

ILLINOIS

Expansion of the state's land-based casino market and continued growth in mobile sports betting drove record statewide commercial casino gaming revenue of \$2.92 billion in 2024, up 15.8 percent from the previous year.

KEY STATE INFORMATION

NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CASINOS

16

CASINO FORMAT

Riverboat Casinos;
Land-Based Casinos

NOTABLE FORMS OF GAMING

Sports Betting

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Illinois Gaming Board

GROSS CASINO GAMING REVENUE 2024

\$2.92B

CASINO TAX REVENUE 2024

\$730.5M



Market Overview

Illinois offers commercial casino gaming at 10 riverboat casinos and six land-based casinos under the regulation of the Illinois Gaming Board (IGB).

In 1990, the Illinois legislature approved the Riverboat Gambling Act, which authorized the IGB to grant up to 10 riverboat casino licenses. A gaming law passed in 2019 expanded the market by authorizing up to six new land-based casinos in different areas of the state, including the City of Chicago, while also permitting Illinois racetracks to apply for licenses to become racinos offering electronic gaming devices and table games.

In addition, the 2019 law legalized sports wagering at existing and future casinos and racinos, as well as at up to three off-track betting facilities affiliated with racinos and at major sports arenas across the state.

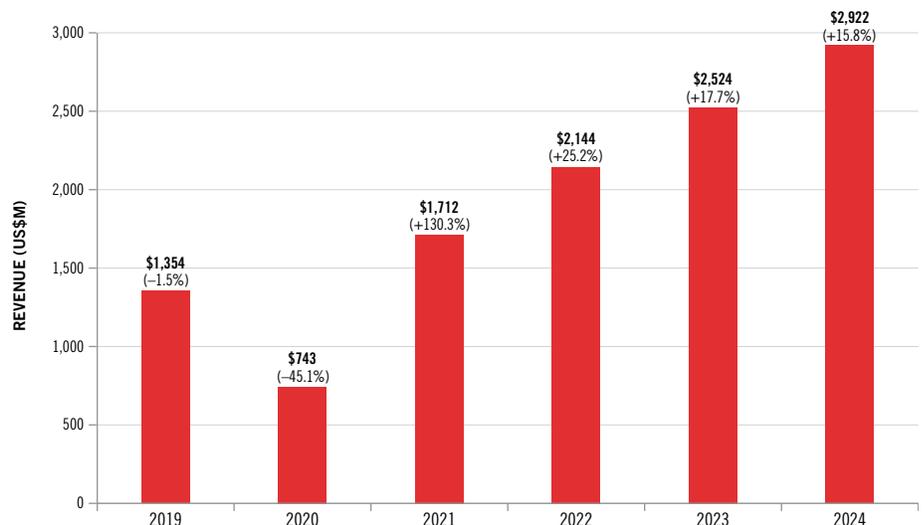
Casinos and racetracks are also eligible to operate statewide mobile sports betting. At the end of 2024, legal sports betting was available at 13 retail sportsbook locations and via nine online platforms, both up by one since the start of the year.

Market Performance

In 2024, statewide commercial casino gaming revenue reached a record total of \$2.92 billion, up 15.8 percent from the previous year.

The record performance was largely the result of Illinois' 2019 gaming expansion law that authorized both new land-based casinos and statewide mobile sports betting.

ILLINOIS: COMMERCIAL CASINO GAMING REVENUE (US\$M) 2019 to 2024



SOURCE: Illinois Gaming Board

Illinois

Total statewide revenue from traditional casino gaming in 2024 was \$1.69 billion, an increase of 11.0 percent compared with the prior year. Overall revenue from electronic gaming devices was \$1.28 billion, up 10.8 percent, while revenue from table games was \$412.0 million, up 11.7 percent.

The six new casinos authorized under the 2019 gaming expansion law accounted for \$421.2 million—or approximately 24.9 percent—of total land-based casino gaming revenue in 2024, compared to \$208.4 million or around 13.7 percent the previous year. Five of the six new casinos reported a first full 12 months of operations in 2024, while the sixth and final of them was opened, on a limited basis, in Chicago’s southern suburbs in November.

Overall, Illinois’ 16 commercial casinos reported approximately 13.0 million admissions in 2024, up 17.3 percent from the prior year. However, casinos earned an average of \$129.76 in gaming revenue per admission, down from \$137.08 in 2023.

Meanwhile, total statewide sports betting revenue was \$1.23 billion, up 23.0 percent versus the prior year. The total made Illinois the second largest commercial sports betting market in the country in 2024, behind only New York.

Online sports betting revenue was \$1.21 billion, an increase of 24.5 percent versus 2023. In contrast, revenue from retail sports betting declined for the third straight year, dropping 19.8 percent to \$26.0 million. That was despite the addition of a new retail sportsbook location at Wrigley Field in March.

Gaming Tax Distribution

ILLINOIS GAMING TAX

EGD Revenue	Tax Rate Applied
\$0–\$25M	15%
\$25M–\$50M	22.5%
\$50M–\$75M	27.5%
\$75M–\$100M	32.5%
\$100M–\$150M	37.5%
\$150M–\$200M	45%
\$200M+	50%

Illinois applies a graduated tax to commercial casino gaming revenue, ranging from 15 percent on electronic gaming device revenue up to \$25 million, to 50 percent on revenue of more than \$200 million. Casino table games are taxed at 15 percent on revenue up to \$25 million, and then 20 percent on revenue exceeding that amount. Illinois

also imposes an admissions tax of \$2 per patron at Bally’s Quad Cities Casino and \$3 at all other casinos.

As of July 2024, sports betting is also taxed on a graduated basis, ranging from 20 percent on revenue of up to \$30 million, to 40 percent on revenue of more than \$200 million. Revenue from sports wagers initiated in Cook County, which includes Chicago, is subject to an additional tax of 2 percent. In addition, sportsbook operations are also subject to a 0.25 percent federal excise tax applied to wagering handle.

In 2024, Illinois commercial casinos and sports betting operators generated total gaming tax revenue of approximately \$730.5 million, up 28.0 percent against the prior year when sports betting was subject to a different tax structure.

Of that total, roughly \$611.9 million was paid to the state government with the majority of state tax revenue then redistributed to specific state funds for education programs and capital projects, among others. Approximately \$106.0 million in gaming tax revenue was generated for local governments that host casinos, with a further \$12.7 million provided to Cook County in the form of local sports wagering taxes.

Competitive Landscape

Following the opening of the Wind Creek Chicago Southland casino in November, all six new casinos authorized under a 2019 gaming law are now licensed and operational. Still, three of the six casinos, including Wind Creek and Bally’s Casino in downtown Chicago, are operating as temporary facilities while larger casino-resorts remain under development. Hard Rock Casino Rockford opened its permanent casino in August, having initially operated in a temporary facility since 2021.

Additional expansion of the Illinois casino gaming market remains pending, with the state’s two active racetracks having applied for licenses to offer electronic gaming devices and table games at their facilities as authorized under the 2019 law. Several of the state’s 10 pre-existing riverboat casinos are also in the process of developing larger, land-based facilities adjacent to their current properties in order to offer a wider range of electronic gaming devices and table games, again under provisions of the 2019 legislation.

Alongside the expanding in-state competition, Illinois commercial casinos in the Greater Chicago and East St. Louis markets have historically competed directly with gaming properties in northwestern Indiana and eastern Missouri, respectively.

A major competitive challenge for Illinois’ commercial casino gaming industry remains the state’s network of

Illinois

electronic gaming devices—or video gaming terminals (VGTs)—that are authorized to operate in bars, restaurants, truck stops and other retail establishments pursuant to a 2009 state law.

In 2024, more than 48,700 VGTs operating in some 8,662 establishments statewide generated total revenue of more than \$3.00 billion, up 4.2 percent versus the prior year.

Policy & Regulatory Review

Sports Betting

In June, Gov. J.B. Pritzker (D) signed an annual budget law that included a dramatic increase in the state's tax rate for sports betting.

Under the original 2019 sports betting law, Illinois' retail and mobile sportsbooks had been subject to a 15 percent state tax on revenue. The 2024 budget law introduced a new graduated tax structure, with the tax rate ranging from 20 percent on annual revenue of less than \$30 million, to 40 percent on revenue exceeding \$200 million.

In his initial budget proposal published in February, Gov. Pritzker had called for the tax rate to be increased from 15 percent to 35 percent across the board. The governor's budget proposal said the higher tax rate would align Illinois with other larger sports betting markets in the country.

The new tax structure for sports betting became effective at the start of Illinois' 2025-26 fiscal year on July 1.

Advertising

In September, the Illinois Gaming Board approved new regulations to govern the advertising of casino gaming, sports betting and video gaming terminal (VGT) operations across the state.

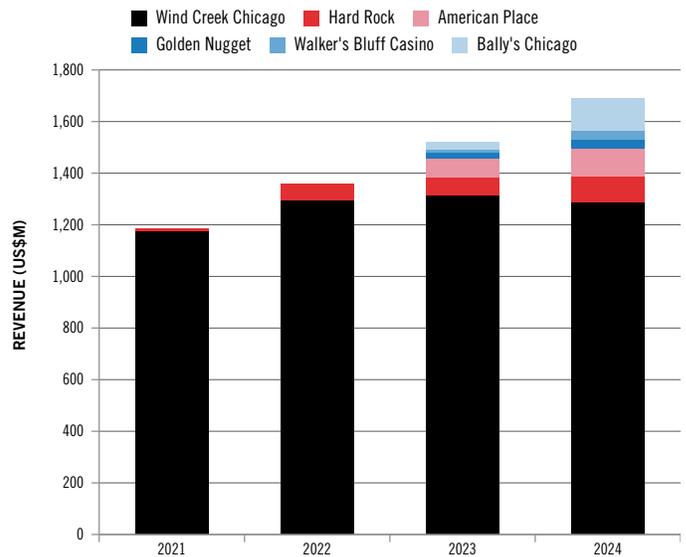
The new regulations amended advertising rules already in place for sports wagering to include new provisions that prohibit operators from depicting college students in advertising or misleadingly implying that any promotional offers are risk-free, among other changes.

Regulators also extended the enhanced advertising requirements for sports betting to be applicable to casino and VGT operators as well. Officials said the new rules would ensure consistency across a uniform set of requirements for all gaming advertising in Illinois.

ILLINOIS: ANNUAL CASINO GGR (US\$M)

2021 to 2024

The six new casinos authorized under a 2019 gaming expansion law generated \$421.2 million in total gaming revenue in 2024, accounting for nearly 25 percent of Illinois' overall land-based casino market.



SOURCE: Illinois Gaming Board