

## Illinois Casino, VGT Revenues Take Hit In June

Written by Administrator  
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The Illinois Gaming Board reported a combined \$327.4 million in revenue from [casino](#) gaming and video gaming terminals in June as both wagering disciplines declined from the prior month.

A dip in attendance appeared to be a key contributing factor in the 5.1% decline in casino revenue for June to \$110.7 million. There were 745,546 admissions across the state's 11 revenues, nearly 50,000 fewer [compared to May](#) .

The falloff was slightly more pronounced for VGT play — the \$216.7 million in Net Terminal Income was 6.4% lower compared to the \$231.6 million generated in May. Despite an additional 163 machines becoming operational in June, funds in declined 6.3% to \$843.7 million versus the \$900.8 million from the previous month.

The state still was able to collect more than \$86.2 million in taxes from the two wagering disciplines, with \$62.8 million of that total coming from VGT play. Despite the drop in casino revenue, state taxes collected still increased 3% from May to \$23.4 million.

The casino revenue numbers do not include [sports wagering](#) , which is tabulated separately per state regulations. Sports wagering has generated an additional \$45 million in state taxes through the first five months of 2022.

### **Rivers continues to dominate table scene**

Bally's Quad Cities was the only location to report a monthly rise in attendance, with the 57,660 admissions 2% higher than May. Hollywood Casino in Aurora had the sharpest downturn, with the 65,042 admissions 12% lower compared to May.

Though Rivers Casino reported a 2.8% decline in table games revenue to \$17.7 million for June, its share of the state's total table games revenue increased from 60.6% in May to 63% in June. Overall, the state's 10 venues — Hard Rock's temporary casino in Rockford does not offer table games — combined to generate nearly \$28.1 million in table games revenue, a 6.6% decline from the nearly \$30.1 million in May that represents the high-water mark for 2022.

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No other venue accounted for at least 10% of the state's table games revenue total, with the \$2.5 million at Grand Victoria Casino in Elgin coming closest at 8.8%. Despite a 6.7% drop in attendance, Harrah's Casino in Metropolis had a 51.8% spike in table games revenue to more than \$1 million, though that figure is more in line with its monthly averages compared to the \$697,902 from May.

The table games adjusted revenue per admission was \$37.68, a number boosted by Rivers nearly doubling that figure at \$74.71. On the low end of the spectrum, Bally's Quad City had an AGR of \$3.99 per admission by generating \$230,248 in table games revenue.

### **AGR for slots shows slight increase from May**

While there may have been less action at the tables, people visiting Illinois casinos are putting more into slots. The adjusted gross revenue per admission for EGD play was \$110.77 in June compared to \$108.76 in May. Six venues cleared that average and a seventh fell just shy.

Rivers easily took top honors in revenue with more than \$28.5 million, representing more than one-third of the \$82.6 million in overall EGD revenue. No other casino reached eight figures for June, but Grand Victoria (\$9.3 million) and Harrah's Joliet (\$9.1 million) took second and third while outperforming Rivers per admission.

Harrah's Joliet paced all venues with \$151.60 AGR per admission, and Grand Victoria ranked second at \$132.07. While Hard Rock Northern Illinois did beat the state AGR average with \$113.90 per admission, its revenue plummeted 15.5% in June to just under \$4 million compared to \$4.6 million in May.

Rivers averaged \$195.08 in overall adjusted revenue per admission, pacing all venues and finishing well above the state average of \$148.45 for June. That average was 1.3% higher compared to May but also 3.3% lower versus June 2021.

Rivers also footed more than half of the state taxes, contributing more than \$12.5 million to Illinois coffers in June. Grand Victoria and Harrah's Joliet were the only other venues to pay more than \$2 million in state taxes, combining to add more than \$4.7 million in receipts.

### VGT revenue numbers still up year-over-year

The dip in VGT funds played could be attributed to challenging economic conditions, with a higher inflation rate affecting customers. The funds in represented a 1.2% increase compared to June 2021 despite there being 3,012 more terminals available to play in 2022 and 43,128 overall across 7,967 locations.

While not truly like-for-like in terms of year-over-year numbers, due to capacity limits from the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, the overall numbers for VGT play compared to 2021 are positive. Net Terminal Income was up 13.3% during the first six months of the year compared to 2021, which has resulted in \$388.4 million in state taxes collected. That is \$45.7 million more compared to last year, while the \$67 million garnered in municipal taxes is nearly \$8 million ahead of 2021's pace.

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