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Vicksburg tax revenues climb

By AP and staff reports

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Numbers suggest the Vicksburg casino market may be faring a shade better than the rest of the state, which saw March revenue increase over February but trail figures posted a year ago.

Revenue-based gaming taxes paid to Vicksburg, Warren County and the Vicksburg Warren School District from Vicksburg's five casinos increased in March compared to a year ago, and the year-to-date numbers, which start each Oct. 1, are up slightly as well.

However, Vicksburg is the only market in the state that saw the addition of a casino over the past year, with the opening of Riverwalk Casino six months ago.

Gamblers left behind \$232.9 million at Mississippi's state-licensed casinos in March, an increase from February, but a total that lagged about \$28 million behind March 2008, according to the Mississippi Tax Commission. In February, the casinos won \$216.5 million, while the March 2008 tally was \$260.6 million.

Casinos along the Mississippi River won \$131.1 million last month, up from \$116.9 million in February and down from \$120.8 million in March 2008, while those on the Gulf Coast took in \$101.8 million last month, compared with \$99.6 million in March 2008.

Mississippi's state casino tax total was \$31.8 million in March. Casino developments also pay property taxes and other taxes along with local tourism and bed taxes. For the city, about one-third of all revenue comes from casinos since 1993.



Vicksburg's five casinos pay a 3.2 percent revenue tax that is split, with 10 percent going to public schools, 10 percent to Warren County and 65 percent to the city. A second revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. It is split based on population proportions between Vicksburg and Warren County. A third revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A fourth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A fifth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A sixth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A seventh revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A eighth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A ninth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A tenth revenue tax is a 0.8 percent share of revenue. A casino is also required to pay \$150 for each gaming device annually to the city. Two casinos have been closed this year. These are the latest receipts.

March 2009

City.....\$651,124.29

County.....\$306,073.32

Schools.....\$83,234.57

Fiscal year to date 2009

City.....\$3,582,402.50

County.....\$1,504,308
Schools.....\$408,508
March 2008
City.....\$642,927.94
County.....\$302,518.80
Schools.....\$82,212.76
Fiscal year to date 2008
City.....\$3,512,401.08
County.....\$1,501,937
Schools.....\$407,947
