

# LOUISIANA

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## KEY STATE INFORMATION

### NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CASINOS

19

### CASINO FORMAT

Land-Based Casinos;  
Riverboat Casinos;  
Racinos

### NOTABLE FORMS OF GAMING

Sports Betting

### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

Louisiana Gaming  
Control Board

### GROSS CASINO GAMING REVENUE 2024

\$2.76B

### CASINO TAX REVENUE 2024

\$618.7M



## Market Overview

Louisiana offers commercial casino gaming at 11 riverboat casinos and four land-based casinos, each of which may operate electronic gaming devices, table games and sports betting. Four racinos—limited to offering electronic gaming devices and sports betting—are also operational. All 19 properties are regulated by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board (LGCB).

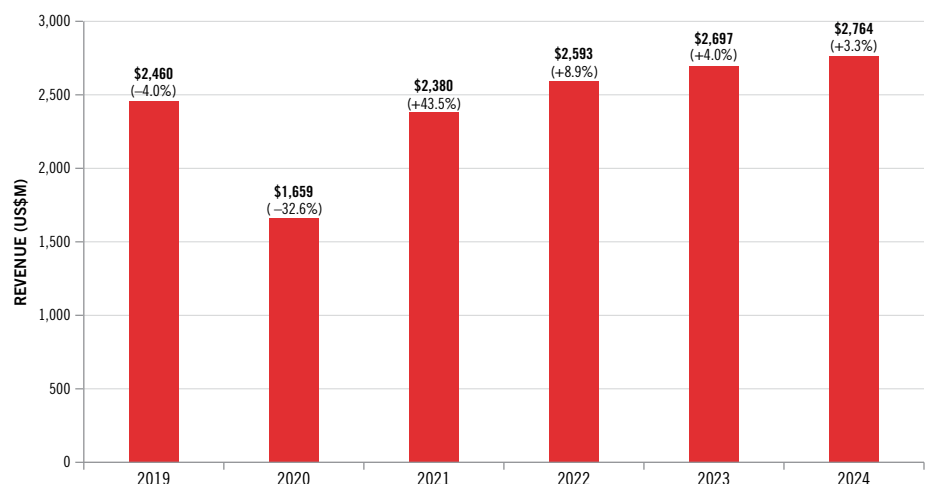
Commercial casino gaming was first authorized by a 1991 law allowing a maximum of 15 riverboat casinos, either sailing or permanently moored on specific waterways in different areas of the state. The following year, legislation passed authorizing a single land-based casino in downtown New Orleans. Racinos were approved by the legislature in 1997 and a 2018 law authorized riverboat casinos to apply for regulatory approval to move to land-based facilities located adjacent to their existing dock site.

In 2020, voters in 55 of 64 Louisiana parishes approved a referendum on sports betting. Legislation to implement that referendum was then passed in 2021. Land-based sports betting was launched in Louisiana commercial casinos and racinos in October 2021, with online sportsbook operations commencing in January 2022. At the end of 2024, sports betting was available via 18 land-based sportsbook locations as well as via nine affiliated online platforms, unchanged from a year earlier.

## Market Performance

In 2024, total statewide commercial casino gaming revenue was \$2.76 billion, up 3.3 percent versus the previous year, as growth in sports betting revenue offset a decline in traditional casino games.

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



SOURCE: Louisiana Gaming Control Board

# Louisiana

Combined revenue from electronic gaming devices and table games at Louisiana casinos and racinos was \$2.30 billion, down 0.5 percent versus 2023.

In contrast, total statewide sports betting revenue reached \$467.4 million, up 27.4 percent compared to the previous year. Mobile sports wagering revenue increased by 33.5 percent to \$442.1 million, offsetting a 29.3 percent decline in revenue in land-based sports betting to \$25.3 million.

## Gaming Tax Distribution

Revenue from each type of commercial casino establishment in Louisiana—riverboat casinos, racinos and the New Orleans land-based casino—is subject to a different tax structure.

Riverboat casinos pay a maximum effective tax rate of 27.5 percent comprising a state gaming tax of 21.5 percent of revenue plus additional local taxes which vary according to location.

Racino revenue is taxed at an effective rate of about 36 percent. That rate comprises an 18 percent contribution to the Louisiana horse racing industry taken off the top, with the remaining revenue subject to a state tax of 18.5 percent and local taxes of 4 percent.

The New Orleans land-based casino pays the greater of either a 21.5 percent tax on gaming revenue or an annual fee of \$60 million. The land-based casino must also remit rent and various other payments to local authorities, as established under its operating contract.

Meanwhile, sports betting revenue is taxed at a rate of 10 percent in the case of land-based sports wagering and 15 percent for online sports betting. Sportsbook operations are further subject to a 0.25 percent federal excise tax applied to wagering handle.

In 2024, Louisiana's commercial casino, racino and sports betting operations generated total state gaming tax revenue of approximately \$618.7 million, up 2.6 percent from the previous year.

In accordance with state law, the majority of gaming tax revenue is remitted to Louisiana's General Fund and then appropriated at the direction of the legislature to pay for public education, public retirement systems, highway construction, and fire and police protection, among other things. A minimum of either \$500,000 or 3 percent of total annual tax revenue from sports betting is allocated to a state problem gambling fund, with a further \$500,000 or 2.5 percent diverted to a fund to promote Louisiana's horse racing industry.

In 2024, the state's horse racing industry also received approximately \$57.5 million from taxes on racinos' revenue from electronic gaming devices.

## Competitive Landscape

Louisiana's commercial casinos and racinos compete with five tribal casinos scattered throughout the state which offer a full range of casino gaming, including sports betting. There are also nearly 11,900 electronic gaming devices offered in Louisiana at some 1,394 non-casino locations, such as bars, restaurants, truck stops and off-track betting parlors. In 2024, total statewide revenue from electronic gaming devices in non-casino locations was \$752.4 million, down 1.3 percent from the previous year.

The competitive landscape for casino gaming in Louisiana continues to evolve as the state's riverboat casinos gradually develop larger, land-based properties on neighboring sites in accordance with a 2018 state law. In June, the Treasure Chest Casino in Kenner became the third Louisiana riverboat casino to reopen as a land-based casino-resort offering a wider range of gaming options and other amenities.

A 20th Louisiana casino is also set to open in Bossier City in early 2025. The owner of the planned Live! Casino & Hotel Louisiana was licensed by the Louisiana Gaming Control Board in October, with the property due to become the first land-based casino in the Shreveport/Bossier market.

In terms of out-of-state competition, casinos in southeastern Louisiana compete directly with commercial casinos in the Gulf Coast region of neighboring Mississippi that have historically drawn a significant proportion of their patrons from across the border.

Those in the Lake Charles and Shreveport/Bossier regions have traditionally competed with tribal casinos in Oklahoma to attract players from Texas, meaning they would be vulnerable to losing patrons should lawmakers in the Lone Star State eventually authorize casino gaming. Proponents of casino expansion in Texas anticipate legislation to be reconsidered by the Texas legislature during the state's 2025 biennial session, though lobbying efforts in previous years have consistently proven to be unsuccessful.

## Policy & Regulatory Review

### Sports Betting

Louisiana lawmakers and regulators approved various reforms to the state’s regulatory regime for sports wagering in 2024.

In April, the Louisiana Gaming Control Board announced that it would prohibit the state’s sportsbook operators from accepting any proposition bets based on the actions of an individual college athlete.

The move resulted from a campaign launched in early 2024 by the National Collegiate Athletic Association to prohibit player prop bets across all states with legal sports wagering, citing concerns about protecting amateur college athletes from online harassment.

Louisiana was one of four states to agree to ban the betting category during 2024, with the control board’s prohibition becoming effective in August.

Separately, in May, Gov. Jeff Landry (R) signed a bill to make it a legal offense for a person prohibited from sports wagering in Louisiana to place bets on a sporting event, either directly or using a third-party as a proxy. Prohibited persons include athletes, coaches, officials or others participating in a sports event, or individuals that have chosen to self-exclude from sports betting.

In June, Gov. Landry also signed a separate bill to allocate up to \$500,000 in annual state tax revenue derived from sports wagering to a newly created fund to promote horse racing and other aspects of Louisiana’s equine industry.

The Louisiana sports betting industry was able to avert a more dramatic change to its regulatory structure later in the year, however. In November, one Louisiana lawmaker presented a bill during a special session of the state legislature to increase the tax rate applied to mobile sports wagering from 15 percent to 51 percent.

The sponsor of the bill said the higher tax rate would support a broader package of tax reforms being proposed by Gov. Landry during the special session, but he agreed to withdraw his proposal after Louisiana’s gaming industry warned the higher rate would make sports betting unviable in the state.

### Internet Gaming

In June, the Louisiana Senate approved a resolution requiring a legislative committee to conduct a formal study on the potential authorization of internet gaming.

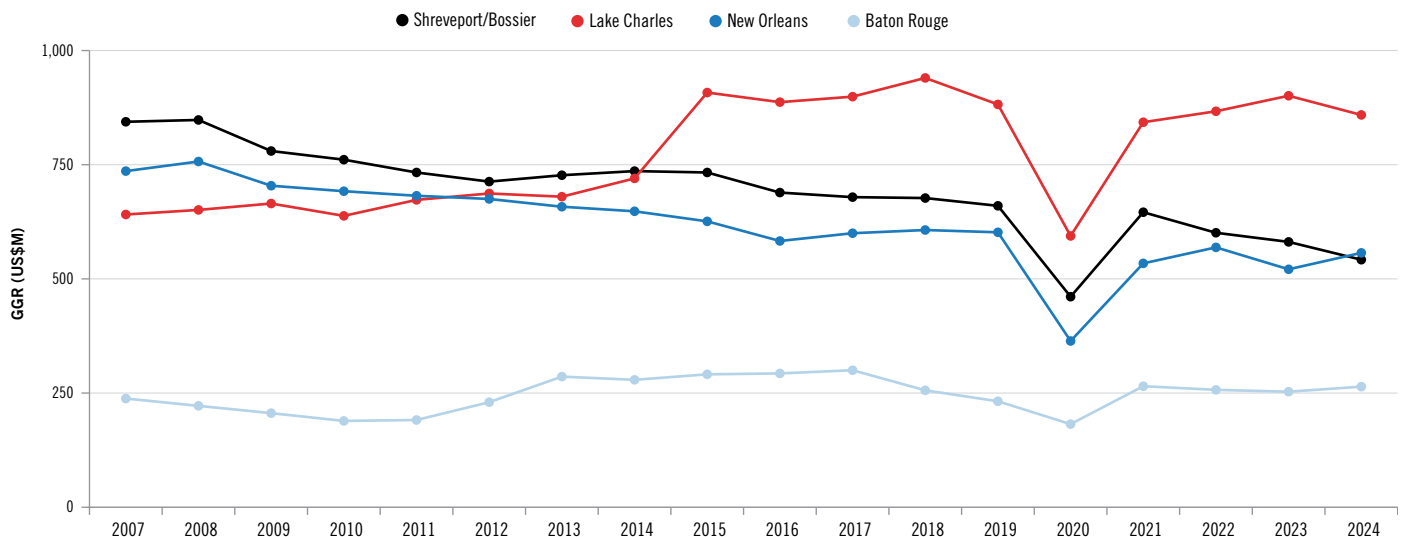
The Senate committee held its first public hearing on the matter in December and its recommendations regarding the potential economic and regulatory impact of legalizing iGaming are due to be presented to the full Senate in early 2025.

The Louisiana House of Representatives also approved a separate resolution in June requesting a similar evaluation of the state’s land-based casino industry. That resolution required a House committee to review Louisiana’s gaming tax structure and the factors that determine how much Louisiana casino operators are able to reinvest in their properties and in new gaming technologies.

### LOUISIANA CASINOS: ANNUAL GGR BY REGION (US\$M)

2007 to 2024

While commercial casinos in the Lake Charles and Shreveport/Bossier regions reported lower gaming revenue in 2024 compared to the prior year, those in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas had modest growth.



SOURCE: Louisiana Gaming Control Board

# Louisiana

## **Expansion**

In February, a state court judge in Baton Rouge ordered a halt to the expansion of electronic gaming devices based on historical horse races in off-track betting locations in Louisiana.

A state law approved in 2021 authorized so-called historical horse racing devices in licensed OTBs affiliated

with the state's four licensed racinos. However, the judge ruled that the law was unconstitutional, since local voters in each Louisiana parish must first approve any new form of gaming via a referendum before it can be offered.

The judge imposed an injunction to prevent any operation of historical horse racing devices pending further litigation in the case.