

A publication of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism School of Business,

**In LIGHT of the data above...** With April 2020 we see the impact of the first, full month of casino closures. Like March, April was expected to build on the momentum of 2019 and return strong revenue numbers. However, as brick and mortar casino properties remain closed, total revenue for casino operators has slipped from \$250.7 million in April 2019 to \$80.7 million in April 2020, a 67.8% decline. A strong January and February 2020 provided some cushion for the year-to-date total casino revenue numbers. The year-to-date April 2020 (\$782.9 million) trails revenue from the same period in 2019 (\$977.4 million) by 19.9%.

Online gaming and mobile sports wagering operations have attempted to make up for the loss of brick & mortar gaming revenues. April 2020 Internet Gaming Win (\$80 million) increased 118.6% over April 2019 (\$36.6 million), and year-to-date Internet Gaming Win (\$251.8 million) leads 2019 (\$141.1 million) by 78.5%. Sports Wagering Revenue for casino operators struggled in April with monthly revenue in 2020 (\$0.82 million) trailing April 2019 (\$6.5 million) by 87.4%. Early success helped to hold 2020 year-to-date sports wagering revenue at (\$35.4 million), a 12.1% increase over 2019 (\$31.6 million).

## Atlantic City Information

**Atlantic City joins other shore communities in banning short-term rentals to slow the spread of COVID-19** - As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on April 6, Atlantic City Mayor, Marty Small Sr., issued an **executive order** prohibiting the operation of short-term rentals within the city. Other municipalities including Ventnor, Egg Harbor Township, Beach Haven and all 16 of Cape May County's municipalities also issued orders banning short-term rentals within their jurisdictions.

**CRDA board approves \$2 million grant fund for small business assistance** - According to an April 16 **press release** from the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA), on April 7 members of the CRDA board voted to enter into an agreement with the New Jersey Economic Development Authority to provide \$2 million in direct assistance for the Small Business Emergency Assistance Grant Program.

**Phish postpones Summer 2020 concert in Atlantic City** – As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), Phish has rescheduled its entire 2020 summer tour including a three-day event planned for Atlantic City.

# **New Jersey Gaming News**

**Bally's Atlantic City Sold to Twin River -**



**Pause in J-1 Exchange Visitor Program could impact tourism businesses** - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, in March, federal officials announced a 60-day pause on all programs funded through the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and recommended all J-1 Visa programs similarly pause their operations. New Jersey welcomed 10,000 students last year through the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program and without them, local tourism employers are concerned there will be a shortage of workers when the economy opens back up. Foreign students represent a significant segment of the workforce during the summer tourism season.

**Smith Travel Research (STR) reports year-over-year declines in US hotel industry performance metrics-** According to data from STR shared by **Lodging Magazine**, the U.S. hotel industry recorded a 68.5% decline in occupancy to 21.6% in the week of March 29 through April 4, 2020 compared to the comparable week in 2019 (March 31 to April 6, 2019). In the same week, average daily rates (ADR) for rooms fell by 41.5% to \$76.51 and revenue per available room (RevPAR) dropped 81.6% to \$16.50.

**Survey finds pent-up demand for travel building** - As reported by **Travel Pulse**, **weekly surveys** conducted by Harris Poll **March 28-30** and **April 3-5**, indicate a growing, pent-up demand for travel in America. The April 3-5 survey found