

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Colorado Tax Revenues from Sports Betting Hit Record Total

LAKESWOOD, Monday, November 30, 2020— The Colorado Department of Revenue’s Division of Gaming released figures for October’s sports betting wagering and taxes, showing a prosperous month for Colorado with a significant rise in the amount of taxes collected by the state. The total handle for both retail and online sports betting wagers in Colorado in October totaled \$210,719,821. In October, the total taxes collected \$824,700, representing a 91.5% increase over September 2020 and the largest amount collected since legalization in May 2020.

Colorado’s sports betting tax structure was established in the enabling legislation, [HB 19-1327](#), developing the calculation for the net sports betting proceeds as the total amount of all, “wagers excluding free bets, less all payments to players and less all federal excise taxes.” To help explain the unique tax structure of sports betting revenues, the Division has released a “How Sports Betting Revenues Are Taxed” publication describing Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR), Net Sports Betting Proceeds (NSBP), and Colorado Tax calculations. The publication is available on the Division of Gaming’s Sports Betting website at colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/How%20SB%20Revenues%20are%20Taxed.pdf

The top sport wagered on in October was American Pro Football with \$67.9 million in wagers placed with both retail and online operators, setting a record for the most bets made in a month on one sport. Baseball took the second spot with \$23 million, and in third was National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Football with \$16.5 million in total wagers.

To view the published report, visit colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/Colorado%20Sports%20Betting%20Proceeds%20October%202020.pdf

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On November 6, 2019, Colorado voters passed Proposition DD, establishing Colorado as one of many states across the country to allow people to place legal bets on sporting events since the Supreme Court ruling struck down a law that banned sports betting in most U.S. states. With the passage of Proposition DD and the legislative bill passed by the Colorado General Assembly in May 2019, the Colorado Limited Gaming Control Commission and the Colorado Division of Gaming became the statutory authority over the regulation of the legalized sports betting in Colorado. Legalized, regulated sports betting began in Colorado on May 1, 2020.

The Colorado Department of Revenue's Division of Gaming ensures honesty and integrity in the Colorado gaming industry.

The Colorado Department of Revenue works to be a trusted partner to every Coloradan to help them navigate the complexities of government so they can thrive.