

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

Ron DeSantis, Governor

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Ron DeSantis  
Governor, State of Florida  
The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear Governor DeSantis:

Please find attached a copy of the Department's Annual Report for the Florida Athletic Commission for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 pursuant to section 548.005, Florida Statutes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Melanie S. Griffin  
Secretary

**Melanie S. Griffin**, Secretary

**Ron DeSantis**, Governor

December 8, 2023

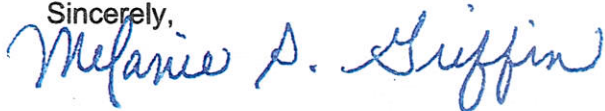
The Honorable Paul Renner  
Speaker, Florida House of Representatives  
420 The Capitol  
402 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

Dear Speaker Renner:

Please find attached a copy of the Department's Annual Report for the Florida Athletic Commission for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 pursuant to section 548.005, Florida Statutes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Melanie S. Griffin  
Secretary

Melanie S. Griffin, Secretary

Ron DeSantis, Governor

December 8, 2023

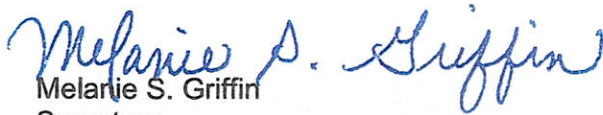
The Honorable Kathleen Passidomo  
President, Florida Senate  
409 The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Dear President Passidomo:

Please find attached a copy of the Department's Annual Report for the Florida Athletic Commission for Fiscal Year 2022-2023 pursuant to section 548.005, Florida Statutes.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Melanie S. Griffin  
Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION



# 2022 – 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

**FLORIDA  
ATHLETIC COMMISSION**

**RON DESANTIS, GOVERNOR**

**MELANIE S. GRIFFIN, SECRETARY**

## Table of Contents

Title	Page
<b>DBPR Information</b>	
• Message from the Secretary	2
• Department Mission	3
• Organizational Chart	4
• Executive Summary	5
• Florida Athletic Commission Overview	6
<b>Long-Range Policy Planning and Monitoring</b>	
• Overview	7
• Efficient and Effective Operations	8
• Regulation and Consumer Protection	9
• Unlicensed Activity Program	10
• Actual and Projected Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Account Balance Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2019 through June 30, 2028	11



## Message from the Secretary

Dear Fellow Floridians:

I am happy to report that Fiscal Year 2022-2023 was a successful year for the Florida Athletic Commission. During this period, the Commission consistently sanctioned professional combative sports events throughout the state, and revenue increased over the previous fiscal year. While health and safety remain the top priority, we continue to focus on attracting new business, increasing revenue, and decreasing unnecessary regulation. To that end, the Commission continued efforts to make Florida a more attractive place to do business, including channeling applicants to our online license portal and offering flexible event-hosting options.

The Commission sanctioned 121 professional events during the fiscal year, including 60 boxing events and 61 mixed martial arts events. The Commission also issued 2,975 licenses. I am pleased to report the Commission staff has done a spectacular job, and I thank them for their hard work.

The Commission is also responsible for periodic compliance checks of Amateur Sanctioning Organizations to ensure enforcement of approved health and safety standards and supervision of matches. During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, there were 103 amateur events, and the Division of Regulation conducted 21 compliance checks on behalf of the Commission.

It is truly an honor to continue improving and growing the combative sports industry in Florida. We have had great success over the past year, and I look forward to building on that and making this year even better!

Sincerely,

  
Melanie S. Griffin  
Secretary

## Mission

License efficiently. Regulate fairly.

## Our Vision

We will make DBPR and Florida great places to do business. To that end, we will invest in our employees, treat our licensees as valued customers and partners, and uphold laws that protect the public and Florida's competitive marketplace.

## Our Values

### **Accountability**

We hold ourselves to the highest standards on behalf of our customers and the public.

### **Innovation**

We foster an environment that encourages everyone to seek ways to make DBPR and Florida great places to do business.

### **Integrity**

We are fair and honest in all we do so our employees and customers trust our decisions.

### **Ownership**

We embrace our responsibility to serve and see things through to resolution.

### **Responsiveness**

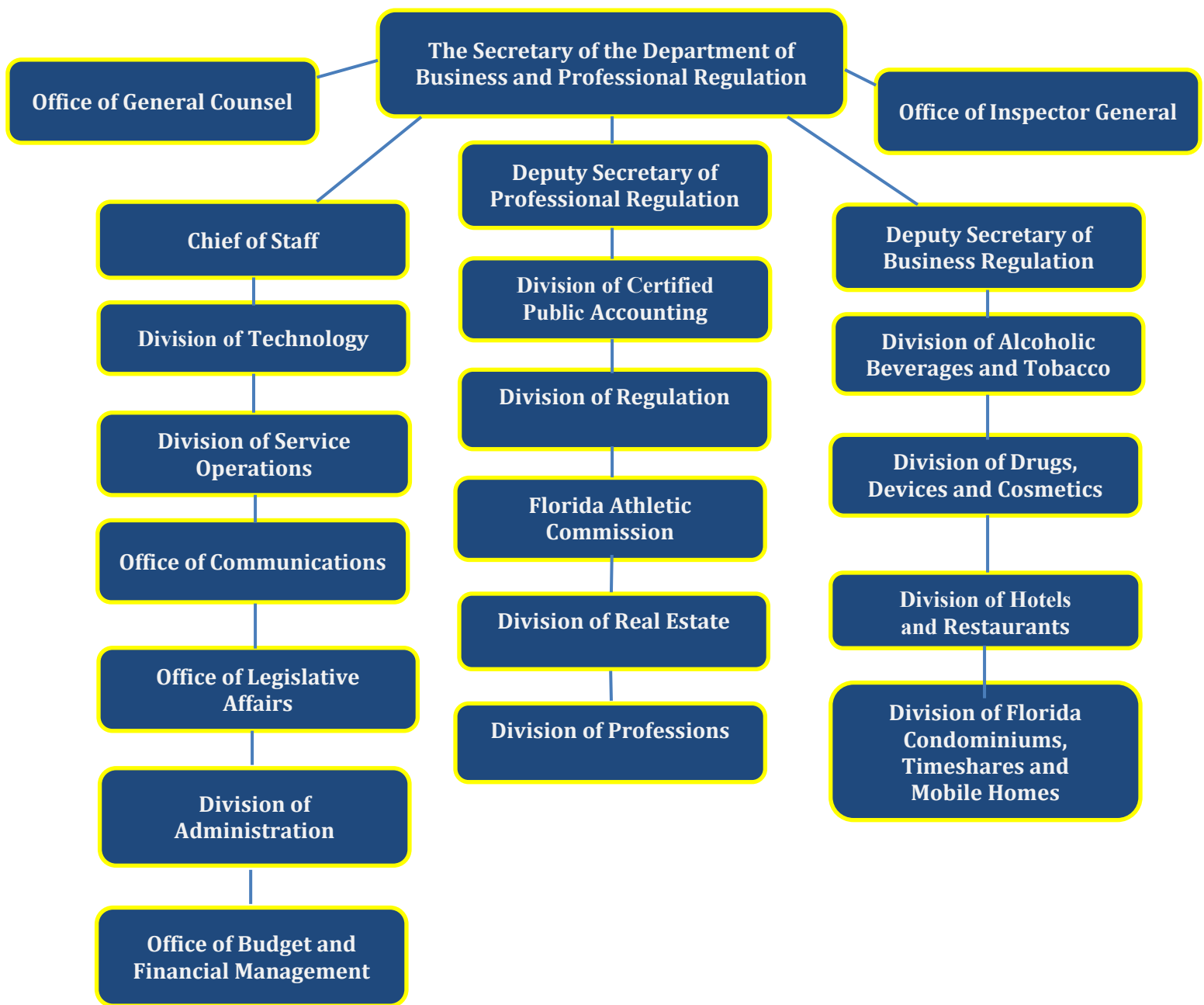
We are approachable and empathetic; we provide timely, accurate and consistent information; and we offer alternative solutions when available.

### **Respect**

We treat our employees and customers with fairness and courtesy and appreciate each person's viewpoint.

### **Teamwork**

We understand, rely upon and cultivate the talents of our colleagues and customers to help us reach our goals.





## Executive Summary

This report was prepared pursuant to section 548.005, Florida Statutes. It details the Commission's long-range planning and monitoring process and provides statistics regarding the professions it regulates. This report also includes estimates of the Commission's revenues, expenditures, cash balances and performance statistics for the next five years.

The Commission licenses and regulates professional boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts, and approves amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts sanctioning organizations. Safety is the Commission's top priority. It ensures that all matches are conducted in accordance with provisions of state laws and rules. It also makes certain that health and safety requirements are met and that matches are competitive and physically safe for participants. During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Commission continued the annual review of rules to ensure the highest levels of safety and to decrease overly burdensome regulation.

Revenue increased over previous years, primarily due to increased tax revenue resulting from major events. The Commission sanctioned 121 professional events, a slight decrease in comparison to the prior fiscal year. The Commission issued 2,975 licenses. There were 103 amateur events in Florida and the Division of Regulation conducted 21 compliance checks on behalf of the Commission.

The Commission continued to achieve the goals established during the previous year. Commission staff continued to conduct orientations for new promoters. In addition, Commission staff continued to conduct post-event audits to ensure the proper licensure of all individuals involved, proper collection of revenue, and verification that medical suspensions were properly reported in the Association of Boxing Commissions and Combative Sports national database.

The Commission remains committed to its mission to protect the health and safety of participants, to improve regulatory processes, and to maintain the integrity of combat sports in Florida.

## Florida Athletic Commission

The Florida Athletic Commission regulates professional boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts, and approves amateur sanctioning organizations pursuant to Chapter 548, Florida Statutes, and Chapter 61K1, Florida Administrative Code. The Commission’s mission is to provide customer-focused services related to the combat sports industry in Florida in order to protect the health and safety of participants and to maintain its integrity.

In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Commission was budgeted \$1,518,605<sup>1</sup> and staffed with five full-time employees: Executive Director, Assistant Executive Director, Government Analyst II, Government Analyst I and Administrative Assistant II. In addition, part-time employees are utilized throughout the state to ensure the health, safety and integrity of Commission-sanctioned matches.

Amateur combat sports continue to be popular in Florida. Amateur sanctioning organizations are licensed to monitor and oversee amateur activities. The Commission is responsible for periodic compliance checks of the approved amateur sanctioning organizations to ensure enforcement of approved health and safety standards and supervision of matches. The Division of Regulation conducts compliance checks on behalf of the Commission. During Fiscal Year 2022-2023, there were 103 amateur events and the Division of Regulation conducted 21 compliance checks.

The Commission collects revenue via license fees, event permit fees, fines, and taxation on gross receipts associated with live events. The number of licenses issued during Fiscal Year 2022-2023, and the number of boxing, kickboxing and mixed marital arts events over the last five years are depicted below.

License Type	Total
Participant	997
Second	1,090
Trainer	506
Manager	77
Promoter	52
Matchmaker	37
Judge	90
Referee	38
Ringside Physician	43
Amateur Sanctioning Organization	45
<b>Total Licenses</b>	<b>2,975</b>

Professional Events	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Boxing	31	22	66	60	60
Kickboxing	1	2	3	0	0
Mixed Martial Arts	27	25	31	71	61
<b>Total Events</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>121</b>

<sup>1</sup> Includes \$1,074,930 from the Professional Regulation Trust Fund and \$443,675 in General Revenue.

## Long-Range Policy Planning and Monitoring Overview

Section 548.005, Florida Statutes, requires the Commission and Department, where appropriate, to develop and implement a long-range policy planning and monitoring process, including estimates of revenues, expenditures, cash balance and performance statistics for each profession. The period covered shall not be less than five years. The Department is required to monitor compliance with the approved long-range plan and provide concise management reports to the Commission quarterly. Detailed copies of the financial management reports and five-year projections are provided herein.

As part of its long-range plan, the Department shall evaluate:

- Whether the Commission is operating efficiently and effectively, and whether there is need to assist the Commission in ensuring cost-effective regulation.
- How and why combat sports are regulated.
- Whether there is a need to continue regulation and to what degree.
- Whether licensee and consumer protection is adequate and how it may be improved.
- Whether unlicensed activity is adequately enforced.

## Efficient and Effective Operations

Section 548.005(2)(a), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate whether the Commission is operating efficiently and effectively.

The Florida Athletic Commission regulates 10 professional license types, including amateur boxing, kickboxing and mixed martial arts sanctioning organizations. The Commission collects revenue via license fees, event permit fees, fines, and taxation on gross receipts associated with live events.

The Commission continued to achieve the goals established during the previous year, which include:

- Commission staff conducted orientations with new promoters. This included explaining health and safety regulations, staffing and officials' needs, and ring and cage set-up requirements. In addition, Commission staff strived to improve the service provided to promoters by conducting a pre-event meeting to address pending issues, as well as a post-event meeting to address the overall event outcome.
- Commission staff conducted post-event audits to ensure the individuals involved were properly licensed, all medical records were collected, and medical suspensions were properly processed.
- Investigators received training to ensure they are up to date on the latest safety standards. Training makes Florida's investigators among the most knowledgeable in the industry.
- Commission staff performed timely audits of each post-event tax report filed with the Commission to ensure the proper collection of revenue.

## Regulation and Consumer Protection

Section 548.005(2)(b)-(d), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate how and why combat sports are regulated, whether there is a need to continue regulation and to what degree, and whether consumer protection is adequate and how it may be improved.

Section 11.62(2), Florida Statutes, provides that the intent of the Florida Legislature is that no profession or occupation be subject to regulation by the state unless the regulation is necessary to protect the public health, safety or welfare from significant and discernable harm or damage, and that the police power of the state be exercised only to the extent necessary for that purpose. The statute also provides that no profession or occupation be regulated by the state in a manner that unnecessarily restricts entry into the practice of the profession or occupation or adversely affects the availability of the professional or occupational services to the public.

Department regulatory activities are designed to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Regulatory oversight is appropriate to enforce the specific qualifications for each license type, to accept and investigate complaints against licensees, and to provide support to the Commission in rulemaking and disciplinary proceedings. The Department is continuously working to improve customer service and to reduce regulatory barriers while maintaining a high standard of consumer protection.

The Commission works with the Department's Division of Regulation and Office of General Counsel to provide complaint intake, investigation and prosecution of violations of Chapter 548, Florida Statutes. To improve customer service and accountability, the Commission conducted rule workshops to evaluate Rule Chapter 61K1, Florida Administrative Code, to obtain input from licensees, and to conduct rule review to address the continually evolving national standards of combat sports.

## Unlicensed Activity Program

Section 548.005(2)(e), Florida Statutes, requires the Department to evaluate whether unlicensed activity is adequately enforced. With a duty to protect the health, safety and welfare of Florida citizens and visitors, the Department places great emphasis on unlicensed activity through proactive efforts and investigations.

Officials assigned by the Commission ensure the integrity of sanctioned professional events. The Commission is required by section 548.017, Florida Statutes, to ensure that all referees, judges, and other officials are Florida-licensed. The Florida Administrative Code sets forth licensing requirements for these officials and specifically notes that no person may act as a referee (61K1-3.012), judge (61K1-3.008) or ringside physician (61K1-3.004) without first obtaining the appropriate license. A promoter, matchmaker, manager, participant, second and trainer must be licensed as well.

Commission office staff, inspectors, and event coordinators utilize the following processes to curtail unlicensed activity:

- Pre-event audit of Commission records to ensure each referee, judge, ringside physician, promoter, matchmaker and manager is properly licensed. This includes verification a ringside physician holds an active medical license that is unencumbered and in good standing.
- Post-event audit of Commission records to ensure each participant, second and trainer was properly licensed prior to the event or submitted a proper license application at the event.
- During professional events, Commission inspectors utilize checklists and wristbands to ensure all individuals in and around a ring, cage and dressing room are licensed.



STATE OF FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION  
FLORIDA ATHLETIC COMMISSION  
OPERATING ACCOUNT  
ACTUAL AND PROJECTED REVENUES, EXPENSES  
AND CHANGES IN ACCOUNT BALANCE  
FISCAL YEARS ENDING JUNE 30, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028

	Actual										Projected			
	JUNE 30 2019	JUNE 30 2020	JUNE 30 2021	JUNE 30 2022	JUNE 30 2023	JUNE 30 2024	JUNE 30 2025	JUNE 30 2026	JUNE 30 2027	JUNE 30 2028	JUNE 30 2028	JUNE 30 2028	JUNE 30 2028	JUNE 30 2028
<b>REVENUES</b>														
Fees and Charges	\$ 111,845	\$ 114,405	\$ 216,385	\$ 246,790	\$ 238,910	\$ 234,028	\$ 239,909	\$ 237,616	\$ 237,184	\$ 238,236				
Licenses	76,990	77,865	119,195	141,445	130,790	130,477	134,237	131,835	132,183	132,752				
Post-Event Taxes	273,975	349,709	595,282	1,377,063	1,600,349	1,190,898	1,389,443	1,393,564	1,324,635	1,369,214				
Fines	5,343	4,717	13,911	11,188	14,865	13,315	13,117	13,766	13,399	13,427				
Investment Interest	654	1,854	855	394	898	2,790	7,952	19,169	24,469	30,072				
Refund Revenue	115	137	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Unassigned	15,882	4,927	(41,629)	298	3,876	-	-	-	-	-				
Other Revenues	7,379	12,290	65,547	21,580	46,471	-	-	-	-	-				
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>492,183</b>	<b>585,705</b>	<b>989,530</b>	<b>1,798,759</b>	<b>2,036,158</b>	<b>1,571,508</b>	<b>1,784,658</b>	<b>1,795,949</b>	<b>1,731,891</b>	<b>1,783,701</b>				
<b>EXPENSES</b>														
Commission Office														
Commission Administrative Office	611,326	596,266	745,953	939,531	950,286	876,591	922,803	917,227	906,207	915,413				
Refunds	22,089	4,595	3,951	5,947	21,750	-	-	-	-	-				
Service Charge to General Revenue	36,827	48,628	59,265	161,318	166,294	125,721	142,773	143,676	138,551	142,686				
Attorney General	13,572	12,875	13,095	21,959	12,585	15,880	16,808	15,091	15,926	15,942				
Investigations	55,021	23,181	22,829	75,844	61,809	53,484	63,716	59,673	58,961	60,783				
Call Center	2,462	1,728	1,631	802	1,178	1,204	1,061	1,148	1,138	1,116				
Central Intake	10,994	214	1,422	1,553	1,462	1,479	1,488	1,479	1,485	1,487				
Bank Charges	3,458	3,951	6,768	7,152	7,856	7,259	7,422	7,512	7,398	7,444				
Department Administrative Costs														
Administration	55,561	42,755	55,191	80,777	56,457	64,808	66,014	63,760	65,527	65,787				
General Counsel/Legal	6,947	5,784	5,889	11,476	9,722	8,982	10,053	9,579	9,532	9,721				
Information Technology	38,815	17,439	11,615	18,308	20,356	16,760	18,475	18,530	17,921	18,309				
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>869,071</b>	<b>765,418</b>	<b>927,428</b>	<b>1,324,667</b>	<b>1,311,757</b>	<b>1,174,157</b>	<b>1,252,623</b>	<b>1,237,676</b>	<b>1,222,647</b>	<b>1,238,678</b>				
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenses	<b>(366,888)</b>	<b>(189,713)</b>	<b>42,102</b>	<b>474,092</b>	<b>724,400</b>	<b>397,351</b>	<b>532,035</b>	<b>558,273</b>	<b>509,244</b>	<b>545,023</b>				
<b>TRANSFERS</b>														
Cash Bonds to Promoters	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
<b>Total Transfers</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>				
<b>CHANGE IN ACCOUNT BALANCE</b>	<b>(366,888)</b>	<b>(189,713)</b>	<b>42,102</b>	<b>474,092</b>	<b>724,400</b>	<b>397,351</b>	<b>532,035</b>	<b>558,273</b>	<b>509,244</b>	<b>545,023</b>				
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCE, Beginning of Period</b>	<b>(61,780)</b>	<b>25,007</b>	<b>278,989</b>	<b>321,070</b>	<b>795,161</b>	<b>1,519,562</b>	<b>1,916,913</b>	<b>2,448,948</b>	<b>3,007,221</b>	<b>3,516,465</b>				
Transfer in from General Revenue	443,675	443,675	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
Transfer in from General Revenue Non Recurring	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCE, End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 25,007</b>	<b>\$ 278,966</b>	<b>\$ 321,070</b>	<b>\$ 795,161</b>	<b>\$ 1,519,562</b>	<b>\$ 1,916,913</b>	<b>\$ 2,448,948</b>	<b>\$ 3,007,221</b>	<b>\$ 3,516,465</b>	<b>\$ 4,061,488</b>				