

New Mexico Horse Analysis – 2018

Through December 4, 2018 there have been 2,412 races at licensed New Mexico racetracks. Over 20,990 head of horses have participated in the races. This averages 8.70 horses per race. The table below details by racetrack averages for horses and purses.

	Number of Races	Horses	Average Horses per Race	Purses	Average Purse per Race	Number of Stalls
Sunland Park - 2018						
Mid December - Mid April 12/15 - 4/17	658	6,325	9.61	\$ 14,902,800	\$ 22,649	1,672
SunRay Park - 2018						
Mid April - Mid June 4/21 - 6/17	305	2,315	7.59	\$ 3,507,100	\$ 11,499	1,070
Ruidoso Downs - 2018						
Late May - Early September 5/25 - 9/4	505	4,225	8.37	\$ 14,767,637	\$ 29,243	1,700
DAA/ NMSF - 2018						
Late June - Late September 6/29 - 9/23	515	4,322	8.39	\$ 8,859,000	\$ 17,202	1,404
ZiaPark						
Late September - Early December 9/22-12/4	429	3,803	8.86	\$ 13,134,250	\$ 30,616	1,420
TOTALS/AVERAGES	2,412	20,990	8.70	\$ 55,170,787	\$ 22,873	7,266

Sunland Park was able to field the most horses per race, averaging 9.61 horses per race. Sunland Park offered an average \$22,649 purse per race. The racetrack had no head-to-head competition from other New Mexico racetracks. The racetrack has 1,672 stalls available to horsemen. For the 2018 race season Sunland Park indicated that they had 2,419 applications for individual stalls with an availability of 1,672 stalls. There were 44% more individual applications than there were stalls available for the 2018 season. From the 2012 season to the 2018 season, stall applications at Sunland Park declined from 3,718 to 2,419. This was a 35% decline in individual stall applications.

SunRay Park had the lowest average horses per race averaging 7.59 horses per race. Their average purse was \$11,499 per race. SunRay Park runs head to head with Ruidoso Downs from late May to mid-June. The racetrack indicated they had 1,200 individual stall applications for 1,070 available stalls. There were 12% more individual stall applications than there were available stalls.

Ruidoso Downs for the 2018 race season averaged 8.37 horses per race. The racetrack runs its entire season head-to-head with both SunRay Park and The Downs at Albuquerque. The racetrack's average purses per race was the second highest with \$29,243 per race. Ruidoso Downs has 1,700 stalls with additional private stalls. The racetrack did not provide individual stall application data for the 2018 season. They indicated 150 trainers had applied for stalls at their facility.

The Downs at Albuquerque/New Mexico State Fair averaged 8.39 horses per race for the 2018 season. Their average purse was \$17,202 per race. The racetrack runs head-to-head with Ruidoso for a majority of its race meet. The racetrack indicated it has 1,404 stalls available. They did not indicate how many individual stall applications there were for the 2018 season. The Downs stated they had about 260 trainers applying for stalls.

Zia Park was able to field an average of 8.86 horses per race through December 4th of its 2018 season. They had the highest average purse per race with \$30,616 per race. Zia Park has no head-to-head competition with other New Mexico racetracks. The racetrack maintains 1,420 stalls. The racetrack indicated they had 3000 individual stall applications. For the 2018 race meet, there were 121 trainers applying for stalls. Forty trainers were put on hold. With 1,420 stalls Zia Park had 111% more applications than stalls available.

There appears to be less horses per race when there is direct head-to-head competition between racetracks, however, it would appear that purses offered may be a greater factor in determining the size of racing fields. Ruidoso Downs shows the second highest purses, however, a considerable portion of this amount is horsemen added money for their many high dollar stake races. Both Sunland Park and Zia Park generate the most revenue for purse from gaming and also have the highest purses and horses per race. It would appear a location that can generate the most purses through gaming will be able to adequately attract the needed horses to field races.