

# MISSISSIPPI

In 2024, total statewide commercial casino gaming revenue was \$2.43 billion, down 2.0 percent from the previous year, as casinos situated along the Mississippi River continued to feel the impact of cross-border competition.

## KEY STATE INFORMATION

### NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CASINOS

26

### CASINO FORMAT

Land-Based Casinos

### NOTABLE FORMS OF GAMING

Sports Betting

### REGULATORY AUTHORITY

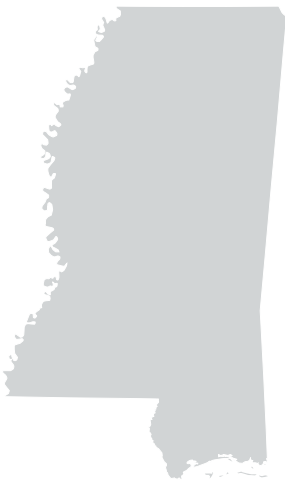
Mississippi Gaming Commission

### GROSS CASINO GAMING REVENUE 2024

\$2.43B

### CASINO TAX REVENUE 2024

\$289.1M



## Market Overview

Mississippi offers commercial casino gaming at 26 casinos located along the Mississippi River and the Gulf Coast. The casinos, which offer electronic gaming devices, table games and sports betting, are regulated by the Mississippi Gaming Commission.

The Mississippi legislature first authorized casino gaming in 1990, strictly limited to facilities docked on waterways. After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the legislature passed a new law authorizing commercial casinos on the state's Gulf Coast to rebuild on dry land so long as those casinos remained within 800 feet of the water. Casinos began offering sports betting in August 2018.

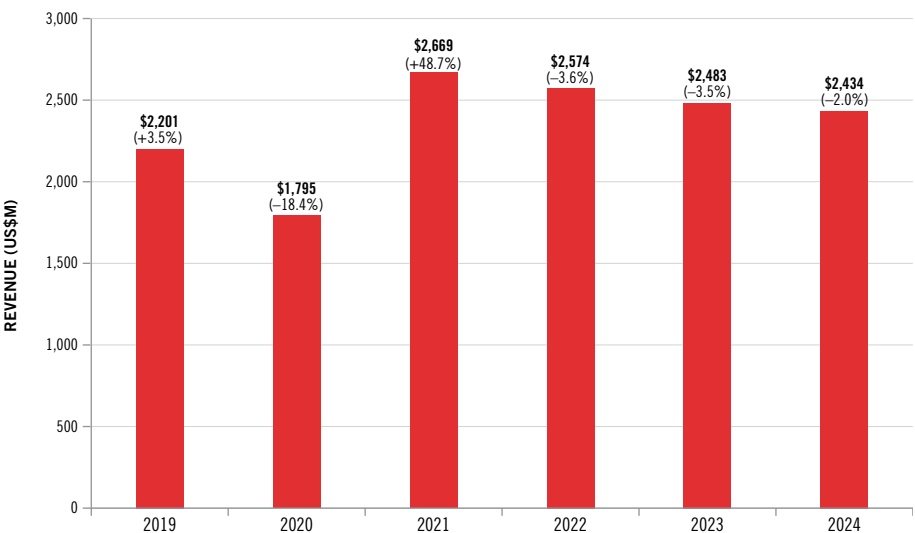
While there is no statutory limit on the number of commercial casinos that can be established in Mississippi, casino projects must meet certain minimum criteria in order to receive a license.

## Market Performance

In 2024, Mississippi's commercial casinos generated total gaming revenue of \$2.43 billion, down 2.0 percent compared with the previous year.

Total statewide revenue from electronic gaming devices as reported by the Mississippi Gaming Commission was \$2.02 billion, down 1.5 percent relative to 2023, while revenue from table games was \$333.7 million, down 2.6 percent. Sports betting revenue suffered a sharper decline in revenue, dropping 18.8 percent to \$41.6 million.

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



SOURCE: Mississippi Gaming Commission

# Mississippi

Consistent with previous years, casino resorts in Mississippi's Gulf Coast region were more resilient than those located along the Mississippi River. Gulf Coast casinos located in Biloxi and other markets reported combined annual casino gaming revenue of \$1.58 billion, down 0.4 percent on the prior year. In contrast, riverboat casinos located in the north and central regions of the Mississippi River reported combined gaming revenue of \$851.0 million, down 4.7 percent.

## Gaming Tax Distribution

Mississippi imposes a graduated tax based on monthly gaming revenue. Casinos pay a 4 percent tax on gross gaming revenue below \$50,000 per month; 6 percent on revenue between \$50,000 and \$134,000 per month; and 8 percent on gaming revenue over \$134,000.

In addition, each of the local Mississippi municipalities that host commercial casinos charge an annual license fee at an average rate of 3 to 4 percent of gaming revenue. Revenue from sports wagering is taxed at the same state and local rates as revenue from traditional casino games. Sportsbook operations are further subject to a 0.25 percent federal excise tax applied to wagering handle.

In 2024, Mississippi commercial casinos generated approximately \$289.1 million in direct gaming tax revenue, down 1.8 percent against the previous year, according to statistics collected by the Mississippi Department of Revenue.

Of that total amount, approximately \$156.6 million was distributed to Mississippi's General Fund which is appropriated annually to support various state budgetary needs, including education programs, transportation, local public safety programs and social welfare initiatives.

An additional \$96.5 million worth of gaming tax revenue was transferred to local governments that host casinos and \$36 million was allocated for Mississippi's Special Bond Sinking Fund, which is mainly used to pay for improvements to state roads and bridges.

## Competitive Landscape

Mississippi's commercial casinos compete in a crowded statewide gaming market that also includes three tribal casino resorts owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Unlike the 26 commercial properties along the Gulf Coast and the Mississippi River, the three tribal casinos are located in the center of the state near Jackson, the state's largest city.

Commercial casino operators face significant competition from properties in neighboring states. Mississippi casinos in the Tunica/Lula market compete directly with Arkansas' Southland Casino Hotel for patrons from the Memphis

area. Meanwhile, Mississippi Gulf Coast casinos compete with various casinos in Louisiana.

Additional competition in the Gulf Coast market is also pending, with the Mississippi Gaming Commission having granted preliminary approvals for two new casino resort locations in Biloxi and at least one other application still under consideration.

While Mississippi's legal sports betting market remains limited to sportsbook operations located within commercial and tribal casino-resorts, statewide mobile sports betting is available in the bordering states of Louisiana, Tennessee and Arkansas.

## Policy & Regulatory Review Sports Betting

In February, the Mississippi House of Representatives voted to pass a bill authorizing mobile sports betting across the state.

Specifically, the bill would have allowed each of Mississippi's 26 licensed casinos to deploy one mobile sportsbook platform, either directly or through a partnering sports betting operator.

The same bill was also approved by the Mississippi Senate in April, but only after senators elected to make wholesale changes to the bill in order to trigger a conference committee of House and Senate members to negotiate a final version that could be approved by both chambers. The House and Senate conference committee ultimately failed to reach an agreement before the legislature adjourned.

The debate over mobile sports betting came after a legislative task force conducted a formal study on the issue prior to Mississippi's 2024 session. Proponents argued that statewide mobile sports wagering was necessary to ensure that Mississippi's commercial gaming industry remains competitive with neighboring states such as Louisiana. However, the owners of certain casinos in the state expressed concern that allowing mobile sports betting would cause a further decline in revenue from their retail sportsbooks and open the door to future discussions on authorizing internet casino gaming.

## Expansion

In 2024, the Mississippi House and Senate were also divided over separate legislation that would restrict the ability of casino developers to build new casino-resorts on public tidelands.

In March, the Senate passed a bill that would require any casino developer to obtain a tideland lease from Mississippi's Secretary of State, rather than from the

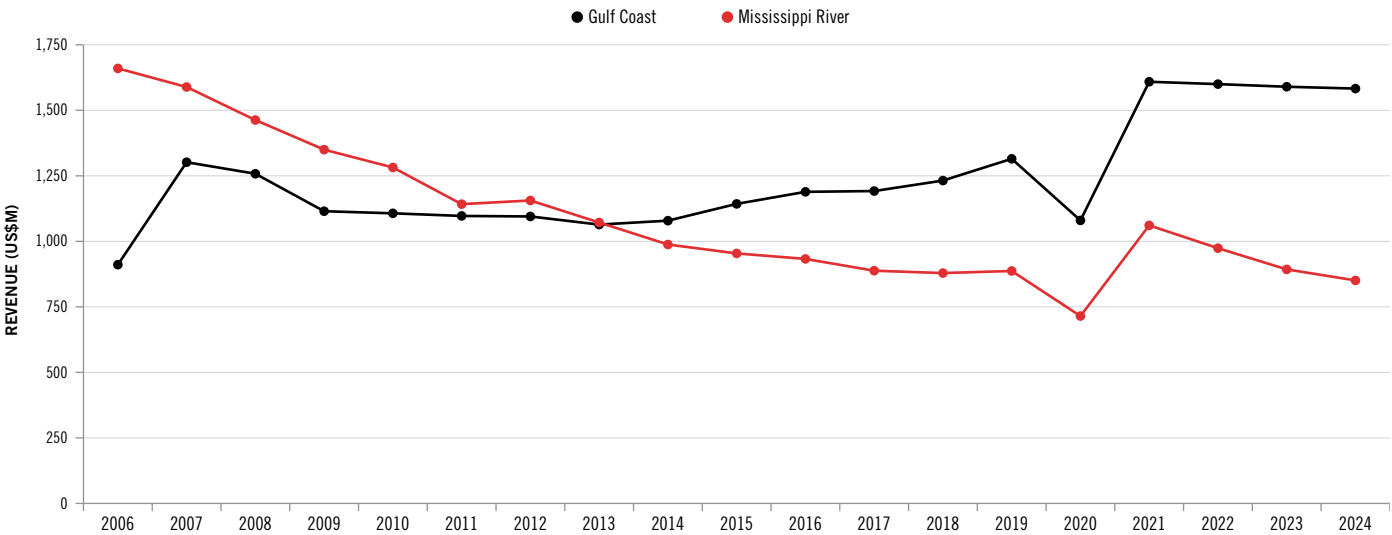
# Mississippi

local municipality, while also clarifying various other requirements related to future development projects in coastal areas. The bill was introduced in response to the Mississippi Gaming Commission’s late 2023 approval of a new casino development site in Biloxi.

Similar to mobile sports betting, the Mississippi House passed an alternative version of the bill and a conference committee of House and Senate members was unable to agree upon a final version prior to the legislature’s adjournment.

## MISSISSIPPI: ANNUAL GAMING REVENUE BY REGION (US\$M) 2006 to 2024

Casino resorts in both the Mississippi River and Gulf Coast markets reported a drop in annual casino gaming revenue in 2024, although the revenue decline was steeper in the former.



SOURCE: Mississippi Gaming Commission