

A large white barn with a red roof and trim. On the side of the barn, there is a large blue cursive logo for "Ohio" with a red star above the "i". Below it is a red and blue ribbon graphic with the word "BICENTENNIAL" in black capital letters. Underneath the ribbon, the years "1803" and "2003" are written in black, with a small red outline of the state of Ohio between them. The barn is set in a grassy field with trees in the background under a blue sky with white clouds.

Ohio  
BICENTENNIAL

1803  2003

# Casinos & Communities

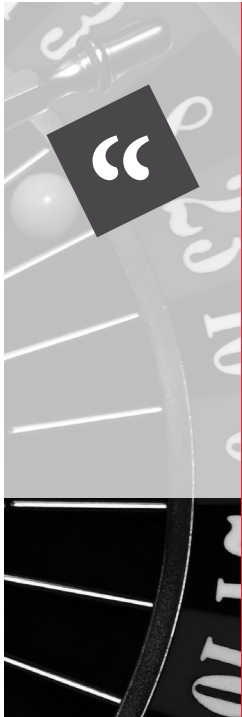


AMERICAN  
GAMING  
ASSOCIATION



GET TO  
KNOW  
GAMING





**I would welcome the casino  
again to our community.  
They've done nothing but  
provide an excellent business  
and partnership with the city.**

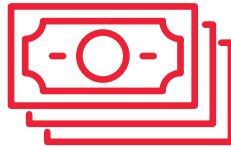
Amy Brewer  
Mayor of Lebanon, Ohio

# 2017 Gaming in Ohio by the Numbers

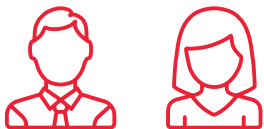
**11** commercial gaming locations



**\$594M** in taxes



**\$3.6B** in total economic impact



**19,953** jobs supported

**\$804M** in supported wages



“  
Number one, casinos played a major role with employment by providing jobs to people in this valley that needed them. Number two, they've taken an active role in working with non-profit organizations and the local community. They are a major contributor.

Jim Davis  
Trustee, Austintown, Ohio

# Gaming History in Ohio



20  
09

**Ohio voters approve a constitutional amendment permitting four casinos in the state;** an executive order allows Ohio's seven racetracks to operate video lottery terminals (VLTs)

2010

The Ohio Casino Control Commission is created to regulate and oversee gaming operations

20  
12

**Cleveland, Toledo and Columbus** become the first cities in the state to open casinos; the first racino in the state opens in Columbus

2013

Ohio's fourth casino opens in Cincinnati

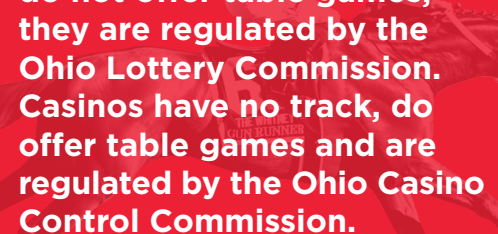
2013-14

Six additional racinos begin operations across the state

20  
17

Gaming generates more than **\$3.5 billion for Ohio's economy**

**What is the difference between a casino and a racino in Ohio? Racinos incorporate racetracks and do not offer table games; they are regulated by the Ohio Lottery Commission. Casinos have no track, do offer table games and are regulated by the Ohio Casino Control Commission.**







## Ohio in Depth: A Promise Kept

When new industries come to town they often bring with them promises of good corporate citizenship. The gaming industry is no different, but where it stands out is its commitment to following through. Penn National Gaming was “unbelievable. From the top brass all the way down,” said Jim Davis, an Austintown, Ohio Trustee who worked with the company to bring Hollywood Gaming at Mahoning Valley Race Course to life.

“When those guys sit down and meet with you and they look you in the eye, you feel a little bit better,” Davis said. “I’ve sat down with a lot of business people that have come to our community and met with us. We’ve had people come and say this is what we want to do, and then they don’t even follow through. ... The best part of dealing with Penn National was that they set a bar of expectation, and they followed it from Point A all the way through to the end.”


In Lebanon, Ohio, home of Miami Valley Gaming, Mayor Amy Brewer said the industry “defies the perception of what they’re about,” adding that “people have that perception that it’s about a machine. It’s not just about a machine. Yes, that’s a component of it, but that’s not all that it represents.”

If a gaming company approaches you about expanding to your community, “you’d want to support it,” said the March of Dimes’ Amy Ditz, “because they’re going to support you, and they’re going to help you if you reach out to them.”

**Underneath all the excitement and thrills, the gaming industry at its core provides a safe, accessible entertainment option for customers. “I feel safe” at Miami Valley Gaming, said Nancy Wilson, the host of K99.1FM’s New Country Morning show. “You can let your guard down and know that you’re not going to have to worry about walking to your car at night. I know that might sound kind of silly, but that’s important to a woman.”**

# Casino Gaming: Good for Workers, Good for the Community, Good for Ohio

“They’ve done a lot to really find a positive way of impacting this community,” said Dennis Grant, Executive Director of United Rehabilitation Services in Dayton. “They are not only creating jobs and supporting individuals, but they’re also supporting people with disabilities, they’re supporting families who are struggling, really finding ways of impacting the community in every way possible. You don’t do that without really having a sense of what it means to be a part of that community.”



**Every preschooler enrolled in our eight public preschools received two books and activity sheets from Miami Valley Gaming. 860 children received the more than 2,000 books we were able to distribute.**

Jerri Langworthy,  
United Way of Warren County

Bill Staler, CEO of Lifespan, a Hamilton non-profit that specializes in financial counseling, observed that when a gaming company sees a need in the community, they’re going to fill it. Yes, he said, the company “might get some positive press on it, but to me, I certainly don’t sense that that’s the goal. The goal is to improve the community, which is pleasantly surprising.”

Economically, not only are people working in casinos, “they’re spending money within their community” said Joanne Hurley, Executive Director of the Warren County Humane Association. “The downtown areas, which had pretty much been a ghost town, are now building back up and bringing businesses in.”

“It’s incredible, what it’s done for employment and jobs in the area, and continues to do,” said New Country Morning co-host James Frye.

**Almost 4,000 small business jobs in Ohio are supported by the gaming industry.**

Beyond the jobs it creates, the gaming industry sends hundreds of millions of dollars a year to state and local governments to support public safety, infrastructure and education initiatives. In 2017, Ohio casinos made \$264 million in tax payments, and the state’s racinos contributed more than \$250 million to Ohio’s Lottery Profits Education Fund.

Officials in Mahoning County are using some of those funds to make critical road improvements and building radio systems for emergency responders. Jim Davis remembers that there were areas “where you couldn’t get a radio transmission between a police officer and the 911 dispatcher.” The region was in desperate need of a \$1.8 million dollar radio system for emergency services, which was ultimately funded in part by casino taxes. “From a safety aspect, it’s been a huge impact to our safety forces,” Davis added.



**50%**  
**of industry employees**

**nationwide have contributed time and money to community or charitable groups in the last year, and nearly 75 percent say that the industry is committed to financially supporting local charities.**



# Providing Accessible Jobs, Upward Mobility and a Sense of Community

When people think of casino jobs, they often think of the dealers and restaurant staff but never take into account the vast array of people, jobs and skills it takes to run a casino. From surveillance and security to marketing and purchasing, there are hundreds of jobs that are often out of sight and out of mind for most visitors.

In order to develop a workforce of diverse talents and backgrounds, the gaming industry draws people from all walks of life and works hard to give them opportunities to succeed.

Brandon Sumpter, a veteran and Housekeeping Manager at Miami Valley Gaming, says that “probably one of the best parts of my job is mentoring awesome young people” like Kiersten Shelton, a housekeeper who has Down syndrome and loves her job and co-workers. “Helping them find their success,” said Sumpter, is one of the hidden benefits of the job.



At Hollywood Gaming in Youngstown, Player Services Shift Supervisor Jenna Cintavey had been promoted several times, but to advance further she needed a college degree. Her managers encouraged her to go back to school and she will soon earn a degree. “It’s personally motivated me to finish school, to better myself as a person,” she said of her career in gaming.

**In fact, nearly eighty percent of industry employees say that working in gaming provides them an opportunity to start at the ground floor and work their way up.**

Vantrice Hunter, a cook at Miami Valley Gaming, was “never given an opportunity” until she came to the casino industry. Today, with financial counseling assistance provided to employees by Miami Valley Gaming in partnership with Lifespan, she plans to buy a house in the near future. “I definitely have a career” in the gaming industry, she said. “There’s no limit to what I can do.”


“**The opportunities are endless. I even know upper management who told me, ‘I started in the dish tank.’ Now they run the whole company.**”


Brandon Sumpter,  
Housekeeping Manager, Miami Valley Gaming




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