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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2021 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

**INCLUDES 2020 DATA, A SUMMARY OF
THE 2021 MINOR LEAGUE REALIGNMENT,
AND SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUE NOTES**

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2021 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2021 season. Features include:

- J A complete listing of the reorganized Minor League system.
- J The summary of 2021 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- J Attendance notes for each league and for all individual teams.
- J Listing of 2021 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- J Comparing 2021 vs. 2019 total attendance. A table shows attendance in both seasons for all teams. League comparisons differ from past reports due to the reorganization of the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues. These tables also note the year current Minor League ballparks opened.
- J Listings of teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in total attendance and average attendance is not being done for 2021 vs. 2019, because such comparisons lack context. This is due to the shorter seasons, and ballpark capacity restrictions in 2021.
- J 1990-2021 total attendance and average per date yearly figures and changes for each league. This includes all the current reorganized MLB-affiliated leagues, and their predecessor leagues.
- J The growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets, and in markets that have teams in the NBA, NFL, and NHL. These tables are slightly updated to include 2021 data.
- J A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 50 years. Tables show how league attendance has grown vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. There is a comparison of Minor League attendance growth with attendance gains for other sports. This section is not being updated in 2021 due to the unique circumstances of this season, which make such comparisons with 2021 attendance, misleading.
- J Comparing individual team attendance in 2019 with attendance in 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. This section is also not being updated for 2021 for the reason noted above.
- J 2021 Playoff attendance. MLB-affiliated leagues had a sharply reduced number of playoff games.
- J Looking back at 1949, when Minor League attendance was a then-record-high 39,640,443. That record was not broken until 1999 (for the combined total of NAPBL and Independent leagues), and 2004, just for NAPBL teams. There were many more teams and leagues in 1949 than now. This section lists attendance for each 1949 league, and also lists the individual teams with the highest and the lowest attendance in each league. It also notes attendance in cities which had Minor League teams in 1949, but now are in the Major Leagues.
- J A look back at 1961, when Minor League average attendance per team reached its lowest post World War II low, and at 1962, when total attendance was at its post-war low.
- J A yearly listing of teams leading the Major League-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor Leagues in attendance, which includes all full-season and short-season leaders since 1940. Yearly total MLB-affiliated Minor League attendance since 1940, and total full-season leagues attendance since 1963, is listed.
- J Yearly total independent leagues attendance since 1993, along with team leaders.
- J Each current Minor League market's record-high season attendance, and average per date.
- J Noting record-high Minor League attendance in cities that later joined the Major Leagues.
- J A listing of teams that have drawn at least 500,000 in a season.
- J Information about teams that were in professional Minor Leagues in 2019, but are now in Summer Collegiate Leagues.

SOURCES

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

MLB-affiliated teams data from years prior to 1994 is from The Sporting News Official Baseball Guides, (1949, 1961, 1969-1980, 1989-1993 seasons), the Website 'thebaseballcube.com' (1982-1988), the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, Third Edition (pre-1969 and 1980's NAPBL), edited by Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff (2007 – Baseball America), and from "Mud Hens and Mavericks" by Judith Blahnik and Phillip S. Schulz (1995 – Viking Penguin).

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

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

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 of Number Tamer, which is a marketing research service with clients in the sports industry. He has visited more than 120 Minor League ballparks over the past 4 decades.

There is a section on 2021 post-season attendance. All other figures in this report are for regular season games only, and exclude exhibition, All-Star, and post-season games, unless noted otherwise.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES ATTENDANCE FOR SOME YEARS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

Actual 2010, and 2012 through 2021 total attendance for independent leagues was slightly higher, and average per date was a bit lower, than what is listed in this report. In 2010, the Continental League didn't finish its season, and no attendance figures were compiled. It is doubtful that average attendance per date in that league was more than 200. Total attendance for the Continental League in 2010 was probably not above 17,000, and perhaps, considerably less.

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

2016-2021 attendance from the Empire League, was unavailable, but was probably quite low. 2011-2021 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office, as was 2021 United Shore League attendance.

ATTENTION, ENGLISH TEACHERS:

Team names in this report are spelled exactly as they appear in the Information Guide of Minor League Baseball, and on the Websites of the independent leagues. Starting in 2021, Class AAA is referred to as 'Triple-A' and Class AA is referred to as 'Double-A.' The terms 'NAPBL' and 'MLB-affiliated' both describe Major League farm leagues and teams.

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

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

2020 BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

In 2020, Major League Baseball teams played a 60-game regular season, followed by expanded playoffs. No fans were in attendance for any regular season games, or for the first two playoff rounds. A limited number of fans were permitted to attend the 7 National League Championship Series games, and the 6 World Series games, all of which were played at Globe Life Field, the new home of the Texas Rangers. The NLCS games drew a total of 75,843, and the World Series games drew 68,622. Combined total attendance was 144,465, an average of 11,113, per game, which is slightly above 27% of Globe Life Field's normal 2020 seating capacity of 40,518.

The Major League affiliated Minor Leagues, including the Mexican League, did not play in 2020.

The American Association, Pecos, and United Shore Baseball Leagues, which are independent pro leagues, did play 2020 games, with a limited number of fans in attendance, as did 5 Summer Collegiate baseball leagues.

In the American Association, 6 teams played, using 5 ballparks, and limiting the number of available seats. The league drew a total of 176,439 in 163 dates, averaging 1,082 per date. Attendance by location was: Fargo – 39,936 in 44 dates (908 per date); Sioux Falls, SD – 34,254 in 39 dates (878 per date); Milwaukee – 38,780 in 33 dates (1,175 per date); Chicago – 32,468 in 26 dates (1,249 per date with 14 sellouts of 1,400); St. Paul – 31,001 in 21 dates (1,476 per date with 16 sellouts of 1,500). Winnipeg played its 'home' games in Fargo, and St. Paul played its early-season 'home' games in Sioux Falls, before fans were allowed to attend games in St. Paul. The 5 post-season games drew a total of 3,736.

The Pecos League games drew a total of 500 fans, even though the teams didn't try to sell any tickets. The United Shore League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, had 63 dates, with a very limited number of fans in attendance. In normal times, this league, on average, sells out around 80% of its games. They also streamed their 2020 games, and they averaged 16,000 viewers per game for the 2020 season.

Not all of the teams from the 5 Summer Collegiate leagues that played sold tickets. But among those teams that did, total attendance was 383,912 in 817 dates (470 per date). Capacity was limited in ballparks.

A CHANGE IN THE GROUND RULES FOR 2021

HOW THE REPORTING AND ANALYSIS OF 2021 BASEBALL ATTENDANCE IN THIS REPORT DIFFERS FROM PAST NUMBER TAMER ATTENDANCE REPORTS

The 2021 Major League and Minor League Baseball season certainly was unique in terms of attendance.

Every Major League club, except for Texas, and many, if not most of, the Minor League teams, were only allowed to sell a limited number of tickets to their games at the start of the season. MLB tickets were sold only electronically, and the same was true for many Minor League teams. For many teams, tickets were not sold at a team's box office, and fans couldn't print tickets bought online. A Smartphone app was needed.

All teams went through the off-season prior to 2021 not knowing how the Covid-19 pandemic would affect their ability to host fans, in-person, in their ballparks. As a result, teams couldn't do their usual off-season marketing of tickets. On top of all this, the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues underwent a comprehensive reorganization. The 4 short-season leagues that charged admission to their games were no longer MLB-affiliated leagues. Both the Pioneer and Mexican Leagues became independent pro leagues. The number of MLB-affiliated teams in the U.S. and Canada charging admission, declined from 160 in 2019 to 120 in 2021. The 11 remaining MLB-affiliated leagues played 120 or 130-game schedules in 2021, compared to a 140-game schedule that all full-season leagues had in 2019. Most teams couldn't even begin planning for the 2021 season until December or January. Covid caused the cancellation of numerous Minor League games.

Many of the teams that were dropped from the roster of MLB-affiliated professional minor leagues, joined professional independent leagues, or Summer Collegiate wood-bat leagues. The entire former Rookie Appalachian League became a Summer Collegiate league. Much more detail about the Minor League reorganization can be found in the next section of this report.

While all MLB teams, except for the Toronto Blue Jays, were eventually allowed to play to full stadium capacity, there was still a significant decline in attendance compared to 2019. Every Major League team, and nearly every Minor League team, had lower attendance in 2021 than in 2019.

These baseball attendance reports have always noted which teams had the biggest increases and declines in attendance from one year to the next. For each team, the current season vs. previous season gain or loss in both total attendance and average attendance per date was always mentioned.

For the 2021 season, this will rarely be done. Any comparison of 2021 attendance with attendance from any previous season would be misleading, and would lack context. Different teams faced different restrictions on how many tickets they could sell in 2021. Some Minor League teams, along with the Toronto Blue Jays, were displaced from their home ballparks. Other Minor League teams had to play some games with no fans allowed to attend. Attendance tables will show both 2021 and 2019 total attendance and average per date for each team. But they won't list each team's gain or decline vs. 2019. For a look at recent attendance trends, prior to 2021, nearly all of the data from the 2019 attendance reports will be included in this document.

Hopefully, 2022 will see a complete return to normal. Affiliated Minor League teams will play longer schedules. (150 games in the Triple-A leagues, up from 130 games in 2021, 138 games in the Double-A leagues, up from 120 games in 2021, and 132 games in the High-A and Low-A leagues, also up from 120 games in 2021.) Major League teams played their usual 162-game schedules in 2021, and expect to do so again in 2022.

NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, MEDIA, AND WEBSITES

You can download this report, and the 2009 through 2019 Major and Minor League Baseball Attendance Analyses, at numbertamer.com. Go to the site's 'Major League' and 'Minor League' pages for the PDF links to each report.

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

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

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

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

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

Admission is charged at games of the Arizona Fall League, which is a brief extra season for advanced Minor Leaguers. Each Major League team sends a few of their Minor League players to this league. Arizona Fall League attendance is noted in the page 25 table, on page 159, and is in the team 2021 vs, 2019 comparison table on page 259. But figures for this league are not part of any other tables.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

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

The current generation of independent leagues began in 1993 with the start of the Northern and the Frontier Leagues. All independent leagues have been through major reorganizations, and in some cases, name changes. The Can-Am League first played in 1995, as the Northeast League. This league was merged into the Frontier League for 2021. The American Association is a combination of former Northern League and Central League teams. The Central League began as the Texas-Louisiana League in 1994. 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 2021, the 9 independent leagues that operated were the American Association, Atlantic League, Mexican League, Frontier League, Pioneer Baseball League, Pecos Baseball League, Empire Baseball League, United Shore Baseball League (all games in Utica, MI), and the Mavericks League (all games in Keiser, OR). The Empire and United Shore Leagues began play in 2016, and 2021 was the first season for the Mavericks League.

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

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

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL 2021 REALIGNMENT

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

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

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

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

The 2022 International League now includes some former PCL teams. Most former Class AAA Pacific Coast League teams remain there. In Class AA, nearly all Eastern, Southern, and Texas League teams are in the same leagues in 2022 as in 2019.

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

The Pioneer League is now a professional independent MLB Partner League, and the Appalachian League is an MLB Partner Collegiate Summer League. Both of these leagues had been in the short-season Rookie league classification through 2019. Most of the teams from the short-season Class A Northwest League are now in the High-A West. Teams from the former short-season Class-A New York-Penn League are scattered among the High-A East, independent leagues, Summer Collegiate Leagues, or are no longer playing.

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

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

The tables on the next few pages list the 2021 Minor League Baseball leagues and teams that charge admission to their games. This listing also includes each team's 2021 MLB parent club, and what league the team played in during the last Minor League season, which was 2019. There is also a roster of teams from each of the independent leagues, including the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, and from the Summer Collegiate Appalachian, and MLB Draft Leagues.

Another table lists the 43 teams that had been MLB farm clubs in 2019, but no longer have that relationship.

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

Whether all these changes will be successful in terms of attendance can't really be known right now. Due to Covid-19, there was plenty of uncertainty going into the 2021 season. Teams couldn't do much of their normal off-season marketing and ticket selling. Quite a few teams began the 2021 season only being able to admit a reduced number of fans to their ballparks. Minor league teams based in Canada were forced to play much of their seasons in the United States. So comparing 2021 attendance figures with those of previous seasons has limited value.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL – 2021, 2022 LEAGUES AND TEAMS

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

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE – 20 Teams (May 4 – October 3 in 2021, April 5 – September 28 – 150 games in 2022)

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

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE – 10 Teams (May 6 – October 3 in 2021, April 5 – September 28 – 150 games in 2022)

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

EASTERN LEAGUE – 12 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 18 – 138 games in 2022)

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

TEXAS LEAGUE – 10 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 18 – 138 games in 2022)

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

MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES—120-game schedule for A and Double-A, 130 for Triple-A in 2021**SOUTHERN LEAGUE – 8 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 18 – 138 games in 2022)**

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

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE – 12 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)

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

MIDWEST LEAGUE – 12 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)

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

NORTHWEST LEAGUE – 6 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)

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

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE – 8 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)

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

MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES—120-game schedule for A and Double-A, 130 for Triple-A in 2021**CAROLINA LEAGUE – 12 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)**

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

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE – 10 Teams (May 4 – Sept. 19 in 2021, April 8 – September 11 – 132 games in 2022)

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

Source: Minor League Baseball 2021 Information Guide. Traditional league names returned in 2022.

2021 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES**MEXICAN LEAGUE – 18 Teams, 66 games (May 21 – August 5 in 2021), 90 games (April 21 – August 7 in 2022)**

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

Guadalajara and Veracruz were added for 2021. All other Mexican League teams also played in the league in 2019.

**ATLANTIC LEAGUE – 8 Teams in 2021, 120 games (May 27 - October 10)
10 Teams in 2022, 132 games (April 21 – Sept. 18)**

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Gastonia Honey Hunters	Expansion Team	Long Island Ducks	Atlantic
High Point Rockers	Atlantic	Southern Maryland Blue Crabs	Atlantic
Lancaster (PA) Barnstormers	Atlantic	Charleston (WV) Dirty Birds	South Atlantic
Lexington (KY) Legends	South Atlantic	York Revolution	Atlantic
KY (Lex) Wild Health Genomes	New team in 2022	Staten Island Ferry Hawks (2022)	New York-Penn

2021 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES

FRONTIER LEAGUE – 14 Teams, 96 games (May 27 - Sept. 12 in 2021)
16 Teams (one road team), 96 games (May 12 – Sept. 4 in 2022)

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Province of Quebec (2021 only)	Can-Am	Florence (KY) Y'all's	Frontier
Tri-City (Troy, NY) Valley Cats	New York-Penn	Evansville Otters	Frontier
Trois Rivieres Aigles (2022)	Can-Am	Quebec Capitales (2022)	Can-Am
Ottawa Titans (2022)	Can-Am	Windy City (IL)Thunderbolts	Frontier
New York Boulders	Can-Am	So. Illinois Miners (2021 only)	Frontier
New Jersey Jackals	Can-Am	Lake Erie (OH) Crushers	Frontier
Sussex County (NJ) Miners	Can-Am	Joliet Slammers	Frontier
Washington (PA) Wild Things	Frontier	Schaumburg Boomers	Frontier
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	Frontier	Frontier Grays (2022 road team)	

Quebec started 2021 as a road team in the U.S., then split home games between Quebec City and Trois-Rivieres.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – 12 Teams, 100 games (May 18 - Sept. 6 in 2021), (May 13 – Sept. 5 in 2022)

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

The Houston Apollos were a 2021 American Association road team, and also played Pecos Baseball League teams. Winnipeg played at Jackson, TN until allowed back into Canada later in the 2021 season.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – 15 Teams, 40-62 games (June 2 – August 5 in 2021)
16 teams in 2022, number of games based on team location, (June 1 – July 31)

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Alpine Cowboys	Pecos	Salina (KS) Stockade (2021)	Pecos
Austin Weirdos (2022)	New team in 2022	San Rafael Pacifics	Pacific Assn.
Bakersfield Train Robbers	Pecos	Santa Cruz Seaweed	New team in 2021
Colorado Springs Snow Sox	New team in 2021	Santa Fe Fuego	Pecos
Garden City (KS) Wind	Pecos	Santa Rosa Scuba Divers (2022)	New team in 2022
Houston Apollos (2021 Road)	Added in 2021	Trinidad Triggers	Pecos
Martinez Sturgeon	Pacific Assn. (2018)	Tucson Saguaros	Pecos
Monterey (CA) Amberjacks	Pecos	Wasco Reserve	Pecos
Roswell Invaders	Pecos	Weimar, TX Hormigas (2022)	New team in 2022

Houston also played teams from the American Association in 2021.

UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE – 4 Teams, all in Utica, MI, 62 dates, 71 games (May 28 – Sept. 4, 2021)
56 dates, 67 games scheduled in 2022 (May 20 – Sept. 3)

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

2021 INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUES – INCLUDES MLB PARTNER LEAGUES

PIONEER LEAGUE – 8 Teams, 96 games (May 22 – Sept. 10 in 2021)
10 teams, 96 games (May 23 – September 10 in 2022)

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Billings Mustangs	Pioneer	Idaho Falls Chukars	Pioneer
Boise Hawks	Northwest	Missoula Paddleheads	Pioneer
Grand Junction Rockies	Pioneer	Ogden Raptors	Pioneer
Great Falls Voyagers	Pioneer	Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs) Vibe	Pioneer
Glacier Range Riders (Kalispell, MT)	New team in 2022	Northern Colorado Owlz	New team in 2022

EMPIRE BASEBALL LEAGUE – 4 Teams, 88 games (June 12 – August 2 in 2021)
4 Teams, 80 games (June 8 – July 25 in 2022)

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
New Hampshire Wild (2021)	Empire	Saranac Lake Surge	Empire
Plattsburgh Thunderbirds	Empire	Tupper Lake Riverpigs	New team in 2021
Japan Islanders (2022)	Road Team		

MAVERICKS LEAGUE – 4 Teams, all in Keiser, OR (May 13 – August 29 in 2021)
4 Teams – 96 games for the league (May 12 – August 28) in 2022

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Campesinos de Salem-Keiser	None	Salem Senators	None
Portland Mavericks	None	Salem-Keiser Volcanoes	Northwest

SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES WITH TEAMS THAT WERE ALL IN 2019 MINOR LEAGUES

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL DRAFT LEAGUE – 6 Teams, 68 games (May 24 – August 13) in 2021
6 Teams, 80-games (June 2 – September 6) in 2022

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

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – 10 Teams, 54 games (June 3 – August 7 in 2021)
10 Teams 58 games (June 2 – August 6 in 2022)

Team	2019 League	Team	2019 League
Bluefield Ridge Runners	Appalachian	Greeneville (TN) Flyboys	Appalachian
Bristol State Lines	Appalachian	Johnson City Doughboys	Appalachian
Burlington (NC) Sock Puppets	Appalachian	Kingsport Axmen	Appalachian
Danville Otterbots	Appalachian	Princeton Whistle Pigs	Appalachian
Elizabethton River Riders	Appalachian	Pulaski River Turtles	Appalachian

2019 MLB AFFILIATED TEAMS THAT ARE NOT IN MLB AFFILIATED LEAGUES IN 2021

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE CHANGES SINCE 2019

2019 Team	2019 League	2021 League	Team	2019 League	2021 League
St. Paul Saints	American Assn.	Triple-A East	Ottawa Champions	Can-Am	None in 2021, Frontier in 2022
Sugar Land Skeeters	Atlantic	Triple-A West	O'Fallon (MO) Hoots – River City in 2019	Frontier	Prospect Summer Colleg.
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	Atlantic	AA Northeast	High Desert Yardbirds	Pecos	None
New Britain Bees	Atlantic	Futures Colleg.	California City Whiptails	Pecos	None
Texas Airhogs	American Assn.	None	White Sands Pupfish	Pecos	None

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

2021 MINOR LEAGUE SEASON ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

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

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

All this uncertainty led to reductions in planned ticket sales campaigns, promotions, and group sales, all of which had a significant impact on Minor League attendance. One particular example of this, was the very sharp decline in the number of Monday through Friday day games in the Minor Leagues. These games, which usually draw very well, attract many school and summer-camp groups. The table below shows the number of Monday-Friday (excluding holidays) day games scheduled by the 120 U.S. full-season Major League-affiliated teams each year from 2016 through 2021. It has the same data for the leading U.S./Canadian independent leagues. This table includes scheduled games that were postponed due to weather, and the 2020 scheduled games, which of course, were not played.

MINOR LEAGUE MONDAY-FRIDAY DAY GAMES SCHEDULED

Year	MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES			INDEPENDENT LEAGUES		
	# of Full - Season Teams	# Teams with Mon-Fri Day Games	# of Mon-Fri Day Games Scheduled	# of Full - Season Teams	# Teams with Mon-Fri Day Games	# of Mon-Fri Day Games Scheduled
2021	120	46	122	40	18	44
2020	118	112	517	29	25	80
2019	120	111	548	36	32	105
2018	120	112	503	37	31	90
2017	120	113	517	38	31	98
2016	119	114	488	38	31	93

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

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

All Jupiter and Palm Beach 2021 day games were closed to the public, and are not included in this table.

Other Schedule Notes

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

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

2021 League Totals vs. 2019 League Totals

Due to the reorganization of the Minor Leagues in 2021, league 2021 vs. 2019 total attendance and average per date comparisons have limited value. The 2019 MLB-affiliated leagues no longer exist in their 2019 form. But most of the 2021 leagues consist of teams which played together in a league in 2019. The league comparisons in this report will be 2021 attendance vs. what the league's 2021 members drew in 2019, regardless of which league they played in for the 2019 season. To be consistent, this same type of comparison will also be made for the independent leagues.

2021 Minor League Season Combined MLB affiliated and Independent League Attendance

- J The 120 Major League Baseball affiliated Minor League teams drew a total regular season attendance of 22,089,014 in **2021**. They played 6,814 dates with fans in attendance. Average per date with fans in attendance was 3,242. Average per team was 184,075. Many early season games were played with stadium capacity restrictions. In **2019**, these same 120 teams, regardless of what league, or what market, they were in that year, drew a total of 33,740,110 in 7,675 dates, an average of 4,396 per date. These 120 teams lost 503 dates to weather and Covid in 2021, and lost 402 dates in 2019. They played a combined 861 fewer dates with fans in attendance in 2021, compared to 2019.
- J The 75 independent league teams (United Shore Baseball League, and Mavericks League, each count as one team because all of each league's teams play in the same ballpark.) drew a total of 6,047,347 in **2021**. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, which had been MLB-affiliated leagues in 2019, are included in this group. These teams played 2,988 dates, and averaged 2,024 per date. These 75 teams drew 10,724,778 in 3,382 dates in **2019**, in whatever league they were in, averaging 3,171 per date. They had 164 lost dates in 2021, and 144 lost dates in 2019. But they played 394 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019, mainly due to a significantly reduced schedule for the Mexican League. Empire League attendance is not yet available, and may never be, because the league never reports it.
- J Combined Major League-affiliated and independent leagues regular season attendance in **2021** was 28,136,361 in 9,802 dates, an average of 2,870 per date. In **2019**, these same teams drew a total of 44,464,888 in 11,057 dates, averaging 4,021 per date. There were 667 combined lost dates in 2021, compared to 546 in 2019, and there were 1,255 fewer dates played by these teams with fans in attendance in 2021 than in 2019.
- J The 11 full-season **2019** MLB-affiliated leagues (120 teams) drew 33,321,002 in **2019**. They played 7,931 dates, and averaged 4,201 per date. The now eliminated 4 short-season 2019 MLB affiliated leagues (40 teams) drew 3,564,944 in **2019** in 1,418 dates, an average of 2,514 per date. Independent leagues, including the Mexican League, drew 10,308,644 in 3,344 dates, an average of 3,083 per date. Combined total attendance for all MLB-affiliated and independent teams was 47,194,590 in **2019**. These leagues played 12,693 dates, averaging 3,718 per date.
- J The number of Minor League dates with announced attendance was 2,891 less in 2021 than in 2019, due to shorter schedules, fewer teams, and more lost dates. Teams that were in professional Minor Leagues in 2019, but played in Summer Collegiate leagues in 2021, played around 600 dates with fans in attendance in 2021.
- J There was limited post-season play among the MLB-affiliated leagues in 2021. No playoffs were held in the Triple-A leagues, while all of the other 9 leagues only had a best-of-5 championship series. The MLB-affiliated leagues drew 77,438 for 32 playoff dates, an average of 2,420 per date. The largest playoff crowd was 7,337 at Fresno.
- J While the Mexican League played a shorter regular season than normal, they had their usual playoff format. The 74 Mexican League playoff dates drew 412,739, averaging 5,578 per date. 36 of these games drew over 5,000. Just 6 playoff games in all other leagues drew at least 5,000. Tijuana had the largest crowd (17,687). The 111 independent league playoff games (from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association) drew 499,184, an averaging 4,497 per date. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent league playoff attendance was 576,622 in 143 dates, averaging 4,032 per date. Some independent leagues' playoff data was not available.

7 New Minor League Ballparks in 2021

- J Worcester replaced Pawtucket. Most games at new Polar Park drew near-capacity, or sellout crowds.
- J Kannapolis, NC more than doubled its 2019 attendance, and set team records for total attendance and average per date in their new downtown park.
- J Fredericksburg, VA replaced Woodbridge VA (Potomac).
- J Wichita's new park (replacing New Orleans) was a big attendance and marketing success.
- J Rocket City (Madison, AL) more than tripled (up 261.3%) the average per date they had in Mobile in 2019.
- J Beloit's new park wasn't ready until August, so they didn't get all the attendance benefits from it in 2021.
- J Gastonia got a new Atlantic League independent team, and a new park.

2021 League and Team Attendance Leaders

- J Triple-A East had the most teams, the most dates played, and the highest total attendance of any league (5,815,744). Triple-A West posted the highest average per team (302,376), and top average per date (4,823) of any league.
- J In Class AA, Double-A Northeast had the most teams and the best total (2,360,148). Double-A Central had the highest average attendance per team (224,776), and the best average per date (3,882).
- J The Central had the top High-A total (1,994,854), average per team (166,239), and average per date (2,899).
- J Best drawing Low-A league was the East (1,799,442 total, 149,954 average per team, 2,646 average per date).
- J In the independent leagues, the Mexican League (18 teams), had the top total (1,446,929), and average per date (2,826). The Atlantic League, with the longest schedule of among the indys, had the top average per team (142,334).
- J Nashville had the highest total attendance (436,868) and average per date (6,721) of any MLB-affiliated team, followed by Las Vegas (428,369 – 6,590 per date), El Paso (403,657 – 6,407 per date), and Columbus (393,879 – 6,457 per date). Dayton, Worcester and St. Paul also topped 6,000 per date. 19 teams drew at least 300,000, and 17 teams drew 5,000+ in average per date, among the MLB-affiliates.
- J For the independent teams, Long Island had the highest total attendance (224,120), followed by Tijuana (196,471), Lancaster, PA (182,132), and Kane County, IL (177,705). Tijuana had the top average per date in all of the Minor Leagues (7,557), followed by Monterrey, Mexico (4,657), Saltillo (4,034) and Long Island (4,002).

Largest 2021 Crowds

- J The largest Triple-A and MLB-affiliated league single game attendance was 13,035 in Albuquerque. Richmond had the biggest crowd in Double-A (9,560), Lansing's 10,109 crowd was tops in High-A, and Fresno drew a Low-A best crowd of 10,877. Tijuana, of the Mexican League, drew the largest crowd for any regular season game in 2021 (15,240), and Long Island had the highest single game attendance in the Atlantic League (7,101).

Record Highs for Total Attendance, Average per Date, and Single Game Attendance, set in 2021

- J Despite reduced schedules for nearly all leagues, and Covid-19 restrictions, 8 teams, and 2 independent leagues, set new total attendance and/or average per date records in 2021.
- J **In their first season as an independent, the Pioneer League, playing a longer schedule than they did as an MLB-affiliated short-season league, drew a league record-high 839,374, breaking a mark set in 1948.**
- J **The Pecos Baseball League drew an estimated league record-high total of 87,626, and a record-high average per date of 259.** Most of this league's teams play in very small ballparks. The Pecos League has operated for 11 seasons, which is longer than any 'small-market' independent league since independent leagues were re-established in 1993. This is the only league that does not count 'no-shows' in their attendance. So the number of tickets they sell is higher than their announced attendance.
- J **Kannapolis moved into a new park and more than doubled its 2019 attendance. The renamed Cannon Ballers drew team record-highs in total attendance (162,031) and average per date (2,701).**
- J **In 2021 the Worcester Red Sox relocated from Pawtucket. The Woosox drew 362,559, averaging 6,145 per date, with a top crowd of 9,508.** All of these figures are higher than any past team in Worcester ever drew.
- J **The Rocket City Trash Pandas moved from Mobile to Madison, AL (next to Huntsville), and averaged 5,726 per date.** It was the highest average per date for a team from the Huntsville area.
- J **Among the independents, the Milwaukee Milkmen and Garden City, KS Wind, each set new total attendance and average per date highs. Martinez, CA also had a record-high average per date. Ogden and Idaho Falls of the Pioneer League set new total attendance records.**
- J Single game record-highs were set by Charlotte (10,969 in their current park), Rocket City-Huntsville (7,500), Amarillo (7,477), and Hickory (5,576). At least 5 other teams tied their record-high, sellout, single-game attendance.

Attendance Increases - 2021 vs. 2019

- J Due to conditions mentioned earlier, few teams, and only one MLB-affiliated league, had 2021 vs. 2019 attendance increases. Double-A South teams were up 55 in average per date, compared to what those same teams drew in 2019. Excluding teams that relocated to new markets, 3 MLB-affiliated teams achieved 2021 vs. 2019 gains in total attendance, and 6 teams were up in average per date.
- J Kannapolis, in their new park, more than doubled their 2019 attendance, with the total up 86,100, and average per date gaining 1,567. Quad Cities had a 12,358 gain in total attendance, and a 341 average per date increase. Fredericksburg's new park total attendance was up 6,597 and average per date rose by 230, compared to what they drew in nearby Woodbridge, VA in 2019. Myrtle Beach had a 127 increase in average per date. Dunedin (up 55), and Palm Beach (up 8), also had average per date gains while playing a reduced schedule of 2021 home games with fans permitted to attend. Dunedin played in Clearwater in 2019, while their regular home park was reconstructed.
- J Rocket City had huge gains (up 179,771 in total attendance, up 4,141 in average per date) from their 2019 attendance in Mobile. Wichita's total attendance was 53,138 higher, and their average per date was up 1,082, from what this team drew in New Orleans in 2019. Worcester was up 31,549 and 891 per date vs. 2019 Pawtucket.
- J In the independent leagues, Milwaukee had the biggest gains in total attendance (20,282) and average per date (325) vs. 2019, when their new ballpark was not ready at the start of the season. Great Falls was up 15,769. Garden City, KS, Sioux City, IA, Great Falls, Alpine, Schaumburg, Santa Fe, and Roswell, were all up in both total and average. Billings, Idaho Falls, Missoula, Ogden, and Sussex County also had total attendance increases. Bakersfield, Trinidad, and Monterey, CA rose in average per date. The Pecos League reached record-highs in both categories, and the Pioneer League set new a total attendance record.

Attendance Declines - 2021 vs. 2019

- J A listing of teams with the biggest 2021 attendance declines vs. 2019 would totally lack context. Some teams were much more affected by Covid-19 restrictions than others. In general, the teams that usually draw best, had the most to lose from the unique circumstances of 2021, and mostly, they did suffer the worst attendance losses. For example, take two teams whose early-season ballpark capacity was limited to 3,000. One team normally averages around 8,000 per date, while the other team averages around 2,500. You can see how the better-drawing team would suffer a much larger decline in attendance due to capacity restrictions and other circumstances.

Lost Dates and Relocated Games due to Rainouts, Covid-19 Restrictions and Outbreaks, a Flood, and Smoke

- J Postponed games in the Minor Leagues are almost always made up as part of a single-admission doubleheader. Sometimes these postponed games are never made up. In both these cases, this is considered to be a 'lost date.' Rarely, in the Minors, are postponed games made up as part of a separate-admission doubleheader.
- J The early May, instead of early April, start to the 2021 Minor League season at least meant no postponements due to snow and cold weather. But in addition to the usual rainouts, games were postponed, cancelled, or relocated due to Covid-19 breakouts, a flooded ballpark in Somerset, and smoke from forest fires in the western part of the U.S.
- J Jupiter and Palm Beach of Low-A Southeast share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter, FL. Local Covid-19 restrictions resulted in both of these teams playing many home games with no fans in attendance. Including these games, and rainouts, Jupiter had 31 lost home dates, and Palm Beach had 29. Dunedin, also in Low-A Southeast, was forced to play 11 home dates in either Clearwater or Tampa, with no fans in attendance, because the Toronto Blue Jays were playing in Dunedin in April and May. Including rainouts, Dunedin had 19 lost dates.
- J Other MLB-affiliated teams with a high number of postponements include: Rocket City (Madison, AL) and Binghamton (12 each); Reading and Portland, ME (10 each); Chattanooga, Syracuse, Rome, and Clearwater (9 each); and Somerset (8). Among independent league teams, Tri-City (Troy, NY) had 9 postponements, while Kansas City, Lake Erie, and Sussex County, NJ each had 7.
- J Blessed with good weather and no 2021 postponements, were Nashville, St. Paul, Las Vegas, Sacramento, Fresno, Kannapolis, Lake Elsinore, San Jose, and Visalia, from the MLB-affiliated leagues, and Veracruz, Fargo-Moorhead, Gary-Southshore, Boise, Florence, Joliet, and Province of Quebec (with few home dates) from independent leagues.
- J 16 MLB-affiliated teams, and 14 independent teams, had only one lost date each.

MLB-Affiliated League 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) **Triple-A** – The 30 Triple-A teams drew a combined 8,839,499 in 2021, averaging 294,650 per team, and 4,796 per date. There were 101 lost dates. In 2019, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 13,621,821, an average of 6,808 per date. They had 158 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 30 teams that played in Class AAA in 2019 drew 13,500,376, averaging 6,697 per date that year.
-) **Triple-A East in 2021, International League in 2022** – 20 teams. The league consisted of all 14 teams that played in the International League in 2019, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, who moved from the Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, who came in from the Class AA Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in 2019.
-) Triple-A East drew 5,815,744, the highest total of any league, averaging 290,737 per team, and 4,783 per date. The league had 80 lost dates. 10 teams drew over 300,000, and 9 averaged at least 5,000 per date. In 2019, the same 20 teams drew 8,891,720, averaging 6,762 per date. These 20 teams played 99 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 2019, the 14-team International League drew 6,445,838, and averaged 6,887 per date.
-) **Nashville drew 436,868, the best total of any Minor League team in 2021, and averaged 6,721 per date, the top average among all MLB-affiliated teams.** The Sounds drew over 10,000 at 9 of their home dates.
-) Columbus, St. Paul, Worcester, Lehigh Valley, Indianapolis, and Charlotte finished ranked 4-9 respectively, in total attendance among MLB-affiliated teams. Worcester, St. Paul, Lehigh Valley, and Indianapolis were ranked 6-9 respectively, in average per date.
-) Worcester's total attendance was 31,549 higher, and their average per date was up 891, from what they drew in Pawtucket in 2019.
-) Buffalo was forced to play its first 39 home dates in Trenton, NJ because the Toronto Blue Jays were going to use their ballpark in Buffalo in June and July. The Bisons averaged 2,884 per date in Trenton, and averaged 3,834 for the 23 dates they were able to play in Buffalo once the Blue Jays returned to Toronto.
-) **Triple-A West in 2021, Pacific Coast League in 2022** – 10 teams. 9 of the teams in this league played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
-) Total 2021 attendance was 3,023,755. The average attendance per team (302,376), and average per date (4,823), were the highest of any league. In 2019, this league's 2021 teams drew 4,730,101, averaging 6,895 per date. These teams played 59 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. They had 21 lost dates in 2021. Total 2019 attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.
-) Las Vegas led the league with 428,369 in total attendance, and 6,590 in average per date. This was the 2nd best total and average per date among MLB-affiliated teams. El Paso drew an MLB-affiliated 3rd best total of 403,657, and averaged 6,407 per date, which ranked 4th best.
-) Albuquerque, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, and Salt Lake City also surpassed 300,000 in total attendance, and Albuquerque topped 5,000 in average per date.
-) Reno lost home dates due to bad air quality from the fires, and from a Covid breakout.

MLB-Affiliated League 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) **Double-A** – The 30 Double-A teams drew a combined 6,097,985 in 2021, averaging 203,266 per team, and 3,694 per date, with 137 lost dates. In 2019, these same 30 teams, no matter what league they played in, drew 8,877,600 averaging 4,459 per date. These teams played 340 fewer 2021 dates than in 2019. Class AA teams drew 8,782,607 in 2019, an average of 4,429 per date.
-) **Double-A Central in 2021, Texas League in 2022** – 10 teams. All 8 teams from the 2019 Texas League are now in this league, along with San Antonio, who played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
-) The league drew a 2021 total of 2,247,762, with just 20 lost dates, averaging 224,776 per team, and 3,882 per date. Both average per team and average per date were best among the 3 Double-A leagues. Teams in this league had a 2019 total attendance of 3,316,756, and averaged 4,899 per date. The 10 AA-Central teams had a combined 98 fewer dates played in 2021 than in 2019. Texas League teams drew 2,791,180 in 2019, averaging 5,131 per date.
-) Amarillo posted the best Double-A total attendance (316,288), and the highest average per date in this league (5,453). Tulsa also drew more than 300,000, and averaged over 5,000 per date. Wichita topped the 2019 New Orleans total attendance by 53,138, and the New Orleans average per date by 1,082.
-) **Double-A Northeast in 2021, Eastern League in 2022** – 12 teams. 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League.
-) In 2021, the league drew 2,360,148 with 68 lost dates, averaging 196,679 per team, and 3,653 per date. These 12 teams had a 2019 attendance of 3,753,060, averaging 4,757 per date. They played 143 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The Eastern League drew 3,749,124 in 2019, and averaged 4,764 per date.
-) Hartford had the top total attendance (287,752, with 9 full-capacity sellouts), and highest average per date (5,138). Richmond was close behind drawing 275,169, and averaging 4,828 per date. 5 teams averaged at least 4,000.
-) Somerset was forced to play some home games in Hartford due to flooding in their ballpark from a tropical storm.
-) **Double-A South in 2021, Southern League in 2022** – 8 teams, all of whom played in the Southern League in 2019.
-) Drew 1,490,075 in 2021, an average of 186,259 per team, and 3,498 per date. **The average per date rose by 55 vs. 2019, the only increase in either total attendance or average per date by an MLB-affiliated league in 2021.** 49 dates were lost. These same 8 teams had a total attendance of 1,807,784 and a 3,443 average per date in 2019. They played 99 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. The 10-team 2019 Southern League drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.
-) The Rocket City (Madison, AL) Trash Pandas moved from Mobile, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. They led the league in total attendance (274,858), and led all of Class AA in average per date (5,726), despite 12 lost dates. Their total was up 179,771, and the average per date rose 4,141, from 2019 in Mobile. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.
-) Tennessee with a 245,821 total, and a 4,313 average per date, had the next best figures in this league. 4 teams averaged over 4,000 per date.

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-) **High-A** – The 30 Class High-A teams drew a combined total of 4,179,131 in **2021**, an average of 139,304 per team, and 2,461 per date, with 94 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 6,550,350, an average of 3,797 per date. These teams played just 27 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. This reduction in the number of dates is so small because the High-A West teams all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019. High-A consisted of the Florida State, California, and Carolina Leagues in 2019. Those 3 leagues drew a combined total of 4,234,494 in **2019**, and averaged 2,188 per date.
-) **High-A Central-2021, Midwest League-2022** – 12 teams. All of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019.
-) Total **2021** attendance was 1,994,854, with an average per team of 166,238, and an average per date of 2,899, all of which were best among High-A leagues. There were 30 lost dates. The same 12 teams drew 3,094,931 in 2019, averaging 3,883 per date. These teams played 109 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 16-team Midwest League drew 3,824,807 in 2019, with an average of 3,612 per date.
-) As usual, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Class Triple-A. The Dragons drew 344,167, the 10th best 2021 total among MLB-affiliated teams, and had a 5th best average per date (6,258). Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 highest season attendance totals ever by a team in Class A. West Michigan has the other Top 21 total.
-) Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports – 1,385 regular season dates from the team's inception in 2000 through the 2019 season. The Dragons started the 2021 season with a greatly reduced allowable capacity in their ballpark. They did draw at least 6,000 to 33 dates. Their final 2021 Game Notes didn't mention sellouts, so it can be assumed that they didn't sell out every game in 2021. But it really wouldn't be fair to end such a great streak under circumstances mostly beyond the team's control. So the Dragons have announced that if they sell out their games in 2022, their streak will continue.
-) Quad Cities had an increase in total attendance, up 12,358 vs. 2019, and in average per date, up 341. In 2019 this team was displaced from its ballpark for a while due to Mississippi River flooding.
-) Beloit opened a new park late in the 2021 season, and will be renamed the Sky Carp for 2022.
-) **High-A East in 2021, South Atlantic League in 2022** – 12 teams. Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, came from the South Atlantic League. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
-) Drew 1,662,465 in **2021**, averaging 138,539 per team, and 2,481 per date. 49 dates were lost. The same 12 teams drew 2,550,443 in 2019, and averaged 3,643 per date. These teams had 30 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. 3 teams in this league played short-season schedules in 2019, and those 3 teams played a combined 58 more dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) The 14-team South Atlantic League drew 2,978,718 in 2019, averaging 3,176 per date. The Carolina League, with 10 teams, had a 2019 total attendance of 2,018,496, and had an average of 3,139 per date. The short-season New York-Penn League's 2019 total was 1,316,873, and that league averaged 2,644 per date.
-) Greenville, SC led the league in total attendance (243,962) and average per date (4,125), followed by Greensboro.
-) **High-A West-2021, Northwest League-2022** – 6 teams, all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019.
-) This league drew 521,812 in **2021**, averaging 86,969 per team, and 1,535 per date. There were 15 lost dates. In 2019, the same 6 teams drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. The 6 teams played a combined 112 more dates in 2021 than in 2019, when they were in a short-season league with a 76-game schedule. The 2019 Northwest League, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.
-) Spokane drew 140,623 in total attendance, and 2,511 in average per date, to lead the league in 2021. Due to the border restrictions, Vancouver had to play its home games in Hillsboro. Eugene played one home date in Hillsboro, and 5 home dates at Tri-City (Pasco, WA).

MLB-Affiliated League 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) **Low-A** – The 30 Low-A teams drew a combined 2,972,399 in **2021**, averaging 99,080 per team, and 1,833 per date. 171 dates were lost. In 2019, these same 30 teams, in whatever league they played in, drew 4,690,339, an average of 2,395 per date. The 30 teams played 336 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues were the Low-A leagues in 2019, and they drew a combined 6,803,525, averaging 3,407 per date.
-) **Low-A East in 2021, Carolina League in 2022** – 12 teams, 7 came from the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League.
-) 2021 attendance was 1,799,442, an average of 149,954 per team, and an average of 2,646 per date. These were the highest figures among the Low-A leagues. There were 37 lost dates. In 2019, the same 12 teams drew 2,366,810, averaging 2,973 per date. They had 116 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) Augusta had the league's best total attendance (211,561), and average per date (3,712). Charleston, SC drew 208,641, averaging 3,660 per date.
-) **Kannapolis moved into a new park, and drew team record-highs in total attendance (162,031, up 86,100 from 2019), and in average per date (2,701, up 1,567).** Fredericksburg was relocated from Woodbridge, VA (Potomac). Their total attendance was 6,597 higher than in 2019, and average per date rose by 230. Myrtle Beach had a 127 increase in average per date.
-) **Low-A Southeast in 2021, Florida State League in 2022** – 10 teams, all from the Florida State League.
-) Drew 467,920, an average of 46,792 per team, and an average of 987 per date in 2021. 122 dates were lost, the most of any league in 2021. The lost dates figure includes games played with no fans in attendance. In 2019, the same 10 teams drew 824,223, an average of 1,334 per date. They had 144 fewer dates with fans in attendance in 2021 than in 2019. The 2019 Florida State League drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.
-) The Clearwater Threshers were the league's 2021 attendance leader (108,111 total, 2,120 average per date). Clearwater led the Florida State League in attendance in each of its final 9 seasons, and in 15 of the last 16 years.
-) Dunedin home games for the Toronto Blue Jays forced the Dunedin Blue Jays to play 11 dates in Clearwater and Tampa, with no fans in attendance. Dunedin's average per date was up 55 from 2019, when renovations to their park forced them to play in the old ballpark in Clearwater. They had 19 lost dates, including the 'no fans' games.
-) Both Jupiter and Palm Beach share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. Local Covid-19 restrictions forced both teams to play many home games with no fans permitted to attend. Counting the 'no-fans' games, and rainouts, Palm Beach had 29 lost dates, and Jupiter lost 31 dates.
-) **Low-A West in 2021, California League in 2022** – 8 teams. 7 teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Pacific Coast League.
-) The league's total 2021 attendance was 705,037, averaging 88,130 per team, and 1,506 per date, with 12 lost dates. The same 8 teams drew 1,499,306 in 2019, an average of 2,756 per date. These teams played 76 fewer 2021 dates compared to 2019. The California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811 in 2019, averaging 2,342 per date.
-) Fresno led the league in attendance by a wide margin, with a total of 176,395, and an average per date of 2,940.

2022 SCHEDULES

Triple-A teams will play 150 games, from April 5 through September 28. Double-A teams will play 138 games, from April 8 through September 18. High-A and Low-A teams will play 132 games, from April 8 through September 11.

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

Independent Leagues 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) 9 independent leagues played in 2021. Attendance was available for the American Association, and the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, Pioneer, Pecos Baseball, United Shore, and Mavericks Leagues. Thus far, attendance has not been announced by the 4-team Empire Baseball League. The Mexican League was a Major League-affiliated 'Minor League Baseball' member league through 2019. The league was not considered to be an independent league, even though none of its teams were MLB 'farm' teams. The Pioneer League became independent in 2021.
-) 86 teams played in the 9 independent leagues in 2021. Attendance was found for 73 individual teams, plus league totals for the 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all games in Utica, MI, and the Mavericks League, whose 4 teams all play in Keiser, OR. **The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues are each counted as one 'team' in this attendance report.** The Houston Apollos, a road team, was shared by the American Association and the Pecos League. These 75 teams drew a total of 6,047,347 in **2021**, averaging 2,024 per date. A combined 164 dates from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, plus the American Association, were lost in 2021.
-) **2019** attendance for these same teams, plus one temporarily inactive Frontier League team (Ottawa, who will be back in 2022), no matter what league they were a member of that year, was 10,724,778, with a 3,171 average per date. They played 394 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The American Association, Mexican, Pioneer, Frontier, and Atlantic Leagues, played a combined 450 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 2019, teams in independent leagues drew 5,690,513, and averaged 2,341 per date. Add the Mexican League and Pioneer League attendance to the 2019 independent league figures, and total attendance was 11,029,912, and the average per date was 3,037.
-) **Mexican League** – 18 teams. 16 of these teams played in the Mexican League in 2019, with los Mariachis de Guadalajara and El Aguila de Veracruz added in 2021.
-) Covid-19 forced changes hit this league very hard. The schedule was reduced from 120 games to 66 games. Total attendance was 1,446,929 in 2021, an average of 80,385 per team, and 2,826 per date. This was the highest total attendance and average per date of any independent league. There were 42 lost dates. In 2019, the league drew 4,618,131, an average of 5,058 per date. There were 401 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. If the expansion teams are excluded, the 16 returning teams played 463 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) Los Toros (Bulls) de Tijuana led the league in attendance, with a total of 196,471. **Their average per date of 7,557 was the best in all of Minor League Baseball, including the MLB-affiliated leagues.** Mexican League teams had 8 of the 12 highest average per date figures among independent teams.
-) Los Tecolotes de Los Dos Laredos (Owls of the Two Laredos) were able to split their season, as usual, between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The 17 dates in Texas drew an average of 3,341, and the 11 dates in Mexico averaged 2,603 per date.
-) The Mexican League annually has the longest, most intense, and best attended playoffs in the Minor Leagues, with 4 full rounds of best-of-7 series. The full playoffs did occur in 2021, and they drew 412,739 in 74 dates, an average of 5,578 per date. Tijuana's 13 playoff dates drew an average crowd of 12,595, with a top attendance of 17,687.
-) **Atlantic League** – 8 teams in 2021, 10 teams in 2022. 5 of the teams played in this league in 2019. Gastonia was added as an expansion team in 2021, and Lexington, KY, and Charleston, WV, came in from the South Atlantic League. This league played a 120-game schedule in 2021, instead of its usual 140-game schedule. But this still was the longest schedule among independent leagues. There will be a 132-game schedule in 2022.
-) The league drew 1,138,674 in 2021. Average per team was 142,334, and average per date was 2,553. There were 33 lost dates. The 2021 Atlantic League teams drew 1,546,720 in 2019, averaging 3,312 per date. In 2019, the Atlantic League drew 1,940,590, an average of 3,648 per date. Excluding expansion team Gastonia, the league played 86 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. If Gastonia is included, there were 21 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. The 7 teams that did play in 2019 combined to play 79 fewer dates in 2021.
-) **Long Island led all U.S. independent teams in total attendance (224,120) and average per date (4,002).** Lancaster, PA had the 3rd best total (182,132) among independent teams in 2021.
-) The league will add the Staten Island Ferry Hawks, and a second team in Lexington (to be called Kentucky) in 2022. Staten Island had been in the New York-Penn League through 2019.

Independent Leagues 2021 Attendance Summaries

- J **United Shore Baseball League** – 4 teams, all based in Utica, MI.
- J The league drew an estimated 150,000 in 2021, averaging an estimated 2,273 per date. In 2019, estimated attendance was 258,720, an average of 3,450 per date. There were 9 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 'normal' times, this league sells out around 80% of its games.
- J **American Association** – 11 teams, plus one road team in 2021. 12 teams (no road team) in 2022. 10 of these teams were in this league in 2019, and Kane County, IL came in from the Midwest League for 2021.
- J Drew 1,198,085 in 2021, averaging 108,917 per team, and 2,106 per date, with 21 lost dates. The league's 2021 teams drew 1,671,113 in 2019, and averaged 3,061 per date, regardless of what league they played in for 2019. Due to the 2021 road team, teams had extra home dates in 2021, so these teams had a combined 23 more dates than in 2019. The 12-team American Association drew 1,775,249 in 2019, an average of 3,082 per date, with 7 more dates in 2019 compared to 2021.
- J Kane County led the league in total attendance (177,705 – 4th best independent total), and average per date (3,554 – 6th best independent average). Milwaukee drew a team record-high total - 79,741, up 20,282, and a team record-high average per date – 1,564, up 325. In 2019, this team began its season in Kokomo, IN, until their new ballpark in Franklin, WI was ready. Sioux City, IA had an 8,184 gain in total attendance, and average per date rose 53.
- J Winnipeg had to play its first 29 dates in Jackson, TN, due to Canadian border restrictions. Those games averaged 579 per date. The Goldeyes were able to return home later in the season. They played 18 dates in Winnipeg, which averaged 1,957 per date.
- J The Lake Country (not county) DockHounds, in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin will replace the road team in 2022.
- J **Frontier League** – 14 teams in 2021, 16 teams in 2022. 9 of these teams played in the Frontier League in 2019. 4 teams came in from the Can-Am League, and Tri-City (Troy, NY) joined from the New York-Penn League.
- J League attendance was 1,106,294 for the 14 teams, with an average per team of 79,021, and an average per date of 1,820. 51 dates were lost. In 2019, these same teams, including both Quebec and Trois Rivieres, plus Ottawa, which was inactive in 2021, drew 1,659,354, averaging 2,261 per date. There were 126 fewer dates played in 2021 compared to 2019 by these teams.
- J The 10-team 2019 Frontier League drew 1,028,721, and averaged 2,266 per date. The 6-team 2019 Can-Am League drew 565,936, and averaged 1,986 per date. Combined total 2019 attendance for the 2 leagues was 1,594,657, with a 2,158 average per date. The 2021 Frontier League played 131 fewer dates than the combined 2019 Frontier and Can-Am Leagues did. These leagues officially merged after the 2019 season.
- J Schaumburg had the league's best 2021 total attendance (157,112, up 729), and the top average per date (3,415, up 224). Sussex County posted a total attendance increase of 7,168.
- J Quebec and Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers) were combined into one team for the 2021 season. Due to U.S./Canadian border restrictions, this team, named Province of Quebec, played as a road team, in the U.S., for much of the season. They were allowed back into Canada on July 30, and played 10 dates in Quebec City, averaging 2,288 per date, and 11 dates in Trois Rivieres, averaging 1,903 per date there. Quebec, Trois Rivieres, and Ottawa return as separate teams in 2022, as do the Frontier Grays, a road team. Southern Illinois ceased operations after the 2021 season.
- J **Mavericks League** – 4 teams, all based in Keiser, Oregon.
- J The Salem-Keiser Volcanoes had played in the MLB-affiliated Northwest League. They were dropped from the MLB roster of affiliated Minor League teams for 2021. So they formed a 4-team independent league which played all of its games in their ballpark in Keiser, OR. This is the same type of arrangement used by the United Shore Baseball League, which has all 4 of its teams sharing a ballpark in Utica, Michigan.
- J In its first season, the league drew 80,365 in 85 dates, averaging 945 per date. In 2019, the Salem-Keiser Volcanoes, playing 38 home dates in the Northwest League, drew 80,833, averaging 2,127 per date.

Independent Leagues 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) **Pioneer Baseball League** – 8 teams in 2021, 10 teams in 2022. 7 of these teams played in the MLB-affiliated Rookie Class Pioneer League in 2019. Boise came from the Short-A Northwest League. All teams kept their planned 2020 names. This was the Pioneer League's first season as an independent league. In 2022, the league adds teams in Kalispell, Montana (Glacier Range Riders), and Windsor, Colorado (Northern Colorado Owlz).
-) **The league played a 96-game schedule in 2021, and drew a league record-high total of 839,374**, averaging 2,306 per date. The old record was 802,682 in 1948, when the Pioneer League played a full-season schedule. The same 8 teams drew a total of 805,512 in 2019, averaging 2,787 per date, playing 76-game schedules. These teams played a combined total of 75 more dates than in 2019, due to the longer schedule. **The 2019 Pioneer League had a 76-game schedule, and drew 721,268, averaging a league record-high 2,504 per date.**
-) 5 teams had total attendance gains in 2021, led by Great Falls, up 15,769. Billings, Idaho Falls, Missoula, and Ogden, also posted total attendance increases, in part, due to more scheduled home games. Great Falls also had a gain in average per date, up 43.
-) **Ogden drew a team record-high total of 156,734, and averaged 3,407 per date, to lead this league.**
-) **Idaho Falls also set a new team record-high (109,647).**
-) **Pecos Baseball League** – 14 teams, plus the Houston Apollos road team, which was shared with the American Association. 10 teams that played in this league in 2019, returned in 2021. Expansion teams were added in Colorado Springs and Santa Cruz. Martinez and San Rafael joined from the inactive Pacific Association.
-) The Pecos League played a limited schedule with very few fans in attendance in 2020. The league has now been in operation for 11 seasons, the longest tenure of any 'small-market' independent Minor League, since the rebirth of independent leagues in 1993. Most of the league's ballparks are tiny.
-) **The Pecos League was the only North American professional baseball league, on any level, to have higher attendance in 2021 than it did in 2019, playing a roughly similar-length or shorter, schedule.**
-) **Total attendance was a league record-high estimated 87,626, and average per date was a league record-high 259.** In 2019, the league's 2021 teams, no matter what league they were in, drew 84,395, averaging 264 per date.
-) These teams had a combined 18 more dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 12 teams that were in the Pecos League in 2019 drew 76,058, an average of 217 per date. The Pecos League had 12 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) 4 teams (Alpine, Garden City KS, Roswell, Santa Fe) had increases in total attendance vs. 2019. The same 4 teams, plus Bakersfield, Monterey CA, and Trinidad, had increases in average per date.
-) **Garden City led the league with a team record-high total of 18,540, and a team record-high 412 average per date. Martinez also achieved a team record-high average per date (331).**
-) The Pecos League is the only professional baseball league that does not include 'no-shows' (tickets sold but not used) in its attendance. So the number of tickets sold by this league is higher than its announced attendance.
-) There will be 17 teams in the Pecos League in 2022. Salina, KS will be dropped, and Austin and Weimar in Texas, and Santa Rosa in California, will be added.
-) **Empire Baseball League** – 4 teams, 3 located in upstate New York, one in New Hampshire. This league has never provided any attendance data in its history, despite multiple requests. They had 75 dates in 2021, and 55 in 2019.

Summer Collegiate Leagues Reported Attendance

-) The 173 Collegiate Summer League teams with 2021 reported attendance drew 3,981,808, an average of 959 per date. The Northwoods League had the highest announced league total (981,040). The 6-team MLB-Draft League likely had the highest average per date. But attendance from the West Virginia Black Bears and the Trenton Thunder (who only played one series in their home park, because the Buffalo Bisons were using it), was not available.
-) Frederick, which was in the Class A Carolina League in 2019, had the 2021 top total (125,378), and the best average per date (4,179), among all Summer Collegiate teams. This team plays in the MLB-Draft League. Savannah, which has a very unique and entertaining way of presenting its games, sold out every game as usual, averaging 3,757 per date. In 2019, 164 teams reported attendance and drew 3,998,646, an average of 1,003 per date. Madison (218,866 / 6,080 per date) was the leader.

2021 PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TOTAL AND AVERAGE PER DATE ATTENDANCE

The table on the next page shows 2021 attendance for all of professional baseball. It includes Major League Spring Training, All-Star Game activities, and post-season games. For the Minor Leagues, it has regular-season and post-season attendance for all MLB-affiliated leagues, and for all independent leagues except for the Empire League. No Minor Leagues All-Star Games took place in 2021.

2021 MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – BY LEAGUE AND CLASSIFICATION

The table on page 26 lists 2021 total attendance and average per date for each MLB-affiliated league and classification, and for each independent league. There are no comparisons made with 2019 since the reorganization of the MLB-affiliated leagues, and all the other unique factors of 2021, would make most comparisons worthless.

TURNING BACK TO 2019

Since so much of the 2021 attendance data can't be compared with attendance from any previous seasons, in any meaningful way, this report has retained many of the 2019 vs. 2018 and other seasons comparisons. This gives you an idea of what Minor League attendance was like in a 'normal' season, and before the recent realignment.

The table on page 27 shows 2019 vs. 2018 MLB-affiliated and independent league total attendance and average per date listed by league.

2021 MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TOTAL ATTENDANCE

	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u># of Dates</u>	<u>Average per Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>MAJOR LEAGUES</u>				
Spring Training	807,955	398	2,030	
Regular Season	45,304,709	2,396	18,908	
Wild Card Games	91,517	2	45,759	at Boston, L.A. Dodgers
Division Series	702,032	17	41,296	at Boston, Tampa Bay, Houston, Chicago White Sox, San Francisco, L.A. Dodgers, Milwaukee, Atlanta
Championship Ser.	520,383	12	43,365	at Boston, Houston, Atlanta, Dodgers
World Series	257,671	6	42,945	at Atlanta, Houston
Post-Season Total	1,571,603	37	42,476	
Futures Game				at Colorado
Home Run Derby	49,088	1		
All-Star Game	49,184	1		
Major League Total	47,782,539	2,833	16,866	
<u>MINOR LEAGUES</u>				
NAPBL Regular Sea.	22,089,014	6,814	3,242	
NAPBL Post-Season	77,438	32	2,420	
NAPBL All-Star	0	0		
Indy Regular Season	6,047,347	2,988	2,024	
Indy Post-Season	499,184	111	4,497	
Indy All-Star Games				
Arizona Fall League	48,166	91	529	
Minor League Total	28,761,149	10,036	2,866	
Majors/Minors Total	76,543,688	12,869	5,948	

Post-season independent attendance is for Atlantic, Mexican, Frontier, and Pioneer Leagues, and the American Association. Mexican League post-season games (included in Indys) drew 412,739 for 74 games, an average of 5,578. Arizona Fall League Total Includes the league championship game, which drew 2,505.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - By League and Classification - 2021

	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>		<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2019</u>
<u>NAPBL AFFILIATED LEAGUES</u>				
AAA East	5,815,744		4,783	
AAA West	3,023,755		4,823	
AAA Total	8,839,499	13,500,376	4,796	6,697
AA Central	2,247,762		3,882	
AA Northeast	2,360,148		3,653	
AA South	1,490,075		3,498	
AA Total	6,097,985	8,782,607	3,694	4,429
High-A Central	1,994,854		2,899	
High-A East	1,662,465		2,481	
High-A West	521,812		1,535	
High-A Total	4,179,131		2,461	
Low-A East	1,799,442		2,646	
Low-A Southeast	467,920		987	
Low-A West	705,037		1,506	
Low-A Total	2,972,399		1,833	
All Full-Season-A	7,151,530	11,038,019	2,154	2,807
2019 Short Season		x 3,564,944		x 2,514
MLB Affiliated Total	22,089,014	41,504,077	3,242	4,044
<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>				
American Association	1,198,085	1,775,249	2,106	3,082
Atlantic	1,138,674	1,940,590	2,553	3,648
Frontier	1,106,294	1,028,721	1,820	2,266
Mexican	1,446,929	4,618,131	2,826	5,058
Pioneer	839,374	721,268	2,306	2,504
Can-Am		x 565,936		x 1,986
United Shore	150,000	258,720	2,273	3,450
Pecos Baseball	87,626	76,058	259	217
Mavericks	80,365		945	x
Empire Professional	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Pacific Association		x 45,239		x 285
Independent Total *	6,047,347	5,690,513	2,024	2,341
All Minor Leagues Total	28,136,361	47,194,590	2,870	3,718

The 2019 MLB Affiliated total is for all teams that were in MLB-affiliated leagues in 2019.
2019 total for independent leagues is for teams in those independent leagues in 2019.

2019 'All Full-Season-A' figures are for teams that were in Full-Season Class A leagues in 2019.

The 2019 MLB-affiliated total and the Independent total are not a sum of the figures shown.

The Can-Am League merged into the Frontier League in 2021. The Pacific Association did not play in 2021.

The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues were MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) leagues in 2019.

There were no MLB-affiliated Short-Season leagues with attendance in 2021.

Sources: Minor League Baseball, Independent Leagues

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - By League - 2019 vs. 2018

NAPBL AFFILIATED LEAGUES	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>		
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	Change-2019 <u>#</u>	vs. 2018 <u>%</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u># Change</u> <u>2019 vs. 2018</u>
International	6,445,838	6,460,116	(14,278)	(0.22)	6,887	6,902	(15)
Pacific Coast	7,054,538	6,921,810	132,728	1.92	6,532	6,368	164
AAA Total	13,500,376	13,381,926	118,450	0.89	6,697	6,615	82
Mexican	4,618,131	3,771,803	846,328	22.44	5,058	4,376	682
Eastern	3,749,124	3,767,671	(18,547)	(0.49)	4,764	4,793	(29)
Southern	2,242,303	2,261,834	(19,531)	(0.86)	3,439	3,401	38
Texas	2,791,180	2,677,297	113,883	4.25	5,131	4,949	182
AA Total	8,782,607	8,706,802	75,805	0.87	4,429	4,371	58
California	1,280,811	1,341,157	(60,346)	(4.50)	2,342	2,399	(57)
Carolina	2,018,496	1,901,228	117,268	6.17	3,139	2,916	223
Florida State	935,187	1,027,261	(92,074)	(8.96)	1,255	1,346	(91)
Midwest	3,824,807	3,937,721	(112,914)	(2.87)	3,612	3,711	(99)
South Atlantic	2,978,718	2,907,297	71,421	2.46	3,176	3,285	(109)
Full Season A Total	11,038,019	11,114,664	(76,645)	(0.69)	2,807	2,835	(28)
New York - Penn	1,316,873	1,391,016	(74,143)	(5.33)	2,644	2,733	(89)
Northwest	1,115,614	1,089,930	25,684	2.36	3,670	3,597	73
Appalachian	411,189	389,859	21,330	5.47	1,254	1,242	12
Pioneer	721,268	604,337	116,931	19.35	2,504	2,070	434
Short Season Total	3,564,944	3,475,142	89,802	2.58	2,514	2,451	63
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	40,450,337	1,053,740	2.61	4,044	3,960	84
<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>							
American Association	1,775,249	1,891,794	(116,545)	(6.16)	3,082	3,251	(169)
Atlantic	1,940,590	1,849,845	90,745	4.91	3,648	3,894	(246)
Can-Am	565,936	599,519	(33,583)	(5.60)	1,986	2,019	(33)
Frontier	1,028,721	1,194,851	(166,130)	(13.90)	2,266	2,233	33
United Shore	258,720	255,000	3,720	1.46	3,450	3,400	50
Pecos Baseball	76,058	66,344	9,714	14.64	217	197	20
Pacific Association	45,239	62,000	(16,761)	(27.03)	285	259	26
Empire Professional			-----	-----			-----
Independent Total	5,690,513	5,919,353	(228,840)	(3.87)	2,341	2,330	11
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	46,369,690	824,900	1.78	3,718	3,635	83

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

RECORD-HIGHS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, OR SINGLE GAMES SET OR TIED IN 2021

The following MLB-affiliated teams set or tied their team attendance records in 2021 in season total attendance, average per date, or for a single game. As you might expect, this list is shorter than in previous years due to shorter schedules, ballpark capacity restrictions, and other factors unique to the 2021 season. Some teams, such as Charlotte, set a single-game record in 2021, for their current park, but have drawn bigger crowds in a larger, former park, in the same market. Attendance records set by Rocket City (Madison, AL) broke records set by the Huntsville Stars. Records set by Worcester are for any team in that market.

TOTAL ATTENDANCE		AVERAGE PER DATE		SINGLE GAME RECORD	
Pioneer League	838,374	Pecos League	259	Worcester	9,508
Pecos League	87,626			Charlotte	10,969
		Kannapolis	2,701	Rocket City, AL	7,500
Kannapolis	162,031	Worcester	6,145	Amarillo	7,477
Worcester	362,559	Rocket City, AL	5,726	Hickory	5,576
Milwaukee Milkmen	79,741	Milwaukee Milkmen	1,564	Pensacola	5,038-T
Garden City, KS	18,540	Garden City, KS	412	Lehigh Valley	10,100-T
				Portland, ME	7,368-T
Ogden	156,734	Martinez, CA	331	Hartford	6,850-T
Idaho Falls	109,647			Myrtle Beach	6,599-T

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

Largest Single-Game Crowds in **2021** (based on available data):

Overall – Tijuana - Mexican League (15,240); Triple-A – Albuquerque (13,035); Double-A – Richmond (9,560);
High-A – Lansing (10,109); Low-A – Fresno (10,877); Independent Atlantic – Long Island (7,101).

Largest Single-Game Crowds in **2019** (based on available data):

Overall – Monterrey, Mexico (20,533); Class AAA – Buffalo (16,409); Class AA – Frisco (12,023);
Full-season High Class A – Clearwater (10,055); Full-season Low Class A - Lansing (10,824);
Short-season Class A – Brooklyn (8,031); Rookie – Rocky Mountain (7,048).
Independent leagues and teams – United Shore League (4,926), St. Paul (10,631), others unavailable.

SOURCES: Office of Minor League Baseball, MLB Stats Reporting Platform, Independent leagues

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

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

2019 combined MLB-affiliated and independent attendance was the 14th highest ever.

COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993

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

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

THE 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 led their leagues in attendance was in 1987. That year, the St. Louis Cardinals posted the best attendance in the Majors, and 4 of their farm teams topped their respective leagues.

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

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT DOWN 0.6% IN 2019

2021 regular season attendance for Major League Baseball was 45,304,709.

Total **2021** Major League/Minor League attendance, including Spring Training, the MLB All-Star Game and Home Run Derby, playoffs, and the Arizona Fall League was 76,543,688.

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

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

2019 MLB-AFFILIATED LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY CLASSIFICATION

By classification, MLB-affiliated teams with the biggest **2019** total attendance gains were: Las Vegas (among all AAA teams); Mobile (AA); Fayetteville, with a new park, and Delmarva (full-season A); Batavia (short-season A); Ogden (Rookie); Mexico City (Mexican League).

By classification, MLB-affiliated teams with the worst total attendance losses in **2019** were: New Orleans (AAA); Binghamton (AA); Quad Cities, who had many games relocated due to flooding, and Potomac (full-season A); Brooklyn (short-season A); Missoula (Rookie); Monterrey (Mexican).

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest total attendance gains and losses for **2019** in both the MLB-affiliated and independent leagues can be found on page 49. A listing of teams with the biggest **2019** gains and losses in average attendance per date is on page 60.

2019 MINOR LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE

There were no Minor League All-Star Games in **2021**.

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

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

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,452,620 TV households, and 8 Minor league teams in 2021, with Staten Island returning in 2022, in addition to the Mets and Yankees. The biggest TV market without a summer Minor League team that charges admission is Phoenix, which ranks #11, and has 2,158,240 households. Phoenix has the Diamondbacks, and is host to Major League Spring Training, and to the Arizona Fall League. It is also home to the Arizona Complex Rookie League, which does not charge admission to its games.

The biggest market with no Major League Baseball team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #17 (1,731,360 households). New Orleans, ranked #50, is the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2021. Great Falls, Montana (Market #192 - 64,020 households) in the now-independent Pioneer League, is the smallest 2021 Minor League market. Bowling Green, Kentucky, market rank #179, is the smallest market with an MLB-affiliated team. There are 210 U.S. TV markets.

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

SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen for 2021 Households estimates.

Toronto, which is the largest of Canada's 40 TV markets, and ranks #4 in size for combined U.S./Canadian TV markets, does not have a Minor League team, but of course does host the MLB Blue Jays. Minor League teams are in 4 of the 10 Canadian provinces (Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba, British Columbia). Vancouver (Rank #3 in Canada) is the biggest Canadian market with a Minor League team, and Trois Rivieres, Quebec (Rank #22 in Canada) is the smallest. SOURCE: Numeris

IN 2018, EARLY-SEASON WEATHER WAS AWFUL. IN 2019, IT WAS MUCH WARMER. AS FOR 2021...

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

IN THE UNUSUAL 2021 SEASON, POSTPONEMENTS WERE DUE TO MORE THAN RAIN, SNOW, AND COLD**Lost Dates and Relocated Games due to Rainouts, Covid-19 Restrictions and Outbreaks, a Flood, and Smoke**

Postponed games in the Minor Leagues are almost always made up as part of a single-admission doubleheader. Sometimes these postponed games are never made up. In both these cases, this is considered to be a 'lost date.' Rarely, in the Minors, are postponed games made up as part of a separate-admission doubleheader.

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

Jupiter and Palm Beach of Low-A Southeast share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter, FL. Local Covid-19 restrictions resulted in both of these teams playing many home games with no fans in attendance. Including these games, and rainouts, Jupiter had 31 lost home dates, and Palm Beach had 29. Dunedin, also in Low-A Southeast, was forced to play 11 home dates in either Clearwater or Tampa, with no fans in attendance, because the Toronto Blue Jays were playing in Dunedin in April and May. Including rainouts, Dunedin had 19 lost dates.

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

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

16 MLB-affiliated teams, and 14 independent teams, had only one lost date each in 2021.

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

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

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

In 2019, the Florida State League had 92 lost dates, which was 11.0% of all dates scheduled. This included the entire final weekend of the season due to Hurricane Dorian. The Midwest had 57 lost dates. The Carolina lost 56 dates, the Eastern had 53 lost dates, there were 47 lost dates in the Southern, 43 in the International, and 41 each in the Southern and Mexican Leagues. In 2018, the South Atlantic League lost 92 dates, the Florida State had 77, the Midwest suffered 59 lost dates, and the Eastern League had 54. In 2017, the Florida State League had 74 lost dates, followed by the South Atlantic (60 lost dates), Eastern (59), Mexican (58), International (51), and Carolina (50) Leagues. In 2016, only the Florida State League (57 lost dates), and the South Atlantic League (50) had at least 50 lost dates.

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

IN 2018, EARLY-SEASON WEATHER WAS AWFUL. IN 2019, IT WAS MUCH WARMER. AS FOR 2021...

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

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

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

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

WEATHER NOTES

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

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

The average gametime temperature was 63.4 degrees in April, 2018, and 70.4 degrees in April, 2017. Keep in mind that this includes many games played in warm weather locations. (Thanks to Jeff Lantz, Minor League Baseball Senior Director of Communications for some of this weather data.) In April, 2018, 9.7% of originally scheduled dates for these 120 teams were postponed. 9.0% of scheduled games in April, 2019 were postponed.

It is impossible to exactly quantify the impact of weather on attendance, but it may be safe to assume that the number of day-of-game ticket sales to some of those very cold games was close to zero. With better weather, it can also be assumed that far fewer teams would have had attendance declines in 2018.

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

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

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

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

2019 HAD THE FEWEST NUMBER OF PLAYING DATES FOR U.S./CANADA NAPBL LEAGUES SINCE 2003

2019 had the fewest number of dates for 14 U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated leagues since 2003. 2018 had the fewest number of dates since 2004 for all 15 MLB-affiliated leagues combined, including the Mexican League. The Mexican League added a combined 6 games for each team, from a 114-game schedule in 2018, to 120 games in 2019.

MLB-affiliated leagues with more dates in 2019 than in 2018 were the South Atlantic (53 more), Mexican (51), Appalachian (14), Texas (3), Eastern and Northwest Leagues (1 more each). The International League had the same number of dates in both years. MLB-affiliated leagues with fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018 were the Florida State (18 fewer), Southern (13), California (12), New York-Penn (11), Carolina (9), Pacific Coast (7), Pioneer (4), and the Midwest League (2). For 'same market' teams, 72 had more home dates in 2019 than in 2018, 71 had fewer dates, and 31 had the same number as in 2018.

For the independent leagues, the Pacific Association dropped 2 teams, and had 80 fewer dates than in 2018. Two teams were dropped by the Frontier League, resulting in 81 fewer dates. The American Association had 6 more dates. The United Shore had the same number of dates as in 2018. The Atlantic had one more team playing home games, and had 57 more dates. The Can-Am had 12 fewer dates, and the Pecos had 13 more. Among 'same market' individual teams, 17 had more home dates than in 2018, 25 had fewer dates, and 8 teams had the same in both years.

The Mexican League went from being an MLB-affiliated league to being an independent league in 2021.

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

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AFFIL. LEAGUES</u>	<u>INDY – EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>ALL INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
2021	6,814	2,476	2,988
<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AFFIL. LEAGUES</u>	<u>AFFIL- EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
2019	10,262	9,349	2,431
2018	10,215	9,353	2,540
2017	10,216	9,392	2,516
2016	10,350	9,502	2,498
2015	10,371	9,523	2,517
2014	10,347	9,500	2,399
2013	10,285	9,437	2,514
2012	10,405	9,556	2,643
2011	10,238	9,534	2,622
2010	10,379	9,591	2,840
2009	10,269	9,431	2,773
2008	10,364	9,532	2,889
2007	10,303	9,455	3,113
2006	10,305	9,472	2,599
2005	10,369	9,503	2,701
2004	10,067	9,378	2,186
2003	10,119	9,256	2,521
2002	10,354	9,486	2,384
2001	10,382	9,424	2,362
2000	10,296	9,376	2,255
1999	10,390	9,448	1,904
1998	10,325	9,368	1,821
1997	10,009	9,029	N/A
1996	9,944	9,026	N/A
1995	9,959	9,036	N/A
1994	9,915	8,971	N/A
1993	9,766	8,756	N/A
1992	9,654	8,610	None

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2021

Due to the uncertainties of the 2021 season, far fewer than normal weekday day games were scheduled.

72 of the 120 MLB-affiliated teams didn't schedule any weekday day games in 2021.

In 2019, only 9 of the 120 U.S. full-season MLB-affiliated teams didn't schedule any weekday day games.

Jupiter and Palm Beach did play weekday day games, but fans were not allowed to attend, so they are not listed.

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>TRIPLE-A EAST</u>			<u>DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST</u>			<u>HIGH-A EAST</u>		
Buffalo	0	0	Akron	2	1	Aberdeen	0	0
Charlotte	0	0	Altoona	0	0	Asheville	0	0
Columbus	5	0	Binghamton	0	0	Bowling Green	3	1
Durham	1	0	Bowie	1	0	Brooklyn	0	0
Gwinnett	2	1	Erie	0	0	Greensboro	5	0
			Harrisburg	3	0	Greenville	1	0
Indianapolis	6	0						
Iowa	4	0	Hartford	0	0	Hickory	0	0
Jacksonville	2	0	New Hampshire	1	0	Hudson Valley	0	0
Lehigh Valley	0	0	Portland, ME	0	0	Jersey Shore	0	0
Louisville	1	0	Reading	1	1	Rome	1	0
			Richmond	1	0	Wilmington, DE	0	0
Memphis	3	0	Somerset	0	0	Winston-Salem	2	1
Nashville	0	0						
Norfolk	7	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	9	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	12	2
Omaha	2	1						
Rochester	7	1	<u>DOUBLE-A SOUTH</u>			<u>LOW-A EAST</u>		
			Biloxi	0	0	Augusta	0	0
St. Paul	2	0	Birmingham	0	0	Carolina	0	0
Syracuse	1	0	Chattanooga	0	0	Charleston	0	0
Scranton-Wilkes	0	0	Mississippi	0	0	Columbia	0	0
Toledo	0	0				Delmarva	0	0
Worcester	3	0	Montgomery	0	0	Down East	0	0
			Pensacola	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	46	3	Rocket City	0	0	Fayetteville	0	0
			Tennessee	0	0	Fredericksburg	0	0
			LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	Kannapolis	1	0
<u>TRIPLE-A WEST</u>						Lynchburg	0	0
Albuquerque	3	0	<u>HIGH-A CENTRAL</u>			Myrtle Beach	0	0
El Paso	3	2	Beloit	0	0	Salem	0	0
Las Vegas	0	0	Ceder Rapids, IA	0	0			
Oklahoma City	0	0	Dayton	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	0
Reno	1	0	Fort Wayne	0	0			
			Great Lakes, MI	0	0	<u>LOW-A SOUTHEAST</u>		
Round Rock	0	0	Lake County, OH	2	0	Bradenton	0	0
Sacramento	4	0				Clearwater	4	0
Salt Lake	0	0	Lansing	1	0	Daytona	0	0
Sugar Land	0	0	Peoria	0	0	Dunedin	0	0
Tacoma	2	1	Quad Cities	0	0	Fort Myers	0	0
			South Bend	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	13	3	West Michigan	0	0	Jupiter		
			Wisconsin	3	0	Lakeland	0	0
<u>DOUBLE-A CENTRAL</u>			LEAGUE TOTAL	6	0	Palm Beach		
Amarillo	0	0				St. Lucie	10	0
Arkansas	1	1	<u>HIGH-A WEST</u>			Tampa	0	0
Corpus Christi	0	0	Eugene	0	0			
Frisco	0	0	Everett	2	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	14	0
Midland	1	1	Hillsboro	4	0			
			Spokane	1	0			
N.W. Arkansas	0	0	Tri-City, WA	0	0			
San Antonio	0	0	Vancouver	0	0			
Springfield, MO	0	0						
Tulsa	3	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	7	0			
Wichita	1	0						
LEAGUE TOTAL	6	2						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2021

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>LOW-A WEST</u>			<u>UNITED SHORE</u>			<u>2021 CLASSIFICATION TOTALS</u>		
Fresno	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	TRIPLE-A	59	6
Inland Empire	1	0				DOUBLE-A	15	4
Lake Elsinore	0	0	<u>PECOS</u>			HIGH-A	25	2
Modesto	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	LOW-A	23	1
Rancho Cucamon.	0	0	<u>EMPIRE</u>			MLB AFFILIATED	122	13
San Jose	6	0	LEAGUE TOAL			TOTAL		
Stockton	1	1				INDEPENDENTS	44	16
Visalia	0	0	<u>MAVERICKS</u>			MLB COLLEGIATE	1	1
LEAGUE TOTAL	8	1	LEAGUE TOAL			PARTNER LGS.		
						GRAND TOTAL	167	30
<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>			<u>MLB DRAFT</u>			<u>TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</u>		
Chicago	1	1	Frederick	0	0	2020 (Preliminary)	624	346
Cleburne	0	0	Mahoning Valley			2019	687	392
Fargo	4	0	State College	0	0	2018	623	378
Gary-Southshore	6	2	Trenton	0	0	2017	642	379
Kane County	1	1	West Virginia	0	0			
Kansas City, KS	2	1	Williamsport					
Lincoln	2	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0			
Milwaukee	0	0						
Sioux City, IA	0	0	<u>APPALACHIAN</u>					
Sioux Falls, SD	2	0	Bluefield	0	0			
Winnipeg	1	0	Bristol					
Houston			Burlington, NC	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	19	6	Danville	1	1			
			Elizabethhton	0	0			
<u>ATLANTIC</u>			Greeneville, TN	0	0			
Gastonia	0	0	Johnson City, TN	0	0			
High Point	2	0	Kingsport, TN					
Lancaster, PA	1	1	Princeton					
Lexington, KY	3	1	Pulaski					
Long Island	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	1			
Southern Maryland	0	0						
West Virginia	0	0	<u>PIONEER</u>					
York	0	0	Billings	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	6	2	Boise	0	0			
			Grand Junction	1	0			
<u>FRONTIER</u>			Great Falls, MT	0	0			
Evansville	2	2	Idaho Falls	0	0			
Florence	0	0	Missoula	0	0			
Gateway	0	0	Ogden, UT	0	0			
Joliet	0	0	Rocky Mountain	6	0			
Lake Erie, OH	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	7	0			
New Jersey	2	2						
New York	2	2						
Schaumburg	4	0						
Southern Illinois	0	0						
Sussex, NJ	0	0						
Quebec								
Washington, PA	0	0						
Windy City, IL	2	2						
LEAGUE TOTAL	12	8						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2020

This table shows the number of Minor League weekday day games that were scheduled in 2020.

None of these games were ever played, due to the cancellation of the season.

When the season was cancelled, not all teams had announced their game starting times.

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>INTERNATIONAL</u>			<u>EASTERN</u>			<u>CALIFORNIA</u>		
Buffalo	8	1	Akron	6	3	Inland Empire	2	2
Charlotte	1	1	Altoona	4	3	Lake Elsinore	2	2
Columbus	5	2	Binghamton	4	2	Lancaster, CA	0	0
Durham	2	2	Bowie	6	4	Modesto	1	0
Gwinnett	5	2	Erie	5	3			
			Harrisburg	5	2	Rancho Cucamon.	3	3
Indianapolis	12	2				San Jose	9	0
Lehigh Valley	3	3	Hartford	4	3	Stockton	3	3
Louisville	5	3	New Hampshire	5	3	Visalia	4	2
Norfolk	8	0	Portland, ME	6	2			
Pawtucket	7	4	Reading	6	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	24	12
			Richmond	3	1			
Rochester	8	3	Trenton	6	4	<u>CAROLINA</u>		
Scranton-Wilkes B.	3	2				Carolina	5	5
Syracuse	5	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	60	33	Fayetteville	2	2
Toledo	6	4				Frederick, MD	4	2
			<u>SOUTHERN</u>			Fredericksburg, VA	3	3
LEAGUE TOTAL	78	31	Biloxi	2	2	Kinston (Down E.)	5	4
			Birmingham	6	5			
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			Chattanooga	3	3	Lynchburg	6	0
Albuquerque	5	2	Jackson, TN	5	3	Myrtle Beach	0	0
El Paso	4	4	Jacksonville, FL	4	1	Salem	2	2
Fresno	4	4				Wilmington, DE	3	3
Iowa	12	0	Mississippi	5	4	Winston-Salem	5	4
Las Vegas	1	1	Montgomery	2	2			
			Pensacola	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	35	25
Memphis	8	8	Rocket City	2	0			
Nashville	0	0	Tennessee	3	3	<u>MIDWEST</u>		
Oklahoma City	4	4				Beloit	3	2
Omaha	7	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	32	23	Bowling Green, KY	7	4
Reno	5	3				Burlington, IA	0	0
			<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>			Ceder Rapids, IA	6	0
Round Rock	3	3	Bradenton	1	1	Clinton, IA		
Sacramento	6	0	(Port) Charlotte	11	1			
Salt Lake City	4	1	Clearwater	6	3	Dayton	0	0
San Antonio	2	2	Daytona	3	3	Fort Wayne	5	3
Tacoma	5	5	Dunedin	3	3	Great Lakes, MI	4	3
Wichita	6	4	Fort Myers	2	1	Kane County, IL	10	4
						Lake County, OH	6	2
LEAGUE TOTAL	76	43	Jupiter	9	2			
			Florida (North Port)			Lansing	6	3
<u>TEXAS</u>			Lakeland	3	3	Peoria	6	4
Amarillo	2	2	Palm Beach	6	0	Quad Cities	5	3
Arkansas	2	2	St. Lucie	2	2	South Bend	5	3
Corpus Christi	2	1	Tampa	1	1	West Michigan	6	5
Frisco	5	3				Wisconsin	8	2
			LEAGUE TOTAL	47	20			
Midland	2	2				LEAGUE TOTAL	77	38
N.W. Arkansas	4	3						
Springfield, MO	5	5						
Tulsa	5	3						
LEAGUE TOTAL	27	21						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2020

<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>	<u>LEAGUE/TEAM</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>A.M.</u>
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC</u>			<u>APPALACHIAN</u>			<u>FRONTIER</u>		
Asheville	2	2	Bluefield	0	0	Evansville	1	1
Augusta	2	2	Bristol			Florence	1	1
Charleston, SC	3	2	Burlington, NC			Gateway	1	1
Columbia, SC	5	4	Danville	2	2	Joliet	3	3
Delmarva	3	0	Elizabethton			Lake Erie, OH	0	0
						New Jersey		
Greensboro, NC	9	3	Greeneville, TN			New York	6	6
Greenville, SC	2	1	Johnson City, TN					
Hagerstown	5	3	Kingsport, TN	1	1	Quebec		
Hickory	4	3	Princeton			Schaumburg	5	1
Kannapolis	4	2	Pulaski	0	0	Southern Illinois	1	0
						Sussex, NJ		
Lakewood, NJ	5	5	LEAGUE TOTAL	3	3	Trois Rivieres		
Lexington, KY	7	3				Washington, PA	2	0
Rome, GA	6	4	<u>PIONEER</u>			Windy City, IL	9	0
West Virginia (Ch.)	4	3	Billings	0	0			
			Grand Junction	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	29	13
LEAGUE TOTAL	61	37	Great Falls, MT	0	0			
			Idaho Falls	0	0	<u>UNITED SHORE</u>		
						LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
<u>NEW YORK-PENN</u>								
Aberdeen			Missoula					
Auburn			Ogden, UT			<u>PACIFIC ASSN.</u>		
Batavia			Orem, UT			LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
Brooklyn	1	1	Rocky Mountain	2	0			
Connecticut (Nor.)	1	1				<u>PECOS</u>		
			LEAGUE TOTAL	2	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A	N/A
Hudson Valley, NY								
Lowell	1	1	<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>					
Mahoning Val., OH	0	0	Chicago	6	6	<u>2020 CLASSIFICATION TOTALS</u>		
State College	1	0	Fargo	3	0	AAA	154	74
Staten Island	4	3	Gary-Southshore	3	0	AA	119	77
			Cleburne	0	0	Full-Season A	244	132
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	1	1	Kansas City, KS	1	1	Short Season	27	14
Vermont	2	2	Lincoln	3	1			
West VA (Morgan.)						NAPBL TOTAL	544	297
Williamsport	0	0	Milwaukee	2	1			
			Sioux City, IA			INDEPENDENTS	80	49
LEAGUE TOTAL	11	9	Sioux Falls, SD	2	0			
			St. Paul	3	0	GRAND TOTAL	624	346
<u>NORTHWEST</u>			Texas	1	1			
Boise	0	0	Winnipeg	3	3			
Eugene	0	0				<u>TOTALS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS</u>		
Everett	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	27	13	2019	687	392
Hillsboro	2	0				2018	623	378
			<u>ATLANTIC</u>			2017	642	379
Salem-Keizer			High Point	5	5			
Spokane	0	0	Lancaster, PA	4	4			
Tri-City, WA	0	0	Long Island	3	2			
Vancouver	7	0	Somerset, NJ	6	6			
			Southern Maryland	3	3			
LEAGUE TOTAL	11	2	Sugar Land, TX	0	0			
			York	3	3			
			LEAGUE TOTAL	24	23			

MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 150 playoff games for MLB-affiliated U.S./Canadian teams in **2019** drew 382,417, averaging 2,549 per date, with a top crowd of 10,100 at Columbus. The AAA Championship game in Memphis drew 9,123. 14 playoff games (9 in Class AAA) topped 5,000. There were 14 U.S. 2018 playoff games that drew at least 5,000. In 2017, 16 playoff games drew at least 5,000. 12 playoff games topped 5,000 in 2016. There were 22 games that drew at least 5,000 in 2015, and 13 playoff games reached 5,000 in 2014. Attendance was below 1,000 at 20 games in 2019, at 30 games in 2018, and at 23 games in 2017. Due to Hurricane Dorian, the Carolina League playoffs had a pair of single-admission doubleheaders, each of which counts as one date when figuring average attendance per date.

Among U.S. MLB-affiliated leagues, highest league average per game 2019 playoff attendance was 5,087 in the International League, and lowest average per game was 889 in the Appalachian League.

MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE

Independent league teams drew 97,440 for 51 playoff games in **2019**, an average of 1,911 per game. These figures only include the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, the American and Pacific Associations, and the Championship Game from the United Shore Baseball League. Largest crowd was 5,074 at Sugar Land. The Atlantic League playoff games drew an average of 3,690, highest among the independents. Lowest independent playoff attendance in these leagues was 514 per game for the Pacific Association. No playoff figures were available from the Pecos League. The United Shore League didn't list individual playoff game attendance, but their Championship Game drew 4,926, the highest attendance ever for any game in that league. It is possible that the United Shore League's overall average per game exceeded the average of the Atlantic League. Combined MLB-affiliated and independent leagues post-season attendance was 999,093, an average of 4,095 per date.

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

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

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

MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE**MINOR LEAGUE 2021 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							
Triple-A East	None	0					
Triple-A West	None	0					
Total – Triple-A							
Double-A Northeast	6,083	3	2,028	0	0	3,436	Akron
Double-A South	7,333	5	1,467	1	0	2,079	Montgomery
Double-A Central	7,747	3	2,582	1	1	5,558	Wichita
Total – Double-A	21,163	11	1,924	2	1	5,558	Wichita
High-A East	7,140	5	1,428	2	0	2,860	Greensboro
High-A Central	6,532	5	1,306	0	0	1,508	Quad Cities
High-A West	6,568	4	1,642	0	0	2,067	Eugene
Total – High-A	20,240	10	2,024	2	0	2,860	Greensboro
Low-A East	17,672	5	3,534	2	2	6,224	Charleston, SC
Low-A Southeast	2,726	3	909	2	0	1,117	Tampa
Low-A West	15,637	3	5,212	0	2	7,337	Fresno
Total – Low-A	36,035	11	3,276	4	4	7,337	Fresno
Total – MLB-Affiliated	77,438	32	2,420	8	5	7,337	Fresno
INDEPENDENT							
Mexican	412,739	74	5,578	0	36	17,687	Tijuana
Atlantic	35,014	10	3,501	0	1	5,144	Lexington
American Association	21,249	13	1,635	5	0	3,354	Kansas City
Frontier	29,132	13	2,241	0	0	2,821	Washington, PA
Pioneer	1,050	1	1,050	0	0	1,050	Missoula
Total – Independent	499,184	111	4,497	5	37	17,687	Tijuana
Total – All Leagues	576,622	143	4,032	13	42	17,687	Tijuana

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**NUMBER OF MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2021 vs. 2019**

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

Kannapolis and Fredericksburg had gains because they opened new ballparks. Quad Cities' 2019 attendance was reduced due to flooding around their park. In addition to these 3 teams, Myrtle Beach had an average per date gain.

NUMBER OF MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 2018

In 2019, better weather and new ballparks resulted in an increase in the number of MLB-affiliated teams that achieved gains in attendance. 174 MLB-Affiliated teams played in the same market in 2019 as they did in 2018. This includes Mexico City, Las Vegas, and Fayetteville NC, who opened new ballparks, as well as San Antonio who moved from the Texas League to the Pacific Coast League, but didn't change parks. It also includes Dunedin, which played most of its home games in neighboring Clearwater due to the reconstruction of their park.

83 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2019, while 91 teams had declines. This does not include the Rocky Mountain Vibes (Colorado Springs), who played in Helena in 2018, and Amarillo, who replaced San Antonio in the Texas League. Colorado Springs had a short-season team in 2019, and a full-season team in 2018, so it wouldn't be fair to include them in this comparison. 72 of these teams had more dates in 2019 than in 2018, 71 had fewer dates, while 31 had the same number of dates in both seasons. 2012 figures include Carolina, who moved from the Southern to the Carolina League that year, but didn't change parks.

MLB-AFFILIATED 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
2019	174	83	91	0
2018	175	63	112	0
2017	170	82	88	0
2016	174	61	113	0
2015	174	81	93	0
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
1997	169	78	91	0
1996	165	64	101	0
1995	166	63	103	0

COMBINED MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**NUMBER OF TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2021 vs. 2019, and 2019 vs. 2018**MLB-Affiliated Average per Date Increases and Declines

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

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

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

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

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

Independent Teams Total Attendance and Average per Date Increases and Declines

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE

As the table on Page 45 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SMALL CHANGES IN YEAR-TO-YEAR TOTAL ATTENDANCE

In 2013, 16 full-season and 14 short-season MLB-affiliated teams, along with 3 independent teams, had total attendance increases of less than 5,000 vs. 2012. For 3 full-season and 5 short-season teams, the gains were less than 1,000. 13 full-season, 12 short-season, and 7 independent teams 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 MLB-affiliated teams, plus 7 independent teams) who had gains of less than 5,000 vs. 2011. 8 of these teams were up less than 1,000. 42 teams posted losses of less than 5,000 (17 full-season, 17 short-season, and 8 independent teams). 10 teams were down less than 1,000.

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

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

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

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

BIG CROWDS

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

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

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

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

In **2018**, there were 285 dates in the U.S. MLB-affiliated leagues that drew at least 10,000. Daily game attendance for the Mexican League was not available. 409 dates, including the Mexican League, topped 10,000 in 2017.

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

2019 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE**10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2019 vs. 2018 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
Las Vegas	Pacific Coast	650,934	318,710
Mexico City	Mexican	389,641	234,456
Fayetteville, NC	Carolina	246,961	222,893
Tijuana	Mexican	677,464	121,093
Puebla	Mexican	248,741	104,977
Saltillo	Mexican	377,499	102,697
Quintana Roo	Mexican	226,525	61,060
Syracuse	International	327,478	50,146
Yucatan	Mexican	520,350	47,009
Leon	Mexican	183,541	43,714

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

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2019 vs. 2018 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
New Orleans	Pacific Coast	188,092	(64,522)
Quad Cities	Midwest	150,905	(64,156)
Pawtucket	International	331,010	(63,801)
Potomac	Carolina	192,474	(44,770)
Salt Lake	Pacific Coast	433,596	(43,932)
Lake Elsinore	California	172,280	(42,675)
Charlotte, NC	International	581,006	(38,633)
Binghamton, NY	Eastern	182,990	(37,289)
Indianapolis	International	586,860	(32,262)
Brooklyn	New York-Penn	174,522	(27,973)

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

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2019 vs. 2018 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
Lancaster, PA	Atlantic	285,441	35,649
Joliet	Frontier	121,730	33,532
Chicago	American Assn.	166,672	27,817
York, PA	Atlantic	199,045	18,238
Cleburne, TX	American Assn.	78,624	14,398

) Recent top gains were by Florence, KY (2018), Texas (2017), Sussex County (2016), St. Paul (2015), Southern Illinois (2014), and Fort Worth (2013).

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2019 vs. 2018 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
New Britain	Atlantic	133,141	(50,006)
Kansas City, KS	American Assn.	156,058	(33,923)
Sugar Land	Atlantic	304,753	(23,738)
Winnipeg	American Assn.	195,787	(23,583)
Long Island	Atlantic	328,194	(20,864)

) Recent top losses were by Wichita, KS (2018), Ottawa (2017), Joplin (2016), Sugarland (2015 and 2013), and Grand Prairie (2014).

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

This section lists 2021 monthly attendance for each of the 11 affiliated leagues, and for 4 independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Frontier, and Mexican Leagues.) Since the number of dates played varies by month, the most important figure is the average per date. There are also monthly combined totals for the 11 MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 4 listed independent leagues. Monthly attendance from the other independent leagues is not available. Due to the unique nature of the 2021 season, no comparisons will be made with other seasons.

The data is from Minor League Baseball and the MLB Stats Reporting Platform. Special thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Director of Communications for Minor League Baseball, for his help. September and October are combined, for affiliated leagues since, except for the independent Atlantic League, only the Class AAA leagues played any regular season games in October.

Note that monthly average attendance per date for a league can be affected by how many dates are played in that month by teams that draw well or poorly. For example, if teams that draw very well played a higher number of home dates in a certain month in 2019 than they did in 2018, it increases the chance that the league will show an increase in 2019 average per date vs. the same month in 2018. More dates in a month by poorly-drawing teams vs. the same month a year earlier, increases the chances that the league will show a decrease in average per date vs. a year earlier.

In 2021, the AAA East and AAA West played 130-game schedules, running from May 4 or May 6 through October 3. The other MLB-Affiliated leagues played 120-game schedules, from May 4 through September 19. Among the independent leagues in these tables, the Mexican League had a 66-game schedule from May 21 through August 5, the Atlantic League played a 120-game schedule from May 27 through October 10, the Frontier League had a 96-game schedule from May 27 through September 12, and the American Association played a 100-game schedule from May 18 through September 6.

<u>AAA EAST</u>				<u>AAA WEST</u>			
2021	2021			2021	2021		
# of	Total	Average		# of	Total	Average	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	229	712,174	3,110	May	113	442,258	3,914
June	244	1,201,645	4,925	June	122	565,415	4,635
July	248	1,482,583	5,978	July	132	741,070	5,614
August-Sept.	242	1,242,792	5,136	August-Sept.	125	609,964	4,880
Sept.-October	253	1,176,550	4,650	Sept.-October	135	665,048	4,926
League Total	1,216	5,815,744	4,783	League Total	627	3,023,755	4,823

<u>AA NORTHEAST</u>				<u>AA CENTRAL</u>			
2021	2021			2021	2021		
# of	Total	Average		# of	Total	Average	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	129	281,230	2,180	May	114	407,792	3,577
June	146	532,227	3,645	June	128	486,465	3,801
July	146	652,229	4,467	July	129	545,325	4,227
August	146	581,776	3,985	August	125	482,879	3,863
September	79	312,686	3,958	September	83	325,301	3,919
League Total	646	2,360,148	3,653	League Total	579	2,247,762	3,882

<u>AA SOUTH</u>				<u>HIGH-A CENTRAL</u>			
2021	2021			2021	2021		
# of	Total	Average		# of	Total	Average	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	90	321,880	3,576	May	136	210,965	1,551
June	98	347,380	3,545	June	146	372,809	2,553
July	98	395,384	4,035	July	159	566,245	3,561
August	85	256,449	3,017	August	148	486,724	3,289
September	55	168,982	3,072	September	99	358,111	3,617
League Total	426	1,490,075	3,498	League Total	688	1,994,854	2,899

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

<u>HIGH-A EAST</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	136	256,584	1,887
June	147	363,794	2,475
July	153	437,197	2,857
August	141	374,319	2,655
September	93	230,571	2,479
League Total	670	1,662,465	2,481

<u>HIGH-A WEST</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	71	65,984	929
June	75	87,151	1,162
July	81	166,016	2,050
August	76	149,371	1,965
September	37	53,290	1,440
League Total	340	521,812	1,535

<u>LOW-A EAST</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	137	301,700	2,202
June	143	412,757	2,886
July	155	469,942	3,032
August	151	375,175	2,485
September	94	239,868	2,552
League Total	680	1,799,442	2,646

<u>LOW-A SOUTHEAST</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	94	89,934	957
June	101	110,193	1,091
July	112	131,455	1,174
August	99	79,934	807
September	68	56,404	829
League Total	474	467,920	987

<u>LOW-A WEST</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	95	112,723	1,187
June	104	133,055	1,279
July	107	192,990	1,804
August	99	154,596	1,562
September	63	111,673	1,773
League Total	468	705,037	1,506

<u>MLB-AFFILIATED LEAGUES TOTAL</u>			
	2021	2021	
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	1,344	3,203,224	2,383
June	1,454	4,612,891	3,173
July	1,520	5,780,436	3,803
August	1,437	4,793,979	3,336
Sept.-October	1,059	3,698,484	3,492
Full-Sea. Total	6,814	22,089,014	3,242

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTHAMERICAN ASSOCIATION

	2021		2021
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	68	112,312	1,652
June	145	262,078	1,807
July	168	377,549	2,247
August	155	361,644	2,333
September	33	84,502	2,561
League Total	569	1,198,085	2,106

MEXICAN LEAGUE

	2021		2021
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	71	205,357	2,892
June	201	554,008	2,756
July	209	599,440	2,868
August	31	88,124	2,843
League Total	512	1,446,929	2,826

ATLANTIC LEAGUE

	2021		2021
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	14	28,876	2,063
June	94	223,260	2,375
July	105	294,158	2,802
August	96	251,471	2,619
September	102	248,867	2,440
October	35	92,042	2,630
League Total	446	1,138,674	2,553

FRONTIER LEAGUE

	2021		2021
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	20	29,024	1,451
June	165	255,166	1,546
July	178	346,293	1,945
August	167	333,519	1,997
September	78	142,292	1,824
League Total	608	1,106,294	1,820

4 INDEPENDENT LEAGUES TOTAL

	2021		2021
	# of	Total	Average
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>
May	173	375,569	2,171
June	605	1,294,512	2,140
July	660	1,617,440	2,451
August	449	1,034,758	2,305
September	213	475,661	2,233
October	35	92,042	2,630
League Total	2,135	4,889,982	2,290

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

In **2019**, average attendance per date rose by 84 for MLB-affiliated leagues, was up by 11 for the independent leagues, and increased by a combined total of 83 for all Minor Leagues combined. This excludes the Empire League, who did not list attendance, which was quite low. In 2008, new records were set for MLB-affiliated average per date, and for the combined affiliated/independent leagues average per date. The all-time high independent leagues average was achieved in 2004. The 2018 independent leagues average per date was the lowest since 1998.

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – 1992-2021 (record highs in bold)

Year	Affiliated Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
2021	3,242	2,024	2,870
2019	4,044	2,341	3,718
2018	3,960	2,330	3,635
2017	4,095	2,472	3,774
2016	3,998	2,492	3,705
2015	4,104	2,510	3,793
2014	4,099	2,570	3,811
2013	4,040	2,668	3,771
2012	3,967	2,695	3,710
2011	4,029	2,605	3,739
2010	3,992	2,854	3,747
2009	4,055	2,872	3,804
2008	4,174	2,877	3,892
2007	4,155	2,726	3,824
2006	4,048	2,908	3,818
2005	3,986	2,786	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	3,461
1999	3,386	2,559	3,258
1998	3,431	2,054	3,167
1997	3,469	N.A.	N.A.
1996	3,348	N.A.	N.A.
1995	3,326	N.A.	N.A.
1994	3,363	N.A.	N.A.
1993	3,074	N.A.	N.A.
1992	2,815	No Independ. Leagues	2,815

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

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 – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**2021 Season – MLB-Affiliated Leagues and Teams**

Due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season, all average per date figures have been affected, and comparisons with previous seasons have little value. League comparisons also aren't being made due to the reorganization of the MLB-affiliated leagues for the 2021 season. As has been noted previously in this report, the teams that usually have the highest attendance, often took the biggest attendance hit in 2021. That's because they had the most to lose from restricted ballpark capacity requirements, and so much uncertainty about the season.

- J In 2021, the 120 MLB-affiliated teams averaged 3,242 per date. These same teams, regardless of where they played in 2019, averaged 4,396 per date in 2019.
- J The Double-A South averaged 55 per date higher than what their 2021 teams averaged in 2019. This was the only MLB-affiliated league to have an increase in average per date.
- J Triple-A teams averaged a combined 4,796 per date in 2021. Triple-A West had the top average (4,823).
- J The 3 Double-A leagues averaged a combined 3,694 per date, led by the Double-A Central (3,882).
- J In High-A, the leagues averaged 2,461 per date. The Central had the top league average per date (2,899).
- J In Low-A, the leagues averaged 1,833 per date, with the East (2,646) posting the top average.
- J The following 7 teams averaged at least 6,000 per date in 2021: Nashville (6,721); Las Vegas (6,590); Columbus (6,457); El Paso (6,407); Dayton (6,258); Worcester (6,145); St. Paul (6,052). 10 other teams topped 5,000.
- J Rocket City, in its first season in Madison, AL, averaged 5,726 per date to lead Double-A. Amarillo (5,453), Hartford (5,138), and Tulsa (5,089) were the other Double-A teams to surpassed 5,000 per date.
- J **Dayton (6,258) led all Class A teams in average per date for the 21st straight year.** Greenville, SC (4,125), and West Michigan (3,932) were next-best among all Class A teams.

2019 Season – MLB-affiliated Leagues and Teams – includes the 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues

- J In 2019, 3 MLB-affiliated leagues set record-highs for average per date, while another had its top average since 1994.
- J Average attendance per date for MLB-affiliated teams rose by 84 to 4,044 in 2019. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- J 8 of the 15 affiliated leagues had increases in 2019. 4 of these leagues had gains in 2018, and 11 were up in 2017.
- J **The Mexican League had the biggest increase of any league, up 682 to a league record-high of 5,058.**
- J **The Northwest League averaged 3,670 per date, up 73, setting a league record-high for the 4th straight year.**
- J **Pioneer League average per date went up 434 to a new league record-high of 2,504.**
- J The Appalachian League was up 12 per date to 1,254, its highest average per date since 1994.
- J International League average per date fell 15 to a 2019 MLB-affiliated high of 6,887, the 22nd straight year above 6,600. This league's record high was 7,348 in 2009.
- J The Pacific Coast League gained 164 per date to 6,532, topping 6,000 for the 20th consecutive year. Their league record-high average per date was 6,625, set in both 2006 and 2007.
- J Although the Eastern League was down 29, they did surpass 4,500 per date for the 24th time in the last 25 years.
- J The Southern League was up 38, and averaged above 3,400 per date for the 22nd time since 1992.
- J Texas League average per date rose 182 to 5,131, which was the 14th year above 5,000 since 2003.

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

2019 Season – MLB-affiliated Leagues and Teams – includes the 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues

- J California League average per date declined by 57 to 2,342.
- J The Carolina League was up 223 to 3,139.
- J Florida State League average per date decreased by 91 to 1,255, this league's lowest average since 2003.
- J The Midwest League dipped 99 to 3,612, their lowest since 2002, yet still reached 3,600 for the 18th straight year
- J The South Atlantic League topped 3,000 for the 17th straight year. But they had the worst 2019 affiliated loss (109).
- J Average per date in the New York-Penn League declined by 89 to 2,644, its lowest average since 2000.
- J Class AAA leagues were up a combined 82. Class AA average rose by 58. Full-Season Class A decreased 28. Short-Season Class A leagues were down 22, and the Rookie leagues increased 197. Combined average per date for the 10 full-season U.S. leagues was up 17. These 10 leagues, plus the Mexican League, gained a combined 87 per date. The 4 short-season leagues had a combined increase of 63.
- J **Tijuana had the best average per date (11,291) in all of Minor League Baseball in 2019, and also in 2021 (7,557). In 2018, los Toros (Bulls) had the 2nd best average with a figure of 9,761 per date. Their record high is 12,764 per date in 2004.**
- J Monterrey of the Mexican League averaged 9,770 per date in 2019, which was 2nd best in the Minors. In 2017 and 2018, Monterrey led all of Minor League Baseball in average per date (12,783 in 2017, 10,059 in 2018). But the Sultanes had average per date declines of 1,208 in 2017, the worst of any team for that season, and a dip of 1,516 in 2018, which was 3rd worst. 2018 was still the 7th time since 2008 that the Sultanes topped 10,000 per date. Monterrey (7 times), and Tijuana in 2019 and 2017, are the only teams to hit 10,000 per date since Sacramento did it for 8 years in a row from 2000 through 2007.
- J **Las Vegas had the highest average per date among U.S. teams, and #3 overall, averaging a team record-high 9,299 in their new ballpark. Their previous high was 5,441 in 1993.**
- J Columbus drew 8,684 per date, which ranked 4th. It was the 11th straight year above 8,000 for the Clippers.
- J Yucatan was 5th in average per date (8,673) in 2019, after a team record-high of 9,228 in 2017, and 8,606 in 2018.
- J Nashville averaged a team record-high 8,861 per date in 2017, and averaged 8,741 in 2018, and 8,631 in 2019.
- J Charlotte of the International League averaged 8,544 per date in 2019. The Knights led all U.S. teams in average per date in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2018.
- J **Indianapolis led U.S. teams in average per date in 2017, and averaged 8,630 in 2019. Excluding 2021, the Indians have reached 8,000 per date in 22 of the past 24 seasons, including the last 16 in a row. 2017 was their 7th time above 9,000.**
- J Round Rock (8,542) topped 8,000 per date for the 20th straight year.
- J Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) averaged 8,605, which ranked #8 in 2019. The IronPigs drew an average of 9,153 in 2012, 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010, best among U.S. teams in the Minors in each of those years. They averaged 9,016 in 2013, 8,769 in 2015, 8,729 in 2016, 8,541 in 2017, and 8,511 in 2018.
- J 10 teams drew at least 8,000 per date in 2019. The number of teams averaging above 8,000 was 10 in 2018, 12 in 2017, 11 in 2016, 12 in 2015, 10 in 2014, 9 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 11 in 2011, 10 in 2010, 11 in 2009, 13 in 2008, 17 in 2007, 13 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 13 in 2004, 12 in both 2003 and 2002, 11 in 2001, 8 in 2000, and 4 in 1999.
- J Buffalo's 2019 average 7,981. The Bisons have topped 8,000 per date in all but 3 years, plus 2021, since 1988.
- J Sacramento and Dayton both began play in 2000. 2018, 2019, and 2021 are the only years that these teams averaged under 8,000. In 2019, Sacramento averaged 7,849, and Dayton averaged 7,900.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**2019 Season – MLB-affiliated Leagues and Teams** – includes the 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues

- J A few other 7,000+ average per date milestones from 2019: Durham's average of 7,668 was the 14th time since 2001 that the Bulls topped 7,000; Toledo reached 7,000 per date for the 18th consecutive year; Iowa has surpassed 7,000 per date in all but one year since 2002, and excluding 2021.
- J 14 of the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 7,000+ per date in 2019. 13 Class AAA teams did it in 2018 and 2017.
- J New Orleans, which moved to Wichita in 2021, had the lowest average per date (2,939) in Class AAA in 2019. Gwinnett had the lowest Class AAA average per date (3,062) in 2018, and averaged 3,169 in 2019. They were the only Class AAA team to average under 4,000 in 2017, and in 2016. The Stripers averaged 3,135 per date in 2017, 3,218 in 2016, and 3,808 in 2015. Syracuse had the lowest Class AAA average in 2015 (3,803) and 2014 (3,743). New Orleans, averaging 3,827 per date in 2018, was the only other Class AAA team below 4,000 in 2018.
- J Frisco (6,802), Amarillo (6,291), Richmond (6,255), and Hartford (6,193) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2019. 3 Class AA teams topped 6,000 per date in 2018, 2017, 2016, 2013, 2012 and 2011. The number of Class AA teams reaching an average of 6,000+ was 4 in 2015, 2014, 2010, and 2009, 5 in both 2008 and 2007, 6 in 2006, 2005, and 2003, and 7 in 2004.
- J Frisco had reached at least 6,600 in average per date in all 17 seasons of operation, until 2021. Average per date in Reading had topped 6,000 in 18 of 19 seasons until 2018, when the Fightin' Phils averaged 5,713, and 2019 when their average was 5,945. They averaged 4,626 per date in **2021**.
- J Mobile (1,585 per date – but had the best AA gain), and Jackson, TN (1,756), had the lowest Class AA averages. These two cities no longer have Minor League teams.
- J There were 10 Class AA teams that averaged at least 5,000 per date in 2019, the same as in 2018 and 2017.
- J 6 Class A (4 full-season, 2 short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2019. 7 of these teams did it in 2018, and 10 such teams achieved it in 2017 and 2016. 12 teams topped that mark in 2015. 10 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 2014 and 2002, and 10 in 2001.
- J **The Dayton Dragons averaged 7,900 per date to lead Class A in 2019. They led Class A for the 21st straight year in 2021, when they were the only Class A team to top 5,000 per date.** Dayton was the only full-season Class A team to reach 6,000 in **2021**, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2015. Fort Wayne and Dayton topped 6,000 per date in 2016. 2 full-season Class A teams reached 6,000 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, a mark exceeded by 3 teams in 2011, 2010, and 2009, and 4 teams in 2008, 2007, and 2006.
- J In 2019, 13 full-season Class A, and 4 short-season teams, averaged at least 4,000 per date.
- J Dunedin, which was displaced from its home park due to renovation, had the lowest average per date of any NAPBL team (203) in 2019. Florida (327), Lakeland (819), Hagerstown (918), Tampa (973), and Palm Beach (973 as well), also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- J Vancouver averaged 6,210 to lead all short-season teams in 2019. Brooklyn, who averaged 4,848 in 2019, had led short-season teams for 15 straight seasons from 2001 through 2015. Spokane (5,270) also topped 5,000 in 2019.
- J Hudson Valley was the other short-season team that averaged more than 4,000 per date in 2019. 15 short-season teams topped 3,000 per date, up from 12 teams in 2018.
- J Ogden drew an average of 3,951 per date to lead the Rookie leagues in 2019. Rocky Mountain averaged 3,923.
- J 6 short-season teams, all of whom played in the Appalachian League, averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date in 2019. Bristol (586) had the lowest average in this group.
- J Short-season MLB-affiliated leagues ceased operation after 2019.

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

2019 Season – MLB-affiliated Leagues and Teams – includes the 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues

MLB-Affiliated Teams – 2019 vs. 2018 Biggest Gains in Average per Date**2021 Notes**

- J Kannapolis, up 1,567 per date vs. 2019, Quad Cities, up 341, Fredericksburg up 230 from what they averaged in nearby Potomac in 2019, and Myrtle Beach, up 127, were the only teams playing a full 2021 schedule in basically the same market as in 2019, to have a **2021 vs. 2019** average per date increase.
- J Tennessee, down 6, Biloxi, down 90, and Down East (Kinston), down 123, were the only other teams with an average per date decline of less than 200.

2019 Notes

- J Las Vegas of the Class AAA Pacific Coast League moved into a new park and had the biggest average per date increase of any team in 2019, up 4,553 to 9,299. Syracuse, up 760, had the next largest AAA increase.
- J Mexico City, also with a new park, averaged 7,216 per date, up 4,173, the 2nd best MLB-affiliated gain. Other Mexican League teams with large average per date increases included Puebla (1,981 per date), Saltillo (1,577), Tijuana (1,530), Quintana Roo (775), Leon (748), Campeche (349), Laguna (343), and Oaxaca (314). Mexican League clubs had 9 of the 16 biggest average per date increases in 2019.
- J Mobile, which moved to Madison, AL in 2021, had a gain of 464, the best of any Class AA team. Midland rose 329.
- J Fayetteville, with a new park in 2019, was up 3,273. That was the 3rd best MLB-affiliated gain, and the highest among full-season Class A teams. Bowling Green, KY rose by 235.
- J Ogden of the Pioneer League was up 549, tops in short-season leagues. Batavia had a 381 increase.
- J In 2017, Hartford had a 5,013 gain vs. 2016, when they played all home games away from Hartford. Their 2017 average per date was 1,761 higher than in 2015, when this team played in nearby New Britain. In 2019, Hartford set a new average per date record (6,193) for their market, which includes all their seasons in New Britain.

MLB-Affiliated Teams – 2019 vs. 2018 Biggest Losses in Average per Date – With one 2021 Note

- J Teams that tend to draw very well had the largest **2021 vs. 2019** declines in average per date. 19 of the 24 biggest decreases were by teams that averaged at least 6,000 per date in 2019.
- J Class AAA New Orleans, down 888, had the worst average per date loss among all MLB-affiliated teams in 2019, just like they did in 2018. This team moved to Wichita, KS in 2021. Also in Class AAA, Pawtucket, which moved to Worcester in 2021, was down 728, and Charlotte sustained a loss of 436.
- J Binghamton, NY had the worst Class AA decline in 2019, down 553.
- J Quad Cities, which had flooding problems next to their park, was down 689, the top loss in full-season Class A. Lake Elsinore had a 537 decline.
- J Brooklyn (New York-Penn), down 481, had the largest drop among short-season teams.
- J Monclova (del Norte), down 343, suffered the biggest decline in the Mexican League. In 2018, 5 Mexican League teams had average per date declines of at least 1,000.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**2021 Season – Independent Leagues – Includes 2021 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues**

- J Independent league teams averaged 2,024 per date in 2021. These same teams averaged 3,171 in 2019, regardless of what league they played in that year.
- J All independent leagues had a lower average per date in 2021 than in 2019, when comparing the same teams for each season. The Pecos League had the smallest loss, down 4. This comparison includes teams that did not play in the Pecos League in 2019.
- J **2021 Pecos League teams averaged a league record-high 259 in 2021.**
- J **Tijuana, of the Mexican League, had the highest average per date (7,557) of any Minor League team, including the MLB-affiliated teams.**
- J Following Tijuana were Monterrey (4,657 per date), and Saltillo (4,034). Long Island, of the Atlantic League, had the best average per date among U.S./Canadian independent teams (4,002).
- J Other 2021 average per date leaders were Mexico City (3,706), Kane County – the American Association leader (3,554), Union Laguna (3,462), Yucatan (3,434), del Norte-Monclova (3,420), Schaumburg, the Frontier League leader (3,415), and Ogden, the Pioneer League leader (3,407). Garden City (412) led the Pecos League.
- J No attendance figures were available from the Empire League.

2019 Season - Independent Leagues – Excludes 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues

- J Combined 2019 vs. 2018 average attendance per date was up 11 to 2,341 for the independent teams that recorded attendance. This average per date would be lower if attendance figures from the Empire Pro League were available.
- J In its 4th year, the United Shore Baseball League averaged 3,450, up 50. This was the best average per date gain among the independent leagues in 2019. All 4 teams in this league play in the same ballpark in Utica, MI. 62 of 75 dates, including playoff games, were sold out.
- J The Pacific Association was up 26 to 285. The 4 returning teams in this league were down a combined 29. This league did not operate in 2021.
- J Frontier League average per date rose by 33 to 2,266. The 10 returning teams were down 2.
- J The American Association was down 169 to 3,082, the 9th year in a row above 3,000. Among the teams that played in the league in both 2019 and 2018, the average per date fell 89.
- J Atlantic League average per date dipped by 246 to 3,648, the league's lowest average since 2000. But it was the independent league high average for 2019. High Point was added, and the 7 returning teams had a combined decline of 31. 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.
- J The Can-Am League averaged 1,986 per date, down 33. This league merged with the Frontier League in 2021.
- J The Pecos Baseball League was up 20 to 217, which was a tie for this league's 2nd highest average per date.
- J **In 2015, St. Paul moved into a new park, and averaged 8,091 per date, best ever for an independent league team. They broke this record in 2016, averaging 8,438! The Saints averaged an independent leagues' best 8,296 per date in 2017, 8,178 in 2018, and 8,061 in 2019.** Winnipeg, which averaged 4,079 in 2019, had the top independent average 12 times from 2000 through 2014.
- J Somerset (5,144) also exceeded 5,000 per date in 2019. 7 independent teams topped 5,000 in 2007. 6 teams did it in 2014, 2006, and 2005. 5 independent teams averaged 5,000+ in 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2004, 2001, and 2000. 4 teams reached 5,000 per date in 2015, 2003, and 2002. There were 3 teams that averaged 5,000+ per date in 2016 and 2017. Just 2 independent teams topped 5,000 in 2019 and 2018. One did it in **2021**.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – MLB-AFFILIATED AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**2019 Season - Independent Leagues – Excludes 2019 Mexican and Pioneer Leagues**

-) All 12 Pecos League and all 4 Pacific Association teams averaged under 1,000 per date in 2019. Most of these teams play in very small facilities, and Pecos League figures exclude 'no-shows.' The Empire League teams that played home games probably averaged less than 1,000 per date as well. No teams from any other independent league averaged below 1,000 in 2019, 2018, or 2017. In 2016, Texas, Laredo, and Joplin, all from the American Association drew less than 1,000 per date. Laredo and Joplin didn't have teams in 2017, 2018 or 2019.
-) There were 18 independent teams in 2018, 16 in 2017, 17 in 2016, and 14 in 2015, that averaged under 1,000 per date, excluding the Empire League. 12 teams did it in 2014 and in 2013, 13 were under 1,000 in 2012, and 8 drew that low in 2011. 3 teams were below 1,000 per date in 2010. In both 2009 and 2008, there were 6 independent league teams that drew under 1,000 per date. 7 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.
-) Lowest 2019 average per date outside the Pecos and Empire Leagues, and the Pacific Association, were by Sioux City, IA (1,075), and by both Milwaukee and Texas (1,239), from the American Association. Milwaukee had to play early-season games in Kokomo, IN until their new park was ready. Their Wisconsin games averaged 1,728.
-) Chicago, up 669 per date, had the best 2019 increase among independent teams. Joliet had a gain of 659, Lancaster, PA posted a 357 per date increase, Cleburne was up 288, and Garden City, KS gained 200.
-) New Britain, in its final Atlantic League season, had the largest independent decline, down 541. Kansas City, KS had a dip of 490, Southern Illinois fell by 437, Texas was down 432, and Winnipeg dipped by 398.

2021 vs. 2019 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE

As was the case with the biggest total attendance gains and worst declines, it would be very misleading to create such listings due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season. The 2019 vs. 2018 table is on the next page.

2019 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE**10 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2019 vs. 2018 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
Las Vegas	Pacific Coast	9,299	4,553
Mexico City	Mexican	7,216	4,173
Fayetteville, NC	Carolina	3,632	3,273
Puebla	Mexican	4,693	1,981
Saltillo	Mexican	6,398	1,577
Tijuana	Mexican	11,291	1,530
Quintana Roo	Mexican	3,839	775
Syracuse	International	4,962	760
Leon	Mexican	3,337	748
Ogden	Pioneer	3,951	549

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

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2019 vs. 2018 – MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
New Orleans	Pacific Coast	2,939	(888)
Pawtucket	International	5,254	(728)
Quad Cities	Midwest	2,474	(689)
Binghamton, NY	Eastern	3,000	(553)
Lake Elsinore	California	2,534	(537)
Potomac	Carolina	3,262	(504)
Brooklyn	New York-Penn	4,848	(481)
Charlotte, NC	International	8,544	(436)
West Michigan	Midwest	5,378	(392)
Lexington	South Atlantic	4,094	(368)

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

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2019 vs. 2018 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
Chicago	American Assn.	3,623	669
Joliet	Frontier	2,536	659
Lancaster, PA	Atlantic	4,260	357
Cleburne	American Assn.	1,572	288
Garden City, KS	Pecos	275	200

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

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2019 vs. 2018 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2018</u>
New Britain	Atlantic	2,113	(541)
Kansas City, KS	American Assn.	3,468	(490)
Southern Illinois	Frontier	2,305	(437)
Texas (Grand Prairie)	American Assn.	1,239	(432)
Winnipeg	American Assn.	4,079	(398)

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table below shows yearly average attendance per date for each class of MLB-affiliated leagues from 1992 through 2021. It excludes the Mexican League in all columns. The total attendance figure, combined average per date for all classifications, and the number of dates played, are also just for U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams. Class High-A and Class Low-A are combined. The short-season column covers all short-season Class-A and Rookie Leagues. Those short-season leagues were eliminated starting in 2021.

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

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 a report for the full year 2021, compared to the full year 2020, will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2021 or 2020.

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 2021 and 2020. Looking at 'Same-Store' sales provides a good barometer of real sales growth, rather than just growth due to opening many new stores.

This first two tables in this section look at 'Same-Ballpark' attendance, a baseball version of 'Same-Store' sales, by comparing 2021 vs. 2019, and 2019 vs. 2018 attendance change for the MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same ballpark in both years. The table for 2021 vs. 2019 differs slightly from the 2019 vs. 2018 table due to the unique attendance situation of 2021.

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

2021 Changes

The reorganization of the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues resulted in a reduction, from 176 to 120, in the number of MLB-affiliated teams that charged admission to their games. With the move of the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues to independent status in 2021, plus expansion in 2022, there will be 95 independent teams in operation in 2022.

Fewer new ballparks have opened in recent years. In 2022, there will be 50 MLB-affiliated teams, including Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a park, plus 24 independent teams, including two teams in Lexington, KY, who will play in a park that opened between 1995 and 2005. (Dos Laredos of the Mexican League plays in both Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas.) 37 MLB-affiliated teams, and 19 independent teams, will play in a park opened after 2005.

Growth in attendance for the 6 teams listed below is less than it would normally have been due to reduced capacity and other Covid-19 related abnormalities. 'Same Ballpark' teams only includes 2021 MLB-affiliated teams.

MLB-AFFILIATED TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN A DIFFERENT PARK IN 2021 THAN IN 2019

2021 League	2021 City	2021 Total Attendance	2021 Avg. per Date	2019 City	2019 Total Attendance	2019 Avg. per Date
Triple-A East	Worcester	362,559	6,145	Pawtucket	331,010	5,254
Low-A East	Kannapolis	162,031	2,701	Kannapolis	75,931	1,133
Low-A East	Fredericksburg	199,071	3,492	Potomac	192,474	3,262
Double-A Central	Wichita	241,230	4,021	New Orleans	188,092	2,939
Double-A South	Rocket City	274,858	5,726	Mobile	95,087	1,585
High-A Central	Beloit	46,746	806	Beloit	73,200	1,181
Total - Above 6 Teams		1,286,495	3,762		955,794	2,549
114 'Same-Ballpark as in 2019' Affiliated Teams		20,802,519	3,214		32,784,316	4,203

The 6 teams listed above, had a total attendance gain of 330,701 (34.6%), and an average per date gain of 1,213 (47.6%). All other teams had an 11,981,797 (36.5%) loss in total attendance, and a 989 (23.5%) loss in average per date.

Dunedin, which played in the old park in Clearwater in 2019, and played in other parks with no fans in attendance for some games in 2021, because Toronto was using the park in Dunedin, is not in this table. Beloit's new park didn't open until August, 2021, so its effect on attendance was minimal. Rocket City plays in Madison, Alabama, near Huntsville. Fredericksburg is about 35 miles south of Potomac (Woodbridge, VA).

NEW MARKETS, NEW BALLPARKS, AND 'SAME BALLPARK' ATTENDANCE GROWTH**2019 Changes**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since 2000, "MLB-affiliated Same Ballpark" attendance (counting teams that played in the same ballpark in both years being compared – for example, in 2000, it's 2000 vs. 1999) has been up in 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2017, and 2019. It has declined in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, and 2021.

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

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

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

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

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

At the start of the 2019 season, it had been already announced that 4 teams would move to a new city in 2020, with one more scheduled to move in 2021. The 2020 moves were scheduled to be New Orleans to Wichita KS, Mobile to Madison AL (named the Rocket City Trash Pandas), Potomac to Fredericksburg VA, which is about 35 miles away, and the Florida Firefrogs from Kissimmee to North Port. In 2021, Pawtucket moved to Worcester. Of course, there was no 2020 season, and the Florida Firefrogs were not part of the MLB-affiliated group for the 2021 season.

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

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

The table below lists 2019 and 2018 attendance for these 6 teams. There is also a figure at the bottom of the table for the 164 MLB-affiliated teams not listed in either table on this page or on page 63. The 'Lame Ducks' plus Quad Cities, had a combined 18.7% decline in total attendance in 2019, and their average per date fell by 501. The remaining 164 teams, which also excludes the teams that moved to new cities or new parks for the 2019 season, had a combined total attendance increase of 0.7%, and their average per date was down by one.

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

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

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

ATTENDANCE GROWTH FOR TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS OR NEW BALLPARKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The American Association shown in the 'League' column in the table is the 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), 2005 (1,193,224 – 10 teams), and 2019 (1,028,529 – 6 teams).

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

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

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

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

Year	League	New Market or New Ballpark	First Yr. New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
1977	International	Columbus	457,251	Memphis	92,973	364,278
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 Yr. New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
2001	South Atlantic	Lakewood, NJ	482,206	Cape Fear, NC	32,641	449,565
2001	South Atlantic	Lexington, KY	451,076	Kissimmee	29,650	421,426
2001	N.Y.-Penn	Brooklyn	289,381	Queens, NY	38,662	250,719
2002	N.Y.-Penn	Aberdeen	231,935	Utica, NY	47,135	184,800
2002	International	Toledo	547,204	New Ballpark	300,079	247,125
2002	Pacific Coast	Fresno	563,079	New Ballpark	292,886	270,193
2002	Texas	Midland	276,380	New Ballpark	148,292	128,088
2003	Pacific Coast	Albuquerque	576,867	Calgary	182,931	393,936
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
2015	Pacific Coast	Nashville	565,548	New Ballpark	323,961	241,587
2016	South Atlantic	Columbia, SC	261,134	Savannah	125,587	135,547

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969

This comparison is not being made for 2021 due to the unusual nature of that season. Comparing 2021 attendance with attendance of previous seasons would be misleading, and has little or no value.

A later part of this report examines Minor League historic attendance growth by league. The section here looks at individual team attendance growth, comparing 2019 attendance with 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. It includes 2019 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different MLB-affiliated classifications in 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, or 1969. Some cities went from being MLB-affiliated markets in the earlier seasons, to hosting independent league teams in 2019. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa.

2019 vs. 2009

In 2019, there were 196 Minor League teams (164 MLB-affiliated and 32 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2009 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2009. This excludes new ballpark moves in 2021.

57 of those 164 affiliated teams drew better in 2019 than in 2009, while 107 teams were down. Norwich, CT, Colorado Springs, and the Portland, OR area (Hillsboro in 2019) had full-season teams in 2009, and short-season teams in 2019. Amarillo, Pensacola, and El Paso had shorter-season independent teams in 2009, and full-season affiliated teams in 2019, and all had big 2019 vs. 2009 gains (Amarillo up 306,174, El Paso up 322,571, Pensacola up 224,298).

2 of the 32 independent league markets with a team in both years (St. Paul and Gary-Southshore) drew better in 2019 than in 2009. 4 of these markets had full-season MLB-affiliated teams in 2009, but except for New Britain, played shorter schedules as independent teams in 2019. 2019 declines vs. 2009 for these former MLB-affiliated markets were by Tucson (133,959), New Britain (233,541), High Desert (111,270), and Bakersfield (56,656).

The 164 MLB-affiliated teams that played in the same market in 2019 as any Minor League team did in 2009 drew 39,068,878 in 2019, down 1,504,190 (3.7%) from 2009. The 32 independent teams that played in the same market as any 2009 Minor League team drew 4,281,688 in 2019, down 1,424,232 (25.0%) from 2009.

18 MLB-affiliated teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2009. Only Omaha, and short-season Hillsboro (which was full-season Portland in 2009) drew less in 2019 than in 2009. St. Paul, up 127,592, was the only 2019 independent team who moved to a new park after 2009.

Yucatan of the Mexican League, up 335,442, had the biggest gain when comparing 2019 attendance with 2009 for teams that played roughly the same length schedule in both years. El Paso had a 322,571 gain, but that was compared to an independent American Association team in 2009. Class AAA Las Vegas had the best growth among U.S./Canadian teams that were MLB-affiliated in both 2019 and 2009, up 313,546. Nashville rose 272,857. Charlotte gained 260,579. Birmingham showed the highest gain among current Class AA teams, up 92,522. Pensacola had a bigger gain vs. 2009 than Birmingham did, but they played in shorter season independent league in 2009. Winston-Salem, up 207,214, had the best gain in full-season Class A. South Bend was up 164,213. Vancouver, up 86,683, and Pulaski, up 65,371, had the best growth among short-season teams.

Overall, 8 markets which had MLB-affiliated teams in both 2019 and 2009, and 11 MLB-affiliated markets overall, saw attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10-year period. 8 of these 11 teams play in a park that opened after 2009. Among independent markets, St. Paul, up 127,572 in a park that opened in 2015, had the best increase. Gary-Southshore posted the other independent leagues gain.

Class AAA Pawtucket, down 294,551 since 2009, had the worst decline of any city with a full-season MLB-affiliated team in both years. Gwinnett was down 211,214. Corpus Christi fell 119,940, the biggest loss among Class AA teams, and Mobile was down 114,655. Full-season Class A Lakewood had a 120,903 loss, the worst on that level. Staten Island's dip of 140,115 was the biggest for a team in a short-season affiliated league in both years. Hillsboro drew 235,975 less than the full-season team in nearby Portland drew in 2009. Colorado Springs, down 162,891, and Connecticut (Norwich) down 136,473, also had losses compared to full-season 2009 teams. 13 affiliated markets with full-season teams in both years saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2009.

Southern Illinois, down 108,036, and Kansas City, down 89,567, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2019 and in 2009. New Britain was down 233,541 vs. a 2009 MLB-affiliated team.

There were 176 MLB-affiliated teams that charged admission in 2009, and they drew 41,644,518. This was down from the still-record-high of 43,263,740 in 2008. 2005 was the first time that MLB-affiliated attendance reached 40 million. Excluding 2021, MLB-affiliated total attendance has surpassed 40 million every year since then.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 2009 - continued

In 2019, there were also 176 MLB-affiliated teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 41,504,077. This is down 140,441 (0.3%) from 2009. Average attendance per MLB-affiliated team was 236,617 in 2009, and 235,819 in 2019. MLB-affiliated average per date was 4,055 in 2009, and 4,044 in 2019.

Independent league attendance was 7,965,185 in 2009, with 61 teams playing home games. In 2019, the 56 independent teams that played any home games, and also provided attendance figures, drew 5,690,513. Independent average per date was 2,872 in 2009. It was 2,341 in 2019, excluding the low-drawing Empire League.

In 2009, there were 8 independent leagues in operation (Frontier, Northern, Atlantic, Can-Am, Golden Baseball, United, Continental, and the American Association). All but the Continental League averaged at least 1,837 per date. The Northern League averaged 4,421, and the Atlantic League averaged 4,054. In 2019, the Pecos League and Pacific Association drew relatively small crowds, thus reducing the combined independent leagues average per date. The 2019 combined average per date from just the American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues was 2,875 per date. These 4 leagues, plus the Northern League, averaged 3,297 per date in 2009.

The following 8 teams set record-high total attendance figures in 2009 that have not been broken through 2021: Gwinnett; Columbus, OH; Albuquerque; Reno; New Hampshire; Wisconsin; Quebec; Windy City. **Ogden also set a record in 2009, but they broke it in 2019, and broke it again, playing a longer schedule, in 2021.**

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1999

All 2019 MLB-affiliated leagues that charge admission also operated in 1999. Teams from the Class AAA American Association (no relation to the current independent league of that name) moved to the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

5 independent leagues, with 44 teams, operated in 1999. Only the Atlantic and Frontier Leagues still run under the same name. 1999 independent league cities still active as independent teams in 2019 were Evansville, River City, Schaumburg, and Windy City of the Frontier League, New Jersey and Quebec of the Can-Am League, plus St. Paul, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Fargo, and Winnipeg, all then in the Northern League, and in the American Association in 2019, and Somerset of the Atlantic League. Sonoma of the Western League was in the Pacific Association in 2019. The Can-Am League was the East Division of the Northern League in 1999, and the Texas-Louisiana and Northern Leagues merged into the American Association. St. Paul and Somerset became MLB-affiliated teams in 2021.

A larger percentage of teams posted increases, and very large increases, when comparing 2019 attendance with 1999 attendance, than when comparing 2019 attendance with 2009. 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 1999.

147 MLB-affiliated teams played in the same geographic market in 2019, as any Minor League team played in during the 1999 season. This includes Palm Beach, which shares a park with Jupiter, but had not begun play in 1999. 78 of those teams had higher attendance in 2019, than a team in the same market in 1999. This excludes Palm Beach. Attendance fell for 68 teams when comparing 2019 with 1999. 3 of the 19 independent markets with a team in both 2019 and 1999 had a gain.

These 146 MLB-affiliated teams drew 34,399,786 in 2019, up 3,050,549 (9.7%) from 31,349,272 in 1999. Excluded are 2019 Palm Beach (comparison for Jupiter only), and 1999 St. Petersburg (comparison was made for Tampa only).

The 19 independent teams, who also played in 1999 markets, and generally played much shorter schedules than full-season affiliated teams, drew 2,186,599 in 2019, vs. 3,195,046 in 1999, a decline of 1,008,447 (31.6%).

Amarillo, Sacramento, Allentown PA, Tri-Cities NY, Tri-Cities WA, and Reno had independent league teams in 1999 and MLB-affiliated teams in 2019. New Britain, Tucson, Ottawa, Sussex NJ, Bakersfield, and High Desert had affiliated teams in 1999 and independent league teams in 2019. The New Britain area also had an MLB-affiliated team (Hartford) in 2019, and a comparison is made with 1999 New Britain for both teams.

Connecticut (Norwich), Rocky Mountain (Colorado Springs), and Vancouver played a 2019 short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1999. Connecticut drew 66,532 in 35 home dates in 2019, and 244,442 in 69 dates in 1999. In 2019, Vancouver attracted 235,980 in 38 dates, compared to 241,461 in 63 dates in 1999. Colorado Springs drew 137,294 in 35 dates in 2019, and 202,724 in 62 dates in 1999.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1999 – continued

51 of the 146 affiliated teams that played in both 2019 and 1999, played in a park that opened after 1999. 44 of them drew better in 2019 than in 1999. Scranton, Memphis, Campeche, and Omaha were the only full-season affiliated teams with a park that opened after 1999, whose 2019 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier, along with Short-season Lowell, Hillsboro, and Staten Island. Independent St. Paul's park opened in 2015, and they had a gain.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2019 than in 1999 for 30 MLB-affiliated teams, and one independent, and 11 of those teams posted increases of more than 200,000. 27 of the 30 teams with 100,000+ gains vs. 1999 play in ballparks opened since then. Only South Bend, who refurbished their park, and Saltillo and Laguna of the Mexican League, had 100,000+ gains for 2019 vs. 1999 and played in a park that was at least 20 years old in 2019.

Class AAA Las Vegas, up 311,232 since 1999, had the best increase among teams that were MLB-affiliated in both 2019 and 1999. Charlotte rose by 246,807, Nashville had a gain of 242,390, Albuquerque had a 223,493 increase, and El Paso was up 209,272. Among 2019 affiliated cities that had independent teams in 1999, Lehigh Valley rose 468,708, Reno was up 281,026, and Sacramento gained 481,306.

Hartford, up 237,920, and Tennessee, up 161,137, had the top gains among teams who played in Class AA in both 2019 and 1999. The gain of 174,105 by Fayetteville NC was the largest for full-season Class A, followed by Fort Wayne (169,864), Greensboro (149,866), Winston-Salem (130,115), South Bend (119,098), and Columbia SC (112,249). Pulaski's 2019 total was 79,527 higher (nearly 6-fold) than in 1999, the best short-season gain, and Johnson City rose 65,419. Mexico City had the top Mexican League increase, up 283,221. St. Paul, which became an MLB-affiliated team in 2021, had the highest gain among 2019 independent teams, up 129,152.

16 MLB-affiliated and 3 independent teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2019 than in 1999. It includes Connecticut (Norwich) who had a full-season team 20 years ago, and was in short-season league in 2019. Class AAA New Orleans had the largest U.S. affiliated dip since 1999, down 284,573, and Pawtucket had a 265,614 loss. Mobile, down 198,060, and Jackson, TN, down 195,072, had the steepest declines among Class AA teams. Rancho Cucamonga's loss of 159,597 was the worst in full-season Class A, followed by Lansing, down 151,487. Mahoning Valley, down 104,240, had the biggest decline among teams that played in short-season leagues in both 2019 and 1999. Monclova's (del Norte) 19,551 decrease was the worst in the Mexican League.

River City, down 84,829, and Schaumburg, down 80,093, had the worst declines among teams who were independents in both 2019 and 1999. Tucson drew 249,627 less, High Desert drew 145,572 less, and Ottawa drew 107,860 less, as independents in 2019, than as an MLB-affiliated team in 1999. Sussex, NJ fell 63,208 vs. 1999. They had 43 dates in the Can-Am League in 2019, but only 38 dates as a short-season MLB-affiliated team in 1999.

These 2019 Minor League teams set season attendance records in 1999 that have not been broken since then: Syracuse; Akron; Kingsport; New Jersey Jackals; Schaumburg.

In 1999 the 176 MLB-affiliated teams in operation that charged admission drew 35,179,471. Affiliated average attendance per team was 199,883 in 1999, and was 235,819 in 2019. Affiliated average attendance per date was 3,386 in 1999 and 4,044 in 2019. Independent average per date was 2,559 in 1999, and 2,341 in 2019.

Excluding 2021, the 1999 MLB-affiliated figures for total attendance and average per date have been topped in every season since then.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1989

There were no independent leagues in 1989. All 2019 MLB-affiliated leagues that charged admission also operated in 1989. 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.

2019 MLB-affiliated Minor League Baseball attendance was up 79.6% since 1989. Total attendance rose from 23,103,593 in 1989 to 41,504,077 in 2019. Average attendance per affiliated team was 140,876 in 1989, and 235,819 in 2019. 1989 average per date is not available. There were 164 teams that charged admission in 1989, compared to 176 affiliated teams, and 56 independent league teams that recorded attendance in 2019. 6 Empire League independent teams did not provide attendance data in 2019, and the Pacific Association also had a road team.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1989 - continued

In 2019, 110 MLB-affiliated teams (counting both Jupiter and Palm Beach who share a park) and 4 independent teams, played in a market that also had a team in 1989. 77 of the affiliated teams had higher attendance in 2019 than in 1989, as did one independent team. A comparison with 1989 New Britain is made for both the 2019 MLB-affiliated Hartford Yard Goats and the 2019 independent New Britain Bees. 1989 St. Petersburg is compared with 2019 Tampa.

The 110 MLB-affiliated markets (comparing both Palm Beach and Jupiter with 1989 West Palm Beach) that had teams in both 2019 and 1989, drew 26,627,549 in 2019. This was up 8,311,954 (45.4%) from the total of 18,315,595 that those markets drew in 1989. Mexico City and Monterrey, of the Mexican League, each had 2 teams in 1989, and all these teams are included in the 1989 figure just noted.

43 MLB-affiliated teams, but no independent teams, drew over 100,000 more in 2019 than in 1989. For 18 of the teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 5 of these teams had increases of more than 300,000.

28 MLB-affiliated 2019 teams doubled their attendance since 1989. 10 of these markets more than tripled their 1989 totals. This includes Erie who had a short-season team in 1989, and a full-season team in 2019.

Charlotte showed the best increase since 1989, when they played in the Class AA Southern League, – up 423,286. Other 2019 Class AAA markets with big gains vs. 1989 include: Las Vegas (up 335,417); Toledo (309,042); Indianapolis (299,265); El Paso (294,633).

Hartford drew 314,003 higher than New Britain did in 1989, for the best Class AA gain. Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1989, rose 219,580. Tennessee was up 210,932. Charleston, SC's gain of 222,882 topped all full-season Class A teams. Fayetteville NC (181,030), Winston-Salem (175,519), Columbia (159,660), Myrtle Beach (157,468), and Wisconsin (141,814) were some of the other Class A teams with huge increases. Pulaski had the highest increase among short-season teams, up 84,613, a better than 8-fold increase, and Spokane grew by 75,429. Monterrey's 315,443 gain vs. a combined total of 2 Monterrey teams in 1989, was best among Mexican League teams.

The 2019 independent team in New Britain drew 32,198 more than the 1989 MLB-affiliated team that played there. Bakersfield and Tucson drew far better as affiliated teams in 1989 than they did in independent leagues in 2019, when they played much shorter schedules. The same is true for Monterey, CA compared to neighboring Salinas in 1989.

Buffalo, down 597,700, had the biggest loss vs. 1989. That was the 2nd year in their new ballpark, and the Bisons, auditioning for a Major League franchise, drew 1,116,441. Scranton-Wilkes Barre and Louisville had the only other Class AAA declines vs. 1989. 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, 651,090 in 1985, 660,200 in 1986, and 485,356 in 2019.

Richmond was the only Class AA team with a loss vs. 1989, when they were a Class AAA city. The largest Class A decrease was by Tampa, down 141,093 vs. 1989 St. Petersburg. There was no team in Tampa in 1989. Hagerstown dipped 101,948, and Florida (Kissimmee) fell 33,951.

Great Falls, down 22,430, had the biggest decline among teams that were short-season in both 2019 and 1989. Short-season Williamsport, Vancouver, Hillsboro, (near Portland, OR), Colorado Springs, and Tri-City, NY (near Albany), drew less in 2019 than the full-season teams in those markets in 1989.

Any 2019 team that set a record-high in 1989, has surpassed it since then.

69 of the 110 2019 MLB-affiliated teams that played in a market that had a team in 1989, play in a ballpark built since then. Almost all other ballparks have undergone renovation, and in some cases, a complete rebuilding.

Major League Baseball total attendance was **45,304,709 in 2021**, and 68,493,093 in 2019. It was 73,367,659 in 2009, 70,139,380 in 1999, 55,173,096 in 1989, 43,550,398 in 1979, and 27,229,691 in 1969. There were 30 teams in 2021, 2019, 2009, and 1999, 26 teams in 1989 and 1979, and 24 teams in 1969.

Average Major League attendance per date was **24,051 in 2021**, 28,338 in 2019, 30,330 in 2009, 29,152 in 1999, 26,770 in 1989, 21,940 in 1979, and 15,358 in 1969. Average attendance per team was 2,283,103 in 2019, 2,445,589 in 2009, 2,337,979 in 1999, 2,122,042 in 1989, 1,675,015 in 1979, and 1,134,570 in 1969. The National League did not include 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993. The American League did count them prior to 1993. Other changes in how official attendance is announced also resulted in higher figures in the more recent decades.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1979

By 1978, Minor League attendance had begun a very slow recovery 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 150 MLB-affiliated teams in 1979 drew 15,304,724, the best total since 1956, averaging 107,504 per team. This includes 269,705 by the 6-team, Inter-American League, which operated only in 1979. Average per date for 1979 is not available. In 2019, the 176 affiliated teams drew a total of 41,504,077, averaging 235,819 per team. 56 independent teams that listed attendance drew 5,690,513 in 2019. Total 2019 Minor League attendance for all leagues, except for the very low-drawing Empire League, was 47,194,590, which was a better than 3-fold increase over 1979.

84 MLB-affiliated teams and 4 independent league teams played in the same markets in 2019 as a Minor League team played in during the 1979 season. Total 2019 attendance for those 84 affiliated teams was 20,957,250, while in 1979, the 84 teams in those markets drew a combined 11,039,818. The increase was 9,917,432 (89.8%). Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2019 total, and a comparison is made for both of these teams with the 1979 team in West Palm Beach. Both the MLB-affiliated team in Hartford, and the independent team in New Britain, were compared with a 1979 team that played in nearby Bristol. 2019 Mexico City is compared with 2 Mexico City teams in 1979.

The 4 independent league teams drew a combined 247,382 in 2019, down 159,496 from the 406,878 that teams in those cities drew in 1979. Except for New Britain, these teams played longer schedules in 1979 in affiliated leagues.

Only 34 of the 123 U.S./Canadian teams (27.6% of teams) in 1979 drew at least 100,000, compared to 121 of 160 teams (75.6% of the teams), plus 25 independent clubs, reaching 100,000 in 2019. Nashville (515,482), Columbus (599,544), Denver (335,684), Salt Lake City (214,825), Rochester (200,013), El Paso (266,475), Albuquerque (266,586), Spokane (217,300), Memphis (226,832), and 10 Mexican League teams, led by Yucatan (453,206), Tabasco (441,835), and the Mexico City Diablos Rojos (405,695), topped 200,000 in 1979. 86 NAPBL teams and 7 independent teams reached 200,000 in 2019. 4 of 26 Class AAA teams in 1979 (Wichita, Springfield IL, Charleston WV, Ogden) drew under 100,000. Just 11 U.S./Canadian teams below Class AAA topped 100,000 in 1979. 91 teams below Class AAA surpassed 100,000 in 2019. 22 full-season teams, and all short-season teams except Eugene, Great Falls, and Billings, drew under 50,000 in 1979.

Just 17 MLB-affiliated teams (including 6 in the Mexican League) drew less in 2019 than in 1979. This includes Jupiter, down 62,529, and Palm Beach, down 67,795, vs. the 125,213 that West Palm Beach drew in 1979. Combined Jupiter/Palm Beach 2019 attendance was 120,102, down 5,111 from the 1979 West Palm Beach total. Florida (vs. 1979 Orlando), Tampa, Lakeland, Columbus OH, and Dunedin, were the other full-season U.S. teams to have a decline vs. 1979. Tabasco of the Mexican League had the worst decline (315,387). Aguascalientes was down 121,657.

Short-season teams with 2019 declines vs. 1979 include Spokane and Hillsboro, who had full-season teams in 1979, plus Bluefield and Great Falls. Losses by 2019 independent teams were by Tucson, Evansville, and Bakersfield, all of whom played in full-season leagues in 1979.

Far more common were huge increases in attendance compared to 1979. 40 teams drew at least 100,000 more than a team in the same market did in 1979. This includes all 2019 Class AAA markets, except Columbus and Nashville, that also fielded teams in 1979. Attendance rose by at least 200,000 in 22 markets, and 11 markets achieved a gain of over 300,000.

Class AAA Charlotte had the top increase of any team, up 458,670. Indianapolis was up 420,797, Buffalo rose by 385,593, Iowa was up 353,005. Toledo and Fresno also had growth of better than 300,000 among 2019 Class AAA markets. In the Mexican League, Monterrey had the top gain—393,235.

Amarillo, up 370,114, had the best Class AA gain. Hartford, rose 348,102 vs. 1979 Bristol. Reading, still in the same park as in 1979, gained 314,114. Tulsa was up 325,657. Richmond had a 240,457 increase.

The gain of 196,177 by Winston-Salem was tops among 2019 Class A teams. Potomac vs. 1979 Alexandria was up 157,860. Stockton gained 153,564.

2019 short-season Vancouver outdrew their 1979 Class AAA full-season P.C.L. team by 104,613. Ogden drew 69,174 more than their 1979 P.C.L. team. Idaho Falls posted a 67,954 increase, Eugene gained 65,311, and Salem-Keizer rose by 64,929. New Britain had the only gain (66,297 vs. Bristol) among 2019 independent league teams.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2019 vs. 1969

Minor League Baseball attendance was a very different world in 1969 compared to 2019. From 1961 through 1969, total attendance ranged from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 10,102,310 in 1964. Average per team ranged from a low of 66,439 in 1961, to a high of 78,924 in 1964. The number of teams fell to a low of 128 in 1964.

It was believed that the lower level leagues, and perhaps all of Minor League Baseball, could not survive, and that college baseball would become the feeder system to the Major Leagues. Television was a big factor in the low attendance, even though in 1969, in most markets, there were only 3 commercial TV stations. Most homes didn't even have a color TV. In many markets, televised baseball consisted of the Saturday NBC Game of the Week, 3 evening holiday telecasts, and the post-season. People who lived in a market where local Major League telecasts were seen, did get some extra TV baseball. But most teams, except for those in New York and Chicago, televised fewer than 60 games.

If the 1960's leaders of Minor League Baseball had known about what sports broadcasting would be like 50 years later – Ultra HD, large screen TV, multiple sports cable channels, the availability of nearly every Major League game in TV, they might not have been too optimistic about the future of the Minor Leagues. But new ballparks, better promotion, and other resources, have led to a huge increase in both attendance and revenue for the Minor Leagues.

In 1969, the 148 Minor League teams drew 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. The 2019 MLB-affiliated average per team was 3.5 times higher than the 1969 figure. Attendance, including the Independent leagues was 47,194,590 in 2019, with 176 affiliated teams, and 63 independent teams, 56 of whom compiled attendance.

There are 77 MLB-affiliated teams (69 in the U.S. and Canada, and 8 in the Mexican League), and 6 independent teams, that played in the same market in both 2019 and 1969. This compares both Jupiter and Palm Beach with the 1969 team in West Palm Beach, Durham and Carolina with 1969 Raleigh-Durham, Florida (Kissimmee) with 1969 Orlando, and the Mexico City Red Devils with both 1969 Mexico City teams.

These 77 MLB-affiliated markets drew 19,373,175 in 2019, up 13,255,470 (216.7%) from 6,117,705 in 1969, which is a better-than 3-fold gain. Average per date for 1969 is not available.

Only 6 MLB-affiliated and 2 independent teams drew less in 2019 than in 1969. Florida (Kissimmee) was down 41,273 vs. 1969 Orlando, 2019 short-season Eugene had a 20,789 loss vs. a 1969 full-season PCL team, the Mexico City Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) had a decline vs. their 1969 team, but were up compared to the 1969 Mexico City Tigers, and short-season Batavia, Bristol, and Bluefield had very slight declines. 2019 independent teams Tucson (down 100,017), and Bakersfield (down 55,377), were down compared to 1969 teams that played much longer seasons.

Huge gains were far more common. 44 of the 59 full-season affiliated teams, and 3 of the 6 independent teams, drew at least 100,000 more in 2019 than in 1969. 19 of the 21 Class AAA teams were up better than 200,000. There were 19 teams with gains of at least 300,000, and 2 more teams came within a few hundred of a 300,000 increase.

Gains by teams which drew at least 400,000 more in 2019 than in 1969 were: Buffalo (up 440,933); Charlotte (434,865); Columbus OH (436,702); Durham (478,541); Indianapolis (456,375); El Paso (460,025); Yucatan (440,960).

The best increases among 2019 Class AA teams were: Amarillo (359,746); Reading (328,964 – in the same park as in 1969); Birmingham (328,133). In full-season Class A, Greenville SC had the top gain, up 276,742. Winston Salem grew by 198,169, Asheville was up 152,806, Stockton gained 151,559, and Wisconsin (Appleton) rose 151,009.

Among short-season teams, Vancouver's short-season 2019 team outdrew their full-season 1969 team by 173,314. Spokane's 2019 short-season team drew 84,640 more than a full-season 1969 team. Ogden rose 114,077, Billings gained 84,968, Idaho Falls had 84,654 growth, Pulaski increased 73,746, and Johnson City was up 67,861.

Among the independent teams, Winnipeg had a 177,710 increase, while York was up 146,111. Sioux Falls and High Point also had increases.

There were 22 teams that played in the same ballpark in 2019 as in 1969, though many of these parks have seen significant upgrades. Saltillo of the Mexican League, up 366,746, had the largest increase among this group of teams. The 328,964 gain by Reading was the largest by any U.S./Canadian team playing in the same park as in 1969.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL IN MAJOR LEAGUE MARKETS – Includes Independent League Teams**Attendance data is for 2019, but team listings have been updated to 2022.**

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

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

But starting in the 1990's, more Minor League teams began operating near Major League clubs. In 2019, 62 Minor League teams (counting the 4-team United Shore League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, as one team) played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. 3 more teams (Pawtucket (replaced by Worcester in 2021), Toledo, and Dayton) were located in non-Major League TV markets, but their ballparks are within about 60 miles of a Major League city. So in 2019, 21 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 2019, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,366,073. Also in **2019**, the 62 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 11,929,366. That was 25.3% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 5.3% higher than the total attendance (11,324,947) for all 141 Minor League teams in 1976. In **2021**, the 53 Minor League teams in Major League markets drew 7,294,075, which was 25.9% of total Minor League attendance.

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 2019, the New York TV market had 9 teams, including 2 within New York City. The Philadelphia market had 4 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	2019 Attendance	Notes
Jersey Shore (Lakewood), NJ	308,318	Led South Atlantic League 14 times from 2001-2016.
Brooklyn, NY	174,522	Best short-season attendance–2001-2015. High-A in 2021.
Staten Island, NY	66,520	Record high in 2010. New Atlantic League team in 2022.
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	148,158	Averaged 95.5% of capacity 1994-2019. High-A in 2021.
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	328,194	Top U.S. total yearly independent attend.: 2000-2011, 2021.
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	344,641	Averaged over 5,100 per date every year through 2019.
Rockland County, NY	123,999	Yearly Can-Am League attendance leader 2012-2019.
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	76,658	Total attendance up 23.6% in 2017, but was down in 2018-19.
Sussex County, NJ	72,594	Best gain among independent teams in 2016.
New York Market Total	1,643,604	9 teams had a combined 3.7% loss in 2019 vs. 2018.

Philadelphia Area Teams	2019 Attendance	Notes
Reading, PA	398,314	Eastern Leag. att. leader in 11 of last 18 years through 2019.
Wilmington, DE	231,325	Led Carolina League in attend. 11 straight years-1998-2008.
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	585,110	Minors U.S. best attend. in 2011-12. 605 sellouts-2008-2019.
Trenton, NJ	340,705	Topped 340,000 in each year (1995-2019). Moved to the MLB Draft League in 2021, playing a limited home schedule.
Philadelphia Market Total	1,555,454	Up a combined 0.3% in 2019, same % gain as in 2018.

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

Boston Area Teams	2019 Attendance	Notes
Pawtucket (Worcester in 2021)	331,010	Replaced Pawtucket in 2021, and had great year at the gate.
New Hampshire (Manchester)	306,511	3 rd best total gain, 8 th best avg./dt. gain of all teams in 2018
Lowell, MA (through 2019)	100,687	Had 413-game sellout streak. Gone in 2021, but may return.
Boston Area Total	738,208	Down 11.3% in 2019, mainly due to Pawtucket loss.

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

<u>Los Angeles</u>	6 Minor League teams in 2019, 3 in 2021... Rancho Cucamonga led the California League for 17 straight years (1993-2019). Lake Elsinore led that league each year - 2010-2016, and 2018.
<u>Chicago</u>	6 in 2019, 2021... Kane County topped 400,000 in 22 of 26 years, and topped 500,000 in 6 seasons... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010 and 2017.
<u>San Francisco</u>	5 in 2019, 3 in 2021... San Jose: Last 21 years through 2019 – the 19 best totals in team history.
<u>Dallas</u>	3 in 2019, 2 in 2021... Frisco led all Class AA teams in attendance for 15 straight years through 2019.
<u>Washington</u>	5 in 2019, 3 in 2021... Frederick (now in the MLB Draft League) led Carolina League each year from 2012 through 2016, and just missed leading in 2017, 2018, and 2019. Southern Maryland had a record-high in 2013. Potomac moved to a new park in Fredericksburg, VA in 2021.
<u>Seattle</u>	2 in 2019, 2021... Tacoma set record in rebuilt park in 2011, just missed new highs 2016-2018.
<u>Tampa</u>	5 in 2019, 2021... In 2017, Clearwater had best attendance in the Florida State League since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 10 th time in 14 years. Rebuilt park in Dunedin in 2021.
<u>Minneapolis</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... St. Paul 2015-2019: The 5 highest-ever independent team averages per date seasons, including a record-high 8,438 in 2016. Moved to Triple-A East in 2021.
<u>Cleveland</u>	3 in 2019, 2021... Akron 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 in 2019, 1 in 2021... 2019 was the final Minor League season for the River City Rascals.
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... Washington, PA sold out many games in its history, but is down more recently.
<u>Baltimore</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, but down 126,617 (51.7%) 2019 vs. 2012.
<u>Atlanta</u>	2 in 2019, 2021... Both Gwinnett and Rome had gains in 2019, after recent declines.
<u>Kansas City</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... Kansas City (KS) drew under 200,000 for first time in 16 years in 2018.
<u>Detroit</u>	2 in 2019, 2021... Toledo, separate TV market, drew 500,000+ for 17 straight years until 2019. 4-team United Shore League (all in Utica, counts as 1 team) record-high 3,450 per date in 2019.
<u>Houston</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest attend. by a modern independent team. Led independent leagues in total attendance also in 2013 and 2014.
<u>Milwaukee</u>	1 in 2019, 2021... Milwaukee of Franklin, WI played their first season in 2019. One more team in 2022.
<u>Cincinnati</u>	2 in 2019, 2021... Dayton (a separate TV market) topped 540,000 each year (2000-2019), has a North American pro sports record of 1,385 regular-season consecutive sellouts, drew a team and Class A record-high in 2010, and in attendance, is the most successful Class A team ever.

The New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco/Oakland TV markets all have 2 MLB teams. San Diego, Miami, Phoenix, Denver, and Toronto markets did not have a summer Minor League team charging admission in 2019 and 2021. Phoenix has all 6 teams of the Arizona Fall League. Denver gets an independent Pioneer League team (Windsor, CO) in 2022.

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

There were 21 TV markets in **2019** that had both Major League and Minor League Baseball. There are also 20 Minor League Baseball markets that don't have a Major League Baseball team, but do have a National Football League, National Basketball Association, or National Hockey League team. Despite the NFL, NBA, or NHL competition for sports dollars in these markets, many of their Minor League Baseball teams draw quite well. The 24 Minor League Baseball teams in these markets, which includes independent teams, drew a combined 8,021,870 in **2019**. In **2021**, the 21 teams in these markets drew 4,710,890.

<u>TV Market</u>	<u>NFL, NBA, or NHL Teams</u>	<u>Minor League Baseball in That Market with 2019 and 2021 Notes</u>
<u>Buffalo</u>	NFL-Bills, NHL-Sabres	Topped 500,000 each year 1988-2019. Reached one million 6 times. Holds the record for highest Minor League season attendance.
<u>Charlotte</u>	NFL-Panthers, NBA-Hornets	I.L. Knights led Minors in total attendance in 2014 and 2018, and in average per date 2014-2016. Best U.S. average/date in 2018. Low-A Kannapolis set team record-highs in their new park in 2021.
<u>Raleigh-Durham</u>	NHL-Carolina Hurricanes	AAA Durham drew 529,105 in 2019, and topped 500,000 13 times since 2001. Class A Carolina under 200,000 only in 2016-2019, 2021.
<u>Columbus</u>	NHL-Blue Jackets	Drawn 500,000+ in 33 seasons, which is more often than any other team. Has surpassed 600,000 in 8 of 11 years through 2019.
<u>Indianapolis</u>	NHL-Colts, NBA-Pacers	Record-high 662,536 in 2015. Topped 535,000 for 24 straight years.
<u>Memphis</u>	NBA- Grizzlies	Attendance declined from 887,976 in 2001, but gains in 2016, 2017.
<u>Nashville</u>	NFL-Titans, NHL-Predators	Led MLB-affiliated teams in attendance (total and average) in 2021. Record-high total in 2018. In 1979, Nashville was first AA team to top 500,000. New park in 2015 led to U.S.-best gain of 241,587 that year.
<u>New Orleans</u>	NFL-Saints, NBA-Pelicans	2019 Minor League New Orleans team moved to Wichita in 2021.
<u>Okla. City</u>	NBA-Thunder	Drawn better than 400,000 in 17 of 22 years through 2019.
<u>Sacramento</u>	NBA-Kings	Top Minors total attendance 10 times from 2000-2015. Have drawn at least 600,000 in 16 of 20 seasons. Lowest total in 2018, up in 2019.
<u>Salt Lake C.</u>	NBA-Jazz	Have topped 430,000 in all 26 years in Class AAA, excluding 2021.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	NFL-Jaguars	Top 300,000 in 13 of 17 years through 2019. 3 rd best Minors gain in 2017.
<u>Green Bay</u>	NFL-Packers	Wisconsin (Appleton) above 215,000 for 11 straight years through 2019.
<u>Las Vegas</u>	NHL-Golden Knights NFL-Raiders	New park in 2019. Best total and average/date gains of any team, and the highest total and average per date of any U.S. team, in 2019.
<u>San Antonio</u>	NBA-Spurs	Moved to PCL in 2019, and had their best total since 1998.
<u>Orlando</u>	NBA-Magic	Daytona topped 100,000 for 16 straight years through 2019. Clearwater is the only other Florida State League team to do this.
<u>Portland, OR</u>	NBA-Trail Blazers	Short-season Hillsboro drew a record-high in 2015. 4-team Mavericks League (all in Keiser - counts as 1 team) began play in 2021.
<u>Vancouver</u>	NHL-Canucks	Led all short-season teams in total and average per date 2016-2019. Set short-season record-high totals for this market in 2016, 2017.
<u>Winnipeg</u>	NHL-Jets	Best independent average per date 12 times in 15 years through 2014. Had topped 250,000 for 16 straight seasons until 2016. Big dip since.
<u>Ottawa</u>	NHL-Senators	Inactive in 2021. Returning to the Frontier League in 2022.

STAYING CLOSE TO YOUR PARENT (TEAM)

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

The table below is a **2021** listing of Minor League teams who charge admission, that were located in areas where their parent team is one of the dominant teams of fan interest. In some cases, such as with the Mississippi Braves, the Major League parent team might be located a considerable distance from the Minor League affiliate. But the Major League team may have a significant following in the area, and its games are likely to be broadcast on local radio and TV there. The same is true with Vancouver, which is a Toronto Blue Jays affiliate.

The realignment of the Minor Leagues in 2021 resulted in many changes to this list from 2019, including the elimination of all short-season leagues that charged admission. Many short-season teams became full-season teams. No changes were made to this list for 2022.

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

Major League Team	Minor League Affiliates of That Team Who Play in its Area of Dominant Fan Interest
Baltimore	Norfolk (Triple-A), Bowie (Double-A), Aberdeen (High-A), Delmarva (Low-A)
Boston	Worcester (Triple-A), Portland, ME (Double-A)
Chicago White Sox	None
Cleveland	Columbus, OH (Triple-A), Akron (Double-A), Lake County (High-A)
Detroit	Toledo (Triple-A), West Michigan (High-A)
Houston	Sugar Land (Triple-A), Corpus Christi (Double-A)
Kansas City	Omaha (Triple-A), Northwest Arkansas (Double-A)
Los Angeles Angels	Inland Empire of San Bernadino (Low-A)
Minnesota	St. Paul (Triple-A), Cedar Rapids (High-A)
New York Yankees	Scranton-Wilkes Barre (Triple-A), Somerset (Double-A), Hudson Valley (High-A)
Oakland	Las Vegas (Triple-A), Stockton (Low-A)
Seattle	Tacoma (Triple-A), Everett (High-A)
Tampa Bay	None
Texas	Round Rock (Triple-A), Frisco (Double-A)
Toronto	Buffalo (Triple-A) 39 dates in Trenton, Vancouver (High-A)–played in Hillsboro in 2021
Arizona	None
Atlanta	Gwinnett (Triple-A), Mississippi (Double-A), Rome (High-A), Augusta (Low-A)
Chicago Cubs	Iowa (Triple-A), South Bend (High-A)
Cincinnati	Louisville (Triple-A), Dayton (High-A)
Colorado	Albuquerque (Triple-A)
Los Angeles Dodgers	Rancho Cucamonga (Low-A)
Miami	Jacksonville (Triple-A), Pensacola (Double-A), Jupiter (Low-A)
Milwaukee	Wisconsin (Appleton) (High-A)
New York Mets	Syracuse (Triple-A), Binghamton (Double-A), Brooklyn (High-A)
Philadelphia	Lehigh Valley (Allentown) (Triple-A), Reading (AA), Jersey Shore (Lakewood) (High-A)
Pittsburgh	Altoona (Double-A)
St. Louis	Memphis (Triple-A), Springfield, MO (Double-A)
San Diego	Lake Elsinore (Low-A)
San Francisco	Sacramento (Triple-A), San Jose (Low-A)
Washington	Harrisburg (Double-A), Wilmington, DE (High-A), Fredericksburg, VA (Low-A)

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

Year	Total MLB-Affiliated Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team	Year	Total MLB-Affiliated Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team
				1985	18,380,000	154	119,351
1946	32,704,315	314	104,154	1986	18,456,808	154	119,849
1947	37,184,167	388	95,835	1987	20,215,564	158	127,947
1948	38,415,716	438	87,707	1988	21,659,873	160	135,374
1949	39,640,443	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	33,347,931	172	193,883
1955	18,203,889	243	74,913	1995	33,126,934	172	192,598
1956	16,402,953	217	75,590	1996	33,293,383	171	194,698
1957	14,875,346	200	74,377	1997	34,721,716	172	201,870
1958	12,744,883	171	74,531	1998	35,427,618	174	203,607
1959	11,622,581	152	76,464	1999	35,179,471	176	199,883
1960	10,660,811	152	70,137	2000	37,647,819	176	215,126
1961	9,766,505	147	66,439	2001	38,808,339	176	220,502
1962	9,732,582	134	72,631	2002	38,639,142	176	219,541
1963	9,749,381	130	74,995	2003	39,069,707	176	221,987
1964	10,102,310	128	78,924	2004	39,887,755	176	226,635
1965	10,029,518	130	77,150	2005	41,333,279	176	234,848
1966	9,826,124	133	73,881	2006	41,710,357	176	236,991
1967	9,940,660	135	73,635	2007	42,812,812	175	244,645
1968	9,887,328	135	73,239	2008	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	2015	42,561,445	176	241,826
1976	11,324,947	141	80,319	2016	41,377,202	176	235,098
1977	13,004,297	142	91,580	2017	41,832,364	176	237,684
1978	13,049,475	150	86,997	2018	40,450,337	176	229,831
1979	15,304,724 @	150	107,504	2019	41,504,077	176	235,819
1980	15,541,674 *	145	107,184	2020	0	176	0
1981	16,178,790	140	115,563	2021	22,089,014	120	184,075
1982	17,637,244	150	117,582				
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. 2021 figures exclude the Mexican League, and the Major League Partner Leagues

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

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

Year	MLB Affiliated Full-Season Teams Attend.	Number Full-Sea. Teams	Average Attendance per Team	Year	MLB Affiliated Full-Season Teams Attend.	Number Full Sea. Teams	Average Attendance per Team	Average Att. Per Date
				1992	22,265,115	112	198,796	3,074
1963	7,612,882	112	67,972	1993	25,000,168	115	217,393	3,387
1964	7,184,010	102	70,431	1994	27,646,782	116	238,334	3,645
1965	6,902,424	96	71,900	1995	27,738,500	116	239,125	3,627
1966	6,496,849	93	69,859	1996	27,876,672	116	240,316	3,635
1967	6,311,765	86	73,393	1997	28,567,929	116	246,275	3,745
1968	6,500,445	86	75,587	1998	29,121,131	118	246,789	3,663
1969	6,426,154	87	73,864	1999	29,126,859	120	242,724	3,630
1970	7,677,106	90	85,301	2000	30,945,391	120	257,878	3,883
1971	7,858,990	90	87,322	2001	31,977,682	120	266,481	3,982
1972	7,695,543	90	85,506	2002	31,868,349	120	265,570	3,958
1973	7,092,134	88	80,592	2003	32,466,417	120	270,553	4,126
1974	6,683,283	86	77,713	2004	33,131,201	120	276,093	4,149
1975	6,629,819	82	80,851	2005	34,414,112	120	286,784	4,260
1976	6,751,187	80	84,390	2006	34,277,338	120	285,644	4,256
1977	7,957,753	82	97,046	2007	35,150,730	120	292,923	4,355
1978	8,417,169	89	94,575	2008	35,447,963	120	295,400	4,368
1979	9,761,330	90	108,459	2009	34,838,849	120	290,324	4,342
1980	11,331,714	95	119,281	2010	35,062,403	120	292,187	4,298
1981	12,316,024	96	128,292	2011	34,299,698	120	285,831	4,237
1982	13,729,020	102	134,598	2012	33,894,415	120	282,453	4,168
1983	14,381,025	100	143,810	2013	34,205,705	120	285,048	4,260
1984	13,614,779	102	133,478	2014	34,928,570	120	291,071	4,323
1985	14,270,558	103	139,907	2015	35,067,534	120	292,229	4,328
1986	14,751,291	104	141,839	2016	33,862,556	120	282,188	4,188
1987	15,948,128	108	147,668	2017	34,325,071	120	286,042	4,306
1988	17,444,104	110	158,583	2018	33,203,392	120	276,695	4,184
1989	18,982,379	110	172,567	2019	33,321,002	120	277,675	4,201
1990	20,148,150	110	183,165	2020	0	120	0	0
1991	21,716,617	112	193,898	2021	22,089,014	120	184,075	3,242

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table on Page 79 notes the annual average attendance per team since 1946 for all MLB-affiliated leagues combined. The presence of so many teams in small markets is why the overall average per team was not higher in the late 1940's. Many of these small-market leagues and teams disbanded in the early 1950's as television and other factors severely cut Minor League attendance. The average per team was less than 80,000 from 1950 through 1971, and again in 1973 and 1974. In 1979, the average per team reached 100,000 for the first time since 1946. It initially surpassed 150,000 in 1990, and 200,000 in 1997. Average attendance per team topped 200,000 each year since 2000, except 2021, with a high of 245,817 in 2008. The 2018 average per team of 229,831 was lowest since 2004, except for 2021.

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

Listed below, is a brief summary of average attendance per team by classification. The 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 TRIPLE-A

2021 Triple-A average per team was 294,650. **2019** Class AAA average per team was 450,013, the 14th best ever. 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 drop in baseball attendance. 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, 1997, and 2021. It topped 450,000 per team from 2005 through 2017, and in 2019, with a high of 477,226 in 2008.

CLASS DOUBLE-A

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 was above 280,000 in 17 straight seasons through 2019. The **2019** average per team was 292,752, which ranked as 13th best. In **2021**, Double-A average per team was 203,266.

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 was above 150,000 per team every year since 1995, until 2021. It reached a record-high 199,846 in 2014, and was 183,967 in **2019**, lowest since 2004. In **2021**, High-A average per team was 139,304, and Low-A average per team was 99,080.

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 was above it ever since then. It reached 74,000 in 1995, and topped 80,000 in each of the last 18 seasons through 2019. The high was 96,758 in 2007. It was 89,124 in 2019, which ranked as 12th highest. These leagues ceased operation after 2019.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2021

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

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

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2021

Year	Affiliated U.S. Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	Affiliated Short-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance
1980	Nashville (Class AA)	575,676	Eugene	96,058
1981	Denver	555,806	Eugene	85,073
1982	Louisville	868,418	Great Falls	67,044
1983	Louisville	1,052,438	Billings	88,534
1984	Louisville	846,878	Billings	96,670
1985	Louisville	651,090	Eugene	103,193
1986	Louisville	660,200	Salt Lake City	108,721
1987	Columbus, OH	570,599	Salt Lake City	170,134
1988	Buffalo	1,147,651	Salt Lake City	176,217
1989	Buffalo	1,132,183	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
2015	Sacramento	672,354	Brooklyn	230,658
2016	Indianapolis *	636,888	Vancouver	222,363
2017	Indianapolis *	641,141	Vancouver	239,527
2018	Charlotte	619,639	Vancouver	239,086
2019	Las Vegas	650,934	Vancouver	235,980
2021	Nashville	436,868	No Short-season teams	

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

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON MLB-AFFILIATED AVERAGE PER DATE TEAM LEADERS – 1992-2021

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

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

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

In 2021, Tijuana, in the now-independent Mexican League, led all Minor League teams with a 7,557 average per date.

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB

Attendance of at least 500,000 in a season has become quite common in the Minor Leagues. It happened 310 times from 2000 through 2019. 16 teams did it in 2019. But it is still a very significant achievement. 39 current markets, and 7 former teams, have done it at least once, including Las Vegas for the first time in 2019. No independent league team has ever drawn 500,000. The first time any Minor League teams reached 500,000 was in 1946 when the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, and the San Francisco Seals, Hollywood Stars, Oakland Oaks, and Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League did it. P.C.L. teams played as many as 186 games that year.

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

Columbus has drawn 500,000 in 33 seasons, which is the most by any team. Louisville has done it 31 times. Buffalo's 32 years in a row above the half-million mark, excluding 2021, is the longest current streak. Overall, there have been 422 'Half-Million' seasons achieved by Minor League teams through 2021. 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 2019 (none did it in 2021). In 1983, Louisville became the first team to top one million. Buffalo drew better than one million each year from 1988 through 1993. No other Minor League team has drawn one million.

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

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
1995	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Norfolk, Richmond, Columbus, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1996	7	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Norfolk, Salt Lake, West Michigan, Lansing
1997	10	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Norfolk, New Orleans, Rochester, Columbus, Richmond, Salt Lake, West Michigan, Lansing

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1998-2021

Year	# of Teams	Teams that Drew at Least 500,000
1998	9	Buffalo, Rochester, Richmond, Indianapolis, Monterrey, New Orleans, Akron, Salt Lake, West Michigan
1999	6	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Richmond, Indianapolis, Salt Lake, Akron
2000	10	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Indianapolis, Louisville, Salt Lake, Memphis, Saltillo, Sacramento, Round Rock, Dayton
2001	14	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Louisville, Columbus, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Dayton, Monterrey, Yucatan, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock, Kane County IL
2002	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Norfolk, Toledo, Louisville, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Iowa, Sacramento, Fresno, Memphis, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County
2003	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Monterrey, Saltillo, Memphis, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Fresno, Round Rock, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2004	16	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Tijuana, Sacramento, Iowa, Memphis, Fresno, Frisco, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County, Albuquerque
2005	20	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Norfolk, Durham, Toledo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Louisville, Saltillo, Memphis, Iowa, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Springfield MO, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2006	19	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Toledo, Columbus, Saltillo, Monterrey, Iowa, Memphis, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2007	18	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pawtucket, Albuquerque, Toledo, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Fresno, Iowa, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton, Saltillo
2008	17	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), Toledo, Columbus, Durham, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Salt Lake, Memphis, Fresno, Monterrey, Frisco, Dayton
2009	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton,
2010	15	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Albuquerque, Toledo, Pawtucket, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Frisco, Dayton
2011	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton
2012	14	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Dayton, Monterrey
2013	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake, Dayton, Monterrey
2014	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Val., Dayton, El Paso, Albuquerque, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Round Rock, Sacramento, Monterrey
2015	17	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Yucatan
2016	19	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Yucatan, Salt Lake, Tijuana
2017	16	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Tijuana
2018	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, El Paso, Toledo, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Nashville, Tijuana
2019	16	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Nashville, Tijuana, Las Vegas, Yucatan
2021	0	

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 39 markets that currently have a Minor League team that has drawn 500,000. The second table lists the 7 former Minor League markets that have reached this level. No team drew at least 500,000 in 2021.

CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE MARKETS THAT HAVE DRAWN 500,000 IN A SEASON THROUGH 2019

Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.	Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Columbus, Ohio	33	Norfolk	7
Buffalo	32	Kane County, IL	6
Louisville	31	Richmond	6
Indianapolis	24	Yucatan, Mexico	6
Dayton	20	Charlotte, NC	6
Sacramento	20	El Paso	6
Round Rock	20	Tijuana, Mexico	5
Toledo	17	Fresno	5
Albuquerque	17	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	5
Pawtucket	16	West Michigan	4
Durham	13	Oklahoma City	3
Monterrey, Mexico	13	New Orleans	2
Salt Lake City	12	Corpus Christi	2
Iowa (Des Moines)	12	Ottawa	2
Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	12	Akron	2
Nashville	10	Rochester, NY	2
Memphis	9	Lansing	2
Frisco	9	Springfield, MO	1
Saltillo, Mexico	8	Mexico City Red Devils	1
		Las Vegas	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 – WILL EXCLUDE 2021

Team	# Seasons	Years	Team	# Seasons	Years
Buffalo	32	1988-2019	Pawtucket	16	1999-2014
Indianapolis	24	1996-2019	Columbus	15	2005-2019
Sacramento	20	2000-2019	Columbus	14	1984-1997
Dayton	20	2000-2019	Louisville	14	1982-1995
Round Rock	20	2000-2019	Lehigh Valley	12	2008-2019
Louisville	17	2000-2016	Frisco	9	2003-2011
Toledo	17	2002-2018	Memphis	9	2000-2008
Albuquerque	17	2003-2019	Saltillo	8	2000-2007

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+ – 1994-2019

Year	# Teams	Independent Teams that Drew 200,000+ (<i>300,000 - Atlantic League in italics</i>)
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, <i>Ozark Mountain, 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, Schaum., Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Brockton, Gateway, <i>Long Is., Somerset</i>
2005	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster PA</i>
2006	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Joliet, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2007	10	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, El Paso, Traverse City, 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>
2015	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2016	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2017	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2018	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2019	4	St. Paul, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>

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

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

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

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

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

Year	# of Teams	Short-Season Teams that Drew at Least 150,000. 200,000+ shown in BOLD
1987	1	Salt Lake
1988	1	Salt Lake
1989	1	Salt Lake
1990	1	Salt Lake
1991	1	Salt Lake
1992	1	Salt Lake
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 Val., Lowell, State College, Staten Island, Spokane
2008	7	Brooklyn , Aberdeen , Hudson Val., 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 (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2012	7	Brooklyn , Aberdeen , Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2013	7	Brooklyn , Aberdeen , Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2014	7	Brooklyn , Aberdeen , Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2015	6	Brooklyn , Aberdeen , Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY), Spokane, Vancouver
2016	4	Brooklyn , Hudson Valley, Spokane, Vancouver
2017	3	Brooklyn, Spokane, Vancouver
2018	3	Brooklyn , Spokane, Vancouver
2019	3	Brooklyn, Spokane , Vancouver

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**2021 – LEAGUE GAINS AND LOSSES**

In a normal season, this section would cover individual league attendance gains and losses vs. the previous season. But since 2021 was such an abnormal season, Triple-A, Double-A, High-A, Low-A, and individual MLB-affiliated league attendance highlights will be noted here. But comparisons with 2019 are almost meaningless, and will rarely be made. However, to illustrate what league gains and losses were like during normal times, such as 2019 vs. 2018, and prior seasons, this section from the 2019 Minor League Baseball Attendance Analysis is reproduced below the 2021 data. Remember that all of these 2019 MLB-affiliated leagues were either reorganized or eliminated for the 2021 season. More independent league data will be found in the Independent Leagues section, later on in this report.

2021 League and Team Attendance Leaders

- J Triple-A East had the most teams, the most dates played, and the highest total attendance of any league (5,815,744). Triple-A West posted the highest average per team (302,376), and top average per date (4,823) of any league.
- J In Class AA, Double-A Northeast had the most teams and the best total (2,360,148). Double-A Central had the highest average attendance per team (224,776), and the best average per date (3,882).
- J The Central had the top High-A total (1,994,854), average per team (166,239), and average per date (2,899).
- J Best drawing Low-A league was the East (1,799,442 total, 149,954 average per team, 2,646 average per date).
- J In the independent leagues, the Mexican League (18 teams), had the top total (1,446,929), and average per date (2,826). The Atlantic League, with the longest independent schedule, had the top average per team (142,334).
- J Nashville had the highest total attendance (436,868) and average per date (6,721) of any MLB-affiliated team, followed by Las Vegas (428,369 – 6,590 per date), El Paso (403,657 – 6,407 per date), and Columbus (393,879 – 6,457 per date). Dayton, Worcester and St. Paul also topped 6,000 per date. 19 teams drew at least 300,000, and 17 teams drew 5,000+ in average per date.
- J Among the independent teams, Long Island had the highest total attendance (224,120), followed by Tijuana (196,471), Lancaster, PA (182,132), and Kane County, IL (177,705). Tijuana had the top average per date (7,557), followed by Monterrey, Mexico (4,657), Saltillo (4,034) and Long Island (4,002).

Attendance Increases - 2021 vs. 2019

- J Due to conditions mentioned earlier, few teams, and only one MLB-affiliated league, had 2021 vs. 2019 attendance increases. Double-A South teams were up 55 in average per date, compared to what those same teams drew in 2019. Excluding teams that relocated to new markets, 3 MLB-affiliated teams achieved 2021 vs. 2019 gains in total attendance, and 6 teams were up in average per date.
- J Kannapolis, in their new park, more than doubled their 2019 attendance, with the total up 86,100, and average per date gaining 1,567. Quad Cities had a 12,358 gain in total attendance, and a 341 average per date increase. Fredericksburg's new park total attendance was up 6,597 and average per date rose by 230, compared to what they drew in nearby Woodbridge, VA in 2019. Myrtle Beach had a 127 increase in average per date. Dunedin (up 55), and Palm Beach (up 8), also had average per date gains while playing a reduced schedule of 2021 home games with fans permitted to attend. Dunedin played in Clearwater in 2019, while their regular home park was reconstructed.
- J Rocket City (Madison, Alabama) had huge gains (up 179,771 in total, up 4,141 in average per date) from their 2019 attendance in Mobile. Wichita's total attendance was 53,138 higher, and their average per date was up 1,082, from what this team drew in New Orleans in 2019. Worcester was up 31,549 and 891 per date vs. 2019 Pawtucket.
- J In the independent leagues, Milwaukee had the biggest gains in total attendance (20,282) and average per date (325) vs. 2019, when their new ballpark was not ready at the start of the season. Great Falls was up 15,769. Garden City, KS, Sioux City, IA, Great Falls, Alpine, Schaumburg, Santa Fe, and Roswell, were all up in both total and average. Billings, Idaho Falls, Missoula, Ogden, and Sussex County also had total attendance increases. Bakersfield, Trinidad, and Monterey, CA rose in average per date. The Pecos League reached record-highs in both categories, and the Pioneer League, playing a longer schedule than in 2019, set new a total attendance record.

Attendance Declines - 2021 vs. 2019

-) A listing of teams with the biggest 2021 attendance declines vs. 2019 would totally lack context. Some teams were much more affected by Covid-19 restrictions than others. In general, the teams that usually draw best, had the most to lose from the unique circumstances of 2021, and mostly, they did suffer the worst attendance losses.

MLB-Affiliated League 2021 Attendance Summaries

-) **Triple-A** – The 30 Triple-A teams drew a combined 8,839,499 in **2021**, averaging 294,650 per team, and 4,796 per date. There were 101 lost dates. In 2019, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 13,621,821, an average of 6,808 per date. They had 158 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 30 teams that played in Class AAA in **2019** drew 13,500,376, averaging 6,697 per date that year.
-) **Triple-A East** – 20 teams. The league consisted of all 14 teams that played in the International League in 2019, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, who moved from the Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, who came in from the Class AA Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in 2019.
-) Triple-A East drew 5,815,744, the highest total of any league, averaging 290,737 per team, and 4,783 per date. The league had 80 lost dates. 10 teams drew over 300,000, and 9 averaged at least 5,000 per date. In 2019, the same 20 teams drew 8,891,720, averaging 6,762 per date. These 20 teams played 99 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 2019, the 14-team International League drew 6,445,838, and averaged 6,887 per date.
-) **Nashville drew 436,868, the best total of any Minor League team in 2021, and averaged 6,721 per date, the top average among all MLB-affiliated teams.** The Sounds drew over 10,000 at 9 of their home dates.
-) **Triple-A West** – 10 teams. 9 of the teams in this league played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
-) Total 2021 attendance was 3,023,755. The average attendance per team (302,376), and average per date (4,823), were the highest of any league. In 2019, this league's 2021 teams drew 4,730,101, averaging 6,895 per date. These teams played 59 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. They had 21 lost dates in 2021. Total 2019 attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.
-) **Double-A** – The 30 Class AA teams drew a combined 6,097,985 in **2021**, averaging 203,266 per team, and 3,694 per date, with 137 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, no matter what league they played in, drew 8,877,600 averaging 4,459 per date. These teams played 340 fewer 2021 dates than in 2019. Class AA teams drew 8,782,607 in 2019, an average of 4,429 per date.
-) **Double-A Central** – 10 teams. All 8 teams from the 2019 Texas League are now in this league, along with San Antonio, who played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
-) The league drew a 2021 total of 2,247,762, with just 20 lost dates, averaging 224,776 per team, and 3,882 per date. Both average per team and average per date were best among the 3 Double-A leagues. Teams in this league had a 2019 total attendance of 3,316,756, and averaged 4,899 per date. The 10 AA Central teams had a combined 98 fewer dates played in 2021 than in 2019. Texas League teams drew 2,791,180 in 2019, averaging 5,131 per date.
-) **Double-A Northeast** – 12 teams. 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League.
-) In 2021, the league drew 2,360,148 with 68 lost dates, averaging 196,679 per team, and 3,653 per date. These 12 teams had a 2019 attendance of 3,753,060, averaging 4,757 per date. They played 143 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The Eastern League drew 3,749,124 in 2019, and averaged 4,764 per date.
-) **Double-A South** – 8 teams, all of whom played in the Southern League in 2019.
-) Drew 1,490,075 in 2021, an average of 186,259 per team, and 3,498 per date. **The average per date rose by 55 vs. 2019, the only increase in either total attendance or average per date by an MLB-affiliated league in 2021.** 49 dates were lost. These same 8 teams had a total of 1,807,784 and a 3,443 average per date in 2019. They played 99 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. The 10-team 2019 Southern League drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**MLB-Affiliated League 2021 Attendance Summaries**

-) **Class High-A** – The 30 High-A teams drew a combined total of 4,179,131 in **2021**, an average of 139,304 per team, and 2,461 per date, with 94 lost dates. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, regardless of what league they played in, drew 6,550,350, an average of 3,797 per date. These teams played just 27 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. This reduction in the number of dates is so small because the High-A West teams all played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019. High-A consisted of the Florida State, California, and Carolina Leagues in 2019. Those 3 leagues drew a combined total of 4,234,494 in 2019, and averaged 2,188 per date.
-) **High-A Central** – 12 teams. All of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019.
-) Total 2021 attendance was 1,994,854, with an average per team of 166,238, and an average per date of 2,899, all of which were best among High-A leagues. There were 30 lost dates. The same 12 teams drew 3,094,931 in 2019, averaging 3,883 per date. These teams played 109 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 16-team Midwest League drew 3,824,807 in 2019, with an average of 3,612 per date.
-) **High-A East** – 12 teams. Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, came from the South Atlantic League. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
-) Drew 1,662,465 in 2021, averaging 138,539 per team, and 2,481 per date. 49 dates were lost. The same 12 teams drew 2,550,443 in 2019, and averaged 3,643 per date. These teams had 30 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. 3 teams in this league played short-season schedules in 2019, and those 3 teams played a combined 58 more dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) **High-A West** – 6 teams, all of whom played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019.
-) This league drew 521,812, averaging 86,969 per team, and 1,535 per date. There were 15 lost dates. In 2019, the same 6 teams drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. The 6 teams played a combined 112 more dates in 2021 than in 2019, when they were in a short-season league with a 76-game schedule. The 2019 Northwest League, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.
-) **Class Low-A** – The 30 Low-A teams drew a combined 2,972,399 in **2021**, averaging 99,080 per team, and 1,833 per date. 171 dates were lost. In **2019**, these same 30 teams, in whatever league they played in, drew 4,690,339, an average of 2,395 per date. The 30 teams played 336 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues were the Low-A leagues in 2019, and they drew a combined 6,803,525, averaging 3,407 per date.
-) **Low-A East** – 12 teams, 7 came from the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League.
-) 2021 attendance was 1,799,442, an average of 149,954 per team, and an average of 2,646 per date. These were the highest figures among the Low-A leagues. There were 37 lost dates. In 2019, the same 12 teams drew 2,366,810, averaging 2,973 per date. They had 116 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) **Low-A Southeast** – 10 teams, all from the Florida State League.
-) Drew 467,920, an average of 46,792 per team, and an average of 987 per date in 2021. 122 dates were lost, the most of any league in 2021. The lost dates figure includes games played with no fans in attendance. In 2019, the same 10 teams drew 824,223, an average of 1,334 per date. They had 144 fewer dates with fans in attendance in 2021 than in 2019. The 2019 Florida State League drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.
-) **Low-A West** – 8 teams. 7 teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Pacific Coast League.
-) The league's total 2021 attendance was 705,037, averaging 88,130 per team, and 1,506 per date, with 12 lost dates. The same 8 teams drew 1,499,306 in 2019, an average of 2,756 per date. These teams played 76 fewer 2021 dates compared to 2019. The California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811 in 2019, averaging 2,342 per date.

2021 vs. 2019 COMPARISONS - A listing of 2021 and 2019 total attendance for each MLB-affiliated team and league can be found starting on page 160. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 200.

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**MLB-AFFILIATED 2019 SEASON – LEAGUE GAINS AND LOSSES**

- J **Total MLB-Affiliated attendance rose 2.6% in 2019. It was the 6th increase in the last 8 years. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 36 times in the last 45 years.**
- J **The 2019 total attendance of 41,504,077 was up 1,053,740 from 2018. 2019 was the 15th straight year above 40 million. Average per date was 4,044, up 84, and the average per team was 235,819, up 5,988.**
- J The 160 United States/Canadian teams drew 36,885,946 in 2019, up 207,412 (0.6%). They averaged 3,945 per date, up 23 (0.6%). **The 16 Mexican League teams, drew a league record-high 4,618,131, up a Minor League-best 846,238 (22.4%). Their average per date of 5,058 was also a league record-high, and up 682 (15.6%).** The Mexican League teams played a 120-game regular season schedule in 2019, compared to 114 games in 2018.
- J As detailed earlier in this report, bad weather was a significant factor in the 2018 attendance decline. Early season weather was significantly warmer in 2019, but the number of postponements over the full season was still high.
- J The 14 U.S. leagues had 516 lost dates in 2019, compared to 523 in 2018, 504 in 2017, and 422 in 2016. These leagues had a combined 4 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018. The total number of dates played (single-admission doubleheaders count as one date) was 9,349 in 2019, the lowest since 2003. The 2019 total NAPBL figure of 10,262 dates is 47 more than in 2018, and 46 more than in 2017. But it is 88 less than in 2016, and 143 less than in 2012. The U.S. number of dates in 2019 (9,349) is down 4 from 2018, 43 from 2017, down 153 from 2016, 174 from 2015, 151 from 2014, 207 from 2012, and 242 from 2010. U.S./Canadian teams had 9,556 dates in 2012, and 9,591 dates in 2010.
- J The number of postponed weekend dates (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, holidays) was 253 in 2019, down from 266 in 2018. But there were only 215 weekend postponements in 2017, and 212 in 2016.
- J Major League Baseball attendance had gone up vs. the previous season in 25 of 45 years, through 2019.
- J MLB-Affiliated Minor League attendance dropped in 2009, after 5 straight record-setting seasons. Prior to 2004, the all-time record was 39,640,443, set in 1949, when there were 448 teams in 59 leagues. In 2019, there were 176 teams in the 15 MLB-Affiliated leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 19 seasons, through 2019, had 19 of the 20 highest totals in the 118-year history of the NAPBL Minor Leagues.** 1949 was the other year.
- J Minor League attendance declined very sharply through the 1950's, and most leagues and teams disbanded. By 1964, only 20 leagues overall, and 128 teams who charged admission, were left. A post World War II low period of NAPBL attendance occurred from 1960 to 1975. During those years, attendance was basically flat – ranging from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 11,134,084 in 1971. Among the causes of the huge drop of Minor League attendance during this period were television, Major League expansion, easier access to Major League ballparks, fewer Minor League teams, a rise in popularity of other sports, and home air conditioning.
- J Another factor in the attendance decline, according to an article by Mitchell Manoff of the Society for Baseball Research, was that many of the cities with Minor League teams in the late 1940's and early 1950's, were too small to support them. Some had ballparks that were in poor condition, and did not promote their teams well enough.
- J 2019 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 235,819. 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.
- J In addition to the 846,328 increase by the Mexican League, 7 other leagues had increases in total attendance in 2019. The Pacific Coast League was up 132,728 (1.9%), the Texas League gained 113,883 (4.3%), Carolina League total attendance rose 117,268 (6.2%), and the South Atlantic League increased 71,421 (2.5%).
- J **The Northwest League drew a record-high 1,115,614, up 25,684 (2.4%), and didn't have any postponements. Appalachian League attendance rose 21,330 (5.5%) to its highest level since 1994. The Pioneer League had its 3rd best total ever, and posted a gain of 116,931 (19.4%).**

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**MLB-AFFILIATED 2019 SEASON – LEAGUE GAINS AND LOSSES**

-) The Eastern, Northwest, and Appalachian Leagues had the only MLB-Affiliated total attendance increases in 2018. Total attendance rose in 2017 for 11 of the 15 MLB-Affiliated leagues. Only the Mexican League was up in 2016. There were 8 leagues with gains in 2015. 11 leagues increased their total attendance in 2014, 6 leagues rose 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.
-) 7 MLB-Affiliated leagues had total attendance declines in 2019. The largest was 112,914 (2.9%) by the Midwest League, in part, due to bad weather and flooding early in the season. The Florida State League was also hit hard by bad weather, and their total dipped 92,074 (9.0%). Hurricane Dorian forced the cancellation of all that league's final weekend games, plus the playoffs. International League total attendance fell 14,278 (0.2%), the Eastern League was down 18,547 (0.5%), the Southern League slipped 19,531 (0.9%), the California League was down 60,346 (4.5%), with an unusually high number of postponements for that league, and the New York-Penn League fell 74,143 (5.3%).
-) 12 MLB-Affiliated leagues posted total attendance declines in 2018. The largest was by the Mexican League, down 270,802 (6.7%), despite playing a slightly longer schedule. The Pacific Coast League, down 228,658 (3.2%), and the International League, down 211,554 (3.2%), each had 140 scheduled games per team, down from 142 in 2017. The Carolina, Florida State, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues each were down at least 125,000. The Florida State League had the largest total attendance percentage loss in the NAPBL, down 11.5%.
-) Just 4 leagues had total attendance declines in 2017, and in the case of the California League, down 135,476 for the biggest loss, it was due to 2 of their teams moving to the Carolina League. The 8 teams that played in the California League in both 2017 and 2016 had a combined 0.3% increase. The only other leagues with 2017 losses were the International, Midwest, New York-Penn Leagues.
-) In 2019, the Pacific Coast League reached 7 million in attendance for the 11th time in the last 15 years. That league's total exceeded 6.6 million, with an average per date above 6,000 for the 20th year in a row. The International League topped 6.3 million in total attendance for the 22nd straight year, and their average per date reached 6,000 for the 28th year in a row.
-) **In average attendance per date, 8 of the 15 leagues achieved gains in 2019, led by a 682 increase by the Mexican League to a record-high 5,058. The Northwest, up 73, and the Pioneer, up 434, also set new league records for average per date. The Appalachian, up 12, had its best average per date since 1994.** Other leagues with increases were the Pacific Coast (up 164), Southern (up 38), Texas (up 182), and Carolina (up 223).
-) The biggest league average per date loss was by the South Atlantic, down 109. Also having declines were the International (15), Eastern (29), California (57), Florida State (91), Midwest (99), and New York-Penn (89).
-) 4 leagues had 2018 average per date gains. The Appalachian League average was up 139, the Pioneer League gained 24, the Eastern League rose by 20, and the Northwest League was up 3, to a league record-high 3,597. The Mexican League, down 530, had the largest drop in average per date in 2018. The Carolina League was down 213, the International League fell by 180, the Florida State League dipped 175, the Pacific Coast League was down 174, Southern League average attendance declined 170, the New York-Penn League had a 103 dip, and the Texas League was down 102. Down less than 100 per date were the California, Midwest, and South Atlantic Leagues.
-) 11 leagues had average per date increases in 2017. Only the Northwest and Mexican Leagues were up in 2016. In 2015, 2014 and 2013, there were 8 leagues up each year in average per date. Only 3 leagues had gains in average per date in 2012. 7 leagues were up in 2011, and 4 leagues had increases in 2010 and 2009.
-) Only Tijuana and Las Vegas topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2019. 4 teams in 2018, 6 in 2017, 7 in 2016, 5 in 2015, 6 in 2014, 5 in 2013 and 3 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 in 1987.
-) 16 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2019. The number of teams over 500,000 was 15 in 2018, 16 in 2017, 19 in 2016, 17 in 2015, 15 in 2014, 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. No team reached 500,000 in 2021.

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**MLB-AFFILIATED 2019 SEASON – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- J At least one team has reached 500,000 every year, except 2021, since Columbus did it in 1979. But prior to 1979, the 1967 Mexico City Red Devils were the last team to hit 500,000. The last U.S. teams to draw that high prior to 1979 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.
- J **Tijuana of the Mexican League had the highest total (677,464) and average per date (11,291) in 2019.**
- J **Las Vegas opened a new park in 2019, and had the best total (650,934), and average per date (9,299), among all U.S. and Canadian teams.**
- J Charlotte drew 619,639 to lead all Minor League teams in total attendance in 2018. The Knights also led all U.S. teams with an 8,980 average per date. It was the 4th time since 2014 that Charlotte has been the U.S. average per date leader, and the Knights were 2nd best in 2017. They drew a 7th best total of 581,006 in 2019.
- J Monterrey of the Mexican League drew 659,791 (11,575 per date) in 2017 to lead Minor League Baseball in total attendance for the 4th time since 2006. But the Sultanes also had the worst average per date decline of any team. In 2018, Monterrey averaged 10,059 per date to lead all teams for the 8th time since 2006, but also had the 3rd worst drop in average per date in affiliated leagues. They had the 2nd best average (9,770) in 2019, and the 9th best total.
- J After leading all U.S. teams in total attendance in 2016 and 2017, Indianapolis fell a total of just 517-short of Charlotte for the lead in 2018. The Indians drew 619,122, and a 4th best 8,845 average per date. In 2013, the Indians led all of the Minors in total attendance. In 2019, Indianapolis ranked 5th in total (586,860), and 7th in average (8,630).
- J Columbus drew a 4th best total of 590,504, topping 500,000 for a record-high 33rd time.
- J Round Rock totaled 597,928 (3rd highest for 2019) in its 15th AAA season, after setting both a Class AA and Texas League record for 5 consecutive years. The Express have drawn over 610,000 each year since 2000, except 2010, 2012-2015, 2019, and 2021. They topped 589,000 in all 20 of their seasons through 2019.
- J Nashville drew a team record-high 603,135, averaging 8,741 per date in 2018, and 578,291 (8,631 per date) in 2019. In 2017, the Sounds broke a team record for attendance, set in 1980, when they played in the Class AA Southern League.
- J Lehigh Valley, which topped U.S./Canadian teams in both 2011 and 2012, attracted 585,110 in 2019. The Iron Pigs drew an average per date that is higher than their park's seating capacity in all 12 of their seasons through 2019.
- J Buffalo surpassed 500,000 for the 32nd straight year, record for consecutive seasons above 500,000.
- J Sacramento topped 500,000 for the 20th straight year.
- J Toledo's streak of 17 years in a row above 500,000 ended, in part, due to bad weather.
- J Albuquerque reached 500,000 for the 17th straight season.
- J Among Class AA teams, Frisco drew 455,765, leading Class AA for the 15th straight year. Amarillo, Richmond, and Hartford also topped 400,000. Reading just fell short of that level.
- J Dayton (Midwest) sold out all 1,385 regular-season home dates they played through 2019, a sellout streak that is the longest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 545,108 in 2019 to lead Class A, and top 500,000, for the 20th year in a row. No other Class A team reached 400,000, but West Michigan and Fort Wayne came closest. 10 Class A teams topped 300,000 in 2019. 9 Class A clubs reached this level in 2018, and 13 teams did it in 2017.
- J Vancouver drew 235,980, best among all short-season teams for the 4th straight year. Spokane also topped 200,000. Brooklyn led the short-season teams in attendance for 15 straight years through 2015.

MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**MLB-AFFILIATED 2019 SEASON – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

-) 15 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 in 2019. 14 of these teams did it in 2018, and 15 reached this level in 2017. 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. **2019 was the final year for short-season leagues.**
-) 14 full-season teams drew under 100,000 in 2019. 9 of the teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 16 in 2018, 14 in 2017, 17 in 2016, 13 in 2015, 11 in 2014, 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, as did 59 teams in 1975, and 78 teams in 1965.
-) Gwinnett (212,342), and New Orleans, who moved to Wichita in 2021 (188,092), were the Class AAA teams drawing under 300,000 in 2019. 2009 was the only year that every Class AAA team topped 300,000. The last Class AAA team to draw under 200,000 in a season until Gwinnett in 2018 was Ottawa in 2007, who drew 126,894. The 1988 Maine Phillies (Old Orchard Beach), who drew 80,071, were the last Class AAA team that failed to reach 100,000.
-) Mobile had the lowest AA attendance (95,087), but also had the largest increase in Class AA. They moved to Madison, AL in 2021, and became the Rocket City Trash Pandas. Binghamton, Biloxi, Jackson TN, and Mississippi, were the other Class AA teams that drew less than 200,000.
-) Dunedin, who was displaced from their regular ballpark in 2019 due to construction, had the lowest total among full-season teams (11,757). They moved back to their rebuilt regular home park in 2021. Florida (Kissimmee) drew 19,645. They were to play in North Port, at the Atlanta Braves Spring Training park, in 2020, but were not in the Minor Leagues in 2021. All other Class A teams topped 50,000.
-) Bristol of the Rookie Appalachian League drew 18,750 for the lowest 2019 short-season attendance.
-) Low totals in the Mexican League were 87,146 by Campeche, and 112,077 by Aguascalientes. These same teams had the low totals in the Mexican League in 2018 as well.

League and Individual Team Data

The large section starting on the next page has 2021 and historical attendance data for every team. It is sorted by 2021 leagues, but has historical data for its primarily corresponding pre-2021 leagues as noted below:

2021 League	Pre-2021 League		2021 League	Pre-2021 League
Triple-A East	International		High-A East	South Atlantic
Triple-A West	Pacific Coast		High-A Central	Midwest
Double-A Northeast	Eastern		High-A West	Northwest
Double-A South	Southern		Low-A East	Carolina
Double-A Central	Texas		Low-A Southeast	Florida State
			Low-A West	California

Historical data for the now-defunct New York-Penn League is at the end of the MLB-affiliated section.

The Pioneer and Mexican Leagues are now professional independent leagues and all their notes are in the independent leagues section. The Appalachian League is now an MLB-Partner Summer Collegiate League. 2021 and historical data for the Appalachian and MLB-Draft Leagues, can be found in the Collegiate Summer Leagues section at the end of this report. 2021 attendance and historical information for other 2019 Minor League teams now playing in Collegiate Summer Leagues, or not playing in 2021, are also in that section.

The team notes for the MLB-affiliated, and the Atlantic, Mexican, and Appalachian Leagues, note the number of dates that drew what are considered 'large crowds' for each team. A definition of a 'large crowd' varies by team, based on league classification, ballpark capacity, and the team's attendance history. For 2021, the definition of a 'large crowd' has been lowered due to reduced capacity at the start of the season, and smaller crowds overall. For nearly all teams, it would have been almost impossible to have as many 'big crowds' in 2021, as they would've had in a 'normal' season.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – (20 teams – 130-game schedule in 2021, 150-game schedule in 2022)

- J The league consisted of all 14 teams that played in the International League in 2019, plus Iowa, Memphis, Nashville, and Omaha, who moved from the Pacific Coast League, Jacksonville, who came in from the Class AA Southern League, and St. Paul, who played in the independent American Association in 2019.
- J Triple-A East drew 5,815,744, the highest total of any league, averaging 290,737 per team, and 4,783 per date. The league had 80 lost dates. 10 teams drew over 300,000, and 9 averaged at least 5,000 per date. In 2019, the same 20 teams drew 8,891,720, averaging 6,762 per date. These 20 teams played 99 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 2019, the 14-team International League drew 6,445,838, and averaged 6,887 per date.
- J **Nashville drew 436,868, the best total of any Minor League team in 2021, and averaged 6,721 per date, the top average among all MLB-affiliated teams.** (Tijuana of the now-independent Mexican League averaged 7,557 per date in 2021.) The Sounds had no lost dates in 2021. They drew over 10,000 at 9 of their home dates, and topped 8,000 at 22 dates, with a Triple-A East high of 11,686 on July 4. 10 games were sold out, making it 108 sellouts in 6 seasons at First Horizon Park (formerly First Tennessee Park).
- J Although in **2019**, Nashville didn't reach the record highs of a year earlier, they still had the 8th best total, and the 6th best average per date in the Minor Leagues. Total attendance was down 24,844 to 578,291, with 2 fewer dates, and average per date fell by 110 to 8,631. There were a team-high 23 sellouts. 38 dates drew above 8,000, including those 23 sellouts of 10,000+. Total attendance topped 500,000, and average per date was above 7,000, each year from 2015 through 2019. Nashville also reached these levels every year from 1979 through 1982, and in 1990.
- J Nashville set a team total attendance record for the 2nd straight year in 2018, reaching 603,135, up 9,456, with 2 more dates than in 2017. Average per date was a team 2nd best ever 8,741, down 120. It was the 4th best total, and 6th best average per date in the Minors in 2018. 45 dates drew better than 8,000, with 20 dates topping 10,000.
- J 2017 was a record-setting year for Nashville. The Sounds set team highs in total attendance (593,679), and average per date (8,861). Both of these figures were 7th best in the Minors for 2017. This despite playing 4 fewer dates than in 2016. The total attendance gain of 89,619 was the 2nd best in the Minors, and the average per date increase of 1,762 was the highest of any team. There were 22 sellouts. Attendance reached 8,000 at 43 dates, and surpassed 10,000 at 22 dates, with a record-high of 11,764.
- J Nashville's 2nd year at First Horizon Park (2016) was not as successful as the first. Total attendance fell 61,488, which was the 2nd biggest loss (Sacramento), among U.S. teams. The average per date decline of 866 was 2nd worst among U.S. teams (Staten Island). But the total 504,060 was still 7th best in team history, and the average per date of 7,099 was 2nd best since 1990. The Sounds had 14 sellouts.
- J In 2015, Nashville moved to a new park, and had the best gain among U.S. teams in total attendance (up 241,587), and in average per date (up 3,056). Only Yucatan of the Mexican League had a better increase in those two categories. The Sounds drew 565,548, averaging 7,965 per date, with 19 sellouts. Until 2017, that had been their highest Class AAA attendance. In 1990, they drew 556,250, but attendance had not reached 420,000 since 1993.
- J Nashville's old highs were in 1980, when they drew a Minor League high for that season 575,676 (8,180 per date) in the Class AA Southern League, at Herschel Greer Stadium. Average per date was 8,343 in 1980. The Sounds were the first Class AA team to draw 500,000, doing it each year from 1979 through 1982.
- J In 1979, Nashville and Columbus became the first clubs to reach 500,000 since the 1967 Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) of Mexico City, and 1949 Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle of the Pacific Coast League. In 37 years at Greer Stadium, they drew 14,453,823, including playoffs, in 2,613 dates, averaging 5,532 per date. The final game at Greer drew 11,067, which was the largest there since 2007, and the first sellout since 2010. First Horizon Park, like Greer Stadium, has a guitar-shaped scoreboard in recognition of Nashville's role as 'Music City.'
- J First Horizon Park was built on the same location as the historic Sulphur Dell ballpark, which was home to Nashville's Minor League teams from 1901 through 1961, and 1963. It was demolished in 1969, and replaced by a parking lot. ("They paved paradise, and put up a parking lot." -- Lyrics from 'Big Yellow Taxi,' sung by Joni Mitchell.)

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **Columbus** drew a total of 393,879 in **2021** which was the 4th highest total in all Minor Leagues. Average per date was an MLB-affiliated 3rd best, and an all-Minor Leagues 4th best 6,457. There were 4 lost dates. 5 dates drew a full-capacity 10,100, and attendance topped 8,000 at 16 dates. Reduced capacity was in effect for their first 12 dates.
-) In **2019**, the Clippers led the International League in attendance, and had the 4th best total attendance and average per date in Minor League Baseball. The total of 590,504 was up 3,437, and average per date was 8,684, up 51. Attendance topped 8,000 at 46 dates, with 23 dates above 10,000. The Clippers had reached 600,000 in 8 seasons from 2009 through 2019.
-) **2019 was also the 15th straight year that the Clippers reached 500,000. They've topped 500,000 more often than any team, doing it 33 times in 41 years from 1979 through 2019.** (They were tied with Louisville after 2017.) In 1979, Columbus and Nashville became the first teams to draw at least 500,000 since the 1967 Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) of Mexico City, and 1949 Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle. The Clippers had been above 450,000 for 36 consecutive seasons through 2019. Average per date in Columbus was over 8,600 each year from 2009-2019. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
-) The **Charlotte** Knights had a total attendance of 345,305 (9th best among MLB-affiliates), and averaged 5,569 per date (11th best) in **2021**. 3 dates were lost. Top crowd was 10,969, and 10 dates drew over 8,000.
-) **2019** was a bit of a down year for Charlotte, but they still drew great. Their total was a 7th best 581,006, down 38,633, which was the 7th worst affiliated loss, and average per date slipped 436 to a 9th best 8,544. 12 dates sold out, drawing at least 10,000, with a record-high of 10,848, and 48 dates topped 8,000. Since moving into Truist Field in 2014, **through 2021**, the Knights have drawn 4,159,762 in 480 dates, averaging 8,666 per date, with 147 sellouts.
-) Charlotte led the Minors in total attendance in 2018, drawing 619,639, and averaging 8,980 per date. It was their 5th straight year above 600,000. The average per date was the best among all U.S./Canadian teams, topped only by Monterrey and Tijuana of the Mexican League. There were 23 sellouts and 52 dates drew at least 8,000.
-) In 2014, Charlotte moved from the suburb of Fort Mill, SC to the City of Charlotte, and their new ballpark was a huge success. The Knights led all of the Minor Leagues in attendance in 2014. They drew a team-record high 687,715, the 3rd best total ever for an I.L. team, and averaged a U.S. best 9,686 per date. They had 31 sellouts. In 1998, Buffalo drew 743,463, and in 2005, Pawtucket drew 688,421. Buffalo, from 1988 through 1996, and Louisville, from 1982 through 1984, also drew higher than Charlotte did in 2014. In those years, Buffalo and Louisville were in the old Class AAA American Association whose teams moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.
-) Charlotte had the top total attendance increase of 2014, up 432,881, which also was the 3rd best gain ever for a Minor League team that moved to a new park in the same market. (Buffalo, up 650,891 in 1988, and Memphis, up 462,512 in 2000.) Prior to 2014, the only time Charlotte topped 400,000 was in 1993, when they drew 403,029.
-) In 2015, Charlotte had the highest average per date (9,428) of any Minor League team, and drew a total of 669,398 to finish 2nd in total attendance to Sacramento. The Knights had 31 sellouts in 2015. **2016 was the 3rd straight year that Charlotte led all U.S. teams in average per date.** They had 25 sellouts.
-) Charlotte drew 628,526 in 2017, their 3rd best total ever. The Knights' total and average per date (9,109) were 2nd best among all U.S. teams. 23 dates were sold out. Attendance topped 9,000 at 43 dates in 2017.
-) In **2021, Rochester** drew 219,941, and averaged 3,728 per date, with 6 lost dates. The largest crowd was 6,859.
-) **Rochester's** attendance topped 400,000 for the 23rd consecutive year in **2019**, reaching 451,853, up 13,879. The only year above 400,000 prior to this streak was 1949. However, Rochester led all U.S. teams in attendance in 6 seasons between 1962 and 1975. They reached 300,000 in 39 of the last 50 seasons through 2019, which is quite good, considering that Minor League attendance was much lower 50 years ago. The Red Wings are a community-owned team. The Red Wings' average per date rose 309 to 6,846 in 2019, their 24th year in a row above 6,000. In 2019, Rochester achieved its highest total since 2010, and highest average per date since 2008. 19 dates drew at least 8,000, with 7 of them topping 7,000.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **Gwinnett** drew **2021** Triple-A lows of 162,494 in total attendance, and 2,754 in average per date. There were 6 lost dates. Top crowd was 5,454.
-) Gwinnett, ending 7 straight years of declines, drew 212,342, in **2019**, up 16,387. It was the 5th year in a row below 300,000. Total 2019 attendance was down 211,214 (49.9%) from the team's first year in 2009. 2019 average per date rose 107 to 3,169. But that's down 2,797 from 5,966 in 2009. 24 dates drew under 2,000, and only 11 dates topped 5,000. The team is named the Stripers after a type of Bass in Lake Lanier. Be careful to spell the team's name with only one 'p.' Otherwise, fans may be expecting a less family-friendly form of entertainment.
-) **Iowa's 2021** total attendance was 314,749, and average per date was 5,246. 6 dates drew over 8,000, and there were 5 lost dates. The largest attendance was 10,057.
-) The Iowa Cubs had a rebound in **2019**, after weather helped cause a significant decline in 2018. Total attendance rose 25,774 to 489,173, and average per date was up 170 to 7,526. There were 2 more dates. The Cubs had plenty of big crowds, with 27 dates topping 8,000, and 15 of them drawing better than 10,000.
-) In 2017, Iowa's total attendance rose 31,500 to 535,660, and average per date was up 349 to 7,763. Those were the best figures for the Cubs since 2009, and the 5th best total in team history. There were 38 dates with attendance of at least 7,000, and at 17 dates, the crowd was better than 10,000. The Cubs reached 300,000 in attendance for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every normal year thereafter. They topped 500,000 in 12 of 18 seasons, from 1992 through 2019. In 1981, they drew only 124,371. Since 2002, average per date has been 7,000+ every year except 2013 and 2021, and above 6,000 every year since at least 1992, again excluding 2021.
-) 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.
-) **Indianapolis** drew 353,729 (8th best among MLB-affiliated teams) in **2021**, and an average per date of 5,799 (9th best). 4 dates were lost. 9 dates drew over 8,000 with a high of 10,869.
-) Despite some tough weather in **2019**, Indianapolis, as usual, drew very well. The Indians' total of 586,860 (down 32,262), was the 5th best in the Minors, and their average per date of 8,630 (down 215), was 7th best. They had 2 fewer dates than in 2018. Attendance reached 8,000 at 37 dates, with 26 of them drawing at least 10,000.
-) **The Indians surpassed 535,000 for 24 straight years through 2019, and have reached 600,000 in 12 seasons since 1997. Indianapolis has drawn 10,000+ for 318 dates from 2006 through 2021. They averaged 8,000+ per date in 22 of 24 years through 2019, including every year from 2007-2019. In 7 of these seasons, their average per date has reached 9,000. Victory Field's capacity is 14,200. The Indians were the Ballpark Digest 2018 Team of the Year, in part, due to their outstanding attendance.**
-) Indianapolis drew 619,122 in total attendance in 2018, averaging 8,845 per date, the 2nd best total of any team, and the 4th best average per date (2nd best U.S.). Only Charlotte, whose total topped Indy by just 517, drew better.
-) **Indianapolis led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the first time ever in 2013, drawing 637,579. Then they drew a team record-high 660,289 in 2014, and topped that by drawing 662,536 in 2015, the 3rd best Minor League total. In 2016, despite a rainy summer, Indianapolis drew 636,888 to lead all U.S. teams. In 2017, Indianapolis drew 641,141 in total attendance, averaging 9,159 per date, the best figures of any U.S. team. Among all MLB-affiliated teams, it was the 2nd best total, and 4th highest average per date.**
-) **Syracuse** had a 215,336 total, with an average per date of 3,845, in **2021**. The Mets lost 9 dates, and the largest crowd was 9,669. 10 dates drew at least 5,000.
-) In **2019**, Syracuse had its best attendance since 2013, and the 8th best increase in both total attendance and average per date. Total attendance rose a league-high 50,146 to 327,478. Average per date was 4,962, up 760, the largest gain in the league. Average per date was under 5,000 for the 6th year in a row, after reaching that figure each year from 1997 through 2013. 6 dates topped 8,000.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **2021** was the first season as an MLB-affiliated team for the **St. Paul Saints**. The Saints had played in the independent Northern League (1993-2005) and since 2006, in the American Association. They were the most successful team in terms of attendance, among modern independent teams.
-) In **2021**, the Saints drew 393,394, and averaged 6,052 per date. That was the 5th best total and 7th best average per date among the MLB-affiliated teams. There were no lost dates. The Saints played 16 more dates in 2021, than they did in 2019 in the independent American Association. 10 dates topped 8,000, with a high of 10,022. Despite the early-season capacity restrictions, the Saints had 17-above capacity crowds in 2021.
-) St. Paul did play some 'home' games in **2020** with very limited attendance, in the American Association.
-) In **2015**, St. Paul, in their new ballpark, drew **404,528**, the best total among independent teams, and a record-high for the team and for the American Association. This was the highest total ever for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other leagues. The Saints averaged **8,091** per date, which was a record-high for any independent team. The old record was 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003. 46 of the 50 dates in St. Paul drew better than CHS Field's 7,210 seating capacity. Attendance was at least 1,000 above the seating capacity at 18 games, topped by a crowd of 10,430.
-) In **2016**, the Saints did even better! They drew a league-record high total of 413,482, and an independent leagues record-high average per date of 8,438. 47 of 49 dates drew above the CHS Field capacity of 7,210. 37 dates drew at least 8,000, with 29 dates at least 1,000 above seating capacity. Attendance topped 9,000 at 10 dates, led by a crowd of 10,443. Overall, the Saints drew 117% of their park's seating capacity.
-) In 2017, St. Paul attracted 406,501, averaging 8,296 per date. Those figures were once again, the best among all independent teams. 46 of their 49 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity, with attendance topping 8,000 at 36 dates. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143. The Saints drew 115% of their park's seating capacity, which was best in all of the Minors.
-) In 2018, the Saints drew 408,921, and averaged 8,178 per date. Both figures were tops among all independent teams. 45 of 50 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with 32 dates topping 8,000. There were 5 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 9,791. Overall, they drew 113% of their park's seating capacity.
-) In **2019**, the Saints had the best attendance among independent teams for the 5th straight year. They drew **394,970**, down 13,951, averaging **8,061** per date, down 118. 40 of 49 dates drew above their park's seating capacity. Attendance topped 8,000 at 24 dates, with 8 dates reaching 9,000, including a record-high crowd of 10,631. From 2015, their first year at CHS Field, through 2021 and including 2020 reduced capacity, the Saints outdrew the park's seating capacity at 257 of 333 (224 of 247 through 2019) regular season dates.
-) St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. Including 2021, they've topped 235,000 every year except 1993, and the very limited 2020. They led the American Association in total attendance each year from 2006-2010, and from 2015-2019. The Saints once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak. St. Paul was an original member of the Northern League from 1993-2005. They led that league in attendance from 1993-2000, and had the best total attendance of any independent team each year from 1993-1997, and from 2015-2019. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1994-2008, and from 2015-2019. St. Paul had the highest average per date among the independent league teams from 1993-1999, and in 2002, and from 2015 through 2019. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins, who in 2021, became their Major League parent team.
-) Only St. Paul, along with Sioux City and Sioux Falls, were still active in 2021 from the 14 independent teams that played in 1993. That was the year that independent baseball returned. In their 28 seasons (excluding 2020, but including 2021), the Saints have drawn 8,155,076 in 1,291 dates, averaging 291,253 per season, and 6,317 per date.
-) **Norfolk** drew 262,496, averaging 4,303, with 4 lost dates in **2021**. Top crowd was 9,045. 18 dates drew over 5,000.
-) The Tides had a gain of 8,717 in **2019** to 350,086. But average per date fell 30 to 5,304, the lowest since Harbor Park opened in 1993. There were 4 lost dates. 2019 was the 11th straight year below 400,000, after 16 straight years above 400,000, including 7 seasons where attendance exceeded 500,000. The Tides have not reached an average per date of at least 6,000 since 2008. They had topped 6,000 per date for 16 years in a row prior to that.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **Lehigh Valley** (Allentown, PA) had total **2021** attendance of 356,355 (7th best among MLB-affiliated teams), and averaged an 8th best 5,842 per date. There were 4 lost dates. 6 dates drew at least 8,089 (ballpark full seating capacity), and there were 3 dates with a full sellout of 10,100.
-) In **2019**, Lehigh Valley drew 585,110, up 23,365 in 2019. Average per date rose 94 to 8,605. The total was the 6th highest in the Minors in 2019, and the average per date ranked 8th best. The IronPigs (the name comes from 'pig iron' used to make steel) led the Minors in attendance in 2011, and had the best U.S./Canadian total in 2012. They had the U.S. Minors' highest average per date for 3 straight years from 2010 through 2012. **Lehigh Valley, which began play in 2008, was the only team to top 600,000 in each year from 2008 through 2016.** They averaged over 9,000 per date in each year from 2009 through 2014.
-) **Coca Cola Park in Allentown has just 8,089 seats. It is one of the smallest parks in Triple-A. With standing room and lawn seating, combined 2008-2021 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity at 611 (69.2%) of 883 regular season dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 220 dates, including 2021. The 12-year average per date of 8,875 through 2019, was 109.7% of the ballpark's seating capacity. 43 of the 68 dates in 2019 had crowds above seating capacity, with 22 as complete sellouts. The IronPigs won the 2019 Larry MacPhail Award for top promotional effort.**
-) In the table below, "# Dates Cap+" indicates how many dates each season drew higher than Coca Cola Park's 8,089 seating capacity. "# of Full Sellouts" indicates the number of dates where all seats, standing room, and lawn seating tickets were sold out. Initial full capacity was 10,000. In 2012, it was raised to 10,100 tickets.

LEHIGH VALLEY IRONPIGS REGULAR SEASON ATTENDANCE

Year	Total Attendance	# of Dates	Average per Date	# Dates Cap.+	# of Full Sellouts	Notes
2008	602,033	71	8,479	49	12	Moved from Ottawa, attendance up 475,139
2009	641,335	70	9,162	59	26	3 rd best total, 2 nd best avg/date in Minors
2010	645,905	70	9,227	60	21	Minors highest average per date, 2 nd best total
2011	628,925	68	9,249	61	20	Led Minors in total attend. and average per date
2012	622,421	68	9,153	59	15	Best Minors avg./date, top U.S. total attendance
2013	613,075	68	9,016	52	21	Ranked 3 rd in total attendance and average/date
2014	614,888	68	9,042	51	18	5 th in total attendance, 4 th in average per date
2015	613,815	70	8,769	45	19	5 th again in total attend., 7 th in average per date
2016	611,015	70	8,729	47	12	Was 5 th in total attend., 7 th in average per date
2017	555,146	65	8,541	40	13	Ranked 9 th in total and average per date
2018	561,745	66	8,511	39	19	Ranked 7 th in total, 9 th in average per date
2019	585,110	68	8,605	43	22	Ranked 6 th in total, 8 th in average per date
2021	356,355	61	5,842	6	3	Ranked 7 th in total, 8 th in average per date
Total	7,651,768	883	8,666	611	220	Only team to top 600,000 each yr. (2008-16)

-) Not included in the table above are a 2008 exhibition game with the Phillies, the 2010 Triple A Home Run Derby and All-Star Game, 4 playoff games in 2011, and 8 games in 2012 where Scranton-Wilkes Barre was officially the home team. These 15 dates drew a combined 128,520, with 10 above seating capacity, and 4 full sellouts.
-) The Pawtucket Red Sox moved to **Worcester** in **2021**, and were very successful in new Polar Park. The Woosox drew 362,559, up 31,549 from the 2019 attendance in Pawtucket, averaging 6,145, up 891. It was the 6th best total and average among MLB-affiliated teams. The first 12 dates had only 25% capacity allowed, but all were sellouts. 37 of 47 dates with full, or close-to-full, capacity drew at least 6,000. 9 games topped 8,000, with a high of 9,508.
-) Worcester last had a team in the independent Can-Am League from 2005 through 2012. That team's highest total attendance was 124,745 in 2005, and the top average per date was 2,779 in 2006. Prior to 2005, Worcester's last Minor League season with a team was in 1934.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) The 2021 **Buffalo Bisons** had a most unusual year, even for **2021**. The Toronto Blue Jays played their June and July home games in Buffalo, so the Bisons spent the first 3 months of their season playing 'home' games in Trenton.
-) 39 Bisons' **2021** home dates were played in Trenton, and they drew 112,471, averaging 2,884 per date. The first 12 dates each drew a reduced capacity sellout of 1,526. There were 3 lost dates in Trenton, and the largest crowd there was 5,791. After returning to Buffalo, the Bisons had 23 dates there, which drew a total of 88,281, averaging 3,834 per date, with no lost dates. Their largest crowd in Buffalo was 7,233. Combined Trenton/Buffalo attendance for the Bisons was 200,752, an average of 3,238 per date.
-) Buffalo began a new affiliation with the Toronto Blue Jays in 2013, which they hoped would attract more fans from the Canadian side of the Niagara River. The Bisons had an increase in attendance in 2013, a tiny decline in 2014, a gain of 16,028 in 2015, and a 11,452 increase in 2016 to 562,755, their best total since 2010.
-) Weather hit the Bisons hard in 2018, as they had 5 rainouts in April. But the weather was a bit better in **2019**, though 5 April games began with temperatures in the 40's. 2019 total attendance dipped 9,247 to 518,741, and average per date was down 269 to 7,981. **Attendance topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 32nd straight season.** The Bisons have been above 8,000 in average per date in all but 3 'normal' seasons (2011, 2012, 2019) since 1988. They averaged at least 10,000 per date every year from 1988 through 2000. 14 dates in 2019 drew at least 10,000. A Bisons' crowd of 16,409 was the largest at any Minor League game played in the United States or Canada in 2019.
-) Buffalo led the Minors in attendance each year from 1988 through 1999, topping one million 6 times (1988-93), including an all-time Minor League record 1,188,972 (1,240,951 including playoffs) 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. Sahlen Field, their home, seated 17,600 in 2016, 16,907 in 2017 and 2018, and 16,600 in 2019 and 2021, the highest seating capacity of any United States or Canadian Minor League park. The largest crowd ever in this park was 21,050 in 2002, and capacity had been as high as 21,050. But it has been reduced as part of ongoing renovations. 5 games in team history have drawn over 20,000. Monterrey, Tijuana, and Mexico City, all from the Mexican League, have larger-capacity parks than Buffalo.
-) The **Memphis Redbirds** had 2nd lowest **2021** Triple-A attendance (183,217 total, 3,054 average per date). There were 5 lost dates. 8 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 10,076.
-) Memphis posted a 12,723 dip in total attendance to 327,753 in **2019**. It was their 6th straight year under 400,000. Average per date was 4,966, down 41. 8 dates drew over 8,000, with 4 dates reaching 10,000. Unlike in the Major Leagues, winning a championship in the Minor Leagues seems to have little effect on attendance in the following season. (There is a section about that in this report.) The Redbirds won the 2018 Class AAA Championship.
-) 2016 was a rebound year for Memphis. The Redbirds increased their total attendance by 46,002 to 324,581, and their average per date by 667 to 4,704. These were the biggest increases of any U.S./Canadian-based team that year. Both were also 16.5% increases, which were the best percentage gains of any full-season U.S. team. Memphis recently updated their highly-acclaimed ballpark, sharply reducing the number of fixed seats to 8,404. The largest crowd ever there was 18,620 in 2008.
-) In 2015, the Redbirds had 102,850 reduction in total attendance, and average per date was down 1,656. Those were the biggest declines of any U.S. team in 2015, and the 3rd worst decreases of any team. There were 20 dates that drew under 3,000 in 2015 at Auto Zone Park. Prior to 2015, the smallest crowd there had been 2,919.
-) Attendance in Memphis had fallen from 498,362 in 2013, to 278,579 in 2015, the lowest total in the team's Class AAA history. There had been 3 straight increases through 2013. That followed a 9-year attendance losing streak which ended in 2011. In 2014, total attendance fell 116,933 from 2013, and the average per date was down 1,530. Both of those declines were the worst of any MLB-affiliated team for that year. In 2001, 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. They topped 600,000 for 8 straight years from 2000 through 2007, and their average per date was over 10,000 each year from 2000 through 2005. Average per date remained above 6,500 through 2013.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **Durham** had an 86-44 record in **2021**, the best in Triple-A this season. Total attendance was 320,873, and average per date was 5,093. There were 2 lost dates. 19 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 10,360.
-) For the 2014 season, Durham did a \$20 million renovation of their park, and then drew a team record-high 533,033. The old record was 520,952 in 2007. The Bulls broke that record in 2015, drawing 554,788. Their 2015 average per date was a team-record high 7,814. 38 crowds exceeded 8,000, including 15 that were above capacity.
-) In **2019**, Durham's attendance was 529,105, down 7,199. Average per date rose 7 to 7,668. Attendance topped 8,000 at 36 dates, with 12 dates above 10,000, with a record-high of 12,000. There was one lost date, the first in Durham since 2015. Excluding 2021, the Bulls drew over 500,000 in 13 of the last 19 years, including the last 6, and topped 460,000 in all 22 years they've been a Class AAA team. Average per date reached 7,000 in 14 of the last 19 seasons, and has topped 6,500 for 22 years in a row, again excluding 2021. In 1990, Durham was the first Class A team since Denver in 1953 to reach 300,000. The Bulls topped 300,000 in 6 of their final 8 seasons (1990-1997) as a Class A team.
-) **Louisville's 2021** total attendance was 269,338, with a 4,565 average per date. There were 6 lost dates. Attendance surpassed 6,000 at 10 dates, with a high of 10,131.
-) In **2019**, Louisville had a 19,330 gain in total attendance to 485,356. The Bats topped 600,000 yearly from 2000 through 2011, and 20 times since 1982. Average per date was up 276 to 6,934. 14 dates in 2019 drew 8,000+, with 8 topping 10,000. Since Louisville Slugger Field opened in 2000, through 2021, the Bats have drawn 12,141,746 in 1,465 dates, an average of 8,288 per date. They've reached 500,000 in all but 7 years, excluding 2021, since 1982, achieving that total for a Minor League 3rd best (to Columbus and Buffalo) 31 times. Average per date has topped 9,000 in 11 seasons from 1992 through 2008, and in a few others before that. In 1983, Louisville drew 1,052,438 to become the first Minor League team to reach one million, and averaged 16,191 per date. That year Louisville outdrew 3 Major League teams (Cleveland, Minnesota, Seattle) in total attendance, and outdrew those same 3 teams plus Cincinnati and the Mets in average per date.
-) **Jacksonville** moved from the Class AA Southern League to Triple-A East in **2021**, and drew 242,667, their highest Triple-A total ever, and an average of 4,184 per date. There were 5 lost dates. 11 dates drew at least 6,000, with a high of 8,010.
-) **Jacksonville's** team name was changed from the Suns to the Jumbo Shrimp for 2017, and they had a very successful season that year in both marketing and attendance. They drew 325,743, averaging 5,171 per date. The total, at that point, was their highest since 2010, and the average per date was their best since 2008. Total attendance rose 61,342, which was the 2nd best increase among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams in 2017. The 974 average per date increase was the 3rd best among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams.
-) In **2019**, Jacksonville drew 327,388, up 10,053, with 3 more dates than in 2018. This was the best total since 2010. Average per date was 4,960, down 77. Average per date surpassed 5,000 in 10 seasons since 2003, and has been above 4,000 in each of the last 18 years, including 2021. 23 dates attracted at least 6,000 in 2019, with 8 dates topping 8,000, including a crowd of 11,429, the largest in this league in 2019.
-) Jacksonville led the Southern League in attendance for 9 straight years through 2011. They have a streak of 32 straight years above 200,000 thorough 2021, have topped 300,000 in 13 of the last 18 seasons (2003-2021), and reached 400,000 in 2004 and 2006. Attendance in Jacksonville hit 200,000 only once (1962) until 1989, and didn't reach 300,000 in the 58 years with listed attendance until 2003.
-) From 1962 through 1968, Jacksonville played in the Class AAA International League. Prior to 2021, their previous highest Class AAA attendance was 229,679 in 1962. That was the 3rd highest attendance in Minor League Baseball that year. Rochester of the International League (272,178), and Monterrey of the Mexican League (239,179), were the only Minor League teams to outdraw Jacksonville in 1962.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

-) **Omaha's 2021** total attendance was 245,170, and their average per date was 3,831. Only one date was lost. Attendance reached at least 5,000 at 12 dates, with a top crowd of 7,061.
-) The Storm Chasers had a loss of 17,523 in **2019** to 328,307, their lowest total since 2007. There were 4 lost dates, but there was one more date played than in 2018. Omaha's attendance has gone up in 9 of the past 15 seasons through 2021. Excluding 2021, the Storm Chasers have made it 32 straight years above 300,000. Their 2019 average per date was 4,974, down 346, and also the lowest since 2007, excluding 2021. It was above 5,300 each year from 2008-2018.
-) Omaha averaged above 6,000 per date each year from 1992 through 2000, but hasn't done it since then. However, the average has still reached 5,000 in 23 of 30 seasons through 2019. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Triple-A facility. Full capacity is a bit over 9,000. There were 10 dates that drew better than 7,000 in 2019. Omaha's former home, Rosenblatt Stadium, was much bigger. The last game there drew 23,795. A big new park in Omaha for the College Baseball World Series, which had been played at Rosenblatt, opened in 2011. Notes about College World Series attendance can be found on page 247.
-) **Scranton-Wilkes Barre** posted **2021** total attendance of 236,559, and an average of 4,079 per date. There were 7 lost dates. The largest crowd was 6,654, and 13 dates exceeded 5,000.
-) 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.
-) Total **2019** attendance was up 28,072 to 414,891. Average per date rose by 243 to 6,383. The team had 6 lost dates, but played 2 more dates than in 2018. 19 dates drew over 8,000, and 7 crowds hit 10,000. This team reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then. Yet they've still drawn over 400,000 in 25 of 30 years (excluding the 'road year' of 2012, and 2021), and topped 6,000 in average per date 24 times during that same period.
-) **Toledo** drew 300,063 in **2021**, averaging 4,763 per date. They lost 2 dates, had a top attendance of 9,075, and 17 dates topped 6,000.
-) The Mud Hens drew 481,496 in **2019**, down 26,469, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date fell 175 to 7,187. Weather was tough early in the season, as 6 April games began in temperatures of under 50 degrees. 26 dates drew over 8,000, with 13 of them reaching 10,000. Until 2019, the Mud Hens had topped 500,000 in total attendance, and 7,300 in average per date, in all seasons at Fifth Third Field, which opened in 2002. Average per date surpassed 7,000 for 18 straight years until 2021.
-) Toledo sold around 147,000 group tickets in 2014, which was the most ever for them up to that point. 485 dates were sold out at Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) from 2002 through 2018. Prior to moving to this new park, Toledo had reached 300,000 in just 6 seasons. Toledo's teams have been called the Mud Hens in most seasons since 1896. The Mud Hens ownership also operates the Toledo Walleye of the ECHL. The Walleye are one of the most successful teams, in attendance, in minor league hockey.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

TRIPLE-A EAST – continued

- J In 2015, the **Pawtucket** Red Sox were under new ownership for the first time since the late 1970’s. There was talk about building a new ballpark in Pawtucket, or in the neighboring city of Providence. But no ballpark deal could be made in Rhode Island, and in 2021, the team moved to Worcester, MA. Despite the prospect of the team’s move, Pawtucket’s attendance held up fairly well through 2017, which was the 25th straight year above 400,000. That streak ended in 2018, as total attendance declined 394,811.
- J In 2019, the lame-duck status of the team, plus 7 dates lost to weather, led to a 63,801 decline in total attendance to 331,010, the lowest since 1990. Average per date dropped by 728 to 5,254, the lowest since 1992. The decline in total attendance was the 3rd worst among MLB-affiliated teams, and the average per date loss was the 2nd worst.
- J Pawtucket had drawn at least 500,000 for 16 straight years through 2014. This team was bankrupt 45 years ago, and couldn’t draw 100,000. The Pawsox have achieved incredible attendance growth after that. They played at McCoy Stadium, which was built in 1942. While this park didn’t have all the amenities of newer facilities, the team provided many fan-friendly features such as free parking. Its capacity was increased from 7,002 to 10,031 in 1999.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2019

Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.	Year	Attend.
1977	70,344	1986	186,517	1995	479,261	2004	657,067	2013	540,034
1978	123,310	1987	220,838	1996	461,181	2005	688,421	2014	515,665
1979	147,420	1988	246,940	1997	474,557	2006	613,065	2015	466,600
1980	163,283	1989	278,129	1998	475,659	2007	611,379	2016	407,097
1981	191,859	1990	290,953	1999	596,624	2008	636,788	2017	409,960
1982	204,724	1991	349,338	2000	585,107	2009	625,561	2018	394,811
1983	188,186	1992	358,318	2001	647,928	2010	592,326	2019	331,010
1984	198,786	1993	466,428	2002	615,540	2011	578,930		
1985	166,504	1994	469,029	2003	569,106	2012	521,023		

International League Historic Attendance Data

International League (AAA) (14 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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.)

- J The International League had a 14,278 (0.2%) decline in attendance in **2019** to 6,445,838, the lowest total since 2006. The league topped 6.3 million in each of its last 22 years. 8 teams had gains in total attendance, and 8 were up in average per date. Syracuse posted the best increases in the league in both categories, while Pawtucket suffered the worst losses in both total and average. Columbus led in both total attendance and average per date.
- J League average per date was down 15 to 6,887, which was the highest average per date in the Minors for 2019, but lowest for this league since 2006. This was the 27th straight year that the I.L. averaged above 6,000 per date, and the 22nd year in a row above 6,600. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old 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 7,317 per date in 2008.
- J Bad weather in April, 2018 caused a 9.1% decline in average per date vs. April, 2017. The league had 21 postponements that month. 47 games began in temperatures under 50 degrees, and at 11 of those games, it was less than 40 degrees at first pitch. While there were 19 postponements in April, 2019, there were fewer cold-weather games. 26 games that month began in temperatures of less than 50 degrees, with 3 of them in the 30’s.
- J The average attendance per team was 460,417 in 2019, the 22nd straight year above 450,000. In 2014, the league averaged 501,452 per team. That was just the 6th time that a league has averaged 500,000+ per team. The International League also did it in 2008 (506,958) and 2009 (501,248). The American Association topped 500,000 per team in 1991 (511,691) and 1992 (519,800), when Buffalo drew more than one million each season. The Pacific Coast League’s 8 teams averaged 508,547 per team in 1947, when the league had a 186-game schedule, with teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Hollywood, Portland, Sacramento, and Seattle.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A EAST** – continued

In 1998, 4 teams were moved from the American Association (no relation to the current independent league with the same name) to the International League.

TRIPLE-A EAST OR INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	20						
2021	20	5,815,744			4,783		
2019	14	6,445,838	(14,278)	(0.2)	6,887	(15)	(0.2)
2018	14	6,460,116	(211,554)	(3.2)	6,902	(180)	(2.5)
2017	14	6,671,670	(93,839)	(1.4)	7,082	100	1.4
2016	14	6,765,509	(196,101)	(2.8)	6,982	(151)	(2.1)
2015	14	6,961,610	(59,980)	(0.9)	7,133	(136)	(1.9)
2014	14	7,021,590	255,148	3.8	7,269	228	3.2
2013	14	6,766,442	261,856	4.0	7,041	342	5.1
2012	14	6,504,586	(159,620)	(2.4)	6,699	(257)	(3.7)
2011	14	6,664,206	(278,534)	(4.0)	6,956	(92)	(1.3)
2010	14	6,942,740	(74,729)	(1.1)	7,048	(300)	(4.1)
2009	14	7,017,469	(79,942)	(1.1)	7,348	31	0.4
2008	14	7,097,411	375,946	5.6	7,317	308	4.4
2007	14	6,721,465	305,265	4.8	7,009	269	4.0
2006	14	6,416,200	(271,296)	(4.1)	6,740	(154)	(2.2)
2005	14	6,687,496	224,614	3.5	6,894	40	0.6
2004	14	6,462,882	94,083	1.5	6,854	21	0.3
2003	14	6,368,799	(389,958)	(5.8)	6,833	(135)	(1.9)
2002	14	6,758,757	42,904	0.6	6,968	59	0.9
2001	14	6,715,853	163,178	2.5	6,909	(114)	(1.6)
2000	14	6,552,675	115,424	1.8	7,023	414	6.3
1999	14	6,437,251	(3,142)	(0.0)	6,609	(65)	(1.0)
1998	14	6,440,393	2,172,982	50.9	6,674	257	4.0
1997	10	4,267,411	148,470	3.6	6,417	70	1.1
1996	10	4,118,941	(258,685)	(5.9)	6,347	(100)	(1.6)
1995	10	4,377,626	(132,243)	(2.9)	6,447	(254)	(3.8)
1994	10	4,509,869	(96,971)	(2.1)	6,701	(84)	(1.2)
1993	10	4,606,840	1,659,155	56.3	6,785	1,094	19.2
1992	8	2,947,685	(10,797)	(0.4)	5,691	203	3.7
1991	8	2,958,482	181,087	6.5	5,488	123	2.3
1990	8	2,777,395	164,148	6.3	5,365	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** – (10 teams – 130-game schedule in 2021, 150-game schedule in 2022)

- J **Triple-A West** - 9 of the teams in this league played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019. Sugar Land was in the independent Atlantic League.
- J Total **2021** attendance was 3,023,755. The average attendance per team (302,376), and average per date (4,823), were the highest of any league. In **2019**, this league's 2021 teams drew 4,730,101, averaging 6,895 per date. These teams played 59 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. They had 21 lost dates in 2021. Total 2019 attendance in the 16-team Pacific Coast League was 7,054,538, with a 6,532 average per date.
- J Las Vegas led the league with 428,369 in total attendance, and 6,590 in average per date. This was the 2nd best total and average per date among MLB-affiliated teams. El Paso drew an MLB-affiliated 3rd best total of 403,657, and averaged 6,407 per date, which ranked 4th best.
- J Albuquerque, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, and Salt Lake City also surpassed 300,000 in total attendance, and Albuquerque topped 5,000 in average per date.
- J Reno lost home dates due to bad air quality from the forest and brush fires, and from a Covid breakout.
- J **Las Vegas** had another great year in attendance in **2021**. The Aviators drew 428,369, and averaged 6,590 to lead the Triple-A West. **This was the 2nd-best total and average per date in team history.** Among all Minor League teams, including the independents, only Nashville had a higher total, and only Tijuana and Nashville achieved a higher average per date than Las Vegas. There were no lost dates. 10 dates topped 8,000, with 6 sellouts, including a season-high 10,190.
- J **In 2019**, Las Vegas moved to a new ballpark in the suburb of Summerlin, and had an incredible attendance year. The newly-named Aviators had the highest total attendance and average per date of any U.S. or Canadian team. Only Tijuana of the Mexican League had a higher total, and only Tijuana and Monterrey, also of the Mexican League, posted a better average per date. The Aviators also had the best total and average per date increases of any team in 2019, and the 3rd best percentage gains vs. 2018.
- J The Aviators blew away their previous attendance records in 2019, drawing 650,934, up 318,710 (95.9%). Average per date was 9,299 up 4,553. The old records were set in 1993, when this franchise drew 386,310, averaging 5,441 per date. In 2019, the Aviators had 47 sellouts, 23 dates drew at least 10,000, 4 of them topped 11,000, with a high of 12,111. Only 10 dates drew under 8,000 in a park that has 8,196 fixed seats.
- J Prior to 2019, Las Vegas had attendance consistency. They drew between 290,000 and 390,000, every year since joining the P.C.L. in 1983, and topped 300,000 each year from 1988 through 2018. In 2018, their final season at Cashman Field, the 51's drew 332,224, averaging 4,746 per date. Las Vegas averaged over 4,000 every year, with a high of 5,441 in 1993, and a low of 4,089 in 1986. In their 36 years at Cashman Field, the team drew 11,971,061 to regular season games, averaging 332,529 per year. Average per date, including post-season games was 4,704.
- J The **Round Rock** Express had a total attendance of 305,742 in **2021**. Average per date was 4,777, with one lost date. 15 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 10,731.
- J Round Rock drew 597,928, the 3rd best total in the Minors in **2019**, and was 2nd to Las Vegas among U.S. teams. Total attendance fell by 18,708. There were 37 crowds of at least 8,000, and 20 dates drew over 10,000. The Express topped 589,000 in all 20 seasons of their history through 2019, with a high of 700,277 in 2005. They've drawn at least 650,000 in 9 of these years, and topped 600,000 in 14 seasons (2000-2009, 2011, 2016-2018). That includes 5 years in the Texas League (2000-2004), when the Express set a Class AA attendance record each year.
- J Average attendance per date at Round Rock topped 8,000 every year until 2021, and was above 9,000 each season from 2000 through 2008, with a team record-high of 9,846 in 2004. Their 2019 average per date of 8,542, down 267, was the 10th best in Minor League Baseball, and 7rd best among U.S. teams. Dell Diamond in Round Rock has 8,631 fixed seats. The Express has averaged 8,814 per date (13,045,234 in 1,480 dates) in their history, **including 2021. If 2021 is excluded**, the average per date is 8,997.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** - continued

-) The Chihuahuas attracted 403,657, an average of 6,407 per date in **2021**, their 7th year out in the West Texas town of **El Paso**. This was the 3rd best total, and the 4th best average per date among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams. There were 2 lost dates. 39 dates drew over 6,000, with 7 of them topping 8,000. Best crowd was 8,673.
-) El Paso drew 522,894, down 16,626, and averaged 7,578 per date, down 241, in **2019**. 25 dates drew at least 8,000. This followed the totals of 539,520 in 2018, 544,668 in 2017, 564,259 in 2016, and a record-high 578,952 (8,154 per date) in 2015. In 2014, they attracted 560,997, which was up 360,920 from what they drew in Tucson in 2013. The 2014 totals include the first 4 home dates of the season which were played in Tucson because the new ballpark in El Paso was not ready. Average per date overall was 7,901 (8,193 for the 67 dates in El Paso), compared to an average of 2,818 in Tucson in 2013. The Chihuahuas averaged better than 7,500 per date every season through 2019. El Paso had been in the Texas League, and their record-high attendance there was 329,233 in 1995. The city also had an independent team for a few years, and that team's highest attendance was 211,316 in 2007.
-) On July 4, **Albuquerque** drew 13,035, the largest crowd in the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues in **2021**. For the season, the Isotopes drew 329,295, averaging 5,145 per date. 21 dates topped 6,000, and there was one lost date.
-) The Isotopes drew over 520,000 in each of the first 17 years of operation of the current team (2003-2019). Total attendance fell 13,498 in **2019** to 542,832, with 2 fewer dates than in 2018. The average per date was 7,983, up 35. There were 32 dates that drew at least 8,000, and 12 dates reached 10,000, with a high of 14,920, which was the biggest crowd of 2019 in the P.C.L. The current team has topped a 7,700 average per date every year, except 2021. Attendance at the old park in Albuquerque never reached 400,000, through 2000. A team record-high crowd of 16,975 attended the 2018 Cinco de Mayo game. The Isotopes were the 2018 winners of the John H. Johnson Award as 'The Most Complete Minor League Baseball Franchise.' In 2019, Albuquerque was the repeat winner of the Copa de la Diversion (Fun Cup), part of the annual Minor League celebration of Latino culture.
-) **Salt Lake** had a **2021** total attendance of 300,535, and a 4,847 average per date. 13 crowds were better than 6,000, with a high of 11,131. There were 3 lost dates.
-) The Bees drew 433,596 in **2019**, down 43,932, with 4 fewer dates than in 2018. This was the lowest total in the 26-year P.C.L. history of this team, and was the 5th worst MLB-affiliated total decline of 2019. Average per date fell 250 to 6,671. Big crowds did attend, as 22 dates reached 8,000, with 13 of them drew at least 10,000. In 2016, Salt Lake had the 2nd best total attendance gain, and 3rd highest average per date gain among U.S. teams. There was a significant loss in 2014 as total attendance dipped 60,656, the 4th worst decline among affiliated teams, and average per date dipped 760. In 2012, the Bees posted the biggest total gain (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date that year rose by 724, the 3rd best increase among the MLB-affiliated teams.
-) The Bees topped 430,000 in total attendance, and 6,400 per date in all 26 years of operation as a full-season team, through 2019. They've been above 450,000 in 21 of those years, and have surpassed 500,000 in 12 seasons (1994-2000, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2016). Average per date has topped 7,000 in 6 of 12 years through 2019. In 1994, the first Class AAA season of the current franchise, the team drew 713,224, averaging 10,189 per date.
-) Salt Lake City had been in the short-season Rookie Class Pioneer League from 1985 through 1992. This was the largest market, by far, in that league. Salt Lake City led all short-season teams in attendance each year from 1986 through 1992. In 1991, they became the first short-season team to draw 200,000.
-) It was a most unusual **2021** season in **Reno**. The Aces had 7 lost dates, but none were due to rain, snow, or cold. All postponements were caused by Covid breakouts, or by smoke and bad air from the fires that hit the Western states. Total attendance was 233,961, and average per date was 4,178, with a 6,640 high. 15 dates drew 5,000+.
-) Reno's **2019** total attendance fell by 15,083, to 336,215. Average per date decreased by 216 to 4,803. These are the lowest figures in the 11-year history of their P.C.L. team. In 2015, the Aces had a team record 8 sellouts, but in 2019, only 2 crowds topped 8,000. From 2011 through 2014, they only had a combined 9 sellouts. Reno drew above 400,000 from 2009 through 2011, but not after that. Prior to joining the P.C.L. in 2009, Reno had teams in the California League and in independent leagues. None of those teams ever drew better than 110,000, and in only 3 seasons (1981, 1987, 1992) did attendance reach 100,000.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** - continued

-) **Sacramento**, always one of the top draws in the Minors, was hit hard by the Covid restrictions. Total **2021** attendance was 259,640, with a 3,994 average per date. 18 crowds topped 5,000, with a high of 7,049, and there were no lost dates.
-) Sacramento won the Class AAA championship, but had the 2nd lowest attendance in the club's 20-year history in **2019**, though it was still quite good. The total was 549,440, up 10,655, and the average per date was 7,849, up 41. That was the 10th highest total in the Minors in 2019. There were some big crowds. 27 dates drew better than 8,000, with 12 of them topping 10,000. This team has achieved 100 regular season sellouts in its history, including 2 in 2019, each with a crowd of better than 14,000. The River Cats averaged more than 10,000 per date in each of their first 8 seasons.
-) In 2017 and 2016, Sacramento gave back the gains it made in 2015, when their total attendance rose 64,515, and average per date was up 777, with 25 crowds of at least 10,000 and 12 sellouts. 2016 attendance fell 62,688, which was the worst total loss among U.S. teams. In 2017, the total fell 47,429, which was the 6th worst loss in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 3rd biggest decline among U.S. teams. Average per date declined by 555, which was the biggest U.S. loss, and the 5th worst affiliated decline overall. (Mexican League teams had bigger declines in 2017.)
-) In 2015, Sacramento led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the 10th time since the team began play in 2000. They also led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for the 14th time. Their biggest crowd ever was 15,808 in 2008. 2012, 2017, 2018, and 2019 are the only years that this team has drawn less than 600,000.
-) Through 2021, the River Cats have drawn 13,900,892 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 13 million, and they've averaged 9,329 per date (1,490 dates) in their history. Their average per date excluding 2021 is 9,573. 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 – 2000-2021

Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date	Year	Total Attend.	Avg./Date
2000	861,808*	12,312*	2007	710,235*	10,003*	2014	607,839	8,561
2001	901,214*	12,517*	2008	700,168*	9,725#	2015	672,354*	9,338
2002	817,317*	11,512*	2009	657,095^	9,126	2016	609,666	8,587
2003	766,326*	10,643#	2010	657,910*	9,138^	2017	562,237	8,032
2004	751,156*	10,433^	2011	600,306	8,455	2018	538,785	7,808
2005	755,750*	10,497#	2012	586,090	8,140	2019	549,440	7,849
2006	728,227#	10,257#	2013	607,329	8,435	2021	259,640	3,994

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

-) **Tacoma** drew 245,706, and averaged 3,900 per date, in **2021**. There were 18 dates with attendance of better than 5,000, including a high of 7,616. There were 2 lost dates.
-) Cheney Stadium in Tacoma was renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers set a record-high that year. Their **2019** total attendance was down 25,402 to 347,378. Average per date was 5,109, down 295. 29 dates topped 6,000, with 7 dates drawing over 7,000. There were 2 dates lost. Only one game yearly was lost due to weather in 2018, 2016 and in 2015, following a loss of 7 home dates in 2014, and none in 2013. The Rainiers topped 300,000 in each year from 2001 through 2019. They've surpassed 350,000 in 8 of 11 seasons from 2009-2019 after never having reached this level before. Cheney Stadium opened in 1960, and was built in just 3 months and 14 days, at a cost of \$940,000. It was renovated at a cost of \$30 million, and has a listed seating capacity of 6,500.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** - continued

-) **Sugar Land**, (a suburb of Houston) moved from the independent Atlantic League to Triple-A West in **2021**. Total attendance was 211,560, with a 3,412 average per date. 7 dates drew over 5,000 with a high of 6,760, and 3 lost dates. Ballparkdigest.com reports that the team's name may be changed from Skeeters to Space Cowboys in 2022.
-) **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 current independent record-high for average per date is 8,438 by St. Paul in 2016.
-) 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. 2015 saw an 81,605 drop in Sugar Land's total attendance to 301,860, the worst decline that year by an independent team. This still was the 4th best 2015 total among the independents. Average per date fell to 4,439. In 2016, total attendance slipped to 300,331, which was the 4th best independent team total. Average per date rose to 4,483, the 5th best among independents. The Skeeters drew a team record crowd of 8,606 on July 4, 2016.
-) In **2019**, Sugar Land drew 304,753, down 23,738, the 3rd worst decline among independent teams. Average per date was 4,417, down 145. Excluding 2021, these were the lowest figures in this club's history. It still was the 4th best total and average per date among independent teams. Attendance topped 5,000 at 21 dates, with a high of 6,271.
-) Total **2021** attendance for **Oklahoma City** was 305,290, averaging 4,846 per date. The biggest crowd was 9,653, and 11 dates topped 6,000. 2 dates were lost.
-) Oklahoma City drew 444,131 in **2019**, down 19,064, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date was 6,629, down 84. 26 dates attracted at least 8,000, with 9 dates drawing above 10,000. It was the 7th straight year with a total above 400,000, and 6th year in a row that average per date has surpassed 6,000. The Dodgers topped 400,000 in total attendance for 17 of 22 years (1998-2019). OKC never reached 400,000 before 1998. Average per date had been above 6,000 in 16 of 22 seasons through 2019.
-) **New Orleans** had its final season in **2019**, and it did not go well in attendance. The Baby Cakes drew just 188,092, down 64,522, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date declined 888 to 2,939. These were the biggest declines in both total and average of any Minor League team in 2019. Only 5 dates drew at least 5,000. The total attendance was the smallest in Class AAA since Ottawa drew 126,894 in 2007. The average per date was a Class AAA low since Tucson in 2013 (2,818). This was the smallest attendance in New Orleans since 1996. This franchise drew record-highs in total attendance (519,584), and average per date (7,530) in 1998.
-) Despite the large dip in population in the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, attendance had remained steady until 2018. In 2004, the year prior to Katrina, this team drew 324,324. Attendance had been above this level every year through 2017. It was 349,883 in 2017, up 10,487. This despite 8 lost dates, and 3 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date in 2017 rose 412 to 5,554. 21 dates drew at least 6,000, with 3 of them reaching 10,000. The 2017 total attendance was the highest since 2011. Average per date was the best since 2010, and 2nd best since 2002. This team had a new name in 2017 – the Baby Cakes, which is related to Mardi Gras. The former name, Zephyrs (for the west wind), came with the team to New Orleans from Denver.
-) But 2018 was a really bad attendance year for the Baby Cakes. Even though they played 3 more dates than in 2017, total attendance declined 97,269 to 252,614, and average per date fell 1,727 to 3,827. Those were the worst declines of any Minor League team in 2018. The total and average per date were the lowest, until 2019, for New Orleans since 1996, the year before they opened their new park, known as 'The Shrine on Airline.'
-) The New Orleans franchise was moved to Wichita, KS for the 2021 season, and now plays in the Double-A Central.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** - continued**Pacific Coast League Historical Attendance Data**

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA) (16 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

-) The league drew 7,054,538, averaging 6,532 per date in **2019**. Total attendance rose 132,728 (1.9%), and average per date was up 164. The league's record high average per date is 6,625 in both 2006 and 2007. P.C.L. average per date was above 6,000 for 20 straight years through 2019. Las Vegas, in their new ballpark, led the league in both total and average per date, while New Orleans, in their final season in Louisiana, had the lowest figures.
-) Attendance reached 7 million 11 times in the league's last 15 years (2005-10, 2014-17, 2019). 4 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 teams had growth in average per date in 2019. There were 7 fewer dates than in 2018. 37 dates were lost to weather in 2019, compared to 31 in 2018, 40 in 2017 and 44 in 2016. Las Vegas had the best increases in all of Minor League Baseball in both total attendance and average per date. Conversely, New Orleans suffered the worst declines of any Minor League team in 2019 in both total attendance and in average per date.
-) 6 teams in this league drew at least 500,000 in 2019. A record high of 7 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2016 and 2007. It was done by 6 teams in 2017, 2015, and 2008. The half-million mark was reached by 4 teams in 2014, 2013, 2011, and 2009, and by 5 teams in 2018, 2012 and 2010. In 1947, 5 of the 8 teams in the league reached 500,000, and every team drew at least 350,000. Both Los Angeles and San Francisco topped 600,000, and Oakland, Seattle, and Hollywood all drew over 500,000. The league played a 186 game schedule that year. In 1949, every P.C.L. team topped 378,000. No league has seen each of its teams top a figure that high in a season since then.
-) The P.C.L. average attendance per team was over 400,000 for 20 straight years (2000-2019), including 440,909 in 2019. It had been above 400,000 from 1946 through 1949, with a high of 508,547 in 1947. The average per team fell below 200,000 each year from 1958 through 1981, and in 1984. It reached post-World War II lows of 131,968 in 1962, and 131,999 in 1969. In 1966, none of the 12 P.C.L. teams topped 200,000, and as recently as 1974, just one team in the league reached 200,000. The last team from this league to draw under 200,000 prior to New Orleans in 2019, was Calgary in 2002.
-) 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. The Seals also topped 600,000 in 1947 and 1948. Buffalo holds the current Minor League season attendance record of 1,188,972 (1,240,951 if playoff games are included), set in 1991.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TRIPLE-A WEST** - continued

In 1998, 6 teams were moved from the American Association (no relation to the current independent league with the same name) to the Pacific Coast League. The league record for average per date was set in both 2007 and 2006.

TRIPLE-A WEST OR PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	10	3,023,755			4,823		
2019	16	7,054,538	132,728	1.9	6,532	164	2.6
2018	16	6,921,810	(228,658)	(3.2)	6,368	(174)	(2.7)
2017	16	7,150,468	86,616	1.2	6,542	138	2.2
2016	16	7,063,852	(166,662)	(2.3)	6,404	(104)	(1.6)
2015	16	7,230,514	228,856	3.3	6,508	223	3.5
2014	16	7,001,658	237,975	3.5	6,285	241	4.0
2013	16	6,763,683	(32,474)	(0.5)	6,044	(8)	(0.1)
2012	16	6,796,157	(129,133)	(1.9)	6,052	(104)	(1.7)
2011	16	6,925,290	(107,255)	(1.5)	6,156	(168)	(2.7)
2010	16	7,032,545	(100,841)	(1.4)	6,324	(45)	(0.7)
2009	16	7,133,386	(85,970)	(1.2)	6,369	(135)	(2.1)
2008	16	7,219,356	(200,739)	(2.7)	6,504	(121)	(1.8)
2007	16	7,420,095	6,590	0.1	6,625	0	0.0
2006	16	7,413,505	67,097	0.9	6,625	13	0.2
2005	16	7,346,408	543,340	8.0	6,612	455	7.4
2004	16	6,803,068	(195,276)	(2.8)	6,157	(165)	(2.6)
2003	16	6,998,344	201,799	3.0	6,322	52	0.8
2002	16	6,796,545	44,874	0.7	6,270	132	2.2
2001	16	6,751,671	98,303	1.5	6,138	84	1.4
2000	16	6,653,368	1,046,369	18.7	6,054	779	14.8
1999	16	5,606,999	(352,811)	(5.9)	5,275	(223)	(4.1)
1998	16	5,959,810	2,715,733	83.7	5,498	634	13.0
1997	10	3,244,077	(220,702)	(6.4)	4,864	(224)	(4.4)
1996	10	3,464,779	49,912	1.5	5,088	(63)	(1.2)
1995	10	3,414,867	(89,810)	(2.6)	5,151	(26)	(0.5)
1994	10	3,504,677	592,505	20.3	5,177	817	18.7
1993	10	2,912,172	19,360	0.7	4,360	87	2.0
1992	10	2,892,812	139,269	5.1	4,273	N/A	N/A
1991	10	2,753,543	145,517	5.6	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	2,608,026	53,609	2.1	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** – (12 teams – 120-game schedule in 2021, 138-game schedule in 2022)

-) **Double-A Northeast** – 11 of the teams were in the Eastern League in 2019. Somerset played in the independent Atlantic League. Trenton, an Eastern League team in 2019, is now in the MLB Draft League.
-) In 2021, the league drew 2,360,148 with 68 lost dates, averaging 196,679 per team, and 3,653 per date. These same 12 teams had a 2019 attendance of 3,753,060, averaging 4,757 per date. They played 143 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The Eastern League drew 3,749,124 in 2019, and averaged 4,764 per date.
-) **Hartford led the league in total attendance (287,752), and average per date (5,138) in 2021.** This was the 3rd best total and average per date among the 30 Double-A teams. There were 3 lost dates. 17 dates drew at least 6,064 (the Dunkin Donuts Park full seating capacity), and all 6,850 tickets were sold for 9 dates. In their first 4 seasons (**2017-2019, 2021**) the Yard Goats drew above the Dunkin Donuts Park full seating capacity at 157 of 259 dates there, and all tickets were sold to 77 dates. In their first 3 seasons (**2017-2019**), the Yard Goats drew above seating capacity at 140 of the 203 dates played there, with 68 dates having all tickets sold out.
-) **2019 was another record-setting year for the Yard Goats. They led the Eastern League in total attendance, drawing 414,946, up 6,004. Average per date was 6,193, up 179. These were record-highs not only for this franchise (including its years in New Britain), but for any Minor League team in Connecticut.** The old records were 408,942 in total attendance, and 6,014 in average per date, both set by Hartford in 2018. There were 51 crowds above the seating capacity of 6,064, and 29 full sellouts of all tickets in 2019. Attendance averaged 102.1% of the seating capacity of Dunkin' Donuts Park.
-) Since Hartford's ballpark was not finished in time for the 2016 season, and they couldn't go back to New Britain because that park had become home to an independent Atlantic League team, the Yard Goats had to play all their games on the road that year. But when the Yard Goats finally got home, they were an instant attendance success. In 2017, they drew 395,196, averaging 5,812 in their new park. That was 353,627 better in total attendance, and 5,013 per date more, than they drew on their home-away-from home journey in 2016. The 2017 Yard Goats had 41 sellouts, including 26 of the final 31 dates of the season. Compared to their 2015 season in New Britain, 2017 total attendance was up 127,819, and average per date had a 1,761 gain.
-) In the current Hartford team's 20 seasons at New Britain Stadium (1996-2015), they drew 5,686,765 in 1,312 dates, averaging 234,338 per season, and 4,334 per date. The highest total was 368,523 in 2010, and the top average per date was 5,867 in 2011. From 1983 through 1995, they played at neighboring Beehive Field, drawing 1,435,260, an average of 110,405 a year.
-) New Britain's attendance had surpassed 300,000 for 11 straight years through 2014, and had generally more than doubled since the early years of New Britain Stadium, which opened in 1996. From 1983 through 1999, New Britain never drew above 182,000. The Rock Cats had set a team attendance record 10 times in an 11-year period from 2000 through 2010. There was an independent Atlantic League team, the Bees, in New Britain from 2016 through 2019. That club's highs were 214,635 in total attendance and 3,302 in average per date, both in 2016, when the Bees were the only team in the market. Their lows were a total of 133,141, and an average of 2,113 in 2019. This team was replaced by a Summer Collegiate club in 2021.
-) Covid and weather cost the **Portland Sea Dogs 10 dates in 2021.** They drew 210,211, averaging 4,204 per date. 19 dates drew at least 5,000. There were 9 sellouts, including reduced capacity sellouts early in the season.
-) Portland's **2019** total attendance was up 11,306 to 357,647, with 15 sellouts, and 32 crowds above 6,000. There were 2 more dates in 2019 than in 2018, with 7 lost dates. The Sea Dogs reached 340,000 in all 26 seasons through 2019, including 9 years above 400,000. Average per date has been above 5,000 every year except 2021 (5,677 in 2019), and has topped 6,000 in 9 seasons. They've had 537 sellouts in 1,781 dates in their history **through 2021**, drawing 10,272,782, an average of 5,768 per date. (The average per date excluding 2021 is 5,813.) Their season high for sellouts was 48 in 1995. This is all really good for a city which often has cold early season weather.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** – continued

-) The entire 6-game final **2021** home series in **Reading** was cancelled due to Covid. Overall, the Fightin' Phils had 10 lost dates. When they did play, they drew 226,667, averaging 4,626 per date. 23 dates drew at least 5,000, with a high of 9,156. In December, 2021, Reading announced plans for a significant upgrade to First Energy Stadium.
-) Reading had its usual good year at the gate in **2019**. Total attendance rose 9,804 to 398,314. Average per date was up a league best 232 to 5,945, the 23rd straight year above 5,700. 38 dates drew at least 6,000, with 8 dates over 8,000.
-) 2017 league attendance leader Reading was back over 400,000 in 2015, 2016, and 2017, after their streak of drawing at least 400,000 for a Class AA record 16 straight seasons ended in 2014. Trenton topped this level each year from 1995 through 2008, and Frisco of the Texas League did it for 17 years in a row through 2019. Since 2002, Reading led the Eastern League in total attendance 11 times and also had the league's best average per date 11 times. In 2022, Reading celebrates its 56th straight season as a Phillies affiliate, the longest current affiliation of any team.
-) Baseball is very popular in Reading, despite a tough local economy, and a ballpark built in 1951. The Triple-A Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who topped 550,000 in each year from 2008 through 2019, play in nearby Allentown. (These 2 teams have the same ownership.) Other Minor League teams in nearby Trenton, Lancaster, and Harrisburg have all drawn pretty well, and the Philadelphia Phillies are just 60 miles away. An indoor arena and a minor league hockey team joined the Reading sports scene in 2001. There has been a huge growth in Reading's attendance since the early 1980's. The figures in bold are the years when Reading led the Eastern League in total attendance. (Attendance in the table for 1996, 1998, and 2000 includes an exhibition game with the Philadelphia Phillies.)

READING ATTENDANCE – 1984-2021

Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance	Year	Attendance
1984	67,333	1994	338,249	2004	478,257	2014	394,458
1985	76,819	1995	383,984	2005	469,105	2015	417,010
1986	83,506	1996	384,151	2006	460,216	2016	420,320
1987	100,895	1997	398,182	2007	466,385	2017	411,698
1988	144,107	1998	423,336	2008	436,789	2018	388,510
1989	178,734	1999	448,367	2009	460,791	2019	398,214
1990	204,240	2000	461,848	2010	456,466	2021	226,667
1991	250,610	2001	458,585	2011	456,957		
1992	287,078	2002	486,570	2012	426,623		
1993	313,083	2003	465,717	2013	436,134		

-) **Bowie's 2021** total attendance was 128,467, and they averaged 2,336 per dates. 8 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 7,792. 3 dates were lost.
-) In **2019**, Bowie drew 224,686, (3,256 per date), the lowest attendance in their 27-year history up to that point. 8 dates topped 5,000. Total attendance fell 5,661, and average per date was down 182. Bowie has not reached 300,000 since 2005, after surpassing that figure in the 11 prior years, including 5 seasons (1995, 1997-2000) with attendance above 400,000. Average per date topped 5,000 each year from 1995 through 2003, but not since. It was above 4,000 per date from 1993 through 2007.
-) **Erie** drew 145,445 in **2021**, an average of 2,552 per date. The largest crowd of the season was 5,020, and 6 dates drew at least 4,000. There were 3 lost dates.
-) Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, through 2019, Erie's total attendance ranged from 197,656 to 246,404. The average per date ranged from 3,044 to 3,613 between **2001 and 2019**. The **2019** total of 215,444, up 10,389, was the best since 2011. Average per date rose 111 to 3,315, with 8 dates topping 5,000, including a single-game record-high 7,045. There were 6 lost dates. In 2018, 5 April games began with temperatures in the 30's. Just one game was played in weather that cold in April, 2019. Erie averaged over 4,900 each year from 1995 through 1998 in the short-season New York-Penn League. But their highest Class AA average per date was 3,613 in 2007.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** – continued

-) The **Richmond Flying Squirrels** drew 275,169 in **2021**, averaging 4,828. Those were the 2nd highest figures in this league. 25 dates drew over 5,000. 2 of them drew 9,560, which were the largest Double-A crowds in 2021. 10 of the 11 reduced capacity dates were sold out. 3 dates were lost.
-) Richmond led the Eastern League in average per date in **2019** (6,255, up 57). They had 6 lost dates. Attendance reached 6,000 at 38 dates in 2019, with 13 of them topping 8,000, including a league-high 9,845. Total attendance was 400,321, up 3,635. The Flying Squirrels topped 400,000 in 7 of their 10 seasons in the Eastern League, and led that league in total attendance 4 times. The total has been above 385,000 every year except 2021. Average per date has been over 6,000 in 9 of 10 seasons (2010-2019). The Class AAA Richmond Braves, who moved to Lawrenceville, Georgia in Gwinnett County, an Atlanta suburb, after the 2008 season, surpassed 400,000 for 15 straight years from 1989 through 2003. In 6 of those seasons, their attendance exceeded 500,000. Total attendance has been above 300,000 in every season, except 2008 and 2021, since The Diamond opened in 1985. Plans for a long-awaited new ballpark in Richmond may hopefully soon be approved.
-) Richmond had been the Class AAA affiliate of the Atlanta Braves from 1966 through 2008. Moving their AAA team to a suburb of Atlanta provided logistical benefits to the Braves, such as making it easier to call up or send down players from one team to another. But from an attendance standpoint, Richmond has been a much better draw than Gwinnett. From **2010 through 2021**, the Richmond Flying Squirrels have drawn 4,469,162 in 724 dates, averaging 406,287 per season, and 6,173 per date. The Gwinnett Stripers have drawn 2,920,608 in 746 dates in these 11 seasons, averaging 265,510 per season, and 3,915 per date. In these 11 seasons (remember, no games in 2020), Richmond has averaged 2,258 (57.7%) higher than Gwinnett in average per date.
-) The **Somerset Patriots**, one of the most successful independent league teams, became the Double-A affiliate of the Yankees in **2021**. They really were tested by Covid-related issues, capacity restrictions, and the usual rainouts. And then, Tropical Storm Ida flooded their ballpark, forcing 3 games to be moved to Hartford. One was rained out. Incredibly, within a few days of this flood, the Patriots were playing again at home, in front of a near-capacity crowd.
-) The Patriots drew 205,246 in **2021**, with a 3,947 average per date. 8 dates were lost. 25 dates drew over 4,000, with 15 dates surpassing 5,000. The largest crowd was 7,011.
-) Somerset led the Atlantic League in total attendance and average per date in **2019**. They topped 335,000 for the 21st straight year, and their 2019 total of 344,641, down 7,962, was 2nd highest among independent teams. Average per date was an independent leagues' 2nd best 5,144, up 34, with 2 fewer dates. 33 dates drew at least 5,000, with 18 of them topping 6,000, including a league-high 8,205. The Patriots averaged over 5,100 per date in all 21 Atlantic League seasons. Their total attendance was very stable as well, ranging from a low of 335,056 in 1999, to a high of 376,315 in 2004, excluding 2021. Average per date, except for 2021, ranged from 5,110 (2018) to 5,433 (2008). Through 2021, Somerset has drawn 7,673,114 in 1,475 dates, averaging 348,778 per season, and 5,202 per date.
-) **New Hampshire** (Manchester) had **2021** total attendance of 183,730, and they averaged 3,402 per date. 5 dates were lost. Due to capacity restrictions, none of the first 27 dates of the season drew at least 4,000. But starting with July 4, attendance topped 4,000 at 21 dates, including one Harrisburg 'home' game in New Hampshire. Largest crowd was 6,566.
-) **In 2019**, New Hampshire had a 12,588 decrease in total attendance to 306,511. The Fisher Cats topped 300,000 in 13 of 14 years through 2019. Average per date fell 349 to 4,716, the lowest since 2006. Attendance at 31 dates topped 5,000. 10 of 13 (2007-2019) seasons averaged better than 5,000 per date. Through 2021, the Fisher Cats have drawn 5,538,707 in 1,129 dates in their 17-year history, averaging 4,906 per date.
-) Total 2021 attendance in **Harrisburg** was 167,810, with an average per date of 2,893. There was one lost date. Attendance topped 4,000 at 10 dates with a high of 5,821.
-) Harrisburg's total was 258,909 in **2019**. Average per date was 3,864. 15 dates drew at least 5,000. The 2019 total was the smallest, not counting 2021, since the ballpark in Harrisburg was totally rebuilt for the 2010 season. The 2019 Senators did top 200,000 for the 32nd time in their 34-year history, (2008 and 2021 are the exceptions) and again, narrowly missed surpassing 270,000, after doing it for 6 straight years through 2015. Prior to 2010, they had reached 270,000 only in 2001. Average per date was above 3,800 each year from 2010 through 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** – continued

-) The **Altoona Curve** attracted a total attendance of 213,686 in **2021**, averaging 4,032 per date. 25 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 7,209. There were 6 lost dates.
-) Altoona's **2019** total attendance rose a league-best 11,346 to 308,464, reaching 300,000 for the 12th time in the team's 22-year history. Average per date was up 33 to 4,604. Both the total and the average per date were the best for this club since 2008. 14 dates drew at least 6,000. The Curve had topped 300,000 each year from 1999 through 2008, but not again until 2015. They averaged over 5,000 per date from 2000 through 2008. Team owner Bob Lozinak was voted '2019 King of Baseball' for dedication and service to the game.
-) **Akron** drew 208,162 in **2021**, with a 3,652 average per date. There were 3 lost dates. Highest attendance was 7,004, and 11 dates drew at least 5,000.
-) In 2014, Akron's team was renamed the Rubber Ducks in recognition of that's city's rubber industry. The rebranding was a big success as attendance rose 55,245 to 350,704, with 12 sellouts. This was the best total in Akron since 2007, and the gain was the 3rd best among all MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date rose 936, 2nd best gain among all Minor League teams. That total was up nearly 100,000 from the 256,473 that they drew in 2012, and average per date increased from 3,772 in 2012 to 5,157 in 2014. Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012.
-) Attendance in Akron dipped 4,567 in **2019** to 340,187, with 2 fewer dates. It was the 6th straight year above 340,000. Average per date was up 81 to 5,077. 22 dates drew over 6,000, with 7 sellouts each drawing at least 8,026. In 24 seasons in Akron, total attendance has reached 340,000 18 times, and average per date has surpassed 5,000 in 17 seasons (1997-2008, 2014-2017, 2019). In 2015, the Rubber Ducks won the Larry MacPhail award for top promotional effort in the Minors.
-) The then-named Akron Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the 2nd Class AA franchise to draw 500,000 in a season. Nashville had done it 4 times (1979-1982). More recently, 4 Texas League teams have achieved this level--(Round Rock - 2000-2004, Springfield - 2005, Frisco - 2003-2011, and Corpus Christi--2005-2006). Total attendance in Akron surpassed 400,000 each year from 1997 through 2006, and average per date was above 7,000 in 6 years between 1997 and 2004.
-) Weather and Covid hit **Binghamton** very hard in **2021**. The Rumble Ponies lost 12 dates, which tied Rocket City for the most dates lost by a non-Florida team. An entire 6-game late-season series was cancelled due to Covid. Total attendance was 107,803, with a 2,246 average per date. 13 dates drew at least 3,000, with a high of 4,470.
-) **In 2019**, Binghamton also had a rough year, with attendance and weather. The total was down 37,289 to 182,990, with 8 lost dates. Average per date fell 553 to 3,000. Among affiliated teams in 2019, Binghamton's declines were 8th worst in total attendance, 4th worst in average per date, and 7th worst in total attendance percentage decline (down 16.9%). It was the 7th time in the last 8 years under 200,000.
-) In 2018, Binghamton had a nice attendance increase at home, and a very big increase on the road. Was it because Tim Tebow was on the team? Rumble Ponies' total home attendance was up 29,514 to 220,279, the best total since 2008. The numerical increase was the 5th best in the MLB-affiliated leagues, and the 15.5% percentage gain was 8th best. Average per date was up 264 (9th best gain among MLB-affiliated teams) to 3,553, the team's best since they averaged 4,180 in 1992, their first season. This followed an average per date gain of 670 in 2017. On July 20, 2018, the Rumble Ponies drew 7,488, a single game record-high for this club. On the road in 2018, Binghamton drew 384,234, up 83,124. Their road average per date was 5,822, up 1,260.
-) Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. That was also the only year that average per date (4,180) reached 4,000. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 162nd largest (out of 210) U.S. markets in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #176, was until 2021, the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AAA or Class AA team. The club was renamed the Rumble Ponies for 2017, in honor of the 6 vintage carousels located in Binghamton. NYSEG Stadium had a \$5.1million upgrade for 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** – continued**Eastern League Historic Attendance Data****EASTERN LEAGUE (AA)** (12 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

- J The Eastern League had a small attendance decline in 2019. Total attendance fell 18,547 (0.5%) to 3,749,124, the 21st straight year above 3.4 million. This decrease occurred despite much better April weather in 2019 compared to 2018. In 2018, 58 Eastern League games in April began with temperatures under 50 degrees, and at 17 of these games, the gametime temperature was below 40. Just 38 games started in temperatures of at least 60 degrees. In 2019, 24 April games began in temperatures below 50, and it was at least 60 degrees at 66 games. The league had 53 lost dates in 2019, 54 in 2018, and 59 in 2017, and played one more date in 2019 than in 2018.
- J 2019 league average per date was 4,764, down 29. 6 of the 12 teams had gains in total attendance, and 7 were up in average per date. Altoona had the league's best gain in total attendance, and Reading had the best growth in average per date. Binghamton suffered the worst losses in both categories. Akron, Hartford, Portland, Reading, Richmond, and Trenton all averaged over 5,000 per date.
- J 2018, 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew over 200,000.
- J League attendance surpassed 3 million for the 23rd straight year in 2019. It was the 18th time above 3.7 million. Average per date topped 4,200 for the 25th year in a row, and in all of these years, except 2016, it surpassed 4,500. In 2019, the average per date was above 4,700 for the 13th time.
- J The league had averaged at least 300,000 per team for 19 straight seasons through 2015. But Hartford caused this average to fall to 285,376 in 2016. Excluding Hartford, the 2016 average per team was 307,540, but that was still the lowest figure since 2003. The league's average per team topped 100,000 each year from 1946 to 1949, but didn't reach this figure again until 1983. An average of 200,000 per team was first achieved in 1994. The following year, the average per team reached 300,000. It was 310,251 in 2017, 313,973 in 2018, and 312,427 in 2019.
- J A big part of the 2017 and 2016 attendance story for the Eastern League was what happened to the Hartford Yard Goats. This team had played in the neighboring city of New Britain through 2015, and a new ballpark was being built for them in Hartford. But there were many construction delays, and the team didn't play any games there in 2016. Construction resumed after the 2016 season, and the ballpark opened in 2017.
- J The Yard Goats couldn't return to their park in New Britain for the 2016 season, since a team from the independent Atlantic League moved in there. So they had to play all of their scheduled home games in other Eastern League ballparks, and in Norwich, home of the New York-Penn League Connecticut Tigers. They had just 52 'home' dates with recorded attendance, and drew 41,659, an average of 799 per date. In 2015, they drew 267,377, averaging 4,051 per date, in New Britain. Only 13 of the 52 dates in 2016, where the Yard Goats were the 'home' team, attracted at least 1,000. There were 8 dates with official attendance listed as under 100, with a low of 9, for a game at New Hampshire. Hartford played 5 dates where no fans were admitted to the ballpark. Those games were not included in the list of number of dates played.
- J The Hartford situation resulted in a 2016 total attendance decline of 335,652 (8.9%) for the Eastern League. Exclude Hartford, and the decline was 109,844 (3.1%). 2016 average attendance per date was 4,259, which was the lowest since 1994, and down 321 from 2015. If Hartford is excluded from the 2016 figures, the league's average per date was 4,499. In 2015, the league, including New Britain, averaged 4,580. Exclude New Britain, and the 2015 average per date was 4,626. The league's record-high average per date is 4,904, set in 1998.
- J In 2017, Hartford moved into their new park, and they were a big attendance success. It led to an increase of 298,497 (8.7%) in total attendance for the Eastern League, to 3,723,010. Average per date was up 514 to 4,773. These were the largest gains for any Minor League in 2017. If Hartford is excluded, the remaining 11 teams had a combined total attendance decline of 55,130 (1.6%), but an average per date gain of 175 to 4,674.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST** continued

DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST OR EASTERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	12						
2021	12	2,360,148			3,653		
2019	12	3,749,124	(18,547)	(0.5)	4,764	(29)	(0.6)
2018	12	3,767,671	44,661	1.2	4,793	20	0.4
2017	12	3,723,010	298,497	8.7	4,773	514	12.1
2016	12	3,424,513	(335,652)	(8.9)	4,259	(321)	(7.0)
2015	12	3,760,165	54,220	1.5	4,580	(24)	(0.5)
2014	12	3,705,945	(37,637)	(1.0)	4,604	(12)	(0.3)
2013	12	3,743,582	(47,659)	(1.3)	4,616	(53)	(1.1)
2012	12	3,791,241	(132,140)	(3.4)	4,669	(199)	(4.1)
2011	12	3,923,381	(42,860)	(1.1)	4,868	72	1.5
2010	12	3,966,241	271,847	7.4	4,796	184	4.0
2009	12	3,694,394	(75,939)	(2.0)	4,612	(3)	(0.1)
2008	12	3,770,333	(117,001)	(3.0)	4,615	(275)	(5.6)
2007	12	3,887,334	74,427	2.0	4,890	64	1.3
2006	12	3,812,907	(131,288)	(3.3)	4,826	22	0.5
2005	12	3,944,195	30,168	0.8	4,804	(64)	(1.3)
2004	12	3,914,027	244,767	6.7	4,868	147	3.1
2003	12	3,669,260	(76,669)	(2.0)	4,721	39	0.8
2002	12	3,745,929	(93,346)	(2.4)	4,682	(52)	(1.1)
2001	12	3,839,275	119,551	3.2	4,734	138	3.0
2000	12	3,719,724	(148,008)	(3.9)	4,596	(93)	(2.0)
1999	12	3,868,732	578,376	17.6	4,689	(215)	(4.4)
1998	10	3,290,356	95,004	3.0	4,904	113	2.4
1997	10	3,195,352	247,687	8.4	4,791	291	6.5
1996	10	2,947,665	(109,386)	(3.6)	4,500	(29)	(0.6)
1995	10	3,057,051	502,481	19.7	4,529	593	15.1
1994	10	2,554,570	854,748	50.3	3,936	648	19.7
1993	10	1,699,822	235,467	16.1	3,288	383	13.2
1992	8	1,464,355	2,928	0.2	2,905	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,461,427	91,838	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,369,589	96,792	7.6	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A SOUTH** – (8 teams – 120-game schedule in 2021, 138-game schedule in 2022)

- J) **Double-A South** – All 2021 teams played in the Southern League in 2019. Jacksonville, FL, a 2019 Southern League member, is now in Triple-A East. Jackson, TN, also in the 2019 Southern League, no longer has a team.
- J) The league drew 1,490,075 in 2021, an average of 186,259 per team, and 3,498 per date. **The average per date for the 8 franchises in the league in 2021, rose by 55 vs. 2019, the only increase in either total attendance or average per date by an MLB-affiliated league in 2021.** 4 teams averaged over 4,000 per date. 49 dates were lost. These same 8 teams had a total of 1,807,784 and a 3,443 average per date in 2019. They played 99 fewer dates in 2021 compared to 2019. The 10-team 2019 Southern League drew 2,242,303, and averaged 3,439 per date.
- J) **The Rocket City (Madison, AL, near Huntsville) Trash Pandas** moved from Mobile, and had a great first season, in both marketing and attendance. **They led the league in 2021 total attendance (274,858), and led all of Double-A in average per date (5,726), the highest average ever for a team in the Huntsville area.** There were 12 lost dates. Binghamton was the only other non-Florida team to have that many lost dates in 2021. Attendance topped 6,000 at 21 dates, with a full-capacity sellout total of 7,500 at 6 dates.
- J) Rocket City's total was up 179,771, and the average per date rose 4,141, from 2019 in Mobile. According to Ballparkdigest.com, the Trash Pandas had \$1.4 million in merchandise sales before ever playing a game in Madison.
- J) **The Huntsville Stars**, near Madison, had drawn just 94,929 in 2014, their final season before moving to Biloxi. This was the lowest total of any Class AA team in 2014. It was the 4th time in 6 seasons that the Stars drew less than 100,000, the 9th straight year below 170,000, and the 11th time in 12 years below 200,000. From 1985 through 2002, Huntsville topped 200,000 in all seasons except 1988. The Stars' average per date of 1,460 was the lowest in Class AA in 2014. In each of their final 6 seasons, the Stars averaged less than 2,000 per date.
- J) The all-time record attendance in Huntsville was 300,810, in 1985, which was that team's first season. In 1985, 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.
- J) Total **2021** attendance in **Biloxi** was 114,276. Average per date was 2,241, with a high of 4,106. 7 dates drew at least 3,000. There were 7 lost dates.
- J) Biloxi's **2019** total attendance was down 13,519 to 146,845, and average per date fell 99 to 2,331. These were the lowest figures in this team's first 5 seasons (2015-2019). The Shuckers had 7 lost dates, and played 3 fewer dates than in 2018. Just 3 dates drew at least 4,000.
- J) After moving from Huntsville, AL after the 2014 season, Biloxi had quite an adventure before finally playing their first true home game in June, 2015. Ballpark construction delays forced the team to take a 54-game road trip to start the season. Amazingly, the Shuckers went 33-21 on that trip. They were the designated home team for 12 dates in their old park in Huntsville, 4 in Jacksonville, and 5 at Mississippi, and were credited with the attendance for those games, which drew 27,168, an average of 1,294 per date. The Shuckers played 42 dates in their new, but not totally finished, ballpark in Biloxi. Those games attracted 136,908, an average of 3,260 per date. The uncertainty of when the ballpark would open hurt advance ticket and group sales, and made it hard to plan promotions. Prior to 2015, the Biloxi-Gulfport area last had a Minor League team from 1926 through 1928. It played in the Cotton States League, which disbanded after the 1955 season.
- J) The **Chattanooga Lookouts** drew 131,322 in **2021**, averaging 2,626 per date. There were 9 lost dates. 7 dates drew at least 4,000, with a high of 4,994.
- J) Chattanooga's **2019** total attendance rose 13,851 to 228,662, the best total since 2014. 9 dates drew over 5,000. 1999, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2021 are the only years below 220,000 since 1991. The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but did top 200,000 for 28 straight years through 2019. This team had reached 200,000 just 3 times (1946, 1947, 1952) in 66 seasons prior to 1992. 2019 average per date was up 312 to 3,518, the highest since 2012. Average per date in Chattanooga topped 4,000 from 1993 through 1995, and from 2000 through 2002. Chattanooga's first season in the Southern League was 1885.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A SOUTH** - continued

-) The **Birmingham Barons** had a **2021** total attendance of 231,365, an average of 4,132 per date. 10 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 7,433. There were 3 lost dates.
-) Regions Field, Birmingham's downtown ballpark, which opened in 2013, has been a huge hit in design, location, and attendance. The Barons moved back to the city from suburban Hoover, where they had played since 1988. Total attendance rose 192,551 in 2013, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team that year. 2013 average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best increase of the year, by a very large margin, in the Minors.
-) In **2019**, Birmingham led the Southern League with a total of 379,707, down 11,354. This was the 7th straight year that the Barons led the league in attendance, and drew above 375,000. That figure was reached only 3 times in 91 seasons prior to 2013. Total attendance topped 400,000 in 2014, 2015, and 2016, as well as in 1948, 1949, and 1994. The Barons played 2 more dates than in 2018. Average per date was a league-leading 5,424, a decrease of 327. Attendance was above 6,000 at 27 dates, with 4 dates topping 8,000. Average per date in Birmingham was above 5,400 for 7 straight years through 2019. From 1988 through 2012, the only year with an average above 5,000 for the Barons was in the Michael Jordan year of 1994.
-) The 2015 league-leading total of 444,639 in Birmingham was the 2nd highest attendance by a Southern League team in the 1964-2019 era. The only higher total for a Southern League team was in Birmingham, in 1994, when Michael Jordan was a Baron. Fans came out in droves to see him. The team drew a league record 467,867 at home, averaging 6,983 per date, with a home/road total of 986,185. The final 1994 home game drew 16,247.
-) Birmingham drew 445,926 in 1948 and 421,305 in 1949, when it played in the old Southern Association. The Barons had topped 250,000 for a 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.
-) From 1996 through 2016, and again in 2018 and 2019, but not in 2021, the Barons 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' attracted 6,028 in 2018 and 7,015 in 2019, and has drawn 160,381, an average of 6,973 per game, in its 23-year history.
-) Just like their parent team in Atlanta, the **Mississippi Braves**, who play in Pearl, near Jackson, won a championship in **2021**. They drew 118,776 in total attendance. Average per date was 2,241, the same average posted by Biloxi. There were 10 dates that drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,988.
-) The Braves drew 163,841, up 12,489 in **2019**. Average per date rose 223 to 2,482. 4 dates drew over 5,000. Total attendance has been less than 200,000 in 9 of the last 12 seasons, including 2021. Average per date has been under 3,000 in the last 5 years, and in 10 of the last 12, again including 2021.
-) The **2021 Tennessee Smokies** drew 245,821, averaging 4,313 per date, down 6. This was the smallest average per date decline among same-market MLB-affiliated teams. 4 same-market teams (2 of them in new parks in 2021) had average per date increases. 17 dates topped 5,000, with a team and league high of 8,006. There were 2 lost dates. A new park in downtown Knoxville is expected by 2024. The team may go back to its old name-the Knoxville Smokies.
-) In **2017 and 2018**, Tennessee achieved their two best total and average per date figures in the 84 years that they've compiled attendance figures. But in **2019**, they had the biggest declines in the Southern League. Total attendance dipped 27,361 to 280,708, and average per date dropped 349 to 4,319. There were 21 crowds of at least 5,000.
-) In 2017, Tennessee drew a team record-high total of 313,796, up 20,102, and they did it in 5 less dates than in 2016. The old record total was 293,694, set in 2016. Average per date was record-high 4,981, up 662. It was the 6th best U.S. MLB-affiliated average per date gain for 2017. The old average per date high was 4,406 in 2015. The Smokies have drawn at least 240,000, and above 3,500 per date, in all 21 seasons, including 2021, in the Knoxville suburb of Kodak. Prior to 2000, their highest total was 150,396 in 1950, and they topped 100,000 in just 18 of 63 seasons since 1932. In 2014, the Smokies topped 275,000 in total attendance, and 4,000 per date, for the first time in team history. They then reached that total every year through 2019, and in average in every year, including 2021.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A SOUTH** - continued

-) **Montgomery's 2021** total attendance was 137,709, with a 2,598 average per date. 7 dates were lost. The biggest crowd was 7,253, and 6 dates topped 4,000.
-) Montgomery was down 21,699 to 216,839 in **2019**. Average per date fell 219 to 3,189. Both the total and average per date were the lowest in this club's 17-year history, excluding 2021. 6 dates drew at least 5,000. The Biscuits averaged over 4,000 per date in their first 7 seasons (2004-2010) but have not hit that mark since. But they've averaged at least 3,400 each season except 2016, 2019, and 2021. Their total attendance had topped 225,000 in all 15 years until 2019, and was above 300,000 from 2004 through 2007.
-) **Pensacola** joined the league in 2012, and was the league leader in both total attendance and average per date that season. The Blue Wahoos (named after a fish that is native to the area) drew 328,147 in 2012, with 40 sellouts in 68 dates, to their beautiful new waterfront ballpark. In **2021**, they drew 235,948, and averaged 4,068. There were 2 lost dates. 20 dates had a sellout crowd of 5,038, making it 233 sellouts in 9 seasons.
-) In **2019**, total attendance was 296,095, down 3,907. Average per date increased by 6 to 4,354, with 22 sellouts, and has been above 4,000 in all 9 seasons, including 2021. Total attendance has surpassed 300,000 in 6 of these seasons, barely missing that level in 2017 and 2019. Pensacola had been a Minor League city prior to 2012. Their previous MLB-affiliated record attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent team drew 92,468 in 2007.
-) Before relocating, the Pensacola franchise played for 21 seasons in Zebulon, NC, which is east of Raleigh, as the Carolina Mudcats. They drew a record-high 328,207 in 1993, and were also above 300,000 in 1994 and 1995. But their attendance did not reach 300,000 after that. Mudcats' attendance was 255,216 in 2011, their final Southern League season. A Carolina League team moved from Kinston to Zebulon in 2012, and retained the Mudcats name.
-) The **Jackson (TN) Generals** were one of the teams eliminated when the Minor Leagues were contracted in 2021. But Jackson was a temporary home to the independent Winnipeg Goldeyes of the American Association for part of the **2021** season. This was due to the closure of the U.S./Canadian border. The Goldeyes drew 16,785 in 29 dates, an average of 579 per date in Jackson, before they continued their season in Winnipeg.
-) In 2019, their final season in the Southern League, Jackson drew 107,131, down 3,667, the 4th lowest total in the team's 22 seasons. Average per date rose 102 to 1,756. Bad weather hurt attendance as the Generals had 6 fewer dates than in 2018, with 9 lost dates. Just 9 dates drew at least 3,000. The average topped 4,000 per date in this team's first 3 seasons (1998-2000), but was below 3,000 each year from 2003 through 2019, and under 2,000 in 9 of the team's final 15 years. The Generals had drawn over 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but were below 150,000 for the final 15 years, and under 200,000 in the final 17 seasons.
-) Based on 2019-20 A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson, which ranks #176, was the smallest market in terms of TV households, with a 2019 Class AA team. Bowling Green, KY (Market #177) was the only smaller market with a 2019 full-season MLB-affiliated team. Grand Junction (#188), and Great Falls (#192), both in the Pioneer League, are markets smaller than Jackson that had short-season MLB-affiliated teams in 2019.
-) In **2018**, the **Mobile Bay Bears**, who announced that they would move to Madison, AL (Rocket City) after the 2019 season, had the worst attendance in their 23-year history. The Bay Bears drew team lows in total attendance (69,504, down 23,394) and average per date (1,121, down 377). These were also the lowest 2018 figures in Class AA, and the lowest total for a Southern League team since Orlando drew 61,960 in 2000. The percentage declines of 25.2% in both total attendance and average per date were each the 7th worst among MLB-affiliated teams in 2018.
-) In **2019**, Mobile had a healthy increase from the 2018 figures. Total attendance was 95,087, up 25,583, and average per date rose 464 to 1,585, despite 10 lost dates. These gains ranked 15th best in total attendance, 11th best in average per date, 9th best in total attendance percentage gain (36.8%), and 7th best average per date percentage gain (41.4%), among NAPBL teams. 11 dates drew at least 3,000. But attendance was under 1,000 at 26 dates.
-) 2019 was Mobile's 5th straight year with a total of under 100,000, and the 6th year in a row with an average per date of less than 2,000. Mobile drew 332,639 in 1997, which was the first season for this latest franchise. Attendance did not reach 300,000 since then. A previous team in Mobile drew 237,322 in 1947. Average per date was a record-high 4,821 in 1997, and also topped 4,000 in 1999.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A SOUTH** - continued**Southern League Historic Attendance Data****SOUTHERN LEAGUE (AA)** (10 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,589,072 (1994); Team – Birmingham (with Michael Jordan) - 467,867 (1994)

-) Southern League total attendance fell 19,531 (0.9%) to 2,242,303 in **2019**. This league reached 2 million in total attendance every year since 1991. Average per date was up 38 to 3,439. The league topped 3,400 in average per date for the 7th straight year, and for the 22nd time in the last 28 years. Since 1992, Southern League average per date has ranged from a low of 3,135 in 1996, to a high of 4,007 in 1994, when Michael Jordan played for Birmingham. The league had 13 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018, as there were 47 lost dates, compared to 34 in 2018, and 44 in 2017. There was just one April game in 2019 that started in temperatures of below 50 degrees (at Tennessee). 6 games began with temperatures below 50 in April, 2018. Cold weather isn't usually a problem in this league, but rain can be.
-) 4 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams increased their average per date in 2019. Considering that Mobile was in its final season, it was surprising that the Bay Bears had the best increases in the league in both total attendance and average per date. Tennessee had the biggest declines in both of these categories.
-) Southern League average attendance per team reached 200,000 for the first time in 1991, and remained above that figure ever since, and was quite stable. The record-high average per team of 258,907 per team was set in 1994, when Michael Jordan played in this league. Low average per team since 1991 was 212,783 in 1991. It was 224,230 in 2019. The old Southern Association topped 200,000 per team each year from 1946 through 1950. Their record average per team was 272,543 in 1947.
-) The original Southern League began play in 1885, and later changed its name to the Southern Association. That league played through the 1961 season. Birmingham, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Mobile, and Montgomery were 2019 Southern League markets who were in the Southern Association. The Southern Association's best attendance was 2,180,344 in 1947. That year, the most prominent team in the league, the Atlanta Crackers, had their top attendance, drawing 404,584. Record-high team season attendance in that league was 445,926 by Birmingham in 1948. 7 of the 8 teams in the league drew over 200,000 in 1947. But by its last year in 1961, just 3 of the 8 Southern Association teams drew over 100,000. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)
-) The Montgomery Biscuits of Double-A South, the Cedar Rapids Kernels of High-A Central, and the Chicago Dogs of the American Association, are the only teams in Minor League Baseball that are named for food. The Dogs are named for Chicago-style hot dogs, and not canines. The Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association were also named for food, but they adopted Kansas City's Negro League name 'Monarchs' in 2021. (Source: Tampa Bay Rays Media Guide.)

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A SOUTH** - continued

DOUBLE-A SOUTH OR SOUTHERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	8						
2021	8	1,490,075			3,498	55	1.7
2019	10	2,242,303	(19,531)	(0.9)	3,439	38	1.1
2018	10	2,261,834	(77,251)	(3.3)	3,401	(170)	(4.8)
2017	10	2,339,085	13,215	0.6	3,571	100	2.9
2016	10	2,325,870	(39,009)	(1.6)	3,471	(134)	(3.7)
2015	10	2,364,879	(2,831)	(0.1)	3,605	66	1.9
2014	10	2,367,710	51,119	2.0	3,539	24	0.7
2013	10	2,316,591	163,739	7.6	3,515	278	8.6
2012	10	2,152,852	(22,653)	(1.0)	3,237	(5)	(0.2)
2011	10	2,175,505	(34,325)	(1.6)	3,242	(91)	(2.7)
2010	10	2,209,830	(74,371)	(3.3)	3,333	(128)	(3.7)
2009	10	2,284,201	(176,637)	(7.2)	3,461	(201)	(5.5)
2008	10	2,460,838	(56,979)	(2.3)	3,662	(19)	(0.5)
2007	10	2,517,817	72,017	2.9	3,681	79	2.2
2006	10	2,445,800	29,569	1.2	3,602	(53)	(1.5)
2005	10	2,416,231	(29,758)	(1.2)	3,655	(45)	(1.2)
2004	10	2,445,989	162,330	7.1	3,700	208	6.0
2003	10	2,283,659	21,878	1.0	3,492	106	3.1
2002	10	2,261,781	(142,167)	(5.9)	3,386	(251)	(6.9)
2001	10	2,403,948	(20,898)	(0.9)	3,637	18	0.5
2000	10	2,424,846	92,134	3.9	3,619	168	4.9
1999	10	2,332,712	(61,496)	(2.6)	3,451	(65)	(1.8)
1998	10	2,394,208	89,129	3.9	3,516	13	0.4
1997	10	2,305,079	214,009	10.2	3,503	368	11.7
1996	10	2,091,070	(169,680)	(7.5)	3,135	(170)	(5.1)
1995	10	2,260,750	(328,322)	(12.7)	3,305	(697)	(17.4)
1994	10	2,589,072	180,494	7.5	4,002	369	10.2
1993	10	2,408,578	90,498	3.9	3,633	137	3.9
1992	10	2,318,080	190,254	8.9	3,496	N/A	N/A
1991	10	2,127,826	268,259	14.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	1,859,567	171,723	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A CENTRAL**– (10 teams – 120-game schedule in 2021, 138-game schedule in 2022)

-) **Double-A Central** – All 8 teams from the 2019 Texas League are now in this league, along with San Antonio, who played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast League in 2019, and Wichita, also from the PCL, but who played in New Orleans in 2019.
-) The league drew a **2021** total of 2,247,762, with just 20 lost dates, averaging 224,776 per team, and 3,882 per date. Both average per team and average per date were best among the 3 Double-A leagues. Teams in this league had a **2019** total attendance of 3,316,756, and averaged 4,899 per date. The 10 AA-Central teams had a combined 98 fewer dates played in 2021 than in 2019. Texas League teams drew 2,791,180 in **2019**, averaging 5,131 per date.
-) Amarillo posted the best Double-A total attendance (316,288), and the highest average per date in this league (5,453). Tulsa also drew more than 300,000, and averaged over 5,000 per date. Wichita topped the 2019 New Orleans total attendance by 53,138, and the New Orleans average per date by 1,082.
-) **2021** was another great attendance year for **Amarillo**. The Sod Poodles (The name comes from “a pioneer’s name for a Prairie Dog,”) drew a Double-A-best total of 316,288, and averaged a league-high 5,453 per date. Only Rocket City had a higher average per date among Double-A teams. There were 10 sellouts in 2021, giving the Sod Poodles 50 sold out games in their 2 seasons. 18 dates topped 6,000, with a high of 7,477. There were 2 lost dates.
-) **Amarillo replaced San Antonio in the Texas League in 2019, and had an incredible season on the field and at the gate. They won the Texas League championship. 2019 attendance at Hodgetown, their new ballpark, was 427,791, the 2nd highest among all Class AA teams. Average per date was 6,291. The total was up 100,515, and the average per date was up 1,406, from what San Antonio drew in 2018. 47 dates drew at least 6,000, 13 topped 7,000, with a high of 7,451. There were 40 sellouts, including a streak of 23 in a row.**
-) Amarillo had independent teams from 1994 through 2016, most recently in the American Association from 2011 through 2016. Their best attendance in those leagues was a total of 159,332 (3,621 per date) in 2008, when they played in the United League. Prior to their independent years, Amarillo had teams from 1922-1923, 1927-1928, 1939-1942, 1946-1963, 1965-1974, and 1976-1982. Top attendance in those seasons was 132,128 in 1955, in the West Texas-New Mexico League. From 1959 through 1982 Amarillo was in the Texas League. Attendance never reached 100,000 in Amarillo’s 22 Texas League seasons. It did top 100,000 in 6 seasons between 1946 and 1957. The best year in the Texas League was 89,476 in 1981.
-) The **Frisco RoughRiders** posted a **2021** attendance of 275,169, with a 4,828 average per date. 23 dates drew better than 5,000, including a Double-A Central best crowd of 9,190. There were 3 lost dates.
-) Frisco drew 455,765 (down 12,494) in **2019**, to lead all of Class AA for the 15th consecutive year in both total attendance and average per date (6,802, down 84). This was the 2nd lowest total and average in RoughRiders’ history. Attendance reached 8,000 at 26 dates, and was above 10,000 at 9 dates, including a single game 2019 Texas League-high of 12,023, which was the 2nd highest ever for this club (12,067 in 2018). This team drew at least 449,000 in each of their first 17 seasons, through 2019, including over 500,000 each year from 2003 through 2011, and 666,977 in 2003. In team history, **including 2021**, they’ve drawn 9,124,813 in 1,233 dates, averaging 506,934 per season, and 7,461 per date. That is 96.3% of Dr. Pepper Ballpark’s seating capacity of 7,748. Until 2021, average per date had topped 6,600 every season, reached 7,000 in 12 of 17 years, and was above 8,000 yearly from 2003 through 2009, with a high of 9,264 in 2003.
-) **Midland** drew 186,134 in **2021**, with an average per date of 3,155. One date was lost. Attendance topped 4,000 at 13 dates, with a high of 5,433.
-) In **2019**, Midland had a 22,344 increase in total attendance to 285,368. Average per date rose a Texas League-best 329 to 4,197. That was the 18th straight year above 250,000 for the RockHounds. Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 in 43 seasons through 2001, but has been over 250,000 every year, except 2021, since then. Through 2019, average per date was over 3,700 for 22 straight years, and had topped 4,000 in 11 of the previous 13 seasons. 7 dates in 2019 drew at least 6,000. In 2016, the RockHounds won the Larry MacPhail Award for promotional effort.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A CENTRAL** - continued

-) **Tulsa** had a total attendance of 300,270, and a 5,089 average per date in **2021**. The Drillers had one lost date. 13 crowds were above 6,000, with a high of 8,361. There were also 5 reduced-capacity sellouts. In 2021, Tulsa topped 300,000 for 25th time in the last 28 seasons, including the last 12. In 65 seasons, from 1919 through 1988, Tulsa reached 200,000 only in 1948, 1949, 1963, 1964, and 1965. They never reached 250,000 until 1991, but have done it every year since, including 2021. 2010 through 2019 had 10 of the 11 top attendance totals (1999 is the other season) in the 108-year history of pro baseball in Tulsa.
-) In 2014, Tulsa had their 2nd best regular season total attendance (403,732) in team history. In **2019** it was 374,501, up 24,105, the Texas League's best gain. Average per date increased 277 to 5,507. 25 dates drew at least 6,000, with 7 of them topping 8,000. That was the Drillers' 10th straight year above 350,000 in total attendance, and above 5,200 in average per date.
-) In **2021**, **Corpus Christi** drew 206,847, with a 3,694 average per date. 7 dates drew over 5,000 with a high of 5,861. There were 4 lost dates.
-) Corpus Christi drew 323,688 in **2019**, down 16,919, and average per date fell a league worst 242 to 4,624. It was the lowest total and average in the team's first 15 years. For the 2nd straight year, there were no rainouts. 13 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 7,400. The Hooks have been above 400,000 6 times, surpassed 500,000 twice, and have topped 320,000 every year, except 2021. Average per date was above 7,000 in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and topped 5,000 each year from 2005 through 2016. Total attendance for their 16 seasons, **including 2021**, is 6,300,059 in 1,094 dates, averaging 393,754 per season, and 5,759 per date. 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 a Class AA record-high of 689,286 in 2004.
-) The **Wichita Wind Surge** replaced New Orleans in 2021. They opened a new ballpark, built on the same site as the former park, Lawrence Dumont Stadium, which opened in 1934. Wichita was a member of the Class AAA American Association from 1956 through 1958, and again from 1970 through 1984. They had a Texas League team from 1987 through 2007. Then they were part of the independent American Association from 2008 through 2017. Highest total MLB-affiliated attendance in Wichita was 280,320 in 1971. Best independent attendance was 161,170, with a 3,504 average per date in 2009.
-) In **2021**, **Wichita** drew 241,230, averaging 4,021 per date, with no lost dates. Total attendance was up 53,138, and average per date rose by 1,082, from the figures compiled by 2019 New Orleans. The Opening Day crowd of 7,908 was the largest of the season, and 14 dates drew at least 5,000.
-) After one season in Triple-A, **San Antonio** returned to Double-A in **2021**. The Missions drew 184,167 in total attendance, and averaged 3,231 per date. There were 2 lost dates. 13 dates drew over 4,000 with a high of 6,294.
-) San Antonio joined the Pacific Coast League when the Colorado Springs Sky Sox moved to the Alamo City in **2019**. The Texas League team that played in San Antonio relocated to Amarillo, but they left their name, the Missions, behind for the new Class AAA team. The Missions drew 337,484 in 2019, averaging 4,891 per date. Those were gains of 74,827 in total attendance, and 787 in average per date, compared to what Colorado Springs drew in 2018. The total was up 10,208, and the average per date was up 6, compared to what the Texas League team in San Antonio drew in 2018. It was the highest total and average per date for a San Antonio team since 1998. There were 9 sellouts, and 15 dates topped 6,000 at Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium, which seats 6,200.
-) Attendance in San Antonio topped 300,000 in each of the last 4 Texas League seasons, and was above 270,000 every year since 1994, when Nelson Wolff Municipal Stadium opened. 1994 was the record-high attendance season in San Antonio with a total of 411,959, averaging 6,149 per date. That year, San Antonio also had a team in the independent Texas-Louisiana League. It drew 25,204, the lowest total in that league. The pre-1994 high was 295,103 in 1946. San Antonio drew at least 300,000 in 17 seasons since 1994. The average per date was above 4,190 for 12 straight years through 2019, and topped 4,000 in all but 4 seasons (2004, 2005, 2006, 2021) since 1994. It was above 5,000 per date from 1994 through 1998. From 1922 through 1993, the only seasons above 200,000 were 1946, 1949, and 1972. The last season with attendance under 100,000 was 1979. San Antonio first joined the Texas League in 1888, and had been a member of that league since 1907, except for 1943-1945 and 1965-1967, when there was no pro baseball in that city.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A CENTRAL** - continued

- J The **Springfield (MO)** Cardinals drew 172,134 in **2021**, with a 2,918 average per date. One date was lost. Highest game attendance was 6,019, and 11 dates drew at least 4,000.
- J In **2019**, Springfield had a total attendance of 328,217, up 1,855, with 2 more dates. Average per date fell 114 to 4,757. Attendance reached 6,000 at 14 dates, with 5 dates topping 7,000. The Cardinals drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005, and surpassed 400,000 each year from 2005 through 2009. Average per date was over 7,000 in 2005, 2006, and 2007, and has been above 4,700 every year except 2021.
- J In **2021**, **Northwest Arkansas** drew 150,473, averaging 2,736 per date. The Double-A Central champs had a top crowd of 4,691, surpassed 4,000 at 4 dates, and lost 5 dates to weather.
- J Northwest Arkansas' total attendance fell a Texas League-worst 19,697 to 284,829 in **2019**. Average per date was down 162 to 4,316, but has been above 4,300 every season, except 2021. Attendance topped 6,000 at 6 dates. There were 4 lost dates in 2019, and 2 fewer dates than in 2018. The Naturals have topped 300,000 in 10 seasons, and averaged 5,200 in 2008, their first season.
- J **Arkansas** (North Little Rock) had a **2021** total of 215,050, and averaged 3,645 per date. 11 dates drew at least 5,000, with a high of 7,136. Just one date was postponed.
- J **2019** attendance in Arkansas was 311,021, up 14,174. Average per date was up 76 to 4,574. The Travelers had never reached 300,000 until 2007, but have now done it 11 times in the last 14 years through 2021. Average per date has surpassed 4,500 in 12 years, and has reached 5,000 in 5 of those seasons. Attendance first reached 200,000 in 1951, and then each year from 1980 through 1996.

Texas League Historic Attendance Data

TEXAS LEAGUE (AA) (8 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

- J Total attendance rose 113,883 (4.3%) to 2,791,180 in **2019**. Every team drew at least 280,000. 2019 was the 20th straight year that the Texas League drew over 2 million, and the 17th straight year above 2.6 million.
- J Texas League average attendance per team had topped 350,000 for 10 straight years through 2014, until falling slightly below that since then. It was 348,998 in 2019, the 17th straight year above 330,000. The average per team was over 200,000 from 1947 through 1950, but didn't get that high again until 1991. It first topped 300,000 in 2003.
- J Average per date was up 182 in 2019 to 5,131. The league's average per date first reached 5,000 in 2003, and surpassed that mark in 13 of its last 15 seasons. 2019 average per date was up 1,732 (51.0%) since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. **All teams averaged at least 4,197 per date in 2019. No other Minor league in 2019 had each one of its teams post such a high average per date.** Frisco led, with a Class AA best 6,802 per date.
- J The all-time single game record-high attendance in the Texas League is 54,151 for a game on April 11, 1950 at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. A very good article about this game and its attendance can be found at hardballtimes.com. 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 22,000 in Monterrey of the Mexican League. Sahlen Field in Buffalo, which seated 16,600 in 2019 and 2021, is the biggest Minor League park in the United States.
- J The Texas League, like many Minor Leagues, had a big attendance boom in the late 1940's, with the league reaching a total of 2 million in both 1948 and 1949. Houston in 1948 (401,383), and Dallas in 1949 (404,851), set the records for team attendance. Those team records were not topped until San Antonio drew 411,959 in 1994. Attendance for the entire league did not reach 2 million again also until 1994. It was above 2 million every year starting in 2000.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**DOUBLE-A CENTRAL** - continued

DOUBLE-A CENTRAL OR TEXAS LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	10	2,247,762.			3,882		
2019	8	2,791,180	113,883	4.3	5,131	182	3.7
2018	8	2,677,297	(50,053)	(1.8)	4,949	(102)	(2.0)
2017	8	2,727,350	27,727	1.0	5,051	61	1.2
2016	8	2,699,623	(92,903)	(3.3)	4,990	(191)	(3.7)
2015	8	2,792,526	(48,388)	(1.7)	5,181	(70)	(1.3)
2014	8	2,840,914	25,781	0.9	5,251	47	0.9
2013	8	2,815,133	(19,731)	(0.7)	5,204	40	0.8
2012	8	2,834,864	12,755	0.5	5,164	(43)	(0.8)
2011	8	2,822,109	(120,821)	(4.1)	5,207	(243)	(4.5)
2010	8	2,942,930	(21,240)	(0.7)	5,450	(9)	(0.2)
2009	8	2,964,170	(165,695)	(5.3)	5,459	(232)	(4.1)
2008	8	3,129,865	315,751	11.2	5,691	321	6.0
2007	8	2,814,114	(27,917)	(1.0)	5,370	117	2.2
2006	8	2,842,031	7,676	0.3	5,253	43	0.8
2005	8	2,834,355	167,226	6.3	5,210	234	4.7
2004	8	2,667,129	(100,725)	(3.6)	4,976	(103)	(2.0)
2003	8	2,767,854	603,577	27.9	5,079	988	24.2
2002	8	2,164,277	93,454	4.5	4,091	242	6.3
2001	8	2,070,823	(197,084)	(8.7)	3,849	(374)	(8.9)
2000	8	2,267,907	479,992	26.8	4,223	824	24.2
1999	8	1,787,915	(50,457)	(2.7)	3,399	(18)	(0.5)
1998	8	1,838,372	7,736	0.4	3,417	(167)	(4.7)
1997	8	1,830,636	(143,272)	(7.3)	3,584	(169)	(4.5)
1996	8	1,973,908	(63,885)	(3.1)	3,753	(158)	(4.0)
1995	8	2,037,793	(70,612)	(3.3)	3,911	(207)	(5.0)
1994	8	2,108,405	216,763	11.5	4,118	380	10.2
1993	8	1,891,642	140,589	8.0	3,738	323	9.5
1992	8	1,751,053	64,114	3.8	3,415	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,686,939	106,540	6.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,580,399	68,759	4.5	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A EAST** – (12 teams, 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

- J **High-A East** – Asheville, Greensboro, Greenville, Hickory, Jersey Shore (Lakewood), and Rome, came from the South Atlantic League. Wilmington, DE and Winston-Salem played in the Carolina League in 2019. Bowling Green, KY was in the 2019 Midwest League, and Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley played in the short-season New York-Penn League in 2019.
- J Drew 1,662,465 in 2021, averaging 138,539 per team, and 2,481 per date. 49 dates were lost. The same 12 teams drew 2,550,443 in 2019, and averaged 3,643 per date. These teams had 30 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. 3 teams in this league played short-season schedules in 2019, and those 3 teams played a combined 58 more dates in 2021 than in 2019.
- J The 14-team South Atlantic League drew 2,978,718 in 2019, averaging 3,176 per date. The Carolina League, with 10 teams, had a 2019 total attendance of 2,018,496, and drew an average of 3,139 per date. The short-season New York-Penn League's 2019 total was 1,316,873, and that league averaged 2,644 per date.
- J **Greenville, SC** had the best attendance in this league in **2021**. The Drive drew a total of 243,962, and an average per date of 4,125. This was the 2nd best total attendance and average per date among the 60 Class-A teams. Only Dayton drew better. 14 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 6,467. Just one date was lost.
- J Greenville led the South Atlantic League in total attendance in **2019**, drawing 329,733, up 16,226. The Drive's average per date rose by 26 to 4,849, with 3 more dates than in 2018. 8 dates drew over 6,000, including a team-record high crowd of 7,551. In 2006, Greenville got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team. Greenville surpassed 300,000 in 14 straight years through 2019, a mark they never reached in the 42 previous years. The Drive has been above 200,000 in all but 3 years since Minor League Baseball returned there in 1984. Average per date has topped 4,700 every year, except 2021, in the current park. Greenville won the 2017 John H. Johnson President's Award for excellence.
- J The **Greensboro Grasshoppers** had a total attendance of 225,905 in **2021**, with a 3,895 average per date. Those were the 4th best figures among Class A teams. There were 2 lost dates. Attendance was above 5,000 at 14 dates, with a team and league high of 6,742.
- J In **2019**, Greensboro's total attendance declined a South Atlantic League-worst 16,020 to 306,136, with 5 lost dates. Average per date fell 171 to 4,710. Both the total and average were the lowest since 2004. Attendance surpassed 6,000 at 15 dates. The Grasshoppers topped 300,000 for 15 straight years through 2019, and were above 350,000 in 12 of them. They drew 400,000 each year from 2005 through 2009. But prior to 2005, teams in Greensboro reached 200,000 just 6 times in 50 seasons, with a high of 260,340 in 1981. Average per date had exceeded 5,000 for 13 years in a row through 2017, and was over 6,000 from 2006 through 2008.
- J The Lakewood BlueClaws became the **Jersey Shore BlueClaws** in **2021**. They drew 150,873, averaging 2,743 per date. 9 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 6,096. 4 dates were lost.
- J In **2019**, for the just the 3rd time in their 19-years, Lakewood did not lead the South Atlantic League in either total attendance or average per date. The total rose 14,905 to 308,318, with 3 more dates than in 2018. Average per date was up 14 to 4,671. 2021 and 2018 were the only years that Lakewood drew under 300,000, and had an average per date of less than 5,000. Attendance topped 6,000 at 22 dates in 2019, including a league-best crowd of 10,754. 2011, 2014 through 2019, and 2021, are the only seasons below 400,000 for Lakewood, but attendance had topped 380,000 each year until 2016. They lost 9 dates due to weather in 2011. The BlueClaws led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 14 times in their 19 years of play in that league, and in 2 of the years they didn't have the top total, they still led the league in average per date.
- J There have been 144 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001 (seating capacity-6,588). They averaged over 6,000 per date every year through 2012, before falling short of this level in each of the last 8 years. The BlueClaws have a 20-year total attendance of 7,862,554 in 1,328 dates which averages out to 393,128 per season, and 5,921 per date, including 2021. (405,878 per year, 6,058 per date excluding 2021.)

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A EAST** - continued

-) **Hickory's** total **2021** attendance was 88,453, with a 1,658 average per date. The largest crowd was 5,576, and 4 dates topped 3,000. 6 dates were lost.
-) The Hickory Crawdads drew 137,546, up 12,152 in **2019**. Hickory's first season was 1993, when they reached their record-high total of 283,727. They topped 200,000 in each of their first 4 years (1993-1996), but have not done it since. Average per date in 2019 was up a league-best 184 to 2,084. 12 dates drew above 3,000. The Crawdads averaged 4,053 per date in 1993, and above 3,000 in 1994 and 1995. They haven't reached that level since then, but have been above 2,000 every year except 2009, 2018, and 2021. Their ballpark got a makeover prior to the 2014 season.
-) **2021** total attendance in **Asheville** was 130,435, with a 2,329 average per date. The first 5 dates of the year were reduced-capacity sellouts. 12 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,004. There were 4 lost dates.
-) **The 2019 Asheville Tourists set a record-high total for the 4th time in 5 years, drawing 187,718, up 17,329, with 8 more dates. The old record was set in 2017. It was also the 6th straight year with a record-high in either total attendance or average per date.** Average per date was 2,761, down 79 from the record-high set in 2018. 8 dates drew at least 4,000. Through 2019, average per date was above 2,500 for 7 straight years. Total attendance had been above 150,000 for 10 years in a row, and in 14 of the previous 15 seasons. In the 57 years with recorded attendance before that, it reached 150,000 only in 2000 and 2001. It topped 170,000 for the 6 years from 2014-2019, something never done in the prior 66 years. Attendance was above 100,000 just 7 times until 1990. Asheville's McCormack Field opened in 1924. A new park with the same name on the same site, opened in 1992.
-) In **Rome, GA**, the Braves drew 78,538 in **2021**, and they averaged 1,540 per date. 9 dates were lost, and just 3 dates reached 3,000, with a high of 3,571.
-) Rome drew 152,874 in **2019**, up 6,598, with 5 more dates. Average per date was 2,216, down 70. It was the lowest average per date in the team's 17 seasons through 2019. 11 crowds topped 3,000. The Braves have been below 200,000 in total attendance, and below 3,000 in average per date, for the past 12 years, including 2021, after being above that level in their first 6 years.
-) **Bowling Green, KY** had a total attendance of 125,738, and a 2,245 average per date in **2021**. 4 dates were lost. Crowds of at least 4,000 attended 5 dates, with a high of 6,098.
-) In **2019**, Bowling Green had a total attendance increase of 12,548 to 190,877, with 4 lost dates. Average per date was up a Midwest League-best 235 to 2,937. 27 dates drew at least 3,000, with 4 dates topping 5,000. The Hot Rods reached a total of 200,000 in their first 5 seasons (2009-13), and also in 2015. Their average per date topped 3,000 in their first 5 years, but not since.
-) **2021** attendance in **Wilmington, DE** was 78,690, with a 1,381 average per date. 2 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,018. There were 3 lost dates.
-) Wilmington, DE had topped 275,000 in each of their first 24 seasons (1993-2016). But weather was a problem in 2017, with 10 rainouts, and in 2019, with 8 lost dates. **2019** total attendance fell 18,421 to 231,325, with 3 fewer dates. Average per date dipped 111 to 3,731, the lowest in team history to that point. 10 dates topped 5,000. The Blue Rocks led the Carolina League in attendance each year from 1998 through 2008, and topped 300,000 for 16 straight years (1993-2008). Average per date had been above 4,100 every year until 2017, and in 1993, 1994, 1995, and 2001, it topped 5,000. In 28 years, including 2021, they've drawn 8,290,599 in 1,835 dates, averaging 4,518 per date at 6,532 capacity Frawley Stadium. The average per date is 4,619 if 2021 is excluded.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A EAST** - continued

-) **The Brooklyn Cyclones**, the most successful team, attendance-wise, in the 6-decade history of short-season Minor Leagues, became a full-season team in **2021**. Their total attendance was 103,874, and they averaged 1,889 per date. 5 dates were lost. Top crowd was 4,156, with 3 dates above 3,000.
-) 2016 through 2019 were the only times in the 19-year short-season history of the Brooklyn Cyclones that they did not lead all short-season teams in both total attendance and average per date. Vancouver of the Northwest League drew better these 4 years. **In 2019, Brooklyn led the New York-Penn League in attendance for the 19th straight year**, but had a total attendance loss 27,973 with 2 fewer dates, to 174,522, the lowest in team history. The Cyclones have topped 200,000 every year except 2017, 2019, and 2021. Average per date was 4,848, down 481 in 2019, the first time the average was under 5,000. Both the total and average per date losses were the worst among all short-season teams in 2019. 13 dates drew at least 5,000, with 4 dates topping 7,000, including a league-high 8,031. Brooklyn drew 4,832,173 in their 19 short-season years (so this excludes 2021), reaching 4 million in their 15th year, which was sooner than any short-season team had ever done. Spokane held this record previously, and it took that team 28 years to top 4 million. Eugene, OR of the Northwest League hit 4 million in its 39th short season.
-) In 2002, the Cyclones set the short-season record of 317,124, averaged 8,345 per date, and sold out every game. They also topped 300,000 in 2003, and were above 250,000 each year from 2001 through 2010. In 2001, the Cyclones drew 289,382, breaking the New York-Penn League mark set by Mahoning Valley (206,287) in 2000, and the short-season record of 249,995 set by Portland of the Northwest League in 1996. **The Cyclones ranked in the top-10 in MLB-affiliated Minor League average per date attendance in 2001, 2002, and 2003, and are the only short-season team to ever accomplish this.** Brooklyn reached 200,000 in attendance 17 times in their New York-Penn League years. Other short-season teams topping 200,000 were Aberdeen (11 times), Vancouver (5), Portland, OR (4), Salt Lake City, Staten Island, Mahoning Valley (2 each), Spokane, Lowell (1 each).
-) Brooklyn's **2019** average of 4,848 per date still topped 55 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, 19 of the 30 teams in Class AA, 10 Mexican League teams, and even 3 teams in Class AAA. In their 19 short-season years, the Cyclones played 701 dates, averaging 6,893 per date. Attendance was above 7,000 at 392 of these dates, and 324 were sellouts. From 2001 through 2007, only Dayton drew a higher percentage of ballpark capacity than Brooklyn. There was a streak of 113 consecutive sellouts from 2001-2004. Their season average per date reached 7,000 from 2001 through 2011. The Cyclones won the 2017 Larry MacPhail Award in recognition of their many great promotions.
-) Since 2012, the Cyclones have had 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. The Islanders now play at UBS Arena, which opened in November, 2021, on the grounds of Belmont Park Racetrack.
-) Maimonides Park is now the name of the Cyclones' ballpark, located at the boardwalk in Coney Island. The park's sponsor is Maimonides Medical Center, named for the 12th Century Talmudic scholar, physician, and philosopher. It was the first U.S. hospital to perform a human heart transplant. It is also the birthplace of this report's author.
-) **Hudson Valley**, a very successful short-season team, also made the move to full-season status. The Renegades drew 125,599 with a 2,243 average per date in **2021**. 10 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,778. 4 dates were lost.
-) The Renegades topped 4,000 in average per date in 24 of their 26 seasons in the New York-Penn League. (They missed by 54 in 1994, their first season, and fell short by 2 in 2017.) The Renegades drew at least 138,000 in all short-seasons since starting play in 1994, and were above 160,000 in 10 of these seasons. Total attendance for those 26 years was 4,057,535 in 945 dates, an average of 4,294 (95.5% of capacity) in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,601, set in 2015. **In 2019**, total attendance rose 2 to 148,158, and average per date was up 112 to 4,116. There were 20 dates with attendance of at least 4,000.
-) **Aberdeen** also made the move from short-season to full-season in **2021**. The IronBirds drew 104,665, averaging 1,869 per date. 4 dates were lost. Biggest crowd was 4,737, and 6 dates drew over 3,000.
-) **In 2019**, Aberdeen had the lowest attendance in their 18-years of short-season play. Total attendance fell by 3,550 to 118,357, and average per date was down 284 to 3,199. 11 crowds topped 4,000, with 7 dates drawing over 5,000. 2019 total attendance fell by 126,617 (51.7%) since 2012, from 244,974. Average per date was down 3,361 (51.2%) since 2011. Prior to 2013, the IronBirds had topped 225,000 in total attendance, and 6,000 in average per date in all 11 seasons they had played.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A EAST** - continued

- J The **Winston-Salem** Dash, named for the dash in that city's name, drew 206,333 in **2021**, averaging 3,620 per date. 18 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 6,187. There were 5 reduced-capacity sellouts, and 3 dates were lost.
- J The Dash led all High-Class A teams in total attendance in **2019** (264,879, down 27,895). Average per date fell 164 to 4,272, with 8 lost dates. There were 20 crowds of 5,000+, including a league-high 8,825. Attendance had been below 170,000 each year from 1951 through 2009, but was above 264,000 each year since through 2019, with 5 years above 300,000. Average per date was over 4,200 for 10 straight years through 2019.
- J In 2010, the Dash opened a new ballpark, and set a team record-high, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. Their old record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing record by a current Minor League franchise going into 2010. Now, the Mexico City Red Devils, whose record-high was set in 1967, have gone the longest time of any team since achieving their all-time record.
- J 2010 attendance in Winston-Salem was up 254,648 from 2009, which was the biggest increase in the Minor Leagues for that season. In 67 seasons prior to 2010, Winston-Salem's only total attendance above 200,000 was in 1947. Construction delays and financial problems caused the new park's opening to be pushed back to 2010. The team played the 2009 season in old Ernie Shore Field. Total 2009 attendance was just 57,665, the smallest attendance by any team in the Carolina League since Peninsula drew 41,107 in 1991. Winston-Salem's attendance was down 112,398 in 2009, the 2nd worst decline among U.S. teams for that year.

South Atlantic League Historic Attendance Data**SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (14 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

- J Weather hit this league very hard in 2018. 95 of the 980 dates (9.7%) scheduled were postponed. The league played 32 fewer dates in 2018 than in 2017. There were 23 dates in April that began with temperatures of less than 50 degrees, and 43 games that had a gametime temperature of at least 70. But the weather was much better in 2019. There were 53 more dates played than in 2018, and only 41 dates were postponed. April and May had a combined 22 postponements in 2019, compared to 48 in 2018. Just 3 April 2019 dates began at less than 50 degrees, while it was at least 70 degrees at the start of 87 dates.
- J Total attendance rose 71,421 (2.5%) to 2,978,718 in **2019**. Average per date was down 109 to 3,176. This ended a streak of 14 straight years year with an average per date of 3,200+. Delmarva had the top gain in total attendance, and Hickory posted this league's best average per date gain. Greensboro had the worst total decline, and Lexington had the biggest average per date dip. 9 teams were up in total attendance, and 5 had gains in average per date.
- J Compared to 2000, 2019 total attendance in the South Atlantic League was up 52.4% (1,954,697 to 2,978,718), and average per date rose 47.7% (2,150 to 3,176). Average per team increased by 52.6% from 139,389 to 212,766.
- J There were 16 teams in the S.A.L. when it set its all-time attendance record in 2007. Despite 2 fewer teams starting in 2010, the league topped 3 million for 10 straight seasons through 2012, fell slightly below this level in 2013 and 2014, before finishing above it in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million initially in 1997.
- J From its inception in 1960 as the Western Carolinas League, league total attendance was under 500,000 until 1980. Average attendance per team reached 60,000 just once (in 1970) until 1980. It topped 100,000 for the first time in 1993. The average per team first hit 200,000 in 2004, and was always above that level thereafter.
- J The South Atlantic League posted some of the best gains ever for relocated teams. In their first season (2001), Lakewood (now named Jersey Shore) drew 482,206, an all-time high for a South Atlantic League team. It was also a 14-fold increase from the 32,641 this franchise attracted in 2000, when it was in Cape Fear, NC. Lake County OH, which is now in the High-A Central, drew 437,515, in 2003, their first year in Ohio. In 2002, the franchise drew just 52,103 in Columbus, GA.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A EAST** - continued

HIGH-A EAST OR SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	12						
2021	12	1,662,465			2,481		
2019	14	2,978,718	71,421	2.5	3,176	(109)	(3.3)
2018	14	2,907,297	(166,138)	(5.4)	3,285	(67)	(2.0)
2017	14	3,073,435	27,098	0.9	3,352	69	2.1
2016	14	3,046,337	(7,096)	(0.2)	3,283	(14)	(0.4)
2015	14	3,053,433	69,551	2.3	3,297	61	1.9
2014	14	2,983,882	32,069	1.1	3,236	(26)	(0.8)
2013	14	2,951,813	(104,284)	(3.4)	3,262	(17)	(0.5)
2012	14	3,056,097	(69,837)	(2.2)	3,279	(79)	(2.4)
2011	14	3,125,934	(97,721)	(3.0)	3,358	(57)	(1.7)
2010	14	3,223,655	(467,303)	(12.7)	3,415	(110)	(3.1)
2009	16	3,690,958	(86,215)	(2.3)	3,525	(38)	(1.1)
2008	16	3,777,173	(84,904)	(2.2)	3,563	(67)	(1.8)
2007	16	3,862,077	66,527	1.8	3,630	29	0.8
2006	16	3,795,550	275,113	7.8	3,601	212	6.3
2005	16	3,520,437	234,488	7.1	3,389	271	8.7
2004	16	3,285,949	156,737	5.0	3,118	35	1.1
2003	16	3,129,212	361,063	13.0	3,083	481	18.5
2002	16	2,768,149	(182,481)	(6.2)	2,602	(205)	(7.3)
2001	16	2,950,630	999,185	51.2	2,807	657	30.6
2000	14	1,951,445	(98,016)	(4.8)	2,150	(80)	(3.6)
1999	14	2,049,461	(34,687)	(1.7)	2,230	(1)	(0.0)
1998	14	2,084,148	(8,948)	(0.4)	2,231	(54)	(2.4)
1997	14	2,093,096	191,122	10.0	2,285	246	12.1
1996	14	1,901,974	(735)	(0.0)	2,039	(14)	(0.7)
1995	14	1,902,709	96,210	5.3	2,053	35	1.7
1994	14	1,806,499	17,072	1.0	2,018	114	6.0
1993	14	1,789,427	441,443	32.7	1,904	401	26.7
1992	14	1,347,984	(43,510)	(3.1)	1,503	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,391,494	291,480	26.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	12	1,100,014	39,050	3.7	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** – (12 teams, 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

- J **High-A Central** – All 12 of these teams played in the Midwest League in 2019. 2019 Midwest League teams that moved to other leagues for 2021 were Kane County (to the independent American Association), Bowling Green (to High-A East), and Burlington, IA and Clinton (to the Summer Collegiate Prospect League).
- J Total **2021** attendance was 1,994,854, with an average per team of 166,238, and an average per date of 2,899, all of which were best among High-A leagues. There were 30 lost dates. The same 12 teams drew 3,094,931 in **2019**, averaging 3,883 per date. These teams played 109 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 16-team Midwest League drew 3,824,807 in **2019**, with an average of 3,612 per date.
- J **In 2021, Dayton had the highest attendance of any team below Class Triple-A for the 15th straight year. 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. In 2021, the Dragons drew 344,167, the 10th best total among MLB-affiliated teams, and had a 5th best average per date of 6,258. Through 2019, Dayton had 20 of the 21 highest season attendance totals in history by a team in Class A. (1996 West Michigan has the other.) There were 5 lost dates in 2021.**
- J **The 2021 Dragons outdrew all but 9 Triple-A teams in total attendance, and all but 4 Triple-A teams, and Tijuana of the Mexican League, in average per date.**
- J **Dayton holds the record for the longest consecutive sellout streak in North American sports – 1,385 regular season dates from the team’s inception in 2000 through the 2019 season.** The Dragons started the **2021** season with a greatly reduced allowable capacity in their ballpark. They did draw at least 6,000 to 33 dates, with a high of 8,144. Their final 2021 Game Notes didn’t mention sellouts, so it can be assumed that they didn’t sell out every game in 2021. But it really wouldn’t be fair to end such a great streak under circumstances mostly beyond the team’s control. So the Dragons have announced that if they sell out their games in 2022, their streak will continue.
- J **Dayton’s sellout streak continued in 2019, and they again outdrew all other Class AA and Class A teams. Total attendance fell 5,617 to 545,108. There was one lost date. The Dragons topped 545,000 in each of their first 20 seasons, and have reached 580,000 in 9 years. Average per date was a 2019 Class A best 7,900, up 32. It was the 2nd time that the average per date was under 8,000. It has topped 8,400 per date in 10 seasons. There were 23 dates with crowds above 8,000 in 2019, with a high of 9,387. In their 20 seasons through 2019, the Dragons drew 11,513,972 in 1,385 regular season dates, averaging 575,699 per year, and 8,313 per date. They’ve averaged better than 8,500 per date in 2007, 2008, 2010, and 2012. If 2021 is included, Dayton has drawn 11,858,139 in 1,440 regular season dates, averaging 8,235 per date, and 564,673 per year.**
- J **Dayton sold out all 1,385 regular season home dates they played, starting on Opening Day 2000, through 2019. It’s the longest sellout streak in North American pro sports history!** The Boston Red Sox still have the Major League Baseball record of 794 straight sellouts of regular season games, plus 26 post-season games, a streak which ended with the 2nd game of the 2013 season. The Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA had 814 consecutive sellouts, including playoffs, from April 9, 1977 to November 16, 1995, which had been the longest sellout streak before the Red Sox broke it. **On February 12, 2020, the NBA Dallas Mavericks surpassed this NBA record, and later topped the Red Sox’ Major sports league record.** The San Francisco Giants had a National League record 555 date sellout streak (530 regular season dates+25 post-season dates). That streak began on October 1, 2010, and ended on July 17, 2017.
- J In 2019, Dayton outdrew all but 8 Class AAA teams, and 2 Mexican League teams, in total attendance, and all but 9 Class AAA teams and 3 Mexican League teams in average per date. Dayton’s owners have included NBA legend Magic Johnson, and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.
- J **Dayton (7,900 in 2019), Kane County (5,228), and West Michigan (5,378), were the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2019.** Lakewood (now named Jersey Shore) of the South Atlantic League had topped 6,000 per date from their start in 2001 through 2012, and had been above 5,200 every year until 2018. Fort Wayne also averaged more than 5,200 per date each year from 2009 through 2018. Dayton’s park had 6,730 seats in 2021. The single game record-high in Dayton is 9,558 in 2009.
- J The only Class A teams to ever draw at least 500,000 in a season are Midwest League teams Dayton (20 times), Kane County (6), West Michigan (4), and Lansing (2).

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** - continued

-) **West Michigan** held the record broken by Dayton in 2000. The Whitecaps, who play in Comstock Park MI, near Grand Rapids, topped 500,000 for 4 straight years (1995-1998), including 1996, when they drew a then-Class A-record 547,701. In 1994, they first broke the Class A record of 463,039 set by Denver in 1949. They reached 350,000 for 26 years in a row through 2019, and have topped 400,000 in 9 seasons (1994-2002). Average per date has been over 5,000 every year except 2021, was over 6,200 from 1994 through 2001, topped 7,000 from 1995 through 1998, and was exactly 8,000 in 1997. In 2014, the Whitecaps drew 391,653, up 13,705, their best total attendance since 2002. It's quite an accomplishment considering that a fire that January partly destroyed their park.
-) In **2021**, West Michigan drew 228,071, with an average per date of 3,932. This was the 3rd best total and average per date in Class A, topped only by Dayton and Greenville, SC. There were 2 lost dates. Attendance reached 5,000 at 14 dates, with a high of 7,103. There were 8 limited-capacity sellouts.
-) **2019** Whitecaps' attendance fell 26,314 to 360,295, and average per date was down 392 to 5,378. This was the lowest total since 2009, and the lowest average since 2012. 32 dates drew over 6,000, with 8 of those dates topping 8,000, including a high of 9,361. In their 27 years, including 2021, West Michigan has drawn 10,876,049 in 1,830 dates, an average of 402,817 per season, and 5,943 per date. Exclude 2021, and the average per season is 409,538, and the average per date is 6,009. The Whitecaps have had 50 crowds of at least 10,000 in their history.
-) **Beloit** opened a new, privately-financed ballpark, ABC Supply Stadium, on August 4, **2021**. The Snappers began the season at Pohlman Field for the 39th year. The 35 dates there drew just 14,888, an average of 425 per date. Only the final game at Pohlman drew at least 1,000. ABC Supply Stadium hosted 23 dates, and it drew 31,858, an average of 910 per date. Opening Night had a sellout crowd of 3,500, and 2 other dates drew over 2,000. Total 2021 attendance in Beloit was 46,746, with an 806 average per date. 2 dates were lost. For 2022, this team has been renamed the Sky Carp, a slang term for a goose that does not migrate to a warmer climate in winter.
-) Beloit attracted 101,127 in 1986, the only time in their 37-year history above 100,000. In **2019**, the Snappers drew 73,200, up 8,626, their top total since 2010, despite 8 lost dates. It was the 10th straight year under 80,000, after 7 years in a row above 80,000. Average per date was 1,181, the best since 2009, and up 156. 6 dates drew 2,000+. Record-high average per date since 1991 is 1,487 in 2004. Despite relatively low attendance, this team is often profitable. It is community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.
-) **Fort Wayne** drew 219,044, with a 3,777 average per date in **2021**. 11 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 7,686. There were 2 lost dates.
-) The Fort Wayne Tincaps drew a **2019** total attendance of 371,259, down 5,163, and average per date dipped 162 to 5,541. Attendance reached 6,000 at 33 dates, and 3 dates drew at least 8,000, topped by a record-high crowd of 9,508. The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 28 years of operation, have topped 370,000 in 11 of 12 years in their current ballpark (2021 was below that figure), and have reached 400,000 in 6 of the last 11 seasons, including 5 of the last 8. Average per date has never been under 2,962 in this team's history, and was above 5,400 for 11 years in a row through 2019. The Tincaps were the only team in the Midwest League that did not lose a home date due to weather in both 2013 and 2014, but had 3 lost dates in 2015 (all on Fireworks Nights), 2 in 2016, just one in 2017, 4 in 2018, and 3 in 2019. Fort Wayne won the 2016 John H. Johnson President's Award, the Minor Leagues top honor for organizational excellence. Their park is often cited as an example of how a sports facility can lead to significant development in a downtown area. In 2018, the Tincaps won the 'Ballpark Digest Continued Excellence Award.'
-) In **2021**, **Lake County** (Eastlake, Ohio) drew 126,191, with a 2,253 average per date. 3 dates were lost. 15 dates drew at least 3,000, with a high of 6,184.
-) Lake County's **2019** total attendance was the lowest in its 17-year history through 2019. Total attendance for this team fell from 437,515 in 2003, to 200,756 in 2019. There were 5 lost dates in 2019, and the total dipped 1,368, the 14th decline in 16 years. Average per date went from 6,341 in 2003 to 3,089 in 2019. But that was up 27 from 2018. 20 dates in 2019 drew over 4,000, and 7 topped 6,000, with a high of 8,170. For the 2nd straight year in April, 6 games began in under-50-degree weather. The Captains reached 400,000 in 2003 and 2004, but have been below 300,000 for the last 12 seasons, including 2021. Average per date topped 6,000 in 2003 and 2004, and stayed above 5,000 through 2007.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** - continued

-) The **Great Lakes Loons** of Midland, Michigan, had a **2021** total attendance of 124,896, with a 2,153 average per date. There were 2 lost dates. Top crowd was 5,503, and 8 dates drew at least 3,000.
-) Great Lakes drew 195,904 in **2019**, up 8,684, just the 2nd time under 200,000 in their 13-year history. There were 4 more dates played in 2019 than in 2018. Average per date fell 41 to a team-low 2,839, and the 2nd time under 3,000. 12 dates drew over 4,000, with a team record-high 6,671. The Loons drew 324,564 in 2007, their first year, but have not reached 300,000 since then. Average per date was 4,000+ in their first 4 years (2007-2010).
-) The **Cedar Rapids Kernels** (named after corn) drew 100,161 in 2021, with a 1,757 average per date. Their best crowd was 3,516, and 5 other dates also topped 3,000. 2 dates were lost.
-) Cedar Rapids was down 9,887 to 150,278 in **2019**, the lowest total since 2001. There were 4 lost dates, and 17 dates reached 3,000. 6 dates in April began in less than 50-degree weather. The Kernels have never topped 200,000 in a season. But they drew over 150,000 for 18 straight years through 2019, after reaching that level just 3 times (1985, 1988, 1989) in the 64 previous years with listed attendance. 2019 average per date was down 112 to 2,243, the 18th straight year above 2,200, but the lowest since 2001. Since Perfect Game Field opened in 2002, attendance was very steady through 2019, with the total ranging from 150,278 (2019) to 196,066 (2002), and the average per date ranging from 2,243 (2019) to 2,883 (2002).
-) **2021** total attendance in **Lansing** was 198,878, with an average per date of 3,429. 17 dates drew better than 5,000. One game drew 10,109, which was the largest crowd at any 2021 High-A game. 2 dates were lost.
-) Lansing's total **2019** attendance was 311,028, down 2,564, and average per date was down 169 to a team-low 4,443. 23 dates drew at least 5,000, 8 dates topped 7,000, with a high of 10,824, which was also the top Midwest League crowd of the year. They didn't have any rainouts. The Lugnuts drew better than 500,000 in 1996 and 1997, and finished above 400,000 from 1996 through 2001. They've reached 350,000 in 12 seasons, and been above 300,000 in all 24 years through 2019. Total attendance, including 2021, is 9,180,520 in 1,667 dates, an average of 5,507 per date. (Exclude 2021, and the average per date is 5,582.) Average per date was above 7,000 from 1996 through 1998, and surpassed 6,000 from 1996 through 2001. Each year since 2007, Lansing has played an exhibition game against Michigan State University. Attendance for the 13 games of the 'Crosstown Showdown' has totaled 107,668, an average of 8,282 per game. 4 of these games have attracted over 11,000 fans, with a high of 12,997 in 2012. This game was not played in 2020 or 2021, but will return in 2022.
-) In **Peoria**, the Chiefs played to 69,725 in **2021**, with a 1,223 average per date. 3 dates were lost. Attendance reached 3,000 at 3 dates, with a high of 4,069.
-) Peoria had a 9,730 decrease to 198,545 in **2019**, and an average per date decline of 236 to 2,920. Those were the lowest numbers since 2012. The Chiefs had topped 200,000 in total, and 3,000 in average per date, in 15 of the previous 17 years until 2019. Prior to 2002, Peoria reached 200,000 in only 3 of the previous 25 years with recorded attendance. There were 16 dates in 2019 which drew at least 4,000.
-) **Quad Cities** had an increase in **2021 vs 2019** attendance. The total was 163,263, up 12,358, and average per date rose 341 to 2,815. 2 dates were lost. 11 crowds topped 4,000, with a high of 7,047.
-) Flooding on the Mississippi River, right next to their park, hit Quad Cities hard in **2019**. They had 7 fewer dates than in 2018, and some games had to be relocated to other ballparks. Overall, the River Bandits drew 150,905, down 64,156. Average per date fell 689 to 2,474. It was the 2nd worst total attendance loss, and the 3rd biggest average per date decline among MLB-affiliated teams in 2019. 9 dates topped 4,000. There was one 'home' game in Burlington which drew 2,252, 2 in Cedar Rapids, which drew a total of 1,378, 2 in Clinton, drawing a total of 2,052, 6 in Peoria, drawing a total of 3,963, and 3 at the University of Iowa, which had no official attendance. The 50 dates in Quad Cities drew 141,260, an average of 2,825 per date. The 2018 total was the 11th straight year above 200,000. The River Bandits had reached 200,000 only 6 times in 70 seasons (1990-1992, 1994-1996) with recorded attendance before that most recent streak. Average per date surpassed 3,100 for the 11th straight year in 2018. A popular feature at Modern Woodmen Park is a 110-foot tall Ferris wheel.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** - continued

-) **South Bend** drew 217,066 in **2021**. The Cubs averaged 3,679 per date. Only one date was postponed. There were 10 crowds of better than 5,000, with a high of 6,338.
-) For 2012, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3rd best gain among MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date rose by 985, the top increase among all U.S. MLB-affiliated teams. In 2013, the Silver Hawks had another big gain. Total attendance increased by 47,873, which was the 4th highest affiliated gain. Average per date was up a league-best 850. In 2014, the team drew 258,836, a record-high which was 412 higher than the old mark of 258,424 in 1994. South Bend's total attendance gain of 21,388 was the best in the league.
-) The incredible attendance growth continued in 2015 in South Bend. The team affiliated with, and was renamed, the Cubs. Total attendance grew by 88,842 to a team record-high 347,678. Average per date was up 1,288 to a record-high 5,039. The gains in both total attendance and average per date were the 3rd best among MLB-affiliated teams in 2015. There were 40 sellouts. New highs in total attendance and average per date were set again in 2016.
-) More records were set in 2017 despite 2 fewer dates. The Cubs' total of 354,070, and average per date of 5,285, made it 4 straight years with new highs. Some bad weather may have prevented the Cubs from setting more records in 2018. Total attendance that year was 343,763, and average per date was 4,911.
-) In **2019**, the Cubs drew 319,616, down 24,147 in 3 fewer dates. Average per date was 4,770, down 141. The total and average were the 5th best in the team's 32 seasons. 33 dates drew at least 5,000, with 7 dates surpassing 7,000. **From 2011 through 2019, total attendance was up 206,821 (183.4%) from 112,795, and average per date increased by 3,008 (170.7%) from 1,762.** Attendance reached 200,000 each year from 1989 through 1996. But it was under 200,000 in 12 of 16 years from 1997 through 2012.
-) Four Winds Field in South Bend, formerly Stanley Coveleski Regional Stadium, is the only ballpark in America with a former synagogue on its grounds. The Sons of Israel Synagogue was built in 1901, but had been empty for over two decades. When the ballpark was renovated, the team bought the building, located behind the outfield wall, to use as its team store. They refurbished it, while still respecting its religious and landmark status.
-) **The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers** (Appleton), had a **2021** total attendance of 156,646, and an average per date of 2,797. There were 4 lost dates. Best attendance of the year was 4,980, and 9 dates reached 4,000.
-) Timber Rattlers' **2019** attendance was down 7,860 to 218,037, and average per date dipped 121 to 3,354. Those were the lowest figures since 2008. There were 5 lost dates. In 2014, Wisconsin actually drew the largest total attendance ever (250,131) in their home ballpark, which underwent a major renovation for the 2013 season. The official team record-high is 253,240 in 2009. But that includes a crowd of 17,880 for a game they played at Miller Park in Milwaukee. Average per date topped 3,000, and total attendance was over 190,000, for 25 straight years through 2019. The total never reached 100,000 in 45 seasons prior to 1995. The average per date surpassed 3,300 for 11 years in a row through 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** - continued**Midwest League Historic Attendance Data****MIDWEST LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (16 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 4,233,904 (2015); Team – Dayton - 597,433 (2010)

-) 2019 Midwest League attendance declined 112,914 (2.9%). Total attendance was 3,824,807, the lowest total in the 10 years that this league had 16 teams. Average per date slipped 99 to 3,612, lowest since 2006. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2018, and 57 lost dates. But the weather in April 2019 was much warmer than in April 2018. In April 2018, 63 dates began with temperatures of less than 50 degrees, and at 29 of these dates, the temperature was under 40 degrees. In April 2019, 46 dates had a gametime temperature of less than 50 degrees, with just 5 dates under 40. 73 dates began with temperatures of at least 60 degrees in April 2019, vs. 46 dates in April 2018.
-) **In 2015, the Midwest League set new league and Class A record-highs for total attendance, average per date, and average per team. Total attendance was 4,233,904, breaking the league record set in 2010. Average per date was 3,924, topping a mark set in 2013. Average per team was 264,619.**
-) This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982 when it expanded from 8 to 12 teams. It reached 2 million in 1994, and 3 million in 1996, with 14 teams in those years. Total attendance topped 3 million for its last 20 seasons, was above 3.5 million for the final 13 years, and was over 4 million in 7 of the last 10 years.
-) Average attendance per date was above 3,000 for 25 straight years, which also is a Class A record. It topped 3,500 per date for the league's last 20 years.
-) Midwest League average attendance per team was under 70,000 from 1947 through 1980. In 13 of those seasons, it was below 50,000, with a low of 20,128 per team in 1948, when it was the Illinois State League. Lowest average per team under the Midwest League name (since 1956) was 40,362 in 1967. The average per team reached 100,000 for the first time in 1985, and initially topped 200,000 in 1996. It was above 200,000 for the final 20 years, and reached 250,000 in 10 of the last 13 seasons. It was 239,050 in 2019, the lowest since 2006. The league expanded to 16 teams, from 14, in 2010.
-) 5 teams had increases in total attendance in 2019, and 6 teams were up in average per date. Burlington had the league's top gain in total attendance and Bowling Green had the best growth in average per date. Quad Cities, which was hit hard by Mississippi River flooding, had the biggest declines in total attendance and average per date.
-) The Midwest League's single game attendance high was 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, for a Peoria/Kane County game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County, a team that now plays in the independent American Association.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A CENTRAL** - continued

HIGH-A CENTRAL OR MIDWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	12						
2021	12	1,994,854			2,899		
2019	16	3,824,807	(112,894)	(2.9)	3,612	(99)	(2.7)
2018	16	3,937,721	(149,652)	(3.7)	3,711	(88)	(2.3)
2017	16	4,087,373	(65,694)	(1.6)	3,799	(64)	(1.7)
2016	16	4,153,067	(80,837)	(1.9)	3,863	(61)	(1.6)
2015	16	4,233,904	91,086	2.2	3,924	45	1.2
2014	16	4,142,818	24,769	0.6	3,879	(28)	(0.7)
2013	16	4,118,049	33,706	0.8	3,907	177	4.7
2012	16	4,084,343	101,061	2.5	3,730	(24)	(0.6)
2011	16	3,983,282	(201,561)	(4.8)	3,754	(150)	(3.8)
2010	16	4,184,843	555,805	15.3	3,904	14	0.4
2009	14	3,629,038	26,951	0.7	3,890	16	0.4
2008	14	3,602,087	71,949	2.0	3,874	57	1.5
2007	14	3,530,138	232,043	7.0	3,817	271	7.6
2006	14	3,298,095	(188,680)	(5.4)	3,546	(136)	(3.7)
2005	14	3,486,775	(18,781)	(0.5)	3,682	(67)	(1.8)
2004	14	3,505,556	129,658	3.8	3,749	35	0.9
2003	14	3,375,898	9,119	0.3	3,714	105	2.9
2002	14	3,366,779	134,424	4.2	3,609	65	1.8
2001	14	3,232,355	(36,118)	(1.1)	3,544	(108)	(3.0)
2000	14	3,268,473	494,046	17.8	3,652	636	21.1
1999	14	2,774,427	(117,900)	(4.1)	3,016	(77)	(2.5)
1998	14	2,892,327	(60,950)	(2.1)	3,093	(207)	(6.3)
1997	14	2,953,277	(215,355)	(6.8)	3,300	(225)	(6.4)
1996	14	3,168,632	404,303	14.6	3,525	373	11.8
1995	14	2,764,329	294,330	11.9	3,152	438	16.1
1994	14	2,469,999	655,498	36.1	2,714	543	25.0
1993	14	1,814,501	70,638	4.1	2,171	212	10.8
1992	14	1,743,863	(73,035)	(4.0)	1,959	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,816,898	168,803	10.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	1,648,095	(68,348)	(4.0)	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A WEST** – (6 teams – 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

-) **High-A West** – All 6 teams played in the short-season Northwest League in 2019. Boise, a 2019 Northwest League team, moved to the now-independent Pioneer League in 2021. Salem-Keiser, which also was in the 2019 Northwest League, formed the 4-team independent Mavericks League, which plays all of its games in Keiser, Oregon.
-) This league drew 521,812 in **2021**, averaging 86,969 per team, and 1,535 per date. 2021 attendance in this league was very adversely affected by capacity restrictions, as some teams were only allowed to sell well under 1,000 tickets to early-season games. Vancouver, the usual top drawing team in this group, could not play in its home city. There were 15 lost dates. In 2019, the same 6 teams drew 904,976, and averaged 3,969 per date. The 6 teams played a combined 112 more dates in 2021 than in 2019, when they were in a short-season league with a 76-game schedule. High-A West teams played between 16 to 21 more dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 2019 Northwest League, with 8 teams, drew league record-highs of 1,115,614 in total attendance, and 3,670 in average per date.
-) Due to the border restrictions, Vancouver had to play its home games in Hillsboro. Eugene played one home date in Hillsboro, and 5 home dates at Tri-City (Pasco, WA).
-) **Spokane** drew 140,623 in total attendance in **2021**, and 2,511 in average per date, to lead the league, and had the league's largest crowd of the year (5,771). 16 dates drew at least 3,000. There were at least 10 reduced-capacity sellouts. Minor League Baseball selected the Indians as their 'Organization of the Year.'
-) **Spokane attracted 200,273 in 2019, up 1,850, a record-high for a short season team in that city.** 9 short-season franchises have drawn 200,000+, and it has been done a total of 45 times by these 9 clubs. Brooklyn (17 times) did it most often, followed by Aberdeen (11 times), Vancouver (5 times), and Portland, OR (4 times). Salt Lake City, Mahoning Valley, and Staten Island did it twice each, and Lowell and Spokane did it once. Record-high for a full-season team in Spokane is 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. Spokane led the Northwest League in total attendance for 15 straight years through 2014, until Vancouver topped them.
-) The Indians have topped 100,000 for 35 straight years, including 2021, drew over 160,000 for 25 years in a row through 2019, and reached 180,000 each year from 2013-2019, and 18 times since 1996. The 2019 total was higher than the total Spokane drew in 18 of the 24 seasons that it was a member of the full-season Class AAA Pacific Coast League (1958-1971, 1973-1982). In 2015, the Indians became the first short-season team to reach 5 million in attendance (only short-season years are included in this total). Spokane's short-season team drew 5,895,308 in its short-season history (1983-2019).
-) In 2019, Spokane averaged 5,270, up 48 per date, which was higher than any P.C.L. team in Spokane had ever averaged. 13 crowds topped 6,000, and 5 were over 7,000, with 10 sellouts. 2019 was the 7th straight year that the average per date topped 5,000, and the 26th year in a row above 4,200. Spokane's park, which opened in 1958, underwent a renovation that was completed for the 2013 season, and has a seating capacity of 6,803.
-) The **Eugene Emeralds** drew 91,315 in **2021**, averaging 1,631 per date. There were no lost dates. The Emeralds are a good example of a team that usually draws well, facing a significant attendance decline due to capacity restrictions. Eugene had 9 early-season sellouts, but the attendance at each of those games was just 676. That's how many tickets they were allowed to sell. 25 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,208. The Emeralds were forced to play their final home series in Pasco, WA, home of the Tri-City Dust Devils. It wasn't because of Covid, smoke, or floods. The lease on their ballpark expired on September 10. Eugene shares PK Park with the University of Oregon baseball team, who needed the park for their fall season. This was never a problem before 2021, when the Emeralds' season was over by September 10. But the later end to the 2021 season sent Eugene away from home.
-) Eugene posted a 5,500 increase in **2019**, to 131,467, and average per date rose 145 to 3,460. Both the total and average were the highest since 2007. 17 crowds were above 4,000, including a team record-high of 5,178. **The Emeralds topped 100,000 for the 35th straight year, the longest such streak by a short-season team.** The total reached 120,000 in 26 seasons since 1987. Prior to this, attendance reached 100,000 only 4 times in 32 seasons from 1950 through 1984, with a high of 168,094 in 1972. Those 100,000+ seasons all occurred between 1969 and 1973, when Eugene was in the full-season Pacific Coast League. Average per date topped 4,000 in 1996, and was above 3,000 in all but 3 seasons since 1993. Eugene won the 2018 Larry MacPhail Award for promotional effort. Their new, smaller park has a capacity of 4,000 and is on the campus of the University of Oregon. In 2019, the University of Oregon averaged 1,366 per date for its home games. 3 games with Oregon State averaged 3,777.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A WEST** - continued

-) Attendance for **Tri-City (Pasco, WA)** was 61,245 in **2021**, with a 1,134 average per date. Largest crowd was 1,841. The final 6-game home series of the year was cancelled due to Covid. Those were the only lost dates all season.
-) **Tri-City drew 87,021, up 738, in 2019. This was a short-season record-high total for their market.** Average per date was 2,290, down 42, still the 2nd best in team history. The Dust Devils set a team record-high for average per date in 7 straight years through 2013, and again in 2016 and 2018. 6 dates topped 3,000 in 2019. Attendance in Tri-City was very consistent from 2009 through 2019, ranging from 83,987 in 2013, to 87,021 in 2019. Average per date ranged from 2,216 to 2,332 during this period. In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101 in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season than they later played as a short-season MLB-affiliated team.
-) **2021** total attendance in **Everett** was 102,423, with an 1,829 average per date. 5 dates topped 3,000, with a high of 4,083. There were 4 lost dates
-) Everett's **2019** total attendance rose 5,031 to 116,630, the 2nd best total (to 1998) in their 37-year history. Average per date was up 132 to 3,069, highest since 2001. 7 dates topped 4,000. The AquaSox topped 100,000 each year from 1998 through 2007, but didn't do it again until 2015 through 2019. Prior to 1998, Everett hit 90,000 just once in 14 years. The average reached 3,000 in 1998, 2000, 2001, and 2019.
-) It was a very busy **2021** at Ron Tonkin Field in Hillsboro, OR. The **Hillsboro Hops** shared the park with the Vancouver Canadians, who were not allowed to enter Canada. The Hops drew 110,384, and averaged 1,871 per date. They had 9 reduced-capacity sellouts, 4 dates topped 3,000, and the largest crowd was 5,211.
-) **Hillsboro**, a suburb of Portland, drew 133,605 in **2019**, up 3,319. Average per date rose 87 to 3,516. 12 dates drew at least 4,000. The Hops topped 128,000 and 3,300 per date in all 7 seasons in the Northwest League. This franchise played in Yakima through 2012. Highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
-) Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for a team in this league, and at that time, the highest attendance ever by any short-season team (broken by Brooklyn in 2001). For most of the 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 Timbers of Major League Soccer, and the Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League. Portland may be in the running for a Major League Baseball expansion team.
-) The closing of the U.S./Canadian border caused **Vancouver** to play its **2021** home games in Hillsboro. They drew 15,822, averaging 268 per date. The largest 'crowd' was 608.
-) Vancouver drew 235,980 in **2019**, down 3,106, the only total attendance decline in the Northwest League that year. The Canadians' average per date of 6,210, was down 82, but was the 4th straight year above 6,000. 25 of 38 dates drew a full sellout figure of 6,413, and 30 dates topped 6,000. Nat Bailey Stadium seats 5,157. In 2019, the Canadians averaged better than 1,000 per date above seating capacity, and 96.8% of full-sellout capacity. The 2019 short-season total was higher than what Vancouver drew in 27 of 43 years with full-season teams.
-) **The 2019 Canadians led all short-season teams in total attendance and average per date for the 4th year in a row. Brooklyn had been the short-season leader each year from 2001 through 2015. In total attendance, in 2019, Vancouver outdrew 2 Class AAA teams, 9 of 30 Class AA teams, 44 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 9 of 16 Mexican League teams, all of whom played much longer schedules. In average per date, Vancouver topped 11 of 30 Class AAA teams, 27 of the 30 Class AA clubs, all except Dayton in full-season Class A, 11 teams in the Mexican League, and every independent team except St. Paul.**
-) 2019 was the 10th consecutive year that Vancouver's total attendance surpassed 150,000, with average per date above 4,000. It was the 5th year in a row with a total above 200,000. Average per date reached 6,000 for the 4th straight year. Vancouver has topped 100,000, and 3,000 per date, in all short-seasons. In 1988, Vancouver set its all-time record of 386,220, while a member of the full-season Pacific Coast League. Vancouver is a rainy city, but not so much during their baseball season. They had just 12 regular season rainouts from 2000 through 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A WEST** - continued**Northwest League Historic Attendance Data****NORTHWEST LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A)** (8 teams -- 76 game schedule in 2019)RECORD HIGHS: League – **1,115,614 (2019)**; Team – Portland – 249,995 (1996)

-) **The Northwest League set a league total attendance record-high for the 3rd straight year in 2019! The total was 1,115,614, up 25,684 (2.4%). This broke the mark of 1,089,930 set in 2018.** Prior to 2017, the record-high was 1,060,587 in 1998. The Northwest League 2017 Media Guide listed their 1998 attendance as 1,088,382, because they added 27,795 to Portland's total. However, the 1998 NAPBL attendance press release, the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, and The Baseball Cube, all show the lower figure for 1998. One thing for sure, a new record was set in 2017, and then broken again in 2018 and in 2019.
-) **Average per date rose 73 to a record-high 3,670 in 2019, the 4th year in a row with a new high.** The league averaged over 3,200 per date for its last 7 seasons (2013-2019), and from 1995 through 2000, and in 2007, 2008, and 2011.
-) All teams in the Northwest League averaged better than 2,000 per date from 2013 through 2017, and in 2019. These are the only times in Minor League history that every team in one of the short-season leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date in the same year. Salem-Keizer broke the 2013-2017 streak in 2018 by averaging 1,897.
-) 7 teams had increases in total attendance in 2019, and 6 teams had gains in average per date. Salem-Keizer posted the league's best gains. Vancouver had the only total attendance loss, and the top average per date decline.
-) Not one date was lost to weather in the entire Northwest League in 2019. Only one date each year was lost in 2018 and 2017. There were 6 dates lost in 2016, 2 in 2015, 3 in 2014, 5 in 2013, and 3 in 2012. In 2011, there were none. The Northwest League had just 32 lost dates in 15 seasons since 2005, and 78 lost dates in 26 seasons since 1994.
-) Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but didn't reach that figure again until 2015 through 2019. The league drew better than 800,000 in all seasons since 1994. Before that year, the last time this league reached 800,000 was in 1948, when it played a full-season schedule. Total attendance was under 300,000 in all seasons from 1961 through 1982.
-) **Average attendance per team was a record-high 139,452 in 2019.** The old record was 136,241 per team in 2018. It was 132,573 in 1998, and with longer schedules was 124,174 in 1947 and 110,051 in 1948. The next time the average per team topped 100,000 was in 1994, and it did that every year since. It's was over 130,000 in each of the final 5 seasons. The average per team was below 50,000 from 1961 through 1984, with a low of 20,482 in 1968. That year, the 4-team league drew a total of 81,928. In 2015, each of the 8 teams in the league individually drew better than that. Salem-Keizer fell below the 1968 league total from 2016 through 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**HIGH-A WEST** - continued

HIGH-A WEST OR NORTHWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	6						
2021	6	521,812			1,535		
2019	8	1,115,614	25,684	2.4	3,670	73	2.0
2018	8	1,089,930	949	0.1	3,597	3	0.1
2017	8	1,088,981	39,339	3.7	3,594	72	2.0
2016	8	1,049,642	(1,623)	(0.2)	3,522	41	1.2
2015	8	1,051,265	69,491	7.1	3,481	219	6.7
2014	8	981,774	(2,658)	(0.3)	3,262	(30)	(0.9)
2013	8	984,432	87,651	9.8	3,292	313	10.5
2012	8	896,781	(17,205)	(1.9)	2,979	(28)	(0.9)
2011	8	913,986	28,961	3.3	3,007	67	2.3
2010	8	885,025	(22,069)	(2.4)	2,940	(54)	(1.8)
2009	8	907,094	(12,059)	(1.3)	2,994	(50)	(1.6)
2008	8	919,153	(8,016)	(0.9)	3,044	(36)	(1.2)
2007	8	927,169	33,348	3.7	3,080	130	4.4
2006	8	893,821	14,083	1.6	2,950	47	1.6
2005	8	879,738	16,573	1.9	2,903	(3)	(0.1)
2004	8	863,165	(27,926)	(3.1)	2,906	(35)	(1.2)
2003	8	891,091	10,452	1.2	2,941	25	0.9
2002	8	880,639	9,956	1.1	2,916	(35)	(1.2)
2001	8	870,683	(170,956)	(16.4)	2,951	(510)	(14.7)
2000	8	1,041,639	20,459	2.0	3,461	22	0.6
1999	8	1,021,390	(39,197)	(3.7)	3,439	(73)	(2.1)
1998	8	1,060,587	5,782	0.5	3,512	(4)	(0.1)
1997	8	1,054,805	15,381	1.5	3,516	51	1.5
1996	8	1,039,424	16,945	1.7	3,465	34	1.0
1995	8	1,022,479	166,829	19.5	3,431	607	21.5
1994	8	855,650	68,849	8.8	2,824	157	5.9
1993	8	786,801	64,470	8.9	2,667	210	8.5
1992	8	722,331	(20,707)	(2.8)	2,457	N/A	N/A
1991	8	743,038	50,912	7.4	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	692,126	55,939	8.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A EAST** - (12 teams, 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

-) **Low-A East** – 7 teams came from the Carolina League, and 5 had been in the South Atlantic League.
-) **2021** attendance was 1,799,442, an average of 149,954 per team, and an average of 2,646 per date. These were the highest figures among the Low-A leagues. There were 37 lost dates. In **2019**, the same 12 teams drew 2,366,810, averaging 2,973 per date. They had 116 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) **Kannapolis moved into a new park, and drew team record-highs in total attendance (162,031, up 86,100 from 2019), and in average per date (2,701, up 1,567).** Fredericksburg was relocated from Woodbridge, VA (Potomac). Their total attendance was 6,597 higher than in 2019, and average per date rose by 230. Myrtle Beach had a 127 increase in average per date.
-) **Augusta** had the league's best total attendance (211,561), and average per date (3,712) in **2021**. 20 crowds topped 4,000, with a high of 5,306. There were 3 lost dates.
-) **In 2018, The Augusta GreenJackets, named for the green jacket given to the winner of The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, moved to a new park in neighboring North Augusta, SC, and had a record-setting attendance year. Total attendance was 255,155, and average per date was 4,050 (old records were 201,760 and 3,011, both in 2010). The total gain was 76,886, and average per date rose by 1,307. Both of those increases were the best in Minor League Baseball in 2018. The 43.1% increase in total attendance, and the 47.6% gain in average per date, were the 2nd best percentage gains (to Tabasco of the Mexican League) in the MLB-affiliated leagues.**
-) **The GreenJackets set another new high for total attendance in 2019, drawing 266,569, up 11,414, with 5 more dates.** Average per date fell 130 to 3,920. 6 dates drew at least 5,000. This team has played in Augusta since 1988. Attendance topped 200,000 only in 2008, 2010, and 2011, prior to 2018, 2019, and 2021. But it has been above 150,000 for 15 straight years, including 2021. Average per date has reached 2,500 for the last 14 seasons, also including 2021.
-) The RiverDogs of **Charleston, SC** were the Low-A East Champs in **2021**. They drew 208,641, averaging 3,660 per date. 2 dates were lost. 7 dates drew over 5,000, with a top crowd of 5,920.
-) Charleston set a record-high in total attendance, or came close, in 5 straight years from 2015 through 2019. The **2019** total fell 3,720 to 301,320, which was the 3rd highest in team history. Average per date was 4,367, down 119, and was this market's 4th best ever. 18 dates drew at least 5,000, with a high of 8,046. **2021** was the 24th straight year above 200,000. 2019 was the 14th year in a row above 250,000, and the 3rd consecutive season above 300,000 for Charleston. The RiverDogs had never drawn 200,000 until 1997, or 300,000 until 2017. A former team in Charleston drew over 170,000 in both 1947 and 1948. But this city reached 120,000 only once (1986) in the next 31 seasons that it had a team, through 1996. Average per date has been above 3,300 for the past 24 seasons, including 2021, and between 2013 through 2019, it topped 4,000. The team won the 2013 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues. Comedian Bill Murray is one of the team's owners.
-) In 2002, Charleston, SC had a game with an official attendance of 0. It was a promotion called "Nobody Night" to achieve the lowest attendance ever at any game. A party for fans was held outside the ballpark until after the 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.
-) The **Carolina Mudcats** had total **2021** attendance of 98,976, with an 1,867 average per date. 7 dates were lost. Attendance was over 3,000 at 11 dates, with a high of 4,481.
-) Carolina's **2019** total attendance of 193,568 was up 12,446, with 2 more dates, and average per date increased 103 to 2,847. 10 dates topped 5,000. The Mudcats averaged 4,000+ in 8 seasons since 1992 (1992-97, 2000, 2008). They reached 300,000 in from 1993 through 1995, but have not done it since. Total attendance was above 200,000 for 25 straight seasons, but has been below that level in the last 5 years, including 2021. The Mudcats played in the Class AA Southern League through 2011, before moving to the Class A Carolina League.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A EAST** - continued

-) **2021 was a new ballpark year for the renamed Kannapolis Cannon Ballers (from Intimidators), and a record-setting attendance year as well. They opened Atrium Health Ballpark, in the downtown area, and drew team record-highs in total attendance (162,031), and average per date (2,701). Total attendance rose 86,100 vs. 2019, and average per date was up 1,567.** The old record-highs were 138,487 in total attendance (2011), and 2,150 in average per date (2001). 6 dates topped 4,000. The largest crowd was 5,387. No dates were lost.
-) Kannapolis played its final year in Intimidators Stadium in 2019. Total **2019** attendance rose 11,243 to 75,931, with 9 more dates, and average per date was up 18 to 1,133. 5 dates topped 2,000. The total was under 100,000 in 2003, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Their low was 64,688 in 2018. Average per date was above 2,000 in 2001, from 2009 through 2012, and in 2015 and 2021. In 25 seasons at Intimidators Stadium, this club drew 2,793,420, averaging 111,736 per year. Kannapolis is only about 25 miles from the new and very successful ballpark in Charlotte, which may hurt their attendance.
-) The Potomac Nationals moved about 35 miles south to a new ballpark in **Fredericksburg, Virginia** in 2021. This is the first-ever Minor League team for this city. The Fredericksburg Nationals drew 199,071 in **2021**, with a 3,492 average per date. The total was up 6,597, and the average per date rose 230, from what the team drew in Woodbridge (Potomac) in 2019. There were 25 dates that drew over 4,000, with a high of 5,196. 3 dates were lost.
-) **Potomac** had a tough final season in Woodbridge, Virginia. Total **2019** attendance fell 44,770 to 192,474, and average per date dipped 504 to 3,262. It was the 4th worst total loss, and 6th worst average per date loss among MLB-affiliated teams in 2019. 17 dates drew over 4,000. There were 4 fewer dates than in 2018, and 11 rainouts, the most of any team not in the Florida State League. From 2000 through 2009, the Nationals never reached 200,000. But they did it in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, and 2018. Average per date topped 3,000 for the 7th straight year in 2019. From 2000 through 2012, the average reached 3,000 only twice. The record-high total in Potomac was 243,559 in 2014, and the top average per date there was 3,869 in 2017.
-) **Delmarva** (Salisbury, Maryland) drew 110,281 in **2021**, with a 1,969 average per date. There were 4 lost dates. Crowds of at least 3,000 attended 7 dates, with a high of 5,874.
-) The Shorebirds won 90 games in **2019**, and had the best winning percentage of any MLB-affiliated team. They led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and topped 200,000 in all 24 years of operation through 2019. Attendance was above 300,000 in the team's first 2 seasons (1996, 1997). But it has not reached that figure since then, and has been under 240,000 for the last 18 years, including 2021. In 2019, total attendance rose a league-best 17,375 to 218,704, with 2 more dates. Average per date was up 167 to 3,264. 20 dates drew at least 4,000, with 6 of them topping 5,000. The Shorebirds averaged over 4,000 per date from 1996 through 2000, but not since. Their high average per date was 4,915 in 1997. But they've been above 3,000 every year, except 2021.
-) The **Down East** Wood Ducks are located in Kinston, NC, and play in Grainger Stadium, which opened in 1949. Their **2021** total attendance was 85,586, and they averaged 1,528 per date. 8 dates drew over 2,000. Largest crowd was 2,366. 4 dates were lost.
-) In **2019**, the Wood Ducks drew 110,619, down 6,216. Average per date was 1,651, down 119. 7 dates drew over 2,500.
-) Starting in 1946, Kinston had a team from 1946 through 1952, 1956, 1957, 1962 through 1974, and 1978 through 2011. When pro baseball returned to Kinston in 1962, it was, for that time, a big draw. In 1962, the team drew 141,227, the highest of any team below Class AA. Attendance was 119,346 in 1963, and 101,915 in 1964. In both of those years, Kinston was the only Class A or Rookie league team to draw at least 100,000. Attendance also surpassed 100,000 in every year from 1990 through 2011, with a high of 151,953 in 1997. The top average per date, going back to 1992, was 2,374 in 1997. The current team topped 100,000 in its first 3 seasons (2017-2019).

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A EAST** - continued

-) **Columbia, SC** had a **2021** total attendance of 153,547, with a 2,742 average per date. The Fireflies had 4 lost dates, and drew over 4,000 at 6 dates, with a best crowd of 5,136.
-) The Fireflies play in Segra Park, which opened in 2016. On days when there is no scheduled event, it is open as a public park. 2016 total attendance was 261,134, up 135,547 from what the franchise drew in Savannah in 2015. Average per date was 3,785, up 1,823 from Savannah. Prior to 2016, Columbia had a team from 1983-2004. It drew 100,000+ in 17 of 22 seasons, including each of the last 13. Record-high was 156,921 in 1996. Since 1946, teams also played in Columbia from 1946 through 1957, and in 1960 and 1961.
-) 2017 was a record year again for Columbia. The Fireflies drew 315,034, up 53,900, which was the 4th best gain among all MLB-affiliated teams. Average per date was 4,773, up 988, the 3rd best increase among the MLB-affiliates. Attendance at 24 dates topped 5,000, and was 6,000+ at 15 dates. The game played during the August solar eclipse drew 9,629.
-) The Tebow Effect in Columbia – In 2017, Tim Tebow played for Columbia until he was promoted to St. Lucie on June 26. At home, Columbia had Tebow for 39 dates, and drew 207,031, an average of 5,308. After Tebow left, the Fireflies drew 108,003 in 27 home dates, an average of 4,000. On the road with Tebow, Columbia drew 169,443 in 29 dates, averaging 5,843 per date. Columbia's 37 road dates after Tebow left drew 125,259, an average of 3,885 per date. Combined home and away with Tebow, Columbia drew 376,474 in 68 dates, averaging 5,536 per date. Without him, combined attendance was 233,262 in 64 dates, an average of 3,645. In 2018, without Tebow, total attendance fell 63,448, and average per date was down 1,018.
-) Combined Columbia-St. Lucie home attendance with Tebow was 274,822 in 68 dates, averaging 4,042 per date. Without Tebow, these 2 teams drew 172,571 in 64 home dates, an average of 2,696. On the road, the combined Columbia-St. Lucie total with Tebow was 296,989 in 62 dates, an average of 4,790. Without Tebow, it was 163,200 in 70 dates, an average of 2,331 per date.
-) In **2019**, Columbia drew 245,522, down 6,064. Average per date fell 35 to 3,720. 12 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 7,827.
-) **2021** total attendance for the Salem Red Sox was 128,769. They averaged 2,299 per date, with 3 lost dates. The largest crowd of the year was 4,691, and 15 dates drew at least 3,000.
-) In **2019** Salem drew 171,866, down 20,755. It was the lowest total there since 1995. Average per date fell 354 to 2,565, with 12 dates topping 4,000. Attendance in Salem never reached 200,000 in 43 years with recorded attendance, until 1999, but it surpassed that total 15 times in the last 22 seasons through 2021. Average per date has been over 3,000 in 12 of the last 17 seasons through 2021, and 15 times since 1999.
-) The **Myrtle Beach Pelicans achieved a 2021 vs. 2019 increase in average attendance per date. They were the only MLB-affiliated team, who played a 'normal' 2019 season, and didn't open a new park in 2021, who did that.** 2021 average per date was 3,504, up 127 from 2019. Total attendance was 199,704. 3 dates were lost. 16 dates drew at least 4,000. 3 dates had a full-sellout total of 6,599, which were the largest 2021 Low-A East crowds.
-) Myrtle Beach's **2019** total attendance rose 6,658 to 226,247. Average per date was 3,377, up 50. 7 dates topped 5,000, with 3 sellouts. This team in Myrtle Beach, which began play in 1999, has topped 200,000 in every season except 2005 and 2021, when they just missed. Average per date has been over 3,000 in all seasons, including 2021, other than 2005.
-) **Lynchburg's 2021** total attendance was 68,032, with a 1,173 average per date. One date was lost, and 5 dates topped 2,000. The largest crowd was 3,071.
-) Until 2005, Lynchburg had never drawn at least 150,000 in its long Minor League history, and reached 130,000 only in 1948. The Hillcats then topped 150,000 in each year from 2005 through 2015. In **2019**, they drew 117,029, up 4,801, with 7 postponements. Average per date rose 77 to 1,858. 6 dates drew at least 3,000. Average per date reached 2,000 in 13 of 16 years through 2019.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A EAST** - continued

-) **Fayetteville, NC** had a **2021** total attendance of 173,243, with a 3,039 average per date. The top crowd was 5,817, and 11 dates drew over 4,000. 3 dates were lost.
-) In 2017 and 2018, the Buies Creek Astros, had a temporary home at Campbell University's ballpark, which seats around 1,000. In **2019**, the team moved to its permanent home, became the **Fayetteville Woodpeckers, and smashed previous attendance records for that city. They drew a total of 246,961, averaging 3,632, in new Segra Stadium. 9 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 6,202.** Although this is officially a new team, total attendance was 222,893 above the Buies' Creek 2018 total, and the average per date was up 3,273. These gains were each the 3rd best among MLB-affiliates. Fayetteville had post-World War II teams from 1946 through 1956, and again from 1987 through 2000. Only the 1992-1995 teams drew at least 100,000, with a high of 121,051 in 1995. The top average per date, since 1992 for those teams, was 1,862 in 1995.

Carolina League Historic Attendance Data**CAROLINA LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (10 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,027,878 (2017); Team – Durham - 390,486 (1995)

-) Total 2019 attendance rose 117,268 (6.2%) to 2,018,496. This was the 2nd highest total ever for this league, topped only by the 2017 figure noted above. Average per date was up 223 to 3,139. It was the 22nd time since 1993, and the 13th time in the final 14 years, that the average surpassed 3,000 per date. The main factor in this increase was that Fayetteville moved into its permanent new ballpark. The league's top average per date was 3,811 in 2014.
-) 56 dates in 2019 were lost, resulting in 9 fewer dates than in 2018. April 2019 was much warmer than April 2018, with just 7 games starting in temperatures of under 60 degrees, with none below 50. Temperatures were at least 70 degrees at the start of 68 games. In April 2018, 42 games began with a temperature of less than 60 degrees, including 15 games where it was under 50. Only 32 games had a temperature of at least 70 at the start.
-) Fayetteville had the top attendance increases in this league, while Potomac had the worst losses.
-) Carolina League attendance was very stable over its last 20 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, 2015, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Attendance topped 2 million for the first time in 2017, with 2 added teams, and again in 2019.
-) The league drew better than one million in 1947, but didn't do it again until 1989. They reached one million every year after that, and topped 1.5 million each season but one (2003) since 1993.
-) Average attendance per team reached 100,000 in 1946 and 1947, but not again until 1985. It hit 200,000 for the first time in 1993, and was above that level 20 times from that year forward, including in 12 of the last 14 years. In 2014, it was a record-high 247,109, and was a 2nd best 243,346 in 2015 (8 teams). It was 201,850 in 2019.
-) The largest Carolina League crowd was 32,152 when Potomac hosted Salem at RFK Stadium in Washington in 2006. Top attendance in a Carolina League ballpark was 12,049 at Greensboro in 1960. Among 2019 Carolina league teams, Frederick held the record for biggest crowd in its home ballpark (11,006 in 1997). Frederick, Maryland played in the MLB-Draft League in 2021, and led all Summer Collegiate teams in attendance.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A EAST** - continued

LOW-A EAST OR CAROLINA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	12						
2021	12	1,799,442			2,646		
2019	10	2,018,496	117,268	6.2	3,139	223	7.6
2018	10	1,901,228	(126,650)	(6.3)	2,916	(213)	(6.8)
2017	10	2,027,878	201,145	11.0	3,129	(391)	(11.1)
2016	8	1,826,733	(120,035)	(6.2)	3,520	(181)	(4.9)
2015	8	1,946,768	(34,905)	(1.8)	3,701	(110)	(2.9)
2014	8	1,981,673	46,933	2.4	3,811	154	4.2
2013	8	1,934,740	57,659	3.1	3,657	135	3.8
2012	8	1,877,081	87,450	4.9	3,522	74	2.1
2011	8	1,789,631	(20,906)	(1.2)	3,448	57	1.7
2010	8	1,810,537	223,949	14.1	3,391	328	10.7
2009	8	1,586,588	(139,923)	(8.1)	3,063	(164)	(5.1)
2008	8	1,726,511	57,700	3.5	3,227	78	2.5
2007	8	1,668,811	67,384	4.2	3,149	99	3.2
2006	8	1,601,427	12,081	0.8	3,050	68	2.3
2005	8	1,589,346	12,711	0.8	2,982	(33)	(1.1)
2004	8	1,576,635	117,795	8.1	3,015	115	4.0
2003	8	1,458,840	(128,214)	(8.1)	2,900	(78)	(2.6)
2002	8	1,587,054	(55,218)	(3.4)	2,978	(92)	(3.0)
2001	8	1,642,272	31,017	1.9	3,070	(29)	(0.9)
2000	8	1,611,255	(41,001)	(2.5)	3,099	(7)	(0.2)
1999	8	1,652,256	130,091	8.5	3,106	250	8.8
1998	8	1,522,165	(283,180)	(15.7)	2,856	(531)	(15.7)
1997	8	1,805,345	82,765	4.8	3,387	100	3.0
1996	8	1,722,580	(93,613)	(5.2)	3,287	(226)	(6.4)
1995	8	1,816,193	128,597	7.6	3,513	292	9.1
1994	8	1,687,596	(55,432)	(3.2)	3,221	(37)	(1.1)
1993	8	1,743,028	373,151	27.2	3,258	613	23.2
1992	8	1,369,877	68,371	5.2	2,645	N/A	N/A
1991	8	1,301,560	14,845	1.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	1,286,715	279,977	27.8	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A SOUTHEAST** – (10 teams, 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

- J **Low-A Southeast** – All 10 teams came from the Florida State League. The Florida Firefrogs and the (Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs, who were in the Florida State League in 2019, did not play in any pro league in 2021.
- J Drew 467,920, an average of 46,792 per team, and an average of 987 per date in **2021**. 122 dates were lost, the most of any league in 2021. The lost dates figure includes games played with no fans in attendance. In **2019**, the same 10 teams drew 824,223, and an average of 1,334 per date. They had 144 fewer dates with fans in attendance in 2021 than in 2019. The 2019 Florida State League drew 935,187, an average of 1,255 per date.
- J The Clearwater Threshers were the league's 2021 attendance leader (108,111 total, 2,120 average per date). Clearwater led the Florida State League in attendance in each of its final 9 seasons, and in 15 of the last 16 years.
- J Dunedin home games for the Toronto Blue Jays forced the Dunedin Blue Jays to play 11 dates in Clearwater and Tampa, with no fans in attendance. They had 19 lost dates, including the 'no fans' games. Dunedin's average per date was up 55 from 2019, when renovations to their park forced them to play in the old ballpark in Clearwater.
- J Both Jupiter and Palm Beach share Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter. Local Covid-19 restrictions forced both teams to play many home games with no fans permitted to attend. Counting the 'no-fans' games, and rainouts, Palm Beach had 29 lost dates, and Jupiter lost 31 dates.
- J The name of the league may have changed, but its annual leader in attendance is still **Clearwater**, who led their league for the 16th time in the last 17 years, and for the 10th year in a row. In **2021**, the Threshers drew a league-leading total (108,111), and average per date (2,120). 11 dates drew at least 3,000, topped by the largest 2021 crowd in this league (7,501). 9 dates were lost.
- J In **2019**, Clearwater led the Florida State League in total attendance for the 9th straight year, and for the 15th time in its last 16 years. 2019 attendance fell 1,617 to 180,069, which was the team's 5th best total ever. Average per date was up 16 to 2,688. It was the 14th straight year with average per date above 2,300, and the 10th consecutive year above 2,500. Prior to this streak, the only year above 2,000, since at least 1991 (if ever), was 2004. 25 dates drew at least 3,000 in 2019, with 8 dates above 4,000, including a team record-high of 10,055. In 2017, the Threshers drew a team record-high 200,201. That was the 2nd best total in Florida State League history. St. Petersburg drew 202,383 in 1989. Weather helped in 2014 as the Threshers played all 70 scheduled home dates. No other Florida State League team was rainout-free since at least 1991, and perhaps, never. Clearwater had 3 lost dates in 2019.
- J 2017 was the 10th time in 14 years that Clearwater set a new team total attendance record-high. 2019 was the 13th straight year above 165,000 for the Threshers. They never reached 100,000 in a season from 1985 through 2003. Prior to the current run by Clearwater, the longest consecutive streak of 150,000+ attendance in this league was by the former team from St. Petersburg, who did it in 4 straight years (1988-1991).
- J The **Daytona Tortugas** drew 79,361 in **2021**, with a 1,345 average per date. They lost just one date, and had 8 limited-capacity sellouts. A July crowd of 2,141 was the only one above 2,000.
- J Daytona's **2019** total of 137,570 was their best since 2014, and was up 16,842. Average per date rose 70 to 2,116. These were the biggest gains in the Florida State League. 8 dates drew over 3,000. There were 5 lost dates, but they played 6 more dates than in 2018. It was the 16th straight year above 110,000. Daytona's total was above 135,000 in 12 seasons from 2006 through 2019. Average per date surpassed 2,000 in 14 of 16 seasons through 2019. Prior to 2004, Daytona had reached 100,000 just 3 times in 49 seasons (1983, 1984, 2001). In 2016, the team was renamed the "Tortugas," a Spanish word for a turtle that is native to the Daytona area.
- J The **2021 Bradenton Marauders** had a total attendance of 38,207, and an average per date of 708. 9 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 1,771. 6 dates were lost.
- J Bradenton's **2019** total attendance fell 8,590 to 71,284, a low since 2010. Average per date dipped 61 to 1,131, also the lowest since 2010. There were 5 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates than in 2018. Attendance topped 2,000 at 8 dates. The Marauders topped 100,000 in total attendance each year from 2010 through 2015. Their park, 98-year old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A SOUTHEAST** - continued

-) **2021** was another crazy season for **Dunedin**. The Toronto Blue Jays used their ballpark for April and May games, so the Dunedin Blue Jays were forced to play 13 dates elsewhere, with no fans in attendance. Including those empty ballpark dates, Dunedin had 19 lost dates. The 39 dates when fans could attend drew 10,043, an average of 258 per date. The average per date was actually up 55 from 2019. The largest crowd was 991.
-) Dunedin's ballpark was closed for reconstruction for the **2019** season, and the Blue Jays had to play their 'home' games elsewhere. They drew just 11,757, down 18,812, and averaging 203, down 247, on their journey. 48 dates were played at Jack Russell Stadium in Clearwater, which until 2004 was the Spring Training home of the Philadelphia Phillies. Those games drew a total of just 5,526, an average of 115 per date. Only 2 dates drew at least 200. 4 'home' dates in the park of the Clearwater Threshers drew 1,490, 3 'home' dates in Daytona drew 3,834, one date in Bradenton drew 566, and 2 in Tampa drew a total of 341. The largest 'home' crowd was 1,582 in Daytona. Overall, there were 12 lost dates. From 1999 through 2019, the Blue Jays topped 60,000 only in 2014, and were under 50,000 15 times. The total reached 60,000 each year from 1990 through 1996, and in 1998 and 2014. Average per date last hit 1,000 in 1994. A reason for Dunedin's low attendance is that its neighboring town, Clearwater, also has a Florida State League team. The Tampa Bay Rays play just a few miles further south.
-) In **Tampa**, the Tarpons had a total attendance of 34,842 in **2021**, averaging 657 per date. There were 7 lost dates. 7 dates drew 1,000+, with a high of 1,928. Rachel Balkovec will be the manager of the Tarpons in 2022. She'll be the first woman to manage a Minor League team.
-) Tampa's total attendance fell 10,545 to 61,290 in **2019**, their lowest since 1995. The current Tampa team has topped 100,000 10 times since 1996. That figure was reached just 4 times in 43 years prior to 1996. Average per date fell 132 to 973, also the lowest since 1995. 5 dates reached 2,000 in attendance. The team's name was changed from Yankees to Tarpons for 2018. Teams in Tampa were named the Tarpons from 1957 through 1987.
-) The renamed **Fort Myers Mighty Mussels** (from Miracle) had a 2021 total attendance of 76,216, and a 1,438 average per date. 9 dates topped 2,000 with a high of 4,173. There were 7 lost dates.
-) 2015 was a record-setting year for Fort Myers. The Miracle drew a team record-high total of 133,817, and a record-high average per date of 2,028. Opening Night drew a team record 9,209. (A former team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984.) In **2019**, due to bad weather, total attendance fell 15,082 to 108,800, the lowest since 2004. Average per date was up 60 to 1,909, the 15th straight year above 1,700. 9 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 7,577. There were 10 fewer dates played than in 2018, with 12 lost dates. Since 1998, the Miracle achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (20) with attendance above 100,000, and they did it in each of that league's last 15 years. St. Petersburg, a former Florida State League member, topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997.
-) **Lakeland's 2021** total attendance was 26,894, and their average per date was 498. 3 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 2,320.
-) **2019** Lakeland drew 50,770, up 1,219. Average per date was 819, down 21, with 3 dates drawing 2,000+. There were 3 more dates than in 2018. From 2010 through 2015, attendance surpassed 59,000 in 6 straight years, after not reaching that figure since 1987. Previously, Lakeland reached 60,000 only in 1951, 1977, and 1987, and was under 10,000 in 1967, 1968, 1969, and 1971. After averaging just 495 per date in 2006, Lakeland's average more than doubled to over 1,000 in 4 of 5 years from 2010 through 2014. In 2013, Lakeland lost an incredible 19 dates due to weather, including 16 in July and August. The Flying Tigers had 6 lost dates in 2014, 7 in 2015, 9 in 2016, 6 in 2017, 11 in 2018, 7 in 2019, and 6 in 2021.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A SOUTHEAST** - continued

-) The **St. Lucie Mets** drew 45,609 in **2021**, with an 861 average per date. 21 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 2,487. There were 7 lost dates.
-) St. Lucie had the biggest **2019** total attendance decline in the Florida State League, down 16,242 to 82,581. Average per date dipped 230 to 1,290. Both the total and average per date were the lowest for the Mets since 2003. 7 dates drew at least 2,000. There were 6 lost dates. Until 2019, the Mets reached 90,000 in 14 straight seasons, which they didn't do in any of the 17 years before 2005. Average per date had been above 1,400 in 14 straight years until 2019, with 10 seasons topping 1,500.
-) St. Lucie had a record season in attendance in 2017. The Mets drew record-highs in total attendance (132,359, up 35,803), and average per date (2,005, up 585). Those were the biggest increases in the league. Among U.S. MLB-affiliated teams, the gain in total attendance was 5th best, and the average per date increase was 7th best. The Mets also had the 3rd best percentage increases among all MLB-affiliated teams in total attendance (up 37.1%), and average per date (up 41.2%). The old record-highs in St. Lucie, set in 2011, were 105,379 for total attendance, and 1,647 in average per date.
-) The Tebow Effect – Tim Tebow played the 2nd half of the 2017 season with the St. Lucie Mets, and that certainly led to an increase in attendance, both at home and on the road. In the 37 home dates prior to Tebow's arrival, the Mets drew 64,568, averaging 1,745 per date. With Tebow, they drew 67,791 in 29 home dates, an average of 2,338. On the road the gain was more significant. The Mets' 33 road dates prior to Tebow drew 37,941, an average of 1,150. But with Tebow, they drew 127,546 in 33 dates, an average of 3,865. Some of this gain can be attributed to where the road games were played, but there's no doubt that much of it was due to Tebow. Combined home and road St. Lucie attendance with Tebow was 195,337 in 62 dates, an average of 3,151 per date. Without Tebow, combined St. Lucie home and road attendance was 102,509 in 70 dates, an average of 1,464.
-) Tebow spent the first half of the 2017 season with the Columbia Fireflies of the South Atlantic League. That team's 'with Tebow-without Tebow' figures can be found in the Low-A East section of this report. Combined Columbia-St. Lucie home attendance with Tebow was 274,822 in 68 dates, averaging 4,042 per date. Without Tebow, these 2 teams drew 172,571 in 64 home dates, an average of 2,696. On the road, the combined Columbia-St. Lucie total with Tebow was 296,989 in 62 dates, an average of 4,790. Without Tebow, it was 163,200 in 70 dates, an average of 2,331 per date. Tebow played at Binghamton of the Eastern League in 2018, and with Syracuse of the International League in 2019. He retired from baseball after Spring Training in 2021.
-) Covid restrictions caused Palm Beach and Jupiter, who share Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium, to play many of their **2021** home games with no fans allowed to attend. **Palm Beach** had 28 home dates without fans. The 29 dates with fans attending drew 28,440, averaging 981 per date, up 8 from 2019. 11 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 3,861.
-) There were 11 lost dates for Palm Beach in 2019, and their total fell 6,590 to 57,418, the lowest total in the club's 17-year history. Average per date decreased by 59 to 973. 5 dates topped 2,000. The Cardinals have drawn above 100,000 only once (2006) in their 18 seasons, including 2021. Average per date has been above 1,200 only 3 times, but has topped 1,000 in 12 seasons.
-) For **Jupiter**, there were 27 home dates played with no fans in the park. Their total was 20,197, and the average per date was 696. 5 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 2,019.
-) Jupiter had a **2019** loss of 6,411 in total attendance to 62,684, the 2nd lowest total (to 2016) in the team's 22 years. There were 5 fewer dates than in 2018, and 9 lost dates. The Hammerheads have reached 100,000 only 3 times (1999, 2001, 2002). Average per date fell 18 to 1,045. 6 dates drew 2,000+. The average has topped 1,200 in 11 seasons since 1998. A team played in nearby West Palm Beach most recently from 1965 through 1997, and drew over 100,000 in 15 different years between 1974 and 1992. A Spring Training facility for the Astros and Nationals opened in West Palm Beach in 2017, but it does not have a full-season Minor League team.
-) Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium in Jupiter is the Spring Training site of the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Their Low-A and Gulf Coast (Complex) League affiliates also play in the facility. It has about 30 Major League spring training, 132 Low-A, and 60 Gulf Coast League games, scheduled yearly. Pro baseball's busiest venue also hosts Minor League spring training, the fall Florida Instructional League, and high school and college tournaments.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A SOUTHEAST** - continued**Some Former Florida State League Teams No Longer in Minor Leagues**

- J In 2017, the **Florida Fire Frogs**, who played in Kissimmee, next to Disney World, replaced the Brevard County Manatees. They drew 57,324, the highest total ever for a team in Kissimmee. Average per date was 1,082, the highest average for a team in Kissimmee since at least 1991.
- J In **2019**, their final year, the Fire Frogs had the lowest attendance of any full-season team, except for Dunedin, a team that didn't have any real home games. Florida drew just 19,615, down 13,402, and they averaged 327 per date. There were 11 lost dates. No games attracted at least 1,000. The 40.6% loss in total attendance, and the 45.5% decline in average per date, were the 2nd biggest percentage declines among MLB-affiliated teams in 2019.
- J Previously, **Kissimmee** had a team from 1985 through 2000. It drew 658,458 in 16 seasons, averaging 41,154 per year. The top attendance total was 53,566 in 1989. 1993 was the only other 50,000+ year. Lowest attendance was 29,533 in 1996. In 2020, the Fire Frogs were expected to play in North Port, between Port Charlotte and Sarasota, in the new Spring Training park of the Atlanta Braves. But this team was eliminated in the realignment.
- J In 2016, their final season, **Brevard County** drew 85,032, up 6,659, and average per date was up 64 to 1,308. The Manatees reached 100,000 in each of their first 8 seasons (1994-2001), but did it just once (2005) after that. Average per date was over 2,000 only from 1994 through 1997, and in 2001, with a high of 2,234 in 1996. In 23 seasons, the team drew 2,320,932 in 1,444 dates, averaging 100,910 per season, and 1,607 per date.
- J Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, **Vero Beach** had been one of the smallest towns with pro baseball. The record-high in Vero Beach was 95,300, in 1991. In 1948, the Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and business conferences are held there annually. One Florida State League game used to be played in Holman Stadium there yearly in memory of Jackie Robinson.
- J **Port Charlotte's** last team reached 100,000 in 9 of its 11 seasons, and average per date was 1,500+ every year until **2019**, when the Stone Crabs drew 91,349. Average per date was 1,363. Both the total and average were lows for this team. 2016, with 10 lost dates, was their only other year under 100,000. A former team in Port Charlotte drew 100,000+ in only 4 of 16 seasons from 1987 through 2002. The Minor League realignment also eliminated this team.

Florida State League Historic Attendance Data**FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (12 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

- J Bad weather was a factor in **2019**, as total attendance fell 92,074 (9.0%) to 935,187, the lowest total since 2003. This was the worst percentage decline of any MLB-affiliated league in 2019. It also was the end of streak of 13 straight years with league attendance that topped one million. Attendance reached one million only 5 times from 1946 through 2005 (1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997).
- J 2 teams had 2019 gains in total attendance, and 3 teams were up in average per date. Daytona had the league's top increases, while St. Lucie had the worst loss in total attendance, and Port Charlotte had the biggest average decline.
- J The league's average attendance per team was under 100,000 from 2015 through 2019, after topping 100,000 in 4 straight years. Prior to 2011, it had never reached 100,000. Average per team was over 50,000 from 1947 through 1949, and then again only in 1959 and 1972, until surpassing 50,000 for good in 1974. The 2019 average per team of 77,932 was the lowest since 2003. The average attendance per date in 2019 fell by 91 to 1,255, lowest since 2003. It had topped 1,500 from 2011 through 2015, and in 2017. Before 2011, average per date was under 1,500 since at least 1991.
- J The league played 18 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018. There were 92 lost dates, the most of any league. Hurricane Dorian forced the cancellation of all games in the final regular season weekend, and the entire playoffs. As you might expect, cold weather was not a factor in this league. Just one April 2019 game (in Clearwater) began with a temperature of less than 70 degrees, while at 90 games, the gametime temperature was at least 80 degrees. In 2018, only one April game, in Daytona, began with a temperature of less than 70 degrees, and 64 games, began in 80+ degree weather. But rain, and hurricanes, were often issues in the league.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A SOUTHEAST** - continued

LOW-A SOUTHEAST OR FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	10	467,920			987		
2019	12	935,187	(92,074)	(9.0)	1,255	(91)	(6.7)
2018	12	1,027,261	(133,167)	(11.5)	1,346	(175)	(11.5)
2017	12	1,160,428	103,628	9.8	1,521	170	12.6
2016	12	1,056,800	(115,815)	(9.9)	1,351	(160)	(10.6)
2015	12	1,172,695	(63,433)	(5.1)	1,511	(82)	(5.1)
2014	12	1,236,128	23,944	2.0	1,593	(13)	(0.8)
2013	12	1,212,184	(2,836)	(0.2)	1,606	14	0.9
2012	12	1,215,020	(81,942)	(6.3)	1,592	(50)	(3.0)
2011	12	1,296,962	114,381	9.7	1,642	143	9.5
2010	12	1,182,581	65,218	5.8	1,499	13	0.9
2009	12	1,117,363	86,902	8.4	1,486	161	12.2
2008	12	1,030,461	(48,641)	(4.5)	1,325	(66)	(4.7)
2007	12	1,079,102	979	0.1	1,391	5	0.4
2006	12	1,078,123	91,352	9.3	1,386	93	7.2
2005	12	986,771	23,733	2.5	1,293	(21)	(1.6)
2004	12	963,038	120,735	14.3	1,314	186	16.5
2003	12	842,303	31,480	3.9	1,128	86	8.3
2002	12	810,823	(72,858)	(8.2)	1,042	(118)	(10.2)
2001	12	883,681	(69,439)	(7.3)	1,160	113	10.8
2000	14	953,120	11,259	1.2	1,047	(1)	(0.1)
1999	14	941,861	(24,134)	(2.5)	1,048	14	1.4
1998	14	965,995	(167,215)	(14.8)	1,034	(232)	(18.3)
1997	14	1,133,210	6,558	0.6	1,266	13	1.0
1996	14	1,126,652	149,032	15.2	1,253	152	13.8
1995	14	977,620	(105,363)	(9.7)	1,101	(125)	(10.2)
1994	14	1,082,983	106,757	10.9	1,226	48	4.1
1993	14	976,226	(122,775)	(11.2)	1,178	(85)	(6.7)
1992	14	1,099,001	79,765	7.8	1,263	N/A	N/A
1991	14	1,019,236	29,661	3.0	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	989,575	32,231	3.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A WEST** – (8 teams, 120-game schedule in 2021, 132 games in 2022)

- J **Low-A West** - 7 of the league's teams were in the 2019 California League. Fresno came from the Pacific Coast League. Lancaster, a 2019 California League member, did not have a team in 2021.
- J The league's total **2021** attendance was 705,037, averaging 88,130 per team, and 1,506 per date, with 12 lost dates. The same 8 teams drew 1,499,306 in 2019, an average of 2,756 per date. These teams played 76 fewer 2021 dates compared to 2019. The California League's 8 teams drew 1,280,811 in **2019**, averaging 2,342 per date.
- J **Fresno**, which played in the Class AAA Pacific Coast league in 2019, led the league in **2021** attendance by a wide margin, with a total of 176,395, and an average per date of 2,940. 17 regular season dates, and 2 post-season dates, drew over 3,000. No dates were lost. The largest regular season crowd was a Class-A best 10,877. Fresno hosted the largest 2021 post-season crowd (7,337) among MLB-affiliated teams.
- J In **2019**, Fresno drew their smallest total (380,090, down 25,313) since moving to Chukchansi Park in 2002. Average per date fell 292 to 5,759 in 2019, which was also the lowest in their current park. It was the first time since 2001 that this club drew under 400,000, and averaged less than 6,000 per date. 15 dates drew at least 8,000, with 6 of them surpassing 10,000. Average per date has surpassed 7,000 in 6 seasons, with a high of 8,044 in 2002. Total attendance reached 500,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2002 through 2008, but not since. There have been 20 crowds of at least 13,415 in the history of Chukchansi Park, which is a Minor League unique 4-level, 3-tier, facility.
- J **Inland Empire** (San Bernardino) had a **2021** total attendance of 90,587, with a 1,535 average per date. 15 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,628. There was one lost date.
- J The Inland Empire 66ers led the California League in attendance in **2019**, drawing 181,253, down 12,739. Average per date was 2,627, down 144. These were the lowest figures since 2012. 12 dates drew 4,000+. The 66ers drew over 200,000 in 6 seasons between 1997 and 2005, but only in 2009 and 2017 since then. Their average per date was above 2,500 in 16 of the last 18 years through 2019, and had topped 2,700 for 6 straight years until 2019.
- J **2021** total attendance for the **Lake Elsinore Storm** was 103,758, and the average per date was 1,729. No dates were lost. The largest crowd was 6,969, and 16 dates drew at least 2,000.
- J Lake Elsinore had the California League's biggest **2019** losses, and the club's lowest total and average per date in its history through 2019. The total was 172,280, down 42,675. Average per date decreased 537 to 2,534. It was the 6th worst total loss, and the 5th worst average per date loss, among MLB-affiliated teams in 2019. 14 dates topped 4,000, including the league's best crowd of the year – 7,501. 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021 are the only times in the Storm's 27 seasons with attendance below 200,000. They surpassed 340,000 in each of their first 4 years (1994-1997), with a high of 383,297 in 1995. But they have not drawn more than 290,000 in any season since then. Average per date was above 5,000 from 1994 through 1996, and stayed above 4,000 through 1999. It has been below 3,500 since 2003, but 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2021 were the only years under 3,000.
- J The **Rancho Cucamonga Quakes**, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, was originally named 'The Epicenter' (it's now LoanMart Field), drew 76,493 in **2021**, averaging 1,296 per date. One date was lost. Attendance topped 2,000 at 9 dates, with a high of 3,755.
- J In **2019**, the Quakes drew 162,085, down 9,682, with 2 lost dates. 13 dates drew over 4,000. This was the 10th straight year under 175,000, after 17 in a row above 260,000. Average per date was 2,384, down 70. The Quakes had a 17-year run as the California League's attendance leader through 2009, but drew 150,687 in 2010, lowest in team history. Their prior low had been 266,773 in 2009, and attendance has not reached 200,000 since then. Rancho Cucamonga set a record-high for a California League team drawing 446,146 in 1995, and selling 97% of available seats that year. They topped 300,000 each year from 1993 through 2000, and were above 400,000 from 1995 through 1997. Average per date was over 5,000 from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 6,374 in 1995. This is in a park with 4,923 seats. The average per date has been under 2,500 for the last 11 seasons, including 2021.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A WEST** - continued

-) The **Stockton Ports' 2021** total attendance was 73,410, and they averaged 1,311 per date. There were 4 lost dates, including 3 for Covid. 6 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 4,044.
-) Stockton's attendance was 154,547 in 1947 and 145,804 in 1948. But attendance did not reach 120,000 again until 2005. They topped 179,000 in all 15 seasons from 2005 through 2019. Annual attendance, excluding 2021, in Stockton has more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005. In **2019**, attendance fell 8,501 to 179,465. Average per date was 2,601, down 123, the lowest figures in their current park. 7 dates drew at least 4,000. The Ports never averaged at least 2,000 per date until 2005, but have been above 2,600 each year, other than 2021, since then.
-) The **2021** Low-A West Champion **San Jose Giants** drew 62,569, and averaged 1,043 per date. They didn't have any lost dates. 5 dates topped 2,000, including a season-high 2,502.
-) San Jose had the league's best **2019** gains, despite 3 lost dates. Total attendance was up 7,585 to 155,253, and average per date rose 207 to 2,317. There were 6 sellouts, and 18 dates drew at least 3,000. From 2009 through 2014, the Giants topped 200,000 each year, something they had never done in their long history. They drew over 150,000 in 17 of the last 18 years through 2019, after reaching this mark just once (1999) since 1947. Average per date surpassed 2,000 for the 19th straight year in 2019, and has been above 3,000 in 2009, 2011, and 2012. Attendance has basically 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 the Minor Leagues.
-) The **Modesto Nuts** drew 42,200 and averaged 781 per date in **2021**. They had 6 lost dates, including the last 5 of the season, due to Covid restrictions. 16 dates drew at least 1,000, with a high of 2,084.
-) Over the 18 seasons from 2002 through 2019, Modesto achieved the 18 best attendance totals in its 74-year history. **2019** attendance fell 5,266 to 139,762, the lowest since 2005. Average per date was the smallest since 1999, falling 46 to 2,026. The Nuts didn't reach 110,000 until 1997, but were above 130,000 every year since, until 2021.
-) In **2021**, **Visalia** drew 79,625, with a 1,327 average per date. The first 18 dates of the year each drew a reduced capacity sellout of 814. 7 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,557. No dates were lost.
-) **Visalia had drawn a record high in 9 of the last 11 seasons through 2019. Their 2019 record-high total was 129,118, up 4,910, and the record-high average per date was 1,899, up 125. From 2009 through 2019, the Rawhide drew the 11 highest attendance totals in team history, topping 100,000 each year, and finishing above 120,000 in each of the last 6 seasons.** Before this 11-year streak, 1947 was the only season that a Visalia team drew at least 100,000. They didn't top 80,000 in any of the 29 seasons they had a team between 1954 and 1988. Average per date was under 1,000 in 11 of 13 seasons from 1996 through 2008, but was above 1,500 in all years after that through 2019. Recreation Ballpark, built in 1946, seats just 2,468, but 6 dates in 2019 drew over 3,000, including a record-high crowd of 4,039.
-) 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.

Some Recent Former California League Teams

-) **Lancaster** had its final California League season in **2019**, and did not play in 2021. This team drew 316,390 in its first season (1996), and topped 200,000 each year through 1999. They never reached 200,000 after that. The JetHawks drew 161,595 in 2019, up 6,022. Average per date was 2,342, up 120. Their average per date was 4,520 in 1996, topped 4,000 in 1997, was above 3,000 in 1998 and 1999, but was not over 2,500 since 2002. It did top 2,000 for the 11th straight year in 2019, after 5 straight years under 2,000.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A WEST** - continued**Some Recent Former California League Teams**

- J The **Bakersfield Blaze** went out of the California League on a 'high' note in **2016**. Their total attendance of 62,922 was up 11,133, the best gain in the California League in 2016, and the team's highest total since 2010. Average per date rose a league-high 159 to 899. It was the 9th straight year with average per date of less than 1,000. Total attendance last reached 100,000 in 2002. Since 1946, Bakersfield topped 140,000 only in 1949, and each year from 1990 through 1994. Bakersfield's 2011 attendance of 40,056 was the lowest by a California League team since Salinas attracted just 33,465 in 1990. Bakersfield's most recent MLB-affiliated California League team had played from 1982 through 2016, drawing a total of 3,178,273 in these 35 years, an average of 90,808 per season. But from 2000-2016, the Blaze averaged just 69,874 per year.
- J The final year (**2016**) for the **High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks** produced the lowest total and average per date in the team's 26-year history. Total attendance fell to 76,061, and was under 100,000 in 3 of the final 4 years. Average per date was 1,102. In their first two seasons (1991 and 1992), the Mavericks became the first California League team to top 200,000. They were below 160,000 for 22 years in a row, and under 150,000 for the final 18 seasons. Since 2002, average per date reached 2,000 only in 2014. In their 26 California League seasons, the Mavericks drew 3,550,649, averaging 136,563 per season. But the season average was only 118,732 after 2000.
- J Both Bakersfield and High Desert played in the independent Pecos Baseball League starting in 2017. Only Bakersfield was still active in that league in 2021.

California League Historic Attendance Data**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A)** (8 teams -- 140 game schedule in 2019)

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

- J Total **2019** attendance fell 60,346 (4.5%) to 1,280,811, the lowest total since 1992. The league had 10 teams from 1986 through 2016. There was a decline in California League attendance in 15 of 22 seasons from 1998 through 2019. 3 teams had 2019 gains in total attendance, and 3 rose in average per date, with San Jose having the best gains in each category. Lake Elsinore had the league's top declines in both total attendance and average per date.
- J 2019 average per date fell 57 to 2,342. Since 1994, average per date in this league ranged from a low of 2,158 in both 2001 and 2016, to a high of 2,988 in 1997.
- J The league's average attendance per team was 160,101 in 2019. Average per team was above 100,000 every year since 1991, and better than 150,000 every year from 2002 through 2015, and again in 2017, 2018, and 2019. (It was 149,985 in 2016.) But 1997 was the only season above 200,000.
- J Weather, other than heat, was rarely a problem in the California League, but that was not the case in 2019. The league had 12 lost dates, and 12 fewer dates than in 2018. Only one game in 2018 was postponed. 3 dates were lost in 2017, and 4 dates were lost in 2016. There were 8 lost dates in 2015, including one due to high winds. There were 2 lost dates in 2014, 4 in 2013, 10 in 2012, 8 in 2011, 9 in 2010, and 6 in 2009. The most rainouts over the last 22 years of this league were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.
- J In 1964, 4 of the 8 teams in the California League drew less than 17,000 for the season.
- J In 1965, the 6 team California League had a total attendance of 128,836, averaging a league record-low 21,743 per team, and 333 per home date. San Jose led the league in attendance that year, drawing 34,517. Attendance for the other teams was: Stockton – 27,774; Bakersfield – 23,234; Fresno - 22,362; Santa Barbara – 12,121; Salinas – an all-time California League low – 8,828.
- J California League average per team rose to 43,755 in 1966. It was only 50,449 in 1979, a league record-high 206,189 in 1997, and 160,101 in 2019.
- J Largest crowd at a California League ballpark was 12,876 at Lake Elsinore on July 4, 1998. Largest crowd at any California League game (and at any Class A game) was 37,665 for a Redwood-Reno game at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium on July 4, 1981. This game was played during a Major League work stoppage.

MLB-AFFILIATED INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**LOW-A WEST** - continued

LOW-A WEST OR CALIFORNIA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	8						
2021	8	705,037			1,506		
2019	8	1,280,811	(60,346)	(4.5)	2,342	(57)	(2.4)
2018	8	1,341,157	(23,217)	(1.7)	2,399	(51)	(2.1)
2017	8	1,364,374	(135,478)	(9.0)	2,450	292	13.5
2016	10	1,499,852	(51,188)	(3.3)	2,158	(83)	(3.7)
2015	10	1,551,040	(95,212)	(5.8)	2,241	(118)	(5.0)
2014	10	1,646,252	62,764	4.0	2,359	84	3.7
2013	10	1,583,488	1,314	0.1	2,275	(18)	(0.8)
2012	10	1,582,174	(11,224)	(0.7)	2,293	(10)	(0.4)
2011	10	1,593,398	26,897	1.7	2,303	36	1.6
2010	10	1,566,501	(154,778)	(9.0)	2,267	(213)	(8.6)
2009	10	1,721,279	87,951	5.4	2,480	123	5.2
2008	10	1,633,328	(16,152)	(1.0)	2,357	(20)	(0.8)
2007	10	1,649,480	75,762	4.8	2,377	83	3.6
2006	10	1,573,718	(6,845)	(0.4)	2,294	(17)	(0.7)
2005	10	1,580,563	73,635	4.9	2,311	133	6.1
2004	10	1,506,928	(57,271)	(3.7)	2,178	(129)	(5.6)
2003	10	1,564,199	(44,081)	(2.7)	2,307	(17)	(0.7)
2002	10	1,608,280	121,006	8.1	2,324	166	7.7
2001	10	1,487,174	(62,614)	(4.0)	2,158	(88)	(3.9)
2000	10	1,549,788	(125,457)	(7.5)	2,246	(182)	(7.5)
1999	10	1,675,245	(58,112)	(3.4)	2,428	(136)	(5.3)
1998	10	1,733,357	(328,532)	(15.9)	2,564	(424)	(14.2)
1997	10	2,061,889	186,502	9.9	2,988	286	10.6
1996	10	1,875,387	197,927	11.8	2,702	267	11.0
1995	10	1,677,460	(13,826)	(0.8)	2,435	(108)	(4.2)
1994	10	1,691,286	337,831	25.0	2,543	514	25.3
1993	10	1,353,455	181,451	15.5	2,029	245	13.7
1992	10	1,172,004	66,317	6.0	1,784	N/A	N/A
1991	10	1,105,687	158,907	16.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	946,780	12,947	1.4	N/A	N/A	N/A

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON A) (14 teams -- 76 game schedule in 2019)

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

New York-Penn League Historic Attendance Data

-) Like the other three MLB-affiliated short-season leagues that charged admission, the New York-Penn League had its final season in 2019. But unlike the Northwest League (now the High-A West), the Appalachian League (now a Summer Collegiate league), and the Pioneer League (now an independent pro league), the New York-Penn League has totally ceased to exist in any form. 2019 New York-Penn League teams were scattered around Minor League Baseball, Collegiate Summer Leagues, or just eliminated, as part of the Minor League Baseball realignment.
-) Aberdeen, Brooklyn, and Hudson Valley moved up to the MLB-affiliated High-A East. Tri-City (Troy, NY) joined the independent pro Frontier League. State College, Mahoning Valley, Williamsport, and the West Virginia (Morgantown) Black Bears, became members of the MLB Collegiate Summer Draft League. Auburn and Batavia joined the Perfect Game Summer Collegiate League. Connecticut and Vermont went to the Futures Collegiate Summer League. Staten Island did not have a team in 2021, but will have the Ferry Hawks of the independent pro Atlantic League in 2022. Lowell didn't have a team in 2021, but there is a possibility that this city will once again have an MLB-affiliated team in the future.
-) **In 2019, Lowell** had declines in total attendance and average per date to their lowest figures since 1996, their first season. The Spinners drew 100,687, averaging 3,051 per date. The total was down 17,632, and the average per date fell by 330. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2018, and 5 rainouts, tying Williamsport for the most postponements by any short-season team. 6 dates drew over 4,000. August 31, 2010 was the last game of a 413-date sellout streak that began on August 3, 1999. Lowell surpassed 150,000 for 17 straight years until 2015, and average per date was at least 5,000 for 11 straight years from 2000 through 2010. In 2008, the Spinners were part of a Minor League double-header that drew 36,234 at Fenway Park in Boston. In 2018, the Spinners became the first short-season team to install LED field lighting in their ballpark.
-) Total 2019 New York-Penn League attendance fell 74,143 (5.3%) to 1,316,873, the lowest total since 1998. Average per date was down 89 to 2,644, the lowest since 2000.
-) There were 11 fewer dates played in 2019 than in 2018, with 34 lost dates. There were 23 rainouts in 2018, 37 in 2017, and 24 in 2016. 3 teams had gains in total attendance and 5 were up in average per date. Batavia had the league's biggest gains in both categories. Brooklyn had the worst losses, also in both categories.
-) Average per date in this league had topped 3,000 for 15 straight years until 2016, after never reaching this level before. Total attendance first reached one million in 1995, and was above that every year 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, drew 59,721,751 in its history. 2015 was the 15th straight year that the league drew at least 1,500,000, but that mark was not reached in any year after 2015. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
-) Average attendance per team first topped 100,000 in 2001, and was above that figure every year until 2018. In 2019, it was 94,062, lowest since 1998. The league had a 75,284 average per team in 1949, when it played a longer schedule. That figure was not surpassed until 1995. The average per team was below 50,000 from 1952 through 1988. The lowest average per team was 19,196 in 1967, the first year this league played a short-season. That year Auburn led the league in attendance, drawing 26,991. Erie finished last at the gate, with a total of 9,988.
-) The lowest team attendance since the short-season schedule began was 9,474 in 1980 by Auburn. In 1990, Pittsfield became this league's first team in the short-season era to draw 100,000. As late as 1993, none of the 14 teams in the New York-Penn League reached 100,000. 6 of 14 teams did it in 2019.
-) Team relocations and new parks resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in its last 27 years, through 2019. In 1992, the league's 14 teams drew a total attendance of 684,064, an average of 48,862 per team, and an average of 1,422 per date. The 2019 attendance total of 1,316,873 is a gain of 92.5% from 1992. 2019 average attendance per team was 94,062, and the average per date was 2,644. In 2019, 12 of the 14 teams in his league played in a ballpark that opened between 1994 and 2015. The only teams with an older park in this league were Vermont and Williamsport, whose ballparks opened in the 1920's.

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	14	1,316,873	(74,143)	(5.3)	2,644	(89)	(3.3)
2018	14	1,391,016	(12,559)	(0.9)	2,733	(103)	(3.6)
2017	14	1,403,575	(79,284)	(5.3)	2,836	(83)	(2.8)
2016	14	1,482,859	(107,891)	(6.8)	2,919	(200)	(6.4)
2015	14	1,590,750	30,804	2.0	3,119	36	1.2
2014	14	1,559,946	(42,779)	(2.7)	3,083	(91)	(2.9)
2013	14	1,602,725	(98,276)	(5.8)	3,174	(116)	(3.5)
2012	14	1,701,001	(48,890)	(2.8)	3,290	(217)	(6.2)
2011	14	1,749,891	(79,864)	(4.4)	3,507	(74)	(2.1)
2010	14	1,829,755	43,020	2.4	3,581	(14)	(0.4)
2009	14	1,786,735	(28,710)	(1.6)	3,595	0	0.0
2008	14	1,815,445	(24,013)	(1.3)	3,595	(69)	(1.9)
2007	14	1,839,458	87,491	5.0	3,664	132	3.7
2006	14	1,751,967	(37,995)	(2.1)	3,532	29	0.8
2005	14	1,789,962	12,653	0.7	3,503	(88)	(2.5)
2004	14	1,777,309	(7,354)	(0.4)	3,591	7	0.2
2003	14	1,784,663	(105,390)	(5.6)	3,584	(51)	(1.4)
2002	14	1,890,053	248,028	15.1	3,635	403	12.5
2001	14	1,642,025	319,286	24.1	3,232	613	23.4
2000	14	1,322,739	(48,315)	(3.5)	2,619	(91)	(3.4)
1999	14	1,371,054	91,561	7.2	2,710	211	8.4
1998	14	1,279,493	70,242	5.8	2,499	20	0.8
1997	14	1,209,251	4,293	0.4	2,479	55	2.3
1996	14	1,204,958	23,111	2.0	2,424	134	5.9
1995	14	1,181,847	229,129	24.1	2,290	342	17.6
1994	14	952,718	244,543	34.5	1,948	408	26.5
1993	14	708,175	24,111	3.5	1,540	109	7.6
1992	14	684,064	(92,273)	(11.9)	1,431	N/A	N/A
1991	14	776,337	31,507	4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	744,830	30,269	4.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE – (6 teams – 30 game schedule)

The Arizona Fall League is a 6-team league, operated by Major League Baseball, which played in September and October through 2019, and in October and November in 2021. The league was created in 1992. Each team is affiliated with 5 Major League teams, and in 2021, played a 30-game schedule over a 6-week period from October 13 through November 20. Rosters are made up of players from their MLB parent teams' Minor League system. Most of the players have been in Class AAA or Class AA.

The league charges admission to their games (\$9 for adults, \$7 for seniors and kids) and compiles attendance. The attendance totals from this league are listed separately, and not included in the yearly Minor League totals.

Games are played at Major League Arizona Spring Training ballparks. The 6 teams in 2021 were the Glendale Desert Dogs, Mesa Solar Sox, Peoria Javelinas, Salt River Rafters, Scottsdale Scorpions, and the Surprise Saguaros.

In 2016, the league drew record highs in total attendance and average per date. Scottsdale set records for total attendance and average per date by any team. The Salt River Rafters had led the league in attendance from 2011 through 2015. In 2019, league total attendance fell 15,887 to 45,158, the lowest total since 2010, and average per date was down 171 to 675, lowest since 2008. Salt River was the leader in 7 of 10 years through 2021, but Mesa led in 2019. In 2021, there was a small increase in total attendance vs. 2019, and average per date was exactly the same as in 2019.

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE – 2005-2021 ATTENDANCE

Year	League Attendance	# of Dates	Avg./Date	Team Leader	Leader's Total Attend.	Leader's # of Dates	Leader's Avg./Date
2021	45,658	90	507	Salt River	13,728	15	915
2019	45,158	89	507	Mesa	11,468	17	675
2018	61,045	90	678	Salt River	14,102	15	940
2017	53,188	90	591	Scottsdale	11,424	15	762
2016	62,905	95	662	Scottsdale	15,001	15	1,000
2015	47,049	88	535	Salt River	10,661	14	762
2014	53,219	95	560	Salt River	14,183	17	834
2013	45,839	93	493	Salt River	12,314	16	770
2012	47,418	96	494	Salt River	13,423	16	839
2011	48,025	110	437	Salt River	14,567	19	767
2010	39,709	96	414	Scottsdale	10,724	15	715
2009	38,449	96	401	Scottsdale	11,177	16	699
2008	40,057	114	351	Scottsdale	10,451	19	550
2007	28,723	100	287	Scottsdale	8,035	18	446
2006	25,268	96	263	Scottsdale	6,062	15	404
2005	27,936	94	297	Phoenix	8,608	16	538

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TEAM	2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	2019 AVERAGE PER DATE	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>TRIPLE-A EAST</u>						
Buffalo Bisons	200,752	62	3,238	518,741	7,981	1988
Charlotte Knights	345,305	62	5,569	581,006	8,544	2014
Columbus (OH) Clippers	393,879	61	6,457	590,504	8,684	2009
Durham Bulls	320,873	63	5,093	529,105	7,668	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Stripers	162,494	59	2,754	212,342	3,169	2009
Indianapolis Indians	353,729	61	5,799	586,860	8,630	1996
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	314,749	60	5,246	489,173	7,526	1992
Jacksonville (FL) Jumbo Shrimp	242,667	58	4,184	327,388	4,960	2003
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	356,355	61	5,842	585,110	8,605	2008
Louisville Bats	269,338	59	4,565	485,356	6,934	2000
Memphis Redbirds	183,217	60	3,054	327,753	4,966	2000
Nashville Sounds	436,868	65	6,721	578,291	8,631	2015
Norfolk Tides	262,496	61	4,303	350,086	5,304	1993
Omaha Storm Chasers	245,170	64	3,831	328,307	4,974	2011
Rochester Red Wings	219,941	59	3,728	451,853	6,846	1997
St. Paul Saints	393,394	65	6,052	394,970	8,061	2015
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	236,559	58	4,079	414,891	6,383	2013
Syracuse Mets	215,336	56	3,845	327,478	4,962	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	300,063	63	4,763	481,496	7,187	2002
Worcester Red Sox *	362,559	59	6,145	331,010	5,254	2021
LEAGUE TOTAL	5,815,744	1,216	4,783	8,891,720	6,762	
<i>Buffalo played its first 39 home dates in Trenton (112,471/2,884 per date), and its last 23 dates in Buffalo (88,281/3,834 per date). Worcester played in Pawtucket in 2019</i>						
<u>TRIPLE-A WEST</u>						
Albuquerque Isotopes	329,295	64	5,145	542,832	7,983	2003
El Paso Chihuahuas	403,657	63	6,407	522,894	7,578	2014
Las Vegas Aviators	428,369	65	6,590	650,934	9,299	2019
Oklahoma (City) Dodgers	305,290	63	4,846	444,131	6,629	1998
Reno Aces	233,961	56	4,178	336,215	4,803	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	305,742	64	4,777	597,928	8,542	2000
Sacramento River Cats	259,640	65	3,994	549,440	7,849	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	300,535	62	4,847	433,596	6,671	1994
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	211,560	62	3,412	304,753	4,417	2012
Tacoma Rainiers	245,706	63	3,900	347,378	5,109	1960
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,023,755	627	4,823	4,730,101	6,895	
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	8,839,499	1,843	4,796	13,621,821	6,808	
<u>DOUBLE-A NORTHEAST</u>						
Akron Rubber Ducks	208,162	57	3,652	340,187	5,077	1997
Altoona Curve	213,686	53	4,032	308,464	4,604	1999
Binghamton Rumble Ponies	107,803	48	2,246	182,990	3,000	1992
Bowie Baysox	128,467	55	2,336	224,686	3,256	1994
Erie SeaWolves	145,445	57	2,552	215,444	3,315	1995
Harrisburg Senators	167,810	58	2,893	258,909	3,864	2010
Hartford Yard Goats	287,752	56	5,138	414,946	6,193	2017
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	183,730	54	3,402	306,511	4,716	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	210,211	50	4,204	357,647	5,677	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	226,667	49	4,626	398,314	5,945	1951
Richmond Flying Squirrels	275,169	57	4,828	400,321	6,255	1985
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	205,246	52	3,947	344,641	5,144	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,360,148	646	3,653	3,753,060	4,757	

2021 MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	2019 AVERAGE PER DATE	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>DOUBLE-A SOUTH</u>						
Biloxi Shuckers	114,276	51	2,241	146,845	2,331	2015
Birmingham Barons	231,365	56	4,132	379,707	5,424	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	131,322	50	2,626	228,662	3,518	2000
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	118,776	53	2,241	163,841	2,482	2005
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	137,709	53	2,598	216,839	3,189	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	235,948	58	4,068	296,095	4,354	2012
<i>Rocket City, (AL) Trash Pandas</i>	<i>274,858</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>5,726</i>	<i>95,087</i>	<i>1,585</i>	<i>2021</i>
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	245,821	57	4,313	280,708	4,319	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,490,075	426	3,498	1,807,784	3,443	
<i>Rocket City (Madison, AL) played in Mobile in 2019</i>						
<u>DOUBLE-A CENTRAL</u>						
Amarillo Sod Poodles	316,288	58	5,453	427,791	6,291	2019
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	215,050	59	3,645	311,021	4,574	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	206,847	56	3,694	323,688	4,624	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	275,169	57	4,828	455,765	6,802	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	186,134	59	3,155	285,368	4,197	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	150,473	55	2,736	284,829	4,316	2008
San Antonio Missions	184,167	57	3,231	337,484	4,891	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	172,134	59	2,918	328,217	4,757	2003
Tulsa Drillers	300,270	59	5,089	374,501	5,507	2010
<i>Wichita Wind Surge *</i>	<i>241,230</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>4,021</i>	<i>188,092</i>	<i>2,939</i>	<i>2021</i>
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,247,762	579	3,882	3,316,756	4,899	
<i>* Wichita played in New Orleans (P.C.L.) in 2019</i>						
TOTAL CLASS AA	6,097,985	1,651	3,694	8,877,600	4,459	
<u>HIGH-A CENTRAL</u>						
Beloit Snappers	46,746	58	806	73,200	1,181	2021
Cedar Rapids (IA) Kernels	100,161	57	1,757	150,278	2,243	2002
Dayton Dragons	344,167	55	6,258	545,108	7,900	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	219,044	58	3,777	371,259	5,541	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	124,896	58	2,153	195,904	2,839	2007
Lake County (OH) Captains	126,191	56	2,253	200,756	3,089	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	198,878	58	3,429	311,028	4,443	1996
Peoria Chiefs	69,725	57	1,223	198,545	2,920	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	163,263	58	2,815	150,905	2,474	2004
South Bend Cubs	217,066	59	3,679	319,616	4,770	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	228,071	58	3,932	360,295	5,378	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	156,646	56	2,797	218,037	3,354	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,994,854	688	2,899	3,094,931	3,883	
<u>HIGH-A EAST</u>						
Aberdeen IronBirds	104,665	56	1,869	118,357	3,199	2002
Asheville Tourists	130,435	56	2,329	187,718	2,761	1992
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	125,738	56	2,245	190,877	2,937	2009
Brooklyn Cyclones	103,874	55	1,889	174,522	4,848	2001
Greensboro Grasshoppers	225,905	58	3,895	306,136	4,710	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	243,362	59	4,125	329,733	4,849	2006
Hickory Crawdads	88,453	54	1,638	137,546	2,084	1993
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	125,599	56	2,243	148,158	4,116	1994
Jersey Shore BlueClaws	150,873	55	2,743	308,318	4,671	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	78,538	51	1,540	152,874	2,216	2003
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	78,690	57	1,381	231,325	3,731	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	206,333	57	3,620	264,879	4,272	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,662,465	670	2,481	2,550,443	3,643	

2021 MLB-AFFILIATED MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	2019 AVERAGE PER DATE	BALLPARK OPENED:
HIGH-A WEST						
Eugene Emeralds	91,315	56	1,631	131,467	3,460	2010
Everett AquaSox	102,423	56	1,829	116,630	3,069	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	110,384	59	1,871	133,605	3,516	2013
Spokane Indians	140,623	56	2,511	200,273	5,270	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	61,245	54	1,134	87,021	2,290	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	15,822	59	268	235,980	6,210	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	521,812	340	1,535	904,976	3,969	
<i>Vancouver played its home dates in Hillsboro. Eugene played one home date at Hillsboro, and 5 home dates at Tri-City.</i>						
TOTAL - CLASS HIGH-A	4,179,131	1,698	2,461	6,550,350	3,797	
LOW-A EAST						
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	211,561	57	3,712	266,569	3,920	2018
Carolina Mudcats	98,976	53	1,867	193,568	2,847	1991
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	208,641	57	3,660	301,320	4,367	1997
Columbia (SC) Fireflies	153,547	56	2,742	245,522	3,720	2016
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	110,281	56	1,969	218,704	3,264	1996
Down East (Kinston) Wood Ducks	85,586	56	1,528	110,619	1,651	1949
Fayetteville Woodpeckers	173,243	57	3,039	246,961	3,632	2019
Fredericksburg Nationals	199,071	57	3,492	192,474	3,262	2021
Kannapolis Cannon Ballers	162,031	60	2,701	75,931	1,133	2021
Lynchburg Hillcats	68,032	58	1,173	117,029	1,858	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	199,704	57	3,504	226,247	3,377	1999
Salem Red Sox	128,769	56	2,299	171,866	2,565	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,799,442	680	2,646	2,366,810	2,973	
<i>Fredericksburg played at Potomac in 2019.</i>						
LOW-A SOUTHEAST						
Bradenton Marauders	38,207	54	708	71,284	1,131	1923
Clearwater Threshers	108,111	51	2,120	180,069	2,688	2004
Daytona Tortugas	79,361	59	1,345	137,570	2,116	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	10,043	39	258	11,757	203	1977
Fort Myers Mighty Missiles	76,216	53	1,438	108,800	1,909	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	20,197	29	696	62,684	1,045	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	26,894	54	498	50,770	819	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	28,440	29	981	57,418	973	1998
St. Lucie Mets	45,609	53	861	82,581	1,290	1988
Tampa Tarpons	34,842	53	657	61,290	973	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	467,920	474	987	824,223	1,334	
LOW-A WEST						
Fresno Grizzlies	176,395	60	2,940	380,090	5,759	2002
Inland Empire (S. Bernardi.) 66ers	90,587	59	1,535	181,253	2,627	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	103,758	60	1,729	172,280	2,534	1994
Modesto Nuts	42,200	54	781	139,762	2,026	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	76,493	59	1,296	162,085	2,384	1993
San Jose Giants	62,569	60	1,043	155,253	2,317	1942
Stockton Ports	73,410	56	1,311	179,465	2,601	2005
Visalia Rawhide	79,625	60	1,327	129,118	1,899	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	705,037	468	1,506	1,499,306	2,756	
TOTAL - CLASS LOW-A	2,972,399	1,622	1,833	4,690,339	2,395	
TOTAL - 2021 MAJOR LEAGUE AFFILIATED LEAGUES	22,089,014	6,814	3,242	33,740,110	4,396	

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**THE 2021 SEASON**

- J 9 independent leagues played in 2021. Attendance was reported by the American Association, and the Mexican, Atlantic, Frontier, Pioneer, Pecos Baseball, United Shore, and Mavericks Leagues. Attendance has never been reported by the 4-team Empire Baseball League. The Mexican League was a Major League-affiliated 'Minor League Baseball' member league through 2019. The league was not considered to be an independent league, even though its teams were not MLB 'farm' teams. The Pioneer League went from MLB-affiliated to independent in 2021.
- J 86 teams played in the 9 independent leagues in 2021. Attendance was found for 73 individual teams, plus league totals for the 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all games in Utica, MI, and the Mavericks League, whose 4 teams all play in Keiser, OR. **The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues are each counted as one 'team' in this attendance report.** The Houston Apollos, a road team, was shared by the American Association and the Pecos League. These 75 teams drew a total of 6,047,347 in **2021**, averaging 2,024 per date. A combined 164 dates from the Mexican, Atlantic, Pioneer, and Frontier Leagues, plus the American Association, were lost in 2021.
- J **2019** attendance for these same teams, plus one 2021-inactive, but returning in 2022, Frontier League team (Ottawa), no matter what league they were a member of that year, was 10,724,778, with a 3,171 average per date. They played 394 fewer dates than in 2019. The American Association, Mexican, Pioneer, Frontier, and Atlantic Leagues, played a combined 450 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 2019, teams in independent leagues drew 5,690,513, and averaged 2,341 per date. Add the Mexican League and Pioneer League attendance to the 2019 independent league figures, and total attendance was 11,029,912, and the average per date was 3,037.

THE 2019 SEASON

- J In 2019 there were 8 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by all but the Empire League. The United Shore League reported a league average per date, but did not break it out by team. Home attendance figures were available for 52 teams, plus the combined 4 teams in the United Shore League. The attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league office, is estimated, and does not include 'no-shows.' Empire League attendance probably was very low. In 2018, the same 8 leagues had 55 teams, plus 4 in the United Shore League, that reported attendance. There were 53 teams, plus 4 in the United Shore League, that reported attendance in 2017. In 2016, 52 teams, plus 3 from the United Shore League, reported attendance. 7 independent leagues operated in 2015, with 52 teams reporting attendance. There were 8 independent leagues in 2014, with 50 of their teams listing attendance. 8 independent leagues, with 53 teams recording attendance, operated in 2013.
- J Total reported independent leagues 2019 attendance was 5,690,513, down 228,840 (3.9%). In 2019, independent leagues recorded attendance for 109 fewer dates than in 2018, and combined to play 682 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,431 reported attendance dates in 2019 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- J Combined 2019 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,341. This is up 11 from 2018. The all-time combined high average per date for independent leagues is 3,000, set in 2004. The record-high average per date for a post-1992 independent league was 4,621 by the Northern League in 2008.
- J In 2019, the Atlantic, Pecos, and United Shore League had gains in total attendance. The Frontier, Pecos, and United Shore Leagues, plus the Pacific Association, were up in average per date. The Atlantic League replaced a road team with High Point. Milwaukee replaced Wichita in the American Association. The Frontier League dropped Normal and Traverse City. Wasco replaced Ruidoso in the Pecos League. In the Pacific Association, road team Salina replaced Martinez, and Pittsburg was dropped. Saranac Lake replaced Old Orchard Beach in the Empire League.
- J 50 independent league teams were in the same market in 2019 as in 2018. 18 of them had 2019 vs. 2018 gains in total attendance, while 32 were down. In average per date, 17 teams were up, 30 were down, and 3 had the same average per date in both seasons. The United Shore League is counted as one team in this group.
- J NOTE ON LEAGUE AND TEAM RECORDS LISTED IN THIS SECTION: The number of teams in each league, and the number of games scheduled, can vary from year to year among independent leagues. This can have a significant impact on league and team totals. Actual combined independent leagues average per date would be lower than listed if the Empire League made its attendance available. It would be higher if the Pecos League included 'no-shows' in its announced attendance.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**LEAGUES THAT REPORTED ATTENDANCE, BUT DISBANDED SINCE THE END OF THE 2010 SEASON**

Many of the teams from the leagues listed below have moved to other independent leagues. The United Baseball League disbanded after the 2010 season, returned in 2013 and 2014, but did not play after that year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – (5 teams, one road, 64 game schedule in 2019,
each 'home' team had 40 scheduled home dates in 2019)

- J This league did not play in **2021**, and won't likely play in 2022 either. San Rafael was the only one of the league's 2019 teams that played in 2021.
- J In **2019** The league dropped Pittsburg, and Salina was a road team, replacing Martinez. Total 2019 attendance was 45,239, down 16,761 (27.0%). Average per date was 285, up 26. Attendance was reported for 80 fewer dates than in 2018. The 4 returning teams had a combined loss of 4,702 (9.4%), and their average per date was down 29 from 2018. Sonoma had the league's only rainout.
- J The **San Rafael** Pacifics drew 17,334 in 2019, an average of 433 per date, once again, the highest figures in the league. The total was down 747. Average per date fell by 19. San Rafael is now in the Pecos League.
- J **Sonoma's 2019** total was down 1,626 to 15,875. Their average decreased 31 to 407. This city will have a team in the California Collegiate League in 2022.
- J **Vallejo** drew 8,080 in **2019**, down 15, averaging 202 per date, down 6.
- J **Napa** had had a **2019** total of 3,950, down 2,314, averaging 99 per date, down 58.
- J The league would have had 4 teams in 2020. The California Dogecoin (Fairfield) would have replaced San Rafael.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES LISTING ATTENDANCE – 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	St. Paul	4,799
1994	5	30	1,931,353	St. Paul	241,069	St. Paul	6,344
1995	11	65	3,081,866	St. Paul	258,297	St. Paul	6,300
1996	9	63	3,454,557	St. Paul	267,009	St. Paul	6,212
1997	8	58	3,507,126	St. Paul	240,514	St. Paul	6,329
1998	7	49	3,866,809	Bridgeport	296,145	St. Paul	6,330
1999	6	44	4,871,797	Bridgeport	342,857	St. Paul	6,329
2000	6	50	5,581,633	Long Island	436,361	Winnipeg	6,465
2001	7	52	6,003,875	Long Island	443,142	Winnipeg	6,491
2002	6	50	6,410,954	Long Island	437,212	St. Paul	6,263
2003	8	63	6,558,199	Long Island	421,359	Winnipeg	7,161
2004	5	45	6,558,445	Long Island	440,540	Winnipeg	7,027
2005	6	54	7,524,690	Long Island	429,218	Winnipeg	6,867
2006	7	55	7,558,436	Long Island	419,150	Winnipeg	6,504
2007	9	67	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	7,965,235	Long Island	414,973	Winnipeg	6,180
2010	7	60	8,105,046	Long Island	410,619	Long Island	6,039
2011	6	55	6,810,403	Long Island	382,027	Winnipeg	5,740
2012	6	55	7,125,597	Sugar Land	465,511	Sugar Land	6,650
2013	7	53	6,708,293	Sugar Land	382,059	Winnipeg	5,880
2014	7	50	6,165,961	Sugar Land	383,465	Winnipeg	5,618
2015	7	52	6,315,482	St. Paul	404,528	St. Paul	8,091
2016	7	55	6,226,210	St. Paul	413,482	St. Paul	8,438
2017	7	57	6,219,838	St. Paul	406,501	St. Paul	8,296
2018	7	59	5,917,553	St. Paul	408,921	St. Paul	8,178
2019	7	56	5,690,513	St. Paul	394,970	St. Paul	8,061
2021	8	75	6,047,347	Long Island	224,120	Tijuana	7,557

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

Bridgeport, Long Island, and Sugar Land play, or played, in the Atlantic League, which has the longest season of any independent league. In most years, teams in the Atlantic League were scheduled for 70 home games. Other independent leagues have in recent years had 48-53 home games per team each season. In some cases, leagues had a team that only played road games, so the rest of the teams in the league played a few extra home dates.

The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues became independent in 2021. The United Shore Baseball League plays all its games in Utica, MI. The Mavericks League plays all its games in Keiser, OR. The United Shore and Mavericks Leagues each count as one team in this table, even though each of these leagues has 4 teams. St. Paul and Sugar Land became MLB-affiliated Triple-A teams in 2021.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES LISTING ATTENDANCE – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS

The table below shows which non-Atlantic League, independent league team had the best total attendance since 1998. In 2015, St. Paul became the first non-Atlantic League team topping total attendance since 1997. St. Paul is now in Triple-A East.

Year	Team	Attendance		Year	Team	Attendance
1998	St. Paul	272,210		2010	Winnipeg	271,399
1999	St. Paul	265,818		2011	Winnipeg	275,521
2000	Winnipeg	271,513		2012	Winnipeg	285,263
2001	Winnipeg	292,095		2013	Winnipeg	276,359
2002	Winnipeg	303,786		2014	Winnipeg	258,429
2003	Winnipeg	300,760		2015	St. Paul	404,528
2004	Winnipeg	323,241		2016	St. Paul	413,482
2005	Winnipeg	322,758		2017	St. Paul	406,501
2006	Winnipeg	312,213		2018	St. Paul	408,921
2007	Winnipeg	300,938		2019	St. Paul	394,970
2008	St. Paul	286,796				
2009	Winnipeg	278,099		2021	Tijuana	196,471

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

ATLANTIC LEAGUE (10 teams – 132 games in **2022**, 8 teams – 120 games in **2021**, 8 teams -- 140 games in **2019**)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,367,578 (2012) 8 teams; Team – Sugar Land – 465,511 (2012)

- J The Atlantic League has always played the longest schedule among modern (post-1992) independent leagues. The 2012 attendance, noted above, was the highest total by any modern-day independent league.
- J 8 teams in **2021**. 5 of the teams played in this league in 2019. Gastonia was added as an expansion team in 2021, and Lexington, KY, and Charleston, WV, came in from the MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League. 2019 Atlantic League teams that moved to other leagues in 2021 were Sugar Land (to Triple-A West), Somerset (to Double-A Northeast), and New Britain (to the Futures Summer Collegiate League). This league played a 120-game schedule in 2021, instead of its usual 140-game schedule. But this still was the longest schedule among independent leagues. There will be a 132-game schedule in 2022.
- J The league drew 1,138,674 in **2021**. Average per team was 142,334, and average per date was 2,553. There were 33 lost dates. The 2021 Atlantic League teams drew 1,546,720 in 2019, averaging 3,312 per date. In **2019**, the Atlantic League drew 1,940,590, an average of 3,648 per date. Excluding expansion team Gastonia, the league played 86 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. If Gastonia is included, there were 21 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. The 7 teams that did play in 2019 combined to play 79 fewer dates in 2021.
- J **Long Island led all U.S. independent teams in total attendance (224,120) and average per date (4,002).** Lancaster, PA had the 3rd best total (182,132) among independent teams in 2021.
- J The league will add the Staten Island Ferry Hawks, and a second team in Lexington (to be called Kentucky) in 2022. Staten Island had been in the New York-Penn League through 2019.
- J 8 teams played home games in **2019**. High Point replaced a road team. Attendance rose 90,745 (4.9%) to 1,940,590. The league had topped 2 million 9 times in 10 years through 2017, and 10 times overall. 2019 was the 15th straight year with attendance of at least 1.8 million. There were 57 more dates in 2019 than in 2018, and 21 lost dates. The 7 teams that were also in this league in 2018 had a combined total attendance decline of 53,741 (2.9%).
- J Average attendance per date fell by 246 to 3,648 in 2019, the lowest since 2000. The 7 returning teams had a combined average per date dip of 31. This league has averaged at least 3,500 per date in all seasons except its first (1998), plus 2021, and topped 4,000 per date from 2006 through 2015. League record-high is 4,409 in 2012. The best average per date for any modern independent league was 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- J 2 teams had increases in 2019 total attendance, and 4 were up in average per date. Lancaster had the best increases in both categories, and New Britain had the biggest losses.
- J Until 2021, Atlantic League average attendance per team had been above 240,000 in all years since 2001. The record-high of 295,947 per team in 2012 is the best ever for a modern independent league. The average per team was 242,574 in 2019, lowest since 2000, excluding 2021.
- J **Long Island (Central Islip, NY) led all independent teams in total 2021 attendance (224,120), and led all U.S. independent teams in average per date (4,002).** Only 3 Mexican League teams, each playing a much shorter schedule, had higher average per date figures. The Ducks have led their league in average per date 15 times in 21 seasons, including 2021. 11 dates drew over 5,000, with a league-high crowd of 7,101. There were 4 lost dates.
- J In **2019**, Long Island drew an independent 3rd best total of 328,194, down 20,864, with 5 fewer dates. This was the lowest total in this team's 20 seasons through 2019. Average per date rose by 56 to 4,973, just the 2nd time ever under 5,000. 31 dates drew above 5,000, with 6 topping 6,000, including a high of 7,312. From their inception in 2000, through 2011, the Ducks had the highest total attendance of any independent league team, topping 400,000 each year. They surpassed 340,000 in every season until 2019. The Ducks had the 2nd best independent total attendance in 2012 and 2013, the 3rd highest in 2014, the 2nd best in 2015, and 3rd best in 2016, 2018, and 2019.
- J Average per date was above 6,000 in 10 of the first 11 Ducks' seasons. They averaged 5,998 in 2006. Through 2021, the Ducks have drawn 8,126,608, which is an average of 386,981 per year. Their 21-year average per date of 5,636 per date is 93.9% of their ballpark's seating capacity. Exclude 2021, and the average per date is 5,702. Long Island has drawn 691 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 1,442 regular season dates, with 2 in 2021. Including playoffs, the total attendance is 8,299,545. On July 3, 2016, the Ducks drew 7,602, the largest crowd in team history.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

-) The **Lancaster Barnstormers** drew 182,132 in **2021**, which was the 3rd highest independent league total. Average per date was a U.S.-5th ranked independent-best 3,087. 9 dates drew at least 4,000, with a top crowd of 5,348. Only one date was lost.
-) **Lancaster's total attendance increase of 35,649 to 285,441, was the best among all independent teams in 2019**, and their top total since 2014. The Barnstormers topped 300,000 in 9 of their first 10 seasons (2005-2014), though not in their last 6 years, including 2021. They've drawn pretty well considering that 3 teams (Reading, Harrisburg, York), play less than 40 miles from Lancaster. Average per date rose an independent 3rd best 357 to 4,260, the highest since 2014. The average per date had been above 5,000 from 2005 through 2008, and stayed above 4,000 until 2016, and again in 2019. 18 dates drew over 5,000, with a high of 7,918.
-) **2021** total attendance for the **Southern Maryland Blue Crabs** was 148,982, with a 2,811 average per date. The biggest crowd was 6,954, and 7 dates drew at least 4,000. A league-high 7 dates were lost.
-) Southern Maryland's **2019** total attendance was down 5,058 to 200,889. Blue Crabs' attendance was very stable from 2007 through 2019, ranging between 200,889 and 242,894. 2019 average per date fell 77 to 3,044, lowest in the team's 12 seasons. 16 dates drew over 4,000, with a high of 5,892.
-) The **Lexington (KY) Legends** moved from the MLB-affiliated South Atlantic League to the Atlantic League in 2021. In **2021**, they had a total attendance of 163,798, with a 2,978 average per date. There were 5 lost dates. Attendance reached 4,000 at 12 dates, with a high of 5,141.
-) Lexington drew 270,221, down 10,913, in **2019**. Average per date fell 368 to 4,094. Both the total and average were the lowest in this club's 19 seasons in the South Atlantic League. 20 dates drew over 5,000. The Legends drew better than 400,000 in 3 of their first 4 years starting in 2001, and topped 300,000 for their first 11 seasons, but have finished under 300,000 in each year since 2012. Average per date was over 6,000 in 2001 and 2002. It stayed above 5,000 through 2008. It has not reached that level since, but topped 4,000 every year until 2021. The Legends have been one of the most generous teams in the Minors, raising over \$1 million for charity annually.
-) **The Charleston, WV Dirty Birds** also came from the South Atlantic League, where they had been named the West Virginia Power. In **2021**, they drew 85,398, with a 1,581 average per date. 6 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,507. 6 dates were lost.
-) West Virginia had a 6,171 gain in total attendance in **2019**, to 118,444. Average per date slipped 99 to 1,742, the lowest since 2003. There were 7 more dates. 9 dates drew at least 3,000. The Power had drawn better than 125,000 for 14 straight years through 2017, after not reaching 100,000 in the 8 seasons prior to 2004. But the only seasons above 200,000 were 2005 through 2008. Average per date was more than 3,000 in those 4 seasons, but has been below this figure ever since.
-) **York**, owned by Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson, had **2021** total attendance of 111,628, and a 2,067 average per date. There were 6 lost dates. 5 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 6,376.
-) The Revolution had an independent 4th best total attendance increase of 18,238 in **2019** to 199,045, with 3 more dates. Attendance exceeded 250,000 for 8 straight years through 2015. Average per date was up 146 to 2,971 in 2019. The Revolution had topped 4,000 per date in 4 seasons (2008, 2009, 2010, 2012). 27 dates drew over 3,000 in 2019, with 12 topping 4,000. The season high crowd was 6,457.
-) The **Gastonia Honey Hunters** played their first season in the Atlantic League in **2021**. **They drew 114,416, the highest total in the 34 seasons with recorded attendance in this market.** Average per date was 1,973, with 2 lost dates. Opening Day had the largest crowd (5,000), and 4 other dates topped 3,000. Gastonia last had a pro team in 1995, in the short-lived (3 weeks) independent Atlantic Coast League. Prior to that, Gastonia was in the South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) from 1977 through 1992. Previous high attendance in Gastonia was 94,788 in 1952. 1980 (90,198) was their only other year above 90,000 until 2021.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

-) **High Point** drew 108,200 in **2021**, with an 1,898 average per date. 22 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 2,822. 2 dates were lost.
-) The High Point (NC) Rockers became the Atlantic League's 8th team in **2019**. It was High Point's first pro team since 1969. Top reported attendance in 17 seasons with a team (between 1939 and 1969) in that market was 100,227 in 1948. The only other years above 70,000 were 1949 (95,792), and 1965 (71,256). The final team, in 1969, drew 44,472. **The Rockers drew 144,486 in 2019, the best total ever for this market.** Average per date was 2,157, with 6 dates topping 3,000.
-) In **2022**, the **Staten Island Ferry Hawks** join the Atlantic League. Staten Island had a team (the Yankees) in the New York-Penn League from 1999 through 2019. In 2019, their total attendance fell 6,374 to 66,520. Average per date was 1,848, down 235. Those were the lowest figures in that team's 21 seasons. 5 dates drew over 3,000. Total 2019 attendance was down 142,498 (68.2%) from 2010, and average per date was down 3,958 (68.2%) from a 5,806 average per date in 2010. The Yankees drew over 200,000 in 2009 and 2010, and average per date surpassed 5,000 from 2008 through 2011. Part of the reason for the attendance declines was a major mall construction project near the ballpark that sharply reduced available parking. Their ballpark, right next to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal, has a magnificent view of New York Harbor.
-) The Atlantic League may have a potential new member as early as **2023** in **Hagerstown, Maryland**, if a proposed new ballpark is built there. Hagerstown had a team (the Suns) in the South Atlantic League through 2019. There were many stories about a possible relocation by the Suns. In 2019 they posted a 5,275 decrease in total attendance to 59,682, the lowest total in that team's 39 seasons. Average per date was down 242 to 918, also the lowest in 39 years. There were 9 more dates than in 2018, and 5 rainouts. Since 1981, the Suns had topped 100,000 in all seasons but one (1993) through 2011, but were below that number since then. Average per date was under 1,400 in each of the last 8 South Atlantic League seasons. The team had been expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015, but plans for a new ballpark there fell through at that time. A new ballpark in that city opened in 2021, and is now the home of the Fredericksburg Nationals of Low-A East.
-) **Camden** played its 15th and final Atlantic League season in 2015. The Riversharks drew 216,639 in 2015, averaging 3,186 per date. Camden topped 250,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but not after that. But they did draw better than 200,000 every year. Their record-high was 313,792 in 2002, and they also topped 300,000 in 2003. Average per date was over 4,000 from 2001 through 2004, and was above 3,000 every year.
-) The **Bridgeport Bluefish** played their final season in 2017, and drew 196,917, averaging 2,984 per date. Those were the best figures since 2005. Total attendance had increased 64,078 (48.5%) from 2012 to 2017, and during this same period, average per date was up 951 (46.8%). Bridgeport drew better than 230,000 in each of their first 7 seasons (1998-2004), but was below 200,000 in all 13 years after that. Bridgeport's average per date was above 4,000 from 1998 through 2000, with a high of 4,571 in 1999, and reached 3,000 each year through 2005, but not afterwards. 2015 was a positive turnaround season. Bluefish attendance had fallen from 342,857 in 1999 to a record-low 132,139 in 2012. But in 2015, they drew 192,466, their best total since 2006. Total attendance was up 42,182, the 2nd biggest gain among all independent teams that year.
-) The Atlantic League scheduled a unique day-night doubleheader between Bridgeport and New Britain for August 19, 2017. These teams played the day portion in Bridgeport, which drew 3,533, and then bussed 50 miles to New Britain, where they played the night game, which drew 4,038.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

ATLANTIC LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	8	1,138,674			2,553		
2019	8	1,940,590	90,745	4.9	3,648	(246)	(6.3)
2018	7	1,849,845	(221,480)	(10.7)	3,894	(51)	(1.3)
2017	8	2,071,325	(28,304)	(1.3)	3,945	6	0.2
2016	8	2,099,629	(76,998)	(3.5)	3,939	(129)	(3.2)
2015	8	2,176,627	(56,392)	(2.5)	4,068	(83)	(2.0)
2014	8	2,233,019	(21,535)	(1.0)	4,151	(1)	(0.0)
2013	8	2,254,554	(113,024)	(4.8)	4,152	(257)	(5.8)
2012	8	2,367,578	419,257	21.5	4,409	324	7.9
2011	7	1,948,321	(203,095)	(9.4)	4,085	64	1.6
2010	8	2,151,416	(9,577)	(0.4)	4,021	(33)	(0.8)
2009	8	2,160,993	(47,741)	(2.2)	4,054	(59)	(1.4)
2008	8	2,208,734	231,921	11.7	4,113	(40)	(1.0)
2007	8	1,976,813	65,761	3.4	4,153	147	3.7
2006	7	1,911,052	(121,376)	(6.0)	4,006	235	6.2
2005	8	2,032,428	242,380	13.5	3,771	88	2.4
2004	7	1,790,048	(9,681)	(0.5)	3,683	(130)	(3.4)
2003	7	1,799,729	(59,330)	(3.2)	3,813	(68)	(1.8)
2002	7	1,859,059	3,609	0.2	3,881	55	1.4
2001	7	1,855,450	181,699	10.9	3,826	257	7.2
2000	8	1,673,751	556,754	49.8	3,569	0	0.0
1999	5	1,116,997	510,473	84.2	3,569	1,285	56.3
1998	4	606,524	-----	-----	2,284	-----	-----

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL (18 teams – 90-game schedule in 2022, 66-games in 2021)
(16 teams – 120-game schedule in 2019)

RECORD HIGHS: League – **4,618,131 (2019)**; Team – 989,454 – Monterrey (2006)

- J This league, which was founded in 1925, never had any Major League Baseball farm teams, but was a National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues (NAPBL) member from 1955 through 2019. It became an independent league in 2021.
- J 18 teams were in this league in 2021. 16 of these teams played in the Mexican League in 2019, with los Mariachis de Guadalajara and El Aguila (The Eagle) de Veracruz added in 2021.
- J Covid-19 forced changes hit this league very hard. The schedule was reduced from 120 games to 66 games. Some games were played with no fans allowed to attend. These are major factors in the much lower than usual attendance figures. Some teams had more scheduled home dates than others. Total attendance was 1,446,929 in **2021**, an average of 80,385 per team, and 2,826 per date. This was the highest total attendance and average per date of any independent league. There were 42 lost dates. In 2019, the league drew 4,618,131, and averaged 5,058 per date. There were 401 fewer dates in 2021 vs. 2019. If the expansion teams are excluded, the 16 returning teams played 463 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
- J Los Toros (Bulls) de Tijuana led the league in attendance, with a total of 196,471. **Their average per date of 7,557 was the best in all of Minor League Baseball, including the MLB-affiliated leagues.** Mexican League teams had 8 of the 12 highest average per date figures among independent teams.
- J Los Tecolotes de Los Dos Laredos (Owls of the Two Laredos) were able to split their season, as usual, between Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The 17 dates in Texas drew an average of 3,341, and the 11 dates in Mexico averaged 2,603 per date.
- J The Mexican League annually has the longest, most intense, and best attended playoffs in the Minor Leagues, with 4 full rounds of best-of-7 series. The full playoffs did occur in 2021, and they drew 412,739 in 74 dates, an average of 5,578 per date. Tijuana's 13 playoff dates drew an average crowd of 12,595, with a top attendance of 17,687.
- J **2019 was a record-setting attendance season for the Mexican League. Total attendance was a record-high 4,618,131, up 846,328 (22.4%). The old record of 4,591,286 was set in 1979. Average per date rose 682 to 5,058, which was the highest since at least 1991. Average per date figures from prior to 1992 are not available. The increases were the best of any league in 2019. Average attendance per team was a record-high 288,508, breaking the mark of 269,928 set in 1964. There were 51 more dates in 2019 than in 2018.**
- J Attendance growth was helped by a longer schedule, with each team having 120 games in 2019, compared to 114 games in 2018. The league had 41 dates lost to weather in 2019, 37 lost dates in 2018, and 57 in 2017.
- J 14 of the 16 teams had gains in total attendance and 13 were up in average per date. Mexico City, which opened a new park, had the league's best increases in total attendance (234,456), and average per date (4,173). Monterrey had the largest total attendance dip (6,427), and Monclova (del Norte) had the worst average per date loss (343).
- J **Tijuana drew 677,464 (11,291 per date) to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance. Monterrey and Yucatan also finished in the top 5 among all teams in average per date. This league had 9 of the 12 largest increases in total attendance among all Minor League teams, 9 of the top 16 gains in average per date, 10 of the top 19 percentage gains in total attendance, and 9 of the 20 best percentage gains in average per date.**
- J **In 2018**, the Mexican League played a unique split-season schedule. There was a 57-game Spring season, which began on March 22, and ended on May 28. This was followed by a full set of playoffs. The 57-game Summer season ran from July 3 through September 8, and it too, was followed by a full set of playoffs. Other leagues play split seasons, but they only have one set of playoffs, which take place in September.
- J Both the 2018 Spring regular season and Spring playoffs drew better than the 2018 Summer regular season and Summer playoffs. In the Spring regular season, total attendance was 2,096,638 in 434 dates, averaging 4,831 per date. The Summer regular season drew 1,675,165 in 428 dates, an average of 3,914 per date. The average per date for the Summer regular season was 917 (19.0%) less than the average per date for the Spring regular season. The league had 10 lost dates during the 2018 Spring season, and had 27 lost dates in the Summer season.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) In 2018, the Mexican League had the largest declines in total attendance and average per date of any league. In 2016, this league had the only total attendance increase among the 15 NAPBL leagues. In 2015, the Mexican League had the worst declines among MLB-affiliated leagues in total attendance and average per date.
-) The 2017 total of 4,042,605 was the highest for the league since 1979. Average attendance per team of 252,663 was the highest since 1967, and the 6nd best (1963-67, led by 269,928 in 1964), since this league joined the NAPBL in 1955. Average per date of 4,906 was best since at least 1991. All of these marks were exceeded in 2019.
-) **2019** was the 9th straight year with average attendance above 4,300. The league didn't reach 3,700 per date from at least 1992 through 2003. Total attendance has topped 3 million in all but one season since 2000.
-) Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. The 43 Mexican League playoff games in **2019** drew 519,686, an average of 12,086 per game. Every game drew at least 5,000, 23 games attracted at least 10,000, and at 18 games, attendance topped 14,000, with a high of 18,965 for a game at Monterrey. The 6 games in Mexico City averaged 16,246 per game. 7 playoff games in Tijuana drew an average of 15,551, and the last 5 games in Yucatan all drew a sellout crowd of 14,917.
-) The 2018 Mexican League combined Spring and Summer playoffs drew 822,575, averaging 9,911 per game. 30 of the 83 games drew over 10,000, led by 7 sellout crowds of 21,909 at Monterrey. 23 of 37 semi-final and finals games drew over 10,000. The 18 playoff games in Monterrey attracted 332,817, an average of 18,490 per game. Attendance at 66 Mexican League playoff games reached 5,000. Only 15 of 201 playoff games in all other leagues, including the independents, drew at least 5,000. The 2017 Mexican League playoffs averaged 11,954 per game. In 2016, the Mexican League playoffs averaged 12,682 per game. The playoffs averaged 9,513 per game in 2015, 8,841 in 2014, and 10,149 in 2013.
-) League-wide, 2013 through 2017 were exceptions, but huge yearly attendance swings often take place in this league. In 2009, there was a 955,395 (23.7%) dip in total attendance. It fell 11.8% in 2010. Increases were 22.4% in 2011, 14.8% in 2012, and 22.4% in 2019.
-) Individual Mexican League teams have very often made the yearly listing of teams with the 10 biggest increases or decreases in total attendance. From 2007 through 2019, Mexican League teams accounted for 106 of the 260 teams (40.8%) on these lists, which have 20 teams yearly. The Mexican League had 16 of the 136 full-season MLB-affiliated teams (11.8%) in all of these seasons, except 2011, when it had 14 teams.

OF MEXICAN LEAGUE TEAMS WITH YEARLY TOP 10 NAPBL TOTAL ATTENDANCE GAINS OR DECLINES

Year	# of Teams in Top 10 Gains	# of Teams in Top 10 Declines	Year	# of Teams in Top 10 Gains	# of Teams in Top 10 Declines
2007	6	2	2014	1	2
2008	7	3	2015	3	5
2009	3	7	2016	5	4
2010	2	5	2017	4	4
2011	8	0	2018	4	6
2012	5	4	2019	7	0
2013	4	5			

-) In 2019, Mexican League teams accounted for: 9 of the 12 NAPBL teams with the highest numerical gains in total attendance and 9 of the 16 best numerical increases in average per date; none of the 59 teams with the worst total numerical declines, and 1 of the 21 worst numerical declines in average per date; 12 of the 24 best percentage gains in total attendance, and 9 of the top 20 percentage increases in average per date; none of the 64 worst percentage losses in total attendance, and 1 of the 37 worst percentage decreases in average per date.
-) In 2018, Mexican League teams accounted for: 4 of the 8 NAPBL teams with the highest numerical gains in total attendance and 2 of the 3 best numerical increases in average per date; 6 of the 10 teams with the worst total numerical declines, and 8 of the 11 worst numerical declines in average per date; 4 of the 10 best percentage gains in total attendance, and 2 of the top 5 percentage increases in average per date; 3 of the 4 worst percentage losses in total attendance, and 4 of the 9 worst percentage decreases in average per date.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) **Los Toros de Tijuana (Bulls) had the highest average attendance per date (7,557) of any Minor League team in 2021. They drew 196,471, which was the 2nd highest total attendance (to Long Island) among independent teams.** That's quite an achievement considering that they played their first 6 home dates with no fans allowed in the ballpark. Los Toros had one other postponement. All but 4 of their home dates drew at least 4,000, and 13 of them topped 7,000. **One game drew 15,240, which was the largest 2021 Minor League regular season crowd. The 13 playoff games in Tijuana drew an average 12,595, with a Minor League high of 17,687.**
-) **Tijuana had the highest total attendance (a team record-high 677,464) and average per date (11,291) of any Minor League team in 2019. Tijuana was the only Minor League team to average at least 10,000 per date. Total attendance rose 121,093, the 4th best gain of any team, and average per date was up 1,530, with was the 6th best average gain. There were 46 dates that drew at least 8,000, at 34 dates the crowd was over 10,000, and 13 dates topped 15,000, with a high of 17,891. The 2019 total broke the old mark of 608,819 in 2017. The 2019 average per date was the 2nd best in Tijuana, topped only by the 12,764 average in 2004. This was the 4th straight year above 500,000 for the Bulls, and the 8th time in the last 11 seasons above 400,000. Average per date reached 7,700 for the 6th year in a row.**
-) In 2018, the Bulls drew 556,371, down 52,448, and averaged 9,761 per date, down 1,111. It was the 8th best total, and 2nd best average per date among NAPBL teams in 2018. But Tijuana also had the 9th worst decline in total attendance, and the 6th worst average per date decrease.
-) In 2017, Tijuana's total attendance rose 92,318, the top total gain of any NAPBL team. 2017 average per date was 10,872, which was the 2nd best in the Minors. The average per date was up 1,481, which was the 2nd best increase (to Nashville) in the Minors in 2017. In 2014, Tijuana's total attendance was 298,658 higher, and their average per date was 5,591 higher than the franchise drew in 2013 when it played in Minatitlan. Prior to 2014, Tijuana had a team from 2004 through 2008. They drew 548,863 in 2004, and surpassed 450,000 in 2006 and 2007.
-) **Los Pericos (Parrots) de Puebla drew 58,175 in 2021, with a 2,424 average per date. 16 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,259. 5 dates were lost.**
-) Puebla had a significant gain in **2019**, continuing this team's trend of large year-to-year changes in attendance. Total attendance rose 104,977 to 248,721, and average per date was up 1,981 to 4,693. This was the 5th best numerical and percentage total attendance gain, and the 4th best numerical and percentage average per date gain, in the Minors in 2019. It was also the highest total for this club since 2013, and the best average per date since 2014. 18 dates drew over 5,000.
-) In 2017, Los Pericos (Parrots) drew 152,923, down 75,721. Average per date fell 1,128 to 3,186. This was the worst total attendance loss of any NAPBL team in 2017, and the 2nd worst average per date loss. The 33.1% dip in total attendance was the 2nd worst percentage loss in the NAPBL, and the 26.1% dip in average per date was 4th worst. 2016 was a big comeback season for Puebla. Total attendance rose 116,393 to 228,644, and average per date was up 2,023 to 4,314. Those were the 2nd best gains in these categories in the Minors. Los Pericos also posted the best Minor League percentage gains in total attendance (103.7%), and average per date (88.3%).
-) In 2015, Puebla's total attendance was cut by more than half, from 240,409 in 2014 to 112,251 in 2015. The decline of 128,158 was the 2nd largest among NAPBL teams. Their average per date dip of 2,718 to 2,291 was the worst in the NAPBL in 2015. The Parrots had 7 lost dates in 2015, the most in the league. From 2011 through 2014, Puebla topped 240,000 each year. They had reached this level just once in their 36 previous seasons. The all-time highs for Puebla were set in 2011, when they drew 363,011, averaging 7,118 per date.
-) **In 2021, Guadalajara** rejoined the Mexican League for the first time since 1995. This area, also called Jalisco, was in the league from 1964 through 1975, in 1988, and from 1991 through 1995. The highest total attendance was 373,219 in 1967. This market topped 200,000 each year from 1964 through 1969, and in 1988. In **2021**, Los Mariachis (no translation needed) had a total attendance of 61,652, and a 2,126 average per date. 4 dates were lost. 17 dates drew at least 2,000, with a high of 3,100.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) One of Minor League Baseball's best draws, **Los Sultanes (Sultans) de Monterrey**, had **2021** total attendance of 149,011. They averaged an independent 2nd best 4,657 per date. 12 dates drew at least 5,000, with a top crowd of 8,792. There was one lost date.
-) Los Sultanes drew 556,869, down 6,427 in **2019**. They averaged 9,770 per date, down 289. The total was 9th best, and the average per date was 2nd best, in the Minors for 2019. It was the 8th straight year above 500,000 in total attendance, and the 13th time Monterrey has reached 500,000 since 1998. This was also the 8th year in a row with average per date above 9,400, and the 17th time above 8,000 since 1998. **The Sultanes have topped 10,000 per date in 8 seasons since 2006.** One 2019 game drew 20,533, the largest Minor League crowd of the year. There were 7 dates above 15,000, 10 dates that drew over 10,000, and 36 dates reached 8,000. Monterrey also had the largest Minor League playoff crowd of the year – 18,965.
-) Monterrey hosted 4 Major League games in 2019. The Cincinnati Reds had a pair of 'home' games there which drew a total of 33,289. The 2 Los Angeles Angels' 'home' games there drew a total of 35,791. In 2018, Monterrey hosted a 3-game series between the Dodgers and the 'home-team' Padres. It drew a combined total of 65,116.
-) **The Sultanes had the Minor Leagues' highest average per date (10,059, down 1,516) in 2018.** However, their decline in average per date was the 3rd worst of all Minor League teams in 2018. 19 dates drew over 10,000, with 12 dates reaching 15,000. Total 2018 attendance in Monterrey was 563,296, down 96,495. That was the 6th best total in the Minors, but also the 3rd biggest decrease of 2018. 18 playoff games in Monterrey averaged 18,490 per game, with 7 sellout crowds of 21,909.
-) **In 2017, Monterrey again had the best total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball. They drew 659,701 in 57 home dates, averaging 11,575 per date. Attendance topped 10,000 at 32 dates, reached 15,000 at 18 dates, led by an Opening Day crowd of 29,734. The total was down 30,514. Average per date was down 1,208, the largest 2017 vs. 2016 decline of any team. The 5 playoff games in Monterrey each drew at least 17,000, with a high of 23,176.**
-) **2016 was a great attendance season for Monterrey. They led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance, average per date, increase in total attendance, and increase in average per date. Monterrey drew 690,305 (12,783 per date), in just 54 dates. Attendance topped 10,000 at 36 dates, was over 15,000 at 16 dates, and 8 dates drew over 20,000. 4 post-season games also drew over 20,000. Sultanes' total attendance rose 173,070, and average per date was up 3,379. In addition, the Sultanes had the 2nd best percentage gains in total attendance (33.5%), and in average per date (35.9%).**
-) Some other examples of the wild attendance fluctuations in Monterrey's fairly recent history: 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. No team has drawn better since then. Sultanes' attendance was up 556,293 from 2005, by far the largest increase of any Minor League team. But in 2007, Monterrey's attendance was sliced in half, falling 497,826, by far the biggest decline in all of professional baseball, including the Major Leagues.
-) In 2008, 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. Their 2012 attendance of 645,302 led all of the Minors.
-) In 2014, Monterrey had the biggest total attendance gain (96,650) among teams playing in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They had the 4th best increase in average per date in 2014, and their average per date of 11,856 was the best in the Minors. The Sultanes were the only team to average more than 10,000 per date in 2014 or 2013. Their total attendance of 687,642 was just 73 short of the highest 2014 MLB-affiliated total achieved by the Charlotte Knights.
-) But in 2015, Monterrey had the biggest decrease in the Minor Leagues, down 170,407. Average per date for the Sultanes declined by 2,472, which was the 2nd worst decrease among MLB-affiliated teams. Monterrey's average per date of 9,404 was still the 2nd best in the Minor Leagues.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) **Los Leones (Lions) de Yucatan** drew 109,895, with a 3,434 average per date in **2021**. The Home Opener drew 5,626, the largest crowd of the year. 7 dates topped 4,000. 2 dates were lost.
-) In recent years, Yucatan has seen some large attendance swings. In **2019**, the total rose 47,009 to 520,350, with 5 more dates than in 2018. This was the 3rd time in the last 5 years that the total exceeded 500,000, and the 5th straight year above 450,000. Average per date was a Minor League 5th best 8,673, up 67, the 5th year in a row above 8,600. 43 dates topped 8,000, with 8 of them reaching 10,000. In the 2010's decade, Yucatan's attendance has been as low as 137,750 (2012), and as high as 528,351 (2015). Between 2004 and 2014, Yucatan drew at least 300,000 just once (2008).
-) Los Leones had a statistical oddity in 2018. Total attendance rose 21,179 to 473,341, the 8th best gain in the NAPBL leagues. But average per date fell by 622, to 8,606. They played 6 more dates than in 2017, which accounted for this circumstance.
-) Another statistical oddity for Yucatan took place in 2017, when they played 6 fewer dates than in 2016: There was a total attendance decline of 48,677, which was 5th worst among MLB-affiliated teams. Yet Yucatan set a team record (since at least 1991) in average per date (9,288) for the 3rd straight year.
-) Yucatan followed-up a great 2015 season with another outstanding performance in 2016. Los Leones drew 500,839. This was down 27,512, in good part, due to 4 fewer dates. But average per date rose 151 to 9,106. In 2015, los Leones posted a 302,947 gain, the best increase of any Minor League team. Average per date was 8,955, up 4,355, which was also the highest average per date increase of the year. The Lions drew 528,351 to lead the league in total attendance. This total was their highest since 1982, the team's 2nd best total ever, and the first time above 400,000 since 2001. The Lions played 10 more dates in 2015 than in 2014.
-) In **2021**, **Los Bravos (Braves) de Leon** had a total attendance of 70,869, with a 2,215 average per date. 22 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 2,960. There was one lost date.
-) In **2019**, **Los Bravos** drew **183,541**, up **43,714**. This was a record-high for the current team. A former team in **Leon** drew **195,538** in **1990**. Average per date was a record-high **3,337**, up **748**. 5 dates topped 5,000. The gain in total attendance was 10th best, and the average per date increase was 9th best in the Minors. Prior to 2017, this city last had a team in 24 seasons from 1960 through 1991.
-) **The Durango Generales (Generals)** only played 22 home dates in **2021**. They had 5 lost dates. Total attendance was 27,587, with a 1,254 average per date. The 3,500 crowd on Opening Day was the only one over 2,000.
-) Durango played 6 more dates in **2019** than in 2018. **Total attendance rose 24,129 to a current team record-high 180,247, and average per date increased 97 to 3,219**. A former team in this city drew 230,919 in 1978. Before 2017, Durango's last team played in 12 seasons between 1956 and 1979.
-) **Los Piratas de Campeche** also only played 22 dates in **2021**. They drew 23,419, and averaged 1,065 per date. There were 3 lost dates. All games in the first homestand of the year were either postponed, or played with no fans in the park. Altogether, Campeche played 6 dates in an empty park. 8 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 1,989.
-) Campeche drew a **2019** Mexican League-low 87,146, up 16,050. Average per date rose 349 to 1,743. This club was hit very hard by bad weather, and had 10 lost dates. Only 3 dates topped 4,000, and at 11 dates, attendance was less than 1,000. Los Piratas have drawn under 100,000 in 14 of the last 24 seasons, including 2021. They topped 100,000 in 16 straight seasons before that. Average per date has been below 2,000 in 16 of the last 26 years, also including 2021. In 2018, Campeche had the 7th worst total loss, and the 4th worst average per date loss, in the NAPBL leagues. The 46.8% drop in total attendance was the 2nd worst percentage decrease, and the 52.0% reduction in average per date was the largest percentage decline. Campeche's team-record-high is 287,749 in 1983. Their only year above 200,000 since then was 2008.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) **Los Diablos Rojos de la Ciudad de Mexico (Mexico City Red Devils)** had a **2021** total attendance of 111,188. Average per date was 3,706, which was 5th best among independent teams. 13 dates topped 4,000, and 6 drew over 5,000. There were 3 lost dates.
-) A beautiful new ballpark led to a huge attendance increase for Mexico City in **2019**. Total attendance rose 234,456 to 389,641, despite 6 lost dates. Average per date was up 4,173 to 7,216. These gains were all 2nd best in the Minors in total attendance, average per date, and in percentage increases (151.1% in total attendance, 137.1% in average per date) in these two categories. It was the team's best total and average per date since 1997. 16 dates topped 8,000, 9 dates drew 10,000+, and 4 dates drew above 15,000, with a high of 20,062.
-) In 2018, Mexico City had the 6th best NAPBL total attendance increase, and the 3rd best average per date gain, numerically. On a percentage basis, the 21.6% gain in total attendance was the 6th best, and the 21.6% gain in average per date was 5th highest. Los Diablos Rojos had topped 300,000 in attendance 19 times between 1957 and 1979. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 14 of those years. The 1967 team was the only Minor League team to draw at least 500,000 between 1950 and 1978. But since 1980, the Red Devils have reached 300,000 just 3 times, including 2019. Their record of 536,743 set in 1967 is the longest standing team record-high among current Major League and Minor League teams.
-) **2021** total attendance for **los Saraperos (Sarape Makers) de Saltillo** was 108,913. Their 4,034 average per date was 3rd best among independent teams. 10 dates drew over 4,000, with 8 topping 5,000. The largest crowd was 5,993, and the team had one lost date.
-) Saltillo had a **2019** Minors 6th best 102,697 gain in total attendance to 377,499. The average per date rose 1,577 to 6,398, which was 5th highest. It was the best total for Saltillo since 2013, and the top average per date since 2014. 15 dates drew at least 8,000, with 6 of them above 10,000. Los Saraperos had the 4th worst NAPBL average per date decline in 2016. In 2015, the Sarape Makers posted the NAPBL's 5th worst decrease in total attendance, and the 4th worst decline in average per date. They had topped 500,000 each year from 2000 through 2007, with a high of 613,551 in 2001. Average per date was 10,000+ each year from 2000 through 2006.
-) **Los Rieleros (Railroadmen) de Aguascalientes** posted a 29,860 total attendance figure in **2021**, with a 1,298 average per date. Opening Day drew 2,664, the year's largest crowd, and 15 dates topped 1,000. 4 dates were lost.
-) Aguascalientes drew better than 300,000 in 1977 and 1978. But they've reached 200,000 just 4 times in the 33 seasons they've had a team since then. Los Rieleros drew 112,077, up 12,782 in **2019**, and averaged 2,001 per date, up 91, with 4 more dates. Opening Day had the only crowd above 4,000. There was no team in Aguascalientes from 2000 through 2003, and from 2008 through 2011. Their 2018 numerical total and average per date losses were 2nd worst to New Orleans for that year. Los Rieleros had the worst total percentage decline (49.5%), and 2nd worst average per date percentage dip (46.5%) among NAPBL teams in 2018.
-) **In 2021, Los Tecolotes de Dos Laredos** (The Owls of the Two Laredos) played 11 dates in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, and 17 dates in Laredo, Texas USA. The dates in Mexico drew a total of 28,638, and an average of 2,603 per date. Top Nuevo Laredo crowd as 3,017. In Texas, total attendance was 56,799, with a 3,341 average per date. The largest Laredo crowd was 8,755. The two-country combined figures were 85,437 in total attendance, with a 3,051 average per date. 3 dates were lost, and a combined 14 dates drew at least 3,000.
-) **In 2019**, los Tecolotes played 29 dates in Nuevo Laredo, and 31 dates in Laredo. The games in Mexico drew a total of 113,822, averaging 3,925 per date, with 3 dates above 5,000. The games on the Texas side drew 106,288, averaging 3,429 per date, with 2 dates above 5,000. The top U.S. crowd was 7,767, while the biggest crowd in Mexico was 5,468. Overall, the team drew a two-country total of 220,110, up 28,442, with 5 more dates. Average per date rose 184 to 3,669. This was the best total for a team in Nuevo Laredo since 1979. The Nuevo Laredo record-high total is 247,583 in 1978. 2019 had the best total for a team that played at least some of its games in Laredo, Texas. An independent American Association team in Laredo drew a then-record-for-Laredo 187,845 in 2012. In 2018, it was estimated that attendance for the games in Texas was about double the attendance for the games in Mexico.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) **El Aguila (The Eagle) de Veracruz** returned to the league in **2021**, with a slightly shorter name, after a 2-year absence. They drew 65,900, and averaged 1,997 per date. No dates were lost. The 5,021 crowd on Opening Day was the largest of the season, and 6 dates topped 3,000.
-) Veracruz (Los Rojos de Aguila – Red Eagles), inactive in **2019**, attracted 151,671, averaging 2,661, in **2017**, their final season before moving to Los Dos Laredos. Veracruz had fielded a team in 48 seasons since 1955 (1955-1957, 1959-1974, 1981-1986, 1992-1995, 1999-2017). Attendance topped 200,000 only in 1956, 1960, 1961, 1964, 2008, and a record-high 245,057 in 2012.
-) **Los Algodoneros (Cotton Makers) Union Laguna** drew 107,319 in **2021**. They averaged 3,462 per date, with a top crowd of 5,225. 9 dates drew better than 4,000. One date was lost.
-) **2019** Union Laguna had a 22,446 increase to 199,377. Average per date was up 343 to 3,560. Only 3 dates reached 5,000. In 2018, Laguna had the lowest total and average per date figures for this team since 2002. Until 2018, total attendance surpassed 250,000 for 5 straight years, after reaching this level just 5 times in this city's previous 35 years in the league. Los Algodoneros topped 200,000 in 11 of 15 seasons through 2019, after doing it just once in the previous 20 years.
-) **Los Acereros (Steelers) del Norte (Monclova)** posted a **2021** total of 109,447, with a 3,420 average per date. There were 6 dates that drew over 4,000, with a high of 5,011. There was one lost date.
-) **In 2019**, del Norte topped 300,000 for the 9th straight year, and averaged over 5,300 for the 10th year in row. 2019 total attendance rose 4,843 to 349,126, with 4 more dates. But average per date was down 343 to 5,917. There were 9 dates that topped 8,000. In 2017, they drew 392,795. That was the team's highest total since 1998, and the 8th best total gain in the Minors. Los Acereros drew 300,000+ only 5 times between 1974 and 2010. Prior to this streak, Monclova drew below 300,000 for 9 years in a row. 2017 average per date rose 719, which was the 7th best gain in the Minors, to a team record-high 7,142.
-) **Oaxaca** has reached 200,000 only 3 times, most recently in 2009, in the last 25 years, including **2021**, when they drew 27,451 with a 947 average per date. 3 dates were lost. The Opener crowd of 2,363 was the only one above 2,000.
-) Los Guerreros (Warriors) drew 162,990, in **2019**, up 33,196, averaging 2,763 per date, up 314, with 6 more dates. This was the 5th straight year with an average per date of less than 3,000, after 8 years in a row above that level. 6 dates topped 4,000. In 2017, Oaxaca had the 5th best total gain, and the 6th highest average per date increase, in the Minors. The 60.1% gain in total attendance, and the 43.6% gain in average per date were the 2nd highest percentage increases (to Lakeland) in the NAPBL. This was quite a turnaround from 2016 when Oaxaca had the 5th worst total attendance decline, and their 1,021 loss in average per date was the worst of any Minor League team, including independents.
-) **Quintana Roo (Cancun)** had a total 2021 attendance of 53,146, with an 1,833 average per date. There were 2 lost dates. 12 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 3,957. Los Tigres (Tigers) had to play their final 3 home games at Veracruz.
-) **In 2019, Quintana Roo drew a record-high 226,525, up 61,060, breaking their old record of 214,556 in 2007.** They had 5 more dates than in 2018. Average per date was 3,839, up 775, their best since 2008. 12 dates topped 5,000. It was the 7th best gain in the Minors in both total and average per date. Los Tigres (Tigers) have drawn at least 200,000 just twice (also in 2007) in their 24-year history, going back to 1996. The team didn't operate in 2006. Average per date was under 3,000 in the first 9 seasons, but topped 3,000 in 12 of the last 15 years, through 2021.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

-) **Los Olmecas (Cattlemen) de Tabasco** drew 51,189, with a 1,651 average per date, in **2021**. 6 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 2,584. 3 dates were lost.
-) The Olmecas had a 4,139 dip in **2019** total attendance to 126,448, despite 6 more dates. Average per date fell 311 to 2,107. It was the 4th straight year under 2,500 per date. 5 dates drew over 4,000, but 18 had crowds of less than 1,000.
-) Tabasco had a good recovery in 2018. Total attendance was up 58,758, and average per date increased 981. Both the total and average per date numerical gains were 2nd best in all of the Minor Leagues to Augusta, who opened a new park in 2018. The 81.8% increase in total attendance, and the 68.3% in average per date were both the best percentage increases in the MLB-affiliated leagues in 2018.
-) In 2017, Tabasco dipped an NAPBL 4th worst 49,183 to 71,829. Their average per date was down also a 4th worst 846 to 1,437. It was the lowest total ever for the Olmecas, who began play in 1977, and the lowest average per date since at least 1991. The percentage declines of 40.6% in total attendance, and 37.1% in average per date, were the worst of any NAPBL team in 2017. Tabasco drew 441,835 in 1979, and topped 200,000 in 1980. The Cattlemen have not reached 200,000 since.
-) The Mexican League had the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing **2019 average attendance per team** with 1969, and the 2nd lowest growth rate vs. 1979. Average 2019 Mexican League attendance per team was up 25.7% vs. 1979. Only the Florida State League had a smaller 2019 increase (up 7.9%) in average attendance per team vs. 1979. In comparison with the 1969 season, 2019 average attendance per team for the Mexican League was up 17.0%, the lowest of any league. The Florida State League, up 101.3% was next lowest.
-) But **2019** Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 was up 104.5%, which was bested only by the South Atlantic League, which had a 140.6% gain. The average per team vs. 1999 increased 60.6%, which was the best of any league. Comparing average per team in 2019, with average per team in 2009, showed a 50.0% gain by the Mexican League, by far the best gain of any league. Only the Northwest and Appalachian Leagues had increases of better than 10% per team vs. 2009. The section starting on page 220 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 50 years. Due to the unusual circumstances of the 2021 season, this section is not being updated this year.

INDEPEDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE – LIGA MEXICANA de BEISBOL** - continued

MEXICAN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	18						
2021	18	1,446,929			2,826		
2019	16	4,618,131	846,328	22.4	5,058	682	15.6
2018	16	3,771,803	(270,802)	(6.7)	4,376	(530)	(10.8)
2017	16	4,042,605	10,558	0.3	4,906	151	3.2
2016	16	4,032,047	161,224	4.2	4,755	190	4.2
2015	16	3,870,823	(126,947)	(3.2)	4,565	(155)	(3.3)
2014	16	3,997,770	185,394	4.9	4,720	224	5.0
2013	16	3,812,376	(1,972)	(0.1)	4,496	3	0.1
2012	16	3,814,348	492,319	14.8	4,493	(226)	(4.8)
2011	14	3,322,029	607,074	22.4	4,719	1,274	37.0
2010	16	2,714,955	(364,819)	(11.8)	3,445	(230)	(6.3)
2009	16	3,079,774	(955,395)	(23.7)	3,675	(1,175)	(24.2)
2008	16	4,035,169	146,630	3.8	4,850	264	5.8
2007	16	3,888,539	85,072	2.2	4,586	20	0.4
2006	16	3,803,467	481,816	14.5	4,566	730	19.0
2005	16	3,321,651	99,059	3.1	3,836	(841)	(18.0)
2004	16	3,222,592	189,306	6.2	4,677	1,162	33.1
2003	16	3,033,286	(108,846)	(3.5)	3,515	(105)	(2.9)
2002	16	3,142,132	(350,927)	(10.0)	3,620	(26)	(0.7)
2001	16	3,493,059	(321,072)	(8.4)	3,646	(500)	(12.1)
2000	16	3,814,131	938,842	32.7	4,146	1,094	35.8
1999	16	2,875,289	(288,543)	(9.1)	3,052	(254)	(7.7)
1998	16	3,163,832	179,877	6.0	3,306	261	8.6
1997	16	2,983,955	593,600	24.8	3,045	441	16.9
1996	16	2,390,355	(26,841)	(1.1)	2,604	(15)	(0.6)
1995	16	2,417,196	(627,748)	(20.6)	2,619	(607)	(18.8)
1994	16	3,044,944	305,635	11.2	3,226	525	19.4
1993	16	2,739,309	139,603	5.4	2,701	211	8.5
1992	16	2,599,706	180,139	7.4	2,490	N/A	N/A
1991	16	2,419,567	(324,108)	(11.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	14	2,743,675	571,275	26.3	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (12 teams, including one road team - 100 game schedule in 2021)
(12 teams – 100 game schedule in 2022)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,244,238 (2012) 13 teams; Team – St Paul -- 413,482 (2016)

) 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. Teams from this American Association have played in other independent leagues, such as the Northern, Central, United, and Texas-Louisiana Leagues, and with the MLB-affiliated Midwest League.

The 2021 Season

-) 10 of these teams were in this league in 2019, and Kane County, IL came in from the Midwest League for 2021. The 12th team was the Houston Apollos, who were shared with the Pecos League. Texas (Grand Prairie) was dropped.
-) The league drew 1,198,085 in **2021**, averaging 108,917 per team, and 2,106 per date, with 21 lost dates. The league's 2021 teams drew 1,671,113 in 2019, and averaged 3,061 per date, regardless of what league they played in for 2019. Due to the 2021 road team, teams had extra home dates in 2021, so these teams had a combined 23 more dates than in 2019. The 12-team American Association drew 1,775,249 in 2019, an average of 3,082 per date, with 7 more dates in 2019 compared to 2021.
-) Kane County led the league in total attendance (177,705 – 4th best independent total), and average per date (3,554 – 6th best independent average). Milwaukee drew a team record-high total - 79,741, up 20,282, and a team record-high average per date – 1,564, up 325. In 2019, this team began its season in Kokomo, IN, until their new ballpark in Franklin, WI was ready. Sioux City, IA had an 8,184 gain in total attendance, and their average per date rose 53.
-) Winnipeg had to play its first 29 dates in Jackson, TN, due to Canadian border restrictions. Those games averaged 579 per date. The Goldeyes were able to return home later in the season. They played 18 dates in Winnipeg, which averaged 1,957 per date.
-) The Lake Country (not county) DockHounds, in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin will replace the road team in 2022.

The 2020 Season

-) The American Association played a very limited schedule in 2020. 6 teams played, using 5 ballparks, with very limited capacity. The league drew a total of 176,439 in 163 dates, averaging 1,082 per date. Attendance by location was: Fargo – 39,936 in 44 dates (908 per date); Sioux Falls, SD – 34,254 in 39 dates (878 per date); Milwaukee - 38,780 in 33 dates (1,175 per date); Chicago – 32,468 in 26 dates (1,249 per date with 14 sellout crowds of 1,400); St. Paul – 31,001 in 21 dates (1,476 per date, with 16 sellouts of 1,500). Winnipeg played its 'home' games in Fargo, and St. Paul played its early-season 'home' games in Sioux Falls, before fans were allowed to attend games in St. Paul. The league's 5 post-season games drew a total of 3,736.

The 2019 Season

-) Total **2019** attendance fell 116,545 (6.2%) to 1,775,249, with 6 fewer dates and 22 rainouts. Average per date was down 169 to 3,082. The total and average per date were the lowest since 2010. The 11 returning teams from 2018 were down 67,377 (3.8%), and their average per date was 3,250, down 89. The Milwaukee Milkmen replaced Wichita. This league's record-high average per date is 3,512 in 2012.
-) The league drew over 2 million in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015.
-) Average attendance per team topped 150,000 for 8 straight years until 2019, when it was 147,937. The average per date was above 3,000 for the 9th year in a row in 2019. It also topped 3,000 in 2008 and 2009. Highest average per team for this league was 172,424 in 2012, and the lowest, excluding 2021, was 122,752 in 2010.
-) 4 teams had **2019** increases in total attendance, led by Chicago. Chicago also had the largest increase among the 4 teams with growth in average per date. Kansas City had the largest total attendance and average per date declines in this league in 2019.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

-) St. Paul was the best draw in this league's history. That team moved to the MLB-affiliated Triple-A East in 2021, and is now the top farm team of the Minnesota Twins. In 2015, St. Paul, in their new ballpark, drew 404,528, the best total among independent teams, and a record-high for the team and for the American Association. This was the highest total ever for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other leagues. The Saints averaged 8,091 per date, which was a record-high for any independent team. The old record was 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003. 46 of the 50 dates in St. Paul drew better than CHS Field's 7,210 seating capacity. Attendance was at least 1,000 above the seating capacity at 18 games, topped by a crowd of 10,430.
-) In 2016, the Saints did even better! **They drew a league-record high total of 413,482, and an independent leagues record-high average per date of 8,438.** 47 of 49 dates drew above the CHS Field capacity of 7,210. 37 dates drew at least 8,000, with 29 dates at least 1,000 above seating capacity. Attendance topped 9,000 at 10 dates, led by a crowd of 10,443. Overall, the Saints drew 117% of their park's seating capacity.
-) In 2017, St. Paul attracted 406,501, averaging 8,296 per date, the best among independent teams. 46 of 49 dates drew above the ballpark's seating capacity, with 36 dates drawing 8,000+. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143. The Saints drew 115% of seating capacity, which was best percentage in the Minors.
-) In 2018, the Saints drew 408,921, and averaged 8,178 per date. Those figures were best among all independent teams. 45 of 50 dates drew above the ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with 32 dates topping 8,000. There were 5 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 9,791. Overall, they drew 113% of their park's seating capacity.
-) **In 2019, the Saints had the best attendance among independent teams for the 5th straight year.** They drew 394,970, down 13,951, averaging 8,061 per date, down 118. 40 of 49 dates drew above their park's seating capacity. Attendance topped 8,000 at 24 dates, with 8 dates reaching 9,000, including a record-high of 10,631. Since moving into CHS Field in 2015, through 2019, the Saints outdrew the park's seating capacity at 224 of 247 regular season dates.
-) St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. They topped 235,000 every year except 1993. They led this league in total attendance each year from 2006-2010, and from 2015-2019. The Saints once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak. St. Paul was an original member of the Northern League from 1993-2005. They led that league in attendance from 1993-2000, and had the best total attendance of any independent team each year from 1993-1997, and from 2015-2019. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1994-2008, and from 2015-2019. St. Paul had the highest average per date among the independent league teams from 1993-1999, and in 2002, and from 2015 through 2019. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins.
-) By 2019, only St. Paul, along with Sioux City and Sioux Falls, remained from the 14 independent teams that played in 1993, the year that independent baseball returned. In their 27 seasons of independent league ball, the Saints drew 7,761,682 in 1,226 dates, averaging 287,470 per season, and 6,331 per date.
-) **2021** attendance data for the St. Paul Saints can be found in the Triple-A East section on page 99.
-) The league's **2021** attendance leader was **Kane County**, who played in the MLB-affiliated Midwest League in 2019. The Cougars had a total attendance of 177,705, which was the 4th best independent total, with an average per date of 3,554, which was 6th best among independent teams. They had 17 fewer home dates than in 2019, when they played a 140-game schedule. 3 dates were lost in 2021. Top crowd was 8,415.
-) Kane County's attendance reached 400,000 in 22 of the last 26 years (2012, 2017, 2018, and 2019 were the exceptions) it played as an MLB-affiliate. It topped 500,000 from 2001 through 2006, and was 350,305, up 277, in **2019**, with 3 more dates. It was the 28th straight year above 350,000. Attendance reached 6,000 at 27 dates in 2019, with 9 dates topping 8,000, with a high of 9,102. The Cougars have averaged more than 7,000 per date 12 times in their history (1995, 1998-2008). In 2003, they had 18 crowds in excess of 10,000. Average per date was down 241 to 5,228 in 2019, the lowest since 1992.
-) For their 29 MLB-affiliated seasons, the Cougars drew 12,479,600 in 1,931 dates, averaging 430,331 per season, and 6,463 per date. They reached 12 million in attendance in fewer seasons than any Class A team ever, though that record is likely to be broken by Dayton in 2022. If 2021 is included, the total attendance is 12,657,305 in 1,981 dates. That averages to 421,910 per season, and 6,389 per date. In 2016, the Cougars sold 72,532 hot dogs, 15,300 cheeseburgers, 14,995 lbs. of Super Nachos, but only 426 Fatty burgers.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

-) **Sioux Falls, South Dakota**, an independent team since 1993, drew 89,932 in **2021**, with a 1,536 average per date. The Canaries played 5 more dates than in 2019. There were 2 postponements.
-) In **2019**, Sioux Falls dipped 9,675 to 114,452. Total attendance there has topped 100,000 in 23 of their 28 seasons (23 of 26 years since 1995), excluding 2020, but including 2021. Average per date fell 147 to 2,336. The Canaries have averaged above 2,200 per date from 1996 through 2009, and from 2012 through 2019. 1993-1995 average per date is not currently available.
-) **2021** was a very trying year for the **Winnipeg Goldeyes**. The closure of the U.S./Canadian border forced the team to play most home games in Jackson, Tennessee. The 27 dates in Jackson drew a total of 16,785, averaging 579 per date. The largest crowd was 1,362. The team was allowed to go home later in the season, and played 18 dates in Winnipeg, with restricted capacity. Those games drew 35,229, an average of 1,957 per date. The top Winnipeg crowd was 2,754. For the full season, the Goldeyes drew 52,014, an average of 1,107 per date, with 3 lost dates.
-) **Winnipeg** drew 195,787 in **2019**, down 23,583, their lowest total since 1998. Average per date fell by 398 to 4,079, the lowest in this club's 26 seasons through 2019. This was the 4th worst independent total loss, and 5th worst average per date loss, of 2019. 5 dates drew at least 5,000 with a high of 6,052.
-) The Goldeyes had led the old Northern League in attendance for 11 straight years, and had the best total attendance in their first 4 years in the American Association, through 2014. Winnipeg had topped 250,000 for 16 years in a row from 2000 through 2015, including 6 seasons (2002-2007) above 300,000. Since 2000, and including 2021 dates played in Winnipeg, but not in Jackson, Winnipeg has drawn 5,516,842 in 955 dates, averaging 5,777 (5,850 excluding 2021) per date, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 12 times in the last 21 years. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1999 through 2009, topping 7,000 in 2003 and 2004, and stayed above 5,000 through 2015. On August 27, 1997, the Goldeyes drew 22,081. This was when their home field was Winnipeg Stadium, home of the Canadian Football League Blue Bombers.
-) The **Sioux City (Iowa) Explorers**, another team that has played independent league ball since 1993, drew 59,802, with an 1,128 average per date in **2021**. Their total attendance was up 8,184, and average per date rose 53, from 2019. There were 5 more dates than in 2019, and one date in 2021 was lost.
-) Sioux City had a big increase in 2015. Total attendance that year rose 26,683 to 77,429, their best total since 2008. Average per date was up 590 to 1,647. The total attendance gain was 3rd best, and the average per date gain was 2nd best, among independent teams for 2015. In **2019**, total attendance was down 11,880 to 51,618, the 2nd lowest (to 2014) in the club's 27 years., excluding 2021. Average per date decreased by 248 to 1,075. The Explorers had reached 100,000 in 12 of their first 13 years of operation (1993-2005), but have drawn below that figure for the past 15 seasons. Average per date was 3,587 in 1996, 3,204 in 1997, and above 2,000 through 2005. But it has not reached 2,000 since then. 1993-1995 average per date is not currently available for this team either.
-) The **Lincoln Saltdogs** had a 2021 total attendance of 149,204, with a 2,763 average per date. They played 5 more dates than in 2019, and had one postponement.
-) Lincoln topped 200,000 each year from 2001 through 2005, but has not done it since. In 2019, the Saltdogs drew 168,394, up 8,270. Average per date rose by 101 to 3,437. The Saltdogs averaged 5,334 in 2001, their first season, topped 4,000 per date every year through 2007, and were above 3,200 every year through 2019.
-) **Gary-Southshore** drew 137,094, with a 2,636 average per date in **2021**. They played 3 more dates than in 2019, and had no 2021 postponements.
-) The Gary Southshore RailCats set team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date in 2017. In **2019**, total attendance was up 735 to 167,887, with 2 more dates. This was their 2nd best total ever. Average per date was 3,426, down 130. It was the 15th straight year above 150,000 for Gary. Since 2006, excluding 2021, their lowest total was 157,676 in 2011, and the high was 181,612 in 2017. The average per date has been between 3,189 and 3,632 per date in the team's 17-year history through 2019.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** – continued

-) In **2021**, **Fargo-Moorhead** drew 145,553, and averaged 2,746 per date. They didn't have any lost dates, and played 6 more dates than in 2019. 13 crowds topped 3,000, with a high of 3,831.
-) Fargo-Moorhead's attendance was very stable through 2019. Their lowest total was 155,052 in 1996, and their best total was 193,364 in 2002. The total has been above 160,000 in all seasons, excluding 2020 and 2021, since 1997. Average per date topped 4,000 in 6 of 7 seasons from 1997 through 2003, and it has been above 3,400 in all 24 seasons since 1996. This excludes both 2020 and 2021. In **2019**, the RedHawks drew 161,857, the lowest total since 1996, down 4,860, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date was up 41 to 3,444.
-) The field dimensions at Newman Outdoor Field in Fargo are a copy of the dimensions that the original (rebuilt) Yankee Stadium had from 1988 through its closing season in 2008. This was done to honor North Dakota native, and '61 in 1961' home run champion, Roger Maris.
-) In **2021**, Kansas City's American Association team was renamed the Monarchs, in honor of one of the Negro League's most celebrated teams. The Negro Leagues Hall-of-Fame and Museum is located in Kansas City, MO. It was founded by Buck O'Neil, who played in those leagues, and then became the first African-American coach in the Major Leagues. He also had a decades-long career as a Major League scout with the Royals. The 2021 Monarchs won the American Association championship, and drew 102,257, averaging 2,087 per date. They played 4 more dates than in 2019, but had 7 lost dates, the most in this league.
-) Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, had topped 200,000 in their first 15 years of play through 2017. In **2019**, the T-Bones drew 156,058, their lowest total ever, down 33,923. Average per date was down 490 to 3,468, also the lowest ever for this team, excluding 2021. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2018, and 5 lost dates. The 2019 declines were the 2nd worst among all independent teams. In their 18 years, including 2021, Kansas City has averaged 4,869 per date during this period, drawing 4,177,960 in 858 dates. The average per date is 5,038 if 2021 is excluded. The T-Bones topped 230,000 in 12 consecutive seasons through 2015, and were above 260,000 in 7 of the last 14 years through 2019. Kansas City averaged over 6,000 per date in 2007, and surpassed 5,000 per date every year from 2004 through 2014.
-) The **Chicago Dogs**, who play in Rosemont, near O'Hare Airport, posted a total attendance of 155,582 in **2021**, with a 3,051 average per date. They lost one date, and played 5 more dates in 2021 than in 2019.
-) Chicago drew 166,672 in **2019**, their 2nd season, up 27,817. Average per date was 3,623, up 669. This was the 3rd best gain in total attendance, and the best average per date increase, among all independent teams in 2019. The team is named for Chicago-style hot dogs, not canines.
-) **Cleburne** drew 56,201 in 2021, averaging 1,022 per date, with one rainout. They had 5 more dates than in 2019.
-) The 2018 losses in Cleburne were 3rd worst among independent teams in 2018. But the Railroaders turned it around in **2019** with a total attendance increase of 14,398 to 78,624, and an average per date gain of 288 to 1,572. It was the 5th best total gain, and 4th best average per date increase, among the independent teams in 2019. Cleburne is south of Fort Worth, and had Minor League teams in 1906, 1911, 1912, 1921, and 1922.
-) **Milwaukee's** total attendance rose 20,282 to 79,741 in **2021**. Average per date was up 325 to 1,564. These were team record-highs. The Milkmen had 3 more dates than in 2019, and had 2 lost dates in 2021.
-) The Milwaukee Milkmen, playing in a new ballpark in the suburb of Franklin, WI, replaced Wichita in **2019**. This is the first Minor League team in the Milwaukee area since 1952, the year before the Major League Braves moved to Wisconsin from Boston. Highest listed attendance for a Milwaukee Minor League team was 365,473 in 1927. The 1948 team drew 364,510. In 1952, their final season, that club drew 195,839. In 2019, the Milkmen had to play their first 14 home dates in Kokomo, IN, since their new park wasn't ready. Those 14 dates drew a total of just 659. The 34 dates in Franklin drew 58,762, averaging 1,728 per date. Overall, the total attendance was 49,168 less, and the average per date was 1,024 less, than what Wichita drew in 2018.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** – continued

-) **Wichita** played their final season in this league in 2018. Total attendance was 108,627, and the average per date was 2,263. The 2018 total and average were the lowest for an independent Wichita team. The Wingnuts had topped 130,000 in their previous 10 years in this league, and all Wichita teams drew at least 100,000 since 1989. Average per date was above 3,000 in 8 of the last 11 seasons. Wichita failed to reach 200,000 in their last 12 seasons (1996-2007) in the Texas League. From 1956-1958, and from 1970-1984, Wichita was in the Class AAA American Association. Their best attendance in that league was 280,320 in 1971. The Wingnuts posted their best independent figures in 2009, when they drew 161,170, averaging 3,504 per date. A new ballpark opened in 2021 on the site of the old park, is the home of the Wind Surge, an MLB-affiliated Double-A Central team.
-) **Texas** had the 6th worst total attendance loss, and the 4th worst average per date decline among independent clubs in **2019**, which was their final season in this league. Total attendance was down 20,725 to 59,471. Average per date fell 432 to 1,239. This team topped 100,000 in its first 6 years (2008-2013), but not afterward. Average per date reached 3,000 in 2008 and 2009, and was over 2,000 from 2008 through 2013.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	12						
2021	11	1,198,085			2,106		
2020	6	176,439			1,082		
2019	12	1,775,249	(114,745)	(6.0)	3,082	(165)	(5.1)
2018	12	1,889,994	23,534	1.3	3,247	(68)	(2.1)
2017	12	1,866,460	32,957	1.8	3,315	159	5.0
2016	12	1,833,503	(170,607)	(8.5)	3,156	(56)	(1.7)
2015	13	2,004,110	118,382	6.3	3,212	(120)	(3.6)
2014	12	1,885,728	(264,323)	(12.3)	3,332	(103)	(3.0)
2013	13	2,150,051	(94,187)	(4.2)	3,435	(77)	(2.2)
2012	13	2,244,238	102,343	4.8	3,512	390	12.5
2011	14	2,141,895	914,377	74.5	3,122	424	15.7
2010	10	1,227,518	(254,696)	(17.2)	2,698	(456)	(14.5)
2009	10	1,482,214	(24,451)	(1.6)	3,154	(157)	(4.7)
2008	10	1,506,665	187,824	14.2	3,311	387	13.2
2007	10	1,318,841	20,320	1.6	2,924	101	3.6
2006	10	1,298,521	-----	-----	2,823	-----	-----

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

FRONTIER LEAGUE (14 teams – 96-game schedule in 2021. 16 teams – 96-game schedule in 2022)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,546,633 (2012) 14 teams; Team – Southern Illinois – 259,392 (2007)

- J 14 teams in 2021. 9 of these teams played in the Frontier League in 2019. 4 teams (New Jersey, Sussex County, New York, Quebec) came from the Can-Am League, and Tri-City (Troy, NY) joined from the New York-Penn League.
- J **2021 Frontier League** attendance was 1,106,294 for the 14 teams, with an average per team of 79,021, and an average per date of 1,820. 51 dates were lost. In 2019, these same teams, including both Quebec and Trois Rivieres, plus Ottawa, which was inactive in 2021, but returns in 2022, drew 1,659,354, averaging 2,261 per date. There were 126 fewer dates played in 2021 compared to 2019 by these teams.
- J The 10-team **2019 Frontier League** drew 1,028,721, and averaged 2,266 per date. The 6-team **2019 Can-Am League** drew 565,936, and averaged 1,986 per date. These leagues officially merged after the 2019 season. Combined total 2019 attendance for the 2 leagues was 1,594,657, with a 2,158 average per date. The 2021 Frontier League played 131 fewer dates than the combined 2019 Frontier and Can-Am Leagues did.
- J Schaumburg had the league's best 2021 total attendance (157,112, up 729), and the top average per date (3,415, up 224). Sussex County posted a total attendance increase of 7,168.
- J Quebec and Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers) were combined into one team for the 2021 season. Due to U.S./Canadian border restrictions, this team, named Province of Quebec, played as a road team, in the U.S., for much of the season. They were allowed back into Canada on July 30, and played 10 dates in Quebec City, averaging 2,288 per date, and 11 dates in Trois Rivieres, averaging 1,903 per date there. Quebec, Trois Rivieres, and Ottawa return as separate teams in 2022, giving the league 16 teams. Southern Illinois ceased operations after the 2021 season.
- J The Frontier League had 2 fewer teams in **2019**, than in 2018, and total attendance fell 166,130 (13.9%) to 1,028,721. The 10 returning teams had a combined increase of 3,762 (0.4%). Attendance in the league first surpassed one million in 2003. It has topped one million for 18 years in a row, including 2021, and reached 1.5 million in 2007 (with 12 teams), 2012 (14 teams), and 2013 (13 teams). The league played 81 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018, and there were 17 rainouts. The 10 returning teams combined for 2 more dates than in 2018.
- J 2019 average attendance per date was 2,266, up 33. The 10 returning teams had a combined average per date decline of 2. Frontier League average per date was over 2,200 in from 2006-2009, and above 2,000 from 2003-2019, with a record-high of 2,719 in 2010. Average per date was over 2,500 in 6 seasons (2006-2011).
- J Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, through 2019, total attendance was up 42.6% from 719,222, and average per date was up 52.8% from 1,483.
- J Average attendance per team had surpassed 100,000 for 12 seasons in a row, and in 13 of 14 years through 2017, and then again in 2019. The average per team was just 13,769 in 1993, the Frontier League's first season. It was 102,872 in 2019. The highest average per team was 133,543 in 2008.
- J Normal and Traverse City left this league in 2019, and had teams in summer collegiate wood bat leagues. In 2020, 5 teams from the Can-Am League (Rockland, New Jersey, Sussex, Quebec, Trois Rivieres) joined this league.
- J In **2021**, the **Schaumburg Boomers** once again led the league in total attendance (157,112, up 729 from 2019), and average per date (3,415, up 224 from 2019). This was the 5th best total attendance, and the 3rd best average per date among U.S./Canadian independent teams. Schaumburg played 3 less dates than in 2019, and had 2 lost dates.
- J Schaumburg led the league in total attendance and average per date in **2019**, drawing 156,383, up 7,128. Average per date rose 16 to 3,191. The Boomers have topped 150,000 in 19 of their 21 seasons, including 2021 (2012 and 2018 are the exceptions), and went over 200,000 in 11 straight years from 1999 through 2009 as a member of the Northern League. The average per date was 5,499 in 1999 and 5,264 in 2000. It surpassed 4,200 each year from 1999 through 2009, and has been above 3,000 every year, except 2012, through 2021. They had no team in 2011.
- J The Schaumburg Boomers are named for a male Great Prairie Chicken, a native of Illinois. Other chicken names in sports include Coastal Carolina University's 'Chanticleers', from Chaucer's 'Canterbury Tales,' described as a "proud and fierce rooster who dominates the barnyard." University of Delaware teams are the 'Blue Hens.'

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

-) The **Evansville Otters** had a total **2021** attendance of 76,482, with a 1,700 average per date. 5 dates were lost, and they played one less date than in 2019.
-) Evansville drew 100,051 in **2019**, up 5,553, with 3 more dates. Average per date fell 23 to 2,175. In 2017, the Otters had the best average per date increase among all independent teams. Total attendance topped 100,000 for 14 of the last 17 years through 2019. Average per date was above 2,000 in 21 of the last 23 seasons through 2019, and topped 2,500 in 11 of those years. 2021, 2016, and 2000 are the only years that the Otters have averaged less than 2,000. Their average per date topped 3,000 in 1999, 2013, and 2014.
-) In 2013, Evansville had its highest attendance (140,786) in the 26 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 regular home ballpark for any Minor League team, and celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2015. The first game there in 1915 drew 8,082. On July 24, 2013, the Otters drew 8,253, the largest attendance ever for a game in this historic gem of a park.
-) The **Florence, Kentucky Freedom** was renamed the Y'Alls for the **2021** season. They drew 73,099 with a 1,555 average per date. They played 4 more dates than in 2019, and had no postponements.
-) Florence drew 99,308, down 6,497, with 2 fewer dates in **2019**. Average per date was 2,309, down 42. Through 2019, their average per date had been above 2,000 in 11 of the last 13 seasons, including the last 8, with a high of 2,495 in 2013. The Freedom drew better than 100,000 in 7 of the last 13 years, with a high of 112,844 in 2010.
-) **Windy City** (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once (2009) in their 22 seasons. In **2021**, the ThunderBolts drew 65,022, with a 1,414 average per date. They played one less date than in 2019, and had one lost date.
-) In **2019**, total attendance for Windy City rose 994 to 79,171, and average per date was up 21 to 1,684. These were the team's best figures since 2012. 1999 and 2009 were the only seasons that the ThunderBolts averaged at least 2,000. The total has ranged from 60,481 in 2003, to 103,129 in 2009.
-) The **Southern Illinois** (Marion) Miners played their final season in **2021**, and drew 66,099, with a 1,502 average per date. They had 2 lost dates, and played the same number of dates as in 2019. This team disbanded after the season.
-) In **2019**, the Miners' average per date decline of 437 to 2,305, was the worst drop in the league, and the 3rd worst among all independent teams. Total attendance dipped 8,250 to 101,441, with 4 more dates. It was the lowest total and average in this team's 13 seasons through 2019. In 2007, the Miners became the first Frontier League team to average over 5,000 per date. In 2014, total attendance rose 21,203, the best increase among all independent teams. Attendance in Marion topped 125,000 in the first 11 seasons, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010. The Miners drew over 150,000 in 8 of those years (2007-2011, 2015-2017). Their average per date was 5,086 in 2007, topped 4,000 through 2010, and was above 2,500 every year until 2019.
-) **Joliet** had a total **2021** attendance of 86,087, and an 1,831 average per date. There were no postponements, and the Slammers had one less date played than in 2019.
-) Joliet had a 33,532 gain in total attendance in **2019** to 121,730, and average per date rose 659 to 2,536. Those were the 2nd best increases among all independent teams, and the team's best figures since 2010. **The percentage increases in total attendance (38.0%), and average per date (35.1%) were tops among all teams in the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association.** The Slammers, named for the Illinois State Prison in Joliet, drew 100,000+ from 2002 through 2012, including 2 seasons (2002, 2005) above 200,000, and 180,000+ from 2002 through 2008. Their average per date was above 4,000 in the first 5 seasons (2002-2006), with a high of 4,502 in 2003. It topped 3,000 per date in the first 9 seasons (2002-2010).

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

-) The **Lake Erie** (Avon, OH) Crushers drew 70,062, with a 1,592 average per date in **2021**. They had 7 lost dates, and played 2 fewer dates than in 2019.
-) Lake Erie had a total attendance of 100,915 in **2019**, down 314, with 2 more dates. Average per date fell 107 to 2,194. In both 2018 and 2017, the Crushers had the 2nd best average per date gain by an independent team. The average was above 3,000 in the club's first 2 years, and has topped 2,000 in 9 of 12 seasons through 2021. Total attendance exceeded 100,000 in the first 6 seasons, and again in 2018 and 2019.
-) **Tri-City** (Troy, NY) joined the league from the MLB-affiliated New York-Penn League in **2021**. The ValleyCats drew 100,519, averaging 2,393 per date. They played 8 more dates than in 2019, when they were in a short-season league. But they had 9 lost dates in 2021, the most of any independent team.
-) In 2014, Tri-City set a team record in total attendance for 11th time in 12 seasons. That year, the ValleyCats drew a team record-high 161,171. Total attendance fell 8,507 in **2019**, with 4 lost dates, to 131,529, lowest since 2006. Attendance has been over 100,000 in all 19 seasons, including 2021, topped 140,000 in 11 straight years until 2019, and was above 150,000 from 2010 through 2015. The average per date was over 4,000 in each of 11 consecutive seasons through 2018, and was 3,869, down 251, in 2019. 16 dates drew better than 4,000.
-) The **Gateway Grizzlies** of Sauget, Illinois had a **2021** total attendance of 62,416, with a 1,419 average per date. They lost 5 dates, and played one date less than in 2019.
-) Gateway had topped 150,000 for 12 straight years through 2014, and in 2016. The Grizzlies fell just below that figure in 2015 and 2017. In **2019**, they posted a 13,284 loss to 112,252, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date fell 176 to 2,494. These were the lowest figures since 2002. Gateway's average per date topped 4,000 in 4 seasons (2003, 2004, 2006, 2007), and has been 3,000+ in 14 years (2003-2014, 2016, 2017), with a high of 4,531 in 2004, when their total was 217,500. Attendance has surpassed 180,000 in 5 seasons.
-) **Washington, Pa** had a 2021 total attendance of 82,420, with a 1,717 average per date. They played one more date than in 2019, and had 3 lost dates.
-) The Wild Things drew 90,638, up 3,104 in **2019**, with 3 more dates. It was their best total since 2011. The Wild Things drew less than 100,000 for the 8th straight year in 2019. They had 10 consecutive seasons (2002-2011) above that level, including 6 years above 150,000. Average per date fell by 61 to 1,928. Washington's average per date had topped 3,000 in their first 6 seasons (2002-2007), but has been under 2,000 since 2012.
-) The **Rockland** (County) Boulders joined the Frontier League from the Can-Am League, and were renamed the **New York Boulders** in **2021**. They drew 99,693, with a 2,266 average per date. They had 4 fewer dates than in 2019, with 4 lost dates in 2021.
-) Rockland led the Can-Am League in total attendance for the 8th straight year in 2019, drawing 123,999, down 5,600, the lowest total since 2011. The Boulders had topped 120,000 in each of their 9 seasons through 2019, and had been above 140,000 from 2012 through 2017. Average per date was a league-leading, but team historic low, 2,583, down 174. The average per date has topped 3,000 in 3 seasons.
-) The **2021 New Jersey Jackals** drew 43,722, with a 1,041 average per date. They had 6 lost dates, and played 2 fewer dates than in 2019, when they were in the Can-Am League. The Jackals play at Yogi Berra Stadium, adjacent to the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center on the campus of Montclair State University.
-) New Jersey had a total loss of 6,952 in 2019. The Jackals drew 76,658, with 5 fewer dates and 5 lost dates. New Jersey topped 100,000 in 10 of their first 11 seasons (1998-2008), but have been below that in each of the last 11 years. Their average per date was above 3,000 in 1999 and 2000, with a high of 3,312 in 1999, and better than 2,000 from 1998 through 2009. But it hasn't reached 2,000 since then. It was 1,742, up 36, in 2019.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

-) **Sussex County** (Augusta, New Jersey) also joined the Frontier League from the Can-Am League in **2021**. The Miners drew 79,762, up 7,168, with a 1,662 average per date. They played 5 more dates than in 2019, but had 7 postponements.
-) Sussex County returned to the Can-Am League in 2015, after being in the league from 2006 through 2010. Their top Can-Am League attendance was 101,638 in 2007. From 1994 through 2005, Sussex County was in the MLB-affiliated New York-Penn League. Attendance for that team topped 100,000 every season, was above 150,000 in the team's first 5 years, and topped 130,000 in the first 9 years, with a high of 176,788 in 1995. Average per date reached 4,000 from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 4,652 in 1995, and stayed above 3,000 through 2004.
-) In 2016, Sussex had gains in both total attendance and average per date that were the best among all independent teams, and 7th best among all Minor League teams. Total attendance was up 58.3%, and average per date rose 55.2%. Puebla of the Mexican League was the only Minor League team that played in the same market as in 2015, that had higher percentage increases in those two categories. In **2019**, total attendance fell 2,233 to 72,594, with 5 fewer dates than in 2018, and 6 lost dates. Average per date rose a Can-Am League-best 129 to 1,688.
-) Due to the closing of the U.S./Canadian border, the Quebec Capitales and Trois Rivieres Aigles (Eagles) were combined into a team (**Province of Quebec**) that played all of its early-season games on the road in **2021**. The border opened later in the season, and this team did play some home games in Canada. There were 10 dates in Quebec City, and they drew 22,882, an average of 2,288. 11 dates were played in Trois Riveres, which drew 20,937, an average of 1,903 per date. The total home attendance for Province of Quebec was 43,819, with a 2,087 average per date. Quebec and Trois Rivieres will operate as separate teams in 2022.
-) **Quebec City** had led the Can-Am League in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. In **2019**, their total attendance declined by 7,423, to 119,060, with 3 fewer dates. Average per date was down 5 to 2,381. The total was the lowest since 1999, and the average per date was the smallest in this team's 21-year history. The Capitales topped 110,000 in all 21 years, reached 130,000 in 16 of the last 19 years through 2019, and surpassed 150,000 in 7 seasons. Average per date had topped 2,500 in all seasons until 2018, and reached 3,000 every year from 2000 through 2013, with a high of 3,565 in 2009. Teams from Quebec City led the original Canadian-American League in attendance in 1949 and 1950, and had the best attendance in the Provincial League yearly from 1951 through 1955.
-) **Trois Rivieres** (Three Rivers) drew 85,506 in **2019**, down 6,099. Average per date was 1,677, down 193 from a team record-high 1,869 in 2018. It was the largest Can-Am League average per date decline. The current version of Les Aigles has averaged between 1,612 and 1,869 per date in their 7 seasons. (2021 average per date for games in Trois Rivieres was 1,903, but that's with a team shared with Quebec City.) NAPBL MLB-affiliated teams played in Trois Rivieres in the original Canadian-American League in 1941, 1942, and from 1946 through 1950, and played in the Eastern League from 1971 through 1977. Their all-time NAPBL attendance high was 119,751 in 1972. The 2015 total of 96,997 was higher than Trois Rivieres drew in all but 2 of 14 NAPBL seasons with listed attendance.
-) **Ottawa**, a former Can-Am League and International League city, joins the Frontier League for 2022. The team will be named the Titans. Ottawa did not have a team in 2021 due to stadium lease issues.
-) The **2019** Ottawa Champions had a 5,276 decrease in total attendance to 88,119, a low for the 5 years of that team. The top total for the Champions was 127,618 in 2016. Average per date fell 33 in 2019 to 1,798, the lowest average since pro baseball returned to Ottawa in 1993. Prior to 2015, Ottawa had a team in the Can-Am League in 2008, and it drew 101,073. There was no Minor League team in Canada's capital city from 2009 through 2014. This city was in the International League from 1993 through 2007. In 1993, 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. Average per date also had a very big decline from 9,764 in 1993, to 8,908 in 1994, 6,888 in 1995, 5,423 in 1996, 4,165 in 1997, 3,205 in 1998, to a low of 1,915 in 2006.
-) Before 1993, Ottawa had teams in other leagues as late as 1954. Their highest recorded attendance was 153,152 in 1952, in the International League.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

-) The Frontier League played its 28th season in 2021. The Northern League also began play in 1993, and they were the first independent leagues in decades. There were 8 Frontier League teams in 1993, but two of them disbanded early in the season. Total attendance was 82,615, led by the Zanesville Greys, who drew 21,547. The Greys name was used by a road team that played in 2015, and will be used again in 2022. None of cities in the Frontier League in 1993 are still in pro baseball. The Northern League had 6 teams, drawing 651,452, led by St. Paul, who attracted 167,956. St. Paul, now with MLB-affiliated Triple-A East, and Sioux City, and Sioux Falls of the American Association, are still active.

Some Recent Frontier League Teams No Longer in Professional Baseball

-) In 2018, their final Frontier League season, **Traverse City** drew 88,176, averaging 2,261 per date. It was the low total and average in 13 years of play. The Beach Bums topped 200,000 in their first 2 seasons (2006 and 2007), and drew over 150,000 in their first 8 years. 2018 was the first season under 119,000. The average per date was 4,241 in 2006, 4,041 in 2007, and topped 3,000 in the first 9 seasons. Record-high total was 206,102 in 2007. Traverse City now has a team in the Northwoods Summer Collegiate League. In **2019**, it averaged 1,674 per date, and in **2021**, their average per date was 1,652.
-) 2018 was also a final Frontier League year for **Normal**. They drew 81,716. Average per date was 1,857. The CornBelters averaged above 2,000 per date in their first 7 years (2010-2016). They drew their record-high total (132,309), and average per date (2,646) in 2009, their first season. Normal fielded a team in the Prospect League, a Summer Collegiate wood-bat league, starting in 2019. It averaged 705 per date in 2019, and 732 per date in **2021**.
-) In 2015, their final season, **Rockford** drew 44,674, its lowest total in 14 years as an independent league market. Average per date was 993. Those were the lowest figures for any team in the Frontier, Atlantic, and Can-Am Leagues, or in the American Association. The decrease of 27,666 in total attendance, and 615 in average per date, were 4th worst among the independent teams in 2015. Rockford had topped 100,000 each year from 2004 through 2010. Their Frontier League high was 138,234 in 2008. The city had its top attendance of 158,674 in 1988 in the Midwest League, where they had a team from 1988 through 1999. Their Midwest League low was 50,900 in 1992. Rockford now is in the Summer Collegiate Northwoods League. That team drew an average per date of 720 in **2021**, 527 in 2020, 1,021 in 2019, 894 in 2018, 874 in 2017, and 604 in 2016.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

FRONTIER LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	16						
2021	14	1,106,294			1,820		
2019	10	1,028,721	(166,130)	(13.9)	2,266	33	1.5
2018	12	1,194,851	(93,691)	(7.3)	2,233	(140)	(5.9)
2017	12	1,288,542	2,657	0.2	2,373	(17)	(0.7)
2016	12	1,285,885	(108,699)	(7.8)	2,390	152	6.8
2015	13	1,394,584	(49,738)	(3.4)	2,238	(118)	(5.0)
2014	13	1,444,322	(96,847)	(6.3)	2,356	(83)	(3.4)
2013	13	1,541,169	(5,464)	(0.4)	2,439	56	2.3
2012	14	1,546,633	134,720	9.5	2,383	(152)	(6.0)
2011	12	1,411,913	(86,148)	(5.8)	2,535	(184)	(6.8)
2010	14	1,498,061	53,835	3.7	2,719	93	3.5
2009	12	1,444,226	(24,751)	(1.7)	2,626	26	1.0
2008	11	1,468,977	(34,243)	(2.3)	2,600	(118)	(4.3)
2007	12	1,503,220	241,825	19.2	2,718	5	0.2
2006	10	1,261,395	79,190	6.7	2,713	602	28.5
2005	12	1,182,205	(112,506)	(8.7)	2,111	(309)	(12.8)
2004	12	1,294,711	185,301	16.7	2,420	203	9.2
2003	12	1,109,410	160,144	16.9	2,217	280	14.5
2002	12	949,266	230,044	32.0	1,937	454	30.6
2001	12	719,222	110,906	18.2	1,483	(101)	(6.4)
2000	10	608,316	(103,420)	(14.5)	1,584	(200)	(11.2)
1999	10	711,736	0283,598	66.2	1,784	347	24.1
1998	8	428,138	(20,643)	(4.6)	1,437	(34)	(2.3)
1997	8	448,781	31,162	7.5	1,471	N/A	N/A
1996	8	417,619	100,819	31.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	8	316,800	100,572	46.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1994	8	216,228	133,613	161.7	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	6	82,615	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

CAN-AM LEAGUE (6 teams in 2019 – merged with Frontier League in 2021)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,040,107 (2007) 9 home teams;

Team – Brockton – 203,094 (2004) set in the Northeast League, Brockton – 190,675 (2005) in the Can-Am League

-) The league merged into the Frontier League for the 2021 season. All of the 2019 teams, except Ottawa, played in 2021. Quebec and Trois Rivieres were combined into the Province of Quebec team, but the two individual teams will return in 2022. Ottawa will also have a team in 2022.
-) There were 6 teams again in the Can-Am League in 2019, its final season as an independent entity. There were some games with foreign teams that counted in the attendance totals.
-) 2019 total attendance fell 33,583 (5.6%) to 565,936, with 12 fewer dates than in 2018, and 13 lost dates. Average per date was 1,986, the lowest since 2013, down 33.
-) Average attendance per team was 94,323 in 2019, lowest since 2013. The league averaged above 100,000 per team from 2005 through 2008, and from 2014 through 2017. Average per date topped 2,000 in 12 of the league's last 16 years, and 16 times in this league's 23-year history. 2018 was the 5th year in a row above 2,000. These figures include seasons when it was the Northeast League and also when it was part of the Northern League.
-) No teams had gains in total attendance in 2019. All teams had small total attendance declines. New Jersey and Sussex were up in average per date.

CAN-AM AND NORTHEAST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	6	565,936	(33,583)	(5.6)	1,986	(33)	(1.6)
2018	6	599,519	(31,625)	(5.0)	2,019	(92)	(4.4)
2017	6	631,144	(36,572)	(5.5)	2,111	(137)	(6.1)
2016	6	667,716	26,632	4.2	2,248	153	7.3
2015	6	641,084	224,430	53.9	2,095	(233)	(10.0)
2014	4	416,654	(37,712)	(8.3)	2,328	352	17.8
2013	5	454,366	(40,332)	(8.2)	1,976	(111)	(5.3)
2012	5	494,698	(132,415)	(21.1)	2,087	237	12.8
2011	7	627,113	103,219	19.7	1,850	(127)	(6.4)
2010	6	523,894	(39,314)	(7.0)	1,977	(232)	(10.5)
2009	6	563,208	(280,452)	(33.2)	2,209	(141)	(6.0)
2008	8	843,660	(196,447)	(18.9)	2,350	54	2.4
2007	9	1,040,107	230,066	28.4	2,296	(159)	(6.5)
2006	8	810,041	(20,963)	(2.5)	2,455	20	1.0
2005	7	832,717	72,000	9.5	2,435	203	8.9
2004	8	759,004	96,962	14.6	2,232	273	13.9
2003	8	662,042	(46,301)	(6.5)	1,959	(106)	(5.1)
2002	8	708,343	116,883	19.8	2,065	(254)	(11.0)
2001	6	591,460	(34,048)	(5.4)	2,319	268	13.1
2000	8	625,508	(51,349)	(7.6)	2,051	(32)	(1.5)
1999	8	676,857	96,851	16.7	2,083	230	12.4
1998	8	580,006	147,096	34.0	1,853	474	34.4
1997	8	432,910	192,794	80.3	1,379	N/A	N/A
1996	6	240,116	54,645	29.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
1995	6	185,471	-----	-----	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE (8 teams – 76-games, short-season in 2019, 96-game independent schedule in 2021)
(10 teams – 96-game schedule in 2022)

RECORD HIGHS: Short-Season League – 728,952 (2008); Team – Salt Lake City - 217,263 (1992)
Independent League – **839,374 (2021)**; Team – Ogden – **156,734 (2021)**

- J The Pioneer League was an MLB-affiliated Short-Season Rookie league in 2019, and became an independent professional MLB-Partner league in 2021. 7 of the 8 teams in 2021 played in the Pioneer League in 2019. Boise came from the MLB-affiliated Short-A Northwest League. All teams kept their planned 2020 names. In 2022, the league adds Kalispell, Montana (Glacier Range Riders), and Windsor, Colorado (Northern Colorado Owlz).
- J **The league played a 96-game schedule in 2021, and drew a league record-high 839,374**, averaging 2,306 per date, and a **record-high 104,922 per team**. The old record was 802,682 in 1948, when the Pioneer League played a full-season schedule. The same 8 teams in the league in 2021 drew a total of 805,512 in 2019, averaging 2,787 per date, playing 76-game schedules. These teams played a combined total of 75 more dates than in 2019. The **2019** Pioneer League had a 76-game schedule, and drew 721,268, **averaging a record-high 2,504 per date**.
- J 5 teams (Billings, Great Falls, Idaho Falls, Missoula, Ogden) had total attendance gains, in part, due to more scheduled home games in 2021. Great Falls also had an increase in average per date, up 43.
- J **Ogden drew a team record-high total of 156,734, and averaged 3,407 per date, to lead this league in 2021.**
- J **Idaho Falls also set a new team record-high total in 2021 (109,647).**
- J **2021** was the 18th 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.
- J Pioneer League total attendance didn't top 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It's done so every year since then.
- J The relocation of Helena to Colorado Springs led to a significant attendance increase in **2019**. Total attendance rose 116,931 (19.4%) to 721,268, the 3rd best total in league history. Only 2008 and 2009 had a higher total. The percentage gain was best among all U.S./Canadian Minor Leagues. **Average per date was a league record-high 2,504, up 434, breaking the mark of 2,463 in 2008.** The league had 4 fewer dates than in 2018, with 16 rainouts.
- J 4 of the 7 returning teams had 2019 increases in total attendance, led by Ogden. Not included in this group are the Rocky Mountain Vibes (Colorado Springs) who drew 106,208 more than 2018 Helena. 3 teams had gains in average per date, led by Ogden. Missoula had the biggest losses in both total attendance and in average per date.
- J Pioneer League short-season record-high average attendance per team was 91,119 in 2008. The only other years above 90,000 were 2009, and 2019, when the average was 90,159. The short-season average per team reached 70,000 for the first time in 2002, and topped this figure every year after. This league began to play a short-season schedule in 1964. The longer season record-high average per team, until broken in 2021, was 100,335 in 1948.
- J From 1964 through 1980, league average per team never topped 40,000. The low was 15,862 in 1965. That year, the league's 4 teams drew a combined total of just 63,446. 5 of the 8 teams in the league in 2019 individually drew more than that in 2019. In 1965, each team played a total of 66 games. Lowest team attendance was 8,692 by the Tommy Lasorda-managed Pocatello Chiefs. The last year with an average per team below 50,000 was 1993 (41,921).
- J **In 2021, Ogden led the league in in total attendance for the 21st straight year, drawing a team record-high total of 156,734, up 10,533 from 2019.** The Raptors were also the league leader with a 3,407 average per date. They played 9 more dates than in 2019, and had 2 postponements.
- J **Ogden led the league in attendance in 2019, with a record-high 146,201, up 16,916. Average per date rose by 549 to a record-high 3,951. The previous records were set in 2009. The increases in attendance were the best among all short-season teams, and the average per date gain was 10th best among all MLB-affiliated clubs.** 13 dates drew at least 4,000, and 7 dates topped 5,000, with a high of 5,905. The Raptors have topped 100,000 and averaged over 3,000 per date for 20 straight years, including 2021. In 14 of those seasons, the average per date topped 3,400. They've reached 125,000 in 15 of the last 19 seasons, and surpassed 120,000 in 17 of those years. Ogden, Rocky Mountain, and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

-) **Idaho Falls had a team record-high total attendance of 109,647 in 2021, up 6,788 from 2019, breaking the old record of 104,960 set in 2007.** This was just the 4th time in 76 seasons with recorded attendance that Idaho Falls topped 100,000. The Chukars averaged 2,333 per date, the 14th straight year above 2,200. They played 10 more dates than in 2019, with one lost date.
-) Idaho Falls **averaged a team record-high 2,780 per date in 2019, breaking the 2007 record.** Total attendance rose 1,411 to 102,859. That was the 3rd best total (to 2007 and 2021) in Idaho Falls. 2007 was the first year that the total reached 90,000, but it has surpassed that in all but 2 years since then. 19 crowds topped 3,000 in 2019. The Chukars' park seats 3,400, and 14 of their top 15 attendance totals have come in the last 14 seasons, including 2021. The highest attendance for a full-season team in Idaho Falls was 81,157 in 1948. From 2007 through 2019, the Chukars drew above that with their short-season team every year except 2014.
-) **In 2021, Great Falls** had a 15,769 increase in total attendance vs. 2019 to 62,976. Average per date was up 43 to 1,431. The Voyagers played 10 more dates than in 2019, with 4 lost dates.
-) Great Falls drew 47,207 in **2019**, down 418, with 4 lost dates. It was the 10th year in a row under 100,000, and the 6th year in a row under 50,000. Average per date was down 13 to 1,388. 5 dates drew over 2,000. Attendance in Great Falls has been cut by more than half since 2003. The Voyagers did not reach 60,000 in their last 9 years as a short-season team, after topping 100,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2003 through 2009. A full-season team in Great Falls topped 100,000 each year from 1949 through 1953. The next year above 100,000 was 2003. Average per date reached 2,000 yearly from 1998 through 2009, but not since. The high was 3,183 in 2003.
-) Total **2021** attendance in **Billings** was up 14,677 from 2019, to 111,271. Average per date was 2,473. The Mustangs had 8 more dates than in 2019, and 3 dates were lost.
-) Billings drew 96,594, up 3,128, with 2 more dates in **2019**. It was the 2nd straight year under 100,000 after 10 straight years above 100,000. Prior to this streak, Billings had reached 100,000 just 8 times in the previous 48 seasons. The Mustangs' 2019 average per date was down 59 to 2,611, their lowest since 2007. 12 dates topped 3,000. Including 2021, the average per date has been above 2,400 in 23 straight seasons, and every year, except 1996, since at least 1991. It's been over 2,800 in 10 of those seasons. It topped 3,000 in 1995, 2003, 2008, and 2012.
-) The **Rocky Mountain Vibes** (Colorado Springs) drew 124,762 in **2021**, with a 2,836 average per date. They had 4 lost dates, and played 9 more dates in 2021 than in 2019. This team plays at a higher altitude than any U.S. pro baseball team. Their ballpark is 6,531 feet above sea level.
-) Rocky Mountain played its first season in Colorado Springs in **2019** after moving from Helena. Total attendance was 137,294, up 106,928 from what Helena drew in 2018. Average per date was 3,923, up 3,083 from Helena's average. 15 dates topped 4,000, with 9 of them drawing better than 5,000. The largest crowd was 7,048. Helena's best total was 49,015 in 1992, and their top average per date from 1992 on, was 1,290 in 1992.
-) In 2018, the Pacific Coast League club in Colorado Springs drew 262,657, averaging 4,104 per date. That club's record-high total was 350,374 in 2014, and their top average per date was 5,181 in 2013. In their 31 Class AAA seasons, Colorado Springs drew a total of 7,846,619, averaging 253,117 per year.
-) The **Boise Hawks** moved from the MLB-affiliated Northwest League (now High-A West) to the Pioneer League in **2021**. They drew 128,292, averaging 2,673 per date. No dates were lost in 2021, and they played 10 more dates than in 2019.
-) Boise's **2019** attendance of 129,805, up 3,613, was their best total since 2000. From 1989 through 2010, the Hawks topped 100,000 every year except 2001, when they missed by just 160, and then reached 100,000 again from 2015 through 2019, and in 2021. It was above 120,000 from 1989 through 2000, and in 2018, 2019, and 2021. 2019 average per date rose 95 to 3,416, also the best since 2000. 10 dates drew over 4,000, including a record-high 4,898. The Hawks' average was over 4,000 each year from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 4,590 in 1997. Boise's ballpark seats 3,426. There have been talks about building a new ballpark in Boise for both the Hawks and Boise State University.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

-) **Grand Junction**, in its 9th season, had a 2021 total attendance of 73,518, with a 1,634 average per date. The Rockies had one lost date, and played 8 more dates than in 2019.
-) In **2019**, Grand Junction drew 88,476, up 4,060. Average per date rose by 170 to 2,391. This was the best total and average since 2013. 4 dates drew over 3,000. Rockies' attendance reached 100,000 only in 2012, their first season in Colorado. The team moved to Grand Junction from Casper, where the top attendance ever was 57,120 in 2010.
-) The **Missoula** Osprey were renamed the PaddleHeads for the **2021** season. Their 2021 total attendance was 72,174, up 15,098 from 2019. They played 11 more dates than in 2019, and had 2 postponements. Average per date was 1,604.
-) Through 2014, Missoula had drawn over 80,000 for 8 straight years after never before reaching that level. Attendance fell below that figure from 2015 through 2019, and in 2021. In **2019**, it dipped 8,843 with 4 lost dates, to 57,076, the lowest total since 2003. The Osprey averaged 1,679 per date, down 204, the lowest average since 2003. The declines were the worst in the Pioneer League for 2019. 5 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 4,432. Average per date exceeded 2,000 each year from 2007 through 2015.
-) Until 2016, **Orem** had surpassed 75,000 in all of their 11 seasons, with 4 of those years topping 100,000. But the Owlz (yes, that is how the team spells its name) had their toughest attendance year in **2019**, their final season in Orem. Total 2019 attendance fell 5,531 to 45,561, and average per date was down 114 to 1,231, both the lowest in this team's 15-year history. 3 dates topped 2,000. Average per date had been above 2,000 from 2005 through 2015. This franchise was inactive in 2021.
-) The Owlz name does return to the Pioneer League in 2022, with a new team in Windsor, Colorado, which will be known as the **Northern Colorado Owlz**. This will be the first pro Minor League team for that city.
-) Also getting a pro Minor League team in 2022 for the first time, will be Kalispell, Montana, located in the Flathead Valley. This team will be named the **Glacier Range Riders**, after Montana's Glacier National Park.
-) It was 13 years in a row, through their final season of 2018, with total attendance under 40,000 for the **Helena** Brewers, who played in a 2,100-seat park. Teams in Helena failed to reach 30,000 in any season from 1978 through 1988, and topped 40,000 just 6 times in 39 years, none since 2005, and never reached 50,000. Lowest total was 10,694 in 1983. The 2018 total was 31,086 and the average per date was 840. The average per date topped 1,000 in 12 of the 25 seasons that Helena has fielded a team since 1992, but only in 2016 since 2007. Record-high average per date since 1991 was 1,290 in 1992.
-) Highest attendance ever for a Pioneer League game was 12,870 at Salt Lake City in 1992. Salt Lake City went to the Pacific Coast League in 1993, and is now in Triple-A West. But they had a Pioneer League team from 1939-1942, 1946-1957, 1967-1969, and 1985-1992. In their final Pioneer League season, Salt Lake City drew 217,263, the highest total ever in this league. They also topped 200,000 as a Pioneer League team in 1946 and 1991. Pioneer League attendance in Salt Lake City reached 100,000 in 1940, then 8 times between 1946 and 1956, all with longer-season schedules, and each year from 1986 through 1992 as a short-season team.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

PIONEER LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	8	839,374			2,306		
2019	8	721,268	116,931	19.4	2,504	434	21.0
2018	8	604,337	(13,705)	(2.2)	2,070	24	1.2
2017	8	618,042	1,356	0.2	2,046	(59)	(2.8)
2016	8	616,686	(16,926)	(2.7)	2,105	(80)	(3.7)
2015	8	633,622	10,581	1.7	2,185	37	1.7
2014	8	623,031	(50,093)	(7.4)	2,148	(134)	(5.9)
2013	8	673,124	(21,928)	(3.2)	2,282	(35)	(1.5)
2012	8	695,052	24,166	3.6	2,317	88	3.9
2011	8	670,886	20,497	3.2	2,229	46	2.1
2010	8	650,389	(71,553)	(9.9)	2,183	(264)	(10.8)
2009	8	721,942	(7,010)	(1.0)	2,447	(16)	(0.6)
2008	8	728,952	10,616	1.5	2,463	61	2.5
2007	8	718,336	56,712	8.6	2,402	211	9.6
2006	8	661,624	45,292	7.3	2,191	130	6.3
2005	8	616,332	15,225	2.5	2,061	(19)	(0.9)
2004	8	601,107	(27,158)	(4.3)	2,080	(64)	(3.0)
2003	8	628,265	62,773	11.1	2,144	214	11.1
2002	8	565,492	25,434	4.7	1,930	93	5.1
2001	8	540,058	78,177	16.9	1,837	282	18.1
2000	8	461,881	7,519	1.7	1,555	15	1.0
1999	8	454,362	(15,276)	(3.3)	1,540	(108)	(6.6)
1998	8	469,638	(5,654)	(1.2)	1,648	(87)	(5.0)
1997	8	475,292	33,354	7.5	1,735	173	11.1
1996	8	441,938	38,526	9.6	1,562	95	6.5
1995	8	403,412	(13,573)	(3.3)	1,467	(12)	(0.8)
1994	8	416,985	81,619	24.3	1,479	139	10.4
1993	8	335,366	(211,241)	(38.6)	1,340	(585)	(30.4)
1992	8	546,607	14,237	2.7	1,925	N/A	N/A
1991	8	532,370	(9,708)	(1.8)	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	8	542,078	58,910	12.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

EMPIRE BASEBALL LEAGUE – (6 teams–35 game schedule in 2019, 16-23 home dates per team)
(4 teams – 5-34 home dates per team, total of 75 dates played in 2021)

- J No attendance has ever been reported by the **Empire Baseball League**. In 2021, it had one team in New Hampshire (the Wild), and 3 teams in Upstate New York (Plattsburgh, Saranac Lake, and Tupper Lake.)
- J The Empire Baseball League played its first season in 2016. It took on 2 teams from the North Country League (Watertown and Old Orchard Beach), and added New Hampshire and Sullivan County, NY. No attendance was reported, but it was very low. There have been numerous changes in teams since then. In **2019**, 5 teams played home games, with a total of 94 dates. Saranac Lake replaced Old Orchard Beach.
- J The **North Country League** played its only season in 2015. It started with 4 teams, including one road team. Newburgh ran into financial difficulty early, and became a road team. Watertown was the only team with any announced attendance, and they drew 9,250, averaging 237 per date. Watertown last had a team in the New York-Penn League from 1983 through 1998. Top attendance was 78,460 in 1983. 2015 attendance for Old Orchard Beach was not available. The Ballpark at Old Orchard Beach was home to a Class AAA team from 1984 through 1988. Attendance ranged from a high of 183,289 in 1984, to a low of 80,071 in 1988.

UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE (4 teams in 2019 and 2021 – 75 game schedule in 2019, 66 dates in 2021)
All teams play in Utica, Michigan.

- J The **United Shore Baseball League** drew an estimated 150,000 in **2021**, averaging an estimated 2,273 per date. In 2019, estimated attendance was 258,720, an average of 3,450 per date. There were 9 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019. In 'normal' times, this league sells out around 80% of its games.
- J This league, originally with 3 teams playing home games, began play in 2016. All teams played in new 2,000-seat Jimmy John's Field in Utica, MI, a suburb of Detroit. The park has plenty of lawn seating as well. Another team, also playing all games in Utica, was added in 2017. No team-by-team attendance totals were provided. But for 2016, the league claimed a 3,200 average per date, with 42 sellouts in the 73 dates played. This average multiplies to a total of 233,600. In 2017, total attendance for the league was up 14,300 (6.1%) to 247,900. Average per date rose 150 to 3,350. 60 of the 74 dates played were sellouts. In 2018, the league drew 255,000, up 7,100. Average per date was 3,400, up 50. There were 61 sellouts in 75 dates.
- J **In 2019, the league averaged a record-high 3,450 per date, up 50, including an all-time best crowd of 4,926. This translates to a record-high total attendance of 258,720, up 3,720 (1.5%). 62 of 75 dates were sold out. These figures include playoff games. In its first 4 seasons, through 2019, 224 of 297 dates drew above the seating capacity of Jimmy John's Field.**

MAVERICKS BASEBALL LEAGUE – (4 teams, all based in Keiser, Oregon- 85 dates in 2021)

- J The Salem-Keiser Volcanoes had played in the MLB-affiliated Northwest League through 2019. They were dropped from the MLB roster of affiliated Minor League teams for 2021. So they formed the 4-team independent **Mavericks Baseball League** which played all of its games in their ballpark in Keiser, Oregon. This is the same type of arrangement used by the United Shore Baseball League, which has all 4 of its teams sharing a park in Utica, Michigan.
- J In **2021**, its first season, the 4 teams in the Mavericks League drew a total of 80,365 in 85 dates, averaging 945 per date. In **2019**, the Salem-Keiser Volcanoes, playing 38 home dates in the Northwest League, drew 80,833, averaging 2,127 per date.
- J **Salem-Keiser** reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, and 2013-2019, in their 23 seasons of operation in the Northwest League. Their 2019 total attendance was up 8,739 from 2018. They set their all-time high of 136,836 in 1997, which was this team's first year of play. 2019 average per date rose by 230. The gains in total and average per date were the biggest in the Northwest League in 2019. 3 dates topped 3,000. The average per date topped 3,000 from 1997 through 2004, and in 2006 and 2007, but not after that.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE (15 Teams, including one road team in 2021 – Teams had 7-45 home dates)

RECORD HIGHS: League - **87,626 – (2021)** 15 teams; Team – Tucson – 23,141 (2016)

- J The Pecos League will play its 12th straight season in 2021. Of all the independent leagues that have played since 1993, only the current American Association, Atlantic, and Frontier Leagues, and some of the leagues that merged into them, such as the Can-Am and Northern, have played more consecutive seasons than the Pecos League.
- J 14 teams, plus the Houston Apollos road team, which was shared with the American Association, played in **2021**. 10 teams that played in this league in 2019, returned in 2021. Expansion teams were added in Colorado Springs and Santa Cruz. Martinez and San Rafael joined from the inactive Pacific Association.
- J The Pecos League played a limited schedule with very few fans in attendance in 2020. The league has now been in operation for 11 seasons, the longest tenure of any 'small-market' independent Minor League, since the rebirth of independent leagues in 1993. Most of the league's ballparks are tiny.
- J **The Pecos League was the only North American professional baseball league, on any level, to have higher attendance in 2021 than it did in 2019, playing a roughly similar-length or shorter, schedule.**
- J **Total attendance was a league record-high estimated 87,626, and average per date was a league record-high 259.** In 2019, the league's 2021 teams, no matter what league they were in, drew 84,395, averaging 264 per date.
- J These teams had a combined 18 more dates in 2021 than in 2019. The 12 teams that were in the Pecos League in 2019 drew 76,058, an average of 217 per date. The Pecos League had 12 fewer dates in 2021 than in 2019.
- J 4 teams (Alpine, Garden City KS, Roswell, Santa Fe) had increases in 2021 total attendance vs. 2019. The same 4 teams, plus Bakersfield, Monterey CA, and Trinidad, had increases in average per date.
- J There will be 17 teams in the Pecos League in 2022. Salina, KS will be dropped, and Austin and Weimar in Texas, and Santa Rosa in California will be added.
- J Attendance figures were estimated by the league office. **The Pecos League is the only Minor League that does not include 'no-shows' in its attendance. This causes their announced attendance to be lower than it would be if they followed the attendance-listing procedures of other leagues by including 'no shows.'**
- J Wasco replaced Ruidoso in 2019. In 2020, the league was scheduled to have 12 teams, as the Martinez Mackerel, Pittsburg Anchors, and Santa Cruz Seaweed (all in California) were to replace White Sands, California City, and High Desert. Both Pittsburg and Martinez had been in the Pacific Association in recent years. Santa Cruz last had a team in 1909. The league did play a limited schedule in 2020, but didn't have paying fans in attendance.
- J Total estimated 2019 attendance was 76,058, up 9,714 (14.6%). Estimated average per date was 217, up 20, with 13 more dates than in 2018. 6 of the returning 11 teams had gains in total attendance. 3 of them were up in average per date, and Trinidad, California City, and Bakersfield each had the same average per date as in 2018.
- J **In 2021, Garden City led the league with a team record-high total of 18,540, and a team record-high 412 average per date. Total attendance was up 9,740 from 2019, and average per date rose by 137.** There were 13 more dates played than in 2019, when the Wind drew 8,800, up 6,625, with 3 more dates than in 2018. The Wind averaged 275 per date in 2019, up 200, the 5th best gain among independent teams.
- J **Martinez also achieved a team record-high average per date (331) in 2021, their first year in this league.** The Sturgeon drew a total of 8,275. This team had been in the Pacific Association in 2018.
- J The **Tucson Saguaros** had a total attendance of 3,213 in 2021, with a 119 average per date. They play at a tiny ballpark, and had 3 fewer dates than in 2019. Tucson drew 5,190, up 2,940 in 2019. Average per date was 173, up 100. There were Pacific Coast League teams in Tucson for many years. Attendance reached 300,000 from 1991 through 1996, and in 1998, with a high of 317,347 in 1991. Tucson's independent league high is 139,149 in 2009.
- J **Trinidad** drew a total of 4,995 in **2021**, and had an average per date of 185, up 10 from 2019, with 2 fewer dates. The Triggers drew 5,075 in **2019**, up 175, averaging 175 per date, the same average as in 2018.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** - continued

-) **Santa Fe** had a **2021** total of 11,940, up 210 from 2019, and a 398 average per date, up 53, with 4 fewer dates. In **2019**, the Fuego drew 11,730, up 880, with 6 lost dates, and averaged 345 per date, up 35. Their average per date has more than doubled since 2016.
-) **2021** total attendance in **Roswell** rose by 724 to 5,724, and average per date was up 12 to 212 in 2021. There were 2 more dates. In **2019**, Roswell, was down 2,866 to 5,000, with 13 fewer dates, and 5 lost dates. Invaders' average per date fell by 7 to 200. Teams listing attendance played in Roswell from 1949 through 1959. Top attendance was 82,671 in 1950.
-) **Alpine** had a **2021** increase of 788 in total attendance to 8,208, and a 39 increase in average per date to 304, with one less date than in 2019. In **2019**, Alpine's total rose 820 to 7,420, with 4 more dates. Average per date for the Cowboys was 265, down 10.
-) **Colorado Springs** drew 1,281, averaging 61 per date in **2021**, their first season in the Pecos League. The Rocky Mountain Vibes of the Pioneer League also play in Colorado Springs.
-) In **2021**, **Wasco** drew a total of 1,992, with an average per date of 83, with 10 fewer dates than in 2019. Wasco replaced Ruidoso in **2019**, and drew 5,950, averaging 175 per date. They played 32 more dates than 2018 Ruidoso.
-) The **Monterey, CA** Amerjacks had a 5,301 total and a 279 average per date in **2021**, with 13 less dates than in 2019. **Monterey drew a record-high 8,896 in 2019**, up 2,596. They averaged 278 per date, down 22, with 11 more dates.
-) The **Bakersfield** Train Robbers averaged 301 per date in **2021**, up 51, the best average they've had as a member of this league. Total attendance was 6,923, with 13 fewer dates. In **2019**, they drew 9,000, down 1,250, with 5 fewer dates, and averaged 250 per date, the same as in 2018.
-) **Salina** played mostly as a road team in **2021**. But they did have 7 'home' dates in El Dorado, which drew a total of 602, averaging 86 per date.
-) **San Rafael**, which had been the most successful team in the Pacific Association, joined the Pecos League in **2021**. The Pacifics drew 9,576, averaging 342 per date, with 12 fewer dates than in 2019, when their total was 17,334.
-) **Santa Cruz** played only 8 home dates in 2021, their first season. They drew a total of 1,056, averaging 132 per date.
-) Bakersfield and High Desert played in the California League through 2016. Those teams were relocated to the Carolina League in 2017. Bakersfield's record-high was 158,714 in 1992. Teams there reached 100,000 in 1947, 1948, 1949, and 1953, and then 12 times between 1984 and 2002, but not after that. High Desert (Adelanto) drew over 200,000 in its first 2 years (1991, 1992), and was over 100,000 each year through 2012. But the attendance was under 100,000 in 3 of the last 4 years. California City (about 60 miles north of Los Angeles), Wasco (slightly northwest of Bakersfield), and Monterey, never had Minor League teams until joining the Pecos League.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2021	15	87,626			259		
2019	12	76,058	9,714	14.6	217	20	10.2
2018	12	66,344	(11,269)	(14.5)	197	(20)	(9.2)
2017	12	77,613	10,451	15.6	217	8	3.8
2016	10	67,162	24,506	57.5	209	28	15.5
2015	7	42,656	1,531	3.7	181	12	7.1
2014	7	41,125	(8,461)	(17.1)	169	(26)	(13.3)
2013	8	49,586	(2,764)	(5.3)	195	(62)	(24.1)
2012	6	52,350	14,152	37.0	257	56	27.9
2011	6	38,198	-----	-----	201	-----	-----

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**Former Leagues****PACIFIC ASSOCIATION**

The Pacific Association did not operate in 2021.

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION BASEBALL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE (Only one team listed attendance in 2013)

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2019	4	45,239	(16,761)	(27.0)	285	26	10.0
2018	6	62,000	25,146	68.2	259	20	8.4
2017	4	36,854	(1,861)	(4.8)	239	(11)	(4.4)
2016	4	38,715	(8,456)	(17.9)	250	(56)	(18.3)
2015	4	47,171	7,754	19.7	306	(34)	(10.0)
2014	3	39,417	11,099	39.2	340	(351)	(50.8)
2013	1	28,318	-----	-----	691	-----	-----

NORTHERN LEAGUE

The Northern League, along with the Frontier League, were the first two independent leagues in a long time, when both leagues began play in 1993. Many of the teams in the Northern League moved to the American Association. The 2008 average per date of 4,621 is the highest by a post-1993 independent league.

NORTHERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2010	8	1,478,694	258,394	21.2	3,851	(570)	(12.9)
2009	6	1,220,300	(69,030)	(5.4)	4,421	(200)	(4.3)
2008	6	1,289,330	(182,367)	(12.4)	4,621	686	17.4
2007	8	1,471,697	39,367	2.7	3,935	85	2.2
2006	8	1,432,330	(756,821)	(34.6)	3,850	(38)	(1.0)
2005	12	2,189,151	186,787	9.3	3,888	(381)	(8.9)
2004	10	2,002,364	87,750	4.6	4,269	(102)	(2.3)
2003	10	1,914,614	172,475	9.9	4,371	421	39.8
2002	10	1,742,139	239,324	16.4	3,950	(283)	(6.7)
2001	8	1,502,815	195,752	14.5	4,233	308	13.4
2000	8	1,307,063	7,907	0.6	3,925	(36)	(0.9)
1999	8	1,299,156	266,234	25.8	3,961	868	(2.2)
1998	8	1,032,922	5,409	0.5	3,093	(59)	(1.9)
1997	8	1,027,513	(25,305)	(2.4)	3,152	(118)	(3.6)
1996	8	1,052,818	163,968	18.4	3,270	(242)	(6.9)
1995	6	888,580	(22,081)	(2.4)	3,512	N/A	N/A
1994	6	910,931	259,479	39.8	N/A	N/A	N/A
1993	6	651,452	-----	-----	N/A	-----	-----

2021 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	29,860	23	1,298	112,077	2,001	1938
Campeche Pirates	23,419	22	1,065	87,146	1,743	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	53,146	29	1,833	226,525	3,839	2006
Dos Laredos Owls	85,437	28	3,051	220,110	3,669	2008, 2012
Durango Generals	27,587	22	1,254	180,247	3,219	1986
Guadalajara Mariachis	61,652	29	2,126	-----	-----	2011
(Union) Laguna Cotton Makers	107,319	31	3,462	199,377	3,560	1932
Leon Braves	70,869	32	2,215	183,541	3,337	1973
Mexico City Red Devils	111,188	30	3,706	389,641	7,216	2019
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	109,447	32	3,420	349,126	5,917	1975
Monterrey Sultans	149,011	32	4,657	556,869	9,770	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	27,451	29	947	162,990	2,763	1950
Puebla Parrots	58,175	24	2,424	248,721	4,693	1972
Saltillo Sarape Makers	108,913	27	4,034	377,499	6,398	1963
Tabasco Olmecas	51,189	31	1,651	126,448	2,107	1964
Tijuana Toros	196,471	26	7,557	677,464	11,291	1976
Veracruz Eagles	65,900	33	1,997	-----	-----	1992
Yucatan Lions	109,895	32	3,434	520,350	8,673	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,446,929	512	2,826	4,618,131	5,058	

Dos Laredos split its home schedule between Laredo, TX (56,799 (17) 3,341) and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico (28,638 (11) 2,603).

ATLANTIC LEAGUE

Charleston (WV) Dirty Birds	85,398	54	1,581	118,444	1,742	2005
Gastonia Honey Hunters	114,416	58	1,973	-----	-----	2021
High Point (NC) Rockers	108,200	57	1,898	144,486	2,157	2019
Lancaster Barnstormers	182,132	59	3,087	285,441	4,260	2005
Lexington (KY) Legends	163,798	55	2,978	270,221	4,094	2001
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	224,120	56	4,002	328,194	4,973	2000
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	148,982	53	2,811	200,889	3,044	2008
York Revolution	111,628	54	2,067	199,045	2,971	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,138,674	446	2,553	1,546,720	3,312	

FRONTIER LEAGUE

Evansville Otters	76,482	45	1,700	100,051	2,175	1915
Florence (KY) Y'Alls	73,099	47	1,555	99,308	2,309	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	62,416	44	1,419	112,252	2,494	2002
Joliet Slammers	86,067	47	1,831	121,730	2,536	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	70,062	44	1,592	100,915	2,194	2009
New Jersey Jackals	43,722	42	1,041	76,658	1,742	1998
New York (Rockland) Boulders	99,693	44	2,266	123,999	2,583	2011
Schaumburg Boomers	157,112	46	3,415	156,383	3,191	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	66,099	44	1,502	101,441	2,305	2007
Sussex (NJ) Miners	79,762	48	1,662	72,594	1,688	1994
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	100,519	42	2,393	131,529	3,869	2002
Washington (PA) Wild Things	82,420	48	1,717	90,638	1,928	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	65,022	46	1,414	79,171	1,684	1999
Province of Quebec	43,819	21	2,087			
<i>Ottawa Champions (Inactive-2021)</i>				88,119	1,798	1993
<i>Quebec (City) Capitales (Inactive)</i>				119,060	2,381	1938
<i>Trois Rivières Aigles (Inactive)</i>				85,506	1,677	1938
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,106,294	608	1,820	1,659,354	2,261	

Province of Quebec was a road team until July 30. They then had 10 dates in Quebec City (22,882 total, 2,288 average/date, and 11 dates in Trois Rivières (20,937 total, 1,903 average/date).

2021 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u>						
Chicago Dogs	155,582	51	3,051	166,672	3,623	2018
Cleburne (TX) Railroaders	56,201	55	1,022	78,624	1,572	2017
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	145,553	53	2,746	161,857	3,444	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	137,094	52	2,636	167,887	3,426	2003
Kane County (IL) Cougars	177,705	50	3,554	350,305	5,228	1991
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	102,257	49	2,087	156,058	3,468	2003
Lincoln Saltdogs	149,204	54	2,763	168,394	3,437	2001
Milwaukee Milkmen	79,741	51	1,564	59,459	1,239	2019
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	59,802	53	1,128	51,618	1,075	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	82,932	54	1,536	114,452	2,336	1964
Winnipeg Goldeyes	52,014	47	1,107	195,787	4,079	1999
Houston Apollos	0	0				
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,198,085	569	2,106	1,671,113	3,061	
<i>Winnipeg played 29 dates at Jackson, TN (16,785 total, 579 per date), and 18 dates at Winnipeg (35,229 total, 1,957 per date.)</i>						
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u>						
Billings Mustangs	111,271	45	2,473	96,594	2,611	2008
Boise Hawks	128,292	48	2,673	129,805	3,416	1989
Grand Junction Rockies	73,518	45	1,634	88,476	2,391	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	62,976	44	1,431	47,207	1,388	1956
Idaho Falls Chukars	109,647	47	2,333	102,859	2,780	2007
Missoula Paddleheads	72,174	45	1,604	57,076	1,679	2004
Ogden Raptors	156,734	46	3,407	146,201	3,951	1997
Rocky Mtn. Vibes (Colorado Spr.)	124,762	44	2,836	137,294	3,923	1988
LEAGUE TOTAL	839,374	364	2,306	805,512	2,787	
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league, and does not include 'no-shows'</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	8,208	27	304	7,420	265	1947
Bakersfield Train Robbers	6,923	23	301	9,000	250	1941
Colorado Springs Snow Sox	1,281	21	61			
Garden City (KS) Wind	18,540	45	412	8,800	275	1936
Houston Apollos (road team)						
Martinez Sturgeon	8,275	25	331			
Monterey (CA) Amerjacks	5,301	19	279	8,896	278	
Roswell Invaders	5,724	27	212	5,000	200	1939
Salina (road team in El Dorado)	602	7	86			1991
San Rafael Pacifics	9,576	28	342	17,334	433	1950
Santa Cruz Seaweed	1,056	8	132			
Santa Fe Fuego	11,940	30	398	11,730	345	1947
Trinidad Triggers	4,995	27	185	5,075	175	1960
Tucson Saguaros	3,213	27	119	5,190	173	
Wasco Reserve	1,992	24	83	5,950	175	
LEAGUE TOTAL	87,626	338	259	84,395	264	

2021 INDEPENDENT AND MLB PARTNER LEAGUE ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE</u> - League Estimated Attendance				<i>All games in Utica, MI</i>		
Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers						
East Side Diamond Hoppers						
Utica Unicorns						
Westside Wooly Mammoths						
LEAGUE TOTAL	150,000	66	2,273	258,720	3,450	2016
<u>EMPIRE PRO LEAGUE</u>						
New Hampshire (Concord) Wild	N/A	5				1936
Saranac Lake (NY) Surge	N/A	17		N/A	-----	1984
Plattsburgh (NY) Thunderbirds	N/A	19		N/A	-----	2003
Tupper Lake Riverpigs	N/A	34		N/A	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A	94		N/A		
<u>MAVERICKS LEAGUE</u> - All games in Keiser, OR						
Campeños de Salem-Keiser						
Portland Mavericks						
Salem Senators						
Salem-Keiser (OR) Volcanoes						
LEAGUE TOTAL	80,365	85	945	80,833	2,127	1997
2021 INDEPENDENT TOTAL	6,047,347	2,988	2,024	10,724,778	3,171	
2021 ALL MINOR LEAGUES	28,136,361	9,802	2,870	44,464,888	4,021	

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – LEAGUES – (Mostly through 2019)

The table below lists each MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) and some independent leagues record-highs for total attendance, average attendance per team, and average attendance per date. Included are records for the combined groups of Class AAA, Class AA, full-season Class A, and short-season teams. Also, the records for the old Class AAA American Association, the Southern Association, and the independent Northern and United Leagues, none of which were in operation in 2019, are listed. Average per date records 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.

The Pioneer League became an independent league in 2021, played a longer schedule, and set record-highs for total attendance (839,374), and average per team (104,922). The figure in the table for that league is through 2019.

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	4,618,131	2019	288,633	2019	5,058	2019
Eastern	3,966,241	2010	330,520	2010	4,904	1998
Southern	2,589,072	1994	258,907	1994	4,002	1994
Texas	3,129,865	2008	391,233	2008	5,691	2008
<i>All Class AA</i>	<i>9,361,036</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>312,035</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,603</i>	<i>2007</i>
California	2,061,889	1997	206,189	1997	2,988	1997
Carolina	1,981,673	2014	247,709	2014	3,811	2014
Florida State	1,296,962	2011	108,080	2011	1,642	2011
Midwest	4,233,904	2015	264,619	2015	3,924	2015
South Atlantic	3,862,077	2007	241,380	2007	3,630	2007
<i>All Full-season A</i>	<i>11,990,753</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>199,846</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>3,010</i>	<i>2014</i>
New York-Penn	1,890,053	2002	135,004	2002	3,664	2007
Northwest	1,115,614	2019	139,452	2019	3,670	2019
Appalachian	442,755	1993	44,276	1993	1,404	1994
Pioneer	728,952	2008	91,119	2008	2,504	2019
<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	1,546,633	2012	133,543	2008	2,719	2010
American Assoc.	2,244,238	2012	172,634	2012	3,508	2012
Can-Am	1,040,107	2007	118,715	2005	2,455	2006
Pecos	87,626	2021	8,725	2011	259	2021
United	549,014	2007	91,502	2007	2,049	2007
Northern	2,189,151	2005	214,888	2008	4,621	2008
<i>All Independent</i>	<i>8,485,921</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>3,000</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>All Leagues Total</i>	<i>51,576,409</i>	<i>2008</i>			<i>3,892</i>	<i>2008</i>

SEASON RECORD-HIGH TOTAL ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

In 2021, 3 MLB-affiliated teams, and 5 independent leagues teams, set record-highs for total attendance, average attendance per date, or both. These new records will be noted in the tables (listed by 2021 leagues) in this section.

98 of the 176 NAPBL teams that played in 2019 set their all-time total attendance records between 2005 and 2019. The longest-standing total attendance records for individual team-high attendance by 2019 or 2021 teams are: Mexico City – Current team's high was set in 1967; Batavia – 1971; Bristol – 1976 as a short-season team. Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing current-team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an MLB-affiliated or independent league in 2019, and/or 2021, and reported attendance. Many independent league teams shifted to different leagues in 2011, and MLB-affiliated leagues reorganized in 2021. Pecos League data is estimated by the league office.

The records listed are for each current team in its particular market. If there is information that a former team in that same market had a higher record attendance than the current team's record-high, it is listed in a footnote. This often occurs when a market that had or has, either a short-season or independent team, once was home to an MLB-affiliated full-season team, or in the case of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Major League team. All short-season NAPBL leagues that charge admission once played longer or full-season schedules. Short-season leagues were eliminated in 2021.

There are a few cases of markets with a full-season MLB-affiliated team, where a former team holds that market's all-time attendance record. Richmond, Jupiter/Palm Beach, and Hagerstown (no team in 2021) 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 MLB-affiliated 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 2019 or 2021 are listed in bold. If those years were the team's first season, the figure is in italics.

Since independent league teams often switch leagues, most independent league records listed are for the independent league team in that city, regardless of the league it played in. Check the footnotes below each league's listing to see if a current independent league city once had an MLB-affiliated team with a higher record attendance.

SEASON RECORD-HIGH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

Starting in 1992, the MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) attendance reports listed the number of home dates played by each team. This allows an average attendance per date to be compiled for each team and league. Average attendance per date for most independent league teams is available from 1997 forward, though in some cases, earlier figures were found.

The tables on the following pages show each team's highest average per date since 1992. In a few cases, data was available for prior seasons as well. Most of the time, the figure listed is that team's actual record-high average per date. But, especially in cases where the record-high total attendance figure was set prior to 1992, the record-high average per date may have been set before 1992 as well.

SINGLE GAME RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE

The Minor League Baseball Information Guide (which covers the MLB-affiliated teams) lists the single-game record-high attendance for each team. In some cases, the listed single-game record may be only for the current team, or current ballpark, in that market, and may exclude a higher figure set by a team in the same market, playing in a different league or ballpark. This also appears in the tables in this section. Single-game record-highs from the Mexican League are not available. When the word 'Many' appears in the year column, this is the official full-sellout figure, which has been reached numerous times.

Single-game records are also available for those Independent teams that posted this information in media guides that were available online, or on Websites, in game notes, or in press releases. If your team's single game record-high figure isn't listed, and you know what it is, please let us know, and it will be added to the table.

RECORD HIGHS FOR SEASON TOTALS, AVERAGE PER DATE, AND SINGLE GAMES**Sources**

Attendance data for NAPBL (MLB-affiliated) teams was obtained from The Sporting News Baseball Guides for the following seasons: 1969-1980; 1989-1991. The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball provided data from 1902 through 1968, and 1981 through 1988 for U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams, Mexican League attendance from 1955 through 1991, and independent league data from 1993 through 1997. Major League-affiliated (NAPBL) data for 1992 through 2021 came from the office of Minor League Baseball.

Thanks to Jeff Lantz, Steve Densa and Mary Marandi of Minor League Baseball for providing 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 1997 through 2021 came from the Website of each league in most cases, with the offices of the Pecos and United Shore Leagues, 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. Average per date prior to 1992 for affiliated leagues, and prior to 1997 for independent leagues was generally unavailable, unless published in team media guides that are available on team Websites. If you have any of this data, and wish to share it, getting it would be much appreciated.

League Record-High Attendance

The record-high attendance for all MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) and independent leagues can be found on page 202, and also in the League and Team Highlights sections of this report. Also listed at the start of the Highlights section for each league is the highest season attendance for an individual team in that league. This only covers seasons through 2019 for the MLB-affiliated leagues, as obviously, the reorganized MLB-affiliated leagues played their first seasons in 2021.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**TRIPLE-A EAST**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Buffalo	1,188,972	1991	16,937	1992	38,211	1987
Charlotte	687,715	2014	9,686	2014	10,969	2021
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009	9,526	2009	20,131	1980
Durham	554,788	2015	7,814	2015	12,000	2019
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009	5,966	2009	10,427	2009
Indianapolis	662,536	2015	9,839	1998	16,168	2000
Iowa	576,310	2007	8,233	2007	15,188	2007
Jacksonville, FL	420,495	2004	6,276	2004	12,943	2003
Lehigh Valley, PA	645,905	2010	9,249	2011	10,100	Many
Louisville	1,052,438	1983	16,191	1983	14,658	2018
Memphis	887,976	2001	12,507	2001	18,620	2008
Nashville	603,135	2018	8,861	2017	22,315	1982
Norfolk	560,211	1995	8,162	1994	14,263	1996
Omaha	449,753	1997	6,713	1997	24,989	2004
Rochester	515,436	1998	7,766	1997	13,485	1997
St. Paul	413,482	2016	8,438	2016	10,631	2019
Scranton-Wilkes Barre	580,908	2007	8,802	2007	11,515	2017
Syracuse	446,025	1999	6,464	1999	14,098	2010
Toledo	590,159	2007	8,431	2007	13,300	2015
Worcester	362,559	2021	6,145	2021	9,508	2021

Buffalo and Louisville set their season records in the Class AAA American Association. The single-game high for **Buffalo** was set at War Memorial Stadium. The **Columbus** single-game high was at Cooper Stadium. Their high in the current park is 12,517 in 2010. **Louisville's** actual record for a single game was set at 30,000+ seat Cardinal Stadium, their home until 2000. **Charlotte's** single game record is for their current park. **Nashville's** record-highs set as a P.C.L. team. In 1980 **Nashville** drew 575,676 and 8,343 per date in the Class AA Southern League. Game record-high in **Nashville's** current park is 11,824 in 2019. The largest crowd in **Omaha's** current and much smaller park is 9,023, set multiple times. **St. Paul** drew 352,911 in the American Association in 1949. Minneapolis drew 318,326 in 1956.

TRIPLE-A WEST

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Albuquerque	602,129	2009	8,363	2009	16,975	2018
El Paso	578,952	2015	8,154	2015	10,169	2015
Las Vegas	650,934	2019	9,299	2019	14,855	1998
Oklahoma City	542,095	2005	7,744	2005	14,066	1998
Reno	466,606	2009	6,481	2009	10,520	2016
Round Rock	700,277	2005	9,726	2005	13,475	2006
Sacramento	901,214	2001	12,517	2001	15,808	2008
Salt Lake City	713,224	1994	10,189	1994	16,531	2000
Sugar Land, TX	465,511	2012	6,650	2012	8,606	2016
Tacoma	378,518	2011	5,331	2011	12,720	1987

Round Rock averaged 9,847 per date in 2004 while a member of the Texas League. A game at the old ballpark in **El Paso** (Independent American Association) drew 13,406 in 2011. Game record-high at current **Las Vegas** park is 12,111 in 2019.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**DOUBLE-A EAST**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Akron	522,459	1999	7,572	1999	9,328	2011
Altoona	394,062	2004	5,971	2004	9,255	2003
Binghamton	259,183	1992	4,180	1992	7,488	2018
Bowie	463,976	1995	6,925	1995	14,109	1998
Erie	246,404	2001	3,613	2007	7,045	2019
Harrisburg	301,588	2015	4,371	2015	8,637	2001
Hartford	414,946	2019	6,193	2019	8,672	2015
New Hampshire	386,991	2009	5,609	2009	8,903	2009
Portland, ME	434,684	2004	6,483	2007	7,368	Many
Reading	486,570	2002	7,138	2004	9,976	2016
Richmond	463,842	2010	6,689	2013	9,845	2019
Somerset	376,315	2004	5,433	2008		

Erie averaged 5,163 per date in 1997, while in the short-season New York-Penn League. **Hartford's** game high record was set in the neighboring city of New Britain. Hartford's current park single game high is 6,850, set 11 times in 2017, 28 times in 2018, 29 times in 2019, and 9 times in 2021. Class AAA team in **Richmond** drew its record-high total of 533,076 in 1993, and record average per date of 8,065 in 1996. **Somerset's** records were set in the Atlantic League.

DOUBLE-A SOUTH

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Biloxi	180,384	2016	2,692	2016	6,231	2015
Birmingham	467,867	1994	6,983	1994	16,247	1994
Chattanooga	292,920	1994	4,372	1994	6,387	2018
Mississippi (Pearl)	246,674	2007	3,848	2005	7,652	2006
Montgomery, AL	322,946	2004	4,821	1997	7,591	2010
Pensacola	328,147	2012	4,826	2012	5,038	Many
Rocket City (Madison, AL)	274,858	2021	5,726	2021	7,500	2021
Tennessee (Kodak)	313,796	2017	4,981	2017	8,164	2017

Record-high game attendance at the current ballpark in **Birmingham** is 8,683 in 2018. Huntsville, near **Rocket City** (Madison) drew 300,810 in 1985.

DOUBLE-A CENTRAL

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Amarillo	427,791	2019	6,291	2019	7,477	2021
Arkansas	377,977	2008	5,644	2007	9,787	2018
Corpus Christi	506,398	2006	7,234	2006	10,446	2018
Frisco	666,977	2003	9,264	2003	12,067	2018
Midland	317,233	2013	4,598	2013	9,108	2005
N.W. Arkansas	358,792	2008	5,200	2008	8,998	2009
San Antonio	411,959	1994	6,149	1994	12,673	1994
Springfield, MO	526,630	2005	7,523	2005	11,818	2013
Tulsa	408,183	2010	6,211	2014	16,934	1994
<i>Wichita</i>	241,230	2021	4,021	2021	7,908	2021

Arkansas' game record high in the old park was 12,246 in 1991. 1971 Wichita drew 280,320 in the American Association.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**HIGH-A CENTRAL**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Beloit	101,127	1986	1,487	2004	4,217	2000
Cedar Rapids	196,066	2002	2,883	2002	5,879	2013
Dayton	597,433	2010	8,624	2008	9,796	2015
Fort Wayne	413,701	2016	6,084	2016	9,508	2019
Great Lakes (Midland, MI)	324,564	2007	4,773	2007	6,671	2019
Lake County, OH	437,515	2003	6,341	2003	10,253	2003
Lansing	538,325	1996	7,813	1997	12,692	2013
Peoria	275,673	2008	4,241	2008	9,692	2005
Quad Cities	260,471	1994	4,087	1995	8,207	2015
South Bend	354,070	2017	5,285	2017	8,143	2015
West Michigan	547,401	1996	8,000	1997	12,171	2005
Wisconsin (Appleton)	253,240	2009	3,970	2014	7,722	2003

HIGH-A EAST

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Aberdeen	247,836	2008	6,560	2011	6,904	2012
Asheville	187,718	2019	2,840	2018	4,904	2006
Bowling Green, KY	237,070	2011	3,538	2011	6,886	2009
Brooklyn	317,124	2002	8,345	2002	10,073	2007
Greensboro	441,106	2007	6,487	2007	10,312	2015
Greenville, SC	349,116	2008	5,104	2012	7,551	2019
Hickory	283,727	1993	4,053	1993	5,525	2017
Hudson Valley	164,425	2006	4,609	2009	5,601	2015
Jersey Shore (Lakewood)	482,206	2001	6,889	2001	13,003	2002
Rome	246,718	2003	3,979	2003	6,314	2014
Wilmington, DE	358,766	1995	5,235	1994	7,535	2005
Winston-Salem	312,416	2011	4,663	2011	9,011	2018

Brooklyn Dodgers drew 1,807,526 (25,458 per date) in 1947.

HIGH-A WEST – All teams played in the Short-season Northwest League through 2019

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Eugene	148,282	1996	4,008	1996	5,178	2019
Everett	119,396	1998	3,187	2001	5,189	2016
Hillsboro	143,412	2015	3,774	2015	5,506	2018
Spokane	200,273	2019	5,315	2017	7,413	2006
Tri-City (Pasco, WA)	87,021	2019	2,332	2018	3,871	2012
Vancouver, BC	239,527	2017	6,303	2017	6,583	2006

Eugene's - PCL team drew 168,094 in 1972. Game record-high in **Eugene's** old park is 7,288 in 2007.

Spokane PCL team drew 287,185 in 1947. **Tri-City** Independent Western League team drew 109,101 in 1997.

Vancouver PCL team drew 386,220 in 1988. **Portland's (near Hillsboro)** record-highs are 454,197 (6,779 per date) in the PCL in 2002, and 249,995 (6,579 per date) in the Northwest League in 1996

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**LOW-A EAST**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Augusta, GA	266,569	2019	4,050	2018	6,026	2018
Carolina	328,207	1993	4,899	1993	8,329	2014
Charleston, SC	305,622	2017	4,494	2017	8,426	2007
Columbia, SC	315,034	2017	4,773	2017	9,629	2017
Delmarva	324,412	1997	4,915	1997	11,486	2006
Down East (Kinston, NC)	151,953	1997	2,374	1997	4,267	2017
<i>Fayetteville</i>	246,121	2019	3,632	2019	6,202	2019
<i>Fredericksburg, VA</i>	199,071	2021	3,492	2021	5,196	2021
Kannapolis	162,031	2021	2,701	2021	6,153	2003
Lynchburg	169,367	2011	2,529	2007	6,306	2007
Myrtle Beach	242,397	2008	3,877	2015	6,599	Many
Salem	258,469	2007	3,916	2007	8,856	2018

Fredericksburg records at Potomac: Total – 243,559 (2014); Average per Date – 3,866 (2014); Game – 10,789 (2009).

LOW-A SOUTHEAST

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Bradenton	109,845	2013	1,772	2013	6,557	2014
Clearwater	200,201	2017	2,988	2017	10,055	2019
Daytona	164,007	2008	2,518	2013	5,219	2015
Dunedin	80,126	1994	1,248	1993	5,188	2015
Fort Myers (a)	133,817	2015	2,028	2015	9,478	2017
Jupiter (b)	114,301	2001	1,657	2001	7,498	2017
Lakeland (c)	64,396	2014	1,177	2013	5,349	2011
Palm Beach (b)	105,122	2006	1,593	2006	6,834	2005
St. Lucie	132,359	2017	2,005	2017	7,157	1991
Tampa (d)	149,191	1997	2,331	1997	10,257	2007

(a) – A previous team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984. (b) – West Palm Beach record-high – 165,656 in 1981.
(c) – A previous team in Lakeland drew 81,878 in 1951. (d) – St. Petersburg record-high – 202,383 in 1989.

LOW-A WEST

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Fresno	563,079	2002	8,044	2002	16,916	2015
Inland Empire (S. Bern.)	273,739	1997	3,911	1997	10,033	2006
Lake Elsinore	383,297	1995	5,476	1995	12,876	1998
Modesto	180,785	2011	2,692	2010	5,424	2009
Rancho Cucamonga	446,146	1995	6,374	1995	7,099	2002
San Jose	222,547	2011	3,225	2011	7,143	1988
Stockton	218,497	2007	3,121	2007	6,285	2008
Visalia	129,118	2019	1,899	2019	4,039	2019

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Charleston, WV	248,766	2007	3,746	2006	10,103	2005
Gastonia	114,416	2021	1,973	2021		
High Point, NC	144,486	2019	2,157	2019	5,019	2019
Lancaster, PA	378,310	2005	5,404	2005		
Lexington, KY	451,076	2001	6,444	2001	9,222	2006
Long Island	443,142	2001	6,158	2002	7,602	2016
Southern Maryland	240,777	2010	3,629	2009		
Staten Island	209,018	2010	5,904	2009	7,583	2015
York	293,967	2008	4,351	2008		

Charleston, Lexington, and Staten Island records were set in MLB-affiliated leagues.

PIONEER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**NAPBL SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE LEAGUE (1964-2019) – (Full Season League Prior to 1964)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Billings	122,090	2003	3,213	2003	4,861	2012
Boise	165,255	1995	4,590	1995	4,898	2019
Glacier (Kalispell, MT)						
Grand Junction	101,496	2012	2,671	2012	6,429	2018
Great Falls	114,603	2003	3,183	2003	4,654	2009
Idaho Falls	109,647	2021	2,762	2007	4,170	2007
Missoula	89,812	2012	2,363	2012	4,612	2018
Northern Colorado (Windsor)						
Ogden	156,734	2021	3,951	2009	6,476	2008
Rocky Mtn. (Colorado Springs)	137,294	2019	3,923	2019	7,048	2019

Glacier and Northern Colorado play their first seasons in 2022.

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

Colorado Springs Class AAA records: Total – 350,374 (2014); Average per Date – 5,181 (2013); Game - 9,505 (2004)

Boise's game record-high in their park's old configuration is 6,451 in 1995.

MEXICAN LEAGUE - INDEPENDENT PROLEAGUE – NAPBL (1955-2019)**(Was an Independent League Prior to 1955, and in 2021)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year	Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year
Aguascalientes	351,326	1978	4,213	2005	Monclova	425,738	1998	7,142	2017
Campeche	287,749	1983	4,030	2008	Monterrey	989,454	2006	17,990	2006
Cancun-Quintana	226,525	2019	3,901	2007	Oaxaca	209,984	2008	3,962	2008
Dos Laredos	220,110	2019	3,669	2019	Puebla	363,011	2011	7,118	2011
Durango	230,919	1978			Saltillo	613,551	2001	12,688	2004
Guadalajara	373,219	1967			Tabasco	441,835	1979	3,894	2004
(Union) Laguna	350,717	2008	7,014	2008	Tijuana	677,464	2019	12,764	2004
Leon	195,538	1990	3,337	2019	Veracruz	245,057	2012	4,299	2012
Mex. City Reds	536,743	1967	7,271	1997	Yucatan	560,000	1982	9,228	2017

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

Single game records not available for the Mexican League.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**FRONTIER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Evansville	140,786	2013	3,200	2013	8,253	2013
Florence, KY	112,844	2010	2,495	2013		
Gateway (Sauget, IL)	217,500	2004	4,531	2004	8,189	2011
Joliet	202,755	2002	4,502	2003		
Lake Erie (Avon, OH)	159,580	2010	3,129	2010		
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	3,312	1999		
New York (Rockland)	161,796	2015	3,293	2012	7,336	2018
Ottawa	127,618	2016	2,454	2016		
Quebec City	164,009	2009	3,565	2009		
Schaumburg	236,476	1999	5,499	1999	7,623	2021
Southern Illinois	259,392	2007	5,086	2007	6,718	2007
Sussex County	101,638	2007	2,183	2006		
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	161,171	2014	4,342	2011	7,119	2011
Trois Rivieres	96,997	2015	1,869	2018		
Washington, PA	159,857	2005	3,552	2003		
Windy City, IL	103,129	2009	2,242	2009		

Evansville—AAA American Association team drew 147,807 in 1972. **Ottawa**—AAA International League team drew 663,926 (9,764 per date) in 1993. **Sussex County** - NY-Penn League team drew 176,788 (4,652 per date) in 1995. **Quebec City**-1949 Canadian-American League team drew 176,779. **Trois Rivieres**—Eastern League team drew 119,751 in 1972.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Chicago	166,672	2019	3,623	2019		
Cleburne	103,264	2017	1,780	2017		
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002	4,388	1999		
Gary – Southshore	181,612	2017	3,632	2017		
Kane County, IL	523,222	2001	7,941	2003	14,872	2009
Kansas City, KS	289,162	2007	6,024	2007	10,403	2008
Lake Country (2022)						
Lincoln	247,471	2002	5,334	2001	7,979	2001
Milwaukee	79,741	2021	1,564	2021	3,501	2019
Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995	3,587	1996		
Sioux Falls, SD	161,131	2013	3,620	2000		
Winnipeg	323,241	2004	7,161	2003	8,668	2005

Kansas City, MO drew 425,064 in 1923. **Winnipeg** drew 22,081 in 1997 for a game in the Blue Bombers' football stadium. **Kane County** records set in the NAPBL Midwest League.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE****All Teams Play in Utica, MI**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Utica, MI (all 4 teams)	258,720	2019	3,450	2019	4,926	2019

MAVERICKS LEAGUE - INDEPENDENT**All Teams Play in Keiser, OR**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Keiser, OR (all 4 teams)	136,836	1997	3,698	1997	5,627	2006

Record listed is for **Salem-Keiser** of the Northwest League.

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT PRO LEAGUE

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Alpine	22,630	1959	415	2011		
Austin, TX (2022)	188,193	1949				
Bakersfield	10,058	2017	301	2021		
Colorado Springs	1,281	2021	61	2021		
Garden City, KS	18,540	2021	412	2021		
Martinez	9,015	2018	331	2021		
Monterey, CA	8,896	2019	300	2018		
Roswell	82,671	1950	230	2011		
Salina, KS	1,809	2016	201	2016		
San Rafael	31,411	2012	691	2013		
Santa Cruz	1,056	2021	152	2021		
Santa Fe	15,552	2012	432	2012		
Santa Rosa (2022)	20,880	1948				
Trinidad	10,624	2012	332	2012		
Tucson	139,149	2009	3,410	2009		
Wasco	5,950	2019	175	2019		
Weimar, TX (2022)						

P.C.L. team in **Tucson** drew 317,347 in 1991. **Roswell** drew 82,671 in 1950. Highs for **Bakersfield** (158,714, 2,442 per date) set in the California League in 1992. **San Rafael** highs were set in the Pacific Association. **Santa Rosa** record was set in the Far West League. **Austin** record-high was set in the Big State League. Round Rock (near Austin) has drawn higher than this every year.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**MLB DRAFT LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year		Record-High Average/Date	Year		Record-High/Game	Year
Frederick	351,146	1993		5,301	1994		11,006	1997
Mahoning Valley	206,287	2000		5,641	1999		7,726	1999
State College	153,350	2008		4,205	2007		6,111	2016
Trenton	457,344	1998		6,628	1998		9,212	2011
West Virginia (Morgt'n)	83,796	2015		2,265	2015		2,989	2015
Williamsport	83,346	2003		2,253	2003		4,363	2001

All records set by MLB Draft League teams were in MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor Leagues.

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)**SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ROOKIE LEAGUE (1957-2019) – (Full-Season League Prior to 1957)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year		Record-High Average/Date	Year		Record-High/Game	Year
Bluefield	55,373	1991		1,478	1993		N/A	
Bristol	32,409	1976		957	1994		N/A	
Burlington, NC	76,653	1987		2,039	1992		4,722	1986
Danville	80,539	1993		2,441	1993		3,289	2018
Elizabethton	30,134	2007		972	2007		1,837	2012
Greeneville, TN	54,252	2015		1,644	2015		4,526	2021
Johnson City	80,612	2019		2,519	2019		4,095	2019
Kingsport	55,457	1999		1,789	1999		3,216	2021
Princeton	39,426	1994		1,264	2001		4,050	1994
Pulaski	95,897	2019		2,821	2019		4,872	2019

Record-highs as full-season teams in this league: Bluefield – 116,572 in 1949; Elizabethton – 38,947 in 1947; Johnson City – 51,846 in 1948; Kingsport – 65,646 in 1951; Bristol – 68,504 in 1946; Pulaski – 49,472 in 1947. Burlington drew 140,148 in 1947, and Danville drew 110,000 in 1946, both in the full-season Carolina League

All records by Appalachian League teams, except to the game-high record by Greeneville, were set in MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor Leagues.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

RECENT MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS NO LONGER PRO BASEBALL, OR IN THE MLB DRAFT OR APPALACHIAN LEAGUES

RECORD-HIGH TOTALS, AND SOME RECORD-HIGH AVERAGES MAY NOT BE FOR THE MOST RECENT TEAM IN THAT CITY

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Pawtucket	688,421	2005	9,561	2005	11,982	2009
New Orleans	519,584	1998	7,530	1998	11,925	2003
Bridgeport	342,857	1999	4,571	1999		
Jackson, TN	313,775	1998	4,483	1998	6,814	2015
Mobile	332,639	1997	4,820	2004	6,677	1997
California City	3,584	2017	112	2017		
Burlington, IA	91,946	1955	1,384	1993	3,666	2008
Clinton	127,251	1988	1,910	2016	6,200	1963
High Desert, CA	218,444	1992	3,361	1992		
Napa	6,264	2018	157	2018		
Sonoma	15,847	2015	417	2015		
Vallejo	6,776	2015	174	2015		
Brevard County, FL	144,688	1994	2,234	1996	7,802	1996
(Port) Charlotte, FL	171,450	2010	2,855	2009	7,515	2017
White Sands	8,800	2011	289	2018		
Grand Prairie (Texas)	143,627	2008	3,056	2008		
Florida (Kissimmee)	57,324	2017	1,082	2017	5,515	2017
Lancaster, CA	316,390	1996	4,520	1996	7,122	2000
Hagerstown	193,753	1991	2,260	2006	6,758	2011
New Britain	368,523	2010	5,867	2011	8,672	2015
Auburn	59,637	1947	1,990	2004	3,741	1995
Batavia	67,680	1946	1,230	2007	3,021	2008
Connecticut (Norwich)	281,473	1995	4,201	1995	6,195	2017
Lowell	201,512	2010	5,446	2010	5,778	2013
Vermont	124,496	1996	3,557	1996	6,106	1994
Orem	109,125	2007	2,927	2008	6,209	2013
Normal	132,309	2010	2,646	2010		
River City, MO	185,333	2004	4,119	2004		
Pittsburg, CA	3,938	2015	101	2015		
Traverse City	206,102	2007	4,241	2006		

HOW BIG IS THE BALLPARK? – LISTED CAPACITY OF MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BALLPARKS

The table below shows the average listed capacities for each Major and Minor League, along with each league's biggest and smallest parks. MLB figures come from each team's 2021 Media Guide. MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues data is from the 2021 Minor League Baseball Information Guide. Mexican League data is from Wikipedia, as is data from the independent Atlantic League. Frontier League and American Association figures are from their 2021 Media Guides. The United Shore League and Mavericks League figures are from their Websites. Each of those two leagues play in one park.

Fenway Park in Boston has a different day and night capacity, due to some centerfield seats being covered for day games to provide a better hitting background. That park's capacity was pro-rated with a 2/1 ratio for night games to day games. Capacity estimate in some parks is for fixed seating only. Others list a full sellout figure as capacity. The Low-A Southeast has 11 parks, as Palm Beach and Jupiter play in the same park. Nuevo Laredo of the Mexican League splits its games between Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, Laredo, TX. So the Mexican League has 19 parks.

PRO BASEBALL BALLPARK CAPACITY - 2021

League	# of Parks	Average Capacity	League's Biggest Park	Capacity	League's Smallest Park	Capacity
American	15	41,229	Toronto	49,286	Tampa Bay	25,025
National	15	43,055	L.A. Dodgers	56,000	Miami	37,446
MLB Average	30	42,142				
Triple-A East	20	10,818	Buffalo	16,600	St. Paul	7,210
Triple-A West	10	10,426	Salt Lake City	14,511	Tacoma	6,500
Triple-A Average	30	10,687				
Double-A Northeast	12	7,386	Bowie and Reading	10,000	Erie	6,000
Double-A South	8	6,868	Birmingham	8,500	Pensacola	5,038
Double-A Central	10	7,636	Frisco	10,216	San Antonio	6,200
Double-A Average	30	7,331				
High-A Central	12	6,984	Lansing	11,000	Beloit	3,500
High-A East	12	5,575	Greensboro	7,599	Hickory	3,959
High-A West	6	4,850	Spokane	6,803	Everett	3,682
High-A Average	30	5,994				
Low-A East	12	5,526	Columbia, SC	7,301	Down East (Kinston)	3,500
Low-A Southeast	9	8,027	Tampa	10,031	Daytona	4,200
Low-A West	8	5,464	Fresno	10,500	Visalia	2,468
Low-A Average	30	6,285				
MLB-Affiliate Avg.	119	7,585	Buffalo	16,600	Visalia	2,468
Mexican	19	10,849	Monterrey	22,061	Durango	4,983
Atlantic	8	5,950	Lexington	8,394	Charleston, WV	4,500
Frontier	15	4,920	Schaumburg	7,365	Windy City, IL	2,557
American Assn.	11	5,618	Kane County, IL	10,923	Cleburne	3,750
Pioneer	8	4,948	Rocky Mtn. (Col. Spr)	8,890	Billings	3,071
Mavericks	1	4,300				
United Shore	1	4,500				
Independ. Average	63	6,948	Monterrey	22,061	Billings	3,071
7 leagues listed						
Total Minors Avg.	182	7,364	Monterrey	22,061	Visalia	2,468

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?

In the Major Leagues, it usually does. 38 of the 46 teams that won an American or National League championship between 1996 and 2018 had an increase in total attendance the following season. The 2016 World Champion Chicago Cubs were one of the 8 teams to have a decline in attendance a year after winning a pennant.

Since 1996, the 46 Major League pennant winners averaged an increase of 196,174 in the following season's attendance. This is an average gain of 6.80%. Teams with declines the following year are included in these averages.

In the Minor Leagues, a team's won/loss record, playoff participation, and a league championship, has a much smaller effect on the following year's attendance. Minor League rosters change a great deal from year to year, so many of the players who won a championship in the Minors are playing on a different team the next season. Also, in the MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues, fans know that the team's management has no input in determining the team's roster.

This section lists the attendance for league champions in the Minor Leagues from 2011 through 2019. For teams that won a league championship from 2011 through 2018, the following season's attendance will be noted as well. This list includes all 15 NAPBL leagues that charged admission, and the independent Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, plus the American Association. Due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season, no 2021 vs. 2019 table appears.

From 2012 through 2018, 51 of the 117 (43.6%) NAPBL league champions had an attendance increase a year after they won a championship. Their overall combined attendance fell by 2.0%. This excludes the 2016 California League champions, who were moved to the Carolina League after that season. 555 of the other 1,264 (43.9%) NAPBL teams, who played in the same markets in both seasons, had a total attendance gain in these seasons. Among the 4 independent leagues named above, 9 of 32 (28.1%) champions had a gain the following year. Their combined attendance fell 3.4%. 117 of the other 291 teams (40.2%) in these leagues had a gain in these seasons.

Hurricane Dorian cancelled the 2019 Florida State League playoffs. Hurricane Irma caused the cancellation of the 2017 finals for the Carolina, Florida State, and Southern Leagues. The semi-finals winners in those leagues were declared co-champions. Attendance for those teams is not included in the 2017 table, or in the statistics in the paragraph above. The Mexican League had 2 sets of playoffs in 2018. Buies Creek, the 2018 Carolina League champion is not included in the 2018 figures because they moved to Fayetteville in 2019.

2019 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2019 League Champion	Team's 2019 Attendance	Team's 2020 Attendance	# Change 2020 vs. 2019	% Change 2020 vs. 2019
International	Columbus	590,504	0	0	0
Pacific Coast	Sacramento	549,440	0	0	0
Mexican	Monclova	349,126	0	0	0
Eastern	Trenton	340,705	0	0	0
Southern	Jackson, TN	107,131	0	0	0
Texas	Amarillo	427,791	0	0	0
California	Visalia	129,118	0	0	0
Carolina	Wilmington, DE	231,325	0	0	0
Florida State	Cancelled - Hurricane	0	0	0	0
Midwest	South Bend	319,616	0	0	0
South Atlantic	Lexington, KY	270,221	0	0	0
New York-Penn	Brooklyn	174,522	0	0	0
Northwest	Hillsboro	133,605	0	0	0
Appalachian	Johnson City	80,612	0	0	0
Pioneer	Idaho Falls	102,859	0	0	0
Total-14 NAPBL Teams		3,806,575	0	0	0
American Association	St. Paul	394,970	31,001		
Atlantic	Long Island	328,194	0	0	0
Can-Am	New Jersey	76,658	0	0	0
Frontier	River City	66,832	0	0	0
Total-4 Independent Teams		866,654	31,001	0	0

NAPBL teams didn't play a 2020 season. Some independent teams played games, with limited capacity restrictions.

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?

2018 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2018 League Champion	Team's 2018 Attendance	Team's 2019 Attendance	# Change 2019 vs. 2018	% Change 2019 vs. 2018
International	Durham	536,304	529,105	(7,199)	(1.3)
Pacific Coast	Memphis	340,476	327,753	(12,723)	(3.7)
Mexican – Spring	Yucatan	473,341	520,350	47,009	9.9
Mexican – Summer	Monterrey	563,296	556,869	(6,427)	(1.1)
Eastern	New Hampshire	319,099	306,511	(12,588)	(3.9)
Southern	Jackson, TN	110,798	107,131	(3,667)	(3.3)
Texas	Tulsa	350,396	374,501	24,105	6.9
California	Rancho Cucamonga	171,767	162,085	(9,682)	(5.6)
Carolina	Buies Creek	Not Included	Team moved to Fayetteville		New club
Florida State	Fort Myers	123,882	108,800	(15,082)	(12.2)
Midwest	Bowling Green	178,329	190,877	12,548	7.0
South Atlantic	Lexington	281,134	270,221	(10,913)	(3.9)
New York-Penn	Tri-City, NY	140,036	131,529	(8,507)	(6.1)
Northwest	Eugene	125,967	131,467	5,500	4.4
Appalachian	Elizabethton	15,329	27,569	12,240	79.8
Pioneer	Great Falls	47,625	47,207	(418)	(0.9)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,777,779	3,791,975	14,196	0.4
American Association	Kansas City, KS	189,981	156,058	(33,923)	(17.8)
Atlantic	Sugar Land	328,491	304,753	(23,738)	(7.2)
Can-Am	Sussex, NJ	74,827	72,594	(2,233)	(3.0)
Frontier	Joliet	88,198	121,730	33,532	38.0
Total-4 Independent Teams		681,497	655,135	(26,362)	(3.9)

2017 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2017 League Champion	Team's 2017 Attendance	Team's 2018 Attendance	# Change 2018 vs. 2017	% Change 2018 vs. 2017
International	Durham	547,841	536,304	(11,537)	(2.1)
Pacific Coast	Memphis	350,007	340,476	(9,531)	(2.7)
Mexican	Tijuana	608,819	556,371	(52,448)	(8.6)
Eastern	Altoona	294,486	297,118	2,632	0.9
Southern	Chattanooga/Pensacola	X	X	X	X
Texas	Midland	282,146	263,024	(19,122)	(6.8)
California	Modesto	147,562	145,028	(2,534)	(1.7)
Carolina	Down East/Lynchburg	X	X	X	X
Florida State	Dunedin/Palm Beach	X	X	X	X
Midwest	Quad Cities	230,006	215,061	(14,945)	(6.5)
South Atlantic	Greenville	328,222	313,507	(14,715)	(4.5)
New York-Penn	Hudson Valley	147,936	148,156	220	0.1
Northwest	Vancouver	239,527	239,086	(441)	(0.2)
Appalachian	Elizabethton	18,746	15,329	(3,417)	(18.2)
Pioneer	Ogden	128,348	129,285	937	0.7
Total-12 NAPBL Teams		3,323,646	3,198,745	(124,901)	(3.8)
American Association	Winnipeg	219,556	219,370	(186)	(0.1)
Atlantic	York	212,624	180,807	(31,817)	(15.0)
Can-Am	Quebec	141,923	126,483	(15,440)	(10.9)
Frontier	Schaumburg	160,644	149,255	(11,389)	(7.1)
Total-4 Independent Teams		734,747	675,915	(58,832)	(8.0)

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?**2016 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS**

League	2016 League Champion	Team's 2016 Attendance	Team's 2017 Attendance	# Change 2017 vs. 2016	% Change 2017 vs. 2016
International	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	424,991	439,412	14,421	3.4
Pacific Coast	El Paso	564,259	544,668	(19,591)	(3.5)
Mexican	Puebla	228,644	152,923	(75,721)	(31.9)
Eastern	Akron	350,077	343,351	(6,726)	(1.9)
Southern	Jackson, TN	126,116	120,695	(5,421)	(4.3)
Texas	Midland	265,193	282,146	16,953	6.4
California	High Desert	76,051	Carolina League	X	X
Carolina	Myrtle Beach	227,491	233,126	5,635	2.5
Florida State	Bradenton	87,149	79,331	(7,818)	(9.0)
Midwest	Great Lakes	210,054	202,433	(7,621)	(3.6)
South Atlantic	Rome	161,121	161,444	323	0.2
New York-Penn	State College	125,875	123,401	(2,474)	(2.0)
Northwest	Eugene	121,587	125,297	3,710	3.0
Appalachian	Johnson City	51,855	65,202	13,347	25.7
Pioneer	Orem	57,504	55,981	(1,523)	(2.6)
Total-14 NAPBL Teams		3,077,967	2,929,410	(148,557)	(4.8)
American Association	Winnipeg	231,206	219,556	(11,650)	(5.0)
Atlantic	Sugar Land	300,331	317,721	17,390	5.8
Can-Am	Ottawa	127,618	92,654	(34,964)	(26.4)
Frontier	Evansville	82,412	110,337	17,925	33.9
Total-4 Independent Teams		741,567	740,268	(1,299)	(0.2)

2016 California League champion High Desert was relocated to the Carolina League for 2017.

2015 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2015 League Champion	Team's 2015 Attendance	Team's 2016 Attendance	# Change 2016 vs. 2015	% Change 2016 vs. 2015
International	Columbus, OH	622,096	602,171	(19,925)	(3.2)
Pacific Coast	Fresno	458,431	439,389	(19,042)	(4.2)
Mexican	Quintana Roo	184,736	189,918	5,182	2.8
Eastern	Bowie	256,865	236,349	(20,516)	(8.0)
Southern	Chattanooga	218,512	223,517	5,005	2.3
Texas	Midland	297,325	265,193	(32,132)	(10.8)
California	Rancho Cucamonga	167,318	171,509	4,191	2.5
Carolina	Myrtle Beach	240,357	227,491	(12,866)	(5.4)
Florida State	Port Charlotte	105,965	95,588	(10,377)	(9.8)
Midwest	West Michigan	391,055	386,416	(4,639)	(1.2)
South Atlantic	Hickory	149,963	150,110	147	0.1
New York-Penn	West Virginia B. Bears	83,796	78,774	(5,022)	(6.0)
Northwest	Hillsboro	143,412	131,851	(11,561)	(8.1)
Appalachian	Greeneville, TN	54,252	41,651	(12,601)	(23.2)
Pioneer	Missoula	77,438	73,207	(4,231)	(5.5)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,451,521	3,313,134	(138,387)	(4.0)
American Association	Laredo	62,517	41,955	(20,562)	(32.9)
Atlantic	Somerset	347,770	360,755	12,985	3.7
Can-Am	Trois Rivières	96,997	78,948	(18,049)	(19.6)
Frontier	Traverse City	132,404	121,500	(10,904)	(8.2)
Total-4 Independent Teams		639,688	603,158	(36,530)	(5.7)

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?

2014 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2014 League Champion	Team's 2014 Attendance	Team's 2015 Attendance	# Change 2015 vs. 2014	% Change 2015 vs. 2014
International	Pawtucket	515,665	466,600	(49,065)	(9.5)
Pacific Coast	Omaha	393,946	386,141	(7,805)	(2.0)
Mexican	Mexico City Red Devils	217,028	144,908	(72,120)	(33.2)
Eastern	Binghamton	171,279	188,104	16,825	9.8
Southern	Jacksonville, FL	300,538	272,422	(28,116)	(9.4)
Texas	Midland	299,586	297,325	(2,261)	(0.8)
California	Lancaster, CA	170,532	158,435	(12,097)	(7.1)
Carolina	Potomac	243,559	217,892	(25,667)	(10.5)
Florida State	Fort Myers	119,102	133,817	14,715	12.4
Midwest	Kane County, IL	415,571	408,449	(7,122)	(1.7)
South Atlantic	Asheville	174,893	181,578	6,685	3.8
New York-Penn	State College	134,927	127,775	(7,152)	(5.3)
Northwest	Hillsboro	138,732	143,412	4,680	3.4
Appalachian	Johnson City	40,351	39,118	(1,233)	(2.1)
Pioneer	Billings	105,358	100,120	(5,238)	(5.0)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,441,067	3,266,096	(174,971)	(5.1)
American Association	Wichita	147,706	141,837	(5,869)	(4.0)
Atlantic	Lancaster, PA	301,935	276,975	(24,960)	(8.3)
Can-Am	Rockland, NY	146,383	161,796	15,413	10.5
Frontier	Schaumburg	157,393	162,210	4,817	3.1
Total-4 Independent Teams		753,417	742,818	(10,609)	(1.4)

2013 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2013 League Champion	Team's 2013 Attendance	Team's 2014 Attendance	# Change 2014 vs. 2013	% Change 2014 vs. 2013
International	Durham	498,735	533,033	34,298	6.9
Pacific Coast	Omaha	390,957	393,946	2,989	0.8
Mexican	Quintana Roo	177,731	175,827	(1,904)	(1.1)
Eastern	Trenton	360,010	361,369	1,359	0.4
Southern	Birmingham	396,820	437,612	40,792	10.3
Texas	San Antonio	294,346	294,539	193	0.1
California	Inland Empire (San B.)	192,549	195,841	3,292	1.7
Carolina	Salem, VA	172,293	220,782	48,489	28.1
Florida State	Daytona	146,049	143,273	(2,776)	(2.6)
Midwest	Quad Cities	226,112	237,005	10,893	4.8
South Atlantic	Savannah	131,763	124,013	(7,750)	(5.9)
New York-Penn	Tri-City (Troy, NY)	156,712	161,171	4,459	2.8
Northwest	Vancouver	184,042	180,187	(3,885)	(2.1)
Appalachian	Pulaski	25,842	26,160	318	1.2
Pioneer	Idaho Falls	96,367	79,895	(16,472)	(17.1)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,450,328	3,564,653	114,325	3.3
American Association	Gary-Southshore	165,024	164,286	(738)	(0.4)
Atlantic	Long Island	371,186	344,543	(26,643)	(7.2)
Can-Am	Quebec	141,396	121,305	(20,091)	(14.2)
Frontier	Schaumburg	150,254	157,393	7,139	4.8
Total-4 Independent Teams		827,860	787,527	(40,333)	(4.9)

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?

2012 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2012 League Champion	Team's 2012 Attendance	Team's 2013 Attendance	# Change 2013 vs. 2012	% Change 2013 vs. 2012
International	Pawtucket	521,023	540,034	19,011	3.6
Pacific Coast	Reno	389,860	349,364	(40,496)	(11.4)
Mexican	Veracruz	245,057	190,484	(54,573)	(22.3)
Eastern	Akron	256,473	295,459	38,986	15.2
Southern	Mobile	133,062	149,675	16,613	12.5
Texas	Springfield, MO	352,674	338,345	(14,329)	(4.1)
California	Lancaster, CA	151,558	158,266	6,708	4.4
Carolina	Lynchburg	155,261	160,537	5,276	3.4
Florida State	Lakeland	59,589	60,011	422	0.7
Midwest	Wisconsin (Appleton)	240,509	241,938	1,429	0.6
South Atlantic	Asheville	155,760	163,664	7,904	5.1
New York-Penn	Hudson Valley	161,811	164,230	2,419	1.5
Northwest	Vancouver	164,461	184,042	19,581	11.9
Appalachian	Elizabethton	25,430	24,725	(705)	(2.8)
Pioneer	Missoula	89,812	81,686	(8,126)	(9.0)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,102,340	3,102,460	120	0.0
American Association	Winnipeg	285,263	276,359	(8,904)	(3.1)
Atlantic	Long Island	377,473	371,186	(6,287)	(1.7)
Can-Am	Quebec	152,663	141,396	(11,267)	(7.4)
Frontier	Southern Illinois	129,936	126,084	(3,852)	(3.0)
Total-4 Independent Teams		945,335	915,025	(30,310)	(3.2)

2011 LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

League	2011 League Champion	Team's 2011 Attendance	Team's 2012 Attendance	# Change 2012 vs. 2011	% Change 2012 vs. 2011
International	Columbus, OH	591,884	611,223	19,339	3.3
Pacific Coast	Omaha	410,326	415,650	5,324	1.3
Mexican	Quintana Roo	151,698	164,462	12,764	8.4
Eastern	New Hampshire	373,482	377,317	3,835	1.0
Southern	Mobile	210,956	133,062	(77,894)	(36.9)
Texas	San Antonio	294,176	301,942	7,766	2.6
California	Lake Elsinore	225,769	227,000	1,231	0.5
Carolina	Frederick	296,296	311,805	15,509	5.2
Florida State	Daytona	154,557	143,131	(11,426)	(7.4)
Midwest	Quad Cities	223,025	240,008	16,983	7.6
South Atlantic	Greensboro	388,218	367,077	(21,141)	(5.4)
New York-Penn	Staten Island	192,568	141,163	(51,405)	(26.7)
Northwest	Vancouver	162,162	164,461	2,299	1.4
Appalachian	Johnson City	25,961	24,827	(1,134)	(4.4)
Pioneer	Great Falls	59,884	56,869	(3,015)	(5.0)
Total-15 NAPBL Teams		3,760,962	3,679,997	(80,965)	(2.2)
American Association	Grand Prairie	117,861	108,236	(9,625)	(8.2)
Atlantic	York	261,590	273,648	12,058	4.6
Can-Am	Quebec	149,330	152,663	3,333	2.2
Frontier	Joliet	108,610	104,019	(4,591)	(4.2)
Total-4 Independent Teams		637,391	638,566	1,175	0.2

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Due to the unusual nature of the 2021 season, resulting in reduced capacity in ballparks, and the reorganization of MLB-affiliated Minor Leagues, a 2021 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 average attendance by team comparison for these years is not being made. Likewise, the Minor League comparison with other sports, isn't being done either. After the next 'normal' season, the tables in this section will be updated.

Minor League Baseball attendance had increased very sharply over the past 5 decades through 2019. New parks, better marketing and promotion programs, and reasonable prices have all been factors in this attendance boom.

Tables in this section compare **2019** Major League and Minor League attendance with attendance for the 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 seasons. Note the sub-total (*in italics*) provided for 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 30, 40 and 50 years ago. So the tables look at average attendance per team for each league, in addition to the comparisons of total season attendance.

Figures for Minor Leagues average attendance per date were not available for 1989, 1979, and 1969. No independent leagues were in operation in those years either. The National League didn't count 'no-shows' in its official attendance until 1993, so keep that in mind when comparing 2019 Major League figures with 1989, 1979, and 1969.

ONE MORE LOOK AT THE 2019 NUMBERS

The 176 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) teams that charged admission drew 41,504,077, an average of 235,819 per team. Average per date was 4,044. 53 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 5,690,513, an average of 107,368 per team, and an average per date of 2,341. The 4-team United Shore Baseball League, which plays all of its games in Utica, MI, counts as one team in these tables. Most independent teams played shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 47,194,590, averaging 206,090 per team, and 3,718 per date. Major League total attendance was 68,493,093, an average of 2,283,103 per team, and 28,338 per date.

2019 COMPARISON WITH 2009

NAPBL **2019** figures are pretty similar to those of 2009. There were 176 teams in both years. Total attendance, average per team, and average per date were 0.3% lower in 2019 than in 2009. Average per date was 4,044 in 2019, and 4,055 in 2009. 2019 total attendance was down 140,441 vs. 2009, with 7 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2009. Total attendance for the independent teams was 28.6% lower in 2019 than in 2009. There were 61 independent teams with announced attendance in 2009. Their average per team was down 17.8%, and average per date was down 18.5% (2,341 in 2019 vs. 2,872 in 2009). Independent teams had 342 fewer dates with announced attendance in 2019 than in 2009. Combined NAPBL and independent league total attendance was 4.9% lower in 2019 than in 2009, the average per team was 1.5% lower, and the average per date was 2.3% lower, down 86 from the 2009 average per date of 3,804.

5 of the 15 NAPBL leagues had a higher average attendance per team in 2019 than in 2009. The Mexican League was up 50.0%, the Appalachian League had a 32.6% gain, and the Northwest League grew by 23.0%. The Eastern and Carolina Leagues each had gains of less than 2%. On the downside, average per team for the New York-Penn League fell 26.3%, the Florida State League was down 16.3%, and the International League had an 8.1% loss.

Average per date for the Class AAA clubs combined was 6,697 in 2019 vs. 6,820 in 2009. For Class AA, it was 4,429 in 2019 and 4,462 in 2009. The full-season Class A teams averaged 2,807 in 2019 and 2,978 in 2009. Short-season teams had a 2,514 average per date in 2019, vs. a 2,646 average in 2009.

Columbus had the top attendance in 2009, drawing a total of 666,797, averaging 9,526 per date. Sacramento was close behind with a 657,095 total, and a 9,126 average per date. Lehigh Valley drew 641,335, averaging 9,162 per date. Frisco led Class AA with a 553,916 total, and an 8,028 average per date. Dayton topped Class A (586,193 total, 8,496 average), Brooklyn drew 264,102 (7,138 per date) to lead all short-season teams. Monterrey led the Mexican League in both categories (400,310 total, and 7,698 per date). Long Island had the top independent total (414,973), and Winnipeg posted the best independent average per date (6,180).

Major League total attendance, average per team, and average per date were all down 6.6% when comparing 2019 with 2009. In 2009, MLB drew 73,367,659, averaging 2,445,589 per team, and 30,330 per date.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2019 COMPARISON WITH 1999**

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was well underway. Comparing **2019** with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were some healthy gains.

The MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) **2019** total was up 18.0% from 1999, despite 128 fewer dates than in 1999. Average attendance per date rose 658 (19.4%) from 3,386. There were 176 NAPBL teams, which includes the Mexican League, in both 2019 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. The total for independent leagues was up 16.8% vs. 1999, with 527 more dates, but their average per date fell 218 (8.5%) from 2,559. The decline in the independent average is partly due to current smaller leagues that do not draw large crowds. Combined 2019 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 17.8% from 1999, and average per date was up 460 (14.1%) from 3,258.

2019 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 18.0% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 5 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 56.1%. The Mexican League was up 60.6%, the Pacific Coast League had a 25.8% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 45.3%, and the Pioneer League increased 58.7%. The Appalachian League had a 24.4% gain, and the Midwest League was up 20.6%. Independent league teams had a combined loss of 3.0%. Combined NAPBL and independent average per team rose 13.2%.

But 5 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2019 than in 1999. The Eastern League was down 3.1%, the Southern League fell 3.9%, the Carolina League declined 2.3%, the California League was down 4.4%, and the New York-Penn League had a dip of 4.0%.

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 450,013 per team in 2019. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,697 in 2019, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,429 per date in 2019, up 488 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,807 per date in 2019, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,514 in 2019, vs. 2,231 in 1999.

Buffalo drew 684,051 to lead all teams in total attendance in 1999. The Bisons also had the highest average per date (10,060) of any team. Indianapolis drew 658,250. Overall, 6 teams topped 500,000. Akron was the 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 in 1999 (6,329), and in 2019 (8,061).

The Major League 2019 total attendance and average per team was down 2.3% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 28,338 in 2019, down 872 (3.0%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2019 COMPARISON WITH 1989

164 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) teams that charged admission, operated in 1989. They drew a total of 23,103,593, an average of 140,876 per team. 2019 NAPBL total attendance was 79.6% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 67.4%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2019 figures, the results are gains of 104.3% in total attendance, and 46.3% in average per team.

The Florida State League had a 14.0% gain in average attendance per team. Every other league drew at least 32% higher than their 1989 average per team. The Appalachian and Southern Leagues had the next smallest gains.

2 leagues more than doubled their 2019 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 140.6% higher in 2019 than in 1989, and the Mexican League gained 104.5%. Also up at least 60% were the Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, New York-Penn, Northwest, Carolina, Midwest, and California Leagues. The combined Class AAA average per team was up 32.4%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest 1989 attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 16 teams reached 500,000 in 2019. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2019, 16 Class AA teams topped 300,000. Durham led full-season Class A in 1989, drawing 272,202. That figure was topped by 10 Class A teams in 2019. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 529,105 in 2019. Yucatan drew 310,715 to lead the Mexican League in 1989. They drew 520,350 in 2019.

In 1989, just 2 of the 26 teams in either the Midwest or South Atlantic Leagues topped 200,000. But in 2019, 16 of the 30 teams in those leagues reached that milestone. Salt Lake City drew 173,256 to top all short-season teams in 1989. Just 4 of the 40 short-season teams in 1989 drew at least 100,000. 15 short-season teams did that in 2019, with Vancouver and Spokane surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 24.1% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 7.6%. The average per date of 28,338 in 2019 was 1,568 (5.9%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2019 COMPARISON WITH 1979

142 NAPBL teams charging admission operated in 1979. Total attendance was 15,265,633, an average of 107,504 per team. NAPBL 2019 total attendance was 171.9% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 119.4%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2019 totals, the result is a 209.2% increase in total attendance, and a 91.7% gain in average per team.

11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues more than doubled their average attendance per team since 1979. There was a better than 4-fold increase in 3 leagues: Eastern – 329.9%; Carolina – 328.9%; Northwest – 423.4%. The only leagues that did not at least double their average attendance per team were the Southern, Florida State, Mexican, and Appalachian Leagues, who had increases between 7.9% and 91.6%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 150.3% increase from the 1979 average per team of 179,784.

In 1979, Columbus (OH) had the top Minor League attendance, drawing 599,544 to newly re-built Cooper Stadium. That figure was topped by Tijuana and Las Vegas in 2019. 3 Mexican League teams (Mexico City Reds, Tabasco, and Yucatan) topped 400,000 in 1979. But Denver (335,684) and Albuquerque (266,586) were the only other Class AAA teams to top 240,000. All AAA teams drew over 188,000 in 2019, and all these teams, except Gwinnett and New Orleans, topped 327,000.

Nashville drew 515,482 to lead Class AA in 1979, the first of 4 straight years the Sounds topped 500,000. Memphis and El Paso were the only other Class AA teams to reach 200,000. 25 of the 30 Class AA teams topped 200,000 in 2019. Just 2 of the 34 full-season Class A teams attracted more than 100,000 fans in 1979. West Palm Beach drew 125,213, and Greensboro's attendance was 165,596. In 2019, 47 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, and 15 short-season teams, drew more than 100,000. Greensboro's Class A leading total of 1979 was topped by 32 full-season Class A teams, and 3 short-season teams in 2019. Eugene drew 66,156 to lead the 32 short-season teams in 1979. 25 of the 40 short-season NAPBL teams drew more than that in 2019.

Major League 2019 total attendance was up 57.3% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 36.3%. Average per date was up 6,398 (29.2%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940. National League teams did not count 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2019 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2019 total NAPBL attendance was 315.7% higher, and average per team showed a 249.6% gain. Add independent teams to the 2019 figures, and the total attendance growth is 372.7%, with average per team up 205.5%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 485.6%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 456.8% gain with 7 2019 teams each individually drawing better in 2019 than the entire league drew in 1969. The Northwest League's average per team grew by 448.7%, with 6 of the 8 teams in 2019 individually outdrawing the whole league's 1969 total.

The Eastern League's average per team was up 389.5%. The Carolina League had a gain of 323.3%, and the Southern League had a 303.4% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, New York-Penn, Pioneer, and California Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 101.3%, the Appalachian League, up 137.1%, and the Mexican League, up 17.0%, were the only leagues whose 2019 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 232.9% from the 1969 average of 135,181, which was the lowest Class AAA average per team since 1934.

In 1969, the Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance, drawing 428,548. Among U.S. based teams, Hawaii (Honolulu) was the top draw, with a total of 280,477. In 2019, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 64 NAPBL teams, and by 5 independent league teams. Honolulu no longer has a team. Rochester (267,987) had the top 1969 attendance among U.S. mainland teams.

Only 5 teams below the 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. 49 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 23 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2019. Salt Lake City drew 76,789 in 1969 to lead all short-season teams. 6 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 151.5% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 101.2%. The 2019 MLB average per date was 28,338, up 12,980 (84.5%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2019 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Dayton of the Midwest League drew 545,108 in 2019. In 1979, the Midwest League's total attendance was 485,915, and in 1969, that league drew 367,420.)

Eastern League - Reading, Richmond, Hartford (1969)

Southern League - Birmingham (1969)

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

South Atlantic Lea. - Greensboro, Augusta, Charleston SC, Columbia SC, Lakewood, Greenville, Lexington (1969)

Northwest League - Vancouver (1979 & 1969), Spokane, Boise, Everett, Eugene, Hillsboro (1969)

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 2009

League	2019			2009			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 2009
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	32,239,466	14	2,302,819	(11.4)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>41,128,193</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,570,512</u>	<u>(1.7)</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	73,367,659	30	2,445,589	(6.6)
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.						
	6,445,838	14	460,417	7,017,469	14	501,248	(8.1)
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>7,133,386</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>445,837</u>	<u>(1.1)</u>
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	14,150,855	30	471,695	(4.6)
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	3,079,774	16	192,486	50.0
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	3,694,397	12	307,866	1.5
	2,242,303	10	224,230	2,284,201	10	228,420	(1.8)
	2,791,180	8	348,898	2,964,170	8	370,521	(5.8)
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	1,721,279	10	172,128	(7.0)
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,586,588	8	198,324	1.8
	935,187	12	77,932	1,117,363	12	93,114	(16.3)
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	3,629,038	14	259,217	(7.8)
	2,978,718	14	212,766	3,690,958	16	230,685	(7.8)
	1,316,873	14	94,062	1,786,735	14	127,624	(26.3)
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	907,094	8	113,387	23.0
	411,189	10	41,119	310,124	10	31,012	32.6
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	<u>721,942</u>	<u>8</u>	90,243	(0.1)
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	41,644,518	176	236,617	(0.3)
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	7,965,185	61	130,577	(17.8)
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	49,609,703	237	209,324	(1.5)

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1999

League	2019			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	(10.3)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>5.5</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	(2.3)
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			
	6,445,838	14	460,417	6,437,251	14	459,804	0.1
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	25.8
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	12,044,250	30	401,475	12.1
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	2,875,289	16	179,706	60.6
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	3,868,732	12	322,394	(3.1)
	2,242,303	10	224,230	2,332,712	10	233,271	(3.9)
	2,791,180	8	348,898	1,787,915	8	223,489	56.1
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	1,675,245	10	167,525	(4.4)
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,652,256	8	206,532	(2.3)
	935,187	12	77,932	941,861	14	67,276	15.8
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	2,774,427	14	198,173	20.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	2,049,461	14	146,390	45.3
	1,316,873	14	94,062	1,371,054	14	97,932	(4.0)
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	1,021,390	8	127,674	9.2
	411,189	10	41,119	330,517	10	33,052	24.4
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	56,795	58.7
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	35,179,471	176	199,883	18.0
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	4,871,797	44	110,723	(3.0)
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	40,051,268	220	182,051	13.2

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1989

League	2019			1989			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1989
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	(4.3)
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>19.7</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	7.6
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			3,667,142	8	458,393	
	6,445,838	14	460,417	2,613,247	8	326,656	40.9
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	72.6
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	8,834,806	26	339,800	32.4
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	1,975,723	14	141,123	104.5
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	1,272,812	8	159,102	96.4
	2,242,303	10	224,230	1,687,844	10	168,784	32.9
	2,791,180	8	348,898	1,511,610	8	188,951	84.6
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	933,883	10	93,388	71.4
	2,018,496	10	201,850	1,006,738	8	125,842	60.4
	935,187	12	77,932	957,344	14	68,382	14.0
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	1,716,443	14	122,603	95.0
	2,978,718	14	212,766	1,060,964	12	88,414	140.6
	1,316,873	14	94,062	714,561	14	51,040	84.3
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	636,187	8	79,523	75.4
	411,189	10	41,119	311,510	10	31,151	32.0
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	60,396	49.3
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	23,103,593	164	140,876	67.4
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	23,103,593	164	140,876	46.3

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1979

League	2019			1979			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1979
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	27.6
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>43.2</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	36.3
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
	6,445,838	14	460,417	1,616,151	8	202,019	127.9
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	<u>150.3</u>
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	4,674,378	26	179,784	150.3
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	4,591,286	20	229,564	25.7
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	436,040	6	72,673	329.9
	2,242,303	10	224,230	1,482,437	10	148,244	51.3
	2,791,180	8	348,898	826,207	8	103,276	237.8
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	504,487	10	50,449	217.4
	2,018,496	10	201,850	282,371	6	47,062	328.9
	935,187	12	77,932	722,258	10	72,226	7.9
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	485,915	8	60,739	293.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	347,237	6	57,873	267.6
	1,316,873	14	94,062	298,538	10	29,854	215.1
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	213,163	8	26,645	423.4
	411,189	10	41,119	128,735	6	21,456	91.6
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>90,159</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	<u>164.6</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	15,265,633	142	107,504	119.4
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	15,265,633	142	107,504	91.7

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

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

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2019 vs. 1969

League	2019			1969			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2019 vs. 1969
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	30,591,020	15	2,039,401	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	101.7
	<u>37,902,073</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,526,805</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>100.9</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	68,493,093	30	2,283,103	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	101.2
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
	6,445,838	14	460,417	1,035,457	8	129,432	255.7
	<u>7,054,538</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>440,909</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	234.0
Class AAA Total	13,500,376	30	450,013	2,973,992	22	135,181	232.9
Mexican	4,618,131	16	288,633	1,973,825	8	246,728	17.0
Eastern Southern Texas	3,749,124	12	312,427	382,933	6	63,822	389.5
	2,242,303	10	224,230	333,516	6	55,586	303.4
	2,791,180	8	348,898	828,268	8	103,534	237.0
California Carolina Florida State	1,280,811	8	160,101	369,217	8	46,152	246.9
	2,018,496	10	201,850	476,856	10	47,686	323.3
	935,187	12	77,932	464,662	12	38,722	101.3
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	3,824,807	16	239,050	367,420	9	40,824	485.6
	2,978,718	14	212,766	229,290	6	38,215	456.8
	1,316,873	14	94,062	190,519	8	23,815	295.0
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,115,614	8	139,452	101,658	4	25,415	448.7
	411,189	10	41,119	138,763	8	17,345	137.1
	<u>721,268</u>	<u>8</u>	90,159	180,625	7	25,804	249.4
Northern Mexican Center Mexican Northern Mexican So. East	-----	-----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
	-----	-----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
	-----	-----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
	-----	-----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	56,950	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	41,504,077	176	235,819	9,984,263	148	67,461	249.6
Independent Lgs.	5,690,513	53	107,368	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	47,194,590	229	206,090	9,984,263	148	67,461	205.5

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

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games. The United Shore League is shown as one team.

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

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor League Baseball attendance grew at a faster pace than any other United States-based major professional team sport when comparing 2019 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 (MLB-affiliated only – does not include 2019 independent leagues, but does include the Mexican and Pioneer Leagues, which became independent leagues in 2021) growth in attendance vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 with attendance growth for Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. In addition, the comparison with 2009 and 1999 includes the Women's National Basketball Association, Minor League Hockey, and Major League Soccer. 1996 was the first season for Major League Soccer, and the WNBA began play in 1997. For the NBA and NHL, the comparisons are with the 2009-10, 1999-2000, 1989-90, 1979-80, and 1969-70 seasons. Minor League hockey data is for 2009-10 and 1999-2000. The most recent NFL attendance total is for 2018.

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

SOURCES: – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2020 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

2019 or 2018-19 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2019)

	2019 or 2018-19 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team
NAPBL Minor League Baseball	41,504,077	176	235,819
Major League Baseball	68,493,093	30	2,283,103
National Football League (2019)	16,382,231	32	511,945
National Basketball Association	21,964,447	30	732,148
National Hockey League	22,186,851	31	715,705
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,333,093	12	111,091
Major League Soccer	8,702,674	24	362,611
Minor League Hockey	12,259,292	80	153,241

Major League Soccer had the best growth rate in terms of average attendance per team when comparing 2019 with 2009, followed by the NBA and Minor League Hockey.

2019 (NFL 2019) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 2009 (2009-2010 NBA, NHL, MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY)

	1999 or 1999-2000 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 2009 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 2009 in Avg. /Team
NAPBL Minors	41,644,518	176	236,617	(0.3)	(0.3)
MLB	73,367,659	30	2,445,589	(6.6)	(6.6)
NFL	16,651,126	32	520,348	(1.6)	(1.6)
NBA	21,112,728	30	703,758	4.0	4.0
NHL	20,996,455	30	699,882	5.7	2.3
WNBA	1,773,321	13	136,409	(24.8)	(18.6)
MLS	3,609,048	15	240,603	141.1	50.7
Minors Hockey	12,598,841	85	148,222	(2.7)	3.4

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2019 attendance with 1999.

2019 (NFL 2019) 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. - 2019 vs. 1999 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1999 in Avg. /Team
NAPBL Minors	35,179,471	176	199,883	18.0	18.0
MLB	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	(2.3)	(2.3)
NFL	16,206,640	31	522,795	1.1	(2.1)
NBA	20,058,513	29	691,673	9.5	5.9
NHL	18,800,139	28	671,434	18.0	6.3
WNBA	1,956,281	12	163,023	(31.9)	(31.9)
MLS	2,742,102	12	228,509	217.4	58.7
Minors Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(37.9)	(15.4)

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 2019 with 1989. The National Hockey League's total attendance grew at nearly the same pace as Minor League Baseball's due to the addition of 10 teams since the 1989-1990 season. Attendance for hockey minor leagues is not available for 1989-90, 1979-80, or 1969-70. Note that for Major League Baseball, the National League didn't count 'no-shows' in its official attendance until 1993.

2019 (NFL 2019) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1989 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1989 in Avg. /Team
NAPBL Minors	23,103,593	164	140,876	79.6	67.4
MLB	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	24.1	7.6
NFL	13,625,662	28	486,631	20.2	5.2
NBA	17,368,659	27	643,284	26.5	13.8
NHL	12,579,651	21	599,031	76.4	19.5

Growth in average attendance per team for Minor League Baseball increased at a pace that was about, or more than, twice as fast as the other sports leagues when comparing 2019 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 171.9%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2019 (NFL 2019) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1979 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1979 in Avg. /Team
NAPBL Minors	15,265,633	142	107,504	171.9	119.4
MLB	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	57.3	36.3
NFL	13,182,039	28	470,787	24.3	8.7
NBA	9,937,575	22	451,708	121.0	62.1
NHL	10,533,623	21	501,601	110.6	42.7

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2019 vs. 2009, 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

1969 was the final year that the American Football League and the National Football League played separately. Those leagues fully merged in 1970. The 1969 football attendance figures in the table below are for combined AFL and NFL attendance. The AFL had 10 teams in 1969, and drew 2,843,373, an average of 284,337 per team. The NFL had 16 teams and drew 6,096,127, averaging 381,008 per team. Both the AFL and NFL played 14-game schedules in 1969, compared to a 16-game schedule from 1978 through 2020, and a 17-game schedule beginning in 2021.

The basketball line below is for combined NBA and ABA attendance. The American Basketball Association was in its 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 406.0% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 136.1%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2019 (NFL 2019) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

	1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1969 in Total Attend.	% Chg. - 2019 vs. 1969 in Avg. /Team
NAPBL Minors	9,984,263	148	67,461	315.7	249.6
MLB	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	151.5	101.2
AFL/NFL	8,939,500	26	343,827	83.3	48.9
NBA/ABA	6,094,015	25	243,761	260.4	200.3
NHL	5,992,065	12	499,339	270.3	43.3

NEW BALLPARKS

New ballparks have been a major factor in the growth of Minor League attendance. According to team websites, ballparkdigest.com, and baseballparks.com, 106 of the 119 MLB-affiliated parks in use in 2022, opened from 1988 to 2022. 87 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 68 of them have opened since 2000, with 26 opening since 2010. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of Low-A Southeast share a ballpark.) 11 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 2 teams were built between 1970 and 1987. Many older parks have been totally refurbished, and bear little resemblance to their original structures.

Data is available about 75 ballparks of independent teams that operate in 2022. All teams in the United Shore League play in the same park, with the same true for the Mavericks League. Dos Laredos of the Mexican League uses a park in Mexico, and one in Texas. 51 of these parks opened since 1988, (45 since 1995, 36 since 2000, and 13 since 2010), and 18 were built prior to 1970, and 6 from 1970 to 1987. Overall, 157 of 194 Minor League ballparks in use in 2022 opened since 1988, with 132 of them opening since 1995, 104 opening since 2000, and 39 since 2010.

New parks were opened by: Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro in 2013; Charlotte, NC and El Paso in 2014; Nashville, Biloxi, Morgantown, and St. Paul in 2015; Columbia, SC in 2016; Hartford and Cleburne in 2017; Augusta and Rosemont, IL in 2018; Fayetteville NC, Las Vegas, Amarillo, High Point NC, Franklin WI, and Mexico City in 2019; Worcester, Fredericksburg VA, Wichita KS, Beloit, Kannapolis and Gastonia NC, and Rocket City (Madison, AL) in 2021; Lake Country (Oconomoc) Wisconsin, Glacier (Kalispell) Montana, and Northern Colorado (Windsor) in 2022.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE COMPARED TO MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY ATTENDANCE

Professional hockey has a system of minor leagues quite similar to that of baseball, with some minor league hockey teams being affiliated with teams in the National Hockey League. But while Minor League Baseball attendance has continued to grow in the first 20 years of the 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 2018-19 season, the number of teams was down to 80. There are 82 teams in the 2021-2022 season.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 37.9% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 12,259,292 in 2018-19, with 29 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 334 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,566 in 2018-19, a decline of 6.8%. The 2017-18 average of 4,581 was the best since 2001-02. National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2018-19 was 17,456, up 1,080 (6.6%) from the 1999-2000 average of 16,376. Due to shorter seasons, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 data is not relevant. (Sources: hockey minor league Web sites, nhl.com.)

The structure of minor league hockey has similarities with baseball. The American Hockey League is 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. Other leagues are the Southern Professional and Federal Hockey Leagues, and the semi-pro Ligue Nord-Américain. Many of the cities with minor league hockey also have Minor League Baseball.

In the 2018-19 season, the 31-team American Hockey League drew a 6,668,914 (5,799 per game) to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. Hershey had the best total attendance (338,452), averaging 8,907 for its 38 home games. (Hershey has never had a Minor League baseball team.) San Diego had the top average (9,021 – 34 home games). Some AHL teams play a shorter schedule than others. Cleveland drew an average of 8,901 per game. Ontario CA, Chicago, Providence, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), and Grand Rapids of the AHL also topped 7,000 per game. Minor League Baseball teams in the Allentown (Lehigh Valley IronPigs), Providence (Pawtucket Red Sox), and Grand Rapids (West Michigan Whitecaps) areas have also drawn very well. The AHL league record-highs are 6,693,526 in total attendance, and 5,982 in average per game, both in 2015-16.

In the lower levels of minor league hockey, the ECHL Fort Wayne Komets averaged 7,932 per game in 2018-19. This was the 17th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game. They've reached that figure 22 times in 28 seasons through 2019. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew 406,715 in 2014, 400,036 in 2015, record-highs of 413,701 (6,084 per date) in 2016, 409,253 in 2017, 376,422 in 2018, and 371,259 in 2019. Toledo (7,783) of the ECHL also averaged above 6,000 per game.

Bakersfield, now in the AHL, is one of minor league hockey's better draws. They averaged over 5,000 per game for 7 straight years through 2010-11, and again in 2015-16, 2016-17, and 2018-19. But the Blaze, that city's Minor League Baseball team, averaged just 572 per date in 2011, and 637 per date in 2012, the lowest average among all NAPBL teams. Attendance rose to 805 per date in 2013 and to 827 in 2014, fell to 740 in 2015, and increased to 899 in 2016. That team was moved to the Carolina League for 2017, and was replaced by a team in the Pecos League.

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

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

All Major League markets added from 1953 on had Minor League teams. Many were among the most successful teams in attendance in Minor League Baseball. Most of the Minor League teams that were replaced by Major League teams were in 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. It also shows attendance for each city's final Minor League season before the arrival of a Major League team. (Seattle drew 155,090 in 1968, its final AAA year.) 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, many of whom draw quite well.

Major League Team/Market	Year Joined Majors	Top Former Leading Minor League Team(s) in Market	Record-High Recorded Attendance	Year of Record High	Years of Available Attendance Data for That Team	Minor Lg. Final Year Attendance
Arizona (Phx.)	1998	Phoenix Firebirds	315,859	1994	1947-1997	209,698
Atlanta	1966	Atlanta Crackers	404,584	1947	1903, 1913, 1915-1965	151,614
Baltimore	1954	Baltimore Orioles	620,726	1946	1921-1953	207,182
Colorado	1993	Denver Bears	565,214	1980	1902-04, 13, 23-29, 47-92	347,615
Dallas-Ft. W.	1972	Dallas Eagles	404,851	1949	1922-1958	116,085
"		Fort Worth Cats	354,288	1948	1922-1959, 1964	93,574
"		Dallas-Ft. W. Spurs	329,294	1965	1960-1971	213,249
Houston	1962	Houston Buffalos	401,383	1948	1922-1961	120,104
Kansas City	1955	Kansas City Blues	425,064	1923	1903, 1908-1954	141,905
Los Angeles	1958	Los Angeles Angels	622,485	1947	1919-1957	220,547
"		Hollywood Stars	513,056	1946	1926-1957	198,012
"		Vernon Tigers	353,209	1924	1919-1925	252,069
Miami	1993	Miami Marlins	288,582	1956	1947-1991	56,557
"		Ft. Lauderdale Yanks	111,907	1992	1947-1993	28,240
"		Miami Bch Flamingos	90,682	1949	1947-1954	14,407
Milwaukee	1953, 70	Milwaukee Brewers	365,473	1927	1903-1952	195,839
Minnesota	1961	Minneapolis Millers	318,326	1956	1903-1960	115,702
"		St. Paul Saints	352,911	1949	1903-1960	119,926
Montreal	1969	Montreal Royals	477,638	1948	1928-1960	111,991
New York		Newark Bears	342,001	1932	1921-1949	88,170
"		Jersey City Giants	378,325	1939	1921-1950	63,191
San Diego	1969	San Diego Padres	493,780	1949	1936-1968	203,369
San Fran.-Oak.	1958	San Francisco Seals	670,563	1946	1919-1957	284,532
"		Oakland Oaks	634,311	1946	1919-1955	141,397
"		Mission Bears	299,670	1926	1926-1937	124,052
Seattle	1969, 77	Seattle Rainiers	548,308	1947	1919-1968, 1972-1976	16,294
Tampa Bay	1998	Tampa Yankees	149,191	1997	1928, 1947-Present	
"		St. Pete. Cardinals	202,283	1989	1947-2000	61,962
Toronto	1977	Toronto Maple Leafs	446,040	1952	1920-1967	94,308

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE DATA: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball

MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT OUTDREW MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS

In every season from 1902 through 1955, except the World War I-shortened 1918 season, at least one Minor League team had a higher total attendance than at least one Major League team in that season. In some seasons, over 30 Minor League teams drew better than a Major League team. As Major League attendance grew, this became far less common. From 1956 through 1978, no Major League team ever drew less than any Minor League team in one season. Since 1979, there have been 10 seasons where a Major League team was outdrawn by a Minor League team in a particular season, but none since the Montreal Expos drew less than Sacramento in 2004.

The following table lists the years and the Major League teams that were outdrawn by at least one Minor League team that season. Providing a total list of which Minor League clubs outdrew a Big League team is not doable since early 20th Century attendance for many Minor League teams is not available. Very few teams listed attendance in the early years. Note that for a long time, the Pacific Coast League played a longer schedule than the Major Leagues did. Many of the Minor League cities that outdrew Major League teams in the first half of the 20th Century eventually were awarded Major League teams of their own.

Source for this data is the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, Third Edition, edited by Lloyd Johnson and Miles Wolff, and published by Baseball America in 2007. Special thanks to Mitchell Manoff of the Society of American Baseball Research for asking the question that resulted in this research.

Year	Major League Teams that had Lower Total Attendance than Some Minor League teams	Notes and Number of Major League Teams that were Outdrawn by These Minor League Teams
1902	Wash, Det, Balt, Pit, Bost (N), Cin, Bkn, StL(N), Phi(N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1903	NY(A), Det, Chi(A), Wash, Bkn, Bost(N), StL(N), Phi (N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1904	Detroit, Washington, Brooklyn, Boston (N), Phila. (A)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1905	Detroit, Washington, Brooklyn, Boston (N)	Topped by Columbus(4), Buffalo(3), Milwaukee(1)
1906	Detroit, Washington, Boston (N)	All outdrawn by Buffalo
1907	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Outdrawn by Buffalo
1908	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Both outdrawn by Indianapolis
1909	Washington, Boston (N)	Milwaukee, Indy, Minneapolis(2), Louisville (1)
1910	Washington, St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Brooklyn	Rochester (4), Buffalo (1)
1911	Washington, St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Kansas City (3), Indy (2), Buffalo (2), Minneapolis (2)
1912	St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Boston outdrawn by 6 teams, St. Louis by Buffalo
1913	Boston (N), St. Louis (N)	Both by Milwaukee and Buffalo
1914	Cleveland, Brooklyn, Philadelphia (N), Pittsburgh, Cinci.	Louisville (5), Milwaukee (4), Columbus (4)
1915	Washington, St. Louis (A), Cleveland, Philadelphia (A)	Buffalo (5), Memphis (5), Minneapolis (1)
1916	Washington, Philadelphia (A), Cincinnati, St. Louis (N)	Buffalo (4)
1917	Washington	Outdrawn by 10 Minor League teams
1918	Shorter season due to World War I	Limited attendance listed
1919	St.L(A), Wash., Phila.(A), Bos(N), St.L(N), Phi.(N), Pitt.	San Francisco (7), 5 others top at least 1 MLB team
1920	Washington, Phi (A), St. Louis (N), Boston (N), Phi. (N)	San Francisco(5), 15 others top at least 1 MLB team
1921	Boston (A), Phil. (A), Boston (N), Phil.(N), St.L (N), Cin.	San Francisco (6), 4 others top at least 1 MLB team
1922	Phila. (A), Boston (A), Phila. (N), Boston (N)	San Francisco(4), 11 others top at least 1 MLB team
1923	Wash., Boston (A), St. Louis (N), Boston (N), Phila. (N)	Kansas City (5), 6 others top at least 1 MLB team
1924	Boston (A), St. Louis (N), Philadelphia (N), Boston (N)	San Francisco(4), 16 others top at least 1 MLB team
1925	Boston (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	San Francisco (3), Los Angeles (1), Atlanta (1)
1926	St. Louis (A), Boston (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	San Francisco (4), Milwaukee (4), 5 others top 1
1927	St. Louis (A), Boston (A), Boston (N), Phila. (N), Cleve.	San Francisco (5), 7 others top at least 1 MLB team
1928	St.L(A), Wash., Cleveland, Bost.(A), Phila.(N), Bost.(N)	San Francisco (6), 17 others top at least 1 MLB
1929	St. Louis (A), Washington, Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	San Francisco (4), Rochester, Hollywood, Los Angeles

MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT OUTDREW MAJOR LEAGUE TEAMS

Year	Major League Teams that had Lower Total Attendance than Some Minor League teams	Notes and Number of Major League Teams that were Outdrawn by These Minor League Teams
1930	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	Rochester, Los Angeles (2), 16 others (1)
1931	St. Louis (A), Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, Philadelphia (N)	Newark, Rochester, Hollywood (4), 7 others (1)
1932	St.L(A), Chi. (A), Bos. (A), Pittsburgh, Phila. (N), St.L(N)	Newark, Columbus (6), 13 others top 1 MLB team
1933	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	Buffalo, Los Angeles (3), 18 others top 1 MLB team
1934	St. Louis (A), Chicago (A), Philadelphia (N), Cincinnati	Buffalo (3), Dallas (2), 13 others top St. Louis
1935	Washington, St. Louis (A), Phila. (A), Bos. (N), Phila (N)	Atlanta (5), Seattle, Montreal (4), 27 others top St.L.
1936	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A), Philadelphia (N)	Atlanta (3), Buffalo, Seattle (2), 28 others top St. L.
1937	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	9 teams top both teams, 18 others top St. Louis
1938	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N), St. Louis (N)	Seattle (3), 13 others top 2, 8 others top St.Louis (A)
1939	Washington, St. L. (A), Pittsburgh, Boston (N), Phi. (N)	Jersey City (5), Seattle (4), 32 others top St. Louis
1940	St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	Seattle (3), Jersey City, San Francisco, Scranton (2)
1941	St. Louis (A), Boston (N), Philadelphia (N)	Seattle, Louisville (3), 8 others top St. Louis (A)
1942	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (N)	Los Angeles (2), Seattle (1)
1943	St. Louis (A), Boston (N)	Milwaukee (2), Indianapolis, Los Angeles (1)
1944	Boston (N)	Topped by 10 teams
1945	Boston (N), Cincinnati, Philadelphia (N)	Portland, Seattle, San Francisco (3), 7 others top at least one team
1946	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	San Francisco, Oakland (3), Baltimore (2),
1947	St. Louis (A)	19 teams including all 8 in the Pacific Coast League
1948	St. Louis (A)	14 teams, including 7 of 8 teams in the PCL
1949	St. Louis (A)	19 teams, including all 8 PCL teams
1950	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	14 top Philadelphia, 17 top St. Louis
1951	St. Louis (A)	Montreal, Toronto, Seattle, Los Angeles, Houston, Portland, OR, Denver, Birmingham
1952	Boston (N)	Hollywood, Seattle, Portland OR, San Diego, Los Angeles, Montreal, Toronto, Denver
1953	St. Louis (A), Philadelphia (A)	Los Angeles, Toronto (2), Toledo, Denver (1)
1954	Philadelphia (A)	Toronto, Atlanta, Houston
1955	Washington	Denver
1979	Oakland	Denver, Columbus, Tabasco, Mexico City Diablos Rojos, Yucatan, Nashville
1983	Cleveland, Minnesota, Seattle	Louisville
1984	Cleveland, Pittsburgh	Louisville
1988	Chicago (A), Seattle, Atlanta	Buffalo
1989	Chicago (A), Atlanta	Buffalo
1990	Atlanta	Buffalo
1991	Cleveland, Montreal	Buffalo
2001	Montreal	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock
2002	Montreal, Florida	Sacramento
2004	Montreal	Sacramento

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

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

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

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

The old classification system of Class B, C, and D leagues was still in use in 1949, 1961, and 1962. In 1963, most surviving leagues from those classifications became full-season Class A, short-season Class A, and Rookie Leagues. There were no short-season leagues in 1949. The Pacific Coast League played a 188 game schedule, and other 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 70 years ago. In 1950, the Brooklyn Dodgers had 22 Minor League teams, while the St. Louis Cardinals had 21. The Giants, Yankees, Athletics, Indians, and Cubs each had at least 15 affiliates. Today, most Major League teams have from 5 to 8 Minor League affiliates.

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

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

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

There were other leagues that were not part of 'Organized' baseball in 1949, and whose statistics were not reported in The Sporting News Guide. What were called the 'Negro Leagues' were still in operation, just two years after Jackie Robinson and Larry Doby integrated the Major Leagues. Limited attendance data for the Negro Leagues can be found on Retrosheet.org, and appears in the Number Tamer 2019 and 2021 Major League Baseball Attendance Analyses. Some of those teams drew well until the late 1940's. They featured many 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 (NAPBL) until 1955. Attendance figures from that league are also not available.

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

In 1949, there were 448 teams in the 59 leagues that compiled attendance. 47 of those leagues had 8 teams, and the other 12 leagues had 6 teams each. In 2019, there were 15 NAPBL leagues that charged admission to their games. Those leagues had 176 teams. The Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Midwest Leagues had 16 teams each. 8 independent leagues operated, and 56 of their teams reported 2019 attendance. Among the 1949 leagues still operating in 2019 was the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, now named the New York-Penn League. In 2021 and 2022, there are 120 MLB-affiliated teams in the 11 leagues that charged admission. 95 independent teams, counting all 'road' teams, and all teams in the United Shore and Mavericks Leagues, in 9 leagues are operating in 2022.

The Pacific Coast League, then thought to be almost as good as the Majors, had the highest attendance in the Minors. In 1949, the 8 team league, with a 188 game schedule, drew 3,751,929, an average of 468,991 per team. This average per team compares with the 440,909 per team that the 16-team P.C.L. averaged in 2019, when it played a 140-game schedule. 6 of the 8 teams in the league in 1949 played in markets that later joined the Major Leagues.

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

The other 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 450,013 average in **2019**.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In **2019**, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 292,754 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 **2019**, there were 27 NAPBL teams that topped 400,000. An additional 33 NAPBL and 4 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in **2019**.

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. Many Minor League cities were simply too small to support a team in the long run. In 1954, total Minor League attendance was 18,674,503, which was less than half of the 1949 total. 7 years later, that 1954 total was cut in half. By the early 1960's, more than two thirds of the cities that hosted a Minor League team in 1949 no longer had one.

1949 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	2,004,270	8	250,534	Indianapolis	413,973	Toledo	108,712
International	2,322,801	8	290,350	Montreal	473,798	Newark, NJ	88,170
Pacific Coast	3,751,929	8	468,991	Seattle	545,434	Portland, OR	378,892
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 had topped 500,000 for 32 straight years through **2019**.

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 used through 2019. 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.

The next reorganization was in 2021, when short-season leagues were eliminated. There are now 2 Triple-A Leagues, and 3 leagues each in Double-A, High-Class A, and Low-Class A. The Mexican and Pioneer Leagues still maintain a partnership with Major League Baseball, but are now independent pro leagues.

1961 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	788,704	6	131,451	Indianapolis	179,423	Dallas-Ft. Wor.	105,933
International	1,244,631	8	155,579	Buffalo	259,724	Jersey City	61,940
Pacific Coast	1,349,810	8	168,726	Tacoma	243,790	Salt Lake City	106,454
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. 2019 total attendance was 68,493,093, average 28,338 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).
 2019 NFL attendance was 16,382,231, an average of 63,993 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2018-19 attendance was 21,964,447, an average of 17,857 per game.

NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2018-19 attendance was 22,186,851, an average of 17,456 per game.

JUST HOW LOW DID IT GO?

This is another version of the table on page 233, showing Minor League attendance in markets that later joined the Major Leagues. This table shows just how fast attendance fell in these markets after the post-World War II boom. It lists the highest 1946-1952 attendance, and then the lowest attendance in subsequent seasons. Television was a main reason for the attendance decline, as was the fact that too many cities that couldn't support a team had one.

Newark and Jersey City never had Major League teams, but are included here since they are in the New York metropolitan area.

Some of the markets in this table currently have Minor League teams.

Major League Team/Market	Year Joined Majors	Top Former Leading Minor League Team(s) in Market	1946-1952 High Attendance	Year	Post-1952 Low Attendance	Year
Arizona (Phoenix)	1998	Phoenix Firebirds	126,347	1949	49,270	1953
Atlanta	1966	Atlanta Crackers	404,584	1947	59,061	1961
Baltimore	1954	Baltimore Orioles	620,726	1946	153,828	1952
Colorado (Denver)	1993	Denver Bears	463,039	1949	112,118	1963
Dallas-Ft. Worth	1972	Dallas Eagles	404,851	1949	116,085	1958
"		Fort Worth Cats	354,288	1948	75,188	1957
Houston	1962	Houston Buffalos	401,383	1948	118,584	1961
Kansas City	1955	Kansas City Blues	379,063	1947	141,905	1954
Los Angeles	1958	Los Angeles Angels	622,485	1947	220,547	1957
"		Hollywood Stars	513,056	1946	165,517	1956
Miami	1993	Miami Marlins	170,466	1949	67,572	1953
"		Ft. Lauderdale	66,544	1949	28,222	1963
Milwaukee	1953, 70	Milwaukee Brewers	364,510	1948	145,868	1950
Minnesota	1961	Minneapolis Millers	274,890	1948	120,185	1952
"		St. Paul Saints	352,911	1949	102,004	1956
Montreal	1969	Montreal Royals	477,638	1948	111,991	1960
New York		Newark Bears	264,758	1946	88,170	1949
"		Jersey City Giants	337,531	1947	63,191	1950
San Diego	1969	San Diego Padres	493,780	1949	120,848	1960
San Francisco-Oakland	1958	San Francisco Seals	670,563	1946	161,570	1955
"		Oakland Oaks	634,311	1946	135,784	1953
Seattle	1969, 77	Seattle Rainiers	548,308	1947	130,862	1967
Tampa Bay	1998	Tampa Yankees	130,242	1947	29,938	1963
"		St. Pete. Cardinals	139,464	1951	30,759	1954
Toronto	1977	Toronto Maple Leafs	446,040	1952	94,308	1967

A RESURGENCE IN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

With low attendance, and many rundown ballparks in the early 1960's, it was thought that much of Minor League Baseball would soon be gone. The 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.

In the late-1970's, Minor League attendance began a steady increase. Part of it was that more teams were needed due to Major League expansion. Then, starting in the late-1980's, better marketing, and new ballparks led to the attendance boom that continues today. Independent leagues started play in 1993, adding to the number of teams.

Even the availability of more Major League games than ever on television and other devices, in high-definition color, for that matter, has not stopped the growth of Minor League Baseball. In **2019**, total attendance was around 5 times what it was in the 1960's, and NAPBL attendance per team was up better than 3-fold. For what was once seen as a dying industry, Minor League Baseball is quite healthy today, with a very bright future.

The table that starts below, and continues on the next page shows the attendance decline and resurgence in cities that had Minor League teams in the late 1940's, and still had full-season NAPBL Minor League teams in the 1990's and later. It does not include 2019 short-season or independent team markets, except for Spokane, Lancaster and York, since they play a shorter schedule than all teams played prior to the late 1950's.

The table lists the highest attendance for each city in the decade or so from 1946 forward. Nearly all of those highs were set from 1946 through 1949. It then shows each city's lowest post-1945 yearly attendance. This excludes 2021. In most cases, that took place in the 1950's and 1960's. The last columns list the highest attendance achieved in that city. Many of these cities lost their Minor League teams in the 1950's or 1960's, only to regain them later. This list only includes cities that had teams in the late 1940's and/or the early 1950's.

This table shows the incredible decline in attendance that took place in the 1950's as television was adopted in almost all homes. Then it depicts the boom in attendance that took place starting in the 1980's.

GROWTH, DECLINCE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year		Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year		Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
Orlando	61,509	1948		13,554	1961		217,716	1993
Sacramento	447,556	1949		82,324	1976		901,214	2001
Charlotte	122,211	1948		30,769	1972		687,715	2014
Raleigh (Carolina in 1993)	150,110	1947		25,562	1966		328,207	1993
Durham	152,095	1947		24,210	1967		554,788	2015
Portland, OR	421,137	1947		87,438	1963		454,197	2002
Indianapolis	494,455	1948		117,415	1972		662,536	2015
Nashville	269,893	1948		54,564	1963		603,135	2018
Hartford-New Britain	140,249	1946		36,281	1952		414,946	2019
San Antonio	295,103	1946		38,024	1969		411,959	1994
Columbus, OH	216,388	1948		78,132	1952		666,797	2009
Salt Lake City	205,861	1946		56,883	1974		713,224	1994
Greenville, SC	130,205	1947		11,481	1972		349,116	2008
West Palm Beach	81,132	1949		16,437	1966		165,656	1981
Austin (Round Rock)	188,193	1949		41,057	1962		700,277	2005
Las Vegas	61,050	1949		23,845	1958		650,934	2019
Oklahoma City	244,835	1947		46,752	1975		542,095	2005
Norfolk (Tidewater area)	140,553	1949		30,000	1955		560,211	1995
Reading, PA	106,368	1953		40,594	1965		486,570	2002
Harrisburg, PA	89,197	1947		30,592	1952		301,588	2015
Lancaster, PA (Indy now)	85,796	1949		41,913	1952		378,310	2005
York, PA (Indy now)	126,679	1948		27,826	1967		293,967	2008

GROWTH, DECLINCE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year	Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year	Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
Grand Rapids (W. Michigan)	62,982	1949	21,230	1951	547,401	1996
Birmingham	445,926	1948	28,001	1965	467,867	1994
Greensboro	171,801	1946	26,465	1968	441,106	2007
Winston-Salem	233,507	1947	30,235	1973	312,416	2011
Jacksonville, FL	142,721	1953	25,156	1961	420,495	2004
Albuquerque	116,930	1948	44,526	1960	602,129	2009
Amarillo	132,128	1955	45,691	1974	427,791	2019
Louisville	355,241	1946	70,550	1962	1,052,438	1983
New Orleans (until 2021)	400,036	1947	50,369	1958	519,584	1998
Memphis	361,174	1948	48,487	1960	887,976	2001
Pawtucket (until 2021)	92,787	1947	61,401	1967	688,421	2005
Buffalo	393,843	1949	96,236	1950	1,188,972	1991
Fresno	145,946	1949	22,362	1965	563,079	2002
Richmond, VA	258,661	1957	31,232	1961	533,076	1993
Scranton (Scr.-Wilkes Barre)	181,302	1946	62,266	1953	580,908	2007
Wilkes Barre, PA	131,529	1946	55,184	1948	X	X
Little Rock	225,780	1951	51,514	1955	377,977	2008
Tulsa	223,569	1948	46,098	1978	408,183	2010
Albany, NY (Indy. now)	210,804	1948	43,385	1958	324,003	1985
Mobile	237,322	1947	35,775	1970	332,639	1997
Pensacola	117,696	1947	24,301	1960	328,147	2012
Knoxville	150,396	1950	21,390	1967	313,796	2017
Dayton	157,837	1948	45,849	1950	597,433	2010
Des Moines	232,038	1948	33,337	1961	576,310	2007
Spokane (Short-Sea. until 2021)	287,185	1947	17,940	1954	200,273	2019
Omaha	316,012	1955	109,851	1962	449,753	1997
Rochester, NY	443,536	1949	106,209	1966	515,436	1998
Columbia, SC	110,853	1948	25,998	1961	315,034	2017
Toledo	343,672	1953	86,428	1970	590,159	2007
Portland, ME	117,606	1948	75,083	1947	434,684	2004
Syracuse	288,141	1947	53,431	1956	446,025	1999
Colorado Springs (Indy. now)	170,041	1952	45,184	1957	350,374	2014
El Paso	107,778	1949	37,337	1970	578,952	2015
Allentown, PA (Lehigh Valley)	102,471	1948	47,795	1958	645,905	2010
Reno	56,702	1957	15,178	1964	466,606	2009
Tacoma	113,783	1947	42,463	1951	378,518	2011
Chattanooga	252,703	1952	25,767	1965	292,920	1994
Montgomery, AL	145,458	1947	20,617	1962	322,946	2004
Corpus Christi	112,625	1956	53,489	1953	506,398	2006
Midland, TX	77,601	1956	17,106	1959	317,233	2013
Wilmington, DE	123,491	1947	24,526	1952	358,766	1995
Charleston, SC	184,851	1947	19,536	1978	305,622	2017
San Jose	113,858	1949	23,845	1958	222,547	2011
Quad Cities	133,505	1949	53,213	1967	260,471	1994
Binghamton, NY	182,778	1949	47,465	1963	259,183	1992

A FEW QUICK NOTES ON NCAA COLLEGE BASEBALL**NCAA DIVISION I COLLEGE BASEBALL**

Just like Major League and Minor League Baseball, NCAA College Baseball was adversely affected by Covid in **2021**, with reduced capacity, and lower attendance for most teams. Ole Miss led in attendance in 2021, drawing 303,859, and averaged 7,596 per date. They were followed by Arkansas (264,643, 6,964 per date), Mississippi State (235,207, 6,031 per date), LSU (144,982, 3,815 per date), and Texas Tech (119,916, 3,527 per date).

The top 10 teams in **2021** attendance drew a combined 1,504,011, averaging 4,087 per date. The 20 teams with the highest attendance, drew 2,021,596, and averaged 2,947 per date.

When the **2020** season was halted in the middle of March, LSU had the top average per date (10,296), followed by Arkansas (8,953), Mississippi State (8,732), and Ole Miss (8,652).

The top 50 teams in **2019** attendance were listed in the 2020 NCAA Record Book. Those 50 teams drew 5,348,581 in 1,544 dates, averaging 3,464 per date. LSU drew 425,377 (10,634 per date) to lead the NCAA. Through 2019, LSU led the NCAA in total baseball attendance for 24 straight years (since 1996), and in average per date each year since 1996, except for 2007, when Arkansas was the leader. LSU averaged better than 10,000 per date each season from 2010 through 2019. In 2019 college football attendance, LSU had the 6th highest total (705,892), and the 5th best average per game (100,842).

Most of the usual college attendance leaders finished in the Top 10 in **2019** total attendance: LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Ole Miss, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas, and Clemson. They were joined by Louisiana and Texas Tech in 2019. All these teams except Texas Tech also finished in the Top 10 in average per date. Nebraska was in the Top 10 in average per date, but not in the Top 10 in total attendance.

The SEC continues to be the baseball attendance leader among college conferences. In 2019, the SEC drew 2,554,427 (5,213 per date) topping 2 million in attendance for the 9th straight year. This figure probably includes post-season games. The SEC has led the NCAA in total attendance and average per date for the last 19 seasons, and 24 times in the last 30 years. Attendance by SEC teams has surpassed one million for 16 years in a row. The record-high regular season total attendance for SEC teams is 2,319,937 in 2014.

In 2018, the top 50 teams drew 5,333,906 in 1,560 dates, an average of 3,419 per date. LSU led in total attendance (399,085), and average per date (10,786).

The top 50 teams in total attendance in 2017 drew 5,534,376 in 1,599 dates, an average of 3,461 per date. LSU was the leader in both categories in 2017, drawing 418,291, an average of 10,725 per date.

In 2016, the Top 50 teams in total attendance drew 5,511,902 in 1,611 dates, an average of 3,421 per date. LSU had the highest total attendance (433,783) and average per date (10,580).

For the 2015 season, the NCAA listed attendance for 301 teams. Total attendance was 7,495,301. The top 50 teams in attendance drew a combined 5,022,496. Louisiana State University led in total attendance (421,771), and average per date (10,815).

For 2014, the NCAA listed the top 50 teams in attendance, but did not provide a total for all teams. These top 50 teams drew a total of 5,206,928, an average of 3,285 per date. LSU averaged 10,812 per date.

In 2013, LSU drew 413,638 for the regular season, averaging an NCAA record-high 10,885 per date. That broke the NCAA regular season average per date of 10,673, set by LSU in 2010. If post-season play is included, LSU's total attendance was a record-high 473,298, and a record-high average per date of 11,007.

A FEW QUICK NOTES ON NCAA COLLEGE BASEBALL**THE COLLEGE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES**

The College World Series is played every year in Omaha. Through 2010, it was played at Rosenblatt Stadium, which was also home to the Omaha team in the Pacific Coast League. Separate new ballparks opened in 2011. The larger park is in Omaha, and is used for the College World Series. The smaller park is located in the suburbs, and is the home of the Omaha Storm Chasers.

In 2015, total attendance for the 16 different World Series game sessions was a then-record-high 353,378, averaging 22,086 per session, some of which can be double-headers. Record-high for one session is 30,533 in 2008. **The record-high average per session is 24,392 in 2013.**

The 2016 College Baseball World Series drew 341,667 with 17 sessions, an average of 20,098 per session. Coastal Carolina was the winner.

In 2017, a new record-high total attendance was set as the 16 sessions of the College World Series drew 357,646, an average of 22,352 per session. Florida was the 2017 champion.

Oregon State won the College World Series in 2018, which drew 333,482 in 16 sessions, averaging 20,843 per session.

Vanderbilt was the College World Series champion in 2019. Attendance was 332,454 in 15 sessions, an average of 22,164 per session. There was no College World Series in 2020.

Another record-high was set in 2021, as Mississippi State won the championship. The 16 sessions drew 361,711, an average of 22,607 per session. The final game drew 24,052.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES

In addition to NCAA play in the spring, there are numerous summer college baseball leagues. These leagues are not affiliated with any school or athletic conference. Their players are amateurs, but these leagues operate in a similar way to the pro minor leagues. They use wood bats, and some leagues charge admission to games, and keep attendance figures. Many of the cities with teams in these leagues once hosted professional Minor League teams. Sources for attendance data from these leagues were league Websites and Ballpark Digest.

The 173 Collegiate Summer League teams with **2021** reported attendance drew 3,981,808, an average of 959 per date. The Northwoods League had the highest announced league total (981,040). The 6-team MLB-Draft League likely had the highest average per date. But attendance from the West Virginia Black Bears and the Trenton Thunder (who only played one series in their home park, (because the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons were using it), was not available.

Frederick, which was in the Class A Carolina League in 2019, had the top total (125,378), and the best average per date (4,179) in 2021. This team plays in the MLB-Draft League. Savannah, which has a very unique and entertaining way of presenting its games, sold out every game as usual, averaging 3,757 per date.

More detail on 2021 Summer Collegiate leagues and teams that were MLB-affiliated teams can be found in this section, including team-by-team summaries for teams that were in the Minors in 2019, and historical data. A table at the end of this section shows 2021 attendance for each of these teams. Another table has Collegiate Summer Leagues attendance by league, and lists the team in each league that had the highest attendance.

In **2020**, some teams from 5 Summer Collegiate leagues allowed fans in their parks, with limited capacity. Total attendance was 383,912 in 817 dates, averaging 470 per date.

164 teams in 19 leagues reported attendance in **2019**. They drew 3,998,646 in 3,985 dates, averaging 1,003 per date. The Northwoods League, with 22 teams, drew a Summer Collegiate league record-high 1,262,625 in 769 dates, an average of 1,642 per date. The Cape Cod, Coastal Plain, Futures, and West Coast Leagues also topped 1,000 per date. Madison, WI of the Northwoods League led all teams (218,866 – 6,080 per date). Savannah averaged 4,205 per date, selling out every game again. Okotoks averaged 3,937. Overall, 15 teams reached 2,000 per date. Two teams moved from the pro independent Frontier League to collegiate leagues, and played shorter seasons. Traverse City averaged 1,674 per date in the Northwoods League in 2019, compared to 2,261 in the Frontier League in 2018. Normal averaged 705 per date in the collegiate Prospect League in 2019, compared to 1,857 per date in the 2018 Frontier League.

In 2018, 174 teams in 20 leagues reported attendance. These teams drew 4,162,081 in 4,138 dates, averaging 1,006 per date. The 20-team Northwoods League just missed another record-high, drawing 1,162,164 in 707 dates, an average of 1,644 per date. Also topping 1,000 per date were the Cape Cod, Futures, Coastal Plain, Prospect, and West Coast Leagues. Madison had the top attendance (218,712 – 6,249 per date). Savannah sold out all 25 dates, and averaged 4,229 per date. Ballpark Digest noted that Okotoks averaged 3,676 per date, La Crosse, Kenosha, and Worcester topped 2,500 per date, and 10 other teams drew at least 2,000 per date.

19 leagues and 172 teams reported attendance in 2017. The total for these teams was 4,108,188 in 4,099 dates, an average of 1,002 per date. The 20 teams in the Northwoods League drew a record-high 1,164,745 in 703 dates, averaging 1,657 per date. The Cape Cod, Futures, Coastal Plain, Great West, Prospect, and West Coast Leagues also averaged at least 1,000 per date. Madison of the Northwoods League outdrew all teams with a total of 214,485, averaging 6,308 per date. The Savannah Bananas sold out all 26 dates, and averaged 4,173. Data compiled by Ballpark Digest showed that Okotoks and Elmira topped 3,000 per date, and LaCrosse, Kenosha, Worcester, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, Valley, and Newport averaged at least 2,000 per date.

Attendance was reported by 20 leagues and 169 teams in 2016. The total was 4,087,385 in 4,181 dates, an average of 978 per date. The 18 team Northwoods League drew 1,084,297, an average of 1,713 per date. Madison once again had the best attendance of any Summer Collegiate team, drawing 205,324, an average of 6,039 per date. According to data compiled by Ballpark Digest, Savannah GA, Elmira NY, and Okotoks Alberta also averaged better than 3,000 per date. Teams in Kenosha, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Victoria BC, Worcester, Holyoke, and Newport RI averaged at least 2,000 per date.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES

21 of these leagues reported attendance in 2015. The highest attendance was by the Northwoods League. That league drew 1,088,747, an average of 1,776 per date in 2015. In 2014, the Northwoods League became the first Summer Collegiate league to top one million, drawing 1,096,433, an average of 1,766 per date. Madison, WI from that league had the best 2015 attendance of any Summer Collegiate league team, drawing a total of 216,159 in 34 dates, and a record-high average of 6,358 per date. Altogether, 154 teams in the 21 leagues that compiled attendance data drew a total of 3,759,090, an average of 958 per date.

In 2014, the 159 teams in the 21 leagues that reported attendance drew 3,819,955, an average of 1,000 per date. Madison was the leader, drawing 214,849 in 35 dates, an average of 6,139 per date.

There were 171 teams from 20 leagues that recorded attendance in 2013. These teams drew a total of 3,427,260, an average of 854 per date. Madison led all teams, drawing 213,833 in 35 dates (6,110 per date).

2012 attendance was available for 153 teams in 15 summer leagues. They drew 3,364,786, averaging 962 per date, led by Madison, who attracted a record-high 217,143 in 35 dates, which was 6,204 per date.

Madison's total attendance has topped 200,000, and their average per date has been above 6,000, in all but 3 years (2009 and 2010 when it was just below those levels, and 2021) starting in 2006. From 2006 through 2021, Madison has drawn 3,068,398, an average of 204,560 per year and 5,947 per date. If 2021 is excluded, the total is 2,944,191, an average of 210,299 per year, and 6,133 per date.

Madison had professional Minor League teams in the past. From 1982 through 1994, there was a Madison ballclub in the Midwest League. Their highest attendance was 131,646 in 1983. This team played many more dates each season than the Summer Collegiate league teams play. From 1996 through 2000, Madison played in the independent Northern League. Their highest attendance in that league was 83,573 in 1996.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**2021 SUMMER COLLEGIATE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN THE MINOR LEAGUES IN 2019**

24 teams that played in professional Minor Leagues in 2019 joined Summer Collegiate leagues in 2021. In 2019, 22 of these teams were in MLB-affiliated leagues, and 2 were independent teams. 2021 and historical attendance data from these teams is in this section.

- J **Appalachian League** – 10 teams, all of whom played in the Rookie class Appalachian League in 2019. All of the 2019 teams played in the same markets in 2021, but all were given new team names.
- J The league played a shorter schedule in 2021 than in 2019 (83 fewer dates). Total attendance was 332,085, and average per date was 1,355, the highest Appalachian League average per date since 1994. The average per date was up 101 from the 2019 season. In 2019, the Appalachian League drew 411,189, with a 1,254 average per date, the league's best attendance since 1994.
- J Bristol, up 3,811, and Burlington NC, up 4,769, had gains in total attendance. 7 of the 10 teams achieved a higher average per date in 2021 vs. 2019, led by a 601 gain in Bristol.
- J Pulaski had the top total attendance (64,508), and average per date (2,389). Johnson City was a close second, drawing a total of 59,200 and averaging 2,277 per date.
- J **MLB Draft League** – 6 teams. Frederick came from the Class A Carolina League, Trenton played in the Class AA Eastern League, and State College, Mahoning Valley OH, West Virginia (Morgantown), and Williamsport, had been in the New York-Penn League in 2019.
- J Attendance was only available from 4 teams. Thus far, Trenton, and West Virginia have not replied to requests for attendance data. Trenton played most of their season at a local college field, with no admission charged, because the Buffalo Bisons were playing at their park in Trenton. The Thunder did play the season's final week in Trenton.
- J The 4 teams with announced attendance drew a total of 324,589 in 120 dates, an average of 2,705 per date. The same 4 teams played 166 dates in 2019, with total attendance of 545,629, averaging 3,287 per date.
- J The Frederick Keys led all Summer Collegiate teams in total attendance (125,378), and in average per date (4,179), based on data from Ballparkdigest.com. This average per date would have ranked as the 30th best in average per date among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams, 2nd best (to Dayton) among the 60 Class A teams, and 3rd best (behind Tijuana and Monterrey, Mexico) among the 67 independent teams with reported attendance.
- J Frederick had led the 30 High-A teams in attendance in 7 of 8 years from 2012 through 2019. Since 1991, they topped 300,000 in attendance in 16 seasons, and drew at least 250,000 each year from 1990 through 2019.
- J **Other 2019 Professional Teams Now in Collegiate Summer Leagues** – 8 teams. Burlington, Iowa and Clinton went from the Midwest League to the Prospect League, as did O'Fallon from the Frontier League. Auburn and Batavia of the New York-Penn League moved to the Perfect Game League. The Futures Collegiate League took Norwich and Burlington, Vermont from The New York Penn League, and New Britain from the Atlantic League.
- J These 8 teams drew an announced 282,156 in 2021, averaging 1,370 per date, with only limited attendance listed by Auburn. They had 169 fewer dates with announced attendance than in 2019, when these teams drew 620,820, averaging 1,656 per date.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE) (10 teams -- 68 games in 2019, 54 in 2021, 58 in 2022)

RECORD HIGHS: League – 442,755 (1993); Team – **Pulaski - 95,897 (2019)**

- J This league went from being an MLB-affiliated Rookie league through 2019, to a Summer Collegiate league in 2021. The Appalachian League still has a player development relationship with Major League Baseball.
- J All 10 teams played in the Rookie class Appalachian League in 2019. These teams stayed in the same markets in 2021, but all were given new team names. These new names will be used in the 2021 notes below, but the old names will still appear for pre-2021 notes.
- J The league played a slightly shorter schedule in **2021** than in 2019 (83 fewer dates overall). Total attendance was 332,085, and average per date was 1,355. **The average per date was up 101 from the 2019 season, and was this league's highest since 1994.** Pulaski led in total attendance and average per date, followed by Johnson City. 2 teams had gains in total attendance vs. 2019, and 7 teams were up in average per date. There were 25 lost dates.
- J This league raised more than \$2.5 million for charity in 2021.
- J 2017 was a good year for the Appalachian League. 2018 was even better. **2019** was better still. Total attendance rose 21,330 (5.5%) to 411,189, which was the best total for this league since 1994. The league had the best total attendance percentage increases of any NAPBL Minor League in 2018 (10.1%), 2015 (8.5%), and 2014 (16.2%).
- J There were 14 more dates played in 2019 than in 2018, and 12 rainouts. 25 dates were lost in 2018, 19 in 2017, 22 in 2016, 20 in 2015, 16 in 2014, and 32 in 2013. There were 35 lost dates in 2012, and just 5 in 2011.
- J 2019 average attendance per date was up 12 to 1,254, the league's best average since the record-high of 1,404 in 1994. It was the 5th straight year with average per date above 1,000.
- J 6 teams were up in total attendance in 2019, and 5 teams had gains in average per date. Elizabethton had the best total attendance gain, and Johnson City posted the top average per date growth. Danville had the league's worst decline in total attendance, and Greeneville had the top loss in average per date.
- J Both Johnson City and Pulaski drew over 60,000 in total attendance in 2019, 2018, and 2017. This makes it 6 times that at least 2 teams from this league have reached 60,000 in a season since the Appalachian League began to play a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 teams did it in 1990, and 2 teams did it in 1992 and 1993.
- J In 2019 and 2016, for the only times since 1999, at least 4 Appalachian League teams drew over 40,000 (Greeneville, Johnson City, Burlington, Pulaski). 4 teams also topped 40,000 in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, and 1999. A record-high of 5 teams did it in 1993, 1994, and 1997, and 3 teams reached this level in 2018, 2015, and 2014.
- J The Appalachian League has topped 400,000 in attendance in 1947 as a full-season league, and in 1991, 1993, 1994, 1997, and 2019 as a short-season league.
- J This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- J In 1957, the Appalachian League became the first league to play a short-season schedule. Total attendance for the league as a short-season entity didn't reach 200,000 until 1986.
- J The highest average attendance per team for this league was 51,736 in 1947, when it played a longer schedule (126 games) than it did from 1957 on. From 1957 through 1985, the average total attendance per team was below 20,000 in 17 seasons. It didn't reach 30,000 per team until 1988. The short-season record-high average per team is 44,276 in 1993. It topped 40,000 again in 1997, and was 41,119 in 2019, the highest since 1994.
- J From 2013 to 2019, total attendance in the league went up 136,070 (49.3%), and average per date was up 360.
- J Lowest average per team was just 12,983 in 1983. That year, the 7 teams in this league drew a total of 90,878. Pulaski alone drew more than that in 2018 and 2019. Bluefield had the highest 1983 attendance – 25,767. 4 teams attracted less than 10,000 in 1983. Pikeville drew just 4,998.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** - continued

-) The **Pulaski River Turtles** led the Appalachian League in total attendance (64,508), and average per date (2,389) in **2021**. 5 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 3,626. This was the 6th straight year with attendance above 57,000. There were 7 fewer dates played in 2021 than in 2019, and no games were postponed.
-) **Pulaski had an incredible 2019 attendance season for a team in this league. The Yankees drew 95,897 in 2019, the highest total ever for an Appalachian League team since it went to a short-season schedule in 1957, and the 5th straight year with a new record-high. This was the best total in the league in any season since Bluefield, playing a much longer schedule, drew 116,572 in 1949. The 2019 total was up 4,671. Average per date was up 57 to an all-time team and league record-high of 2,821. 11 dates drew over 3,000, including a team record-high, and 2019 league high, crowd of 4,872.**
-) **2021 was the 6th straight year with attendance above 57,000 for Pulaski. They had not topped 35,000 in any of their previous 42 seasons through 2014. From 2014 through 2019, total attendance was up 69,737 (266.6%), and average per date rose by 2,003 (244.9%). From 2015 through 2019, Pulaski drew a total of 380,021. In the previous 5 seasons (2010-2014), they drew 139,785. Calfee Park, built in 1935, seats just 2,500. The Yankees drew above this level at 25 of 34 dates in 2019.**
-) In 2018, the Pulaski Yankees drew 91,226, the best total in the league, (broken in 2019), in any season since Bluefield in 1949. The 2018 total was up 13,346, which was the 2nd best increase (to Brooklyn) among all short-season teams. Average per date was up 404 to 2,764. This was the 5th best average per date gain among all MLB-affiliated teams, and 2nd best among those in short-season leagues.
-) In 2017, Pulaski drew a then-team record-high 77,880, up 19,885. Average per date rose 489 to a team record-high 2,360. These were the best gains among all short-season teams. The 34.3% increase in total attendance was the 4th best percentage gain among all affiliated teams, and the 26.1% increase in average per date was 6th best. No Appalachian League team had drawn as well as Pulaski did in 2017 since Danville drew a short-season Appalachian League best total of 80,539, and 2,441 per date, in 1993. Danville's records were broken by Pulaski in 2018.
-) 2016 was also a record-setting year for Pulaski. The Yankees led the league, and set new team record-highs. They drew 57,995 in total attendance, and averaged 1,871 per date. These were the highest total attendance and average per date figures in this league since Danville drew 75,745, and averaged 2,228 per date, in 1997.
-) Pulaski had very strong growth in 2015. Total attendance more than doubled to a then-team record-high of 57,023, up 30,863. It was the top attendance by an Appalachian League team since Danville drew 57,044 in 1999. The old short-season high in Pulaski was 33,679 in 2008, while the full-season high was 49,472 in 1947. Average per date was a then-record-high 1,677 in 2015, up 859.
-) Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 10 of their last 13 seasons, including 2021, 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. Pulaski drew less than 20,000 in 22 of the 27 seasons that the city had a team from 1954 through 1999. From 1992 through 2014, average per date reached 1,000 only in 2008. They became a Yankees affiliate in 2015, and changed their name from Mariners to Yankees.
-) The **Kingsport Axmen** had a rather strange and scary season in **2021**. The team was broken up after a threat of violence from one of their players. They did get back together, expecting to play all games after July 11 on the road. But eventually, they resumed playing in Kingsport. The Axmen drew 25,819, with a 1,229 average per date, up 334. That average per date was the best in Kingsport since 1999. 9 crowds were over 1,000, with a team single game record-high of 3,216. There were 6 lost dates, and they played 12 fewer dates than in 2019.
-) **Kingsport** drew 29,553 in **2019**, up 625. The Mets had topped 30,000 in 9 of the previous 12 seasons prior to 2016, and 25 times overall as a short-season team. They drew over 45,000 from 1997 through 1999, with a high of 55,457 in 1999, but have not topped 40,000 since. Average per date was 896, down 8, the 10th straight year below 1,000, with 13 dates topping 1,000. They hope for a new park, replacing Hunter Wright Stadium, which opened in 1995.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** – continued

-) The **Greenville, Tennessee Flyboys** posted a **2021** total attendance of 33,611, with a 1,344 average per date, up 23. 3 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,526, which was the largest crowd of the year in this league. There were 8 fewer dates than in 2019, with 2 lost dates.
-) **Greeneville, TN** led the league in total attendance and average per date in their first 11 years (2004-2014) in the league. In 2015, the Astros (later named the Reds) set team record-highs in total attendance and average per date. In **2019**, they drew 43,617, down 4,404. Greeneville had topped 40,000 in 13 straight years from 2004 through 2016, a streak that no current team in this league has ever achieved. In 4 seasons, the total was above 50,000. Average per date has surpassed 1,300 in 15 of this club's 17 seasons, including 2021. It was 1,322 in 2019, down 227, the biggest loss in this league. 7 dates drew over 2,000, including a team-record-high crowd of 4,164.
-) In **2021**, the **Johnson City Doughboys** had the 2nd best attendance in this league. They drew 59,200, averaging 2,277 per date. 9 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 4,027. There were 6 fewer dates than in 2019, with one lost.
-) In **2019**, for the 4th straight year, the **Johnson City Cardinals** had a record-setting season. Total attendance was up 11,731, to a new record-high of 80,612, the 3rd best total (to Pulaski in 2018 and 2019) in this league's short-season history. Average per date was a team record-high 2,519, up a league best 297. 11 dates drew over 3,000. A crowd of 4,095 was their largest ever. This was the 13th time that Johnson City had drawn at least 40,000 as a short-season Appalachian League team. (They did it again in 2021.) Total attendance was up 55,000 (214.7%) in Johnson City vs. 2013, and average per date has risen 1,693 (205.0%) since 2013.
-) In 2018, Johnson City drew a then-high of 68,881, averaging a record-high 2,222. In 2017, there were then-record-highs in total attendance (65,202), and average per date (1,976). 2016 brought new records for Johnson City. Despite 5 lost dates, total attendance was up 12,737 to 51,855. Not only was this a Johnson City short-season record-high, but it also topped, by 9, the high of 51,846 that this city drew with a longer-season team in 1948. Average per date rose 369 to a new record of 1,673. These increases were the best of any short-season team. The average per date increase was 4th best among all U.S. MLB-affiliated teams, and the percentage gains of 32.6% in total attendance, and 28.3% in average per date, were tops among U.S.-based MLB-affiliated teams.
-) Johnson City also had the best total increase among all short-season teams in 2014. That year, the Cardinals' average per date gain of 435 was not only the best among all short-season teams, but also the 13th highest average per date increase among all MLB-affiliated teams. Johnson City drew less than 20,000 in 14 seasons from 1958 through 1985, and 3 more times since then. But their attendance has more than tripled since 2013.
-) The **Burlington, North Carolina Sock Puppets** drew 44,911, up 4,769 in **2021**. Average per date rose by 447 to 1,663. It was the highest total in Burlington since 2016, and the best average per date since 1993. 8 dates drew over 2,000, with a high of 3,817. There were 6 fewer dates than in 2019, but no games were postponed in 2021.
-) Burlington drew 40,142, up 3,601 in **2019**. Average per date was 1,216, up 74. 7 dates topped 2,000, with a high of 4,023. In 2017, Burlington's 30.0% declines in total attendance and average per date were the worst percentage losses among all U.S. NAPBL teams. 2016 attendance had been the best since 1993 for Burlington. This team drew over 40,000 in 14 of 15 years from 1986 through 2000, and reached 60,000 in 6 of 8 seasons between 1986 and 1993, topping 70,000 in 1987 and 1988. But the total didn't reach 40,000 from 2001 through 2013. It has been above 40,000 in 5 seasons since 2014, including 2021. Average per date has been above 1,000 every year, except from 2008 through 2011, since the current team began in 1986.
-) **For the Bristol State Lines** (the Virginia-Tennessee state line runs right through Bristol), **2021** total attendance was 22,561, up 3,811. The average per date of 1,187, up a league-best 601, was the highest since at least 1991. 13 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 2,347. There were 8 lost dates, and 13 fewer dates played compared to 2019.
-) In **2019**, Bristol had a 3,191 decrease to 18,750, the lowest total of any short-season team. Average per date fell by 122 to a 2019 short-season low 586. 3 dates topped 1,000. In 2015, Bristol drew the lowest total and average per date of any MLB-affiliated team. This team has not topped 30,000 since 1976, when they drew a record-high total of 32,409. Lowest total was 7,835 in 1982. Their full-season high was 68,504 in 1946. Until 2021, average per date had been under 1,000 since at least 1991.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE)** - continued

-) The **Danville Otterbots** drew 25,737 in **2021**. Average per date was 990, up 81. 11 dates drew at least 1,000, and the top crowd was 2,497. One date was lost, and 7 fewer dates were played than in 2019.
-) **Danville's** total attendance fell 4,759 to 30,007 in **2019**, and average per date declined by 145 to 909. 6 dates drew at least 1,000. In their first 7 seasons (1993-1999), Danville topped 50,000 each year, and drew a then-league record-high 80,539 in 1993 (broken by Pulaski in 2018). After 1999, they've only reached 40,000 in 2006 and 2007. Average per date topped 2,000 from 1993 through 1997, with a high of 2,441 in 1993.
-) The **Bluefield Ridge Runners** had a **2021** total attendance of 16,484. They averaged 717 per date, up 42 from 2019. This was Bluefield's highest average per date since 2016. Top crowd was 1,625, with 3 dates drawing at least 1,000. There were 4 lost dates, and 8 fewer dates than in 2019.
-) Bluefield was up 891 to 20,909 in **2019**, with 3 lost dates. Average per date rose by 28 to 674. 2009 was the only year above 30,000 since 1999 for the Blue Jays. This team drew 55,373 in 1991. It had 10 straight years above 30,000 from 1990 through 1999. 2009 was also the only year since 2001 with average per date above 1,000.
-) **Elizabethton's River Riders** drew 22,070 in **2021**. Their average per date was up 38 to 849, the best since 2012. 9 dates topped 1,000, with a high of 1,464, in a park that seats only 1,500. There was one lost date, and 8 fewer dates than in 2019.
-) Elizabethton, which had the smallest seating capacity of any **2019** MLB-affiliated ballpark, has reached 30,000 just once (in 2007) in their 47 years in this league. But they drew over 20,000 from 2001 through 2015, after doing it just twice (1978 and 1994) from 1974 through 2000. The E-Twins drew 27,569 in 2019, up a league best 12,240, their highest total since 2011, with 5 more dates. Average per date rose 282 to 811. 4 dates topped 1,000. Although this is from a small base, the total percentage gain of 79.8% was 4th best in the NAPBL for 2019, and the 53.3% increase in average per date, was the 5th best percentage gain.
-) The **Princeton Whistle Pigs** drew 17,184 with a 687 average per date in **2021**. 5 dates drew over 1,000, with a high of 1,763. 8 fewer dates were played compared to 2019, and there were 2 postponements.
-) In **2019**, Princeton's total attendance fell 75 to 24,133 with 2 more dates, and average per date was down 50 to 731. Attendance reached 1,000 at 4 dates. Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this total level, or 1,000 in average per date, in the last 18 years.
-) 1993 was a record setting year in attendance for the Appalachian League. The league drew a record high 442,755, and Danville's attendance of 80,539 was, until 2018, the highest by a team since this league went to a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 other teams also topped 50,000 in 1993. Burlington drew 61,088, Martinsville had a total of 58,368, and Huntington's attendance was 51,365. Prior to 2015, the last team in this league to reach 50,000 was Greeneville in 2008. Greeneville and Pulaski did it in 2015, and Johnson City and Pulaski reached this level each year from 2016 through 2021.
-) The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball lists team attendance for the Appalachian League starting in 1945. This was a full-season league through 1955. Bluefield had the 3 highest individual team totals of that era, drawing 86,303 in 1947, 83,208 in 1948, and 116,572 in 1949.
-) The late Lee Landers, whose last position was President Emeritus of the Appalachian League, was named the 2017 'King of Baseball' by Minor League Baseball. It is the highest individual honor that is awarded by Minor League Baseball. Mr. Landers served as President of this league starting in 1996, and his career in baseball spanned nearly 60 years. He retired after the 2018 season.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SUMMER COLLEGIATE) - continued**

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2022	10						
2021	10	332,085			1,355		
2019	10	411,189	21,330	5.5	1,254	12	1.0
2018	10	389,859	35,769	10.1	1,242	139	12.6
2017	10	354,090	20,678	6.2	1,103	51	4.8
2016	10	333,412	(13,739)	(4.0)	1,052	(37)	(3.4)
2015	10	347,151	27,048	8.4	1,089	101	10.2
2014	10	320,103	44,684	16.2	988	94	10.5
2013	10	275,419	(3,366)	(1.2)	894	(20)	(2.2)
2012	10	278,785	(16,778)	(5.7)	914	32	3.6
2011	10	295,563	5,634	1.9	882	(13)	(1.5)
2010	10	289,929	(20,195)	(6.5)	895	(96)	(9.7)
2009	10	310,124	(6,934)	(2.2)	991	(19)	(1.9)
2008	10	317,058	28,476	9.9	1,010	(13)	(1.3)
2007	9	288,582	(33,558)	(10.4)	1,023	7	0.7
2006	10	322,140	10,656	3.4	1,016	14	1.4
2005	10	311,484	19,103	6.5	1,002	62	6.6
2004	10	292,381	26,396	9.9	940	32	3.5
2003	10	265,985	(26,492)	(9.1)	908	(6)	(0.7)
2002	10	292,477	7,645	2.7	914	(48)	(5.0)
2001	10	284,832	8,401	3.0	962	50	5.5
2000	10	276,431	(54,086)	(16.4)	912	(102)	(10.1)
1999	10	330,517	(2,420)	(0.7)	1,014	(33)	(3.2)
1998	10	332,937	(68,520)	(17.1)	1,047	(181)	(14.7)
1997	10	401,457	61,633	18.1	1,228	0	0.0
1996	9	339,824	(23,676)	(6.5)	1,228	16	1.3
1995	10	363,500	(74,570)	(17.0)	1,212	(192)	(13.7)
1994	10	438,070	(4,685)	(1.1)	1,404	12	0.9
1993	10	442,755	80,408	22.2	1,392	216	18.4
1992	10	362,347	(41,240)	(10.2)	1,176	N/A	N/A
1991	10	403,587	19,831	5.2	N/A	N/A	N/A
1990	10	383,756	72,246	23.2	N/A	N/A	N/A

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**MLB DRAFT LEAGUE** – 6 teams (68-game schedule in 2021, 80-game schedule in 2022)

- J 2021 was the first year for the MLB Draft League. This is a Collegiate Summer league, run by Major League Baseball, for MLB-draft eligible college players or graduating high school seniors.
- J All 6 teams in this league were MLB-affiliated teams in 2019. Trenton was in the Class AA Eastern League, and Frederick played in the High-A Carolina League. Mahoning Valley, State College, West Virginia (Morgantown), and Williamsport all played in the Short-season-A New York-Penn League.
- J The 4 teams that reported attendance drew a combined 324,589, averaging 2,705 per date in 2021. These same 4 teams drew 549,629 in 2019, with a 3,287 average per date. In 2019, the 6 teams in this league in 2021 drew 949,180, with a 3,542 average per date.
- J **The Frederick Keys led all Summer Collegiate Leagues in total attendance (125,378), and all these leagues (based on data from Ballparkdigest.com) in average per date (4,179). This average per date would have ranked as the 30th best in average per date among the 120 MLB-affiliated teams, 2nd best (to Dayton) among the 60 Class A teams, and 3rd best (behind Tijuana and Monterrey, Mexico) among the 67 independent teams.**
- J Frederick led teams from all High-Class A leagues (Carolina, California, Florida State) in average per date for 7 of 8 years from 2012 through 2019. (Winston-Salem led in 2018.) 2017 was also the 6th consecutive year, and the 16th time since 1991, with attendance over 300,000. In **2019**, weather hit the Keys hard, with 10 lost dates, and 4 fewer dates than in 2018. Total attendance fell 11,473 to 263,528, the lowest since 1989. But average per date rose 95 to 4,392. 21 dates drew over 5,000, topped by a crowd of 8,254. The Keys did top 250,000 for the 30th straight year. In their 31-year history as an MLB-affiliated Minor League team, they averaged around 4,500 per date at 5,400 seat Harry Grove Stadium, surpassing 4,000 each year since at least 1991, topping 4,500 in 14 years, and reaching 5,000 in 1993 and 1994. Total attendance for these 31 seasons was 9,187,014, an average of 296,355 per year.
- J **Trenton** did not report attendance in **2021**, other than 2,530 for one game, and 2,297 for another. Except for their final home series in August, they played all their 2021 home games at nearby Rider University, with fans admitted for free. This was because the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons were using the ballpark in Trenton as a temporary home. The Bisons' park in Buffalo was host to the Toronto Blue Jays in June and July. Once the Blue Jays returned to Toronto, the Bisons were able to play in Buffalo.
- J Trenton's attendance fell 10,592 in **2019** to 340,705, the lowest total since 1994, the team's first year. The Thunder were hurt by bad weather, playing 5 fewer dates than in 2018. They were the only team in the Eastern League with no lost dates in 2018. Average per date was up 223 to 5,242, the highest since 2013. 18 dates drew at least 6,000. The Thunder drew above 360,000 from 1995 through 2014, and were over 400,000 for 14 straight years from 1995 through 2008. Average per date from 1994 through 2019, topped 5,000 each year, except 2015, since the team began play in 1994.
- J The **Mahoning Valley Scrappers** (Niles, OH) had a **2021** total attendance of 68,440, with a 2,360 average per date.
- J Mahoning Valley drew 98,833 in **2019**, up 1,629. Average per date rose 45 to 2,745. 3 dates topped 4,000, with a high of 6,141. 2016 was the first season that total attendance was under 100,000, and that average per date didn't reach 3,000. The Scrappers topped 200,000 in 1999 and 2000, their first 2 seasons, but haven't done it since. They have not reached 130,000 since 2005. Average per date was 5,641 in 1999, the Scrappers' first season, and also topped 5,000 in 2000 and 2001. It was above 4,000 in the club's first 7 years, but not since.
- J The **West Virginia** Black Bears did not provide any attendance data in **2021**. The play in Granville, which is right next to the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown, and share their ballpark with the WVU baseball team. They drew 62,846 in 2019, down 6,584. Average per date was fell 128 to 1,699. Both the total and average were the lowest in this team's 5 seasons. In 2018, West Virginia University averaged 1,596 per date for its home games. In 2019, the WVU Mountaineers drew 49,229, averaging 1,972 per date. Both of those figures are record-highs for WVU Baseball.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**MLB DRAFT LEAGUE**

-) The **State College Spikes** had **2021** total attendance of 92,447, with a 2,982 average per date.
-) State College topped 119,000 in all 14 of their seasons in the New York-Penn League. But the Spikes had their lowest total (119,120, down 866) ever in **2019**. Average per date fell 24 to a team-low 3,219. 9 dates drew over 4,000. The average was over 4,000 in 2007 and 2008. The Spikes, who play on the campus of Penn State University, drew 6,111 for a game in 2016, the biggest crowd ever for pro baseball in State College. Penn State's baseball team averaged 746 per date in 2018, and 440 per date in 2019. Next door, at 106,572-seat Beaver Stadium, home of Penn State Football, the largest crowd ever was 110,889 vs. Ohio State in 2018. Penn State drew over 100,000 to 7 of its 13 home and away games, including a bowl game, in the 2019 season. Their 2019 home high crowd was 110,669 vs. Michigan. In 2021, all 7 Penn State home games drew at least 105,000, with a high of 109,934 vs. Michigan.
-) **2021** total attendance in **Williamsport** was 38,324, with a 1,277 average per date.
-) Williamsport drew 64,148 in **2019**, down 4,327, with 3 fewer dates than in 2018, and 5 rainouts. It was the 11th straight year below 70,000 for the Crosscutters. But average per date rose 42 to 1,944, the best since 2005. This market has drawn 100,000 only in 1948, 1960, and 1988, when it had full-season teams. The New York-Penn League Crosscutters began play in 1994, and averaged at least 2,000 per date only from 2002 through 2005. From 2008 through 2019, total attendance has ranged between 60,429 and 68,475. Average per date ranged from 1,700 to 1,944 during this period.
-) In 2017, the first Little League Classic was played at Historic Bowman Field in Williamsport, home to the Crosscutters. In preparation for the game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, \$4 million in renovations were made to the ballpark. The game drew 2,596. The Mets and Phillies played in this game in 2018, which drew 2,429. The 2019 game featured the Cubs and Pirates, and drew 2,503. The Orioles and Red Sox were supposed to meet in 2020, but that game was cancelled. The Cleveland-Los Angeles Angels game in 2021 drew 1,832. Boston and Baltimore will play in the Classic in 2022.

OTHER 2019 (AND A 2015) MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES IN 2021

-) **The Clinton LumberKings** played in the Prospect League in **2021**, and drew 62,872. Their average per date was 2,329, up 490. This was the highest average per date since at least 1991. Clinton, a community-owned team, drew 121,325, down 353 in **2019** in the Midwest League. It was the team's 5th best total ever, topped only by 127,251 in 1988, 123,553 in 2010, 124,154 in 2016, and 121,678 in 2018. Attendance reached 120,000 for the 4th year in a row, and was above 100,000 for the 14th straight year. Before this streak, the LumberKings had failed to reach 100,000 in all but 4 of 60 seasons with recorded attendance, including 17 years in a row between 1989 and 2005. Average per date in 2019 was up 22 to 1,838, which ties the 2nd best average since at least 1991. Clinton's average per date has been over 1,500 for 15 years in a row, and has reached 1,800 in each of the last 5 years, including 2021.
-) **Burlington (IA)**, Beloit, and Clinton tended to have low attendance in the Midwest League, in part, because their markets and ballparks are very small. Seating capacity at Burlington is 3,200, and Clinton's capacity was recently raised to 5,000. Record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. Burlington, now in the Prospect League, drew 25,080 in **2021**, averaging 896 per date. In **2019**, the Bees had the best total attendance gain in the Midwest League, up 14,110 to 67,369. There were 6 lost dates. They last reached 80,000 in 1994, and have topped 70,000 only in 2005, 2014, and 2016 since then. Average per date was up 194 in 2019 to 1,053, the best since 2014. The Bees have averaged over 1,000 just 13 times in the last 29 seasons, through 2021, but did it in 5 of their last 7 years in the Midwest League. 9 dates had crowds of at least 2,000.
-) In **2021**, **Vermont** of the Futures Collegiate League, had total attendance of 63,104, with a 1,706 average per date. In **2019**, in the New York-Penn League, they had a loss of 834 in total attendance to 83,122, and finished below 100,000 for the 13th straight year. The Lake Monsters had reached 100,000 in 12 of the 13 seasons (1994-2006) before that. Average per date rose 38 to 2,247 in 2019. The average has not reached 3,000 since 2002, after topping it for 9 straight years. Attendance had been very steady from 2009 through 2019, with the total ranging between 81,683 to 89,977, and the average per date ranging from 2,209 to 2,549. Centennial Field in Burlington has a grandstand built in 1922, and has been undergoing a series of renovations. It seats 4,415. In 2018, for the first time in team history, Vermont had no home or road postponements.

COLLEGIATE SUMMER BASEBALL LEAGUES**OTHER 2019 (AND A 2015) MINOR LEAGUE TEAMS THAT PLAYED IN SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES IN 2021**

-) **Batavia** now in the Perfect Game League, had **2021** total attendance of 40,888. Average per date was 1,778, up 612. This was the highest average per date since at least 1991. **In 2019**, Batavia had its best total attendance and average per date since 2008, and the New York-Penn League's best gains. The total was up 14,113 to 43,118, and average per date was up an NAPBL 12th best 381 to 1,165. The Muckdogs also had the 6th highest percentage growth in both total attendance and average per date for 2019. 3 dates topped 2,000. Attendance has not reached 45,000 since 1973. The only years since 1950 with attendance above 50,000 were in 1970, 1971, and 1973. A full-season team in Batavia drew 67,680 in 1946.
-) The **Auburn Doubledays**, who joined the Perfect Game League in **2021**, only listed attendance for 3 dates in 2021 (total-5,271). They had a 3,962 total attendance loss in **2019** in the New York-Penn League, drawing 39,381. That was exactly the same figure they drew in 2013. 2006 was the last time attendance was lower than in 2019. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2018, and 4 rainouts. The Doubledays had topped 50,000 in 5 of the previous 10 years. In the 58 seasons prior to 2009, they reached 50,000 only 6 times, with a low of 9,474 in 1980. Average per date surpassed 1,000 for 25 straight seasons through 2019. Their ballpark is small, with a capacity of 2,800. Average per date fell 46 in 2019, to 1,158, which ties 2013 for the lowest average since 1994. 3 dates drew over 2,000.
-) The **Norwich Sea Unicorns** of the Futures Collegiate League, formerly the Connecticut Tigers of the New York-Penn League, drew 28,507 in **2021**, with an 838 average per date. Through 2016, **Connecticut** had set a total attendance record-high (as a short-season market), in 4th straight years. Total attendance fell 9,278 in **2019** to 66,532, with 2 fewer dates, and average per date was down 148 to 1,901. Those were the lowest figures since 2012. 3 dates drew over 3,000, with a high of 5,176. The full-season Class AA Eastern League team record in Norwich is 281,473, and the best average per date for that team was 4,201, both in 1995.
-) **The New Britain Bees** went from the independent Atlantic League in 2019, to the Futures Collegiate League in 2021. Their **2021** total attendance was 31,509, with a 1,087 average per date. In 2016, New Britain moved from Camden to the ballpark vacated by the Eastern League New Britain Rock Cats. That team was to play in a new park in the neighboring city of Hartford starting in 2016. But the new park was not ready, so the team had to play all its 2016 games in other parks. The Atlantic League New Britain team, named the Bees, drew 214,635 in 2016, and averaged 3,302 per date. In 2015, the New Britain Rock Cats drew 267,377, averaging 4,051 per date.
-) The Bees, in **2019**, drew 133,141, down 50,006, with 6 fewer dates. Average per date fell 541 to 2,113. 7 crowds reached 3,000, with a high of 5,876. New Britain had the worst total and average per date losses among the independents. This was the lowest total and average per date of any team in New Britain since 1995. The competition with Hartford proved too difficult to overcome, and this club was replaced with a Collegiate Summer League team. Hartford's new ballpark, located 12 miles from New Britain, finally opened in 2017, and the Hartford Yard Goats of the Eastern League (and now in Double-A Northeast) drew 395,196, averaging 5,812 per date that year. In 2019, they drew a Connecticut record-high total of 414,946, and an average of 6,193 per date.
-) The Eastern League team in New Britain drew less than 200,000 from its start in 1983 through 1999. But it topped 300,000 every year from 2004 through 2014, with a high of 368,523 in 2010. Their average per date was over 5,000 each year from 2006 through 2012, with a high of 5,867 in 2011.
-) The **O'Fallon (Missouri) Hoots** of the Prospect League drew 24,925 in **2021**, with a 997 average per date. **River City** (O'Fallon, MO) played its final season in the Frontier League in **2019**, and had the league's worst total attendance loss (18,204). The 2019 total of 66,832 was the lowest in the team's 21 years, and the average per date of 1,714, down 58, was the 2nd lowest to 2011. There were 9 fewer dates in 2019 than in 2018. The Rascals topped 150,000 in the team's first 6 seasons (1999-2004), but not afterward. They stayed above 100,000 through 2008, and then again in 2010 and 2012. 2019 was the 9th time that attendance was below 100,000. The average per date was 4,119 in 2004, and topped 3,000 in the club's first 6 seasons. It had been above 2,000 in 13 of 21 seasons.
-) **Savannah** played its final season in the South Atlantic League in **2015**, and drew 125,587. Average per date was 1,962. This version of Savannah's team drew a high of 135,415 in 2011. The record-high for any team in Savannah is 217,000 in 1937. A Savannah team drew 192,975 in 1947. Columbia, SC replaced Savannah in 2016. The **Bananas**, a Summer Collegiate league team began play in Savannah in 2016, and drew a league-record-high 80,504, averaging 3,659 per date, with 17 sellouts. The Bananas set a new record in 2017, selling out all 26 dates, and drawing 108,498 (4,173 per date). In 2018, the Bananas sold out all 25 dates, and drew 105,733 (4,229 per date). Savannah sold out all games in 2019 as well, drawing a new record-high total of 117,729 in 28 dates, (4,205 per date). **In 2021, they sold out all 23 dates and drew 86,407, averaging 3,757 per date. Their sellout streak stood at 111 dates through the end of their 2021 season.**

2021 COLLEGIATE SUMMER TEAMS THAT WERE MLB-AFFILIATED IN 2019

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2021 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2019 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>2019 AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>MLB DRAFT LEAGUE</u>						
Frederick Keys	125,378	30	4,179	263,528	4,392	1990
Mahoning Valley Scrappers	68,440	29	2,360	98,833	2,745	1999
State College Spikes	92,447	31	2,982	119,120	3,219	2006
Trenton Thunder				340,705	5,242	1994
West Virginia Black Bears				62,846	1,699	2015
Williamsport Croisscutters	38,324	30	1,277	64,148	1,944	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	324,589	120	2,705	949,180		
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u>						
Bluefield (WV) Ridge Runners	16,484	23	717	20,909	674	1939
Bristol (VA) State Lines	22,561	19	1,187	18,750	586	1969
Burlington (NC) Sock Puppets	44,911	27	1,663	40,142	1,216	1960
Danville (VA) Otterbots	25,737	26	990	30,007	909	1993
Elizabethton (TN) River Riders	22,070	26	849	27,569	811	1974
Greeneville (TN) Flyboys	33,611	25	1,344	43,617	1,322	2004
Johnson City (TN) Doughboys	59,200	26	2,277	80,612	2,519	1956
Kingsport (TN) Axmen	25,819	21	1,229	29,553	896	1995
Princeton (WV) Whistle Pigs	17,184	25	687	24,133	731	1988
Pulaski River Turtles	64,508	27	2,389	95,897	2,821	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	332,085	245	1,355	411,189	1,254	
<u>PROSPECT LEAGUE</u>						
Burlington (IA) Bees	25,080	28	896	67,369	1,053	1947
Clinton Lumberkings	62,872	27	2,329	121,325	1,838	1937
O'Fallon, MO (River City) - Indy	24,925	25	997	66,832	1,714	1999
<u>PERFECT GAME LEAGUE</u>						
Auburn (NY) Doubledays				39,381	1,158	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	40,888	23	1,778	43,118	1,165	1996
<u>FUTURES COLLEGIATE LEAGUE</u>						
Norwich (CT) Sea Unicorns	28,507	34	838	66,532	1,901	1995
Vermont Lake Monsters	63,104	37	1,706	83,122	2,247	1922
New Britain Bees	31,509	29	1,087	133,141	2,113	1996

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - FOR MLB-AFFILIATED PRO MINOR LEAGUERS

<u>ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - Figures from this league are not included in any 'all leagues' totals</u>						
Glendale Desert Dogs	4,850	15	323	4,771	318	2009
Mesa Solar Sox	8,010	15	534	11,468	675	2014
Peoria Javelinas	5,394	15	360	4,768	397	1994
Salt River Rafter	13,728	15	915	10,029	627	2011
Scottsdale Scorpions	7,114	15	474	8,405	600	1992
Surprise Saguros	6,562	15	437	5,717	381	2011
LEAGUE TOTAL	45,658	90	507	45,158	507	

2021 SUMMER COLLEGIATE LEAGUES WITH LISTED ATTENDANCE

<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>TOTAL # TEAMS</u>	<u># TEAMS LISTING ATTEND.</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>TEAMS W. ATT. # DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE ATTEND. PER DATE</u>	<u>LEAGUE ATTEND. LEADER</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE ATTEND. PER DATE</u>
Alaska									
Appalachian	10	10	332,085	245	1,355	Pulaski	64,508	27	2,389
Atlantic Collegiate	8	1	1,830	11	166	Jersey	1,830	11	166
Cal Ripken Collegiate	6	6	14,529	94	155	Bethesda	7,605	17	447
California Collegiate	20	2	6,478	35	185	Lincoln	5,956	33	180
Cape Cod	10	10	268,773	180	1,493	Chatham	39,839	18	2,213
Coastal Plain	15	15	425,733	370	1,151	Savannah	86,407	23	3,757
Expedition	12	12	170,291	368	463	Western Nebraska	29,569	32	924
Florida Collegiate	6	3	6,957	41	170	Leesburg	6,449	15	430
Futures Collegiate	8	8	243,822	231	1,056	Vermont	63,104	37	1,706
Golden State									
Great Lakes Summer	14	11	32,291	209	155	Royal Oak	6,951	21	331
Great West									
M.I.N.K.	9	2	56,053	37	1,515	St. Joseph	53,904	24	2,246
Midwest Collegiate	6	6	21,328	124	172	Northwest Indiana	16,427	23	714
MLB Draft	6	4	324,589	120	2,705	Frederick	125,378	30	4,179
New England Collegiate	14	14	213,378	267	799	Newport	48,698	20	2,435
New York Collegiate	9	3	5,838	51	114	Genessee	3,269	16	204
Northwoods	21	21	981,040	747	1,313	Madison	124,207	36	3,450
Perfect Game	15	5	87,330	96	910	Batavia (total leader)	40,888	23	1,778
						Elmira (avg/dt leader)	40,321	17	2,372
Prospect	16	16	419,744	429	978	Clinton	62,872	27	2,329
Southern California									
Texas Collegiate	6	3	58,337	58	1,006	Amarillo	41,509	19	2,185
Valley Baseball	11	7	37,157	119	312	Charlottesville	11,675	17	687
West Coast Collegiate	10	10	247,602	239	1,036	Portland	43,985	24	1,833
Western Canadian	5	4	26,623	79	337	Lethbridge	16,756	20	838
TOTAL	237	173	3,981,808	4,150	959	Frederick	125,378		4,179

Sources: League Websites, Ballpark Digest

SOME CONCLUDING “JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT” STATS

The all-time high MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) Minor League total regular season attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008. Could that record have been broken in the near future, if the number of teams wasn't reduced in 2021? Relocated teams, more new ballparks, a sound economy, NO COVID PANDEMIC, and a year with unusually good weather, could have easily resulted in a new record-high attendance, maybe even in 2021.

The great Hall-of Famer Yogi Berra (1925-2015) once said, "It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future." Estimating future attendance records is, at best, an educated guess. But just for fun, based on the 2019 roster of NAPBL leagues and teams, here are a couple of totally unscientific estimates of potential attendance:

If each of the 15 NAPBL Minor Leagues in operation in **2019**, drew its all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 46,434,694. The odds of each league drawing its record-high attendance in the same year was quite small. But that total was only 7.3% above the pre-2021 record-high total attendance, and was certainly reachable, even fairly soon, had there been no reduction in the number of teams.

Taking this a step further, if each of the 176 MLB-affiliated (NAPBL) **2019** Minor League teams drew its all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 57,825,512. This figure was very unlikely to be reached any time soon. Of course, not every team would have to set a new record for this total to be reached.

Now if you really want to tackle an interesting math question, figure out what's the probability of all 176 teams setting a new record-high attendance in the same season. It might help to know that 16 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2017, 6 teams had new total attendance highs in 2018, and 17 teams drew record-high totals in 2019.

Starting in **2021**, all MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission to their games, are full-season teams. The actual record-high total attendance for MLB-affiliated U.S. full-season teams is 35,447,963, for 120 teams, set in 2008. (The 40 short-season teams in operation in 2008 are not included in this total, nor is the Mexican League.) When things get back to normal, this record may well be within reach.

If you add up the record-high total attendance for each of the 120 MLB-affiliated teams that charge admission, and are in operation in **2021 and 2022**, the number you get is 45,261,287. That figure would be tough to reach any time soon. And the probability of each team setting a record-high in the same year? About the same probability that the author of this report will find every single error or typo in it while proofreading and fact-checking.