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138-51 78th Drive • Flushing, NY 11367

Phone/Fax: 718-591-2043

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MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

2015 ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

Compiled and Written by David P. Kronheim

d.kronheim@verizon.net

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2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE ANALYSIS

This report is an analysis of Minor League Baseball attendance for the 2015 season. Features include:

- The summary of 2015 Minor League Baseball attendance highlights.
- Attendance notes for each league and for individual teams.
- Listing of 2015 total attendance and per-game average attendance for every league and team.
- Comparing 2015 vs. 2014 total attendance. A table shows attendance increases and decreases for all leagues and teams. It also notes the year current Minor League ballparks opened.
- Listings of teams with the biggest gains and worst declines in total attendance and average attendance per date in 2015.
- The growth of Minor League Baseball in Major League Baseball markets, and in markets that have teams in the NBA, NFL, and NHL
- A section about the tremendous increase in Minor League Baseball attendance over the past 46 years. Tables show how league attendance has grown vs. 1999, 1989, 1979, and 1969. There is also a comparison of Minor League attendance growth with attendance gains for other sports.
- Comparing individual team attendance in 2015 with attendance in 2005, 1995, 1985 and 1975.
- 2015 Playoff and All-Star Game attendance.
- Looking back at 1949, when Minor League attendance was a then-record-high 39,640,443. That record was not broken until 1999 (for the combined total of NAPBL and Independent leagues), and 2004, just for NAPBL teams. There were many more teams and leagues in 1949 than now. This section lists attendance for each 1949 league, and also lists the individual teams with the highest and the lowest attendance in each league. It also notes attendance in cities which had Minor League teams in 1949, but now are in the Major Leagues.
- A look back at 1961, when Minor League average attendance per team reached its lowest post World War II low, and at 1962, when total attendance was at its post-war low.
- A yearly listing of teams leading the NAPBL Minor Leagues in attendance, which includes the full-season and short-season leaders, going back to 1940.
- Yearly total independent leagues attendance since 1993, along with team leaders.
- Each current Minor League market's record-high season attendance.
- Noting record-high Minor League attendance in cities that later joined the Major Leagues.
- A listing of teams that have drawn at least 500,000 in a season.

NOTE TO LEAGUES, TEAMS, AND MEDIA

You can download this report, and the 2015 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

- Baseball's Minor Leagues achieved modest increase in attendance in the 2015 season. This was in part due to more dates played, relocated teams in new parks in West Virginia (Morgantown) and Biloxi, new parks in St. Paul and Nashville, 2 new teams in the Can-Am League, and a new team in the American Association.
- 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 48,878,927 in 2015, up 301,502 (0.6%) from 2014. Combined attendance rose 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.
- 14 NAPBL teams established new team record-highs in total attendance in 2015, along with the Midwest League, and 5 independent league teams.
- 202 post-season NAPBL games, including the Mexican League, drew 846,512, an average of 4,191 per game. Mexican League teams averaged 9,447 per game in the playoffs. Attendance data was available for 51 independent league post-season games in 4 leagues, and they drew 112,747, an average of 2,211 per game. 10 NAPBL All-Star games drew a combined 60,452. These figures are not included in totals listed previously. Grand total combined 2015 Minor League attendance including all-star and playoff games was 49,901,030.
- In 2015, there were 176 NAPBL teams that reported attendance, the same number as in 2014. Attendance was reported by 52 independent league teams, up from 50 in 2014, but down from 53 teams in 2013, and from 55 teams in 2012. The independent United Baseball League ceased operations after 2014, as did the 4 team Independent Baseball League, which played its only season in 2014, but did not report attendance.
- The North Country League, a new independent league with 4 teams, played its first season in 2015. Only one team (Watertown) reported attendance. It was estimated that Old Orchard Beach averaged 200-250 per game. Two teams only played road games. There was a road team in both the Frontier and Pecos Leagues.
- Attendance was listed for 142 more combined NAPBL/independent playing dates in 2015 compared to 2014, mainly due to independent teams that were added. The NAPBL leagues had a combined 24 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. 8 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games had more dates in 2015 than in 2014, and the Florida State and Pioneer Leagues played the same number of dates as in 2014. The Eastern League played 16 more dates than in 2014, the Midwest League had 11 more dates, and the International League had 10 more dates. Top decline was by the Southern League, with 13 fewer dates.
- Among the more established independent leagues, the American Association had one more team (in Joplin) and 58 more dates. The Can-Am League added Sussex County and Ottawa and had 127 more dates. The Frontier League had the same number of teams as in 2014, and played 10 more dates. The Atlantic League had 3 fewer dates in 2015. One more Pacific Association team than in 2014 reported attendance resulting in 38 more dates. The disbanded United League had played 144 dates in 2014.
- Weather can also affect attendance significantly even if games are played. Cold weather early in the season, brutal summer heat, and storm threats, can result in lower attendance, even if it does not postpone games.
- Combined NAPBL/independent average attendance per date was 3,793, down 18 from 2014.
- The 15 NAPBL Leagues that charge admission to their games drew 42,561,445, which is a gain of 150,251 (0.4%) from 2014. These 15 leagues averaged 4,104 per date, up 5 from 2014.
- The 52 teams that reported attendance in the 7 independent leagues drew 6,317,482, up 151,251 (2.5%) from 2014. But their average per date fell by 60 to 2,510.
- Combined NAPBL/independent attendance surpassed 40 million for the 17th straight year. It has been above 48 million in each of the last 11 seasons. The 2015 combined total was the 6th highest ever. The record combined high is 51,576,409 in 2008.
- Among the 219 combined NAPBL/Independent teams that played in the same markets in both 2015 and 2014, 104 teams posted increases in total attendance, while 115 were down. 96 teams had gains in average per date, and 123 had declines.

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

- The total 2015 attendance of 42,561,445 was the 3rd best in NAPBL history. It was the 11th straight year above 40 million. The average per date of 4,104 was also the 3rd best ever. The record high average per date is 4,174 in 2008. Record total attendance is 43,263,740 in 2008.
- The relocation of 2 teams, a new ballpark in Nashville, and a 302,947 gain by Yucatan of the Mexican League, were major factors in the increase. A Southern League team moved to Biloxi from Huntsville, and posted an increase of 69,147. That team didn't get into their new ballpark until June, and had to play 'home' games in other parks until then. The New York-Penn League moved a team from Jamestown, NY to near Morgantown, WV, sharing a new ballpark with West Virginia University. The result was an attendance increase of 59,550.
- Nashville, up 241,587, Biloxi, and the West Virginia Black Bears had a combined total attendance increase of 370,284 (83.6%). The other 173 NAPBL teams, who all played in the same home ballparks in 2015 as they did in 2014, had a combined decline of 220,033 (0.5%).
- There were 24 more dates played by NAPBL teams in 2015 than in 2014. But the 2015 figure of 10,371 dates is still 34 less than in 2012. U.S./Canadian-based teams had 9,523 dates in 2015, up 23 from 2014, and up 86 from 2013. But the U.S./Canadian teams had 9,556 dates in 2012 and 9,591 dates in 2010.
- 8 NAPBL leagues had gains in total attendance in 2015. The Pacific Coast League had the top total increase, up 228,856 (3.3%). The Midwest League rose 91,086, the South Atlantic League had a 69,551 gain, and the Northwest League was up 69,491. Other leagues with gains in total attendance were the New York-Penn, Eastern, Appalachian, and Pioneer Leagues.
- Best percentage increases were by the Appalachian League (8.5%), and the Northwest League (7.1%).
- **The Midwest League set new league and Class A record-highs for total attendance, average per date, and average per team. Total attendance rose 2.2% to 4,233,904, breaking the league record set in 2010. Average per date was up 45 to 3,924, topping a mark set in 2013. Average per team was 264,619. All of the previous Midwest League records were also Class A league records.**
- No other leagues set records for total attendance or average per date. But some of them posted very impressive figures. The International League had its 4th best total and average per date. Pacific Coast League attendance topped 7 million for the 8th time in the last 11 years. That league posted its 4th highest total and average per date ever, and the highest figures in the league since 2007.
- The Southern League had its best average per date since 2008. Both the total and average per date for the Carolina League were the 2nd best in league history. The Northwest League had its highest total and average per date since 1998, and the league's 3rd best ever. Appalachian League total and average per date reached the highest levels since 1997.
- On the down side, The Mexican League had the worst 2015 drop in total attendance, down 126,947 (3.2%). The California League had a 95,212 decline, down 5.8% to its lowest total and average since 2004. That was the largest percentage loss among all leagues. The International, Southern, Texas, Carolina, and Florida State Leagues also were down. The Eastern League posted its lowest average per date since 1996.
- 8 leagues had growth in average per date, led by a gain of 223 by the Pacific Coast League. The Northwest League was up 219, the Appalachian League had an increase of 101, and average per date in the Southern League rose 66. The Midwest, South Atlantic, New York-Penn, and Pioneer Leagues also posted gains.
- The Mexican League had the biggest decrease in average per date, down 155. International League average per date fell by 136. The California League's average declined by 118, and the Carolina League dipped 110.
- 12 of the 14 teams in the South Atlantic League increased total attendance, and 11 were up in average per date. But only 2 of 12 Florida State League teams had total gains, and only 2 were up in average per date.
- **All teams in the Northwest League averaged at least 2,255 per date for the 3rd year in a row. These are the only times that every team in a short-season league has averaged at least 2,000 per date.**

SUMMARY OF 2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- Combined average per date for the 5 full-season Class A leagues was down 20 from the record-high of 3,010 in 2014. The Class AAA leagues had an increase in average per date of 58, and Class AA leagues were down by 1. Short-season Class A leagues were up in average per date by 104, and Rookie leagues had a gain of 75. The 4 short-season leagues had a combined average per date increase of 98, as each of these leagues had increases in total attendance and average per date. The Mexican League was down 155.
- Among teams playing in the same markets in 2015 as in the previous year, 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.
- In average attendance per date for 2015, 81 teams were up, while 93 were down, which was exactly the same as the figures were in 2014. 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 2015 it excludes Biloxi of the Southern League, who moved from Huntsville. It also excludes the West Virginia Black Bears of the New York-Penn League, who played in Jamestown in 2014.
- **The NAPBL teams that achieved their highest total attendance ever in 2015 were Durham, Indianapolis, El Paso, Harrisburg, Visalia, Fort Myers, South Bend, Asheville, Charleston SC, Hillsboro, Greeneville TN of the Appalachian League, and Pulaski. Connecticut (Norwich) and Vancouver set records for short-season teams in those markets. Nashville had its highest Pacific Coast League total, but it was not a record for that city, as the Sounds drew better in 1980, when they were in the Southern League.**
- **Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League led all of Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 2015. They drew 672,354 (9,338 per date).** The River Cats have led the Minors in attendance 10 times in their 16 year history, and have topped 600,000 in all but one of those seasons.
- **Charlotte finished 2nd in total attendance (669,398), but did have the best average per date (9,428 in 2015) for the 2nd straight year.** 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.
- In 2013, the Indianapolis Indians led the Minors in total attendance. In 2014, they set a new attendance high, and had the highest average per date (9,433) of any U.S. team that played in the same ballpark in both 2014 and 2013. They also finished 3rd in total attendance and in average per date. **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.**
- Despite the worst decline (170,407) in the Minors, Monterrey of the Mexican League still had the 2nd best average per date (9,404) of any NAPBL team in 2015, after leading in average per date for the 3 previous seasons. The Sultanes led the Minors in total attendance in 2012 (645,302), drew 590,692 in just 53 dates in 2013, and attracted 687,642 in only 58 dates in 2014. Their total attendance was 517,235 in 2015.
- Columbus, OH came in 4th in total attendance and 5th in average per date in 2015, just as they did in 2014. The Clippers have led Minor League Baseball in total attendance in 1977, 1979, 1987, and 2009.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) finished 5th in total attendance (613,815) and 7th in average per date (8,769). The IronPigs drew above their ballpark's seating capacity for 45 of 70 dates, and sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room for 19 dates. Lehigh Valley is the only team to draw more than 600,000 in each of the last 8 seasons. They've averaged 9,010 per date in an 8,089 seat park in their 8 year history, with an above-seating capacity sellout at 436 of 553 dates, and a total sellout, including all lawn seating and standing room, at 152 dates.
- Besides the 6 teams noted above, Class AAA Buffalo, Louisville, Nashville, Iowa, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Durham, El Paso, Yucatan (Mexican) and Class A Dayton all topped 500,000.

SUMMARY OF 2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – AFFILIATED LEAGUES (NAPBL)

- 58 teams, including 27 of 30 in Class AAA drew more than 300,000 in 2015. Syracuse, Gwinnett, and Memphis were the Class AAA clubs under 300,000. 58 teams reached 300,000 in 2014, 54 teams did it in 2013, and 55 teams achieved that level in 2012.
- In 2015 and 2014, 28 teams, from all levels combined, averaged 6,000+ per date. 25 teams did it in 2013.
- 26 of the 30 Class AA teams drew at least 200,000. Frisco (477,354) led Class AA for the 11th consecutive season. But 2015 was just the 4th time in team history that the RoughRiders failed to reach 500,000.
- 26 of 60 full-season Class A teams drew at least 200,000. The same number reached this level in 2014.
- **Dayton drew 574,830, to lead Class A for the 16th year in a row. The Dragons have sold out all 1,121 games in their 16 year history (includes playoff games and 2 All-Star Games). This is the longest sellout streak in North American sports history. In 2011, the Dragons broke the old consecutive sellouts record of 814 (including playoff games) by the NBA Portland Trail Blazers, set from 1977 to 1995. The Boston Red Sox exceeded Portland's sellout total in 2012.**
- Brooklyn had the highest attendance (230,658) among short-season teams for the 15th straight year. Vancouver, which set a team short-season record high, also surpassed 200,000, drawing 215,535.
- Yucatan, up 302,947, Nashville, in a new park, up 241,587, and South Bend (Class A), up 88,842, posted the largest increases in total attendance in 2015 among teams playing in the same market in both years.
- Harrisburg's attendance rose 27,943, the best increase among same-market Class AA teams. Biloxi, despite playing only 42 home dates in their new park, which opened in June, drew 69,147 more than the team did in 2014 when it played in Huntsville. The 2015 games in Biloxi drew 136,908 (3,260 per date). 21 home dates in other locations drew 27,168 (1,294 per date). Among short-season teams, Vancouver had the highest same-market increase, up 35,348. Pulaski, up 30,863, more than doubled their 2014 figure. The West Virginia Black Bears attracted 59,550 more than they did in Jamestown, NY in 2014.
- Yucatan (up 4,355), Nashville (up 3,056), and South Bend (up 1,288), had the largest increases in average per date. San Antonio (up 336), had the best gain among Class AA teams who played in the same park for both 2015 and 2014. Vancouver's average per date rose 955, best among same-market short-season teams. Pulaski more than doubled its average per date, from 818 to 1,677. Oklahoma City, Campeche, Sacramento, Boise, Tabasco, Cancun (Quintana Roo), Iowa, and Norfolk also saw average per date rise by over 500.
- Average per date for Biloxi was up 1,144 for all dates combined in 2015. The games played in Biloxi drew an average of 3,260, up 1,800 from games in Huntsville in 2014. The West Virginia Black Bears had an increase of 1,507 from what they drew in Jamestown in 2014.
- Monterrey of the Mexican League had the biggest 2015 total attendance decline, down 170,407. Puebla fell 128,158. Memphis lost 3 dates, and their total attendance fell by 102,850, the worst loss in Class AAA. New Britain was had the largest decline in Class AA, down 35,488 with 5 lost dates. That team moves 12 miles to a new park in neighboring Hartford in 2016. High Desert's dip of 53,166 was worst among full-season Class A teams. Lowell, down 24,661, had the largest drop among short-season teams.
- Puebla had the largest average per-date decline – 2,718. Monterrey was down 2,452. Memphis dipped 1,656 for the worst Class AAA average per date loss. Saltillo's average per date fell 1,210, and Mexico City declined by 1,159. Jacksonville, down 496 per date, had the worst decline in Class AA. High Desert had the worst drop in full-season Class A, down 678, and Lowell's loss of 550 per date was the biggest for a short-season team. Average per date for Pawtucket and Oaxaca also fell by more than 500.
- Syracuse's total of 262,408 was again the lowest among Class AAA teams in 2015. Mobile had the lowest Class AA total (96,260). Bakersfield drew just 51,789, the lowest among full-season Class A teams. Bristol had the lowest total (17,849) among short-season teams.

SUMMARY OF 2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- 7 independent leagues operated in 2015, one less than in 2014. There were 57 teams in 2015.
- Changes in the established independent leagues included a new team in Joplin for the American Association, and a return to Ottawa and Sussex County (NJ) in the Can-Am League. There were no changes in the Atlantic and Frontier Leagues.
- Among other leagues, both the United Baseball and the Independent Baseball Leagues disbanded after the 2014 season. None of their teams joined other leagues. A new league, the North Country League, with 4 teams began play in 2015. Only 2 teams in that league played home games.
- The Pecos Baseball League decreased its roster to 8 teams, dropping Bisbee and Taos, turning Las Vegas (NM) into a road team, and adding Garden City and Las Cruces.
- Attendance was compiled by 52 teams in 2015, up from 50 in 2014. 53 independent teams reported attendance in 2013. 55 teams listed attendance in 2012. The figures for the 7 teams that compiled attendance in the Pecos League were estimates provided by the league office. No attendance was reported by Old Orchard Beach of the North Country League. It was estimated that they drew 200-250 per date. One team each in the Pecos, and Frontier Leagues, and 2 in the North Country League, played only road games.
- Total independent leagues reported attendance was 6,317,482 in 2015, up 151,251 (2.5%). Combined average per date fell by 60 to 2,510, which is also the lowest since 2000. There were 118 more dates with recorded or estimated attendance among the independent leagues in 2015 than in 2014. This excludes Old Orchard Beach.
- 4 of the 6 leagues that operated in both 2015 and 2014 had increases in total attendance. The Can-Am League had a total gain of 224,430 (53.9%), as they added 2 more teams, and teams had more playing dates. The 4 returning Can-Am League teams posted a combined 51,562 (12.4%) increase. American Association attendance rose 120,112 (6.4%) with one additional team in 2015. The 12 returning American Association teams had a combined gain of 52,137 (2.8%). Pacific Association attendance was up 7,754 (19.7%) with one more team (Vallejo) reporting their figures. The Pecos Baseball League had a 1,531 (3.7%) total gain.
- 23 of the 45 independent league teams playing in the same market as in 2014 had increases in total attendance in 2015. 15 of those teams posted gains 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. 28 teams posted gains in total attendance in 2010, with 24 up in average per date. In 2009, just 16 of 55 teams had increases in total attendance, and 19 posted gains in average per date.
- The Atlantic League had the largest decline in total attendance among independent leagues, down 56,392 (2.5%) to 2,176,627. The league played 3 fewer dates than in 2014. But the league still had the best total and average per date (4,068) of any independent league. It was their 10th straight year with average per date above 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.
- Frontier League total attendance was down 49,738 (3.4%) with 10 more dates than in 2014.
- In average per date, only the Pecos League, up 12, had a gain. The Can-Am League had the biggest loss, down 233. American Association average per date fell by 117. The Frontier League posted a 118 dip. The Pacific Association was down 34, while the Atlantic League dipped by 83. The reason that the combined average per date decline for all independent teams wasn't greater is that the comparison includes the disbanded United League, which averaged just 734 per date in its final year of 2014. The 6 returning independent leagues averaged 2,545 per date in 2015, down 81 from 2014.

SUMMARY OF 2015 MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE – INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

- The 4 returning teams in the Can-Am League played a combined 27 more dates than in 2014, and had an average per date of 2,273, down 55. This decrease is smaller than the decline for the full 6 teams because the new team in Sussex County drew just 1,187 per date. Ottawa, the league's other new team, averaged 2,228 per date. The 12 returning teams in the American Association played 14 more dates than in 2014, and averaged 3,342 per date, up 10. The new team in Joplin averaged 1,538 per date.
- Figures for the Pecos Baseball League were estimated by the league office. The league's ballparks are quite small, and their attendance figures are for tickets actually used, and do not include 'no-shows.' All other minor leagues, and the Major Leagues as well, do include 'no-shows' in their official attendance.
- **St. Paul of the American Association opened a new ballpark, and 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 is 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.**
- 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 2015. All these teams that topped 300,000, except for St. Paul, play in the Atlantic League which has a much longer schedule than other independent leagues. Southern Maryland, York, Lancaster PA, Camden, Winnipeg, and Kansas City also drew more than 200,000 in 2015.
- After St. Paul, Winnipeg had the next best average per date (5,284). The Goldeyes had the highest indy average per date 12 times in 15 seasons through 2014. Kansas City, Long Island, Lancaster, Sugar Land, and Somerset also averaged over 4,000 per date in 2015.
- Lowest total attendance among American Association, and Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier League teams was 44,674 by Rockford of the Frontier League. This team's average per date of 993 was also the lowest in these 4 leagues. Amarillo, Grand Prairie, Sussex County, and Laredo were the other teams in these leagues to average under 1,500 per date. None of the 3 new teams in these 4 leagues drew particularly well. Joplin drew 67,975 (1,545 per date), Ottawa attracted 115,880 (2,228 per date), and Sussex County drew 56,988 (1,187 per date). Both Ottawa and Sussex previously had teams in the Can-Am League.
- All 12 of the teams that reported attendance among the other independent leagues averaged below 1,000 per date, and for 10 of these teams, average per date was under 400. San Rafael of the Pacific Association averaged 542 per date, and Sonoma, from the same league, averaged 417. Many of these teams play in tiny ballparks, some with only a few hundred seats.
- Sugar Land (near Houston) of the Atlantic League had the worst decrease in total attendance among all independent teams, down 81,605. This team had the best indy total in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 2012, they drew 465,511, the highest total ever by a modern independent league team. The previous record was 443,142 by Long Island in 2001. Laredo had a 70,045 decline, and Amarillo was down 29,362.
- St. Paul, up 156,422, had the best total increase, by far, among independent teams. Bridgeport had a 42,182 gain, Sioux City, IA was up 26,683, and Trois Rivières rose by 24,454.
- St. Paul also had the best increase in average per date, up 2,812. Sioux City had a gain of 590, Bridgeport was up 568, Trois Rivières rose by 253, Joliet gained 213, and Long Island had a 202 increase.
- Laredo had the worst 2015 decline in average per date, down 1,349. Sugar Land's average fell by 1,118, Amarillo was down 832, Rockford dipped 615, and Lake Erie had a loss of 414.
- **In addition to the team record set by St. Paul, Rockland County and Sonoma set record-highs, and both Trois Rivières and Ottawa had their best attendance ever as an independent league teams.**

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 2015. 1997-2015 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 three decades.

There is a section on 2015 post-season and All-Star attendance. All other figures in this report are for regular season games only, and exclude exhibition, All-Star, and post-season games, unless noted otherwise.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES ATTENDANCE FOR SOME YEARS WAS SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN LISTED

The actual 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2010 attendance for independent leagues was slightly higher than what is listed in this report. In 2010, the Continental League was unable to finish its season, and no attendance figures were compiled. It is doubtful that average attendance per date in that league was more than 200. Total attendance for the Continental League in 2010 was probably not above 17,000, and perhaps, considerably less.

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

2015 attendance of Old Orchard Beach of the North Country League was unavailable. 2011-2015 data for the Pecos Baseball League was estimated by the league office each year.

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 11 table, on page 80, and is in the team 2015 vs. 2014 comparison table on page 85. But figures for this league are not part of any other tables.

The Class AAA, AA, and full-season A teams play a 140-144 game season, starting in early April. Short-season teams in the leagues that charge admission, play 68-76 games, beginning around mid-June. All these leagues conclude their seasons with playoffs in early through mid-September. The Mexican League played a 113 game schedule in 2015, starting in early April, and continuing through August 14.

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

INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

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

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

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

In 2015, the 7 independent leagues that operated were the American Association (100 game schedule), Atlantic League (140 games), Can-Am League (97 games), Frontier League (96 games), Pacific Association (78 games), Pecos Baseball League (58-72 games), and the first-year North Country League (40 games). The Independent Baseball and United Baseball Leagues disbanded after the 2014 season.

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 - 2015 vs. 2014

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Revised Nov. 13, 2015

League	TOTAL ATTENDANCE				AVERAGE PER DATE		
	2015	2014	Change-2015 vs. 2014		2015	2014	# Change 2015 vs. 2014
			#	%			
International	6,961,610	7,021,590	(59,980)	(0.9)	7,133	7,269	(136)
Pacific Coast	7,230,514	7,001,658	228,856	3.3	6,508	6,285	223
AAA Total	14,192,124	14,023,248	168,876	1.2	6,800	6,742	58
Mexican	3,870,823	3,997,770	(126,947)	(3.2)	4,565	4,720	(155)
Eastern	3,760,165	3,705,945	54,220	1.5	4,580	4,604	(24)
Southern	2,364,879	2,367,710	(2,831)	(0.1)	3,605	3,539	66
Texas	2,792,526	2,840,914	(48,388)	(1.7)	5,181	5,251	(70)
AA Total	8,917,570	8,914,569	3,001	0.0	4,423	4,424	(1)
California	1,551,040	1,646,252	(95,212)	(5.8)	2,241	2,359	(118)
Carolina	1,946,768	1,981,673	(34,905)	(1.8)	3,701	3,811	(110)
Florida State	1,172,695	1,236,128	(63,433)	(5.1)	1,511	1,593	(82)
Midwest	4,233,904	4,142,818	91,086	2.2	3,924	3,879	45
South Atlantic	3,053,433	2,983,882	69,551	2.3	3,297	3,236	61
Full Season A Total	11,957,840	11,990,753	(32,913)	(0.3)	2,990	3,010	(20)
New York - Penn	1,590,750	1,559,946	30,804	2.0	3,119	3,083	36
Northwest	1,051,265	981,774	69,491	7.1	3,481	3,262	219
Appalachian	347,451	320,103	27,348	8.5	1,089	988	101
Pioneer	633,622	623,031	10,591	1.7	2,185	2,148	37
Short Season Total	3,623,088	3,484,854	138,234	4.0	2,550	2,452	98
NAPBL TOTAL	42,561,445	42,411,194	150,251	0.4	4,104	4,099	5
INDEPENDENT LEAGUES							
American Association	2,006,110	1,885,998	120,112	6.4	3,215	3,332	(117)
Atlantic	2,176,627	2,233,019	(56,392)	(2.5)	4,068	4,151	(83)
Can-Am	641,084	416,654	224,430	53.9	2,095	2,328	(233)
Frontier	1,394,584	1,444,322	(49,738)	(3.4)	2,238	2,356	(118)
United	0	105,696	(105,696)	(100.0)	0	734	(734)
Pecos Baseball	42,656	41,125	1,531	3.7	181	169	12
North Country	9,250	-----	-----	-----	237	-----	-----
Pacific Association	47,171	39,417	7,754	19.7	306	340	(34)
Independent Total	6,317,482	6,166,231	151,251	2.5	2,510	2,570	(60)
GRAND TOTAL	48,878,927	48,577,425	301,502	0.6	3,793	3,811	(18)

Sources: Minor League Baseball (NAPBL), Independent Leagues

2015 MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE TOTAL ATTENDANCE

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	<u>Total Attendance</u>	<u># of Dates</u>	<u>Average per Date</u>	<u>Notes</u>
<u>MAJOR LEAGUES</u>				
Spring Training	4,034,708	481	8,388	Record-high total and average/date
Regular Season	73,760,020	2,417	30,517	
Wild Card Games	91,002	2	45,501	at Pittsburgh, Yankees
Division Series	886,148	19	46,639	at Mets, Cubs, Dodgers, St. Louis, Houston, Texas, Kansas City, Toronto
Championship Ser.	442,428	10	44,243	at Mets, Cubs, Kansas City, Toronto
World Series	215,185	5	43,037	at Mets, Kansas City
Post-Season Total	1,634,763	36	45,410	
Futures Game	43,661	1		at Cincinnati
Home Run Derby	43,587	1		at Cincinnati
All-Star Game	43,656	1		at Cincinnati
Major League Total	79,560,395	2,937	27,089	
<u>MINOR LEAGUES</u>				
NAPBL Regular Sea.	42,561,445	10,371	4,104	
NAPBL Post-Season	846,512	202	4,191	
NAPBL All-Star	60,452	10	6,045	
Indy Regular Season	6,317,482	2,517	2,510	
Indy Post-Season	112,747	51	2,211	
Indy All-Star Games	11,232	2	5,616	
Arizona Fall League	49,552	89	557	Includes 2,503 at Championship Game
Minor League Total	49,959,422	13,242	3,773	
Majors/Minors Total	129,519,817	16,179	8,005	

Post-season independent attendance is for Can-Am, Atlantic, Frontier Leagues, American Association.
Mexican League post-season games (incl. in NAPBL) drew 444,001 for 47 games, an average of 9,447.

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**More Dates and Teams, along with New Parks Lead to an Attendance Increase for the Minor Leagues in 2015**

- In 2015, combined attendance for all of baseball's minor leagues once again rose slightly. Major factors in this increase were the addition of teams to the Can Am League and the American Association, relocation of teams in the Southern and New York-Penn Leagues, and new ballparks in Nashville and St. Paul. Despite the demise of the independent United Baseball League, there were 142 more dates played in 2015 than in 2014, due to fewer rainouts, and a net gain of 2 more independent teams with recorded attendance.
- **Combined total attendance for all minor leagues rose 301,502 (0.6%) in 2015 to 48,878,927. Average per date was down by 18, due to more dates being played.** The total attendance figure is the 6th best of all time. The comparison excludes the 2014 Independent Baseball League, which did not report attendance (It was very low.), but does include the 2014 United League. Combined NAPBL/Independent total attendance rose 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 2015 attendance for the 15 Major League affiliated (NAPBL) leagues was up 150,251 (0.4%) to 42,561,445, the 3rd highest total ever. Average attendance per date rose by 5 to 4,104, also 3rd best of all time.** 176 teams that charged admission operated both in 2015 and in 2014. Total attendance in these leagues was up 2.1% in 2014, 0.7% in 2013, up 0.1% in 2012, down 0.4% in 2011, down 0.5% in 2010, and fell 3.7% in 2009. The last increase for the NAPBL until 2012 was in 2008, when it set its all time record-high.
- **7 independent leagues, with 52 teams that reported attendance (excludes Old Orchard Beach of the North Country League), drew 6,317,482 in 2015, up 151,251 (2.5%).** 50 teams reported attendance in 2014. Their 2015 average attendance per date was down 60. 2014 figures exclude the Independent Baseball League, and a team in the Pacific Association, but do include the United League. The independent leagues had a, 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.
- Note the statistical oddity in the 2 previous paragraphs – NAPBL 2015 attendance was up 150,251, while independent leagues attendance rose by 151,251.
- Major League Baseball total attendance was down 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 2015 vs. 2014, NAPBL leagues had a combined 24 more dates. The 160 U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams played a combined total of 23 more dates. Independent leagues had a combined 118 more dates with recorded attendance than in 2014.
- Leagues and teams continued to set records in 2015. The Midwest League had record-highs for total attendance, average per team, and average per date. The International and Pacific Coast Leagues each posted their 4th best totals ever, and the P.C.L. topped 7 million for the 8th time in the last 11 seasons. The Northwest League had its best total since 1998, and 3rd best ever, and the Appalachian League total and average per date was the highest since 1997. 9 individual full-season and 5 short-season NAPBL teams, plus 5 independent teams had their best total attendance in 2015. 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.

COMBINED NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUE ATTENDANCE SINCE 1993

1993 - 30,756,828	1999 - 40,051,268	2005 - 48,851,400	2011 - 48,082,830
1994 - 35,286,552	2000 - 43,229,652	2006 - 49,268,793	2012 - 48,408,316
1995 - 36,208,800	2001 - 44,805,778	2007 - 51,298,733	2013 - 48,262,074
1996 - 36,747,940	2002 - 45,049,213	2008 - 51,576,409	2014 - 48,577,425
1997 - 38,227,980	2003 - 45,627,856	2009 - 49,609,703	2015 - 48,878,927
1998 - 39,294,427	2004 - 46,445,630	2010 - 49,537,502	

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

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.

TOTAL PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL ATTENDANCE WENT UP SLIGHTLY IN 2015

Major League Baseball regular season attendance was 73,760,020 in 2015, down less than 0.1% from 2014. Combined Major League/Minor League regular season attendance in 2015 was 122,638,947. This is up 0.3% from 122,317,047 in 2014. The all-time record-high combined Major/Minor League regular season total attendance is 130,801,908, set in 2007.

Total 2015 Major League/Minor League attendance, including Spring Training, All-Star, Playoffs, and the Arizona Fall League was 129,519,817.

NAPBL LARGEST GAINS AND DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE BY CLASSIFICATION

By classification, NAPBL teams with the biggest 2015 total attendance gains were: Nashville (among all AAA teams); Harrisburg (AA); South Bend (full-season A); Vancouver (short-season A); Pulaski (Rookie); Yucatan (Mexican League).

By classification, NAPBL teams with the worst total attendance losses in 2015 were: Memphis (AAA) for the 2nd straight year; New Britain (AA); High Desert (full-season A), which had the best Class A gain in 2014; Lowell (short-season A); Bristol (Rookie); Monterrey (Mexican).

The above listings do not include independent league teams.

A listing of the individual teams with the biggest total attendance gains and losses for 2015 in both the NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 20. A listing of teams with the biggest gains and losses in average attendance per date is on page 24.

MINOR LEAGUE TELEVISION MARKETS

New York is the largest United States television market, with 7,368,320 television households, and 10 Minor league teams in 2015. The biggest TV market without a summer Minor League team is Phoenix, which ranks #12, and has 1,848,850 TV households. The biggest market with no Major League team is Orlando-Daytona Beach, which ranks #19. Honolulu, ranked #66, was the biggest market without any pro baseball team in 2015. Tucson, market #70, is the largest mainland U.S. market without any pro baseball team. Helena, Montana, ranked #205, with 27,590 households, is the smallest market that has a team. SOURCE: A.C. Nielsen 2015-16 TV Households Estimates.

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

A NOTE ABOUT HOW WEATHER AFFECTS ATTENDANCE

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

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

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

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

2015 HAD MORE PLAYING DATES FOR NAPBL LEAGUES AND FOR THE INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

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

There were fewer rainouts in 2015 than in 2014, and a net gain of 2 more independent teams that compiled attendance, resulting in a combined 142 more playing dates in 2015 compared to 2014. NAPBL leagues had a total of 24 more dates, while independent leagues had 118 more dates with reported attendance.

There were 465 'lost dates' among NAPBL leagues in 2015. 8 of the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission played more dates in 2015 than in 2014, and the Florida State and Pioneer Leagues had no change. The Eastern League played 16 more dates than in 2014, the Midwest League had 11 more dates, and the International League played 10 more dates. There were only 2 lost dates in the Northwest League. The biggest decline was by the Southern League, which had 13 fewer dates. The California League had 6 fewer dates, and the Appalachian League lost 5 more dates. In 2012, NAPBL leagues had the most playing dates since the late 1950's.

Among the more established independent leagues, the American Association had one more team and 58 more dates. The Can-Am League added 2 teams, and played 127 more dates. Frontier League teams played 10 more dates, and the Atlantic League had 3 fewer dates. The disbanded United League played 144 dates in 2014.

Individual U.S. NAPBL teams who lost many playing dates due to weather in 2015 were Daytona Beach (9 lost dates—they had 12 in 2014), Mobile, Myrtle Beach (8 each), Potomac, Brevard County, Lakeland, Tampa, Puebla, Colorado Springs, Delmarva, Jackson TN, Tennessee (7 each), Bristol, Erie, Clearwater, Campeche, Quad Cities, Augusta, Hagerstown, Savannah, Chattanooga (6 each). The Florida State League had 63 lost dates.

OF HOME DATES FOR LEAGUES THAT RECORDED ATTENDANCE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NAPBL LEAGUES</u>	<u>NAPBL - EXCL. MEXICAN LEA.</u>	<u>INDEPENDENT LEAGUES</u>
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	9,916	8,972	N/A
1993	9,766	8,756	N/A
1992	9,654	8,610	None

NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES PLAYOFF AND ALL-STAR GAME ATTENDANCE

All NAPBL, and most independent leagues, had playoff games in 2015. There were 202 post-season games played by NAPBL teams. These games drew a total of 846,512, an average of 4,191 per date.

Playoffs are a big event for the Mexican League. The 47 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. The 6 playoff games in Tijuana drew 96,770, an average of 16,128 per game. 2015 Mexican League regular season games averaged 4,565 per date.

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

The 155 playoff games for U.S./Canadian teams in 2015 averaged 2,597 per game, with a top league playoff crowd of 11,894 at Columbus. The AAA Championship game in El Paso drew 9,332. There were 22 games that drew at least 5,000 in 2015, but that was up from only 13 playoff games reaching 5,000 in 2014. The first 2 playoff games at Columbus drew 3,131 and 2,468. The Clippers then allowed free admission to their 3 remaining playoff games, and they drew 10,734, 11,408, and 11,894. Attendance was below 1,000 at 22 games.

Among NAPBL leagues, highest average per game playoff attendance was 5,114 in the International League, and lowest average per game was 868 in the Appalachian League.

Independent league teams drew 112,747 for 51 playoff games, an average of 2,211 per game. These figures only include the Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues, and the American Association. The largest crowd was 7,835 at Somerset. The Atlantic League playoff games had an average attendance of 3,538, highest among the independents. Lowest independent playoff attendance was 1,614 per game for the Frontier League. Combined NAPBL and independent leagues post-season attendance was 959,259, an average of 3,792 per game.

Year-to-year comparisons of Minor League post-season attendance serve little purpose since the number of games played, and the cities they're played in, can vary greatly from one year to the next. For example, the very high 2013 playoff attendance in the Mexican League was due in large part to Monterrey, whose ballpark's capacity is around 25,000, going all the way to the finals.

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

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

10 All-Star Games were played by NAPBL leagues in 2015. They drew a combined 60,452. The top All-Star crowd was 9,023 at the AAA game at Omaha, which matched the International League vs. the Pacific Coast League. The Texas League game at Corpus Christi drew 7,370, the Eastern League game played at Portland attracted 7,368, and the Northwest/Pioneer League at Spokane drew 7,083. The independent leagues that recorded 2015 All-Star Game attendance were the Atlantic League (4,660), and the Frontier League (6,572).

MINOR LEAGUE 2015 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	66,487	13	5,114	0	4	11,894	Columbus
Pacific Coast	84,051	12	7,004	0	9	10,014	Fresno
AAA Championship	9,332	1	9,332	0	1	9,332	El Paso
Total – Class AAA	159,870	26	6,149	0	14	11,894	Columbus
Mexican	444,001	47	9,447	0	41	17,242	Tijuana
Eastern	37,196	12	3,100	0	3	6,010	Reading
Southern	26,104	12	2,175	1	0	4,104	Pensacola
Texas	32,109	10	3,211	0	0	4,472	Corpus Christi
Total – Class AA	95,409	34	2,806	1	3	6,010	Reading
California	26,608	19	1,400	0	5	3,084	Rancho Cucamonga
Carolina	20,377	8	2,547	0	0	4,108	Myrtle Beach
Florida State	8,559	8	1,070	4	0	1,998	Port Charlotte
Midwest	32,479	18	1,804	3	0	3,336	West Michigan
South Atlantic	19,600	9	2,178	1	0	4,356	West Virginia
Total – Full Sea. A	107,623	62	1,736	8	5	4,356	West Virginia
New York-Penn	7,786	7	1,112	5	0	1,563	Staten Island
Northwest	12,110	8	1,514	2	0	2,408	Hillsboro
Appalachian	7,815	9	868	6	0	1,972	Pulaski
Pioneer	11,898	9	1,322	0	0	1,622	Orem
Total – Short Season	39,609	33	1,200	13	0	2,408	Hillsboro
Total – Affiliated	846,512	202	4,191	22	63	17,242	Tijuana
INDEPENDENT							
Atlantic	45,998	13	3,538	1	2	7,835	Somerset
Can-Am	27,083	15	1,806	7	0	4,018	Trois Rivières
American Association	23,523	13	1,809	5	1	7,498	St. Paul
Frontier	16,143	10	1,614	2	0	3,036	Southern Illinois
Total – Independent	112,747	51	2,211	15	3	7,835	Somerset
Total – All Leagues	959,259	253	3,792	37	66	17,242	Tijuana

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

COMBINED NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**TEAMS WITH ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 2014**

In 2015, there was a decrease in the number of teams that achieved gains in attendance. 174 NAPBL teams played in the same market in 2015 as they did in 2014. 81 of these teams had growth in total attendance in 2015, while 93 teams had declines. This does not include Biloxi of the Southern League, who played their 2014 home games in Huntsville, and West Virginia of the New York-Penn League, who played in Jamestown in 2014. 2012 figures include Carolina, who moved from the Southern to the Carolina League that year.

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

Year	# of Teams	# With Gain	# With Loss	# No Change
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

In average attendance per home date, fewer NAPBL teams had gains than had declines in 2015. 81 teams were up, while 93 were down, the same numbers as in 2014. Again, these figures exclude Biloxi and West Virginia.

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.

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 the previous page shows, the number of teams achieving increases in attendance from one year to the next tends to vary, often by wide margins. But because this variation is frequently caused by some very small increases or decreases in an individual team's yearly attendance, the year-to-year change in the number of teams posting gains or losses may be less significant than it seems.

In 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 had declines of less than 5,000. 3 full-season teams and one short-season team saw losses of less than 1,000.

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

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

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

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

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

2015 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE

10 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2015 vs. 2014 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Yucatan	Mexican	528,351	302,947
Nashville	Pacific Coast	565,548	241,587
South Bend	Midwest	347,678	88,842
Sacramento	Pacific Coast	672,354	64,515
Tacoma	Pacific Coast	352,521	47,075
Campeche	Mexican	158,004	44,045
Oklahoma City	Pacific Coast	471,996	42,806
Vancouver	Northwest	215,535	35,348
Tabasco	Mexican	168,295	34,977
Pulaski	Appalachian	57,023	30,863

- Recent top gains were by Charlotte (2014), Birmingham (2013), and Monterrey (2012).

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2015 vs. 2014 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Monterrey	Mexican	517,235	(170,407)
Puebla	Mexican	112,251	(128,158)
Memphis	Pacific Coast	278,579	(102,850)
Mexico City	Mexican	144,908	(72,120)
Saltillo	Mexican	305,062	(71,079)
High Desert	California	94,065	(53,166)
Colorado Springs	Pacific Coast	300,209	(50,165)
Pawtucket	International	466,600	(49,065)
Oaxaca	Mexican	138,550	(40,736)
Louisville	International	527,588	(39,668)

- Recent top declines were by Memphis (2014), Saltillo (2013), and Mexico City (2012).

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2015 vs. 2014 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
St. Paul	American Assn.	404,528	156,422
Bridgeport	Atlantic	192,466	42,182
Sioux City, IA	American Assn.	77,429	26,683
Trois Rivières	Can-Am	96,997	24,454
Rockland	Can-Am	161,796	15,413

- Southern Illinois had the top increase in 2014, and Fort Worth had the biggest gain in 2013.

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN TOTAL ATTENDANCE – 2015 vs. 2014 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 ATTENDANCE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Sugar Land	Atlantic	301,860	(81,605)
Laredo	American Assn.	62,517	(70,045)
Amarillo	American Assn.	52,472	(29,362)
Rockford	Frontier	44,674	(27,666)
Lancaster, PA	Atlantic	276,975	(24,960)

- Grand Prairie had the biggest decline in 2014. Sugar Land had the worst drop in 2013.

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER HOME DATE – NAPBL AND INDEPENDENT LEAGUES

In 2015, NAPBL teams posted their 3rd highest average attendance per date ever, and their best since 2008. Independent leagues average per date was the lowest since 2000.

2015 average attendance per date rose by 5 for NAPBL leagues, fell by 60 for the independent leagues, and was down by a combined total of 18 for all Minor Leagues. This excludes one team in the North Country League which did not list its attendance. In 2008, new records were set for NAPBL average per date, and for the combined NAPBL/independent leagues average per date. The all-time high independent leagues average was achieved in 2004.

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 – 1992-2015 (record highs in bold)

Year	NAPBL Leagues	Independent Leagues	All Minor Leagues
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	3,350	N.A.	N.A.
1995	3,326	N.A.	N.A.
1994	3,364	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

- Average attendance per date for NAPBL teams rose by 5 to 4,104 in 2015. The record-high is 4,174, in 2008.
- The Pacific Coast, Southern, Midwest, South Atlantic, New York-Penn, Northwest, Pioneer, and Appalachian Leagues all recorded gains, with the Pacific Coast League having the best increase, up 223 per date. The Northwest League was up 219, and the Appalachian League gained 101.
- The Mexican League had the worst decline, down 155. The International, California, and Carolina Leagues also had declines of at least 100 per date. Also down were the Eastern, Texas, and Florida State Leagues.
- Class AAA leagues were up a combined 58. Class AA average fell by one. Full-Season Class A dipped 20 from a record-high of 3,010 in 2014. Short-Season Class A leagues were up 104, and the Rookie Leagues gained 75.
- The International League averaged 7,133, best of any league. The league's record-high average is 7,348 in 2009.
- **The Midwest League set a new league and Class A record, averaging 3,924 per date.**
- **Charlotte of the International League averaged 9,428 per date, which was the highest of any team in 2015.**
- Despite a significant decline, Monterrey still had the 2nd best average per date – 9,404. The Sultanes led the Minors in 2014, averaging 11,856. That was the 4th time since 2008 that they topped 10,000. They are the only team to do this since Sacramento surpassed 10,000 per date for 8 years in a row from 2000 through 2007.
- Sacramento averaged 9,338, Indianapolis drew an average of 9,331, Columbus averaged 9,016, and Yucatan, with a huge increase, drew an average of 8,955 per date.
- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) averaged 8,769, down from 9,042 in 2014. The IronPigs averaged 9,153 in 2012, 9,249 in 2011, and 9,227 in 2010, best among U.S. teams in the Minors each year. They averaged 9,016 in 2013.
- El Paso, Buffalo, Round Rock, Albuquerque, and Dayton were the rest of the 12 teams that averaged 8,000+ per date in 2015. The number of teams averaging above 8,000 was 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.
- Syracuse had the lowest Class AAA average in 2015 (3,803) and 2014 (3,743). Gwinnett averaged 3,808 in 2015.
- Frisco (6,918), Richmond (6,055), Birmingham (6,352), and Reading (6,044) were the Class AA teams that averaged more than 6,000 per date in 2015. 3 Class AA teams topped 6,000 per date in 2013, 2012 and 2011. The number of Class AA teams reaching an average of 6,000+ was 4 in 2014, 2010, and 2009, 5 in both 2008 and 2007, 6 in 2006, 2005, and 2003, and 7 in 2004.
- Mobile drew 1,553 per date, the lowest Class AA average.
- 12 Class A (including short-season) teams topped 5,000 per date in 2015. 9 teams topped that mark in 2014. 10 teams did it in 2013, 2012, and 2011. This level was surpassed by 11 teams in 2010 and 2009, 12 in 2008 and 2007, 10 in 2006, 11 in 2005, 10 in 2004 and 2003, 9 in 2002, and 10 in 2001.
- **Dayton averaged 8,212 to lead Class A for the 16th straight year.** 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.
- Bakersfield had the lowest average (740) among full-season NAPBL teams. Dunedin, Lakeland, Burlington IA, and Beloit also did not reach the 1,000 per date mark among full-season teams.
- **Brooklyn averaged 6,234 per date, leading short-season teams for the 15th year in a row.** Vancouver (5,825) and Spokane (5,107) also topped 5,000. Hudson Valley, Tri-City (NY-Penn), and Aberdeen were the other short-season teams that averaged more than 4,000 per date in 2015.
- 8 short-season teams (6 of whom play in the Appalachian League, plus Helena and Batavia), averaged fewer than 1,000 fans per date. Bristol (637) had the lowest average in this group.

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

- Yucatan of the Mexican League had the biggest average per date increase of 2015, up 4,355.
- Class AAA Nashville (Pacific Coast) moved into a new park and had a gain of 3,056, best of any U.S. team.
- San Antonio's increase of 336 was the highest of any Class AA team.
- South Bend posted a gain of 1,288, best in full-season Class A.
- Vancouver of the Northwest League achieved an increase of 955, tops in short-season leagues.
- Puebla (Mexican), down 2,718, had the worst average per date loss among NAPBL teams in 2015.
- Class AAA Memphis, down 1,656, had the worst decline of any U.S. team for the 2nd straight year.
- Jacksonville, with a decrease of 496, had the steepest decline in Class AA.
- High Desert's loss of 678 per date was worst among full-season Class A teams. They had the best gain in this group of teams in 2014, but also had the worst loss in 2013.
- Lowell, down 550, had the largest drop among short-season teams.

Independent Leagues

- Combined average attendance per date was down 60 for the independent teams that recorded attendance.
- The Pecos League, up 12, was the only independent league with an increase in average per date in 2015.
- Atlantic League average per date dropped by 83, to an independent leagues best 4,068. In 2012, this league averaged a league record-high of 4,409 per date. The all-time average attendance per date high for an independent league is 4,621 by the now-inactive Northern League in 2008.
- The Can-Am League dipped 233. The Frontier League was down 118. American Association average per date declined by 117, and the Pacific Association was down 34.
- **St. Paul moved into a new park, and averaged 8,091 per date, best ever for an independent league team!** Winnipeg, which averaged 5,284 in 2015, had the top independent average 12 times from 2000 through 2014.
- Long Island and Somerset also exceeded 5,000 per date in 2015. 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 2003 and 2002.
- All 7 Pecos League and all 4 Pacific Association teams averaged under 1,000 per date in 2015. But these teams play in very small facilities, and Pecos League figures exclude 'no-shows.' Watertown and Old Orchard Beach of the North Country League averaged below 1,000, as did the now-disbanded Rockford of the Frontier League.
- 12 teams averaged less than 1,000 per date 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.
- St. Paul, up 2,812 per date, had the best 2015 increase among independent teams. Sioux City had a gain of 590, Bridgeport posted a 568 per date increase, Trois Rivières was up 253, Joliet gained 213, and Long Island rose 202.
- Laredo had the largest decline, down 1,349. Sugar Land had a dip of 1,118, and Amarillo declined by 832.

2015 BIGGEST GAINS AND WORST DECLINES IN AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER DATE**10 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2015 vs. 2014 – NAPBL TEAMS**

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Yucatan	Mexican	8,955	4,355
Nashville	Pacific Coast	7,965	3,056
South Bend	Midwest	5,039	1,288
Vancouver	Northwest	5,825	955
Oklahoma City	Pacific Coast	6,941	896
Pulaski	Appalachian	1,677	859
Campeche	Mexican	3,225	800
Sacramento	Pacific Coast	9,338	777
Boise	Northwest	2,893	590
Tabasco	Mexican	3,005	536

- Charlotte in 2014 and Birmingham in 2013, each in a brand new park, had the largest increase in average per date.

10 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2015 vs. 2014 – NAPBL TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Puebla	Mexican	2,291	(2,718)
Monterrey	Mexican	9,404	(2,452)
Memphis	Pacific Coast	4,037	(1,656)
Saltillo	Mexican	5,756	(1,210)
Mexico City	Mexican	2,787	(1,159)
Pawtucket	International	6,572	(795)
High Desert	California	1,425	(678)
Oaxaca	Mexican	2,717	(666)
Lowell	New York-Penn	3,796	(550)
Jacksonville	Southern	4,128	(496)

- Worst average per date declines were by Memphis in 2014 and Saltillo in 2013.

5 BIGGEST GAINS IN AVERAGE PER DATE – 2015 vs. 2014 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
St. Paul	American Assn.	8,091	2,812
Sioux City, IA	American Assn.	1,647	590
Bridgeport	Atlantic	2,916	568
Trois Rivières	Can-Am	1,865	253
Joliet	Frontier	2,036	213

- St. Paul also had the best gain in 2014. In 2013, Fort Worth had the biggest increase.

5 BIGGEST DECLINES IN AVERAGE PER DATE– 2015 vs. 2014 – INDEPENDENT TEAMS

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LEAGUE</u>	<u>2015 AVERAGE/DATE</u>	<u>CHANGE vs. 2014</u>
Laredo	American Assn.	1,302	(1,349)
Sugar Land	Atlantic	4,439	(1,118)
Amarillo	American Assn.	1,071	(832)
Rockford	Frontier	993	(615)
Lake Erie (Avon, OH)	Frontier	1,795	(414)

- 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 for example, a report for the full year 2015 compared to the full year 2014 will list sales from all stores, including any that either opened or closed in 2015 or 2014.

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 2015 and 2014. 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 2015 vs. 2014 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 2015 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 2015, 71 NAPBL teams and 20 independent league teams played in ballparks that opened between 1995 and 2005. Only 28 NAPBL and 12 independent teams played in a park that has opened after 2005. This list does not include rebuilt and updated parks, which also help attendance growth. South Bend updated their ballpark for 2012, and their attendance rose from 112,795 in 2011, to 347,678 in 2015.

In 2015, the Southern League team in Huntsville, AL relocated to Biloxi. West Virginia (Morgantown) got a New York-Penn League team from Jamestown, NY. Nashville of the International League moved into a new ballpark in that city. Independent league teams in St. Paul and Joplin (for a new team) opened new parks in 2015. St. Paul's total attendance rose 156,422 (63.0%), and their average per date was up 2,812 from 2014.

Biloxi, West Virginia, and Nashville had a combined 2015 total attendance increase of 83.6%, and an average per date gain of 2,038 vs. what they drew in their former locations in 2014. Combined total attendance fell 0.6%, and average per date declined by 28 for the 173 NAPBL teams that played in the same ballpark in both 2015 and 2014.

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

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

League	2015 City	2015 Attendance	2014 City	2014 Attendance	Chg. vs. 2014
Southern	Biloxi	164,076	Huntsville, AL	94,929	69,147
New York-Penn	West VA (Mor.)	83,796	Jamestown, NY	24,246	59,550
Pacific Coast	Nashville	565,548	Nashville	323,961	241,587
Total - Above 3 Teams		813,420		443,136	370,284
173 'Same-Ballpark' as in 2014 NAPBL Teams		41,748,025		41,968,058	(220,033)

The new ballpark in Biloxi was not ready at the start of the 2015 season. So the team played its first 21 'home dates' in Huntsville, Jacksonville, and Mississippi. Those games drew a total of 27,168 (1,294 per date). The 42 dates played in Biloxi drew 136,908 (3,260 per date).

ATTENDANCE GROWTH FOR TEAMS MOVING TO NEW MARKETS OR NEW BALLPARKS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Year	League	New Market or New Ballpark	First Year New Market Attend.	Former Market	Final Year Old Market Attend.	Attendance Increase
2001	South Atlantic	Lakewood, NJ	482,206	Cape Fear, NC	32,641	449,565
2001	South Atlantic	Lexington, KY	451,076	Kissimmee	29,650	421,426
2001	N.Y.-Penn	Brooklyn	289,381	Queens, NY	38,662	250,719
2002	N.Y.-Penn	Aberdeen	231,935	Utica, NY	47,135	184,800
2002	International	Toledo	547,204	New Ballpark	300,079	247,125
2002	Pacific Coast	Fresno	563,079	New Ballpark	292,886	270,193
2002	Texas	Midland	276,380	New Ballpark	148,292	128,088
2003	Pacific Coast	Albuquerque	576,867	Calgary	182,931	393,936
2003	Texas	Frisco	666,977	Shreveport	24,569	642,408
2003	South Atlantic	Lake County, OH	437,515	Columbus, GA	52,103	385,412
2003	South Atlantic	Rome, GA	246,718	Macon	84,001	162,717
2003	Southern	Jacksonville, FL	359,979	New Ballpark	230,156	129,823
2004	Southern	Montgomery	322,946	Orlando	150,051	172,895
2004	Florida State	Clearwater	135,082	New Ballpark	63,655	71,427
2004	Mexican	Tijuana	548,863	Dos Laredos	74,290	474,573
2005	Texas	Springfield, MO	526,630	El Paso	229,315	297,315
2005	South Atlantic	Greensboro	406,996	New Ballpark	200,477	206,519
2005	South Atlantic	Charleston, WV	234,160	New Ballpark	125,979	108,181
2005	California	Stockton	205,819	New Ballpark	98,035	107,784
2006	South Atlantic	Greenville, SC	330,078	New Ballpark	115,161	214,917
2007	Midwest	Great Lakes, MI	324,564	Battle Creek	84,969	239,595
2007	Texas	Arkansas	372,475	New Ballpark	207,507	164,968
2008	International	Lehigh Valley, PA	602,033	Ottawa, Ontario	126,894	475,139
2008	Texas	NW Arkansas	358,792	Wichita, KS	113,368	245,424
2009	Pacific Coast	Reno	466,606	Tucson	245,121	221,485
2009	Florida State	Port Charlotte	171,314	Vero Beach	47,944	123,370
2009	South Atlantic	Bowling Green	232,987	Columbus, GA	61,290	171,697
2010	Eastern	Richmond	463,842	Norwich, CT	203,005	260,837
2010	Carolina	Winston-Salem	312,313	New Ballpark	57,665	254,648
2012	Southern	Pensacola	328,147	Kinston	112,181	215,996
2012	Pioneer	Grand Junction	101,496	Casper	47,982	53,514
2013	Southern	Birmingham	396,820	New Ballpark	204,269	192,551
2013	Northwest	Hillsboro, OR	135,167	Yakima	61,895	73,272
2014	Mexican	Tijuana	419,169	Minatitlan	120,511	298,658
2014	Pacific Coast	El Paso	560,997	Tucson	200,077	360,920
2014	International	Charlotte, NC	687,715	New Ballpark	254,834	432,881
2015	Pacific Coast	Nashville	565,548	New Ballpark	323,961	241,587

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 2005, 1995, 1984, and 1975

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 2015 with 2005, 1995, 1985, and 1975. It includes 2015 teams that were playing in different leagues, or in different NAPBL classifications in 2005, 1995, 1985 or 1975. Some cities went from being NAPBL markets in 2005, 1995, 1985, and/or 1975, to hosting independent league teams in 2015. Other markets went from having a short-season team to having a full-season team, and vice-versa.

2015 vs. 2005

In 2015, there were 189 Minor League teams (162 NAPBL and 27 independent) that played in the same general geographic area as they, or some other Minor League team played in, for the 2005 season. It includes teams that stayed in the same market, but moved to a new ballpark since 2005.

77 of those 162 NAPBL teams had higher attendance in 2015 than in 2005, while 85 teams had a decline. Norwich, CT and the Portland, OR area (Hillsboro in 2015) had full-season teams in 2005, and short-season teams in 2015. Pensacola and El Paso went from short-season independent leagues in 2005, to full-season NAPBL leagues in 2015, and both had big 2015 vs. 2005 increases. El Paso was up 388,523, and Pensacola had a 236,921 gain.

Only 5 of the 27 independent league markets with a team in both years drew better in 2015 than in 2005. Wichita had a full-season NAPBL team in 2005, but their 2015 attendance was down only 23,240 vs. 2005. The independent team in Sussex, NJ drew 47,574 less in 2015, than a short season NAPBL team there drew in 2005.

The 162 NAPBL teams that played in the same market in 2015 as any Minor League team did in 2005 drew 39,599,120 in 2015, down 285,176 (0.7%) from 2005. The 27 independent teams that played in the same market as any 2005 Minor League team drew 4,467,764 in 2015, down 759,039 (14.5%) from 2005.

19 of the NAPBL teams moved to a new park in the same market after 2005. Only short-season Eugene and Hillsboro (which was full-season Portland in 2005) from this group drew less in 2015 than in 2005. St. Paul was the only 2015 independent team who moved to a new park after 2005, and they drew 120,642 more in 2015 than in 2005.

Class AAA Charlotte, up 379,989, had the biggest gain when comparing 2015 attendance with 2005 for teams that played roughly the same length schedule in both years. El Paso had a 388,523 gain, but that was compared to an independent Central League team in 2005. Nashville was up 146,136. Birmingham showed the best growth among teams who were in Class AA for both seasons, up 174,208. Arkansas was up 141,200. Pensacola had a bigger gain vs. 2005 than Arkansas or Birmingham did, but they played in shorter season independent league in 2005.

Greenville, SC, up 231,667, had the best gain among full-season Class A teams. Winston-Salem (142,443), South Bend (138,123), and Fort Wayne (121,395) also had very good growth.

Vancouver, up 91,027, had the best growth among short-season teams. Yucatan's gain of 286,839 was the best in the Mexican League. Overall, 11 markets which had NAPBL teams in both 2015 and 2005, and 13 markets overall, saw attendance rise by at least 100,000 in this 10 year period. 10 of these 13 teams play in a park that opened after 2005. Among independent markets, St. Paul, up 120,642 in a park that opened in 2015, had the best increase.

Class AAA Memphis' attendance fell 417,504 since 2005, the biggest decline of any team. The 2001 move of the NBA's Grizzlies to this market may be a factor. Springfield, MO, down 189,111, had the worst loss among Class AA teams. Full-season Class A Lake County, OH had a 172,556 loss, the worst on that level. Saltillo of the Mexican League was down 286,429, the largest dip in that league. Aberdeen's decline of 87,990 was the biggest for a team in a short-season NAPBL league in both years. Hillsboro drew 217,360 less than the full-season team in nearby Portland drew in 2005, and Connecticut (Norwich) drew 92,098 less than their full-season 2005 team. 15 NAPBL markets with full-season teams in both years saw attendance decline at least 100,000 since 2005.

Joliet, down 105,476, and Lancaster, PA, down 101,335, had the largest declines among teams that played in independent leagues in both 2015 and in 2005.

There were 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission to their games in 2005, and the total attendance for those teams was a then-record-high 41,333,279. It was the first time that NAPBL attendance had topped 40 million. But the NAPBL total attendance has surpassed the 2005 total in all but 2 seasons since then.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 2005 - continued

In 2015, there were also 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission, and they drew a combined 42,561,445. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 234,848 in 2005, and 241,826 in 2015. NAPBL average per date was 3,986 in 2005, and 4,104 in 2015.

Independent league attendance was 7,518,121 in 2005, with 54 teams playing home games. In 2015, the 52 independent teams that played a regular schedule of home games and also provided attendance figures, drew 6,317,482. Average per date was 2,785 in 2005. It was 2,510 in 2015.

In 2005, there were 6 independent leagues in operation, 5 of them (Frontier, Northern, Atlantic, Northeast, and Central) well established. The Golden Baseball League played its first season in 2005. Each of the 5 established leagues averaged at least 2,000 per date. These leagues are basically still in operation. The Northern and Central Leagues merged to form the American Association, the Northeast League is today's Can-Am League, and the Frontier and Atlantic Leagues each still operate under the same name. In 2015, there were some fairly new leagues that drew much smaller crowds, thus reducing the combined independent leagues average per date. The 2015 combined average per date from just the American Association, Atlantic, Can-Am, and Frontier Leagues was 2,978 per date.

The following 7 teams set record-high attendance figures in 2005 that have not been broken through 2015: Pawtucket; Oklahoma City; Round Rock; Springfield, MO; Hagerstown; Lancaster, PA; Washington, PA.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 1995

All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1995. 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.

11 independent leagues, with 66 teams, were in operation in 1995. Only the Frontier League is still operates under the same name, but Evansville is their only 1995 team still active. Other 1995 independent league cities still active in 2015 were Tri-Cities, NY playing in Colonie in 1995 and Troy (NY-Penn League) in 2015. St. Paul, Sioux City, Sioux Falls, and Winnipeg, then in the Northern League, and Amarillo and Laredo of the Texas-Louisiana League are now in the American Association. Also from that league, Corpus Christi, and Mobile are now in Class AA. Sonoma of the Western League is now in the Pacific Association. Disbanded independent leagues from 1995 include the Atlantic Coast, Golden State, Mid-America, North Atlantic, North Central, Prairie, and Western Leagues. The Northeast League is now the Can-Am, 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 2015 attendance with 1995 attendance, than when comparing 2015 attendance with 2005. 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 1995.

130 NAPBL teams played in the same geographic market in 2015, as any Minor League team played in during the 1995 season. 81 of those teams had higher attendance in 2015, than a team in the same market in 1995. Attendance fell for 49 teams comparing 2015 with 1995. Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included as one unit in the 2015 totals. These teams share a ballpark. Their combined 2015 attendance was higher than the figure for the 1995 team in West Palm Beach. But individually, Jupiter and Palm Beach each drew slightly less in 2015 than the 1995 West Palm Beach team. 4 of the 12 independent markets with a team in both 2015 and 1995 had a gain.

These 130 NAPBL teams drew 31,269,628 in 2015, up 3,811,455 (13.9%) from 27,458,173 in 1995. Excluded is the 1995 attendance for St. Petersburg (2015 vs. 1995 comparison was made for Tampa only).

Tri-Cities NY, Mobile, Tri-Cities WA, and Corpus Christi had independent league teams in 1995 and NAPBL teams in 2015. Laredo, Rockford, Ottawa, Sussex NJ, and Wichita had NAPBL teams in 1995 and independent league teams in 2015.

Connecticut (Norwich) and Vancouver now play a short-season schedule, as opposed to a full-season in 1995. Connecticut drew 78,588 in 34 home dates in 2015, and 281,473 in 67 dates in 1995. In 2015, Vancouver attracted 215,535 in 37 dates, compared to 305,739 in 61 dates in 1995. Each team set their short-season record high in 2015.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 1995 - continued

52 of the 130 NAPBL U.S./Canadian teams in operation in both 2015 and 1995, play in a ballpark that opened after 1995. 42 of them, including the Palm Beach/Jupiter combo, had better attendance in 2015 than in 1995. Syracuse, Scranton, Chattanooga, Omaha, Quad Cities, and Louisville are the only full-season NAPBL markets with a ballpark that opened after 1995, whose 2015 attendance was less than it was 20 seasons earlier. 2 of the 3 independent teams in a post-1995 ballpark had a decrease. St. Paul was up.

Attendance was at least 100,000 higher in 2015 than in 1995 for 26 NAPBL teams, and one independent, with 9 of those teams posting increases of more than 200,000. 20 of the 27 teams posting 100,000+ gains vs. 1995 play in ballparks opened since then. Only Colorado Springs, Durham, South Bend, and 4 Mexican League teams (Monterrey, Monclova, Saltillo, Yucatan) had 100,000+ gains and play in a park that's at least 20 years old.

Monterrey of the Mexican League, up 361,090 since 1995, had the best increase of any team. Class AAA Charlotte posted the top gain among U.S. teams, up 338,902. Indianapolis had a gain of 296,282, and Toledo was up 233,577. El Paso, now in Class AAA, drew 249,179 more fans in 2015 than they did as an independent team in 1995.

Tennessee, up 154,178, had the best increase among teams who played in Class AA in both 2015 and 1995. Corpus Christi was up 301,175 compared to a 1995 independent team. The gain of 191,381 by Charleston, SC was the largest for full-season Class A, followed by Greensboro (190,844), Fort Wayne (146,468), and Winston-Salem (130,795). Ogden's 2015 total was 68,768 higher than in 1995, the best short-season gain. Tri-Cities, NY drew 93,608 more than their 1995 independent team. St. Paul had the top gain among independent teams, up 146,231.

12 NAPBL and 3 independent teams drew at least 100,000 less in 2015 than in 1995. This includes Hillsboro and Connecticut, who had a full-season team 20 years ago, but are in short-season leagues now. Buffalo, which drew 900,782 in 1995, had the largest NAPBL dip since then, down 349,479. Bowie, down 207,111, had the steepest decline among Class AA teams. Rancho Cucamonga's loss of 278,828 was the worst in full-season Class A. Boise, down 55,310, had the biggest decline among teams in short-season leagues in both 2015 and 1995. The Mexico City Diablos Rojos, with a 78,479 decrease had the worst loss in the Mexican League. In 2015, they drew 148,908, compared to 223,387 in 1995. Also in 1995, the now-defunct Mexico City Tigres drew 229,732.

Amarillo, down 104,454, had the worst decline among teams who were independents in both 2015 and 1995. Ottawa drew 366,264 less as an independent in 2015 than they did in Class AAA in 1995. Sussex, NJ fell 119,800 vs. 1995. They had 48 dates in the Can-Am League in 2015, but only 38 dates as a short-season NAPBL team in 1995.

These current teams set season attendance records in 1995 that have not been broken since then: Norfolk; Bowie; Lake Elsinore; Rancho Cucamonga; Wilmington, DE; Boise; Sioux City, IA.

In 1995 there were 172 NAPBL teams in operation in leagues that charged admission. Total attendance that year was 33,126,934. The total attendance figure is from data published by the office of Minor League Baseball.

NAPBL average attendance per team was 192,598 in 1995. Average per NAPBL team was 241,826 in 2015. NAPBL average attendance per date was 3,326 in 1995 and 4,104 in 2015. Independent average per date for 1995 is not available, but was probably low due to so many teams that drew poorly.

The 1995 NAPBL figures for total attendance, average per team, and average per date have been topped in every season since then.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 1985

There were no independent leagues in 1985. All current NAPBL leagues that charge admission also operated in 1985. 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 131.6% since 1985. Total attendance rose from 18,380,000 in 1985 to 42,561,445 in 2015. Average attendance per NAPBL team was 119,351 in 1985, and 241,826 in 2015. There were 154 teams that charged admission in 1985, compared to 176 NAPBL teams, and 52 independent league teams that recorded attendance in 2015. An additional independent team did not provide attendance data in 2015.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 1985 - continued

In 2015, 98 NAPBL and 2 independent teams played in a market that also had a team in 1985. 84 of the NAPBL teams, plus the combined Jupiter/Palm Beach teams, had higher attendance in 2015 than in 1985. But the 2 independent teams (Laredo in the Mexican League in 1985, and Watertown in the New York-Penn League in 1985) drew less in 2015 than in 1985.

The 98 NAPBL markets (counting both Jupiter and Palm Beach) with teams in both 2015 and 1985 drew 24,817,739 in 2015. This was up 11,381,025 (84.7%) from the total of 13,436,714 that those markets drew in 1985.

Many of the individual team gains were huge. 46 NAPBL teams drew over 100,000 more in 2015 than in 1985. For 21 of the teams, the gain was at least 200,000, and 12 of these teams had increases of more than 300,000.

45 NAPBL teams doubled their attendance since 1985. 21 of these markets more than tripled their 1985 totals. This includes Salt Lake City and Erie, who had short-season teams in 1985, and full-season teams in 2015.

Charlotte showed the best increase since 1985, when they played in the Class AA Southern League, – up 565,313. Other 2015 Class AAA markets with big gains vs. 1985 include: Indianapolis (up 453,495); Reno (298,729) and Fresno (375,080), both of whom played in the Class A California League in 1985; Durham, also in Class A in 1985 (372,068); Toledo (363,462); El Paso (333,208); Albuquerque (308,066); Pawtucket – still in the same ballpark as in 1985 (300,096); Salt Lake City (413,077), compared to a short-season team in 1985.

Reading, which still plays in the same ballpark as in 1985, achieved a gain of 340,191. That's the highest increase among 2015 Class AA teams. Birmingham was up 303,968. Winston-Salem's gain of 191,203 topped all full-season Class A teams. Wisconsin (170,717), Greensboro (188,662), and Charleston, SC (187,014) were other Class A teams with huge increases. Spokane showed the highest increase among short-season teams, up 118,380. Vancouver drew 15,754 more playing a short-season schedule in 2015 than it did with a Class AAA full-season team in 1985. Monterrey's gain of 353,168 was the best among Mexican League teams.

Both Laredo (in the Mexican League in 1985) and Watertown (New York-Penn in 1985) drew better as NAPBL teams in 1985 than they did in as independent league teams in 2015.

Louisville, down 123,502, had the biggest decline of any 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 and 651,090 in 1985. No other Class AAA team had a decline vs. 1985.

Not one current Class AA team had lower attendance in 2015 than in 1985. Richmond, then in Class AAA, had the smallest gain, up 38,809. The largest Class A decrease was by Hagerstown, who drew 44,290 fewer fans in 2015 than in 1985. Palm Beach was down 47,551, and Jupiter fell 47,465, from the total attendance of 114,659 achieved by a team that played in nearby West Palm Beach in 1985. The combined 2015 Palm Beach/Jupiter attendance was up 19,643 vs. 1985 West Palm Beach.

Great Falls, down 39,779, had the biggest decline among teams that had a short-season team in both 2015 and 1985. Hillsboro, near Portland, OR, Tri-City (NY), near Albany, and Burlington, VT had lower attendance than the full-season teams that were in those markets in 1985. As noted above, Vancouver's short-season 2015 team outdrew their 1985 full-season team. Salt Lake City and Erie had short-season teams in 1985 and full-season teams in 2015.

No current team attendance record-high set in the 1985 season is still active today.

63 of the 98 current NAPBL teams that play in a market that had a team in 1985, 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 73,760,020 in 2015. It was 74,926,174 in 2005, 50,469,236 in 1995, a shorter season (144 games) that began late due to a work stoppage, and 46,824,379 in 1985. There were 30 teams in 2015 and 2005, 28 teams in 1995, and 26 teams in 1985. Average attendance per date was 30,517 in 2015, 30,987 in 2005, 25,260 in 1995, and 22,841 in 1985. The National League did not include 'no-shows' in their official attendance until 1993.

INDIVIDUAL TEAM ATTENDANCE GROWTH – 2015 vs. 1975

By 1975, 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 130 NAPBL teams that compiled attendance in 1975 drew a total of 11,021,848, an average of 84,783 per team. In 2015, the 176 NAPBL teams drew a total of 42,561,445, an average of 241,826 per team. 52 independent teams that compiled attendance figures drew 6,317,482 in 2015. Total 2015 Minor League attendance for all leagues was 48,878,927, which was a better than 4-fold increase over 1975.

Major League total attendance was 73,760,020 in 2015, averaging 2,458,667 per team (30 teams), and 30,517 per date. In 1975, the 24 Major League teams drew 29,789,913, averaging 1,241,246 per team, and 16,642 per date.

71 NAPBL teams and 4 independent league teams played in the same markets in 2015 as a Minor League team played in during the 1975 season. Total 2015 attendance for the 71 NAPBL teams was 17,519,346, while in 1975, the 70 teams in those markets drew a combined 6,427,397. The increase was 11,091,949. Both Jupiter and Palm Beach are included in the 2015 total, and a comparison is made with the 1975 team in West Palm Beach. The comparison excludes a second team in Mexico City in 1975.

The 4 independent league teams drew a combined 484,131 in 2015, up 85,697 from the 398,434 that teams in those cities drew in 1975. These 4 teams played longer schedules in 1975 as members of full-season NAPBL leagues.

Only 25 of the 106 U.S. and Canadian teams managed to draw at least 100,000 in 1975, compared to 123 of 160 teams in 2015. Rochester (326,702), Sacramento (252,201), Hawaii (213,432), and 8 Mexican League teams, led by the Mexico City Red Devils (380,528) topped 200,000. 4 of the 24 Class AAA teams failed to reach 100,000. El Paso, San Antonio, St. Petersburg, West Palm Beach, and short-season Portland OR, were the only teams below Class AAA to top 100,000. 36 full-season teams, and all short-season teams except Portland, drew under 50,000.

Just 8 NAPBL teams had lower attendance in 2015 than in 1975. This includes Jupiter, down 58,374, and Palm Beach, down 58,550 vs. the 125,568 that the team in West Palm Beach drew in 1975. Jupiter and Palm Beach were the only full-season U.S. teams to have a decline. Their combined 2015 attendance was 134,302, up 8,734 from the 1975 West Palm Beach total. The Mexico City Diablos Rojos' dip of 235,620 was the worst decline of any team. There was another team in Mexico City in 1975, the Tigers, who drew 179,162.

Johnson City and Batavia had tiny declines vs. 1975. The only other NAPBL teams whose 2015 attendance was lower than in 1975 were Aguascalientes (down 122,152), Puebla (down 75,841), Laguna (down 2,351) and as noted above, the Mexico City Diablos Rojos. The decreases by 2015 independent teams were by Wichita, down 31,667, and Evansville, down 198. Both of these teams were in Class AAA in 1975.

Far more common were huge increases in attendance compared to 1975. 40 teams drew at least 100,000 more than a team in the same market did in 1975. This includes all 2015 Class AAA markets except for Syracuse. Attendance rose by at least 200,000 in 27 markets, and 14 markets achieved a gain of over 300,000.

Class AAA Indianapolis had the top increase of any team, up an incredible 519,583. Toledo was up 428,060, Oklahoma City rose by 425,244, Sacramento was up 420,153, El Paso gained 416,553, and Albuquerque and Fresno also had growth of better than 400,000 among 2015 Class AAA markets. Pawtucket was up 348,311, and they still play in the same ballpark as in 1975! In the Mexican League, Monterrey had the top gain—275,235.

Birmingham, up 414,156, had the biggest growth among 2015 Class AA markets. Richmond, which was in Class AAA in 1975, was up 349,480. Reading, still in the same park as in 1975, had a gain of 331,753.

The increase of 270,968 by Charleston, SC was tops among 2015 Class A teams. Winston-Salem was up 251,411. Salem, Wisconsin, and Quad Cities were the other Class A markets that gained over 175,000.

Spokane's gain of 85,153 was the tops among all 2015 short-season teams. Spokane had a full-season team in the Class AAA P.C.L. in 1975. Boise posted an 80,659 increase. Quebec had the best gain (75,001) among 2015 independent league markets. Trois Rivières was up 42,651. Quebec and Trois Rivières were Class AA cities in 1975.

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

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

Until the early 1950's, numerous Minor League teams played near Major League cities. But Major League relocations and expansion, more car ownership, new high-speed roads, and most of all, television, made it easier for fans to attend and watch Big League games. The Minor League teams in those areas, and in many others, couldn't stay in business. By 1976, the only teams close to Major League cities were Pawtucket, 40 miles from Boston, Reading, 60 miles from Philadelphia, Toledo, 60 miles from Detroit, and San Jose, around 40 miles from San Francisco and Oakland. In the New York area, an Eastern League team played in Jersey City in 1977 and 1978. That team's combined attendance for those two years was just 88,993.

But starting in the 1990's, more Minor League teams began operating near Major League clubs. In 2015, 59 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 2015, 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 2015, the same 4 teams, all except Toledo playing in the same ballparks as in 1976, drew a combined 1,604,064. Also in 2015, the 59 Minor League teams in Major League markets, plus Toledo, Pawtucket, and Dayton, drew a combined 13,191,859. That was 27.0% of the year's total Minor League attendance. It was also 16.5% higher than the total attendance (11,324,947) for all 141 Minor League teams in 1976.

New York, Boston and Philadelphia are Major League markets that have had much recent success with Minor League baseball. In 1992, there was only one Minor League team in the Boston area (Pawtucket – which is in the Providence-New Bedford TV market), one in the Philadelphia market (Reading), and none in New York. In 2015, the New York TV market had 10 teams, including 2 within New York City. The Philadelphia market had 5 teams, while the Boston/Providence area had 3. As the following 3 tables show, many of these teams have done remarkably well.

New York Area Teams	2015 Attendance	Notes
Lakewood, NJ	388,718	Led South Atlantic League 13 times from 2001-2015
Brooklyn, NY	230,658	Best short-season attendance each year since 2001
Staten Island, NY	119,195	Record high in 2010. Major decline since then.
Hudson Valley (Fishkill), NY	163,767	Averaging 96.4% of ballpark's capacity since 1994
Long Island (Central Islip), NY	358,317	Top total yearly independent attendance: 2000-2011
Somerset (Bridgewater), NJ	347,770	Averaged over 5,000/date every year in their history
Bridgeport, CT	192,466	2 nd best total att. gain among independ. teams in 2015
Rockland County, NY	161,796	Led Can-Am League, and set team record in 2015
New Jersey Jackals (Montclair)	78,913	A small gain in 2015
Sussex County, NJ	56,988	Rejoined Can-Am Lg. in 2015, drew lowest total ever
New York Market Total	2,098,588	Up 7.1% with one more team in 2015

Philadelphia Area Teams	2015 Attendance	Notes
Reading, PA	417,010	Eastern League attendance leader 9 of last 14 years
Wilmington, DE	282,437	Led Carolina Lg. in att. 11 straight years-1998-2008
Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA)	613,815	Minors U.S. best att. in 2011-12. 389 sellouts-2008-15
Trenton, NJ	347,231	AA then-record 14 str. years of 400,000+ ends in 2009
Camden, NJ	216,639	Small 2015 gain. Moves to New Britain, CT for 2016.
Philadelphia Market Total	1,877,132	A gain of 0.7% in 2015

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

Boston Area Teams	2015 Attendance	Notes
Pawtucket (Providence TV market)	466,600	Topped 500,000 for 16 straight years through 2014
New Hampshire (Manchester)	348,539	2015 was their 9 th year in a row above 340,000
Lowell, MA	140,468	2015 decline. 413 game sellout streak ended in 2010
Boston Area Total	955,607	Down a combined 6.4% for 2015

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

<u>Los Angeles</u>	5 Minor League teams... Rancho Cucamonga had led the California League for 17 straight years, before a huge decline in 2010... Lake Elsinore has led that league each year since then.
<u>Chicago</u>	5 teams... Kane County topped 400,000 in 21 of the last 22 years, and has been above 500,000 in 6 seasons... Gary set a team record every year from 2003 to 2007, and in 2010.
<u>San Francisco</u>	5 teams... San Jose: Last 7 years – the 7 best totals in the team's long history.
<u>Dallas</u>	2 teams... Frisco has led all Class AA teams in attendance for 11 straight years.
<u>Washington</u>	5 teams... Frederick topped the Carolina League each year from 2012 through 2015. Their 2015 attendance was the best since 1994. Southern Maryland had a record-high in 2013. Potomac set new record-highs in both 2013 and 2014.
<u>Seattle</u>	2 teams... Tacoma set record-high in its newly rebuilt ballpark in 2011, and had a big 2015 gain.
<u>Tampa</u>	5 teams... In 2014, Clearwater had the highest attendance of any Florida State League team since 1990, and set a team record-high for the 8 th time in the last 9 years. Down in 2015.
<u>Minneapolis</u>	1 team... St. Paul in 2015: Highest Am. Assn. total ever, record high (8,091) indy avg. per date.
<u>Cleveland</u>	3 teams... Akron has led the Eastern League 6 times since 1997, and is one of only 6 Class AA teams to ever top 500,000. 2014 attendance was up 55,245, the best gain in Class AA.
<u>St. Louis</u>	2 teams... Gateway set the Frontier League record in 2004 (broken by Southern Illinois in 2007).
<u>Pittsburgh</u>	1 team... Washington, PA has sold out many games in its history, but is down in recent years.
<u>Baltimore</u>	1 team... Aberdeen set avg./date high in 2011, but is down 93,216 since 2012.
<u>Atlanta</u>	2 teams... Gwinnett County drew under 300,000 for the first time. Rome – 3 rd lowest ever.
<u>Kansas City</u>	1 team... Kansas City (KS) has topped 200,000 in all 14 years of operation.
<u>Detroit</u>	1 team... Toledo (a separate TV market) is about 60 miles from Detroit, and the Mud Hens have surpassed 500,000 for 14 straight years
<u>Houston</u>	1 team... Sugar Land drew 465,511 in 2012, the highest att. by a modern day independent team. Also led in total att. in 2013 and 2014. But had an independent-worst 81,605 decline in 2015.
<u>Cincinnati</u>	2 teams... Dayton (a separate TV market) has topped 570,000 in all 16 years of operation, has a North American pro sports record of 1,121 consecutive sellouts, drew a team and Class A record-high in 2010, and in terms of attendance, is the most successful Class A team ever.

The New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco/Oakland TV markets each have 2 MLB teams. The San Diego, Miami, Milwaukee, Phoenix, Denver, and Toronto markets that did not have summer Minor League teams in 2015. 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 – Includes Independent League Teams

There are 20 television markets that have both Major League and Minor League Baseball. There are also 19 Minor League Baseball markets that don't have a Major League Baseball team, but do have a National Football League, National Basketball Association, or National Hockey League team. Despite the NFL, NBA, or NHL competition for sports dollars in these markets, many of their Minor League Baseball teams draw quite well. The 21 Minor League Baseball teams in these markets drew a combined 7,881,666 in 2015.

<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 attendance and best gain in 2014, and in average per date in 2014 and 2015. Also, Class A Kannapolis.
<u>Raleigh-Durham</u>	NHL-Carolina Hurricanes	AAA Durham drew team record 554,788 in 2015, and topped 500,000 9 times since 2001. Class A Carolina tops 200,000 in last 25 years.
<u>Columbus</u>	NHL-Blue Jackets	Drawn 500,000 in 29 seasons, which is more often than any team except Louisville. Has surpassed 600,000 in 6 of the last 7 years.
<u>Indianapolis</u>	NHL-Colts, NBA-Pacers	Record-high 662,536 in 2015. Topped 535,000 for 20 straight years.
<u>Memphis</u>	NBA- Grizzlies	Attendance has declined from 887,976 in 2001 to 278,579 in 2015.
<u>Nashville</u>	NFL-Titans, NHL-Predators	In 1979, Nashville was first AA team to top 500,000. New ballpark in 2015 led to a 565,548 total, up 241,587, best gain by a U.S. team.
<u>New Orleans</u>	NFL-Saints, NBA-Pelicans	Have surpassed pre-Katrina 2004 total each year since 2006.
<u>Okla. City</u>	NBA-Thunder	Renamed 'Dodgers' had their highest attendance since 2007.
<u>Sacramento</u>	NBA-Kings	Top Minors total attendance 10 times from 2000-2015, including 2015. Have drawn at least 600,000 in 15 of 16 seasons.
<u>Salt Lake C.</u>	NBA-Jazz	Have topped 430,000 in all 22 years of Class AAA operation.
<u>Jacksonville</u>	NFL-Jaguars	Surpassed 270,000 in the last 13 years. 2015 lowest since 2002.
<u>Green Bay</u>	NFL-Packers	Class A Wisconsin (Appleton) had its 3 rd best attendance ever in 2015.
<u>San Antonio</u>	NBA-Spurs	Been above 270,000 every season since 1994.
<u>Orlando</u>	NBA-Magic	Daytona tops 100,000 for 12 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	Set a short-season record-high for this market in 2015.
<u>Winnipeg</u>	NHL-Jets	Best independent average per date 12 times in 15 years through 2014. Has topped 250,000 for 16 straight seasons.
<u>Ottawa</u>	NHL-Senators	Returned to Can-Am Lg. in 2015. Drew 115,880. International Lg. 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 2015 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 changes to this listing in 2015. Sacramento switched affiliations from Oakland to San Francisco. The 2015 A's Class AAA team was Nashville. 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.

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	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)

Source of Affiliates Listing: Minor League Baseball 2015 Information Guide

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

Year	Total NAPBL Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team	Year	Total NAPBL Attendance	# of Teams	Average Att. per Team
				1985	18,380,000	154	119,351
1946	32,704,315	314	104,154	1986	18,456,808	154	119,849
1947	37,184,167	388	95,835	1987	20,215,564	158	127,947
1948	38,415,716	438	87,707	1988	21,659,873	160	135,374
1949	39,640,443	448	88,483	1989	23,103,593	164	140,876
1950	32,960,733	442	74,572	1990	25,244,569	164	153,930
1951	26,135,174	365	71,603	1991	26,590,096	168	158,274
1952	24,024,373	334	71,929	1992	27,180,170	168	161,787
1953	21,109,565	288	73,297	1993	30,022,761	169	177,649
1954	18,674,503	264	70,737	1994	33,355,199	172	193,926
1955	18,203,889	243	74,913	1995	33,126,934	172	192,598
1956	16,402,953	217	75,590	1996	33,293,383	171	194,698
1957	14,875,346	200	74,377	1997	34,721,716	172	201,870
1958	12,744,883	171	74,531	1998	35,427,618	174	203,607
1959	11,622,581	152	76,464	1999	35,179,471	176	199,883
1960	10,660,811	152	70,137	2000	37,647,819	176	215,126
1961	9,766,505	147	66,439	2001	38,808,339	176	220,502
1962	9,732,582	134	72,631	2002	38,639,142	176	219,541
1963	9,749,381	130	74,995	2003	39,069,707	176	221,987
1964	10,102,310	128	78,924	2004	39,887,755	176	226,635
1965	10,029,518	130	77,150	2005	41,333,279	176	234,848
1966	9,826,124	133	73,881	2006	41,710,357	176	236,991
1967	9,940,660	135	73,635	2007	42,812,812	175	244,645
1968	9,887,328	135	73,239	2008	43,263,740	176	245,817
1969	9,984,263 \$	148	67,461	2009	41,644,518	176	236,617
1970	10,726,470	145	73,976	2010	41,432,456	176	235,412
1971	11,134,084	148	75,230	2011	41,252,053	174	237,081
1972	10,986,628	136	80,734	2012	41,280,382	176	234,548
1973	10,828,828	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				
1977	13,004,297	144	90,308				
1978	13,012,727	152	85,610				
1979	15,304,724 @	150	107,504				
1980	15,541,674 *	145	107,184				
1981	16,178,790	140	115,563				
1982	17,637,244	150	117,582				
1983	18,559,190	153	121,302				
1984	17,580,299	154	114,158				

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

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

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

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE PER TEAM – BY CLASSIFICATION

The table on the previous page notes the annual average attendance per team since 1946 for all NAPBL leagues combined. The presence of so many teams in small markets is why the overall average per team was not higher in the late 1940's. Many of these small-market leagues and teams disbanded in the early 1950's as television and other factors severely cut Minor League attendance. The average per team was less than 80,000 from 1950 through 1971, and again in 1973 and 1974. In 1979, the average per team reached 100,000 for the first time since 1946. It initially surpassed 150,000 in 1990, and 200,000 in 1997. Average attendance per team has topped 200,000 each year since 2000, with a high of 245,817 in 2008. The 2015 average per team of 241,826 was the 3rd best ever.

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

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

CLASS AAA

2015 Class AAA average per team was 473,071, the 2nd 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 11 seasons with a high of 477,226 in 2008.

CLASS AA

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

The Class AA average per team first reached 300,000 in 2004, and has now hit this level 6 times, with a high of 312,035 in 2008. The average has been above 290,000 in each of the last 13 seasons, and was 297,252 in 2015.

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 199,297 in 2015.

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 15 seasons. The high was 96,758 in 2007. It was 90,577 in 2015.

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2015

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

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

FULL-SEASON AND SHORT-SEASON NAPBL ANNUAL ATTENDANCE LEADERS – 1940-2015

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

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

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB

Attendance of at least 500,000 in a season has become quite common in the Minor Leagues. It's happened 244 times since 2000. 17 teams did it in 2015. 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 has drawn 500,000 in 30 seasons, which is the most by any team. Buffalo's current streak of 28 years in a row above the half-million mark is the longest. Overall, there have been 356 'Half-Million' seasons achieved by Minor League teams through 2015. 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 2015. In 1983, Louisville became the first team to top one million. Buffalo drew better than one million each year from 1988 through 1993. No other Minor League team has drawn one million.

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

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

THE 'HALF-MILLION' CLUB - continued

TEAMS DRAWING AT LEAST 500,000 IN A SEASON – 1995-2015

Year	# of Teams	Teams that Drew at Least 500,000
1995	7	Buffalo, Louisville, Norfolk, Richmond, Columbus, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1996	7	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Norfolk, Salt Lake City, West Michigan, Lansing
1997	10	Buffalo, Indianapolis, Norfolk, New Orleans, Rochester, Columbus, Richmond, Salt Lake City, West Michigan, Lansing
1998	9	Buffalo, Rochester, Richmond, Indianapolis, Monterrey, New Orleans, Akron, Salt Lake City, West Michigan
1999	6	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Richmond, Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Akron
2000	10	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Indianapolis, Louisville, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Saltillo, Sacramento, Round Rock, Dayton
2001	14	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Louisville, Columbus, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Dayton, Monterrey, Yucatan, Memphis, Sacramento, Round Rock, Kane County IL
2002	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Norfolk, Toledo, Louisville, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Iowa, Sacramento, Fresno, Memphis, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County
2003	15	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Monterrey, Saltillo, Memphis, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Fresno, Round Rock, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2004	16	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Toledo, Indianapolis, Saltillo, Tijuana, Sacramento, Iowa, Memphis, Fresno, Frisco, Round Rock, Dayton, Kane County, Albuquerque
2005	20	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Norfolk, Durham, Toledo, Indianapolis, Columbus, Louisville, Saltillo, Memphis, Iowa, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Springfield MO, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2006	19	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Toledo, Columbus, Saltillo, Monterrey, Iowa, Memphis, Round Rock, Oklahoma City, Albuquerque, Sacramento, Corpus Christi, Frisco, Dayton, Kane County
2007	18	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Louisville, Pawtucket, Albuquerque, Scranton-Wilkes Barre, Toledo, Fresno, Iowa, Memphis, Oklahoma City, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton, Saltillo
2008	17	Buffalo, Pawtucket, Louisville, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA), Toledo, Columbus, Durham, Sacramento, Round Rock, Albuquerque, Salt Lake City, Memphis, Fresno, Monterrey, Frisco, Dayton
2009	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton,
2010	15	Buffalo, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Albuquerque, Toledo, Pawtucket, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Frisco, Dayton
2011	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Frisco, Dayton
2012	14	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Iowa, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Dayton, Monterrey
2013	13	Buffalo, Columbus, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, Albuquerque, Round Rock, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Dayton, Monterrey
2014	15	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Pawtucket, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey
2015	17	Buffalo, Charlotte, Columbus, Durham, Indianapolis, Lehigh Valley, Albuquerque, Louisville, Toledo, El Paso, Round Rock, Sacramento, Dayton, Monterrey, Iowa, Nashville, Yucatan

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 2015

Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.		Market	# Seasons with 500,000 Attend.
Louisville	30		Richmond	6
Columbus, Ohio	29		Kane County, IL	6
Buffalo	28		Nashville	6
Indianapolis	20		Fresno	5
Pawtucket	16		Scranton-Wilkes Barre	5
Dayton	16		West Michigan	4
Round Rock	16		Yucatan, Mexico	4
Sacramento	16		Oklahoma City	3
Toledo	14		Akron	2
Albuquerque	13		Rochester, NY	2
Salt Lake City	11		Lansing	2
Iowa (Des Moines)	10		New Orleans	2
Memphis	9		Corpus Christi	2
Frisco	9		Ottawa	2
Durham	9		El Paso	2
Monterrey, Mexico	9		Charlotte, NC	2
Saltillo, Mexico	8		Tijuana, Mexico	1
Lehigh Valley (Allentown)	8		Springfield, MO	1
Norfolk	7		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	28	1988-2015	Louisville	14	1982-1995
Indianapolis	20	1996-2015	Toledo	14	2002-2015
Pawtucket	16	1999-2014	Albuquerque	13	2003-2015
Louisville	16	2000-2015	Columbus	11	2005-2015
Dayton	16	2000-2015			
			Frisco	9	2003-2011
Round Rock	16	2000-2015	Memphis	9	2000-2008
Sacramento	16	2000-2015	Saltillo	8	2000-2007
Columbus	14	1984-1997	Lehigh Valley	8	2008-2015

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+ – 1994-2015

Year	# of 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>

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 – 1987-2015

Year	# of Teams	Short-Season Teams that Drew at Least 150,000
1987	1	Salt Lake City
1988	1	Salt Lake City
1989	1	Salt Lake City
1990	1	Salt Lake City
1991	1	Salt Lake City
1992	1	Salt Lake City
1993	1	Boise
1994	3	Boise, Spokane, New Jersey (Sussex County)
1995	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, Portland OR
1996	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, Portland OR
1997	6	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, Portland OR
1998	7	Hudson Valley, New Jersey, Erie, Spokane, Boise, Portland OR, Lowell
1999	5	Hudson Valley, Mahoning Valley, Lowell, Spokane, Portland OR
2000	5	Hudson Valley, Lowell, Mahoning Valley, Spokane, Portland OR
2001	6	Brooklyn, Staten Island, Hudson Valley, Mahoning Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2002	7	Brooklyn, Staten Island, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Mahoning Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2003	5	Brooklyn, Staten Island, Aberdeen, Lowell, Spokane
2004	7	Brooklyn, Hudson Valley, Staten Island, Aberdeen, Lowell, Mahoning Valley, Spokane
2005	7	Brooklyn, Staten Island, Hudson Valley, Aberdeen, Lowell, Mahoning Valley, Spokane
2006	5	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Lowell, Spokane
2007	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Lowell, State College, Staten Island, Spokane
2008	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Lowell, State College, Staten Island, Spokane
2009	6	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Lowell, Staten Island, Spokane
2010	8	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Lowell, Staten Island, Spokane, Vancouver, Tri-City (Troy, NY)
2011	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Lowell, Staten Island, Tri-City, Spokane, Vancouver
2012	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City, Spokane, Vancouver
2013	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City, Spokane, Vancouver
2014	7	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Lowell, Hudson Valley, Tri-City, Spokane, Vancouver
2015	6	Brooklyn, Aberdeen, Hudson Valley, Tri-City, Spokane, Vancouver

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Total NAPBL attendance rose 0.4% in 2015, the 4th straight year with an increase. Attendance has increased vs. the previous season 34 times in the last 41 years.**
- **The 2015 total attendance of 42,561,445, the average per date of 4,104, and the average per team of 241,826, were each the 3rd best in NAPBL Minor League history.**

Major League Baseball attendance has gone up vs. the previous season in 25 of the past 41 years.

- NAPBL Minor League attendance dropped in 2009, after 5 straight record-setting seasons. Prior to 2004, the all-time record was 39,640,443, set in 1949, when there were 448 teams in 59 leagues. In 2015, there were 176 teams in the 15 NAPBL leagues that charge admission to their games. **The last 15 seasons have seen 15 of the 16 highest totals in the 114 year history of the NAPBL Minor Leagues.**
- Minor League attendance declined very sharply through the 1950's, and most leagues and teams disbanded. By 1964, only 20 leagues overall, and 128 teams who charged admission, were left. A post World War II low period of NAPBL attendance occurred from 1960 to 1975. During those years, attendance was basically flat – ranging from a low of 9,732,582 in 1962, to a high of 11,134,084 in 1971. Among the causes of the huge drop in Minor League attendance during this period were television, Major League expansion, easier access to Major League ballparks, fewer Minor League teams, a rise in popularity of other sports, and home air conditioning.
- 2015 average season attendance per team, including short-season teams, was 241,826. 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.
- 8 NAPBL leagues had increases in total attendance in 2015. **The Midwest League was up 2.2%, and set new records for any Class A league for total attendance, average per date, and average per team.** The Appalachian League was up 8.5%, following a 16.2% gain in 2014. Northwest League attendance rose 7.1%, the Pacific Coast League was up 3.3%, the Eastern League had a 1.5% gain, the South Atlantic League was up 2.3%, the New York-Penn gained 2.0%, and the Pioneer League rose 1.7%. 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.
- The Pacific Coast League had the best numerical total increase, up 228,856, posted its 4th best total and 4th best average per date ever, and topped 7 million for the 8th time in the last 11 years. The International League also had its 4th best total and average per date ever. Carolina League total and average per date was the 2nd best in league history. The Northwest League total and average per date were its highest since 1998, and the Appalachian League posted its best total and average per date since 1997.
- 7 NAPBL leagues had losses in total attendance. The Mexican League had the biggest total decline (126,947), and the California had the worst percentage loss (5.8%). Also down were the International (0.9%), Southern (0.1%), Texas (1.7%), Carolina (1.8%), and Florida State Leagues (5.1%).
- 8 leagues had gains in average per date, led by the Pacific Coast League, up 223, and the Northwest League, up 219. The Appalachian League was up 101. **The Midwest League's average per date rose by 45 to a Class A record-high of 3,924.** In 2014 and 2013, there were also 8 leagues up 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.
- The biggest declines in average per date were by the Mexican League, down 155, the International, down 136, the California, down 118, and the Carolina League, down 110.

GAINS AND LOSSES - A listing of total attendance gains and losses in 2015 vs. 2014 for each NAPBL team and league can be found starting on page 81. This same information for independent league teams starts on page 95.

NAPBL MINOR LEAGUES ATTENDANCE HIGHLIGHTS**NAPBL 2015 SEASON - TOTAL ATTENDANCE HIGHS AND LOWS**

- 5 teams topped 600,000 in total attendance in 2015. 6 teams 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.
- 17 teams drew at least 500,000 in 2015. The number of teams over 500,000 was 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.
- 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.
- **Sacramento drew 672,354 in 2015 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the 10th time in the team's 16 year history. In addition, they led all U.S. teams in 2006.**
- Charlotte, who led in total attendance in 2014, drew 669,398 in 2015, and had the best average per date (9,428).
- Indianapolis drew a team record-high 662,536. Lehigh Valley, which topped U.S./Canadian teams in both 2011 and 2012, attracted 613,815 in 2015. Columbus drew 622,096.
- Round Rock totaled 595,012 in its 11th AAA season, after setting both a Class AA and Texas League record for 5 consecutive years. The Express have drawn over 618,000 each year since 2000, except 2010, and 2012-2015.
- The top Mexican League attendance was 528,351 by Yucatan, who also had a Minor League best 302,947 gain.
- Frisco drew 477,354, leading Class AA for the 11th straight year. Birmingham, Richmond, and Reading also topped 400,000.
- Dayton (Midwest) has sold out all 1,121 home dates they've played, a sellout streak that is the longest in North American sports history. The Dragons drew 574,830 in 2015 to lead Class A for the 16th year in a row. Fort Wayne and Kane County were the other Class A teams to reach 400,000.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have led all short-season teams in each season of their 15 year history.
- 16 of the 40 short-season teams topped 100,000 in 2015. 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.
- 13 full-season teams drew under 100,000 in 2015. 7 of the teams play in the Florida State League. The number of full-season teams below 100,000 was 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.
- Syracuse (262,408), Gwinnett (270,336), and Memphis (278,579) 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.
- Mobile of the Southern League had the lowest AA attendance (96,260). Biloxi, who played on the road for the first 2 months in 2015, Jackson TN, and Binghamton, NY were the other Class AA teams that drew less than 200,000.
- Bakersfield had the lowest attendance among full-season teams, drawing just 51,789.
- Bristol of the Rookie Appalachian Penn League drew 17,849 for the lowest short-season attendance.

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

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

- The International League had a small decline in attendance in 2015. Total attendance fell 59,980 (0.9%) to 6,961,610, the 4th best total in league history. The league has topped 6.3 million in each of the last 18 years.
- Average per date was down 136 to 7,133, which was the 4th highest average per date in this league's history. The 2009 International League average per date of 7,348 was the highest for any Minor League since the old Class AAA American Association averaged 7,588 per date in 1992, a year in which Buffalo drew more than one million. The I.L. averaged 7,313 per date in 2008. There were 10 more dates played in 2015 than in 2014.
- The average attendance per team was 497,258 in 2015, 4th best in league history. 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, and Seattle.
- 7 individual teams posted gains in total attendance vs. 2014, and 6 teams had increases in average per date.
- In 2014, Charlotte moved from the suburb of Fort Mill, SC to the City of Charlotte, and their magnificent new ballpark was a huge success. The Knights led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2014. They drew a team-record high 687,715, the 3rd best total ever for an I.L. team, and averaged a U.S. best 9,686 per date. In 1998, Buffalo drew 743,463, and in 2005, Pawtucket drew 688,421. Buffalo, from 1988 through 1996, and Louisville, from 1982 through 1984, also drew higher than Charlotte did in 2014. In those seasons, both Buffalo and Louisville were in the old Class AAA American Association whose teams were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues in 1998.
- Charlotte had the top total attendance increase 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.) The previous record-high total for the Knights was 403,029 in 1993.
- **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.**
- **Indianapolis led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance for the first time ever in 2013, drawing 637,579. The Indians did even better in 2014 and in 2015. They drew a then-team record-high 660,289 in 2014, and topped that by drawing 662,536 in 2015, the 3rd best Minor League total. They've now surpassed 535,000 for 20 straight years, and have reached 600,000 in 9 seasons since 1997. 28 dates had crowds of at least 10,000 in 2015. Average attendance per date was down 102 to 9,331, which ranked 4th in the Minors.**
- In 2015, the Columbus (OH) Clippers had the 4th highest total attendance in Minor League Baseball, drawing 622,096, down 6,884, 5th best in team history, and averaging 9,016 per date, up 31. This was their 6th time over 600,000 in the last 7 years. It was also the 11th straight year that the Clippers have surpassed 500,000. They've reached that level 29 times in the last 37 years. The Clippers have been above 450,000 for the last 32 seasons. In 2009, Columbus got a new ballpark, and had the biggest attendance increase in the Minors.
- **Prior to the 2014 season, Durham did a \$20 million renovation of their ballpark, and then drew a team record-high 533,033. The old record was 520,952 in 2007. The Bulls broke their record again in 2015, drawing 554,788. Their 2015 average per date was a team-record high 7,814, up 199. 38 crowds exceeded 8,000, including a record-high 15 that were above capacity. The Bulls have drawn over 500,000 in 9 of the last 15 years, and topped 460,000 in all 18 years they've been a Class AAA team. 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.**

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

- Lehigh Valley (Allentown, PA) ranked 5th in total attendance (613,815) and 7th in average per date (8,769) in the Minors in 2015. 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, who began play in 2008, is the only team to top 600,000 in each of the last 8 years.** They averaged over 9,000 per date in each year from 2009 through 2014.
- 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 2008-2015 attendance has exceeded the fixed-seating capacity at 436 (78.8%) of 553 regular season dates. They've sold out all seats, lawn seating, and standing room at 152 dates. 45 of the 70 dates in 2015, had crowds above seating capacity, with 19 as complete sellouts.
- 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
Total	4,982,397	553	9,010	436	152	No other team tops 600,000 in all 8 years

- 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.
- Louisville drew 527,588, their 16th straight time above 525,000. 4 dates had crowds of at least 10,000. The Bats had topped 600,000 each year through 2011 since opening a new park in 2000, and 20 times since 1982. But attendance fell 39,668 in 2015 to the lowest total in their current park, where they've averaged 8,827 per date since 2000. The Bats have drawn 500,000 in all but 4 seasons since 1982, reaching that total a record-high 30 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.
- Gwinnett drew 270,336, the lowest attendance in their 7 year history, and the 2nd smallest total among Class AAA teams. Average per date was 3,808. 24 dates drew less than 5,000, with 16 attracting fewer than 2,000.
- Toledo topped 500,000 for the 14th straight year, and drew better than 530,000 for the 12th year in a row. Average per date was 7,699, up 19. The Mud Hens sold around 147,000 group tickets in 2014, which is the most ever for them. Well over 300 games have been sold out at Fifth Third Field (named after a bank) since it opened in 2002. Toledo's teams have been called the Mud Hens in most seasons since 1896.
- Norfolk had the league's best total attendance increase in 2015, up 28,255 to 386,402. It was the 7th straight year below 400,000, after 16 years in a row above 400,000, including 7 seasons where attendance exceeded 500,000. There were 5 dates lost due to weather, the most in the league in 2015. Average per date was 5,767, up 500.

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

- The Pawtucket Red Sox were under new ownership for the first time since the late 1970's, and there was talk about building a new ballpark in the neighboring city of Providence. 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.
- 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, and continue to rank among the annual attendance leaders. They play at McCoy Stadium, which is over 70 years old. While this park may not have all the amenities of newer facilities, the team provides many fan friendly features such as free parking. The Pawsox Radio Network has 12 stations.

PAWTUCKET RED SOX ATTENDANCE – 1977-2015

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

- Rochester's attendance topped 400,000 for the 19th consecutive year, reaching 440,360, up 17,906. 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, who are a community-owned team, drew over 8,000 at 18 dates in 2015. Average per date fell 110 to 6,291, with 4 more dates than in 2014.
- Syracuse had a gain of 15,362 in 2015. But their total of 262,408 was once again the lowest in Class AAA. It was the 2nd straight year below 300,000, after finishing above that level every season since 1993. They also had the lowest Class AAA average per date – 3,803, up 60.
- 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. Attendance declined 34,221 in 2014, but rose 1,113 in 2015, with 5 dates drawing a capacity crowd of 10,000. 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 22 of the last 26 seasons (excludes the 'road year' of 2012). Their average per date fell by 153 in 2015 to 5,753.
- 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, and a gain of 16,028 to 551,303 in 2015, the best total since 2010. Attendance in Buffalo has topped 500,000 for a Minor League record 28 straight seasons. Average per date rose 118 to 8,228.
- 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 2015, the highest seating capacity of any United States or Canadian Minor League park. Capacity at this park 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.

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

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

- A new ballpark in Nashville led to a total attendance increase of 228,856 (3.3%), and an NAPBL-best average per date gain of 233 for the P.C.L. The league drew 7,230,514, averaging 6,508 per date. That was the 4th best total and average per date in league history, and the highest since 2007. The P.C.L. drew a league record high average per date of 6,625 in both 2006 and 2007.
- 2015 was the 8th time in the last 11 years that the league's total attendance topped 7 million. 8 teams had increases in total attendance, and 10 teams had growth in average per date. 41 dates were lost to weather in 2015, 3 more than in 2014.
- 6 P.C.L. teams topped 500,000 in 2015, a mark reached by 4 teams in 2014, 2013, 2011, and 2009, 5 teams in 2012 and 2010, 6 teams in 2008, and a modern era record-high of 7 teams in 2007. In 1947, 5 of the 8 teams in the league reached 500,000, and every team drew at least 350,000. Both Los Angeles and San Francisco topped 600,000, and Oakland, Seattle, and Hollywood drew over 500,000. The league played a 186 game schedule that year. In 1949, every P.C.L. team topped 378,000. No league has seen each of its teams top a figure that high in a season since then.
- The P.C.L. average attendance per team has been over 400,000 in each of the past 16 seasons. 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, reaching a post-World War II low of 131,968 in 1962. In 1966, none of the 12 P.C.L. teams topped 200,000, and as recently as 1974, just one team in the league surpassed 200,000. Calgary, in 2002, was the last team from this league to draw less than 200,000.
- Sacramento drew 672,354 to lead all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 2015. This was the 10th time since 2000 that the River Cats have been the best total attendance draw in the Minors.** They also led the Pacific Coast League in attendance for the 14th time in the team's 16 year history. Total attendance was up 64,515, the 4th best NAPBL gain. Their average per date of 9,338 was 3rd best in the Minors in 2015, and was up by 777. They had 25 crowds of at least 10,000 in 2015, with 12 sellouts. Sacramento has sold out 95 dates in their ballpark which seats 14,014. Their biggest crowd ever was 15,808 in 2008. 2012 is the only year that this team drew less than 600,000.
- The River Cats have drawn 11,383,124 since starting play in 2000, the quickest any team has ever reached 11 million, and they've averaged 9,942 per date (1,145 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 – 2000-2015

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^			
2005	755,750*	10,497#	2011	600,306	8,455			

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

- Round Rock drew an impressive 595,012, which ranked 6th best in 2015. They've topped 589,000 in all 16 seasons of their history, with a high of 700,277 in 2005, and have drawn at least 650,000 in 9 of these years. That includes 5 years in the Texas League, when the Express set a Class AA attendance record each year. Average attendance per date at Round Rock has topped 8,000 every year, with a team record-high of 9,846 in 2004. The 2015 average per date of 8,623, up 233, was the 8th highest in Minor League Baseball.

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

- **The Chihuahuas drew a record-high 578,952, and averaged 8,154 per date in their 2nd year in the West Texas town of El Paso.** 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.
- The Albuquerque Isotopes have drawn over 560,000 in all 13 years of operation of the current team. But their 2015 total was their lowest during this period. According to the Web Blog nmia.com, they had 10 dates with crowds of at least 10,000. Attendance at their old park never reached 400,000, through 2000.
- Reno's total attendance fell by 3,017, to 376,422, the lowest total in the 7 year history of the current franchise. But the Aces did have a team record 8 sellouts. From 2011 through 2014, they only had a combined 9 sellouts.
- Colorado Springs had a tough year with weather and attendance fell 50,165 from the record-high in 2014. This was the 3rd worst total decline among U.S. teams. Average per date fell 459 to 4,619. The Sky Sox lost 7 dates to weather in 2015, compared to 3 lost dates in 2014, and 9 in 2013. This team has still 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.
- Class AAA champion Fresno drew their smallest total (458,531) since moving to their current park in 2002. Average per date dipped 324 to 6,457 in 2015. On the plus side, the Grizzlies won the Class AAA championship.
- Tacoma's Cheney Stadium was renovated for 2011, and the Rainiers set a record-high that year. Their 2015 attendance was up 47,075, the 7th best gain of any team. Only one game was lost due to weather 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 15 years. They've surpassed 350,000 in 5 of the last 7 seasons after never having reached this level before.
- Memphis recently updated their highly-acclaimed ballpark, but it has not brought any gains in attendance. 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 this season, the smallest crowd there had been 2,919. The 2015 average per date was 4,037, which was 3rd lowest in Class AAA to Syracuse and Gwinnett.
- Attendance in Memphis has 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.
- Salt Lake City's attendance was basically flat in 2015, with a total gain of 195. This followed 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 22 years of operation as a full-season team. They've been above 450,000 in 18 of those years, and have surpassed 500,000 in 11 seasons. In 1994, the first Class AAA season of the current franchise, the team drew 713,224, averaging 10,189 per date.
- Salt Lake City had been in the short-season Rookie Class Pioneer League from 1985 through 1992. This was the largest market, by far, in this 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.

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

- **Nashville opened 10,000-capacity First Tennessee Park in 2015, and 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 better increases in those 2 categories. The Sounds drew 565,548, averaging 7,965 per date, with 19 sellouts. This was their highest Class AAA attendance ever. In 1990, they drew 556,250, but attendance had not reached 420,000 since 1993.
- Nashville's best attendance season was 1980, when they drew a Minor League high 575,676 (8,180 per date) in the Class AA Southern League, playing at Herschel Greer Stadium. The Sounds were the first Class AA team to draw 500,000. They did 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, just like Greer Stadium, has a guitar-shaped scoreboard in recognition of Nashville's role as 'Music City.'
- Despite 5 lost dates, Iowa had a gain of 12,517 to 504,577, averaging 7,571 per date, up 502. The Cubs reached 300,000 in attendance for the first time in 1991, and have drawn better than 400,000 every year after that, including 10 seasons over 500,000. In 1981, they drew only 124,371.
- Des Moines was the site of the first professional baseball night game. A crowd of nearly 12,000 attended this game, played by the Des Moines Demons of the Western League on May 2, 1930.
- Omaha had a decline of 7,805 to 386,141. Their attendance had gone up in 8 of the previous 9 seasons. The Storm Chasers have now made it 28 straight years above 300,000. Their 2015 average per date was 5,516, down 112. Werner Park, which opened in 2011, has 6,434 fixed seats, and is the smallest Class AAA facility. Full capacity is a bit over 9,000. Omaha's former home, Rosenblatt Stadium, was much bigger. The last game there drew 23,795. A larger new park in Omaha for the College Baseball World Series, which had been played at Rosenblatt, also opened in 2011.
- The Las Vegas 51s continued their attendance consistency. They've never drawn below 290,000, or above 390,000, since they joined the P.C.L. in 1983. In 2015, they drew 333,520, up 4,091. Average per date was up 194 to 4,834. There were 4 sellouts, including a record-high 11,007 on Opening Day.
- 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 324,973 in 2015, down 23,823. Average per date in 2015 fell 203 to 4,710.
- Oklahoma City took the name of the Dodgers, their new Major League parent team, in 2015. Attendance rose 42,806 to 471,996, their best total since 2007. There were 16 crowds above 10,000. The average per date was 6,941, up 896, the 5th best gain in 2015. This team has topped 400,000 in 13 of the last 18 years. They never reached 400,000 before 1998.
- 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**MEXICAN LEAGUE** (16 teams – 113 game schedule)

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

- This league, which was founded in 1925, does not have any Major League Baseball farm teams, but has been an NAPBL Minor League member since 1955.
- Mexican League attendance was down 126,947 (3.2%) to 3,870,823 in 2015, and average per date fell 155 to 4,565. The declines in total attendance and average per date were the worst of any NAPBL league in 2015.
- 2015 was the 5th straight year with average attendance above 4,400. The league didn't reach 3,700 per date from at least 1992 through 2003. Mexican League total attendance has been above 3 million in all but one season since 2000.
- 6 of the league's 16 teams had gains in total attendance, while 5 teams were up in average per date. 5 of the 9 teams with the biggest 2015 total attendance declines play in the Mexican League, as do 5 of the 8 teams with the worst average per date losses. But some of 2015's biggest increases were by teams in this league.
- Mexican League 2015 playoffs drew 444,001, averaging 9,447 per game, with 15 games drawing over 10,000, led by a crowd of 17,242 at Tijuana. The 6 playoff games in Tijuana drew a total of 96,770, an average of 16,128 per game. Attendance at 41 of 47 Mexican League playoff games topped 5,000. Only 25 of 206 playoff games in all other leagues, including the independents, drew at least 5,000.
- The 2014 total of 3,997,770 was the 3rd highest for this league, surpassed only by 1979 and 2008. 2014 average per date of 4,720 was the 2nd highest since at least 1992. (Earlier average per date figures are not available.)
- The move of the Minatitlan team to Tijuana was a major reason for the 2014 increase. Tijuana drew 419,169 in 2014, averaging 7,909 per date. In 2013, Minatitlan drew 120,511, averaging 2,318 per date. The all-time high attendance in Minatitlan was 211,277 in 2008.
- 2015, 2014 and 2013 were exceptions, but huge yearly attendance swings often take place in this league. In 2009, there was a 955,395 (23.7%) decline in total attendance. It fell 11.8% in 2010, rose 22.4% in 2011, and was up 14.8% in 2012.
- **Yucatan posted a 302,947 gain, the best increase of any Minor League team in 2015. 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 than in 2014.**
- Monterrey, down 170,407, had the biggest decrease in the Minor Leagues. 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 in 2015. Their total attendance was 517,235, the 4th straight year above 500,000. Monterrey has reached 500,000 in 9 seasons since 1998. It is quite common for Mexican League teams to have some of the largest gains and losses in attendance every year.
- 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. 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 Minor League Baseball.

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

- 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.
- Carmen drew the lowest total (197,573, down 12,400) in the team's 4 year history. Average per date was 3,592.
- Mexico City had a decline of 72,120, the 4th worst of any NAPBL team, and drew their lowest total (144,908) since 2005. The Diablos Rojos (Red Devils) had a 1,159 dip in average per date, which was 5th worst among NAPBL teams. Mexico City had topped 300,000 in attendance 19 times between 1957 and 1979. They led all of Minor League Baseball in attendance in 14 of those years. The 1967 team was the only Minor League team to draw at least 500,000 between 1950 and 1978. But since 1980, the Red Devils have reached 300,000 just twice. Their record of 536,743 set in 1967 has never been broken, and is the longest standing team record-high among current Major League and Minor League teams. The Diablos Rojos expect to open a new ballpark in 2017.
- Saltillo fell below 375,000 for the first time in 5 years. 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.
- Aguascalientes drew better than 300,000 in 1977 and 1978. But they've reached 200,000 just 4 times in the 28 seasons they've had a team since then. The Railroadmen had a 2,689 increase to 152,491 in 2015.
- Campeche drew 158,004, their best total since 2008, and 2nd best since 1994. They had a 44,045 gain in total attendance, and average per date was up 800 to 3,225. They 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 418,673, topping 400,000 for the 5th time in the last 7 seasons that this team has played. 2015 average per date was 7,753. 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.
- Veracruz has reached 200,000 just 6 times in 45 seasons. In 2015, they drew 147,026, averaging 2,827 per date.
- Laguna had a 4,161 decline. But total attendance surpassed 250,000 for the 3rd straight year, after reaching this level just 5 times in this city's previous years in the league. The Cowboys have topped 200,000 in 9 of the last 11 seasons, after doing it just once in the previous 20 years. Their average per date was 4,852, up 13.
- 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.
- Monclova (del Norte) topped 300,000 for the 5th straight year, drawing 308,646. The 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.
- Oaxaca has reached 200,000 only 3 times in 20 years. They drew 138,550 in 2015, the lowest total since 2006.
- Reynosa's 2015 attendance was 131,862, down 10,292. It was the lowest total in the 7 year history of the current team. This city has reached 200,000 only 3 times in 27 years. Average per date was 2,536, down 96.
- Tabasco drew 441,835 in 1979, and topped 200,000 in 1980. The Cattlemen have not reached 200,000 since. But they had a nice gain in 2015, as they drew 168,295, up 34,977. Their average per date was up 536 to 3,005.
- Cancun (Quintana Roo) drew 184,736, up 8,909, their best total since 2008. Average per date was 3,770, up 514.

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

- The Mexican League has the lowest growth rate of any NAPBL league when comparing 2015 attendance with both 1969 and 1979. Average attendance per team is up 5.4% vs. 1979, and is down 1.9% vs. 1969. No other NAPBL league had a smaller 2015 increase in average attendance per team vs. 1979 or 1969. The Florida State League had the lowest gain vs. 1979, up 35.3%, and the Appalachian League posted the smallest increase since 1969, up 100.3%. But the 2015 Mexican League average attendance per team vs. 1989 is up 71.4%, which is better than 7 other leagues, and the average per team vs. 1999 increased 34.6%, which is a better growth rate than 10 other NAPBL leagues. The section starting on page 104 has more details about Minor League Baseball's growth in average attendance per team in the past 46 years.

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

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

- Total attendance rose 54,220 (1.5%) to 3,760,165, ending a streak of 5 straight years with declines. There were 16 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. Average attendance per date was 4,580, which was the lowest since 1996, and down 24 from 2014. Eastern League average per date has been at least 4,500 since 1995. The league's record-high average per date is 4,904, set in 1998.
- The Eastern League has averaged at least 300,000 per team for the last 19 seasons. The league's average per team topped 100,000 each year from 1946 to 1949, but didn't reach this figure again until 1983. An average of 200,000 per team was first achieved in 1994, and the following year, the average per team reached 300,000.
- 7 teams had total attendance gains, led by Harrisburg, up 27,943. New Britain, down 35,488, had the worst loss.
- Reading had the best average per date increase in the league, with a gain of 243. 5 other teams also increased their average per date. New Britain suffered the largest decline in average per date, down 403. Richmond, Reading, Akron, New Hampshire, and Portland all averaged over 5,000 per date.
- 2011, 2010, and 2009 were the only years in Eastern League history that each team drew more than 200,000.
- Richmond led the league in both total attendance (417,828) and average per date (6,055), finishing ahead of Reading by 818 in total attendance, and 11 in average per date. 32 dates drew at least 6,000. The Flying Squirrels have topped 415,000 in all of their 6 seasons in the Eastern League, and have led the league in total attendance 4 times. The Class AAA Richmond Braves, who moved to Georgia after the 2008 season, surpassed 400,000 for 15 straight years from 1989 through 2003. In 6 of those seasons, their attendance exceeded 500,000. Total attendance has been above 300,000 in every season, but one (2008), since The Diamond opened in 1985. Plans for a new ballpark in Richmond are still under discussion.
- 2015 was the final year in New Britain for the Rock Cats. They move about 12 miles to Hartford in 2016, and have been renamed the Yard Goats. An independent Atlantic League team will play in New Britain Stadium in 2016. Many fans in New Britain were upset about the Rock Cats' move, and total attendance fell 35,488 to 267,377, the lowest total since 2002. Average per date dipped by 403 to 4,051. In 20 seasons at New Britain Stadium, the team 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.
- New Britain's attendance had surpassed 300,000 for 11 straight years through 2014, and has 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.
- Hartford last had teams from 1916-1932, 1934, and 1938-1952. The top listed attendance was 140,249 in 1946.

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

- 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.
- Attendance in Akron fell 9,788 in 2015 to 340,916, and average per date was down 144 to 5,013. But the Rubber Ducks still had 26 crowds of at least 6,000, and 15 dates drew better than 7,000. They won the Larry MacPhail award for top promotional effort in the Minors.
- Akron's attendance had fallen 7 times in 8 years through 2012. The then-named Aeros drew 522,459 in 1999 to set the Eastern League record. In both 1998 and 1999, the Aeros were the 2nd Class AA franchise to draw 500,000 in a season. Nashville had done it 4 times (1979-1982). 4 Texas League teams have achieved this level more recently--(Round Rock - 2000-2004, Springfield - 2005, Frisco - 2003-2011, and Corpus Christi - 2005-2006). Attendance in Akron surpassed 400,000 each year from 1997 through 2006.
- Reading was back over 400,000 in 2015, 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. The Fightin Phils saw total attendance rise 22,552 to 417,010 in 2015, and average per date was up a league best 243 to 6,044. The total and average were just short of the 2015 league best posted by Richmond. Since 2002, Reading has led the league in total attendance 9 times and also had the Eastern League's best average per date 9 times. In 2016, Reading will celebrate its 50th season as a Phillies affiliate, the longest current affiliation of any team.
- Baseball is very popular in Reading, despite a tough local economy, and a ballpark built in 1951. The Class AAA Lehigh Valley IronPigs, who have topped 600,000 in each of the last 8 years, play in nearby Allentown. (These 2 teams have the same ownership.) Other Minor League teams in nearby Trenton, Lancaster, and Harrisburg all draw well, and the Philadelphia Phillies are just 60 miles away. An arena and 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 – 1984-2015

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

- Portland's total attendance rose 8,864 to 368,291, with 13 sellouts, and 30 crowds above 6,000. The Sea Dogs have reached 340,000 in all 22 seasons, including 9 years above 400,000. Average per date has been above 5,000 every year (5,497 in 2015), and has topped 6,000 in 9 seasons. They've had 479 sellouts in 1,474 dates in their history, drawing 8,626,784, an average of 5,853 per date. Their season high for sellouts was 48 in 1995.
- **The Harrisburg Senators drew a record-high 301,588, breaking their old record of 294,325 set in 2010. Their average per date of 4,371 was also a team record-high.** Total attendance rose 27,943, the best gain in the Eastern League in 2015, and average per date was up 225. The Senators topped 200,000 for the 28th time in their 29 year history, (2008 was the exception) and surpassed 270,000 for the 6th year in a row. Prior to 2010, they had reached 270,000 only in 2001. Harrisburg's 2015 attendance was 137,000 higher than in 2008. By the 2009 season, their ballpark had undergone a significant rebuilding.

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

- Altoona had its best attendance since 2008, drawing 302,761, up 26,938. Average per date rose by 208 to 4,325. 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.
- New Hampshire (Manchester) had an increase of 8,240, and topped 340,000 for the 9th straight year. They had 20 crowds of better than 6,000 in 2015. The Fisher Cats have drawn 4,106,872 in 817 dates in their 12 year history, averaging 5,027 per date.
- Bowie drew 256,865, their highest total since 2008, and they didn't have any lost dates due to weather. The Baysox have topped 240,000 in all 23 seasons of operation, but have not reached 300,000 since 2005. They surpassed that figure in the 11 prior years, including 5 seasons (1995, 1997-2000) with attendance above 400,000.
- Trenton's attendance fell 14,138 to 347,231, the lowest total since 1994, their first season. The Thunder were above 360,000 from 1995 through 2014, and drew over 400,000 for 14 straight years from 1995 through 2008.
- Since entering the Eastern League in 1999, Erie's attendance has always ranged between 197,656 and 246,404. The 2015 total of 203,655, down 5,644, was the lowest for the SeaWolves since 2003, due in part, to 6 lost dates.
- Binghamton topped 250,000 in its first season (1992), but has not done it since. In 2015, total attendance grew by 16,825 to 188,104. It was their 4th straight year below 200,000. The Mets were also the only Eastern League team to average less than 3,000 per date. Only 2 dates drew at least 5,000, while attendance was under 2,000 at 21 dates. A.C. Nielsen ranks Binghamton as the 159th largest (out of 210) U.S. markets in terms of the number of TV households. Jackson, TN, ranked #176, is the only market smaller than Binghamton with a Class AA team.

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

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

- The Southern League had a small decline in total attendance in 2015. This was mainly due to the delay in the opening of a new ballpark in Biloxi, MS. But average per date for the league did increase.
- Total attendance fell 2,831 (0.1%) to 2,364,879. Average per date was up 66 to 3,605. That was the league's best average per date since 2008. Record high average per date for the league is 4,007 in 1994, when Michael Jordan played for Birmingham. The league had 13 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014.
- Southern League or Southern Association average attendance per team was over 200,000 from 1946 through 1950, but didn't reach this level again until 1991. It's been above 200,000 ever since then.
- 3 teams had increases in total attendance, and 4 teams increased their average per date in 2015. This excludes Biloxi, which relocated from Huntsville, AL. Birmingham, up 7,027, had the best total attendance increase, while Tennessee's 304 average per date gain was tops in that category. Jacksonville had the biggest declines in both total attendance (down 28,116) and average per date (down 496).
- Biloxi drew 69,147 more than the team in Huntsville drew in 2014. But they had quite an adventure before finally playing their first true home game in early June. 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.
- Before playing in Biloxi, the Shuckers were the designated home team for 12 dates in Huntsville (drew 3,546, averaging 296 per date), 4 in Jacksonville (13,055, averaging 3,264 per date), and 5 at Mississippi (10,567, averaging 2,113 per date). They were credited with the attendance for those games, which drew 27,168, an average of 1,294 per date. They 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. The Biloxi-Gulfport area last had a Minor League team from 1926 through 1928. It played in the Cotton States League, which disbanded after 1955.

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

- 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 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.
- Birmingham's new downtown ballpark, Regions Field, which opened in 2013, was a huge hit in design, location, and attendance. The Barons moved back to the city from suburban Hoover, where they had played since 1988. **Total attendance rose 192,551 in 2013, by far the biggest gain of any Minor League team.** 2013 average per date was 5,669, up 2,665, which was also the best increase, by a very large margin, in the Minors.
- In 2015, Birmingham's attendance rose 7,027. Average per date was 6,352, an increase of 100. There were no lost dates due to weather. 13 dates were sellouts. In 2012, the Barons' average per date was 3,004.
- The 2015 league-leading total of 444,639 in Birmingham was the 2nd highest attendance by a Southern League team in the 1964-2015 era.** The only higher total for any Southern League team was in Birmingham, in 1994, when Michael Jordan was a Baron, and fans came out in droves to see him. That team drew a league record 467,867 at home, and a home/road total of 986,185. The final 1994 home game drew 16,247.
- Birmingham drew 445,926 in 1948 and 421,305 in 1949, when it played in the old Southern Association. 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.
- Since 1996, the Barons have played one game each year at Rickwood Field in Birmingham. That park was their home from 1910 through 1987, and is the oldest professional ballpark still in use. It was the first concrete and steel ballpark in the Minor Leagues. The largest crowd ever there was 20,074 in 1931 for a playoff game that was pitched by future Major League star Dizzy Dean. The 'Rickwood Classic' attracted 7,046 in 2015, and has drawn 140,146, an average of 7,007 per game, in its 20 year history.
- Tennessee drew a team record-high average per date of 4,406, up 304 from the record set in 2014. 23 dates topped 5,000.** 6 fewer dates in 2015 caused total attendance to dip 5,432 from the record-high of 283,038, set in 2014. But the 2015 total of 277,606 was still the team's 2nd best ever. They've drawn at least 240,000 for 16 straight seasons. In 2014, the Smokies reached 4,000 per date for the first time in team history.
- Chattanooga's attendance fell 24,115 to 218,512, as they had 5 fewer dates than in 2014. It was only the 2nd year below 220,000 since 1991 (1999 was the other). The Lookouts have never drawn 300,000 in a season, but have topped 200,000 for 24 straight years. This team had reached 200,000 just 3 times in 66 seasons prior to 1992. Average per date was 3,414, down 102.
- Mississippi (Pearl, near Jackson) drew 216,917, up 5,717, its highest total attendance since setting the team record-high in 2007. The Braves had an average per date of 3,190, up 38.
- Pensacola joined the league in 2012, and was the 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 2013, they drew 307,094, with 2 fewer dates. Attendance rose to 311,687 in 2014. 2015 attendance was 305,063. 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.
- Before relocating, the Pensacola franchise played for 21 seasons in Zebulon, NC, which is east of Raleigh, as the Carolina Mudcats. They drew a record-high 328,207 in 1994, and were also above 300,000 in 1993 and 1995. But their attendance did not reach 300,000 after that. Mudcats' attendance was 255,216 in 2011. A Carolina League team moved from Kinston to Zebulon in 2012, and retained the Carolina Mudcats name.

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

- Jacksonville led the league in attendance for 9 straight years through 2011. But in 2015, the Suns had the largest decreases in the league in total attendance, down 28,116, and average per date, down 496 to 4,128. Their total of 272,422 was the lowest in their current ballpark which opened in 2003. However, the Suns do have a streak of 27 straight years above 200,000, and have topped 300,000 in 10 of the last 13 seasons.
- Mobile had the worst attendance season in its 19 year history. They drew Class AA lows in total attendance (96,260) and average per date (1,553). The BayBears lost 8 dates due to weather. Mobile drew 332,639 in 1997, which was the first season for this current franchise. Attendance has not reached 300,000 since then.
- Jackson, TN drew 136,918, averaging 2,173 per date. While those were the 2nd lowest figures in Class AA, it was the best total for the Generals since 2004. Average per date rose 154. But only 13 dates drew above 3,000, and attendance was under 1,000 at 10 dates. 7 dates were rained out. The Generals had topped 300,000 in their first 3 years of operation (1998-2000), but have been below 150,000 for the past 11 years, and under 200,000 in the last 13 seasons. Based on A.C. Nielsen TV market estimates, Jackson is the smallest market in terms of TV households with a Class AA team.
- Despite playing 4 more dates than in 2014, Montgomery was down 12,068 to 232,466, the lowest total since the team began play in 2004. Average per date fell by 402 to 3,419. The Biscuits averaged over 4,000 per date in their first 7 seasons (2004-2010) but have not hit that mark since.
- The original Southern League began play in 1885, and later changed its name to the Southern Association. That league played through the 1961 season. Birmingham, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Mobile, and Montgomery are current Southern League markets who were in the Southern Association. The league's best attendance was 2,180,344 in 1947. That year, the most prominent team in the league, the Atlanta Crackers, had their top attendance, drawing 404,584. Record-high team season attendance in that league was 445,926 by Birmingham in 1948. 7 of the 8 teams in the league drew over 200,000 in 1947. But by its last year in 1961, just 3 of the 8 Southern Association teams drew over 100,000. (Source: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball.)
- The Montgomery Biscuits of the Southern League, Cedar Rapids Kernels in the Midwest League, and Kansas City T-Bones of the American Association, are the only teams in Minor League Baseball that are named for food. (Source: Tampa Bay Rays Media Guide.)

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

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

- Total attendance fell 48,388 (1.7%) to 2,792,526, which was the league's lowest total since 2004. Every team drew at least 290,000. The league had 2 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014.
- Texas League average attendance per team had topped 350,000 for 10 straight years through 2014, until falling slightly below that in 2015. This was the 13th straight year above 330,000. The average per team was over 200,000 from 1947 through 1950, but didn't reach that figure again until 1991. It first topped 300,000 in 2003.
- Average per date was down 70 in 2015 to 5,181. This was the 11th straight year that the league averaged better than 5,000 per date. Average per date is up 1,782 since 1999. The record-high is 5,691 in 2008. All teams averaged at least 4,200 per date in 2015, topped by Frisco, who averaged a Class AA best 6,918.
- 3 teams had gains in total attendance, and 2 teams were up in average per date.
- Frisco drew 477,354 to lead all of Class AA for the 11th consecutive year in both total attendance and average per date (6,918, up 304). The RoughRiders' total attendance gain of 27,581 was the best in the league. 7 of the 9 biggest crowds in team history came in 2015. This team has drawn at least 449,000 in each of their 13 seasons, including over 500,000 each year from 2003 through 2011, and 666,977 in 2003. In team history, they've drawn 6,992,053 in 896 dates, averaging 537,850 per season, and 7,804 per date

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

- Midland had a 2,261 decline in total attendance, and average per date fell by 223 to 4,248. But this was the 8th straight year above 280,000 for the RockHounds. Attendance in Midland never topped 204,000 until 2002, but has been over 250,000 every year since then. There were no lost dates due to weather in 2015.
- In 2014, Tulsa had their 2nd best regular season total attendance (403,732) in team history. But total attendance fell 22,973 in 2015, and average per date declined a league-high 353 to 5,858. Still, it was their 7th straight year above 300,000. They topped 300,000 for 20th time in the last 23 seasons. There were 16 sellouts.
- Corpus Christi attracted 362,968, down 30,801. That was the lowest total in their team's 11 year history, and the decline was the worst in the Texas League in 2015. Average per date was 5,338, down 287. But 41 dates drew at least 5,000, and attendance at 17 dates reached 6,000. The Hooks have been above 400,000 6 times, and surpassed 500,000 twice. Total attendance for their 11 seasons is 4,746,711 in 763 dates, averaging 431,519 per season, and 6,221 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 an all-time high of 689,286 in 2004.
- Springfield (MO) has topped 330,000 in all 11 years of operation. They had a 16,708 decline in 2015 to 337,519, the 2nd lowest total in team history. Average per date dipped 170 to 4,964. 31 dates drew more than 5,000. They drew a team record-high 526,630 in 2005.
- San Antonio has topped 270,000 in each of their last 22 seasons, and has been above 300,000 in 14 seasons since 1994. They had never reached that level before then. In 2015, the Missions had a 14,025 increase to 308,564, their highest total since 2002. Average per date was 4,605, up 336, the best gain in the league. Discussions are underway regarding a new ballpark in San Antonio, and attracting a Class AAA team.
- Northwest Arkansas had 4 fewer dates than in 2014. Total attendance dipped 28,638 to 290,471. It was the first time in the team's 8 seasons that they didn't draw at least 300,000. Average per date fell 156 to 4,469.
- Arkansas (North Little Rock) increased total attendance by 11,387 to 337,566, their top total since 2009. Average per date was down 59 to 5,038. The Travelers had 3 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. This team had never reached 300,000 until 2007, but has now done it 8 times in the last 9 years.
- The all-time single game record-high attendance in the Texas League is 54,151 for a game played on April 11, 1950 at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. A very good article about this game and its attendance can be found at hardballtimes.com. The record-high attendance for any Minor League game is 65,666 set by the Denver Bears of the Class AAA American Association at Mile High Stadium on July 4, 1982. The largest capacity of any current Minor League park is about 25,000 in Monterrey of the Mexican League. Coca Cola Field in Buffalo, which seats 17,600, is the biggest Minor League park in the United States.
- The Texas League, like many Minor Leagues, had a big attendance boom in the late 1940's, with the league reaching a total of 2 million in both 1948 and 1949. Houston in 1948 (401,383), and Dallas in 1949 (404,851), set the records for team attendance. Those team records were not topped until San Antonio drew 411,959 in 1994. Attendance for the entire league did not reach 2 million again also until 1994. It has been above 2 million every year starting in 2000.

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

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

- Total attendance fell 95,212 (5.8%) to 1,551,040, the league's lowest total since 2004. This was the largest total attendance loss by a U.S. NAPBL league in 2015, and the highest percentage decline by any Minor League. The league played 6 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014. There has been a decline in California League attendance in 11 of the last 18 seasons (1998-2015). 3 teams had gains in total attendance, all of them very small.
- Average per date was down 118 to 2,241, which was the lowest since 2004. 3 individual teams posted increases. Since 1994, average per date in this league has ranged from a low of 2,158 in 2001 to a high of 2,988 in 1997.
- The league's average attendance per team has been above 100,000 every year since 1991, and better than 150,000 in all seasons since 2002. But 1997 was the only season with an average per team above 200,000.
- Weather, other than heat, is rarely a problem in the California League. There were 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.
- Lake Elsinore drew 213,932, down 6,137, and averaged 3,142 per date, up 2, to lead the league in both total attendance and average per date. But this was their lowest total ever. The Storm was the only team in this league to top 200,000, and average better than 3,000 per date. They surpassed 340,000 in each of their first 4 years (1994-1997), but they have not drawn more than 290,000 in any season since then.
- The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes, whose ballpark, located near the San Andreas Fault, was originally named 'The Epicenter' (it's now LoanMart Field), drew 167,318, up 325. Average per date was 2,425, up 39, which was the league's best gain. The Quakes had a 17 year run as the California League's attendance leader through 2009. The Quakes drew 150,687 in 2010, lowest in team history. Their previous low had been 266,773 in 2009, 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.
- In their first two seasons (1991 and 1992), the High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks became the first California League team to top 200,000. They've been below 160,000 for 21 years in a row, and suffered a big loss in 2015, which followed a huge rebound in 2014. In 2015, their total attendance dipped by 53,166, with 4 fewer dates, to 94,065, the 2nd lowest total in team history (2013). This decline was the worst in the league, and the 6th worst among all NAPBL teams in 2015. Average per date fell by 678, which was 7th worst in the NAPBL. In 2014, the Mavericks drew 147,231, their best total since 1998. Total attendance rose 54,852, which was the 4th best increase among NAPBL teams. Average per date was up 744, and that was the 3rd best gain in the NAPBL.
- Over their last 9 seasons, the Modesto Nuts have achieved the 9 best attendance totals in their 69 year history. 2015 attendance fell 6,183 to 166,719, the lowest since 2008, and average per date was 2,382, down 88. The Nuts didn't reach 150,000 until 2002, but have now done it for 9 straight years.
- San Jose drew 189,205, down 10,919, which ended a 6 year streak above 200,000. Before this, the Giants had never reached 200,000 in their long history. There were 4 sellouts in 2015. 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.
- 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 190,000 in all 11 seasons from 2005 on. Annual attendance in Stockton has more than doubled since a new park opened in 2005. In 2015, attendance fell 3,889 to 191,611, the smallest total since 2004. Average per date was 2,737, down 56.
- 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 158,435 in 2015, down 12,097. They lost one date due to high winds. Average per date was 2,296, down 140.

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

- **Visalia drew a record-high 121,004. This was the 6th time in the last 7 seasons that the Rawhide has set a new record.** They have drawn the 7 highest attendance totals in team history in the last 7 years, topping 100,000 each year. Before this 7 year streak, 1947 was the only season that a Visalia team drew at least 100,000.
- 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.
- Inland Empire (San Bernadino) drew 196,962, their best total since 2009. Their total attendance gain of 1,121 was the highest in the league. 2009 was their only season drawing above 200,000 since 2005.
- Bakersfield was down 5,268 to 51,789. Average per date was 740, down 87. These were the lowest figures of any full-season NAPBL team, and the average per date was the 3rd smallest among all NAPBL teams. Their largest and only crowd above 2,000 was 2,146. Just 18 dates topped 1,000, and only 4 reached 1,500. Attendance was below 500 at 30 dates. Bakersfield's 2011 attendance of 40,056 was the lowest by a California League team since Salinas attracted just 33,465 in 1990. 2002 was the only season since 1999 where the Blaze managed to surpass 100,000. A new ballpark in Bakersfield was hoped for, but its construction is now in doubt. There was speculation that this team will move to Salinas if a new park can be built there.
- In 1964, 4 of the 8 teams in the league drew less than 17,000 for the season.
- In 1965, the 6 team California League had a total attendance of 128,836, averaging a league record-low 21,743 per team, and 333 per home date. San Jose led the league in attendance that year, drawing 34,517. Attendance for the other teams was: Stockton – 27,774; Bakersfield – 23,234; Fresno – 22,362; Santa Barbara – 12,121; Salinas – an all-time California League low – 8,828.
- Average per team rose to 43,755 in 1966. It was only 50,449 in 1979.

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

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

- A 3 year streak of record-highs ended as total attendance fell 34,905 (1.8%) to 1,946,768. Average per date was down 110 to 3,701. Despite these decreases, 2015 total attendance and average per date were the 2nd highest in league history. There were 6 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. Since 2009, total attendance in the league is up 360,180 (22.7%), and average per date has risen by 638.
- 3 teams were up in total attendance, led by Salem, up 7,338. Myrtle Beach, up 225, and Salem, up 10, had the only gains in average per date.
- 2015 was the 10th straight year that the Carolina League topped 3,000 in average per date.
- Potomac, down 25,667 in total attendance, and down 407 in average per date, had the league's worst losses.
- Carolina League attendance has been very stable over the past 16 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.
- 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.

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

- 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 17 times from that year forward, including in each of the last 6 seasons. In 2014, it was a record-high 247,109, and was a 2nd best 243,346 in 2015.
- The largest crowd to attend a Carolina League game was 32,152 when Potomac hosted Salem at RFK Stadium in Washington on May 21, 2006. Highest attendance in a Carolina League ballpark was 12,049 at Greensboro in 1960. Among current Carolina league teams, Frederick holds the record for biggest crowd in its home ballpark. The Keys drew 11,006 for a home game in 1997.
- Frederick drew 328,789 and 4,907 per date to lead all High-Class A leagues (Carolina, California, Florida State) in total attendance and average per date for the 4th year in a row. This was also Frederick's best total since 1994, and 4th highest overall. Total attendance rose 4,343, but average per date dipped by 84, as the Keys played 2 more dates than in 2014. The Keys surpassed 250,000 for the 26th straight year. In their 27 year history, they've now topped 300,000 14 times, and averaged around 4,500 per date at 5,400 seat Harry Grove Stadium.
- The Winston-Salem Dash, named for the dash in that city's name, had declines of 10,008 in total attendance, and 84 in average per date. Attendance had been below 170,000 each year from 1951 through 2009, but has been above 285,000 each year since. In 2015, the Dash drew 289,637, averaging 4,456 per date.
- In 2010, the Dash opened a new ballpark, and easily set a team record-high, drawing 312,313, with 19 sellouts. Their old record had been 233,507 in 1947, which was the longest-standing season attendance record by a current Minor League franchise going into 2010. Veracruz, of the Mexican League, which set its record-high in 1964, then had the longest standing-record. But they set a new high mark in 2012. Now, the Mexico City Red Devils, whose record-high was set in 1967, have gone the longest time of any team since achieving their all-time record.
- 2010 attendance in Winston-Salem was up 254,648 from 2009, which was the biggest increase in the Minor Leagues for that season. 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.
- Potomac's total attendance fell 25,667 from the record-high set in 2014, and average per date declined by 407 to 3,459. But the 2015 total of 217,892 marked the first time that Potomac had 3 straight years above 210,000. Prior to 2013, the Nationals reached 200,000 just once in the previous 13 years. Hopes continue, as they have for a long time, for a new ballpark for this team.
- Carolina's total attendance of 202,072 was their lowest since starting play in 1991. Total attendance fell 13,077, and average per date declined by 346 to 3,016. 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.
- In 2014, Salem posted the 5th best gains in total attendance and average per date among all NAPBL teams. The Red Sox followed that up with a 7,338 total attendance gain to 228,120 in 2015. It was their best total since 2009. Average per date rose by 10 to 3,355. Attendance in Salem never reached 200,000 until 1999, but has surpassed that total 13 times in the last 17 seasons. Since 2013, total attendance is up 32.3%, there has been a 60% increase in the number of group tickets sold, and season ticket sales have tripled.
- Wilmington, DE has topped 275,000 in all 23 seasons they've played. In 2015, they drew 282,437, up 4,121. Average per date fell by 196 to 4,153, with 14 dates topping 5,000. There were 4 more dates played in 2015 than in 2014. 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). In their history, they've drawn 7,223,962 in 1,527 dates, averaging 4,731 per date at 6,532 capacity Frawley Stadium.

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

- 8 lost dates in 2015, up from 4 lost dates in 2014, kept Myrtle Beach from setting a record-high in total attendance. The Pelicans drew 240,357, down 669, just 2,040 short of the record-high of 242,397 set in 2008. **Average per date was up 225 to a team record-high 3,877.** The current team in Myrtle Beach has topped 200,000 16 times in the last 17 years.
- Until 2005, Lynchburg had never drawn at least 150,000 in its long Minor League history. The Hillcats have now topped this level in each of the last 11 years. They were, however, the only team in this league under 200,000, as they drew 157,464, down 1,286. Average per date was down 19 to 2,386.

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (FULL-SEASON A) (12 teams -- 140 game schedule)

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

- The Florida State League is unique as most of its teams are operated by their Major League parent clubs. Every team except Daytona plays its home games in a Major League Spring Training ballpark.
- Total attendance was down 63,433 (5.1%) in 2015, to 1,172,695, the lowest total since 2009. This was the 10th straight year that league attendance has topped one million. Attendance reached one million only 5 times from 1946 through 2005. **Since 2002, league total attendance is up 45%, while average per date is also up 45%.**
- Fort Myers and St. Lucie were the only teams in the league to have an increase in either total attendance or average per date. Clearwater, down 20,780 with 6 fewer dates than in 2015, had the worst total attendance decrease, and Port Charlotte and Daytona tied for the largest average per date decline, with each team down 220.
- The league's average attendance per team fell below 100,000, 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.
- Florida State League average attendance per date in 2015 fell by 82 to 1,511. This still was the 5th year in a row above 1,500 per date. Prior to this streak, the average had been under 1,500 since at least 1992.
- The league played the same number of dates as in 2014, but lost 63 dates due to weather, the most of any league.
- Clearwater led the league in total attendance for the 11th time in the last 12 years, drawing 174,283, and averaging 2,723 per date. 10 dates topped 4,000. But the Threshers had a 20,780 decline in total attendance, and were down 64 in average per date. They played 6 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014, when they drew a team record-high 195,063, the 2nd best total ever by a Florida State League team. Only 1989 St. Petersburg drew better. Average per date was a record-high 2,787 in 2014. 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.
- 2014 was the 9th time in 11 years that Clearwater set a new total record-high. 2015 was the 9th straight year above 165,000 for Clearwater. 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).
- Bradenton topped 100,000 for the 5th straight year, drawing 102,914, and averaging 1,492 per date. Their park, 91 year old McKechnie Field, got a \$10 million renovation for the 2013 season.
- Palm Beach was down 7,779 to 67,108. They've topped 100,000 only once in their 13 year history (2006).
- Jupiter, which shares Roger Dean Stadium with Palm Beach, had a 4,519 decrease to 67,194, the 2nd lowest total (to 2013) in the team's history. The Hammerheads have reached 100,000 only 3 times in 18 years of play. One team played in nearby West Palm Beach most recently from 1965 through 1997, and drew better than 100,000 in 15 different seasons between 1974 and 1992. A new Spring Training facility opens in West Palm Beach in 2017.

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

- Brevard County drew 78,373, their lowest total since 2009. Total attendance fell just 92, and average per date dipped 42 to 1,244. The Manatees reached 100,000 in each of their first 8 seasons, but have done it just once (2005) since then.
- Lakeland's attendance fell by 3,068 from the record-high set in 2014. But attendance there has surpassed 59,000 in 6 straight years, after not reaching that figure since 1987. Lakeland had reached 60,000 only in 1951, 1977, and 1987. Since 2006, average per date (973 in 2015) has nearly doubled from 495 per date. 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, and 7 lost dates in 2015.
- Daytona Beach drew 137,224, their lowest total since 2005, and average per date fell 220 to 2,250. This ended a streak of 9 years in a row above 140,000. Before this streak, Daytona had reached 100,000 just 5 times in 51 seasons. There were 9 rainouts in 2015, following 12 rainouts in 2014, and also 12 in 2013. The team has been renamed the "Tortugas," which is the Spanish word for a turtle that is native to the Daytona area.
- **It was record-setting year for Fort Myers. The Miracle drew a team record-high total of 133,817, up a league-best 14,715, and a record-high average per date of 2,028, up a league best 167. Opening Night drew a team record 9,209.** (A former team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984.) Since 1998, the Miracle have achieved the most seasons in the Florida State League (16) with attendance above 100,000, and they've done it in each of the last 11 years. St. Petersburg, which no longer has a team in the league, had topped 100,000 for 21 straight years, from 1977 through 1997.
- Dunedin drew 52,659, averaging 798 per date. This was the 2nd lowest total and average among full-season NAPBL teams (to Bakersfield), and the 4th lowest average among all NAPBL teams. Since 1998, Dunedin has topped 60,000 only in 2014.
- Port Charlotte's current team has reached 100,000 in all 7 years, including 105,965, down 12,465, in 2015. This was the lowest total since baseball returned there in 2009. The former team there drew 100,000+ in only 4 of 16 seasons from 1987 through 2002.
- St. Lucie had a 4,394 gain, and topped 90,000 for the 11th straight year, which they didn't do in the previous 17 seasons. Average per date was up 22 to 1,501.
- Tampa played 6 fewer dates than in 2014. Attendance fell 18,735 to 92,786, ending a streak of 4 years in a row above 100,000. Average per date dipped 143 to 1,497.
- Until losing their team to Port Charlotte in 2009, Vero Beach had been one of the smallest towns with pro baseball. The record-high in Vero Beach was 95,300, in 1991. In 1948, the Dodgers first came to Vero Beach for Spring Training. Minor League Baseball now operates Dodgertown, and business conferences are held there annually. One F.S.L. game is played in Holman Stadium there yearly in memory of Jackie Robinson.
- Roger Dean Stadium in Jupiter is the Spring Training site of the Florida Marlins and the St. Louis Cardinals. Their Gulf Coast League affiliates also play in the complex. There are about 30 Major League spring training, 140 Florida State League, and 60 Gulf Coast League games scheduled yearly. Pro baseball's busiest facility is also host to Minor League spring training, the fall Florida Instructional League, and high school and college games.

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

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

- **The Midwest League set new league and Class A record-highs for total attendance, average per date, and average per team in 2015. Total attendance rose 91,086 (2.2%) to 4,233,904, breaking the league record set in 2010. Average per date was up 45 to 3,924, topping a mark set in 2013. Average per team was 264,619. All of the previous Midwest League records were also Class A league records.**
- 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 16 seasons, and has been better than 4 million in 5 of the last 6 years.
- Average attendance per date has been above 3,000 for 21 straight years, which also is a Class A record.
- Midwest League average attendance per team was under 70,000 from 1947 through 1980. In 13 of those seasons, it was below 50,000, with a low of 20,128 per team in 1948. The average per team reached 100,000 for the first time in 1985, and initially topped 200,000 in 1996. It has been above 250,000 in 8 of the last 9 years.
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 8 teams were up in average per date. South Bend had the 3rd best total attendance gain in the Minor Leagues in 2015, up 88,842, and the 3rd best average per date increase, up 1,288. The declines were small. Great Lakes had the worst total decline, down 8,270, with 3 fewer dates played than in 2014. Wisconsin, down 329, had the largest average per date dip. The league played 11 more dates in 2015 than in 2014, but still had 16 fewer dates than in 2012. There were 40 lost dates in 2015.
- **Dayton drew 574,830, their 16th straight year above 570,000. In their 16 year history, the Dragons have the 16 highest season attendance totals ever in Class A.**
- **Dayton has sold out all 1,121 home dates they've ever played, including playoffs and 2 All-Star games, 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. Coincidentally, Dayton's attendance rose 1,121 in 2015.
- In 2015, Dayton outdrew all but 7 Class AAA teams in total attendance, and all but 7 Class AAA teams and 2 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 10th 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.
- **Dayton (8,212, down 225, in 2015), Kane County (5,920), and West Michigan (5,667), are the only Class A teams to average more than 5,100 per home date in each season from 2000 through 2015.** Lakewood of the South Atlantic League had topped 6,000 per date through 2012, each year of their history, which began in 2001. Fort Wayne also averaged more than 5,200 per date each year from 2009 through 2015. Dayton's park has 7,230 seats. The single game record-high in Dayton is 9,558 in 2009.
- The only Class A teams to ever draw at least 500,000 in a season are Midwest League teams Dayton (16 times), Kane County (6), West Michigan (4), and Lansing (2).
- West Michigan held the record broken by Dayton in 2000. The Whitecaps, who play near Grand Rapids, topped 500,000 for 4 straight years, including 1996, when they drew a then-Class A-record 547,701. In 1994, they first broke the Class A record of 463,039 set by Denver in 1949. They've reached 350,000 for 22 years in a row, and have topped 400,000 in 9 seasons (1994-2002). 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. 2015 attendance 'fell' 598 to 391,055, and average per date was up 72 to 5,667.

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

- The wettest summer in Fort Wayne history prevented the Tincaps from breaking their total attendance record set in 2014. All 3 of their rainouts took place on Fireworks Nights, which usually draw big crowds. Total attendance dipped 6,679 to 400,036. **But the average per date was up 161 to a team record-high 5,971.** The Tincaps have surpassed 200,000 in all 23 years of operation, have topped 375,000 in all 7 years in their current ballpark, and have reached 400,000 in 4 of the last 6 seasons. They were the only team in this league that did not lose a home date due to weather in both 2013 and 2014.
- Great Lakes drew 221,749, down 8,270, the smallest total in their 9 year history. There were 3 fewer dates played in 2015 than in 2014. Average per date rose 26 to 3,360. The Loons topped 300,000 in 2007, their first year, but have not done it since.
- Bowling Green, KY had a 20,247 gain to 200,277, with 4 more dates than in 2014. Average per date was up 135 to 2,953. 2014 was the only season in their team's 7 year history that total attendance was below 200,000.
- Clinton, a community-owned team, topped 100,000 for the 10th straight year, drawing 105,405, down 5,924. Before this, the LumberKings had failed to reach 100,000 in all but 4 of 60 seasons with recorded attendance, including 17 years in a row between 1989 and 2005. The team's record-high is 127,251, set in 1988. Average per date in 2015 was 1,573, down 140.
- For 2012, South Bend renovated its ballpark, and increased its attendance by 76,780, the 3rd best gain among NAPBL teams. Average per date rose by 985, the top increase among all U.S. NAPBL teams. In 2013, the Silver Hawks had another big gain. Total attendance increased by 47,873, which was the 4th highest NAPBL gain. Average per date was up a league-best 850. In 2014, the team drew 258,836, a record-high which was 412 higher than the old mark of 258,424 in 1994. The total attendance gain of 21,388 was the best in the league.
- **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 (to Yucatan and Nashville) among NAPBL teams in 2015. There were 40 sellouts. Since 2011, total attendance is up 234,883 (208.2%), and average per date has increased by 3,277 from 1,762 to 5,039.**
- Four Winds Field in South Bend, formerly Stanley Coveleski Regional Stadium, is the only ballpark in America with a former synagogue on its grounds. The Sons of Israel Synagogue was built in 1901, but had been empty for over two decades. When the ballpark was renovated, the Silver Hawks bought the building, located behind the outfield wall, to use as its team store. They refurbished it, while still respecting its religious and landmark status.
- The Wisconsin Timber Rattlers (Appleton) topped 240,000 for the 7th year in a row, a figure they had never reached before 2009. 2015 attendance was down 2,554 to 247,577, despite playing 5 more dates. Average per date fell a league worst 329 to 3,641. 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. Attendance has been over 190,000 for 21 straight years, after never reaching 100,000 in 45 seasons prior to 1995.
- Lake County's attendance was the lowest in its 13 year history. Total attendance for this Ohio team has fallen from 437,515 in 2003, to 221,652 in 2015. Average per date fell 126 in 2015 to 3,358. The Captains reached 400,000 in 2003 and 2004, but have been below 300,000 for the last 7 seasons.
- Cedar Rapids was down all of 179 to 170,832. The Kernels have never topped 200,000 in a season. But they've drawn over 165,000 for 14 straight years, after reaching that level just twice in the 64 previous years with listed attendance. Average per date was down 2 to 2,550.
- Burlington (IA), Beloit, and Clinton always have low attendance, in part, because their ballparks are very small. Seating capacity at Beloit is 3,500, at Burlington it is 3,200, and Clinton's park seats 4,000. Record-high in Burlington is 83,927, achieved in 1994. In 2015, the Burlington Bees drew 66,867, down 3,782. Average per date was 998, down 56.

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

- Beloit attracted 101,127 in 1986, the only time in their 34 year history above 100,000. In 2015, the Snappers drew 65,152, up 1,647. Their 2015 average per date was just 958. Yet, both Burlington and Beloit are often profitable. They are community owned, mainly staffed by volunteers, and profits go into ballpark maintenance.
- **Quad Cities averaged a record-high 3,906 per date, breaking the mark set in 2014 by 21.** Their total of 250,004 was the best since 1995, and the 4th highest total in 78 seasons with listed attendance, going back to 1923. It was also their 8th 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. 19 dates drew better than 5,000 in 2015. There were 3 more dates played in 2015 than in 2014, but the River Bandits still had a league-high 6 rainouts. A popular new feature at Modern Woodmen Park is a 110 foot tall Ferris wheel.
- Lansing had a 1,497 decrease, with 3 fewer dates in 2015, to 336,752. Average per date was 5,026, up 194. 21 crowds topped 6,000, with a high of 11,403. 2014 was just the 2nd season that average per date was under 5,000. The Lugnuts have topped 330,000 in all 20 years of operation. They drew better than 500,000 in 1996 and 1997, and finished above 400,000 from 1996 through 2001. Each season since 2007, Lansing has played an exhibition game against Michigan State University. Attendance for the 9 games of the 'Crosstown Showdown' has totaled 80,021, an average of 8,891 per game.
- Peoria had a 7,457 increase to 225,089, the highest total there since they drew a record-high 275,673 in 2008. The Chiefs have topped 200,000 in 12 of the last 14 years. Prior to 2002, Peoria reached 200,000 in only 3 of the previous 24 years that city had a team. Average per date rose 63 to 3,360.
- Kane County's attendance had surpassed 400,000 for 18 straight years until 2012 (it was back over 400,000 in 2013 and 2014, and was 408,449, down 7,122 in 2015), and topped 500,000 each year from 2001 through 2006. The Cougars have averaged more than 7,000 per date 12 times in their history, and in 2003, they had 18 crowds in excess of 10,000. Average per date was 5,920 in 2015, down 103. In 2013, the Cougars reached 10 million in attendance. It took them fewer seasons to achieve this level than any Class A team in history.
- The Midwest League's single game attendance high is 32,103, set on July 29, 2008, for a Peoria/Kane County game at Wrigley Field in Chicago. The top crowd at a Midwest League park was 14,872 in 2009 at Kane County.

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

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

- Total attendance rose 69,551 (2.3%) to 3,053,433. Average per date was up 61 to 3,297. This was the league's 13th straight year with average per date above 3,000. There were 4 more playing dates in 2015 than in 2014, with 54 lost dates.
- 12 teams had gains in total attendance, and 11 teams had increases in average per date. West Virginia had the top increases in total attendance, up 19,945, and average per date, up 202. Greensboro had the largest losses in total attendance, down 7,882, and average per date, down 116. Delmarva was the only other team in the league with a decline in total attendance, and Delmarva and Savannah had the only other average per date decreases.
- Since 2000, total attendance in this league is up 56.2% (1,954,697 to 3,053,433), and average per date is up 53.1% (2,150 to 3,297).
- 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 rising above it in 2015. Attendance first reached one million in 1988, and topped 2 million initially in 1997.

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

- From its inception in 1960 as the Western Carolinas League, league total attendance was under 500,000 until 1980. Average attendance per team reached 60,000 just once until 1980. It topped 100,000 for the first time in 1993. The average per team first hit 200,000 in 2004, and has been above that level ever since.
- Lakewood led the league in both total attendance and average per date. Total attendance rose 8,145 to 388,718. Average per date was 5,634, up 37. Attendance topped 7,000 at 14 dates in 2015, and 26 dates drew at least 6,000. 2015, 2014, and 2011 are the only seasons below 400,000 for Lakewood, but attendance has topped 380,000 each year. They lost 9 dates due to weather in 2011. The BlueClaws have led the South Atlantic League in total attendance 13 times in their 15 years of play, and in the 2 years they didn't have the top total attendance, they still led the league in average per date.
- There have been 133 crowds of at least 8,000 in Lakewood since 2001 (seating capacity-6,588). They've averaged over 6,000 per date every year through 2012, before falling short of this level in each of the last 3 years. The BlueClaws have a 15 year total attendance of 6,418,326 in 1,013 dates (6,336 per date).
- **Charleston (SC) had a record-setting season in 2015. Total attendance was a record-high 292,661, up 12,586, breaking the mark of 284,718 set in 2007. Average per date was an all-time high of 4,368, besting the previous high of 4,309 set in 2014.** This was the 19th straight year above 200,000, and the 10th 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 didn't reach 150,000 in the next 31 seasons that they had a team. The team won the 2013 Larry MacPhail Award for the top promotional effort in the Minor Leagues. Comedian Bill Murray is one of the team's owners.
- **The Asheville Tourists drew a team record-high 181,578, up 6,685. The old record was 175,892 in 2008.** Their attendance has been above 150,000 for the last 11 years straight, after reaching this level just twice in the previous 57 years that attendance was recorded. Average per date was up 98 to 2,670. Asheville's McCormack Field first opened in 1924. A new park with the same name on the same site, opened in 1992.
- Greensboro's total of 361,288 was their lowest in their 11 seasons at NewBridge Bank Park. They had topped 400,000 each year from 2005 through 2009. But prior to 2005, teams in Greensboro topped 200,000 just 5 times in 49 seasons, with a high of 260,340 in 1981. 2015 total attendance dipped 7,882, and average per date was down 116, both of which were the biggest losses in the league. The Grasshoppers have averaged over 5,000 per date every year in their current ballpark. On July 4, 2015, they drew a ballpark record crowd of 10,312.
- Hagerstown lost 6 dates to weather and drew 68,688. This was up 7,005 from the 2014 figure of 61,683, which was their lowest since rejoining the Minor Leagues in 1981. The Suns averaged 1,073 per date in 2015, up 94. Since 1981, they had topped 100,000 in all seasons but one through 2011, but have been below that number since then. The team had been expected to move to Fredericksburg, VA in 2015, but plans for a new ballpark there fell through. So the Suns stay in Maryland through at least 2017. They still hope to find a new home.
- The Augusta GreenJackets, named for the green jacket that is presented to the winner of The Masters golf tournament in Augusta, broke a streak of 5 straight attendance declines. Despite playing 3 fewer dates than in 2014, their total was up 5,188 to 174,382. Average per date was 2,725, up 200. This team has played in Augusta since 1988. But attendance topped 200,000 only in 2008, 2010, and 2011. There have been discussions about a new park.
- Greenville, SC had a gain of 641 in total attendance. Their average per date rose by 83 to 5,100. The Drive's total of 346,828 was the 3rd best in team history, and is up 231,667 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 10 straight seasons, and has been above 200,000 in all but 3 years since Minor League Baseball returned there in 1984.
- Lexington (KY) drew 283,873, up 1,715. Average per date rose by 156 to 4,367. 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.

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

- Rome (GA) posted a 2,660 increase in total attendance to 180,191. Average per date was 2,689, up 116. But the Braves have been below 200,000 for the past 7 years, after being above that level in their first 6 seasons.
- A great team name in Minor League Baseball had its best total attendance since 2007. The Hickory Crawdads drew 149,963, up 1,549 in 2015. 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 2015 was up 54 to 2,205. Their ballpark got a makeover prior to the 2014 season.
- West Virginia (Charleston) had the best increases in the league in total attendance, up 19,945 to 160,429, and average per date, up 202 to 2,468. The Power had 3 more dates in 2015. Attendance topped 5,000 at 7 dates. They've drawn better than 125,000 for 12 straight years, after not reaching 100,000 in the 8 seasons prior to 2004.
- Kannapolis drew 135,727, their 2nd best total ever. Total attendance rose 16,350, and average per date increased 131 to 2,056. Intimidators' attendance has been very steady in their 21 year history. They've drawn less than 100,000 only once (92,321 in 1993). But their record-high is just 138,487 in 2011. Kannapolis is only about 25 miles from the new ballpark in Charlotte, which may hurt their attendance.
- The Delmarva Shorebirds led the league in attendance from 1996 through 2000, and have topped 200,000 in all 20 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 13 years. In 2015, total attendance fell 6,610, in part due to 7 rainouts, to a team-low 203,520. Average per date slipped by 3 to 3,230. 13 dates drew at least 5,000.
- Savannah played its final season in the league, and drew 125,587, up 1,574. Average per date fell 105 to 1,962. There were 4 more dates than in 2014. This version of Savannah's team drew a record-high of 135,415 in 2011. The record-high for any team in Savannah is 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 has been relocated to Columbia, SC for 2016.
- The new team in Columbia, SC has been named the Fireflies. They will play in Spirit Communications Park, which is a brand-new facility. 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.
- This league has some of the best gains ever for relocated teams. In their first season (2001), Lakewood drew 482,206, an all-time high for a South Atlantic League team. It was also a 14 fold increase from the 32,641 this franchise attracted in 2000, when it was in Cape Fear, NC. Lake County OH, which is now in the Midwest League, drew 437,515, in 2003, their first year in Ohio. In 2002, the franchise drew just 52,103 in Columbus, GA.
- In 2002, Charleston, SC had a game with an official attendance of 0. It was a promotion called "Nobody Night" to achieve the lowest attendance ever at any game. A party for fans was held outside the ballpark until after the 5th inning, when the game became official. Fans were then admitted free. The old record for smallest 'crowd' was 1, set by Oakland of the Pacific Coast League on November 8, 1905. Yes, November, and no promotion here. It was a rainy day. The P.C.L. used to have a very long schedule. In 1905, Oakland played 222 games.

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

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

- Total attendance rose 69,491 (7.1%) to 1,051,265. This was the 3rd highest total in the history of this league. The only seasons with higher total attendance were 1997, and the record-high season of 1998. It was the first time above one million since 2000.
- Average per date was up 219 to 3,481. That's the best average per date for the league since 1998. Highest average per date in Northwest League history was 3,516 in 1997.
- Every team in the league averaged at least 2,255 per date in 2015. All teams in the Northwest League also averaged better than 2,000 per date in 2013 and 2014. 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.
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 6 teams achieved gains in average per date. Vancouver had the league's best increases in total attendance, up 35,348, and in average per date, up 955. These were the top gains by any NAPBL short-season team in 2015. Among teams playing in the same market in 2015 as in 2014, it was the 10th best total gain by any NAPBL team, and the 6th best average per date increase. Salem-Keiser, down 9,232 in total attendance, and down 243 in average per date, had the top losses. Spokane was the only other team with a decline in either category.
- Only 2 dates were lost in 2015 due to weather as Spokane and Vancouver each had a rainout. 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 24 lost dates since 2005, and 70 lost dates in 22 seasons since 1994.
- Total attendance in this league topped one million each year from 1995 through 2000, but didn't reach that figure again until 2015. The league has drawn better than 800,000 in all seasons since 1994. Before that year, the last time this league reached 800,000 was in 1948, when it played a full-season schedule. Total attendance was under 300,000 in all seasons from 1961 through 1982.
- Average attendance per team was 124,174 in 1947 and 110,051 in 1948. The next time the average per team surpassed 100,000 was in 1994, and it has done that every year since then. The average per team was below 50,000 annually from 1961 through 1984, with a low of 20,482 in 1968. That year, the 4 team league drew a total of just 81,928. In 2015, each of the 8 teams in the league individually drew better than that.
- **Vancouver drew a team short-season record high 215,535, breaking the record of 184,042 set in 2013. The average per date of 5,825 was also a team short-season record-high. Only Brooklyn had higher attendance among short-season teams. 35 of 37 dates drew at least 5,000, with 22 of them having a sellout figure of 6,013. Nat Bailey Stadium seats 5,157. The Canadians also posted the best gains in total attendance (35,348) and average per date (955) among all short-season teams.** 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 10 lost regular season dates in the last 16 years.
- Spokane had led the league in total attendance for 15 straight years through 2014, until Vancouver topped them in 2015. In 2015, total attendance was 188,956, down 4,909 from that city's short-season record-high set in 2014. Record-high for a full-season team in Spokane is 287,185 in the Class B Western International League in 1947. The Indians have topped 100,000 for 30 straight years, and have drawn over 160,000 for 21 years in a row. The 2015 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. 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 5,112,111 since 1983.
- In 2014, Spokane averaged 5,240 per date, which was higher than any team in Spokane, including those in the P.C.L., had ever averaged. 2015 average per date declined by 133 to 5,107. Spokane's park, which opened in 1958, underwent a renovation that was completed for the 2013 season.

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

- Tri-City (Pasco, WA) had set a team record-high for average per date in 7 straight years through 2013. The average per date fell by 15 in 2014, but was up 9 to 2,264 in 2015. The Dust Devils saw total attendance rise by 343 to 86,022, which is just 73 short of their Northwest League team total attendance record. It was their 8th straight year above 80,000. In 1997, Tri-City drew 109,101 in the independent Western Baseball League, which had a longer season than they play now.
- Everett's total attendance went up 7,971 to 100,613. The AquaSox topped 100,000 each season from 1998 through 2007, but didn't do it again until 2015. Prior to 1998, Everett surpassed 90,000 just once in 14 years. Average per date was 2,648, up 144.
- Eugene posted a 12,864 increase to 120,931, their best total since 2009. Average per date rose 338 to 3,182. The Emeralds topped 100,000 for the 31st straight year, the longest such streak by a short-season team. Their new, smaller park has a capacity of 4,000 and is on the campus of the University of Oregon.
- **Hillsboro, a suburb of Portland, drew a team record-high total of 143,412 and record-high average of 3,774 per date in a 4,710 capacity ballpark.** The old records were set in 2014. Total attendance increased by 4,680, and average per date was up 123. This team played in Yakima through 2012. Highest attendance ever in Yakima was 86,822 in 1993.
- Northwest League teams were in Portland from 1973-1977, and from 1995-2000. In 1996, Portland drew 249,995, an all-time high for this league, and at that time, the highest attendance ever by any short-season team (broken by Brooklyn in 2001). For most of the 20th Century, and continuing through 2010, Portland was in the Pacific Coast League. Their record-high in that league was 454,197 in 2002. That team played in PGE Park, which was one of the largest Minor League ballparks in the country, seating nearly 20,000. On June 15, 1995, a game there drew 20,600, which is a Northwest League record. The facility has recently been renovated for use as a soccer stadium, renamed JELD-WEN Field, and is the home of the Portland Timbers of Major League Soccer.
- Salem-Keizer has reached 100,000 in all years except 2010, 2013, 2014, and 2015 in their 19 seasons of operation. Their 2015 total attendance of 85,851, down 9,232, was the smallest for the current team. They set their all-time high of 136,836 in 1997, which was this team's first year of play. Average per date dipped by 243 to 2,259, with 3 dates topping 4,000.
- Boise's attendance of 109,945, up 22,426, was their best total since 2000, and their first time above 100,000 since 2010. From 1989 through 2010, the Hawks topped 100,000 every year except 2001, when they missed by just 160. Average per date rose 590 to 2,893.

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

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

- Total attendance rose 30,804 (2.0%) to 1,590,750, and average per date was up 36 to 3,119. The increase was in part due to the relocation of a team from Jamestown, NY to Granville, WV, next to the campus of West Virginia University in Morgantown. The 13 teams that played in the same markets in 2015 as in 2014 had a combined total attendance decline of 28,746 (1.8%), and their average per date fell 54 from 3,240 in 2014 to 3,186 in 2015.
- There were 4 more dates played in 2015 than in 2014, with 22 rainouts. Among the 13 'same market' teams, 6 had gains in total attendance, and 6 teams saw growth in average per date. Auburn had largest gain in total attendance, up 6,030, and Connecticut had the best average per date increase, up 200. Lowell had the worst total attendance decline (down 24,661), and average per date loss (550) among all short-season teams. The West Virginia Black Bears drew 59,550 more in total attendance, and 1,507 more in average per date, than the team in Jamestown, NY did in 2014.
- Average per date in the New York-Penn League has topped 3,000 for 15 straight years after never reaching this level before. Total attendance first reached one million in 1995, and has been above that every year since then.

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

- 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 54,337,956. 2015 was the 15th straight year that the league drew at least 1,500,000. In 1939, the 6 teams in the league drew a total of 267,212.
- Average attendance per team first topped 100,000 in 2001, and has been above that figure every year since then. The league had a 75,284 average per team in 1949, when it played a longer schedule. That figure was not surpassed until 1995. The average per team was below 50,000 each season from 1952 through 1988. The lowest average per team was 19,196 in 1967, the first year this league played a short-season. That year Auburn led the league in attendance, drawing 26,991. Erie finished last at the gate, with a total of 9,988.
- The lowest team attendance since the short-season schedule began was 9,474 in 1980 by Auburn. In 1990, Pittsfield became this league's first team in the short-season era to draw 100,000. As late as 1993, none of the 14 teams in the New York-Penn League reached 100,000. 8 of 14 teams did it in 2015.
- The Brooklyn Cyclones have new competition for sports dollars from the Barclays Center, an arena that is home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets, and starting in the 2015-16 season, the NHL New York Islanders. **While Brooklyn's 2015 attendance of 230,658 was their lowest ever, they still led all short-season teams for the 15th straight year.** They've drawn 4,060,660 in their 15 years, reaching this level faster than any short-season team. Spokane held this record previously, and it took that team 28 years to reach 4 million. Eugene, OR of the Northwest League reached 4 million in its 39th short season.
- In 2002, the Cyclones set the short-season record of 317,124, averaged 8,345 per date, and sold out every game. The Cyclones drew 289,382 in 2001, breaking the New York-Penn League mark set by Mahoning Valley (206,287) in 2000, and the short-season record of 249,995 set by Portland of the Northwest League in 1996.
- In 37 home dates in 2015, the Cyclones drew a higher total than 43 of 60 full-season Class A teams, 7 of 30 Class AA teams, and 10 of 16 Mexican League teams, all of whom played many more home dates than the Cyclones.
- Brooklyn averaged 6,234 per date. Just one team in Class A (Dayton), 2 in Class AA, and 3 in the Mexican League, had a higher average per date than Brooklyn. In fact, Brooklyn had a higher per date average than 11 of the 30 Class AAA teams. In their 15 year history, the Cyclones have played 552 dates, averaging 7,356 per date.
- The Aberdeen IronBirds, who are owned by Cal Ripken Jr., had a slight improvement. Total attendance rose by 1,458 to 151,758, and average per date was up 41 to 4,216. 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 93,216 since 2012, from 244,974. Average per date is down 2,231 since 2012. Prior to 2013, the IronBirds had topped 225,000 in all 11 seasons they played.
- **Connecticut drew 78,588, and averaged 2,311 per date. Those are record-highs in both total and average for a short-season team based in Norwich, and broke the records set in 2014.** The full-season team record there is 281,473, set by a Class AA Eastern League team in 1995. Total attendance for the Tigers was up 470, despite 3 fewer dates, and average per date rose by a league-best 200 in 2015.
- 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 7,479 in 2015, with 2 fewer dates played, to 153,692, the 6th straight year above 150,000. Attendance is up 47.8% since 2003. The average per date has been above 4,000 in each of the last 8 seasons, and was 4,269, up 28, in 2015.
- Lowell drew 140,468, their lowest total since 1997. Average per date was 3,796. The total was down 24,661, and the average per date fell by 550. Those were the biggest declines among short-season teams in 2015. In 2010, the Spinners ended a sellout streak of 413 games. They had surpassed 150,000 for 17 straight years until 2015. In 2008, they were part of a Minor League double-header that drew 36,234 at Fenway Park in Boston.

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

- Staten Island had its lowest total since 2006. But the Yankees have been above 100,000 in all 17 seasons. In 2015, attendance was 119,195, down 3,247, and average per date was down 180 to 3,221.
- Hudson Valley topped 4,000 in average per date for the 22nd consecutive year. 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 22 years is 3,460,957 in 799 dates, an average of 4,332 in a park that seats 4,494. Highest game attendance there is 5,539, set in 2013. In 2015, total attendance rose 4,683 to 163,767, and average per date was up 126 to 4,426.
- The Auburn Doubledays had a league-best 6,030 gain in 2015, drawing 50,670. It was just the 8th time Auburn has reached 50,000 in 59 seasons with a team since 1950. Their ballpark is small, with a capacity of 2,800. Average per date rose 168 to 1,408.
- Batavia has not reached 45,000 since 1973, and has been below 40,000 in each of the last 7 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 32,221 in 2015, their lowest total since 1988. Average per date fell by 33 to 921.
- Mahoning Valley (Niles, OH) drew 111,079, up 1,534, with 2 more dates played. Average per date fell 128 to 3,002. 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.
- State College has topped 125,000 in all 10 of their seasons. But the Spikes had their lowest total (127,775) ever in 2015. Average per date dipped 284 to 3,363.
- Vermont had a decrease of 1,089, and finished below 100,000 for the 9th straight year. The Lake Monsters had reached 100,000 in 12 of the 13 seasons before that. Average per date fell 30 to 2,243. The average has been under 3,000 since 2003. Centennial Field in Burlington has a grandstand built in 1922. It seats 4,415.
- Williamsport drew 64,081, up 2,832. This was the 8th straight year below 70,000 for the Crosscutters. Average per date rose 30 to 1,780.
- The West Virginia Black Bears replaced the Jamestown Jammers. 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 83,796 in 2015, up 59,550 from Jamestown's 2014 total. Average per date was up 1,507 to 2,265.
- Jamestown played its final season in 2014, and drew just 24,246, the lowest total attendance of any NAPBL team. The Jammers had 6 lost dates. Their average per date of 758 was 2nd lowest (Princeton of the Appalachian League averaged 753) among NAPBL teams. The short-season record-high in Jamestown was 63,069 in 2001. The city's full-season record-high was 143,016 in 1942. They also topped 100,000 in 1946 and 1949. But the team had not reached 50,000 since 2004.
- Team relocations and new parks have resulted in a significant increase in New York-Penn League attendance in the past 23 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 2015 attendance total of 1,590,750 is a gain of 132.5% from 1992. 2015 average attendance per team was 113,625, and the average per date was 3,119. In 2015, 12 of the 14 teams in this 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**APPALACHIAN LEAGUE (SHORT-SEASON ROOKIE)** (10 teams -- 68 game schedule)

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

- 2015 was another good year for the Appalachian League. Total attendance rose 27,348 (8.5%) to 347,451, which was the best total for this league since 1997. The total attendance percentage increase was the highest of any NAPBL Minor League in 2015. It followed a Minor League best 16.2% increase in total attendance in 2014.
- The increase took place despite 5 fewer dates played. There were 20 lost dates compared to 16 in 2014 and 32 in 2013. There were 35 lost dates in 2012, and just 5 in 2011.
- Average attendance per date was up 101 to 1,089, the league's best average since 1997. It was also the first time the league averaged at least 1,000 per date since 2008. The record-high league average is 1,404 in 1994.
- 5 teams had increases in total attendance, and 5 had growth in average per date. Pulaski more than doubled its attendance. Total attendance there was up 30,683, the 10th best gain among all NAPBL teams. Their average per date rose by 859, which was the 6th highest NAPBL gain. Bristol, down 7,894 in total attendance, and 221 in average per date, had the league's worst declines.
- For the 2nd time since 1999, at least 3 Appalachian League teams drew over 40,000 (Greeneville, Burlington, Pulaski). 3 teams also did it in 2014. 4 teams topped 40,000 in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1998, and 1999. A record-high of 5 teams did it in 1993, 1994, and 1997.
- 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.
- This league has small markets and parks, with capacity ranging from 1,500 in Elizabethton to 3,000 in Burlington.
- In 1957, the Appalachian League became the first league to play a short-season schedule. Total attendance for the league didn't reach 200,000 until 1986.
- The highest average attendance per team for this league was 51,736 in 1947, when it played a longer schedule (126 games) than it does now. From 1957 through 1985, the average per team was below 20,000 in 17 seasons. It didn't reach 30,000 per team until 1988. The short-season record-high average per team is 44,276 in 1993. The last time the average per team topped 40,000 was in 1997.
- Lowest average per team was just 12,983 in 1983. That year, the 7 teams in this league drew a total of 90,878. Bluefield had the highest attendance – 25,767. 4 teams drew less than 10,000. Pikeville drew just 4,998.
- **Pulaski had incredible growth. Total attendance more than doubled to a 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 record-high 1,677 in 2015, up 859. That's the 6th best NAPBL average per team increase.**
- Pulaski has surpassed 30,000 in 5 of their last 8 seasons after doing it just once in the previous 35 years with a team. They drew 26,160 in 2014. In 1998, this franchise drew just 8,812, an average of 275 per date. This team became a Yankees affiliate in 2015, and changed its name from Mariners to Yankees.
- Greeneville, TN led the league in total attendance and average per date in their first 11 years (2004-2014) in the league. Pulaski topped them in both categories in 2015. **But the Astros still set team record-highs in both total attendance and average per date. Total attendance rose 5,633 to 54,252, beating the old record of 51,806 in 2008. Average per date was up 214 to 1,644, which topped the previous high of 1,612 in 2005.** The Astros have topped 40,000 in all 12 seasons. On July 4, 2015, they drew 3,907, their biggest crowd ever.
- Johnson City had the best total increase among all short-season teams in 2014. 2 fewer dates in 2015 caused total attendance to fall 1,233 to 39,118, which still was their 2nd best total since 2001. Average per date rose by 43 to 1,304. In 2014, the Cardinals' average per date increase of 435 was not only the best gain among all short-season teams, but also the 13th highest average per date increase among all NAPBL teams.

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

- Burlington topped 40,000 for the 2nd time since 2000, with a 5,566 increase to 46,063, their best total since 1997. Average per date was up 164 to 1,355. There were no lost dates in both 2014 and 2015. This team drew over 40,000 in 14 of 15 years from 1996 through 2000, and reached 60,000 in 6 of 8 seasons between 1986 and 1993.
- Bristol played 2 fewer dates than in 2014, and had 6 lost dates, the most in the league. The Pirates' total of 17,849, down 7,894, was their lowest since 1987. Average per date fell by 221 to 637. This was the lowest total and average per date of any NAPBL team in 2015. The declines were the worst in the league. This team has not topped 30,000 since 1976, when they drew a record-high total of 32,409. Their full-season high is 68,504 in 1946.
- Kingsport drew 31,086, up 622, and has now topped 30,000 in 9 of the last 12 seasons. They drew better than 45,000 from 1997 through 1999, but have not topped 40,000 since. Average per date was 942, down 10.
- Danville had its 7th decline in the last 8 seasons. Total attendance was down 1,544 to 28,841, and average per date fell by 76 to 874. In their first 7 seasons (1993-1999), Danville topped 50,000 each year, and drew a league record-high 80,539 in 1993.
- Bluefield had the only decrease in total attendance in the league in 2014, and dipped 2,347 to 24,099 in 2015. Average per date declined by 23 to 803. They had 2 fewer dates. 2009 was the only year above 30,000 since 1999 for the Blue Jays. This team drew 55,373 in 1991, and had 10 straight years above 30,000 from 1990 through 1999.
- Elizabethton, which has the smallest NAPBL ballpark, has reached 30,000 just once (in 2007) in their 42 years in this league. But they've drawn over 20,000 in each of the last 15 years, after doing it just twice (1978 and 1994) from 1974 through 2000. The E-Twins drew 22,069 in 2015, down 4,521. Average per date dipped 94 to 712.
- Princeton had topped 30,000 in 9 of their first 14 seasons. But they haven't reached this level in the last 14 years. In 2015, total attendance rose 2,203 to 27,051, and average per date was up 67 to 820.
- 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. Both Greenville and Pulaski did it in 2015.
- The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball lists team attendance for the Appalachian League starting in 1945. This was a full-season league through 1955. Bluefield had the 3 highest individual team totals of that era, drawing 86,303 in 1947, 83,208 in 1948, and 116,572 in 1949.

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

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

- Total attendance rose by 10,591 (1.7%) to 633,622. Average per date was 2,185, up 37. The league played the same number of dates as in 2014. There were 14 rainouts.
- 2015 was the 13th year in a row where the average per date was at least 2,000. The league did not average 2,000+ per date in any season before 2003, going back to at least 1992.
- Pioneer League total attendance didn't top 600,000 from 1953 through 2002. It's done so every year since then.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance, led by Ogden, up 16,894. 5 teams posted gains in average per date, led by Ogden, up 286. Missoula had the biggest losses, down 6,991 in total attendance, and down 194 in average per date.

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

- Pioneer League record-high average attendance per team is 91,119 in 2008. The only other year above 90,000 was 2009. This league began to play a short-season schedule in 1964. When it played a longer season, the record-high average per team was 100,335 in 1948.
- From 1964 through 1980, the league average per team never topped 40,000. The low was 15,862 in 1965. That year, the 4 teams in the league drew a combined total of just 63,446. 6 of the current 8 teams in the league individually drew more than that in 2015. In 1965, each team played a total of 66 games. Lowest team attendance was 8,692 by the Pocatello Chiefs, who were managed by Tom Lasorda. The last year with an average per team below 50,000 was 1993 (41,921).
- Ogden led the league in total attendance for the 16th consecutive season, drawing 125,398, up 16,894. Average per date rose by 286 to 3,300. Those were the best increases in this league for 2015. The Raptors have topped 100,000 for 15 straight years, and have reached 125,000 in 11 of the last 14 seasons. Ogden and Grand Junction have the largest parks in this league, with capacities of about 7,000.
- Idaho Falls had an increase of 10,989 to 90,884, with 2 more dates than in 2014. Average per date rose by 173 to 2,456. The Chukars have topped 90,000 in 7 seasons since 2007, something they had not done before. Their ballpark seats just 3,400, and their 9 of their top 10 attendance totals have all come in the last 9 seasons.
- Great Falls drew 45,414, down 4,106, their lowest season total since 1977. Average per date fell by 76 to 1,262. Attendance there has been cut by more than half since 2003. The Voyagers have not reached 60,000 in the last 5 years, after topping 100,000 in 5 of 7 seasons from 2003 through 2009.
- Grand Junction, in its 4th season in the league, drew 74,794 with 2 fewer dates, lowest total of these 4 years. Average per date dropped by 63 to 2,137. The team moved to Grand Junction in 2012 from Casper, where the highest attendance ever was 57,120 in 2010.
- Billings topped 100,000 for the 8th straight year, drawing 100,120, down 5,238 with 2 fewer dates than in 2014. Prior to this streak, Billings had reached 100,000 just 8 times in the previous 48 seasons. The Mustangs' 2015 average per date rose by 18 to 2,945.
- Orem has surpassed 75,000 in all of their 11 seasons, with 4 of those years topping 100,000. The Owlz (yes, that is spelled correctly) drew 85,733 in 2015, up 2,554. Average per date was up 8 to 2,256.
- Through 2014, Missoula had drawn over 80,000 for 8 straight years after never before reaching that level. But in 2015, Osprey attendance fell by 6,991 to 77,438, and average per date dipped 194 to 2,151. Those were the biggest declines in the league.
- It's been 10 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 36 years, none since 2005. The 2015 total of 33,841 was up 3,077, and average per date increased by 85 to 940.
- 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.

NAPBL INDIVIDUAL LEAGUE AND TEAM HIGHLIGHTS**ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE** – (6 teams – 32 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 2015 played a 32 game schedule over a 6 week period. 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 senior 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 2015 were the Glendale Desert Dogs, Mesa Solar Sox, Peoria Javelinas, Salt River Rafter, Scottsdale Scorpions, and the Surprise Saguaros.

In 2015, the Salt River Rafter led the league in attendance for the 5th straight year.

ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE – 2005-2015 ATTENDANCE

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

2015 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Buffalo Bisons	551,303	67	8,228	535,275	16,028	1988
Charlotte Knights	669,398	71	9,428	687,715	(18,317)	2014
Columbus (OH) Clippers	622,096	69	9,016	628,980	(6,884)	2009
Durham Bulls	554,788	71	7,814	533,033	21,755	1995
Gwinnett (GA) Braves	270,336	71	3,808	303,959	(33,623)	2009
Indianapolis Indians	662,536	71	9,331	660,289	2,247	1996
Lehigh Valley (PA) IronPigs	613,815	70	8,769	614,888	(1,073)	2008
Louisville Bats	527,588	70	7,537	567,256	(39,668)	2000
Norfolk Tides	386,402	67	5,767	358,147	28,255	1993
Pawtucket Red Sox	466,600	71	6,572	515,665	(49,065)	1942
Rochester Red Wings	440,360	70	6,291	422,454	17,906	1997
Scranton-Wilkes Barre RailRiders	402,731	70	5,753	401,618	1,113	2013
Syracuse Chiefs	262,408	69	3,803	247,046	15,362	1997
Toledo Mud Hens	531,249	69	7,699	545,265	(14,016)	2002
LEAGUE TOTAL	6,961,610	976	7,133	7,021,590	(59,980)	
<u>PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE</u> (AAA)						
Albuquerque Isotopes	560,519	70	8,007	564,625	(4,106)	2003
Colorado Springs Sky Sox	300,209	65	4,619	350,374	(50,165)	1988
El Paso Chihuahuas	578,952	71	8,154	560,997	17,955	2014
Fresno Grizzlies	458,431	71	6,457	467,862	(9,431)	2002
Iowa (Des Moines) Cubs	504,577	67	7,531	492,060	12,517	1992
Las Vegas 51s	333,520	69	4,834	329,429	4,091	1983
Memphis Redbirds	278,579	69	4,037	381,429	(102,850)	2000
Nashville Sounds	565,548	71	7,965	323,961	241,587	2015
New Orleans Zephyrs	324,973	69	4,710	348,796	(23,823)	1997
Oklahoma (City) Dodgers	471,996	68	6,941	429,190	42,806	1998
Omaha Storm Chasers	386,141	70	5,516	393,946	(7,805)	2011
Reno Aces	376,422	70	5,377	379,439	(3,017)	2009
Round Rock (TX) Express	595,012	69	8,623	595,700	(688)	2000
Sacramento River Cats	672,354	72	9,338	607,839	64,515	2000
Salt Lake (City) Bees	470,760	69	6,823	470,565	195	1994
Tacoma Rainiers	352,521	71	4,965	305,446	47,075	1960
LEAGUE TOTAL	7,230,514	1,111	6,508	7,001,658	228,856	
<i>El Paso played in Tucson for the first 4 home dates in 2014. Those 4 dates in Tucson drew 12,060.</i>						
TOTAL -- CLASS AAA	14,192,124	2,087	6,800	14,023,248	168,876	
<u>EASTERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Akron Rubber Ducks	340,916	68	5,013	350,704	(9,788)	1997
Altoona Curve	302,761	70	4,325	275,823	26,938	1999
Binghamton Mets	188,104	68	2,766	171,279	16,825	1992
Bowie Baysox	256,865	71	3,618	248,630	8,235	1994
Erie SeaWolves	203,655	65	3,133	209,299	(5,644)	1995
Harrisburg Senators	301,588	69	4,371	273,645	27,943	2010
New Britain Rock Cats	267,377	66	4,051	302,865	(35,488)	1996
New Hampshire Fisher Cats	348,539	69	5,051	340,299	8,240	2005
Portland (ME) Sea Dogs	368,291	67	5,497	359,427	8,864	1994
Reading Fightin' Phils	417,010	69	6,044	394,458	22,552	1951
Richmond Flying Squirrels	417,828	69	6,055	418,147	(319)	1985
Trenton Thunder	347,231	70	4,960	361,369	(14,138)	1994
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,760,165	821	4,580	3,705,945	54,220	

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>SOUTHERN LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
<i>Biloxi Shuckers</i>	164,076	63	2,604	94,929	69,147	2015
Birmingham Barons	444,639	70	6,352	437,612	7,027	2013
Chattanooga Lookouts	218,512	64	3,414	242,627	(24,115)	2000
Jackson (West Tenn) Generals	136,918	63	2,173	135,248	1,670	1998
Jacksonville (FL) Suns	272,422	66	4,128	300,538	(28,116)	2003
Mississippi (Pearl) Braves	216,917	68	3,190	211,200	5,717	2005
Mobile BayBears	96,260	62	1,553	106,297	(10,037)	1997
Montgomery (AL) Biscuits	232,466	68	3,419	244,534	(12,068)	2004
Pensacola Blue Wahoos	305,063	69	4,421	311,687	(6,624)	2012
Tennessee (Kodak) Smokies	277,606	63	4,406	283,038	(5,432)	2000
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,364,879	656	3,605	2,367,710	(2,831)	
<i>Biloxi played in Huntsville in 2014. 42 dates were played in Biloxi in 2015 and drew 136,908 (3,260 per date). In 2015, Biloxi had 12 'home' dates in Huntsville, 4 in Jacksonville, 5 in Mississippi, that drew a total of 27,168 (1,294 per date).</i>						
<u>TEXAS LEAGUE</u> (AA)						
Arkansas (Little Rock) Travelers	337,566	67	5,038	326,179	11,387	2007
Corpus Christi Hooks	362,968	68	5,338	393,769	(30,801)	2005
Frisco RoughRiders	477,354	69	6,918	449,773	27,581	2003
Midland (TX) RockHounds	297,325	70	4,248	299,586	(2,261)	2002
NW Arkansas Naturals	290,471	65	4,469	319,109	(28,638)	2008
San Antonio Missions	308,564	67	4,605	294,539	14,025	1994
Springfield (MO) Cardinals	337,519	68	4,964	354,227	(16,708)	2003
Tulsa Drillers	380,759	65	5,858	403,732	(22,973)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,792,526	539	5,181	2,840,914	(48,388)	
TOTAL CLASS AA	8,917,570	2,016	4,423	8,914,569	3,001	
<u>CALIFORNIA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Bakersfield Blaze	51,789	70	740	57,057	(5,268)	1941
High Desert (Adelanto) Mavericks	94,065	66	1,425	147,231	(53,166)	1991
Inland Empire (S. Bernadi.) 66ers	196,962	70	2,814	195,841	1,121	1996
Lake Elsinore Storm	213,932	68	3,146	220,069	(6,137)	1994
Lancaster JetHawks	158,435	69	2,296	170,532	(12,097)	1996
Modesto Nuts	166,719	70	2,382	172,902	(6,183)	1952
Rancho Cucamonga Quakes	167,318	69	2,425	166,993	325	1993
San Jose Giants	189,205	70	2,703	200,124	(10,919)	1942
Stockton Ports	191,611	70	2,737	195,500	(3,889)	2005
Visalia Rawhide	121,004	70	1,729	120,003	1,001	1946
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,551,040	692	2,241	1,646,252	(95,212)	
<u>CAROLINA LEAGUE</u> (A)						
Carolina Mudcats	202,072	67	3,016	215,149	(13,077)	1991
Frederick Keys	328,789	67	4,907	324,446	4,343	1990
Lynchburg Hillcats	157,464	66	2,386	158,750	(1,286)	2004
Myrtle Beach Pelicans	240,357	62	3,877	241,026	(669)	1999
Potomac Nationals	217,892	63	3,459	243,559	(25,667)	1984
Salem Red Sox	228,120	68	3,355	220,782	7,338	1995
Wilmington (DE) Blue Rocks	282,437	68	4,153	278,316	4,121	1993
Winston-Salem Dash	289,637	65	4,456	299,645	(10,008)	2010
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,946,768	526	3,701	1,981,673	(34,905)	

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Bradenton Marauders	102,914	69	1,492	104,584	(1,670)	1923
Brevard County Manatees	78,373	63	1,244	78,465	(92)	1994
(Port) Charlotte Stone Crabs	105,965	65	1,630	118,430	(12,465)	1987
Clearwater Threshers	174,283	64	2,723	195,063	(20,780)	2004
Daytona Tortugas	137,224	61	2,250	143,273	(6,049)	1930
Dunedin Blue Jays	52,659	66	798	60,044	(7,385)	1977
Fort Myers Miracle	133,817	66	2,028	119,102	14,715	1991
Jupiter Hammerheads	67,194	65	1,034	71,713	(4,519)	1998
Lakeland Flying Tigers	61,328	63	973	64,396	(3,068)	1966
Palm Beach Cardinals	67,108	66	1,017	74,887	(7,779)	1998
St. Lucie Mets	99,044	66	1,501	94,650	4,394	1988
Tampa Yankees	92,786	62	1,497	111,521	(18,735)	1996
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,172,695	776	1,511	1,236,128	(63,433)	
<u>MIDWEST LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Beloit Snappers	65,152	68	958	63,505	1,647	1982
Bowling Green (KY) Hot Rods	200,777	68	2,953	180,350	20,427	2009
Burlington (IA) Bees	66,867	67	998	70,649	(3,782)	1947
Cedar Rapids (IA)ernels	170,832	67	2,550	171,011	(179)	2002
Clinton LumberKings	105,405	67	1,573	111,329	(5,924)	1937
Dayton Dragons	574,830	70	8,212	573,709	1,121	2000
Fort Wayne Tin Caps	400,036	67	5,971	406,715	(6,679)	2009
Great Lakes (Midland, MI) Loons	221,749	66	3,360	230,019	(8,270)	2007
Kane County (IL) Cougars	408,449	69	5,920	415,571	(7,122)	1991
Lake County (OH) Captains	221,652	66	3,358	226,454	(4,802)	2003
Lansing Lugnuts	336,752	67	5,026	338,249	(1,497)	1996
Peoria Chiefs	225,089	67	3,360	217,632	7,457	2002
Quad Cities River Bandits	250,004	64	3,906	237,005	12,999	2004
South Bend Cubs	347,678	69	5,039	258,836	88,842	1988
West Michigan Whitecaps	391,055	69	5,667	391,653	(598)	1994
Wisconsin Timber Rattlers	247,577	68	3,641	250,131	(2,554)	1995
LEAGUE TOTAL	4,233,904	1,079	3,924	4,142,818	91,086	
<u>SOUTH ATLANTIC LEAGUE (A)</u>						
Asheville Tourists	181,578	68	2,670	174,893	6,685	1992
Augusta (GA) GreenJackets	174,382	64	2,725	169,194	5,188	1995
Charleston (SC) RiverDogs	292,661	67	4,368	280,075	12,586	1997
Delmarva (Salisbury) Shorebirds	203,520	63	3,230	210,130	(6,610)	1996
Greensboro Grasshoppers	361,288	68	5,313	369,170	(7,882)	2005
Greenville (SC) Drive	346,828	68	5,100	346,187	641	2006
Hagerstown Suns	68,688	64	1,073	61,683	7,005	1931
Hickory Crawdads	149,963	68	2,205	148,414	1,549	1993
Kannapolis Intimidators	135,727	66	2,056	119,377	16,350	1995
Lakewood (NJ) BlueClaws	388,718	69	5,634	380,573	8,145	2001
Lexington (KY) Legends	283,873	65	4,367	282,158	1,715	2001
Rome (GA) Braves	180,191	67	2,689	177,531	2,660	2003
Savannah Sand Gnats	125,587	64	1,962	124,013	1,574	1941
West Virginia (Charleston) Power	160,429	65	2,468	140,484	19,945	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,053,433	926	3,297	2,983,882	69,551	
TOTAL FULL SEASON A	11,957,840	3,999	2,990	11,990,753	(32,913)	

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>NEW YORK-PENN LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Aberdeen IronBirds	151,758	36	4,216	150,300	1,458	2002
Auburn Doubledays	50,670	36	1,408	44,640	6,030	1995
Batavia Muckdogs	32,221	35	921	33,376	(1,155)	1996
Brooklyn Cyclones	230,658	37	6,234	231,628	(970)	2001
Connecticut (Norwich) Tigers	78,588	34	2,311	78,118	470	1995
Hudson Valley (NY) Renegades	163,767	37	4,426	159,084	4,683	1994
Lowell Spinners	140,468	37	3,796	165,129	(24,661)	2000
Mahoning Valley (OH) Scrappers	111,079	37	3,002	109,545	1,534	1999
State College Spikes	127,775	38	3,363	134,927	(7,152)	2006
Staten Island Yankees	119,195	37	3,221	122,442	(3,247)	2001
Tri-City (Troy, NY) ValleyCats	153,692	36	4,269	161,171	(7,479)	2002
Vermont Lake Monsters	83,002	37	2,243	84,091	(1,089)	1922
West Virginia Black Bears	83,796	37	2,265	24,246	59,550	2015
Williamsport Crosscutters	64,081	36	1,780	61,249	2,832	1923
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,590,750	510	3,119	1,559,946	30,804	
<i>West Viginia played in Jamestown, NY in 2014.</i>						
<u>NORTHWEST LEAGUE</u> (Short A)						
Boise Hawks	109,945	38	2,893	87,519	22,426	1989
Eugene Emeralds	120,931	38	3,182	108,067	12,864	2010
Everett AquaSox	100,613	38	2,648	92,642	7,971	1984
Hillsboro (OR) Hops	143,412	38	3,774	138,732	4,680	2013
Salem-Keizer (OR) Volcanoes	85,851	38	2,259	95,083	(9,232)	1997
Spokane Indians	188,956	37	5,107	193,865	(4,909)	1958
Tri-City (Pasco, WA) Dust Devils	86,022	38	2,264	85,679	343	1995
Vancouver (BC) Canadians	215,535	37	5,825	180,187	35,348	1951
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,051,265	302	3,481	981,774	69,491	
<u>APPALACHIAN LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Bluefield (WV) Blue Jays	24,099	30	803	26,446	(2,347)	1939
Bristol (VA) Pirates	17,849	28	637	25,743	(7,894)	1969
Burlington (NC) Royals	46,063	34	1,355	40,497	5,566	1960
Danville (VA) Braves	28,841	33	874	30,385	(1,544)	1993
Elizabethton (TN) Twins	22,069	31	712	26,590	(4,521)	1974
Greeneville (TN) Astros	54,252	33	1,644	48,619	5,633	2004
Johnson City (TN) Cardinals	39,118	30	1,304	40,351	(1,233)	1956
Kingsport (TN) Mets	31,086	33	942	30,464	622	1995
Princeton (WV) Rays	27,051	33	820	24,848	2,203	1988
Pulaski Yankees	57,023	34	1,677	26,160	30,863	1935
LEAGUE TOTAL	347,451	319	1,089	320,103	27,348	

2015 NAPBL MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>PIONEER LEAGUE</u> (Rookie)						
Billings Mustangs	100,120	34	2,945	105,358	(5,238)	2008
Grand Junction Rockies	74,794	35	2,137	81,382	(6,588)	1958
Great Falls (MT) Voyagers	45,414	36	1,262	49,520	(4,106)	1956
Helena Brewers	33,841	36	940	30,764	3,077	1939
Idaho Falls Chukars	90,884	37	2,456	79,895	10,989	2007
Missoula Osprey	77,438	36	2,151	84,429	(6,991)	2004
Ogden Raptors	125,398	38	3,300	108,504	16,894	1997
Orem (UT) Owlz	85,733	38	2,256	83,179	2,554	2005
LEAGUE TOTAL	633,622	290	2,185	623,031	10,591	
TOTAL SHORT A & ROOKIE	3,623,088	1,421	2,550	3,484,854	138,234	
<u>MEXICAN LEAGUE</u>						
Aguascalientes Railroadmen	152,491	53	2,877	149,802	2,689	1938
Campeche Pirates	158,004	49	3,225	113,959	44,045	2001
Cancun (Quintana Roo) Tigers	184,736	49	3,770	175,827	8,909	2006
Carmen Dolphins	197,573	55	3,592	209,973	(12,400)	1967
Laguna Cowboys	257,160	53	4,852	261,321	(4,161)	1932
Mexico City Red Devils	144,908	52	2,787	217,028	(72,120)	1993
Monclova (del Norte) Steelers	308,646	56	5,512	307,066	1,580	1975
Monterrey Sultans	517,235	55	9,404	687,642	(170,407)	1990
Oaxaca Warriors	138,550	51	2,717	179,286	(40,736)	1950
Puebla Parrots	112,251	49	2,291	240,409	(128,158)	1972
Reynosa Broncos	131,862	52	2,536	142,154	(10,292)	1963
Saltillo Sarape Makers	305,062	53	5,756	376,141	(71,079)	1963
Tabasco Cattlemen	168,295	56	3,005	133,318	34,977	1964
Tijuana Toros	418,673	54	7,753	419,169	(496)	1976
Veracruz Aguila Reds	147,026	52	2,827	159,271	(12,245)	1992
Yucatan Lions	528,351	59	8,955	225,404	302,947	1982
LEAGUE TOTAL	3,870,823	848	4,565	3,997,770	(126,947)	
TOTAL- ALL NAPBL LEAGUES	42,561,445	10,371	4,104	42,411,194	150,251	
<u>ARIZONA FALL LEAGUE - Figures from this league are not included in any 'all leagues' totals</u>						
Glendale Desert Dogs	4,791	13	369	5,508	(717)	2009
Mesa Solar Sox	9,162	14	654	12,036	(2,874)	2014
Peoria Javelinas	7,772	16	486	4,978	2,794	1994
Salt River Rafter	10,661	14	762	14,183	(3,522)	2011
Scottsdale Scorpions	8,574	17	504	8,911	(337)	1992
Surprise Saguros	6,089	14	435	7,603	(1,514)	2011
LEAGUE TOTAL	47,049	88	535	53,219	(6,170)	

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**INDEPENDENT LEAGUES OVERVIEW**

As usual, there were some changes among the independent leagues in 2015. The Atlantic and Frontier Leagues and the Pacific Association all had the same lineup of teams and cities as in 2014. The Can-Am and Pecos Leagues, and the American Association, all made changes in their rosters of teams in 2015. The United League did not return. A new league, named the North Country League, played its first season, but only 2 of its teams had home games. These changes will be noted in the individual league summaries on the following pages.

- In 2015 there were 7 independent leagues. Attendance was reported by 6 leagues, and for one team in the North Country League. Figures were available for 52 teams playing home games. The attendance for the Pecos Baseball League was provided by the league office, is estimated, and does not include 'no-shows.' Old Orchard Beach of the North Country League did not report their attendance, which was probably quite low. 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.
- Total reported independent leagues 2015 attendance was 6,317,482, up 151,251 (2.5%). In 2015, independent leagues recorded attendance for 118 more dates than in 2014, but combined to play 596 fewer dates with reported attendance than in 2007. There were 2,517 reported attendance dates in 2015 compared to 3,113 in 2007.
- Combined 2015 average attendance per date for the independent leagues was 2,510. This is down 60 from 2014. The all-time combined high average per date for independent leagues is 3,000, set in 2004. The record-high average per date for a post-1992 independent league was 4,621 by the Northern League in 2008.
- The American Association, and the Frontier, Atlantic, and Pecos Baseball Leagues all set record-highs in total attendance in 2012. In 2015, 4 of the 6 independent leagues that also operated in 2014, and reported attendance, had increases in total attendance. The Pacific Association had a gain, but one of their teams that did report attendance in 2015, didn't do so in 2014, so it's an unknown comparison. The Can-Am League added 2 teams, and the Frontier League added one. Only the Pecos League had a gain in average per date.
- 45 independent league teams were in the same market in 2015 as in 2014. 23 of them had 2015 gains in total attendance, while 22 were down. 15 teams had increases in average attendance per date.
- NOTE ON LEAGUE AND TEAM RECORDS LISTED IN THIS SECTION: The number of teams in each league, and the number of games scheduled, can vary from year to year among independent leagues. This can have a significant impact on league and team totals.

LEAGUES THAT DISBANDED SINCE THE END OF THE 2010 SEASON

Many of the teams from the leagues listed below have moved to other independent leagues. The United Baseball League disbanded after the 2010 season, but returned in 2013 and 2014, but did not play in 2015.

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**ALL INDEPENDENT LEAGUES – COMBINED YEARLY ATTENDANCE AND TEAM LEADERS**

Year	# of Leagues	# of Teams	Total Attendance	Team Leader Total Attendance	Total Attendance	Team Leader Avg. per Date	Avg. Attend.
1993	2	12	734,067	St. Paul	167,956	N/A	
1994	5	30	1,931,353	St. Paul	241,069	N/A	
1995	11	65	3,081,866	St. Paul	258,297	N/A	
1996	9	63	3,454,557	St. Paul	267,009	St. Paul	6,212
1997	8	58	3,506,264	St. Paul	240,514	St. Paul	6,329
1998	7	49	3,866,809	Bridgeport	296,145	St. Paul	6,330
1999	6	44	4,871,797	Bridgeport	342,857	St. Paul	6,329
2000	6	50	5,581,833	Long Island	436,361	Winnipeg	6,465
2001	7	52	5,997,439	Long Island	443,142	Winnipeg	6,491
2002	6	50	6,410,071	Long Island	437,212	St. Paul	6,263
2003	8	63	6,558,149	Long Island	421,359	Winnipeg	7,161
2004	5	45	6,557,875	Long Island	440,540	Winnipeg	7,027
2005	6	54	7,518,121	Long Island	429,218	Winnipeg	6,867
2006	7	55	7,558,436	Long Island	419,150	Winnipeg	6,504
2007	9	67	8,485,921	Long Island	427,536	Winnipeg	6,542
2008	8	61	8,312,669	Long Island	416,752	Winnipeg	6,464
2009	8	61	7,965,185	Long Island	414,973	Winnipeg	6,180
2010	7	60	8,105,046	Long Island	410,619	Long Island	6,039
2011	6	55	6,830,777	Long Island	382,027	Winnipeg	5,740
2012	6	55	7,127,934	Sugar Land	465,511	Sugar Land	6,650
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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- The Atlantic League has always played the longest schedule among modern (post-1992) independent leagues.
- Attendance fell 56,392 (2.5%) to 2,176,627 in 2015. The 2012 attendance, noted above, was the highest total attendance by any modern-day independent league. In 2015, the Atlantic League surpassed 2 million for the 7th time in the last 8 years, and for the 8th time overall. The league played 3 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014.
- Average attendance per date fell by 83 to 4,068. It was the 10th straight year above 4,000. The league has averaged at least 3,500 per date in all seasons except its first (1998). League record-high is 4,409 in 2012. The best average per date for any independent league was 4,621, by the Northern League in 2008.
- Atlantic League playoff games drew an average of 3,538 per game. This was the highest post-season average per date of any U.S. based league below Class AAA in 2015. The International League averaged 5,114 per playoff date, and the Pacific Coast League's playoff average was 7,004. The Mexican League 2015 playoffs averaged 9,447 per game.
- 4 teams had increases in total attendance, led by Bridgeport, up 42,182. 4 teams posted gains in average per date, again led by Bridgeport, up 568. Sugar Land had the worst total attendance loss among independent teams, down 81,605, and their average per date decrease of 1,118 was 2nd worst to Laredo of the American Association.
- Atlantic League average attendance per team has been above 245,000 in all years since 2001. The record-high of 295,947 per team in 2012 is the best ever for a modern independent league.
- In 2012, Sugar Land played its first season and drew 465,511, the highest total attendance ever by a modern independent team. The Skeeters also averaged 6,650 per date, which was the best among all independent league teams in 2012. The old independent team total attendance record was 443,142, set by Long Island in 2001. The independent record-high for average per date is 8,091 by St. Paul in 2015.
- 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 by an independent team. This still was the 4th best 2015 total among the independents. Average per date fell by 1,118 to 4,439. Since 2012, total attendance has declined 163,251, and average per date is down 2,211.
- Long Island (Central Islip, NY) drew 358,317, up 13,774 to lead the league for the 13th time. Average per date rose 202 to 5,269, which was 3rd best among independent league teams. 39 dates drew above 5,000. From 2000 through 2011, the Ducks had the highest total attendance of any independent league team, topping 400,000 each year. The Ducks had the 2nd best independent total attendance in both 2012 and 2013, the 3rd highest in 2014, and the 2nd best (to St. Paul) in 2015. In their history, the Ducks have drawn 6,530,678, and averaged 5,857 per date, which is 97.6% of their ballpark's seating capacity. They've had 650 'above seating-capacity' sellouts in 1,115 regular season dates, including 11 in 2015.
- Somerset topped 335,000 for the 17th straight year, and their total of 347,770 was 3rd highest among independent teams. Average per date at Somerset was 5,191 in 2015. The Patriots have averaged over 5,000 per date in all 17 seasons they've played. Their attendance has been very stable as well, ranging from a low of 335,056 in 1999, to a high of 376,315 in 2004.
- Lancaster had decline of 24,960 to 276,975, their lowest total ever. The Barnstormers have topped 300,000 in each season except 2013 and 2015 since their debut in 2005. This is quite an achievement considering that 3 successful teams, in terms of attendance (Reading, Harrisburg, York), play less than 40 miles from Lancaster. Average per date fell 303 to 4,073.
- York, owned by Hall-of-Famer Brooks Robinson, has exceeded 250,000 in each of the past 8 years. In 2015, total attendance fell 7,706 to 259,989. Average per date was down 114 to 3,823.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**ATLANTIC LEAGUE** - continued

- Southern Maryland's total attendance was up 917 to 222,611, despite 8 lost dates. Blue Crabs' attendance has been stable, ranging between 214,135 and 242,894 in their 8 years. 2015 average per date was 3,591 up 127.
- It 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. This team drew better than 230,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but has been below 200,000 in all 11 years since. Average per date rose 568 in 2015 to 2,916. That was the 3rd best indy average per date increase.
- Camden played its 15th and final season in 2015. This team has been renamed the Bees, and relocated to New Britain, CT, where it will play in the ballpark that had been home to the New Britain Rock Cats of the Eastern League. The Rock Cats have moved to neighboring Hartford, and have been renamed the Yard Goats. The Camden Riversharks drew 216,639 in 2015, up 1,748. Average per date was up 72 to 3,186. The Riversharks topped 250,000 in each of their first 7 seasons, but not since then. 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.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION (13 teams - 100 game schedule - Play an interleague schedule with the Can-Am League)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 2,244,238 (2012) 13 teams; **Team – St Paul -- 404,528 (2015)**

- The league played with 13 teams in 2015 with the addition of Joplin. There will be 12 teams in 2016 as Amarillo and Grand Prairie will be combined into one team and play 25 home games in each city. In 2017, it is expected that these teams will operate as separate entities. Some games were played with teams from the Can-Am League in 2015, but this will not be done in 2016.
- This league began play in 2006. It is no relation to the Class AAA NAPBL league of the same name that played until 1998. Teams from that league were moved into the International and Pacific Coast Leagues. Nearly all of the teams from this American Association have played in other independent leagues, such as the Northern, Central, United, and Texas-Louisiana Leagues.
- Total attendance rose 120,112 (6.4%) to 2,006,110, with one more team than in 2014. Average per date was down 117 to 3,215. The 12 returning teams in the league combined for 14 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. The returning teams drew 1,938,135 up 52,137 (2.8%). Average per date for the returning teams was 3,342, up 10. The league's record-high average is 3,512 in 2012. Overall, the league had 58 more dates than in 2014.
- The league drew over 2 million for the 4th time in the last 5 years.
- Average attendance per team topped 150,000 for the 5th straight year, and average per date was above 3,000 for the 5th year in a row. Highest average per team for this league was 172,634 in 2012, and the lowest was 122,752 in 2010.
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance, and 2 teams were up in average per date. St. Paul, playing in a brand new ballpark, had the best increase among all independent teams in both total attendance (up 156,422), and average per date (up 2,812). These increases were 3rd best (to Yucatan and Nashville) among all teams in the Minor Leagues. The biggest declines were by Laredo. Total attendance fell 70,045, which was the 2nd worst decline (to Sugar Land) among independents. Their average per date was down an independent worst 1,349.
- **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 is 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.**

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- Minnesota's capital city team, the St. Paul Saints, have been a big success since they began play in 1993. The Saints have topped 230,000 every year except their first. They had led this league in total attendance each year from 2006 through 2010, and in 2015, and once had a 249 consecutive game sellout streak. St. Paul was an original member of the Northern League from 1993 through 2005. They led that league in attendance from 1993 through 2000, and had the best attendance of any independent team each year from 1993 through 1997. All this despite playing only a few miles from the Minnesota Twins.
- Winnipeg drew 258,922, up 493, with 3 more dates than in 2014. Average per date fell by 334 to 5,284. 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 has topped 250,000 for 16 years in a row since 2000, including 6 seasons (2002-2007) above 300,000. Their 2015 average per date was 2nd highest among independent teams. Winnipeg has drawn 4,615,694 in 742 dates, averaging 6,221 per date since 2000, and has posted the best average per date among all independent league teams 12 times in the last 16 years.
- Sioux Falls, SD had a decline of 7,504 to 132,280. But attendance there has topped 100,000 in 19 of their 23 seasons. Average per date declined 160 to 2,814.
- 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. 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 10 seasons.
- Laredo's attendance fell by over 50%. Total attendance was down 70,045 to 62,517. This was the 2nd worst decline among independent teams. Their 1,349 decrease in average per date, to 1,302, was the worst among the indy teams. Only Puebla, Monterrey, and Memphis had higher average per date declines in all of Minor League baseball in 2015. In 2012, the Lemurs drew 187,845, a record-high for this Texas city in any league, and they averaged 3,834 per date. A Mexican League team on the Mexican side of the border in Nuevo Laredo drew 195,713 in 1987.
- Fargo-Moorhead's attendance has been very stable. They've topped 150,000 every year, and been above 170,000 in all seasons since 1996. Their record-high is 193,364, set in 2002. The RedHawks drew 187,099 in 2015, their 3rd best total in their 20 year history. Average per date went down 60 to 3,742.
- Kansas City, Kansas, another team playing close to a Major League franchise, has topped 200,000 in all 13 years of play. They've averaged 5,383 per date during this period, drawing 3,304,900 in 614 dates. The T-Bones have surpassed 230,000 in each of the past 12 seasons, and topped 260,000 in 7 of the last 10 years. In 2015, total attendance dipped 16,921 to 232,068, the lowest total since 2003. Average per date fell 249 to 4,938.
- Lincoln topped 200,000 each year from 2001 through 2005, but has not done it since. In 2015, the Saltdogs drew 171,605, up 5,102, with 3 more dates. Average per date decreased 111 to 3,432.
- Amarillo declined 29,362 to 52,472, despite playing 6 more dates. The total was the lowest in this city's 21 years with an independent team. Average per date was down 832 to 1,071. The losses in each category were 3rd worst among independent teams. A 23,964 decline in 2014 to 81,834 ended an 8 year streak of topping 100,000. This team will be combined with Grand Prairie for 2016, and will be named the Texas Airhogs.
- Grand Prairie had the lowest attendance in its 8 years – 52,072. Average per date was 1,108, down 213. The Airhogs had topped 100,000 in each of their first 6 seasons.
- The Gary Southshore RailCats drew 165,306, just 1,060 short of their all time high. It was their 11th straight year above 150,000. Average per date was 3,517, down 54.
- Joplin, MO played its first year in this league and drew 67,975, averaging 1,545 per date. The last Minor League team in Joplin played in the Western Association through 1954. Their best listed attendance was 90,363 in 1946. Mickey Mantle played for Joplin in 1950, hit .383, and scored 141 runs.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION** - continued

- Wichita was down 5,869 to 141,837. But they still have topped 140,000 in 7 of their 8 years in this league. Average per date fell by 119 to 2,895. 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.

CAN-AM LEAGUE (6 teams) -- 97 game schedule – Played an interleague schedule with the American Association)
RECORD HIGHS: League – 1,040,107 (2007) 9 home teams;

Team – Brockton – 203,094 (2004) set in the Northeast League, Brockton – 190,675 (2005) in the Can-Am League

- There were 6 teams in the Can-Am League in 2015, as Ottawa and Sussex County, NJ rejoined. The league played games with American Association teams, and also with a couple of road teams. This resulted in extra home dates for each team. Overall, the league played 127 more dates than in 2014, and the 4 teams that played in both 2015 and 2014 had a combined 27 more home dates.
- Total attendance rose 224,430 (53.9%) to 641,084. Average per date was 2,095, down 233.
- The 4 returning teams drew a combined 468,216, up 51,562 (12.4%). That's the best percentage gain of any Minor League in 2015. Average per date for these teams was 2,273, down 55. With the extra home dates, all 4 returning teams had increases in total attendance, led by a 24,454 gain by Trois Rivières. But Trois Rivières was the only team whose average per date also rose.
- Average attendance per team was 106,847 in 2015, tops since 2007. The league averaged above 100,000 per team from 2005 through 2008, and in 2014. Average per date topped 2,000 for the 9th time in the last 12 years.
- Rockland County drew a team record-high 161,796, up 15,413, with 7 more dates than in 2014, to lead the league.** The Boulders have topped 120,000 in each of their 5 seasons. Average per date was 3,053, down 129.
- Quebec City had led the league in total attendance for 4 straight years until 2012. In 2015, their total attendance rose by 9,205, to 130,510, with 9 more dates. Average per date was down 329 to 2,559. The Capitales have topped 110,000 in all 17 years of this team's history, reached 130,000 in 14 of the last 15 years, and surpassed 150,000 in 7 seasons. Teams from Quebec City led the original Canadian-American League in attendance in 1949 and 1950, and had the best attendance in the Provincial League each year from 1951 through 1955.
- New Jersey drew 78,913, up 2,490, with 4 more dates. Average per date fell 83 to 1,578. The Jackals topped 100,000 in 10 of their first 11 seasons (1998-2008), but have been below 90,000 in each of the last 7 years.
- Trois Rivières drew a city independent league record-high 96,997, up 24,454, with 7 more dates.** Average per date rose 253 to 1,865 in the Aigles 3rd year in this league. NAPBL teams played in Trois Rivières 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 was higher than Trois Rivières drew in all but 2 of 14 NAPBL seasons with listed attendance.
- The Sussex County (Augusta, NJ) Miners were one of the new teams in the league in 2015. They drew 56,988, averaging 1,187 per date. This was their lowest total in the 17 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 had a team in the New York-Penn League. Attendance for that team topped 100,000 every season, was above 130,000 in the first 9 years, with a high of 176,788 in 1995.
- The Ottawa Champions were the other new team. Attendance there was 115,880, averaging 2,228 per date. Ottawa had a team in this league in 2008, and it drew 101,073. This city was in the International League from 1993 through 2007. In their first season, Ottawa drew 663,926, and in 1994, their attendance was 596,858. But then attendance fell very sharply, down to 195,979 in 1999. The Lynx drew under 200,000 in 8 of their final 9 years in Ottawa, with a low of 122,594 in 2006.

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

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

- 2015 total attendance fell 49,738 (3.4%) to 1,394,584. It was the league's lowest total since 2006, when it had 10 teams. Attendance in the league first reached one million in 2003. It has topped 1.3 million for 9 years in a row.
- There were 10 more dates in 2015 than in 2014. Average attendance per date was 2,238, down 118. This was the lowest average per date for the league since 2005. Frontier League average per date has been over 2,000 in each of the last 13 years, with a record-high of 2,719 in 2010.
- Since 2001, when the league grew to 12 teams, total attendance is up 93.9% from 719,222, and average per date is up 50.9% from 1,483.
- 6 teams had increases in total attendance in 2015, led by Schaumburg, up 4,817. 5 teams posted gains in average per date, led by Joliet, up 213. Rockford, which will not have a team in 2016, had the league's worst declines in total attendance (down 27,666), and average per date (down 615).
- Average attendance per team has surpassed 100,000 for 10 seasons in a row, and in 11 of the last 12 years. The average per team was just 13,769 in 1993, the Frontier League's first season. It was 107,276 in 2015.
- Schaumburg led the league in total attendance (162,210, up 4,817 with 4 more dates than in 2014), and average per date (3,061, down 151). 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 15 of its 16 seasons, and went over 200,000 in 11 straight years from 1999 through 2009 as a member of the Northern League.
- Traverse City drew 132,404, their lowest total in 10 years of play. Total attendance fell 11,181, and average per date dipped 243 to 2,878. The Beach Bums topped 200,000 in their first 2 seasons (2006 and 2007).
- Normal had its lowest attendance (102,290, down 7,662) in its 6 year history. Average per date fell 203 to 2,088.
- Evansville played 5 more dates in 2015. The Otters drew 114,787, up 3,078. They've reached 100,000 in 12 of the last 13 seasons. Average per date declined 286 to 2,733. In 2013, Evansville had its highest attendance (140,786) in the 21 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.
- River City (O'Fallon, MO) drew 91,354, up 9,692. The Rascals topped 150,000 in the team's first 6 seasons, but not since. 2015 was just the 5th time that attendance was below 100,000. Average per date was 1,903, up 88.
- The Southern Illinois (Marion) Miners have led this league in attendance in 4 of the 9 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. 2015 total attendance was up 4,216 to 151,503. Average per date increased by 80 to 2,859. Attendance in Marion has topped 125,000 for 9 straight years, and was over 200,000 from 2007 through 2010.
- Florence, KY saw their total attendance decline by 961, with 3 fewer dates to 104,578. Average per date rose 119 to 2,273. The record high is 2,495 in 2013. The Freedom has drawn better than 100,000 in 6 of the last 8 years.
- Rockford drew 44,674, its lowest total in 14 years as an independent league market, and will not operate in 2016. 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. The city had its highest attendance of 158,674 in 1988 in the Midwest League.
- Joliet had a 2,681 total attendance gain to 95,673, and a 213 increase in average per date to 2,036. The Slammers drew 100,000+ each year from 2002 through 2012, including 2 seasons above 200,000.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**FRONTIER LEAGUE** – continued

- Lake Erie (Avon, OH) had the lowest total of their 7 seasons, and finished under 100,000 for the first time. The Crushers drew 86,155, down 19,854. Average per date fell by 414 to 1,795.
- Windy City (Crestwood, IL) has reached 100,000 just once (2009) in their 17 seasons. In 2015, total attendance rose 2,069 to 76,550, and average per date was up 10 to 1,562.
- Gateway (Sauget, IL) had topped 150,000 for 12 straight years. The Grizzlies fell just below that figure in 2015, drawing 149,319, down 7,521. Average per date dropped 273 to 2,928, the lowest average since 2002. Their average per date topped 4,000 in 4 seasons with a high of 4,628 in 2004, when their total was 217,500.
- Washington, PA drew 83,087, down 1,446. It was the 2nd lowest total in the team's 14 seasons. The Wild Things drew less than 100,000 for the 4th straight year. They had 10 consecutive seasons (2002-2011) above that level, including 6 years above 150,000. Average per date was down 73 to 1,806.
- The Frontier League celebrated its 22nd anniversary in 2015. Along with the Northern League, they were the first independent leagues in decades. There were 8 Frontier League teams in 1993, 2 of which disbanded early in the season. Total attendance was 82,615, led by the Zanesville Greys, who drew 21,547. The Greys name was used by the road team 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.
- 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.'

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – (4 teams, 78 game schedule)

- All 4 teams reported attendance in 2015. Vallejo didn't list their attendance in 2014. Total attendance was 47,171, up 7,754 (19.7%). Average per date was 306, down 34. Attendance was reported for 38 more dates than in 2014.
- A comparison of the 3 teams that reported attendance in both 2015 and in 2014 shows a total of 40,395, up 978 (2.5%), with 3 fewer dates played. Average per date for those 3 teams combined was 351, up 9.
- The San Rafael Pacifics drew 20,610 in 2015, an average of 542 per date, the highest figures in the league. The total was down 4,758, with 4 fewer dates. Average per date fell by 62.
- The Pittsburg Diamond's total rose 119 to 3,938, with 3 fewer dates. Average per date was up 10 to 101.
- Sonoma played 6 more dates, and their total was up 5,617 to 15,847. Their average rose 97 to 417.
- Vallejo drew 6,776, averaging 174 per date.

NORTH COUNTRY LEAGUE – 4 teams

- This league played its first 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.

INDEPENDENT LEAGUE HIGHLIGHTS**PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE** (8 Teams – 58-72 games played, teams with attendance had 27-38 home dates)

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

- The Pecos League will play its 6th straight season in 2016. 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, plus the Western/Golden Baseball League, have played more consecutive seasons than the Pecos League.
- Attendance figures were estimated by the league office. The Pecos League is the only Minor League that does not include no-shows in its attendance. This causes their announced attendance to be lower than it would be if they followed the attendance-listing procedures of other leagues.
- Bisbee and Taos did not play in 2015. Garden City, KS and Las Cruces were added in 2015. Las Vegas, NM, was a road team. In 2016, the league will have 10 teams. New teams have been added in Tucson, Topeka, and Great Bend, KS. The Las Vegas road team will not operate.
- Total estimated attendance was 42,656, up 1,531 (3.7%). Estimated average per date was 181, up 12. There were 7 fewer dates in 2015 than in 2014. No 2014 data was available for Douglas, Raton, and Las Vegas, NM.
- Santa Fe again led the league in total attendance, and average per date, drawing 11,704, an average of 308 per date. The Fuego was down 2,964 in total attendance, and down 78 per date, the biggest declines in the league.
- Roswell, up 307 to 3,193, despite 8 fewer dates, had the only total attendance gain among the 5 teams with attendance in both 2015 and 2014. They also had the league's only average per date increase, up 29 to 103.
- Alpine's total fell 111 to 4,725. Average per date was 175, down 11.
- Trinidad played 5 fewer home dates. Their total fell by 2,134 and average per date slipped by 47.
- White Sands also had 5 fewer dates. Total attendance dipped 2,651, and average per date was down 48.
- Garden City, KS drew 10,725, averaging 275 per date in its first season.
- Las Cruces had a total of 4,181, and average of 113 per date.

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)

- 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.
- 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.

UNITED SHORE BASEBALL LEAGUE

- This league, with 3 teams playing home games, starts in 2016. All teams will play in a new 2,000 seat ballpark in Utica, MI, a suburb of Detroit. Each team will play a 50 game schedule, so 75 games are scheduled for this ballpark in 2016.

2015 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>AMERICAN ASSOCIATION</u>						
Amarillo Thunderheads	52,472	49	1,071	81,834	(29,362)	1957
Fargo - Moorhead RedHawks	187,099	50	3,742	186,306	793	1996
Gary Southshore RailCats	165,306	47	3,517	164,286	1,020	2003
Grand Prairie (TX) Airhogs	52,072	47	1,108	60,747	(8,675)	2008
Joplin <i>Blasters</i>	67,975	44	1,545	-----	-----	2015
Kansas City (KS) T-Bones	232,068	47	4,938	248,989	(16,921)	2003
Laredo Lemurs	62,517	48	1,302	132,562	(70,045)	2012
Lincoln Saltdogs	171,605	50	3,432	166,503	5,102	2001
St. Paul Saints	404,528	50	8,091	248,106	156,422	2015
Sioux City (IA) Explorers	77,429	47	1,647	50,746	26,683	1993
Sioux Falls (SD) Canaries	132,280	47	2,814	139,784	(7,504)	1964
Wichita (KS) Wingnuts	141,837	49	2,895	147,706	(5,869)	1934
Winnipeg Goldeyes	258,922	49	5,284	258,429	493	1999
<i>Joplin was added in 2015.</i>						
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,006,110	624	3,215	1,885,998	120,112	
<u>ATLANTIC LEAGUE</u>						
Bridgeport Bluefish	192,466	66	2,916	150,284	42,182	1998
Camden Riversharks	216,639	68	3,186	214,891	1,748	2001
Lancaster Barnstormers	276,975	68	4,073	301,935	(24,960)	2005
Long Island (Central Islip) Ducks	358,317	68	5,269	344,543	13,774	2000
Somerset (NJ) Patriots	347,770	67	5,191	348,512	(742)	1999
S. Maryland (Waldorf) Blue Crabs	222,611	62	3,591	221,694	917	2008
Sugar Land (TX) Skeeters	301,860	68	4,439	383,465	(81,605)	2012
York Revolution	259,989	68	3,823	267,695	(7,706)	2007
LEAGUE TOTAL	2,176,627	535	4,068	2,233,019	(56,392)	
<u>FRONTIER LEAGUE</u>						
Evansville Otters	114,787	42	2,733	111,709	3,078	1915
Florence (KY) Freedom	104,578	46	2,273	105,539	(961)	2004
Gateway (Sauget, IL) Grizzlies	149,319	51	2,928	156,840	(7,521)	2002
Joliet Slammers	95,673	47	2,036	92,992	2,681	2002
Lake Erie (Avon, OH) Crushers	86,155	48	1,795	106,009	(19,854)	2009
Normal (IL) CornBelters	102,290	49	2,088	109,952	(7,662)	2010
River City (O'Fallon, MO) Rascals	91,354	48	1,903	81,662	9,692	1999
Rockford Aviators	44,674	45	993	72,340	(27,666)	2005
Schaumburg Boomers	162,210	53	3,061	157,393	4,817	1999
Southern IL (Marion) Miners	151,503	53	2,859	147,287	4,216	2007
Traverse City Beach Bums	132,404	46	2,878	143,585	(11,181)	2006
Washington (PA) Wild Things	83,087	46	1,806	84,533	(1,446)	2002
Windy City ThunderBolts	76,550	49	1,562	74,481	2,069	1999
<i>Frontier Greys (Road Team)*</i>	0	0		0	-	
LEAGUE TOTAL	1,394,584	623	2,238	1,444,322	(49,738)	
<u>NORTH COUNTRY LEAGUE</u>						
Newburgh (NY) Newts	N/A			-----	-----	
Old Orchard Beach (ME) Surge	N/A			-----	-----	1984
Watertown (NY) Bucks	9,250	39	237	-----	-----	1948
Road City Explorers (Road Team)	N/A			-----	-----	
LEAGUE TOTAL	9,250	39	237			

2015 INDEPENDENT MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE

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TEAM	2015 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	HOME DATES	AVERAGE PER DATE	2014 TOTAL ATTENDANCE	# CHANGE 2015 vs. 2014	BALLPARK OPENED:
<u>CAN-AM LEAGUE</u>						
New Jersey Jackals	78,913	50	1,578	76,423	2,490	1998
Ottawa Champions	115,880	52	2,228	-----	-----	1993
Quebec (City) Capitales	130,510	51	2,559	121,305	9,205	1938
Rockland Boulders	161,796	53	3,053	146,383	15,413	2011
Sussex (NJ) Miners	56,988	48	1,187	-----	-----	1994
Trois Rivières Aigles	96,997	52	1,865	72,543	24,454	1938
LEAGUE TOTAL	641,084	306	2,095	416,654	224,430	
<i>This league also plays teams from the American Association. Ottawa and Sussex played their first seasons in 2015.</i>						
<u>PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE - Attendance is estimated by the league</u>						
Alpine Cowboys	4,725	27	175	4,836	(111)	1947
Garden City Wind	10,725	39	275			1936
Las Cruces Vaqueros	4,181	37	113			
Las Vegas (NM) Train Robbers	N/A			N/A	-----	1994
Roswell Invaders	3,193	31	103	2,886	307	1939
Santa Fe Fuego	11,704	38	308	14,668	(2,964)	1947
Trinidad Triggers	2,528	32	79	4,662	(2,134)	1960
White Sands Pupfish	5,600	32	175	8,251	(2,651)	2003
Bisbee Blue	0	0		3,136		1909
Taos Blizzard	0	0		2,686		
LEAGUE TOTAL	42,656	236	181	41,125	1,531	
<i>Garden City was added in 2015, and Bisbee and Taos were dropped. Las Vegas was a road team.</i>						
<u>UNITED LEAGUE BASEBALL</u>						
Fort Worth Cats	0	0		60,314	(60,314)	2002
Rio Grande Valley White Wings	0	0		27,374	(27,374)	1950
San Angelo Colts	0	0		18,008	(18,008)	2000
Brownsville Charrus (Road)	0	0				
LEAGUE TOTAL	0	0		105,696	(105,696)	
<i>United League did not operate in 2015.</i>						
<u>PACIFIC ASSOCIATION</u>						
Pittsburg (CA) Mettle	3,938	39	101	3,819	119	
San Rafael Pacifics	20,610	38	542	25,368	(4,758)	1950
Sonoma Stompers	15,847	38	417	10,230	5,617	
Vallejo Admirals	6,776	39	174	N/A	N/A	
LEAGUE TOTAL	47,171	154	306	39,417	7,754	
GRAND TOTAL						
7 Independent Leagues in 2015	6,317,482	2,517	2,510	6,166,231	151,251	

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

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE - LEAGUES

The table below lists each NAPBL and 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	2,596,339	1994	259,634	1994	4,007	1994
Texas	3,129,865	2008	391,233	2008	5,691	2008
<i>All Class AA</i>	<i>9,361,036</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>312,035</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,603</i>	<i>2007</i>
California	2,061,889	1997	206,189	1997	2,988	1997
Carolina	1,981,673	2014	247,709	2014	3,811	2014
Florida State	1,296,962	2011	108,080	2011	1,642	2011
Midwest	4,233,904	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	1,060,587	1998	132,573	1998	3,516	1997
Appalachian	442,755	1993	44,276	1993	1,404	1994
Pioneer	728,952	2008	91,119	2008	2,463	2008
<i>All Short-A/Rookie</i>	<i>3,780,608</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>96,758</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2,727</i>	<i>2007</i>
Old Amer. Assoc.	4,158,401	1992	519,800	1992	7,588	1992
Southern Assoc.	2,180,344	1947	272,543	1947	N/A	
<i>NAPBL Total</i>	<i>43,263,740</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>245,817</i>	<i>2008</i>	<i>4,174</i>	<i>2008</i>
INDEPENDENTS						
Atlantic	2,367,578	2012	295,947	2012	4,409	2012
Frontier	1,548,970	2012	133,543	2008	2,719	2010
American Assoc.	2,244,238	2012	172,634	2012	3,512	2012
Can-Am	1,040,107	2007	118,715	2005	2,455	2006
United	549,014	2007	91,502	2007	2,049	2007
Northern	2,189,151	2005	214,888	2008	4,621	2008
<i>All Independent</i>	<i>8,485,921</i>	<i>2007</i>			<i>3,000</i>	<i>2004</i>
<i>All Leagues Total</i>	<i>51,576,409</i>	<i>2008</i>			<i>3,892</i>	<i>2008</i>

SEASON RECORD-HIGH ATTENDANCE – INDIVIDUAL TEAMS

92 of the 176 NAPBL teams that played in 2015 set their all-time attendance records between 2005 and 2015. The longest-standing records for individual team-high attendance by current teams are: Mexico City – Current team's record-high was set in 1967; Batavia – 1971; Bristol – 1976 as a short-season team. The longest known standing record for a 2015 Minor League city, but for a different team, is Savannah (1937). Veracruz drew a record-high in 2012, breaking a mark set in 1964, which had been the longest-standing current-team record-high.

This section lists the season record-high attendance figure for each team that played in an NAPBL or independent league in 2015, 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 2015 are listed in bold. If 2015 was also the team's first season, the figure is in italics.

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

Sources

Attendance data for NAPBL teams was obtained from The Sporting News Baseball Guides for the following seasons: 1969-1980; 1989-1993; 1996. The Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball provided data from 1902 through 1968, and 1981 through 1988 for U.S./Canadian NAPBL teams, Mexican League attendance from 1955 through 1993, and 1996, and independent league data from 1993 through 1997. NAPBL data for 1994, 1995, and 1997 through 2015 came from the office of Minor League Baseball.

Thanks to Jeff Lantz, Steve Densa and Mary Marandi of Minor League Baseball for providing yearly NAPBL Minor League figures. Thanks also to Pete Palmer, editor of The ESPN Baseball Encyclopedia, for providing some of the information. Data from independent leagues from 1998 through 2015 came from the Website of each league in most cases, with the office of the Pecos League, and the Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball, providing the rest.

What's Missing?

The 1981 attendance for the Mexican League was not available. Hopefully, in the future, these figures can be obtained. Also, attendance data from many leagues prior to 1947 is not available.

League Record-High Attendance

The record-high attendance for all NAPBL and independent leagues can be found on page 97, and also in the League and Team Highlights sections of this report. Also listed at the start of the Highlights section for each league is the highest season attendance for an individual team in that league.

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Buffalo	1,188,972	1991	Louisville	1,052,438	1983
Charlotte	687,715	2014	Norfolk	560,211	1995
Columbus, OH	666,797	2009	Pawtucket	688,421	2005
Durham	554,788	2015	Rochester	515,436	1998
Gwinnett County, GA	423,556	2009	Scranton-Wilkes Barre	580,908	2007
Indianapolis	662,536	2015	Syracuse	446,025	1999
Lehigh Valley, PA	645,905	2010	Toledo	590,159	2007

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

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE – CLASS AAA

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Albuquerque	602,129	2009	New Orleans	519,584	1998
Colorado Springs	350,374	2014	Oklahoma City	542,095	2005
El Paso	578,952	2015	Omaha	449,753	1997
Fresno	563,079	2002	Reno	466,606	2009
Iowa	576,310	2007	Round Rock	700,277	2005
Las Vegas	386,310	1993	Sacramento	901,214	2001
Memphis	887,976	2001	Salt Lake City	713,224	1994
Nashville (a)	565,548	2015	Tacoma	378,518	2011

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

Omaha set its record in the Class AAA American Association.

EASTERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Akron	522,459	1999	New Britain–Hartford	368,523	2010
Altoona	394,062	2004	New Hampshire	386,991	2009
Binghamton	259,183	1992	Portland, ME	434,684	2004
Bowie	463,976	1995	Reading	486,570	2002
Erie	246,404	2001	Richmond (a)	463,842	2010
Harrisburg	301,588	2015	Trenton	457,344	1998

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

A team in Hartford drew 138,306 in 1949

SOUTHERN LEAGUE – CLASS AA

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Birmingham	467,867	1994	Mississippi	246,674	2007
Chattanooga	292,920	1994	Mobile	332,639	1997
<i>Biloxi</i>	164,076	2015	Montgomery	322,946	2004
Jackson, TN	313,775	1998	Pensacola	328,147	2012
Jacksonville, FL	420,495	2004	Tennessee	283,038	2014

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Arkansas	377,977	2008	N.W. Arkansas	358,792	2008
Corpus Christi	506,398	2006	San Antonio	411,959	1994
Frisco	666,977	2003	Springfield, MO	526,630	2005
Midland	317,233	2013	Tulsa	408,183	2010

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bakersfield	158,714	1992	Modesto	180,785	2011
High Desert	218,444	1992	Rancho Cucamonga	446,146	1995
Inland Empire	273,739	1997	San Jose	222,547	2011
Lake Elsinore	383,297	1995	Stockton	218,497	2007
Lancaster	316,390	1996	Visalia	121,004	2015

FLORIDA STATE LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bradenton	109,845	2013	Fort Myers (a)	133,817	2015
Brevard County	144,688	1994	Jupiter (b)	114,301	2001
(Port) Charlotte	171,450	2010	Lakeland (c)	64,396	2014
Clearwater	195,063	2014	Palm Beach (b)	105,122	2006
Daytona	164,007	2008	St. Lucie	105,379	2011
Dunedin	80,126	1994	Tampa (d)	149,191	1997

(a) – A previous team in Fort Myers drew 137,553 in 1984. (b) – West Palm Beach record-high – 165,656 in 1981.
(c) – A previous team in Lakeland drew 81,878 in 1951. (d) – St. Petersburg record-high – 202,383 in 1989.

CAROLINA LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Carolina (a)	328,207	1993	Potomac	243,559	2014
Frederick	351,146	1993	Salem	258,469	2007
Lynchburg	169,367	2011	Wilmington, DE	358,766	1995
Myrtle Beach	242,397	2008	Winston-Salem	312,416	2011

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

MIDWEST LEAGUE – FULL-SEASON CLASS A

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Beloit	101,127	1986	Kane County, IL	523,222	2001
Bowling Green, KY	237,070	2011	Lake County, OH	437,515	2003
Burlington, IA (a)	83,927	1994	Lansing	538,325	1996
Cedar Rapids	196,066	2002	Peoria	275,673	2008
Clinton	127,251	1988	Quad Cities	260,471	1994
Dayton	597,433	2010	South Bend	347,678	2015
Fort Wayne	406,175	2014	West Michigan	547,401	1996
Great Lakes	324,564	2007	Wisconsin	253,240	2009

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

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Asheville	181,578	2015	Hickory	283,727	1993
Augusta, GA	201,760	2010	Kannapolis	138,487	2011
Charleston, SC	292,661	2015	Lakewood	482,206	2001
Columbia, SC	156,921	1996	Lexington, KY	451,076	2001
Delmarva	324,412	1997	Rome	246,718	2003
Greensboro	441,106	2007	Savannah (b)	135,415	2011
Greenville, SC	349,116	2008	West Virginia	248,766	2007
Hagerstown (a)	153,675	2005			

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

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

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Aberdeen	247,836	2008	Lowell	201,512	2010
Auburn	58,233	1991	Mahoning Valley	206,287	2000
Batavia	52,909	1971	State College	153,350	2008
Brooklyn (a)	317,124	2002	Staten Island	209,018	2010
Connecticut (b)	78,588	2015	Tri-City (Troy, NY) (c)	161,171	2014
Hudson Valley	164,425	2006	Vermont	124,496	1996
West Virginia (Morgt'n)	83,796	2015	Williamsport (d)	83,346	2003

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

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

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

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

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

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Boise	165,255	1995	Salem-Keiser	136,836	1997
Eugene (a)	148,282	1996	Spokane (b)	193,865	2014
Everett	119,396	1998	Tri-City, WA (c)	86,095	2012
Hillsboro (e)	143,412	2015	Vancouver (d)	215,535	2015

(a) – PCL team drew 168,094 in 1972.

(b) – PCL team drew 287,185 in 1947.

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

(d) – PCL team drew 386,220 in 1988.

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

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Bluefield	55,373	1991	Greeneville, TN	54,252	2015
Bristol	32,409	1976	Johnson City	48,038	1994
Burlington, NC	76,653	1987	Kingsport	55,457	1999
Danville	80,539	1993	Princeton	39,426	1994
Elizabethton	30,134	2007	Pulaski	57,023	2015

Record-highs as full-season teams in this league: Bluefield – 116,572 in 1949; Elizabethton – 38,947 in 1947; Johnson City – 51,846 in 1948; Kingsport – 65,646 in 1951; Bristol – 68,504 in 1946; Pulaski – 49,472 in 1947. Burlington drew 140,148 in 1947, and Danville drew 110,000 in 1946, both in the full-season Carolina League.

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

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

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

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

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Aguascalientes	351,326	1978	Oaxaca	209,984	2008
Campeche	287,749	1983	Puebla	363,011	2011
Cancun-Quintana Roo	214,556	2007	Reynosa	313,917	2009
Carmen	271,021	2013	Saltillo	613,551	2001
Laguna	350,717	2008	Tabasco	441,835	1979
Mexico City Reds	536,743	1967	Tijuana	548,863	2004
Monclova	425,738	1998	Veracruz	245,057	2012
Monterrey	989,454	2006	Yucatan	560,000	1982

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

CAN-AM LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Trois Rivières (d)	96,997	2015	Quebec City (c)	164,009	2009
Ottawa (a)	115,880	2015	Rockland	161,796	2015
New Jersey Jackals	129,179	1999	Sussex County (b)	101,638	2007

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

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

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

ATLANTIC LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

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

PACIFIC ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Pittsburg	3,938	2015	San Rafael	31,411	2012
Sonoma	15,847	2015	Vallejo	6,776	2015

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

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

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

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

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Amarillo	159,332	2008	Lincoln	247,471	2002
Fargo-Moorhead	193,364	2002	St. Paul (c)	404,528	2015
Gary	166,366	2010	Sioux City, IA	149,770	1995
Grand Prairie	143,627	2008	Sioux Falls, SD	161,131	2013
Joplin (a)	69,222	2015	Wichita, KS (d)	161,170	2009
Kansas City, KS (b)	289,162	2007	Winnipeg	323,241	2004
Laredo	187,845	2012			

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

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

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

UNITED BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

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

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

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

PECOS BASEBALL LEAGUE – INDEPENDENT

Team	Record-High	Year	Team	Record-High	Year
Alpine	22,630	1959	Santa Fe	15,552	2012
Las Cruces	6,592	2012	Garden City	10,725	2015
Las Vegas, NM	2,204	2013	Taos	2,686	2014
Roswell	82,671	1950	Trinidad	10,624	2012
Raton	6,572	2013	White Sands	8,800	2011

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

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2015 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969

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

Tables at the end of this section compare 2015 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 26, 36 and 46 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 2015 NUMBERS

The 176 NAPBL teams that charged admission drew 42,561,445, an average of 241,826 per team. Average per date was 4,104. 52 independent teams that compiled home attendance drew 6,317,482, an average of 121,490 per team, and an average per date of 2,510. Most independent teams play shorter seasons than NAPBL teams. Combined NAPBL and independent attendance was 48,878,927, averaging 214,381 per team, and 3,793 per date. Major League total attendance was 73,760,020, an average of 2,458,667 per team, and 30,517 per date.

2015 COMPARISON WITH 1999

By 1999, the boom in Minor League attendance was well underway. Comparing 2015 with 1999 attendance won't have the same dramatic growth as comparisons with 1989, 1979, and 1969. But there were healthy gains.

NAPBL 2015 total attendance was up 21.0% from 1999. Average attendance per date increased 718 (21.2%). There were 176 NAPBL teams in both 2015 and 1999. 44 independent teams had home games in 1999. Total independent leagues attendance was up 29.7% vs. 1999, but their average per date fell 49 (1.9%). Combined 2015 NAPBL and independent total attendance rose 22.0% from 1999, and average per date was up 535 (16.4%).

2015 NAPBL average attendance per team was also up 21.0% vs. 1999, and was at least 25% higher for 7 leagues. The Texas League's average attendance per team rose 56.2%. The Pioneer League was up 39.5%, the Florida State League had a 45.3% increase, the South Atlantic League gained 49.0%, the Mexican League increased 34.6%, the Midwest League was up 33.5%, and the Pacific Coast League had a 29.0% gain. Independent league teams had a combined gain of 9.7%.

But 2 NAPBL leagues had a lower average attendance per team in 2015 than they had in 1999. The Eastern League was down 2.8%, and the California League declined 7.4%.

The 30 Class AAA teams averaged 473,071 per team in 2015. In 1999, the 30 Class AAA teams averaged 401,475 per team. Class AAA average per date was 6,800 in 2015, compared to 5,913 in 1999. Class AA teams averaged 4,423 per date in 2015, up 482 from the 1999 average of 3,941. Full-season Class A teams averaged 2,990 per date in 2015, compared to 2,296 in 1999. Short-season teams averaged 2,550 in 2015, 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 2015 (8,091).

The Major League 2015 total attendance and average per team was up 5.2% from 1999. 30 teams operated each year. Average attendance per date was 30,517 in 2015, up 1,307 (4.5%) from the 1999 average of 29,210.

2015 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. 2015 NAPBL total attendance was 84.2% higher than in 1989, and the average per team was up 71.7%. Independent leagues did not operate in 1989. But if independent leagues attendance is included in the 2015 figures, the results are gains of 111.6% in total attendance, and 52.2% in average per team.

The Appalachian League's 2015 average attendance per team was 11.5% higher than their 1989 average. Every other league had a gain of at least 31.1%.

3 leagues more than doubled their 2015 per team averages compared to 1989. The South Atlantic League average per team was 146.7% higher in 2015 than in 1989. The New York-Penn was up 122.6%, and the Midwest League gained 115.8%. The Pacific Coast, Texas, Eastern, Mexican and Carolina Leagues achieved increases of better than 70%. The combined Class AAA average per team was up 39.2%.

Among individual teams, Buffalo had the highest 1989 attendance, drawing an incredible 1,132,183. Louisville and Columbus, OH also topped 500,000. 17 teams reached 500,000 in 2015. Highest Class AA attendance in 1989 was at Arkansas (296,428). In 2015, 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 2015. Durham is now in Class AAA, and the Bulls drew 554,788 in 2015. 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 2015, 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. 16 short-season teams did that in 2015, with Brooklyn and Vancouver surpassing 200,000.

Major League total attendance was up 33.7% vs. 1989. Average per team (26 teams in 1989), rose 15.9%. The average per date of 30,517 in 2015 was 3,747 (14.0%) higher than the 1989 average per date of 26,770.

2015 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 2015 total attendance was 178.8% higher than in 1979, with the average per team up 124.9%. When independent league attendance is added to the 2015 totals, the result is a 220.2% increase in total attendance, and a 99.4% gain in average per team.

11 of the 15 NAPBL leagues more than doubled their average attendance per team since 1979. There was a better than 4-fold increase in 4 leagues: Carolina – 417.1%; Eastern – 331.2%; Midwest – 335.7%; Northwest – 393.2%. 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 62%, and the Mexican League, which was up 5.4%. The Class AAA leagues had a combined 163.1% increase from the 1979 average per team of 179,784.

In 1979, Columbus (OH) had the top Minor League attendance, drawing 599,544 to newly re-built Cooper Stadium. That figure was topped by Columbus, Indianapolis, Sacramento, Charlotte, and Lehigh Valley in 2015. 3 Mexican League teams (Mexico City Reds, Tabasco, and Yucatan) topped 400,000 in 1979. But Denver (335,684) and Albuquerque (266,586) were the only other Class AAA teams to top 240,000. All Class AAA teams drew over 240,000 in 2015, and all of these teams, except Syracuse, Gwinnett, and Memphis topped 300,000.

Nashville drew 515,482 to lead Class AA in 1979, the first of 4 straight years the Sounds topped 500,000. Memphis and El Paso were the only other Class AA teams to reach 200,000. 26 of the 30 Class AA teams topped 200,000 in 2015. 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 2015, 48 of the 60 full-season Class A teams, and 16 short-season teams, drew more than 100,000. Greensboro's Class A leading total of 1979 was topped by 36 full-season Class A teams, and 3 short-season teams in 2015. 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 2015.

Major League 2015 total attendance was up 69.4% vs. 1979. Average per team (26 teams in 1979), rose 46.8%. Average per date was up 8,577 (39.1%) from the 1979 figure of 21,940.

ATTENDANCE GROWTH - 2015 vs. 1999, 1989, 1979 and 1969**2015 COMPARISON WITH 1969**

The 148 NAPBL teams that charged admission in 1969 drew just 9,984,263, an average of 67,461 per team. 2015 total NAPBL attendance was 326.3% higher, and average per team showed a 258.5% gain. Add independent teams to the 2015 figures, and the total attendance growth is 389.6%, with average per team up 217.8%.

There have been some incredible increases in average attendance per team since 1969. The Midwest League was up 548.2%. The South Atlantic League (named the Western Carolinas League until 1980) had a 470.7% gain with 5 current teams each individually drawing better in 2015 than the entire league drew in 1969.

The New York-Penn League had a 377.1% increase, and the Eastern League was up 391.0%. The Carolina League had a gain of 410.3%, the Northwest League was up 417.1%, and the Southern League had a 325.4% gain. The International, Pacific Coast, Texas, California, and Pioneer Leagues were each up better than 200%. The Florida State League, up 152.4%, the Appalachian League, up 100.3%, and the Mexican League, down 1.9%, were the only leagues whose 2015 average per team was not at least 3 times more than their 1969 figure. Combined Class AAA average per team was up 250.0%.

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 2015, Hawaii's 1969 total attendance was topped by 64 NAPBL teams, including all teams in the Texas League, and by 4 independent league teams. Honolulu no longer has a team. Rochester (267,987) had the top attendance among U.S. mainland teams.

Only 5 teams below the AAA level topped 100,000 in 1969. Dallas-Fort Worth, then in the Class AA Texas League, attracted 235,827. Albuquerque and Memphis, also in the Texas League, drew over 100,000, as did Charlotte of the Southern League, and Ciudad Madero of the Class A Mexican Center League. No United States based Class A team reached 100,000.

Miami had the best full-season Class A attendance in the U.S., drawing 77,354. 52 of 60 full-season Class A teams, and 24 of 40 short-season teams topped that figure in 2015. Salt Lake City drew 76,789 in 1969 to lead all short-season teams. 6 Class AA teams, and 38 full-season Class A teams, failed to reach 50,000 in 1969. Also that year, just 5 of 33 short-season teams drew at least 30,000, and 16 short-season teams didn't even reach 20,000.

Major League total attendance rose 170.9% vs. 1969. Average per team (24 teams in 1969), rose 116.7%. The 2015 MLB average per date was 30,517, up 15,159 (101.3%) from the 1969 average per date of 15,358.

INDIVIDUAL TEAMS OUTDRAWING ENTIRE LEAGUES

The following individual teams drew more fans in 2015 than their entire league drew in 1979 and/or 1969: (Example: Dayton of the Midwest League drew 574,830 in 2015. In 1979, the Midwest League's total attendance was 485,915, and in 1969, that league drew 367,420.)

Eastern League - Reading, Richmond (1969)

Southern League - Birmingham (1969)

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

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

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

NY-Penn League - Brooklyn (1969)

Northwest League - Vancouver (1979 & 1969), Spokane, Boise, Eugene, Hillsboro (1969)

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2015 vs. 1999

League	2015			1999			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1999
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,856,983	15	2,323,799	31,816,532	14	2,272,609	2.3
	<u>38,903,037</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,593,536</u>	<u>38,322,848</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>2,395,178</u>	<u>8.3</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,760,020	30	2,458,667	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	5.2
American Assoc. International	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			
	6,961,610	14	497,258	6,437,251	14	459,804	8.1
Pacific Coast	<u>7,230,514</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>451,907</u>	<u>5,606,999</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>350,437</u>	29.0
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,192,124</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>473,071</i>	<i>12,044,250</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>401,475</i>	<i>17.8</i>
Mexican	3,870,823	16	241,926	2,875,289	16	179,706	34.6
Eastern	3,760,165	12	313,347	3,868,732	12	322,394	(2.8)
Southern	2,364,879	10	236,488	2,332,712	10	233,271	1.4
Texas	2,792,526	8	349,066	1,787,915	8	223,489	56.2
California	1,551,040	10	155,104	1,675,245	10	167,525	(7.4)
Carolina	1,946,768	8	243,346	1,652,256	8	206,532	17.8
Florida State	1,172,695	12	97,725	941,861	14	67,276	45.3
Midwest	4,233,904	16	264,619	2,774,427	14	198,173	33.5
South Atlantic *	3,053,433	14	218,102	2,049,461	14	146,390	49.0
New York-Penn	1,590,750	14	113,625	1,371,054	14	97,932	16.0
Northwest	1,051,265	8	131,408	1,021,390	8	127,674	2.9
Appalachian	347,451	10	34,745	330,517	10	33,052	5.1
Pioneer	<u>633,622</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>79,203</u>	<u>454,362</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>56,795</u>	39.5
NAPBL TOTAL	42,561,445	176	241,826	35,179,471	176	199,883	21.0
Independent Lgs.	6,317,482	52	121,490	4,871,797	44	110,723	9.7
GRAND TOTAL	48,878,927	228	214,381	40,051,268	220	182,051	17.8

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

Independent league totals exclude teams that only played road games.

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

MAJOR AND MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE - 2015 vs. 1989

<u>League</u>	<u>2015</u>			<u>1989</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1989
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	34,856,983	15	2,323,799	29,849,262	14	2,132,090	9.0
	<u>38,903,037</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,593,536</u>	<u>25,323,834</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>2,110,320</u>	<u>22.9</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,760,020	30	2,458,667	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	15.9
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			3,667,142	8	458,393	
International	6,961,610	14	497,258	2,613,247	8	326,656	52.2
Pacific Coast	<u>7,230,514</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>451,907</u>	<u>2,554,417</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>255,442</u>	76.9
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,192,124</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>473,071</i>	<i>8,834,806</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>339,800</i>	<i>39.2</i>
Mexican	3,870,823	16	241,926	1,975,723	14	141,123	71.4
Eastern	3,760,165	12	313,347	1,272,812	8	159,102	96.9
Southern	2,364,879	10	236,488	1,687,844	10	168,784	40.1
Texas	2,792,526	8	349,066	1,511,610	8	188,951	84.7
California	1,551,040	10	155,104	933,883	10	93,388	66.1
Carolina	1,946,768	8	243,346	1,006,738	8	125,842	93.4
Florida State	1,172,695	12	97,725	957,344	14	68,382	42.9
Midwest	4,233,904	16	264,619	1,716,443	14	122,603	115.8
South Atlantic *	3,053,433	14	218,102	1,060,964	12	88,414	146.7
New York-Penn	1,590,750	14	113,625	714,561	14	51,040	122.6
Northwest	1,051,265	8	131,408	636,187	8	79,523	65.2
Appalachian	347,451	10	34,745	311,510	10	31,151	11.5
Pioneer	<u>633,622</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>79,203</u>	<u>483,168</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>60,396</u>	<u>31.1</u>
NAPBL TOTAL	42,561,445	176	241,826	23,103,593	164	140,876	71.7
Independent Lgs.	6,317,482	52	121,490	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,878,927	228	214,381	23,103,593	164	140,876	52.2

* 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 - 2015 vs. 1979

<u>League</u>	<u>2015</u>			<u>1979</u>			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1979
	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u># Teams</u>	<u>Avg./Team</u>	
American National	34,856,983	15	2,323,799	22,371,979	14	1,597,999	45.4
	<u>38,903,037</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,593,536</u>	<u>21,178,419</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,764,868</u>	<u>47.0</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,760,020	30	2,458,667	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	46.8
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			1,296,740	8	162,093	
International	6,961,610	14	497,258	1,616,151	8	202,019	146.1
Pacific Coast	<u>7,230,514</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>451,907</u>	<u>1,761,487</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>176,149</u>	156.5
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,192,124</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>473,071</i>	<i>4,674,378</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>179,784</i>	<i>163.1</i>
Mexican	3,870,823	16	241,926	4,591,286	20	229,564	5.4
Eastern	3,760,165	12	313,347	436,040	6	72,673	331.2
Southern	2,364,879	10	236,488	1,482,437	10	148,244	59.5
Texas	2,792,526	8	349,066	826,207	8	103,276	238.0
California	1,551,040	10	155,104	504,487	10	50,449	207.4
Carolina	1,946,768	8	243,346	282,371	6	47,062	417.1
Florida State	1,172,695	12	97,725	722,258	10	72,226	35.3
Midwest	4,233,904	16	264,619	485,915	8	60,739	335.7
South Atlantic *	3,053,433	14	218,102	347,237	6	57,873	276.9
New York-Penn	1,590,750	14	113,625	298,538	10	29,854	280.6
Northwest	1,051,265	8	131,408	213,163	8	26,645	393.2
Appalachian	347,451	10	34,745	128,735	6	21,456	61.9
Pioneer	<u>633,622</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>79,203</u>	<u>272,581</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>34,073</u>	132.5
NAPBL TOTAL	42,561,445	176	241,826	15,265,633	142	107,504	124.9
Independent Lgs.	6,317,482	52	121,490	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,878,927	228	214,381	15,265,633	142	107,504	99.4

* 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 - 2015 vs. 1969

League	2015			1969			% Chg. in Avg./Team 2014 vs. 1969
	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	Attendance	# Teams	Avg./Team	
American National	34,856,983	15	2,323,799	12,134,745	12	1,011,229	129.8
	<u>38,903,037</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>2,593,536</u>	<u>15,094,946</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>1,257,912</u>	<u>106.2</u>
MAJORS TOTAL	73,760,020	30	2,458,667	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	116.7
American Assoc.	Teams now in the I.L. & P.C.L.			882,547	6	147,091	
International	6,961,610	14	497,258	1,035,457	8	129,432	284.2
Pacific Coast	<u>7,230,514</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>451,907</u>	<u>1,055,988</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>131,999</u>	<u>242.4</u>
<i>Class AAA Total</i>	<i>14,192,124</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>473,071</i>	<i>2,973,992</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>135,181</i>	<i>250.0</i>
Mexican	3,870,823	16	241,926	1,973,825	8	246,728	(1.9)
Eastern	3,760,165	12	313,347	382,933	6	63,822	391.0
Southern	2,364,879	10	236,488	333,516	6	55,586	325.4
Texas	2,792,526	8	349,066	828,268	8	103,534	237.2
California	1,551,040	10	155,104	369,217	8	46,152	236.1
Carolina	1,946,768	8	243,346	476,856	10	47,686	410.3
Florida State	1,172,695	12	97,725	464,662	12	38,722	152.4
Midwest	4,233,904	16	264,619	367,420	9	40,824	548.2
South Atlantic *	3,053,433	14	218,102	229,290	6	38,215	470.7
New York-Penn	1,590,750	14	113,625	190,519	8	23,815	377.1
Northwest	1,051,265	8	131,408	101,658	4	25,415	417.1
Appalachian	347,451	10	34,745	138,763	8	17,345	100.3
Pioneer	<u>633,622</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>79,203</u>	<u>180,625</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>25,804</u>	<u>206.9</u>
Northern	-----	----	-----	128,964	6	21,494	-----
Mexican Center	-----	----	-----	356,809	8	44,601	-----
Mexican Northern	-----	----	-----	145,244	6	24,207	-----
Mexican So. East	-----	----	-----	<u>341,702</u>	<u>6</u>	56,950	-----
NAPBL TOTAL	42,561,445	176	241,826	9,984,263	148	67,461	258.5
Independent Lgs.	6,317,482	52	121,490	0	0	0	-----
GRAND TOTAL	48,878,927	228	214,381	9,984,263	148	67,461	217.8

* 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 - 2015 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 2015 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 2014 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 2015 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

2015 or 2014-15 ATTENDANCE (NFL-2014)

	2015 or 2014-15 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team
NAPBL Minor League Baseball	42,561,445	176	241,826
Major League Baseball	73,760,020	30	2,458,667
National Football League (2014)	16,928,403	32	529,013
National Basketball Association	21,926,548	30	730,885
National Hockey League	21,533,419	30	717,781
Women's NBA (WNBA)	1,492,927	12	124,411
Major League Soccer	7,335,053	20	366,753
Minor League Hockey	11,963,395	80	149,542

Major League Soccer is the only sport that has posted better attendance growth than the NAPBL Minor Leagues when comparing 2015 attendance with 1999.

2015 (NFL 2014) 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. 2015 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	35,179,471	176	199,883	21.0	21.0
MLB	70,139,380	30	2,337,979	5.2	5.2
NFL	16,206,640	31	522,795	4.5	1.2
NBA	20,058,513	29	691,673	9.3	5.7
NHL	18,800,139	28	671,434	14.5	6.9
WNBA	1,956,281	12	163,023	(23.7)	(23.7)
MLS	2,742,102	12	228,509	167.5	60.5
Minors Hockey	19,736,526	109	181,069	(39.4)	(17.4)

MINOR LEAGUE ATTENDANCE GROWTH vs. OTHER SPORTS - 2015 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 2015 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.

2015 (NFL 2014) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1989 (1989-1990 NBA, NHL)

	1989 or 1989-1990 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	23,103,593	164	140,876	84.2	71.7
MLB	55,173,096	26	2,122,042	33.7	15.9
NFL	13,625,662	28	486,631	24.2	8.7
NBA	17,368,659	27	643,284	26.2	13.6
NHL	12,579,651	21	599,031	71.2	19.8

Growth in average attendance per team for Minor League Baseball increased at a pace that was more than twice as fast as the other sports leagues when comparing 2015 attendance with 1979. Total attendance also grew at a faster rate for Minor League Baseball compared to other sports, increasing 178.8%. Both the NBA and the NHL have more than doubled their total attendance since their 1979-1980 seasons.

2015 (NFL 2014) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1979 (1979-1980 NBA, NHL)

	1979 or 1979-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	15,265,633	142	107,504	178.8	124.9
MLB	43,550,398	26	1,675,015	69.4	46.8
NFL	13,182,039	28	470,787	28.4	12.4
NBA	9,937,575	22	451,708	120.6	61.8
NHL	10,533,623	21	501,601	104.4	43.1

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 405.1% since 1969-70, and average per team increased 135.7%. 4 ABA teams were merged into the NBA in 1976-77.

2015 (NFL 2014) ATTENDANCE COMPARISON WITH 1969 (1969-1970 NBA, NHL)

	1969 or 1969-1980 Total Attendance	Number of Teams	Average Attendance per Team	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Total Attendance	% Chg. vs. 2015 in Avg. per Team
NAPBL Minors	9,984,263	148	67,461	326.3	258.5
MLB	27,229,691	24	1,134,570	170.9	116.7
AFL/NFL	8,939,500	26	343,827	89.4	53.9
NBA/ABA	6,094,015	25	243,761	259.8	199.8
NHL	5,992,065	12	499,339	259.4	43.7

NEW BALLPARKS

New ballparks have been a major factor in the growth of minor league attendance. According to the "Baseball America Directory", ballparkdigest.com, and baseballparks.com, 125 of the 159 U.S./Canadian based NAPBL ballparks in use in 2015, opened from 1988 to 2015. 97 of these parks have been built since 1995, and 65 of them have opened since 2000. (Palm Beach and Jupiter of the Florida State League share the same facility.) 26 teams play in a park that opened prior to 1970, while the homes of 8 teams were built between 1970 and 1987. Many older parks have been totally refurbished, and bear little resemblance to their original structures.

Information is available about 50 ballparks of independent league teams that operated in 2015. 36 of these parks opened since the start of 1988, (32 since 1995, and 24 since 2000), and 13 were built prior to 1970. Overall, 161 minor league ballparks in use in 2014 or 2015 opened since 1988, with 129 of those opening since 1995, and 89 opening since 2000.

Birmingham, Scranton, and Hillsboro opened new parks in 2013. Charlotte, NC and El Paso moved into completely new parks in 2014. Nashville, Biloxi, Morgantown, and St. Paul got new parks in 2015. Joplin played in a park that was totally rebuilt on the same site as the old park. Hartford opens a new park in 2016.

MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ATTENDANCE COMPARED TO MINOR LEAGUE HOCKEY ATTENDANCE

Professional hockey has a system of minor leagues quite similar to that of baseball, with some minor league hockey teams being affiliated with teams in the National Hockey League. But while Minor League Baseball attendance has continued to grow in the first decade of the 21st Century, minor league hockey attendance is down.

In the 1999-2000 season, there were 109 professional minor league hockey teams in the United States and Canada. By the 2014-15 season, the number of teams was down to 80.

Total regular season minor league hockey attendance fell 39.4% from 19,736,526 in 1999-2000, to 11,963,395 in 2014-15, with 29 fewer teams. Average attendance per game dropped 489 from 4,900 in 1999-2000, to 4,411 in 2014-15, a decline of 10.0%. On the other hand, National Hockey League average per game attendance in 2014-15 was 17,507, up 6.9% from the 1999-2000 average of 16,376.

(Sources: 2015-16 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 2014-15 season, the 30 team American Hockey League drew 6,279,281 to its regular season games, accounting for more than half of all minor league hockey attendance. The Hershey Bears drew 372,070, an average of 9,791 per game, which was the year's best attendance for any minor league hockey team. (Hershey has never had a Minor League baseball team.) Lake Erie (Cleveland), 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.

In the lower levels of minor league hockey, Ontario, CA averaged 7,802 per game, Orlando averaged 6,209, and Toledo drew an average of 6,440. The Fort Wayne Komets drew an average of 7,277 per game. This was the 13th straight year the Komets topped 7,000 per game, and they've reached that figure 18 times in the last 24 years. Fort Wayne is very successful at the gate in Minor League Baseball as well. The Tincaps of the Midwest League drew a team record-high 406,715 in 2014, and drew 400,036 in 2015, averaging a record-high 5,971 per date.

Bakersfield of the ECHL is one of minor league hockey's best draws. They averaged better than 5,000 per game for 7 straight years through 2010-11, averaged 4,963 in 2011-12, 4,618 in 2012-13, 4,859 in 2013-14, and 4,799 in 2014-15. 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, but fell to just 740 in 2015. That city needs a new ballpark. But plans for a new park there were cancelled, and team is looking to move.

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

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

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

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

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

SOURCE OF ATTENDANCE DATA: Encyclopedia of Minor League Baseball

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Minor League total regular season attendance reached 39,640,443 in 1949, according to Minor League Baseball. The 1950 Sporting News Baseball Guide reports a 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 2015, there were 15 NAPBL leagues that charged admission to their games. Those leagues had 176 teams. The Pacific Coast, Mexican, and Midwest Leagues had 16 teams each. 7 independent leagues operated, and 52 of their teams reported 2015 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 451,907 per team that the 16 team P.C.L. averaged in 2015, when it played a 144 game schedule. 6 of the 8 teams in the league in 1949 played in markets that later joined the Major Leagues.

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

The other Class AAA leagues drew considerably less than the P.C.L., but still averaged better than 250,000 per team. The overall Class AAA average per team of 336,625 compares with a 473,071 average in 2015.

There were only 2 Class AA leagues. Both the Southern Association and the Texas League averaged more than 240,000 per team. In 2015, the 3 Class AA leagues averaged 297,252 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 2015, there were 30 NAPBL teams and one independent team that topped 400,000. An additional 28 NAPBL and 3 independent teams drew between 300,000 and 400,000 in 2015.

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 28 straight years through 2015.

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. 2015 total attendance was 73,760,020, average 30,517 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).
 2014 NFL attendance was 16,928,403, an average of 66,386 per game.

NBA: 1,433,878 in 1961-62 (4,566 per date). 2014-15 attendance was 21,926,548, an average of 17,826 per game.
 NHL: 2,435,424 in 1961-62 (11,597 per game). 2014-15 attendance was 21,533,419, an average of 17,507 per game.

A RESURGENCE IN MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

With low attendance, and many rundown ballparks in the early 1960's, it was thought that much of Minor League Baseball would soon be gone. The Class AAA and perhaps the Class AA leagues would survive. However many baseball people believed that college baseball would replace the lower level leagues as feeders to the Majors.

But in the late-1970's, Minor League Baseball attendance began a steady increase. Part of it was that more teams were needed due to Major League expansion. Then, starting in the late-1980's, better marketing, and new ballparks led to the attendance boom that continues today. Independent leagues started play in 1993, adding to the number of teams. Previous sections of this report have more details about this.

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

A FEW QUICK NOTES ON COLLEGE BASEBALL

The NCAA does not list total attendance for all of college baseball. But they publish a list of annual leaders. Louisiana State has led the NCAA in attendance for 20 straight years. The Tigers drew 421,171 in 2015, averaging 10,799 per date. In 2013, they drew 413,638 for the regular season, averaging an NCAA record-high 10,885 per date. If post-season play is included, their 2013 total attendance was a record-high 473,298, and a record-high average per date of 11,007. The old regular-season record average per date was 10,673 by LSU in 2010. LSU, Arkansas, Texas, Mississippi State, South Carolina, and Mississippi each finished in the top 6 in average attendance per date from 2010 through 2014. Texas A&M replaced Texas in the 'Top 6' in 2015.

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.

21 of these leagues reported attendance in 2015. The highest attendance is by the 18 team 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, an 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. Source: Ballpark Digest

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 217,143 in 35 dates, which was 6,204 per date.

Madison had professional Minor League teams in the past. From 1982 through 1994, there was a Madison ballclub in the Midwest League. Their highest attendance was 131,646 in 1983. This team played 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 2015 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 46,360,089. 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 2015 Minor League teams drew its current all-time high attendance in the same season, total attendance would be 56,950,267. 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 14 of these 176 teams set a record-high in 2015.