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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2012 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

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2012 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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2012 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2012 season. Features include:

- A summary of 2012 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- Attendance notes for each league and for individual teams.
- Listing of 2012 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- A comparison of 2012 vs. 2011 total attendance. A table shows attendance increases and decreases for all leagues and teams. It also notes the year nearly all current Minor League ballparks opened.
- A list of teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in attendance in 2012.
- A feature on the growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets.
- A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 43 years. Tables show how league attendance has grown vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. There is also a comparison of Minor League attendance growth with attendance gains for other sports.
- A comparison of individual team attendance in 2012 with attendance in 2002, 1992, and 1982.
- 2012 Playoff and All-Star Game attendance.
- A look 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.
- 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.
- A yearly listing of teams leading the NAPBL Minor Leagues in attendance, which includes the full-season and short-season leaders, going back to 1940.
- Yearly total independent leagues attendance since 1993, along with team leaders.
- A listing of each current Minor League market's record-high attendance.
- A table of record-high Minor League attendance in cities that later joined the Major Leagues.

NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, AND MEDIA

You can download this report, and the 2012 Major League Baseball Attendance Analysis, in PDF form, at numbertamer.com. Go to the website's 'Baseball Reports' page for the PDF links to each report.

Permission is granted for you to copy, distribute, publish, and use any of the material, including tables, appearing in these attendance analyses. Credit to numbertamer.com would be appreciated. Please contact David Kronheim (d.kronheim@verizon.net) if you have any questions about these reports. Comments, corrections and suggestions are always welcome. Note that these reports are copyrighted.

SUMMARY OF 2012 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

- Combined NAPBL – known as 'Minor League Baseball' (Major League affiliated leagues) and independent leagues regular season attendance was 48,408,316 in 2012, up 325,486 (0.7%) from 2011. This was the first increase since 2008. Combined attendance fell 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009.
- The 204 post-season NAPBL games drew 666,348, an average of 3,266 per game. Attendance data was available for 46 independent league post-season games, and they drew 110,241, an average of 2,397. 10 NAPBL All-Star games drew a combined 92,930.
- In 2012, there were 2 more NAPBL teams, and the same number of independent league teams who reported attendance, as in 2011. These teams had 188 more playing dates overall in 2012. NAPBL leagues had a combined 167 more dates, and the independent leagues had a combined 21 more dates in 2012 than in 2011. Figures exclude the Freedom Baseball League which played 83 dates, but did not report attendance.
- Combined 2012 NAPBL/Independent average attendance per date was 3,710, down 29 from 2011.
- The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 41,280,382, which is a gain of 28,329 (0.1%) from 2011. The 2 additional teams in 2012 (Aguascalientes and Carmen of the Mexican League) drew a combined 386,557. The other 174 teams actually had a combined decrease of 358,228. These 15 leagues averaged 3,967 per date, down 62 from 2011.
- The 55 teams in the 6 independent leagues that reported attendance drew 7,127,934, up 297,157 (4.4%) from 2011. Their average per date rose by 92 to 2,697.
- The increase in overall Minor League attendance is impressive when taking into account the improving, but still sluggish, economy. Some very hot weather certainly cut crowds for part of the summer in many places, even though the number of dates played was up.

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

- In the recent past, attendance was helped by team relocations and new ballparks. But only one completely new park (in Pensacola) opened in 2012, and there were only 2 net team moves. Carolina (Zebulon, NC) of the Southern League moved to Pensacola. Kinston of the Carolina League replaced the team in Carolina, so the net move was Kinston to Pensacola. Casper of the Pioneer League moved to Grand Junction. Due to a complete reconstruction of their park, Scranton-Wilkes Barre of the International League played their home games in Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Pawtucket, Lehigh Valley, and Batavia.
- 5 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2012. The Mexican League posted the best total and percentage increases, up 492,319 (14.8%), as they added 2 teams in 2012. If you compare only the 14 Mexican League teams that operated in both 2012 and 2011, their gain in total attendance is 105,762. The Midwest League had a 101,061 increase. Pioneer League attendance rose 3.6%, and their gain of 88 in average per date was the best among all MLB affiliated leagues. The Carolina and Appalachian Leagues were the only other NAPBL leagues to have an increase in average per date.
- The Carolina League set new highs for total attendance and average per date. Total attendance rose 87,450, a gain of 4.9%. Average per date was up 74 to a record-high 3,522.
- International League total attendance declined 159,620, the worst drop in total attendance of any NAPBL league. The Florida State League had the largest percentage dip in total attendance, down 6.3%, with 27 fewer dates played in 2012 than in 2011.
- The International League also had the biggest decrease in average per date, down 257. Mexican League average per date was down 226.
- 171 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2012 as in 2011. Total attendance rose for 67 teams in 2012, and fell for 104 teams. 87 teams increased their total attendance in 2011, while 86 teams had declines. 83 teams had gains in 2010, with 90 showing a decline. In 2009, just 57 teams had gains while 114 were down.

SUMMARY OF 2012 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

- In average attendance per date, 65 teams achieved increases, and 106 teams posted declines in 2012. 96 teams had increases in 2011, while 77 were down. 64 teams had average per date increases in 2010, while 109 were down. 63 teams had gains in 2009. These figures only include teams that played in the same city for both years compared. For 2012, the Carolina Mudcats are included even though that location had a Southern League team in 2011 and a Carolina League team in 2012.
- 8 NAPBL teams had their highest total attendance ever in 2012. Tri-City (Troy, NY) of the New York-Penn League had its 9th straight record-high. The other record setters were Clearwater, Veracruz, Missoula, Pensacola, Tri-City (Pasco, WA) of the Northwest League, and Visalia. Vancouver set a record for a short-season team in that city.
- **The Monterrey Sultanes of the Mexican League drew 645,302, an average of 11,321 per date. Both of those figures were the best in all of Minor League Baseball in 2012.**
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) led all U.S./Canadian teams in total attendance (622,421) and average per date (9,153). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity 59 times, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 15 dates. They were also the 'visiting team' in their ballpark for 8 dates vs. the wandering Scranton-Wilkes Barre Yankees. Those 8 dates drew 66,400, an above seating capacity average of 8,300 per date. Lehigh Valley is the only team to draw more than 600,000 in each of the last 5 seasons.
- Columbus, OH also topped 600,000. 11 other teams surpassed 500,000, including Sacramento, which led the Minors in attendance 9 times in the 11 years from 2000 through 2010.
- 55 teams drew more than 300,000, including all 8 teams in the Texas League.
- Frisco led Class AA for the 8th consecutive season. But 2012 was the first time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000.
- **Dayton drew 588,689, to lead Class A for the 13th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 913 games in their 13 year history (includes playoff games and an All-Star Game). This is the longest sellout streak in North American sports history. In 2011, the Dragons broke the old consecutive sellouts record of 814 by the NBA Portland Trail Blazers, set from 1977 to 1995.**
- Brooklyn had the highest attendance (249,009) among short-season teams for the 12th straight year. Aberdeen was the other short-season team to top 200,000.
- Monterrey of the Mexican League (up 214,882), Salt Lake (up 77,864), and South Bend (up 76,780) had the best gains in total attendance. 5 of the 10 teams with the largest total attendance increases for 2012 play in the Mexican League. Hudson Valley, up 12,568 had the best increase among short-season teams.
- Monterrey, up 2,881, South Bend, up 985, and Salt Lake, up 724, had the best average per date increases. Tabasco, Jackson, TN, and Veracruz also saw average per date rise by over 400. Burlington, NC of the Appalachian League gained 179, best among all short-season teams.
- Mexico City had the biggest total decline among NAPBL teams, down 84,732. Mobile was down 77,894. Among short-season teams, Staten Island had the largest loss, down 51,405.
- Staten Island also had the largest average per date decline – 1,949. Mexico City was down 1,843. Yucatan, Laguna, and Puebla all saw average per date down over 1,000. Among U.S. full-season teams, Mobile, down 945 and Birmingham, down 843, had the worst losses.
- All Class AAA teams drew at least 200,000. Tucson had the lowest total. This team is expected to move to El Paso by 2014 or 2015. Huntsville still had the lowest total in Class AA, but attendance there was up nearly 40% from 2011. Bakersfield posted the smallest full-season Class A total once again. But they hope to get a new ballpark in 2014. Bristol had the lowest short-season total.

SUMMARY OF 2012 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUES

- All 6 independent leagues that operated in 2011 returned in 2012. Teams in the American Association and Can-Am League played each other, as these leagues had an uneven number of teams. 55 teams reported attendance in 2012, the same number as in 2011. The Freedom Pro Baseball League, based in Arizona, had its first season in 2012. Attendance figures for that league are not available, but its crowds were quite small.
- Independent leagues attendance was 7,127,934 in 2012, up 297,157 (4.4%). Combined average per date rose 92 to 2,697. 4 of the 6 leagues had gains in total attendance, and 4 leagues were up in average per date.
- 20 of the 46 independent league teams playing in the same market (but not always in the same league) as in 2011 had increases in total attendance in 2012. 17 of those teams posted gains in average per date. Just 12 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2010 had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 37 were down. 9 of those teams had gains in average per date and 40 had declines. 28 teams posted gains in total attendance in 2010, with 24 up in average per date. In 2009, just 16 of 55 independent teams had increases in total attendance, and 19 posted gains in average per date.
- The Atlantic League added one new team, and had the biggest gain, up 419,257 to a league record-high 2,367,578. This is also the highest total attendance by any independent league since these types of leagues began operating in 1993. Average per date in this league rose 324 to a league record-high 4,409. The all-time independent league average per date record is 4,621, set by the now-defunct Northern League in 2008.
- The American Association added a new team, and drew a league record-high 2,244,238. Their average per date was up 360 to a league record 3,512.
- Frontier League total attendance rose 9.7% to a league record-high 1,548,970, as 2 teams were added. However, one of those new teams, the London (ONT) Rippers, became a road team after playing just 26 home dates. Average per date for this league fell by 148.
- The Can-Am League had only 5 teams 2012, as Pittsfield and Brockton did not operate. Total attendance declined 21.1%, but average per date rose by 237.
- North American League total attendance dropped 34.7%, and average per date was down 610. This league had one less team that played home games than a year ago. The league disbanded after the season.
- The Pecos Baseball League had the lowest attendance for any league that reported it in 2012. However, the league's total rose 37.0% and average per date was up 56 (27.9%) from 2011. Their ballparks are quite small, and the attendance figures they issue are for tickets actually used, and do not include 'no-shows.'
- **Sugar Land (near Houston) had the highest total attendance ever by a modern-day independent league team, drawing 465,511 in their first season in the Atlantic League.** The old record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001. Laredo and Rockland County also set new team highs in 2012.
- Sugar Land's average per date of 6,650 was the best among independent teams in 2012. The all-time independent record average per date is 7,161, set by Winnipeg in 2003. Long Island, Somerset, Kansas City, Winnipeg, St. Paul, Lancaster, and York also averaged over 4,000.
- Long Island had the top independent attendance for 12 straight years (2000-2011), and they finished second to Sugar Land in 2012. Somerset and Lancaster were the other independent teams that topped 300,000. All 4 of these teams play in the Atlantic League which has a much longer schedule than other independent leagues. Southern Maryland, York, Camden, Winnipeg, St. Paul, and Kansas City all drew more than 200,000.
- Sioux Falls, SD, up 53,992, had the best increase among independent teams. The Rockland Boulders were up 37,857, and River City had a gain of 36,028. Sioux Falls also had the best increase in average per date, up 1,102. River City had a gain of 595, and Rockland was up 486. Southern Illinois had the worst decline in average per date, down 1,039. Fort Worth had a decline of 985, and Edinburg was down 561.
- The worst total attendance loss was by Southern Illinois of the Frontier League, down 51,640. Fort Worth, who moved from the American Association to the North American League, was down 50,424.

SOURCES

The Media Relations Department of Minor League Baseball (also known as the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues), provided attendance data for the developmental leagues of Major League Baseball for the years 1994 through 2012. 1997-2012 independent league data is from each league's official Website. Information from individual teams sometimes came from that team's Website. Major League attendance data is from the Major League Baseball Information System.

NAPBL 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).

Independent league data prior to 1997 came from the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, and the "Independent Baseball Page" Website.

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

Individual team attendance for the Mexican League was not available for the 1981 season. Hopefully, these figures can be obtained in the future. If you can provide this data, it would be very much appreciated.

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, Director of Marketing Research for Number Tamer, which is a marketing research service with clients in the sports industry. David has visited more than 120 Minor League stadiums over the past three decades.

There is a small section on 2012 post-season and All-Star 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. Many ballparks 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 estimates its attendance, and does not include 'no-shows' in their figures.

ATTENDANCE FOR 2010 AND 2012 WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

The actual 2012 and 2010 attendance for independent leagues was slightly higher than what is listed in this report. In 2010, the Continental League was unable to finish its season due to financial problems, 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 no more than 17,000, and perhaps, considerably less.

In 2012, the Freedom Pro Baseball League, with all 4 of its teams based in Arizona, played its first season. No attendance figures were reported, but their attendance was estimated to be very low.

Data for the Pecos Baseball League, which played its first season in 2011, was estimated by the league office. Most of their box scores did not list 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.

“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.’

NAPBL LEAGUES

The National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL), also known as “Minor League Baseball,” is the governing body of those minor leagues which are affiliated with Major League Baseball.

These leagues are divided into five classifications: Class AAA (International and Pacific Coast Leagues); Class AA (Eastern, Southern and Texas Leagues); full-season Class A (California, Carolina, Florida State, Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues); short-season Class A (New York-Penn and Northwest Leagues); Rookie Class (Appalachian and Pioneer Leagues). In addition, there is the Mexican League, which is a member of the NAPBL, but whose teams are not affiliated with any Major League teams.

Five additional Rookie Class leagues (Arizona, Gulf Coast, Dominican, Venezuelan, and Mexican Academy) do not charge admission to their games, and are not included in this report. Also not included are the post-season Florida Instructional and Arizona Fall Leagues.

The Class AAA, AA, and full-season A teams play a 140-144 game season, starting in early April. Short-season teams in the leagues that charge admission, play 68-76 games, beginning around mid-June. All these leagues conclude their seasons with playoffs in early through mid-September. The Mexican League played a 113 game schedule in 2012, starting in late March, and continuing through late July, with playoffs in August.

Each Major League team is affiliated with one Class AAA team, one Class AA team, two full-season Class A teams, and at least one short-season team in a league that charges admission. Some Major League teams have more Minor League affiliates than others.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

The independent leagues are not affiliated in any way with Major League Baseball. Their players, managers, and coaches are under contract to their individual leagues or teams. (Uniformed personnel in NAPBL leagues, other than the Mexican League, are under contract to their specific Major League parent teams.) Major League organizations can, and 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 leagues began to affiliate with Major League teams, and independent leagues 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. 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. Numerous other independent leagues were started. Some, such as the Heartland League and the Prairie League, managed to last 3 seasons. Others 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 2012, the 7 independent leagues that operated were the American Association (100 game schedule), Atlantic League (140 games), Can-Am League (100 games), Frontier League (96 games), North American League (up to 96 games, but far fewer for some teams), Pecos Baseball League (68 games), and Freedom Pro Baseball League (60 games).

In order to avoid confusion, this report will refer to leagues affiliated with Major League Baseball, plus the Mexican League, as “NAPBL Minor Leagues, or just NAPBL.” Attendance listings and individual league analyses will be kept separate from the data of the independent leagues, unless otherwise noted.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**2 More Teams and 188 More Dates Result in an Attendance Increase for Baseball's Minor Leagues in 2012**

- In 2012, combined attendance for all of baseball's minor leagues rose for the first time since 2008. This was mostly due to more games played, and 2 new teams in the Mexican League. One NAPBL team (Pensacola), and 2 independent teams (Sugar Land and Laredo) got completely new ballparks. The 3 straight declines in combined attendance for Major League affiliated leagues (NAPBL) and independent leagues from 2009 through 2011 followed 24 straight seasons of increases.
- **Total attendance for all minor leagues rose 325,486 (0.7%) in 2012 to 48,408,316, with average attendance per date down by 29.** This total attendance figure is the 7th highest of all time. The comparison excludes the 2012 Freedom Pro Baseball League, which did not report attendance. (It was very low.) In 2011, the combined NAPBL/Independent attendance fell 2.9%. It was down 0.1% in 2010, and it fell 3.8% in 2009.
- **Total 2012 attendance for the 15 Major League affiliated (NAPBL) leagues was up 28,329 (0.1%) to 41,280,382. But average attendance per date was down 62.** 176 teams that charged admission operated in 2012. 174 teams played in 2011. Total attendance in these leagues was down 0.4% in 2011, down 0.5% in 2010, and fell 3.7% in 2009. The last increase for the NAPBL until 2012 was in 2008, when it set its all time record-high.
- **6 independent leagues, with 55 teams that reported attendance, drew 7,127,934 in 2012, up 297,157 (4.4%).** Their average attendance per date rose by 92. This excludes the Freedom League. Independent leagues had a combined 15.7% decrease due to fewer teams in 2011, a 1.8% gain in 2010, and a combined 4.2% dip in 2009.
- Major League Baseball attendance rose 2.0% in 2012 and 0.5% in 2011, but fell 0.4% in 2010, and 6.6% in 2009.
- The Mexican League had 2 extra teams. Their total attendance rose 14.8%. But their average per date fell 226. Mexican League attendance was up 22.4% in 2011, but declined 11.8% in 2010, and 23.7% in 2009.
- If 2012 figures for the two Mexican League teams who didn't play in 2011 are excluded, NAPBL total attendance actually fell 358,228 in 2012. NAPBL leagues had a combined 167 more dates in 2012 than in 2011. The 160 U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams played a combined total of 22 more dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- **Leagues and teams continued to set records in 2012. The Carolina League drew record-highs for total attendance and average per date. 4 individual full-season, and 4 short-season NAPBL teams had their best total attendance ever in 2012.** More details about all the record-setters can be found in the league summaries. The independent American Association, the Atlantic League, and the Frontier League, also set record-highs in total attendance. In 2012, all 3 of these leagues added teams.

Combined NAPBL and independent league attendance had gone up for 24 straight years – 1985-2008!

NAPBL attendance rose every year from 1985 through 1994. From 1995 through 2008, 3 years had small declines in NAPBL attendance. But when attendance for independent leagues, the first of which began play in 1993, gets added to the NAPBL figures for those years, the combined Minor League attendance shows an increase. NAPBL Leagues, independent leagues, and combined Minor League attendance all were up in 2012.

COMBINED NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993

1993 - 30,756,828	1998 - 39,294,427	2003 - 45,627,856	2008 - 51,576,409
1994 - 35,286,552	1999 - 40,051,268	2004 - 46,445,630	2009 - 49,609,703
1995 - 36,208,800	2000 - 43,229,652	2005 - 48,851,400	2010 - 49,537,502
1996 - 36,747,940	2001 - 44,805,778	2006 - 49,268,793	2011 - 48,082,830
1997 - 38,227,980	2002 - 45,049,213	2007 - 51,298,733	2012 - 48,408,316

The record-high combined NAPBL Minor League and independent league regular season attendance was 51,576,409 in 2008. Also in 2008, the 176 NAPBL 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.

A NOTE ABOUT HOW WEATHER AFFECTS ATTENDANCE

There have been 176 teams in the NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games in all but 2 seasons since 1999. 175 teams played in 2007, and there were 174 in 2011. The differing number of home dates played from season to season, as illustrated in the table below, is almost always due to the varying number of dates rained out.

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. 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.

2012 HAD MORE PLAYING DATES FOR NAPBL LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

Fewer rainouts, and 2 more Mexican League teams, resulted in a combined 188 more playing dates in 2012 compared to 2011. NAPBL leagues had a total of 167 more dates, while independent leagues had 21 more (excludes the Freedom Pro Baseball League which played an estimated 83 dates in 2012, that league's first season).

Among NAPBL leagues, the Mexican League added 2 new teams, and had 145 more dates than in 2011. Other leagues with significantly more playing dates in 2012 than in 2011 include the Midwest (34 more), New York-Penn (18) Carolina (14), and International (13). There were 30 fewer dates in the Appalachian League, and the Florida State League played 27 fewer dates. The Northwest League had 3 lost dates in 2012, after having none in 2011. Overall, NAPBL leagues had the most playing dates since the late 1950's. Among Independent leagues, the Atlantic League added a team and had 60 more dates, the Frontier League had 2 more teams and 92 more dates. But the American Association played 47 fewer dates, and the Can-Am League had 2 fewer teams and 102 fewer dates.

OF HOME DATES FOR LEAGUES THAT RECORDED ATTENDANCE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAPBL LEAGUES</u>	<u>NAPBL - EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
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	2,360
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	9,938	9,020	N/A
1995	9,959	9,036	N/A
1994	9,916	8,972	N/A

NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF AND ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE

All Minor Leagues had playoff games in 2012. There were 204 post-season games played by NAPBL teams. These games drew a total of 666,348, an average of 3,266 per date.

Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. In 2012, the Mexican League drew 309,668 for its 40 post-season games, an average of 7,742 per game. 5 games topped 10,000 in attendance, with a high of 23,895 at Monterrey. 2012 regular season games in the Mexican League had an average attendance of 4,493.

The 164 playoff games for U.S./Canadian teams averaged 2,175 per game, with a top crowd of 8,601 at the AAA Championship game in Durham. Just 8 games drew at least 5,000. Attendance was below 1,000 at 44 games.

Independent league teams drew 110,241 for 46 playoff games, an average of 2,397 per game. These figures exclude the Pecos and Freedom Leagues. Combined NAPBL and independent leagues post-season attendance was 776,589, an average of 3,106 per game.

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.

There are several reasons why, with the exception of the Mexican League, Minor League post-season games 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 usually, there is 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 playoff games are in late July and in August. But playoffs in all other leagues take place in September, when school is open, and the NFL and college and high school football seasons have begun.

10 All-Star Games were played by NAPBL leagues in 2012. They drew a combined 92,930, led by a crowd of 18,025 at the AAA game at Buffalo. The Eastern League game at Reading drew 9,477. The independent league All-Star Games drew a total of 12,870.

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT UP SLIGHTLY IN 2012

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 74,859,268 in 2012, up 2.0% from 2011. Combined Major League/Minor League attendance in 2012 was 123,267,584. This is up 1.5% from 121,498,146 in 2011. The all-time record-high combined Major/Minor League total attendance is 130,801,908, set in 2007.

NAPBL LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES BY CLASSIFICATION

By classification, NAPBL teams with the biggest 2012 gains in total attendance were: Salt Lake City (among all AAA teams); Huntsville (AA); South Bend (full-season A); Hudson Valley (short-season A); Burlington, NC (Rookie); Monterrey (Mexican League). Salt Lake City had the worst Class AAA loss in 2011.

By classification, NABPL teams with the worst losses in 2012 were: Pawtucket (AAA); Mobile (AA); Port Charlotte (full-season A); Staten Island (short-season A); Orem (Rookie); Mexico City (Mexican).

The above listings do not include independent league teams.

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest attendance gains and losses for 2012 in both the NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 14.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2012 vs. 2011**

In 2012, there was a decline in the number of teams that achieved gains in attendance. 171 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2012 as they did in 2011. 67 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2012, while 104 had declines. This includes Carolina, which was in the Southern League in 2011 and in the Carolina League in 2012. It does not include Scranton-Wilkes Barre, who played their 2012 home games in 6 different locations as their old ballpark was demolished, and a new park was under construction at the same site. Also not included are Grand Junction of the Pioneer League, which moved from Casper, Pensacola of the Southern League, and Aguascalientes and Carmen, the 2 new teams in the Mexican League.

NAPBL TEAMS IN SAME MARKETS AS IN THE PREVIOUS YEAR -
SHOWING TOTAL ATTENDANCE GAIN/LOSS VS. PREVIOUS YEAR

Year	# of Teams	# With Gain	# With Loss	# No Change
2012	171	67	104	0
2011	173	87	86	0
2010	173	83	90	0
2009	171	57	114	0
2008	172	86	86	0
2007	171	114	57	0
2006	174	88	86	0
2005	170	98	71	1
2004	169	87	82	0
2003	169	58	111	0
2002	173	84	88	1
2001	169	86	83	0
2000	170	71	99	0
1999	169	64	105	0
1998	164	83	81	0

In average attendance per home date, considerably fewer NAPBL teams had gains than had declines in 2012. 65 teams were up, while 106 were down. These figures exclude new teams, and teams that moved, as noted above, but do include a 2012 vs. 2011 comparison for the Carolina Mudcats.

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.

20 independent league teams playing in the same market (but not always in the same league) as in 2011, had increases in total attendance in 2012, while 26 were down. 17 of those teams posted gains in average per date, with 40 showing declines.

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.

MINOR LEAGUE TELEVISION MARKETS

New York is the largest television market, with 7,384,340 television households, and 10 Minor league teams. The biggest TV market without a Minor League team is Detroit, which ranks #11, and has 1,845,920 TV households. The biggest market with no Major League team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #16. In 2012, Portland, OR, ranked #22, was the biggest market with no Major or Minor League team. But they get a short-season team in 2013. So Columbia, SC, ranked #77 will be the biggest market without a team in 2013. Helena, Montana, ranked #206, with 28,260 households, is the smallest market that has a team. SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen 2013 TV Households Estimates.

SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE

As the table on the previous page 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 2012, there were 34 teams (16 full-season and 11 short-season NAPBL 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 NAPBL 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 NAPBL, 10 short-season NAPBL, 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, 43 teams overall had gains of 5,000 or less, with 16 teams up less than 1,000 from 2009. There were 29 teams whose attendance fell less than 5,000, with 5 teams down less than 1,000.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

In 2012, average attendance per home date fell by 62 for NAPBL leagues, rose by 92 for the independent leagues, and was down by a combined total of 29 for all Minor Leagues. This excludes the Freedom Pro League which drew poorly, but did not compile attendance. In 2008, new records were set for NAPBL average per date, and for the combined NAPBL/independent leagues average per date. The all-time high independent leagues average was achieved in 2004.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – 1997-2012 (record highs in bold)

Year	NAPBL Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
2012	3,967	2,697	3,710
2011	4,029	2,605	3,739
2010	3,992	2,854	3,747
2009	4,055	2,872	3,804
2008	4,174	2,877	3,892
2007	4,155	2,726	3,824
2006	4,048	2,908	3,818
2005	3,986	2,785	3,738
2004	3,962	3,000	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	3,445
1999	3,386	2,559	3,258
1998	3,431	2,054	3,167
1997	3,469	N.A.	N.A.

A NOTE ABOUT THE TERM 'HOME DATE':

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**NAPBL Leagues**

- Average attendance per date for NAPBL teams fell by 62 to 3,967 in 2012. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- The Carolina, Appalachian, and Pioneer Leagues were the only NAPBL leagues to record gains, with the Pioneer League having the best increase, up 88.
- The International League averaged 6,699, best of any league in 2012, but down 257 from 2011. That's the largest drop of any league. The International League drew a record-high average per date of 7,348 in 2009.
- **The Carolina League had its highest average per date (3,522) in history.**
- **Monterrey of the Mexican League averaged 11,321 per date, which was the highest of any team in 2012.** It was the first time since 2008 that a team topped 10,000. Monterrey did it then as well. Sacramento had topped 10,000 per date for 8 straight years from 2000 through 2007.
- **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) averaged 9,153 per home date to lead all U.S. teams.** This figure excludes games played at Lehigh Valley when Scranton-Wilkes Barre was the home team. The IronPigs averaged 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010, and those averages were the best in the Minors each year. In 2009, Columbus, OH had the best average.
- Sacramento, Saltillo, Columbus, Louisville, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Indianapolis, and Dayton were other teams that averaged 8,000+ per date. So 10 teams drew at least 8,000 per home date in 2012. The number of teams reaching this level was 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 only 4 teams in 1999.
- Tucson again had the lowest average among Class AAA teams in 2012 – 2,956, down 454.
- Frisco (7,076), Reading (6,368), and Richmond (6,257) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2012. These same 3 teams were also the Class AA teams that topped 6,000 per date in 2011. The number of Class AA teams reaching an average of 6,000+ was 4 in both 2010 and 2009, 5 in both 2008 and 2007, 6 in both 2006 and 2005, 7 in 2004, and 6 in 2003.
- Huntsville, AL once again had the lowest Class AA average, drawing 1,973 per date. But this was up 391 from 2011, and up 569 from 2010.
- 10 Class A (including short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2012, and 10 teams also did it in 2011. This level was surpassed by 11 teams in 2010 and 2009, 12 in 2008 and 2007, 10 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 10 in 2004 and 2003, 9 in 2002, and 10 in 2001.
- **Dayton averaged 8,532 per date to lead Class A for the 13th straight year.** Lakewood was the other full-season Class A team to average over 6,000 in 2012. Dayton, Kane County and Lakewood were the other full-season Class A teams who topped 6,000 fans per date in 2011, 2010, and 2009. These same 3 teams, plus Greensboro did it in 2008, 2007, and 2006.
- Bakersfield had the lowest average (637) among all NAPBL teams. Burlington IA, and Dunedin also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- **Brooklyn averaged 6,553 per home date, leading all short-season teams for the 12th year in a row.**
- Aberdeen (6,447) was the only other short-season to top a 5,000 per date average in 2012. Hudson Valley, Lowell, Tri-City (NY-Penn), Vancouver, and Spokane were the other short-season teams that averaged more than 4,000 per date. In 2011, Staten Island averaged 5,664 per date, but fell below 4,000 in 2012.
- 10 short-season teams (8 of whom play in the Appalachian League, plus Helena and Batavia), averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**NAPBL Leagues – Biggest Gains and Losses**

- Monterrey of the Mexican League, up 2,881, had the biggest gain in average attendance per date in 2012.
- Salt Lake's increase of 724 was the highest of any Class AAA team.
- Jackson, TN had the best increase in Class AA, up 410.
- Full season Class A South Bend's average per date rose 985, best among all U.S. teams.
- Burlington, NC of the Appalachian League posted an increase of 179, tops in short-season leagues.
- Short-season Staten Island's decline of 1,949 per date was the worst of any NAPBL team.
- 4 Mexican League teams (Puebla, Mexico City, Laguna, Yucatan) all had declines of at least 1,400.
- Pawtucket, down 719, had the steepest decline in Class AAA.
- Mobile's loss of 945 per date was worst among Class AA teams.
- Salem had the largest drop in full-season Class A, down 801.

Independent Leagues

- Overall, average attendance per date was up 92 for the 6 independent leagues that recorded attendance. Data for the Freedom Pro Baseball League was not available.
- **The American Association had the best increase among independent leagues, up 360 per date to a league record-high of 3,512.**
- **Atlantic League average per date was a league record-high 4,409, up 324.** The all-time average attendance per date high for an independent league is 4,621 by the now inactive Northern League in 2008.
- The North American League had the biggest decline in average attendance per date of any league, down 610.
- **Among independent league teams, Sugar Land had the best average attendance per date (6,650) in 2012.** That is the highest average ever for an Atlantic League team. Long Island, Somerset, Winnipeg, and Kansas City were the other independent league teams that exceeded 5,000 per date. 5 independent teams averaged 5,000+ in 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 2001, and 2000. 7 teams did it in 2007. 6 teams topped 5,000 in both 2006 and 2005, and 4 teams did it in both 2003 and 2002.
- All 6 Pecos League teams averaged less than 1,000 per date. But these teams play in very small facilities. 5 teams in the North American League also drew under 1,000 per date, with Hawaii having the lowest figure – 315. London and Newark also averaged less than 1,000. There were 8 independent teams that averaged less than 1,000 in 2011, and 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 independent teams averaged below 1,000 per date in 2007. But in 2006, and also in 2004, every independent team averaged at least 1,000. 3 fell below this level in 2005.
- Sioux Falls, up 1,102 per date had the best increase among independent teams. River City had a gain of 595, Rockland posted a 486 increase, and Evansville was up 401.
- Southern Illinois had the largest decline among independent teams, down 1,039 per date. Fort Worth had a dip of 985, Edinburg declined by 561, and Washington, PA fell 485.

BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN 2012

10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2012 vs. 2011 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2012 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2011</u>
Monterrey	Mexican	645,302	214,882
Salt Lake	Pacific Coast	515,633	77,864
South Bend	Midwest	189,575	76,780
Veracruz	Mexican	245,057	50,226
Tabasco	Mexican	170,966	40,214
Salttillo	Mexican	467,889	38,556
Reynosa	Mexican	195,154	38,440
Huntsville, AL	Southern	130,231	36,891
Lakewood, NJ	South Atlantic	410,113	28,043
Jackson, TN	Southern	133,352	26,663

- 8 Mexican League teams were on the list of the 10 biggest attendance gains in 2011.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2012 vs. 2011 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2012 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2011</u>
Mexico City	Mexican	285,894	(84,732)
Mobile	Southern	133,062	(77,894)
Puebla	Mexican	287,178	(75,833)
Laguna	Mexican	176,762	(72,786)
Yucatan	Mexican	137,750	(64,585)
Pawtucket	International	521,023	(57,907)
Birmingham	Southern	204,269	(57,354)
Staten Island	New York-Penn	141,163	(51,405)
(Port) Charlotte, FL	Florida State	117,417	(48,958)
Salem, VA	Carolina	178,730	(47,607)

- Salt Lake had the worst decline in 2011. Mobile lost 7 dates due to weather in 2012, and played 6 fewer dates than in 2011. Port Charlotte had 9 lost dates in 2012, and played 6 fewer dates than in 2011.

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2012 vs. 2011 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2012 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2011</u>
Sioux Falls, SD	American Assn.	130,541	53,992
Rockland (County), NY	Can-Am	161,375	37,857
River City (O'Fallon, MO)	Frontier	107,986	36,028
Evansville	Frontier	120,819	22,882
Southern Maryland	Atlantic	229,094	14,959

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2012 vs. 2011 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2012 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2011</u>
Southern Illinois	Frontier	129,936	(51,640)
Fort Worth	North American	57,596	(50,424)
Washington, PA	Frontier	81,836	(22,799)
Worcester	Can-Am	61,398	(22,347)
Somerset	Atlantic	350,295	(21,787)

- Somerset played 5 fewer dates in 2012 than in 2011.

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, covering all of their stores, regardless of how long those stores have been open. It includes stores that were open less than a full year, either in the current year, or the previous one. So for example, a report for the full year 2012 compared to the full year 2011 will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2012 or 2011.

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 2012 and 2011. Looking at 'Same-Store' sales provides a good barometer of real sales growth, rather than just growth due to opening many new stores.

This page looks at 'Same-Ballpark' attendance, a baseball version of 'Same-Store' sales, by comparing 2012 vs. 2011 attendance change for the NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both years.

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 been basically flat since 2005. There were 19 more teams in 1990 playing in NAPBL leagues that charge admission than there were in 1980. By 1999, 12 more NAPBL teams, plus 44 independent teams were added. But 2012 had the same number of NAPBL teams as in 1999. No Major League expansion since 1998 is the main reason for this.

Far fewer new ballparks have opened recently. 73 current NAPBL teams and 26 independent league teams play in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 19 NAPBL and 10 independent teams play 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 ballpark for 2012, and their attendance rose from 112,795 in 2011, to 189,575 in 2012.

In 2012, the Mexican League added 2 teams. Carolina (Zebulon, NC) was in the Southern League in 2011. That team moved to Pensacola, which became the only NAPBL market to open a new ballpark in 2012. The Carolina League team that played in Kinston in 2011 moved to Zebulon in 2012. So the actual market change was Kinston to Pensacola. Carolina drew 225,577 in 2012, and 255,216 in 2011. The only other move by an NAPBL team was Casper to Grand Junction. That city renovated its existing park for 2012. Also listed in this table is Scranton-Wilkes Barre, who played 'home' games in 6 other cities as their new park was being built on the site of their previous home.

Combined total attendance fell 1.5% for the 171 NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both 2012 and 2011. Coincidentally, the 46 independent league teams that played in the same ballpark in both years also had a combined decline of 1.5%.

Since some independent league teams come and go each year, this table only notes the 2 independent teams that opened a new park in 2012. It does not include new teams going into existing parks, or teams that disbanded.

League	2012 City	2012 Attendance	2011 City	2011 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2011
Southern	Pensacola	328,147	Kinston	112,181	215,966
Pioneer	Grand Junction	101,496	Casper	47,982	53,514
Mexican	Aguascalientes	159,414	-----	New Team	-----
Mexican	Carmen	227,143	-----	New Team	-----
International	6 'home' parks	272,168	Scranton-W.B.	298,098	(25,930)
Total – above teams		1,088,368		458,261	630,107
171 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2011 NAPBL Teams		40,192,014		40,793,792	(601,778)
American Association	Laredo	187,845	-----	New Team/Park	-----
Atlantic	Sugar Land	465,511	-----	New Team/Park	-----
46 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2011 Indep. Teams		6,234,913		6,330,827	(95,914)

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2012 vs. 2002, 2012 vs. 1992, and 2012 vs. 1982

Later in this report, there is a section examining Minor League historic attendance growth by league. The section right here looks at individual team attendance growth, comparing attendance in 2012 with 2002, 1992, and 1982. It includes 2012 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different NAPBL classifications in 2002, 1992, or 1982. Some cities went from being NAPBL markets in 2002, 1992, and/or 1982, to hosting independent league teams in 2012. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa. The comparisons with 2002 and 1992 exclude Scranton-Wilkes Barre, which played its 2012 home games in 6 other cities while their ballpark was demolished, and a new park was built on the same site.

2012 vs. 2002

In 2012, there were 181 Minor League teams (153 NAPBL and 28 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2002 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2002. In 2002, Montgomery and Pensacola, who had NAPBL teams in 2012, played in the independent Southeastern League, which did not record attendance. But it is certain that these teams drew far better in 2012 than in 2002.

73 of those 153 NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2012 than in 2002, while 80 teams had a decline. Norwich, CT had a full-season Class AA team in 2002, and a short-season team in 2012. Mississippi, Lehigh Valley, Pensacola, Montgomery, AL, and Springfield, MO went from independent leagues in 2002 to NAPBL leagues by 2012, and all had significant attendance increases vs. 2002. Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) drew 541,972 more than an independent team in that city drew in 2002. A new park, and an affiliation with the Phillies are major reasons for this gain. Springfield's Texas League attendance was 256,263 higher than what it drew in 2002 in the Central League.

Only 10 of the 28 independent league markets with a team in both years drew better in 2012 than in 2002. 3 of these 2012 independent markets (El Paso, Laredo, Wichita) had longer schedule, full-season NAPBL teams in 2002. Laredo, then in the Mexican League playing in Nuevo Laredo, and Wichita, had gains vs. 2002, but El Paso was down.

24 NAPBL teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2002. Only one of these teams, Eugene, OR, drew less in 2012 than in 2002. Their current ballpark is smaller than their old home. Laredo and Rockford were the independent teams who have moved to a new park after 2002, and both posted gains in 2012 vs. 2002.

Monterrey (Mexican) up 197,901, and Greensboro, up 187,684, had the best gains when comparing 2012 and 2002 attendance for teams that played roughly the same schedule length for both years. Columbus, OH drew 120,833 more fans in 2012 than in 2002, the best gain among all Class AAA teams. A major factor in this increase is a new ballpark. Arkansas' increase of 115,872 topped Class AA. Mississippi and Springfield, MO had bigger gains vs. 2002 than Arkansas did, but they played in shorter season independent leagues in 2002.

Greensboro had the best increase among full-season Class A teams. Tri-City (Troy, NY), up 51,557, had the best growth among short-season teams. Overall, 15 NAPBL teams drew at least 100,000 more fans in 2012 than in 2002. Among independent markets, Laredo, up 84,858, and Gateway, up 57,926, had the best increases.

Class AAA Memphis' attendance fell 300,844 since 2002, the biggest decline of any team. The addition of the NBA's Grizzlies to this market may be a factor. Sacramento had a 231,227 loss. Yucatan of the Mexican League was down 232,070. Akron, down 143,714, had the worst loss of any Class AA team. Lexington's drop of 132,903 was the largest among full-season Class A teams, while Brooklyn's decline of 68,115 was the biggest for a short-season NAPBL team. 10 NAPBL markets saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2002. This includes now-short-season Norwich, CT, down 164,048 from what their full-season team drew in 2002.

Bridgeport, down 129,876, and Newark, down 176,526, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2012 and in 2002. But Newark now plays a shorter schedule, with 48 home dates in the Can-Am League 2012, compared to 65 dates in the Atlantic League in 2002.

There were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games in 2002, and the total attendance for those teams was 38,639,142. In 2012, there were also 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 41,280,382. Average attendance per team was 219,541 in 2002, and 234,548 in 2012. Independent league attendance was 6,410,071 in 2002, with 50 teams playing home games. In 2012, the 55 independent teams that played a regular schedule of home games in leagues that recorded attendance drew 7,127,934.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2012 vs. 2002, 2012 vs. 1992, and 2012 vs. 1982**2012 vs. 1992**

There were no independent leagues in operation in 1992. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1992. But Class AAA was divided into 3 leagues—the International and Pacific Coast Leagues, and the American Association (no relation to the current independent league of that name). Teams in the American Association were moved into the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

A significantly larger percentage of teams posted increases, and very large increases, when comparing 2012 attendance with 1992 attendance, than when comparing 2012 attendance with 2002. This is due to much better marketing of Minor League Baseball starting in the 1990's, and the opening of so many new ballparks since 1992.

113 NAPBL teams played in the same geographic market in 2012, as a team played in during the 1992 season. 77 of those teams had higher attendance in 2012, than a team in the same market in 1992. Attendance fell for 36 teams.

Tri-City (Troy), NY in 2012, replacing Albany-Colonie, which operated in 1992, and Vancouver, now play a short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1992. Tri-City, playing 38 home dates in 2012, drew 159,966. That was this team's 9th straight record-high. In 1992, Albany-Colonie of the full-season Eastern League drew 145,930. Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a ballpark in Jupiter FL, each drew less in 2012, than the 1992 team playing in nearby West Palm Beach.

5 markets with independent league teams in 2012 (Laredo, Rockford, Wichita, El Paso, London), had teams in NAPBL leagues in 1992. Rockford and Laredo had higher attendance in 2012 than their 1992 NAPBL predecessors. London only played 26 home dates before running into financial difficulty. They finished 2012 as a road team.

56 of the 113 NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in operation in both 2012 and 1992, play in a ballpark that opened after 1992. 46 of them had better attendance in 2012 than in 1992. The 10 teams with a decline include both Palm Beach and Jupiter. Tucson, Louisville, and Chattanooga are the only NAPBL markets above Class A with a ballpark that opened after 1992, whose 2012 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2012 than in 1992 for 25 teams, with 12 of those teams posting increases of more than 200,000. Reno had a gain of 284,514, as it moved from Class A to Class AAA. Monterrey of the Mexican League, up 507,360 since 1992, had the best increase of any team. Saltillo, also in the Mexican League, had a gain of 313,750. Toledo posted the top gain among U.S. teams, up 308,208. Memphis, now in Class AAA, drew 280,938 more fans in 2012 than they did as a Class AA team in 1992.

New Britain, up 213,707, had the best increase among Class AA teams. Greensboro's gain of 210,690 was best for full-season Class A. Spokane's 2012 attendance was 68,273 higher than in 1992, the best gain for a short-season team.

7 teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2012 than in 1992. This includes Vancouver, which had a full-season team 20 years ago, but plays in a short-season league now. Buffalo, which drew 1,117,867 in 1992, had the largest decline since then, down 601,969. Huntsville, down 121,779, had the largest decline among Class AA teams.

Bakersfield's loss of 114,745 was the worst among full-season Class A teams. Boise had the biggest drop (53,971) among teams that played a short-season schedule in both 2012 and in 1992. Yucatan, down 108,292, had the largest dip in the Mexican League.

El Paso, down 81,605, and London, down 91,750 with a partial home schedule, had the worst declines among teams currently in independent leagues. 20 years ago, all these cities had NAPBL teams that played longer schedules.

In 1992 there were 168 NAPBL teams in operation in leagues that charged admission. Total attendance that year was 27,180,170. The total attendance figure is from data published by the office of Minor League Baseball. Average attendance per team was 161,787 in 1992. It was 234,548 in 2012. The average per date was 2,815 in 1992, and 3,967 in 2012.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2012 vs. 2002, 2012 vs. 1992, and 2012 vs. 1982**2012 vs. 1982**

There were no independent leagues in operation in 1982. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1982. But Class AAA was divided into 3 leagues—the International and Pacific Coast Leagues, and the American Association (no relation to the current independent league of that name). Teams in the American Association were moved into the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

NAPBL Minor League Baseball attendance is up 134% since 1982. Total attendance rose from 17,637,244 in 1982 to 41,280,382. Average attendance per team was 117,582 in 1982, and 234,548 in 2012. There were 150 teams that charged admission in 1982, compared to 176 NAPBL teams, and 55 independent league teams in 2012.

In 2012, 88 NAPBL and 5 independent teams played in a market that also had a team in 1982. 71 of the NAPBL teams, and 3 of the 5 independent teams, had higher attendance in 2012 than in 1982.

Many of these increases were huge. 40 NAPBL teams drew at least 100,000 more in 2012 than in 1982. For 19 of these teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 10 of these teams posted increases of more than 300,000.

Monterrey of the Mexican League showed the best increase since 1982 – up 555,302. Buffalo, which played in the Eastern League in 1982, had a 438,821 gain. Toledo had an increase of 400,716, and Indianapolis was up 381,078.

Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1982, achieved a gain of 344,748. That's the highest increase among Class AA teams. Winston-Salem's gain of 259,085 topped all full-season Class A teams. Idaho Falls showed the highest increase among short-season teams, up 67,331.

Amarillo's increase of 81,568 was highest among teams currently playing independent leagues. That city was in the Texas League in 1982, and drew just 51,812.

The largest decline since 1982 was by Yucatan of the Mexican League. That team opened a new ballpark in 1982, and drew 560,000. Their decline since then is 422,250. Louisville had the biggest loss among Class AAA and U.S. teams as their 2012 attendance was 298,415 lower than their 1982 total of 868,418. In 1983, Louisville became the first Minor League team to draw one million.

Nashville's attendance in 2012 was 186,865 lower than it was 30 years earlier when they were in the Class AA Southern League. 1982 was the 4th straight year that Nashville's attendance surpassed 500,000. The Sounds were the first Class AA team to ever reach that level.

Birmingham, down 27,725, is the only current Class AA team whose 2012 attendance was lower than it was in 1982. Hagerstown, now in Class A, drew 47,907 fewer fans in 2012 than in 1982, when it was in Class AA. Bakersfield had a dip of 38,776. Palm Beach was down 70,503, and Jupiter fell 69,886, from the total attendance achieved by a team that played in West Palm Beach in 1982.

Spokane's attendance was 41,646 lower than in 1982. However, that city had a Class AAA team in 1982, and a short-season team in 2012. Great Falls, down 10,175, had the largest decline among teams that had a short-season team in both 2012 and 1982.

El Paso had the worst loss among current independent teams. That city drew 91,892 less in 2012, playing a shorter schedule, than it did as a Class AA Texas League market in 1982.

58 of the 88 2012 NAPBL teams that play in a market that had a team in 1982, have moved into a new ballpark since then. Almost all other ballparks have undergone renovation, and in some cases, a complete rebuilding. Reading's increase, noted above, was the best for a team that played in the same park in 2012 as in 1982.

Major League Baseball attendance was 74,859,268 in 2012. It was 67,859,176 in 2002, 55,872,275 in 1992, and 44,587,874 in 1982. There were 30 teams in 2012 and 2002, and 26 teams in 1992 and 1982. Average attendance per date was 30,895 in 2012, 28,134 in 2002, 26,978 in 1992, and 21,975 in 1982. The National League did not include 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993.

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's combined attendance for those two years was just 88,993.

But starting in the 1990's, more Minor League teams began operating near Major League clubs. In 2012, 58 Minor League teams played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. 3 more teams (Pawtucket, Toledo, and Dayton) are located in non-Major League TV markets, but their ballparks are within about 60 miles of a Major League city. So in 2012, 20 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 2012, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,709,441. Also in 2012, the 58 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 13,757,082. That was 28.4% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 21.5% higher than the total attendance (11,324,947) for all 141 Minor League teams in 1976.

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 2012, the New York TV market had 10 teams, including 2 within New York City. The Philadelphia market had 5 teams, while the Boston/Providence area had 4. As the following 3 tables show, many of these teams have done remarkably well.

New York Area Teams	2012 Attendance	Notes
Lakewood, NJ	410,113	Led South Atlantic Leag. 2001-2007, 2009, 2010, 2012
Brooklyn, NY	249,009	Owns 12 of the 16 highest short-season team totals
Staten Island, NY	141,163	Record high in 2010. Big decline in 2012
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	161,811	Sold out nearly all games since team formed in 1994
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	377,473	Highest total yearly indep. attendance from 2000-2011
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	350,295	Averaged over 5,000/date every year in their history
Bridgeport, CT	132,139	Attendance down 61% since 1999 high of 342,857
Newark, NJ	32,056	An all-time low in 2012
Rockland County, NY	161,375	Attendance up 26% in 2012, this team's 2 nd year
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	87,206	First increase since 2007
New York Market Total	2,102,640	Overall 1.7% decrease in total attendance in 2012

Boston Area Teams	2012 Attendance	Notes
Pawtucket (Providence TV market)	521,023	Topped 600,000 in 8 of the last 12 years.
New Hampshire (Manchester)	377,317	6 straight record-highs – 2004-2009. Gain in 2012
Lowell, MA	168,239	Up in 2012, sellout streak ended at 413 games in 2010
Brockton, MA		Can-Am team didn't play in 2012, may return in 2014
Worcester, MA	61,398	Lowest total attend., and financial problems in 2012
Boston Area Total	1,127,977	4 remaining teams down a combined 6.3% for 2012

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

Philadelphia Area Teams	2012 Attendance	Notes
Reading, PA	426,623	Eastern League attendance leader 8 of last 11 years
Wilmington, DE	287,992	Led Carolina Lg. in att. 11 straight years-1998-2008
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	622,421	Minors U.S. best att. in 2011-12. 290 sellouts-2008-12
Trenton, NJ	373,355	AA then-record 14 str. years of 400,000+ ends in 2009
Camden, NJ	231,987	Another small decline in 2012
Philadelphia Market Total	1,942,378	A loss of 2.2% in 2012

There have been many success stories in the other 17 Major League markets with Minor League teams.

<u>Los Angeles</u>	5 Minor League teams... Rancho Cucamonga had led the California League for 17 straight years, before suffering a huge decline in 2010... Lake Elsinore led that league in 2011 and 2012.
<u>Chicago</u>	5 teams... Kane County had topped 400,000 for 18 straight seasons, and been above 500,000 in 6 of the last 11 years... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010.
<u>San Francisco</u>	2 teams... San Jose set a record high in total and average per date attendance in 2011.
<u>Dallas</u>	3 teams... Frisco has led all Class AA teams in attendance for 8 straight years.
<u>Washington</u>	5 teams... Frederick topped Carolina League in 2012, and had its best attendance since 2001.
<u>Seattle</u>	2 teams... Tacoma had a record-high attendance to its newly rebuilt ballpark in 2011.
<u>Tampa</u>	5 teams... In 2012, Clearwater had the highest attendance of any Florida State League team since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 7 th straight year.
<u>Minneapolis</u>	1 team... St. Paul has sold out most games since 1993. A new ballpark is coming soon.
<u>Cleveland</u>	3 teams... Akron has led the Eastern League in attendance 6 times since 1997, and is one of only 6 Class AA teams to ever top 500,000. But their recent attendance has fallen sharply.
<u>St. Louis</u>	2 teams... Gateway set the Frontier League record in 2004 (broken by Southern Illinois in 2007).
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	1 team... Washington, PA has sold out many games in its history, but is down in recent years.
<u>Baltimore</u>	1 team... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, and is the 2 nd best draw of short-season teams.
<u>Atlanta</u>	2 teams... Rome usually draws well... Gwinnett County had a decline in 2012.
<u>Kansas City</u>	1 team... Kansas City (KS) set new team record in 2007, and is a top independent league draw.
<u>Detroit</u>	1 team... Toledo (a separate TV market) is about 60 miles from Detroit, and the Mud Hens have surpassed 500,000 for 11 straight years
<u>Houston</u>	1 team... Sugar Land played its first season in 2012, and drew 465,511, the highest attendance by a modern day independent league team. Led all independent teams in average per date.
<u>Cincinnati</u>	2 teams... Dayton (a separate TV market) has topped 570,000 in all 13 years of operation, has a North American pro sports record of 913 consecutive sellouts, drew a team and Class A record-high in 2010, and is the most successful Class A team ever.

The New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco/Oakland TV markets each have 2 MLB teams. The San Diego, Miami, Milwaukee, Denver, and Toronto markets that did not have Minor League teams in 2012. Phoenix had 4 Freedom League teams who did not list attendance.

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

Year	Total NAPBL Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team	Year	Total NAPBL 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	448	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	33,355,199	172	193,926
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	43,263,740	176	245,817
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	136	79,624				
1974	10,562,452	134	78,824				
1975	11,021,848	130	84,783				
1976	11,324,947	141	80,319				
1977	13,004,297	144	90,308				
1978	13,012,727	152	85,610				
1979	15,304,724 @	150	107,504				
1980	15,541,674 *	145	107,184				
1981	16,178,790	140	115,563				
1982	17,637,244	150	117,582				
1983	18,559,190	153	121,302				
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.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total NAPBL attendance rose 0.1% in 2012, but there were 2 more teams than a year ago. It was the first gain since 2008. The remaining 174 teams had a combined decrease of 358,228. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 31 times in the last 38 years.**

Major League Baseball attendance has gone up vs. the previous season in 24 of the past 38 years, including 2012.

- **NAPBL 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 2012, there were 176 teams in the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games. The last 12 seasons have seen 12 of the 13 highest totals in the 111 year history of the NAPBL Minor Leagues.**
- 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 1970. During those years, attendance was basically flat – ranging from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 10,726,470 in 1970. Among the causes of the huge drop in 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.
- 2012 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 234,548. The record-high average per team is 245,817, set in 2008. Back in 1949, the 448 teams averaged 88,483 (NAPBL figure. Sporting News Guide figure is 88,582). By 1961, average attendance per team had fallen to 66,439.
- 5 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2012. The Carolina League set a new record for total attendance, and had a 4.9% increase. The Mexican League was up 14.8% with 2 more teams. The Midwest, Texas, and Pioneer Leagues also had gains. 6 leagues increased their attendance in 2011, and 5 were up in 2010. Just 3 leagues had increases in 2009, 7 leagues were up in 2008, and 13 leagues had gains in 2007.
- 10 NAPBL leagues had losses in total attendance. The International League had the biggest total decline (159,620). Florida State League attendance fell 6.3%, but they played 27 fewer dates than in 2011.
- Only 3 leagues had gains in average per home date, led by the Pioneer League, up 88. The Carolina League's average per date rose by 74, and the Appalachian League was up by 32. The biggest declines in average per date were the International League, down 257, the Mexican League, down 226, and the New York-Penn League, down 217. 7 leagues had gains in average per date in 2011, and 4 leagues had increases in 2010 and 2009.

GAINS AND LOSSES - A listing of total attendance gains and losses in 2012 vs. 2011 for each NAPBL team and league can be found starting on page 41. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 54.

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

In 2011, the Class AAA Lehigh Valley IronPigs (Allentown, PA) led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance. Their parent team, the Philadelphia Phillies, led all of Major League Baseball.

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 lead 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.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2012

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.

Year	U.S. NAPBL Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	U.S. NAPBL 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 NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2012

Year	U.S. NAPBL Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	U.S. NAPBL 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	1,132,183	Salt Lake City	173,256
1990	Buffalo	1,156,661	Salt Lake City	192,366
1991	Buffalo	1,188,972	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	317,124
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

* Mexican League teams with the highest yearly NAPBL 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). Mexican League attendance figures from 1981 were not available.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2012 SEASON - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- There were 3 teams that topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2012. That is the lowest number of teams reaching this level since 1999. 4 teams topped 600,000 in 2011 and in 2010. 7 teams drew at least 600,000 in both 2009 and 2008. 5 teams did it in 2007, 7 in 2006, and 5 in 2005. 1987 is the only year since 1982 that at least one team didn't draw at least 600,000.
- 14 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2012. The number of teams over 500,000 was 13 in 2011, 15 in 2010, 13 in 2009, 17 in 2008, 18 in 2007, 19 in 2006, 20 in 2005, 16 in 2004, 15 in 2003 and 2002, 14 in 2001, 10 in 2000, 6 in 1999, 9 in 1998, 10 in 1997, 7 in 1996, and 7 in 1995.
- At least one team has reached 500,000 every year since Columbus did it in 1979. But prior to 1979, the 1967 Mexico City Red Devils were the last team to draw at least 500,000. The last U.S. teams to draw that high were Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle of the Pacific Coast League in 1949. 3 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 1948, 5 of them drew that well in 1947, and 4 P.C.L. teams, plus Baltimore of the International League, did it in 1946.
- Monterrey of the Mexican League drew 645,302 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance
- Lehigh Valley had the best attendance among U.S./Canadian teams in 2012, drawing 622,421. The IronPigs also served as the visiting team in their own ballpark for 8 games with Scranton-Wilkes Barre. If those games were to be included in Lehigh Valley's total (they are officially credited to Scranton), the attendance total would be 688,821.
- Columbus drew 611,223. Sacramento reached 586,090, the lowest total in this team's history. But Sacramento had led all U.S./Canadian teams in attendance for 9 straight years (2000-2008), and was also top draw in 2010.
- Round Rock totaled 595,584 in its 8th AAA season, after setting both a Class AA and Texas League record for 5 consecutive years. The Express have drawn over 618,000 each year since 2000, except 2010 and 2012.
- Frisco was Class AA leader for the 8th straight year. But their 488,224 total was the lowest in their 10 year history.
- Dayton (Midwest) has sold out all 913 home games in its history, a sellout streak that is the highest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 588,689 to lead Class A for the 13th year in a row.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have led all short-season teams each season of their 12 year history.
- 15 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 in 2012. The all-time high for the number of short-season teams reaching 100,000 is 18, set in 2007. The last time no short-season team drew at least 100,000 was in 1984. The only short-season team to ever reach 100,000 prior to 1985 was Portland, OR in 1974, 1975, and 1977.
- There were 11 full-season teams that drew under 100,000 in 2012. 6 of these teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 10 in 2011, 15 in 2010, 14 in 2009 and in 2008, 13 in 2007, 14 in 2006, 15 in 2005, 18 in 2004, 22 in 2003, 21 in 2002, 20 in 2001, 24 in 2000, 25 in both 1999 and 1998, 24 in both 1997 and 1996, and 19 in 1995.
- Tucson (200,991) had the lowest AAA attendance. 2009 was the only year that every Class AAA team drew at least 300,000. The last Class AAA team to draw less than 200,000 in a season was Ottawa in 2007. The 1988 Maine Phillies (Old Orchard Beach) were the last Class AAA that failed to reach 100,000.
- Huntsville, AL in the Southern League once again had the lowest AA attendance (130,231), but that was up 36,891 from their 2011 total.
- Bakersfield had the lowest attendance among full-season teams, drawing just 43,969. A new ballpark there may be ready by the 2014 season.
- Bristol of the Appalachian (Rookie) League drew 23,387 for the lowest short-season attendance.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA)** (14 teams -- 144 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 7,097,411 (2008); Team – Buffalo - 1,188,972* (1991), Buffalo - 743,463 (1998)
 (*Buffalo was in the American Association when it set this all-time Minor League record.)

- Total attendance fell 159,620 (2.4%) with 13 more dates in 2012 than in 2011. Average per date was down 257. Both the total and average per date attendance losses were the worst of any NAPBL league in 2012.
- The total attendance of 6,504,586 was the league's lowest since 2006, and the average per date of 6,699 was the lowest since 1999. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old American Association averaged 7,588 per date in 1992.
- 5 individual teams posted gains in total attendance vs. 2011, while 3 teams had a higher average per date.
- **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) had the 2nd highest attendance in all of Minor League Baseball in 2012, and led all U.S. and Canadian teams. The IronPigs (the name comes from 'pig iron' used to make steel) drew 622,421. They had the U.S. Minors' highest average per date (9,153 in 2012), for the 3rd straight year. Lehigh Valley is the only team to top 600,000 in each of the last 5 years.**
- **Coca Cola Field in Allentown has just 8,089 seats, making it one of the smallest parks in Class AAA. With standing room and lawn seating, combined 2008-2012 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity 290 times (including playoffs), and reached 10,000 at 93 games. 59 of the 68 dates in 2012 had crowds above seating capacity, with 15 as complete sellouts.** The ballpark also hosted 8 'home' games for the Scranton-Wilkes Barre Yankees. Those games drew 66,400, and averaged above seating capacity.
- The Columbus (OH) Clippers had the 3rd best total in Minor League Baseball for 2012, and the 3rd best total in team history, drawing 611,223. It was the 8th straight year that the Clippers have surpassed 500,000. They've reached that level 26 times in the last 34 years. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- Louisville drew 570,003, their lowest total since 1999. The Bats had topped 600,000 each year since opening a new park in 2000, through 2011, and 20 times since 1982. They've surpassed 500,000 in all but 4 seasons since 1982. The Bats have averaged 9,040 per date in their current park. In 1983, Louisville drew 1,052,438 to become the first Minor League team to reach one million. They also 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.
- Indianapolis had its best attendance since 2008, and they've now topped 530,000 for 17 straight years. The Indians saw average attendance per date rise by 331, the best increase in the league for 2012.
- Gwinnett had the lowest attendance in their 4 year history.
- Pawtucket made it 14 straight years above 500,000, and they won the league championship on the field. But they had a bit of a rough year at the gate. Total attendance was down 57,907, and average per date fell by 719. Those were the biggest declines in this league. But a team that was bankrupt 36 years ago, and couldn't draw 100,000, continues to rank among the annual attendance leaders.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2012

Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.
1977	70,344	1985	166,504	1993	466,428	2001	647,928	2009	625,561
1978	123,310	1986	186,517	1994	469,029	2002	615,540	2010	592,326
1979	147,420	1987	220,838	1995	479,261	2003	569,106	2011	578,930
1980	163,283	1988	246,940	1996	461,181	2004	657,067	2012	521,023
1981	191,859	1989	278,129	1997	474,557	2005	688,421		
1982	204,724	1990	290,953	1998	475,659	2006	613,065		
1983	188,186	1991	349,338	1999	596,624	2007	611,379		
1984	198,786	1992	358,318	2000	585,107	2008	636,788		

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA)** - continued

- Rochester's attendance was its lowest since 1996. But they've topped 400,000 for 16 consecutive years.
- Scranton-Wilkes Barre did not have a regular home ballpark in 2012. Their park near Scranton was demolished, and a new park will open on the same site in 2013. 'Home' games were played in Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Pawtucket, Lehigh Valley, and Batavia. Rochester was their most common 'home park'. The 38 dates there drew 96,245. Their 8 home dates at Lehigh Valley had attendance of 66,400. Overall, the Yankees drew 272,168. This franchise reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then. In 2013, the team will be renamed the RailRiders, honoring Northeast Pennsylvania's railroad history.
- Durham had the league's biggest gain in total attendance in 2012, up 20,911. The Bulls have drawn over 460,000 in all 15 years they've been a Class AAA team. In 1990, Durham was the first Class A team since Denver in 1953 to top 300,000.
- Toledo topped 500,000 for the 11th straight year. The Mud Hens had 33 sellouts in 2012, and have sold out more than 300 games since the opening of Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) in 2002.
- Charlotte opens a new ballpark in downtown Charlotte in 2014. They currently play in the suburb of Fort Mill, SC.
- Buffalo had their lowest attendance since 1987, when they still played at War Memorial Stadium, where the movie 'The Natural' was filmed. Yet they've still topped 500,000 for 25 straight years. The Bisons 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 in 1991, when they were in the American Association. In 1998, that league's teams were split up between the International and the Pacific Coast Leagues. Buffalo begins an affiliation with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013, and they hope to attract more fans from the Canadian side of the Niagara River.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA) (16 teams -- 144 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 7,420,095 (2007); Team – Sacramento - 901,214 (2001)

- Attendance fell 129,133 (1.9%) to 6,796,157, its lowest total since 2001. Average attendance per date declined by 104 to 6,052, the lowest figure since 1999. The league had 2 fewer playing dates than in 2011. Total attendance rose for 5 teams, while 4 teams had increases in average per date.
- Round Rock led the league in attendance for the 2nd straight year, drawing 595,584. It was the 4th best total in the Minors. But this was just the 2nd time in Round Rock's 13 year history that attendance was below 600,000.
- For the just the 2nd time in team history, Sacramento did not lead the league in attendance. They had a decline of 14,216 to their lowest total ever, and for the first time, they failed to reach 600,000. Attendance did top 10,000 at 18 games, with 5 crowds exceeding 14,000. The River Cats had led the Minors in attendance 9 times from 2000 through 2010. They've drawn nearly 9.5 million since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached that mark, and they've averaged 10,210 per date in their history. 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 – 2000-2012

Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date
2000	861,808*	12,312*	2005	755,750*	10,497#	2010	657,910*	9,138^
2001	901,214*	12,517*	2006	728,227#	10,257#	2011	600,306	8,455
2002	817,317*	11,512*	2007	710,235*	10,003*	2012	586,090	8,140
2003	766,326*	10,643#	2008	700,168*	9,725#			
2004	751,156*	10,433^	2009	657,095^	9,126			

* - Best in Minor Leagues # - Led U.S./Canadian teams ^ - 2nd among U.S./Canadian teams

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE** - continued

- The Albuquerque Isotopes have drawn over 560,000 in all 10 years of operation of the current team. They had crowds of better than 10,000 at 17 games in 2012.
- Reno won the Pacific Coast League and Class AAA championship. But their total attendance fell by 42,054, and average per date was down 674, the biggest losses in each category in the league in 2012.
- Colorado Springs drew their 2nd highest attendance ever, and their 5th straight year above 300,000. The Sky Sox never reached 300,000 in the team's first 20 years of operation (1988-2007).
- Tacoma's Cheney Stadium was totally renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers drew a record-high that year. Attendance in 2012 was that city's 3rd best of all-time.
- Memphis' streak of 9 straight declines ended in 2011. In 2012, they had another increase, and drew 493,706. But that is down from the 887,976 they attracted in 2001. A factor in the attendance decline in Memphis was the arrival of the NBA Grizzlies.
- Salt Lake City had the biggest total increase (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams. Average per date rose by 724, the 3rd best gain among all NAPBL teams. The Bees have topped 430,000 in total attendance, and 6,400 per date in all 19 years of operation. In 2012, they reached 500,000 for the 10th time.
- Iowa topped 500,000 for the 9th time in the last 11 years. The Cubs reached 300,000 for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every year since then.
- Tucson rejoined the P.C.L. in 2011 after being a league member from 1969 through 2008. The Padres' 2012 attendance of 200,991 was the lowest of any Class AAA team, and also was Tucson's smallest P.C.L. total since 1989. Their P.C.L. record-high was 317,347 in 1991. This team is expected to move to El Paso in 2014 or 2015.
- 5 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2012, a mark reached by 4 teams in 2011, 5 teams in 2010, 4 teams in 2009, 6 teams in 2008, and a modern era record-high of 7 teams in 2007. 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 drew over 500,000. The league played a 186 game schedule that year. In 1949, every P.C.L. team topped 378,000. No league has seen every team top that figure in a season since then. In 1966, none of the 12 P.C.L. teams topped 200,000, and as recently as 1974, just one team in the league surpassed 200,000. Calgary, in 2002, was the last team from this league to draw less than 200,000.
- Omaha had its 7th straight year with a gain, and drew 415,650, their highest total since 1997. That makes it 25 straight years above 300,000. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Class AAA facility. Attendance exceeded seating capacity at 30 games in 2012. Full capacity is a bit over 9,000. Omaha's former home, Rosenblatt Stadium, was much bigger. The last game there drew 23,795. A larger new park in Omaha for the College Baseball World Series, which had been played at Rosenblatt, also opened in 2011.
- Fresno had its 11th straight year above 470,000, but the total attendance was the smallest since 2001.
- The Las Vegas 51s continued their attendance consistency. They've never drawn below 290,000, or above 390,000, since they joined the P.C.L. in 1983. In 2012, they had their lowest total since 1988.
- Hurricane Ike caused problems for the New Orleans Zephyrs. They had to move a 4 game series to Round Rock. Attendance for those games is included in the New Orleans total. The final 4 game home series was cancelled.
- Nashville lost 5 home dates due to weather.
- A 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 1983, when Louisville drew more than one million. Buffalo holds the current Minor League season attendance record of 1,188,972 (1,240,951 if playoff games are included), set in 1991.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE** (16 teams – 113 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 4,591,286 (1979); Team – 989,454 – Monterrey (2006)

- This league does not have any Major League Baseball farm teams, but is an NAPBL Minor League member.
- The Mexican League had its best total attendance since 2008, and the biggest increase of any NAPBL league in 2012. Total attendance was up 492,319 (14.8%), but average attendance per date fell by 226. The league had 2 more teams (Aguascalientes and Carmen), and 145 more playing dates than in 2011. Comparing attendance for just the 14 teams that played in both 2012 and 2011, results in a total gain of 105,762 (3.2%), and an average per date decrease of 112.
- Playoffs averaged 7,742 per game, with 5 games drawing over 10,000, led by a crowd of 23,895 at Monterrey.
- Huge yearly attendance swings continue to take place in this league. In 2009, there was a 955,395 (23.7%) decline in total attendance. Total attendance fell 11.8% in 2010, but rose 22.4% in 2011.
- In 2012, 8 of the 14 returning teams had gains in both total attendance and average per date. Monterrey, up 214,882 had the biggest increase of any Minor League team. Veracruz, Tabasco, Saltillo, and Reynosa were among the 7 NAPBL teams with the biggest total gains of the year. 8 of the 10 teams with the largest total growth in 2011 were in the Mexican League. But in 2010, Mexican League teams had 5 of the 10 worst NAPBL declines.
- **Monterrey drew 645,302 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for 2012. It was the 3rd best total in Sultanes history, and the 6th time they've topped 500,000. The Sultanes also were the only team in the Minors to surpass 10,000 per date, as they averaged 11,321.**
- Mexico City, down 84,732, had the worst total attendance decline of any NAPBL team. Puebla, Laguna, and Yucatan were also among the 5 NAPBL teams with the biggest 2012 losses.
- In average per date, Monterrey, up 2,881 had the biggest increase of all NAPBL teams. Mexico City, down 1,843, had the 2nd worst decline of any team.
- **Veracruz drew a team record-high 245,057. Their old high of 237,705 was set in 1964, and had been the longest-standing team attendance record among current NAPBL teams.**
- Monclova had its highest total attendance since 2001. Quintana Roo (Cancun) had its 3rd best total ever. Yucatan had its lowest attendance since 1973. Saltillo topped 400,000 for the 10th time in the last 13 years.
- The best team example of the wild attendance fluctuations in this league is Monterrey. In 2006, they drew an all-time league record 989,454 in only 55 home dates, an average of 17,990 per date! Those were the top figures in the Minors in 2006, and the biggest crowds since Buffalo topped one million in 1993. 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 Majors.
- In 2008, Monterrey's attendance swung back up. The Sultanes drew 658,491, which was 3rd best in the Minors. The gain of 166,863 was the largest of any Minor League team. Monterrey averaged 12,424 per date, and was the only team whose average exceeded 10,000. But it was down again for Monterrey in 2009. Though the Sultanes led the league, drawing 400,310, they suffered a 258,181 loss from 2008, by far the biggest drop of any Minor League team. 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, and as noted above, they had the best attendance of any team in 2012.
- The Mexican League has the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing 2012 attendance with both 1969 and 1979. Average attendance per team is up 3.8% vs. 1979, and is down 3.4% vs. 1969. No other NAPBL league had a 2012 *decrease* in average attendance per team vs. 1979 or 1969. The Appalachian League has the smallest increase vs. 1979, up 29.9%, and also vs. 1969, up 60.7%. But the 2012 Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 is up 68.9%, which is better than 7 other leagues, and the average per team vs. 1999 increased 32.7%, which is a better growth rate than 10 other NAPBL leagues. The section starting on page 62 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 43 years.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**EASTERN LEAGUE (AA)** (12 teams -- 142 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 3,966,241 (2010); Team – Akron - 522,459 (1999)

- Total attendance declined 3.4% to 3,791,241. The Eastern League played 6 more dates in 2012 than in 2011. Average attendance per date was 4,669, down 199. The league has averaged at least 4,500 per date since 1995. The record-high average for the league is 4,904, set in 1998.
- Only 2 teams saw total attendance rise. Portland, up 5,506 had the top gain, and New Hampshire posted the league's other increase.
- 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew more than 200,000.
- Richmond had the league's highest attendance (438,002), which was the 2nd best total among Class AA teams.
- **Reading set a record for consecutive seasons of drawing over 400,000 by a Class AA team. They've now done it for 15 years in a row.** Trenton topped this level each year from 1995 through 2008. The Phillies, who have been renamed the Fightin Phils for 2013, had the highest average per date in the league for the 9th time in the last 11 seasons.
- Reading also led the league in total attendance 8 times from 2002 through 2011. But they had a 30,334 decline in 2012, the biggest drop in the league. This team continues to draw very well, despite the presence of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who have topped 600,000 in each of the last 5 years, and play in nearby Allentown. (Reading and Allentown have the same ownership.) Plus, there are very successful teams in terms of attendance in nearby Lancaster and Harrisburg, and the Philadelphia Phillies are just 60 miles away. There has been a huge growth in Reading's attendance since the early 1980's. (Attendance in the table for 1996, 1998, and 2000 includes an exhibition game with Philadelphia.)

READING PHILLIES ATTENDANCE – 1984-2012

Year	Attendance		Year	Attendance		Year	Attendance		Year	Attendance
1984	67,333		1992	287,078		2000	461,848		2008	436,789
1985	76,819		1993	313,083		2001	458,585		2009	460,791
1986	83,506		1994	338,249		2002	486,570		2010	456,466
1987	100,895		1995	383,984		2003	465,717		2011	456,957
1988	144,107		1996	384,151		2004	478,257		2012	426,623
1989	178,734		1997	398,182		2005	469,105			
1990	204,240		1998	423,336		2006	460,216			
1991	250,610		1999	448,367		2007	466,385			

- Altoona had the smallest total attendance in their 14 year history. But that was largely due to 9 dates lost to weather. The Curve was the only team in the league to have an increase in average per date in 2012.
- New Britain's attendance has surpassed 300,000 for 9 straight years, and has more than doubled since the early years of New Britain Stadium, which opened in 1996. The Rock Cats had set a team attendance record 10 times in an 11 year period from 2000 through 2010. But in 2012, New Britain's average per date fell by 806 from the team record-high average of 5,867 per date in 2011.
- Harrisburg had its 3rd best total ever, and topped 200,000 for the 25th time in its 26 year history. Senators' 2012 attendance was 116,000 higher than in 2008.
- New Hampshire (Manchester) drew over 370,000 for the 6th straight year.
- Bowie had its 2nd lowest total attendance ever.
- Portland has drawn at least 369,000 per season since 1994, with 446 sellouts in 1,275 dates in their history.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**EASTERN LEAGUE** - continued

- Akron's attendance fell for the 7th time in the last 8 years. Their 2012 attendance of 256,473 is the lowest in team history, and is less than half of what it was a little over a decade ago. The Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the second Class AA franchise to draw 500,000 in a season. Nashville had done it 4 times (1979-1982). 4 Texas League teams have achieved this level more recently--(Round Rock - 2000-2004, Springfield - 2005, Frisco - 2003-2011, and Corpus Christi - 2005-2006).
- Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. This team is expected to move to Ottawa in 2014. A New York-Penn League team would move into Binghamton. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 157th largest (out of 210) U.S. market in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #176, is the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AA team.

TEXAS LEAGUE (AA) (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League - 3,129,865 (2008); Team - Round Rock - 689,286 (2004)

- 2012 was a very hot year, in terms of weather in its cities for the Texas League. But total attendance still rose 12,755 (0.5%) to 2,834,864, the 5th highest total in league history. Every team drew at least 300,000. There were 7 more dates played in 2012 than in 2011.
- Average per date was down 43 in 2012 to 5,164. But this was the 8th straight year that the league averaged better than 5,000 per date. Average per date is up 1,765 since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. All teams averaged at least 4,400 per date in 2012, topped by Frisco, who averaged a Class AA best 7,076.
- 5 teams had gains in total attendance, and 3 teams were up in average per date.
- **Frisco drew 488,224 to lead all of Class AA for the 8th consecutive year.** But it was the smallest total in the team's 10 year history. The RoughRiders had the league's biggest declines in total attendance (21,107), and average per date (200).
- Midland had its 2nd best total ever. Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 until 2002, but has been over 250,000 every year since then.
- Tulsa also had their 2nd best total in team history. They topped 300,000 for 17th time in the last 20 seasons.
- Corpus Christi attracted 388,927, 4th best in Class AA, though it was the smallest total in the Hooks' 8 year history. In 2005, they replaced Round Rock, which moved to the Class AAA Pacific Coast League. In each of its 5 years in the Texas League, Round Rock set a Class AA attendance record, including an all-time high of 689,286 in 2004.
- Springfield (MO) had the league's biggest total attendance gain in 2012, up 15,508. The Cardinals have topped 330,000 in all 8 years of operation. But their attendance is down 173,956 since they drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005.
- San Antonio had the league's best increase in average per date - up 238. The Missions surpassed 300,000 for the 13th time since 1994. They had never reached that level before then.
- Northwest Arkansas has drawn better than 300,000 in all 5 years they've played.
- Arkansas (North Little Rock) never reached 300,000 until 2007. They've done it every year since.
- The all-time single game record-high attendance in the Texas League is 54,151 for a game played 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. The record-high attendance for any Minor League game is 65,666 set by the Denver Bears of the Class AAA American Association at Mile High Stadium on July 4, 1982.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**SOUTHERN LEAGUE (AA)** (10 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,596,339 (1994); Team – Birmingham (with Michael Jordan) - 467,867 (1994)

- Total attendance fell 22,653 (1.0%) to 2,152,852. There was a dip of 5 in average per date to 3,237. Both the total and average per date were the lowest for the Southern League since 1996.
- 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 4 teams increased their average per date.
- **Pensacola joined the league in 2012, and was the leader in both total attendance and average per date. The Blue Wahoos (named after a fish that is native to the area) drew 328,147, with 40 sellouts in 68 dates to their beautiful new waterfront ballpark.** Pensacola has been a Minor League city in the past. Their previous NAPBL record-high attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent league team drew 92,468 in 2007.
- Prior to 2012, 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 1994, and were also above 300,000 in 1993 and 1995. But their attendance did not reach 300,000 after that. Mudcats' attendance was 255,216 in 2011. A Carolina League team moved from Kinston to Zebulon in 2012, and retained the Carolina Mudcats name.
- Jacksonville had their lowest attendance since 2002, and did not lead the league in attendance for the first time in 10 years. They still have a streak of 24 straight years above 200,000, but 2012 saw the end of their streak of topping 300,000 for 9 consecutive years.
- Tennessee has drawn better than 240,000 for 13 straight seasons.
- Huntsville (AL) played 7 more dates in 2012 than in 2011. Attendance there rose 36,891, which was the best increase in the league, and the 8th best gain among all NAPBL teams. But their total of 130,231 was still the lowest in Class AA. It was the Stars first year above 100,000 since 2008, but the 9th time in the last 10 years below 200,000. This followed 14 consecutive seasons above 200,000. The all-time record attendance there is 300,810, in 1985, which was the team's first season. In 2011, the Stars drew at least 2,000 at just 7 dates, and 20 dates had crowds of under 1,000. In 2012, there were 19 dates with attendance above 2,000.
- Mobile lost 7 dates to weather, and suffered a decline of 77,894. That was the largest decrease among U.S. based NAPBL teams in 2012. The attendance of 133,062 was the lowest in the history of this team, which began play in 1997. BayBears' average per date fell by 945, which was the 2nd worst loss by a U.S. team.
- Birmingham had topped 250,000 for a Class AA high 24 straight years through 2011. But attendance fell 57,354 in 2012 to 204,269. That was the smallest total this team has had since 1987. They moved to the suburb of Hoover in 1988. But the Barons return fulltime to the city of Birmingham in 2013, as they open a new ballpark. The Barons have played one game each year at Rickwood Field in Birmingham. That park was their home from 1910 through 1987, and is the oldest professional ballpark still in use. In 1994, Michael Jordan played for the Barons, and fans came out in droves to see him. They drew a league record 467,867 at home, and 517,318 on the road.
- Jackson, TN failed to reach 200,000 for the 10th straight year. The Generals had topped 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but have been below 150,000 for the past 8 years. They had 19 games that drew less than 1,000 in 2012. On a positive note, average attendance per date went up a league-best 410 in 2012.
- Montgomery had the lowest total attendance in its 9 year history.
- 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 are current Southern League markets who were in the Southern Association. The league'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. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)
- The Montgomery Biscuits of the Southern League, Cedar Rapids Kernels in the Midwest League, and Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association, are the only teams in Minor League Baseball that are named for food. (Source: Tampa Bay Rays Media Guide.)

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (10 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,061,889 (1997); Team – Rancho Cucamonga - 446,146 (1995)

- Total attendance fell 11,224 (0.7%) to 1,582,174. There has been a decline in California League attendance in 10 of the last 15 seasons. 6 teams had gains in total attendance in 2012.
- Average per date for the league was down 10 to 2,293, with 6 individual teams posting increases.
- Since 1994, average per date in this league has ranged from a low of 2,158 in 2001 to a high of 2,988 in 1997.
- Lake Elsinore drew 227,000 to lead the league in attendance. The Storm topped 340,000 in each of their first 4 years (1994-1997), but they have not drawn more than 290,000 in any season since then. However, they have surpassed 200,000 in all 19 years of operation.
- Rancho Cucamonga had the league's best increases in total attendance (up 4,812), and average per date (up 69). In 2010, the Quakes, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, is named 'The Epicenter,' ended a 17 year run as the league's attendance leader. Their attendance fell 116,086, which was the worst decline among U.S./Canadian based teams in 2010. The Quakes drew 150,687 in 2010, by far the lowest attendance in team history. Their previous low had been 266,773 in 2009. Rancho Cucamonga set the all-time record-high attendance for a California League team when they drew 446,146 in 1995, selling 97% of available seats that year. They topped 300,000 each year from 1993 through 2000. In 2012, they drew 160,715.
- The Modesto Nuts ended a 5 year streak of record-high seasons. But they did achieve their 3rd best total ever.
- San Jose also drew their 3rd highest total ever. The Giants topped 200,000 for the 4th straight year, and also for just the 4th time in team history. This team failed to reach 100,000 in any year from 1974 through 1987.
- **Visalia set a record-high for the 4th straight year, attracting 118,625 in 2012. Until 2009, they shared professional baseball's oldest existing season attendance record. That year, the Rawhide completed a ballpark renovation, and drew a 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.
- Stockton drew 154,547 in 1947, and 145,804 in 1948. But attendance did not reach 120,000 again until 2005. They've topped 198,000 every year from that point on. Annual attendance in Stockton has more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005.
- Inland Empire, down 13,425 in total attendance, and down 156 per date, had the league's worst declines.
- Bakersfield posted a small gain, but still had the lowest attendance (43,969) of any full-season NAPBL team. Their average per date of 637 was also lowest in the NAPBL. Their 2011 attendance of 40,056 was the lowest attendance by a California League team since Salinas attracted just 33,465 in 1990. The Blaze have surpassed 100,000 just once since 1999. The biggest 2012 crowd in Bakersfield was 2,246, which was the only game all year where they drew above 1,612. Attendance topped 1,000 at just 8 games, and was below 500 at 31 games. But much better attendance is coming. A new ballpark in Bakersfield may be ready as soon as 2014.
- In their first two seasons (1991 and 1992), the High Desert Mavericks became the first California League team to top 200,000. But they have not done it since, and have been below 160,000 for 18 years in a row.
- Weather, other than heat in certain cities, is rarely a problem in the California League. There were only 10 lost dates in the league in 2012. There were 8 lost dates in 2011, 9 dates were lost in 2010, and just 6 dates were rained out in 2009. In recent years, the most rainouts in the league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.
- In 1965, the 6 team California League had a total attendance of 128,836, averaging just 21,743 per team, and 333 per home date. San Jose led the league in attendance that year, drawing 34,517.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**CAROLINA LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – **1,877,081 (2012)**; Team – Durham - 390,486 (1995)

- **The league set new records for total attendance (1,877,081), and average per date (3,522) in 2012.** The old records of 1,816,193 for total attendance, and 3,519 in average per date, were achieved in 1995. There were 14 more dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- 2012 total attendance rose 87,450 (4.9%), and average per date was up 74. Carolina (Zebulon, NC) replaced Kinston. The 7 teams that played in the same location in the Carolina League in both 2012 and 2011 combined to post a 1.5% decline in total attendance, and a 143 decrease in average per date.
- 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 3 teams had gains in average per date. Carolina's attendance was down when comparing the 2012 Carolina League team with the 2011 Southern League team at that location.
- Carolina attracted 225,577 in 2012, up 113,396 from what Kinston drew in 2011. The Southern League team that moved from Carolina to Pensacola in 2012 drew 255,216 in Zebulon in 2011. Teams in Zebulon have topped 200,000 in all 20 years of operation.
- Frederick drew 311,805 to lead the league in total attendance and average per date. This was Frederick's best total since 2001. Average per date rose by 302, the league's best gain for the year. The Keys surpassed 250,000 for the 23rd straight year. In their 24 year history, they've averaged nearly 4,500 per date.
- Winston-Salem attracted 305,515, their 3rd highest attendance ever. **In 2010, the Dash opened their new ballpark a year later than expected, and easily set a new team record, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. The team's previous record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing season attendance record by a current Minor League franchise going into 2010.** Veracruz, of the Mexican League, which set its record-high in 1964, then had the longest standing-record. But they set a new high mark in 2012. So 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 year. Construction delays and financial problems caused the park's opening to be pushed back to 2010. The team offered refunds to everyone who had purchased tickets for the new ballpark, while they 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 second worst decline among U.S. teams for that year.
- Potomac, up 20,832 to 191,928, had the best increase in total attendance. But the Nationals have reached 200,000 just once in the last 13 years. They hope to have a new ballpark very soon.
- Salem, down 47,607 in total attendance, and down 801 in average per date, suffered the worst decreases in the league. Their streak of 8 consecutive seasons above 200,000 ended.
- Wilmington, DE has topped 285,000 in all 20 seasons they've played. The Blue Rocks led the Carolina League in attendance each year from 1998 through 2008.
- The current team in Myrtle Beach has topped 200,000 13 times in the last 14 years.
- Kinston played its last year in this league in 2011 before moving to Zebulon, NC. The last game in Kinston drew 5,203. The Indians topped 130,000 only 8 times since 1963. Their highest attendance was 151,953 in 1997.
- Carolina League attendance has been very stable over the past 15 years. 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (12 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,296,962 (2011); Team – St. Petersburg - 202,383 (1989)

- The Florida State League is unique as most of its teams are operated by their Major League parent clubs. Every team except Daytona plays its home games in a Major League Spring Training ballpark.
- Bad weather resulted in 27 fewer dates being played in 2012 than in 2011. Total attendance declined 81,942 from the record-high set in 2011. But the 2012 total was still the 2nd best in Florida State League history. **Since 2002, total attendance in this league is up 50%, while average per date is up 53%.**
- 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 7 posted gains in average per date.
- The league's average attendance per date was down 50 to 1,592. Yet, this is the 2nd best average in the league since at least 1991. However it is also the lowest average per date of any full-season NAPBL league. Only the short-season Appalachian League and the independent North American, Pecos, and Freedom Baseball Leagues averaged less.
- **Clearwater led the league in total attendance for the 8th time in the last 9 years, and set a new record-high for the 7th straight year. The Threshers' 2012 total of 177,297 was the highest attendance in the Florida State League since St. Petersburg drew 190,146 in 1990. Clearwater also became the first F.S.L. team to top 150,000 in 7 consecutive seasons. Next in line in this category is the former team from St. Petersburg, who did it 4 straight years (1988-1991).**
- Bradenton had a small decline in 2012 to 101,528. But that total attendance was nearly double the 2010 figure. In 2011, the Marauders had the best increase in total attendance and average per date of any U.S./Canadian-based team. The ballpark in Bradenton, which is also the Spring Training home of the Pittsburgh Pirates, is getting a makeover for 2013.
- (Port) Charlotte had the league's biggest decline in total attendance, down 48,958, and in average per date, down 558. The Stone Crabs played 6 fewer dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- Lakeland's attendance has nearly doubled since 2006.
- Daytona has topped 140,000 for 7 straight years.
- Since 1998, the Fort Myers Miracle have achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (13) with attendance above 100,000. St. Petersburg, which no longer has a team in the league, had topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997.
- Dunedin drew only 53,091, which was the 2nd lowest attendance for any full-season NAPBL team. But this was their best total since 1998. The Blue Jays also had the league's best increase in total attendance, up 9,943, and in average per date, up 176.
- Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, Vero Beach had been one of the smallest towns to have professional baseball. The all-time attendance record in Vero Beach was 95,300, set in 1991. In 1948, the Brooklyn Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Dodgertown became not only a baseball facility, but was also used by NFL teams as a training site. 2008 was the 61st and final year that the Dodgers held Spring Training in Vero Beach. They moved to a new site in Glendale, Arizona in 2009. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and numerous business conferences are held there annually.
- The Palm Beach Cardinals and Jupiter Hammerheads share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. That ballpark is also used as a Spring Training site by the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. The Marlins and Cardinals Gulf Coast League affiliates play in the same complex. In a typical year, there are about 30 Major League spring training games, 140 Florida State League regular season games, and 60 Gulf Coast League games scheduled for Jupiter. Pro baseball's busiest facility is also host to Minor League spring training, the fall Florida Instructional League, and high school and college games.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**MIDWEST LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (16 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 4,184,843 (2010); Team – Dayton - 597,433 (2010)

- The Midwest League had its 2nd highest total attendance ever in 2012. Total attendance rose to 4,084,343, up 101,061 (2.5%). This was the best gain in total attendance for any U.S. NAPBL league. This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982, and 2 million in 1994. There were 34 more playing dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- Average attendance per date fell 24.
- 9 teams had increases in total attendance, and 7 teams were up in average per date.
- **Dayton drew 588,689, their 13th straight year above 570,000. In their 13 year history, the Dragons have the 13 highest season attendance totals ever in Class A.**
- **Dayton has sold out all 913 home games they've played, going back to Opening Day 2000. This is the longest sellout streak in North American pro sports history!** The Boston Red Sox hold the Major League record of 793 consecutive sellouts of regular season games, plus 26 post-season games, a streak still active going into 2013. The Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA had 814 consecutive sellouts between 1977 and 1995, which had been the longest sellout streak in North American pro sports.
- In 2012, Dayton outdrew everyone, except for 4 Class AAA teams, and one Mexican League team. Only 2 teams below Class AAA (Round Rock, while it was in the Texas League before moving up to the Class AAA, and Frisco, also of the Class AA Texas League) have ever outdrawn Dayton in a single season since 2000.
- West Michigan held the record broken by Dayton in 2000. The Whitecaps, who play near Grand Rapids, topped 500,000 for 5 straight years, 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've surpassed 350,000 for 19 years in a row.
- Fort Wayne had its 2nd highest regular season attendance ever. If playoff games are included, they had their best total attendance in team history. The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 20 years of operation, and have topped 375,000 in each of the last 4 years.
- South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780 to 189,575, which is highest total there since 2005. It is also the 3rd best gain in 2012 among NAPBL teams. The Silver Hawks grew their average per date by 985. That's the top increase among all U.S. NAPBL teams.
- Wisconsin (Appleton) has topped 240,000 in each of the last 4 seasons, a figure they had never reached before. Their ballpark is undergoing a major renovation for the 2013 season.
- **Dayton (8,532 in 2012), Kane County (5,587), and West Michigan (5,179), are the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2012. Lakewood of the South Atlantic League has topped 6,000 per date each year of their history, which began in 2001.** Fort Wayne and Lansing also averaged more than 5,200 per date in 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012. Dayton's park has 7,230 seats.
- Lake County's attendance rose in 2012, but total attendance for this Ohio team has fallen from 437,515 in 2003, to 248,114 in 2012.
- Clinton, a community-owned team, topped 100,000 for the 7th straight year. The LumberKings had failed to reach 100,000 for 17 years in a row between 1989 and 2005. The team's record-high is 127,251, set in 1988.
- Cedar Rapids had its lowest attendance since 2001.
- Quad Cities achieved its highest total since 1995.
- Burlington (IA) and Beloit always have fairly low attendance. The record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. Beloit drew a team record-high 101,127 in 1986, and has not topped 100,000 since then. Yet, both teams are profitable. They are community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**MIDWEST LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** - continued

- Lansing's attendance has fallen from 538,325 in 1996 to 345,763 in 2012. But the Lugnuts have topped 330,000 in all 17 years of operation.
- Kane County's attendance had surpassed 400,000 for 18 straight years until 2012, and topped 500,000 each year from 2001 through 2006. The Cougars have averaged more than 7,000 per date 12 times in their history, and in 2003, they had 18 crowds in excess of 10,000. But in 2012, their attendance was the lowest since 1993. The total attendance decline of 19,160, and the average per date loss of 536 were the worst in the league.
- The Midwest League's single game attendance high is 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, when Kane County and Peoria played at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County.

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A) (14 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League - 3,862,077 (2007); Team – Lakewood – 482,206 (2001)

- Total attendance fell 69,837 (2.2%) in 2012, and average per date was down 79. There was one more playing date in 2012 than in 2011. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 3 teams had increases in average per date.
- Since 2000, total attendance in this league is up 56.3% (1,954,697 to 3,056,097), and average per date is up 52.5% (2,150 to 3,279). But the 2012 total was the lowest since 2002 when this league had 16 teams. The average per date was the lowest since 2004.
- There were 16 teams in the S.A.L. when it set its all-time attendance record in 2007. Despite some small declines in recent years, and 2 fewer teams, the league has topped 3 million for 10 straight seasons. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million for the first time in 1997.
- Lakewood led the league in both total attendance and average per date. They BlueClaws drew 410,113, which was the 11th time in their 12 year history that they've topped 400,000. The only year they fell below this level was in 2011, when they lost 9 dates due to weather. They played 7 more home dates in 2012, and their total attendance gain of 28,043 was best in the league.
- The BlueClaws have led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 10 times in their 12 years of play, and in the 2 years they didn't have the top total attendance, they led the league in average per date. There have been 119 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001, and they've averaged over 6,000 per date every year.
- Greensboro had their lowest total since 2004. But they've surpassed 360,000 in total attendance, and averaged over 5,000 per date, in all 8 years in their current ballpark.
- Hagerstown had its lowest attendance since rejoining the Minor Leagues in 1981. The Suns also posted the largest losses in total (36,164), and average (565) in the league. They hope to have a new ballpark by 2015.
- Kannapolis had the 2nd best total attendance in their 18 year history.
- In 2006, Greenville (SC) got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team. 2012 Drive attendance was 347,042, up 231,881 from the 2005 total of 115,161. Greenville has surpassed 320,000 in 7 straight seasons. They also had the league's best gain in average per date in 2012, up 356.
- Charleston (SC) had never drawn 200,000 until 1997. The RiverDogs have topped 230,000 each year since then.
- Lexington (KY) drew less than 300,000 for the first time since they began play in 2001.
- A great team name in Minor League Baseball had a small gain. The Hickory Crawdads drew 132,696 in 2012. Hickory's first season was 1993, the year 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** - continued

- The Delmarva Shorebirds had been the league leaders in attendance from their first season in 1996, through 2000. In 2012, they finished 6th in the league in total attendance, drawing 231,194, their best total since 2002. The Shorebirds have surpassed 200,000 in all 17 years of operation.
- This league has some of the best gains ever for relocated teams. In their first season (2001), Lakewood 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.
- 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 5th 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.

NORTHWEST LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A) (8 teams -- 76 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,088,382 (1998); Team – Portland – 249,995 (1996)

- Northwest League total attendance fell 17,205 (1.9%), and average per date was down 28. 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 4 were also up in average per date. The league's average per date was 2,979 in 2012.
- Only 3 dates were lost in 2012 due to weather. In 2011, there were no lost dates at all in this league.
- Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but has not reached it since.
- Spokane led the league for the 13th straight year, attracting 179,880, 3rd best among all short-season teams. The Indians have topped 100,000 for 27 straight years, and have drawn over 160,000 for 18 years in a row. Their ballpark, which opened in 1958, is undergoing a renovation to be completed for the 2013 season.
- **Vancouver had its best attendance (164,461) as a short-season team, and also had the league's best gain in total attendance (up 2,229) and average per date (up 177).** In 1988, the Canadians set their all-time record of 386,220, while a member of the full-season Pacific Coast League.
- **Tri-City (Pasco, WA) attracted 86,095, their 6th straight record-high year as a Northwest League team.** In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101, in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season.
- Eugene had its 4th lowest total since 1985, but still topped 100,000 for the 28th straight year, the longest such streak by a short-season team. Their new park, on the campus of the University of Oregon, is smaller than their old one.
- Salem-Keizer has reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, in their 16 seasons of operation.
- Boise had the league's biggest dip in total attendance (7,693) and average per date (202). Their attendance of 91,167 was their lowest total since 1988, and just their 3rd under-100,000 total since 1989.
- Yakima drew 61,895 in their final year in that city. The record-high there was 86,822 in 1993. They move in 2013 to a new 4,500 seat park in the Portland, OR suburb of Hillsboro. Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for this league, and at that time, the highest attendance ever by any short-season team (broken by Brooklyn in 2001). For most of the 20th 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. It has recently been renovated for use as a soccer stadium, renamed JELD-WEN Field, and is the home of the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A)** (14 teams -- 76 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,890,053 (2002); Team – Brooklyn – 317,124 (2002)

- Total attendance fell 48,890 (2.8%) to 1,701,001, and average per date was down 217 to 3,290. That's the lowest total and average in this league since 2001. The league had 18 more playing dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- 7 teams in the league had gains in total attendance, and 3 teams saw growth in average per date.
- **Brooklyn drew 249,009 to lead all short-season teams for the 12th straight year.** The Cyclones hold 12 of the 16 highest total attendance figures for any short-season team (Aberdeen and Portland, OR each have 2). They have surpassed 3.3 million in attendance in team history, reaching that mark faster than any short-season team.
- In 2002, the Cyclones set the short-season record of 317,124, averaged 8,345 per date, and sold out every game. The Cyclones drew 289,382 in 2001, 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.
- In 38 home dates in 2012, the Cyclones had a higher total attendance than 46 of 60 full-season Class A teams, 10 of 30 Class AA teams, 12 of 16 Mexican League teams, and even the Class AAA Tucson Padres. All these teams played many more home dates than the Cyclones.
- Brooklyn averaged 6,553 per date. Just one team in Class A (Dayton), one in Class AA (Frisco), 2 in the Mexican League (Monterrey and Saltillo), and independent league team Sugar Land, had a higher average per date than Brooklyn. In fact, Brooklyn had a higher per date average than 16 of the 30 Class AAA teams. In their 12 year history, the Cyclones have averaged 7,633 per date, and 20 games have drawn better than 9,000.
- The Aberdeen IronBirds, who are owned by Cal Ripken Jr., had another great year. They drew 244,974, the 3rd best total in team history, and sold out, or nearly sold out, every game. The total and average per date were 2nd best for short-season teams. The IronBirds have topped 225,000 in all 11 seasons they've played.
- **Tri-City (Troy, NY) set a team record for the 9th straight year, drawing a record-high total of 159,966, with a franchise record 17 sellouts. The ValleyCats have posted a 54% increase in total attendance since 2003.**
- Lowell finished 3rd in the league with a total of 168,239. In 2010, the Spinners ended a sellout streak of 413 games.
- Staten Island played 4 more dates than in 2011. But total attendance fell by 51,405, the biggest loss among short-season teams. Their average per date decline of 1,949 was the worst among all teams in the Minors in 2012.
- Hudson Valley topped 4,000 in average per date for the 19th consecutive year. Their ballpark seats 4,494. The Renegades have drawn at least 138,000 every year since starting play in 1994. They also had the best increase among all short-season teams in total attendance in 2012, up 12,568.
- The Auburn Doubledays had their 3rd highest total attendance since 1991.
- Batavia posted its lowest total (33,443) since 1988. The Class AAA Scranton-Wilkes Barre Yankees played a few games in Batavia in 2012, as their ballpark was being rebuilt.
- Williamsport, whose classic Bowman Stadium opened in 1926, posted its lowest total attendance since 1999. Jamestown drew its smallest total since 1990. This team may move to Morgantown, WV in 2014.
- Mahoning Valley (Niles, OH) had the league's best gain in average per date, up 53. But the total of 109,956 was their lowest ever. The Scrappers topped 200,000 in 1999 and 2000, their first 2 seasons, but haven't done it since.
- Team relocations and new parks have resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in the past 20 years. 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 home date. The 2012 attendance total of 1,701,001 is a gain of 148.7% from 1992. 2012 average attendance per team was 121,500, and the average per home date was 3,290. In 2012, 11 of the 14 teams in this league played in a ballpark that opened between 1994 and 2006.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** (10 teams -- 68 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 442,755 (1993); Team – Danville - 80,539 (1993)

- Bad weather hit the league hard in 2012. There were 35 lost dates, compared to just 5 lost dates in 2011. Total attendance went down 16,778 (5.7%), but average per date increased by 32.
- This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- Due to the many rainouts, just 2 teams increased their total attendance. But 7 teams had average per date gains.
- Greeneville, TN led the league in total attendance for the 9th year in a row, drawing 42,203, an average of 1,322 per date. This was the lowest total in the team's 9 year history.
- Burlington, up 5,074, had the league's top increase in total attendance. The Royals also had the best gain among all short-season teams in average per date, up 179, and were the league's only team besides Greeneville to average over 1,000 per date.
- Bristol drew just 23,387, the lowest of any NAPBL team. Yet that was their best total since 1998.
- Kingsport had the largest decline in the league, down 5,580. The Mets played 5 fewer dates in 2012 than in 2011. Pulaski had the largest decline in average per date, down 199.
- Danville posted its lowest total since 2001.

PIONEER LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE) (8 teams -- 76 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 728,952 (2008); Team – Salt Lake City - 217,263 (1992)

- Moving Casper to Grand Junction resulted in a 24,166 (3.6%) increase in total attendance. The 7 cities that were in this league in both 2012 and 2011 had a combined loss of 29,338 (4.7%). Average per date was 2,317, up 88, the best gain of any NAPBL league. It was the 5th time in the last 6 years that Pioneer League average per date topped 2,200. The league never reached 2,200 in average until 2007. Only 4 dates were lost to weather.
- 2 teams, plus Grand Junction, had gains in total attendance, and in average per date.
- Ogden led the league in total attendance for the 13th consecutive season. The Raptors have topped 100,000 for 12 straight years. Ogden and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- **Missoula drew a team record-high 89,812, breaking a record set in 2010.** The Osprey also had the league's best total growth, up 3,499, and average per date gain, up 92, for teams playing in the same market in both years.
- Orem, down 16,615 had the league's biggest decline in total attendance, and their 437 dip in average per date was also the league's worst.
- The Casper Ghosts moved from Wyoming to Grand Junction, CO. They were renamed the Rockies, and drew 101,496, a gain of 53,514 from their 2011 attendance of 47,982 in Casper. Average per date rose by 1,374. The highest attendance ever in Casper was 57,120 in 2010. The Rockies benefitted from an \$8.3 million renovation of Saplizio Field in Grand Junction. That facility, originally opened in 1958, is also home to the National Junior College World Series.
- Idaho Falls has had a team each year since 1946. Their 6 top attendance totals have come in the last 6 years.
- Great Falls had its lowest attendance since 1979. Attendance there has been cut in half since 2003.
- The league's record-high attendance noted above is for a short-season schedule. In 1948, the league drew a record-high 802,682 with its 8 teams playing a 126 game schedule, 50 more games than now.

2012 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Buffalo Bisons	515,898	70	7,370	521,530	(5,632)	1988
Charlotte Knights	282,117	70	4,030	279,107	3,010	1990
Columbus (OH) Clippers	611,223	70	8,732	591,884	19,339	2009
Durham Bulls	483,593	71	6,811	462,682	20,911	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Braves	327,584	70	4,680	351,565	(23,981)	2009
Indianapolis Indians	595,043	70	8,501	580,082	14,961	1996
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	622,421	68	9,153	628,925	(6,504)	2008
Louisville Bats	570,003	70	8,143	601,372	(31,369)	2000
Norfolk Tides	389,188	70	5,560	397,889	(8,701)	1993
Pawtucket Red Sox	521,023	69	7,551	578,930	(57,907)	1942
Rochester Red Wings	414,398	68	6,094	448,024	(33,626)	1997
Scranton-Wilkes Barre Yankees	272,168	69	3,944	298,098	(25,930)	1989
Syracuse Chiefs	349,027	66	5,288	374,680	(25,653)	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	550,900	70	7,870	549,438	1,462	2002
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,504,586	971	6,699	6,664,206	(159,620)	
<i>*Scranton-Wilkes Barre played its 2012 home games in Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Lehigh Valley, Pawtucket, and Batavia</i>						
<u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Albuquerque Isotopes	568,417	70	8,120	578,328	(9,911)	2003
Colorado Springs Sky Sox	334,245	68	4,915	339,009	(4,764)	1988
Fresno Grizzlies	471,686	72	6,551	494,051	(22,365)	2002
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	509,798	70	7,283	500,675	9,123	1992
Las Vegas 51s	311,516	71	4,388	314,032	(2,516)	1983
Memphis Redbirds	493,706	71	6,954	493,528	178	2000
Nashville Sounds	321,042	67	4,792	335,143	(14,101)	1978
New Orleans Zephyrs	329,942	66	4,999	372,017	(42,075)	1997
Oklahoma (City) RedHawks	399,965	71	5,633	378,877	21,088	1998
Omaha Storm Chasers	415,650	70	5,938	410,326	5,324	2011
Reno Aces	389,860	72	5,415	432,314	(42,454)	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	595,584	71	8,389	618,261	(22,677)	2000
Sacramento River Cats	586,090	72	8,140	600,306	(14,216)	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	515,633	72	7,162	437,769	77,864	1994
Tacoma Rainiers	352,032	72	4,889	378,518	(26,486)	1960
Tucson Padres	200,991	68	2,956	242,136	(41,145)	1998
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,796,157	1,123	6,052	6,925,290	(129,133)	
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	13,300,743	2,094	6,352	13,589,496	(288,753)	
<u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Akron Aeros	256,473	68	3,772	266,265	(9,792)	1997
Altoona Curve	270,613	63	4,295	285,906	(15,293)	1999
Binghamton Mets	196,929	66	2,984	209,044	(12,115)	1992
Bowie Baysox	248,210	68	3,650	255,832	(7,622)	1994
Erie SeaWolves	208,725	69	3,025	224,443	(15,718)	1995
Harrisburg Senators	280,964	68	4,132	291,248	(10,284)	2010
New Britain Rock Cats	339,100	67	5,061	363,759	(24,659)	1996
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	377,317	68	5,549	373,482	3,835	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	374,930	69	5,434	369,424	5,506	1994
Reading Phillies	426,623	67	6,368	456,957	(30,334)	1950
Richmond Flying Squirrels	438,002	70	6,257	447,520	(9,518)	1985
Trenton Thunder	373,355	69	5,411	379,501	(6,146)	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,791,241	812	4,669	3,923,381	(132,140)	

2012 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Birmingham Barons	204,269	68	3,004	261,623	(57,354)	1988
Chattanooga Lookouts	243,051	69	3,522	224,974	18,077	2000
Huntsville Stars	130,231	66	1,973	93,340	36,891	1985
Jackson (West Tenn) Generals	133,352	65	2,052	106,689	26,663	1998
Jacksonville (FL) Suns	293,013	68	4,309	309,310	(16,297)	2003
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	191,639	66	2,904	191,653	(14)	2005
Mobile BayBears	133,062	63	2,112	210,956	(77,894)	1997
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	244,976	65	3,769	256,403	(11,427)	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos*	328,147	68	4,826	255,216	72,931	2012
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	251,112	67	3,748	265,341	(14,229)	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,152,852	665	3,237	2,175,505	(22,653)	
<i>*Played as the Carolina Mudcats in 2011</i>						
<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	308,109	68	4,531	300,594	7,515	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	388,927	70	5,556	395,128	(6,201)	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	488,224	69	7,076	509,331	(21,107)	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	301,110	66	4,562	308,810	(7,700)	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	321,254	69	4,656	310,613	10,641	2008
San Antonio Missions	301,942	68	4,440	294,176	7,766	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	352,674	69	5,111	337,166	15,508	2003
Tulsa Drillers	372,624	70	5,323	366,291	6,333	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,834,864	549	5,164	2,822,109	12,755	
TOTAL CLASS AA	8,778,957	2,026	4,333	8,920,995	(142,038)	
<u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Bakersfield Blaze	43,969	69	637	40,056	3,913	1941
High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks	122,906	70	1,756	119,028	3,878	1991
Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers	171,986	69	2,493	185,411	(13,425)	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	227,000	70	3,243	225,769	1,231	1994
Lancaster JetHawks	151,558	69	2,196	147,129	4,429	1996
Modesto Nuts	175,918	69	2,550	180,785	(4,867)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	160,715	70	2,296	155,903	4,812	1993
San Jose Giants	210,895	68	3,101	222,547	(11,652)	1942
Stockton Ports	198,602	69	2,878	198,705	(103)	2005
Visalia Rawhide	118,625	67	1,771	118,065	560	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,582,174	690	2,293	1,593,398	(11,224)	
<u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Carolina Mudcats*	225,577	66	3,418	112,181	113,396	1991
Frederick Keys	311,805	66	4,724	296,296	15,509	1990
Lynchburg Hillcats	155,261	64	2,426	169,367	(14,106)	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	220,273	67	3,288	213,200	7,073	1999
Potomac Nationals	191,928	65	2,953	171,096	20,832	1984
Salem Red Sox	178,730	68	2,628	226,337	(47,607)	1995
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	287,992	68	4,235	288,738	(746)	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	305,515	69	4,428	312,416	(6,901)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,877,081	533	3,522	1,789,631	87,450	

*Operated as the Kinston Indians in 2011. Carolina drew 255,216 in the Southern League in 2011.

2012 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Bradenton Marauders	101,528	67	1,515	103,978	(2,450)	1923
Brevard County Manatees	89,512	63	1,421	93,903	(4,391)	1994
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	117,417	61	1,925	166,375	(48,958)	1987
Clearwater Threshers	177,297	69	2,570	177,117	180	2004
Daytona Beach Cubs	143,131	61	2,346	154,557	(11,426)	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	53,091	64	830	43,148	9,943	1977
Fort Myers Miracle	121,452	66	1,840	122,328	(876)	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	73,337	65	1,128	82,071	(8,734)	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	59,589	58	1,027	62,324	(2,735)	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	73,954	66	1,121	68,620	5,334	1998
St. Lucie Mets	92,044	61	1,509	105,379	(13,335)	1988
Tampa Yankees	112,668	62	1,817	117,162	(4,494)	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,215,020	763	1,592	1,296,962	(81,942)	
<u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Beloit Snappers	68,867	68	1,013	66,982	1,885	1982
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	233,208	68	3,430	237,070	(3,862)	2009
Burlington (IA) Bees	58,195	68	856	54,284	3,911	1947
Cedar Rapids (IA)ernels	160,064	69	2,320	169,000	(8,936)	2002
Clinton LumberKings	111,760	68	1,644	115,253	(3,493)	1937
Dayton Dragons	588,689	69	8,532	571,886	16,803	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	396,531	69	5,747	376,022	20,509	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	259,160	70	3,702	264,249	(5,089)	2007
Kane County (IL) Cougars	391,102	70	5,587	410,262	(19,160)	1991
Lake County (OH) Captains	248,114	69	3,596	235,897	12,217	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	345,763	66	5,239	345,089	674	1996
Peoria Chiefs	190,244	68	2,798	187,915	2,329	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	240,008	67	3,582	223,025	16,983	2004
South Bend Silver Hawks	189,575	69	2,747	112,795	76,780	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	362,554	70	5,179	372,555	(10,001)	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	240,509	67	3,590	240,998	(489)	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	4,084,343	1,095	3,730	3,983,282	101,061	
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Asheville Tourists	155,760	68	2,291	157,199	(1,439)	1992
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	182,124	64	2,846	200,115	(17,991)	1995
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	254,002	67	3,791	265,465	(11,463)	1997
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	231,194	70	3,303	211,993	19,201	1996
Greensboro Grasshoppers	367,077	67	5,479	388,218	(21,141)	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	347,042	68	5,104	327,558	19,484	2006
Hagerstown Suns	87,429	64	1,366	123,593	(36,164)	1931
Hickory Crawdads	132,696	66	2,011	131,131	1,565	1993
Kannapolis Intimidators	132,493	66	2,007	138,487	(5,994)	1995
Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws	410,113	68	6,031	382,070	28,043	2001
Lexington (KY) Legends	295,937	68	4,352	312,349	(16,412)	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	184,983	66	2,803	186,345	(1,362)	2003
Savannah Sand Gnats	117,372	63	1,863	135,415	(18,043)	1941
West Virginia (Charleston) Power	157,875	67	2,356	165,996	(8,121)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,056,097	932	3,279	3,125,934	(69,837)	
TOTAL FULL SEASON A	11,814,715	4,013	2,944	11,789,207	25,508	

2012 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Aberdeen IronBirds	244,974	38	6,447	242,723	2,251	2002
Auburn Doubledays	55,810	38	1,469	48,429	7,381	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	33,443	37	904	37,029	(3,586)	1996
Brooklyn Cyclones	249,009	38	6,553	245,087	3,922	2001
Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers	58,086	35	1,660	62,317	(4,231)	1995
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	161,811	37	4,373	149,243	12,568	1994
Jamestown Jammers	36,078	35	1,031	42,086	(6,008)	1941
Lowell Spinners	168,239	37	4,547	167,222	1,017	2000
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	109,956	36	3,054	111,048	(1,092)	1999
State College Spikes	129,588	37	3,502	139,007	(9,419)	2006
Staten Island Yankees	141,163	38	3,715	192,568	(51,405)	2001
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	159,966	38	4,210	156,297	3,669	2002
Vermont Lake Monsters	89,977	36	2,499	88,711	1,266	1922
Williamsport Crosscutters	62,901	37	1,700	68,124	(5,223)	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,701,001	517	3,290	1,749,891	(48,890)	
<u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Boise Hawks	91,167	38	2,399	98,860	(7,693)	1989
Eugene Emeralds	115,569	38	3,041	114,690	879	2010
Everett AquaSox	95,929	36	2,665	96,345	(416)	1984
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes	101,785	38	2,679	105,973	(4,188)	1997
Spokane Indians	179,880	38	4,734	183,458	(3,578)	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	86,095	38	2,266	85,953	142	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	164,461	37	4,445	162,162	2,299	1951
Yakima Bears	61,895	38	1,629	66,545	(4,650)	1993
LEAGUE TOTAL	896,781	301	2,979	913,986	(17,205)	
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays	23,890	28	853	26,395	(2,505)	1939
Bristol (VA) White Sox	23,387	28	835	22,433	954	1969
Burlington (NC) Royals	33,501	33	1,015	28,427	5,074	1960
Danville (VA) Braves	27,628	31	891	28,523	(895)	1993
Elizabethton (TN) Twins	25,430	29	877	28,900	(3,470)	1974
Greeneville (TN) Astros	42,303	32	1,322	45,015	(2,712)	2004
Johnson City (TN) Cardinals	24,827	31	801	25,961	(1,134)	1956
Kingsport (TN) Mets	26,408	29	911	31,988	(5,580)	1995
Princeton (WV) Rays	26,110	32	816	27,685	(1,575)	1988
Pulaski Mariners	25,301	32	791	30,236	(4,935)	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	278,785	305	914	295,563	(16,778)	

2012 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Billings Mustangs	112,602	37	3,043	109,881	2,721	2008
Grand Junction Rockies*	101,496	38	2,671	47,982	53,514	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	56,869	38	1,497	59,884	(3,015)	1956
Helena Brewers	33,428	38	880	37,484	(4,056)	1939
Idaho Falls Chukars	89,828	37	2,428	94,518	(4,690)	2007
Missoula Osprey	89,812	38	2,363	86,313	3,499	2004
Ogden Raptors	123,625	36	3,434	130,817	(7,192)	1997
Orem (UT) Owlz	87,392	38	2,300	104,007	(16,615)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	695,052	300	2,317	670,886	24,166	
<i>*Played as the Casper Ghosts in 2011</i>						
TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE	3,571,619	1,423	2,510	3,630,326	(58,707)	
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	159,414	51	3,126	-----	-----	1938
Campeche Pirates	122,336	53	2,308	98,997	23,339	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	164,462	53	3,103	151,698	12,764	
Carmen Dolphins	227,143	54	4,206	-----	-----	
Laguna Cowboys	176,762	52	3,399	249,548	(72,786)	1932
Mexico City Red Devils	245,894	53	4,640	330,626	(84,732)	1993
Minatitlan Oilers	73,247	51	1,436	101,318	(28,071)	1992
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	323,728	53	6,108	307,580	16,148	1975
Monterrey Sultans	645,302	57	11,321	430,420	214,882	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	172,056	49	3,511	174,856	(2,800)	1950
Puebla Parrots	287,178	48	5,983	363,011	(75,833)	1972
Reynosa Broncos	195,154	59	3,308	156,714	38,440	1963
Saltillo Sarape Makers	467,899	54	8,665	429,343	38,556	1963
Tabasco Cattlemen	170,966	52	3,288	130,752	40,214	1964
Veracruz Aguila Reds	245,057	57	4,299	194,831	50,226	1992
Yucatan Lions	137,750	53	2,599	202,335	(64,585)	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,814,348	849	4,493	3,322,029	492,319	
<i>*Aguascalientes and Carmen did not operate in 2011</i>						
TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES	41,280,382	10,405	3,967	41,252,053	28,329	

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2012 vs. 2011

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League	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>		
	2012	2011	Change-2012 vs. 2011		2012	2011	# Change 2012 vs. 2011
			#	%			
International	6,504,586	6,664,206	(159,620)	(2.4)	6,699	6,956	(257)
Pacific Coast	6,796,157	6,925,290	(129,133)	(1.9)	6,052	6,156	(104)
AAA Total	13,300,743	13,589,496	(288,753)	(2.1)	6,352	6,524	(172)
Mexican	3,814,348	3,322,029	492,319	14.8	4,493	4,719	(226)
Eastern	3,791,241	3,923,381	(132,140)	(3.4)	4,669	4,868	(199)
Southern	2,152,852	2,175,505	(22,653)	(1.0)	3,237	3,242	(5)
Texas	2,834,864	2,822,109	12,755	0.5	5,164	5,207	(43)
AA Total	8,778,957	8,920,995	(142,038)	(1.6)	4,333	4,419	(86)
California	1,582,174	1,593,398	(11,224)	(0.7)	2,293	2,303	(10)
Carolina	1,877,081	1,789,631	87,450	4.9	3,522	3,448	74
Florida State	1,215,020	1,296,962	(81,942)	(6.3)	1,592	1,642	(50)
Midwest	4,084,343	3,983,282	101,061	2.5	3,730	3,754	(24)
South Atlantic	3,056,097	3,125,934	(69,837)	(2.2)	3,279	3,358	(79)
Full Season A Total	11,814,715	11,789,207	25,508	0.2	2,944	2,952	(8)
New York - Penn	1,701,001	1,749,891	(48,890)	(2.8)	3,290	3,507	(217)
Northwest	896,781	913,986	(17,205)	(1.9)	2,979	3,007	(28)
Appalachian	278,785	295,563	(16,778)	(5.7)	914	882	32
Pioneer	695,052	670,886	24,166	3.6	2,317	2,229	88
Short Season Total	3,571,619	3,630,326	(58,707)	(1.6)	2,510	2,523	(13)
NAPBL TOTAL	41,280,382	41,252,053	28,329	0.1	3,967	4,029	(62)
<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>							
American Association	2,244,238	2,162,269	81,969	3.8	3,512	3,152	360
Atlantic	2,367,578	1,948,321	419,257	21.5	4,409	4,085	324
Canadian-American	494,698	627,113	(132,415)	(21.1)	2,087	1,850	237
Frontier	1,548,970	1,411,913	137,057	9.7	2,387	2,535	(148)
North American	420,100	642,963	(222,863)	(34.7)	1,114	1,724	(610)
Pecos Baseball	52,350	38,198	14,152	37.0	257	201	56
Freedom Pro	N/A	-----	-----	-----	N/A	-----	-----
Independent Total	7,127,934	6,830,777	297,157	4.4	2,697	2,605	92
GRAND TOTAL	48,408,316	48,082,830	325,486	0.7	3,710	3,739	(29)

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**

There were far fewer changes among the independent leagues in 2012, than what took place going into the 2011 season. All leagues that operated in 2011 also were in operation in 2012. The Freedom Pro Baseball League, based in Arizona, played its first season in 2012. That league, which had 4 teams, did not report attendance. All of the independent leagues made changes in their rosters of teams in 2012. These changes will be noted in the individual league summaries on the following pages.

- In 2012 there were 7 independent leagues. 6 of them, with 55 teams playing home games, reported attendance. The attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league office, is estimated, and does not include 'no-shows.' 6 independent leagues, also with 55 teams that recorded attendance, operated in 2011.
- Total independent leagues 2012 attendance was 7,127,934, up 297,157 (4.4%). The combined independent leagues record-high is 8,485,921, set in 2007. In 2012, independent leagues recorded attendance for 21 more dates than in 2011, but combined to play 470 fewer dates than in 2007.
- Combined 2012 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,697. This is up 92 from 2011. 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.
- **The American Association, and the Frontier, Atlantic, and Pecos Baseball Leagues all set record-highs in total attendance in 2012.**
- 46 independent league teams were in the same market, but not necessarily in the same league, in 2012 as in 2011. 20 of them had 2012 gains in total attendance, while 26 were down. Average attendance per date increased for 17 of those teams, and 29 had declines.
- **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.

LEAGUES THAT DISBANDED AFTER 2010

Many of the teams from the leagues listed below moved to other independent leagues for the 2011 season.

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)

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE (6 teams – 92 game schedule in 2010)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 549,014 (2007) 6 teams; Team – Amarillo – 159,332 (2008)

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)

A NEW LEAGUE FOR 2013

A new independent league, the American West Baseball League expects to begin play in 2013. It will have at least 4 teams – Fullerton, Long Beach and San Marcos, all in California, and Yuma, Arizona, in its first season. Teams that had been in the North American League may be added, and the league wants to expand to Northern California.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS

Year	# of Leagues	# of Teams	Total Attendance	Team Leader Total Attendance	Total Attendance	Team Leader Avg. per Date	Avg. Attend.
1993	2	12	734,067	St. Paul	167,956	N/A	
1994	5	30	1,931,353	St. Paul	241,069	N/A	
1995	11	65	3,081,866	St. Paul	258,297	N/A	
1996	9	63	3,454,557	St. Paul	267,009	St. Paul	6,212
1997	8	58	3,506,264	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	5,581,833	Long Island	436,361	Winnipeg	6,465
2001	7	52	5,997,439	Long Island	443,142	Winnipeg	6,491
2002	6	50	6,410,071	Long Island	437,212	St. Paul	6,263
2003	8	63	6,558,149	Long Island	421,359	Winnipeg	7,161
2004	5	45	6,557,875	Long Island	440,540	Winnipeg	7,027
2005	6	54	7,518,121	Long Island	429,218	Winnipeg	6,867
2006	7	55	7,558,436	Long Island	419,150	Winnipeg	6,504
2007	9	67	8,485,921	Long Island	427,536	Winnipeg	6,542
2008	8	61	8,312,669	Long Island	416,752	Winnipeg	6,464
2009	8	61	7,965,185	Long Island	414,973	Winnipeg	6,180
2010	7	60	8,105,046	Long Island	410,619	Long Island	6,039
2011	6	55	6,830,777	Long Island	382,027	Winnipeg	5,740
2012	6	55	7,127,934	Sugar Land	465,511	Sugar Land	6,650

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 in the Atlantic League, which has the longest season of any independent league. In most years, teams in the Atlantic League were scheduled for 70 home games. Other independent leagues have in recent years had 48-50 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 table below shows which non-Atlantic League, independent league team had the highest total attendance each year since 1998.

Year	Team	Attendance		Year	Team	Attendance
1998	St. Paul	272,210		2006	Winnipeg	312,213
1999	St. Paul	265,818		2007	Winnipeg	300,938
2000	Winnipeg	271,513		2008	St. Paul	286,796
2001	Winnipeg	292,095		2009	Winnipeg	278,099
2002	Winnipeg	303,786		2010	Winnipeg	271,399
2003	Winnipeg	300,760		2011	Winnipeg	275,521
2004	Winnipeg	323,241		2012	Winnipeg	285,263
2005	Winnipeg	322,758				

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – **2,367,578 (2012)** 8 teams; Team – **Sugar Land – 465,511 (2012)**

- This league has always played the longest schedule among modern (post-1992) independent leagues.
- **Atlantic League attendance rose 419,257 (21.5%) to 2,367,578 in 2012. This is the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league.** The old Atlantic League and independent record was 2,208,734 in 2008. The addition of a team in Sugar Land, TX, a suburb of Houston, was the main reason for the gain.
- **Average attendance per date was a league record-high 4,409, up 324, breaking the league record of 4,153 in 2007.** The all-time high average per date for any independent league is 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- The league played 60 more dates in 2012, but the 7 returning teams (excludes Sugar Land) had a combined 10 fewer dates.
- If only the 7 teams that played in the league in both 2012 and 2011 are compared, total attendance for the league fell 46,254 (2.4%), and the average per date was down by 12.
- 2 teams had increases in total attendance, and 4 teams posted gains in average per date.
- **Sugar Land played its first season and drew 465,511, the highest total attendance ever by a modern independent team. The Skeeters also averaged 6,650 per date, which was the best among all independent league teams in 2012.** The old independent team total attendance record was 443,142, set by Long Island in 2001. The independent record-high for average per date is 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003.
- Long Island (Central Islip, NY) did not lead the league in attendance for the first time in their 13 year history. They had their lowest total ever, and ended a 12 year streak as the independent league team with the highest total attendance. But the Ducks have still topped 375,000 every year, and had the 2nd best independent total attendance in 2012. In their history, the Ducks have averaged 6,003 per date, which is just over 100% of their ballpark's capacity. They've had 615 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 909 dates, including 14 in 2012.
- Somerset (Bridgewater, NJ) had the league's biggest decline, 21,787, due to 5 fewer dates played in 2012 than in 2011. Yet they still drew 350,295, 3rd highest among independent teams. The Patriots have attracted more than 335,000 in all 14 seasons of operation. Average per date at Somerset was up 67 to 5,308 in 2012.
- Lancaster had 3 fewer dates, and drew a team-low total of 307,431. But that still was the 4th highest independent team attendance. The Barnstormers have topped 300,000 in each season since their debut in 2005. This is quite an achievement considering that 3 successful teams, in terms of attendance (Reading, Harrisburg, York), play less than 40 miles from Lancaster.
- York, owned by Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson, has exceeded 260,000 in each of the past 5 years. They had a 180 gain in average per date, the best increase in the league in 2012.
- Southern Maryland had a 14,959 increase in total attendance, the league's best 2012 gain in that category.
- Camden, NJ has a reputation as an economically depressed city. The Riversharks had the smallest total in the team's 12 year history in 2012, but they still have drawn at least 230,000 every year.
- Bridgeport had another decline in 2012. Bluefish attendance has fallen from 342,857 in 1999 to a record-low 132,139 in 2012. Average per date fell 223, the worst loss in the league. Part of the cause of the long-term decline may be the arena that opened next to the ballpark. It is home to minor league hockey and college basketball, so the Bluefish have more competition for the sporting events dollar.
- The league is looking to expand, possibly to Loudon County, Virginia, near Washington, and to Malden, MA.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (13 teams - 100 game schedule - Play an interleague schedule with the Can-Am League)
 RECORD HIGHS: League – **2,244,238 (2012)** 13 teams; Team – St Paul -- 297,834 (2007)

- The league played with 13 teams in 2012, compared to 14 in 2011. Some games were played with teams from the Can-Am League since both of these leagues had an uneven number of teams.
- This league began play in 2006. It is no relation to the Class AAA NAPBL league that played until 1998. Teams from that league were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues. Nearly all of the teams from this American Association have played in other independent leagues, such as the Northern, Central, United, and Texas-Louisiana Leagues.
- Laredo joined the league in 2012. Fort Worth moved to the North American League, and Shreveport-Bossier did not operate.
- **Total attendance rose 81,969 (3.8%) to a league record-high 2,244,238. The league had 47 fewer dates in 2012 than in 2011. Average per date reached a league record-high 3,512, up 360. The average per date gain was the best of any minor league in 2012.**
- 7 of the 12 returning teams had gains in total attendance in 2012, and 5 were up in average per date.
- Winnipeg drew 285,263 to lead the league. The Goldeyes had led the old Northern League in attendance for 11 straight years, and have had the best total attendance in this league in both years since joining. Winnipeg has topped 270,000 for 13 years in a row. Their 2012 average per date was 5,705, 2nd highest among independent teams. Winnipeg has averaged 6,370 per date since 2000, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 10 times in the last 13 years.
- Sioux Falls, South Dakota had the best increase in total attendance among all independent teams, up 53,992. The Canaries moved back over 100,000 in 2012 after falling short of this figure in 2010 and 2011. They had topped 100,000 for 15 straight years prior to 2010. Their average per date gain of 1,102 was also tops among independent teams, and 2nd best among all Minor League teams.
- Grand Prairie, down 9,625, had the league's largest total attendance decline.
- Sioux City, Iowa posted the worst dip in average per date, down 171. The Explorers also had the lowest total attendance (55,627) in team history. They had reached 100,000 in their first 10 years of operation, but have drawn below that figure for the past 7 seasons.
- **Laredo, which last played in the United League in 2010, and had the 2nd best gain among independent teams that year, joined the American Association in 2012 and opened a new ballpark. They drew 187,845, a record-high for this Texas city in any league. A Mexican League team on the Mexico side of the border in Nuevo Laredo, drew 195,713 in 1987.**
- Fargo-Moorhead had its best total since 2002, and the 2nd highest attendance in the team's 17 years of play.
- St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. The Saints have topped 235,000 every year except their first. They had led this league in total attendance each year from 2006 through 2010, and once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins. A new ballpark is expected in St. Paul in the next few years.
- Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, has topped 200,000 in all 10 years of play, and they've averaged 5,443 per date during this period. The T-Bones have surpassed 244,000 in each of the past 8 seasons.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

CAN-AM LEAGUE (5 teams) -- 100 game schedule -- Play an interleague schedule with the American Association)
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 played with 3 fewer teams in 2012 than in 2011. Brockton, Pittsfield, and the road team did not operate. There were 102 fewer dates played overall. The 5 returning teams had a combined 3 fewer dates. Due to the uneven number of teams, the league played an inter-league schedule with the American Association. This will be done again in 2013.
- Total attendance fell 132,415 (21.1%) to 494,698, due to fewer teams. But average per date was up 237 to 2,087.
- The 5 returning teams had a total attendance increase of 1,386 (0.3%), and an average per date gain of 32.
- 3 teams posted total attendance increases, and there were also 3 teams up in average per date.
- **Rockland County drew 161,375 in their 2nd year of operation to lead the league.** That was the 5th highest total ever by a Can-Am League team. The Boulders' total attendance gain of 37,857 was the best in this league, and 2nd highest among all independent teams. Rockland also had the league's top increase in average per date, up 486. The average per date gain ranks 3rd among independent teams in 2012.
- Quebec City had led the league in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. The Capitales have surpassed 138,000 for 12 years in a row, and have topped 110,000 in all 14 years of this team's history. 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 each year from 1951 through 1955.
- Worcester had the league's biggest declines in total attendance (22,347), and average per date (417). Their total of 61,398 was the lowest in their 8 year history, and less than half of their 2005 record-high of 124,745. The Tornadoes had financial problems, and will not operate in 2013, but hope to return under new ownership in 2014.
- Brockton is another city that may return to the league someday. The Rox played their final Can-Am League season in 2011, and had the lowest attendance in team history, down more than 50% since 2004. That year, they set a franchise record attendance of 203,094, playing in the Northeast League, a predecessor to the Can-Am League. Brockton still holds the season attendance record of 190,675 for a Can-Am League team, set in 2005.
- Newark drew a shockingly low total of 32,056, just 668 per date. The Bears had played in the Atlantic League through the 2010 season. In 2010, they attracted 117,985, playing a long Atlantic League schedule. Their total attendance high was 243,255 in 2001, a year in which the Bears averaged 3,525 per date.
- In 2013, Trois Rivières (Three Rivers), Quebec will replace Worcester. That city hosted 3 Can-Am League games in 2011. A minor league team has played in Trois Rivières in 24 different seasons. They were a member of 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 attendance high was 119,751 in 1972. The last team in Trois Rivières was in the Canadian League in 2003. That league only lasted 2 months.

FREEDOM PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE -- (4 Teams 60 game schedule)

- This league played its first season in 2012. It had 4 teams, all in Arizona. No attendance data was reported, but crowds were very small. The original plan for this league was for 2 teams to have 45 home games, and the other 2 teams would have 15 home games. Scottsdale ended up playing the most home dates -- 43. None of the other teams had more than 19 dates. A total of 83 dates were played.
- In 2013, this league hopes to expand to 6 teams, adding 2 teams in the Phoenix area. Plans are for a 90 game schedule for each team.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

FRONTIER LEAGUE (14 teams -- 96 game schedule -- London only played a partial home schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – **1,548,970 (2012) 14 teams**; Team – Southern Illinois – 259,392 (2007)

- **This league added 2 teams in 2012, and drew a record-high total attendance of 1,548,970.** It was a 137,057 (9.7%) increase from 2011. The league's old total attendance record was 1,503,220 in 2007. Attendance in this league first reached one million in 2003. It has topped 1.4 million for 6 years in a row.
- There were 92 more home dates in 2012 than a year earlier. Average attendance per date was 2,387, down 148. Some teams played extra home dates after London became a 'road-only' team.
- The 12 teams that played in the league in both 2012 and 2011 had a combined decline of 13,215 (0.9%). The returning 12 teams had 15 more dates than in 2011, and their average per date was 2,445, down 90.
- Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, total attendance is up 115.4%, and average per date is up 61.0%.
- 5 teams had increases in total attendance in 2012, and 4 teams posted gains in average per date.
- Schaumburg was one of the new teams in 2012. They drew 128,287, which was this city's lowest total ever. They had topped 200,000 for 11 straight years as a member of the Northern League.
- London, Ontario returned as the other new team in the league, but only briefly. The Rippers played 26 home dates, and drew a total of 21,985, an average of 846 per date, before financial problems caused them to play the rest of their games on the road. London had been in this league from 1999 through 2001. There was an NAPBL Class AA Eastern League team there from 1989 through 1993, and their best attendance was 167,694 in 1990.
- The Southern Illinois (Marion) Miners have led this league in attendance in 4 of the 6 years they've operated, including 2011. They missed the league lead by just 259 in 2010, but did have the highest average per date. In 2007, the Miners became the first Frontier League team to average over 5,000 per date. However, they suffered a big downturn in 2012. Total attendance fell 51,640 to 129,936, the lowest in team history, and average per date declined by 1,039. Both of these declines were the worst among all independent teams in 2012.
- River City (O'Fallon, MO) had the league's best increase, up 36,028, which was also the 3rd highest gain among independent teams. Average per date rose 595, the 2nd best increase in the independent leagues.
- Traverse City drew 175,284 to lead the league. The Beach Bums have topped 169,000 in all 7 years of play.
- Windy City (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once in their 14 seasons.
- Gateway had its lowest attendance since 2002, but has topped 150,000 for 10 straight years. Rockford had its lowest total since 2003. Washington, PA drew 81,836, the first time in their 11 year history they failed to reach 100,000. Joliet also had its lowest total ever, yet has still surpassed 100,000 in all 11 of their seasons.
- Evansville's average per date rose 401. The Otters play at Bosse Field, which is the oldest home ballpark for any Minor League team. The first game there in 1915 drew 8,082. On August 18, 2012, the Otters had a crowd of 8,120, the largest attendance ever for a game in this historic gem of a park.
- The Frontier League celebrates its 20th anniversary in 2013. Along with the Northern League, they were the first independent leagues in decades. There were 8 Frontier League teams in 1993, 2 of which disbanded prior to the end of the season. Total attendance was 82,615, led by Zanesville, which drew 21,547. None of cities in the league that year are still in pro baseball. The Northern League had 6 teams, drawing 651,452, led by St. Paul, who attracted 167,956. St. Paul, Sioux City, and Sioux Falls are still active. They play in the American Association.
- There will be 14 teams in 2013. One will be a road-only team called the Frontier Greys.
- 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.'

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

NORTH AMERICAN BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 teams – One team only played road games – Length of schedule varied by team. Number of home dates ranged from 28 to 56)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 642,963 (2011); Team – **San Angelo – 115,735 (2012)**

- This league played its first year in 2011, and underwent significant changes in its structure for 2012. Calgary, Chico, Edmonton, Lake County (Zion, IL), and Yuma did not return. Those 5 teams drew a combined 307,023 in 2011. Fort Worth came over from the American Association. Hawaii (Hilo), Abilene, and San Rafael were added. Sonoma County joined the league as well, but only played road games.
- Total attendance was 420,100, down 222,863 (34.7%). This was the worst total and percentage decline of any Minor League in 2012. The league played 4 more dates in 2012 than in 2011.
- Average per date decreased 610 to 1,114. This was also the biggest decline of any minor league.
- The teams that played in both 2012 and in 2011 (includes Fort Worth) drew a combined 361,890 in 2012, down 82,070 (18.5%). These teams played 278 dates in 2012, and averaged 1,302 per date, down 467 from 2011 when they combined to play 251 dates.
- 2 teams were up in total attendance, led by McAllen, up 10,678. No team showed an increase in average per date, but San Angelo had the smallest decline, down 195.
- Fort Worth had its lowest attendance since 2001. Total attendance fell 50,424, and average per date was down 985. Both these figures were the 2nd biggest losses among independent league teams.
- San Angelo led in total attendance, drawing 115,735. That is the highest total recorded by a team in this league in its 2 year history. San Angelo's all-time record high is 150,770, set in 2000 in the Texas-Louisiana League.
- According to reports on the Web, this league disbanded after the 2012 season. The league Website has been taken down.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE (6 Teams – 70 game schedule, all teams played at least 30 home dates)

RECORD HIGHS: League - **52,350 (2012)** 6 teams; Team – **Santa Fe – 15,552 (2012)**

- 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.
- Santa Fe, NM, and Trinidad were added, replacing Ruidoso and the road team called Carlsbad.
- This league played its first season in 2011. Some games that year were played at neutral sites.
- Total estimated attendance was 52,350, up 14,152 (37.0%). Estimated average per date was 257, up 56.
- Santa Fe led the league in total attendance, and average per date, drawing 15,552, an average of 432 per date.
- Roswell averaged just 103 per date.
- Las Cruces was the only returning team with an increase in total attendance. They also had the only average gain.
- Roswell had the biggest loss in total attendance. Alpine had the worst average per date decline.
- This league expects to play with 10 teams in 2013. Las Cruces will be dropped. Carlsbad, Raton, Las Vegas, and Taos, all in New Mexico, along with Pecos, TX, will be added.

2012 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u>						
Amarillo Sox	133,380	50	2,668	138,865	(5,485)	1957
El Paso Diablos	181,122	49	3,696	172,742	8,380	1990
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	187,438	50	3,749	175,918	11,520	1996
Gary RailCats	159,837	49	3,262	157,676	2,161	2003
Grand Prairie (TX) Airhogs	108,236	47	2,303	117,861	(9,625)	2008
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	260,620	50	5,212	261,115	(495)	2003
Laredo Lemurs	187,845	49	3,834	-----	-----	2012
Lincoln Saltdogs	160,986	48	3,354	157,647	3,339	2001
St. Paul Saints	240,616	49	4,911	240,206	410	1982
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	55,627	49	1,135	64,000	(8,373)	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Pheasants	130,541	49	2,664	76,549	53,992	1964
Wichita (KS) Wingnuts	152,727	50	3,055	159,239	(6,512)	1934
Winnipeg Goldeyes	285,263	50	5,705	275,521	9,742	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,244,238	639	3,512	2,162,269	81,969	
<i>Total listed for 2011 includes 56,910 for Shreveport-Bossier, which did not operate in 2012.</i>						
<i>Total listed for 2011 includes 108,020 for Fort Worth which moved to the North American League in 2012.</i>						
<u>ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u>						
Bridgeport Bluefish	132,139	65	2,033	151,168	(19,029)	1998
Camden Riversharks	231,987	67	3,462	244,228	(12,241)	2001
Lancaster Barnstormers	307,431	66	4,658	323,091	(15,660)	2005
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	377,473	68	5,551	382,027	(4,554)	2000
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	350,295	66	5,308	372,082	(21,787)	1999
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	229,094	68	3,369	214,135	14,959	2008
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	465,511	70	6,650	-----	-----	2012
York Revolution	273,648	67	4,084	261,590	12,058	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,367,578	537	4,409	1,948,321	419,257	
<i>Sugar Land played its first season in 2012.</i>						
<u>NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Abilene Prairie Dogs	17,979	30	599	-----	-----	1997
Edinburg Roadrunners	86,947	56	1,553	107,786	(20,839)	2001
Fort Worth Cats	57,596	49	1,175	108,020	(50,424)	2002
Hawaii (Hilo) Stars	8,820	28	315	-----	-----	
Maui Na Koa Ikaika	25,010	41	610	31,606	(6,596)	1973
McAllen Thunder	29,082	28	1,039	18,404	10,678	2003
Rio Grande Valley White Wings	47,520	50	950	65,916	(18,396)	1950
San Angelo Colts	115,735	54	2,143	112,228	3,507	2000
San Rafael Pacifics	31,411	41	766	-----	-----	
Sonoma County Grapes	Road Team					
Calgary Vipers	x			62,308		1966
Chico Outlaws	x			67,282		1997
Edmonton Capitals	x			102,253		1995
Lake County (Zion, IL) Fielders	x			26,480		2010
Yuma Scorpions	x			48,700		1969
LEAGUE TOTAL	420,100	377	1,114	642,963	(222,863)	

Calgary, Chico, Edmonton, Lake County, and Yuma did not operate in 2012. 2011 league total is for all teams for that year. Fort Worth played in the American Association in 2011. Their 2011 attendance is not included in the 2011 NAL total above. Abilene, Hawaii, San Rafael, and Sonoma County did not play in 2011. Sonoma County was a road team in 2012.

2012 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2011 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2012 vs. 2011	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>						
Newark Bears	32,056	48	668	51,854	(19,798)	1998
New Jersey Jackals	87,206	46	1,896	84,865	2,341	1998
Quebec (City) Capitales	152,663	49	3,116	149,330	3,333	1938
Rockland Boulders	161,375	49	3,293	123,518	37,857	2011
Worcester Tornadoes	61,398	45	1,364	83,745	(22,347)	2005
Neutral Site - Trois Rivières	x			2,535		
Brockton Rox	x			94,112		
Pittsfield Colonials	x			37,154		
LEAGUE TOTAL	494,698	237	2,087	627,113	(132,415)	
<i>*Brockton and Pittsfield did not operate in 2012. This league also played teams from the American Association.</i>						
<u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u>						
Evansville Otters	120,819	46	2,627	97,937	22,882	1915
Florence (KY) Freedom	97,382	48	2,029	83,436	13,946	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	150,745	47	3,207	166,072	(15,327)	2002
Joliet Slammers	104,019	47	2,213	108,610	(4,591)	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	127,124	49	2,594	128,628	(1,504)	2009
London (ONT) Rippers	21,985	26	846	-----	-----	1940
Normal (IL) CornBelts	119,936	46	2,607	114,917	5,019	2010
River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals	107,986	50	2,160	71,958	36,028	1999
Rockford RiverHawks	97,453	50	1,949	97,678	(225)	2005
Schaumburg Boomers	128,287	51	2,515	-----	-----	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	129,936	46	2,825	181,576	(51,640)	2007
Traverse City Beach Bums	175,284	50	3,506	169,739	5,545	2006
Washington (PA) Wild Things	81,836	47	1,741	104,635	(22,799)	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	86,178	46	1,873	86,727	(549)	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL*	1,548,970	649	2,387	1,411,913	137,057	
<i>London and Schaumburg were inactive in 2011</i>						
<i>London played only 26 home games and finished the season as a road team.</i>						
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	8,520	30	284	12,035	(3,515)	1947
Las Cruces Vaqueros	6,592	32	206	4,797	1,795	
Roswell Invaders	3,502	34	103	10,350	(6,848)	
Santa Fe Fuego	15,552	36	432	-----	-----	
Trinidad Triggers	10,624	32	332	-----	-----	
White Sands Pupfish	7,560	40	189	8,800	(1,240)	
Carlsbad Bats (Road Team)	x			136	-----	
Ruidoso Osos	x			2,080	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	52,350	204	257	38,198	14,152	
<i>Carlsbad and Ruidoso did not operate in 2012. Santa Fe and Trinidad were added in 2012.</i>						
<u>FREEDOM PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is not available</u>						
Montezuma Federals	N/A			-----	-----	
Phoenix Prospectors	N/A			-----	-----	1964
Scottsdale Centennials	N/A			-----	-----	1992
Sonoran (Peoria) Explorers	N/A			-----	-----	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL						
GRAND TOTAL						
7 Independent Leagues in 2012	7,127,934	2,643	2,697	6,830,777	297,157	

Independent leagues are not affiliated with Major League Baseball, or with the National Association.
Attendance for independent leagues was obtained from league Web sites, or from the league directly (Pecos League).

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

84 of the 176 current NAPBL teams set their all-time attendance records between 2005 and 2012. The longest-standing records for individual team-high attendance by current teams are: Mexico City – Current team's record-high was set in 1967; Batavia – 1971; Bristol – 1976 as a short-season team. The longest known standing records for current Minor League cities, but for a different team, are Newark (1932), and Savannah (1937). Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an NAPBL or independent league in 2012, and reported attendance. Many independent league teams shifted to different leagues in 2011. 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 usually occurs when a market that now has either a short-season or independent team, once was home to an NAPBL full-season team, or in the case of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Major League team. All short-season NAPBL leagues that charge admission once played full-season schedules.

There are a few cases of markets with a current full-season NAPBL team, where a former team holds that market's all-time attendance record. Richmond, Jupiter/Palm Beach, and Hagerstown are examples of that, and here again, the attendance records of both the 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 NAPBL teams, and in some cases, as far back as the first decade of the 20th 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 2012 are listed in bold. If 2012 was also 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 NAPBL team with a higher record attendance.

Sources

Attendance data for NAPBL teams was obtained from The Sporting News Baseball Guides for the following seasons: 1969-1980; 1989-1993; 1996. 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 1993, and 1996, and independent league data from 1993 through 1997. NAPBL data for 1994, 1995, and 1997 through 2012 came from the office of Minor League Baseball.

Thanks to Steve Densa, Executive Director of Communications for Minor League Baseball, for providing the current NAPBL Minor League figures. Thanks also to Pete Palmer, editor of The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia, for providing some of the information. Data from independent leagues from 1998 through 2012 came from the Website of each league in most cases, with the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball providing the rest.

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.

League Record-High Attendance

The record-high attendance for all NAPBL and independent leagues can be found in the League and Team Highlights sections of this report. Also listed there is the single season, individual team, all-time record-high in each league.

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE – CLASS AAA**

Team	Record-High	Year		Team	Record-High	Year
Buffalo	1,188,972	1991		Louisville	1,052,438	1983
Charlotte	403,029	1993		Norfolk	560,211	1995
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009		Pawtucket	688,421	2005
Durham	520,952	2007		Rochester	515,436	1998
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009		Scranton-Wilkes Barre	580,908	2007
Indianapolis	659,237	1998		Syracuse	446,025	1999
Lehigh Valley, PA	645,905	2010		Toledo	590,159	2007

Buffalo and Louisville set their records in the Class AAA American Association.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE – CLASS AAA

Team	Record-High	Year		Team	Record-High	Year
Albuquerque	602,129	2009		Oklahoma City	542,095	2005
Colorado Springs	339,009	2011		Omaha	449,753	1997
Fresno	563,079	2002		Reno	466,606	2009
Iowa	576,310	2007		Round Rock	700,277	2005
Las Vegas	386,310	1993		Sacramento	901,214	2001
Memphis	887,976	2001		Salt Lake City	713,224	1994
Nashville (a)	556,250	1990		Tacoma	378,518	2011
New Orleans	519,584	1998		Tucson	317,347	1991

(a) – Record-high set as a P.C.L. team. In 1980 Nashville drew 575,676 in the Class AA Southern League.
Omaha set its record in the Class AAA American Association.

EASTERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA

Team	Record-High	Year		Team	Record-High	Year
Akron	522,459	1999		New Britain	368,523	2010
Altoona	394,062	2004		New Hampshire	386,991	2009
Binghamton	259,183	1992		Portland, ME	434,684	2004
Bowie	463,976	1995		Reading	486,570	2002
Erie	246,404	2001		Richmond (a)	463,842	2010
Harrisburg	294,325	2010		Trenton	457,344	1998

(a) – Class AAA team in Richmond drew 533,076 in 1993.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA

Team	Record-High	Year		Team	Record-High	Year
Birmingham	467,867	1994		Mississippi	246,674	2007
Chattanooga	292,920	1994		Mobile	332,639	1997
Huntsville, AL	300,810	1985		Montgomery	322,946	2004
Jackson, TN	313,775	1998		Pensacola	328,147	2012
Jacksonville, FL	420,495	2004		Tennessee	268,033	2002

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**TEXAS LEAGUE – CLASS AA**

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Arkansas	377,977	2008	N.W. Arkansas	358,792	2008
Corpus Christi	506,398	2006	San Antonio	411,959	1994
Frisco	666,977	2003	Springfield, MO	526,630	2005
Midland	308,810	2011	Tulsa	408,183	2010

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bakersfield	158,714	1992	Modesto	180,785	2011
High Desert	218,444	1992	Rancho Cucamonga	446,146	1995
Inland Empire	273,739	1997	San Jose	222,547	2011
Lake Elsinore	383,297	1995	Stockton	218,497	2007
Lancaster	316,390	1996	Visalia	118,625	2012

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bradenton	103,978	2011	Fort Myers (a)	124,749	2008
Brevard County	144,688	1994	Jupiter (b)	114,301	2001
(Port) Charlotte	171,450	2010	Lakeland (c)	64,010	2010
Clearwater	177,297	2012	Palm Beach (b)	105,122	2006
Daytona	164,007	2008	St. Lucie	105,379	2011
Dunedin	80,126	1994	Tampa (d)	149,191	1997

(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

CAROLINA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Carolina (a)	328,207	1993	Potomac	220,145	1998
Frederick	351,146	1993	Salem	258,469	2007
Lynchburg	169,367	2011	Wilmington, DE	358,766	1995
Myrtle Beach	242,397	2008	Winston-Salem	312,416	2011

(a) – Carolina set its record in the Southern League

MIDWEST LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Beloit	101,127	1986	Kane County, IL	523,222	2001
Bowling Green, KY	237,070	2011	Lake County, OH	437,515	2003
Burlington, IA (a)	83,927	1994	Lansing	538,325	1996
Cedar Rapids	196,066	2002	Peoria	275,673	2008
Clinton	127,251	1988	Quad Cities	260,471	1994
Dayton	597,433	2010	South Bend	258,424	1994
Fort Wayne	404,942	2010	West Michigan	547,401	1996
Great Lakes	324,564	2007	Wisconsin	253,240	2009

(a) – A previous team in Burlington drew 91,946 in 1955

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A**

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Asheville	175,892	2008	Hickory	283,727	1993
Augusta, GA	201,760	2010	Kannapolis	138,487	2011
Charleston, SC	284,718	2007	Lakewood	482,206	2001
Delmarva	324,412	1997	Lexington, KY	451,076	2001
Greensboro	441,106	2007	Rome	246,718	2003
Greenville, SC	349,116	2008	Savannah (b)	135,415	2011
Hagerstown (a)	153,675	2005	West Virginia	248,766	2007

(a) – Class AA Eastern League team drew 193,753 in 1991.

(b) – Savannah drew 217,000 in the Sally League in 1937.

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON CLASS A – (Full-Season Prior to 1967)

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Aberdeen	247,836	2008	Lowell	201,512	2010
Auburn	58,233	1991	Mahoning Valley	206,287	2000
Batavia	52,909	1971	State College	153,350	2008
Brooklyn (a)	317,124	2002	Staten Island	209,018	2010
Connecticut (b)	62,317	2011	Tri-City (Troy, NY) (c)	159,966	2012
Hudson Valley	164,425	2006	Vermont	124,496	1996
Jamestown	63,069	2001	Williamsport (d)	83,346	2003

(a) – Brooklyn Dodgers drew 1,807,526 in 1947

(b) – Class AA Eastern Lea. team drew 281,473 in 1995

(c) – Albany-Colonie (Class AA) drew 324,003 in 1985

(d) – Class AA Eastern Lea. team drew 100,586 in 1988

Record-highs as full-season teams in this league: Auburn – 59,637 in 1947; Batavia – 67,680 in 1946;

Jamestown – 143,016 in 1942.

NORTHWEST LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON CLASS A – (Full-Season Prior to 1966)

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Boise	165,255	1995	Spokane (b)	192,021	2007
Eugene (a)	148,282	1996	Tri-City, WA (c)	86,095	2012
Everett	119,396	1998	Vancouver (d)	164,461	2012
Salem-Keiser	136,836	1997	Yakima (e)	86,822	1993

(a) – PCL team drew 168,094 in 1972

(b) – PCL team drew 287,185 in 1947

(c) – Indep. Western Leag. team drew 109,101 in 1997

(d) – PCL team drew 386,220 in 1988

(e) – Full-season team drew 133,917 in 1949

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE – (Full-Season Prior to 1957)

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bluefield	55,373	1991	Greeneville, TN	51,806	2008
Bristol	32,409	1976	Johnson City	48,038	1994
Burlington, NC	76,653	1987	Kingsport	55,457	1999
Danville	80,539	1993	Princeton	39,426	1994
Elizabethton	30,134	2007	Pulaski	33,679	2008

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.

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**PIONEER LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE – (Full Season Prior to 1964)**

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Billings	122,090	2003	Idaho Falls	104,960	2007
Grand Junction	101,496	2012	Missoula	89,812	2012
Great Falls	114,603	2003	Ogden	146,068	2009
Helena	51,236	1992	Orem	109,125	2007

Record highs as full-season teams in this league: Billings – 174,080 in 1949; Great Falls – 129,640 in 1949.

MEXICAN LEAGUE – NAPBL (SINCE 1955) RECORDS ONLY – (Was an Independent League Prior to 1955)

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Aguascalientes	351,326	1978	Monterrey	989,454	2006
Campeche	287,749	1983	Oaxaca	209,984	2008
Cancun-Quintana Roo	214,556	2007	Puebla	363,011	2011
Carmen	227,143	2012	Reynosa	313,917	2009
Laguna	350,717	2008	Saltillo	613,551	2001
Mexico City Reds	536,743	1967	Tabasco	441,835	1979
Minititlan	211,227	2008	Veracruz	245,057	2012
Monclova	425,738	1998	Yucatan	560,000	1982

Mexico City also had a team named the Tigers, whose attendance high was 441,885 in 1965.

Tijuana had a team that drew 548,863 in 2004.

CAN-AM LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
<i>Brockton (b)</i>	<i>203,094</i>	<i>2004</i>	Quebec City (c)	164,009	2009
Newark (a)	51,854	2011	Rockland	161,375	2012
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	Worcester	124,745	2005

(a) – Full-season records for Newark – 342,001 in 1932 (International), 243,255 in 2001 (Atlantic).

(c) – 1949 Canadian-American League team drew 176,779. (b) - Brockton was inactive in 2012.

ATLANTIC LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bridgeport	342,857	1999	Somerset	376,315	2004
Camden	313,792	2002	Southern Maryland	240,777	2010
Lancaster, PA	378,310	2005	Sugar Land, TX	465,511	2012
Long Island	443,142	2001	York	293,967	2008

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**FRONTIER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT**

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Evansville (a)	136,941	2005	Rockford (b)	138,234	2008
Florence, KY	112,844	2010	River City, MO	185,333	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL)	217,500	2004	Schaumburg	236,476	1999
Joliet	202,755	2002	Southern Illinois	259,392	2007
Lake Erie (Avon, OH)	159,580	2010	Traverse City	206,102	2007
London, Ont. (c)	60,456	1999	Washington, PA	159,857	2005
Normal	132,309	2010	Windy City, IL	103,129	2009

(a) – Class AAA American Association team drew 147,807 in 1972

(b) – Full-season Class A Midwest League team drew 158,674 in 1988.

(c) – Full-season Class AA Eastern League team drew 167,694 in 1990.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Amarillo	159,332	2008	Lincoln	247,471	2002
El Paso (a)	211,316	2007	St. Paul (c)	297,834	2007
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002	Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995
Gary	166,366	2010	Sioux Falls, SD	150,837	2008
Grand Prairie	143,627	2008	Wichita, KS (d)	161,170	2009
Kansas City, KS (b)	289,162	2007	Winnipeg	323,241	2004
Laredo	187,845	2012			

(a) – Class AA Texas League team drew 329,233 in 1995. (b) – Kansas City, MO drew 425,064 in 1923.

(c) – St. Paul drew 352,911 in the American Association in 1949. Minneapolis drew 318,326 in 1956.

(d) – Drew 280,320 in Class AAA American Assn. in 1971.

NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Abilene (a)	73,954	1995	McAllen	29,082	2012
Edinburg	145,370	2004	Rio Grande Valley	103,535	2000
Fort Worth (b)	185,175	2008	San Angelo	150,770	2000
Hawaii	8,820	2012	San Rafael	31,411	2012
Maui	50,343	2010			

(a) – West Texas League team drew 125,714 in 1955.

(b) – Texas League team drew 354,288 in 1948.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Alpine	22,630	1959	Santa Fe	15,552	2012
Las Cruces	6,592	2012	Trinidad	10,624	2012
Roswell	82,671	1950	White Sands	8,800	2011

Alpine set its record in the Sophomore League. Roswell's record was in the Longhorn League.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2012 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Minor League Baseball attendance has increased very sharply over the past 4 decades. New ballparks, better marketing and promotion programs, and reasonable prices have all been factors in this attendance boom.

Tables at the end of this section compare 2012 Major League and Minor League attendance with attendance for the 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 seasons. Note the sub-total (*in italics*) provided for Class AAA. The old Class AAA 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 Class AAA attendance between years.

Both the Major and Minor leagues have more teams today than 23, 33 and 43 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.

ONE MORE LOOK AT THE 2012 NUMBERS

The 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission drew 41,280,382, an average of 234,548 per team. Average per date was 3,967. 55 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 7,127,934, an average of 129,599 per team, and an average per date of 2,697. Most independent teams play shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 48,408,316, averaging 209,560 per team, and 3,710 per date. Major League total attendance was 74,859,268, an average of 2,495,309 per team, and 30,895 per date.

2012 COMPARISON WITH 1999

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was underway. Comparing 2012 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were healthy gains.

NAPBL 2012 total attendance was up 17.3% from 1999. Average attendance per date increased 581 (17.2%). There were 176 NAPBL teams in both 2012 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. Total independent leagues attendance was up 46.3% vs. 1999, and their average per date rose 138 (5.4%). Combined 2012 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 20.9% from 1999, and average per date was up 452 (13.9%).

2012 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 17.3% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 6 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 58.6%. The Pioneer League was up 53.0%, the Florida State League had a 50.5% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 49.1%, the Mexican League increased 32.7%, and Midwest League was up 28.8%. Independent league teams had a combined gain of 17.0%.

But 5 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2012 than they had in 1999. The Appalachian League was down 15.7%, and the Northwest League declined 12.2%. Full-season leagues with decreases were the Southern (down 7.7%), California (down 5.6%), and Eastern Leagues (down 2.0%).

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 443,358 per team in 2012. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,352 in 2012, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,333 per date in 2012, up 392 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,944 per date in 2012, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,510 in 2012, 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 Class AA 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 (6,329).

The Major League 2012 total attendance and average per team was up 6.7% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 30,895 in 2012, up 1,685 (5.8%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2012 COMPARISON WITH 1989

164 NAPBL teams that charged admission, operated in 1989. They drew a total of 23,103,593, an average of 140,876 per team. 2012 NAPBL total attendance was 78.7% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 66.5%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2012 figures, the results are gains of 109.5% in total attendance, and 48.8% in average per team.

The Appalachian League, down 10.5%, is the only league whose 2012 average attendance per team was lower than the 1989 average. Every other league had a gain of at least 27.6%.

3 leagues more than doubled their per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 146.9% higher in 2012 than in 1989. The New York-Penn was up 138.0%, and the Midwest League gained 108.2%. The Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, California, Mexican and Carolina Leagues achieved increases of better than 65%. The combined Class AAA average per team was up 30.5%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 14 teams reached 500,000 in 2012. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2012, 15 Class AA teams topped 300,000. Durham led full-season Class A in 1989, drawing 272,202. That figure was topped by 12 Class A teams in 2012. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 483,593 in 2012. Yucatan drew 310,715 to lead the Mexican League in 1989.

In 1989, just 2 of the 26 teams in either the Midwest or South Atlantic Leagues topped 200,000. But in 2012, 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 2012, with 2 of them surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 35.7% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 17.6%. The average per date of 30,895 in 2012 was 4,125 (15.4%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2012 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 2012 total attendance was 170.4% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 118.2%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2012 totals, the result is a 217.1% increase in total attendance, and a 94.9% 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 5 leagues: Carolina – 398.6%; Eastern – 334.7%; New York-Penn – 307.0%; Midwest – 320.3%; Northwest – 320.7%. The only leagues that did not at least double their average attendance per team were the Southern, Florida State, and Appalachian Leagues, which had increases of less than 50%, and the Mexican League, which was up 3.8%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 146.6% 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 Columbus, Monterrey and, Lehigh Valley in 2012. 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 Class AAA teams to top 240,000. All Class AAA teams except Tucson did it in 2012.

Nashville drew 515,482 to lead Class AA in 1979, the first of 4 straight years the Sounds topped 500,000. Memphis and El Paso were the only other Class AA teams to reach 200,000. 25 of the 30 Class AA teams topped 200,000 in 2012. 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 2012, 50 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 33 full-season Class A teams, and 4 short-season teams in 2012. Eugene drew 66,156 to lead all short-season teams in 1979. 22 of the 40 short-season NAPBL teams drew more than that in 2012.

Major League 2012 total attendance was up 71.9% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 49.0%. Average per date was up 8,955 (40.8%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2012 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2012 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2012 total NAPBL attendance was 313.5% higher, and average per team showed a 247.7% gain. Add the independent teams to the 2012 figures, and the total attendance growth is 384.8%, with average per team up 210.6%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 525.3%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 471.2% gain with 6 current teams each individually drawing better in 2012 than the entire league drew in 1969.

The New York-Penn League had a 410.2% increase, and the Eastern League was up 395.0%. The Carolina League had a gain of 392.0%, and the Northwest League was up 341.1%. The International, Pacific Coast, Southern, Texas, California, and Pioneer Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 161.5%, the Appalachian League, up 60.7%, and the Mexican League, down 3.4%, were the only leagues whose 2012 average per team was not at least triple the 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 228.0%.

In 1969, the Mexico City Reds led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance, drawing 428,548. Among U.S. based teams, Hawaii (Honolulu) was the top draw, with a total of 280,477. In 2012, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 61 NAPBL teams, including all teams in the Texas League, and by 5 independent league teams. Honolulu no longer has a team.

Only 5 teams below the AAA level topped 100,000 in 1969. Dallas-Fort Worth, then in the Class AA 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. 53 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 22 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2012. Salt Lake City drew 76,789 in 1969 to lead all short-season teams. 6 Class AA 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 174.9% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 119.9%. The 2012 MLB average per date was 30,895, up 15,537 (101.2%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2012 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Richmond drew 438,002 in 2012. In 1979, the Eastern League's total attendance was 436,040, and in 1969, that league drew 382,933.)

Eastern League - Richmond (1979 & 1969); Reading (1969)

Carolina League - Wilmington, Frederick, Winston-Salem (1979)

Midwest League - Dayton (1979 & 1969); Kane County, Fort Wayne (1969)

South Atlantic Lea. - Greensboro, Lakewood (1979 & 1969);
Charleston SC, Greenville, Lexington, Delmarva (1969)

NY-Penn League - Brooklyn, Aberdeen (1969)

Northwest League - Spokane, Vancouver, Eugene, Salem-Keiser (1969)

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2012 vs. 1999

<u>League</u>	<u>2012</u>			<u>1999</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team <u>2012 vs. 1999</u>
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	33,383,773	14	2,384,555	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	4.9
	<u>41,475,495</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,592,218</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>8.2</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	74,859,268	30	2,495,309	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	6.7
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. 6,504,586	14	464,613	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. 6,437,251	14	459,804	1.0
	<u>6,796,157</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>424,760</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	21.2
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,300,743</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>443,358</i>	<i>12,044,250</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>401,475</i>	<i>10.4</i>
Mexican	3,814,348	16	238,397	2,875,289	16	179,706	32.7
Eastern Southern Texas	3,791,241	12	315,937	3,868,732	12	322,394	(2.0)
	2,152,852	10	215,285	2,332,712	10	233,271	(7.7)
	2,834,864	8	354,358	1,787,915	8	223,489	58.6
California Carolina Florida State	1,582,174	10	158,217	1,675,245	10	167,525	(5.6)
	1,877,081	8	234,635	1,652,256	8	206,532	13.6
	1,215,020	12	101,252	941,861	14	67,276	50.5
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	4,084,343	16	255,271	2,774,427	14	198,173	28.8
	3,056,097	14	218,293	2,049,461	14	146,390	49.1
	1,701,001	14	121,500	1,371,054	14	97,932	24.1
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	896,781	8	112,098	1,021,390	8	127,674	(12.2)
	278,785	10	27,879	330,517	10	33,052	(15.7)
	<u>695,052</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>86,882</u>	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>56,795</u>	<u>53.0</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,280,382	176	234,548	35,179,471	176	199,883	17.3
Independent Lgs.	7,127,934	55	129,599	4,871,797	44	110,723	17.0
GRAND TOTAL	48,408,316	231	209,560	40,051,268	220	182,051	15.1

* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Major League Baseball Information System

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2012 vs. 1989

<u>League</u>	<u>2012</u>			<u>1989</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2012 vs. 1989
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	33,383,773	14	2,384,555	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	11.8
	<u>41,475,495</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,592,218</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>22.8</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	74,859,268	30	2,495,309	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	17.6
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			3,667,142	8	458,393	
International	6,504,586	14	464,613	2,613,247	8	326,656	42.2
Pacific Coast	<u>6,796,157</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>424,760</u>	<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	66.3
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,300,743</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>443,358</i>	<i>8,834,806</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>339,800</i>	<i>30.5</i>
Mexican	3,814,348	16	238,397	1,975,723	14	141,123	68.9
Eastern	3,791,241	12	315,937	1,272,812	8	159,102	98.6
Southern	2,152,852	10	215,285	1,687,844	10	168,784	27.6
Texas	2,834,864	8	354,358	1,511,610	8	188,951	87.5
California	1,582,174	10	158,217	933,883	10	93,388	69.4
Carolina	1,877,081	8	234,635	1,006,738	8	125,842	86.5
Florida State	1,215,020	12	101,252	957,344	14	68,382	48.1
Midwest	4,084,343	16	255,271	1,716,443	14	122,603	108.2
South Atlantic *	3,056,097	14	218,293	1,060,964	12	88,414	146.9
New York-Penn	1,701,001	14	121,500	714,561	14	51,040	138.0
Northwest	896,781	8	112,098	636,187	8	79,523	41.0
Appalachian	278,785	10	27,879	311,510	10	31,151	(10.5)
Pioneer	<u>695,052</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>86,882</u>	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>60,396</u>	43.9
NAPBL TOTAL	41,280,382	176	234,548	23,103,593	164	140,876	66.5
Independent Lgs.	7,127,934	55	129,599	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,408,316	231	209,560	23,103,593	164	140,876	48.8

* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Major League Baseball Information System

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2012 vs. 1979

<u>League</u>	<u>2012</u>			<u>1979</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2012 vs. 1979
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	33,383,773	14	2,384,555	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	49.2
	<u>41,475,495</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,592,218</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>46.9</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	74,859,268	30	2,495,309	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	49.0
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
International	6,504,586	14	464,613	1,616,151	8	202,019	130.0
Pacific Coast	<u>6,796,157</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>424,760</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	141.1
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,300,743</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>443,358</i>	<i>4,674,378</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>179,784</i>	<i>146.6</i>
Mexican	3,814,348	16	238,397	4,591,286	20	229,564	3.8
Eastern	3,791,241	12	315,937	436,040	6	72,673	334.7
Southern	2,152,852	10	215,285	1,482,437	10	148,244	45.2
Texas	2,834,864	8	354,358	826,207	8	103,276	243.1
California	1,582,174	10	158,217	504,487	10	50,449	213.6
Carolina	1,877,081	8	234,635	282,371	6	47,062	398.6
Florida State	1,215,020	12	101,252	722,258	10	72,226	40.2
Midwest	4,084,343	16	255,271	485,915	8	60,739	320.3
South Atlantic *	3,056,097	14	218,293	347,237	6	57,873	277.2
New York-Penn	1,701,001	14	121,500	298,538	10	29,854	307.0
Northwest	896,781	8	112,098	213,163	8	26,645	320.7
Appalachian	278,785	10	27,879	128,735	6	21,456	29.9
Pioneer	<u>695,052</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>86,882</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	155.0
NAPBL TOTAL	41,280,382	176	234,548	15,265,633	142	107,504	118.2
Independent Lgs.	7,127,934	55	129,599	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,408,316	231	209,560	15,265,633	142	107,504	94.9

* The South Atlantic League was named the Western Carolinas League until 1980.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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 - 2012 vs. 1969

<u>League</u>	<u>2012</u>			<u>1969</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team <u>2012 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	33,383,773	14	2,384,555	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	135.8
	<u>41,475,495</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,592,218</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>106.1</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	74,859,268	30	2,495,309	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	119.9
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
International	6,504,586	14	464,613	1,035,457	8	129,432	259.0
Pacific Coast	<u>6,796,157</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>424,760</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	221.8
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,300,743</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>443,358</i>	<i>2,973,992</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>135,181</i>	<i>228.0</i>
Mexican	3,814,348	16	238,397	1,973,825	8	246,728	(3.4)
Eastern	3,791,241	12	315,937	382,933	6	63,822	395.0
Southern	2,152,852	10	215,285	333,516	6	55,586	287.3
Texas	2,834,864	8	354,358	828,268	8	103,534	242.3
California	1,582,174	10	158,217	369,217	8	46,152	242.8
Carolina	1,877,081	8	234,635	476,856	10	47,686	392.0
Florida State	1,215,020	12	101,252	464,662	12	38,722	161.5
Midwest	4,084,343	16	255,271	367,420	9	40,824	525.3
South Atlantic *	3,056,097	14	218,293	229,290	6	38,215	471.2
New York-Penn	1,701,001	14	121,500	190,519	8	23,815	410.2
Northwest	896,781	8	112,098	101,658	4	25,415	341.1
Appalachian	278,785	10	27,879	138,763	8	17,345	60.7
Pioneer	<u>695,052</u>	<u>8</u>	86,882	180,625	7	25,804	236.7
Northern	-----	----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
Mexican Center	-----	----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
Mexican Northern	-----	----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
Mexican So. East	-----	----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	56,950	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	41,280,382	176	234,548	9,984,263	148	67,461	247.7
Independent Lgs.	7,127,934	55	129,599	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,408,316	231	209,560	9,984,263	148	67,461	210.6

* 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.

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues, Total Baseball - 8th Edition

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2012 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

NAPBL Minor League Baseball attendance has grown at a faster pace than any other United States-based major professional team sport when comparing 2012 with 1989, 1979, and 1969. Minor League Baseball (NAPBL) has also posted a larger increase in 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 Minor League Baseball's (NAPBL only – does not include independent leagues) growth in attendance vs. 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 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, NHL, and Minor League hockey, the comparisons are with the 1999-2000, 1989-90, 1979-80, and 1969-70 seasons. The most recent official attendance total for the NFL is for the 2011 season.

The NBA played a shorter season in 2011-12 due to a lockout, with each team having 33 home games instead of the usual 41. In order to make a valid comparison with other leagues, and with NBA data for other seasons, the 2011-12 NBA attendance in the table below takes the average attendance per game for the 990 games actually played, and pro-rates it to a full 1,230 game season. Actual attendance in 2011-12 was 17,101,051, an average of 17,274 per game. If the league had played a full season, and drew that same average over a full season, the total 2011-12 attendance would have been 21,246,759.

Comparisons are made for total attendance, and for average yearly attendance per team, as these leagues have undergone expansion.

2012 or 2011-12 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2011)

	2012 or 2011-12 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team
NAPBL Minor League Baseball	41,280,382	176	234,548
Major League Baseball	74,859,268	30	2,495,309
National Football League (2011)	16,562,706	32	517,585
<i>National Basketball Association</i>	<i>21,246,759</i>	30	<i>708,225</i>
National Hockey League	21,468,121	30	715,604
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,521,300	12	126,775
Major League Soccer	6,074,729	19	319,723
Minor League Hockey	12,224,585	81	150,921

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2012 attendance with 1999. NBA figures are based on 2011-12 pro-rated attendance.

2012 (NFL 2011) 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. vs. 2012 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	35,179,471	176	199,883	17.3	17.3
MLB	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	6.7	6.7
NFL	16,206,640	31	522,795	2.2	(1.0)
NBA	20,058,513	29	691,673	5.9	2.4
NHL	18,800,139	28	671,434	14.2	6.6
WNBA	1,956,281	12	163,023	(22.2)	(22.2)
MLS	2,742,102	12	228,509	121.5	39.9
Minors Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(38.1)	(16.7)

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2012 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Minor League Baseball 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 2012 with 1989. The National Hockey League's total attendance increased at nearly the same pace as Minor League Baseball's due to the addition of 9 teams since the 1989-1990 season. Attendance for hockey minor leagues is not available for 1989-90, 1979-80, or 1969-70.

2012 (NFL 2011) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	23,103,593	164	140,876	78.7	66.5
MLB	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	35.7	17.6
NFL	13,625,662	28	486,631	21.6	6.4
NBA	17,368,659	27	643,284	22.3	10.1
NHL	12,579,651	21	599,031	70.7	19.5

Growth in average attendance per team for Minor League Baseball increased at a pace that was more than twice as fast as the other sports leagues when comparing 2012 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 170.4%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2012 (NFL 2011) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	15,265,633	142	107,504	170.4	118.2
MLB	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	71.9	49.0
NFL	13,182,039	28	470,787	25.6	9.9
NBA	9,937,575	22	451,708	113.8	56.8
NHL	10,533,623	21	501,601	103.8	42.7

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 forward.

The basketball line below is for combined NBA and ABA attendance. The American Basketball Association was in its 3rd 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 389.4% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 128.4%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2012 (NFL 2011) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

	1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2012 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	9,984,263	148	67,461	313.5	247.7
MLB	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	174.9	119.9
AFL/NFL	8,939,500	26	343,827	85.3	50.5
NBA/ABA	6,094,015	25	243,761	248.6	190.5
NHL	5,992,065	12	499,339	258.3	43.3

SOURCES: Baseball – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2012 Record and Fact Book; Basketball – NBA, WNBA, ABA Guide, databasebasketball.com; Hockey - NHL Guide and Record Book, Minor League hockey Websites; Major League Soccer

NEW BALLPARKS

New ballparks have been a major factor in the growth of minor league attendance. According to the "Baseball America Directory", ballparkdigest.com, and baseballparks.com, 123 of the 159 U.S./Canadian based NAPBL ballparks in use in 2013, will have opened from 1988 to 2013. 93 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 60 of them have opened since 2000. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League share the same facility.) 27 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 10 teams were built between 1970 and 1987. Many older parks have been totally refurbished, and bear little resemblance to their original structures.

Information is available about 51 ballparks of independent league teams that operated in 2012, including those in the Freedom Pro Baseball League. 40 of these parks opened since the start of 1988, (36 since 1995, and 26 since 2000), 9 were built prior to 1970, and 2 opened between 1970 and 1987. Overall, 162 minor league ballparks in use in 2012-13 opened since 1988, with 129 of those opening since 1995, and 86 opening since 2000.

Pensacola, Laredo, and Sugar Land opened new parks in 2012. Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Birmingham, and Hillsboro, OR, a suburb of Portland, which is replacing Yakima in the Northwest League, will move into completely new parks in 2013. Other parks, including those in Bradenton, Wisconsin, and Spokane, are getting major renovations.

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 decade of the 21st 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 2010-12 season, the number of teams was down to 81.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 38.1% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 12,224,585 in 2011-12, with 28 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 463 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,437 in 2011-12, a decline of 9.4%. On the other hand, National Hockey League total attendance in 2011-12 was up 14.2%, when compared to 1999-2000, and the average attendance per game was 6.6% higher than in 1999-2000. (Sources: National Hockey League Record Book, hockey minor league Web sites, nhl.com.)

The structure of minor league hockey has similarities with baseball. The American Hockey League is considered to be the Class AAA league, with each National Hockey League team having an affiliate in that league. The ECHL is the Class AA league, and there are other leagues as well. Many of the cities with minor league hockey also have Minor League Baseball.

In the 2011-12 season, the 30 team American Hockey League drew 6,426,934 to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. The Hershey Bears drew 375,146, an average of 9,872 per game, which was the year's best attendance for any minor league hockey team. (Hershey has never had a minor league baseball team.) Houston, Lake Erie, San Antonio, Chicago, Providence, and Grand Rapids also topped 7,000 per game. Minor League Baseball teams in the Providence (Pawtucket Red Sox) and Grand Rapids (West Michigan Whitecaps) areas also draw very well.

In the lower levels of minor league hockey, Ontario, CA averaged 6,309 per game, and Wichita averaged 6,249. Stockton, CA averaged 5,916. Attendance for Stockton's Minor League Baseball team has doubled since 2005. But the attendance leaders once again were the Fort Wayne Komets who drew an average of 7,770 per game. This was the 10th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game, and they've reached that figure 15 times in the last 21 years. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew 396,531 in 2012, an average of 5,747 per date. They topped 400,000 in 2010.

Bakersfield of the ECHL is one of minor league hockey's best draws. They averaged better than 5,000 per game for 7 straight years through 2010-11, and drew just under that in 2011-12. 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. A new ballpark is expected in Bakersfield by 2014.

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 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 Class AAA. 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. In some of these markets, there were other Minor League teams in lower classifications. For many years, the New York market had 2 Class AAA 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.

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
Arizona (Phoenix)	1998	Phoenix Firebirds	315,859	1994	1947-1997
Atlanta	1966	Atlanta Crackers	404,584	1947	1903, 1913, 1915-1965
Baltimore	1954	Baltimore Orioles	620,726	1946	1921-1953
Colorado (Denver)	1993	Denver Bears	565,214	1980	1902-04, 13, 23-29, 47-92
Dallas-Ft. W. (Texas)	1972	Dallas Eagles	404,851	1949	1922-1958
"		Fort Worth Cats	354,288	1948	1922-1959
"		Dallas-Fort Worth Spurs	329,294	1965	1960-1971
Houston	1962	Houston Buffalos	401,383	1948	1922-1961
Kansas City	1955	Kansas City Blues	425,064	1923	1903, 1908-1954
Los Angeles	1958	Los Angeles Angels	622,485	1947	1919-1957
"		Hollywood Stars	513,056	1946	1926-1957
"		Vernon Tigers	353,209	1924	1919-1925
Miami	1993	Miami Marlins	288,582	1956	1947-1991
"		Ft. Lauderdale Yankees	111,907	1992	1947-1993
"		Miami Beach Flamingos	90,682	1949	1947-1954
Milwaukee	1953, 70	Milwaukee Brewers	365,473	1927	1903-1952
Minnesota (Mpls.-St.P.)	1961	Minneapolis Millers	318,326	1956	1903-1960
"		St. Paul Saints	352,911	1949	1903-1960
Montreal	1969	Montreal Royals	477,638	1948	1928-1960
New York		Newark Bears	342,001	1932	1921-1949
"		Jersey City Giants	378,325	1939	1921-1950
San Diego	1969	San Diego Padres	493,780	1949	1936-1968
San Francisco-Oakland	1958	San Francisco Seals	670,563	1946	1919-1957
"		Oakland Oaks	634,311	1946	1919-1955
"		Mission Bears	299,670	1926	1926-1937
Seattle	1969, 77	Seattle Rainiers	548,308	1947	1919-1968, 1972-1976
Tampa Bay (St. Pete.)	1998	Tampa Yankees	149,191	1997	1928, 1947-Present
"		St. Petersburg Cardinals	202,283	1989	1947-2000
Toronto	1977	Toronto Maple Leafs	446,040	1952	1920-1967

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE DATA: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball

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 Class AAA, and AA 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 over 60 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 7 or 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

Professional baseball attendance was at an all-time high in the late 1940's. 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, as this was just two years after Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby integrated the Major Leagues. Attendance for the Negro Leagues is not available, but many of their teams drew well until the late 1940's. These teams featured players who would have been 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 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 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 2012, 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. 7 independent leagues operated, and 55 of their teams reported 2012 attendance. Among the 1949 leagues still operating is the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, now named the New York-Penn League.

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 drew 3,751,929, an average of 468,991 per team. This average per team compares with the 424,760 per team that the 16 team P.C.L. averaged in 2012, when it played a 144 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 Class AAA leagues drew considerably less than the P.C.L., but still averaged better than 250,000 per team. The overall Class AAA average per team of 336,625 compares with a 443,358 average in 2012.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In 2012, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 292,632 per team.

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 1983 when Louisville topped one million.

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 2012, there were 24 NAPBL teams, and one independent team, that topped 400,000. An additional 31 NAPBL and 3 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in 2012.

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 Class AAA teams in the New York City area. Newark drew 88,170, the lowest attendance in Class AAA, 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. 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
Class AAA Total	8,079,000	24	336,625				
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
Class AA Total	3,955,500	16	247,219				
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
Class A Total	3,926,529	28	140,233				
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	129,140	Anniston	40,640
Three I	782,910	8	97,864	Waterloo	146,421	Springfield	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
Class B Total	7,313,140	84	87,061				
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	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
Class C Total	7,624,686	106	71,931				

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	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
Class D Total	8,785,695	190	46,241				
GRAND TOTAL	39,684,550	448	88,582				

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 Class AAA leagues played 154 games in 1961, while the Class AA 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 Class AAA 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 Class AAA, AA, 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 have topped 500,000 for 25 straight years through 2012.

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.

Class AA Tulsa, Little Rock, Birmingham, Chattanooga, and Class A Greenville were the only U.S. teams below the Class AAA 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 Class AA Texas League surpassed 100,000 in 1962. Class A Macon, and Class B Kinston, were the only other teams below the Class AA 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 still used today. The Eastern and South Atlantic Leagues became Class AA 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.

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	San Juan, PR	28,543
Pacific Coast	1,349,810	8	168,726	Tacoma	243,790	Salt Lake City	106,454
Class AAA Total	3,383,145	22	153,779				
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
Class AA Total	2,361,905	20	118,095				
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
Class A Total	874,622	14	62,473				
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
Class B Total	835,132	18	46,396				
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
Class C Total	832,764	24	34,699				
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
Class D Total	1,478,907	49	30,182				
GRAND TOTAL	9,766,475	147	66,439				

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
Class AAA Total	3,294,699	22	149,759				
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
Class AA Total	2,084,458	12	173,705				
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
Class A Total	942,288	14	67,306				
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
Class B Total	758,646	14	54,189				
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
Class C Total	1,080,362	28	38,584				
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
Class D Total	1,550,443	44	35,237				
GRAND TOTAL	9,710,896	134	72,469				

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. 2012 total attendance was 74,859,268, average 30,895 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).
 2011 NFL attendance was 16,562,706, an average of 64,698 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2011-12 attendance was 17,101,051, an average of 17,274 per game.
 NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2011-12 attendance was 21,468,121, an average of 17,454 per game.

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 Class AAA and perhaps the Class AA leagues would survive. However many baseball people believed that college baseball would replace the lower level leagues as feeders to the Majors.

But in the 1970's, Minor League Baseball 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. Previous sections of this report have more details about this.

Even the availability of more Major League games than ever on television, in high-definition color, for that matter, has not stopped the growth of Minor League Baseball. Total attendance is more than 5 times what it was in the 1960's, and NAPBL attendance per team is up better than 3 fold. For what was once seen as a dying industry, Minor League Baseball seems to have a very bright future.

A FEW QUICK NOTES ON COLLEGE BASEBALL

The NCAA does not list total attendance for all of college baseball. But they publish a list of annual leaders. Louisiana State has led the NCAA in attendance for 17 straight years. In 2012, they drew 404,180 for the regular season, averaging 10,636 per date. If post-season play is included, their total attendance was a record-high 472,391, and a record-high average per date of 10,736. The regular-season record average per date is 10,673 by LSU in 2010. LSU, Arkansas, Texas, South Carolina, and Mississippi each finished in the top 5 in average attendance per date in 2012, 2011 and 2010.

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.

In 2012, attendance data was available for 15 of these leagues. The most successful one, in terms of attendance is the 16 team Northwoods League. That league's 2012 total attendance was 932,245, an average of 1,707 per date. Madison, WI from that league had the best attendance of any collegiate summer league team, drawing a total of 217,143, an average of 6,204 per date. Altogether, the 153 teams in the 15 leagues that compiled attendance data drew a total of 3,364,786, an average of 962 per date. Source: Ballpark Digest

SOME CONCLUDING "JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT" STATS

The all-time high NAPBL Minor League total regular season attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008. Just how much higher than that could it possibly go? Relocated teams, more new ballparks, expansion, a sound economy, and a year with unusually good weather, could easily result in a new record-high attendance.

Yogi Berra 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 2012 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 drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 46,234,231. The odds of each league drawing its record-high attendance in the same year are quite small. But that total is only 6.9% above the current record-high, and is certainly reachable, even fairly soon.

Taking this a step further, if each of the 176 NAPBL Minor League teams drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 55,726,858. This figure is very unlikely to be reached any time soon. 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 8 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2012. Solving this math question is way beyond the ability of the author of this report.