

Atlantic City Meetings and Conventions Data

Source: MeetAC

	Aug '20	Aug '19	% Change from Prior Year	TOTAL 2020 YTD	TOTAL 2019 YTD	% Change from Prior Year
Conventions/Tradeshows/Meetings						
# of Shows	0	3	-100%	19	54	-65%
# of Room Nights	0	690	-100%	68,752	179,184	-62%
# of Delegates	0	1,373	-100%	145,169	302,077	-52%
Delegate Spending	\$0	\$590,138	-100%	\$75,639,458	\$173,825,549	-56%
Boardwalk Hall Bookings						
# of Shows	0	TBD	TBD	11	TBD	TBD
# of Attendees						

It will be interesting to see if land-based casino win continues to increase in September as signs are pointing to an extended summer season. For example, in a recent **NJ Monthly** article, Eric Birchler of Birchler Realtors reported September 2020 rentals to be up 500 percent compared to September 2019.

Atlantic City Information

Atlantic City

The city-wide art & cultural celebration, 2020 due to COVID-19.

As reported by **The Press of 48 Blocks AC** -9.

, went virtual for

Atlantic City businesses scale back number of J-1 visa workers As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, casino industry, labor and government leaders support a plan to scale back J-1 visa workers in favor of increased employment opportunity for local residents. The initiative is expected to begin next spring with job readiness programs beginning this fall. A phasing out of J-1 visa workers could create hundreds of jobs for locals.

Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approves additional \$350,000 for food assistance programs for Atlantic City residents - As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, on August 18, the CRDA approved an additional \$350,000 for a total \$949,655 spent on emergency food services for Atlantic City residents through a food distribution events. A seventh mass food distribution, organized by the Community Food Bank of New Jersey-Southern Branch, was held August 20.

Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) approves preliminary site plan for waterpark adjacent to Showboat As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, on August 18, the CRDA voted to approve the preliminary site plan for an indoor waterpark to be built on land adjacent to the Showboat hotel and former casino. A finalized site plan must go through the land use process and final CRDA approval before construction can begin. Showboat owner Bart Blatstein is also seeking a zoning designation change to entertainment retail district that would allow up to a \$5 million rebate in sales tax on the project, half of which would be credited to the CRDA.

Funds from Superstorm Sandy relief grant to be used on Atlantic City infrastructural projects As reported by **The Press of Atlantic City**, \$20 million was awarded to Atlantic City through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery grant. The funds are to be used to repair city infrastructure damaged in 2012 due to Superstorm Sandy. Seven projects, including bulkhead construction, repair and replacement, and replacement of 27 traffic signals, will be funded in full or in part by the grant

Governor signs Atlantic City Tourism District open container bill into law As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on August 25 New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed bill **A299/S1591** into law. The new law permanently allows for the public consumption of alcohol within the Atlantic City Tourism District. The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority (CRDA) will be responsible for

consume open containers of alcoholic beverages. The law makes permanent an executive order that Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small signed in early June in the hope of providing relief to local businesses adapting to the state guidelines for responding to the pandemic.

South Jersey Transportation Authority uses \$16 million in reserves to finance 2020 operating budget As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), year-to-date toll revenue on the Atlantic City Expressway is down 23.8% from January to July of 2019. Due to revenue reductions resulting from COVID-19-related shutdowns, the South Jersey Transportation Authority voted to use \$16 million in reserved funds toward its 2020 operating budget and debt service.

Workers begin to dismantle former Trump Plaza casino ahead of planned implosion As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), on August 19 workers began the process of dismantling the former Trump Plaza casino. The interiors will be gutted and parts of the building taken down to facilitate the implosion and removal of the building sometime next year. The former Trump Plaza sits on 10.5 acres centrally located on the Boardwalk, at the foot of the Atlantic City Expressway.

New Jersey Gaming News

Assembly passes bill expanding definition of sports eligible for wagering As reported by [NJ Online Gambling](#), on July 30 the New Jersey State Assembly passed Bill **A637**, which was referred to the Senate, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee on August 3 (**S2670**). The bill expands the definition of sporting events eligible for wagering to include any skill-based attraction, including awards competitions and competitive eating contests, and specifies that wagering on electronic sports competitions sponsored by or affiliated with high schools or competitions in which the majority of competitors are under the age of 18 will be prohibited. If the bill passes, sportsbooks will be allowed to offer wagering on esports and competitive eating events (among others) without seeking special approval from gaming regulators.

Casino relief legislation stalls As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), two bills, **S2400/A4032** and **S2398/A4031**, designed to provide financial relief for the casino industry following the March closures, have not progressed in the legislature since mid-June. *On September 14 S2400/A4032 was recommended to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and, along with another similar bill, S2257/A4022 listed for discussion on September 17. On September 17 the Committee cleared S2257/A4022 but held back S2400/A4032. Further coverage from [The Press of Atlantic City](#).*

Owners of Claridge Hotel and former Atlantic Club seek appeal of Casino Control Commission decision not to require lifting of deed restrictions As reported by [The Press of Atlantic City](#), the owners of Claridge Hotel and the former Atlantic Club are disputing the decision made by the Casino Control Commission not to make the lifting of restrictive covenants prohibiting casino gaming at the Claridge, Atlantic Club and Showboat Hotel Atlantic City a condition of their approval of the Caesars/Eldorado merger.

Wynn Sports app becomes 18th sports betting app in New Jersey As reported by [Casion.org](#), Wynn Sports, a unit of Wynn Resorts launched a mobile sports betting app in New Jersey on August 4. Wynn does not operate a land-based casino in New Jersey and is partnering with Caesars Interactive. German based BetBull will provide sports lines/odds.

National Gaming News

Casino anti-smoking bill proposed for Pennsylvania As reported by [Calvin Ayre](#), legislators in [Pennsylvania](#) are considering a bill that would ban smoking in casinos. Pennsylvania **House Bill 2298** seeks to amend the Clean Indoor Air Act

Data from U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics shows improvement in leisure and hospitality