

Winter storms hurt Pennsylvania casino revenue - Press of Atlantic City

Written by Administrator
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Bad weather is being blamed for the first ever monthly decline in slot machine revenue at the Pennsylvania casinos.

The state's 10 gaming halls took in \$177.3 million in slot revenue in January, a nearly 4 percent decline compared to \$184.2 million in the same month a year ago, the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board reported Wednesday.

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Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh was the only standout, posting a nearly 13 percent increase. Presque Isle Downs and Casino in Erie was up only fractionally.

All other casinos were down. Declines ranged from 20 percent at Harrah's Chester Casino and Racetrack to just under 1 percent at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs.

Kevin O'Toole, executive director of the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, said casino operators told him that crippling storms kept customers away from their facilities. January represented the first time that slot revenue has declined on a year-over-year basis in the Pennsylvania market since casinos began operating there in 2006, he noted.

"We expect slot revenue numbers to rebound if the weather improves," O'Toole said in a statement.

Pennsylvania reports revenue from casino table games separately from the slot results. January's table games revenue will be released later this month.

The New Jersey Casino Control Commission will release January's revenue figures for Atlantic City on Feb. 10. Atlantic City, hurt by the sluggish economy and competition from Pennsylvania, has suffered 28 consecutive months of revenue declines dating back to September 2008.

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