

Casino revenue rises on the Coast, sinks on the river



Slot machines stand ready at the Scarlet Pearl Casino Resort in D'Iberville before the casino opened in December. Coast casino revenue was up just under 1 percent in July compared with a year ago, but year to date is \$28 million ahead of last year's pace. Biloxi

By Mary Perez

The 12 Coast casinos had another positive month in August — the seventh this year — but revenues at the river casinos weren't as lucky.

Gross casino revenue in South Mississippi was up nearly \$1 million, or 1 percent, compared with August 2015. The river casinos were down nearly \$3 million, or 4 percent. That put the state's revenue for August 1 percent below a year ago.

Every month this year, except March, Coast casinos have had higher revenue than in 2015. Five times revenue was above \$100 million, compared with two times last year, once a year in 2012-14 and not at all in 2010 and 2011.

The river casinos have posted two positive months this year.

The best August casino revenue for Coast casinos was \$111.5 million in 2008. For the river casinos, the record August was \$137 million in 2004.

Mississippi casinos paid \$11.3 million in taxes to the state general fund in August and \$7.2 million to local governments.

CASINO REVENUES

in millions

Gross revenues	August 2016	August 2015	Change
Coast	\$98.2	\$97.2	+ 1%
River	\$72.8	\$75.6	- 4%
State	\$171.0	172.7	- 1%

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue, Gaming Commission

Read more here: <http://www.sunherald.com/news/business/casino-gambling/article102919712.html#storylink=cpy>