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TOUGH SELL

Carolina venues face challenges moving event tickets

by DAVE BROOKS

Ticket sales for North and South Carolina Top Stops are down from the same period last year, representing a decline of about 17 percent to \$36.5 million for total ticket sales. The total number of shows were also significantly down, dropping from 327 events at this same time last year to 239 shows.

Those numbers didn't surprise assistant GM Dusty Saine from Littlejohn Coliseum in Clemson, S.C., who said his facility has gotten selective about acts, but still feels optimistic about the future.

"We haven't slowed down on booking, but we've been more picky," Saine said. "Normally we would take more risk on shows

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TOPSTOPS THE CAROLINAS • 2008-09

Based on concert and event grosses from July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009, as reported to Venues Today.

VENUE, LOCATION	NO. OF SEATS	TOTAL GROSS	ATTENDANCE	SHOWS
> 15,001 OR MORE CAPACITY				
1. Charlotte (N.C.) Verizon Wireless Amph.	18,500	\$7,326,719	213,577	17
2. Time Warner Music Pavilion, Raleigh, N.C.	20,500	\$6,637,448	195,439	15
3. Time Warner Arena, Charlotte, N.C.	20,200	\$3,877,589	59,770	6
4. Colonial Center, Columbia, S.C.	18,000	\$3,171,811	150,804	33
5. RBC Center, Raleigh, N.C.	20,000	\$2,009,380	38,810	6
> 10,001-15,000 CAPACITY				
1. North Charleston (S.C.) Coliseum	14,000	\$4,629,275	78,052	15
2. Bi-Lo Center, Greenville, S.C.	15,000	\$2,044,791	40,775	7
3. Lawrence Joel Vet. Mem. Col., Winston-Salem, N.C.	14,665	\$215,235	4,146	1
4. Family Circle Magazine Stadium, Charleston, S.C.	10,200	\$110,907	4,076	1
5. Littlejohn Coliseum, Clemson, S.C.	10,325	\$30,058	777	1
> 5,001-10,000 CAPACITY				
1. Koka Booth Amph., Cary, N.C.	7,000	\$893,962	26,914	9
2. Asheville (N.C.) Civic Center	7,674	\$605,308	13,050	3
3. Bojangles Coliseum, Charlotte, N.C.	9,605	\$414,148	10,111	3
4. Crown Coliseum, Fayetteville, N.C.	8,500	\$214,314	6,242	2
> 5,000 OR FEWER CAPACITY				
1. House of Blues, North Myrtle Beach, S.C.	2,000	\$1,950,293	79,429	88
2. N. Charleston (S.C.) Perf. Arts Center	2,260	\$974,313	26,160	19
3. Ovens Auditorium, Charlotte, N.C.	2,455	\$619,721	10,391	5
4. Durham (N.C.) Performing Arts Center	2,800	\$600,838	10,368	5
5. War Mem. Auditorium, Greensboro, N.C.	2,400	\$289,778	5,958	3

Compiled by Riley Camarillo, HotTickets@venuestoday.com