# Atlantic City Tourism Performance Indicators (AC-TPI) 2015 3rd Quarter

Prepared by **Brian J. Tyrrell, Ph.D.** 

Supported by Rummy Pandit, M.B.A., L.P.D., C.H.A. Executive Director

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Prepared by Brian J. Tyrrell, Ph.D. Associate Professor, Hospitality and Tourism Management Studies

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#### Atlantic City Casino Parking Fee

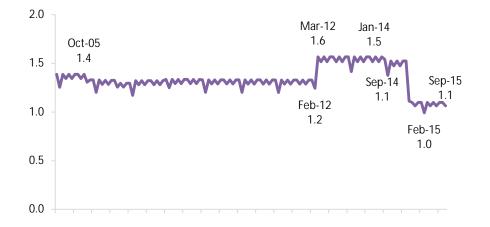
e Atlantic City Casino Parking Fee data is provided by the NJ Casino Control Commission (NJCCC). is gure serves as a surrogate for transportation, assuming that if the number of vehicles taxed has gone up or down, then so too will other expenditures on transportation to and from as well as within the resort. e tax is described by the NJCCC as:

"By law, casinos remit a fee of \$3.00 per day for each parking space used by patrons in their facility. \$0.50 of the parking fee is deposited into the Casino Revenue Fund, with the remaining \$2.50 forwarded to the Casino Reinvestment Development Authority for public projects in Atlantic City. e commission audits and certi es the amounts payable by each casino under the law."

e amount collected under the fee, charged to patrons of the casino hotel parking garages, is necessarily in uenced by the number of available parking spaces. Over the past 10 years there have been some signi cant changes to the supply of casino hotel parking spaces. Figure 2 shows that the monthly supply, calculated as the number of available parking spaces times the number of days in the month. e largest gain during that time frame occurred following the opening of Revel, adding more than 7.6 thousand daily parking spaces, an increase of 237 thousand (18%) for March 2012 compared to March 2011.

In mid-January 2014, the Atlantic Club closed, reducing the supply by 1.4 thousand daily parking spaces. ree more casinos closed in September of 2014; the Showboat and Revel, both at the beginning of the month, followed by Trump Plaza in mid-September. e impact of these three closures further reduced the daily parking spaces available at casino hotels in Atlantic City by 2.6 thousand, 3.4 thousand and 7.6 thousand respectively. e most recent monthly supply gures for casino parking spaces in Atlantic City indicates there were 1.1 million available parking spaces in September 2015, the same number available one year ago a er the nal closures.

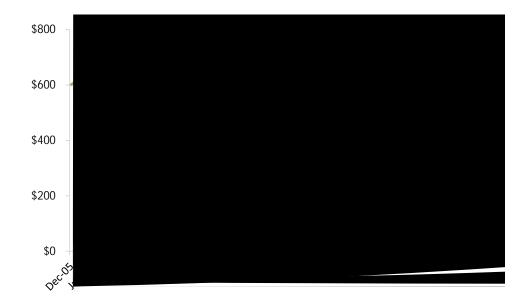
ese signi cant shi s in the number of parking spaces presents a challenge when analyzing the Atlantic City Casino Parking Fee over time. Particularly with the most recent closures, simply examining the total fee provides little insight about per property performance relative to driving visitation to the remaining casinos. In order to account for this, we present, in Figure 3, the Atlantic City Casino Parking Fee on a per supply basis (per 100 parking



Casino Parking Fee, it may be concluded that not all of the business previously captured by the Atlantic Club, Showboat, Revel and Trump Plaza was lost from the Atlantic City region, results in keeping with recently reported gures for gaming revenue in Atlantic City on a per property basis.

Given the seasonal nature of the Atlantic County Lodging Fee (see Figure 7), it is again easier to visualize the long term trend by examining the 12 month trailing total for the fee. Figure 9 shows the 12 month trailing total for the Atlantic County Lodging Fee per 100 rooms. e 12 months ending in February 2008 produced the highest Atlantic County Lodging Fee per 100 rooms at \$671. On a per property basis, declines have given way to increases. e twelve months ending in September 2015 averaged \$625, or 9.3% higher than the twelve months ending in September 2014 (\$572).

Continuing to monitor the Atlantic County Lodging Fee on a per 100 room basis will prove useful in determining if the per property performance we saw in the nal months of 2014 and beginning of 2015 signals a sustainable reversal in this long trend. As previously mentioned, increases in per property performance can induce job and wage growth, as well as reinvestment in the properties, if sustainable.



e addition of Occupancy, Average Daily Rate (ADR) and Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) provides valuable insight into non-casino lodging performance in the Atlantic City region. Of these three measures, RevPAR may be of the most value in determining longer term trends in the market place as RevPAR is a combination of both Occupancy and ADR (Occupancy multiplied by ADR is equal to RevPAR). As such, changes in RevPAR will be the summary variable for the non-casino lodging performance measure included in the AC-TPI Snapshot presented in the nal section of this report.



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#### September 2015 Atlantic City Tourism Performance Indicators (AC-TPI) Snapshot

e Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism (LIGHT) has concluded that non-casino Revenue per Available Room (RevPAR) and the Atlantic City Casino Parking Fee and Atlantic County Hotel Fee (both on a per supply basis) can serve as an e ective proxy for the performance of the tourism economy in Atlantic City. ese measures, or more precisely the year over year change in the monthly gures for these measures, are compiled into an Atlantic City Tourism Performance

