

## PS 127: Slots Playing Styles Live | Illinois Slots in 2021

### Opening

Hello! Today's episode #127 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses six playing styles for slots enthusiasts. Plus, in this episode, I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Illinois.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

### On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over my beginner slots players primer from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Idaho slot machine casino gambling in 2021.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

### Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://professorslots.com/subscribe) to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

### YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, February 7, 2021

Here's the audio recording of my latest live stream Q&A session.

#### OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? My name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel devoted to mastering casino slots so you can win your way to success!

Today we're going to be diving into how to play slots in ways that match your gambling goals.

It's great to see you all here again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream. If you're with us live, be sure to say hello, ask your slots-related questions, and sharing your own gambling goal! I'll get to those a little later in the show.

Thanks to all the early arrivals, those that showed up before the start of the show, and the friendly discussion we had in chat. Also, thanks to the many new slots enthusiasts that are continuing to show up at my weekly live stream. You are very welcome to be here!

## BODY

A bankroll, the amount of cash a player has available to gamble at a casino for any given visit, almost entirely identifies a player's style of gambling. Whether a player can afford a small bankroll or a relatively larger bankroll shouldn't be a judgment of performance.

Instead, a player's performance should be judged by how well their gambling goals are being met. And those goals are entirely the province of each player's wants, needs, and desires.

What is your goal regarding slot machine gambling? In other words, what are you trying to do? Examples are:

- Trying to make money
- Trying to maximize comps
- Trying to make money AND maximize comps

What follows are the most common styles of gambling I've observed or used successfully myself. Sometimes I've observed one style, then used it immediately myself. Other times I modify it somewhat based on an understanding of which goal I was aiming for at the time.

The relative size of a bankroll affects each style of gambling. Whether it be as little as \$25 or as much as \$2,500, for each gambling style, I've provided scenarios for substantially different bankroll sizes.

### Style #1: Entertainment with Friends (Just A Fun Night Out!)

The goal of this style is pure and simple entertainment. Of all the goals, it applies the most slots players. Perhaps it involves going to a casino with a few friends, having a few drinks, maybe watch a sports game at the bar or have dinner and, of course, to gamble a bit.

If someone makes a few dollars, perhaps even wins one or two hundred dollars, then they have bragging rights with their friends until the next casino visit.

If everyone loses all the money they planned on spending, then, hopefully, they can prevent each other from making runs to the ATM for additional cash withdrawals. And, in this way, an enjoyable evening is had by all.

The parking lots or structures attached to casinos are filled with the cars and trucks of these types of gamblers. The total cost for a night of this type of gambling, excluding dinner and drinks, can easily be \$100 or less.

The financial goal is to be able to play for a while. They may or may not be a member of the casino's rewards club but, if they are, this activity level places them well within the lowest tier of play. And they're all perfectly fine with that.

Entertainment is the goal of these players. "Entertainment" here means they want to have the occasional bragging rights with their friends. Further, they want their bankroll to last long enough into the evening for them to realize that entertainment goal.

I also recommend having a stretch goal, a secondary goal to try for if you successfully achieve the first, primary goal.

Join the casino's players' club, if you haven't already. Then always use your players' card when gambling in a casino. For many clubs, players' points accumulate at a rate of 1 point per \$5 spent gambling via slot machines. Check with individual players' clubs for the exact ratio of dollars to points, as well as to understand the tier structure. For example:

- Is it a 4-tier or 5-tier system?
- How many points does it take to advance a tier?
- Is automatic tier advancement possible if the player is already a high tier player in another casino's players' club?

In players programs, earning points from spending money gambling are standard. But these earned or awarded points can be converted into credits that can be used to purchase a variety of goods from the casino or any other properties associated with the casino. Or these accumulated credits may be used to buy a meal or converted to free slot play.

While player credit can be used for many casino purchases, food is often a choice made by many players. So, because the food is relatively cheap for a casino to provide, often casinos will stretch player credits so that they are worth double for food purchases at casino restaurants.

It is necessary to review a bit of the fine print of each players' club website or brochure. You can ask questions of the casino employee at the casino's club counter, if they still have one.

If the players' club details seem a little overwhelming for players new to such systems, try not to let it prevent you from signing up for the players' club itself. All comps tie into this club, and not signing up for it is a severe profit loss at every level of play. Signing up is usually optional, though.

On a friends' night out, there may be little choice as to which casino to visit. If so, then any assessment to determine the best casino may well be overridden by the convenience of a casino's location for a group of friends. While perhaps the specific casino cannot be chosen, the particular slot machine played may well be a matter of choice. So, let's make it a careful selection! You can use one of my winning strategies or my Goodness Ratio, already succinctly explained in other videos.

#### Style #2: It All Goes Back In (For Maximum Comps)

In the previous style, an element of achieving maximum entertainment while gambling was to join and consistently use the players' club card. Optimally, it must be used during any gambling to benefit from the complimentary gifts, i.e., comps, such systems provide.

What was introduced as an element of style #1 regarding comps must now be expanded. Why? Because earning complimentary gifts are the primary focus for this second player style.

Everything just explained applies for this second style, yet the difference between them is this second style assumes a somewhat larger bankroll with more frequent visits to the casino.

Consequently, compared to an entertainment focus with its comparatively limited investment in time and resources, it is possible to reach the higher player tiers when the focus is entirely about achieving maximum comps.

Casinos offer a wide range of comps to its patrons, especially to those in the higher tiers although not always entirely limited to the top players. The simplest of these comps are more along the lines of promotions offered through bulk mailings to every member of the players' club.

Such business promotions should not be confused with the other end of the spectrum of what is possible, where the casino has assigned trained staff to you to cater to your needs and interests.

As a top tier player, I've engaged in serious conversations with my senior executive host regarding personal interests such as favorite foods, sports, and hobbies.

At first, I was puzzled with all the interest from my host. At this early stage of gambling quite successfully with next-generation slot machines, my gambling goals were focused on cash flow and detecting winning patterns when playing slots and, frankly, utterly oblivious to almost everything else going on around me, including the simplest of comps.

To do myself justice, I admit that I had little information to go on at first. I knew little of the players' club or the advantages of joining it.

I progressed so quickly through multiple players' club tiers in that first six weeks I skipped an entire tier without even noticing I'd done so. Any monthly player program booklets and other mail flyers went unnoticed.

After four weeks of slots gambling, I had yet to go to the players counter at the casino to get my players card status updated from the first tier. It was only when a fellow player noticed that I hadn't, despite all my playing and winning he'd witnessed and suggested that I do so.

It was the look of pity in his eye when I questioned whether it was necessary that convinced me I was seriously missing out on something important.

It wasn't about getting a new card. He was trying to tell me there was this thing called comps. I was missing out on all the complimentary gifts! Meals! Gifts! Cruises!

After updating my players' card status to the top tier, I began noticing the role of comps for a straightforward reason: My "host", a senior executive staff member working for the casino specifically assigned to me to look after my wants and needs. How strange, yes?

Whenever I showed up at the casino, no matter how busy it was, within 60 seconds of putting my players' card into a slot machine, someone in a suit was standing at my elbow asking if there was anything I needed – ignoring everybody else around us.

They were there to see me, and they seemed quite serious about it. If it weren't my host, it would be another member of the staff explaining that my host had that day off but could they help? Have you ever imagined what it would be like to have a personal assistant? If so, you're getting the general idea of this relatively unique experience.

For the comps goal, focus on determining if receiving \$10,000 per year in free stuff seems like it would be a gambling priority. In other words, is maximum comps your primary gambling goal?

That \$10,000 per year is a low number, by the way. I'd recorded \$9,735 in comps over my last five months of active gaming when maximizing comps wasn't even a gambling goal I fully understood at the time.

Then, my gambling goal was to learn to see, refine, and then teach myself to use gambling patterns with these next-generation casino technologies including how they were affecting the operation of not only the slots machines but also the players' club. What I was learning was the multi-faceted nature of the new gaming technologies.

So, a consequence of making maximum comps your primary gambling goal is a need to increase in the amount of money or bankroll needed to be spent on slots gambling relative to the prior entertainment style.

To reach top-tier status in six weeks, I maintained an average bankroll of \$5,600 over 25 visits. I mention the precise bankrolls and number of visits to provide an estimate of roughly how much it might take for a player to reach top tier themselves, perhaps spread out over a full year rather than six weeks.

If I'd instead gone to the casino over one year, using much smaller bankrolls but spreading them over many more visits could also have resulted in a top tier players' club status.

This scenario assumes casino conditions remain favorable as they were during my six-week catapult to top-tier status. It is just as possible this assumption won't be valid at your favorite casino. But it's also possible that one of my winning slots strategies will work at your casino.

Maximizing comps usually requires putting all winnings back into the machine, at least initially. Once the player tier of interest has been reached, then it may be advantageous to switch to another gambling style.

Imagine a player is betting on an ideal slot machine with a bankroll of \$3,000 available, on which a reasonable hold percentage of 10% exists, i.e., an average loss of 10% per bankroll cycle, and the player bets on the slot machine for 20 bankroll cycles.

- What is the amount of bankroll remaining after each cycle?
- How much was spent in total?
- What were the player points earned as well as the corresponding conversion of those points to player credits?

It is assumed earned points are 1 per \$5 which can be fully converted to credits at 100 points per credit.

See Table 7-1 for the tabulated results, which may appear somewhat staggering if not previously considered.

Assuming long-term statistical averages apply with no significant bankroll fluctuations like significantly “tight” slots for excessive losses or a taxable jackpot or two for significant wins, those 20 cycles would boost the player out of the lowest-tier at most players’ clubs.

To help decide if a goal of maximizing comps is the primary goal of interest for a player, ask yourself if another fundamental goal is of obviously greater importance. Let’s consider the adage, “You can do anything you want, but not everything you want.”

Or, as I tell the college students I teach, “I don’t care what your plan is. I care that you have a plan.”

I certainly understand that a goal of more significant take-home money can be quite desirable, but is cash in hand significantly more critical to you than non-monetary gifts? Both can be equally valuable, depending on your lifestyle. For example, are you readily able to travel? If so, then the travel comps can provide trips to many destinations.

A player needs to understand the value of comps to their personal needs and interests. Do they already travel a lot or would like to travel more, perhaps with friends and family?

If so, maybe casino comps can help achieve that. But being unable to travel for any of several reasons means those travel comps will be unused and therefore valueless.

I’ve had free trips to Las Vegas, including airfare and a limousine to and from the airport. I took extended family on my second trip – they were delighted with taking a limo from the airport to our hotel on the strip.

Family also enjoyed cruising the Caribbean for seven days. If a player is not at all interested in travel, they can still maximize comps, but won’t be taking advantage of the most expensive comps, those related to travel.

But there are other exciting comps besides travel. What about your local sports teams? How about attending the pre-season opener at your local professional football stadium? From the casino’s suite with free food and alcoholic beverages? Yes, I know – that’s not how true fans watch football. But wouldn’t it be interesting to try it?

I’m not much of a sports fan but have discovered the specific sports teams of interest to all my friends, because I very much enjoy giving away free sporting tickets at work.

A point I haven't stated quite clearly enough about maximizing complimentary gifts is not being afraid to ask for a comp. I'm very assertive about earning my way and, as a result, had a tough time accepting comps at first.

I started out asking for food before I started getting my monthly players packet and almost daily mail flyers for a multitude of comps. To get a free dinner, initially I'd use my credits to pay for it.

Eventually, though, I asked for and accepted vouchers for dinners. Why use credits, even if I had a couple of thousands of dollars' worth when comps were available?

My main issue with comps was being unable to think up enough stuff to ask for, even when my host offered gentle pressure that I figure it out.

It is reasonable to assume that the performance metrics for hosts include successfully spending their budgets on their assigned patrons. Not doing so is likely seen by their management as a failure to perform. So, help them!

Be aware that comps don't include a server's tip. Or, for that matter, alcohol (usually). So, while comps pay for an excellent \$100 or so dinner, I got into the habit of giving the server a generous gratuity afterward. The servers always seem surprised.

#### INTERLUDE

Let's check in with the Live Chat to briefly say hello....

That was excellent!

If I've already helped you make money at slots, give me a tip using the dollar-sign icon at the bottom of the live chat window.

Here's how that works. Simply click on the dollar sign icon and select the Super Chat option. The Super Sticker option also works, but it's not as easy. Under the Super Chat option, you'll see a sliding scale to choose an amount. Or just type in the exact amount of your support. Directly under that amount is where you type a message everyone can see. Finally, click the Buy and Send button where you'll be taken to enter your card info. Thank you so much for your support!

Now let's get back to ....

#### BODY

Style #3: Maximum Taxable Jackpots

Maximizing the number and amount of jackpots is somewhat similar yet slightly different from maximizing comps. The goal of maximizing comps is accomplished by increasing the number of points and therefore credits earned.

For most people trying to maximize comps, sufficient players' club points are earned by cycling bankrolls. Doing so wins comps from the casino, especially at higher tier levels. As long as such cycling continues, no taxable jackpots are technically needed to accomplish the goals of the maximum comps style of gambling.

To maximize comps, players aren't precisely looking for a slot machine that is paying out taxable jackpots. They are looking for a "loose" machine.

If, for example, they find a slot machine that pays out \$25 for every \$25 spent or, say, \$500 for every \$500 spent, then they've found the slot machine needed to cycle bankrolls to generate players' club points.

However, if a slots gambler with the goal of maximum taxable jackpots and little (but some) interest in comps were to play that same bankroll-cycle machine, they'd have a tough decision ahead of them. The first decision point is related to their actual level of interest in earning comps.

If completely uninterested, the player would probably move on to any slot machine with the performance for which they are looking. But that's only a probable decision because of the next decision point, which is that slot machines cycling bankrolls can be misread as only cycling bankrolls.

Sometimes, every hour or so, these slots will also produce a taxable jackpot. And it effectively costs nothing but time spent playing, due to the ongoing bankroll cycling. So, waiting to find out which is occurring can be a financially worthwhile decision, even if it's only for a single, small, yet taxable jackpot after one or two hours of playing.

Making around 20 or so bets will tell an observant player whether the slot machine is paying out sufficiently well to allow for some amount of bankroll cycling.

Alongside these general odds of winning, whether they are good or bad, are the odds of winning a "regular" taxable jackpot.

A step up from bankroll cycling is what I call "regular" jackpots, meaning something like \$100 on a 25-cent denomination, three-credit machine with a top jackpot of \$2,500. Or, say, winning up to \$1,500 on a high limit \$5 denomination, three-credit slot with a top jackpot of \$150,000.

The top step of winning jackpots is quite rare. They cannot and should not be expected, in my opinion, but instead will happen when they happen. Lightning may strike. It's not

the top jackpot, but perhaps 10% of it. Looking over my recorded data of 90 taxable jackpots in 9 months, I've had three jackpots that fall into this regime.

One big win was on a \$10 denomination, 2-credit slot machine where I was figuring out that I was losing money, i.e., not cycling my bankroll, when I hit a \$27,000 jackpot. It was at a time and day that I hadn't recorded as having had a prior jackpot.

Two other jackpots, for \$10,025 and \$14,000, occurred during times when I had recorded a previous win, but not for anything as large as those two values. These rare jackpots have happened, for me, about every 30 or so taxable jackpots.

Because odds of winning are, frankly, odds, I'd suggest playing any slot machine that is cycling bankrolls unless you have somewhere else you need to be – like another slot machine that you've recorded had had a previous win at that time and day.

Even so, consider staying if you have the slightest interest in also earning comps, and for the possibility of winning a taxable jackpot after a lot of bankroll cycling.

To achieve a maximum number and amounts of taxable jackpots, mainly, try to allow for them to happen. Develop good habits. Listen to your instincts.

Give the slot machine a chance but play another slot machine or even leave the casino property when you know you should, even if you've just arrived at the casino. Sometimes, the right thing to do is to save your hard-won bankroll for another day.

#### Style #4: The Hummingbird

To maximize comps, I've suggested sitting down at machines that will best cycle through bankrolls. To maximize taxable jackpots, I've recommended playing slots on days and times that have already shown jackpots and, when the player doesn't need to be someplace else, to also play machines that cycle bankrolls.

To focus on either of these two goals, players need to try different slot machines until they find one that behaves like it cycles bankrolls, pays out taxable jackpots, or both. How? Well, try one slot machine after another until you find it. This style I call the hummingbird approach.

This initial "discovery" approach can be costly, but it has the potential to be financially rewarding. A helpful way to forego some of these initial startup costs is to watch other players cycle their bankrolls or win taxable jackpots.

Look around and assess the casino. Does the casino staff seem friendly, or appear stressed? Are bathrooms clean? Also, assess the available game themes and learn a bit about their pay tables. Go do all this first, before spending any bankroll.

Someone that wants to play poker doesn't sit down at a poker table game without knowing something about the rules, correct? It's much the same with slot machines. Assess the casino. Assess the slot machines of interest. Assess other players and their performance.

All this will take time, and patience is vital. Not to worry, though, if you don't wait and decide to get started betting, because that's just a more expensive way to do the same thing, visit after visit.

So, try to watch the floor for a while, perhaps for an hour, to note any activity and to get a basic feel for the place. If wanting to gamble via slots, try taking over a slot machine someone has been winning at, either cycling bankrolls or winning taxable jackpots, assuming they ever leave it.

Otherwise, if those are not available, limit bets to about 20 bets per machine until either losing your bankroll or finding a machine that cycles your bankroll.

Even then, if the players' club isn't one with which building comps matters, consider if moving on to another machine is best.

#### Style #5: The Employee of Another Casino Property

Imagine spending eight hours a day, five days a week at a casino, where the job requires hurrying on over to serve every patron with a taxable jackpot in the portion of the casino to which they are assigned.

What might be learned about winning via slot machine gambling?

From a players' perspective, casino employees see everything which happens at a casino. Employees know when players win, and something about the techniques those players think they use to succeed.

Often the players themselves will tell specific casino staff, like slot attendants, all about the details of their approaches. I know I have, on occasion.

Usually, the casino staff is merely doing their jobs of being of service to their patrons, including maintaining a conversation while otherwise completing paperwork for taxable jackpots, and work hard at trying to do it well.

But, they also observe and listen, especially if they also enjoy gambling. How might casino employees make use of it? Well, the employment rules they agree to typically prohibit them from doing so at the casino where they work.

When visiting another casino chain, gaming employees are free to gamble using any of several techniques they've personally observed being used by players they've gotten to

know while servicing them as casino staff. Their difficulty in making use of this observed behavior is a lack of certain crucial information.

What might a casino employee see at work? Of all they might observe, what would help them win elsewhere? What will they never see at work that, unbeknownst to them, was crucial for a patron to be successful at gambling? What casino employees will never see is the preparation a player sometimes performs before betting at a casino.

These activities include their physical assessment of the casino as well as specific slot machines. Preparation includes any of the financial recordkeeping tools suggested in this book. It also includes the particular reasoning behind why the player was at the casino at that time.

But what can be learned by casino employees can be extremely useful, if somewhat limited, that can't be learned as well or as quickly by anyone else? It is this: The many good habits of winners.

Observing good gambling habits can be extremely helpful in learning to perform well as a gambler. They have first to be recognized as good behaviors, though, which may take a lot of observations along with the subsequent introspection necessary to understand the meaning of what was observed.

Luckily for them, they have time available. At least, the necessary time to do so is possible during a casino employee's long, sometimes busy but sometimes not, workday.

While an observant and thoughtful casino employee may be able to provide a somewhat better list, here is what I know to be good gambling habits:

- Don't bring a bankroll to the casino which you cannot afford to lose
- Stop gambling when it is not going well because no one else will stop you
- Always be kind to casino staff, and remember to tip them for services rendered
- Bring a buddy, someone you trust, to provide support while you're gambling
- Don't drink and gamble unless you don't care about lowering the odds of winning
- Take breaks to stay rested and focused, about 10 minutes every hour
- Learn about the usually unknown services, like locking a slot machine for breaks

Style #6: Optimal Performance for Maximizing Profit (Or, Using Everything)

My earliest gambling focus was on cash flow because I found it so fascinating to physically handle what I felt was an excessive amount of cash. I loved how it would pass through my hands.

Even now, I still have a collection of brown paper bands that cashier's use to bundle together one hundred \$100 bills when a casino gives them wrapped around taxable jackpots of \$10,000 or more. After taxes, of course.

Eventually, this early focus on cash flow morphed into something financially much better: a specific gambling goal of achieving optimal performance for maximum profit. Let me put it another way. I went from spending all my winnings to maximizing my income.

While doing so has certainly been an exciting journey, I assume other players are at least somewhat interested in how they might maximize their income through optimizing their gambling performance.

Everyone is different, with different interests and goals. My best recommendation is for each to understand their interests and goals, then define how to go about achieving them.

With slots gambling, it is quite possible players have already done this, and reading this book is a part of a long-term, ongoing effort to stay current and up-to-date on various aspects of gambling.

Or, another possibility is players have already refined their interests and goals but haven't quite figured out the best way to apply them. For these players, my suggestion is to review the gambling styles already described for help in answering those questions.

Players may find that combining elements of a few styles best matches their interests and goals, which I believe is what most highly successful slots gamblers have already done.

To achieve optimal performance for maximizing profit, first match gambling goals to one or more of the styles described. Then, consider adding elements of their subtleties to an approach to slots gambling.

Improving performance is like becoming more organized, something which I've discussed with my students over the years:

Everyone must both figure out what works best for them as well as know when they eventually need to stop tinkering because they've learned, as happens under ideal circumstances, what they set out to understand.

Optimizing performance is about making small adjustments to what is already done. These are adjustments resulting in the highest possible level of financial improvement. That is, after all such reasonable changes have been made.

Unless or until circumstances change, including changes in current economic conditions to a new casino opening in the area, this optimal performance will continue to maximize profits for as long as it's used consistently.

## CLOSING

Let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what questions they might have...

Thanks for a great show. If you're watch this video later, you'll see a playlist/video I've created on ....

If you're listening on the podcast, stick around as we'll be moving into the next segments of the show! And, as always, have fun, be safe, and make good choices!

## Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://professorslots.com/subscribe) to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

## Introduction

This is the next segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up next is Illinois slot machine casino gambling in 2021. Here goes!

Illinois slot machine casino gambling consists of ten riverboat casinos and two proposed commercial casinos as well as video gaming terminals (VLTs) in small businesses approved by their local municipalities.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Illinois

The minimum legal gambling age in Illinois depends upon the gambling activity:

- Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18

- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

The Illinois Riverboat Gambling Act enacted in February 1990 legalized riverboat gambling on open water outside of Cook County. This restriction protected wagering on horse racing in the Chicago area, approved in 1927.

Since 1990, Illinois has offered only ten gaming licenses for riverboat casinos. Originally, riverboat casinos in Illinois had to cruise, but a new state law in 1999 allowed permanent docking and authorized to have 1,200 gaming machines including positions available at table games.

In 2005, the Illinois state legislature established an admissions tax of \$2 or \$3. Admission is \$2 at Jumer's Casino Rock Island and \$3 at other riverboat casinos. Illinois riverboat casinos also has restricted hours of operation, closing for two hours each day, usually around 6 a.m. to 8 a.m.

In 2009, the Illinois state legislature passed the Video Gaming Act, allowing video gaming terminals in "Licensed Retail Establishments, Truck Stops, Veteran and Fraternal Establishments" with approval by their local municipalities. There are 7,710 such licensed establishments.

On June 28, 2019, Governor Pritzker signed the Illinois Gambling Act into law, making significant changes to gaming regulations in Illinois. These changes include two proposed casinos, the Hard Rock Casino Rockford and Southland Live Casino in Calumet City. Once approved, these proposed casinos will be the two largest casinos in Illinois.

The Illinois Gaming Board hosts a website with extensive and thoroughly detailed descriptions of its state gambling laws for Casino Gambling and Video Gaming.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in Illinois

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In Illinois, it is legal to own a slot machine privately if manufactured 25 or more years ago.

## Gaming Control Board in Illinois

The Illinois Gaming Board (IGB) provides gaming regulations and tax collection for slot machine gambling activities in Illinois. It also has gaming control commissions for other forms of gambling including the Illinois Lottery and the Illinois Racing Board.

Further, the Illinois Casino Gaming Association (ICGA) represents nine of Illinois' ten riverboat casinos. The ICGA provides statistics on charitable giving by the riverboat casinos as well as supporting responsible gaming.

## Casinos in Illinois

In this section, I'll discuss Illinois gambling establishments.

Illinois has twelve commercial casinos, two of which are recently proposed casinos not yet under construction.

The largest casino in Illinois is Hollywood Casino Joliet with 1,177 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino with 1,172 gaming machines.

## Non-Tribal Casinos in Illinois

There are twelve commercial casinos in Illinois. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list, along with a casino map, are on my webpage for this state at [professorslots.com/IL](http://professorslots.com/IL).

Furthermore, as of February 2021, 7,710 retail locations in Illinois offer 37,159 active video lottery terminal gaming machines controlled by the Illinois Gaming Board. Given Illinois' ten riverboat casinos each have 1,200 slot machines at most, VLTs at local businesses equate to nearly 31 casinos of a similar size.

## American Indian Casinos in Illinois

Illinois has no federally recognized American Indian tribes. Therefore, there are no tribal casinos in Illinois.

## Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying Illinois slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering Illinois is:

- North: Wisconsin
- East: Indiana
- Southeast: Kentucky
- West: Iowa and Missouri

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Wisconsin slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/WI.

## Our Illinois Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in Illinois? If so, join our Illinois slots community on Facebook at [professorslots.com/FBIL](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBIL). All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this private Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near Illinois. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: [professorslots.com/FBIL](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBIL). Join us!

## Payout Returns in Illinois

Illinois has established theoretical payout limits of 80% and 100% over the lifetime of a slot machine. Further, the IGB provides monthly return statistics for Video Gaming.

In the month of November 2020, the statewide average player win percentage was 91.8% for all VLTs. The Video Gaming Review Reports search tool under Monthly Reports allows anyone to find the player win percentage (i.e., amount won divided by amount played) for each of the licensed 7,000+ retailers offering video gaming.

## Summary of Illinois Slots in 2021

In summary, Illinois slot machine casino gambling consists of ten commercial casinos, two proposed casinos, and VLT electronic gaming machines at 7,710 local businesses such as bars, restaurants, and other licensed non-casino locations.

## Annual Progress in Illinois Slot Machine Casino Gambling

In the last year, Argosy's Alton Belle Casino changed its name to Argosy Casino Alton. Further, Rivers Casino will no longer be a riverboat casino per a 2019 ruling by the Illinois Gaming Board.

## Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://www.professorslots.com/subscribe) to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

## On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast will include a live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Remember, my weekly Q&A session on YouTube is on Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. Eastern Time. Bring whatever slots questions you have, and I'll do my best to answer them.

An easy-to-remember link to my YouTube channel is [YouTube.com/ProfessorSlots](https://www.youtube.com/ProfessorSlots). Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long live Q&A session.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is another brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. state of Indiana.

## Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are on my website at <https://professorslots.com/episode127>.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye!