



## FANTINI'S GAMING REPORT®

*More Important Than Your Morning Coffee...  
... And Now More Important Than Ever™*

### Special Reporting Service

June 21, 2020

Frank Fantini – *Publisher*

Ashley Diem – *Associate Publisher and Executive Editor*

Blake Weishaar – *Editor*

### *Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily – Weekend Update*

#### INDEX

WHITE PAPER: CONVERGENCE MATTERS

LV: JULY 4, RATES RISING, G2E RETURNS

CASINO TRAFFIC RISES

OPENINGS

US, CANADA: CA, MB, MD, MGM, NM, ND, PENN, PA, TRWH

INTERNATIONAL: BAHAMAS, IRELAND, REEF, SOUTH AFRICA

STEPS BACK: AZ, CZR, MERUELO, RUSH ST, WA

GUIDELINES: CDC, CULINARY

COMPANIES: BLOOMBERRY, GATEWAY, PENN, RESORTS

US: LV

INTERNATIONAL: ASIA-OCEANA

DOING GOOD: LOTTOLAND

FANTINI'S VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

CONVENTIONS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, EXPOS

#### WHITE PAPER: CONVERGENCE MATTERS

Developing an omnichannel strategy that diversifies revenues, serves customers and builds brands through online, sports betting and the social gaming world is explained in the second installment of post COVID-19 white papers by The Strategy Organization and Fantini Research.

The white paper will be available at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/links/the-strategy-organization-fantini-research-white-paper.html>.

## LV: JULY 4<sup>th</sup> RATES RISING, G2E RETURNS

Las Vegas casinos expect growing crowds for July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend, but short of the 330,000 people who crowded the city last year.

Visitors will pay higher hotel rates over the holiday weekend as resorts are getting back pricing power. Among publicly listed casinos reported by the Las Vegas Review-Journal, recent rate changes are Harrah's \$75 a night jumping to \$149, MGM Grand from \$169 to \$189 and Wynn from \$209 to \$299.

And, while festivities might be less flamboyant than usual, Plaza Hotel in downtown is still planning a fireworks show.

It has been speculated that the Strip properties may not hold fireworks this year due to COVID-19.

Longer term, G2E is committed to holding its annual trade show October 3-5 at the Sands Expo Center, though under protocols which are still to be announced.

Event co-owners Reed Exhibitions and the American Gaming Association has created a health and safety task force.

## CASINO TRAFFIC RISES

Casino visitation is running below last year but appears to be growing.

Foot traffic in Nevada's casinos rose to 22 percent of last year's levels for the week ended June 13, David Katz of Jefferies said citing geolocation data.

Louisiana's foot traffic was at 85 percent of last year's on June 11 and 66.5 percent for the entire week of June 7. Florida was at 64 percent and Mississippi 60 percent, he said.

Also using geolocation data, Carlo Santarelli of Deutsche Bank believes Louisiana's casino revenue will fall 15 to 20 percent.

As traffic improves, spend per admission has decreased, he said.

Foot traffic from May 18 to June 16 was 37 percent below last year. The reopening of Harrah's New Orleans should drive current levels, he said.

## OPENINGS

NOTE: Below is the latest on casino re-openings. An interactive map and list of property openings are posted at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/gaming/fantini-s-covid-19-gaming-daily.html>

US, CANADA: CA, MB, MD, MGM, NM, ND, PENN, PA, TRWH

- CALIFORNIA. Larry Flynt's Hustler Casino card club in Gardena has reopened at 50 percent capacity.

Pala Casino resumes outdoor concerts on June 29.

- MANITOBA casinos will reopen July 2, CBC reported.

- MARYLAND. All Maryland casinos have reopened or announced reopening dates except for MGM's National Harbor.

Opened Friday were Golden Entertainment's Rocky Gap, Churchill Downs' Ocean Downs and Gaming and Leisure Property's Hollywood Casino northeast of Baltimore.

Cordish's Live! opened to invited guests and will reopen to the public on June 29 though at 25 percent capacity.

Caesars' Horseshoe Baltimore opens on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

- MGM RESORTS reopens Mandalay Bay and Delano in Las Vegas on July 1.

- NEW MEXICO. Ruidoso Downs and Sunland Park racetracks are open to spectators again, though limited to 50 percent capacity.

- NORTH DAKOTA. Table games are expected to reopen next month.

- PENN NATIONAL opened Hollywood Casino near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on Friday.

- PENNSYLVANIA. Mt. Airy Casino in the Pocono Mountains opens Monday.

- TWIN RIVER'S Dover Downs Casino in Delaware has entered Phase II of its reopening, allowing extended hours of operation, hotel and restaurant openings and additional slot machines.

INTERNATIONAL: AUSTRALIA, BAHAMAS, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, SOUTH AFRICA

- AUSTRALIA. Reef Casino in Cairns will reopen on July 11.

- BAHAMAS. Atlantis Paradise Island will reopen July 7.

- IRELAND. Betting shops will be allowed to reopen June 29 after some confusion in which 800 shops opened last week then were forced to close again.

- SCOTLAND has resumed horse racing without spectators.

- SOUTH AFRICA's casinos, restaurants and hotels will be allowed to reopen, however, a specific date has not been set. Industry executives are hoping for July 1, Gaming for Africa reported.

#### STEPS BACK: AZ, CZR, MERUELO, RUSH ST, WA

- ARIZONA. Desert Diamonds Casinos has closed its small, 20-employee casino in Ajo after an employee tested positive for COVID.

- CAESARS. Two positive cases of COVID have been confirmed at the Flamingo, KTNV reported.

In neighboring Linq, Guy Fieri's Las Vegas Kitchen has closed temporarily after an employee tested positive, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

- MERUELO. Three employees of Northside Café in Sahara Las Vegas have tested positive, the Las Vegas Sun reported.

- RUSH STREET. A second employee of Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh has tested positive.

In response, Rivers will extend its temperature checks of employees to customers. Persons with temperatures of 100.4 or higher will not be allowed to enter.

- WASHINGTON. Mohegan-managed ilani casino has received a notice of allegation from OSHA following an employee contracting COVID-19, the Columbian reports.

"There was an outbreak of coronavirus, and they have yet to clean the environment where the person was located ... They are not monitoring the amount of people allowed in the establishment ... exposing people to coronavirus," the June 15 notice reads.

ilani President Kara Fox-LaRose denies the allegations, noting the casino is operating with heightened precautions and 50 percent capacity, the Columbia reported.

OSHA has instructed ilani to conduct an investigation and report back.

Full story: <https://www.columbian.com/news/2020/jun/18/osha-sends-workplace-safety-notice-of-allegations-to-ilani/>.

#### GUIDELINES: CDC, CULINARY

- CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL has issued guidelines for casinos to supplement local, state or federal guidelines: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/business-employers/casinos-gaming-operations.html>.

- CULINARY UNION is demanding new guidelines to protect all of Nevada's casino employees.

Current guidelines protect only table game dealers, mandating that gamblers wear facemasks while sitting at table games. Bartenders, cocktail servers and porters need protection too, the union said.

The union wants daily cleaning of hotel rooms, mandatory COVID-19 testing for employees, social distancing, and facemasks required in all public areas.

#### COMPANIES: BLOOMBERRY, GATEWAY, PENN, RESORTS

- BLOOMBERRY expects the opening of its planned Solaire casino in Quezon City, Philippines, to be delayed until late 2022 or early 2023 due to COVID-19.

- GATEWAY. After seven weeks of negotiation, labor union Unifor Local 1090 has filed a complaint against Gateway ending Casino Rama employee benefits as of June 30 and alleging the company is motivated to cut staffing, Barrie Today reported.

- PENN NATIONAL. Hollywood Casino in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, is laying off 41 employees.

Hollywood Casino near St. Louis has postponed the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary show of rock band Disturbed's The Sickness from July 15 this year to August 14 next year, the St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported.

Meanwhile, 180 employees at PENN-managed Meadows racino near Pittsburgh will be permanently furloughed on August 15, KDKA reported.

- RESORTS in Atlantic City will install AtmosAir's air purification system in the casino, hotel lobby and some food and beverage areas.

#### US: AC, RENO

- ATLANTIC CITY. About 500 casino employees held a drive-by demonstration Friday asking casinos to pick up their health care benefits starting in July.

Those benefits have been paid by a Unite Here labor union fund that will be exhausted at the end of this month.

- RENO-SPARKS. The West Nugget Cook Off at Nugget Casino has been canceled for this year.

#### INTERNATIONAL: ASIA-OCEANA

- ASIA-OCEANA gaming will be slower to rebound than previously thought with revenues declining 24.1 percent this year, H2 Gambling forecasts.

## DOING GOOD: LOTTOLAND

- LOTTOLAND. The lottery betting company launched an online scratch card game to raise funds for the British Red Cross.

## FANTINI'S VIRTUAL TRADE SHOW

As COVID-19 has caused the cancellation of many trade shows, now is the time to turn to a virtual show to display and advertise all your product lines and news events too. To exhibit your company, contact Dee Wild-Shyver at [DWild@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DWild@FantiniResearch.com).

See products, demos, and news from exhibitors at [www.FantinisGamingShow.com](http://www.FantinisGamingShow.com).

## CONVENTIONS, TRADE SHOWS, CONFERENCES, EXPOS

Shows and conferences have been canceled or postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. As new dates become available or for those that transition to webinars, they will be listed in our online calendar at <https://www.fantiniresearch.com/conventions.html>.

## ABOUT THIS REPORT:

*In Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily report we consolidate all developments about the virus that have business and investment implications for the gaming industry. We will post them on our website until further notice. Fantini's COVID-19 Gaming Daily is a Special Report that is included with all levels of Fantini's Gaming Report subscriptions.*

## SUBSCRIBER RIGHTS AND CONDITIONS:

*Copyright ©: Fantini's Gaming Report © and Fantini Research are divisions of Morning Report Research, Inc. All rights reserved. Our reports and content are protected by copyright and we reserve all rights except for as granted in this paragraph, and subject to the conditions stated below. We grant each subscriber and secondary recipient the right to receive, read, and utilize the reports and report contents for their individual use only. Your Subscriber Rights and Conditions give subscribers and secondary recipients the right to receive, read, and utilize the copyrighted reports and report contents for their individual use only. This right of individual use does not authorize providing whole or partial copies to others (even in your company) in any way, such as forwarding, posting, printing, file sharing, scanning, making photocopies, circulating, selling, publishing or otherwise. The right does not authorize any use by a person before he or she becomes a subscriber or secondary recipient. Any other right must be granted in writing by Morning Report Research, Inc. You agree to inform paid subscribers and recipients of the conditions on their use, and you authorize us, in our discretion, to employ tracking services to check their compliance. Unauthorized copying or distribution violates copyright law and may carry serious consequences.*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

*Subscriptions to Fantini's Gaming Report are available for \$7,099 a year for the Full Service Suite, \$1,999 for the Enhanced Service, and \$1,099 for the Basic level. Subscriptions are limited to one primary subscriber who may, with permission, add a secondary recipient at the same company and URL at no additional charge, with Morning Report Research, Inc. first giving you written permission to do so. Affordable multi-user licenses are available and can be customized for any number of designated recipients. See Subscriber Rights and Conditions above. For additional information, call +1-302-730-3793. Subscriptions can be ordered by phone or online at <http://www.FantiniResearch.com>. Credit card payments and bank transfers are available or send payment to Morning Report Research, Inc., P.O. Box 1676, Dover, DE, USA 19903-1676.*

T061220/ds

## **STAFF/CONTACT US:**

Frank Fantini, publisher. [FFantini@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:FFantini@FantiniResearch.com)  
Ashley Diem, associate publisher and executive editor. [ADiem@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:ADiem@FantiniResearch.com)  
Dee Wild-Shyver, associate editor and VP of Virtual Trade Show.  
[DWild@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DWild@FantiniResearch.com)  
Laura Briggs, director of policy editor. [LBriggs@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:LBriggs@FantiniResearch.com)  
Blake Weishaar, editor. [BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:BWeishaar@FantiniResearch.com)  
Hannah Wilmarth, writer. [HWilmarth@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:HWilmarth@FantiniResearch.com)  
Dylan Kaplan, writer and project team member. [DKaplan@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:DKaplan@FantiniResearch.com)  
Alex Capitle, marketing specialist. [ACapitle@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:ACapitle@FantiniResearch.com)  
Cindy Konowitz, business manager. [CKonowitz@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:CKonowitz@FantiniResearch.com)

Subscription inquiries: [Subscriptions@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Subscriptions@FantiniResearch.com)  
Analyst notes: [Analysts@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Analysts@FantiniResearch.com)  
News releases: [Editor@FantiniResearch.com](mailto:Editor@FantiniResearch.com)