

The state of Arizona has been watching for the past couple of years as their tax revenue from tribal casinos steadily decreased. It was a sign of the times that the state would like to reverse, and it appears they now have hope that will happen.

The Gaming Department has reported that tribal payments from their casino gambling will be almost \$22

million for the quarter. That will represent an increase of 1.1% from the same period in 2009. Still, there is concern that the increase may be only temporary.

"It looks good on paper that there was an increase, but Arizona tribal casinos are still far from where they were before the recession," said Gaming Analyst Steve Schwartz. "These figures will have to continue to increase over the next two or three quarters before the state can start relying on this revenue again consistently."

All of the casinos in the state run by Indian tribes pay different tax rates depending on their deals with the state. There are twenty-two tribal casinos in Arizona, and each pays between one and eight percent of their revenue to the state. The casino offer both card games and slots, and the gaming revenue has been key to the state's budget.

Arizona recently created a controversial border protection law that had many other states around the nation taking aim at the Western state. Arizona, however, has had no qualms with their casino industry, which is one of the most developed in the country. The money generated from the casinos has been used for education, tourism, and emergency services.

Gambling addiction is always a concern when states expand their casino offerings, and the revenue from the tribal casinos in Arizona has also been used to help prevent problem gambling. Advertisements and other programs have been utilized to bring awareness to gamblers about the potential for addiction.

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