



NUMBER TAMER™

138-51 78th Drive • Flushing, NY 11367

Phone/Fax: 718-591-2043

numbertamer.com

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2017 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

Compiled and Written by David P. Kronheim

d.kronheim@verizon.net

© 2018

2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
Overview of Report Contents.....	1
Summary of 2017 Minor League Baseball Attendance.....	2-10
How Data Was Compiled. List of Sources. How Baseball's Minor Leagues are Organized.....	11-12
NAPBL and Independent Leagues – 2017 Total and Average per Date Attendance, Changes vs. 2016...	13
2017 Combined Major League and Minor League Attendance – Includes Spring, All-Star, Playoffs.....	14
NAPBL and Independent Leagues Overview.....	15-16
Biggest Gains and Declines in 2017 by Classification. All-Star Games Attendance. Minors TV Markets..	17
Weather and Attendance.....	18
Number of Minor League Playing Dates by Season (1992-2017).....	19
Mid-Week Day Games by Team and League in 2016, 2017, and 2018.....	20-25
2017 Playoff Attendance.....	26-27
Yearly Number of Teams with Attendance Increases.....	28-29
Small Year-to-Year Changes in Team Attendance.....	30
Teams with the Biggest Total Attendance Gains and Declines in 2017.....	31
2017 Attendance by Month for Affiliated Leagues and 4 Independent Leagues.....	32-34
Average Attendance per Date Summary, Highlights, Biggest 2017 Gains and Declines.....	35-40
New Markets, New Ballparks, and 'Same Ballpark' Attendance Growth.....	41
Large Attendance Gains by Teams Moving to New Markets or New Ballparks.....	42-44
2017 Individual Team Attendance Growth Compared with 2007, 1997, 1987, and 1977.....	45-49
Minor League Baseball Teams that Play in Major League Baseball and/or NFL, NHL, NBA Markets.....	50-52
Minor League Affiliates Who Play in the Geographic Region of Their Parent Teams.....	53
NAPBL Yearly Total Attendance (1946-2017), Yearly Number of Teams, Average Attendance per Team.	54
Historical Average Attendance per Team – by Classification.....	55
Annual NAPBL Full-Season and Short-Season Team Attendance Leaders: 1940-2017.....	56-58
High Drawing Teams: Full-Season-500,000+, Short-Season-150,000+, Indys.-200,000+ or 300,000+.....	59-63
2017 NAPBL Minor League Attendance Highlights, with Highs and Lows.....	64-66
NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM 2017 HIGHLIGHTS AND HISTORIES	
Class AAA - International League.....	67-71
Class AAA - Pacific Coast League.....	72-76
Mexican League.....	77-81
Class AA - Eastern League.....	82-85
Class AA - Southern League.....	86-89
Class AA - Texas League.....	90-92
Class (High) A Full-Season - California League.....	93-95
Class (High) A Full-Season - Carolina League.....	96-98
Class (High) A Full-Season - Florida State League.....	99-102
Class (Low) A Full-Season - Midwest League.....	103-106
Class (Low) A Full Season - South Atlantic League.....	107-110

2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Pages</u>
NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM 2017 HIGHLIGHTS AND HISTORIES – continued	
Class A Short-Season – New York-Penn League.....	111-114
Class A Short-Season - Northwest League.....	115-117
Rookie Class - Appalachian League.....	118-121
Rookie Class - Pioneer League.....	122-124
Arizona Fall League.....	125
NAPBL Individual Teams Listing – 2017 Attendance, Average per Date, Changes vs. 2016.....	126-130
INDEPENDENT INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM 2017 HIGHLIGHTS AND HISTORIES	
Independent Leagues Overview, Yearly Attendance and Team Leaders.....	131-132
Atlantic League.....	133-135
American Association.....	136-138
Can-Am League.....	139-140
Frontier League.....	141-143
Pacific Association, Empire Pro League, United Shore Baseball League.....	144
Pecos League.....	145-146
Independent Leagues Teams Listing– 2017 Attendance, Average per Date, Changes vs. 2016.....	147-148
Season and Average per Date Attendance Records for all NAPBL and Independent Leagues.....	149
Season, Average per Date, and Game Attendance Records for all NAPBL and Independent Teams.....	150-159
Does Winning a League Championship Improve the Following Season’s Attendance.....	160-163
Minor League and Major League Attendance Growth - 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969.....	164-170
NAPBL Minor league Attendance Growth vs. MLB and Other Sports – 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, 1969.	171-172
New Ballparks. Minor League Baseball Attendance Compared to Minor League Hockey Attendance.....	173
Minor League Attendance Records in Cities that Later Joined the Major Leagues.....	174
1949 - Minor League Baseball’s Best Attendance Year until 1999 (all leagues) and until 2004 (NAPBL)..	175-178
1961 and 1962 - Minor League Attendance Reaches a Low Point.....	179-181
Attendance Lows for Cities that Later Joined the Major Leagues.....	182
Post-1945 Highs, Later Lows, and Subsequent Record-Highs for Many Current Minor League Cities.....	183-184
NCAA College Baseball and Summer Leagues Attendance.....	185-186
Just for Fun Stats.....	187

2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2017 season. Features include:

- J The summary of 2017 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- J Attendance notes for each league and for individual teams.
- J Listing of 2017 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- J Comparing 2017 vs. 2016 total attendance. A table shows attendance increases and decreases for all leagues and teams. It also notes the year current Minor League ballparks opened.
- J Listings of teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in total attendance and average attendance per date in 2017.
- J 1990-2017 total attendance and average per date yearly figures and changes for each league.
- J The growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets, and in markets that have teams in the NBA, NFL, and NHL
- J A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 48 years. Tables show how league attendance has grown vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. There is also a comparison of Minor League attendance growth with attendance gains for other sports.
- J Comparing individual team attendance in 2017 with attendance in 2007, 1997, 1987 and 1977.
- J 2017 Playoff and All-Star Game attendance.
- 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 NAPBL Minor Leagues in attendance, which includes the full-season and short-season leaders, going back to 1940.
- 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.

NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, AND MEDIA

You can download this report, and the 2017 Major League Baseball Attendance Analysis, in PDF form, at numbertamer.com. Go to the website's 'Baseball Reports' page for the PDF links to each report.

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

Combined – Major League Affiliated Leagues and Independent Leagues

- J Baseball's Major League affiliated (NAPBL) and independent Minor Leagues had a combined 0.9% increase in total attendance for the 2017 season. This was despite a slight decrease in the number of scheduled games by 4 NAPBL leagues, and a significant increase in the number of games rained out.
- J Combined regular season attendance for NAPBL – also known as 'Minor League Baseball' (Major League affiliated) leagues, and from those independent league teams who reported regular season attendance, was 48,052,652 in 2017, up 449,240 (0.9%) from 2016. Combined attendance fell 2.6% in 2016, had gains of 0.6% in 2015, and 0.7% in 2014, fell 0.3% in 2013, rose 0.7% in 2012, and had declines of 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009.
- J 16 NAPBL teams and one independent team established new team record-highs in total attendance in 2017, along with the Northwest and Pecos Baseball Leagues. Average per date records were set by 18 NAPBL teams, the Northwest League, and an independent team. The Mexican League had its best average per date since at least 1991, but it is unknown if this was a record-high. Single game records were set by 22 NAPBL teams.
- J Hurricane Irma caused the Florida State, Southern, and Carolina Leagues to each cancel their league's Championship Finals. The 2 finalists in each of these leagues were declared co-champions. This resulted in a decline in post-season attendance as 20 fewer playoff games were played by NAPBL teams in 2017 than in 2016.
- J The 169 post-season NAPBL games in 2017, including the Mexican League, drew 763,791, an average of 4,519 per game. Mexican League teams averaged 12,180 per game in the playoffs, the 2nd straight year that their playoff per game average topped 12,000. In the regular season, the Mexican League averaged 4,906 per date. Attendance figures were available for 46 independent league post-season games in 5 leagues, and they drew 110,997, an average of 2,413 per game. 11 NAPBL All-Star games drew a combined 64,044. There were 3 independent league All-Star games, and they drew 15,335. Other than on page 14, these figures are not included in totals listed elsewhere in this report. Grand total combined NAPBL and independent 2017 Minor League attendance including All-Star and playoff games was 49,006,819. It was 48,658,372 in 2016, and 49,901,030 in 2015.
- J In 2017, there were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games, the same number as in 2016. Attendance was reported by 57 independent teams, up from 55 in 2016, 52 in 2015, 50 in 2014, 53 teams in 2013, and 55 teams in 2012. The 4-team Empire Professional Baseball League didn't report attendance. The 4-team United Shore Baseball League played all of its games in the same park in Utica, Michigan.
- J There was team movement among NAPBL teams. Durango and Leon replaced Reynosa and Carmen in the Mexican League. Brevard County of the Florida State League moved to Kissimmee. 2 California League teams, Bakersfield and High Desert, were moved to the Carolina League. They are Buies Creek (Fayetteville in 2019), and Down East (Kinston). Hartford moved into its ballpark in that city, after having to play its 2016 'home' games in various locations. Lakeland returned to Joker Marchant Stadium after a one-year absence for renovation.
- J For the independent leagues, the American Association was loaned a team from the Pecos League (Salina, KS) which played all of its games on the road, as did one team from the Empire League. The Can-Am League played extra home games that counted in the standings with teams from Cuba and the Dominican Republic.
- J 4 leagues (International, Pacific Coast, Eastern, Mexican) reduced each team's schedules by 2 games apiece. In addition, NAPBL teams lost 99 more dates to weather in 2017 than in 2016. Attendance was listed for 116 fewer combined NAPBL/independent playing dates in 2017 compared to 2016. The NAPBL leagues had a combined 134 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016. 5 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games had more dates in 2017 than in 2016. The Pioneer League played 9 more dates than in 2016, and the Northwest League had 4 more dates. Top decline was by the International League, with 27 fewer dates. The Eastern and Mexican Leagues each had 24 fewer dates. Exclude Hartford, which finally moved into its new ballpark in 2017, after playing a reduced 'home' schedule in other cities in 2016, and the Eastern League had 40 fewer dates. The Florida State League had 19 fewer dates, and the Southern League played 15 less.
- J Independent leagues combined for 18 more dates than in 2016, mainly due to expansion in the Pecos League. The American Association replaced Joplin with Cleburne, and had one less team that compiled attendance as Laredo was replaced by a road team. The Pecos League lent Salina (the road team) to the American Association, dropped 2 other teams, and added 5, for a net gain of 2 teams. The United Shore League added one more team. The Frontier, Pecos, Can-Am, and United Shore Leagues all played more dates in 2017 than in 2016.

Combined – Major League Affiliated Leagues and Independent Leagues

- J Weather can also affect attendance significantly even if games are played. Cold weather early in the season, brutal summer heat, and storm threats, can result in lower attendance, even if it does not postpone games. Forecasts of bad weather, or if it rains shortly before gametime, can cut down on short-term advance, and day-of-game ticket sales. So just looking at how many more or fewer dates were played by a team or league from one year to the next, doesn't always provide a full picture on how weather influenced attendance.
- J Combined NAPBL/independent average attendance per date was 3,774, up 69 from 2016.
- J The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 41,832,364, which is a gain of 455,162 (1.1%) from 2016. These 15 leagues averaged 4,095 per date, up 97 from 2016.
- J The 57 teams, in the 7 independent leagues that reported attendance, drew 6,220,288, down 5,922 (0.1%) from 2016. Their average per date fell by 20 to 2,472.
- J Combined NAPBL/independent regular season attendance surpassed 40 million for the 19th straight year. It has been above 47 million in each of the last 13 seasons. The record combined high is 51,576,409 in 2008.
- J Among the 218 combined NAPBL/Independent teams that played in the same markets in both 2017 and 2016, there were 104 teams that posted increases in total attendance, while 114 were down. 112 teams had gains in average per date, 105 had declines, and one team (White Sands of the Pecos Baseball League) had the exact same average per date in both 2017 and 2016.
- J The 11 full-season NAPBL leagues averaged 3,986 per date in April 2017, up 201 from April 2016, 4,019 in May, up 22, 4,507 in June, up 197, 4,614 in July, up 37, 4,622 in August/September, up 180, and 4,362 overall for the season, up 120.
- J The 4 short-season NAPBL leagues, who begin play in June, averaged 2,634 per date in June 2017, down 122 from June 2016, 2,471 in July, down 33, 2,339, in August/September, up 34, and 2,438 over their entire seasons, down 21.
- J The independent Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association averaged a combined 2,863 per date in April/May 2017, down 96 from April/May 2016, 2,893 in June, up 78, 3,191 in July, up 104, 3,132 in August/September, down 41, and 3,037 overall, up 17. The Atlantic League season started on April 20, and ended on September 17. The other 3 leagues began their seasons on May 12 (Frontier) or May 18 (American Association and Can-Am), and ended on September 3 or 4. Tables showing monthly average per date for each NAPBL league, and for the 4 independent leagues listed here, can be found on Pages 32-34.
- J With the attendance increases of 2017, Minor League Baseball attendance remains near its all-time record-high level. 2017 NAPBL total attendance was 3.7% below its all-time high, and the average per date was down only 79 (1.9%) from its record-high. Attendance has been relatively flat, with small increases and decreases since around 2005. This is in part, due to fewer new ballparks being built, and especially for the NAPBL leagues, fewer team relocations, and no expansion in the number of teams. If Major League Baseball adds teams, there will be a related expansion of teams in the NAPBL Minor Leagues.
- J There are plans for a new independent league, the Southwest League of Professional Baseball, which now expects to begin play in 2019. Some of its proposed teams will be in Texas.

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

- J The total 2017 attendance of 41,832,364, up 455,162 (1.1%) was the 5th best in NAPBL history. It was the 13th straight year above 40 million. The average per date of 4,095, up 97, was also the 5th best ever. The record high average per date is 4,174 in 2008. Record total attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008.
- J The 2017 increase was quite an accomplishment considering that the NAPBL leagues had a combined 134 fewer playing dates in 2017 compared to 2016. This was because the Eastern, International, Pacific Coast, and Mexican Leagues reduced their schedules by 2 games each, and there were 99 more lost dates due to weather.
- J The Hartford Yard Goats were a big factor in a decline in 2016, and were also a big factor in the increase of 2017. This team had played in New Britain, in a park that is 12 miles from Hartford. Their new ballpark, scheduled to open in 2016, was not ready, so the team played all of its 2016 'home' games away from Hartford, and drew just 41,569 (799 per date). The new park in Hartford opened in 2017, and the Yard Goats attracted a franchise record-high 395,196, an average of 5,812 per date. What makes their 2017 attendance even more impressive is that there is now an Atlantic League team playing in the Yard Goats' former ballpark in New Britain.
- J Bakersfield and High Desert of the California League were relocated to the Carolina League in 2017. One team, renamed Down East, played in Kinston, while the other, renamed Buies Creek, played in a very small park on the campus of Campbell University. That team moves to a new park in Fayetteville, NC in 2019. These 2 teams drew a combined 176,298 in 2017, compared to 138,973 in the California League in 2016.
- J In the Mexican League, Durango and Leon replaced Reynosa and Carmen. These teams drew a combined 288,788 in 2017, vs. a combined 233,554 in 2016. The Brevard County Manatees of the Florida State League moved to Kissimmee in 2017, and were renamed the Florida Fire Frogs. They drew 57,324 in 2017, compared to 85,032 in 2016. Lakeland's (Florida State) ballpark underwent renovation in 2016. They played mostly day games in 2016, in an old Spring Training park in Lakeland, and drew just 20,387. The Flying Tigers were back in Joker Marchant Stadium in 2017, and attracted 52,191.
- J The total number of dates played in 2017 was the lowest since 2004 for all NAPBL leagues combined, and for the 14 leagues with teams in the U.S. and Canada. There were 134 fewer dates played by NAPBL teams in 2017 than in 2016. The 2017 figure of 10,216 dates is 189 less than in 2012. U.S./Canadian-based teams had 9,392 dates in 2017, which is down 110 from 2016, 131 from 2015, 108 from 2014, 45 from 2013, and 164 from 2012. U.S./Canadian teams had 9,556 dates in 2012 and 9,591 dates in 2010.
- J 11 of the 15 leagues had an increase in total attendance in 2017. Only the Mexican League had a gain in 2016.
- J The Eastern League, due to Hartford, had the best increase in total attendance, up 298,497 (8.7%). The Carolina League added 2 teams and had a 201,145 (11.1%) gain. The 8 teams that played in the Carolina League in both 2017 and 2016 had a combined 1.4% increase. The Florida State League was up 103,628 (9.8%), helped in part, by Tim Lincecum, who played part of the season for the St. Lucie Mets. Other leagues with increases were the Pacific Coast (up 1.2%), Mexican (0.3%), Southern (0.6%), Texas (1.0%), South Atlantic, where Lincecum also played, (0.9%), Appalachian (6.2%), Northwest (3.8%), and Pioneer (0.2%).
- J **The Northwest League drew a league record-high total of 1,088,981, with an average per date of 3,594, which was also a new league record. The Carolina League had a new record total due to 2 new teams.**
- J Besides the Northwest League, 10 other leagues had gains in average per date in 2017. Only the Northwest and Mexican Leagues were up in 2016. In 2017, the Eastern League was up 514. The California League, which lost 2 teams that didn't draw well in 2016, had a 292 average per date increase in 2017. Also posting increases of at least 100 per date were the International, Pacific Coast, Southern, and Florida State Leagues. The Mexican League, up 151 per date, had its highest average per date since at least 1991. It is not known if this is a league record-high since average per date figures prior to 1992 are not available.
- J By classification, combined Class AAA attendance topped 13 million for the 18th straight year, and it was also 18 years in a row with combined attendance of better than 8 million for the Class AA leagues. Full-season Class A leagues drew a combined 11 million plus for the 13th year in a row. Short-season leagues topped 3 million for the 22nd year in row, and were above 3.4 million for the 16th straight season.

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- J Most leagues posted attendance figures near their all-time highs in the categories of total attendance, average attendance per team, and average attendance per date.
- J The International League had its 5th best average per date. For the 20th year in a row, the I.L. topped 6 million, and averaged over 450,000 per team. Pacific Coast League attendance topped 7 million for the 10th time in the last 13 years. P.C.L. average per date was above 6,000, and the average total per team topped 400,000, each for the 18th consecutive season. The P.C.L. drew its 6th best total and 4th best average per date.
- J Appalachian League total attendance and average per date reached the highest levels since 1997. The Florida State League drew over one million for the 12th year in a row. The Midwest League's average per date surpassed 3,700 for the 11th year in a row.
- J Carolina League average per date topped 3,000 for the 12th consecutive season, and 2 new teams resulted in a record-high total. The Texas League has drawn over 2 million for 18 straight years. Southern League attendance reached 2 million for the 27th year in a row. In the last 15 years, the South Atlantic League has been above 3 million 13 times, including 2017. Pioneer League total attendance was above 600,000, and average per date reached 2,000 for the 15th straight year.
- J The Mexican League had its best total since 1979. They also had their highest average per team since 1967, and their best average per date since at least 1991. (Average per date for seasons prior to 1992 is not available.) California League average per date was the highest since 2009, and the Eastern League's had its best average per date since 2010.
- J On the down side, the International League had a total attendance decline of 94,239 (1.4%) due to 27 fewer dates. The Midwest League was down 65,694 (1.6%), and the New York-Penn League had a 79,284 (5.4%) decline. The total and average per date for the New York-Penn League was their lowest since 2000. Total attendance for the now-8 team California League was 135,478 (9.0%) lower than what the 10-team league drew in 2016. But the 8 teams that were in the league in both years had a combined 3,495 (0.3%) gain.
- J The 4 leagues down in average per date were the Carolina League, down 391 due mostly to the under 1,500 capacity park that Buies Creek played in, the Midwest League, down 64, the New York Penn League, with an 83 per date decline, and the Pioneer League, down 59.
- J Class AAA leagues had a combined total attendance decline of less than 0.1%. But their average per date was up by 118. The Class AA leagues had a combined 4.0% increase in total attendance and a 256 gain in average per date. Combined total attendance for the 5 full-season Class A leagues rose 1.1%, and their average per date was up 61. The 4 short-season leagues had declines of 0.5% in total attendance, and 21 in average per date.
- J **All teams in the Northwest League averaged at least 2,130 per date for the 5th year in a row. These are the only times that every team in a short-season league has averaged at least 2,000 per date.**
- J Of the 170 teams playing in the same markets in 2017 as in the previous year, 82 NAPBL teams achieved attendance increases, while 88 had losses. Just 55 of these 170 teams had more home dates in 2017 than in 2016, while 84 teams had fewer home dates, and 31 teams had the same number as in 2016. In 2016, there were only 61 NAPBL teams with increases and 117 had declines. In 2015, 81 NAPBL teams had increases in total attendance, and 93 had losses. In 2014, 87 teams saw gains in total attendance, while also 87 teams were down. 85 teams had gains and 89 suffered declines in 2013. Total attendance rose for 67 teams in 2012, and fell for 104 teams. 87 teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 86 teams had declines. 83 teams had gains in 2010, with 90 teams showing a decline. In 2009, just 57 teams had gains while 114 were down.
- J In average attendance per date for 2017, 90 'same market' teams did better than in 2016, while 80 teams had a lower average. In 2016, 57 teams had increases, and 117 teams suffered declines. In both 2015 and 2014, 81 teams were up, while 93 were down. There were 91 teams with average per date increases in 2013, and 83 had declines. In 2012, 65 teams achieved increases, and 106 teams had declines. 96 teams had increases in 2011, while 77 were down. 64 teams had average per date increases in 2010, while 109 were down. 63 teams had gains in 2009. These figures only include teams that played in the same city for both years compared, so for 2017 it excludes Hartford of the Eastern League, who played in New Britain in 2015, and played all its 2016 games away from New Britain or Hartford. It also excludes Durango, Leon, Down East, Buies Creek, and Florida.

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- J There were 8 leagues where a majority of teams had increases in total attendance. The Appalachian, California, Carolina, Florida State, International, Northwest, South Atlantic, and Texas Leagues each had more teams that drew a higher total in 2017 than in 2016. This included 6 of the 8 teams in the Northwest League. The number of teams with a gain was the same as the number with a loss in the Pacific Coast and Pioneer Leagues. The Eastern, Mexican, Midwest, New York-Penn, and Southern Leagues had more teams with declines than teams with gains, including 12 of 16 teams down in the Midwest League, and 12 of 14 with losses in the New York-Penn.
- J In average per date, the Eastern, Florida State, International, Mexican, Northwest, Pacific Coast, Texas, and California Leagues all had a majority of teams post gains. There were 4 Eastern League teams that had declines in total attendance, but had increases in average per date, due to playing fewer dates. The New York-Penn (11 of 14 teams down), Midwest, and Pioneer Leagues were the only leagues where a majority of teams had declines in average per date. The Appalachian, Carolina, Southern, and South Atlantic Leagues each had the same number of teams with increases and decreases.
- J **The NAPBL teams that achieved their highest total attendance ever in 2017 were South Bend, Visalia, Charleston SC, Pulaski, Johnson City, Tennessee, Columbia SC, Nashville, Hartford (which includes all teams that ever played either in Hartford or New Britain), Clearwater, Kissimmee (Florida), Asheville, Tijuana, and St. Lucie. Vancouver and Spokane set records for short-season teams in those markets.**
- J **Average per date highs were set in 2017 by Johnson City, Pulaski, Visalia, Yucatan (since 1992), South Bend, Vancouver, Charleston SC, Nashville, Tacoma, Potomac, Monclova, Hartford (excludes teams in New Britain), Clearwater, Kissimmee (Florida), St. Lucie, Spokane, Tennessee, and Columbia SC.**
- J Single game attendance highs for current teams or ballparks were set in 2017 or April, 2018 by Durham, Port Charlotte FL, Columbia SC, Connecticut, Fort Myers, Fort Wayne, Great Lakes, Hartford, Johnson City, Lehigh Valley, Missoula, Albuquerque (2018), Richmond (2018), Arkansas, Buies Creek, Down East, Winston-Salem, Pulaski, Greenville SC, Hickory, Boise, Hillsboro, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Tacoma, Tennessee, and Toledo. (Information courtesy of Minor League Baseball)
- J **The Monterrey Sultanes had the highest total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball in 2017. They drew 659,701 in just 57 home dates, averaging 11,575 per date. Attendance topped 10,000 at 32 dates, reached 15,000 at 18 dates, topped by an Opening Day crowd of 29,734. Average per date was down 1,208, the largest 2017 vs. 2016 decline of any team. The 5 playoff games in Monterrey each drew at least 17,000, with a high of 23,176. In 2016, the Sultanes led the Minors in total attendance, average per date, increase in total attendance, and increase in average per date. They 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. Sultanes' total attendance rose by 173,070, and average per date was up 3,379. Monterrey had the largest total attendance decline in 2015. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2012, when they drew 645,302, and in 2006, with an incredible 989,454.**
- J **For the 2nd straight year, Indianapolis finished 2nd in total attendance, but led all U.S. teams (641,141). The Indians averaged 9,159 per date, which was also tops among U.S. teams, and 4th best overall.** They had 26 dates that drew at least 10,000. In 2013, the Indians led the Minors in total attendance. In 2014, they set a new attendance high, and had the highest average per date (9,433) of any U.S. team that played in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They also finished 3rd in total attendance and in average per date. Their 2015 total attendance of 662,536 was another team record-high, and 3rd best in the Minor Leagues, and the average per date of 9,331 was the 4th highest in that category. They've topped 535,000 for 22 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 11 of these seasons.
- J Charlotte was 3rd in total attendance (628,526), and had the 5th best average per date (9,109). The Knights had the top average per date among U.S. teams in 2014, 2015, and 2016. There were 23 sellouts in 2017. In 2014, Charlotte's gain of 432,881 was the 3rd best gain ever for a team moving to a new park in their same market.
- J Columbus, OH was 4th in total attendance (616,059) and 6th in average per date (9,060) in 2017, continuing their record of attendance excellence. The Clippers have led Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 1977, 1979, 1987, and 2009. Since 1979, they've topped 500,000 for a record-tying-high of 31 seasons (tied with Louisville).
- J Round Rock drew 610,681, which was the 5th highest total, and their average of 8,724 was 8th best.

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- J Tijuana achieved a team record-high total of 608,819, which ranked #6. Los Toros (Bulls) had the 2nd best average per date of any team (10,872).
- J Nashville's total attendance of 593,679 broke their team record set in 1980 while a member of the Southern League. The Sounds averaged an NAPBL 7th best 8,861 per date.
- J Sacramento had the 8th best total (562,237). It was just the 2nd time in their 18-year history that the River Cats didn't reach 600,000. They've led the Minors in total attendance in 10 different seasons.
- J Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) finished 9th in total attendance (555,146) and 9th in average per date (8,541). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity for 40 of 65 dates, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 13 dates. Lehigh Valley had been the only team to draw more than 600,000 in all 9 seasons from 2008 through 2016. But 6 rainouts in 2017 really hurt attendance. They've averaged 8,937 per date in an 8,089 seat park in their 10-year history, with an above-seating capacity sellout at 523 of 688 dates, and a total sellout, including all lawn seating and standing room, at 177 dates.
- J Besides the 9 teams noted above, topping 500,000 were: Class AAA Buffalo (for the 30th straight year), Iowa, Toledo, Albuquerque, Durham, El Paso, and Class A Dayton.
- J Yucatan averaged 9,228 per date, which was 3rd highest average.
- J Lowest average per date by classification were AAA: Gwinnett (3,135); AA: Mobile (1,498); full-season A: Buies Creek, in a 1,500-capacity park (517); short-season: Princeton (536); Mexican: Tabasco (1,437).
- J Highest average per date by classification were AAA: Indianapolis (9,159); AA: Frisco (6,812); full-season A: Dayton (8,038); short-season: Vancouver (6,303); Mexican: Monterrey (11,575).
- J There were 29 teams, from all levels combined, that averaged at least 6,000 per date in 2017. 30 teams did it in 2016. In 2015 and 2014, 28 teams, and in 2013, 25 teams, reached that level.
- J 60 teams, including 27 of 30 in Class AAA drew more than 300,000 in 2017. Colorado Springs, Syracuse, and Gwinnett were the Class AAA clubs under 300,000. 56 teams topped 300,000 in 2016, 58 teams reached 300,000 in 2015 and in 2014, 54 teams did it in 2013, and 55 teams achieved that level in 2012.
- J 25 of the 30 Class AA teams drew at least 200,000. Frisco (470,003) led Class AA for the 13th consecutive season. But 2017 was just the 6th time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000. 24 Class AA teams drew 200,000+ in 2016, and 26 teams did it in 2015.
- J 26 of 60 full-season Class A teams drew at least 200,000 in 2017. 23 teams did it in 2016, and 26 teams reached this level in 2015 and 2014.
- J **Dayton drew 554,638, to lead Class A for the 18th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 1,246 regular season games in their 18-year history. This is the longest sellout streak in North American sports history. In 2011, the Dragons broke the old consecutive sellouts record of 814 (including playoff games) by the NBA Portland Trail Blazers, set from 1977 to 1995. The Boston Red Sox exceeded Portland's sellout total in 2012, reaching a combined 820 straight sellouts.**
- J In 2016, Vancouver ended Brooklyn's 15-year run as the short-season leader in total attendance and average per date. The Canadians did it again in 2017, drawing 239,527, the highest short-season total ever for that market. Vancouver sold out 24 of 38 dates, and averaged 6,303 per date, which is 98.3% of their ballpark's capacity. No other short-season team reached 200,000 in 2017, but 15 short-season teams drew at least 100,000.
- J 3 teams had a major rebranding including new names, partly to increase merchandise sales. But these teams also had success at the gate in 2017. The Binghamton Mets were renamed the Rumble Ponies. Despite an incredible 11 lost dates, their total attendance still rose 17,906, and their average per date was up an NAPBL 9th best 670. The New Orleans Zephyrs became the Baby Cakes. Their total rose 10,483, in 3 fewer dates than in 2016, and their average per date was up 412. The Jacksonville Suns were renamed the Jumbo Shrimp. Their total was up an NAPBL 3rd best 61,342, and their average per date increase of 974 was the 4th highest of 2017.

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

-) Tijuana, up 92,318, had the largest increase in total attendance in 2017. This was followed by Class AAA Nashville's gain of 89,619, which was best among U.S./Canadian teams. Class AA Jacksonville, renamed the Jumbo Shrimp, had a 61,342 increase. Full-season Class A Columbia SC, with Tim Tebow, gained 53,900. Oaxaca had a 53,011 increase. Among short-season teams, Pulaski had the best growth, up 19,885. Hartford had a 353,627 increase from 2016, when they didn't play any home games in their home ballpark.
-) In average per date, Nashville (up 1,762), Tijuana (up 1,481), Columbia (up 988), Jacksonville (up 974), and Potomac (up 815), had the largest increases. Pulaski (up 489) had the best increase among short-season teams. Oaxaca, del Norte, Aguascalientes, Binghamton, Tennessee, St. Lucie, Lakeland, Syracuse, and New Orleans also saw average per date rise by over 400. Hartford averaged 5,013 more per date in 2017 than they did in their nomadic journey of 2016.
-) Puebla, playing 5 fewer dates than in 2016, had the largest NAPBL decline in total attendance in 2017, down 75,721. 6 lost dates caused Lehigh Valley to decline 55,869, for the top loss among Class AAA and all U.S. teams. Bad weather resulted in 10 lost dates for New Hampshire, and they were down a Class AA worst 54,279. Wilmington DE of the Carolina League also had 10 lost dates, and their total fell by 45,522, the worst loss among full-season Class A teams. Brooklyn, down 20,849, had the largest decrease among short-season teams.
-) Mexican League teams had the 4 worst declines in average per date. Monterrey, despite having the Minors' highest total and average per date in 2017, had the top average per-date decline – 1,208. Puebla fell 1,128, Laguna was down 999, and Tabasco dipped 846. Among U.S. teams, Sacramento had the worst loss, down 555 per date. In Class AA, the top loss was by Jackson TN, down 227. Wilmington had the worst full-season Class A decrease in average per date (471). Burlington NC of the Appalachian League suffered the largest short-season team decline, down 447. Other than the 5 teams noted above, no one else had a decline of at least 500 per date.
-) Gwinnett's total of 210,075 was the lowest among Class AAA teams in 2017. Mobile had the lowest Class AA total (92,898). Buies Creek, in a tiny ballpark, drew 30,518, the lowest among full-season Class A teams. Also in full-season Class A, Lakeland, despite a newly-rebuilt ballpark, drew just 52,191. Princeton again had the lowest total (17,690) among short-season teams.
-) On a percentage basis, best gains in total attendance were by full-season Class A Lakeland (156.0%), Oaxaca (60.1%), St. Lucie (37.1%), and short-season Pulaski (34.3%). Nashville (17.8%) had the top Class AAA gain, and Jacksonville's 23.2% increase was highest in Class AA.
-) Top percentage average per date increases were by Lakeland (144.0%), Oaxaca (43.6%), and St. Lucie (41.2%). Nashville (24.8%) had the top Class AAA gain, Binghamton (25.6%) was Class AA best, and Bristol (26.6%) had the top percentage increase among short-season teams.
-) In total attendance, the biggest percentage losers were Tabasco (40.6%), Puebla (33.1%), short-season Burlington NC (30.0%), and full-season Class A Kannapolis (27.8%). New Hampshire (16.0%) had the worst Class AA percentage loss, and Lehigh Valley's 9.1% drop was the worst in Class AA.
-) The largest percentage losses in average per date were by Tabasco (37.1%), Burlington (30.0%), Kannapolis (26.7%), and Puebla (26.1%). For Class AAA, it was Sacramento (6.5%), and in Class AA it was Jackson TN (11.3%).

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- J The same 8 independent leagues operated in 2017 as in 2016. 60 teams played home games, and 57 of them reported attendance. Attendance for the 3 teams in the Empire Professional League that had home games was not provided, but most likely, it was very low.
- J The United Shore Baseball League played its 2nd season. All 4 teams in this league played their games in the same ballpark in Utica, Michigan. A team attendance breakdown was not available, but a league average was.
- J Changes in the independent leagues included the American Association's Texas Airhogs playing all home games in Grand Prairie, after splitting them with Amarillo in 2016. Also in that league, Cleburne replaced Joplin, and Laredo was replaced by Salina KS, a road team, lent by the Pecos League. The Pecos League also added California City, Hollywood, Bakersfield, High Desert, and Monterey, and dropped Topeka and Great Bend. The Empire League replaced Watertown with Plattsburgh, and replaced New Hampshire with a road team.
- J Attendance was compiled by 57 teams in 2017, up from 55 teams in 2016, 52 teams in 2015, and 50 in 2014. 53 independent teams reported attendance in 2013. 55 teams listed attendance in 2012. The figures for the 12 Pecos League teams were provided by the league office. Figures for the other independent leagues came from their Websites.
- J 22 of the 48 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2016 had gains in total attendance in 2017. 22 of those teams posted gains in average per date, 25 were down, and one team had the same average per date as in 2016. 16 of these teams had more home dates in 2017 than in 2016, 18 had fewer dates, and 14 played the same number as in 2016. (The United Shore League is counted as one team.) 14 of 46 'same market' teams had total attendance gains in 2016, and 20 of them were up in average per date. In 2015, 23 of 45 'same market' teams had total attendance gains, and 15 of them were up in average per date. In 2014, 14 of 47 teams had total gains, with 13 gaining in average per date. 15 of 48 teams showed growth in total attendance in 2013, with 15 up in average per date. 20 of 46 'same market' independent teams had gains in total attendance in 2012, with 17 posting increases in average per date. Just 12 'same market' independent teams had increases in total attendance in 2011, while 37 were down. 9 of those teams had gains in average per date and 40 had declines.
- J Total independent leagues reported attendance was 6,220,288 in 2017, down 5,922 (0.1%). Combined average per date fell by 20 to 2,472, which is the lowest independent combined average since 1998. There were 18 more dates with recorded or estimated attendance among independent teams in 2017 than in 2016.
- J 4 of the 7 leagues that compiled attendance had gains in total attendance. The American Association had a total gain of 33,407 (1.8%). Teams that were in that league in both 2017 and 2016 were up a combined 0.2%. The United Shore League was up 14,300 (6.1%). Frontier League attendance topped one million for the 15th straight year, drawing 1,288,542, up 2,657 (0.2%).
- J Figures for the Pecos League were provided by the league office. Pecos League attendance rose 10,451 (15.6%) with 2 additional teams in 2017. Their 7 returning teams had a combined 16.5% loss. **Total attendance was a league record-high 77,613 in 2017.** Their ballparks are quite small, and their attendance figures are for tickets actually used, and do not include 'no-shows.' So their ticket sales are higher than announced attendance. All other minor leagues, and the Major Leagues, do include 'no-shows' in official attendance.
- J The Can-Am League had the largest decline in total attendance among independent leagues, down 36,572 (5.5%) to 631,144. The Pacific Association was down 1,861 (4.8%).
- J Atlantic League total attendance declined 28,304 (1.4%) with 8 fewer dates than in 2016. But it was their 9th time in the last 10 years above 2 million. This league had the best total and average per date (3,945) of any independent league. However, it was the 2nd time since 2005 that average per date was under 4,000. In 2012, this league drew 2,367,578, the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. The all-time high average per date for a modern-day independent league is 4,621 by the Northern League in 2008. The Atlantic League will have a road team in 2018, but the other 7 teams will still have 70 home dates. Bridgeport will not operate.
- J In average per date, the American Association was up 160. The United Shore League had a 150 gain, with 60 of their 75 dates, including the Championship Game, selling out. The Pecos League was up 8, and the Atlantic League had a gain of 6. On the down side, the Can-am League had a 137 loss, the Frontier League was down 17, and the Pacific Association dropped by 11.

SUMMARY OF 2017 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- J **St. Paul of the American Association drew 406,501, and averaged 8,296 per date. Both of those figures were once again, the best among all independent teams. 46 of their 49 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with attendance topping 8,000 at 36 dates. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143.**
- J In 2016, St. Paul drew the highest total ever (413,482) for any independent team not in the Atlantic League, which plays a longer schedule than the other indy leagues. The Saints averaged 8,438 per date, which is a record-high for any independent team. The previous records (404,528, averaging 8,091) were set by St. Paul in 2015, their first year at CHS Field. Prior to 2015, the independent average per date record was 7,161 by Winnipeg in 2003. In 2016, 47 of the 49 dates in St. Paul above CHS Field's seating capacity, topped by a crowd of 10,443. In 2015, 46 of the 50 dates topped seating capacity, and 18 dates had crowds of at least 1,000 above seating capacity.
- J Long Island had the top independent attendance for 12 straight years from 2000 through 2011. Long Island, Sugar Land, and Somerset were the other independent teams, in addition to St. Paul, that topped 300,000 in 2017. Except for St. Paul, all the teams that topped 300,000 play in the longer-schedule Atlantic League. Southern Maryland, York, Lancaster PA, Winnipeg, and Kansas City also drew more than 200,000 in 2017.
- J After St. Paul, Somerset had the next best average per date (5,185). Long Island averaged 5,102, and Sugar Land had a 4,672 average per date. Winnipeg, who had the highest independent average per date 12 times in 15 years through 2014, averaged 4,391. Kansas City (4,069) was the other independent team topping 4,000 in 2017.
- J Lowest total attendance among American Association, and Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier League teams was 58,407 by Sioux City IA of the American Association. This team's average per date of 1,243 was also the 2nd lowest in these 4 leagues. The Texas (Grand Prairie) Airhogs had the lowest average per date (1,152). No other team in these leagues averaged under 1,500 per date. Biggest total attendance declines in these leagues were by Ottawa, down 34,964, with 5 fewer dates than in 2016, York, down 24,809, with 4 fewer dates, and New Britain, down 19,891, with 2 fewer dates, with the Hartford Yard Goats opening their new ballpark just 12 miles away.
- J All 16 of the teams in the Pecos League and Pacific Association averaged below 1,000 per date, and for 14 of these teams, average per date was under 400. Tucson of the Pecos League drew an average of 500 per date, and San Rafael of the Pacific Association averaged 480. Most of these teams play in tiny ballparks, some with only a few hundred seats.
- J Sugar Land (near Houston) of the Atlantic League drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest total ever by a modern independent league team. The previous record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001.
- J Texas, which split its 2016 season between Grand Prairie and Amarillo, had the best total increase (21,390) among independent teams in 2017, when all home games were in Grand Prairie. Gary-Southshore had an 18,093 gain, Evansville was up 17,925, and the New Jersey Jackals rose by 17,557.
- J Evansville had the best increase in average per date, up 268. Lake Erie had a gain of 260, Southern Maryland was up 239, Gary-Southshore rose by 225, and Joliet had a 216 increase.
- J Ottawa had the worst 2017 decline in average per date, down 483. Winnipeg's average fell by 426, Normal was down 342, and Laredo had a loss of 323. 4 other teams had losses of at least 200 per date.
- J By percentage change in the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association, Texas had the best total attendance gain, up 48.3%, New Jersey gained 23.6%, and Evansville was up 21.8%. On the down side, Ottawa fell by 27.4%, Normal was down 16.9%, and Sioux City's total attendance declined 14.5%.
- J Best percentage growth in average per date in the 4 leagues noted above was by Texas (up 17.1%), Lake Erie (up 14.9%), and Evansville (up 13.7%). Worst percentage average per date losses were by Ottawa (down 19.7%), Normal (down 16.9%), and Sussex County NJ (down 12.6%).
- J **The Gary-Southshore RailCats set new team highs in total attendance and average per date.**

SOURCES

The Media Relations Department of Minor League Baseball (also known as the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues), provided attendance data for the developmental leagues of Major League Baseball for the years 1994 through 2017. 1997-2017 independent league data is from each league's official Website. Information from individual teams sometimes came from that team's Website. Major League attendance data is from the Major League Baseball Information System.

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

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

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

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

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

There is a section on 2017 post-season and All-Star attendance. All other figures in this report are for regular season games only, and exclude exhibition, All-Star, and post-season games, unless noted otherwise.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES ATTENDANCE FOR SOME YEARS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

Actual 2010, and 2012 through 2017 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.

2017 and 2016 attendance from the Empire Pro League, was unavailable, but was probably quite low. Yearly 2011-2017 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office.

ATTENTION, ENGLISH TEACHERS:

Team names in this report are spelled exactly as they appear in the Information Guide of Minor League Baseball, and on the Websites of the independent leagues.

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

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

NAPBL LEAGUES

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

These leagues are divided into 5 classifications: Class AAA (International and Pacific Coast Leagues); Class AA (Eastern, Southern and Texas Leagues); full-season Class A (California, Carolina, Florida State, Midwest and South Atlantic Leagues); short-season Class A (New York-Penn and Northwest Leagues); Rookie Class (Appalachian and Pioneer Leagues). In addition, there is the Mexican League, which is a member of the NAPBL, but whose teams are not affiliated with any Major League teams.

5 more Rookie leagues (Arizona, Gulf Coast, Dominican, Mexican Academy, and Venezuelan) and the fall Florida Instructional League, do not charge admission to their games, and are not listed in this report. Admission is charged at games of the Arizona Fall League. Their attendance is noted in the page 14 table, on page 125, and is in the team 2017 vs, 2016 comparison table on page 130. But figures for this league are not part of any other tables.

The Class AAA, AA, and full-season A teams played a 140-142 game season (maximum of 140 in 2018), starting in early April. Short-season teams in the leagues that charge admission, play 68-76 games, beginning around mid-June. All these leagues conclude their seasons with playoffs in early through mid-September. The Mexican League played a 111 game schedule in 2017, starting March 31, and ending August 10.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

The independent leagues are not affiliated in any way with Major League Baseball. Their players, managers, and coaches are under contract to their individual leagues or teams. (Uniformed personnel in NAPBL leagues, other than the Mexican League, are under contract to their specific Major League parent teams.) Major League organizations can, and often do, sign independent league players to contracts. Independent leagues were once the rule in Minor League Baseball. But as the modern Major League farm systems developed, Minor League teams began to affiliate with Major League teams, and independent leagues and teams pretty much disappeared.

The current generation of independent leagues began in 1993 with the start of the Northern and the Frontier Leagues. All independent leagues have been through major reorganizations, and in some cases, name changes. The Can-Am League first played in 1995, as the Northeast League. The American Association is a combination of former Northern League and Central League teams. The Central League began as the Texas-Louisiana League in 1994. Numerous other independent leagues were started. Some, such as the Heartland League and the Prairie League, managed to last 3 seasons. Others were unable to survive even one full season.

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

In 2017, the 8 independent leagues that operated were the American Association (100 game schedule), Atlantic League (140 games), Can-Am League (100 games), Frontier League (96 games), Pacific Association (78 games), Pecos Baseball League (58-63 games), and the Empire Pro League (58-62 games), and United Shore Baseball League (75 games-all in Utica, MI). The Empire and United Shore Leagues began play in 2016.

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

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - By League - 2017 vs. 2016

NAPBL AFFILIATED LEAGUES	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>				<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>		
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	Change-2017 vs. 2016		<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u># Change 2017 vs. 2016</u>
			<u>#</u>	<u>%</u>			
International	6,671,670	6,765,909	(94,239)	(1.39)	7,082	6,982	100
Pacific Coast	7,150,468	7,063,852	86,616	1.23	6,542	6,404	138
AAA Total	13,822,138	13,829,761	(7,623)	(0.06)	6,792	6,674	118
Mexican	4,042,605	4,032,047	10,558	0.26	4,906	4,755	151
Eastern	3,723,010	3,424,513	298,497	8.72	4,773	4,259	514
Southern	2,339,085	2,325,870	13,215	0.57	3,571	3,471	100
Texas	2,727,350	2,699,623	27,727	1.03	5,051	4,990	61
AA Total	8,789,445	8,450,006	339,439	4.02	4,450	4,194	256
California	1,364,374	1,499,852	(135,478)	(9.03)	2,450	2,158	292
Carolina	2,027,878	1,826,733	201,145	11.01	3,129	3,520	(391)
Florida State	1,160,428	1,056,800	103,628	9.81	1,521	1,351	170
Midwest	4,087,373	4,153,067	(65,694)	(1.58)	3,799	3,863	(64)
South Atlantic	3,073,435	3,046,337	27,098	0.89	3,352	3,283	69
Full Season A Total	11,713,488	11,582,789	130,699	1.13	2,957	2,896	61
New York - Penn	1,403,575	1,482,859	(79,284)	(5.35)	2,836	2,919	(83)
Northwest	1,088,981	1,049,642	39,339	3.75	3,594	3,522	72
Appalachian	354,090	333,412	20,678	6.20	1,103	1,052	51
Pioneer	618,042	616,686	1,356	0.22	2,046	2,105	(59)
Short Season Total	3,464,688	3,482,599	(17,911)	(0.51)	2,438	2,459	(21)
NAPBL TOTAL	41,832,364	41,377,202	455,162	1.10	4,095	3,998	97
<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>							
American Association	1,866,910	1,833,503	33,407	1.82	3,316	3,156	160
Atlantic	2,071,325	2,099,629	(28,304)	(1.35)	3,945	3,939	6
Can-Am	631,144	667,716	(36,572)	(5.48)	2,111	2,248	(137)
Frontier	1,288,542	1,285,885	2,657	0.21	2,373	2,390	(17)
United Shore	247,900	233,600	14,300	6.12	3,350	3,200	150
Pecos Baseball	77,613	67,162	10,451	15.56	217	209	8
Pacific Association	36,854	38,715	(1,861)	(4.81)	239	250	(11)
Empire Professional			-----	-----			-----
Independent Total	6,220,288	6,226,210	(5,922)	(0.10)	2,472	2,492	(20)
GRAND TOTAL	48,052,652	47,603,412	449,240	0.94	3,774	3,705	69

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

2017 MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TOTAL ATTENDANCE

	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u># of Dates</u>	<u>Average per Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>MAJOR LEAGUES</u>				
Spring Training	3,954,970	516	7,665	
Regular Season	72,670,423	2,419	30,042	
Wild Card Games	98,083	2	49,042	at Arizona, New York Yankees
Division Series	745,242	17	43,838	at Wash., Arizona, Cubs, Dodgers Boston, Houston, Cleveland, Yankees
Championship Ser.	556,082	12	46,340	at Yankees, Houston, Dodgers, Cubs
World Series	346,702	7	49,529	at Dodgers, Houston
Post-Season Total	1,746,109	38	45,950	
Futures Game	37,000	1		at Miami, attendance estimated
Home Run Derby	37,027	1		at Miami
All-Star Game	37,188	1		at Miami
Major League Total	78,482,717	2,976	26,372	
<u>MINOR LEAGUES</u>				
NAPBL Regular Sea.	41,832,364	10,216	4,095	
NAPBL Post-Season	763,791	169	4,519	
NAPBL All-Star	64,044	11	5,822	
Indy Regular Season	6,220,288	2,516	2,472	
Indy Post-Season	110,997	46	2,413	
Indy All-Star Games	15,335	3	5,112	
Arizona Fall League	56,443	91	620	
Minor League Total	49,063,262	13,052	3,759	
Majors/Minors Total	127,545,979	16,028	7,958	

Post-season independent attendance is for Can-Am, Atlantic, United Shore, Frontier Leagues, and the American Association. Mexican League post-season games (included in NAPBL) drew 469,242 for 37 games, an average of 12,682.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES 2017 OVERVIEW**Despite Fewer Dates, and more rainouts, Minor League Attendance Rose in 2017**

-) In 2017, combined regular season attendance for all of baseball's minor leagues rose 0.9%. This growth occurred despite 4 affiliated (NAPBL) leagues playing slightly shorter schedules, and having many more rainouts. The delayed opening of a new ballpark in Hartford that was a significant factor in an attendance decline in 2016, was also a large factor in the increase of 2017.
-) The New Britain Rock Cats of the Eastern League were renamed the Hartford Yard Goats, and in 2016, expected to move 12 miles to a new ballpark in that city. But construction delays resulted in this team playing all of its 2016 'home' games away from Hartford. They drew just 41,569. The Hartford ballpark finally opened for the start of the 2017 season, and was a huge success. Attendance there was 395,196. It was 267,377 in New Britain in 2015.
-) Team relocations in the Mexican League (Reynosa and Carmen to Durango and Leon), and moving 2 teams from the California League to the Carolina League (Bakersfield and High Desert to Buies Creek and Down East-Kinston), also were factors in the 2017 attendance growth.
-) **Combined total attendance for all minor leagues rose 449,240 (0.9%) in 2017 to 48,052,652. Average per date was up by 69 to 3,774.** The comparison excludes the 4-team Empire Pro Baseball League, which did not report attendance. (It was very low.) Combined NAPBL/Independent total attendance fell 1,275,515 (2.6%) in 2016, and rose 301,502 (0.6%) in 2015, and 315,351 (0.7%) in 2014. The 2013 combined NAPBL/Independent attendance fell 0.3%. It was up 0.7% in 2012, down 2.9% in 2011, 0.1% in 2010, and 3.8% in 2009. But before 2009, there had been 24 straight seasons of increases.
-) **Total 2017 attendance for the 15 Major League affiliated (NAPBL) leagues was up 455,162 (1.1%) to 41,832,364, the 5th highest total ever. It was the 13th straight year above 40 million, and the 5th gain in the last 6 years. Average attendance per date rose by 97 to 4,095, also 5th best of all time.** In both 2017 and 2016, there were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission. Total attendance in these leagues was down 2.6% in 2016, up 0.4% in 2015, 2.1% in 2014, 0.7% in 2013, and 0.1% in 2012. It was down 0.4% in 2011, 0.5% in 2010, and 3.7% in 2009. The last increase for the NAPBL until 2012 was in 2008, when it set its all-time record-high.
-) **8 independent leagues, with 62 teams, operated in 2017. 57 teams reported attendance (the 4 Empire League teams, which included one 'road' team, plus an American Association 'road' team, did not). They drew 6,220,288 in 2017, down 5,922 (0.1%).** 55 teams reported attendance in 2016. The 2017 average attendance per date was down 20. The independent leagues had a 1.4% loss in 2016, a 2.5% gain in 2015, an 8.1% decline in 2014, a 5.9% total attendance drop in 2013, and a 4.4% gain in 2012. They had a combined 15.7% decrease due to fewer teams in 2011, a 1.8% gain in 2010, and a combined 4.2% dip in 2009.
-) Major League Baseball total attendance was down 0.7% in 2017, 0.8% in 2016, dipped less than 0.1% in 2015, fell 0.4% in 2014, declined 1.1% in 2013, rose 2.0% in 2012 and 0.5% in 2011, but fell 0.4% in 2010, and 6.6% in 2009.
-) For 2017 vs. 2016, NAPBL leagues had a combined 134 fewer dates. The 160 U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams played a combined total of 110 fewer dates. The Mexican, Pacific Coast, International, and Eastern Leagues all scheduled one less home date per team than in 2016. There were 99 more weather postponements in 2017 than in 2016. The number of NAPBL dates played was the lowest since 2004. And yet, NAPBL total attendance still rose. NAPBL teams played 20 fewer post-season games in 2017 than in 2016, as Hurricane Irma forced the cancellation of Championship Series rounds in the Southern, Carolina, and Florida State Leagues. Independent leagues had a combined 18 more dates with recorded attendance than in 2016.
-) There were many new attendance records set in 2017. The Northwest League had a record-high total and average per date. Adding 2 new teams to the Carolina League resulted in a record-high total. Pecos League attendance reached an all-time high. The Mexican League had its best total since 1979, best average per date since at least 1992, and best average per team since 1967. 12 full-season and 4 short-season NAPBL teams, plus one independent team had their best total attendance in 2017. 17 NAPBL teams, and an independent team, set new record-highs in average per date. 22 NAPBL teams drew their highest-ever single-game attendance. More details about all the record-setters can be found in the league summaries.

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

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

2017 combined NAPBL and independent attendance was the 12th highest ever.

COMBINED NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993

1993 - 30,756,828	2000 - 43,229,652	2007 - 51,298,733	2014 - 48,577,425
1994 - 35,279,284	2001 - 44,805,778	2008 - 51,576,409	2015 - 48,878,927
1995 - 36,208,800	2002 - 45,049,213	2009 - 49,609,703	2016 - 47,603,412
1996 - 36,747,940	2003 - 45,627,856	2010 - 49,537,502	2017 - 48,052,652
1997 - 38,227,980	2004 - 46,445,630	2011 - 48,082,830	
1998 - 39,294,427	2005 - 48,851,400	2012 - 48,408,316	
1999 - 40,051,268	2006 - 49,268,793	2013 - 48,262,074	

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

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, and Reading and Clearwater were leaders in 2017.

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT DOWN IN 2017

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 72,670,423 in 2017, down 0.7% from 2016. Combined Major League/Minor League regular season attendance in 2017 was 120,723,075. This is down less than 0.1% from 120,762,456 in 2016. The all-time record-high combined Major/Minor League regular season total attendance is 130,801,908, set in 2007.

Total 2017 Major League/Minor League attendance, including Spring Training, All-Star, Playoffs, and the Arizona Fall League was 127,545,979, down 39,556 (less than 0.1%) from 127,585,535 in 2016.

NAPBL LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY CLASSIFICATION

By classification, NAPBL teams with the biggest 2017 total attendance gains were: Nashville (among all AAA teams); Jacksonville, FL (AA); Columbia, SC (full-season A); Vancouver (short-season A); Pulaski (Rookie); Tijuana (Mexican League). Jacksonville posted its Class AA leading increase despite losing 7 dates. Hartford, which didn't have any real home games in 2016, had the biggest gain overall.

By classification, NABPL teams with the worst total attendance losses in 2017 were: Lehigh Valley (AAA); New Hampshire (AA); Wilmington, DE (full-season A); Brooklyn (short-season A); Burlington, NC (Rookie); Puebla (Mexican). New Hampshire and Wilmington each lost 10 dates due to weather, and Lehigh Valley had 6 lost dates.

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest total attendance gains and losses for 2017 in both the NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 31. A listing of teams with the biggest 2017 gains and losses in average attendance per date is on page 40.

MINOR LEAGUE ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE

11 NAPBL leagues played All-Star Games in 2017, drawing a combined 64,044. The Southern League game was rained out. Top All-Star crowd was 10,657 for the Mexican League at Campeche. Texas League at Frisco drew 10,317. The AAA game at Tacoma, which matched the International vs. the Pacific Coast, drew 7,024. The Eastern at New Hampshire drew 6,120. Others were – California (Visalia-2,514), Carolina (Salem-5,802), Florida State (Lakeland-3,553), Midwest (Great Lakes-5,009), South Atlantic (Columbia-4,012), Northwest/Pioneer (Hillsboro-4,024), New York-Penn (Tri-City-5,012). Independent leagues that recorded 2017 All-Star Game attendance were the Atlantic (Somerset-8,175), American Association/Can-Am (Ottawa-4,961), and Frontier (Joliet-2,199).

MINOR LEAGUE TELEVISION MARKETS

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,074,750 television households, and 10 Minor League teams in 2017. The biggest TV market without a summer Minor League team that charges admission is Phoenix, which ranks #11, and has 1,919,930 TV households. Phoenix is host to Major League Spring Training and to the Arizona Fall League. It is also home to the Arizona Rookie League, which does not charge admission to its games.

The biggest market with no Major League team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #18. Honolulu, ranked #66, was the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2017. Huntsville AL, market #80, is the largest mainland U.S. market without any pro baseball team. Helena, Montana, ranked #205, with 27,430 TV households, is the smallest market that has a team.

Alaska, Wyoming, and Hawaii are the only U.S. states without a professional baseball team. 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 2017-18 TV Households Estimates.

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

2017 HAD MANY MORE RAINOUTS THAN 2016 FOR THE NAPBL LEAGUES

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

NAPBL leagues had 562 playing dates lost to weather in 2017, compared to 463 lost dates in 2016. In other words, there were 99 more lost dates in 2017 than in 2016. 5.21% of scheduled NAPBL dates were postponed in 2017, compared to 4.28% of scheduled dates rained out in 2016.

The Florida State League had 74 lost dates, the most of any league, followed by the South Atlantic (60 lost dates), Eastern (59), Mexican (58), International (51), and Carolina (50). 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, in the California League, there were only 3 lost dates, with 3 teams losing one date each. The Northwest League had just one lost date (at Spokane) and the Pioneer League only had 2 (Grand Junction, Orem).

Among the 4 leading independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues), there were 76 lost dates in 2017, compared to 79 in 2016.

34 NAPBL teams suffered at least 6 lost dates in 2017. Only 15 teams lost at least that many dates in 2016.

Individual NAPBL teams who had many lost dates due to weather in 2017 were Florida-Kissimmee (17 lost dates), Binghamton (11), Wilmington DE, New Hampshire, Fort Myers, Hagerstown (10 each), Potomac, Bradenton (9 each), Syracuse, Yucatan, Quintana Roo, New Orleans, Mobile (8 each), Frederick, Portland ME, Port Charlotte FL, Palm Beach, Tabasco, Campeche, Bowling Green, Colorado Springs, Jacksonville (7 each), Erie, Richmond, Lakeland, Buffalo, Lehigh Valley, Pawtucket, Leon, Burlington IA, Veracruz, Delmarva, Kannapolis, Tennessee (6 each).

Among short-season NAPBL teams, Aberdeen and Connecticut had the most rainouts, with 5 each. Southern Maryland with 9 rainouts, and New Britain with 6, had the most rainouts in the 4 independent leagues mentioned above.

29 NAPBL, and 6 independent league (from the 4 leagues listed above) teams didn't have any rainouts in 2017, and 25 NAPBL and 11 independent teams had just one. In 2016, 24 NAPBL, and 9 independent teams were never rained out, and 37 NAPBL teams, plus 6 independent teams had just one postponement. 11 NAPBL teams, and one independent team, were lucky enough to not have a lost date in both 2017 and 2016.

A NOTE ABOUT HOW WEATHER AFFECTS ATTENDANCE

There have been 176 teams in the NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games in all but 2 seasons since 1999. 175 teams played in 2007, and there were 174 in 2011. The differing number of home dates played from season to season, as illustrated in the table on the next page, is almost always due to the varying number of dates rained out. There are a very few single-admission double-headers, other than games to make up for postponements, scheduled each year.

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

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

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

2017 HAD THE FEWEST NUMBER OF PLAYING DATES FOR NAPBL LEAGUES SINCE 2004

Despite the addition of 2 more independent teams that reported attendance, there were 116 fewer combined NAPBL and independent playing dates in 2017 compared to 2016. NAPBL leagues had a total of 134 fewer dates, while independent leagues had 18 more dates with reported attendance.

2017 had the fewest number of dates since 2004 for all 15 NAPBL leagues combined, and for the 14 leagues with teams in the United States and Canada. The International, Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Eastern Leagues each scheduled one less home game per team in 2017 compared to 2016. In 2018, the International and Pacific Coast Leagues will each again reduce their schedules by one home game per team.

Moving 2 teams from the California League to the Carolina League resulted in 138 fewer dates for the California League and 129 more for the Carolina League. The Pioneer (9 more), Northwest (5 more), Appalachian (4 more), and the Midwest (1 more), were the only other leagues with more dates in 2017 than in 2016.

NAPBL leagues with fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016 were the International (27), Eastern and Mexican (each with 24), Florida State (19), Southern (15), New York-Penn (13), South Atlantic (11), Pacific Coast (10), Texas (1). Among individual teams, 55 had more home dates in 2017 than in 2016, 84 had fewer, and 31 had the same number.

For the independent leagues, the Pecos added 2 teams and had 37 more dates, the Frontier had 5 more dates, the Can-Am had 2, and there was one more for the United Shore League. The American Association dropped a team and had 18 fewer dates, and there were 8 fewer in the Atlantic League, and one less in the Pacific Association. Among individual teams, 16 had more home dates than in 2016, 18 had fewer dates, and 14 teams had the same in both years.

OF HOME DATES FOR LEAGUES THAT RECORDED ATTENDANCE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAPBL LEAGUES</u>	<u>NAPBL - EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
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	2,360
2000	10,296	9,376	2,255
1999	10,390	9,448	1,904
1998	10,325	9,368	1,821
1997	10,009	9,029	N/A
1996	9,938	9,020	N/A
1995	9,959	9,036	N/A
1994	9,915	8,971	N/A
1993	9,766	8,756	N/A
1992	9,654	8,610	None

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2016

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 2016 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.

<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	10	1	Akron	3	2	Bakersfield	2	2
Charlotte	1	1	Altoona	3	2	High Desert	3	3
Columbus	7	4	Binghamton	2	1	Inland Empire	3	2
Durham	5	2	Bowie	5	5	Lake Elsinore	0	0
Gwinnett	4	2	Erie	6	3	Lancaster, CA	1	1
			Harrisburg	5	2			
Indianapolis	14	4				Modesto	1	0
Lehigh Valley	3	3	Hartford (a)			Rancho Cucamon.	2	2
Louisville	3	3	New Hampshire	6	4	San Jose	8	1
Norfolk	9	0	Portland, ME	5	2	Stockton	2	2
Pawtucket	7	4	Reading	5	4	Visalia	1	0
			Richmond	4	2			
Rochester	9	3	Trenton	6	4	LEAGUE TOTAL	23	13
Scranton-Wilkes B.	3	2						
Syracuse	4	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	50	31	<u>CAROLINA</u>		
Toledo	6	4				Carolina	4	4
			<u>SOUTHERN</u>			Frederick	5	3
LEAGUE TOTAL	85	34	Biloxi	1	1	Lynchburg	1	1
			Birmingham	4	3	Myrtle Beach	0	0
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			Chattanooga	5	4			
Albuquerque	6	2	Jackson, TN	4	3	Potomac	3	1
Colorado Springs	7	3	Jacksonville, FL	3	1	Salem	2	2
El Paso	2	2				Wilmington, DE	3	3
Fresno	5	2	Mississippi	4	4	Winston-Salem	4	3
Iowa	11	0	Mobile	3	2			
			Montgomery	4	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	22	17
Las Vegas	4	1	Pensacola	0	0			
Memphis	4	4	Tennessee	6	3	<u>MIDWEST</u>		
Nashville	7	0				Beloit	3	2
New Orelans	3	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	34	24	Bowling Green, KY	7	3
Oklahoma City	4	4				Burlington, IA	3	3
			<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>			Ceder Rapids, IA	5	0
Omaha	8	3	Bradenton	3	3	Clinton, IA	4	1
Reno	5	3	Brevard County	3	3			
Round Rock	1	1	(Port) Charlotte	1	1	Dayton	0	0
Sacramento	5	5	Clearwater	7	1	Fort Wayne	5	4
Salt Lake City	2	2	Daytona	1	1	Great Lakes, MI	5	3
Tacoma	5	5	Dunedin	3	3	Kane County, IL	10	4
						Lake County, OH	6	4
LEAGUE TOTAL	79	40	Fort Myers	2	2			
			Jupiter	1	0	Lansing	6	2
<u>TEXAS</u>			Lakeland (b)			Peoria	5	4
Arkansas	2	2	Palm Beach	2	1	Quad Cities	4	3
Corpus Christi	0	0	St. Lucie	3	3	South Bend	5	3
Frisco	5	4	Tampa	1	1	West Michigan	7	3
Midland	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	27	19	Wisconsin	9	0
						LEAGUE TOTAL	84	39
N.W. Arkansas	4	2						
San Antonio	3	3						
Springfield, MO	4	4						
Tulsa	6	3						
LEAGUE TOTAL	26	20						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2016

<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>CAN-AM</u>		
Asheville	2	2	Bluefield	1	0	New Jersey	5	5
Augusta	3	2	Bristol	0	0	Ottawa	1	0
Charleston, SC	3	2	Burlington, NC	2	2	Quebec	0	0
Columbia, SC	3	3	Danville	1	1	Rockland, NY	6	6
Delmarva	2	2	Elizabethton	0	0	Sussex, NJ	2	2
						Trois Rivieres, QB	0	0
Greensboro, NC	7	2	Greeneville, TN	1	1			
Greenville, SC	2	1	Johnson City, TN	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	14	13
Hagerstown	4	3	Kingsport, TN	1	1			
Hickory	6	4	Princeton	1	1	<u>FRONTIER</u>		
Kannapolis	2	1	Pulaski	0	0	Evansville	1	0
						Florence	2	2
Lakewood, NJ	5	5	LEAGUE TOTAL	8	7	Gateway	1	1
Lexington, KY	8	3				Joliet	5	5
Rome, GA	8	3	<u>PIONEER</u>			Lake Erie, OH	3	3
West Virginia (Ch.)	3	2	Billings	0	0	Normal	1	1
			Grand Junction	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	58	35	Great Falls, MT	0	0	River City	2	2
			Helena	0	0	Schaumburg	6	4
<u>NEW YORK-PENN</u>						Southern Illinois	0	0
Aberdeen	0	0	Idaho Falls	0	0	Traverse City	0	0
Auburn	1	0	Missoula	0	0	Washington, PA	0	0
Batavia	1	1	Ogden, UT	0	0	Windy City, IL	8	8
Brooklyn	1	1	Orem, UT	0	0			
Connecticut (Nor.)	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	29	26
Hudson Valley, NY	1	1				<u>UNITED SHORE</u>		
Lowell	1	1				LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
Mahoning Val., OH	0	0	<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>					
State College	1	0	Fargo	3	0	<u>PACIFIC ASSN.</u>		
Staten Island	2	2	Gary-Southshore	3	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	0
			Joplin	0	0			
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	2	2	Kansas City, KS	2	2	<u>PECOS</u>		
Vermont	1	1	Laredo	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A	N/A
West VA (Morgan.)	0	0	Lincoln	1	0			
Williamsport	0	0				<u>CLASS. TOTALS</u>		
			Sioux City, IA	2	1	AAA	164	74
LEAGUE TOTAL	12	10	Sioux Falls, SD	3	0	AA	110	75
			St. Paul	3	0	Full-Season A	214	123
<u>NORTHWEST</u>			Texas	2	2	Short Season	32	19
Boise	0	0	Wichita, KS	1	1			
Eugene	0	0	Winnipeg	3	3	NAPBL TOTAL	520	291
Everett	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	23	9			
Hillsboro	3	0				INDEPENDENTS	94	72
			<u>ATLANTIC</u>					
Salem-Keizer	0	0	Bridgeport	4	4	GRAND TOTAL	614	363
Spokane	0	0	Lancaster, PA	2	2			
Tri-City, WA	0	0	Long Island	1	1			
Vancouver	7	0	New Britain	5	3			
LEAGUE TOTAL	12	2	Somerset, NJ	6	6			
			Southern Maryland	4	3			
			Sugar Land, TX	2	2			
			York	3	3			
			LEAGUE TOTAL	27	24			

NOTES:

- (a) - Hartford's stadium was not completed in 2016, so they played their entire schedule on the road.
- (b) - Lakeland's ballpark underwent season-long renovation, so they played nearly their entire schedule at another park in Lakeland during the daytime or early evening.

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2017

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 2017 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.

<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	11	1	Akron	6	3	Inland Empire	3	3
Charlotte	1	1	Altoona	5	3	Lake Elsinore	1	1
Columbus	4	2	Binghamton	3	1	Lancaster, CA	0	0
Durham	3	2	Bowie	5	4	Modesto	2	0
Gwinnett	6	2	Erie	10	4	Rancho Cucamon.	2	2
Indianapolis	11	4	Harrisburg	4	2	San Jose	8	2
Lehigh Valley	3	3	Hartford	6	3	Stockton	3	3
Louisville	3	2	New Hampshire	6	4	Visalia	3	3
Norfolk	8	0	Portland, ME	6	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	22	14
Pawtucket	8	4	Reading	5	4	<u>CAROLINA</u>		
Rochester	10	3	Richmond	3	1	Carolina	4	4
Scranton-Wilkes B.	3	2	Trenton	6	4	Fayetteville	2	2
Syracuse	6	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	65	36	Frederick	6	4
Toledo	6	4	<u>SOUTHERN</u>			Kinston	4	4
LEAGUE TOTAL	83	31	Biloxi	2	2	Lynchburg	1	1
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			Birmingham	4	3	Myrtle Beach	0	0
Albuquerque	7	2	Chattanooga	4	4	Potomac	4	1
Colorado Springs	6	3	Jackson, TN	6	4	Salem	2	2
El Paso	3	3	Jacksonville, FL	4	1	Wilmington, DE	4	3
Fresno	3	2	Mississippi	4	4	Winston-Salem	4	3
Iowa	13	0	Mobile	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	31	24
Las Vegas	2	1	Montgomery	4	3	<u>MIDWEST</u>		
Memphis	7	6	Pensacola	0	0	Beloit	3	2
Nashville	2	0	Tennessee	5	2	Bowling Green, KY	8	4
New Orelans	6	6	LEAGUE TOTAL	36	25	Burlington, IA	3	3
Oklahoma City	4	4	<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>			Ceder Rapids, IA	7	0
Omaha	8	4	Bradenton	3	3	Clinton, IA	5	1
Reno	4	3	(Port) Charlotte	4	4	Dayton	0	0
Round Rock	1	1	Clearwater	6	3	Fort Wayne	6	4
Sacramento	3	0	Daytona	1	1	Great Lakes, MI	5	3
Salt Lake City	4	1	Dunedin	3	3	Kane County, IL	10	4
Tacoma	5	5	Fort Myers	2	2	Lake County, OH	8	4
LEAGUE TOTAL	78	41	Jupiter	2	1	Lansing	8	3
<u>TEXAS</u>			Kissimmee (Flor.)	0	0	Peoria	9	4
Arkansas	2	2	Lakeland	2	2	Quad Cities	4	3
Corpus Christi	0	0	Palm Beach	2	1	South Bend	4	3
Frisco	4	3	St. Lucie	1	1	West Michigan	6	3
Midland	2	2	Tampa	1	1	Wisconsin	7	0
N.W. Arkansas	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	27	22	LEAGUE TOTAL	93	41
San Antonio	3	3						
Springfield, MO	5	5						
Tulsa	5	4						
LEAGUE TOTAL	24	21						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2017

<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>CAN-AM</u>		
Asheville	2	2	Bluefield	0	0	New Jersey	5	5
Augusta	3	2	Bristol	0	0	Ottawa	1	0
Charleston, SC	4	2	Burlington, NC	0	0	Quebec	0	0
Columbia, SC	6	4	Danville	1	1	Rockland, NY	5	5
Delmarva	3	3	Elizabethton	0	0	Sussex, NJ	3	2
						Trois Rivieres, QB	1	1
Greensboro, NC	8	2	Greenville, TN	1	1			
Greenville, SC	2	1	Johnson City, TN	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	15	13
Hagerstown	4	3	Kingsport, TN	1	1			
Hickory	6	4	Princeton	0	0	<u>FRONTIER</u>		
Kannapolis	3	2	Pulaski	0	0	Evansville	1	0
						Florence	1	1
Lakewood, NJ	5	5	LEAGUE TOTAL	4	4	Gateway	1	1
Lexington, KY	9	2				Joliet	5	5
Rome, GA	0	0	<u>PIONEER</u>			Lake Erie, OH	4	3
West Virginia (Ch.)	3	2	Billings	0	0	Normal	0	0
			Grand Junction	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	58	34	Great Falls, MT	0	0	River City	4	0
			Helena	0	0	Schaumburg	5	4
<u>NEW YORK-PENN</u>						Southern Illinois	0	0
Aberdeen	1	1	Idaho Falls	0	0	Traverse City	0	0
Auburn	0	0	Missoula	0	0	Washington, PA	0	0
Batavia	1	1	Ogden, UT	0	0	Windy City, IL	8	8
Brooklyn	1	1	Orem, UT	0	0			
Connecticut (Nor.)	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	29	22
Hudson Valley, NY	1	1	<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>			<u>UNITED SHORE</u>		
Lowell	1	1	Fargo	3	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
Mahoning Val., OH			Gary-Southshore	2	0			
State College	1	0	Cleburne	2	2	<u>PACIFIC ASSN.</u>		
Staten Island	2	2	Kansas City, KS	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
			Salina, KS	0	0			
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	0	0	Lincoln	2	1	<u>PECOS</u>		
Vermont	1	1				LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A	N/A
West VA (Morgan.)	0	0	Sioux City, IA	0	0			
Williamsport	0	0	Sioux Falls, SD	2	0	<u>CLASS. TOTALS</u>		
			St. Paul	3	2	AAA	161	72
LEAGUE TOTAL	10	9	Texas	3	3	AA	125	82
			Wichita, KS	1	1	Full-Season A	231	135
<u>NORTHWEST</u>			Winnipeg	3	3	Short Season	27	16
Boise	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	22	13	NAPBL TOTAL	544	305
Eugene	0	0						
Everett	3	2	<u>ATLANTIC</u>			<u>INDEPENDENTS</u>		
Hillsboro	3	0	Bridgeport	7	4	LEAGUE TOTAL	98	74
			Lancaster, PA	2	2			
Salem-Keizer	1	1	Long Island	1	1	<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>		
Spokane	0	0	New Britain	5	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	642	379
Tri-City, WA	0	0						
Vancouver	6	0	Somerset, NJ	6	6			
			Southern Maryland	3	3			
LEAGUE TOTAL	13	3	Sugar Land, TX	5	4			
			York	3	3			
			LEAGUE TOTAL	32	26			

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2018

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 2018 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 table will be updated when all teams release 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>CALIFORNIA</u>		
Buffalo	8	1	Akron	3	2	Inland Empire	3	2
Charlotte	1	1	Altoona	4	3	Lake Elsinore	0	0
Columbus	5	2	Binghamton	3	2	Lancaster, CA	0	0
Durham	5	2	Bowie	5	5	Modesto	1	0
Gwinnett	7	3	Erie	6	3	Rancho Cucamon.	3	3
Indianapolis	10	4	Harrisburg	6	2	San Jose	9	2
Lehigh Valley	3	3	Hartford	4	3	Stockton	3	3
Louisville	4	3	New Hampshire	6	4	Visalia	6	2
Norfolk	8	0	Portland, ME	6	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	25	12
Pawtucket	7	4	Reading	6	4	<u>CAROLINA</u>		
Rochester	7	3	Richmond	4	2	Carolina	4	4
Scranton-Wilkes B.	4	2	Trenton	5	4	Fayetteville	0	0
Syracuse	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	58	36	Frederick	5	3
Toledo	6	4	<u>SOUTHERN</u>			Kinston	6	4
LEAGUE TOTAL	77	34	Biloxi	2	2	Lynchburg	1	1
<u>PACIFIC COAST</u>			Birmingham	4	3	Myrtle Beach	0	0
Albuquerque	8	2	Chattanooga	5	5	Potomac	3	3
Colorado Springs	5	3	Jackson, TN	5	3	Salem	2	2
El Paso	3	3	Jacksonville, FL	5	1	Wilmington, DE	3	3
Fresno	4	4	Mississippi	5	4	Winston-Salem	3	3
Iowa	12	0	Mobile	3	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	27	23
Las Vegas	1	1	Montgomery	4	3	<u>MIDWEST</u>		
Memphis	7	5	Pensacola	0	0	Beloit	3	2
Nashville	2	0	Tennessee	6	3	Bowling Green, KY	6	2
New Orelans	6	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	39	26	Burlington, IA	3	3
Oklahoma City	3	3	<u>FLORIDA STATE</u>			Ceder Rapids, IA	6	0
Omaha	5	3	Bradenton	3	3	Clinton, IA	5	4
Reno	5	3	(Port) Charlotte	1	1	Dayton	0	0
Round Rock	1	1	Clearwater	6	2	Fort Wayne	5	4
Sacramento	6	0	Daytona	0	0	Great Lakes, MI	4	3
Salt Lake City	5	1	Dunedin	3	3	Kane County, IL	9	4
Tacoma	4	4	Fort Myers	3	1	Lake County, OH	6	4
LEAGUE TOTAL	77	35	Jupiter	3	2	Lansing	6	3
<u>TEXAS</u>			Kissimmee (Flor.)	3	3	Peoria	7	6
Arkansas	2	2	Lakeland	3	3	Quad Cities	4	3
Corpus Christi	1	0	Palm Beach	2	0	South Bend	4	3
Frisco	3	3	St. Lucie	2	2	West Michigan	7	3
Midland	2	2	Tampa	0	0	Wisconsin	8	0
N.W. Arkansas	4	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	29	20	LEAGUE TOTAL	83	44
San Antonio	3	3						
Springfield, MO	7	7						
Tulsa	6	3						
LEAGUE TOTAL	28	23						

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE - MINOR LEAGUE WEEKDAY DAY GAMES - 2018

<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>CAN-AM</u>		
Asheville	2	2	Bluefield	0	0	New Jersey	5	5
Augusta	3	2	Bristol	1	0	Ottawa	0	0
Charleston, SC	3	2	Burlington, NC	1	1	Quebec	0	0
Columbia, SC	3	3	Danville	0	0	Rockland, NY	6	6
Delmarva	3	3	Elizabethton	0	0	Sussex, NJ	4	4
						Trois Rivieres, QB		
Greensboro, NC	8	2	Greenville, TN	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	15	15
Greenville, SC	2	1	Johnson City, TN	0	0			
Hagerstown	4	3	Kingsport, TN	1	1	<u>FRONTIER</u>		
Hickory	7	4	Princeton			Evansville	1	0
Kannapolis	3	2	Pulaski	0	0	Florence	2	2
			LEAGUE TOTAL	3	2	Gateway	1	1
Lakewood, NJ	4	4				Joliet	3	3
Lexington, KY	7	3	<u>PIONEER</u>			Lake Erie, OH	4	4
Rome, GA	8	3	Billings	0	0	Normal	1	0
West Virginia (Ch.)	3	2	Grand Junction	0	0			
LEAGUE TOTAL	60	36	Great Falls, MT	0	0	River City	1	1
			Helena	0	0	Schaumburg	5	3
<u>NEW YORK-PENN</u>						Southern Illinois	0	0
Aberdeen	1	1	Idaho Falls	0	0	Traverse City	0	0
Auburn	0	0	Missoula	0	0	Washington, PA	1	1
Batavia			Ogden, UT	0	0	Windy City, IL	8	8
Brooklyn	2	2	Orem, UT	0	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	27	23
Connecticut (Nor.)	1	1	LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0			
						<u>UNITED SHORE</u>		
Hudson Valley, NY	1	1				LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0
Lowell	1	1	<u>AMERICAN ASSN.</u>					
Mahoning Val., OH	0	0	Fargo	3	0	<u>PACIFIC ASSN.</u>		
State College	2	0	Gary-Southshore	2	0	LEAGUE TOTAL	1	1
Staten Island	4	2	Cleburne	1	0			
			Kansas City, KS	2	2	<u>PECOS</u>		
Tri-City (Troy, NY)	2	2	Chicago	3	3	LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A	N/A
Vermont	1	0	Lincoln	1	1			
West VA (Morgan.)	0	0				<u>CLASS. TOTALS</u>		
Williamsport	0	0	Sioux City, IA	0	0	AAA	154	69
LEAGUE TOTAL	15	10	Sioux Falls, SD	2	0	AA	125	85
			St. Paul	3	0	Full-Season A	224	135
<u>NORTHWEST</u>			Texas	2	2	Short Season	28	14
Boise	0	0	Wichita, KS	1	1	NAPBL TOTAL	531	303
Eugene	0	0	Winnipeg	3	3			
Everett	2	2	LEAGUE TOTAL	23	12	INDEPENDENTS	91	74
Hillsboro	2	0				GRAND TOTAL	622	377
			<u>ATLANTIC</u>					
Salem-Keizer	0	0	Lancaster, PA	4	4			
Spokane	0	0	Long Island	1	1			
Tri-City, WA	0	0	New Britain	4	2			
Vancouver	6	0						
LEAGUE TOTAL	10	2	Somerset, NJ	6	6			
			Southern Maryland	1	1			
			Sugar Land, TX	4	4			
			York	5	5			
			LEAGUE TOTAL	25	23			

NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE

All NAPBL and independent leagues had playoff games in 2017. Hurricane Irma caused the Southern, Florida State, and Carolina Leagues to cancel their Championship rounds. There were 169 post-season games played by NAPBL teams, 20 fewer games than in 2016. The 2017 NAPBL games drew 763,791, an average of 4,519 per date.

Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. Their 34 playoff games in 2017 drew 414,122, an average of 12,180 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 the 2017 regular season, the Mexican League averaged 4,906 per date.

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 47 Mexican League playoff games in 2015 drew a total of 444,001, an average of 9,447 per game. 41 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 322,185 for its 36 post-season games, an average of 8,950 per game. All but 4 of these games drew over 5,000. 11 games topped 10,000 in attendance, with a high of 24,999 at Mexico City. All 4 games in the final round topped 14,000. 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 135 playoff games for NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in 2017 averaged 2,590 per game, with a top league playoff crowd of 8,222 at Indianapolis. The AAA Championship game in Scranton drew 9,383. 16 playoff games (7 in Class AAA) topped 5,000. Just 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 23 games in 2017.

Among NAPBL leagues, highest average per game playoff attendance was 4,002 in the Pacific Coast League, and lowest average per game was 343 in the Florida State League.

Independent league teams drew 110,997 for 46 playoff games, an average of 2,413 per game. These figures only include the Atlantic, Can-Am, United Shore, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association. The largest crowd was 8,131 at Somerset. The Atlantic League playoff games drew an average of 4,191, highest among the independents. Lowest independent playoff attendance in these 5 leagues was 1,332 per game for the Can-Am League. Combined NAPBL and independent leagues post-season attendance was 874,788, an average of 4,069 per game.

Year-to-year comparisons of Minor League post-season attendance serve little purpose since the number of games played, and the cities they're played in, can vary greatly from one year to the next. For example, the very high 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 2013, and to the semi-finals in 2016 and 2017. Their ballpark's capacity is around 25,000.

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 playoff games are mostly in August. But playoffs in all other leagues take place in September, when school is open, and the NFL and college and high school football seasons have begun. Minor league teams often provide free playoff tickets to season ticketholders, or may have a 'Buy a ticket to the first playoff game, and get a free ticket to all other playoff games' promotion. Other teams allow fans who have leftover unused regular season tickets to trade them in for playoff tickets. So attendance listed for Minor League playoff games often includes a large number of free or exchanged tickets.

MINOR LEAGUE 2017 PLAYOFF ATTENDANCE BY LEAGUE, AVERAGE PER GAME, BIG AND SMALL CROWDS

League	Total Attendance	# of Playoff Games	Average Attend. per Game	Crowds under 1,000	# of Crowds 5,000+	Largest Crowd	Site of Largest Crowd
NAPBL-Affiliated							
International	42,070	12	3,506	0	2	8,222	Indianapolis
Pacific Coast	52,020	13	4,002	0	4	5,723	El Paso
AAA Championship	9,383	1	9,383	0	1	9,383	Scranton-Wilkes B.
Total – Class AAA	103,473	26	3,980	0	7	9,383	Scranton-Wilkes B.
Mexican							
	414,122	34	12,180	0	34	23,176	Monterrey
Class AA							
Eastern	23,759	10	2,376	0	0	3,656	Altoona
Southern	20,063	8	2,528	0	0	3,925	Montgomery, AL
Texas	44,784	15	2,986	0	1	6,026	Tulsa
Total – Class AA	88,606	33	2,685	0	1	6,026	Tulsa
Class A							
California	16,474	10	1,647	2	0	3,329	Modesto
Carolina	11,260	5	2,252	0	0	3,225	Myrtle Beach
Florida State	1,378	4	345	4	0	516	Fort Myers
Midwest	53,732	19	2,828	4	4	7,476	Dayton
South Atlantic	23,713	9	2,635	2	0	4,655	Greenville, SC
Total – Full Sea. A	106,557	47	2,267	12	4	7,476	Dayton
Short Season							
New York-Penn	9,046	7	1,292	2	0	1,852	Hudson Valley
Northwest	29,129	8	3,641	0	4	6,320	Vancouver
Appalachian	5,747	8	718	6	0	1,409	Pulaski
Pioneer	7,111	6	1,185	3	0	2,253	Ogden
Total – Short Season	51,033	29	1,760	11	4	6,320	Vancouver
Total – Affiliated	763,791	169	4,519	23	50	9,383	Scranton-Wilkes B.
INDEPENDENT							
Atlantic	46,103	11	4,191	0	2	8,131	Somerset
Can-Am	13,322	10	1,332	4	0	4,607	Quebec
American Association	28,478	12	2,373	4	1	6,363	Winnipeg
Frontier	19,044	12	1,587	0	0	3,393	Florence
United Shore	4,050	1	4,050	0	0	4,050	Utica, MI
Total – Independent	110,997	46	2,413	8	3	8,131	Somerset
Total – All Leagues	874,788	215	4,069	31	53	9,383	Scranton-Wilkes B.

The Florida State, Southern, and Carolina Leagues each cancelled their championship series due to Hurricane Irma.

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

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**NUMBER OF TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 2016**

In 2017, there was a big increase in the number of NAPBL teams that achieved gains in attendance. 170 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2017 as they did in 2016. This includes Lakeland, who played in a different ballpark in that city in 2016 while Joker Marchant Stadium underwent reconstruction.

82 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2017, while 88 teams had declines. This does not include Hartford of the Eastern League, who played in neighboring New Britain in 2015, but couldn't play any home games in their new park in Hartford until 2017 due to construction delays. It also excludes Durango and Leon of the Mexican League, Down East and Buies Creek of the Carolina League, and Florida (Kissimmee) of the Florida State League. 2012 figures include Carolina, who moved from the Southern to the Carolina League that year, but didn't change parks.

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

Year	# of Teams	# With Gain	# With Loss	# No Change
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 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**NUMBER OF TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 2016**NAPBL Average per Date Increases and Declines

The number of NAPBL teams with increases in average per date also rose sharply in 2017. 90 teams posted gains in 2017, while 80 had declines. Again, this group excludes Hartford, Leon, Durango, Down East, Buies Creek, and Florida.

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 48 independent teams that played in the same market in both 2017 and 2016. This includes the 4-team United Shore League as one unit. All teams in that league played in Utica, MI. 22 independent teams posted total attendance increases in 2017, 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 28 shows, the number of teams achieving increases in attendance from one year to the next tends to vary, often by wide margins. But because this variation is frequently caused by some very small increases or decreases in an individual team's yearly attendance, the year-to-year change in the number of teams posting gains or losses may be less significant than it seems.

In 2017, total attendance gains were less than 5,000 for 19 full-season NAPBL 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 indy 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 NAPBL teams, 13 short-season NAPBL 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 NAPBL teams, 13 short-season NAPBL 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 NAPBL teams, 11 short-season NAPBL 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 NAPBL teams, and 3 independent teams with gains of less than 30. 8 NAPBL and 2 independent teams had declines that were below 30 per date.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2017 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE

10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2017 vs. 2016 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Tijuana	Mexican	608,819	92,318
Nashville	Pacific Coast	593,679	89,619
Jacksonville, FL	Southern	325,743	61,342
Columbia, SC	South Atlantic	315,034	53,900
Oaxaca	Mexican	141,217	53,011
Aguascalientes	Mexican	196,439	43,381
Potomac	Carolina	236,010	40,562
Del Norte	Mexican	392,795	39,543
St. Lucie	Florida State	132,359	35,803
Lakeland	Florida State	52,191	31,804

) Recent top gains were by Monterrey (2016, 2012), Yucatan (2015), Charlotte (2014), and Birmingham (2013)

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2017 vs. 2016 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Puebla	Mexican	152,923	(75,721)
Lehigh Valley	International	555,146	(55,869)
New Hampshire	Eastern	284,108	(54,279)
Tabasco	Mexican	71,829	(49,183)
Yucatan	Mexican	452,162	(48,677)
Sacramento	Pacific Coast	562,237	(47,429)
Wilmington, DE	Carolina	230,677	(45,522)
Quintana Roo	Mexican	147,416	(42,502)
Louisville	International	467,024	(39,006)
Buffalo	International	526,574	(36,181)

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

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2017 vs. 2016 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Texas (Grand Prairie)	American Assn.	65,672	21,390
Gary-Southshore	American Assn.	181,612	18,093
Evansville	Frontier	100,337	17,925
New Jersey Jackals	Can-Am	91,892	17,557
Sugar Land	Atlantic	317,721	17,390

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

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2017 vs. 2016 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Ottawa	Can-Am	92,654	(34,964)
York	Atlantic	212,624	(24,809)
New Britain	Atlantic	194,744	(19,891)
Somerset, NJ	Atlantic	342,231	(18,524)
Gateway (Sauget, IL)	Frontier	148,176	(15,503)

) Recent top losses were by Joplin (2016), Sugarland (2015 and 2013) and Grand Prairie (2014).

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

This section lists 2017 monthly attendance for each of the 15 NAPBL leagues, and for 4 independent leagues (American Association, Atlantic, Frontier, and Can-Am 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 full-season NAPBL leagues, the 4 NAPBL short-season leagues, and the 4 listed independent leagues. Monthly attendance from the other independent leagues is not available. The 2017 monthly average per date for each league is compared with 2016 monthly data.

The 2017 data was compiled by Major League Baseball Advanced Media. Special thanks to Jeff Lantz, Senior Director of Communications for Minor League Baseball, for his help. 2016 data was compiled from data published on the Website of Minor League Baseball. August and September are combined, since, except for the Atlantic League, far fewer regular season games are played by these leagues in September.

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 2017 than they did in 2016, it increases the chance that the league will show an increase in 2017 average per date vs. the same month in 2016. 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.

The 2017 regular season opened on March 31 and closed on August 10 for the Mexican League. All full-season U.S. NAPBL leagues opened on April 6. The Florida State League closed on September 3, and all others closed on September 4. Short-season schedules were: New York-Penn - June 19-September 7; Northwest - June 15-September 3; Appalachian - June 22-August 31; Pioneer - June 19-September 9. Independent leagues: Atlantic - April 20 - September 17; American Association and Can-Am League - both May 18-September 4; Frontier - May 12 - September 3.

<u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u>						<u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u>					
2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16			2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	
April	144	834,726	5,797	5,479	5.8	April	178	1,036,022	5,820	5,263	10.6
May	187	1,159,614	6,201	6,281	(1.3)	May	226	1,406,431	6,223	6,053	2.8
June	191	1,399,646	7,328	7,178	2.1	June	222	1,463,406	6,592	6,346	3.9
July	188	1,498,906	7,973	7,986	(0.2)	July	219	1,536,561	7,016	7,195	(2.5)
August-Sept.	232	1,778,778	7,667	7,537	1.7	August-Sept.	248	1,708,048	6,887	6,681	3.1
League Total	942	6,671,670	7,082	6,982	1.4	League Total	1,093	7,150,468	6,542	6,404	2.2
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						<u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u>					
2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16			2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	
April	208	1,176,916	5,658	5,128	10.3	April	119	447,479	3,760	3,534	6.4
May	200	876,882	4,384	4,613	(5.0)	May	161	683,915	4,248	3,929	8.1
June	163	762,232	4,676	4,150	12.7	June	151	724,467	4,798	4,276	12.2
July	186	851,181	4,576	4,769	(4.0)	July	158	843,201	5,337	4,640	15.0
August	67	375,394	5,603	5,389	4.0	August-Sept.	191	1,023,948	5,361	4,698	14.1
League Total	824	4,042,605	4,906	4,755	3.2	League Total	780	3,723,010	4,773	4,259	12.1
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u>						<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u>					
2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16			2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16		
# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.		# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.	
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>	
April	114	433,878	3,806	3,627	4.9	April	87	437,441	5,028	5,070	(0.8)
May	131	471,252	3,597	3,566	0.9	May	112	543,924	4,856	5,039	(3.6)
June	118	428,294	3,630	3,556	2.1	June	100	535,524	5,355	5,148	4.0
July	140	504,716	3,605	3,534	2.0	July	119	592,882	4,982	4,990	(0.2)
August-Sept.	152	500,945	3,296	3,170	4.0	August-Sept.	122	617,579	5,062	4,774	6.0
League Total	655	2,339,085	3,571	3,471	2.9	League Total	540	2,727,350	5,051	4,990	1.2

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	94	245,398	2,611	2,287	14.2
May	116	268,420	2,314	2,158	7.2
June	104	243,437	2,341	1,946	20.3
July	116	290,787	2,507	2,240	11.9
August-Sept.	127	316,332	2,491	2,169	14.8
League Total	557	1,364,374	2,450	2,158	13.5

CAROLINA LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	108	289,574	2,681	2,973	(9.8)
May	130	383,822	2,952	2,970	(0.6)
June	125	390,913	3,127	3,882	(19.4)
July	136	443,774	3,263	3,955	(17.5)
August-Sept.	149	519,795	3,489	3,681	(5.2)
League Total	648	2,027,878	3,129	3,520	(11.1)

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	140	226,858	1,620	1,662	(2.5)
May	165	215,160	1,304	1,327	(1.7)
June	126	168,939	1,341	1,229	9.1
July	166	304,219	1,833	1,463	25.3
August-Sept.	166	245,252	1,477	1,119	32.0
League Total	763	1,160,428	1,521	1,351	12.6

MIDWEST LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	173	422,751	2,444	2,606	(6.2)
May	225	750,340	3,335	3,461	(3.6)
June	199	810,856	4,075	4,177	(2.5)
July	218	961,924	4,412	4,440	(0.6)
August-Sept.	261	1,141,502	4,374	4,292	1.9
League Total	1,076	4,087,373	3,799	3,863	(1.7)

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	163	539,325	3,309	3,170	4.4
May	178	599,292	3,367	3,089	9.0
June	173	607,968	3,514	3,306	6.3
July	185	620,276	3,353	3,489	(3.9)
August-Sept.	218	706,574	3,241	3,335	(2.8)
League Total	917	3,073,435	3,352	3,283	2.1

NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	72	220,629	3,064	3,087	(0.7)
July	194	553,708	2,854	2,922	(2.3)
August-Sept.	229	629,238	2,748	2,846	(3.5)
League Total	495	1,403,575	2,836	2,919	(2.9)

NORTHWEST LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	63	217,398	3,451	3,645	(5.3)
July	116	426,057	3,673	3,617	1.5
August-Sept.	124	445,526	3,593	3,379	6.3
League Total	303	1,088,981	3,594	3,522	2.0

APPALACHIAN LEAGUE

	2017		2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	43	53,363	1,241	1,160	7.0
July	141	160,202	1,136	1,122	1.3
August-Sept.	137	140,525	1,026	953	7.6
League Total	321	354,090	1,103	1,052	4.9

LEAGUE ATTENDANCE BY MONTH

PIONEER LEAGUE

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	48	103,960	2,166	2,353 (8.0)
July	109	244,041	2,239	2,366 (5.4)
August-Sept.	145	270,041	1,862	1,791 4.0
League Total	302	618,042	2,046	2,105 (2.8)

NAPBL FULL-SEASON LEAGUES TOTAL

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April	1,528	6,090,368	3,986	3,785 5.3
May	1,831	7,359,052	4,019	3,997 0.6
June	1,672	7,535,682	4,507	4,310 4.6
July	1,831	8,448,427	4,614	4,577 0.8
August-Sept.	1,933	8,934,147	4,622	4,442 4.1
Full-Sea. Total	8,795	38,367,676	4,362	4,242 2.8

NAPBL SHORT-SEASON LEAGUES TOTAL

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
June	226	595,350	2,634	2,756 (4.4)
July	560	1,384,008	2,471	2,504 (1.3)
August-Sept.	635	1,485,330	2,339	2,305 1.5
Short Sea. Tot.	1,421	3,464,688	2,438	2,459 (0.8)

ATLANTIC LEAGUE

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April-May	147	542,496	3,690	3,670 0.6
June	106	411,365	3,881	3,753 3.4
July	101	411,017	4,069	4,298 (5.3)
August	111	458,359	4,129	4,035 2.3
September	60	248,088	4,135	4,121 0.3
League Total	525	2,071,325	3,945	3,939 0.2

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	68	204,615	3,009	3,031 (0.7)
June	150	498,685	3,325	2,904 14.5
July	152	526,471	3,464	3,186 8.7
August-Sept.	192	637,139	3,318	3,401 (2.4)
League Total	562	1,866,910	3,322	3,156 5.3

CAN-AM LEAGUE

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	36	59,505	1,653	2,251 (26.6)
June	93	181,922	1,956	2,299 (14.9)
July	76	180,869	2,380	2,120 12.3
August-Sept.	94	208,848	2,222	2,305 (3.6)
League Total	299	631,144	2,111	2,248 (6.1)

FRONTIER LEAGUE

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
May	92	175,495	1,908	2,029 (6.0)
June	147	343,082	2,334	2,340 (0.3)
July	134	358,888	2,678	2,612 2.5
August-Sept.	170	411,077	2,418	2,443 (1.0)
League Total	543	1,288,542	2,373	2,390 (0.7)

4 INDEPENDENT LEAGUES TOTAL

	2017	2017	2016	17 vs. '16
	# of	Total	Average	% Chg.
<u>Month</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>per Date</u>	<u>Avg./Date</u>
April-May	343	982,111	2,863	2,959 (3.2)
June	496	1,435,054	2,893	2,815 2.8
July	463	1,477,245	3,191	3,087 3.4
August-Sept.	627	1,963,511	3,132	3,173 (1.3)
League Total	1,929	5,857,921	3,037	3,020 0.6

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

In 2017, average attendance per date rose by 97 for NAPBL leagues, was down by 20 for the independent leagues, and declined by a combined total of 69 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 NAPBL average per date, and for the combined NAPBL/independent leagues average per date. The all-time high independent leagues average was achieved in 2004. The 2017 independent leagues average per date was the lowest since 1998.

Independent leagues average per date can change from one season to the next due to the varying number of teams in very low drawing leagues.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – 1992-2017 (record highs in bold)

Year	NAPBL Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
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	2,697	3,710
2011	4,029	2,605	3,739
2010	3,992	2,854	3,747
2009	4,055	2,872	3,804
2008	4,174	2,877	3,892
2007	4,155	2,726	3,824
2006	4,048	2,908	3,818
2005	3,986	2,785	3,738
2004	3,962	3,000	3,791
2003	3,861	2,588	3,579
2002	3,732	2,689	3,537
2001	3,738	2,541	3,516
2000	3,658	2,475	3,445
1999	3,386	2,559	3,258
1998	3,431	2,054	3,167
1997	3,469	N.A.	N.A.
1996	3,348	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. Highest attendance was 21,547 for Zanesville. None of those original cities currently have a team in any league. The Northern League had 6 teams with a 72 game schedule. 4 teams drew over 100,000, led by 167,956 by St. Paul. 1993 Northern League teams Sioux City, Sioux Falls, and St. Paul currently play in the American Association.

A NOTE ABOUT THE TERM 'HOME DATE:'

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- J Average attendance per date for NAPBL teams rose by 97 to 4,095 in 2017. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- J 11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues had increases in 2017. Only the Mexican and Northwest Leagues had gains in 2016.
- J **The Northwest League averaged 3,594 per date, up 72, setting a league record-high for the 2nd straight year.**
- J **Mexican League average per date rose 151 to 4,906, that league's best figure since at least 1991.** Average per date data prior to 1991 is not available.
- J The Eastern League had the best gain, up 514 to 4,773. Much of this gain was due to Hartford being able to play home games, after playing no real 'home' games in 2016. But even if Hartford is excluded, the league was up 175.
- J California League average rose 292. The average per date gain is a combined 3 for the 8 returning teams.
- J The Florida State League had an increase of 170.
- J The International League gained 100 per date to a 2017 NAPBL high of 7,082, the league's 5th best average ever. Their record high average per date is 7,348 in 2009.
- J The Pacific Coast League averaged 6,542, up 138, the league's highest average since 2007, and 4th best ever.
- J Appalachian League average per date increased by 51 to 1,103, this league's best since 1997.
- J Average per date for the Southern League increased by 100, and the Texas League was up 61.
- J The Carolina League, down 391, had the biggest decline. But this was mostly due to Buies Creek playing in a tiny ballpark. The 8 returning teams in this league had a combined gain of 61.
- J Average per date for the New York-Penn League declined by 83 to its lowest average since 2000. The Pioneer League dipped 59. Midwest League attendance fell by 64 to 3,799. It was their 11th straight year above 3,700.
- J Class AAA leagues were up a combined 118. Class AA average rose by 256. Full-Season Class A increased 61. Short-Season Class A leagues were down 18, and the Rookie Leagues dipped 2. The 4 short-season leagues had a combined decline of 21.
- J **In 2017, Monterrey of the Mexican League led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance (659,791 in just 57 dates), and in average per date (12,783). But the Sultanes did have an average per date decline of 1,208, the worst of any team in 2017. Still, their attendance topped 10,000 at 32 dates, was over 15,000 at 18 dates, with a high of 29,734 on Opening Day. This was the 6th time since 2008 that the Sultanes topped 10,000 per date. Monterrey (6 times), and Tijuana in 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 Tijuana finished 2nd in average with a figure of 10,872 per date. Their record high is 12,764 per date in 2004.
- J **Yucatan of the Mexican League averaged a team record-high 9,228.**
- J **Indianapolis led all United States teams with an average per date of 9,159. The Indians have reached 8,000 per date in 20 of the past 22 seasons, including the last 14 in a row. 2017 was their 7th time above 9,000.**
- J Charlotte of the International League averaged 9,109 per date. The Knights led all U.S. teams in average per date in 2014, 2015, and 2016.
- J Columbus drew 9,060 per date, their 9th straight year above 8,000.
- J Sacramento, Round Rock, and Dayton all topped 8,000 per date, with each team doing it for the 18th straight year.
- J **Nashville averaged a team record-high 8,861 per date in 2017, which was 4th best among U.S. teams.**

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- J Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) averaged 8,541, which ranked #9 in 2017. 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, and 8,729 in 2016.
- J Buffalo's 2017 average per date was 8,101. The Bisons have topped 8,000 per date in all but 2 years since 1988.
- J Overall, 12 teams drew at least 8,000 per date in 2017. The number of teams averaging above 8,000 was 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 only 4 teams in 1999.
- J 13 of the 30 Class AAA teams averaged at least 7,600 per date in 2017.
- J Gwinnett was the only Class AAA team to average under 4,000 in 2017, and in 2016. The Braves drew an average of just 3,135 per date in 2017. They averaged 3,218 per date in 2016, and 3,808 in 2015. Syracuse had the lowest Class AAA average in 2015 (3,803) and 2014 (3,743).
- J Frisco (6,812), Reading (6,054), and Richmond (6,034) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2017. 3 Class AA teams topped 6,000 per date in 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 has reached at least 6,600 in average per date in all 15 seasons of operation. Average per date in Reading has topped 6,000 in 18 of the last 19 seasons.
- J Mobile (1,498 per date), and Jackson, TN (1,775), had the lowest Class AA averages.
- J There were 10 Class AA teams that averaged at least 5,000 per date in 2017.
- J 10 Class A (including short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2017. 10 of these teams also did it in 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 8,038 to lead Class A for the 18th straight year, and Fort Wayne averaged 5,931 in 2017.** Fort Wayne topped 6,000 in 2016. Dayton was the only full-season Class A team to reach 6,000 in 2015. 2 full-season Class A teams topped 6,000 in 2014, 2013, and 2012, a mark reached by 3 teams in 2011, 2010, and 2009, and 4 teams in 2008, 2007, and 2006.
- J In 2017, 14 full-season Class A, and 4 short-season teams, averaged at least 4,000 per date.
- J Buies Creek, which is playing in a 1,500-capacity ballpark until their permanent home in Fayetteville is opened in 2019, had the lowest average per date of any NAPBL team (517) in 2017. Dunedin (573), Lakeland (815), Palm Beach (934), and Beloit (959), also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- J Vancouver averaged 6,303 to lead all short-season teams in 2017. Brooklyn, which averaged 5,190 in 2017, had led short-season teams for 15 straight seasons from 2001 through 2015. Spokane (5,315) also topped 5,000.
- J Tri-City (NY-Penn) was the other short-season team that averaged more than 4,000 per date in 2017. 12 short-season teams topped 3,000 per date.
- J Ogden drew an average of 3,378 per date to lead the Rookie leagues in 2017.
- J 7 short-season teams (5 of whom play in the Appalachian League, plus Batavia of the New York-Penn League, and Helena of the Pioneer League), averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date in 2017. Princeton (536) had the lowest average in this group.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES**NAPBL Teams – Biggest Gains in Average per Date**

- J Nashville of the Pacific Coast League had the biggest average per date increase of 2017, up 1,762 to 8,861. The Sounds had the biggest average per date decline in Class AAA in 2016, but had the best gain among U.S. teams in 2015.
- J Tijuana, up 1,481, had the best gain in the Mexican League.
- J The renamed Jacksonville Jumbo Shrimp posted an increase of 974, the highest of any Class AA team.
- J Columbia, SC was up 988, the best gain in full-season Class A. Potomac had an 815 increase.
- J Pulaski of the Appalachian League achieved an increase of 489, tops in short-season leagues.
- J 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.

NAPBL Teams – Biggest Losses in Average per Date

- J Monterrey (Mexican), down 1,208, had the worst average per date loss among NAPBL teams in 2017. The Sultanes still had the highest average per date of any Minor League team.
- J Class AAA Sacramento had the worst Class AAA, and U.S. teams decrease in 2017, down 555.
- J Jackson, TN, with a decline of 227, had the steepest drop in Class AA.
- J Wilmington, DE fell 471 per date, largest among full-season Class A teams. Kannapolis was down 393.
- J Burlington, NC (Appalachian), down 447, had the largest drop among short-season teams.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUESIndependent Leagues

- J Combined average attendance per date was down 20 to 2,472 for the independent teams that recorded attendance. This was the lowest independent leagues average per date since 1998. The average per date would be even lower if attendance figures from the Empire Pro League were available.
- J The American Association, which replaced 2 teams in 2017, averaged 3,316 per date, up 160, the best gain of any independent league. However, among the teams that played in the league in both 2016 and 2017, the average per date fell 131 to 3,492.
- J Atlantic League average per date rose by 6 to 3,945. It was the independent league high for 2017. 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 2,111 per date, down 137. Frontier League average per date declined by 17 to 2,373. The Pecos Baseball League was up 8 to 217, and the Pacific Association dipped 11 to 239.
- J In its 2nd year, the United Shore Baseball League averaged 3,350, up 150. All 4 teams in this league play in the same ballpark in Utica, MI. 60 of 75 dates, including the Championship Game, were sold out.
- 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! In 2017, the Saints averaged an independent leagues' best 8,296 per date.** Winnipeg, which averaged 4,391 in 2017, had the top independent average 12 times from 2000 through 2014.
- J Long Island (5,102) and Somerset (5,185) also exceeded 5,000 per date in 2017. 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.
- J All 12 Pecos League and all 4 Pacific Association teams averaged under 1,000 per date in 2017. Most of these teams play in very small facilities, and Pecos League figures exclude 'no-shows.' The 3 Empire Pro 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 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.
- J There were 17 independent teams in 2016, and 14 in 2015, that averaged under 1,000 per date. This excludes 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.
- J Evansville, up 268 per date, had the best 2017 increase among independent teams. Lake Erie had a gain of 260, Southern Maryland posted a 239 per date increase, Gary-Southshore was up 225, and Joliet gained 216. Bridgeport, in its final season, had a gain of 197. The Texas (Grand Prairie) Airhogs averaged 1,152 per date, lowest among American Association, Can-Am, Atlantic, and Frontier League teams. But the Airhogs did post a 168 increase in average per date from 2016, when they split their schedule between Grand Prairie and Amarillo.
- J Ottawa had the largest decline, down 483. Winnipeg had a dip of 426, Normal fell by 342, Gateway was down 323.

2017 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE

10 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2017 vs. 2016 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Nashville	Pacific Coast	8,861	1,762
Tijuana	Mexican	10,872	1,481
Columbia, SC	South Atlantic	4,773	988
Jacksonville, FL	Southern	5,171	974
Potomac	Carolina	3,869	815
Oaxaca	Mexican	2,435	739
Del Norte	Mexican	7,142	719
Aguascalientes	Mexican	3,572	684
Binghamton, NY	Eastern	3,289	670
Tennessee	Southern	4,981	662

) Monterrey led in average per date gain in 2016. Yucatan had the top average per date increase in 2015. Charlotte and Birmingham, each in a brand new park, had the largest increases 2014 and 2013 respectively.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2017 vs. 2016 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Monterrey	Mexican	11,575	(1,208)
Puebla	Mexican	3,186	(1,128)
Laguna	Mexican	4,396	(999)
Tabasco	Mexican	1,437	(846)
Sacramento	Pacific Coast	8,032	(555)
Wilmington, DE	Carolina	3,845	(471)
Burlington, NC	Appalachian	1,045	(447)
Quintana Roo	Mexican	3,008	(445)
Brooklyn	New York-Penn	5,190	(424)
Kannapolis	South Atlantic	1,080	(393)

) Worst average per date declines were by Oaxaca in 2016, Puebla in 2015, Memphis in 2014, and Saltillo in 2013.

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2017 vs. 2016 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Evansville	Frontier	2,230	268
Lake Erie	Frontier	2,001	260
Southern Maryland	Atlantic	3,443	239
Gary-Southshore	American Assn.	3,632	225
Joliet	Frontier	2,226	216

) Sussex, NJ achieved the top gain of 2016, St. Paul had the best gain in both 2015 and 2014. In 2013, Fort Worth had the biggest increase.

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE– 2017 vs. 2016 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2017 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2016</u>
Ottawa	Can-Am	1,971	(483)
Winnipeg	American Assn.	4,391	(426)
Normal	Frontier	1,685	(342)
Gateway (Sauget, IL)	Frontier	3,087	(323)
Garden City, KS	Pecos	75	(281)

) Joplin had the biggest decline in 2016. The worst 2015 decrease was by Laredo. Fort Worth had the worst loss in 2014. El Paso, then in the American Assn., had the largest decline in 2013.

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 full year 2017 compared to the full year 2016 will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2017 or 2016.

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 2017 and 2016. Looking at 'Same-Store' sales provides a good barometer of real sales growth, rather than just growth due to opening many new stores.

This page looks at 'Same-Ballpark' attendance, a baseball version of 'Same-Store' sales, by comparing 2017 vs. 2016 attendance change for the NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both years.

Adding teams, relocating teams, and opening new ballparks have been big factors in the growth of Minor League attendance over the past 40 years. Add to this the independent leagues that first came on the scene in 1993. These changes have been far less frequent in recent years, and are one reason why Minor League attendance has not changed much since 2005. There were 19 more teams in 1990 playing in NAPBL leagues that charge admission than there were in 1980. By 1999, 12 more NAPBL teams, plus 44 independent teams were added. But 2017 had the same number of NAPBL teams as in 1999. No Major League expansion since 1998 is the main reason for this.

Far fewer new ballparks have opened recently. In 2017, 71 NAPBL teams, including Jupiter and Palm Beach, who share a park, and 21 independent league teams, played in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 31 NAPBL and 12 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.

In 2017, the Florida State League team in Brevard County was relocated to Kissimmee, and renamed the Florida Firefrogs. Hartford, who played in neighboring New Britain through 2015, couldn't play in their new home in 2016 due to construction delays. They played 'home' games in other locations. Their new park did open in 2017. Lakeland had to play their 2016 home games at Henley Field in Lakeland, while Joker Marchant Stadium was rebuilt. Bakersfield and High Desert moved from the California League to the Carolina League, relocating to a tiny park at Buies Creek (through 2018, after which they go to Fayetteville) and Down East (Kinston). Mexican League teams in Reynosa and Carmen moved to Durango and Leon. The only independent league park that opened in 2017 was in Cleburne, TX.

The 7 teams listed in the table below had combined 2017 total attendance growth of 86.7%, and an average per date gain of 1,187 vs. what they drew in their former locations in 2016. Combined total attendance rose under 0.1%, and average per date rose by 48 for the 169 NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both 2017 and 2016.

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

Since 2000, "NAPBL Same Ballpark' attendance (counting teams that played in the same ballpark in both years being compared – for example, in 2000, comparing 2000 and 1999) has been up in 2000, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2011, and 2017. It has gone down in 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016.

League	2017 City	2017 Attendance	2016 City	2016 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2016
Cal. (2016), Car.(2017)	Buies Creek	30,518	Bakersfield	62,922	(32,404)
Cal. (2016), Car.(2017)	Down East	145,780	High Desert	76,051	69,729
Florida State	Kissimmee	57,324	Brevard County	85,032	(27,708)
Mexican	Durango	180,118	Reynosa	102,823	77,295
Mexican	Leon	108,670	Carmen	130,731	(22,061)
Eastern	Hartford-home	395,196	Hartford-road	41,569	353,627
Florida State	Lakeland	52,191	Lakeland	20,387	31,804
Total - Above 7 Teams		969,797		519,515	450,282
169 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2016 NAPBL Teams		40,862,567		40,857,687	4,880

ATTENDANCE GROWTH FOR TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS OR NEW BALLPARKS

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

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

This isn't a full 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 NAPBL league, and to include a few more listings from the short-season leagues.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since 2000, there have been 7 teams that moved to a new market or new ballpark, that had a decline in attendance. In 2002, a South Atlantic League team moved from Wilmington, NC to Albany, GA just 3 weeks prior to the start of the season due to ballpark problems. Attendance fell 62,523. In 2006, hurricane damage to the park in Cancun, Mexico forced the team to move to Cordoba, and attendance declined by 43,997. In 2010, Eugene of the Northwest League moved to a new park which they share with the University of Oregon, but their attendance dropped by 17,914. In 2012, a P.C.L. team from Portland relocated temporarily to Tucson until a new location could be found. Attendance fell by 52,196. This team ultimately moved to El Paso in 2014. 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 – 2017 vs. 2007, 1997, 1987, and 1977

A later part of this report examines Minor League historic attendance growth by league. The section here looks at individual team attendance growth, comparing attendance in 2017 with 2007, 1997, 1987, and 1977. It includes 2017 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different NAPBL classifications in 2007, 1997, 1987 or 1977. Some cities went from being NAPBL markets in 2007, 1997, 1987, and/or 1977, to hosting independent league teams in 2017. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa.

2017 vs. 2007

In 2017, there were 196 Minor League teams (163 NAPBL and 33 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2007 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2007.

61 of those 163 NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2017 than in 2007, while 102 teams had a decline. Norwich, CT and the Portland, OR area (Hillsboro in 2017) had full-season teams in 2007, and short-season teams in 2017. Reno, Pensacola, and El Paso had shorter-season independent teams in 2007, and full-season NAPBL teams in 2017, and all had big 2017 vs. 2007 gains (El Paso up 333,352, Pensacola up 205,642, Reno up 297,172).

5 of the 33 independent league markets with a team in both years drew better in 2017 than in 2007. 6 of these markets had full-season NAPBL teams in 2007, but except for New Britain, played shorter schedules as independent teams in 2017. 2017 declines vs. 2007 for these former NAPBL markets were by Tucson (255,843), New Britain (147,072), High Desert (109,016), Bakersfield (68,830), and Ottawa (34,240). Wichita was up 44,627.

The 163 NAPBL teams that played in the same market in 2017 as any Minor League team did in 2007 drew 39,491,972 in 2017, down 2,049,857 (4.9%) from 2007. The 33 independent teams that played in the same market as any 2007 Minor League team drew 4,866,171 in 2017, down 1,406,801 (22.4%) from 2007.

17 NAPBL teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2007. Only Scranton, and short-season Eugene and Hillsboro (which was full-season Portland in 2007) drew less in 2017 than in 2007. St. Paul, up 108,667, and Texas, down 8,991, were the only 2017 independent teams who moved to a new park after 2007.

Class AAA Charlotte, up 317,407, had the biggest gain when comparing 2017 attendance with 2007 for teams that played roughly the same length schedule in both years. El Paso had a 333,352 gain, but that was compared to an independent American Association team in 2007. Birmingham showed the best growth among teams who were in Class AA for both seasons, up 111,554. Pensacola had a bigger gain vs. 2007 than Birmingham did, but they played in shorter season independent league in 2007. All these cities opened new parks since 2007.

South Bend, up 204,789 in the same park as in 2007, had the best gain among full-season Class A teams. Winston-Salem (143,427), and Fort Wayne (171,287) also had very good growth, after moving to new parks after 2007.

Vancouver, up 113,036, had the best growth among short-season teams. Yucatan's gain of 217,753 was the best in the Mexican League. Overall, 12 markets which had NAPBL teams in both 2017 and 2007, and 16 markets overall, saw attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10-year period. 10 of these 16 teams play in a park that opened after 2007. Among independent markets, St. Paul, up 108,667 in a park that opened in 2015, had the best increase.

Memphis of the PCL, down 283,122 since 2007, had the worst decline of any city with a full-season NAPBL team in both years. Saltillo of the Mexican League was down 236,145. Pawtucket's attendance fell 201,419. Louisville dipped 186,891. Corpus Christi fell 148,047, the biggest loss among Class AA teams. Full-season Class A Great Lakes had a 122,131 loss, the worst on that level. Aberdeen's decline of 110,392 was the biggest for a team in a short-season NAPBL league in both years. Hillsboro drew 260,547 less than the full-season team in nearby Portland drew in 2007, and Connecticut (Norwich) drew 121,796 less than their full-season 2007 team. 16 NAPBL markets with full-season teams in both years saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2007.

Southern Illinois, down 107,871, and Lancaster, PA, down 91,624, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2017 and in 2007.

There were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games in 2007. Attendance for those teams was a then-record-high 42,812,812. 2005 was the first time that NAPBL attendance reached 40 million. NAPBL total attendance has surpassed 40 million every year since then, but topped the 2007 total only in 2008.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 2007 - continued

In 2017, there were also 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 41,832,364. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 243,255 in 2007, and 237,684 in 2017. NAPBL average per date was 4,155 in 2007, and 4,095 in 2017.

Independent league attendance was 8,485,921 in 2007, with 67 teams playing home games. In 2016, the 57 independent teams that played any home games, and also provided attendance figures, drew 6,220,288. Average per date was 2,726 in 2007. It was 2,472 in 2017.

In 2007, there were 9 independent leagues in operation (Frontier, Northern, Atlantic, Can-Am, Golden Baseball, United, South Coast, Continental, and the American Association). All but the Continental averaged at least 1,233 per date, topped by the Atlantic League at 4,153. In 2017, there were some fairly new leagues, such as the Pecos League and the Pacific Association, that drew much smaller crowds, thus reducing the combined independent leagues average per date. The 2017 combined average per date from just the American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues was 3,035 per date. These 4 leagues, plus the Northern League, averaged 3,169 per date in 2007.

The following 14 teams set record-high total attendance figures in 2007 that have not been broken through 2017: Scranton-Wilkes Barre; Toledo; Iowa; Mississippi; Great Lakes; Greensboro; West Virginia Power; Elizabethton; Orem; Idaho Falls; Quintana Roo; Kansas City, KS; Southern Illinois; Traverse City.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 1997

All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1997. There were 3 Class AAA leagues—the International and Pacific Coast Leagues, and the American Association (no relation to the current independent league of that name). American Association teams moved to the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

8 independent leagues, with 58 teams, were in operation in 1997. Only the Frontier League still runs under the same name, but Evansville is their only 1997 team still active. Other 1997 independent league cities still active in 2017 as independent teams were St. Paul, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, Fargo, and Winnipeg, all then in the Northern League, and now in the American Association. Sonoma of the Western League is now in the Pacific Association. Disbanded 1997 independent leagues include the Big South, Heartland, Prairie, and Western Leagues. The Northeast League is now the Can-Am League, and the Texas-Louisiana and Northern Leagues merged into the American Association.

A larger percentage of teams posted increases, and very large increases, when comparing 2017 attendance with 1997 attendance, than when comparing 2017 attendance with 2007. 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 1997.

139 NAPBL teams played in the same geographic market in 2017, as any Minor League team played in during the 1997 season. 82 of those teams had higher attendance in 2017, than a team in the same market in 1997. Attendance fell for 57 teams comparing 2017 with 1997. Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2017 totals. These teams share a ballpark. Individually, Jupiter and Palm Beach each drew more in 2017 than the 1997 West Palm Beach team. 6 of the 14 independent markets with a team in both 2017 and 1997 had a gain.

These 139 NAPBL teams drew 33,102,344 in 2017, up 3,468,973 (11.7%) from 29,633,371 in 1997. Excluded is the 154,670 attendance in 1997 for St. Petersburg (2017 vs. 1997 comparison was made for Tampa only).

The 14 independent teams, who generally play much shorter schedules than full-season NAPBL teams, drew 1,643,573 in 2017, vs. 2,315,445 in 1997, a decline of 671,872 (29.0%).

Allentown PA, Tri-Cities NY, Altoona, Tri-Cities WA, and Reno had independent league teams in 1997 and NAPBL teams in 2017. New Britain, Tucson, Ottawa, Sussex NJ, Bakersfield, High Desert, and Wichita had NAPBL teams in 1997 and independent league teams in 2017. The New Britain area also had an NAPBL team (Hartford) in 2017, and a comparison is made with 1997 New Britain for both teams.

Connecticut (Norwich) and Vancouver now play a short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1997. Connecticut drew 73,439 in 33 home dates in 2017, and 244,246 in 63 dates in 1997. In 2017, Vancouver attracted a team short-season record high 239,527 in 38 dates, compared to 303,148 in 64 dates in 1997.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 1997 – continued

46 of the 139 NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in operation in both 2017 and 1997, play in a ballpark that opened after 1997. 40 of them had better attendance in 2017 than in 1997. Scranton, Chattanooga, Buies Creek, and Omaha are the only full-season NAPBL markets with a ballpark that opened after 1997, whose 2017 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier. Tucson was the only independent team in a post-1997 ballpark with a decrease. St. Paul and Winnipeg were up.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2017 than in 1997 for 27 NAPBL teams, and one independent, with 13 of those teams posting increases of more than 200,000. 19 of the 27 teams posting 100,000+ gains vs. 1997 play in ballparks opened since then. Only Durham, Iowa, South Bend, and 5 Mexican League teams (Monterrey, Laguna, Aguascalientes, Saltillo, Yucatan) had 100,000+ gains and play in a park that's at least 20 years old.

Class AAA Nashville, up 324,493 since 1997, had the best increase among teams in the NAPBL in both 2017 and 1997. Charlotte rose by 310,424, Albuquerque had a gain of 234,742, Memphis had a 236,824 increase, and Toledo was up 207,482. Among current NAPBL cities that had independent teams in 1996, Lehigh Valley rose 485,609, Reno was up 298,208, Altoona increased 263,854, and El Paso gained 241,774.

Hartford, up 243,278, and Tennessee, up 175,407, had the top gains among teams who played in Class AA in both 2017 and 1997. The gain of 203,756 by Greensboro was the largest for full-season Class A, followed by Columbia (179,364), Fort Wayne (179,043), South Bend (156,206), and Winston-Salem (148,322). Pulaski's 2017 total was 53,982 higher than in 1997, the best short-season gain. Tri-Cities, NY (Albany-Schenectady-Troy) drew 69,937 more than the 1997 independent team in Colonie. St. Paul had the top gain among independent teams, up 165,987.

16 NAPBL and 4 independent teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2017 than in 1997. It includes Connecticut (Norwich) who had a full-season team 20 years ago, is in short-season league now. Class AA Mobile had the largest U.S. NAPBL dip since 1997, down 239,741. Class AA Bowie fell by 174,496. Buffalo, down 169,919, and New Orleans, down 157,281, had the steepest decline among Class AAA teams. Rancho Cucamonga's loss of 232,903 was the worst in full-season Class A, followed by Lansing, down 219,600. Salem-Keiser, down 55,825, had the biggest decline among teams that played in short-season leagues in both 2017 and 1997. The Mexico City Diablos Rojos were down 337,642, the worst dip of any team. The Diablos Rojos drew 127,671 in 2017, compared to 465,313 in 1997. Also in 1997, the now-defunct Mexico City Tigres drew 439,141.

Sioux City IA, down 76,173, had the worst decline among teams who were independents in both 2017 and 1997. Ottawa drew 173,914 less as an independent in 2017 than in Class AAA in 1997. Sussex, NJ fell 90,802 vs. 1997. They had 49 dates in the Can-Am League in 2017, but only 38 dates as a short-season NAPBL team in 1997. Bakersfield, High Desert, and Tucson also drew far less as independents in 2017 than they did in the NAPBL in 1997.

These current teams set season attendance records in 1997 that have not been broken since then: Omaha; Mobile; Inland Empire; Kinston; Tampa; Delmarva; Salem-Keiser; Mexico City.

In 1997 the 172 NAPBL teams in operation that charged admission drew 34,721,216. NAPBL average attendance per team was 201,870 in 1997, and was 237,684 in 2017. NAPBL average attendance per date was 3,469 in 1997 and 4,095 in 2017. Independent average per date for 1997 is not available.

The 1997 NAPBL figures for total attendance and average per date have been topped in every season since then. The 1997 average per team figure has been topped in all years except 1999.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 1987

There were no independent leagues in 1987. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1987. Class AAA was divided into 3 leagues—the International and Pacific Coast Leagues, and the American Association. Teams in the American Association were moved into the International or Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.

NAPBL Minor League Baseball attendance is up 106.9% since 1987. Total attendance rose from 20,215,564 in 1987 to 41,832,364 in 2017. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 127,947 in 1987, and 237,684 in 2017. There were 158 teams that charged admission in 1987, compared to 176 NAPBL teams, and 57 independent league teams that recorded attendance in 2017. 5 additional independent teams did not provide attendance data in 2017.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 1987 - continued

In 2017, 108 NAPBL 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 1987. 88 of the NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2017 than in 1987. 2 of the 4 independent teams drew more in 2017 than in 1987. A comparison with the 1987 New Britain Red Sox is made for both the 2017 NAPBL Hartford Yard Goats and the 2017 independent New Britain Bees.

The 108 NAPBL markets with teams in both 2017 and 1987 drew 26,174,501 in 2017. This was up 10,854,263 (70.8%) from the total of 15,320,238 that those markets drew in 1987.

Many of the individual team gains were huge. 44 NAPBL teams drew over 100,000 more in 2017 than in 1987. For 21 of the teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 10 of these teams had increases of more than 300,000.

39 NAPBL teams doubled their attendance since 1987. 16 of these markets more than tripled their 1987 totals. This includes Erie, who had a short-season team in 1987, and a full-season team in 2017.

Charlotte showed the best increase since 1987, when they played in the Class AA Southern League, – up 499,280. Other 2017 Class AAA markets with big gains vs. 1987 include: Indianapolis (up 390,891); Fresno, who played in the Class A California League in 1987 (320,433); Durham, also in Class A in 1987 (330,829); Toledo (339,013); El Paso (364,035). Salt Lake City was up 313,068 compared to a short-season team there in 1987.

Hartford drew 311,458 higher than New Britain did in 1987, for the best Class AA gain. Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1987, rose 310,803. Birmingham was up 244,446, and Portland ME gained 251,934. Columbia's gain of 222,179 topped all full-season Class A teams. Charleston SC (218,437), Winston-Salem (171,344), Quad Cities (169,007), and Myrtle Beach (158,947) were some of the other Class A teams with huge increases. Spokane showed the highest increase among short-season teams, up 82,788, and Pulaski grew by 63,412. Monterrey's gain of 458,188, and Yucatan's 201,649 increase were the best among Mexican League teams.

The 2017 independent team in New Britain drew 111,046 better than the 1987 NAPBL team that played there. Independent Wichita was up 7,043 vs. their 1987 NAPBL team. Bakersfield and Tucson drew far better as NAPBL teams in 1987 than they did in as independent league teams in 2017, when they played much shorter schedules.

Louisville, down 49,305, had the only decline vs. 1987 of any Class AAA team. 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, 516,329 in 1987, and 467,024 in 2017.

Not one current Class AA team had lower attendance in 2017 than in 1987. Harrisburg had the smallest gain, up 50,731. The largest Class A decrease was by Palm Beach, who drew 51,801 less than the 110,633 that West Palm Beach drew in 1987. Jupiter was down 41,649 vs. that same 1987 West Palm Beach team. Combined 2017 Palm Beach/Jupiter attendance was up 17,263 vs. 1987 West Palm Beach. Hagerstown dipped by 50,878.

Burlington NC, down 42,170, had the biggest decline among teams that had a short-season team in both 2017 and 1987. Short-season Williamsport, Vermont, Vancouver, Hillsboro, (near Portland, OR), and Tri-City, NY (near Albany), drew less in 2017 than the full-season teams that were in those markets in 1987.

Burlington NC is the only team with record-high set in 1987 whose 1987 record is still active today.

68 of the 108 current NAPBL teams that play in a market that had a team in 1987, play in a ballpark built since then. Almost all other ballparks have undergone renovation, and in some cases, a complete rebuilding.

Major League Baseball attendance was 72,670,423 in 2017. It was a record high 79,503,175 in 2007, 63,168,689 in 1997, 52,011,506 in 1987, and 38,709,779 in 1977. There were 30 teams in 2017 and 2007, 28 teams in 1997, and 26 teams in 1987 and 1977. Average attendance per date was 30,042 in 2017, a record-high 32,785 in 2007, 28,276 in 1997, 25,102 in 1987, and 19,730 in 1977. Average attendance per team was 2,422,347 in 2017, a record-high 2,650,106 in 2007, 2,256,025 in 1997, 2,000,443 in 1987, and 1,488,839 in 1977. The National League did not include 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993. The American League did count them prior to 1993.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2017 vs. 1977

By 1977, 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 142 NAPBL teams in 1977 drew 13,004,297, the best total since 1959, and an average of 91,580 per team. In 2017, the 176 NAPBL teams drew a total of 41,832,364, an average of 237,684 per team. 57 independent teams that compiled attendance figures drew 6,220,288 in 2017. Total 2017 Minor League attendance for all leagues, except for the very low-drawing Empire League, was 48,052,652, which was a better than 3-fold increase over 1977.

73 NAPBL teams and 5 independent league teams played in the same markets in 2017 as a Minor League team played in during the 1977 season. Total 2017 attendance for those 73 NAPBL teams was 18,058,336, while in 1977, the 72 teams in those markets drew a combined 8,025,396. The increase was 10,032,940 (125.0%). Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2017 total, and a comparison is made for both of these teams with the 1977 team in West Palm Beach. The comparison excludes a second team in Mexico City in 1977.

The 5 independent league teams drew a combined 494,493 in 2017, up 14,371 from the 480,122 that teams in those cities drew in 1977. These 5 teams all played longer schedules in 1977 in full-season NAPBL leagues.

Only 27 of the 116 U.S. and Canadian teams (23.3% of the teams) in 1977 drew at least 100,000, compared to 122 of 160 teams (76.3% of the teams) topping 100,000 in 2017. Columbus (457,251), Hawaii (347,931), Denver (288,167), Salt Lake City (254,679), Rochester (245,693), New Orleans (217,957), El Paso (217,346), Tacoma (207,538), Syracuse (200,002), and 12 Mexican League teams, led by the Mexico City Red Devils (410,624), topped 200,000 in 1977. 2 of the 24 Class AAA teams (Pawtucket and San Jose) failed to reach 100,000. El Paso, Arkansas, Quad Cities, Portland OR, St. Petersburg, and West Palm Beach were the only U.S./Canadian teams below Class AAA to top 100,000. 92 teams below Class AAA surpassed 100,000 in 2017. 24 full-season teams, and all short-season teams except Portland, Harlingen, and Corpus Christi, drew under 50,000 in 1977.

Just 12 NAPBL teams (including 6 in the Mexican League) drew less in 2017 than in 1977. This includes Jupiter, down 49,242, and Palm Beach, down 59,474, vs. the 118,306 that the team in West Palm Beach drew in 1977. Their combined 2017 attendance was 127,896, up 9,590 from the 1977 West Palm Beach total. Lakeland was the only other full-season U.S. team to have a decline vs. 1977. The Mexico City Diablos Rojos' dip of 282,953 was the worst decline of any team. There was another team in Mexico City in 1977, the Tigers, who drew 252,737.

Short-season Bristol, Bluefield, and Batavia had declines vs. 1977. Aguascalientes, down 114,528, and 5 other Mexican League teams, had the only other NAPBL decreases. Losses by 2017 independent teams were by Tucson, with far fewer home games in 2017 (108,510), and Evansville (10,326), both of whom were in Class AAA in 1977.

Far more common were huge increases in attendance compared to 1977. 38 teams drew at least 100,000 more than a team in the same market did in 1977. This includes all 2017 Class AAA markets except for Syracuse. Attendance rose by at least 200,000 in 25 markets, and 11 markets achieved a gain of over 300,000.

Class AAA Charlotte had the top increase of any team, up an incredible 539,020. Indianapolis was up 475,690, Toledo rose by 430,408, Iowa was up 411,525. El Paso, Albuquerque, Oklahoma City, and Fresno also had growth of better than 300,000 among 2017 Class AAA markets. So did Pawtucket, and they still play in the same ballpark as in 1977! In the Mexican League, Monterrey had the top gain—432,504.

Reading, still in the same park as in 1977, had the biggest growth among 2017 Class AA markets, up 354,158. Tulsa, Tennessee, and San Antonio were the other Class AA markets up at least 250,000.

The increase of 273,731 by Charleston SC was tops among 2017 Class A teams. Winston-Salem was up 270,955. Salem and Wisconsin were the other Class A markets that gained over 150,000.

Boise's gain of 105,161 was the tops among all 2017 short-season teams. Spokane outdrew their 1977 Class AAA full-season P.C.L. team by 63,383. Billings posted an 84,656 increase, Eugene gained 79,784, and Pulaski rose by 69,392. Quebec had the best gain (81,399) among 2017 independent league markets. Trois Rivieres was up 26,301. Quebec and Trois Rivieres were Class AA cities in 1977. Wichita, in Class AAA in 1977, gained 25,507.

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

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

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

But starting in the 1990's, more Minor League teams began operating near Major League clubs. In 2017, 64 Minor League teams played in the same television market as a Major League franchise. 3 more teams (Pawtucket, Toledo, and Dayton) are located in non-Major League TV markets, but their ballparks are within about 60 miles of a Major League city. So in 2017, 20 of the 26 Major League TV markets had a Minor League team located either in their TV market, or in a city that is no more than 60 miles away, but is officially in a different TV market.

In 1976, Pawtucket, Reading, Toledo, and San Jose drew a combined attendance of 381,747. This was 3.4% of total 1976 Minor League attendance. In 2017, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,518,045. Also in 2017, the 64 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 12,566,766. That was 26.2% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 11.0% higher than the total attendance (11,324,947) for all 141 Minor League teams in 1976.

New York, Boston and Philadelphia are Major League markets that have had much recent success with Minor League baseball. In 1992, there was only one Minor League team in the Boston area (Pawtucket – which is in the Providence-New Bedford TV market), one in the Philadelphia market (Reading), and none in New York. In 2017, the New York TV market had 10 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	2017 Attendance	Notes
Lakewood, NJ	338,544	Led South Atlantic League 14 times from 2001-2016
Brooklyn, NY	186,853	Best short-season att.–2001-2015. Team low in 2017.
Staten Island, NY	71,401	Record high in 2010. 65.8% decline since then.
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	147,936	Averaging 96.0% of ballpark's capacity since 1994
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	341,830	Top total yearly independent attendance: 2000-2011
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	342,231	Averaged over 5,100/date every year in their history
Bridgeport, CT	196,917	Best total since 2005. But 2017 was their final year.
Rockland County, NY	145,005	Yearly Can-Am attendance leader 2012-2017
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	91,892	Total attendance up 23.6% in 2017
Sussex County, NJ	80,442	Best gain among independent teams in 2016
New York Market Total	1,943,051	Down 3.3% in 2017

Philadelphia Area Teams	2017 Attendance	Notes
Reading, PA	411,698	Eastern League attendance leader 11 of last 16 years
Wilmington, DE	230,677	Led Carolina Lg. in att. 11 straight years-1998-2008
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	555,146	Minors U.S. best att. in 2011-12. 523 sellouts-2008-17
Trenton, NJ	349,013	AA then-record 14 str. years of 400,000+ ends in 2009
Philadelphia Market Total	1,546,534	Down 6.6% in 2017

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

Boston Area Teams	2017 Attendance	Notes
Pawtucket (Providence TV market)	409,960	16 str. 500,000+ yrs. until 2015. New park proposed.
New Hampshire (Manchester)	284,108	10-year streak above 335,000 ended in 2017
Lowell, MA	126,565	413 game sellout streak ended in 2010
Boston Area Total	820,633	Same % decline (7.3%) in both 2016 and 2017

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

- Los Angeles 7 Minor League teams... Rancho Cucamonga had led the California League for 17 straight years, before a huge decline in 2010... Lake Elsinore led that league each year - 2010-2016.
- Chicago 5 teams... Kane County topped 400,000 in 22 of the last 24 years, and has been above 500,000 in 6 seasons... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010 and 2017.
- San Francisco 5 teams... San Jose: Last 11 years – the 11 best totals in the team's long history.
- Dallas 2 teams... Frisco has led all Class AA teams in attendance for 13 straight years.
- Washington 5 teams... Frederick led the Carolina League each year from 2012 through 2016, just missed in 2017. Their 2015 attendance was their best since 1994. Southern Maryland had a record-high in 2013. Potomac set total record-highs in 2013 and 2014, average/date record-high in 2017.
- Seattle 2 teams... Tacoma set record in rebuilt ballpark in 2011, just missed new high in 2016 and 2017.
- Tampa 5 teams... In 2017, Clearwater had the top attendance of any Florida State League team since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 10th time in the last 14 years.
- Minneapolis 1 team... St. Paul in 2016: Highest Am. Assn. total ever, record high (8,438) indy avg. per date.
- Cleveland 3 teams... Akron has led the Eastern League 6 times since 1997, and is one of only 6 Class AA teams to ever top 500,000. 2014 attendance was up 55,245, the best gain in Class AA.
- St. Louis 2 teams... Gateway set the Frontier League record in 2004 (broken by Southern Illinois in 2007).
- Pittsburgh 1 team... Washington, PA has sold out many games in its history, but is down in recent years.
- Baltimore 1 team... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, but is down 114,151 (46.6%) since 2012.
- Atlanta 2 teams... Gwinnett drew an AAA low 210,075 in 2017. Rome had its lowest total in 2016.
- Kansas City 1 team... Kansas City (KS) has topped 200,000 in all 16 years of operation.
- Detroit 4 teams... Toledo (a separate TV market) is about 60 miles from Detroit. Mud Hens have topped 500,000 for 16 straight years. 4-team United Shore League averaged 3,350 per date.
- Houston 1 team... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest attend. by a modern independent team. Led indys in total attend. also in 2013 and 2014. Down since, but still tops 300,000 yearly.
- Cincinnati 2 teams... Dayton (a separate TV market) has topped 548,000 in all 18 years of operation, has a North American pro sports record of 1,246 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, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Denver, and Toronto markets that did not have summer Minor League teams in 2017. Phoenix has all 6 teams of the Arizona Fall League.

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

There are 20 TV markets that have 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 23 Minor League Baseball teams in these markets, which includes independent teams, drew a combined 8,097,085 in 2017.

<u>TV Market</u>	<u>NFL, NBA, or NHL Teams</u>	<u>Minor League Baseball in That Market</u>
<u>Buffalo</u>	NFL-Bills, NHL-Sabres	Topped 500,000 each year since 1988. Reached one million 6 times. Holds the record for highest Minor League season attendance.
<u>Charlotte</u>	NFL-Panthers, NBA-Hornets	I.L. Knights led Minors in total att. In 2014, avg. per date 2014-2016. 2 nd best U.S. total & average/date in 2017. Also, Class A Kannapolis.
<u>Raleigh-Durham</u>	NHL-Carolina Hurricanes	AAA Durham drew 547,841 in 2017, and topped 500,000 11 times since 2001. Class A Carolina under 200,000 only in 2016 and 2017.
<u>Columbus</u>	NHL-Blue Jackets	Drawn 500,000+ in 31 seasons, which ties Louisville for most often to this level. Has surpassed 600,000 in 8 of the last 9 years.
<u>Indianapolis</u>	NHL-Colts, NBA-Pacers	Record-high 662,536 in 2015. Topped 535,000 for 22 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	Record-high in 2017. 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	Have surpassed pre-Katrina 2004 total each year since 2006.
<u>Okla. City</u>	NBA-Thunder	Top 400,000 in 15 of the last 20 years.
<u>Sacramento</u>	NBA-Kings	Top Minors total attendance 10 times from 2000-2015. Have drawn at least 600,000 in 16 of 18 seasons. Fell short of that in 2017.
<u>Salt Lake C.</u>	NBA-Jazz	Have topped 430,000 in all 24 years of Class AAA operation.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	NFL-Jaguars	Drawn 260,000+ in the last 15 years. 3 rd best Minors gain in 2017.
<u>Green Bay</u>	NFL-Packers	Class A Wisconsin (Appleton) has topped 230,000 for 9 straight years.
<u>Las Vegas</u>	NHL-Knights	NHL in 2017, NFL in 2020. New baseball park may be coming soon.
<u>San Antonio</u>	NBA-Spurs	Topped 270,000 every season since 1994, and 300,000+ in 16 years.
<u>Orlando</u>	NBA-Magic	Daytona tops 100,000 for 14 straight years. Clearwater is the only other Florida State League team to do this.
<u>Portland, OR</u>	NBA-Trail Blazers	Short-season Hillsboro drew a record-high in 2015. Portland had been in the Pacific Coast League for nearly all of the 20 th Century.
<u>Vancouver</u>	NHL-Canucks	Led all short-season teams in total and average per date in 2016, 2017. Set short-season record-highs 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.
<u>Ottawa</u>	NHL-Senators	Back in the Can-Am Lg. in 2015. Drew 92,654 in 2017. International Leag. team's attendance fell from 663,926 in 1993 to 126,894 in 2007.

STAYING CLOSE TO YOUR PARENT (TEAM)

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

The table below is a 2017 listing of Minor League teams who charge admission, that were located in areas where their parent team is one of the dominant teams of fan interest. In some cases, such as with the Mississippi Braves, the Major League parent team might be located a considerable distance from the Minor League affiliate. But the Major League team may have a significant following in the area, and its games are likely to be broadcast on local radio and TV there. The same is true with Vancouver, which is a Toronto Blue Jays affiliate.

There were no changes to this listing in 2017 or 2016. In 2015, Sacramento switched affiliations from Oakland to San Francisco. Nashville is now the A's Class AAA team. The Cubs' Low-A affiliate went from Kane County to South Bend. Colorado Springs was no longer a Rockies' affiliate. Pittsburgh's Short-A team got closer to them, moving from Jamestown, NY to near West Virginia University in Morgantown. In 2019, the Mets' Class AAA team will be Syracuse instead of Las Vegas.

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

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

Year	Total NAPBL Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team	Year	Total NAPBL Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team
				1985	18,380,000	154	119,351
1946	32,704,315	314	104,154	1986	18,456,808	154	119,849
1947	37,184,167	388	95,835	1987	20,215,564	158	127,947
1948	38,415,716	438	87,707	1988	21,659,873	160	135,374
1949	39,640,443	448	88,483	1989	23,103,593	164	140,876
1950	32,960,733	442	74,572	1990	25,244,569	164	153,930
1951	26,135,174	365	71,603	1991	26,590,096	168	158,274
1952	24,024,373	334	71,929	1992	27,180,170	168	161,787
1953	21,109,565	288	73,297	1993	30,022,761	169	177,649
1954	18,674,503	264	70,737	1994	33,347,931	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	13,012,727	152	85,610				
1979	15,304,724 @	150	107,504				
1980	15,541,674 *	145	107,184				
1981	16,178,790	140	115,563				
1982	17,637,244	150	117,582				
1983	18,559,190	153	121,302				
1984	17,580,299	154	114,158				

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

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

* - Figure listed in the 1981 Sporting News Baseball Guide. Mexican League season ended early due to a strike.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table on the previous page notes the annual average attendance per team since 1946 for all NAPBL leagues combined. The presence of so many teams in small markets is why the overall average per team was not higher in the late 1940's. Many of these small-market leagues and teams disbanded in the early 1950's as television and other factors severely cut Minor League attendance. The average per team was less than 80,000 from 1950 through 1971, and again in 1973 and 1974. In 1979, the average per team reached 100,000 for the first time since 1946. It initially surpassed 150,000 in 1990, and 200,000 in 1997. Average attendance per team has topped 200,000 each year since 2000, with a high of 245,817 in 2008. The 2017 average per team of 237,684 was the 5th best ever.

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

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

CLASS AAA

2017 Class AAA average per team was 460,738, the 10th 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 decline in Minor League attendance. The Class AAA average fell to a low of 115,640 in 1934.

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

The average rose above 200,000 each year from 1981 through 1987. In 1988, it topped 300,000 for the first time since 1949. It first reached 400,000 per team in 1993, and has been above that level each year since then except for 1996 and 1997. The average has topped 450,000 per team in the last 13 seasons with a high of 477,226 in 2008.

CLASS AA

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

The Class AA average per team first reached 300,000 in 2004, and has now hit this level 6 times, with a high of 312,035 in 2008. The average has been above 280,000 in each of the last 15 seasons. The 2017 average per team was 292,982, which ranks #12 best.

FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Full-season Class A drew an average of less than 50,000 per team from 1963 through 1975, with a low of 40,785 in 1967. 1990 was the first time that this average topped 100,000, and it has been above 150,000 per team every year since 1995. It reached a record-high 199,846 in 2014, and was an 11th best 195,225 in 2017.

SHORT-SEASON CLASS A AND ROOKIE LEAGUES

Average attendance per team for the short-season Class A leagues and the Rookie Leagues combined was under 40,000 from 1963 through 1984. The low was 21,310 in 1968. From 1966 through 1979, there were 11 seasons where this average per team was below 30,000. The average first topped 50,000 per team in 1989, and has been above it ever since. It reached 74,000 in 1995, and has topped 80,000 in each of the last 16 seasons. The high was 96,758 in 2007. It was 86,617 in 2017, the lowest since 2001.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2017

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

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

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL TOTAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2017

Year	U.S. NAPBL Full-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance	U.S. NAPBL Short-Season Team Attendance Leader	Attendance
1980	Nashville (Class AA)	575,676	Eugene	96,058
1981	Denver	555,806	Eugene	85,073
1982	Louisville	868,418	Great Falls	67,044
1983	Louisville	1,052,438	Billings	88,534
1984	Louisville	846,878	Billings	96,670
1985	Louisville	651,090	Eugene	103,193
1986	Louisville	660,200	Salt Lake City	108,721
1987	Columbus, OH	570,599	Salt Lake City	170,134
1988	Buffalo	1,147,651	Salt Lake City	176,217
1989	Buffalo	1,132,183	Salt Lake City	173,256
1990	Buffalo	1,156,661	Salt Lake City	192,366
1991	Buffalo	1,188,972	Salt Lake City	200,599
1992	Buffalo	1,117,867	Salt Lake City	217,263
1993	Buffalo	1,058,620	Boise	151,080
1994	Buffalo	982,493	Boise	156,950
1995	Buffalo	900,782	Portland, OR	249,696
1996	Buffalo	825,530	Portland, OR	249,995
1997	Buffalo	696,193	Portland, OR	213,242
1998	Buffalo	743,463	Erie	187,743
1999	Buffalo	684,051	Portland, OR	206,136
2000	Sacramento	861,808	Mahoning Valley, OH	206,287
2001	Sacramento	901,214	Brooklyn	289,381
2002	Sacramento	817,317	Brooklyn	317,124
2003	Sacramento	766,326	Brooklyn	307,383
2004	Sacramento	751,156	Brooklyn	294,261
2005	Sacramento	755,750	Brooklyn	285,847
2006	Sacramento *	728,227	Brooklyn	289,323
2007	Sacramento	710,235	Brooklyn	294,972
2008	Sacramento	700,168	Brooklyn	265,220
2009	Columbus, OH	666,797	Brooklyn	264,102
2010	Sacramento	657,910	Brooklyn	264,441
2011	Lehigh Valley, PA	628,925	Brooklyn	245,087
2012	Lehigh Valley, PA *	622,421	Brooklyn	249,009
2013	Indianapolis	637,579	Brooklyn	232,224
2014	Charlotte	687,715	Brooklyn	231,628
2015	Sacramento	672,354	Brooklyn	230,658
2016	Indianapolis *	636,888	Vancouver	222,363
2017	Indianapolis *	641,141	Vancouver	239,527

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

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL AVERAGE PER DATE TEAM LEADERS – 1992-2017

Average per date figures were not available for seasons prior to 1992.

Year	U.S. NAPBL Full-Season Team Avg./Date Leader	Average/Date Attendance	U.S. NAPBL 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

* The Mexican League plays fewer games than the full-season NABPL leagues, but a more games than the short-season leagues. Mexican League teams with the highest yearly NAPBL 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).

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB

Attendance of at least 500,000 in a season has become quite common in the Minor Leagues. It's happened 279 times since 2000. 16 teams did it in 2017. But it is still a very significant achievement. 38 current markets, and 7 former teams, have done it at least once. No independent league team has ever drawn 500,000. The first time Minor League teams reached 500,000 was in 1946 when the Baltimore Orioles of the International League, and the San Francisco Seals, Hollywood Stars, Oakland Oaks, and Los Angeles Angels of the Pacific Coast League did it. P.C.L. teams played as many as 186 games that year.

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

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

Louisville and Columbus have each drawn 500,000 in 31 seasons, which is the most by any team. Buffalo's current streak of 30 years in a row above the half-million mark is the longest. Overall, there have been 391 'Half-Million' seasons achieved by Minor League teams through 2017. 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 2017. 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 – 1946-1996

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

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1997-2017

Year	# of Teams	Teams that Drew at Least 500,000
1997	10	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Norfolk, New Orleans, Rochester, Columbus, Richmond, Salt Lake, West Michigan, Lansing
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, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Toledo, Fresno, Iowa, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton, Saltillo
2008	17	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), Toledo, Columbus, Durham, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Salt Lake, 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

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

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

CURRENT MINOR LEAGUE MARKETS THAT HAVE DRAWN 500,000 IN A SEASON THROUGH 2017

Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.	Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Louisville	31	Norfolk	7
Columbus, Ohio	31	Kane County, IL	6
Buffalo	30	Richmond	6
Indianapolis	22	Fresno	5
Dayton	18	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	5
Sacramento	18	Yucatan, Mexico	5
Round Rock	18	West Michigan	4
Pawtucket	16	El Paso	4
Toledo	16	Charlotte	4
Albuquerque	15	Oklahoma City	3
Salt Lake City	12	Tijuana, Mexico	3
Iowa (Des Moines)	12	New Orleans	2
Durham	11	Corpus Christi	2
Monterrey, Mexico	11	Ottawa	2
Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	10	Akron	2
Frisco	9	Rochester, NY	2
Memphis	9	Lansing	2
Saltillo, Mexico	8	Springfield, MO	1
Nashville	8	Mexico City Red Devils	1

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

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

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

MOST CONSECUTIVE SEASONS WITH ATTENDANCE ABOVE 500,000

Team	# Seasons	Years	Team	# Seasons	Years
Buffalo	30	1988-2017	Albuquerque	15	2003-2017
Indianapolis	22	1996-2017	Columbus	14	1984-1997
Sacramento	18	2000-2017	Louisville	14	1982-1995
Dayton	18	2000-2017	Columbus	13	2005-2017
Round Rock	18	2000-2017	Lehigh Valley	10	2008-2017
Louisville	17	2000-2016	Frisco	9	2003-2011
Pawtucket	16	1999-2014	Memphis	9	2000-2008
Toledo	16	2002-2017	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+* – 1994-2017

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, Ozark Mountain, <i>Long Island, Bridgeport, Somerset</i>
2001	6	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, <i>Long Island, Somerset</i>
2002	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Camden</i>
2003	8	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City KS, <i>Long Island, Camden, Somerset</i>
2004	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Brockton, Gateway, <i>Long Island, Somerset</i>
2005	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Lincoln, Kansas City, Joliet, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster PA</i>
2006	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Joliet, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2007	10	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, El Paso, Traverse City, Southern Illinois, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2008	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster, York</i>
2009	9	St. Paul, Schaumburg, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, El Paso, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2010	8	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, Southern Illinois, Traverse City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2011	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster</i>
2012	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Lancaster, Sugar Land</i>
2013	6	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land</i>
2014	7	St. Paul, Winnipeg, Kansas City, <i>Long Island, Somerset, Sugar Land, Lancaster</i>
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>

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

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

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

SHORT-SEASON TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 150,000 IN A SEASON – 1987-2017

Year	# of Teams	Short-Season Teams that Drew at Least 150,000
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

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2017 SEASON – LEAGUE GAINS AND LOSSES**

- J **Total NAPBL attendance rose 1.1% in 2017. It was the 5th increase in the last 6 years. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 35 times in the last 43 years.**
- J **The 2017 total attendance of 41,832,364, the average per date of 4,095, and the average per team of 237,684 were the 5th best ever in each category. It was the 13th straight year with a total above 40 million.**
- J **What makes these figures even more impressive is that the International, Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Eastern Leagues each scheduled one less home game per team. In addition, there were 99 more rainouts than in 2016. Overall, there were 134 fewer dates played in 2017 than in 2016, and the fewest number of dates since 2004. Total attendance in 2004 was 39,887,755, an average of 226,635 per team.**

Major League Baseball attendance has gone up vs. the previous season in 25 of the past 43 years.

- J NAPBL Minor League attendance dropped in 2009, after 5 straight record-setting seasons. Prior to 2004, the all-time record was 39,640,443, set in 1949, when there were 448 teams in 59 leagues. In 2017, there were 176 teams in the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 17 seasons have seen 17 of the 18 highest totals in the 116-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 in Minor League attendance during this period were television, Major League expansion, easier access to Major League ballparks, fewer Minor League teams, a rise in popularity of other sports, and home air conditioning.
- J 2017 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 237,684. 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 Total attendance rose in 2017 for 11 of the 15 NAPBL 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.
- J The Eastern League had the best total attendance gain, up 298,497. This was mainly due to Hartford moving into its ballpark after playing their 2016 'home' games in other locations. Florida State League total attendance grew by 103,628, and the Pacific Coast League, despite that shorter schedule, had an 86,616 increase. Mexican League attendance rose to its best total since 1979, and its highest average per team since 1967.
- J Northwest League attendance reached a league record-high. So did the Carolina League, but that was due to the addition of 2 teams. The 8 teams that played in the Carolina League in both 2017 and 2016 had a combined 1.4% gain. The Appalachian League had its highest attendance since 1997. Also posting increases in total attendance were the Southern, Texas, South Atlantic, and Pioneer Leagues.
- J 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 losses were the International, down 94,239, with a shorter schedule, the Midwest, down 65,694, and the New York-Penn, which had a 79,284 decrease.
- J The Pacific Coast League topped 7 million for the 10th time in the last 13 years, and their average per date surpassed 6,000 for the 18th year in a row. The International League also had its 5th best average per date ever. The Midwest League topped 3,700 per date for the 11th straight year.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2017 SEASON – LEAGUE GAINS AND LOSSES**

- J 11 leagues also 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.
- J The Northwest League was up 72 per date to a league record-high of 3,594. Biggest average per date gain was by the Eastern League, up 514, mainly due to Hartford's very successful first season in their new park. California League average per date rose 292, in part, due to the elimination of 2 poorly drawing teams. Returning teams in that league were up by a combined 3 per date. The Florida State League was up 170, Pacific Coast League average increased by 138, the Mexican League gained 118, and both the International and Southern Leagues rose by 100. Also posting average per date increases were the South Atlantic, Texas, and Appalachian Leagues.
- J The biggest decline in average per date was 391 by the Carolina League. This was mostly because Buies Creek, a new team, is temporarily playing in a tiny ballpark on the campus of Campbell University. Their permanent park in Fayetteville will open in 2019. The 8 teams that were in the Carolina League in both 2017 and 2016 had a combined average per date increase of 61.
- J Also down in average per date were the Midwest, New York-Penn, and Pioneer Leagues.

GAINS AND LOSSES - A listing of total attendance gains and losses in 2017 vs. 2016 for each NAPBL team and league can be found starting on page 126. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 147.

NAPBL 2017 SEASON – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS

- J 6 teams topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2017. 7 teams 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 for 1987.
- J 16 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2017. The number of teams over 500,000 was 19 in 2016, 17 in 2015, 15 in 2004, 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.
- J At least one team has reached 500,000 every year since Columbus did it in 1979. But prior to 1979, the 1967 Mexico City Red Devils were the last team to draw at least 500,000. The last U.S. teams to draw that high were Hollywood, Oakland, and Seattle of the Pacific Coast League in 1949. 3 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 1948, 5 of them drew that well in 1947, and 4 P.C.L. teams, plus Baltimore of the International League, did it in 1946.
- J **Monterrey of the Mexican League drew 659,791 (11,575 per date) in 2017 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the 4th time since 2006. But the Sultanes also had the worst average per date decline.**
- J For the second year in a row, Indianapolis led all U.S. teams, this time with a 641,141 total and a 9,159 average per date. In 2013, the Indians led all of the Minors in total attendance.
- J Charlotte, the 2014 total leader, drew 628,526 in 2017, and had the 2nd best average per date (9,109) among all U.S. teams. In 2014, 2015, and 2016, the Knights had the top U.S. average per date.
- J Tijuana of the Mexican League drew 608,819, and their average per date of 10,872 was 2nd best in the Minors. Yucatan averaged 9,228 per date, 3rd best of all teams.
- J Columbus drew a 4th best total of 616,059, averaging a 6th highest 9,060 per date.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2017 SEASON – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- J Round Rock totaled 610,681 in its 13th 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, and 2012-2015. They've topped 589,000 in all 18 of their seasons.
- J Nashville drew 593,679, breaking a team record set in 1980 when they played in the Class AA Southern League. Sacramento, who has led the Minors in total attendance 10 times since 2000, was next at 562,237. Lehigh Valley, which topped U.S./Canadian teams in both 2011 and 2012, attracted 555,146 in 2017.
- J Frisco drew 470,003, leading Class AA for the 13th straight year. Reading also topped 400,000. Birmingham and Hartford just fell short of that level.
- J Dayton (Midwest) has sold out all 1,246 regular-season home dates they've played, a sellout streak that is the longest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 554,638 in 2017 to lead Class A for the 18th year in a row. Fort Wayne was the other Class A team to reach 400,000. 13 Class A teams topped 300,000.
- J Vancouver drew 239,527, best among all short-season teams for the 2nd straight year. The Brooklyn Cyclones had led the short-season teams in each of the last 15 years until 2016.
- J 15 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 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.
- J 14 full-season teams drew under 100,000 in 2017. 7 of the teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 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.
- J Gwinnett (210,075), Colorado Springs (265,095), and Syracuse (292,054) were the Class AAA teams who drew under 300,000. 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 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.
- J Mobile had the lowest AA attendance (92,898). Biloxi, Jackson TN, Mississippi, and Binghamton, NY were the other Class AA teams that drew less than 200,000.
- J Buies Creek, in a temporary home, had the lowest total among full-season teams (30,518). Dunedin drew 38,956. All other Class A teams topped 50,000.
- J Princeton of the Rookie Appalachian Penn League drew 17,690 for the lowest short-season attendance. Elizabethton also failed to reach 20,000.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA)** (14 teams -- 142 game schedule in 2017, 140 games in 2018)

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 94,239 (1.4%) decline in attendance in 2017 to 6,671,670. The league has topped 6.3 million in each of the last 20 years. Syracuse had the league's best increases in both total attendance and average per date. Lehigh Valley had the largest total decline, while Louisville suffered the worst average loss.
- J Average per date was up 100 to 7,082, which was the 5th highest average per date in this league's history. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old Class AAA American Association averaged 7,588 per date in 1992, a year in which Buffalo drew more than one million. The I.L. averaged 7,317 per date in 2008.
- J There were 27 fewer dates played in 2017 than in 2016. This was partly due to each team having one less scheduled home game than in 2016. The schedule will be reduced by one home game again in 2018 to provide for more off-days. The league had 51 lost dates due to weather in 2017. There were only 37 lost dates in 2016.
- J The average attendance per team was 476,548 in 2017. 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 longer schedule (186 games) than now, with teams in Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Oakland, Hollywood, Portland, Sacramento, and Seattle.
- J 9 individual teams posted gains in total attendance vs. 2016, and 9 teams had increases in average per date.
- J **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.**
- J **In 2017, Indianapolis drew 641,141 in total attendance, averaging 9,159 per date, the best figures of any U.S. team. Among all NAPBL teams, it was the 2nd best total, and 4th highest average per date. The total was up 4,253 from 2016, and the average per date rose by 189. The Indians have now surpassed 535,000 for 22 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 11 seasons since 1997. 26 dates had crowds of at least 10,000 in 2017, and the Indians have drawn 10,000+ for 264 dates since 2006. 45 dates topped 8,000 in 2017. The Indians have averaged 8,000+ per date in 20 of the last 22 years, including each of the past 11 seasons. In 6 of these seasons, their average per date has reached 9,000.**
- J 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.
- J 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.
- J 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.
- J Charlotte drew 628,526 in 2017, up 353. It was their 4th straight year above 600,000, and the 3rd best total in team history. Average per date was 9,109, up 135. The total and average per date were 2nd best among all U.S. teams. 23 dates were sold out, and a total of 110 dates have been sold out in the current ballpark's 4 seasons. Attendance topped 9,000 at 43 dates in 2017.

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

- J In 2017, the Columbus (OH) Clippers had the 4th best total attendance in Minor League Baseball, drawing 616,059, up 13,888, the 6th best total in team history. Average per date was a Minor League 6th best 9,060 per date, up 205. Attendance reached 8,000 at 49 dates, and topped 10,000 at 25 dates. The Clippers have reached 600,000 for 6 straight years, and in 8 of the last 9 seasons. It was also the 13th straight year that the Clippers have surpassed 500,000. They've reached that level a record-tying (with Louisville) 31 times in the last 39 years. The Clippers have been above 450,000 for the last 34 seasons. Average per date in Columbus has been over 8,700 in 9 consecutive years. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- J 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.
- J In 2017, Class AAA Champion Durham's attendance was 547,841, the 2nd best in team history, and up 685. Average per date rose 117 to 7,716. 25 dates drew over 9,000. The Bulls have drawn above 500,000 in 11 of the last 17 years, and topped 460,000 in all 20 years they've been a Class AAA team. Average per date has reached 7,000 in 12 of the last 17 seasons, and has topped 6,500 for 20 years in a row. 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.
- J Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) played 5 fewer dates than in 2016. This resulted in a league-high total decline of 55,869 to 555,146. Average per date fell 188 to 8,541. Those figures were still 9th best in the Minors in 2017. 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.
- J Coca Cola Park in Allentown has just 8,089 seats, making it one of the smallest parks in Class AAA. With standing room and lawn seating, combined 2008-2017 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity at 523 (76.0%) of 688 regular season dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 177 dates. 40 of the 65 dates in 2017, had crowds above seating capacity, with 13 as complete sellouts.
- J 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, attend. 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 avg/date, 2 nd best total
2011	628,925	68	9,249	61	20	Led Minors in total att. and avg. per date
2012	622,421	68	9,153	59	15	Best Minors avg/date, top U.S. total att.
2013	613,075	68	9,016	52	21	Ranked 3 rd in total att. and avg/date
2014	614,888	68	9,042	51	18	5 th in total attendance, 4 th in avg/date
2015	613,815	70	8,769	45	19	5 th again in total attend., 7 th in avg/date
2016	611,015	70	8,729	47	12	Ranked 5 th in total, 7 th in average/date
2017	555,146	65	8,541	40	13	Ranked 9 th in total and average/date
Total	6,148,558	688	8,937	523	177	Only team to top 600,000 each yr. (2008-16)

- J 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA) - continued

- J Gwinnett drew 210,075, the lowest attendance in their 9-year history, and the smallest total among Class AAA teams. It was the 6th straight year with a decline, and total attendance is down 213,481 (50.6%) since the team's first year in 2009. Average per date fell 83 to 3,135, also a 2017 Class AAA low. That's down from 5,966 in 2009. The team had 3 fewer dates than in 2016. 28 dates drew less than 2,000, and only 13 dates topped 5,000. The team has been re-named the Stripers, after a type of Bass found in nearly 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.
- J Louisville had its lowest total attendance since 1999, and ended a 17-year streak of drawing better than 500,000. Total attendance was 467,024, down 39,006 with 3 fewer dates. The Bats had topped 600,000 yearly from 2000 through 2011, and 20 times since 1982. Average per date was down 259 to 6,868, also the lowest since 1999. Since their park opened in 2000, the Bats have drawn 10,921,026 in 1,266 dates, an average of 8,626 per date. They've reached 500,000 in all but 5 years since 1982, achieving that total for a Minor League record-tying 31 times. In 1983, Louisville drew 1,052,438 to become the first Minor League team to reach one million. They also averaged 16,191 per date. That year Louisville outdrew 3 Major League teams (Cleveland, Minnesota, Seattle) in total attendance, and outdrew those same 3 teams plus Cincinnati and the Mets in average per date.
- J Toledo drew 533,014, up 1,006. Average per date fell 210 to 7,614, as they had 2 more dates than in 2016. The Mud Hens topped 500,000 in total attendance, and 7,600 in average per date, for the 16th straight year, and drew better than 530,000 for the 14th year in a row. The Mud Hens sold around 147,000 group tickets in 2014, which was the most ever for them up to that point. 463 dates have been sold out at Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) since it opened in 2002. 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.
- J Norfolk had a decline of 13,779 in 2016 to 359,263, their 2nd lowest total (to 2014) since 1992. 2017 was the 9th straight year below 400,000, after 16 years in a row above 400,000, including 7 seasons where attendance exceeded 500,000. Average per date was 5,443, down 43. 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.
- 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 the neighboring city of Providence, or moving the team. This did not go over well with many Red Sox fans, and attendance was down a league-worst 49,065 to 466,600. It was the lowest total since 1996. Their average per date decline of 795 to 6,572 was 2nd worst to Memphis among all U.S. NAPBL teams. Attendance fell again in 2016, to 407,097, the lowest total since 1992.
- J Talk about a new ballpark in Pawtucket, Providence, or Worcester MA continued in 2017. Pawsox attendance rose 2,863, despite 6 lost dates, to 409,960, the 25th straight year above 400,000. Average per date rose 330 to 6,406.
- J Pawtucket had drawn at least 500,000 for 16 straight years through 2014. This team was bankrupt 39 years ago, and couldn't draw 100,000. The Pawsox have achieved incredible attendance growth since then. They play at McCoy Stadium, which is over 70 years old. While this park may not have all the amenities of newer facilities, the team provides many fan friendly features such as free parking. Its capacity was increased from 7,002 to 10,031 in 1999. The Pawsox Radio Network had 11 stations in 2017.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2017

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		
1983	188,186	1992	358,318	2001	647,928	2010	592,326		
1984	198,786	1993	466,428	2002	615,540	2011	578,930		
1985	166,504	1994	469,029	2003	569,106	2012	521,023		

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

-) Rochester's attendance topped 400,000 for the 21st consecutive year, reaching 445,581, up 10,684. 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. The Red Wings are a community-owned team. The Red Wings' average per date rose 157 to 6,553 in 2017, their 22nd year in a row above 6,000.
-) Syracuse had 8 lost dates, and played 3 fewer dates than in 2016. Despite this, total attendance rose a league-high 17,627 to 292,054. Average per date was up a league-best 478 to 4,636. It was the 4th straight year below 300,000 for the Chiefs, after finishing above that level every season since 1993. Average per date was under 5,000 for the 4th year in a row, after reaching that figure each year from 1997 through 2013. The New York Mets purchased the Chiefs after the 2017 season, and will place their Class AAA team there starting in 2019.
-) 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 2017 attendance was up 14,421 to 439,412, and average per date rose by 391 to 6,462. Those were the best figures for this team since 2008. There were 23 sellouts. This franchise reached 500,000 in 4 straight years (1990-1993), but has only done it once (2007) since then. Yet they've still drawn over 400,000 in 24 of the last 28 seasons (excludes the 'road year' of 2012).
-) 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 2017, as they had 5 fewer dates than in 2016. Total attendance dipped 36,181 to 526,574. There were 37 crowds of at least 7,000, with 14 of them topping 10,000. **Attendance in Buffalo has topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 30 straight seasons.** Average per date rose 62 to 8,101. The Bisons have been above 8,000 in average per date in all but 2 seasons (2011, 2012) since 1988. They averaged at least 10,000 per date every year from 1988 through 2000.
-) Buffalo led the Minors in attendance each year from 1988 through 1999, topping one million 6 times (1988-93), including an all-time Minor League record 1,188,972 (1,240,951 including playoffs) in 1991, when they were in the American Association. The Bisons moved to the International League in 1998. Buffalo also had the best attendance among all U.S./Canadian teams each year from 1957 through 1961. Their home, Coca Cola Field, seated 17,600 in 2016, and 16,907 in 2017, 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 of the Mexican League has a bigger ballpark.
-) The International League schedule will be reduced from 142 to 140 games in 2018.

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

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

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	14						
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

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA)** (16 teams -- 142 game schedule in 2017, 140 games in 2018)

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

- J The league drew 7,150,468, averaging 6,542 per date. That was the P.C.L.'s 6th highest total ever, and the 4th best average per date since 1992. Total attendance rose 86,616 (1.2%), and average per date was up 138. The 2017 average per date was the best since this league's record high average per date of 6,625 in both 2006 and 2007. P.C.L. average per date has been above 6,000 for 18 straight years.
- J 2017 was the 10th time in the last 13 years that the league's total attendance topped 7 million. 8 teams had gains in total attendance, and 11 teams had growth in average per date. There were 10 fewer dates than in 2016. 40 dates were lost to weather in 2017, compared to 44 lost dates in 2016. Each team had one less scheduled home date than in 2016. The schedule will be reduced by another home game per team again in 2018.
- J 6 teams in this league drew at least 500,000 in 2017. A record high of 7 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2016 and 2007. It was done by 6 teams in 2015 and 2008. The half-million mark was reached by 4 teams in 2014, 2013, 2011, and 2009, and by 5 teams in 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 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.
- J The P.C.L. average attendance per team has been over 400,000 for 18 straight years, including 446,904 in 2017. 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. Calgary, in 2002, was the last team from this league to draw under 200,000.
- J 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 NAPBL, 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 NAPBL decline overall. (Mexican League teams had bigger declines in 2017.)
- J The River Cats' 2017 total attendance of 562,237, and average per date of 8,032 were the lowest figures in this franchise's history, which goes back to 2000. But there were some big crowds. 26 dates drew better than 8,000, with 15 of them topping 10,000. This team has achieved 95 regular season sellouts in its history, each with a crowd of better than 14,000. This was Sacramento's 18th straight year averaging above 8,000 per date. The River Cats averaged better than 10,000 per date in each of their first 10 seasons.
- J 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 and 2017 are the only years that this team has drawn less than 600,000.
- J The River Cats have drawn 12,555,027 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 12 million, and they've averaged 9,763 per date (1,286 dates) in their history. Sacramento had been for a few years, the largest TV market without a Major League team. (Orlando-Daytona holds that distinction now.) From 1961 through 1973, and again from 1977 through 1999, Sacramento didn't even have a Minor League team.

SACRAMENTO RIVER CATS ATTENDANCE – 2000-2017

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

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

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

- J Round Rock drew 610,681, highest total in the P.C.L., and the 5th best total in the Minors in 2017. Total attendance dipped by 2,545. The Express has topped 589,000 in all 18 seasons of their history, 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 13 seasons. That includes 5 years in the Texas League, when the Express set a Class AA attendance record each year. Average attendance per date at Round Rock has topped 8,000 every year, and was above 9,000 each season from 2000 through 2008, with a team record-high of 9,846 in 2004. Their 2017 league-high average per date of 8,724, up 87, was the 8th best in Minor League Baseball. Dell Diamond in Round Rock has 8,631 fixed seats. But the Express has averaged 9,032 per date (11,524,928 in 1,276 dates) in their history.
- J The Chihuahuas drew 544,668, down 19,591, and averaged 7,894 per date, up 57, in their 4th year out in the West Texas town of El Paso. There were 3 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016. This followed the totals of 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. El Paso had previously been in the Texas League, and their record-high attendance in that league was 329,233 in 1995. The city also had an independent team for a few years, and that team's highest attendance was 211,316 in 2007.
- J The Albuquerque Isotopes had drawn over 560,000 in the first 13 years of operation of the current team (2003-2015). Their 2016 total was 522,266. Total attendance rose 20,236 in 2017 to 542,502. The average per date was 7,978, up 183. The current team has topped 520,000 in total attendance and 7,700 per date every year. Attendance at the old park in Albuquerque never reached 400,000, through 2000.
- J Reno's total attendance fell by 18,381, to 347,502, the lowest total in the 9-year history of the current franchise. Average per date declined by 333 to a current franchise low of 4,894. 18 dates drew at least 6,000. In 2015, the Aces had a team record 8 sellouts. From 2011 through 2014, they only had a combined 9 sellouts. 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.
- J Colorado Springs had another tough year with weather, and attendance fell 5,005 to 265,095, their lowest total since 2005. Average per date declined 12 to 4,208, lowest since 2007. The total and average were 2nd lowest (to Gwinnett) among the 30 Class AAA teams. But it was the 11th straight year that the average was above 4,000. From 1992 through 2006, average per date reached 4,000 only in 2001. The Sky Sox lost 7 dates to weather in 2017, and had 8 lost dates in 2016, and 7 lost dates in 2015, compared to 3 lost dates in 2014, and 9 in 2013. Until 2016, this team had topped 300,000 for 8 straight years after never reaching that mark in the team's first 20 years of operation (1988-2007). Colorado Springs plays at a higher altitude than any U.S. pro baseball team. Their ballpark is 6,531 feet above sea level. This team is expected to move to San Antonio in 2019, and will be replaced by the Pioneer Rookie League team currently in Helena. The current Class AA Texas League team in San Antonio is expected to move to Amarillo.
- J Fresno drew their smallest total (428,341, down 11,048) since moving to their current park in 2002. Average per date rose 19 to 6,208 in 2017. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date has been above 6,000 for the last 16 seasons, and has surpassed 7,000 in 6 of them, with a high of 8,044 in 2002.
- J Tacoma's Cheney Stadium was renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers set a record-high that year. Their 2017 total attendance was down 2,213 to 374,951, still their 3rd best total ever. **Average per date was a team record-high 5,434, up 122, breaking the mark of 5,331 in 2011.** There were 2 lost dates. Only one game yearly was lost due to weather in 2016 and in 2015, following a loss of 7 home dates in 2014, and none in 2013. The Rainiers have topped 300,000 in each of the last 17 years. They've surpassed 350,000 in 7 of the last 9 seasons after never having reached this level before. Tacoma drew 83.6% of capacity in 2017.
- J The Las Vegas 51s continued their attendance consistency. They've never drawn below 290,000, or above 390,000, since they joined the P.C.L. in 1983. In 2017, they drew 359,059, up 27,060, their best total since 2008. Average per date was up 175 to 5,057, the first time the average has exceeded 5,000 since 2008. There were 6 sellouts. Las Vegas has averaged over 4,000 every year, but has never topped 5,441. There are plans for a new ballpark in Las Vegas for the 2019 season.

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

- J Memphis posted a 25,426 gain in total attendance to 350,007 in 2017. That's a 25.6% increase since 2015. Average per date was 5,073, up 369. Attendance was above 6,000 at 17 dates.
- J 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. 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, reducing the number of fixed seats to 8,404. The largest crowd ever there was 18,620 in 2008.
- J In 2015, the Redbirds had 102,850 dip 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.
- J 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 NAPBL 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.
- J The Salt Lake Bees drew 483,202 in 2017, down 20,457. Average per date fell 292 to 6,903. 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 NAPBL teams, and average per date fell by 760. But in 2012, the Bees posted the biggest total increase (77,864) among all U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams. Average per date that year rose by 724, the 3rd best gain among all NAPBL teams. The Bees have topped 430,000 in total attendance, and 6,400 per date in all 24 years of operation as a full-season team. They've been above 450,000 in 20 of those years, and have surpassed 500,000 in 12 seasons. Average per date has topped 7,000 in 6 of the last 10 years. In 1994, the first Class AAA season of the current franchise, the team drew 713,224, averaging 10,189 per date.
- J 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.
- J Iowa had a good increase in 2017. 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 year thereafter. They've topped 500,000 in 12 of the last 16 seasons. In 1981, they drew only 124,371. Since 2002, average per date has reached 7,000 in every season except 2013, and it has been above 6,000 in every year since at least 1992.
- J 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.
- J Omaha had a gain of 2,642 to 358,777. Omaha's attendance has gone up in 9 of the past 12 seasons. The Storm Chasers have now made it 30 straight years above 300,000. Their 2017 average per date was 5,355, up 40. It was the 10th straight year above 5,300. Attendance reached 6,000 at 22 dates in 2017. Omaha averaged above 6,000 per date each year from 1992 through 2000, but hasn't done it since then. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Class AAA facility. Full capacity is a bit over 9,000. Omaha's former home, Rosenblatt Stadium, was much bigger. The last game there drew 23,795. A big new park in Omaha for the College Baseball World Series, which had been played at Rosenblatt, opened in 2011.

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

-) **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, making it 55 sellouts in 3 seasons at First Tennessee Park. Attendance reached 8,000 at 43 dates, and surpassed 10,000 at 22 dates, with a record-high of 11,764.**
-) Nashville's 2nd year at First Tennessee 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.
-) In 2015, Nashville had the biggest 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 2 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.
-) 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. 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 Tennessee Park, like Greer Stadium, has a guitar-shaped scoreboard in recognition of Nashville's role as 'Music City.'
-) Despite the large dip in population in the New Orleans area after Hurricane Katrina in 2005, Zephyrs' attendance has remained steady. In 2004, the year prior to Katrina, this team drew 324,324. Attendance has been above this level every year since, and was 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 Zephyrs name came with the team to New Orleans from Denver.
-) Oklahoma City had a 6,319 increase to 444,224 in 2017. It was the 5th straight year above 400,000. Average per date fell 3 to 6,533. 7 crowds topped 10,000, and 21 were above 8,000. The Dodgers have topped 400,000 in total attendance for 15 of the last 20 years. OKC never reached 400,000 before 1998. Average per date has been above 6,000 in 14 of the last 20 seasons.
-) A historic note: In 1946, the San Francisco Seals of the P.C.L. drew a then-Minor League record 670,563. That season mark was not topped until 1982, when Louisville drew 868,418. Buffalo holds the current Minor League season attendance record of 1,188,972 (1,240,951 if playoff games are included), set in 1991.

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

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

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	16						
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

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE** (16 teams – 111 game schedule)

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

- J This league, which was founded in 1925, does not have any Major League Baseball farm teams, but has been an NAPBL Minor League member since 1955.
- J Durango and Leon replaced Reynosa and Carmen in 2017. Dos Laredos replaces Veracruz in 2018.
- J Mexican League attendance was up 10,558 (0.3%) to 4,042,605 in 2017, and average per date rose 151 to 4,906. The league played a 111-game schedule in 2017, compared to a 113-game schedule in 2016. There were 24 fewer dates played in 2017 vs. 2016 due to the schedule change, and also because of 58 lost dates, compared to 41 lost dates in 2016.
- J 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 NAPBL leagues in total attendance and average per date.
- J **The 2017 total was the highest for the league since 1979. The average total attendance per team of 252,663 was the highest since 1967, and the 2nd best (269,928 in 1964), since this league joined the NAPBL in 1955. Average per date was the highest since at least 1991.** Average per date prior to 1992 is not available.
- J 2017 was the 7th straight year with average attendance above 4,400. 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.
- J 6 of the league's 14 teams that played in the same market in 2017 as in 2016 had gains in total attendance, while 8 of these teams were up in average per date.
- J The 14 returning teams had a combined total attendance decline of 44,676 (1.2%), and their average per date was 5,073, down 26. Durango and Leon drew a combined 288,788 in 2017, averaging 3,438 per date. Reynosa and Carmen, the cities they replaced, drew a combined 233,554 in 2016, averaging 2,268 per date.
- J Playoffs continue to be a big event in this league. The 2017 Mexican League playoffs drew 414,122, averaging 12,180 per game. 20 of the 34 games drew over 10,000, led by a crowd of 23,176 at Monterrey. 16 of 17 semi-final and finals games drew over 10,000. The 8 playoff games in Tijuana drew a total of 130,165, an average of 16,271 per game. The 5 playoff games in Monterrey attracted an average of 20,510 per game. Attendance at all 34 Mexican League playoff games topped 5,000. Only 19 of 181 playoff games in all other leagues, including the independents, drew at least 5,000. In 2016, the Mexican League playoffs averaged 12,682 per game.
- J 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, rose 22.4% in 2011, and rose 14.8% in 2012.
- J Individual Mexican League teams have very often made the yearly listing of teams with the 10 biggest increases or decreases in total attendance. Since 2007, Mexican League teams have accounted for 89 of the 220 teams (40.5%) on these lists, which have 20 teams yearly. The Mexican League has had 16 of the 136 full-season NAPBL teams 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	2013	4	5
2008	7	3	2014	1	2
2009	3	7	2015	3	5
2010	2	5	2016	5	4
2011	8	0	2017	4	4
2012	5	4			

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

-) In 2017, Mexican League teams accounted for: 4 of the 8 NAPBL teams with the highest gains in total attendance and 4 of the 8 best increases in average per date; 6 of the 12 teams with the worst total declines, and 5 of the 8 worst declines in average per date; 2 of the 5 best percentage gains in total attendance, and 2 of the top 11 percentage increases in average per date; 3 of the 6 worst percentage losses in total attendance, and 4 of the 9 worst percentage decreases in average per date.
-) **The Monterrey Sultanes once again had the highest total attendance and average per date in all of Minor League Baseball in 2017. They drew 659,701 in just 57 home dates, averaging 11,575 per date. Attendance topped 10,000 at 32 dates, reached 15,000 at 18 dates, topped 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. (There were 3 lost 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%).**
-) Monterrey has now topped 500,000 in each of the last 6 seasons, and 11 times overall. They've reached 10,000 in average per date 7 times in the last 12 years, and have averaged better than 8,000 per date 15 times since 1998.
-) Some examples of the wild attendance fluctuations in Monterrey's 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 Majors.
-) In 2008, Monterrey's attendance swung back up. The Sultanes drew 658,491, which was 3rd best in the Minors. The gain of 166,863 was the largest of any Minor League team. Monterrey averaged 12,424 per date, and was the only team whose average exceeded 10,000. But in 2009, they suffered a 258,181 loss, the biggest drop of any Minor League team. In 2010, Monterrey drew under 400,000 for the first time since 1996. The Sultanes drew 430,420 in 2011, leading the league in attendance. 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 NAPBL 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 NAPBL teams. Monterrey's average per date of 9,404 was still the 2nd best in the Minor Leagues.
-) Puebla is another team that has had significant changes in attendance recently. 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% decline in average per date was 4th worst. Puebla had 5 fewer dates than in 2016.
-) 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%).

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

-) 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.
-) A statistical oddity for Yucatan due to playing 6 fewer dates than in 2016: **Los Leones (Lions) had a total attendance decline of 48,677, which was 5th worst among NAPBL teams. Yet they set a team record (since at least 1991) in average per date for the 3rd straight year. Their average per date was 9,228, up 122.** Total attendance was 452,162.
-) Yucatan followed-up a great 2015 season with another outstanding performance in 2016. The Lions 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. It was 2 straight years above 500,000 in Yucatan, after reaching 300,000 just once (2008) between 2004 and 2014. In 2015, the Lions 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.
-) Leon drew 108,670 (2,717 per date). This city last had a team in 24 seasons from 1960 through 1991.
-) Durango drew 180,118 (4,094 per date). Their last team played in 12 seasons between 1956 and 1979.
-) Mexico City had declines of 10,425 in total attendance, and 8 in average per date, and drew their lowest total (127,671) and average (2,503) since 2005. Los Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) had topped 300,000 in attendance 19 times between 1957 and 1979. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 14 of those years. The 1967 team was the only Minor League team to draw at least 500,000 between 1950 and 1978. But since 1980, the Red Devils have reached 300,000 just twice. Their record of 536,743 set in 1967 has never been broken, and is the longest standing team record-high among current Major League and Minor League teams. Los Diablos Rojos expect to open a new ballpark in 2018.
-) Saltillo had a 1,984 gain to 266,847, with 3 fewer dates. The average per date grew 316 to 5,132. Los Saraperos (Sarape Makers) had the 4th worst NAPBL average per date decline in 2016. In 2015, the Sarape Makers posted an NAPBL 5th worst decrease of 71,079 in total attendance to 305,062, and a 4th worst decline in average per date (down 1,210) to 5,756. They had topped 500,000 each year from 2000 through 2007, with a high of 613,551 in 2001. Average per date surpassed 10,000 each year from 2000 through 2006.
-) Aguascalientes drew better than 300,000 in 1977 and 1978. But they've reached 200,000 just 4 times in the 30 seasons they've had a team since then. Los Rieleros (Railroadmen) came close in 2017, drawing 196,439, their best total since 2005, and the 2nd best total since 1984. Total attendance rose 43,381, the 6th best gain in the NAPBL. Average per date was up 684 to 3,572, also best since 2005. It was the 8th best average per date gain.
-) Campeche drew 133,641, down 4,604. Average per date rose 25 to 2,905. Los Piratas (Pirates) drew their record-high of 287,749 in 1983. But 2008 was the only year above 200,000 for this team since then.
-) **The Tijuana Toros drew a team record-high 608,819, topping 400,000 for the 7th time in the last 9 seasons that this team has played. The old record-high was set in 2004. Total attendance rose 92,318, the best 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. The Toros drew 548,863 in 2004, and surpassed 450,000 in 2006 and 2007.

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

-) Veracruz attracted 151,671 in 2017, up 22,069, averaging 2,661, up 16. Los Rojos de Aguila (Red Eagles) had 8 more dates in 2017 than in 2016. This was the final season for the team, which will move to Laredo, Mexico, and Laredo, Texas. Veracruz fielded a team in 48 seasons since 1955. Attendance topped 200,000 only in 1956, 1960, 1961, 1964, 2008, and a record-high 245,057 in 2012.
-) Laguna had a 35,356 decrease to 250,596. Average per date fell 999 to 4,396, the 3rd worst average loss. Total attendance surpassed 250,000 for the 5th straight year, after reaching this level just 5 times in this city's previous 35 years in the league. The Cowboys have topped 200,000 in 11 of the last 13 seasons, after doing it just once in the previous 20 years.
-) Monclova (del Norte) topped 300,000 for the 7th straight year, drawing 392,795, up 39,543. It was the team's highest total since 1998, and the 8th best total gain in the Minors. Los Acereros (Steelers) drew 300,000+ only 5 times between 1974 and 2010. Prior to the current streak, Monclova drew below 300,000 for 9 years in a row. **Average per date rose 719, which was the 7th best gain in the Minors, to a team record-high 7,142. The old record was 6,978 per date in 1998.**
-) Oaxaca has reached 200,000 only 3 times in 22 years. But they had a major attendance increase in 2017. Los Guerreros (Warriors) drew 147,217, and averaged 2,435 per date. Total attendance was up 53,011, which was the 5th best gain in the Minors. The Warriors' average per date increase of 739 was the 6th best of any team. The 60.1% increase 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 the independents.
-) Tabasco drew 441,835 in 1979, and topped 200,000 in 1980. The Cattlemen have not reached 200,000 since. In 2017, they dipped an NAPBL 4th worst 49,183 to 71,829, with 3 fewer dates. 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.
-) Cancun (Quintana Roo) drew 147,416, down 42,502, their lowest total since 2010. They did have 6 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date was 3,008, down 445, and also the lowest since 2010.
-) The Mexican League has the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing 2017 average attendance per team with both 1969 and 1979. Average Mexican League attendance per team is up 10.1% vs. 1979, and is up 2.4% vs. 1969. No other NAPBL league had a smaller 2017 increase in average attendance per team vs. 1979 or 1969. The Florida State League had the next lowest gain vs. 1979, up 33.9%, and the Appalachian League posted the next smallest increase since 1969, up 104.1%. But the 2017 Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 is up 79.0%, which is better than 8 other leagues. The average per team vs. 1999 increased 40.6%, which is a better growth rate than 11 other NAPBL leagues. Only the Texas, Florida State, and South Atlantic Leagues had better average per team growth vs. 1999 than the Mexican League. The section starting on page 164 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 48 years.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**MEXICAN LEAGUE** - 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
2018	16						
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

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**EASTERN LEAGUE (AA)** (12 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- J A big part of the 2017 and 2016 attendance story for the Eastern League is 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, 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 are not included in the list of number of dates played.
- J In this franchise's 20 seasons at New Britain Stadium, they drew 5,686,765 in 1,312 dates, averaging 234,338 per season, and 4,334 per date. From 1983 through 1995, they played at neighboring Beehive Field, drawing 1,435,260, an average of 110,405 a year.
- J New Britain's attendance had surpassed 300,000 for 11 straight years through 2014, and had generally more than doubled since the early years of New Britain Stadium, which opened in 1996. From 1983 through 1999, New Britain never drew above 182,000. The Rock Cats had set a team attendance record 10 times in an 11-year period from 2000 through 2010.
- J Hartford last had teams from 1916-1932, 1934, and 1938-1952. The top listed attendance was 140,249 in 1946.
- 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.
- J League attendance surpassed 3 million for the 21st straight year in 2017. It was the 16th time above 3.7 million. Average per date topped 4,000 for the 23rd year in a row. It was above 4,700 for the 11th 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.
- J Excluding Hartford, 4 teams had 2017 total attendance gains, and 8 were up in average per date. The league played 24 fewer dates, as each team reduced its home schedule by one game. Weather hit this league hard. There were 59 lost dates in 2017, compared to just 36 in 2016.
- J Other than Hartford, Altoona, up 21,846 had the best total gain, and Binghamton's average per date increase of 670 was the league's best. Reading led the league with a 411,698 total, and a 6,054 average per date. Hartford, Trenton, Richmond, Akron, and Portland also averaged over 5,000 per date.
- J 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew more than 200,000.

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

- J 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 has done it for the past 15 years. The Fightin Phils saw 2017 total attendance fall 8,622 to 411,698, and average per date dipped 38 to 6,054. But they still led the league in each category. Since 2002, Reading has led the league in total attendance 11 times and also had the Eastern League's best average per date 11 times. In 2018, Reading celebrates its 52nd straight season as a Phillies affiliate, the longest current affiliation of any team.
- J Baseball is very popular in Reading, despite a tough local economy, and a ballpark built in 1951. The Class AAA Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who have topped 550,000 in each of the last 10 years, play in nearby Allentown. (These 2 teams have the same ownership.) Other Minor League teams in nearby Trenton, Lancaster, and Harrisburg all draw 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 Philadelphia.)

READING ATTENDANCE – 1984-2017

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

- J Richmond drew 386,185, down 4,508, and averaged 6,034 per date, up 289. They had 6 lost dates, and played 4 fewer dates than in 2016. Attendance reached 6,000 at 32 dates in 2017. The Flying Squirrels have topped 415,000 in 6 of their 8 seasons in the Eastern League, and led the league in total attendance 4 times. Average per date has been above 6,000 in 7 of 8 seasons. 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, but one (2008), since The Diamond opened in 1985. Plans for a new ballpark in Richmond may soon be approved.
- J 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 2017, the Richmond Flying Squirrels have drawn 3,396,986 in 539 dates, averaging 424,623 per season, and 6,302 per date. The Gwinnett Braves (renamed the Stripers for 2018) have drawn 2,349,817 in 556 dates in these 8 seasons, averaging 293,727 per season, and 4,226 per date. In these 8 seasons, Richmond has averaged 2,076 (49.1%) higher than Gwinnett in average per date.
- J Trenton's attendance rose 1,352 to 349,013, and average per date was up 94 to 5,133. The Thunder were above 360,000 from 1995 through 2014, and drew over 400,000 for 14 straight years from 1995 through 2008. Average per date has topped 5,000 each year except 2015, since the team began play in 1994.
- J Bowie drew 234,789, (3,453 per date), the lowest attendance in their 25-year history. Total attendance fell 1,560, and average per date was down 75. 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.

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

- J It took a long time for the Hartford Yard Goats to get home, but when they did, they were a big attendance success. 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. **The 2017 total is a record-high for the Hartford-New Britain area.** Record-high average per date was 5,867 in 2011.
- J Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, Erie's attendance has ranged from 197,656 to 246,404. The 2017 total of 214,394 was up 4,354. Average per date rose 306 to 3,350. 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 was 3,613 in 2007.
- J Harrisburg's total attendance fell 6,300 to 262,872. But average per date was up 82 to 3,983. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2016. The 2017 total was the smallest since the ballpark in Harrisburg was totally rebuilt for the 2010 season. The Senators did top 200,000 for the 30th time in their 31-year history, (2008 was the exception) and again, just missed surpassing 270,000, after doing it for 6 straight years through 2015. Prior to 2010, they had reached 270,000 only in 2001.
- J 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 increase was the 3rd highest among all NAPBL teams. Average per date was up 936, 2nd best among all Minor League teams. That total was up nearly 100,000 from the 256,473 that the team drew in 2012, and average per date increased from 3,772 in 2012 to 5,157 in 2014.
- J Attendance in Akron fell 6,726 in 2017 to 343,351. Average per date was up 128 to 5,202, with 3 fewer dates than in 2016. It was the best average per date since 2007. 34 dates drew over 5,000, with 9 sellouts drawing at least 7,500 apiece. In 21 seasons in Akron, total attendance has reached 300,000 17 times, and average per date has surpassed 5,000 in 16 seasons. In 2015, the Rubber Ducks won the Larry MacPhail award for top promotional effort in the Minors.
- J Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012. The then-named Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the 2nd Class AA franchise to draw 500,000 in a season. Nashville had done it 4 times (1979-1982). 4 Texas League teams have achieved this level more recently--(Round Rock - 2000-2004, Springfield - 2005, Frisco - 2003-2011, and Corpus Christi – 2005-2006). 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.
- J Portland's total attendance declined 18,593 to 356,153, with 11 sellouts, and 41 crowds above 5,000. There were 7 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016. The Sea Dogs have reached 340,000 in all 24 seasons, including 9 years above 400,000. Average per date has been above 5,000 every year (5,653 in 2017, up 299), and has topped 6,000 in 9 seasons. They've had 503 sellouts in 1,607 dates in their history, drawing 9,358,583, an average of 5,824 per date. Their season high for sellouts was 48 in 1995.
- J Altoona's total attendance rose a league-best 21,846 to 294,486. Average per date was up 264 to 4,395, the best since 2008. 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.
- J New Hampshire (Manchester) suffered 10 lost dates, and played 10 fewer dates than in 2016. This led to a 54,279 decline in total attendance to 284,108, the lowest total since 2005. The Fisher Cats had topped 335,000 for 10 straight years. Average per date fell 99 to 4,735, lowest since 2006. 29 dates topped 5,000, and 11 of them reached 6,000. The Cats have drawn 4,729,367 in 947 dates in their 14-year history, averaging 4,994 per date.
- J Binghamton had 11 lost dates in 2017, and played 8 fewer dates than in 2016. Despite this, total attendance rose 17,906 to 190,765. Average per date was up 670 (9th best gain in the NAPBL) to 3,289, the team's best since 2007. Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 161st largest (out of 210) U.S. markets in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #177, is the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AA team. This team was renamed the Rumble Ponies for 2017, in honor of the 6 vintage carousels located in Binghamton.

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

EASTERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	12						
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

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

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

- J The Southern League had an increase in attendance in 2017, even though the league played 15 fewer dates than in 2016. Total attendance rose 13,215 (0.6%) to 2,339,085. Average per date was up 100 to 3,571. The league topped 3,500 in average per date for the 15th time since 1993. Record high average per date for the league is 4,007 in 1994, when Michael Jordan played for Birmingham.
- J 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams increased their average per date in 2017. Jacksonville had the league's best increases in total and average per date. Birmingham had the biggest decline in total attendance, while Jackson suffered the largest average per date decline. The league lost 44 dates to weather. Jackson was the only team in the league who played more home dates in 2017 than in 2016. Jacksonville played the same number of home dates in both years, and the other 8 teams each had fewer home dates in 2017 than in 2016.
- J Southern League average attendance per team reached 200,000 for the first time in 1991, and has remained above that figure ever since. The record-high average per team of 258,907 per team was set in 1994, when Michael Jordan played in this league. 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.
- J Jacksonville's team name was changed from the Suns to the Jumbo Shrimp, and they had a very successful season in both marketing and attendance. They drew 325,743, averaging 5,171 per date. The total was the highest since 2010, and the average per date was the best since 2008. Total attendance rose 61,342, which was the 2nd best increase among U.S. NAPBL teams in 2017. The 974 average per date increase was the 3rd best among U.S. NAPBL teams. Attendance topped 6,000 at 20 dates, and 7 of them drew over 8,000.
- J Jacksonville led the league in attendance for 9 straight years through 2011. They have a streak of 29 straight years above 200,000, have topped 300,000 in 11 of the last 15 seasons, and reached 400,000 in 2004 and 2006. Attendance had hit 200,000 only once (1962) until 1989, and didn't reach 300,000 until 2003. In 2017, average per date was above 5,000 for the 9th time since 2003.
- J Biloxi's 2017 total attendance was down 13,233 to 167,151, and average per date fell 120 to 2,572. The Shuckers had 2 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016.
- 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 Huntsville (AL) had drawn just 94,929 in 2014, its final season, the lowest total of any Class AA team. This 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. This followed 14 consecutive seasons above 200,000. The Stars' average per date of 1,460 was the lowest in Class AA in 2014. The Southern League may return to the Huntsville area if a proposed new ballpark is built in nearby Madison.
- J The all-time record attendance in Huntsville was 300,810, in 1985, which was the team's first season. That year, Huntsville had the 2nd highest attendance of the 26 Class AA teams, topped only by Albany-Colonie of the Eastern League, who drew 324,003. In 1985, 10 Class AA teams drew under 100,000.
- J Chattanooga's total attendance dipped 13,569 to 209,948, as they had 4 fewer dates than in 2016. It was their lowest total since 1991. 1999 and 2015 are the only other years below 220,000 since 1991. The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but have topped 200,000 for 26 straight years. This team had reached 200,000 just 3 times (1946, 1947, 1952) in 66 seasons prior to 1992. Average per date fell 12 to 3,181, the lowest since 1999.

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

- J Birmingham's new downtown ballpark, Regions Field, which opened in 2013, was a huge hit in design, location, and attendance. The Barons moved back to the city from suburban Hoover, where they had played since 1988. Total attendance rose 192,551 in 2013, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team. 2013 average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best increase, by a very large margin, in the Minors.
- J In 2017, Birmingham's attendance fell 26,636 to 391,725, the largest total attendance decline in the league. Total attendance had topped 400,000 in 2014, 2015, and 2016, as well as in 1948, 1949, and 1994. The Barons played 3 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date was 5,935, a decrease of 128. Average per date in Birmingham has topped 5,900 for 5 straight years.
- J The 2015 league-leading total of 444,639 in Birmingham was the 2nd highest attendance by a Southern League team in the 1964-2017 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, and a home/road total of 986,185. The final 1994 home game drew 16,247.
- J Birmingham drew 445,926 in 1948 and 421,305 in 1949, when it played in the old Southern Association. The Barons had topped 250,000 for a 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.
- J From 1996 through 2016, 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 7,192 in 2016, and has drawn 147,338, an average of 7,016 per game, in its 21-year history. No game was played at Rickwood Field in 2017, but there will be a game there in May, 2018.
- J **Tennessee drew a team record-high total of 313,796, up 20,102, and they did it playing 5 fewer 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. NAPBL 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 18 seasons in the Knoxville suburb of Kodak. Prior to 2000, this team's 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 4,000 per date for the first time in team history, and they've done it every year since.
- J Mississippi (Pearl, near Jackson) drew 190,645, up 515. Average per date rose 51 to 2,889. There were 5 crowds of 5,000+.
- J 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, with 40 sellouts in 68 dates to their beautiful new waterfront ballpark. In 2017, total attendance was 298,108, down 4,232, the lowest total in their 6 years. Average per date increased by 1 to 4,320, and has been above 4,300 in all 6 seasons. Pensacola had been a Minor League city prior to 2012. Their previous NAPBL record attendance was 117,696 in 1947, and an independent team drew 92,468 in 2007.
- J 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. A Carolina League team moved from Kinston to Zebulon in 2012, and retained the Carolina Mudcats name.
- J Mobile had the worst attendance season in its 21-year history. The Bay Bears drew team lows in total attendance (92,898, down 3,287) and average per date (1,498, down 29). These were the lowest 2017 figures in Class AA. It was the 3rd straight year with a total of under 100,000, and the 4th year in a row with an average per date of less than 2,000. There were 8 lost dates. Mobile drew 332,639 in 1997, which was the first season for this current franchise. Attendance has not reached 300,000 since then. There is a possibility that this team will move to Madison, AL, near Huntsville, if a new ballpark is built there.

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

- J Jackson, TN drew 120,695, down 5,421, even though they had 5 more dates than in 2016. Average per date fell a league-worst 227 to 1,775. Only 17 dates drew at least 2,000, and attendance was under 1,000 at 24 dates. The average topped 4,000 per date in this team's first 3 seasons (1998-2000), but has been below 3,000 each year from 2003 through 2017, and under 2,000 in 7 seasons since 2005. The Generals had drawn over 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but have been below 150,000 for the past 13 years, and under 200,000 in the last 15 seasons.
- J Based on 2017-18 A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson, which ranks #177, is the smallest market in terms of TV households, with a Class AA team. Bowling Green, KY (Market #181) is the only smaller market with a full-season NAPBL team. Grand Junction (#187), Great Falls (#192), and Helena (#205), all in the Pioneer League, are markets smaller than Jackson that have short-season NAPBL teams
- J Montgomery was down 2,366 to 228,376, the lowest total since the team began play in 2004. There were 3 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016. Average per date rose by 113 to 3,409. 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 3,200+ every year.
- J The original Southern League began play in 1885, and later changed its name to the Southern Association. That league played through the 1961 season. Birmingham, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Mobile, and Montgomery are current Southern League markets who were in the Southern Association. The league's best attendance was 2,180,344 in 1947. That year, the most prominent team in the league, the Atlanta Crackers, had their top attendance, drawing 404,584. Record-high team season attendance in that league was 445,926 by Birmingham in 1948. 7 of the 8 teams in the league drew over 200,000 in 1947. But by its last year in 1961, just 3 of the 8 Southern Association teams drew over 100,000. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)
- J The Montgomery Biscuits of the Southern League, Cedar Rapids Kernels in the Midwest League, and Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association, are the only teams in Minor League Baseball that are named for food. (Source: Tampa Bay Rays Media Guide.)

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

SOUTHERN LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	10						
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

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**TEXAS LEAGUE (AA)** (8 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- J Total attendance rose 27,727 (1.0%) to 2,727,350. Every team drew at least 280,000. The league had one less date in 2017 than in 2016, and lost 20 dates to weather.
- J It was the 18th straight year that the Texas League has drawn at least 2 million, and the 15th consecutive 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 340,919 in 2017, the 15th 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 61 in 2017 to 5,051. The league's average per date has surpassed 5,000 in 13 of the last 15 seasons. Average per date is up 1,520 since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. All teams averaged at least 4,200 per date in 2017, topped by Frisco, who averaged a Class AA best 6,812.
- J 5 of the 8 teams had gains in total attendance, and 5 teams were up in average per date.
- J Frisco drew 470,003 to lead all of Class AA for the 13th consecutive year in both total attendance and average per date (6,812, down 212). The RoughRiders' total attendance rose 6,439, with 3 more home dates than in 2016. Attendance topped 6,000 at 41 dates, reached 8,000 at 22 dates, and was above 10,000 at 8 dates. This team has drawn at least 449,000 in each of their 15 seasons, including over 500,000 each year from 2003 through 2011, and 666,977 in 2003. In team history, they've drawn 7,925,620 in 1,031 dates, averaging 528,375 per season, and 7,687 per date. Average per date has reached 7,000 in 12 of 15 years, and was above 8,000 yearly from 2003 through 2009, with a high of 9,264 in 2003.
- J Midland had a 16,953 increase in total attendance to 286,146, with one less date. Average per date rose by a league-best 311 to 4,211. This was the 16th 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 since then. Average per date has been over 3,700 for 20 straight years, and has topped 4,000 in 10 of the last 11 seasons. In 2016, the RockHounds won the Larry MacPhail Award for promotional effort.
- J In 2014, Tulsa had their 2nd best regular season total attendance (403,732) in team history. It fell a bit after that. But in 2017, total attendance was up 8,242 to 374,976. Average per date increased 204 to 5,597. This was the Drillers' 8th straight year above 360,000 in total attendance, and above 5,300 in average per date. They topped 300,000 for 22nd time in the last 25 seasons. In 65 seasons, from 1919 through 1988, Tulsa reached 200,000 only in 1948, 1949, 1963, 1964, and 1965. They never reached 250,000 until 1991, but have done it every year since. The last 8 seasons have seen the 8 highest season attendance totals in the 105-year history of professional baseball in Tulsa.
- J Corpus Christi drew its lowest total and average per date in the team's 13-year history. The total was 331,242, down 19,722, and average per date fell 217 to 4,944. Both the total and average per date declines were the worst in this league in 2017. But 11 dates drew at least 6,000. The Hooks have been above 400,000 6 times, and surpassed 500,000 twice. Average per date was above 7,000 in 2005, 2006, and 2007. Total attendance for their 13 seasons is 5,428,917 in 898 dates, averaging 417,609 per season, and 6,046 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.
- J Springfield (MO) rebounded from 2016, when they had the smallest attendance in the 13-year history of the current franchise. In 2017, total attendance was up 14,269 to 331,259, and average per date rose 70 to 4,801. There were 2 more dates than in 2016. Attendance reached 6,000 at 18 dates in 2017. 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.

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

- J San Antonio has topped 270,000 in each of their last 24 seasons, and has been above 300,000 in 16 seasons since 1994. In 2017, the Missions had a 12,256 decrease to 305,351, with 2 fewer dates. Average per date was 4,557, down 46. The average has been above 4,200 for 11 straight years, and has topped 4,000 in all but 3 seasons (2004, 2005, 2006) since 1994. In 66 years of recorded San Antonio pro baseball attendance from 1922 through 1993, the total reached 200,000 only in 1946, 1948, 1949, and 1972. But the total has topped 300,000 in 16 of the last 24 seasons. Discussions are still underway regarding a new ballpark in San Antonio, and possibly attracting a Class AAA team from the Pacific Coast League.
- J Northwest Arkansas had 2 fewer dates than in 2016. Total attendance fell 7,975 to 304,026. It was the 9th time in the team's 10 seasons that they drew at least 300,000. 2015 was the exception. Average per date was up 14 to 4,471, and has been above 4,400 every season.
- J Arkansas (North Little Rock) increased total attendance by a league-high 21,777 to 328,347. Average per date was up 259 to 4,975. The Travelers had one more date in 2017 than in 2016. This team had never reached 300,000 until 2007, but has now done it 10 times in the last 11 years. Average per date has surpassed 4,500 for 11 years in a row, and has reached 5,000 in 5 of those seasons.
- J The all-time single game record-high attendance in the Texas League is 54,151 for a game played on April 11, 1950 at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. A very good article about this game and its attendance can be found at hardballtimes.com. The record-high attendance for any Minor League game is 65,666 set by the Denver Bears of the Class AAA American Association at Mile High Stadium on July 4, 1982. The largest capacity of any current Minor League park is about 25,000 in Monterrey of the Mexican League. Coca Cola Field in Buffalo, which seated 16,907 in 2017, 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 has been above 2 million every year starting in 2000.
- J If San Antonio gets a Class AAA team (from Colorado Springs), it is expected that the Texas League team will be relocated to Amarillo.

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

TEXAS LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	8						
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

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

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

- J The league had 2 fewer teams in 2017 as Bakersfield and High Desert were replaced by 2 teams in the Carolina League. The independent Pecos Baseball League put a team both Bakersfield and High Desert in 2017.
- J Total attendance fell 135,478 to 1,364,374. This compares the 8-team league in 2017 with the 10-team league in 2016. The 8 teams who played in this league in both 2017 and 2016 had a combined increase of 3,495 (0.3%) in total attendance. There had been a decline in California League attendance in 12 of 19 seasons from 1998 through 2016. 5 teams had gains in total attendance in 2017, and 5 were up in average per date.
- J Average per date was up 292 to 2,450, which was mainly due to the elimination of 2 teams that drew poorly. The 8 returning teams averaged 2,447 in 2016, so they had a combined increase of 3 per date for 2017. Since 1994, average per date in this league has 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 170,547 in 2017, the highest since 2009, and 2nd best since 1998. Average per team has been above 100,000 every year since 1991, and better than 150,000 every year from 2002 through 2015. (It was 149,985 in 2016.) But 1997 was the only season above 200,000.
- J Weather, other than heat, is rarely a problem in the California League. Only 3 dates were lost in 2017, 4 dates were lost in 2016, and in both years, no team lost more than one date. There were 8 lost dates in the league in 2015, including one due to high winds at Lancaster. There were just 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 past 2 decades were 23 in 1998 and 22 in 2003.
- J Inland Empire (San Bernadino) led the league in total attendance drawing 202,336, up 11,403. Average per date rose by 163 to 2,891. Those were the best total and average per date increases in this league. It was the best total and average for the 66ers since 2009. The 66ers reached a total of 200,000 in 6 seasons between 1997 and 2005, but only in 2009 and 2017 since. Their average per date has been above 2,500 in 14 of the last 16 years.
- J Lake Elsinore had slight gains from 2016, a year they had their lowest attendance. 2017 total was 199,661, up 2,977. Average per date increased 84 to 2,894. It was the 2nd year in a row below 200,000, after topping 200,000 in the Storm's first 22 seasons. 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.
- J Over their last 11 seasons, the Modesto Nuts have achieved the 11 best attendance totals in their 71-year history. 2017 attendance fell 9,677 to 147,562, the lowest since 2006. Average per date was the smallest since 2005, falling 138 to 2,108. Those were the biggest 2017 declines in the league. The Nuts didn't reach 110,000 until 1997, but have been above 130,000 every year since.
- J The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, was originally named 'The Epicenter' (it's now LoanMart Field), drew 171,622, up 113. Average per date was 2,452, up 2. There were 14 dates with attendance above 4,000. 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 previous 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. It has been under 2,500 for the last 8 seasons.
- J San Jose had its lowest total and average per date since 2006. Total attendance was down 3,383 to 163,373, and average per date fell 49 to 2,368. Attendance reached 4,000 at 7 dates. From 2009 through 2014, the Giants topped 200,000 each year, something they had never done in their long history. They've drawn over 150,000 for the last 16 years, after reaching this mark just once (1999) since 1947. Attendance has more than doubled from the time when the Giants failed to reach 100,000 in any year from 1974 through 1987. The Giants won the 2014 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in Minor League Baseball.

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

- J Stockton's attendance was 154,547 in 1947 and 145,804 in 1948. But attendance did not reach 120,000 again until 2005. They've topped 184,000 in all 13 seasons from 2005 on. Annual attendance in Stockton has more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005. In 2017, attendance fell 4,568 to 184,164, the smallest total since 2004. Average per date was 2,669, also the low since 2004, down 66. The Ports never averaged at least 2,000 per date until 2005, but have been above 2,600 each year since then.
- J Lancaster drew over 300,000 in its first season (1996), and topped 200,000 each year through 1999. They have not reached that figure since. The JetHawks drew 169,237 in 2017, up 3,290. Average per date was 2,418, up 13. 7 dates topped 4,000. Their average reached 4,000 in 1996 and 1997, was above 3,000 in 1998 and 1999, but has not been over 2,500 since 2002.
- J **Visalia drew a record-high 126,419, up 3,340. This was the 8th time in the last 9 seasons that the Rawhide has set a new record. Average per date was up 22 to a record-high 1,806.** They have drawn the 9 highest attendance totals in team history in the last 9 years, topping 100,000 each year. Before this 9-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 has been above 1,500 in all years since.
- J 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.
- J The Bakersfield Blaze went out on a 'high' note in 2016. Their total attendance of 62,922 was up 11,133, the best gain in the 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 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've 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 In 1964, 4 of the 8 teams in the 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 Average per team rose to 43,755 in 1966. It was only 50,449 in 1979, and 170,547 in 2017.

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

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	8						
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

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

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

- J The league added 2 teams that were moved from the California League. The Down East Wood Ducks played in Kinston, a long-time Minor League city. The Buies Creek Astros are playing the 2017 and 2018 seasons at Campbell University. They expect to open a new ballpark in Fayetteville in 2019.
- J Total attendance rose 201,145 (11.0%) as a result of having 2 more teams to a league record-high 2,027,878. The 8 teams that played in this league in both 2017 and 2016 drew 1,851,580, up 24,847 (1.4%). That would have been the 5th highest total in league history. The 8-team record-high total was 1,981,673 in 2014. Average per date was down 391 to 3,129. This was largely due to Buies Creek playing in a ballpark that seats around 1,000. The 8 returning teams averaged 3,581 per date, up 61. 2017 was the 12th straight year (21 times since 1993) that the Carolina League topped 3,000 in average per date. 50 dates were lost due to weather.
- J 5 of the 8 returning teams had increases in total attendance, and 4 were up in average per date.
- J Carolina League attendance has been very stable over the past 18 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 and 2015, before topping 2 million for the first time (with 2 added teams) in 2017.
- J The league drew better than one million in 1947, but didn't do it again until 1989. They've reached one million every year since, and have topped 1.5 million each season but one (2003) since 1993.
- J Average attendance per team reached 100,000 in 1946 and 1947, but not again until 1985. It hit 200,000 for the first time in 1993, and has been above that level 19 times from that year forward, including in each of the last 8 seasons. In 2014, it was a record-high 247,109, and was a 2nd best 243,346 in 2015. It was 202,788 in 2017.
- J The largest Carolina League crowd was 32,152 when Potomac hosted Salem at RFK Stadium in Washington in 2006. Top attendance in a Carolina League ballpark was 12,049 at Greensboro in 1960. Among current Carolina league teams, Frederick holds the record for biggest crowd in its home ballpark (11,006 in 1997).
- J Frederick drew 303,930 and 4,824 per date to lead teams from all High-Class A leagues (Carolina, California, Florida State) in average per date for the 6th year in a row. It was also the 6th consecutive year, and the 16th time since 1991, with attendance over 300,000. Total attendance fell 10,513, and average per date dipped by 14, as the Keys played 2 fewer dates than in 2016. The Keys surpassed 250,000 for the 28th straight year. In their 29-year history, they've averaged around 4,500 per date at 5,400 seat Harry Grove Stadium, topping 4,500 for the past 6 years, and 14 times overall. Total attendance for these 29 seasons is 8,648,485, an average of 298,224 per year.
- J The Winston-Salem Dash, named for the dash in that city's name, led the league in total attendance (304,607, up 9,196). Average per date fell 61 to 4,415, with 3 more dates than in 2016. Attendance had been below 170,000 each year from 1951 through 2009, but has been above 289,000 each year since. 2017 was the 5th time above 300,000. Average per date has been above 4,400 for 8 straight years. In 2017, 14 sellout crowds topped 5,500, including a record-high 9,007.
- J In 2010, the Dash opened a new ballpark, and easily set a team record-high, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. Their old record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing season attendance record by a current Minor League franchise going into 2010. Veracruz, of the Mexican League, which set its record-high in 1964, then had the longest standing-record. But they set a new high mark in 2012. Now, the Mexico City Red Devils, whose record-high was set in 1967, have gone the longest time of any team since achieving their all-time record.
- J 2010 attendance in Winston-Salem was up 254,648 from 2009, which was the biggest increase in the Minor Leagues for that season. Prior to 2010, Winston-Salem's only season above 200,000 was 1947. Construction delays and financial problems caused the park's opening to be pushed back to 2010. The team offered refunds to everyone who had purchased tickets for the new ballpark, while they played the 2009 season in old Ernie Shore Field. Total 2009 attendance was just 57,665, the smallest attendance by any team in the Carolina League since Peninsula drew 41,107 in 1991. Winston-Salem's attendance was down 112,398 in 2009, the 2nd worst decline among U.S. teams for that year.

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

- J Potomac's total attendance rose 40,562 to 236,010, the 3rd best total in team history (1984 through 2017), despite 9 rainouts and 3 fewer dates. **Average per date increased 815 to a team record-high 3,869. Those were the 4th best total, and average per date, and average per date percentage (26.7%) gains among U.S. NAPBL teams.** From 2000 through 2009, the Nationals never reached 200,000. But they did it in 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2017. Average per date was above 3,000 for the 5th straight year. From 2000 through 2012, the average per date reached 3,000 only twice. Hopes continue for a new ballpark for this team.
- J Carolina's total attendance of 190,420 was their lowest since starting play in 1991. Total attendance fell 3,914 with 4 more dates than in 2016. Average per date dipped by 236 to 2,800, their first time below 3,000. They had topped 4,000 in 8 seasons since 1992. The Mudcats reached 300,000 in from 1993 through 1995, but have not done it since. They played in the Southern League through 2011, before moving to the Carolina League.
- J Salem drew 215,244, up 14,766. Average per date was up 227 to 3,311. Attendance in Salem never reached 200,000 in 43 years with recorded attendance, until 1999, but has surpassed that total 15 times in the last 19 seasons. Average per date has been over 3,000 in 12 of the last 14 seasons, and 15 times since 1999.
- J Wilmington, DE had topped 275,000 in each of their first 24 seasons. But weather hurt the team again in 2017, as 4 fewer dates than in 2016 were played, and 10 games were rained out. The 2017 total was 230,677, down 45,522, and average per date dropped 471 to 3,845. Those were the biggest declines in this league. 7 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 their history, they've drawn 7,730,838 in 1,651 dates, averaging 4,683 per date at 6,532 capacity Frawley Stadium.
- J Myrtle Beach's total attendance rose 5,635 to 233,126. Average per date was 3,587, up 87. It was the 4th straight year that the average has reached 3,500. Attendance topped 4,000 at 20 dates, with 3 of them better than 6,000. This team in Myrtle Beach, which began play in 1999, has topped 200,000 in every season except 2005. Average per date has been over 3,000 in all seasons other than 2005.
- J 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 2017, they drew 137,566, up 14,637. Average per date was up 221 to 2,084, the 13th time in the last 14 years above 2,000.
- J The Buies Creek Astros, will play in a new ballpark that opens in Fayetteville in 2019. In 2017 and 2018, the Astros' temporary home is the Campbell University ballpark, which seats around 1,000. The Astros drew 30,518 in 2017, averaging 517 per date. They were scheduled for fewer than the usual 70 home games. 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, was 1,862 in 1995.
- J Kinston returned to the Carolina League for the first time since 2011. The new team is named the Down East Wood Ducks, and plays in Grainger Stadium, which opened in 1949. In 2017, the Wood Ducks drew 145,780, averaging 2,025 per date. It was the 2nd best total in this city's Minor League history, and the best average per date since 1998. The team was scheduled for some extra home games (moved from the Buies Creek home schedule.)
- J 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.

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

CAROLINA LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	10						
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

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

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

- J The Florida State League is unique as most of its teams are operated by their Major League parent clubs. Every team except Daytona and the Florida Fire Frogs plays its home games in a Major League Spring Training ballpark.
- J Lakeland's return to Joker Marchant Stadium, and Tim Tebow's half season with St. Lucie, helped the league achieve a 103,628 (9.8%) gain in total attendance to 1,160,428. It was the 12th straight year that league attendance has topped one million. Attendance reached one million only 5 times from 1946 through 2005 (1991, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1997). Since 2002, league total attendance is up 43.1%, while average per date is up 46.0%.
- J 7 of the 11 teams that played in the same market in 2017 as in 2016 had gains in total attendance. 8 of these teams were up in average per date. The Brevard County Manatees relocated to Kissimmee, and were renamed the Florida Fire Frogs.
- J The league's average attendance per team fell below 100,000 in 2017, 2016, and 2015, after topping 100,000 for 4 years in a row. Prior to 2011, it had never reached 100,000. Average per team was over 50,000 from 1947 through 1949, and then again only in 1959 and 1972, until surpassing 50,000 for good in 1974.
- J Florida State League average attendance per date in 2017 rose by 170 to 1,521. It was the 6th time in the last 7 years that the average per date topped 1,500. Previously, the average had been under 1,500 since at least 1991.
- J The league played 19 fewer dates than in 2016, and lost 74 dates due to weather, the most of any league.
- J **Clearwater led the league in total attendance for the 7th straight year, and for the 13th time in the last 14 years. The Threshers drew a team record-high 200,201, up 18,607. This was the 2nd best total in Florida State League history. St. Petersburg drew 202,383 in 1989. Clearwater averaged a team record-high 2,988 per date, up 278. The old Clearwater records were set in 2014 (total - 195,063, average - 2,787 per date). It was the 12th straight year with average per date above 2,300.** Prior to this streak, the only year above 2,000, since at least 1991 (if ever), was 2004. 15 dates topped 4,000 in 2017, 4 dates drew over 6,000, with a high of 9,729. Weather helped in 2014 as this team played all 70 scheduled home dates. No other F.S.L. team has been rainout-free in a season since at least 1991, and perhaps, never.
- J 2017 was the 10th time in the last 14 years that Clearwater set a new team total attendance record-high. 2017 was the 11th 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 Bradenton posted its lowest total and average figures since 2010. Total attendance fell 7,818 to 79,331, and average per date dipped 40 to 1,301. There were 4 fewer dates than in 2016, and 9 lost dates due to weather. Their park, 93-year old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.
- J Palm Beach was down 12,159 to 58,832, with 3 fewer dates, their lowest total in the team's 15 years, and the biggest decline in the league. The Cardinals have topped 100,000 only once (2006). Average per date fell 142 to 934, the lowest average ever for the team.
- J Jupiter, which shares Roger Dean Stadium with Palm Beach, had a 9,758 gain to 69,064. The Hammerheads have reached 100,000 only 3 times (1999, 2001, 2002). Average per date rose 174 to 1,046. 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 new Spring Training facility for the Astros and Nationals opened in West Palm Beach in 2017.
- J Dunedin drew 38,956, down 11,637, averaging 573 per date, down 194. It was the biggest average per date decline in the league among teams that were in the same market in both 2017 and 2016. This was the lowest total and average among full-season NAPBL teams playing in their regular ballpark (excludes Buies Creek), and the 3rd lowest average among all NAPBL teams (Buies Creek and Princeton). The Blue Jays' 2017 average per date was their lowest since 2006. From 1999 through 2017, the Blue Jays topped 60,000 only in 2014, and have been under 50,000 13 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.

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

- J Joker Marchant Stadium, home of the Lakeland Flying Tigers, and the Spring Training park of the Detroit Tigers, underwent a major rebuilding after 2016 Spring Training. The Flying Tigers were forced to play their 2016 games at Henley Field, a pre-1966 Spring Training park, seating only around 1,000. Almost all, if not all, games were in the daytime. Not surprisingly, attendance was very low, with a total of 20,387, and an average per date of 334. Prior to 2016, attendance had 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. In 2017, back at Joker Marchant, Lakeland drew 52,191, up 31,804. Average per date was 815, up 481.
- J 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 9 in July and 7 in August. The Flying Tigers had 6 lost dates in 2014, 7 in 2015, 9 in 2016, and 6 in 2017.
- J Daytona Beach drew 136,224, up 24,171. Average per date rose 392 to 2,064. It was the 14th straight year above 100,000, and the 11th time in the last 12 years over 135,000. Average per date has surpassed 2,000 also in 11 of the last 12 seasons. 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 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 2017, total attendance fell 2,835 to 121,438, and average per date was a team 2nd best (since at least 1991) 2,024, up 112. There were 10 lost dates, and 5 fewer dates than in 2016. Since 1998, the Miracle have achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (18) with attendance above 100,000, and they've done it in each of the last 13 years. St. Petersburg, which no longer has a team in the league, had topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997.
- J Port Charlotte's current team reached 100,000 in 8 of its 9 seasons. 2016, with 10 lost dates, was their only year under 100,000. The former team there drew 100,000+ in only 4 of 16 seasons from 1987 through 2002. In 2017, the Stone Crabs drew 120,685, up 25,097. Average per date increased 323 to 1,916. It was their best total since 2011, and their best average per date since 2012.
- J **St. Lucie had a record season in attendance. 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. NAPBL 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 NAPBL 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. For the 13th straight year, St. Lucie topped 90,000, which they didn't do in the previous 17 seasons. Average per date was above 1,400 also for the 13th straight year.
- J 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.
- J Tebow spent the first half of the season with the Columbia Fireflies of the South Atlantic League. That team's 'with Tebow-without Tebow' figures can be found in the South Atlantic League section of this report on page 109. 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.

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

- J Tampa's total attendance rose 20,545 to 93,823. Average per date was up 277 to 1,422. The team's name has been changed from the Yankees to the Tarpons for 2018. Teams in Tampa were named the Tarpons from 1957 through 1987.
- J The Florida Fire Frogs, who play in Kissimmee, next to Disney World, replaced the Brevard County Manatees in 2017. They drew 57,324, down 27,708 from what Brevard County drew in 2016. But that still was the highest total ever for a team in Kissimmee. Average per date was down 226 vs. 2016 Brevard County to 1,082. That is the highest average in Kissimmee since at least 1991. Florida played 12 fewer dates in 2017 than Brevard County played in 2016. The Fire Frogs had 17 lost dates, by far the most of any Minor League team. If games that were rescheduled as parts of double-headers are included, the Fire Frogs had 24 home games rained out.
- 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.
- J Florida's parent team, the Atlanta Braves are moving to a new Spring Training facility in Sarasota in 2019 or 2020. It is possible that the Fire Frogs will move there as well, perhaps as early as 2019.
- J In 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 had done 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 is played in Holman Stadium there yearly in memory of Jackie Robinson.
- J Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter is the Spring Training site of the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Their Florida State League and Gulf Coast League affiliates also play in the complex. There are about 30 Major League spring training, 140 Florida State League, and 60 Gulf Coast League games scheduled yearly. Pro baseball's busiest facility is also host to Minor League spring training, the fall Florida Instructional League, and high school and college games and tournaments.

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

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	12						
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

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

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

- J 2017 Midwest League attendance declined 65,694 (1.6%). Total attendance was 4,087,373, the 6th highest total in league history. Average per date slipped 64 to 3,799.
- J 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. It was 255,461 in 2017.
- J This league's attendance first topped one million in 1982 when it expanded from 8 to 12 teams. It reached 2 million in 1994, and 3 million in 1996, with 14 teams in those years. Total attendance has topped 3 million for the last 18 seasons, been above 3.5 million for the previous 11 years, and has been over 4 million in 7 of the last 8 years.
- J Average attendance per date has been above 3,000 for 23 straight years, which also is a Class A record. It has topped 3,500 per date for the last 18 years.
- J Midwest League average attendance per team was under 70,000 from 1947 through 1980. In 13 of those seasons, it was below 50,000, with a low of 20,128 per team in 1948, when it was the Illinois State League. Lowest average per team under the Midwest League name (since 1956) was 40,362 in 1967. The average per team reached 100,000 for the first time in 1985, and initially topped 200,000 in 1996. It has been above 200,000 for the past 18 years, and reached 250,000 in 10 of the last 11 seasons. The league expanded to 16 teams in 2010.
- J 4 teams had increases in total attendance in 2017, and 4 teams were up in average per date. Dayton had the league's top gain in total attendance and South Bend had the best growth in average per date. Peoria had the biggest declines in total attendance and average per date. The league played one more date in 2017 than in 2016, and there were 44 lost dates.
- J **Dayton's sellout streak continued, and they again outdrew all other Class AA and Class A teams. Total attendance rose 6,064, with 2 more dates, to 554,638. The Dragons have topped 548,000 in each of their 18 seasons, and have reached 580,000 in 9 years. They have the 18 highest season attendance totals ever in Class A. Average per date was a team-low, but a Class A best 8,038, down 150. There were 36 dates with crowds above 8,000. In their 18 seasons, the Dragons have drawn 10,418,139 in 1,246 regular season dates, averaging 578,786 per year, and 8,361 per date.**
- J **Dayton has sold out all 1,246 regular season home dates they've ever played, starting on Opening Day 2000. It's the longest sellout streak in North American pro sports history!** The Boston Red Sox have the North American Major League record of 794 straight sellouts of regular season games, plus 26 post-season games, a streak which ended with the 2nd game of the 2013 season. The Portland Trail Blazers of the NBA had 814 consecutive sellouts, including playoffs, from 1977 to 1995, which had been the longest sellout streak before the Red Sox broke it. 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 2017, Dayton outdrew all but 7 Class AAA teams, and 2 Mexican League teams, in total attendance, and all but 7 Class AAA teams and 3 Mexican League teams in average per date. The Dragons led all U.S. Minor League teams below the Class AAA level in total attendance for the 12th 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. Dayton's owners have included NBA legend Magic Johnson, and two-time Heisman Trophy winner Archie Griffin.
- J **Dayton (8,038 in 2017), Kane County (5,889), and West Michigan (5,565), are the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2017.** Lakewood of the South Atlantic League had topped 6,000 per date from their start in 2001 through 2012, and has been above 5,200 every year. Fort Wayne also averaged more than 5,200 per date each year from 2009 through 2017. Dayton's park has 7,230 seats. 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 (18 times), Kane County (6), West Michigan (4), and Lansing (2).

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

- J 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've reached 350,000 for 24 years in a row, and have topped 400,000 in 9 seasons (1994-2002). Average per date has been over 5,000 every year, 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 was quite an accomplishment considering that a fire on January 3 destroyed part of their ballpark.
- J 2017 Whitecaps' attendance fell 2,433 to 383,983, and average per date was down 118 to 5,565. In their 24 years, West Michigan has drawn 9,901,074 in 1,638 dates, an average of 412,545 per season, and 6,045 per date.
- J **It was yet another record-setting year for the Fort Wayne Tincaps. Their combined regular season and post-season attendance reached a record-high total.** In the regular season, they drew a team-2nd best 409,253, down 4,448. Average per date fell 153 to 5,931, which was 3rd highest average per date in team history. The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 25 years of operation, have topped 375,000 in all 9 years in their current ballpark, and have reached 400,000 in 6 of the last 8 seasons, including the last 5. Average per date has never been under 2,962 in this team's history, and has been above 5,400 in each of the last 9 seasons. The Tincaps were the only team in this 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, and just one in 2017. Fort Wayne won the 2016 John H. Johnson President's Award, the Minor Leagues top honor for organizational excellence.
- J Great Lakes (Midland, MI) drew 202,433, down 7,621, the smallest total in their 11-year history. There were 2 fewer dates played in 2017 than in 2016. Average per date fell 23 to a team-low 3,021. The Loons topped 300,000 in 2007, their first year, but have not done it since. Average per date was 4,000+ in their first 4 years.
- J Bowling Green, KY had a 5,117 gain to 179,839, with 2 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date was up 167 to 2,855. 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.
- J Clinton, a community-owned team, drew 121,302, down 2,852. It was the team's 3rd best total ever, topped only by 127,251 in 1988, and 124,154 in 2016. Attendance was above 100,000 for the 12th 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 2017 was down 72 to 1,838, the 2nd best average (1,910 in 2016) since at least 1991. Clinton's average per date has been over 1,500 for 12 consecutive seasons.
- J For 2012, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3rd best gain among NAPBL teams. Average per date rose by 985, the top increase among all U.S. NAPBL teams. In 2013, the Silver Hawks had another big gain. Total attendance increased by 47,873, which was the 4th highest NAPBL gain. Average per date was up a league-best 850. In 2014, the team drew 258,836, a record-high which was 412 higher than the old mark of 258,424 in 1994. South Bend's total attendance gain of 21,388 was the best in the league.
- J 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 NAPBL teams in 2015. There were 40 sellouts. New highs in total attendance and average per date were set again in 2016.
- J **More records were set in 2017 despite 2 fewer dates. The Cubs' total of 354,070, up 3,267, and average per date of 5,285, up 201, made it 4 straight years with new highs. Since 2011, total attendance is up 241,275 (213.9%) from 112,795, and average per date has increased by 3,523 (200%) 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.
- J 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.

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

- J The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (Appleton) topped 230,000 for the 9th year in a row, a figure which until 2009, they had reached only in 1996. 2017 attendance was down 13,441 to 230,326. Average per date fell 147 to 3,438. Those were the lowest figures since 2008. In 2014, they actually drew the largest total attendance ever (250,131) in their home ballpark, which underwent a major renovation for the 2013 season. The official team record-high is 253,240 in 2009. But that includes a crowd of 17,880 for a game they played at Miller Park in Milwaukee. Average per date has topped 3,000, and total attendance has been over 190,000, for 23 straight years. The total never reached 100,000 in 45 seasons prior to 1995.
- J Lake County's total attendance was the lowest in its 15-year history. Total attendance for this Eastlake, Ohio team has fallen from 437,515 in 2003, to 212,747 in 2017. There were 2 fewer dates than in 2016, and the total dipped 991. Average per date has gone from 6,341 in 2003 to 3,223 in 2017. The average rose 80 in 2017. The Captains reached 400,000 in 2003 and 2004, but have been below 300,000 for the last 9 seasons.
- J Cedar Rapids was up 14 to 166,427. The Kernels have never topped 200,000 in a season. But they've drawn over 160,000 for 16 straight years, after reaching that level just twice (1988, 1989) in the 64 previous years with listed attendance. Average per date was down 106 to 2,378, the 16th straight year above 2,300.
- J Burlington (IA), Beloit, and Clinton tend to have low attendance, in part, because their ballparks are very small. Seating capacity at Beloit is 3,501, at Burlington it is 3,200, and Clinton's capacity has just been raised to 5,000. Record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. In 2017, the Burlington Bees fell 8,385 to 67,044, with 4 fewer dates. They last reached 80,000 in 1994. Average per date was down 61 to 1,048. The Bees have averaged over 1,000 just 8 times in the last 22 seasons, but have done it in 4 of the last 5 years.
- J Beloit attracted 101,127 in 1986, the only time in their 36-year history above 100,000. In 2017, the Snappers drew 64,236, down 3,739, despite 4 more dates. It was the 8th straight year under 80,000, after 7 years in a row above 80,000. Average per date was 959, down 120. Record-high average per date since 1991 is 1,487 in 2004. Burlington and Beloit are often profitable. They are community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.
- J Quad Cities drew 230,006, down 4,917. Average per date fell 220 to 3,286, lowest since 2007. The 2017 total was the 10th straight year above 200,000. The River Bandits had reached 200,000 only 6 times in 70 seasons with recorded attendance before this current streak, and none before 1990. Average per date surpassed 3,200 for the 10th straight year. A popular feature at Modern Woodmen Park is a 110-foot tall Ferris wheel.
- J Lansing had its lowest total and average per date in its 22 seasons. Total attendance was 303,843, down 7,347, and average per date was 4,468, down 108. 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. Total attendance is 8,357,022 in 1,471 dates, an average of 5,681 per date. 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 11 games of the 'Crosstown Showdown' has totaled 95,347, an average of 8,688 per game. 4 of these games have attracted over 11,000 fans, with a high of 12,997 in 2012.
- J Peoria had a 17,618 decrease to 212,659, and an average per date decline of 315 to 3,174, the worst losses in the league. The Chiefs have topped 200,000 in total, and 3,000 in average, in 14 of the last 16 years. Prior to 2002, Peoria reached 200,000 in only 3 of the previous 25 years with recorded attendance.
- J Kane County's attendance has reached 400,000 in 22 of the last 24 years (2012 and 2017 were the exceptions). It topped 500,000 from 2001 through 2006, and was 394,567, down 6,364, in 2017, with 2 fewer dates. 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 up 78 to 5,889 in 2017. For their 27 seasons, the Cougars have drawn 11,779,267 in 1,800 dates, averaging 436,269 per season, and 6,544 per date. They've reached 11 million in attendance in fewer seasons than any Class A team ever. In 2016, the Cougars sold 72,532 hot dogs, 15,300 cheeseburgers, 14,995 lbs. of Super Nachos, but only 426 Fatty burgers.
- J The Midwest League's single game attendance high is 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, for a Peoria/Kane County game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County.

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

MIDWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	16						
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

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

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

- J Total attendance rose 27,098 (0.9%) to 3,073,435. Average per date was up 69 to 3,352. This was the league's 15th straight year with average per date above 3,000. There were 11 fewer playing dates in 2017 than in 2016, with 60 lost dates, the most of any league other than the Florida State League.
- J 8 teams had gains in total attendance, and 7 teams had increases in average per date. Columbia had the league's top increases in total attendance and average per date. Kannapolis suffered the worst losses in the league in those categories. Greensboro led the league in both total attendance, and average per date.
- J Since 2000, total attendance in this league is up 57.2% (1,954,697 to 3,073,435), and average per date is up 55.9% (2,150 to 3,352). Average per team is up 57.5% from 139,389 to 219,531.
- J There were 16 teams in the S.A.L. when it set its all-time attendance record in 2007. Despite 2 fewer teams in recent years, the league 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 has been above that level ever since.
- J Greensboro led the league in total attendance (350,743, up 14,622), and average per date (5,235, up 64). There were 2 more dates than in 2016. The Grasshoppers have topped 300,000 for 13 straight years, and have been 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 5 times in 49 seasons, with a high of 260,340 in 1981. Average per date has exceeded 5,000 for 13 years in a row, and was over 6,000 from 2006 through 2008.
- J For the first time in their 17-year history, Lakewood did not lead the league in either total attendance or average per date. The total fell 14,536 to 338,544, and the average per date dipped 142 to 5,208. These are the lowest totals in club history. Attendance topped 6,000 at 21 dates in 2017. 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, and 2011 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 have led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 14 times in their 17 years of play, 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 140 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 5 years. The BlueClaws have a 17-year total attendance of 7,109,950 in 1,144 dates (418,232 per year, 6,215 per date).
- J **Charleston (SC) had another record-setting season in 2017. For the 3rd straight year, total attendance was a record-high (305,622, up 12,461 in 2017). Average per date was also a record-high (4,494, up 183).** The old record was 4,368 in 2015. This was the 21st straight year above 200,000, and the 12th year in a row above 250,000, for Charleston. The RiverDogs had never drawn 200,000 until 1997. A former team in Charleston drew over 170,000 in both 1947 and 1948. But this city 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 21 seasons, and the in last 5 years, it has 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.
- J **The Asheville Tourists drew a team record-high 184,019, up 961, from the previous high set in 2016. It was the 3rd straight year with record-high total attendance.** There were 2 more dates in 2017 than in 2016. Average per date was down 68 from the 2016 record-high to a 2nd best 2,706, the 5th straight year above 2,500. 7 dates drew above 4,000. Total attendance has been above 150,000 for 8 years in a row, and in 12 of the last 13 seasons. In the 57 seasons with recorded attendance before that, it reached 150,000 only in 2000 and 2001. Attendance was above 100,000 just 7 times until 1990. Asheville's McCormack Field first opened in 1924. A new park with the same name on the same site, opened in 1992.

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

- J There have been many stories about a possible relocation by the Hagerstown Suns. In 2017, despite 5 fewer dates, and 10 lost dates, the Suns posted a 1,655 gain in total attendance to 84,181. Average per date was up 130 to 1,380. Since 1981, the Suns had topped 100,000 in all seasons but one (1993) through 2011, but have been below that number since then. Average per date has been under 1,400 in each of the last 6 seasons. The team had been expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015, but plans for a new ballpark there fell through. So the Suns stay in Maryland for now. They still hope to find a new home.
- J The Augusta GreenJackets, named for the green jacket that is presented to the winner of The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, had an increase in their final season in Lake Olmstead Stadium. They get a new park in 2018. Their total was up 8,848 to 178,269. Average per date was 2,743, up 137. This team has played in Augusta since 1988. Attendance topped 200,000 only in 2008, 2010, and 2011. But it has been above 150,000 for 12 straight years. Average per date has reached 2,500 for the last 11 seasons.
- J Greenville, SC had a drop of 3,689 in total attendance to 328,222. Their average per date rose by 89 to 4,889, with 2 fewer dates. The Drive's 2017 total is up 213,061 from the 2005 total of 115,161. In 2006, Greenville got a new park, and posted the biggest total attendance gain by a U.S. based team. Greenville has surpassed 300,000 in 12 straight seasons, a mark they never reached in the 42 previous seasons. But 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 in the current ballpark. Greenville won the 2017 John H. Johnson President's Award for excellence.
- J Lexington (KY) drew 281,210, up 5,148. Average per date fell by 56 to 4,326, with 2 more dates. 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 has topped 4,000 every year.
- J Rome (GA) had a 323 increase in total attendance to 161,444. Average per date was 2,374, down 31. It was the 2nd lowest total and lowest average per date in the team's 15 seasons. The Braves have been below a 200,000 total, and a 3,000 average per date, for the past 9 years, after being above that level in their first 6 seasons.
- J The Hickory Crawdads drew 136,225, down 13,885 in 2017, with 5 fewer dates. Hickory's first season was 1993, the year they reached their record-high total of 283,727. They topped 200,000 in each of their first 4 years (1993-1996), but have not done it since. Average per date in 2017 was down 47 to 2,129. The Crawdads averaged over 4,000 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. Their ballpark got a makeover prior to the 2014 season.
- J West Virginia (Charleston) had a 10,076 dip in total attendance to 133,679. Average per date slipped 155 to 2,057. These are the lowest figures since 2004. The Power have drawn better than 125,000 for 14 straight years, 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. Attendance reached 3,000 at 11 dates in 2017.
- J Kannapolis had the biggest 2017 losses in the league in both total and average per date, resulting in the lowest total attendance, and lowest average per date, in their 23-year history. Total attendance fell 26,645 to 69,112, and average per date was down 393 to 1,080. The 27.8% total decline was the 4th worst percentage loss among NAPBL teams in 2017, and the 27.6% dip in average per date was 3rd worst. Intimidators' attendance had been very steady. They've drawn less than 100,000 only in 1993, 2016, and 2017. Their record-high is just 138,487 in 2011. But since 2015, total attendance is down 66,615 (49.1%), and average per date has fallen by 976 (47.5%) Kannapolis is only about 25 miles from the new and very successful ballpark in Charlotte, which may hurt their attendance. They hope for a new park soon.
- J The Delmarva Shorebirds led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and have topped 200,000 in all 22 years of operation. 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 15 years. In 2017, total attendance fell 1,989 to 207,131, the 2nd lowest total in team history. Average per date rose by 19 to 3,236. 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.

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

-) In 2015, Savannah played its final season in the league, and drew 125,587. Average per date was 1,962. This version of Savannah's team drew its record-high of 135,415 in 2011. The record-high for any team in Savannah was 217,000 in 1937. That may be the oldest record-high for any present or former team in a 2015 NAPBL full-season Minor League market. A Savannah team drew 192,975 in 1947. This franchise was relocated to Columbia, SC for 2016. It was replaced by collegiate-summer league team named the Bananas, who play in the Coastal Plain League. In 2016, that team 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).
-) The Columbia, SC Fireflies play in Spirit Communications Park, which opened in 2016. On days when there is no scheduled event, this ballpark is open to the public as a 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. 11 crowds topped 5,000, with 2 dates reaching 9,000. Prior to 2016, Columbia last had a team from 1983 through 2004. Attendance there topped 100,000 in 17 of 22 seasons, including each of the last 13. Their record-high was 156,921 in 1996. 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 NAPBL teams. Average per date was 4,773, up 988, the 3rd best increase in the NAPBL. There were 3 fewer dates than in 2016. Attendance at 24 dates topped 5,000, and reached 6,000 at 15 dates. The game played during the August solar eclipse drew 9,629.**
-) The Tebow Effect in Columbia - 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.
-) The Tebow Effect in St. Lucie figures can be found in the Florida State League section on page 100. 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.
-) This league has some of the best gains ever for relocated teams. In their first season (2001), Lakewood drew 482,206, an all-time high for a South Atlantic League team. It was also a *14 fold increase* from the 32,641 this franchise attracted in 2000, when it was in Cape Fear, NC. Lake County OH, which is now in the Midwest League, drew 437,515, in 2003, their first year in Ohio. In 2002, the franchise drew just 52,103 in Columbus, GA.
-) In 2002, Charleston, SC had a game with an official attendance of 0. It was a promotion called "Nobody Night" to achieve the lowest attendance ever at any game. A party for fans was held outside the ballpark until after the 5th inning, when the game became official. Fans were then admitted free. The old record for smallest 'crowd' was 1, set by Oakland of the Pacific Coast League on November 8, 1905. Yes, November, and no promotion here. It was a rainy day. The P.C.L. used to have a very long schedule. In 1905, Oakland played 222 games.

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

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	14						
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

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

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

- J Total attendance fell 79,284 (5.4%) to 1,403,575, the lowest total since 2000. Average per date was down 83 to 2,836, also the lowest since 2000.
- J There were 13 fewer dates played in 2017 than in 2016, with 37 rainouts. 24 games were rained out in 2016. Only Mahoning Valley and Williamsport had gains in total attendance and average per date. Vermont was also up in average per date. Brooklyn had the largest declines in the league in both total attendance and average per date.
- J Average per date in this league had topped 3,000 for 15 straight years until 2016 and 2017, after never reaching this level before. Total attendance first reached one million in 1995, and has been above that every year since then.
- J The league reached a significant attendance milestone in 2013 as attendance since the start of the league in 1939 surpassed the 50 million mark. This league, whose original name was the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, has now drawn 57,013,862. 2015 was the 15th straight year that the league drew at least 1,500,000, but that mark was missed in 2016 and 2017. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
- J Average attendance per team first topped 100,000 in 2001, and has been above that figure every year since then. The league had a 75,284 average per team in 1949, when it played a longer schedule. That figure was not surpassed until 1995. The average per team was below 50,000 each season from 1952 through 1988. The lowest average per team was 19,196 in 1967, the first year this league played a short-season. That year Auburn led the league in attendance, drawing 26,991. Erie finished last at the gate, with a total of 9,988.
- J 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. 7 of 14 teams did it in 2017.
- J 2017 and 2016 were the only times in the 17-year 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 in both years. In 2017, Brooklyn's total attendance fell 20,849 to a team-low 186,853, and average per date was also a team-low 5,190 down 424. The 2017 declines were the biggest in this league. The Cyclones have new competition for sports dollars from the Barclays Center, an arena that is home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets, and starting in the 2015-16 season, the NHL New York Islanders. Brooklyn has drawn 4,455,215 in their 17 years, reaching 4 million faster than any short-season team. 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.
- J In 2002, the Cyclones set the short-season record of 317,124, averaged 8,345 per date, and sold out every game. Attendance also topped 300,000 in 2003, and was above 250,000 each year from 2001 through 2010. In 2001, the Cyclones drew 289,382, breaking the New York-Penn League mark set by Mahoning Valley (206,287) in 2000, and the short-season record of 249,995 set by Portland of the Northwest League in 1996.
- J Despite the 2017 decline, Brooklyn's average of 5,190 per date still topped 53 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, 22 of the 30 teams in Class AA, 12 Mexican League teams, and even 6 teams in Class AAA. In their 17 years, the Cyclones have played 625 dates, averaging 7,128 per date. Attendance has been above 7,000 at 381 of these dates. 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.
- J The Aberdeen IronBirds had the lowest attendance in their 16-year history. Total attendance fell by 10,247 to 130,823, and average per date was down 67 to 3,964. There were 5 lost dates. In 2014, total attendance fell 39,579, the largest decline of any short-season team, and average per date fell 1,099, the 5th worst NAPBL decline. In 2013, the IronBirds had the worst decrease of any U.S. NAPBL team. (Saltillo and Reynosa of the Mexican League had larger declines that year). Total attendance has fallen by 114,151 (46.6%) since 2012, from 244,974. Average per date is down 2,483 (38.5%) since 2012. 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.

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

- J The Auburn Doubledays had 6,679 total attendance loss in 2017, drawing 46,132. They had topped 50,000 in 5 of the previous 8 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 has topped 1,000 for 23 straight seasons. Their ballpark is small, with a capacity of 2,800. Average per date fell 146 in 2017, to 1,281.
- J Through 2016, Connecticut had set a total attendance record-high (as a short-season market), in 4th straight years. Total attendance fell 9,049 to 73,439 in 2017, with 3 fewer dates. Average per date was down 66 to 2,225. It was the 4th straight year with average per date above 2,000. The full-season team record in Norwich is 281,473, set by a Class AA Eastern League team in 1995, and the best average per date for that team was 4,201, also in 1995.
- J In 2014, Tri-City (Troy, NY) set a team record in total attendance for 11th time in 12 seasons. The ValleyCats drew a team record-high 161,171. Total attendance fell 6,925 in 2017 to 142,922, lowest since 2008. Attendance has been over 100,000 in all 16 seasons, has topped 140,000 in each of the past 10 years, and is up 37.4% since 2003. The average per date has been above 4,000 in each of the last 10 seasons, and was 4,083, down 198, in 2017.
- J Staten Island had its lowest total and average ever, as total attendance fell 14,112 to 71,401, with 3 fewer dates. In 2016, the Yankees had the worst total attendance decline of any short-season team, and the biggest average per date loss of any U.S. NAPBL team. 2017 average per date was 2,040, down 210. Total attendance is down 137,617 (65.8%) since 2010, and average per date is down 3,766 from a 5,806 average per date in 2010. The Yankees drew over 200,000 in 2009 and 2010. Part of the reason for the recent declines is a major construction project near the ballpark that has sharply reduced available parking. A plan to re-name the team was put off for now, so it will be the Staten Island Yankees again in 2018.
- J Hudson Valley almost topped 4,000 in average per date for the 23rd consecutive year. (They missed by 54 in 1994, their first season, and fell just 2 short in 2017.) The Renegades have drawn at least 138,000 every year since starting play in 1994, and have been above 160,000 in 10 of these seasons. Total attendance for those 24 years is 3,761,221 in 872 dates, an average of 4,313 in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,601, set in 2015. In 2017, total attendance fell 4,392 to 147,936, and average per date was down 233 to 3,998.
- J Lowell had declines in total attendance and average per date to their lowest figures since 1997. The Spinners drew 126,565, averaging 3,516 per date. The total was down 13,378, and the average per date fell by 266. 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 will become the first short-season team to install LED field lighting in their ballpark.
- J Batavia has not reached 45,000 since 1973, and has been below 40,000 in each of the last 9 seasons. 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 Muckdogs drew 27,389 with 3 fewer dates, down 2,618, in 2017, their lowest total since 1987. Average per date fell by 5 to 806, the lowest since at least 1991. The Rochester Red Wings have operated the Muckdogs in recent years. The New York-Penn League will operate the team in 2018. But this team's future is very much in doubt.
- J Mahoning Valley (Niles, OH) drew 107,894, up 15,777. Average per date rose 365 to 2,997. These were the league's best 2017 gains. 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 State College has topped 123,000 in all 12 of their seasons. But the Spikes had their lowest total (123,401, down 2,474) ever in 2017. Average per date fell 66 to a team-low 3,247. 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 1,074 per date in 2017. Next door, at 106,572-seat Beaver Stadium, home of Penn State Football, the largest crowd was 110,823 vs. Michigan in 2017. Penn State drew over 100,000 to 8 of its 13 games in 2017.

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

-) Vermont had a decline of 1,281 to 82,674, and finished below 100,000 for the 11th straight year. The Lake Monsters had reached 100,000 in 12 of the 13 seasons (1994-2006) before that. Average per date rose 30 to 2,362, the best since 2012. The average has not reached 3,000 since 2002. 7 dates drew at least 3,000. Centennial Field in Burlington has a grandstand built in 1922, and has been undergoing a series of renovations. It seats 4,415.
-) Williamsport drew 61,082, up 653. This was the 10th straight year below 70,000 for the Crosscutters. Average per date rose 70 to 1,797. 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 2017, total attendance has ranged between 60,429 and 68,130. Average per date has ranged from 1,700 to 1,893. In 2017, the first Little League Classic was played at Historic Bowman Field. In preparation for the game between the Pittsburgh Pirates and St. Louis Cardinals, \$4 million in renovations were made to the ballpark. There will be a game again in 2018, this time between the Mets and Phillies.
-) The West Virginia Black Bears replaced the Jamestown Jammers for the 2015 season. 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 75,064 in 2017, down 3,710. Average per date was fell 159 to 2,029. In 2017, West Virginia University averaged 1,846 per date for its games.
-) Jamestown played its final season in 2014, and drew just 24,246, the lowest total attendance of any NAPBL team. The Jammers had 6 lost dates. Their average per date of 758 was 2nd lowest (Princeton of the Appalachian League averaged 753) among NAPBL teams that year. The short-season record-high in Jamestown was 63,069 in 2001. The city's full-season record-high was 143,016 in 1942. They also topped 100,000 in 1946 and 1949. But the team did not reach 50,000 after 2004.
-) Team relocations and new parks have resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in the past 25 years. In 1992, the league's 14 teams drew a total attendance of 684,064, an average of 48,862 per team, and an average of 1,422 per date. The 2017 attendance total of 1,403,575 is a gain of 105.2% from 1992. 2017 average attendance per team was 100,255, and the average per date was 2,836. In 2017, 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 are Vermont and Williamsport, whose ballparks opened in the 1920's.

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

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
2018	14						
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

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

RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,088,981 (2017); Team – Portland – 249,995 (1996)

- J **The Northwest League had its best attendance year ever in 2017! Total attendance was 1,088,981, up 39,339 (3.8%). This broke the old mark of 1,060,587 set in 1998.** The Northwest League 2017 Media Guide lists 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. There were 5 more dates than in 2016.
- J **Average per date was up 72 to a league record-high 3,594.** The previous highest average per date in Northwest League history was 3,522 in 2016. The league has averaged better than 3,200 per date for the past 5 seasons. The average also reached 3,200 per date every year from 1995 through 2000.
- J Every team in the league averaged at least 2,132 per date in 2017. All teams in the Northwest League also averaged better than 2,000 per date from 2013 through 2016. 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.
- J 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 teams had gains in average per date. Vancouver posted the league's best gains in total attendance and average per date. Hillsboro had the largest losses in both categories.
- J The league had only one lost date in 2017 (at Spokane). 6 dates were lost to weather in 2016. Only 2 dates were lost in 2015. There were 3 lost dates in 2014, 5 in 2013, and 3 in 2012. In 2011, there were no lost dates at all in this league. The league has had just 31 lost dates since 2005, and 77 lost dates in 24 seasons since 1994.
- J Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but didn't reach that figure again until 2015, 2016, and 2017. The league has drawn better than 800,000 in all seasons since 1994. Before that year, the last time this league reached 800,000 was in 1948, when it played a full-season schedule. Total attendance was under 300,000 in all seasons from 1961 through 1982.
- J **Average attendance per team was a record-high 136,123 in 2017.** The old record was 132,573 per team in 1998. It was 124,174 in 1947 and 110,051 in 1948, with longer schedules. The next time the average per team surpassed 100,000 was in 1994, and it has done that every year since then. It's been over 130,000 in each of the past 5 seasons. The average per team was below 50,000 annually from 1961 through 1984, with a low of 20,482 in 1968. That year, the 4-team league drew a total of just 81,928. In 2015, each of the 8 teams in the league individually drew better than that. Salem-Keiser fell slightly below the 1968 league total in 2016 and 2017.
- J **Vancouver drew a team short-season record high 239,527, up 17,164, breaking the record of 222,363 set in 2016. The Canadians' average per date of 6,303, up 126, was also a team short-season record-high, breaking the mark of 6,177 in 2016. The gains in total and average per date were the best in the league. All 38 dates drew at least 5,288, with 35 of them topping 6,000, and 24 dates having a full sellout figure of 6,413. Nat Bailey Stadium seats 5,157. So in 2017, the Canadians averaged better than 1,100 per date above seating capacity, and 98.3% of full-sellout capacity. All 3 playoff games also topped 5,000. The 2017 short-season total was higher than what Vancouver drew in 28 of 43 years with full-season teams.**
- J **The Canadians again led all short-season teams in both total attendance and average per date. Brooklyn of the New York-Penn League had been the short-season leader each year from 2001 through 2015. In total attendance, Vancouver outdrew one Class AAA team, 9 of 30 Class AA teams, 46 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 10 of 16 Mexican League teams, all of whom play much longer schedules. In average per date, Vancouver topped 11 of 30 Class AAA teams, all but Frisco among the 30 Class AA clubs, all except Dayton in full-season Class A, 12 teams in the Mexican League, and every independent team except St. Paul.**
- J 2017 was the 7th straight year that Vancouver's total attendance surpassed 160,000, and the 8th year in a row with average per date above 4,000. 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've had just 12 lost regular season dates in the last 18 years.
- J Everett's total attendance rose 5,999 to 110,161, and average per date was up 84 to 2,899. Both figures were the best since 2002. The AquaSox topped 100,000 each year from 1998 through 2007, but didn't do it again until 2015. Prior to 1998, Everett hit 90,000 just once in 14 years. The average reached 3,000 in 1998, 2000, and 2001.

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

- J **Spokane drew 196,653, up 8,805, a record-high for a short season team in that city.** Record-high for a full-season team in Spokane is 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. Spokane had led the league in total attendance for 15 straight years through 2014, until Vancouver topped them. The Indians have topped 100,000 for 32 straight years, have drawn over 160,000 for 23 years in a row, and reached 180,000 in the last 5 years, and 16 times since 1996. The 2017 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). The current short-season team has drawn 5,496,612 since 1983.
- J **In 2017, Spokane averaged 5,315 per date, which was higher than any team in Spokane, including those in the P.C.L., had ever averaged.** 2017 average per date was up 238. This was the 5th straight year that the average has topped 5,000, and the 24th 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.
- J Tri-City (Pasco, WA) had set a team record-high for average per date in 7 straight years through 2013. The Dust Devils did it again in 2016, with a team record-high average of 2,286 per date. In 2017, total attendance dipped 425 to 86,461, and average per date fell 11 to 2,275. Attendance in Tri-City has been very consistent over the last 10 years, ranging from a low of 82,021 in 2008, to 86,886 in 2016. Average per date has ranged from 2,216 to 2,286 during this period. In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101 in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season than they play now.
- J Eugene posted a 3,710 increase to 125,297, their best total since 2009. Average per date rose 97 to 3,297, also the highest since 2009. The Emeralds topped 100,000 for the 33rd straight year, the longest such streak by a short-season team. The total has reached 120,000 in 24 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 has been above 3,000 in all but 3 seasons since 1993. Their new, smaller park has a capacity of 4,000 and is on the campus of the University of Oregon. In 2017, the University of Oregon averaged 1,514 per date for its home games.
- J Hillsboro, a suburb of Portland, drew 128,416, down 3,435. Average per date fell 91 to 3,379. These were the biggest declines in the league, and the lowest figures in this team's 5 years. This franchise played in Yakima through 2012. Highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
- J Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for this league, and at that time, the highest attendance ever by any short-season team (broken by Brooklyn in 2001). For most of the 20th Century, and continuing through 2010, Portland was in the Pacific Coast League. Their record-high in that league was 454,197 in 2002. That team played in PGE Park, which was one of the largest Minor League ballparks in the country, seating nearly 20,000. On June 15, 1995, a game there drew 20,600, which is a Northwest League record. The facility has recently been renovated for use as a soccer stadium, renamed JELD-WEN Field, and is the home of the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer.
- J Salem-Keizer has reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, and 2013-2017, in their 21 seasons of operation. Their 2017 total attendance was 81,011, up 542. They set their all-time high of 136,836 in 1997, which was this team's first year of play. Average per date dipped by 43 to 2,132, the lowest in team history. The average topped 3,000 from 1997 through 2004, and in 2006 and 2007, but not since.
- J Boise's attendance of 121,455, up 6,979, 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 in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Average per date rose 102 to 3,196, also the best since 2000. The Hawks' average was over 4,000 each year from 1994 through 1998, with a high of 4,590 in 1997. Boise's ballpark seats 3,426. There have been talks about building a new ballpark in Boise.

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

NORTHWEST LEAGUE YEARLY ATTENDANCE

Year	# of Teams	Total Attendance	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year	Average per Date	# Change vs. Previous Year	% Chg. vs. Prev. Year
2018	8						
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

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

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

- J 2017 was a good year for the Appalachian League. Total attendance rose 20,678 (6.2%) to 354,090, which was the best total for this league since 1997. The league had the best total attendance percentage increases of any NAPBL Minor League in 2015 (8.5%), and 2014 (16.2%).
- J There were 4 more dates played in 2017 than in 2016. 19 dates were lost in 2017 compared to 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 Average attendance per date was up 51 to 1,103, the league's best average since 1997. It was the 3rd straight year with average per date above 1,000. The record-high league average is 1,404 in 1994.
- J 6 teams were up in total attendance, and 5 teams had gains in average per date. Pulaski had the best total attendance and average per date increases of any short-season team. They also had the 4th best percentage gain in total attendance and 6th best percentage average per date gain of all NAPBL teams. Burlington, NC had the league's worst declines in both total attendance and average per date.
- J Both Johnson City and Pulaski drew over 60,000 in total attendance in 2017. It was just the 4th time 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 2016, for the first time 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 both 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, and 1997 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 does now. From 1957 through 1985, the average per team was below 20,000 in 17 seasons. It didn't reach 30,000 per team until 1988. The short-season record-high average per team is 44,276 in 1993. The last time the average per team topped 40,000 was in 1997. It was 35,409 in 2017, highest since 1997.
- 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. Bluefield had the highest attendance – 25,767. 4 teams drew less than 10,000. Pikeville drew just 4,998.
- J **Pulaski continued its amazing recent attendance growth in 2017. The Yankees drew a team record-high 77,880, up 19,885. Average per date rose 489 to a team record-high 2,360. These were the best increases among all short-season teams. The 34.3% increase in total attendance was the 4th best percentage gain among all NAPBL teams, and the 26.1% increase in average per date was 6th best. No Appalachian League team has drawn as well as Pulaski did in 2017 since Danville drew a short-season Appy League best total of 80,539, and 2,441 per date, in 1993. Since 2014, total attendance in Pulaski is up 51,720 (197.7%), and average per date has increased 1,542 (188.5%).**
- J 2016 was record-setting year for Pulaski. The Yankees led the league, and set new team record-highs. They drew 57,995, up 972 in total attendance, despite playing 3 fewer dates than in 2015, and averaged 1,871 per date, up 194. 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.

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

- J Pulaski had incredible growth in 2015. Total attendance more than doubled to a then-team record-high of 57,023, up 30,863, the 10th best gain among NAPBL teams playing in the same market in both 2015 and 2014. It was the highest 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. That was the 6th best NAPBL average per team increase for 2015.
- J Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 7 of their last 10 seasons after doing it just once in the previous 35 years with a team. They drew 26,160 in 2014. In 1998, this franchise drew just 8,812, an average of 275 per date. 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.
- J Kingsport drew 29,742, up 1,752. 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 901, down 2, the 8th straight year below 1,000.
- J 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 still set team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date. But in 2016, they had the biggest losses of any Appalachian League team, and in 2017, they had the lowest attendance in team history. The total fell 6,346 to 35,305, and average per date was down 123 to 1,139. The Astros had topped 40,000 in 13 straight years from 2004 through 2016, a streak that no current team in this league has ever achieved. This team becomes a Reds affiliate in 2018, and will be known as the Greeneville Reds.
- J **The Johnson City Cardinals had another record-setting season in 2017. Total attendance was up 13,347 to a new record-high of 65,202. Average per date was a record-high 1,976, up 303. This was the 11th time that Johnson City has drawn at least 40,000 as a short-season Appalachian League team. Total attendance is up 39,590 (154.6%) in Johnson City since 2013, and average per date has risen 1,150 (139.2%).**
- J 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. NAPBL teams, and the percentage gains of 32.6% in total attendance, and 28.3% in average per date, were tops among U.S.-based NAPBL teams.
- J Johnson City also had the best total increase among all short-season teams in 2014. That year, the Cardinals' average per date gain of 435 was not only the best among all short-season teams, but also the 13th highest average per date increase among all NAPBL 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 doubled since 2013.
- J Burlington's streak of 3 straight years above 40,000 ended. Total attendance fell a league worst 14,744 to 34,483. Average per date was 1,045, down 447. That was the biggest average per date decline among all short-season teams in 2017. The 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. Only one date was lost in 2017, following no lost dates in 2014, 2015, or 2016. 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. But the total didn't reach 40,000 from 2001 through 2013. Average per date has been above 1,000 every year, except from 2008 through 2011, since the current team began play in 1986.
- J Bristol drew 20,813, up 4,372. Average per date rose by 141 to 671. In 2015, Bristol drew the lowest total and average per date of any NAPBL 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.

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

- J Danville's total attendance rose 1,094 to 32,634, and average per date grew by 97 to 1,053, their best total and average since 2009. In their first 7 seasons (1993-1999), Danville topped 50,000 each year, and drew a league record-high 80,539 in 1993. After 1999, they've only reached 40,000 in 2006 and 2007. Average per date topped 2,000 from 1993 through 1997.
- J Bluefield dipped 1,056 to 21,595 in 2017, their lowest total since 1981. Average per date declined by 34 to 697, which was lowest since at least 1991. 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, but only in 2009 since then. 2009 was also the only year since 2001 with average per date above 1,000.
- J Elizabethton, which has the smallest regular NAPBL ballpark (the park that Buies Creek has as its temporary home is smaller), has reached 30,000 just once (in 2007) in their 44 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 18,746 in 2017, down 681. Average per date fell 41 to 586. Both the total and average per date were the lowest since 2000.
- J Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this level in the last 16 years. In 2017, total attendance rose 3,055 to 17,690, and average per date was up 79 to 536. It was the lowest total among NAPBL teams in 2017, and only Buies Creek, who played in a temporary park, had a lower average per date.
- J 1993 was a record setting year in attendance for the Appalachian League. The league drew a record high 442,755, and Danville's attendance of 80,539 was the highest ever by a team since this league went to a short-season schedule in 1957. 3 other teams also topped 50,000 in 1993. Burlington drew 61,088, Martinsville had a total of 58,368, and Huntington's attendance was 51,365. 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 in both 2016 and 2017.
- J 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.
- J Lee Landers, President 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 has headed this league since 1996, and his career in baseball spans nearly 60 years. He retires in 2018.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** - 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
2018	10						
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

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

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

- J Total attendance rose 1,356 (0.2%) to 618,042. Average per date was 2,046, down 59. The average per date was the lowest for the league since 2002. The league played 9 more dates than in 2016. There were just 2 rainouts, one each at Grand Junction and Orem.
- J 2017 was the 15th 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. Record-high average per date was 2,463 in 2008.
- J Pioneer League total attendance didn't top 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It's done so every year since then.
- J 4 teams had increases in total attendance, led by Billings. 3 teams posted gains in average per date, also led by Billings. Idaho Falls had the biggest loss in total attendance, and Helena had the worst decline in average per date.
- J Pioneer League record-high average attendance per team is 91,119 in 2008. The only other year above 90,000 was 2009. The short-season average per team reached 70,000 for the first time in 2002, and has topped this figure in all years since then. This league began to play a short-season schedule in 1964. When it played a longer season, the record-high average per team was 100,335 in 1948. It was 77,255 in 2017.
- J From 1964 through 1980, the league average per team never topped 40,000. The low was 15,862 in 1965. That year, the 4 teams in the league drew a combined total of just 63,446. 5 of the current 8 teams in the league individually drew more than that in 2017. In 1965, each team played a total of 66 games. Lowest team attendance was 8,692 by the Pocatello Chiefs, who were managed by Tom Lasorda. The last year with an average per team below 50,000 was 1993 (41,921).
- J Ogden led the league in total attendance for the 18th consecutive season in 2017, drawing 128,348, up 4,148. Average per date fell by 72 to 3,378. There were 2 more dates than in 2016. The Raptors have topped 100,000 and averaged over 3,000 per date for 17 straight years. They've reached 125,000 in 12 of the last 16 seasons, and surpassed 120,000 in 15 of those years. Ogden and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- J Idaho Falls had a league-worst decrease of 6,050 to 90,816. 2007 was the first year that the total reached 90,000, but it has surpassed that mark in all but 2 years since then. Average per date fell by 159 in 2017 to 2,390, the 11th straight year above 2,200. The Chukars' ballpark seats just 3,400, and 11 of their top 12 attendance totals have all come in the last 11 seasons. The highest attendance for a full-season team in Idaho Falls was 81,157 in 1948. Since 2007, the Chukars have drawn better than that with their short-season team every year except 2014.
- J Great Falls drew 47,260, up 3,760, with 3 more dates than in 2016. It was the 8th year in a row under 100,000, and the 4th year in a row under 50,000. Average per date was up 1 to 1,244. Attendance in Great Falls has been cut by more than half since 2003. The Voyagers have not reached 60,000 in the last 7 years, 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.
- J Grand Junction, in its 6th season in the league, drew 79,547, up 77. Average per date rose by 59 to 2,150. Rockies' attendance reached 100,000 only in 2012, their first season in Colorado. The team moved to Grand Junction from Casper, where the highest attendance there was 57,120 in 2010.
- J Billings topped 100,000 for the 10th straight year, drawing 110,311, up 5,996, the club's best total since 2012. Prior to this streak, Billings had reached 100,000 just 8 times in the previous 48 seasons. The Mustangs' 2017 average per date was up 84 to 2,903. Both the total and average per date increases were the best in the league. The average has been above 2,500 in 22 seasons since 1992, including the last 12, and has surpassed 2,800 for the past 10 seasons.

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

-) 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, by far, in 2016. Total attendance fell 28,229 to 57,504, and average per date was down 702 to 1,554. These declines were 2nd worst (to Staten Island) among all short-season teams, and the average per date loss was 4th worst among all U.S. NAPBL teams. The percentage declines in both total attendance (32.9%) and average per date (31.1%) were the 2nd worst of any U.S. NAPBL team (to Princeton of the Appalachian League). This excludes Lakeland and Hartford, who were displaced from their regular ballparks in 2016.
-) In 2017, the Owlz had a 1,523 decline in total attendance to 55,981. Average per date dipped 41 to 1,513. The total and average per date figures were the smallest in this team's 13-year history.
-) Through 2014, Missoula had drawn over 80,000 for 8 straight years after never before reaching that level. Attendance fell below that figure in 2015. In 2017, it dipped 1,271 to 71,936, the lowest total since 2006. The Osprey averaged 1,893 per date, down 86, the lowest average since 2005. Average per date exceeded 2,000 each year from 2007 through 2015. 2 dates drew over 3,000 in 2017.
-) It's been 12 years in a row with total attendance under 40,000 for the Helena Brewers, who play in a 2,100-seat park. Teams in Helena failed to reach 30,000 in any season from 1978 through 1988, and have topped 40,000 just 6 times in 38 years, none since 2005, and have never reached 50,000. The 2017 total of 33,843 was down 3,781, and average per date decreased by 184 to 891. The average per date has topped 1,000 in 12 of the 24 seasons that Helena has fielded a team since 1992, but only in 2016 since 2007.
-) 2018 is expected to be Helena's final season in the Pioneer League. Plans are to move this team to Colorado Springs for the 2019 season. The current Pacific Coast League Colorado Springs club expects to move to San Antonio, and the current Texas League team in San Antonio will move to Amarillo. Got all that?
-) The league's record-high attendance noted earlier is for a short-season schedule. In 1948, the league drew a record-high 802,682 with its 8 teams playing a 126 game schedule, 50 more games than now.
-) Highest attendance ever for a Pioneer League game was 12,870 at Salt Lake City in 1992. Salt Lake City is now in the Pacific Coast League. But they had a Pioneer League team from 1939-1942, 1946-1957, 1967-1969, and 1985-1992. In their final Pioneer League season, Salt Lake City drew 217,263, the highest total ever in this league. They also topped 200,000 as a Pioneer League team in 1946 and 1991. 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**PIONEER LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** - 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
2018	8						
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

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE** – (6 teams – 30 game schedule)

The Arizona Fall League is a 6 team league, operated by Major League Baseball, which plays in October and November. The league was created in 1992. Each team is affiliated with 5 Major League teams, and in 2017 played a 30-game schedule over a 6-week period from October 10 through November 18. This was 2 games less than in 2016. 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 (\$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors and kids, and \$4 for groups of at least 20) and compiles attendance. The attendance totals from this league are listed separately, and not included in the yearly NAPBL Minor League totals.

Games are played at Major League Arizona Spring Training ballparks. The 6 teams in 2017 were the Glendale Desert Dogs, Mesa Solar Sox, Peoria Javelinas, Salt River Rafter, Scottsdale Scorpions, and the Surprise Sagguaros.

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 Rafter had led the league in attendance from 2011 through 2015. Total attendance declined 9,717 in 2017, and average per date was down 71. Scottsdale was the leader for the 7th time in the last 12 years.

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE – 2005-2017 ATTENDANCE

Year	League Attendance	# of Dates	Avg./Date	Team Leader	Leader's Total Attend.	Leader's # of Dates	Leader's Avg./Date
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

2017 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

Page 126

TEAM	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016	BALLPARK OPENED:
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE (AAA)						
Buffalo Bisons	526,574	65	8,101	562,755	(36,181)	1988
Charlotte Knights	628,526	69	9,109	628,173	353	2014
Columbus (OH) Clippers	616,059	68	9,060	602,171	13,888	2009
Durham Bulls	547,841	71	7,716	547,156	685	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Braves	210,075	67	3,135	225,259	(15,184)	2009
Indianapolis Indians	641,141	70	9,159	636,888	4,253	1996
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	555,146	65	8,541	611,015	(55,869)	2008
Louisville Bats	467,024	68	6,868	506,030	(39,006)	2000
Norfolk Tides	359,263	66	5,443	373,042	(13,779)	1993
Pawtucket Red Sox	409,960	64	6,406	407,097	2,863	1942
Rochester Red Wings	445,581	68	6,553	434,897	10,684	1997
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	439,412	68	6,462	424,991	14,421	2013
Syracuse Chiefs	292,054	63	4,636	274,427	17,627	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	533,014	70	7,614	532,008	1,006	2002
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,671,670	942	7,082	6,765,909	(94,239)	
PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE (AAA)						
Albuquerque Isotopes	542,502	68	7,978	522,266	20,236	2003
Colorado Springs Sky Sox	265,095	63	4,208	270,100	(5,005)	1988
El Paso Chihuahuas	544,668	69	7,894	564,259	(19,591)	2014
Fresno Grizzlies	428,341	69	6,208	439,389	(11,048)	2002
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	535,660	69	7,763	504,160	31,500	1992
Las Vegas 51s	359,059	71	5,057	331,999	27,060	1983
Memphis Redbirds	350,007	69	5,073	324,581	25,426	2000
Nashville Sounds	593,679	67	8,861	504,060	89,619	2015
New Orleans Baby Cakes	349,883	63	5,554	339,400	10,483	1997
Oklahoma (City) Dodgers	444,224	68	6,533	437,905	6,319	1998
Omaha Storm Chasers	358,777	67	5,355	356,135	2,642	2011
Reno Aces	347,502	71	4,894	365,883	(18,381)	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	610,681	70	8,724	613,226	(2,545)	2000
Sacramento River Cats	562,237	70	8,032	609,666	(47,429)	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	483,202	70	6,903	503,659	(20,457)	1994
Tacoma Rainiers	374,951	69	5,434	377,164	(2,213)	1960
LEAGUE TOTAL	7,150,468	1,093	6,542	7,063,852	86,616	
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	13,822,138	2,035	6,792	13,829,761	(7,623)	
EASTERN LEAGUE (AA)						
Akron Rubber Ducks	343,351	66	5,202	350,077	(6,726)	1997
Altoona Curve	294,486	67	4,395	272,640	21,846	1999
Binghamton Rumble Ponies	190,765	58	3,289	172,859	17,906	1992
Bowie Baysox	234,789	68	3,453	236,349	(1,560)	1994
Erie SeaWolves	214,394	64	3,350	210,040	4,354	1995
Harrisburg Senators	262,872	66	3,983	269,172	(6,300)	2010
Hartford Yard Goats	395,196	68	5,812	41,569	353,627	2017
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	284,108	60	4,735	338,387	(54,279)	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	356,153	63	5,653	374,746	(18,593)	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	411,698	68	6,054	420,320	(8,622)	1951
Richmond Flying Squirrels	386,185	64	6,034	390,693	(4,508)	1985
Trenton Thunder	349,013	68	5,133	347,661	1,352	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,723,010	780	4,773	3,424,513	298,497	

Hartford played all of its games on the road in 2016. They played in New Britain in 2015.

2017 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

Page 127

TEAM	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Biloxi Shuckers	167,151	65	2,572	180,384	(13,233)	2015
Birmingham Barons	391,725	66	5,935	418,361	(26,636)	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	209,948	66	3,181	223,517	(13,569)	2000
Jackson (West Tenn) Generals	120,695	68	1,775	126,116	(5,421)	1998
Jacksonville (FL) Jumbo Shrimp	325,743	63	5,171	264,401	61,342	2003
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	190,645	66	2,889	190,130	515	2005
Mobile BayBears	92,898	62	1,498	96,185	(3,287)	1997
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	228,376	67	3,409	230,742	(2,366)	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	298,108	69	4,320	302,340	(4,232)	2012
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	313,796	63	4,981	293,694	20,102	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,339,085	655	3,571	2,325,870	13,215	
<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	328,347	66	4,975	306,570	21,777	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	331,242	67	4,944	350,964	(19,722)	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	470,003	69	6,812	463,564	6,439	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	282,146	67	4,211	265,193	16,953	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	304,026	68	4,471	312,001	(7,975)	2008
San Antonio Missions	305,351	67	4,557	317,607	(12,256)	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	331,259	69	4,801	316,990	14,269	2003
Tulsa Drillers	374,976	67	5,597	366,734	8,242	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,727,350	540	5,051	2,699,623	27,727	
TOTAL CLASS AA	8,789,445	1,975	4,450	8,450,006	339,439	
<u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
<i>Bakersfield Blaze</i>	-	-	-	62,922	(62,922)	1941
<i>High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks</i>	-	-	-	76,051	(76,051)	1991
Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers	202,336	70	2,891	190,933	11,403	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	199,661	69	2,894	196,684	2,977	1994
Lancaster JetHawks	169,237	70	2,418	165,947	3,290	1996
Modesto Nuts	147,562	70	2,108	157,239	(9,677)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	171,622	70	2,452	171,509	113	1993
San Jose Giants	163,373	69	2,368	166,756	(3,383)	1942
Stockton Ports	184,164	69	2,669	188,732	(4,568)	2005
Visalia Rawhide	126,419	70	1,806	123,079	3,340	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,364,374	557	2,450	1,499,852	(135,478)	
<u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
<i>Buies Creek Astros</i>	30,518	59	517	-	-	2013
Carolina Mudcats	190,420	68	2,800	194,334	(3,914)	1991
<i>Down East (Kinston) Wood Ducks</i>	145,780	72	2,025	-	-	1949
Frederick Keys	303,930	63	4,824	314,443	(10,513)	1990
Lynchburg Hillcats	137,566	66	2,084	122,929	14,637	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	233,126	65	3,587	227,491	5,635	1999
Potomac Nationals	236,010	61	3,869	195,448	40,562	1984
Salem Red Sox	215,244	65	3,311	200,478	14,766	1995
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	230,677	60	3,845	276,199	(45,522)	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	304,607	69	4,415	295,411	9,196	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,027,878	648	3,129	1,826,733	201,145	

Buies Creek played at Bakersfield, and Kinston played at High Desert, both in the California League in 2016.

2017 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Bradenton Marauders	79,331	61	1,301	87,149	(7,818)	1923
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	120,685	63	1,916	95,588	25,097	1987
Clearwater Threshers	200,201	67	2,988	181,594	18,607	2004
Daytona Tortugas	136,224	66	2,064	112,053	24,171	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	38,956	68	573	50,593	(11,637)	1977
Florida (Kissimmee) Fire Frogs	57,324	53	1,082	85,032	(27,708)	1984
Fort Myers Miracle	121,438	60	2,024	124,273	(2,835)	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	69,064	66	1,046	59,306	9,758	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	52,191	64	815	20,387	31,804	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	58,832	63	934	70,991	(11,159)	1998
St. Lucie Mets	132,359	66	2,005	96,556	35,803	1988
Tampa Yankees	93,823	66	1,422	73,278	20,545	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,160,428	763	1,521	1,056,800	103,628	
<i>Florida played in Brevard County in 2016.</i>						
<u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Beloit Snappers	64,236	67	959	67,975	(3,739)	1982
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	179,839	63	2,855	174,722	5,117	2009
Burlington (IA) Bees	67,044	64	1,048	75,429	(8,385)	1947
Cedar Rapids (IA) Kernels	166,427	70	2,378	166,413	14	2002
Clinton LumberKings	121,302	66	1,838	124,154	(2,852)	1937
Dayton Dragons	554,638	69	8,038	548,574	6,064	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	409,253	69	5,931	413,701	(4,448)	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	202,433	67	3,021	210,054	(7,621)	2007
Kane County (IL) Cougars	394,567	67	5,889	400,931	(6,364)	1991
Lake County (OH) Captains	212,747	66	3,223	213,738	(991)	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	303,843	68	4,468	311,190	(7,347)	1996
Peoria Chiefs	212,659	67	3,174	230,277	(17,618)	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	230,006	70	3,286	234,923	(4,917)	2004
South Bend Cubs	354,070	67	5,285	350,803	3,267	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	383,983	69	5,565	386,416	(2,433)	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	230,326	67	3,438	243,767	(13,441)	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	4,087,373	1,076	3,799	4,153,067	(65,694)	
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Asheville Tourists	184,019	68	2,706	183,058	961	1992
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	178,269	65	2,743	169,421	8,848	1995
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	305,622	68	4,494	293,161	12,461	1997
Columbia (SC) Fireflies	315,034	66	4,773	261,134	53,900	2016
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	207,131	64	3,236	209,120	(1,989)	1996
Greensboro Grasshoppers	350,743	67	5,235	336,121	14,622	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	328,222	67	4,899	331,911	(3,689)	2006
Hagerstown Suns	84,181	61	1,380	82,526	1,655	1931
Hickory Crawdads	136,225	64	2,129	150,110	(13,885)	1993
Kannapolis Intimidators	69,112	64	1,080	95,757	(26,645)	1995
Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws	338,544	65	5,208	353,080	(14,536)	2001
Lexington (KY) Legends	281,210	65	4,326	276,062	5,148	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	161,444	68	2,374	161,121	323	2003
West Virginia (Charleston) Power	133,679	65	2,057	143,755	(10,076)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,073,435	917	3,352	3,046,337	27,098	
TOTAL FULL SEASON A	11,713,488	3,961	2,957	11,582,789	130,699	

2017 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

Page 129

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Aberdeen IronBirds	130,823	33	3,964	141,070	(10,247)	2002
Auburn Doubledays	46,132	36	1,281	52,811	(6,679)	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	27,389	34	806	30,007	(2,618)	1996
Brooklyn Cyclones	186,853	36	5,190	207,702	(20,849)	2001
Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers	73,439	33	2,225	82,488	(9,049)	1995
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	147,936	37	3,998	152,328	(4,392)	1994
Lowell Spinners	126,565	36	3,516	139,943	(13,378)	2000
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	107,894	36	2,997	92,117	15,777	1999
State College Spikes	123,401	38	3,247	125,875	(2,474)	2006
Staten Island Yankees	71,401	35	2,040	85,513	(14,112)	2001
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	142,922	35	4,083	149,847	(6,925)	2002
Vermont Lake Monsters	82,674	35	2,362	83,955	(1,281)	1922
West Virginia Black Bears	75,064	37	2,029	78,774	(3,710)	2015
Williamsport Crosscutters	61,082	34	1,797	60,429	653	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,403,575	495	2,836	1,482,859	(79,284)	
<u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Boise Hawks	121,455	38	3,196	114,476	6,979	1989
Eugene Emeralds	125,297	38	3,297	121,587	3,710	2010
Everett AquaSox	110,161	38	2,899	104,162	5,999	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	128,416	38	3,379	131,851	(3,435)	2013
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes	81,011	38	2,132	80,469	542	1997
Spokane Indians	196,653	37	5,315	187,848	8,805	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	86,461	38	2,275	86,886	(425)	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	239,527	38	6,303	222,363	17,164	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,088,981	303	3,594	1,049,642	39,339	
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays	21,595	31	697	22,651	(1,056)	1939
Bristol (VA) Pirates	20,813	31	671	16,441	4,372	1969
Burlington (NC) Royals	34,483	33	1,045	49,227	(14,744)	1960
Danville (VA) Braves	32,634	31	1,053	31,540	1,094	1993
Elizabethton (TN) Twins	18,746	32	586	19,427	(681)	1974
Greeneville (TN) Astros	35,305	31	1,139	41,651	(6,346)	2004
Johnson City (TN) Cardinals	65,202	33	1,976	51,855	13,347	1956
Kingsport (TN) Mets	29,742	33	901	27,990	1,752	1995
Princeton (WV) Rays	17,690	33	536	14,635	3,055	1988
Pulaski Yankees	77,880	33	2,360	57,995	19,885	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	354,090	321	1,103	333,412	20,678	

2017 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Billings Mustangs	110,311	38	2,903	104,315	5,996	2008
Grand Junction Rockies	79,547	37	2,150	79,470	77	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	47,260	38	1,244	43,500	3,760	1956
Helena Brewers	33,843	38	891	37,624	(3,781)	1939
Idaho Falls Chukars	90,816	38	2,390	96,866	(6,050)	2007
Missoula Osprey	71,936	38	1,893	73,207	(1,271)	2004
Ogden Raptors	128,348	38	3,378	124,200	4,148	1997
Orem (UT) Owlz	55,981	37	1,513	57,504	(1,523)	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	618,042	302	2,046	616,686	1,356	
TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE	3,464,688	1,421	2,438	3,482,599	(17,911)	
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	196,439	55	3,572	153,058	43,381	1938
Campeche Pirates	133,641	46	2,905	138,245	(4,604)	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	147,416	49	3,008	189,918	(42,502)	2006
<i>Durango Generals</i>	<i>180,118</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>4,094</i>	<i>102,823</i>	<i>77,295</i>	<i>1986</i>
Laguna Cowboys	250,596	57	4,396	285,952	(35,356)	1932
<i>Leon Braves</i>	<i>108,670</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>2,717</i>	<i>130,731</i>	<i>(22,061)</i>	<i>1973</i>
Mexico City Red Devils	127,671	51	2,503	138,096	(10,425)	1993
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	392,795	55	7,142	353,252	39,543	1975
Monterrey Sultans	659,791	57	11,575	690,305	(30,514)	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	141,217	58	2,435	88,206	53,011	1950
Puebla Parrots	152,923	48	3,186	228,644	(75,721)	1972
Saltillo Sarape Makers	266,847	52	5,132	264,863	1,984	1963
Tabasco Cattlemen	71,829	50	1,437	121,012	(49,183)	1964
Tijuana Toros	608,819	56	10,872	516,501	92,318	1976
Veracruz Aguila Reds	151,671	57	2,661	129,602	22,069	1992
Yucatan Lions	452,162	49	9,228	500,839	(48,677)	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	4,042,605	824	4,906	4,032,047	10,558	
<i>Durango and Leon played in Reynosa and Carmen in 2016.</i>						
TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES	41,832,364	10,216	4,095	41,377,202	455,162	
<u>ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - Figures from this league are not included in any 'all leagues' totals</u>						
Glendale Desert Dogs	5,083	15	339	5,869	(786)	2009
Mesa Solar Sox	10,620	15	708	12,426	(1,806)	2014
Peoria Javelinas	7,533	15	502	8,116	(583)	1994
Salt River Rafter	10,657	15	710	14,559	(3,902)	2011
Scottsdale Scorpions	11,424	15	762	15,001	(3,577)	1992
Surprise Saguros	7,871	15	525	6,934	937	2011
LEAGUE TOTAL	53,188	90	591	62,905	(9,717)	

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

As usual, there were some changes among the independent leagues in 2017. The Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the Pacific Association had the same lineup of teams and cities as in 2016. The American Association and the United Shore, Empire Pro, and Pecos Leagues all made changes in their rosters of teams in 2017. The United Shore Baseball League, played its second season with 4 teams, all in Utica, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit. These changes will be noted in the individual league summaries on the following pages.

- J In 2017 there were 8 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by all but the Empire Pro 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 53 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 2016, the same 8 leagues had 52 teams, plus 3 in the United Shore League, that 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 that recorded attendance, operated in 2013.
- J Total reported independent leagues 2016 attendance was 6,220,288, down 5,922 (0.1%). In 2017, independent leagues recorded attendance for 18 more dates than in 2016, but combined to play 597 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,516 reported attendance dates in 2017 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- J Combined 2017 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,472. This is down 20 from 2016. 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 The American Association, and the Frontier and Atlantic Leagues all set record-highs in total attendance in 2012. The Can-Am League set its high in 2007. The Pacific Association high was in 2015, and 2017 had the highs for the Pecos and United Shore Leagues. In 2017, the American Association, Frontier, United Shore, and Pecos Leagues had gains in total attendance. The American Association, Atlantic, United Shore, and Pecos Leagues were up in average per date. The American Association's Texas Airhogs played all of its games in Grand Prairie, and none in Amarillo. Cleburne replaced Joplin, and Salina, borrowed from the Pecos League as a road team, replaced Laredo. The Pecos League added 5 teams and dropped 3. The United Shore League added a team. The Empire Pro League dropped 2 teams, added one, plus a road team.
- J 48 independent league teams were in the same market in 2017 as in 2016. 22 of them had 2017 gains in total attendance, while 26 were down. In average per date, 22 teams were up, 25 were down, and one had the same average per date in both seasons.
- 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.

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 in 2015, 2016, or 2017.

GOLDEN BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 teams – 90 game schedule in 2010)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 742,394 (2010) 10 teams; Team – Tucson -- 139,149 (2009)

NORTHERN LEAGUE (8 teams -- 100 game schedule in 2010)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,189,151 (2005) 12 teams; Team – Winnipeg – 323,141 (2004)

CONTINENTAL BASEBALL LEAGUE (4 teams – League disbanded prior to the end of the 2010 season)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 64,659 (2009); Team – Alexandria, LA – 45,727 (2009)

NORTH AMERICAN BASEBALL LEAGUE (10 teams in 2012, the league's final year)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 642,963 (2011); Team – San Angelo – 115,735 (2012)

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES 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</u>	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u>Team Leader</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	3,506,264	St. Paul	240,514	St. Paul	6,329
1998	7	49	3,866,809	Bridgeport	296,145	St. Paul	6,330
1999	6	44	4,871,797	Bridgeport	342,857	St. Paul	6,329
2000	6	50	5,581,833	Long Island	436,361	Winnipeg	6,465
2001	7	52	5,997,439	Long Island	443,142	Winnipeg	6,491
2002	6	50	6,410,071	Long Island	437,212	St. Paul	6,263
2003	8	63	6,558,149	Long Island	421,359	Winnipeg	7,161
2004	5	45	6,557,875	Long Island	440,540	Winnipeg	7,027
2005	6	54	7,518,121	Long Island	429,218	Winnipeg	6,867
2006	7	55	7,558,436	Long Island	419,150	Winnipeg	6,504
2007	9	67	8,485,921	Long Island	427,536	Winnipeg	6,542
2008	8	61	8,312,669	Long Island	416,752	Winnipeg	6,464
2009	8	61	7,965,185	Long Island	414,973	Winnipeg	6,180
2010	7	60	8,105,046	Long Island	410,619	Long Island	6,039
2011	6	55	6,830,777	Long Island	382,027	Winnipeg	5,740
2012	6	55	7,127,934	Sugar Land	465,511	Sugar Land	6,650
2013	7	53	6,708,293	Sugar Land	382,059	Winnipeg	5,880
2014	7	50	6,166,231	Sugar Land	383,465	Winnipeg	5,618
2015	7	52	6,317,482	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	6,220,288	St. Paul	406,501	St. Paul	8,296

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

Bridgeport, Long Island, and Sugar Land play in the Atlantic League, which has the longest season of any independent league. In most years, teams in the Atlantic League were scheduled for 70 home games. Other independent leagues have in recent years had 48-53 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 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.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

ATLANTIC LEAGUE (8 teams -- 140 games in 2017, 7 teams + one road -- 126 games with 70 home games in 2018)
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 Attendance fell 28,304 (1.4%) to 2,071,325 in 2017. The league surpassed 2 million for the 9th time in the last 10 years, and for the 10th time overall. It was the 13th straight year with attendance of at least 1.9 million. There were 8 fewer dates in 2017 than in 2016, and 28 lost dates.
- J Average attendance per date rose by 6 to 3,945. This league has averaged at least 3,500 per date in all seasons except its first (1998), 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 independent league was 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- J 2017 Atlantic League playoff games drew an average crowd of 4,191. This was the highest post-season average per game of any U.S. based league in 2017. Somerset set an Atlantic League single-game playoff record-high with a crowd of 8,131. The International League averaged 3,506 per 2017 playoff game, and the Pacific Coast League's playoff average was 4,002. The Mexican League playoffs, which always draw well, averaged 12,180 per game.
- J 4 teams had increases in total attendance, led by Sugar Land. 3 were up in average per date, led by Southern Maryland. York had the biggest total loss, and New Britain had the largest average per date decline.
- J Atlantic League average attendance per team has been above 245,000 in all years since 2001. The record-high of 295,947 per team in 2012 is the best ever for a modern independent league. The average per team of 258,916 in 2017 was the lowest since 2007.
- J In 2012, Sugar Land played its first season and drew 465,511, the highest total attendance ever by a modern independent team. The Skeeters also averaged 6,650 per date, which was the best among all independent league teams in 2012. The old independent team total attendance record was 443,142, set by Long Island in 2001. The independent record-high for average per date is 8,438 by St. Paul in 2016.
- J 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 1,529 to 300,331, which was the 4th best independent team total. Average per date rose by 43 to 4,483, the 5th best among independents. The Skeeters drew a team record crowd of 8,606 on July 4.
- J In 2017, Sugar Land drew 317,721, up 17,390. This was the best gain in this league, and 5th best among independent teams. Average per date was 4,672, up 190. The average has topped 4,400 in all seasons.
- J Long Island (Central Islip, NY) drew an independent leagues' 3rd best total of 341,830, down 10,898. Average per date slipped by 163 to 5,102, which was 3rd highest among independent league teams. The Ducks have led the league in average per date 14 times in 18 seasons. 32 dates drew above 5,000. 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've surpassed 340,000 in every season, with 2017 having the lowest total. 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.
- J Average per date was above 6,000 in 10 of the first 11 Ducks' seasons. In 2006, they just missed, averaging 5,998. The average per date has topped 5,000 in every season. In their history, the Ducks have drawn 7,225,236, which is an average of 401,402 per year. Their 18-year average per date of 5,785 per date is 96.4% of their ballpark's seating capacity. Long Island has drawn 672 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 1,249 regular season dates, including 9 in 2017. On July 3, 2016, the Ducks drew 7,602, the largest crowd in team history.
- J Southern Maryland's total attendance was up 8,124 to 210,007, despite 2 fewer dates than in 2016, and 9 lost dates. Blue Crabs' attendance has been stable, ranging between 201,883 and 242,894. 2017 average per date was 3,443, up 238, the 3rd best gain among independent teams. The average has topped 3,200 in all 10 seasons.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

-) Somerset led the league in total attendance and average per date for the first time. They topped 335,000 for the 19th straight year, and their 2017 total of 342,231, down 18,524, was 2nd highest among independent teams. Average per date at was an indy 3rd best 5,185, down 43, with 3 fewer dates. The Patriots have averaged over 5,000 per date in all 19 seasons they've played. Their total attendance has been very stable as well, ranging from a low of 335,056 in 1999, to a high of 376,315 in 2004. Average per date has ranged from 5,161 (2003) to 5,433 (2008). Somerset has drawn 6,770,624 in 1,287 dates, averaging 356,349 per season, and 5,261 per date.
-) Lancaster had gain of 7,308 to 255,251, with 2 more dates. The Barnstormers topped 300,000 in 9 of their first 10 seasons (2005-2014), though not in their last 3 years. This is quite an achievement considering that 3 teams (Reading, Harrisburg, York), play less than 40 miles from Lancaster. Average per date fell by 3 to a team-lowest 3,754. The average per date had been above 5,000 from 2005 through 2008, and stayed above 4,000 until 2016.
-) York, owned by Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson, had exceeded 250,000 for 8 straight years through 2015. But their 2016 total fell 22,556 to 237,433. In 2017, there was a decline of 24,809 to 212,624. This was the 2nd biggest loss among independent teams. Average per date was down 170 to 3,222, also a team low. The Revolution had topped 4,000 per date in 4 seasons.
-) 2015 was a positive turnaround season for the Bridgeport Bluefish. Their 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. In 2016, total attendance fell 8,545 to 183,921, which still was the 2nd highest for the Bluefish since 2006.
-) In 2017, the Bluefish drew 196,917, up 12,996, averaging 2,984 per date, up 197. Those were the best figures since 2005. Total attendance had increased 64,078 (48.5%) since 2012, 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 has been 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 since.
-) Despite the recent gains in attendance, the Bluefish played their last season in 2017. They will be replaced in 2018 by a road team. The league is looking for another site for their 8th team.
-) 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 ballpark in the neighboring city of Hartford. 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 drew 194,744 in 2017, down 19,891. Average per date fell 211 to 3,091. Actually, these declines were not all that bad, because unlike in 2016, the Bees had nearby competition. Hartford's new ballpark, located 12 miles from New Britain, opened, and the Hartford Yard Goats drew 395,196, averaging 5,812 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.
-) 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 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
2018	7						
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**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** (12 teams (one road team) - 100 game schedule with extra home games)

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

- J The league played with 12 teams in 2017 as Cleburne, TX replaced Joplin, and Salina, a road team borrowed from the Pecos Baseball League, replaced Laredo. The Texas Airhogs played all their games in Grand Prairie and none in Amarillo. Unlike in some previous seasons, no games were played with teams from the Can-Am League. A new team, the Chicago Dogs, will be added to this league in 2018. Their home is Rosemont, IL, near O'Hare Airport.
- J This league began play in 2006. It is no relation to the Class AAA NAPBL league of the same name that played until 1998. Teams from that league were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues. Nearly all of the teams from this American Association have played in other independent leagues, such as the Northern, Central, United, and Texas-Louisiana Leagues.
- J Total attendance rose 33,407 (1.8%) to 1,866,910, with one less team with home games than in 2016, due to Salina only playing road games. This also resulted in the league playing 18 fewer dates than in 2016. Average per date was up 160 to 3,316. The 10 teams which played in the same markets as in 2016, drew 1,763,646, up 3,099 (0.2%), with 19 more dates than in 2016, and their average per date was 3,492, down 131. This league's record-high average per date is 3,512 in 2012.
- J The average per date for the league noted here is 6 less than what is listed on the league's Website. This is because it was found that the Texas Airhogs actually had one more home date than was listed on the Website.
- J The league drew over 2 million in 2011, 2012, 2013, and 2015.
- J Average attendance per team topped 150,000 for the 7th straight year, and average per date was above 3,000 also for the 7th year in a row. Highest average per team for this league was 172,634 in 2012, and the lowest was 122,752 in 2010. It was 169,719 in 2017, the 2nd best in league history.
- J 4 teams had increases in total attendance led by Texas. Gary-Southshore had the largest increase among the 3 teams with growth in average per date. Sioux Falls had the worst total attendance decline, and Winnipeg had the biggest loss in average per date.
- J In 2015, St. Paul, in their new ballpark, drew 404,528, the best total among independent teams, and a record-high for the team and for the American Association. 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.
- J **In 2016, the Saints did even better! They drew a league-record high total of 413,482, up 8,954, and an independent leagues record-high average per date of 8,438, up 348. The average per date gain was 5th best among independent teams. 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.**
- J **In 2017, St. Paul drew 406,501, down 6,981, and averaged 8,296 per date, down 142. Those figures were once again, the best among all independent teams. 46 of their 49 dates drew above their ballpark's seating capacity of 7,210, with attendance topping 8,000 at 36 dates. There were 10 dates that drew at least 9,000, with a high of 10,143. The Saints drew 115% of their park's seating capacity, which was best in all of the Minors.**
- J St. Paul has been a big success since they began play in 1993. They've topped 235,000 every year except their first. They had led this league in total attendance each year from 2006-2010, and from 2015-2017. The Saints had a 249 game consecutive 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 2015-2017. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1994-2008, and from 2015-2017. St. Paul had the highest average per date among the independent league teams from 1993-1999, and in 2002, 2015, 2016, and 2017. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- J St. Paul, along with Sioux City and Sioux Falls remain from the 14 independent teams that played in 1993, the year that independent baseball returned. In their 25 seasons, the Saints have drawn 6,951,844 in 1,125 dates, averaging 278,074 per season, and 6,179 per date.
- J Winnipeg drew 219,556, down 11,650, with 2 more dates. Average per date fell by 426 to 4,391. This was the 2nd worst decline in average per date among the independents in 2017, and the team's lowest total and average per date since 1998. But it still was the 6th best indy total and 5th best average per date of 2017. 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 this league, 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. Winnipeg has drawn 5,066,456 in 840 dates, averaging 6,031 per date since 2000, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 12 times in the last 18 years. Their average per date surpassed 6,000 from 1999 through 2009, and stayed above 5,000 through 2015.
- J Sioux Falls, SD had a decline of 12,085 to 113,506. Total attendance there has topped 100,000 in 21 of their 25 seasons. Average per date declined 195 to 2,316. The Canaries have averaged better than 2,200 per date from 1996 through 2009, and from 2012 through 2017. 1993-1995 average per date is not available.
- J Sioux City, Iowa had a big increase in 2015. Total attendance 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. But in 2016, total attendance fell 9,151, despite 3 more dates, to 68,278. Average per date slipped by 282 to 1,366. In 2017, total attendance declined 9,871 to 58,407, with 3 fewer dates, and average per date was 1,243, down 123. 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 12 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 available.
- J Fargo-Moorhead's attendance has been very stable. Their lowest total was 155,052 in 1996, and their best total was 193,364 in 2002. The total has been above 170,000 in all seasons since 1997. Average per date topped 4,000 in 6 of 7 seasons from 1997 through 2003, and it has been above 3,500 in all 22 of these seasons. The RedHawks drew 176,086, down 4,259 in 2017. Average per date went down 13 to 3,594.
- J Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, has topped 200,000 in all 15 years of play. They've averaged 5,209 per date during this period, drawing 3,729,664 in 716 dates. The T-Bones topped 230,000 in 12 consecutive seasons through 2015, and have been above 260,000 in 7 of the last 12 years. In 2017, total attendance dipped 1,566 to 211,599, the lowest total since 2003, this team's first season. Average per date fell 194 to 4,069, the lowest in team history. Kansas City averaged over 6,000 per date in 2007, and surpassed 5,000 per date every year from 2004 through 2014.
- J Lincoln topped 200,000 each year from 2001 through 2005, but has not done it since. In 2017, the Saltdogs drew 172,712, up 2,962, with 4 more dates. Average per date fell by 225 to 3,387. The Saltdogs averaged 5,334 in 2001, their first season, topped 4,000 per date every year through 2007, and have been above 3,200 every year.
- J The Texas Airhogs played all their games in Grand Prairie in 2017, and drew 65,672, up 21,390 with 12 more dates than in 2016, when they split their home schedule between Grand Prairie and Amarillo. This was the best gain among independents in 2017. Average per date was up 168 to 1,152. The total percentage gain was 48.3%, 3rd best among the indy teams, and the average per date rose a 4th best 17.1%. The 20 dates in Amarillo in 2016 drew 17,721 (886 per date), and the 25 dates in Grand Prairie drew 26,561 (1,062 per date). This team topped 100,000 in its first 6 years (2008-2013), but not since. Average attendance per date reached 3,000 in 2008 and 2009, and was over 2,000 from 2008 through 2013. These figures are for games in Grand Prairie.
- J **The Gary Southshore RailCats drew a team record-high 181,612, up 18,093. It was the 2nd best independent total increase. Average per date was a record-high 3,632, up 226. That was the best average per date gain in the league, and 4th best among independent teams. Attendance topped 5,000 at 14 dates. The old records of a total of 166,338, and an average of 3,616, were set in 2007. It was the 13th straight year above 150,000 for Gary. Since 2006, their lowest total was 157,676 in 2011. The average per date has been between 3,189 and 3,632 per date in the team's 15-year history.**

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** – continued

-) Cleburne drew 103,264, averaging 1,780 per date. The total is up 72,653, and the average per date is up 1,135 from what Joplin drew in 2016. Cleburne is south of Fort Worth, and had Minor League teams in 1906, 1911, 1912, 1921, and 1922.
-) Joplin, MO played only 2 years in this league. In 2015 they drew 67,975, averaging 1,545 per date. Year #2 saw the Blasters suffer the biggest declines in both total attendance and average per date of any independent team. 2016 total attendance was 31,001, down 36,974, despite 4 more dates. Average per date fell 899 to 646. The 54.4% decline in total attendance was the worst percentage loss of any Minor League team except Hartford and Lakeland, neither of whom played in their home ballparks. The 58.2% drop in average per date was surpassed only by Hartford, Lakeland, and also Santa Fe of the Pecos League. There was no professional team in Joplin in 2017. The last Minor League team in Joplin prior to 2015, played in the Western Association through 1954. Their best listed attendance was 90,363 in 1946. Mickey Mantle played for Joplin in 1950, hit .383, and scored 141 runs.
-) Wichita was up 7,066 to 157,995, their best total since 2009. The Wingnuts have topped 130,000 in all 10 years in this league, and all Wichita teams have drawn at least 100,000 since 1989. Average per date rose by 18 to 3,098, and the average has been above 3,000 in 8 of the last 10 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. A new ballpark has been proposed for Wichita.

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
2018	12						
2017	12	1,866,910	33,407	1.8	3,316	160	5.1
2016	12	1,833,503	(173,854)	(8.7)	3,156	(59)	(1.8)
2015	13	2,007,357	121,359	6.4	3,215	(117)	(3.5)
2014	12	1,885,998	(264,053)	(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	81,969	3.8	3,512	360	11.4
2011	14	2,162,269	934,751	76.1	3,152	454	16.8
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

CAN-AM LEAGUE (6 teams - 100 game schedule in 2017, 102 games in 2018)

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

- J There were 6 teams again in the Can-Am League in 2017. The league did not play games with American Association teams as they did in some of the previous years. But there were games with teams from Cuba and the Dominican Republic, so the Can-Am League teams had extra home games. There will be games again with international teams in 2018, and each Can-Am League team will have 54 home games and 48 road games, as the schedule is increased to 102 games.
- J Total attendance fell 36,572 (5.5%) to 631,144, with 2 more dates than in 2016. Average per date was 2,111, down 137. There were 15 lost dates.
- J Average attendance per team was 105,191 in 2017. The league averaged above 100,000 per team from 2005 through 2008, and from 2014 through 2017. Average per date topped 2,000 for the 11th time in the last 14 years, and for the 15th time in this league's 21-year history. This includes seasons when it was the Northeast League and also when it was part of the Northern League.
- J 2 teams had gains in total attendance, and 2 were up in average per date, led by the significant increases posted by New Jersey. Ottawa had the worst declines in both total attendance and average per date among all independent teams in 2017.
- J Rockland County led the league in total attendance for the 6th straight year, drawing 145,005, down 4,627. The Boulders have topped 120,000 in each of their 7 seasons, and have been above 140,000 in the last 6. Average per date was a league-leading 2,843, down 91. The average per date has been above 2,800 all 7 years, and has topped 3,000 in 3 of these seasons.
- J Quebec City had led the league in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. In 2017, their total attendance declined by 5,023, to 141,923, with 3 fewer dates. Average per date was up 66 to 2,838. The Capitales have topped 110,000 in all 19 years of this team's history, reached 130,000 in 16 of the last 17 years, and surpassed 150,000 in 7 seasons. Average per date has topped 2,500 in all 19 seasons, and reached 3,000 every year from 2000 through 2013. Teams from Quebec City led the original Canadian-American League in attendance in 1949 and 1950, and had the best attendance in the Provincial League each year from 1951 through 1955.
- J New Jersey had a significant gain in 2017. The Jackals drew 91,892, up 17,557, with 7 more dates. It was their best total since 2008, and the 4th best gain among independent teams. The total was up 23.6%, which was 5th best percentage gain among the independents. Average per date rose 115 to 1,767, which is the highest since 2012. The Jackals topped 100,000 in 10 of their first 11 seasons (1998-2008), but have been below that in each of the last 9 years. Their average per date was above 3,000 in 1999 and 2000, and better than 2,000 from 1998 through 2009. But it hasn't reached 2,000 since then.
- J Trois Rivieres (Three Rivers) drew 79,228, up 280, with 2 more dates. Average per date was 1,617, down 63. The current version of Les Aigles have averaged between 1,612 and 1,865 per date in their 5 seasons. NAPBL teams played in Trois Rivieres as members of the original Canadian-American League in 1941, 1942, and from 1946 through 1950, and played in the Eastern League from 1971 through 1977. Their all-time NAPBL attendance high was 119,751 in 1972. The 2015 total of 96,997 was higher than Trois Rivieres drew in all but 2 of 14 NAPBL seasons with listed attendance.
- J The Sussex County (Augusta, NJ) Miners were one of the new teams in the league in 2015. They drew 56,988 in 2015, averaging 1,187 per date. That was their lowest total in the 18 seasons they've had a team. Sussex had been in this league from 2006 through 2010. Their top Can-Am League attendance was 101,638 in 2007. In 2010, they drew 71,826. From 1994 through 2005, Sussex County was a member of the 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.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**CAN-AM LEAGUE** – continued

-) Sussex had a big rebound in 2016. Total attendance rose 33,249 to 90,237, and average per date was up 654 to 1,842. The gains in both total attendance and average per date 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 2 categories. In 2017, total attendance fell 9,765 to 80,442, and average per date dipped 233 to 1,609.
-) The Ottawa Champions had a rough year in 2017. They played 5 fewer dates than in 2016. Total attendance fell 34,964 to 92,654. Average per date declined 483 to 1,971. These were the worst 2017 declines among the independent teams. Prior to 2015, Ottawa had a team in this 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 their first season, Ottawa drew 663,926, and in 1994, their attendance was 596,858. But then attendance fell very sharply, down to 195,979 in 1999. The Lynx drew under 200,000 in 8 of their final 9 years in Ottawa, with a low of 122,594 in 2006. 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.

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
2018	6						
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	25	1.0
2005	7	831,004	72,000	9.5	2,430	198	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**FRONTIER LEAGUE** (12 teams - 96 game schedule)

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

- J 2017 total attendance rose 2,657 (0.2%) to 1,288,542. Attendance in the league first reached one million in 2003. It has topped one million for 15 years in a row.
- J The league played 5 more dates in 2017 than in 2016, and there were 18 rainouts.
- J Average attendance per date was 2,373, down 17. Frontier League average per date has been over 2,000 in each of the last 15 years, with a record-high of 2,719 in 2010. The average per date has been over 2,500 in 6 seasons.
- J Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, total attendance is up 79.2% from 719,222, and average per date is up 60.0% from 1,483.
- J 5 teams had increases in total attendance in 2017, led by Evansville. 6 teams posted gains in average per date, again led by Evansville. Gateway had the league's worst decline in total attendance and Normal had the worst loss in average per date.
- J Average attendance per team has surpassed 100,000 for 12 seasons in a row, and in 13 of the last 14 years. The average per team was just 13,769 in 1993, the Frontier League's first season. It was 107,379 in 2017. The highest average per team was 133,543 in 2008.
- J Schaumburg led the league again in total attendance and average per date, drawing 160,644, down 12,352. Average per date fell 186 to 3,418. The Boomers were the only Frontier League team whose average per date went up in both 2013 and 2014. Schaumburg has topped 150,000 in 17 of its 18 seasons (2012 was the exception), 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. They didn't have a team in 2011.
- J Traverse City drew 119,544, averaging 2,717 per date. It was their lowest total in 12 years of play. Total attendance fell 1,956, and average per date rose 17. The Beach Bums topped 200,000 in their first 2 seasons (2006 and 2007), and drew over 150,000 in their first 8 years. The average per date was better than 4,000 in the first 2 years, and topped 3,000 in the first 9 seasons.
- J Normal had its lowest attendance (75,804, down 15,389) in its 8-year history. Average per date fell 342 to a team-low 1,685. This was the 3rd worst average per date decline among independent teams. The CornBelters averaged above 2,000 per date in their 7 previous seasons.
- J Evansville drew 100,337, up 17,925, with 3 more dates. Average per date rose 268 to 2,230. The average per date increase was the best among all independent teams, and the total attendance increase was 3rd best. Total attendance topped 100,000 for the 13th time in the last 15 years. Average per date has been above 2,000 in 19 of the last 21 seasons, and topped 2,500 in 11 of those years. 2016 and 2000 are the only years that the Otters have averaged less than 2,000 in the past 21 years. The average topped 3,000 in 1999, 2013, and 2014. In 2013, Evansville had its highest attendance (140,786) in the 23 seasons they've had an independent team. In 1972, a Class AAA American Association team there drew the city's record-high of 147,807. The Otters play at Bosse Field, which is the oldest home ballpark for any Minor League team, and 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.
- J River City (O'Fallon, MO) drew 94,958, up 12,897, with 3 more dates. The Rascals topped 150,000 in the team's first 6 seasons (1999-2004), but not since. It stayed above 100,000 through 2008, and then again in 2010 and 2012. 2017 was the 7th time that attendance was below 100,000. Average per date was 2,064, the highest since 2012, and up 156. The average was 4,119 in 2004, and topped 3,000 in the club's first 6 seasons. It has been above 2,000 in 13 of 19 seasons.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- J The Southern Illinois (Marion) Miners have led this league in attendance in 4 of the 11 years they've operated, including 2011. They missed the league lead by just 259 in 2010, but did have the highest average per date. In 2007, the Miners became the first Frontier League team to average over 5,000 per date. In 2014, total attendance rose 21,203, the best increase among all independent teams. 2017 total attendance was down 2,419, to 151,521. Average per date decreased by 53 to 3,294. Attendance in Marion has topped 125,000 in all 11 seasons, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010. The Miners have drawn over 150,000 in 8 of those years. Their average per date was 5,086 in 2007, topped 4,000 through 2010, and has been above 2,500 every year.
- J Florence, KY saw their total attendance decline by 893 to 87,545, the lowest total since 2004. Average per date fell 21 to 2,084. The average has been above 2,000 in 9 of their last 11 seasons, with a high of 2,495 in 2013. The Freedom has drawn better than 100,000 in 6 of the last 10 years, with a high of 112,844 in 2010.
- J Joliet had a 9,702 gain in total attendance to 100,160, the best total since 2012. Average per date rose an indy 5th best 216 to 2,226. The Slammers, named for the Illinois State Prison in Joliet, drew 100,000+ each year from 2002 through 2012, including 2 seasons (2002, 2005) above 200,000. 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.
- J The Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers drew 94,035, up 12,200. Average per date rose by 260 to 2,001. That was 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 7 of 9 seasons. Total attendance exceeded 100,000 in the first 6 seasons.
- J Windy City (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once (2009) in their 19 seasons. In 2017, total attendance rose 1,715 to 78,585, and average per date was up 1 to 1,672. 1999 and 2009 were the only seasons that the ThunderBolts averaged at least 2,000.
- J Gateway (Sauget, IL) had topped 150,000 for 12 straight years through 2014. The Grizzlies fell just below that figure in 2015. In 2016, they posted a 14,360 gain to 163,679. Average per date gained 482 to 3,410. It was the 3rd best total increase, and the 4th best average gain, among the independents. But in 2017, total attendance fell 15,203 to 148,176, and average per date was down 323 to 3,087. It was the lowest total since 2002. Their average per date topped 4,000 in 4 seasons, and has been 3,000+ in 14 years, with a high of 4,531 in 2004, when their total was 217,500. Attendance has surpassed 180,000 in 5 seasons.
- J Washington, PA drew 77,233, down 3,270. It was the lowest total in the team's 16 seasons. The Wild Things drew less than 100,000 for the 6th straight year. They had 10 consecutive seasons (2002-2011) above that level, including 6 years above 150,000. Average per date was down 80 to 1,884. Washington's average per date had topped 3,000 in their first 6 seasons, but has been under 2,000 since 2012.
- J 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.
- J The Frontier League played its 25th season in 2017. 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 2 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. None of cities in the 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, Sioux City, and Sioux Falls are still active, and play in the American Association.
- 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

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
2018	12						
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	(7,801)	(0.5)	2,439	52	2.2
2012	14	1,548,970	137,057	9.7	2,387	(148)	(5.8)
2011	12	1,411,913	(86,148)	(5.8)	2,535	(184)	(6.8)
2010	14	1,498,061	53,885	3.7	2,719	93	3.5
2009	12	1,444,176	(24,801)	(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	81,046	6.9	2,713	605	28.7
2005	12	1,180,349	(113,792)	(8.8)	2,108	(311)	(12.9)
2004	12	1,294,141	184,781	16.7	2,419	205	9.3
2003	12	1,109,360	160,977	17.0	2,214	279	14.4
2002	12	948,383	229,161	31.9	1,935	452	30.5
2001	12	719,222	110,706	18.2	1,483	(102)	(6.4)
2000	10	608,516	(103,220)	(14.5)	1,585	(199)	(11.2)
1999	10	711,736	283,598	66.2	1,784	347	24.1
1998	8	428,138	(18,263)	(4.1)	1,437	(27)	(1.8)
1997	8	446,401	28,782	6.9	1,464	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**PACIFIC ASSOCIATION** – (4 teams, 78 game schedule)

- J All 4 teams reported attendance in 2015, 2016, and 2017. Total 2017 attendance was 36,854, down 1,861 (4.8%). Average per date was 239, down 11. Attendance was reported for one less date than in 2016. 3 of the 4 teams were up in total attendance and average per date.
- J The San Rafael Pacifics drew 18,236 in 2017, an average of 480 per date, once again, the highest figures in the league. The total was up 1,211. Average per date rose by 43.
- J The Pittsburg Diamonds' total rose 70 to 2,678. Average per date was up 2 to 70.
- J Sonoma's total was down 3,339 to 10,031. Their average dipped 86 to 257.
- J Vallejo drew 5,909, up 197, averaging 152 per date, up 5.

EMPIRE PRO LEAGUE – (4 teams – 70 game schedule in 2017)

- J The Empire Pro 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. In 2017, Sullivan County and Old Orchard Beach returned, New Hampshire and Watertown did not, and teams in Plattsburgh, NY and Puerto Rico (road games only) were added. Sullivan County (Mountindale) had a team in the Northeast League in 1995, 1997, 1998, and 2000. They were in the North Atlantic League in 1996. Top attendance was 45,103 (1,219 per date) in 1998. The current Sullivan County team plays in Loch Sheldrake on the campus of Sullivan County Community College.
- 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 2017 – 75 game schedule)

- J This league, originally with 3 teams playing home games, began play in 2016. All teams played in a new 2,000 seat ballpark in Utica, MI, a suburb of Detroit. Another team, also playing all games in Utica was added in 2017. 75 games were scheduled for this ballpark in 2017. Games are played from Thursday through Sunday. 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.

SOUTHWEST LEAGUE OF PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL

- J This league expects to begin play in 2019 with 6 teams in Texas. Plans call for a 112 game schedule.

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE (4 teams in 2014 – One team only played road games – 76 game schedule)

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

- J This league disbanded in after the 2014 season. It originally played from 2006 through 2010. In 2013, 4 teams from the disbanded North American League, plus Alexandria, LA and a road team, played in the new United League. Alexandria and Edinburg did not return to the league in 2014.
- J The highest average per date for the league was 2,049 in 2007, and had the average was above 1,800 per date each year from 2006 through 2010. Total attendance was above 475,000 in each of those 5 seasons.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE (12 Teams – 58-63 games played, teams with attendance had 20-47 home dates)
RECORD HIGHS: League - 77,613 (2017) 12 teams; Team – Tucson – 23,141 (2016)

- J The Pecos League will play its 8th straight season in 2018. Of all the independent leagues that have played since 1993, only the current American Association, Can-Am, Atlantic, and Frontier Leagues, and some of the leagues that merged into them, have played more consecutive seasons than the Pecos League.
- 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.
- J California City, Hollywood, Bakersfield, High Desert, and Monterey were added in 2018. Topeka and Great Bend were dropped, and Salina was lent to the American Association as a road team. In 2018, the league will again have 12 teams, as Ruidoso will replace Hollywood.
- J **Total estimated attendance was a league record-high 77,613, up 10,451 (15.6%).** Estimated average per date was 217, up 8. The 2 additional teams in 2017 resulted in 37 more dates played in 2017 than in 2016. 3 of the returning 7 teams had gains in total attendance. 4 of them were up in average per date, and White Sands had the same average per date as in 2016.
- J Tucson drew a league leading 15,010, down 8,131 with 11 fewer dates, averaging 500 per date, down 64. The Saguaros had 20 dates in Tucson, drawing 14,020 there, averaging 701 per date. 10 dates were in Bisbee. They drew 990, an average of 99 per date. 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 Santa Fe played 39 home dates in 2017, 19 fewer than in 2016. The Fuego drew 10,842, up 3,650, averaging 278 per date, up 154.
- J Roswell, was up 4,512 to 7,564, with 8 more dates. Average per date rose by 101 to 210. Teams that recorded attendance played in Roswell from 1949 through 1959. Top attendance was 82,671 in 1950.
- J Alpine's total fell 156 to 6,912, with 6 fewer dates. Average per date was 216, up 30.
- J Trinidad drew 5,518, up 1,676, with 3 fewer dates, averaging 178 per date, up 65.
- J White Sands had a 2,457 decline to 3,780, with 13 fewer dates. Average per date was 189, same as in 2016.
- J Garden City, KS drew 2,400, down 9,348. They averaged 75 per date, down 281.
- J California City drew 3,584, averaging 112 per date.
- J Hollywood played only one home date. It drew 101.
- J Monterey drew 3,598, an average of 180 per date. 14 dates were played at Monterey and drew 212 per date. 7 dates were played at Hollister, and averaged 90 per date.
- J Bakersfield drew 10,058, an average of 214 per date.
- J High Desert drew 8,246, averaging 217 per date.
- J Both Bakersfield and High Desert played in the California League through 2016. Those teams were relocated to the Carolina League for 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 seasons (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) and Monterey have never had Minor League teams.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS

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
2018							
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	-----	-----

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
2018							
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	-----	-----

Many of the teams in the Northern League moved to the American Association.

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	1,245	39.8
2002	10	1,742,139	245,721	16.4	3,126	(308)	(9.0)
2001	8	1,496,418	189,355	14.5	3,434	405	13.4
2000	8	1,307,063	7,907	0.6	3,029	3	0.1
1999	8	1,299,156	266,234	25.8	3,026	(67)	(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	-----	-----

2017 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

TEAM	2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016	BALLPARK OPENED:
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION						
<i>Cleburne (TX) Railroaders</i>	103,264	58	1,780	31,001	72,263	2017
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	176,086	49	3,594	180,345	(4,259)	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	181,612	50	3,632	163,519	18,093	2003
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	211,599	52	4,069	213,165	(1,566)	2003
Lincoln Saltdogs	172,712	51	3,387	169,750	2,962	2001
St. Paul Saints	406,501	49	8,296	413,482	(6,981)	2015
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	58,407	47	1,243	68,278	(9,871)	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	113,506	49	2,316	125,591	(12,085)	1964
Texas (Grand Prairie) Airhogs	65,672	57	1,152	44,282	21,390	2008
Wichita (KS) Wingnuts	157,995	51	3,098	150,929	7,066	1934
Winnipeg Goldeyes	219,556	50	4,391	231,206	(11,650)	1999
<i>Salina (KS) Stockade (road team)</i>	0	0		41,955	(41,955)	1991
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,866,910	563	3,316	1,833,503	33,407	
<i>The Texas Airhogs played 20 dates in Amarillo and 25 dates in Grand Prairie in 2016. All 2017 dates were in Grand Prairie. In 2017, Cleburne replaced Joplin, and Salina, KS, a road team, replaced Laredo.</i>						
ATLANTIC LEAGUE						
Bridgeport Bluefish	196,917	66	2,984	183,921	12,996	1998
Lancaster Barnstormers	255,251	68	3,754	247,943	7,308	2005
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	341,830	67	5,102	352,728	(10,898)	2000
New Britain Bees	194,744	63	3,091	214,635	(19,891)	1996
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	342,231	66	5,185	360,755	(18,524)	1999
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	210,007	61	3,443	201,883	8,124	2008
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	317,721	68	4,672	300,331	17,390	2012
York Revolution	212,624	66	3,222	237,433	(24,809)	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,071,325	525	3,945	2,099,629	(28,304)	
FRONTIER LEAGUE						
Evansville Otters	100,337	45	2,230	82,412	17,925	1915
Florence (KY) Freedom	87,545	42	2,084	88,438	(893)	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	148,176	48	3,087	163,679	(15,503)	2002
Joliet Slammers	100,160	45	2,226	90,458	9,702	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	94,035	47	2,001	81,835	12,200	2009
Normal (IL) CornBelters	75,804	45	1,685	91,193	(15,389)	2010
River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals	94,958	46	2,064	82,061	12,897	1999
Schaumburg Boomers	160,644	47	3,418	172,996	(12,352)	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	151,521	46	3,294	153,940	(2,419)	2007
Traverse City Beach Bums	119,544	44	2,717	121,500	(1,956)	2006
Washington (PA) Wild Things	77,233	41	1,884	80,503	(3,270)	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	78,585	47	1,672	76,870	1,715	1999
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,288,542	543	2,373	1,285,885	2,657	
EMPIRE PRO LEAGUE						
Puerto Rico Islanders (Road)				N/A	-----	
Old Orchard Beach (ME) Surge	N/A			N/A	-----	1984
Plattsburgh (NY) Redbirds	N/A			N/A	-----	2003
Sullivan (NY) Explorers	N/A			N/A	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	N/A			N/A		

Plattsburgh replaced Watertown, and Puerto Rico replaced New Hampshire in 2017.

2017 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>2017 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>HOME DATES</u>	<u>AVERAGE PER DATE</u>	<u>2016 TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># CHANGE 2017 vs. 2016</u>	<u>BALLPARK OPENED:</u>
<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>						
New Jersey Jackals	91,892	52	1,767	74,335	17,557	1998
Ottawa Champions	92,654	47	1,971	127,618	(34,964)	1993
Quebec (City) Capitales	141,923	50	2,838	146,946	(5,023)	1938
Rockland Boulders	145,005	51	2,843	149,632	(4,627)	2011
Sussex (NJ) Miners	80,442	50	1,609	90,237	(9,795)	1994
Trois Rivieres Aigles	79,228	49	1,617	78,948	280	1938
LEAGUE TOTAL	631,144	299	2,111	667,716	(36,572)	
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	6,912	32	216	7,068	(156)	1947
Bakersfield Train Robbers	10,058	47	214	-----	-----	1941
Garden City Wind	2,400	32	75	11,748	(9,348)	1936
<i>California City Whiptails</i>	<i>3,584</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>112</i>	-----	-----	
Roswell Invaders	7,564	36	210	3,052	4,512	1939
<i>High Desert Yardbirds</i>	<i>8,246</i>	<i>38</i>	<i>217</i>	-----	-----	<i>1991</i>
<i>Monterrey Amerjacks</i>	<i>3,598</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>180</i>	-----	-----	
Santa Fe Fuego	10,842	39	278	7,192	3,650	1947
<i>Hollywood Stars</i>	<i>101</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>101</i>	-----	-----	
Trinidad Triggers	5,518	31	178	3,842	1,676	1960
Tucson Saguaros	15,010	30	500	23,141	(8,131)	1998
White Sands Pupfish	3,780	20	189	6,237	(2,457)	2003
<i>Dropped Teams</i>				<i>4,882</i>		
LEAGUE TOTAL	77,613	358	217	67,162	10,451	
Tucson played 20 dates at Tucson (14,020 total, 701 per date), and 10 dates at Bisbee (990 total, 99 per date).						
Monterrey played 14 dates at Monterey (2,968 total, 212 per date, and 7 dates at Hollister (630 total, 90 per date).						
<i>Bakersfield, High Desert, California City, Hollywood, and Monterrey were added in 2017.</i>						
<i>Salina was an American Assn. road team. Great Bend and Topeka were dropped. These teams drew a combined 4,882 in 2016.</i>						
<u>UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE - League Estimated Attendance</u>						
Birmingham-Bloomfield Beavers						
East Side Diamond Hoppers						
Utica Unicorns						
<i>Westside Woolly Mammoths</i>						
LEAGUE TOTAL	247,900	74	3,350	233,600	14,300	2016
<i>All of this league's games were played in Utica, MI.</i>						
<u>PACIFIC ASSOCIATION</u>						
Pittsburg (CA) Diamonds	2,678	38	70	2,608	70	
San Rafael Pacifics	18,236	38	480	17,025	1,211	1950
Sonoma Stompers	10,031	39	257	13,370	(3,339)	
Vallejo Admirals	5,909	39	152	5,712	197	
LEAGUE TOTAL	36,854	154	239	38,715	(1,861)	
GRAND TOTAL						
8 Independent Leagues in 2017	6,220,288	2,516	2,472	6,226,210	(5,922)	

Independent leagues are not affiliated with Major League Baseball, or with the National Association. Attendance for independent leagues was obtained from league Web sites, or from the league directly (Pecos League). Number of Independent league dates in the 'Grand Total' line above excludes 98 dates from the Empire League.

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE - LEAGUES

The table below lists each 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 are still in operation, are listed. Average per date records cover the period only since 1992. Figures for earlier years were not available. The Pacific Coast League had the same record-high average per date in 2006 and in 2007.

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

LEAGUE RECORD-HIGHS

League	Total Attendance	Year	Average per Team	Year	Average per Date	Year
International	7,097,411	2008	506,958	2008	7,348	2009
Pacific Coast	7,420,095	2007	508,547	1947	6,625	2006-7
<i>All Class AAA</i>	<i>14,316,767</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>477,226</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>6,883</i>	<i>2008</i>
Mexican	4,591,286	1979	269,928	1964	4,850	2008
Eastern	3,966,241	2010	330,520	2010	4,904	1998
Southern	2,589,072	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	1,088,981	2017	136,123	2017	3,594	2017
Appalachian	442,755	1993	44,276	1993	1,404	1994
Pioneer	728,952	2008	91,119	2008	2,463	2008
<i>All Short-A/Rookie</i>	<i>3,780,608</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>96,758</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2,727</i>	<i>2007</i>
Old Amer. Assoc.	4,158,401	1992	519,800	1992	7,588	1992
Southern Assoc.	2,180,344	1947	272,543	1947	N/A	
<i>NAPBL Total</i>	<i>43,263,740</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>245,817</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,174</i>	<i>2008</i>
INDEPENDENTS						
Atlantic	2,367,578	2012	295,947	2012	4,409	2012
Frontier	1,548,970	2012	133,543	2008	2,719	2010
American Assoc.	2,244,238	2012	172,634	2012	3,512	2012
Can-Am	1,040,107	2007	118,715	2005	2,455	2006
United	549,014	2007	91,502	2007	2,049	2007
Northern	2,189,151	2005	214,888	2008	4,621	2008
<i>All Independent</i>	<i>8,485,921</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>3,000</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>All Leagues Total</i>	<i>51,576,409</i>	<i>2008</i>			<i>3,892</i>	<i>2008</i>

SEASON RECORD-HIGH TOTAL ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

94 of the 176 NAPBL teams that played in 2017 set their all-time total attendance records between 2005 and 2017. The longest-standing total attendance records for individual team-high attendance by current teams are: Mexico City – Current team's record-high was set in 1967; Batavia – 1971; Bristol – 1976 as a short-season team. Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing current-team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an NAPBL or independent league in 2017, and reported attendance. Many independent league teams shifted to different leagues in 2011. Pecos League data is estimated by the league office.

The records listed are for each current team in its particular market. If there is information that a former team in that same market had a higher record attendance than the current team's record-high, it is listed in a footnote. This usually occurs when a market that now has either a short-season or independent team, once was home to an NAPBL full-season team, or in the case of the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Major League team. All short-season NAPBL leagues that charge admission once played longer or full-season schedules.

There are a few cases of markets with a current full-season NAPBL team, where a former team holds that market's all-time attendance record. Richmond, Jupiter/Palm Beach, and Hagerstown are examples of that, and here again, the attendance records of both the current and the former teams are listed.

The data used to compile this section goes back to at least 1947 for all U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams, and in some cases, as far back as the first decade of the 20th Century. For the Mexican League, the data begins in 1955, when this league joined the NAPBL, after being independent. It also covers all seasons for all current independent teams. Independent leagues started to return in 1993.

Records set in 2017 are listed in bold. If 2017 was also the team's first season, the figure is in italics.

Since independent league teams often switch leagues, most independent league records listed are for the independent league team in that city, regardless of the league it played in. Check the footnotes below each league's listing to see if a current independent league city once had an NAPBL team with a higher record attendance.

SEASON RECORD-HIGH AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

Starting in 1992, the 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.

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. Data for the Mexican League was not included. This also appears in the tables in this section. An attempt has been made to update these records through 2018, but few of those updates will be available until the 2019 Minor League Baseball Information Guide is published. When the word 'Many' appears in the year column, this is the official 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.

RECORD HIGHS FOR SEASON TOTALS, AVERAGE PER DATE, AND SINGLE GAMES**Sources**

Attendance data for NAPBL 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. NAPBL data for 1992 through 2017 came from the office of Minor League Baseball. Some information about single-game records set in 2018 came from the Website 'Ballparkdigest.com.'

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 2017 came from the Website of each league in most cases, with the office of the Pecos League, and the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, providing the rest.

What's Missing?

The 1981 attendance for the Mexican League was not available. Hopefully, in the future, these figures can be obtained. Also, attendance data from many leagues prior to 1947 is not available. Average per date prior to 1992 for affiliated leagues, and prior to 1997 for independent leagues was generally unavailable.

League Record-High Attendance

The record-high attendance for all NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 149, 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.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE – CLASS AAA**

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	10,752	2016
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009	9,526	2009	20,131	1980
Durham	554,788	2015	7,814	2015	11,897	2017
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009	5,966	2009	10,427	2009
Indianapolis	662,536	2015	9,839	1998	16,168	2000
Lehigh Valley, PA	645,905	2010	9,249	2011	10,100	Many
Louisville	1,052,438	1983	16,191	1983	14,331	2016
Norfolk	560,211	1995	8,162	1994	14,263	1996
Pawtucket	688,421	2005	9,561	2005	11,982	2009
Rochester	515,436	1998	7,766	1997	13,485	1997
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	13,406	2017

Buffalo and Louisville set their 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. Louisville's record for a single game was set at Cardinal Stadium. The Louisville Slugger Field (opened-2000) record is 14,123, set in 2006.

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE – CLASS AAA

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Albuquerque	602,129	2009	8,363	2009	16,975	2018
Colorado Springs	350,374	2014	5,181	2013	9,505	2004
El Paso (d)	578,952	2015	8,154	2015	10,169	2015
Fresno	563,079	2002	8,044	2002	16,916	2015
Iowa	576,310	2007	8,233	2007	15,188	2007
Las Vegas	386,310	1993	5,441	1993	14,855	1998
Memphis	887,976	2001	12,507	2001	18,620	2008
Nashville (a)	593,679	2017	8,861	2017	22,315	1982
New Orleans	519,584	1998	7,530	1998	11,925	2003
Oklahoma City	542,095	2005	7,744	2005	14,066	1998
Omaha (b)	449,753	1997	6,713	1997	24,989	2004
Reno	466,606	2009	6,481	2009	10,520	2016
Round Rock (c)	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
Tacoma	378,518	2011	5,331	2011	12,720	1987

- (a) – 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. (b) – The largest crowd in Omaha's current and much smaller park is 9,023 in 2017. (c) – Round Rock averaged 9,847 per date in 2004 while a member of the Texas League. (d) – A game at the old ballpark in El Paso (Independent American Association) drew 13,406 in 2011.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**EASTERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA**

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	7,412	2008
Bowie	463,976	1995	6,925	1995	14,109	1998
Erie (a)	246,404	2001	3,613	2007	6,952	Many
Harrisburg	301,588	2015	4,371	2015	8,637	2001
Hartford (b)	395,196	2017	5,867	2011	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 (c)	463,842	2010	6,689	2013	9,845	2018
Trenton	457,344	1998	6,628	1998	9,212	2011

(a) – Erie averaged 5,163 per date in 1997, while in the short-season New York-Penn League. (b) – Hartford average per date record was set in the neighboring city of New Britain. Hartford average per date high is 5,812 in 2017, and their single game high is 6,850, set 11 times in 2017. (c) – 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.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA

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 (a)	467,867	1994	6,983	1994	16,247	1994
Chattanooga	292,920	1994	4,372	1994	6,378	2014
Jackson, TN	313,775	1998	4,483	1998	6,814	2015
Jacksonville, FL	420,495	2004	6,276	2004	12,943	2003
Mississippi (Pearl)	246,674	2007	3,848	2005	7,652	2006
Mobile	332,639	1997	4,820	2004	6,677	1997
Montgomery, AL	322,946	2004	4,821	1997	7,591	2010
Pensacola	328,147	2012	4,826	2012	5,038	Many
Tennessee (Kodak)	313,796	2017	4,981	2017	8,164	2017

(a) – Record-high game attendance at the current ballpark in Birmingham is 8,672 in 2017.

TEXAS LEAGUE – CLASS AA

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Arkansas	377,977	2008	5,644	2007	9,608	2017
Corpus Christi	506,398	2006	7,234	2006	9,185	2014
Frisco	666,977	2003	9,264	2003	11,927	2015
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

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**CALIFORNIA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Bakersfield (Indy-2017)	158,714	1992	2,442	1992	8,175	1995
High Desert (Indy-2017)	218,444	1992	3,361	1992	7,351	2014
Inland Empire (S. Bern.)	273,739	1997	3,911	1997	10,033	2006
Lake Elsinore	383,297	1995	5,476	1995	12,876	1998
Lancaster	316,390	1996	4,520	1996	7,122	2000
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	126,419	2017	1,806	2017	N/A	

CAROLINA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Carolina (a)	328,207	1993	4,899	1993	8,329	2014
Fayetteville (Buies Crk.)	121,051	1995	1,862	1995	1,117	2017
Frederick	351,146	1993	5,301	1994	11,006	1997
Kinston (Down East)	151,953	1997	2,374	1997	4,267	2017
Lynchburg	169,367	2011	2,529	2007	6,306	2007
Myrtle Beach	242,397	2008	3,877	2015	6,599	Many
Potomac	243,559	2014	3,866	2014	10,789	2009
Salem	258,469	2007	3,916	2007	8,856	2018
Wilmington, DE	358,766	1995	5,235	1994	7,535	2005
Winston-Salem	312,416	2011	4,663	2011	9,007	2017

(a) – Carolina set its total and average per date records in the Southern League.

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Bradenton	109,845	2013	1,772	2013	6,557	2014
Brevard County	144,688	1994	2,234	1996	7,802	1996
(Port) Charlotte	171,450	2010	2,855	2009	7,515	2017
Clearwater	200,201	2017	2,988	2017	9,966	2015
Daytona	164,007	2008	2,518	2013	5,219	2015
Dunedin	80,126	1994	1,248	1993	5,188	2015
Florida (Kissimmee)	57,324	2017	1,082	2017	5,515	2017
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.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**MIDWEST LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Beloit	101,127	1986	1,487	2004	4,217	2000
Bowling Green, KY	237,070	2011	3,538	2011	6,886	2009
Burlington, IA (a)	83,927	1994	1,384	1993	3,666	2008
Cedar Rapids	196,066	2002	2,883	2002	5,879	2013
Clinton	127,251	1988	1,910	2016	6,200	1963
Dayton	597,433	2010	8,624	2008	9,796	2015
Fort Wayne	413,701	2016	6,084	2016	9,266	2017
Great Lakes	324,564	2007	4,773	2007	6,365	2017
Kane County, IL	523,222	2001	7,941	2003	14,872	2009
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	253,240	2009	3,970	2014	7,722	2003

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

SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Asheville	184,019	2017	2,774	2016	4,904	2006
Augusta, GA	201,760	2010	3,011	2010	5,931	2012
Charleston, SC	305,622	2017	4,494	2017	8,426	2007
Columbia, SC	315,034	2017	4,773	2017	9,229	2017
Delmarva	324,412	1997	4,915	1997	11,486	2006
Greensboro	441,106	2007	6,487	2007	10,312	2015
Greenville, SC	349,116	2008	5,104	2012	7,415	2017
Hagerstown (a)	153,675	2005	2,260	2006	6,758	2011
Hickory	283,727	1993	4,053	1993	5,525	2017
Kannapolis	138,487	2011	2,150	2001	6,153	2003
Lakewood	482,206	2001	6,889	2001	13,003	2002
Lexington, KY	451,076	2001	6,444	2001	9,222	2006
Rome	246,718	2003	3,979	2003	6,314	2014
West Virginia	248,766	2007	3,746	2006	10,103	2005

(a) – Class AA Eastern League team drew 193,753 in 1991, and had a higher average per date than the record of the current team.

RECORD-HIGHS: TOTAL ATTENDANCE, AVERAGE PER DATE, SINGLE GAME – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON CLASS A – (Full-Season Prior to 1967)**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Aberdeen	247,836	2008	6,560	2011	6,904	2012
Auburn	58,233	1991	1,990	2004	3,741	1995
Batavia	52,909	1971	1,230	2007	3,000	1939
Brooklyn (a)	317,124	2002	8,345	2002	10,073	2007
Connecticut (b)	82,488	2016	2,311	2015	6,195	2017
Hudson Valley	164,425	2006	4,609	2009	5,601	2015
Lowell	201,512	2010	5,446	2010	5,778	2013
Mahoning Valley	206,287	2000	5,641	1999	7,726	1999
State College	153,350	2008	4,205	2007	6,111	2016
Staten Island	209,018	2010	5,904	2009	7,583	2015
Tri-City (Troy, NY) (c)	161,171	2014	4,342	2011	7,119	2011
Vermont	124,496	1996	3,557	1996	6,106	1994
West Virginia (Morgt'n)	83,796	2015	2,265	2015	2,989	2015
Williamsport (d)	83,346	2003	2,253	2003	4,363	2001

(a) - Brooklyn Dodgers drew 1,807,526 (25,458 per date) in 1947.

(b) - Class AA Eastern League team drew 281,473 (4,201 per date) in 1995.

(c) - Albany-Colonie (Class AA) drew 324,003 in 1985. (d) - Class AA Eastern Lea. team drew 100,586 in 1988.

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

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

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Boise	165,255	1995	4,590	1995	4,444	2017
Eugene (a)	148,282	1996	4,008	1996	5,172	2015
Everett	119,396	1998	3,187	2001	5,189	2016
Hillsboro (e)	143,412	2015	3,774	2015	5,282	2017
Salem-Keiser	136,836	1997	3,698	1997	5,627	2006
Spokane (b)	196,653	2017	5,315	2017	N/A	
Tri-City, WA (c)	86,886	2016	2,286	2016	3,871	2012
Vancouver (d)	239,527	2017	6,303	2017	6,413	2017

(a) - PCL team drew 168,094 in 1972.

(b) - PCL team drew 287,185 in 1947.

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

(d) - PCL team drew 386,220 in 1988.

(e) – Portland's record-highs are 454,197 (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**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE – (Full-Season 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		3,032	1993
Elizabethton	30,134	2007		972	2007		1,837	2012
Greeneville, TN	54,252	2015		1,644	2015		3,907	2015
Johnson City	65,202	2017		1,976	2017		3,549	2017
Kingsport	55,457	1999		1,789	1999		3,117	2015
Princeton	39,426	1994		1,264	2001		4,050	1994
Pulaski	77,880	2017		2,360	2017		3,572	2017

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.

PIONEER LEAGUE – SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE – (Full Season 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
Grand Junction	101,496	2012		2,671	2012		6,402	2014
Great Falls	114,603	2003		3,183	2003		N/A	
Helena	51,236	1992		1,290	1992		2,296	2016
Idaho Falls	104,960	2007		2,762	2007		4,170	2007
Missoula	89,812	2012		2,363	2012		4,419	2017
Ogden	146,068	2009		3,844	2009		6,218	1997
Orem	109,125	2007		2,927	2008		6,209	2013

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

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

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year		Team	Record-High Total	Year	Rec. Avg.	Year
Aguascalientes	351,326	1978	4,213	2005		Monterrey	989,454	2006	17,990	2006
Campeche	287,749	1983	4,030	2008		Oaxaca	209,984	2008	3,962	2008
Cancun-Quin.	214,556	2007	3,901	2007		Puebla	363,011	2011	7,118	2011
Durango	230,919	1978				Saltillo	613,551	2001	12,688	2004
Laguna	350,717	2008	7,014	2008		Tabasco	441,835	1979	3,894	2004
Leon	195,538	1990				Tijuana	548,863	2004	12,764	2004
Mex. City Reds	536,743	1967	7,271	1997		Veracruz	245,057	2012	4,299	2012
Monclova	425,738	1998	7,142	2017		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**CAN-AM LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Trois Rivieres (d)	96,997	2015	1,865	2015		
Ottawa (a)	127,618	2016	2,454	2016		
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	3,312	1999		
Quebec City (c)	164,009	2009	3,565	2009		
Rockland	161,796	2015	3,293	2012		
Sussex County (b)	101,638	2007	2,183	2006		

(a) – Class AAA International League team drew 663,926 (9,764 per date) in 1993.

(b) – NY-Penn League team drew 176,788 (4,652 per date) in 1995.

(c) – 1949 Canadian-American League team drew 176,779. (d) – Eastern League team drew 119,751 in 1972.

ATLANTIC LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Bridgeport	342,857	1999	4,571	1999		
Lancaster, PA	378,310	2005	5,404	2005		
Long Island	443,142	2001	6,158	2002	7,602	2016
New Britain (a)	214,635	2016	3,302	2016		
Somerset	376,315	2004	5,433	2008		
Southern Maryland	240,777	2010	3,629	2009		
Sugar Land, TX	465,511	2012	6,650	2012	8,606	2016
York	293,967	2008	4,351	2008		

(a) – New Britain replaced Camden in 2016. Record-highs for Camden: 313,792 (4,548 per date) in 2002.

Records for New Britain are for the Atlantic League team. Records for the Eastern League team were 368,523 total in 2010, 5,867 average in 2011, and the largest crowd was 8,672 in 2015.

FRONTIER LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Evansville (a)	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		
Normal	132,309	2010	2,646	2010		
River City, MO	185,333	2004	4,119	2004		
Schaumburg	236,476	1999	5,499	1999		
Southern Illinois	259,392	2007	5,086	2007		
Traverse City	206,102	2007	4,241	2006		
Washington, PA	159,857	2005	3,552	2003		
Windy City, IL	103,129	2009	2,242	2009		

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

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT**

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Amarillo	159,332	2008	3,688	1999		
Cleburne	103,264	2017	1,780	2017		
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002	4,388	1999		
Gary	181,612	2017	3,632	2017		
Grand Prairie (Texas)	143,627	2008	3,056	2008		
Joplin (a)	69,222	2015	1,545	2015		
Kansas City, KS (b)	289,162	2007	6,024	2007	10,403	2008
Laredo	187,845	2012	3,834	2012		
Lincoln	247,471	2002	5,334	2001	7,979	2001
St. Paul (c)	413,482	2016	8,438	2016	10,443	2016
Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995	3,587	1996		
Sioux Falls, SD	161,131	2013	3,620	2000		
Wichita, KS (d)	161,170	2009	3,504	2009		
Winnipeg	323,241	2004	7,161	2003	8,668	2005

(a) - Class C Western Association team drew 90,363 in 1946. (b) - Kansas City, MO drew 425,064 in 1923.

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

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

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Pittsburg	3,938	2015	101	2015		
Sonoma	15,847	2015	417	2015		
San Rafael	31,411	2012	691	2013		
Vallejo	6,776	2015	174	2015		

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High Total	Year	Record-High Average/Date	Year	Record-High/Game	Year
Alpine	22,630	1959	415	2011		
Bakersfield	10,058	2017	214	2017		
High Desert	8,246	2017	217	2017		
Roswell	82,671	1950	230	2011		
Raton	6,572	2013	212	2013		
California City	3,584	2017	112	2017		
Santa Fe	15,552	2012	432	2012		
Garden City	11,748	2016	356	2016		
Taos	2,686	2014	86	2013		
Trinidad	10,624	2012	332	2012		
White Sands	8,800	2011	223	2014		
Monterey, CA	3,598	2017	180	2017		
Tucson	139,149	2009	3,410	2009		
Salina	1,809	2016	201	2016		

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), High Desert (218,444, 3,361 per date) set in the California League in 1992.

DOES WINNING A LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP IMPROVE A TEAM'S NEXT SEASON'S ATTENDANCE?

In the Major Leagues, it usually does. 34 of the 42 teams that won an American or National League championship between 1996 and 2016 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 42 Major League pennant winners averaged an increase of 195,467 in the following season's attendance. This is an average gain of 6.85%. 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 NAPBL 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 2017. For teams that won a league championship from 2011 through 2016, the following season's attendance will be noted as well. This list includes all 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission, and the independent Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, plus the American Association.

From 2012 through 2017, 43 of the 89 (48.3%) NAPBL league champions had an attendance increase a year after they won a championship. Their overall combined attendance fell by 2.1%. This excludes the 2016 California League champions, who were moved to the Carolina League after that season. 420 of the other 948 (44.3%) 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, 8 of 24 (33.3%) champions had a gain the following year. Their combined attendance fell 2.6%. 78 of the other 197 teams (39.6%) in these leagues had a gain in these seasons.

Hurricane Irma caused the cancellation of the final series for the Carolina, Florida State, and Southern Leagues. The semi-finals winners in those leagues were declared co-champions. Attendance for those teams will not be included in the 2017 table.

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	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Pacific Coast	Memphis	350,007	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Mexican	Tijuana	608,819	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Eastern	Altoona	294,486	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Southern	Chattanooga/Pensacola	X	X	X	X
Texas	Midland	282,146	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
California	Modesto	147,562	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Carolina	Down East/Lynchburg	X	X	X	X
Florida State	Dunedin/Palm Beach	X	X	X	X
Midwest	Quad Cities	230,006	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
South Atlantic	Greenville	328,222	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
New York-Penn	Hudson Valley	147,936	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Northwest	Vancouver	239,527	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Appalachian	Elizabethton	18,746	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Pioneer	Ogden	128,348	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Total-12 NAPBL Teams		3,323,646	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
American Association	Winnipeg	219,556	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Atlantic	York	212,624	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Can-Am	Quebec	141,923	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Frontier	Schaumburg	160,644	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.
Total-4 Independent Teams		734,747	T.B.D.	T.B.D.	T.B.D.

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 Rivieres	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 - 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Minor League Baseball attendance has increased very sharply over the past 5 decades. New ballparks, better marketing and promotion programs, and reasonable prices have all been factors in this attendance boom.

Tables at the end of this section compare 2017 Major League and Minor League attendance with attendance for the 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 seasons. Note the sub-total (*in italics*) provided for Class AAA. The old Class AAA American Association teams were moved into either the International or Pacific Coast Leagues after the 1997 season. The sub-total is a more accurate way to compare Class AAA attendance between years.

Both the Major and Minor leagues have more teams today than 29, 39 and 49 years ago. So the tables look at average attendance per team for each league, in addition to the comparisons of total season attendance.

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

ONE MORE LOOK AT THE 2017 NUMBERS

The 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission drew 41,832,364, an average of 237,684 per team. Average per date was 4,095. 57 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 6,220,288, an average of 109,128 per team, and an average per date of 2,472. Most independent teams play shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 48,052,652, averaging 206,235 per team, and 3,774 per date. Major League total attendance was 72,670,423, an average of 2,422,347 per team, and 30,042 per date.

2017 COMPARISON WITH 1999

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was well underway. Comparing 2017 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were some healthy gains.

The NAPBL 2017 total was up 18.9% from 1999. Average attendance per date rose 709 (20.9%) from 3,386. There were 176 NAPBL teams in both 2017 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. The total for independent leagues was up 27.7% vs. 1999, but their average per date fell 87 (3.4%) from 2,559. The decline in the independent average is partly due to current smaller leagues that do not draw large crowds. Combined 2017 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 20.0% from 1999, and average per date was up 516 (15.8%) from 3,258.

2017 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 18.9% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 7 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 52.5%. The Mexican League was up 40.6%, the Florida State League had a 43.7% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 50.0%, the Pioneer League increased 36.0%, the Midwest League was up 28.9%, and the Pacific Coast League had a 27.5% gain. Independent league teams had a combined loss of 1.4%. Combined NAPBL and independent average per team rose 13.3%.

But 2 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2017 than in 1999. The Eastern League was down 3.8%, and the Carolina League, due to Buies Creek, declined 1.8%.

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 460,738 per team in 2017. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,792 in 2017, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,450 per date in 2017, up 509 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,957 per date in 2017, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,438 in 2017, 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 2017 (8,296).

The Major League 2017 total attendance and average per team was up 3.6% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 30,042 in 2017, up 832 (2.8%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2017 COMPARISON WITH 1989

164 NAPBL teams that charged admission, operated in 1989. They drew a total of 23,103,593, an average of 140,876 per team. 2017 NAPBL total attendance was 81.1% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 68.7%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2017 figures, the results are gains of 108.0% in total attendance, and 46.4% in average per team.

The Appalachian League's 2017 average attendance per team was 13.7% higher than their 1989 average. Every other league had a gain of at least 27.9%.

2 leagues more than doubled their 2017 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 148.3% higher in 2017 than in 1989, and the Midwest League gained 108.4%. The Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, Mexican, Northwest, and California Leagues achieved increases of better than 70%. The combined Class AAA average per team was up 35.6%.

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 2017. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2017, 16 Class AA teams topped 300,000. Durham led full-season Class A in 1989, drawing 272,202. That figure was topped by 14 Class A teams in 2017. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 547,841 in 2017. Yucatan drew 310,715 to lead the Mexican League in 1989.

In 1989, just 2 of the 26 teams in either the Midwest or South Atlantic Leagues topped 200,000. But in 2017, 18 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 2017, with Vancouver surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 31.7% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 14.2%. The average per date of 30,042 in 2017 was 3,272 (12.2%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2017 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 2017 total attendance was 174.0% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 121.1%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2017 totals, the result is a 214.8% increase in total attendance, and a 91.8% gain in average per team.

11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues more than doubled their average attendance per team since 1979. There was a better than 4-fold increase in 4 leagues: Eastern – 326.9%; Carolina – 330.9%; Midwest -320.6%; Northwest – 410.9%. The only leagues that did not at least double their average attendance per team were the Southern, Florida State, and Appalachian Leagues, which had increases of less than 65%, and the Mexican League, which was up 10.1%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 156.3% 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 Columbus, Indianapolis, Charlotte, Monterrey, Tijuana, and Round Rock in 2017. 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 210,000 in 2017, and all these teams, except Syracuse, Gwinnett, and Colorado Springs, topped 347,000.

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 2017. 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 2017, 48 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 35 full-season Class A teams, and 3 short-season teams in 2017. 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 2017.

Major League 2017 total attendance was up 66.9% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 44.6%. Average per date was up 8,102 (36.9%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2017 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2017 total NAPBL attendance was 319.0% higher, and average per team showed a 252.3% gain. Add independent teams to the 2017 figures, and the total attendance growth is 381.3%, with average per team up 205.7%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 525.8%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 474.5% gain with 6 current teams each individually drawing better in 2017 than the entire league drew in 1969.

The New York-Penn League had a 321.0% increase, and the Eastern League was up 386.1%. The Carolina League had a gain of 325.3%, the Northwest League was up 435.6%, and the Southern League had a 320.8% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, and California Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Pioneer League, up 199.4%, Florida State League, up 149.7%, the Appalachian League, up 104.1%, and the Mexican League, up 2.4%, were the only leagues whose 2017 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 240.8%.

In 1969, the Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance, drawing 428,548. Among U.S. based teams, Hawaii (Honolulu) was the top draw, with a total of 280,477. In 2017, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 66 NAPBL teams, and by 4 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. 51 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 21 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2017. 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 166.9% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 113.5%. The 2017 MLB average per date was 30,042, up 14,684 (95.6%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2017 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Dayton of the Midwest League drew 554,638 in 2017. 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)

Carolina League - Frederick, Winston-Salem (1979)

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

South Atlantic Lea. - Greensboro (1979 & 1969)
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 - 2017 vs. 1999

League	2017			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2016 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,363,609	15	2,290,907	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	0.8
	<u>38,306,814</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,553,788</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>6.6</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	72,670,423	30	2,422,347	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	3.6
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			
	6,671,670	14	476,548	6,437,251	14	459,804	3.6
	<u>7,150,468</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>446,904</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	<u>27.5</u>
Class AAA Total	13,822,138	30	460,738	12,044,250	30	401,475	14.8
Mexican	4,042,605	16	252,663	2,875,289	16	179,706	40.6
Eastern Southern Texas	3,723,010	12	310,251	3,868,732	12	322,394	(3.8)
	2,339,085	10	233,909	2,332,712	10	233,271	0.3
	2,727,350	8	340,919	1,787,915	8	223,489	52.5
California Carolina Florida State	1,364,374	8	170,547	1,675,245	10	167,525	1.8
	2,027,878	10	202,788	1,652,256	8	206,532	(1.8)
	1,160,428	12	96,702	941,861	14	67,276	43.7
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	4,087,373	16	255,461	2,774,427	14	198,173	28.9
	3,073,435	14	219,531	2,049,461	14	146,390	50.0
	1,403,575	14	100,255	1,371,054	14	97,932	2.4
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,088,981	8	136,123	1,021,390	8	127,674	6.6
	354,090	10	35,409	330,517	10	33,052	7.1
	<u>618,042</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,255</u>	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>56,795</u>	<u>36.0</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,832,364	176	237,684	35,179,471	176	199,883	18.9
Independent Lgs.	6,220,288	57	109,128	4,871,797	44	110,723	(1.4)
GRAND TOTAL	48,052,652	233	206,235	40,051,268	220	182,051	13.3

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2017 vs. 1989

League	2017			1989			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2016 vs. 1989
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,363,609	15	2,290,907	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	7.4
	<u>38,306,814</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,553,788</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>21.0</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	72,670,423	30	2,422,347	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	14.2
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			3,667,142	8	458,393	
	6,671,670	14	476,548	2,613,247	8	326,656	45.9
	<u>7,150,468</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>446,904</u>	<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	75.0
Class AAA Total	13,822,138	30	460,738	8,834,806	26	339,800	35.6
Mexican	4,042,605	16	252,663	1,975,723	14	141,123	79.0
Eastern Southern Texas	3,723,010	12	310,251	1,272,812	8	159,102	95.0
	2,339,085	10	233,909	1,687,844	10	168,784	38.6
	2,727,350	8	340,919	1,511,610	8	188,951	80.4
California Carolina Florida State	1,364,374	8	170,547	933,883	10	93,388	82.6
	2,027,878	10	202,788	1,006,738	8	125,842	61.1
	1,160,428	12	96,702	957,344	14	68,382	41.4
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	4,087,373	16	255,461	1,716,443	14	122,603	108.4
	3,073,435	14	219,531	1,060,964	12	88,414	148.3
	1,403,575	14	100,255	714,561	14	51,040	96.4
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,088,981	8	136,123	636,187	8	79,523	71.2
	354,090	10	35,409	311,510	10	31,151	13.7
	<u>618,042</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,255</u>	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>60,396</u>	27.9
NAPBL TOTAL	41,832,364	176	237,684	23,103,593	164	140,876	68.7
Independent Lgs.	6,220,288	57	109,128	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,052,652	233	206,235	23,103,593	164	140,876	46.4

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2017 vs. 1979

League	2017			1979			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2016 vs. 1979
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,363,609	15	2,290,907	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	43.4
	<u>38,306,814</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,553,788</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>44.7</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	72,670,423	30	2,422,347	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	44.6
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
	6,671,670	14	476,548	1,616,151	8	202,019	135.9
	<u>7,150,468</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>446,904</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	<u>153.7</u>
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>13,822,138</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>460,738</i>	<i>4,674,378</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>179,784</i>	<i>156.3</i>
Mexican	4,042,605	16	252,663	4,591,286	20	229,564	10.1
Eastern Southern Texas	3,723,010	12	310,251	436,040	6	72,673	326.9
	2,339,085	10	233,909	1,482,437	10	148,244	57.8
	2,727,350	8	340,919	826,207	8	103,276	230.1
California Carolina Florida State	1,364,374	8	170,547	504,487	10	50,449	238.1
	2,027,878	10	202,788	282,371	6	47,062	330.9
	1,160,428	12	96,702	722,258	10	72,226	33.9
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	4,087,373	16	255,461	485,915	8	60,739	320.6
	3,073,435	14	219,531	347,237	6	57,873	279.3
	1,403,575	14	100,255	298,538	10	29,854	235.8
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,088,981	8	136,123	213,163	8	26,645	410.9
	354,090	10	35,409	128,735	6	21,456	65.0
	<u>618,042</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,255</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	<u>126.7</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	41,832,364	176	237,684	15,265,633	142	107,504	121.1
Independent Lgs.	6,220,288	57	109,128	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,052,652	233	206,235	15,265,633	142	107,504	91.8

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2017 vs. 1969

League	2017			1969			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2016 vs. 1969
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,363,609	15	2,290,907	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	126.5
	<u>38,306,814</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,553,788</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>103.0</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	72,670,423	30	2,422,347	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	113.5
American Assoc. International Pacific Coast	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
	6,671,670	14	476,548	1,035,457	8	129,432	268.2
	<u>7,150,468</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>446,904</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	<u>238.6</u>
Class AAA Total	13,822,138	30	460,738	2,973,992	22	135,181	240.8
Mexican	4,042,605	16	252,663	1,973,825	8	246,728	2.4
Eastern Southern Texas	3,723,010	12	310,251	382,933	6	63,822	386.1
	2,339,085	10	233,909	333,516	6	55,586	320.8
	2,727,350	8	340,919	828,268	8	103,534	229.3
California Carolina Florida State	1,364,374	8	170,547	369,217	8	46,152	269.5
	2,027,878	10	202,788	476,856	10	47,686	325.3
	1,160,428	12	96,702	464,662	12	38,722	149.7
Midwest South Atlantic * New York-Penn	4,087,373	16	255,461	367,420	9	40,824	525.8
	3,073,435	14	219,531	229,290	6	38,215	474.5
	1,403,575	14	100,255	190,519	8	23,815	321.0
Northwest Appalachian Pioneer	1,088,981	8	136,123	101,658	4	25,415	435.6
	354,090	10	35,409	138,763	8	17,345	104.1
	<u>618,042</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>77,255</u>	<u>180,625</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25,804</u>	<u>199.4</u>
Northern Mexican Center Mexican Northern Mexican So. East	-----	-----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
	-----	-----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
	-----	-----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
	-----	-----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>56,950</u>	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	41,832,364	176	237,684	9,984,263	148	67,461	252.3
Independent Lgs.	6,220,288	57	109,128	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,052,652	233	206,235	9,984,263	148	67,461	205.7

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

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

NAPBL Minor League Baseball attendance has grown at a faster pace than any other United States-based major professional team sport when comparing 2017 with 1989, 1979, and 1969. Minor League Baseball (NAPBL) has also posted a larger increase in attendance than any of these sports since 1999, with the exception of Major League Soccer. This higher attendance growth rate for NAPBL Minor League Baseball is for both total attendance, and for average yearly attendance per team.

The tables in this section compare Minor League Baseball's (NAPBL only – does not include independent leagues) growth in attendance vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969 with attendance growth for Major League Baseball, the National Football League, the National Basketball Association, and the National Hockey League. In addition, the comparison with 1999 includes the Women's National Basketball Association, Minor League Hockey, and Major League Soccer. 1996 was the first season for Major League Soccer, and the WNBA began play in 1997. For the NBA and NHL, the comparisons are with the 1999-2000, 1989-90, 1979-80, and 1969-70 seasons. Minor League hockey data is only for 1999-2000. The most recent official attendance total for the NFL is for the 2016 season.

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

SOURCES: Baseball – Minor League Baseball, Major League Baseball, Total Baseball; National Football League 2017 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

2017 or 2016-17 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2016)

	2017 or 2016-17 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team
NAPBL Minor League Baseball	41,832,364	176	237,684
Major League Baseball	72,670,423	30	2,422,347
National Football League (2016)	17,081,672	32	533,802
National Basketball Association	21,997,412	30	733,247
National Hockey League	21,545,024	30	718,167
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,573,358	12	131,113
Major League Soccer	8,267,534	22	375,797
Minor League Hockey	11,772,460	81	145,339

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2017 attendance with 1999.

2017 (NFL 2016) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1999 (1999-2000 NBA, NHL, MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY)

	1999 or 1999-2000 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	35,179,471	176	199,883	18.9	18.9
MLB	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	3.6	3.6
NFL	16,206,640	31	522,795	5.4	2.1
NBA	20,058,513	29	691,673	9.7	6.0
NHL	18,800,139	28	671,434	14.6	7.0
WNBA	1,956,281	12	163,023	(19.6)	(19.6)
MLS	2,742,102	12	228,509	201.5	64.5
Minors Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(40.4)	(19.7)

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2017 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

Minor League Baseball attendance grew at a rate that was more than 3 times faster than any other sport in terms of average attendance per team when comparing 2017 with 1989. The National Hockey League's total attendance increased at nearly the same pace as Minor League Baseball's due to the addition of 9 teams since the 1989-1990 season. Attendance for hockey minor leagues is not available for 1989-90, 1979-80, or 1969-70.

2017 (NFL 2016) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	23,103,593	164	140,876	81.1	68.7
MLB	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	31.7	14.2
NFL	13,625,662	28	486,631	25.4	9.7
NBA	17,368,659	27	643,284	26.7	14.0
NHL	12,579,651	21	599,031	71.3	19.9

Growth in average attendance per team for Minor League Baseball increased at a pace that was about twice as fast as the other sports leagues when comparing 2017 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 174.0%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2017 (NFL 2016) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	15,265,633	142	107,504	174.0	121.1
MLB	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	66.9	44.6
NFL	13,182,039	28	470,787	29.6	13.4
NBA	9,937,575	22	451,708	121.4	62.3
NHL	10,533,623	21	501,601	104.5	43.2

1969 was the final year that the American Football League and the National Football League played separately. Those leagues fully merged in 1970. The 1969 football attendance figures in the table below are for combined AFL and NFL attendance. The AFL had 10 teams in 1969, and drew 2,843,373, an average of 284,337 per team. The NFL had 16 teams and drew 6,096,127, averaging 381,008 per team. Both the AFL and NFL played 14 game schedules in 1969, compared to a 16 game schedule from 1978 forward.

The basketball line below is for combined NBA and ABA attendance. The American Basketball Association was in its 3rd season in 1969-70, and had 11 teams. Their total attendance was 1,752,987, an average of 159,362 per team. The 14 NBA teams that played in 1969-70 drew 4,341,028, an average of 310,073 per team. If the basketball growth comparison is made for the NBA only, and excludes the ABA, total attendance is up 406.7% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 136.5%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2017 (NFL 2016) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

	1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2017 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	9,984,263	148	67,461	319.0	252.3
MLB	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	166.9	113.5
AFL/NFL	8,939,500	26	343,827	91.1	55.3
NBA/ABA	6,094,015	25	243,761	261.0	200.8
NHL	5,992,065	12	499,339	259.6	43.8

NEW BALLPARKS

New ballparks have been a major factor in the growth of minor league attendance. According to team Websites, the "Baseball America Directory", ballparkdigest.com, and ballparkparks.com, 125 of the 159 U.S./Canadian based NAPBL ballparks in use in 2017, opened from 1988 to 2017. 101 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 66 of them have opened since 2000, with 16 opening since 2010. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League share a ballpark.) 25 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 9 teams were built between 1970 and 1987. Many older parks have been totally refurbished, and bear little resemblance to their original structures.

Information is available about 51 ballparks of independent teams that operated in 2017. All teams in the United Shore League play in the same park. 38 of these parks opened since the start of 1988, (33 since 1995, 22 since 2000, and 6 since 2010), and 12 were built prior to 1970, and one from 1970 to 1987. Overall, 163 minor league ballparks in use in 2017 opened since 1988, with 134 of them opening since 1995, 88 opening since 2000, and 22 since 2010.

Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro opened new parks in 2013. Charlotte, NC and El Paso moved into completely new parks in 2014. Nashville, Biloxi, Morgantown, and St. Paul got new parks in 2015. Columbia opened a new park in 2016. Hartford and Cleburne got new parks in 2017. Augusta and Rosemont, IL open new parks in 2018.

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 17 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 2015-16, and 2016-17 seasons, the number of teams was down to 81. It was 79 teams in 2017-18

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 40.4% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 11,772,460 in 2016-17, with 28 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 546 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,354 in 2016-17, a decline of 11.1%. On the other hand, National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2016-17 was 17,516, up 1,140 (7.0%) from the 1999-2000 average of 16,376. *Total minor league hockey attendance was 12,047,623 in 2017-18. Average per game was 4,581, the best since 2001-02.* (Sources: 2017-18 National Hockey League Record Book, hockey minor league Web sites, nhl.com.)

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

In the 2017-18 season, the 30 team American Hockey League drew a 6,583,341 (5,904 per game) to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. Cleveland had the best total attendance (349,503), averaging 9,197 for its 38 home games. San Diego had the top average (9,305 – 34 home games). Some AHL teams play a shorter schedule. Hershey drew an average of 9,089 per game. (Hershey has never had a Minor League baseball team.) 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 also draw 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 Fort Wayne Komets drew an average of 7,784 per game. This was the 16th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game, and they've reached that figure 21 times in the last 27 seasons. 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, and 409,253 in 2017. Toledo (7,600), and Tulsa (6,031) also averaged above 6,000 per game in the lower hockey minor leagues.

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, and 2016-17. 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 franchise 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	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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minor League total regular season attendance reached 39,640,443 in 1949, according to Minor League Baseball. The 1950 Sporting News Baseball Guide reports a 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 2016, 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 57 of their teams reported 2017 attendance. Among the 1949 leagues still operating is the P.O.N.Y. (Pennsylvania, Ontario, New York) League, now named the New York-Penn League.

The Pacific Coast League, then thought to be almost as good as the Majors, had the highest attendance in the Minors. In 1949, the 8 team league, with a 188 game schedule, drew 3,751,929, an average of 468,991 per team. This average per team compares with the 446,904 per team that the 16 team P.C.L. averaged in 2017, when it played a 142 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 460,738 average in 2017.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In 2017, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 292,982 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 2017, there were 27 NAPBL teams and one independent team that topped 400,000. An additional 33 NAPBL and 3 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in 2017.

Major League Baseball only had 16 teams, located in 10 different markets in 1949. Quite a few cities that had Minor League teams in 1949 later joined the Majors. Listed below is the 1949 attendance for Minor League teams located in, or very close to, cities that later had Major League teams.

<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Seattle	545,434	Oakland	534,711	Hollywood, CA	502,445
San Diego	493,780	Montreal	473,798	Denver	463,039
San Francisco	447,022	Dallas	404,851	Los Angeles	402,089
Atlanta	370,361	Toronto	364,962	St. Paul	352,911
Milwaukee	266,061	Fort Worth	265,982	Houston	263,965
Minneapolis	247,637	Kansas City	216,754	Baltimore	203,823
Miami	170,466	Phoenix	126,347	St. Petersburg	108,397
Tampa	105,949	Miami Beach	90,682	Fort Lauderdale	66,544

In addition to the cities listed above, there were 2 Class AAA teams in the New York City area. Newark drew 88,170, the lowest attendance in Class AAA, and Jersey City's attendance was 174,314.

INTO THE 1950'S

Television cut into Major League attendance starting in 1949. By 1953, MLB attendance had fallen to 14,383,797, before team relocations helped it begin a gradual climb.

But the Minor Leagues were not that fortunate. Televised Major League games, and just television in general, along with easier access to Major League ballparks, home air conditioning, and rundown Minor League ballparks, drastically reduced attendance. In 1954, total Minor League attendance was 18,674,503, which was less than half of the 1949 total. 7 years later, that 1954 total was cut in half. By the early 1960's, more than two thirds of the cities that hosted a Minor League team in 1949 no longer had one.

1949 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	2,004,270	8	250,534	Indianapolis	413,973	Toledo	108,712
International	2,322,801	8	290,350	Montreal	473,798	Newark, NJ	88,170
Pacific Coast	3,751,929	8	468,991	Seattle	545,434	Portland, OR	378,892
Class AAA Total	8,079,000	24	336,625				
Southern Assoc.	1,947,573	8	243,447	Birmingham	421,305	Mobile	152,117
Texas	2,007,927	8	250,991	Dallas	404,851	Beaumont	116,264
Class AA Total	3,955,500	16	247,219				
Central	557,798	6	92,966	Charleston, WV	183,352	Muskegon	46,560
Eastern	1,016,789	8	127,099	Albany, NY	198,256	Utica	72,689
South Atlantic	988,088	8	123,511	Macon	212,416	Charleston, SC	94,816
Western	1,363,854	6	227,309	Denver	463,039	Sioux City, IA	125,356
Class A Total	3,926,529	28	140,233				
Big State	784,082	8	98,010	Austin	188,193	Greenville	58,500
Carolina	789,539	8	98,692	Winston-Salem	153,110	Martinsville	32,489
Colonial	225,097	6	37,516	Bristol, CT	62,485	Poughkeepsie	25,123
Florida Internat'l	899,571	8	112,446	Havana, Cuba	226,293	Lakeland	50,108
Inter-State	585,053	8	73,132	Allentown, PA	100,788	Hagerstown	34,762
New England	362,002	8	45,250	Springfield, MA	102,387	Providence	7,305
Piedmont	804,390	6	134,065	Richmond	177,354	Newport News	101,708
Southeastern	563,586	8	70,448	Jackson, MS	129,140	Anniston	40,640
Three I	782,910	8	97,864	Waterloo	146,421	Springfield, IL	48,952
Tri-State	722,914	8	90,364	Spartanburg	128,490	Sumter	55,309
Western Int'l	793,996	8	99,250	Spokane	186,648	Bremerton	35,440
Class B Total	7,313,140	84	87,061				
Arizona-Texas	494,208	6	82,368	Phoenix	126,347	Tucson	53,771
Border	359,916	6	59,986	Ottawa	78,577	Kingston, ONT	38,671
California	789,940	8	98,743	Fresno	145,946	Ventura	53,071
Canadian-American	696,726	8	87,091	Quebec City	176,779	Rome, NY	40,331
Central Association	265,581	6	44,264	Cedar Rapids	84,185	Rockford	19,304
Cotton States	437,383	8	54,673	Pine Bluff	82,442	Helena, AR	34,468
East Texas	423,790	8	52,974	Paris	66,509	Henderson	34,500
Evangeline	545,121	8	68,140	Alexandria	107,597	Abbeville	48,780
Middle Atlantic	471,811	8	58,976	Johnstown, PA	105,776	New Castle	28,233
Northern	661,111	8	82,639	Duluth	107,548	Grand Forks	49,757
Pioneer	830,395	8	103,799	Billings	174,080	Idaho Falls	41,195
Sunset	367,899	8	45,987	Porterville	66,280	Riverside	32,450
Western Assoc.	606,340	8	75,793	St. Joseph	126,301	Leavenworth	33,132
W.Texas-New Mex	674,465	8	84,308	Amarillo	111,487	Clovis	47,697
Class C Total	7,624,686	106	71,931				

1949 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Alabama State	219,910	8	27,489	Andalusia	39,958	Troy	18,323
Appalachian	390,768	8	48,846	Bluefield	116,572	Kingsport	23,967
Blue Ridge	171,557	6	28,593	Mount Airy	36,230	Wytheville	19,753
Coastal Plain	566,873	8	70,859	Kinston	88,814	Tarboro	41,212
Eastern Shore	195,164	6	32,527	Salisbury	39,063	Rehoboth Bch.	22,358
Far West	222,842	8	27,855	Klamath Falls	58,474	Vallejo	5,999
Florida State	453,707	8	56,713	Gainesville	84,718	Orlando	42,425
Georgia-Alabama	379,263	8	47,408	LaGrange	59,952	Carrollton	36,029
Georgia-Florida	406,875	8	50,859	Albany, GA	93,096	Moultrie	28,911
Georgia State	351,881	8	43,985	Dublin	62,049	Baxley	29,257
K-O-M	359,078	8	44,885	Ponca City	62,082	Miami, OK	32,887
Kitty	293,048	8	36,631	Owensboro	67,700	Mayfield	23,244
Longhorn	426,863	8	53,358	San Angelo	83,245	Sweetwater	33,770
Missouri-Ohio Val.	203,064	6	33,844	Paducah	54,859	Belleville	13,500
Mountain State	229,726	8	28,716	Harlan	49,615	Newport	14,148
North Atlantic	242,021	8	30,253	Stroudsburg	39,890	Nazareth	17,716
North Carolina St.	346,386	8	43,298	Hi Point	95,792	Landis	24,806
Ohio - Indiana	430,790	8	53,849	Springfield	67,568	Lima	31,298
P.O.N.Y.	602,273	8	75,284	Hamilton,ONT	137,340	Oleon	40,264
Rio Grande Valley	271,139	6	45,190	Corpus Christi	97,192	Robstown	19,753
Sooner State	369,439	8	46,180	Pauls Valley	61,085	Seminole	33,258
Tobacco State	353,844	8	44,231	Lumberton	60,038	Red Springs	33,303
Virginia	269,313	6	44,886	Petersburg	76,000	Lawrenceville	29,000
Western Carolina	401,365	8	50,171	Newton	82,481	Hendersonville	21,235
Wisconsin State	628,506	8	78,563	Oshkosh	115,956	Wisconsin Rap	52,828
Class D Total	8,785,695	190	46,241				
GRAND TOTAL	39,684,550	448	88,582				

NOTE: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: 1950 Sporting News Official Baseball Guide

1961 AND 1962 – MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE HITS BOTTOM

By 1961, the number of leagues was down to 22 with just 147 teams. Both the number of teams and leagues continued to fall through the early 1960's. The Southern Association had its last year in 1961, as did the Sophomore League (named the Longhorn League in 1949), and the Three I (Illinois, Iowa, Indiana) League. A new, short-lived Georgia-Florida League began in 1962. All 1961 leagues had 6 or 8 teams, with the exception of the Florida State League, which had 7. Two leagues in Mexico were now part of the NAPBL. By 1962, only 134 teams operated. The Midwest League had 10 teams that year, but the Western Carolina and Georgia-Florida Leagues had just 4 teams. Some of what had been the best-drawing markets in the Minors now had Major League teams.

Total attendance in 1961 was just 9,766,505, an average of 66,439 per team, the lowest average per team since at least the 1930's. Post-season attendance was 208,729. The lowest total was reached in 1962, when attendance fell to 9,732,582, but because there were fewer teams, the average per team rose to 72,631.

In 1961 and 1962, some leagues played shorter schedules than in 1949, but still longer than they play today. The Class AAA leagues played 154 games in 1961, while the Class AA leagues had 136, 140 or 154 game schedules. Class A leagues had 140 game schedules, while the Class B and C leagues played 128-140 games. Most Class D leagues played 120-140 games. The Western Carolinas League had a 104 game schedule, and the Appalachian League was the Minors' first short-season league, playing 68 games.

In 1961, the Pacific Coast League had the highest attendance, just as it did in 1949. The International League had the best total attendance in 1962. In each of those years, the Mexican League was the only league whose average attendance per team surpassed 200,000. The 3 Class AAA leagues were the only others to average at least 100,000 per team in both 1961 and 1962. Texas League teams averaged 100,000+ in 1962. Average attendance per team was under 60,000 in all Class B, C, and D Leagues in both seasons. In 1961, the average Class AAA, AA, and A team drew less than half of what it drew in 1949.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

In 1961, Baltimore, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, San Francisco-Oakland, and Los Angeles, which had been Minor League markets in 1949, had Major League teams. Houston joined the Majors in 1962.

The Mexico City Reds led the Minors in attendance in 1961, drawing 285,301, and in 1962, with a total of 349,753. That team frequently had the best Minor League attendance in the 1960's and 1970's. Buffalo had the highest attendance among U.S. teams in 1961, with a total of 259,724. By 1969, Buffalo's attendance was down to 77,808, and the team moved to Winnipeg in the middle of the 1970 season. But the Bisons were back in Western New York in 1979. They opened a new ballpark in 1988, and became the biggest draw in Minor League history, surpassing one million for 6 years in a row. The Bisons have topped 500,000 for 30 straight years through 2017.

Just 6 other teams, besides the Mexico City Reds, and Buffalo reached 200,000 in 1961. Veracruz, Poza Rica, and the Mexico City Tigers of the Mexican League did it, along with Rochester, Tacoma, and Vancouver.

Class AA Tulsa, Little Rock, Birmingham, Chattanooga, and Class A Greenville were the only U.S. teams below the Class AAA level to reach 100,000 in 1961. None of the 91 Class B, C or D teams drew at least 100,000, and just 18 of these teams topped 50,000.

In 1962, Rochester topped all U.S./Canadian teams with a total attendance of 272,178. Jacksonville, Buffalo, and San Diego, along with the Mexico City Red Devils, Mexico City Tigers, Monterrey, and Poza Rica of the Mexican League, were the other teams to surpass 200,000.

El Paso, Tulsa, Albuquerque, and San Antonio of the Class AA Texas League surpassed 100,000 in 1962. Class A Macon, and Class B Kinston, were the only other teams below the Class AA level to reach 100,000. Just 22 of the 86 Class B, C, and D teams topped 50,000.

In 1963, the Minor Leagues were reorganized into the system still used today. The Eastern and South Atlantic (renamed the Southern League in 1964) Leagues became Class AA leagues. Class B,C, and D leagues, with one exception, became Class A leagues. That exception was the Appalachian League, which was placed in a new classification called 'Rookie' League. A year later, the Pioneer League was given a 'Rookie' classification.

1961 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	788,704	6	131,451	Indianapolis	179,423	Dallas-Ft. Wor.	105,933
International	1,244,631	8	155,579	Buffalo	259,724	Jersey City	61,940
Pacific Coast	1,349,810	8	168,726	Tacoma	243,790	Salt Lake City	106,454
Class AAA Total	3,383,145	22	153,779				
Mexican	1,245,923	6	207,654	Mex City Reds	285,301	Monterrey	152,776
Southern	647,801	8	80,975	Little Rock	136,316	Shreveport	28,349
Texas	468,181	6	78,030	Tulsa	130,443	Rio Grande	43,184
Class AA Total	2,361,905	20	118,095				
Eastern	382,132	6	63,689	Williamsport	79,183	Lancaster, PA	51,311
South Atlantic	492,490	8	61,561	Greenville	100,168	Jacksonville	25,156
Class A Total	874,622	14	62,473				
Carolina	261,266	6	43,544	Winston-Salem	70,236	Raleigh	26,480
Northwest	287,312	6	47,885	Salem	72,703	Wenatchee	31,338
Three I	286,554	6	47,759	Cedar Rapids	69,617	Des Moines	33,337
Class B Total	835,132	18	46,396				
California	171,503	6	28,584	Bakersfield	45,992	Stockton	11,660
Mexican Center	193,040	6	32,173	S. Luis Potosi	61,274	Celaya	15,904
Northern	207,325	6	34,554	Duluth-Superior	47,163	St. Cloud	24,320
Pioneer	260,896	6	43,483	Magic Valley	61,405	Idaho Falls	29,576
Class C Total	832,764	24	34,699				
Alabama - Florida	138,086	6	23,014	Pensacola	46,993	Dothan	7,963
Appalachian	151,261	8	18,908	Salem	34,125	Morristown	11,772
Florida State	190,852	7	27,265	St. Petersburg	53,330	Leesburg	10,605
Midwest	415,961	8	51,995	Davenport	74,617	Keokuk	25,064
New York-Penn	271,098	8	33,887	Jamestown	65,402	Wellsville	17,385
Sophomore	179,447	6	29,908	El Paso	79,115	Alpine	9,392
Western Carolina	132,202	6	22,034	Statesville	34,954	Belmont	10,081
Class D Total	1,478,907	49	30,182				
GRAND TOTAL	9,766,475	147	66,439				

NOTE: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: 1962 Sporting News Official Baseball Guide

1962 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

<u>League</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Highest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Lowest/Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
American Assoc.	765,358	6	127,560	Oklahoma City	184,683	Louisville	70,550
International	1,473,596	8	184,200	Rochester	272,178	Richmond	101,853
Pacific Coast	1,055,745	8	131,968	San Diego	211,514	Spokane	80,519
Class AAA Total	3,294,699	22	149,759				
Mexican	1,423,013	6	237,169	Mex City Reds	349,753	Puebla	127,985
Texas	661,445	6	110,241	Tulsa	182,895	Austin	41,057
Class AA Total	2,084,458	12	173,705				
Eastern	422,222	6	70,370	Elmira	83,328	Charleston,WV	53,935
South Atlantic	520,066	8	65,008	Macon	100,297	Augusta, GA	39,476
Class A Total	942,288	14	67,306				
Carolina	479,522	8	59,940	Kinston	141,227	Raleigh	29,552
Northwest	279,124	6	46,521	Tri-City	68,399	Yakima	35,059
Class B Total	758,646	14	54,189				
California	279,583	8	34,948	San Jose	62,695	Reno	22,819
Mexican Center	283,939	6	47,323	S. Luis Potosi	68,624	Aguascalientes	35,794
Northern	320,051	8	40,006	Winnipeg	83,645	Eau Claire	20,906
Pioneer	196,789	6	32,798	Magic Valley	49,297	Pocatello	16,092
Class C Total	1,080,362	28	38,584				
Alabama - Florida	112,403	6	18,734	Pensacola	25,201	Ozark/Andalus	15,183
Appalachian	136,021	6	22,670	Salem	40,913	Middlesboro	14,523
Florida State	389,937	8	48,742	Miami	90,887	Palatka	28,037
Midwest	533,079	10	53,308	Quad Cities	75,568	Keokuk	28,787
New York-Penn	208,749	6	34,792	Jamestown	68,632	Olean	11,104
Georgia-Florida	92,875	4	23,219	Brunswick	36,123	Moultrie	18,560
Western Carolina	77,379	4	19,345	Statesville	28,723	Newton-Con.	10,452
Class D Total	1,550,443	44	35,237				
GRAND TOTAL	9,710,896	134	72,469				

NOTES: 'Highest/Team' and 'Lowest/Team' indicate teams in that league with the highest and lowest attendance
 NAPBL Minor League Baseball reported a total attendance of 9,732,582 in 1962.

SOURCE FOR THIS TABLE: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball - Third Edition

ATTENDANCE FOR OTHER LEAGUES IN 1962

MLB: 21,375,215 in 1962, averaging 14,958 per date. 2017 total attendance was 72,670,423, average 30,042 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).
 2016 NFL attendance was 17,081,672, an average of 66,725 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2016-17 attendance was 21,997,412, an average of 17,884 per game.

NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2016-17 attendance was 21,545,024, an average of 17,516 per game.

JUST HOW LOW DID IT GO?

This is another version of the table on page 174, 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 the main reason for the attendance decline.

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. Total attendance is more than 5 times what it was in the 1960's, and NAPBL attendance per team is up better than 3-fold. For what was once seen as a dying industry, Minor League Baseball is quite healthy today, with a very bright future.

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 current 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. 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, DECLINE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year	Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year	Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
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	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	593,679	2017
Hartford-New Britain	140,249	1946	36,281	1952	395,196	2017
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	386,310	1993
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

A RESURGENCE IN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

GROWTH, DECLINE, AND RESURGENCE IN ATTENDANCE IN MINOR LEAGUE CITIES

Minor League Market	1946-1950's High Attendance	Year		Post-1947 Low Attendance	Year	Post-1970's Record-High Attendance	Year
Grand Rapids (W. Michigan)	62,982	1949		21,230	1951	547,401	1996
Birmingham	445,926	1948		28,001	1965	467,867	1994
Greensboro	171,801	1946		26,465	1968	441,106	2007
Winston-Salem	233,507	1947		30,235	1973	312,416	2011
Jacksonville, FL	142,721	1953		25,156	1961	420,495	2004
Albuquerque	116,930	1948		44,526	1960	602,129	2009
Louisville	355,241	1946		70,550	1962	1,052,438	1983
New Orleans	400,036	1947		50,369	1958	519,584	1998
Memphis	361,174	1948		48,487	1960	887,976	2001
Pawtucket	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	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-Season now)	287,185	1947		17,940	1954	196,653	2017
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	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 COLLEGE BASEBALL**NCAA DIVISION I COLLEGE BASEBALL**

The 2018 NCAA College Baseball Record Book only listed the top 50 teams in 2017 total attendance, and the top 50 in average per date. 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. LSU has led the NCAA in total baseball attendance for 22 straight years (since 1996), and in average per date each year since 1996, except for 2007, when Arkansas was the leader. LSU has averaged better than 10,000 per date each season from 2010 through 2017.

The usual attendance leaders finished in the Top 10 in 2017 total attendance: LSU, Mississippi State, South Carolina, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas A&M, Texas, Clemson, Florida, Florida State. All these teams except Clemson, Florida, and Florida State also finished in the Top 10 in average per date. Nebraska, TCU, and Louisiana were 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 2017, the SEC topped 2 million in attendance for the 7th straight year. They've led the NCAA in total attendance and average per date for the last 17 seasons, and 22 times in the last 28 years. Attendance by SEC teams has surpassed one million for 14 years in a row. The record-high regular season total attendance for SEC teams is 2,319,937 in 2014.

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.

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.

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.

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. Sources: Ballpark Digest and league Websites

Attendance was reported by 20 leagues and 169 teams in 2016. The total was 4,087,385 in 4,181 dates, an average of 978 per date. The 18 team Northwoods League drew 1,084,297, an average of 1,713 per date. Madison once again had the best attendance of any summer collegiate team, drawing 205,324, an average of 6,039 per date. According to data compiled by Ballpark Digest, Savannah GA, Elmira NY, and Okotoks Alberta also averaged better than 3,000 per date. Teams in Kenosha, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Victoria BC, Worcester, Holyoke, and Newport RI averaged at least 2,000 per date.

21 of these leagues reported attendance in 2015. The highest attendance was by the Northwoods League. That league drew 1,088,747, an average of 1,776 per date in 2015. In 2014, the Northwoods League became the first summer 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 collegiate summer 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, each year starting in 2006. 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 more dates than the college summer 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.

SOME CONCLUDING “JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT” STATS

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

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 2017 roster of NAPBL leagues and teams, here are a couple of totally unscientific estimates of potential attendance:

If each of the 15 NAPBL Minor Leagues drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 46,381,216. The odds of each league drawing its record-high attendance in the same year are quite small. But that total is only 7.2% above the current record-high, and is certainly reachable, even fairly soon.

Taking this a step further, if each of the 176 NAPBL 2017 Minor League teams drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 57,038,158. This figure is very unlikely to be reached any time soon. Of course not every team would have to set a new record for this total to be reached. Now if you really want to tackle an interesting math question, figure out what’s the probability of all 176 teams setting a new record-high attendance in the same season. It might help to know that 16 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2017.