains of less than 5,000. 8 affiliated teams and 3 independent teams had gains of less than 1,000. 24 affiliated teams and 8 independent teams had losses of less than 5,000, with 7 affiliated teams and one independent team down less than 1,000.

**BIG CROWDS**

There was a significant increase in the number of dates that attracted at least 10,000 fans in **2023**. This figure is still well below the number of dates attracting such large crowds in years prior to 2020. 225 regular season dates (133 in MLB-affiliated leagues, plus 92 in the Mexican League, and one in the American Association) drew at least 10,000. Buffalo had the top crowd (15,851) among the MLB-affiliates, while Mexico City had the biggest crowd (18,842) among all teams. Kane County had the only 10,000+ crowd among U.S./Canadian independent teams. 30 MLB-affiliated, and 6 independent teams drew at least one crowd of better than 10,000. The International League had 97 crowds above 10,000, the Pacific Coast League had 27, and the Mexican League had 91.

Yucatan (25), Mexico City (24), and Tijuana (20), had the highest number of 10,000+ crowds. Among the MLB-affiliates, Indianapolis (16), Nashville (15), Lehigh Valley (14), Columbus (13), and Buffalo (10), drew the most crowds above 10,000. Frisco and Fresno, with 2 each, and Wichita, Altoona, Lansing, Jersey Shore, and Winston-Salem, each with one, were the teams below Triple-A that drew at least one 10,000+ crowd. In post-season play, the Mexican League had 29 games with attendance of at least 10,000, led by a crowd of 20,062 at Mexico City.

144 regular season dates (90 in MLB-affiliated leagues, and 54 in the Mexican League) drew at least 10,000 in **2022**. The largest MLB-affiliated crowds were 15,619 at Albuquerque, and 15,490 at Buffalo. Tijuana, of the now-independent Mexican League, had the top regular season crowd overall (17,986). In addition, 37 Mexican League playoff games attracted at least 10,000, with top crowds of 21,909 at 3 games in Monterrey. The MLB-affiliated playoff high was 9,159 at Richmond. Top regular season crowd for the U.S./Canadian independent leagues was 9,421 at Kane County.

In **2022**, the International League had 71 dates which drew at least 10,000, the Mexican League had 54, and the Pacific Coast League had 16. Fresno (2), and Lansing (1), had the only 10,000+ crowds below the Triple-A level. Leading individual teams in 10,000+ crowds were Tijuana (22), Nashville and Yucatan (13 each), Indianapolis (11), Columbus and Monterrey (10 apiece), Lehigh Valley (9), Buffalo (8), and Mexico City and Albuquerque (6 each).

As could be expected, far fewer games drew big crowds in **2021**, in part due to capacity restrictions. Just 34 dates in the MLB-affiliated leagues had attendance of at least 10,000. Nashville had the most dates above 10,000 with 9, followed by Columbus, who had 5. Lansing and Fresno, with one date each, were the only affiliated teams below Triple-A to have a crowd of at least 10,000. In the now independent Mexican League, Tijuana topped 10,000 at 4 dates. The largest MLB-affiliated and U.S. crowd of 2021 was 13,035 in Albuquerque. Tijuana had the largest overall regular season crowd (15,240), and playoff crowd (17,687) in all of Minor League Baseball.

MLB-affiliated games drew 382 crowds of at least 10,000 in **2019**. The International League had 150 of them, there were 140 in the Pacific Coast League, and 79 in the Mexican League. Tijuana of the Mexican League drew 34 crowds of at least 10,000, the most of any team. Indianapolis had 26, Columbus, Las Vegas, and Nashville each had 23, Monterrey and Lehigh Valley had 22, and Round Rock had 21. Overall, 34 teams drew at least one crowd of 10,000.

Very few parks in the other leagues can accommodate such large crowds. In Double-A, Frisco had 9 crowds of 10,000+, while Jacksonville had one. Among Class A teams, Clearwater, Lansing, and Lakewood each had one.

The largest crowd of **2019** was 20,533 in Monterrey, Mexico. Top attendance in Triple-A was 16,409 in Buffalo. Frisco's 12,023 was the best in Double-A. Lansing had the biggest full-season Class A crowd (10,824), and Brooklyn drew 8,031 for the top single-game high in short-season A. Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs) had a crowd of 7,048, which was the best in the Rookie Leagues. A crowd of 8,025 was the highest in the independent Atlantic League. St. Paul of the American Association had a crowd of 10,631, the best of any independent team in 2019.

In **2018**, there were 344 dates in the MLB-affiliated leagues, including 59 in the Mexican League, that drew at least 10,000. 409 dates from the MLB-affiliated leagues, including the Mexican League, topped 10,000 in **2017**. There were 370 dates that reached 10,000 in **2016**, in the MLB-affiliated leagues, including 77 in the Mexican League.

SOURCE: MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Office of Minor League Baseball

**TEAMS WITH THE BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

The table on the next page separately lists the 10 MLB-affiliated and the 5 independent 'same market' teams with the biggest **total attendance** gains and losses for **2023 vs. 2022**. Note that New Hampshire, which had the biggest total attendance decline in 2023, played 7 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022. Dayton, with the 2<sup>nd</sup> best gain, played 10 more dates in 2023 than in 2022, yet still sold out every game in both of those seasons. Wichita had the largest 2023 vs. 2022 increase after having the largest 2022 vs. 2021 decline.

**2023 vs. 2022 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – ‘SAME MARKET’ TEAMS****10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2023 vs. 2022 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2023 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u>
Wichita, KS	Texas	322,637	102,109
Dayton	Midwest	520,433	76,087
Binghamton, NY	Eastern	206,911	60,232
Bowie	Eastern	234,527	59,990
Norfolk	International	411,429	46,137
Wilmington, DE	South Atlantic	156,200	37,446
Corpus Christi	Texas	294,986	36,995
Reno	Pacific Coast	372,926	36,847
Fort Wayne	Midwest	340,038	36,358
Buffalo	International	487,205	35,346

) Recent top gains were by Rochester (2022), Las Vegas (2019) Augusta GA (2018), Tijuana (2017), Monterrey (2016, 2012), Yucatan (2015), Charlotte (2014), and Birmingham (2013)

**10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2023 vs. 2022 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2023 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u>
New Hampshire	Eastern	236,809	(45,705)
Charlotte	International	498,816	(32,649)
Fayetteville, NC	Carolina	187,195	(27,275)
Louisville	International	396,840	(27,195)
Amarillo	Texas	355,440	(23,589)
Vancouver	Northwest	297,437	(15,819)
Greenville, SC	South Atlantic	303,328	(13,822)
Birmingham	Southern	253,232	(13,689)
St. Paul	International	460,918	(12,993)
Rocket City (Madison, AL)	Southern	314,306	(12,701)

) Recent top declines were by Wichita (2022), New Orleans (2019 and 2018), Puebla (2017), Carmen (2016), Monterrey (2015), Memphis (2014), Saltillo (2013), and Mexico City (2012).

**5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2023 vs. 2022 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2023 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u>
Mexico City	Mexican	451,884	207,039
Tabasco	Mexican	188,208	106,552
Yucatan	Mexican	566,765	66,600
Union Laguna	Mexican	260,250	59,435
Saltillo	Mexican	300,240	50,508

) Recent top gains were by Yucatan (2022, Lancaster PA (2019) Florence, KY (2018), Texas (2017), Sussex County (2016), St. Paul (2015), Southern Illinois (2014), and Fort Worth (2013). Among U.S./Canadian teams in 2023, Quebec, up 36,502, and Charleston, WV, up 26,738, had the biggest gains.

**5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2023 vs. 2022 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2023 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u>
Campeche	Mexican	66,785	(107,386)
Lexington, KY	Atlantic	92,806	(57,586)
Tijuana	Mexican	418,462	(35,499)
4-team United Shore League	United Shore	226,310	(24,790)
Joliet	Frontier	114,901	(23,087)

) Recent top losses were by Rocky Mountain (2022), New Britain (2019), Wichita, KS (2018), Ottawa (2017), Joplin (2016), Sugarland (2015 and 2013), and Grand Prairie (2014).



**LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH**

This section lists 2023 monthly attendance for each of the 11 affiliated leagues, and for 5 independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Frontier, Pioneer, and Mexican Leagues.) Since the number of dates played varies by month, the most vital figure is the average per date. There are also monthly combined totals for the 11 MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 5 listed independent leagues. Monthly attendance from the other independent leagues is not available. Comparisons are made with monthly data from 2022.

The data is from Minor League Baseball and the MLB Stats Reporting Platform. Special thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Director of Communications for Minor League Baseball, for his help.

Note that in both years, the combined MLB-affiliated leagues average attendance per date for September is affected by the schedules described in the paragraph below. For April through August 2023, 26.1% of dates were in Triple-A, 24.9% were in Double-A, and 49.0% were in combined High-A and Single A. In September, due to longer AAA seasons, 39.1% of dates were in Triple-A, 27.8% were in Double A, and 33.1% were combined-A. This is why the average per date is higher than in other months.

In 2023, the AAA leagues played 150-game schedules, running from March 31 through Sept. 24. AA leagues had 138 games from April 6 through Sept. 17. Class A leagues played 132 games from April 6 through Sept. 10. Among independent leagues in these tables, the Mexican League had 90 games from April 21 through August 5, the Atlantic League played 126 games from April 28 through Sept. 17, the Frontier League had 96 games from May 11 through Sept. 3, the Pioneer League played 96 games from May 23 through Sept. 9, and the American Association played a 100 games from May 11 through September 4.

**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	243	1,186,825	4,884	4,790	2.0
May	252	1,440,098	5,715	5,568	2.6
June	233	1,601,820	6,875	6,348	8.3
July	230	1,612,237	7,010	6,988	0.3
August	258	1,542,650	5,979	6,126	(2.4)
September	204	1,225,615	6,008	5,481	9.6
League Total	1,420	8,609,245	6,063	5,905	2.7

**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	127	699,867	5,511	5,314	3.7
May	128	731,395	5,714	5,621	1.7
June	122	721,474	5,914	5,625	5.1
July	119	737,024	6,193	6,108	1.4
August	135	702,429	5,203	5,611	(7.3)
September	104	643,192	6,185	5,631	9.8
League Total	735	4,235,381	5,762	5,654	1.9

**EASTERN LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	112	400,264	3,574	3,541	0.9
May	151	718,882	4,761	4,232	12.5
June	141	716,325	5,080	4,522	12.3
July	138	716,823	5,194	4,822	7.7
August	158	762,928	4,829	4,651	3.8
September	85	391,287	4,603	4,450	3.4
League Total	785	3,706,509	4,722	4,399	7.3

**TEXAS LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	101	482,519	4,777	4,374	9.2
May	124	578,019	4,661	4,411	5.7
June	124	582,576	4,698	4,184	12.3
July	117	524,671	4,484	4,316	3.9
August	134	492,321	3,674	3,903	(5.9)
September	75	355,966	4,746	4,568	3.9
League Total	675	3,016,072	4,468	4,266	4.7

**SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	78	287,137	3,681	3,644	1.0
May	101	375,897	3,722	3,722	(0.0)
June	93	348,699	3,749	3,425	9.5
July	92	355,871	3,868	3,789	2.1
August	103	316,264	3,071	3,200	(4.0)
September	59	191,993	3,254	3,254	0.0
League Total	526	1,875,861	3,566	3,517	1.4

**MIDWEST LEAGUE**

	2023 # of Dates	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Average per Date	2022 Average per Date	23 vs. '22 % Change Avg./Date
April	118	321,285	2,723	2,228	22.2
May	153	511,837	3,345	3,231	3.5
June	141	612,640	4,345	4,034	7.7
July	142	655,366	4,615	4,264	8.2
August	155	690,094	4,452	4,286	3.9
September	54	248,504	4,602	4,171	10.3
League Total	763	3,039,726	3,984	3,724	7.0

**LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH**

**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	108	310,722	2,877	2,399	19.9
May	149	436,589	2,930	2,658	10.2
June	147	483,832	3,291	3,126	5.3
July	134	474,842	3,544	3,314	6.9
August	155	504,425	3,254	3,048	6.8
September	52	159,745	3,072	3,606	(14.8)
League Total	745	2,370,155	3,181	2,978	6.8

**NORTHWEST LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	57	108,022	1,895	1,526	24.2
May	77	172,712	2,243	2,200	2.0
June	69	225,614	3,270	2,801	16.7
July	71	249,028	3,507	3,645	(3.8)
August	77	266,712	3,464	3,421	1.3
September	27	90,361	3,347	3,554	(5.8)
League Total	378	1,112,449	2,943	2,865	2.7

**CAROLINA LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	112	358,982	3,205	3,054	5.0
May	148	462,065	3,122	2,822	10.6
June	144	459,757	3,193	3,050	4.7
July	140	455,718	3,255	3,223	1.0
August	155	479,930	3,096	3,010	2.9
September	51	161,826	3,173	3,215	(1.3)
League Total	750	2,378,278	3,171	3,041	4.3

**FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	96	120,233	1,252	1,248	0.4
May	112	143,106	1,278	1,057	20.9
June	112	128,791	1,150	1,109	3.7
July	101	145,540	1,441	1,404	2.6
August	111	113,486	1,022	1,009	1.3
September	41	44,644	1,089	1,164	(6.5)
League Total	573	695,800	1,214	1,158	4.9

**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	83	212,047	2,555	2,055	24.3
May	100	217,809	2,178	2,450	(11.1)
June	101	200,229	1,982	1,748	13.4
July	95	201,693	2,123	2,186	(2.9)
August	107	185,457	1,733	1,893	(8.4)
September	36	95,673	2,658	2,166	22.7
League Total	522	1,112,908	2,132	2,072	2.9

**FULL SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED LEAGUES TOTAL**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	1,235	4,487,903	3,634	3,371	7.8
May	1,495	5,788,409	3,872	3,696	4.8
June	1,427	6,081,757	4,262	3,965	7.5
July	1,379	6,128,813	4,444	4,336	2.5
August	1,548	6,056,696	3,913	3,934	(0.5)
September	788	3,608,806	4,580	4,397	4.2
Full-Sea. Total	7,872	32,152,384	4,084	3,933	3.8

**TRIPLE-A TOTALS**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	370	1,886,692	5,099	4,971	2.6
May	380	2,171,493	5,714	5,586	2.3
June	355	2,323,294	6,544	6,104	7.2
July	349	2,349,261	6,731	6,692	0.6
August	393	2,245,079	5,713	5,953	(4.0)
September	308	1,868,807	6,068	5,531	9.7
Triple-A Total	2,155	12,844,626	5,960	5,820	2.4

**DOUBLE-A TOTALS**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	291	1,169,920	4,020	3,851	4.4
May	376	1,672,798	4,449	4,160	6.9
June	358	1,647,600	4,602	4,114	11.9
July	347	1,597,365	4,603	4,372	5.3
August	395	1,571,513	3,979	4,033	(1.4)
September	219	939,246	4,289	4,170	2.8
Double-A Total	1,986	8,598,442	4,330	4,121	5.1

**LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH**

**HIGH-A AND SINGLE-A COMBINED TOTALS**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	574	1,431,291	2,494	2,185	14.1
May	739	1,944,118	2,631	2,485	5.9
June	714	2,110,863	2,956	2,786	6.1
July	683	2,182,187	3,195	3,076	3.9
August	760	2,240,104	2,948	2,866	2.8
September	261	800,753	3,068	3,076	(0.3)
<b>Class A Total</b>	<b>3,731</b>	<b>10,709,316</b>	<b>2,870</b>	<b>2,727</b>	<b>5.3</b>

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	12	28,892	2,408	2,676	(10.0)
May	130	330,709	2,544	2,416	5.3
June	121	295,982	2,446	2,399	2.0
July	130	324,697	2,498	2,565	(2.6)
August	130	328,768	2,529	2,514	0.6
September	73	183,848	2,518	2,367	6.4
<b>League Total</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>1,492,896</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>1.2</b>

**MEXICAN LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	79	497,849	6,302	5,601	12.5
May	222	1,100,048	4,955	4,383	13.1
June	198	1,038,165	5,243	4,506	16.4
July	217	1,114,849	5,138	4,499	14.2
August	46	290,392	6,313	5,905	6.9
<b>League Total</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>4,041,303</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>4,653</b>	<b>14.0</b>

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	102	252,278	2,473	2,196	12.6
June	156	414,308	2,656	2,392	11.0
July	141	389,082	2,759	2,848	(3.1)
August	160	430,785	2,692	2,680	0.5
September	24	68,604	2,859	3,153	(9.3)
<b>League Total</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>1,555,057</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>2,591</b>	<b>2.9</b>

**FRONTIER LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	132	252,980	1,917	1,840	4.2
June	195	409,512	2,100	2,040	2.9
July	177	422,792	2,389	2,311	3.4
August	211	473,505	2,244	2,287	(1.9)
September	25	78,770	3,151	2,948	6.9
<b>League Total</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>1,637,559</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>1.5</b>

**5 INDEPENDENT LEAGUES TOTAL**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	91	526,741	5,788	4,468	29.6
May	614	2,005,174	3,266	3,007	8.6
June	785	2,425,936	3,090	2,806	10.1
July	781	2,532,191	3,242	3,031	7.0
August	668	1,781,217	2,666	2,674	(0.3)
September	158	416,331	2,635	2,590	1.7
<b>League Total</b>	<b>3,097</b>	<b>9,687,590</b>	<b>3,128</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>7.0</b>

**PIONEER LEAGUE**

	2023	2023	2023	2022	23 vs. '22
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Change
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	28	69,159	2,470	2,027	21.9
June	115	267,969	2,330	2,149	8.4
July	116	280,771	2,420	2,238	8.2
August	121	257,767	2,130	2,153	(1.1)
September	36	85,109	2,364	2,363	0.0
<b>League Total</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>960,775</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>5.6</b>

Pioneer League figures exclude Northern Colorado, which drew 27,581 (641 per date).

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**

For **2023 vs. 2022**, average attendance per date rose by 151 for the MLB-affiliated leagues, was up by 148 for the independent leagues, and increased by a combined total of 150 for all Minor Leagues combined. For **2023 vs. 2019, only comparing 2019 teams that were still in the Minor Leagues in 2023**, average per date fell by 312 for the MLB-affiliated leagues, was down by 407 for the independent leagues, and decreased by a combined 358 for all Minor Leagues combined. All this excludes the Empire League, who did not list attendance, which was quite low.

Mexican and Pioneer Leagues are included in the MLB-affiliated leagues column through 2019, but are in the independent leagues column for 2023, 2022, and 2021.

Independent average per date changes are partly due to a varying number of teams in very low drawing leagues.

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – 1992-2023 (record highs in bold)

Year	MLB-Affiliated Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
2023	4,084	2,761	3,663
2022	3,933	2,613	3,513
2021	3,242	2,024	2,870
2019	4,044	2,341	3,718
2018	3,960	2,330	3,635
2017	4,095	2,472	3,774
2016	3,998	2,492	3,705
2015	4,104	2,510	3,793
2014	4,099	2,570	3,811
2013	4,040	2,668	3,771
2012	3,967	2,695	3,710
2011	4,029	2,605	3,739
2010	3,992	2,854	3,747
2009	4,055	2,872	3,804
2008	<b>4,174</b>	2,877	<b>3,892</b>
2007	4,155	2,726	3,824
2006	4,048	2,908	3,818
2005	3,986	2,786	3,738
2004	3,962	<b>3,000</b>	3,791
2003	3,861	2,588	3,579
2002	3,732	2,689	3,537
2001	3,738	2,541	3,516
2000	3,658	2,475	3,461
1999	3,386	2,559	3,258
1998	3,431	2,054	3,167
1997	3,469	N.A.	N.A.
1996	3,348	N.A.	N.A.
1995	3,326	N.A.	N.A.
1994	3,363	N.A.	N.A.
1993	3,074	N.A.	N.A.
1992	2,815	No Independ. Leagues	2,815

Independent leagues began to operate in 1993. The Frontier League began with a season about 50-52 games per team in length with 8 original teams, only 6 of whom finished the season. None of the original cities currently has a team in any league. The Northern League had 6 teams with a 72-game schedule. 4 teams drew over 100,000. 1993 Northern League teams Sioux City and Sioux Falls are now in the American Association, and St. Paul is in Triple-A.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**

The term 'average attendance per date' or 'average per opening' is used in baseball, rather than 'average attendance per game.' This is done because baseball teams still play single-admission doubleheaders, two games for one ticket, to make up rainouts. For attendance purposes, single-admission doubleheaders are one 'date' or 'opening.' Day/night doubleheaders, requiring a separate ticket to each game, count as two separate 'openings' or 'dates.'

**2023 Season – MLB-Affiliated Leagues and Teams**

- J In **2023**, the 120 MLB-affiliated teams averaged 4,084 per date, up 151 from their **2022** average of 3,933.
- J Triple-A teams averaged a combined 5,960 per date in **2023**, up 140 from 5,820 per date in **2022**. The International League had the top average per date in **2023** (6,063) of all Minor Leagues.
- J The 3 Double-A leagues averaged a combined 4,330 per date in **2023**, up 208 from 4,121 in **2022**. This classification was led by the Eastern League (4,722).
- J In High-A in **2023**, the 3 leagues averaged 3,458 per date, a gain of 207 from their 3,251 average per date in **2022**. The Midwest League had the top league average per date (3,984).
- J In Single-A, the 3 leagues drew a **2023** average per date of 2,269, up 73 from the **2022** average of 2,196 per date. The Carolina League had the best average per date in this group (3,171).
- J The following 8 teams, all in Triple-A except for Dayton, averaged at least 7,000 per date in **2023**: Lehigh Valley, PA (7,990); Dayton (7,885); Columbus (7,847); Indianapolis (7,842); Nashville (7,736); Worcester (7,424); Buffalo (7,165); Albuquerque (7,048). 12 other teams topped 6,000 per date, and 16 more teams reached 5,000 per date. 5 teams, all in the Florida State League, averaged under 1,000 per date. In **2022**, Dayton (7,935) had the highest average per date. 7 other teams topped 7,000 per date in **2022**, and 8 more teams surpassed 6,000 per date.
- J No team topped 8,000 in 2023, 2022, or 2021. 10 teams drew at least 8,000 per date in 2019. The number of teams averaging above 8,000 was 10 in 2018, 12 in 2017, 11 in 2016, 12 in 2015, 10 in 2014, 9 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 11 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 11 in 2009, 13 in 2008, 17 in 2007, 13 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 13 in 2004, 12 in both 2003 and 2002, 11 in 2001, 8 in 2000, and 4 in 1999.
- J Richmond averaged 6,396 per date to lead Double-A. Hartford (6,293), and Portland, ME (6,121), also topped 6,000 per date. Amarillo, Frisco, Tulsa, Reading, and Somerset, were the other Double-A teams to top 5,000 per date.
- J **Dayton (7,885) led all High-A teams in average per date for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year in 2023.** West Michigan and Fort Wayne also averaged better than 5,000 per date among High-A teams. 3 High-A teams reached 5,000 in **2022**.
- J In the Single-A group of teams, Charleston, SC had the highest average per date (4,288). Other Single-A teams averaging better than 4,000 per date were Augusta GA, Fredericksburg VA, Myrtle Beach, and Fresno.
- J On the low side in **2023**, Memphis (3,174) had the lowest average per date in Triple-A, Biloxi had the low in Double-A (2,440), Rome (1,534) had the lowest average per date among High-A teams, and Dunedin (495) had the lowest average per date in Single-A, and among all MLB-affiliated teams.
- J 7 of 30 Triple-A teams in **2023** and **2022**, 14 in **2009**, and 13 of these teams in **2018** and **2017**, averaged at least 7,000 per date. 10 Double-A teams in **2019**, **2018**, and **2017** averaged at least 5,000 per date. 6 Class A (4 full-season, 2 short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in **2019**. 7 of these teams did it in 2018, and 10 such teams achieved it in 2017 and 2016. 12 teams topped that mark in 2015. 10 Class A teams did it in 2013, 2012, and 2011. This level was surpassed by 11 Class A teams in 2010 and 2009, 12 in 2008 and 2007, 10 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 10 in 2004 and 2003, 9 in 2014 and 2002, and 10 in 2001.
- J Dayton was the only full-season Class A team to reach 6,000 in 2023, 2022, 2021, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2015. Fort Wayne and Dayton topped 6,000 per date in 2016. 2 full-season Class A teams reached 6,000 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, a mark exceeded by 3 teams in 2011, 2010, and 2009, and 4 teams in 2008, 2007, and 2006.
- J MLB-affiliated teams setting record-high average per date figures in **2023** were Hartford (6,293), Augusta (4,195), Visalia (1,913), Fredericksburg (4,178), Worcester (7,424), Kannapolis (3,055), Wichita (4,676), Asheville (3,001), Winston-Salem (4,686), and Myrtle Beach (4,197).

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES****MLB-Affiliated League Notes Through the 2019 Season**

**2019** was the last season played prior to the reorganization of the Minor Leagues in **2021**. The MLB-affiliated leagues had some notable achievements through the 2019 season, and they are noted here:

- J In **2019**, 3 MLB-affiliated leagues set record-highs for average per date, while another had its top average since 1994.
- J Average attendance per date for MLB-affiliated teams rose by 84 to 4,044 in **2019**. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- J 8 of 15 MLB-affiliated leagues had increases in **2019**. 4 of these leagues had gains in **2018**, and 11 were up in **2017**.
- J The Mexican League drew league record-high of 5,058 in **2019**.
- J The Northwest League averaged 3,670 per date in **2019**, and set a league record-high total for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row, and a record-high average per date for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year.
- J Pioneer League average per date reached a new league record-high of 2,504 in **2019**.
- J The Appalachian League averaged 1,254 per date in **2019**, its highest average per date since 1994.
- J International League average per date was above 6,600 for the 22<sup>nd</sup> straight year in **2019**. This league's record high was 7,348 in **2009**.
- J The Pacific Coast League topped 6,000 per date for the 20<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in **2019**. Their league record-high average per date was 6,625, set in both **2006 and 2007**.
- J The Eastern League surpassed 4,500 per date in **2019** for the 24<sup>th</sup> time in the previous 25 years.
- J Through **2019**, the Southern League's average per date was above 3,400 per date in 22 years since 1992.
- J Texas League **2019** average per date was 5,131, which was the 14<sup>th</sup> year above 5,000 since 2003.
- J The Midwest League reached 3,600 per date for the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year in **2019**.
- J The South Atlantic League topped 3,000 per date for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in **2019**.

**MLB-Affiliated Team Notes Through 2023 and 2019**

- J **In 2022, Dayton may have become the first team in Class A to lead the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues in average per date. The Dragons, who have sold out a North American sports record 1,507 consecutive regular season dates through 2023 (excluding 2021), averaged 7,935 per date in 2022. They've posted the highest average per date among all Class-A teams in each of the 23 seasons they've played.**
- J Las Vegas had the **2019** highest average per date among U.S. teams, and #3 overall, averaging a team record-high 9,299 in their new park. Their previous high was 5,441 in **1993**. They had 2<sup>nd</sup> best **2021** average per date (6,590).
- J Columbus had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best average per date in both **2023 and 2022**. The Clippers drew 8,684 per date in **2019**, which ranked 4<sup>th</sup>. That was the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year above 8,000 for the Clippers.
- J Nashville averaged 7,736 in **2023**, 7,611 in **2022**, an MLB-affiliated best 6,721 in **2021**, 8,631 in **2019**, 8,741 in **2018**, and a team record-high 8,861 per date in **2017**.
- J Charlotte of the International League averaged 7,280 per date in **2022**, and 8,544 in **2019**. The Knights led all U.S. teams in average per date in **2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018**.
- J Indianapolis led U.S. teams in average per date in **2017**, and averaged 7,842 in **2023**, 7,425 in **2022**, and 8,630 in **2019**. **Until 2021**, the Indians reached 8,000 per date in 22 of the previous 24 seasons, including the last 16 in a row. **2017** was their 7<sup>th</sup> time above 9,000.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES****MLB-Affiliated Team Notes Through 2023 and 2019** - continued

- ) Round Rock topped 8,000 per date for the 20<sup>th</sup> straight year in **2019**.
- ) Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) led all MLB-affiliated teams in **2023** with a 7,990 average per date. They averaged 7,665, which ranked #2 among MLB-affiliates in **2022**, and best in Triple-A. The IronPigs drew an average of 9,153 in 2012, 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010, best among U.S. teams in the Minors in each of those years. They averaged 9,016 in 2013, 8,769 in 2015, 8,729 in 2016, 8,541 in 2017, 8,511 in 2018, and 8,605 in 2019.
- ) A few other 7,000+ average per date milestones from **2019**: Durham's average of 7,668 was the 14<sup>th</sup> time since 2001 that the Bulls topped 7,000; Toledo reached 7,000 per date for the 18<sup>th</sup> consecutive year; Iowa had surpassed 7,000 per date in all but one year since 2002, through 2019.
- ) Buffalo averaged 7,165 in **2023**. From 1988 through 2019, the Bisons topped 8,000 per date in all but 3 seasons.
- ) New Orleans, **which moved to Wichita in 2021**, had the lowest average per date (2,939) in Triple-A in **2019**. Gwinnett had the lowest Triple-A average per date in **2022** (2,961) and in **2018** (3,062). They were the only Triple-A team to average under 4,000 in 2017, and in 2016. The Stripers averaged 3,135 per date in 2017, 3,218 in 2016, and 3,808 in 2015. Syracuse had the lowest Triple-A average in 2015 (3,803) and 2014 (3,743).
- ) Richmond, Portland ME, and Hartford were the Double-A teams topping 6,000 per date in **2023**. Richmond and Hartford also did it in **2022**. Frisco, Amarillo, Richmond, and Hartford were the Double-A teams averaging above 6,000 per date in **2019**. 3 Double-A teams topped 6,000 per date in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012 and 2011. The number of Double-A teams reaching an average of 6,000+ was 4 in 2015, 2014, 2010, and 2009, 5 in both 2008 and 2007, 6 in 2006, 2005, and 2003, and 7 in 2004.
- ) Frisco had reached at least 6,600 in average per date in all 17 seasons of operation, until 2021. Average per date in Reading had topped 6,000 in 18 of 19 seasons until 2018, when the Fightin' Phils averaged 5,713, and 2019 when their average was 5,945. They averaged 5,930 in **2023**, 5,577 in **2022**, and 4,626 per date in **2021**.
- ) Dunedin, which was displaced from its home park in 2019 due to renovation, had the lowest average per date of any MLB-affiliated team (203) in **2019**. Florida (327), Lakeland (819), Hagerstown (918), Tampa (973), and Palm Beach (973 as well), also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams in 2019.
- ) Vancouver averaged 6,210 to lead all short-season teams in **2019**. Spokane (5,270) also topped 5,000 in 2019. Brooklyn had led short-season teams for 15 straight seasons from 2001 through 2015, and averaged 4,848 in 2019.
- ) Hudson Valley was the other short-season team that averaged more than 4,000 per date in **2019**. 15 short-season teams topped 3,000 per date in **2019**, up from 12 teams in **2018**.
- ) Ogden of the Pioneer League, drew an average of 3,951 per date to lead the Rookie leagues in **2019**. Rocky Mountain of the Pioneer League averaged 3,923. The Pioneer League is now an independent league.
- ) The only teams averaging under 1,000 per date were 5 Florida State League teams in **2023**, and 6 teams from that league in **2022**. 6 short-season teams, all from the Appalachian League, averaged under 1,000 per date in **2019**. Bristol (586) had the lowest average in this group. The Appalachian League is now a Summer Collegiate League.
- ) All MLB-affiliated leagues, that charge admission, are now full season leagues, with schedules of 132 games (High-A and Single-A), 138 games (Double-A) and 150 games (Triple-A).

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES****2023 Season – Independent Leagues and Teams**

The United Shore Baseball League (4 teams – all in Utica, MI), and the Mavericks League (4 teams – all in Keiser, OR), count as one team each.

- J In **2023**, the 82 independent teams (excludes Northern Colorado) with reported attendance averaged 2,761 per date, up 148 from their **2022** average of 2,613. The Empire Baseball League has never reported its attendance.
- J **The Mexican League had the highest average per date (a likely league record-high 5,304) of any independent league in 2023.** Their average per date was higher than any of the MLB-affiliated leagues drew, except for both Triple-A leagues. The league's **2022 playoffs** averaged an incredible 11,375 per game, and 9,500 per game in **2023**.
- J **2023** average per date for the other independent leagues was: American Association–2,667; Atlantic League–2,505; Pioneer League–2,310; Frontier League–2,213; Pecos Baseball League-a league record-high 324, which excludes 'no-shows,' United Shore-2,794, Mavericks-1,172.
- J In **2023**, **Yucatan (10,558), Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and Monterrey (8,438), all from the Mexican League, had the highest average per date figures in all of Minor League Baseball.** Mexican League teams had the top 6, and 12 of the top 15 independent league average per date figures.
- J **Tijuana had the highest 2022 average per date (10,088) in all of Minor League Baseball. Los Toros averaged 7,557 in 2021, and 11,291 in 2019. Their 2018 average per date of 9,761 was 2<sup>nd</sup> best. Record-high average per date in Tijuana is 12,784 in 2004.**
- J Among U.S./Canadian independent league teams, Kane County, which was in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League until 2021, had the best **2023** average per date (5,571), followed by Long Island (4,652), Schaumburg (4,510), Chicago (4,125), and Lancaster, PA (3,943). Also worth noting is that Lancaster, CA of the Pecos League averaged 1,810 per date, by far the highest average per date ever for a team in that league.
- J 6 Mexican League teams, plus Kane County, drew at least 5,000 per date in **2023**. 9 more teams surpassed 4,000 per date, and 12 more independent teams averaged over 3,000 per date. On the low end, New Jersey of the Frontier League, the Mavericks League, and 15 teams in the Pecos League, averaged under 1,000. Most Pecos League parks are tiny, and for some, or even most of the teams in that league, ballpark capacity is under 1,000.
- J A likely record-high 7 independent teams topped 5,000 per date in 2007 and in 2023. 6 teams did it in 2022, 2014, 2006, and 2005. 5 teams averaged 5,000+ in 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 2001, and 2000. 4 teams reached 5,000 per date in 2015, 2003, and 2002. There were 3 teams that averaged 5,000+ per date in 2016 and 2017. Just 2 independent teams topped 5,000 in 2019 and 2018. One did it in **2021**.
- J Monterrey of the Mexican League averaged a Minors 3<sup>rd</sup> best 8,490 in **2022**, and a Minors 2<sup>nd</sup> best 9,770 per date in **2019**. In 2017 and 2018, Monterrey led all of Minor League Baseball in average per date (12,783 in 2017, 10,059 in 2018). But the Sultanes had average per date declines of 1,208 in 2017, the worst of any team for that season, and a dip of 1,516 in 2018, which was 3<sup>rd</sup> worst. 2018 was still the 7<sup>th</sup> time since 2008 that the Sultanes topped 10,000 per date. Monterrey (7 times), Tijuana in 2022, 2019, and 2017, and Yucatan and Mexico City in 2023, are the only teams to hit 10,000 per date since Sacramento did it for 8 years in a row from 2000 through 2007.
- J Yucatan's team record-high of 10,558 per date was tops in the Minors in **2023, and the highest ever for an independent team.** They had an all Minors 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date of 9,781 in **2022**. Los Leones (Lions) were 5<sup>th</sup> in average per date (8,673) in 2019, after a then- team record-high of 9,228 in 2017, and 8,606 in 2018.
- J Independent teams setting new average per date record-highs in **2023** were Quintana Roo (4,836), Leon (4,605), Mexico City (10,509), Yucatan (10,558), Tabasco (4,953), Veracruz (4,858), Chicago (4,125), Milwaukee (1,741), Bakersfield as a Pecos League team (334), Lancaster, CA as a Pecos League team (1,810), Santa Fe (448), Glacier (2,097), and Lake Country (not county) (1,936). Northern Colorado averaged a team record 641 in their 2<sup>nd</sup> year without a permanent park. The Pioneer League, and therefore this report, are not including Northern Colorado's figures in the attendance listings.



**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES****Independent Team Notes Through 2023 and 2019**

- ) In 2015, St. Paul moved into a new park, and averaged 8,091 per date, the best ever for an independent league team. They broke this record in 2016, averaging 8,438. The Saints averaged an independent leagues' best 8,296 per date in 2017, 8,178 in 2018, and 8,061 in 2019. St. Paul led all independent teams in average per date 13 times between 1993 and 2019. St. Paul is now an MLB-affiliated team, playing in the International League. Winnipeg, who averaged 4,079 in 2019, had the top independent average 12 times from 2000 through 2014.
- ) Averaging under 1,000 per date were 16 independent teams in **2023**, 18 in 2008, in 2018, 16 in 2022, 2019, and 2017, 17 in 2016, and 14 in 2015. 12 teams did it in 2014 and in 2013, 13 were under 1,000 in 2012, and 8 drew that low in 2011. 3 teams were below 1,000 per date in 2010. In both 2009 and 2008, there were 6 independent league teams that drew under 1,000 per date. 7 teams averaged below 1,000 per date in 2007. In 2006 and in 2004, every independent team averaged at least 1,000. 3 fell below this level in 2005. All this excludes Empire League teams.

**2023 vs. 2022 Average per Date Comparison****TEAMS WITH THE BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE**

The table on Page 79 separately lists the 10 MLB-affiliated and the 5 independent teams with the **biggest average per date** gains and losses for **2023 vs. 2022**. Mexican League teams had the 7 biggest average per date gains among independent teams.

**Every MLB-affiliated league, and all independent leagues, except the United Shore Baseball League, that reported attendance, had a 2023 vs. 2022 increase in average per date.**

**MLB-Affiliated TEAMS – 2023 vs. 2022 - Biggest GAINS in Average per Date**

- ) **91 of the 120 (75.8%) MLB-affiliated teams posted gains in average per date for 2023 vs. 2022. This may have been the highest percentage ever of teams with increases.** 9 teams achieved growth of better than 500 per date.
- ) 23 of the 30 Triple-A teams posted increases. Norfolk of the International League, up 791, had the biggest gain in Triple-A. Salt Lake had the top increase in the Pacific Coast League, up 286 per date.
- ) **Wichita, up 1,335 per date had the largest increase in the Texas League, Double-A, and among all MLB-affiliated teams.** Binghamton (817) and Bowie (815) had the best growth in the Eastern League. Tennessee's 219 increase topped the Southern League. 22 of the 30 Double-A clubs had average per date increases.
- ) In the High-A leagues, where 25 of the 30 teams had gains, Lake County, OH, up 643, had the best average per date increase in the Midwest League, and in this classification. Wilmington, DE achieved the best gain (573) in the South Atlantic League. Spokane had the Northwest League's best increase, up 285.
- ) Delmarva's 666 growth was the largest among Carolina League, and all Single-A teams. Rancho Cucamonga led the California League with a gain of 190. Bradenton, up 206, led the Florida State League. 21 of 30 teams had gains.

**MLB-Affiliated TEAMS – 2023 vs. 2022 - Biggest LOSSES in Average per Date**

- ) Only 11 teams had average per date declines of at least 100 for **2023 vs. 2022**.
- ) Charlotte, down 447, had the biggest loss in Triple-A and in the International League. Las Vegas, with a dip of 71, had the top Pacific Coast League loss. In Double-A, New Hampshire of the Eastern League suffered the largest decline (263). Tulsa had the biggest decrease in the Texas League (260), and Rocket City (Madison, AL), posted the largest Southern League decline, down 120.
- ) Vancouver of the Northwest League had the top High-A dip (259), the only loss in that league. Dayton of the Midwest League was down 49, and Hudson Valley had the only South Atlantic League decrease, all of 6 per date. In Single-A, Fayetteville of the Carolina League, had the largest MLB-affiliated decline, down 488. Modesto posted the biggest California League loss, down 169, and Palm Beach's decline of 75 per date was largest in the Florida State League.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**

- ) 47 of 77 (59.7%) independent teams had increases in average per date for **2023 vs. 2022**. 29 teams posted declines. Lake Country, WI had the same average per date in both seasons.

**Independent Leagues TEAMS – 2023 vs. 2022 - Biggest GAINS in Average per Date**

- ) Mexican League teams accounted for the 7 largest independent team increases, led by **Mexico City, up 4,066, Tabasco, up 2,620, and Saltillo, up 1,515. Those gains were the highest of any Minor League team.** 3 other Mexican League teams had increases of better than 1,000: Puebla (1,188); Veracruz (1,172); Union Laguna (1,133). This league had 9 of the 11 largest average per date increases among independent teams.
- ) York of the Atlantic League, had the top gain (629) among the independent U.S./Canadian teams. Kane County, up 503, topped the American Association. Schaumburg's 470 increase was best in the Frontier League. Glacier (Kalispell, MT) posted a Pioneer League best increase of 363 per date. Vallejo, up 100, had the top average per date gain in the Pecos League. The Mavericks League was up 274.

**Independent Leagues TEAMS – 2023 vs. 2022 - Biggest LOSSES in Average per Date**

- ) Campeche of the Mexican League, down 2,796 per date, had the largest average per date decline, by far, of any Minor League team in 2023.
- ) Lexington, KY of the Atlantic League suffered a decline of 840, the largest dip among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Joliet, down 453, had the top decrease in the Frontier League. The 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which is counted as one team, was down 306. Kansas City, KS, down an estimated 288 had the largest loss in the American Association. Ogden's 140 dip led the Pioneer League, and Tucson had a decline of 200 per date, the largest in the Pecos League.

**2023 vs. 2022 Combined MLB-Affiliated and Independent Leagues Changes**

Combined MLB-affiliated and independent **2023 vs. 2023** attendance had 136 'same market' teams with gains in total attendance, and 61 teams with declines. 138 of these teams were up in average per date, 58 teams were down, and Lake Country of the American Association had the same average per date listed in both years.

**2023 vs. 2022 - BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE****10 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2023 vs. 2022 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<b><u>TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>LEAGUE</u></b>	<b><u>2023 AVERAGE/DATE</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u></b>
Wichita, KS	Texas	4,676	1,335
Binghamton, NY	Eastern	3,183	817
Bowie	Eastern	3,500	815
Norfolk	International	5,795	791
Delmarva	Carolina	3,162	666
Lake County, OH	Midwest	3,517	643
Harrisburg	Eastern	4,212	617
Wilmington, DE	South Atlantic	2,519	573
Jersey Shore (Lakewood)	South Atlantic	4,793	524
Corpus Christi	Texas	4,403	494

) Top gains in previous years: Rochester (2022); Las Vegas (2019); Augusta, GA (2018); Nashville (2017); Monterrey (2016); Yucatan (2015); Charlotte (2014); Birmingham (2013).

**10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2023 vs. 2022 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<b><u>TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>LEAGUE</u></b>	<b><u>2023 AVERAGE/DATE</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u></b>
Fayetteville, NC	Carolina	2,971	(488)
Charlotte, NC	International	6,833	(447)
New Hampshire	Eastern	4,083	(263)
Tulsa	Texas	5,235	(260)
Vancouver	Northwest	4,876	(259)
Louisville	International	5,512	(219)
Modesto	California	1,259	(169)
Memphis	International	3,174	(154)
Rocket City (Madison, AL)	Southern	4,911	(120)
Amarillo	Texas	5,385	(108)

) Top losses: Rocket City (2022); New Orleans (2019 and 2018); Monterrey (2017); Oaxaca (2016); Puebla (2015); Memphis (2014); Saltillo (2013).

**5 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2023 vs. 2022 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS**

<b><u>TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>LEAGUE</u></b>	<b><u>2023 AVERAGE/DATE</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u></b>
Mexico City	Mexican	10,509	4,066
Tabasco	Mexican	4,953	2,620
Saltillo	Mexican	7,323	1,515
Puebla	Mexican	4,460	1,188
Veracruz	Mexican	4,858	1,172

) Top Gains: Yucatan (2022); Chicago (2019); Texas (2018); Evansville (2017); Sussex, NJ (2016); St. Paul (2015, 2014); Fort Worth (2013).

**5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2023 vs. 2022 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS**

<b><u>TEAM</u></b>	<b><u>LEAGUE</u></b>	<b><u>2023 AVERAGE/DATE</u></b>	<b><u>CHANGE vs. 2022</u></b>
Campeche	Mexican	1,670	(2,796)
Lexington, KY	Atlantic	1,547	(840)
Tijuana	Mexican	9,299	(789)
Joliet	Frontier	2,253	(453)
Evansville	Frontier	2,051	(449)

) Top losses: Rocky Mountain (2022); New Britain (2019); Wichita, KS (2018); Ottawa (2017); Joplin (2016); Laredo (2015); Fort Worth (2014); El Paso, then in the American Association, (2013).

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – BY CLASSIFICATION**

The table below shows yearly average attendance per date for each class of MLB-affiliated leagues from 1992 through 2023. **It excludes the Mexican League in all columns.** The total attendance figure, combined average per date for all classifications, and the number of dates played, are also just for U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams. Class High-A and Class Single-A (formerly named Low-A) are combined. The short-season column covers all short-season Class-A and Rookie Leagues. Those short-season leagues were eliminated starting in 2021. Average per date figures for seasons prior to 1992 are not currently available.

Year	Triple-A	Double-A	Full-Season Class A	Short-Season	Combined Average	U.S. MLB-Affiliated Leagues-Total	U.S.MLB-Affil. # of Dates
1992	5,737	3,317	1,757	1,694	2,855	24,580,464	8,610
1993	5,998	3,559	2,017	1,670	3,117	27,294,452	8,756
1994	6,131	4,015	2,254	1,922	3,379	30,310,205	8,971
1995	6,016	3,913	2,344	2,139	3,399	30,709,738	9,036
1996	5,913	3,795	2,480	2,230	3,424	30,903,016	9,026
1997	6,003	3,993	2,557	2,264	3,515	31,737,761	9,029
1998	6,052	3,980	2,293	2,218	3,444	32,263,786	9,368
1999	5,913	3,941	2,296	2,231	3,419	32,304,182	9,448
2000	6,499	4,172	2,380	2,207	3,631	34,048,081	9,376
2001	6,500	4,136	2,582	2,396	3,747	35,315,280	9,424
2002	6,599	4,092	2,535	2,529	3,742	35,497,010	9,486
2003	6,556	4,413	2,692	2,574	3,893	36,036,421	9,256
2004	6,478	4,511	2,753	2,539	3,910	36,665,163	9,378
2005	6,744	4,538	2,816	2,526	4,000	38,011,628	9,503
2006	6,678	4,528	2,856	2,560	4,002	37,906,890	9,472
2007	6,802	<b>4,603</b>	2,956	<b>2,727</b>	<b>4,117</b>	38,924,278	9,455
2008	<b>6,883</b>	4,591	2,945	2,668	4,115	<b>39,228,571</b>	9,532
2009	6,820	4,462	2,978	2,646	4,089	38,564,744	9,431
2010	6,664	4,492	2,970	2,549	4,037	38,717,501	<b>9,591</b>
2011	6,524	4,419	2,952	2,523	3,978	37,930,024	9,534
2012	6,352	4,333	2,944	2,510	3,921	37,466,034	9,556
2013	6,505	4,413	2,996	2,513	3,999	37,741,405	9,437
2014	6,742	4,424	<b>3,010</b>	2,452	4,044	38,413,424	9,500
2015	6,800	4,423	2,990	2,550	4,063	38,690,622	9,523
2016	6,695	4,194	2,896	2,459	3,930	37,345,155	9,502
2017	6,792	4,450	2,957	2,438	4,024	37,789,759	9,392
2018	6,615	4,371	2,835	2,451	3,922	36,678,534	9,353
2019	6,697	4,429	2,807	2,514	3,945	36,885,946	9,349
2021	4,796	3,694	2,154	X	3,242	22,089,014	6,814
2022	5,820	4,121	2,727	X	3,933	30,920,722	7,862
2023	5,960	4,330	2,870	X	4,084	32,152,384	7,872

**MLB-AFFILIATED NEW MARKETS, NEW BALLPARKS, AND 'SAME BALLPARK' ATTENDANCE GROWTH**

The table below borrows a concept used by retail chain stores to report sales. Retailers report year-to-year changes in total sales, which includes stores open less than a full year in the current year, or the previous one. A report for full year 2023 vs. full year 2022, lists sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2023 or 2022.

But they also report what is called 'Comparable' or 'Same-Store' sales. In this example, a year-to-year sales comparison would only include stores that were in operation for the full year in both 2023 and 2022. Looking at 'Same-Store' sales provides a good barometer of real sales growth, rather than just growth due to opening many new stores.

This first two tables in this section look at 'Same-Ballpark' attendance, a baseball version of 'Same-Store' sales, by comparing **2023 vs. 2019**, and **2019 vs. 2018** attendance change for the MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same ballpark in both years. The table for 2023 vs. 2019 differs slightly from the 2019 vs. 2018 table. 2021 is not used here since it was not a normal season. The **2019 vs. 2018** comparison is shown as an example of market changes that took place going into the final year before the 2021 changes. **No MLB-affiliated teams have changed markets or opened new parks since 2021, which is why there is no 2023 vs. 2022 table.**

Adding teams, relocating teams, and opening new ballparks have been big factors in the growth of Minor League attendance over the past 40 years. Add to this the independent leagues that first came on the scene in 1993. These changes have been far less frequent in recent years, and are one reason why Minor League attendance has not changed much since 2005. There were 19 more teams in 1990 playing in MLB-affiliated leagues that charge admission than there were in 1980. By 1999, 12 more affiliated teams, plus 44 independent teams were added. But 2019 had the same number of affiliated teams as in 1999. No Major League expansion since 1998 is the main reason for this.

**2021 – 2023 Changes**

The reorganization of the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues resulted in a reduction, from 176 to 120, in the number of MLB-affiliated teams that charged admission to their games. With the move of the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues to independent status in 2021, plus expansion in 2022, there were 93 independent teams in operation in 2023.

Fewer new ballparks have opened in recent years. In 2024, there will be 50 MLB-affiliated teams, including Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a park, plus 21 independent teams, who will play in a park that opened between 1995 and 2005. (Dos Laredos of the Mexican League plays in both Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas.) 37 MLB-affiliated teams, and 20 independent teams, will play in a park opened after 2005. The only new ballpark openings in 2024 will be for the Northern Colorado Owlz of the Pioneer League, and Hagerstown of the Atlantic League.

'Same Ballpark' teams only includes the 2023 MLB-affiliated teams, and excludes all independent league teams.

**MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN A DIFFERENT PARK IN 2023 THAN IN 2019**

2023 League	2023 City	2023 Total Attendance	2023 Avg. per Date	2019 City	2019 Total Attendance	2019 Avg. per Date
International	Worcester	519,651	7,424	Pawtucket	331,010	5,254
Carolina	Kannapolis	195,500	3,055	Kannapolis	75,931	1,133
Carolina	Fredericksburg	267,400	4,178	Potomac	192,474	3,262
Texas	Wichita	322,637	4,676	New Orleans	188,092	2,939
Southern	Rocket City	314,306	4,911	Mobile	95,087	1,585
Midwest	Beloit	104,411	1,606	Beloit	73,200	1,181
Total - Above 6 Teams		1,723,905	4,353		955,794	2,549
114 'Same-Ballpark as in 2019' Affiliated Teams		30,428,479	4,070		32,784,316	4,203

The 6 teams listed above, had a **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance gain of 768,111 (80.4%), and an average per date gain of 1,804 (70.8%). The 114 other teams had a 2,355,837 (7.2%) loss in total attendance, and a 133 (3.2%) loss in average per date.

Dunedin, which played in the old park in Clearwater in 2019, and played in other parks with no fans in attendance for some games in 2021, because Toronto was using the park in Dunedin, is not in this table. Rocket City plays in Madison, Alabama, near Huntsville. Fredericksburg is about 35 miles south of Potomac (Woodbridge, VA).

**NEW MARKETS, NEW BALLPARKS, AND 'SAME BALLPARK' ATTENDANCE GROWTH****Market Changes for 2019 – Going into the Final Season Before MLB-Affiliated Minor League Reorganization**

In **2019**, 70 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams, including Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a park, and 18 independent league teams, played in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 36 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated and 13 independent teams (counting the 4 United Shore League teams that share a park as one team) played in a park that has opened after 2005. This list does not include rebuilt and updated parks, which also help attendance growth. South Bend updated their park for 2012, and their attendance rose from 112,795 in 2011, to 354,070 in 2017. They drew 343,763 in 2018, and 319,616 in 2019.

Multiple changes took place in **2019**, all but one of which is reflected in the next table. San Antonio got a Pacific Coast League team, and their Texas League team moved to Amarillo. Since San Antonio played the same length schedule, in the same park, in both 2018 and 2019, it is not listed in this table. However, Colorado Springs is listed, because they had a full-season team in 2018, and a short-season team, the Rocky Mountain Vibes, in 2019. Other changes were new ballparks in Mexico City, Las Vegas, and Fayetteville, NC, along with a new team, in a new park in Amarillo. These moves were a big factor in the attendance growth of 2019.

Also on this list is Dunedin, who played most of their home games in the old park in Clearwater due to the reconstruction of their regular home park.

In 2018, Fayetteville played as Buies Creek, in a small ballpark on the campus of Campbell University.

The 6 teams listed in the table below, had combined 2019 total attendance growth of 123.1%, and an average per date gain of 2,941 vs. what they drew in their former locations in 2018. Combined total attendance rose 0.1%, and average per date fell by 19 for the 170 MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same ballpark in both **2019 and 2018**.

Some independent league teams come and go each year, so this table does not include them.

Since 2000, "MLB-affiliated Same Ballpark" attendance (counting teams that played in the same ballpark in both years being compared – for example, in 2000, it's 2000 vs. 1999) has been up in 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2017, and 2019. It has declined in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2022.

In the table below, Amarillo's 2019 attendance appears on the same line as the attendance for 2018 Colorado Springs because one end result of the Helena to Colorado Springs, Colorado Springs to San Antonio, and San Antonio to Amarillo moves, was that a full-season team in Amarillo replaced a full-season team in Colorado Springs.

**MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN A DIFFERENT PARK IN 2019 THAN IN 2018**

League	2019 City	2019 Attendance	2018 City	2018 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2018
Mexican	Mexico City	389,641	Mexico City	155,185	234,456
Pacific Coast	Las Vegas	650,934	Las Vegas	332,224	318,710
Pacific Coast/Texas	Amarillo	427,791	Colorado Sprs.	262,657	165,134
Carolina	Fayetteville	246,961	Buies Creek	24,068	222,893
Florida State	Dunedin *	11,757	Dunedin	30,569	(18,812)
Pioneer	Colorado Sprs.	137,294	Helena	31,086	106,208
Total - Above 6 Teams		1,864,378		835,789	1,028,589
170 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2018 NAPBL Teams		39,639,699		39,614,548	25,151

) Dunedin played most of its home games at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater. That park was the Spring Training home of the Philadelphia Phillies, and the home of the Clearwater Threshers, through 2003.

**NEW MARKETS, NEW BALLPARKS, AND 'SAME BALLPARK' ATTENDANCE GROWTH****2019 'LAME DUCKS' AND A TEAM FORCED OUT OF THEIR PARK DUE TO FLOODS**

At the start of the **2019** season, it had been already announced that 4 teams would move to a new city in 2020, with one more scheduled to move in 2021. The **2020** moves were scheduled to be New Orleans to Wichita KS, Mobile to Madison AL (named the Rocket City Trash Pandas), Potomac to Fredericksburg VA, which is about 35 miles away, and the Florida Firefrogs from Kissimmee to North Port. In **2021**, Pawtucket moved to Worcester. Of course, there was no 2020 season, and the Florida Firefrogs were eliminated in the 2021 Minor League Reorganization.

When a team is leaving, its attendance usually takes a hit. That happened in 2019 for 4 of these teams. Potomac also was hurt by 11 lost dates. But Mobile had the largest total attendance increase of any Double-A team.

In addition, Quad Cities couldn't play many of its early season games at home because the area around their ballpark was under water. Floods on the Mississippi River, right next to their park, prevented access to the park. Relocated home games were played in Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Peoria, Clinton, and on the campus of the University of Iowa at Iowa City. All this resulted in a large decline in attendance.

The table below lists **2019 and 2018** attendance for these 6 teams. There is also a figure at the bottom of the table for the 164 then-MLB-affiliated teams not listed in either table on this page or on page 82. (There were 176 MLB-affiliated teams that charged admission to their games in 2019. This included the Mexican League and 4 short-season leagues.) The 'Lame Ducks' plus Quad Cities, had a combined 18.7% decline in total attendance in 2019, and their average per date fell by 501. The remaining 164 teams, which also excludes the teams that moved to new cities or new parks for the 2019 season, had a combined total attendance increase of 0.7%, and their average per date was down by one.

With one slight exception, there were no 'lame ducks' among MLB-affiliated teams in 2021, 2022, or 2023, and basically, all 120 teams returned to the same cities and ballparks in 2022 and 2023. Vancouver, which was forced to play its 2021 home games in Hillsboro, Oregon due to the closure of the U.S./Canadian border, returned home in 2022.

A pair of 2024 MLB-affiliated teams are expected to move to new markets in 2025. Down East (Kinston, NC) will go to Spartanburg, SC. The Mississippi Braves (Pearl, near Jackson) move to Columbus, GA.

**TEAMS THAT WERE PLANNING TO MOVE TO A NEW CITY IN 2020 OR 2021, PLUS QUAD CITIES**

League	2019/2018 City	2019 Attendance	2018 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2018	Moved To:
Pacific Coast	New Orleans	188,092	252,614	(64,522)	Wichita, KS
Southern	Mobile	95,087	69,504	25,583	Madison, AL
International	Pawtucket	331,010	394,811	(63,801)	Worcester, MA
Carolina	Potomac	192,474	237,244	(44,770)	Fredericksburg
Florida State	Kissimmee	19,615	33,017	(13,402)	Disbanded
Midwest	Quad Cities	150,905	215,061	(64,156)	Didn't Move
Total - Above 6 Teams		977,183	1,202,251	(225,068)	
164 MLB-Affiliated 2019 Teams not in either table		38,662,516	38,412,297	250,219	

**ATTENDANCE GROWTH FOR TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS OR NEW BALLPARKS**

This section will cover some of the current Major League-affiliated teams that posted some very large attendance gains following a move to a new market or a new ballpark. Attendance for the first season in the new park/market is compared with attendance in the final year in the old park/market. **Due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season, attendance comparisons are also made for 2022 vs. 2019 for teams that moved to a new ballpark in 2021.**

The period covered in the tables that appear on the next 3 pages will begin with the Columbus Clippers' move to Cooper Stadium in 1977. The Clippers drew 457,251 that year, the highest total by a U.S. based Minor League team since Denver drew 461,419 in 1952. The Clippers moved from Memphis, where they drew 92,973 in 1976. In 1979, Columbus drew 599,544, the best total since San Francisco, then a Minor League city, drew 606,563 in 1948.

This isn't a full list of teams that moved to new markets or new parks since 1977. It only illustrates some of the teams with very big attendance gains as a result of a move. When the former market listing is 'New Ballpark,' it means that the team moved into a new ballpark in the same market. It may have moved from the city to a suburb, or vice-versa like Charlotte in 2014, or in another case, from Canton to Akron (both in the Cleveland TV market) in 1997, but the team remained in the same geographic market. The list excludes 2017 Hartford who didn't have 2016 home games.

The list has all the very large increases in attendance due to relocations or new ballparks. But it also includes some increases that were not quite as large, in order to list at least one team from each MLB-affiliated league, and to include a few more listings from the short-season leagues. **It also shows the 2021 moves, even though the changes in total attendance are far less than they would have been if 2021 had been a 'normal' season.**

Multiple teams from some leagues relocated in the same year, and are not listed in this table. Some examples: In 1993, the South Atlantic League added Hickory, which drew 283,727, and Hagerstown, which drew 95,702. These 2 cities replaced Gastonia, which drew 32,931 in 1992, and Myrtle Beach, which drew 61,120. The combined increase in attendance for the South Atlantic League from these 2 moves was 285,378.

In 1994, the short-season New York-Penn League added Hudson Valley (138,107), New Jersey (150,370), Williamsport (61,233), and Burlington, Vermont (107,310). These 4 teams replaced Glens Falls (78,925 in 1993), Geneva (34,634), Niagara Falls (50,190), and Erie (65,316). The net increase from these moves was 227,955.

In 2004, the Mexican League added teams in Tijuana, Aguascalientes, and San Luis Potosi, who drew a combined 753,834. They replaced teams in Cordoba, Reynosa, and Laredo, who drew a combined 273,380 in 2003. The net gain was 480,454.

The American Association shown in the 'League' column in the table is the Triple-A MLB-affiliated league that operated through 1997. That league's teams joined either the International League or the Pacific Coast League in 1998.

In 2014, the combined total attendance increase for teams that either moved to a new market or a new ballpark was 1,092,459 (3 teams). Other years since 2000 with big combined gains by teams in this category included 2000 (2,486,321 – 5 teams), 2001 (1,382,109 – 6 teams), 2003 (1,781,807 – 8 teams), 2005 (1,193,224 – 10 teams), and 2019 (1,028,529 – 6 teams).

There have been 7 instances, shown in bold on the table, where the move to a new market or new ballpark resulted in an attendance increase of at least 500,000. Louisville, in 1982, was the first of these teams, and they set a new all-time high for Minor League attendance. The following year, they became the first team in Minor League history to draw over one million. In 1988, Buffalo moved from old War Memorial Stadium to a new park in downtown Buffalo. The Bisons then topped one million for 6 straight years, through 1993. No team has topped one million since. Based on ballpark capacity, that's a figure that would be impossible to reach for all but a few teams.

Salt Lake City in 1994, was the next city to have a 500,000 gain following a move. In 2000, 3 teams (Sacramento, Dayton, Round Rock) each drew over 500,000 more fans than in their former markets in 1999. Frisco, in 2003, was the last team to achieve a 500,000 gain. Frisco is a Class AA team, and Dayton is in Class A.

Since 2000, there have been 7 teams, **excluding 2021 Beloit**, that moved to a new market or new ballpark, that had a decline in attendance. In 2002, a South Atlantic League team moved from Wilmington, NC to Albany, GA just 3 weeks prior to the start of the season due to ballpark problems. Attendance fell 62,523. In 2006, hurricane damage to the park in Cancun, Mexico forced the team to move to Cordoba, and attendance declined by 43,997. In 2010, Eugene of the Northwest League moved to a new park which they share with the University of Oregon, but their attendance dropped by 17,914. In 2012, a P.C.L. team from Portland relocated temporarily to Tucson until a new location could be found. Attendance fell by 52,196. This team ultimately moved to El Paso in 2014. In 2017, Buies Creek, Florida, and Leon, all drew less than they did their former homes in 2016.



## LARGE ATTENDANCE GROWTH BY TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS AND/OR NEW PARKS – Since 1977

Year	League	New Market or New Ballpark	First Yr. New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
1977	International	Columbus	457,251	Memphis	92,973	364,278
<b>1982</b>	<b>Amer. Assn.</b>	<b>Louisville</b>	<b>868,418</b>	<b>Springfield, IL</b>	<b>120,537</b>	<b>747,881</b>
1983	Pacific Coast	Las Vegas	365,848	Spokane	221,526	144,322
1985	International	Richmond	379,019	New Ballpark	165,313	213,506
1987	Eastern	Harrisburg	212,141	Waterbury	37,267	174,874
<b>1988</b>	<b>Amer. Assn</b>	<b>Buffalo</b>	<b>1,146,651</b>	<b>New Ballpark</b>	<b>495,760</b>	<b>650,891</b>
1989	International	Scranton-Wilkes	444,400	Maine	80,071	364,329
1989	Northwest	Boise	127,594	New Ballpark	67,524	60,070
1991	California	High Desert	204,438	Riverside	82,420	122,018
1991	Midwest	Kane County, IL	240,920	Wausau	56,434	183,856
1992	Eastern	Binghamton	259,284	Williamsport	96,711	162,573
1993	California	Rancho Cucam.	331,005	Salinas	54,256	276,749
1993	Carolina	Wilmington, DE	332,132	Peninsula, VA	59,093	273,039
1993	International	Norfolk	529,708	New Ballpark	174,362	355,346
1993	Midwest	Fort Wayne	318,506	Kenosha	40,226	278,280
1993	Appalachian	Danville	80,539	Pulaski	16,993	63,546
1994	California	Lake Elsinore	357,123	Palm Springs	89,645	267,478
1994	Midwest	West Michigan	475,212	Waterloo	51,329	423,883
<b>1994</b>	<b>Pacific Coast</b>	<b>Salt Lake City</b>	<b>713,224</b>	<b>Portland, OR</b>	<b>186,010</b>	<b>527,214</b>
1994	Texas	San Antonio	411,959	New Ballpark	189,251	222,708
1995	Midwest	Appleton, WI	209,159	New Ballpark	75,164	133,995
1995	Eastern	Norwich, CT	281,473	Albany-Colonie	115,819	165,654
1996	California	Lancaster, CA	316,611	Riverside	56,590	260,021
1996	Amer. Assn.	Indianapolis	537,325	New Ballpark	366,254	171,071
1996	Midwest	Lansing	538,325	Springfield, IL	39,467	498,858
1996	South Atlantic	Delmarva	315,011	Albany, GA	91,289	223,722
1997	Eastern	Akron	473,232	New Ballpark	213,278	259,954
1997	Northwest	Salem-Keizer	136,836	Bellingham	48,417	88,419
1997	Amer. Assn.	New Orleans	507,164	New Ballpark	180,485	326,679
1997	Southern	Mobile	332,639	Wilmington, NC	68,463	264,176
1998	Pacific Coast	Fresno	359,076	Phoenix	209,698	149,378
1999	Carolina	Myrtle Beach	232,619	Danville	74,737	157,882
2000	International	Louisville	685,863	New Ballpark	361,419	324,444
2000	Pacific Coast	Memphis	859,851	New Ballpark	397,339	462,512
<b>2000</b>	<b>Pacific Coast</b>	<b>Sacramento</b>	<b>861,808</b>	<b>Vancouver</b>	<b>241,461</b>	<b>620,347</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Round Rock</b>	<b>660,110</b>	<b>Jackson, MS</b>	<b>99,240</b>	<b>560,870</b>
<b>2000</b>	<b>Midwest</b>	<b>Dayton</b>	<b>581,853</b>	<b>Rockford, IL</b>	<b>63,705</b>	<b>518,148</b>

## LARGE ATTENDANCE GROWTH BY TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS AND/OR NEW PARKS – Since 1977

Year	League	New Market or New Ballpark	First Yr. New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
2001	South Atlantic	Lakewood, NJ	482,206	Cape Fear, NC	32,641	449,565
2001	South Atlantic	Lexington, KY	451,076	Kissimmee	29,650	421,426
2001	N.Y.-Penn	Brooklyn	289,381	Queens, NY	38,662	250,719
2002	N.Y.-Penn	Aberdeen	231,935	Utica, NY	47,135	184,800
2002	International	Toledo	547,204	New Ballpark	300,079	247,125
2002	Pacific Coast	Fresno	563,079	New Ballpark	292,886	270,193
2002	Texas	Midland	276,380	New Ballpark	148,292	128,088
2003	Pacific Coast	Albuquerque	576,867	Calgary	182,931	393,936
<b>2003</b>	<b>Texas</b>	<b>Frisco</b>	<b>666,977</b>	<b>Shreveport</b>	<b>24,569</b>	<b>642,408</b>
2003	South Atlantic	Lake County, OH	437,515	Columbus, GA	52,103	385,412
2003	South Atlantic	Rome, GA	246,718	Macon	84,001	162,717
2003	Southern	Jacksonville, FL	359,979	New Ballpark	230,156	129,823
2004	Southern	Montgomery	322,946	Orlando	150,051	172,895
2004	Florida State	Clearwater	135,082	New Ballpark	63,655	71,427
2004	Mexican	Tijuana	548,863	Dos Laredos	74,290	474,573
2005	Texas	Springfield, MO	526,630	El Paso	229,315	297,315
2005	South Atlantic	Greensboro	406,996	New Ballpark	200,477	206,519
2005	South Atlantic	Charleston, WV	234,160	New Ballpark	125,979	108,181
2005	California	Stockton	205,819	New Ballpark	98,035	107,784
2006	South Atlantic	Greenville, SC	330,078	New Ballpark	115,161	214,917
2007	Midwest	Great Lakes, MI	324,564	Battle Creek	84,969	239,595
2007	Texas	Arkansas	372,475	New Ballpark	207,507	164,968
2008	International	Lehigh Valley, PA	602,033	Ottawa, Ontario	126,894	475,139
2008	Texas	NW Arkansas	358,792	Wichita, KS	113,368	245,424
2009	Pacific Coast	Reno	466,606	Tucson	245,121	221,485
2009	Florida State	Port Charlotte	171,314	Vero Beach	47,944	123,370
2009	South Atlantic	Bowling Green	232,987	Columbus, GA	61,290	171,697
2010	Eastern	Richmond	463,842	Norwich, CT	203,005	260,837
2010	Carolina	Winston-Salem	312,313	New Ballpark	57,665	254,648
2012	Southern	Pensacola	328,147	Kinston	112,181	215,996
2012	Pioneer	Grand Junction	101,496	Casper	47,982	53,514
2013	Southern	Birmingham	396,820	New Ballpark	204,269	192,551
2013	Northwest	Hillsboro, OR	135,167	Yakima	61,895	73,272
2014	Mexican	Tijuana	419,169	Minatitlan	120,511	298,658
2014	Pacific Coast	El Paso	560,997	Tucson	200,077	360,920
2014	International	Charlotte, NC	687,715	New Ballpark	254,834	432,881
2015	Pacific Coast	Nashville	565,548	New Ballpark	323,961	241,587
2016	South Atlantic	Columbia, SC	261,134	Savannah	125,587	135,547

LARGE ATTENDANCE GROWTH BY TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS AND/OR NEW PARKS – Since 1977

Year	League	New Market or New Ballpark	First Yr. New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
2019	Pacific Coast	Las Vegas	650,934	New Ballpark	332,224	318,710
2019	Mexican	Mexico City	389,641	New Ballpark	155,185	234,456
2019	Texas	Amarillo	427,791	Colorado Sprs.	262,657	165,134
2019	Carolina	Fayetteville, NC	246,961	Buies Creek	24,068	222,893
2021	Triple-A East	Worcester	362,559	Pawtucket	331,010	31,549
2021	Low-A East	Kannapolis	162,031	Kannapolis	75,931	86,100
2021	Low-A East	Fredericksburg	199,071	Potomac	192,474	6,597
2021	Double-A Central	Wichita	241,230	New Orleans	188,092	53,138
2021	Double-A South	Rocket City	274,858	Mobile	95,087	179,771
2021	High-A Central	Beloit	46,746	Beloit	73,200	(26,454)
2022	International	Worcester	532,152*	Pawtucket	331,010	201,142*
2022	Carolina	Kannapolis	192,161*	Kannapolis	75,931	116,230*
2022	Carolina	Fredericksburg	260,546*	Potomac	192,474	68,072*
2022	Texas	Wichita	220,528*	New Orleans	188,092	32,436*
2022	Southern	Rocket City	327,007*	Mobile	95,087	231,920*
2022	Midwest	Beloit	102,794*	Beloit	73,200	29,594*

\* 2022 vs. 2019 comparisons are also made for teams that moved going into 2021. The first series of listings for that group of teams in this table compares 2021 vs. 2019, and just below that listing, is the 2022 vs. 2019 comparison.

**YEARLY TOTAL ATTENDANCE GROWTH BY MLB-AFFILIATED 'SAME MARKET, SAME BALLPARK' TEAMS**

Much of the growth in Minor League attendance over the last 4 decades was driven by teams moving into new markets or new ballparks.

MLB-affiliated Minor League total attendance rose 4.0% in 2023 vs. 2022. This growth was achieved without any MLB-affiliated teams moving to a new ballpark or new market. As the table below indicates, the last time the U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated 'same market-same ballpark' teams had a combined gain of at least 4% was in 1991, when they had a 4.6% increase. In 1990, these types of teams had a 6.3% gain vs. 1989.

1990 was the last time the numerical increase for such teams was higher than in 2023. (All these figures exclude the now independent Mexican League for all seasons, but do include the short-season leagues that operated through 2019. The table also excludes 2022 vs. 2021 due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season, when many teams faced ballpark capacity restrictions, and Buffalo and Vancouver had temporary relocations.)

From 1995 through 2019 (25 seasons), there were only 4 seasons where the U.S./Canadian 'same market, same ballpark' teams had a combined total attendance increase.

**MLB-AFFILIATED U.S./CANADIAN 'SAME MARKET – SAME BALLPARK' TOTAL ATTENDANCE CHANGE**

Year	Total Attendance - # Change vs. Previous Year - MLB-Affiliated U.S./Canadian 'Same Market-Same Ballpark' Teams	% Change		Year	Total Attendance - % Change vs. Previous Year - MLB-Affiliated U.S./Canadian 'Same Market-Same Ballpark' Teams	% Change
2023	1,231,662	4.0				
2019	(586,721)	(1.6)		1999	(776,681)	(2.4)
2018	(1,188,111)	(3.2)		1998	(414,674)	(1.3)
2017	49,556	0.1		1997	(565,376)	(1.9)
2016	(1,214,355)	(3.2)		1996	(1,136,625)	(3.8)
2015	(93,086)	(0.2)		1995	(717,144)	(2.5)
2014	(121,782)	(0.3)		1994	258,262	1.0
2013	(154,123)	(0.4)		1993	94,786	0.4
2012	(733,470)	(1.9)		1992	4,083	0.0
2011	(739,331)	(1.9)		1991	1,038,928	4.6
2010	(547,274)	(1.5)		1990	<b>1,280,113</b>	<b>6.3</b>
2009	(1,565,109)	(4.1)		1989	848,356	4.5
2008	(467,803)	(1.2)		1988	(32,415)	(0.2)
2007	581,664	1.5		1987	635,560	4.0
2006	(353,712)	(0.9)		1986	368,820	2.4
2005	154,461	0.4		1985	290,977	2.1
2004	155,457	0.4		1984	(1,271,491)	(8.3)
2003	(1,240,315)	(3.5)		1983	(123,426)	(0.9)
2002	(818,318)	(2.4)				
2001	(114,910)	(0.3)				
2000	(742,422)	(2.4)				

**ATTENDANCE CHANGES IN A BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON**

The table on the next 5 pages compares attendance for the first and second years of Minor League ballparks which opened between 1992 and 2022. **This covers both MLB-affiliated and independent leagues.** The comparison is made for both total attendance and average per date. 1992 was the first year that average per date was available for all Minor League teams, which is why earlier seasons are not included.

In some of these cases, the first season in a park was not a full season. The team began Year 1 playing in another ballpark. A listing of which parks opened after the start of a season is not available.

Due to cancellation of the 2020 Minor League season, and the 2021 reduced schedule and ballpark capacity restrictions, 2022 is listed as Year 2 for parks that opened in 2019. 2022 is listed as Year 1 for parks that opened in 2021, and 2023 is listed as Year 2 for these parks

The only ballpark change in 2023 was the New Jersey Jackals of the Frontier League moving from Yogi Berra Stadium on the campus of Montclair State University, to the rebuilt Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson.

Unlike in the Major Leagues, a majority of new Minor League parks had higher total attendance in Year 2 than in Year 1, and the number of parks with higher average per date in Year 2 was only slightly less than the number with a lower average per date.

**YEAR 2 vs. YEAR 1 ATTENDANCE IN MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE MINOR LEAGUE PARKS**

<b>Years</b>	<b># of New Parks</b>	<b># with Total Att. Gain</b>	<b># with Total Att. Loss</b>	<b># with Average per Date Gain</b>	<b># with Avg. per Date Loss</b>	<b>Same Avg. in Both Years</b>
1992-1999	74	43	31	40	34	
2000-2009	76	39	37	33	42	1
2010-2019	33	15	18	14	19	
2022-2023	9	5	4	5	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>2</b>

From 1992 through 1999, Year 2 averaged combined increases of 4.0% in total attendance, and 1.6% in average per date. From 2000 through 2009, Year 2 averaged combined declines of 0.4% in total attendance, and 0.5% in average per date. For 2010 through 2019, the Year 2 combined average decreases were 6.1% in total attendance and 4.7% in average per date. The 2019 comparison with 2022 was a factor in the higher rate of declines for the 2010-2019 period. Overall, since 1992, through 2023, Year 2 vs. Year 1 total attendance was up a combined 0.3%, and average per date fell a combined 0.3%.

In the Major Leagues, there was a greater decline in attendance in a ballpark's Year 2, than in the Minor Leagues. 48 Major League parks opened between 1960 and 2020. 15 of those parks had higher total attendance in the park's second season. But only 8 of those parks with gains were open for the full season in their Year 1. 33 of the Major League parks had a decline in total attendance in Year 2. From Year 1 to Year 2, there was a combined average decline in total attendance of 7.3%. In average per date, 13 teams had gains for Year 2 vs. Year 1, and 35 teams had declines.

## CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE IN A NEW BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON - MINOR LEAGUES

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u># Change in</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Total</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u># Change</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>
1992	Veracruz	170,213	163,627	6,586	4.0	2,619	2,517	102	4.1
1992	Iowa	446,860	453,386	(6,526)	(1.4)	6,571	6,869	(298)	(4.3)
1992	Binghamton, NY	225,467	259,183	(33,716)	(13.0)	3,469	4,180	(711)	(17.0)
1992	Asheville	121,573	119,040	2,533	2.1	1,900	1,951	(51)	(2.6)
1992	Minititlan	165,672	151,234	14,438	9.5	2,672	2,257	415	18.4
1993	Norfolk	546,826	529,708	17,118	3.2	8,162	7,906	256	3.2
1993	Ottawa	596,858	663,926	(67,068)	(10.1)	8,908	9,764	(856)	(8.8)
1993	Ran. Cucamonga	386,633	331,005	55,628	16.8	5,771	4,868	903	18.5
1993	Wilmington, DE	335,024	332,132	2,892	0.9	5,235	5,110	125	2.4
1993	Fort Wayne	266,670	318,506	(51,836)	(16.3)	4,040	4,684	(644)	(13.7)
1993	Hickory	270,880	283,727	(12,847)	(4.5)	3,984	4,053	(69)	(1.7)
1993	Yakima	85,483	86,822	(1,339)	(1.5)	2,250	2,285	(35)	(1.5)
1993	Danville	70,862	80,539	(9,677)	(12.0)	2,147	2,441	(294)	(12.0)
1993	Sioux City, IA	140,224	112,971	27,253	24.1	3,506	3,138	368	11.7
1993	Chillicothe	32,808	20,453	12,355	60.4	965	787	178	22.6
1993	Mexico City	202,903	183,798	19,105	10.4	3,439	2,964	475	16.0
1994	Hudson Valley, NY	161,673	138,116	23,557	17.1	4,370	3,946	424	10.7
1994	Trenton	453,915	318,252	135,663	42.6	6,393	5,583	810	14.5
1994	Brevard Cty., FL	140,109	144,688	(4,579)	(3.2)	2,060	2,160	(100)	(4.6)
1994	Salt Lake	637,332	713,224	(75,892)	(10.6)	9,512	10,189	(677)	(6.6)
1994	Bowie	463,976	293,665	170,311	58.0	6,925	4,589	2,336	50.9
1994	Portland, ME	429,763	375,197	54,566	14.5	6,139	5,438	701	12.9
1994	San Antonio	387,090	411,959	(24,869)	(6.0)	5,777	6,149	(372)	(6.0)
1994	Lake Elsinore	383,297	357,123	26,174	7.3	5,476	5,330	146	2.7
1994	West Michigan	507,989	475,212	32,777	6.9	7,582	6,988	594	8.5
1994	Sussex Cty., NJ	176,788	156,447	20,341	13.0	4,652	4,470	182	4.1
1994	Columbus, GA	128,816	133,351	(4,535)	(3.4)	1,840	2,020	(180)	(8.9)
1995	Durham	365,445	390,486	(25,041)	(6.4)	5,537	6,007	(470)	(7.8)
1995	Norwich, CT	269,022	281,473	(12,451)	(4.4)	4,139	4,201	(62)	(1.5)
1995	Erie	187,794	181,815	5,979	3.3	4,942	4,914	28	0.6
1995	Salem, VA	173,703	140,111	33,592	24.0	2,632	2,156	476	22.1
1995	Wisconsin	233,797	209,159	24,638	11.8	3,771	3,218	553	17.2
1995	Augusta, GA	157,487	171,166	(13,679)	(8.0)	2,386	2,593	(207)	(8.0)
1995	Kannapolis	102,983	115,649	(12,666)	(11.0)	1,537	1,752	(215)	(12.3)
1995	Auburn, NY	44,813	58,972	(14,159)	(24.0)	1,211	1,638	(427)	(26.1)
1995	Tri-City, WA	96,061	98,246	(2,185)	(2.2)	2,135	2,183	(48)	(2.2)
1995	Kingsport	33,100	35,891	(2,791)	(7.8)	1,103	1,196	(93)	(7.8)
1995	Edmonton	463,684	426,012	37,672	8.8	7,479	6,762	717	10.6
1996	Indianapolis	618,095	537,325	80,770	15.0	9,225	8,020	1,205	15.0
1996	New Britain, CT	151,718	160,765	(9,047)	(5.6)	2,408	2,593	(185)	(7.1)
1996	Inland Empire, CA	273,739	148,363	125,376	84.5	3,911	2,119	1,792	84.6
1996	Tampa	149,191	124,619	24,572	19.7	2,331	2,043	288	14.1
1996	Lansing	523,443	538,325	(14,882)	(2.8)	7,813	7,802	11	0.1
1996	Delmarva	324,412	315,011	9,401	3.0	4,915	4,846	69	1.4
1996	Batavia	41,192	39,025	2,167	5.6	1,177	1,148	29	2.5
1996	Fargo-Moorhead	179,880	155,052	24,828	16.0	4,283	3,782	501	13.2
1996	Kalamazoo	55,421	62,331	(6,910)	(11.1)	1,386	1,731	(345)	(19.9)
1996	Lancaster, CA	298,465	316,390	(17,925)	(5.7)	4,264	4,520	(256)	(5.7)

## CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE IN A NEW BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON - MINOR LEAGUES

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u># Change in</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Total</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u># Change</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>
1997	Rochester	515,436	512,570	2,866	0.6	7,470	7,766	(296)	(3.8)
1997	Syracuse	420,488	400,804	19,684	4.9	6,184	5,982	202	3.4
1997	New Orleans	519,584	507,164	12,420	2.4	7,530	7,143	387	5.4
1997	Akron	521,122	473,232	47,890	10.1	7,445	7,063	382	5.4
1997	Mobile	271,002	332,639	(61,637)	(18.5)	3,928	4,821	(893)	(18.5)
1997	Charleston, SC	234,840	231,006	3,834	1.7	3,454	3,300	154	4.7
1997	Salem-Keizer	133,980	136,836	(2,856)	(2.1)	3,526	3,698	(172)	(4.7)
1997	Ogden	99,443	101,256	(1,813)	(1.8)	2,762	2,813	(51)	(1.8)
1997	Chico	132,052	116,525	15,527	13.3	2,934	2,589	345	13.3
1997	Abilene	53,095	65,489	(12,394)	(18.9)	1,295	1,488	(193)	(13.0)
1998	Oklahoma City	471,722	491,036	(19,314)	(3.9)	7,041	7,221	(180)	(2.5)
1998	Tucson	254,817	300,460	(45,643)	(15.2)	3,747	4,419	(672)	(15.2)
1998	Jackson, TN	302,203	313,775	(11,572)	(3.7)	4,444	4,483	(39)	(0.9)
1998	Jupiter	105,037	94,155	10,882	11.6	1,522	1,365	157	11.5
1998	Atlantic City	206,538	174,376	32,162	18.4	2,718	2,491	227	9.1
1998	N.J. Jackals	129,179	114,796	14,383	12.5	3,312	2,943	369	12.5
1998	Bridgeport	342,857	296,145	46,712	15.8	4,571	4,420	151	3.4
1999	Somerset, NJ	365,310	335,056	30,254	9.0	5,294	5,235	59	1.1
1999	Myrtle Beach	234,019	232,619	1,400	0.6	3,600	3,525	75	2.1
1999	Winnipeg	271,513	248,488	23,025	9.3	6,465	6,061	404	6.7
1999	Newark, NJ	225,391	126,407	98,984	78.3	3,175	3,612	(437)	(12.1)
1999	River City, MO	157,922	151,661	6,261	4.1	3,948	3,792	156	4.1
1999	Schaumburg	215,838	236,476	(20,638)	(8.7)	5,264	5,499	(235)	(4.3)
1999	Windy City, IL	70,205	86,248	(16,043)	(18.6)	1,800	2,211	(411)	(18.6)
1999	Altoona	333,968	323,932	10,036	3.1	5,060	4,695	365	7.8
1999	Mahoning Valley	206,287	203,073	3,214	1.6	5,429	5,641	(212)	(3.8)
	1990's TOTALS	19,472,997	18,719,701	753,296	4.0	4,515	4,443	72	1.6
2000	Louisville	649,232	685,863	(36,631)	(5.3)	9,275	9,526	(251)	(2.6)
2000	Memphis	887,976	859,851	28,125	3.3	12,507	12,111	396	3.3
2000	Round Rock	668,792	660,110	8,682	1.3	9,554	9,430	124	1.3
2000	Sacramento	901,214	861,808	39,406	4.6	12,517	12,312	205	1.7
2000	Chattanooga	288,047	290,165	(2,118)	(0.7)	4,236	4,267	(31)	(0.7)
2000	Tennessee	266,037	256,141	9,896	3.9	3,856	3,823	33	0.9
2000	Dayton	578,578	581,853	(3,275)	(0.6)	8,385	8,433	(48)	(0.6)
2000	Lowell	185,000	180,000	5,000	2.8	5,000	5,000	0	0.0
2000	Long Island	443,142	436,361	6,781	1.6	6,155	6,146	9	0.1
2000	San Angelo	117,322	150,770	(33,448)	(22.2)	2,346	2,741	(395)	(14.4)
2001	Lakewood	466,474	482,206	(15,732)	(3.3)	6,860	6,889	(29)	(0.4)
2001	Lexington, KY	428,840	451,076	(22,236)	(4.9)	6,215	6,444	(229)	(3.6)
2001	Brooklyn	317,124	289,381	27,743	9.6	8,345	7,821	524	6.7
2001	Staten Island	181,936	188,127	(6,191)	(3.3)	4,917	4,951	(34)	(0.7)
2001	Camden	313,792	280,329	33,463	11.9	4,548	4,063	485	11.9
2001	Lincoln	247,471	240,022	7,449	3.1	4,852	5,334	(482)	(9.0)
2001	Edinburg	140,713	135,360	5,353	4.0	2,932	2,880	52	1.8
2001	Campeche	55,277	103,961	(48,684)	(46.8)	1,005	1,733	(728)	(42.0)

## CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE IN A NEW BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON - MINOR LEAGUES

<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u># Change in</u> <u>Total Attend.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Total</u>	<u>Year 2</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Year 1</u> <u>Avg./Date</u>	<u># Change</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>	<u>% Chg.</u> <u>in Avg./Dt.</u>
2002	Fort Worth	161,655	160,737	918	0.6	3,674	3,420	254	7.4
2002	Gateway, IL	168,067	92,819	75,248	81.1	4,002	2,264	1,738	76.8
2002	Joliet	198,091	202,755	(4,664)	(2.3)	4,502	4,055	447	11.0
2002	Washington, PA	156,276	132,901	23,375	17.6	3,552	3,241	311	9.6
2002	Toledo	517,331	547,204	(29,873)	(5.5)	7,608	7,707	(99)	(1.3)
2002	Fresno	522,174	563,079	(40,905)	(7.3)	7,355	8,044	(689)	(8.6)
2002	Brockton	149,738	131,654	18,084	13.7	3,565	3,135	430	13.7
2002	Midland	270,627	276,380	(5,753)	(2.1)	3,922	4,006	(84)	(2.1)
2002	Cedar Rapids	174,451	196,066	(21,615)	(11.0)	2,528	2,883	(355)	(12.3)
2002	Peoria	246,370	254,407	(8,037)	(3.2)	3,623	3,687	(64)	(1.7)
2002	Aberdeen	234,143	231,935	2,208	1.0	6,162	6,104	58	1.0
2002	Tri-City, NY	103,984	108,409	(4,425)	(4.1)	2,971	3,011	(40)	(1.3)
2002	Casper	51,427	50,573	854	1.7	1,390	1,331	59	4.4
2003	Albuquerque	575,607	576,867	(1,260)	(0.2)	8,223	8,125	98	1.2
2003	Jacksonville, FL	420,495	359,979	60,516	16.8	6,276	5,454	822	15.1
2003	Frisco	553,312	666,977	(113,665)	(17.0)	8,019	9,264	(1,245)	(13.4)
2003	Lake County, OH	406,096	437,515	(31,419)	(7.2)	6,153	6,341	(188)	(3.0)
2003	Rome, GA	246,674	246,718	(44)	(0.0)	3,737	3,979	(242)	(6.1)
2003	Gary-Southshore	147,801	140,310	7,491	5.3	3,213	3,189	24	0.8
2003	Kansas City, KS	238,745	204,198	34,547	16.9	5,080	4,749	331	7.0
2003	Coastal Bend, TX	103,049	103,134	(85)	(0.1)	2,240	2,194	46	2.1
2004	Montgomery	303,054	322,946	(19,892)	(6.2)	4,523	4,820	(297)	(6.2)
2004	Clearwater	130,446	135,082	(4,636)	(3.4)	1,976	2,078	(102)	(4.9)
2004	Lynchburg	150,139	148,067	2,072	1.4	2,275	2,314	(39)	(1.7)
2004	Quad Cities	165,124	173,364	(8,240)	(4.8)	2,465	2,938	(473)	(16.1)
2004	Greeneville, TN	49,963	51,183	(1,220)	(2.4)	1,561	1,599	(38)	(2.4)
2004	Missoula	67,922	64,942	2,980	4.6	1,787	1,855	(68)	(3.7)
2004	Florence, KY	94,191	68,250	25,941	38.0	1,847	1,587	260	16.4
2005	New Hampshire	300,049	279,556	20,493	7.3	4,616	7,523	(2,907)	(38.6)
2005	Mississippi	248,955	242,423	6,532	2.7	3,716	4,236	(520)	(12.3)
2005	Corpus Christi	506,398	505,189	1,209	0.2	7,234	3,848	3,386	88.0
2005	Stockton	213,724	205,819	7,905	3.8	3,097	7,217	(4,120)	(57.1)
2005	Greensboro	427,890	406,996	20,894	5.1	6,386	3,072	3,314	107.9
2005	Springfield, MO	492,372	526,630	(34,258)	(6.5)	7,349	7,523	(174)	(2.3)
2005	Charleston, WV	239,721	234,160	5,561	2.4	3,746	3,602	144	4.0
2005	Orem	102,631	76,784	25,847	33.7	2,701	2,075	626	30.2
2005	Worcester	116,712	124,745	(8,033)	(6.4)	2,779	2,599	180	6.9
2005	Lancaster, PA	370,176	378,310	(8,134)	(2.2)	5,365	5,404	(39)	(0.7)
2005	Rockford	115,776	103,248	12,528	12.1	2,463	2,065	398	19.3
2006	Greenville, SC	339,356	330,078	9,278	2.8	4,991	4,784	207	4.3
2006	State College	151,394	138,619	12,775	9.2	4,205	3,851	354	9.2
2006	Traverse City	206,102	203,574	2,528	1.2	4,041	4,241	(200)	(4.7)
2007	Arkansas	377,997	372,475	5,522	1.5	5,559	5,644	(85)	(1.5)
2007	Great Lakes, MI	299,416	324,564	(25,148)	(7.7)	4,403	4,773	(370)	(7.8)
2007	Idaho Falls	95,470	104,960	(9,490)	(9.0)	2,512	2,762	(250)	(9.1)
2007	York	300,246	218,526	81,720	37.4	4,351	3,704	647	17.5
2007	So. Illinois	218,191	259,392	(41,201)	(15.9)	4,278	5,086	(808)	(15.9)
2007	Quintana Roo	188,464	214,556	(26,092)	(12.2)	3,846	3,901	(55)	(1.4)



## CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE IN A NEW BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON - MINOR LEAGUES

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2008	Lehigh Valley, PA	641,335	602,033	39,302	6.5	9,162	8,479	683	8.1
2008	N.W. Arkansas	318,056	358,792	(40,736)	(11.4)	4,819	5,200	(381)	(7.3)
2008	Billings	105,173	113,166	(7,993)	(7.1)	2,843	3,059	(216)	(7.1)
2008	South. Maryland	239,541	226,086	13,455	6.0	3,629	3,277	352	10.7
2008	Grand Prairie, TX	141,132	143,627	(2,495)	(1.7)	3,003	3,056	(53)	(1.7)
2009	Columbus, OH	635,141	666,797	(31,656)	(4.7)	8,946	9,526	(580)	(6.1)
2009	Gwinnett Cty, GA	337,240	423,556	(86,316)	(20.4)	4,818	5,966	(1,148)	(19.2)
2009	Reno	447,701	466,606	(18,905)	(4.1)	6,218	6,481	(263)	(4.1)
2009	Fort Wayne	404,942	378,529	26,413	7.0	5,785	5,408	377	7.0
2009	Bowling Green, KY	235,412	232,987	2,425	1.0	3,514	3,530	(16)	(0.5)
	2000's TOTALS	22,560,632	22,644,618	(83,986)	(0.4)	5,108	5,134	(26)	(0.5)
2010	Harrisburg	291,248	294,325	(3,077)	(1.0)	4,221	4,205	16	0.4
2010	Tulsa	366,291	408,183	(41,892)	(10.3)	5,387	6,185	(798)	(12.9)
2010	Winston Salem	312,416	312,313	103	0.0	4,663	4,593	70	1.5
2010	Eugene	114,690	107,561	7,129	6.6	3,018	2,831	187	6.6
2010	Lake County, IL	26,480	128,856	(102,376)	(79.4)	1,471	2,742	(1,271)	(46.4)
2010	Normal	114,917	132,309	(17,392)	(13.1)	2,445	2,646	(201)	(7.6)
2011	Omaha	415,650	410,326	5,324	1.3	5,938	5,947	(9)	(0.2)
2011	Rockland Cty., NY	161,375	123,518	37,857	30.6	3,293	2,807	486	17.3
2012	Pensacola	307,094	328,147	(21,053)	(6.4)	4,653	4,826	(173)	(3.6)
2012	Laredo	151,055	187,845	(36,790)	(19.6)	3,083	3,834	(751)	(19.6)
2012	Sugar Land	382,059	465,511	(83,452)	(17.9)	5,537	6,650	(1,113)	(16.7)
2013	Scranton-Wilks-B.	401,618	435,839	(34,221)	(7.9)	5,906	6,409	(503)	(7.8)
2013	Birmingham	437,612	396,820	40,792	10.3	6,252	5,669	583	10.3
2013	Hillsboro	138,732	135,167	3,565	2.6	3,651	3,557	94	2.6
2014	Charlotte	669,398	687,715	(18,317)	(2.7)	9,428	9,686	(258)	(2.7)
2014	El Paso	578,952	560,997	17,955	3.2	8,154	7,901	253	3.2
2015	Nashville	504,061	565,548	(61,487)	(10.9)	7,099	7,965	(866)	(10.9)
2015	Biloxi	180,384	164,076	16,308	9.9	2,692	2,604	88	3.4
2015	Morgantown, WV	78,774	83,796	(5,022)	(6.0)	2,188	2,265	(77)	(3.4)
2015	Joplin	31,001	65,975	(34,974)	(53.0)	646	1,499	(853)	(56.9)
2015	St. Paul	413,482	404,528	8,954	2.2	8,438	8,091	347	4.3
2016	United Shore	247,900	233,600	14,300	6.1	3,350	3,200	150	4.7
2016	Columbia, SC	315,034	261,134	53,900	20.6	4,773	3,785	988	26.1
2017	Hartford	408,942	395,196	13,746	3.5	6,014	5,812	202	3.5
2017	Cleburne	64,226	103,264	(39,038)	(37.8)	1,285	1,780	(495)	(27.8)
2018	Augusta, GA	266,569	255,155	11,414	4.5	3,920	4,050	(130)	(3.2)
2018	Chicago	166,672	138,855	27,817	20.0	3,623	2,954	669	22.6
2019	Las Vegas	518,227	650,934	(132,707)	(20.4)	6,910	9,299	(2,389)	(25.7)
2019	Amarillo	379,029	427,791	(48,762)	(11.4)	5,493	6,291	(798)	(12.7)
2019	Fayetteville, NC	214,470	246,961	(32,491)	(13.2)	3,459	3,632	(173)	(4.8)
2019	Mexico City	244,845	389,641	(144,796)	(37.2)	6,443	7,216	(773)	(10.7)
2019	Milwaukee	86,028	59,459	26,569	44.7	1,721	1,239	482	38.9
2019	High Point	124,010	144,486	(20,476)	(14.2)	1,879	2,157	(278)	(12.9)
	2010's TOTAL	9,113,241	9,705,831	(592,590)	(6.1)	4,719	4,954	(235)	(4.7)

## CHANGE IN ATTENDANCE IN A NEW BALLPARK'S SECOND SEASON - MINOR LEAGUES

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2021	Worcester	519,651	532,152	(12,501)	(2.3)	7,424	7,290	134	1.8
2021	Rocket City, AL	314,306	327,007	(12,701)	(3.9)	4,911	5,031	(120)	(2.4)
2021	Wichita, KS	322,637	220,528	102,109	46.3	4,676	3,341	1,335	40.0
2021	Beloit	104,411	102,794	1,617	1.6	1,606	1,632	(26)	(1.6)
2021	Fredericksburg	267,400	260,546	6,854	2.6	4,178	4,136	42	1.0
2021	Kannapolis	195,500	192,161	3,339	1.7	3,055	2,912	143	4.9
2021	Gastonia	91,090	106,903	(15,813)	(14.8)	1,423	1,724	(301)	(17.5)
2022	Lake Country, WI	91,839	93,711	(1,872)	(2.0)	1,874	1,874	0	0.0
2022	Glacier	100,661	83,217	17,444	21.0	2,097	1,734	363	20.9
	2020's TOTAL	2,007,495	1,919,019	88,476	4.6	3,604	3,451	153	4.4
Year 2 column for 2019 shows 2022 attendance. Year 1 column for 2021 shows 2022 attendance, and Year 2 shows 2023 attendance.									
	1992 2022								
	TOTALS	53,154,365	52,989,169	165,196	0.3	4,738	4,753	(15)	(0.3)

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, and 1973**

This section compares **2023** individual team attendance with **2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, and 1973** attendance for teams in the same markets. Total attendance comparisons are made for **2023 vs. all these years**, and average per date comparisons are noted for **2023 vs. 2013, 2003, and 1993**. (Average per date is not available for seasons prior to 1992.) All data includes **2023** markets that had teams that may have played in different leagues, or in different MLB-affiliated classifications, in earlier seasons. Some markets went from being MLB-affiliated in the earlier seasons, to hosting independent league teams in 2023, and vice versa. Other markets went from having a short-season team at some point, to having a full-season team. There were no independent teams in 1983 or 1973. Also noted for each year are teams that played in professional Minor Leagues in **2019**, but have since moved into Summer Collegiate leagues.

The reorganization of the Minor Leagues in 2021 has an impact on comparing attendance for groups of teams, and due to changes in the length of schedules, also affects individual team comparisons. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues are now MLB-Partner independent leagues. Among other MLB-affiliated 2019 short-season leagues, the Northwest League is now a full-season High-A league, and the Appalachian League is now a Summer Collegiate league.

The 3 tables on this page provide an overview of Major League and Minor League attendance changes over the past 50 years. Until 1993, the National League did not include ‘no-shows’ in its attendance figures (The American League did include them.), so this makes the 2023 vs. 1983 and 1973 increases seem a bit larger than they actually are.

The last table compares combined U.S./Canadian Triple-A, Double-A, and Full-season Class A attendance. Figures for the short-season teams that operated through 2019, and for the Mexican League are excluded. In light of all the recent changes in the structure of the Minor Leagues, this is probably the most realistic comparison that can be made.

**MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Team	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Date	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.
2023	30	70,747,365	-----	-----	2,358,246	-----	-----	29,283	-----	-----
2013	30	74,028,230	(2,280,865)	(4.4)	2,467,608	(109,362)	(4.4)	30,515	(1,232)	(4.0)
2003	30	67,568,397	3,178,968	4.7	2,252,280	105,966	4.7	28,013	1,270	4.5
1993	28	70,256,459	490,906	0.7	2,509,159	(150,913)	(6.0)	31,337	(2,054)	(6.6)
1983	26	45,540,338	25,207,027	55.4	1,751,551	606,695	34.6	22,601	6,682	29.6
1973	24	30,108,926	40,638,439	135.0	1,254,539	1,103,707	88.0	16,774	12,509	74.6

**MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUES COMBINED – ALL TEAMS REPORTING ATTENDANCE**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Team	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Date	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.
2023	202	42,284,917	-----	-----	209,331	-----	-----	3,661	-----	-----
2013	229	48,262,074	(5,977,157)	(12.4)	210,751	(1,420)	(0.7)	3,771	(110)	(2.9)
2003	235	45,627,906	(3,342,989)	(7.3)	194,161	15,170	7.8	3,579	82	2.3
1993	181	30,756,828	11,528,089	37.5	169,727	39,604	23.3	3,074*	587	19.1
1983	153	18,559,190	23,725,727	127.8	121,302	88,029	72.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
1973	138	10,828,828	31,456,089	290.5	78,470	130,861	166.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

) 1993 Average per date excludes independent teams.

**FULL SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Team	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.	Avg. per Date	# Chg. vs. 2023	% Chg.
2023	120	32,152,384	-----	-----	267,937	-----	-----	4,084	-----	-----
2013	120	34,205,705	(2,053,321)	(6.0)	285,048	(17,111)	(6.0)	4,260	(176)	(4.1)
2003	120	32,466,417	(314,033)	(1.0)	270,553	(2,616)	(1.0)	4,126	(42)	(1.0)
1993	115	25,000,168	7,152,216	28.6	217,393	50,544	23.3	3,387	697	20.6
1983	100	14,381,025	17,771,359	123.6	143,810	124,127	86.3	N/A	N/A	N/A
1973	88	7,092,134	25,060,250	353.4	80,592	187,345	232.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, and 1973****2023 vs. 2013**

In **2023**, there were 178 Minor League teams (115 MLB-affiliated and 63 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, in the **2013** season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2013. The 4 Mavericks League teams in Keiser, OR in 2023, count as one team each in these notes. There was a Salem-Keizer team in the Northwest League in 2013.

39 of those 115 MLB-affiliated teams had higher total attendance in **2023 than in 2013**, and 34 of them had increases in average per date. El Paso, Amarillo, St. Paul, Somerset, Sugar Land, and Wichita played in independent leagues in **2013**. 9 markets with full-season MLB-affiliated teams in 2023 (Aberdeen, Brooklyn, Hudson Valley, and all 6 Northwest League teams), played in MLB-affiliated short-season leagues in 2013.

19 of the 62 independent league markets with a team in both 2023 and 2013 had higher total attendance in 2023 than in 2013, and 20 were up in average per date. Vallejo of the Pecos League did not report attendance in 2013. Lexington KY, Staten Island, Kane County IL, Tucson, Lancaster CA, Bakersfield, Keiser (Mavericks League), 8 Pioneer League teams, and 14 Mexican League teams, were MLB-affiliated teams in 2013.

The 115 MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same market in **2023** as any Minor League team did in **2013** drew 30,971,455 in 2023, down 1,859,500 (5.7%) from 2013. Their combined average per date was 4,102 in 2023, down 350 (7.9%) from 2013. The 63 independent teams that played in the same market as any 2013 Minor League team drew 8,174,947 in 2023, down 2,067,192 (20.2%) from 2013. Combined average per date for those independent teams was 2,877, down 527 (15.5%) from 2013. The combined MLB-affiliated and independent total for these 178 teams was 39,146,402 in 2023, down 3,926,692 (9.1%) from 2013. Average per date was 3,767, down 381 (9.2%) from 2013. The 115 MLB-affiliated teams played a combined 176 more dates in 2023 than in 2013. The independent teams had a combined 167 fewer dates than in 2013. Overall, these 178 teams played a combined 9 more dates in 2023 vs. 2013.

**13 MLB-affiliated teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2013. Every one of these teams had a 2023 vs. 2013 increase in both total attendance and average per date.** Mexico City was the only 2023 indy league team that played in both seasons, who opened a new park after 2013. Their 2023 total attendance was up 210,003 (86.8%) vs. 2013, despite playing 3 less dates in 2023 than in 2013. Their average per date rose 5,251 (99.9%).

**2023 vs. 2013 Total Attendance Gains and Declines**

5 markets which had MLB-affiliated teams in both **2023 and 2013**, and 9 MLB-affiliated markets overall, saw total attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10-year period. All except Vancouver play in a park that opened after 2013. Best increases by 2023 Triple-A teams were led by El Paso, who drew 396,677 above what an independent team there drew in 2013. They had 26 more dates in 2023 than in 2013. Charlotte had a 243,982 increase, Nashville was up 201,959, St. Paul, playing 22 more dates than they did as an independent team in 2013, had a 221,519 gain, and Las Vegas was up 177,781. All of these Triple-A teams play in a park that opened after 2013.

Amarillo, also in a new park, outdrew its 2013 independent team by 249,642 (21 more dates than in 2013) for the best increase in Double-A. Rocket City (Madison, AL) was up 190,402 vs. the 2013 team in nearby Huntsville, for the best Double-A gain for teams playing a similar length schedule. Vancouver had the best growth in Class-A, up 113,395 from what they drew as a short-season team in 2013. They played 23 more dates in 2023 than in 2013. Augusta, GA, with an 83,298 increase, had the biggest gain among Class-A teams that played roughly the same length schedule in 2023 and 2013. Among independent markets, Yucatan, up 276,396, has the biggest gain, despite 7 fewer dates in 2023. Mexico City was up 210,003. Schaumburg posted the best increase (79,769) by a U.S. or Canadian independent team.

12 MLB-affiliated teams, and 10 independent teams, had 2023 vs. 2013 total attendance declines of 100,000+. Memphis, down 266,664, had the biggest loss in this group of teams. Sacramento was the other Triple-A team with a 200,000+ loss, down 218,854. Birmingham's 143,588 dip was the worst among Double-A teams. Fresno, which moved from Triple-A in 2013 to Single-A in 2021, had the other 200,000+ dip, and the largest Class-A decrease (210,447), with 6 fewer dates in 2023. Among teams in Class-A in both 2023 and 2013, Wilmington DE had the worst loss, down 136,119.

Monterrey, with 9 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2013, had the biggest decline among the 'normal' independent teams, down 219,430. (Frederick, playing a limited 2023 home schedule, with 23 fewer dates than in 2013, was down 266,475.) Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs), now in the Pioneer League, drew 212,333 less than their Triple-A team did in 2012, with 16 fewer dates in 2023. Lexington KY was down 181,999, with 7 fewer dates. Among independent teams playing about the same length schedule as in 2013, Kansas City KS had the biggest decline, down 178,352.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2013, 2003, 1993, 1983, and 1973****2023 vs. 2013 Average per Date Gains and Declines**

13 MLB-affiliated teams had 1,000+ gains in **average per date for 2023 vs. 2013**. El Paso averaged 4,502 more per date than the 2013 independent team there. Other Triple-A 1,000+ gains were by Charlotte (3,030), Nashville (2,665), Las Vegas (2,148), and St. Paul (1,606). Rocket City (Madison, AL) and Amarillo each were up 3,034, tying for the best Double-A gain. Amarillo had an independent team in 2013. Hartford (up 1,640), Wichita (up 1,611) and Portland ME (up 1,025) had the other Double-A 1,000+ increases. Augusta GA (up 1,344), South Bend (up 1,317), and Kannapolis (up 1,149) had the 1,000+ Class-A gains.

7 independent league teams (6 of them in the Mexican League) had average per date gains of at least 1,000. Yucatan, up an incredible 6,369 per date, had the largest increase of any Minor League team, followed by Mexico City, up 5,251. Union Laguna had a 1,572 increase, Quintana Roo (Cancun) was up 1,418. Tabasco gained 2,175, and Veracruz rose 1,264. Schaumburg, up 1,505, had the only 1,000+ increase among U.S./Canadian independent teams.

On the down side, 34 MLB-affiliated teams, and 15 independent teams, suffered declines of at least 1,000 per date for 2023 vs. 2013. Memphis (4,049), and Sacramento (3,255), Louisville (2,673), and Round Rock (2,620) suffered the worst Triple-A losses. Frisco, (1,867), and Birmingham (1,832) had the biggest declines among Double-A teams. Brooklyn (3,419), and Aberdeen (3,071) had the biggest decreases in Class A. Brooklyn and Aberdeen, along with Staten Island, noted below, played in a short-season league in 2013, and had few, if any, games on school nights back then, and certainly didn't have any cold weather games. Fresno, down 2,573, had the other 2,000+ decline in Class-A.

Kansas City, down 3,602, had the biggest average per date decline among independent teams. Other teams whose average per date fell at least 2,000 were Frederick, down 3,569, with a reduced schedule, and sharing their park with an MLB Draft League team, Monterrey (2,707), Rocky Mountain (2,755 vs. a Triple-A team in 2013), Tucson (2,585 in a tiny park in 2023, compared to a 2013 Triple-A team), Staten Island (2,322 vs. a short-season 2013 team), Winnipeg (2,239), and Lexington (2,555).

176 MLB-affiliated teams charged admission in **2013**. This included 16 teams in the Mexican League, and 40 short-season teams. These 176 teams drew 41,553,781, averaging 236,101 per team, and 4,040 per date. The U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams averaged 3,999 per date. The 53 independent teams that reported attendance drew 6,708,293, averaging 2,668 per date. Combined **2013** MLB-affiliated and independent total attendance was 48,262,074, and average per date was 3,771. **2013** Mexican and Pioneer League data is included in the MLB-affiliated figures.

**2005** was the first time that MLB-affiliated attendance reached 40 million. MLB-affiliated total attendance did surpass 40 million every year after that, **through 2019**. With 56 fewer teams since 2021, reaching 40 million would be extremely difficult now. But except for 2021, with its reduced schedules and ballpark capacity restrictions, attendance for the full-season U.S./Canadian teams has been better than 30 million in every year going back to 2000.

8 independent leagues operated in **2013**. Their average per date figures were: Atlantic League (4,152), American Association (3,435). Can-Am League, which merged into the Frontier League in 2021, (1,976), Frontier League (2,439), United League (1,225), Pecos League (195). Freedom League attendance was not reported, and only one Pacific Association team listed attendance. No Minor League set its current average per date record-high in 2013.

The following teams who played in 2023, set record-high total attendance and average per date figures in **2013** that have not been broken through 2023: Midland, Bradenton, Evansville. Sioux Falls, SD set its total attendance high. Richmond, Lakeland, and Florence set their average per date record-highs in 2013.

**2023 v. 2013 Data for 2019 Pro Minor League Teams who Played in Collegiate Summer Leagues in 2023**

24 teams playing in **Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023** were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019 and 2013**. 7 of these teams had **2023 vs. 2013** increases in total attendance, even though 22 of these teams played fewer dates in 2023 than in 2013. 12 of these teams had gains in average per date. This excludes Auburn NY, which did not list their 2023 attendance.

Johnson City of the Appalachian League, had the best increases, up 62,107 in total attendance, and up 2,829 in average per date. Kingsport had gains of 20,480 in total attendance, and 1,336 in average per date. Clinton's average per date rose 1,011, and Batavia had a 1,290 gain. New Britain was down 2,950 per date compared to what their Eastern League team averaged in 2013, and Frederick declined 2,349. The 23 teams that reported attendance in both 2023 and 2013 played a combined 360 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2013, drawing 1,369,451 in 2023, down 908,908 (39.9%) from 2013. Average per date was 2,126, down 143 (6.3%) vs. 2013.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2003**

158 markets (108 MLB-affiliated, 50 independent) with teams in 2023, also had teams in 2003.

These 8 markets with **2023 MLB-affiliated teams**, had independent league teams in **2003**: Lehigh Valley; Somerset; Mississippi; Springfield MO; Amarillo; St. Paul; Pensacola; Montgomery AL. 32 markets with MLB-affiliated teams in 2003, played in independent leagues in 2023, including 13 Mexican League teams, 7 Pioneer League teams, Charleston WV, Lexington KY, Staten Island, Kane County, Ottawa, Sussex NJ, Bakersfield, Tucson, Tri-City NY, Frederick, Lancaster CA, and Keizer OR.

Aberdeen, Brooklyn, Hudson Valley, and all 6 Northwest League teams, played in short-season MLB-affiliated leagues in 2003. All the 2023 MLB-affiliated teams that played in independent leagues in 2003, except Somerset, had somewhat longer schedules in 2023 than they had in 2003.

8 independent leagues, with 62 teams, played in 2003. 60 of those teams reported attendance. Only the Atlantic and Frontier Leagues still have the same name as in 2003. 2003 independent league cities still active as independent teams in 2023 were Evansville, Schaumburg, Windy City, New Jersey Jackals, Quebec, Gary, Trois Rivieres, Sioux Falls, Kansas City KS, Washington PA, Sioux City, Fargo, Winnipeg, Long Island, Lincoln, Gateway, and Joliet. The Can-Am League, which merged with the Frontier League in 2020, was the East Division of the Northern League in 2003.

52 MLB-affiliated teams, and 21 independent teams, had **2023 vs. 2003** total attendance increases. 47 MLB-affiliated teams, and 18 independent teams, had a higher average per date in **2023 than in 2003**.

The 108 MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same market in **2023** as any Minor League team did in **2003**, drew 29,188,423 in 2023, up 41,264 (0.1%) from 2003. Their combined average per date was 4,124 in 2023, down 212 (4.9%) from 2003. The 50 independent teams of 2023 that played in the same market as any 2003 Minor League team, drew 7,261,061 in 2023, down 1,581,440 (17.9%) from 2003. Combined average per date for those independent teams was 3,083, down 548 (15.1%) from 2003.

The combined MLB-affiliated and independent total for these 158 teams was 36,449,484 in 2023, down 1,540,176 (4.1%) from 2003. Average per date was 3,864 in 2023, down 284 (6.8%) from 2003. The 108 MLB-affiliated teams played a combined 355 more dates in 2023 than in 2003. The independent teams had a combined 80 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2003. Overall, these 158 teams played a combined 275 more dates in 2023 vs. 2003.

34 MLB-affiliated markets opened a new park after 2003. 30 of those teams had higher total attendance in 2023 than in 2003, and 29 were up in average per date. In the 74 MLB-affiliated markets without a new park since 2003, only 22 teams had a total attendance increase vs. 2003, and 18 posted average per date gains. 8 independent markets opened new ballparks after 2003. 7 teams in those markets had 2023 vs. 2003 total attendance and average per date increases. In the 42 independent markets without a new park opening after 2003, 14 teams had total attendance gains, and 11 teams were up in average per date.

**2023 vs. 2003 Total Attendance Gains and Declines**

23 MLB-affiliated teams drew at least 100,000 more in total attendance in 2023 than in 2003. 20 of these teams played in a park that opened after 2003. Parks in South Bend, Springfield MO, and Vancouver opened earlier. 4 teams from the Mexican League, led by a 366,145 gain by Mexico City, and Yucatan's 172,699 increase, were the only independent teams up 100,000+. Florence KY, up 93,119, had the best gain among U.S./Canadian independent teams.

Lehigh Valley, up 526,535 with 31 more dates compared to a 2003 independent team, had the biggest increase of any team. El Paso's 283,086 gain was the best among Triple-A teams with a fairly similar length schedule in 2023 and 2003. Charlotte gained 230,442. In Double-A, the biggest gains were by Amarillo, up 269,916, and Pensacola, up 259,286. Both markets had shorter-schedule independent teams in 2003. Wichita, up 168,972, had the best Double-A increase among teams with a similar length schedule. Winston-Salem's 169,592 increase was the best among Class-A teams. Other teams up 150,000+ were Nashville, St. Paul, with 26 more dates than their independent team had in 2003, Las Vegas, Montgomery (28 more dates in 2023), Springfield, MO (21 more dates), and Vancouver (23 more dates).

15 MLB-affiliated teams, and 11 independent league teams, had 2023 vs. 2003 total attendance declines of at least 100,000. Hillsboro (compared to a 2003 Triple-A team in nearby Portland), was the only market in this group whose ballpark opened after 2003. Frisco, Lake County OH, Rome, and Kansas City KS opened their parks in 2003.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2003****2023 vs. 2003 Total Attendance Gains and Declines** - continued

Memphis, down 517,748, had the largest 2023 vs. 2003 decline in all of Minor League Baseball. Sacramento (377,851), Round Rock (274,423), and Louisville (254,670), were the other Triple-A teams to fall at least 200,000. Frisco, down 319,219, and Akron, down 179,667, had the largest declines among Double-A teams. Top decreases in Class-A were by Hillsboro, down 280,208 vs. Triple-A Portland in 2003, and Fresno, down 245,085 from what that city's Triple-A team drew in 2003. Lake County, OH had a loss of 244,079, playing 14 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2003.

The largest declines among independent teams were by Saltillo, down 303,290, with 12 fewer dates played in 2023, Lexington KY, down 277,850, with 9 fewer dates, Kane County, down 254,297, with 18 fewer dates, and Frederick, down 227,217, with 22 fewer dates. Tucson also had a big decline, but they had 52 fewer dates, playing in a tiny park, compared to having a team in Triple-A in 2003.

**2023 vs. 2003 Average per Date Gains and Declines**

26 MLB-affiliated teams had **2023 vs. 2003** growth of at least 1,000 in average per date. 22 of these teams play in a park that opened after 2003. The exceptions were South Bend, Myrtle Beach, Springfield MO, and Vancouver. 8 of the 10 independent teams whose average per date rose at least 1,000, play in the Mexican League, with 2 of those teams in parks opening after 2003. Both U.S. independent teams up 1,000+ play in parks which opened after 2003.

Lehigh Valley, up 6,971 vs. a 2003 independent team, had the best 2023 vs. 2003 average per date increase of any team. Also in Triple-A, El Paso was up 3,560, Charlotte gained 2,360, and Las Vegas was up 2,307. In Double-A, Amarillo had the best gain, up 3,604 per date, Montgomery was up 2,205, Springfield, MO rose 2,207, and Pensacola gained 3,302, all vs. 2003 independent teams. Rocket City gained 1,950 vs. 2003 Huntsville, Hartford was up 1,989 vs. 2003 New Britain, and Wichita had a 2,237 increase.

Winston-Salem achieved the best average per date growth in Class-A, up 2,702. Augusta GA rose 2,230. Among independent teams, Mexico City's gain of 8,950 was the best of any Minor League team. Other big Mexican League gains were by Yucatan (4,133), Tabasco (3,413), Veracruz (3,383), Union Laguna (2,356), Dos Laredos (2,291), and Quintana Roo (2,232). Charleston, WV had the top U.S. gain (2,301).

2023 vs. 2003 average per date fell by at least 1,000 for 28 MLB-affiliated teams, with only 2 of them (Hillsboro and Scranton-Wilkes Barre playing in a park opening after 2003. 19 independent teams were down 1,000+ in average per date, but none of them are in a park that opened after 2003.

Memphis, down 7,235 had the biggest decline, followed in Triple-A by Sacramento (5,464), Round Rock (4,238), and Louisville (3,796). In Double-A, Frisco's 4,073 dip was worst, with Akron down 2,621.

Brooklyn had the largest Class-A decline, down 5,450 per date vs. their 2003 team, which averaged 8,308 per date. Aberdeen was down 3,958 vs. a short-season team in 2003. Hillsboro dipped 3,866 vs. 2003 Triple-A Portland, and Fresno had a 3,156 decline vs. their Triple-A 2003 team. Saltillo had the largest independent decrease (4,064). Lexington KY was down 3,825. Staten Island declined 3,658 per date vs. their short-season 2003 team. Winnipeg had a 3,520 decline. Tucson, in their tiny park, was down 3,748 vs. a Triple-A 2003 team.

**2003 Minor League Baseball Attendance Figures**

176 MLB-affiliated teams charged admission in **2003**. This included 16 teams in the Mexican League, and 40 short-season teams. These 176 teams drew 39,069,707, averaging 221,987 per team, and 3,861 per date. The 160 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams averaged 3,893 per date. The 60 independent teams that reported attendance drew 6,538,616, averaging 2,594 per date. Combined 2003 MLB-affiliated and independent total attendance was 45,608,323, and average per date was 3,608. **2003** Mexican and Pioneer League data is included in the MLB-affiliated figures.

The following teams, who played in 2023, set record-high total attendance and average per date figures in **2003** that have not been broken through 2023: Frisco; Lake County OH; Rome; Great Falls; Billings, in total attendance and average per date. Joliet, Washington PA, Kane County, and Winnipeg, set their current average per date highs. Williamsport, a former MLB-affiliated team, now in the MLB-Draft League, set its total and average highs in 2003.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 2003****2023 v. 2003 Data for 2019 Pro Minor League Teams who Played in Collegiate Summer Leagues in 2023**

22 teams playing in **Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023** were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019 and 2003**. 6 of these teams had **2023 vs. 2003** gains in total attendance, even though 20 of these teams played fewer dates in 2023 than in 2003. (Mahoning Valley of the MLB Draft League played 4 more dates in 2023 than in 2003.) 10 of these teams had gains in average per date.

Johnson City of the Appalachian League, had the best total attendance growth, up 56,458. Kingsport had a 24,848 gain. Teams in the full-season leagues in 2003 accounted for the 3 biggest total attendance declines in this group. Trenton was down 230,898, with 34 fewer dates in 2023, New Britain had a 223,468 dip, with 35 fewer dates, and Frederick was down 192,699, with 29 fewer dates. In average per date, the top gains were by Johnson City (up 2,497 per date), Clinton, IA (1,475), and Kingsport (1,411). Largest declines in average per date were by O'Fallon – River City (2,815), New Britain (2,601), Mahoning Valley (1,997), and Frederick, which shared its park with a pro Atlantic League team, (1,820). These 21 teams (Auburn didn't report attendance in 2023.) played a combined 344 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2003, drawing 1,148,921 in 2023, down 1,102,392 (49.0%). Average per date was 2,055, down 438 (17.6%) vs. 2003. Trenton had the best **2023** attendance (196,669 total, 5,463 average per date) in this group.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 1993**

**1993** was the first year in decades with independent leagues. There are 80 MLB-affiliated markets, and 26 independent markets, with teams in **2023**, that also hosted Minor League teams (all MLB-affiliated) in **1993**. There were 2 teams in Mexico City in 1993, whose combined attendance is compared with the 2023 Diablos Rojos, and 2 teams in Monterrey, Mexico, whose combined 1993 attendance is compared with the 2023 Monterrey Sultanes. Also, combined attendance for 2023 Jupiter and Palm Beach is compared to 1993 West Palm Beach.

Erie, Eugene, Everett, and Spokane had short-season teams in **1993**, but played in full-season MLB-affiliated leagues in **2023**. 19 of the 26 independent markets with 2023 and 1993 teams, played considerably shorter schedules in 2023. Only 6 independent teams, (4 in the Pioneer League, plus Sioux Falls and Sioux City) played somewhat longer schedules in 2023 than in 1993. Charleston WV, of the Atlantic League, played roughly the same number of dates.

The 80 MLB-affiliated teams (counting Jupiter and Palm Beach as one team) that played in the same market in **2023** as any Minor League team did in **1993**, drew 21,609,548 in 2023, up 2,153,518 (11.1%) from 1993. Their combined average per date was 4,068 in 2023, up 302 (8.0%) from 1993. The 26 independent teams that played in the same market as any 1993 Minor League team, drew 4,290,932 in 2023, down 910,453 (17.5%) from 1993. Combined average per date for those independent teams was 3,814, up 625 (19.6%) from 2003.

The reason why the independent teams had a decline in total attendance, yet had an increase in average per date, is that they had a combined 506 fewer dates played in 2023 than in 1993. The MLB-affiliated teams that are compared here, had a combined 146 more dates in 2023 than in 1993. The combined MLB-affiliated and independent number of dates was 360 fewer in 2023 than in 1993.

The combined MLB-affiliated and independent total for these 106 markets was 25,900,480 in **2023**, up 1,243,065 (5.0%) from **1993**. Average per date was 4,024, up 396 (10.9%) from 1993.

54 of the 80 MLB-affiliated markets, and 14 of the 26 independent markets, achieved **2023 vs. 1993** increases in total attendance. 52 of the MLB-affiliated markets and 13 of the independent markets were up in average per date.

Only 20 of the 120 MLB-affiliated teams of **2023**, played in a ballpark that opened prior to **1993**. 29 of 75 **2023** independent teams whose ballpark opening year is known, played in a park that opened before **1993**. Of the 29 MLB-affiliated teams with a 2023 vs. 1993 average per date decline, 18 play in a park that opened prior to **2000**.

**1993 Minor League Baseball Attendance Totals and Record-Highs Set That Year**

169 MLB-affiliates, including 16 in the Mexican League, and 40 short-season teams, charged admission in **1993**. These 169 teams drew 30,022,761, averaging 177,649 per team, and 3,074 per date. 153 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliates averaged 3,117 per date. **1993** Mexican and Pioneer League data is included in the MLB-affiliated figures. Record-highs, set in 1993, and unbroken through 2023, were set by Hickory and Carolina in total attendance and average per date, Frederick in total attendance, and Dunedin in average per date. The now-Summer Collegiate Appalachian League drew its highest total in 1993. From that league, Bluefield had its best average, and Danville set highs in both categories.



**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 1993****2023 vs. 1993 Total Attendance Gains and Declines**

15 MLB-affiliated teams, and 2 independent teams drew at least 100,000 more in total attendance in 2023 than in 1993. St. Paul had 36 more dates than their independent 1993 team, and gained 292,962. Indianapolis was up 256,378, and El Paso rose by 200,959. Double-A Hartford, up 261,816 vs. 1993 New Britain, had the highest increase among the MLB-affiliates playing a similar length schedule both years. Tennessee was up 154,735. In Class-A, Charleston, SC had the best increase (171,500), followed by Wisconsin (171,083), and Augusta GA (145,009). Yucatan, up 307,176, had the best growth among all teams. Monterrey had 86 fewer dates in 2023, than their 2 teams combined played in 1993, and yet outdrew the 2-team 1993 total by 60,321. Mexico City outdrew that market's 2-team 1993 total by 87,966, and they did it in 83 fewer dates.

9 MLB-affiliated teams had 2023 vs. 1993 declines of at least 100,000. Buffalo was down 571,415. 1993 was the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year that Buffalo topped one million in total attendance, as that city hoped to get a Major League expansion team. Louisville fell 246,993, and Scranton-Wilkes Barre was down 195,458. Richmond (Triple-A in 1993), down 104,535, had the biggest loss in Double-A. Carolina dipped 189,908 for the biggest Class-A decline, followed by Rancho Cucamonga (179,923), Wilmington DE (175,932). And Hickory (174,952). Among 2023 independent teams, Ottawa's attendance was 587,421 lower in 2023 than in 1993, when they played 21 more dates in Triple-A. Frederick fell by 293,310, sharing a park with an MLB-Draft League team, and playing 26 fewer dates than in 1993. Tucson dipped 303,131 with 49 fewer dates. That last comparison really lacks context, since Tucson played in Triple-A in 1993, and in a tiny park in 2023.

**2023 vs. 1993 Average per Date Gains and Declines**

26 MLB-affiliated teams, and 9 independent teams achieved 2023 vs. 1993 average per date increases of at least 1,000. Indianapolis had the top Triple-A gain, up 3,424. Other Triple-A increases of at least 2,000 per date were by Nashville (3,162 vs. 2 teams in 1993), El Paso (2,191), Durham (2,174), and Toledo (2,123). Double-A Hartford, up 4,158, had the best growth among all MLB-affiliated teams. Tennessee was up 2,347. In Class-A, 2,000+ growth was by Charleston SC (2,879), Wisconsin (2,528), Augusta, GA (2,503), and Winston-Salem (2,287). Among the indies, Mexico City, up 7,671 from the pair of 1993 teams, had the best gain among all Minor League teams, followed by Yucatan (7,231), Monterrey (6,046 vs. the combined average of both 1993 teams), Saltillo (4,754), Laguna (3,304), Veracruz (2,239), and Tabasco (2,145). Idaho Falls, up 992, had the best increase among U.S./Canadian independent teams.

2023 vs. 1993 declines of at least 2,000 per date were by Buffalo (7,958 – the Bisons averaged an amazing 15,123 per date in 1993), Louisville (3,819), Scranton-Wilkes Barre (3,063), and Norfolk (2,111), all in Triple-A. The only Double-A 1,000+ decrease was by Richmond, down 1,443. The Class-A teams with more than a 2,000 loss were Carolina (2,594), Wilmington, DE (2,590), Rancho Cucamonga (2,579), and Hickory (2,270). Ottawa, down 8,136, and Tucson, down 4,228, had the largest independent decreases, but these losses must be taken in context, as noted above.

**2023 v. 1993 Data for 2019 Pro Minor League Teams who Played in Collegiate Summer Leagues in 2023**

14 teams playing in **Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023** were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019 and 1993**. They combined to draw 581,625 in 2023, down 425,362 (42.2%). Average per date was 1,846, down 36 (1.9%). 2023 data for Auburn was not reported. Each of the other 13 teams played fewer dates in 2023 than in 1993, and they combined for 220 fewer dates. 5 of these teams had increases in total attendance, and 7 were up in average per date.

Johnson City, up 49,968, had the best total attendance gain in this group, followed by Kingsport, up 18,489, and Clinton, up 18,031. Frederick had the biggest loss (258,797 – with 33 fewer dates), followed by New Britain (93,235 – with 38 fewer dates). In average per date, the best increases were by Johnson City (2,437), Clinton (1,706), and Kingsport (1,184). Biggest declines were by Frederick, who in 2023, shared their ballpark with a team from the Atlantic League, down 2,524, and Danville, down 904.

Also worth noting – In 2023, the Madison WI Muskies of the Northwoods League, led all Summer Collegiate teams in attendance, as they usually do, drawing 228,692 in 36 dates, an average of 6,353 per date. In 1993, Madison had a team in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League which drew 101,219 in 59 dates, an average of 1,716 per date. Their 2023 total attendance was up 127,473 (125.9%) vs. 1993, and their average per date rose 4,637 (270.2%). From 2006 through 2023, Madison has drawn 3,496,875 in 588 dates, an average of 205,699 per year and 5,947 per date. If 2021 is excluded, the total is 3,372,668 in 552 dates, an average of 210,792 per year, and 6,110 per date.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 1983**

The number of dates played, and thus, average per date, for 1983 and 1973, is not available.

By **1983**, Minor League attendance was continuing a slow recovery from the very deep declines of the 1950's. Total attendance had fallen from 39,640,443 in 1949 to 11,622,581 in 1959, a figure that wasn't topped until 1977. The number of teams fell from 448 in 1949 to 152 in 1959. Total attendance would bottom out at 9,732,582 in 1962. The lowest number of teams was 128 in 1964, and the lowest average attendance per team was 66,439 in 1961.

The 153 MLB-affiliated teams in **1983** drew 18,559,190, the best total since 1954, averaging 121,302 per team. The 137 U.S./Canadian teams drew 15,677,374. There were no independent leagues in 1983. Total **2023** Minor League attendance for all MLB-affiliated and independent leagues, was 42,309,707, which was a 128.0% increase over 1983. This did not include the low-drawing Empire Baseball League which never reports attendance.

57 of the 100 U.S./Canadian full-season teams (57.0% of teams), plus 14 of 16 teams in the Mexican League, drew at least 100,000 in **1983**, compared to 108 of 120 MLB-affiliated teams (90.0% of the teams), plus 39 independent teams, reaching 100,000 in **2023**. 21 U.S./Canadian teams, and 5 in the Mexican League topped 200,000 in **1983**, led by **Louisville (1,052,038), the first Minor League team to top one million**, then-Double-A Nashville (490,002), Denver (442,870), Yucatan (400,978), Columbus (367,480), and Las Vegas (365,848). In **2023**, 44 MLB-affiliated teams drew over 300,000, and 75 topped 200,000. Among independent teams, 5 reached 300,000, and 13 topped 200,000 in **2023**.

31 of 76 (40.8%) of U.S./Canadian full-season teams below Triple-A topped 100,000 in **1983**. 78 of the 90 (86.7%) MLB-affiliated teams below Triple-A surpassed 100,000 in **2023**. 15 full-season teams, and 28 of 35 short-season teams drew under 50,000 in **1983**. 9 of these teams drew below 20,000. Billings had the highest attendance (88,534) among the short-season teams in **1983**. 4 MLB-affiliates from the Florida State League, and perhaps the independent New Jersey Jackals, whose attendance was estimated, failed to reach 50,000 in **2023**. This excludes teams from the Pecos and Empire Leagues, who play short schedules in mostly very small-capacity ballparks.

66 MLB-affiliated, and 22 independent teams, played in markets with **teams in both 2023 and 1983**. Both 1983 Mexico City teams have their combined attendance compared with the 2023 team there. Combined 2023 attendance for Jupiter and Palm Beach is compared with 1983 West Palm Beach. Tri-Cities WA, Spokane, Erie, and Eugene played in 1983 short-season leagues. 57 MLB-affiliated, and 15 independent teams, had **2023 vs. 1983** total attendance increases.

**2023 vs. 1983 Total Attendance Gains and Declines**

The 66 markets with MLB-affiliated teams in both **2023 and 1983** drew a combined 18,443,661 in **2023**, up 7,843,460 (74.0%) from **1983**. The 22 independent markets had a 3,648,001 total, up 297,738 (8.9%). The combined total for the 88 markets was 22,091,662, up 8,141,198 (58.4%).

39 MLB-affiliated teams had **2023 vs. 1983** total attendance increases of at least 100,000, and 16 of those gains were above 200,000. Charlotte had the biggest increase (385,366), followed in Triple-A by Durham (349,387), Indianapolis (329,180), and Reno (310,177). Reading (296,994), and Hartford (272,298) had the top Double-A gains. Winston-Salem (239,243), and Fredericksburg VA (225,496 vs. 1983 Alexandria) had the best growth among Class-A teams. Monterrey, up 245,947, had the biggest increase among the 4 independent teams with gains of at least 100,000.

Louisville, down 655,598 from that 1983 record-high, had only decline in Triple-A or Double-A. Hillsboro had a 124,965 dip vs. 1983 Triple-A Portland, who had a much bigger park. Palm Beach and Jupiter combined drew 79,223 less than 1983 West Palm Beach. Among the independent teams, Campeche fell 220,964, and Aguascalientes was down 160,998. These 2 teams played significantly shorter schedules in 2023, as did Tucson, down 162,571 vs. a 1983 Triple-A team playing in a much larger ballpark.

**2023 v. 1983 Data for 2019 Pro Minor League Teams who Played in Collegiate Summer Leagues in 2023**

10 teams playing in **Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023** were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019 and 1983**. Excluding Auburn, which did not report their 2023 attendance, they combined to draw 378,944 in 2023, down 5,581 (1.5%) vs. 1983. Each of these very likely played fewer dates in 2023 than in 1983.

5 of these teams had increases in total attendance. Johnson City had a 69,299 increase, Bristol was up 17,457, and Batavia gained 17,412. New Britain had the largest decline (82,753), vs. a Double-A team in 1983. But that team's number of home dates in 2023 may have been less than half the number of home dates they played in 1983.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2023 vs. 1973**

Minor League Baseball attendance was a very different world in **1973** compared to **2023**. From 1960 through 1974, total attendance ranged from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 11,134,084 in 1971. Average per team ranged from a low of 66,439 in 1961, to a high of 80,734 in 1972. The number of teams fell to a low of 128 in 1964.

It was believed that the lower-level leagues, and perhaps all of Minor League Baseball, could not survive, and that college baseball would become the feeder system to the Major Leagues. Television was a major factor in the low attendance, even though in 1973, most markets had only a few commercial TV stations. A bit above half of U.S. homes had color TV. In many markets, televised baseball consisted of the Saturday NBC Game of the Week, summer Monday night games, and the post-season. People who lived in a market where local Major League telecasts were seen, did get some extra TV baseball. But most teams, except for those in New York and Chicago, televised fewer than 60 games.

If the early 1970's leaders of Minor League Baseball had known about what sports broadcasting would be like 50 years later – Ultra HD, large screen TV, multiple sports cable channels, the availability of nearly every Major League game on TV, they might not have been too optimistic about the future of the Minor Leagues. But new ballparks, better promotion, and other resources, have led to a huge increase in both attendance and revenue for the Minor Leagues.

In **1973**, the 138 Minor League teams drew 10,828,828, averaging 78,470 per team. The 88 full-season U.S./Canadian teams drew 7,092,134, averaging 80,592 per team. The 2023 full-season MLB-affiliated average per team was more than 3 times higher than in 1973, and MLB-affiliated 2023 full-season total attendance was over 4 times higher, than the 1973 full-season figures.

Teams in 48 MLB-affiliated markets (Jupiter has 2 teams.) and 20 independent markets, played in the same market in both **2023 and 1973**. Both 2023 Jupiter and Palm Beach are compared with the 1973 team in West Palm Beach, and the 2023 Mexico City Diablos Rojos are compared with both 1973 Mexico City teams.

These 48 MLB-affiliated markets with teams in **both 2023 and 1973**, drew 13,164,615 in 2023, up 8,891,709 (208.1%) vs. 1973. The 20 independent markets drew a total of 3,430,816, up 1,032,496 (43.1%). The 68 markets combined to draw 16,595,431 in 2023, up 9,924,205 (148.8%). Average per date for 1973 is not available.

There were 9 MLB-affiliated teams, and 9 independent teams, that played in the same ballpark in 2023 as in 1973, though many of these parks have seen significant upgrades.

**2023 vs. 1973 Total Attendance Gains and Declines**

Only 3 MLB-affiliated teams, and 5 independent teams, had lower attendance in **2023 than in 1973**. The combined total for Jupiter and Palm Beach was 471 less than West Palm Beach's 1973 total. San Jose was down 918. Among independent teams, Mexico City drew 234,555 less than the combined total of their 2 teams in 1973. But they certainly had far fewer dates played in 2023 compared to 1973. Tucson, with a tiny park, and also far fewer dates than their 2023 Triple-A team, dipped 228,344. Bakersfield, with a much shorter schedule in 2023, fell 35,710, Evansville declined 11,552, and Trois Rivieres had a loss of 21,751.

37 MLB-affiliated teams, including all Triple-A and Double-A teams, had **2023 vs. 1973** increases of at least 100,000, and for 11 of these teams, the gain was at least 300,000. El Paso had the top increase, up 444,826. Other big Triple-A increases were by Indianapolis (426,298), Albuquerque (392,566), Toledo (355,018), Reno (343,524), Iowa (306,234), and Norfolk (305,794). Double-A teams with the top gains were Richmond (356,385), Hartford (355,443), Reading (308,827), and Amarillo (305,690). Winston-Salem (263,811), and Fresno (218,503), had the top Class-A increases. Among the independent teams, Yucatan was up 426,798, and Monterrey gained 191,262. Ogden had the biggest gain (145,445) among U.S./Canadian independent teams. 38 MLB-affiliates, and 9 independent teams, more than doubled their attendance for 2023 vs. 1973.

**2023 v. 1973 Data for 2019 Pro Minor League Teams who Played in Collegiate Summer Leagues in 2023**

9 teams playing in **Summer Collegiate leagues in 2023** were in professional Minor Leagues in **2019 and 1973**. They combined to draw 352,998 in 2023, up 128,177 (57.0%) vs. 1973. Each of these teams very likely played fewer dates in 2023 than in 1973. These figures exclude Auburn, which did not report their 2023 attendance.

6 of these teams had increases vs. 1973, led by Johnson City (73,690), and Clinton (43,602). The declines were by Burlington IA (19,112), and Batavia (5,197).

**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN MAJOR LEAGUE MARKETS** – Includes Independent League Teams

A big factor in the growth of Minor League baseball since 1990 has been its return to areas which have Major League franchises. Now, some of the most successful Minor League teams, in terms of attendance, play in the same television markets as Major League clubs. Nearly all have new, or thoroughly rebuilt, ballparks.

Until the early 1950's, numerous Minor League teams played near Major League cities. But Major League relocations and expansion, more car ownership, new high-speed roads, and most of all, television, made it easier for fans to attend and watch Big League games. The Minor League teams in those areas, and in many others, couldn't stay in business. By 1976, the only teams close to Major League cities were Pawtucket, 40 miles from Boston, Reading, 60 miles from Philadelphia, Toledo, 60 miles from Detroit, and San Jose, around 40 miles from San Francisco and Oakland. In the New York area, an Eastern League team played in Jersey City in 1977 and 1978. That team drew just 60,024 in 1977, and 28,969 in 1978. Pawtucket's team relocated to Worcester, in the Boston TV market, in 2021.

But starting in the 1990's, more Minor League teams began operating near Major League clubs. In **2023**, 56 Minor League teams (counting the 4-team United Shore League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, as one team), played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. Two more teams, Toledo, and Dayton, were located in non-Major League TV markets, but their ballparks are within about 60 miles of a Major League city. So in 2023, 22 of the 26 Major League TV markets had a Minor League team located either in their TV market, or in a city that is no more than 60 miles away, but is officially in a different TV market.

In 1976, Pawtucket, Reading, Toledo, and San Jose drew a combined attendance of 381,747. This was 3.4% of total 1976 Minor League attendance. In **2023**, 3 of those teams, plus Worcester replacing Pawtucket, drew a combined 1,476,642. Also in **2023**, the 56 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo and Dayton, drew a combined 10,643,669. That was 25.2% of the year's total Minor League attendance. In **1976**, total attendance for all 141 Minor League teams that year was 11,324,947.

New York, Boston and Philadelphia are Major League markets that have had much recent success with Minor League baseball. In **1992**, there was only one Minor League team in the Boston area (Pawtucket – which is in the Providence-New Bedford TV market), one in the Philadelphia market (Reading), and none in New York. In **2023**, the New York TV market had 9 teams, including 2 within New York City. The Philadelphia market had 3 teams, while the Boston/Providence area had 2. As the following 3 tables show, many of these teams have done remarkably well.

New York Area Teams	2023 Attend.	Notes
Jersey Shore (Lakewood), NJ	287,602	Led South Atlantic League in total attendance 14 times from 2001-2016.
Brooklyn, NY	182,875	Best short-season attendance–2001-2015. Moved to High-A in 2021.
Staten Island, NY	68,938	Record high in set 2010. Joined the Atlantic League in 2022.
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	183,649	Averaged 95.5% of capacity 1994-2019. Moved to High-A in 2021.
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	297,745	Top U.S. total yearly independent attendance: 2000-2011, 2021-2023.
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	352,293	Averaged over 5,100 per date every year through 2019, 2022, 2023.
New York Boulders (Rockland)	151,290	Yearly Can-Am League attendance leader 2012-2019.
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	45,467	Relocated to historic Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, NJ in 2023.
Sussex County, NJ	68,251	Best gain among independent teams in 2016.
<b>New York Market Total</b>	<b>1,638,110</b>	<b>9 teams had a combined 3.1% gain for 2023 vs. 2022.</b>

Philadelphia Area Teams	2023 Attend.	Notes
Reading, PA	385,478	Eastern League attendance leader in 11 of last 18 years through 2019.
Wilmington, DE	156,200	Led Carolina League in attendance for 11 straight years-1998-2008.
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	567,322	U.S. top total in 2011-12, best total/avg. in 2023. 672 sellouts-2008-23.
<b>Philadelphia Market Total</b>	<b>1,109,000</b>	<b>Trenton, now in the MLB Draft League, averaged 5,463/date in 2023.</b>

Boston Area Teams	2023 Attend.	Notes
Worcester	519,651	Moved from Pawtucket in 2021. 7 <sup>th</sup> best total, 6 <sup>th</sup> best average in 2023.
New Hampshire (Manchester)	236,809	All Minor Leagues 3 <sup>rd</sup> best total att. gain, 8 <sup>th</sup> best avg/date gain in 2018.
<b>Boston Market Total</b>	<b>756,460</b>	<b>New Frontier League team in Brockton in 2024.</b>

**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN MAJOR LEAGUE MARKETS** – Includes Independent League Teams

There have been many success stories in the other 18 Major League markets with Minor League teams.

<u>Los Angeles</u>	6 Minor League teams in 2023... Rancho Cucamonga led the California League for 17 straight years (1993-2009). Lake Elsinore led that league each year - 2010-2016, and 2018.
<u>Chicago</u>	6 in 2023... Kane County topped 400,000 in 22 of 26 years, and topped 500,000 in 6 seasons. They had the highest average per date among U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023... Gary set team record each year 2003-2007, 2010, 2017. Schaumburg led Frontier League in 2022, 2023.
<u>San Francisco</u>	4 in 2023... San Jose had the 19 best totals in team history in the 21 years from 1999 through 2019.
<u>Dallas</u>	2 in 2023... Frisco led all Double-A teams in attendance for 15 straight years through 2019.
<u>Washington</u>	4 in 2023... Frederick (now in the MLB Draft League, and also in the Atlantic League starting in 2023) led Carolina League each year from 2012 through 2016, and just missed leading in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Southern Maryland had record-high in 2013. Fredericksburg, VA, moved from Potomac in 2021, set total attendance and average per date record-highs in 2023. New 2024 team in Hagerstown.
<u>Seattle</u>	2 in 2023... Tacoma had its highest-ever total attendance in 2023.
<u>Tampa</u>	5 in 2023... In 2017, Clearwater had best attendance in the Florida State League since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 10 <sup>th</sup> time in 14 years. Led league 18 of 19 years through 2023.
<u>Minneapolis</u>	1 in 2023... St. Paul 2015-2019: The 5 highest-ever independent team average per date seasons, with a record-high 8,438 in 2016. Became International League Twins farm team in 2021.
<u>Cleveland</u>	3 in 2023... Akron led the Eastern League 6 times since 1997, and is one of only 6 Double-A teams to ever top 500,000. 2014 attendance was up 55,245, the best gain in Double-A.
<u>St. Louis</u>	1 in 2023... 2019 was the final Minor League season for the River City Rascals.
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	1 in 2023... Washington, PA sold out many games early in its history, but is down more recently.
<u>Baltimore</u>	1 in 2023... Aberdeen set average per date high in 2011, but has had major decline since 2012.
<u>Atlanta</u>	2 in 2023... In 2023: Gwinnett – lowest Triple-A total; Rome: - lowest High-A total.
<u>Kansas City</u>	1 in 2023... Kansas City (KS) team renamed the Monarchs after famed Negro Leagues team.
<u>Detroit</u>	2 in 2023... Toledo, separate TV market, drew 500,000+ for 17 straight years until 2019. 4-team United Shore League (all in Utica, counts as one team) has sold out about 80% of its games in history.
<u>Houston</u>	1 in 2023... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest total attendance by a modern independent team. Led independent leagues in total attendance also in 2013 and 2014. Joined the Pacific Coast League in 2021, as a Houston Astros affiliate.
<u>Milwaukee</u>	2 in 2023... Milwaukee and Lake Country had record-high average per date in 2023.
<u>Cincinnati</u>	2 in 2023... Dayton (a separate TV market) topped 540,000 each year (2000-2019), led all MLB-affiliated teams in average per date in 2022, may be the first Class-A team to ever accomplish this, has a North American pro sports record of 1,507 regular-season consecutive sellouts, drew a Class-A record-high 597,433 in 2010, and in attendance, is the most successful Class-A team ever.
<u>Denver</u>	Northern Colorado played in a temporary park again in 2023. Pioneer League not officially counting their attendance. They hope to be in their permanent ballpark in 2024.

The New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco/Oakland TV markets all have 2 MLB teams. San Diego, Miami, Phoenix, and Toronto markets did not have a summer Minor League team charging admission in 2023. Phoenix has all 6 teams of the Arizona Fall League.

**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN MARKETS WITH AN NFL, NBA, OR NHL TEAM, BUT NO MLB TEAM**

There were 22 TV markets in **2023** that had both Major League and Minor League Baseball. There are also 19 Minor League Baseball markets that don't have a Major League Baseball team, but do have a National Football League, National Basketball Association, or National Hockey League team. Despite the NFL, NBA, or NHL competition for sports dollars in these markets, many of their Minor League Baseball teams draw quite well. The 24 Minor League Baseball teams in these markets, which includes independent teams, drew a combined 7,204,198 in **2023**.

<u>TV Market</u>	<u>NFL, NBA, or NHL Teams</u>	<u>Minor League Baseball in That Market with 2023 Notes</u>
<u>Buffalo</u>	NFL-Bills, NHL-Sabres	Topped 500,000 each year 1988-2019. Reached one million 6 times. Holds record for best Minor League season attendance - 1,188,972 in 1991.
<u>Charlotte</u>	NFL-Panthers, NBA-Hornets	I.L. Knights led Minors in total attendance in 2014 and 2018, and in average per date 2014-2016. Best U.S. average/date in 2018. Single-A Kannapolis set team record-highs in their new park in 2021, and broke them in 2023.
<u>Raleigh-Durham</u>	NHL-Carolina Hurricanes	AAA Durham drew 529,105 in 2019, and topped 500,000 13 times since 2001. Class A Carolina under 200,000 only in 2016-2019, 2021-2023.
<u>Columbus</u>	NHL-Blue Jackets	Drawn 500,000+ in 35 seasons, including 2023, which is more often than any other team. Surpassed 600,000 in 8 of 11 years through 2019.
<u>Indianapolis</u>	NHL-Colts, NBA-Pacers	Record-high 662,536 in 2015. Topped 534,000 in 26 straight 'normal' years.
<u>Memphis</u>	NBA- Grizzlies	Attendance down sharply from 887,976 in 2001, had gains in 2016, 2017.
<u>Nashville</u>	NFL-Titans, NHL-Predators	Led MLB-affiliated teams in total and average in 2021, total attendance in 2022. Record-high total in 2018. In 1979, Nashville was first AA team to top 500,000. New park in 2015 led to U.S.-best gain of 241,587 that year.
<u>Okla. City</u>	NBA-Thunder	Drawn better than 400,000 in 18 of 24 'normal' years through 2023.
<u>Sacramento</u>	NBA-Kings	Top Minors total attendance 10 times from 2000-2015. Have drawn at least 600,000 in 16 of 22 seasons. Significant decline in recent seasons.
<u>Salt Lake C.</u>	NBA-Jazz	Have topped 430,000 in all 28 years in Triple-A, excluding 2021.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	NFL-Jaguars	300,000+-15 of 19 'normal' years through 2023. 3 <sup>rd</sup> best Minors gain in 2017.
<u>Green Bay</u>	NFL-Packers	Wisconsin (Appleton)-205,000+ for 12 straight 'normal' years through 2023.
<u>Las Vegas</u>	NHL-Golden Knights NFL-Raiders	New park in 2019. Best total and average/date gains of any team, and the highest total and average per date of any U.S. team, in 2019.
<u>San Antonio</u>	NBA-Spurs	Back in the Texas League. In 2019, had their best total since 1998.
<u>Orlando</u>	NBA-Magic	Daytona topped 100,000 for 16 straight years through 2019. Clearwater is the only other Florida State League team to do this.
<u>Portland, OR</u>	NBA-Trail Blazers	Short-season Hillsboro drew a record-high in 2015. 4-team Mavericks League (all in Keiser - counts as one team) began play in 2021.
<u>Vancouver</u>	NHL-Canucks	Led all short-season teams in total attendance and average per date 2016-2019. Set short-season record-high totals for this market in 2016, 2017.
<u>Winnipeg</u>	NHL-Jets	Best independent average per date 12 times in 15 years through 2014. Had topped 250,000 for 16 straight seasons until 2016. Big dip since.
<u>Ottawa</u>	NHL-Senators	Returned to the Frontier League in 2022.

**STAYING CLOSE TO YOUR PARENT (TEAM)**

It is difficult to quantify the effect on attendance when a Minor League affiliate is located in the 'area of dominant fan interest' of their Major League parent team. But at times, it provides a boost in attendance to the Minor League team. The Worcester Red Sox, who moved from Pawtucket in 2021, and the Reading Fightin' Phils are examples.

The table below is a **2023 and 2024** listing of Minor League teams who charge admission, that were located in areas where their parent team is one of the dominant teams of fan interest. In some cases, such as with the Mississippi Braves, the Major League parent team might be located a considerable distance from the Minor League affiliate. But the Major League team may have a significant following in the area, and its games are likely to be broadcast on local radio and TV there. The same is true with Vancouver, which is a Toronto Blue Jays affiliate.

The realignment of the Minor Leagues in 2021 resulted in many changes to this list from 2019, including the elimination of all short-season leagues that charged admission. Many short-season teams became full-season teams. No changes were made to this list for 2022, 2023, or 2024. Some changes may be coming in 2025 and 2026.

Detroit, Miami, Minnesota, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, and Toronto have teams in the Florida State League who play at their Florida Spring Training ballparks. All 30 MLB teams have at least one affiliate that plays a 60-game season at their respective Spring Training facility, in the Gulf Coast (Florida) or Arizona Complex Leagues. There is no admission is charged to games played in the Complex Leagues.

<b>Major League Team</b>	<b>Minor League Affiliates of That Team Who Play in its Area of Dominant Fan Interest</b>
Baltimore	Norfolk (Triple-A), Bowie (Double-A), Aberdeen (High-A), Delmarva (Single-A)
Boston	Worcester (Triple-A), Portland, ME (Double-A)
Chicago White Sox	None
Cleveland	Columbus, OH (Triple-A), Akron (Double-A), Lake County (High-A)
Detroit	Toledo (Triple-A), West Michigan (High-A)
Houston	Sugar Land (Triple-A), Corpus Christi (Double-A)
Kansas City	Omaha (Triple-A), Northwest Arkansas (Double-A)
Los Angeles Angels	Inland Empire of San Bernadino (Single-A)
Minnesota	St. Paul (Triple-A), Cedar Rapids (High-A)
New York Yankees	Scranton-Wilkes Barre (Triple-A), Somerset (Double-A), Hudson Valley (High-A)
Oakland	Las Vegas (Triple-A), Stockton (Single-A)
Seattle	Tacoma (Triple-A), Everett (High-A)
Tampa Bay	None
Texas	Round Rock (Triple-A), Frisco (Double-A)
Toronto	Buffalo (Triple-A), Vancouver (High-A)
Arizona	None
Atlanta	Gwinnett (Triple-A), Mississippi (Double-A), Rome (High-A), Augusta (Single-A)
Chicago Cubs	Iowa (Triple-A), South Bend (High-A)
Cincinnati	Louisville (Triple-A), Dayton (High-A)
Colorado	Albuquerque (Triple-A)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Rancho Cucamonga (Single-A)
Miami	Jacksonville (Triple-A), Pensacola (Double-A), Jupiter (Single-A)
Milwaukee	Wisconsin (Appleton) (High-A)
New York Mets	Syracuse (Triple-A), Binghamton (Double-A), Brooklyn (High-A)
Philadelphia	Lehigh Valley (Allentown) (Triple-A), Reading (AA), Jersey Shore (Lakewood) (High-A)
Pittsburgh	Altoona (Double-A)
St. Louis	Memphis (Triple-A), Springfield, MO (Double-A)
San Diego	Lake Elsinore (Single-A)
San Francisco	Sacramento (Triple-A), San Jose (Single-A)
Washington	Harrisburg (Double-A), Wilmington, DE (High-A), Fredericksburg, VA (Single-A)

**NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS****MLB-AFFILIATED TOTAL ATTENDANCE, # OF TEAMS, AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – SINCE 1946**

Year	Total MLB-Affiliated Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team	Year	Total MLB-Affiliated Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team
				1985	18,380,000	154	119,351
1946	32,704,315	314	104,154	1986	18,456,808	154	119,849
1947	37,184,167	388	95,835	1987	20,215,564	158	127,947
1948	38,415,716	438	87,707	1988	21,659,873	160	135,374
1949	39,640,443	<b>448</b>	88,483	1989	23,103,593	164	140,876
1950	32,960,733	442	74,572	1990	25,244,569	164	153,930
1951	26,135,174	365	71,603	1991	26,590,096	168	158,274
1952	24,024,373	334	71,929	1992	27,180,170	168	161,787
1953	21,109,565	288	73,297	1993	30,022,761	169	177,649
1954	18,674,503	264	70,737	1994	33,347,931	172	193,883
1955	18,203,889	243	74,913	1995	33,126,934	172	192,598
1956	16,402,953	217	75,590	1996	33,293,383	171	194,698
1957	14,875,346	200	74,377	1997	34,721,716	172	201,870
1958	12,744,883	171	74,531	1998	35,427,618	174	203,607
1959	11,622,581	152	76,464	1999	35,179,471	176	199,883
1960	10,660,811	152	70,137	2000	37,647,819	176	215,126
1961	9,766,505	147	66,439	2001	38,808,339	176	220,502
1962	9,732,582	134	72,631	2002	38,639,142	176	219,541
1963	9,749,381	130	74,995	2003	39,069,707	176	221,987
1964	10,102,310	128	78,924	2004	39,887,755	176	226,635
1965	10,029,518	130	77,150	2005	41,333,279	176	234,848
1966	9,826,124	133	73,881	2006	41,710,357	176	236,991
1967	9,940,660	135	73,635	2007	42,812,812	175	244,645
1968	9,887,328	135	73,239	2008	<b>43,263,740</b>	176	<b>245,817</b>
1969	9,984,263 \$	148	67,461	2009	41,644,518	176	236,617
1970	10,726,470	145	73,976	2010	41,432,456	176	235,412
1971	11,134,084	148	75,230	2011	41,252,053	174	237,081
1972	10,986,628	136	80,734	2012	41,280,382	176	234,548
1973	10,828,828	138	78,470	2013	41,553,781	176	236,101
1974	10,562,452	136	77,665	2014	42,411,194	176	240,973
1975	11,021,848	130	84,783	2015	42,561,445	176	241,826
1976	11,324,947	141	80,319	2016	41,377,202	176	235,098
1977	13,004,297	142	91,580	2017	41,832,364	176	237,684
1978	13,049,475	150	86,997	2018	40,450,337	176	229,831
1979	15,304,724 @	150	107,504	2019	41,504,077	176	235,819
1980	15,541,674 *	145	107,184	2020	0	176	0
1981	16,178,790	140	115,563	2021	22,089,014	120	184,075
1982	17,637,244	150	117,582	2022	30,920,722	120	257,673
1983	18,559,190	153	121,302	2023	32,152,384	120	267,937
1984	17,580,299	154	114,158				

\$ - Does not include season attendance of 8,817 by one Gulf Coast League team that charged admission.

@ - Includes estimated attendance for Inter-American League which folded during the season.

\* - Figure listed in the 1981 Sporting News Baseball Guide. Mexican League season ended early due to a strike. 2021 through 2023 figures exclude the Mexican League, and the Major League Independent Partner Leagues



**MLB-AFFILIATED U.S./CANADIAN FULL-SEASON TEAMS - TOTAL ATTENDANCE, # OF TEAMS, AND  
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – SINCE 1963. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – SINCE 1992**

This table shows attendance by full-season, U.S. or Canadian Major League-affiliated Minor League teams, since the last reorganization of the Minor Leagues in 1963. Effective in 2021, all MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission play a full-season schedule, so this table provides a fairer yearly comparison from 2021 forward. Combined average attendance per date is shown starting with 1992, the first year these figures were included in the Minor League issued attendance reports. The table does not include Mexican League teams, or teams that played in short-season leagues.

Year	MLB Affiliated Full-Season Teams Attend.	Number Full-Sea. Teams	Average Attendance per Team	Year	MLB Affiliated Full-Season Teams Attend.	Number Full Sea. Teams	Average Attendance per Team	Average Att. Per Date
1963	7,612,882	112	67,972	1993	25,000,168	115	217,393	3,387
1964	7,184,010	102	70,431	1994	27,646,782	116	238,334	3,645
1965	6,902,424	96	71,900	1995	27,738,500	116	239,125	3,627
1966	6,496,849	93	69,859	1996	27,876,672	116	240,316	3,635
1967	6,311,765	86	73,393	1997	28,567,929	116	246,275	3,745
1968	6,500,445	86	75,587	1998	29,121,131	118	246,789	3,663
1969	6,426,154	87	73,864	1999	29,126,859	120	242,724	3,630
1970	7,677,106	90	85,301	2000	30,945,391	120	257,878	3,883
1971	7,858,990	90	87,322	2001	31,977,682	120	266,481	3,982
1972	7,695,543	90	85,506	2002	31,868,349	120	265,570	3,958
1973	7,092,134	88	80,592	2003	32,466,417	120	270,553	4,126
1974	6,683,283	86	77,713	2004	33,131,201	120	276,093	4,149
1975	6,629,819	82	80,851	2005	34,414,112	120	286,784	4,260
1976	6,751,187	80	84,390	2006	34,277,338	120	285,644	4,256
1977	7,957,753	82	97,046	2007	35,150,730	120	292,923	4,355
1978	8,417,169	89	94,575	2008	<b>35,447,963</b>	120	<b>295,400</b>	<b>4,368</b>
1979	9,761,330	90	108,459	2009	34,838,849	120	290,324	4,342
1980	11,331,714	95	119,281	2010	35,062,403	120	292,187	4,298
1981	12,316,024	96	128,292	2011	34,299,698	120	285,831	4,237
1982	13,729,020	102	134,598	2012	33,894,415	120	282,453	4,168
1983	14,381,025	100	143,810	2013	34,205,705	120	285,048	4,260
1984	13,614,779	102	133,478	2014	34,928,570	120	291,071	4,323
1985	14,270,558	103	139,907	2015	35,067,534	120	292,229	4,328
1986	14,751,291	104	141,839	2016	33,862,556	120	282,188	4,188
1987	15,948,128	108	147,668	2017	34,325,071	120	286,042	4,306
1988	17,444,104	110	158,583	2018	33,203,392	120	276,695	4,184
1989	18,982,379	110	172,567	2019	33,321,002	120	277,675	4,201
1990	20,148,150	110	183,165	2020	0	120	0	0
1991	21,716,617	112	193,898	2021	22,089,014	120	184,075	3,242
1992	22,265,115	112	198,796	2022	30,920,722	120	257,673	3,933
				2023	32,152,384	120	267,937	4,084

## AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table on Page 108 notes the annual average attendance per team since 1946 for all MLB-affiliated leagues combined. The presence of so many teams in small markets is why the overall average per team was not higher in the late 1940's. Many of these small-market leagues and teams disbanded in the early 1950's as television and other factors severely cut Minor League attendance. The average per team was less than 80,000 from 1950 through 1971, and again in 1973 and 1974. In 1979, the average per team reached 100,000 for the first time since 1946. It initially surpassed 150,000 in 1990, and 200,000 in 1997. Average attendance per team topped 200,000 each year since 2000, except 2021, with a high (if the short-season teams are included) of 245,817 in 2008. The 2018 average per team of 229,831 was lowest since 2004, except for 2021.

The individual MLB-affiliated league summaries, which appear later in this report, note each league's average attendance per team history. This is also noted for the well-established independent leagues.

Listed below, is a brief summary of average attendance per team by classification. The Triple-A data goes back to 1921. Double-A, full-season Class A, and the combination of short-season Class A, and Rookie League data goes back to 1963, when the classification system in current use was established.

### TRIPLE-A

**2023** Triple-A average per team was 428,154. **2019** Triple-A average per team was 450,013, the 14<sup>th</sup> best ever. Triple-A average attendance per team first reached 200,000 in 1924. It hit a pre-1945 high of 214,231 in 1928. The Great Depression caused a big drop in baseball attendance. Triple-A average fell to a low of 115,640 in 1934.

A big boom in attendance actually began in the latter years of World War II. Triple-A average per team was 139,478 in 1943, 198,208 in 1944, 239,798 in 1945, 338,465 in 1946, and 354,110 in 1947. But then, a big decline began. Triple-A average was 266,696 in 1950, 193,963 in 1954, and stayed under 200,000 per team from 1958 through 1980. The low was 135,181 in 1969. The average per team was under 150,000 as late as 1976.

The average rose above 200,000 each year from 1981 through 1987. In 1988, it topped 300,000 for the first time since 1949. It first reached 400,000 per team in 1993, and has been above that level each year since then except for 1996, 1997, and 2021. It topped 450,000 per team from 2005 through 2017, and in 2019, with a high of 477,226 in 2008.

### DOUBLE-A

Average attendance per team in the Double-A leagues stayed below 100,000 each year from 1963 through 1978, with a low of 60,521 in 1975. It was between 100,000 and 200,000 per team from 1979 through 1990, and has topped 200,000 in all seasons since then.

The Double-A average per team first reached 300,000 in 2004, and has now hit this level 6 times, with a high of 312,035 in 2008. The average was above 280,000 in 17 straight seasons through 2019, and again in 2023. The **2019** average per team was 292,752, which ranked as 13<sup>th</sup> best. In **2023**, Double-A average per team was 286,615.

### FULL-SEASON CLASS A – Consists of High-A, and also Single-A, which was known as Low-A through 2021

Full-season Class A averaged less than 50,000 per team from 1963 through 1975, with a low of 40,785 in 1967. 1990 was the first time that this average topped 100,000, and it was above 150,000 per team every year since 1995, until 2021. It reached a record-high 199,846 in 2014, and was 183,967 in **2019**, lowest since 2004. In **2023**, High-A average per team was 217,411, Single-A average per team was 139,566, and combined Class-A average per team was 178,489.

### SHORT-SEASON CLASS A AND ROOKIE LEAGUES

Average attendance per team for short-season Class A leagues and Rookie Leagues combined was under 40,000 from 1963 through 1984. The low was 21,310 in 1968. From 1966 through 1979, there were 11 years where this average per team was below 30,000. The average first topped 50,000 per team in 1989, and was above that ever since then. It reached 74,000 in 1995, and topped 80,000 in each of the last 18 seasons through 2019. The high was 96,758 in 2007. It was 89,124 in 2019, which ranked as 12<sup>th</sup> highest. MLB-affiliated short-season leagues became full-season affiliated (Northwest), pro independent (Pioneer), Summer Collegiate (Appalachian) or disbanded (NY-Penn) after 2019.

**FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2023**

Short-season leaders listed from 1947 through 1962 are for Class D teams which played slightly shorter schedules than other classifications. The Minor Leagues were reorganized into their present configuration in 1963. Record-highs shown in bold. Short-season MLB-affiliated leagues that charge admission ceased to exist after 2019.

Year	Affiliated U.S. Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	Affiliated Short-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance
1940	Seattle	295,820	Not Available	N/A
1941	Louisville	274,805	Not Available	N/A
1942	Los Angeles	271,169	Not Available	N/A
1943	Milwaukee	286,979	Not Available	N/A
1944	Baltimore	342,032	Not Available	N/A
1945	Seattle	434,133	Not Available	N/A
1946	San Francisco	670,563	Not Available	N/A
1947	San Francisco	640,643	Alexandria, LA	149,889
1948	San Francisco	606,563	Alexandria, LA	127,178
1949	Seattle	545,434	Hamilton, ONT	137,340
1950	Seattle	492,647	Hornell, NY	97,563
1951	Seattle	465,727	Hornell, NY	74,086
1952	Denver (Class A)	461,419	Decatur, IL	94,300
1953	Toronto	382,432	Decatur, IL	96,337
1954	Toronto	408,876	Jamestown, NY	86,460
1955	Denver	426,248	Dubuque, IA	94,925
1956	Denver	368,305	Dubuque, IA	92,364
1957	Buffalo	386,071	Dubuque, IA	91,647
1958	Buffalo *	286,480	Dubuque, IA	93,070
1959	Buffalo	413,263	St. Petersburg, FL	119,424
1960	Buffalo *	278,352	Tampa, FL	76,616
1961	Buffalo *	259,724	El Paso, TX	79,415
1962	Rochester, NY *	272,178	Miami	90,887
1963	Rochester, NY *	271,968	Salem, VA	34,061
1964	Rochester, NY *	272,091	Salem, VA	36,184
1965	Dallas-Fort Worth (AA) *	329,294	Salem, VA	44,254
1966	Dallas-Fort Worth (AA) *	271,367	Huron, SD	35,110
1967	Rochester, NY *	303,500	Salt Lake City	53,653
1968	Hawaii *	255,569	Salt Lake City	54,195
1969	Hawaii *	280,477	Salt Lake City	76,789
1970	Hawaii	467,217	Niagara Falls	60,962
1971	Hawaii	375,957	Niagara Falls	56,052
1972	Hawaii *	305,878	Niagara Falls	52,476
1973	Rochester *	302,789	Portland, OR	80,705
1974	Sacramento *	295,831	Portland, OR	100,111
1975	Rochester *	326,072	Portland, OR	119,253
1976	Hawaii *	306,236	Portland, OR	83,780
1977	Columbus, OH	457,251	Portland, OR	125,300
1978	Nashville (Class AA)	380,159	Billings	58,750
1979	Columbus, OH	599,544	Eugene	66,156

**FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2023**

Year	Affiliated U.S. Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	Affiliated Short-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance
1980	Nashville (Class AA)	575,676	Eugene	96,058
1981	Denver	555,806	Eugene	85,073
1982	Louisville	868,418	Great Falls	67,044
1983	Louisville	1,052,438	Billings	88,534
1984	Louisville	846,878	Billings	96,670
1985	Louisville	651,090	Eugene	103,193
1986	Louisville	660,200	Salt Lake City	108,721
1987	Columbus, OH	570,599	Salt Lake City	170,134
1988	Buffalo	1,147,651	Salt Lake City	176,217
1989	Buffalo	1,116,441	Salt Lake City	173,256
1990	Buffalo	1,156,661	Salt Lake City	192,366
1991	Buffalo	<b>1,188,972</b>	Salt Lake City	200,599
1992	Buffalo	1,117,867	Salt Lake City	217,263
1993	Buffalo	1,058,620	Boise	151,080
1994	Buffalo	982,493	Boise	156,950
1995	Buffalo	900,782	Portland, OR	249,696
1996	Buffalo	825,530	Portland, OR	249,995
1997	Buffalo	696,193	Portland, OR	213,242
1998	Buffalo	743,463	Erie	187,743
1999	Buffalo	684,051	Portland, OR	206,136
2000	Sacramento	861,808	Mahoning Valley, OH	206,287
2001	Sacramento	901,214	Brooklyn	289,381
2002	Sacramento	817,317	Brooklyn	<b>317,124</b>
2003	Sacramento	766,326	Brooklyn	307,383
2004	Sacramento	751,156	Brooklyn	294,261
2005	Sacramento	755,750	Brooklyn	285,847
2006	Sacramento *	728,227	Brooklyn	289,323
2007	Sacramento	710,235	Brooklyn	294,972
2008	Sacramento	700,168	Brooklyn	265,220
2009	Columbus, OH	666,797	Brooklyn	264,102
2010	Sacramento	657,910	Brooklyn	264,441
2011	Lehigh Valley, PA	628,925	Brooklyn	245,087
2012	Lehigh Valley, PA *	622,421	Brooklyn	249,009
2013	Indianapolis	637,579	Brooklyn	232,224
2014	Charlotte	687,715	Brooklyn	231,628
2015	Sacramento	672,354	Brooklyn	230,658
2016	Indianapolis *	636,888	Vancouver	222,363
2017	Indianapolis *	641,141	Vancouver	239,527
2018	Charlotte	619,639	Vancouver	239,086
2019	Las Vegas	650,934	Vancouver	235,980
2021	Nashville	436,868	No Short-season teams	
2022	Nashville	555,576	No Short-season teams	
2023	Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	567,322	No Short-season teams	

\* Mexican League teams with the highest yearly MLB-Affiliated attendance: Poza Rica - 1958 (354,413); Mexico City Red Devils - 1960 (318,797), 1961 (285,301), 1962 (349,753); Poza Rica - 1963 (436,018); Mexico City Red Devils - 1964 (464,689), 1965 (441,885), 1966 (445,664), 1967 (536,743), 1968 (480,068), 1969 (428,548), 1972 (349,684), 1973 (434,133), 1974 (398,122), 1975 (380,528), 1976 (351,416); Monterrey - 2006 (989,454), 2012 (645,302), 2016 (690,305), 2017 (659,791); Tijuana – 2019 (677,464). Mexican League attendance from 1981 is not available.

**FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED AVERAGE PER DATE TEAM LEADERS – 1988-2023**

Average per date figures were not available for all teams prior to 1992. No short-season teams after 2019.

Year	Affiliated U.S. Full-Season Team Avg./Date Leader	Average/Date Attendance	Affiliated Short-Season Team Avg./Date Leader	Average/Date Attendance
1983	Louisville	16,191	N.A.	
1988	Buffalo	16,395	N.A.	
1989	Buffalo	16,180	N.A.	
1990	Buffalo	16,524	N.A.	
1991	Buffalo	<b>17,231</b>	N.A.	
1992	Buffalo	16,937	Salt Lake City	5,717
1993	Buffalo	15,123	Boise	3,976
1994	Buffalo	14,036	New Jersey Cardinals	4,470
1995	Buffalo	13,247	Portland, OR	6,571
1996	Buffalo	12,899	Portland, OR	6,579
1997	Buffalo	11,603	Portland, OR	5,612
1998	Buffalo	10,933	Erie	4,941
1999	Buffalo	10,060	Mahoning Valley, OH	5,641
2000	Sacramento	12,312	Mahoning Valley, OH	5,429
2001	Sacramento	12,517	Brooklyn	7,821
2002	Sacramento	11,512	Brooklyn	<b>8,345</b>
2003	Sacramento*	10,643	Brooklyn	8,308
2004	Memphis*	10,437	Brooklyn	7,953
2005	Sacramento*	10,497	Brooklyn	7,940
2006	Sacramento *	10,257	Brooklyn	7,820
2007	Sacramento	10,003	Brooklyn	8,194
2008	Sacramento*	9,725	Brooklyn	7,367
2009	Columbus, OH	9,526	Brooklyn	7,138
2010	Lehigh Valley, PA	9,227	Brooklyn	7,147
2011	Lehigh Valley, PA	9,249	Brooklyn	7,002
2012	Lehigh Valley, PA*	9,153	Brooklyn	6,553
2013	Columbus, OH*	9,212	Brooklyn	6,276
2014	Charlotte*	9,686	Brooklyn	6,260
2015	Charlotte	9,428	Brooklyn	6,234
2016	Charlotte*	8,974	Vancouver	6,177
2017	Indianapolis *	9,159	Vancouver	6,303
2018	Charlotte *	8,980	Vancouver	6,292
2019	Las Vegas	9,299	Vancouver	6,210
2021	Nashville	6,721	No Short-season teams	
2022	Dayton	7,935	No Short-season teams	
2023	Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	7,990	No Short-Season teams	

\* The Mexican League plays fewer games than the full-season MLB-Affiliated leagues, but a more games than the short-season leagues. Mexican League teams with the highest yearly affiliated average per date attendance since 1992: 2003 – Saltillo (11,387); 2004 – Tijuana (12,764); 2005 – Saltillo (10,754); **2006 – Monterrey (17,990)**; 2008 – Monterrey (12,424); 2012 – Monterrey (11,321); 2013 – Monterrey (11,145); 2014- Monterrey (11,856); 2016 – Monterrey (12,783); 2017 – Monterrey (11,575); 2018 – Monterrey (10,059); 2019 – Tijuana (11,291).

Tijuana, in the now-independent Mexican League, led all Minor League teams in 2021 with a 7,557 average per date, and in 2022, with a 10,088 average per date. Yucatan of the Mexican League led all teams in 2023, averaging 10,558.

## **'THE MILLIONAIRES' – TEAMS THAT DREW A MILLION**

There have been 7 seasons in which a Minor League team sold at least one million tickets. 1983 Louisville was the first to do it. The Buffalo Bisons topped one million for 6 consecutive seasons from 1988 through 1993. It hasn't been done since, and would be nearly impossible to do for all but a few Minor League teams due to ballpark capacity.

This section provides a review of those 7 special teams that had such a remarkable achievement, plus the 2006 Monterrey Sultanes of the Mexican League, who drew 989,454, and had the highest average per date ever.

Information and data sources are: Archives of The Louisville Courier-Journal and Buffalo News, as provided by the Newspapers.com Website; 2019 Buffalo Bisons Media Guide; 2023 Louisville Bats Media Guide; Attendance figures issued by the Office of Minor League Baseball; The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball by Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, published in 2007 by Baseball America; 500 Ballparks – From Wooden Seats to Retro Classics by Eric Pastore, published in 2011; Major League Baseball Stats Reporting Platform; Sporting News Official Baseball Guides.

Unfortunately, as is often the case, there are discrepancies in the data, depending on the source. Some sources included exhibition, post-season, and All-Star games attendance, in their published totals. These will be noted. But the figures issued annually by Minor League Baseball will be considered official, and they only cover regular season games.

## **THE 1983 LOUISVILLE REDBIRDS**

Louisville had no Minor League teams from 1963 through 1967, and from 1973 through 1981. Attendance from nearly all seasons in Louisville is available, going back to 1903. Highest attendance prior to 1982 was 355,241 in 1946, and 339,872 in 1947. From that point on, through 1972, attendance topped 200,000 only in 1962 and 1968.

In 1982, Minor League Baseball returned to Louisville in a big way, with a Triple-A American Association team. The Redbirds played in Cardinal Stadium, on the grounds of the Kentucky State Fair. This stadium, which opened in 1957, was the home of the University of Louisville football team, and had a seating capacity of 33,500. Among stadiums used by Minor League teams at that time, only War Memorial Stadium in Buffalo had a larger capacity.

The 1982 Redbirds drew an all-time Minor League record-high attendance of 868,418, breaking the old record of 670,563 by the 1946 San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League. The Seals drew 640,643 in 1947, and 606,563 in 1948. The P.C.L. played a 186-game schedule in 1946 and 1947, and a 188-game schedule in 1948. No Minor League team drew at least 600,000 again until Louisville did it in 1982.

Prior to the 1983 season, Redbirds' ownership set a goal – become the first team to sell at least one million tickets in a season – and they did it!

Louisville drew 1,052,438 in 65 regular season dates in 1983, averaging 16,191 per date. The average per date was also, at that time, a Minor League record-high. There were 2 postponements. 9 dates drew under 10,000. But 33 dates topped 15,000. Attendance surpassed 20,000 at 19 dates, with 9 of them reaching 25,000. The largest crowds were 33,687 on August 23, 31,272 on July 3, and 31,258 on August 25. The final homestand attracted 161,548 in 7 dates, averaging 23,078 per date. The Redbirds had 5 home playoff games in 1983, which drew a total of 38,952, an average of 7,790 per game. They also had an exhibition game with their parent team, the St. Louis Cardinals, which drew 18,546. Louisville was the host of the 1983 Triple-A World Series, and those 4 games drew a total of 26,914. The grand total for all 1983 games in Louisville was 1,136,850 in 75 dates, averaging 15,158 per date.

1983 Louisville outdrew Major League Cleveland, Minnesota, and Seattle in total attendance, and those same teams, along with the New York Mets, in average per date.

In 1984, Louisville drew 846,878. They also topped 600,000 in 1985, 1986, 1990, 1992, and 1993 at Cardinal Stadium. Teams in the Triple-A American Association were merged into the other two Triple-A leagues in 1998, with Louisville being placed in the International League. This team got a new name – the RiverBats – in 2000, along with a beautiful new ballpark – Louisville Slugger Field, which has a capacity of 13,131. The team, whose name was shortened to the Bats in 2002, continued to draw very well. Attendance topped 600,000 every year from 2000 through 2011, with a high of 685,863 in 2000, and surpassed 500,000 each season from 2012 through 2016. Largest crowd at Louisville Slugger Field was 14,658 in 2018.

Louisville has drawn at least 600,000 in 20 different seasons, which is more often than any team. (Buffalo and Sacramento have each done it 16 times, and Indianapolis has done it 12 times.). Only Buffalo and Columbus have drawn at least 500,000 in a season more often than Louisville. A city that lost its team in the 1960's, and again in the 1970's, now has one the most successful teams in attendance.

**'THE MILLIONAIRES' – TEAMS THAT DREW A MILLION****THE BUFFALO BISONS – 1988-1993**

The story of Minor League Baseball in Buffalo has some similarities with the story in Louisville – A long-time Minor League city that lost its team in the early 1970's, gets a new team, and sets all-time attendance records.

Buffalo first topped 300,000 in attendance in 1903. The team drew 393,843 in 1949, 386,071 in 1957, and 413,263 (6,457 average per date) in 1959. Buffalo led all U.S./Canadian teams in total attendance each year from 1957 through 1961. The Bisons had the best Minor League attendance again from 1988 through 1999, when they set records that may never be broken.

Offerman Stadium was the home to the Bisons from 1924 through 1960. When that stadium was replaced by a school, the Bisons moved to War Memorial Stadium, which in 1960, became home to the Buffalo Bills of the newly established American Football League. That stadium was expanded in 1960 for the Bills, and had a capacity of 46,500. The Bisons drew 259,734 in 1961, their largest total in their initial 10 years in War Memorial Stadium. Attendance fell during the 1960's. The stadium, which opened in 1937, was not in great shape, and neither was its neighborhood. The Bisons moved to Winnipeg in 1971, and Buffalo had no Minor League Baseball until 1979.

A Double-A Eastern League team was awarded to Buffalo in 1979, and it drew 133,148. Attendance was pretty low for the first 4 years, but it began to pick up significantly starting in 1983. The Bisons moved into the Triple-A American Association in 1985. (Like Louisville, Buffalo was moved into the Triple-A International League in 1998.) In 1986, the Bisons drew a team record-high 425,113, averaging 7,330 per date. They topped that in 1987, their final year in War Memorial Stadium, with a 495,760 total (the Bisons Media Guide lists the total as 497,760), and a 7,778 average per date. The final game at War Memorial Stadium, where the movie 'The Natural' was filmed, drew 25,412.

In 1988, the Bisons moved into a magnificent new ballpark in Downtown Buffalo. Pilot Field was the prototype of all the retro-style ballparks built over the past 3 decades. It initially had a 19,500 capacity, and was built to be expanded. This ballpark was home to a Minor League team, but its design and atmosphere was Major League. And that was the whole idea. Major League expansion was soon to come, and Buffalo wanted a team. They had a new park whose capacity could be increased to Major League standards, and a potential ownership group was being put together. They knew the Bisons would draw well. But now they wanted to show that Major League Baseball could succeed in Buffalo.

**1988**

Bisons' management had a clear goal for their first season in Pilot Field: Set the all-time Minor League attendance record. And they did!

The Bisons drew record-highs in total attendance (1,147,651 as reported by Minor League Baseball), and in average per date (16,395). Only 2 early season games had fewer than 10,000 tickets sold. There were 22 sellouts of 19,500, and 48 of the 70 dates drew at least 15,000. The Bisons had around 9,000 season tickets sold. Pilot Field also hosted the National Old-Timers Game, and the Triple-A All Star Game, and both of those events drew sellout crowds. (The Bisons Media Guide includes attendance for those games in their total.) The total for all games was 1,186,651.

**1989**

1988 was a tough act to follow, but the Bisons came very close to equaling those record-highs. They drew 1,116,441 in 69 dates in 1989, averaging 16,180 per date. Once again, Buffalo hosted the National Old-Timers Game, which drew 15,742. Some sources include this game in listed attendance, and show a total of 1,132,183. Just 2 dates drew under 10,000. 14 dates reached the 19,500 sellout figure, and 42 dates drew over 15,000. Each of the last 17 dates of the year had crowds of at least 17,000.

**1990**

The Bisons had an extra play-in game, to try to get into the playoffs in 1990. That game counted in the regular season total, and it pushed the Bisons to new Minor League highs in total attendance (1,156,661), and average per date (16,524). The Old-Timers game drew 17,697. During the season, capacity at Pilot Field was increased to 21,050, and 8 dates topped 20,000. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year, just 2 dates drew less than 10,000. 52 dates topped 15,000. After June 20, only a game that made-up a rainout, as part of a separate-admission doubleheader, drew under 15,000.

**'THE MILLIONAIRES' - TEAMS THAT DREW A MILLION****THE BUFFALO BISONS – 1988-1993****1991**

The decision on which markets would get National League expansion teams was about to be made. The Buffalo ownership group was ready, and so were the fans. The 1991 Bisons set a new record for total attendance, which has yet to be topped, and a new record-high average per date that no U.S./Canadian team has ever surpassed.

Total regular season attendance was 1,188,972 in 69 dates, an average of 17,231 per date. An exhibition game with the Pirates drew 16,362, and 2 playoff games drew a combined 35,617. The total for all games was 1,240,951, averaging 17,235 per date. Every date drew over 10,000. 53 regular season dates, plus the exhibition game, and one playoff game, topped 15,000, including all games after June 26. 15 regular season dates, and one playoff game, drew over 20,000. There were 8 regular season sellouts, and one playoff sellout, with each of those dates drawing 21,050.

**1992**

Miami and Denver were selected as the expansion cities. But despite the disappointment in Buffalo, Bisons fans continued to turn out in huge numbers. Total regular season attendance was 1,117,867 in 66 dates, an average of 16,937 per date. A playoff game drew an additional 16,621. The weather was really bad early in the season, as 5 of the first 10 scheduled dates were postponed. In 1992, every game drew at least 12,000. 48 dates topped 15,000, with 11 dates reaching 20,000. All 32 regular season dates from June 29 to the end of the season drew over 15,000, and 25 of them topped 17,000.

**1993**

The final year of the 'million-season' streak had a total attendance of 1,058,620, with a 15,342 average per date. Despite the slight attendance decline, just one date, which drew 9,933, was under 10,000. Attendance surpassed 15,000 at 43 dates, with 6 dates above 20,000.

For the 6 seasons from 1988 through 1993, the 413 Bisons regular season home dates drew a total of 6,786,212, averaging 16,432 per date. 286 of those dates had at least 15,000 tickets sold. Following the 1990 capacity expansion, 40 regular season dates, plus one in the playoffs, drew over 20,000.

Despite the end of the streak, the Bisons continued to draw well. Attendance was 982,493 (14,036 per date) in 1994, 900,782 (13,247 per date) in 1995, and 825,530 (12,899 per date) in 1996. Buffalo drew at least 500,000 in every season through 2019. They've now reached 500,000 in 32 seasons. Only Columbus has done that more often.

Pilot Field has undergone renovation, and several name changes. It is now named Sahlen Field. This park was the temporary home of the Toronto Blue Jays in the short 2020 season, and for 2 months of the 2021 season. Its 2023 listed capacity was 17,600.

**WHO ELSE CAME CLOSE?**

Among U.S. teams, 2001 Sacramento, who drew 901,214 (12,517 per date) has been the most recent team to draw at least 900,000.

But the average per date record the Bisons set in 1991 was broken by the 2006 Monterrey Sultanes of the Mexican League. The Office of Minor League Baseball and the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball reported that the 2006 Sultanes drew 989,454 in just 55 dates. That would be a record-high average per date of 17,990. The MLB Stats Reporting Platform shows a total of 977,508, and an average per date of 17,773, which would still be a record-high.

There likely is an error somewhere. The Stats Reporting Platform lists Monterrey's Opening Night attendance as 1,850. This is highly unlikely, since every other Sultanes' home game they listed had attendance of at least 13,700, and only 5 dates drew less than 15,000. 10 dates that year topped 20,000, with a high of 25,773 at 2 dates.



**THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB**

Attendance of at least 500,000 in a season has become quite common in the Minor Leagues. It happened 328 times from 2000 through 2023. 10 teams did it in 2023. But it is still a very significant achievement. 40 current markets, and 7 former teams, have done it at least once, including Worcester for the first time in 2022. **2023 Yucatan is the first independent league team to draw 500,000.** The first time any Minor League teams reached 500,000 was in 1946 when the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, and the San Francisco Seals, Hollywood Stars, Oakland Oaks, and Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League did it. P.C.L. teams played as many as 186 games that year.

There were 11 occurrences of 500,000+ in attendance, all by P.C.L. teams, from 1947 through 1949. The Mexico City Red Devils were next to do it, topping 500,000 in 1967. But it didn't happen again for a U.S. team until 1979, when both Columbus and Nashville reached it. Excluding 2021, at least one team has done it each year since 1979, and at least 10 teams drew over 500,000 in each season from 2000 through 2019, and again in 2023.

For many Minor League teams, drawing 500,000 is impossible due to the capacity of their ballparks. This especially applies to some of the full-season Class-A teams. The former Short-season teams, and nearly all independent teams, don't play enough dates to reach this attendance level regardless of the size of their ballparks.

Columbus has drawn 500,000 in 35 seasons, which is the most by any team. Louisville has done it 31 times. Buffalo's 32 years in a row above the half-million mark was the longest streak through 2019. Indianapolis, with 26 straight years above 500,000 (excluding 2021) has the longest current streak. Overall, there have been 440 'Half-Million' seasons achieved by Minor League teams through 2023. Nashville, in 1979, was the first Double-A team to reach 500,000, and West Michigan, in 1995, was the first Class-A team to do it.

The first table below, and continuing on the next page, is a year-by-year listing of the teams that topped 500,000 from 1946 through 2023 (none did it in 2021). In 1983, Louisville became the first team to top one million. Buffalo drew better than one million each year from 1988 through 1993. No other Minor League team has drawn one million.

## TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1946-1997

<b>Year</b>	<b># Teams</b>	<b>Teams that Drew at Least 500,000</b>
1946	5	Baltimore, San Francisco, Hollywood, Oakland, Los Angeles
1947	5	Los Angeles, San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle, Hollywood
1948	3	Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles
1949	3	Hollywood, Oakland, Seattle
1967	1	Mexico City Red Devils
1979	2	Columbus, OH, Class AA Nashville
1980	3	Denver, Columbus, Nashville
1981	3	Denver, Columbus, Nashville
1982	4	Louisville, Yucatan (Mexican League), Denver, Nashville
1983	1	Louisville (First team to top one million)
1984	3	Louisville, Columbus, Yucatan
1985	2	Louisville, Columbus
1986	2	Louisville, Columbus
1987	2	Louisville, Columbus
1988	3	Louisville, Columbus, Buffalo
1989	3	Louisville, Columbus, Buffalo
1990	5	Louisville, Columbus, Buffalo, Nashville, Scranton-Wilkes Barre
1991	5	Louisville, Columbus, Buffalo, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Denver
1992	4	Louisville, Buffalo, Columbus, Scranton-Wilkes Barre
1993	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Columbus, Scranton, Richmond, Norfolk, Ottawa
1994	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Columbus, Ottawa, Richmond, Norfolk, Salt Lake City
1995	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Norfolk, Richmond, Columbus, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1996	7	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Norfolk, Salt Lake, West Michigan, Lansing
1997	10	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Norfolk, New Orleans, Rochester, Columbus, Richmond, Salt Lake, Lansing, West Michigan

**THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB** - continued

## TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1998-2023

<b>Year</b>	<b># Teams</b>	<b>Teams that Drew at Least 500,000</b>
1998	9	Buffalo, Rochester, Richmond, Indianapolis, Monterrey, New Orleans, Akron, Salt Lake, West Michigan
1999	6	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Richmond, Indianapolis, Salt Lake, Akron
2000	10	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Indianapolis, Louisville, Salt Lake, Memphis, Saltillo, Sacramento, Round Rock, Dayton
2001	14	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Louisville, Columbus, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Dayton, Monterrey, Yucatan, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock, Kane County IL
2002	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Norfolk, Toledo, Louisville, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Iowa, Sacramento, Fresno, Memphis, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County
2003	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Monterrey, Saltillo, Memphis, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Fresno, Round Rock, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2004	16	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Tijuana, Sacramento, Iowa, Memphis, Fresno, Frisco, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County, Albuquerque
2005	20	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Norfolk, Durham, Toledo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Louisville, Saltillo, Memphis, Iowa, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Springfield MO, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2006	19	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Toledo, Columbus, Saltillo, Monterrey, Iowa, Memphis, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2007	18	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pawtucket, Albuquerque, Toledo, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Fresno, Iowa, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton, Saltillo
2008	17	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), Toledo, Columbus, Durham, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Salt Lake, Memphis, Fresno, Monterrey, Frisco, Dayton
2009	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton,
2010	15	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Albuquerque, Toledo, Pawtucket, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Frisco, Dayton
2011	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton
2012	14	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Dayton, Monterrey
2013	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Dayton, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Monterrey
2014	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Val., Dayton, El Paso, Albuquerque, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Round Rock, Sacramento, Monterrey
2015	17	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Yucatan
2016	19	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Yucatan, Salt Lake, Tijuana
2017	16	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Tijuana
2018	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, El Paso, Toledo, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Nashville, Tijuana
2019	16	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, El Paso, Dayton, Round Rock, Sacramento, Monterrey, Nashville, Tijuana, Las Vegas, Yucatan
2022	8	Nashville, Lehigh Valley, Indianapolis, Columbus, Worcester, Charlotte, Las Vegas, Albuquerque
2023	10	Lehigh Valley, Nashville, Indianapolis, Columbus, Worcester, Las Vegas, Albuquerque, Dayton, El Paso, Yucatan

**THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB** - continued

The next 2 tables show which markets have drawn at least 500,000 in a season, and how often they've done it. The first table covers 40 markets that currently have a Minor League team that has drawn 500,000. The second table lists the 7 former Minor League markets that have reached this level. No team drew at least 500,000 in 2021.

## CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE MARKETS THAT HAVE DRAWN 500,000 IN A SEASON THROUGH 2023

Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.	Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Columbus, Ohio	35	Charlotte	7
Buffalo	32	Yucatan, Mexico	7
Louisville	31	El Paso	7
Indianapolis	26	Kane County, IL	6
Dayton	21	Richmond	6
Sacramento	20	Tijuana, Mexico	5
Round Rock	20	Fresno	5
Albuquerque	19	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	5
Toledo	17	West Michigan	4
Pawtucket	16	Oklahoma City	3
Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	14	Las Vegas	3
Durham	13	Corpus Christi	2
Monterrey, Mexico	13	Ottawa	2
Iowa (Des Moines)	12	Akron	2
Salt Lake City	12	Rochester, NY	2
Nashville	12	Worcester	2
Memphis	9	Lansing	2
Frisco	9	New Orleans	2
Saltillo, Mexico	8	Springfield, MO	1
Norfolk	7	Mexico City Red Devils	1

## FORMER MINOR LEAGUE MARKETS THAT HAVE DRAWN 500,000 IN A SEASON

Team	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.	Team	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Denver Bears	4	Hollywood Stars	3
Oakland Oaks	4	Seattle Rainiers	2
Los Angeles Angels	3	Baltimore Orioles	1
San Francisco Seals	3		

The Baltimore Orioles played in the International League. The other 6 teams in the above table played in the Pacific Coast League. During the late 1940's, when all of these 500,000+ seasons took place, these leagues played a longer schedule than they do now, usually over 180 games for the P.C.L., and 154 games in the International League.

## MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH ATTENDANCE ABOVE 500,000 – EXCLUDES 2021

Team	# Seasons	Years	Team	# Seasons	Years
Buffalo	32	1988-2019	Columbus	17	2005-2023
Indianapolis	26	1996-2023	Pawtucket	16	1999-2014
Sacramento	20	2000-2019	Columbus	14	1984-1997
Dayton	20	2000-2019	Louisville	14	1982-1995
Round Rock	20	2000-2019	Lehigh Valley	14	2008-2023
Albuquerque	19	2003-2023	Frisco	9	2003-2011
Toledo	17	2002-2018	Memphis	9	2000-2008
Louisville	17	2000-2016	Saltillo	8	2000-2007

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE TEAMS HIGH ATTENDANCE SEASONS** – Includes Mexican League starting in 2021

The following table is a yearly listing of independent league teams that drew at least 200,000 in a season, and for Atlantic League and post-2019 Mexican League teams, that drew 300,000+. The distinction is made because the Atlantic League plays a longer season (about 70 home dates) than any other independent league. Atlantic League teams in this table are displayed in italics. Teams from other independent leagues in this table play around 50 home dates per year.

## INDEPENDENT TEAMS DRAWING 200,000+ IN A SEASON, ATLANTIC LEAGUE-300,000+ – 1994-2023

Year	# Teams	Independent Teams that Drew 200,000+ (300,000 – Atlantic or Mexican League in italics)
1994	2	St. Paul, Winnipeg
1995	1	St. Paul
1996	1	St. Paul
1997	1	St. Paul
1998	1	St. Paul
1999	5	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, <i>Bridgeport, Somerset NJ</i>
2000	7	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Ozark Mountain, <i>Long Island, Bridgeport, Somerset</i>
2001	6	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, <i>Long Island, Somerset</i>
2002	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Camden</i>
2003	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City KS, <i>Long Island, Camden, Somerset</i>
2004	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Brockton, Gateway, <i>Long Is., Somerset</i>
2005	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster PA</i>
2006	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Joliet, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2007	10	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, El Paso, Traverse City, So. Illinois, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2008	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, <i>Long Isl., Somerset, Lancaster, York</i>
2009	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, So. Illinois, El Paso, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2010	8	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2011	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2012	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster, Sugar Land</i>
2013	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2014	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land, Lancaster</i>
2015	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2016	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2017	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2018	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2019	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2022	9	<i>Yucatan, Monterrey, Tijuana, Monclova, Laguna, Mexico City, Saltillo, Kane County, Schaumburg</i>
2023	10	<i>Yucatan, Mexico City, Tijuana, Monterrey, Saltillo, Kane County, Laguna, Schaumburg, Quintana Roo, Chicago</i>

**SHORT-SEASON NAPBL TEAMS THAT DREW AT LEAST 150,000, AND 200,000+**

Short-season MLB-Affiliated teams were scheduled for 32-38 dates per year. Most played in fairly small ballparks, so attendance of 150,000 in a season was significant, and 200,000 was very exceptional. There are some teams whose ballpark capacity was so small that they couldn't draw 75,000 even if they sold every ticket to every game.

In 1957, the Appalachian League was the first league to play a short-season schedule, running from mid-June to the end of August or early September. By the late-1960's, the New York-Penn, Northwest, and Pioneer Leagues also adopted a short-season schedule. Currently, 40 teams play in these 4 leagues. In 1974, Portland OR became the first short-season team to draw at least 100,000. They did it again in 1975 and 1977. But no other short-season team topped 100,000 until 1985. In 1987, Salt Lake City became the first short-season team to top 150,000.

Attendance of at least 200,000 occurred 45 times for short-season teams. Brooklyn did it 17 times, followed by Aberdeen (11), Vancouver (5), Portland, OR (4), Salt Lake City, Spokane, Mahoning Valley (2 times each), and Spokane and Lowell (once each). Short-season, MLB-affiliated leagues ceased to exist after 2019.

## SHORT-SEASON TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 150,000, AND 200,000 IN A SEASON – 1987-2019

Year	# of Teams	Short-Season Teams that Drew at Least 150,000. 200,000+ shown in BOLD
1987	1	Salt Lake
1988	1	Salt Lake
1989	1	Salt Lake
1990	1	Salt Lake
1991	1	<b>Salt Lake</b>
1992	1	<b>Salt Lake</b>
1993	1	Boise
1994	3	Boise, Spokane, New Jersey (Sussex County)
1995	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, <b>Portland OR</b>
1996	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, <b>Portland OR</b>
1997	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, <b>Portland OR</b>
1998	7	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, Portland OR, Lowell
1999	5	Hudson Valley, <b>Mahoning Valley</b> , Lowell, Spokane, <b>Portland OR</b>
2000	5	Hudson Valley, Lowell, <b>Mahoning Valley</b> , Spokane, Portland OR
2001	6	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Staten Island, Hudson Valley, Mahoning Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2002	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Staten Island, <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Valley, Mahoning Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2003	5	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Staten Island, <b>Aberdeen</b> , Lowell, Spokane
2004	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Hudson Valley, Staten Island, <b>Aberdeen</b> , Lowell, Mahoning Valley, Spokane
2005	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Staten Island, Hudson Valley, <b>Aberdeen</b> , Lowell, Mahoning Valley, Spokane
2006	5	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2007	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Val., Lowell, State College, Staten Island, Spokane
2008	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Val., Lowell, State College, Staten Island, Spokane
2009	6	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Valley, Lowell, <b>Staten Island</b> , Spokane
2010	8	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Hudson Valley, <b>Lowell</b> , <b>Staten Island</b> , Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-City (Troy, NY)
2011	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Lowell, Staten Island, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2012	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , <b>Aberdeen</b> , Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2013	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Aberdeen, Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2014	7	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Aberdeen, Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2015	6	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, <b>Vancouver</b>
2016	4	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Hudson Valley, Spokane, <b>Vancouver</b>
2017	3	Brooklyn, Spokane, <b>Vancouver</b>
2018	3	<b>Brooklyn</b> , Spokane, <b>Vancouver</b>
2019	3	Brooklyn, <b>Spokane</b> , <b>Vancouver</b>

**MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS****2023 – LEAGUE AND INDIVIDUAL TEAM DATA**

This section covers 2023 and historical attendance data and highlights of every MLB-affiliated and independent Minor League, and every team, that played in 2023. The usual attendance comparisons are made with the previous season, which this year is **2023 vs. 2022**.

Remember, the MLB-affiliated teams didn't play in 2020, and the independent leagues that did play, had very limited schedules, and restrictions on attendance. Independent league data will be found in the Independent Leagues section, later on in this report.

**2023 vs. 2022 COMPARISONS** - A table comparing **2023 and 2022** total attendance and average per date, for each MLB-affiliated team and league can be found starting on page 206. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 260. Similar data and comparisons for some Summer Collegiate leagues and teams is on page 322.

**2023 vs. 2019 COMPARISONS** – A table comparing **2023 and 2019** total attendance and average per date, for each MLB-affiliated team and league, is not being published in this report. But such a table is available by e-mail from [d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net). Just ask, and you shall receive.

**2023 League and Team Attendance Leaders**

- J The Triple-A International League had the most teams (20), the most dates played (1,420), the highest total attendance (8,609,245) and average per team (430,462), and the top average per date (6,063) of any league.
- J In Double-A the Eastern League posted the best total (3,706,509), average per team (308,876), and average per date (4,722). The Texas League was close behind averaging 301,607 per team, and 4,468 per date.
- J The Midwest League had the top High-A total (3,039,726), average per team (253,311), and average per date (3,984).
- J Best drawing Single-A league was the Carolina (2,378,278 total, 198,190 average per team, 3,171 average per date).
- J In the independent leagues, the Mexican League (18 teams), had the top total (4,041,303), average per team (224,517), and average per date (a league record-high 5,304).
- J Among MLB-affiliated teams, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) had the 2023 highest total attendance (567,322), followed by Columbus (557,131), Nashville (556,962), Indianapolis (556,775), and Albuquerque (521,521). 9 teams drew over 500,000, with 22 teams topping 400,000, and 44 teams above 300,000.
- J In 2023 average per date, Lehigh Valley led with 7,990 per date. Next were High-A Dayton (7,885), Columbus (7,847), Indianapolis (7,842), and Nashville (7,736). 8 teams averaged over 7,000 per date, 20 teams topped 6,000, and 36 teams drew an average of better than 5,000 per date.
- J For the independent teams, Yucatan had the highest **2023** total attendance (506,765), followed by Mexico City (451,884), Tijuana (418,462), and Monterrey (371,262). Long Island (297,745) had the highest total among U.S./Canadian independent teams.
- J Yucatan had the top average per date (10,558), which was the best in all of Minor League Baseball in **2023**, followed in the independent leagues by Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and Monterrey (8,438). Kane County, IL (5,571) had the top average per date among U.S./Canadian independent teams.

**Numerical Attendance Increases - 2023 vs. 2022**

- J These MLB-affiliated teams had the biggest numerical gains in total attendance: Wichita (102,109); Dayton (76,087); Binghamton, NY (60,232); Bowie (59,900); Norfolk (46,137); Wilmington, DE (37,446); Corpus Christi (36,995).
- J The MLB-affiliated teams with the best numerical gains in average attendance per date: Wichita (1,335); Binghamton (817); Bowie (815); Norfolk (791); Delmarva (666); Lake County, OH (643); Harrisburg (617); Wilmington, DE (573).
- J Among the independent leagues, the highest total attendance numerical gains were by: Mexico City (207,039); Tabasco (106,552); Yucatan (66,600); Union Laguna (59,435); Saltillo (50,508); Quebec (36,502); Charleston, WV (26,738). The Mavericks League (all teams in Keiser, OR) was up 29,798. Mexican League teams had 11 of the 15 biggest gains in total attendance among the independent league teams, including the 5 biggest.
- J Top independent league average per date numerical growth: Mexico City (4,066); Tabasco (2,620); Saltillo (1,515); Puebla (1,188); Veracruz (1,172); Union Laguna (1,133); Yucatan (776); York (629); Leon (596); Lancaster, PA (565); Oaxaca (522); Kane County (503). Mexican League teams had 10 of the 14 biggest gains, including the top 7.

**Percentage Attendance Increases – 2023 vs. 2022**

Percentage gains and losses rankings exclude Pecos League teams, since relatively minor changes in their total attendance and average per date figures, result in distortedly high percentage changes. Most of their teams play in very small ballparks.

- J MLB-affiliated teams with the top percentage gains in total attendance: Wichita (46.3%); Binghamton (41.1%); Bowie (34.4%); Wilmington, DE (31.5%); Dunedin (27.9%); Fort Myers (25.2%); Tampa (24.7%); Delmarva (22.6%).
- J MLB-affiliated top percentage gains in average per date: Wichita (39.9%); Binghamton (34.6%); Bowie (30.4%); Wilmington, DE (29.4%); Dunedin (27.9%); Delmarva (26.7%); Bradenton (23.7%); Lake County (22.4%).
- J Independent best total attendance percentage gains: Tabasco (130.5%); Mexico City (84.6%); Guadalajara (34.8%); Oaxaca (33.6%); Union Laguna (29.6%); Quebec (28.0%). U.S. teams with the best gains were Charleston, WV (22.4%) and Sioux Falls, SD (21.1%). The Mavericks League was up 34.6%. Mexican League teams had 11 of the top 21 increases.
- J Best independent average per date percentage growth: Tabasco (112.3%); Mexico City (63.1%); Puebla (36.3%); Veracruz (31.8%); Oaxaca (30.5%); Ottawa (26.6%). Best among U.S. teams were York (23.7%) and Glacier-Kalispell, MT (21.0%). The Mavericks League had a 30.5% gain. Mexican League teams had 7 of the top 10 gains.

**Numerical Attendance Declines – 2023 vs. 2022**

- J The MLB-affiliated teams with biggest numerical total attendance declines were: New Hampshire (45,705); Charlotte (32,469); Fayetteville, NC (27,275); Louisville (27,195); Amarillo (23,589); Vancouver (15,819).
- J MLB-affiliated teams with the largest average per date decreases were: Fayetteville (488); Charlotte (447); New Hampshire (263); Tulsa (260); Vancouver (259); Louisville (219).
- J For the independent leagues, the largest total attendance decreases were by: Campeche (107,386); Lexington (57,586); Tijuana (35,499); the combined 4 teams of the United Shore League (24,790), Joliet (23,087); Evansville (19,955); del Norte-Monclova (19,428).
- J The biggest independent average per date declines were by: Campeche (2,796); Lexington (840); Tijuana (789); Joliet (453); Evansville (449); Dos Laredos (423).

**Percentage Attendance Declines - 2023 vs. 2022**

- J MLB-affiliated teams with the largest percentage declines in total attendance were: New Hampshire (16.2%); Jupiter (15.8%); Fayetteville, NC (12.7%); Modesto (11.9%); Palm Beach (10.3%); Lake Elsinore (8.3%).
- J MLB-affiliated teams with the worst percentage losses in average per date were: Fayetteville (14.1%); Modesto (11.9%); Palm Beach (8.0%); Jupiter (7.1%); Charlotte (6.1%); New Hampshire (6.1%).
- J Independent 'same market' teams with the biggest total attendance percentage decreases were: Campeche (61.7%); Lexington, KY (38.3%); Kansas City, KS (17.1%); Joliet (16.7%); Evansville (16.3%); Gastonia (14.8%).
- J 'Same market' independent teams with the worst percentage losses in average per date were: Campeche (62.6%); Lexington (35.2%); Evansville (18.0%); Gastonia (17.5%); Joliet (16.7%); Kansas City, KS (13.7%).

An Excel worksheet with complete top to bottom rankings of MLB-affiliated teams, and independent teams, in the categories of total attendance, average per date is available. It includes **2023 vs. 2022** changes ranked by team from the highest increase to the largest decline in total attendance and average per date, by both numerical and percentage change. If you'd like a copy, please contact David Kronheim ([d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net) or at 718-380-3851 or 718-591-2043) and it will be e-mailed to you, of course, for free.

Historical data for the now-defunct New York-Penn League is at the end of the MLB-affiliated section.

The Pioneer and Mexican Leagues are now professional independent leagues and all their notes are in the independent leagues section. The Appalachian League is now an MLB-Partner Summer Collegiate League. 2023 and historical data for the Appalachian and MLB-Draft Leagues, can be found in the Collegiate Summer Leagues section at the end of this report. 2023 attendance and historical information for other 2019 Minor League teams now playing in Collegiate Summer Leagues, or not playing in 2023, are also in that section.

The team notes for the MLB-affiliated, and the Atlantic, Mexican, and Appalachian Leagues, note the number of dates that drew what are considered 'large crowds' for each team. A definition of a 'large crowd' varies by team, based on league classification, ballpark capacity, and the team's attendance history.



**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Triple-A** – The 30 Triple-A teams drew a combined 12,844,626 in **2023**, averaging 428,154 per team and 5,960 per date, with 95 lost dates. They had 17 fewer dates in **2023 than in 2022**. These same teams drew 12,641,390 in **2022**, averaging 421,380 per team, and 5,820 per date, with 78 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 13,621,821, an average of 6,808 per date, with 78 lost dates. Due to a longer schedule in 2023, they had 154 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**. **The 30 teams that played in Triple-A in 2019** drew 13,500,376, averaging 6,697 per date that year.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** Triple-A total attendance was up 203,236 (1.6%), and average per date rose 140 (2.4%). 20 teams had gains in total attendance, and 23 were up in average per date. 9 teams had more dates in 2023 than in 2022.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance for the 30 teams in Triple-A in 2023, fell 777,195 (5.7%), and average per date was down 848 (12.5%). 8 of the 29 'same market' teams had increases in total attendance (excludes Worcester, who played in Pawtucket in 2019), and 6 teams had gains in average per date.
- ) **International League** – 20 teams. The league consists of all 14 teams from the 2019 International League, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, from the Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, from the Double-A Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in 2019.
- ) This league has the most teams of any league, and it drew the highest attendance of any league in **2023**. Total **2023** attendance was 8,609,245, averaging 430,462 per team, and 6,063 per date. The league had 80 lost dates, and played 18 fewer dates than in **2022**. 5 teams (Nashville, Lehigh Valley, Indianapolis, Columbus, Worcester) drew over 500,000, and 8 other teams from this league topped 400,000. The league had the top 4, and 12 of the top 17, MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance, and 13 of the 22 MLB-affiliated teams with the highest average per date. 6 teams averaged at least 7,000 per date, and 6 other teams averaged better than 6,000.
- ) **Lehigh Valley drew 567,322, the best total of any Minor League team in 2023, and averaged 7,990 per date, the best average per date among all MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) For **2023 vs. 2022**, total attendance was up 117,857 (1.4%), and average per date rose 158 (2.7%). 13 teams had gains in total attendance, and 15 teams were up in average per date. Norfolk had the largest gains (46,137 in total, 791 in average per date). Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, and Toledo also had 20,000+ increases in total attendance. Both Durham and Indianapolis had average per date growth of better than 400.
- ) Charlotte had the league's largest declines, with total attendance down 32,649, and average per date dipping by 447. Louisville was down 27,195 in total attendance and down 219 in average per date.
- ) Buffalo had the largest crowd (15,851) of 2023 among all MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) **In 2019, the 14-team International League** drew 6,445,838, and averaged 6,887 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, no matter where each of the 2023 International League teams played in 2019, total attendance fell 282,475 (3.2%), and average per date was down 699 (10.3%). There were 105 more dates played in 2023.
- ) 5 'same market' teams (excludes Worcester) had gains in total attendance for **2023 vs. 2019**, while 14 were down. St. Paul had the biggest gain, up 65,948, mainly due to playing 22 more dates in 2023 than the Saints played in 2019, when they were in the independent American Association. Norfolk's total was up 61,343, and they had the top average per date gain (491). The biggest decline was by Memphis in total attendance, down 96,055, and in average per date, down 1,792.
- ) Worcester's **2023** total attendance was 188,641 higher, and their average per date was up 2,170, from what they drew in Pawtucket in **2019**. **They drew a team-record-high average per date of 7,424 in 2023.**

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Pacific Coast League** – 10 teams. 9 of the teams in this league played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
- ) Total **2023** attendance was 4,235,152, up 85,150 (2.1%) from **2022**. Average per team was 423,515. Average per date rose 108 (1.9%) to 5,762. There was one more date in **2023 than in 2022**, and 15 dates were lost. 7 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Reno, up 36,847. 8 teams had average per date gains, topped by Salt Lake, up 286. The declines were small. Las Vegas dipped 12,174 in total attendance and 71 in average per date.
- ) Albuquerque led the league with 521,521 in total attendance, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams in **2023**, followed closely by El Paso and Las Vegas, who also topped 500,000. Albuquerque had the best average per date in the league (7,048), and the largest crowd of the year (15,817). **Tacoma drew a team record-high 384,498**.
- ) Round Rock and Salt Lake City also topped 400,000 in total attendance, and El Paso, Las Vegas, and Salt Lake also averaged better than 6,000 per date. Sugar Land was the only team that didn't average at least 5,000 per date.
- ) Compared to **2019**, when this league's **2023** teams drew 4,730,101, averaging 6,895 per date, total **2023** attendance was down 494,720 (10.5%) and average per date dipped 1,133 (16.4%), with 49 more dates in 2023, as Triple-A had a longer schedule. Reno and Tacoma had **2023 vs. 2019** gains in total attendance and average per date, and Salt Lake had an increase in total attendance. Round Rock had the largest **2023 vs. 2019** declines in total attendance (186,378) and average per date (2,981) among all MLB-affiliated teams. Sacramento and Las Vegas had the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> worst declines among MLB-affiliates in each of these categories.
- ) Total **2019** attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.
- ) **Double-A** – The 30 teams drew 8,598,442 in **2023**, averaging 286,615 per team, and 4,330 per date, with 84 lost dates, and 5 more dates played. In **2019**, **these same 30 teams**, no matter what league they played in that year, drew 8,877,600 averaging 4,459 per date, with 107 lost dates. **The 30 teams playing in Double-A in 2019** drew 8,782,607, an average of 4,429 per date.
- ) **2023** Double-A total attendance was up 434,248 (5.3%) **from 2022**, and average per date grew by 208 (5.1%). 24 teams had increases in total attendance, and 22 teams had gains in average per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, for these same 30 teams, total attendance fell 279,158 (3.1%), and average per date declined 129 (2.9%), with 5 fewer dates. 9 'same market' teams had gains in total attendance, with 19 down, while 11 teams rose in average per date. 'Same market' teams exclude Rocket City (Mobile in 2019), and Wichita (New Orleans in 2019).
- ) **Texas League** – 10 teams. Made up of all 8 of the 2019 Texas League teams, plus San Antonio, who played in the Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
- ) The league drew a **2023** total of 3,016,072, with just 15 lost dates, averaging 301,607 per team, and 4,468 per date. The total was up 161,987 (5.7%) from **2022**, and average per date rose 202 (4.7%), with 6 more dates. The largest crowd of 2023 was 12,045 in Frisco.
- ) **Wichita had the best numerical and percentage gains among all MLB-affiliated teams, up 102,109 (46.3%) in total attendance, and up 1,335 (39.9%) in average per date. They also drew team record-highs in total attendance (322,637) and average per date (4,676).** Biggest loss was by Amarillo in total attendance, down 23,589, with 3 fewer dates than in 2022. Tulsa, down 260, had the largest average per date decline. Tulsa had the top total (356,002), just ahead of Amarillo (355,440) and Frisco (347,758). Amarillo led in average per date (5,385), followed by Tulsa (5,235), and Frisco (5,190).
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, same team total attendance fell 300,684 (9.1%), and average per date was down 431 (8.8%), with 2 fewer dates. All 9 'same market' teams had declines in total attendance and only Arkansas had an average per date gain. Largest decreases were by Frisco (total down 108,007, and average per date down 1,612). Wichita was up 134,545 in total attendance, and up 1,737 in average per date, **from what New Orleans drew in 2019**.
- ) The 8 teams that played in the Texas League in 2019, drew 2,791,180 that year, averaging 5,131 per date.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Eastern League** – 12 teams. 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League that year.
- ) The league drew 3,706,509 in **2023**, averaging 308,876 per team, and 4,722 per date. These figures are the highest among the Double-A leagues. There were 43 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates played than in **2022**. Richmond had the top total attendance (428,541) and average per date (6,396) among all Double-A teams. **Hartford set a record high in average per date (6,293)**, and topped 400,000. Portland, ME also drew over 400,000 in total attendance, and 6,000 in average per date. Reading, and Somerset drew over 350,000 in total attendance and above 5,100 per date. The league's largest crowd of 2023 was 10,164 in Altoona.
- ) Teams in the **2019 Eastern League** drew 3,749,124, and averaged 4,764 per date.
- ) Looking at **2023 vs. 2022**, total attendance was up an MLB-affiliated league 2<sup>nd</sup> best 236,031 (6.8%), and average per date rose an MLB-affiliated league best 323 (7.3%). 11 teams were up in total attendance, and 10 achieved average per date gains. Binghamton had the league's top increases, up an MLB-affiliated 3<sup>rd</sup> best 60,232 (41.1%) in total attendance, and up an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 817 (34.6%) in average per date. Bowie's total attendance growth of 59,990 (34.4%) in total ranked 4<sup>th</sup> best, and their average per date gain of 815 ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> among MLB-affiliated teams. New Hampshire, down 45,705 (16.2%), had the top total attendance decline of any MLB-affiliated team. That was mainly due to 11 lost dates, and 7 fewer dates played than in 2022. Their average per date fell 263 (6.1%).
- ) **2023 vs. 2019** figures show a 46,551 (1.2%) dip in total attendance, and a 35 (0.7%) decrease in average per date, with 4 fewer dates in 2023. 6 of the 12 teams had gains **vs. 2019** in total attendance, and 7 were up in average per date. Portland, up 46,310 in total attendance and up 444 in average per date, had the best growth. Akron, down 74,249 in total attendance, and 1,048 in average per date, had the worst losses.
- ) **Southern League** – 8 teams, all of whom played in the Southern League in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 1,875,861, averaging 234,483 per team, and 3,566 per date, with 26 lost dates. Rocket City (Madison, AL) had the league's best attendance, with a 314,306 total and a 4,911 average per date. Pensacola and Tennessee also topped 290,000 in total attendance, and averaged above 4,200 per date. Largest crowd of the season was 8,038 in Birmingham.
- ) Compared to **2022**, the **2023** total was up 36,230 (2.0%), and average per date rose by 49 (1.4%), with 3 more dates. 6 teams were up in both total attendance and average per date. Chattanooga had the league's top total attendance increase, up 15,255. Tennessee's 219 gain was the league's best in average per date. Birmingham had the worst total loss (13,689 with 2 fewer dates), and Rocket City had the biggest decline in average per date (120).
- ) The 10-team **2019 Southern League** drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.
- ) In **2021**, the Rocket City (Madison, AL) Trash Pandas, who moved from Mobile, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. They led the league in total attendance (274,858), and led all of Double-A in average per date (5,726), despite 12 lost dates. Their **2021** total was up 179,771, and the average per date rose 4,141, **from 2019 in Mobile**. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, Southern League total attendance rose 68,077 (3.8%), average per date was up 123 (3.6%), with one more date. But this increase was due to the relocation of the Mobile team to Rocket City. The **2023** Trash Pandas had a 219,219 increase in total attendance, and a 3,326 average per date gain, **vs. 2019 Mobile**. Exclude Rocket City, and **the 7 'same market' teams** drew 1,561,555 in **2023**, down 151,142 (8.8%) **from 2019**, with a 3,380 average per date in **2023**, down 303 (8.2%), **from 2019**.
- ) 3 'same market' teams had **2023 vs. 2019** growth in total attendance and average per date. Among this group of teams, Tennessee had the top total gain, up 14,895, and the best average per date increase, up 229. Birmingham suffered a league-high total attendance loss of 126,475, and an average per date decline of 1,587.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **High-A** – The 30 teams in this group drew a total of 6,522,330 in **2023**, averaging 217,411 per team, and 3,458 per date, with 94 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 6,550,350, an average of 3,797 per date. High-A consisted of the Florida State, California, and Carolina Leagues in **2019**. Those 3 leagues drew a combined total of 4,234,494 in **2019**, and averaged 2,188 per date.
- ) All Class A leagues now play 132-game schedules, as opposed to the 140-game schedules that the full-season Class A teams played through 2019. This accounts for some of the **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance declines.
- ) **2023** High-A total attendance was up 455,172 (7.5%) **from 2022**. Average per date rose 207 (6.4%), with 20 more dates. 26 teams were up in total attendance **vs. 2022**, with Dayton, up 76,087, playing 10 more dates, having the best gain. 25 teams had average per date increases, led by a 643 gain by Lake County, OH. Vancouver had the largest declines, down 15,819 in total attendance, and 259 in average per date. Top crowd was 11,521 in Lansing.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the 30 teams in High-A in 2023 had a combined decline of 28,020 (0.4%) in total attendance, and a 339 (8.9%) dip in average per date, with 161 more dates played by these teams in **2023 than in 2019**. 9 teams were in short-season leagues in 2019. 15 teams had total attendance gains and 13 were up in average per date.
- ) **Midwest League** – 12 teams. All of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019.
- ) Drew 3,039,726 in **2023**, averaging 253,311 per team, and 3,984 per date, which were the highest figures by any Class A league. There were 29 lost dates. Lansing had the highest single game attendance – 11,521.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose an MLB-affiliated league best 283,618 (10.3%), and average per date was up 259 (7.0%), with 23 more dates. All 12 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Dayton, up an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 76,087, as they had 10 more dates than in 2022. 9 teams were up in average per date, led by Lake County, whose 643 increase was 6<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams. Cedar Rapids, Peoria, and South Bend also had 300+ average per date gains. Dayton had the largest average per date loss, but it was only (a rounded off) 49. **Beloit set a new team record-high in total attendance (104,411).**
- ) For the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Triple-A, drawing an MLB-affiliated 6<sup>th</sup> best 2023 total of 520,433. They averaged 7,885 per date, 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among the MLB-affiliates. In 2022, the Dragons led all MLB-affiliated teams with a 7,935 average per date. This may have been the first time a Class A team led the Minor Leagues in average per date. Class-A Denver had the highest Minor League total attendance in 1952, but Triple-A Toronto had a higher average per date. Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 top season attendance totals by a Class A team. West Michigan had the other Top 21 total.
- ) **Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports.** It was 1,385 regular season dates from the team's inception in 2000 **through the 2019 season**. The Dragons started the **2021** season with a greatly reduced allowable capacity in their ballpark. They did draw at least 6,000 to 33 dates. Their final **2021** Game Notes didn't mention sellouts, so it can be assumed that they didn't sell out every game in **2021**. But it really wouldn't be fair to end such a great streak under circumstances mostly beyond the team's control. They sold out all 2022 dates. **In 2023, all 66 Dayton home dates drew above their park's seating capacity, an amazing feat, especially considering they had no rainouts, and thus didn't have any redeemed rainchecks to add to their daily attendance. The sellout streak through 2023 is at 1,507, again excluding 2021.** Every date in Dayton drew over 7,000 in **2023**, with 20 dates attracting more than 8,000.
- ) Dayton, Fort Wayne, South Bend, and West Michigan drew over 300,000. Lansing missed that mark by just 551. West Michigan and Fort Wayne, along with Dayton, topped 5,000 per date.
- ) The same 12 teams that played in this league in both **2023 and 2019** drew 3,094,931 in **2019**, averaging 3,883 per date. The 16-team Midwest League drew 3,824,807 in 2019, averaging 3,612 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance fell 55,205 (1.8%). But average per date rose 101 (2.6%), with 34 fewer dates. 5 teams were up in total attendance, and 9 had average per date growth. The best gains were by Beloit, up 31,211 in total attendance, and by Lake County, up 428, and Beloit, up 425, in average per date. Peoria had the largest declines vs. 2019, with a 40,336 decrease in total attendance, and a 448 dip in average per date.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **South Atlantic League** – 12 teams. Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, were in the South Atlantic League in 2019. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
- ) This league drew 2,370,155 in **2023**, averaging 197,513 per team, and 3,181 per date, with 47 lost dates. Greenville SC led the league in both total attendance (303,328) and average per date (4,973). Jersey Shore (Lakewood, NJ), and Greensboro also topped 4,000 in average per date, **as did Winston-Salem, (4,686), who along with Asheville (3,001), set a new team-record highs for average per date (4,686).** Top crowd was 10,822 at Jersey Shore.
- ) Comparing **2023 with 2022**, total attendance increased 127,566 (5.7%), and average per date was up 203 (6.8%), with 8 fewer dates. 9 teams had gains in total attendance, and 11 were up in average per date, led by Wilmington, DE, up 37,446 in total and up 573 in average. Jersey Shore rose 524 in average per date. Greenville had the largest total decline (13,822), due to 4 fewer dates played in 2023. All other declines were tiny. Bowling Green was down 528 in total attendance, and Hudson Valley's total dipped 406, and their average per date fell by 6.
- ) The same 12 teams drew 2,550,443 in **2019**, and averaged 3,643 per date. Aberdeen, Brooklyn, Hudson Valley played short-season schedules in 2019, and those 3 teams played a combined 83 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance was down 180,288 (7.1%), and average per date fell 462 (12.7%), with 45 more dates. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 4 had average per date increases. Hudson Valley had the top total attendance increase (35,491), playing 28 more dates in **2023 than in 2019**. Winston-Salem had the only gain (29,167) among the S.A.L. teams that played a full-season schedule in 2019, and the Dash had the largest increase in average per date, up 471. Wilmington DE had the worst total attendance decrease (75,125) in the league, and Brooklyn's average per date decline of 1,991 was the largest. It should be noted that as a short-season team until 2021, Brooklyn wasn't playing any cold-weather games, and yearly, had very few, or no games, on school nights.
- ) The 14-team South Atlantic League drew 2,978,718 in **2019**, averaging 3,176 per date. The Carolina League, with 10 teams, had a **2019** total attendance of 2,018,496, and had an average of 3,139 per date. The now-defunct short-season New York-Penn League's **2019** total was 1,316,873, and that league averaged 2,644 per date.
- ) **Northwest League** – 6 teams, all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 1,112,449, **averaging a league record-high 185,408 per team**, and 2,943 per date. There were 18 lost dates. **Record-highs in total attendance were achieved by Hillsboro, Spokane, Tri-City, and Everett.** The short-season Northwest League record for average per team occurred in 2019, when the 8-team league averaged 139,452 per team.
- ) Vancouver led the league, drawing 297,437, with a 4,876 average per date, and 21 sellouts. But the Canadians had the only **2023 vs. 2022** declines in the league, down 15,819 in total attendance, and down 259 in average per date. As usual, Spokane drew well, with a 249,012 total, and a 3,953 average per date.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 43,988 (2.1%), and average per date was up 78 (2.7%), with 5 more dates. Spokane posted the top gains in total attendance (17,931), and average per date (285), and also had the league's largest crowd (6,946). Eugene had to relocate one 2023 series to Tri-City (Pasco, WA) because the University of Oregon had use of the ballpark they share for NCAA Baseball post-season play.
- ) In **2019**, the same 6 teams drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. The **2019 Northwest League**, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.
- ) The Northwest League played a short-season schedule (76 games) in **2019**, as opposed to a 132-game schedule in **2023**. Total **2023 vs. 2019** attendance for the 6 teams in the league in both years, was up 207,473 (22.9%), but average per date fell 1,026 (25.9%), with 150 more dates played in 2023. All 6 teams had gains in total attendance, but all 6 had losses in average per date. Vancouver, up 61,457, had the biggest total attendance increase, but also had the largest average per date dip (1,334). Tri-City had the smallest average per date decline, down 465.
- ) With the longer schedule starting in 2021, the Northwest League now has more lost dates than in the past. There were 21 lost dates in 2022. The 6 teams in the league had no lost dates in 2019, 1 each in 2018 and 2017, 4 in 2016 and 2013, 2 in 2015, and 3 in 2014 and 2012. The teams also play more games now on school days and nights.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- J **Single-A (formerly Low-A)** – Combined total attendance for the 30 teams in **2023** was 4,186,986. Average per team was 137,566, and average per date was 2,269. There were 133 lost dates, which include games played by Jupiter and Palm Beach when fans were not allowed to attend. Top crowd was 11,076 at Fresno.
- J In **2019**, these same 30 teams, in whatever league they played in, drew 4,690,339, averaging 2,395 per date. The Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues were the Low-A leagues in 2019, and they drew a combined 6,803,525, averaging 3,407 per date.
- J **2023 vs. 2022** Single-A total attendance was up 139,006 (3.4%). Average per date rose 73 (3.3%), with 2 more dates with fans in attendance. 20 teams had gains in total attendance, and 21 were up in average per date. Delmarva had the largest gains in total attendance (34,963) and average per date (666). Fayetteville, NC suffered the biggest declines, down 27,275 in total attendance, and 488 in average per date.
- J For **2023 vs. 2019**, the Single-A total declined 503,353 (10.7%), and average per date fell 126 (5.3%), with 113 fewer dates. 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 achieved gains in average per date.
  
- J **Carolina League** – 12 teams, 7 were in the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League, in 2019.
- J **2023** total attendance was a Single-A best 2,378,278, averaging 198,190 per team, and 3,171 per date, with 42 lost dates. The largest crowd was 8,024 at Columbia.
- J It was a very close race for the total attendance lead with Charleston, SC drawing 270,170, followed by Myrtle Beach (268,600), Fredericksburg, VA (267,400), and Augusta, GA (260,060). Charleston also had the best average per date (4,288), with Myrtle Beach (4,197), Augusta (4,195), and Fredericksburg (4,178), close behind.
- J **Fredericksburg, Kannapolis, and Myrtle Beach, all set new team record-highs in total attendance in 2023. Augusta, Fredericksburg, Myrtle Beach, and Kannapolis, achieved team record-highs in average per date.**
- J **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 63,818 (2.7%). Average per date was up 130 (4.3%), with 11 fewer dates. 7 teams had increases in total attendance and 10 were up in average per date. Delmarva, MD had the biggest gains (34,963 in total attendance, 666 in average per date). Fayetteville had the largest declines (27,275 in total, 488 in average per date). None of the other 4 teams in the league with total attendance declines were down more than 4,200, and the only other decrease in average per date was 10, by Down East (Kinston, NC).
- J In **2019**, the same 12 teams, no matter what league they were in, drew 2,366,810, averaging 2,973 per date, with 43 lost dates. The **2019 Carolina League** drew 2,018,496, averaging 3,139 per date.
- J For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance rose 11,468 (0.5%), and average per date was up 198 (6.7%), with 46 fewer dates. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 rose in average per date. The Southern and Midwest Leagues were the only other MLB-affiliated leagues whose 2023 teams had a higher combined average per date than they had in 2019.
- J Kannapolis moved into a new downtown ballpark in **2021**. Their **2022** total attendance was up 116,230 (153.1%) **from 2019**, with average per date increasing by 1,778 (156.9%). **The 2022 vs. 2019 numerical increase in total attendance was the best of any 'same market' Minor League team, which includes the independent teams, and the average per date gain topped all 'same market' MLB-affiliated teams. Kannapolis had the best total attendance percentage growth among all MLB-affiliated teams, and the highest average per date percentage increase among all Minor League teams. The Cannon Ballers surpassed those 2022 record-high total attendance and average per date figures in 2023.**
- J Fredericksburg was relocated from Woodbridge, VA (Potomac) in 2021. Their **2023** total attendance was 74,926 higher vs. **2019**, and their average per date rose by 916.
- J Largest **2023 vs. 2019** increase was by Kannapolis, up 119,569 in total attendance, and up 1,922 in average per date. Biggest declines were by Fayetteville, down 59,766 in total attendance and 661 in average per date.

**MLB-Affiliated League 2023 Attendance Summaries**

- ) **Florida State League** – 10 teams, all played in the 2019 Florida State League.
- ) The league drew 695,800 in **2023**, an average of 69,580 per team, and 1,214 per date. There were a Minor League high 85 lost dates, which include 41 dates played by Jupiter and Palm Beach with no fans allowed to attend.
- ) Clearwater led the league in **2023** total attendance (157,072), and average per date (2,493), and had the largest crowd (8,847). The Threshers have led the Florida State League in attendance in each of the last 12 seasons, and in 18 of 19 years since 2004. Fort Myers was the only other team in the league topping 100,000 in total attendance or 1,600 in average per date.
- ) Both Jupiter and Palm Beach share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. In 2021, local Covid-19 restrictions forced both teams to play many home games with no fans permitted to attend. This policy continued in 2022, 2023 and 2024. In **2023**, Palm Beach had 28 lost dates, which included 5 rainouts. Jupiter lost 26 dates, including 8 that were rained out. Only dates with fans in attendance are counted in this report for compiling average per date. These teams also played home games at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches in West Palm Beach due to ballpark construction in Jupiter.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance was up 52,020 (8.1%). Average per date rose 56 (4.8%), with 17 more dates. 8 teams had total attendance gains, led by Fort Myers, up 21,892. 6 teams had average per date increases, led by Bradenton, up 206. Jupiter had the biggest total decline (6,641), and Palm Beach had the top average loss (75).
- ) In **2019**, the same 10 teams drew 824,223, an average of 1,334 per date. The **2019 Florida State League** drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the total fell 128,423 (15.6%), and average per date was down 120 (9.0%), with 45 fewer dates. 2 teams were up in total and 2 were up in average per date. Dunedin had the best growth, up 19,453 in total, and up 292 in average per date, **from 2019**, when ballpark renovations forced them to play in the old ballpark in Clearwater. Daytona had the biggest declines **vs. 2019**, down 43,676 in total attendance, and 577 in average per date.
- ) **California League** – 8 teams. 7 of these teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, replacing Lancaster. In 2023, Lancaster played in the independent Pecos League, and set all-time highs for any team in that league in total attendance and average per date.
- ) Total attendance was 1,112,908 in **2023**, averaging 139,114 per team, and 2,132 per date. Just 6 dates were lost. Fresno, which had been in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League through 2019, was the league attendance leader by a wide margin, with a 277,089 total, a 4,198 average per date, and drew the league's top crowd of the year (11,076). Rancho Cucamonga came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, drawing 151,082, and averaging 2,289 per date. **Visalia drew a team record-high average per date.**
- ) The **2023 vs. 2022** comparison shows a 23,168 (2.1%) increase in total attendance, and a 60 (2.9%) gain in average per date, with 4 fewer dates played. 5 of the 8 teams had increases in both categories. Fresno had the biggest increase in total attendance (15,437), and Rancho Cucamonga had the best average per date gain (190). Modesto had the largest declines, down 11,176 in total attendance and down 169 in average per date.
- ) The league's same 8 teams drew 1,499,306 in **2019**, an average of 2,756 per date. The **2019 California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811**, averaging 2,342 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance decreased 386,398 (25.8%). Average per date was down 624 (22.6%), with 22 fewer dates. All 8 teams had declines in total attendance, and 7 teams were down in average per date. Fresno had the biggest declines, down 103,001 in total attendance, and down 1,561 in average per date. Visalia had the only average per date increase, up 14.
- ) Weather, other than heat, is rarely an issue in the California League. There were 6 postponements in 2023, and only 2 dates were postponed in 2022, one in Fresno, and the other in Lake Elsinore. Weather was a slight issue in 2021 and 2019, with 12 lost dates each year. Only one game in 2018 was postponed. 3 dates were lost in 2017, and there were 4 in 2016. There were 8 lost dates in 2015, including one due to high winds. There were 2 lost dates in 2014, 4 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 in 2009. The most rainouts over the last 25 years of this league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.

### Some MLB-Affiliated Minor League Attendance Notes

Due to the 2021 realignment, comparing 2023 league attendance data with figures from 2019 and earlier, has limited value since the number of teams, and the roster of teams in some leagues, has changed so much. Also, starting in 2021, there no longer are any MLB-affiliated short-season teams that charge admission in operation. In 2019, there were 176 teams in MLB-affiliated leagues that charged admission, with 160 of them in the U.S. or Canada. There are now 120 MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission. But some overall historical attendance facts are worth noting.

- J MLB-Affiliated Minor League attendance dropped in 2009, after 5 straight record-setting seasons. Prior to 2004, the all-time record was 39,640,443, set in 1949, when there were 448 teams in 59 leagues. In 2019, there were 176 teams in the 15 MLB-Affiliated leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 19 seasons, through 2019, had 19 of the 20 highest totals in the 118-year history of the NAPBL Minor Leagues.** 1949 was the other year.
- J Total attendance for the U.S./Canadian 120 MLB-affiliated full-season teams first reached 30 million in 2000, and has been above that level in every season since then, through 2023, except for 2021.
- J Minor League attendance declined very sharply through the 1950's, and most leagues and teams disbanded. By 1964, only 20 leagues overall, and 128 teams who charged admission, were left. A post World War II low period of NAPBL attendance occurred from 1960 to 1975. During those years, attendance was basically flat – ranging from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 11,134,084 in 1971. Among the causes of the huge drop of Minor League attendance during this period were television, Major League expansion, easier access to Major League ballparks, fewer Minor League teams, a rise in popularity of other sports, and home air conditioning.
- J Another factor in the attendance decline, according to an article by Mitchell Manoff of the Society for Baseball Research, was that many of the cities with Minor League teams in the late 1940's and early 1950's, were too small to support them. Some had ballparks that were in poor condition, and did not promote their teams well enough.
- J **2023** average attendance per team was 267,937. In **2022**, average attendance per team was 257,673. **2019** average per team, including short-season teams, was 235,819. Record-high average per team is 245,817, (includes the short-season teams) in 2008. In 1949, the 448 teams averaged 88,483 (NAPBL figure, 1950 Sporting News Guide figure is 88,582). By 1961, average per team had fallen to 66,439. The 120 full-season teams averaged 200,000+ in every year except 2021, starting in 1993. Record-high average per team for U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated full-season teams is 295,400 in 2008.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – (20 teams – 150-game schedule 2022-2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 7,097,411 (2008 – 14 teams); Average per Team: 506,958 (2008); Average per Date: 7,348 (2009).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 8,609,245 (2023 – 20 teams); Average per Team: 430,462 (2023); Average per date: 6,063 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Buffalo – 1,188,972 (1991 – All-time Minor League high); Average per Date: Buffalo – 17,235 (1991). Buffalo was in the MLB-affiliated American Association when these records were set. Buffalo also holds the International League records for total attendance (743,463), and average per date (10,933), both set in 1998.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Lehigh Valley–567,322 (2023); Average per Date–Lehigh Val.–7,990 (2023)

- J The league consisted of all 14 teams that played in the International League in **2019**, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, who moved from the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, who came in from the Double-A Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in **2019**.
- J This league has the most teams of any league, and **it drew the highest total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball in 2023**. Total **2023** total attendance was 8,609,245, averaging 430,462 per team, and 6,063 per date. The league had 80 lost dates, and played 18 fewer dates than in **2022**.
- J 5 teams (Nashville, Lehigh Valley, Indianapolis, Columbus, Worcester) drew over 500,000, and 8 other teams from this league topped 400,000. The league had the top 4, and 12 of the top 17, MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance, and 9 of the 13 MLB-affiliated teams with the highest average per date. 6 teams averaged at least 7,000 per date, and 6 other teams averaged better than 6,000.
- J **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) drew 567,322, the best total of any Minor League team in 2023, and averaged 7,990 per date, the best average among all MLB-affiliated teams**. The IronPigs drew more than their park's 8,089 seating capacity at 33 dates, and had a full sellout crowd of 10,100 at 14 dates.
- J For **2023 vs. 2022**, total league attendance was up 117,857 (1.4%), and average per date increased 158 (2.7%). 13 teams had gains in total attendance, and 15 were up in average per date.
- J Norfolk had the league's largest gains, up 46,137 (12.6%) in total attendance, and up 791 (15.8%) in average per date. That total attendance increase was the 5<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliated teams, and the average per date gain was 4<sup>th</sup> highest. Buffalo, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, and Toledo had 300+ gains in average per date.
- J The largest declines in the league were by Charlotte, down 32,649 (6.1%) in total attendance, and 447 (6.1%) in average per date. No other team in the league had an average per date decline of more than 219.
- J Buffalo had the largest crowd (15,851) in the MLB-affiliated leagues in 2023.
- J **In 2019, the 14-team International League** drew 6,445,838, and averaged 460,417 per team, and 6,887 per date.
- J Worcester's **2023** total attendance was 188,641 (57.0%) higher, and their average per date was up 2,036 (41.3%), from what they drew in Pawtucket in **2019**.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE- A - continued

- ) **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) had the highest total attendance in all of Minor League Baseball, and the best average per date among the MLB-affiliated teams, (5<sup>th</sup> best in the Minors) in 2023.**
- ) Total attendance was 567,322, up 23,102 (4.2%), from 2022. Average per date was 7,990, up 325 (4.2%). There were 4 lost dates in 2023, and the same number of dates were played as in 2022. 33 dates drew above Coca Cola Park's 8,089 seating capacity, and 14 dates drew a complete sellout, **and a single game record tying 10,100.**
- ) The IronPigs (the name comes from 'pig iron' used to make steel) led the Minors in attendance in 2011, and had the best U.S./Canadian total in 2012. They had the U.S. Minors' highest average per date for 3 straight years from 2010 through 2012. **Lehigh Valley, which began play in 2008, was the only team to top 600,000 in each year from 2008 through 2016.** They averaged over 9,000 per date in each year from 2009 through 2014.
- ) **Coca Cola Park in Allentown has just 8,089 seats. It is one of the smallest parks in Triple-A. With standing room and lawn seating, combined 2008-2023 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity at 672 (65.6%) of 1,025 regular season dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 243 dates. The 14-year average per date of 8,721 through 2023, but excluding 2021, was 107.8% of the ballpark's seating capacity. The IronPigs won the 2019 Larry MacPhail Award for top promotional effort.**
- ) In the table below, "# Dates Cap+" indicates how many dates each season drew higher than Coca Cola Park's 8,089 seating capacity. "# of Full Sellouts" indicates the number of dates where all seats, standing room, and lawn seating tickets were sold out. Initial full capacity was 10,000. In 2012, it was raised to 10,100 tickets.

## LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS REGULAR SEASON ATTENDANCE

Year	Total Attendance	# of Dates	Average per Date	# Dates Cap.+	# of Full Sellouts	Notes
2008	602,033	71	8,479	49	12	Moved from Ottawa, attendance up 475,139
2009	641,335	70	9,162	59	26	3 <sup>rd</sup> best total, 2 <sup>nd</sup> best average per date in Minors
2010	645,905	70	<b>9,227</b>	60	21	Minors highest average per date, 2 <sup>nd</sup> best total
2011	<b>628,925</b>	68	<b>9,249</b>	61	20	Led Minors in total attendance and average per date
2012	622,421	68	<b>9,153</b>	59	15	Best Minors avg. per date, top U.S. total attendance
2013	613,075	68	9,016	52	21	3 <sup>rd</sup> in total attendance and average per date
2014	614,888	68	9,042	51	18	5 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance, 4 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2015	613,815	70	8,769	45	19	5 <sup>th</sup> again in total attendance, 7 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2016	611,015	70	8,729	47	12	Was 5 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance, 7 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2017	555,146	65	8,541	40	13	9 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance and average per date
2018	561,745	66	8,511	39	19	7 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance, 9 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2019	585,110	68	8,605	43	22	6 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance, 8 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2021	356,355	61	5,842	6	3	7 <sup>th</sup> in total attendance, 8 <sup>th</sup> in average per date
2022	544,220	71	7,665	28	9	2 <sup>nd</sup> highest MLB-affiliated total & average per date
2023	<b>567,322</b>	71	<b>7,990</b>	33	14	Best Minors total attend., Top MLB-affiliated avg/dt.
Total	8,763,310	1,025	8,550	672	243	Only team to top 600,000 each yr. (2008-16)

- ) Not included in the table above are a 2008 exhibition game with the Phillies, the 2010 Triple A Home Run Derby and All-Star Game, 4 playoff games in 2011, and 8 games in 2012 where Scranton-Wilkes Barre was officially the home team. These 15 dates drew a combined 128,520, with 10 above seating capacity, and 4 full sellouts.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- J **Nashville continues to be one of the best draws in the Minor Leagues. The Sounds drew an MLB-affiliated 3<sup>rd</sup> best total of 556,962, up 1,386 (0.2%) in 2023. Average per date was an MLB-affiliated 5<sup>th</sup> highest, 7,736, up 125 (1.6%). It was the 12<sup>th</sup> time Nashville has surpassed 500,000 in total attendance, and 7,000 in average per date. 2023 had 3 lost dates, and one less date played than 2022.**
- J In **2023**, 26 dates had crowds of at least 8,000, and 14 dates drew over 10,000, with a high of 11,444. 15 dates were sold out, making it 136 sellouts in 8 seasons at First Horizon Park (formerly First Tennessee Park).
- J **The Sounds won the 2022 Minor League Organization of the Year award**, in part, due to their outstanding attendance. **They led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 2022 and 2021.** Among MLB-affiliates, they were 4<sup>th</sup> in average per date in 2022, and had the best average per date in 2021.
- J Total attendance topped 500,000, and average per date was above 7,000, each year from 2015 through 2019, and in 2022 and 2023. Nashville also reached these levels every year from 1979 through 1982, and in 1990.
- J In **2019**, Nashville didn't reach the record highs of a year earlier, but they still had the 8<sup>th</sup> best total, and the 6<sup>th</sup> best average per date in the Minor Leagues. Total attendance was 578,291, and average per date fell was 8,631. There were a team-high 23 sellouts. 38 dates drew above 8,000, including those 23 sellouts of 10,000+.
- J Nashville set a team total attendance record for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year in **2018**, reaching 603,135, up 9,456, with 2 more dates than in 2017. Average per date was a team 2<sup>nd</sup> best-ever 8,741. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> best total, and 6<sup>th</sup> best average per date in the Minors in 2018. 45 dates drew better than 8,000, with 20 dates topping 10,000.
- J **2017** was a record-setting year for Nashville. The Sounds set team highs in total attendance (593,679), and average per date (8,861). Both these figures were 7<sup>th</sup> best in the Minors for 2017. This despite playing 4 fewer dates than in 2016. The total attendance gain of 89,619 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the Minors, and the average per date increase of 1,762 was the highest of any team. There were 22 sellouts. Attendance reached 8,000 at 43 dates, and surpassed 10,000 at 22 dates, with a record-high of 11,764.
- J Nashville's 2<sup>nd</sup> year at First Horizon Park (2016) was at least somewhat less successful than the first. Total attendance fell 61,488, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest loss (Sacramento), among U.S. teams. The average per date decline of 866 was 2<sup>nd</sup> worst among U.S. teams (Staten Island). But the total 504,060 was still 7<sup>th</sup> best in team history, and the average per date of 7,099 was 2<sup>nd</sup> best since 1990. The Sounds had 14 sellouts.
- J In **2015**, Nashville moved to a new park, and had the best gain among U.S. teams in total attendance (up 241,587), and in average per date (up 3,056). Only Yucatan of the Mexican League had a better increase in those two categories. The Sounds drew 565,548, averaging 7,965 per date, with 19 sellouts. Until 2017, that had been their highest Triple-A attendance. In 1990, they drew 556,250, but attendance had not reached 420,000 since 1993.
- J **Nashville's old highs were in 1980, when they drew a Minor League high for that season 575,676 (8,343 per date) in the Double-A Southern League, at Herschel Greer Stadium. Average per date was also over 7,000 in 1979, 1981, and 1982. The Sounds were the first Double-A team to draw 500,000, doing it each year from 1979 through 1982.**
- J In 1979, Nashville and Columbus became the first clubs to reach 500,000 since the 1967 Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) of Mexico City, and 1949 Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle of the Pacific Coast League. In 37 years at Greer Stadium (1978-2014), they drew 14,453,823, including playoffs, in 2,613 dates, averaging 5,532 per date. The final game at Greer drew 11,067, which was the largest there since 2007, and the first sellout since 2010. First Horizon Park, like Greer Stadium, has a guitar-shaped scoreboard in recognition of Nashville's role as 'Music City.'
- J First Horizon Park was built on the same location as the historic Sulphur Dell ballpark, which was home to Nashville's Minor League teams from 1901 through 1961, and 1963. It was demolished in 1969, and replaced by a parking lot. ("They paved paradise, and put up a parking lot." -- Lyrics from 'Big Yellow Taxi,' sung by Joni Mitchell.)

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **In 2023, Columbus topped 500,000 in total attendance for the 35<sup>th</sup> time in 44 seasons since 1979, which is more often than any team in Minor League history.** The Clippers drew 557,131 in **2023**, up 22,738 (4.3%) from 2022. Average per date was 7,847, up 213 (2.8%). **The total was 2<sup>nd</sup> best in Minor League Baseball, and the average per date was 7<sup>th</sup> highest in all of the Minors, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best among MLB-affiliates.** There were 4 lost dates, with one more date than in 2022. 38 dates drew over 8,000, 13 dates topped 10,000, with a high of 11,084.
- ) Columbus had the 4<sup>th</sup> highest total in all Minor Leagues in both 2022 and 2021. Average per date was also an MLB-affiliated 3<sup>rd</sup> best in both of those seasons.
- ) **In 2019**, the Clippers led the International League in attendance, and had the 4<sup>th</sup> best total attendance and average per date in Minor League Baseball. The Clippers reached 600,000 in 8 regular seasons, and 11 times if playoffs are included, from 2009 through 2019. From 2005 through 2023, 318 regular season dates have drawn 10,000+.
- ) **2023 was also the 17<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year that the Clippers surpassed 500,000.** In 1979, Columbus and Nashville became the first teams to draw at least 500,000 since the 1967 Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) of Mexico City, and 1949 Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle. **The Clippers have been above 450,000 for 38 consecutive 'normal' seasons through 2023.** Average per date in Columbus was over 8,600 each year from 2009 through 2019. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- ) The old park in Columbus could hold some huge crowds. Record-high there was 20,131 in 1980. The largest road attendance for the Clippers was 45,510 at Denver in 1991.
- ) The **Charlotte** Knights just missed reaching 500,000 in total attendance for the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year. Their **2023** total attendance was 498,816 (10<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliates), down 32,649 (6.1%) **from 2022**, and average per date fell 447 (6.1%) to 6,833. The declines were the largest in Triple-A, and 2<sup>nd</sup> worst among MLB-affiliated teams. 2 dates were lost, and they played the same number of dates as in 2022. **18 dates drew over 8,000, and 4 topped 10,000, with a current-park record-high of 10,990.**
- ) In **2019**, Charlotte surpassed 8,000 in average per date for the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year.
- ) Since moving into Truist Field, with its wonderful city skyline view, in 2014, **through 2023**, the Knights have drawn 5,190,043 in 626 dates, averaging 8,291 per date. Through **2022**, there were 151 sellouts. 2023 sellout figures are not yet available.
- ) Charlotte led the Minors in total attendance in **2018**, drawing 619,639, and averaging 8,980 per date. **That average per date was the best among all U.S./Canadian teams**, topped only by Monterrey and Tijuana of the Mexican League. There were 23 sellouts and 52 dates drew at least 8,000.
- ) In 2014, Charlotte moved from the suburb of Fort Mill, SC to the City of Charlotte, and their new ballpark was a huge success. **The Knights led all the Minor Leagues in attendance in 2014.** They drew a team-record high 687,715, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total ever for an I.L. team, and averaged a U.S. best 9,686 per date. They had 31 sellouts. In 1998, Buffalo drew 743,463, and in 2005, Pawtucket drew 688,421. Buffalo, from 1988 through 1996, and Louisville, from 1982 through 1984, also drew higher than Charlotte did in 2014. In those years, Buffalo and Louisville were in the Triple-A American Association whose teams moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.
- ) **Charlotte had the top total attendance increase of 2014, up 432,881, which also was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best gain ever for a Minor League team that moved to a new park in the same market.** (Buffalo, up 650,891 in 1988, and Memphis, up 462,512 in 2000.) Prior to 2014, the only time Charlotte topped 400,000 was in 1993, when they drew 403,029.
- ) **In 2015, Charlotte had the highest average per date (9,428) of any Minor League team**, and drew a total of 669,398 to finish 2<sup>nd</sup> in total attendance to Sacramento. The Knights had 31 sellouts in 2015. **2016 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year that Charlotte led all U.S. teams in average per date.** They had 25 sellouts.
- ) Charlotte drew 628,526 in **2017**, their 3<sup>rd</sup> best total ever. The Knights' total and average per date (9,109) were 2<sup>nd</sup> best among all U.S. teams. 23 dates were sold out. Attendance topped 9,000 at 43 dates in 2017.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Rochester** drew 437,561 in **2023**, up 4,981 (1.2%). Average per date dipped 102 (1.7%) to 6,077. There were 2 more dates than in 2022, with 3 postponements. 17 dates drew better than 8,000, with a high of 10,811.
- ) **In 2022, Rochester had the biggest numerical improvement in attendance of any MLB-affiliated team that played its entire 2021 season in its home park. Total attendance rose 212,639 (96.7%) vs. 2021, to 432,580. Average per date was up 2,452 (65.8%) to 6,180.** In **2022 vs. 2021** percentage gain, the Red Wings had the 4<sup>th</sup> best % increase in total attendance, and the 5<sup>th</sup> highest % gain in average per date, among MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) **Rochester's** attendance topped 400,000 for the 25<sup>th</sup> consecutive 'normal' year in **2023**. The only season above 400,000 prior to this streak was 1949. However, Rochester led all U.S. teams in attendance in 6 seasons between 1962 and 1975. They've reached 300,000 in 41 of the last 52 'normal' seasons through 2023, which is quite good, considering that Minor League attendance was much lower 50 years ago. The Red Wings' average per date has topped 6,000 for 26 'normal' seasons in a row. In **2019**, Rochester achieved its highest total since 2010, and highest average per date since 2008.
- ) Opening Day has always been a big event in Rochester. 10 Home Openers at Innovative Field (formerly Frontier Field), which had its first opener in 1997, have drawn at least 10,000. The final Home Opener at the Baseball Park at Bay Street (1928) drew over 10,000, as did 31 Opening Day games from 1929 through 1963, and 4 more through 1996, at Silver Stadium. The largest Opening Day crowd in Rochester was 19,006 in 1931. In 1949, the Red Wings opened their season in Jersey City, and that game drew 52,126.
- ) The biggest Minor League crowd ever in the current park was 13,584 for a Scranton-Wilkes Barre vs. Pawtucket game in 2012. Andy Pettitte of the Yankees was making a rehab start that day. Scranton's ballpark was undergoing a major rebuilding that year, and they played their home games in other parks. An Orioles exhibition game in 1997 drew 13,723. The largest attendance for a regular Red Wings home game was 13,485 in 1997.
- ) The Rochester Red Wings are a community-owned team. In 1957, Morrie Silver, a Rochester businessman, raised funding from 8,222 shareholders to save the team. This is similar to what was done to keep the NFL Packers in Green Bay. There have been other community-owned Minor League teams.
- ) **Gwinnett** drew **2023** a Triple-A low 231,044 in total attendance. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> 'normal' season in a row with a total of less than 300,000. But the total was up 14,867 (6.9%) **vs. 2022**. Average per date was 3,254, the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in Triple-A, but still up 293 (9.9%). There were 4 lost dates, and 2 fewer dates than in 2022. 13 dates drew over 5,000, and the top crowd was 10,067.
- ) This team is named the Stripers after a type of Bass in Georgia's Lake Lanier. Be careful to spell the team's name with only one 'p.' Otherwise, fans may be expecting a less family-friendly form of entertainment.
- ) **Iowa's 2023** total attendance was 432,246 down 5,297 (1.2%) **vs. 2022**. Average per date was 6,003, up 91 (1.5%). 19 dates drew over 7,000, with a high of 11,268. There were 3 lost dates, and 2 fewer dates were played in 2023 than in 2022.
- ) **In 2017**, Iowa drew 535,660, averaging 7,763 per date. Those were the best figures for the Cubs since 2009, and the 5<sup>th</sup> best total in team history. The Cubs reached 300,000 in attendance for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every 'normal' year thereafter. They topped 500,000 in 12 of 18 seasons, from 1992 through 2019. In 1981, they drew only 124,371. Since 2002, average per date has been 7,000+ every year except 2013, 2021, 2022, and 2023. It has been above 6,000 every year except 2021 and 2022 since at least 1992. Average per date figures for seasons prior to 1992 are not available.
- ) Des Moines was the site of the first professional baseball night game. A crowd of nearly 12,000 attended this game, played by the Des Moines Demons of the Western League on May 2, 1930.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Indianapolis drew 556,775 (4<sup>th</sup> best among all Minor League teams) in 2023, and an average per date of 7,842 (4<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliated teams, 8<sup>th</sup> best among all Minor League teams).** Total attendance was up 22,165 (4.1%) vs. 2022, and average per date had a 417 (5.6%) increase. 4 dates were lost in 2023, with one less date played than in 2022. 36 dates drew over 8,000, and 16 dates topped 10,000, with a high of 14,130.
- ) In 2019, the total attendance of 586,860 was the 5<sup>th</sup> best in the Minors, and the average per date of 8,630 was 7<sup>th</sup> highest. Attendance reached 8,000 at 37 dates, with 26 of them drawing at least 10,000.
- ) **The Indians have surpassed 534,000 for 26 straight 'normal' years through 2023, and have reached 600,000 in 12 seasons since 1997. Indianapolis has drawn 10,000+ for 368 dates from 2005 through 2023. They averaged 8,000+ per date in 22 of 25 'normal' years through 2023, including every year from 2007-2019. In 7 of these seasons, their average per date has reached 9,000. Victory Field's capacity is 14,200. The Indians were the Ballpark Digest 2018 Team of the Year, in part, due to their outstanding attendance.**
- ) Indianapolis drew 619,122 in total attendance in 2018, averaging 8,845 per date, the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total of any team, and the 4<sup>th</sup> best average per date (2<sup>nd</sup> best U.S.). Only Charlotte, whose total topped Indy by just 517, drew better.
- ) **Indianapolis led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the first time ever in 2013, drawing 637,579. Then they drew a team record-high 660,289 in 2014, and topped that by drawing 662,536 in 2015, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best Minor League total. In 2016, despite a rainy summer, Indianapolis drew 636,888 to lead all U.S. teams. In 2017, Indianapolis drew 641,141 in total attendance, averaging 9,159 per date, the best figures of any U.S. team. Among all MLB-affiliated teams, which at that time included the Mexican League, it was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total, and 4<sup>th</sup> highest average per date.**
- ) **Syracuse drew a total of 336,492 in 2023, up 1,002 (0.3%). Average per date rose 230 (4.8%) to 5,022. The total and average per date were the highest since 2013. Average per date reached 5,000 each year from 1997 through 2013. The Mets had 3 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022, with 8 dates lost, the most postponements among Triple-A teams. 20 crowds topped 6,000, with 2 dates drawing over 10,000, and a high of 10,815.**
- ) In **2019**, Syracuse total attendance rose a league-high 50,146 to 327,478. Average per date was 4,962, up 760, also the largest gain in the league.
- ) **Durham had an 86-44 record in 2021, the best in Triple-A that season, and followed it up in 2022 with the International League and Triple-A championship. Total 2023 attendance was 491,757, up 19,667 (4.2%), and average per date was 6,736, up 442 (7.0%). This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date increase among Triple-A teams. There were 2 lost dates in 2023, and there were 2 fewer dates played than in 2022. 22 dates drew over 8,000, with a high of 11,090.**
- ) For the 2014 season, Durham did a \$20 million renovation of their park, and then drew a team record-high 533,033. The old record was 520,952 in 2007. The Bulls broke that record in 2015, drawing 554,788. Their 2015 average per date was a team-record high 7,814. 38 crowds exceeded 8,000, including 15 that were above capacity.
- ) The Bulls have drawn over 500,000 in 13 of the last 21 'normal' years, including 6 in a row through 2019, and have topped 460,000 in all 24 'normal' years they've been a Triple-A team. Average per date reached 7,000 in 14 of the last 21 'normal' seasons, and had topped 6,500 for 22 years in a row, through 2019, and again in 2023. In 1990, Durham was the first Class-A team since Denver in 1953 to reach 300,000. The Bulls topped 300,000 in 6 of their final 8 seasons (1990-1997) as a Class A team.
- ) Mother Nature has been kind to the Bulls. Since 2015, there have been only 5 postponements in Durham, one in 2019, and 2 each in 2021 and 2023.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- J **2021** was the first season as an MLB-affiliated team for the **St. Paul Saints**. The Saints had played in the independent Northern League (1993-2005), and in the American Association from 2006 through 2019. They were the most successful team in terms of attendance, among modern independent teams.
- J **2023** total St. Paul attendance was 460,918, down 12,993 (2.7%) from the record-high set in 2022. Average per date was 6,492, down 90 (1.4%). There were 4 lost dates, and one less date played than in 2022. 31 dates drew above CHS Field's 7,210 capacity, with a high of 9,364. There have been 53 crowds above 9,000, including 3 in 2023, at CHS Field since it opened in 2015.
- J In **2021**, the Saints drew 393,394, and averaged 6,052 per date. That was the 5<sup>th</sup> best total and 7<sup>th</sup> best average per date among the MLB-affiliated teams. Despite the early-season capacity restrictions, the Saints had 17 above full-capacity crowds in 2021.
- J St. Paul did play some 'home' games in **2020** with very limited attendance, in the American Association.
- J In **2015**, St. Paul, in their new ballpark, drew **404,528**, the best total among independent teams, and a record-high for the team and for the American Association. At the time, it was the highest total ever for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other leagues. The Saints averaged **8,091** per date, which was a then-record-high for any independent team. The old record was **7,161** by Winnipeg in 2003. **46** of the 50 dates in St. Paul drew better than CHS Field's 7,210 seating capacity. Attendance was at least **1,000** above the seating capacity at **18** games, topped by a crowd of **10,430**.
- J In **2016**, the Saints did even better! They drew a league-record high total of **413,482**, and an independent leagues record-high average per date of **8,438**. **47** of **49** dates drew above the CHS Field capacity of **7,210**. **37** dates drew at least **8,000**, with **29** dates at least **1,000** above seating capacity. Attendance topped **9,000** at **10** dates, led by a crowd of **10,443**. Overall, the Saints drew **117%** of their park's seating capacity. St. Paul's independent league record-highs have been broken by teams in the now-independent Mexican League.
- J In **2017**, St. Paul attracted 406,501, averaging 8,296 per date. Those figures were once again, the best among all independent teams. 46 of their 49 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity, with attendance topping 8,000 at 36 dates. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143. The Saints drew 115% of their park's seating capacity, which was best in all of the Minors.
- J In **2018**, the Saints drew 408,921, and averaged 8,178 per date. Both figures were tops among all independent teams. 45 of 50 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with 32 dates topping 8,000. There were 5 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 9,791. Overall, they drew 113% of their park's seating capacity.
- J In **2019**, the Saints had the best attendance among independent teams for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year. They drew **394,970**, averaging **8,061** per date. **40** of **49** dates drew above their park's seating capacity. Attendance topped **8,000** at **24** dates, with **8** dates reaching **9,000**, including a record-high crowd of **10,631**. From 2015, their first year at CHS Field, through 2023 and including 2020 reduced capacity, the Saints outdrew the park's seating capacity at **317** of **476** (**224** of **247** through 2019) regular season dates.
- J St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. Including 2021, they've topped 235,000 every year except 1993, and the very limited 2020. They led the American Association in total attendance each year from 2006-2010, and from 2015-2019. The Saints once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak.
- J St. Paul was an original member of the Northern League from 1993-2005. They led that league in attendance from 1993-2000, and had the best total attendance of any independent team each year from 1993-1997, and from 2015-2019. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1994 through 2008, and from 2015 through 2022. St. Paul had the highest average per date among the independent league teams from 1993-1999, and from 2015 through 2019. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Twins, who in 2021, became their Major League parent team.
- J Only St. Paul, along with Sioux City and Sioux Falls, were still active in 2023 from the 14 independent teams that played in 1993. That was the year that independent baseball returned. In their 30 seasons (excluding 2020, but including 2021), the Saints have drawn 9,089,905 in 1,434 dates, averaging 302,997 per season, and 6,339 per date.
- J The Saints averaged at least 100% of their ballpark's seating capacity in 15 seasons from 1997 through 2019.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Worcester** drew 519,651 in **2023**, down 12,501 (2.3%). The total attendance was 7<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams. **Average per date was a team record-high 7,424, up 134 (1.8%), which was an MLB-affiliates 6<sup>th</sup> best.** 26 dates topped 8,000, **and a record-tying sellout high of 9,508 was reached 8 times.** 3 fewer dates were played than in 2022, with 5 lost dates.
- ) Compared to **2019 Pawtucket**, total **2023** attendance was 188,641 (57.0%) higher, and the average per date was up 2,170 (41.3%), with 7 more dates played in 2023.
- ) The Pawtucket Red Sox moved to Worcester in **2021**, and became an instant success in new Polar Park. The Woosox drew 362,559 in 2021, averaging 6,145 per date. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> best total and average among MLB-affiliates.
- ) Worcester last had a team in the independent Can-Am League from 2005 through 2012. That team's highest total attendance was 124,745 in 2005, and the top average per date was 2,779 in 2006. Prior to 2005, Worcester's last season with a Minor League team was in 1934.
- ) **Buffalo** drew a total attendance of 487,205, averaging 7,165 per date, in **2023**. The total was up 35,346 (7.8%), and the average per date rose 318 (4.7%) from **2022**. The Bisons had 2 more dates than in 2022. But they had 7 weather postponements. 24 dates drew over 8,000, with 10 of them topping 10,000. **One game drew 15,851, which was the largest crowd of 2023 among all MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) The 2021 **Bisons** had a most unusual year, even for **2021**. The Toronto Blue Jays played their June and July home games in Buffalo, so the Bisons spent the first 3 months of their season playing 'home' games in Trenton. 39 Bisons' **2021** home dates were played in Trenton. After returning to Buffalo, the Bisons had 23 dates there
- ) Buffalo began a new affiliation with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013, which they hoped would attract more fans from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The Bisons had an increase in attendance in 2013, a tiny decline in 2014, a gain of 16,028 in 2015, and a 11,452 increase in 2016 to 562,755, their best total since 2010.
- ) **Attendance topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 32<sup>nd</sup> straight season in 2019.** But that streak ended after 2019. Until 2021, the Bisons had been above 8,000 in average per date in all but 3 years (2011, 2012, 2019) since 1988. They averaged at least 10,000 per date every year from 1988 through 2000. A Bisons' crowd of 16,409 was the largest at any Minor League game played in the United States or Canada in 2019.
- ) **Buffalo led the Minors in attendance each year from 1988 through 1999, topping one million 6 times (1988-93), including an all-time Minor League record 1,188,972 (1,240,951 including playoffs, and an exhibition game with Pittsburgh) in 1991, when they were in the American Association. That year they averaged a U.S. record-high 17,235 per date, with 53 dates above 15,000, and 15 dates over 20,000. Buffalo also averaged over 16,000 per date in 1988, 1989, 1990, and 1992.** The Bisons moved to the International League in 1998.
- ) Buffalo had the best attendance among all U.S./Canadian teams each year from 1957 through 1961. Sahlen Field, seated 17,600 in 2016, 16,907 in 2017 and 2018, 16,600 in 2019 and 2021, and 17,600 in 2023, the highest seating capacity of any United States or Canadian Minor League park. The largest crowd ever in this park was 21,050 at many games, as capacity had been as high as 21,050. It has been reduced as part of ongoing renovations. Quite a few games in team history have drawn over 20,000. Monterrey, Tijuana, and Mexico City, from the Mexican League, have larger-capacity parks than Buffalo.
- ) Much more data on the 6 seasons that Buffalo drew over one million can be found on pages 114-116.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Memphis** had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest **2023** Triple-A total attendance (231,698), and the lowest Triple-A average per date (3,174). It was the 8<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year under 400,000, and if 2021 is excluded, the lowest total and average per date since 1997. The total was down 7,907 (3.3%) **from 2022**, and average per date fell 154 (4.6%). There were 2 lost dates, and one more date played than in 2022. 13 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 9,102.
- ) **2016** was a rebound year for Memphis. The Redbirds increased their total attendance by 46,002 to 324,581, and their average per date by 667 to 4,704. **These were the biggest increases of any U.S./Canadian-based team that year. Both were also 16.5% increases, which were the best percentage gains of any full-season U.S. team.** Memphis had recently updated their highly-acclaimed ballpark, sharply reducing the number of fixed seats to 8,404. The largest crowd ever there was 18,620 in 2008.
- ) In 2015, the Redbirds had 102,850 reduction in total attendance, and average per date was down 1,656. Those were the biggest declines of any U.S. team in 2015, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst decreases of any team. There were 20 dates that drew under 3,000 in 2015 at Auto Zone Park. Prior to 2015, the smallest crowd there had been 2,919.
- ) Attendance in Memphis had fallen from 498,362 in 2013, to 278,579 in 2015, the lowest total, at that time, in the team's Triple-A history. There had been 3 straight increases through 2013. That followed a 9-year attendance losing streak which ended in 2011. In 2014, total attendance fell 116,933 from 2013, and the average per date was down 1,530. Both of those declines were the worst of any MLB-affiliated team for that year.
- ) **In 2001, the Redbirds attracted 887,976, an average of 12,507 per date.** Memphis became an NBA market with the arrival of the Grizzlies in 2001. But the Redbirds still drew very well for a number of years after that. They topped 600,000 for 8 straight years from 2000 through 2007, and their average per date was over 10,000 each year from 2000 through 2005. Average per date remained above 6,500 through 2013.
- ) **Louisville's 2023** total attendance was 396,840, down 27,195 (6.4%). Average per date was 5,512, down 219 (3.8%). These were the lowest figures in a 'normal' season since 1999. There were 3 lost dates, and 2 fewer dates were played than in 2022. Attendance surpassed 7,000 at 8 dates, with a high of 10,941.
- ) The Bats topped 600,000 yearly from 2000 through 2011, and 20 times since 1982, which is more often than any team. Since Louisville Slugger Field opened in **2000, through 2023**, the Bats have drawn 12,962,621 in 1,611 dates, an average of 8,046 per date. They've reached 500,000 in all but 9 'normal' years since 1982, achieving that total for a Minor League 3<sup>rd</sup> best 31 times. Columbus has topped 500,000 in 35 years, and Buffalo has done it 32 times. Average per date topped 9,000 in 11 seasons from 1992 through 2008, and in a few other years before that.
- ) **In 1983, Louisville drew 1,052,438 to become the first Minor League team to reach one million, and averaged 16,191 per date. That year Louisville outdrew 3 Major League teams (Cleveland, Minnesota, Seattle) in total attendance, and outdrew those same 3 teams plus Cincinnati and the Mets in average per date.** See pages 114-116 for more data on Louisville's 1983 season.
- ) **Omaha** drew 304,129 in **2023**, averaging 4,166 per date. The total was up 9,618 (3.3%) **from 2022**. Average per date rose 18 (0.4%). 2 more dates were played in 2023, and there were 2 postponements. 10 dates drew over 6,000, and a sellout high of 9,023 was reached twice.
- ) Omaha's attendance has gone up in 11 of the past 17 seasons through 2023. The Storm Chasers topped 300,000 for 32 straight years through 2019. Average per date was above 5,300 each year from 2008 through 2018.
- ) Omaha averaged above 6,000 per date each year from 1992 through 2000, but hasn't done it since then. However, the average has still reached 5,000 in 23 of 32 'normal' seasons through 2023. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Triple-A facility. Full capacity is 9,023, and that figure has been achieved 26 times. Omaha's former home, Rosenblatt Stadium, was much bigger. The last game there drew 23,795, and the largest crowd for the then-named Royals was 24,989 in 2004. A big new park in Omaha for the College Baseball World Series, which had been played at Rosenblatt Stadium, opened in 2011. Notes about College World Series attendance can be found on page 307.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Jacksonville** moved from the Double-A Southern League to the Triple-A International League in **2021**. They drew 347,723 in **2023**, down 10,371 (2.9%) from their highest Triple-A total ever, set in 2022. Weather was a factor, as there were 7 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates than in 2022. Average per date was 5,114, 2<sup>nd</sup> best since 2010, and up 140 (2.8%). 26 dates drew at least 6,000, and 9 dates topped 8,000, with a high of 10,280.
- ) Compared to **2019**, the **2022** total attendance was up 30,706 (9.4%), and average per date increased by 13 (0.3%). **Jacksonville is the only Triple-A team that played in the same market in both 2022 and 2019, to achieve a 2022 vs. 2019 increase in both total attendance and average per date.**
- ) **Jacksonville's** team name was changed from the Suns to the Jumbo Shrimp for **2017**, and they had a very successful season that year in both marketing and attendance. They drew 325,743, averaging 5,171 per date. The total, at that point, was their highest since 2010, and the average per date was their best since 2008. Total attendance rose 61,342, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best increase among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams in 2017. The 974 average per date increase was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) Average per date surpassed 5,000 in 11 seasons since 2003, (barely missed in 2022) and has been above 4,000 in each of the last 20 years, including 2021.
- ) Jacksonville led the Southern League in attendance for 9 straight years through 2011. They have a streak of 34 straight years above 200,000 thorough 2023 (including 2021), have topped 300,000 in 15 of the last 20 seasons (2003-2023), and reached 400,000 in 2004 and 2006. Attendance in Jacksonville hit 200,000 only once (1962) until 1989, and didn't reach 300,000 in the 58 years with listed attendance until 2003.
- ) From 1962 through 1968, Jacksonville played in the Triple-A International League. Prior to 2021, their previous highest Triple-A attendance was 229,679 in 1962. That was the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest attendance in Minor League Baseball that year. Rochester of the International League (272,178), and Monterrey of the Mexican League (239,179), were the only Minor League teams to outdraw Jacksonville in 1962.
- ) **Scranton-Wilkes Barre** posted **2023** total attendance of 336,162, up 4,876 (1.5%), and an average of 4,872 per date, up 206 (4.4%). There were 6 lost dates, and 2 fewer dates than in 2022. Top crowd was 10,000, and 12 dates exceeded 6,000.
- ) In **2013**, the Scranton-Wilkes Barre team got a new name, the RailRiders, honoring the area's railroad history. They moved into a completely rebuilt ballpark that year, after playing all their 'home' games in 6 different cities in 2012. Their 2013 total of 435,839 in their new park was up 163,671 from what they drew in their 2012 nomadic journey.
- ) This team reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then. Yet they've still drawn over 400,000 in 25 of 32 years (excluding the 'road year' of 2012, and 2021), and topped 6,000 in average per date 24 times during that same period.
- ) **Toledo** drew 447,384 in **2023**, up 20,885 (4.9%), averaging 6,214 per date, up 371 (6.4%). They lost 3 dates, and had one less date than in 2022. 34 dates drew over 6,000, 19 of them reached 8,000, with a high of 11,218.
- ) Until 2019, the Mud Hens had topped 500,000 in total attendance, and 7,300 in average per date, in all seasons at Fifth Third Field, which opened in 2002. Average per date surpassed 7,000 for 18 straight years until 2021.
- ) Toledo sold around 147,000 group tickets in 2014, which was the most ever for them up to that point. 485 dates were sold out at Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) from 2002 through 2018. Prior to moving to this park, Toledo had reached 300,000 just 6 times. Toledo's teams have been called the Mud Hens in most seasons since 1896.
- ) The Mud Hens ownership also operates the Toledo Walleye of the ECHL. The Walleye are one of the most successful teams, in attendance and on the ice, in minor league hockey. Toledo was named as the best Minor League Sports City by Livability, because of the fan support their teams get, but also in recognition of the economic development in Downtown Toledo that was spurred by the construction of the Mud Hens' ballpark.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE** – continued

- ) **2023 Triple-A Champion Norfolk** drew 411,429, up 46,137 (12.6%), their best total since 2008. The Tides averaged 5,795 per date, their best since 2009, up 791 (15.8%), with 4 lost dates, and 2 fewer dates than in **2022**. The 2023 increases were the best among the Triple-A teams. Among all MLB-affiliated teams, their total attendance gain was 5<sup>th</sup> highest, and the average per date growth was 4<sup>th</sup> best. Top crowd was 12,184. 28 dates drew over 6,000, with 14 of them topping 8,000.
- ) The Tides topped 400,000 in total attendance and 6,000 in average per date, for 16 straight years from 1993 through 2008. In that period, total attendance was over 500,000 in 7 seasons, and 10 years had average per date of 7,000+.

**Pre-2021 Historical Attendance Data**

- ) In 2015, the **Pawtucket** Red Sox were under new ownership for the first time since the late 1970's. There was talk about building a new ballpark in Pawtucket, or in the neighboring city of Providence. But no ballpark deal could be made in Rhode Island, and in **2021, the team moved to Worcester, MA**. Despite the prospect of the team's move, Pawtucket's attendance held up fairly well through 2017, which was the 25<sup>th</sup> straight year above 400,000. That streak ended in 2018, as total attendance declined 394,811.
- ) In 2019, the lame-duck status of the team, plus 7 dates lost to weather, led to a 63,801 decline in total attendance to 331,010, the lowest since 1990. Average per date dropped by 728 to 5,254, the lowest since 1992. The decline in total attendance was the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst among MLB-affiliated teams, and the average per date loss was the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst.
- ) Pawtucket had drawn at least 500,000 for 16 straight years through 2014. This team was bankrupt 45 years ago, and couldn't draw 100,000. The Pawsox achieved incredible attendance growth after that. They played at McCoy Stadium, which was built in 1942. While this park didn't have all the amenities of newer facilities, the team provided many fan-friendly features such as free parking. Its capacity was increased from 7,002 to 10,031 in 1999.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2019

Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.
1977	70,344	1986	186,517	1995	479,261	2004	657,067	2013	540,034
1978	123,310	1987	220,838	1996	461,181	2005	688,421	2014	515,665
1979	147,420	1988	246,940	1997	474,557	2006	613,065	2015	466,600
1980	163,283	1989	278,129	1998	475,659	2007	611,379	2016	407,097
1981	191,859	1990	290,953	1999	596,624	2008	636,788	2017	409,960
1982	204,724	1991	349,338	2000	585,107	2009	625,561	2018	394,811
1983	188,186	1992	358,318	2001	647,928	2010	592,326	2019	331,010
1984	198,786	1993	466,428	2002	615,540	2011	578,930		
1985	166,504	1994	469,029	2003	569,106	2012	521,023		

- ) The International League had a 14,278 (0.2%) decline in attendance in **2019** to 6,445,838, the lowest total since 2006. The league topped 6.3 million in each of its last 22 years through 2019.
- ) 2019 league average per date was 6,887, which was the highest average per date in the Minors for 2019, but lowest for this league since 2006. That was the 27<sup>th</sup> straight year that the I.L. averaged above 6,000 per date, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> year in a row above 6,600. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old MLB-affiliated Triple-A American Association averaged 7,588 per date in 1992, a year in which Buffalo drew more than one million. The I.L. averaged 7,317 per date in 2008.
- ) The average attendance per team was 460,417 in 2019, the 22<sup>nd</sup> straight year above 450,000. In 2014, the league averaged 501,452 per team. That was just the 6<sup>th</sup> time that any league has averaged 500,000+ per team. The International League also did it in 2008 (506,958) and 2009 (501,248). The American Association topped 500,000 per team in 1991 (511,691) and 1992 (519,800), when Buffalo drew more than one million each season. The Pacific Coast League's 8 teams averaged 508,547 per team in 1947, when the league had a 186-game schedule, with teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Hollywood, Portland, Sacramento, and Seattle.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE – TRIPLE-A - continued**

In 1998, 4 teams were moved from the American Association (no relation to the current independent league with the same name) to the International League.

## INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	20	8,609,245	117,857	1.4	6,063	158	2.7
2022	20	8,491,388	2,675,644	46.0	5,905	1,122	23.6
2021	20	5,815,744			4,783		
2019	14	6,445,838	(14,278)	(0.2)	6,887	(15)	(0.2)
2018	14	6,460,116	(211,554)	(3.2)	6,902	(180)	(2.5)
2017	14	6,671,670	(93,839)	(1.4)	7,082	100	1.4
2016	14	6,765,509	(196,101)	(2.8)	6,982	(151)	(2.1)
2015	14	6,961,610	(59,980)	(0.9)	7,133	(136)	(1.9)
2014	14	7,021,590	255,148	3.8	7,269	228	3.2
2013	14	6,766,442	261,856	4.0	7,041	342	5.1
2012	14	6,504,586	(159,620)	(2.4)	6,699	(257)	(3.7)
2011	14	6,664,206	(278,534)	(4.0)	6,956	(92)	(1.3)
2010	14	6,942,740	(74,729)	(1.1)	7,048	(300)	(4.1)
2009	14	7,017,469	(79,942)	(1.1)	<b>7,348</b>	31	0.4
2008	14	<b>7,097,411</b>	375,946	5.6	7,317	308	4.4
2007	14	6,721,465	305,265	4.8	7,009	269	4.0
2006	14	6,416,200	(271,296)	(4.1)	6,740	(154)	(2.2)
2005	14	6,687,496	224,614	3.5	6,894	40	0.6
2004	14	6,462,882	94,083	1.5	6,854	21	0.3
2003	14	6,368,799	(389,958)	(5.8)	6,833	(135)	(1.9)
2002	14	6,758,757	42,904	0.6	6,968	59	0.9
2001	14	6,715,853	163,178	2.5	6,909	(114)	(1.6)
2000	14	6,552,675	115,424	1.8	7,023	414	6.3
1999	14	6,437,251	(3,142)	(0.0)	6,609	(65)	(1.0)
1998	14	6,440,393	2,172,982	50.9	6,674	257	4.0
1997	10	4,267,411	148,470	3.6	6,417	70	1.1
1996	10	4,118,941	(258,685)	(5.9)	6,347	(100)	(1.6)
1995	10	4,377,626	(132,243)	(2.9)	6,447	(254)	(3.8)
1994	10	4,509,869	(96,971)	(2.1)	6,701	(84)	(1.2)
1993	10	4,606,840	1,659,155	56.3	6,785	1,094	19.2
1992	8	2,947,685	(10,797)	(0.4)	5,691	203	3.7
1991	8	2,958,482	181,087	6.5	5,488	123	2.3
1990	8	2,777,395	164,148	6.3	5,365	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – (10 teams – 150-game schedule 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 7,420,095 (2007 – 16 teams); Average per Team: 508,547 (1947); Average per Date: 6,625 (2006 and 2007).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 4,235,381 (2023 – 10 teams); Average per Team: 423,538 (2023); Average per date: 5,762 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Sacramento–901,214 (2001)); Avg. per Date: Sacramento–12,517 (2001).

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance - Albuquerque–521,521 (2023); Avg. per Date–Albuquerque–7,062 (2022)

- J **Pacific Coast League (Triple-A West in 2021)** – 10 teams. 9 of the teams in this league played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
- J Total **2023** attendance was 4,235,381, up 85,379 (2.1%) from **2022**. Average per team was 423,538. Average per date rose 108 (1.9%) to 5,762. There was one more date than in **2022**, and 15 dates were lost. 7 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 teams were up in average per date. Reno, up 36,847, had the best increase in total attendance, and Salt Lake, up 286, had the top average per date gain. Las Vegas had the league's largest declines, down 12,174 in total attendance, and down 71 in average per date.
- J Albuquerque led the league with 521,521 in total attendance, which was the 5<sup>th</sup> highest among MLB-affiliated teams in **2023**, followed closely by El Paso (507,907), and Las Vegas (506,047). Albuquerque also had the best average per date in the league (7,048, which ranked 8<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliates). Las Vegas achieved the 9<sup>th</sup> best average per date (6,838).
- J Round Rock and Salt Lake City also topped 400,000 in total attendance. Oklahoma City missed 400,000 by 92. Every team except Sugar Land topped 5,000 per date.
- J Total **2019** attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **Albuquerque led the league in total attendance and average per date in 2023.** The Isotopes drew 521,521, up 6,023 (1.2%). Average per date was 7,048, down 14 (0.2%). Among MLB-affiliated teams, the total was 5<sup>th</sup> best, and average per date was 8<sup>th</sup> best. 22 dates topped 8,000, and 8 of them reached 10,000. The top crowd of 15,817 was the highest in the league. There was one lost date, and one more date was played in 2023 than in 2022.
- J The Isotopes have drawn over 515,000 in the each of the first 19 'normal' years of operation of the current team (2003-2023, excludes 2021). The current team has topped a 7,000 average per date every year, except 2021. Attendance at the old park in Albuquerque never reached 400,000, through 2000. A team record-high crowd of 16,975 attended the 2018 Cinco de Mayo game.
- J The Isotopes were the 2018 winners of the John H. Johnson Award as 'The Most Complete Minor League Baseball Franchise.' In 2019, Albuquerque was the repeat winner of the Copa de la Diversión (Fun Cup), part of the annual Minor League celebration of Latino culture.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Las Vegas** drew 506,047, down 12,174 (2.3%) in **2023**. Average per date was 6,838, down 71 (1.0%). It was the 9<sup>th</sup> highest total, and 9<sup>th</sup> best average per date, among MLB-affiliated teams. One postponement resulted in one less date than in 2022. 17 dates were sold out, and 19 crowds topped 8,000, with a high of 11,268. In 2022, Las Vegas Ballpark was voted again as the best Triple-A ballpark in a poll taken by ballparkdigest.com. The Aviators have had their 4 best total attendance and average per date figures ever, including 81 sellouts, in their 4 seasons at Las Vegas Ballpark.
- ) **In 2019**, Las Vegas moved to a new ballpark in the suburb of Summerlin, and had an incredible attendance year. **The newly-named Aviators had the highest total attendance and average per date of any U.S. or Canadian team.** Only Tijuana of the Mexican League had a higher total, and only Tijuana and Monterrey, also of the Mexican League, posted a better average per date. **The Aviators also had the best total and average per date increases of any team in 2019, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best percentage gains vs. 2018.**
- ) **The Aviators blew away their previous attendance records in 2019**, drawing 650,934, up 318,710 (95.9%). Average per date was 9,299 up 4,553. The old records were set in 1993, when this franchise drew 386,310, averaging 5,441 per date. In 2019, the Aviators had 47 sellouts, 23 dates drew at least 10,000, 4 of them topped 11,000, with a high of 12,111. Only 10 dates drew under 8,000 in a park that has 8,196 fixed seats.
- ) Prior to 2019, Las Vegas had attendance consistency. They drew between 290,000 and 390,000, every year since joining the P.C.L. in 1983, and topped 300,000 each year from 1988 through 2018. In 2018, their final season at Cashman Field, the 51's drew 332,224, averaging 4,746 per date. Las Vegas averaged over 4,000 every year, with a high of 5,441 in 1993, and a low of 4,089 in 1986. In their 36 years at Cashman Field, the team drew 11,971,061 to regular season games, averaging 332,529 per year. Average per date, including post-season games was 4,704.
- ) The **Round Rock** Express had a total attendance of 411,550 in **2023**, down 1,438 (0.3%). Except for 2021, this was the lowest total in team history. Average per date was 5,561, up 55 (1.0%) with one lost date, and one less date than in 2022. 28 dates drew over 6,000, and 7 of them topped 8,000, with a high of 12,010.
- ) **Round Rock drew 597,928, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total in the Minors in 2019, and was 2<sup>nd</sup> to Las Vegas among U.S. teams.** There were 37 crowds of at least 8,000, and 20 dates drew over 10,000. The Express topped 589,000 in each of the first 20 seasons of their history through 2019, with a high of 700,277 in 2005. They've drawn at least 650,000 in 9 of these years, and topped 600,000 in 14 seasons (2000-2009, 2011, 2016-2018). That includes 5 years in the Texas League (2000-2004), when the Express set a Double-A attendance record each year.
- ) Average attendance per date at Round Rock topped 8,000 every year until 2021, and was above 9,000 each season from 2000 through 2008, with a team record-high of 9,846 in 2004. Their 2019 average per date of 8,542, was the 10<sup>th</sup> best in Minor League Baseball, and 7<sup>th</sup> best among U.S. teams. Dell Diamond in Round Rock has 8,631 fixed seats. The Express has averaged 8,514 per date (13,869,772 in 1,629 dates) in their history, **including 2021. If 2021 is excluded**, the average per date is 8,667.
- ) **Reno** drew 372,926, up a league-best 36,847 (11.0%) in **2023**. The increase in total attendance was 8<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliated teams, and the 2023 total was the highest for the Aces since 2015. Average per date rose 238 (5.0%), to 5,040, the highest since 2016, with 4 more dates than in 2022. There was one lost date. 22 dates drew at least 6,000, with a high of 10,275.
- ) It was a most unusual **2021** season in **Reno**. The Aces had 7 lost dates, but none were due to rain, snow, or cold. All postponements were caused by Covid breakouts, or by smoke and bad air from fires that hit the Western states.
- ) In 2015, the Aces had a team record 8 sellouts, but in 2019, only 2 crowds topped 8,000. From 2011 through 2014, they only had a combined 9 sellouts. Reno drew above 400,000 from 2009 through 2011, but not after that. Prior to joining the P.C.L. in 2009, Reno had teams in the California League and in independent leagues. None of those teams ever drew better than 110,000, and in only 3 seasons (1981, 1987, 1992) did attendance reach 100,000.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) The Chihuahuas attracted 507,907, an average of 6,772 per date in **2023**, their 9<sup>th</sup> year out in the West Texas town of **El Paso**. This was the 8<sup>th</sup> best total among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams, and the team's 7<sup>th</sup> year above 500,000 since 2014. The total was up 11,102 (2.2%) from 2022, and the average per date rose 59 (0.9%). There were no lost dates, and one more date than in 2022. 17 dates drew over 8,000. The largest crowd was 9,639.
- ) El Paso drew 522,894, down 16,626, and averaged 7,578 per date, down 241, in **2019**. 25 dates drew at least 8,000. This followed the totals of 539,520 in 2018, 544,668 in 2017, 564,259 in 2016, and a record-high 578,952 (8,154 per date) in 2015. In **2014**, they attracted 560,997, which was up 360,920 from what they drew in Tucson in 2013. The 2014 totals include the first 4 home dates of the season which were played in Tucson because the new ballpark in El Paso was not ready. Average per date overall was 7,901 (8,193 for the 67 dates in El Paso), compared to an average of 2,818 in Tucson in 2013.
- ) The Chihuahuas averaged better than 7,500 per date every season through 2019. El Paso had been in the Texas League, and their record-high attendance there was 329,233 in 1995. The city also had an independent team for a few years, and that team's highest attendance was 211,316 in 2007.
- ) **The 2023 Salt Lake Bees** drew 443,494, up 8,878 (2.0%), with an average per date of 6,160, up a league-best 286 (4.9%). They played 2 fewer dates than in 2022, with 3 lost dates. 33 dates drew over 6,000, with 19 of them topping 8,000. The largest crowd of 2023 was 14,354.
- ) In **2016**, Salt Lake had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total attendance gain, and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest average per date gain among U.S. teams. There was a significant loss in 2014 as total attendance dipped 60,656, the 4<sup>th</sup> worst dip among affiliated teams, and average per date fell 760. **In 2012, the Bees posted the best total gain (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams.** Average per date that year rose by 724, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best increase among the MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) The Bees have topped 430,000 in total attendance in all 28 'normal' years of operation as a full-season team, through 2023. Average per date was above 6,400 every year through 2019. They've been above 450,000 in 21 of those years, and have surpassed 500,000 in 12 seasons (1994-2000, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016). Average per date has topped 7,000 in 6 of 12 years through 2019. In 1994, the first Triple-A season of the current franchise, the team drew 713,224, averaging 10,189 per date.
- ) Salt Lake City had been in the short-season Rookie Class Pioneer League from 1985 through 1992. This was the largest market, by far, in that league. Salt Lake City led all short-season teams in attendance each year from 1986 through 1992. In 1991, they became the first short-season team to draw 200,000.
- ) A new home park for the Bees will open in South Jordan in 2025. This is part of a major development to create a new downtown in that location.
- ) The 'Voice of the Bees,' broadcaster Steve Klauke has retired after broadcasting 4,181 Bees games over 29 seasons.
- ) **Oklahoma City won the 2023 Pacific Coast League Championship.** The Dodgers drew 399,908, down 10,822 (2.6%), with 2 fewer dates than in 2022. Average per date was 5,633, up 6 (0.1%). The biggest crowd was 10,348, and 16 dates topped 7,000. 4 dates were lost.
- ) The Dodgers fell just 92 tickets sold short of reaching 400,000 for the 9<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year in 2023. Average per date had been above 6,000 for 6 years in a row through 2019. The Dodgers have topped 400,000 in total attendance for 18 of 24 'normal' years from 1998 through 2023. OKC never reached 400,000 before 1998. Average per date has been above 6,000 in 16 of 24 'normal' seasons through 2023. Oklahoma City's ballpark is located on South Mickey Mantle Drive, a street named for the native Oklahoman Hall-of-Famer.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **Sacramento** was hit hard by the Covid restrictions in **2021**, and their attendance is slowly recovering. Total attendance increased 15,706 (4.2%) in **2023**, to 388,475. Average per date rose 209 (4.2%) to 5,180. There were no games were postponed in both 2023 and 2022. 27 dates drew over 6,000, with 9 above 8,000. The largest crowd was 10,267.
- ) Sacramento won the Triple-A championship, but had the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest attendance in the club's first 20 years in **2019**, though it was still quite good. The total was 549,440, and the average per date was 7,849. That was the 10<sup>th</sup> highest total in the Minors in 2019. 27 dates drew better than 8,000, with 12 of them topping 10,000.
- ) **Sacramento has been one of the best draws in Minor League history. As the table below shows, they led the Minor Leagues in total attendance 10 times, and in average per date 6 times.** In 4 other years, they had the best average per date among U.S./Canadian teams, and in one other season, they led this group of teams in total attendance. The River Cats have 102 regular season sellouts in their history, all with a crowd of better than 14,000. They averaged more than 10,000 per date in each of their first 8 seasons. Unlike most teams, Sacramento has drawn well in the playoffs, with 17 crowds above 10,000.
- ) **The River Cats are one of only 4 teams, along with Louisville, Buffalo, and Monterrey, Mexico, to reach 900,000 in attendance in any season.**
- ) In 2017 and 2016, Sacramento gave back the gains it made in 2015, when their total attendance rose 64,515, and average per date was up 777, with 25 crowds of at least 10,000 and 12 sellouts. 2016 attendance fell 62,688, which was the worst total loss among U.S. teams. In 2017, the total fell 47,429, which was the 6<sup>th</sup> worst loss in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest decline among U.S. teams. Average per date declined by 555, which was the biggest U.S. loss, and the 5<sup>th</sup> worst affiliated decline overall. (Some Mexican League teams, which were part of the MLB-affiliated leagues at that time, had bigger declines in 2017.)
- ) **In 2015, Sacramento led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the 10<sup>th</sup> time since the team began play in 2000. They also led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for the 14<sup>th</sup> time.** Their biggest crowd ever was 15,808 in 2008. 2012, 2017, 2018, and 2019 were the only years, until 2021, that this team drew under 600,000.
- ) **Through 2023**, the River Cats have drawn 14,662,136 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 14 million. They have averaged 637,484 per season (654,059 excluding 2021), and 8,940 per date (1,640 dates) in their history. Their average per date excluding 2021 is 9,144. Sacramento had been for a few years, the largest TV market without a Major League team. (Orlando-Daytona holds that distinction now.) From 1961 through 1973, and again from 1977 through 1999, Sacramento didn't even have a Minor League team.

## SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS ATTENDANCE – 2000-2023

Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date
2000	861,808*	12,312*	2008	700,168*	9,725#	2016	609,666	8,587
<b>2001</b>	<b>901,214*</b>	<b>12,517*</b>	2009	657,095^	9,126	2017	562,237	8,032
2002	817,317*	11,512*	2010	657,910*	9,138^	2018	538,785	7,808
2003	766,326*	10,643#	2011	600,306	8,455	2019	549,440	7,849
2004	751,156*	10,433^	2012	586,090	8,140	2021	259,640	3,994
2005	755,750*	10,497#	2013	607,329	8,435	2022	372,769	4,970
2006	728,227#	10,257#	2014	607,839	8,561	2023	388,475	5,180
2007	710,235*	10,003*	2015	672,354*	9,338			

\* - Best in Minor Leagues # - Led U.S./Canadian teams ^ - 2<sup>nd</sup> among U.S./Canadian teams



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

- ) **In 2023, Tacoma drew 384,498, the highest total attendance in this team's 63-year Triple-A history.** The total rose 18,029 (4.9%), and average per date was 5,267, up 247 (4.9%). There were 25 dates with attendance of better than 6,000, including a high of 7,371. There were 2 lost dates, same as in 2022.
- ) Cheney Stadium in Tacoma was renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers set a then-record-high that year. Only one game yearly was lost due to weather in 2018, 2016 and in 2015, following a loss of 7 home dates in 2014, and none in 2013.
- ) The Rainiers have topped 300,000 in 29 seasons since 1989, and in each year from 2001 through 2023, except 2021. They have surpassed 350,000 in 10 of 13 'normal' seasons from 2009 through 2023, after never reaching this level before. Average per date has been above 5,000 in each of the last 6 'normal' seasons. Cheney Stadium opened in 1960, and was built in just 3 months and 14 days, at a cost of \$940,000. It was renovated at a cost of \$30 million, and has a listed seating capacity of 6,500.
- ) **Sugar Land**, (a suburb of Houston) moved from the independent Atlantic League to the Pacific Coast League in **2021**. Their total **2023** attendance was 299,055, up 13,228 (4.6%). Average per date was 4,097, up 127 (3.2%), with one more date than in 2022, and 2 dates lost. 11 dates drew over 6,000 with a high of 7,814. The team's name was changed from Skeeters to Space Cowboys in 2022.
- ) **In 2012, Sugar Land played its first season and drew 465,511, at that time the highest total attendance ever by a modern independent team.** (2023 now-independent Yucatan of the Mexican League broke that record.) The Skeeters also averaged 6,650 per date, which was the best among all independent league teams in 2012. 25 dates that year drew over 7,000. The old independent team total attendance record was 443,142, set by Long Island in 2001. The current independent record-high for average per date among U.S./Canadian teams is 8,438 by St. Paul in 2016.
- ) But in 2013, even though the Skeeters again had the highest independent total attendance, it declined 83,452, the worst drop by any independent team. Average per date fell 1,113, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> greatest drop among independent teams. Sugar Land had a 1,406 gain to 383,465 in 2014, and led all independent teams in total attendance. 2015 saw an 81,605 drop in Sugar Land's total attendance to 301,860, the worst decline that year by an independent team. This still was the 4<sup>th</sup> best 2015 total among the independents. Average per date fell to 4,439. In 2016, total attendance slipped to 300,331, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> best independent team total. Average per date rose to 4,483, the 5<sup>th</sup> best among independents. The Skeeters drew a team record crowd of 8,606 on July 4, 2016.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE – TRIPLE-A - Pre-2021 Historical Attendance Data**

- ) **New Orleans** had its final season in **2019**, and it did not go well in attendance. The Baby Cakes drew just 188,092, down 64,522, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date declined 888 to 2,939. These were the biggest declines in both total attendance and average per date of any Minor League team in 2019. Only 5 dates drew at least 5,000. The total attendance was the smallest in Triple-A since Ottawa drew 126,894 in 2007. The average per date was a Triple-A low since Tucson in 2013 (2,818). This was the smallest attendance in New Orleans since 1996. This franchise drew record-highs in total attendance (519,584), and average per date (7,530) in 1998.
- ) Despite the large dip in population in the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, attendance had remained steady until 2018. In 2004, the year prior to Katrina, this team drew 324,324. Attendance had been above this level every year through 2017. It was 349,883 in 2017, up 10,487. This despite 8 lost dates, and 3 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date in 2017 rose 412 to 5,554. 21 dates drew at least 6,000, with 3 of them reaching 10,000. The 2017 total attendance was the highest since 2011. Average per date was the best since 2010, and 2<sup>nd</sup> best since 2002. This team had a new name in 2017 – the Baby Cakes, which is related to Mardi Gras. The former name, Zephyrs (for the west wind), came with the team to New Orleans from Denver.
- ) But 2018 was a really bad attendance year for the Baby Cakes. Even though they played 3 more dates than in 2017, total attendance declined 97,269 to 252,614, and average per date fell 1,727 to 3,827. Those were the worst declines of any Minor League team in 2018. The total and average per date were the lowest, until 2019, for New Orleans since 1996, the year before they opened their new park, known as ‘The Shrine on Airline.’
- ) The New Orleans franchise was moved to Wichita, KS for the 2021 season, and now plays in the Texas League.
- ) The Pacific Coast League drew 7,054,538, averaging 6,532 per date in **2019**, the final year of the 16-team setup. Total attendance rose 132,728 (1.9%), and average per date was up 164. The league’s record high average per date is 6,625 in both 2006 and 2007. P.C.L. average per date was above 6,000 for 20 straight years through 2019. Las Vegas, in their new ballpark, led the league in both total and average per date, while New Orleans, in their final season in Louisiana, had the lowest figures.
- ) Attendance reached 7 million 11 times in the league’s last 15 years (2005-10, 2014-17, 2019). 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 teams had growth in average per date in 2019. There were 7 fewer dates than in 2018. 37 dates were lost to weather in 2019, compared to 31 in 2018, 40 in 2017 and 44 in 2016. Las Vegas had the best increases in all of Minor League Baseball in both total attendance and average per date. Conversely, New Orleans suffered the worst declines of any Minor League team in 2019 in both total attendance and in average per date.
- ) 6 of the 16 teams in this league drew at least 500,000 in 2019. A record high of 7 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2016 and 2007. It was done by 6 teams in 2017, 2015, and 2008. The half-million mark was reached by 4 teams in 2014, 2013, 2011, and 2009, and by 5 teams in 2018, 2012 and 2010. In 1947, 5 of the 8 teams in the league reached 500,000, and every team drew at least 350,000. Both Los Angeles and San Francisco topped 600,000, and Oakland, Seattle, and Hollywood all drew over 500,000. The league played a 186-game schedule that year. In 1949, every P.C.L. team topped 378,000. Since then, no league has had every one of its teams top a figure that high in any season.
- ) The P.C.L. average attendance per team has been over 400,000 for 22 straight ‘normal’ years (2000-2019, 2022-2023), including 440,909 in 2019. It had been above 400,000 from 1946 through 1949, with a high of 508,547 in 1947. Average per team fell below 200,000 each year from 1958 through 1981, and in 1984. It reached post-World War II lows of 131,968 in 1962, and 131,999 in 1969. In 1966, none of the 12 P.C.L. teams topped 200,000, and as recently as 1974, just one team in the league reached 200,000. The last team from this league to draw under 200,000 prior to New Orleans in 2019, was Calgary in 2002.
- ) One more historic note: In 1946, the San Francisco Seals of the P.C.L. drew a then-Minor League record 670,563. That season mark was not topped until 1982, when Louisville drew 868,418. The Seals also topped 600,000 in 1947 and 1948. Buffalo holds the current Minor League season attendance record of 1,188,972 (1,240,951 if playoff games are included), set in 1991.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** – TRIPLE-A - continued

In 1998, 6 teams were moved from the American Association (no relation to the current independent league with the same name) to the Pacific Coast League. The league record for average per date was set in both 2007 and 2006.

## PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	4,235,381	85,379	2.1	5,762	108	1.9
2022	10	4,150,002	1,126,247	37.2	5,654	831	17.2
2021	10	3,023,755			4,823		
2019	16	7,054,538	132,728	1.9	6,532	164	2.6
2018	16	6,921,810	(228,658)	(3.2)	6,368	(174)	(2.7)
2017	16	7,150,468	86,616	1.2	6,542	138	2.2
2016	16	7,063,852	(166,662)	(2.3)	6,404	(104)	(1.6)
2015	16	7,230,514	228,856	3.3	6,508	223	3.5
2014	16	7,001,658	237,975	3.5	6,285	241	4.0
2013	16	6,763,683	(32,474)	(0.5)	6,044	(8)	(0.1)
2012	16	6,796,157	(129,133)	(1.9)	6,052	(104)	(1.7)
2011	16	6,925,290	(107,255)	(1.5)	6,156	(168)	(2.7)
2010	16	7,032,545	(100,841)	(1.4)	6,324	(45)	(0.7)
2009	16	7,133,386	(85,970)	(1.2)	6,369	(135)	(2.1)
2008	16	7,219,356	(200,739)	(2.7)	6,504	(121)	(1.8)
2007	16	<b>7,420,095</b>	6,590	0.1	<b>6,625</b>	0	0.0
2006	16	7,413,505	67,097	0.9	<b>6,625</b>	13	0.2
2005	16	7,346,408	543,340	8.0	6,612	455	7.4
2004	16	6,803,068	(195,276)	(2.8)	6,157	(165)	(2.6)
2003	16	6,998,344	201,799	3.0	6,322	52	0.8
2002	16	6,796,545	44,874	0.7	6,270	132	2.2
2001	16	6,751,671	98,303	1.5	6,138	84	1.4
2000	16	6,653,368	1,046,369	18.7	6,054	779	14.8
1999	16	5,606,999	(352,811)	(5.9)	5,275	(223)	(4.1)
1998	16	5,959,810	2,715,733	83.7	5,498	634	13.0
1997	10	3,244,077	(220,702)	(6.4)	4,864	(224)	(4.4)
1996	10	3,464,779	49,912	1.5	5,088	(63)	(1.2)
1995	10	3,414,867	(89,810)	(2.6)	5,151	(26)	(0.5)
1994	10	3,504,677	592,505	20.3	5,177	817	18.7
1993	10	2,912,172	19,360	0.7	4,360	87	2.0
1992	10	2,892,812	139,269	5.1	4,273	N/A	N/A
1991	10	2,753,543	145,517	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	2,608,026	53,609	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – (12 teams – 138-game schedule 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,966,241 (2010 – 12 teams); Average per Team: 330,520 (2010); Average per Date: 4,904 (1998).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,706,509 (2023 – 12 teams); Average per Team: 308,876 (2023); Average per date: 4,722 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Akron–522,459 (1999); Average per Date: Akron–7,572 (1999). Richmond averaged 8,065 in the Triple-A International League in 1996

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Richmond–428,541 (2023); Average per Date – Richmond - 6,396 (2023)

- ) **Eastern League** – 12 teams. 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League. Trenton, an Eastern League team in 2019, is now in the MLB Draft League. The league topped 3.4 million in total attendance for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight 'normal' year in 2023. Average per date exceeded 4,200 for the 27<sup>th</sup> 'normal' year in a row.
- ) The league drew 3,706,509 in **2023**, averaging 308,876 per team, and 4,722 per date. These figures are the highest among the Double-A leagues. There were 43 lost dates. Richmond had the top total attendance (428,541) and average per date (6,396) among all Double-A teams. Portland (403,957 total, 6,121 average) and Hartford (402,731 total, 6,293 average) were close behind. Reading and Somerset also topped 350,000 in total attendance and 5,100 in average per date.
- ) Teams in the **2019 Eastern League** drew 3,749,124, and averaged 4,764 per date.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance was up a Double-A best 236,031 (6.8%), and average per date rose an MLB-affiliated leagues best 323 (7.3%), with 4 fewer dates. 11 teams had gains in total attendance, and 10 were up in average per date. Binghamton had the league's highest gains, up an MLB-affiliated 3<sup>rd</sup> best 60,232 in total attendance, and up a 2<sup>nd</sup> best 817 in average per date. Bowie posted an MLB-affiliated 4<sup>th</sup> best total attendance increase of 59,990, and a 3<sup>rd</sup> best average per date gain of 815. On a percentage growth basis, Binghamton and Bowie had the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> best increases among the MLB-affiliates. New Hampshire had the league's only decrease in total attendance, down 45,705, due to 11 lost dates, and 7 fewer dates than in 2022. Their average per date fell by 263. Somerset's average fell by 60 per date.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- ) **The Richmond Flying Squirrels drew a 2023 Double-A best, total attendance of 428,541, their highest since 2013, and an average per date of 6,396, also the best since 2013.** The total was up 21,981 (5.4%) from 2022, and average per date rose 236 (3.8%). 37 dates drew over 6,000, with 13 of them topping 8,000. 3 dates drew 9,810. There was one more date than in 2022, with 2 lost dates.
- ) Richmond led the Eastern League in average per date in **2019**. The Flying Squirrels topped 400,000 in 9 of their 12 'normal' seasons in the Eastern League, and led the league in total attendance 6 times. The total has been above 385,000 every year except 2021. Average per date has been over 6,000 in 11 of 12 'normal' seasons (2010-2023). The Triple-A Richmond Braves, who moved to Gwinnett County, Georgia, an Atlanta suburb, after the 2008 season, surpassed 400,000 for 15 straight years from 1989 through 2003. In 6 of those seasons, their attendance exceeded 500,000. Total attendance has been above 300,000 in every season, except 2008 and 2021, since The Diamond opened in 1985. Groundbreaking for a long-awaited new ballpark in Richmond is expected to take place in 2024.
- ) Richmond had been the Triple-A affiliate of the Atlanta Braves from 1966 through 2008. Moving their Triple-A team to a suburb of Atlanta provided logistical benefits to the Braves, such as making it easier to call up or send down players from one team to another. But from an attendance standpoint, Richmond has been a much better draw than Gwinnett. From **2010 through 2023** (including 2021), the Richmond Flying Squirrels have drawn 5,304,253 in 857 dates, averaging 408,019 per season, and 6,189 per date. The Gwinnett Stripers have drawn 3,367,829 in 890 dates in these 13 seasons, averaging 259,064 per season, and 3,784 per date. In these 13 seasons (remember, no games in 2020), Richmond has averaged 2,405 (63.6%) higher than Gwinnett in average per date.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- J **Hartford had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total attendance and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest average per date among the 30 Double-A teams in 2023.** Total attendance was 402,731, up 608 (0.2%). **Average per date was a team and a State of Connecticut record-high (including the years in New Britain) 6,293, up 291 (4.8%) to 6,002.** There were 5 lost dates, and 3 fewer dates were played in 2023 than in 2022.
- J 42 dates drew at least 6,121 (the Dunkin Park full seating capacity), and the old sellout figure of at least 6,850 tickets were sold for 26 dates. **The top crowd was a team record-high 7,587.** In their first 6 seasons (2017-2019, 2021-2023) the Yard Goats drew above the Dunkin Park full seating capacity at 239 of 390 dates there, and the old sellout figure of 6,860 was reached at 127 dates.
- J **2019 was another record-setting year for the Yard Goats. They led the Eastern League in total attendance, drawing 414,946. Average per date was 6,193. These were then record-highs not only for this franchise (including its years in New Britain), but for any Minor League team in Connecticut.** The old records were 408,942 in total attendance, and 6,014 in average per date, both set by Hartford in 2018.
- J Since Hartford's ballpark was not finished in time for the 2016 season, and they couldn't go back to New Britain because that park had become home to an independent Atlantic League team, the Yard Goats had to play all their games on the road that year. But when the Yard Goats finally got home, they were an instant attendance success. In **2017**, they drew 395,196, averaging 5,812 in their new park. That was 353,627 better in total attendance, and 5,013 per date more, than they drew on their home-away-from home journey in 2016. The 2017 Yard Goats had 41 sellouts, including 26 of the final 31 dates of the season. Compared to their 2015 season in New Britain, 2017 total attendance was up 127,819, and average per date had a 1,761 gain.
- J In the current Hartford team's 20 seasons at New Britain Stadium (1996-2015), they drew 5,686,765 in 1,312 dates, averaging 234,338 per season, and 4,334 per date. The highest total was 368,523 in 2010, and the top average per date was 5,867 in 2011. From 1983 through 1995, they played at neighboring Beehive Field, drawing 1,435,260, an average of 110,405 a year.
- J New Britain's attendance had surpassed 300,000 for 11 straight years through 2014, and had generally more than doubled since the early years of New Britain Stadium, which opened in 1996. From 1983 through 1999, New Britain never drew above 182,000. The then-named Rock Cats had set a team attendance record 10 times in an 11-year period from 2000 through 2010. There was an independent Atlantic League team, the Bees, in New Britain from 2016 through 2019. That club's highs were 214,635 in total attendance and 3,302 in average per date, both in 2016, when the Bees were the only team in the market. Their lows were a total of 133,141, and an average of 2,113 in 2019. This team was replaced by a Summer Collegiate club in 2021, and it averaged 1,703 per date in 2023.
- J **The 2023 Portland Sea Dogs achieved their best total attendance and average per date since 2009.** Total attendance was a Double-A 2<sup>nd</sup> best 403,957, up 24,857 (6.6%). Average per date was 6,121, up 377 (6.6%). There were 3 postponements in both 2023 and 2022. 40 dates drew over 6,000, and **19 of them were sellouts that each attracted a team record-tying high of 7,368.**
- J The Sea Dogs reached 340,000 in all 28 'normal' seasons through 2023, including 10 years above 400,000. Average per date has been above 5,000 every year except 2021, and has topped 6,000 in 10 seasons.
- J There have been 569 sellouts in 1,913 dates in Portland's history **through 2023, and including 2021**, drawing 11,055,839, an average of 5,779 per date. (The average per date excluding 2021 is 5,822.) Their season high for sellouts was 48 in 1995, and the Sea Dogs also had 47 sellouts in 1994, and 46 sellouts in 1996. This is all really good for any Double-A market, and especially for one that often has cold early season weather.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**

**EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) **Reading’s 2023** total attendance was 385,478, up 17,410 (4.7%), and average per date increased 354 (6.3%), to 5,930. It was the 27<sup>th</sup> straight ‘normal’ season with average per date above 5,400. 4 dates were lost in 2023, and there was one less date than in **2022**. 36 dates in 2023 drew over 6,000, with a high of 8,959.
- ) In December, 2021, Reading announced plans for a significant upgrade to First Energy Stadium.
- ) 2017 league attendance leader Reading was back over 400,000 in 2015, 2016, and 2017, after their streak of drawing at least 400,000 for a then-Double-A record 16 straight years ended in 2014. Trenton topped this level every year from 1995 through 2008, and Frisco of the Texas League did it for 17 straight years through 2019. Since 2002, Reading has led the Eastern League in total attendance 11 times and had the league’s top average per date 11 times. In 2024, Reading celebrates its 58<sup>th</sup> straight season as a Phillies affiliate, the longest current affiliation of any team.
- ) Baseball is very popular in Reading, despite a tough local economy, and a ballpark built in 1951. The Triple-A Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who topped 544,000 in each ‘normal’ year from 2008 through 2023, and led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 2023, play in nearby Allentown. (These 2 teams have the same ownership.) Other Minor League or MLB Draft League teams in nearby Lancaster, Trenton, and Harrisburg, have all drawn pretty well, and the Philadelphia Phillies are just 60 miles away. An indoor arena and a minor league hockey team joined the Reading sports scene in 2001. There has been a huge growth in Reading’s attendance since the early 1980’s. The figures in bold in the table below are the years when Reading led the Eastern League in total attendance. (Attendance in the table for 1996, 1998, and 2000 includes an exhibition game with the Philadelphia Phillies.)

READING ATTENDANCE – 1984-2023

Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance
1984	67,333	1994	338,249	2004	478,257	2014	394,458
1985	76,819	1995	383,984	<b>2005</b>	<b>469,105</b>	2015	417,010
1986	83,506	1996	384,151	<b>2006</b>	<b>460,216</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>420,320</b>
1987	100,895	1997	398,182	<b>2007</b>	<b>466,385</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>411,698</b>
1988	144,107	1998	423,336	<b>2008</b>	<b>436,789</b>	2018	388,510
1989	178,734	1999	448,367	<b>2009</b>	<b>460,791</b>	2019	398,214
1990	204,240	2000	461,848	2010	456,466	2021	226,667
<b>1991</b>	<b>250,610</b>	2001	458,585	<b>2011</b>	<b>456,957</b>	2022	368,068
<b>1992</b>	<b>287,078</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>486,570</b>	2012	426,623	2023	385,478
<b>1993</b>	<b>313,083</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>465,717</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>436,134</b>		

- ) **In 2023, Bowie** had a significant attendance increase. Total attendance was 234,527, up 59,990 (34.4%), and average per date was 3,500 per date, up 815 (30.4%). Numerically, the total gain was 4<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliates, and the average per date increase was 3<sup>rd</sup> highest. On a percentage basis, the gains were each 3<sup>rd</sup> best. There were 2 more dates than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. 15 dates drew over 5,000, and 7 of them topped 7,000, with a high of 9,469.
- ) Bowie has not reached 300,000 since 2005, after surpassing that figure in the 11 prior years, including 5 seasons (1995, 1997-2000) with attendance above 400,000. Average per date topped 5,000 each year from 1995 through 2003, but not since. It was above 4,000 per date from 1993 through 2007.
- ) **2023 Eastern League Champion Erie** drew 207,555, up 31,745 (18.1%), with an average of 3,098 per date, up 434 (16.3%). **The largest crowd of the season was a team record-high 7,070**, and 7 dates drew over 5,000. There were 2 lost dates, and one more date than in 2022.
- ) Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, through **2019**, Erie’s total attendance ranged from 197,656 to 246,404. The average per date ranged from 3,044 to 3,613 between **2001 and 2019**. The **2019** total of 215,444 was the best since 2011. Erie averaged over 4,900 each year from 1995 through 1998 in the short-season New York-Penn League. But their highest Double-A average per date was 3,613 in 2007. Erie is a very small Double-A market.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) The **Somerset (NJ) Patriots** drew 352,293 in **2023**, averaging 5,181 per date. The total was up 1,151 (0.3%) vs. **2022**. Average per date fell 60 (1.1%). 20 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 8,076. There was one more date than in 2022, and one date was lost. It was the 23<sup>rd</sup> 'normal' year in a row with total attendance above 335,000, and average per date exceeding 5,100.
- ) For **2022 vs. 2019**, total attendance rose 6,501 (1.9%), and average per date was up 97 (1.9%), with the same number of dates played in both seasons. **This average per date numerical increase was the best among the 57 teams in Triple-A and Double-A that played in the same market in both 2022 and 2019.**
- ) **Somerset** was one of the most successful independent league teams, and became the Double-A affiliate of the Yankees in **2021**. They really were tested by Covid-related issues, capacity restrictions, and the usual rainouts. And then, Tropical Storm Ida flooded their ballpark, forcing 3 games to be moved to Hartford. One was rained out. Incredibly, within a few days of this flood, the Patriots were playing again at home, in front of a near-capacity crowd.
- ) Somerset led the independent Atlantic League in total attendance and average per date in **2019**. Their 2019 total of 344,641 was 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among independent teams. Average per date was an independent leagues' 2<sup>nd</sup> best 5,144. Patriots' attendance has been very good and very stable through the team's history. Their total attendance has ranged from a low of 335,056 in 1999, to a high of 376,315 in 2004, **excluding 2021**. Average per date, **except for 2021**, ranged from 5,110 (2018) to 5,433 (2008). **Through 2023, and including 2021**, Somerset has drawn 8,376,549 in 24 seasons and 1,610 dates, averaging 349,023 per season, and 5,203 per date. What makes these figures even more impressive is that throughout their history, there have been numerous Minor League Baseball teams a fairly short distance away, along with the New York and Philadelphia Major League sports teams.
- ) Mother Nature was not kind to the **New Hampshire** (Manchester) Fisher Cats in **2023**. They had 11 postponements, which tied Lake County of the Midwest League for the most in all of Minor League Baseball. Total attendance was 236,809, down 45,705 (16.2%). This was the largest decline in total attendance, both numerically and by percentage, among the MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date dipped 263 (6.1%). There were 7 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022. 18 crowds exceeded 5,000 with a high of 6,443.
- ) The Fisher Cats topped 300,000 in 13 of 14 years **through 2019**. 10 of 13 seasons, from 2007 through 2019, averaged better than 5,000 per date. **Through 2023, and including 2021**, the Fisher Cats have drawn 6,058,030 in 1,252 dates in their 19-year history, averaging 4,839 per date.
- ) Total **2023** attendance in **Harrisburg** was 273,768, up 29,335 (12.0%). Average per date was 4,212, up 617 (17.2%). It was the best total and average per date since 2015. There were 4 lost dates, and 3 fewer dates than in 2022. Attendance topped 5,000 at 20 dates with a high of 8,075.
- ) The **2023** Senators topped 200,000 for the 34<sup>th</sup> time in their 36-year history, (2008 and 2021 are the exceptions). They surpassed 270,000 for 6 straight years through 2015, and again in 2023. Prior to 2010, they had reached 270,000 only in 2001. Average per date was above 3,800 each year from 2010 through 2019, and also in 2023.
- ) The **Altoona Curve** attracted a total attendance of 308,003 in **2023**, averaging 4,597 per date. Total attendance rose 22,226 (7.8%), and average per date was up 267 (6.2%). The total fell 461 short, and the average missed by 7, of being the highest total and average per date since 2008. 21 dates drew over 5,000. **The top crowd was an Eastern League high, and team record-high, 10,164.** The last time a game drew 10,000+ in this league was in 2013 at Portland. There were 2 lost dates, and one more date than in 2022.
- ) Altoona's **2023** total attendance reached 300,000 for the 13<sup>th</sup> time in the team's 24-year history. The Curve topped 300,000 each year from 1999 through 2008, but not again until 2015 and 2023. They averaged over 5,000 per date from 2000 through 2008. Team owner Bob Lozinak was voted '2019 King of Baseball' for dedication and service to the game.
- ) The team is named for the curveball in baseball, and also for the railroad Horseshoe Curve built in the 1850's just outside of Altoona.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) **Akron** drew 265,936 in **2023**, up 12,201 (4.8%), with a 4,029 average per date, up 126 (3.2%). There were 3 lost dates, and one more date played than in 2022. Highest attendance was 7,997, and 20 dates drew at least 5,000.
- ) In **2014**, Akron's team was renamed the Rubber Ducks in recognition of that's city's rubber industry. The rebranding was a big success as attendance rose 55,245 to 350,704, with 12 sellouts. This was the best total in Akron since 2007, and the gain was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best among all MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date rose 936, 2<sup>nd</sup> best gain among all Minor League teams. That total was up nearly 100,000 from the 256,473 that they drew in 2012, and average per date increased from 3,772 in 2012 to 5,157 in 2014. Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012.
- ) **2019** was the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year above 340,000 in Akron. In 26 seasons in Akron, total attendance has reached 340,000 18 times, and average per date has surpassed 5,000 in 17 seasons (1997-2008, 2014-2017, 2019). In 2015, the Rubber Ducks won the Larry MacPhail award for top promotional effort in the Minors.
- ) **The then-named Akron Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the 2<sup>nd</sup> Double-A franchise to draw 500,000 in a season.** Nashville had done it 4 times (1979-1982). More recently, 4 Texas League teams have achieved this level--(Round Rock - 2000-2004, Springfield - 2005, Frisco - 2003-2011, and Corpus Christi--2005-2006). Total attendance in Akron surpassed 400,000 each year from 1997 through 2006. Average per date was above 7,000 in 6 years between 1997 and 2004, including 1999, when **they set the Eastern League team record-high of 7,572 per date.**
- ) **2023** attendance in **Binghamton** rose sharply. The total was up 60,232 (41.1%) to 206,911. Average per date rose 817 (34.6%) to 3,183. **Numerically, this was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best increase in total attendance, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest gain in average per date, among MLB-affiliates. Percentage-wise, the Rumble Ponies had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best MLB-affiliated increases in both categories.** The team's total was 2<sup>nd</sup> best since 2011, and their average per date was 3<sup>rd</sup> highest since 2008. 3 more dates were played than in 2022. There were 4 postponements. Binghamton had the most lost dates in this league in 2022, 2021, 2019, and 2017. 21 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 6,523.
- ) Weather and Covid hit Binghamton very hard in **2021**. The Rumble Ponies lost 12 dates, which tied Rocket City for the most dates lost by a non-Florida team. An entire 6-game late-season series was cancelled due to Covid.
- ) In **2018**, Binghamton had a nice attendance increase at home, and a very big increase on the road. Was it because Tim Tebow was on the team? Rumble Ponies' total home attendance was up 29,514 to 220,279, the best total since 2008. The numerical increase was the 5<sup>th</sup> best in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 15.5% percentage gain was 8<sup>th</sup> best. Average per date was up 264 (9<sup>th</sup> best gain among MLB-affiliated teams) to 3,553, the team's best since they averaged 4,180 in 1992, their first season. This followed an average per date gain of 670 in 2017. On July 20, 2018, the Rumble Ponies drew 7,488, which was then, a single game record-high for this club. On the road in 2018, Binghamton drew 384,234, up 83,124. Their road average per date was 5,822, up 1,260.
- ) Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. That was also the only year that average per date (4,180) reached 4,000. While Binghamton's attendance figures are generally low, it must be noted that this is a very small Minor League market. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 162<sup>nd</sup> largest (out of 210) U.S. markets in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #176, was until 2021, the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Triple-A or Double-A team. Jackson no longer has a Minor League team. The Binghamton Mets were renamed the Rumble Ponies for 2017, in honor of the 6 vintage carousels located in Binghamton. Mirabito Stadium (formerly NYSEG Stadium) had a \$5.1million upgrade for 2019.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued**Pre-2021 Historic Attendance Data**

- J The Eastern League had a small attendance decline in 2019. Total attendance fell 18,547 (0.5%) to 3,749,124, the 21<sup>st</sup> straight year above 3.4 million. This decrease occurred despite much better April weather in 2019 compared to 2018. In 2018, 58 Eastern League games in April began with temperatures under 50 degrees, and at 17 of these games, the gametime temperature was below 40. Just 38 games started in temperatures of at least 60 degrees. In 2019, 24 April games began in temperatures below 50, and it was at least 60 degrees at 66 games. The league had 53 lost dates in 2019, 54 in 2018, and 59 in 2017, and played one more date in 2019 than in 2018.
- J 2019 league average per date was 4,764, down 29. 6 of the 12 teams had gains in total attendance, and 7 were up in average per date. Altoona had the league's best gain in total attendance, and Reading had the best growth in average per date. Binghamton suffered the worst losses in both categories. Akron, Hartford, Portland, Reading, Richmond, and Trenton all averaged over 5,000 per date.
- J 2018, 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew over 200,000.
- J League attendance surpassed 3 million for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year in **2019**. It was the 18<sup>th</sup> time above 3.7 million. Average per date topped 4,200 for the 25<sup>th</sup> year in a row, and in all of these years, except 2016, it surpassed 4,500. In 2019, the average per date was above 4,700 for the 13<sup>th</sup> time.
- J The league had averaged at least 300,000 per team for 19 straight seasons through 2015. But Hartford caused this average to fall to 285,376 in 2016. Excluding Hartford, the 2016 average per team was 307,540, but that was still the lowest figure since 2003. The league's average per team topped 100,000 each year from 1946 to 1949, but didn't reach this figure again until 1983. An average of 200,000 per team was first achieved in 1994. The following year, the average per team reached 300,000. It was 310,251 in 2017, 313,973 in 2018, and 312,427 in 2019.
- J A big part of the 2017 and 2016 attendance story for the Eastern League was what happened to the Hartford Yard Goats. This team had played in the neighboring city of New Britain through 2015, and a new ballpark was being built for them in Hartford. But there were many construction delays, and the team didn't play any games there in 2016. Construction resumed after the 2016 season, and the ballpark opened in 2017.
- J The Yard Goats couldn't return to their park in New Britain for the 2016 season, since a team from the independent Atlantic League moved in there. So they had to play all of their scheduled home games in other Eastern League ballparks, and in Norwich, home of the New York-Penn League Connecticut Tigers. They had just 52 'home' dates with recorded attendance, and drew 41,659, an average of 799 per date. In 2015, they drew 267,377, averaging 4,051 per date, in New Britain. Only 13 of the 52 dates in 2016, where the Yard Goats were the 'home' team, attracted at least 1,000. There were 8 dates with official attendance listed as under 100, with a low of 9, for a game at New Hampshire. Hartford played 5 dates where no fans were admitted to the ballpark. Those games were not included in the list of number of dates played.
- J The Hartford situation resulted in a 2016 total attendance decline of 335,652 (8.9%) for the Eastern League. Exclude Hartford, and the decline was 109,844 (3.1%). 2016 average attendance per date was 4,259, which was the lowest since 1994, and down 321 from 2015. If Hartford is excluded from the 2016 figures, the league's average per date was 4,499. In 2015, the league, including New Britain, averaged 4,580. Exclude New Britain, and the 2015 average per date was 4,626. The league's record-high average per date is 4,904, set in 1998.
- J In 2017, Hartford moved into their new park, and they were a big attendance success. It led to an increase of 298,497 (8.7%) in total attendance for the Eastern League, to 3,723,010. Average per date was up 514 to 4,773. These were the largest gains for any Minor League in 2017. If Hartford is excluded, the remaining 11 teams had a combined total attendance decline of 55,130 (1.6%), but an average per date gain of 175 to 4,674.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****EASTERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

## EASTERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	12	3,706,509	236,031	6.8	4,722	323	7.3
2022	12	3,470,478	1,110,330	47.0	4,399	745	20.4
2021	12	2,360,148			3,653		
2019	12	3,749,124	(18,547)	(0.5)	4,764	(29)	(0.6)
2018	12	3,767,671	44,661	1.2	4,793	20	0.4
2017	12	3,723,010	298,497	8.7	4,773	514	12.1
2016	12	3,424,513	(335,652)	(8.9)	4,259	(321)	(7.0)
2015	12	3,760,165	54,220	1.5	4,580	(24)	(0.5)
2014	12	3,705,945	(37,637)	(1.0)	4,604	(12)	(0.3)
2013	12	3,743,582	(47,659)	(1.3)	4,616	(53)	(1.1)
2012	12	3,791,241	(132,140)	(3.4)	4,669	(199)	(4.1)
2011	12	3,923,381	(42,860)	(1.1)	4,868	72	1.5
2010	12	<b>3,966,241</b>	271,847	7.4	4,796	184	4.0
2009	12	3,694,394	(75,939)	(2.0)	4,612	(3)	(0.1)
2008	12	3,770,333	(117,001)	(3.0)	4,615	(275)	(5.6)
2007	12	3,887,334	74,427	2.0	4,890	64	1.3
2006	12	3,812,907	(131,288)	(3.3)	4,826	22	0.5
2005	12	3,944,195	30,168	0.8	4,804	(64)	(1.3)
2004	12	3,914,027	244,767	6.7	4,868	147	3.1
2003	12	3,669,260	(76,669)	(2.0)	4,721	39	0.8
2002	12	3,745,929	(93,346)	(2.4)	4,682	(52)	(1.1)
2001	12	3,839,275	119,551	3.2	4,734	138	3.0
2000	12	3,719,724	(148,008)	(3.9)	4,596	(93)	(2.0)
1999	12	3,868,732	578,376	17.6	4,689	(215)	(4.4)
1998	10	3,290,356	95,004	3.0	<b>4,904</b>	113	2.4
1997	10	3,195,352	247,687	8.4	4,791	291	6.5
1996	10	2,947,665	(109,386)	(3.6)	4,500	(29)	(0.6)
1995	10	3,057,051	502,481	19.7	4,529	593	15.1
1994	10	2,554,570	854,748	50.3	3,936	648	19.7
1993	10	1,699,822	235,467	16.1	3,288	383	13.2
1992	8	1,464,355	2,928	0.2	2,905	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,461,427	91,838	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,369,589	96,792	7.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – (8 teams – 138-game schedule 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,589,072 (1994 – 10 teams); Average per Team: 258,907 (1994); Average per Date: 4,002 (1994)  
The Double-A Southern Association averaged 272,543 per team in 1947.

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,875,861 (2023 – 8 teams); Average per Team: 234,483 (2023); Average per date: 3,566 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Birmingham–467,864 (1994); Avg. per Date: Birmingham –6,983 (1994)  
Michael Jordan played for Birmingham in 1994.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Rocket City–327,007 (2022); Avg. per Date – Rocket City - 5,726 (2021)

) **Southern League** – All 8 of the 2023 teams played in the Southern League in 2019. Jacksonville, FL, a 2019 Southern League member, is now in the Triple-A International League. Jackson, TN, also in the 2019 Southern League, no longer has a team in professional Minor League Baseball, but now has Summer Collegiate league team.

) **2023** total attendance was 1,875,861, averaging 234,483 per team, and 3,566 per date, with 26 lost dates. The average per team was the highest since 2015. Rocket City (Madison, AL) had the league's best attendance, with a 314,306 total and a 4,911 average per date. The Trash Pandas were the only team in the league to draw over 300,000. Pensacola and Tennessee also topped 4,000 per date. Largest 2023 crowd was 8,038 in Birmingham.

) Compared to **2022**, the **2023** total was up 36,230 (2.0%), average per date rose by 49 (1.4%), with 3 more dates. 6 teams were up in total attendance, and 6 teams had an average per date gain. Chattanooga had the league's top gain in total attendance, up 15,255. Tennessee had the best average per date increase, up 219. The declines were small, led by Birmingham with a 13,689 decrease in total attendance, and Rocket City, down 120 in average per date.

) The Southern League had the only increase in either total attendance or average per date by an MLB-affiliated league for **2021 vs. 2019**. The 10-team **2019 Southern League** drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.

) In **2021**, the Rocket City (Madison, AL) Trash Pandas, who moved from Mobile, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. They led the league in total attendance (274,858), and led all of Double-A in average per date (5,726), despite 12 lost dates. Their **2023** total was up 219,219, and the average per date rose 3,326, **from 2019 in Mobile**. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

) Total **2023** attendance in **Biloxi** was 158,586, up 9,721 (6.5%). Average per date was 2,440, up 114 (4.9%). The total and average per date were the lowest among the 30 Double-A teams. 4 dates drew at least 4,000, with a high of 6,098. There were 4 lost dates, and one more date than in 2022.

) A big College Baseball draw in recent years in Biloxi has been Mississippi State vs. Texas Tech. 4 dates between these schools have each attracted more than 5,300. In 2023, Mississippi State played Nicholls State and Louisiana in Biloxi. Both of those games drew over 5,600.

) After moving from Huntsville, AL after the 2014 season, Biloxi had quite an adventure before finally playing their first true home game in June, 2015. Ballpark construction delays forced the team to take a 54-game road trip to start the season. Amazingly, the Shuckers went 33-21 on that trip. They were the designated home team for 12 dates in their old park in Huntsville, 4 in Jacksonville, and 5 at Mississippi, and were credited with the attendance for those games, which drew 27,168, an average of 1,294 per date. The Shuckers played 42 dates in their new, but not totally finished, ballpark in Biloxi. Those games attracted 136,908, an average of 3,260 per date. The uncertainty of when the ballpark would open hurt advance ticket and group sales, and made it hard to plan promotions. Prior to 2015, the Biloxi-Gulfport area last had a Minor League team from 1926 through 1928. It played in the Cotton States League, which disbanded after the 1955 season.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) **The Rocket City (Madison, AL, near Huntsville) Trash Pandas drew a league-high 314,306 in 2023**, down 12,701 (3.9%) from the team and Huntsville market record-high of 327,007 set in 2022. **Average per date was a league-leading 4,911**, down 120 (2.4%). There was one less date than in 2022, and 5 dates were lost. 12 dates topped 6,000, with a record-tying high of 7,500.
- ) Compared to what this franchise drew **in Mobile in 2019**, the **2023** total in Madison was 219,219 (230.5%) higher, and the average per date was up 3,326 (209.8%), with 4 more dates.
- ) Rocket City moved from Mobile after 2019, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. **They led the league in 2021 total attendance (274,858), and led all of Double-A in average per date (5,726), the highest average per date ever for a team in the Huntsville area.** The **2021** total was up 179,771, and the average per date rose 4,141, from **2019 in Mobile**. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.
- ) **The Huntsville Stars**, near Madison, had drawn just 94,929 in 2014, their final season before moving to Biloxi. This was the lowest total of any Double-A team in 2014. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 6 seasons that the Stars drew less than 100,000, the 9<sup>th</sup> straight year below 170,000, and the 11<sup>th</sup> time in 12 years below 200,000. From 1985 through 2002, Huntsville topped 200,000 in all seasons except 1988. The Stars' average per date of 1,460 was the lowest in Double-A in 2014. In each of their final 6 seasons, the Stars averaged less than 2,000 per date.
- ) The all-time record attendance in Huntsville was 300,810, in 1985, which was that team's first season. In 1985, Huntsville had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest attendance of the 26 Double-A teams, topped only by Albany-Colonie of the Eastern League, who drew 324,003. In 1985, 10 Double-A teams drew under 100,000.
- ) The **Mississippi Braves**, who play in Pearl, near Jackson, drew 162,862, up 12,371 (8.2%) in **2023**. Average per date was 2,545, up 156 (6.5%). One more date was played than in 2022, and 5 dates were lost. 8 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 6,574, which was the largest crowd since 2015, and the biggest one in April since 2005.
- ) Total attendance has been less than 200,000 in 10 of the last 13 'normal' seasons. Average per date has been under 3,000 in the last 6 'normal' years, and in 11 of the last 13 seasons, again excluding 2021.
- ) 2024 will be the last year in Pearl for the Braves. They expect to move to Columbus, GA in 2025. The Braves' first year in Pearl was 2005. The highest attendance there was 246,674 in 2007, and the record-high average per date was 3,848 in 2005. Nearby Jackson had been a Texas League member from 1975 through 1999.
- ) **Columbus, GA** has hosted Minor League teams for many years, including in the Southern League from 1964-1966, and from 1969-1990. There was a South Atlantic League team there as recently as 2008. Top total attendance was 157,266 in 1982. Average per date for that season is not available. From 1992 through 2008, the highest average per date in Columbus was 2,020 in 1994, when total attendance was 133,351.
- ) **2023** total attendance for the **Chattanooga Lookouts** was 228,940, up a league-high 15,255 (7.1%), and average per date rose 179 (5.5%) to 3,417. The total was the highest since 2014. There were 2 lost dates, and one more date played than in 2022. 6 dates drew at least 5,000, with a high of 6,378.
- ) 1999, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2022 are the only 'normal' years below 220,000 in Chattanooga since 1991. The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but have topped 200,000 for 30 straight 'normal' years through 2023. This team had reached 200,000 just 3 times (1946, 1947, 1952) in 66 seasons prior to **1992**. Average per date in Chattanooga topped 4,000 from 1993 through 1995, and from 2000 through 2002. Chattanooga's first season in the Southern League was 1885.
- ) Groundbreaking for a new ballpark in Chattanooga is expected in 2024.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- J The **Birmingham Barons** had a **2023** total attendance of 253,232, down 13,689 (5.1%), and an average of 3,837 per date, down 88 (2.3%), with 2 fewer dates in 2023. The total was the lowest in a 'normal' season since 2012, and average per date was lowest since 2012. 10 dates drew over 5,000, with a league high of 8,038. There were 3 lost dates.
- J Regions Field, Birmingham's downtown ballpark, which opened in 2013, has been a huge hit in design, location, and attendance. The Barons moved back to the city from suburban Hoover, where they had played since 1988. **Total attendance rose 192,551 in 2013, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team that year. 2013 average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best gain of the year, by a very large margin, in the Minors.**
- J In **2019**, Birmingham led the Southern League with a total of 379,707. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year that the Barons led the league in attendance, and drew above 375,000. That figure was reached only 3 times in 91 seasons prior to 2013. Total attendance topped 400,000 in 2014, 2015, and 2016, as well as in 1948, 1949, and 1994. Average per date was a league-leading 5,424 in 2019. The Barons averaged above 5,400 for 7 straight years through 2019. From 1988 through 2012, the only year with an average above 5,000 was in the Michael Jordan year of 1994.
- J The **2015** league-leading total of 444,639 in Birmingham was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest attendance by a Southern League team in the 1964-2023 era. The only higher total for a Southern League team was in Birmingham, in **1994**, when Michael Jordan was a Baron. Fans came out in droves to see him. **The team drew a league record 467,867 at home, averaging 6,983 per date, with a home/road total of 986,185. The final 1994 home game drew 16,247.**
- J Birmingham drew 445,926 in 1948 and 421,305 in 1949, when it played in the old Southern Association. The Barons had topped 250,000 for a then-Double-A high 24 straight years through 2011. But attendance fell 57,354 in 2012 to 204,269. That was the smallest total this team had since 1987.
- J From 1996 through 2016, and again in 2018 and 2019, the Barons played one game each year at Rickwood Field in Birmingham. (They will do it again in 2024.) That park was their home from 1910 through 1987, and is the oldest professional ballpark still in use. It was the first concrete and steel ballpark in the Minor Leagues. The largest crowd ever there was 20,074 in 1931 for a playoff game that was pitched by future Major League star Dizzy Dean. The 'Rickwood Classic' attracted 6,028 in 2018 and 7,015 in 2019, and has drawn 160,381, an average of 6,973 per game, in its 23-year history.
- J Major League Baseball comes to Birmingham in 2024. The Giants and Cardinals will play at historic Rickwood Field. In addition to being home to the Barons, Rickwood Field was also the home park for the Birmingham Black Barons of the Negro Leagues. This game will pay tribute to that team, and will honor legendary Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays, who, as a teenager, played for that team.
- J The **2023 Southern League Champion Tennessee Smokies drew 295,603, up 1,269 (0.4%), and averaged 4,548, up a league-high 219 (5.1%). It was their 3<sup>rd</sup> best total in 86 seasons with recorded attendance.** Only 2017 and 2018 were higher in both categories. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2022, and 4 dates were postponed. 23 dates had crowds in excess of 5,000, with a high of 7,741.
- J A new park is expected to be built in Knoxville, perhaps opening as soon as 2025. The team may go back to its old name-the Knoxville Smokies.
- J In **2017**, Tennessee drew a team record-high total of 313,796, up 20,102, and they did it in 5 less dates than in 2016. The old record total was 293,694, set in 2016. Average per date was record-high 4,981, up 662. That was the 6<sup>th</sup> best U.S. MLB-affiliated average per date gain for 2017. The old average per date high was 4,406 in 2015.
- J The Smokies have drawn at least 240,000, and above 3,500 per date, in all 23 seasons, **including 2021**, in the Knoxville suburb of Kodak. Prior to 2000, their highest total was 150,396 in 1950, and they topped 100,000 in just 18 of 63 seasons since 1932. In 2014, the Smokies topped 275,000 in total attendance, and 4,000 per date, for the first time in team history. They have since reached that total in every 'normal' year through 2023, and in average per date in every year, including 2021.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) **Montgomery's** total attendance was 168,751 in **2023**, up 12,395 (7.9%). Average per date rose 35 (1.4%) to 2,557. They had 3 lost dates, but played 4 more dates than in 2022. The biggest crowd was 6,009, and 7 dates topped 4,000.
- ) The Biscuits averaged over 4,000 per date in their first 7 seasons (2004-2010) but have not hit that mark since. But they've averaged at least 3,400 each season except 2016, and 2019 through 2023. Their total attendance had topped 225,000 in all 15 years until 2019, and was above 300,000 from 2004 through 2007.
- ) **Pensacola** joined the league in 2012, and was the league leader in both total attendance and average per date that season. The Blue Wahoos (named after a fish that is native to the area) drew 328,147 in 2012, with 40 sellouts in 68 dates, to their beautiful new waterfront ballpark. In **2023**, they drew 293,581, up 11,609 (4.1%) and averaged 4,255 per date, up 46 (1.1%). There were no lost dates, and 2 more dates than in 2022. 23 dates had a sellout crowd of 5,038, making it 278 sellouts in 11 seasons.
- ) Average per date has been above 4,000 in all 11 seasons, including 2021. Total attendance has surpassed 300,000 in 6 of these seasons, barely missing that level in 2017, 2019, and 2023. Pensacola had been a Minor League city prior to 2012. Their previous MLB-affiliated record attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent team drew 92,468 in 2007.
- ) Before relocating, the Pensacola franchise played for 21 seasons in Zebulon, NC, which is east of Raleigh, as the Carolina Mudcats. They drew a record-high 328,207 in 1993, and were also above 300,000 in 1994 and 1995. But their attendance did not reach 300,000 after that. Mudcats' attendance was 255,216 in 2011, their final Southern League season. A Carolina League team moved from Kinston to Zebulon in 2012, and retained the Mudcats name.
- ) The Montgomery Biscuits of the Southern League, the Cedar Rapids Kernels of the Midwest League, and the Chicago Dogs of the American Association, are the only teams in Minor League Baseball that are named for food. The Dogs are named for Chicago-style hot dogs, not canines. The Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association were also named for food, but they adopted the name of Kansas City's famed Negro League team, the 'Monarchs' in 2021. (Source: Tampa Bay Rays Media Guide.)

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued**Pre-2021 Historic Attendance Data**

- ) The **Jackson** (TN) Generals were one of the teams eliminated when the Minor Leagues were contracted in 2021. But Jackson was a temporary home to the independent Winnipeg Goldeyes of the American Association for part of the **2021** season. This was due to the closure of the U.S./Canadian border. The Goldeyes drew 16,785 in 29 dates, an average of 579 per date in Jackson, before they continued their season in Winnipeg. In **2023**, Jackson joined the Collegiate Summer Prospect League, with a team named the Rockabillys, who averaged 1,677 per date.
- ) In 2019, their final season in the Southern League, Jackson drew 107,131, down 3,667, the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest total in the team's 22 seasons. Average per date rose 102 to 1,756. Bad weather hurt attendance as the Generals had 6 fewer dates than in 2018, with 9 lost dates. Just 9 dates drew at least 3,000. The average topped 4,000 per date in this team's first 3 seasons (1998-2000), but was below 3,000 each year from 2003 through 2019, and under 2,000 in 9 of the team's final 15 years. The Generals had drawn over 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but were below 150,000 for the final 15 years, and under 200,000 in the final 17 seasons.
- ) Based on 2019-20 A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson, which ranks #176, was the smallest market in terms of TV households, with a 2019 Double-A team. Bowling Green, KY (Market #177) was the only smaller market with a 2019 full-season MLB-affiliated team. Grand Junction (#188), and Great Falls (#192), both in the Pioneer League, are markets smaller than Jackson that had short-season MLB-affiliated teams in 2019.
- ) In **2018**, the **Mobile Bay Bears**, who announced that they would move to Madison, AL (Rocket City) after the 2019 season, had the worst attendance in their 23-year history. The Bay Bears drew team lows in total attendance (69,504, down 23,394) and average per date (1,121, down 377). They were also the lowest 2018 figures in Double-A, and the lowest total for a Southern League team since Orlando drew 61,960 in 2000. The percentage declines of 25.2% in both total attendance and average per date, were each the 7<sup>th</sup> worst among MLB-affiliated teams in 2018.
- ) In **2019**, despite being a lame-duck team, Mobile had a healthy increase from the 2018 figures. Total attendance was 95,087, up 25,583, and average per date rose 464 to 1,585, despite 10 lost dates. These gains ranked 15<sup>th</sup> best in total attendance, 11<sup>th</sup> best in average per date, 9<sup>th</sup> best in total attendance percentage gain (36.8%), and 7<sup>th</sup> best average per date percentage gain (41.4%), among MLB-affiliated teams.
- ) 2019 was Mobile's 5<sup>th</sup> straight year with a total of under 100,000, and the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row with an average per date of less than 2,000. Mobile drew 332,639 in 1997, which was the first season for this latest franchise to play in Mobile. Attendance did not reach 300,000 since then. A previous team in Mobile drew its high of 237,322 in 1947. Average per date was a record-high 4,821 in 1997, and also topped 4,000 in 1999.
- ) Southern League total attendance was 2,242,303 in **2019**. The league reached 2 million in total attendance every year from 1991 through 2019. Average per date was 3,439. In **2023**, the league topped 3,400 in average per date for the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year including 2021, and for the 25<sup>th</sup> time in the last 31 years, again including 2021. Since 1992, excluding 2021, Southern League average per date has ranged from a low of 3,135 in 1996, to a high of 4,007 in 1994, when Michael Jordan played for Birmingham.
- ) Southern League average attendance per team reached 200,000 for the first time in 1991, and remained above that figure ever since, and was quite stable. The record-high average per team of 258,907 was set in 1994, when Michael Jordan played in this league. Low average per team since 1991, except for 2021, was 212,783 in 1991. It was 224,230 in 2019. The old Southern Association topped 200,000 per team each year from 1946 through 1950. Their record average per team was 272,543 in 1947.
- ) The original Southern League began play in 1885, and later changed its name to the Southern Association. That league played through the 1961 season. Birmingham, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Mobile, and Montgomery were 2019 Southern League markets who were in the Southern Association. The Southern Association's best attendance was 2,180,344 in 1947. That year, the most prominent team in the league, the Atlanta Crackers, had their top attendance, drawing 404,584. Record-high team season attendance in that league was 445,926 by Birmingham in 1948. 7 of the 8 teams in the league drew over 200,000 in 1947. But by its last year in 1961, just 3 of the 8 Southern Association teams drew over 100,000. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTHERN LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

## SOUTHERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	8	1,875,861	36,230	2.0	3,566	49	1.4
2022	8	1,839,631	349,556	23.5	3,517	20	0.5
2021	8	1,490,075			3,498	55	1.7
2019	10	2,242,303	(19,531)	(0.9)	3,439	38	1.1
2018	10	2,261,834	(77,251)	(3.3)	3,401	(170)	(4.8)
2017	10	2,339,085	13,215	0.6	3,571	100	2.9
2016	10	2,325,870	(39,009)	(1.6)	3,471	(134)	(3.7)
2015	10	2,364,879	(2,831)	(0.1)	3,605	66	1.9
2014	10	2,367,710	51,119	2.0	3,539	24	0.7
2013	10	2,316,591	163,739	7.6	3,515	278	8.6
2012	10	2,152,852	(22,653)	(1.0)	3,237	(5)	(0.2)
2011	10	2,175,505	(34,325)	(1.6)	3,242	(91)	(2.7)
2010	10	2,209,830	(74,371)	(3.3)	3,333	(128)	(3.7)
2009	10	2,284,201	(176,637)	(7.2)	3,461	(201)	(5.5)
2008	10	2,460,838	(56,979)	(2.3)	3,662	(19)	(0.5)
2007	10	2,517,817	72,017	2.9	3,681	79	2.2
2006	10	2,445,800	29,569	1.2	3,602	(53)	(1.5)
2005	10	2,416,231	(29,758)	(1.2)	3,655	(45)	(1.2)
2004	10	2,445,989	162,330	7.1	3,700	208	6.0
2003	10	2,283,659	21,878	1.0	3,492	106	3.1
2002	10	2,261,781	(142,167)	(5.9)	3,386	(251)	(6.9)
2001	10	2,403,948	(20,898)	(0.9)	3,637	18	0.5
2000	10	2,424,846	92,134	3.9	3,619	168	4.9
1999	10	2,332,712	(61,496)	(2.6)	3,451	(65)	(1.8)
1998	10	2,394,208	89,129	3.9	3,516	13	0.4
1997	10	2,305,079	214,009	10.2	3,503	368	11.7
1996	10	2,091,070	(169,680)	(7.5)	3,135	(170)	(5.1)
1995	10	2,260,750	(328,322)	(12.7)	3,305	(697)	(17.4)
1994	10	<b>2,589,072</b>	180,494	7.5	<b>4,002</b>	369	10.2
1993	10	2,408,578	90,498	3.9	3,633	137	3.9
1992	10	2,318,080	190,254	8.9	3,496	N/A	N/A
1991	10	2,127,826	268,259	14.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	1,859,567	171,723	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****TEXAS LEAGUE** – (10 teams – 138-game schedule in 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,129,865 (2008 – 8 teams); Average per Team: 391,233 (2008); Average per Date: 5,691 (2008).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,016,072 (2023 – 10 teams); Average per Team: 301,607 (2023); Average per date: 4,468 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Round Rock–689,286 (2004); Avg. per Date: Round Rock–9,847 (2004). Current Texas Leag. Team: Total-Frisco-666,977 (2003); Avg. per Date-Frisco 9,264 (2003)

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Amarillo–379,029 (2022); Average per Date – Tulsa - 5,495 (2022)

- J **Texas League** – 10 teams. All 8 teams from the 2019 Texas League are now in this league, along with San Antonio, who played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
- J The league drew a **2023** total of 3,016,072, with just 15 lost dates, averaging 301,607 per team, and 4,468 per date. The total was up 161,987 (5.7%) from **2022**, average per date rose 202 (4.7%), with 6 more dates and 15 lost dates. 7 teams had increases in total attendance, and 6 teams were up in average per date.
- J **Wichita had the best total attendance and average per date growth vs. 2022, both numerically, and by percentage, of any MLB-affiliated team. Their total attendance rose 102,109 (46.3%), and average per date gained 1,335 (39.9%).** Tulsa had the top total (356,002), followed closely by Amarillo (355,440), and Frisco (347,758). Amarillo led in average per date (5,385), followed by Tulsa (5,235), and Frisco (5,190).
- J Amarillo had the league's largest total attendance decline (23,589), and Tulsa had the largest loss in average per date (260). Midland had the league's lowest figures. Frisco's top crowd of 12,045 was the biggest among all Double-A teams.
- J The 8 teams that played in the Texas League in 2019, drew 2,791,180 that year, averaging 5,131 per date.
- J **Wichita drew team and market record-highs in total attendance, average per date, and for a single game. Amarillo also set a single game high.**

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **2023 Texas League Champion Amarillo's** attendance success continued in **2023**, drawing 355,440, down 23,589 (6.2%). That total fell to less than 600 short of leading the league. **Average per date was a league best 5,385, down 108 (2.0%).** The declines were the largest in the league. 3 fewer dates were played than in 2022, and there were 3 lost dates. 22 dates drew over 6,000, **with a single-game record-high of 7,588.**
- J **2021** was great attendance year for **Amarillo. The Sod Poodles (The name comes from "a pioneer's name for a Prairie Dog,") drew a Double-A-best total of 316,288, and averaged a league-high 5,453 per date.** Only Rocket City had a higher average per date among Double-A teams. There were 10 sellouts in 2021, giving the Sod Poodles 50 sold out games in their first 2 seasons.
- J **Amarillo replaced San Antonio in the Texas League in 2019, and had an incredible season on the field and at the gate. They won the Texas League championship. 2019 attendance at Hodgetown, their new ballpark, was 427,791, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among all Double-A teams. Average per date was 6,291. The total was up 100,515, and the average per date was up 1,406, from what San Antonio drew in 2018. 47 dates drew at least 6,000, 13 topped 7,000, with a high of 7,451. There were 40 sellouts, including a streak of 23 in a row.**
- J Amarillo had independent teams from 1994 through 2016, most recently in the American Association from 2011 through 2016. Their best attendance in those leagues was a total of 159,332 (3,621 per date) in 2008, when they played in the United League. Prior to their independent years, Amarillo had teams from 1922-1923, 1927-1928, 1939-1942, 1946-1963, 1965-1974, and 1976-1982. Top attendance in those seasons was 132,128 in 1955, in the West Texas-New Mexico League. From 1959 through 1982 Amarillo was in the Texas League. Attendance never reached 100,000 in Amarillo's 22 Texas League seasons through 1982. It did top 100,000 in 6 seasons between 1946 and 1957. The best year in the Texas League was 89,476 in 1981.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****TEXAS LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) The **Frisco RoughRiders** posted a **2023** attendance of 347,758, up 6,515 (1.9%). Average per date was 5,190, up 172 (3.4%), with one less date, and 2 postponements. 26 dates drew better than 6,000, and 9 dates reached the Riders Field (formerly Dr. Pepper Ballpark) seating capacity of 7,748, including a Double-A best crowd of 12,045. The MLB Stats Reporting Platform did not list attendance for the August 20 game. But Frisco's Game Notes listed a crowd of 4,152 for that game, and that figure is included in the data here.
- ) Frisco drew 455,765 in **2019**, to lead all of Double-A for the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year in both total attendance and average per date (6,802). Attendance reached 8,000 at 26 dates, and was above 10,000 at 9 dates, including a single game 2019 Texas League-high of 12,023, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest ever for this club (12,067 in 2018).
- ) This team drew at least 449,000 in each of their first 17 seasons, **through 2019**, including over 500,000 each year from 2003 through 2011, and 666,977 in 2003. In their 20-year team history, **including 2021**, they've drawn 9,813,814 in 1,357 dates, averaging 490,691 per season, and 7,232 per date. That is 93.3% of the Riders Field seating capacity of 7,748. Until 2021, average per date had topped 6,600 every season, reached 7,000 in 12 of 17 years, and was above 8,000 yearly from 2003 through 2009, with a high of 9,264 in 2003.
- ) This game was hot! - The August 17, 2023 game at Frisco began at 7:05 P.M., with the temperature at 107 degrees.
- ) **Midland** drew 233,724 in **2023**, with an average per date of 3,387. The total was up 7,475 (3.3%), and average per date fell 41 (1.2%). There were no postponed games, and 3 more dates than in 2022. Attendance topped 5,000 at 7 dates, with a high of 6,844.
- ) **2019** was the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year above 250,000 for the RockHounds. Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 in 43 seasons through 2001, but has been over 250,000 every year, except 2021 through 2023, since then. **Through 2019**, average per date was over 3,700 for 22 straight years, and had topped 4,000 in 11 of the previous 13 seasons. In 2016, the RockHounds won the Larry MacPhail Award for promotional effort.
- ) **Tulsa led the Texas League with a 2023 total attendance of 356,002**, down 1,198 (0.3%). Average per date was 5,235, down 260 (4.7%), which was the largest decline in the league. The Drillers had one lost date, and 3 more dates than in 2022. 26 crowds were above 6,000, and 10 of them drew over 7,000, with a high of 8,379.
- ) In **2023**, Tulsa topped 300,000 for the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year (**including 2021**), and for the 27<sup>th</sup> time in the last 30 seasons. In 65 seasons, from 1919 through 1988, Tulsa reached 200,000 only in 1948, 1949, 1963, 1964, and 1965. They never reached 250,000 until 1991, but have done it every year since. 2010 through 2023 had 12 of the 13 top attendance totals (1999 is the other season) in the 110-year history of pro baseball in Tulsa. Average per date has surpassed 5,000 in each of the last 13 seasons, including 2021. **2023** was the Drillers' 12<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year above 350,000 in total attendance, and above 5,200 in average per date.
- ) In 2014, Tulsa had their 2<sup>nd</sup> best regular season total attendance (403,732) in team history. In **2019** it was 374,501, up 24,105, the Texas League's best gain.
- ) In **2023**, **Corpus Christi** drew 294,986, with a 4,403 average per date. The total rose 36,995 (14.3%), the 7<sup>th</sup> best numerical gain among MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date increased by 494 (12.6%). 23 dates drew over 5,000 with a high of 8,798. There were 2 lost dates, and one more date than in 2022.
- ) The Hooks have been above 400,000 in 6 seasons, surpassed 500,000 twice, and have topped 320,000 every year, except 2021 through 2023. Only 5 other Double-A teams (Nashville, Akron, Round Rock, Springfield, and Frisco) have ever drawn 500,000 in a season. Average per date was above 7,000 in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and topped 5,000 each year from 2005 through 2016.
- ) Total attendance for their 18 seasons, **including 2023**, is 6,853,036 in 1,227 dates, averaging 380,724 per season, and 5,585 per date. In 2005, they replaced Round Rock, which moved to the Triple-A Pacific Coast League. In each of its 5 years in the Texas League, Round Rock set a Double-A attendance record, including a Double-A record-high of 689,286 in 2004.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****TEXAS LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- ) **2023 was a banner year in attendance for the Wichita Wind Surge. They set market record-highs in total attendance, average per date, and drew a current team single game high crowd. They also posted the biggest 2023 vs. 2022 gains among MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance and average per date, on both a numerical and percentage growth basis.**
- ) **2023 total attendance rose an MLB-affiliated best 102,109 (46.3%) to a record-high 322,637, and average per date was up an MLB-affiliated best 1,335 (39.9%) to a team record-high 4,676.** This followed a season when Wichita had the largest percentage declines in total attendance and average per date, and the biggest dip in total attendance, among MLB-affiliates. 3 more dates were played than in 2022, with no lost dates. 28 dates drew over 5,000, 9 dates surpassed 6,000, with a **record-high of 10,442**. Compared to **2019 New Orleans**, the **2023** total was up 134,545 (71.5%), and average per date rose 1,737 (59.1%).
- ) **Wichita** replaced New Orleans in 2021. They opened a new ballpark, built on the same site as the former park, Lawrence Dumont Stadium, which opened in 1934. Wichita was a member of the MLB-affiliated Triple-A American Association from 1956 through 1958, and again from 1970 through 1984. They had a Texas League team from 1987 through 2007. Then they were part of the independent American Association from 2008 through 2017. Highest total MLB-affiliated attendance in Wichita prior to 2021 was 280,320 in 1971. Best independent attendance was 161,170, with a 3,504 average per date in 2009.
- ) In **2021**, **Wichita** drew 241,230, averaging 4,021 per date, with no lost dates. Total attendance was up 53,138, and average per date rose by 1,082, from the figures compiled by **2019 New Orleans**. The Opening Day crowd of 7,908 was the largest of the season, and 14 dates drew at least 5,000.
- ) After one season in Triple-A, **San Antonio** returned to Double-A in **2021**. The Missions drew 284,419 in total **2023** attendance, up 12,275 (4.5%), and averaged 4,183 per date, down 4 (0.1%). There was one lost date, 3 more dates than in **2022**. 15 dates drew over 5,000 with a high of 6,941.
- ) San Antonio joined the Pacific Coast League in **2019** when the Colorado Springs Sky Sox moved to the Alamo City. The Texas League team that played in San Antonio relocated to Amarillo, but they left their name, the Missions, behind for the new Triple-A team. The Missions drew 337,484 in 2019, averaging 4,891 per date. Those were gains of 74,827 in total attendance, and 787 in average per date, compared to what Colorado Springs drew in 2018. The total was up 10,208, and the average per date was up 6, compared to what the Texas League team in San Antonio drew in 2018. It was the highest total and average per date for a San Antonio team since 1998. There were 9 sellouts, and 15 dates topped 6,000 at Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, which seats 6,200.
- ) Attendance in San Antonio topped 300,000 in each of the last 4 Texas League seasons through 2018, and has been above 270,000 every year, except 2021, since 1994, when Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium opened. 1994 was the record-high attendance season in San Antonio with a total of 411,959, averaging 6,149 per date. That year, San Antonio also had a team in the independent Texas-Louisiana League. It drew 25,204, the lowest total in that league.
- ) The pre-1994 high was 295,103 in 1946. San Antonio has drawn at least 300,000 in 17 seasons since 1994. The average per date was above 4,180 for 14 straight 'normal' years through 2023, and topped 4,000 in all but 4 seasons (2004, 2005, 2006, 2021) since 1994. It was above 5,000 per date from 1994 through 1998. From 1922 through 1993, the only seasons above 200,000 were 1946, 1949, and 1972. The last season with attendance under 100,000 was 1979. San Antonio first joined the Texas League in 1888, and had been a member of that league since 1907, except for 1943-1945 and 1965-1967, when there was no pro baseball in that city.
- ) The **Springfield (MO) Cardinals** drew 256,947 in **2023**, down 2,097 (0.8%), with a 3,893 average per date, up 139 (3.7%). It was the lowest total in this team's 17 'normal' seasons. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2022, with 3 postponements. Highest game attendance was 7,942, and 11 dates drew at least 5,000.
- ) The Cardinals drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005, and surpassed 400,000 each year from 2005 through 2009. Average per date was over 7,000 in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and has been above 4,700 every year except 2021 through 2023. Just 6 Double-A teams have ever drawn at least 500,000 in a season.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****TEXAS LEAGUE** – DOUBLE-A - continued

- J In **2023**, **Northwest Arkansas** drew 256,552, up 15,937 (6.6%), averaging 3,773 per date, up 234 (6.6%). Attendance surpassed 5,000 at 10 dates, with a top crowd of 6,656. Only one date was lost, same as in 2022, and in both years, there were the same number of dates
- J Northwest Arkansas' average per date has been above 4,300 every season, except 2021 through 2023. The Naturals have topped 300,000 in 10 seasons, and averaged 5,200 in 2008, their first season.
- J **Arkansas** (North Little Rock) had a **2023** total attendance of 307,607, up 7,565 (2.5%), and averaged 4,591 per date, up 113 (2.5%). There were 2 lost dates, and the same number of dates played as in 2022. 12 dates drew at least 6,000, with a high of 9,551.
- J The Travelers had never reached 300,000 until 2007, but have now done it 13 times in the last 15 'normal' years through 2023. Average per date has surpassed 4,500 in 13 years, and has reached 5,000 in 5 of those seasons. Attendance first reached 200,000 in 1951, and then each year from 1980 through 1996.

**Texas League Historic Attendance Data**

- J **2023** was the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year, **including 2021**, that the Texas League drew over 2 million, and the 19<sup>th</sup> straight year, **excluding 2021**, above 2.6 million.
- J Texas League average attendance per team had topped 350,000 for 10 straight years through 2014, until falling below that since then. It was 348,998 in 2019, the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year above 330,000. The average per team was over 200,000 from 1947 through 1950, but didn't get that high again until 1991. It first topped 300,000 in 2003, and then did it every year through 2019, and again in 2023.
- J Average per date was up 182 in 2019 to 5,131. The league's average per date first reached 5,000 in 2003, and surpassed that mark in 13 of 15 seasons **through 2019**. The 2019 average per date was up 1,732 (51.0%) since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. **All teams in the 2019 Texas League averaged at least 4,197 per date. No other Minor league in 2019 had each one of its teams post such a high average per date.** Frisco led, with a Double-A best 6,802 per date.
- J The all-time single game record-high attendance in the Texas League is 54,151 for a game on April 11, 1950 at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. A very good article about this game and its attendance can be found at [hardballtimes.com](http://hardballtimes.com). The record-high attendance for any Minor League game is 65,666 set by the Denver Bears of the MLB-Affiliated Triple-A American Association at Mile High Stadium on July 4, 1982. The largest capacity of any current Minor League park is about 22,000 in Monterrey of the Mexican League. Sahlen Field in Buffalo, which has seated 16,600 since 2019, (17,600 in 2023) is the biggest Minor League park in the United States.
- J The Texas League, like many Minor Leagues, had a big attendance boom in the late 1940's, with the league reaching a total of 2 million in both 1948 and 1949. Houston in 1948 (401,383), and Dallas in 1949 (404,851), set the records for team attendance. Those team records were not topped until San Antonio drew 411,959 in 1994. Attendance for the entire league did not reach 2 million again also until 1994. It was above 2 million every year starting in 2000.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****TEXAS LEAGUE – DOUBLE-A - continued**

## TEXAS LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	3,016,072	161,987	5.7	4,468	202	4.7
2022	10	2,854,085	606,323	27.0	4,266	384	9.9
2021	10	2,247,762.			3,882		
2019	8	2,791,180	113,883	4.3	5,131	182	3.7
2018	8	2,677,297	(50,053)	(1.8)	4,949	(102)	(2.0)
2017	8	2,727,350	27,727	1.0	5,051	61	1.2
2016	8	2,699,623	(92,903)	(3.3)	4,990	(191)	(3.7)
2015	8	2,792,526	(48,388)	(1.7)	5,181	(70)	(1.3)
2014	8	2,840,914	25,781	0.9	5,251	47	0.9
2013	8	2,815,133	(19,731)	(0.7)	5,204	40	0.8
2012	8	2,834,864	12,755	0.5	5,164	(43)	(0.8)
2011	8	2,822,109	(120,821)	(4.1)	5,207	(243)	(4.5)
2010	8	2,942,930	(21,240)	(0.7)	5,450	(9)	(0.2)
2009	8	2,964,170	(165,695)	(5.3)	5,459	(232)	(4.1)
2008	8	<b>3,129,865</b>	315,751	11.2	<b>5,691</b>	321	6.0
2007	8	2,814,114	(27,917)	(1.0)	5,370	117	2.2
2006	8	2,842,031	7,676	0.3	5,253	43	0.8
2005	8	2,834,355	167,226	6.3	5,210	234	4.7
2004	8	2,667,129	(100,725)	(3.6)	4,976	(103)	(2.0)
2003	8	2,767,854	603,577	27.9	5,079	988	24.2
2002	8	2,164,277	93,454	4.5	4,091	242	6.3
2001	8	2,070,823	(197,084)	(8.7)	3,849	(374)	(8.9)
2000	8	2,267,907	479,992	26.8	4,223	824	24.2
1999	8	1,787,915	(50,457)	(2.7)	3,399	(18)	(0.5)
1998	8	1,838,372	7,736	0.4	3,417	(167)	(4.7)
1997	8	1,830,636	(143,272)	(7.3)	3,584	(169)	(4.5)
1996	8	1,973,908	(63,885)	(3.1)	3,753	(158)	(4.0)
1995	8	2,037,793	(70,612)	(3.3)	3,911	(207)	(5.0)
1994	8	2,108,405	216,763	11.5	4,118	380	10.2
1993	8	1,891,642	140,589	8.0	3,738	323	9.5
1992	8	1,751,053	64,114	3.8	3,415	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,686,939	106,540	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,580,399	68,759	4.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – (12 teams – 132-game schedule - 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,862,007 (2007 – 16 teams); Average per Team: 241,380 (2007); Average per Date: 3,630 (2007).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,370,155 (2023 – 12 teams); Average per Team: 197,513 (2023); Average per date: 3,181 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Jersey Shore—482,206 (2001); Avg. per Date: Jersey Shore—6,889 (2001). Brooklyn averaged 8,345 per date in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2002.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Greenville, SC—317,150 (2022); Avg. per Date: Greenville - 4,973 (2023)

- J **South Atlantic League** – 12 teams. Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, were in the South Atlantic League in 2019. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
- J This league drew 2,370,155 in **2023**, averaging 197,513 per team, and 3,181 per date, with 47 lost dates. Greenville SC led the league in both total attendance (303,328) and average per date (4,973). Jersey Shore (Lakewood, NJ), Greensboro, and Winston-Salem, also topped 4,000 in average per date. Jersey Shore had the largest crowd in this league (10,822).
- J Comparing **2023 with 2022**, total attendance increased 127,566 (5.7%), and average per date was up 203 (6.8%), with 8 fewer dates. 9 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Wilmington DE, up and MLB-affiliated 6<sup>th</sup> best 37,446. 11 teams were up in average per date, led again by Wilmington, with a 573 increase. On a percentage basis, the increases by Wilmington were 4<sup>th</sup> best among the MLB-affiliates. Jersey Shore posted a 524 increase in average per date.
- J Due to playing 4 fewer dates than in 2022, Greenville SC had the largest total attendance decline, down 13,822. Bowling Green KY and Hudson Valley had the other total attendance decreases in this league. But both of those losses were less than 600. In average per date, Hudson Valley, down 6 per date, had the only loss.
- J **Winston-Salem and Asheville set new record-highs for average per date in 2023, and Winston-Salem had its largest crowd.**
- J It should be noted that as short-season teams until 2021, Brooklyn, Aberdeen, and Hudson Valley weren't playing any cold-weather games, and had few games, or in some years, no games, on school nights.
- J The 14-team South Atlantic League drew 2,978,718 in **2019**, averaging 3,176 per date. The Carolina League, with 10 teams, had a **2019** total attendance of 2,018,496, and had an average of 3,139 per date. The now-defunct short-season New York-Penn League's **2019** total was 1,316,873, and that league averaged 2,644 per date.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **South Atlantic League Champion Greenville, SC** led the league in **2023** attendance with a total of 303,328, and an average per date of 4,973. The total fell 13,822 (4.4%) due to 4 fewer dates than in 2022. Average per date was up 93 (1.9%). 5 dates were lost. 34 dates topped 5,000, and 7 of those reached 6,000, with top crowd of 7,656.
- J The Drive also had the best attendance in this league in **2021**, with a total of 243,962, and an average per date of 4,125. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date among the 60 Class-A teams. Only Dayton drew better in this group of teams.
- J **In 2006, Greenville got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team.** Greenville has surpassed 300,000 in 16 straight 'normal' years through 2023, a mark they never reached in the 42 previous years. The Drive has been above 200,000 in all but 3 years since Minor League Baseball returned there in 1984. Average per date has topped 4,700 every year, except 2021, in the current park. Greenville won the 2017 John H. Johnson President's Award for excellence.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) The **Greensboro Grasshoppers** had a total attendance of 279,060 in **2023**, up 13,117 (4.9%), with a 4,501 average per date, up 280 (6.6%). There were 4 lost dates, and one less date than in 2022. Attendance was above 5,000 at 20 dates, with 6 of those dates topping 7,000, with a high of 9,265.
- ) The Grasshoppers topped 300,000 for 15 straight years **through 2019**, and were above 350,000 in 12 of them. They drew 400,000 each year from 2005 through 2009. But prior to 2005, teams in Greensboro reached 200,000 just 6 times in 50 seasons, with a high of 260,340 in 1981. Average per date had exceeded 5,000 for 13 years in a row through 2017, and was over 6,000 from 2006 through 2008.
- ) The Lakewood BlueClaws were renamed the **Jersey Shore BlueClaws** in **2021**. In **2023**, total attendance was 287,602, up 31,461 (12.3%), and average per date rose 524 (12.3%) to 4,793. They had the same number of dates as in 2022, with a league-high 6 postponements. 19 dates topped 6,000, and 4 were above 8,000, with a league high of 10,822.
- ) In **2019**, for the just the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in their first 19-years, the Blue Claws did not lead the South Atlantic League in either total attendance or average per date. 2023, 2022, 2021, and 2018 were the only years that Jersey Shore has drawn under 300,000, and had an average per date of less than 5,000. 2011, 2014 through 2019, and 2021 through 2023, are the only seasons below 400,000 for Lakewood. Attendance had topped 380,000 each year until 2016. They lost 9 dates due to weather in 2011. The BlueClaws led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 14 times in their first 19 years in the league, and in 2 of the years they didn't have the top total, they still led the league in average per date.
- ) There have been 154 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001 (seating capacity-6,588). They averaged over 6,000 per date every year through 2012. The BlueClaws have a 22-year total attendance of 8,406,297 in 1,448 dates which averages out to 382,104 per season, and 5,805 per date, **including 2021**. (393,115 per year, 5,926 per date **excluding 2021**.)
- ) **Hickory's** total **2023** attendance was 108,775, up 3,397 (3.2%), with a 1,783 average per date, up 84 (4.9%). The largest crowd was 4,276, and 5 dates topped 3,000. 5 dates were lost, with one less date than in 2022.
- ) The first season for the Hickory Crawdads was 1993, when they reached their record-high total of 283,727. They topped 200,000 in each of their first 4 years (1993-1996), but have not done it since. Average per date in 2019 was up a league-best 184 to 2,084. The Crawdads averaged 4,053 per date in 1993, and above 3,000 in 1994 and 1995. They haven't reached that level since then, but have been above 2,000 every year except 2009, 2018, and 2021 through 2023. Their ballpark got a makeover prior to the 2014 season.
- ) **2023** total attendance in **Asheville** was 183,034, up 10,308 (6.0%). It was the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the last 7 'normal' years above 180,000. Asheville did not reach 180,000 in the 67 seasons with reported attendance prior to 2015. **Average per date was a record-high 3,001, up 259 (9.4%)**. 5 dates were lost, and there were 2 fewer dates than in 2022. 13 dates drew crowds of at least 4,000, with a high of 4,271.
- ) **The 2019 Asheville Tourists set a record-high total for the 4<sup>th</sup> time in 5 years, drawing 187,718. The old record was set in 2017. That was also the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year with a record-high in either total attendance or average per date.** Through 2023, average per date has been above 2,500 for 9 straight 'normal' years. Total attendance has surpassed 150,000 for 12 'normal' years in a row, and in 16 of the previous 17 'normal' seasons. In the 57 years with recorded attendance before that, it reached 150,000 only in 2000 and 2001. Attendance was above 100,000 just 7 times until 1990. Asheville's McCormack Field opened in 1924. A new park with the same name on the same site, opened in 1992.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) In **Rome, GA**, the Braves drew 95,120 in **2023**, and they averaged 1,534 per date. Those were the lowest figures among all High-A teams. The total was up 5,944 (6.7%) from 2022, and average per date rose 119 (8.4%). One less date was played vs. 2022, with 4 postponements. The largest crowd was 5,105, and 4 dates topped 3,000. The Braves have been below 200,000 in total attendance, and below 3,000 in average per date, for the past 14 years, including 2021, after being above that level in their first 6 years.
- ) This team will be renamed the Rome Emperors for 2024. Rome, Georgia has 7 hills, separated by rivers, just like Rome, Italy.
- ) **The Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods** had a **2023** total attendance of 155,447, down 528 (0.3%), and a 2,507 average per date, up 70 (2.9%). The total was this team's lowest in a 'normal' season. 4 dates were lost, with 2 fewer dates than in 2022. Crowds of at least 4,000 attended 4 dates, with a high of 6,528.
- ) The Hot Rods reached a total of 200,000 in their first 5 seasons (2009-2013), and also in 2015. Their average per date topped 3,000 in their first 5 years, but not since.
- ) **Wilmington, DE** drew a **2023** total attendance of 156,200, up 37,446 (31.5%). Average per date was up 573 (29.4%) to 2,519. Among MLB-affiliated teams, the numerical gains were 6<sup>th</sup> best in total and 8<sup>th</sup> highest in average. The percentage increases were 4<sup>th</sup> best among MLB-affiliates in both categories. 9 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 6,563. There were 4 lost dates, and one more date was played in 2023 than in 2022.
- ) Wilmington topped 275,000 in each of their first 24 seasons (1993-2016). But weather was a problem in 2017, with 10 rainouts, and in 2019, with 8 lost dates. The Blue Rocks led the Carolina League in attendance each year from 1998 through 2008, and topped 300,000 for 16 straight years (1993-2008). Average per date had been above 4,100 every year until 2017, and in 1993, 1994, 1995, and 2001, it topped 5,000. In 30 years, including 2021, they've drawn 8,565,553 in 1,958 dates, averaging 4,375 per date at 6,532 capacity Frawley Stadium. The average per date is 4,464 if 2021 is excluded.
- ) The **Winston-Salem Dash**, named for the dash in that city's name, drew 294,046, up 6,517 (2.3%) in **2023**. **Average per date was a team record-high 4,743, up 250 (5.6%)**. 26 dates drew over 5,000, and 8 dates topped 7,000. **The top crowd of 10,200 was a team record-high**. 4 dates were lost, and there were 2 fewer dates than in 2022.
- ) The Dash led all High-Class A teams in total attendance in **2019** (264,879). Attendance had been below 170,000 each year from 1951 through 2009, but has been above 264,000 each 'normal' year since then, with 5 years above 300,000. Average per date has topped 4,200 for 12 straight 'normal' years through 2023.
- ) In 2010, the Dash opened a new ballpark, and set a team record-high, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. Their old record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing record by a current Minor League franchise going into 2010. Now, the Mexico City Red Devils, whose record-high was set in 1967, have gone the longest time of any team since achieving their all-time record.
- ) **2010 attendance in Winston-Salem was up 254,648 from 2009, which was the biggest increase in the Minor Leagues for that season**. In 67 seasons prior to 2010, Winston-Salem's only total attendance above 200,000 was in 1947. Construction delays and financial problems caused the new park's opening to be pushed back to 2010. The team played the 2009 season in old Ernie Shore Field. Total 2009 attendance was just 57,665, the smallest attendance by any team in the Carolina League since Peninsula drew 41,107 in 1991. Winston-Salem's attendance was down 112,398 in 2009, the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst decline among U.S. teams for that year.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued**A SCHEDULE NOTE ABOUT BROOKLYN, HUDSON VALLEY, ABERDEEN, AND THE NORTHWEST LEAGUE TEAMS**

All these teams played a full-season schedule for the first time in 2021. Through 2019, their seasons began in mid-June, and were 76 games long. In any **2023, 2022, or 2021, vs. 2019 or earlier comparisons**, most of these teams show a significant decline in average per date. Part of the reason for this is that they now have games during colder weather periods, and on school nights, which can be factors that reduce attendance. For Brooklyn and Hudson Valley in particular, their former short-season schedules took place at the same time as the entire school summer vacation period in their area. All of these teams also are now selling and promoting 66 home dates per season, compared to just 38 dates prior to 2021.

- J **The Brooklyn Cyclones, the most successful team, attendance-wise, in the 6-decade history of short-season Minor Leagues, became a full-season team in 2021.** Their **2023** total attendance was 182,875, up 15,029 (9.0%), and they averaged 2,857 per date, up 150 (5.5%). 2 dates were lost, and there were 2 more dates than in 2022. Top crowd was 8,112, with 13 dates above 4,000.
- J 2016 through 2019 were the only times in the 19-year short-season history of the Brooklyn Cyclones that they did not lead all short-season teams in both total attendance and average per date. Vancouver of the Northwest League drew better these 4 years. **In 2019, Brooklyn led the New York-Penn League in attendance for the 19<sup>th</sup> straight year**, but did have the lowest short-season total (174,522) in team history. The Cyclones have topped 200,000 every year except 2017, 2019, and 2021 through 2023. Average per date was 4,848 in 2019, the first time it was under 5,000.
- J **Brooklyn drew 4,832,173 in their 19 short-season years (so this excludes 2021 through 2023), reaching 4 million in their 15<sup>th</sup> year, which was sooner than any short-season team had ever done.** Spokane held this record previously, and it took that team 28 years to top 4 million. Eugene, OR of the Northwest League hit 4 million in its 39<sup>th</sup> short season.
- J **In 2002, the Cyclones set the short-season records of 317,124 in total attendance, and 8,345 in average per date, and sold out every game. They also topped 300,000 in 2003, and were above 250,000 each year from 2001 through 2010.** In 2001, the Cyclones drew 289,382, breaking the New York-Penn League mark set by Mahoning Valley (206,287) in 2000, and the short-season record of 249,995 set by Portland of the Northwest League in 1996.
- J **The Cyclones ranked in the top-10 in MLB-affiliated Minor League average per date in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and are the only short-season team to ever accomplish this.** Brooklyn reached 200,000 in attendance 17 times in their New York-Penn League years. Other short-season teams topping 200,000 were Aberdeen (11 times), Vancouver (5), Portland, OR (4), Salt Lake City, Staten Island, Mahoning Valley (2 each), Spokane, Lowell (1 each).
- J Brooklyn's **2019** average of 4,848 per date still topped 55 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, 19 of the 30 teams in Double-A, 10 Mexican League teams, and even 3 Triple-A teams. In their 19 short-season years, the Cyclones played 701 dates, averaging 6,893 per date. Attendance was above 7,000 at 392 of these dates, and 324 were sellouts. **From 2001 through 2007, only Dayton drew a higher percentage of ballpark capacity than Brooklyn. There was a streak of 113 consecutive sellouts from 2001-2004.** Their season average per date reached 7,000 from 2001 through 2011. The Cyclones won the 2017 Larry MacPhail Award due to their many great promotions.
- J Since 2012, the Cyclones have had competition for sports dollars from the Barclays Center, an arena that is home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets, the WNBA Liberty, and starting in the 2015-16 season, the NHL New York Islanders. The Islanders now play at UBS Arena, which opened in November, 2021, on the grounds of Belmont Park Racetrack.
- J Maimonides Park is now the name of the Cyclones' ballpark, located at the boardwalk in Coney Island. The park's sponsor is Maimonides Medical Center, located in Brooklyn, and named for the 12<sup>th</sup> Century Talmudic scholar, physician, and philosopher. It was the first hospital in the United States to perform a human heart transplant. It is also the birthplace of this report's author.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **Hudson Valley**, a very successful short-season team, moved to full-season status in 2021. The Renegades drew 183,649, with a 2,870 average per date in **2023**. Total attendance was down 406 (0.2%), and average per date fell 6 (0.2%). 8 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 5,169. 2 dates were lost, and the same number of dates were played in both years.
- ) The Renegades topped 4,000 in average per date in 24 of their 26 seasons in the New York-Penn League. (They missed by 54 in 1994, their first season, and fell short by 2 in 2017.) The Renegades drew at least 138,000 in all short-seasons since starting play in 1994, and were above 160,000 in 10 of these seasons. Total attendance for those 26 years (1994-2019) was 4,057,535 in 945 dates, an average per date of 4,294 (95.5% of capacity) in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,601, set in 2015.
- ) **Aberdeen** also made the move from short-season to full-season in **2021**. The IronBirds drew 141,019, up 19,103 (15.7%) in **2023**, averaging 2,203 per date, up 237 (12.1%). 2 dates were lost, and 2 more were played than in 2022. Biggest crowd was 5,437. 18 dates drew over 3,000, with 9 dates above 4,000.
- ) In **2019**, Aberdeen had the lowest attendance in their 18-years of short-season play. Total attendance was 118,357, with an average per date of 3,199. **2019** total attendance fell by 126,617 (51.7%) since 2012, from 244,974. Average per date was down 3,361 (51.2%) since 2011. **Prior to 2013**, the IronBirds had topped 225,000 in total attendance, and 6,000 in average per date in all 11 seasons they had played. Among all short-season teams from 1963 through 2019, only Brooklyn had more seasons (17) with total attendance above 200,000 than Aberdeen.

**South Atlantic League Historic Attendance Data**

- ) Weather hit this league very hard in 2018. 95 of the 980 dates (9.7%) scheduled were postponed. The league played 32 fewer dates in 2018 than in 2017. There were 23 dates in April that began with temperatures of less than 50 degrees, and 43 games that had a gametime temperature of at least 70. But the weather was much better in 2019. There were 53 more dates played than in 2018, and only 41 dates were postponed. April and May had a combined 22 postponements in 2019, compared to 48 in 2018. Just 3 April 2019 dates began at less than 50 degrees, while it was at least 70 degrees at the start of 87 dates.
- ) Total attendance rose 71,421 (2.5%) to 2,978,718 in **2019**. Average per date was down 109 to 3,176. This ended a streak of 14 straight years year with an average per date of 3,200+. Delmarva had the top gain in total attendance, and Hickory posted this league's best average per date gain. Greensboro had the worst total decline, and Lexington had the biggest average per date dip. 9 teams were up in total attendance, and 5 had gains in average per date.
- ) **Compared to 2000**, **2019** total attendance in the South Atlantic League was up 52.4% (1,954,697 to 2,978,718), and average per date rose 47.7% (2,150 to 3,176). Average per team increased by 52.6% from 139,389 to 212,766.
- ) There were 16 teams in the South Atlantic League when it set its all-time attendance record in 2007. Despite having 2 fewer teams starting in 2010, the league topped 3 million for 10 straight seasons through 2012, fell slightly below this level in 2013 and 2014, before finishing above it in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million initially in 1997.
- ) From its inception in 1960 as the Western Carolinas League, league total attendance was under 500,000 until 1980. Average attendance per team reached 60,000 just once (in 1970) until 1980. It topped 100,000 for the first time in 1993. The average per team first hit 200,000 in 2004, and was always above that level thereafter through 2019.
- ) The South Atlantic League posted some of the best gains ever for relocated teams. In their first season (2001), Lakewood (now named Jersey Shore) drew 482,206, an all-time high for a South Atlantic League team. It was also a 14-fold increase from the 32,641 this franchise attracted in 2000, when it was in Cape Fear, NC. Lake County OH, which is now in the Midwest League, drew 437,515, in 2003, their first year in Ohio. In 2002, the franchise drew just 52,103 in Columbus, GA.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

## SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	12	2,370,155	127,566	5.7	3,181	203	6.8
2022	12	2,242,589	580,124	34.9	2,978	497	20.0
2021	12	1,662,465			2,481		
2019	14	2,978,718	71,421	2.5	3,176	(109)	(3.3)
2018	14	2,907,297	(166,138)	(5.4)	3,285	(67)	(2.0)
2017	14	3,073,435	27,098	0.9	3,352	69	2.1
2016	14	3,046,337	(7,096)	(0.2)	3,283	(14)	(0.4)
2015	14	3,053,433	69,551	2.3	3,297	61	1.9
2014	14	2,983,882	32,069	1.1	3,236	(26)	(0.8)
2013	14	2,951,813	(104,284)	(3.4)	3,262	(17)	(0.5)
2012	14	3,056,097	(69,837)	(2.2)	3,279	(79)	(2.4)
2011	14	3,125,934	(97,721)	(3.0)	3,358	(57)	(1.7)
2010	14	3,223,655	(467,303)	(12.7)	3,415	(110)	(3.1)
2009	16	3,690,958	(86,215)	(2.3)	3,525	(38)	(1.1)
2008	16	3,777,173	(84,904)	(2.2)	3,563	(67)	(1.8)
2007	16	<b>3,862,077</b>	66,527	1.8	<b>3,630</b>	29	0.8
2006	16	3,795,550	275,113	7.8	3,601	212	6.3
2005	16	3,520,437	234,488	7.1	3,389	271	8.7
2004	16	3,285,949	156,737	5.0	3,118	35	1.1
2003	16	3,129,212	361,063	13.0	3,083	481	18.5
2002	16	2,768,149	(182,481)	(6.2)	2,602	(205)	(7.3)
2001	16	2,950,630	999,185	51.2	2,807	657	30.6
2000	14	1,951,445	(98,016)	(4.8)	2,150	(80)	(3.6)
1999	14	2,049,461	(34,687)	(1.7)	2,230	(1)	(0.0)
1998	14	2,084,148	(8,948)	(0.4)	2,231	(54)	(2.4)
1997	14	2,093,096	191,122	10.0	2,285	246	12.1
1996	14	1,901,974	(735)	(0.0)	2,039	(14)	(0.7)
1995	14	1,902,709	96,210	5.3	2,053	35	1.7
1994	14	1,806,499	17,072	1.0	2,018	114	6.0
1993	14	1,789,427	441,443	32.7	1,904	401	26.7
1992	14	1,347,984	(43,510)	(3.1)	1,503	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,391,494	291,480	26.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	12	1,100,014	39,050	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – (12 teams – 132-game schedule 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 4,233,904 (2015 – 16 teams); Average per Team: 264,619 (2015); Average per Date: 3,924 (2015).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 3,039,726 (2023 – 12 teams); Average per Team: 253,311 (2023); Average per date: 3,984 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Dayton–597,433 (2001); Average per Date: Dayton – 8,624 (2008)

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Dayton–520,433 (2023); Average per Date: Dayton - 7,935 (2022)

- ) **Midwest League** – 12 teams. All of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019. 2019 Midwest League teams that moved to other leagues for 2021 were Kane County (to the independent American Association), Bowling Green (to the South Atlantic League), and Burlington, IA and Clinton (to the Summer Collegiate Prospect League).
- ) Drew 3,039,726 in **2023**, averaging 253,311 per team, and 3,984 per date, which were the highest figures by any Class A league. There were 47 lost dates.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose an MLB-affiliated league best 283,618 (10.3%), and average per date was up 259 (7.0%), with 23 more dates. All 12 teams had gains in total attendance, led by Dayton, up 76,087, with 10 more dates. 9 teams were up in average per date, led by Lake County, up 643. The 3 average per date declines were all less than 50 per date. Dayton was down 49. Lansing had the biggest Class-A crowd (11,521).
- ) **Beloit set new team record-high in total attendance once again. Great Lakes had its biggest crowd ever.**
- ) **As usual, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Triple-A, with a 2023 total of 520,433, which ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among MLB-affiliates. Their average per date was 7,885, which was 2<sup>nd</sup> among MLB-affiliated teams to Triple-A Lehigh Valley.**
- ) **In 2022, the Dragons led all MLB-affiliated teams with a 7,935 average per date. This may have been the first time ever, that a Class-A team led the Minor Leagues in average per date. 1952 Denver was the last Class-A team to lead Minor League Baseball in total attendance, but they did not lead in average per date. Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 top season attendance totals by a Class-A team. West Michigan had the other Top 21 total.**
- ) **Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports – 1,385 regular season dates from the team’s inception in 2000 through the 2019 season. The Dragons started the 2021 season with a greatly reduced allowable capacity in their ballpark. They did draw at least 6,000 to 33 dates. Their final 2021 Game Notes didn’t mention sellouts, so it can be assumed that they didn’t sell out every game in 2021. But it really wouldn’t be fair to end such a great streak under circumstances mostly beyond the team’s control. In 2022 and 2023, all 122 Dayton home dates drew above their park’s seating capacity of 6,830. So the sellout streak is at 1,507, again\_excluding 2021.**
- ) Fort Wayne, Lansing, South Bend, and West Michigan, also averaged above 4,000 per date.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **In 2023, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Triple-A for the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year, including 2021. Only 2 teams below Triple-A (Round Rock, while in the Texas League before moving up to Triple-A, and Frisco, of the Double-A Texas League) have ever outdrawn Dayton in a single season since 2000.**
- ) **The 2023 Dragons drew 520,433, up an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 76,087 (17.1%), with 10 more dates than in 2022, and no lost dates.** (They had 10 lost dates in 2022.) The 2023 vs. 2022 increase in the number of dates played tied Fort Myers for the most among all Minor League teams. The total attendance was the 6<sup>th</sup> highest among all Minor League teams. **Average per date was an MLB-affiliated 2<sup>nd</sup> best 7,885, down 49 (0.6%). Only Lehigh Valley, and 4 Mexican League teams had a higher average per date. All dates drew at least 7,000 and 20 dates topped 8,000, with a high of 9,009.**
- ) **The 2022 Dayton Dragons may have added another accomplishment to their incredible attendance history, perhaps becoming the first Class-A team to ever lead all MLB-affiliated teams in average per date. The Dragons averaged an MLB-affiliated best 7,935 per date in 2022.** 1952 Denver of the Class-A Western League was the last Class-A team to lead the Minor Leagues in total attendance, drawing 461,419 in 67 dates, averaging 6,887 per date. Toronto, of the Triple-A International League had the next highest total attendance that year (446,040). But they reached that total in just 57 dates, and averaged 7,825 per date.
- ) **Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 highest season attendance totals in history by a team in Class A.** (1996 West Michigan has the other.)
- ) **Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports. It was 1,385 regular season dates from the team's inception in 2000 through the 2019 season.** It wouldn't be fair to end the streak in 2021, due to so much uncertainty, plus the reduced-capacity restrictions. **And in 2022 and 2023, Dayton once again sold out every game. Their sellout streak, excluding 2021, is at 1,507 regular season dates through the end of the 2023 season.**
- ) **The Dragons topped 545,000 in each of their first 20 seasons, and reached 580,000 in 9 years. 2019 average per date was a Class-A best 7,900. It has topped 8,400 per date in 10 seasons. In their 22 'normal' seasons through 2023, the Dragons drew 12,478,751 in 1,507 regular season dates, averaging 567,216 per year, and 8,281 per date. They've averaged above 8,500 per date in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012. If 2021 is included, Dayton has drawn 12,822,918 in 1,562 regular season dates, averaging 8,209 per date, and 557,518 per year.**
- ) **Dayton's sellout streak started on Opening Day 2000. It's the longest sellout streak in North American pro sports history!** The Boston Red Sox still have the Major League Baseball record of 794 straight sellouts of regular season games, plus 26 post-season games, a streak which ended with the 2<sup>nd</sup> game of the 2013 season. The Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA had 814 consecutive sellouts, including playoffs, from April 9, 1977 to November 16, 1995, which had been the longest sellout streak before the Red Sox broke it. **On February 12, 2020, the NBA Dallas Mavericks surpassed the Portland NBA record, and later topped the Red Sox' Major sports league record. The Mavericks' streak is still active during the 2023-24 regular season at more than 940 straight sellouts.** The San Francisco Giants had a National League record 555-date sellout streak (530 regular season dates+25 post-season dates). That streak began on October 1, 2010, and ended on July 17, 2017.
- ) Dayton's owners have included NBA legend Magic Johnson, and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.
- ) **Dayton, Kane County, and West Michigan, were the Class-A teams that averaged over 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2019.** West Michigan, still in the Midwest League, and Kane County, now in the independent American Association, both averaged above 5,000 per date in 2023. Lakewood (now named Jersey Shore) of the South Atlantic League topped 6,000 per date from their start in 2001 through 2012, and were above 5,200 every year until 2018. Fort Wayne has also averaged more than 5,000 per date each 'normal' year from 2009 through 2023. Dayton's park had 6,830 seats in 2023. The single game record-high in Dayton is 9,558 in 2009.
- ) The only Class A teams to ever draw at least 500,000 in a season are Midwest League teams Dayton (21 times), Kane County (6), West Michigan (4), and Lansing (2).

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **West Michigan** held the record broken by Dayton in 2000. The Whitecaps, who play in Comstock Park MI, near Grand Rapids, topped 500,000 for 4 straight years (1995-1998), including 1996, when they drew a then-Class A-record 547,701. In 1994, they first broke the Class A record of 463,039 set by Denver in 1949. They reached 350,000 for 26 years in a row through 2019, and again in 2023. A total of 400,000 was reached in 9 seasons (1994-2002). Average per date has been over 5,000 every year except 2021, was over 6,200 from 1994 through 2001, topped 7,000 from 1995 through 1998, and was exactly 8,000 in 1997. In 2014, the Whitecaps drew 391,653, up 13,705, their best total attendance since 2002. It's quite an accomplishment considering that a fire that January partly destroyed their park.
- ) In **2023**, West Michigan drew 360,999, up 23,832 (7.1%), with an average per date of 5,730, up 203 (3.7%). This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date in Class A, topped only by Dayton. Attendance reached 6,000 at 30 dates, and topped 7,000 at 16 dates, with a high of 8,414. There were 2 more dates than in 2022, and 3 lost dates.
- ) In their 29 years, including 2021, West Michigan has drawn 11,574,215 in 1,954 dates, an average of 399,111 per season, and 5,923 per date. Exclude 2021, and the average per season is 405,219, and the average per date is 5,984. The Whitecaps have had 50 crowds of at least 10,000 in their history. LMCU Ballpark is undergoing a major renovation, and the first phase of it is expected to be completed in 2024.
- ) **2023 had another record-high total attendance in Beloit. The Sky Carp drew 104,411, breaking the record set in 2022.** Average per date was 1,617. The total was up 1,617 (1.6%), and average per date fell 25 (1.6%). 3 dates topped 3,000, **with a current ballpark record-high of 4,036.** There was one lost date, and 2 more dates than in 2022.
- ) **Beloit** opened a new, privately-financed ballpark, ABC Supply Stadium, on August 4, **2021**. The Snappers began that season, at Pohlman Field for the 39<sup>th</sup> year. The 35 dates there drew just 14,888, an average of 425 per date. Only the final game at Pohlman drew at least 1,000. ABC Supply Stadium hosted 23 dates, and it drew 31,858, an average of 910 per date. Opening Night had a sellout crowd of 3,500.
- ) For **2022**, this team had a new name, the Sky Carp, a slang term for a goose that does not migrate to a warmer climate in winter, and a new attendance record. **Total attendance was a then-team record-high 102,794, and average per date was a team record-high 1,632.** The old record-highs in this very small market, were 101,127 in 1986 for total attendance, which was the only year other than 2022 and 2023 in Beloit's 40-year history that topped 100,000, and 1,487 in 2004 for average per date. (Average per date prior to 1992 is not available.)
- ) Despite relatively low attendance, this team is often profitable. It is community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.
- ) **The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers** (Appleton), had a **2023** total attendance of 227,119, up 20,314 (9.8%), and an average per date of 3,494, up 104 (3.1%). There was one lost date, and 4 more dates than in 2022. Best attendance of the year was 5,750, and 12 dates reached 5,000.
- ) In 2014, Wisconsin actually drew the largest total attendance ever (250,131) in their home ballpark, which underwent a major renovation for the 2013 season. The official team record-high is 253,240 in 2009. But that includes a crowd of 17,880 for a game they played at Miller Park in Milwaukee. Average per date has topped 3,000, and total attendance has been above 190,000, for 27 straight 'normal' years through 2023. The total never reached 100,000 in 45 seasons prior to 1995. The average per date has surpassed 3,300 for 13 'normal' years in a row through 2023.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **Fort Wayne** drew 340,038, up 36,358 (12.0%) in **2023**, with a 5,313 average per date, up 252 (5.0%). It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best attendance among the 60 Class A teams. 33 dates drew over 5,000, and 17 dates topped 7,000, with a high of 8,516. There were 4 more dates than in 2022.
- ) The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 30 years of operation, including 2021, and topped 370,000 in 11 of the first 14 years in their current ballpark. They have reached 400,000 in 6 of the last 12 'normal' seasons, including 5 of the last 9. Average per date has never been under 2,962 in this team's history, was above 5,400 for 11 years in a row through 2019, and over 5,000 in 2022 and 2023. The Tincaps were the only team in the Midwest League that did not lose a home date due to weather in both 2013 and 2014, but had 3 lost dates in 2015 (all on Fireworks Nights), 2 in 2016, just one in 2017, 4 in 2018, 3 in 2019, 2 in 2021, 6 in 2022, and 2 in 2023.
- ) Fort Wayne won the 2016 John H. Johnson President's Award, the Minor Leagues top honor for organizational excellence. Their park is often cited as an example of how a sports facility can lead to significant development in a downtown area. In 2018, the Tincaps won the 'Ballpark Digest Continued Excellence Award.'
- ) **The Lake County Captains** (Eastlake, Ohio) must have upset the weather gods in **2023**. They had 11 weather postponements, which tied New Hampshire for the most in all of Minor League Baseball. Despite playing 4 fewer dates than in 2022, total attendance rose 23,862 to 193,436. Average per date was 3,517, the best since 2013, up 643 (22.4%). This was the 6<sup>th</sup> best numerical increase and 8<sup>th</sup> best percentage gain in average per date, among MLB-affiliates. 12 dates drew at least 5,000, with a high of 8,809.
- ) Total attendance for this team fell from 437,515 in 2003, to 200,756 in **2019**, and 2019 had the 14<sup>th</sup> decline in 16 years. Average per date went from 6,341 in 2003 to 3,089 in 2019. The Captains reached 400,000 in 2003 and 2004, but have been below 300,000 for the last 14 seasons through 2023, including 2021. Average per date topped 6,000 in 2003 and 2004, and stayed above 5,000 through 2007.
- ) The **Great Lakes Loons** of Midland, Michigan, had a **2023** total attendance of 186,112, up 12,062 (6.9%), with a 3,002 average per date, up 195 (6.9%). There were 4 lost dates. The Loons had 62 dates in both 2023 and 2022. **Top 2023 crowd was a record-high 6,906**, and 17 dates drew at least 4,000.
- ) The Loons drew 324,564 in 2007, their first year, but have not reached 300,000 since then. Average per date was 4,000+ in their first 4 years (2007-2010).
- ) **Quad Cities** had a 2,993 (1.8%) increase to 173,724, in **2023 vs 2022** total attendance. Average per date was 2,632, down 35 (1.3%). 2 more dates were played than in 2022, and there were no postponements. 10 crowds topped 4,000, with a high of 6,765.
- ) Flooding on the Mississippi River, right next to their park, hit Quad Cities hard in **2019**. They had 7 fewer dates than in 2018, and some games had to be relocated to other ballparks. There was one 'home' game in Burlington, which drew 2,252, 2 in Cedar Rapids, which drew a total of 1,378, 2 in Clinton, drawing a total of 2,052, 6 in Peoria, drawing a total of 3,963, and 3 at the University of Iowa, which had no official attendance. The 2018 total was the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year above 200,000. The River Bandits had reached 200,000 only 6 times in 70 seasons (1990-1992, 1994-1996) with recorded attendance before that most recent streak. Average per date surpassed 3,100 for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2018.
- ) 2023 was the 100<sup>th</sup> year of professional baseball in Davenport, IA, which is one of the Quad Cities. The first year of pro ball there was 1879. A popular feature at Modern Woodmen Park is a 110-foot-tall Ferris wheel.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **Lansing's 2023** total attendance was 299,449, up 10,609 (3.7%), with an average per date of 4,679, up 20 (0.4%). 27 dates drew better than 5,000, and 12 dates topped 7,000. One game drew 11,521, which was the largest crowd at any 2023 Class-A game, and in Lansing since 2013. 2 dates were lost, and 2 more dates were played vs. 2022.
- ) The Lugnuts drew better than 500,000 in 1996 and 1997, and finished above 400,000 from 1996 through 2001. They've reached 350,000 in 12 seasons, and have been above 300,000 in all 24 years through 2019. They missed that mark by just 551 in 2023.
- ) Total attendance, including 2021, is 9,768,809 in 1,793 dates, an average of 5,448 per date (5,516 excluding 2021). Average per date was above 7,000 from 1996 through 1998, and surpassed 6,000 from 1996 through 2001.
- ) Each year since 2007, except 2020 and 2021, Lansing has played an exhibition game against Michigan State University. Attendance for the 14 games of the 'Crosstown Showdown' has totaled 114,997, an average of 7,666 per game. 4 of these games have attracted over 11,000 fans, with a high of 12,997 in 2012. This game was played in 2022 and 2023, and is scheduled for 2024.
- ) In **Peoria**, the Chiefs played to a total of 158,209, up 22,425 (16.5%) in **2023**, with a 2,472 average per date, up 383 (18.3%). 2 dates were lost, and one less date was played in 2023 than in 2022. Attendance reached 4,000 at 7 dates, with a high of 6,811.
- ) The Chiefs had topped 200,000 in total attendance, and 3,000 in average per date, in 15 of the previous 17 years until 2019. Prior to 2002, Peoria reached 200,000 in only 3 of the previous 25 years with recorded attendance.
- ) **South Bend** drew 314,591 in **2023**, up 28,614 (10.0%). The Cubs averaged 4,915 per date, up 447 (10.0%). 2 dates were postponed, and the same number of dates were played in both 2023 and 2022. There were 29 crowds of better than 5,000, and 20 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 8,053.
- ) For **2012**, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best gain among MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date rose by 985, the top increase among all U.S. MLB-affiliated teams. In 2013, the Silver Hawks had another big gain. Total attendance increased by 47,873, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> highest affiliated gain. Average per date was up a league-best 850. In 2014, the team drew 258,836, a record-high which was 412 higher than the old mark of 258,424 in 1994. South Bend's total attendance gain of 21,388 was the best in the league.
- ) The incredible attendance growth continued in 2015 in South Bend. The team affiliated with, and was renamed, the Cubs. Total attendance grew by 88,842 to a team record-high 347,678. Average per date was up 1,288 to a record-high 5,039. The gains in both total attendance and average per date were the 3<sup>rd</sup> best among MLB-affiliated teams in 2015. There were 40 sellouts. New highs in total attendance and average per date were set again in 2016.
- ) More records were set in 2017 despite 2 fewer dates. The Cubs' total of 354,070, and average per date of 5,285, made it 4 straight years with new highs. Some bad weather may have prevented the Cubs from setting more records in 2018. Total attendance that year was 343,763, and average per date was 4,911.
- ) In **2019**, the Cubs drew 319,616. Average per date was 4,770. That total and average were the 5<sup>th</sup> best in the team's 34 seasons. **From 2011 through 2019, total attendance was up 206,821 (183.4%) from 112,795, and average per date increased by 3,008 (170.7%) from 1,762.** Attendance reached 200,000 each year from 1989 through 1996. But it was under 200,000 in 12 of 16 years from 1997 through 2012.
- ) Four Winds Field in South Bend, formerly Stanley Coveleski Regional Stadium, is the only ballpark in America with a former synagogue on its grounds. The Sons of Israel Synagogue was built in 1901, but had been empty for over two decades. When the ballpark was renovated, the team bought the building, located behind the outfield wall, to use as its team store. They refurbished it, while still respecting its religious and landmark status.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **The 2023 Midwest League Champion Cedar Rapids Kernels** (named after corn) drew 161,205, up 24,845 (18.2%). Average per date rose 316 (14.6%) to 2,480. Their best crowd was 5,034, and 6 dates topped 4,000. 2 more dates were played than in 2022, and one date was lost.
- ) The Kernels have never topped 200,000 in a season. But they drew over 150,000 for 18 straight years **through 2019**, and again in 2023, after reaching that level just 3 times (1985, 1988, 1989) in the 64 previous years with listed attendance. The 2023 average per date was the 20<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year above 2,100. Since Perfect Game Field opened in 2002, attendance has been very steady through 2023, with the total ranging from 136,360 (2022) to 196,066 (2002), and the average per date ranging from 2,164 (2022) to 2,883 (2002). These figures exclude 2021.

**Midwest League Historic Attendance Data**

- ) **2019** Midwest League attendance declined 112,914 (2.9%). Total attendance was 3,824,807, the lowest total in the 10 years that this league had 16 teams. Average per date slipped 99 to 3,612, lowest since 2006. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2018, and 57 lost dates. But the weather in April 2019 was much warmer than in April 2018. In April 2018, 63 dates began with temperatures of less than 50 degrees, and at 29 of these dates, the temperature was under 40 degrees. In April 2019, 46 dates had a gametime temperature of less than 50 degrees, with just 5 dates under 40. 73 dates began with temperatures of at least 60 degrees in April 2019, vs. 46 dates in April 2018.
- ) **In 2015, the Midwest League set new league and Class-A record-highs for total attendance, average per date, and average per team. Total attendance was 4,233,904, breaking the league record set in 2010. Average per date was 3,924, topping a mark set in 2013. Average per team was 264,619.**
- ) This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982 when it expanded from 8 to 12 teams. It reached 2 million in 1994, and 3 million in 1996, with 14 teams in those years. Total attendance topped 3 million for its last 20 seasons, was above 3.5 million for the final 13 years, and was over 4 million in 7 of the last 10 years, all through 2019. Of course, with 4 fewer teams now in the league, these large totals are much more difficult to reach.
- ) Average attendance per date has been above 3,000 for 27 straight 'normal' years, which also is a Class A record. It has topped 3,500 per date for the league's last 22 'normal' years.
- ) Midwest League average attendance per team was under 70,000 from 1947 through 1980. In 13 of those seasons, it was below 50,000, with a low of 20,128 per team in 1948, when it was the Illinois State League. Lowest average per team under the Midwest League name (since 1956) was 40,362 in 1967. The average per team reached 100,000 for the first time in 1985, and initially topped 200,000 in 1996. It has been above 200,000 for the last 22 'normal' years, and reached 250,000 in 10 of 13 seasons through 2019, and then again in 2023. It was 239,050 in 2019, the lowest since 2006, and was 253,310 in 2023. The league expanded to 16 teams, from 14, in 2010, before going back to 12 teams in 2021.
- ) The Midwest League's single game attendance high was 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, for a Peoria/Kane County game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County, a team that now plays in the independent American Association.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****MIDWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

## MIDWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	12	3,039,726	283,618	10.3	3,984	259	7.0
2022	12	2,756,108	761,254	38.2	3,724	825	28.5
2021	12	1,994,854			2,899		
2019	16	3,824,807	(112,894)	(2.9)	3,612	(99)	(2.7)
2018	16	3,937,721	(149,652)	(3.7)	3,711	(88)	(2.3)
2017	16	4,087,373	(65,694)	(1.6)	3,799	(64)	(1.7)
2016	16	4,153,067	(80,837)	(1.9)	3,863	(61)	(1.6)
2015	16	<b>4,233,904</b>	91,086	2.2	<b>3,924</b>	45	1.2
2014	16	4,142,818	24,769	0.6	3,879	(28)	(0.7)
2013	16	4,118,049	33,706	0.8	3,907	177	4.7
2012	16	4,084,343	101,061	2.5	3,730	(24)	(0.6)
2011	16	3,983,282	(201,561)	(4.8)	3,754	(150)	(3.8)
2010	16	4,184,843	555,805	15.3	3,904	14	0.4
2009	14	3,629,038	26,951	0.7	3,890	16	0.4
2008	14	3,602,087	71,949	2.0	3,874	57	1.5
2007	14	3,530,138	232,043	7.0	3,817	271	7.6
2006	14	3,298,095	(188,680)	(5.4)	3,546	(136)	(3.7)
2005	14	3,486,775	(18,781)	(0.5)	3,682	(67)	(1.8)
2004	14	3,505,556	129,658	3.8	3,749	35	0.9
2003	14	3,375,898	9,119	0.3	3,714	105	2.9
2002	14	3,366,779	134,424	4.2	3,609	65	1.8
2001	14	3,232,355	(36,118)	(1.1)	3,544	(108)	(3.0)
2000	14	3,268,473	494,046	17.8	3,652	636	21.1
1999	14	2,774,427	(117,900)	(4.1)	3,016	(77)	(2.5)
1998	14	2,892,327	(60,950)	(2.1)	3,093	(207)	(6.3)
1997	14	2,953,277	(215,355)	(6.8)	3,300	(225)	(6.4)
1996	14	3,168,632	404,303	14.6	3,525	373	11.8
1995	14	2,764,329	294,330	11.9	3,152	438	16.1
1994	14	2,469,999	655,498	36.1	2,714	543	25.0
1993	14	1,814,501	70,638	4.1	2,171	212	10.8
1992	14	1,743,863	(73,035)	(4.0)	1,959	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,816,898	168,803	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	1,648,095	(68,348)	(4.0)	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – (6 teams – 132-game schedule in 2022 - 2024)

This was a short-season league prior to 2021, playing a 76-game schedule.

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,115,614 (2019 – 8 teams); Average per Team: 139,452 (2019); Average per Date: 3,670 (2019).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,112,449 (2023 – 6 teams); Average per Team: 185,408 (2023); Average per date: 2,943 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Portland–249,995 (1996); Average per Date: Portland – 6,579 (1996)  
Vancouver averaged 6,303 per date in 2017, highest average among 2023 NWL teams.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Vancouver–313,256 (2022); Average per Date: Vancouver - 5,135 (2022)

**A SCHEDULE NOTE ABOUT THE NORTHWEST LEAGUE TEAMS**

All Northwest League teams, along with Brooklyn, Aberdeen, and Hudson Valley, of the South Atlantic League, played a full-season schedule for the first time in 2021. Through 2019, their seasons began in mid-June, and were 76 games long. So comparisons with seasons prior to 2020 may show significant average per date declines. Part of the reason for this is that they now have games during colder weather periods, and on school nights, which can be factors that reduce attendance. For Brooklyn and Hudson Valley in particular, their former short-season schedules took place at the same time as the entire school summer vacation period in their area. All of these teams also are now selling and promoting 66 home dates per season, compared to just 38 dates prior to 2021.

- ) **Northwest League** – 6 teams, all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 1,112,449, **averaging a league record-high 185,408 per team**, and 2,943 per date. There were 18 lost dates. Vancouver drew a league-high 297,437, averaging 4,876 per date.
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 43,988 (4.1%), and average per date was up 78 (2.7%), with 5 more dates. Vancouver was the only team with a decline. Spokane had the largest increases in total attendance (17,931), and average per date (285). Everett had a 224 increase in average per date.
- ) **Everett, Hillsboro, and Tri-City WA each had record-highs in total attendance. Spokane had its highest total as a Northwest League member.**
- ) In **2019**, the same 6 teams in the league in 2023 drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. **The 2019 Northwest League, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.** In **2019**, the Northwest League played a short-season schedule (76 games) as opposed to a 132-game schedule from 2022 through 2024.
- ) With the longer schedule starting in 2021, the Northwest League now has more lost dates than in the past. There were 18 lost dates in 2023, 21 in 2022, and 15 in 2021. The 6 teams in the league had no lost dates in 2019, 1 each in 2018 and 2017, 4 in 2016 and 2013, 2 in 2015, and 3 in 2014 and 2012. The teams also play more games now on school days and nights.
- ) From the start of the **2023** season, through June 12, the league averaged 2,086 per date. From June 13, to the end of the season, a similar length of time to the league's pre-2021 schedule, average per date for the league was 3,511. That second half figure was only 159 below the league's short-season record-high average per date of 3,670 in **2019**.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) The **2023 Northwest League Champion Vancouver Canadians** drew a league-leading 297,437, with a 4,876 average per date. But they had the only declines in the league. Total attendance fell 15,819 (5.0%), and average per date was down 259 (5.0%). 35 dates drew over 5,000, and 21 dates had sellout crowds of 6,413. There were 5 lost dates, same as in 2022. In April and May, the Canadians averaged 3,160 per date with no sellouts. From June through September, they averaged 5,653 per date with 21 sellouts of 6,413.
- ) The closing of the U.S./Canadian border caused **Vancouver** to play its **2021** home games in Hillsboro, OR. They drew 15,822, averaging 268 per date. The largest 'crowd' was 608.
- ) Vancouver drew 235,980 in **2019**, down 3,106, the only total attendance decline in the Northwest League that year. The Canadians' average per date of 6,210, was down 82, but it was the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year above 6,000. 25 of 38 dates drew a full sellout figure of 6,413, and 30 dates topped 6,000. Nat Bailey Stadium seats 5,157. In 2019, the Canadians averaged better than 1,000 per date above seating capacity, and 96.8% of full-sellout capacity. The 2019 short-season total was higher than what Vancouver drew in 27 of 43 years with full-season teams.
- ) **The 2019 Canadians led all short-season teams in total attendance and average per date for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Brooklyn had been the short-season leader each year from 2001 through 2015. In total attendance, in 2019, Vancouver outdrew 2 Triple-A teams, 9 of 30 Double-A teams, 44 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 9 of 16 Mexican League teams, all of whom played much longer schedules. In average per date, Vancouver topped 11 of 30 Triple-A teams, 27 of the 30 Double-A clubs, all except Dayton in full-season Class A, 11 of 16 teams in the Mexican League, and every independent team except St. Paul.**
- ) **2023** was the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive 'normal' year that Vancouver's total attendance surpassed 150,000, with average per date above 4,000. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> 'normal' year in a row with a total above 200,000. Average per date reached 6,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year in **2019**. Vancouver topped 100,000, and 3,000 per date, in all short-seasons. In 1988, Vancouver set its all-time record of 386,220, while a member of the full-season Pacific Coast League. Vancouver is a rainy city, but not so much during their baseball season. They had a total of just 12 regular season rainouts from 2000 through 2019. The earlier start of their season means more rainouts, and there were 5 each in 2022 and 2023.
- ) **Spokane** drew 249,012, up 17,931 (7.8%) in total attendance in **2023**, and 3,953, up 285 (7.8%) in average per date. These increases were the best in the Northwest League. **The total attendance was the highest for Spokane as a Northwest League team.** The same number of dates were played in both 2023 and 2022, and each year had 3 lost dates. The largest crowd of 6,946 was the highest in this league in 2023. 25 dates drew at least 4,000, with 7 of them topping 6,000. Minor League Baseball selected the Indians as their 2021 'Organization of the Year.'
- ) **Spokane attracted 200,273 in 2019, a record-high for a short season team in that city.** 9 short-season franchises have drawn 200,000+, and it has been done a total of 45 times by these 9 clubs. Brooklyn (17 times) did it most often, followed by Aberdeen (11 times), Vancouver (5 times), and Portland, OR (4 times). Salt Lake City, Mahoning Valley, and Staten Island did it twice each, and Lowell and Spokane did it once. Record-high for a full-season team in Spokane is 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. Spokane led the Northwest League in total attendance for 15 straight years through 2014, until Vancouver topped them.
- ) As a short-season team **through 2019**, the Indians topped 100,000 for 34 straight years, drew over 160,000 for 25 years in a row through 2019, and reached 180,000 each year from 2013 through 2019, and 18 times since 1996. The 2019 total was higher than the total Spokane drew in 18 of the 24 seasons that it was a member of the full-season Triple-A Pacific Coast League (1958-1971, 1973-1982). In 2015, the Indians became the first short-season team to reach 5 million in attendance (only short-season years are included in this total). Spokane's short-season team drew 5,895,308 in its short-season history (1983-2019).
- ) In **2019**, Spokane averaged 5,270, which was higher than any Pacific Coast League team in Spokane had ever averaged. 2019 was the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year that the average per date topped 5,000, and the 26<sup>th</sup> year in a row above 4,200. Spokane's park, which opened in 1958, underwent a renovation that was completed for the 2013 season, and has a seating capacity of 6,803.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) Total **2023** attendance for the **Eugene Emeralds** was 145,896, up 9,536 (7.0%), and their highest total since 1996. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> best total in 72 years with listed attendance, which includes 5 seasons in the Pacific Coast League. The Emeralds averaged 2,473 per date, up 162 (7.0%). There were 7 lost dates, which includes those home dates that were played at Tri-City. The same number of dates were played in Eugene in 2023 and 2022. 17 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,103.
- ) Eugene had to play a 6-game homestand at Tri-City (Pasco, WA) because the University of Oregon, who they share their ballpark with, needed the park for NCAA College Baseball post-season games. No official attendance was reported for those games, and they are not included in the number of dates listed.
- ) **The Emeralds topped 100,000 for the 35<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2019, the longest such streak by a short-season team.** The total reached 120,000 in 26 short-seasons since 1987. Prior to this, attendance reached 100,000 only 4 times in 32 seasons from 1950 through 1984, with a high of 168,094 in 1972. Those 100,000+ seasons all occurred between 1969 and 1973, when Eugene was in the full-season Pacific Coast League. Average per date topped 4,000 in 1996, and was above 3,000 in all but 3 seasons since 1993. Eugene won the 2018 Larry MacPhail Award for promotional effort. Their new, smaller park has a capacity of 4,000 and is on the campus of the University of Oregon. In 2019, the University of Oregon averaged 1,366 per date for its home games. 3 games with Oregon State averaged 3,777. In 2023, Oregon Ducks Baseball drew 73,809 in 39 dates, averaging 1,893 per date.
- ) **2023 attendance for Tri-City (Pasco, WA) was a team and market record high 120,444, up 12,308 (11.4%).** This broke the record of 109,101, set in the independent Western League in 1997. The short-season record-high of 87,021 was set in 2019. Average per date was 1,825, up 81 (4.6%). There were 4 more dates than in 2022, and no dates were lost. 5 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 3,383.
- ) **In 2019,** the Dust Devils averaged 2,290 per date, the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in team history. They set a team record-high for average per date in 7 straight years through 2013, and again in 2016 and 2018. Attendance in Tri-City was very consistent from 2009 through 2019, ranging from 83,987 in 2013, to 87,021 in 2019. Average per date ranged from 2,216 to 2,332 during this period. The independent Western Baseball League had a longer season than the short-season Northwest League, but had fewer scheduled games than the current Northwest League has.
- ) **Hillsboro (a suburb of Portland, OR), had their best-ever Northwest League total attendance in 2023.** They drew 158,723, up 7,931 (5.3%). Average per date was 2,405, up 49 (2.1%). 2 more dates were played in 2023 than in 2022, and no dates were lost. 17 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 5,200.
- ) **In 2021,** the Hops shared their park with the Vancouver Canadians, who were not allowed to enter Canada. The Hops topped 128,000 and 3,300 per date in all 7 short seasons in the Northwest League. This franchise played in Yakima through 2012. Highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
- ) Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for a team in this league, and at that time, the highest attendance ever by any short-season team (broken by Brooklyn in 2001). For most of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and continuing through 2010, Portland was in the Pacific Coast League. Their record-high in that league was 454,197 in 2002. That team played in PGE Park, which was one of the largest Minor League ballparks in the country, seating nearly 20,000. On June 15, 1995, a game there drew 20,600, which is a Northwest League record. The facility has recently been renovated for use as a soccer stadium, renamed JELD-WEN Field, and is the home of the Timbers of Major League Soccer, and the Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League. Portland may be in the running for a Major League Baseball expansion team.
- ) There is talk about building a new park in Hillsboro, opening for the 2025 season.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

- ) **2023 total attendance in Everett was a record-high 140,937**, up 12,101 (9.4%), with a 2,237 average per date, up 224 (11.1%). 18 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,507. There were 3 lost dates, and one less date was played than in 2022.
- ) Everett's **2019** total attendance was 116,630, the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total (to 1998) in their 36-year short-season history. Average per date was 3,069, highest since 2001. The AquaSox topped 100,000 each year from 1998 through 2007, but didn't do it again until 2015 through 2019. Prior to 1998, Everett hit 90,000 just once in 14 years. The average per date reached 3,000 in 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2019.

**Northwest League Historic Attendance Data**

- ) **The Northwest League set a league total attendance record-high for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year in 2019! The total was 1,115,614, up 25,684 (2.4%). This broke the mark of 1,089,930 set in 2018.** Prior to 2017, the record-high was 1,060,587 in 1998. The Northwest League 2017 Media Guide listed their 1998 attendance as 1,088,382, because they added 27,795 to Portland's total. However, the 1998 NAPBL attendance press release, the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, and The Baseball Cube, all show the lower figure for 1998. One thing for sure, a new record was set in 2017, and then broken again in 2018 and in 2019.
- ) **Average per date rose 73 to a record-high 3,670 in 2019, the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row with a new high.** The league averaged over 3,200 per date for its last 7 seasons (2013-2019), and from 1995 through 2000, and in 2007, 2008, and 2011.
- ) All teams in the Northwest League averaged better than 2,000 per date from 2013 through 2017, and in 2019. These are the only times in Minor League history that every team in one of the short-season leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date in the same year. Salem-Keizer broke the 2013-2017 streak in 2018 by averaging 1,897.
- ) 7 teams had increases in total attendance in 2019, and 6 teams had gains in average per date. Salem-Keizer posted the league's best gains. Vancouver had the only total attendance loss, and the top average per date decline.
- ) Not one date was lost to weather in the entire Northwest League in 2019. Only one date each year was lost in 2018 and 2017. There were 6 dates lost in 2016, 2 in 2015, 3 in 2014, 5 in 2013, and 3 in 2012. In 2011, there were none. Through 2019, the Northwest League had just 32 lost dates in 15 seasons since 2005, and 78 lost dates in 26 seasons since 1994. The longer schedule, with its earlier start, has resulted in more postponements, nearly all due to weather, but a few due to Covid. There were 15 lost dates in 2021, 21 in 2022, and 18 in 2023, which includes the 6 games scheduled for Eugene that were relocated to Tri-City. The University of Oregon needed the park in Eugene for NCAA post-season games.
- ) Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but didn't reach that figure again until 2015 through 2019, and again in 2022 and 2023. The league drew better than 800,000 in all seasons since 1994. Before that year, the last time this league reached 800,000 was in 1948, when it played a full-season schedule. Total attendance was under 300,000 in all seasons from 1961 through 1982.
- ) **Average attendance per team was a short-season record-high 139,452 in 2019, and a full-season record-high 185,408 in 2023.** The old short-season record was 136,241 per team in 2018. It was 132,573 in 1998, and with longer schedules was 124,174 in 1947 and 110,051 in 1948. The next time the average per team topped 100,000 was in 1994, and it did that every year since. It was over 130,000 in each of the final 5 short seasons. With the longer schedule, it was 178,077 in 2022. The average per team was below 50,000 from 1961 through 1984, with a low of 20,482 in 1968. That year, the 4-team league drew a total of 81,928. In 2015, each of the 8 teams in the league individually drew better than that. Salem-Keizer fell below the 1968 league total from 2016 through 2019.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – HIGH-A - continued

## NORTHWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	6	1,112,449	43,988	4.1	2,943	78	2.7
2022	6	1,068,461	546,649	104.8	2,865	1,330	86.6
2021	6	521,812			1,535		
2019	8	<b>1,115,614</b>	25,684	2.4	<b>3,670</b>	73	2.0
2018	8	1,089,930	949	0.1	3,597	3	0.1
2017	8	1,088,981	39,339	3.7	3,594	72	2.0
2016	8	1,049,642	(1,623)	(0.2)	3,522	41	1.2
2015	8	1,051,265	69,491	7.1	3,481	219	6.7
2014	8	981,774	(2,658)	(0.3)	3,262	(30)	(0.9)
2013	8	984,432	87,651	9.8	3,292	313	10.5
2012	8	896,781	(17,205)	(1.9)	2,979	(28)	(0.9)
2011	8	913,986	28,961	3.3	3,007	67	2.3
2010	8	885,025	(22,069)	(2.4)	2,940	(54)	(1.8)
2009	8	907,094	(12,059)	(1.3)	2,994	(50)	(1.6)
2008	8	919,153	(8,016)	(0.9)	3,044	(36)	(1.2)
2007	8	927,169	33,348	3.7	3,080	130	4.4
2006	8	893,821	14,083	1.6	2,950	47	1.6
2005	8	879,738	16,573	1.9	2,903	(3)	(0.1)
2004	8	863,165	(27,926)	(3.1)	2,906	(35)	(1.2)
2003	8	891,091	10,452	1.2	2,941	25	0.9
2002	8	880,639	9,956	1.1	2,916	(35)	(1.2)
2001	8	870,683	(170,956)	(16.4)	2,951	(510)	(14.7)
2000	8	1,041,639	20,459	2.0	3,461	22	0.6
1999	8	1,021,390	(39,197)	(3.7)	3,439	(73)	(2.1)
1998	8	1,060,587	5,782	0.5	3,512	(4)	(0.1)
1997	8	1,054,805	15,381	1.5	3,516	51	1.5
1996	8	1,039,424	16,945	1.7	3,465	34	1.0
1995	8	1,022,479	166,829	19.5	3,431	607	21.5
1994	8	855,650	68,849	8.8	2,824	157	5.9
1993	8	786,801	64,470	8.9	2,667	210	8.5
1992	8	722,331	(20,707)	(2.8)	2,457	N/A	N/A
1991	8	743,038	50,912	7.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	692,126	55,939	8.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – (6 teams – 132-game schedule - 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,027,878 (2017 – 10 teams); Avg. per Team: 247,709 (8 teams-2014); Average per Date: 3,811 (2014).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,378,278 (2023 – 12 teams); Average per Team: 198,190 (2023); Average per date: 3,171 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Durham–390,486 (1995); Average per Date: Durham – 6,007 (1995)  
2023 teams: Total: Carolina-328,207 (1993), Average per Date: Delmarva – 4,915 (1997)  
Carolina was in the Double-A Southern League in 1993.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Charleston–270,170 (2023); Avg. per Date: Charleston - 4,288 (2023)

- ) **Carolina League** – 12 teams, 7 were in the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League, in 2019.
- ) **2023** total attendance was 2,378,278, averaging 198,190 per team, and 3,171 per date, all best among the Single-A (formerly Low-A) leagues. There were 42 lost dates. Charleston SC had the league's top total (270,170), and average per date (4,288). Very close behind were Myrtle Beach (268,600 total and a 4,197 average), Fredericksburg (267,400 total and a 4,178 average), and Augusta (260,060 total and a 4,195 average).
- ) **Fredericksburg, Kannapolis, and Myrtle Beach, all set new team record-highs in total attendance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year. Augusta, Fredericksburg, Myrtle Beach, and Kannapolis, achieved team record-highs in average per date, also for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row.**
- ) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance rose 63,818 (2.8%). Average per date was up 130 (4.3%), with 11 fewer dates. 7 teams had increases in total attendance and 10 were up in average per date. Delmarva posted the league's best increases, up 34,963 (22.6%) in total attendance, and up 666 (26.7%) in average per date. Delmarva's average per date gain was 5<sup>th</sup> highest, numerically, among the MLB-affiliated teams. Fayetteville, whose average per date was down 488, had the biggest numerical loss among all MLB-affiliates. Their 27,275 drop in total attendance was the top loss in the Carolina League. All other 2023 vs, 2022 decreases in this league were very small.
- ) The **2019 Carolina League** drew 2,018,496, averaging 3,139 per date.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, total attendance rose 11,468 (0.5%), and average per date was up 198 (6.7%). 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 were up in average per date. The Southern and Pecos Leagues were the only other leagues with 2023 vs. 2019 increases in both total attendance and average per date.
- ) Kannapolis moved into a new downtown ballpark in **2021**. Their **2023** total attendance was up 119,569 (157.5%) **from 2019**, with average per date increasing by 1,922 (169.6%). **The numerical increase in total attendance was the best of any 'same market' Minor League team, which includes the independent teams, and the average per date gain topped all 'same market' MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) Fredericksburg was relocated from Woodbridge, VA (Potomac). Their **2023** total attendance was 74,296 (38.9%) higher than in **2019** in Woodbridge, and average per date rose by 916 (28.1%) **vs. 2019**.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) **The RiverDogs of Charleston, SC were the Low-A East Champs in 2021, and the Carolina League Champions in 2022 and 2023.** They drew a league high 270,170 in **2023**, up 18,679 (7.4%), averaging a Single-A best 4,288 per date, up 296 (7.4%). 20 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 6,417. There were 3 lost dates, and the same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022.
- ) Charleston set a record-high in total attendance, or came close, in 5 straight years from 2015 through 2019. The **2019** total was 301,320, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in team history. Average per date was 4,367, and was this market's 4<sup>th</sup> best ever. **2023** was the 26<sup>th</sup> straight year, including 2021, above 200,000, and the 16<sup>th</sup> 'normal' year in a row above 250,000. 2019 was the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive season above 300,000 for Charleston.
- ) The RiverDogs had never drawn 200,000 until 1997, or 300,000 until 2017. A former team in Charleston drew over 170,000 in both 1947 and 1948. But this city reached 120,000 only once (1986) in the next 31 seasons that it had a team, through 1996. Average per date has been above 3,300 for the past 26 seasons, including 2021, and between 2013 through 2019, and again in 2023, it topped 4,000. The team won the 2013 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues. Comedian Bill Murray is one of the team's owners.
- ) In 2002, Charleston, SC had a game with an official attendance of 0. It was a promotion called "Nobody Night" to achieve the lowest attendance ever at any game. A party for fans was held outside the ballpark until after the 5<sup>th</sup> inning, when the game became official. Fans were then admitted free. The old record for smallest 'crowd' was 1, set by Oakland of the Pacific Coast League on November 8, 1905. Yes, November, and no promotion here. It was a rainy day. The P.C.L. used to have a very long schedule. In 1905, Oakland played 222 games.
- ) The attendance success continued for the **Augusta GreenJackets in 2023.** Total attendance was 260,060, down 2,112 (0.8%). **Average per date was a team record-high 4,195, up 98 (2.4%).** 11 dates drew above 5,000, with a high of 5,763. There were 2 less dates than in 2022, and 4 dates were lost.
- ) **In 2018, the GreenJackets, named for the green jacket given to the winner of The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, moved to a new park in neighboring North Augusta, SC, and had a record-setting attendance year. Total attendance was 255,155, and average per date was 4,050 (old records were 201,760 and 3,011, both in 2010). The total gain was 76,886, and average per date rose by 1,307. Both of those increases were the best in Minor League Baseball in 2018. The 43.1% increase in total attendance, and the 47.6% gain in average per date, were the 2<sup>nd</sup> best percentage gains (to Tabasco of the Mexican League) in the MLB-affiliated leagues. (In 2018, the Mexican League was considered to be an MLB-affiliated league. It is now independent.)**
- ) This team has played in Augusta or North Augusta since 1988. Attendance topped 200,000 only in 2008, 2010, and 2011, prior to the years 2018 through 2023. But it has been above 150,000 for 17 straight years, including 2021. Average per date has reached 2,500 for the last 16 seasons, also including 2021.
- ) **Delmarva** (Salisbury, Maryland) drew 189,749, up 34,963 (22.6%) in **2023**, with a 3,162 average per date, up 666 (26.7%). These gains were the best in the Carolina League. The average per date increase was the 5<sup>th</sup> best numerically, and 6<sup>th</sup> highest percentage gain among the MLB-affiliates. There were 6 lost dates, and 2 less dates were played in 2023 than in 2022. Crowds of at least 4,000 attended 16 dates, with a high of 6,702.
- ) In 2019, the Shorebirds won 90 games, and had the best winning percentage of any MLB-affiliated team. They led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and topped 200,000 in all 24 years of operation through 2019. Attendance was above 300,000 in the team's first 2 seasons (1996, 1997). But it has not reached that figure since then, and has been under 240,000 for the last 20 years, including 2021 through 2023. The Shorebirds averaged over 4,000 per date from 1996 through 2000, but not since. Their high average per date was 4,915 in 1997. But they've been above 3,000 every year, except 2021 and 2022.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) **Fredericksburg had a record-setting season in 2022, and then broke those records in 2023. Total 2023 attendance was a team record-high 267,400, up 6,854 (2.6%). Average per date was a team record-high 4,178, up 42 (1.0%).** These team record-highs cover this franchise's entire history, going back to 1984. There was one more date played in 2023 than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. Attendance surpassed 5,000 at 8 dates, with a high of 5,609.
- ) The comparison of **2023 Fredericksburg with 2019 Potomac** shows a total attendance increase of 74,296 (38.9%), and an average per date gain of 916 (28.1%).
- ) The Potomac Nationals moved about 35 miles south to a new ballpark in Fredericksburg, Virginia in **2021**. This is the first-ever Minor League team for this city. The FredNats drew 199,071 in **2021**, with a 3,492 average per date. The total was up 6,597, and the average per date rose 230, from what the team drew in Woodbridge (Potomac) in **2019**.
- ) **Potomac** had a tough final season in Woodbridge, Virginia. Total **2019** attendance fell 44,770 to 192,474, and average per date dipped 504 to 3,262. There were 11 rainouts, the most of any team not in the Florida State League. From 2000 through 2009, the Nationals never reached 200,000. But they did it in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018. Average per date in Potomac topped 3,000 for the 7<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2019. From 2000 through 2012, the average reached 3,000 only twice. The record-high total in **Potomac** was 243,559 in 2014, and the top average per date there was 3,869 in 2017. Considering the lack of ballpark amenities in Potomac, these figures were quite good.
- ) The **Carolina Mudcats** had total **2023** attendance of 138,299, down 280 (0.2%), with a 2,305 average per date, up 140 (6.5%). The total was the lowest for this team in any 'normal' season. 6 dates were lost, and there were 4 fewer dates than in 2022. Attendance was over 3,000 at 20 dates, and 11 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 6,313.
- ) The Mudcats averaged 4,000+ in 8 seasons since 1992 (1992-97, 2000, 2008). They reached 300,000 from 1993 through 1995, but have not done it since. Total attendance was above 200,000 for 25 straight seasons, but has been below that level in the last 7 years, including 2021. The Mudcats played in the Double-A Southern League through 2011, before moving to the Class-A Carolina League.
- ) **2023 was another record-setting year in Kannapolis. The Cannon Ballers drew a team record-high total of 195,500, up 3,339 (1.7%), and a team record-high average per date of 3,055, up 143 (4.9%).** There were 2 fewer dates than in 2022, and 2 rainouts. 13 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 5,383.
- ) **The effect of a new park was evident when comparing 2023 vs. 2019 attendance. The total was up 119,569 (157.5%), and average per date rose 1,922 (169.6%), with one less date. The numerical increase in total attendance was the best among 'same market' teams in all of Minor League Baseball, and the numerical gain in average per date was the highest among MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) **2021 was a new ballpark year for the renamed Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (from Intimidators), and a then-record-setting attendance year as well. They opened Atrium Health Ballpark, in the downtown area, and drew then-team record-highs in total attendance (162,031), and average per date (2,701). Total attendance rose 86,100 vs. 2019, and average per date was up 1,567.** The old record-highs were 138,487 in total attendance (2011), and 2,150 in average per date (2001).
- ) Kannapolis played its final year in Intimidators Stadium in 2019. Total **2019** attendance was 75,931, and average per date was 1,133. The total was under 100,000 in 2003, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Their low was 64,688 in 2018. Average per date was above 2,000 in 2001, from 2009 through 2012, and in 2015, plus 2021 through 2023 at the new park. In 25 seasons at Intimidators Stadium, this club drew 2,793,420, averaging 111,736 per year. Kannapolis is only about 25 miles from the new and very successful ballpark in Charlotte, which may hurt their attendance.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) The **Down East** Wood Ducks are located in **Kinston, NC**, and play in Grainger Stadium, which opened in 1949. Their **2023** total attendance was 96,220, down 2,108 (2.1%), and they averaged 1,527 per date, down 9 (0.6%). The total was the lowest in a 'normal' season since 1989, and the average per date was the lowest in any year since at least 1991. Kinston did not have a team from 2012 through 2016. 8 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 3,009. 3 dates were lost, and one less date was played vs. 2022.
- ) Starting in 1946, Kinston had a team from 1946 through 1952, 1956, 1957, 1962 through 1974, and 1978 through 2011. When pro ball returned to Kinston in 1962, it was, for that time, a big draw. **In 1962, the team drew 141,227, the highest of any team below Double-A. Attendance was 119,346 in 1963, and 101,915 in 1964. In both of those years, Kinston was the only Class A or Rookie league team to draw at least 100,000.** Attendance also surpassed 100,000 in every year from 1990 through 2011, with a high of 151,953 in 1997. The top average per date, going back to 1992, was 2,374 in 1997. The current team topped 100,000 in its first 3 seasons (2017-2019).
- ) This team is expected to move to **Spartanburg, SC** in 2025. That city had 42 seasons with listed attendance between 1947 and 1995. Attendance topped 100,000 in 7 of those seasons, with a high of 173,010 in 1966. That was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best attendance of any team below Triple-A that year. The team had a 91-35 record. But in Spartanburg's 26 final MLB-affiliated seasons (1969-1994), attendance reached 50,000 only 7 times. A Collegiate Summer League team will go to Kinston.
- ) **Columbia, SC** had a **2023** total attendance of 219,277, up 2,052 (0.9%) Average per date was 3,595, up 201 (5.9%). The Fireflies had 5 lost dates, and 3 fewer dates than in 2022. They drew over 4,000 at 21 dates, and 12 dates topped 5,000. The largest crowd of 8,024 was also the highest at any Carolina League game in 2023.
- ) The Fireflies play in Segra Park, which opened in 2016. It was voted as 'Class-A Ballpark of the Decade' by Ballpark Digest in 2019. On days when there is no scheduled event, it is open as a public park. **2016** total attendance was 261,134, up 135,547 from what the franchise drew in Savannah in 2015. Average per date was 3,785, up 1,823 from Savannah. Prior to 2016, Columbia had a team from 1983-2004. It drew 100,000+ in 17 of 22 seasons, including each of the last 13. Record-high for that team was 156,921 in 1996. Since 1946, teams also played in Columbia from 1946 through 1957, and in 1960 and 1961.
- ) 2017 was a record year again for Columbia. The Fireflies drew 315,034, up 53,900, which was the 4<sup>th</sup> best gain among all MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date was 4,773, up 988, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best increase among the MLB-affiliates. The game played during the August solar eclipse drew 9,629.
- ) The Tebow Effect in Columbia – In **2017**, Tim Tebow played for Columbia until he was promoted to St. Lucie on June 26. At home, Columbia had Tebow for 39 dates, and drew 207,031, an average of 5,308. After Tebow left, the Fireflies drew 108,003 in 27 home dates, an average of 4,000. On the road with Tebow, Columbia drew 169,443 in 29 dates, averaging 5,843 per date. Columbia's 37 road dates after Tebow left drew 125,259, an average of 3,885 per date. Combined home and away with Tebow, Columbia drew 376,474 in 68 dates, averaging 5,536 per date. Without him, combined attendance was 233,262 in 64 dates, an average of 3,645. In 2018, without Tebow, total attendance fell 63,448, and average per date was down 1,018.
- ) Combined Columbia-St. Lucie home attendance with Tebow was 274,822 in 68 dates, averaging 4,042 per date. Without Tebow, these 2 teams drew 172,571 in 64 home dates, an average of 2,696. On the road, the combined Columbia-St. Lucie total with Tebow was 296,989 in 62 dates, an average of 4,790. Without Tebow, it was 163,200 in 70 dates, an average of 2,331 per date.
- ) **2023** total attendance for the **Salem Red Sox** was 177,083, down 4,204 (2.3%). They averaged 2,903 per date, up 25 (0.9%), with 5 lost dates and 2 fewer dates than in 2022. The largest crowd was 6,071. 14 dates topped 4,000.
- ) Until 1999, attendance in Salem never reached 200,000 in 43 years with recorded attendance. But it surpassed that total 15 times in the last 24 seasons through 2023. Average per date has been over 3,000 in 12 of the last 19 seasons through 2023, and 15 times since 1999.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) **In 2023, Myrtle Beach once again set new team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date. The Pelicans drew a total of 268,600, up 16,417 (6.5%), and averaged 4,197 per date, up 257 (6.5%).** This broke records set in 2022. Prior to 2022, the old record highs were 242,397 in total attendance (2008), and 3,877 in average per date (2015). The same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022, and there were 2 lost dates each year. 14 dates topped 5,000, 7 dates drew over 6,000, **with a record-tying high of 6,600.**
- ) **The Pelicans achieved a 2021 vs. 2019 increase in average attendance per date. They were the only MLB-affiliated team, who played a 'normal' 2019 season, and didn't open a new park in 2021, who did that.** 2021 average per date was 3,504, up 127 from 2019. Total attendance was 199,704. Quad Cities of the Midwest League also had a higher average per date in 2021 than in 2019. But some of their 2019 home games were moved to other locations due to flooding at their home park.
- ) This team in Myrtle Beach, which began play in 1999, has topped 200,000 in every season except 2005 and 2021, when they just missed. Average per date has been over 3,000 in all seasons, including 2021, other than 2005.
- ) A rarity: The Pelicans didn't have any day games, even on Sundays, on their 2023 schedule. But they do have one Sunday game and one weekday game, in the afternoon in 2024.
- ) The seats in Pelicans Ballpark were originally in Atlanta Fulton County Stadium, which was home to the Atlanta Braves from 1966 through 1996.
- ) The first stalker at a Pelican's home game was in 1999. (See what interesting facts we can learn when teams post their Media Guide on their Website.)
- ) **Lynchburg's 2023** total attendance was 108,725, up 17,493 (19.2%), with a 1,673 average per date, up 201 (13.7%). One date was lost, and 3 more dates were played than in 2022. 4 dates topped 3,000. The largest crowd was 4,072.
- ) Until 2005, Lynchburg had never drawn at least 150,000 in its long Minor League history, and reached 130,000 only in 1948. The Hillcats then topped 150,000 in each year from 2005 through 2015.
- ) **Fayetteville, NC** had a **2023** total attendance of 187,195, down 27,275 (12.7%), with a 2,971 average per date, down 488 (14.1%). The total attendance decline was the largest among all Class-A teams, and the average per date loss was the biggest among all MLB-affiliated teams. There was one more date than in 2022, and 3 dates were lost. The top crowd was 5,177, and 15 dates drew over 4,000.
- ) In 2017 and 2018, the Buies Creek Astros, had a temporary home at Campbell University's ballpark, which seats around 1,000. In **2019**, the team moved to its permanent home, became the **Fayetteville Woodpeckers, and smashed previous attendance records for that city. They drew a total of 246,961, averaging 3,632, in new Segra Stadium. 9 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 6,202.** Although this was officially a new team, total attendance was 222,893 above the Buies' Creek 2018 total, and the average per date was up 3,273. These gains were each the 3<sup>rd</sup> best among MLB-affiliates. Fayetteville had post-World War II teams from 1946 through 1956, and again from 1987 through 2000. Only the 1992 through 1995 teams drew at least 100,000, with a high of 121,051 in 1995. The top average per date, since 1992 for those teams, was 1,862 in 1995.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued**Carolina League Historic Attendance Data**

- J Total **2019** attendance rose 117,268 (6.2%) to 2,018,496. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest total ever for this league, topped only by the 2,027,878 total in 2017. 2019 average per date was up 223 to 3,139. **2023** was the 24<sup>th</sup> year since 1993, and the 15<sup>th</sup> time in the last 16 'normal', seasons that the league's average per date surpassed 3,000. The main factor in the 2019 increase was that Fayetteville moved into its new ballpark. The league's top average per date was 3,811 in 2014.
- J 56 dates in 2019 were lost, resulting in 9 fewer dates than in 2018. April 2019 was much warmer than April 2018, with just 7 games starting in temperatures of under 60 degrees, with none below 50. Temperatures were at least 70 degrees at the start of 68 games. In April 2018, 42 games began with a temperature of less than 60 degrees, including 15 games where it was under 50. Only 32 games had a temperature of at least 70 at the start.
- J Carolina League attendance has been very stable since 2000. This followed a huge attendance boom for the league from the early 1980's through the mid-1990's. In 1982, the 8-team league drew 564,144, with 6 of its teams failing to reach 50,000 in attendance. By 1995, attendance for the 8-team league was 1,816,193, with 3 teams topping 300,000. They surpassed 1.9 million for the first time in 2013, and did it again in 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, and with more teams, in 2022. Attendance topped 2 million for the first time in 2017, with 2 added teams, and again in 2019 and then in 2022 and 2023, with 2 more teams.
- J The league drew better than one million in 1947, but didn't do it again until 1989. They reached one million every year after that, and topped 1.5 million each season but one (2003) since 1993.
- J Average attendance per team reached 100,000 in 1946 and 1947, but not again until 1985. It hit 200,000 for the first time in 1993, and was above that level 20 times from that year forward, including in 12 of the last 14 years, through 2019. In 2014, it was a record-high 247,109, and was a 2<sup>nd</sup> best 243,346 in 2015 (8 teams). It was 201,850 in 2019.
- J The largest Carolina League crowd was 32,152 when Potomac hosted Salem at RFK Stadium in Washington in 2006. Top attendance in a Carolina League ballpark was 12,049 at Greensboro in 1960. Among 2019 Carolina league teams, Frederick held the record for biggest crowd in its home ballpark (11,006 in 1997). Frederick, Maryland played in the MLB-Draft League in 2021, and led all Summer Collegiate teams in attendance.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CAROLINA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

## CAROLINA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	12	2,378,278	63,818	2.8	3,171	130	4.3
2022	12	2,314,460	515,018	28.6	3,041	395	14.8
2021	12	1,799,442			2,646		
2019	10	2,018,496	117,268	6.2	3,139	223	7.6
2018	10	1,901,228	(126,650)	(6.3)	2,916	(213)	(6.8)
2017	10	<b>2,027,878</b>	201,145	11.0	3,129	(391)	(11.1)
2016	8	1,826,733	(120,035)	(6.2)	3,520	(181)	(4.9)
2015	8	1,946,768	(34,905)	(1.8)	3,701	(110)	(2.9)
2014	8	<b>1,981,673</b>	46,933	2.4	<b>3,811</b>	154	4.2
2013	8	1,934,740	57,659	3.1	3,657	135	3.8
2012	8	1,877,081	87,450	4.9	3,522	74	2.1
2011	8	1,789,631	(20,906)	(1.2)	3,448	57	1.7
2010	8	1,810,537	223,949	14.1	3,391	328	10.7
2009	8	1,586,588	(139,923)	(8.1)	3,063	(164)	(5.1)
2008	8	1,726,511	57,700	3.5	3,227	78	2.5
dd2007	8	1,668,811	67,384	4.2	3,149	99	3.2
2006	8	1,601,427	12,081	0.8	3,050	68	2.3
2005	8	1,589,346	12,711	0.8	2,982	(33)	(1.1)
2004	8	1,576,635	117,795	8.1	3,015	115	4.0
2003	8	1,458,840	(128,214)	(8.1)	2,900	(78)	(2.6)
2002	8	1,587,054	(55,218)	(3.4)	2,978	(92)	(3.0)
2001	8	1,642,272	31,017	1.9	3,070	(29)	(0.9)
2000	8	1,611,255	(41,001)	(2.5)	3,099	(7)	(0.2)
1999	8	1,652,256	130,091	8.5	3,106	250	8.8
1998	8	1,522,165	(283,180)	(15.7)	2,856	(531)	(15.7)
1997	8	1,805,345	82,765	4.8	3,387	100	3.0
1996	8	1,722,580	(93,613)	(5.2)	3,287	(226)	(6.4)
1995	8	1,816,193	128,597	7.6	3,513	292	9.1
1994	8	1,687,596	(55,432)	(3.2)	3,221	(37)	(1.1)
1993	8	1,743,028	373,151	27.2	3,258	613	23.2
1992	8	1,369,877	68,371	5.2	2,645	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,301,560	14,845	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,286,715	279,977	27.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – (10 teams – 132-game schedule in 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,296,962 (2011 – 12 teams); Avg. per Team: 108,080 (12 teams-2011); Average per Date: 1,642 (2011).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 695,800 (2023 – 10 teams); Average per Team: 69,580 (2023); Average per date: 1,214 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: St. Petersburg–202,383 (1989); Avg. per Date: Clearwater – 2,998 (2017) 2023 teams: Total Attendance: Clearwater – 200,201 (2017). 1989 St. Pete average is N/A.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Clearwater–157,072 (2023); Average per Date: Clearwater - 2,493 (2023)

) **Florida State League** – 10 teams, all played in the 2019 Florida State League.

) The league drew 695,800 in **2023**, an average of 69,580 per team, and 1,214 per date. There were a Minor League high 85 lost dates, which include 41 dates played by Jupiter and Palm Beach with no fans allowed to attend.

) Clearwater led the league in **2023** total attendance (157,072), and average per date (2,493). The Threshers have been the Florida State League's attendance leader in each of the last 12 seasons, and in 18 of 19 years since 2004. Fort Myers was the only other team in the league that topped 100,000 in total attendance or 1,600 in average per date in 2023. Dunedin, who drew 31,210, an average of 495 per date, posted the lowest attendance figures among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams.

) Both Jupiter and Palm Beach share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. In **2021**, local Covid-19 restrictions forced both teams to play many home games with no fans permitted to attend. This policy continued in **2022 and 2023**, and will again be in effect in **2024**. In **2023**, Palm Beach had 28 lost dates, which included 5 rainouts. Jupiter lost 26 dates, including 8 that were rained out. Only dates with fans in attendance are counted in this report for compiling average per date.

) **2023 vs. 2022** total attendance was up 52,020 (8.1%). Average per date rose 56 (4.9%), with 17 more dates. 8 teams had total attendance increases, led by Fort Myers, up 21,892. 6 teams had average per date increases, led by Bradenton, up 206. The declines were small. Jupiter, down 6,641 had the largest total attendance decline, and Palm Beach, down 75, had the top average per date dip.

) The **2019 Florida State League** drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

) **Something that rarely changes is Clearwater having the top Florida State League attendance. The Threshers did it by a wide margin again in 2023, leading the league for the 18<sup>th</sup> time in the last 19 years, including the last 12 seasons.** In **2023**, the Threshers drew 157,072, up 5,090 (3.3%). This was their 16<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year with a total above 150,000. Average per date was 2,493, up 81 (3.3%). This was the 17<sup>th</sup> year in a row, including 2021, with average per date over 2,000, and the 15<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' season where average per date exceeded 2,400. Prior to this streak, the only year above 2,000, since at least 1991 (if ever), was 2004. 17 dates drew at least 3,000 in 2023, topped by the largest 2023 crowd in this league (8,847). 3 dates were lost, with the same number of dates in 2023 as in 2022.

) In **2019**, Clearwater drew 180,069, which was the team's 5<sup>th</sup> best total ever. Average per date was 2,688. In **2017**, the Threshers drew a team record-high 200,201. That was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total in Florida State League history. St. Petersburg drew 202,383 in 1989. Weather helped in 2014 as the Threshers played all 70 scheduled home dates. No other Florida State League team was rainout-free since at least 1991, and perhaps, never.

) **2017** was the 10<sup>th</sup> time in 14 years that Clearwater set a new team total attendance record-high. **2019** was the 13<sup>th</sup> straight year above 165,000 for the Threshers. They never reached 100,000 in a season from 1985 through 2003. Prior to the current run by Clearwater, the longest consecutive streak of 150,000+ attendance in this league was by the former team from St. Petersburg, who did it in 4 straight years (1988-1991).

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) The **Daytona Tortugas** drew 93,894, up 2,738 (3.0%) in **2023**, with a 1,539 average per date, down 32 (2.1%). They had 5 lost dates in 2023, with 3 more dates than in 2022. 11 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 2,916.
- ) Daytona's **2019** total of 137,570 was their best since 2014. Average per date was 2,116. **2019** was the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year above 110,000. Daytona's total was above 135,000 in 12 seasons from 2006 through 2019. Average per date surpassed 2,000 in 14 of 16 seasons through 2019. Prior to 2004, Daytona had reached 100,000 just 3 times in 49 seasons (1983, 1984, 2001). In 2016, the team was renamed the "Tortugas," a Spanish word for a turtle that is native to the Daytona area.
- ) There will be no day games again at Jackie Robinson Ballpark in 2024. This park is the 4<sup>th</sup> oldest in pro baseball, and its original version opened in 1914.
- ) The **Dunedin Blue Jays** had a **2023** total attendance of 31,210, up 6,808 (27.9%), and average per date rose 108 (27.9%) to 495. These are the lowest figures among MLB-affiliated teams. But the 2023 vs. 2022 percentage gains were 5<sup>th</sup> best among the MLB-affiliated teams. The same number of dates were played as in 2022, and 3 dates were lost. 4 dates drew above 1,000, with a high of 1,831.
- ) **2021** was a crazy season for **Dunedin**. The Toronto Blue Jays used their ballpark for April and May games, so the Dunedin Blue Jays were forced to play 13 dates elsewhere, with no fans in attendance. Including those empty ballpark dates, Dunedin had 19 lost dates.
- ) Dunedin's ballpark was closed for reconstruction for the **2019** season, and the Blue Jays had to play their 'home' games elsewhere. 48 dates were played at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater, which until 2004 was the Spring Training home of the Philadelphia Phillies. 4 'home' dates were in the current park of the Clearwater Threshers, 3 were in Daytona, one date was in Bradenton, and 2 were played in Tampa.
- ) From 1999 through 2019, the Blue Jays topped 60,000 only in 2014, and were under 50,000 15 times. The total reached 60,000 each year from 1990 through 1996, and in 1998 and 2014. Average per date last hit 1,000 in 1994. A reason for Dunedin's low attendance is that its neighboring town, Clearwater, also has a Florida State League team. The Tampa Bay Rays play just a few miles further south.
- ) The **2023 Bradenton Marauders** had a total attendance of 65,598, up 9,076 (16.1%), and average per date was 1,075, up 206 (23.7%). 8 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,404. 5 dates were lost, and 4 fewer dates were played than in 2022.
- ) The Marauders topped 100,000 in total attendance each year from 2010 through 2015. Their park, 100-year-old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.
- ) In **Tampa**, the Tarpons had a total attendance of 58,150, up 11,523 (24.7%) in **2023**, averaging 986 per date, up 89 (9.9%). There were 6 lost dates, and 7 more dates than in 2022. The season high crowd was 3,277, and only one other date drew above 2,000. The team made history with Rachel Balkovec as their manager. She was the first woman to manage an MLB-affiliated Minor League team. She is now the Director of Player Development for the Miami Marlins.
- ) The current Tampa team has topped 100,000 10 times since 1996. That figure was reached just 4 times in 43 years prior to 1996. The team's name was changed from Yankees to Tarpons for 2018. Teams in Tampa were named the Tarpons from 1957 through 1987.
- ) Once again in 2024, the Tarpons are the only MLB-affiliated team with a doubleheader on their original schedule.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) **Lakeland's 2023** total attendance was 38,202, up 2,347 (6.5%), and their average per date was 616, down 13 (2.0%). The top crowd was 4,289. Only one other date drew at least 1,000. 5 more dates were played than in 2022, and there were 4 lost dates.
- ) From 2010 through 2015, Lakeland's attendance surpassed 59,000 in 6 straight years, after not reaching that figure since 1987. Previously, Lakeland reached 60,000 only in 1951, 1977, and 1987, and was under 10,000 in 1967, 1968, 1969, and 1971. After averaging just 495 per date in 2006, Lakeland's average per date more than doubled to over 1,000 in 4 of 5 years from 2010 through 2014. In 2013, Lakeland lost an incredible 19 dates due to weather, including 16 in July and August. The Flying Tigers had 6 lost dates in 2014, 7 in 2015, 9 in 2016, 6 in 2017, 11 in 2018, 7 in 2019, 6 in 2021, 9 in 2022, and 4 in 2023.
- ) Covid restrictions caused Palm Beach and Jupiter, who share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, to play many of their **2021 and 2022** home games with no fans allowed to attend. This policy was also in place in **2023, and will be done again in 2024**, as only 43 Jupiter home dates, and 45 Palm Beach dates, are scheduled to have fans in attendance.
- ) For **2023 Florida State League Champion Jupiter**, there were 27 home dates in 2021, 19 dates in 2022, and 18 dates in 2023, that were played with no fans in the park. Their **2023** total attendance was 35,515, down a league high 6,641 (15.8%). Average per date was 911, down 70 (7.1%), with 4 fewer dates than in 2022. A crowd of 5,380 was the only one above 2,000. 8 dates were rained out.
- ) Due to construction at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, 20 of Jupiter's home dates were played at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches (now named CACTI Park of the Palm Beaches), Spring Training home of the Washington Nationals and Houston Astros. 14 of those dates had fans in attendance, and they drew 10,165, an average of 726 per date. The 25 dates with attendance in Jupiter drew 25,350, an average of 1,014 per date.
- ) Jupiter had a **2019** loss of 6,411 in total attendance to 62,684, the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest total (to 2016) in the team's 22 years through 2019. The Hammerheads have reached 100,000 only 3 times (1999, 2001, 2002). Their average per date has topped 1,200 in 11 seasons since 1998. A team played in nearby West Palm Beach most recently from 1965 through 1997, and drew over 100,000 in 15 different years between 1974 and 1992. A Spring Training facility for the Astros and Nationals opened in West Palm Beach in 2017, but it does not have a full-season Minor League team.
- ) Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter is the Spring Training site of the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Their Single-A and Gulf Coast (Complex) League affiliates also play in the facility. It has about 30 Major League Spring Training, 132 Single-A, and 60 Gulf Coast League games, scheduled yearly. Pro baseball's busiest venue also hosts Minor League spring training, the fall Florida Instructional League, and high school and college tournaments.
- ) The **Fort Myers Mighty Mussels** (formerly the Miracle) had a **2023** total attendance of 108,879, up a league best 21,892 (25.2%), and a 1,675 average per date, up 93 (5.9%). 6 dates topped 3,000 with a high of 6,875. There was just one lost date. 10 more dates were played than in 2022, which ties Dayton for the all Minor Leagues biggest 2023 vs. 2022 increase in the number of dates played.
- ) **2015** was a record-setting year for Fort Myers. The Miracle drew a team record-high total of 133,817, and a record-high average per date of 2,028. Opening Night drew a team record 9,209. (A former team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984.) In **2019**, due to bad weather, total attendance fell 15,082 to 108,800, the lowest since 2004. Average per date was up 60 to 1,909, the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year above 1,700. Since 1998, the Miracle achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (21) with attendance above 100,000, and they did it for 15 years in a row through 2019. St. Petersburg, a former Florida State League member, topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997. Clearwater has done it every year, including 2021, since 2004.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) The **St. Lucie Mets** drew 74,213 in **2023**, up 3,000 (4.2%). Average per date was up 30 (2.5%) to 1,197. There was one more date than in 2022, and 4 dates were lost. 7 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 4,396.
- ) Until 2019, the Mets reached 90,000 in 14 straight seasons, which they didn't do in any of the 17 years before 2005. Average per date had been above 1,400 in 14 straight years until 2019, with 10 seasons topping 1,500.
- ) St. Lucie had a record season in attendance in **2017**. The Mets drew record-highs in total attendance (132,359, up 35,803), and average per date (2,005, up 585). Those were the biggest increases in the league. Among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams, the gain in total attendance was 5<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date increase was 7<sup>th</sup> best. The Mets also had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best percentage increases among all MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance (up 37.1%), and average per date (up 41.2%). The old record-highs in St. Lucie, set in 2011, were 105,379 for total attendance, and 1,647 in average per date.
- ) The Tebow Effect – Tim Tebow played the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the 2017 season with the St. Lucie Mets, and that certainly led to an increase in attendance, both at home and on the road. In the 37 home dates prior to Tebow's arrival, the Mets drew 64,568, averaging 1,745 per date. With Tebow, they drew 67,791 in 29 home dates, an average of 2,338. On the road the gain was more significant. The Mets' 33 road dates prior to Tebow drew 37,941, an average of 1,150. But with Tebow, they drew 127,546 in 33 dates, an average of 3,865. Some of this gain can be attributed to where the road games were played, but there's no doubt that much of it was due to Tebow. Combined home and road St. Lucie attendance with Tebow was 195,337 in 62 dates, an average of 3,151 per date. Without Tebow, combined St. Lucie home and road attendance was 102,509 in 70 dates, an average of 1,464.
- ) Tebow spent the first half of the 2017 season with the Columbia Fireflies of the South Atlantic League. That team's 'with Tebow-without Tebow' figures can be found in the South Atlantic League section of this report. Combined Columbia-St. Lucie home attendance with Tebow was 274,822 in 68 dates, averaging 4,042 per date. Without Tebow, these 2 teams drew 172,571 in 64 home dates, an average of 2,696. On the road, the combined Columbia-St. Lucie total with Tebow was 296,989 in 62 dates, an average of 4,790. Without Tebow, it was 163,200 in 70 dates, an average of 2,331 per date. Tebow played at Binghamton of the Eastern League in 2018, and with Syracuse of the International League in 2019. He retired from baseball after Spring Training in 2021.
- ) **Palm Beach** had no fans at 28 home dates in **2021**, and at 22 dates in both **2022** and **2023**. The Cardinals drew 33,067 in **2023**, down 3,813 (10.3%), averaging 870 per date, down a league high 75 (8.0%). The only date that topped 2,000 drew 4,105. 38 dates were played with fans in the park, one less than in 2022. There were 5 rainouts in 2023.
- ) Like their 'parkmates,' the Jupiter Hammerheads, the Cardinals had home games relocated due to construction at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium. One 'home' date was played in Daytona, and 5 were played in St. Lucie. None of these games had fans in attendance. There were 17 dates played at the Ballpark of the Palm Beaches (now named CACTI Park of the Palm Beaches) in West Palm Beach. The 12 dates with fans in the park drew 8,153, an average of 679 per date. The 26 dates with fans at Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium drew 24,914, averaging 958 per date.
- ) The Cardinals have drawn above 100,000 only once (2006) in their 20 seasons, including 2021 through 2023. Average per date has been above 1,200 only 3 times, but has topped 1,000 in 12 seasons.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued**Some Former Florida State League Teams No Longer in Minor Leagues**

- J In 2017, the **Florida Fire Frogs**, who played in Kissimmee, next to Disney World, replaced the Brevard County Manatees. They drew 57,324, the highest total ever for a team in Kissimmee. Average per date was 1,082, the highest average for a team in Kissimmee since at least 1991.
- J In **2019**, their final year, the Fire Frogs had the lowest attendance of any full-season team, except for Dunedin, a team that didn't have any real home games. Florida drew just 19,615, down 13,402, and they averaged 327 per date. There were 11 lost dates. No games attracted at least 1,000. The 40.6% loss in total attendance, and the 45.5% decline in average per date, were the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest percentage declines among MLB-affiliated teams in 2019.
- J Previously, **Kissimmee** had a team from 1985 through 2000. It drew 658,458 in 16 seasons, averaging 41,154 per year. The top attendance total was 53,566 in 1989. 1993 was the only other 50,000+ year. Lowest attendance was 29,533 in 1996. In 2020, the Fire Frogs were expected to play in North Port, between Port Charlotte and Sarasota, in the new Spring Training park of the Atlanta Braves. But this team was eliminated in the realignment.
- J In **2016**, their final season, **Brevard County** drew 85,032, up 6,659, and average per date was up 64 to 1,308. The Manatees reached 100,000 in each of their first 8 seasons (1994-2001), but did it just once (2005) after that. Average per date was over 2,000 only from 1994 through 1997, and in 2001, with a high of 2,234 in 1996. In 23 seasons, the team drew 2,320,932 in 1,444 dates, averaging 100,910 per season, and 1,607 per date.
- J Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, **Vero Beach** had been one of the smallest towns with pro baseball. The record-high in Vero Beach was 95,300, in 1991. In 1948, the Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and business conferences are held there annually. One Florida State League game used to be played in Holman Stadium there yearly in memory of Jackie Robinson.
- J **Port Charlotte's** last team reached 100,000 in 9 of its 11 seasons, and average per date was 1,500+ every year until **2019**, when the Stone Crabs drew 91,349. Average per date was 1,363. Both the total and average were lows for this team. 2016, with 10 lost dates, was their only other year under 100,000. A former team in Port Charlotte drew 100,000+ in only 4 of 16 seasons from 1987 through 2002. The Minor League realignment also eliminated this team.

**Florida State League Historic Attendance Data**

- J Bad weather was a factor in **2019**, as total attendance fell 92,074 (9.0%) to 935,187, the lowest total since 2003. This was the worst percentage decline of any MLB-affiliated league in 2019. It also was the end of streak of 13 straight years with league attendance that topped one million. Attendance reached one million only 5 times from 1946 through 2005 (1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997).
- J The league's average attendance per team was under 100,000 from 2015 through 2023, after topping 100,000 in 4 straight years. Prior to 2011, it had never reached 100,000. Average per team was over 50,000 from 1947 through 1949, and then again only in 1959 and 1972, until surpassing 50,000 for good in 1974. The 2019 average per team of 77,932 was, at that point, the lowest since 2003. The average attendance per date in 2019 fell by 91 to 1,255, lowest at that point, since 2003. It had topped 1,500 from 2011 through 2015, and in 2017. Before 2011, average per date was under 1,500 since at least 1991.
- J The league played 18 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018. There were 92 lost dates, the most of any league. Hurricane Dorian forced the cancellation of all games in the final regular season weekend, and the entire playoffs. As you might expect, cold weather was not a factor in this league. Just one April 2019 game (in Clearwater) began with a temperature of less than 70 degrees, while at 90 games, the gametime temperature was at least 80 degrees. In 2018, only one April game, in Daytona, began with a temperature of less than 70 degrees, and 64 games, began in 80+ degree weather. But rain, and hurricanes, were often issues in the league.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE – SINGLE-A - continued**

## FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	695,800	52,020	8.1	1,214	56	4.9
2022	10	643,780	175,860	37.6	1,158	171	17.3
2021	10	467,920			987		
2019	12	935,187	(92,074)	(9.0)	1,255	(91)	(6.7)
2018	12	1,027,261	(133,167)	(11.5)	1,346	(175)	(11.5)
2017	12	1,160,428	103,628	9.8	1,521	170	12.6
2016	12	1,056,800	(115,815)	(9.9)	1,351	(160)	(10.6)
2015	12	1,172,695	(63,433)	(5.1)	1,511	(82)	(5.1)
2014	12	1,236,128	23,944	2.0	1,593	(13)	(0.8)
2013	12	1,212,184	(2,836)	(0.2)	1,606	14	0.9
2012	12	1,215,020	(81,942)	(6.3)	1,592	(50)	(3.0)
2011	12	<b>1,296,962</b>	114,381	9.7	<b>1,642</b>	143	9.5
2010	12	1,182,581	65,218	5.8	1,499	13	0.9
2009	12	1,117,363	86,902	8.4	1,486	161	12.2
2008	12	1,030,461	(48,641)	(4.5)	1,325	(66)	(4.7)
2007	12	1,079,102	979	0.1	1,391	5	0.4
2006	12	1,078,123	91,352	9.3	1,386	93	7.2
2005	12	986,771	23,733	2.5	1,293	(21)	(1.6)
2004	12	963,038	120,735	14.3	1,314	186	16.5
2003	12	842,303	31,480	3.9	1,128	86	8.3
2002	12	810,823	(72,858)	(8.2)	1,042	(118)	(10.2)
2001	12	883,681	(69,439)	(7.3)	1,160	113	10.8
2000	14	953,120	11,259	1.2	1,047	(1)	(0.1)
1999	14	941,861	(24,134)	(2.5)	1,048	14	1.4
1998	14	965,995	(167,215)	(14.8)	1,034	(232)	(18.3)
1997	14	1,133,210	6,558	0.6	1,266	13	1.0
1996	14	1,126,652	149,032	15.2	1,253	152	13.8
1995	14	977,620	(105,363)	(9.7)	1,101	(125)	(10.2)
1994	14	1,082,983	106,757	10.9	1,226	48	4.1
1993	14	976,226	(122,775)	(11.2)	1,178	(85)	(6.7)
1992	14	1,099,001	79,765	7.8	1,263	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,019,236	29,661	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	989,575	32,231	3.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – (8 teams – 132-game schedule in 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,061,889 (1997 – 10 teams); Avg. per Team: 206,189 (10 teams-1997); Average per Date: 2,988 (1997).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,112,908 (2023 – 8 teams); Average per Team: 139,114 (2023); Average per date: 2,132 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total: Rancho Cucamonga–446,146 (1995); Avg./Date: Rancho Cucamonga-6,374 (1995)

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Fresno–277,089 (2023); Average per Date: Fresno - 4,198 (2023)

- J **California League** – 8 teams. 7 of these teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Pacific Coast League, replacing Lancaster.
- J Total attendance was 1,112,908 in **2023**, averaging 139,114 per team, and 2,132 per date. Just 6 dates were lost. Fresno, which had been in Triple-A through 2019, was the league leader, by a wide margin, with a 277,089 total, and a 4,198 average per date. Rancho Cucamonga came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, drawing 151,082, and averaging 2,289. Fresno had the largest crowd of 2023 (11,076) among the 30 Single-A teams. **Visalia had a record-high average per date.**
- J The **2023 vs. 2022** comparison shows a 23,168 (2.1%) increase in total attendance, and a 60 (2.9%) gain in average per date, with 4 fewer dates played. 5 of the 8 teams had increases in both categories. Fresno had the biggest increase in total attendance (15,437), and Rancho Cucamonga posted the best average per date gain (190). Modesto had the league's biggest declines, down 11,176 in total attendance, and down 169 in average per date.
- J The **2019 California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811**, averaging 2,342 per date.
- J Weather, other than heat, is rarely an issue in the California League. Only 6 dates were postponed in 2023, 5 in Lake Elsinore, with 3 of them due to a gas explosion at the ballpark, and one in San Bernadino. There were 2 postponements in 2022. Weather was a slight issue in 2021 and 2019, with 12 lost dates each year. Only one game in 2018 was postponed. 3 dates were lost in 2017, and there were 4 in 2016. There were 8 lost dates in 2015, including one due to high winds. There were 2 lost dates in 2014, 4 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 in 2009. The most rainouts over the last 25 years of this league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **Fresno**, which played in the Triple-A Pacific Coast league in 2019, led the league in **2023** attendance by a very wide margin, with a total of 277,089, up a league best 15,437 (5.9%), and an average per date of 4,198, up 173 (4.3%). These were the highest total and 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date figures among the 30 Single-A teams. 12 dates drew over 6,000, and 6 dates topped 8,000. There were no lost dates, and one more date than in 2022. **The top crowd of 11,076 was the biggest among Single-A teams.** In 2021, Fresno hosted the largest post-season crowd (7,337) among MLB-affiliated teams.
- J In **2019**, Fresno drew their smallest total up to that point (380,090, down 25,313) since moving to Chukchansi Park in 2002. Average per date was 5,759 in 2019, which was also the lowest through 2019 in their current park. It was the first time since 2001 that this club drew under 400,000, and averaged less than 6,000 per date. Average per date has surpassed 7,000 in 6 seasons, with a high of 8,044 in 2002. Total attendance reached 500,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2002 through 2008, but not since. There have been 20 crowds of at least 13,415 in the history of Chukchansi Park, which is a Minor League unique 4-level, 3-tier, facility.
- J **Inland Empire** (San Bernardino) had a **2023** total attendance of 139,534, down 2,258 (1.6%), with a 2,147 average per date, down 2 (0.1%). 17 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 5,214. There was one lost date, and one less date played in 2023 than in 2022.
- J The Inland Empire 66ers led the California League in attendance in **2019**, drawing 181,253. Average per date was 2,627. These were their lowest figures since 2012. The 66ers drew over 200,000 in 6 seasons between 1997 and 2005, but only in 2009 and 2017 since then. Their average per date was above 2,500 in 16 of the last 18 years through 2019, and had topped 2,700 for 6 straight years until 2019.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) **2023** total attendance for the **Lake Elsinore Storm** was 94,385, down 8,565 (8.3%), and the average per date was 1,547, down 37 (2.3%). It was the lowest total attendance and average per date in this Storm's 29-year history. 5 dates were lost, including 3 games that were cancelled due to a gas explosion at the ballpark when a dryer was being installed. There were 4 fewer dates than in 2022. The largest crowd was 5,275, and 7 dates topped 3,000.
- ) Lake Elsinore had the California League's biggest **2019** losses, and the club's lowest total and average per date in its history through 2019. The Storm had the California League's best crowd of the 2019 – 7,501. 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 are the only times in the Storm's 29 seasons with attendance below 200,000. They surpassed 340,000 in each of their first 4 years (1994-1997), with a high of 383,297 in 1995. But they have not drawn more than 290,000 in any season since then. Average per date was above 5,000 from 1994 through 1996, and stayed above 4,000 through 1999. It has been below 3,500 since 2003, but 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023 were the only years under 3,000.
- ) The **Rancho Cucamonga Quakes**, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, was originally named 'The Epicenter' (it's now LoanMart Field), drew 151,082, up 12,549 (9.1%) in **2023**, averaging 2,289 per date, up 190 (9.1%). It was the best average per date increase in this league. No dates were lost, in either 2023 or 2022. Attendance topped 3,000 at 19 dates, and was above 4,000 at 9 dates, with a high of 4,883.
- ) **2023** was the 12<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year under 175,000, after 17 in a row above 260,000. The Quakes had a 17-year run as the California League's attendance leader through 2009, but drew 150,687 in 2010, at that time, the lowest in team history. Their prior low had been 266,773 in 2009, and attendance has not reached 200,000 since then. Rancho Cucamonga set a record-high for a California League team drawing 446,146 in 1995, and selling 97% of available seats that year. They topped 300,000 each year from 1993 through 2000, and were above 400,000 from 1995 through 1997. Average per date was over 5,000 from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 6,374 in 1995. This is in a park with 4,923 seats. The average per date has been under 2,500 for the last 13 seasons, including 2021 through 2023.
- ) The **Stockton Ports' 2023** total attendance was 117,377, up 2,897 (2.5%), and they averaged 1,778 per date, up 44 (2.5%). There were no postponements in both 2023 and 2022. 6 dates drew over 3,000, and 3 topped 4,000, with a high of 4,923.
- ) Stockton's attendance was 154,547 in 1947 and 145,804 in 1948. But attendance did not reach 120,000 again until 2005. They topped 179,000 in all 15 seasons from 2005 through 2019. Annual attendance through 2019 in Stockton had more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005. In **2019**, attendance was 179,465, and average per date was 2,601, the lowest figures in the current park. The Ports never averaged at least 2,000 per date until 2005, but have been above 2,600 each year, other than 2021 through 2023, since then.
- ) **2023** total attendance for the **San Jose Giants** was 124,129, up 9,055 (7.9%). Average per date rose 137 (7.9%) to 1,811. No dates were postponed, just as in 2022. 9 dates topped 3,000. The season-high crowd was 3,555.
- ) From 2009 through 2014, the Giants topped 200,000 each year, something they had never done in their long history. They drew over 150,000 in 17 of the last 18 years through 2019, after reaching this mark just once (1999) since 1947. Average per date surpassed 2,000 for the 19<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2019, and has been above 3,000 in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Attendance had basically doubled by 2019 from when the Giants failed to reach 100,000 in any year from 1974 through 1987. The Giants won the 2014 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

- ) The **2023 California League Champion Modesto Nuts** drew a total of 83,077, down 11,176 (11.9%), and averaged 1,259 per date, down 169 (11.9%). These were the biggest declines in the league in 2023. It was also the lowest 'normal season' total in Modesto since 1991, and the smallest average per date in a 'normal' season since at least 1991. The same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022, and no dates were lost. 14 dates drew at least 2,000, with 4 of them topping 3,000. Largest crowd was 4,139.
- ) Over the 18 seasons from 2002 through 2019, Modesto achieved the 18 best attendance totals in its 78-year history. The Nuts didn't reach 110,000 until 1997, but were above 130,000 every year since, until 2021 through 2023.
- ) **In 2023, Visalia drew 126,235, up 5,229 (4.3%). This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total in team history. Average per date was a team record-high 1,913, up 79 (4.3%).** 5 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 3,511. No dates were lost for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year.
- ) **Visalia had drawn a record high in 9 of the last 11 seasons through 2019. Their 2019 record-high total was 129,118, and the then-record-high average per date was 1,899. From 2009 through 2023 (excluding 2021), the Rawhide drew the 13 highest attendance totals in team history, topping 100,000 each year, and finishing above 120,000 in each of the last 8 'normal' seasons.** Before this 11-year streak, 1947 was the only season that a Visalia team drew at least 100,000. They didn't top 80,000 in any of the 29 seasons they had a team between 1954 and 1988. Average per date was under 1,000 in 11 of 13 seasons from 1996 through 2008, but was above 1,500 in all years after that through 2019, and again in 2022 and 2023. Recreation Ballpark, built in 1946, seats just 2,468, but 6 dates in 2019, and 5 dates in 2022 and 2023, drew over 3,000, including a record-high crowd of 4,039 in 2019.
- ) Until 2009, Visalia shared professional baseball's oldest existing season attendance record. That year, the Rawhide completed a ballpark renovation, and drew a then-team record-high 105,405. Their previous record of 104,311 was set in 1947. When Visalia drew 83,452 in 2007, it was that city's best attendance since 1951. Winston-Salem of the Carolina League also had their attendance high in 1947. They broke that old record when they moved into a new ballpark in 2010. In the Major Leagues, the Cincinnati Reds have gone the longest time since setting a team attendance record. Their all-time high was reached in 1976.

**Some Recent Former California League Teams**

- ) **Lancaster** had its final California League season in **2019**, and did not play in 2021 or 2022. This team drew 316,390 in its first season (1996), and topped 200,000 each year through 1999. They never reached 200,000 after that. The JetHawks drew 161,595 in 2019, up 6,022. Average per date was 2,342, up 120. Their average per date was 4,520 in 1996, topped 4,000 in 1997, was above 3,000 in 1998 and 1999, but was not over 2,500 since 2002. It did top 2,000 for the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year in 2019, after 5 straight years under 2,000.
- ) **Lancaster played in the Pecos League in 2023, and had the highest total attendance ever in that league, and the best average per date, by far, in league history. In just 18 home dates, the now-named Sound Breakers, drew 32,580, an average of 1,810 per date. These figures exclude 'no-shows.'** This team will not play in 2024 since the ballpark is being converted to non-baseball use.
- ) The **Bakersfield Blaze** went out of the California League on a 'high' note in **2016**. Their total attendance of 62,922 was up 11,133, the best gain in the California League in 2016, and the team's highest total since 2010. Average per date rose a league-high 159 to 899. It was the 9<sup>th</sup> straight year with average per date of less than 1,000. Total attendance last reached 100,000 in 2002. Since 1946, Bakersfield topped 140,000 only in 1949, and each year from 1990 through 1994. Bakersfield's 2011 attendance of 40,056 was the lowest by a California League team since Salinas attracted just 33,465 in 1990. Bakersfield's most recent MLB-affiliated California League team had played from 1982 through 2016, drawing a total of 3,178,273 in these 35 years, an average of 90,808 per season. But from 2000-2016, the Blaze averaged just 69,874 per year.

**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued**Some Recent Former California League Teams** - continued

- J The final California League year (**2016**) for the **High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks** produced the lowest total and average per date in the team's 26-year history. Total attendance fell to 76,061, and was under 100,000 in 3 of the final 4 years. Average per date was 1,102. In their first two seasons (1991 and 1992), the Mavericks became the first California League team to top 200,000. They were below 160,000 for 22 years in a row, and under 150,000 for the final 18 seasons. Since 2002, average per date reached 2,000 only in 2014. In their 26 California League seasons, the Mavericks drew 3,550,649, averaging 136,563 per season. But the season average was only 118,732 after 2000.
- J Both Bakersfield and High Desert played in the independent Pecos Baseball League starting in 2017. Only Bakersfield was still active in that league in 2021, 2022, 2023, and 2024.

**California League Historic Attendance Data**

- J Total **2019** attendance fell 60,346 (4.5%) to 1,280,811, the lowest total, at that point, since 1992. The league had 10 teams from 1986 through 2016. There was a decline in California League attendance in 15 of 22 seasons from 1998 through 2019.
- J Since 1994, average per date in this league ranged from a low of 2,072 in 2022, and 2,132 in 2023 to a high of 2,988 in 1997.
- J The league's average attendance per team was 160,101 in 2019. Average per team has been above 100,000 every 'normal' year since 1991, and better than 150,000 every year from 2002 through 2015, and again in 2017, 2018, and 2019. (It was 149,985 in 2016.) But 1997 was the only season above 200,000.
- J Weather, other than heat, was rarely a problem in the California League, but that was not the case in 2019 and 2021. 2019 had 12 lost dates, and 12 fewer dates than in 2018, and there were also 12 lost dates in 2021. Only one game in 2018 was postponed, just 2 dates were lost in 2022, and 6 dates were lost in 2023. 3 dates were lost in 2017, and 4 dates were lost in 2016. There were 8 lost dates in 2015, including one due to high winds. There were 2 lost dates in 2014, 4 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 in 2009. The most rainouts over the last 22 years of this league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.
- J In 1964, 4 of the 8 teams in the California League drew less than 17,000 for the season.
- J In 1965, the 6 team California League had a total attendance of 128,836, averaging a league record-low 21,743 per team, and 333 per home date. San Jose led the league in attendance that year, drawing 34,517. Attendance for the other teams was: Stockton – 27,774; Bakersfield – 23,234; Fresno - 22,362; Santa Barbara – 12,121; Salinas – an all-time California League low – 8,828.
- J California League average per team rose to 43,755 in 1966. It was only 50,449 in 1979, a league record-high 206,189 in 1997, and 160,101 in 2019.
- J Largest crowd at a California League ballpark was 12,876 at Lake Elsinore on July 4, 1998. Largest crowd at any California League game (and at any Class A game) was 37,665 for a Redwood-Reno game at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium on July 4, 1981. This game was played during a Major League work stoppage.



**MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS****CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – SINGLE-A - continued

## CALIFORNIA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	8	1,112,908	23,168	2.1	2,132	60	2.9
2022	8	1,089,740	384,703	54.6	2,072	565	37.6
2021	8	705,037			1,506		
2019	8	1,280,811	(60,346)	(4.5)	2,342	(57)	(2.4)
2018	8	1,341,157	(23,217)	(1.7)	2,399	(51)	(2.1)
2017	8	1,364,374	(135,478)	(9.0)	2,450	292	13.5
2016	10	1,499,852	(51,188)	(3.3)	2,158	(83)	(3.7)
2015	10	1,551,040	(95,212)	(5.8)	2,241	(118)	(5.0)
2014	10	1,646,252	62,764	4.0	2,359	84	3.7
2013	10	1,583,488	1,314	0.1	2,275	(18)	(0.8)
2012	10	1,582,174	(11,224)	(0.7)	2,293	(10)	(0.4)
2011	10	1,593,398	26,897	1.7	2,303	36	1.6
2010	10	1,566,501	(154,778)	(9.0)	2,267	(213)	(8.6)
2009	10	1,721,279	87,951	5.4	2,480	123	5.2
2008	10	1,633,328	(16,152)	(1.0)	2,357	(20)	(0.8)
2007	10	1,649,480	75,762	4.8	2,377	83	3.6
2006	10	1,573,718	(6,845)	(0.4)	2,294	(17)	(0.7)
2005	10	1,580,563	73,635	4.9	2,311	133	6.1
2004	10	1,506,928	(57,271)	(3.7)	2,178	(129)	(5.6)
2003	10	1,564,199	(44,081)	(2.7)	2,307	(17)	(0.7)
2002	10	1,608,280	121,006	8.1	2,324	166	7.7
2001	10	1,487,174	(62,614)	(4.0)	2,158	(88)	(3.9)
2000	10	1,549,788	(125,457)	(7.5)	2,246	(182)	(7.5)
1999	10	1,675,245	(58,112)	(3.4)	2,428	(136)	(5.3)
1998	10	1,733,357	(328,532)	(15.9)	2,564	(424)	(14.2)
1997	10	<b>2,061,889</b>	186,502	9.9	<b>2,988</b>	286	10.6
1996	10	1,875,387	197,927	11.8	2,702	267	11.0
1995	10	1,677,460	(13,826)	(0.8)	2,435	(108)	(4.2)
1994	10	1,691,286	337,831	25.0	2,543	514	25.3
1993	10	1,353,455	181,451	15.5	2,029	245	13.7
1992	10	1,172,004	66,317	6.0	1,784	N/A	N/A
1991	10	1,105,687	158,907	16.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	946,780	12,947	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

**2023 vs. 2022 MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE**

<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u></b>								
Buffalo Bisons	487,205	68	7,165	451,859	6,846	35,346	319	1988
Charlotte Knights	498,816	73	6,833	531,465	7,280	(32,649)	(447)	2014
Columbus Clippers	557,131	71	7,847	534,393	7,634	22,738	213	2009
Durham Bulls	491,757	73	6,736	472,090	6,295	19,667	441	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Stripers	231,044	71	3,254	216,177	2,961	14,867	293	2009
Indianapolis Indians	556,775	71	7,842	534,610	7,425	22,165	417	1996
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	432,246	72	6,003	437,543	5,913	(5,297)	90	1992
Jacksonville (FL) Jumbo Shrimp	347,723	68	5,114	358,094	4,974	(10,371)	140	2003
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	567,322	71	7,990	544,220	7,665	23,102	325	2008
Louisville Bats	396,840	72	5,512	424,035	5,730	(27,195)	(218)	2000
Memphis Redbirds	231,698	73	3,174	239,605	3,328	(7,907)	(154)	2000
Nashville Sounds	556,962	72	7,736	555,576	7,611	1,386	125	2015
Norfolk Tides	411,429	71	5,795	365,292	5,004	46,137	791	1993
Omaha Storm Chasers	304,129	73	4,166	294,511	4,148	9,618	18	2011
Rochester Red Wings	437,561	72	6,077	432,580	6,180	4,981	(103)	1997
St. Paul Saints	460,918	71	6,492	473,911	6,582	(12,993)	(90)	2015
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	336,162	69	4,872	331,286	4,666	4,876	206	2013
Syracuse Mets	336,492	67	5,022	335,490	4,793	1,002	229	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	447,384	72	6,214	426,499	5,842	20,885	372	2002
Worcester Red Sox	519,651	70	7,424	532,152	7,290	(12,501)	134	2021
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>8,609,245</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>6,063</b>	<b>8,491,388</b>	<b>5,905</b>	<b>117,857</b>	<b>158</b>	
<b><u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u></b>								
Albuquerque Isotopes	521,521	74	7,048	515,498	7,062	6,023	(14)	2003
El Paso Chihuahuas	507,907	75	6,772	496,805	6,714	11,102	58	2014
Las Vegas Aviators	506,047	74	6,838	518,221	6,910	(12,174)	(72)	2019
Oklahoma (City) Dodgers	399,908	71	5,633	410,730	5,626	(10,822)	7	1998
Reno Aces	372,926	74	5,040	336,079	4,801	36,847	239	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	411,550	74	5,561	412,988	5,507	(1,438)	54	2000
Sacramento River Cats	388,475	75	5,180	372,769	4,970	15,706	210	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	443,494	72	6,160	434,616	5,873	8,878	287	1994
Sugar Land (TX) Space Cowboys	299,055	73	4,097	285,827	3,970	13,228	127	2012
Tacoma Rainiers	384,498	73	5,267	366,469	5,020	18,029	247	1960
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>4,235,381</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>5,762</b>	<b>4,150,002</b>	<b>5,654</b>	<b>85,379</b>	<b>108</b>	
<b>TOTAL - TRIPLE-A</b>	<b>12,844,626</b>	<b>2,155</b>	<b>5,960</b>	<b>12,641,390</b>	<b>5,820</b>	<b>203,236</b>	<b>140</b>	
<b><u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u></b>								
Akron RubberDucks	265,936	66	4,029	253,735	3,904	12,201	125	1997
Altoona Curve	308,003	67	4,597	285,777	4,330	22,226	267	1999
Binghamton Rumble Ponies	206,911	65	3,183	146,679	2,366	60,232	817	1992
Bowie Baysox	234,527	67	3,500	174,537	2,685	59,990	815	1994
Erie Seawolves	207,555	67	3,098	175,810	2,664	31,745	434	1995
Harrisburg Senators	273,768	65	4,212	244,433	3,595	29,335	617	2010
Hartford Yard Goats	402,731	64	6,293	402,123	6,002	608	291	2017
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	236,809	58	4,083	282,514	4,346	(45,705)	(263)	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	403,957	66	6,121	379,100	5,744	24,857	377	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	385,478	65	5,930	368,068	5,577	17,410	353	1951
Richmond Flying Squirrels	428,541	67	6,396	406,560	6,160	21,981	236	1985
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	352,293	68	5,181	351,142	5,241	1,151	(60)	1999
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>3,706,509</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>4,722</b>	<b>3,470,478</b>	<b>4,399</b>	<b>236,031</b>	<b>323</b>	

## 2023 vs. 2022 MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u></b>								
Biloxi Shuckers	158,586	65	2,440	148,865	2,326	9,721	114	2015
Birmingham Barons	253,232	66	3,837	266,921	3,925	(13,689)	(88)	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	228,940	67	3,417	213,685	3,238	15,255	179	2000
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	162,862	64	2,545	150,491	2,389	12,371	156	2005
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	168,751	66	2,557	156,356	2,522	12,395	35	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	293,581	69	4,255	281,972	4,209	11,609	46	2012
Rocket City, (AL) Trash Pandas	314,306	64	4,911	327,007	5,031	(12,701)	(120)	2021
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	295,603	65	4,548	294,334	4,328	1,269	220	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,875,861	526	3,566	1,839,631	3,517	36,230	49	
<b><u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u></b>								
Amarillo Sod Poodles	355,440	66	5,385	379,029	5,493	(23,589)	(108)	2019
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	307,607	67	4,591	300,042	4,478	7,565	113	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	294,986	67	4,403	257,991	3,909	36,995	494	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	347,758	67	5,190	341,243	5,018	6,515	172	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	233,724	69	3,387	226,249	3,428	7,475	(41)	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	256,552	68	3,773	240,615	3,538	15,937	235	2008
San Antonio Missions	284,419	68	4,183	272,144	4,187	12,275	(4)	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	256,947	66	3,893	259,044	3,754	(2,097)	139	2003
Tulsa Drillers	356,002	68	5,235	357,200	5,495	(1,198)	(260)	2010
Wichita Wind Surge	322,637	69	4,676	220,528	3,341	102,109	1,335	2021
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,016,072	675	4,468	2,854,085	4,266	161,987	202	
TOTAL - DOUBLE-A	8,598,442	1,986	4,330	8,164,194	4,121	434,248	209	
<b><u>MIDWEST LEAGUE</u></b>								
Beloit Sky Carp	104,411	65	1,606	102,794	1,632	1,617	(26)	2021
Cedar Rapids (IA) Kernels	161,205	65	2,480	136,360	2,164	24,845	316	2002
Dayton Dragons	520,433	66	7,885	444,346	7,935	76,087	(50)	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	340,038	64	5,313	303,680	5,061	36,358	252	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	186,112	62	3,002	174,050	2,807	12,062	195	2007
Lake County (OH) Captains	193,436	55	3,517	169,574	2,874	23,862	643	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	299,449	64	4,679	288,840	4,659	10,609	20	1996
Peoria Chiefs	158,209	64	2,472	135,784	2,089	22,425	383	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	173,724	66	2,632	170,731	2,668	2,993	(36)	2004
South Bend Cubs	314,591	64	4,915	285,977	4,468	28,614	447	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	360,999	63	5,730	337,167	5,527	23,832	203	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	227,119	65	3,494	206,805	3,390	20,314	104	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,039,726	763	3,984	2,756,108	3,724	283,618	260	
<b><u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u></b>								
Aberdeen IronBirds	141,019	64	2,203	121,916	1,966	19,103	237	2002
Asheville Tourists	183,034	61	3,001	172,726	2,742	10,308	259	1992
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	155,447	62	2,507	155,975	2,437	(528)	70	2009
Brooklyn Cyclones	182,875	64	2,857	167,846	2,707	15,029	150	2001
Greensboro Grasshoppers	279,060	62	4,501	265,943	4,221	13,117	280	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	303,328	61	4,973	317,150	4,879	(13,822)	94	2006
Hickory Crawdads	108,775	61	1,783	105,378	1,700	3,397	83	1993
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	183,649	64	2,870	184,055	2,876	(406)	(6)	1994
Jersey Shore BlueClaws	287,602	60	4,793	256,141	4,269	31,461	524	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	95,120	62	1,534	89,176	1,415	5,944	119	2003
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	156,200	62	2,519	118,754	1,947	37,446	572	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	294,046	62	4,743	287,529	4,493	6,517	250	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,370,155	745	3,181	2,242,589	2,978	127,566	203	

**2023 vs. 2022 MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE**

<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u></b>								
Eugene Emeralds	145,896	59	2,473	136,360	2,311	9,536	162	2010
Everett AquaSox	140,937	63	2,237	128,836	2,013	12,101	224	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	158,723	66	2,405	150,792	2,356	7,931	49	2013
							0	
Spokane Indians	249,012	63	3,953	231,081	3,668	17,931	285	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	120,444	66	1,825	108,136	1,744	12,308	81	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	297,437	61	4,876	313,256	5,135	(15,819)	(259)	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,112,449	378	2,943	1,068,461	2,865	43,988	78	
TOTAL - HIGH-A	6,522,330	1,886	3,458	6,067,158	3,251	455,172	207	
<b><u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u></b>								
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	260,060	62	4,195	262,172	4,096	(2,112)	99	2018
Carolina Mudcats	138,299	60	2,305	138,579	2,165	(280)	140	1991
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	270,170	63	4,288	251,491	3,992	18,679	296	1997
Columbia (SC) Fireflies	219,277	61	3,595	217,225	3,394	2,052	201	2016
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	189,749	60	3,162	154,786	2,497	34,963	665	1996
Down East (Kinston) Wood Ducks	96,220	63	1,527	98,328	1,536	(2,108)	(9)	1949
Fayetteville Woodpeckers	187,195	63	2,971	214,470	3,459	(27,275)	(488)	2019
Fredericksburg Nationals	267,400	64	4,178	260,546	4,136	6,854	42	2021
Kannapolis Cannon Ballers	195,500	64	3,055	192,161	2,912	3,339	143	2021
Lynchburg Hillcats	108,725	65	1,673	91,232	1,471	17,493	202	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	268,600	64	4,197	252,183	3,940	16,417	257	1999
Salem Red Sox	177,083	61	2,903	181,287	2,878	(4,204)	25	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,378,278	750	3,171	2,314,460	3,041	63,818	130	
<b><u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE</u></b>								
Bradenton Marauders	65,598	61	1,075	56,522	870	9,076	205	1923
Clearwater Threshers	157,072	63	2,493	151,982	2,412	5,090	81	2004
Daytona Tortugas	93,894	61	1,539	91,156	1,572	2,738	(33)	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	31,210	63	495	24,402	387	6,808	108	1977
Fort Myers Mighty Mussels	108,879	65	1,675	86,987	1,582	21,892	93	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	35,515	39	911	42,156	980	(6,641)	(69)	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	38,202	62	616	35,855	629	2,347	(13)	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	33,067	38	870	36,880	946	(3,813)	(76)	1998
St. Lucie Mets	74,213	62	1,197	71,213	1,167	3,000	30	1988
Tampa Tarpons	58,150	59	986	46,627	897	11,523	89	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	695,800	573	1,214	643,780	1,158	52,020	56	
<b><u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u></b>								
Fresno Grizzlies	277,089	66	4,198	261,652	4,025	15,437	173	2002
Inland Empire (S. Bernardi.) 66ers	139,534	65	2,147	141,792	2,148	(2,258)	(1)	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	94,385	61	1,547	102,950	1,584	(8,565)	(37)	1994
Modesto Nuts	83,077	66	1,259	94,253	1,428	(11,176)	(169)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	151,082	66	2,289	138,533	2,099	12,549	190	1993
San Jose Giants	124,129	66	1,881	115,074	1,744	9,055	137	1942
Stockton Ports	117,377	66	1,778	114,480	1,735	2,897	43	2005
Visalia Rawhide	126,235	66	1,913	121,006	1,833	5,229	80	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,112,908	522	2,132	1,089,740	2,072	23,168	60	
TOTAL - SINGLE-A	4,186,986	1,845	2,269	4,047,980	2,196	139,006	73	
TOTAL - 2023 MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES	32,152,384	7,872	4,084	30,920,722	3,933	1,231,662	151	

**NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A)** (14 teams -- 76 game schedule in 2019)  
**RECORD HIGHS:** League – 1,890,053 (2002); Team – Brooklyn – 317,124 (2002) All games sold out

**New York-Penn League Historic Attendance Data**

- ) Like the other three MLB-affiliated short-season leagues that charged admission, the New York-Penn League had its final season in 2019. But unlike the Northwest League (now a High-A league), the Appalachian League (now a Summer Collegiate league), and the Pioneer League (now an independent pro league), the New York-Penn League has totally ceased to exist in any form. 2019 New York-Penn League teams were scattered around Minor League Baseball, Collegiate Summer Leagues, or just eliminated, as part of the Minor League Baseball realignment.
- ) Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley moved up to the High-A MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League. Tri-City (Troy, NY) joined the independent pro Frontier League. State College, Mahoning Valley, Williamsport, and the West Virginia (Morgantown) Black Bears, became members of the MLB Collegiate Summer Draft League. Auburn and Batavia joined the Perfect Game Summer Collegiate League. Connecticut and Vermont went to the Futures Collegiate Summer League. Staten Island did not have a team in 2021, but the renamed Ferry Hawks joined the independent pro Atlantic League in 2022. Lowell has not had a pro team since 2019, but there is a possibility that this city will once again have an MLB-affiliated team in the future.
- ) **In 2019, Lowell** had declines in total attendance and average per date to their lowest figures since 1996, their first season. The Spinners drew 100,687, averaging 3,051 per date. The total was down 17,632, and the average per date fell by 330. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2018, and 5 rainouts, tying Williamsport for the most postponements by any short-season team. 6 dates drew over 4,000. August 31, 2010 was the last game of a 413-date sellout streak that began on August 3, 1999. Lowell surpassed 150,000 for 17 straight years until 2015, and average per date was at least 5,000 for 11 straight years from 2000 through 2010. In 2008, the Spinners were part of a Minor League double-header that drew 36,234 at Fenway Park in Boston. In 2018, the Spinners became the first short-season team to install LED field lighting in their ballpark.
- ) Total **2019** New York-Penn League attendance fell 74,143 (5.3%) to 1,316,873, the lowest total since 1998. Average per date was down 89 to 2,644, the lowest since 2000.
- ) There were 11 fewer dates played in 2019 than in 2018, with 34 lost dates. There were 23 rainouts in 2018, 37 in 2017, and 24 in 2016. 3 teams had gains in total attendance and 5 were up in average per date in 2019. Batavia had the league's biggest gains in both categories. Brooklyn had the worst losses, also in both categories.
- ) Average per date in this league had topped 3,000 for 15 straight years until 2016, after never reaching this level before. Total attendance first reached one million in 1995, and was above that every year after that.
- ) The league reached a significant attendance milestone in 2013 as attendance since the start of the league in 1939 surpassed 50 million. This league, whose original name was the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, drew 59,721,751 in its history. 2015 was the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year that the league drew at least 1,500,000, but that mark was not reached in any year after 2015. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
- ) Average attendance per team first topped 100,000 in 2001, and was above that figure every year until 2018. In 2019, it was 94,062, lowest since 1998. The league had a 75,284 average per team in 1949, when it played a longer schedule. That figure was not surpassed until 1995. The average per team was below 50,000 from 1952 through 1988. The lowest average per team was 19,196 in 1967, the first year this league played a short-season. That year Auburn led the league in attendance, drawing 26,991. Erie finished last at the gate, with a total of 9,988.
- ) The lowest team attendance since the short-season schedule began was 9,474 in 1980 by Auburn. In 1990, Pittsfield became this league's first team in the short-season era to draw 100,000. As late as 1993, none of the 14 teams in the New York-Penn League reached 100,000. 6 of 14 teams did it in 2019.
- ) Team relocations and new parks resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in its last 27 years, through 2019. In 1992, the league's 14 teams drew a total attendance of 684,064, an average of 48,862 per team, and an average of 1,422 per date. The 2019 attendance total of 1,316,873 was a gain of 92.5% from 1992. 2019 average attendance per team was 94,062, and the average per date was 2,644. In 2019, 12 of the 14 teams in his league played in a ballpark that opened between 1994 and 2015. The only teams with an older park in this league were Vermont and Williamsport, whose ballparks opened in the 1920's.

**New York-Penn League Historic Attendance Data**

- ) For 19 seasons (2001 through 2019), the Brooklyn Cyclones and Staten Island Yankees had a good rivalry. These teams played just a few miles apart, with the Cyclones right next to the beach in Coney Island, and the Yankees in St. George on Staten Island, next to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal.
- ) Game-by-game attendance data for both teams is available for 2005 through 2019. During those 15 seasons, the Cyclones had 97 regular season home dates with Staten Island. Those games drew an average of 7,481 per date. The other 453 dates in Brooklyn in those years drew an average of 6,398. Brooklyn games vs. Staten Island drew an average of 1,083 (16.9%) more than other games. At Staten Island, the Yankees averaged 5,482 for 90 dates vs. Brooklyn, and 3,424 for 452 dates with other teams. That's 2,058 (60.1%) higher when Brooklyn was the opponent. From 2008 through 2011, 25 of the 26 Yankees-Cyclones games in Staten Island drew a sellout crowd of 7,171.
- ) A Cyclones Media Guide lists crowds for 21 Staten Island at Brooklyn dates from 2001-2004. These dates drew an average of 8,372. This is 307 (3.8%) higher than the 8,065 average at the other 128 dates in Brooklyn in this period.
- ) Brooklyn's population is more than 5 times higher than the population of Staten Island, which accounts, in part, for Brooklyn's higher attendance over the two decades these teams were rivals. Brooklyn now plays in the High-A South Atlantic League, and Staten Island (renamed the Ferry Hawks), now plays in the MLB-Partner Atlantic League.

## NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	14	1,316,873	(74,143)	(5.3)	2,644	(89)	(3.3)
2018	14	1,391,016	(12,559)	(0.9)	2,733	(103)	(3.6)
2017	14	1,403,575	(79,284)	(5.3)	2,836	(83)	(2.8)
2016	14	1,482,859	(107,891)	(6.8)	2,919	(200)	(6.4)
2015	14	1,590,750	30,804	2.0	3,119	36	1.2
2014	14	1,559,946	(42,779)	(2.7)	3,083	(91)	(2.9)
2013	14	1,602,725	(98,276)	(5.8)	3,174	(116)	(3.5)
2012	14	1,701,001	(48,890)	(2.8)	3,290	(217)	(6.2)
2011	14	1,749,891	(79,864)	(4.4)	3,507	(74)	(2.1)
2010	14	1,829,755	43,020	2.4	3,581	(14)	(0.4)
2009	14	1,786,735	(28,710)	(1.6)	3,595	0	0.0
2008	14	1,815,445	(24,013)	(1.3)	3,595	(69)	(1.9)
2007	14	1,839,458	87,491	5.0	<b>3,664</b>	132	3.7
2006	14	1,751,967	(37,995)	(2.1)	3,532	29	0.8
2005	14	1,789,962	12,653	0.7	3,503	(88)	(2.5)
2004	14	1,777,309	(7,354)	(0.4)	3,591	7	0.2
2003	14	1,784,663	(105,390)	(5.6)	3,584	(51)	(1.4)
2002	14	<b>1,890,053</b>	248,028	15.1	3,635	403	12.5
2001	14	1,642,025	319,286	24.1	3,232	613	23.4
2000	14	1,322,739	(48,315)	(3.5)	2,619	(91)	(3.4)
1999	14	1,371,054	91,561	7.2	2,710	211	8.4
1998	14	1,279,493	70,242	5.8	2,499	20	0.8
1997	14	1,209,251	4,293	0.4	2,479	55	2.3
1996	14	1,204,958	23,111	2.0	2,424	134	5.9
1995	14	1,181,847	229,129	24.1	2,290	342	17.6
1994	14	952,718	244,543	34.5	1,948	408	26.5
1993	14	708,175	24,111	3.5	1,540	109	7.6
1992	14	684,064	(92,273)	(11.9)	1,431	N/A	N/A
1991	14	776,337	31,507	4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	744,830	30,269	4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

**ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE** – (6 teams – 30 game schedule)

The Arizona Fall League is a 6-team league, operated by Major League Baseball, which played in September and October through 2019, and in October and November in 2021 through 2023. The league was created in 1992. Each team is affiliated with 5 Major League teams, and in 2023, played a 30-game schedule over from October 2 through November 11. Rosters are made up of players from their MLB parent teams' Minor League system. Most of the players have been in Triple-A or Double-A.

The league charges admission to their games (\$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors and kids) and compiles attendance. The attendance totals from this league are listed separately, and not included in the yearly Minor League totals.

Games are played at Major League Arizona Spring Training ballparks. The 6 teams in 2023 were the Glendale Desert Dogs, Mesa Solar Sox, Peoria Javelinas, Salt River Rafters, Scottsdale Scorpions, and the Surprise Saguaros.

In 2016, the league drew record highs in total attendance and average per date. Scottsdale set records for total attendance and average per date by any team. The Salt River Rafters had led the league in attendance from 2011 through 2015. In 2019, league total attendance fell 15,887 to 45,158, the lowest total since 2010, and average per date was down 171 to 675, lowest since 2008. Salt River was the leader in 8 of 12 years through 2023, but Mesa led in 2019, and Scottsdale led in 2022. In 2021, there was a small increase in total attendance vs. 2019, and average per date was exactly the same as in 2019. The 2022 total was the lowest since 2007, and average per date was the lowest since 2008.

## ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE – 2005-2023 ATTENDANCE

Year	League Attendance	# of Dates	Avg./Date	Team Leader	Leader's Total Attend.	Leader's # of Dates	Leader's Avg./Date
2023	33,715	88	383	Salt River	7,134	15	476
2022	33,533	89	377	Scottsdale	7,358	15	491
2021	45,658	90	507	Salt River	13,728	15	915
2019	45,158	89	507	Mesa	11,468	17	675
2018	61,045	90	678	Salt River	14,102	15	940
2017	53,188	90	591	Scottsdale	11,424	15	762
2016	<b>62,905</b>	95	<b>662</b>	Scottsdale	<b>15,001</b>	15	<b>1,000</b>
2015	47,049	88	535	Salt River	10,661	14	762
2014	53,219	95	560	Salt River	14,183	17	834
2013	45,839	93	493	Salt River	12,314	16	770
2012	47,418	96	494	Salt River	13,423	16	839
2011	48,025	110	437	Salt River	14,567	19	767
2010	39,709	96	414	Scottsdale	10,724	15	715
2009	38,449	96	401	Scottsdale	11,177	16	699
2008	40,057	114	351	Scottsdale	10,451	19	550
2007	28,723	100	287	Scottsdale	8,035	18	446
2006	25,268	96	263	Scottsdale	6,062	15	404
2005	27,936	94	297	Phoenix	8,608	16	538

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS - THE 2023 SEASON**

- J The same 9 independent leagues played in **2023, 2022, and 2021**. Attendance was available for the American Association, and the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, Pioneer, United Shore, Mavericks, and Pecos Baseball Leagues. Attendance has never been reported by the 4-team Empire Baseball League.
- J Also missing is attendance from 10 dates played by New Jersey of the Frontier League, and from 2 dates played by Kansas City of the American Association. Here again, numerous attempts to get this data were not successful. So the average per date that each of these teams drew for those dates with reported attendance was applied to the dates with missing attendance. That's not a perfect solution, but is still better than not listing any attendance for those dates. If the missing attendance is reported in the future, figures in this report will be updated.
- J The Mexican League was a Major League-affiliated 'Minor League Baseball' member league through 2019. The league was not considered to be an independent league, even though none of its teams were MLB 'farm' teams. The Pioneer League was an MLB-affiliated short-season Rookie league through 2019, and became an MLB-Partner independent pro league in 2021.
- J 95 teams played in these 9 independent leagues in **2023**, and 94 teams played in those leagues in **2022**. Attendance was found for 83 individual teams in **2023**, and for 79 individual teams in **2022**. In addition, there are league totals for both years for the 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, and the Mavericks League, whose 4 teams all play in Keizer, OR. **The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues are each counted as one 'team' in this attendance report.**
- J The Frontier League had a road team in **2023 and 2022**. The Pecos League had a road team in 2022. Also in **2023 and 2022**, the planned new park for the Pioneer League's Northern Colorado Owlz wasn't open. They played home games in several locations, that drew 27,581 in 43 dates in 2023, and 3,004 in 40 dates in 2022. The Pioneer League does not officially count Northern Colorado's attendance in their official figures, so this report will not include them in any league totals either. But their attendance will be noted in the Pioneer League summary.
- J The 82 teams with attendance (counting the United Shore and Mavericks Leagues as one team each, but excluding N. Colorado of the Pioneer League) drew an estimated total of 10,160,535 in **2023**. **This is the highest combined total independent league attendance since the return of such leagues in 1993.** This total is up 569,915 (5.9%) **vs. 2022**, but down 523,372 (4.9%) from what these same teams drew in **2019**, regardless of what league they played in that year. Average per date was 2,761 in **2023**, up 148 (5.7%) **vs. 2022**, but down 407 (12.8%) **vs. 2019**.
- J **Yucatan led all independent teams with a total attendance of 506,765, and an all Minor Leagues leading 10,558 average per date. This was the highest total attendance and average per date ever by an independent team.** Mexico City and Tijuana also topped 400,000. Leading the U.S./Canadian teams was Long Island in total attendance (297,745), and Kane County in average per date (5,571). Mexico City had the biggest 2023 vs. 2022 gains, up 207,039 in total, and up 4,066 in average per date. Tabasco's total grew by 106,552. Quebec had the best U.S./Canadian total gain (36,502), and York had the top average per date increase (629). Campeche had the largest declines in both total attendance and average per date, and Lexington, KY had the biggest losses in both categories (57,586 in total attendance, 840 in average per date) among U.S. and Canadian indy teams.
- J For **2023 vs. 2022**, 46 teams in the same markets in both years had increases in total attendance and 31 were down. 47 of these teams posted gains in average per date, while 29 had declines, and Lake Country of the American Association had the same average per date in both years. Comparing **2023 vs. 2019** same market teams, 27 were up in total attendance, with 42 down, and 25 teams had gains in average per date, while 43 teams had declines, and one Pecos League team had the same average in both years.
- J In **2023**, these independent teams played 10 more dates than in **2022**, and 306 more dates than in **2019**. Teams in the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, and Pioneer Leagues, and the American Association, had a combined 134 lost dates in **2023**. Their **2023** teams had 149 lost dates in 2022, 164 lost dates in **2021**, and 126 lost dates in **2019**.
- J Teams that played in independent leagues in **2019 (regardless of where they played from 2021-2023)** drew a total of 5,690,513 that year, and averaged 2,341 per date. Add the Mexican League and Pioneer League attendance to the **2019** independent league figures, and total attendance was 11,029,912, and the average per date was 3,037.
- J In 2023, the Atlantic League replaced its second team in Lexington, KY with a team in Frederick, MD. The MLB Draft League team in Frederick also played there in 2023. Hagerstown joins the Atlantic League in 2024, likely replacing the team in Frederick.



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****THE 2019 SEASON**

- ) In **2019** there were 8 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by all but the Empire League. The United Shore League reported a league average per date, but did not break it out by team. Home attendance figures were available for 52 teams, plus the combined 4 teams in the United Shore League. The attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league office, is estimated, and does not include 'no-shows.' Empire League attendance probably was very low.
- ) In **2018**, the same 8 leagues had 55 teams, plus 4 in the United Shore League, that reported attendance. There were 53 teams, plus 4 in the United Shore League, that reported attendance in **2017**. In **2016**, 52 teams, plus 3 from the United Shore League, reported attendance. 7 independent leagues operated in **2015**, with 52 teams reporting attendance. There were 8 independent leagues in **2014**, with 50 of their teams listing attendance. 8 independent leagues, with 53 teams recording attendance, operated in **2013**.
- ) Total reported independent leagues **2019** attendance was 5,690,513, down 228,840 (3.9%). In 2019, independent leagues recorded attendance for 109 fewer dates than in 2018, and combined to play 682 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,431 reported attendance dates in 2019 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- ) Combined 2019 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,341. This was up 11 from 2018. The all-time combined high average per date for independent leagues is 3,000, set in 2004. The record-high average per date for a post-1992 independent league was 4,621 by the Northern League in 2008.
- ) In 2019, the Atlantic, Pecos, and United Shore League had gains in total attendance. The Frontier, Pecos, and United Shore Leagues, plus the Pacific Association, were up in average per date. The Atlantic League replaced a road team with High Point. Milwaukee replaced Wichita in the American Association. The Frontier League dropped Normal and Traverse City. Wasco replaced Ruidoso in the Pecos League. In the Pacific Association, road team Salina replaced Martinez, and Pittsburg was dropped. Saranac Lake replaced Old Orchard Beach in the Empire League.
- ) 50 independent league teams were in the same market in 2019 as in 2018. 18 of them had 2019 vs. 2018 gains in total attendance, while 32 were down. In average per date, 17 teams were up, 30 were down, and 3 had the same average per date in both seasons. The United Shore League is counted as one team in this group.
- .
- ) **NOTE ON LEAGUE AND TEAM RECORDS LISTED IN THIS SECTION:** The number of teams in each league, and the number of games scheduled, can vary from year to year among independent leagues. This can have a significant impact on league and team totals. Actual combined independent leagues average per date would be lower than listed if the Empire League made its attendance available. It would be higher if the Pecos League included 'no-shows' in its announced attendance.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****LEAGUES THAT REPORTED ATTENDANCE, BUT DISBANDED SINCE THE END OF THE 2010 SEASON**

Many of the teams from the leagues listed below have moved to other independent leagues. The United Baseball League disbanded after the 2010 season, returned in 2013 and 2014, but did not play after that year.

**GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE** (10 teams – 90 game schedule in 2010)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 742,394 (2010) 10 teams; Team – Tucson -- 139,149 (2009)

**NORTHERN LEAGUE** (8 teams -- 100 game schedule in 2010)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,189,151 (2005) 12 teams; Team – Winnipeg – 323,141 (2004)

**CONTINENTAL BASEBALL LEAGUE** (4 teams – League disbanded prior to the end of the 2010 season)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 64,659 (2009); Team – Alexandria, LA – 45,727 (2009)

**NORTH AMERICAN BASEBALL LEAGUE** (10 teams in 2012, the league's final year)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 642,963 (2011); Team – San Angelo – 115,735 (2012)

**PACIFIC ASSOCIATION** – (5 teams, with one road team, 64 game schedule in 2019, each 'home' team had 40 scheduled home dates in 2019)

- J This league has not played since 2019. San Rafael, now in the Pecos Baseball League, was the only one of the league's 2019 teams that played in 2021, 2022, and 2023. Martinez, which played in the Pacific Association prior to 2019, is also now in the Pecos League.
- J In **2019** The league dropped Pittsburg, and Salina was a road team, replacing Martinez. Total 2019 attendance was 45,239, down 16,761 (27.0%). Average per date was 285, up 26. Attendance was reported for 80 fewer dates than in 2018. The 4 returning teams had a combined loss of 4,702 (9.4%), and their average per date was down 29 from 2018. Sonoma had the league's only rainout.
- J The **San Rafael** Pacifics drew 17,334 in 2019, an average of 433 per date, once again, the highest figures in the league. The total was down 747. Average per date fell by 19. San Rafael is now in the Pecos League.
- J **Sonoma's 2019** total was down 1,626 to 15,875. Their average decreased 31 to 407. This city now has a team in the California Collegiate League.
- J **Vallejo** drew 8,080 in **2019**, down 15, averaging 202 per date, down 6.
- J **Napa** had had a **2019** total of 3,950, down 2,314, averaging 99 per date, down 58.
- J The league would have had 4 teams in 2020, had the season been played. The California Dogecoin (Fairfield) would have replaced San Rafael.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****INDEPENDENT LEAGUES LISTING ATTENDANCE – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS**

<b>Year</b>	<b># of Leagues</b>	<b># of Teams</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Team Leader Total Attendance</b>	<b>Total Attendance</b>	<b>Team Leader Avg. per Date</b>	<b>Avg. Attend.</b>
1993	2	12	734,067	St. Paul	167,956	St. Paul	4,799
1994	5	30	1,931,353	St. Paul	241,069	St. Paul	6,344
1995	11	65	3,081,866	St. Paul	258,297	St. Paul	6,300
1996	9	63	3,454,557	St. Paul	267,009	St. Paul	6,212
1997	8	58	3,507,126	St. Paul	240,514	St. Paul	6,329
1998	7	49	3,866,809	Bridgeport	296,145	St. Paul	6,330
1999	6	44	4,871,797	Bridgeport	342,857	St. Paul	6,329
2000	6	50	5,581,633	Long Island	436,361	Winnipeg	6,465
2001	7	52	6,003,875	Long Island	443,142	Winnipeg	6,491
2002	6	50	6,410,954	Long Island	437,212	St. Paul	6,263
2003	8	63	6,558,199	Long Island	421,359	Winnipeg	7,161
2004	5	45	6,558,445	Long Island	440,540	Winnipeg	7,027
2005	6	54	7,524,690	Long Island	429,218	Winnipeg	6,867
2006	7	55	7,558,436	Long Island	419,150	Winnipeg	6,504
2007	9	67	<b>8,485,921</b>	Long Island	427,536	Winnipeg	6,542
2008	8	61	8,312,669	Long Island	416,752	Winnipeg	6,464
2009	8	61	7,965,235	Long Island	414,973	Winnipeg	6,180
2010	7	60	8,105,046	Long Island	410,619	Long Island	6,039
2011	6	55	6,810,403	Long Island	382,027	Winnipeg	5,740
2012	6	55	7,125,597	Sugar Land	<b>465,511</b>	Sugar Land	6,650
2013	7	53	6,708,293	Sugar Land	382,059	Winnipeg	5,880
2014	7	50	6,165,961	Sugar Land	383,465	Winnipeg	5,618
2015	7	52	6,315,482	St. Paul	404,528	St. Paul	8,091
2016	7	55	6,226,210	St. Paul	413,482	St. Paul	<b>8,438</b>
2017	7	57	6,219,838	St. Paul	406,501	St. Paul	8,296
2018	7	59	5,917,553	St. Paul	408,921	St. Paul	8,178
2019	7	56	5,690,513	St. Paul	394,970	St. Paul	8,061
2021	8	75	6,047,347	Long Island	224,120	Tijuana	7,557
2022	8	81	9,590,620	Tijuana	453,961	Tijuana	10,088
2023	8	82	<b>10,160,535</b>	<b>Yucatan</b>	<b>506,765</b>	<b>Yucatan</b>	<b>10,558</b>

Number of leagues and teams only includes those that had attendance recorded. It includes leagues and teams that compiled attendance but disbanded prior to the end of their seasons. In 1995, there were 13 teams that folded before completing their seasons. 11 teams, including all 8 in the Canadian League, didn't finish their seasons in 2003.

Bridgeport, Long Island, and Sugar Land play, or played, in the Atlantic League, which has the longest season of any independent league. In most years, teams in the Atlantic League were scheduled for 63-70 home games. Other independent leagues have in recent years had 48-53 home games per team each season. In some cases, leagues had a team that only played road games, so the rest of the teams in the league played a few extra home dates.

The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues became independent in 2021. The United Shore Baseball League plays all its games in Utica, MI. The Mavericks League plays all its games in Keizer, OR. The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues each count as one team in this table, even though each of these leagues has 4 teams. St. Paul and Sugar Land became MLB-affiliated Triple-A teams in 2021, and Somerset, formerly of the Atlantic League, now plays in the Double-A Eastern League.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

## INDEPENDENT LEAGUES LISTING ATTENDANCE – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS

The table below shows which non-Atlantic League, independent league team had the best total attendance since 1998. In 2015, St. Paul became the first non-Atlantic League team topping total attendance since 1997. St. Paul is now in the Triple-A International League. Long Island had the top total attendance among the U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2022 (285,888), and 2023 (297,745). 2023 Yucatan had the highest total attendance ever for an independent league team.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Attendance</b>		<b>Year</b>	<b>Team</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
1998	St. Paul	272,210		2011	Winnipeg	275,521
1999	St. Paul	265,818		2012	Winnipeg	285,263
2000	Winnipeg	271,513		2013	Winnipeg	276,359
2001	Winnipeg	292,095		2014	Winnipeg	258,429
2002	Winnipeg	303,786		2015	St. Paul	404,528
2003	Winnipeg	300,760		2016	St. Paul	413,482
2004	Winnipeg	323,241		2017	St. Paul	406,501
2005	Winnipeg	322,758		2018	St. Paul	408,921
2006	Winnipeg	312,213		2019	St. Paul	394,970
2007	Winnipeg	300,938		2021	Tijuana	196,471
2008	St. Paul	286,796		2022	Tijuana	453,961
2009	Winnipeg	278,099		2023	<b>Yucatan</b>	<b>506,765</b>
2010	Winnipeg	271,399				

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – (11 teams in 2024, 10 teams in 2022 and 2023, 8 teams in 2021, 8 teams in 2019  
126-game schedule in 2024, 2023, 132 games in 2022, 120 games in 2021, 140 games in 2019)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,367,578 (2012 – 8 teams); Avg. per Team: 295,947 (8 teams-2012);  
Average per Date: 4,409 (2012).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,535,031 (2022 – 10 teams); Average per Team: 153,503 (2022);  
Average per date: 2,505 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Sugar Land–465,511 (2012); Avg. per Date: Sugar Land - 6,650 (2012)  
Current team: Total: Lexington–451,076 (2001); Average per Date: Lexington-6,444 (2001)  
Lexington's records were set when they played in the MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Long Island–297,745 (2023); Avg. per Date: Long Island - 4,652 (2023)

) **Atlantic League** – 5 of the 2023 teams played in this league in 2019. Gastonia was added as an expansion team in 2021, and Lexington, KY, and Charleston, WV, came in from the South Atlantic League. In 2022, the league added a second team (Kentucky) in Lexington, and added Staten Island, who last played in the New York-Penn League in 2019. The Kentucky team was relocated to Frederick, MD in 2023. A new team is being added in Hagerstown in 2024, replacing Spire City (Frederick). This league has the longest schedule among the independent leagues.

) The league drew 1,492,896 in **2023**. Average per team was 149,290, and average per date was 2,505, with 30 lost dates. The **2023 vs. 2022** total was down 42,135 (2.7%). But the decline was due to playing 24 fewer dates than in 2022. Average per date rose 29 (1.2%).

) 5 of the 9 teams in the same market in both years had gains in total attendance, led by Charleston, WV, up 26,738. 6 were up in average per date led by York, whose 629 increase was best among all U.S./Canadian independent teams. Lexington had the largest declines in both total attendance (57,586), and average per date (840), among all U.S./Canadian independent teams. For the 9 markets that were in the league in **both 2023 and 2022**, total attendance for **2023 vs. 2022** rose 2,531 (0.2%), and the average per date was up 55 (2.2%), with 11 fewer dates.

) In **2019**, the 8 teams that played in the Atlantic League **that year** drew 1,940,590, an average of 3,648 per date. The league lost two of its best-drawing teams in 2021, as Somerset joined the Eastern League, and Sugar Land joined the Pacific Coast League. In **2019**, Somerset and Sugar Land drew a combined 649,394, averaging 4,775 per date. Exclude those 2 teams, and the **2019** Atlantic League average per date would have been 3,261.

) **Among all U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023, Long Island led in total attendance (297,745) and their 4,652 average per date was second to Kane County.** The Ducks topped the U.S./Canadian independent teams in total attendance in 2022 and 2021, and had the best U.S./Canadian independent average per date in 2021. They were 3<sup>rd</sup> best in these categories in 2019. Lancaster, PA had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total (242,961) among U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023.

) The league had topped 2 million 9 times in 10 years through 2017, and 10 times overall. 2019 was the 15<sup>th</sup> straight year with attendance of at least 1.8 million. There were 57 more dates in 2019 than in 2018, and 21 lost dates. The 7 teams that were also in this league in 2018 had a combined total attendance decline of 53,741 (2.9%).

) Average attendance per date fell by 246 to 3,648 in 2019, the lowest since 2000. The 7 returning teams had a combined average per date dip of 31. This league has averaged at least 3,500 per date in all seasons except its first (1998), plus 2021 and 2022, and topped 4,000 per date from 2006 through 2015. League record-high is 4,409 in 2012. The best average per date for any modern independent league was 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.

) Frederick played a limited home schedule in 2023, as they shared a ballpark with an MLB Draft League team.

) Until 2021, Atlantic League average attendance per team had been above 240,000 in all years since 2001. **The record-high of 295,947 per team in 2012 is the best-ever for a modern independent league.** The average per team was 242,574 in 2019, lowest since 2000, excluding 2021 through 2023.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – continued

- ) **In 2023, Long Island (Central Islip, NY) had the highest total attendance, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year, among all U.S./Canadian independent teams. The Ducks drew a league-high total of 297,745, up 11,857 (4.1%). Average per date was a league leading 4,652, up 114 (2.5%).** Among all independent league teams, only 5 Mexican League teams had a higher total, and 9 Mexican League teams, and Kane County, had a better average per date, than the Ducks. 22 dates drew over 5,000, 7 dates were sellouts of at least 6,002, with a high of 7,151. There was one more date than in 2022, and 2 postponements.
- ) **Long Island led all independent teams in total 2021 attendance (224,120), and led all U.S. independent teams in average per date (4,002).** Only 3 Mexican League teams, each playing a much shorter schedule, had higher average per date figures. The Ducks have led their league in average per date 17 times in 23 seasons, including 2021 through 2023.
- ) **In 2019, Long Island drew an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> best total of 328,194, down 20,864, with 5 fewer dates.** This was the lowest total in this team's 20 seasons through 2019. Average per date rose by 56 to 4,973, just the 2<sup>nd</sup> time ever under 5,000. 31 dates drew above 5,000, with 6 topping 6,000, including a high of 7,312. **From their inception in 2000, through 2011, the Ducks had the highest total attendance of any independent league team, topping 400,000 each year.** They surpassed 340,000 in every season until 2019. The Ducks had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best independent total attendance in 2012 and 2013, the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 2014, the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in 2015, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best in 2016, 2018, and 2019.
- ) **Average per date was above 6,000 in 10 of the first 11 Ducks' seasons.** They averaged 5,998 in 2006. Through 2023, the Ducks have drawn 8,710,241, which is an average of 378,706 per year. Their 23-year average per date of 5,551 per date is 92.5% of their ballpark's seating capacity. Exclude 2021, and the average per date is 5,609. Long Island has drawn 705 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 1,569 regular season dates, with 7 in 2023. Including playoffs, the total attendance is 8,887,627. On July 3, 2016, the Ducks drew 7,602, the largest crowd in team history.
- ) **The 2022 and 2023 Atlantic League Champion Lancaster (PA) Barnstormers had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total attendance, and 5<sup>th</sup> highest average per date among U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023.** The total was 242,961, up 20,794 (9.4%), and average per date was 3,983, up 565 (16.5%). The average per date gain was 2<sup>nd</sup> best among U.S./Canadian independent teams. There were 5 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates played than in 2022. 13 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 7,660.
- ) **Lancaster's 2019 total attendance increase of 35,649 to 285,441, was the best among all independent teams that year,** and their total was the highest since 2014. The Barnstormers topped 300,000 in 9 of their first 10 seasons (2005-2014), though not in their last 8 years, including 2021 through 2023. They've drawn well considering that 3 teams (Reading, Harrisburg, York), play less than 40 miles from Lancaster. 2019 average per date rose an independent 3<sup>rd</sup> best 357 to 4,260, the highest since 2014. The average per date had been above 5,000 from 2005 through 2008, and stayed above 4,000 until 2016, and again in 2019. They came within 17 of reaching 4,000 in 2023.
- ) This team's name has been slightly shortened to the Stormers for the 2024 season.
- ) **In 2022, the Staten Island Ferry Hawks joined the Atlantic League.** The drew 68,938, down 7,821 (10.2%), in 2023, averaging 1,149 per date, down 109 (8.7%). Attendance topped 2,000 at 8 dates, led by a crowd of 3,126. There were 2 lost dates, and one less date than in 2022. The longer Atlantic League schedule meant more games scheduled on school nights than in Staten Island's short-season days.
- ) Staten Island had a team (the Yankees) in the MLB-affiliated New York-Penn League from 1999 through 2019. In 2019, their total attendance was 66,520. Average per date was 1,848. Those were the lowest figures in that team's 21 NYP League seasons. Total **2019** attendance was down 142,498 (68.2%) from 2010, and average per date was down 3,958 (68.2%) from a 5,806 average per date in 2010. The Yankees drew over 200,000 in 2009 and 2010, and average per date surpassed 5,000 from 2008 through 2011. Part of the reason for the attendance declines was a major mall construction project near the ballpark that sharply reduced available parking. Their ballpark, right next to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, has a magnificent view of New York Harbor.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – continued

- ) **2023** total attendance for the **Southern Maryland Blue Crabs** was 181,291, up 6,998 (4.0%), with a 3,022 average per date, up 16 (0.5%). 14 dates drew over 4,000, with a league high of 8,176. One date was lost, with 2 more dates played compared to 2022.
- ) Southern Maryland's **2019** total attendance was down 5,058 to 200,889. Blue Crabs' attendance was very stable from 2007 through 2019, ranging between 200,889 and 242,894. 2019 average per date fell 77 to 3,044, lowest in the team's 12 seasons up to that point.
- ) The **Lexington (KY) Legends were renamed the Counter Clocks for 2023, but will go back to being the Legends in 2024.** The Atlantic League added a second team (the Kentucky Wild Health Genomes) to Lexington for 2022, and 123 dates were scheduled at their ballpark, and 119 dates were played. That is a lot of games for one ballpark to promote and sell tickets to. This was a one-year arrangement. The other team from 2022 in Lexington moved to Frederick, MD in 2023. But attendance in Lexington did not recover.
- ) The Legends moved from the MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League to the Atlantic League in 2021. In **2023**, they had a total attendance of 92,806, down 57,586 (38.3%), with a 1,547 average per date, down 840 (35.2%). The declines were the largest among U.S./Canadian independent teams. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2022, with 3 lost dates. Attendance reached 3,000 at 3 dates, with a high of 4,279.
- ) Lexington drew 270,221, down 10,913, in **2019**. Average per date fell 368 to 4,094. Both the total and average were the lowest in this club's 19 seasons in the South Atlantic League. 20 dates drew over 5,000. The Legends drew better than 400,000 in 3 of their first 4 years starting in 2001, and topped 300,000 for their first 11 seasons, but have finished under 300,000 in each year since 2012. Average per date was over 6,000 in 2001 and 2002. It stayed above 5,000 through 2008. It has not reached that level since, but topped 4,000 every year until 2021. The Legends have been one of the most generous teams in the Minors, raising over \$1 million for charity annually.
- ) **The Spire City Ghost Hounds (Frederick, MD)** replaced Kentucky (the other Lexington team) in **2023, and likely won't play in 2024.** They shared their ballpark with the Keys of the MLB Draft League. The Ghost Hounds drew 57,836, averaging 1,345 per date. The total dipped 44,666 (43.6%), and average per date fell 485 (26.5%) from what the team drew in Lexington in 2022. They had a limited home schedule in 2023 with 48 scheduled home dates, and 43 were played. That was 13 fewer home dates played than in 2022. 7 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,013.
- ) Frederick played in the Class-A Carolina League from 1989 through 2019, and was one of the most successful teams ever in this classification. The Keys continued to draw very well in the MLB Draft League in 2021 and 2022.
- ) **The Charleston, WV Dirty Birds** came to this league in 2021, from the MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League, where they had been named the West Virginia Power. In **2023**, they drew 146,336, up 26,738 (22.4%), with a 2,360 average per date, up 400 (20.4%). This was their best total and average per date since 2015. The increase in total attendance was the best in the league, and 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among all U.S./Canadian independent teams. 8 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 5,718. 4 dates were lost, and one more date was played vs. 2022. The Dirty Birds were the only team in this league to have a 2022 vs. 2019 increase in average per date.
- ) West Virginia had a 6,171 gain in total attendance in **2019**, to 118,444. Average per date slipped 99 to 1,742, the lowest since 2003. The Power had drawn better than 125,000 for 14 straight years through 2017, after not reaching 100,000 in the 8 seasons prior to 2004. But the only seasons above 200,000 were 2005 through 2008. Average per date was more than 3,000 in those 4 seasons, but has been below this figure ever since.
- ) The Atlantic League has a new member for **2024 – the Hagerstown (MD) Flying Boxcars**, in a new ballpark. Hagerstown had a team (the Suns) in the South Atlantic League through 2019. In 2019 they drew 59,682, the lowest total in that team's 39 seasons. Average per date was 918, also the lowest in 39 years. Since 1981, the Suns had topped 100,000 in all seasons but one (1993) through 2011, but were below that number since then. Average per date was under 1,400 in each of the last 8 South Atlantic League seasons. The team had been expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015, but plans for a new ballpark there fell through at that time. A new ballpark in that city opened in 2021, and is now the home of the Fredericksburg Nationals of the Single-A Carolina League.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****ATLANTIC LEAGUE** – continued

- ) **York**, owned by the late Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson, had **2023** total attendance of 196,968, up 24,449 (14.2%). It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total attendance gain among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Average per date rose a U.S./Canadian independent best 629 (23.7%) to 3,283, which was the highest since 2016. 3 dates were lost, with 5 fewer dates played than in 2022. 9 dates drew over 4,000, and 7 of them were above 5,000, with a high of 5,868.
- ) The Revolution had an independent 4<sup>th</sup> best total attendance increase of 18,238 in **2019** to 199,045. Attendance exceeded 250,000 for 8 straight years through 2015. Average per date was 2,971 in 2019. The Revolution had topped 4,000 per date in 4 seasons (2008, 2009, 2010, 2012).
- ) **The Gastonia Honey Hunters** had a total attendance of 91,090, down 15,813 (14.8%) in **2023**, averaging 1,423 per date, down 301 (17.5%). 12 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,197. 2 dates were lost, with 2 more played in 2022.
- ) **Gastonia** played its first season in the Atlantic League in **2021**. **They drew 114,416, the highest total in the 35 seasons with recorded attendance in this market.** Gastonia's last pro team was in the 1995 short-lived (3 weeks) independent Atlantic Coast League. Prior to that, Gastonia was in the South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) from 1977 through 1992. Previous high attendance in Gastonia was 94,788 in 1952. 1980 (90,198) was their only other year above 90,000 until 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- ) **High Point** drew 116,925, down 7,085 (5.7%) in **2023**. Average per date rose by 7 (0.4%) to 1,886. 3 fewer dates were played in 2023 than in 2022, and there were 3 lost dates. 28 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,278.
- ) The High Point (NC) Rockers became the Atlantic League's 8<sup>th</sup> team in **2019**. It was High Point's first pro team since 1969. Top reported attendance in 17 seasons with a team (between 1939 and 1969) in that market was 100,227 in 1948. The only other years above 70,000 were 1949 (95,792), and 1965 (71,256). The final team, in 1969, drew 44,472. **The Rockers drew 144,486 in 2019, the best total ever for this market.** Average per date was 2,157.

**FORMER ATLANTIC LEAGUE CITIES**

- ) **Camden** played its 15<sup>th</sup> and final Atlantic League season in **2015**. The Riversharks drew 216,639 in 2015, averaging 3,186 per date. Camden topped 250,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but not after that. But they did draw better than 200,000 every year. Their record-high was 313,792 in 2002, and they also topped 300,000 in 2003. Average per date was over 4,000 from 2001 through 2004, and was above 3,000 every year. This team moved to New Britain, CT in 2016.
- ) The **Bridgeport Bluefish** played their final season in **2017**, and drew 196,917, averaging 2,984 per date. Those were the best figures since 2005. Total attendance had increased 64,078 (48.5%) from 2012 to 2017, and during this same period, average per date was up 951 (46.8%). Bridgeport drew better than 230,000 in each of their first 7 seasons (1998-2004), but were below 200,000 in all 13 years after that. Bridgeport's average per date was above 4,000 from 1998 through 2000, with a high of 4,571 in 1999, and reached 3,000 each year through 2005, but not afterwards. 2015 was a positive turnaround season. Bluefish attendance had fallen from 342,857 in 1999 to a record-low 132,139 in 2012. But in 2015, they drew 192,466, their best total since 2006. Total attendance was up 42,182, the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest gain among all independent teams that year.
- ) The Atlantic League scheduled a unique day-night doubleheader between Bridgeport and New Britain for August 19, 2017. These teams played the day portion in Bridgeport, which drew 3,533, and then bussed 50 miles to New Britain, where they played the night game, which drew 4,038.



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

## ATLANTIC LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	1,492,896	(42,135)	(2.7)	2,505	29	1.2
2022	10	1,535,031	396,357	34.8	2,476	(77)	(3.0)
2021	8	1,138,674			2,553		
2019	8	1,940,590	90,745	4.9	3,648	(246)	(6.3)
2018	7	1,849,845	(221,480)	(10.7)	3,894	(51)	(1.3)
2017	8	2,071,325	(28,304)	(1.3)	3,945	6	0.2
2016	8	2,099,629	(76,998)	(3.5)	3,939	(129)	(3.2)
2015	8	2,176,627	(56,392)	(2.5)	4,068	(83)	(2.0)
2014	8	2,233,019	(21,535)	(1.0)	4,151	(1)	(0.0)
2013	8	2,254,554	(113,024)	(4.8)	4,152	(257)	(5.8)
2012	8	<b>2,367,578</b>	419,257	21.5	<b>4,409</b>	324	7.9
2011	7	1,948,321	(203,095)	(9.4)	4,085	64	1.6
2010	8	2,151,416	(9,577)	(0.4)	4,021	(33)	(0.8)
2009	8	2,160,993	(47,741)	(2.2)	4,054	(59)	(1.4)
2008	8	2,208,734	231,921	11.7	4,113	(40)	(1.0)
2007	8	1,976,813	65,761	3.4	4,153	147	3.7
2006	7	1,911,052	(121,376)	(6.0)	4,006	235	6.2
2005	8	2,032,428	242,380	13.5	3,771	88	2.4
2004	7	1,790,048	(9,681)	(0.5)	3,683	(130)	(3.4)
2003	7	1,799,729	(59,330)	(3.2)	3,813	(68)	(1.8)
2002	7	1,859,059	3,609	0.2	3,881	55	1.4
2001	7	1,855,450	181,699	10.9	3,826	257	7.2
2000	8	1,673,751	556,754	49.8	3,569	0	0.0
1999	5	1,116,997	510,473	84.2	3,569	1,285	56.3
1998	4	606,524	-----	-----	2,284	-----	-----

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** (20 teams–90 games in 2024, 18 teams–90 games–2022-2023)  
(18 teams–66 games in 2021, 16 teams – 120-games in 2019)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 4,618,131 (2019 – 16 teams); Avg. per Team: 288,633 (16 teams-2019);  
Average per Date: 5,058 (2019).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 4,041,303 (2023 –18 teams); Average per Team: 224,517 (2023);  
Average per date: 5,304 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Monterrey–989,454 (2006); Average per Date: Monterrey-17,990 (2006)

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Yucatan–506,765 (2023); Average per Date: Yucatan - 10,558 (2023)

- ) This league, founded in 1925, never had any Major League Baseball farm teams, but was a National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL) member from 1955 through 2019. It became an independent league in 2021.
- ) **Mexican League** – The same 18 teams played in 2023 and 2022. 16 of these teams played in the Mexican League in 2019, with los Mariachis de Guadalajara and El Aguila de Veracruz added in 2021. For 2024, the team in Guadalajara has been renamed los Charros (Cowboys) de Jalisco. Two new teams are los Dorados (Golden) de Chihuahua and los Conspiradores (Conspirators) de Queretaro (Santiago).
- ) Covid-19-forced changes hit this league very hard in **2021**. The schedule was reduced from 120 games to 66 games. It was raised to 90 games for 2022 through 2024. **Total attendance was 4,041,303 in 2023, an average of 224,517 per team, with a post-1991 league record-high, 5,304 average per date. This was the highest total attendance and average per date of any independent league, ever.** There were 48 lost dates in 2023. Total attendance rose 476,779 (13.4%), and average per date was up 563 (11.9%) **vs. 2022**, the best gains of any league, with 10 more dates. 13 teams had a higher total in 2023 than in 2022, and 13 teams were up in average per date. **Numerically, Mexican League teams had 9 of the top 11 independent team total attendance 2023 vs. 2022 increases, including the top 5. They had 9 of the 11 best gains in average per date, including the top 7.**
- ) **Yucatan led the league, and all independent teams, in 2023 attendance, with a total of 506,765, and an average per date of 10,558. Both figures are the highest ever by an independent team. Their average per date was the best in Minor League Baseball in 2023.** Other teams with high average per date were Mexico City (10,509), Tijuana (9,299), and Monterrey (8,438). **These 4 teams had the 4 highest 2023 average per date figures among all Minor League teams, including those in the MLB-affiliated leagues.** Among independent league teams, Mexican League teams had 11 of the 18 highest total attendance figures of **2023**, including the top 5, and 13 of the top 18 average per date figures, including the top 6.
- ) **Leon, Mexico City, Quintana Roo, Tabasco, Veracruz, and Yucatan, all drew team record-high average per date figures in 2023.** This is based on data going back to 1992, so it is possible that some of those teams may have had a higher average per date in a year prior to 1992.
- ) Los Tecolotes de Los Dos Laredos (Owls of the Two Laredos) split their season, between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. 22 dates in Texas drew an average of 3,505, and the 22 dates in Mexico averaged 3,778 per date.
- ) **Mexico City's increases of 207,039 in total attendance, and 4,066 in average per date vs. 2022, were the best of any Minor League team in 2023.** They also had the largest Minor League crowds for a regular season game (18,842), and for a post-season game (20,062). Also with increases of at least 1,000 per date were Tabasco (2,620), Saltillo (1,515), Puebla (1,188), Veracruz (1,172), and Union Laguna (1,133). On the down side, Campeche had the largest declines of any Minor League team, down 107,386 in total attendance, and down 2,796 in average per date.
- ) In **2019**, the 16-team Mexican League drew 4,618,131, an average of 5,058 per date. The **2023** total is down 576,828 (12.5%), but the average per date is up 246 (4.9%) **vs. 2019**. There were 151 fewer dates in **2023 vs. 2019**.
- ) If the expansion teams are excluded, **the 16 teams that also played in 2019** drew 3,740,578 in **2023**, averaging 5,509 per date. The **2023 vs. 2019** total attendance loss for these 16 teams is 877,553 (19.0%), but the average per date gain is 451 (8.9%). These 16 teams played 234 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2019. 4 teams had higher total attendance in **2023 vs. 2019**, and 7 teams were up in average per date. Mexico City (up 62,243), Tabasco (61,760), and Union Laguna (60,873), had the biggest increases, keeping in mind the shorter schedules in 2023 vs.2019. Tijuana had the largest 2023 vs. 2019 declines, down 259,002 in total attendance, and 1,992 in average per date.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL**

- J The Mexican League annually has the longest, most intense, and best attended playoffs in the Minor Leagues, with 4 full rounds of best-of-7 series. The **2023** playoffs drew 693,528 for 73 games, averaging 9,500 per game. 29 games drew over 10,000, with 3 of them topping 15,000. Mexico City averaged 16,457 for its 6 playoff games.
- J In **2022**, the post-season drew 762,112, averaging 11,375 per date, as the teams with the biggest ballparks made it deep into the playoffs. **37 of the 67 games drew over 10,000, with 15 of them topping 15,000. Monterrey averaged 17,030 in the playoffs, with 4 games topping 21,000.** Despite the short season in **2021**, the full playoffs did occur, and they drew 412,739 in 74 dates, an average of 5,578 per date. Tijuana's 13 playoff dates drew an of 12,595, with a high of 17,687. The **2019** Mexican League playoffs drew 519,686, averaging 12,086 per date.
- J **2019 was a record-setting attendance season for the Mexican League. Total attendance was a record-high 4,618,131, up 846,328 (22.4%). The old record of 4,591,286 was set in 1979. Average per date rose 682 to 5,058, which was the highest since at least 1991. (That record was broken in 2023.) Average per date figures from prior to 1992 are not available. The increases were the best of any league in 2019. Average attendance per team was a record-high 288,508, breaking the mark of 269,928 set in 1964. There were 51 more dates in 2019 than in 2018.**
- J Attendance growth was helped by a longer schedule, with each team having 120 games in 2019, compared to 114 games in 2018. The league had 41 dates lost to weather in 2019, 37 lost dates in 2018, and 57 in 2017.
- J In **2019**, 14 of the 16 teams had gains in total attendance and 13 were up in average per date. Mexico City, which opened a new park, had the best increases in total attendance (234,456), and average per date (4,173). Monterrey had the largest total attendance dip (6,427), and Monclova (del Norte) had the worst average per date loss (343).
- J **Tijuana drew 677,464 (11,291 per date) to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance. Monterrey and Yucatan also finished in the top 5 among all teams in average per date. This league had 9 of the 12 largest increases in total attendance among all Minor League teams, 9 of the top 16 gains in average per date, 10 of the top 19 percentage gains in total attendance, and 9 of the 20 best percentage gains in average per date.**
- J In **2018**, the Mexican League played a unique split-season schedule. There was a 57-game Spring season, which began on March 22, and ended on May 28. This was followed by a full set of playoffs. The 57-game Summer season ran from July 3 through September 8, and it too, was followed by a full set of playoffs. Other leagues play split seasons, but they only have one set of playoffs, which take place in September.
- J Both the 2018 Spring regular season and Spring playoffs drew better than the 2018 Summer regular season and Summer playoffs. In the Spring regular season, total attendance was 2,096,638 in 434 dates, averaging 4,831 per date. The Summer regular season drew 1,675,165 in 428 dates, an average of 3,914 per date. The average per date for the Summer regular season was 917 (19.0%) less than the average per date for the Spring regular season. The league had 10 lost dates during the 2018 Spring season, and had 27 lost dates in the Summer season.
- J In **2018**, the Mexican League had the largest declines in total attendance and average per date of any league. In **2016**, this league had the only total attendance increase among the 15 MLB-affiliated leagues. In **2015**, the Mexican League had the worst declines among MLB-affiliated leagues in total attendance and average per date.
- J The **2017** total of 4,042,605 was the highest for the league since 1979. Average attendance per team of 252,663 was the highest since 1967, and the 6<sup>nd</sup> best (1963-67, led by 269,928 in 1964), since this league joined the NAPBL in 1955. Average per date of 4,906 was best since at least 1991. All of these marks were exceeded in 2019.
- J **2023** was the 11<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year with average per date above 4,300. The league didn't reach 3,700 per date from at least 1992 through 2003. Total attendance has topped 3 million in all but one 'normal' season since 2000.
- J The 43 Mexican League playoff games in **2019** drew 519,686, an average of 12,086 per game. Every game drew at least 5,000, 23 games attracted at least 10,000, and at 18 games, attendance topped 14,000, with a high of 18,965 for a game at Monterrey. The 6 games in Mexico City averaged 16,246 per game. 7 playoff games in Tijuana drew an average of 15,551, and the last 5 games in Yucatan all drew a sellout crowd of 14,917.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL**

- ) The **2018** Mexican League combined Spring and Summer playoffs drew 822,575, averaging 9,911 per game. 30 of the 83 games drew over 10,000, led by 7 sellout crowds of 21,909 at Monterrey. 23 of 37 semi-final and finals games drew over 10,000. The 18 playoff games in Monterrey attracted 332,817, an average of 18,490 per game. Attendance at 66 Mexican League playoff games reached 5,000. Only 15 of 201 playoff games in all other leagues, including the independents, drew at least 5,000. The **2017** Mexican League playoffs averaged 11,954 per game. In **2016**, the Mexican League playoffs averaged 12,682 per game. The playoffs averaged 9,513 per game in **2015**, 8,841 in **2014**, 10,149 in **2013**, 7,742 in **2012**, 9,672 in **2011**, 9,704 in **both 2010 and 2009**, 9,784 in **2008**, 12,480 in **2007**, 9,838 in **2006**, and 9,762 in **2005**.
- ) League-wide, 2013 through 2017 were exceptions, but huge yearly attendance swings often take place in this league. In 2009, there was a 955,395 (23.7%) dip in total attendance. It fell 11.8% in 2010. Increases were 22.4% in 2011, 14.8% in 2012, and 22.4% in 2019.
- ) Individual Mexican League teams had very often made the yearly listing of teams with the 10 biggest increases or decreases in total attendance **among (NAPBL) MLB-affiliated teams**. From 2007 through 2019, Mexican League teams accounted for 106 of the 260 teams (40.8%) on these lists, which have 20 teams yearly. The Mexican League had 16 of the 136 full-season (NAPBL) MLB-affiliated teams (11.8%) in all of these seasons, except 2011, when it had 14 teams.
- ) Since the Mexican League is now an independent league, starting with 2021, the listing in the table below will show how many Mexican League teams had Top 10 gains and declines among **independent teams**.

# OF MEXICAN LEAGUE TEAMS WITH YEARLY TOP 10 NAPBL TOTAL ATTENDANCE GAINS OR DECLINES – 2007-2019. TOP 10 TOTAL ATTENDANCE GAINS AND DECLINES FOR INDEPENDENT TEAMS FOR 2022 vs. 2019, 2022 vs. 2021, AND 2023 vs. 2022

Year	# of Teams in Top 10 Gains	# of Teams in Top 10 Declines	Year	# of Teams in Top 10 Gains	# of Teams in Top 10 Declines
2007	6	2	2016	5	4
2008	7	3	2017	4	4
2009	3	7	2018	4	6
2010	2	5	2019	7	0
2011	8	0			
2012	5	4	2022 vs. 2019	1	8
2013	4	5	2022 vs. 2021	8	0
2014	1	2	2023 vs. 2022	9	4
2015	3	5			

- ) In **2019**, Mexican League teams accounted for: 9 of the 12 MLB-affiliated teams with the highest numerical gains in total attendance and 9 of the 16 best numerical increases in average per date; none of the 59 teams with the worst total numerical declines, and 1 of the 21 worst numerical declines in average per date; 12 of the 24 best percentage gains in total attendance, and 9 of the top 20 percentage increases in average per date; none of the 64 worst percentage losses in total attendance, and 1 of the 37 worst percentage decreases in average per date.
- ) In **2018**, Mexican League teams accounted for: 4 of the 8 MLB-affiliated teams with the highest numerical gains in total attendance and 2 of the 3 best numerical increases in average per date; 6 of the 10 teams with the worst total numerical declines, and 8 of the 11 worst numerical declines in average per date; 4 of the 10 best percentage gains in total attendance, and 2 of the top 5 percentage increases in average per date; 3 of the 4 worst percentage losses in total attendance, and 4 of the 9 worst percentage decreases in average per date.
- ) **Due to the schedule changes, Mexican League teams generally had very large 2022 vs. 2021 total attendance increases, and high 2022 vs. 2019 total attendance declines.**

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL****TEAM SUMMARIES**

- ) **Los Leones (Lions) de Yucatan had an incredible 2023 season in attendance. The drew 506,765, up 66,600 (15.1%). Average per date was 10,558, up 776 (7.9%). The total and average per date were the highest ever for an independent team. Average per date was the best among all Minor League teams in 2023, and the total attendance was best among the independent teams. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the last 7 ‘normal’ seasons that Yucatan’s total attendance reached 500,000, and the 7<sup>th</sup> straight ‘normal’ year with average per date of 8,000+.**
- ) **In 2023, all but one date in Yucatan drew at least 7,000, 25 of the 48 dates drew over 10,000, with 11 topping 12,000. 6 dates drew a sellout of 14,917.** The increase in total attendance was 5<sup>th</sup> best among all Minor League teams. No dates were lost, and there were 3 more dates played than in 2022. The 8 playoff games drew an average of 12,695, and every playoff crowd exceeded 11,000.
- ) **For 2022 vs. 2021, Yucatan’s numerical increases in both total attendance (330,270 – 300.5%) and average per date 6,347 – 184.8%), were the highest of any Minor League team. The percentage gains were 2<sup>nd</sup> best in total attendance, and 4<sup>th</sup> best in average per date, in all of Minor League Baseball.** The 11 playoff games in Yucatan in 2022 drew 146,305, an average of 13,300 per game.
- ) In recent years, Yucatan has seen some large attendance swings. In **2019**, the total rose 47,009 to 520,350, with 5 more dates than in 2018. That was the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in the previous 5 years that the total exceeded 500,000, and the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year above 450,000. Average per date was a Minor League 5<sup>th</sup> best 8,673, up 67, the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row above 8,600. 43 dates topped 8,000, with 8 of them reaching 10,000. In the 2010’s decade, Yucatan’s attendance was as low as 137,750 (2012), and as high as 528,351 (2015). Between 2004 and 2014, Yucatan drew at least 300,000 just once (2008).
- ) Los Leones had a statistical oddity in 2018. Total attendance rose 21,179 to 473,341, the 8<sup>th</sup> best gain in the NAPBL leagues. But average per date fell by 622, to 8,606. They played 6 more dates than in 2017, which accounted for this circumstance.
- ) Another statistical oddity for Yucatan took place in 2017, when they played 6 fewer dates than in 2016: There was a total attendance decline of 48,677, which was 5<sup>th</sup> worst among MLB-affiliated teams. Yet Yucatan set a team record (since at least 1991) in average per date (9,288) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> straight year. That record has since been topped.
- ) Yucatan followed-up a great 2015 season with another outstanding performance in 2016. Los Leones drew 500,839. This was down 27,512, in good part, due to 4 fewer dates. But average per date rose 151 to 9,106. **In 2015, los Leones posted a 302,947 gain, the best increase of any Minor League team. Average per date was 8,955, up 4,355, which was also the highest average per date increase of the year.** The Lions drew 528,351 to lead the league in total attendance. This total was their highest since 1982, the team’s 2<sup>nd</sup> best total ever, and the first time above 400,000 since 2001. The Lions played 10 more dates in 2015 than in 2014.
- ) **2023 total attendance for los Saraperos (Sarape Makers) de Saltillo was 300,240, up 50,508 (20.2%). Average per date was 7,323, up 1,515 (26.1%). The total and average per date were each the 4<sup>th</sup> highest among independent teams. The numerical gains were 5<sup>th</sup> best in total attendance among independent teams, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best in average per date among all Minor League teams. Average per date was the highest since 2012. 14 dates drew over 8,000, with 10 dates topping 10,000. Top crowd was 11,345, with 4 lost dates, and 2 fewer more dates than in 2022. Attendance from the June 10 game was not listed. 3 playoff games drew an average of 9,536.**
- ) Saltillo had a **2019** Minors 6<sup>th</sup> best 102,697 gain in total attendance to 377,499. The average per date rose 1,577 to 6,398, which was 5<sup>th</sup> highest. It was the best total for Saltillo since 2013, and the top average per date since 2014. 15 dates drew at least 8,000, with 6 of them above 10,000. Los Saraperos had the 4<sup>th</sup> worst NAPBL average per date decline in **2016**. In **2015**, the Sarape Makers posted the NAPBL’s 5<sup>th</sup> worst decrease in total attendance, and the 4<sup>th</sup> worst decline in average per date. They had topped 500,000 each year from 2000 through 2007, with a high of 613,551 in 2001. Average per date was 10,000+ each year from 2000 through 2006.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL**

- ) **Los Toros de Tijuana (Bulls) had the 3<sup>rd</sup> best 2023 total attendance and average per date among independent teams.** However, they also had the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest independent teams decline in both total attendance and average per date. Total attendance was 418,462, down 35,499 (7.8%), and average per date fell 789 (7.8%) to 9,299. 20 dates drew at least 10,000, with 13 crowds above 12,000, and a high of 16,987. There were no postponements, and the same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022. 2023 was the 8<sup>th</sup> straight normal year above 400,000 in total attendance. Tijuana has averaged over 9,000 per date in each of the last 6 'normal' seasons, and above 8,000 in 9 of the last 13 'normal' years. The 4 playoff games in Tijuana drew 47,103, an average of 11,776 per game.
- ) **In 2022, Tijuana had the highest total attendance among independent teams, and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year, they had the best average per date among ALL Minor League teams. Total attendance was 453,961, up 257,490 (131.1%). This numerical increase was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest (to Yucatan) in all of Minor League Baseball. Average per date was 10,088, then an all-time independent high, up 2,531 (33.5%). The average per date numerical gain was the 5<sup>th</sup> best in all of the Minor Leagues. The top crowd of 17,986 was the largest in Minor League Baseball in the 2022 regular season. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> time in the last 13 seasons with average per date above 10,000. The 7 playoff games in Tijuana drew 104,536, an average of 14,934 per game.**
- ) **In 2021, Los Toros had the highest average attendance per date (7,557) of any Minor League team. They drew 196,471, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest total attendance (to Long Island) among independent teams. That's quite an achievement considering that they played their first 6 home dates with no fans allowed in the ballpark. Los Toros had one other postponement. All but 4 of their home dates drew at least 4,000, and 13 of them topped 7,000. One game drew 15,240, which was the largest 2021 Minor League regular season crowd. The 13 playoff games in Tijuana drew an average 12,595, with a Minor League high of 17,687.**
- ) **Tijuana had the highest total attendance (a team record-high 677,464) and average per date (11,291) of any Minor League team in 2019. Tijuana was the only Minor League team to average at least 10,000 per date. Total attendance rose 121,093, the 4<sup>th</sup> best gain of any team, and average per date was up 1,530, with was the 6<sup>th</sup> best average gain. There were 46 dates that drew at least 8,000, at 34 dates the crowd was over 10,000, and 13 dates topped 15,000, with a high of 17,891. The 2019 total broke the old mark of 608,819 in 2017. The 2019 average per date was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in Tijuana, topped only by the 12,764 average in 2004. 2019 was the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year above 500,000 for the Bulls, and the 8<sup>th</sup> time in the last 11 seasons above 400,000. Average per date reached 7,700 for the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row.**
- ) **In 2018, the Bulls drew 556,371, down 52,448, and averaged 9,761 per date, down 1,111. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> best total, and 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date among NAPBL teams in 2018. But Tijuana also had the 9<sup>th</sup> worst decline in total attendance, and the 6<sup>th</sup> worst average per date decrease.**
- ) **In 2017, Tijuana's total attendance rose 92,318, the top total gain of any NAPBL team. 2017 average per date was 10,872, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the Minors. The average per date was up 1,481, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best increase (to Nashville) in the Minors in 2017. In 2014, Tijuana's total attendance was 298,658 higher, and their average per date was 5,591 higher than the franchise drew in 2013 when it played in Minatitlan. Prior to 2014, Tijuana had a team from 2004 through 2008. They drew 548,863 in 2004, and surpassed 450,000 in 2006 and 2007.**
- ) **Quintana Roo (Cancun) had a total 2023 attendance of 212,804, up 28,240 (15.3%), with a team record-high 4,836 average per date, up 442 (10.1%). It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year with an average per date record. In the 24 years prior to 2022, Quintana Roo never averaged at least 4,000 per date. There was one lost date in 2023, and 2 more dates than in 2022. 14 dates topped 5,000, and 5 reached 7,000, with a high of 9,875.**
- ) **In 2019, Quintana Roo drew a record-high 226,525, up 61,060, breaking their old record of 214,556 in 2007. Average per date was 3,839, their best at that point, since 2008. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> best gain in the Minors in both total and average per date. Los Tigres (Tigers) have drawn at least 200,000 just 3 times (also in 2007 and 2023) in their 26-year history, going back to 1996. The team didn't operate in 2006. Average per date was under 3,000 in the first 9 seasons, but has surpassed 3,000 in 14 of the last 17 years, through 2023.**

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

- ) **Los Sultanes (Sultans) de Monterrey**, drew 371,362 in **2023**, down 10,786 (2.8%), averaging 8,438 per date, down 52 (0.6%). There was one lost date in 2023, and one less date than in 2022. 21 dates topped 8,000, and 12 dates surpassed 10,000, with a high of 15,265. In 7 playoff games, Monterrey drew 85,121, an average of 12,160.
- ) Monterrey drew 382,048 in **2022**, up 233,037 (156.4%), with an 8,490 average per date, up 3,833 (82.3%). This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total among independents, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best average per date, in all of the Minors. In the playoffs, Monterrey had the Minors top total (204,365), average per date (17,030), and single-game high (21,909 – 3 times).
- ) Los Sultanes drew 556,869 in **2019**, and averaged 9,770 per date. The total was 9<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date was 2<sup>nd</sup> best, in the Minors for 2019. It was the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year above 500,000 in total attendance, and the 13<sup>th</sup> time Monterrey has reached 500,000 since 1998. This was also the 8<sup>th</sup> year in a row with average per date above 9,400, and the 17<sup>th</sup> time above 8,000 since 1998. **The Sultanes have topped 10,000 per date in 8 seasons since 2006.** They had the largest 2019 regular season (20,533), and playoff (18,965) crowds of the year.
- ) Monterrey hosted 4 Major League games in 2019. The Cincinnati Reds had a pair of ‘home’ games there which drew a total of 33,289. The 2 Los Angeles Angels’ ‘home’ games there drew a total of 35,791. In 2018, Monterrey hosted a 3-game series between the Dodgers and the ‘home-team’ Padres. It drew a combined total of 65,116.
- ) **The Sultanes had the Minor Leagues’ highest average per date (10,059, down 1,516) in 2018.** However, their decline in average per date was the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst of all Minor League teams in 2018. Total 2018 attendance in Monterrey was 563,296, down 96,495. That was the 6<sup>th</sup> best total in the Minors, but also the 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest decrease of 2018. 18 playoff games in Monterrey averaged 18,490 per game, with 7 sellout crowds of 21,909.
- ) **In 2017, Monterrey again had the best total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball.** They drew 659,701, averaging 11,575 per date. Attendance topped 10,000 at 32 dates, was 15,000+ at 18 dates, led by an Opening Day crowd of 29,734. Average per date was down 1,208, the largest 2017 vs. 2016 decline of any team. The 5 playoff games in Monterrey each drew at least 17,000, with a high of 23,176.
- ) **In 2016 Monterrey led all Minor League teams in total attendance, average per date, increase in total attendance, and increase in average per date.** Monterrey 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. 4 post-season games also drew over 20,000. Sultanes’ total attendance rose 173,070, and average per date was up 3,379.
- ) Other examples of the wild attendance fluctuations in Monterrey’s history: **In 2006, they drew an all-time league record 989,454 in only 55 home dates, with the all-time Minor League record-high average of 17,990 per date! 54 dates drew over 10,000, 49 topped 15,000, and there were crowds of at least 20,000 at 10 dates.** Those were the top figures in the Minors in 2006, and the biggest total since Buffalo topped one million in 1993. No team has drawn better since then. Sultanes’ attendance was up 556,293 from 2005, by far the largest increase of any Minor League team. But in **2007**, Monterrey’s attendance was sliced in half, falling 497,826, by far the biggest decline in all of professional baseball, including the Major Leagues.
- ) In **2008**, the Sultanes drew 658,491, which was 3<sup>rd</sup> best in the Minors. The gain of 166,863 was the largest of any Minor League team. They averaged 12,424 per date, the only team above 10,000. In **2009**, they had a 258,181 loss, the biggest in the Minor Leagues. In **2010**, Monterrey drew under 400,000 for the first time since 1996. The Sultanes drew 430,420 in **2011**, leading the league in attendance. Their **2012** attendance of 645,302 led the Minors.
- ) In **2014**, Monterrey had the top total attendance gain (96,650) among teams playing in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They had the 4<sup>th</sup> best gain in average per date in 2014, and their average per date of 11,856 was the best in the Minors. The Sultanes were the only team to average more than 10,000 per date in 2014 or 2013. Their total attendance of 687,642 was just 73 short of the highest 2014 MLB-affiliated total achieved by the Charlotte Knights.
- ) In **2015**, Monterrey had the biggest drop in the Minor Leagues, down 170,407. Average per date declined by 2,472, the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst dip among MLB-affiliates. Monterrey’s average per date of 9,404 was still the 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the Minors.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

- ) **Los Bravos (Braves) de Leon** had a **2023 total attendance of 193,402, a record-high for the current team, and up 21,037 (12.2%)**. A former team in Leon drew 195,538 in 1990. **Average per date was a team record-high 4,605, up 596 (14.9%)**. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year with a record high average. There was one less date than in 2022, and 3 postponements. 18 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 6,156.
- ) **In 2019**, Los Bravos drew 183,541, up 43,714. Average per date was a then-record-high 3,337, up 748. The gain in total attendance was 10<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date increase was 9<sup>th</sup> best in the Minors. Prior to 2017, this city last had a team in 24 seasons from 1960 through 1991.
- ) **The Durango Generales (Generals)** drew 83,570 in **2023**, up 12,799 (18.1%), and an average per date of 1,990, up 264 (15.3%). 7 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 5,735. There was one more date, and 3 dates were lost.
- ) Durango played 6 more dates in **2019** than in 2018. Total attendance rose 24,129 to a current team record-high 180,247, and average per date increased 97 to 3,219. A former team in this city drew 230,919 in 1978. Before 2017, Durango's last team played in 12 seasons between 1956 and 1979.
- ) **2023 Mexican League Champion Los Pericos (Parrots) de Puebla** had a **2023**, total attendance of 169,463, up 32,071 (23.3%). Average per date was 4,660, up 1,188 (36.3%). The average per date increase was the 5<sup>th</sup> best in Minor League Baseball, both numerically and by percentage. 7 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 8,543. 7 dates were lost, with 4 fewer dates than in 2022. 12 playoff games drew 108,760, averaging 9,063, with a high of 11,232.
- ) Puebla had a significant gain in **2019**, continuing this team's trend of large year-to-year changes in attendance. Total attendance rose 104,977 to 248,721, and average per date was up 1,981 to 4,693. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> best numerical and percentage total attendance gain, and the 4<sup>th</sup> best numerical and percentage average per date gain, in the Minors in 2019. It was also the highest total for this club since 2013, and the best average per date since 2014.
- ) In **2017**, Los Pericos (Parrots) drew 152,923, down 75,721. Average per date fell 1,128 to 3,186. This was the worst total attendance loss of any NAPBL team in 2017, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst average per date loss. The 33.1% dip in total attendance was the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst percentage loss in the NAPBL, and the 26.1% dip in average per date was 4<sup>th</sup> worst. **2016** was a big comeback season for Puebla. Total attendance rose 116,393 to 228,644, and average per date was up 2,023 to 4,314. Those were the 2<sup>nd</sup> best gains in these categories in the Minors. Los Pericos also posted the best Minor League percentage gains in total attendance (103.7%), and average per date (88.3%).
- ) In **2015**, Puebla's total attendance was cut by more than half, from 240,409 in 2014 to 112,251 in 2015. The decline of 128,158 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest among NAPBL teams. Their average per date dip of 2,718 to 2,291 was the worst in the NAPBL in 2015. The Parrots had 7 lost dates in 2015, the most in the league. From 2011 through 2014, Puebla topped 240,000 each year. They had reached this level just once in their 36 previous seasons. The all-time highs for Puebla were set in 2011, when they drew 363,011, averaging 7,118 per date.
- ) **Los Mariachis (no translation needed) de Guadalajara** drew 106,405 in **2023**, up 27,495 (34.8%). This was the 6<sup>th</sup> best total attendance percentage gain in all of Minor League Baseball. Average per date was 2,475, up 154 (6.6%). 9 more dates were played with fans in attendance than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. In **2022**, 9 lost dates were games played either with no fans in the park, or attendance wasn't reported in the official box score. (The MLB Stats Reporting Platform uses box score data to report attendance.) 11 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 5,869.
- ) **In 2021**, Guadalajara rejoined the Mexican League for the first time since 1995. This area, also called Jalisco, was in the league from 1964 through 1975, in 1988, and from 1991 through 1995. The highest total attendance was 373,219 in 1967. This market topped 200,000 each year from 1964 through 1969, and in 1988. In **2021**, Los Mariachis had a total attendance of 61,652, and a 2,126 average per date.
- ) For 2024, this team had been renamed los Charros (Cowboys) de Jalisco.



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

- ) **Los Diablos Rojos de la Ciudad de Mexico (Mexico City Red Devils) had a great 2023 season in attendance. The total was an independent leagues 2<sup>nd</sup> best 451,884, up 207,039 (84.6%). Average per date was a team record-high 10,509, the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest among all Minor League teams, and up 4,066 (63.1%). The increases vs. 2022 were the best among all Minor League teams, numerically, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best by percent change. 24 dates drew over 10,000, with 12 of them topping 12,000. Los Diablos Rojos had the highest Minor League crowds in the regular season (18,842), and in the playoffs (20,062). Their 6 home 2023 playoff games drew 98,741, an average of 16,457. There were 2 lost dates, and 5 more dates than in 2022. The 8 playoff games in 2022 drew 108,796, an average of 13,600.**
- ) A beautiful new ballpark led to a huge attendance increase for Mexico City in **2019**. Total attendance rose 234,456 to 389,641, despite 6 lost dates. Average per date was up 4,173 to 7,216. These gains were all 2<sup>nd</sup> best in the Minors in total attendance, average per date, and in percentage increases (151.1% in total attendance, 137.1% in average per date) in these two categories. It was the team's best total and average per date since 1997. 16 dates topped 8,000, 9 dates drew 10,000+, and 4 dates drew above 15,000, with a high of 20,062.
- ) In **2018**, Mexico City had the 6<sup>th</sup> best NAPBL total attendance increase, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> best average per date gain, numerically. Los Diablos Rojos had topped 300,000 in attendance 19 times between 1957 and 1979. **They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 14 of those years. The 1967 team was the only Minor League team to draw at least 500,000 between 1950 and 1978.** But since 1980, the Red Devils have reached 300,000 just 4 times, including 2019 and 2023. **Their record of 536,743 set in 1967 is the longest standing team record-high among current Major League and Minor League teams.**
- ) **Los Rieleros (Railroadmen) de Aguascalientes** posted a 75,000 total attendance figure in **2023**, up 394 (0.5%), with a 1,923 average per date, up 188 (10.8%). 14 dates topped 2,000. Top crowd was 3,539. 6 dates were lost, and 4 fewer dates were played than in 2022.
- ) Aguascalientes drew better than 300,000 in 1977 and 1978. But they've reached 200,000 just 4 times in the 35 seasons they've had a team since then. Los Rieleros drew 112,077, up 12,782 in **2019**, and averaged 2,001 per date. There was no team in Aguascalientes from 2000 through 2003, and from 2008 through 2011. Their **2018** numerical total and average per date losses were 2<sup>nd</sup> worst to New Orleans for that year. Los Rieleros had the worst total percentage decline (49.5%), and 2<sup>nd</sup> worst average per date percent dip (46.5%) among NAPBL teams in 2018.
- ) **The 2023 Tecolotes de los Dos Laredos** (The Owls of the Two Laredos) played 22 dates in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and also 22 dates in Laredo, Texas USA. Combined total attendance was 160,218, down 18,595 (10.4%). Average per date was 3,641, down 423 (10.4%), with the same number of dates as in 2022. There was one lost date. Dates in Mexico drew 83,113, averaging 3,778 per date. 6 Mexico dates topped 4,000, with a high of 5,392. The Texas dates had a total attendance of 77,105, an average of 3,505 per date. 3 surpassed 4,000, with a high of 7,735.
- ) In **2022**, 22 dates in Mexico drew 96,022, an average of 4,365 per date, with 18 dates topping 4,000, with a high of 5,391. 22 dates in Texas drew 82,791, averaging 3,763 per date. 4 Texas dates reached 4,000, with a 7,058 high.
- ) In **2021**, Dos Laredos had 11 dates in Nuevo Laredo, and 17 dates in Laredo. The dates in Mexico drew a total of 28,638, and an average of 2,603 per date. Top Nuevo Laredo crowd was 3,017. In Texas, total attendance was 56,799, with a 3,341 average per date. The largest Laredo crowd was 8,755. The two-country combined figures were 85,437 in total attendance, with a 3,051 average per date.
- ) The **2019**, los Tecolotes had 29 dates in Mexico, and 31 dates in Texas. Games in Mexico drew 113,822, averaging 3,925 per date. Games on the Texas side drew 106,288, averaging 3,429 per date. The top U.S. crowd was 7,767, while the biggest crowd in Mexico was 5,468. Overall, the team drew a two-country total of 220,110. Average per date was 3,669. This was the best total for a team in Nuevo Laredo since 1979. The Nuevo Laredo record-high total is 247,583 in 1978. **2019** had the best total for a team that played at least some of its games in Laredo, Texas. An independent American Association team in Laredo drew a then-record-for-Laredo 187,845 in 2012. In **2018**, it was estimated that attendance for the games in Texas was about double the attendance for the games in Mexico.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

- ) **El Aguila (The Eagle) de Veracruz** drew 194,320, up 32,129 (19.8%) in **2023**, their best total since 2012. **Average per date was a team record-high 4,858, up 1,172 (31.8%)**. Among the independent teams, these gains were 7<sup>th</sup> best in total attendance, and 5<sup>th</sup> best in average per date. 4 less dates were played than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. 7 dates drew at least 6,000, with a high of 7,120.
- ) Veracruz returned to the league in **2021**, with a slightly shorter name, after a 2-year absence. They drew 65,900, and averaged 1,997 per date. A 5,021 crowd on Opening Day was the best of the year, and 6 dates topped 3,000.
- ) Veracruz (Los Rojos de Aguila – Red Eagles), inactive in **2019**, attracted 151,671, averaging 2,661, in **2017**, their final season before moving to Los Dos Laredos. Veracruz had fielded a team in 48 seasons since 1955 (1955-1957, 1959-1974, 1981-1986, 1992-1995, 1999-2017). Attendance topped 200,000 only in 1956, 1960, 1961, 1964, 2008, and a record-high 245,057 in 2012.
- ) **Los Algodoneros (Cotton Makers) Union Laguna** drew 260,250, up 59,435 (29.6%) in **2023**. They averaged 5,915 per date, the highest since 2008, and up 1,133 (23.7%). Among independent teams, the total gain was 4<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date increase was 6<sup>th</sup> highest. 2 more dates were played than in 2022, and one date was lost. 20 dates drew better than 6,000, with a high of 7,418.
- ) **2019** Union Laguna had a 22,446 increase to 199,377. Average per date was up 343 to 3,560. In **2018**, Laguna had the lowest total and average per date figures for this team since 2002. Until 2018, total attendance surpassed 250,000 for 5 straight years, after reaching this level just 5 times in this city's previous 35 years in the league. Los Algodoneros topped 200,000 in 11 of 15 seasons through 2019, and then again in 2022 and 2023, after doing it just once in the 20 years from 1985 through 2004.
- ) **Los Acereros (Steelers) del Norte (Monclova)** posted a **2023** total of 186,185, down 19,428 (9.4%), with a 4,231 average per date, down 338 (7.4%). This was their lowest total and average per date in a 'normal' season since 2008. One less date was played than in 2022, and one date was lost. There were 7 dates that drew over 5,000, with sellout highs of 8,500 on Opening Day and at the final game of the year.
- ) In **2019**, del Norte topped 300,000 for the 9<sup>th</sup> straight year, and averaged over 5,300 for the 10<sup>th</sup> year in row. 2019 total attendance rose 4,843 to 349,126, with 4 more dates. But average per date was down 343 to 5,917. There were 9 dates that topped 8,000. In 2017, they drew 392,795. That was the team's highest total since 1998, and the 8<sup>th</sup> best total gain in the Minors. Los Acereros drew 300,000+ only 5 times between 1974 and 2010. Prior to this streak, Monclova drew below 300,000 for 9 years in a row. 2017 average per date rose 719, which was the 7<sup>th</sup> best gain in the Minors, to a team record-high 7,142.
- ) **Oaxaca** has reached 200,000 only 3 times, most recently in 2009, in the last 27 years, including **2021**. The total attendance in **2023** was 96,090, up 24,174 (33.6%). Average per date rose 522 (30.5%) to 2,235. These were the 6<sup>th</sup> best independent total attendance and average per date percentage gains. 8 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,934 on Opening Night. There was one more date than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost.
- ) Los Guerreros (Warriors) drew 162,990, in **2019**, averaging 2,763 per date. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year with an average per date of less than 3,000, after 8 years in a row above that level. In **2017**, Oaxaca had the 5<sup>th</sup> best total gain, and the 6<sup>th</sup> highest average per date increase, in the Minors. **The 60.1% gain in total attendance, and the 43.6% gain in average per date were the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest percentage increases (to Lakeland) in the NAPBL.** This was quite a turnaround from **2016** when Oaxaca had the 5<sup>th</sup> worst total attendance decline, and their 1,021 loss in average per date was the worst of any Minor League team, including independents.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

- ) **Los Piratas (Pirates) de Campeche** had a very rough attendance year in **2023**. Their total attendance fell 107,386 (61.7%) to 66,785, their lowest total since 2006. Average per date declined 2,796 (62.6%) to 1,670. Those were the largest numerical declines, by far, for any Minor League team. It was also the lowest attendance in the Mexican League in 2023. 10 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,115.
- ) In **2022**, los Piratas only played 24 'home' dates in Campeche. Those games drew 102,296, and **averaged a team record-high (since at least 1991) 4,346 per date**. Total attendance was up 150,752 (643.7%), and average per date rose 3,401 (319.5%) to a team record-high 4,466. These were the top percentage gains among all Minor League teams. 5 of these dates drew over 6,000, and 4 of them topped 8,000, with a high of 12,018. The other 'home' games were played in the parks of other teams, with the attendance credited to Campeche. In **2021**, Campeche had fans in their home park at only 22 dates.
- ) Campeche drew a **2019** Mexican League-low 87,146. Average per date was 1,743. This club had 10 lost dates. Los Piratas have drawn under 100,000 in 15 of the last 26 'normal' seasons through 2023. They topped 100,000 in 16 straight seasons before that. Average per date was below 2,000 in 16 of the last 28 'normal' years **through 2023**. In 2018, they had the 7<sup>th</sup> worst total loss, and the 4<sup>th</sup> worst average per date loss, in the NAPBL leagues. The 46.8% drop in total attendance was the 2<sup>nd</sup> worst percentage decrease, and the 52.0% dip in average per date was the top percentage decline. Campeche's team-record-high is 287,749 in 1983. Their only year above 200,000 since then was 2008.
- ) **Los Olmecas (Cattlemen) de Tabasco** drew **188,208 in 2023, up 106,552 (130.5%), the highest total since 2000. Average per date was a team record-high 4,953, up 2,620 (112.3%). These were the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total attendance and average per date numerical increases in all of Minor League Baseball. The percentage gains were the highest in the Minors. 11 dates topped 6,000, with a high of 7,300. 7 dates were lost, and 3 more were played than in 2022.**
- ) The Olmecas had a 4,139 dip in **2019** total attendance to 126,448, despite 6 more dates. Average per date fell 311 to 2,107. It was the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year under 2,500 per date.
- ) Tabasco had a good recovery in **2018**. Total attendance was up 58,758, and average per date increased 981. **Both the total and average per date numerical gains were 2<sup>nd</sup> best in all of the Minor Leagues to Augusta, who opened a new park in 2018. The 81.8% increase in total attendance, and the 68.3% in average per date were both the best percentage increases in the MLB-affiliated leagues in 2018.**
- ) In **2017**, Tabasco dipped an NAPBL 4<sup>th</sup> worst 49,183 to 71,829. Their average per date was down also a 4<sup>th</sup> worst 846 to 1,437. It was the lowest total ever for the Olmecas, who began play in 1977, and the lowest average per date since at least 1991. The percentage declines of 40.6% in total attendance, and 37.1% in average per date, were the worst of any NAPBL team in 2017. Tabasco drew 441,835 in 1979, and topped 200,000 in 1980. The Cattlemen have not reached 200,000 since.
- ) The Mexican League had the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing **2019 average attendance per team** with 1969, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest growth rate vs. 1979. Average 2019 Mexican League attendance per team was up 25.7% vs. 1979. Only the Florida State League had a smaller 2019 increase (up 7.9%) in average attendance per team vs. 1979. In comparison with the 1969 season, 2019 average attendance per team for the Mexican League was up 17.0%, the lowest of any league. The Florida State League, up 101.3% was next lowest.
- ) But **2019** Mexican League average attendance per team **vs. 1989** was up 104.5%, which was bested only by the South Atlantic League, which had a 140.6% gain. The average per team vs. 1999 increased 60.6%, which was the best of any league. Comparing average per team in 2019, with average per team in 2009, showed a 50.0% gain by the Mexican League, by far the best gain of any league. Only the Northwest and Appalachian Leagues had increases of better than 10% per team vs. 2009. The section starting on page 276 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 50+ years.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

) Two new teams join the Mexican League in 2024. Queretaro (Santiago) gets its first team. Chihuahua rejoins the league. That city last had a team from 2007 through 2010. Highest total was 249,126 (4,530 per date) in 2008.

## MEXICAN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2024	20						
2023	18	4,041,303	476,779	13.4	<b>5,304</b>	563	11.9
2022	18	3,564,524	2,117,595	146.4	4,740	1,914	67.7
2021	18	1,446,929			2,826		
2019	16	<b>4,618,131</b>	846,328	22.4	<b>5,058</b>	682	15.6
2018	16	3,771,803	(270,802)	(6.7)	4,376	(530)	(10.8)
2017	16	4,042,605	10,558	0.3	4,906	151	3.2
2016	16	4,032,047	161,224	4.2	4,755	190	4.2
2015	16	3,870,823	(126,947)	(3.2)	4,565	(155)	(3.3)
2014	16	3,997,770	185,394	4.9	4,720	224	5.0
2013	16	3,812,376	(1,972)	(0.1)	4,496	3	0.1
2012	16	3,814,348	492,319	14.8	4,493	(226)	(4.8)
2011	14	3,322,029	607,074	22.4	4,719	1,274	37.0
2010	16	2,714,955	(364,819)	(11.8)	3,445	(230)	(6.3)
2009	16	3,079,774	(955,395)	(23.7)	3,675	(1,175)	(24.2)
2008	16	4,035,169	146,630	3.8	4,850	264	5.8
2007	16	3,888,539	85,072	2.2	4,586	20	0.4
2006	16	3,803,467	481,816	14.5	4,566	730	19.0
2005	16	3,321,651	99,059	3.1	3,836	(841)	(18.0)
2004	16	3,222,592	189,306	6.2	4,677	1,162	33.1
2003	16	3,033,286	(108,846)	(3.5)	3,515	(105)	(2.9)
2002	16	3,142,132	(350,927)	(10.0)	3,620	(26)	(0.7)
2001	16	3,493,059	(321,072)	(8.4)	3,646	(500)	(12.1)
2000	16	3,814,131	938,842	32.7	4,146	1,094	35.8
1999	16	2,875,289	(288,543)	(9.1)	3,052	(254)	(7.7)
1998	16	3,163,832	179,877	6.0	3,306	261	8.6
1997	16	2,983,955	593,600	24.8	3,045	441	16.9
1996	16	2,390,355	(26,841)	(1.1)	2,604	(15)	(0.6)
1995	16	2,417,196	(627,748)	(20.6)	2,619	(607)	(18.8)
1994	16	3,044,944	305,635	11.2	3,226	525	19.4
1993	16	2,739,309	139,603	5.4	2,701	211	8.5
1992	16	2,599,706	180,139	7.4	2,490	N/A	N/A
1991	16	2,419,567	(324,108)	(11.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	2,743,675	571,275	26.3	N/A	N/A	N/A

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** (12 teams, including one road team - 100 game schedule in 2021)  
(12 teams – 100 game schedule in 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 2,244,238 (2012 – 13 teams); Avg. per Team: 172,634 (13 teams-2012);  
Average per Date: 3,508 (2012).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,555,057 (2023 –12 teams); Average per Team: 129,588 (2023);  
Average per date: 2,667 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: St. Paul–413,482 (2016); Average per Date: St. Paul - 8,438 (2016)  
Current Team: Total – Kane County – 523,222 (2001); Avg. – Kane County – 7,941 (2003)  
Kane County's records were set in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Kane County–261,836 (2023); Avg. per Date: Kane County-5,571 (2023)

- J **American Association** – In **2023 and 2022**, there were 12 teams. 10 of the 2023 teams were also in this league in 2019. Kane County, IL came in from the MLB-affiliated Midwest League in 2021. St. Paul, who had the top attendance among all independent teams in 2019 (394,970 total, 8,061 average per date), moved to the MLB-affiliated International League in 2021. 2023 attendance from 2 dates at Kansas City, KS was missing. So it was estimated, using their average per date from their other 46 dates.
- J The A.A. drew an estimated 1,555,057 in **2023**, up 44,716 (3.0%), averaging 129,588 per team, and 2,667 per date, up 77 (3.0%), with 15 lost dates, and the same number of dates played as in **2022**. 8 teams had total attendance gains, led by Winnipeg (14,500), and Chicago (14,274). 8 teams were up in average per date, led by Kane County, up 503. Lake Country had the same average per date as in 2022. Kansas City had the largest losses **vs. 2022**, down an estimated 18,058 in total attendance and 288 in average per date. **Chicago had its best-ever total (206,258) and average per date (4,125). Lake Country (not county) and Milwaukee had average per date record-highs. Lincoln had its highest ever single game crowd.**
- J **Kane County led the league in 2023 total attendance (261,836 – 2<sup>nd</sup> best U.S./Canadian independent total). The Cougars had the best U.S./Canadian independent average per date (5,571), and the year's largest crowd (10,181) among all U.S./Canadian independent teams.**
- J Comparing **2023 with 2019** for the league's 2023 teams, regardless of their 2019 league: Total attendance fell 116,056 (6.9%), and average per date dipped 394 (12.9%), with 37 more dates. The 11 teams that played in **2023 and in 2019** (excludes Lake Country) had a combined total decline of 207,895 (12.4%), and were down 321 (10.5%) in average per date. 3 teams had **2023 vs. 2019** gains in total attendance, led by Chicago, up 39,586, and 4 were up in average per date, led by Milwaukee (554). Kane County had the largest total loss (88,469), but they had 20 fewer dates than in **2019**, when they played in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League. Next biggest total decline was by Kansas City (an estimated 68,814), and the Monarchs also had the worst average per date drop (1,650).
- J The 12-team American Association drew 1,775,249 in 2019, an average of 3,082 per date. Remove St. Paul's figures from the 2019 season, and the average per date was 2,619.
- J This league began play in 2006. It is no relation to the Triple-A NAPBL league of the same name that played until 1998. Teams from that league were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues. Teams from this independent American Association have played in other independent leagues, such as the Northern, Central, United, and Texas-Louisiana Leagues, and with the MLB-affiliated Midwest League.

NOTE: A few adjustments were made to the attendance figures due to some missing attendance figures. All box scores from this league were reviewed, but some didn't list attendance. Attempts were made to obtain these missing attendance figures, sometimes successfully, and sometimes not. In the case of the Kansas City Monarchs, 2 games had missing attendance figures. Several attempts of getting those figures were unsuccessful. So the Monarchs' average per date for those games with listed attendance was assigned to the pair of games with no attendance, and added to the team total.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued**The 2021 Season**

- J 10 of these teams were in this league in 2019, and Kane County, IL came in from the Midwest League for 2021. The 12<sup>th</sup> team was the Houston Apollos, who were shared with the Pecos League. Texas (Grand Prairie) was dropped.
- J The league drew 1,198,085 in **2021**, averaging 108,917 per team, and 2,106 per date, with 21 lost dates. The league's 2021 teams drew 1,671,113 in 2019, and averaged 3,061 per date, regardless of what league they played in for 2019. Due to the 2021 road team, teams had extra home dates in 2021, so these teams had a combined 23 more dates than in 2019.
- J Kane County led the league in total attendance (177,705 – 4<sup>th</sup> best independent total), and average per date (3,554 – 6<sup>th</sup> best independent average). Milwaukee drew a team record-high total - 79,741, up 20,282, and a team record-high average per date – 1,564, up 325. In 2019, this team began its season in Kokomo, IN, until their new ballpark in Franklin, WI was ready. Sioux City, IA had an 8,184 gain in total attendance, and their average per date rose 53.
- J Winnipeg had to play its first 29 dates in Jackson, TN, due to Canadian border restrictions. Those games averaged 579 per date. The Goldeyes were able to return home later in the season. They played 18 dates in Winnipeg, which averaged 1,957 per date.

**The 2020 Season**

- J The American Association played a very limited schedule in 2020. 6 teams played, using 5 ballparks, with very limited capacity. The league drew a total of 176,439 in 163 dates, averaging 1,082 per date. Attendance by location was: Fargo – 39,936 in 44 dates (908 per date); Sioux Falls, SD – 34,254 in 39 dates (878 per date); Milwaukee - 38,780 in 33 dates (1,175 per date); Chicago – 32,468 in 26 dates (1,249 per date with 14 sellout crowds of 1,400); St. Paul – 31,001 in 21 dates (1,476 per date, with 16 sellouts of 1,500). Winnipeg played its 'home' games in Fargo, and St. Paul played its early-season 'home' games in Sioux Falls, before fans were allowed to attend games in St. Paul. The league's 5 post-season games drew a total of 3,736.

**The 2019 Season**

- J Total **2019** American Association attendance fell 116,545 (6.2%) to 1,775,249, with 6 fewer dates and 22 rainouts. Average per date was down 169 to 3,082. The total and average per date were the lowest since 2010. The 11 returning teams from 2018 were down 67,377 (3.8%), and their average per date was 3,250, down 89. The Milwaukee Milkmen replaced Wichita. This league's record-high average per date is 3,512 in 2012.
- J The league drew over 2 million in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015.
- J Average attendance per team topped 150,000 for 8 straight years until 2019, when it was 147,937. The average per date was above 3,000 for the 9<sup>th</sup> year in a row in 2019. It also topped 3,000 in 2008 and 2009. Highest average per team for this league was 172,424 in 2012, and the lowest, excluding 2021, was 122,752 in 2010.
- J 4 teams had **2019** increases in total attendance, led by Chicago. Chicago also had the largest increase among the 4 teams with growth in average per date. Kansas City had the largest total attendance and average per date declines in this league in 2019.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- ) **St. Paul** was the best draw in this league's history. That team moved to the MLB-affiliated Triple-A International League in 2021, and is now the top farm team of the Minnesota Twins. In 2015, St. Paul, in their new ballpark, drew 404,528, the best total among independent teams, and a record-high for the team and for the American Association. This was the highest total ever for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other leagues. The Saints averaged 8,091 per date, which was a record-high for any independent team. The old record was 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003. 46 of the 50 dates in St. Paul drew better than CHS Field's 7,210 seating capacity. Attendance was at least 1,000 above the seating capacity at 18 games, topped by a crowd of 10,430. St. Paul's independent record-highs have since been broken by now-independent Mexican League teams.
- ) In 2016, the Saints did even better! **They drew a league-record high total of 413,482, and an independent leagues then-record-high average per date of 8,438.** 47 of 49 dates drew above the CHS Field capacity of 7,210. 37 dates drew at least 8,000, with 29 dates at least 1,000 above seating capacity. Attendance topped 9,000 at 10 dates, led by a crowd of 10,443. Overall, the Saints drew 117% of their park's seating capacity.
- ) In 2017, St. Paul attracted 406,501, averaging 8,296 per date, the best among independent teams. 46 of 49 dates drew above the ballpark's seating capacity, with 36 dates drawing 8,000+. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143. The Saints drew 115% of seating capacity, which was best percentage in the Minors.
- ) In 2018, the Saints drew 408,921, and averaged 8,178 per date. Those figures were best among all independent teams. 45 of 50 dates drew above the ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with 32 dates topping 8,000. There were 5 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 9,791. Overall, they drew 113% of their park's seating capacity.
- ) **In 2019, the Saints had the best attendance among independent teams for the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year.** They drew 394,970, down 13,951, averaging 8,061 per date, down 118. 40 of 49 dates drew above their park's seating capacity. Attendance topped 8,000 at 24 dates, with 8 dates reaching 9,000, including a record-high of 10,631. Since moving into CHS Field in 2015, through 2019, the Saints outdrew the park's seating capacity at 224 of 247 regular season dates.
- ) St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. They topped 235,000 every year except 1993. They led this league in total attendance each year from 2006-2010, and from 2015-2019. The Saints once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak. St. Paul was an original member of the Northern League from 1993-2005. They led that league in attendance from 1993-2000, and had the best total attendance of any independent team each year from 1993-1997, and from 2015-2019. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1994-2008, and from 2015-2019. St. Paul had the highest average per date among the independent league teams from 1993-1999, and in 2002, and from 2015 through 2019. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins.
- ) By 2019, only St. Paul, along with Sioux City and Sioux Falls, remained from the 14 independent teams that played in 1993, the year that independent baseball returned. In their 27 seasons of independent league ball, the Saints drew 7,761,682 in 1,226 dates, averaging 287,470 per season, and 6,331 per date.
- ) **2021, 2022, and 2023** attendance data and highlights for the St. Paul Saints can be found in the International League section on page 139.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- ) **The Kane County (IL) Cougars had the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest total attendance** (to Long Island) **and the best average per date, among U.S./Canadian independent teams in 2023, just as in 2022.** Among all independent teams, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> best total and average per date. Total attendance was 261,836, up 13,482 (5.4%). Average per date rose 503 (9.9%) to 5,571. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best gain among U.S./Canadian independent teams. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. 18 dates drew over 6,000. **The Cougars had the largest crowd of the year among independent U.S./Canadian teams (10,181).**
- ) Kane County's attendance reached 400,000 in 22 of the last 26 years (2012, 2017, 2018, and 2019 were the exceptions) it played as an MLB-affiliate. It topped 500,000 from 2001 through 2006, and was 350,305, up 277, in **2019**, with 3 more dates. It was the 28<sup>th</sup> straight year above 350,000. Attendance reached 6,000 at 27 dates in 2019, with 9 dates topping 8,000, with a high of 9,102. The Cougars have averaged more than 7,000 per date 12 times in their history (1995, 1998-2008). In 2003, they had 18 crowds in excess of 10,000.
- ) For their 29 MLB-affiliated seasons, the Cougars drew 12,479,600 in 1,931 dates, averaging 430,331 per season, and 6,463 per date. They reached 12 million in attendance in fewer seasons than any Class A team ever. That record was broken by Dayton in 2023, and is at 12,822,918 going into 2024, their 24<sup>th</sup> season. If 2021 through 2023 in the American Association are included for Kane County, the 32-season total attendance is 13,167,495 in 2,077 dates. That averages to 411,484 per season, and 6,340 per date. In 2016, the Cougars sold 72,532 hot dogs, 15,300 cheeseburgers, 14,995 lbs. of Super Nachos, but only 426 Fatty burgers.
- ) **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**, an independent team since the re-birth of independent baseball in 1993, drew 71,972, up 12,547 (21.1%) in **2023**. Average per date was 1,439, up 227 (18.7%). The Canaries played one more date than in 2022. There were no postponements. 10 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,552.
- ) In **2019**, Sioux Falls dipped 9,675 to 114,452. Total attendance there has topped 100,000 in 23 of their 30 seasons (23 of 28 years since 1995), excluding 2020, but including 2021 through 2023. Average per date in 2019 was 2,336. The Canaries have averaged above 2,200 per date from 1993 through 2009, and from 2012 through 2019.
- ) The **2023 Fargo-Moorhead RedHawks** drew 155,331, up 8,258 (5.6%), and averaged 3,170 per date, up 106 (3.5%). There was one more date than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. 28 dates drew over 3,000, with 5 of them reaching 4,000. The largest crowd was 4,415.
- ) Fargo-Moorhead's attendance was very stable through 2019. Their lowest total was 155,052 in 1996, and their best total was 193,364 in 2002. The total has been above 155,000 in all seasons, excluding 2020, 2021, and 2022, since 1996. Average per date topped 4,000 in 6 of 7 seasons from 1997 through 2003, and it was above 3,400 in all 24 seasons from 1996 through 2019. This excludes 2020 through 2023.
- ) The field dimensions at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo are a copy of the dimensions that the original (rebuilt) Yankee Stadium had from 1988 through its closing season in 2008. This was done to honor North Dakota native, and '61 in 1961' home run champion, Roger Maris, who held the American League season home run record until Aaron Judge broke it in 2022.
- ) **Gary-Southshore** drew 148,354, down 4,540 (3.0%), in **2023**, with a 3,156 average per date, down 29 (0.9%). There was one less date than in 2022, and one date was lost. 12 dates drew over 4,000, with 5 surpassing 5,000. The largest crowd was 5,930.
- ) The RailCats set team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date in **2017**. In **2019**, total attendance was 167,887. This was their 2<sup>nd</sup> best total ever. Average per date was 3,426. 2022 was the 16<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' year above 150,000 for Gary. Since 2006, excluding 2021, their lowest total was 148,354 in 2023, and the high was 181,612 in 2017. The average per date has been between 3,156 and 3,632 per date in the team's 20-year history through 2023.



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- ) The **Lincoln Saltdogs** had a total **2023** attendance of 151,265, up 6,771 (4.7%). Average per date rose 13 (0.4%) to 3,087. There was one lost date, and 2 more dates than in 2022. 14 dates drew over 4,000, **including a team single game record-high of 8,298.**
- ) Lincoln topped 200,000 each year from 2001 through 2005, but has not done it since. In **2019**, the Saltdogs drew 168,394. Average per date was 3,437. The Saltdogs averaged 5,334 in 2001, their first season, topped 4,000 per date every year through 2007, and were above 3,200 every year through 2019.
- ) The **Winnipeg Goldeyes** drew 178,393 in **2023**, up a league leading 14,500 (8.8%). Average per date was 3,641, up 226 (6.6%). There was one more date than in 2022, and one date was lost. Attendance reached 4,000 at 16 dates, with 8 of them topping 5,000. The largest crowd was 6,287.
- ) **2021** was a very trying year for Winnipeg. The closure of the U.S./Canadian border forced the team to play most home games in Jackson, Tennessee. The 27 dates in Jackson drew a total of 16,785, averaging 579 per date. The largest crowd was 1,362. The team was allowed to go home later in the season, and played 18 dates in Winnipeg, with restricted capacity. Those games drew 35,229, an average of 1,957 per date. The top Winnipeg crowd was 2,754. For the full season, the Goldeyes drew 52,014, an average of 1,107 per date, with 3 lost dates.
- ) **Winnipeg** drew 195,787 in **2019**, down 23,583, their lowest total since 1998. Average per date fell by 398 to 4,079, the lowest in this club's 26 seasons through 2019. This was the 4<sup>th</sup> worst independent total loss, and 5<sup>th</sup> worst average per date loss, of 2019.
- ) **The Goldeyes had led the old Northern League in attendance for 11 straight years, and had the best total attendance in their first 4 years in the American Association, through 2014.** Winnipeg had topped 250,000 for 16 years in a row from 2000 through 2015, including 6 seasons (2002-2007) above 300,000. Since 2000 through 2023, and including 2021 dates played in Winnipeg, but not in Jackson, Winnipeg has drawn 5,859,128 in 1,052 dates, averaging 5,570 (5,632 excluding 2021) per date. The Goldeyes have posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 12 times in 15 seasons between 2000 and 2014. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1999 through 2009, topping 7,000 in 2003 and 2004, and stayed above 5,000 through 2015. On August 27, 1997, the Goldeyes drew 22,081. This was when their home field was Winnipeg Stadium, home of the Canadian Football League Blue Bombers.
- ) The **Sioux City (Iowa) Explorers**, another team that has played independent league ball since 1993, drew 54,899, with an 1,193 average per date in **2023**. Those were league lows. Their total attendance was up 2,778 (5.3%), and average per date rose 84 (7.6%). There was one less date played than in 2022, and 4 dates were lost. 4 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 3,348.
- ) Sioux City had a big increase in **2015**. Total attendance that year rose 26,683 to 77,429, their best total since 2008. Average per date was up 590 to 1,647. The total attendance gain was 3<sup>rd</sup> best, and the average per date gain was 2<sup>nd</sup> best, among independent teams for 2015. In **2019**, total attendance was 51,618, the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest (to 2014) in the club's 30 years., excluding 2021. Average per date was 248 to 1,075. The Explorers had reached 100,000 in 12 of their first 13 years of operation (1993-2005), but have drawn below that figure for the past 17 seasons. Average per date was 3,138 in 1993, 3,506 in 1994, 3,524 in 1995, 3,587 in 1996, 3,204 in 1997, and above 2,000 through 2005. But it has not reached 2,000 since then.
- ) **Cleburne** drew 59,817, down 5,245 (8.1%) in **2023**, averaging 1,196 per date, down 131 (9.9%). There were no rainouts, and one more date than in 2022. The top crowd of 2,147 was the only one above 2,000.
- ) The 2018 losses in Cleburne were 3<sup>rd</sup> worst among independent teams in 2018. But the Railroaders turned it around in **2019** with a total attendance increase of 14,398 to 78,624, and an average per date gain of 288 to 1,572. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> best total gain, and 4<sup>th</sup> best average per date increase, among the independent teams in 2019. Cleburne is south of Fort Worth, and had Minor League teams in 1906, 1911, 1912, 1921, and 1922.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** – continued

- ) In **2021**, **Kansas City's American Association team was renamed the Monarchs**, in honor of one of the Negro League's most celebrated teams. The Negro Leagues Hall-of-Fame and Museum is located in Kansas City, MO. It was founded by Cooperstown, as well as Kansas City, Hall-of-Famer Buck O'Neil, who played in those leagues, and then became the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues. He had a decades-long career as a Major League scout with the Royals. **The Monarchs won the American Association championship in 2021 and in 2023.**
- ) The Monarchs drew an estimated 87,244, down 18,058 (17.1%) **in 2023**. Average per date was 1,818, down 288 (13.7%). These were the biggest declines in the league, and the lowest attendance figures in this team's 20 seasons, including 2021. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2022, and 2 dates were lost. There were 2 dates with no attendance listed. The 1,818 average per date for all other games was assigned to those 2 missing dates. 7 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,312.
- ) Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, had topped 200,000 in their first 15 years of play through 2017. In their 20 years, including 2021 through 2023, Kansas City has averaged 4,572 per date during this period, drawing 4,370,506 in 956 dates. The T-Bones topped 230,000 in 12 consecutive seasons through 2015, and were above 260,000 in 7 of the last 14 years through 2019. Kansas City averaged over 6,000 per date in 2007, and surpassed 5,000 per date every year from 2004 through 2014.
- ) The **Chicago Dogs, who play in Rosemont, near O'Hare Airport, set new record-highs in both total attendance and average per date in 2023**. The total was 206,258, up 14,274 (7.4%), and average per date was 4,125, up 125 (3.1%). There were 2 more dates than in 2022, and no dates lost. **17 dates drew over 5,000, and 10 of them topped 6,000, with a team record-high of 6,827.**
- ) Chicago drew 166,672 in **2019**, their 2<sup>nd</sup> season, up 27,817. Average per date was 3,623, up 669. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best gain in total attendance, and the best average per date increase, among all independent teams in 2019. The team is named for Chicago-style hot dogs, not canines.
- ) **Milwaukee's total attendance rose 1,821 (2.1%) to 87,849 in 2023. Average per date was up 72 (4.2%) to 1,793. These were new team record-highs.** The Milkmen had one less date than in 2022, and one lost date. 17 dates topped 2,000, with 5 of them drawing over 3,000. The largest crowd was 3,694.
- ) The Milwaukee Milkmen, playing in a new ballpark in the suburb of Franklin, WI, replaced Wichita in **2019**. This is the first Minor League team in the Milwaukee area since 1952, the year before the Major League Braves moved to Wisconsin from Boston. Highest listed attendance for a Milwaukee Minor League team was 365,473 in 1927. The 1948 team drew 364,510. In 1952, their final season, that club drew 195,839.
- ) **In 2019**, the Milkmen had to play their first 14 home dates in Kokomo, IN, since their new park wasn't ready. Those 14 dates drew a total of just 659. The 34 dates in Franklin drew 58,762, averaging 1,728 per date. Overall, the total attendance was 49,168 less, and the average per date was 1,024 less, than what Wichita drew in 2018.
- ) **Lake Country** (not Lake County), of Oconomowoc, Wisconsin, played its first season in **2022**. The Dock Hounds drew 91,839, down 1,872 (2.0%) **in 2023**. They averaged 1,874 per date, the same average as in 2022. One date was lost, with one less date played than in 2022. 19 dates drew over 2,000, and 4 of them surpassed 3,000. Top crowd was 3,420.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** – continued**Recent Former American Association Teams**

- ) **Wichita** had its final season in this league in **2018**. Total attendance was 108,627, and the average per date was 2,263. The 2018 total and average were the lowest for an independent Wichita team. The Wingnuts had topped 130,000 in their previous 10 years in this league, and all Wichita teams drew at least 100,000 since 1989. Average per date was above 3,000 in 8 of the last 11 seasons. Wichita failed to reach 200,000 in their last 12 seasons (1996-2007) in the Texas League. From 1956-1958, and from 1970-1984, Wichita was in the Class AAA American Association. Their best attendance in that league was 280,320 in 1971. The Wingnuts posted their best independent figures in 2009, when they drew 161,170, averaging 3,504 per date. A new ballpark opened in 2021 on the site of the old park, is the home of the Wind Surge, an MLB-affiliated Double-A Texas League team. **In 2023, Wichita drew 322,637, up 102,109 in total attendance, averaging 4,676 per date, up 1,335. Those increases were the best among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams.**
- ) **Texas** (Grand Prairie) had the 6<sup>th</sup> worst total attendance loss, and the 4<sup>th</sup> worst average per date decline among independent clubs in **2019**, which was their final season in this league. Total attendance was down 20,725 to 59,471. Average per date fell 432 to 1,239. This team topped 100,000 in its first 6 years (2008-2013), but not afterward. Average per date reached 3,000 in 2008 and 2009, and was over 2,000 from 2008 through 2013.

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	12	1,555,057	44,716	3.0	2,667	77	3.0
2022	12	1,510,341	312,256	26.1	2,591	485	23.0
2021	11	1,198,085			2,106		
2020	6	176,439			1,082		
2019	12	1,775,249	(114,745)	(6.0)	3,082	(165)	(5.1)
2018	12	1,889,994	23,534	1.3	3,247	(68)	(2.1)
2017	12	1,866,460	32,957	1.8	3,315	159	5.0
2016	12	1,833,503	(170,607)	(8.5)	3,156	(56)	(1.7)
2015	13	2,004,110	118,382	6.3	3,212	(120)	(3.6)
2014	12	1,885,728	(264,323)	(12.3)	3,332	(103)	(3.0)
2013	13	2,150,051	(94,187)	(4.2)	3,435	(77)	(2.2)
2012	13	<b>2,244,238</b>	102,343	4.8	<b>3,512</b>	390	12.5
2011	14	2,141,895	914,377	74.5	3,122	424	15.7
2010	10	1,227,518	(254,696)	(17.2)	2,698	(456)	(14.5)
2009	10	1,482,214	(24,451)	(1.6)	3,154	(157)	(4.7)
2008	10	1,506,665	187,824	14.2	3,311	387	13.2
2007	10	1,318,841	20,320	1.6	2,924	101	3.6
2006	10	1,298,521	-----	-----	2,823	-----	-----

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – (14 teams in 2021, 16 teams, including a road team in 2022 and 2023, 16 teams, no road team in 2024 - 96 games each year)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,546,633 (2012 – 14 teams); Avg. per Team: 133,543 (11 teams-2008); Average per Date: 2,719 (2010 – 14 teams).

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 1,637,559 (2023 – 15 teams); Average per Team: 109,171 (2023); Average per date: 2,213 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Southern Illinois–259,392 total attendance (2007); 5,086 average per date (2007)  
Schaumburg averaged 5,499 in the Northern League in 1999.

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Schaumburg–230,023 (2023); Avg. per Date: Schaumburg - 4,510 (2023)

Can-Am League Records Total Attendance: 1,040,107 (2007 – 9 teams); Avg. per Team: 118,715 (7 teams - 2005)  
Average per Date: 2,455 (2006).

Can-Am Team Records: Total Attendance: Brockton – 203,094 (2004); Average per date – Brockton – 3,982 (2004)

- J) **Frontier League** – 16 teams, including a road team, in **2023**. 8 of the teams played in the Frontier League in **2019**. 6 played in the Can-Am League, and joined the Frontier League in a merger. Tri-City (Troy, NY) came from the New York-Penn League. The road team will be replaced by the New England Knockouts (Brockton, MA) in 2024. 2023 attendance was estimated for New Jersey, since they did not report attendance for 10 dates.
- J) **2023 attendance was an estimated league record-high 1,637,559** for the 15 teams who had home games, with an average per team of 109,171, and an average per date of 2,213. 25 dates were lost, with 5 more played than in 2022. Total attendance was up 34,371 (2.1%) **vs. 2022**, and average per date rose 32 (1.5%). 9 teams had increases in total attendance and 8 were up in average per date. **Quebec had the best increase in total attendance, up 36,502, and drew a team record-high of 166,916.** Schaumburg had the top gain in average per date (470). Joliet had the league's top declines, down 23,087 in total attendance, and 453 in average per date. Evansville had a 449 average per date dip.
- J) Schaumburg had the league's best **2023** total attendance (230,023), and the top average per date (4,510). The total was 5<sup>th</sup> best, and the average per date was 3<sup>rd</sup> best, among U.S./Canadian independent teams. The Boomers also had the league's biggest crowd of the year – 7,914.
- J) The **2023 vs. 2019** comparison shows that the 15 teams in the league had a combined 79,646 (5.1%) gain in total attendance, and a drop of 45 (2.0%) in average per date, with 50 more dates in **2023**. All **2023** teams played in professional leagues in **2019**. 8 of them had higher total attendance in **2023 vs. 2019**, and 4 were up in average per date. Schaumburg had the best **2023 vs. 2019** increases, up 73,640 in total attendance, and up 1,319 in average per date. Gateway (31,799), and New Jersey (estimated 31,191) had the worst total attendance declines **vs. 2019**, and Tri-City (Troy, NY) had the largest average per date decline (1,031).
- J) The 10-team **2019 Frontier League** drew 1,028,721, and averaged 2,266 per date. The 6-team **2019 Can-Am League** drew 565,936, and averaged 1,986 per date. **Combined total 2019** attendance for the 2 leagues was 1,594,657, with a 2,158 average per date. These leagues officially merged after the 2019 season.
- J) Quebec and Trois Rivieres were combined into one team (Province of Quebec) in **2021**. Due to U.S./Canadian border restrictions, that team played as a road team, in the U.S., for much of the season. They returned to Canada on July 30, and played 10 dates in Quebec City, and 11 dates in Trois Rivieres. Quebec, Trois Rivieres, and Ottawa returned as separate teams in **2022**, as did the Grays, a road team. Ottawa did not play in 2021.
- J) Teams played extra home games in seasons with a road team operating.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued**PRE-2021 AND OTHER FRONTIER LEAGUE NOTES**

- J The Frontier League had 2 fewer teams in **2019**, than in 2018, and total attendance fell 166,130 (13.9%) to 1,028,721. The 10 returning teams had a combined increase of 3,762 (0.4%). Attendance in the league first surpassed one million in 2003. It has topped one million for 20 years in a row, including 2021 through 2023, and reached 1.5 million in 2007 (with 12 teams), 2012 (14 teams), 2013 (13 teams), and 2022 and 2023 (15 teams). The league played 81 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018, and there were 17 rainouts. The 10 returning teams combined for 2 more dates than in 2018.
- J **2019** average attendance per date was 2,266, up 33. The 10 returning teams had a combined average per date decline of 2. Frontier League average per date was over 2,200 in from 2006-2009, and above 2,000 from 2003-2019, plus 2022, with a record-high of 2,719 in 2010. Average per date was over 2,500 in 6 seasons (2006-2011).
- J Since 2001, when the Frontier League grew to 12 teams, **through 2019**, total attendance was up 42.6% from 719,222, and average per date was up 52.8% from 1,483. These figures don't include the Can-Am League.
- J Average attendance per team had surpassed 100,000 for 12 seasons in a row, and in 13 of 14 years through 2017, and then again in 2019, 2022, and 2023. The average per team was just 13,769 in 1993, the Frontier League's first season. It was 102,872 in 2019. The highest average per team was 133,543 in 2008.
- J Normal and Traverse City left this league in 2019, and had teams in summer collegiate wood bat leagues. In 2020, 5 teams from the Can-Am League (Rockland, New Jersey, Sussex, Quebec, Trois Rivieres) joined this league. Ottawa came in for the 2022 season.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **The 2023 Schaumburg Boomers once again had the top attendance and average per date in the Frontier League. They drew a total of 230,023, their highest total since 1999, their first season. The total rose 19,908 (9.5%). Average per date was 4,510, the best since 2009, and was up a league-best 470 (11.6%).** There was one less date than in 2022, but no lost dates. 18 dates drew over 5,000, and 10 topped 6,000, **led by a league-high, and team record-high, 7,914.**
- J The Boomers have topped 150,000 in 21 of their 23 seasons, including 2021 through 2023 (2012 and 2018 are the exceptions), and went over 200,000 in 11 straight years from 1999 through 2009 as a member of the Northern League. The average per date was 5,499 in 1999 and 5,264 in 2000. It surpassed 4,200 each year from 1999 through 2009, and again in 2023, and has been above 3,000 every year, except 2012, through 2023. They had no team in 2011.
- J The Schaumburg Boomers are named for a male Great Prairie Chicken, a native of Illinois. Other chicken names in sports include Coastal Carolina University's 'Chanticleers', from Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales,' described as a "proud and fierce rooster who dominates the barnyard." University of Delaware teams are the 'Blue Hens.'
- J The **Evansville Otters** had a total **2023** attendance of 102,561, down 19,955 (16.3%), with a 2,051 average per date, down 449 (18.0%). One date was lost, and they played one more date than in 2022. 11 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 5,108.
- J In **2017**, the Otters had the best average per date increase among all independent teams. Total attendance has topped 100,000 for 16 of the last 19 'normal' years through 2023. Average per date has been above 2,000 in 23 of the last 25 'normal' seasons through 2023, and reached 2,500 in 12 of those years. 2021, 2016, and 2000 are the only years that the Otters have averaged less than 2,000. Their average per date topped 3,000 in 1999, 2013, and 2014.
- J In **2013**, Evansville had its highest attendance (140,786) in the 28 seasons they've had an independent team. In 1972, a Triple-A American Association team there drew the city's record-high of 147,807. The Otters play at Bosse Field, which is the oldest regular home ballpark for any Minor League team, and celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015. The first game there in 1915 drew 8,082. On July 24, 2013, the Otters drew 8,253, the largest attendance ever for a game in this historic gem of a park.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- ) The **Florence**, Kentucky Freedom was renamed the Y'Alls for the **2021** season. In **2023**, they just missed setting a team record for total attendance. The Y'Alls drew 111,742, up 5,761 (5.4%), their best total since 2013, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best in the team's 20-year history. Average per date was 2,191, up 28 (1.3%). They played 2 more dates than in 2023, with no postponements. 7 dates drew above 3,000, with a high of 4,225.
- ) Through 2023, average per date in Florence has been above 2,000 in 13 of the last 15 'normal' seasons, including the last 10, with a high of 2,495 in 2013. They've drawn better than 100,000 in 9 of the last 14 'normal' years, with a high of 112,844 in 2010.
- ) In **2023**, the **Windy City ThunderBolts** (Crestwood, IL) drew their 2<sup>nd</sup> best total attendance and 3<sup>rd</sup> highest average per date, in their 24 seasons. The ThunderBolts drew 98,005, up 13,441 (15.9%), with a 1,960 average per date, up 234 (13.6%). These were their best figures since 2009. They played one more date than in 2022, and had no lost dates. 4 dates drew over 3,000, and the largest crowd was 4,532.
- ) 1999 and 2009 were the only seasons that the ThunderBolts averaged over 2,000 per date, and 2009 was the only year with a total above 100,000. But they came close in 2023. The total has ranged from 60,481 in 2003, to 103,129 in 2009.
- ) In **2023**, **Joliet** had a total attendance of 114,901, down 23,087 (16.7%), and average per date was 2,253, down 453 (16.7%). These were the biggest declines in this league. The same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022, with one lost date in 2023. 13 dates drew at least 3,000, with a high of 5,803.
- ) Joliet had a 33,532 gain in total attendance in **2019** to 121,730, and average per date rose 659 to 2,536. Those were the 2<sup>nd</sup> best increases among all independent teams, and the team's best figures since 2010. **The percentage increases in total attendance (38.0%), and average per date (35.1%) were tops among all teams in the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association.** The Slammers, named for the Illinois State Prison in Joliet, drew 100,000+ from 2002 through 2012, including 2 seasons (2002, 2005) above 200,000, and 180,000+ from 2002 through 2008. Their average per date was above 4,000 in the first 5 seasons (2002-2006), with a high of 4,502 in 2003. It topped 3,000 per date in the first 9 seasons (2002-2010).
- ) The **2023 Lake Erie** (Avon, OH) Crushers drew 91,501, down 8,155 (8.2%), with an 1,830 average per date, down 246 (11.9%). They had one lost date, with 2 more dates than in 2022. 7 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,047.
- ) In both **2018** and **2017**, the Crushers had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best average per date gain by an independent team. The average was above 3,000 in the club's first 2 years, and exceeded 2,000 in 10 of 14 years through 2023. Total attendance topped 100,000 in the first 6 seasons, and again in 2018 and 2019. The Crushers fell 344 short of 100,000 in 2022.
- ) **Tri-City** (Troy, NY) joined the league in **2021** from the MLB-affiliated New York-Penn League. In **2023**, the ValleyCats drew 136,231, up 1,614 (1.2%), averaging 2,838 per date, down 153 (5.1%). 21 dates drew at least 3,000, and 7 topped 4,000, with a high of 5,512. There was better weather in 2023, with 3 more dates in 2023, and 3 lost dates. A league-high 7 dates were lost in 2022. Only Southern Maryland had as many 2022 lost dates among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Tri-City had 9 lost dates in 2021, the most of any independent team.
- ) In **2014**, **Tri-City set a team record in total attendance for 11<sup>th</sup> time in 12 seasons.** That year, the ValleyCats drew a team record-high 161,171. Attendance has been over 100,000 in all 21 seasons, including 2021, topped 140,000 in 11 straight years until 2019, and was above 150,000 from 2010 through 2015. The average per date was over 4,000 in each of 11 consecutive seasons through 2018, and was 3,869 in 2019.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- ) The **Gateway Grizzlies** of Sauget, Illinois had a **2023** total attendance of 80,453, up 3,589 (4.7%), with a 1,642 average per date, up 105 (6.8%). They had 2 lost dates, with one less date than in 2022. 9 dates drew over 2,000, and 5 topped 3,000, with a high of 6,712.
- ) Gateway had topped 150,000 for 12 straight years through 2014, and in 2016. The Grizzlies fell just below that figure in 2015 and 2017. Gateway's average per date surpassed 4,000 in 4 seasons (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007), and has been over 3,000 in 14 years (2003-2014, 2016, 2017), with a high of 4,531 in 2004, when their total was 217,500. Attendance has surpassed 180,000 in 5 seasons.
- ) **Washington, Pa** drew 94,899, down 9,069 (8.7%), with an 1,898 average per date, down 141 (6.9%) in **2023**. One date was lost, and one less date than in 2022 was played. 20 dates drew better than 2,000, with a high of 3,314.
- ) The Wild Things had 10 consecutive seasons (2002-2011) above 100,000, including 6 years above 150,000. 2022 was the only year above 100,000 since 2011. Washington's average per date had topped 3,000 in their first 6 seasons (2002-2007), but was under 2,000 since 2012, until 2022.
- ) The **Rockland (County) Boulders** joined the Frontier League from the Can-Am League, and were renamed the **New York Boulders in 2021**. In **2023**, they drew 151,290, up 12,759 (9.2%). Average per date rose 317 (11.4%) to 3,088. These were the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total and average per date figures in this team's 12-year history. One less date was played in 2023, and 2 dates were lost. Attendance was over 4,000 at 12 dates, with a high of 6,006.
- ) Rockland led the Can-Am League in total attendance for the 8<sup>th</sup> straight year in **2019**. The Boulders topped 120,000 in each of their 9 seasons through 2019, and again in 2022 and 2023, and have been above 140,000 from 2012 through 2017, and in 2023. The average per date has topped 3,000 in 4 seasons.
- ) **2023 New Jersey Jackals** attendance had to be estimated. The league did not list attendance for 10 of their games, and attempts to get those figures were unsuccessful. The 909 average for the 40 dates with listed attendance was assigned to the other 10 games. So take these figures with a big grain of salt: The Jackals drew an estimated 45,467, down 6,619 (12.7%), with a 909 average per date, down 132 (12.7%). They had 4 lost dates, with the same number played as in 2022. 4 dates drew at least 2,000, with a high of 3,804.
- ) The Jackals topped 100,000 in 10 of their first 11 seasons (1998-2008), but have been below it in each of the last 14 years. Average per date was above 3,000 in 1999 and 2000, with a high of 3,312 in 1999, and better than 2,000 from 1998 through 2009. It hasn't reached 2,000 since then. Through 2022, the Jackals played at Yogi Berra Stadium, adjacent to the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center on the campus of Montclair State University. In 2023, they moved to historic Hinchliffe Stadium in Paterson, NJ. This park, which opened in 1932, was the longtime home of numerous Negro League teams. Hall-of-Famer, and Paterson native, Larry Doby broke the color line in the American League in 1947.
- ) **Quebec, the 2023 and 2022 Frontier League Champions, drew a team record-high total of 166,916, up a league-best 36,502 (28.0%)**. Average per date was 3,035, the highest since 2012, and up 318 (11.7%). There were no lost dates, and 7 more dates than in 2022. 15 dates topped 4,000, with a 14 of them drawing a sellout crowd of 4,297.
- ) Quebec led the Can-Am League in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. The Capitales have topped 110,000 in all 23 years, reached 130,000 in 18 of the last 21 'normal' years through 2023, and surpassed 150,000 in 8 seasons, including 2023. Average per date had topped 2,500 in all seasons until 2018, and again in 2022 and 2023. It reached 3,000 every year from 2000 through 2013, and in 2023, with a high of 3,565 in 2009. Teams from Quebec City led the original Canadian-American League in attendance in 1949 and 1950, and had the best attendance in the Provincial League yearly from 1951 through 1955.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- ) **Sussex County** (Augusta, New Jersey) also joined the Frontier League from the Can-Am League in **2021**. The Miners drew 68,251 in **2023**, down 8,491 (11.1%), with a 1,587 average per date, down 12 (0.7%). The Miners had fewer home games on their 2023 schedule, and so played 5 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022, with one postponement. 13 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 4,458.
- ) Sussex County returned to the Can-Am League in 2015, after being in the league from 2006 through 2010. Their top Can-Am League attendance was 101,638 in 2007. From 1994 through 2005, Sussex County was in the MLB-affiliated New York-Penn League, and was named the New Jersey Cardinals. Attendance for that team topped 100,000 every season, was above 150,000 in the team's first 5 years, and topped 130,000 in the first 9 years, with a high of 176,788 in 1995. Average per date reached 4,000 from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 4,652 in 1995, and stayed above 3,000 through 2004.
- ) **In 2016, Sussex had gains in both total attendance and average per date that were the best among all independent teams, and 7<sup>th</sup> best among all Minor League teams.** Total attendance was up 58.3%, and average per date rose 55.2%. Puebla of the Mexican League was the only Minor League team that played in the same market as in 2015, that had higher percentage increases in those two categories.
- ) **Ottawa**, a former Can-Am League and International League city, joined the Frontier League in 2022. The renamed **Titans** didn't operate in 2021 due to Covid regulations and stadium lease issues. Their **2023** total attendance was 76,505, up 14,778 (23.9%), and average per date was 1,628, up 342 (26.6%). 4 dates were lost, with one less date than in 2022. 11 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,602.
- ) The **2019** Ottawa Champions drew 88,119, a low for the 5 years of that team. The top total for the Champions was 127,618 in 2016. Average per date was 1,798 in 2019, at that time, the lowest average since pro baseball returned to Ottawa in 1993. Prior to 2015, Ottawa had a team in the Can-Am League in 2008, and it drew 101,073. There was no Minor League team in Canada's capital city from 2009 through 2014.
- ) Ottawa was in the International League from 1993 through 2007. In 1993, they drew 663,926, and in 1994, their attendance was 596,858. But then attendance fell sharply, down to 195,979 in 1999. The Lynx drew under 200,000 in 8 of their final 9 years in Ottawa, with a low of 122,594 in 2006. Average per date also had a very big decline from 9,764 in 1993, to 8,908 in 1994, 6,888 in 1995, 5,423 in 1996, 4,165 in 1997, 3,205 in 1998, to a low of 1,915 in 2006.
- ) Before 1993, Ottawa had teams in other leagues as late as 1954. Their highest recorded attendance was 153,152 in 1952, in the International League.
- ) **2023** total attendance for **Trois Rivières** (Three Rivers) was 68,814, up 1,395 (2.1%). Average per date rose 62 (4.3%) to 1,496. 5 dates were lost, with one less date than in 2022. 10 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 2,314.
- ) Trois Rivières drew 85,506 in **2019**, down 6,099. Average per date was 1,677, down 193 from a team record-high 1,869 in 2018. The current version of Les Aigles has averaged between 1,434 and 1,869 per date in their 9 'normal' seasons. NAPBL MLB-affiliated teams played in Trois Rivières in the original Canadian-American League in 1941, 1942, and from 1946 through 1950, and played in the Eastern League from 1971 through 1977. Their all-time NAPBL attendance high was 119,751 in 1972. The 2015 total of 96,997 was higher than Trois Rivières drew in all but 2 of 14 NAPBL seasons with listed attendance.
- ) **Brockton, MA**, a former Can-Am League city, joins this league for 2024. The team is named the New England Knockouts. Brockton played in the Can-Am League from 2002 through 2011. They drew over 150,000 in 4 of those seasons, and topped 3,000 per date 7 times. **Brockton holds the Can-Am League records for highest total attendance (203,094) and average per date (3,982), both set in 2004.**



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

) The Frontier League, established in 1993, played its 30<sup>th</sup> season in **2023**. The Northern League also began play in 1993, and they were the first independent leagues in decades. There were 8 Frontier League teams in 1993, but two of them disbanded early in the season. Total attendance was 82,615, led by the Zanesville Greys, who drew 21,547. The Greys name was used by a road team that played in 2015, 2022, and 2023. None of cities in the Frontier League in 1993 are still in pro baseball. The Northern League had 6 teams, drawing 651,452, led by St. Paul, who attracted 167,956. St. Paul, now with the MLB-affiliated International League, and Sioux City, and Sioux Falls in the American Association, are still active.

**Some Recent Frontier League Teams No Longer in Professional Baseball**

- ) The **Southern Illinois** (Marion) Miners played their final season in **2021**, and drew 66,099, with a 1,502 average per date. They had 2 lost dates, and played the same number of dates as in 2019. This team disbanded after the season. In 2023, Marion got a new team (Thrillville Thrillbillies) in the Summer Collegiate Prospect League, and it averaged 2.336 per date.
- ) In **2019**, the Miners' average per date decline of 437 to 2,305, was the worst drop in the league, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst among all independent teams. Total attendance dipped 8,250 to 101,441, with 4 more dates. It was the lowest total and average in this team's 13 seasons through 2019. In 2007, the Miners became the first Frontier League team to average over 5,000 per date. In 2014, total attendance rose 21,203, the best increase among all independent teams. Attendance in Marion topped 125,000 in the first 11 seasons, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010. The Miners drew over 150,000 in 8 of those years (2007-2011, 2015-2017). Their average per date was 5,086 in 2007, topped 4,000 through 2010, and was above 2,500 every year until 2019.
- ) In **2018**, their final Frontier League season, **Traverse City** drew 88,176, averaging 2,261 per date. It was the low total and average in 13 years of play. The Beach Bums topped 200,000 in their first 2 seasons (2006 and 2007), and drew over 150,000 in their first 8 years. 2018 was the first season under 119,000. The average per date was 4,241 in 2006, 4,041 in 2007, and topped 3,000 in the first 9 seasons. Record-high total was 206,102 in 2007. Traverse City now has a team in the Northwoods Summer Collegiate League. It averaged 1,674 per date in 2019, 1,652 in 2021, 2,268 in 2022, and 2,528 in 2023.
- ) **2018** was also a final Frontier League year for **Normal**. They drew 81,716. Average per date was 1,857. The CornBelts averaged above 2,000 per date in their first 7 years (2010-2016). They drew their record-high total (132,309), and average per date (2,646) in 2009, their first season. Normal fielded a team in the Summer Collegiate Prospect League, starting in 2019. It averaged 705 per date in 2019, 732 in 2021, 671 in 2022, and 1,069 in 2023.
- ) In **2015**, their final season, **Rockford** drew 44,674, its lowest total in 14 years as an independent league market. Average per date was 993. Those were the lowest figures for any team in the Frontier, Atlantic, and Can-Am Leagues, or in the American Association. The decrease of 27,666 in total attendance, and 615 in average per date, were 4<sup>th</sup> worst among the independent teams in 2015. Rockford had topped 100,000 each year from 2004 through 2010. Their Frontier League high was 138,234 in 2008. The city had its top attendance of 158,674 in 1988 in the Midwest League, where they had a team from 1988 through 1999. Their Midwest League low was 50,900 in 1992. Rockford now is in the Summer Collegiate Northwoods League. That team drew an average per date of 1,097 in 2023, 874 in 2022, 720 in 2021, 527 in 2020, 1,021 in 2019, 894 in 2018, 874 in 2017, and 604 in 2016.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

## FRONTIER LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	16	<b>1,637,559</b>	34,371	2.1	2,213	32	1.5
2022	16	1,603,188	496,894	44.9	2,181	362	19.8
2021	14	1,106,294			1,820		
2019	10	1,028,721	(166,130)	(13.9)	2,266	33	1.5
2018	12	1,194,851	(93,691)	(7.3)	2,233	(140)	(5.9)
2017	12	1,288,542	2,657	0.2	2,373	(17)	(0.7)
2016	12	1,285,885	(108,699)	(7.8)	2,390	152	6.8
2015	13	1,394,584	(49,738)	(3.4)	2,238	(118)	(5.0)
2014	13	1,444,322	(96,847)	(6.3)	2,356	(83)	(3.4)
2013	13	1,541,169	(5,464)	(0.4)	2,439	56	2.3
2012	14	1,546,633	134,720	9.5	2,383	(152)	(6.0)
2011	12	1,411,913	(86,148)	(5.8)	2,535	(184)	(6.8)
2010	14	1,498,061	53,835	3.7	<b>2,719</b>	93	3.5
2009	12	1,444,226	(24,751)	(1.7)	2,626	26	1.0
2008	11	1,468,977	(34,243)	(2.3)	2,600	(118)	(4.3)
2007	12	1,503,220	241,825	19.2	2,718	5	0.2
2006	10	1,261,395	79,190	6.7	2,713	602	28.5
2005	12	1,182,205	(112,506)	(8.7)	2,111	(309)	(12.8)
2004	12	1,294,711	185,301	16.7	2,420	203	9.2
2003	12	1,109,410	160,144	16.9	2,217	280	14.5
2002	12	949,266	230,044	32.0	1,937	454	30.6
2001	12	719,222	110,906	18.2	1,483	(101)	(6.4)
2000	10	608,316	(103,420)	(14.5)	1,584	(200)	(11.2)
1999	10	711,736	0283,598	66.2	1,784	347	24.1
1998	8	428,138	(20,643)	(4.6)	1,437	(34)	(2.3)
1997	8	448,781	31,162	7.5	1,471	N/A	N/A
1996	8	417,619	100,819	31.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	8	316,800	100,572	46.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1994	8	216,228	133,613	161.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	6	82,615	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	N/A

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**CAN-AM LEAGUE** (6 teams in 2019 – merged with Frontier League in 2021)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,040,107 (2007) 9 home teams;

Team – Brockton – 203,094 (2004) set in the Northeast League, Brockton – 190,675 (2005) in the Can-Am League

- ) The league merged into the Frontier League for the 2021 season. All of the 2019 teams, except Ottawa, played in 2021. Quebec and Trois Rivières were combined into the Province of Quebec team for the 2021 season, but the two individual teams returned in 2022. Ottawa also rejoined the Frontier League in 2022. Brockton rejoins the Frontier League in 2024.
- ) There were 6 teams again in the Can-Am League in 2019, its final season as an independent entity. There were some games with foreign teams that counted in the attendance totals.
- ) 2019 total attendance fell 33,583 (5.6%) to 565,936, with 12 fewer dates than in 2018, and 13 lost dates. Average per date was 1,986, the lowest since 2013, down 33.
- ) Average attendance per team was 94,323 in 2019, lowest since 2013. The league averaged above 100,000 per team from 2005 through 2008, and from 2014 through 2017. Average per date topped 2,000 in 12 of the league's last 16 years, and 16 times in this league's 23-year history. 2018 was the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row above 2,000. These figures include seasons when it was the Northeast League and also when it was part of the Northern League.
- ) No teams had gains in total attendance in 2019. All teams had small total attendance declines. New Jersey and Sussex were up in average per date.

**CAN-AM AND NORTHEAST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	6	565,936	(33,583)	(5.6)	1,986	(33)	(1.6)
2018	6	599,519	(31,625)	(5.0)	2,019	(92)	(4.4)
2017	6	631,144	(36,572)	(5.5)	2,111	(137)	(6.1)
2016	6	667,716	26,632	4.2	2,248	153	7.3
2015	6	641,084	224,430	53.9	2,095	(233)	(10.0)
2014	4	416,654	(37,712)	(8.3)	2,328	352	17.8
2013	5	454,366	(40,332)	(8.2)	1,976	(111)	(5.3)
2012	5	494,698	(132,415)	(21.1)	2,087	237	12.8
2011	7	627,113	103,219	19.7	1,850	(127)	(6.4)
2010	6	523,894	(39,314)	(7.0)	1,977	(232)	(10.5)
2009	6	563,208	(280,452)	(33.2)	2,209	(141)	(6.0)
2008	8	843,660	(196,447)	(18.9)	2,350	54	2.4
2007	9	<b>1,040,107</b>	230,066	28.4	2,296	(159)	(6.5)
2006	8	810,041	(20,963)	(2.5)	<b>2,455</b>	20	1.0
2005	7	832,717	72,000	9.5	2,435	203	8.9
2004	8	759,004	96,962	14.6	2,232	273	13.9
2003	8	662,042	(46,301)	(6.5)	1,959	(106)	(5.1)
2002	8	708,343	116,883	19.8	2,065	(254)	(11.0)
2001	6	591,460	(34,048)	(5.4)	2,319	268	13.1
2000	8	625,508	(51,349)	(7.6)	2,051	(32)	(1.5)
1999	8	676,857	96,851	16.7	2,083	230	12.4
1998	8	580,006	147,096	34.0	1,853	474	34.4
1997	8	432,910	192,794	80.3	1,379	N/A	N/A
1996	6	240,116	54,645	29.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	6	185,471	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	N/A

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** (8 teams – 76-games, short-season in 2019, 96-game independent schedule in 2021) (10 teams in 2022 and 2023, 12 teams in 2024 – 96-game schedule 2022 - 2024)

Pre-2021 League Records: Total Attendance: 728,952 (2008 – 8 teams); Avg. per Team: 91,119 (8 teams - 2008); Average per Date: 2,504 (2019). Longer season in 1948 drew 802,682.

Post-2020 League Records: Total Attendance: 960,775 (2023 –9 teams); Average per Team: 106,753 (9 teams - 2023); Average per date: 2,310 (2023).

Pre-2021 Team Records: Total Attendance: Salt Lake City–217,263 (1992); Avg./Date: Salt Lake City - 5,717 (1992) Current Team: Total – Ogden-146,201 (2019); Average per Date – Ogden – 3,951 (2019)

Post-2020 Team Records: Total Attendance: Ogden–167,484 (2022); Average per Date: Ogden - 3,641 (2022)

- ) **Pioneer Baseball League** – 10 teams in 2022 and 2023. 12 teams in 2024. 7 of these teams played in the MLB-affiliated Rookie Class Pioneer League in 2019. Boise joined from the Short-A Northwest League in 2021. 2023 was the Pioneer League's 3<sup>rd</sup> season as an independent league. In **2022**, the new teams were Kalispell, Montana (Glacier Range Riders), and Windsor, Colorado (Northern Colorado Owlz). However Northern Colorado's park was not ready for the 2022 or 2023 seasons, so the team played on various fields. They listed their attendance as 3,004 in 40 dates in 2022, and 27,581 in 43 dates in 2023. Northern Colorado's 2022 and 2023 attendance is excluded from the league's official attendance figures, and from this report's listed attendance totals and average per date.
- ) **The league played a 96-game schedule in 2023, and drew a league record-high total of 960,775**, averaging 2,310 per date. The total was up 37,412 (4.1%), and average per date rose 121 (5.6%), with 6 fewer dates than in 2022. 16 dates were lost. **The league averaged its record-high per team - 106,753**. 5 teams had gains in total attendance, and 6 teams were up in average per date.
- ) **Ogden drew 164,561, averaging 3,501 per date, to lead this league for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year**. Boise had its best total (162,561) since 1996, and averaged 3,466 per date. Rocky Mountain had the largest crowd (6,134). Glacier set new record-highs in total attendance and average per date, but it was only their 2<sup>nd</sup> season.
- ) Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs) had the league's largest total attendance increase, up 19,491. Best increases in average per date were by Glacier (363), Billings (353), and Rocky Mountain (325). Idaho Falls had the biggest total attendance decline, down 11,936 with 4 fewer dates. Grand Junction had the top average per date decline (120).
- ) The **pre-2021** league record-high was 802,682 in 1948, when this league played a full-season schedule. The **2019** Pioneer League had a 76-game schedule, and drew 721,268, averaging a league record-high 2,504 per date.
- ) Comparing **2023 vs. 2019**, for the teams playing in this league in 2023, the total was up 155,263 (19.3%), and the average per date fell 477 (17.1%), with 127 more dates. Excluding Glacier, which did not have a team in 2019, the total rose 54,602 (6.8%), but the average fell 450 (16.1%) with 79 more dates. 5 teams were up in total attendance, and 3 had average per date gains. Best total gain was by Boise, up 33,117. Missoula, up 214, had the best average per date increase. Rocky Mountain had the biggest losses, down 23,253 in total attendance, and 1,497 in average per date.
- ) **2023** was the 20<sup>th</sup> year in a row where the average per date was at least 2,000. The league did not average 2,000+ per date in any season before 2003, going back to at least 1992.
- ) Pioneer League total attendance didn't top 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It has done so every year since then.
- ) The relocation of Helena to Colorado Springs led to a significant attendance increase in **2019**. Total attendance rose 116,931 (19.4%) to 721,268, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total in league history. Only 2008 and 2009 had a higher total. The percentage gain was best among all U.S./Canadian Minor Leagues. **Average per date was a league record-high 2,504, up 434, breaking the mark of 2,463 in 2008**. The league had 4 fewer dates than in 2018, with 16 rainouts.
- ) Pioneer League **short-season** record-high average attendance per team was 91,119 in 2008. The only other years above 90,000 were 2009, and 2019, when the average was 90,159. The short-season average per team reached 70,000 for the first time in 2002, and topped this figure every year after. This league began to play a short-season schedule in 1964. The longer season record-high average per team, **until broken in 2021**, was 100,335 in 1948.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** – continued

- ) From 1964 through 1980, league average per team never topped 40,000. The low was 15,862 in 1965. That year, the league's 4 teams drew a combined total of just 63,446. 5 of the 8 teams in the league in 2019 individually drew more than that in 2019. In 1965, each team played a total of 66 games. Lowest team attendance was 8,692 by the Tommy Lasorda-managed Pocatello Chiefs. The last year with an average per team below 50,000 was 1993 (41,921).
- ) The league adds 2 new teams in 2024. The Oakland Ballers will play in West Oakland, CA, and the Yolo High Wheelers will play in Yolo, CA. This is the first professional team in Yolo. Oakland had a long history of Minor League Baseball, most notably a 53-year run in the Pacific Coast League from 1903 through 1955. Their highest attendance was 634,311 in 1946. The 1947, 1948, and 1949 Oakland teams also topped 500,000.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- ) **Minor League Baseball has experienced many changes in the last few years, but at least one thing always stays the same: The Ogden Raptors leading the Pioneer League in attendance. In 2023, they led the Pioneer League for the 23<sup>rd</sup> straight year, and drew 164,561, down 2,923 (1.7%). It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total in team history. Average per date was 3,501, down 140 (3.8%).** There was one lost date, with one more date played than in 2022. Attendance topped 4,000 at 14 dates, with 4 of them surpassing 5,000. Top crowd was 5,246. **The Raptors were also Pioneer League Champions in 2023.**
- ) The Raptors have topped 100,000 and averaged over 3,000 per date for 22 straight years, including 2021. In 16 of those seasons, the average per date topped 3,400. They've reached 125,000 in 17 of the last 21 seasons, and surpassed 120,000 in 20 of those years. Ogden, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- ) **In 2022, Ogden drew a team record-high total of 167,484.**
- ) **Ogden drew a then-record-high 146,201 in 2019, up 16,916. Average per date rose by 549 to a team-record-high 3,951. The previous records were set in 2009. The increases in attendance were the best among all short-season teams, and the average per date gain was 10<sup>th</sup> best among all MLB-affiliated clubs.** 13 dates drew at least 4,000, and 7 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 5,905.
- ) **The Idaho Falls Chukars** drew 89,349, down 11,936 (11.8%) in **2023**. It was the largest decline in the league, caused mainly by 4 rainouts, and 4 fewer dates played than in 2022. The Chukars averaged 2,031 per date, down 79 (3.8%), which was still the 16<sup>th</sup> straight year above 2,000. 5 dates drew over 3,000, led by a crowd of 3,688. **2022** was the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year above 100,000, but just the 5<sup>th</sup> time in the 78 seasons with recorded attendance, that Idaho Falls reached that level.
- ) **Idaho Falls had a team record-high total attendance of 109,647 in 2021, up 6,788 from 2019, breaking the old record of 104,960 set in 2007. The Chukars averaged a team record-high 2,780 per date in 2019, breaking the 2007 record.** Total attendance was 102,859 in **2019**. That was the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total (to 2007 and 2021) in Idaho Falls. 2007 was the first year that the total reached 90,000, but it has surpassed that in all but 3 years since then. The Chukars' park seats 3,400, and 16 of their top 17 attendance totals have come in the last 16 seasons, including 2021 through 2023. The highest attendance for a full-season team in Idaho Falls was 81,157 in 1948. From 2007 through 2019, the Chukars drew above that with their short-season team every year except 2014.
- ) **In 2023, Great Falls** had a 2,146 (3.3%) decline in total attendance to 62,640. Average per date was up 45 (3.3%) to 1,424. The Voyagers played 3 fewer dates than in 2022, with 4 lost dates. It was the 12<sup>th</sup> 'normal' year in a row under 100,000. 3 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,033.
- ) Great Falls drew 47,207 in **2019**. It was the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row under 50,000. Average per date was 1,388. Through 2019, attendance in Great Falls had been cut by more than half since 2003. The Voyagers did not reach 60,000 in their last 9 years as a short-season team, after topping 100,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2003 through 2009. A full-season team in Great Falls topped 100,000 each year from 1949 through 1953. The next year above 100,000 was 2003. Average per date reached 2,000 yearly from 1998 through 2009, but not since. The high was 3,183 in 2003.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

- ) Total **2023** attendance in **Billings** was up 15,550 (16.4%), to 110,113. Average per date was 2,503, up 353 (16.4%). The Mustangs had the same number of dates as in 2022, and 4 dates were lost. 8 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,263.
- ) Billings drew 96,594 in **2019**. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> straight year under 100,000 after 10 straight years above 100,000. Prior to this streak, Billings had reached 100,000 just 8 times in the previous 48 seasons. The Mustangs' 2019 average per date was 2,611, their lowest since 2007. **Including 2021 through 2023, the average per date has been above 2,100 every year since 1983.** It's been over 2,800 in 14 of those seasons, and topped 3,000 in 1987, 1995, 2003, 2008, and 2012. Billings led the Pioneer League in attendance 14 times between 1973 and 1999, and had the 2<sup>nd</sup> best attendance in the league 25 times from 1973 through 2017.
- ) The **Rocky Mountain Vibes** (Colorado Springs) drew 114,041 up 19,491 (20.6%) in **2023**, with a 2,426 average per date, up 325 (15.5%). There were one lost date, and 2 more dates were played. 10 dates drew over 3,000, with a league high 6,134. This team plays at a higher altitude than any U.S. pro baseball team. Their park is 6,531 feet above sea level.
- ) Rocky Mountain played its first season in Colorado Springs in **2019** after moving from Helena. Total attendance was 137,294, up 106,928 from what Helena drew in 2018. Average per date was 3,923, up 3,083 from Helena's average. 15 dates topped 4,000, with 9 of them drawing better than 5,000. The largest crowd was 7,048. Helena's best total was 49,015 in 1992, and their top average per date from 1992 on, was 1,290 in 1992.
- ) In 2018, the Pacific Coast League club in Colorado Springs drew 262,657, averaging 4,104 per date. That club's record-high total was 350,374 in 2014, and their top average per date was 5,181 in 2013. In their 31 Triple-A seasons, Colorado Springs drew a total of 7,846,619, averaging 253,117 per year.
- ) The **Boise Hawks** moved from the MLB-affiliated Northwest League (now a High-A league) to the Pioneer League in **2021**. They drew 162,922 in **2023**, the top total since 1996, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest total in Boise's 58 seasons with reported attendance. (1995 and 1996 had the 2 highest totals.) The total was up 2,340 (1.5%) from 2022. Average per date was 3,466, the best since 2000, and up 121 (3.6%). There was one less date than in 2022, and one lost date. 11 dates drew better than 4,000, with a high of 4,675.
- ) Boise's **2019** attendance of 129,805 was, at that time, their best total since 2000. From 1989 through 2010, the Hawks topped 100,000 every year except 2001, when they missed by just 160, and then reached 100,000 again from 2015 through 2023, including 2021. It was above 120,000 from 1989 through 2000, and from 2018 through 2023. 2019 average per date was 3,416, the best at that time since 2000. The Hawks' average was over 4,000 each year from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 4,590 in 1997. Boise's ballpark seats 3,426. There have been talks about building a new ballpark in Boise for both the Hawks and Boise State University.
- ) **Grand Junction**, in its 11<sup>th</sup> season, had a **2023** total attendance of 67,500, down 5,777 (7.9%), with a 1,406 average per date, down 120 (7.9%). There were no lost dates, and the same number of dates as in 2022. In 2023, the team's name changed from Rockies to Jackalopes.
- ) In **2019**, Grand Junction drew 88,476, and average per date was 2,391. This was the best total and average since 2013. Rockies' attendance reached 100,000 only in 2012, their first season in Colorado. The team moved to Grand Junction from Casper, where the top attendance ever was 57,120 in 2010.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

- ) The **Missoula** Osprey were renamed the PaddleHeads for the **2021** season. Their **2023** total attendance was 88,988, the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total in this team's 24-year history, topped only by 89,812 in 2012. It was up 5,369 (6.4%). Average per date was 1,893, up 151 (8.7%), with one less date, and one date lost. 16 dates drew over 2,000, with 4 of them surpassing 3,000. The largest crowd was 3,819.
- ) Through 2014, Missoula had drawn over 80,000 for 8 straight years after never reaching that level. Attendance fell below that figure from 2015 through 2019, and in 2021, but rose above it in 2022 and 2023. In **2019**, the total was 57,076, the lowest since 2003. The Osprey averaged 1,679 per date in 2019, the lowest average since 2003. Average per date exceeded 2,000 each year from 2007 through 2015.
- ) Kalispell, Montana, located in the Flathead Valley, got a pro Minor League team for the first time in 2022. This team is named the **Glacier Range Riders**, after Montana's Glacier National Park. **2023** total attendance was 100,661, up 17,444 (21.0%), with a 2,097 average per date, up a league-best 363 (21.0%). The same number of dates were played in 2023 and 2022, with no postponements each year. 25 dates drew over 2,000, and the largest crowd was a team record-high 3,079.
- ) While not officially counted in **2023** league attendance, **Northern Colorado** (Windsor) drew 27,581 at their temporary park, averaging 641 per date, with a high of 1,657.

**Recent Former Pioneer League Teams and League Historical Notes**

- ) Until 2016, **Orem** had surpassed 75,000 in all of their 11 seasons, with 4 of those years topping 100,000. But the Owlz (yes, that is how the team spells its name) had their toughest attendance year in **2019**, their final season in Orem. Total 2019 attendance fell 5,531 to 45,561, and average per date was down 114 to 1,231, both the lowest in this team's 15-year history. 3 dates topped 2,000. Average per date had been above 2,000 from 2005 through 2015. This franchise was inactive in 2021.
- ) The Owlz name returned to the Pioneer League in **2022**, with a new team in Windsor, Colorado, named the **Northern Colorado Owlz**. This is the first pro Minor League team for that city. Their ballpark, located in a big sports complex, with 2 stadiums, and an indoor arena, was not ready for the season, so the team played at various fields in the area. Their listed attendance of 3,004 in 40 dates is not included in the Pioneer League totals. Only 9 of the dates played had a reported attendance of at least 100. The new park was not ready in 2023 either.
- ) It was 13 years in a row, through their final season of 2018, with total attendance under 40,000 for the **Helena** Brewers, who played in a 2,100-seat park. Teams in Helena failed to reach 30,000 in any season from 1978 through 1988, and topped 40,000 just 6 times in 39 years, none since 2005, and never reached 50,000. Lowest total was 10,694 in 1983. The 2018 total was 31,086 and the average per date was 840. The average per date topped 1,000 in 12 of the 25 seasons that Helena has fielded a team since 1992, but only in 2016 since 2007. Record-high average per date since 1991 was 1,290 in 1992.
- ) Highest attendance ever for a Pioneer League game was 12,870 at Salt Lake City in 1992. Salt Lake City went to the Pacific Coast League in 1993, where they still play. But they had a Pioneer League team from 1939-1942, 1946-1957, 1967-1969, and 1985-1992. In their final Pioneer League season, Salt Lake City drew 217,263, the highest total ever in this league. They also topped 200,000 as a Pioneer League team in 1946 and 1991. Pioneer League attendance in Salt Lake City reached 100,000 in 1940, then 8 times between 1946 and 1956, all with longer-season schedules, and each year from 1986 through 1992 as a short-season team.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

## PIONEER LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	<b>960,775</b>	37,412	4.1	<b>2,310</b>	121	5.6
2022	10	923,363	83,989	10.0	2,188	(118)	(5.1)
2021	8	839,374			2,306		
2019	8	721,268	116,931	19.4	<b>2,504</b>	434	21.0
2018	8	604,337	(13,705)	(2.2)	2,070	24	1.2
2017	8	618,042	1,356	0.2	2,046	(59)	(2.8)
2016	8	616,686	(16,926)	(2.7)	2,105	(80)	(3.7)
2015	8	633,622	10,581	1.7	2,185	37	1.7
2014	8	623,031	(50,093)	(7.4)	2,148	(134)	(5.9)
2013	8	673,124	(21,928)	(3.2)	2,282	(35)	(1.5)
2012	8	695,052	24,166	3.6	2,317	88	3.9
2011	8	670,886	20,497	3.2	2,229	46	2.1
2010	8	650,389	(71,553)	(9.9)	2,183	(264)	(10.8)
2009	8	721,942	(7,010)	(1.0)	2,447	(16)	(0.6)
2008	8	<b>728,952</b>	10,616	1.5	2,463	61	2.5
2007	8	718,336	56,712	8.6	2,402	211	9.6
2006	8	661,624	45,292	7.3	2,191	130	6.3
2005	8	616,332	15,225	2.5	2,061	(19)	(0.9)
2004	8	601,107	(27,158)	(4.3)	2,080	(64)	(3.0)
2003	8	628,265	62,773	11.1	2,144	214	11.1
2002	8	565,492	25,434	4.7	1,930	93	5.1
2001	8	540,058	78,177	16.9	1,837	282	18.1
2000	8	461,881	7,519	1.7	1,555	15	1.0
1999	8	454,362	(15,276)	(3.3)	1,540	(108)	(6.6)
1998	8	469,638	(5,654)	(1.2)	1,648	(87)	(5.0)
1997	8	475,292	33,354	7.5	1,735	173	11.1
1996	8	441,938	38,526	9.6	1,562	95	6.5
1995	8	403,412	(13,573)	(3.3)	1,467	(12)	(0.8)
1994	8	416,985	81,619	24.3	1,479	139	10.4
1993	8	335,366	(211,241)	(38.6)	1,340	(585)	(30.4)
1992	8	546,607	14,237	2.7	1,925	N/A	N/A
1991	8	532,370	(9,708)	(1.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	542,078	58,910	12.2	N/A	N/A	N/A



**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** (16 teams, includes a road team in 2022; 7-39 home dates per team; 16 teams in 2023  
17 teams, includes a road team in 2024, 19-34 home dates per team)

RECORD HIGHS: League – Total Attendance: **130,635 – (2023)**, 16 teams with attendance;  
Average per Team – 8,725 (6-teams-2012); Average per Date: **324 (2023)**

Team: Total Attendance: **Lancaster, CA - 32,580 (2023)**, Avg. per Date: **Lancaster – 1,810 (2023)**

- J) **Pecos Baseball League** – 16 teams in 2023. Blackwell OK, and Dublin, Lancaster, and Marysville, all in California, were added in 2023. Colorado Springs, Santa Rosa, Weimar, and a road team were dropped.
- J) The Pecos League has now been in operation for 13 seasons, the longest tenure of any 'small-market' independent Minor League since the rebirth of independent leagues in 1993. Most of the league's ballparks are tiny.
- J) The Pecos League was the only North American pro baseball league, on any level, to have higher attendance in **2021** than it did in **2019**, playing a roughly similar-length or shorter, schedule. The Pecos League, and the Southern League, were the only Minor Leagues to post **2022 vs. 2019** increases in both total attendance and average per date.
- J) **2023 total attendance was a league record-high estimated 130,635, and average per date was a league record-high 324.** The total was up 13,764 (11.8%) **vs. 2022**, and average per date rose by 17 (5.5%). 22 more dates were played. 5 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 were up in average per date. Vallejo had the league's best increase in total attendance (2,484), and in average per date (100). Martinez played 10 fewer home dates, resulting in a league-high total attendance decline of 10,028. Tucson, down 200, had the largest average per date dip.
- J) The same teams that played home games in this league in both **2023 and 2022** had a combined total attendance decline of 23,035 (20.2%), and an average per date loss of 54 (16.0%), with 55 fewer dates.
- J) **Pecos League average per date is up 64.5% for 2023 vs. 2018.**
- J) **Lancaster, CA, in its only season in the league, drew an all-time league record-high total of 32,580, and a league record-shattering 1,810 average per date. The previous league record-high average was 631 by Garden City, KS in 2022. Lancaster's average per date was higher than the reported average per date of 17 MLB-affiliated teams, and 17 teams from the larger-capacity independent leagues. Considering that the Pecos League does not include 'no-shows' in its reported attendance, and all other Minor leagues do include them, Lancaster almost certainly outdrew even more teams if only tickets sold and used are compared.**
- J) **Bakersfield (as a Pecos League team), drew record-highs in total attendance and in average per date. Santa Fe set a new average per date record-high.**
- J) Since Lancaster played in the MLB-affiliated California League in 2019, with 51 more home dates than in 2023, comparing Pecos League same team 2023 attendance with 2019, would lead to very distorted figures. In **2019**, the Pecos League, as it was then, drew 76,058, averaging 217 per date. Their **2023** total attendance is up 54,577 (71.8%) from 2019, and average per date is up 107 (49.3%), with 53 more dates in 2023 than in 2019.
- J) In 2024, the league will add teams in Pecos, TX (Bills), and North Platte, NE (80's). Lancaster CA, due to ballpark changes will not return. Austin will be a road team.
- J) The number of home dates played in **2023** ranged from 6 by Austin, 8 by Dublin, and 18 by Lancaster, CA, up to 33 by Marysville and Bakersfield, 35 by Roswell, and 36 by San Rafael.
- J) The league is divided into two divisions (Mountain and Pacific). There is no interdivisional play until the playoffs, in order to reduce team travel. The number of 2024 scheduled home dates per team ranges from 19 for Dublin, and 25 for Tucson, North Platte, and Vallejo, to 33 for Blackwell and Bakersfield, and 34 for Santa Fe.
- J) Only one day game (in North Platte) is scheduled for a weekday in 2024.
- J) Attendance figures were estimated by the league office. **The Pecos League is the only Minor League that does not include 'no-shows' in its attendance. This causes their announced attendance to be lower than it would be if they followed the attendance-listing procedures of other leagues by including 'no shows.'** Due to the relatively low figures, year-to-year percent changes have less value.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

- ) **Lancaster, CA, played its only season in this league in 2023, but they made it a memorable one. The Sound Breakers drew an all-time league record-high total of 32,580, and a league record-shattering 1,810 average per date. The previous league record-high average was 631 by Garden City, KS in 2022. Lancaster's average per date was higher than the reported average per date of 17 MLB-affiliated teams, and 17 teams from the larger-capacity independent leagues. This becomes more impressive considering that the Pecos League does not include 'no-shows' in its reported attendance, and all other Minor leagues do include them. Lancaster almost certainly outdrew even more teams if only tickets sold and used are compared.**
- ) Prior to 2023, Lancaster last had a team (the JetHawks) in the MLB-affiliated California League from 1996 through 2019. They had their best total attendance (316,390), and average per date (4,520) in their first season. The total topped 200,000 from 1997 through 1999, but not after that. Average per date was also above 4,000 in 1997, and topped 3,000 in 1998 and 1999, but never again. The JetHawks drew 161,595, averaging 2,342 per date, in 2019, their final California League season.
- ) Due to a different use of their ballpark, Lancaster is unable to return to this league in 2024.
- ) **In 2022, Garden City (Kansas) had the highest total attendance and average per date of any team in the history of the Pecos League through 2022. The Wind drew a total of 24,609, and averaged 631 per date. In 2023, their total attendance was 15,262, down 9,347 (38.0%). Average per date fell 44 (7.0%) to 587, with 13 fewer dates vs. 2022.**
- ) Garden City also led the league **in 2021**, with a then-team record-high total of 18,540, and a then-team record-high 412 average per date. The Wind averaged 275 per date in 2019, up 200, the 5<sup>th</sup> best gain among independent teams.
- ) **In 2022, Martinez** drew 7,695, down 10,028 (56.6%), averaging 285 per date, down 194 (40.5%). They had 10 fewer dates in 2023 than in 2022. The Sturgeon did not play in 2019. They had been in the Pacific Association in 2018.
- ) The **Tucson Saguaros** had a total attendance of 4,660 in **2023**, down 3,134 (40.2%), with a 233 average per date, down 200 (46.2%), with 2 more dates.
- ) There were Pacific Coast League teams in Tucson for many years. Attendance reached 300,000 from 1991 through 1996, and in 1998, with a high of 317,347 in 1991. Tucson's independent league high is 139,149 in 2009.
- ) **Trinidad** drew a total of 4,725 in **2023**, down 640 (11.9%). The average per date of 175 was down 10 (5.4%). There were 2 fewer dates than in 2022.
- ) **Santa Fe** had a **2023** total of 12,992, up 1,355 (11.6%), the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total in this club's 11 years in the league. **Average per date rose 17 (3.9%) to a team record-high 448.** There were 2 more dates. Their average per date has more than tripled since 2016.
- ) **2023** total attendance in **Roswell** fell 2,933 (45.3%) to 3,535. Average per date was 101, down 130 (56.3%). There were 7 more dates. Teams listing attendance played in Roswell from 1949 through 1959. Top attendance was 82,671 in 1950.
- ) **Alpine** had a **2023** increase of 1,596 (17.8%) in total attendance to 10,560, and a 20 (6.0%) increase in average per date to 352. These were the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date in Alpine's 12 seasons in the league. 3 more dates were played in 2023 than in 2022.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

- J The **Monterey, CA Amerjacks** had a 3,844 total, up 769 (25.0%), and a 124 average per date, up 1 (0.8%) in **2023**, with 6 more dates than in 2022.
- J **The Bakersfield Train Robbers drew 11,022, up 1,423 (14.8%), and averaged 334 per date in 2023, up 3 (0.9%), their best total and average per date as a member of this league.** They had 4 more dates than in 2022.
- J Bakersfield and High Desert played in the California League through 2016. Those teams were relocated to the Carolina League in 2017, and these two markets then joined the Pecos League. Bakersfield's record-high as an MLB-affiliated team was 158,714 in 1992. Teams there reached 100,000 in 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1953, and then 12 times between 1984 and 2002, but not after that.
- J **2023 Pecos League Champion San Rafael**, which had been the most successful team in attendance in the Pacific Association, joined the Pecos League in **2021**. The Pacifics drew 12,348 in **2023**, down 1,908 (13.4%). Average per date was 343, down 53 (13.4%), with the same number of dates in 2023 and 2022.
- J **Vallejo was replaced Santa Cruz in 2023.** The Seaweed drew a total of 4,116, up 2,484 (152.2%) from the 2022 Santa Cruz total. Average per date was 196, up 100 (104.2%), with 4 more dates in 2023.
- J The **Austin Weirdos** played only 6 home dates in **2023**, and drew 240, down 2,672 (91.8%), averaging 40 per date, down 72 (64.3%). They had 20 fewer dates than in 2022. Austin will be a road team in 2024. Round Rock of the Triple-A Pacific Coast League, and one of the most successful Minor League teams in attendance, plays nearby.
- J **Blackwell, OK** played its first season in **2023**, drawing 2,783, and averaging 121 per date.
- J **Marysville, CA** was also a newcomer to the league in **2023**. The Drakes drew a total of 3,201, with a 97 average per date.
- J **Dublin, CA** played only 8 home dates in **2023**, their first year in the league. They drew 1,072, averaging 134 per date.
- J **2022** was the only season for the **Santa Rosa Scuba Divers**, who drew a total of 1,580, averaging 79 per date.
- J 3 new teams joined the Pecos League in 2023. The **Blackwell (Oklahoma) Flycatchers** are the first Minor League team in that city since 1954. That team, in the Class C Western Association, drew 39,637. A team there in 1952 drew 51,000. The only other teams there played from 1924 through 1926. The **Marysville (California) Drakes** are the first team in the Yuba-Sutter area since an independent Western League team there in 2002 and 2000. That team, named the Gold Sox, drew 40,468 in 2002, and 87,179 as the Feather River Mudcats in 2000.
- J **High Desert (Adelanto)** played in the Pecos League from 2017 through 2019. They were in the California League through 2016. The Mavericks drew over 200,000 in their first 2 years (1991, 1992), and total attendance was over 100,000 each year through 2012. But attendance fell under 100,000 in 3 of that team's last 4 years.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

## PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	16	<b>130,635</b>	13,764	11.8	<b>324</b>	17	5.5
2022	16	116,871	27,245	33.4	307	48	18.5
2021	16	87,626			259		
2019	12	76,058	9,714	14.6	217	20	10.2
2018	12	66,344	(11,269)	(14.5)	197	(20)	(9.2)
2017	12	77,613	10,451	15.6	217	8	3.8
2016	10	67,162	24,506	57.5	209	28	15.5
2015	7	42,656	1,531	3.7	181	12	7.1
2014	7	41,125	(8,461)	(17.1)	169	(26)	(13.3)
2013	8	49,586	(2,764)	(5.3)	195	(62)	(24.1)
2012	6	52,350	14,152	37.0	257	56	27.9
2011	6	38,198	-----	-----	201	-----	-----

**EMPIRE BASEBALL LEAGUE** – (6 teams–35 game schedule in 2019, 16-23 home dates per team)  
 (4 teams – 5-34 home dates per team, total of 75 dates played in 2021)  
 (4 teams, including a road team, 5-28 home dates per team, 65 dates, in 2022)  
 (5 teams, including a road team, 13-27 home dates per team, 80 dates in 2023)

- J **Empire Baseball League – This league has never reported attendance.** 5 teams in **2023**, with 4 teams (Malone, Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, Tupper Lake) located in upstate New York, plus the Japan Islanders (a road team). They had 61 dates in 2023, 65 dates in 2022, 75 in 2021, and 55 in 2019. **The Malone Border Hounds were the 2023 Empire League Champions.**
- J As of early March 2024, no 2024 schedule has been released, and the league's Website has not had any updates since the previous summer.
- J In 2023, Plattsburgh played 11 home dates, Saranac Lake had 12, Tupper Lake had 18, and Malone had 20.
- J Malone is the only city in this league to have ever had a Minor League team in the past, and that club lasted just one season. According to the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, in 1887, Malone had a team in the Northeastern League that went 3-10 before disbanding. Attendance for that team is not yet available, but efforts will be made to contact that 1887 team's Media Relations Director or broadcaster, to get the data. No success on that thus far.
- J The Empire Baseball League played its first season in 2016. It took on 2 teams from the North Country League (Watertown and Old Orchard Beach), and added New Hampshire and Sullivan County, NY. No attendance was reported, but it was very low. There have been numerous changes in teams since then. In **2019**, 5 teams played home games, with a total of 94 dates. Saranac Lake replaced Old Orchard Beach.
- J The **North Country League** played its only season in 2015. It started with 4 teams, including one road team. Newburgh ran into financial difficulty early, and became a road team. Watertown was the only team with any announced attendance, and they drew 9,250, averaging 237 per date. Watertown last had a team in the New York-Penn League from 1983 through 1998. Top attendance was 78,460 in 1983. 2015 attendance for Old Orchard Beach was not available. The Ballpark at Old Orchard Beach was home to a Class AAA team, the Maine Guides (later renamed the Phillies) from 1984 through 1988. Attendance ranged from a high of 183,289 in 1984, to a low of 80,071 in 1988. That team became the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Red Barons (now the RailRiders) in 1989.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**

**UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE** (4 teams in 2019 through 2024 – 75 game schedule in 2019, 66 dates in 2021, 81 dates in 2022 and 2023. All teams play in Utica, Michigan.

- ) **2023** total attendance for the **United Shore Baseball League** was 226,310, down 24,790 (9.9%). Average per date was 2,794, down 306 (9.9%), with the same number of dates as in 2022. The number of sellouts was not available, but the 2023 average per date is about 700 above the fixed seating capacity of Jimmy John's Field. **The Utica Unicorns won the league championship in 2023.**
- ) In its 2024 brochure, the league notes that its all-time attendance since its start in 2016 is 1,612,236. That figure is close to the combined yearly estimates listed here, which total 1,622,630. Based on the league reported total, average per date for the league's 7 seasons with fans in attendance (so it excludes 2020) is 3,071, in a park with just 2,100 regular seats. Exclude 2021, and the average per date is around 3,186. This includes an estimated 2022 attendance of 251,100 with a 3,100 average per date.
- ) The United Shore Baseball League drew an estimated 150,000 in **2021**, averaging an estimated 2,273 per date. In 2019, estimated attendance was 258,720, an average of 3,450 per date. There were 9 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 'normal' times, this league has sold out around 80% of its games.
- ) This league, originally with 3 teams playing home games, began play in 2016. All teams played in new 2,100-seat Jimmy John's Field in Utica, MI, a suburb of Detroit. The park has plenty of lawn seating as well. Another team, also playing all games in Utica, was added in 2017. No team-by-team attendance totals were provided. But for 2016, the league claimed a 3,200 average per date, with 42 sellouts in the 73 dates played. This average multiplies to a total of 233,600. In 2017, total attendance for the league was up 14,300 (6.1%) to 247,900. Average per date rose 150 to 3,350. 60 of the 74 dates played were sellouts. In 2018, the league drew 255,000, up 7,100. Average per date was 3,400, up 50. There were 61 sellouts in 75 dates.
- ) **In 2019, the league averaged a record-high 3,450 per date, up 50, including an all-time best crowd of 4,926 at the league's Championship Game. This translates to a record-high total attendance of 258,720, up 3,720 (1.5%). 62 of 75 dates were sold out. These figures include playoff games. In its first 4 seasons, through 2019, 224 of 297 dates drew above the seating capacity of Jimmy John's Field.**

## UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	# of Dates	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	4	81	226,310	(24,790)	(9.9)	2,794	(306)	(9.9)
2022	4	81	251,100	101,100	67.4	3,100	827	36.4
2021	4	66	150,000			2,273		
2019	4	75	<b>258,720</b>	3,720	1.5	<b>3,450</b>	50	1.5
2018	4	75	255,000	7,100	2.9	3,400	50	1.5
2017	4	74	247,900	14,300	6.1	3,350	150	4.7
2016	3	73	233,600			3,200		

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****MAVERICKS BASEBALL LEAGUE** – (4 teams, all in Keizer, Oregon- 85 dates in 2021, 96 dates in 2022 and 2023)

- ) **2023 Mavericks League** total attendance was an estimated 116,000, up 29,798 (34.6%). This includes playoff games. Average per date was 1,172, up 274 (30.5%). **These were record-highs for the 3-year-old league.** There were 3 more dates in 2023. **The Salem Senators were the 2022 and 2023 league champions.**
- ) **Compared to what Salem-Keizer drew in 2019**, the 2023 Mavericks League total was up 35,167 (43.5%), and the average per date was down 955 (44.9%), with 61 more dates in 2023. In **2019**, the Salem-Keizer Volcanoes, playing 38 home dates in the Northwest League, drew 80,833, averaging 2,127 per date.
- ) The Salem-Keizer Volcanoes had played in the MLB-affiliated Northwest League through 2019. They were dropped from the MLB roster of affiliated Minor League teams for 2021. So they formed the 4-team independent **Mavericks Baseball League** which played all of its games in their ballpark in Keizer, Oregon. This is the same type of format used by the United Shore Baseball League, which has all 4 of its teams sharing a park in Utica, Michigan.
- ) The league drew 86,202 in **2022**, averaging 898 per date. The total rose 5,837 (7.3%), and the average per date fell 48 (5.0%) **vs. 2021**, with 11 more dates. 96 dates were played, and none were lost.
- ) In **2021**, its first season, the 4 teams in the Mavericks League drew a total of 80,365 in 85 dates, averaging 945 per date.
- ) **Salem-Keizer** reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, and from 2013 through 2019, in their 23 seasons of operation in the Northwest League. Their 2019 total attendance was up 8,739 from 2018. They set their all-time highs of 136,836 in total attendance, and 3,698 in average per date, in 1997, which was this team's first year of play. 2019 average per date rose by 230. The gains in total attendance and average per date were the biggest in the Northwest League in 2019. 3 dates topped 3,000. The average per date topped 3,000 from 1997 through 2004, and in 2006 and 2007, but not after that.

**INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS****Former Leagues****PACIFIC ASSOCIATION**

The Pacific Association did not operate in 2021.

**PACIFIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE (Only one team listed attendance in 2013)**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	4	45,239	(16,761)	(27.0)	285	26	10.0
2018	6	<b>62,000</b>	25,146	68.2	259	20	8.4
2017	4	36,854	(1,861)	(4.8)	239	(11)	(4.4)
2016	4	38,715	(8,456)	(17.9)	250	(56)	(18.3)
2015	4	47,171	7,754	19.7	306	(34)	(10.0)
2014	3	39,417	11,099	39.2	340	(351)	(50.8)
2013	1	28,318	-----	-----	691	-----	-----

**NORTHERN LEAGUE**

The Northern League, along with the Frontier League, were the first two independent leagues in a long time, when both leagues began play in 1993. Many of the teams in the Northern League moved to the American Association. The 2008 average per date of 4,621 was the highest by a post-1993 independent league, until the Mexican League averaged 5,304 in 2023.

**NORTHERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE**

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2010	8	1,478,694	258,394	21.2	3,851	(570)	(12.9)
2009	6	1,220,300	(69,030)	(5.4)	4,421	(200)	(4.3)
2008	6	1,289,330	(182,367)	(12.4)	<b>4,621</b>	686	17.4
2007	8	1,471,697	39,367	2.7	3,935	85	2.2
2006	8	1,432,330	(756,821)	(34.6)	3,850	(38)	(1.0)
2005	12	<b>2,189,151</b>	186,787	9.3	3,888	(381)	(8.9)
2004	10	2,002,364	87,750	4.6	4,269	(102)	(2.3)
2003	10	1,914,614	172,475	9.9	4,371	421	39.8
2002	10	1,742,139	239,324	16.4	3,950	(283)	(6.7)
2001	8	1,502,815	195,752	14.5	4,233	308	13.4
2000	8	1,307,063	7,907	0.6	3,925	(36)	(0.9)
1999	8	1,299,156	266,234	25.8	3,961	868	(2.2)
1998	8	1,032,922	5,409	0.5	3,093	(59)	(1.9)
1997	8	1,027,513	(25,305)	(2.4)	3,152	(118)	(3.6)
1996	8	1,052,818	163,968	18.4	3,270	(242)	(6.9)
1995	6	888,580	(22,081)	(2.4)	3,512	N/A	N/A
1994	6	910,931	259,479	39.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	6	651,452	-----	-----	N/A	-----	-----

**2023 vs. 2022 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE**

<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u></b>								
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	75,000	39	1,923	74,606	1,735	394	188	1938
Campeche Pirates	66,785	40	1,670	174,171	4,466	(107,386)	(2,796)	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	212,804	44	4,836	184,564	4,394	28,240	442	2006
Dos Laredos Owls	160,218	44	3,641	178,813	4,064	(18,595)	(423)	2008, '12
Durango Generals	83,570	42	1,990	70,771	1,726	12,799	264	1986
Guadalajara Mariachis	106,405	43	2,475	78,910	2,321	27,495	154	2011
(Union) Laguna Cotton Makers	260,250	44	5,915	200,815	4,781	59,435	1,134	1932
Leon Braves	193,402	42	4,605	172,365	4,008	21,037	597	1973
Mexico City Red Devils	451,884	43	10,509	244,845	6,443	207,039	4,066	2019
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	186,175	44	4,231	205,603	4,569	(19,428)	(338)	1975
Monterrey Sultans	371,262	44	8,438	382,048	8,490	(10,786)	(52)	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	96,090	43	2,235	71,916	1,712	24,174	523	1950
Puebla Parrots	169,463	38	4,460	137,392	3,271	32,071	1,189	1972
Saltillo Sarape Makers	300,240	41	7,323	249,732	5,808	50,508	1,515	1963
Tabasco Olmecas	188,208	38	4,953	81,656	2,333	106,552	2,620	1964
Tijuana Toros	418,462	45	9,299	453,961	10,088	(35,499)	(789)	1976
Veracruz Eagles	194,320	40	4,858	162,191	3,686	32,129	1,172	1992
Yucatan Lions	506,765	48	10,558	440,165	9,781	66,600	777	1982
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>4,041,303</b>	<b>762</b>	<b>5,304</b>	<b>3,564,524</b>	<b>4,740</b>	<b>476,779</b>	<b>564</b>	

*In 2023, Dos Laredos split its home schedule between Laredo, TX (77,105 (22) 3,505) and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (83,113 (22) 3,778). In 2022, the Dos Laredos split was: Laredo, TX (82,791 (22) 3,763) and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (96,022 (22) 4,365).*

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE**

Charleston (WV) Dirty Birds	146,336	62	2,360	119,598	1,961	26,738	399	2005
Gastonia Honey Hunters	91,090	64	1,423	106,903	1,724	(15,813)	(301)	2021
High Point (NC) Rockers	116,925	62	1,886	124,010	1,879	(7,085)	7	2019
Spire City (Fred. MD) Ghost Hounds	57,836	43	1,345	102,502	1,830	(44,666)	(485)	1990
Lancaster Barnstormers	242,961	61	3,983	222,167	3,418	20,794	565	2005
Lexington (KY) Counter Clocks	92,806	60	1,547	150,392	2,387	(57,586)	(840)	2001
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	297,745	64	4,652	285,888	4,538	11,857	114	2000
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	181,291	60	3,022	174,293	3,005	6,998	17	2008
Staten Island Ferry Hawks	68,938	60	1,149	76,759	1,258	(7,821)	(109)	2001
York Revolution	196,968	60	3,283	172,519	2,654	24,449	629	2007
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>1,492,896</b>	<b>596</b>	<b>2,505</b>	<b>1,535,031</b>	<b>2,476</b>	<b>(42,135)</b>	<b>29</b>	

*Spire City (Frederick, MD) played in Lexington, KY in 2022.*

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION**

Chicago Dogs	206,258	50	4,125	191,984	4,000	14,274	125	2018
Cleburne (TX) Railroaders	59,817	50	1,196	65,062	1,328	(5,245)	(132)	2017
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	155,331	49	3,170	147,073	3,064	8,258	106	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	148,354	47	3,156	152,894	3,185	(4,540)	(29)	2003
Kane County (IL) Cougars	261,836	47	5,571	248,354	5,068	13,482	503	1991
Kansas City (KS) Monarchs	87,244	48	1,818	105,302	2,106	(18,058)	(288)	2003
Lake Country (WI) Dockhounds	91,839	49	1,874	93,711	1,874	(1,872)	0	2022
Lincoln Saltdogs	151,265	49	3,087	144,494	3,074	6,771	13	2001
Milwaukee Milkmen	87,849	49	1,793	86,028	1,721	1,821	72	2019
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	54,899	46	1,193	52,121	1,109	2,778	84	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	71,972	50	1,439	59,425	1,213	12,547	226	1964
Winnipeg Goldeyes	178,393	49	3,641	163,893	3,414	14,500	227	1999
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>1,555,057</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>2,667</b>	<b>1,510,341</b>	<b>2,591</b>	<b>44,716</b>	<b>76</b>	



**2023 vs. 2022 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE**

<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u></b>								
Evansville Otters	102,561	50	2,051	122,516	2,500	(19,955)	(449)	1915
Florence (KY) Y'alls	111,742	51	2,191	105,981	2,163	5,761	28	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	80,453	49	1,642	76,864	1,537	3,589	105	2002
Joliet Slammers	114,901	51	2,253	137,988	2,706	(23,087)	(453)	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	91,501	50	1,830	99,656	2,076	(8,155)	(246)	2009
New Jersey Jackals	45,467	50	909	52,086	1,042	(6,619)	(133)	2023
New York (Rockland) Boulders	151,290	49	3,088	138,531	2,771	12,759	317	2011
Ottawa Titans	76,505	47	1,628	61,727	1,286	14,778	342	1993
Quebec (City) Capitales	166,916	55	3,035	130,414	2,717	36,502	318	1938
Schaumburg Boomers	230,023	51	4,510	210,115	4,041	19,908	469	1999
Sussex (NJ) Miners	68,251	43	1,587	76,742	1,599	(8,491)	(12)	1994
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	136,231	48	2,838	134,617	2,991	1,614	(153)	2002
Trois Rivières Aigles	68,814	46	1,496	67,419	1,434	1,395	62	1938
Washington (PA) Wild Things	94,899	50	1,898	103,968	2,039	(9,069)	(141)	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	98,005	50	1,960	84,564	1,726	13,441	234	1999
Empire State Greys (Road Team)	0	0		0	0			
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>1,637,559</b>	<b>740</b>	<b>2,213</b>	<b>1,603,188</b>	<b>2,181</b>	<b>34,371</b>	<b>32</b>	
<b><u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u></b>								
Billings Mustangs	110,113	44	2,503	94,563	2,149	15,550	354	2008
Boise Hawks	162,922	47	3,466	160,582	3,345	2,340	121	1989
Glacier (MT) Range Riders	100,661	48	2,097	83,217	1,734	17,444	363	2022
Grand Junction Jackalopes	67,500	48	1,406	73,277	1,527	(5,777)	(121)	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	62,640	44	1,424	64,786	1,378	(2,146)	46	1956
Idaho Falls Chukars	89,349	44	2,031	101,285	2,110	(11,936)	(79)	2007
Missoula Paddleheads	88,988	47	1,893	83,619	1,742	5,369	151	2004
Northern Colorado Owlz						-----	-----	2024
Ogden Raptors	164,561	47	3,501	167,484	3,641	(2,923)	(140)	1997
Rocky Mtn. Vibes (Colorado Spr.)	114,041	47	2,426	94,550	2,101	19,491	325	1988
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>960,775</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>2,310</b>	<b>923,363</b>	<b>2,188</b>	<b>37,412</b>	<b>122</b>	
<i>Northern Colorado's attendance for 2022 (3,004, 75 per date), and 2023 (27,581, 641 per date), is not included in official league figures.</i>								
<b><u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league, and does not include 'no-shows'</u></b>								
Alpine Cowboys	10,560	30	352	8,964	332	1,596	20	1947
Austin Weirdos	240	6	40	2,912	112	(2,672)	(72)	
Bakersfield Train Robbers	11,022	33	334	9,599	331	1,423	3	1941
Blackwell (OK) FlyCatchers	2,783	23	121	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Dublin Leprechauns	1,072	8	134	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Garden City (KS) Wind	15,262	26	587	24,609	631	(9,347)	(44)	1936
Lancaster (CA) Sound Breakers	32,580	18	1,810	-----	-----	-----	-----	1996
Martinez Sturgeon	7,695	27	285	17,723	479	(10,028)	(194)	
Marysville (CA) Drakes	3,201	33	97	-----	-----	-----	-----	
Monterey (CA) Amerjacks	3,844	31	124	3,075	123	769	1	
Roswell Invaders	3,535	35	101	6,468	231	(2,933)	(130)	1939
San Rafael Pacifics	12,348	36	343	14,256	396	(1,908)	(53)	1950
Santa Fe Fuego	12,992	29	448	11,637	431	1,355	17	1947
Trinidad Triggers	4,725	27	175	5,365	185	(640)	(10)	1960
Tucson Saguaros	4,660	20	233	7,794	433	(3,134)	(200)	
Vallejo Seaweed (S. Cruz in 2022)	4,116	21	196	1,632	96	2,484	100	
Santa Rosa Scuba Divers	-----	-----	-----	1,580	79	-----	-----	
Weimar Hormigas	-----	-----	-----	1,040	65	-----	-----	
Colorado Springs Snow Sox	-----	-----	-----	217	31	-----	-----	
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>130,635</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>116,871</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>13,764</b>	<b>17</b>	

**2023 vs. 2022 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE**

<u>LEAGUE AND TEAM</u>	<u>2023 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u># OF HOME DATES</u>	<u>2023 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u>2022 TOTAL ATTEND.</u>	<u>2022 AVG./ DATE</u>	<u># CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022</u>	<u># CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22</u>	<u>YEAR PARK OPENED</u>
<b><u>UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE</u> - League Estimated Attendance (same as in 2022) 2022). All games in Utica, MI</b>								
Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers								
East Side Diamond Hoppers								
Utica Unicorns								
Westside Woolly Mammoths								
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>226,310</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>2,794</b>	<b>251,100</b>	<b>3,100</b>	<b>(24,790)</b>	<b>(306)</b>	<b>2016</b>
<b><u>EMPIRE PRO LEAGUE</u></b>								
Saranac Lake (NY) Surge	N/A	12		N/A		-----		1984
Malone Border Hounds	N/A	20		N/A		-----		
Plattsburgh (NY) Thunderbirds	N/A	11		N/A		-----		2003
Tupper Lake Riverpigs	N/A	18		N/A		-----		
Japan Islanders (Road Team)		0						
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>N/A</b>				
Empire League number of dates are not included in the totals below. The league does not report attendance.								
<b><u>MAVERICKS LEAGUE</u> - All games in Keizer, OR.</b>								
Campeinos de Salem-Keizer								
Portland Mavericks								
Salem Senators								
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes								
<b>LEAGUE TOTAL</b>	<b>116,000</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>1,172</b>	<b>86,202</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>29,798</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1997</b>
<b>INDEPENDENT TOTAL</b>	<b>10,160,535</b>	<b>3,680</b>	<b>2,761</b>	<b>9,590,620</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>569,915</b>	<b>148</b>	
<b>ALL MINOR LEAGUES</b>	<b>42,312,919</b>	<b>11,552</b>	<b>3,663</b>	<b>40,511,342</b>	<b>3,513</b>	<b>1,801,577</b>	<b>150</b>	

**SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – LEAGUES** – (Mostly through 2019, but some records were set after that)

The table below lists each MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) and some independent leagues record-highs for total attendance, average attendance per team, and average attendance per date. Included are records for the combined groups of Triple-A, Double-A, full-season Class A, and short-season teams. Also, the records for the old Triple-A American Association, the Southern Association, and the independent Northern and United Leagues, none of which were in operation in 2019, are listed. Average per date records only cover the period since 1992. Figures for earlier years were not available. The Pacific Coast League had the same record-high average per date in 2006 and in 2007.

Record-high average per team for all independent leagues combined, and for the combined NAPBL/independent leagues are not listed. This is because extra independent leagues that drew poorly played during some seasons, but not in others, would lead to distorted data. The 2021 realignment makes some of the figures below very difficult to break.

The Pioneer League became an independent league in 2021, played a longer schedule, and set record-highs for total attendance and in average per team in 2023. The New York-Penn League disbanded after 2020.

**LEAGUE RECORD-HIGHS**

League	Total Attendance	Year	Average per Team	Year	Average per Date	Year
International	7,097,411	2008	506,958	2008	7,348	2009
Pacific Coast	7,420,095	2007	508,547	1947	6,625	2006-7
<i>All Class AAA</i>	<i>14,316,767</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>477,226</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>6,883</i>	<i>2008</i>
Eastern	3,966,241	2010	330,520	2010	4,904	1998
Southern	2,589,072	1994	258,907	1994	4,002	1994
Texas	3,129,865	2008	391,233	2008	5,691	2008
<i>All Class AA</i>	<i>9,361,036</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>312,035</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,603</i>	<i>2007</i>
California	2,061,889	1997	206,189	1997	2,988	1997
Carolina	2,027,878	2017	247,709	2014	3,811	2014
Florida State	1,296,962	2011	108,080	2011	1,642	2011
Midwest	4,233,904	2015	264,619	2015	3,924	2015
South Atlantic	3,862,077	2007	241,380	2007	3,630	2007
<i>All Full-season A</i>	<i>11,990,753</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>199,846</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>3,010</i>	<i>2014</i>
New York-Penn	1,890,053	2002	135,004	2002	3,664	2007
Northwest	1,115,614	2019	<b>185,408</b>	<b>2023</b>	3,670	2019
Appalachian	442,755	1993	44,276	1993	1,404	1994
<i>All Short-A/Rookie</i>	<i>3,780,608</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>96,758</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2,727</i>	<i>2007</i>
Old Amer. Assoc.	4,158,401	1992	519,800	1992	7,588	1992
Southern Assoc.	2,180,344	1947	272,543	1947	N/A	
<i>NAPBL Total</i>	<i>43,263,740</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>245,817</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,174</i>	<i>2008</i>
<b>INDEPENDENTS</b>						
Atlantic	2,367,578	2012	295,947	2012	4,409	2012
Frontier	<b>1,637,559</b>	<b>2023</b>	133,543	2008	2,719	2010
Mexican	4,618,131	2019	288,633	2019	<b>5,304</b>	<b>2023</b>
American Assoc.	2,244,238	2012	172,634	2012	3,508	2012
Pioneer	<b>960,775</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>106,500</b>	<b>2023</b>	2,504	2019
Can-Am	1,040,107	2007	118,715	2005	2,455	2006
Pecos	<b>130,635</b>	<b>2023</b>	8,725	2012	<b>324</b>	<b>2023</b>
United	549,014	2007	91,502	2007	2,049	2007
Northern	2,189,151	2005	214,888	2008	4,621	2008
<i>All Independent</i>	<i>8,485,921</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>3,000</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>All Leagues Total</i>	<i>51,576,409</i>	<i>2008</i>			<i>3,892</i>	<i>2008</i>

## **SEASON RECORD-HIGH TOTAL ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**

In **2023**, 10 MLB-affiliated teams, and 6 independent teams, set record-highs for total attendance, 10 MLB-affiliated teams and 14 independent teams had new average per date highs, and 14 MLB-affiliated teams and 6 independent teams set or tied single-game highs.

98 of the 176 NAPBL teams that played in **2019** set their all-time total attendance records between 2005 and 2019. The longest-standing total attendance records for individual team-high attendance by 2019 or 2023 teams are: Mexico City – Current team's high was set in 1967; Batavia – 1971; Bristol – 1976 as a short-season team. Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing current-team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an MLB-affiliated or independent league in **2019, and/or 2023**, and reported attendance. Many independent league teams shifted to different leagues in 2011, and MLB-affiliated leagues reorganized in 2021. Pecos League data is estimated by the league office.

The records listed are for each current team in its particular market. If there is information that a former team in that same market had a higher record attendance than the current team's record-high, it is listed in a footnote. This often occurs when a market that had or has, either a short-season or independent team, once was home to an MLB-affiliated full-season team, or in the case of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Major League team. All short-season NAPBL leagues that charged admission once played longer or full-season schedules. Short-season leagues were eliminated in 2021.

There are a few cases of markets with a full-season team, where a former team holds that market's all-time attendance record. Richmond, Jupiter/Palm Beach, and Hagerstown (no team from 2021-2023, but joining the Atlantic League in 2024) are examples of that, and here, attendance records of both current and the former teams are listed.

The data used to compile this section goes back to at least 1947 for all U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated NAPBL teams, and in some cases, as far back as the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. For the Mexican League, the data begins in 1955, when this league joined the NAPBL, after being independent. It also covers all seasons for all current independent teams. Independent leagues started to return in 1993.

**Records set in 2023 are listed in bold.** If those years were the team's first season, the figure is in italics.

Since independent league teams often switch leagues, most independent league records listed are for the independent league team in that city, regardless of the league it played in. Check the footnotes below each league's listing to see if a current independent league city once had an MLB-affiliated team with a higher record attendance.

## **SEASON RECORD-HIGH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**

Starting in 1992, the MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) attendance reports listed the number of home dates played by each team. This allows an average attendance per date to be compiled for each team and league. Average attendance per date for most independent league teams is available from 1997 forward, though in some cases, earlier figures were found.

The tables on the following pages show each team's highest average per date since 1992. In a few cases, data was available for prior seasons as well. Most of the time, the figure listed is that team's actual record-high average per date. But, especially in cases where the record-high total attendance figure was set prior to 1992, the record-high average per date may have been set before 1992 as well.

## **SINGLE GAME RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE**

The Minor League Baseball Information Guide (which covers the MLB-affiliated teams) lists the single-game record-high attendance for each team. In some cases, the listed single-game record may be only for the current team, or current ballpark, in that market, and may exclude a higher figure set by a team in the same market, playing in a different league or ballpark. This also appears in the tables in this section. Single-game record-highs from the Mexican League are not available. When the word 'Many' appears in the year column, this is the official full-sellout figure, which has been reached numerous times.

Single-game records are also available for those Independent teams that posted this information in media guides that were available online, or on Websites, in game notes, or in press releases. If your team's single game record-high figure isn't listed, and you know what it is, please e-mail [d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net), and it will be added to the table.

**RECORD HIGHS FOR SEASON TOTALS, AVERAGE PER DATE, AND SINGLE GAMES****Sources**

Attendance data for NAPBL (MLB-affiliated) teams was obtained from The Sporting News Baseball Guides for the following seasons: 1969-1980; 1989-1991. The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball provided data from 1902 through 1968, and 1981 through 1988 for U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams, Mexican League attendance from 1955 through 1991, and independent league data from 1993 through 1997. Major League-affiliated (NAPBL) data for 1992 through 2023 came from the office of Minor League Baseball and the MLB Stats Reporting Platform.

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**What's Missing?**

The 1981 attendance for the Mexican League was not available. Hopefully, in the future, these figures can be obtained. Also, attendance data from many leagues prior to 1947 is not available. Average per date prior to 1992 for affiliated leagues, and prior to 1997 for independent leagues was generally unavailable, unless published in team media guides that are available on team Websites. If you have any of this data, and wish to share it, getting it would be much appreciated.

**League Record-High Attendance**

The record-high attendance for all MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) and independent leagues can be found on page 263, and also in the League and Team Highlights sections of this report. Also listed at the start of the Highlights section for each league is the highest season attendance for an individual team in that league. This covers seasons through 2019 for many leagues, and also has an additional listing for the years after the realignment, covering 2021 through 2023.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Buffalo	1,188,972	1991	17,235	1991	38,211	1987
Charlotte	687,715	2014	9,686	2014	<b>10,990</b>	<b>2023</b>
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009	9,526	2009	20,131	1980
Durham	554,788	2015	7,814	2015	12,000	2019
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009	5,966	2009	10,427	2009
Indianapolis	662,536	2015	9,839	1998	16,168	2000
Iowa	576,310	2007	8,233	2007	15,188	2007
Jacksonville, FL	420,495	2004	6,276	2004	12,943	2003
Lehigh Valley, PA	645,905	2010	9,249	2011	<b>10,100</b>	<b>Many</b>
Louisville	1,052,438	1983	16,191	1983	14,658	2018
Memphis	887,976	2001	12,507	2001	18,620	2008
Nashville	603,135	2018	8,861	2017	22,315	1982
Norfolk	560,211	1995	8,162	1994	14,263	1996
Omaha	449,753	1997	6,713	1997	24,989	2004
Rochester	515,436	1998	7,766	1997	13,485	1997
St. Paul	473,911	2022	8,438	2016	10,631	2019
Scranton-Wilkes Barre	580,908	2007	8,802	2007	11,515	2017
Syracuse	446,025	1999	6,464	1999	14,098	2010
Toledo	590,159	2007	8,431	2007	13,300	2015
Worcester	532,152	2022	<b>7,424</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>9,508</b>	<b>Many</b>

**Buffalo and Louisville** set their season records in the Triple-A American Association. The single-game high for **Buffalo** was set at War Memorial Stadium. Record-high in the current park is 21,050, set many times. The **Columbus** single-game high was at Cooper Stadium. Their high in the current park is 12,517 in 2010. **Louisville's** actual record for a single game was set at 30,000+ seat Cardinal Stadium, their home until 2000. **Charlotte's** single game record is for their current park. **Nashville's** record-highs were set as a P.C.L. team. In 1980 **Nashville** drew 575,676 and 8,343 per date in the Double-A Southern League. Game record-high in **Nashville's** current park is 11,824 in 2019. The largest crowd in **Omaha's** current and much smaller park is 9,023, set multiple times. **St. Paul** drew 352,911 in the American Association in 1949. Minneapolis drew 318,326 in 1956.

**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Albuquerque	602,129	2009	8,363	2009	16,975	2018
El Paso	578,952	2015	8,154	2015	10,169	2015
Las Vegas	650,934	2019	9,299	2019	14,855	1998
Oklahoma City	542,095	2005	7,744	2005	14,066	1998
Reno	466,606	2009	6,481	2009	10,520	2016
Round Rock	700,277	2005	9,726	2005	13,475	2006
Sacramento	901,214	2001	12,517	2001	15,808	2008
Salt Lake City	713,224	1994	10,189	1994	16,531	2000
Sugar Land, TX	465,511	2012	6,650	2012	8,606	2016
Tacoma	<b>384,498</b>	<b>2023</b>	5,434	2017	12,720	1987

**Round Rock** averaged 9,847 per date in 2004 while a member of the Double-A Texas League. A game at the old ballpark in **El Paso** (Independent American Association) drew 13,406 in 2011. Game record-high at current **Las Vegas** park is 12,111 in 2019.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****EASTERN LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Akron	522,459	1999	7,572	1999	9,328	2011
Altoona	394,062	2004	5,971	2004	<b>10,164</b>	<b>2023</b>
Binghamton	259,183	1992	4,180	1992	7,491	2022
Bowie	463,976	1995	6,925	1995	14,109	1998
Erie	246,404	2001	3,613	2007	<b>7,070</b>	<b>2023</b>
Harrisburg	301,588	2015	4,371	2015	8,637	2001
Hartford	414,946	2019	<b>6,293</b>	<b>2023</b>	8,672	2015
New Hampshire	386,991	2009	5,609	2009	8,903	2009
Portland, ME	434,684	2004	6,483	2007	<b>7,368</b>	<b>Many</b>
Reading	486,570	2002	7,138	2004	9,976	2016
Richmond	463,842	2010	6,689	2013	9,845	2019
Somerset	376,315	2004	5,433	2008	8,537	2009

**Erie** averaged 5,163 per date in 1997, while in the short-season New York-Penn League. **Hartford's** game high record was set in the neighboring city of New Britain. Hartford's current park single game high is 7,587, set in **2023**. Sellouts in Hartford – 40 in 2022, 9 in 2021, 29 in 2019, 28 in 2018, 11 in 2017. AAA team in **Richmond** drew its record-high total of 533,076 in 1993, and record average per date of 8,065 in 1996. **Somerset's** records were set in the Atlantic League.

**SOUTHERN LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Biloxi	180,384	2016	2,692	2016	6,231	2015
Birmingham	467,867	1994	6,983	1994	16,247	1994
Chattanooga	292,920	1994	4,372	1994	6,387	2018
Mississippi (Pearl)	246,674	2007	3,848	2005	7,652	2006
Montgomery, AL	322,946	2004	4,820	2004	7,591	2010
Pensacola	328,147	2012	4,826	2012	<b>5,038</b>	<b>Many</b>
Rocket City (Madison, AL)	327,007	2022	5,726	2021	<b>7,500</b>	<b>Many</b>
Tennessee (Kodak)	313,796	2017	4,981	2017	8,164	2017

Record-high game attendance at the current ballpark in **Birmingham** is 8,683 in 2018. Huntsville, near **Rocket City** (Madison) drew 300,810 in 1985.

**TEXAS LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Amarillo	427,791	2019	6,291	2019	<b>7,588</b>	<b>2023</b>
Arkansas	377,977	2008	5,644	2007	9,787	2018
Corpus Christi	506,398	2006	7,234	2006	10,446	2018
Frisco	666,977	2003	9,264	2003	12,067	2018
Midland	317,233	2013	4,598	2013	9,108	2005
N.W. Arkansas	358,792	2008	5,200	2008	8,998	2009
San Antonio	411,959	1994	6,149	1994	12,673	1994
Springfield, MO	526,630	2005	7,523	2005	11,818	2013
Tulsa	408,183	2010	6,211	2014	16,934	1994
Wichita	<b>322,637</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>4,676</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>10,442</b>	<b>2023</b>

**Arkansas'** game record high in the old park was 12,246 in 1991. 1971 Wichita drew 280,320 in the American Association.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****MIDWEST LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Beloit	<b>104,411</b>	<b>2023</b>	1,632	2021	4,217	2000
Cedar Rapids	196,066	2002	2,883	2002	5,879	2013
Dayton	597,433	2010	8,624	2008	9,796	2015
Fort Wayne	413,701	2016	6,084	2016	9,508	2019
Great Lakes (Midland, MI)	324,564	2007	4,773	2007	<b>6,906</b>	<b>2023</b>
Lake County, OH	437,515	2003	6,341	2003	10,253	2003
Lansing	538,325	1996	7,813	1997	12,692	2013
Peoria	275,673	2008	4,241	2008	9,692	2005
Quad Cities	260,471	1994	4,087	1995	8,207	2015
South Bend	354,070	2017	5,285	2017	8,143	2015
West Michigan	547,401	1996	8,000	1997	12,171	2005
Wisconsin (Appleton)	253,240	2009	3,970	2014	7,722	2003

**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Aberdeen	247,836	2008	6,560	2011	6,904	2012
Asheville	187,718	2019	<b>3,001</b>	<b>2023</b>	4,904	2006
Bowling Green, KY	237,070	2011	3,538	2011	6,886	2009
Brooklyn	317,124	2002	8,345	2002	10,073	2007
Greensboro	441,106	2007	6,487	2007	10,312	2015
Greenville, SC	349,116	2008	5,104	2012	7,839	2022
Hickory	283,727	1993	4,053	1993	5,525	2017
Hudson Valley	184,055	2022	4,609	2009	5,601	2015
Jersey Shore (Lakewood)	482,206	2001	6,889	2001	13,003	2002
Rome	246,718	2003	3,979	2003	6,314	2014
Wilmington, DE	358,766	1995	5,235	1994	7,535	2005
Winston-Salem	312,416	2011	<b>4,743</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>10,200</b>	<b>2023</b>

**Brooklyn Dodgers** drew 1,807,526 (25,458 per date) in 1947.

**NORTHWEST LEAGUE** – All teams played in the Short-season Northwest League through 2019

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Eugene	148,282	1996	4,008	1996	5,178	2019
Everett	<b>140,937</b>	<b>2023</b>	3,187	2001	5,189	2016
Hillsboro	<b>158,723</b>	<b>2023</b>	3,774	2015	5,506	2018
Spokane	<b>249,012</b>	<b>2023</b>	5,315	2017	7,413	2006
Tri-City (Pasco, WA)	<b>120,444</b>	<b>2023</b>	2,332	2018	3,871	2012
Vancouver, BC	313,256	2022	6,303	2017	6,583	2006

**Eugene's** - PCL team drew 168,094 in 1972. Game record-high in **Eugene's** old park is 7,288 in 2007.

**Spokane** PCL team drew 287,185 in 1947. **Tri-City** Independent Western League team drew 109,101 in 1997.

**Vancouver** PCL team drew 386,220 in 1988. **Portland's (near Hillsboro)** record-highs are 454,197 (6,779 per date) in the PCL in 2002, and 249,995 (6,579 per date) in the Northwest League in 1996



**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****CAROLINA LEAGUE**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record-High Total</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High Average/Date</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High/Game</b>	<b>Year</b>
Augusta, GA	266,569	2019		<b>4,195</b>	<b>2023</b>		6,026	2018
Carolina	328,207	1993		4,899	1993		8,329	2014
Charleston, SC	305,622	2017		4,494	2017		8,426	2007
Columbia, SC	315,034	2017		4,773	2017		9,629	2017
Delmarva	324,412	1997		4,915	1997		11,486	2006
Down East (Kinston, NC)	151,953	1997		2,374	1997		4,267	2017
Fayetteville	246,121	2019		3,632	2019		6,711	2022
Fredericksburg, VA	<b>267,400</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>4,178</b>	<b>2023</b>		5,802	2022
Kannapolis	<b>195,500</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>3,055</b>	<b>2023</b>		6,153	2003
Lynchburg	169,367	2011		2,529	2007		6,306	2007
Myrtle Beach	<b>268,600</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>4,197</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>6,600</b>	<b>2023</b>
Salem	258,469	2007		3,916	2007		8,856	2018

**Fredericksburg** records at Potomac: Total – 243,559 (2014); Average per Date – 3,866 (2014); Game – 10,789 (2009).

**FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record-High Total</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High Average/Date</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High/Game</b>	<b>Year</b>
Bradenton	109,845	2013		1,772	2013		6,557	2014
Clearwater	200,201	2017		2,988	2017		10,055	2019
Daytona	164,007	2008		2,518	2013		5,219	2015
Dunedin	80,126	1994		1,248	1993		5,188	2015
Fort Myers (a)	133,817	2015		2,028	2015		9,478	2017
Jupiter (b)	114,301	2001		1,657	2001		7,498	2017
Lakeland (c)	64,396	2014		1,177	2013		5,349	2011
Palm Beach (b)	105,122	2006		1,593	2006		6,834	2005
St. Lucie	132,359	2017		2,005	2017		7,157	1991
Tampa (d)	149,191	1997		2,331	1997		10,257	2007

(a) – A previous team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984. (b) – West Palm Beach record-high – 165,656 in 1981.  
(c) – A previous team in Lakeland drew 81,878 in 1951. (d) – St. Petersburg record-high – 202,383 in 1989.

**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record-High Total</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High Average/Date</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High/Game</b>	<b>Year</b>
Fresno	563,079	2002		8,044	2002		16,916	2015
Inland Empire (S. Bern.)	273,739	1997		3,911	1997		10,033	2006
Lake Elsinore	383,297	1995		5,476	1995		12,876	1998
Modesto	180,785	2011		2,692	2010		5,424	2009
Rancho Cucamonga	446,146	1995		6,374	1995		7,099	2002
San Jose	222,547	2011		3,225	2011		7,143	1988
Stockton	218,497	2007		3,121	2007		6,285	2008
Visalia	129,118	2019		<b>1,913</b>	<b>2023</b>		4,039	2019

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****ATLANTIC LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Charleston, WV	248,766	2007	3,746	2006	10,103	2005
Frederick, MD (2023)	351,146	1993	5,301	1994	11,006	1997
Gastonia	114,416	2021	1,973	2021	5,000	2021
Hagerstown, MD (2024)	193,753	1991	2,260	2006	6,758	2011
High Point, NC	144,486	2019	2,157	2019	5,019	2019
Lancaster, PA	378,310	2005	5,404	2005	8,485	2008
Lexington, KY	451,076	2001	6,444	2001	9,222	2006
Long Island	443,142	2001	6,158	2002	7,602	2016
Southern Maryland	242,894	2013	3,629	2009	8,213	2013
Staten Island	209,018	2010	5,904	2009	7,583	2015
York	293,967	2008	4,351	2008	7,412	2010

**Frederick, Hagerstown, Charleston, Lexington, and Staten Island** records were set in MLB-affiliated leagues. Average per date for 1991 Hagerstown is not available, but it was higher than the figure listed in this table.

**PIONEER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE****NAPBL SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE LEAGUE (1964-2019) – (Full Season League Prior to 1964)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Billings	122,090	2003	3,213	2003	4,861	2012
Boise	165,255	1995	4,590	1995	4,898	2019
Glacier (Kalispell, MT)	<b>100,661</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2,097</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>3,079</b>	<b>2023</b>
Grand Junction	101,496	2012	2,671	2012	6,429	2018
Great Falls	114,603	2003	3,183	2003	4,654	2009
Idaho Falls	109,647	2021	2,780	2019	4,170	2007
Missoula	89,812	2012	2,363	2012	4,919	2017
Northern Colorado (Windsor)	<b>27,581</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>641</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>2023</b>
Ogden	167,484	2022	3,951	2019	6,476	2008
Rocky Mtn. (Colorado Springs)	137,294	2019	3,923	2019	8,469	2021

Glacier and Northern Colorado played their first seasons in 2022.

Record highs as full-season teams in this league: **Billings** – 174,080 in 1949; **Great Falls** – 129,640 in 1949.

**Colorado Springs** Class AAA records: Total – 350,374 (2014); Average per Date – 5,181 (2013); Game - 9,505 (2004)

**Boise's** game record-high in their park's old configuration is 6,451 in 1995.

**MEXICAN LEAGUE - INDEPENDENT PROLEAGUE – NAPBL (1955-2019)****(Was an Independent League Prior to 1955, and in 2021 and 2022)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year	Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year
Aguascalientes	351,326	1978	4,213	2005	Monclova	425,738	1998	7,142	2017
Campeche	287,749	1983	4,466	2022	Monterrey	989,454	2006	17,990	2006
Cancun-Quintana	226,525	2019	<b>4,836</b>	<b>2023</b>	Oaxaca	209,984	2008	3,962	2008
Dos Laredos	220,110	2019	4,064	2022	Puebla	363,011	2011	7,118	2011
Durango	230,919	1978			Saltillo	613,551	2001	12,688	2004
Guadalajara	373,219	1967			Tabasco	441,835	1979	<b>4,953</b>	<b>2023</b>
(Union) Laguna	350,717	2008	7,014	2008	Tijuana	677,464	2019	12,764	2004
Leon	195,538	1990	<b>4,605</b>	<b>2023</b>	Veracruz	245,057	2012	<b>4,858</b>	<b>2023</b>
Mex. City Reds	536,743	1967	<b>10,509</b>	<b>2023</b>	Yucatan	560,000	1982	<b>10,558</b>	<b>2023</b>

Mexico City also had a team named the Tigers, whose attendance high was 441,885 in 1965.

Single game records not available for the Mexican League.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****FRONTIER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Evansville	140,786	2013	3,200	2013	8,253	2013
Florence, KY	112,844	2010	2,495	2013		
Gateway (Sauget, IL)	217,500	2004	4,531	2004	8,189	2011
Joliet	202,755	2002	4,502	2003		
Lake Erie (Avon, OH)	159,580	2010	3,129	2010		
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	3,312	1999		
New York (Rockland)	161,796	2015	3,293	2012	7,336	2018
Ottawa	127,618	2016	2,454	2016	7,886	2016
Quebec City	<b>166,916</b>	<b>2023</b>	3,565	2009		
Schaumburg	236,476	1999	5,499	1999	<b>7,914</b>	<b>2023</b>
Southern Illinois	259,392	2007	5,086	2007	6,718	2007
Sussex County	101,638	2007	2,183	2006		
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	161,171	2014	4,342	2011	7,119	2011
Trois Rivieres	96,997	2015	1,869	2018		
Washington, PA	159,857	2005	3,552	2003		
Windy City, IL	103,129	2009	2,242	2009		

**Evansville**—AAA American Association team drew 147,807 in 1972. **Ottawa**—AAA International League team drew 663,926 (9,764 per date) in 1993. The record-high game figure is as an independent league team. **Sussex County** - NY-Penn League team drew 176,788 (4,652 per date) in 1995. **Quebec City**-1949 Canadian-American League team drew 176,779. **Trois Rivieres**—Eastern League team drew 119,751 in 1972.

**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Chicago	<b>206,258</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>4,125</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>6,827</b>	<b>2023</b>
Cleburne	103,264	2017	1,780	2017	4,375	2017
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002	4,388	1999	7,300	1997
Gary – Southshore	181,612	2017	3,632	2017	8,208	2011
Kane County, IL	523,222	2001	7,941	2003	14,872	2009
Kansas City, KS	289,162	2007	6,024	2007	10,403	2008
Lake Country	93,711	2022	<b>1,874</b>	<b>2023-T</b>	3,999	2022
Lincoln	247,471	2002	5,334	2001	<b>8,298</b>	<b>2023</b>
Milwaukee	86,028	2022	<b>1,793</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>3,694</b>	<b>2023</b>
Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995	3,587	1996	9,187	1996
Sioux Falls, SD	161,131	2013	3,620	2000	5,721	2008
Winnipeg	323,241	2004	7,161	2003	8,668	2005

**Kansas City, MO** drew 425,064 in 1923. **Winnipeg** drew 22,081 in 1997 for a game in the Blue Bombers' football stadium. **Kane County** records set in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE****All Teams Play in Utica, MI**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Utica, MI (all 4 teams)	258,720	2019	3,450	2019	4,926	2019

**MAVERICKS LEAGUE - INDEPENDENT****All Teams Play in Keizer, OR**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Keizer, OR (all 4 teams)	136,836	1997	3,698	1997	5,627	2006

Record listed is for **Salem-Keizer** of the Northwest League. The current Mavericks League set record highs for total attendance (116,000) and average per date (1,172) in 2023.

**PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Alpine	22,630	1959	415	2011		
Austin, TX (2022)	188,193	1949				
Bakersfield	<b>11,022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>334</b>	<b>2023</b>		
Blackwell, OK (2023)	51,000	1952				
Colorado Springs	1,281	2021	61	2021		
Garden City, KS	24,609	2022	631	2022		
Lancaster, CA (2023)	<b>32,580</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>1,810</b>	<b>2023</b>	7,122	2000
Martinez	17,723	2022	479	2022		
Marysville, CA (2023)	87,179	2000	1,937	2000		
Monterey, CA	8,896	2019	300	2018		
Roswell	82,671	1950	231	2022		
Salina, KS	1,809	2016	201	2016		
San Rafael	31,411	2012	766	2012		
Santa Cruz	1,056	2021	132	2021		
Santa Fe	15,552	2012	<b>448</b>	<b>2023</b>		
Santa Rosa (2022)	20,880	1948				
Trinidad	10,624	2012	332	2012		
Tucson	139,149	2009	4,480	1992	12,935	2006
Wasco	5,950	2019	175	2019		
Weimar, TX (2022)	1,040	2022	65	2022		

P.C.L. team in **Tucson** drew 317,347 in 1991. **Roswell** drew 82,671 in 1950. Highs for **Bakersfield** (158,714, 2,442 per date) set in the California League in 1992. **San Rafael** highs were set in the Pacific Association. **Santa Rosa** record was set in the Far West League. **Austin** record-high was set in the Big State League. Round Rock (near Austin) has drawn higher than this every year. **Lancaster** records set in the California League were 316,390 total and 4,520 average, both in 1996. **Blackwell** record was set in the Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri League. **Marysville** records were set in the independent Western League.

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS****MLB DRAFT LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record-High Total</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High Average/Date</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High/Game</b>	<b>Year</b>
Frederick	351,146	1993		5,301	1994		11,006	1997
Mahoning Valley	206,287	2000		5,641	1999		7,726	1999
State College	153,350	2008		4,205	2007		7,183	2021
Trenton	457,344	1998		6,628	1998		9,212	2011
West Virginia (Morgt'n)	83,796	2015		2,265	2015		3,019	2015
Williamsport	83,346	2003		2,253	2003		4,363	2001

All records set by MLB Draft League teams were in MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor Leagues.

**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)****SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ROOKIE LEAGUE (1957-2019) – (Full-Season League Prior to 1957)**

<b>Team</b>	<b>Record-High Total</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High Average/Date</b>	<b>Year</b>		<b>Record-High/Game</b>	<b>Year</b>
Bluefield	55,373	1991		1,478	1993		N/A	
Bristol	32,409	1976		<b>1,351</b>	<b>2023</b>		N/A	
Burlington, NC	76,653	1987		2,039	1992		4,722	1986
Danville	80,539	1993		2,441	1993		3,289	2018
Elizabethton	30,134	2007		<b>1,010</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>2,236</b>	<b>2023</b>
Greeneville, TN	54,252	2015		<b>2,263</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>4,808</b>	<b>2023</b>
Johnson City	<b>87,719</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>3,655</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>5,261</b>	<b>2023</b>
Kingsport	55,457	1999		<b>2,093</b>	<b>2023</b>		<b>4,354</b>	<b>2023</b>
Princeton	39,426	1994		1,264	2001		4,050	1994
Pulaski	95,897	2019		2,821	2019		4,872	2019

Record-highs as full-season teams in this league: Bluefield – 116,572 in 1949; Elizabethton – 38,947 in 1947; Johnson City – 51,846 in 1948; Kingsport – 65,646 in 1951; Bristol – 68,504 in 1946; Pulaski – 49,472 in 1947. Burlington drew 140,148 in 1947, and Danville drew 110,000 in 1946, both in the full-season Carolina League

**RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**

RECENT MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS NO LONGER PRO BASEBALL, OR IN THE MLB DRAFT OR APPALACHIAN LEAGUES

RECORD-HIGH TOTALS, AND SOME RECORD-HIGH AVERAGES MAY NOT BE FOR THE MOST RECENT TEAM IN THAT CITY

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Pawtucket	688,421	2005	9,561	2005	11,982	2009
New Orleans	519,584	1998	7,530	1998	11,925	2003
Bridgeport	342,857	1999	4,571	1999		
Jackson, TN	313,775	1998	4,483	1998	6,814	2015
Mobile	332,639	1997	4,820	2004	6,677	1997
California City	3,584	2017	112	2017		
Burlington, IA	91,946	1955	1,384	1993	3,666	2008
Clinton	127,251	1988	1,910	2016	6,200	1963
High Desert, CA	218,444	1992	3,361	1992		
Napa	6,264	2018	157	2018		
Sonoma	15,847	2015	417	2015		
Vallejo	6,776	2015	174	2015		
Brevard County, FL	144,688	1994	2,234	1996	7,802	1996
(Port) Charlotte, FL	171,450	2010	2,855	2009	7,515	2017
White Sands	8,800	2011	289	2018		
Grand Prairie (Texas)	143,627	2008	3,056	2008	7,101	2012
Florida (Kissimmee)	57,324	2017	1,082	2017	5,515	2017
Lancaster, CA	316,390	1996	4,520	1996	7,122	2000
Hagerstown	193,753	1991	2,260	2006	6,758	2011
New Britain	368,523	2010	5,867	2011	8,672	2015
Auburn	59,637	1947	1,990	2004	3,741	1995
Batavia	67,680	1946	1,230	2007	3,021	2008
Connecticut (Norwich)	281,473	1995	4,201	1995	6,195	2017
Lowell	201,512	2010	5,446	2010	5,778	2013
Vermont	124,496	1996	3,557	1996	6,106	1994
Orem	109,125	2007	2,927	2008	6,209	2013
Normal	132,309	2010	2,646	2010		
River City, MO	185,333	2004	4,119	2004		
Pittsburg, CA	3,938	2015	101	2015		
Traverse City	206,102	2007	4,241	2006	8,211	2010

In 2023, Clinton averaged 2,790 per date, and Batavia averaged 2,259 per date, playing in Summer Collegiate Leagues. These figures may be record-highs for those cities. Lancaster, CA played in the Pecos League in 2023.

**HOW BIG IS THE BALLPARK? – LISTED CAPACITY OF MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BALLPARKS**

The table below shows the average listed capacities for each Major and Minor League, along with each league's biggest and smallest parks. MLB figures come from each team's 2023 Media Guide. Most MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues data is from the 2023 Minor League team Media Guides. Mexican League data is from Wikipedia, as is data from the independent Atlantic League. Frontier League and American Association figures are from their 2023 Media Guides. The United Shore League and Mavericks League figures are from their Websites. Each of those two leagues play in one park.

Capacity estimate in some parks is for fixed seating only. Others list a full sellout figure as capacity. The Florida State League has 11 parks, as Palm Beach and Jupiter play in the same park. Nuevo Laredo of the Mexican League splits its games between Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Laredo, TX. So the Mexican League has 19 parks.

**PRO BASEBALL BALLPARK CAPACITY – MLB -2023, 11 Minor Leagues – 2023  
(Northwest, California, Florida State, Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer – 2021)**

League	# of Parks	Average Capacity	League's Biggest Park	Capacity	League's Smallest Park	Capacity
American	15	40,617	Seattle	47,349	Tampa Bay	25,025
			Oakland	46,847	Cleveland	34,830
			New York	46,537	Boston – day	37,105
					Boston – night	37,555
National	15	43,161	L.A. Dodgers	56,000	Miami	37,446
			Arizona	48,330	Pittsburgh	38,075
			Colorado	46,896	San Diego	39,909
MLB Average	30	41,889				
International	20	10,822	Buffalo	16,600	St. Paul	7,210
Pacific Coast	10	10,634	Salt Lake City	16,531	Tacoma	6,500
AAA Average	30	10,759				
Eastern	12	7,329	Bowie	10,000	Erie	6,000
Southern	8	6,806	Birmingham	8,500	Pensacola	5,038
Texas	10	7,771	Frisco	10,216	Midland	4,922
AA Average	30	7,337				
Midwest	12	6,932	Lansing	11,000	Beloit	3,500
South Atlantic	12	5,734	Greensboro	7,599	Asheville	4,000
Northwest	6	4,850	Spokane	6,803	Everett	3,682
High-A Average	30	6,036				
Carolina	12	5,683	Columbia, SC	9,902	Down East (Kinston)	3,410
Florida State	9	8,027	Tampa	10,031	Daytona	4,200
California	8	5,464	Fresno	10,500	Visalia	2,468
Single-A Average	30	6,350				
MLB-Affiliate Avg.	119	7,631	Buffalo	16,600	Visalia	2,468
Mexican	19	10,849	Monterrey	22,061	Durango	4,983
Atlantic	8	5,950	Lexington	8,394	Charleston, WV	4,500
Frontier	15	5,430	Schaumburg	7,365	Windy City, IL	2,557
American Assn.	12	5,453	Kane County, IL	10,923	Lake Country, WI	3,641
Pioneer	9	4,843	Rocky Mtn. (Col. Spr)	8,890	Billings	3,071
Mavericks	1	4,300				
United Shore	1	4,500				
Independ. Average	65	6,969	Monterrey	22,061	Windy City	2,557
7 leagues listed						
Total Minors Avg.	184	7,397	Monterrey	22,061	Visalia	2,468

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**

Due to the reorganization of MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues, any league's post-2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 average attendance by team comparison for these years would be somewhat distorted. It is because the number of teams in many individual leagues has changed so much. But new tables, comparing 2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969, Triple-A, Double-A and combined Class A, plus the Mexican League and other independent leagues, average total attendance per team, appear in the second part of this section.

Minor League Baseball attendance had increased very sharply over the past 5 decades through 2019. New parks, better marketing and promotion programs, and reasonable prices have all been factors in this attendance boom.

Tables in the first part of this section compare **2019** Major League and Minor League attendance with attendance for the 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 seasons. Note the sub-total (*in italics*) provided for Triple-A. The old Triple-A American Association teams were moved into either the International or Pacific Coast Leagues after the 1997 season. The sub-total is a more accurate way to compare Triple-A attendance between years.

Both the Major and Minor leagues have more teams today than 35, 45 and 55 years ago. So the tables look at **average attendance per team** for each league, in addition to the comparisons of total season attendance.

Figures for Minor Leagues average attendance per date were not available for 1989, 1979, and 1969. No independent leagues were in operation in those years either. The National League didn't count 'no-shows' in its official attendance until 1993, so keep that in mind when comparing 2019 Major League figures with 1989, 1979, and 1969.

**ONE MORE LOOK AT MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE IN 2019—THE FINAL SEASON BEFORE REORGANIZATION**

The 176 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) teams that charged admission drew 41,504,077, an average of 235,819 per team. Average per date was 4,044. 53 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 5,690,513, an average of 107,368 per team, and an average per date of 2,341. The 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, counts as one team in these tables. Most independent teams played shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 47,194,590, averaging 206,090 per team, and 3,718 per date. Major League total attendance was 68,493,093, an average of 2,283,103 per team, and 28,338 per date.

**2019 COMPARISON WITH 2009**

NAPBL **2019** figures are quite similar to the 2009 numbers. Both years had 176 teams. Total attendance, average per team, and average per date were 0.3% lower in 2019 than in 2009. Average per date was 4,044 in 2019, and 4,055 in 2009. 2019 total attendance was down 140,441 vs. 2009, with 7 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2009. Total attendance for the independent teams was 28.6% lower in 2019 than in 2009. There were 61 independent teams with announced attendance in 2009. Their average per team was down 17.8%, and average per date was down 18.5% (2,341 in 2019 vs. 2,872 in 2009). Independent teams had 342 fewer dates with announced attendance in 2019 than in 2009. Combined NAPBL and independent league total attendance was 4.9% lower in 2019 than in 2009, the average per team was 1.5% lower, and the average per date was 2.3% lower, down 86 from the 2009 average per date of 3,804.

5 of the 15 NAPBL leagues had a higher average attendance per team in 2019 than in 2009. The Mexican League was up 50.0%, the Appalachian League had a 32.6% gain, and the Northwest League grew by 23.0%. The Eastern and Carolina Leagues each had gains of less than 2%. On the downside, average per team for the New York-Penn League fell 26.3%, the Florida State League was down 16.3%, and the International League had an 8.1% loss.

Average per date for the Triple-A clubs combined was 6,697 in 2019 vs. 6,820 in 2009. For Double-A, it was 4,429 in 2019 and 4,462 in 2009. The full-season Class A teams averaged 2,807 in 2019 and 2,978 in 2009. Short-season teams had a 2,514 average per date in 2019, vs. a 2,646 average in 2009.

Columbus had the top attendance in 2009, drawing a total of 666,797, averaging 9,526 per date. Sacramento was close behind with a 657,095 total, and a 9,126 average per date. Lehigh Valley drew 641,335, averaging 9,162 per date. Frisco led Double-A with a 553,916 total, and an 8,028 average per date. Dayton topped Class A (586,193 total, 8,496 average), Brooklyn drew 264,102 (7,138 per date) to lead all short-season teams. Monterrey led the Mexican League in both categories (400,310 total, and 7,698 per date). Long Island had the top independent total (414,973), and Winnipeg posted the best independent average per date (6,180).

Major League total attendance, average per team, and average per date were all down 6.6% when comparing **2019 with 2009**. In 2009, MLB drew 73,367,659, averaging 2,445,589 per team, and 30,330 per date.



**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969****2019 COMPARISON WITH 1999**

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was well underway. Comparing 2019 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were some healthy gains.

The MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) 2019 total was up 18.0% from 1999, despite 128 fewer dates than in 1999. Average attendance per date rose 658 (19.4%) from 3,386. There were 176 NAPBL teams, which includes the Mexican League, in both 2019 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. The total for independent leagues was up 16.8% vs. 1999, with 527 more dates, but their average per date fell 218 (8.5%) from 2,559. The decline in the independent average is partly due to current smaller leagues that do not draw large crowds. Combined 2019 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 17.8% from 1999, and average per date was up 460 (14.1%) from 3,258.

2019 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 18.0% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 5 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 56.1%. The Mexican League was up 60.6%, the Pacific Coast League had a 25.8% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 45.3%, and the Pioneer League increased 58.7%. The Appalachian League had a 24.4% gain, and the Midwest League was up 20.6%. Independent league teams had a combined loss of 3.0%. Combined NAPBL and independent average per team rose 13.2%.

But 5 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2019 than in 1999. The Eastern League was down 3.1%, the Southern League fell 3.9%, the Carolina League declined 2.3%, the California League was down 4.4%, and the New York-Penn League had a dip of 4.0%.

The 30 Triple-A teams averaged 450,013 per team in 2019. In 1999, the 30 Triple-A teams averaged 401,475 per team. Triple-A average per date was 6,697 in 2019, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Double-A teams averaged 4,429 per date in 2019, up 488 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,807 per date in 2019, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,514 in 2019, vs. 2,231 in 1999.

Buffalo drew 684,051 to lead all teams in total attendance in 1999. The Bisons also had the highest average per date (10,060) of any team. Indianapolis drew 658,250. Overall, 6 teams topped 500,000. Akron was the Double-A leader, drawing 522,459. Lansing had the best full-season Class A attendance (462,515). The short-season attendance leader was Portland, OR, who drew 206,136. Among independent league teams, Bridgeport had the highest total attendance (342,857), and St. Paul had the best average per date in 1999 (6,329), and in 2019 (8,061).

The Major League 2019 total attendance and average per team was down 2.3% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 28,338 in 2019, down 872 (3.0%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

**A NOTE ABOUT THIS, AND THE NEXT, SECTIONS**

Since the first part of this section only covers data through 2019, the term NAPBL (National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues) is often used to cover those leagues that were affiliated with Major League Baseball. So in this section, it includes the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, which were part of the NAPBL through 2019, but became independent leagues in 2021.

The second part of this section makes comparisons for Triple-A, Double-A, and combined High-A, and Single-A, the Mexican League, and the other independent leagues for **2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969**. Comparing average attendance per team for each individual MLB-affiliated league, from seasons starting in 2021, has limited value, since these leagues have undergone so many changes since 2019.

The third part of this section, comparing Major League and Minor League Baseball, the NFL, NBA, WNBA, NHL, Minor League Hockey, and Major League Soccer 2023 attendance with 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 has been updated.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM GROWTH - 2019 COMPARISON WITH 1989**

164 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) teams that charged admission, operated in 1989. They drew a total of 23,103,593, an average of 140,876 per team. 2019 NAPBL total attendance was 79.6% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 67.4%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2019 figures, the results are gains of 104.3% in total attendance, and 46.3% in average per team.

The Florida State League had a 14.0% gain in average attendance per team. Every other league drew at least 32% higher than their 1989 average per team. The Appalachian and Southern Leagues had the next smallest gains.

2 leagues more than doubled their 2019 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 140.6% higher in 2019 than in 1989, and the Mexican League gained 104.5%. Also up at least 60% were the Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, New York-Penn, Northwest, Carolina, Midwest, and California Leagues. The combined Triple-A average per team was up 32.4%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest 1989 attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 16 teams reached 500,000 in 2019. Highest Double-A attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2019, 16 Double-A teams topped 300,000. Durham led full-season Class A in 1989, drawing 272,202. That figure was topped by 10 Class A teams in 2019. Durham is now in Triple-A, and the Bulls drew 529,105 in 2019. Yucatan drew 310,715 to lead the Mexican League in 1989. They drew 520,350 in 2019.

In 1989, just 2 of the 26 teams in either the Midwest or South Atlantic Leagues topped 200,000. But in 2019, 16 of the 30 teams in those leagues reached that milestone. Salt Lake City drew 173,256 to top all short-season teams in 1989. Just 4 of the 40 short-season teams in 1989 drew at least 100,000. 15 short-season teams did that in 2019, with Vancouver and Spokane surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 24.1% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 7.6%. The average per date of 28,338 in 2019 was 1,568 (5.9%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

**2019 COMPARISON WITH 1979**

142 NAPBL teams charging admission operated in 1979. Total attendance was 15,265,633, an average of 107,504 per team. NAPBL 2019 total attendance was 171.9% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 119.4%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2019 totals, the result is a 209.2% increase in total attendance, and a 91.7% gain in average per team.

11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues more than doubled their average attendance per team since 1979. There was a better than 4-fold increase in 3 leagues: Eastern – 329.9%; Carolina – 328.9%; Northwest – 423.4%. The only leagues that did not at least double their average attendance per team were the Southern, Florida State, Mexican, and Appalachian Leagues, who had increases between 7.9% and 91.6%. The Triple-A leagues had a combined 150.3% increase from the 1979 average per team of 179,784.

In 1979, Columbus (OH) had the top Minor League attendance, drawing 599,544 to newly re-built Cooper Stadium. That figure was topped by Tijuana and Las Vegas in 2019. 3 Mexican League teams (Mexico City Reds, Tabasco, and Yucatan) topped 400,000 in 1979. But Denver (335,684) and Albuquerque (266,586) were the only other Triple-A teams to top 240,000. All Triple-A teams drew over 188,000 in 2019, and all these teams, except Gwinnett and New Orleans, topped 327,000.

Nashville drew 515,482 to lead Double-A in 1979, the first of 4 straight years the Sounds topped 500,000. Memphis and El Paso were the only other Double-A teams to reach 200,000. 25 of the 30 Double-A teams topped 200,000 in 2019. Just 2 of the 34 full-season Class A teams attracted more than 100,000 fans in 1979. West Palm Beach drew 125,213, and Greensboro's attendance was 165,596. In 2019, 47 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, and 15 short-season teams, drew more than 100,000. Greensboro's Class A leading total of 1979 was topped by 32 full-season Class A teams, and 3 short-season teams in 2019. Eugene drew 66,156 to lead the 32 short-season teams in 1979. 25 of the 40 short-season NAPBL teams drew more than that in 2019.

Major League 2019 total attendance was up 57.3% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 36.3%. Average per date was up 6,398 (29.2%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940. National League teams did not count 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993.

**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969****2019 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2019 total NAPBL attendance was 315.7% higher, and average per team showed a 249.6% gain. Add independent teams to the 2019 figures, and the total attendance growth is 372.7%, with average per team up 205.5%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 485.6%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 456.8% gain with 7 2019 teams each individually drawing better in 2019 than the entire league drew in 1969. The Northwest League's average per team grew by 448.7%, with 6 of the 8 teams in 2019 individually outdrawing the whole league's 1969 total.

The Eastern League's average per team was up 389.5%. The Carolina League had a gain of 323.3%, and the Southern League had a 303.4% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, New York-Penn, Pioneer, and California Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 101.3%, the Appalachian League, up 137.1%, and the Mexican League, up 17.0%, were the only leagues whose 2019 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Triple-A average per team was up 232.9% from the 1969 average of 135,181, which was the lowest Triple-A average per team since 1934.

In 1969, the Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance, drawing 428,548. Among U.S. based teams, Hawaii (Honolulu) was the top draw, with a total of 280,477. In 2019, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 64 NAPBL teams, and by 5 independent league teams. Honolulu no longer has a team. Rochester (267,987) had the top 1969 attendance among U.S. mainland teams.

Only 5 teams below the Triple-A level topped 100,000 in 1969. Dallas-Fort Worth, then in the Double-A Texas League, attracted 235,827. Albuquerque and Memphis, also in the Texas League, drew over 100,000, as did Charlotte of the Southern League, and Ciudad Madero of the Class A Mexican Center League. No United States based Class A team reached 100,000.

Miami had the best full-season Class A attendance in the U.S., drawing 77,354. 49 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 23 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2019. Salt Lake City drew 76,789 in 1969 to lead all short-season teams. 6 Double-A teams, and 38 full-season Class A teams, failed to reach 50,000 in 1969. Also that year, just 5 of 33 short-season teams drew at least 30,000, and 16 short-season teams didn't even reach 20,000.

Major League total attendance rose 151.5% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 101.2%. The 2019 MLB average per date was 28,338, up 12,980 (84.5%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES**

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2019 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Dayton of the Midwest League drew 545,108 in 2019. In 1979, the Midwest League's total attendance was 485,915, and in 1969, that league drew 367,420.)

Eastern League - Reading, Richmond, Hartford (1969)

Southern League - Birmingham (1969)

Midwest League - Dayton (1979 & 1969); Fort Wayne (1969)

South Atlantic Lea. - Greensboro, Augusta, Charleston SC, Columbia SC, Lakewood, Greenville, Lexington (1969)

Northwest League - Vancouver (1979 & 1969), Spokane, Boise, Everett, Eugene, Hillsboro (1969)

## MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 2009

League	2019			2009			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 2009
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	32,239,466	14	2,302,819	(11.4)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>41,128,193</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,570,512</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	73,367,659	30	2,445,589	(6.6)
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.						
	6,445,838	14	460,417	7,017,469	14	501,248	(8.1)
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>7,133,386</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>445,837</u>	<u>(1.1)</u>
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	14,150,855	30	471,695	(4.6)
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	3,079,774	16	192,486	50.0
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	3,694,397	12	307,866	1.5
	2,242,303	10	224,230	2,284,201	10	228,420	(1.8)
	2,791,180	8	348,898	2,964,170	8	370,521	(5.8)
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	1,721,279	10	172,128	(7.0)
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,586,588	8	198,324	1.8
	935,187	12	77,932	1,117,363	12	93,114	(16.3)
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	3,629,038	14	259,217	(7.8)
	2,978,718	14	212,766	3,690,958	16	230,685	(7.8)
	1,316,873	14	94,062	1,786,735	14	127,624	(26.3)
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	907,094	8	113,387	23.0
	411,189	10	41,119	310,124	10	31,012	32.6
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	<u>721,942</u>	<u>8</u>	90,243	(0.1)
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	41,644,518	176	236,617	(0.3)
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	7,965,185	61	130,577	(17.8)
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	49,609,703	237	209,324	(1.5)

\* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Total Baseball - 8th Edition

## MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1999

League	2019			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	(10.3)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>5.5</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	(2.3)
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			
	6,445,838	14	460,417	6,437,251	14	459,804	0.1
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	25.8
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	12,044,250	30	401,475	12.1
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	2,875,289	16	179,706	60.6
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	3,868,732	12	322,394	(3.1)
	2,242,303	10	224,230	2,332,712	10	233,271	(3.9)
	2,791,180	8	348,898	1,787,915	8	223,489	56.1
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	1,675,245	10	167,525	(4.4)
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,652,256	8	206,532	(2.3)
	935,187	12	77,932	941,861	14	67,276	15.8
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	2,774,427	14	198,173	20.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	2,049,461	14	146,390	45.3
	1,316,873	14	94,062	1,371,054	14	97,932	(4.0)
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	1,021,390	8	127,674	9.2
	411,189	10	41,119	330,517	10	33,052	24.4
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	56,795	58.7
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	35,179,471	176	199,883	18.0
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	4,871,797	44	110,723	(3.0)
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	40,051,268	220	182,051	13.2

\* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Major League Baseball Information System

## MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1989

League	2019			1989			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1989
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	(4.3)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>19.7</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	7.6
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.						
	6,445,838	14	460,417	3,667,142	8	458,393	
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>2,613,247</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>326,656</u>	40.9
				<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	72.6
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	8,834,806	26	339,800	32.4
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	1,975,723	14	141,123	104.5
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	1,272,812	8	159,102	96.4
	2,242,303	10	224,230	1,687,844	10	168,784	32.9
	2,791,180	8	348,898	1,511,610	8	188,951	84.6
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	933,883	10	93,388	71.4
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,006,738	8	125,842	60.4
	935,187	12	77,932	957,344	14	68,382	14.0
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	1,716,443	14	122,603	95.0
	2,978,718	14	212,766	1,060,964	12	88,414	140.6
	1,316,873	14	94,062	714,561	14	51,040	84.3
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	636,187	8	79,523	75.4
	411,189	10	41,119	311,510	10	31,151	32.0
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>90,159</u>	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>60,396</u>	<u>49.3</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	23,103,593	164	140,876	67.4
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	23,103,593	164	140,876	46.3

\* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Major League Baseball Information System

## MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1979

League	2019			1979			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1979
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	27.6
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>43.2</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	36.3
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
	6,445,838	14	460,417	1,616,151	8	202,019	127.9
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	<u>150.3</u>
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,500,376</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>450,013</i>	<i>4,674,378</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>179,784</i>	<i>150.3</i>
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	4,591,286	20	229,564	25.7
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	436,040	6	72,673	329.9
	2,242,303	10	224,230	1,482,437	10	148,244	51.3
	2,791,180	8	348,898	826,207	8	103,276	237.8
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	504,487	10	50,449	217.4
	2,018,496	10	201,850	282,371	6	47,062	328.9
	935,187	12	77,932	722,258	10	72,226	7.9
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	485,915	8	60,739	293.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	347,237	6	57,873	267.6
	1,316,873	14	94,062	298,538	10	29,854	215.1
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	213,163	8	26,645	423.4
	411,189	10	41,119	128,735	6	21,456	91.6
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>90,159</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	<u>164.6</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	15,265,633	142	107,504	119.4
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	15,265,633	142	107,504	91.7

\* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

1979 figures for Inter-American League which folded in mid-season are not included.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Total Baseball - 8th Edition

## MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1969

League	2019			1969			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1969
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	101.7
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>100.9</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	101.2
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
	6,445,838	14	460,417	1,035,457	8	129,432	255.7
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	234.0
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	2,973,992	22	135,181	232.9
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	1,973,825	8	246,728	17.0
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	382,933	6	63,822	389.5
	2,242,303	10	224,230	333,516	6	55,586	303.4
	2,791,180	8	348,898	828,268	8	103,534	237.0
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	369,217	8	46,152	246.9
	2,018,496	10	201,850	476,856	10	47,686	323.3
	935,187	12	77,932	464,662	12	38,722	101.3
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	367,420	9	40,824	485.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	229,290	6	38,215	456.8
	1,316,873	14	94,062	190,519	8	23,815	295.0
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	101,658	4	25,415	448.7
	411,189	10	41,119	138,763	8	17,345	137.1
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	180,625	7	25,804	249.4
Northern Mexican Center Mexican Northern Mexican So. East	-----	-----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
	-----	-----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
	-----	-----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
	-----	-----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	56,950	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	9,984,263	148	67,461	249.6
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	9,984,263	148	67,461	205.5

\* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980

In 1969, the Gulf Coast League listed attendance of 8,817, as one team charged admission. It is not included here.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Total Baseball - 8th Edition



**AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM GROWTH – BY CLASSIFICATION - 2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**

The tables on the next 2 pages make the same comparisons as the previous group of 5 tables, but instead of comparing leagues, they compare the Triple-A, Double-A, and the combined full-season Class-A classifications. This is a way to make a good comparison of average per team, despite the Minor League changes that took effect in 2021.

This group of tables only includes teams that were in full-season MLB-affiliated leagues, the Mexican League, which was a member of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues through 2019, and for most independent teams. The Pecos Baseball League's 2023 figures, and the Continental League's 2009 figures are excluded since attendance from those leagues, which were in very small markets, would distort the average per team figures. Also excluded are the MLB-affiliated short-season teams, since this too, would distort comparisons with 2023. Since 2021, the MLB-affiliated leagues have not included short-season teams which charge admission.

**2023 vs. 2009**

Despite the significant Major League and Minor League attendance increase in 2023, average attendance per team, with the exception of the Mexican League, was still lower in 2023 than in 2009. The Mexican League had a 16.6% increase in average attendance per team. The largest decline was for the group of non-Mexican League independent leagues who were down a combined 10.4%. Triple-A had the largest decline (9.2%) among the MLB-affiliated classifications. In the Major Leagues, the National League nearly matched its 2009 average per team in 2023.

**2023 vs. 1999**

The American League was the only entity in this comparison that had a lower average attendance per team in 2023 than in 1999. Class-A teams drew a combined 17.8% higher per team in 2023 than in 1999, and all full-season MLB-affiliated teams had a combined 10.4% gain. The Mexican League's average per team rose 12.2%.

**2023 vs. 1989**

Independent leagues didn't begin play until 1993, so this, and the 2023 vs. 1979, and 2023 vs. 1969 tables don't include them in the 2023 listing either.

Minor League average per team grew at a much faster pace than Major League average per team since 1989. Combined full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League teams were up a combined 95,369 (55.3%) per team. The Mexican League averaged 59.1% higher per team in 2023 than in 1989.

**2023 vs. 1979**

Major League average per team was up 40.8%. But full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League average per team more than doubled, up 147.0%. The full-season Class-A teams drew more than tripled their average attendance per team from 1979 to 2023, up 204.8%. But the Mexican League, which had record-high league attendance in 1979, showed a 2.2% decline in average per team for 2023 vs. 1979.

**2023 vs. 1969**

Except for the Mexican League, the 2023 vs. 1969 gains were huge. Major League average attendance per team was up 125.2%. Triple-A, Double-A, and full-season Class-A, combined to more than triple their average per team, with a 262.7% gain. The full-season Class-A group had a better than 4-fold increase, up 321.1%. The Mexican League had a 9.0% decline in average per team. That league had only 8 teams in 1969. Monterrey and the Mexico City Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) both drew over 400,000 in 1969.

**MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2023 vs. 2009 BY CLASSIFICATION**

League	2023			2009			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2023 vs. 2009
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	32,486,633	15	2,165,776	32,239,466	14	2,302,819	(6.0)
	<u>38,260,732</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,550,715</u>	<u>41,128,193</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,570,512</u>	<u>(0.8)</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	70,747,365	30	2,358,246	73,367,659	30	2,445,589	(3.6)
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	30	428,154	14,150,855	30	471,695	(9.2)
Double-A Total	8,598,442	30	286,615	8,942,768	30	298,092	(3.9)
Class-A Total	10,709,316	60	178,489	11,745,226	60	195,754	(8.8)
Full-Season - MLB	32,152,384	120	267,937	34,838,849	120	290,324	(7.7)
Mexican Other Major Independent Lgs.	4,041,303	18	224,517	3,079,774	16	192,486	16.6
	5,988,597	48	124,762	7,900,576	57	138,607	(10.0)
GRAND TOTAL	42,182,284	186	226,786	45,819,199	193	237,405	(4.5)

**MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2023 vs. 1999 BY CLASSIFICATION**

League	2023			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2023 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	32,486,633	15	2,165,776	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	(4.7)
	<u>38,260,732</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,550,715</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>6.5</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	70,747,365	30	2,358,246	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	0.9
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	30	428,154	12,044,250	30	401,475	6.6
Double-A Total	8,598,442	30	286,615	7,989,359	30	266,312	7.6
Class-A Total	10,709,316	60	178,489	9,093,250	60	151,554	17.8
Full-Season - MLB	32,152,384	120	267,937	29,126,859	120	242,724	10.4
Mexican Other Major Independent Lgs.	4,041,303	18	224,517	2,875,289	16	179,706	24.9
	5,988,597	48	124,762	4,871,797	44	110,723	12.7
GRAND TOTAL	42,182,284	186	226,786	36,873,945	180	204,855	10.7

**MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2023 vs. 1989 BY CLASSIFICATION**

League	2023			1989			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2023 vs. 1989
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	32,486,633	15	2,165,776	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	1.6
	<u>38,260,732</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,550,715</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>20.9</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	70,747,365	30	2,358,246	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	11.1
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	30	428,154	8,834,806	26	339,800	26.0
Double-A Total	8,598,442	30	286,615	4,472,266	26	172,010	66.6
Class-A Total	10,709,316	60	178,489	5,675,372	58	97,851	82.4
Full-Season - MLB	32,152,384	120	267,937	18,982,444	110	172,568	55.3
Mexican	4,041,303	18	224,517	1,975,723	14	141,123	59.1
GRAND TOTAL	36,193,687	138	262,273	20,958,167	124	169,017	55.2

**MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2023 vs. 1979 BY CLASSIFICATION**

<u>League</u>	<u>2023</u>			<u>1979</u>			<u>% Chg. in Avg./Team 2023 vs. 1979</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	32,486,633	15	2,165,776	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	35.5
	<u>38,260,732</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,550,715</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>44.5</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	70,747,365	30	2,358,246	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	40.8
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	30	428,154	4,674,378	26	179,784	138.1
Double-A Total	8,598,442	30	286,615	2,744,684	24	114,362	150.6
Class-A Total	10,709,316	60	178,489	2,342,268	40	58,557	204.8
Full-Season - MLB	32,152,384	120	267,937	9,761,330	90	108,459	147.0
Mexican	4,041,303	18	224,517	4,591,286	20	229,564	(2.2)
GRAND TOTAL	36,193,687	138	262,273	14,352,616	110	130,478	101.0

**MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2023 vs. 1969 BY CLASSIFICATION**

<u>League</u>	<u>2023</u>			<u>1969</u>			<u>% Chg. in Avg./Team 2023 vs. 1969</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	32,486,633	15	2,165,776	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	114.2
	<u>38,260,732</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,550,715</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>102.8</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	70,747,365	30	2,358,246	27,229,691	26	1,047,296	125.2
Triple-A Total	12,844,626	30	428,154	2,973,992	22	135,181	216.7
Double-A Total	8,598,442	30	286,615	1,544,717	20	77,236	271.1
Class-A Total	10,709,316	60	178,489	1,907,445	45	42,388	321.1
Full-Season - MLB	32,152,384	120	267,937	6,426,154	87	73,864	262.7
Mexican	4,041,303	18	224,517	1,973,825	8	246,728	(9.0)
GRAND TOTAL	36,193,687	138	262,273	8,399,979	95	88,421	196.6

All short-season teams are excluded from these 5 tables. No independent teams were in operation in 1989, 1979, or 1969.

2023 vs. 2009 comparisons exclude the Pecos League (2023) and the Continental League (2009).

**MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**

MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor League Baseball attendance grew at a faster pace than any other United States-based major professional team sport when comparing 2023 with 1989, 1979, and 1969. Minor League Baseball (NAPBL) has also posted a larger increase in average per team attendance than any of these sports since 1999, with the exception of Major League Soccer. This higher attendance growth rate for NAPBL Minor League Baseball is for both total attendance, and for average yearly attendance per team.

The tables in this section compare 2023 full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League Baseball average per team growth in attendance vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 with attendance growth for Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. In addition, the comparison with 2009 and 1999 includes the Women's National Basketball Association, Minor League Hockey, and Major League Soccer. 1996 was the first season for Major League Soccer, and the WNBA began play in 1997.

For the NBA and NHL, the comparisons are with the 2009-10, 1999-2000, 1989-90, 1979-80, and 1969-70 seasons. Minor League hockey data is for 2009-10 and 1999-2000. The most recent NFL attendance total is for 2022. These tables exclude the Mexican League, independent leagues, and MLB-affiliated short-season leagues.

Comparisons are made for total attendance, and for average yearly attendance per team, as these leagues have undergone expansion. **Figures in bold represent record-high total attendance.**

SOURCES: – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2023 Record and Fact Book; Basketball – NBA, WNBA, and ABA Guides, databasebasketball.com; Hockey - NHL Guide and Record Book, Minor League hockey Websites; Major League Soccer

**2023 or 2022-23 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2022)**

	<b>2023 or 2022-23 Total Attendance</b>	<b>Number of Teams</b>	<b>Average Attendance per Team</b>
MLB-Affiliated Full Season Minor League Baseball	32,152,384	120	267,937
Major League Baseball	70,747,365	30	2,358,246
National Football League (2022)	<b>18,096,245</b>	32	565,508
National Basketball Association	<b>22,234,502</b>	30	741,150
National Hockey League	<b>22,436,532</b>	32	701,142
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,587,488	12	132,291
Major League Soccer	<b>10,900,804</b>	29	375,890
Minor League Hockey	12,857,070	88	146,103

Major League Soccer had the best growth rate in terms of average attendance per team when comparing 2023 with 2009, followed by the NFL and NBA.

**2023 (NFL 2022) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 2009 (2009-2010 NBA, NHL, MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY)**

	<b>2009 or 2009-2010 Total Attendance</b>	<b>Number of Teams</b>	<b>Average Attendance per Team</b>	<b>% Chg. - 2023 vs. 2009 in Total Attend.</b>	<b>% Chg. - 2023 vs. 2009 in Avg. /Team</b>
MLB-Aff. Full Sea. Minors	34,838,849	120	290,324	(7.7)	(7.7)
Major League Baseball	73,367,659	30	2,445,589	(3.6)	(3.6)
National Football League	16,651,126	32	520,348	8.7	8.7
National Basketball Assoc.	21,112,728	30	703,758	5.3	5.3
National Hockey League	20,996,455	30	699,882	6.9	0.2
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,773,321	13	136,409	(10.5)	(3.0)
Major League Soccer	3,609,048	15	240,603	202.0	56.2
Minor League Hockey	12,598,841	85	148,222	2.0	(1.4)

**MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better average per team attendance growth than the full-season MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues when comparing 2023 attendance with 1999.

**2023 (NFL 2022) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1999 (1999-2000 NBA, NHL, MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY)**

	1999 or 1999-2000 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1999 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1999 in Avg. /Team
MLB-Aff. Full Sea. Minors	29,126,859	120	242,724	10.4	10.4
Major League Baseball	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	0.9	0.9
National Football League	16,206,640	31	522,795	11.7	8.2
National Basketball Assoc.	20,058,513	29	691,673	10.8	7.2
National Hockey League	18,800,139	28	671,434	19.3	4.4
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,956,281	12	163,023	(18.9)	(18.9)
Major League Soccer	2,742,102	12	228,509	297.5	64.5
Minor League Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(34.9)	(19.3)

Full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League Baseball average per team attendance grew at a rate that was more than 3 times faster than any other sport in terms of average attendance per team when comparing 2023 with 1989. The National Hockey League's total attendance grew at a slightly higher pace than Minor League Baseball due to the addition of 11 teams since the 1989-1990 season. Attendance for hockey minor leagues is not available for 1989-90, 1979-80, or 1969-70. Note that for Major League Baseball, the National League didn't count 'no-shows' in its official attendance until 1993.

**2023 (NFL 2022) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)**

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1989 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1989 in Avg. /Team
MLB-Aff. Full Sea. Minors	18,982,444	110	172,568	69.3	55.3
Major League Baseball	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	28.2	11.1
National Football League	13,625,662	28	486,631	32.8	16.2
National Basketball Assoc.	17,368,659	27	643,284	28.0	15.2
National Hockey League	12,579,651	21	599,031	78.3	17.0

Growth in average attendance per team for full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League Baseball increased at a pace that was about, or more than, twice as fast as the other sports leagues when comparing 2023 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for full-season MLB-affiliated Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 229.3%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons. The NBA had added 8 teams since then, and the NHL has 11 more teams.

**2023 (NFL 2022) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)**

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1979 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1979 in Avg. /Team
MLB-Aff. Full Sea. Minors	9,761,330	90	108,459	229.3	147.0
Major League Baseball	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	62.4	40.8
National Football League	13,182,039	28	470,787	37.3	20.2
National Basketball Assoc.	9,937,575	22	451,708	123.7	64.1
National Hockey League	10,533,623	21	501,601	113.0	39.8

**MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2023 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**

1969 was the final year that the American Football League and the National Football League played separately. Those leagues fully merged in 1970. The 1969 football attendance figures in the table below are for combined AFL and NFL attendance. The AFL had 10 teams in 1969, and drew 2,843,373, an average of 284,337 per team. The NFL had 16 teams and drew 6,096,127, averaging 381,008 per team. Both the AFL and NFL played 14-game schedules in 1969, compared to a 16-game schedule from 1978 through 2020, and a 17-game schedule beginning in 2021.

The basketball line below is for combined NBA and ABA attendance. The American Basketball Association was in its 3<sup>rd</sup> season in 1969-70, and had 11 teams. Their total attendance was 1,752,987, an average of 159,362 per team. The 14 NBA teams that played in 1969-70 drew 4,341,028, an average of 310,073 per team. If the basketball growth comparison is made for the NBA only, and excludes the ABA, total attendance is up 412.2% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 139.0%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

**2023 (NFL 2022) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)**

	<b>1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance</b>	<b>Number of Teams</b>	<b>Average Attendance per Team</b>	<b>% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1969 in Total Attend.</b>	<b>% Chg. - 2023 vs. 1969 in Avg. /Team</b>
MLB-Aff. Full Sea. Minors	6,426,154	87	73,864	400.3	262.7
Major League Baseball	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	159.8	107.9
National Football League	8,939,500	26	343,827	102.4	64.5
National Basketball Assoc.	6,094,015	25	243,761	264.9	204.0
National Hockey League	5,992,065	12	499,339	274.4	40.4

**NEW BALLPARKS**

New ballparks have been a major factor in the growth of Minor League attendance. According to team websites, ballparkdigest.com, and baseballparks.com, 106 of the 119 MLB-affiliated parks in use in 2023, opened from 1988 to 2022. 87 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 68 of them have opened since 2000, with 26 opening since 2010. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League share a ballpark.) 11 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 2 teams were built between 1970 and 1987. Many older parks have been totally refurbished, and bear little resemblance to their original structures.

Data is available about 79 ballparks of independent teams that operated in 2023. All teams in the United Shore League play in the same park, with the same true for the Mavericks League. Dos Laredos of the Mexican League uses a park in Mexico, and one in Texas. 53 of these parks opened since 1988, (44 since 1995, 36 since 2000, and 12 since 2010), and 19 were built prior to 1970, and 6 from 1970 to 1987. Overall, 159 of 198 Minor League ballparks in use in 2023 opened since 1988, with 131 of them opening since 1995, 104 opening since 2000, and 38 since 2010.

New parks were opened by: Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro in 2013; Charlotte, NC and El Paso in 2014; Nashville, Biloxi, Morgantown, and St. Paul in 2015; Columbia, SC in 2016; Hartford and Cleburne in 2017; Augusta and Rosemont, IL in 2018; Fayetteville NC, Las Vegas, Amarillo, High Point NC, Franklin WI, and Mexico City in 2019; Worcester, Fredericksburg VA, Wichita KS, Beloit, Kannapolis and Gastonia NC, and Rocket City (Madison, AL) in 2021; Lake Country (Oconomoc) Wisconsin, Glacier (Kalispell) Montana, in 2022. No new parks opened in 2023. The New Jersey Jackals moved to a rebuilt old stadium. Northern Colorado (Windsor) and Hagerstown, MD get new parks in 2024.

According to Ballparkdigest.com, new parks may open in 2025 in Hillsboro, OR for the Northwest League Hillsboro Hops, Richmond, VA for the Eastern League Richmond Flying Squirrels, Salt Lake City for the Pacific Coast League Bees, Knoxville, TN for the Southern League Tennessee Smokies, Chattanooga of the Southern League, and Spartanburg, SC for the Down East Wood Ducks, who will relocate there from Kinston, NC.

**MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE COMPARED TO MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY ATTENDANCE**

Professional hockey has a system of minor leagues quite similar to that of baseball, with some minor league hockey teams being affiliated with teams in the National Hockey League. But while Minor League Baseball attendance has continued to grow in the first 20 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, minor league hockey attendance is down.

In the 1999-2000 season, there were 109 professional minor league hockey teams in the United States and Canada. By the 2018-19 season, the number of teams was down to 80. There were 82 teams in the 2021-2022 season, and 88 teams began the **2022-23** season. Vermillion County of the Southern Professional Hockey League did not complete the 2022-23 season. 87 teams played in **2023-24**. Contact the author ([d.kronheim@verizon.net](mailto:d.kronheim@verizon.net)) to get an Excel worksheet listing of each Minor League Hockey team and league 2022-23 total attendance and average per game.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 37.9% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 12,259,292 in 2018-19, with 29 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 334 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,566 in 2018-19, a decline of 6.8%. The 2017-18 average of 4,581 was the best since 2001-02. National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2018-19 was 17,456, up 1,080 (6.6%) from the 1999-2000 average of 16,376. Due to shorter seasons, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 data is not relevant. (Sources: hockey minor league Web sites, nhl.com.)

The structure of minor league hockey has similarities with baseball. The American Hockey League is the Triple-A league, with each National Hockey League team having an affiliate in that league. The ECHL is the Double-A league. Other leagues are the Southern Professional and Federal Prospects Hockey Leagues, and the semi-pro Ligue Nord-Américain. Many of the cities with minor league hockey also have Minor League Baseball.

In **2022-23**, the 88 Minor League hockey teams drew a total of 12,857,070, up 2,548,638 (24.7%) **from 2021-22**. Average per game was 4,489, up 638 (16.6%). The top-ranked AHL played a slightly shorter schedule, and drew 6,435,391, up 1,260,897 (24.4%) **from 2021-22**. Average per game was 5,586, up 958 (20.7%). **Vs. 2018-19**, the last really normal season, the AHL total was down 233,523 (3.5%), and average per game declined 213 (3.7%).

**2022-23** AHL league leaders were Cleveland (342,752, 9,521 per game), Hershey (318,983, 8,861 per game), and Chicago (309,818, 8,606 per game). Coachella Valley (Thousand Palms, CA), Grand Rapids, Laval, Ontario CA, and Providence, also averaged above 7,000 per game. Leaders in other leagues were Jacksonville FL (278,958, 7,749 per game), Fort Wayne (278,634, 7,740 per game), and Toledo (277,683, 7,713 per game). Combined **2022-23 vs. 2018-19** total attendance for the 5 minor leagues was up 597,778 (4.9%), but average per game declined by 77 (1.7%), with 8 more teams and 179 more games played in 2022-23. In 2022-23, the ECHL drew its highest total since 1999-2000. Their total was up 8.0% vs. 2018-19, and average per game rose 4.2%. Savannah, Colorado (Windsor), Utica, Idaho (Boise), and Toledo, had average per game of at least 100% of their arena's capacity.

The **2021-22** season was much closer to being a normal season, but not quite there. Total regular season attendance for the 5 pro minor hockey leagues was 10,308,435, averaging 3,851 per game, with 82 teams.

In the **2018-19** season, the last really normal season until **2022-23**, the 31-team American Hockey League drew a 6,668,914 (5,799 per game) to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. Hershey had the best total attendance (338,452), averaging 8,907 for its 38 home games. (Hershey has never had a Minor League baseball team.) San Diego had the top average (9,021 – 34 home games). Some AHL teams play a shorter schedule than others. Cleveland drew an average of 8,901 per game. Ontario CA, Chicago, Providence, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), and Grand Rapids of the AHL also topped 7,000 per game. Minor League Baseball teams in the Allentown (Lehigh Valley IronPigs), Providence (Pawtucket Red Sox), and Grand Rapids (West Michigan Whitecaps) areas have also drawn very well. The AHL league record-highs are 6,693,526 in total attendance, and 5,982 in average per game, both in 2015-16.

In the lower levels of minor league hockey, the ECHL Fort Wayne Komets averaged 7,932 per game in 2018-19. This was the 17<sup>th</sup> straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game. They've reached that figure 22 times in 28 seasons through 2019. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew 406,715 in 2014, 400,036 in 2015, record-highs of 413,701 (6,084 per date) in 2016, 409,253 in 2017, 376,422 in 2018, and 371,259 in 2019. Toledo (7,783) of the ECHL also averaged above 6,000 per game.

Bakersfield, now in the AHL, is one of minor league hockey's better draws. They averaged over 5,000 per game for 7 straight years through 2010-11, and again in 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2018-19. But the Blaze, that city's Minor League Baseball team, averaged just 572 per date in 2011, and 637 per date in 2012, the lowest average among all NAPBL teams. Attendance rose to 805 per date in 2013 and to 827 in 2014, fell to 740 in 2015, and increased to 899 in 2016. That team was moved to the Carolina League for 2017, and was replaced by a team in the Pecos League.



**MINORS TO MAJORS—MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE IN CITIES THAT LATER JOINED THE MAJOR LEAGUES**

Until 1953, there were only 10 markets with Major League teams. New York had 3 teams, while Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis had 2 teams each. Since then, Major League Baseball has come to 16 more markets. It arrived in, and left Montreal, arrived, left, and returned to both Milwaukee and Seattle, and left Washington after 1971, only to return in 2005.

All Major League markets added from 1953 on had Minor League teams. Many were among the most successful teams in attendance in Minor League Baseball. Most of the Minor League teams that were replaced by Major League teams were in Triple-A. But a few, such as those in Florida, were in lower classifications.

The table below lists the highest level Minor League teams that were replaced by teams in the Majors. It shows the record-high listed attendance for those Minor League teams, and also lists the years for which attendance data was available. It also shows attendance for each city's final Minor League season before the arrival of a Major League team. (Seattle drew 155,090 in 1968, its final Triple-A year.) In some of these markets, there were other Minor League teams in lower classifications. For many years, the New York market had 2 Triple-A teams, as well as 3 Major League teams, and so it has been added to this list.

Most of the markets listed below currently have Minor League teams in them, many of whom draw quite well.

Major League Team/Market	Year Joined Majors	Top Former Leading Minor League Team(s) in Market	Record-High Recorded Attendance	Year of Record High	Years of Available Attendance Data for That Team	Minor Lg. Final Year Attendance
Arizona (Phx.)	1998	Phoenix Firebirds	315,859	1994	1947-1997	209,698
Atlanta	1966	Atlanta Crackers	404,584	1947	1903, 1913, 1915-1965	151,614
Baltimore	1954	Baltimore Orioles	620,726	1946	1921-1953	207,182
Colorado	1993	Denver Bears	565,214	1980	1902-04, 13, 23-29, 47-92	347,615
Dallas-Ft. W.	1972	Dallas Eagles	404,851	1949	1922-1958	116,085
"		Fort Worth Cats	354,288	1948	1922-1959, 1964	93,574
"		Dallas-Ft. W. Spurs	329,294	1965	1960-1971	213,249
Houston	1962	Houston Buffalos	401,383	1948	1922-1961	120,104
Kansas City	1955	Kansas City Blues	425,064	1923	1903, 1908-1954	141,905
Los Angeles	1958	Los Angeles Angels	622,485	1947	1919-1957	220,547
"		Hollywood Stars	513,056	1946	1926-1957	198,012
"		Vernon Tigers	353,209	1924	1919-1925	252,069
Miami	1993	Miami Marlins	288,582	1956	1947-1991	56,557
"		Ft. Lauderdale Yanks	111,907	1992	1947-1993	28,240
"		Miami Bch Flamingos	90,682	1949	1947-1954	14,407
Milwaukee	1953, 70	Milwaukee Brewers	365,473	1927	1903-1952	195,839
Minnesota	1961	Minneapolis Millers	318,326	1956	1903-1960	115,702
"		St. Paul Saints	352,911	1949	1903-1960	119,926
Montreal	1969	Montreal Royals	477,638	1948	1928-1960	111,991
New York		Newark Bears	342,001	1932	1921-1949	88,170
"		Jersey City Giants	378,325	1939	1921-1950	63,191
San Diego	1969	San Diego Padres	493,780	1949	1936-1968	203,369
San Fran.-Oak.	1958	San Francisco Seals	670,563	1946	1919-1957	284,532
"		Oakland Oaks	634,311	1946	1919-1955	141,397
"		Mission Bears	299,670	1926	1926-1937	124,052
Seattle	1969, 77	Seattle Rainiers	548,308	1947	1919-1968, 1972-1976	16,294
Tampa Bay	1998	Tampa Yankees	149,191	1997	1928, 1947-Present	
"		St. Pete. Cardinals	202,283	1989	1947-2000	61,962
Toronto	1977	Toronto Maple Leafs	446,040	1952	1920-1967	94,308

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE DATA: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball

**MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT OUTDREW MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS**

In every season from 1902 through 1955, except the World War I-shortened 1918 season, at least one Minor League team had a higher total attendance than at least one Major League team in that season. In some seasons, over 30 Minor League teams drew better than a Major League team. As Major League attendance grew, this became far less common. From 1956 through 1978, no Major League team ever drew less than any Minor League team in one season. Since 1979, there have been 10 seasons where a Major League team was outdrawn by a Minor League team in a particular season, but none since the Montreal Expos drew less than Sacramento in 2004.

These Mexican League teams had a higher average per date than Oakland: In **2022**, Tijuana (10,088), and in **2023** Yucatan (10,558) and Mexico City (10,509). Oakland averaged 9,973 per date in 2022, and 10,276 per date in 2023. Oakland's total attendance in each of these seasons was higher than the total for these Mexican League teams.

The following table lists the years and the Major League teams that were outdrawn by at least one Minor League team that season. Providing a total list of which Minor League clubs outdrew a Big League team is not doable since early 20<sup>th</sup> Century attendance for many Minor League teams is not available. Very few teams listed attendance in the early years. Note that for a long time, the Pacific Coast League played a longer schedule than the Major Leagues did. Many of the Minor League cities that outdrew Major League teams in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century eventually were awarded Major League teams of their own.

Source for this data is the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, Third Edition, edited by Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, and published by Baseball America in 2007. Special thanks to Mitchell Manoff of the Society of American Baseball Research for asking the question that resulted in this research.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Major League Teams that had Lower Total Attendance than Some Minor League teams</b>	<b>Notes and Number of Major League Teams that were Outdrawn by These Minor League Teams</b>
1902	Wash, Det, Balt, Pit, Bost (N), Cin, Bkn, StL(N), Phi(N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1903	NY(A), Det, Chi(A), Wash, Bkn, Bost(N), StL(N), Phi (N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1904	Detroit, Washington, Brooklyn, Boston (N), Phila. (A)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1905	Detroit, Washington, Brooklyn, Boston (N)	Topped by Columbus(4), Buffalo(3), Milwaukee(1)
1906	Detroit, Washington, Boston (N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1907	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Outdrawn by Buffalo
1908	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Both outdrawn by Indianapolis
1909	Washington, Boston (N)	Milwaukee, Indy, Minneapolis(2), Louisville (1)
1910	Washington, St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Brooklyn	Rochester (4), Buffalo (1)
1911	Washington, St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Kansas City (3), Indy (2), Buffalo (2), Minneapolis (2)
1912	St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Boston outdrawn by 6 teams, St. Louis by Buffalo
1913	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Both by Milwaukee and Buffalo
1914	Cleveland, Brooklyn, Philadelphia (N), Pittsburgh, Cinci.	Louisville (5), Milwaukee (4), Columbus (4)
1915	Washington, St. Louis (A), Cleveland, Philadelphia (A)	Buffalo (5), Memphis (5), Minneapolis (1)
1916	Washington, Philadelphia (A), Cincinnati, St. Louis (N)	Buffalo (4)
1917	Washington	Outdrawn by 10 Minor League teams
1918	Shorter season due to World War I	Limited attendance listed
1919	St.L(A), Wash., Phila.(A), Bos(N), St.L(N), Phi.(N), Pitt.	San Francisco (7), 5 others top at least 1 MLB team
1920	Washington, Phi (A), St. Louis (N), Boston (N), Phi. (N)	San Francisco(5), 15 others top at least 1 MLB team
1921	Boston (A), Phil. (A), Boston (N), Phil.(N), St.L (N), Cin.	San Francisco (6), 4 others top at least 1 MLB team
1922	Phila. (A), Boston (A), Phila. (N), Boston (N)	San Francisco(4), 11 others top at least 1 MLB team
1923	Wash., Boston (A), St. Louis (N), Boston (N), Phila. (N)	Kansas City (5), 6 others top at least 1 MLB team
1924	Boston (A), St. Louis (N), Philadelphia (N), Boston (N)	San Francisco(4), 16 others top at least 1 MLB team
1925	Boston (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	San Francisco (3), Los Angeles (1), Atlanta (1)
1926	St. Louis (A), Boston (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	San Francisco (4), Milwaukee (4), 5 others top 1
1927	St. Louis (A), Boston (A), Boston (N), Phila. (N), Cleve.	San Francisco (5), 7 others top at least 1 MLB team
1928	St.L(A), Wash., Cleveland, Bost.(A), Phila.(N), Bost.(N)	San Francisco (6), 17 others top at least 1 MLB
1929	St. Louis (A), Washington, Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	San Francisco (4), Rochester, Hollywood, Los Angeles

**MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT OUTDREW MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Major League Teams that had Lower Total Attendance than Some Minor League teams</b>	<b>Notes and Number of Major League Teams that were Outdrawn by These Minor League Teams</b>
1930	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	Rochester, Los Angeles (2), 16 others (1)
1931	St. Louis (A), Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Philadelphia (N)	Newark, Rochester, Hollywood (4), 7 others (1)
1932	St.L(A), Chi. (A), Bos. (A), Pittsburgh, Phila. (N), St.L(N)	Newark, Columbus (6), 13 others top 1 MLB team
1933	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	Buffalo, Los Angeles (3), 18 others top 1 MLB team
1934	St. Louis (A), Chicago (A), Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	Buffalo (3), Dallas (2), 13 others top St. Louis
1935	Washington, St. Louis (A), Phila. (A), Bos. (N), Phila (N)	Atlanta (5), Seattle, Montreal (4), 27 others top St.L.
1936	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A), Philadelphia (N)	Atlanta (3), Buffalo, Seattle (2), 28 others top St. L.
1937	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	9 teams top both teams, 18 others top St. Louis
1938	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N), St. Louis (N)	Seattle (3), 13 others top 2, 8 others top St.Louis (A)
1939	Washington, St. L. (A), Pittsburgh, Boston (N), Phi. (N)	Jersey City (5), Seattle (4), 32 others top St. Louis
1940	St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	Seattle (3), Jersey City, San Francisco, Scranton (2)
1941	St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	Seattle, Louisville (3), 8 others top St. Louis (A)
1942	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	Los Angeles (2), Seattle (1)
1943	St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Milwaukee (2), Indianapolis, Los Angeles (1)
1944	Boston (N)	Topped by 10 teams
1945	Boston (N), Cincinnati, Philadelphia (N)	Portland, Seattle, San Francisco (3), 7 others top at least one team
1946	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	San Francisco, Oakland (3), Baltimore (2),
1947	St. Louis (A)	19 teams including all 8 in the Pacific Coast League
1948	St. Louis (A)	14 teams, including 7 of 8 teams in the PCL
1949	St. Louis (A)	19 teams, including all 8 PCL teams
1950	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	14 top Philadelphia, 17 top St. Louis
1951	St. Louis (A)	Montreal, Toronto, Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, Portland, OR, Denver, Birmingham
1952	Boston (N)	Hollywood, Seattle, Portland OR, San Diego, Los Angeles, Montreal, Toronto, Denver
1953	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	Los Angeles, Toronto (2), Toledo, Denver (1)
1954	Philadelphia (A)	Toronto, Atlanta, Houston
1955	Washington	Denver
1979	Oakland	Denver, Columbus, Tabasco, Mexico City Diablos Rojos, Yucatan, Nashville
1983	Cleveland, Minnesota, Seattle	Louisville
1984	Cleveland, Pittsburgh	Louisville
1988	Chicago (A), Seattle, Atlanta	Buffalo
1989	Chicago (A), Atlanta	Buffalo
1990	Atlanta	Buffalo
1991	Cleveland, Montreal	Buffalo
2001	Montreal	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock
2002	Montreal, Florida	Sacramento
2004	Montreal	Sacramento

## **A LOOK BACK AT THE BOOM, DECLINE, AND REBIRTH OF MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

Minor League Baseball enjoyed a huge post-World War II attendance boom. But then there was a big decline in the number of teams and leagues, along with attendance, that lasted through the 1960's.

This section takes a look back at 1949, when total Minor League attendance reached levels that would not be seen again until a half-century later. It also examines 1961 and 1962, when Minor League attendance fell below 10 million, and for many of the leagues still operating then, survival was not assured.

There are tables listing 1949, 1961, and 1962 Minor League attendance by league and by classification. The number of teams in every league, and the average attendance per team in each league, is also included. The team with the highest attendance in every league, and the team with the lowest attendance in every league, is listed.

The old classification system of Class B, C, and D leagues was still in use in 1949, 1961, and 1962. In 1963, most surviving leagues from those classifications became full-season Class A, short-season Class A, and Rookie Leagues. There were no short-season leagues in 1949. The Pacific Coast League played a 188 game schedule, and other Triple-A, and Double-A leagues played 154 games. Class B leagues generally played between 140-154 games, Class C leagues played 124-150 games, and most Class D leagues played 120-140 games.

Major League teams had many more Minor League affiliates about 75 years ago. In 1950, the Brooklyn Dodgers had 22 Minor League teams, while the St. Louis Cardinals had 21. The Giants, Yankees, Athletics, Indians, and Cubs each had at least 15 affiliates. Today, most Major League teams have from 5 to 8 Minor League affiliates.

Data in this section comes from the 1950 and 1962 editions of The Sporting News Official Baseball Guide. These books were downloaded from the archive.org Website, which obtained them from the University of Florida library. The books were donated to the University by Red Barber, a UF alumnus, who along with Mel Allen, was the first broadcaster inducted into the Baseball Hall-of-Fame. 1962 attendance data is from the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball – Third Edition.

### **1949 – WHEN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SET A RECORD THAT LASTED DECADES**

In the late 1940's professional baseball attendance was at an all-time high, up to that point. Major League attendance reached 20,920,842 in 1948. This was up from just 8,772,746 in 1944. The 1948 total would not be topped until 1962, when there were 4 more Major League teams. The 1948 average attendance per MLB team was 1,307,553. That average figure was not surpassed until 1977. In 1949, Major League attendance was 20,215,365.

There were other leagues that were not part of 'Organized' baseball in 1949, and whose statistics were not reported in The Sporting News Guide. What were called the 'Negro Leagues' were still in operation, just two years after Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby integrated the Major Leagues. Limited attendance data for the Negro Leagues can be found on Retrosheet.org, and appears in the Number Tamer 2019 through 2023 Major League Baseball Attendance Analyses. Some of those teams drew well until the late 1940's. They featured many players who would have been big Major League stars, had they been allowed to play there. Also operating in 1949 was an independent Mexican League, which did not join Organized Baseball (NAPBL) until 1955. Attendance figures from that league are also not available.

Minor League total regular season attendance reached 39,640,443 in 1949, according to Minor League Baseball. The 1950 Sporting News Baseball Guide reports a 1949 regular season total of 39,684,550. Post-season 1949 Minor League attendance was 2,083,394. The NAPBL affiliated leagues did not top the 1949 regular season record until 2004. The combined NAPBL-Independent league total surpassed the 1949 record in 1999.

In 1949, there were 448 teams in the 59 leagues that compiled attendance. 47 of those leagues had 8 teams, and the other 12 leagues had 6 teams each. In 2019, there were 15 NAPBL leagues that charged admission to their games. Those leagues had 176 teams. The Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Midwest Leagues had 16 teams each. 8 independent leagues operated, and 56 of their teams reported 2019 attendance. Among the 1949 leagues still operating in 2019 was the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, now named the New York-Penn League. Since 2021, there are 120 MLB-affiliated teams in the 11 leagues that charged admission. 95 independent teams, counting all 'road' teams, and all teams in the United Shore and Mavericks Leagues, in 9 leagues that operated in 2023.

The Pacific Coast League, then thought to be almost as good as the Majors, had the highest attendance in the Minors. In 1949, the 8 team league, with a 188 game schedule, drew 3,751,929, an average of 468,991 per team. This average per team compares with the 440,909 per team that the 16-team P.C.L. averaged in 2019, when it played a 140-game schedule. 6 of the 8 teams in the league in 1949 played in markets that later joined the Major Leagues.

**1949 – WHEN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SET A RECORD THAT LASTED DECADES**

The other Triple-A leagues drew considerably less than the P.C.L., yet averaged better than 250,000 per team. The overall Triple-A average per team of 336,625 compares with a 450,013 average in **2019**, and 428,154 in **2023**.

There were only 2 Double-A leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In **2019**, the 3 Double-A leagues averaged 292,754 per team, and in **2023**, they averaged 286,615.

Among the 4 Class A leagues, the Western League had the most success at the gate, averaging 227,309 per team, with all 6 teams topping 100,000. Denver led that league, drawing 463,039, which would remain as the highest attendance by a Class A team until 1994, when it was topped by West Michigan of the Midwest League.

Class B, C, and D leagues had much lower attendance. For a team to draw 100,000 in those leagues was exceptionally good. Some teams outside of the United States did well. Havana, Cuba topped all Class B teams, drawing 226,293. Quebec City led all Class C teams with attendance of 176,779. Just 5 of 190 teams, playing in the 25 Class D leagues, reached 100,000, with the highest figure of 137,340 at Hamilton, Ontario.

**INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**

The San Francisco Seals of the Pacific Coast League drew 670,563 in 1946. That single season Minor League attendance record was not broken until 1982 when Louisville drew 868,418.

There were 13 teams that topped 400,000 in attendance in 1949. This included 7 of the 8 teams in the Pacific Coast League. Seattle of that league had the highest Minor League attendance with 545,434. 5 other teams drew at least 300,000, and there were 18 teams with attendance between 200,000 and 300,000. In **2019**, there were 27 MLB-affiliated teams that drew at least 400,000. An additional 33 MLB-affiliated and 4 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 399,999 in **2019**. In **2023**, 22 MLB-affiliated, and 3 independent teams, reached at least 400,000. 22 other MLB-affiliated teams, and 2 other independent teams, had a total attendance between 300,000 and 399,999.

Major League Baseball only had 16 teams, located in 10 different markets in 1949. Quite a few cities that had Minor League teams in 1949 later joined the Majors. Listed below is the 1949 attendance for Minor League teams located in, or very close to, cities that later had Major League teams.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Seattle	545,434	Oakland	534,711	Hollywood, CA	502,445
San Diego	493,780	Montreal	473,798	Denver	463,039
San Francisco	447,022	Dallas	404,851	Los Angeles	402,089
Atlanta	370,361	Toronto	364,962	St. Paul	352,911
Milwaukee	266,061	Fort Worth	265,982	Houston	263,965
Minneapolis	247,637	Kansas City	216,754	Baltimore	203,823
Miami	170,466	Phoenix	126,347	St. Petersburg	108,397
Tampa	105,949	Miami Beach	90,682	Fort Lauderdale	66,544

In addition to the cities listed above, there were 2 Triple-A teams in the New York City area. Newark drew 88,170, the lowest attendance in Triple-A, and Jersey City's attendance was 174,314.

**INTO THE 1950'S**

Television cut into Major League attendance starting in 1949. By 1953, MLB attendance had fallen to 14,383,797, before team relocations helped it begin a gradual climb.

But the Minor Leagues were not that fortunate. Televised Major League games, and just television in general, along with easier access to Major League ballparks, home air conditioning, and rundown Minor League ballparks, drastically reduced attendance. Many Minor League cities were simply too small to support a team in the long run. In 1954, total Minor League attendance was 18,674,503, which was less than half of the 1949 total. 7 years later, that 1954 total was cut in half. By the early 1960's, more than two thirds of the cities that hosted a Minor League team in 1949 no longer had one.

## 1949 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	2,004,270	8	250,534	Indianapolis	413,973	Toledo	108,712
International	2,322,801	8	290,350	Montreal	473,798	Newark, NJ	88,170
Pacific Coast	3,751,929	8	468,991	Seattle	545,434	Portland, OR	378,892
<b>Class AAA Total</b>	<b>8,079,000</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>336,625</b>				
Southern Assoc.	1,947,573	8	243,447	Birmingham	421,305	Mobile	152,117
Texas	2,007,927	8	250,991	Dallas	404,851	Beaumont	116,264
<b>Class AA Total</b>	<b>3,955,500</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>247,219</b>				
Central	557,798	6	92,966	Charleston, WV	183,352	Muskegon	46,560
Eastern	1,016,789	8	127,099	Albany, NY	198,256	Utica	72,689
South Atlantic	988,088	8	123,511	Macon	212,416	Charleston, SC	94,816
Western	1,363,854	6	227,309	Denver	463,039	Sioux City, IA	125,356
<b>Class A Total</b>	<b>3,926,529</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>140,233</b>				
Big State	784,082	8	98,010	Austin	188,193	Greenville	58,500
Carolina	789,539	8	98,692	Winston-Salem	153,110	Martinsville	32,489
Colonial	225,097	6	37,516	Bristol, CT	62,485	Poughkeepsie	25,123
Florida Internat'l	899,571	8	112,446	Havana, Cuba	226,293	Lakeland	50,108
Inter-State	585,053	8	73,132	Allentown, PA	100,788	Hagerstown	34,762
New England	362,002	8	45,250	Springfield, MA	102,387	Providence	7,305
Piedmont	804,390	6	134,065	Richmond	177,354	Newport News	101,708
Southeastern	563,586	8	70,448	Jackson, MS	129,140	Anniston	40,640
Three I	782,910	8	97,864	Waterloo	146,421	Springfield, IL	48,952
Tri-State	722,914	8	90,364	Spartanburg	128,490	Sumter	55,309
Western Int'l	793,996	8	99,250	Spokane	186,648	Bremerton	35,440
<b>Class B Total</b>	<b>7,313,140</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>87,061</b>				
Arizona-Texas	494,208	6	82,368	Phoenix	126,347	Tucson	53,771
Border	359,916	6	59,986	Ottawa	78,577	Kingston, ONT	38,671
California	789,940	8	98,743	Fresno	145,946	Ventura	53,071
Canadian-American	696,726	8	87,091	Quebec City	176,779	Rome, NY	40,331
Central Association	265,581	6	44,264	Cedar Rapids	84,185	Rockford	19,304
Cotton States	437,383	8	54,673	Pine Bluff	82,442	Helena, AR	34,468
East Texas	423,790	8	52,974	Paris	66,509	Henderson	34,500
Evangeline	545,121	8	68,140	Alexandria	107,597	Abbeville	48,780
Middle Atlantic	471,811	8	58,976	Johnstown, PA	105,776	New Castle	28,233
Northern	661,111	8	82,639	Duluth	107,548	Grand Forks	49,757
Pioneer	830,395	8	103,799	Billings	174,080	Idaho Falls	41,195
Sunset	367,899	8	45,987	Porterville	66,280	Riverside	32,450
Western Assoc.	606,340	8	75,793	St. Joseph	126,301	Leavenworth	33,132
W.Texas-New Mex	674,465	8	84,308	Amarillo	111,487	Clovis	47,697
<b>Class C Total</b>	<b>7,624,686</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>71,931</b>				

## 1949 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Alabama State	219,910	8	27,489	Andalusia	39,958	Troy	18,323
Appalachian	390,768	8	48,846	Bluefield	116,572	Kingsport	23,967
Blue Ridge	171,557	6	28,593	Mount Airy	36,230	Wytheville	19,753
Coastal Plain	566,873	8	70,859	Kinston	88,814	Tarboro	41,212
Eastern Shore	195,164	6	32,527	Salisbury	39,063	Rehoboth Bch.	22,358
Far West	222,842	8	27,855	Klamath Falls	58,474	Vallejo	5,999
Florida State	453,707	8	56,713	Gainesville	84,718	Orlando	42,425
Georgia-Alabama	379,263	8	47,408	LaGrange	59,952	Carrollton	36,029
Georgia-Florida	406,875	8	50,859	Albany, GA	93,096	Moultrie	28,911
Georgia State	351,881	8	43,985	Dublin	62,049	Baxley	29,257
K-O-M	359,078	8	44,885	Ponca City	62,082	Miami, OK	32,887
Kitty	293,048	8	36,631	Owensboro	67,700	Mayfield	23,244
Longhorn	426,863	8	53,358	San Angelo	83,245	Sweetwater	33,770
Missouri-Ohio Val.	203,064	6	33,844	Paducah	54,859	Belleville	13,500
Mountain State	229,726	8	28,716	Harlan	49,615	Newport	14,148
North Atlantic	242,021	8	30,253	Stroudsburg	39,890	Nazareth	17,716
North Carolina St.	346,386	8	43,298	Hi Point	95,792	Landis	24,806
Ohio - Indiana	430,790	8	53,849	Springfield	67,568	Lima	31,298
P.O.N.Y.	602,273	8	75,284	Hamilton,ONT	137,340	Oleon	40,264
Rio Grande Valley	271,139	6	45,190	Corpus Christi	97,192	Robstown	19,753
Sooner State	369,439	8	46,180	Pauls Valley	61,085	Seminole	33,258
Tobacco State	353,844	8	44,231	Lumberton	60,038	Red Springs	33,303
Virginia	269,313	6	44,886	Petersburg	76,000	Lawrenceville	29,000
Western Carolina	401,365	8	50,171	Newton	82,481	Hendersonville	21,235
Wisconsin State	628,506	8	78,563	Oshkosh	115,956	Wisconsin Rap	52,828
<b>Class D Total</b>	<b>8,785,695</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>46,241</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>39,684,550</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>88,582</b>				

NOTE: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: 1950 Sporting News Official Baseball Guide

## 1961 AND 1962 – MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE HITS BOTTOM

By 1961, the number of leagues was down to 22 with just 147 teams. Both the number of teams and leagues continued to fall through the early 1960's. The Southern Association had its last year in 1961, as did the Sophomore League (named the Longhorn League in 1949), and the Three I (Illinois, Iowa, Indiana) League. A new, short-lived Georgia-Florida League began in 1962. All 1961 leagues had 6 or 8 teams, with the exception of the Florida State League, which had 7. Two leagues in Mexico were now part of the NAPBL. By 1962, only 134 teams operated. The Midwest League had 10 teams that year, but the Western Carolina and Georgia-Florida Leagues had just 4 teams. Some of what had been the best-drawing markets in the Minors now had Major League teams.

Total attendance in 1961 was just 9,766,505, an average of 66,439 per team, the lowest average per team since at least the 1930's. Post-season attendance was 208,729. The lowest total was reached in 1962, when attendance fell to 9,732,582, but because there were fewer teams, the average per team rose to 72,631.

In 1961 and 1962, some leagues played shorter schedules than in 1949, but still longer than they play today. The Triple-A leagues played 154 games in 1961, while the Double-A leagues had 136, 140 or 154 game schedules. Class A leagues had 140 game schedules, while the Class B and C leagues played 128-140 games. Most Class D leagues played 120-140 games. The Western Carolinas League had a 104 game schedule, and the Appalachian League was the Minors' first short-season league, playing 68 games.

In 1961, the Pacific Coast League had the highest attendance, just as it did in 1949. The International League had the best total attendance in 1962. In each of those years, the Mexican League was the only league whose average attendance per team surpassed 200,000. The 3 Triple-A leagues were the only others to average at least 100,000 per team in both 1961 and 1962. Texas League teams averaged 100,000+ in 1962. Average attendance per team was under 60,000 in all Class B, C, and D Leagues in both seasons. In 1961, the average Triple-A, Double-A, and A team drew less than half of what it drew in 1949.

## INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

In 1961, Baltimore, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Francisco-Oakland, and Los Angeles, which had been Minor League markets in 1949, had Major League teams. Houston joined the Majors in 1962.

The Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance in 1961, drawing 285,301, and in 1962, with a total of 349,753. That team frequently had the best Minor League attendance in the 1960's and 1970's. Buffalo had the highest attendance among U.S. teams in 1961, with a total of 259,724. By 1969, Buffalo's attendance was down to 77,808, and the team moved to Winnipeg in the middle of the 1970 season. But the Bisons were back in Western New York in 1979. They opened a new ballpark in 1988, and became the biggest draw in Minor League history, surpassing one million for 6 years in a row. The Bisons had topped 500,000 for 32 straight years through **2019**. That streak has ended.

Just 6 other teams, besides the Mexico City Reds, and Buffalo reached 200,000 in 1961. Veracruz, Poza Rica, and the Mexico City Tigers of the Mexican League did it, along with Rochester, Tacoma, and Vancouver.

Double-A Tulsa, Little Rock, Birmingham, Chattanooga, and Class A Greenville were the only U.S. teams below the Triple-A level to reach 100,000 in 1961. None of the 91 Class B, C or D teams drew at least 100,000, and just 18 of these teams topped 50,000.

In 1962, Rochester topped all U.S./Canadian teams with a total attendance of 272,178. Jacksonville, Buffalo, and San Diego, along with the Mexico City Red Devils, Mexico City Tigers, Monterrey, and Poza Rica of the Mexican League, were the other teams to surpass 200,000.

El Paso, Tulsa, Albuquerque, and San Antonio of the Double-A Texas League surpassed 100,000 in 1962. Class A Macon, and Class B Kinston, were the only other teams below the Double-A level to reach 100,000. Just 22 of the 86 Class B, C, and D teams topped 50,000.

In 1963, the Minor Leagues were reorganized into the system used through 2019. The Eastern and South Atlantic (renamed the Southern League in 1964) Leagues became Double-A leagues. Class B, C, and D leagues, with one exception, became Class A leagues. That exception was the Appalachian League, which was placed in a new classification called 'Rookie' League. A year later, the Pioneer League was given a 'Rookie' classification.

The next reorganization was in 2021, when short-season leagues were eliminated. There are now 2 Triple-A Leagues, and 3 leagues each in Double-A, High-A, and Single-A. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues still maintain a partnership with Major League Baseball, but are now independent pro leagues.



## 1961 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	788,704	6	131,451	Indianapolis	179,423	Dallas-Ft.Wor.	105,933
International	1,244,631	8	155,579	Buffalo	259,724	Jersey City	61,940
Pacific Coast	1,349,810	8	168,726	Tacoma	243,790	Salt Lake City	106,454
<b>Class AAA Total</b>	<b>3,383,145</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>153,779</b>				
Mexican	1,245,923	6	207,654	Mex City Reds	285,301	Monterrey	152,776
Southern	647,801	8	80,975	Little Rock	136,316	Shreveport	28,349
Texas	468,181	6	78,030	Tulsa	130,443	Rio Grande	43,184
<b>Class AA Total</b>	<b>2,361,905</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>118,095</b>				
Eastern	382,132	6	63,689	Williamsport	79,183	Lancaster, PA	51,311
South Atlantic	492,490	8	61,561	Greenville	100,168	Jacksonville	25,156
<b>Class A Total</b>	<b>874,622</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>62,473</b>				
Carolina	261,266	6	43,544	Winston-Salem	70,236	Raleigh	26,480
Northwest	287,312	6	47,885	Salem	72,703	Wenatchee	31,338
Three I	286,554	6	47,759	Cedar Rapids	69,617	Des Moines	33,337
<b>Class B Total</b>	<b>835,132</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>46,396</b>				
California	171,503	6	28,584	Bakersfield	45,992	Stockton	11,660
Mexican Center	193,040	6	32,173	S. Luis Potosi	61,274	Celaya	15,904
Northern	207,325	6	34,554	Duluth-Superior	47,163	St. Cloud	24,320
Pioneer	260,896	6	43,483	Magic Valley	61,405	Idaho Falls	29,576
<b>Class C Total</b>	<b>832,764</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>34,699</b>				
Alabama - Florida	138,086	6	23,014	Pensacola	46,993	Dothan	7,963
Appalachian	151,261	8	18,908	Salem	34,125	Morristown	11,772
Florida State	190,852	7	27,265	St. Petersburg	53,330	Leesburg	10,605
Midwest	415,961	8	51,995	Davenport	74,617	Keokuk	25,064
New York-Penn	271,098	8	33,887	Jamestown	65,402	Wellsville	17,385
Sophomore	179,447	6	29,908	El Paso	79,115	Alpine	9,392
Western Carolina	132,202	6	22,034	Statesville	34,954	Belmont	10,081
<b>Class D Total</b>	<b>1,478,907</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>30,182</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>9,766,475</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>66,439</b>				

NOTE: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: 1962 Sporting News Official Baseball Guide

**1962 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE**

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	765,358	6	127,560	Oklahoma City	184,683	Louisville	70,550
International	1,473,596	8	184,200	Rochester	272,178	Richmond	101,853
Pacific Coast	1,055,745	8	131,968	San Diego	211,514	Spokane	80,519
<b>Class AAA Total</b>	<b>3,294,699</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>149,759</b>				
Mexican	1,423,013	6	237,169	Mex City Reds	349,753	Puebla	127,985
Texas	661,445	6	110,241	Tulsa	182,895	Austin	41,057
<b>Class AA Total</b>	<b>2,084,458</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>173,705</b>				
Eastern	422,222	6	70,370	Elmira	83,328	Charleston, WV	53,935
South Atlantic	520,066	8	65,008	Macon	100,297	Augusta, GA	39,476
<b>Class A Total</b>	<b>942,288</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>67,306</b>				
Carolina	479,522	8	59,940	Kinston	141,227	Raleigh	29,552
Northwest	279,124	6	46,521	Tri-City	68,399	Yakima	35,059
<b>Class B Total</b>	<b>758,646</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>54,189</b>				
California	279,583	8	34,948	San Jose	62,695	Reno	22,819
Mexican Center	283,939	6	47,323	S. Luis Potosi	68,624	Aguascalientes	35,794
Northern	320,051	8	40,006	Winnipeg	83,645	Eau Claire	20,906
Pioneer	196,789	6	32,798	Magic Valley	49,297	Pocatello	16,092
<b>Class C Total</b>	<b>1,080,362</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>38,584</b>				
Alabama - Florida	112,403	6	18,734	Pensacola	25,201	Ozark/Andalus	15,183
Appalachian	136,021	6	22,670	Salem	40,913	Middlesboro	14,523
Florida State	389,937	8	48,742	Miami	90,887	Palatka	28,037
Midwest	533,079	10	53,308	Quad Cities	75,568	Keokuk	28,787
New York-Penn	208,749	6	34,792	Jamestown	68,632	Olean	11,104
Georgia-Florida	92,875	4	23,219	Brunswick	36,123	Moultrie	18,560
Western Carolina	77,379	4	19,345	Statesville	28,723	Newton-Con.	10,452
<b>Class D Total</b>	<b>1,550,443</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>35,237</b>				
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>9,710,896</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>72,469</b>				

NOTES: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance  
 NAPBL Minor League Baseball reported a total attendance of 9,732,582 in 1962.

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball - Third Edition

**ATTENDANCE FOR OTHER LEAGUES IN 1962**

MLB: 21,375,215 in 1962, averaging 14,958 per date. 2019 total attendance was 68,493,093, an average of 28,338 per date.  
 2023 total attendance was 70,747,365, averaging 29,283 per date.

NFL: 4,003,421 (40,051 average per game); AFL 1,147,302 (20,487 average); Combined NFL/AFL 5,150,723 (33,446 average).  
 2022 NFL attendance was a record high 18,096,245, an average of 66,676 per game. The average was not a record high.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2018-19 attendance was 21,964,447, an average of 17,857 per game.  
 In 2022-23, record highs were set with a total of 22,234,502, and an average per game of 18,077.

NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2018-19 attendance was 22,186,851, an average of 17,456 per game.  
 In 2022-23, the total was a record-high 22,436,532, an average of 17,101 per game. The average was not a record high.

**JUST HOW LOW DID IT GO?**

This is another version of the table on page 293, showing Minor League attendance in markets that later joined the Major Leagues. This table shows just how fast attendance fell in these markets after the post-World War II boom. It lists the highest 1946-1952 attendance, and then the lowest attendance in subsequent seasons. Television was a main reason for the attendance decline, as was the fact that too many cities that couldn't support a team had one.

Newark and Jersey City never had Major League teams, but are included here since they are in the New York metropolitan area.

Some of the markets in this table currently have Minor League teams.

Major League Team/Market	Year Joined Majors	Top Former Leading Minor League Team(s) in Market	1946-1952 High Attendance	Year	Post-1952 Low Attendance	Year
Arizona (Phoenix)	1998	Phoenix Firebirds	126,347	1949	49,270	1953
Atlanta	1966	Atlanta Crackers	404,584	1947	59,061	1961
Baltimore	1954	Baltimore Orioles	620,726	1946	153,828	1952
Colorado (Denver)	1993	Denver Bears	463,039	1949	112,118	1963
Dallas-Ft. Worth	1972	Dallas Eagles	404,851	1949	116,085	1958
"		Fort Worth Cats	354,288	1948	75,188	1957
Houston	1962	Houston Buffalos	401,383	1948	118,584	1961
Kansas City	1955	Kansas City Blues	379,063	1947	141,905	1954
Los Angeles	1958	Los Angeles Angels	622,485	1947	220,547	1957
"		Hollywood Stars	513,056	1946	165,517	1956
Miami	1993	Miami Marlins	170,466	1949	67,572	1953
"		Ft. Lauderdale	66,544	1949	28,222	1963
Milwaukee	1953, 70	Milwaukee Brewers	364,510	1948	145,868	1950
Minnesota	1961	Minneapolis Millers	274,890	1948	120,185	1952
"		St. Paul Saints	352,911	1949	102,004	1956
Montreal	1969	Montreal Royals	477,638	1948	111,991	1960
New York		Newark Bears	264,758	1946	88,170	1949
"		Jersey City Giants	337,531	1947	63,191	1950
San Diego	1969	San Diego Padres	493,780	1949	120,848	1960
San Francisco-Oakland	1958	San Francisco Seals	670,563	1946	161,570	1955
"		Oakland Oaks	634,311	1946	135,784	1953
Seattle	1969, 77	Seattle Rainiers	548,308	1947	130,862	1967
Tampa Bay	1998	Tampa Yankees	130,242	1947	29,938	1963
"		St. Pete. Cardinals	139,464	1951	30,759	1954
Toronto	1977	Toronto Maple Leafs	446,040	1952	94,308	1967

**A RESURGENCE IN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL**

With low attendance, and many rundown ballparks in the early 1960's, it was thought that much of Minor League Baseball would soon be gone. The Triple-A and perhaps the Double-A leagues would survive. However many baseball people believed that college baseball would replace the lower level leagues as feeders to the Majors.

In the late-1970's, Minor League attendance began a steady increase. Part of it was that more teams were needed due to Major League expansion. Then, starting in the late-1980's, better marketing, and new ballparks led to the attendance boom that continues today. Independent leagues started play in 1993, adding to the number of teams.

Even the availability of more Major League games than ever on television and other devices, in high-definition color, for that matter, has not stopped the growth of Minor League Baseball. In **2019**, total attendance was around 5 times what it was in the 1960's, and NAPBL attendance per team was up better than 3-fold. For what was once seen as a dying industry, Minor League Baseball is quite healthy today, with a very bright future.

The table that starts below, and continues on the next page shows the attendance decline and resurgence in cities that had Minor League teams in the late 1940's, and still had full-season NAPBL Minor League teams in the 1990's and later. It does not include 2019 short-season or independent team markets, except for Spokane, Lancaster and York, since they play a shorter schedule than all teams played prior to the late 1950's.

The table lists the highest attendance for each city in the decade or so from 1946 forward. Nearly all of those highs were set from 1946 through 1949. It then shows each city's lowest post-1945 yearly attendance. This excludes 2021. In most cases, that took place in the 1950's and 1960's. The last columns list the highest attendance achieved in that city. Many of these cities lost their Minor League teams in the 1950's or 1960's, only to regain them later. This list only includes cities that had teams in the late 1940's and/or the early 1950's.

This table shows the incredible decline in attendance that took place in the 1950's as television was adopted in almost all homes. Then it depicts the boom in attendance that took place starting in the 1980's.

**GROWTH, DECLINCE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES**

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year	Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year	Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
Orlando	61,509	1948	13,554	1961	217,716	1993
Sacramento	447,556	1949	82,324	1976	901,214	2001
Charlotte	122,211	1948	30,769	1972	687,715	2014
Raleigh (Carolina in 1993)	150,110	1947	25,562	1966	328,207	1993
Durham	152,095	1947	24,210	1967	554,788	2015
Portland, OR	421,137	1947	87,438	1963	454,197	2002
Indianapolis	494,455	1948	117,415	1972	662,536	2015
Nashville	269,893	1948	54,564	1963	603,135	2018
Hartford-New Britain	140,249	1946	36,281	1952	414,946	2019
San Antonio	295,103	1946	38,024	1969	411,959	1994
Columbus, OH	216,388	1948	78,132	1952	666,797	2009
Salt Lake City	205,861	1946	56,883	1974	713,224	1994
Greenville, SC	130,205	1947	11,481	1972	349,116	2008
West Palm Beach	81,132	1949	16,437	1966	165,656	1981
Austin (Round Rock)	188,193	1949	41,057	1962	700,277	2005
Las Vegas	61,050	1949	23,845	1958	650,934	2019
Oklahoma City	244,835	1947	46,752	1975	542,095	2005
Norfolk (Tidewater area)	140,553	1949	30,000	1955	560,211	1995
St. Paul	352,911	1949	102,004	1956	473,911	2022
Reading, PA	106,368	1953	40,594	1965	486,570	2002
Harrisburg, PA	89,197	1947	30,592	1952	301,588	2015
Lancaster, PA (Indy now)	85,796	1949	41,913	1952	378,310	2005
York, PA (Indy now)	126,679	1948	27,826	1967	293,967	2008

## GROWTH, DECLINE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year	Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year	Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
Grand Rapids (W. Michigan)	62,982	1949	21,230	1951	547,401	1996
Birmingham	445,926	1948	28,001	1965	467,867	1994
Greensboro	171,801	1946	26,465	1968	441,106	2007
Winston-Salem	233,507	1947	30,235	1973	312,416	2011
Jacksonville, FL	142,721	1953	25,156	1961	420,495	2004
Albuquerque	116,930	1948	44,526	1960	602,129	2009
Amarillo	132,128	1955	45,691	1974	427,791	2019
Louisville	355,241	1946	70,550	1962	1,052,438	1983
New Orleans (until 2021)	400,036	1947	50,369	1958	519,584	1998
Memphis	361,174	1948	48,487	1960	887,976	2001
Pawtucket (until 2021)	92,787	1947	61,401	1967	688,421	2005
Buffalo	393,843	1949	96,236	1950	1,188,972	1991
Fresno	145,946	1949	22,362	1965	563,079	2002
Richmond, VA	258,661	1957	31,232	1961	533,076	1993
Scranton (Scr.-Wilkes Barre)	181,302	1946	62,266	1953	580,908	2007
Wilkes Barre, PA	131,529	1946	55,184	1948	X	X
Little Rock	225,780	1951	51,514	1955	377,977	2008
Tulsa	223,569	1948	46,098	1978	408,183	2010
Albany, NY (Indy. now)	210,804	1948	43,385	1958	324,003	1985
Mobile	237,322	1947	35,775	1970	332,639	1997
Pensacola	117,696	1947	24,301	1960	328,147	2012
Knoxville	150,396	1950	21,390	1967	313,796	2017
Dayton	157,837	1948	45,849	1950	597,433	2010
Des Moines	232,038	1948	33,337	1961	576,310	2007
Spokane (Short-Sea. until 2021)	287,185	1947	17,940	1954	249,012	2023
Omaha	316,012	1955	109,851	1962	449,753	1997
Rochester, NY	443,536	1949	106,209	1966	515,436	1998
Columbia, SC	110,853	1948	25,998	1961	315,034	2017
Toledo	343,672	1953	86,428	1970	590,159	2007
Portland, ME	117,606	1948	75,083	1947	434,684	2004
Syracuse	288,141	1947	53,431	1956	446,025	1999
Colorado Springs (Indy. now)	170,041	1952	45,184	1957	350,374	2014
El Paso	107,778	1949	37,337	1970	578,952	2015
Allentown, PA (Lehigh Valley)	102,471	1948	47,795	1958	645,905	2010
Reno	56,702	1957	15,178	1964	466,606	2009
Tacoma	113,783	1947	42,463	1951	384,498	2023
Chattanooga	252,703	1952	25,767	1965	292,920	1994
Montgomery, AL	145,458	1947	20,617	1962	322,946	2004
Corpus Christi	112,625	1956	53,489	1953	506,398	2006
Midland, TX	77,601	1956	17,106	1959	317,233	2013
Wilmington, DE	123,491	1947	24,526	1952	358,766	1995
Charleston, SC	184,851	1947	19,536	1978	305,622	2017
San Jose	113,858	1949	23,845	1958	222,547	2011
Quad Cities	133,505	1949	53,213	1967	260,471	1994
Binghamton, NY	182,778	1949	47,465	1963	259,183	1992

**NOTES ON NCAA COLLEGE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL****NCAA DIVISION I COLLEGE BASEBALL**

Preliminary data shows that the top 10 teams in total attendance in **2023** drew a combined 2,774,001, averaging 7,642 per date or game. The top 50 teams drew a combined 6,463,763, an average of 3,864 per date. (If the 2024 NCAA Baseball Record Book is issued, all attendance statistics will be updated.) College World Series champion LSU led in total attendance for the 25<sup>th</sup> time in the last 28 seasons, drawing 447,527, and a record-high average of 11,188 per game. This was followed by Arkansas (370,940, average-9,762), Mississippi State (332,838, average-11,095, including an NCAA on-campus, season high crowd of 16,423), Ole Miss (323,047, average- 10,095), Florida (259,236, average-6,029), and South Carolina (256,075, average-7,113). 16 teams averaged at least 4,000 per date or game. The Southeastern Conference led for the 27<sup>th</sup> straight year, drawing 2.99 million to their 2023 on-campus home games.

In **2022**, the top 10 teams in College Baseball total attendance drew a combined 2,493,643, averaging 7,673 per date. Arkansas led with a total of 363,153, and a 10,376 average per date. LSU was just a bit behind, with a total of 362,759, and a 10,365 average per date. Following these 2 schools were Mississippi State (318,971 total, 10,289 average), Ole Miss (309,949 total, 9,998 average), and Texas (235,220 total, 6,918 average). The top 50 teams in total attendance drew a combined total of 5,869,094, averaging 3,819 per date. The **2022** total for these 50 teams was 520,513 (9.7%) higher than what the 50 teams with the highest **2019** total attendance drew that year. Those top 50 teams in the 2022 group drew 355 (10.2%) more per date than the teams in the 2019 top 50 group.

Just like Major League and Minor League Baseball, NCAA College Baseball was adversely affected by Covid in **2021**, with reduced capacity, and lower attendance for most teams. Ole Miss led in attendance in 2021, drawing 303,859, and averaged 7,596 per date. They were followed by Arkansas (264,643, 6,964 per date), Mississippi State (235,207, 6,031 per date), LSU (144,982, 3,815 per date), and Texas Tech (119,916, 3,527 per date).

The top 10 teams in **2021** attendance drew a combined 1,504,011, averaging 4,087 per date. The 20 teams with the highest attendance, drew 2,021,596, and averaged 2,947 per date.

When the **2020** season was halted in the middle of March, LSU had the top average per date (10,296), followed by Arkansas (8,953), Mississippi State (8,732), and Ole Miss (8,652).

The top 50 teams in **2019** attendance were listed in the 2020 NCAA Record Book. Those 50 teams drew 5,348,581 in 1,544 dates, averaging 3,464 per date. LSU drew 425,377 (10,634 per date) to lead the NCAA. Through 2019, LSU led the NCAA in total baseball attendance for 24 straight years (since 1996), and in average per date each year since 1996, except for 2007, when Arkansas was the leader. LSU averaged better than 10,000 per date each season from 2010 through 2019, and in 2022. In **2019** college football attendance, LSU had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest total (705,892), and the 5<sup>th</sup> best average per game (100,842). In **2022**, LSU was 4<sup>th</sup> in total attendance (704,172), and average per game (100,596). They were 6<sup>th</sup> in Women's Basketball attendance (129,752, 8,650 per game) in **2022-23**.

Most of the usual College Baseball attendance leaders finished in the Top 10 in **2019** total attendance: LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Ole Miss, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas, and Clemson. They were joined by Louisiana and Texas Tech in 2019. All these teams except Texas Tech also finished in the Top 10 in average per date. Nebraska was in the Top 10 in average per date, but not in the Top 10 in total attendance.

The SEC continues to be the baseball attendance leader among college conferences. In **2022**, the SEC drew 2,659,201 (5,781 per date), topping 2 million for the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year, excluding 2021. In **2019**, the SEC total attendance was 2,554,427 (5,213 per date). These figures probably include post-season games. The SEC has led the NCAA in total attendance and average per date for the last 20 seasons, and 25 times in the last 31 years, also excluding 2021. Attendance by SEC teams has surpassed one million for 18 years in a row, including 2021. The record-high regular season total attendance for SEC teams may be 2,319,937 in 2014.

In **2018**, the top 50 teams drew 5,333,906 in 1,560 dates, an average of 3,419 per date. LSU led in total attendance (399,085), and average per date (10,786).

The top 50 teams in total attendance in **2017** drew 5,534,376 in 1,599 dates, an average of 3,461 per date. LSU was the leader in both categories in 2017, drawing 418,291, an average of 10,725 per date.

In **2016**, the Top 50 teams in total attendance drew 5,511,902 in 1,611 dates, an average of 3,421 per date. LSU had the highest total attendance (433,783) and average per date (10,580).

## NOTES ON NCAA COLLEGE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

For the **2015** season, the NCAA listed attendance for 301 teams. Total attendance was 7,495,301. The top 50 teams in attendance drew a combined 5,022,496. Louisiana State University led in total attendance (421,771), and average per date (10,815).

For **2014**, the NCAA listed the top 50 teams in attendance, but did not provide a total for all teams. These top 50 teams drew a total of 5,206,928, an average of 3,285 per date. LSU averaged 10,812 per date.

In **2013**, LSU drew 413,638 for the regular season, averaging an NCAA record-high 10,885 per date. That broke the NCAA regular season average per date of 10,673, set by LSU in 2010. If post-season play is included, LSU's total attendance was a record-high 473,298, and a record-high average per date of 11,007.

## THE COLLEGE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

The College World Series is played every year in Omaha. Through 2010, it was played at Rosenblatt Stadium, which was also home to the Omaha team in the Pacific Coast League. Separate new ballparks opened in 2011. The larger park is in Omaha, and is used for the College World Series. The smaller park is located in the suburbs, and is the home of the Omaha Storm Chasers.

In 2015, total attendance for the 16 different World Series game sessions was 353,378, averaging 22,086 per session, some of which can be double-headers. Record-high for one session is 30,533 in 2008.

The 2016 College Baseball World Series drew 341,667 with 17 sessions, an average of 20,098 per session. Coastal Carolina was the winner.

In 2017, a new record-high total attendance was set as the 16 sessions of the College World Series drew 357,646, an average of 22,352 per session. Florida was the 2017 champion.

Oregon State won the College World Series in 2018, which drew 333,482 in 16 sessions, (20,843 per session).

Vanderbilt was the College World Series champion in 2019. Attendance was 332,454 in 15 sessions, an average of 22,164 per session. There was no College World Series in 2020.

Another record-high was set in 2021, as Mississippi State won the championship. The 16 sessions drew 361,711, an average of 22,607 per session. The final game drew 24,052.

In **2022**, Ole Miss won, as the CWS drew new record-highs in total attendance (366,105), and average per session (24,407).

**The College Baseball World Series attendance records were broken again in 2023 as total attendance (392,946 for 16 games), and average per game or session (24,559) reached new highs. LSU won the championship.**

**NOTES ON NCAA COLLEGE BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL****NCAA WOMEN'S SOFTBALL**

In **2023**, the top 20 teams in total attendance drew 904,440 in 483 dates, averaging 1,873 per date. Alabama led for the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year, with a total of 100,052, and a 3,573 average per date or game, followed by Arkansas (83,374 – 2,875 average), Arizona (64,168 – 2,567 average), LSU (54,022 – 2,001 average), Oklahoma (37,774 – 2,222 average), and Missouri (44,870 - 2,001 average). Oklahoma drew 8,930 on March 31, the largest home regular season crowd in NCAA Women's Softball history. The 2023 Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City drew 110,607 in 9 sessions, an average of 12,290 per session.

In **2022**, Alabama led the NCAA in regular season Women's Softball attendance for the 9<sup>th</sup> straight 'normal' season. The Crimson Tide drew 93,636, averaging 3,745 per date, followed by Arizona (74,028, 2,644 average), Arkansas (57,097, 2,039 average), LSU (47,786, 2,078 average), and Texas A&M (43,628, 1,504 average). The 20 teams with the highest total attendance drew a total of 825,166 in 486 dates, averaging 1,698 per date. The Southeastern Conference drew 507,491 in its regular season, averaging 1,547 per date. 12,533 attended a session of the 2022 Women's College World Series in Oklahoma City on June 4, the largest-ever Women's Softball crowd.

In **2021**, Alabama had the top total attendance (61,991), and average per date (1,442), followed by Arkansas (31,602 total, 1,019 average), and LSU (30,191 total, 915 average). When the **2020** season was suspended, Alabama had the top total (45,048), and average per date (3,465), followed by Arizona (2,051), Auburn (1,611), and Clemson (1,554). In **2019**, the 55 teams drew 1,152,050 in 1,121 dates, an average of 1,028 per date. The 20 teams with the highest total attendance drew a total of 742,122 in 484 dates, an average of 1,533 per date. Alabama led in total attendance, drawing 72,243, averaging 2,750 per date.

In **2018**, the 20 teams with the highest total attendance drew a total of 757,194 in 497 dates, and average of 1,523 per date. Alabama led, drawing 63,038, averaging 3,002 per date. **2017** attendance data listed average per game, instead of average per date. The top 20 teams in attendance drew a total of 842,615, an average of 1,386 per GAME. Average per date is higher since teams play doubleheaders. Alabama led in total attendance (79,218), averaging 2,641 per DATE. In **2016**, Alabama led in both total attendance (76,109) and average per date (2,927). The 10 schools with the highest total attendance in 2016 drew a combined 473,177, averaging 1,947 per date.

Alabama also holds the records for highest regular season total (**100,052 in 2023**), and average per date (3,745 in 2022). Either Alabama, Fresno State or Arizona has been the leader in all other years since 1991. **Largest crowd at a regular season game was 8,930 at Oklahoma in 2023.** Top crowd at the Women's College World Series was 12,533 in 2022 at Oklahoma City.



**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**

In addition to NCAA play in the spring, there are numerous summer college baseball leagues. These leagues are not affiliated with any school or athletic conference. Their players are amateurs, but these leagues operate in a similar way to the pro minor leagues. They use wood bats, and some leagues charge admission to games, and keep attendance figures. Many of the cities with teams in these leagues once hosted professional Minor League teams. Sources for attendance data from these leagues were league Websites and Ballpark Digest.

195 Collegiate Summer League teams listed attendance in **2023**, and they drew a total of 5,592,207, averaging 1,203 per date. As usual, the Northwoods League had the top total attendance (1,297,864). The MLB Draft League had the highest average per date (2,669). **Madison, WI led all teams in total attendance (228,692), and average per date (6,353).** Trenton of the MLB Draft League finished second in total attendance (196,669) and average per date (5,463). Savannah continued to be very successful as an exhibition team, but no longer plays in any Collegiate Summer League.

The 178 Collegiate Summer League teams with **2022** reported attendance drew 5,402,435, an average of 1,178 per date. The Northwoods League had the highest announced league total (1,160,821). The 6-team MLB-Draft League, made up of former MLB-affiliated pro Minor League teams, had the highest average per date (2,839).

**Madison, WI of the Northwoods League, had the 2022 top team total (199,785), and the best average per date (5,550), among all Summer Collegiate teams.** Trenton of the MLB-Draft League drew 195,610, averaging 5,016 per date. Savannah, which has a very unique and entertaining way of presenting its games, sold out every game as usual, averaging 4,256 per date.

More detail on **2022 and 2023 Summer Collegiate leagues** and teams that were MLB-affiliated teams can be found in this section, including team-by-team summaries for teams that were in the Minors in 2019, and historical data. A table at the end of this section shows 2023 attendance for each of these teams. Another table has 2023 Collegiate Summer Leagues attendance by league, and lists the team in each league that had the highest attendance.

The 173 Collegiate Summer League teams with **2021** reported attendance drew 3,981,808, an average of 959 per date. The Northwoods League had the highest announced league total (981,040). The 6-team MLB-Draft League likely had the highest average per date. But attendance from the West Virginia Black Bears and the Trenton Thunder (who only played one series in their home park, (because the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons were using it), was not available.

Frederick, which was in the Class A Carolina League in 2019, had the top total (125,378), and the best average per date (4,179) in 2021. This team plays in the MLB-Draft League. Savannah sold out every game as usual, averaging 3,757 per date.

In **2020**, some teams from 5 Summer Collegiate leagues allowed fans in their parks, with limited capacity. Total attendance was 383,912 in 817 dates, averaging 470 per date.

164 teams in 19 leagues reported attendance in **2019**. They drew 3,998,646 in 3,985 dates, averaging 1,003 per date. The Northwoods League, with 22 teams, drew a Summer Collegiate league record-high 1,262,625 in 769 dates, an average of 1,642 per date. The Cape Cod, Coastal Plain, Futures, and West Coast Leagues also topped 1,000 per date. Madison, WI of the Northwoods League led all teams (218,866 – 6,080 per date). Savannah averaged 4,205 per date, selling out every game again. Okotoks averaged 3,937. Overall, 15 teams reached 2,000 per date. Two teams moved from the pro independent Frontier League to collegiate leagues, and played shorter seasons. Traverse City averaged 1,674 per date in the Northwoods League in 2019, compared to 2,261 in the Frontier League in 2018. Normal averaged 705 per date in the collegiate Prospect League in 2019, compared to 1,857 per date in the 2018 Frontier League.

In **2018**, 174 teams in 20 leagues reported attendance. These teams drew 4,162,081 in 4,138 dates, averaging 1,006 per date. The 20-team Northwoods League just missed another record-high, drawing 1,162,164 in 707 dates, an average of 1,644 per date. Also topping 1,000 per date were the Cape Cod, Futures, Coastal Plain, Prospect, and West Coast Leagues. Madison had the top attendance (218,712 – 6,249 per date). Savannah sold out all 25 dates, and averaged 4,229 per date. Ballpark Digest noted that Okotoks averaged 3,676 per date, La Crosse, Kenosha, and Worcester topped 2,500 per date, and 10 other teams drew at least 2,000 per date.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**

19 leagues and 172 teams reported attendance in **2017**. The total for these teams was 4,108,188 in 4,099 dates, an average of 1,002 per date. The 20 teams in the Northwoods League drew a record-high 1,164,745 in 703 dates, averaging 1,657 per date. The Cape Cod, Futures, Coastal Plain, Great West, Prospect, and West Coast Leagues also averaged at least 1,000 per date. Madison of the Northwoods League outdrew all teams with a total of 214,485, averaging 6,308 per date. The Savannah Bananas sold out all 26 dates, and averaged 4,173. Data compiled by Ballpark Digest showed that Okotoks and Elmira topped 3,000 per date, and LaCrosse, Kenosha, Worcester, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Valley, and Newport averaged at least 2,000 per date.

Attendance was reported by 20 leagues and 169 teams in **2016**. The total was 4,087,385 in 4,181 dates, an average of 978 per date. The 18 team Northwoods League drew 1,084,297, an average of 1,713 per date. Madison once again had the best attendance of any Summer Collegiate team, drawing 205,324, an average of 6,039 per date. According to data compiled by Ballpark Digest, Savannah GA, Elmira NY, and Okotoks Alberta also averaged better than 3,000 per date. Teams in Kenosha, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Victoria BC, Worcester, Holyoke, and Newport RI averaged at least 2,000 per date.

21 of these leagues reported attendance in **2015**. The highest attendance was by the Northwoods League. That league drew 1,088,747, an average of 1,776 per date in 2015. In 2014, the Northwoods League became the first Summer Collegiate league to top one million, drawing 1,096,433, an average of 1,766 per date. Madison, WI from that league had the best 2015 attendance of any Summer Collegiate league team, drawing a total of 216,159 in 34 dates, and a record-high average of 6,358 per date. Altogether, 154 teams in the 21 leagues that compiled attendance data drew a total of 3,759,090, an average of 958 per date.

In **2014**, the 159 teams in the 21 leagues that reported attendance drew 3,819,955, an average of 1,000 per date. Madison was the leader, drawing 214,849 in 35 dates, an average of 6,139 per date.

There were 171 teams from 20 leagues that recorded attendance in **2013**. These teams drew a total of 3,427,260, an average of 854 per date. Madison led all teams, drawing 213,833 in 35 dates (6,110 per date).

**2012** attendance was available for 153 teams in 15 summer leagues. They drew 3,364,786, averaging 962 per date, led by Madison, who attracted a record-high 217,143 in 35 dates, which was 6,204 per date.

Starting in 2006, **Madison's** total attendance has topped 200,000, and their average per date has been above 6,000, in all but 3 years (2009, 2010, and 2022, when it was just below those levels, and 2021). From **2006 through 2023**, Madison has drawn 3,496,875 in 588 dates, an average of 205,699 per year and 5,947 per date. If 2021 is excluded, the total is 3,372,668 in 552 dates, an average of 210,792 per year, and 6,110 per date.

Madison had professional Minor League teams in the past. From 1982 through 1994, there was a Madison ballclub in the Midwest League. Their highest attendance was 131,646 in 1983. This team played many more dates each season than the Summer Collegiate league teams play. From 1996 through 2000, Madison played in the independent Northern League. Their highest attendance in that league was 83,573 in 1996.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****2023 SUMMER COLLEGIATE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN THE MINOR LEAGUES IN 2019**

24 teams that played in professional Minor Leagues in **2019** joined Summer Collegiate leagues in 2021. All these teams also played in these leagues in 2022, and were joined by 2 more teams (in Jackson, TN and Marion, IL) in 2023. 6 teams played in the MLB Draft League in 2021, 2022, and 2023. The Appalachian League became an MLB-Partner Summer Collegiate League in 2021, and all its 2019 teams continued to play there in 2021, 2022, and 2023. In 2019, 23 of these teams were in MLB-affiliated leagues, and 3 were independent teams.

**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** 10 teams-68 games in 2019, 54 in 2021, 58 in 2022, 48 in 2023-24  
**RECORD HIGHS:** League – 442,755-1993; Team Total–Pulaski-95,897-2019, Avg. per date: Johnson City–3,655-2023

- J **Appalachian League** – 10 teams, all of whom played in the Rookie class Appalachian League in 2019. All the 2019 teams played in their same markets in 2021, 2022, and 2023, but all were given new team names.
- J **The league drew 360,226 in 2023, averaging a league record-high 1,707 per date, with 29 lost dates.** The former league record-high average per date was 1,404 in 1994. Total attendance was up 24,309 (7.2%) from 2022, despite a shorter schedule in 2023. Average per date rose by 410 (31.6%). There were 48 fewer dates played than in 2022, with 29 lost dates. 6 teams had gains in total attendance, with 8 up in average per date. Johnson City posted the largest increases, up 30,853 in total attendance, and up 1,549 in average per date. Pulaski had the biggest total attendance decrease (14,047), and Princeton had the top average per date decline (136).
- J **Johnson City led the league in total attendance, drawing a team record-high 87,719. Their record-high average per date of 3,655 may have been the highest average per date ever in this league's long history. It is the highest average per date since at least 1991. Johnson City also had the largest crowd of the year – 5,261.**
- J **Also setting team record-highs in average per date in 2023 were: Bristol (1,351); Elizabethton (1,010); Greeneville, TN (2,263); Kingsport (2,093).**
- J The **2023** total attendance was down 50,963 (12.4%) **vs. 2019**, but average per date was up 453 (36.1%), with 117 fewer dates, as the league now has a shorter schedule. 6 teams had gains in total attendance **vs. 2019**, and 8 were up in average per date. Kingsport had the highest increases, up 14,403 in total attendance and up 1,197 in average per date. Johnson City had a 1,136 average per date gain. Pulaski suffered the worst declines, down 69,747 in total attendance, and down 1,368 in average per date.
- J In **2019**, Pulaski drew 95,897, with a 2,821 average per date. That was the highest total attendance for any team in this league since it began playing a short-season schedule in 1957.
- J Huntington, WV will replace Princeton in 2024. This team, named the Tri-State Coal Cats, will be run by Marshall University, and will share a ballpark with that school's baseball team.
- J This league raised more than \$2.5 million for charity in 2021, and \$3.5 million in 2023.
- J 2017 was a good year for the Appalachian League. 2018 was even better. **2019** was better still. Total attendance rose 21,330 (5.5%) to 411,189, which was the best total for this league since 1994. The league had the best total attendance percentage increases of any NAPBL Minor League in 2018 (10.1%), 2015 (8.5%), and 2014 (16.2%).
- J 30 dates were lost in 2022, with 25 lost dates in 2021, 12 in 2019, 25 in 2018, 19 in 2017, 22 in 2016, 20 in 2015, 16 in 2014, and 32 in 2013. There were 35 lost dates in 2012, and just 5 in 2011.
- J **2019** average attendance per date was up 12 to 1,254, the league's best average since the record-high of 1,404 in 1994. It was the 5<sup>th</sup> straight pro year with average per date above 1,000. 2021-2023 also surpassed 1,000.
- J Both Johnson City and Pulaski drew over 60,000 in total attendance in 2019, 2018, and 2017. That made it 6 times that at least 2 teams from this league reached 60,000 in a season since the Appalachian League began to play a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 teams did it in 1990, and 2 teams did it in 1992 and 1993.
- J In 2019 and 2016, for the only times since 1999, at least 4 Appalachian League teams drew over 40,000 (Greeneville, Johnson City, Burlington, Pulaski). 4 teams also topped 40,000 in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, and 1999. A record-high of 5 teams did it in 1993, 1994, and 1997, and 3 teams reached this level in 2018, 2015, and 2014.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE - continued**

- J The Appalachian League has topped 400,000 in attendance in 1947 as a full-season league, and in 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, and 2019 as a short-season league.
- J This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- J In 1957, the Appalachian League became the first league to play a short-season schedule. Total attendance for the league as a short-season entity didn't reach 200,000 until 1986.
- J The highest average attendance per team for this league was 51,736 in 1947, when it played a longer schedule (126 games) than it did from 1957 on. From 1957 through 1985, the average total attendance per team was below 20,000 in 17 seasons. It didn't reach 30,000 per team until 1988. The short-season record-high average per team is 44,276 in 1993. It topped 40,000 again in 1997, and was 41,119 in 2019, the highest since 1994.
- J From 2013 to 2019, total attendance in the league went up 136,070 (49.3%), and average per date was up 360.
- J Lowest average per team was just 12,983 in 1983. That year, the 7 teams in this league drew a total of 90,878. Pulaski alone drew more than that in 2018 and 2019. Bluefield had the highest 1983 attendance – 25,767. 4 teams attracted less than 10,000 in 1983. Pikeville drew just 4,998.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- J **The 2023 Appalachian League Champion Johnson City Doughboys led the Appalachian League in attendance, and had a record setting season, not just for the team, but likely for the league as well. They drew a team record-high total of 87,719, up a league-best 30,853 (54.3%), and a team-record-high, and a very likely all-time league-record-high average per date of 3,655, up 1,549 (73.5%).**
- J **Johnson City's increase in average per date was higher, both numerically, and by percentage, than any MLB-affiliated team had in 2023, and higher than all but 2 independent pro teams. Their total attendance increase, by percentage, was better than all MLB-affiliated teams, and all but 3 independent pro teams. Of the 24 dates played, 18 drew over 3,000, with 9 dates topping 4,000. The largest crowd was a 2023 league-high, and an all-time team high, 5,261. There were no lost dates, and 3 fewer dates than in 2022.**
- J **In 2019, for the 4<sup>th</sup> straight year, the Johnson City Cardinals had a record-setting season. Total attendance was up 11,731, to a then record-high of 80,612, the 3<sup>rd</sup> best total (to Pulaski in 2018 and 2019) in this league's short-season MLB-affiliated history. Average per date was a team record-high 2,519, up a league best 297. 11 dates drew over 3,000. A crowd of 4,095 was their largest ever. That was the 13<sup>th</sup> time that Johnson City had drawn at least 40,000 as a short-season Appalachian League team. (They did it again in 2021 and 2022.) Total attendance was up 55,000 (214.7%) in Johnson City for 2019 vs. 2013, and the 2019 average per date was up 1,693 (205.0%) since 2013.**
- J **In 2018, Johnson City drew a then-high of 68,881, averaging a record-high 2,222. In 2017, there were then-record-highs in total attendance (65,202), and average per date (1,976). 2016 brought new records for Johnson City. Despite 5 lost dates, total attendance was up 12,737 to 51,855. Not only was this a Johnson City short-season record-high, but it also topped, by 9, the high of 51,846 that this city drew with a longer-season team in 1948. Average per date rose 369 to a new record of 1,673. These increases were the best of any short-season team. The average per date increase was 4<sup>th</sup> best among all U.S. MLB-affiliated teams, and the percentage gains of 32.6% in total attendance, and 28.3% in average per date, were tops among U.S.-based MLB-affiliated teams.**
- J **Johnson City also had the best total increase among all short-season teams in 2014. That year, the Cardinals' average per date gain of 435 was not only the best among all short-season teams, but also the 13<sup>th</sup> highest average per date increase, among all MLB-affiliated teams. Johnson City drew less than 20,000 in 14 seasons from 1958 through 1985, and 3 more times since then. But their attendance more than tripled from 2013 to 2019.**

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** - continued

- ) In **2023**, the **Kingsport Axmen** had their highest total attendance since **1999**, and set a new team record for average per date. Total attendance was up **847 (2.0%)** to **43,956**, and average per date rose **369 (21.4%)** to a record-high **2,093**. The old record average per date since 1991 was 1,789 in 1999. There were 4 fewer dates than in 2022, and 3 dates were lost. 4 crowds topped 3,000, with a team record-high of **4,354**.
- ) The Axmen had a rather strange and scary season in **2021**. The team was broken up after a threat of violence from one of their players. They did get back together, expecting to play all games after July 11 on the road. But eventually, they resumed playing in Kingsport.
- ) **Kingsport** drew 29,553 in **2019**, up 625. The Mets had topped 30,000 in 9 of the previous 12 seasons prior to 2016, and 25 times overall as a short-season team. They drew over 45,000 from 1997 through 1999, with a high of 55,457 in 1999, but did not top 40,000 again until 2022. Average per date was 896 in 2019, down 8, the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year below 1,000, with 13 dates topping 1,000. They hope for a new park, replacing Hunter Wright Stadium, which opened in 1995.
- ) Despite playing 8 fewer dates in **2023**, the **Greenville, Tennessee Flyboys** posted a **2023** total attendance increase of 1,595 (3.7%) to 45,251. Average per date was a team record-high **2,263, up 703 (45.1%)**. 4 dates drew over 3,000, with a team record-high of **4,808**. There were 4 lost dates.
- ) **Greenville** led the league in total attendance and average per date in their first 11 years (2004-2014) in the league. In **2015**, the **Astros** (later named the **Reds**) set team record-highs in total attendance and average per date. In **2019**, they drew 43,617. **Greenville** had topped 40,000 in 13 straight years from 2004 through 2016, a streak that no current team in this league has ever achieved. In 4 seasons, the total was above 50,000. Average per date has surpassed 1,300 in 17 of this club's 19 seasons, including 2021 through 2023.
- ) The **Burlington (North Carolina) Sock Puppets** drew 46,760, down 4,005 (7.9%) in **2023**. Average per date rose 283 (16.1%) to 2,083. It was the highest average per date in Burlington since 1992. 9 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 4,427. There were 6 fewer dates than in 2022, with one postponement.
- ) **Burlington** drew 40,142, up 3,601 in **2019**. Average per date was 1,216, up 74. In **2017**, **Burlington's** 30.0% declines in total attendance and average per date were the worst percentage losses among all U.S. NAPBL teams. **2016** attendance had been, at that time, the best since 1993 for Burlington. This team drew over 40,000 in 14 of 15 years from 1986 through 2000, and reached 60,000 in 6 of 8 seasons between 1986 and 1993, topping 70,000 in 1987 and 1988. But the total didn't reach 40,000 from 2001 through 2013. It has been above 40,000 in 7 seasons since 2014, including 2021 through 2023. Average per date has been above 1,000 every year, except from 2008 through 2011, since the current team began play in 1986.
- ) For the **Bristol State Lines** (the Virginia-Tennessee state line runs right through Bristol), **2023** total attendance was 25,674, up 13,234 (106.4%). This was the best total since 2014, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total since 1998. Average per date was a team record-high **1,351, up 810 (149.8%)**. Only 3 MLB-affiliated teams, and 6 independent teams had a higher average per date numerical gain, and no pro team had a better average per date percentage increase. Just 2 independent teams, and no MLB-affiliated teams, had a higher percentage increase in total attendance. There were 4 fewer dates than in 2022, with 5 lost dates. 2 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 2,630.
- ) In **2019**, **Bristol** had a 3,191 decrease to 18,750, the lowest total of any short-season team. Average per date fell by 122 to a 2019 short-season low 586. In **2015**, **Bristol** drew the lowest total and average per date of any MLB-affiliated team. This team has not topped 30,000 since 1976, when they drew a record-high total of 32,409. Lowest total was 7,835 in 1982. Their full-season high was 68,504 in 1946. Until 2021, average per date had been under 1,000 since at least 1991.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** – continued

- ) The **Pulaski River Turtles** had 6 lost dates in **2023**, and played 8 fewer dates than in 2022. Their **2023** attendance was 26,150, down a league-high 14,047 (34.9%), with a 1,453 average per date, down 93 (6.0%). The average per date was the lowest since 2014. 7 dates topped 1,500, with a high of 1,977.
- ) Pulaski led the Appalachian League in total attendance (64,508), and average per date (2,389) in **2021**. **It was the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year with attendance above 57,000 for Pulaski. They had not topped 35,000 in any of their previous 42 seasons through 2014.**
- ) **Pulaski had an incredible 2019 attendance season for a team in this league. The Yankees drew 95,897 in 2019, the highest total ever for an Appalachian League team since it went to a short-season schedule in 1957, and the 5<sup>th</sup> straight year with a new record-high. This was the best total in the league in any season since Bluefield, playing a much longer schedule, drew 116,572 in 1949. The 2019 total was up 4,671. Average per date was up 57 to an all-time team and league record-high of 2,821. 11 dates drew over 3,000, including a team record-high, and 2019 league high, crowd of 4,872.**
- ) **From 2014 through 2019, total attendance was up 69,737 (266.6%), and average per date rose by 2,003 (244.9%). From 2015 through 2019, Pulaski drew a total of 380,021. In the previous 5 seasons (2010-2014), they drew 139,785. Calfee Park, built in 1935, seats just 2,500. The Yankees drew above this level at 25 of 34 dates in 2019.**
- ) In **2018**, the Pulaski Yankees drew 91,226, the best total in the league, (broken in 2019), in any season since Bluefield in 1949. The 2018 total was up 13,346, which was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best increase (to Brooklyn) among all short-season teams. Average per date was up 404 to 2,764. This was the 5<sup>th</sup> best average per date gain among all MLB-affiliated teams, and 2<sup>nd</sup> best among those in short-season leagues.
- ) In **2017**, Pulaski drew a then-team record-high 77,880, up 19,885. Average per date rose 489 to a team then-record-high 2,360. These were the best gains among all short-season teams. The 34.3% increase in total attendance was the 4<sup>th</sup> best percentage gain among all affiliated teams, and the 26.1% increase in average per date was 6<sup>th</sup> best. No Appalachian League team had drawn as well as Pulaski did in 2017 since Danville drew a short-season Appalachian League best total of 80,539, and 2,441 per date, in 1993. Danville's records were broken by Pulaski in 2018.
- ) **2016** was also a record-setting year for Pulaski. The Yankees led the league, and set new team record-highs. They drew 57,995 in total attendance, and averaged 1,871 per date. These were the highest total attendance and average per date figures in this league since Danville drew 75,745, and averaged 2,228 per date, in 1997.
- ) Pulaski had very strong growth in **2015**. Total attendance more than doubled to a then-team record-high of 57,023, up 30,863. It was the top attendance by an Appalachian League team since Danville drew 57,044 in 1999. The old short-season high in Pulaski was 33,679 in 2008, while the full-season high was 49,472 in 1947. Average per date was a then-record-high 1,677 in 2015, up 859.
- ) Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 11 of the last 15 seasons, including 2021 and 2022, after doing it just once in the previous 35 years with a team. In 1998, this franchise drew just 8,812, an average of 275 per date. Pulaski drew less than 20,000 in 22 of the 27 seasons that the city had a team from 1954 through 1999. From 1992 through 2014, average per date reached 1,000 only in 2008. They became a Yankees affiliate in 2015.
- ) The **Danville Otterbots** drew 35,339, their top total since 2009, and up 2,889 (8.9%) in **2023**. Average per date was 1,536, the best since 1999, and up 335 (27.8%). 5 dates drew at least 2,000, and the top crowd was 3,044. One date was lost, and 4 fewer dates were played than in 2022.
- ) **Danville's** total attendance was 30,007 in **2019**, with a 909 average per date. In their first 7 seasons (1993-1999), Danville topped 50,000 each year, and drew a then-league record-high 80,539 in 1993 (broken by Pulaski in 2018). After 1999, they've only reached 40,000 in 2006 and 2007. Average per date topped 2,000 from 1993 through 1997, with a high of 2,441 in 1993.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** – continued

- ) The **Bluefield Ridge Runners** had a **2023** total attendance of 16,728, up 1,500 (9.9%). They averaged 760 per date, the best since 2015, and up 98 (14.8%). Top crowd was 1,873, with 4 dates drawing at least 1,000. There were 2 lost dates, and one less date than in 2022.
- ) 2009 was the only year above 30,000 since 1999 for the Bluefield. This team drew 55,373 in 1991. It had 10 straight years above 30,000 from 1990 through 1999. 2009 was also the only year since 2001 with average per date above 1,000.
- ) In **2023**, their final season, the **Princeton Whistle Pigs** drew 10,427 with a 549 average per date. The total was down 6,019 (36.6%), and the average per date slipped by a league-high 136 (19.9%). 2 dates drew over 1,000, with a high of 1,252. 5 fewer dates were played than in 2022, and 5 dates were lost.
- ) Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this total level, or 1,000 in average per date, in the last 21 years, including 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- ) Huntington, WV will replace Princeton for the 2024 season. The team will be named the Tri-State Coal Cats, and will share a new ballpark with Marshall University. Huntington had a team in the Appalachian League from 1990 through 1995. Their highest total attendance was 66,042 in 1990.
- ) **Elizabethton's River Riders** drew 22,222, down 2,538 (10.3%) in **2023**. **Their average per date was a team record-high 1,010, up 93 (10.1%)**. 8 dates topped 1,000, **with a record-high crowd of 2,236**, in a park that seats only 1,500. There were 2 lost dates, and 5 fewer dates than in 2022.
- ) Elizabethton, which had the smallest seating capacity of any **2019** MLB-affiliated ballpark, has reached 30,000 just once (in 2007) since rejoining this league in 1974. But they drew over 20,000 from 2001 through 2015, and in 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023, after doing it just twice (1978 and 1994) from 1974 through 2000. The E-Twins drew 27,569 in 2019, up a league best 12,240, their highest total since 2011. Average per date rose 282 to 811. Although this is from a small base, the total percentage gain of 79.8% was 4<sup>th</sup> best in the NAPBL for 2019, and the 53.3% increase in average per date, was the 5<sup>th</sup> best percentage gain.
- ) 1993 was a record setting year in attendance for the Appalachian League. The league drew a record high 442,755, and Danville's attendance of 80,539 was, until 2018, the highest by a team since this league went to a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 other teams also topped 50,000 in 1993. Burlington drew 61,088, Martinsville had a total of 58,368, and Huntington's attendance was 51,365. Prior to 2015, the last team in this league to reach 50,000 was Greeneville in 2008. Greeneville and Pulaski did it in 2015, and Johnson City and Pulaski reached this level each year from 2016 through 2021. Johnson City also topped 50,000 in 2022.
- ) The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball lists team attendance for the Appalachian League starting in 1945. This was a full-season league through 1955. Bluefield had the 3 highest individual team totals of that era, drawing 86,303 in 1947, 83,208 in 1948, and 116,572 in 1949.
- ) The late Lee Landers, whose last position was President Emeritus of the Appalachian League, was named the 2017 'King of Baseball' by Minor League Baseball. It is the highest individual honor that is awarded by Minor League Baseball. Mr. Landers served as President of this league starting in 1996, and his career in baseball spanned nearly 60 years. He retired after the 2018 season.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE) - continued**

## APPALACHIAN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2023	10	360,226	24,309	7.2	<b>1,707</b>	410	31.6
2022	10	335,917	3,832	1.2	1,297	(58)	(4.3)
2021	10	332,085			1,355		
2019	10	411,189	21,330	5.5	1,254	12	1.0
2018	10	389,859	35,769	10.1	1,242	139	12.6
2017	10	354,090	20,678	6.2	1,103	51	4.8
2016	10	333,412	(13,739)	(4.0)	1,052	(37)	(3.4)
2015	10	347,151	27,048	8.4	1,089	101	10.2
2014	10	320,103	44,684	16.2	988	94	10.5
2013	10	275,419	(3,366)	(1.2)	894	(20)	(2.2)
2012	10	278,785	(16,778)	(5.7)	914	32	3.6
2011	10	295,563	5,634	1.9	882	(13)	(1.5)
2010	10	289,929	(20,195)	(6.5)	895	(96)	(9.7)
2009	10	310,124	(6,934)	(2.2)	991	(19)	(1.9)
2008	10	317,058	28,476	9.9	1,010	(13)	(1.3)
2007	9	288,582	(33,558)	(10.4)	1,023	7	0.7
2006	10	322,140	10,656	3.4	1,016	14	1.4
2005	10	311,484	19,103	6.5	1,002	62	6.6
2004	10	292,381	26,396	9.9	940	32	3.5
2003	10	265,985	(26,492)	(9.1)	908	(6)	(0.7)
2002	10	292,477	7,645	2.7	914	(48)	(5.0)
2001	10	284,832	8,401	3.0	962	50	5.5
2000	10	276,431	(54,086)	(16.4)	912	(102)	(10.1)
1999	10	330,517	(2,420)	(0.7)	1,014	(33)	(3.2)
1998	10	332,937	(68,520)	(17.1)	1,047	(181)	(14.7)
1997	10	401,457	61,633	18.1	1,228	0	0.0
1996	9	339,824	(23,676)	(6.5)	1,228	16	1.3
1995	10	363,500	(74,570)	(17.0)	1,212	(192)	(13.7)
1994	10	438,070	(4,685)	(1.1)	<b>1,404</b>	12	0.9
1993	10	<b>442,755</b>	80,408	22.2	1,392	216	18.4
1992	10	362,347	(41,240)	(10.2)	1,176	N/A	N/A
1991	10	403,587	19,831	5.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	383,756	72,246	23.2	N/A	N/A	N/A



**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****MLB DRAFT LEAGUE** – 6 teams (68-game schedule in 2021, 80-game schedule in 2022 and 2023)

- ) **MLB Draft League** – 6 teams. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> year for this league. It is sort of a combination of Summer Collegiate League for the first part of the season, and pro Minor League in the latter part of the year. Frederick came from the Class A Carolina League, Trenton played in the Class AA Eastern League, and State College, Mahoning Valley OH, West Virginia (Morgantown), and Williamsport, had all been in the New York-Penn League in **2019**.
- ) **In 2023**, the league drew 589,815, averaging 2,669 per date, with 19 lost dates. Total attendance fell 57,294 (8.9%), and average per date was down 169 (6.0%). 7 fewer dates played than in 2022. Top crowd was 8,440 in Frederick.
- ) 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams were up in average per date. West Virginia posted the best total attendance gain (5,004), and Trenton had the highest average per date increase (447). Frederick had the biggest declines, with total attendance down 62,422, and average per date down 1,857. Those big losses were caused, in great part, due to an Atlantic League team sharing Frederick's ballpark in 2023.
- ) Trenton led the league in **2023**, drawing 196,669, averaging 5,463 per date. This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date figure (to Madison, WI) among all Summer Collegiate teams. If Trenton were in an MLB-affiliated league, its 2023 average per date would have ranked 27<sup>th</sup> among the 120 teams there. If the Thunder were an independent pro team, their 2023 total would have been 15<sup>th</sup> best among the 82 teams, and 8<sup>th</sup> best among the 64 U.S./Canadian teams. Trenton would have had the 8<sup>th</sup> best average per date among all independent teams, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best among those teams in the U.S. and Canada.
- ) For **2023 vs. 2019**, the 6 MLB Draft League teams had a total attendance loss of 359,365 (37.9%), and an average per date decline of 873 (24.6%), with 47 fewer dates. All teams had lower total attendance in 2023 than in 2019. Frederick had the largest total declines (171,179 in total attendance and 1,827 in average per date), as expected, since they were in a full-season league in 2019, playing a much longer schedule. Trenton, also in a full-season league in 2019, had the league's only **2023 vs. 2019** average per date gain, up 221.
- ) Frederick had led the 30 MLB-affiliated High-A teams in attendance in 7 of 8 years from 2012 through 2019. Since 1991, they topped 300,000 in attendance in 16 seasons, and drew over 250,000 each year from 1990 through 2019.
- ) The 4 teams that reported attendance drew a combined 324,589, averaging 2,705 per date in **2021**. These same 4 teams drew 549,629 in 2019, with a 3,287 average per date. In **2019**, the 6 teams in this league in 2023 drew a combined 949,180, with a 3,542 average per date.

**TEAM SUMMARIES**

- ) As just noted, **Trenton** was the league's attendance leader in **2023**, with a total attendance of 196,669, up 1,059 (0.5%). Average per date was 5,463, the highest since 2011, and up 447 (8.9%). **This was the 2<sup>nd</sup> best total and average per date figure among all Summer Collegiate teams.**
- ) If Trenton were in an MLB-affiliated league, its **2023** average per date would have ranked 27<sup>th</sup> among the 120 teams there, and 7<sup>th</sup> among the 90 teams below Triple-A. If the Thunder were an independent pro team, their **2023** total would have been 15<sup>th</sup> best among the 82 teams, and 8<sup>th</sup> best among the 64 U.S./Canadian teams. Trenton would have had the 8<sup>th</sup> best average per date among all independent teams, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> best among those teams in the U.S. and Canada. 24 dates drew over 5,000, and 15 dates topped 6,000, with a high of 7,626. There were 3 fewer dates played than in **2022**, with 4 dates lost.
- ) **Trenton** did not report attendance in **2021**, other than 2,530 for one game, and 2,297 for another. Except for their final home series in August, they played all their 2021 home games at nearby Rider University, with fans admitted for free. This was because the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons were using the ballpark in Trenton as a temporary home. The Bisons' park in Buffalo was host to the Toronto Blue Jays in June and July. Once the Blue Jays returned to Toronto, the Bisons were able to play in Buffalo.
- ) The Thunder drew 340,705 in **2019**, the lowest total since 1994, the team's first year. The Thunder were hurt by bad weather, playing 5 fewer dates than in 2018. Average per date was 5,242, the highest since 2013. The Thunder drew above 360,000 from 1995 through 2014, and were over 400,000 for 14 straight years from 1995 through 2008. Average per date from 1994 through 2019, topped 5,000 each year, except 2015, since the team began play in 1994. There were 8 seasons where average per date surpassed 6,000.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****MLB DRAFT LEAGUE** - continued

- ) The **Frederick Keys** shared their ballpark with an Atlantic League team in **2023**. As a result, total attendance fell 62,422 (40.3%) to 92,349. Average per date declined 1,857 (42.0%) to 2,565, with one more date than in 2022, but with 4 lost dates. Attendance was above 3,000 at 12 dates, and reached at least 5,000 at 7 of those dates, with a league-best top crowd of 8,440. The Atlantic League team that was in Frederick will probably not operate in 2024.
- ) In 2021, Frederick led all Summer Collegiate Leagues in total attendance (125,378), and all these leagues (based on data from Ballparkdigest.com) in average per date (4,179). This average per date would have ranked as the 30<sup>th</sup> best in average per date among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams, 2<sup>nd</sup> best (to Dayton) among the 60 Class A teams, and 3<sup>rd</sup> best (behind Tijuana and Monterrey, Mexico) among the 67 independent teams.
- ) **Frederick led teams from all High-Class A leagues (Carolina, California, Florida State) in average per date for 7 of 8 years from 2012 through 2019.** (Winston-Salem led in 2018.) 2017 was also the 6<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, and the 16<sup>th</sup> time since 1991, with attendance over 300,000. In **2019**, weather hit the Keys hard, with 10 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates than in 2018. Total attendance fell 11,473 to 263,528, the lowest since 1989. But average per date rose 95 to 4,392. 21 dates drew over 5,000, topped by a crowd of 8,254. **The Keys did top 250,000 for the 30<sup>th</sup> straight year.** In their 31-year history as an MLB-affiliated Minor League team, they averaged around 4,500 per date at 5,400 seat Harry Grove Stadium, surpassing 4,000 each year since at least 1991, topping 4,500 in 14 years, and reaching 5,000 in 1993 and 1994. The total for these 31 years was 9,187,014, an average of 296,355 per year.
- ) The **Mahoning Valley Scrappers** (Niles, OH) had a **2023** total attendance of 85,215, down 2,226 (2.5%), with a 2,303 average per date, up 117 (5.4%). There were 3 fewer dates than in 2022, with 3 postponements. Crowds above 3,000 attended 8 dates, with a high of 4,812.
- ) 2016 was the first season with total attendance of under 100,000, and average per date below 3,000. The Scrappers topped 200,000 in 1999 and 2000, their first 2 seasons, but haven't done it since. They have not reached 130,000 since 2005. Average per date was 5,641 in 1999, the Scrappers' first season, and also topped 5,000 in 2000 and 2001. It was above 4,000 in the club's first 7 years, but not since.
- ) In **2023**, the **West Virginia Black Bears** drew 44,236, up a league best 5,004 (12.8%). They averaged 1,164 per date, up 132 (12.8%). 6 dates drew over 1,500, with a high of 2,443. They played the same number of dates in 2023 and 2022, and had 2 lost dates in 2023.
- ) This club plays in Granville, which is right next to the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown, and shares their ballpark with the WVU baseball team. The Black Bears drew 62,846 in 2019, with a 1,699 average per date. That total and average per date were the lowest in this team's 5 seasons in the New York-Penn League. In **2018**, **West Virginia University** averaged 1,596 per date for home games. In **2019**, the WVU Mountaineers drew 49,229, averaging 1,972 per date. In **2022**, they drew 45,732, averaging a then-record-high 2,287. **2023 was a record year in WVU total attendance (59,894), average per date (2,496), and for single game (4,387).**
- ) The **State College Spikes** drew 112,209 in **2023**, up 592 (0.5%), with a 2,877 average per date, up 15 (0.5%). There had the same number of dates in 2023 and 2022, with one date lost in 2023. 7 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 5,114.
- ) State College topped 119,000 in all 14 of their seasons in the New York-Penn League. Their average was over 4,000 in 2007 and 2008. The Spikes, who play on the campus of Penn State University, drew 6,111 for a game in 2016, the biggest crowd ever for pro baseball in State College. Penn State's baseball team averaged 746 per date in 2018, 440 per date in 2019, 497 per date in 2022, and 777 per date in 2023.
- ) Next door, at 106,572-seat Beaver Stadium, home of Penn State Football, the largest crowd ever was 110,889 vs. Ohio State in 2018. Penn State drew over 100,000 to 7 of its 13 home and away games, including a bowl game, in the **2019** season. Their **2019** home high crowd was 110,669 vs. Michigan. In **2021**, all 7 Penn State home games drew at least 105,000, with a high of 109,934 vs. Michigan. All 7 home games in **2022** also drew at least 105,000, averaging 107,379 per game, with a high of 109,813 vs. Minnesota. Penn State had the 3 largest NCAA Football crowds of **2023**, with a high of 110,856 vs. Michigan. They averaged 108,409 per game.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****MLB DRAFT LEAGUE** - continued

- ) **2023** total attendance in **Williamsport** was 59,137, up 699 (1.2%), with a 1,690 average per date, up 110 (7.0%). 2 fewer dates were played in than 2022, and 5 were lost. 7 MLB Draft League dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 2,466.
- ) Williamsport drew 64,148 in **2019**. It was the 11<sup>th</sup> straight year in the New York-Penn League below 70,000 for the Crosscutters. But the average per date of 1,944 was the best since 2005. This market has drawn 100,000 only in 1948, 1960, and 1988, when it had full-season teams. The New York-Penn League Crosscutters began play in 1994, and averaged at least 2,000 per date only from 2002 through 2005. From 2008 through 2019, total attendance ranged between 60,429 and 68,475. Average per date ranged from 1,700 to 1,944 during this period.
- ) In 2017, the first Little League Classic was played at Historic Bowman Field in Williamsport, home to the Crosscutters. In preparation for the game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, \$4 million in renovations were made to the ballpark. The game drew 2,596. The Mets and Phillies played in this game in 2018, which drew 2,429. The 2019 game featured the Cubs and Pirates, and drew 2,503. The Orioles and Red Sox were supposed to meet in 2020, but that game was cancelled. The Cleveland-Los Angeles Angels game in 2021 drew 1,832. Boston and Baltimore played in the Classic in 2022, and drew 2,467. Washington and Philadelphia played in the 2023 Classic, which drew 2,473. The Yankees and Tigers will meet in the 2024 Classic.

**OTHER 2019 (AND A 2015) MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES IN 2023**

- ) **The Clinton LumberKings** played in the Prospect League in **2023**, and drew 80,904, up 4,502 (5.9%). Their average per date was 2,790, up 155 (5.9%). **This was the highest average per date since at least 1991.** They had the same number of dates in 2023 and 2022.
- ) Clinton, a community-owned team, drew 121,325 in **2019** in the Midwest League. It was the team's 5<sup>th</sup> best total ever, topped only by 127,251 in 1988, 123,553 in 2010, 124,154 in 2016, and 121,678 in 2018. Attendance reached 120,000 for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, and was above 100,000 for the 14<sup>th</sup> straight year. Before this streak, the LumberKings had failed to reach 100,000 in all but 4 of 60 seasons with recorded attendance, including 17 years in a row between 1989 and 2005. Average per date in 2019 was 1,838, which tied the 2<sup>nd</sup> best average since at least 1991. Clinton's average per date has been over 1,500 for 17 years in a row, and has reached 1,800 in each of the last 7 years, including 2021, 2022, and 2023.
- ) **Burlington (IA)**, Beloit, and Clinton tended to have low attendance in the Midwest League, in part, because their markets are very small. Seating capacity at Burlington is 3,200, and Clinton's capacity was recently raised to 5,000. Beloit now has a new ballpark. Record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. **The Burlington Bees**, now in the Prospect League, drew 26,689 in **2023**, down 2,631 (9.0%), averaging 920 per date, down 91 (9.0%), with the same number of dates in both years.
- ) In **2019**, the Bees had the best total attendance gain in the Midwest League, up 14,110 to 67,369. They last reached 80,000 in 1994, and have topped 70,000 only in 2005, 2014, and 2016 since then. Average per date was 1,053 in 2019, at that point, the best since 2014. The Bees have averaged over 1,000 just 14 times in the last 31 seasons, through 2023, but did it in 5 of their last 7 years in the Midwest League, and in the first 2 Prospect League seasons.
- ) In **2023**, **Vermont** of the Futures Collegiate League, drew a total of 72,067, down 568 (0.8%), with a 2,485 average per date, up 410 (19.7%). There were 6 fewer dates than in 2022.
- ) In **2019**, they drew 83,122, and finished below 100,000 for the 13<sup>th</sup> straight year. The Lake Monsters had reached 100,000 in 12 of the 13 seasons (1994-2006) before that. Average per date was 2,247 in 2019. The average has not reached 3,000 since 2002, after topping it for 9 straight years. Attendance had been very steady from 2009 through 2019, with the total ranging between 81,683 to 89,977, and the average per date ranging from 2,209 to 2,549. Centennial Field in Burlington was built in 1922, and has been renovated. In 2018, for the first time in team history, Vermont had no home or road postponements.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****OTHER 2019 (AND A 2015) MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES IN 2023**

- ) **Batavia** now in the Perfect Game League, had **2023** total attendance of 45,178, up 3,821 (9.2%). **This was the highest total since 1973, despite a shorter schedule than 50 years ago.** Average per date was 2,259, up 461 (25.6%), with 3 fewer dates than in 2022. **It was the highest average per date since at least 1991.**
- ) **In 2019**, Batavia had its best New York-Penn League total attendance and average per date since 2008, and the best increases in that league. The total was up 14,113 to 43,118, and average per date was up an NAPBL 12<sup>th</sup> best 381 to 1,165. The Muckdogs also had the 6<sup>th</sup> highest percentage growth in both total attendance and average per date for 2019. Attendance has not reached 45,000 since 1973. The only years since 1950 with attendance above 50,000 were in 1970, 1971, and 1973. A full-season team in Batavia drew 67,680 in 1946.
- ) The **Auburn Doubledays**, who also joined the Perfect Game League in **2021**, only listed attendance for 3 dates in **2021** (total-5,271). **In 2022**, they drew 32,429, averaging 1,351 per date. They did not list **2023** attendance.
- ) The Doubledays drew 39,381 in **2019** in the New York-Penn League. That was exactly the same figure they drew in 2013. 2006 was the last time attendance was lower than in 2019. Auburn had topped 50,000 in 5 seasons between 2009 and 2016. In the 58 seasons prior to 2009, they reached 50,000 only 6 times, with a low of 9,474 in 1980. Average per date surpassed 1,000 for 25 straight seasons through 2019. Their ballpark is small, with a capacity of 2,800. Average per date was 1,158 in 2019, which tied 2013 for the lowest average since 1994.
- ) The **Norwich Sea Unicorns** of the Futures Collegiate League, formerly the Connecticut Tigers of the New York-Penn League, drew 52,739, up 9,002 (20.6%) in **2023**, with a 1,648 average per date, up 281 (20.6%). They had the same number of dates as in 2022. Through 2016, **Connecticut** (as they were known then) had set a total attendance record-high (as a short-season market), in 4<sup>th</sup> straight years. Total attendance was 66,532 in **2019**, and average per date was 1,901. Those were the lowest figures since 2012. The full-season Double-A Eastern League team record in Norwich is 281,473, and the best average per date for that team was 4,201, both in 1995.
- ) **The New Britain Bees** went from the independent Atlantic League in 2019, to the Futures Collegiate League in 2021. Their **2023** total attendance was 47,680, down 3,373 (6.6%), with a 1,703 average per date, up 1 (0.1%). They had 2 fewer dates than in 2022.
- ) In 2016, this team moved from Camden to the ballpark vacated by the Eastern League New Britain Rock Cats. That team was to play in a new park in the neighboring city of Hartford starting in 2016. But the new park in Hartford was not ready, so the team had to play all its 2016 games in other parks. The Atlantic League New Britain team, named the Bees, drew 214,635 in 2016, and averaged 3,302 per date. In 2015, the New Britain Rock Cats drew 267,377, averaging 4,051 per date.
- ) The Bees, in **2019**, drew 133,141, down 50,006, with 6 fewer dates. Average per date fell 541 to 2,113. New Britain had the worst total and average per date losses among the independents. This was the lowest total and average per date of any team in New Britain since 1995. The competition with Hartford proved too difficult to overcome, and this club was replaced with a Collegiate Summer League team. Hartford's new ballpark, located 12 miles from New Britain, finally opened in 2017, and the Hartford Yard Goats of the Eastern League (and now in Double-A Northeast) drew 395,196, averaging 5,812 per date that year. In 2019, they drew a Connecticut record-high total of 414,946, and an average of 6,193 per date. In 2023 Hartford had a total attendance of 402,731, with a record-high average per date of 6,293.
- ) The Eastern League team in New Britain drew less than 200,000 from its start in 1983 through 1999. But it topped 300,000 every year from 2004 through 2014, with a high of 368,523 in 2010. Their average per date was over 5,000 each year from 2006 through 2012, with a high of 5,867 in 2011.

**COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES****OTHER 2019 (AND A 2015) MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES IN 2023**

- ) The **O'Fallon (Missouri) Hoots** of the Prospect League drew 28,370, up 224 (0.8%) in **2023**, with a 978 average per date, down 194 (16.6%). There were 5 more dates than in 2022.
- ) **River City** (O'Fallon, MO) played its final season in the Frontier League in **2019**, and had the league's worst total attendance loss (18,204). The 2019 total of 66,832 was the lowest in the team's 21 years, and the average per date of 1,714 was the 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest to 2011. There were 9 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018. The Rascals topped 150,000 in the team's first 6 seasons (1999-2004), but not afterward. They stayed above 100,000 through 2008, and then again in 2010 and 2012. 2019 was the 9<sup>th</sup> time that attendance was below 100,000. The average per date was 4,119 in 2004, and topped 3,000 in the club's first 6 seasons. It had been above 2,000 in 13 of 21 seasons.
- ) The former **Southern Illinois** (Marion) Miners joined the Summer Collegiate Prospect League in **2023**. They played their final pro Frontier League season in **2021**, and drew 66,099, with a 1,502 average per date. This team disbanded after the season. The new team is named the **Thrillville Thrillbillies**. They drew 63,070, and averaged 2,336 per date in **2023**.
- ) In **2019**, the Miners' average per date decline of 437 to 2,305, was the worst drop in the Frontier League, and the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst among all independent teams. Total attendance dipped 8,250 to 101,441, with 4 more dates. It was the lowest total and average in this team's 13 seasons through 2019. In 2007, the Miners became the first Frontier League team to average over 5,000 per date. In 2014, total attendance rose 21,203, the best increase among all independent teams. Attendance in Marion topped 125,000 in the first 11 seasons, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010. The Miners drew over 150,000 in 8 of those years (2007-2011, 2015-2017). Their average per date was 5,086 in 2007, topped 4,000 through 2010, and was above 2,500 every year until 2019.
- ) Also joining the Prospect League in 2023 is **Jackson, TN**, who last played in the 2019 Southern League. The Rockabillys drew 46,949, averaging 1,677 per date. Jackson was the temporary early-season 2021 home of the Winnipeg Goldeyes of the American Association, who could not play at home due to Canadian border restrictions.
- ) In **2019**, Jackson drew 107,131, the 4<sup>th</sup> lowest total in the team's 22 seasons. Average per date rose 102 to 1,756. Bad weather hurt attendance as the Generals had 6 fewer dates than in 2018, with 9 lost dates. The average topped 4,000 per date in this team's first 3 seasons (1998-2000), but has been below 3,000 each year from 2003 through 2019, and under 2,000 in 9 of the last 15 years. The Generals had drawn over 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but have been below 150,000 for the past 15 years, and under 200,000 in their last 17 seasons.
- ) Based on 2023-24 A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson, which ranks #175, was the smallest market in terms of TV households, with a Double-A team. Bowling Green, KY (Market #184) is the only smaller market with a full-season MLB-affiliated team. Grand Junction (#187), and Great Falls (#191), both in the Pioneer League, are markets smaller than Jackson that had short-season NAPBL teams in 2019.
- ) **Savannah** played its final season in the South Atlantic League in **2015**, and drew 125,587. Average per date was 1,962. This version of Savannah's team drew a high of 135,415 in 2011. The record-high for any team in Savannah is 217,000 in 1937. A Savannah team drew 192,975 in 1947. Columbia, SC replaced Savannah in 2016.
- ) The **Bananas**, a Summer Collegiate league team, whose games are a combination of baseball and great entertainment, began play in Savannah in 2016, and drew a league-record-high 80,504, averaging 3,659 per date, with 17 sellouts. The Bananas set a new record in 2017, selling out all 26 dates, and drawing 108,498 (4,173 per date). In 2018, the Bananas sold out all 25 dates, and drew 105,733 (4,229 per date). Savannah sold out all games in 2019 as well, drawing a new record-high total of 117,729 in 28 dates, (4,205 per date). In 2021, they sold out all 23 dates and drew 86,407, averaging 3,757 per date. **The Bananas sold out all 24 games in Savannah in 2022, drawing 102,133, and averaging 4,256 per date. Their sellout streak stood at 135 dates through the end of their 2022 season.**
- ) 'Banana Ball' continued to be played in Savannah in 2023. All games were already sold out before the season. They took the show on the road, playing various teams in 33 cities in 22 states, with 87 games on their 2023 'World Tour.' **They drew over 500,000.**

2023 vs. 2022 ATTENDANCE

LEAGUE AND TEAM	2023 TOTAL ATTEND.	# OF HOME DATES	2023 AVG./ DATE	2022 TOTAL ATTEND.	2022 AVG./ DATE	# CHG. - TOTAL ATT. 2023 v. 2022	# CHG. AVG. '23 v. '22	YEAR PARK OPENED
<b>MLB DRAFT LEAGUE</b>								
Frederick Keys	92,349	36	2,565	154,771	4,422	(62,422)	(1,857)	1990
Mahoning Valley Scrappers	85,215	37	2,303	87,441	2,186	(2,226)	117	1999
State College Spikes	112,209	39	2,877	111,617	2,862	592	15	2006
Trenton Thunder	196,669	36	5,463	195,610	5,016	1,059	447	1994
West Virginia Black Bears	44,236	38	1,164	39,232	1,032	5,004	132	2015
Williamsport Croisscutters	59,137	35	1,690	58,438	1,579	699	111	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	589,815	221	2,669	647,109	2,838	(57,294)	(169)	
<b>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</b>								
Bluefield (WV) Ridge Runners	16,728	22	760	15,228	662	1,500	98	1939
Bristol (VA) State Lines	25,674	19	1,351	12,440	541	13,234	810	1969
Burlington (NC) Sock Puppets	46,760	23	2,033	50,765	1,751	(4,005)	282	1960
Danville (VA) Otterbots	35,339	23	1,536	32,450	1,202	2,889	334	1993
Elizabethton (TN) River Riders	22,222	22	1,010	24,760	917	(2,538)	93	1974
Greeneville (TN) Flyboys	45,251	20	2,263	43,656	1,559	1,595	704	2004
Johnson City (TN) Doughboys	87,719	24	3,655	56,866	2,106	30,853	1,549	1956
Kingsport (TN) Axmen	43,956	21	2,093	43,109	1,724	847	369	1995
Princeton (WV) Whistle Pigs	10,427	19	549	16,446	685	(6,019)	(136)	1988
Pulaski River Turtles	26,150	18	1,453	40,197	1,546	(14,047)	(93)	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	360,226	211	1,707	335,917	1,297	24,309	410	
<b>PROSPECT LEAGUE</b>								
Burlington (IA) Bees	26,689	29	920	29,320	1,011	(2,631)	(91)	1947
Clinton Lumberkings	80,904	29	2,790	76,402	2,635	4,502	155	1937
O'Fallon, MO (River City) - Indy	28,370	29	978	28,146	1,126	224	(148)	1999
Jackson (TN) Rockabillys	46,949	28	1,677	-----	-----	-----	-----	1998
Thrillville (Marion, IL) Thrillbillies	63,070	26	2,426	-----	-----	-----	-----	2007
<b>PERFECT GAME LEAGUE</b>								
Auburn (NY) Doubledays	N/A			32,429	1,351			1995
Batavia Muckdogs	45,178	20	2,259	41,357	1,798	3,821	461	1996
<b>FUTURES COLLEGIATE LEAGUE</b>								
Norwich (CT) Sea Unicorns	52,739	32	1,648	43,737	1,367	9,002	281	1995
Vermont Lake Monsters	72,067	29	2,485	72,635	2,075	(568)	410	1922
New Britain Bees	47,680	28	1,703	51,053	1,702	(3,373)	1	1996

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - FOR MLB-AFFILIATED PRO MINOR LEAGUERS

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - Figures from this league are not included in any 'all leagues' totals

Glendale Desert Dogs	3,786	15	252	3,400	227	386	25	2009
Mesa Solar Sox	6,517	14	466	4,423	295	2,094	171	2014
Peoria Javelinas	5,754	14	411	4,817	321	937	90	1994
Salt River Rafter	7,134	15	476	7,262	484	(128)	(8)	2011
Scottsdale Scorpions	5,960	15	397	7,358	491	(1,398)	(94)	1992
Surprise Saguros	4,564	15	304	6,273	448	(1,709)	(144)	2011
LEAGUE TOTAL	33,715	88	383	33,533	377	182	6	

## 2023 SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES WITH LISTED ATTENDANCE

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>TOTAL # TEAMS</u>	<u># TEAMS LISTING ATTEND.</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>TEAMS W. ATT. # DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE ATTEND. PER DATE</u>	<u>LEAGUE ATTEND. LEADER</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE ATTEND. PER DATE</u>
Alaska	5	0							
Appalachian	10	10	360,226	211	1,707	Johnson City	87,719	24	3,655
Atlantic Collegiate	16	1	1,690	13	130	Jersey	1,690	13	130
Cal Ripken Collegiate	8	8	28,185	135	209	Bethesda	12,978	19	683
California Collegiate									
Cape Cod	10	10	318,401	218	1,461	Orleans	43,942	21	2,092
Coastal Plain	14	14	454,113	362	1,254	Macon	58,808	23	2,557
Florida Collegiate	6	2	11,297	31	364	Leesburg	10,700	17	629
Futures Collegiate	8	8	332,259	222	1,497	Vermont	72,067	29	2,485
Golden State									
Great Lakes Summer	13	10	32,341	173	187	Hamilton	8,639	18	480
Great West									
Independence									
M.I.N.K.	9	5	92,192	111	831	St. Joseph	75,783	28	2,707
<b>MLB Draft *</b>	6	6	<b>589,815</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>2,657</b>	Trenton	196,669	36	5,463
New England Collegiate	13	13	264,365	267	990	Martha's Vineyard	61,607	22	2,800
New York Collegiate	10	4	11,891	68	175	Genesee	4,102	18	228
Northern	6	6	29,436	152	194	Northwest Indiana	12,390	30	413
<b>Northwoods</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,297,864</b>	<b>820</b>	1,583	<b>Madison</b>	<b>228,692</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6,353</b>
Ohio Valley	11	10	35,191	94	374	DuBois County	16,098	13	1,238
Perfect Game	16	7	145,257	137	1,060	Elmira	62,214	19	3,274
Prospect	17	17	575,294	458	1,256	Clinton	80,904	29	2,790
Southern California									
Sunbelt	8	8	37,788	110	344	Columbus, GA	19,812	16	1,238
Texas Collegiate	5	0							
Valley Baseball	12	7	43,006	145	297	Purcellville	20,158	22	916
West Coast Collegiate	16	16	626,171	425	1,473	Edmonton	104,748	27	3,880
Western Canadian	10	10	305,425	275	1,111	Okotoks	127,622	28	4,558
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>253</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>5,592,207</b>	<b>4,649</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>Madison</b>	<b>228,692</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>6,353</b>

Sources: League Websites, Ballpark Digest

**SOME CONCLUDING “JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT” STATS**

The all-time high MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor League total regular season attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008. Could that record have been broken, fairly soon, if the number of teams wasn't reduced in 2021? Relocated teams, more new ballparks, a sound economy, NO COVID PANDEMIC, and a year with unusually good weather, could have easily resulted in a new record-high attendance, maybe even in 2021.

The great Hall-of Famer Yogi Berra (1925-2015) once said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Estimating future attendance records is, at best, an educated guess. But just for fun, based on the 2019 roster of NAPBL leagues and teams, here are a couple of totally unscientific estimates of potential attendance:

If each of the 15 NAPBL Minor Leagues in operation in **2019**, drew its all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 46,434,694. The odds of each league drawing its record-high attendance in the same year was quite small. But that total was only 7.3% above the pre-2021 record-high total attendance, and was certainly reachable, even fairly soon, had there been no reduction in the number of teams.

Taking this a step further, if each of the 176 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) **2019** Minor League teams drew its all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 57,825,512. This figure was very unlikely to be reached any time soon. Of course, not every team would have to set a new record for this total to be reached.

Now if you really want to tackle an interesting math question, figure out what's the probability of all 176 teams setting a new record-high attendance in the same season. It might help to know that 16 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2017, 6 teams had new total attendance highs in 2018, and 17 teams drew record-high totals in 2019.

Starting in **2021**, all MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission to their games, are full-season teams. The actual record-high total attendance for MLB-affiliated U.S. full-season teams is 35,447,963, for 120 teams, set in 2008. (The 40 short-season teams in operation in 2008 are not included in this total, nor is the Mexican League.) As things get back to normal, and more new ballparks open, this record may well be within reach.

If you add up the record-high total attendance for each of the 120 MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission, and are in operation in **2021, 2022, and 2023**, the number you get is 45,930,015. That figure would be tough to reach any time soon. And the probability of each team setting a record-high in the same year? About the same probability that the author of this report will find every single error or typo in it while proofreading and fact-checking.