

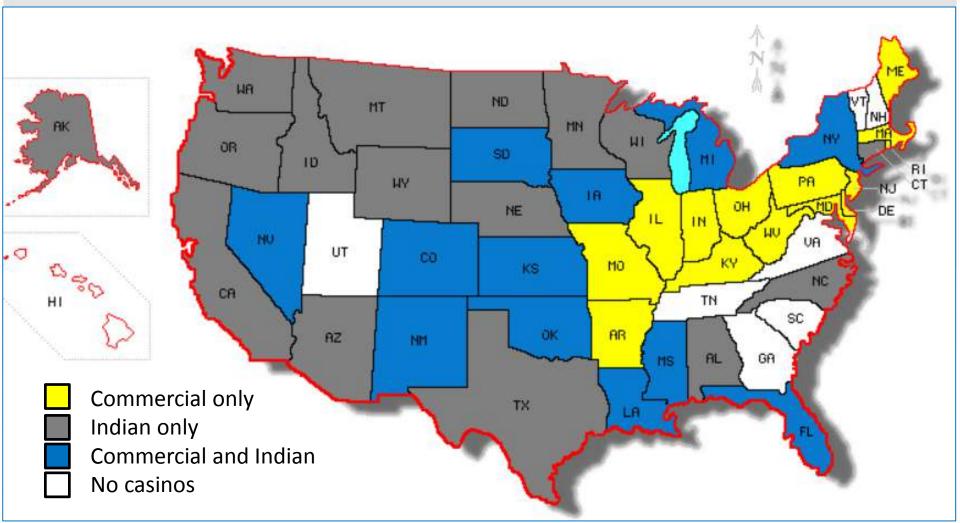
# National, Illinois Gaming Trends

Presented by Joseph Weinert Executive Vice President May 4, 2015 Prepared for State of Illinois House Executive Committee Daniel J. Burke, Chairperson Robert Rita, Vice-Chair Chad D. Hayes, Republican Spokesperson

### **The United States of Casinos**

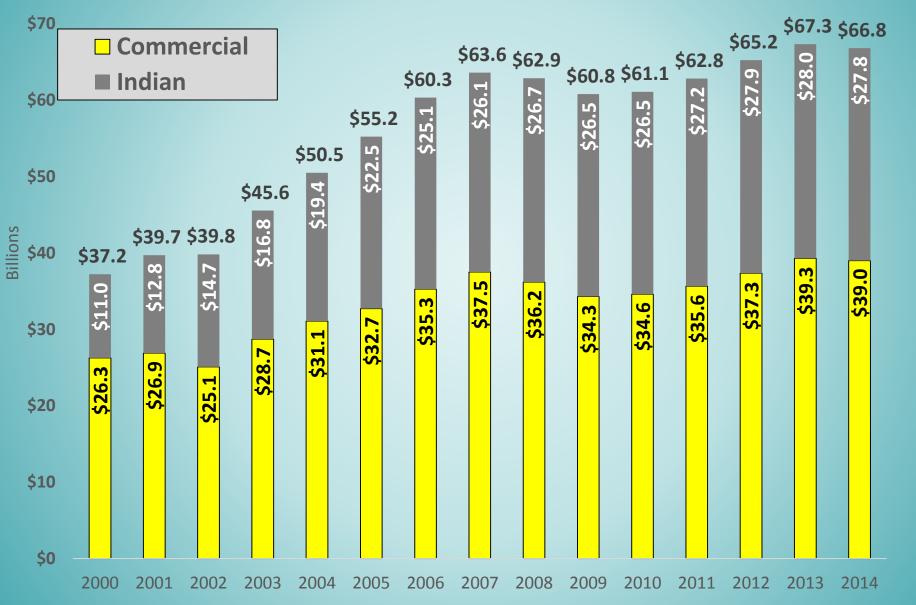
#### ~ 985 casinos of all types in 42 states

(includes MA, where first casino opens June 2015)



#### **US Gross Gaming Revenue**

\$80



Sources: American Gaming Association, National Indian Gaming Commission,. Spectrum Gaming Group

# **Great Recession Changed Industry**

- Discretionary spending has dropped, while savings rate has increased
- Industries such as gaming that depend on discretionary spending suffer
- Recession has demonstrated that gaming is not recession-proof



#### Result

- Pullback in consumer spending combined with increasing gambling options have created saturation in many markets
  - More pressure on profits
  - Heightened competition
  - Cutbacks on property reinvestment
  - Fewer opportunities to grow total market size



### **States' Casino Performance**

- Mixed bag, last 12 months (thru Feb 2015):
  - 14 states increase
  - 11 states decrease
- Signs of improvement, 1Q 2015
  - Same-store GGR increase 1%
  - Mostly declines in mature jurisdictions



#### Response

- To combat flat/declining gaming receipts, or to develop new revenue sources, states seek to add more gambling
  - More casinos (CT, DE, FL, IL, ME, NJ, NY)
  - Retail gaming (PA, VT)
  - Internet gambling (CA, MS, NY, PA)
  - Sports betting (IN, MN, NJ, NY, SC)
- In addition to initial legalization in other states (AL, KY, NH, TN, TX, VA)



#### **Unintended Consequences**

- Signals unstable, risky investment climate
  - Instability, uncertainty lead to investment risk, which increases cost of capital and lowers chance of expansion by lowering potential return
  - Existing operators face new competition, but cannot add new tools – such as more, better attractions – to maintain or increase market share
- Cannibalization: Casinos fighting over samesize (or reduced) pieces of pie



### **Unintended Consequences**

- More gambling options without corresponding, demonstrated demand creates problems for existing operators that ripple to communities
  - Cuts in employment
  - Lower tax receipts
- Less capital investment
  - Less-attractive properties
  - Vicious cycle
- Worst-case scenario: closure



#### **Case Study: Revel Atlantic City**

#### Atlantic City was \$5.2B market at peak in 2006



# **Case Study: Revel Atlantic City**

- In 3-year span, 4 southeastern PA casinos opened in crowded market, sending AC into tailspin
- Revel opened in saturated/declining market
  - \$2.4B price tag built with state subsidies
  - Opened in April 2012, closed 29 months later
  - Sold at bankruptcy auction for 4 cents on dollar



# **Case Study: Revel Atlantic City**

- Landmark failure
  - 2,500 jobs lost
  - Loss of attractions and infrastructure for city
    - Restaurants
    - Meeting space
    - Nightlife/entertainment
    - Parking
  - Exacerbated funding declines for 18 state programs reliant on gaming taxes
  - 710-foot monument to failure for city



### **More Effective Response**

- Focus on health of existing licensees
  - Signal stable, improving investment climate
  - Encourage operators to improve, innovate:
    - Reinvest in properties
    - Help them maintain, grow revenues
      - Graduate to higher gaming-tax bracket
    - Reach new demographics



# **Non-Gaming is Not Easy**

- Widespread desire for casino properties to add non-gaming amenities, attractions
- Laudable yet largely tantalizing goal, as critical factors needed:
  - Major investment
  - Critical mass
    - Within the casino property(s)
    - In the host community/region
  - Favorable and stable tax and regulatory climate



# Las Vegas is Unique

- Primary trip purpose: Vacation/pleasure
  - Gambling primary trip purpose: 8% 15%
- Percent of Strip revenue from gambling: 37%
- Convention attendance: 5.1 million
  - 22,027 conventions and meetings
- Room inventory: 150,593



# **Outside of Las Vegas ...**

- Non-gaming is only 5% 20% of total revenue
- Higher tax rates discourage investment
- Expansion leads to smaller facilities, difficult to justify including significant non-gaming amenities
- Highest margins are on the gaming floor



# Looking at Illinois

- Only 4 states' GGR declines more severe than Illinois' 3.9% decrease over LTM
  - From gaming-position standpoint, IL has added equivalent of 16 casinos statewide last 2.5 years
  - From GGR standpoint, IL has added equivalent of 6 casinos statewide in last 2.5 years
  - These numbers are growing and will continue to grow – and continue to cannibalize casino revenues, threatening jobs



# Illinois Supply Shock

- Current bills would allow for addition of 11,225 – 20,700 gaming positions
- Most recent states adding to established casino industries:
  - IN, 2007: 2 racinos, 4,000 slots, no tables
  - MD, 2012: 1 casino ... 1,500 VLTs, no table limit
  - NY, 2013: 7 casinos (4 now, 3 more in 7 years) ...
    no position limits; may be stipulated by regulators



## **Downtown Chicago?**

- Casino with 4,000 10,000 gaming positions would have such pull that it would exacerbate declines currently experienced by the 5 Chicagoland properties in IL
  - Size alone would create an unlevel playing field with competitors
    - The thousands of gaming positons would require substantial nongaming amenities to support casino operation
    - This would require initial capital investment approaching or, more likely, surpassing \$1B
    - This, in turn, would create an attraction that would dwarf offerings and attraction of suburban casinos
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# Thank You

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