

## St. Louis-area casino revenue up in Nov., but slowly - St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Written by Administrator

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In the latest sign that growth in the St. Louis-area gambling market is sluggish, business at the region's six casinos only ticked up in November.

Gamblers spent \$84.5 million at local casinos in the month, according to figures from Missouri and Illinois regulators, up 2.7 percent from the same month last

year.

That is still positive territory, but it's the second-weakest year-over-year growth since the \$370 million River City Casino opened in south St. Louis County in March.

As has been the case all year, every casino but River City saw revenue fall compared with last year, and business was off more than one-fifth at Lumière Place downtown. Even River City isn't meeting expectations. Earlier this week, budget-writers in St. Louis County said the new casino is generating just two-thirds of the tax revenue that they had hoped.

Last week, the Missouri Gaming Commission cited saturation in the St. Louis market as a prime reason it would grant the state's 13th and final casino license to an Isle of Capri Corp. proposal in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

For the first 11 months of the year, gambling revenue in the region is running 3.5 percent ahead of 2009, and topped \$1 billion in November. Last year, St. Louis was the nation's fifth-biggest casino gaming market by revenue and one of the few to see growth despite the recession.

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