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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2014 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

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2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2014 season. Features include:

- The summary of 2014 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- Attendance notes for each league and for individual teams.
- Listing of 2014 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- Comparing 2014 vs. 2013 total attendance. A table shows attendance increases and decreases for all leagues and teams. It also notes the year current Minor League ballparks opened.
- Listings of teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in total attendance and average attendance per date in 2014.
- The growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets, and in markets that have teams in the N.B.A., N.F.L., and N.H.L.
- A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 45 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.
- Comparing individual team attendance in 2014 with attendance in 2004, 1994, 1984 and 1974.
- 2014 Playoff and All-Star Game attendance.
- Looking back at 1949, when Minor League attendance was a then-record-high 39,640,443. That record was not broken until 1999 (for the combined total of NAPBL and Independent leagues), and 2004, just for NAPBL teams. There were many more teams and leagues in 1949 than now. This section lists attendance for each 1949 league, and also lists the individual teams with the highest and the lowest attendance in each league. It also notes attendance in cities which had Minor League teams in 1949, but now are in the Major Leagues.
- 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.
- Each current Minor League market's record-high season attendance.
- Noting record-high Minor League attendance in cities that later joined the Major Leagues.
- A listing of teams that have drawn at least 500,000 in a season.

NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, AND MEDIA

You can download this report, and the 2014 Major League Baseball Attendance Analysis, in PDF form, at numbertamer.com. Go to the website's 'Baseball Reports' page for the PDF links to each report.

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

SUMMARY OF 2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE**Combined – Major League Affiliated Leagues and Independent Leagues**

- Baseball's Minor Leagues achieved a modest increase in attendance for the 2014 season. This was in part due to fewer games rained out, new teams in Tijuana and El Paso, and a new ballpark in Charlotte.
- Combined regular season attendance for NAPBL – also known as 'Minor League Baseball' (Major League affiliated) leagues, and from those independent leagues who reported regular season attendance, was 48,577,425 in 2014, up 315,351 (0.7%) from 2013. Combined attendance fell 0.3% in 2013, rose 0.7% in 2012, and fell 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009.
- 16 NAPBL teams established new team record-highs in total attendance in 2014, along with the Carolina League, and one independent league team.
- 186 post-season NAPBL games, including the Mexican League, drew 682,590, an average of 3,670 per game. Mexican League teams averaged 8,950 per game in the playoffs. Attendance data was available for 42 independent league post-season games in 4 leagues, and they drew 102,917, an average of 2,450 per game. 10 NAPBL All-Star games drew a combined 63,726. These figures are not included in totals listed previously.
- In 2014, there were 176 NAPBL teams that reported attendance, the same number as in 2013. Attendance was reported by 50 independent league teams, down from 53 teams in 2013, and from 55 teams in 2012. The independent Freedom Pro Baseball League ceased operations after 2013. A 4 team league called the Independent Baseball League played its first season in 2014, but did not report attendance. There were 10 independent teams that didn't report attendance in 2014. Some of them only played road games.
- Attendance was listed for 53 fewer combined NAPBL/independent playing dates in 2014 compared to 2013, mainly due to the elimination of several independent teams. The NAPBL leagues had a combined 62 more dates in 2014 than in 2013. 9 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games had more dates in 2014 than in 2013, and the Texas League played the same number. The Florida State League played 21 more dates than in 2013, the South Atlantic League had 17 more dates, and the short-season Appalachian League had 16 more dates. The biggest decline was by the Carolina League, which had 9 fewer dates. But that league still set all-time total attendance and average per date records.
- Among the more established independent leagues, the American Association had one less team and 60 fewer dates. The Can-Am League dropped Newark and had 51 fewer dates. There were 44 fewer dates played in the United League with 2 fewer teams. The Frontier League had the same number of teams as in 2013, but played 19 fewer dates. The Atlantic League had 5 fewer dates in 2014.
- Weather can also affect attendance significantly even if games are played. Cold weather early in the season, brutal summer heat, and storm threats, can result in lower attendance, even if it does not postpone games.
- Combined NAPBL/independent average attendance per date was 3,811, up 40 from 2013.
- The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 42,411,194, which is a gain of 857,413 (2.1%) from 2013. These 15 leagues averaged 4,099 per date, up 59 from 2013.
- The 50 teams in the 7 independent leagues that reported attendance drew 6,166,231, down 542,062 (8.1%) from 2013. Their average per date fell by 98 to 2,570.
- Combined NAPBL/independent attendance surpassed 40 million for the 16th straight year. It has been above 48 million in each of the last 10 seasons. The 2014 total was the 7th highest ever. The record combined high is 51,576,409 in 2008.
- Among the 221 combined NAPBL/Independent teams that played in the same markets in both 2014 and 2013, 101 teams posted increases in total attendance, while 120 were down. 94 teams had gains in average per date, and 127 had declines.

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

- The total 2014 attendance of 42,411,194 was the 3rd best in NAPBL history. It was the 10th straight year above 40 million. The average per date of 4,099 was also the 3rd best ever. The record high average per date is 4,174 in 2008. Record total attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008.
- A major factor in the increase was the relocation of 2 teams, and a new ballpark in Charlotte. A Mexican League team was relocated to Tijuana from Minatitlan, and posted an increase of 298,658. The Pacific Coast League Tucson Padres became the El Paso Chihuahuas. Their attendance rose 360,920. The Charlotte Knights left their park in Fort Mill, SC, a suburb of Charlotte, and moved into a magnificent new ballpark in the main business area of the City of Charlotte. They led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance, and achieved an increase of 432,881, the best gain of any team.
- These 3 teams had a combined increase of 1,092,459 (189.9%) in total attendance. The other 173 NAPBL teams had a combined decline of 235,046 (0.6%).
- There were 62 more dates played by NAPBL teams in 2014 than in 2013. But the 2014 figure of 10,347 dates is still 58 less than in 2012. U.S./Canadian-based teams had 9,500 dates in 2014, up 63 from 2013, but still 56 less than in 2012.
- 11 NAPBL leagues had gains in total attendance in 2014. The International League had the top total increase, up 255,148 (3.8%). The Pacific Coast League rose 237,975, and the Mexican League was up 185,394. The relocations and new ballparks, noted earlier, were the main reasons for the increases in those leagues.
- Other leagues with gains in total attendance were the Southern, Texas, California, Carolina, Florida State, South Atlantic, Appalachian, and Midwest Leagues. Best percentage gains were by the Appalachian League, up 16.2%, and the Mexican League, up 4.9%.
- **The Carolina League set new highs for total attendance and average per date for the 3rd straight year. Total attendance rose 46,933 (2.4%) to 1,981,673. Average per date was up 154 to 3,811.**
- No other leagues set records for total attendance or average per date. But some of them posted very impressive figures. The International League had its 2nd best total, and 3rd best average per date ever. International League attendance averaged 501,542 per team. Average attendance per team of at least 500,000 had been reached just 5 times previously by any league. The Pacific Coast League topped 7 million for the 7th time in the last 10 years. Mexican League total attendance was 3rd best of all time, and 2nd best since 1979. The Northwest League had its 2nd highest total since 2000.
- The Appalachian League posted its 2nd best total since 1999, and for the first time since that year, 3 of their teams drew over 40,000. California League total and average per date was the highest since 2009. The Florida State League had its 2nd highest total and 3rd best average per date ever.
- Midwest League attendance was 2nd best in league history. Southern League total and average per date was the best since 2008. The Texas League had its 5th best total ever.
- On the down side, The New York-Penn League had its smallest total and average per date since 2000. Pioneer League attendance was its lowest since 2005. They had the biggest decline of any NAPBL league in total attendance (down 50,093, with 5 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013) and percentage (down 7.4%). The Eastern League and the Northwest League had small decreases.
- 8 leagues had increases in average per date, led by a gain of 241 by the Pacific Coast League. The International League was up 228, the Mexican League had an increase of 224, and average per date in the Carolina League rose 154. The Southern, Texas, California, and Appalachian Leagues also posted gains.
- The Pioneer League had the biggest decrease in average per date, down 134. New York-Penn League average per date fell by 91. No other league had an average per date decline of more than 30.
- **All teams in the Northwest League averaged at least 2,255 per date for the 2nd year in a row. These are the only times that every team in a short-season league has averaged at least 2,000 per date.**

SUMMARY OF 2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- **Combined average per date for the 5 full-season Class A leagues was a record-high 3,010, up 14.** The Class AAA leagues had an increase in average per date of 237, Class AA leagues were up a combined 11, short-season leagues were down in average per date by 61, and the Mexican League was up 224.
- **The 60 full-season Class A teams drew a combined record-high total of 11,990,753, an average of 199,846 per team, which is also a new high.**
- Among teams playing in the same markets as in the previous year, 87 NAPBL teams had increases in 2014 total attendance, while also 87 teams were down. 85 teams had gains and 89 suffered declines in 2013. Total attendance rose for 67 teams in 2012, and fell for 104 teams. 87 teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 86 teams had declines. 83 teams had gains in 2010, with 90 teams showing a decline. In 2009, just 57 teams had gains while 114 were down.
- In average attendance per date for 2014, 81 teams were up, while 93 were down. There were 91 teams with average per date increases in 2013, and 83 had declines. In 2012, 65 teams achieved increases, and 106 teams had declines. 96 teams had increases in 2011, while 77 were down. 64 teams had average per date increases in 2010, while 109 were down. 63 teams had gains in 2009. These figures only include teams that played in the same city for both years compared, so for 2014 it excludes Tijuana of the Mexican League, who moved from Minatitlan. It also excludes El Paso of the Pacific Coast League who played in Tucson in 2013, and for the first 4 games of 2014. El Paso had an independent American Association team in 2013.
- **The NAPBL teams that achieved their highest total attendance ever in 2014 were Charlotte, Potomac, Visalia, Clearwater, Lakeland (as a Florida State League team), Durham, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, South Bend, Hillsboro, Colorado Springs, Tennessee, and El Paso. Spokane, Tri-Cities (Troy, NY), and Connecticut (Norwich) set records for a short-season team in those markets.**
- **Charlotte of the International League led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2014. They drew 687,715 (9,686 per date), just nipping Monterrey of the Mexican League, who drew 687,642. The total for Charlotte was the 3rd best ever for an International League team.** In 1998, Buffalo drew 743,463, and in 2005, Pawtucket drew 688,421. Buffalo, from 1988 through 1996, and Louisville, from 1982 through 1984, also drew higher than Charlotte did in 2014. But during those seasons, both Buffalo and Louisville were in the old Class AAA American Association. That league disbanded after the 1997 season, and its teams were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues.
- Charlotte's gain of 432,881 was the 3rd best gain ever for a team moving to a new park in their same market.
- **Clearwater's team record-high of 195,063 was the 2nd best total ever by a Florida State League team.**
- In 2013, the Indianapolis Indians led the Minors in total attendance. In 2014, they set a new attendance high, and had the highest average per date (9,433) of any U.S. team that played in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They also finished 3rd in total attendance and in average per date.
- Monterrey of the Mexican League had the best average per date of any NAPBL team for the 3rd straight year – 11,856 in 2014. The Sultanes led the Minors in total attendance in 2012, drew 590,692 in just 53 dates in 2013, and attracted 687,642 in only 58 dates in 2014.
- Columbus, OH came in 4th in total attendance and 5th in average per date in 2014. The Clippers have led Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 1977, 1979, 1987, and 2009.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) finished 5th in total attendance (614,888) and 4th in average per date (9,042). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity for 51 of 68 dates, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 18 dates. Lehigh Valley is the only team to draw more than 600,000 in each of the last 7 seasons. They've averaged 9,033 per date in an 8,089 seat park in their 7 year history, with an above-seating capacity sellout at 392 of 491 dates, and a total sellout, including all lawn seating and standing room, at 132 dates.
- Sacramento drew 607,839. The River Cats led the Minors in attendance 9 times in the 11 years from 2000 through 2010, and have topped 600,000 in 14 of the last 15 seasons.

SUMMARY OF 2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- Besides the 6 teams noted on the previous page, Class AAA Buffalo, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Durham, El Paso, and Class A Dayton all topped 500,000.
- 58 teams, including 29 of 30 in Class AAA drew more than 300,000 in 2014. Syracuse was the only Class AAA club to draw under 300,000. 54 teams topped 300,000 in 2013, and 55 teams reached that level in 2012.
- 28 teams, from all levels combined, averaged at least 6,000 per date in 2014. 25 teams did it in 2013.
- 26 of the 30 Class AA teams drew at least 200,000. Frisco (449,773) led Class AA for the 10th consecutive season. But 2014 was just the 3rd time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000.
- 26 of 60 full-season Class A teams drew at least 200,000.
- **Dayton drew 573,709, to lead Class A for the 15th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 1,051 games in their 15 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 (including playoff games) by the NBA Portland Trail Blazers, set from 1977 to 1995. The Boston Red Sox exceeded Portland's sellout total in 2012.**
- Brooklyn had the highest attendance (231,628) among short-season teams for the 14th straight year, and was the only short-season team to top 200,000.
- Charlotte, El Paso, and Tijuana, as noted earlier, posted the largest increases in total attendance in 2014. Monterrey, of the Mexican League, up 96,950, had the biggest gain among teams that played in the same ballpark in 2014 as in 2013.
- Akron's team was renamed the Rubber Ducks, and their total attendance rose 55,245, the best increase among Class AA teams. High Desert (Adelanto), up 54,852, posted the largest gain among full-season Class A teams. Johnson City's increase of 14,739 topped all short-season teams.
- Charlotte (up 5,883), Tijuana (up 5,591 from Minatitlan in 2013), El Paso (up 5,083 from Tucson in 2013), had the largest increases in average per date. Akron (up 936), had the best gain in Class AA, and among teams who played in the same park for both 2014 and 2013. High Desert's gain of 744 per date led full-season Class A, Monterrey of the Mexican League was up 711, and Salem of the Carolina League had a 610 per date gain. Birmingham, Tulsa, and Arkansas also saw average per date rise by over 500. Johnson City, TN gained 435, best among all short-season teams.
- El Paso played their first 4 dates in Tucson, as their new park in El Paso was not ready. The 4 dates in Tucson drew a combined 12,060. The 67 dates in El Paso drew a combined 548,937 (8,193 per date).
- Memphis had the biggest 2014 total attendance decline among NAPBL teams, down 116,933, with 5 lost dates. Syracuse also lost 5 dates, and their total attendance fell by 98,001. Carmen dipped 61,048, the worst decline in the Mexican League. Mobile had the largest decline in Class AA, down 43,378 with 7 dates lost due to weather. Bowling Green's dip of 35,951, with 6 lost dates, was worst among full-season Class A teams. Aberdeen, down 39,579, had the largest drop among short-season teams.
- Memphis also had the largest average per-date decline – 1,530. Syracuse was down 1,407. Carmen's average per date fell 1,364. Mobile, down 652 per date, had the worst decline in Class AA. Bowling Green had the worst drop in full-season Class A, down 410, and Aberdeen's loss of 1,099 per date was the biggest for a short-season team. Average per date for Mexico City, Salt Lake, Veracruz, Reading, and Scranton-Wilkes Barre also fell by more than 500.
- Syracuse's total of 247,046 was the lowest among Class AAA teams in 2014. Huntsville, AL had the lowest Class AA total (94,929). That team moves to Biloxi, MS in 2015. Bakersfield drew just 57,057, the lowest among full-season Class A teams. Jamestown, NY had the lowest total (24,246) among short-season teams. The Jammers go to Morgantown, WV in 2015, sharing a new park with West Virginia University.

SUMMARY OF 2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- 8 independent leagues operated in 2014, the same number as in 2013. There were 60 teams in 2014.
- There were few changes among the established independent leagues. The American Association had one less team as El Paso moved from that league to the NAPBL Pacific Coast League. Joplin joins the American Association in 2015. Newark of the Can-Am League did not operate. That league will add teams in Ottawa, and in Sussex County, NJ in 2015. There were no changes in the Atlantic and Frontier Leagues.
- Among other leagues, the Freedom Pro Baseball League disbanded after the 2013 season. None of their teams joined other leagues. In the United League, Alexandria, LA and Edinburg did not operate. There was one team that only played road games. Hawaii and Maui of the Pacific Association didn't play in 2014.
- The Pecos Baseball League increased its roster to 10 teams with the addition of Bisbee and Douglas. A new, 4 team league, named the Independent Baseball League, based in Ohio and Michigan played its first year.
- Attendance was compiled by 50 teams in 2014. 53 independent teams reported attendance in 2013. 55 teams reported attendance in 2012. The figures for the 7 teams that compiled attendance in the 10 team Pecos League were estimates provided by the league office. No attendance was reported by the Independent League. It is assumed that attendance in those leagues not reporting attendance was quite low. One team each in the Pacific Association, and in the Frontier and United Leagues played only road games.
- Total independent leagues reported attendance was 6,166,231 in 2014, down 542,062 (8.1%). That is the lowest combined Independent Leagues total since 2001. Combined average per date fell by 98 to 2,570, which is also the lowest since 2001. There were 115 fewer dates with recorded or estimated attendance among the independent leagues in 2014 than in 2013. It was the smallest number of dates with recorded attendance among independent teams since 2004.
- 6 of the 7 leagues that operated both years had decreases in total attendance. The Pacific Association had a gain of 11,099 (39.2%), but only because 3 teams reported attendance in 2014, while only San Rafael reported attendance in 2013. The Can-Am League posted the only gain in average per date, but the loss was just 1 in the Atlantic League.
- 14 of the 47 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2013 had increases in total attendance in 2014. 13 of those teams posted gains in average per date. 15 of 48 teams showed gains in total attendance in 2013, with 15 up in average per date. 20 of 46 'same market' independent teams had gains in total attendance in 2012, with 17 posting increases in average per date. Just 12 'same market' independent teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 37 were down. 9 of those teams had gains in average per date and 40 had declines. 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 American Association had the largest decline in total attendance among independent leagues, down 264,033 (12.3%) to 1,885,998. Their average per date fell by 103. The league played with one less team than in 2013, and had 60 fewer dates.
- The Atlantic League had the best total and average per date among independent leagues. Their total attendance was 2,233,019, down 21,535 (1.0%). Average per date in this league was 4,151, down 1. In 2012, this league drew 2,367,578, the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. The all-time high average per date for a modern-day independent league is 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- The United League had 2 fewer teams, 44 fewer dates, some serious financial problems, and a decline in total attendance of 124,573 (54.1%). Average per date was down 491, the biggest decline of any Minor League.
- 19 fewer dates were a factor in a 96,847 (6.3%) total attendance decline for the Frontier League. Their average per date fell by 83.

SUMMARY OF 2014 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- The Can-Am League had only 4 teams in 2014 after Newark, which drew very poorly in 2013, disbanded. Can-Am League teams played an interleague schedule with the American Association. Total attendance declined 8.3% due to 51 fewer dates. But average per date rose by 352, the biggest gain of any league.
- 3 teams reported attendance in the Pacific Association in 2014. Only San Rafael listed attendance for 2013. The listed average per date fell from 691 in 2013 to 340 in 2014. But that number is misleading since the teams that didn't report attendance in 2013 probably drew very few fans.
- Pecos Baseball League estimated total attendance was down 17.1% and average per date dropped by 26. 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.
- Sugar Land (near Houston) of the Atlantic League had the highest total attendance among all independent teams for the 3rd straight year, drawing 383,465. In 2012, this team drew 465,511, the highest ever total by a modern independent league team. The previous record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001.
- Winnipeg's average per date of 5,618 was the best among independent teams in 2014. It was the 12th time in the last 15 years that Winnipeg had the highest independent average per date. They also hold the modern 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 per date in 2014.
- Long Island had the top independent attendance for 12 straight years from 2000 through 2011. Long Island, Lancaster, and Somerset were the other independent teams, in addition to Sugar Land, that topped 300,000 in 2014. All teams that topped 300,000 play in the Atlantic League which has a much longer schedule than other independent leagues. Winnipeg (258,429) had the highest total attendance among teams not in the Atlantic League. Southern Maryland, York, Camden, St. Paul, and Kansas City also drew more than 200,000 in 2014.
- Lowest total attendance among American Association, and Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier League teams was 50,746 by Sioux City of the American Association. This team's average per date of 1,057 was also the lowest in these 4 leagues. Grand Prairie was the only other team in these leagues to average under 1,500 per date.
- 12 of the 13 teams that reported attendance among the other independent leagues averaged below 1,000 per date, and for 10 of these teams, average per date was under 400. Many of these teams play in tiny ballparks, some with only a few hundred seats. Fort Worth of the United League (1,160 per date) was the only team in this group of leagues to top 1,000 per date.
- Southern Illinois of the Frontier League, up 21,203, had the best increase among independent teams. York had a 13,325 gain, Lancaster was up 11,770, and Somerset rose by 9,044.
- The worst loss was by Grand Prairie, down 50,448, with 3 fewer dates than in 2013. Fort Worth's attendance fell 29,744, despite playing 12 more dates than in 2013. Evansville declined 29,077, with 7 fewer dates than a year earlier.
- St. Paul had the best increase in average per date, up 393. They get a new ballpark in 2015. Schaumburg had a gain of 207, and Southern Illinois was up 206.
- Fort Worth had the worst 2014 decline in average per date, down 1,091. They had the independent leagues best average per date gain in 2013. Grand Prairie had a decline of 996, and San Angelo was down 700.
- **Trois Rivières 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 2014. 1997-2014 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 2014 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 SOME YEARS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

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

2011-2014 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office each year. Most of their game 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 5 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 2014, starting in early April, and continuing through August 14.

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 2014, the 8 independent leagues that operated were the American Association (100 game schedule), Atlantic League (140 games), Can-Am League (96 games), Frontier League (96 games), Pacific Association (up to 78 games, but fewer for some teams), Pecos Baseball League (60-68 games), the United Baseball League (78 games), and Independent Baseball League (36 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**New Parks and New Cities Lead to an Attendance Increase for Baseball's Minor Leagues in 2014**

- In 2014, combined attendance for all of baseball's minor leagues rose slightly. Major factors in this increase were the move of a Pacific Coast League from Tucson to a brand new park in El Paso, a Mexican League team move from Minatitlan to Tijuana, and a new ballpark in Charlotte. All 3 of these teams posted huge attendance growth. Overall, there were 53 fewer dates played than in 2013, as 3 fewer independent teams recorded attendance.
- **Combined total attendance for all minor leagues rose 315,351 (0.7%) in 2014 to 48,577,425. Average per date was up by 40.** The total attendance figure is the 7th best of all time. The comparison excludes the 2013 Freedom Pro Baseball League, and 2014 Independent Baseball League, which did not report attendance. (It was very low.) In 2013, combined NAPBL/Independent attendance fell 0.3%. It was up 0.7% in 2012, down 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009. But before 2009, there had been 24 straight seasons of increases.
- **Total 2014 attendance for the 15 Major League affiliated (NAPBL) leagues was up 857,413 (2.1%) to 42,411,194, the 3rd highest total ever. Average attendance per date rose by 59 to 4,099, also 3rd best of all time.** 176 teams that charged admission operated both in 2014 and in 2013. Total attendance in these leagues was up 0.7% in 2013, 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 50 teams that reported attendance, drew 6,166,231 in 2014, down 542,062 (8.1%).** 53 teams reported attendance in 2013. Their 2014 average attendance per date was down 98. This excludes the Independent Baseball League, and a team in the Pacific Association. The independent leagues had a 5.9% total attendance drop in 2013, and a 4.4% 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 total attendance fell 0.4% in 2014, declined 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 2014 vs. 2013, NAPBL leagues had a combined 62 more dates. The 160 U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams played a combined total of 63 more dates. Independent leagues had a combined 115 fewer dates with recorded attendance than in 2013.
- Leagues and teams continued to set records in 2014. The Carolina League set record-highs for total attendance and average per date. The Midwest, International, and Florida State Leagues each posted their 2nd best totals ever. 12 individual full-season and 4 short-season NAPBL teams, plus one independent team had their best total attendance in 2014. 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	2014 - 48,577,425
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 UP SLIGHTLY IN 2014

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 73,739,622 in 2014, down 0.4% from 2013. Combined Major League/Minor League attendance in 2014 was 122,317,047. This is up 0.02% from 122,290,304 in 2013. The all-time record-high combined Major/Minor League total attendance is 130,801,908, set in 2007.

NAPBL LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY CLASSIFICATION

By classification, NAPBL teams with the biggest 2014 total attendance gains were: Charlotte (among all AAA teams); Akron (AA); High Desert (full-season A); Connecticut (short-season A); Johnson City (Rookie); Monterrey (Mexican League).

By classification, NAPBL teams with the worst total attendance losses in 2014 were: Memphis (AAA); Mobile (AA); Bowling Green (full-season A); Aberdeen, for the 2nd straight year (short-season A); Idaho Falls (Rookie); Carmen (Mexican).

The above listings do not include independent league teams.

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest total attendance gains and losses for 2014 in both the NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 17. A listing of teams with the biggest gains and losses in average attendance per date is on page 21.

MINOR LEAGUE TELEVISION MARKETS

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,442,270 television households, and 9 Minor league teams in 2014. The biggest TV market without a Minor League team is Phoenix, which ranks #11, and has 1,834,360 TV households. The biggest market with no Major League team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #18. Honolulu, ranked #69, was the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2014. Tucson, market #71, is the largest mainland U.S. market without any pro baseball team. Helena, Montana, ranked #206, with 27,850 households, is the smallest market that has a team. SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen 2014-15 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.

2014 HAD MORE PLAYING DATES FOR NAPBL LEAGUES, BUT FEWER FOR THE INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

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

There were fewer rainouts in 2014 than in 2013, but 3 fewer independent teams that compiled attendance, resulted in a combined 53 fewer playing dates in 2014 compared to 2013. NAPBL leagues had a total of 62 more dates, while independent leagues had 115 fewer dates (excludes the Independent Baseball League, plus 3 teams in the Pecos League, and one Pacific Association team which did not list any attendance figures).

9 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission played more dates in 2014 than in 2013, and the Texas League had no change. The Florida State League played 21 more dates than in 2013, the South Atlantic League had 17 more dates, and the short-season Appalachian League played 16 more dates. There were only 2 lost dates for the whole season in the California League. The biggest decline was by the Carolina League, which had 9 fewer dates, but still set new record-highs for total attendance and average per date. In 2012, NAPBL leagues had the most playing dates since the late 1950's.

Among the more established independent leagues, the American Association had one less team and 60 fewer dates. The Can-Am League lost one team, and played 51 fewer dates. There were 44 fewer dates played in the United League, which had 2 fewer teams. Frontier League teams played 19 fewer dates, and the Atlantic League had 5 fewer dates. Both the Atlantic and Frontier Leagues had the same number of teams in 2014 and 2013.

Individual U.S. NAPBL teams who lost many playing dates due to weather in 2014 were Daytona Beach (12 lost dates), Savannah (10), Brevard County and Quad Cities (9 each), Kannapolis and West Virginia (8 each), Tacoma, Binghamton, Mobile, Potomac, Jupiter, Wisconsin, Hagerstown (7 each), Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Portland ME, Nashville, Montgomery, Arkansas, Carolina, Wilmington, Port Charlotte, Fort Myers, Lakeland, St. Lucie, Bowling Green (6 each). Jamestown, in its final season before moving to Morgantown, WV, lost 6 of its 38 scheduled dates.

OF HOME DATES FOR LEAGUES THAT RECORDED ATTENDANCE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAPBL LEAGUES</u>	<u>NAPBL - EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
2014	10,347	9,500	2,399
2013	10,285	9,437	2,514
2012	10,405	9,556	2,643
2011	10,238	9,534	2,622
2010	10,379	9,591	2,840
2009	10,269	9,431	2,773
2008	10,364	9,532	2,889
2007	10,303	9,455	3,113
2006	10,305	9,472	2,599
2005	10,369	9,503	2,701
2004	10,067	9,378	2,186
2003	10,119	9,256	2,521
2002	10,354	9,486	2,384
2001	10,382	9,424	2,360
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 NAPBL, and most independent leagues, had playoff games in 2014. There were 186 post-season games played by NAPBL teams. These games drew a total of 682,590, an average of 3,670 per date.

Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. In 2014, the Mexican League drew 322,185 for its 36 post-season games, an average of 8,950 per game. All but 4 of these games drew over 5,000. 11 games topped 10,000 in attendance, with a high of 24,999 at Mexico City. All 4 games in the final round topped 14,000. 2014 Mexican League regular season average per date was 4,720. In the 2013 playoffs, there were 7 games in Monterrey, and they drew 131,980, an average of 18,854 per game. 4 of these games drew better than 20,000.

The 150 playoff games for U.S./Canadian teams averaged 2,403 per game, with a top league playoff crowd of 8,269 at Syracuse. The AAA Championship game in Charlotte drew 8,886. Just 13 games drew at least 5,000. Attendance was below 1,000 at 24 games.

Among NAPBL leagues, highest average per game playoff attendance was 4,100 in the International League, and lowest average per game was 604 in the Appalachian League.

Independent league teams drew 102,917 for 42 playoff games, an average of 2,450 per game. These figures exclude the Pecos and Independent Baseball Leagues. The largest crowd was 7,483 at Somerset in the Atlantic League. The Atlantic League playoff games had an average attendance of 4,145, which is higher than any other U.S. league. Lowest independent playoff attendance was 1,334 per game for the Frontier League. Combined NAPBL and independent leagues post-season attendance was 785,507, an average of 3,445 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 2013 playoff attendance in the Mexican League was due in large part to Monterrey, whose ballpark's capacity is around 25,000, going all the way to the finals.

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

Group ticket sales, and promotions and giveaways, which are major components of Minor League attendance, are difficult to plan on short notice. Mexican League 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 2014. They drew a combined 63,726. The top All-Star crowd was 10,274 at the AAA game at Durham, which matched the International League vs. the Pacific Coast League. The Texas League game at Arkansas drew 9,047, the Midwest League game played at West Michigan attracted 7,046, and the New York-Penn League game at Brooklyn drew 7,230. The independent leagues that recorded 2014 All-Star Game attendance were the Atlantic League (7,555 at Sugar Land), The American Association (6,889), and the Frontier League (5,043).

MINOR LEAGUE 2014 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	49,198	12	4,100	0	3	8,269	Syracuse
Pacific Coast	48,670	13	3,744	0	3	5,957	Reno
AAA Championship	8,886	1	8,886	0	1	8,886	Charlotte
Total – Class AAA	106,754	26	4,106	0	7	8,886	Charlotte
Mexican	322,185	36	8,950	0	32	24,999	Mexico City
Eastern	43,541	12	3,628	0	3	5,944	Richmond
Southern	22,822	12	1,902	2	1	5,085	Jacksonville, FL
Texas	34,694	13	2,669	0	0	3,652	Midland
Total – Class AA	101,057	37	2,731	2	4	5,944	Richmond
California	25,812	16	1,613	3	0	4,013	Lancaster
Carolina	15,374	9	1,708	0	0	2,523	Myrtle Beach
Florida State	10,657	8	1,332	2	0	2,321	Fort Myers
Midwest	28,459	17	1,674	6	1	5,210	West Michigan
South Atlantic	18,540	9	2,060	0	0	3,416	Greensboro
Total – Full Sea. A	98,842	59	1,675	11	1	5,210	West Michigan
New York-Penn	19,190	8	2,399	0	0	3,307	Hudson Valley
Northwest	18,108	6	3,018	1	1	5,157	Vancouver
Appalachian	4,833	8	604	8	0	938	Johnson City
Pioneer	11,621	6	1,937	2	0	3,370	Orem
Total – Short Season	53,752	28	1,920	11	1	5,157	Vancouver
Total – Affiliated	682,590	186	3,670	24	45	24,999	Mexico City
INDEPENDENT							
Atlantic	53,888	13	4,145	0	3	7,483	Somerset
Can-Am	11,239	6	1,873	3	0	3,020	Rockland
American Association	23,877	12	1,990	0	0	4,013	Winnipeg
Frontier	12,008	9	1,334	2	4	2,779	Evansville
United	Not available						
Total – Independent	102,917	42	2,450	5	7	7,483	Somerset
Total – All Leagues	785,507	228	3,445	29	52	24,999	Mexico City

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

Only 4 playoff games in the Mexican League drew under 5,000. They were at Quintana Roo (2 games), Monclova, and Carmen. 11 games in the Mexican League drew at least 10,000, and all 4 games in the Finals at Mexico City and at Puebla, drew over 14,000 each.

The California League listed the same attendance (1,478) for both Game 1 and Game 2 of their Finals.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 2013**

In 2014, there was a small increase in the number of teams that achieved gains in attendance. 174 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2014 as they did in 2013. 87 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2014, while 87 teams had declines. This does not include Tijuana of the Mexican League, who played their 2013 home games in Minatitlan, and El Paso, who played in Tucson in 2013. The 2014 figures do include Charlotte of the International League, which moved from the Charlotte suburb of Fort Mill, SC to Midtown section of the City of Charlotte. 2012 figures include Carolina, who moved from the Southern to the Carolina League that year.

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
2014	174	87	87	0
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, fewer NAPBL teams had gains than had declines in 2014. 81 teams were up, while 93 were down. Again, these figures exclude Tijuana and El Paso.

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

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

14 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2013, had increases in total attendance in 2014, while 33 were down. 13 of these independent teams posted gains in average per date. In 2013, there were 15 'same market' independent teams with gains in total attendance. Average per date rose also for 15 teams.

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

SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE

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

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 had 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.

2014 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE**10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2014 vs. 2013 – NAPBL TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2014 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Charlotte, NC	International	687,715	432,881
Monterrey, Mexico	Mexican	687,642	96,950
Akron	Eastern	350,704	55,245
High Desert	California	147,231	54,852
Salem, VA	Carolina	220,782	48,489
Greenville, SC	South Atlantic	346,187	45,785
Birmingham	Southern	437,612	40,792
Tennessee	Southern	283,038	38,054
Durham	International	533,033	34,298
Arkansas	Texas	326,179	32,430

- Birmingham had the largest gain (192,551) in 2013. Monterrey had the top gain in 2012.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2014 vs. 2013 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2014 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Memphis	Pacific Coast	381,429	(116,933)
Syracuse	International	247,046	(98,001)
Carmen	Mexican	209,973	(61,048)
Salt Lake	Pacific Coast	470,565	(60,656)
Puebla	Mexican	240,409	(49,952)
Mobile	Southern	106,297	(43,378)
Reading	Eastern	394,458	(41,676)
Aberdeen	New York-Penn	150,300	(39,579)
Bowling Green	Midwest	180,350	(35,951)
Scranton-Wilkes Barre	International	401,618	(34,221)

- Saltillo of the Mexican League had the biggest decrease in 2013. Mexico City had the worst decline in 2012. Puebla had 9 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013.

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2014 vs. 2013 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2014 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Southern Illinois	Frontier	147,287	21,203
York	Atlantic	267,695	13,325
Lancaster, PA	Atlantic	301,935	11,770
Somerset, NJ	Atlantic	348,512	9,044
St. Paul	American Assn.	248,106	8,707

- Fort Worth had the biggest gain in 2013, up 32,462.

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2014 vs. 2013 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2014 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Grand Prairie, TX	American Assn.	60,747	(50,448)
Fort Worth	United	60,314	(29,744)
Evansville	Frontier	111,709	(29,077)
San Angelo	United	18,008	(27,470)
Long Island	Atlantic	344,543	(26,643)

- Evansville played 7 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013. Sugar Land had the worst drop (83,452) in 2013.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

In 2014, NAPBL teams posted their 3rd highest average attendance per date ever, and their best since 2008. Independent leagues average per date was the lowest since 2001. The combined average per date for all minor leagues was the best since 2008.

2014 average attendance per date rose by 59 for NAPBL leagues, fell by 98 for the independent leagues, and was up by a combined total of 40 for all Minor Leagues. This excludes the Independent Baseball League which drew poorly, but did not compile attendance, and one team in the Pacific Association, and 3 teams in the Pecos League, who 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 – 1992-2014 (record highs in bold)

Year	NAPBL Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
2014	4,099	2,570	3,811
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. 1993 Northern League teams 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 59 to 4,099 in 2014. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- The International, Pacific Coast, Mexican, Carolina, Southern, Texas, California, and Appalachian Leagues all recorded gains, with the Pacific Coast League having the best increase, up 241 per date. The International League was up 228, and the Mexican League, aided by a new team in Tijuana, gained 224.
- The Pioneer League's decline of 134 per date was the only loss greater than 100 among NAPBL leagues.
- The International League averaged 7,269, best of any league. The league's record-high average is 7,348 in 2009.
- **The Carolina League set another new record, averaging 3,811 per date.**
- **The 5 full-season Class A leagues had a combined record-high average per date of 3,010.**
- **Monterrey of the Mexican League averaged 11,856 per date, which was the highest of any team in 2014.** For the Sultanes, it was the 4th 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.
- **Charlotte, helped by their new ballpark, averaged 9,686 per date to lead all United States/Canadian teams.**
- Indianapolis drew an average of 9,433 per date.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) averaged 9,042. The IronPigs averaged 9,153 in 2012, 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010. Those averages were best among U.S. teams in the Minors each year. They averaged 9,016 in 2013.
- Columbus, Buffalo, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, and Dayton were the rest of the 10 teams that averaged 8,000+ per date in 2014. The number of teams averaging above 8,000 was 9 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 11 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 11 in 2009, 13 in 2008, 17 in 2007, 13 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 13 in 2004, 12 in both 2003 and 2002, 11 in 2001, 8 in 2000, and only 4 teams in 1999.
- Syracuse had the lowest average among Class AAA teams in 2014 – 3,743.
- Frisco (6,614), Richmond (6,336), Birmingham (6,252), and Tulsa (6,211) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2014. 3 Class AA teams topped 6,000 per date in 2013, 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 1,460 per date, giving the Stars the lowest Class AA average for the 6th year in a row. This team moves to Biloxi, MS in 2015.
- 9 Class A (including short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2014. 10 teams did it in 2013, 2012, and 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 8,437 per date to lead Class A for the 15th straight year.** Kane County was the other full-season Class A team to average over 6,000 in 2014. 2 full-season Class A teams topped 6,000 per date in 2013 and 2012. 3 teams did it in 2011, 2010, and 2009, and 4 teams reached 6,000 per date in 2008, 2007, and 2006.
- Bakersfield had the lowest average (827) among full-season NAPBL teams. Dunedin, Hagerstown, and Beloit also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- **Brooklyn averaged 6,260 per date, leading short-season teams for the 14th year in a row.** Spokane (5,240) also topped 5,000. Hudson Valley, Lowell, Tri-City (NY-Penn), Aberdeen, and Vancouver were the other short-season teams that averaged more than 4,000 per date in 2014.
- 10 short-season teams (7 of whom play in the Appalachian League, plus Jamestown, Helena, and Batavia), averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date. Princeton (753) had the lowest average in this group.

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

- Charlotte of the Class AAA International League, up 5,883, had the biggest gain in average per date in 2014.
- Akron's increase of 936 was the highest of any Class AA team.
- Monterrey, up 711 per date, had the best increase in the Mexican League.
- High Desert posted gain of 744, best in full-season Class A. They had the worst full-season Class A loss in 2013.
- Johnson City of the Appalachian League achieved an increase of 435, tops in short-season leagues.
- Memphis of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League, down 1,530 per date, had the worst decline of any NAPBL team.
- Carmen had the largest loss in the Mexican League, down 1,364.
- Mobile, down 652, had the steepest decline in Class AA.
- Bowling Green's loss of 410 per date was worst among full-season Class A teams.
- Aberdeen, down 1,099, had the largest drop among short-season teams for the 2nd straight year.

Independent Leagues

- Overall, average attendance per date was down 98 for the independent leagues that recorded attendance. Data for the Independent Baseball League, and for 4 other individual independent teams was not available.
- The Can-Am League, up 352, was the only independent league with an increase in average per date in 2014.
- Atlantic League average per date dropped by just one, to an independent leagues best 4,151. 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.
- The United League, with 2 less teams in 2014, was down 491 per date, the worst decline of any minor league.
- **For the 12th time in the last 15 years, Winnipeg (5,618 in 2014) had the best average per date among independent league teams.** Sugar Land, Long Island, Somerset, St. Paul, and Kansas City were the other independent league teams that exceeded 5,000 per date. 5 independent teams averaged 5,000+ in 2013, 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 7 Pecos League teams that recorded attendance averaged less than 1,000 per date in 2014. But these teams play in very small facilities, and their figures exclude 'no-shows.' 2 teams in the United League drew under 1,000 per date, with San Angelo having the lowest figure – 383. 3 Pacific Association teams also averaged below 1,000.
- 12 teams averaged less than 1,000 per date in 2013, 13 were under 1,000 in 2012, and 8 drew that low in 2011. 3 teams were below 1,000 per date in 2010. In both 2009 and 2008, there were 6 independent league teams that drew under 1,000 per date. 7 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.
- St. Paul, up 393 per date, had the best 2014 increase among independent teams. Schaumburg had a gain of 207, Southern Illinois posted a 206 per date increase, and Rockland was up 198.
- Fort Worth had the largest decline among independent teams, down 1,091 per date. In 2013, they had the best increase among independents. Grand Prairie had a dip of 996, San Angelo declined by 700, and Amarillo fell 448.

2014 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE**10 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2014 vs. 2013 – NAPBL TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2014 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Charlotte, NC	International	9,686	5,883
Akron	Eastern	5,157	936
High Desert	California	2,103	744
Monterrey, Mexico	Mexican	11,856	711
Salem, VA	Carolina	3,345	610
Birmingham	Southern	6,252	583
Arkansas	Texas	5,097	578
Tulsa	Texas	6,211	507
Laguna	Mexican	4,839	496
Durham	International	7,615	490

- Birmingham had the largest increase in average per date (2,665) in 2013, their first year in a new ballpark.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2014 vs. 2013 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2013 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Memphis	Pacific Coast	5,693	(1,530)
Syracuse	International	3,743	(1,407)
Carmen	Mexican	3,750	(1,364)
Mexico City	Mexican	3,946	(1,312)
Aberdeen	New York-Penn	4,175	(1,099)
Salt Lake	Pacific Coast	6,722	(760)
Mobile	Southern	1,687	(652)
Veracruz	Mexican	3,005	(589)
Reading	Eastern	5,801	(520)
Scranton-Wilkes Barre	International	5,906	(503)

- Worst 2013 average per date declines were by Saltillo (1,533—all teams) and Aberdeen (1,172—U.S. teams).

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2014 vs. 2013 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2013 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
St. Paul	American Assn.	5,279	393
Schaumburg	Frontier	3,212	207
Southern Illinois	Frontier	2,779	206
Rockland, NY	Can-Am	3,182	198
York	Atlantic	3,937	196

- In 2013 Fort Worth had the biggest gain among independent teams, up 1,076 per date,

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE– 2014 vs. 2013 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2013 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2013</u>
Fort Worth	United	1,160	(1,091)
Grand Prairie	American Assn.	1,321	(996)
San Angelo	United	383	(700)
Amarillo	American Assn.	1,903	(448)
Laredo	American Assn.	2,651	(432)

- El Paso, then in the American Association, had the largest average per date decline in 2013, down 1,426.

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 2014 compared to the full year 2013 will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2014 or 2013.

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 2014 and 2013. 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 2014 vs. 2013 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 not changed much 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 2014 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. In 2014, 72 NAPBL teams and 25 independent league teams played in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 25 NAPBL and 11 independent teams played in a park that has opened after 2005. This list does not include rebuilt and updated parks, which also help attendance growth. South Bend updated their ballpark for 2012, and their attendance rose from 112,795 in 2011, to 258,836 in 2014.

In 2014, the Mexican League team in Minatitlan relocated to Tijuana. El Paso got a Pacific Coast League team from Tucson. (They did play their first 4 games of 2014 in Tucson.) Charlotte of the International League moved from the suburb of Fort Mill, SC to a new park in Midtown Charlotte. The attendance increase of 432,881 for Charlotte was the 3rd highest ever for a team moving into a same market new ballpark (1988 Buffalo – gain of 650,891, and 2000 Memphis – gain of 462,512, were higher). No independent teams opened a new park in 2014.

Tijuana, El Paso, and Charlotte had a combined 2014 total attendance increase of 189.9%, and an average per date gain of 5,524 vs. what they drew in their former locations in 2013. Combined total attendance fell 0.6%, and average per date declined by 46 for the 173 NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013.

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, "NAPBL 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, 2013, and 2014.

League	2014 City	2014 Attendance	2013 City	2013 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2013
Mexican	Tijuana	419,169	Minatitlan	120,511	298,658
Pacific Coast	El Paso	560,997	Tucson	200,077	360,920
International	Charlotte	687,715	Charlotte	254,834	432,881
Total - Above 3 Teams		1,667,881		575,422	1,092,459
173 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2013 NAPBL Teams		40,743,313		40,978,359	(235,046)

The new ballpark in El Paso was not ready at the start of the 2014 season. So the team played its first 4 home dates in Tucson, where they drew a total of 12,060. The 67 dates in El Paso drew 548,937 (8,193 per date).

ATTENDANCE GROWTH FOR TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS OR NEW BALLPARKS

This section will cover some of the current NAPBL (Major League affiliated) teams that posted some very large attendance gains following a move to a new market or a new ballpark. Attendance for the first season in the new park/market is compared with attendance in the final year in the old park/market.

The period covered in the tables that appear on the next 2 pages will begin with the Columbus Clippers' move to Cooper Stadium in 1977. The Clippers drew 457,251 that year, the highest total by a U.S. based Minor League team since Denver drew 461,419 in 1952. The Clippers moved from Memphis, where they drew 92,973 in 1976. In 1979, Columbus drew 599,544, the best total since San Francisco, then a Minor League city, drew 606,563 in 1948.

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

The list has all the very large increases in attendance due to relocations or new ballparks. But it also includes some increases that were not quite as large, in order to list at least one team from each NAPBL league, and to include a few more listings from the short-season leagues.

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

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

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

The American Association shown in the 'League' column in the table is the Class AAA league that operated through 1997. Teams from that league joined either the International League or the Pacific Coast League in 1998.

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

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

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

Since 2000, there have been 4 teams that moved to a new market or new ballpark that had a decline in attendance. In 2002, a South Atlantic League team moved from Wilmington, NC to Albany, GA just 3 weeks prior to the start of the season due to ballpark problems. Attendance fell 62,523. In 2006, hurricane damage to the park in Cancun, Mexico forced the team to move to Cordoba, and attendance declined by 43,997. In 2010, Eugene of the Northwest League moved to a new park which they share with the University of Oregon, but their attendance dropped by 17,914. In 2012, a P.C.L. team from Portland relocated temporarily to Tucson until a new location could be found. Attendance fell by 52,196. This team ultimately moved to El Paso in 2014.

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

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

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

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

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 2004, 1994, 1984, and 1974

A later part of this report examines Minor League historic attendance growth by league. The section here looks at individual team attendance growth, comparing attendance in 2014 with 2004, 1994, 1984, and 1974. It includes 2014 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different NAPBL classifications in 2004, 1994, 1984 or 1974. Some cities went from being NAPBL markets in 2004, 1994, 1984, and/or 1974, to hosting independent league teams in 2014. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa.

2014 vs. 2004

In 2014, there were 190 Minor League teams (163 NAPBL and 27 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2004 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2004.

80 of those 163 NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2014 than in 2004, while 83 teams had a decline. Norwich, CT and the Portland, OR area (Hillsboro in 2014) had full-season teams in 2004, and short-season teams in 2014. The following 3 markets went from short-season independent leagues in 2004, to full-season NAPBL leagues in 2014, and all had big 2014 vs. 2004 increases: Mississippi (Jackson in 2004 to Pearl in 2014 - up 139,851); Pensacola (up 267,103); Springfield, MO (up 287,769).

Only 7 of the 27 independent league markets with a team in both years drew better in 2014 than in 2004. Wichita had a full-season NAPBL team in 2004, but their 2014 attendance was down only 13,932 vs. 2004.

The 163 NAPBL teams that played in the same market in 2014 as any Minor League team did in 2004 drew 39,219,616 in 2014, up 924,770 (2.4%) from 2004. The 27 independent teams that played in the same market as any 2004 Minor League team drew 3,964,458 in 2014, down 1,021,919 (20.5%) from 2004.

23 of the NAPBL teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2004. Only short-season teams Eugene and Billings, and Class AAA Scranton-Wilkes Barre drew less in 2014 than in 2004. Rockford was the only 2014 independent team who moved to a new park after 2004, and they drew less in 2014 than in 2004.

Class AAA Charlotte, up 422,444, had the biggest gain when comparing 2014 attendance with 2004 for teams that played roughly the same length schedule in both years. El Paso's attendance was 331,682 higher in 2014 than it was in 2004, when they played in the Class AA Texas League. Columbus, OH was up 139,803. Birmingham showed the best growth among teams who were in Class AA for both seasons, up 156,733. Arkansas was up 147,524.

Greenville, SC, up 202,744, had the best gain among full-season Class A teams. Neighboring Class A cities Greensboro, up 168,693, and Winston-Salem, up 165,501, plus Fort Wayne, up 128,624, also had very good growth. All 9 teams just noted have opened new ballparks since 2004. Class AA Pensacola and Springfield, MO had bigger gains vs. 2004 than Arkansas or Birmingham did, but they played in shorter season independent leagues in 2004.

Tri-City (Troy, NY), up 50,674, had the best growth among short-season teams. Monterrey's gain of 287,164 was the best in the Mexican League. Overall, 15 markets which had NAPBL teams in both 2014 and 2004, and 18 markets overall, saw attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10 year period. 13 of these 18 teams play in a park that opened after 2004. Among independent markets, Florence, up 37,289, had the best increase.

Class AAA Memphis' attendance fell 349,136 since 2004, the biggest decline of any team. The 2001 move of the NBA's Grizzlies to this market may be a factor. Akron, down 127,907, had the worst loss among Class AA teams. Full-season Class A Lake County, OH had a 179,642 loss, the worst on that level. Saltillo of the Mexican League was down 169,456, the largest dip in that league. Aberdeen's decline of 78,625 was the biggest for a short-season NAPBL team. 15 NAPBL markets with full-season teams in both years saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2004. Short-season Hillsboro, OR was down 173,946 from what a full-season team in nearby Portland drew in 2004.

Joliet, down 105,258, and River City, down 103,671, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2014 and in 2004.

There were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games in 2004, and the total attendance for those teams was 39,887,755. That was a record-high season attendance at that time. But the NAPBL total attendance has topped the 2004 total every year since then.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 2004 - continued

In 2014, there were also 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 42,411,194. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 226,635 in 2004, and 240,973 in 2014. NAPBL average per date was 3,962 in 2004, and 4,099 in 2014.

Independent league attendance was 6,557,875 in 2004, with 44 teams playing home games. In 2014, the 50 independent teams that played a regular schedule of home games and also provided attendance figures, drew 6,166,231. Average per date was an independent leagues record-high 3,000 in 2004. It was 2,570 in 2014.

It must be noted that in 2004, there were 5 independent leagues in operation (Frontier, Northern, Atlantic, Northeast, and Central), all of them well established. Each of these leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date. These leagues are basically still in operation. The Northern and Central Leagues merged to form the American Association, the Northeast League is today's Can-Am League, and the Frontier and Atlantic Leagues each still operate under the same name. In 2014, there were some fairly new leagues that drew much smaller crowds, thus reducing the combined independent leagues average per date. The 2014 combined average per date from just the American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues was 3,154 per date.

The following 8 teams set record-high attendance figures in 2004 that have not been broken through 2014: Portland, ME; Altoona; Montgomery; Jacksonville, FL; Somerset; Gateway; River City; Winnipeg.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 1994

All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1994. 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.

5 independent leagues were in operation in 1994, and the Frontier League is still active, but with none of the same teams as in 1994. 4 teams from the 1994 Northern League and Amarillo of the 1994 Texas-Louisiana League are now in the American Association, and Rio Grande Valley of the Texas-Louisiana League played in the United League in 2014. The Great Central League only played in 1994, and the North Central League played in 1994, and then disbanded after one month of the 1995 season.

A larger percentage of teams posted increases, and very large increases, when comparing 2014 attendance with 1994 attendance, than when comparing 2014 attendance with 2004. 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 1994.

130 NAPBL teams played in the same geographic market in 2014, as any Minor League team played in during the 1994 season. 76 of those teams had higher attendance in 2014, than a team in the same market in 1994. Attendance fell for 54 teams comparing 2014 with 1994. Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2014 totals. These teams share a ballpark. The comparison is with the 1994 team in West Palm Beach. 4 of the 9 independent markets with a team in both 2014 and 1994 had a gain.

These 130 NAPBL teams drew 31,118,938 in 2014, up 3,524,952 (12.8%) from 27,593,986 in 1994. The 1994 figures exclude the Southern League team in Nashville, but include the Class AAA American Association team in that city. Also excluded is the 1994 attendance for St. Petersburg (2014 vs. 1994 comparison was made for Tampa only), and for San Antonio's independent team. San Antonio's comparison is for the Texas League team only.

Erie, Mobile, and Corpus Christi had independent league teams in 1994 and NAPBL teams in 2014. Laredo, Rockford, and Wichita had NAPBL teams in 1994 and independent league teams in 2014.

Tri-City (Troy), NY in 2014, replacing Albany-Colonie, which operated in 1994, and Vancouver, now play a short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1994. Tri-City, playing 38 home dates in 2014, drew 161,171. In 1994, Albany-Colonie of the full-season Eastern League drew only 115,819 in 64 dates. On the other hand, Mobile drew more fans (125,896) playing in a short-season independent league in 1994, than they drew in the full-season Southern League (106,297) in 2014. Vancouver drew 180,187 in 37 dates in 2014, and 320,863 in 66 dates in 2004.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 1994 - continued

57 of the 130 NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in operation in both 2014 and 1994, play in a ballpark that opened after 1994. 45 of them, including Palm Beach, had better attendance in 2014 than in 1994. The 12 teams with a decline include Jupiter. Syracuse, Scranton, Chattanooga, Birmingham, Omaha, Mobile, Jupiter, Quad Cities, and Campeche are the only full-season NAPBL markets with a ballpark that opened after 1994, whose 2014 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier. 2 of the 3 independent teams in a post-1994 ballpark had an increase.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2014 than in 1994 for 25 teams, with 7 of those teams posting increases of more than 200,000. 21 of the 25 teams posting 100,000+ gains vs. 1994 play in ballparks opened since then. Only Colorado Springs, whose park opened in 1988, and 3 Mexican League teams, including Monterrey, had 100,000+ gains and play in a park that's at least 20 years old.

Monterrey of the Mexican League, up 496,524 since 1994, had the best increase of any team. Class AAA Indianapolis posted the top gain among U.S. teams, up 321,081. Charlotte had a gain of 295,985, and Durham was up 273,275. El Paso, now in Class AAA, drew 233,455 more fans in 2014 than they did as a Class AA team in 1994.

New Britain, up 173,169, had the best increase among teams who played in Class AA in both 2014 and 1994. Corpus Christi was up 301,701 compared to a 1994 independent team. The gain of 174,374 by Charleston, SC was the largest for full-season Class A, followed by Wisconsin (173,850), Fort Wayne (140,045), and Winston-Salem (138,651). Ogden's 2014 attendance was 50,797 higher than in 1994, the best gain for a short-season team. Winnipeg had the best increase among independent teams, up 45,858.

10 teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2014 than in 1994. This includes Vancouver, which had a full-season team 20 years ago, but plays in a short-season league now. Buffalo, which drew 982,493 in 1994, had the largest decline since then, down 447,218. Salt Lake City dipped 242,659. Huntsville, down 202,872, had the steepest decline among Class AA teams. That team moves to Biloxi, MS in 2015.

Rancho Cucamonga's loss of 219,640 was the worst among full-season Class A teams. Boise had the biggest drop (69,431) among teams that played a short-season schedule in both 2014 and in 1994. Yucatan, down 85,537, had the largest dip in the Mexican League. Sioux City, down 89,478, had the top independent decline.

These current teams set season attendance records in 1994 that have not been broken since then: Salt Lake City; Birmingham (with Michael Jordan on the team); Chattanooga; San Antonio; Brevard County; Dunedin; Princeton; Burlington, IA; Quad Cities; Johnson City. In 2014, South Bend broke the record-high it set in 1994.

In 1994 there were 172 NAPBL teams in operation in leagues that charged admission. Total attendance that year was 33,355,199. The total attendance figure is from data published by the office of Minor League Baseball.

NAPBL average attendance per team was a then-record-high 193,926 in 1994. That figure has been topped all years since then except for 1995. Average per NAPBL team was 240,973 in 2014. NAPBL average attendance per date was a then-record-high 3,364 in 1994. Average per date has been higher than that every year after that, except in 1995 and 1996. NAPBL average per date was 4,099 in 2014. Independent average per date for 1994 is not available.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 1984

There were no independent leagues in 1984. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1984. Class AAA was divided into 3 leagues—the International and Pacific Coast Leagues, and the American Association. Teams in the American Association were moved into the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

NAPBL Minor League Baseball attendance is up 141% since 1984. Total attendance rose from 17,580,299 in 1984 to 42,411,194 in 2014. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 114,158 in 1984, and 240,973 in 2014. There were 154 teams that charged admission in 1984, compared to 176 NAPBL teams, and 50 independent league teams that recorded attendance in 2014. An additional 8 independent teams did not provide attendance data in 2014.

In 2014, 96 NAPBL and 2 independent teams played in a market that also had a team in 1984. 79 of the NAPBL teams, and both independent teams, had higher attendance in 2014 than in 1984.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 1984 - continued

The 96 NAPBL markets with teams in both 2014 and 1984 drew 24,066,519 in 2014. This was up 11,208,013 (87.1%) from the total of 12,858,506 that those markets drew in 1984.

Many of the individual team gains were huge. 49 NAPBL teams drew over 100,000 more in 2014 than in 1984. For 24 of the teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 13 of these teams had increases of more than 300,000.

44 NAPBL teams saw their attendance at least double since 1984, while 20 of these markets more than tripled their attendance of 30 years earlier.

Charlotte showed the best increase since 1984, when they played in the Class AA Southern League, – up 564,923. Other 2014 Class AAA markets with big gains vs. 1984 include: Indianapolis (up 437,027); Fresno, which was in the Class A California League in 1984 (381,151); Durham, also in Class A in 1984 (375,924); Toledo (363,068); El Paso (355,801); Albuquerque (340,396); Pawtucket – still in the same ballpark as in 1984 (316,879); Buffalo, which played in the Eastern League in 1984 (311,832); Reno (303,501); Salt Lake City (302,762).

Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1984, achieved a gain of 326,825. That's the highest increase among 2014 Class AA teams. Tulsa was up 279,572. Winston-Salem's gain of 224,373 topped all full-season Class A teams. Wisconsin (195,850), Greensboro (185,524), and Salem (159,159) were other Class A teams with huge increases. Spokane showed the highest increase among short-season teams, up 150,258, a better than 4 fold increase over 1984. Vancouver drew 32,588 more playing a short-season schedule in 2014 than it did with a Class AAA full-season team in 1984. Monterrey's gain of 551,637 was the best among Mexican League teams.

Both Evansville and Wichita drew better as shorter-season independent teams in 2014 than they did in 1984, when they had full-season NAPBL teams.

Yucatan of the Mexican League, down 290,036, had the biggest decline of any team. The worst U.S./Canadian team decrease since 1984 was by Louisville, down 279,622. In 1983, Louisville became the first Minor League team to ever top one million when they drew 1,052,438. They drew 846,878 in 1984.

Nashville was the only other Class AAA team with a decline. Their attendance in 2014 was 48,740 lower than it was 30 years earlier when they were in the Class AA Southern League. From 1979 through 1982, the Sounds topped 500,000, becoming the first Class AA team to ever reach that level. They open a new ballpark in 2015.

No current Class AA team had lower attendance in 2014 than in 1984. Mississippi had the smallest gain, up 92,193. Hagerstown, now in Class A, drew 53,268 fewer fans in 2014 than in 1984, when it was in Class AA. Palm Beach was down 59,884, and Jupiter fell 63,058, from the total attendance achieved by a team that played in nearby West Palm Beach in 1983.

Great Falls, down 14,789, had the biggest decline among teams that had a short-season team in both 2014 and 1984. Hillsboro, near Portland, OR, Tri-City (NY), near Albany, and Burlington, VT had lower attendance than the full-season teams that were in those markets in 1984. Erie had a short-season team in 1984 and a full-season team in 2014.

No current team attendance record-high set in the 1984 season is still active today.

62 of the 96 current NAPBL teams that play in a market that had a team in 1984, have moved into a new ballpark since then. Almost all other ballparks have undergone renovation, and in some cases, a complete rebuilding.

Major League Baseball attendance was 73,739,622 in 2014. It was 73,022,969 in 2004, 50,010,016 in 1994, a season that ended on August 12 due to a work stoppage, and 44,742,863 in 1984. There were 30 teams in 2014 and 2004, 28 teams in 1994, and 26 teams in 1984. Average attendance per date was 30,458 in 2014, 30,401 in 2004, a then-record 31,612 in 1994, and 22,052 in 1984. The National League did not include 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2014 vs. 1974

In 1974, Minor League Baseball attendance had yet to recover from the deep declines of the 1950's. Total attendance had fallen from 39,640,443 in 1949 to 11,622,581 in 1959, a figure that wasn't topped until 1977. The number of teams fell from 448 in 1949 to 152 in 1959. Total attendance would bottom out at 9,732,582 in 1962. The lowest number of teams was 128 in 1964, and the lowest average attendance per team was 66,439 in 1961.

The 136 NAPBL teams that compiled attendance in 1974 drew a total of 10,562,452, an average of 77,665 per team. In 2014, the 176 NAPBL teams drew a total of 42,411,194, an average of 240,973 per team. 50 independent teams that compiled attendance figures drew 6,166,231 in 2014. Total 2014 Minor League attendance for all leagues was 48,577,425, which was a better than 4-fold increase over 1974.

Major League Baseball total attendance was 73,739,622 in 2014, averaging 2,457,987 per team (30 teams), and 30,458 per date. In 1974, the 24 Major League teams drew 30,025,608, averaging 1,251,607 per team, and 16,625 per date.

71 NAPBL teams and 5 independent league teams played in the same markets in 2014 as a Minor League team played in during the 1974 season. Total 2014 attendance for the 71 NAPBL teams was 18,007,241, while in 1974, the 70 teams in those markets drew a combined 6,092,412. The increase was 11,914,829. Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2014 total, and a comparison is made with the 1974 team in West Palm Beach. The comparison excludes a second team in Mexico City, and a Carolina League team in the Norfolk area.

The 5 independent league teams drew a combined 535,097 in 2014, up 32,452 from the 502,645 that teams in those cities drew in 1974. These 5 teams played longer schedules in 1974 as members of full-season NAPBL leagues.

Only 22 of the 112 United States and Canadian teams managed to draw at least 100,000 in 1974. Rochester (269,703), Sacramento (295,831), and 6 Mexican League teams, led by the Mexico City Red Devils (398,122) topped 200,000. 8 of the 24 Class AAA teams failed to reach 100,000. Columbus GA, El Paso, San Antonio, St. Petersburg, West Palm Beach, and a short-season team in Portland OR, were the only teams below Class AAA to top 100,000.

Just 8 markets had lower attendance in 2014 than in 1974. Jupiter, down 36,077, and Palm Beach, down 32,903, each drew less in 2014 than the team in West Palm Beach drew in 1974. These were the only full-season U.S. teams to have a decline. Mexico City's decrease of 181,094 from the 398,122 they drew in 1974, was by far, the largest dip of any team. There was another team in Mexico City in 1974, the Tigers, who drew 253,189.

Auburn, Batavia, and Kingsport, all had very small declines vs. 1974. The decreases by independent teams were by Wichita, down 37,776, and Trois Rivières, down 12,300.

Far more common were huge increases in attendance compared to 1974. 41 teams drew at least 100,000 more than a team in the same market did in 1974. This includes all 2014 Class AAA markets except for Syracuse. Attendance rose by at least 200,000 in 26 markets, and 15 markets achieved a gain of over 300,000.

Indianapolis had the top increase of any team, up an incredible 521,572. Monterrey of the Mexican League posted a 491,809 gain. Toledo was up 451,881, El Paso gained 448,520, and Albuquerque and Salt Lake City also had growth of better than 400,000 among 2014 Class AAA markets. But perhaps the most amazing Class AAA increase was by Pawtucket. Pawsox attendance was up 435,397, and they still play in the same ballpark as in 1974!

Birmingham, up 414,715, had the biggest growth among 2014 Class AA markets. Richmond, which was in the Class AAA International League in 1974, was up 324,468. Reading, which also plays in the same ballpark as they did 40 years ago, had a gain of 320,949.

The increase of 266,463 by Winston-Salem was tops among 2014 Class A teams. Charleston, SC was up 230,064, and Salem, Wisconsin, and Quad Cities each gained over 175,000.

Spokane's gain of 114,251 was the top increase among all 2014 short-season teams. That gain is even more impressive considering that Spokane had a full-season team in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 1974. Billings posted a 75,212 increase. Quebec had the best gain (39,172) among 2014 independent league markets. Amarillo was up 36,143. Both Quebec and Amarillo were full-season Class AA cities in 1974.

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 2014, 58 Minor League teams played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. 3 more teams (Pawtucket, Toledo, and Dayton) are located in non-Major League TV markets, but their ballparks are within about 60 miles of a Major League city. So in 2014, 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 2014, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,655,512. Also in 2014, the 58 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 13,237,424. That was 27.3% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 16.9% 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 2014, the New York TV market had 9 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	2014 Attendance	Notes
Lakewood, NJ	380,573	Led South Atlantic League 12 times from 2001-2014
Brooklyn, NY	231,628	Best short-season attendance each year since 2001
Staten Island, NY	122,442	Record high in 2010. Major decline since then.
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	159,084	Averaging 96.3% of ballpark's capacity since 1994
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	344,543	Top total yearly independent attendance: 2000-2011
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	348,512	Averaged over 5,000/date every year in their history
Bridgeport, CT	150,284	3 rd best total att. gain among independ. teams in 2013
Rockland County, NY	146,383	2014 Can-Am League attendance leader
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	76,423	Very slight decline in 2014
Sussex County, NJ		Returns to the Can-Am League in 2015
New York Market Total	1,959,872	Overall 3.7% decrease in total attendance in 2014

Philadelphia Area Teams	2014 Attendance	Notes
Reading, PA	394,458	Eastern League attendance leader 9 of last 13 years
Wilmington, DE	278,316	Led Carolina Lg. in att. 11 straight years-1998-2008
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	614,888	Minors U.S. best att. in 2011-12. 392 sellouts-2008-14
Trenton, NJ	361,369	AA then-record 14 str. years of 400,000+ ends in 2009
Camden, NJ	214,891	Another small decline in 2014
Philadelphia Market Total	1,863,922	A loss of 2.9% in 2014

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

Boston Area Teams	2014 Attendance	Notes
Pawtucket (Providence TV market)	515,665	Topped 500,000 for 16 straight years through 2014
New Hampshire (Manchester)	340,299	2014 was their 8 th year in a row above 340,000
Lowell, MA	165,129	Up in 2014, 413 game sellout streak ended in 2010
Boston Area Total	1,021,093	Down a combined 2.8% for 2014

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

<u>Los Angeles</u>	5 Minor League teams... Rancho Cucamonga had led the California League for 17 straight years, before a huge decline in 2010... Lake Elsinore has led that league each year since then.
<u>Chicago</u>	5 teams... Kane County topped 400,000 in 20 of the last 21 years, and has been above 500,000 in 6 seasons... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010.
<u>San Francisco</u>	4 teams... San Jose: Last 6 years – the 6 best totals in the team's long history.
<u>Dallas</u>	3 teams... Frisco has led all Class AA teams in attendance for 10 straight years.
<u>Washington</u>	5 teams... Frederick topped the Carolina League in 2012, 2013, and 2014. Their 2014 attendance was the best since 1994. Southern Maryland had a record-high in 2013. Potomac set new record-highs in both 2013 and 2014.
<u>Seattle</u>	2 teams... Tacoma set record-high in its newly rebuilt ballpark in 2011. 2014 lowest since 2002.
<u>Tampa</u>	5 teams... In 2014, Clearwater had the highest attendance of any Florida State League team since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 8 th time in the last 9 years.
<u>Minneapolis</u>	1 team... St. Paul has sold out many games since 1993. They open a new ballpark in 2015.
<u>Cleveland</u>	3 teams... Akron has led the Eastern League 6 times since 1997, and is one of only 6 Class AA teams to ever top 500,000. 2014 attendance was up 55,245, the best gain in Class AA.
<u>St. Louis</u>	2 teams... Gateway set the Frontier League record in 2004 (broken by Southern Illinois in 2007).
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	1 team... Washington, PA has sold out many games in its history, but is down in recent years.
<u>Baltimore</u>	1 team... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, but is down 94,674 since 2012.
<u>Atlanta</u>	2 teams... Gwinnett County had its lowest attendance in 2014. Rome – 2 nd lowest ever.
<u>Kansas City</u>	1 team... Kansas City (KS) has topped 200,000 in all 13 years of operation.
<u>Detroit</u>	1 team... Toledo (a separate TV market) is about 60 miles from Detroit, and the Mud Hens have surpassed 500,000 for 13 straight years
<u>Houston</u>	1 team... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest attendance ever by a modern day independent league team. Also led all independent teams in attendance in 2013 and 2014.
<u>Cincinnati</u>	2 teams... Dayton (a separate TV market) has topped 570,000 in all 15 years of operation, has a North American pro sports record of 1,051 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, Phoenix, Denver, and Toronto markets that did not have Minor League teams in 2014.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN MARKETS WITH AN NFL, NBA, OR NHL TEAM, BUT NO MLB TEAM – Includes Independent League Teams

There are 20 television markets that have both Major League and Minor League Baseball. There are also 19 Minor League Baseball markets that don't have a Major League Baseball team, but do have a National Football League, National Basketball Association, or National Hockey League team. Despite the NFL, NBA, or NHL competition for sports dollars in these markets, many of their Minor League Baseball teams draw quite well. The 21 Minor League Baseball teams in these markets drew a combined 7,507,427 in 2014.

<u>TV Market</u>	<u>NFL, NBA, or NHL Teams</u>	<u>Minor League Baseball in That Market</u>
<u>Buffalo</u>	NFL-Bills, NHL-Sabres	Topped 500,000 each year since 1988. Reached one million 6 times. Holds the record for highest Minor League season attendance.
<u>Charlotte</u>	NFL-Panthers, NBA-Hornets	I.L. Knights moved to a new park in 2014. Led Minors in attendance, and had the largest increase of any team. Also, Class A Kannapolis.
<u>Raleigh-Durham</u>	NHL-Carolina Hurricanes	AAA Durham drew a record-high 533,033 in 2014, and topped 500,000 8 times since 2001. Class A Carolina tops 200,000 in last 24 years.
<u>Columbus</u>	NHL-Blue Jackets	Drawn 500,000 in 28 seasons, which is more often than any team except Louisville. Has surpassed 600,000 in 5 of the last 6 years.
<u>Indianapolis</u>	NHL-Colts, NBA-Pacers	Record-high in 2014. Has topped 535,000 for 19 straight seasons.
<u>Memphis</u>	NBA- Grizzlies	Attendance has declined from 887,976 in 2001 to 381,429 in 2014.
<u>Nashville</u>	NFL-Titans, NHL-Predators	In 1979, Nashville was first AA team to top 500,000. But it has not reached this level since 1990. New ballpark in 2015.
<u>New Orleans</u>	NFL-Saints, NBA-Pelicans	Have surpassed pre-Katrina 2004 total each year since 2006.
<u>Okla. City</u>	NBA-Thunder	2014 team had its highest attendance since 2008.
<u>Sacramento</u>	NBA-Kings	Top Minors total attendance 9 times from 2000-2010. Have drawn at least 600,000 in 14 of 15 seasons.
<u>Salt Lake C.</u>	NBA-Jazz	Have topped 430,000 in all 21 years of Class AAA operation.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	NFL-Jaguars	Attendance surpassed 290,000 in each of the last 12 years.
<u>Green Bay</u>	NFL-Packers	Class A Wisconsin (Appleton) had its 2 nd best attendance ever in 2014.
<u>San Antonio</u>	NBA-Spurs	Been above 270,000 every season since 1994.
<u>Orlando</u>	NBA-Magic	Daytona tops 100,000 for 11 straight years. Clearwater is the only other Florida State League team to do this.
<u>Portland, OR</u>	NBA-Trail Blazers	Short-season Hillsboro drew a record-high in 2014. Portland had been in the Pacific Coast League for nearly all of the 20 th Century.
<u>Vancouver</u>	NHL-Canucks	Set a short-season record-high for this market in 2013.
<u>Winnipeg</u>	NHL-Jets	Best independent average per date 12 times in last 15 years. Has topped 250,000 for 15 straight seasons.
<u>Ottawa</u>	NHL-Senators	Will have a Can-Am League team in 2015. International League team's attendance fell from 663,926 in 1993 to 126,894 in 2007.

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 2014 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.

There will be some changes to this listing in 2015. Oakland's Class AAA affiliate will change from Sacramento to Nashville, while the Giants switch their Class AAA affiliation from Fresno to Sacramento. Kane County will be an Arizona farm club, while the Cubs will affiliate with South Bend. Colorado Springs will be the Brewers' AAA team. Pittsburgh's Short-A team gets closer to them, moving from Jamestown, NY to West Virginia University in Morgantown.

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: Major League Baseball 2014 team Media Guides

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	138	78,470	2013	41,553,781	176	236,101
1974	10,562,452	136	77,665	2014	42,411,194	176	240,973
1975	11,021,848	130	84,783				
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.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table on the previous page notes the annual average attendance per team since 1946 for all NAPBL leagues combined. The presence of so many teams in small markets is why the overall average per team was not higher in the late 1940's. Many of these small-market leagues and teams disbanded in the early 1950's as television and other factors severely cut Minor League attendance. The average per team was less than 80,000 from 1950 through 1971, and again in 1973 and 1974. In 1979, the average per team reached 100,000 for the first time since 1946. It initially surpassed 150,000 in 1990, and 200,000 in 1997. Average attendance per team has topped 200,000 each year since 2000, with a high of 245,817 in 2008. The 2014 average per team of 240,973 was the 3rd best ever.

The individual NAPBL league summaries, which appear later in this report, note each league's average attendance per team history. This is also noted for the 4 well-established independent leagues.

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

CLASS AAA

2014 Class AAA average per team was 467,442. Class AAA average attendance per team first reached 200,000 in 1924. It hit a pre-1945 high of 214,231 in 1928. The Great Depression caused a big decline in Minor League attendance. The Class AAA average fell to a low of 115,640 in 1934.

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

The average rose above 200,000 each year from 1981 through 1987. In 1988, it topped 300,000 for the first time since 1949. It first reached 400,000 per team in 1993, and has been above that level each year since then except for 1996 and 1997. The average has topped 450,000 per team in the last 10 seasons with a high of 477,226 in 2008.

CLASS AA

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

The Class AA average per team first reached 300,000 in 2004, and has now hit this level 6 times, with a high of 312,035 in 2008. The average has been above 290,000 in each of the last 12 seasons, and was 297,152 in 2014.

FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Full-season Class A drew an average of less than 50,000 per team from 1963 through 1975, with a low of 40,785 in 1967. 1990 was the first time that this average topped 100,000, and it has been above 150,000 per team every year since 1995. **Full-season Class A average attendance per team was a record-high 199,846 in 2014.**

SHORT-SEASON CLASS A AND ROOKIE LEAGUES

Average attendance per team for the short-season Class A leagues and the Rookie Leagues combined was under 40,000 from 1963 through 1984. The low was 21,310 in 1968. From 1966 through 1979, there were 11 seasons where this average per team was below 30,000. The average first topped 50,000 per team in 1989, and has been above it ever since. It reached 74,000 in 1995, and has topped 80,000 in each of the last 14 seasons. The high was 96,758 in 2007. It was 87,121 in 2014.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2014

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 – 1940-2014

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
2014	Charlotte	687,715	Brooklyn	231,628

* 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.

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB

Attendance of at least 500,000 in a season has become quite common in the Minor Leagues. It's happened 227 times since 2000. 15 teams did it in 2014. But it is still a very significant achievement. 38 current markets (including Ottawa, which gets a new independent team in 2015), and 7 former teams have done it at least once. No independent league team has ever drawn 500,000. The first time Minor League teams reached 500,000 was in 1946 when the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, and the San Francisco Seals, Hollywood Stars, Oakland Oaks, and Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League did it. P.C.L. teams played as many as 186 games that year.

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

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

Louisville has drawn 500,000 in 29 seasons, which is the most by any team. Buffalo's current streak of 27 years in a row above the half-million mark is the longest. Overall, there have been 339 'Half-Million' seasons achieved by Minor League teams through 2014. Nashville, in 1979, was the first Class AA team to reach 500,000, and West Michigan, in 1995, was the first Class A team to do it.

The first table below, and continuing on the next page, is a year by year listing of the teams that topped 500,000 from 1946 through 2014. In 1983, Louisville became the first team to top one million. Buffalo drew better than one million each year from 1988 through 1993. No other Minor League team has drawn one million.

TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1946-1994

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

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1995-2014

Year	# of Teams	Teams that Drew at Least 500,000
1995	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Norfolk, Richmond, Columbus, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1996	7	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Norfolk, Salt Lake City, West Michigan, Lansing
1997	10	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Norfolk, New Orleans, Rochester, Columbus, Richmond, Salt Lake City, West Michigan, Lansing
1998	9	Buffalo, Rochester, Richmond, Indianapolis, Monterrey, New Orleans, Akron, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1999	6	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Richmond, Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Akron
2000	10	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Indianapolis, Louisville, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Saltillo, Sacramento, Round Rock, Dayton
2001	14	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Louisville, Columbus, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Dayton, Monterrey, Yucatan, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock, Kane County IL
2002	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Norfolk, Toledo, Louisville, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Iowa, Sacramento, Fresno, Memphis, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County
2003	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Monterrey, Saltillo, Memphis, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Fresno, Round Rock, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2004	16	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Tijuana, Sacramento, Iowa, Memphis, Fresno, Frisco, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County, Albuquerque
2005	20	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Norfolk, Durham, Toledo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Louisville, Saltillo, Memphis, Iowa, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Springfield MO, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2006	19	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Toledo, Columbus, Saltillo, Monterrey, Iowa, Memphis, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2007	18	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pawtucket, Albuquerque, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Toledo, Fresno, Iowa, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton, Saltillo
2008	17	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), Toledo, Columbus, Durham, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Fresno, Monterrey, Frisco, Dayton
2009	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton,
2010	15	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Albuquerque, Toledo, Pawtucket, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Frisco, Dayton
2011	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton
2012	14	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Dayton, Monterrey
2013	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Dayton, Monterrey
2014	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

The next 2 tables show which markets have drawn at least 500,000 in a season, and how often they've done it. The first table covers 38 markets that currently have a Minor League team that has drawn 500,000. The second table lists the 7 former Minor League markets that have reached this level.

CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE MARKETS THAT HAVE DRAWN 500,000 IN A SEASON THROUGH 2014

Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.		Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Louisville	29		Richmond	6
Columbus, Ohio	28		Kane County, IL	6
Buffalo	27		Scranton-Wilkes Barre	5
Indianapolis	19		Fresno	5
Pawtucket	16		Nashville	5
Dayton	15		West Michigan	4
Round Rock	15		Yucatan, Mexico	3
Sacramento	15		Oklahoma City	3
Toledo	13		Akron	2
Albuquerque	12		Rochester, NY	2
Salt Lake City	11		Lansing	2
Memphis	9		New Orleans	2
Iowa (Des Moines)	9		Corpus Christi	2
Frisco	9		Ottawa (Indy team - 2015)	2
Saltillo, Mexico	8		Mexico City Red Devils	1
Monterrey, Mexico	8		Tijuana, Mexico	1
Durham	8		El Paso	1
Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	7		Springfield, MO	1
Norfolk	7		Charlotte, NC	1

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

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

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

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH ATTENDANCE ABOVE 500,000

Team	# Seasons	Years	Team	# Seasons	Years
Buffalo	27	1988-2014	Louisville	14	1982-1995
Indianapolis	19	1996-2014	Toledo	13	2002-2014
Pawtucket	16	1999-2014	Albuquerque	12	2003-2014
Louisville	15	2000-2014	Columbus	10	2005-2014
Dayton	15	2000-2014			
			Frisco	9	2003-2011
Round Rock	15	2000-2014	Memphis	9	2000-2008
Sacramento	15	2000-2014	Saltillo	8	2000-2007
Columbus	14	1984-1997	Lehigh Valley	7	2008-2014

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE TEAMS HIGH ATTENDANCE SEASONS

The following table is a yearly listing of independent league teams that have drawn at least 200,000 in a season, or for Atlantic league teams, have drawn 300,000. The distinction is made because the Atlantic League plays a longer season (around 70 home dates) than any other independent league. Atlantic League teams in this table are displayed in *italics*. Teams from other independent leagues shown in this table play around 50 home dates per year.

INDEPENDENT TEAMS DRAWING 200,000+ IN A SEASON, ATLANTIC LEAGUE-300,000+ – 1994-2014

Year	# of Teams	Independent Teams that Drew 200,000+ (300,000 - Atlantic League in italics)
1994	2	St. Paul, Winnipeg
1995	1	St. Paul
1996	1	St. Paul
1997	1	St. Paul
1998	1	St. Paul
1999	5	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, <i>Bridgeport, Somerset NJ</i>
2000	7	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Ozark Mountain, <i>Long Island, Bridgeport, Somerset</i>
2001	6	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, <i>Long Island, Somerset</i>
2002	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Camden</i>
2003	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City KS, <i>Long Island, Camden, Somerset</i>
2004	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Brockton, Gateway, <i>Long Island, Somerset</i>
2005	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster PA</i>
2006	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Joliet, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2007	10	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, El Paso, Traverse City, Southern Illinois, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2008	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster, York</i>
2009	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, El Paso, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2010	8	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2011	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2012	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster, Sugar Land</i>
2013	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2014	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land, Lancaster</i>

SHORT-SEASON NAPBL TEAMS THAT HAVE DRAWN AT LEAST 150,000

Short-season NAPBL teams are scheduled for 32-38 dates per year. Most play in fairly small ballparks, so attendance of 150,000 in a season is significant. There are some teams whose ballpark capacity is so small that they couldn't draw 75,000 even if they sold every ticket to every game.

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

SHORT-SEASON TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 150,000 IN A SEASON – 1987-2014

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

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total NAPBL attendance rose 2.1% in 2014, the 3rd straight year with an increase. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 33 times in the last 40 years.**
- **The 2014 total attendance of 42,411,194, the average per date of 4,099, and the average per team of 240,973, were each the 3rd best in NAPBL Minor League history.**

Major League Baseball attendance has gone up vs. the previous season in 24 of the past 40 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 2014, there were 176 teams in the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 14 seasons have seen 14 of the 15 highest totals in the 113 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 1975. During those years, attendance was basically flat – ranging from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 11,134,084 in 1971. Among the causes of the huge drop 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.
- 2014 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 240,973. The record-high average per team is 245,817, set in 2008. Back in 1949, the 448 teams averaged 88,483 (NAPBL figure. 1950 Sporting News Guide figure is 88,582). By 1961, average attendance per team had fallen to 66,439.
- 11 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2014. **The Carolina League set a new record for total attendance for the 3rd year in a row, and had a 2.4% increase.** The Appalachian League was up 16.2%. Mexican League attendance rose 4.9%, the California League was up 4.0%, the International League had 3.8% growth, and the Pacific Coast League went up 3.5%. Also achieving gains were the Southern, Texas, Florida State, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues. 6 leagues increased their total attendance in 2013, 5 were up 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.
- The International League had the best numerical total increase, up 255,148, and posted its 2nd best total and 3rd best average per date ever. The Pacific Coast League gained 237,975, topping 7 million for the 7th time in the last 10 years. Mexican League attendance was up 185,394 to its 3rd best total of all time. In each of these leagues, a team relocated and/or moved into a new ballpark, and had a huge increase in attendance. The Florida State League posted its 2nd highest total and 3rd best average per date ever.
- 4 NAPBL leagues had losses in total attendance. The Pioneer League had the biggest total decline (50,093), and percentage loss (7.4%). The New York-Penn League dipped 42,779 (2.7%). Other decreases were by the Eastern League, down 1.0%, and the Northwest League, down 0.3%.
- 8 leagues had gains in average per date, led by the Pacific Coast League, up 241, and the International League, up 228. The Mexican League was up 224. **The Carolina League's average per date rose by 154 to a record-high 3,811. Combined average per date for the 5 full-season Class A leagues was a record-high 3,010.**
- The biggest declines in average per date were by the Pioneer League, down 134, the New York-Penn League, down 91, and the Northwest League, down 30. In 2013, there were also 8 leagues with increases in average per date. 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 2014 vs. 2013 for each NAPBL team and league can be found starting on page 71. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 85.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2014 SEASON - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- 6 teams topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2014. 4 teams in 2013 and 3 teams in 2012 reached that level. 4 teams reached 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. At least one team each year drew over 600,000 since 1982, except for 1987.
- 15 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2014. The number of teams over 500,000 was 13 in 2013, 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.
- **Charlotte of the International League moved into a new ballpark and drew 687,715 in 2014 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance.**
- Monterrey of the Mexican League finished a close 2nd in total attendance (687,642), and led in average per date.
- Indianapolis drew a team record-high 660,289. Lehigh Valley, which topped U.S./Canadian teams in both 2011 and 2012, attracted 614,888 in 2014.
- Columbus drew 628,980. Sacramento reached 607,839. 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 595,700 in its 10th AAA season, after setting both a Class AA and Texas League record for 5 consecutive years. The Express have drawn over 618,000 each year since 2000, except 2010, and 2012-2014.
- Frisco led Class AA for the 10th straight year. But their 449,773 total was the lowest in their 12 year history.
- Dayton (Midwest) has sold out all 1,051 home dates they've played, a sellout streak that is the longest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 573,709 in 2014 to lead Class A for the 15th year in a row.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have led all short-season teams in each season of their 14 year history.
- 14 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 in 2014. 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.
- 11 full-season teams drew under 100,000 in 2014. 6 of these teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 11 in 2013 and 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. 49 full-season teams drew under 100,000 in 1985.
- Syracuse (247,046) was the only Class AAA team to draw under 300,000. 2009 was the only year that every Class AAA team drew at least 300,000. The last Class AAA team to draw under 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.
- Huntsville of the Southern League had the lowest AA attendance (94,929). They move to Biloxi, MS in 2015. Mobile, Jackson TN, and Binghamton, NY were the other Class AA teams that drew less than 200,000.
- Bakersfield had the lowest attendance among full-season teams, drawing just 57,057.
- Jamestown, NY of the Class A New York Penn League drew 24,246 for the lowest short-season attendance. This team moves to Morgantown, WV in 2015.

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.)

- The International League had one of its best attendance years ever, due in large part to Charlotte's new ballpark. Total attendance rose 255,148 (3.8%) to 7,021,590, the 2nd best total in league history. The I.L. had the best total gain of any league. The league has topped 6.3 million in each of the last 17 years.
- Average per date was up 228 to 7,269, which was the 3rd highest average per date in this league's history. 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. The I.L. averaged 7,313 per date in 2008. There were 5 more dates played in 2014 than in 2013.
- The average attendance per team was 501,542, 2nd best in league history. A league has averaged at least 500,000 per team only 5 other times. The International League also did it in 2008 and 2009. The American Association topped 500,000 per team in 1991 and 1992, when Buffalo drew more than one million each season. The Pacific Coast League's 8 teams averaged above 500,000 per team in 1947, when the league had a longer schedule (186 games) than now, with teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, and Seattle.
- 5 individual teams posted gains in total attendance vs. 2013, and 5 teams had increases in average per date.
- **Charlotte moved from the suburb of Fort Mill, SC to the City of Charlotte, and their magnificent new ballpark was a huge success. The Knights led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2014. They drew a team-record high 687,715 (9,686 per date), just nipping Monterrey's (Mexican League) 687,642. The total for Charlotte was the 3rd best ever for an International League team.** In 1998, Buffalo drew 743,463, and in 2005, Pawtucket drew 688,421. Buffalo, from 1988 through 1996, and Louisville, from 1982 through 1984, also drew higher than Charlotte did in 2014. In those seasons, both Buffalo and Louisville were in the old Class AAA American Association whose teams were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.
- **Charlotte had the top total attendance increase, up 432,881, which also was the 3rd best gain ever for a Minor League team that moved to a new park in the same market. The previous record-high total for the Knights was 403,029 in 1993. Their average per date was a U.S. best 9,686 (Monterrey, Mexico averaged 11,856). The Knights' average per date gain of 5,883 was the best increase for 2014 in both the Minor Leagues and the Major Leagues. There were 31 sellouts at BB&T Park, which has a capacity of 10,200.**
- **Indianapolis led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the first time ever in 2013, drawing 637,579. The Indians did even better in 2014. They drew a team record-high 660,289, just breaking the record of 659,237 set in 1998. They've now topped 535,000 for 19 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 8 seasons since 1997. 24 dates had crowds of at least 10,000. Average attendance per date rose by 453 to 9,433, which was the highest average for any U.S. team that didn't move into a new ballpark in 2014.**
- In 2014, the Columbus (OH) Clippers had the 4th best total attendance in Minor League Baseball, drawing 628,980, 4th best in team history, and averaging 8,985 per date. This was their 5th time over 600,000 in the last 6 years. It was also the 10th straight year that the Clippers have surpassed 500,000. They've reached that level 28 times in the last 36 years. The Clippers have been above 450,000 for the last 31 seasons. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) ranked 5th in total attendance (614,888) and 4th in average per date (9,042) in the Minors in 2014. The IronPigs (the name comes from 'pig iron' used to make steel) led the Minors in attendance in 2011, and had the best U.S./Canadian total in 2012. They had the U.S. Minors' highest average per date for 3 straight years from 2010 through 2012. Lehigh Valley is the only team to top 600,000 in each of the last 7 years. They've averaged over 9,000 per date in each of the last 6 years.
- Coca Cola Park in Allentown has just 8,089 seats, making it one of the smallest parks in Class AAA. With standing room and lawn seating, combined 2008-2014 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity 392 times (including playoffs) in 491 dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 132 dates. 51 of the 68 dates in 2014, including the last 24, had crowds above seating capacity, with 18 as complete sellouts.

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

- Louisville drew 567,256, their 15th straight time above 560,000. 12 dates had crowds of at least 10,000. The Bats had topped 600,000 each year since opening a new park in 2000, through 2011, and 20 times since 1982. But 2014 was the lowest total in their current park, where they've averaged 8,912 per date since 2000. They've surpassed 500,000 in all but 4 seasons since 1982. Attendance in Louisville has been above 500,000 in a record-high 29 seasons. 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 drew 303,959, the lowest attendance in their 6 year history.
- **Durham did a \$20 million renovation of their ballpark, and drew a team record-high 533,033, up 34,298.** The old record was 520,952 in 2007. 25 crowds exceeded 9,000. The Bulls have drawn over 460,000 in all 17 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. The Bulls topped 300,000 in 6 of their final 8 seasons (1990-1997) as a Class A team.
- Toledo topped 500,000 for the 13th straight year, and drew better than 540,000 for the 11th year in a row. The Mud Hens sold around 147,000 group tickets in 2014, which is the most ever for them. Well over 300 games have been sold out at Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) since it opened in 2002. Toledo's teams have been called the Mud Hens in most seasons since 1896.
- Pawtucket made it 16 straight years above 500,000, though 2014 had the lowest total attendance since 1998. This team was bankrupt 38 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. The Pawsox Radio Network has 13 stations.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2014

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	2014	515,665
1983	188,186	1991	349,338	1999	596,624	2007	611,379		
1984	198,786	1992	358,318	2000	585,107	2008	636,788		

- Despite 6 lost dates, the most since 2005, Rochester's attendance topped 400,000 for the 18th consecutive year. The Red Wings, who are a community-owned team, drew over 10,000 at 12 dates in 2014.
- Norfolk had its lowest attendance (358,147) since opening its current ballpark in 1993.
- Syracuse saw its smallest attendance total (247,046 with 6 lost dates) since 1990 at old McArthur Stadium. They were the only Class AAA team to draw less than 300,000. Total attendance fell 98,001, and average per date was down 1,407. Memphis was the only team that had a bigger decline in those 2 categories in 2014.
- In 2013, the Scranton-Wilkes Barre team got a new name, the RailRiders, honoring Northeast Pennsylvania's railroad history. They moved into a completely rebuilt ballpark that year, after playing all their 'home' games in 6 different cities in 2012. Their 2013 attendance total of 435,839 in their new park was up 163,671 from what they drew in their 2012 nomadic journey. But attendance declined 34,221 in 2014. This franchise reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then. Yet they've still drawn over 400,000 in 21 of the last 25 seasons (excludes the 'road year' of 2012). They had 17 'fixed seat' sellouts in 2014.

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

- Buffalo began a new affiliation with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013, which they hoped would attract more fans from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The Bisons had an increase in attendance in 2013, and a tiny decline in 2014, with 6 lost dates. Attendance in Buffalo has topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 27 straight seasons.
- Buffalo led the Minors in attendance each year from 1988 through 1999, topping one million 6 times (1988-93), including an all-time Minor League record 1,188,972 (1,240,951 including playoffs) in 1991, when they were in the American Association. The Bisons moved to the International League in 1998. Buffalo also had the best attendance among all U.S./Canadian teams each year from 1957 through 1961. Their home, Coca Cola Field, seated 18,025 in 2014, the highest seating capacity of any United States or Canadian Minor League park. Capacity at this park has been as high as 21,050, but it will be reduced as part of an upcoming renovation. 5 games in team history have drawn over 20,000. Monterrey of the Mexican League has a bigger ballpark.

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

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

- The move of the Tucson franchise to El Paso led to a total attendance increase of 237,975 (3.5%), and an NAPBL best average per date gain of 241 for the P.C.L. This was the 7th time in the last 10 years that the league's total attendance topped 7 million. 9 of the 15 teams that played in the same market in both 2014 and 2013 had increases in total attendance, and 8 teams had growth in average per date. There were 5 fewer dates played in the league in 2014 than in 2013.
- Excluding El Paso, total attendance for the other 15 teams in the league was down 122,945 in 2014, and average per date fell by 88. El Paso drew 560,997 in 2014. They played the first 4 dates of the season in Tucson while their new park was being completed, and drew a total of 12,060 there, and then drew 548,937 for 67 dates in El Paso. In 2013, the team drew 200,077 in Tucson. The all-time high in Tucson was 317,341 in 1991.
- 4 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2014, a mark reached by 4 teams in 2013, 2011, and 2009, 5 teams in 2012 and 2010, 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 each of its teams top a figure that high 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 13th time in the team's 15 year history. The River Cats drew 607,839, which was the 6th best total attendance in the Minor Leagues in 2014. Their biggest crowd of the season was 15,618. 2012 is the only year that this team drew less than 600,000.
- The River Cats had the highest attendance in the Minor Leagues 9 times from 2000 through 2010. They've drawn 10,710,770 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 10 million, and they've averaged 9,982 per date (1,073 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 – 2000-2014

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	2014	607,839	8,561

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

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

- Round Rock drew an impressive 595,700. They've topped 589,000 in all 15 seasons of their history, and have drawn at least 650,000 in 9 of these years. 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 El Paso Chihuahuas drew a city-record 560,997 in their first year in Texas.** This was up 360,920 from what they drew in Tucson in 2013. The 2014 totals include the first 4 home dates of the season which were played in Tucson because the new ballpark in El Paso was not ready. Average per date overall was 7,901 (8,193 for the 67 dates in El Paso), compared to an average of 2,818 in Tucson in 2013. El Paso had previously been in the Texas League, and their record-high attendance in that league was 329,233 in 1995. The city also had an independent team for a few years, and that team's highest attendance was 211,316 in 2007.
- The Albuquerque Isotopes have drawn over 560,000 in all 12 years of operation of the current team. Attendance at their old park never reached 400,000, through 2000.
- Reno's total attendance rose by 30,075, the best gain among P.C.L. teams that played in the same market in both 2014 and 2013. The Aces' average per date rose a league best 349.
- **Colorado Springs had a better year with weather and a record year with attendance. The Sky Sox drew a team record-high 350,374, up exactly 24,000, breaking the old mark of 339,009 set in 2011.** They lost 3 dates to weather in 2014, compared to 9 lost dates in 2013. This team has now topped 300,000 for 7 straight years after never reaching that mark in the team's first 20 years of operation (1988-2007). Colorado Springs plays at a higher altitude than any U.S. pro baseball team. Their ballpark is 6,531 feet above sea level.
- Tacoma's Cheney Stadium was renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers set a record-high that year. Their 2014 attendance was the lowest since 2002 due to the loss of 7 home dates. There were no rainouts in Tacoma in 2013. 2014 average per date was up 253. The Rainiers have topped 300,000 in each of the last 14 years.
- Fresno lost 3 dates to weather, and drew their smallest total since moving to their current park in 2002. But they still had their 13th straight year above 465,000.
- Memphis had 3 straight attendance increases through 2013. There had been a 9 year attendance losing streak which ended in 2011. But in 2014, the Redbirds drew just 381,429, the lowest total in the team's Class AAA history, which goes back to 1998. The average per date of 5,693 was the smallest since 1999. Total attendance fell 116,933 from 2013, and the average per date was down 1,530. Both of those declines were the worst of any NAPBL team in 2014. 5 games in 2014 were rained out. In 2001, this team attracted 887,976, an average of 12,507 per date. Memphis became an NBA market with the arrival of the Grizzlies in 2001. But the Redbirds still drew very well for a number of years after that.
- Salt Lake City also suffered a significant attendance loss in 2014. Total attendance dipped 60,656, the 4th worst decline among NAPBL teams, and average per date fell by 760. In 2012, the Bees posted the biggest total increase (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams. Average per date that year 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 21 years of operation as a full-season team, and have surpassed 500,000 in 11 seasons.
- Nashville played its final season at Herschel Greer Stadium and drew 323,961, the 2nd lowest total (to Tacoma) in the league. In 37 years at Greer Stadium, they drew 14,453,823, including playoffs, in 2,613 dates, averaging 5,532 per date. The final game at Greer had a crowd of 11,067, which was the largest there since 2007, and the first sellout since 2010.
- Nashville was the first Class AA team to reach 500,000 in attendance. They did it each year from 1979 through 1982, as a member of the Southern League. In 1990, Nashville topped 500,000 when they were in the Class AAA American Association. But attendance has not reached 420,000 since 1993. This is likely to change in 2015 with the opening of First Tennessee Park. The new park, just like the old one, will have a guitar-shaped scoreboard in recognition of Nashville's role as 'Music City.'

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

- Iowa had a gain of 24,579, with 14 dates drawing at least 10,000. The Cubs reached 300,000 in attendance for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every year after that, including 9 years over 500,000.
- 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.
- Omaha won the Class AAA Championship for the 2nd year in a row. Their attendance has gone up in 8 of the last 9 seasons. The Storm Chasers have now made it 27 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 2014, they drew 329,429, up 1,163.
- 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, and was 348,796 in 2014.
- Oklahoma City's total attendance rose 29,165 to 429,190, their best total since 2008. There were 16 sellouts and 12 crowds above 10,000 in 2014. The RedHawks have topped 400,000 12 times in the last 17 years. They never reached 400,000 before 1998. This team will be a Dodger affiliate in 2015, and will be renamed "Dodgers."
- 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 1982, when Louisville drew 868,418. Buffalo holds the current Minor League season attendance record of 1,188,972 (1,240,951 if playoff games are included), set in 1991.

MEXICAN LEAGUE (16 teams – 113 game schedule)

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

- This league, which was founded in 1925, does not have any Major League Baseball farm teams, but has been an NAPBL Minor League member since 1955.
- Mexican League attendance was up 185,394 (4.9%) in 2014, and average per date rose 224.
- The 2014 total of 3,997,770 was the 3rd highest for this league, surpassed only by 1979 and 2008. 2014 average per date of 4,720 was the 2nd highest since at least 1992. (Earlier average per date figures are not available.)
- The move of the Minatitlan team to Tijuana was a major reason for this increase. Tijuana drew 419,169 in 2014, averaging 7,909 per date. In 2013, Minatitlan drew 120,511, averaging 2,318 per date. The all-time high attendance in Minatitlan was 211,277 in 2008.
- The 15 teams that played in the same markets in 2014 and in 2013 had a combined total attendance decline of 113,264, and a combined average per date loss of 131.
- Playoffs averaged 8,950 per game, with 11 games drawing over 10,000, led by a crowd of 24,999 at Mexico City. Attendance at 32 of 36 playoff games topped 5,000. Only 20 of 192 playoff games in all other leagues, including the independents, drew at least 5,000.
- 2014 and 2013 were exceptions, 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.

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

- In 2014, 3 of the 15 teams playing in the same markets as in 2013 had gains in total attendance and 5 of these teams had increases in average per date.
- Monterrey, up 96,650, had the biggest increase in the league, and the highest gain of any Minor League team that played in the same ballpark in 2014 and 2013. Average per date for the Sultanes was up 711, which was the 4th best increase among NAPBL teams. It is quite common for Mexican League teams to have some of the largest gains and losses in attendance every year.
- **Monterrey's average per date was 11,856, the best in the Minors. The Sultanes were the only team to average more than 10,000 per date in 2014 or 2013. Their total attendance of 687,642 was just 73 short of the highest 2014 NAPBL total achieved by the Charlotte Knights. Monterrey topped 500,000 for the 8th time since 1998. They've been above 600,000 in 4 seasons since 2006. That year, the Sultanes drew a Mexican League record-high 989,454. Their 2012 attendance of 645,302 led all of Minor League Baseball.**
- Carmen, down 61,048, had the biggest decline in the league, and the 3rd worst among all NAPBL teams. Average per date fell by 1,364, which was also the 3rd largest NAPBL decline. In 2013, Carmen was up 907 per date.
- Mexico City had a decline of 1,312 in average per date, which was 4th worst among NAPBL teams. However, the Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) averaged 14,446 for their 7 home playoff games, topped by a crowd of 24,999 as they completed a 4 game sweep to win the league championship. Mexico City had topped 300,000 in attendance 19 times between 1957 and 1979. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 14 of those years. The 1967 team was the only Minor League team to draw at least 500,000 between 1950 and 1978. But since 1980, the Red Devils have reached 300,000 just twice. Their record of 536,743 set in 1967 has never been broken, and is the longest standing team record-high among current Major League and Minor League teams. The Diablos Rojos expect to open a new ballpark in 2017.
- Saltillo reached 375,000 for the 4th year in a row. They topped 500,000 each year from 2000 through 2007.
- Aguascalientes drew better than 300,000 in 1977 and 1978. But they've reached 200,000 just 4 times in the 27 seasons they've had a team since then.
- Campeche had a 26,204 gain, and was up 475 per date. They drew their record-high of 287,749 in 1983. But 2008 was the only year above 200,000 for this team since then.
- Tijuana's total attendance was 298,658 higher, and their average per date was 5,591 per date higher than the franchise drew in 2013 when it played in Minatitlan. Tijuana last had a team from 2004 through 2008. The Toros drew 548,863 in 2004, and surpassed 450,000 in 2006 and 2007.
- Veracruz has reached 200,000 just 6 times in 44 seasons.
- Yucatan drew 225,404, and their average per date rose by 411. The most successful seasons for the Lions were 1982 (560,000) and 2001 (501,370).
- Laguna had a 496 increase in average per date. The Cowboys have topped 200,000 in 8 of the last 10 seasons, after doing it just once in the previous 20 years.
- Puebla's total attendance decline of 49,952 was the 5th largest decrease among NAPBL teams. But the Parrots still topped 240,000 for the 4th year in a row. They had reached this level just once in their 36 previous seasons.
- Monclova (del Norte) topped 300,000 for the 4th straight year. The Steelers drew that high only 5 times between 1974 and 2010.
- Oaxaca has reached 200,000 only 3 times in 19 seasons. They drew 179,286 in 2014.
- Reynosa's 2014 attendance was 142,154. They've reached 200,000 only 3 times in 26 years.

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

- Tabasco drew 441,835 in 1979, and topped 200,000 in 1980. But the Cattlemen have not reached 200,000 since.
- 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 2014 attendance with both 1969 and 1979. Average attendance per team is up 8.8% vs. 1979, and is up 1.3% vs. 1969. No other NAPBL league had a smaller 2014 increase in average attendance per team vs. 1979 or 1969. The Florida State League had the lowest gain vs. 1979, up 42.6%, and the Appalachian League posted the smallest increase since 1969, up 84.5%. But the 2014 Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 is up 77.1%, which is better than 8 other leagues, and the average per team vs. 1999 increased 39.0%, which is a better growth rate than 11 other NAPBL leagues. The section starting on page 94 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 45 years.

EASTERN LEAGUE (AA) (12 teams -- 142 game schedule)

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

- Total attendance declined 1.0% to 3,705,945, which was the lowest total since 2003. It was the 5th straight year with a decrease in total attendance. There were 6 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013. Average attendance per date was 4,604, which was the lowest since 2000, and down 12 from 2013. Eastern League average per date has been at least 4,500 since 1995. The league's record-high average per date is 4,904, set in 1998.
- The Eastern League has averaged at least 300,000 per team for the last 18 seasons. The league's average per team topped 100,000 each year from 1946 to 1949, but didn't reach this figure again until 1983. An average of 200,000 per team was first achieved in 1994, and the following year, the average per team reached 300,000.
- 4 teams had total attendance gains, led by Akron, up 55,245. Reading, down 41,676, had the worst loss.
- Akron also had the 2nd best average per date increase in all of the Minors, with a gain of 936. 4 other teams also increased their average per date. Reading suffered the largest decline in average per date, down 520.
- 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew more than 200,000.
- Richmond led the league in both total attendance (418,147) and average per date (6,336). The Flying Squirrels have topped 400,000 in all of their 5 seasons in the Eastern League. The Class AAA Richmond Braves, who moved to Georgia after the 2008 season, surpassed 400,000 for 15 straight years from 1989 through 2003. In 6 of those seasons, their attendance exceeded 500,000. Total attendance has been above 300,000 in every season, but one, since The Diamond opened in 1985. Plans are underway for a new ballpark in Richmond.
- New Britain's attendance has surpassed 300,000 for 11 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 2014, they had a 4,232 decline to their smallest total (302,865) since 2003. There are plans for a new ballpark for the Rock Cats in the neighboring city of Hartford.

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

- Akron's team was renamed the Rubber Ducks in recognition of that's city's rubber industry. The rebranding was a big success as attendance rose 55,245 to 350,704, with 12 sellouts. This was the best total in Akron since 2007, and the increase was the 3rd highest among all NAPBL teams. Average per date was up 936, 2nd best among all Minor League teams. Total attendance is up nearly 100,000 from the 256,473 that the team drew in 2012, and average per date has increased from 3,772 in 2012 to 5,157 in 2014.
- Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012. The then-named Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the 2nd 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 1997 through 2006.
- Reading's Class AA record of drawing 400,000 or better ended at 16 straight seasons. Trenton topped this level each year from 1995 through 2008. The Reading Fightin Phils had the league's biggest declines in total attendance (down 41,676), and average per date (down 520). They had led the league in total attendance 9 times and also had the Eastern League's best average per date 9 times, since 2002.
- Despite the attendance decline in 2014, 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 7 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 – 1984-2014

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		2014	394,458
1991	250,610		1999	448,367		2007	466,385			

- Altoona was down 10,404 in total attendance in 2014. The Curve had topped 300,000 each year from 1999 through 2008, but not since. They also averaged over 5,000 per date from 2000 through 2008.
- Harrisburg also had a small decline (10,716), but topped 200,000 for the 27th time in their 28 year history, and surpassed 270,000 for the 5th year in a row. Senators' 2014 attendance was 109,000 higher than in 2008. By the 2009 season, their ballpark had undergone a significant rebuilding.
- Despite a decline of 13,340, New Hampshire (Manchester) still topped 340,000 for the 8th straight year. They had 18 crowds of better than 6,000 in 2014.
- Bowie had a very small decrease (3,963). The Baysox have topped 240,000 in all 22 seasons of operation, but have not reached 300,000 since 2005, after surpassing that figure in the 11 prior years.
- Trenton's attendance rose 1,359 in 2014. The Thunder has topped 360,000 each year since 1995.
- Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, Erie's attendance has always ranged between 197,656 and 246,404.

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

- Portland's total attendance rose 18,007 to 359,427, with 14 sellouts, despite 6 lost dates. Average per date rose 434. The Sea Dogs have reached 340,000 in all 21 seasons, and have 467 sellouts in 1,407 dates in their history.
- Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. In 2014, they had their lowest total ever (171,279), and were the only Eastern League team to average less than 3,000 per date. 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 #176, is the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AA team.

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

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

- The Southern League had another attendance increase in 2014. Total attendance rose 51,119 (2.2%). The league total of 2,367,710 was the best since 2008. Average per date was up 24 to 3,539. That is also 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 10 more dates in 2014 than in 2013.
- Southern League or Southern Association average attendance per team was over 200,000 from 1946 through 1950, but didn't reach this level again until 1991. It's been above 200,000 ever since then.
- 7 teams had increases in total attendance, and 6 teams increased their average per date in 2014.
- 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 in 2013, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team.** 2013 average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best increase, by a very large margin, in the Minors.
- In 2014, Birmingham's attendance rose 40,792, the 7th best gain among NAPBL teams. Average per date was 6,252, an increase of 583, which was the 6th best gain. In 2012, the Barons' average per date was 3,004.
- The 2014 total attendance of 437,612 in Birmingham was the 2nd highest attendance by a Southern League team, covering the 1964-2014 period. The only higher total for any Southern League team was also in Birmingham, in 1994, when Michael Jordan was a Baron, and fans came out in droves to see him. That team drew a league record 467,867 at home, and a home/road total of 986,185. The final 1994 home game drew 16,247.
- Birmingham drew 445,926 in 1948 and 421,305 in 1949, when it played in the old 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.
- Since 1996, the Barons have played one game each year at Rickwood Field in Birmingham. That park was their home from 1910 through 1987, and is the oldest professional ballpark still in use. It was the first concrete and steel ballpark in the Minor Leagues. The largest crowd ever there was 20,074 in 1931 for a playoff game that was pitched by future Major League star Dizzy Dean. The 'Rickwood Classic' drew 8,686 in 2014, and has drawn 133,100, an average of 7,005 per game, in its 19 year history.
- Tennessee drew a record-high 283,038, up 38,054. Their previous high was 268,033 in 2002. Average per date was 4,102, the first time this team has ever averaged better than 4,000 per date.** The Smokies have drawn at least 240,000 for 15 straight seasons.
- Chattanooga's attendance rose 21,773. The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but have topped 200,000 for 23 straight years. This team had reached 200,000 just 3 times in 66 seasons prior to 1992.
- Mississippi (Pearl, near Jackson) drew 211,200, up 10,932, its highest total attendance since 2008.

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. Attendance rose to 311,687 in 2014. Pensacola had been a Minor League city prior to 2012. Their previous NAPBL record-high attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent team drew 92,468 in 2007.
- Before relocating, the Pensacola franchise played for 21 seasons in Zebulon, NC, which is east of Raleigh, as the Carolina Mudcats. They drew a record-high 328,207 in 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 (5,280) in 2014, and drew 300,538. They have a streak of 26 straight years above 200,000, and have topped 300,000 in 10 of the last 12 seasons.
- In its final season, Huntsville (AL) drew just 94,929, down 28,975, the lowest total of any Class AA team in 2014. This was the 4th time in the last 6 seasons that the Stars drew less than 100,000, the 9th straight year below 170,000, and the 11th time in the last 12 years below 200,000. This followed 14 consecutive seasons above 200,000. The Stars' average per date of 1,460 was the lowest in Class AA in 2014.
- The all-time record attendance in Huntsville was 300,810, in 1985, which was the team's first season. That year, Huntsville had the 2nd highest attendance of the 26 Class AA teams, topped only by Albany-Colonie of the Eastern League, who drew 324,003. In 1985, 10 Class AA teams drew under 100,000. This team has moved to Biloxi, MS, and has been renamed the Shuckers. The Biloxi-Gulfport area last had a Minor League team from 1926 through 1928 that played in the Cotton States League. That league disbanded after the 1955 season.
- Mobile's total attendance fell 43,378, the 6th worst NAPBL decline. The total of 106,297 was the lowest in the 18 year history of this team. Average per date was 1,687, down 652, which was the 7th worst NAPBL dip. The BayBears lost 7 dates due to weather. Mobile drew 332,639 in 1997, which was the first season for this current franchise. Attendance has not reached 300,000 since then.
- Jackson, TN failed to reach 200,000 for the 12th 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 10 years. In 2014, total attendance rose 16,046 to 135,248. Based on A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson is the smallest market in terms of TV households with a Class AA team.
- Montgomery was down 13,998, but still drew better than 240,000 for the 11th year in a row.
- 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 rose 25,781 (0.9%) to 2,840,914, which was the league's best total since 2010. Every team drew at least 294,000. The number of dates played was the same in both 2014 and in 2013.
- Texas League average attendance per team has surpassed 350,000 for 10 straight years. It was over 200,000 from 1947 through 1950, but didn't reach that figure again until 1991. It first topped 300,000 in 2003.
- Average per date was up 47 in 2014 to 5,251. This was the 10th straight year that the league averaged better than 5,000 per date. Average per date is up 1,852 since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. All teams averaged at least 4,200 per date in 2014, topped by Frisco, who averaged a Class AA best 6,614.
- 6 teams had gains in total attendance, and 3 teams were up in average per date.
- Frisco drew 449,773 to lead all of Class AA for the 10th consecutive year in both total attendance and average per date. But it was the smallest total in the team's 12 year history. Total attendance declined 30,100, and average per date fell by 443, which were the biggest 2014 declines in this league.
- Midland had a 17,647 decline from the team record-high set in 2013. Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 until 2002, but has been over 250,000 every year since then.
- Tulsa had their 2nd best regular season total attendance (403,732) in team history. Total attendance rose 10,132 despite 5 lost dates, and average per date was up 507. Including playoff attendance, the total of 415,403 was their highest ever. The Drillers also had 18 sellouts, which is the most in Tulsa baseball history. They topped 300,000 for 19th time in the last 22 seasons.
- Corpus Christi attracted 393,769, up 14,374, with 20 dates drawing at least 6,000. The Hooks have topped 375,000 in all 10 of their seasons, been above 400,000 6 times, and surpassed 500,000 twice. 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 10 years of operation. They had a 15,882 gain in 2014, and 21 dates drew more than 6,000. They drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005.
- San Antonio has topped 270,000 in each of their last 21 seasons, and has been above 300,000 in 13 seasons since 1994. They had never reached that level before then. They fell just short in 2014 and in 2013.
- Northwest Arkansas has drawn better than 300,000 in all 7 years they've played.
- Arkansas (North Little Rock) had the highest attendance increase in the league in both total (up 32,430), and average per date (up 578) despite 6 lost dates. That increase in average per date was the 7th best among NAPBL teams. The Travelers had never reached 300,000 until 2007, but have done it 7 times in the last 8 years.
- 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 62,764 (4.0%) to 1,646,252, the highest total since 2009. There had been a decline in California League attendance in 10 of the last 17 seasons (1998-2014). 6 teams had gains in total attendance.
- Average per date was up 84 to 2,359, which was the best since 2009. 5 individual teams posted 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.
- The league's average attendance per team has been above 100,000 every year since 1991, and better than 150,000 in all seasons since 2002. But 1997 was the only season with an average per team above 200,000.
- Weather, other than heat, is rarely a problem in the California League. There were only 2 lost dates in the league in 2014, one each by Bakersfield and Inland Empire. There were 4 lost dates in 2013, 10 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.
- Lake Elsinore drew 220,069 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 21 years of operation.
- The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, was named 'The Epicenter' (it's now LoanMart Field), drew 166,993 with 5 sellouts. Total attendance fell 5,313, and average per date dropped 76, which were the league's largest dips. The Quakes had a 17 year run as the California 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.
- In their first two seasons (1991 and 1992), the High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks became the first California League team to top 200,000. They've been below 160,000 for 20 years in a row, but made a huge rebound in 2014. The Mavericks drew 147,231, their best total since 1998. Total attendance rose 54,852, which was the 4th best increase among NAPBL teams. Average per date was up 744, and that was the 3rd best gain in the NAPBL.
- In their last 8 seasons, the Modesto Nuts have achieved the 8 best attendance totals in their 68 year history.
- San Jose topped 200,000 for the 6th 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. The Giants won the 2014 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in Minor League Baseball.
- **Visalia drew a record-high 120,003. This was the 5th time in the last 6 seasons that the Rawhide have set a new record.** They have drawn the 6 highest attendance totals in team history in the last 6 years.
- 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 195,000 every year from that point on. Annual attendance in Stockton has more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005.
- 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 drew 170,532 in 2014, their highest total since 2002. Total attendance rose 12,266, and average per date was up 142. Walk-up ticket sales revenue rose 13%. There were 5 sellouts, which is more than they had in the 3 previous years combined at 'The Hangar.'
- Inland Empire (San Bernadino) drew 195,841, their best total since 2009.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE** – continued

- Bakersfield was up 712 to 57,057. Average per date was 827. These were the 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, but its construction is now in doubt. There was speculation that this team will move to Salinas if a new park can be built there.
- In 1964, 4 of the 8 teams in the league drew less than 17,000 for the season.
- In 1965, the 6 team California League had a total attendance of 128,836, averaging a league record-low 21,743 per team, and 333 per home date. San Jose led the league in attendance that year, drawing 34,517. Attendance for the other teams was: Stockton – 27,774; Bakersfield – 23,234; Fresno – 22,362; Santa Barbara – 12,121; Salinas – an all-time California League low – 8,828.
- Average per team rose to 43,755 in 1966. It was only 50,449 in 1979.

CAROLINA LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A) (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

RECORD HIGHS: League – **1,981,673 (2014)**; Team – Durham - 390,486 (1995)

- **For the 3rd year in a row, the league set new records for total attendance (1,981,673), and average per date (3,811).** There were 9 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013. Since 2009, total attendance in the league is up 395,085 (24.9%), and average per date has risen by 748.
- 2014 total attendance rose 46,933 (2.4%), and average per date was up 154.
- 4 teams were up in total attendance, and 7 teams had gains in average per date, with 3 of them up by over 280.
- All 4 teams with total attendance declines in 2014 played fewer home dates than in 2013.
- Frederick drew 324,446 and 4,991 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 25th straight year. In their 26 year history, they've now topped 300,000 13 times, and averaged around 4,500 per date at 5,400 seat Harry Grove Stadium.
- The Winston-Salem Dash, named for the dash in that city's name, just missed (by 355) topping 300,000 for the 5th straight year. Attendance had been below 170,000 each year from 1951 through 2009.
- In 2010, the Dash opened a new ballpark, and easily set a team record-high, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. Their old record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing 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 season. 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 2nd worst decline among U.S. teams for that year.
- **Potomac drew a team record-high 243,559, despite 7 lost dates, breaking the record of 236,772 they set in 2013.** Prior to 2013, the Nationals reached 200,000 just once in the previous 13 years. Average per date was up 332 in 2014. They hope to have a new ballpark, perhaps as soon as 2016.
- Carolina's total attendance of 215,149 was the lowest since 2003. They had 6 lost dates. But the Mudcats have surpassed 200,000 in all 24 of their seasons, including 21 years in the Southern League.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**CAROLINA LEAGUE** – continued

- Salem posted the league's top increases in total attendance (up 48,489) and average per date (up 610). Both the total attendance and average per date increases were the 5th best among all NAPBL teams. Attendance in Salem never reached 200,000 until 1999, but has surpassed that total 12 times in the last 16 seasons.
- Wilmington, DE has topped 275,000 in all 22 seasons they've played, even though the 2014 total was the lowest in team history. There were 6 lost dates in 2014. The total attendance decline of 14,003, and the average per date dip of 80, were the worst in the league. But the Blue Rocks did lead the Carolina League in attendance each year from 1998 through 2008, and topped 300,000 for 16 straight years (1993-2008). In their history, they've drawn 6,941,525 in 1,459 dates, averaging 4,758 per date at 6,532 capacity Judy Johnson Field at Frawley Stadium.
- The current team in Myrtle Beach has topped 200,000 15 times in the last 16 years. The 2014 edition posted the 2nd best total attendance in team history, drawing 241,026, just short of the record-high of 242,397 set in 2008. **Average per date was up 282 to a team record-high 3,652.** There were 7 sellouts.
- Until 2005, Lynchburg had never drawn at least 150,000 in its long Minor League history. The Hillcats have now topped this level in each of the last 10 years. They were, however, the only team in this league under 200,000.
- 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, and did it again in 2014.
- The league drew better than one million in 1947, but didn't do it again until 1989. They've surpassed 1.5 million every year but one (2003) since 1993.
- Average attendance per team reached 100,000 in 1946 and 1947, but not again until 1985. It hit 200,000 for the first time in 1993, and has been above that level 16 times, including in each of the last 5 seasons. **In 2014, it was a record-high 247,109.**
- 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.

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 was up 23,944 (2.0%) in 2014, to 1,236,128, the league's 2nd highest total ever. This was the 9th straight year that league attendance has topped one million. Attendance reached one million only 5 times from 1946 through 2005. **Since 2002, league total attendance is up 52%, while average per date is up 53%.**
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance, led by Clearwater, up 22,912. 5 teams posted gains in average per date, with Clearwater up 179, having the best gain. Jupiter, Palm Beach, and Dunedin were also up 100+ in average per date. Brevard County, down 18,773 with 9 lost dates, had the worst drop in total attendance, and Tampa's dip of 187 was the worst average per date decline. 21 more dates were played in 2014 than in 2013.
- The league's average attendance per team was the 2nd best ever, and topped 100,000 for the 4th year in a row. Prior to 2011, it had never reached 100,000. Average per team was over 50,000 from 1947 through 1949, and then again only in 1959 and 1972, until surpassing 50,000 for good in 1974.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE** – continued

- Florida State League average attendance per date in 2014 fell by 13 to 1,593. This still was the 3rd best average in the league since at least 1991, and is just 49 below the record-high average set in 2011.
- **Clearwater led the league in total attendance for the 10th time in the last 11 years. The Threshers drew a team record-high 195,063, the 2nd best total ever by a Florida State League team. Only 1989 St. Petersburg drew better. The old record in Clearwater was 177,297 in 2012. Average per date was a new record-high 2,787, breaking the mark of 2,608 in 2013. 13 crowds exceeded 4,000.** The weather helped as this team played all 70 scheduled home dates. No other F.S.L. team has done this since at least 1991, and perhaps, never.
- **2014 was the 9th time in the last 11 years that Clearwater has set a new total record-high.** The Threshers have now topped 150,000 for a league-record 9 straight years. Next highest consecutive streak of 150,000+ in this league was by the former team from St. Petersburg, who did it in 4 straight years (1988-1991).
- Bradenton had the 2nd best attendance in the 5 years that this current team has operated. But average per date fell by 163. Their park, 90 year old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.
- Palm Beach was up 10,766 to 74,887. They've topped 100,000 only once in their 12 year history.
- Jupiter, which shares Roger Dean Stadium with Palm Beach, had a 6,900 increase to 71,713. The Hammerheads have reached 100,000 only 3 times in 17 years of play. A team played in nearby West Palm Beach most recently from 1965 through 1997, and drew better than 100,000 in 15 different seasons between 1974 and 1992.
- Brevard County drew 78,465, the lowest total in this team's 21 seasons. The Manatees reached 100,000 in each of their first 8 seasons, but have done it just once since then.
- **Lakeland drew a team record-high 64,396.** Attendance there has surpassed 59,000 in 5 straight years, after not reaching that figure since 1987. The 2014 average per date of 1,006, though down 171 from 2013, has still more than doubled (from 495 per date) since 2006. In 2013, Lakeland lost an incredible 19 dates due to weather, including 9 in July and 7 in August. The Flying Tigers had 6 lost dates in 2014.
- Daytona Beach topped 140,000 for the 9th year in a row despite 12 rainouts in 2014, and also 12 in 2013. Before this streak, Daytona had reached 100,000 just 5 times in 51 seasons. The team will be a Reds affiliate in 2015, and has been renamed the "Tortugas," which is the Spanish word for a turtle that is native to the Daytona area.
- Since 1998, the Fort Myers Miracle achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (15) with attendance above 100,000, and they've done it in each of the last 10 years. St. Petersburg, which no longer has a team in the league, had topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997.
- Dunedin drew 60,044, their best total since 1998.
- Port Charlotte's current team has reached 100,000 in all 6 years, including 118,430, up 10,435, in 2014. The former team there drew 100,000+ in only 4 of 16 seasons from 1987 through 2002.
- St. Lucie had a dip, but topped 90,000 for the 10th straight year, which they didn't do in the previous 17 seasons.
- Tampa topped 100,000 for the 4th year in a row, despite a 7,249 decline in 2014.
- Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, Vero Beach had been one of the smallest towns with pro baseball. The record-high in Vero Beach was 95,300, in 1991. In 1948, the Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and business conferences are held there annually. One F.S.L. game is played in Holman Stadium there yearly in memory of Jackie Robinson.
- Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter is the Spring Training site of the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Their Gulf Coast League affiliates also play in the complex. There are about 30 Major League spring training, 140 Florida State League, and 60 Gulf Coast League games scheduled yearly. 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)

- Total attendance rose 24,769 (0.6%) to 4,142,818, the league's 2nd best total ever. This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982 when it expanded from 8 to 12 teams. It reached 2 million in 1994, and 3 million in 1996, with 14 teams in those years. Total attendance has topped 3 million for the last 15 seasons, and has been better than 4 million in 4 of the last 5 years.
- Average attendance per date fell by 28 to 3,879, which was the 4th highest average in league and Class A history. In 2013, the league averaged 3,907 per date, the highest ever for any Class A league. Average per date has been better than 3,000 for 20 straight years, which also is a Class A record.
- Midwest League average attendance per team was under 70,000 from 1947 through 1980. In 13 of those seasons, it was below 50,000, with a low of 20,128 per team in 1948. The average per team reached 100,000 for the first time in 1985, and initially topped 200,000 in 1996. It has been above 250,000 in 7 of the last 8 years.
- 10 teams had increases in total attendance, and 9 teams were up in average per date. The league played 14 more dates in 2014 than in 2013, but still had 27 fewer dates than in 2012.
- **Dayton drew 573,709, their 15th straight year above 570,000. In their 15 year history, the Dragons have the 15 highest season attendance totals ever in Class A.**
- **Dayton has sold out all 1,051 home dates they've ever played, including playoffs and 2 All-Star games, 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 2014, Dayton outdrew all but 6 Class AAA teams, and one Mexican League team in total attendance, and all but 5 Class AAA teams and a Mexican League team in average per date. 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 have included NBA legend Magic Johnson, and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.
- The only Class A teams to ever draw at least 500,000 in a season are Midwest League teams Dayton (15 times), Kane County (6), West Michigan (4), and Lansing (2).
- West Michigan held the record broken by Dayton in 2000. The Whitecaps, who play near Grand Rapids, topped 500,000 for 4 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 reached 350,000 for 21 years in a row, and have topped 400,000 in 9 seasons. In 2014, the Whitecaps drew 391,653, up 13,705, their best total attendance since 2002. It was quite an accomplishment considering that a fire on January 3 destroyed part of their ballpark.
- **Fort Wayne drew a team record-high 406,715, breaking the mark of 404,942 set in 2010. Average per date was 5,810. The Tincaps also set a single-game record of 9,182.** The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 22 years of operation, and have topped 375,000 in each of the last 6 years. They were the only team in this league that did not lose a home date due to weather in both 2013 and 2014.
- Great Lakes drew 230,019, the smallest total in their 8 year history. Through 2013, the Loons had 127 sellouts.
- Bowling Green, KY drew 180,350, the lowest total in its 6 years. It was the first time the Hot Rods drew under 200,000. The total decline of 35,951, and the average per date drop of 410, were worst in full-season Class A.
- Clinton, a community-owned team, topped 100,000 for the 9th straight year. Before this, the LumberKings had failed to reach 100,000 in all but 4 of 60 seasons with recorded attendance, including 17 years in a row between 1989 and 2005. The team's record-high is 127,251, set in 1988. They had 5 lost dates in 2014.

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

- For 2012, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3rd best gain 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. **In 2014, the team drew 258,836, a record-high which was 412 higher than the old mark of 258,424 in 1994.** The total attendance gain of 21,388 was the best in the league. Average per date was up 153. Since 2011, total attendance is up 146,041 (129.5%), and average per date has increased by 1,989 from 1,762 to 3,751. This team has affiliated with, and will be renamed, the “Cubs” in 2015.
- 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 bought the building, located behind the outfield wall, to use as its team store. They refurbished it, while still respecting its religious and landmark status.
- **Wisconsin (Appleton) averaged a record-high 3,970 per date, up 190, breaking the mark of 3,780 set in 2013.** Despite losing 7 dates due to weather, the Timber Rattlers topped 240,000 for the 6th year in a row, a figure they had never reached before 2009. They actually drew the largest total attendance ever (250,131) in their home ballpark, which underwent a major renovation for the 2013 season. The official team record-high is 253,240 in 2009. But that includes a crowd of 17,880 for a game they played at Miller Park in Milwaukee. Attendance has been over 190,000 for 20 straight years, after never reaching 100,000 in 45 seasons prior to 1995.
- **Dayton (8,437 in 2014), Kane County (6,023), and West Michigan (5,595), are the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2014.** 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 also averaged more than 5,200 per date each year from 2009 through 2014. 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 12 year history. Total attendance for this Ohio team has fallen from 437,515 in 2003, to 226,454 in 2014.
- Cedar Rapids was down 9,677. The Kernels have never topped 200,000 in a season. But they’ve drawn over 165,000 for 13 straight years, after reaching that level just twice in the 64 previous years with listed attendance.
- Quad Cities had 9 lost dates, and battled Mississippi River flooding. **But their average per date was a team record-high 3,885. The average per date gain of 352 was the best in the league.** The total attendance of 237,005 was the 2nd best since 1995, and the 7th straight year above 200,000. The River Bandits had reached 200,000 only 6 times in 70 seasons with recorded attendance before this current streak. 12 dates drew better than 6,000 in 2014. A popular new feature at Modern Woodmen Park is a 110 foot tall Ferris wheel.
- Burlington (IA), Beloit, and Clinton always have low attendance, in part, because their ballparks are very small. Seating capacity at Beloit is 3,500, at Burlington it is 3,200, and Clinton’s park only seats 2,500. Record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. In 2014, the Bees drew 70,649, their best total since 2005.
- Beloit drew a team record-high 101,127 in 1986, and has not topped 100,000 since then. Their 2014 average per date was just 977. Yet, both Burlington and Beloit are often profitable. They are community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.
- Lansing had a 3,443 increase in 2014. 23 crowds topped 6,000, with a high of 11,409. But 2014 was just the 2nd season that average per date was under 5,000. The Lugnuts have topped 330,000 in all 19 years of operation. They drew better than 500,000 in 1996 and 1997. Each season since 2007, Lansing has played an exhibition game against Michigan State University. Attendance for the 8 games of the ‘Crosstown Showdown’ has totaled 75,138, an average of 9,392 per game.
- Peoria had a 9,016 increase to 217,632, the highest total there since 2008. The Chiefs have topped 200,000 in 11 of the last 13 years. Prior to 2002, Peoria reached 200,000 in only 3 of the previous 24 years that city had a team. Average per date rose 183.

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

- Kane County's attendance had surpassed 400,000 for 18 straight years until 2012 (it was back over 400,000 in 2013 and was 415,571 in 2014), 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. In 2014, the Cougars had 91-49 record, the best in the Minors.
- The Midwest League's single game attendance high is 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, for a Peoria/Kane County game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County.

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

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

- Total attendance rose 32,069 (1.1%). Average per date was down 26. There were 17 more playing dates in 2014 than in 2013. 7 teams had gains in total attendance, and 6 teams had increases in average per date.
- Since 2000, total attendance in this league is up 52.7% (1,954,697 to 2,983,882), and average per date is up 50.5% (2,150 to 3,236). The 2014 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 2 fewer teams in recent years, the league had topped 3 million for 10 straight seasons, through 2012, before falling slightly below this level in 2013 and 2014. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million initially in 1997.
- From its inception in 1960 as the Western Carolinas League, league total attendance was under 500,000 until 1980. Average attendance per team reached 60,000 just once until 1980. It topped 100,000 for the first time in 1993. The average per team first hit 200,000 in 2004, and has been above that level ever since.
- Lakewood led the league in both total attendance and average per date. But total attendance fell 19,726, and average per date dropped by 378. Those were the biggest losses in the league. The BlueClaws drew 380,573, the lowest total in their 14 year history. Their only other year below 400,000 was in 2011, when they lost 9 dates due to weather. The BlueClaws have led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 12 times in their 14 years of play, and in the 2 years they didn't have the top total attendance, they still led the league in average per date.
- There have been 128 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001 (seating capacity-6,588). They've averaged over 6,000 per date every year until 2013, when the average per date was 5,975, and 2014, which averaged 5,597. The BlueClaws have a 14 year total attendance of 6,029,608 in 944 dates (6,387 per date).
- Charleston (SC) had a 3,199 total attendance decline, but still drew their 3rd highest total ever. **In 2014, they averaged a team record-high 4,309 per date, breaking their mark of 4,292 set in 2013.** The RiverDogs had never drawn 200,000 until 1997. A former team in Charleston drew over 170,000 in both 1947 and 1948. But this city didn't reach 150,000 in the next 31 seasons that they had a team. They've topped 250,000 in 11 of the last 12 years, and just missed in 2005. The team won the 2013 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues. Comedian Bill Murray is one of the team's owners.
- The Asheville Tourists drew 174,893, which was just 999 short of their all-time high set in 2008. Their attendance has been above 150,000 for the last 10 years straight, after reaching this level just twice in the previous 57 years that attendance was recorded.
- Greensboro's total of 369,170 was their 10th straight above 360,000. Prior to 2005, their highest total had been 260,340 in 1981. The Grasshoppers have averaged over 5,000 per date in all 10 years in their current ballpark.
- Hagerstown lost 7 dates to weather, and had its lowest attendance (61,883) since rejoining the Minor Leagues in 1981. The Suns averaged just 979 per date. Since 1981, they had topped 100,000 in all seasons but one through 2011, but have been below that number since then. The team had been expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015, but plans for a new ballpark there fell through.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

- The Augusta GreenJackets, named for the green jacket that is presented to the winner of The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, had their 5th straight decline and lowest total since 2006. Average per date fell 326.
- Greenville, SC had a gain of 45,785, which was best in the league and also 6th highest among all NAPBL teams. Their average per date rose by a league-leading 249. The Drive's total attendance of 346,187 was the 3rd best in team history, and is up 231,026 from the 2005 total of 115,161. In 2006, Greenville got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team. Greenville has surpassed 300,000 in 9 straight seasons, and has been above 200,000 in all but 3 years since Minor League Baseball returned there in 1984.
- Lexington (KY) had a 7,353 gain in 2014. The Legends drew better than 400,000 in 3 of their first 4 years starting in 2001, topped 300,000 for their first 11 seasons, but have finished under 300,000 in 2012, 2013, and 2014.
- Rome (GA) played 5 more home dates than in 2013, and posted a 9,505 increase in total attendance. But the Braves have been below 200,000 for the past 6 years, after being above that level in their first 6 seasons.
- A great team name in Minor League Baseball had its best total attendance since 2007. The Hickory Crawdads drew 148,414 in 2014. 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 got a makeover prior to the 2014 season.
- West Virginia (Charleston) had its lowest total (140,484) since 2004. But the Power lost 8 dates to weather, and 9 other games either had late starts or rain delays. They've drawn better than 125,000 for 11 straight years, after not reaching 100,000 in the 8 seasons prior to 2004.
- Savannah had awful weather, losing 10 dates in 2014. Total attendance fell 7,750 to 124,013. The current team has never drawn better than 136,000. The record-high for any team in Savannah is 217,000 in 1937. That may be the oldest record-high for any former team in a current NAPBL full-season Minor League market.
- Kannapolis was down 6,434, with 8 lost dates. Intimidators' attendance has been very steady in their 20 year history. They've drawn less than 100,000 only once (92,321 in 1993). But their record-high is just 138,487 in 2011. Kannapolis is only about 25 miles from the new ballpark in Charlotte, which may hurt their attendance.
- The Delmarva Shorebirds led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and have topped 200,000 in all 19 years of operation. Attendance was above 300,000 in the team's first 2 seasons which were 1996 and 1997. In 2014, they lost 5 dates, but still had a 3,358 increase.
- A team from this league is expected to be relocated to a new ballpark under construction in Columbia, SC. The new park should be ready in 2016. Columbia last had a team from 1983 through 2004. Attendance there topped 100,000 in 17 of 22 seasons, including each of the last 13. Their record-high was 156,921 in 1996.
- 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.

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

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

- Total attendance fell 2,658 (0.3%) to 981,774, which was still the 2nd best total for this league since 2000.
- Average per date was down 30 to 3,262. That's the 2nd best average per date for the league since 2000. Highest average per date in Northwest League history was 3,516 in 1997.
- Every team in the league averaged at least 2,255 per date in 2014. All teams in the Northwest League also averaged better than 2,000 per date in 2013. These are the only times in Minor League history that every team in one of the short-season leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date in the same year.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 3 teams achieved gains in average per date.
- Only 3 dates were lost in 2014 due to weather as Everett, Spokane, and Vancouver each had a rainout. There were 5 lost dates in 2013, and 3 in 2012. In 2011, there were no lost dates at all in this league. The league has had just 22 lost dates since 2005, and 68 lost dates in 21 seasons since 1994.
- Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but has not reached it since. The league has drawn better than 800,000 in all seasons since 1994. Before that year, the last time this league reached 800,000 was in 1948, when it played a full-season schedule. Total attendance was under 300,000 in all seasons from 1961 through 1982.
- Average attendance per team was 124,174 in 1947 and 110,051 in 1948. The next time the average per team surpassed 100,000 was in 1994, and it has done that every year since then. The average per team was below 50,000 annually from 1961 through 1984, with a low of 20,482 in 1968. That year, the 4 team league drew a total of just 81,928. In 2014, each of the 8 teams in the league individually drew better than that.
- **Spokane led the league in total attendance for the 15th straight year, attracting a team short-season record-high 193,865.** Among short-season teams, only Brooklyn drew better. The old short-season record was 192,021 in 2007. Record-high for a full-season team in Spokane is 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. The Indians have topped 100,000 for 29 straight years, and have drawn over 160,000 for 20 years in a row. The 2014 total was higher than the total Spokane drew in 18 of the 24 seasons that it was a member of the full-season Class AAA Pacific Coast League.
- **Spokane also averaged 5,240 per date, which is a higher than any team in Spokane, including those in the P.C.L., has ever averaged.** 2014 attendance topped 7,000 at 5 dates, and 12 dates drew above 6,000. The 2014 increase of 6,494 in total attendance, and the gain of 176 in average per date were the best in this league. Spokane's park, which opened in 1958, underwent a renovation that was completed for the 2013 season.
- Vancouver had its 2nd best total attendance (180,187) as a short-season team. **The average per date of 4,870 was a team short-season record-high.** 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 9 lost regular season dates in the last 15 years.
- Tri-City (Pasco, WA) had set a team record-high for average per date in 7 straight years through 2013. The average per date fell by 15 in 2014. The Dust Devils attracted 85,679, which is just 416 short of their Northwest League team total attendance record. In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101 in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season than they play now.
- Everett had a very slight total attendance gain (153). The AquaSox topped 100,000 each season from 1998 through 2007, but not since. However, they have reached 90,000 in all but one year after 2007. Prior to 1998, Everett surpassed 90,000 just once in 14 years.
- Eugene had the largest total decline in the league, down 3,961 to 108,067, their 2nd lowest total since 1985. But the Emeralds did top 100,000 for the 30th 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.

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

- **Hillsboro, a suburb of Portland, drew a team record-high total of 138,732, and record-high average of 3,651 per date in a 4,500 seat ballpark.** This team played in Yakima through 2012. Highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
- Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for 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.
- Salem-Keizer has reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, 2013, and 2014 in their 18 seasons of operation. Their 2014 total attendance of 95,083 was the smallest for the current team. They set their all-time high of 136,836 in 1997, which was this team's first year of play.
- Boise's attendance of 87,519 was their lowest total since 1988, and just their 5th under-100,000 total since 1989. From 1989 through 2010, the Hawks topped 100,000 every year except 2001, when they missed by just 160. Average per date fell 165, the biggest dip in this league for 2014.

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

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

- Total attendance fell 42,779 (2.7%) to 1,559,946, and average per date was down 91 to 3,083. That's the lowest total and average in this league since 2000. There was one more date played in 2014 than in 2013. 6 teams in the league had gains in total attendance, and 5 teams saw growth in average per date.
- Average per date in the New York-Penn League has topped 3,000 for 14 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 52,747,206. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
- Average attendance per team first topped 100,000 in 2001, and has been above that figure every year since then. The league had a 75,284 average per team in 1949, when it played a longer schedule. That figure was not surpassed until 1995. The average per team was below 50,000 each season from 1952 through 1988. The lowest average per team was 19,196 in 1967, the first year this league played a short-season. That year Auburn led the league in attendance, drawing 26,991. Erie finished last at the gate, with a total of 9,988.
- The lowest team attendance since the short-season schedule began was 9,474 in 1980 by Auburn. In 1990, Pittsfield became this league's first team in the short-season era to draw 100,000. As late as 1993, none of the 14 teams in the New York-Penn League reached 100,000. 8 of 14 teams did it in 2014.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have new competition for sports dollars from the Barclays Center, an arena that is home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets, and starting in the 2015-16 season, the NHL New York Islanders. **While Brooklyn's 2014 attendance of 231,628 was their lowest ever, they still led all short-season teams for the 14th straight year.** They've drawn 3,830,002 in their 14 years, 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 2014, the Cyclones drew a higher total than 42 of 60 full-season Class A teams, 6 of 30 Class AA teams, and 10 of 16 Mexican League teams, all of whom played many more home dates than the Cyclones.
- Brooklyn averaged 6,260 per date. Just one team in Class A (Dayton), 2 in Class AA, and 3 in the Mexican League, had a higher average per date than Brooklyn. In fact, Brooklyn had a higher per date average than 13 of the 30 Class AAA teams. In their 14 year history, the Cyclones have played 515 dates, averaging 7,437 per date.
- The Aberdeen IronBirds, who are owned by Cal Ripken Jr., had another rough year at the gate. Total attendance fell 39,579, the largest decline of any short-season team. In 2013, the IronBirds had the worst decrease of any U.S. NAPBL team. (Saltillo and Reynosa of the Mexican League had larger declines that year). Average per date fell 1,099, the 5th worst drop in the NAPBL in 2014. Total attendance has fallen by 94,674 since 2012, from 244,974 to 150,300. Average per date is down 2,271 since 2012. Prior to 2013, the IronBirds had topped 225,000 in all 11 seasons they played.
- **Connecticut drew 78,118, and averaged 2,111 per date. Those are record-highs in both total and average for a short-season team based in Norwich, and broke the records set in 2013.** 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 9,361, and average per date rose by 201 in 2014. Both of these gains were the best in the league.
- **Tri-City (Troy, NY) had set a team record in total attendance for 11th time in the last 12 seasons. The ValleyCats drew a team record-high 161,171, and have now posted a 55% increase in total attendance since 2003.** Their average per date has been above 4,000 in each of the last 7 seasons.
- Lowell was up 8,771, and didn't have a rainout for the first time since 1998. In 2010, the Spinners ended a sellout streak of 413 games. They've surpassed 150,000 for 17 straight years. In 2008, they were part of a Minor League double-header that drew 36,234 at Fenway Park in Boston.
- Staten Island had its lowest total since 2006. But the Yankees have been above 100,000 in all 16 seasons.
- Hudson Valley topped 4,000 in average per date for the 21st consecutive year. The Renegades have drawn at least 138,000 every year since starting play in 1994. Total attendance for those 21 years is 3,297,190 in 762 dates, an average of 4,327 in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,539, set in 2013.
- The Auburn Doubledays had a 5,259 gain in 2014. But they've reached 50,000 just 7 times in the last 56 seasons. Their ballpark is small, with a capacity of 2,800.
- Batavia has not reached 45,000 since 1973, and has been below 40,000 in each of the last 6 seasons. The only years with attendance above 50,000 were in 1970, 1971, and 1973. The Muckdogs drew 33,376 in 2014, their lowest total since 1988.
- Mahoning Valley (Niles, OH) lost 3 dates, and drew 109,545, the lowest total in the team's 16 years of play. 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 9 of their seasons. The Spikes drew 134,927 in 2014.
- Jamestown played its final season in 2014, and drew just 24,246, the lowest total attendance of any NAPBL team. The Jammers had 6 lost dates. Their average per date of 758 was 2nd lowest (Princeton of the Appalachian League averaged 753) among NAPBL teams. The short-season record-high in Jamestown was 63,069 in 2001. The city's full-season record-high was 143,016 in 1942. They also topped 100,000 in 1946 and 1949. But the team had not reached 50,000 since 2004.
- Vermont had an increase of 2,408, but finished below 100,000 for the 8th straight year. The Lake Monsters had reached 100,000 in 12 of the 13 seasons before that.
- Williamsport lost 3 dates, and had their smallest total (61,249) since 1999.

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

- Team relocations and new parks have resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in the past 22 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 2014 attendance total of 1,559,946 is a gain of 128.0% from 1992. 2014 average attendance per team was 111,245, and the average per date was 3,083. In 2015, 12 of the 14 teams in this league will play in a ballpark that opened between 1994 and 2015. The only teams with an older park in this league are Vermont and Williamsport, whose ballparks opened in the 1920's.
- The Jamestown Jammers have moved Morgantown, WV. They will be named the West Virginia Black Bears, and share a new ballpark with West Virginia University. This will be Morgantown's first Minor League team.

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE) (10 teams -- 68 game schedule)

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

- 2014 was a good year for the Appalachian League. Total attendance rose 44,684 (16.2%) to 320,103, which was the 2nd best total for this league since 1999. The percentage increase was the best of any Minor League in 2014.
- The number of dates lost due to weather was cut in half, from 32 in 2013 to 16 in 2014. There were 35 lost dates in 2012, and just 5 in 2011.
- Average attendance per date was up 94 to 988, the league's best average since 2009.
- 9 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 had growth in average per date. Bluefield, down 1,786, was the only team with a drop in total attendance. In average per date, only Burlington, down 47, and Bluefield, down 30, had declines.
- For the first time since 1999, at least 3 Appalachian League teams drew over 40,000 (Greeneville, Burlington, Johnson City).
- This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- In 1957, the Appalachian League became the first league to play a short-season schedule. Total attendance for the league didn't reach 200,000 until 1986.
- The highest average attendance per team for this league was 51,736 in 1947, when it played a longer schedule (126 games) than it does now. From 1957 through 1985, the average per team was below 20,000 in 17 seasons. It didn't reach 30,000 per team until 1988. The short-season record-high average per team is 44,276 in 1993. The last time the average per team topped 40,000 was in 1997.
- Lowest average per team was just 12,983 in 1983. That year, the 7 teams in this league drew a total of 90,878. Bluefield had the highest attendance – 25,767. 4 teams drew less than 10,000. Pikeville drew just 4,998.
- Greeneville, TN led the league in total attendance and average per date for the 11th year in a row, drawing 48,619, their best total since 2009, and an average of 1,430 per date. The Astros have topped 40,000 in all 11 seasons.
- Johnson City had the best total increase among all short-season teams in 2014, up 14,739. Their total of 40,351 was the best since 2001, and the 9th time above 40,000 since 1957. The Cardinals' average per date increase of 435, from 826 in 2013 to 1,261 in 2014, was not only the best gain among all short-season teams, but also the 13th highest average per date increase among all NAPBL teams.
- Burlington topped 40,000 for the first time since 2000, with an 8,297 increase. This team drew over 40,000 each year from 1996 through 2000, and reached 60,000 in 6 of 8 seasons between 1986 and 1993.
- Bristol's total of 25,743 was its best since 1998. Average per date rose by 158. This team has not topped 30,000 since 1976, when they drew their record-high total of 32,409. Their full-season high is 68,504 in 1946.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** - continued

- Kingsport drew 30,464, up 6,988, and has now topped 30,000 in 8 of the last 11 seasons. They drew better than 45,000 from 1997 through 1999.
- Danville ended a streak of 6 straight declines, and reached 30,000 for the first time since 2010. In their first 7 seasons (1993-1999), Danville topped 50,000 each year, and drew a league record-high 80,539 in 1993.
- Bluefield had the only decrease in total attendance in the league in 2014. In 2013, the Blue Jays had their best total since 2009, which was their only year above 30,000 since 1999. This team drew 55,373 in 1991, and had 10 straight years above 30,000 from 1990 through 1999.
- Elizabethton, which has the smallest NAPBL ballpark, has surpassed 30,000 just once (in 2007) in their 41 years in this league. But they have drawn over 20,000 in each of the last 14 years, after doing it just twice (1978 and 1994) from 1974 through 2000. The E-Twins are a good example of how a team with few rainouts could still have a bad weather year. Only one of their games was rained out in 2014. But the tarp had to be put on the field at some point during the day of 15 of their first 21 games.
- Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this level in the last 13 years.
- Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 4 of their last 7 seasons after doing it just once in the previous 35 years with a team. They drew 26,160 in 2014. In 1998, this franchise drew just 8,812, an average of 275 per date. This team becomes a Yankees affiliate in 2015, and will change its name from Mariners to Yankees.
- 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.

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 50,093 (7.4%) to 623,031. This was the worst decline among all NAPBL leagues in both actual total loss, and percentage loss. It was also the smallest total for the Pioneer League since 2005.
- Average per date was 2,148, lowest since 2005, and down 134. This was the largest decrease in average per date of any NAPBL league in 2014. There were 5 fewer dates than in 2013.
- 2014 was the 12th year in a row where the average per date was at least 2,000. The league did not average 2,000+ per date in any season before 2003, going back to at least 1992.
- Pioneer League total attendance didn't top 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It's done so every year since then.
- Missoula was the only team in the league with a gain in total attendance. They were also the only team whose average per date went up. The loss by Billings was tiny, down 59 in total attendance, and just one in average.
- Pioneer League record-high average attendance per team is 91,119 in 2008. The only other year above 90,000 was 2009. This league began to play a short-season schedule in 1964. When it played a longer season, the record-high average per team was 100,335 in 1948.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** - continued

- From 1964 through 1980, the league average per team never topped 40,000. The low was 15,862 in 1965. That year, the 4 teams in the league drew a combined total of just 63,446. 6 of the current 8 teams in the league individually drew more than that in 2014. 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. The last year with an average per team below 50,000 was 1993 (41,921).
- Ogden led the league in total attendance for the 15th consecutive season, drawing 108,504, their lowest total since 2000. The Raptors have topped 100,000 for 14 straight years. But in 2014, Ogden's total attendance was down 16,183, and they had a league-worst 356 decline in average per date. Ogden and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- Idaho Falls had the league's biggest total attendance decline (16,472), and their lowest total since 2006. Average per date fell by 253 to 79,895. There were 3 lost dates in 2014. Their ballpark seats just 3,400, and their 8 of their top 10 attendance totals have all come in the last 8 seasons.
- Great Falls drew 49,240, their lowest season total since 1978. Average per date fell by 284. Attendance there has been cut by more than half since 2003. The Voyagers have not reached 60,000 in the last 4 years, after topping 100,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2003 through 2009.
- Grand Junction, in its 3rd season in the league drew 81,382, lowest total of these 3 years. Average per date dropped by 163. 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 7th straight year. Prior to this streak, Billings had reached 100,000 just 6 times in 48 seasons. The Mustangs' 2014 total attendance decline was a grand total of 59.
- Orem has surpassed 80,000 for 9 consecutive years, with 4 of those seasons topping 100,000. The Owlz (yes, that is spelled correctly) drew 83,179 in 2014.
- Missoula drew over 80,000 for the 8th straight year after never before reaching that level. The Osprey gained 2,743 in total attendance in 2014. Average per date was up 76 to 2,345, the 3rd best in team history.
- It's been 9 years in a row with total attendance under 40,000 for the Helena Brewers. Teams in Helena failed to reach 30,000 in any season from 1978 through 1988, and have topped 40,000 just 6 times in 35 years. The 2014 total of 30,764 was the lowest in this team's 12 seasons. Their ballpark seats just 2,100.
- The league's record-high attendance noted earlier 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.
- Highest attendance ever for a Pioneer League game was 12,870 at Salt Lake City in 1992. Salt Lake City is now in the Pacific Coast League. But they had a Pioneer League team from 1939-1942, 1946-1957, 1967-1969, and 1985-1992. In their final Pioneer League season Salt Lake City drew 217,263, the highest total ever in this league. They also topped 200,000 as a Pioneer League team in 1946 and 1991.

2014 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Buffalo Bisons	535,275	66	8,110	537,747	(2,472)	1988
Charlotte Knights	687,715	71	9,686	254,834	432,881	2014
Columbus (OH) Clippers	628,980	70	8,985	635,613	(6,633)	2009
Durham Bulls	533,033	70	7,615	498,735	34,298	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Braves	303,959	71	4,281	323,799	(19,840)	2009
Indianapolis Indians	660,289	70	9,433	637,579	22,710	1996
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	614,888	68	9,042	613,075	1,813	2008
Louisville Bats	567,256	71	7,990	581,114	(13,858)	2000
Norfolk Tides	358,147	68	5,267	382,195	(24,048)	1993
Pawtucket Red Sox	515,665	70	7,367	540,034	(24,369)	1942
Rochester Red Wings	422,454	66	6,401	420,751	1,703	1997
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	401,618	68	5,906	435,839	(34,221)	2013
Syracuse Chiefs	247,046	66	3,743	345,047	(98,001)	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	545,265	71	7,680	560,080	(14,815)	2002
LEAGUE TOTAL	7,021,590	966	7,269	6,766,442	255,148	
<u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Albuquerque Isotopes	564,625	70	8,066	567,568	(2,943)	2003
Colorado Springs Sky Sox	350,374	69	5,078	326,374	24,000	1988
<i>El Paso Chihuahuas</i>	<i>560,997</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>7,901</i>	<i>200,077</i>	<i>360,920</i>	<i>2014</i>
Fresno Grizzlies	467,862	69	6,781	487,536	(19,674)	2002
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	492,060	70	7,029	467,481	24,579	1992
Las Vegas 51s	329,429	71	4,640	328,266	1,163	1983
Memphis Redbirds	381,429	67	5,693	498,362	(116,933)	2000
Nashville Sounds	323,961	66	4,909	355,003	(31,042)	1978
New Orleans Zephyrs	348,796	71	4,913	344,998	3,798	1997
Oklahoma (City) RedHawks	429,190	71	6,045	400,025	29,165	1998
Omaha Storm Chasers	393,946	70	5,628	390,957	2,989	2011
Reno Aces	379,439	72	5,270	349,364	30,075	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	595,700	71	8,390	589,042	6,658	2000
Sacramento River Cats	607,839	71	8,561	607,329	510	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	470,565	70	6,722	531,221	(60,656)	1994
Tacoma Rainiers	305,446	65	4,699	320,080	(14,634)	1960
LEAGUE TOTAL	7,001,658	1,114	6,285	6,763,683	237,975	
<i>El Paso played in Tucson in 2013, and for the first 4 home dates in 2014. Those 4 dates in Tucson drew 12,060.</i>						
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	14,023,248	2,080	6,742	13,530,125	493,123	
<u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Akron Rubber Ducks	350,704	68	5,157	295,459	55,245	1997
Altoona Curve	275,823	67	4,117	286,227	(10,404)	1999
Binghamton Mets	171,279	64	2,676	185,093	(13,814)	1992
Bowie Baysox	248,630	69	3,603	252,593	(3,963)	1994
Erie SeaWolves	209,299	67	3,124	206,780	2,519	1995
Harrisburg Senators	273,645	66	4,146	284,361	(10,716)	2010
New Britain Rock Cats	302,865	68	4,454	307,097	(4,232)	1996
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	340,299	66	5,156	353,639	(13,340)	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	359,427	65	5,530	341,420	18,007	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	394,458	68	5,801	436,134	(41,676)	1950
Richmond Flying Squirrels	418,147	66	6,336	434,769	(16,622)	1985
Trenton Thunder	361,369	71	5,090	360,010	1,359	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,705,945	805	4,604	3,743,582	(37,637)	

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Birmingham Barons	437,612	70	6,252	396,820	40,792	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	242,627	69	3,516	220,854	21,773	2000
Huntsville Stars	94,929	65	1,460	123,904	(28,975)	1985
Jackson (West Tenn) Generals	135,248	67	2,019	119,202	16,046	1998
Jacksonville (FL) Suns	300,538	65	4,624	295,258	5,280	2003
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	211,200	67	3,152	200,268	10,932	2005
Mobile BayBears	106,297	63	1,687	149,675	(43,378)	1997
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	244,534	64	3,821	258,532	(13,998)	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	311,687	70	4,453	307,094	4,593	2012
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	283,038	69	4,102	244,984	38,054	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,367,710	669	3,539	2,316,591	51,119	
<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	326,179	64	5,097	293,749	32,430	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	393,769	70	5,625	379,395	14,374	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	449,773	68	6,614	479,873	(30,100)	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	299,586	67	4,471	317,233	(17,647)	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	319,109	69	4,625	318,592	517	2008
San Antonio Missions	294,539	69	4,269	294,346	193	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	354,227	69	5,134	338,345	15,882	2003
Tulsa Drillers	403,732	65	6,211	393,600	10,132	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,840,914	541	5,251	2,815,133	25,781	
TOTAL CLASS AA	8,914,569	2,015	4,424	8,875,306	39,263	
<u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Bakersfield Blaze	57,057	69	827	56,345	712	1941
High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks	147,231	70	2,103	92,379	54,852	1991
Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers	195,841	69	2,838	192,549	3,292	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	220,069	70	3,144	217,869	2,200	1994
Lancaster JetHawks	170,532	70	2,436	158,266	12,266	1996
Modesto Nuts	172,902	70	2,470	177,700	(4,798)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	166,993	70	2,386	172,306	(5,313)	1993
San Jose Giants	200,124	70	2,859	201,011	(887)	1942
Stockton Ports	195,500	70	2,793	199,742	(4,242)	2005
Visalia Rawhide	120,003	70	1,714	115,321	4,682	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,646,252	698	2,359	1,583,488	62,764	
<u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Carolina Mudcats	215,149	64	3,362	224,736	(9,587)	1991
Frederick Keys	324,446	65	4,991	324,311	135	1990
Lynchburg Hillcats	158,750	66	2,405	160,537	(1,787)	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	241,026	66	3,652	222,406	18,620	1999
Potomac Nationals	243,559	63	3,866	236,772	6,787	1984
Salem Red Sox	220,782	66	3,345	172,293	48,489	1995
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	278,316	64	4,349	292,319	(14,003)	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	299,645	66	4,540	301,366	(1,721)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,981,673	520	3,811	1,934,740	46,933	

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Bradenton Marauders	104,584	65	1,609	109,845	(5,261)	1923
Brevard County Manatees	78,465	61	1,286	97,238	(18,773)	1994
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	118,430	64	1,850	107,995	10,435	1987
Clearwater Threshers	195,063	70	2,787	172,151	22,912	2004
Daytona Beach Cubs	143,273	58	2,470	146,049	(2,776)	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	60,044	67	896	50,695	9,349	1977
Fort Myers Miracle	119,102	64	1,861	121,832	(2,730)	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	71,713	63	1,138	64,813	6,900	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	64,396	64	1,006	60,011	4,385	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	74,887	68	1,101	64,121	10,766	1998
St. Lucie Mets	94,650	64	1,479	98,664	(4,014)	1988
Tampa Yankees	111,521	68	1,640	118,770	(7,249)	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,236,128	776	1,593	1,212,184	23,944	
<u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Beloit Snappers	63,505	65	977	61,045	2,460	1982
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	180,350	64	2,818	216,301	(35,951)	2009
Burlington (IA) Bees	70,649	67	1,054	62,932	7,717	1947
Cedar Rapids (IA)ernels	171,011	67	2,552	180,688	(9,677)	2002
Clinton LumberKings	111,329	65	1,713	113,880	(2,551)	1937
Dayton Dragons	573,709	68	8,437	579,946	(6,237)	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	406,715	70	5,810	403,596	3,119	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	230,019	69	3,334	231,639	(1,620)	2007
Kane County (IL) Cougars	415,571	69	6,023	406,152	9,419	1991
Lake County (OH) Captains	226,454	65	3,484	235,002	(8,548)	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	338,249	70	4,832	334,806	3,443	1996
Peoria Chiefs	217,632	66	3,297	208,616	9,016	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	237,005	61	3,885	226,112	10,893	2004
South Bend Silver Hawks	258,836	69	3,751	237,448	21,388	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	391,653	70	5,595	377,948	13,705	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	250,131	63	3,970	241,938	8,193	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	4,142,818	1,068	3,879	4,118,049	24,769	
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Asheville Tourists	174,893	68	2,572	163,664	11,229	1992
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	169,194	67	2,525	176,762	(7,568)	1995
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	280,075	65	4,309	283,274	(3,199)	1997
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	210,130	65	3,233	206,772	3,358	1996
Greensboro Grasshoppers	369,170	68	5,429	362,274	6,896	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	346,187	69	5,017	300,402	45,785	2006
Hagerstown Suns	61,683	63	979	65,606	(3,923)	1931
Hickory Crawdads	148,414	69	2,151	143,157	5,257	1993
Kannapolis Intimidators	119,377	62	1,925	125,811	(6,434)	1995
Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws	380,573	68	5,597	400,299	(19,726)	2001
Lexington (KY) Legends	282,158	67	4,211	274,805	7,353	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	177,531	69	2,573	168,026	9,505	2003
Savannah Sand Gnats	124,013	60	2,067	131,763	(7,750)	1941
West Virginia (Charleston) Power	140,484	62	2,266	149,198	(8,714)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,983,882	922	3,236	2,951,813	32,069	
TOTAL FULL SEASON A	11,990,753	3,984	3,010	11,800,274	190,479	

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Aberdeen IronBirds	150,300	36	4,175	189,879	(39,579)	2002
Auburn Doubledays	44,640	36	1,240	39,381	5,259	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	33,376	35	954	33,909	(533)	1996
Brooklyn Cyclones	231,628	37	6,260	232,224	(596)	2001
Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers	78,118	37	2,111	68,757	9,361	1995
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	159,084	37	4,300	164,230	(5,146)	1994
Jamestown Jammers	24,246	32	758	38,728	(14,482)	1941
Lowell Spinners	165,129	38	4,346	156,358	8,771	2000
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	109,545	35	3,130	114,598	(5,053)	1999
State College Spikes	134,927	37	3,647	133,637	1,290	2006
Staten Island Yankees	122,442	36	3,401	128,441	(5,999)	2001
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	161,171	38	4,241	156,712	4,459	2002
Vermont Lake Monsters	84,091	37	2,273	81,683	2,408	1922
Williamsport Crosscutters	61,249	35	1,750	64,188	(2,939)	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,559,946	506	3,083	1,602,725	(42,779)	
<u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Boise Hawks	87,519	38	2,303	91,324	(3,805)	1989
Eugene Emeralds	108,067	38	2,844	112,028	(3,961)	2010
Everett AquaSox	92,642	37	2,504	92,489	153	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	138,732	38	3,651	135,167	3,565	2013
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes	95,083	38	2,502	98,024	(2,941)	1997
Spokane Indians	193,865	37	5,240	187,371	6,494	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	85,679	38	2,255	83,987	1,692	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	180,187	37	4,870	184,042	(3,855)	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	981,774	301	3,262	984,432	(2,658)	
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays	26,446	32	826	28,232	(1,786)	1939
Bristol (VA) Pirates	25,743	30	858	20,309	5,434	1969
Burlington (NC) Royals	40,497	34	1,191	32,200	8,297	1960
Danville (VA) Braves	30,385	32	950	25,152	5,233	1993
Elizabethton (TN) Twins	26,590	33	806	24,725	1,865	1974
Greeneville (TN) Astros	48,619	34	1,430	45,261	3,358	2004
Johnson City (TN) Cardinals	40,351	32	1,261	25,612	14,739	1956
Kingsport (TN) Mets	30,464	32	952	23,476	6,988	1995
Princeton (WV) Rays	24,848	33	753	24,610	238	1988
Pulaski Mariners	26,160	32	818	25,842	318	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	320,103	324	988	275,419	44,684	

2014 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Billings Mustangs	105,358	36	2,927	105,417	(59)	2008
Grand Junction Rockies	81,382	37	2,200	87,436	(6,054)	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	49,520	37	1,338	58,386	(8,866)	1956
Helena Brewers	30,764	36	855	33,515	(2,751)	1939
Idaho Falls Chukars	79,895	35	2,283	96,367	(16,472)	2007
Missoula Osprey	84,429	36	2,345	81,686	2,743	2004
Ogden Raptors	108,504	36	3,014	124,687	(16,183)	1997
Orem (UT) Owlz	83,179	37	2,248	85,630	(2,451)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	623,031	290	2,148	673,124	(50,093)	
TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE	3,484,854	1,421	2,452	3,535,700	(50,846)	
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	149,802	51	2,937	153,719	(3,917)	1938
Campeche Pirates	113,959	47	2,425	87,755	26,204	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	175,827	54	3,256	177,731	(1,904)	2006
Carmen Dolphins	209,973	56	3,750	271,021	(61,048)	1967
Laguna Cowboys	261,321	54	4,839	264,942	(3,621)	1932
Mexico City Red Devils	217,028	55	3,946	241,881	(24,853)	1993
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	307,066	54	5,686	338,271	(31,205)	1975
Monterrey Sultans	687,642	58	11,856	590,692	96,950	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	179,286	53	3,383	180,734	(1,448)	1950
Puebla Parrots	240,409	48	5,009	290,361	(49,952)	1972
Reynosa Broncos	142,154	54	2,632	137,226	4,928	1963
Saltillo Sarape Makers	376,141	54	6,966	392,245	(16,104)	1963
Tabasco Cattlemen	133,318	54	2,469	144,434	(11,116)	1964
<i>Tijuana Toros</i>	<i>419,169</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>7,909</i>	<i>120,511</i>	<i>298,658</i>	<i>1976</i>
Veracruz Aguila Reds	159,271	53	3,005	190,484	(31,213)	1992
Yucatan Lions	225,404	49	4,600	230,369	(4,965)	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,997,770	847	4,720	3,812,376	185,394	
<i>Tijuana played in Minatitlan in 2013</i>						
TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES	42,411,194	10,347	4,099	41,553,781	857,413	

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2014 vs. 2013

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League	TOTAL ATTENDANCE				AVERAGE PER DATE		
	2014	2013	Change-2014 vs. 2013		2014	2013	# Change 2014 vs. 2013
			#	%			
International	7,021,590	6,766,442	255,148	3.8	7,269	7,041	228
Pacific Coast	7,001,658	6,763,683	237,975	3.5	6,285	6,044	241
AAA Total	14,023,248	13,530,125	493,123	3.6	6,742	6,505	237
Mexican	3,997,770	3,812,376	185,394	4.9	4,720	4,496	224
Eastern	3,705,945	3,743,582	(37,637)	(1.0)	4,604	4,616	(12)
Southern	2,367,710	2,316,591	51,119	2.2	3,539	3,515	24
Texas	2,840,914	2,815,133	25,781	0.9	5,251	5,204	47
AA Total	8,914,569	8,875,306	39,263	0.4	4,424	4,413	11
California	1,646,252	1,583,488	62,764	4.0	2,359	2,275	84
Carolina	1,981,673	1,934,740	46,933	2.4	3,811	3,657	154
Florida State	1,236,128	1,212,184	23,944	2.0	1,593	1,606	(13)
Midwest	4,142,818	4,118,049	24,769	0.6	3,879	3,907	(28)
South Atlantic	2,983,882	2,951,813	32,069	1.1	3,236	3,262	(26)
Full Season A Total	11,990,753	11,800,274	190,479	1.6	3,010	2,996	14
New York - Penn	1,559,946	1,602,725	(42,779)	(2.7)	3,083	3,174	(91)
Northwest	981,774	984,432	(2,658)	(0.3)	3,262	3,292	(30)
Appalachian	320,103	275,419	44,684	16.2	988	894	94
Pioneer	623,031	673,124	(50,093)	(7.4)	2,148	2,282	(134)
Short Season Total	3,484,854	3,535,700	(50,846)	(1.4)	2,452	2,513	(61)
NAPBL TOTAL	42,411,194	41,553,781	857,413	2.1	4,099	4,040	59
INDEPENDENT LEAGUES							
American Association	1,885,998	2,150,031	(264,033)	(12.3)	3,332	3,435	(103)
Atlantic	2,233,019	2,254,554	(21,535)	(1.0)	4,151	4,152	(1)
Can-Am	416,654	454,366	(37,712)	(8.3)	2,328	1,976	352
Frontier	1,444,322	1,541,169	(96,847)	(6.3)	2,356	2,439	(83)
United	105,696	230,269	(124,573)	(54.1)	734	1,225	(491)
Pecos Baseball	41,125	49,586	(8,461)	(17.1)	169	195	(26)
Independent	N/A	N/A	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	-----
Pacific Association	39,417	28,318	11,099	39.2	340	691	(351)
Freedom Pro	0	0	0		0	0	0
Independent Total	6,166,231	6,708,293	(542,062)	(8.1)	2,570	2,668	(98)
GRAND TOTAL	48,577,425	48,262,074	315,351	0.7	3,811	3,771	40

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**

There were some more changes among the independent leagues in 2014. The Atlantic and Frontier Leagues all had the same lineup of teams and cities as in 2013. The Can-Am, United, and Pecos Leagues, and the American Association, and Pacific Association all made changes in their rosters of teams in 2014. The Freedom Pro Baseball League did not return. A new league, named the Independent Baseball League, played its first season. These changes will be noted in the individual league summaries on the following pages.

- In 2014 there were 8 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by 7 leagues. Figures were available for 50 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 Independent League, based in Ohio and Michigan, did not report their attendance, nor did nor did Vallejo of the Pacific Association, and 3 teams in the Pecos League. Attendance for all of these teams was probably quite low. 8 independent leagues, with 53 teams that recorded attendance, operated in 2013.
- Total reported independent leagues 2014 attendance was 6,166,231, down 542,062 (8.1%). That is the lowest combined Independent leagues total since 2001. The combined independent leagues record-high is 8,485,921, set in 2007. In 2014, independent leagues recorded attendance for 115 fewer dates than in 2013, and combined to play 714 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,399 playing dates with reported attendance in 2014 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- Combined 2014 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,570. This is down 98 from 2013. 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 2014, 6 of the 7 independent leagues that also operated in 2013, and reported attendance, had declines in total attendance. The Pacific Association had a gain, but 2 of their teams who did report attendance in 2014, didn't do so in 2013, so it's an unknown comparison. The Can-Am League had the only average per date gain, as they dropped Newark. The Atlantic League was down just one per date.
- 47 independent league teams were in the same market in 2014 as in 2013. 14 of them had 2014 gains in total attendance, while 33 were down. 13 teams 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, and also played in 2014.

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 Total Attendance</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Team Leader Avg. per Date</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
2014	7	50	6,166,231	Sugar Land	383,465	Winnipeg	5,618

Number of leagues and teams only includes those that had attendance recorded. It includes leagues and teams that compiled attendance but disbanded prior to the end of their seasons. In 1995, there were 13 teams that folded before completing their seasons. 11 teams, including all 8 in the Canadian League, didn't finish their seasons in 2003.

Bridgeport, Long Island, and Sugar Land play in the Atlantic League, which has the longest season of any independent league. In most years, teams in the Atlantic League were scheduled for 70 home games. Other independent leagues have in recent years had 48-50 home games per team each season. In some cases, leagues had a team that only played road games, so the rest of the teams in the league played a few extra home dates.

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

<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
1998	St. Paul	272,210	2007	Winnipeg	300,938
1999	St. Paul	265,818	2008	St. Paul	286,796
2000	Winnipeg	271,513	2009	Winnipeg	278,099
2001	Winnipeg	292,095	2010	Winnipeg	271,399
2002	Winnipeg	303,786	2011	Winnipeg	275,521
2003	Winnipeg	300,760	2012	Winnipeg	285,263
2004	Winnipeg	323,241	2013	Winnipeg	276,359
2005	Winnipeg	322,758	2014	Winnipeg	258,429
2006	Winnipeg	312,213			

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)

- The Atlantic League has always played the longest schedule among modern (post-1992) independent leagues.
- Attendance fell 21,535 (1.0%) to 2,233,019 in 2014. The 2012 attendance, noted above, was the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. In 2014, the Atlantic League surpassed 2 million for the 6th time in the last 7 years. The league played 5 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013.
- Average attendance per date fell by 1 to 4,151. It was the 9th straight year above 4,000, and the league's 4th best average per date ever. League record-high is 4,409 in 2012. The best average per date for any independent league was 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- Atlantic League playoff games drew an average of 4,145 per game. This was the highest post-season average per date of any U.S. based league in 2014. The Mexican League 2014 playoffs averaged 8,950 per game.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 3 teams posted gains in average per date.
- Atlantic League average attendance per team has been above 245,000 in all years since 2001. The record-high of 295,947 per team in 2012 is the best ever for a modern independent league.
- 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, even though the Skeeters had the highest independent total attendance, it declined 83,452, the worst drop by any independent team. Average per date fell 1,113, which was the 2nd greatest drop among independent teams. Sugar Land had a 1,406 gain to 383,465 in 2014, and led all independent teams in total attendance.
- Long Island (Central Islip, NY) had league's biggest declines in both total attendance (down 26,643) and average per date (down 236). The total of 344,543 was the lowest in the team's 15 year history. From 2000 through 2011, the Ducks had the highest total attendance of any independent league team, topping 400,000 each year. The Ducks had the 2nd best independent total attendance in both 2012 and 2013, and the 3rd highest in 2014. In their history, the Ducks have drawn 6,172,361, and averaged 5,895 per date, which is 98.2% of their ballpark's seating capacity. They've had 639 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 1,047 dates, including 12 in 2014.
- Somerset topped 335,000 for the 16th straight year, and their total of 348,512 was 2nd highest among independent teams. Average per date at Somerset was 5,202 in 2014. The Patriots have averaged over 5,000 per date in all 16 seasons they've played.
- Lancaster had gain of 11,770. The Barnstormers have topped 300,000 in each season except 2013 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 7 years. In 2014, total attendance rose 13,325, the 2nd best gain among all independent teams. Average per date was up 196.
- Southern Maryland lost 6 dates, and total attendance fell 21,200 to 221,694. Blue Crabs' attendance has been very stable, ranging between 214,135 and 242,894 in each of their 7 seasons.
- Camden had a 2,254 decline to 214,891, the lowest total in the team's 14 years. The Riversharks topped 250,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but not since then.
- Bridgeport Bluefish attendance had fallen from 342,857 in 1999 to a record-low 132,139 in 2012. In 2014, total attendance was 150,284, with 6 lost dates. This team drew better than 230,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but has been below 200,000 in all 10 years since.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (12 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 12 teams in 2014 after El Paso got a team in the Pacific Coast League. There will be 13 teams in 2015 with the addition of Joplin. Some games are played with teams from the Can-Am League.
- This league began play in 2006. It is no relation to the Class AAA NAPBL league of the same name 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 264,033 (12.3%) to 1,885,998. The 12 returning teams in the league combined for 11 fewer dates in 2014 than in 2013. Overall, the league had 60 fewer dates than in 2013. Average per date fell by 103 to 3,332, which was still the 3rd highest in this league's 9 years. The league record-high average is 3,512 in 2012.
- If El Paso's 2013 attendance is excluded, and a comparison is made only for the 12 teams that were in the league in both 2014 and 2013, the total attendance decline was 152,803 (7.5%), and the average per date fell by 201.
- Average attendance per team was 157,167 in 2014, the 4th year in a row above 150,000. Highest average per team for this league was 172,634 in 2012, and the lowest was 122,752 in 2010.
- 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 2 teams were up in average per date.
- Grand Prairie had the worst decline in total attendance (50,448) of any independent team in 2014, and the 2nd worst average per date loss (996). 5 other teams also had average per date declines of at least 200: Amarillo (down 448); Laredo (down 432); Sioux Falls (down 383); Winnipeg (down 262); Kansas City (down 233).
- Winnipeg drew 258,429 to lead the league. 2014 total attendance fell 17,930. 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 4 years since joining. Winnipeg had topped 270,000 for 14 years in a row through 2013. Their 2014 average per date was 5,618, highest among independent teams. Winnipeg has drawn 4,356,772 in 693 dates, averaging 6,287 per date since 2000, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 12 times in the last 15 years.
- Sioux Falls, SD had a decline of 21,347. But attendance there has topped 100,000 in 18 of the past 20 seasons.
- Sioux City, Iowa had the lowest total attendance (50,746) in its 22 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 9 seasons.
- Laredo had a decline of 18,493 to 132,562. 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 186,306 in 2014.
- St. Paul had the league's best total gain, up 8,707. Their average per date increase of 393 was the best among all independent league teams. Minnesota's capital city team has been a big success since they began play in 1993. The Saints have topped 230,000 every year except their first, and in 2014, had their highest total since 2009. 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 opens in St. Paul in 2015.
- Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, has topped 200,000 in all 12 years of play. They've averaged 5,410 per date during this period, drawing 3,072,832 in 567 dates. The T-Bones have surpassed 244,000 in each of the past 10 seasons, and topped 260,000 in 7 of the last 9 years.
- Lincoln topped 200,000 each year from 2001 through 2005, but has not done it since.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- Amarillo declined 23,964 to its lowest total (81,834) since 2004. This ended an 8 year streak of at least 100,000. The team's name will change from the Sox to the ThunderHeads in 2015.
- Grand Prairie had its lowest attendance ever – 60,747. The previous low was 108,236 in 2012. The Airhogs' 50,448 total decrease was the worst among independent teams, and their average per date loss of 996 was the next to worst drop in the independent leagues.
- Wichita had a small increase, and has now topped 140,000 in 6 of their 7 years in this league. Wichita failed to reach 200,000 in their last 12 seasons (1996-2007) in the Texas League. From 1956-1958, and from 1970-1984, Wichita was in the Class AAA American Association. Their best attendance in that league was 280,320 in 1971.
- Joplin, MO gets a team in this league in 2015. It will be named the Blasters. The last Minor League team in Joplin played in the Western Association through 1954. Their best listed attendance was 90,363 in 1946. Mickey Mantle played for Joplin in 1950, hit .383, and scored 141 runs.

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE (4 teams – One team only played road games – Length of schedule was 76 games)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 549,014 (2007); Team – Amarillo – 159,332 (2008)

- This league originally 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 Edinburg did not return to the league in 2014.
- Amarillo, now in the American Association, led the old United League (2006-2010) in attendance for each of its 5 seasons, drawing over 100,000 each year.
- Total 2014 attendance was 105,696, down 124,573 (54.1%). Average per date was 734, down 491. Those were the lowest figures ever for the United League. The league as a whole played 44 fewer dates than in 2013.
- The highest average per date for the league was 2,049 in 2007, and had the average was above 1,800 per date each year from 2006 through 2010. Total attendance was above 475,000 in each of those 5 seasons.
- The 3 teams that played in both 2014 and 2013 were down a combined 68,042 (39.2%). They played a combined 21 more dates in 2014 than in 2013. Average per date for these teams was down 679 from the 1,413 they averaged in 2013.
- All 3 teams had declines in both total attendance and average per date.
- Fort Worth drew 60,314, averaging 1,160 per date, to lead the league. But the Cats had a 29,744 total decrease which was the 2nd worst among all independent teams. Their average per date fell by 1,091, which was the worst decline for an independent team. In 2013, Fort Worth had 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 27,470 was the 4th worst among all independent teams. Their average per date declined by 700, which was the 3rd largest decline in the independent leagues. The Colts had the lowest total attendance (18,008) in their 15 years as an independent team. They drew 150,770 in 2000, and topped 100,000 in 7 of their 15 seasons.
- Rio Grande Valley also had its lowest total (27,374) in 19 seasons with an independent league team. The White Wings surpassed 100,000 in 2000.
- It is unknown if this league will operate in 2015.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

CAN-AM LEAGUE (4 teams) -- 96 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

- There were 4 teams in the Can-Am League in 2014. Newark did not operate. The league played an inter-league schedule with the American Association.
- Total attendance fell 37,712 (8.3%) to 416,654. This was the lowest total for this league, or its predecessors (Northeast League and the East section of the Northern League) since 1996. But with just 4 teams in 2014, a low total for the league would be expected.
- Average per date was up 352 to 2,328, which was the league's best average since 2008.
- If Newark, which drew very poorly in its final year, is excluded from 2013 figures, the total attendance for the 4 returning teams went down a combined 16,424 (3.8%). Average per date fell 39 from 2,367 to 2,328.
- 2 teams had gains in total attendance. Rockland, up 198, had the only average per date increase.
- Average attendance per team was 104,164 in 2014, the best figure since 2008. The league also averaged better than 100,000 per team from 2005 through 2008.
- Rockland County drew 146,383, its 2nd best total in 4 years of operation, to lead the league. Their total gain of 3,152 was the best in the league.
- Quebec City had led the league in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. In 2014, their total attendance fell by 20,091, the worst loss in the league, and the team's lowest total since 1999. Average per date was down 120, which was also the league's biggest decline. The Capitales had surpassed 138,000 for 13 years in a row through 2013. They've still topped 110,000 in all 16 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 drew 76,423, the lowest total in its 17 year history. The Jackals had topped 100,000 in 10 of their first 11 seasons (1998-2008), but have been below 90,000 in each of the last 6 years.
- **Trois Rivières drew an independent league record-high 72,543, up 975.** 2014 was the Aigles 2nd year in this league. NAPBL minor league teams had played in Trois Rivières. 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 NAPBL attendance high was 119,751 in 1972.
- Newark left the league after the 2013 season when they drew 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 longer Atlantic League schedule. Their total attendance high was 243,255 in 2001, a year in which the Bears averaged 3,525 per date.
- The Sussex County (Augusta, NJ) Miners are one of the new teams in the league in 2015. Sussex had been in this league from 2006 through 2010. Their top Can-Am League attendance was 101,638 in 2007. In 2010, they drew 71,826. From 1994 through 2005, Sussex County had a team in the New York-Penn League. Attendance for that team topped 100,000 every season, with a high of 176,788 in 1995.
- The Ottawa Champions will be the other new Can-Am League team. Ottawa had a team in this league in 2008, and it drew 101,073. This city was in the International League from 1993 through 2007. In their first season, Ottawa drew 663,926, and in 1994, their attendance was 596,858. But then attendance fell very sharply, down to 195,979 in 1999. The Lynx drew under 200,000 in 8 of their final 9 years in Ottawa, with a low of 122,594 in 2006.
- There will also be a road team, playing a limited schedule, in 2015. This will provide extra home dates for the other 6 teams in the league. Once again, there will be games with teams from the American Association.

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)

- Total attendance fell 96,847 (6.3%) to 1,444,322. Attendance in this league first reached one million in 2003. It has topped 1.4 million for 8 years in a row.
- There were 19 fewer home dates in 2014 than a year earlier. Average attendance per date was 2,356, down 83. This was the lowest average per date for the league since 2005. Frontier League average per date has been over 2,000 in each of the last 12 years, with a record-high of 2,719 in 2010.
- Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, total attendance is up 100.8%, and average per date is up 58.9%.
- 2 teams had increases in total attendance in 2014, and 5 teams posted gains in average per date.
- Average attendance per team has surpassed 100,000 for 9 seasons in a row, and in 10 of the last 11 years. The average per team was just 13,769 in 1993, the Frontier League's first season. It was 111,102 in 2014.
- Schaumburg led the league in total attendance (157,393), and average per date (3,212). Average per date was up 207, the 2nd best gain among independent teams. The Boomers are the only Frontier League team whose average per date has gone up in both 2013 and 2014. Schaumburg has topped 150,000 in 14 of its 15 seasons, and went over 200,000 in 11 straight years from 1999 through 2009 when they played in the Northern League.
- Traverse City drew 143,585, their lowest total in 9 years of play. Total attendance fell 21,330. But the Beach Bums had 6 fewer dates than in 2013. They topped 200,000 in their first 2 seasons (2006 and 2007).
- Normal had its lowest attendance (109,952) in its 5 year history. Average per date fell by 288.
- Evansville played only 37 dates in 2014, down from 44 in 2013. The Otters drew 111,709, down 29,077, which was the 3rd worst decline among independent teams. But they've still reached 100,000 in 11 of the last 12 seasons. Average per date declined 181. In 2013, Evansville had its highest attendance (140,786) in the 20 seasons they've had an independent team. 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, and celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2015. The first game there in 1915 drew 8,082. On July 24, 2013, the Otters had a crowd of 8,253, the largest attendance ever for a game in this historic gem of a park.
- River City (O'Fallon, MO) drew 81,662, its 2nd lowest total in 16 years of play. The Rascals topped 150,000 in the team's first 6 seasons, but not since. 2014 was just the 4th time that attendance was below 100,000.
- The Southern Illinois (Marion) Miners have led this league in attendance in 4 of the 8 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. In 2014, total attendance rose 21,203, the best increase among all independent teams. Average per date was up 206. Attendance in Marion has topped 125,000 for 8 straight years, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010.
- Florence, KY saw their average per date fall 341 from the record high of 2,495 in 2013. The Freedom has drawn better than 100,000 in 5 of the last 7 years.
- Rockford drew 72,340, its lowest total as an independent league market. Average per date dipped by 256.
- Joliet had the lowest total in its 13 years. The Slammers drew 100,000+ each year from 2002 through 2012.
- Lake Erie (Avon, OH) had the lowest total of their 6 seasons. But the Crushers have topped 100,000 each year.
- Windy City (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once (2009) in their 16 seasons.
- Gateway (Sauget, IL) has topped 150,000 for 12 straight years. The Grizzlies, who drew 217,500 in 2004, finished just behind Schaumburg for the league-lead in total attendance and average per date in 2014.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- Average per date for Washington, PA was up 172. But the Wild Things drew less than 100,000 for the 3rd straight year. They had 10 consecutive seasons (2002-2011) above that level, including 6 years above 150,000.
- The Frontier League celebrated its 21st anniversary in 2014. 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 early in 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, and 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.'

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 Teams – 58-72 games played, teams with attendance had 26-39 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.
- Bisbee and Douglas were added in 2014 to give the league 10 teams. But Taos, Bisbee, Raton and Douglas will not play in 2015. Las Cruces, NM, and Garden City, KS will be added, so the league goes back to 8 teams.
- Total estimated attendance was 41,125, down 8,461 (17.1%). Estimated average per date was 169, down 26. There were 11 more dates in 2014 than in 2013. No attendance data was available for Douglas, Raton, and Las Vegas, NM.
- Santa Fe led the league in total attendance, and average per date, drawing 14,668, an average of 386 per date.
- 3 teams had gains in total attendance, and 2 were up in average per date. White Sands, up 4,662 in total attendance, and up 126 in average per date had the best increases.
- Roswell, down 6,154 in total attendance, and 152 in average per date, had the worst declines.

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

- This league played in 2012 and 2013. It had 4 teams, all in Arizona. The league didn't play in 2014.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – (4 teams, 78 game schedule)

- The San Rafael Pacifics were the only team to report attendance in 2013 as well as in 2014. They drew 25,368 in 2014, an average of 604 per date, the highest figure among the 3 teams in this league that reported attendance. This was down 2,950 from 2013, and average per date fell by 87.
- The Pittsburg Mettle, who drew 3,819 in 42 dates, and the Sonoma Stompers, who drew 10,230 in 32 dates, were the other teams with listed 2014 attendance. Vallejo was the other team in this league.

INDEPENDENT BASEBALL LEAGUE – (4 teams – 36 game schedule)

- This league had teams in Adrian, Michigan, and Marion and Tiffin, Ohio, along with a road team. No attendance data for this league was published. The league played a very short schedule.

2014 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u>						
Amarillo Sox	81,834	43	1,903	105,798	(23,964)	1957
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	186,306	49	3,802	186,091	215	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	164,286	46	3,571	165,024	(738)	2003
Grand Prairie (TX) Airhogs	60,747	46	1,321	111,195	(50,448)	2008
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	248,989	48	5,187	265,596	(16,607)	2003
Laredo Lemurs	132,562	50	2,651	151,055	(18,493)	2012
Lincoln Saltdogs	166,503	47	3,543	177,982	(11,479)	2001
St. Paul Saints	248,106	47	5,279	239,399	8,707	1982
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	50,746	48	1,057	52,052	(1,306)	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	139,784	47	2,974	161,131	(21,347)	1964
Wichita (KS) Wingnuts	147,706	49	3,014	147,119	587	1934
Winnipeg Goldeyes	258,429	46	5,618	276,359	(17,930)	1999
<i>El Paso Diablos</i>				111,230		
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,885,998	566	3,332	2,150,031	(264,033)	
<i>El Paso played in the Pacific Coast League in 2014.</i>						
<u>ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u>						
Bridgeport Bluefish	150,284	64	2,348	157,267	(6,983)	1998
Camden Riversharks	214,891	69	3,114	217,145	(2,254)	2001
Lancaster Barnstormers	301,935	69	4,376	290,165	11,770	2005
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	344,543	68	5,067	371,186	(26,643)	2000
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	348,512	67	5,202	339,468	9,044	1999
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	221,694	64	3,464	242,894	(21,200)	2008
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	383,465	69	5,557	382,059	1,406	2012
York Revolution	267,695	68	3,937	254,370	13,325	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,233,019	538	4,151	2,254,554	(21,535)	
<u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u>						
Evansville Otters	111,709	37	3,019	140,786	(29,077)	1915
Florence (KY) Freedom	105,539	49	2,154	112,270	(6,731)	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	156,840	49	3,201	162,572	(5,732)	2002
Joliet Slammers	92,992	51	1,823	93,875	(883)	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	106,009	48	2,209	122,097	(16,088)	2009
Normal (IL) CornBelters	109,952	48	2,291	126,367	(16,415)	2010
River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals	81,662	45	1,815	92,652	(10,990)	1999
Rockford Aviators	72,340	45	1,608	87,612	(15,272)	2005
Schaumburg Boomers	157,393	49	3,212	150,254	7,139	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	147,287	53	2,779	126,084	21,203	2007
Traverse City Beach Bums	143,585	46	3,121	164,915	(21,330)	2006
Washington (PA) Wild Things	84,533	45	1,879	87,076	(2,543)	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	74,481	48	1,552	74,609	(128)	1999
<i>Frontier Greys (Road Team)*</i>	0	0		0	-	
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,444,322	613	2,356	1,541,169	(96,847)	
<u>INDEPENDENT BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is not available</u>						
Adrian (MI) Pioneers	N/A			-----	-----	
Shovel City Crawlers (Marion, OH)	N/A			-----	-----	
Tiffin (OH) Saints	N/A			-----	-----	
Ohio Travelers (Road Team)	N/A			-----	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A					

2014 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2013 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2014 vs. 2013	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>						
New Jersey Jackals	76,423	46	1,661	76,883	(460)	1998
Quebec (City) Capitales	121,305	42	2,888	141,396	(20,091)	1938
Rockland Boulders	146,383	46	3,182	143,231	3,152	2011
Trois Rivières Aigles	72,543	45	1,612	71,568	975	1938
Newark Bears				21,288	(21,288)	1998
LEAGUE TOTAL	416,654	179	2,328	454,366	(37,712)	
<i>*Newark did not operate in 2014. This league also plays teams from the American Association.</i>						
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	4,836	26	186	6,850	(2,014)	1947
Bisbee Blue	3,136	32	98			1909
Douglas Diablos	N/A					
Las Vegas (NM) Train Robbers	N/A			2,204	-----	1994
Roswell Invaders	2,886	39	74	9,040	(6,154)	
Raton Osos	N/A			6,572	-----	2008
Santa Fe Fuego	14,668	38	386	13,612	1,056	
Taos Blizzard	2,686	34	79	1,548	1,138	
Trinidad Triggers	4,662	37	126	6,171	(1,509)	1960
White Sands Pupfish	8,251	37	223	3,589	4,662	
LEAGUE TOTAL	41,125	243	169	49,586	(8,461)	
<i>Bisbee and Douglas were added in 2014.</i>						
<u>UNITED LEAGUE BASEBALL</u>						
Fort Worth Cats	60,314	52	1,160	90,058	(29,744)	2002
Rio Grande Valley White Wings	27,374	45	608	38,202	(10,828)	1950
San Angelo Colts	18,008	47	383	45,478	(27,470)	2000
Brownsville Charrus (Road)						
Alexandria (LA) Aces				7,660	-----	1934
Edinburg Roadrunners				48,871	(48,871)	2001
LEAGUE TOTAL	105,696	144	734	230,269	(124,573)	
<i>Alexandria and Edinburg did not operate in 2014.</i>						
<u>PACIFIC ASSOCIATION</u>						
Pittsburg (CA) Mettle	3,819	42	91	N/A		
San Rafael Pacifics	25,368	42	604	28,318	(2,950)	
Sonoma Stompers	10,230	32	320	N/A		
Vallejo Admirals	N/A					
Hawaii (Hilo) Stars						
Maui Na Koa Ikaika						
LEAGUE TOTAL	39,417	116	340	28,318	11,099	
<i>Hawaii and Maui did not operate in 2014.</i>						
<u>FREEDOM PRO BASEBALL LEAGUE - Did not report attendance in 2013. Did not operate in 2014</u>						

GRAND TOTAL

8 Independent Leagues in 2014 6,166,231 2,399 2,570 | 6,708,293 (542,062)

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 - LEAGUES

The table below lists each NAPBL and established independent league's record-highs for total attendance, average attendance per team, and average attendance per date. Also included are the records for the combined groups of Class AAA, Class AA, full-season Class A, and short-season teams. In addition, the records for the old Class AAA American Association, the Southern Association, and the independent Northern League, none of which are still in operation, are listed. Average per date records cover the period only since 1992. Figures for earlier years were not available. The Pacific Coast League had the same record-high average per date in 2006 and in 2007.

Record-high average per team for all independent leagues combined, and also for the combined NAPBL/independent leagues are not listed. This is because extra independent leagues that drew poorly played during some seasons, but not in others. So the years where these leagues played would have distorted figures.

LEAGUE RECORD-HIGHS

League	Total Attendance	Year	Average per Team	Year	Average per Date	Year
International	7,097,411	2008	506,958	2008	7,348	2009
Pacific Coast	7,420,095	2007	508,547	1947	6,625	2006-7
<i>All Class AAA</i>	<i>14,316,767</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>477,226</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>6,883</i>	<i>2008</i>
Mexican	4,591,286	1979	269,928	1964	4,850	2008
Eastern	3,966,241	2010	330,520	2010	4,904	1998
Southern	2,596,339	1994	259,634	1994	4,007	1994
Texas	3,129,865	2008	391,233	2008	5,691	2008
<i>All Class AA</i>	<i>9,361,036</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>312,035</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,603</i>	<i>2007</i>
California	2,061,889	1997	206,189	1997	2,988	1997
Carolina	1,981,673	2014	247,709	2014	3,811	2014
Florida State	1,296,962	2011	108,080	2011	1,642	2011
Midwest	4,184,843	2010	261,553	2010	3,907	2013
South Atlantic	3,862,077	2007	241,380	2007	3,630	2007
<i>All Full-season A</i>	<i>11,990,753</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>199,846</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>3,010</i>	<i>2014</i>
New York-Penn	1,890,053	2002	135,004	2002	3,664	2007
Northwest	1,060,587	1998	132,573	1998	3,516	1997
Appalachian	442,755	1993	44,276	1993	1,404	1994
Pioneer	728,952	2008	91,119	2008	2,463	2008
<i>All Short-A/Rookie</i>	<i>3,780,608</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>96,758</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2,727</i>	<i>2007</i>
Old Amer. Assoc.	4,158,401	1992	519,800	1992	7,588	1992
Southern Assoc.	2,180,344	1947	272,543	1947	N/A	
<i>NAPBL Total</i>	<i>43,263,740</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>245,817</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,174</i>	<i>2008</i>
INDEPENDENTS						
Atlantic	2,367,578	2012	295,947	2012	4,409	2012
Frontier	1,548,970	2012	133,543	2008	2,719	2010
American Assoc.	2,244,238	2012	172,634	2012	3,512	2012
Can-Am	1,040,107	2007	118,715	2005	2,455	2006
United	549,014	2007	91,502	2007	2,049	2007
Northern	2,189,151	2005	214,888	2008	4,621	2008
<i>All Independent</i>	<i>8,485,921</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>3,000</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>All Leagues Total</i>	<i>51,576,409</i>	<i>2008</i>			<i>3,892</i>	<i>2008</i>

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

90 of the 176 current NAPBL teams set their all-time attendance records between 2005 and 2014. 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 record for a current Minor League city, but for a different team, is Savannah (1937). Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing current-team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an NAPBL or independent league in 2014, 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 longer or 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 2014 are listed in bold. If 2014 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 2014 came from the office of Minor League Baseball.

Thanks to Steve Densa and Mary Marandi of Minor League Baseball for providing the yearly 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 2014 came from the Website of each league in most cases, with the office of the Pecos League, and 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 on page 87, and also in the League and Team Highlights sections of this report. Also listed at the start of the Highlights section for each league is the highest season attendance for an individual team in that league.

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	687,715	2014	Norfolk	560,211	1995
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009	Pawtucket	688,421	2005
Durham	533,033	2014	Rochester	515,436	1998
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	580,908	2007
Indianapolis	660,289	2014	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	New Orleans	519,584	1998
Colorado Springs	350,374	2014	Oklahoma City	542,095	2005
El Paso	560,997	2014	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

(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	283,038	2014

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	120,003	2014

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)	64,396	2014
Clearwater	195,063	2014	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	243,559	2014
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	258,836	2014
Fort Wayne	406,175	2014	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)	78,118	2014	Tri-City (Troy, NY) (c)	161,171	2014
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)	193,865	2014
Everett	119,396	1998	Tri-City, WA (c)	86,095	2012
Hillsboro (e)	138,732	2014	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	Oaxaca	209,984	2008
Campeche	287,749	1983	Puebla	363,011	2011
Cancun-Quintana Roo	214,556	2007	Reynosa	313,917	2009
Carmen	271,021	2013	Saltillo	613,551	2001
Laguna	350,717	2008	Tabasco	441,835	1979
Mexico City Reds	536,743	1967	Tijuana	548,863	2004
Monclova	425,738	1998	Veracruz	245,057	2012
Monterrey	989,454	2006	Yucatan	560,000	1982

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

CAN-AM LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Trois Rivières (d)	72,543	2014	Quebec City (c)	164,009	2009
Ottawa (a)	101,073	2008	Rockland	161,375	2012
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	Sussex County (b)	101,638	2007

(a) – Class AAA International League team drew 663,926 in 1993.

(c) – 1949 Canadian-American League team drew 176,779. (b) – NY-Penn League team drew 176,788 in 1995.

(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
Pittsburg	3,819	2014	San Rafael	31,411	2012
Sonoma	10,230	2014	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
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002		St. Paul (c)	297,834	2007
Gary	166,366	2010		Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995
Grand Prairie	143,627	2008		Sioux Falls, SD	161,131	2013
Joplin (a)	New in 2015			Wichita, KS (d)	161,170	2009
Kansas City, KS (b)	289,162	2007		Winnipeg	323,241	2004
Laredo	187,845	2012				

(a) - Class C Western Association team drew 90,363 in 1946. (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
Bisbee	3,136	2014		Douglas	N/A	
Las Vegas, NM	2,204	2013		Taos	2,686	2014
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 - 2014 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 2014 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 25, 35 and 45 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 2014 NUMBERS

The 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission drew 42,411,194, an average of 240,973 per team. Average per date was 4,099. 50 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 6,166,231, an average of 123,325 per team, and an average per date of 2,570. Most independent teams play shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 48,577,425, averaging 214,944 per team, and 3,811 per date. Major League total attendance was 73,739,622, an average of 2,457,987 per team, and 30,458 per date.

2014 COMPARISON WITH 1999

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was well underway. Comparing 2014 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were healthy gains.

NAPBL 2014 total attendance was up 20.6% from 1999. Average attendance per date increased 713 (21.1%). There were 176 NAPBL teams in both 2014 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. Total independent leagues attendance was up 26.6% vs. 1999, and their average per date rose 11 (0.4%). Combined 2014 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 21.3% from 1999, and average per date was up 553 (17.0%).

2014 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 20.6% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 6 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 58.9%. The Pioneer League was up 37.1%, the Florida State League had a 53.1% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 45.6%, the Mexican League increased 39.0%, and the Midwest League was up 30.7%. Independent league teams had a combined gain of 11.4%.

But 4 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2014 than they had in 1999. The Appalachian League was down 3.2%, and the Northwest League declined 3.9%. Full-season leagues with decreases were the California (down 1.7%), and Eastern Leagues (down 4.2%).

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 467,442 per team in 2014. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,742 in 2014, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,424 per date in 2014, up 483 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 3,010 per date in 2014, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,452 in 2014, 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 2014 total attendance and average per team was up 5.1% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 30,458 in 2014, up 1,248 (4.3%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2014 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. 2014 NAPBL total attendance was 83.6% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 71.1%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2014 figures, the results are gains of 110.3% in total attendance, and 52.6% in average per team.

The Appalachian League's 2014 average attendance per team was 2.8% higher than their 1989 average. Every other league had a gain of at least 28.9%.

3 leagues more than doubled their 2014 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 141.1% higher in 2014 than in 1989. The New York-Penn was up 118.3%, and the Midwest League gained 111.2%. The Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, California, Mexican and Carolina Leagues achieved increases of better than 70%. The combined Class AAA average per team was up 37.6%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest 1989 attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 15 teams reached 500,000 in 2014. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2014, 16 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 2014. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 533,033 in 2014. 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 2014, 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 2014, with Brooklyn surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 33.7% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 15.8%. The average per date of 30,458 in 2014 was 3,688 (13.8%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2014 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 2014 total attendance was 177.8% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 124.2%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2014 totals, the result is a 218.2% increase in total attendance, and a 99.9% gain in average per team.

11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues more than doubled their average attendance per team since 1979. There was a better than 4-fold increase in 4 leagues: Carolina – 426.3%; Eastern – 325.0%; Midwest – 326.3%; Northwest – 360.6%. 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 8.8%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 160.0% 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, Monterrey, Charlotte, and Lehigh Valley in 2014. 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 drew over 240,000 in 2014, and all of these teams, except Syracuse, topped 300,000.

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 2014. 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 2014, 50 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 37 full-season Class A teams, and 3 short-season teams in 2014. 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 2014.

Major League 2014 total attendance was up 69.3% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 46.7%. Average per date was up 8,518 (38.8%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2014 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2014 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2014 total NAPBL attendance was 324.8% higher, and average per team showed a 257.2% gain. Add the independent teams to the 2014 figures, and the total attendance growth is 386.5%, with average per team up 218.6%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 534.2%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 457.7% gain with 5 current teams each individually drawing better in 2014 than the entire league drew in 1969.

The New York-Penn League had a 367.9% increase, and the Eastern League was up 383.9%. The Carolina League had a gain of 419.5%, the Northwest League was up 382.9%, and the Southern League had a 326.0% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, California, and Pioneer Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 166.0%, the Appalachian League, up 84.5%, and the Mexican League, up 1.3%, were the only leagues whose 2014 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 245.8%.

In 1969, the Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance, drawing 428,548. Among U.S. based teams, Hawaii (Honolulu) was the top draw, with a total of 280,477. In 2014, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 63 NAPBL teams, including all teams in the Pacific Coast and Texas Leagues, 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 24 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2014. 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 170.8% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 116.6%. The 2014 MLB average per date was 30,458, up 15,100 (98.3%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2014 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Dayton of the Midwest League drew 573,709 in 2014. In 1979, the Midwest League's total attendance was 485,915, and in 1969, that league drew 367,420.)

Eastern League - Reading, Richmond (1969)

Southern League - Birmingham (1969)

Carolina League - 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 - 2014 vs. 1999

League	2014			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,491,145	15	2,299,410	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	1.2
	<u>39,248,477</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,616,565</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>9.2</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,739,622	30	2,457,987	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	5.1
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			
International	7,021,590	14	501,542	6,437,251	14	459,804	9.1
Pacific Coast	<u>7,001,658</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>437,604</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	24.9
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,023,248</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>467,442</i>	<i>12,044,250</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>401,475</i>	<i>16.4</i>
Mexican	3,997,770	16	249,861	2,875,289	16	179,706	39.0
Eastern	3,705,945	12	308,829	3,868,732	12	322,394	(4.2)
Southern	2,367,710	10	236,771	2,332,712	10	233,271	1.5
Texas	2,840,914	8	355,114	1,787,915	8	223,489	58.9
California	1,646,252	10	164,625	1,675,245	10	167,525	(1.7)
Carolina	1,981,673	8	247,709	1,652,256	8	206,532	19.9
Florida State	1,236,128	12	103,011	941,861	14	67,276	53.1
Midwest	4,142,818	16	258,926	2,774,427	14	198,173	30.7
South Atlantic *	2,983,882	14	213,134	2,049,461	14	146,390	45.6
New York-Penn	1,559,946	14	111,425	1,371,054	14	97,932	13.8
Northwest	981,774	8	122,722	1,021,390	8	127,674	(3.9)
Appalachian	320,103	10	32,010	330,517	10	33,052	(3.2)
Pioneer	<u>623,031</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,879</u>	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>56,795</u>	<u>37.1</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	42,411,194	176	240,973	35,179,471	176	199,883	20.6
Independent Lgs.	6,166,231	50	123,325	4,871,797	44	110,723	11.4
GRAND TOTAL	48,577,425	226	214,944	40,051,268	220	182,051	18.1

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2014 vs. 1989

<u>League</u>	<u>2014</u>			<u>1989</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team <u>2014 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	34,491,145	15	2,299,410	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	7.8
	<u>39,248,477</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,616,565</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>24.0</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,739,622	30	2,457,987	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	15.8
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			3,667,142	8	458,393	
International	7,021,590	14	501,542	2,613,247	8	326,656	53.5
Pacific Coast	<u>7,001,658</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>437,604</u>	<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	71.3
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,023,248</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>467,442</i>	<i>8,834,806</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>339,800</i>	<i>37.6</i>
Mexican	3,997,770	16	249,861	1,975,723	14	141,123	77.1
Eastern	3,705,945	12	308,829	1,272,812	8	159,102	94.1
Southern	2,367,710	10	236,771	1,687,844	10	168,784	40.3
Texas	2,840,914	8	355,114	1,511,610	8	188,951	87.9
California	1,646,252	10	164,625	933,883	10	93,388	76.3
Carolina	1,981,673	8	247,709	1,006,738	8	125,842	96.8
Florida State	1,236,128	12	103,011	957,344	14	68,382	50.6
Midwest	4,142,818	16	258,926	1,716,443	14	122,603	111.2
South Atlantic *	2,983,882	14	213,134	1,060,964	12	88,414	141.1
New York-Penn	1,559,946	14	111,425	714,561	14	51,040	118.3
Northwest	981,774	8	122,722	636,187	8	79,523	54.3
Appalachian	320,103	10	32,010	311,510	10	31,151	2.8
Pioneer	<u>623,031</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,879</u>	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>60,396</u>	28.9
NAPBL TOTAL	42,411,194	176	240,973	23,103,593	164	140,876	71.1
Independent Lgs.	6,166,231	50	123,325	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,577,425	226	214,944	23,103,593	164	140,876	52.6

* 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 - 2014 vs. 1979

<u>League</u>	<u>2014</u>			<u>1979</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1979
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	34,491,145	15	2,299,410	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	43.9
	<u>39,248,477</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,616,565</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>48.3</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,739,622	30	2,457,987	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	46.7
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
International	7,021,590	14	501,542	1,616,151	8	202,019	148.3
Pacific Coast	<u>7,001,658</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>437,604</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	148.4
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,023,248</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>467,442</i>	<i>4,674,378</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>179,784</i>	<i>160.0</i>
Mexican	3,997,770	16	249,861	4,591,286	20	229,564	8.8
Eastern	3,705,945	12	308,829	436,040	6	72,673	325.0
Southern	2,367,710	10	236,771	1,482,437	10	148,244	59.7
Texas	2,840,914	8	355,114	826,207	8	103,276	243.9
California	1,646,252	10	164,625	504,487	10	50,449	226.3
Carolina	1,981,673	8	247,709	282,371	6	47,062	426.3
Florida State	1,236,128	12	103,011	722,258	10	72,226	42.6
Midwest	4,142,818	16	258,926	485,915	8	60,739	326.3
South Atlantic *	2,983,882	14	213,134	347,237	6	57,873	268.3
New York-Penn	1,559,946	14	111,425	298,538	10	29,854	273.2
Northwest	981,774	8	122,722	213,163	8	26,645	360.6
Appalachian	320,103	10	32,010	128,735	6	21,456	49.2
Pioneer	<u>623,031</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,879</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	128.6
NAPBL TOTAL	42,411,194	176	240,973	15,265,633	142	107,504	124.2
Independent Lgs.	6,166,231	50	123,325	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,577,425	226	214,944	15,265,633	142	107,504	99.9

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

1979 figures for Inter-American League which folded in mid-season are not included.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2014 vs. 1969

<u>League</u>	<u>2014</u>			<u>1969</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1969
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	34,491,145	15	2,299,410	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	127.4
	<u>39,248,477</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,616,565</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>108.0</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,739,622	30	2,457,987	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	116.6
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
International	7,021,590	14	501,542	1,035,457	8	129,432	287.5
Pacific Coast	<u>7,001,658</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>437,604</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	231.5
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,023,248</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>467,442</i>	<i>2,973,992</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>135,181</i>	<i>245.8</i>
Mexican	3,997,770	16	249,861	1,973,825	8	246,728	1.3
Eastern	3,705,945	12	308,829	382,933	6	63,822	383.9
Southern	2,367,710	10	236,771	333,516	6	55,586	326.0
Texas	2,840,914	8	355,114	828,268	8	103,534	243.0
California	1,646,252	10	164,625	369,217	8	46,152	256.7
Carolina	1,981,673	8	247,709	476,856	10	47,686	419.5
Florida State	1,236,128	12	103,011	464,662	12	38,722	166.0
Midwest	4,142,818	16	258,926	367,420	9	40,824	534.2
South Atlantic *	2,983,882	14	213,134	229,290	6	38,215	457.7
New York-Penn	1,559,946	14	111,425	190,519	8	23,815	367.9
Northwest	981,774	8	122,722	101,658	4	25,415	382.9
Appalachian	320,103	10	32,010	138,763	8	17,345	84.5
Pioneer	<u>623,031</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,879</u>	<u>180,625</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25,804</u>	<u>201.8</u>
Northern	-----	-----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
Mexican Center	-----	-----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
Mexican Northern	-----	-----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
Mexican So. East	-----	-----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>56,950</u>	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	42,411,194	176	240,973	9,984,263	148	67,461	257.2
Independent Lgs.	6,166,231	50	123,325	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,577,425	226	214,944	9,984,263	148	67,461	218.6

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

In 1969, the Gulf Coast League listed attendance of 8,817, as one team charged admission. It is not included here.

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2014 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 2014 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 2013 season.

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

SOURCES: Baseball – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2014 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

2014 or 2013-14 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2013)

	2014 or 2013-14 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team
NAPBL Minor League Baseball	42,411,194	176	240,973
Major League Baseball	73,739,622	30	2,457,987
National Football League (2013)	16,837,676	32	526,177
National Basketball Association	21,410,273	30	713,676
National Hockey League	21,758,902	30	725,297
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,545,899	12	128,825
Major League Soccer	6,184,350	19	325,492
Minor League Hockey	11,983,990	76	157,684

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2014 attendance with 1999.

2014 (NFL 2013) 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. 2014 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	35,179,471	176	199,883	20.6	20.6
MLB	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	5.1	5.1
NFL	16,206,640	31	522,795	3.9	0.6
NBA	20,058,513	29	691,673	6.7	3.2
NHL	18,800,139	28	671,434	15.7	8.0
WNBA	1,956,281	12	163,023	(21.0)	(21.0)
MLS	2,742,102	12	228,509	125.5	42.4
Minors Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(39.3)	(12.9)

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2014 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 2014 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.

2014 (NFL 2013) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	23,103,593	164	140,876	83.6	71.1
MLB	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	33.7	15.8
NFL	13,625,662	28	486,631	23.6	8.1
NBA	17,368,659	27	643,284	23.3	10.9
NHL	12,579,651	21	599,031	73.0	21.1

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 2014 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 177.8%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2014 (NFL 2013) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	15,265,633	142	107,504	177.8	124.2
MLB	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	69.3	46.7
NFL	13,182,039	28	470,787	27.7	11.8
NBA	9,937,575	22	451,708	115.4	58.0
NHL	10,533,623	21	501,601	106.6	44.6

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 393.2% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 130.2%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2014 (NFL 2013) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

	1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2014 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	9,984,263	148	67,461	324.8	257.2
MLB	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	170.8	116.6
AFL/NFL	8,939,500	26	343,827	88.4	53.0
NBA/ABA	6,094,015	25	243,761	251.3	192.8
NHL	5,992,065	12	499,339	263.1	45.3

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, 126 of the 159 U.S./Canadian based NAPBL ballparks in use in 2015, will have opened from 1988 to 2015. 97 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 65 of them have opened since 2000. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League share the same facility.) 25 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 8 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 47 ballparks of independent league teams that operated in 2014 or in 2015. 37 of these parks opened since the start of 1988, (33 since 1995, and 25 since 2000), and 10 were built prior to 1970. Overall, 163 minor league ballparks in use in 2014 or 2015 opened since 1988, with 130 of those opening since 1995, and 90 opening since 2000.

Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro opened new parks in 2013. Charlotte, NC and El Paso moved into completely new parks in 2014. Nashville, Biloxi, Morgantown, and St. Paul get completely new parks in 2015, and the new ballpark for Joplin's new Frontier League team will have been totally rebuilt on the same site as the old park.

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 2013-14 season, the number of teams was down to 76.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 39.3% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 11,983,990 in 2013-14, with 33 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 355 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,545 in 2013-14, a decline of 7.2%. On the other hand, National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2013-14 was 17,690, up 8.0% from the 1999-2000 average of 16,376.

(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 2013-14 season, the 30 team American Hockey League drew 6,158,350 to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. The Hershey Bears drew 367,238, an average of 9,664 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 8,158 per game, Orlando averaged 6,355, and Toledo drew an average of 6,022. The Fort Wayne Komets drew an average of 7,211 per game. This was the 12th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game, and they've reached that figure 17 times in the last 23 years. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew a team record-high 406,715 in 2014, an average of 5,810 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, 4,618 per game in 2012-13, and 4,859 per game in 2013-14. But the Blaze, that city's Minor League Baseball team, averaged just 572 per date in 2011, and 637 per date in 2012, the lowest average among all NAPBL teams. Attendance rose to 805 per date in 2013 and to 827 in 2014. That city needs a new ballpark. But plans for a new park were cancelled, and team is looking to move.

MINORS TO MAJORS—MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE IN CITIES THAT LATER JOINED THE MAJOR LEAGUES

Until 1953, there were only 10 markets with Major League teams. New York had 3 teams, while Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, and St. Louis had 2 teams each. Since then, Major League Baseball has come to 16 more markets. It arrived and left Montreal, arrived, left, and returned to both Milwaukee and Seattle, and left Washington after 1971, only to return in 2005.

All Major League markets added from 1953 on had Minor League teams. Many were among the most successful teams in attendance in Minor League Baseball. Most of the Minor League teams that were replaced by Major League teams were in Class AAA. But a few, such as those in Florida, were in lower classifications.

The table below lists the highest level Minor League teams that were replaced by teams in the Majors. It shows the record-high listed attendance for those Minor League teams, and also lists the years for which attendance data was available. In some of these markets, there were other Minor League teams in lower classifications. For many years, the New York market had 2 Class AAA teams, as well as 3 Major League teams, and so it has been added to this list.

Most of the markets listed below currently have Minor League teams in them.

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

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE DATA: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball

A LOOK BACK AT THE BOOM, DECLINE, AND REBIRTH OF MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Minor League Baseball enjoyed a huge post-World War II attendance boom. But then there was a big decline in the number of teams and leagues, along with attendance, that lasted through the 1960's.

This section takes a look back at 1949, when total Minor League attendance reached levels that would not be seen again until a half-century later. It also examines 1961 and 1962, when Minor League attendance fell below 10 million, and for many of the leagues still operating then, survival was not assured.

There are tables listing 1949, 1961, and 1962 Minor League attendance by league and by classification. The number of teams in every league, and the average attendance per team in each league, is also included. The team with the highest attendance in every league, and the team with the lowest attendance in every league, is listed.

The old classification system of Class B, C, and D leagues was still in use in 1949, 1961, and 1962. In 1963, most surviving leagues from those classifications became full-season Class A, short-season Class A, and Rookie Leagues. There were no short-season leagues in 1949. The Pacific Coast League played a 188 game schedule, and other Class AAA, and AA leagues played 154 games. Class B leagues generally played between 140-154 games, Class C leagues played 124-150 games, and most Class D leagues played 120-140 games.

Major League teams had many more Minor League affiliates over 60 years ago. In 1950, the Brooklyn Dodgers had 22 Minor League teams, while the St. Louis Cardinals had 21. The Giants, Yankees, Athletics, Indians, and Cubs each had at least 15 affiliates. Today, most Major League teams have 7 or 8 Minor League affiliates.

Data in this section comes from the 1950 and 1962 editions of The Sporting News Official Baseball Guide. These books were downloaded from the archive.org Website, which obtained them from the University of Florida library. The books were donated to the University by Red Barber, a UF alumnus, who along with Mel Allen, was the first broadcaster inducted into the Baseball Hall-of-Fame. 1962 attendance data is from the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball – Third Edition.

1949 – WHEN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL SET A RECORD THAT LASTED DECADES

Professional baseball attendance was at an all-time high in the late 1940's. Major League attendance reached 20,920,842 in 1948. This was up from just 8,772,746 in 1944. The 1948 total would not be topped until 1962, when there were 4 more Major League teams. The 1948 average attendance per MLB team was 1,307,553. That average figure was not surpassed until 1977. In 1949, Major League attendance was 20,215,365.

There were other leagues that were not part of 'Organized' baseball in 1949, and whose statistics were not reported in The Sporting News Guide. What were called the 'Negro Leagues' were still in operation, as this was just two years after Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby integrated the Major Leagues. Attendance for the Negro Leagues is not available, but many of their teams drew well until the late 1940's. These teams featured players who would have been Major League stars, had they been allowed to play there. Also operating in 1949 was an independent Mexican League, which did not join Organized Baseball until 1955. Attendance figures from that league are also not available.

Minor League total regular season attendance reached 39,640,443 in 1949, according to Minor League Baseball. The 1950 Sporting News Baseball Guide reports a regular season total of 39,684,550. Post-season 1949 Minor League attendance was 2,083,394. The NAPBL affiliated leagues did not top the 1949 regular season record until 2004. The combined NAPBL-Independent league total surpassed the 1949 record in 1999.

In 1949, there were 448 teams in the 59 leagues that compiled attendance. 47 of those leagues had 8 teams, and the other 12 leagues had 6 teams each. In 2014, 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 50 of their teams reported 2014 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 437,604 per team that the 16 team P.C.L. averaged in 2014, 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 467,442 average in 2014.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In 2014, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 297,152 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 1982 when Louisville drew 868,418.

There were 13 teams that topped 400,000 in attendance in 1949. This included 7 of the 8 teams in the Pacific Coast League. Seattle of that league had the highest Minor League attendance with 545,434. 5 other teams drew at least 300,000, and there were 18 teams with attendance between 200,000 and 300,000. In 2014, there were 28 NAPBL teams that topped 400,000. An additional 30 NAPBL and 4 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in 2014.

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 27 straight years through 2014.

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. 2014 total attendance was 73,739,622, average 30,458 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).
 2013 NFL attendance was 16,837,676, an average of 65,772 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2013-14 attendance was 21,410,273, an average of 17,407 per game.
 NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2013-14 attendance was 21,758,902, an average of 17,690 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 late-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 is quite healthy today, with 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 19 straight years. The Tigers averaged 10,812 per date in 2014. 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 from 2010 through 2014.

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.

21 of these leagues reported attendance in 2014. The highest attendance is by the 18 team Northwoods League. In 2014, that league became the first summer league to top one million, drawing 1,096,433, an average of 1,766 per date. Madison, WI from that league had the best attendance of any collegiate summer league team, drawing a total of 214,849, an average of 6,139 per date. Altogether, 159 teams in the 21 leagues that compiled attendance data drew a total of 3,819,955, an average of 1,000 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 2014 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 46,311,018. 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 2014 Minor League teams drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 56,832,883. 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 16 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2014.