

Gambling in Canada

- Gambling is completely under the control of the provincial and/or territorial governments
- Net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals (VLTs), casinos and slot machines not in casinos rose steadily from \$2.73 billion in 1992, before levelling off and remaining at around \$13.7 billion since 2007 (\$13.74 billion in 2010).¹
- Net revenue from pari-mutuel betting (horse racing) dropped from \$532 million to \$315 million over the same period (1992 to 2010).¹
- Net revenue from casinos continued to represent one-third of the gambling industry (34%) in 2010, while revenue and representation were up for lotteries (27%), stable for slot machines outside casinos (mainly at racetracks) (21%) and down for VLTs for the fifth straight year (19%).¹
- Average gambling revenue per person 18 and over in 2009 ranged from \$120 in the three territories to \$855 in Saskatchewan, with a national average of \$515.¹
- Compared with workers in non-gambling industries, those in gambling were more likely to be between age 15 and 34 (42% versus 36%), be paid by the hour (80% versus 65%), be paid less (\$21.95 hourly versus \$24.05), and receive tips at their jobs (27% versus 7%).¹
- Men increased their share of employment in the gambling industry from 35% in 1992 to 53% in 2010. Similarly the rate of full-time jobs increased from 60% to 81% between the two years.¹
- Around 6 in 10 women and men living alone reported spending money on at least one gambling activity; however, on average men spent almost twice as much as women—\$615 compared with \$335.¹
- Gambling participation and average expenditures increased with household income. For example, 46% of households with incomes of less than \$20,000 gambled in 2009 and spent an average of \$390, while equivalent figures for those with incomes of \$80,000 or more were 75% and \$620.¹
- Gambling in Canada is Canada's largest entertainment industry and is roughly the same (economic) size as film, television, music and professional sports, combined.²

About GREO

Gambling Research Exchange Ontario (GREO) is an independent knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) organization that aims to eliminate harm from gambling. We create and translate credible research to support evidence-informed decision making in responsible gambling policies, standards, and practice.

For more information, please email info@greo.ca.

¹ Statistics Canada (September 2011). [Perspectives on labour and income: Gambling](#).

² Wood, R.T. and Williams, R.J. (January 2009). [Internet Gambling: Prevalence, patterns, problems and policy options](#). Final report for OPGRC.