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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2013 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

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2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2013 season. Features include:

- A summary of 2013 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- Attendance notes for each league and for individual teams.
- Listing of 2013 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- A comparison of 2013 vs. 2012 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 2013.
- 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 44 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 2013 with attendance in 2003, 1993, and 1983.
- 2013 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 2013 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.

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SUMMARY OF 2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

- Baseball's Minor Leagues, in particular, those affiliated with the Major Leagues, were hit hard by the weather in 2013. Yet despite many more postponements than usual, especially early in the season, attendance held up quite well.
- Combined attendance for NAPBL – known as 'Minor League Baseball' (Major League affiliated) leagues, and from those independent leagues who reported regular season attendance, was 48,262,074 in 2013, down 146,242 (0.3%) from 2012. Combined attendance rose 0.7% in 2012, and fell 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009.
- The 181 post-season NAPBL games, including the Mexican League, drew 701,216, an average of 3,874 per game. Mexican League teams averaged 10,149 per game in the playoffs. Attendance data was available for 45 independent league post-season games, and they drew 103,963, an average of 2,310. 10 NAPBL All-Star games drew a combined 67,782.
- In 2013, there were 176 NAPBL teams that reported attendance, the same number as in 2012. There were 53 independent league teams reporting attendance, down from 55 teams in 2012. The independent North American League ceased operations after 2012. Some of its teams moved to the new United League or to the new Pacific Association.
- Attendance was listed for 249 fewer combined NAPBL/independent playing dates in 2013 compared to 2012. The NAPBL leagues had a combined 120 fewer dates. 13 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games had fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. The Midwest League played 41 fewer dates than a year ago, and the South Atlantic League had 27 fewer dates. Only the California League (6 more) and the Appalachian League (3 more) had more dates in 2013 than in 2012. Among the more established independent leagues, the American Association, Frontier, and Can-Am Leagues all played fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012, and the Atlantic League had 6 more dates in 2013.
- Weather can also affect attendance significantly even if games are played. Cold weather early in the season, brutal summer heat, and threatening storms, can result in lower attendance, even if it does not postpone games.
- Combined NAPBL/independent average attendance per date was 3,771, up 61 from 2012.
- The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 41,553,781, which is a gain of 273,399 (0.7%) from 2012. These 15 leagues averaged 4,040 per date, up 73 from 2012.
- The 53 teams in the 7 independent leagues that reported attendance drew 6,708,293, down 419,641 (5.9%) from 2012. Their average per date fell by 29 to 2,668.
- Combined NAPBL/independent attendance surpassed 40 million for the 15th straight year. It has been above 48 million in each of the last 9 seasons.

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

- The total 2013 attendance of 41,553,781 was the 5th best in NAPBL history. It was the 9th straight year above 40 million. The average per date of 4,040 was also the 5th best ever. The record high average per date is 4,174 in 2008. Record total attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008.
- New ballparks opened in 2013 in Birmingham of the Southern League, in Scranton-Wilkes Barre of the International League, where the team returned to after playing home games in 6 different cities while their park was totally rebuilt in 2012, and in Hillsboro, OR, of the Northwest League. That team was in Yakima in 2012.
- 6 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2013. The International League posted the best total increase, up 261,856 (4.0%). The Southern League had a 163,739 increase, and the Northwest League was up 87,651. Other leagues with gains in total attendance were the California, Carolina, and Midwest Leagues. Best percentage gains were by the Northwest League, up 9.8%, and the Southern League, up 7.6%.

SUMMARY OF 2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- **The Carolina League set new highs for total attendance and average per date for the 2nd straight year. Total attendance rose 57,659 (3.1%) to 1,934,740. Average per date was up 135 to 3,657.**
- **The Midwest League averaged 3,907 per date. This was the highest average per date ever for any Class A League.** The league achieved its 2nd best total attendance ever despite 41 fewer dates than in 2012. Weather caused 66 dates to be cancelled.
- 8 leagues had increases in average per date, led by a gain of 342 by the International League. The Northwest League was up by 313, and average per date in the Southern League rose 278.
- 9 leagues had decreases in total attendance, but 6 of those declines were less than 1.5%. South Atlantic League total attendance declined 104,284 (3.4%), mainly due to playing 27 fewer dates than in 2012. That was the worst drop in total attendance of any NAPBL league. The New York-Penn League dipped 98,276 (5.8%), the largest percentage drop, with 12 fewer dates in 2013.
- The New York-Penn League also had the biggest decrease in average per date, down 116. No other league had an average per date decline of more than 53.
- **Every team in the Northwest League averaged at least 2,270 per date. It's the first time that every team in a short-season league has averaged at least 2,000 per date.**
- **Combined average per date for the 5 full-season Class A leagues was a record-high 2,996, up 52.** The Class AAA leagues had an increase in average per date of 153, Class AA leagues were up a combined 80, short-season leagues increased their average per date by 3, and the Mexican League was also up 3.
- The Florida State League had its 2nd best average per date, and its 3rd best total ever. Northwest League total attendance and average per date was the best since 2000.
- 85 teams playing in the same markets as in 2012, had increases in 2013 total attendance, while 89 were down. Total attendance rose for 67 NAPBL teams in 2012, and fell for 104 teams. 87 teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 86 teams had declines. 83 teams had gains in 2010, with 90 teams showing a decline. In 2009, just 57 teams had gains while 114 were down.
- The International League had its 4th best total attendance, and 4th best average per date. The Pacific Coast League had its lowest total since 2001, and lowest average per date since 1999.
- In average attendance per date for 2013, 91 teams were up, while 83 were down. In 2012, 65 teams achieved increases, and 106 teams had declines. 96 teams had increases in 2011, while 77 were down. 64 teams had average per date increases in 2010, while 109 were down. 63 teams had gains in 2009. These figures only include teams that played in the same city for both years compared, so for 2013 it excludes Hillsboro of the Northwest League, who moved from Yakima. It also excludes Scranton-Wilkes Barre of the International League, who played home games at 6 different ballparks in 2012 while their ballpark was completely rebuilt. 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.
- **NAPBL teams with their highest total attendance ever in 2013 were Carmen, Midland, Potomac, and Bradenton. Vancouver and Connecticut (Norwich) set records for a short-season team in those cities.**
- The Indianapolis Indians of the International League drew 637,579, to lead the Minors in total attendance. It was the first time ever that Indianapolis had the best total attendance.
- Monterrey of the Mexican League had the best average per date for the 2nd straight year – 11,145 in 2013. The Sultanes led the Minors in total attendance in 2012, and drew 590,692 in just 53 dates in 2013. They also drew more than 20,000 at each of 4 playoff games.
- Columbus, OH averaged 9,212 per date, topping all U.S./Canadian teams. Columbus has led Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 1977, 1979, 1987, and 2009. The Clippers had total attendance of 635,613 in 2013, which was the 2nd best total of any team.

SUMMARY OF 2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) finished 3rd in total attendance (613,075) and also 3rd in average per date (9,016). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity for 52 of 68 dates, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 21 dates. Lehigh Valley is the only team to draw more than 600,000 in each of the last 6 seasons. They've averaged 9,031 per date in an 8,089 seat park in their 6 year history, with all seats sold out at 341 of 423 dates, and a lawn seat and standing room sellout at 114 dates.
- Sacramento drew 607,329. The River Cats led the Minors in attendance 9 times in the 11 years from 2000 through 2010.
- Besides the teams noted above, Class AAA Buffalo, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Salt Lake City, and Class A Dayton all topped 500,000.
- 54 teams, including 28 of 30 in Class AAA drew more than 300,000. 55 teams reached that level in 2012. 25 teams averaged at least 6,000 per date.
- Frisco led Class AA for the 9th consecutive season. But 2013 was just the 2nd time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000.
- Dayton drew 579,946, to lead Class A for the 14th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 983 games in their 14 year history (includes playoff games and 2 All-Star Games). 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 (232,224) among short-season teams for the 13th straight year, and was the only short-season team to top 200,000.
- Birmingham of the Southern League opened a new and highly acclaimed ballpark, and posted the largest increase in total attendance of any team in 2013, up 192,551. Yucatan (up 92,619), Laguna (up 88,180), South Bend (up 47,873), and Minatitlan (up 47,264) had the 4 next best gains in total attendance. South Bend has increased its attendance by 111% since 2011.
- 4 of the 10 teams with the largest total attendance increases for 2013 play in the Mexican League. Vancouver, up 19,581, had the best increase among short-season teams. The 2 relocated teams, Scranton-Wilkes Barre (up 163,671), and short-season Hillsboro (up 73,272), had big increases from what they drew in their former homes in 2012.
- Birmingham (up 2,665), Yucatan (up 1,589), Laguna (up 944), Carmen (up 907), and Buffalo (up 903) had the best average per date increases. Minatitlan, Mexico City, Potomac, South Bend, Kane County, and Charleston, SC also saw average per date rise by over 500. Vancouver gained 398, best among all short-season teams. Scranton-Wilkes Barre was up 2,465 per date, and Hillsboro had an increase of 1,928.
- Saltillo (Mexican League) had the biggest 2013 total attendance decline among NAPBL teams, down 75,654. Reynosa dipped 57,928. Short-season Aberdeen had a 55,095 loss. Monterrey dropped 54,610, and Veracruz fell 54,573. Mexican League teams had 5 of the 10 largest declines in 2013. Among U.S. full-season teams, Greenville, SC had the worst loss, down 46,640, with 5 fewer dates played.
- Saltillo had the largest average per-date decline – 1,533. Aberdeen was down 1,172. Puebla, Veracruz, and Reynosa all saw average per date down over 600. Among U.S. full-season teams, Reno, down 494 and Tacoma, down 444, had the worst losses.
- All Class AAA teams drew at least 200,000. Tucson had the lowest total. That team has moved to El Paso for 2014. Charlotte was the only other Class AAA team to draw under 300,000. The Knights will play in a new ballpark in Downtown Charlotte in 2014.
- Jackson, TN, the smallest market with a Class AA team, had the lowest attendance among that group of teams. They lost 9 dates due to rain. Dunedin posted the smallest full-season Class A total, followed by Bakersfield. Bristol had the lowest short-season total.

SUMMARY OF 2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- 8 independent leagues operated in 2013, up from 7 in 2012. There were more changes to the structure of independent leagues in 2013, but few of those changes involved the 4 well-established leagues. The American Association, Atlantic League, and Frontier League all had the same teams and cities that finished the 2012 season. There was a Frontier League team that played only road games in 2013. Trois-Rivieres, located in Quebec, replaced Worcester in the Can-Am League.

Among newer leagues, the North American League disbanded after the 2012 season. Fort Worth, Edinburg, Rio Grande Valley, and San Angelo from that league joined Alexandria, LA plus a road team to form a new version of the United League. Hawaii (Hilo), Maui, and San Rafael of the North American League joined Vallejo to form the new Pacific Association. Abilene and McAllen of the 2012 N.A.L. did not operate in 2013.

The Pecos Baseball League increased its roster to 8 teams with the addition of the Las Vegas that's in New Mexico, Taos, and Raton, while dropping Las Cruces.

- 53 independent teams reported attendance in 2013. 55 teams reported attendance in 2012. The figures for the Pecos League were estimates provided by the league office. No attendance was reported by the Freedom League, and only one team (San Rafael) in the Pacific Association reported attendance. It is assumed that attendance in those leagues not reporting attendance was quite low.
- Total independent leagues reported attendance was 6,708,293 in 2013, down 419,641 (5.9%). Combined average per date fell by 29 to 2,668. There were 129 fewer dates with recorded or estimated attendance among the independent leagues in 2013 than in 2012. None of the 5 leagues that operated both years had increases in total attendance, and only the Frontier League had a gain in average per date.
- 15 of the 48 independent league teams playing in the same market (but not always in the same league) as in 2012 had increases in total attendance in 2013. 15 of those teams posted gains in average per date. 20 of 46 'same market' independent teams had gains in total attendance in 2012, with 17 posting increases in average per date. Just 12 'same market' independent teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 37 were down. 9 of those teams had gains in average per date and 40 had declines. 28 teams posted gains in total attendance in 2010, with 24 up in average per date. In 2009, just 16 of 55 teams had increases in total attendance, and 19 posted gains in average per date.
- The Atlantic League had the largest decline in total attendance, down 113,024 (4.8%) to 2,254,554. Their average per date fell by 257, the largest dip among independent leagues, to 4,152. In 2012, this league drew 2,367,578, the highest total attendance by any independent league since these types of leagues began operating in 1993. Average per date in 2012 was 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 was down 4.2% in total attendance, and down 77 in average per date from the league record-high figures in both categories that were set in 2012.
- Fewer dates resulted in a 0.5% total attendance decline for the Frontier League from the league record-high in 2012. But their average per date rose by 52.
- The Can-Am League had only 5 teams again 2013, and played an interleague schedule with the American Association. Total attendance declined 8.2%, and average per date dropped by 111.
- United League attendance averaged 1,225 per date as some teams had financial problems.
- Pecos Baseball League estimated total attendance was down 5.3% and average per date dropped by 62. The league's ballparks are quite small, and their attendance figures are for tickets actually used, and do not include 'no-shows.' All other minor leagues, and the Major Leagues as well, do include 'no-shows' in their official attendance.

SUMMARY OF 2013 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- Sugar Land (near Houston) of the Atlantic League again had the highest total attendance among all independent teams, drawing 382,059. But this was down 83,452, a 2013 independent league worst decline, from the 465,511 they drew in 2012, their first season. The 2012 total is the highest ever by a modern independent league team. The previous record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001.
- Winnipeg's average per date of 5,880 was the best among independent teams in 2013. It was the 11th time in the last 14 years that Winnipeg had the highest independent average per date. They also hold the all-time independent record-high average per date of 7,161 in 2003. Kansas City, St. Paul, Long Island, Lancaster, Sugar Land and Somerset also averaged over 4,000 in 2013.
- Long Island had the top independent attendance for 12 straight years from 2000 through 2011, and they finished second to Sugarland in 2012 and 2013, topping 300,000 in both seasons. Somerset was the other independent team that topped 300,000 in 2013. All 3 of these teams play in the Atlantic League which has a much longer schedule than other independent leagues. Lancaster, Southern Maryland, York, Camden, Winnipeg, St. Paul, and Kansas City drew more than 200,000.
- Lowest total attendance among American Association, and Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier League teams was 21,288 by Newark of the Can-Am League. The Bears averaged just 453 per date. They will not play in 2014. No other team in these leagues averaged less than 1,000 per date. But 11 of the 14 teams that reported attendance among the other independent leagues averaged below 1,000 per date, and for 9 of these teams, average per date was under 400.
- Fort Worth of the United League, up 32,462, had the best increase among independent teams. The Sioux Falls Canaries were up 30,590, and Bridgeport had a gain of 25,128. Schaumburg was up 21,267.
- The worst loss was by Sugarland, down 83,452. San Angelo's attendance fell 70,257. El Paso, which gets a Pacific Coast League team in a new ballpark for 2014, dipped 69,892.
- Fort Worth also had the best increase in average per date, up 1,076. Sioux Falls had a gain of 693, and Evansville was up 573. El Paso had the worst decline in average per date, down 1,426. Sugarland had a decline of 1,113, and San Angelo was down 1,060.
- **Sioux Falls and Southern Maryland set team record-highs in 2013. Evansville had its best attendance ever as an independent league team.**

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 2013. 1997-2013 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 ballparks over the past three decades.

There is a section on 2013 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.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES ATTENDANCE FOR 2013, 2012, AND 2010 WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

The actual 2013, 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 not above 17,000, and perhaps, considerably less.

In 2012 and 2013, the Freedom Pro Baseball League, with all 4 of its teams based in Arizona, did not report attendance, which was estimated to be very low. Only one team in the 2013 Pacific Association reported attendance.

2011, 2012, and 2013 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office each year. 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.

4 additional Rookie Class leagues (Arizona, Gulf Coast, Dominican, and Venezuelan) 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 2013, starting in late March, and continuing through early 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 League teams began to affiliate with Major League teams, and independent leagues and teams pretty much disappeared.

The current generation of independent leagues began in 1993 with the start of the Northern and the Frontier Leagues. All independent leagues have been through major reorganizations, and in some cases, name changes. The Can-Am League first played in 1995, as the Northeast League. 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 2013, the 8 independent leagues that operated were the American Association (100 game schedule), Atlantic League (140 games), Can-Am League (100 games), Frontier League (96 games), Pacific Association (up to 76 games, but far fewer for some teams), Pecos Baseball League (70 games), the revived United Baseball League (80 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**Bad Weather and 249 Fewer Dates Result in an Attendance Decline for Baseball's Minor Leagues in 2013**

- In 2013, combined attendance for all of baseball's minor leagues fell slightly. This was mostly due to bad weather, and 2 fewer independent teams that recorded attendance. The result was 249 fewer dates, with recorded attendance than in 2012. 3 NAPBL teams (Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Birmingham, and Hillsboro) got completely new ballparks. Combined NAPBL/Independent attendance rose in 2012. There were 3 straight declines in combined attendance for Major League affiliated leagues (NAPBL) and independent leagues from 2009 through 2011. But before 2009, there had been 24 straight seasons of increases.
- **Total attendance for all minor leagues fell 146,242 (0.3%) in 2013 to 48,262,074, but average attendance per date was up by 61.** The average rose because fewer dates were played. This total attendance figure is the 8th highest of all time. The comparison excludes the 2012 and 2013 Freedom Pro Baseball League, and 3 of 4 teams in the 2013 Pacific Association who did not report attendance. (It was very low.) In 2012, the combined NAPBL/Independent attendance rose 0.7%. It was down 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and it fell 3.8% in 2009.
- **Total 2013 attendance for the 15 Major League affiliated (NAPBL) leagues was up 273,399 (0.7%) to 41,553,781, and average attendance per date rose by 73. Considering the bad weather early in the year, the increase was quite an accomplishment** 176 teams that charged admission operated both 2013 and 2012. Total attendance in these leagues was up 0.1% in 2012, 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.
- **8 independent leagues, with 53 teams that reported attendance, drew 6,708,293 in 2013, down 419,641 (5.9%).** Their average attendance per date fell by 29. This excludes the Freedom League, and 3 of 4 teams in the Pacific Association. The Independent leagues had a 4.4% total attendance gain in 2012. They 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 fell 1.1% in 2013, rose 2.0% in 2012 and 0.5% in 2011, but fell 0.4% in 2010, and 6.6% in 2009.
- For 2013 vs. 2012, NAPBL leagues had a combined 120 fewer dates. The 160 U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams played a combined total of 119 fewer dates. Independent leagues had a combined 129 fewer dates in 2013.
- Leagues and teams continued to set records in 2013. The Carolina League again set record-highs for total attendance and average per date. The Midwest League set a record for average per date, and had its 2nd best total ever, despite losing 66 dates to weather. 4 individual full-season, and 2 short-season NAPBL teams had their best total attendance ever in 2013. More details about all the record-setters can be found in the league summaries.

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.

COMBINED NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1993 - 30,756,828 | 1999 - 40,051,268 | 2005 - 48,851,400 | 2011 - 48,082,830 |
| 1994 - 35,286,552 | 2000 - 43,229,652 | 2006 - 49,268,793 | 2012 - 48,408,316 |
| 1995 - 36,208,800 | 2001 - 44,805,778 | 2007 - 51,298,733 | 2013 - 48,262,074 |
| 1996 - 36,747,940 | 2002 - 45,049,213 | 2008 - 51,576,409 | |
| 1997 - 38,227,980 | 2003 - 45,627,856 | 2009 - 49,609,703 | |
| 1998 - 39,294,427 | 2004 - 46,445,630 | 2010 - 49,537,502 | |

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.

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT DOWN SLIGHTLY IN 2013

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 74,028,230 in 2013, down 1.1% from 2012. Combined Major League/Minor League attendance in 2013 was 122,290,304. This is down 0.8% from 123,267,584 in 2012. 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 2013 gains in total attendance were: Indianapolis (among all AAA teams); Birmingham (AA); South Bend, which also had the best gain in this group in 2012 (full-season A); Vancouver (short-season A); Idaho Falls (Rookie); Yucatan (Mexican League).

By classification, NABPL teams with the worst losses in 2013 were: Iowa (AAA); Portland, ME (AA); Greenville, SC (full-season A); Aberdeen (short-season A); Grand Junction (Rookie); Saltillo (Mexican).

The above listings do not include independent league teams.

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest attendance gains and losses for 2013 in both the NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 19.

MINOR LEAGUE TELEVISION MARKETS

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,461,030 television households, and 10 Minor league teams. The biggest TV market without a Minor League team is Detroit, which ranks #11, and has 1,856,400 TV households. The biggest market with no Major League team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #18. Columbia, SC, ranked #77 was the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2013. But in 2014, Tucson, ranked #71 will not have a team. Helena, Montana, ranked #206, with 28,870 households, is the smallest market that has a team. SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen 2013-14 TV Households Estimates.

Toronto, which is Canada's largest TV market, and ranks #5 in size for combined U.S./Canadian TV markets, does not have a Minor League team.

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 on the next page, 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.

2013 HAD SIGNIFICANTLY FEWER PLAYING DATES FOR NAPBL LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

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

More rainouts, and 2 fewer independent teams that compiled attendance, resulted in a combined 249 fewer playing dates in 2013 compared to 2012. NAPBL leagues had a total of 120 fewer dates, while independent leagues had 129 fewer dates (excludes the Freedom Pro Baseball League which played an estimated 78 dates in 2013, 5 less than in 2012, and 3 teams in the Pacific Association, which to some extent, replaced the North American League).

13 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission played fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. The Midwest League had 41 fewer dates than in 2012, and the South Atlantic League played 27 fewer dates. The International League had 10 fewer dates. The short-season New York-Penn League had 12 fewer dates. Only the California League (6 more dates) and the Appalachian League (3 more) played more dates in 2013 than in 2012. In 2012, NAPBL leagues had the most playing dates since the late 1950's.

Among the more established independent leagues, the Atlantic League had 6 more dates. But the American Association (13 fewer), Frontier (17 fewer), and Can-Am (7 fewer) Leagues all had fewer dates.

Individual U.S. NAPBL teams who lost many playing dates due to weather in 2013 include Buffalo (7 lost dates), Colorado Springs (9), Richmond (6), Jackson, TN (9), Mobile (6), Tennessee (6), Salem, VA (7), Bradenton (8), Port Charlotte (9), Daytona Beach (12), Fort Myers (6), Lakeland (19), St. Lucie (6), Burlington, IA (8), Clinton (6), Lansing (6), Quad Cities (6), Wisconsin (6), Augusta, GA (8), Delmarva (8), Greenville, SC (7), Hagerstown (8), Rome (6), West Virginia (6), Burlington, NC (8), Danville (6).

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> |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2013 | 10,285 | 9,437 | 2,514 |
| 2012 | 10,405 | 9,556 | 2,643 |
| 2011 | 10,238 | 9,534 | 2,622 |
| 2010 | 10,379 | 9,591 | 2,840 |
| 2009 | 10,269 | 9,431 | 2,773 |
| 2008 | 10,364 | 9,532 | 2,889 |
| 2007 | 10,303 | 9,455 | 3,113 |
| 2006 | 10,305 | 9,472 | 2,599 |
| 2005 | 10,369 | 9,503 | 2,701 |
| 2004 | 10,067 | 9,378 | 2,186 |
| 2003 | 10,119 | 9,256 | 2,521 |
| 2002 | 10,354 | 9,486 | 2,384 |
| 2001 | 10,382 | 9,424 | 2,360 |
| 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 |
| 1993 | 9,731 | 8,721 | N/A |
| 1992 | 9,654 | 8,610 | None |

NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF AND ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE

All Minor Leagues had playoff games in 2013. There were 181 post-season games played by NAPBL teams. These games drew a total of 701,216, an average of 3,874 per date.

Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. In 2013, the Mexican League drew 314,610 for its 31 post-season games, an average of 10,149 per game. All but one of these games drew over 5,000. 9 games topped 10,000 in attendance, with a high of 24,153 at Monterrey, whose ballpark's capacity is around 25,000. There were 7 playoff games in Monterrey in 2013, and they drew 131,980, an average of 18,854 per game. 4 of these games drew better than 20,000. 2013 regular season games in the Mexican League had an average attendance of 4,496.

The 150 playoff games for U.S./Canadian teams averaged 2,577 per game, with a top crowd of 11,327 at Indianapolis. The AAA Championship game in Lehigh Valley drew 9,602. Just 10 games drew at least 5,000. Attendance was below 1,000 at 29 games.

Among NAPBL leagues, highest average per game playoff attendance was 4,478 in the International League, and lowest average per game was 585 in the Appalachian League.

Independent league teams drew 103,963 for 45 playoff games, an average of 2,310 per game. These figures exclude the Pecos and Freedom Leagues. The largest crowd was 7,453 at Somerset in the Atlantic League. The Atlantic League playoff games had an average attendance of 4,675, which is higher than any other U.S. league. Lowest independent playoff attendance was 1,002 per game for the United League. Combined NAPBL and independent leagues post-season attendance was 805,179, an average of 3,563 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. For example, the very high playoff attendance in the Mexican League was due in large part to Monterrey going all the way to the finals.

There are several reasons why, with the exception of the Mexican League, Minor League post-season games often don't draw well. Some leagues play split-seasons, with playoff teams for each half of the season, so at least one or two playoff teams are known well ahead of time. But 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 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. Minor league teams often provide free playoff tickets to season ticketholders, or may have a 'Buy a ticket to the first playoff game, and get a free ticket to all other playoff games' promotion. Other teams allow fans who have leftover unused regular season tickets to trade them in for playoff tickets. So attendance listed for minor league playoff games often includes a large number of free tickets.

10 All-Star Games were played by NAPBL leagues in 2013. They drew a combined 67,282. The top All-Star crowd was 10,135 at the AAA game, which matched the International League vs. the Pacific Coast League, at Reno. The Southern League game in Jacksonville drew 9,373, the Midwest League game played at Dayton attracted 8,746, and the Eastern League game at New Britain drew 8,633. The independent leagues that recorded 2013 All-Star Game attendance were the Atlantic League (7,128), and the Frontier League (2,952).

MINOR LEAGUE 2013 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE BY LEAGUE, AVERAGE PER GAME, BIG AND SMALL CROWDS

| League | Total Attendance | # of Playoff Games | Average Attend. per Game | Crowds under 1,000 | # of Crowds 5,000+ | Largest Crowd | Site of Largest Crowd |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| NAPBL-Affiliated | | | | | | | |
| International | 53,731 | 12 | 4,478 | 0 | 2 | 11,327 | Indianapolis |
| Pacific Coast | 48,291 | 11 | 4,390 | 0 | 3 | 8,144 | Salt Lake City |
| AAA Championship | 9,602 | 1 | 9,602 | 0 | 1 | | Lehigh Valley, PA |
| Total – Class AAA | 111,624 | 24 | 4,651 | 0 | 6 | 11,327 | Indianapolis |
| Mexican | 314,610 | 31 | 10,149 | 0 | 30 | 24,153 | Monterrey |
| Eastern | 28,842 | 10 | 2,884 | 0 | 0 | 4,360 | Binghamton |
| Southern | 48,032 | 14 | 3,431 | 0 | 3 | 5,767 | Birmingham |
| Texas | 46,807 | 13 | 3,601 | 0 | 1 | 7,138 | Corpus Christi |
| Total – Class AA | 123,681 | 37 | 3,343 | 0 | 4 | 7,138 | Corpus Christi |
| California | 31,396 | 18 | 1,744 | 4 | 0 | 4,075 | Lancaster |
| Carolina | 19,759 | 7 | 2,823 | 0 | 0 | 4,350 | Salem |
| Florida State | 9,500 | 8 | 1,188 | 4 | 0 | 2,122 | Fort Myers |
| Midwest | 30,695 | 17 | 1,806 | 6 | 0 | 4,377 | Fort Wayne |
| South Atlantic | 16,575 | 9 | 1,841 | 2 | 0 | 4,839 | West Virginia |
| Total – Full Sea. A | 107,925 | 59 | 1,829 | 16 | 0 | 4,839 | West Virginia |
| New York-Penn | 15,395 | 8 | 1,924 | 1 | 0 | 2,736 | Aberdeen |
| Northwest | 14,629 | 7 | 2,090 | 3 | 1 | 5,157 | Vancouver |
| Appalachian | 4,097 | 7 | 585 | 6 | 0 | 1,028 | Pulaski |
| Pioneer | 9,255 | 8 | 1,157 | 3 | 0 | 1,723 | Idaho Falls |
| Total – Short Season | 43,376 | 30 | 1,446 | 13 | 1 | 5,157 | Vancouver |
| Total – Affiliated | 701,216 | 181 | 3,874 | 29 | 41 | 24,153 | Monterrey |
| INDEPENDENT | | | | | | | |
| Atlantic | 51,427 | 11 | 4,675 | 0 | 4 | 7,453 | Somerset |
| Can-Am | 14,684 | 7 | 2,098 | 1 | 0 | 4,037 | Quebec |
| American Association | 16,257 | 11 | 1,478 | 2 | 0 | 2,168 | Gary-Southshore |
| Frontier | 16,586 | 11 | 1,508 | 0 | 0 | 2,359 | Traverse City |
| United | 5,009 | 5 | 1,002 | N/A | 0 | N/A | Fort Worth |
| Total – Independent | 103,963 | 45 | 2,310 | 3+ | 4 | 7,453 | Somerset |
| Total – All Leagues | 805,179 | 226 | 3,563 | 32+ | 45 | 24,153 | Monterrey |

Sources: Minor League Baseball (Affiliated Leagues); Individual League Websites (Independent Leagues); Playoff attendance for Pecos, Pacific Association, and Freedom Pro Baseball Leagues was not available.

The only playoff game in the Mexican League that drew under 5,000 was at Mexico City (3,792). 9 games in the Mexican League drew at least 10,000, with 4 of those games, all in Monterrey, topping 20,000.

The United League had all of its playoff games at Fort Worth. Individual game attendance was not listed in the box scores.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2013 vs. 2012**

In 2013, there was an increase in the number of teams that achieved gains in attendance. 174 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2013 as they did in 2012. 85 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2013, while 89 had declines. This does not include Scranton-Wilkes Barre of the International League, who played their 2012 home games in 6 different locations as their old ballpark was demolished, and a new park, which opened in 2013, was built at the same site. The 2013 figures also exclude Hillsboro of the Northwest League, which moved from Yakima. 2012 figures include Carolina, which was in the Southern League in 2011 and in the Carolina League in 2012.

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 |
|------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2013 | 174 | 85 | 89 | 0 |
| 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, more NAPBL teams had gains than had declines in 2013. 91 teams were up, while 83 were down. Again, these figures exclude Scranton and Hillsboro.

In 2012, 65 teams had increases in average attendance per date, and 106 posted declines. This number excludes Scranton, but does include 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.

15 independent league teams playing in the same market (but not always in the same league) as in 2012, had increases in total attendance in 2013, while 32 were down. 15 independent teams posted gains in average per date, with 32 showing declines. (It is the same number of teams for total and average in 2013.)

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

SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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

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.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

In 2013, average attendance per date rose by 73 for NAPBL leagues, fell by 29 for the independent leagues, and was up by a combined total of 61 for all Minor Leagues. This excludes the Freedom Pro Baseball League which drew poorly, but did not compile attendance, and 3 of the 4 teams in the Pacific Association that did not report 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 – 1992-2013 (record highs in bold)

| Year | NAPBL Leagues | Independent Leagues | All Minor Leagues |
|------|---------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| 2013 | 4,040 | 2,668 | 3,771 |
| 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. |
| 1996 | 3,350 | N.A. | N.A. |
| 1995 | 3,326 | N.A. | N.A. |
| 1994 | 3,364 | N.A. | N.A. |
| 1993 | 3,085 | N.A. | N.A. |
| 1992 | 2,815 | No Independ. Leagues | 2,815 |

Independent leagues began to operate in 1993. The Frontier League began with a season about 50-52 games per team in length with 8 original teams, only 6 of whom finished the season. Highest attendance was 21,547 for Zanesville. None of those original cities currently have a team in any league. The Northern League had 6 teams with a 72 game schedule. 4 teams drew over 100,000, led by 167,956 by St. Paul. Sioux City, Sioux Falls, and St. Paul currently play in the American Association.

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

- Average attendance per date for NAPBL teams rose by 73 to 4,040 in 2013. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- The International, Mexican, Carolina, Southern, Texas, Florida State, Midwest, and Northwest Leagues all recorded gains, with the International League having the best increase, up 342 per date. The Northwest League, helped by a new team in Hillsboro, was up 313, and the Southern League, aided by a new park in Birmingham, gained 278.
- The New York-Penn League's decline of 116 per date was the only loss greater than 53 among NAPBL leagues.
- The International League averaged 7,041, best of any league in 2013. This league drew a record-high average per date of 7,348 in 2009.
- **The Midwest (3,907) and Carolina (3,657) Leagues each had its highest average per date ever.**
- **The 5 full-season Class A leagues had a combined record-high average per date of 2,996.**
- **Monterrey of the Mexican League averaged 11,145 per date, which was the highest of any team in 2013.** For the Sultanes, it was the 3rd time since 2008 that they reached the 10,000 per date mark. They are the only team to do this since Sacramento had topped 10,000 per date for 8 straight years from 2000 through 2007.
- **Columbus, OH averaged 9,212 per date to lead all United States/Canadian teams.** In 2009, the Clippers also had the best average per date among all Minor League teams.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) drew an average of 9,016 per date. The IronPigs averaged 9,153 in 2012, 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010, and those averages were the best among United States teams in the Minors each year.
- Buffalo, Sacramento, Louisville, Round Rock, Indianapolis, and Dayton were other teams that averaged 8,000+ per date. So 9 teams drew at least 8,000 per home date in 2013. The number of teams reaching this level was 10 in 2012, 11 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 11 in 2009, 13 in 2008, 17 in 2007, 13 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 13 in 2004, 12 in both 2003 and 2002, 11 in 2001, 8 in 2000, and only 4 teams in 1999.
- Tucson again had the lowest average among Class AAA teams in 2013 – 2,818. They move to El Paso in 2014.
- Frisco (7,057), Reading (6,321), and Richmond (6,689) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2013. These same 3 teams were also the Class AA teams that topped 6,000 per date in 2012 and 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 drew 1,877 per date, giving the Stars the lowest Class AA average for the 5th year in a row.
- 10 Class A (including short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2013, and 10 teams also did it in 2012 and 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 8,405 per date to lead Class A for the 14th straight year.** Kane County was the other full-season Class A team to average over 6,000 in 2013. Dayton and Lakewood did it 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.
- Dunedin had the lowest average (768) among full-season NAPBL teams. Bakersfield, Jupiter, Palm Beach, and Beloit also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- **Brooklyn averaged 6,276 per home date, leading all short-season teams for the 13th year in a row.** Aberdeen (5,274) and Spokane (5,064) were the other short-season teams to top a 5,000 per date average in 2013. Hudson Valley, Lowell, Tri-City (NY-Penn), and Vancouver were the other short-season teams that averaged more than 4,000 per date.
- 10 short-season teams (8 of whom play in the Appalachian League, plus Helena and Batavia), averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date. Bristol (700) had the lowest average in this group.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUESNAPBL Teams – Biggest Gains and Losses

- Birmingham of the Class AA Southern League, up 2,665, had the biggest gain in average per date in 2013.
- Buffalo's increase of 903 was the highest of any Class AAA team.
- Yucatan, up 1,589 per date, had the best increase in the Mexican League.
- South Bend's increases of 850 in 2013, and 985 in 2012, were the best in full-season Class A in both years.
- Vancouver of the Northwest League posted an increase of 398, tops in short-season leagues.
- Saltillo of the Mexican League, down 1,533 per date, had the worst decline of any NAPBL team.
- Reno had the largest loss in Class AAA, down 494.
- New Hampshire, down 424, had the steepest decline in Class AA.
- High Desert's loss of 397 per date was worst among full-season Class A teams.
- Aberdeen, down 1,172 had the largest drop among short-season, and all United States teams.

Independent Leagues

- Overall, average attendance per date was down 29 for the independent leagues that recorded attendance. Data for the Freedom Pro Baseball League, and for 3 of the 4 Pacific Association teams was not available.
- The Frontier League, up 52, was the only independent league with an increase in average per date in 2013.
- Atlantic League average per date dropped by 257, worst among independent leagues for the year. In 2012, this league averaged a league record-high of 4,409 per date. The all-time average attendance per date high for an independent league is 4,621 by the now inactive Northern League in 2008.
- **For the 11th time in the last 14 years, Winnipeg (5,880 in 2013) had the best average per date among independent league teams.** Sugar Land, Long Island, Somerset, and Kansas City were the other independent league teams that exceeded 5,000 per date. 5 independent teams averaged 5,000+ in 2012, 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 8 Pecos League teams averaged less than 1,000 per date. But these teams play in very small facilities. 2 teams in the United League also drew under 1,000 per date, with Alexandria having the lowest figure – 333. San Rafael and Newark also averaged less than 1,000.
- 13 teams averaged less than 1,000 per date in 2012, and 8 did it in 2011. 3 teams were below 1,000 per date in 2010. In both 2009 and 2008, there were 6 independent league teams that drew under 1,000 per date. 7 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.
- Fort Worth, up 1,076 per date had the best increase among independent teams. Sioux Falls had a gain of 693, Evansville posted a 573 per date increase, and Schaumburg was up 490.
- El Paso had the largest decline among independent teams, down 1,426 per date. Sugar Land, which set an Atlantic League record-high in 2012, had a dip of 1,113, San Angelo declined by 1,060, and Laredo fell 751.

BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN 2013

10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2013 vs. 2012 – NAPBL TEAMS

| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>LEAGUE</u> | <u>2013 ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>CHANGE vs. 2012</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Birmingham | Southern | 396,820 | 192,551 |
| Yucatan | Mexican | 230,369 | 92,619 |
| Laguna | Mexican | 264,942 | 88,180 |
| South Bend | Midwest | 237,448 | 47,873 |
| Minatitlan | Mexican | 120,511 | 47,264 |
| Potomac | Carolina | 236,772 | 44,844 |
| Carmen | Mexican | 271,021 | 43,878 |
| Indianapolis | International | 637,579 | 42,536 |
| Akron | Eastern | 295,459 | 38,986 |
| Nashville | Pacific Coast | 355,003 | 33,961 |

- South Bend had the 3rd best attendance gain in 2012. Indianapolis had the top Minor League 2013 attendance.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2013 vs. 2012 – NAPBL TEAMS

| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>LEAGUE</u> | <u>2013 ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>CHANGE vs. 2012</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Saltillo | Mexican | 392,245 | (75,654) |
| Reynosa | Mexican | 137,226 | (57,928) |
| Aberdeen | New York-Penn | 189,879 | (55,095) |
| Monterrey | Mexican | 590,692 | (54,610) |
| Veracruz | Mexican | 190,484 | (54,573) |
| Greenville, SC | South Atlantic | 300,402 | (46,640) |
| Iowa | Pacific Coast | 467,481 | (42,317) |
| Reno | Pacific Coast | 349,364 | (40,496) |
| Campeche | Mexican | 87,755 | (34,581) |
| Portland, ME | Eastern | 341,420 | (33,510) |

- Mexico City had the worst decline in 2012. Monterrey had the biggest gain in 2012. Greenville had 5 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Iowa had 3 fewer dates.

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2013 vs. 2012 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>LEAGUE</u> | <u>2013 ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>CHANGE vs. 2012</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Fort Worth | United | 90,058 | 32,462 |
| Sioux Falls, SD | American Assoc. | 161,131 | 30,590 |
| Bridgeport | Atlantic | 157,267 | 25,128 |
| Schaumburg | Frontier | 150,254 | 21,267 |
| Evansville | Frontier | 140,786 | 19,967 |

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2013 vs. 2012 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>LEAGUE</u> | <u>2013 ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>CHANGE vs. 2012</u> |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sugar Land, TX | Atlantic | 382,059 | (83,452) |
| San Angelo | United | 45,478 | (70,257) |
| El Paso | American Assoc. | 111,230 | (69,892) |
| Edinburg | United | 48,871 | (38,076) |
| Laredo | American Assoc. | 151,055 | (36,790) |

- San Angelo played 12 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Edinburg had 14 fewer dates.

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 2013 compared to the full year 2012 will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2013 or 2012.

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 2013 and 2012. 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 2013 vs. 2012 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 2013 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 23 independent league teams play in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 22 NAPBL and 11 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 237,448 in 2013.

In 2013, the Northwest League team in Yakima relocated to Hillsboro, a suburb of Portland. Birmingham of the Southern League moved from the suburb of Hoover to a new park in downtown Birmingham. Also listed in this table is Scranton-Wilkes Barre, who played 'home' games in 6 other cities in 2012 as their new park was being built on the site of their previous home. No independent teams opened a new park in 2013.

Scranton, Birmingham, and Hillsboro had a combined 2013 total attendance increase of 79.8% vs. what they drew in their former locations in 2012. Combined total attendance fell 0.4% for the 173 NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both 2013 and 2012.

Some independent league teams come and go each year, so this table does not include new independent teams going into existing parks, or teams that disbanded.

Since 2000, "Same Ballpark" attendance (counting teams that played in the same ballpark in both years being compared – for example, in 2000, comparing 2000 and 1999) has been up in 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2011. It has gone down in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, and 2013.

| League | 2013 City | 2013 Attendance | 2012 City | 2012 Attendance | Chg. vs. 2012 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Southern | Birmingham | 396,820 | Birmingham | 204,269 | 192,551 |
| International | Scranton-W.B. | 435,839 | 6 'home' parks | 272,168 | 163,671 |
| Northwest | Hillsboro, OR | 135,167 | Yakima | 61,895 | 73,272 |
| Total – above 3 teams | | 967,826 | | 538,332 | 429,494 |
| 173 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2012 NAPBL Teams | | 40,585,955 | | 40,742,050 | (156,095) |

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

Later in this report, a section examines Minor League historic attendance growth by league. The section here looks at individual team attendance growth, comparing attendance in 2013 with 2003, 1993, and 1983. It includes 2013 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different NAPBL classifications in 2003, 1993, or 1983. Some cities went from being NAPBL markets in 2003, 1993, and/or 1983, to hosting independent league teams in 2013. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa.

2013 vs. 2003

In 2013, there were 194 Minor League teams (160 NAPBL and 34 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2003 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2003.

81 of those 160 NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2013 than in 2003, while 79 teams had a decline. Norwich, CT and the Portland, OR area (Hillsboro in 2013) had full-season teams in 2003, and short-season teams in 2013. The following 5 markets went from short-season independent leagues in 2003, to full-season NAPBL leagues in 2013, and all had huge 2013 vs. 2003 increases: Mississippi (Jackson in 2003 to Pearl in 2013 - up 108,697); Lehigh Valley (Allentown) (up 572,288); Pensacola (up 272,799); Montgomery, AL (up 245,168); Springfield, MO (up 262,480).

Only 10 of the 34 independent league markets with a team in both years drew better in 2013 than in 2003. 3 of these 2013 independent markets (El Paso, Laredo, Wichita) had longer schedule, full-season NAPBL teams in 2003. Laredo, then in the Mexican League playing in Nuevo Laredo, had a gain vs. 2003, but El Paso and Wichita were down.

20 of the NAPBL teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2003. Only short-season teams Eugene and Billings drew less in 2013 than in 2003. Laredo, Florence, and Rockford were the independent teams who have moved to a new park after 2003, and Laredo and Florence had higher attendance in 2013 than in 2003.

Class A neighboring cities Greensboro, up 197,685, and Winston-Salem, up 176,912, had the best gains when comparing 2013 and 2003 attendance for teams that played roughly the same schedule length for both years. Fort Wayne, also in Class A, was up 146,583. Columbus, OH drew 155,168 more fans in 2013 than in 2003, the best gain among all Class AAA teams. All 4 of the cities just noted have opened new ballparks since 2003. Tulsa, who opened a new park in 2010, had the best increase among Class AA teams, up 120,445. Birmingham, with a new park in 2013, had a gain of 120,103. Class AA Pensacola, Montgomery, and Springfield, MO had bigger gains vs. 2003 than Tulsa or Birmingham did, but they played in shorter season independent leagues in 2003.

Tri-City (Troy, NY), up 52,728, had the best growth among short-season teams. Mexico City's gain of 156,142 was the best in the Mexican League. Overall, 14 cities which had NAPBL teams in both 2013 and 2003 saw attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10 year period. Among independent markets, Florence, up 93,647, and Laredo, up 76,765, had the best increases.

Class AAA Memphis' attendance fell 251,084 since 2003, the biggest decline of any team. The addition of the NBA's Grizzlies to this market may be a factor. Full-season Class A Lake County, OH had a 202,513 loss, the worst on that level. Saltillo of the Mexican League was down 211,285. Frisco, down 187,104, had the worst loss of any Class AA team. Brooklyn's decline of 75,159 was the biggest for a short-season NAPBL team. 9 NAPBL markets with full-season teams in both years saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2003. In addition, short-season Hillsboro, OR was down 303,764 from what a full-season team in nearby Portland drew in 2003.

El Paso, down 113,591, and Newark, down 169,746, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2013 and in 2003. Newark had 47 home dates in the Can-Am League 2013, compared to 63 dates in the Atlantic League in 2003. There will be no Can-Am League team in Newark in 2014.

There were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games in 2003, and the total attendance for those teams was 39,069,707. In 2013, there were also 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 41,553,781. Average attendance per team was 221,987 in 2003, and 236,101 in 2013. Independent league attendance was 6,558,149 in 2003, with 63 teams playing home games. This includes teams in the Arizona-Mexico League which folded after each of its 4 teams played just 16 games, and the Canadian League, which folded on July 20, after each of its 8 teams played between 30 and 37 games. In 2013, the 53 independent teams that played a regular schedule of home games and also provided attendance figures drew 6,708,293.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2013 vs. 1993

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. The first 2 independent leagues began operation in 1993. The Frontier League is still active. The Northern League was absorbed by other leagues in later years. But 3 teams from its first season are still active in the independent American Association.

A larger percentage of teams posted increases, and very large increases, when comparing 2013 attendance with 1993 attendance, than when comparing 2013 attendance with 2003. 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 1993.

118 NAPBL teams played in the same geographic market in 2013, as an NAPBL team played in during the 1993 season. 72 of those teams had higher attendance in 2013, than a team in the same market in 1993. Attendance fell for 46 teams.

Tri-City (Troy), NY in 2013, replacing Albany-Colonie, which operated in 1993, Hillsboro, replacing Portland, OR, and Vancouver, now play a short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1993. Tri-City, playing 37 home dates in 2013, drew 156,712. In 1993, Albany-Colonie of the full-season Eastern League drew 137,541 in 61 dates. Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a ballpark in Jupiter FL, each drew less in 2013, than the 1993 team playing in nearby West Palm Beach. Tampa in 2013 drew slightly less than St. Petersburg's 1993 attendance. Erie, in the full season Eastern League in 2013, played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 1993.

4 independent league cities in 2013 (Laredo, Rockford, Wichita, El Paso), were in NAPBL leagues in 1993. All had more games in 1993 than in 2013. Only Rockford had higher attendance in 2013 than its 1993 NAPBL team.

56 of the 118 NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in operation in both 2013 and 1993, play in a ballpark that opened after 1993. 43 of them had better attendance in 2013 than in 1993. The 13 teams with a decline include both Palm Beach and Jupiter. Tucson, Louisville, Scranton, and Chattanooga are the only NAPBL markets above Class A with a ballpark that opened after 1993, whose 2013 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2013 than in 1993 for 25 teams, with 5 of those teams posting increases of more than 200,000. Monterrey of the Mexican League, up 430,694 since 1993, had the best increase of any team. Saltillo, also in the Mexican League, had a gain of 227,832. Indianapolis posted the top gain among U.S. teams, up 337,182. Toledo had a gain of 286,033. Memphis, now in Class AAA, drew 268,181 more fans in 2013 than they did as a Class AA team in 1993.

New Britain, up 166,182, had the best increase among current Class AA teams. Wisconsin's gain of 185,902 was the largest for full-season Class A. Spokane's 2013 attendance was 61,353 higher than in 1993, the best gain for a short-season team.

9 teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2013 than in 1993. This includes Vancouver, which had a full-season team 20 years ago, but plays in a short-season league now. Buffalo, which drew 1,058,620 in 1993, had the largest decline since then, down 520,873. Huntsville, down 158,827, had the steepest decline among Class AA teams.

Rancho Cucamonga's loss of 158,699 was the worst among full-season Class A teams. Boise had the biggest drop (59,756) among teams that played a short-season schedule in both 2013 and in 1993. Campeche, down 80,182, had the largest dip in the Mexican League.

El Paso, down 195,718, and Wichita, down 89,259, with shorter schedules in 2013 than in 1993, had the worst declines among teams currently in independent leagues. Among the 3 cities with independent teams in both 2013 and 1993, St. Paul and Sioux Falls had gains vs. 1993, while Sioux City was down.

In 1993 there were 169 NAPBL teams in operation in leagues that charged admission. Total attendance that year was 30,022,761. The total attendance figure is from data published by the office of Minor League Baseball.

NAPBL average attendance per team was 177,649 in 1993. It was 236,101 in 2013. NAPBL average attendance per date was 3,085 in 1993, and the NAPBL average was 4,040 in 2013.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2013 vs. 1983

There were no independent leagues in operation in 1983. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1983. 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 124% since 1983. Total attendance rose from 18,559,190 in 1983 to 41,553,781 in 2013. Average attendance per team was 121,302 in 1983, and 236,101 in 2013. There were 153 teams that charged admission in 1983, compared to 176 NAPBL teams, and 53 independent league teams that recorded attendance in 2013. An additional 7 independent teams did not provide attendance data in 2013.

In 2013, 91 NAPBL and 4 independent teams played in a market that also had a team in 1983. 74 of the NAPBL teams, and 2 of the 4 independent teams, had higher attendance in 2013 than in 1983.

Many of these increases were huge. 43 NAPBL teams drew at least 100,000 more in 2013 than in 1983. For 21 of these teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 9 of these teams posted increases of more than 300,000.

Monterrey of the Mexican League showed the best increase since 1983 – up 465,377. Among 2013 Class AAA teams, Indianapolis was up 409,984, Fresno, which was in the Class A California League in 1983, had a 400,362 increase, Toledo posted a 395,811 gain, Durham drew 356,365 more, Pawtucket was up 351,848, and Buffalo, which played in the Eastern League in 1983, had a 337,216 gain.

Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1983, achieved a gain of 347,650. That's the highest increase among Class AA teams. Winston-Salem's gain of 246,563 topped all full-season Class A teams. Spokane showed the highest increase among short-season teams, up 147,234. Vancouver actually had a higher total attendance playing a short-season schedule in 2013 than it did with a Class AAA full-season team in 1983.

Evansville's increase of 20,083 was highest among teams currently playing in independent leagues. That city was in the Class AAA American Association in 1983, and played a longer schedule than in 2013.

The largest decline since 1983 was by Louisville. In 1983, Louisville became the first Minor League team to ever top one million when they drew 1,052,438. Their 2013 attendance is down 471,324.

Class AAA Nashville's attendance in 2013 was 134,999 lower than it was 30 years earlier when they were in the Class AA Southern League. Their 1983 attendance was 490,002. This followed 4 straight years of attendance above 500,000. The Sounds were the first Class AA team to ever reach that level.

No current Class AA team had lower attendance in 2013 than in 1983. Chattanooga had the smallest gain, up 70,381. Hagerstown, now in Class A, drew 88,054 fewer fans in 2013 than in 1983, when it was in Class AA. Bakersfield had a dip of 39,551. Palm Beach was down 83,684, and Jupiter fell 82,992, from the total attendance achieved by a team that played in West Palm Beach in 1983.

Auburn, down 15,947, had the only decline among teams that had a short-season team in both 2013 and 1983. Hillsboro, near Portland, OR, and Tri-City (NY), near Albany, had lower attendance than the full-season teams that were in those markets in 1983. In the Mexican League, Campeche, down 199,994, had the worst loss.

El Paso had the largest decline among current independent teams. That city drew 171,042 less in 2013, playing a shorter schedule, than it did as a Class AA Texas League market in 1983.

60 of the 91 2013 NAPBL teams that play in a market that had a team in 1983, have moved into a new ballpark since then. Almost all other ballparks have undergone renovation, and in some cases, a complete rebuilding. Pawtucket's increase, noted above, was the best for a team that played in the same park in 2013 as in 1983.

Major League Baseball attendance was 74,026,905 in 2013. It was 67,568,397 in 2003, 70,256,459 in 1993, and 45,540,338 in 1983. There were 30 teams in 2013 and 2003, 28 teams in 1993, and 26 teams in 1983. Average attendance per date was 30,514 in 2013, 28,013 in 2003, 31,337 in 1993, and 22,601 in 1983. 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 2013, 57 Minor League teams played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. This excludes 4 Freedom League teams in the Phoenix market that did not disclose attendance. 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 2013, 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 2013, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,737,259. Also in 2013, the 57 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 13,499,098. That was 28.0% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 19.1% 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 2013, 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 3. As the following 3 tables show, many of these teams have done remarkably well.

| New York Area Teams | 2013 Attendance | Notes |
|---------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Lakewood, NJ | 400,299 | Led South Atlantic League 11 times from 2001-2013 |
| Brooklyn, NY | 232,224 | Best short-season attendance each year since 2001 |
| Staten Island, NY | 128,441 | Record high in 2010. Declines in 2012 and 2013 |
| Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY | 164,230 | Averaging 96.3% of ballpark's capacity since 1994 |
| Long Island (Central Islip), NY | 371,186 | Top total yearly independent attendance: 2000-2011 |
| Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ | 339,468 | Averaged over 5,000/date every year in their history |
| Bridgeport, CT | 157,267 | 3 rd best total att. gain among independ. teams in 2013 |
| Newark, NJ | 21,288 | An all-time low in 2013, will not operate in 2014 |
| Rockland County, NY | 143,231 | Attendance up 26% in 2012, but down 11.2% in 2013 |
| New Jersey Jackals (Montclair) | 76,883 | Slight decline in 2013 |
| New York Market Total | 2,034,517 | Overall 3.2% decrease in total attendance in 2013 |

| Philadelphia Area Teams | 2013 Attendance | Notes |
|----------------------------------|------------------|--|
| Reading, PA | 436,134 | Eastern League attendance leader 9 of last 12 years |
| Wilmington, DE | 292,319 | Led Carolina Lg. in att. 11 straight years-1998-2008 |
| Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) | 613,075 | Minors U.S. best att. in 2011-12. 341 sellouts-2008-13 |
| Trenton, NJ | 360,010 | AA then-record 14 str. years of 400,000+ ends in 2009 |
| Camden, NJ | 217,145 | Another small decline in 2013 |
| Philadelphia Market Total | 1,918,683 | A loss of 1.2% in 2013 |

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

| Boston Area Teams | 2013 Attendance | Notes |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| Pawtucket (Providence TV market) | 540,034 | Topped 600,000 in 8 of the last 13 years. |
| New Hampshire (Manchester) | 353,639 | 6 straight record-highs – 2004-2009. Loss in 2013 |
| Lowell, MA | 156,358 | Down in 2013, 413 game sellout streak ends in 2010 |
| Worcester, MA | | Can-Am League team did not operate in 2013 |
| | | |
| Boston Area Total | 1,050,031 | 3 remaining teams down a combined 1.6% for 2013 |

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

- Los Angeles 5 Minor League teams... Rancho Cucamonga had led the California League for 17 straight years, before a huge decline in 2010... Lake Elsinore led that league in 2011, 2012, and 2013.
- Chicago 5 teams... Kane County topped 400,000 for 18 straight seasons, and has been above 500,000 in 6 of the last 12 years... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010.
- San Francisco 2 teams... San Jose set a record high in total and average per date attendance in 2011.
- Dallas 3 teams... Frisco has led all Class AA teams in attendance for 9 straight years.
- Washington 5 teams... Frederick topped Carolina League in 2012 and 2013. Their 2013 attendance was the team's highest since 1994. Southern Maryland had a record-high in 2013.
- Seattle 2 teams... Tacoma had a record-high attendance to its newly rebuilt ballpark in 2011.
- Tampa 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 7th straight year.
- Minneapolis 1 team... St. Paul has sold out most games since 1993. A new ballpark is coming in 2015.
- Cleveland 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. 2013 attendance was up 38,986.
- St. Louis 2 teams... Gateway set the Frontier League record in 2004 (broken by Southern Illinois in 2007).
- Pittsburgh 1 team... Washington, PA has sold out many games in its history, but is down in recent years.
- Baltimore 1 team... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, but had a big loss in 2013.
- Atlanta 2 teams... 2013 attendance for Gwinnett County and Rome was the lowest ever for each team.
- Kansas City 1 team... Kansas City (KS) has topped 200,000 in all 12 years of operation.
- Detroit 1 team... Toledo (a separate TV market) is about 60 miles from Detroit, and the Mud Hens have surpassed 500,000 for 12 straight years
- Houston 1 team... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest attendance ever by a modern day independent league team, but had the largest independent team loss (83,452) in 2013.
- Cincinnati 2 teams... Dayton (a separate TV market) has topped 570,000 in all 14 years of operation, has a North American pro sports record of 983 consecutive sellouts, drew a team and Class A record-high in 2010, and in terms of attendance, 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 2013. Phoenix had 4 Freedom League teams who did not list attendance.

STAYING CLOSE TO YOUR PARENT (TEAM)

It is difficult to quantify the effect on attendance when a Minor League affiliate is located in the 'area of dominant fan interest' of their Major League parent team. But it often does provide a boost in attendance to the Minor League team. The Pawtucket Red Sox and Reading Fightin' Phils are good examples.

The table below is a 2013 listing of Minor League teams who charge admission, that were located in areas where their parent team is one of the dominant teams of fan interest. In some cases, such as with the Mississippi Braves, the Major League parent team might be located a considerable distance from the Minor League affiliate. But the Major League team may have a significant following in the area, and its games are likely to be broadcast on local radio and TV there. The same is true with Vancouver, which is a Toronto Blue Jays affiliate.

| Major League Team | Minor League Affiliates of That Team Who Play in its Area of Dominant Fan Interest |
|--------------------------|---|
| Baltimore | Bowie (AA), Frederick (A), Delmarva (A), Aberdeen (Short A) |
| Boston | Pawtucket (AAA), Portland, ME (AA), Lowell (Short A) |
| Chicago White Sox | None |
| Cleveland | Columbus, OH (AAA), Akron (AA), Lake County (A), Mahoning Valley (Short A) |
| Detroit | Toledo (AAA), West Michigan (A) |
| | |
| Houston | Corpus Christi (AA) |
| Kansas City | Omaha (AAA), Northwest Arkansas (AA) |
| Los Angeles Angels | Inland Empire of San Bernadino (A) |
| Minnesota | Cedar Rapids (A) |
| New York Yankees | Scranton-Wilkes Barre? (AAA), Trenton (AA), Staten Island (Short A) |
| | |
| Oakland | Sacramento (AAA), Stockton (A) |
| Seattle | Tacoma (AAA), Everett (Short A) |
| Tampa Bay | Port Charlotte (A) |
| Texas | Round Rock (AAA), Frisco (AA) |
| Toronto | Buffalo (AAA), Vancouver (Short A) |
| | |
| Arizona | None |
| Atlanta | Gwinnett (AAA), Mississippi (AA), Rome (A) |
| Chicago Cubs | Des Moines? (AAA), Kane County (A) |
| Cincinnati | Louisville (AAA), Dayton (A) |
| Colorado | Colorado Springs (AAA), Grand Junction (Rookie) |
| | |
| Los Angeles Dodgers | Rancho Cucamonga (A) |
| Miami | Jupiter (A) |
| Milwaukee | Wisconsin (Appleton) (A) |
| New York Mets | Binghamton (AA), Brooklyn (Short A) |
| Philadelphia | Lehigh Valley (Allentown) (AAA), Reading (AA), Lakewood (A), Williamsport (Short A) |
| | |
| Pittsburgh | Altoona (AA), West Virginia (Charleston) (A) |
| St. Louis | Memphis (AAA), Springfield, MO (AA) |
| San Diego | Lake Elsinore (A) |
| San Francisco | Fresno (AAA), San Jose (A) |
| Washington | Potomac (A), Hagerstown (A) |

Source of Affiliates Listing: Minor League Baseball 2013 Information Guide

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 | 2013 | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 |
| 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 0.7% in 2013, the 2nd straight year with an increase. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 32 times in the last 39 years.**

Major League Baseball attendance has gone up vs. the previous season in 24 of the past 39 years.

- **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 2013, there were 176 teams in the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 13 seasons have seen 13 of the 14 highest totals in the 112 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.
- 2013 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 236,101. 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.
- 6 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2013. The Carolina League set a new record for total attendance for the 2nd year in a row, and had a 3.1% increase. The Northwest League was up 9.8% in large extent due to the relocation of the Yakima team to Hillsboro. The Midwest League had a small increase, despite many rainouts, to its 2nd best total ever. Southern League total attendance was up 7.6% mainly due to the opening of a new ballpark in Birmingham. The International League had the biggest gain, up 261,856. The California League also posted an increase. 5 leagues increased their attendance in 2012, 6 had gains 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.
- 9 NAPBL leagues had losses in total attendance. The South Atlantic League, with 27 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012, had the biggest total decline (102,284). The New York-Penn League had the worst percentage dip, down 5.8%. No other league was down more than 3.4%, quite an achievement considering the bad early-season weather.
- 8 leagues had gains in average per home date, led by the International League, up 342, and the Northwest League, up 313. The Carolina League's average per date rose by 135 to a record-high 3,657. The Midwest League also set a new record-high average, drawing 3,907 per date, up 177. Southern League average per date rose 278.
- The biggest declines in average per date were by the New York-Penn League, down 116, the Eastern League, down 53, and the Pioneer League, down 35. So there were really no big declines in average per date in 2013. Only 3 leagues had increases in average per date in 2012. 7 leagues were up in 2011, and 4 leagues had increases in 2010 and 2009.

GAINS AND LOSSES - A listing of total attendance gains and losses in 2013 vs. 2012 for each NAPBL team and league can be found starting on page 52. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 65.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2013

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 – 1940-2013

| 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 |
| 2013 | Indianapolis | 637,579 | Brooklyn | 232,224 |

* 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 2013 SEASON - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- There were 4 teams that topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2013. 3 teams reached that level in 2012. 4 teams topped 600,000 in 2011 and in 2010. 7 teams drew 600,000+ in 2009 and 2008. 5 teams did it in 2007, 7 in 2006, and 5 in 2005. Since 1982, except in 1987, at least one team each year drew over 600,000.
- 13 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2013. The number of teams over 500,000 was 14 in 2012, 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.
- Indianapolis of the International League drew 637,579 in 2013 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance
- Lehigh Valley, which had the best attendance among U.S./Canadian teams in both 2011 and 2012, attracted 613,075 in 2013.
- Columbus drew 635,613. Sacramento reached 607,329. The River Cats led all U.S./Canadian teams in attendance for 9 straight years (2000-2008), and were also top draw in 2010.
- Round Rock totaled 589,042 in its 9th 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, 2012, and 2013.
- Frisco was Class AA leader for the 9th straight year. But their 479,873 total was the lowest in their 11 year history.
- Dayton (Midwest) has sold out all 983 home games in its history, a sellout streak that is the highest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 579,946 to lead Class A for the 14th year in a row.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have led all short-season teams each season of their 13 year history.
- 14 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 in 2013. 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 2013. 6 of these teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 11 in 2012, 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 (200,077) had the lowest AAA attendance. This team goes to El Paso in 2014. Charlotte, which opens a new ballpark in 2014, was the only other Class AAA team that failed to reach 300,000. 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 team that failed to reach 100,000.
- Jackson, TN in the Southern League had the lowest AA attendance (119,202), but they lost 9 dates due to rain. Huntsville, AL, Mobile, and Binghamton, NY were the other Class AA teams that drew less than 200,000.
- Dunedin had the lowest attendance among full-season teams, drawing just 50,695.
- Bristol of the Appalachian (Rookie) League drew 20,309 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 rose 261,856 (4.0%) despite 10 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Average per date was up 342. Both the total and average per date attendance increases were the best of any NAPBL league in 2013. This is a reverse of 2012, when this league had the worst total and average per date declines of any NAPBL league.
- The total attendance of 6,766,442 and the average per date of 7,041, each was the league's 4th best ever. This league has topped 6.3 million in total attendance in each of the past 16 years. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old Class AAA American Association averaged 7,588 per date in 1992, a year in which Buffalo drew more than one million.
- 8 individual teams posted gains in total attendance vs. 2012, while 9 teams had a higher average per date. This excludes Scranton-Wilkes Barre which played its 2012 home games in 6 different ballparks while its home park was totally rebuilt.
- **Indianapolis led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the first time ever in 2013, drawing 637,579. This was the 4th best total in team history. Their increase of 42,536 was tops in this league and 8th best among NAPBL teams. They've now topped 530,000 for 18 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 7 seasons since 1997. A team-record high 8 dates were sold out, and 25 dates had crowds of at least 10,000. The Indians saw average attendance per date rise by 479 to 8,980.**
- In 2013, the Columbus (OH) Clippers had the 2nd best total attendance in Minor League Baseball, and also the 2nd best total in team history, drawing 635,613. **The average per date of 9,212 was the best among all U.S./Canadian teams.** 18 dates had attendance of at least 10,000. This was their 4th time over 600,000 in the last 5 years. It was also the 9th straight year that the Clippers have surpassed 500,000. They've reached that level 27 times in the last 35 years. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- **Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) ranked 3rd in total attendance (613,075) and average per date (9,016) in all of Minor League Baseball in 2013. The IronPigs (the name comes from 'pig iron' used to make steel) led the Minors in attendance in 2011, and had the best U.S./Canadian total in 2012. They had the U.S. Minors' highest average per date for the 3 straight years from 2010 through 2012. Lehigh Valley is the only team to top 600,000 in each of the last 6 years. They've averaged over 9,000 per date 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 2008-2013 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity 341 times (including playoffs) in 423 dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 114 dates. 52 of the 68 dates in 2013 had crowds above seating capacity, with 21 as complete sellouts.**
- Louisville drew 581,114, their 14th straight time above 570,000. 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 8,979 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.
- Gwinnett had the lowest attendance in their 5 year history.
- Durham which had the league's biggest gain in total attendance in 2012, had another increase in 2013. The Bulls have drawn over 460,000 in all 16 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 12th straight year, and had their highest total since 2008. The Mud Hens have sold out more than 300 games since the opening of Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) in 2002.

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

- Pawtucket made it 15 straight years above 500,000. This team was bankrupt 37 years ago, and couldn't draw 100,000. The Pawsox have achieved incredible attendance growth since then, and continue to rank among the annual attendance leaders. They play at McCoy Stadium, which is over 70 years old. While this park may not have all the amenities of newer facilities, the team provides many fan friendly features such as free parking.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2013

| 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 | 2013 | 540,034 |
| 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 | | |

- Rochester's attendance has topped 400,000 for 17 consecutive years.
- Norfolk had its lowest attendance since opening its current ballpark in 1993.
- Syracuse saw its smallest attendance total (345,047) since 1996, their final year at McArthur Stadium. The team had a reported loss of \$500,000. The Chiefs will have a new marketing focus in 2014, with lower prices.
- Scranton-Wilkes Barre did not have a regular home ballpark in 2012. Their park near Scranton was demolished, and a new park opened on the same site in 2013. 2012 'Home' games were played in Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, Pawtucket, Lehigh Valley, and Batavia. Rochester was their most common 'home park'.
- In 2013, the Scranton team got a new name, the RailRiders, honoring Northeast Pennsylvania's railroad history. Their 2013 attendance total of 435,839 in their new park, was up 163,671 from what they drew in their 2012 nomadic journey. Average per date increased by 2,465. This franchise reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then.
- Charlotte had the largest total (down 27,283) and average per date (down 227) attendance declines in this league, as they played their final season in the suburb of Fort Mill, SC. Their total attendance of 254,834 was the 2nd lowest among all Class AAA teams, and was the smallest total for this franchise since 1989, when they played at an old ballpark, and were in the Class AA Southern League. A new Downtown ballpark opens in 2014.
- Buffalo began a new affiliation with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013, which they hoped would attract more fans from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The Bisons did have an increase in attendance in 2013, and have now topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 26 straight seasons. Their average attendance per date was up 903, the 5th best increase among all NAPBL teams.
- Buffalo led the Minors in attendance each year from 1988 through 1999, topping one million 6 times (1988-93), including an all-time Minor League record 1,188,972 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 also had the best attendance among all United States/Canadian teams each year from 1957 through 1961. Their home, Coca Cola Park (originally named Pilot Field), currently seats 18,025, the highest seating capacity of any United States or Canadian Minor League park. Capacity at this park has been as high as 21,050. Monterrey of the Mexican League has a bigger ballpark.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA)** (16 teams -- 144 game schedule)

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

- Attendance fell 32,474 (0.5%) to 6,763,683, its lowest total since 2001. Average attendance per date declined by 8 to 6,044, the lowest figure since 1999. This league's record-high average per date was 6,625 in both 2006 and 2007. The league had 4 fewer playing dates than in 2012. Total attendance rose for 8 teams, and there were also 8 teams with increases in average per date.
- 4 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2013, a mark reached by 5 teams in 2012, 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.
- Sacramento led the league in attendance for the 12th time in the team's 14 year history. The River Cats drew 607,329, which was the 4th best total attendance in the Minor Leagues in 2013. They had 6 sellouts in 2013, and now have sold out 78 games in their history. Capacity in Sacramento is above 14,000, so a sellout crowd there is quite large. 2012 is the only year that this team drew less than 600,000.
- The Sacramento River Cats had the highest attendance in the Minor Leagues 9 times from 2000 through 2010. They've drawn 10,100,931 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 10 million, and they've averaged 10,081 per date (1,002 dates) 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 – 2000-2013

| 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# | 2013 | 607,329 | 8,435 |
| 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

- Round Rock drew an impressive 589,042. Yet that is the lowest attendance in their 14 year history. That includes 5 years in the Texas League, when the Express set a Class AA attendance record each year. Average attendance per date at Round Rock has topped 8,000 every year, with a team record-high of 9,846 in 2004.
- The Albuquerque Isotopes have drawn over 560,000 in all 11 years of operation of the current team. Attendance at their old park never reached 400,000, through 2000.
- Reno's total attendance fell by 40,496 to 349,364, their lowest total in their 5 years in the P.C.L. Average per date was down 494, the biggest loss in that category in the league in 2013. In 2012, the Aces saw their average per date decline by 674, which was the league's worst decline for that year.
- Colorado Springs had a terrible year with weather, losing 9 home dates. But they still surpassed 300,000 for the 6th straight year. The Sky Sox never reached 300,000 in the team's first 20 years of operation (1988-2007). **Average attendance per date in 2013 was a team record-high 5,181.**
- Tacoma's Cheney Stadium was totally renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers drew a record-high that year. But their 2013 attendance was their lowest since 2006, and average per date declined by 444.
- Fresno had its 12th straight year above 470,000.

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

- Memphis had its 3rd straight attendance increase. There had been a 9 year attendance losing streak which ended in 2011. Total 2013 attendance was 498,362, the highest total since 2008, and 12 dates drew better than 10,000. In 2001, this team attracted 887,976. A factor in the attendance decline in Memphis was the arrival of the NBA Grizzlies.
- Salt Lake City had another gain, with total attendance up by 15,588, and average per date up a league-high 320. The 2013 total of 531,221 was this team's best since 1998, and the 11th time above 500,000 since 1994. In 2012, the Bees posted the biggest total increase (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams, and 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 20 years of operation.
- Nashville's attendance rose by 33,961, the best total increase in the league, and this team's highest total since 2007. The Sounds hope to get a new ballpark, perhaps as early as 2015.
- Iowa lost 5 dates due to weather, and had a decline of 42,317, the worst dip in the league in 2013. But there were 9 dates with crowds of at least 10,000. Attendance topped 500,000 in 9 of the previous 11 years through 2012. The Cubs reached 300,000 for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every year since then.
- Des Moines was the site of the first professional baseball night game. A crowd of nearly 12,000 attended this game, played by the Des Moines Demons of the Western League on May 2, 1930.
- Tucson's 2013 attendance of 200,077 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 moves to El Paso in 2014, and will be named the Chihuahuas.
- The Chihuahuas will be El Paso's first Class AAA team. They were in the independent American Association since 2006, and their highest attendance in that league was 211,316 in 2007. El Paso had a long run in the Class AA Texas League (1962-1970 and 1972-2004). Top attendance in that city's history was 329,233 in 1995.
- Omaha won the Class AAA Championship. But their streak of 7 straight years of attendance increases came to an end as their total fell by 24,693. Yet, the Storm Chasers still made it 26 straight years above 300,000. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Class AAA facility. 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.
- 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 2013, average per date rose by 302.
- Despite the large decline in population in the New Orleans area following Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Zephyrs' attendance has remained steady. In 2004, the year prior to Katrina, this team drew 324,324. Attendance has been above this level every year since.
- Oklahoma City's total attendance rose by just 60. But that was enough to give the RedHawks their highest total since 2008. They had 15 sellouts.
- 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 virtually the same attendance in 2013 as in 2012. Total attendance was down 1,972 (0.1%). Average per date rose by 3 to 4,496.
- Playoffs averaged 10,149 per game, with 9 games drawing over 10,000, led by a crowd of 24,153 at Monterrey.
- 2013 was an exception, but huge yearly attendance swings often take place in this league. In 2009, there was a 955,395 (23.7%) decline in total attendance. It fell 11.8% in 2010, rose 22.4% in 2011, and was up 14.8% in 2012.
- In 2013, 8 teams had gains in total attendance and 7 teams had increases in average per date.
- Yucatan, up 92,619, had the biggest increase in the league, and the 2nd highest gain of any Minor League team. It is quite common for Mexican League teams to have some of the largest gains and losses in attendance every year. In 2013, Laguna, Minatitlan, and Carmen also were among the 7 NAPBL teams with the biggest total gains.
- Saltillo, down 75,654, had the biggest decline among all NAPBL teams. The Sarape Makers had topped 500,000 each year from 2000 through 2007. Reynosa, Monterrey, Veracruz, and Campeche also were in the top 10 listing of NAPBL teams with the largest total attendance declines in 2013.
- Yucatan's average per date rose by 1,589, which was 2nd best among NAPBL teams. Laguna, up 944 per date, had the 3rd best increase. Carmen's gain of 907 per date was 4th best, and Minatitlan was up 881 per date.
- Saltillo had a 1,533 dip in average per date, which was worst among all NAPBL teams. Puebla's loss of 889 per date was 3rd worst, followed by Veracruz, down 705 (4th worst), and Reynosa, down 617 (5th worst).
- Despite a decline of 54,610, Monterrey again led the league, drawing 590,692 in just 53 home dates. Their 2012 attendance of 645,302 led all of Minor League Baseball. The Sultanes have topped 500,000 in 7 seasons since 1998. **In 2013, they were the only team in the Minors to surpass 10,000 per date, as they averaged 11,145.** They also averaged above 10,000 per date in 2012. 4 of their 2013 playoff games attracted better than 20,000.
- Cancun (Quintana Roo), Laguna, Minatitlan, and Yucatan, each had their highest attendance since 2008.
- **Carmen drew a team record-high 271,021.** But 2013 was just their 2nd season in the league.
- 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 in 2009, they suffered a 258,181 loss, 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 had the best attendance in the Minors in 2012.
- The Mexican League has the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing 2013 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 2013 *decrease* in average attendance per team vs. 1979 or 1969. The Appalachian League has the smallest increase vs. 1979, up 28.4%, and also vs. 1969, up 58.8%. But the 2013 Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 is up 68.8%, which is better than 7 other leagues, and the average per team vs. 1999 increased 32.6%, which is a better growth rate than 10 other NAPBL leagues. The section starting on page 73 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 44 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 1.3% to 3,743,582, which was the lowest total since 2000. There was only one less date in 2013 than in 2012. Average attendance per date was 4,616, down 53. This league has averaged at least 4,500 per date since 1995. The record-high average for the league is 4,904, set in 1998.
- 5 teams had total attendance gains, led by Akron, up 38,986. Portland, down 33,510, had the worst loss.
- Akron also had the league's best improvement in average per date, up 449. 3 other teams also increased their average per date. New Hampshire suffered the largest decline in average per date, down 424.
- 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew more than 200,000.
- **Reading extended its record for consecutive seasons drawing over 400,000 by a Class AA team. They've now done it for 16 years in a row.** Trenton topped this level each year from 1995 through 2008. The renamed Reading Fightin Phils led the league in total attendance for the 9th time since 2002, drawing 436,134. They've also had the Eastern League's highest average per date in 9 times in the last 12 seasons.
- Reading continues to draw very well, despite a tough economy in that city, and the presence of the Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who have topped 600,000 in each of the last 6 years, and play in nearby Allentown. (Reading and Allentown have the same ownership.) There are successful teams in terms of attendance in nearby Trenton, Lancaster, and Harrisburg, and the Philadelphia Phillies are just 60 miles away. Plus, an indoor arena and a minor league hockey team have been part of the Reading sports scene, beginning in 2001. There has been a huge growth in Reading's attendance since the early 1980's. The figures in bold are the years when Reading led the Eastern League in total attendance. (Attendance in the table for 1996, 1998, and 2000 includes an exhibition game with Philadelphia.)

READING ATTENDANCE – 1984-2013

| 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 | 2013 | 436,134 |
| 1990 | 204,240 | 1998 | 423,336 | 2006 | 460,216 | | |
| 1991 | 250,610 | 1999 | 448,367 | 2007 | 466,385 | | |

- Richmond averaged 6,689 to lead the league in average attendance per date. The Flying Squirrels saw their average rise by 432. Their total attendance has been above 430,000 in all 4 seasons as a Class AA team. The Class AAA Richmond Braves, who moved to Georgia after the 2008 season, topped 400,000 for 15 straight years from 1989 through 2003. In 6 of those seasons, their attendance exceeded 500,000. Plans are underway for a new ballpark in Richmond.
- Altoona had an increase in total attendance in 2013. The Curve had topped 300,000 each year from 1999 through 2008, but have not reached that level since.
- New Britain's attendance has surpassed 300,000 for 10 straight years, and has generally more than doubled since the early years of New Britain Stadium, which opened in 1996. From 1983 through 1999, attendance there had never been above 182,000. The Rock Cats had set a team attendance record 10 times in an 11 year period from 2000 through 2010. But in 2013, they had their smallest total since 2003.
- Harrisburg had its 3rd best total ever, and topped 200,000 for the 26th time in its 27 year history. Senators' 2013 attendance was 120,000 higher than in 2008. Their park has since undergone a significant rebuilding.

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

- Despite a decline in 2013, New Hampshire (Manchester) still topped 350,000 for the 7th straight year. Average per date fell by 424, the biggest drop in the league
- Bowie had a small increase. But the Baysox have not reached 300,000 since 2005, after surpassing that figure for 11 consecutive seasons.
- Portland had the league's biggest total attendance loss, and drew its smallest total since the team began play in 1994. But they have reached 340,000 in all 20 seasons, and have 453 sellouts in 1,342 dates in their history.
- Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012. But in 2013, they had the league's best increases in total attendance and in average per date. 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). Attendance in Akron surpassed 400,000 each year from 1998 through 2006. This team has been renamed the Rubber Ducks for 2014.
- Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. In 2013, they had their 2nd lowest total ever. Bad weather was a problem early in the season. Only one of the first 20 dates had a crowd of at least 3,000. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 159th largest (out of 210) U.S. markets in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #177, is the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AA team.
- Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, Erie's attendance has always ranged between 197,656 and 246,404.
- Trenton had its 2nd lowest attendance in team history. But the Thunder has topped 360,000 each year since 1995.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE (AA) (10 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- A new ballpark in Birmingham led to a total attendance increase of 163,739 (7.6%) for the Southern League. That percentage gain was tops among all 11 NAPBL full-season leagues. The league total of 2,316,591 was the best since 2008. Average per date was up 278 to 3,515. That is the league's best average per date since 2008. Record high average per date for the league is 4,007 in 1994, when Michael Jordan played for Birmingham. The league had 6 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012.
- 5 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams increased their average per date.
- Birmingham's new downtown ballpark, Regions Field, which opened in 2013, was a huge hit in design, location, and attendance. The Barons moved back to the city from suburban Hoover, where they had played since 1988. **Total attendance rose 192,551, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team.** The team with the next best increase in 2013 was Yucatan of the Mexican League, up 92,619. Average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best increase, by a very large margin, in the Minors. Yucatan, up 1,589 per date, was next.
- The total attendance of 396,820 in Birmingham was the 4th highest season attendance by a Southern League team. It was also the best total for any team from this league in the first year in a new park. The only higher season Southern League total in Birmingham was in 1994, when Michael Jordan was a Baron, and fans came out in droves to see him. They drew a league record 467,867 at home, and 517,318 on the road that year. Birmingham also surpassed 400,000 in both 1948 and 1949, when they were in the Southern Association.
- 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 had since 1987. The Barons play 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.

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

- Pensacola joined the league in 2012, and was the leader in both total attendance and average per date in that season. 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. In 2013, they drew 307,094, with 2 fewer dates. Their average per date fell by 173, the biggest drop in the league. Pensacola had been a Minor League city in the past. Their previous NAPBL record-high attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent 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 led the league in attendance for 9 straight years through 2011. The Suns had a small gain in 2013, and drew 295,258. They still have a streak of 25 straight years above 200,000, but 2012 saw the end of their 9 year streak of topping 300,000.
- Tennessee has drawn better than 240,000 for 14 straight seasons. But 6 lost dates due to weather in 2013 led to the lowest total attendance for the Smokies since 2005.
- Chattanooga had the largest total attendance decline in the league, down 22,197. The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but have topped 200,000 for 22 straight years.
- Huntsville (AL) drew 123,904, making it 8 straight years below 170,000, and the 10th time in the last 11 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. The average per date of 1,877 was the lowest in Class AA in 2013.
- Mobile had a gain, but still posted its 2nd lowest total since the team began play in 1997.
- Mississippi (Pearl, near Jackson) had its highest total attendance since 2008.
- Jackson, TN failed to reach 200,000 for the 11th 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 9 years. In 2013, they lost 9 dates due to rain, and drew just 119,202, the smallest total among the 30 Class AA teams. Based on A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson is the smallest market in terms of TV households with a Class AA team.
- Montgomery drew better than 250,000 for the 10th year in a row.
- The Southern League may be moving one of its teams (reported to be Huntsville) to Biloxi, Mississippi in 2015 if a new ballpark is built there. The Biloxi-Gulfport area last had a Minor League team from 1926 through 1928.
- 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. Record-high team season attendance in that league was 445,926 by Birmingham in 1948. 7 of the 8 teams in the league drew over 200,000 in 1947. But by its last year in 1961, just 3 of the 8 Southern Association teams drew over 100,000. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)
- 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**TEXAS LEAGUE (AA)** (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- Total attendance fell 19,731 (0.7%). Every team drew at least 293,000. There were 8 fewer dates played in 2013 than in 2012.
- Average per date was up 40 in 2013 to 5,204. This was the 9th straight year that the league averaged better than 5,000 per date. Average per date is up 1,805 since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. All teams averaged at least 4,300 per date in 2013, topped by Frisco, who averaged a Class AA best 7,057.
- 2 teams had gains in total attendance, and 4 teams were up in average per date.
- **Frisco drew 479,873 to lead all of Class AA for the 9th consecutive year.** But it was the smallest total in the team's 11 year history.
- **Midland drew a team record-high 317,233, breaking a mark set in 2011.** Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 until 2002, but has been over 250,000 every year since then.
- Tulsa had their 2nd best total attendance in team history. Total attendance rose 20,796, and average per date was up 381. These were the best gains in both categories in the Texas League in 2013. The Drillers also had 14 sellouts, which is the most in Tulsa baseball history. They topped 300,000 for 18th time in the last 21 seasons.
- Corpus Christi attracted 379,395, which was the smallest total in the Hooks' 9 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) has topped 330,000 in all 9 years of operation. But their attendance is down 188,285 since they drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005.
- San Antonio had the league's biggest decline in average per date – down 112. The Missions have surpassed 300,000 in 13 seasons since 1994. They had never reached that level before then. They fell just short in 2013.
- Northwest Arkansas has drawn better than 300,000 in all 6 years they've played.
- Arkansas (North Little Rock) never reached 300,000 until 2007. They did it each year since then until 2013, when they had the league's biggest loss in total attendance, down 14,360. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2012.
- 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. The largest capacity of any current Minor League park is about 25,000 in Monterrey of the Mexican League. Coca Cola Park in Buffalo, which seats 18,025 is the biggest Minor League park in the United States.
- The Texas League, like many Minor Leagues, had a big attendance boom in the late 1940's, with the league reaching a total of 2 million in both 1948 and 1949. Houston in 1948 (401,383), and Dallas in 1949 (404,851), set the records for team attendance. Those team records were not topped until San Antonio drew 411,959 in 1994. Attendance for the entire league did not reach 2 million again also until 1994. It has been above 2 million every year starting in 2000.

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 rose 1,314 (0.1%) to 1,583,488. There has been a decline in California League attendance in 10 of the last 16 seasons (1998-2013). 6 teams had gains in total attendance in 2013. Average per date was down 18 to 2,275, with 4 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 217,869 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 20 years of operation.
- The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, is named 'The Epicenter,' had their best total attendance since 2009, drawing 172,306. This team had a 17 year run as the league's attendance leader through 2009. The Quakes drew 150,687 in 2010, lowest in team history. Their previous low had been 266,773 in 2009. Rancho Cucamonga set a record-high for a California League team drawing 446,146 in 1995, and selling 97% of available seats that year. They topped 300,000 each year from 1993 through 2000.
- The Modesto Nuts have achieved the 4 best attendance totals in their 67 year history over the last 4 seasons.
- San Jose topped 200,000 for the 5th straight year, after never reaching that level in their long history. Attendance has more than doubled from the time when the Giants failed to reach 100,000 in any year from 1974 through 1987.
- Visalia ended a streak of 4 straight record-highs. But they have drawn the 5 highest attendance totals in team history in the last 5 years. The heat was on in 2013, as 20 games began with a temperature of at least 100 degrees. Until 2009, Visalia 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. Their 2013 attendance was the best since 2009.
- Inland Empire, up 20,563 in total attendance, and up 258 per date, had the league's best increases in 2013.
- Bakersfield was up 12,376 to 56,345. Average per date was 805. These were the 2nd lowest figures of any full-season NAPBL team. 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. A new ballpark in Bakersfield was hoped for as soon as 2014, but its construction is now in doubt.
- 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 now been below 160,000 for 19 years in a row. In 2013, they failed to reach 100,000 for the first time, and had the league's worst declines in total attendance (30,527), and average per date (397).
- Lancaster drew over 300,000 in its first season (1996), and topped 200,000 each year through 1999. They have not reached that figure since. But the JetHawks reported a 23% increase in revenue in 2013, and the highest 'in-park' attendance (excludes no-shows) at 'The Hangar' in 11 years.
- Weather, other than heat, is rarely a problem in the California League. There were only 4 lost dates in the league in 2013, with 7 of the 10 teams not losing a single date. There were 10 lost dates in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 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 – **1,934,740 (2013)**; Team – Durham - 390,486 (1995)

- **For the 2nd year in a row, the league set new records for total attendance (1,934,740), and average per date (3,657).** There were 4 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Since 2009, total attendance in the league is up 348,152 (21.9%), and average per date has risen by 594.
- 2013 total attendance rose 57,659 (3.1%), and average per date was up 135.
- 5 teams were up in total attendance, and 6 teams had gains in average per date, with 4 of them up by over 100.
- Frederick drew 324,311 and 4,914 per date to lead the league in total attendance and average per date. This was Frederick's best total since 1994. The Keys surpassed 250,000 for the 24th straight year. In their 25 year history, they've now topped 300,000 12 times, and averaged nearly 4,500 per date.
- Winston-Salem topped 300,000 for the 4th straight year. In 2010, the Dash opened their new ballpark, 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. 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 drew a team record-high 236,772. Their increase in total attendance of 44,844, and the gain of 581 in average per date, were the best in this league in 2013.** The old record-high total attendance for this team was 220,145 in 1998. Prior to 2013, the Nationals reached 200,000 just once in the previous 13 years. They hope to have a new ballpark by 2015.
- Salem had 7 lost dates, and played 5 fewer dates than in 2012. The result was an attendance decline of 6,437, which was the biggest decline in the league. Their attendance total was this team's lowest since 1995.
- Wilmington, DE has topped 280,000 in all 21 seasons they've played. The Blue Rocks led the Carolina League in attendance each year from 1998 through 2008, and topped 300,000 for 16 straight years (1993-2008).
- The current team in Myrtle Beach has topped 200,000 14 times in the last 15 years.
- Carolina's average per date fell by 64, the largest dip in the league. The Mudcats drew their smallest total since 2003. But they have surpassed 200,000 in all 23 of their seasons, including 21 years in the Southern League.
- Until 2007, Lynchburg had never drawn at least 160,000 in its long Minor League history. But the Hillcats have topped this level 5 times in the last 7 years, including 2013.
- 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. They surpassed 1.9 million for the first time in 2013.
- The largest crowd to attend a Carolina League game was 32,152 when Potomac hosted Salem at RFK Stadium in Washington on May 21, 2006. Highest attendance in a Carolina League ballpark was 12,049 at Greensboro in 1960. Among current Carolina league teams, Frederick holds the record for biggest crowd in its home ballpark. The Keys drew 11,006 for a home game in 1997.

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.
- Total attendance declined 2,836 (0.2%) with 8 fewer dates than in 2012. But the 2013 total was still the 3rd best in league history. **Since 2002, total attendance in this league is up 50%, while average per date is up 54%.**
- 7 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 teams posted gains in average per date. Team attendance was pretty flat as no team gained or lost more than 10,000 in total attendance.
- The league's average attendance per date rose by 14 to 1,606. This is the 2nd best average in the league since at least 1991, and is just 36 below the record high average set in 2011. However it is also the lowest average per date of any full-season NAPBL league. Only the short-season Appalachian League and the independent Pecos, Pacific Association, United, and Freedom Baseball Leagues averaged less.
- **Clearwater led the league in total attendance for the 9th time in the last 10 years. The Threshers didn't set a team record-high in total attendance for the first time in 8 seasons. But they did achieve a new average per date team record of 2,608.** The Threshers' 2012 total of 177,297 was the highest attendance in the Florida State League since St. Petersburg drew 190,146 in 1990. In 2013, Clearwater became the first F.S.L. team to top 150,000 in 8 consecutive seasons. Next in line in this category is the former team from St. Petersburg, who did it 4 straight years (1988-1991).
- **Bradenton drew a team record-high 109,845, breaking a record set in 2011. What made it more impressive was that they played 7 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2011. The Marauders also averaged a team record-high 1,772 per date. Their park, 90 year old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.** Bradenton had the league's best increases in total attendance, up 8,317, and average per date, up 256.
- Palm Beach had its worst total in team history, which began in 1998, and also the worst decline in total attendance in the league, down 9,833. Port Charlotte had the largest average per date loss, down 154. Jupiter and Port Charlotte also had the lowest total attendance in each team's history.
- Brevard County had its best attendance since 2005. Tampa posted its highest total since 2007.
- In 2013, Lakeland lost an incredible 19 dates due to weather, including 9 in July and 7 in August. Yet their total attendance still rose to its 5th highest since 1967. Their average per date of 1,177 was the best since at least 1991, and has more than doubled (from 495 per date) since 2006.
- Daytona Beach has topped 140,000 for 8 straight years. The Cubs lost 12 dates to rain in 2013
- Since 1998, the Fort Myers Miracle have achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (14) 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. The Miracle had their 3rd best total since 1992 in 2013.
- Dunedin drew only 50,695, which was the lowest attendance for any full-season NAPBL team. But this was their 2nd best total since 2000. Still, only 14 short-season teams (10 in the Appalachian League) drew less.
- Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, Vero Beach had been one of the smallest towns with pro baseball. The record-high in Vero Beach was 95,300, in 1991. In 1948, the Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and business conferences are held there annually.
- Palm Beach and Jupiter share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. That park is also used as a Spring Training site by the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. The Gulf Coast League affiliates of those teams 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)

- 2013 was a year of terrible weather, but terrific attendance for the Midwest League. The league had 66 lost dates in 2013, and played 41 fewer dates than in 2012.
- Despite the weather, total attendance rose 33,706 (0.8%) to 4,118,049, the league's 2nd best total ever. This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982, and 2 million in 1994, and has been better than 4 million in 3 of the last 4 years.
- **Average attendance per date rose by 177 to 3,907. This was not only a record-high for the Midwest League, but was also the highest average per date by any Class A league in Minor League history. The league has averaged better than 3,000 per date for 19 straight years, which also is a Class A record.**
- 9 teams had increases in total attendance, and 9 teams were up in average per date.
- **Dayton drew 579,946, their 14th straight year above 570,000. In their 14 year history, the Dragons have the 14 highest season attendance totals ever in Class A.**
- **Dayton has sold out all 983 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 have the North American Major League record of 794 straight sellouts of regular season games, plus 26 post-season games, a streak which ended with the 2nd game of the 2013 season. The Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA had 814 consecutive sellouts, including playoffs, from 1977 to 1995, which had been the longest sellout streak before the Red Sox broke it.
- In 2013, Dayton outdrew everyone, except for 6 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. Dayton's owners include NBA legend Magic Johnson, and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.
- 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 20 years in a row. In 2013, the Whitecaps had their highest total attendance since 2004.
- Fort Wayne had its 2nd highest regular season attendance ever (403,596), and missed its record-high by less than 1,400. If playoff games are included, they had their best total attendance in team history. The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 21 years of operation, and have topped 375,000 in each of the last 5 years. They were the only team in this league that did not lose a home date due to weather in 2013.
- For 2012, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3rd best gain in 2012 among NAPBL teams. Average per date rose by 985, the top increase among all U.S. NAPBL teams. In 2013, the Silver Hawks had another big gain. Total attendance increased by 47,873, which was the 4th highest NAPBL gain. Average per date was up a league-best 850. Their 2013 total of 237,448 was the 2nd best in team history, and the highest since 1994. Since 2011, total attendance is up 124,653 (110.5%), and average per date has increased by 1,836 from 1,762 to 3,598.
- Four Winds Field in South Bend, formerly Stanley Coveleski Regional Stadium, is the only ballpark in America with a former synagogue on its grounds. The Sons of Israel Synagogue was built in 1901, but had been empty for over two decades. When the ballpark was renovated, the Silver Hawks purchased the building, located behind the outfield wall, to use as its team store. They refurbished it, while still respecting its religious and landmark status.
- 5 teams in the league had average per date increases of at least 300 (South Bend-850, Kane County-567, West Michigan-379, Cedar Rapids-377, and Peoria-316). 8 teams were up at least 100 per date.
- Great Lakes had the league's worst total attendance decline, down 27,521, and drew the smallest total in the team's 7 year history. But they had 5 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012.

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

- Bowling Green, KY had the lowest total in its 5 year history, and a league worst decline of 201 in average per date.
- **Wisconsin (Appleton) averaged a record-high 3,780 per date, breaking the mark of 3,771 set in 1996.** Despite losing 6 dates due to weather, the Timber Rattlers still topped 240,000 for the 5th year in a row, a figure they had never reached before 2009. They actually drew the largest total attendance ever in their home ballpark, which underwent a major renovation for the 2013 season. The official team record-high is 253,240 in 2009. But that includes a crowd of 17,880 for a game they played at Miller Park in Milwaukee.
- **Dayton (8,405 in 2013), Kane County (6,154), and West Michigan (5,558), are the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2013.** Lakewood of the South Atlantic League had topped 6,000 per date through 2012 each year of their history, which began in 2001. Fort Wayne and Lansing also averaged more than 5,200 per date each year from 2009 through 2013. Dayton's park has 7,230 seats. The single game record-high in Dayton is 9,558 in 2009.
- Lake County's attendance was the lowest in its 11 year history. Total attendance for this Ohio team has fallen from 437,515 in 2003, to 235,002 in 2013.
- Clinton, a community-owned team, topped 100,000 for the 8th 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. They had 6 lost dates in 2013.
- Cedar Rapids had its best attendance since 2005.
- Quad Cities had 6 lost dates, but still topped 200,000 for the 6th straight year, after not reaching this level for 11 seasons in a row.
- 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 often profitable. They are community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance. In 2013, Beloit lost 5 dates and had its smallest attendance since 1995.
- Lansing's attendance has fallen from 538,325 in 1996 to 334,806 in 2013. But the Lugnuts have topped 330,000 in all 18 years of operation. They had 6 lost dates in 2013.
- Kane County's attendance had surpassed 400,000 for 18 straight years until 2012 (it was back over 400,000 in 2013), 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.
- 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (14 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- Weather caused problems in this league in 2013. Total attendance fell 104,284 (3.4%), and average per date was down 17. There were 27 fewer playing dates in 2013 than in 2012. 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 7 teams had increases in average per date.
- Since 2000, total attendance in this league is up 51.0% (1,954,697 to 2,951,813), and average per date is up 51.7% (2,150 to 3,262). But the 2013 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 had topped 3 million for 10 straight seasons, through 2012, before falling below this level in 2013. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million initially in 1997.
- Lakewood led the league in both total attendance and average per date. They BlueClaws drew 400,299, which was the 12th time in their 13 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. The BlueClaws have led the S.A.L. in total attendance 11 times in their 13 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 124 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001 (seating capacity-6,588), and they had averaged over 6,000 per date every year until 2013, when the average per date was 5,975.
- Charleston (SC) had the league's best increases in total attendance (up 29,272), and average per date (up 501). **In 2013, they averaged a team record-high 4,292 per date.** Total attendance of 283,274 was the 2nd best in team history, and missed the all-time high by less than 1,500. The RiverDogs had never drawn 200,000 until 1997, but have topped 230,000 each year since then. The team won the 2013 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues.
- The Asheville Tourists had their highest total since 2008.
- 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 9 years in their current ballpark.
- Hagerstown lost 8 dates to weather, and had its lowest attendance (65,606) since rejoining the Minor Leagues in 1981. The Suns are expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015.
- The Augusta GreenJackets, named for the green jacket that is presented to the winner of The Masters golf tournament, also lost 8 home dates, and had their lowest total since 2006.
- Greenville, SC had 5 fewer dates than in 2012, and lost 7 dates overall. Total attendance fell by 46,640, and average per date was down 335. Those were the biggest declines for this league in each category. The total was the lowest since 2005. In 2006, Greenville got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team. 2013 Drive attendance was 300,402, up 185,241 from the 2005 total of 115,161. Greenville has surpassed 300,000 in 8 straight seasons.
- Lexington (KY) had the lowest total in its 13 year history. The Legends topped 300,000 for their first 11 seasons.
- Rome (GA) lost 6 home dates, and posted the smallest attendance total in the team's 11 years.
- A great team name in Minor League Baseball had another gain. The Hickory Crawdads drew 143,157 in 2013. 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. Their ballpark gets a makeover for 2014.
- West Virginia (Charleston) had its lowest total since 2004. But the Power lost 6 dates to weather, and 10 other games either had late starts or rain delays.
- Savannah had its 2nd highest total attendance since 2000.

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

- The Delmarva Shorebirds led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and have topped 200,000 in all 18 years of operation. But in 2013, they lost 8 dates, and drew 206,772, their lowest total ever.
- 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)

- The relocation of the Yakima (WA) Bears to Hillsboro, OR helped make 2013 a very successful season at the gate for the Northwest League.
- Total attendance rose 87,651 (9.8%) to 984,432, the best total for this league since 2000. The percentage increase was the highest of any Minor League in 2013.
- Average per date was up 313 to 3,292. That’s the best average per date for the league since 2000.
- **Every team in the league averaged at least 2,270 per date. This is the first time in Minor League history that every team in one of the short-season leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date in the same year.**
- 3 of the 7 teams that played in the same market in both 2013 and 2012 had increases in total attendance, and 4 of these 7 teams achieved gains in average per date.
- If Hillsboro is excluded, the 7 teams that played in the same market in both 2013 and 2012 had a combined total attendance increase of 1.7%, and an average per date gain of 79.
- Only 5 dates were lost in 2013 due to weather. 3 dates were lost in 2012. In 2011, there were no lost dates at all in this league. There have been just 19 lost dates since 2005, and 65 lost dates in 20 seasons since 1994.
- Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but has not reached it since.
- Spokane led the league in total attendance for the 14th straight year, attracting 187,371, with 7 sellouts. That was 3rd best among all short-season teams, and the 4th highest total in Spokane’s short-season team history. The Indians have topped 100,000 for 28 straight years, and have drawn over 160,000 for 19 years in a row. Their team’s short-season record-high total is 192,021 in 2007.
- **Spokane also averaged 5,064 per date, which is a team record-high.** This had once been a full-season league market, and the highest attendance ever there was 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. Spokane’s park, which opened in 1958, underwent a renovation that was completed for the 2013 season.
- **Vancouver had its best attendance (184,042) as a short-season team, and also had the league’s best gain in total attendance (up 19,581) and average per date (up 398).** More than half of their 2013 games were sold out. In 1988, the Canadians set their all-time record of 386,220, while a member of the full-season Pacific Coast League. Vancouver is a rainy city, but not so much during their baseball season. They’ve had a total of just 8 lost regular season dates in the last 14 years.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**NORTHWEST LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A)** - continued

- **Tri-City (Pasco, WA) set a team record-high for average per date (2,270 in 2013) for the 7th straight year.** One rainout prevented the Dust Devils from also setting a total attendance record for the 7th year in a row. In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101, in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season.
- Hillsboro, a suburb of Portland, replaced Yakima, and drew 135,167, an average of 3,557 per date in a new 4,500 seat ballpark. This was up 73,272 from the total of 61,895 in Yakima in 2012. The average per date was an increase of 1,928 from Yakima's average of 1,629 per date in 2012. The highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
- Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for 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. On June 15, 1995, a game there drew 20,600, which is a Northwest League record. The facility has recently been renovated for use as a soccer stadium, renamed JELD-WEN Field, and is the home of the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer.
- Eugene topped 100,000 for the 29th 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 and 2013, in their 17 seasons of operation. Their total attendance decline of 3,761, and average per date loss of 99, were the biggest declines in the league.
- Boise's attendance of 91,324 was their 2nd lowest total since 1988, and just their 4th under-100,000 total since 1989.

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A) (14 teams -- 76 game schedule)

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

- Bad weather hit this league hard months before the 2013 season, and then during the season. In October 2012, Superstorm Sandy caused significant damage to MCU Park, the home of the Brooklyn Cyclones. Then the league played 12 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012.
- Total attendance fell 98,276 (5.8%) to 1,602,725, and average per date was down 116 to 3,174. That's the lowest total and average in this league since 2000. 7 teams in the league had gains in total attendance, and 7 teams saw growth in average per date.
- Average per date in the New York-Penn League has topped 3,000 for 13 straight years after never reaching this level before. Total attendance first reached one million in 1995, and has been above that every year since then.
- The league reached a significant attendance milestone in 2013 as attendance since the start of the league in 1939 surpassed the 50 million mark. This league, whose original name was the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, has now drawn 51,187,260. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
- The staff of the Brooklyn Cyclones spent the off-season rebuilding their ballpark, offices, and in some cases, their homes, after Superstorm Sandy. Plus, they had new competition for the sports dollar in Brooklyn with the opening of the Barclays Center, a new arena that is home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets. **So while Brooklyn's 2013 attendance of 232,224 was their lowest ever, they still led all short-season teams for the 13th straight year.** They have drawn 3,598,374 in their 13 year history, reaching this level 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A)** - continued

- In 37 home dates in 2013, the Cyclones had a higher total attendance than 43 of 60 full-season Class A teams, 7 of 30 Class AA teams, 9 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 6,276 per date. Just one team in Class A (Dayton), 3 in Class AA, and 2 in the Mexican League, had a higher average per date than Brooklyn. In fact, Brooklyn had a higher per date average than 14 of the 30 Class AAA teams. In their 13 year history, the Cyclones have played 478 dates, averaging 7,528 per date.
- The Aberdeen IronBirds, who are owned by Cal Ripken Jr., had a rough year at the gate. Total attendance fell 55,095, to 189,879, the largest decline of any U.S. NAPBL team. (Saltillo and Reynosa of the Mexican League had larger declines). Average per date was down 1,172. Only Saltillo had a bigger decline in average per date. Prior to 2013, the IronBirds had topped 225,000 in all 11 seasons they played.
- **Connecticut drew 68,757, and averaged 1,910 per date. Those are record-highs in both total and average for a short-season team based in Norwich.** The full-season team record there is 281,473, set by a Class AA Eastern League team in 1995. Total attendance for the Tigers was up 10,671 in 2013, the best increase of the year in the league.
- Tri-City (Troy, NY) had set a team record in total attendance for 9th straight years through 2012. A lost date in 2013 cost the ValleyCats another record. But their total of 156,712 was the 2nd best in team history. The ValleyCats have posted a 51% increase in total attendance since 2003, and their average per date has been above 4,000 in each of the last 6 seasons.
- Lowell had its smallest total since 1997. In 2010, the Spinners ended a sellout streak of 413 games.
- Staten Island had its lowest total attendance since 2006.
- Hudson Valley topped 4,000 in average per date for the 20th consecutive year. The Renegades have drawn at least 138,000 every year since starting play in 1994. Total attendance for those 20 years is 3,138,106 in 725 dates, an average of 4,328 in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,539, set in 2013.
- The Auburn Doubledays lost 4 dates, and had their lowest total since 2004. Average per date fell by 310.
- Batavia has not reached 45,000 since 1973.
- Mahoning Valley (Niles, OH) had the league's best gain in average per date, up 316, and had their best total since 2009. The Scrappers topped 200,000 in 1999 and 2000, their first 2 seasons, but haven't done it since.
- State College has topped 125,000 in all 8 of their seasons.
- Jamestown had a small gain in 2013, but has not reached 50,000 since 2004.
- Vermont had its lowest total in its 20 years with a short-season team.
- Team relocations and new parks have resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in the past 21 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 date. The 2013 attendance total of 1,602,725 is a gain of 126.3% from 1992. 2013 average attendance per team was 114,480, and the average per date was 3,174. In 2013, 11 of the 14 teams in this league played in a ballpark that opened between 1994 and 2006.
- There has been a proposal to move a New York-Penn League team to a new ballpark being built on the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown.

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)

- Weather problems cut into attendance again in 2013. There were 32 lost dates, compared to 35 in 2012, and just 5 lost dates in 2011.
- Total attendance went down 3,366 (1.2%) to 275,419, the lowest total for this league since 2003. Average per date fell by 20 to 894.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 had growth in average per date.
- This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- Greeneville, TN led the league in total attendance and average per date for the 10th year in a row, drawing 45,261, an average of 1,372 per date. The Astros have topped 45,000 in all 10 seasons of play.
- Burlington's average per date rose by 223, which was the best gain in the league. The Royals also were the league's only team besides Greeneville to average over 1,000 per date.
- Bristol drew just 20,309, averaging 700 per date, the lowest of any NAPBL team in both categories. They had the worst total decline in the league, down 3,078. This team has not topped 30,000 since 1976, when they drew their record-high total of 32,409.
- Kingsport had the largest average per date decline in the league, down 153, and their lowest total since 2003.
- Danville posted its 6th straight decline, and the lowest total in the team's 21 year history.
- Bluefield had the highest increase in total attendance in the league, up 4,342. Their Blue Jays had their best total since 2009, which was their only year above 30,000 since 1999.
- Elizabethton has surpassed 30,000 just once (in 2007) in their 40 years in this league.
- Johnson City had its 2nd best total since 2003.
- Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this level in the last 12 years.
- Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 4 of their last 6 seasons after doing it just once in the previous 35 years with a team.
- 1993 was a record setting year in attendance for the Appalachian League. The league drew a record high 442,755, and Danville's attendance of 80,539 was the highest ever by a team since this league went to a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 other teams also topped 50,000 in 1993. Burlington drew 61,088, Martinsville had a total of 58,368, and Huntington's attendance was 51,365. The last team in this league to reach 50,000 was Greeneville in 2008.
- The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball lists team attendance for the Appalachian League starting in 1945. This was a full-season league through 1955. Bluefield had the 3 highest individual team totals of that era, drawing 86,303 in 1947, 83,208 in 1948, and 116,572 in 1949.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** (8 teams -- 76 game schedule)

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

- Total attendance declined by 21,928 (3.2%) to 673,174.
- Average per date was 2,282, down 35, with 5 fewer dates than in 2012.
- It was the 6th time in the last 7 years that Pioneer League average per date topped 2,200. The league never reached 2,200 in average until 2007. 2013 was also the 11th year in a row where the average per date was at least 2,000. The league did not average 2,000+ per date in any season before 2003, going back to at least 1992.
- Pioneer League total attendance did not reach 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It has done so every year since then.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance in 2013, and 4 teams saw growth in average per date.
- Ogden led the league in total attendance for the 14th consecutive season, drawing 124,687. The Raptors have topped 100,000 for 13 straight years. Ogden and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- Idaho Falls had the 2nd highest total attendance (96,367) in its more than 70 year history. The Chukars had a gain of 6,539, which was the top increase in the league. Their ballpark seats just 3,400, and their 7 top attendance totals have all come in the last 7 seasons.
- Great Falls had the league's top increase in average per date, up 125. But attendance there has been cut nearly in half since 2003. The Voyagers have not reached 60,000 in the last 3 years, after topping 100,000 5 times in the 7 seasons from 2003 through 2009.
- Grand Junction, in its 2nd season in the league drew 87,436. But the Rockies had the worst declines in both total attendance (down 14,060), and average per date (down 308). The team moved to Grand Junction in 2012 from Casper, where the highest attendance ever was 57,120 in 2010.
- Billings topped 100,000 for the 6th straight year.
- Orem has surpassed 80,000 for 8 consecutive years, with 4 of those seasons topping 100,000.
- Missoula drew over 80,000 for the 7th straight year after never before reaching that level.
- It's been 8 years in a row with total attendance under 40,000 for Helena. This team failed to reach 30,000 in any season from 1978 through 1988. Their ballpark has a seating capacity of just 2,100.
- 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.
- The low point in attendance was in 1965, when the 4 teams in the league drew a combined total of just 63,446. 6 of the current 8 teams in the league drew more than that in 2013. In 1965, each team played a total of 66 games. Lowest team attendance was 8,692 by the Pocatello Chiefs, who were managed by Tom Lasorda.

2013 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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| TEAM | 2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | HOME DATES | AVERAGE PER DATE | 2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | # CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012 | BALLPARK OPENED: |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA) | | | | | | |
| Buffalo Bisons | 537,747 | 65 | 8,273 | 515,898 | 21,849 | 1988 |
| Charlotte Knights | 254,834 | 67 | 3,803 | 282,117 | (27,283) | 1990 |
| Columbus (OH) Clippers | 635,613 | 69 | 9,212 | 611,223 | 24,390 | 2009 |
| Durham Bulls | 498,735 | 70 | 7,125 | 483,593 | 15,142 | 1995 |
| Gwinnett (GA) Braves | 323,799 | 68 | 4,762 | 327,584 | (3,785) | 2009 |
| Indianapolis Indians | 637,579 | 71 | 8,980 | 595,043 | 42,536 | 1996 |
| Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs | 613,075 | 68 | 9,016 | 622,421 | (9,346) | 2008 |
| Louisville Bats | 581,114 | 71 | 8,185 | 570,003 | 11,111 | 2000 |
| Norfolk Tides | 382,195 | 67 | 5,704 | 389,188 | (6,993) | 1993 |
| Pawtucket Red Sox | 540,034 | 69 | 7,827 | 521,023 | 19,011 | 1942 |
| Rochester Red Wings | 420,751 | 69 | 6,098 | 414,398 | 6,353 | 1997 |
| Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders | 435,839 | 68 | 6,409 | 272,168 | 163,671 | 2013 |
| Syracuse Chiefs | 345,047 | 67 | 5,150 | 349,027 | (3,980) | 1997 |
| Toledo Mud Hens | 560,080 | 72 | 7,779 | 550,900 | 9,180 | 2002 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 6,766,442 | 961 | 7,041 | 6,504,586 | 261,856 | |
| <i>*Scranton-Wilkes Barre played its 2012 home games in Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse, Lehigh Valley, Pawtucket, and Batavia</i> | | | | | | |
| PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA) | | | | | | |
| Albuquerque Isotopes | 567,568 | 71 | 7,994 | 568,417 | (849) | 2003 |
| Colorado Springs Sky Sox | 326,374 | 63 | 5,181 | 334,245 | (7,871) | 1988 |
| Fresno Grizzlies | 487,536 | 72 | 6,771 | 471,686 | 15,850 | 2002 |
| Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs | 467,481 | 67 | 6,977 | 509,798 | (42,317) | 1992 |
| Las Vegas 51s | 328,266 | 70 | 4,690 | 311,516 | 16,750 | 1983 |
| Memphis Redbirds | 498,362 | 69 | 7,223 | 493,706 | 4,656 | 2000 |
| Nashville Sounds | 355,003 | 70 | 5,071 | 321,042 | 33,961 | 1978 |
| New Orleans Zephyrs | 344,998 | 70 | 4,929 | 329,942 | 15,056 | 1997 |
| Oklahoma (City) RedHawks | 400,025 | 69 | 5,797 | 399,965 | 60 | 1998 |
| Omaha Storm Chasers | 390,957 | 69 | 5,666 | 415,650 | (24,693) | 2011 |
| Reno Aces | 349,364 | 71 | 4,921 | 389,860 | (40,496) | 2009 |
| Round Rock (TX) Express | 589,042 | 72 | 8,181 | 595,584 | (6,542) | 2000 |
| Sacramento River Cats | 607,329 | 72 | 8,435 | 586,090 | 21,239 | 2000 |
| Salt Lake (City) Bees | 531,221 | 71 | 7,482 | 515,633 | 15,588 | 1994 |
| Tacoma Rainiers | 320,080 | 72 | 4,446 | 352,032 | (31,952) | 1960 |
| Tucson Padres | 200,077 | 71 | 2,818 | 200,991 | (914) | 1998 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 6,763,683 | 1,119 | 6,044 | 6,796,157 | (32,474) | |
| TOTAL -- CLASS AAA | 13,530,125 | 2,080 | 6,505 | 13,300,743 | 229,382 | |
| EASTERN LEAGUE (AA) | | | | | | |
| Akron Aeros | 295,459 | 70 | 4,221 | 256,473 | 38,986 | 1997 |
| Altoona Curve | 286,227 | 68 | 4,209 | 270,613 | 15,614 | 1999 |
| Binghamton Mets | 185,093 | 66 | 2,804 | 196,929 | (11,836) | 1992 |
| Bowie Baysox | 252,593 | 68 | 3,715 | 248,210 | 4,383 | 1994 |
| Erie SeaWolves | 206,780 | 67 | 3,086 | 208,725 | (1,945) | 1995 |
| Harrisburg Senators | 284,361 | 69 | 4,121 | 280,964 | 3,397 | 2010 |
| New Britain Rock Cats | 307,097 | 66 | 4,653 | 339,100 | (32,003) | 1996 |
| New Hampshire Fisher Cats | 353,639 | 69 | 5,125 | 377,317 | (23,678) | 2005 |
| Portland (ME) Sea Dogs | 341,420 | 67 | 5,096 | 374,930 | (33,510) | 1994 |
| Reading Fightin' Phils | 436,134 | 69 | 6,321 | 426,623 | 9,511 | 1950 |
| Richmond Flying Squirrels | 434,769 | 65 | 6,689 | 438,002 | (3,233) | 1985 |
| Trenton Thunder | 360,010 | 67 | 5,373 | 373,355 | (13,345) | 1994 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 3,743,582 | 811 | 4,616 | 3,791,241 | (47,659) | |

2013 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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| TEAM | 2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | HOME DATES | AVERAGE PER DATE | 2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | # CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012 | BALLPARK OPENED: |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE (AA)</u> | | | | | | |
| Birmingham Barons | 396,820 | 70 | 5,669 | 204,269 | 192,551 | 2013 |
| Chattanooga Lookouts | 220,854 | 65 | 3,398 | 243,051 | (22,197) | 2000 |
| Huntsville Stars | 123,904 | 66 | 1,877 | 130,231 | (6,327) | 1985 |
| Jackson (West Tenn) Generals | 119,202 | 61 | 1,954 | 133,352 | (14,150) | 1998 |
| Jacksonville (FL) Suns | 295,258 | 67 | 4,407 | 293,013 | 2,245 | 2003 |
| Mississippi (Pearl) Braves | 200,268 | 70 | 2,861 | 191,639 | 8,629 | 2005 |
| Mobile BayBears | 149,675 | 64 | 2,339 | 133,062 | 16,613 | 1997 |
| Montgomery (AL) Biscuits | 258,532 | 66 | 3,917 | 244,976 | 13,556 | 2004 |
| Pensacola Blue Wahoos | 307,094 | 66 | 4,653 | 328,147 | (21,053) | 2012 |
| Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies | 244,984 | 64 | 3,828 | 251,112 | (6,128) | 2000 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 2,316,591 | 659 | 3,515 | 2,152,852 | 163,739 | |
| <u>TEXAS LEAGUE (AA)</u> | | | | | | |
| Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers | 293,749 | 65 | 4,519 | 308,109 | (14,360) | 2007 |
| Corpus Christi Hooks | 379,395 | 69 | 5,498 | 388,927 | (9,532) | 2005 |
| Frisco RoughRiders | 479,873 | 68 | 7,057 | 488,224 | (8,351) | 2003 |
| Midland (TX) RockHounds | 317,233 | 69 | 4,598 | 301,110 | 16,123 | 2002 |
| NW Arkansas Naturals | 318,592 | 68 | 4,685 | 321,254 | (2,662) | 2008 |
| San Antonio Missions | 294,346 | 68 | 4,329 | 301,942 | (7,596) | 1994 |
| Springfield (MO) Cardinals | 338,345 | 65 | 5,205 | 352,674 | (14,329) | 2003 |
| Tulsa Drillers | 393,600 | 69 | 5,704 | 372,624 | 20,976 | 2010 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 2,815,133 | 541 | 5,204 | 2,834,864 | (19,731) | |
| TOTAL CLASS AA | 8,875,306 | 2,011 | 4,413 | 8,778,957 | 96,349 | |
| <u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE (A)</u> | | | | | | |
| Bakersfield Blaze | 56,345 | 70 | 805 | 43,969 | 12,376 | 1941 |
| High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks | 92,379 | 68 | 1,359 | 122,906 | (30,527) | 1991 |
| Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers | 192,549 | 70 | 2,751 | 171,986 | 20,563 | 1996 |
| Lake Elsinore Storm | 217,869 | 69 | 3,158 | 227,000 | (9,131) | 1994 |
| Lancaster JetHawks | 158,266 | 69 | 2,294 | 151,558 | 6,708 | 1996 |
| Modesto Nuts | 177,700 | 70 | 2,539 | 175,918 | 1,782 | 1952 |
| Rancho Cucamonga Quakes | 172,306 | 70 | 2,462 | 160,715 | 11,591 | 1993 |
| San Jose Giants | 201,011 | 70 | 2,872 | 210,895 | (9,884) | 1942 |
| Stockton Ports | 199,742 | 70 | 2,853 | 198,602 | 1,140 | 2005 |
| Visalia Rawhide | 115,321 | 70 | 1,647 | 118,625 | (3,304) | 1946 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 1,583,488 | 696 | 2,275 | 1,582,174 | 1,314 | |
| <u>CAROLINA LEAGUE (A)</u> | | | | | | |
| Carolina Mudcats | 224,736 | 67 | 3,354 | 225,577 | (841) | 1991 |
| Frederick Keys | 324,311 | 66 | 4,914 | 311,805 | 12,506 | 1990 |
| Lynchburg Hillcats | 160,537 | 67 | 2,396 | 155,261 | 5,276 | 2004 |
| Myrtle Beach Pelicans | 222,406 | 66 | 3,370 | 220,273 | 2,133 | 1999 |
| Potomac Nationals | 236,772 | 67 | 3,534 | 191,928 | 44,844 | 1984 |
| Salem Red Sox | 172,293 | 63 | 2,735 | 178,730 | (6,437) | 1995 |
| Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks | 292,319 | 66 | 4,429 | 287,992 | 4,327 | 1993 |
| Winston-Salem Dash | 301,366 | 67 | 4,498 | 305,515 | (4,149) | 2010 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 1,934,740 | 529 | 3,657 | 1,877,081 | 57,659 | |

2013 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>HOME DATES</u> | <u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u> | <u>2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u> | <u># CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012</u> | <u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u> |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u> | | | | | | |
| Bradenton Marauders | 109,845 | 62 | 1,772 | 101,528 | 8,317 | 1923 |
| Brevard County Manatees | 97,238 | 67 | 1,451 | 89,512 | 7,726 | 1994 |
| (Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs | 107,995 | 61 | 1,770 | 117,417 | (9,422) | 1987 |
| Clearwater Threshers | 172,151 | 66 | 2,608 | 177,297 | (5,146) | 2004 |
| Daytona Beach Cubs | 146,049 | 58 | 2,518 | 143,131 | 2,918 | 1930 |
| Dunedin Blue Jays | 50,695 | 66 | 768 | 53,091 | (2,396) | 1977 |
| Fort Myers Miracle | 121,832 | 64 | 1,904 | 121,452 | 380 | 1991 |
| Jupiter Hammerheads | 64,813 | 65 | 997 | 73,337 | (8,524) | 1998 |
| Lakeland Flying Tigers | 60,011 | 51 | 1,177 | 59,589 | 422 | 1966 |
| Palm Beach Cardinals | 64,121 | 66 | 972 | 73,954 | (9,833) | 1998 |
| St. Lucie Mets | 98,664 | 64 | 1,542 | 92,044 | 6,620 | 1988 |
| Tampa Yankees | 118,770 | 65 | 1,827 | 112,668 | 6,102 | 1996 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 1,212,184 | 755 | 1,606 | 1,215,020 | (2,836) | |
| <u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u> | | | | | | |
| Beloit Snappers | 61,045 | 65 | 939 | 68,867 | (7,822) | 1982 |
| Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods | 216,301 | 67 | 3,228 | 233,208 | (16,907) | 2009 |
| Burlington (IA) Bees | 62,932 | 62 | 1,015 | 58,195 | 4,737 | 1947 |
| Cedar Rapids (IA)ernels | 180,688 | 67 | 2,697 | 160,064 | 20,624 | 2002 |
| Clinton LumberKings | 113,880 | 64 | 1,779 | 111,760 | 2,120 | 1937 |
| Dayton Dragons | 579,946 | 69 | 8,405 | 588,689 | (8,743) | 2000 |
| Fort Wayne Tin Caps | 403,596 | 70 | 5,766 | 396,531 | 7,065 | 2009 |
| Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons | 231,639 | 65 | 3,564 | 259,160 | (27,521) | 2007 |
| Kane County (IL) Cougars | 406,152 | 66 | 6,154 | 391,102 | 15,050 | 1991 |
| Lake County (OH) Captains | 235,002 | 66 | 3,561 | 248,114 | (13,112) | 2003 |
| Lansing Lugnuts | 334,806 | 64 | 5,231 | 345,763 | (10,957) | 1996 |
| Peoria Chiefs | 208,616 | 67 | 3,114 | 190,244 | 18,372 | 2002 |
| Quad Cities River Bandits | 226,112 | 64 | 3,533 | 240,008 | (13,896) | 2004 |
| South Bend Silver Hawks | 237,448 | 66 | 3,598 | 189,575 | 47,873 | 1988 |
| West Michigan Whitecaps | 377,948 | 68 | 5,558 | 362,554 | 15,394 | 1994 |
| Wisconsin Timber Rattlers | 241,938 | 64 | 3,780 | 240,509 | 1,429 | 1995 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 4,118,049 | 1,054 | 3,907 | 4,084,343 | 33,706 | |
| <u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u> | | | | | | |
| Asheville Tourists | 163,664 | 65 | 2,518 | 155,760 | 7,904 | 1992 |
| Augusta (GA) GreenJackets | 176,762 | 62 | 2,851 | 182,124 | (5,362) | 1995 |
| Charleston (SC) RiverDogs | 283,274 | 66 | 4,292 | 254,002 | 29,272 | 1997 |
| Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds | 206,772 | 62 | 3,335 | 231,194 | (24,422) | 1996 |
| Greensboro Grasshoppers | 362,274 | 66 | 5,489 | 367,077 | (4,803) | 2005 |
| Greenville (SC) Drive | 300,402 | 63 | 4,768 | 347,042 | (46,640) | 2006 |
| Hagerstown Suns | 65,606 | 62 | 1,058 | 87,429 | (21,823) | 1931 |
| Hickory Crawdads | 143,157 | 66 | 2,169 | 132,696 | 10,461 | 1993 |
| Kannapolis Intimidators | 125,811 | 66 | 1,906 | 132,493 | (6,682) | 1995 |
| Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws | 400,299 | 67 | 5,975 | 410,113 | (9,814) | 2001 |
| Lexington (KY) Legends | 274,805 | 67 | 4,102 | 295,937 | (21,132) | 2001 |
| Rome (GA) Braves | 168,026 | 64 | 2,625 | 184,983 | (16,957) | 2003 |
| Savannah Sand Gnats | 131,763 | 65 | 2,027 | 117,372 | 14,391 | 1941 |
| West Virginia (Charleston) Power | 149,198 | 64 | 2,331 | 157,875 | (8,677) | 2005 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 2,951,813 | 905 | 3,262 | 3,056,097 | (104,284) | |
| TOTAL FULL SEASON A | 11,800,274 | 3,939 | 2,996 | 11,814,715 | (14,441) | |

2013 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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| <u>TEAM</u> | <u>2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u> | <u>HOME DATES</u> | <u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u> | <u>2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u> | <u># CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012</u> | <u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u> |
|--|----------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A) | | | | | | |
| Aberdeen IronBirds | 189,879 | 36 | 5,274 | 244,974 | (55,095) | 2002 |
| Auburn Doubledays | 39,381 | 34 | 1,158 | 55,810 | (16,429) | 1995 |
| Batavia Muckdogs | 33,909 | 35 | 969 | 33,443 | 466 | 1996 |
| Brooklyn Cyclones | 232,224 | 37 | 6,276 | 249,009 | (16,785) | 2001 |
| Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers | 68,757 | 36 | 1,910 | 58,086 | 10,671 | 1995 |
| Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades | 164,230 | 38 | 4,322 | 161,811 | 2,419 | 1994 |
| Jamestown Jammers | 38,728 | 36 | 1,076 | 36,078 | 2,650 | 1941 |
| Lowell Spinners | 156,358 | 36 | 4,343 | 168,239 | (11,881) | 2000 |
| Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers | 114,598 | 34 | 3,371 | 109,956 | 4,642 | 1999 |
| State College Spikes | 133,637 | 38 | 3,517 | 129,588 | 4,049 | 2006 |
| Staten Island Yankees | 128,441 | 37 | 3,471 | 141,163 | (12,722) | 2001 |
| Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats | 156,712 | 37 | 4,235 | 159,966 | (3,254) | 2002 |
| Vermont Lake Monsters | 81,683 | 35 | 2,334 | 89,977 | (8,294) | 1922 |
| Williamsport Crosscutters | 64,188 | 36 | 1,783 | 62,901 | 1,287 | 1923 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 1,602,725 | 505 | 3,174 | 1,701,001 | (98,276) | |
| <u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A) | | | | | | |
| Boise Hawks | 91,324 | 37 | 2,468 | 91,167 | 157 | 1989 |
| Eugene Emeralds | 112,028 | 38 | 2,948 | 115,569 | (3,541) | 2010 |
| Everett AquaSox | 92,489 | 36 | 2,569 | 95,929 | (3,440) | 1984 |
| Hillsboro (OR) Hops * | 135,167 | 38 | 3,557 | 61,895 | 73,272 | 2013 |
| Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes | 98,024 | 38 | 2,580 | 101,785 | (3,761) | 1997 |
| Spokane Indians | 187,371 | 37 | 5,064 | 179,880 | 7,491 | 1958 |
| Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils | 83,987 | 37 | 2,270 | 86,095 | (2,108) | 1995 |
| Vancouver (BC) Canadians | 184,042 | 38 | 4,843 | 164,461 | 19,581 | 1951 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 984,432 | 299 | 3,292 | 896,781 | 87,651 | |
| * Played as the Yakima Bears in 2012 | | | | | | |
| <u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie) | | | | | | |
| Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays | 28,232 | 33 | 856 | 23,890 | 4,342 | 1939 |
| Bristol (VA) White Sox | 20,309 | 29 | 700 | 23,387 | (3,078) | 1969 |
| Burlington (NC) Royals | 32,200 | 26 | 1,238 | 33,501 | (1,301) | 1960 |
| Danville (VA) Braves | 25,152 | 28 | 898 | 27,628 | (2,476) | 1993 |
| Elizabethton (TN) Twins | 24,725 | 31 | 798 | 25,430 | (705) | 1974 |
| Greeneville (TN) Astros | 45,261 | 33 | 1,372 | 42,303 | 2,958 | 2004 |
| Johnson City (TN) Cardinals | 25,612 | 31 | 826 | 24,827 | 785 | 1956 |
| Kingsport (TN) Mets | 23,476 | 31 | 757 | 26,408 | (2,932) | 1995 |
| Princeton (WV) Rays | 24,610 | 33 | 746 | 26,110 | (1,500) | 1988 |
| Pulaski Mariners | 25,842 | 33 | 783 | 25,301 | 541 | 1935 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 275,419 | 308 | 894 | 278,785 | (3,366) | |

2013 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

| TEAM | 2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | HOME DATES | AVERAGE PER DATE | 2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | # CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012 | BALLPARK OPENED: |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie) | | | | | | |
| Billings Mustangs | 105,417 | 36 | 2,928 | 112,602 | (7,185) | 2008 |
| Grand Junction Rockies | 87,436 | 37 | 2,363 | 101,496 | (14,060) | 1958 |
| Great Falls (MT) Voyagers | 58,386 | 36 | 1,622 | 56,869 | 1,517 | 1956 |
| Helena Brewers | 33,515 | 38 | 882 | 33,428 | 87 | 1939 |
| Idaho Falls Chukars | 96,367 | 38 | 2,536 | 89,828 | 6,539 | 2007 |
| Missoula Osprey | 81,686 | 36 | 2,269 | 89,812 | (8,126) | 2004 |
| Ogden Raptors | 124,687 | 37 | 3,370 | 123,625 | 1,062 | 1997 |
| Orem (UT) Owlz | 85,630 | 37 | 2,314 | 87,392 | (1,762) | 2005 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 673,124 | 295 | 2,282 | 695,052 | (21,928) | |
| TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE | 3,535,700 | 1,407 | 2,513 | 3,571,619 | (35,919) | |
| <u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u> | | | | | | |
| Aguascalientes Railroadmen | 153,719 | 54 | 2,847 | 159,414 | (5,695) | 1938 |
| Campeche Pirates | 87,755 | 45 | 1,950 | 122,336 | (34,581) | 2001 |
| Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers | 177,731 | 52 | 3,418 | 164,462 | 13,269 | |
| Carmen Dolphins | 271,021 | 53 | 5,114 | 227,143 | 43,878 | |
| Laguna Cowboys | 264,942 | 61 | 4,343 | 176,762 | 88,180 | 1932 |
| Mexico City Red Devils | 241,881 | 46 | 5,258 | 245,894 | (4,013) | 1993 |
| Minatitlan Oilers | 120,511 | 52 | 2,318 | 73,247 | 47,264 | 1992 |
| Monclova (del Norte) Steelers | 338,271 | 58 | 5,832 | 323,728 | 14,543 | 1975 |
| Monterrey Sultans | 590,692 | 53 | 11,145 | 645,302 | (54,610) | 1990 |
| Oaxaca Warriors | 180,734 | 51 | 3,544 | 172,056 | 8,678 | 1950 |
| Puebla Parrots | 290,361 | 57 | 5,094 | 287,178 | 3,183 | 1972 |
| Reynosa Broncos | 137,226 | 51 | 2,691 | 195,154 | (57,928) | 1963 |
| Saltillo Sarape Makers | 392,245 | 55 | 7,132 | 467,899 | (75,654) | 1963 |
| Tabasco Cattlemen | 144,434 | 52 | 2,778 | 170,966 | (26,532) | 1964 |
| Veracruz Aguila Reds | 190,484 | 53 | 3,594 | 245,057 | (54,573) | 1992 |
| Yucatan Lions | 230,369 | 55 | 4,189 | 137,750 | 92,619 | 1982 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 3,812,376 | 848 | 4,496 | 3,814,348 | (1,972) | |
| TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES | 41,553,781 | 10,285 | 4,040 | 41,280,382 | 273,399 | |

| League | <u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u> | | | | <u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u> | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|----------|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | Change-2013 vs. 2012 | | <u>2013</u> | <u>2012</u> | <u># Change</u> <u>2013 vs. 2012</u> |
| | | | <u>#</u> | <u>%</u> | | | |
| International | 6,766,442 | 6,504,586 | 261,856 | 4.0 | 7,041 | 6,699 | 342 |
| Pacific Coast | 6,763,683 | 6,796,157 | (32,474) | (0.5) | 6,044 | 6,052 | (8) |
| AAA Total | 13,530,125 | 13,300,743 | 229,382 | 1.7 | 6,505 | 6,352 | 153 |
| Mexican | 3,812,376 | 3,814,348 | (1,972) | (0.1) | 4,496 | 4,493 | 3 |
| Eastern | 3,743,582 | 3,791,241 | (47,659) | (1.3) | 4,616 | 4,669 | (53) |
| Southern | 2,316,591 | 2,152,852 | 163,739 | 7.6 | 3,515 | 3,237 | 278 |
| Texas | 2,815,133 | 2,834,864 | (19,731) | (0.7) | 5,204 | 5,164 | 40 |
| AA Total | 8,875,306 | 8,778,957 | 96,349 | 1.1 | 4,413 | 4,333 | 80 |
| California | 1,583,488 | 1,582,174 | 1,314 | 0.1 | 2,275 | 2,293 | (18) |
| Carolina | 1,934,740 | 1,877,081 | 57,659 | 3.1 | 3,657 | 3,522 | 135 |
| Florida State | 1,212,184 | 1,215,020 | (2,836) | (0.2) | 1,606 | 1,592 | 14 |
| Midwest | 4,118,049 | 4,084,343 | 33,706 | 0.8 | 3,907 | 3,730 | 177 |
| South Atlantic | 2,951,813 | 3,056,097 | (104,284) | (3.4) | 3,262 | 3,279 | (17) |
| Full Season A Total | 11,800,274 | 11,814,715 | (14,441) | (0.1) | 2,996 | 2,944 | 52 |
| New York - Penn | 1,602,725 | 1,701,001 | (98,276) | (5.8) | 3,174 | 3,290 | (116) |
| Northwest | 984,432 | 896,781 | 87,651 | 9.8 | 3,292 | 2,979 | 313 |
| Appalachian | 275,419 | 278,785 | (3,366) | (1.2) | 894 | 914 | (20) |
| Pioneer | 673,124 | 695,052 | (21,928) | (3.2) | 2,282 | 2,317 | (35) |
| Short Season Total | 3,535,700 | 3,571,619 | (35,919) | (1.0) | 2,513 | 2,510 | 3 |
| NAPBL TOTAL | 41,553,781 | 41,280,382 | 273,399 | 0.7 | 4,040 | 3,967 | 73 |
| <u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u> | | | | | | | |
| American Association | 2,150,031 | 2,244,238 | (94,207) | (4.2) | 3,435 | 3,512 | (77) |
| Atlantic | 2,254,554 | 2,367,578 | (113,024) | (4.8) | 4,152 | 4,409 | (257) |
| Can-Am | 454,366 | 494,698 | (40,332) | (8.2) | 1,976 | 2,087 | (111) |
| Frontier | 1,541,169 | 1,548,970 | (7,801) | (0.5) | 2,439 | 2,387 | 52 |
| United | 230,269 | ----- | ----- | ----- | 1,225 | ----- | ----- |
| Pecos Baseball | 49,586 | 52,350 | (2,764) | (5.3) | 195 | 257 | (62) |
| Freedom Pro | N/A | N/A | ----- | ----- | N/A | N/A | ----- |
| Pacific Association | 28,318 | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| North American | 0 | 420,100 | (420,100) | (100.0) | 0 | 1,114 | (1,114) |
| Independent Total | 6,708,293 | 7,127,934 | (419,641) | (5.9) | 2,668 | 2,697 | (29) |
| GRAND TOTAL | 48,262,074 | 48,408,316 | (146,242) | (0.3) | 3,771 | 3,710 | 61 |

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**

There were some more changes among the independent leagues in 2013. The Atlantic, Frontier, and Freedom Pro Baseball Leagues, and the American Association all had the same lineup of teams and cities that finished the 2012 season. The Can-Am and Pecos Leagues made changes in their rosters of teams in 2013. 2 new leagues, the Pacific Association, and a returning United League, replaced the disbanded North American League. These changes will be noted in the individual league summaries on the following pages.

- In 2013 there were 8 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by 6 leagues, plus one team in the Pacific Association. Figures were available for 53 teams playing home games. The attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league office, is estimated, and does not include 'no-shows.' The 4 team Freedom League, based in Arizona, did not report their attendance, nor did nor did Hawaii, Maui, and Vallejo of the Pacific Association. Attendance for all 7 of these teams was probably quite low. 7 independent leagues, with 55 teams that recorded attendance, operated in 2012.
- Total reported independent leagues 2013 attendance was 6,708,293, down 419,641 (5.9%). The combined independent leagues record-high is 8,485,921, set in 2007. In 2013, independent leagues recorded attendance for 129 fewer dates than in 2012, and combined to play 599 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,514 playing dates with reported attendance in 2013 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- Combined 2013 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,668. This is down 29 from 2012. 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. But in 2013, all 5 independent leagues that also operated in 2012, and reported attendance, had declines in total attendance, and only the Frontier League posted a gain in average per date.
- 48 independent league teams were in the same market, but not necessarily in the same league, in 2013 as in 2012. 15 of them had 2013 gains in total attendance, while 33 were down. The same number of teams (15) had increases in average attendance per date.
- 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 SINCE THE END OF THE 2010 SEASON

Many of the teams from the leagues listed below have moved to other independent leagues. The United Baseball League disbanded after the 2010 season, but returned in 2013.

GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 teams – 90 game schedule in 2010)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 742,394 (2010) 10 teams; Team – Tucson -- 139,149 (2009)

NORTHERN LEAGUE (8 teams -- 100 game schedule in 2010)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,189,151 (2005) 12 teams; Team – Winnipeg – 323,141 (2004)

CONTINENTAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (4 teams – League disbanded prior to the end of the 2010 season)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 64,659 (2009); Team – Alexandria, LA – 45,727 (2009)

NORTH AMERICAN BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 teams in 2012, the league's final year)

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS

| <u>Year</u> | <u># of Leagues</u> | <u># of Teams</u> | <u>Total Attendance</u> | <u>Team Leader</u> | <u>Total Attendance</u> | <u>Team Leader</u> | <u>Avg. Attend.</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 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 |
| 2013 | 7 | 53 | 6,708,293 | Sugar Land | 382,059 | Winnipeg | 5,880 |

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.

San Rafael was the only team in the Pacific Association to report attendance in 2013.

The table below shows which non-Atlantic League, independent league team had the highest total attendance each year since 1998.

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u>Year</u> | <u>Team</u> | <u>Attendance</u> |
|-------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 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 | 2013 | Winnipeg | 276,359 |

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 fell 113,024 (4.8%) to 2,254,544 in 2013. This was the largest total attendance decline of any Minor League. The 2012 attendance, noted above, was the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. In 2013, the Atlantic League surpassed 2 million for the 5th time in the last 6 years.
- Average attendance per date was 4,152, down 257 from the league record-high 4,409 in 2012. But this still was the league's 3rd highest average per date ever. The all-time high average per date for any independent league is 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- The league played 6 more dates in 2013 than in 2012.
- Atlantic League playoff games drew an average of 4,675 per game. This was the highest post-season average per date of any U.S. based league in 2013. The Mexican League 2013 playoffs averaged 10,149 per game.
- 2 teams had increases in total attendance, and 2 teams posted gains in average per date. Camden, Sugar Land, Lancaster, Long Island, and York all had average per date declines of at least 200.
- In 2012, 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.
- But in 2013, Sugar Land's total attendance declined 83,452, the worst drop by any independent team. Average per date fell 1,113, which was the 2nd greatest drop among independent teams.
- Long Island (Central Islip, NY) had a slight decline to the lowest total in the team's 14 year history. From 2000 through 2011, the Ducks had the highest total attendance of any independent league team each year. But the Ducks have still topped 370,000 every year, and had the 2nd best independent total attendance in both 2012 and 2013. In their history, the Ducks have drawn 5,827,818, and averaged 5,953 per date, which is just below 100% of their ballpark's capacity. They've had 627 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 979 dates, including 12 in 2013.
- Somerset (Bridgewater, NJ) had its lowest total since the team's first year in 1999. But they still topped 335,000 for the 15th straight year, and their total of 339,468 was 3rd highest among independent teams. Average per date at Somerset was 5,223 in 2013. The Patriots have averaged over 5,000 per date in all 15 seasons they've played.
- Lancaster had 4 lost dates, and drew a team-low total of 290,165. The Barnstormers had 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 250,000 in each of the past 6 years. But their 2013 total was their lowest since 2007.
- **Southern Maryland drew a team record-high 242,894.** The Blue Crabs, who averaged 3,520 per date, were the only team in the league, besides Bridgeport, to post an increase in total attendance and average per date.
- Camden, NJ has a reputation as an economically depressed city. The Riversharks had the smallest total in the team's 13 year history in 2013, but they still have drawn at least 217,000 every year.
- Bridgeport Bluefish attendance had fallen from 342,857 in 1999 to a record-low 132,139 in 2012. But in 2013, total attendance rose 25,128, and average per date was up 314. Both of those increases led this league, and were 3rd best gains among all independent teams in 2013.
- The league expects to expand to Loudon County, Virginia, near Washington, in 2015.

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 2013, and will have 16 teams in 2014. Some games were played with teams from the Can-Am League in 2013, and that league will become a division of the American Association for 2014.
- 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.
- Total attendance fell 94,207 (4.2%) to 2,150,031. This is down from the record-high of 2012, but is still the 2nd best total in league history. The league had 13 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Average per date fell by 77 to 3,435 from the 2012 league record-high of 3,512. Every team, except Sioux City, drew at least 100,000.
- 5 of the 13 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 teams were up in average per date.
- Winnipeg drew 276,359 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 all 3 years since joining. Winnipeg has topped 270,000 for 14 years in a row. Their 2013 average per date was 5,880, highest among independent teams. Winnipeg has drawn 4,098,343 in 647 dates, averaging 6,334 per date since 2000, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 11 times in the last 14 years.
- **Sioux Falls, South Dakota drew a team record-high of 161,131, and had the 2nd best increase in total attendance among all independent teams, up 30,590.** 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 693 to 3,357 was also 2nd best among all independent teams. Total attendance and average per date in Sioux Falls have more than doubled since 2011.
- El Paso, down 69,892 in total attendance, and down 1,426 in average per date, had the league's largest total attendance decline. The average per date loss was the worst among all independent teams. In 2014, El Paso will have a team in a new ballpark in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League, and this team will move, or not operate.
- Sioux City, Iowa had the lowest total attendance (52,052) in its 21 year team history. The Explorers had reached 100,000 in their first 10 years of operation, but have drawn below that figure for the past 8 seasons.
- Laredo had a decline of 36,790. In 2012, the Lemurs drew 187,845, a record-high for this Texas city in any league. A Mexican League team on the Mexican side of the border in Nuevo Laredo, drew 195,713 in 1987.
- Fargo-Moorhead's attendance has been very stable since 1997. The lowest total was 170,122 in 2007, and the record-high is 193,364, set in 2002. The RedHawks drew 186,091 in 2013.
- St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. The Saints have topped 230,000 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 2015.
- Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, has topped 200,000 in all 11 years of play. They've averaged 5,441 per date during this period, drawing 2,823,843 in 519 dates. The T-Bones have surpassed 244,000 in each of the past 9 seasons, and topped 260,000 in 7 of the last 8 years.
- Amarillo had its lowest total since 2004.
- Lincoln posted its best attendance since 2008.

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 5 teams in 2013. Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers) replaced Worcester. Due to the uneven number of teams, the league played an inter-league schedule with the American Association. In 2014, Newark will not play, and the 4 remaining teams from this league will become the Can-Am Division of the American Association, with a 96 game schedule.
- Total attendance fell 40,332 (8.2%) to 454,366. This was the largest percentage decline of any minor league. The total was the smallest since 1997, when this league was called the Northeast League. There were 7 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012.
- Average per date was down 111 to 1,976.
- All four returning teams had declines in both total attendance and average per date.
- Rockland County drew 143,231 in their 3rd year of operation to lead the league. But their decline of 18,144 in total attendance, and their average per date drop of 309, were the worst in the league.
- Quebec City had led the league in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. In 2013, they averaged 3,008 per date, the best in the league. The decline of 107 in average per date was the smallest in the league. The Capitales have surpassed 138,000 for 13 years in a row, and have topped 110,000 in all 15 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.
- New Jersey had the lowest total in its 16 year history. Jackals' total attendance was down 10,323, which was the smallest decline among the 4 teams that were active in both 2012 and 2013.
- Newark drew a shockingly low total of 21,288, averaging just 453 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 2014, the Bears will not be a member of the Can-Am League.
- In 2013, Trois Rivieres, Quebec replaced Worcester. Attendance was 71,568, up 10,170 from the total in Worcester in 2012. Average per date was 300 higher than in Worcester. Trois Rivieres hosted 3 Can-Am League games in 2011. NAPBL minor league teams had played in Trois Rivieres. The city was 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 Rivieres was in the independent Canadian League in 2003. That league only lasted 2 months.

FREEDOM PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE – (4 Teams 44 game schedule)

- This league played its first season in 2012. It has 4 teams, all in Arizona. No attendance data was reported, but crowds were very small. A total of 78 dates were played in 2013.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – (4 teams, varied schedule up to 76 games)

- The San Rafael Pacifics were the only team to report attendance. They drew 28,318, an average of 691 per date. This was down 3,093 from what they drew in 2012, as members of the now-defunct North American League. Average per date declined by 75.
- The other teams in the league were Hawaii (Hilo) and Maui, both of whom were in the North American League in 2012, and Vallejo.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** (13 teams + a road team -- 96 game schedule)

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

- There was one less team that played home games in 2013. The team that played in London, Ontario for part of 2012 did not operate, and was replaced by a road team. Total attendance fell 7,801 (0.5%) to 1,541,169. That still was the 2nd best attendance ever for this league. The 13 teams that played in both 2013 and 2012 combined to post an increase of 0.9%. Attendance in this league first reached one million in 2003. It has topped 1.4 million for 7 years in a row.
- There were 17 fewer home dates in 2013 than a year earlier. Average attendance per date was 2,439, up 52. The 13 returning teams had a combined decrease of 12 in average per date vs. 2012. Frontier League average per date has been over 2,000 in each of the last 11 years.
- Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, total attendance is up 114.3%, and average per date is up 64.5%.
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance in 2013, and 3 teams posted gains in average per date.
- Traverse City drew 164,915 to lead the league, but it was their lowest total in all 8 years of play.
- Schaumburg, up 21,967, had the best gain in the league, and their average per date rose by 490. That city had topped 200,000 for 11 straight years (1999-2009) as a member of the Northern League.
- **Evansville drew 140,786, the highest attendance there in 19 seasons with an independent team, and also had the league's best increase in average per date, up 573 to a league best 3,200.** In 1972, a Class AAA American Association team there drew the city's record-high of 147,807. 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.
- River City (O'Fallon, MO), down 15,334, had the league's largest decline, and failed to reach 100,000 for the 3rd time in their 15 years in the league.
- The Southern Illinois (Marion) Miners have led this league in attendance in 4 of the 7 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. There was a very small decline in 2013, to 126,084, the lowest total ever.
- **Florence, KY had a team record-high average per date of 2,495, and their 2nd best total ever, missing the record by just 774.**
- Rockford had its lowest total since 2002. Joliet had its lowest total ever, ending an 11 year streak of 100,000+.
- Windy City (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once (2009) in their 15 seasons. In 2013, they had the largest average per date decline (351) in the league.
- Gateway has topped 150,000 for 11 straight years. Washington, PA drew less than 100,000 for the 2nd straight year, after 10 consecutive seasons above that level.
- The Frontier League celebrated 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.
- 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

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE (6 teams – One team only played road games and disbanded after 48 games – Length of schedule for other teams was 80 games)

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

- This league played from 2006 through 2010. In 2013, 4 teams from the disbanded North American League, plus Alexandria, LA and a road team, played in the new United League. Alexandria and the road team did not finish the season.
- Amarillo, now in the American Association, led the old United League in attendance for each of its 5 seasons, drawing over 100,000 each year.
- Total 2013 attendance was 230,269, and average per date was 1,225. Those were the lowest figures ever for the United League. The highest average per date for the league was 2,049 in 2007.
- The 4 teams that played in both 2013 and 2012 drew a combined 222,609, down 85,189 (27.7%). They played a combined 44 fewer dates in 2013 than in 2012. Average per date for these teams was 1,349 in 2013, down 124 from the 1,473 they averaged in 2012.
- 2 of the 4 returning teams had increases in total attendance. Fort Worth had the only average per date gain.
- Fort Worth drew 90,058, averaging 2,251 per date, to lead the league. The Cats had a 32,462 total increase, and a 1,076 average per date increase from 2012. Those were the best gains in each category among all independent league teams. Fort Worth topped 100,000 in 10 straight seasons from 2002 through 2011.
- San Angelo's total attendance decline of 70,257 was the 2nd worst among all independent teams. They had 12 fewer dates in 2013. Their average per date declined by 1,060, which was the 3rd largest decline in the independent leagues. The Colts had the lowest total attendance in their 14 years as an independent team.
- Edinburg drew 48,871, its lowest total ever. They had topped 100,000 in 7 seasons from 2001 through 2011.
- Rio Grande Valley also had its lowest total (38,202) in 18 seasons with an independent league team.
- Alexandria played just 23 dates, drawing 7,663 (333 per date), before disbanding.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE (8 Teams – 70 game schedule, all teams played between 18 and 41 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.
- Las Vegas NM, Taos, and Raton were added, and Las Cruces was dropped in 2013. So the league went from 6 teams in 2012 to 8 teams in 2013.
- Total estimated attendance was 49,586, down 2,764 (5.3%). Estimated average per date was 195, down 62. There were 50 more dates in 2013 than in 2012.
- Santa Fe led the league in total attendance, and average per date, drawing 13,612, an average of 332 per date.
- Roswell had the only increase in total attendance, up 5,538, and in average per date, up 123.
- Trinidad, down 4,453 in total attendance, and 145 in average per date, had the worst declines.
- All 8 teams who played in 2013 will return in 2014, along with new teams in Bisbee and Douglas.

2013 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

| TEAM | 2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | HOME DATES | AVERAGE PER DATE | 2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | # CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012 | BALLPARK OPENED: |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u> | | | | | | |
| Amarillo Sox | 105,798 | 45 | 2,351 | 133,380 | (27,582) | 1957 |
| El Paso Diablos | 111,230 | 49 | 2,270 | 181,122 | (69,892) | 1990 |
| Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks | 186,091 | 48 | 3,877 | 187,438 | (1,347) | 1996 |
| Gary Southshore RailCats | 165,024 | 48 | 3,438 | 159,837 | 5,187 | 2003 |
| Grand Prairie (TX) Airhogs | 111,195 | 48 | 2,317 | 108,236 | 2,959 | 2008 |
| Kansas City (KS) T-Bones | 265,596 | 49 | 5,420 | 260,620 | 4,976 | 2003 |
| Laredo Lemurs | 151,055 | 49 | 3,083 | 187,845 | (36,790) | 2012 |
| Lincoln Saltdogs | 177,982 | 49 | 3,632 | 160,986 | 16,996 | 2001 |
| St. Paul Saints | 239,399 | 49 | 4,886 | 240,616 | (1,217) | 1982 |
| Sioux City (IA) Explorers | 52,052 | 49 | 1,062 | 55,627 | (3,575) | 1993 |
| Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries | 161,131 | 48 | 3,357 | 130,541 | 30,590 | 1964 |
| Wichita (KS) Wingnuts | 147,119 | 48 | 3,065 | 152,727 | (5,608) | 1934 |
| Winnipeg Goldeyes | 276,359 | 47 | 5,880 | 285,263 | (8,904) | 1999 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 2,150,031 | 626 | 3,435 | 2,244,238 | (94,207) | |
| <u>ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u> | | | | | | |
| Bridgeport Bluefish | 157,267 | 67 | 2,347 | 132,139 | 25,128 | 1998 |
| Camden Riversharks | 217,145 | 69 | 3,147 | 231,987 | (14,842) | 2001 |
| Lancaster Barnstormers | 290,165 | 66 | 4,396 | 307,431 | (17,266) | 2005 |
| Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks | 371,186 | 70 | 5,303 | 377,473 | (6,287) | 2000 |
| Somerset (NJ) Patriots | 339,468 | 65 | 5,223 | 350,295 | (10,827) | 1999 |
| S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs | 242,894 | 69 | 3,520 | 229,094 | 13,800 | 2008 |
| Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters | 382,059 | 69 | 5,537 | 465,511 | (83,452) | 2012 |
| York Revolution | 254,370 | 68 | 3,741 | 273,648 | (19,278) | 2007 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 2,254,554 | 543 | 4,152 | 2,367,578 | (113,024) | |
| <u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u> | | | | | | |
| Evansville Otters | 140,786 | 44 | 3,200 | 120,819 | 19,967 | 1915 |
| Florence (KY) Freedom | 112,270 | 45 | 2,495 | 97,382 | 14,888 | 2004 |
| Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies | 162,572 | 51 | 3,188 | 150,745 | 11,827 | 2002 |
| Joliet Slammers | 93,875 | 47 | 1,997 | 104,019 | (10,144) | 2002 |
| Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers | 122,097 | 51 | 2,394 | 127,124 | (5,027) | 2009 |
| Normal (IL) CornBelters | 126,367 | 49 | 2,579 | 119,936 | 6,431 | 2010 |
| River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals | 92,652 | 47 | 1,971 | 107,986 | (15,334) | 1999 |
| Rockford Aviators | 87,612 | 47 | 1,864 | 97,453 | (9,841) | 2005 |
| Schaumburg Boomers | 150,254 | 50 | 3,005 | 128,287 | 21,967 | 1999 |
| Southern IL (Marion) Miners | 126,084 | 49 | 2,573 | 129,936 | (3,852) | 2007 |
| Traverse City Beach Bums | 164,915 | 52 | 3,171 | 175,284 | (10,369) | 2006 |
| Washington (PA) Wild Things | 87,076 | 51 | 1,707 | 81,836 | 5,240 | 2002 |
| Windy City ThunderBolts | 74,609 | 49 | 1,523 | 86,178 | (11,569) | 1999 |
| Frontier Greys (Road Team)* | 0 | 0 | | 21,985 | (21,985) | |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 1,541,169 | 632 | 2,439 | 1,548,970 | (7,801) | |
| * Road team. Played 26 home games as the London Rippers in 2012 and finished the season as a road team. | | | | | | |
| <u>FREEDOM PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is not available</u> | | | | | | |
| Montezuma (Prescott) Federals | N/A | | | ----- | ----- | |
| Copper State (Phx.) Prospectors | N/A | | | ----- | ----- | 1964 |
| Goodyear Centennials | N/A | | | ----- | ----- | 2009 |
| Sonoran (Peoria) Explorers | N/A | | | ----- | ----- | 1994 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | | | | | | |

2013 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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| TEAM | 2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | HOME DATES | AVERAGE PER DATE | 2012 TOTAL ATTENDANCE | # CHANGE 2013 vs. 2012 | BALLPARK OPENED: |
|---|--------------------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| <u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u> | | | | | | |
| Newark Bears | 21,288 | 47 | 453 | 32,056 | (10,768) | 1998 |
| New Jersey Jackals | 76,883 | 45 | 1,709 | 87,206 | (10,323) | 1998 |
| Quebec (City) Capitales | 141,396 | 47 | 3,008 | 152,663 | (11,267) | 1938 |
| Rockland Boulders | 143,231 | 48 | 2,984 | 161,375 | (18,144) | 2011 |
| Trois Rivières Aigles* | 71,568 | 43 | 1,664 | 61,398 | 10,170 | 1938 |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 454,366 | 230 | 1,976 | 494,698 | (40,332) | |
| <i>*Trois Rivières played in Worcester in 2012. This league also plays teams from the American Association.</i> | | | | | | |
| <u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u> | | | | | | |
| Alpine Cowboys | 6,850 | 25 | 274 | 8,520 | (1,670) | 1947 |
| Las Vegas (NM) Train Robbers | 2,204 | 29 | 76 | ----- | ----- | |
| Roswell Invaders | 9,040 | 40 | 226 | 3,502 | 5,538 | |
| Raton Osos | 6,572 | 31 | 212 | ----- | ----- | |
| Santa Fe Fuego | 13,612 | 41 | 332 | 15,552 | (1,940) | |
| Taos Blizzard | 1,548 | 18 | 86 | ----- | ----- | |
| Trinidad Triggers | 6,171 | 33 | 187 | 10,624 | (4,453) | |
| White Sands Pupfish | 3,589 | 37 | 97 | 7,560 | (3,971) | |
| Las Cruces Vaqueros | | | | 6,592 | | |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 49,586 | 254 | 195 | 52,350 | (2,764) | |
| <i>Las Cruces did not operate in 2013. Las Vegas, Taos, and Raton were added.</i> | | | | | | |
| <u>UNITED LEAGUE BASEBALL</u> | | | | | | |
| Alexandria (LA) Aces | 7,660 | 23 | 333 | ----- | ----- | 1934 |
| Edinburg Roadrunners | 48,871 | 42 | 1,164 | 86,947 | (38,076) | 2001 |
| Fort Worth Cats | 90,058 | 40 | 2,251 | 57,596 | 32,462 | 2002 |
| Rio Grande Valley White Wings | 38,202 | 41 | 932 | 47,520 | (9,318) | 1950 |
| San Angelo Colts | 45,478 | 42 | 1,083 | 115,735 | (70,257) | 2000 |
| Texas Thunder (Road Team) | | | | | | |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 230,269 | 188 | 1,225 | 307,798 | (77,529) | |
| <i>Edinburg, Fort Worth, Rio Grande Valley, and San Angelo played in the North American League in 2012.</i> | | | | | | |
| <u>PACIFIC ASSOCIATION</u> | | | | | | |
| Hawaii (Hilo) Stars | N/A | | | 8,820 | | |
| Maui Na Koa Ikaika | N/A | | | 25,010 | | 1973 |
| San Rafael Pacifics | 28,318 | 41 | 691 | 31,411 | (3,093) | |
| Vallejo Admirals | N/A | | | | | |
| LEAGUE TOTAL | 28,318 | 41 | 691 | 65,241 | (36,923) | |
| <i>Hawaii, Maui, and San Rafael played in the North American League in 2012.</i> | | | | | | |
| <u>NORTH AMERICAN LEAGUE</u> - League Disbanded after 2012 | | | | | | |
| Abilene Prairie Dogs | 0 | 0 | | 17,979 | | 1997 |
| McAllen Thunder | 0 | 0 | | 29,082 | | 2003 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | | |
| 8 Independent Leagues in 2013 | 6,708,293 | 2,514 | 2,668 | 7,127,934 | (419,641) | |

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

86 of the 176 current NAPBL teams set their all-time attendance records between 2005 and 2013. 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 2013, 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 2013 are listed in bold. If 2013 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 2013 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 2013 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 | 317,233 | 2013 | 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 | 109,845 | 2013 | 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 | 236,772 | 2013 |
| 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) | 68,757 | 2013 | 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 | Salem-Keiser | 136,836 | 1997 |
| Eugene (a) | 148,282 | 1996 | Spokane (b) | 192,021 | 2007 |
| Everett | 119,396 | 1998 | Tri-City, WA (c) | 86,095 | 2012 |
| Hillsboro (e) | 135,167 | 2013 | Vancouver (d) | 184,042 | 2013 |

(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) – Portland's record-highs are 454,197 in the PCL in 2002, and 249,995 in the Northwest League in 1996.

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 | 271,021 | 2013 | 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 |
|--------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|------|
| Trois Rivieres (d) | 71,568 | 2013 | Quebec City (c) | 164,009 | 2009 |
| Newark (a) | 51,854 | 2011 | Rockland | 161,375 | 2012 |
| New Jersey Jackals | 129,179 | 1999 | Worcester (b) | 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) - Worcester was inactive in 2013.

(d) – Eastern League team drew 119,751 in 1972.

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 |

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT

| Team | Record-High | Year | Team | Record-High | Year |
|---------------|-------------|------|------------|-------------|------|
| Hawaii (Hilo) | 8,820 | 2012 | San Rafael | 31,411 | 2012 |
| Maui | 50,343 | 2010 | Vallejo | N.A. | |

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

| Team | Record-High | Year | Team | Record-High | Year |
|----------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------|
| Evansville (a) | 140,786 | 2013 | River City, MO | 185,333 | 2004 |
| Florence, KY | 112,844 | 2010 | Schaumburg | 236,476 | 1999 |
| Gateway (Sauget, IL) | 217,500 | 2004 | Southern Illinois | 259,392 | 2007 |
| Joliet | 202,755 | 2002 | Traverse City | 206,102 | 2007 |
| Lake Erie (Avon, OH) | 159,580 | 2010 | Washington, PA | 159,857 | 2005 |
| Normal | 132,309 | 2010 | Windy City, IL | 103,129 | 2009 |
| Rockford (b) | 138,234 | 2008 | | | |

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

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

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 | 161,131 | 2013 |
| 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.

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

| Team | Record-High | Year | Team | Record-High | Year |
|--------------------|-------------|------|-------------------|-------------|------|
| Alexandria, LA (a) | 79,278 | 2006 | Rio Grande Valley | 103,535 | 2000 |
| Edinburg | 145,370 | 2004 | San Angelo | 150,770 | 2000 |
| Fort Worth (b) | 185,175 | 2008 | | | |

(a) – Evangeline League team drew 149,899 in 1947.

(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 Vegas, NM | 2,204 | 2013 | Taos | 1,548 | 2013 |
| Roswell | 82,671 | 1950 | Trinidad | 10,624 | 2012 |
| Raton | 6,572 | 2013 | White Sands | 8,800 | 2011 |

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

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2013 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 2013 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 24, 34 and 44 years ago. So the tables look at average attendance per team for each league, in addition to the comparisons of total season attendance.

Figures for Minor Leagues average attendance per date were not available for 1989, 1979, and 1969. No independent leagues were in operation in those years either. The National League didn't count 'no-shows' in its official attendance until 1993, so keep that in mind when comparing Major League figures for 1989, 1979, and 1969.

ONE MORE LOOK AT THE 2013 NUMBERS

The 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission drew 41,553,781, an average of 236,101 per team. Average per date was 4,040. 53 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 6,708,293, an average of 126,572 per team, and an average per date of 2,668. Most independent teams play shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 48,262,074, averaging 210,751 per team, and 3,771 per date. Major League total attendance was 74,028,230, an average of 2,467,608 per team, and 30,515 per date.

2013 COMPARISON WITH 1999

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was underway. Comparing 2013 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were healthy gains.

NAPBL 2013 total attendance was up 18.1% from 1999. Average attendance per date increased 654 (19.3%). There were 176 NAPBL teams in both 2013 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. Total independent leagues attendance was up 37.7% vs. 1999, and their average per date rose 109 (4.3%). Combined 2013 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 20.5% from 1999, and average per date was up 513 (15.7%).

2013 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 18.1% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 6 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 57.5%. The Pioneer League was up 48.1%, the Florida State League had a 50.2% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 44.0%, the Mexican League increased 32.6%, and the Midwest League was up 29.9%. Independent league teams had a combined gain of 14.3%.

But 5 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2013 than they had in 1999. The Appalachian League was down 16.7%, and the Northwest League declined 3.6%. Full-season leagues with decreases were the Southern (down 0.7%), California (down 5.5%), and Eastern Leagues (down 3.2%).

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 451,004 per team in 2013. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,505 in 2013, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,413 per date in 2013, up 472 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,996 per date in 2013, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,513 in 2013, 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 2013 total attendance and average per team was up 5.5% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 30,515 in 2013, up 1,305 (4.5%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2013 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. 2013 NAPBL total attendance was 79.9% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 67.6%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2013 figures, the results are gains of 108.9% in total attendance, and 49.6% in average per team.

The Appalachian League, down 11.6%, is the only league whose 2013 average attendance per team was lower than the 1989 average. Every other league had a gain of at least 37.3%.

3 leagues more than doubled their 2013 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 138.5% higher in 2013 than in 1989. The New York-Penn was up 124.3%, and the Midwest League gained 109.9%. 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 32.7%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest 1989 attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 13 teams reached 500,000 in 2013. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2013, 14 Class AA teams topped 300,000. Durham led full-season Class A in 1989, drawing 272,202. That figure was topped by 13 Class A teams in 2013. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 498,735 in 2013. 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 2013, 17 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. 14 short-season teams did that in 2013, with Brooklyn surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 34.2% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 16.3%. The average per date of 30,515 in 2013 was 3,745 (14.0%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2013 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 2013 total attendance was 172.2% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 119.6%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2013 totals, the result is a 216.1% increase in total attendance, and a 96.0% 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 4 leagues: Carolina – 413.9%; Eastern – 329.3%; Midwest – 323.7%; Northwest – 361.8%. 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 60%, and the Mexican League, which was up 3.8%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 150.9% 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, Indianapolis, Sacramento, and, Lehigh Valley in 2013. 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 drew over 240,000 in 2013.

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. 26 of the 30 Class AA teams topped 200,000 in 2013. 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 2013, 49 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, and 14 short-season teams, drew more than 100,000. Greensboro's Class A leading total of 1979 was topped by 35 full-season Class A teams, and 4 short-season teams in 2013. Eugene drew 66,156 to lead all short-season teams in 1979. 24 of the 40 short-season NAPBL teams drew more than that in 2013.

Major League 2013 total attendance was up 70.0% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 47.3%. Average per date was up 8,575 (39.1%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2013 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2013 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2013 total NAPBL attendance was 316.2% higher, and average per team showed a 250.0% gain. Add the independent teams to the 2013 figures, and the total attendance growth is 383.4%, with average per team up 212.4%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 530.5%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 451.7% gain with 5 current teams each individually drawing better in 2013 than the entire league drew in 1969.

The New York-Penn League had a 380.7% increase, and the Eastern League was up 388.8%. The Carolina League had a gain of 407.2%, the Northwest League was up 384.2%, and the Southern League had a 316.8% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, California, and Pioneer Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 160.9%, the Appalachian League, up 58.8%, and the Mexican League, down 3.4%, were the only leagues whose 2013 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 233.6%.

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 2013, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 64 NAPBL teams, including all teams in the Texas League, and by 4 independent league teams. Honolulu no longer has a team. Rochester (267,987) had the top attendance among U.S. mainland teams.

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. 52 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 23 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2013. 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 171.9% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 117.5%. The 2013 MLB average per date was 30,515, up 15,157 (98.7%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2013 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Reading drew 436,134 in 2013. In 1979, the Eastern League's total attendance was 436,040, and in 1969, that league drew 382,933.)

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

Southern League - Birmingham (1979)

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

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

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

NY-Penn League - Brooklyn (1969)

Northwest League - Spokane, Vancouver, Eugene, Hillsboro (1969)

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2013 vs. 1999

| League | 2013 | | | 1999 | | | % Chg. in Avg./Team 2013 vs. 1999 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Attendance | # Teams | Avg./Team | Attendance | # Teams | Avg./Team | |
| American National | 34,591,267 | 15 | 2,306,084 | 31,816,532 | 14 | 2,272,609 | 1.5 |
| | <u>39,436,963</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>2,629,131</u> | <u>38,322,848</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>2,395,178</u> | <u>9.8</u> |
| MAJORS TOTAL | 74,028,230 | 30 | 2,467,608 | 70,139,380 | 30 | 2,337,979 | 5.5 |
| American Assoc. International Pacific Coast | Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. | | | Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. | | | |
| | 6,766,442 | 14 | 483,317 | 6,437,251 | 14 | 459,804 | 5.1 |
| | <u>6,763,683</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>422,730</u> | <u>5,606,999</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>350,437</u> | 20.6 |
| <i>Class AAA Total</i> | <i>13,530,125</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>451,004</i> | <i>12,044,250</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>401,475</i> | <i>12.3</i> |
| Mexican | 3,812,376 | 16 | 238,274 | 2,875,289 | 16 | 179,706 | 32.6 |
| Eastern Southern Texas | 3,743,582 | 12 | 311,965 | 3,868,732 | 12 | 322,394 | (3.2) |
| | 2,316,591 | 10 | 231,659 | 2,332,712 | 10 | 233,271 | (0.7) |
| | 2,815,133 | 8 | 351,892 | 1,787,915 | 8 | 223,489 | 57.5 |
| California Carolina Florida State | 1,583,488 | 10 | 158,349 | 1,675,245 | 10 | 167,525 | (5.5) |
| | 1,934,740 | 8 | 241,843 | 1,652,256 | 8 | 206,532 | 17.1 |
| | 1,212,184 | 12 | 101,015 | 941,861 | 14 | 67,276 | 50.2 |
| Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn | 4,118,049 | 16 | 257,378 | 2,774,427 | 14 | 198,173 | 29.9 |
| | 2,951,813 | 14 | 210,844 | 2,049,461 | 14 | 146,390 | 44.0 |
| | 1,602,725 | 14 | 114,480 | 1,371,054 | 14 | 97,932 | 16.9 |
| Northwest Appalachian Pioneer | 984,432 | 8 | 123,054 | 1,021,390 | 8 | 127,674 | (3.6) |
| | 275,419 | 10 | 27,542 | 330,517 | 10 | 33,052 | (16.7) |
| | <u>673,124</u> | <u>8</u> | 84,141 | <u>454,362</u> | <u>8</u> | 56,795 | 48.1 |
| NAPBL TOTAL | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 | 35,179,471 | 176 | 199,883 | 18.1 |
| Independent Lgs. | 6,708,293 | 53 | 126,572 | 4,871,797 | 44 | 110,723 | 14.3 |
| GRAND TOTAL | 48,262,074 | 229 | 210,751 | 40,051,268 | 220 | 182,051 | 15.8 |

* 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 - 2013 vs. 1989

| <u>League</u> | <u>2013</u> | | | <u>1989</u> | | | <u>% Chg. in Avg./Team 2013 vs. 1989</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--|
| | <u>Attendance</u> | <u># Teams</u> | <u>Avg./Team</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u># Teams</u> | <u>Avg./Team</u> | |
| American National | 34,591,267 | 15 | 2,306,084 | 29,849,262 | 14 | 2,132,090 | 8.2 |
| | <u>39,436,963</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>2,629,131</u> | <u>25,323,834</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>2,110,320</u> | <u>24.6</u> |
| MAJORS TOTAL | 74,028,230 | 30 | 2,467,608 | 55,173,096 | 26 | 2,122,042 | 16.3 |
| American Assoc. International Pacific Coast | Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. | | | 3,667,142 | 8 | 458,393 | |
| | 6,766,442 | 14 | 483,317 | 2,613,247 | 8 | 326,656 | 48.0 |
| | <u>6,763,683</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>422,730</u> | <u>2,554,417</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>255,442</u> | 65.5 |
| <i>Class AAA Total</i> | <i>13,530,125</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>451,004</i> | <i>8,834,806</i> | <i>26</i> | <i>339,800</i> | <i>32.7</i> |
| Mexican | 3,812,376 | 16 | 238,274 | 1,975,723 | 14 | 141,123 | 68.8 |
| Eastern Southern Texas | 3,743,582 | 12 | 311,965 | 1,272,812 | 8 | 159,102 | 96.1 |
| | 2,316,591 | 10 | 231,659 | 1,687,844 | 10 | 168,784 | 37.3 |
| | 2,815,133 | 8 | 351,892 | 1,511,610 | 8 | 188,951 | 86.2 |
| California Carolina Florida State | 1,583,488 | 10 | 158,349 | 933,883 | 10 | 93,388 | 69.6 |
| | 1,934,740 | 8 | 241,843 | 1,006,738 | 8 | 125,842 | 92.2 |
| | 1,212,184 | 12 | 101,015 | 957,344 | 14 | 68,382 | 47.7 |
| Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn | 4,118,049 | 16 | 257,378 | 1,716,443 | 14 | 122,603 | 109.9 |
| | 2,951,813 | 14 | 210,844 | 1,060,964 | 12 | 88,414 | 138.5 |
| | 1,602,725 | 14 | 114,480 | 714,561 | 14 | 51,040 | 124.3 |
| Northwest Appalachian Pioneer | 984,432 | 8 | 123,054 | 636,187 | 8 | 79,523 | 54.7 |
| | 275,419 | 10 | 27,542 | 311,510 | 10 | 31,151 | (11.6) |
| | <u>673,124</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>84,141</u> | <u>483,168</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>60,396</u> | 39.3 |
| NAPBL TOTAL | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 | 23,103,593 | 164 | 140,876 | 67.6 |
| Independent Lgs. | 6,708,293 | 53 | 126,572 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ----- |
| GRAND TOTAL | 48,262,074 | 229 | 210,751 | 23,103,593 | 164 | 140,876 | 49.6 |

* 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 - 2013 vs. 1979

| League | <u>2013</u> | | | <u>1979</u> | | | % Chg. in Avg./Team <u>2013 vs. 1979</u> |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|---|
| | <u>Attendance</u> | <u># Teams</u> | <u>Avg./Team</u> | <u>Attendance</u> | <u># Teams</u> | <u>Avg./Team</u> | |
| American National | 34,591,267 | 15 | 2,306,084 | 22,371,979 | 14 | 1,597,999 | 44.3 |
| | <u>39,436,963</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>2,629,131</u> | <u>21,178,419</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>1,764,868</u> | <u>49.0</u> |
| MAJORS TOTAL | 74,028,230 | 30 | 2,467,608 | 43,550,398 | 26 | 1,675,015 | 47.3 |
| American Assoc. International Pacific Coast | Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. | | | | | | |
| | 6,766,442 | 14 | 483,317 | 1,296,740 | 8 | 162,093 | |
| | <u>6,763,683</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>422,730</u> | <u>1,616,151</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>202,019</u> | 139.2 |
| | | | | <u>1,761,487</u> | <u>10</u> | <u>176,149</u> | 140.0 |
| <i>Class AAA Total</i> | <i>13,530,125</i> | <i>30</i> | <i>451,004</i> | <i>4,674,378</i> | <i>26</i> | <i>179,784</i> | <i>150.9</i> |
| Mexican | 3,812,376 | 16 | 238,274 | 4,591,286 | 20 | 229,564 | 3.8 |
| Eastern Southern Texas | 3,743,582 | 12 | 311,965 | 436,040 | 6 | 72,673 | 329.3 |
| | 2,316,591 | 10 | 231,659 | 1,482,437 | 10 | 148,244 | 56.3 |
| | 2,815,133 | 8 | 351,892 | 826,207 | 8 | 103,276 | 240.7 |
| California Carolina Florida State | 1,583,488 | 10 | 158,349 | 504,487 | 10 | 50,449 | 213.9 |
| | 1,934,740 | 8 | 241,843 | 282,371 | 6 | 47,062 | 413.9 |
| | 1,212,184 | 12 | 101,015 | 722,258 | 10 | 72,226 | 39.9 |
| Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn | 4,118,049 | 16 | 257,378 | 485,915 | 8 | 60,739 | 323.7 |
| | 2,951,813 | 14 | 210,844 | 347,237 | 6 | 57,873 | 264.3 |
| | 1,602,725 | 14 | 114,480 | 298,538 | 10 | 29,854 | 283.5 |
| Northwest Appalachian Pioneer | 984,432 | 8 | 123,054 | 213,163 | 8 | 26,645 | 361.8 |
| | 275,419 | 10 | 27,542 | 128,735 | 6 | 21,456 | 28.4 |
| | <u>673,124</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>84,141</u> | <u>272,581</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>34,073</u> | <u>146.9</u> |
| NAPBL TOTAL | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 | 15,265,633 | 142 | 107,504 | 119.6 |
| Independent Lgs. | 6,708,293 | 53 | 126,572 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ----- |
| GRAND TOTAL | 48,262,074 | 229 | 210,751 | 15,265,633 | 142 | 107,504 | 96.0 |

* 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 - 2013 vs. 1969

| League | 2013 | | | 1969 | | | % Chg. in Avg./Team 2013 vs. 1969 |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Attendance | # Teams | Avg./Team | Attendance | # Teams | Avg./Team | |
| American National | 34,591,267 | 15 | 2,306,084 | 12,134,745 | 12 | 1,011,229 | 128.0 |
| | <u>39,436,963</u> | <u>15</u> | <u>2,629,131</u> | <u>15,094,946</u> | <u>12</u> | <u>1,257,912</u> | <u>109.0</u> |
| MAJORS TOTAL | 74,028,230 | 30 | 2,467,608 | 27,229,691 | 24 | 1,134,570 | 117.5 |
| American Assoc. International Pacific Coast | Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L. | | | 882,547 | 6 | 147,091 | |
| | 6,766,442 | 14 | 483,317 | 1,035,457 | 8 | 129,432 | 273.4 |
| | <u>6,763,683</u> | <u>16</u> | <u>422,730</u> | <u>1,055,988</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>131,999</u> | 220.3 |
| Class AAA Total | 13,530,125 | 30 | 451,004 | 2,973,992 | 22 | 135,181 | 233.6 |
| Mexican | 3,812,376 | 16 | 238,274 | 1,973,825 | 8 | 246,728 | (3.4) |
| Eastern Southern Texas | 3,743,582 | 12 | 311,965 | 382,933 | 6 | 63,822 | 388.8 |
| | 2,316,591 | 10 | 231,659 | 333,516 | 6 | 55,586 | 316.8 |
| | 2,815,133 | 8 | 351,892 | 828,268 | 8 | 103,534 | 239.9 |
| California Carolina Florida State | 1,583,488 | 10 | 158,349 | 369,217 | 8 | 46,152 | 243.1 |
| | 1,934,740 | 8 | 241,843 | 476,856 | 10 | 47,686 | 407.2 |
| | 1,212,184 | 12 | 101,015 | 464,662 | 12 | 38,722 | 160.9 |
| Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn | 4,118,049 | 16 | 257,378 | 367,420 | 9 | 40,824 | 530.5 |
| | 2,951,813 | 14 | 210,844 | 229,290 | 6 | 38,215 | 451.7 |
| | 1,602,725 | 14 | 114,480 | 190,519 | 8 | 23,815 | 380.7 |
| Northwest Appalachian Pioneer | 984,432 | 8 | 123,054 | 101,658 | 4 | 25,415 | 384.2 |
| | 275,419 | 10 | 27,542 | 138,763 | 8 | 17,345 | 58.8 |
| | <u>673,124</u> | <u>8</u> | <u>84,141</u> | <u>180,625</u> | <u>7</u> | <u>25,804</u> | <u>226.1</u> |
| Northern Mexican Center Mexican Northern Mexican So. East | ----- | ---- | ----- | 128,964 | 6 | 21,494 | ----- |
| | ----- | ---- | ----- | 356,809 | 8 | 44,601 | ----- |
| | ----- | ---- | ----- | 145,244 | 6 | 24,207 | ----- |
| | ----- | ---- | ----- | <u>341,702</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>56,950</u> | ----- |
| NAPBL TOTAL | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 | 9,984,263 | 148 | 67,461 | 250.0 |
| Independent Lgs. | 6,708,293 | 53 | 126,572 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ----- |
| GRAND TOTAL | 48,262,074 | 229 | 210,751 | 9,984,263 | 148 | 67,461 | 212.4 |

* 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 - 2013 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 2013 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 2012 season.

The NHL played a shorter season in 2012-13 due to a lockout, with each team having 24 home games instead of the usual 41. In order to make a valid comparison with other leagues, and with NHL data for other seasons, the 2012-13 NHL attendance in the table below takes the average attendance per game for the 720 games actually played, and pro-rates it to a full 1,230 game season. Actual NHL attendance in 2012-13 was 12,792,707, an average of 17,768 per game. If the league had played a full season, and drew that same average over a full season, the total 2012-13 attendance would have been 21,854,208, so that is the pro-rated figure used.

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

2013 or 2012-13 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2012)

| | 2013 or 2012-13 Total Attendance | Number of Teams | Average Attendance per Team |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--|
| NAPBL Minor League Baseball | 41,553,781 | 176 | 236,101 |
| Major League Baseball | 74,026,905 | 30 | 2,467,564 |
| National Football League (2012) | 16,658,950 | 32 | 520,592 |
| National Basketball Association | 21,320,319 | 30 | 710,677 |
| <i>National Hockey League</i> | <i>21,854,208</i> | 30 | <i>728,474</i> |
| Women's NBA (WNBA) | 1,536,259 | 12 | 128,022 |
| Major League Soccer | 6,005,991 | 19 | 316,105 |
| Minor League Hockey | 12,508,704 | 78 | 160,368 |

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2013 attendance with 1999. NHL figures are based on 2012-13 pro-rated attendance.

2013 (NFL 2012) 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. 2013 in Total Attendance | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Avg. per Team |
|---------------|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| NAPBL Minors | 35,179,471 | 176 | 199,883 | 18.1 | 18.1 |
| MLB | 70,139,380 | 30 | 2,337,979 | 5.5 | 5.5 |
| NFL | 16,206,640 | 31 | 522,795 | 2.8 | (0.4) |
| NBA | 20,058,513 | 29 | 691,673 | 6.3 | 2.7 |
| <i>NHL</i> | <i>18,800,139</i> | <i>28</i> | <i>671,434</i> | <i>16.2</i> | <i>8.5</i> |
| WNBA | 1,956,281 | 12 | 163,023 | (21.5) | (21.5) |
| MLS | 2,742,102 | 12 | 228,509 | 119.0 | 38.3 |
| Minors Hockey | 19,736,526 | 109 | 181,069 | (36.6) | (11.4) |

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2013 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 2013 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.

2013 (NFL 2012) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

| | 1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance | Number of Teams | Average Attendance per Team | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Total Attendance | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Avg. per Team |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| NAPBL Minors | 23,103,593 | 164 | 140,876 | 79.9 | 67.6 |
| MLB | 55,173,096 | 26 | 2,122,042 | 34.2 | 16.3 |
| NFL | 13,625,662 | 28 | 486,631 | 22.3 | 7.0 |
| NBA | 17,368,659 | 27 | 643,284 | 22.8 | 10.5 |
| NHL | 12,579,651 | 21 | 599,031 | 73.7 | 21.6 |

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 2013 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 172.2%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2013 (NFL 2012) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

| | 1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance | Number of Teams | Average Attendance per Team | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Total Attendance | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Avg. per Team |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| NAPBL Minors | 15,265,633 | 142 | 107,504 | 172.2 | 119.6 |
| MLB | 43,550,398 | 26 | 1,675,015 | 70.0 | 47.3 |
| NFL | 13,182,039 | 28 | 470,787 | 26.4 | 10.6 |
| NBA | 9,937,575 | 22 | 451,708 | 114.5 | 57.3 |
| NHL | 10,533,623 | 21 | 501,601 | 107.5 | 45.2 |

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 391.1% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 129.2%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2013 (NFL 2012) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

| | 1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance | Number of Teams | Average Attendance per Team | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Total Attendance | % Chg. vs. 2013 in Avg. per Team |
|--------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| NAPBL Minors | 9,984,263 | 148 | 67,461 | 316.2 | 250.0 |
| MLB | 27,229,691 | 24 | 1,134,570 | 171.9 | 117.5 |
| AFL/NFL | 8,939,500 | 26 | 343,827 | 86.4 | 51.4 |
| NBA/ABA | 6,094,015 | 25 | 243,761 | 249.9 | 191.5 |
| NHL | 5,992,065 | 12 | 499,339 | 264.7 | 45.9 |

SOURCES: Baseball – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2013 Record and Fact Book; Basketball – NBA, WNBA, and ABA Guides, databasebasketball.com; Hockey - NHL Guide and Record Book, Minor League hockey Websites; Major League Soccer

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 2014, will have opened from 1988 to 2014. 94 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 62 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 49 ballparks of independent league teams that operated in 2013, including those in the Freedom Pro Baseball League. 37 of these parks opened since the start of 1988, (34 since 1995, and 25 since 2000), 10 were built prior to 1970, and 2 opened between 1970 and 1987. Overall, 160 minor league ballparks in use in 2013-14 opened since 1988, with 128 of those opening since 1995, and 87 opening since 2000.

Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro opened new parks in 2013. Charlotte, NC and El Paso will move into completely new parks in 2014.

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 2012-13 season, the number of teams was down to 78.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 36.4% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 12,508,704 in 2012-13, with 31 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 253 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,647 in 2012-13, a decline of 5.2%. On the other hand, National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2012-13 reached a record-high 17,768, up 8.5%, compared to 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 2012-13 season, the 30 team American Hockey League drew 6,509,893 to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. The Hershey Bears drew 381,764, an average of 10,046 per game, which was the year's best attendance for any minor league hockey team. (Hershey has never had a Minor League baseball team.) Lake Erie, San Antonio, Chicago, Providence, and Grand Rapids of the AHL 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 7,575 per game, Orlando averaged 6,668, and Toledo drew an average of 6,298. Stockton, CA averaged 5,485. 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 7,583 per game. This was the 11th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game, and they've reached that figure 16 times in the last 22 years. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew 403,596 in 2013, an average of 5,766 per date.

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, averaged 4,963 in 2011-12, and 4,618 per game in 2012-13. But the Blaze, that city's Minor League Baseball team, averaged just 572 per date in 2011, and 637 per date in 2012, the lowest average among all NAPBL teams. Attendance rose to 805 per date in 2013. That city is in desperate need of a new ballpark. Plans for a new park for 2014 or 2015 were cancelled.

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 |

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 2013, there were 15 NAPBL leagues that charged admission to their games. Those leagues had 176 teams. The Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Midwest Leagues had 16 teams each. 8 independent leagues operated, and 53 of their teams reported 2013 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, with a 188 game schedule, drew 3,751,929, an average of 468,991 per team. This average per team compares with the 422,730 per team that the 16 team P.C.L. averaged in 2013, 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 451,004 average in 2013.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In 2013, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 295,844 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 2013, there were 26 NAPBL teams that topped 400,000. An additional 29 NAPBL and 3 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in 2013.

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, MS | 129,140 | Anniston | 40,640 |
| Three I | 782,910 | 8 | 97,864 | Waterloo | 146,421 | Springfield, IL | 48,952 |
| Tri-State | 722,914 | 8 | 90,364 | Spartanburg | 128,490 | Sumter | 55,309 |
| Western Int'l | 793,996 | 8 | 99,250 | Spokane | 186,648 | Bremerton | 35,440 |
| 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, AR | 34,468 |
| East Texas | 423,790 | 8 | 52,974 | Paris | 66,509 | Henderson | 34,500 |
| Evangeline | 545,121 | 8 | 68,140 | Alexandria | 107,597 | Abbeville | 48,780 |
| Middle Atlantic | 471,811 | 8 | 58,976 | Johnstown, PA | 105,776 | New Castle | 28,233 |
| Northern | 661,111 | 8 | 82,639 | Duluth | 107,548 | Grand Forks | 49,757 |
| Pioneer | 830,395 | 8 | 103,799 | Billings | 174,080 | Idaho Falls | 41,195 |
| Sunset | 367,899 | 8 | 45,987 | Porterville | 66,280 | Riverside | 32,450 |
| Western Assoc. | 606,340 | 8 | 75,793 | St. Joseph | 126,301 | Leavenworth | 33,132 |
| W. Texas-New Mex | 674,465 | 8 | 84,308 | Amarillo | 111,487 | Clovis | 47,697 |
| 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, OK | 32,887 |
| Kitty | 293,048 | 8 | 36,631 | Owensboro | 67,700 | Mayfield | 23,244 |
| Longhorn | 426,863 | 8 | 53,358 | San Angelo | 83,245 | Sweetwater | 33,770 |
| Missouri-Ohio Val. | 203,064 | 6 | 33,844 | Paducah | 54,859 | Belleville | 13,500 |
| Mountain State | 229,726 | 8 | 28,716 | Harlan | 49,615 | Newport | 14,148 |
| North Atlantic | 242,021 | 8 | 30,253 | Stroudsburg | 39,890 | Nazareth | 17,716 |
| North Carolina St. | 346,386 | 8 | 43,298 | Hi Point | 95,792 | Landis | 24,806 |
| Ohio - Indiana | 430,790 | 8 | 53,849 | Springfield | 67,568 | Lima | 31,298 |
| P.O.N.Y. | 602,273 | 8 | 75,284 | Hamilton,ONT | 137,340 | Oleon | 40,264 |
| Rio Grande Valley | 271,139 | 6 | 45,190 | Corpus Christi | 97,192 | Robstown | 19,753 |
| Sooner State | 369,439 | 8 | 46,180 | Pauls Valley | 61,085 | Seminole | 33,258 |
| Tobacco State | 353,844 | 8 | 44,231 | Lumberton | 60,038 | Red Springs | 33,303 |
| Virginia | 269,313 | 6 | 44,886 | Petersburg | 76,000 | Lawrenceville | 29,000 |
| Western Carolina | 401,365 | 8 | 50,171 | Newton | 82,481 | Hendersonville | 21,235 |
| Wisconsin State | 628,506 | 8 | 78,563 | Oshkosh | 115,956 | Wisconsin Rap | 52,828 |
| 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 26 straight years through 2013.

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 (renamed the Southern League in 1964) 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 | Jersey City | 61,940 |
| 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. 2013 total attendance was 74,026,905, average 30,514 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).
 2012 NFL attendance was 16,658,950, an average of 65,074 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2012-13 attendance was 21,320,319, an average of 17,348 per game.

NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2012-13 attendance was 12,792,707, an average of 17,768 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 and other devices, 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 18 straight years. In 2013, they drew 413,638 for the regular season, averaging an NCAA record-high 10,885 per date. If post-season play is included, their total attendance was a record-high 473,298, and a record-high average per date of 11,007. The old regular-season record average per date was 10,673 by LSU in 2010. LSU, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi State, South Carolina, and Mississippi each finished in the top 6 in average attendance per date in 2013, 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 2013, attendance data was available for 20 of these leagues. The most successful one, in terms of attendance is the 16 team Northwoods League. That league's 2013 total attendance was 901,261, an average of 1,657 per date. Madison, WI from that league had the best attendance of any collegiate summer league team, drawing a total of 213,833, an average of 6,110 per date. Altogether, 171 teams in the 20 leagues that compiled attendance data drew a total of 3,427,260, an average of 854 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 2013 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 46,291,890. The odds of each league drawing its record-high attendance in the same year are quite small. But that total is only 7.0% 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 55,883,371. This figure is very unlikely to be reached any time soon. Of course not every team would have to set a new record for this total to be reached. Now if you really want to tackle an interesting math question, figure out what's the probability of all 176 teams setting a new record-high attendance in the same season. It might help to know that 6 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2013.