

# Gambling, 2010

*Katherine Marshall*

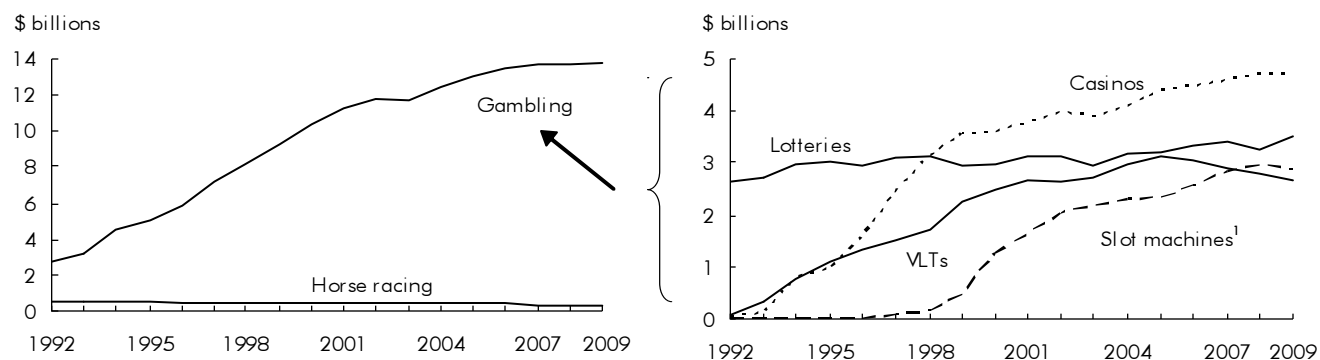
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- Net revenue from government-run lotteries, video lottery terminals (VLTs), casinos and slot machines not in casinos rose steadily from \$2.73 billion in 1992, before levelling off and remaining at around \$13.7 billion since 2007 (\$13.75 billion in 2009).<sup>1</sup>
- Net revenue from pari-mutuel betting (horse racing) dropped from \$532 million to \$355 million over the same period (1992 to 2009).
- Net revenue from casinos continued to represent one-third of the gambling industry (34%) in 2009, while revenue and representation were up for lotteries (26%) and down slightly for both slot machines outside casinos (mainly at racetracks) (21%) and VLTs (19%).
- Average gambling revenue per person 18 and over in 2008 ranged from \$115 in the three territories to \$830 in Saskatchewan, with a national average of \$520.<sup>2</sup>
- Compared with workers in non-gambling industries, those in gambling were more likely to have a high school education or less (53% versus 40%), be paid by the hour (85% versus 65%), be paid less (\$20.25 hourly versus \$23.55), and receive tips at their jobs (31% versus 7%).
- Men increased their share of employment in the gambling industry from 35% in 1992 to 51% in 2009. Similarly the rate of full-time jobs increased from 60% to 82% between the two years.<sup>3</sup>
- Around 6 in 10 women and men living alone reported spending money on at least one gambling activity; however, on average the men spent more than women—\$560 compared with \$455.
- Gambling participation and average expenditures increased with household income. For example, 51% of households with incomes of less than \$20,000 gambled in 2008 and spent an average of \$395, while equivalent figures for those with incomes of \$80,000 or more were 78% and \$555.

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**Chart A Net revenue from government-run gambling has levelled off recently**



1. Refers to those found outside government-run casinos.  
Source: Statistics Canada, National Accounts.

**Table 1 Gambling revenues and profits**

	Gambling revenue <sup>1</sup>		Gambling profit <sup>2</sup>		Share of total revenue <sup>3</sup>		Revenue per capita (18 and over) <sup>4</sup>	
	1992	2008	1992	2009	1992	2007	1992	2008
	\$ millions (current)				%		\$	
<b>Canada</b>	<b>2,734</b>	<b>13,665</b>	<b>1,680</b>	<b>6,747</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>4.7</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>520</b>
Newfoundland and Labrador	80	198	42	103	2.3	2.9	190	480
Prince Edward Island	20	43	7	16	2.7	3.2	210	385
Nova Scotia	125	317	72	144	2.8	3.9	180	420
New Brunswick	117	219	49	137	2.7	3.1	210	365
Quebec	693	2,744	472	1,419	1.8	3.6	130	440
Ontario	853	4,733	529	1,716	1.9	4.8	105	465
Manitoba	153	639	105	305	2.5	5.3	185	690
Saskatchewan	62	643	39	343	1.1	5.8	85	830
Alberta	225	2,205	125	1,479	1.6	6.2	120	790
British Columbia	403	1,915	239	1,078	2.2	5.6	155	540
Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut	5	9	1	7	0.3	0.3	80	115

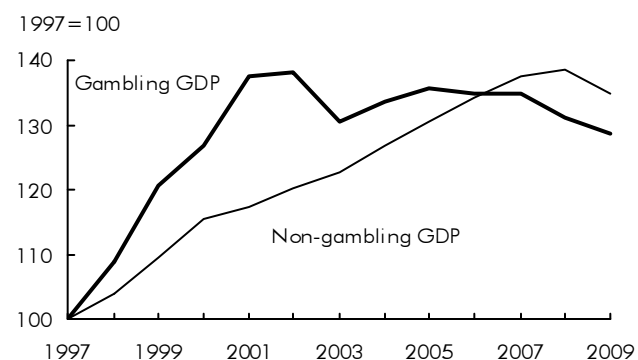
1. Total revenue from wagers on all government-controlled gambling, such as lotteries, casinos and VLTs, minus prizes and winnings. Revisions to provincial estimates will occur in November 2010.  
2. Net income of provincial governments from total gambling revenue, less operating and other expenses (see Data sources and definitions).  
3. The 2007 share of total revenue calculation is based on 2007 gambling revenue and 2007 total provincial revenue. The 2008 provincial revenue will be available in November 2010.  
4. Persons 18 and over were selected as this is the legal age of gambling in most provinces.  
Sources: Statistics Canada, National Accounts, Public Institutions (Financial management statistics) and post-censal population estimates.

**Table 2 Characteristics of workers**

	Gambling <sup>1</sup>		Non-gambling	
	1992	2009	1992	2009
			thousand	
<b>Total employed</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>12,720</b>	<b>16,806</b>
			%	
<b>Sex</b>				
Men	35	51	55	52
Women	65	49	45	48
<b>Age</b>				
15 to 34	57	39	45	36
35 and over	43	61	55	64
<b>Education</b>				
High school or less	66	53	57	40
Postsecondary certificate or diploma	21	31	27	35
University degree	13	15	16	25
<b>Work status</b>				
Full-time	60	82	81	81
Part-time	40	18	19	19
<b>Provinces</b>				
Atlantic provinces	8	3	7	7
Quebec	F	16	24	23
Ontario	28	37	39	39
Prairies	30	26	17	18
British Columbia	25	17	13	13
<b>Class of worker</b>				
Employee	99	97	85	84
Self-employed	F	F	15	16

1. Employment at racetracks and 'racinos' (racetracks with slots and/or other gaming activities) is excluded. These activities are coded under 'spectator sports.'

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

**Chart B Gambling GDP turned down before the rest of the economy**

Note: The price, at basic prices, of the goods and services produced. The GDP figures for the gambling industry refer strictly to wagering activities, such as lottery ticket sales, VLT receipt sales, and bets at casinos. Other economic spinoffs, such as hotel and restaurant business, security services and building and equipment maintenance are not included.

Source: Statistics Canada, National Accounts.

**Table 3 Characteristics of jobs**

	Gambling		Non-gambling	
	1997	2009	1997	2009
			thousand	
<b>Employees<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11,323</b>	<b>14,106</b>
			%	
Unionized <sup>2</sup>	29	30	34	31
Non-unionized	71	70	66	69
Permanent job	91	93	89	87
Temporary job	9	7	11	13
Usually receive tips	27	31	7	7
No tips	73	69	93	93
Paid by the hour	80	85	61	65
Not paid by the hour	20	15	39	35
<b>Average hourly earnings,<sup>3</sup> full-time</b>			\$	
Both sexes	13.30	20.25	16.55	23.55
Men	13.75	21.70	17.85	25.05
Women	12.90	18.60	14.75	21.70

1. More detailed questions on employees were introduced with the 1997 revision of the Labour Force Survey.

2. Includes persons who are not union members, but whose jobs are covered by collective agreements.

3. Includes tips and commissions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

**Table 4 Household expenditures on gambling activities**

	At least one gambling activity		Government lotteries		Other lotteries/raffles, etc.		Casinos, slot machines and VLTs		Bingos	
	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%	\$	%
<b>All households</b>										
2000	490	74	240	63	80	31	525	21	730	9
2001	515	72	250	61	95	29	535	20	795	9
2002	570	73	250	63	125	30	680	21	900	7
2003	505	74	235	64	95	28	650	19	800	8
2004	515	71	260	61	100	28	655	19	800	6
2005	550	69	250	60	140	26	710	17	945	6
2006	495	73	255	64	110	28	685	19	520	6
2007 <sup>1</sup>	645	52	280	48	125	17	850	17	790	4
2008	480	70	250	62	110	25	695	18	655	5
<b>One-person households<sup>2</sup></b>										
Men	560	64	290	55	130	18	925	17	835	2
18 to 44	270	59	135	49	115	19	355	20	F	F
45 to 64	680	71	365	64	115	21	1,220	16	F	F
65 and over	945	63	445	55	235	13	2,180	14	F	F
Women	455	58	170	49	60	16	970	13	600	7
18 to 44	525	55	135	45	45	17	1,005	20	F	F
45 to 64	390	66	165	59	75	20	670	12	1,385	5
65 and over	470	55	195	43	60	14	1,140	11	435	9
<b>All households</b>										
Newfoundland and Labrador	455	75	270	63	85	36	635	8	665	14
Prince Edward Island	400	73	250	61	95	42	450	11	440	11
Nova Scotia	410	76	215	63	100	45	440	16	815	7
New Brunswick	450	72	300	61	85	39	350	8	800	10
Quebec	390	71	245	67	65	16	780	11	380	5
Ontario	490	71	260	62	115	24	590	21	715	4
Manitoba	580	72	245	59	120	36	650	24	885	9
Saskatchewan	720	76	220	62	125	48	1,050	27	825	7
Alberta	645	64	275	55	165	32	915	19	1,140	3
British Columbia	460	65	220	58	90	25	745	19	425	3
<b>Income after tax</b>										
Less than \$20,000	395	51	150	42	50	11	1,090	10	465	6
\$20,000 to \$39,999	500	66	270	57	75	15	730	16	745	7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	475	73	260	66	105	28	555	20	785	5
\$60,000 to \$79,999	390	77	255	71	110	29	370	20	490	4
\$80,000 and over	555	78	260	69	130	40	870	21	605	2

1. New screening questions were added in 2007 to reduce the response burden, but for some categories, including games of chance, the response rate was lower than expected. These screening questions were modified for 2008. See catalogue no. 62F0026M, no. 1 for more details.

2. Using one-person households allows examination of individual characteristics. Persons 18 and over were selected as this is the legal age for gambling in most provinces.

Note: Expenditures are per spending household. Unless otherwise indicated, figures are for 2008.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Household Spending.

## Data sources and definitions

**Labour Force Survey:** a monthly household survey that collects information on labour market activity, including detailed occupational and industrial classifications, from all persons 15 years and over.

**National Accounts:** The quarterly Income and Expenditure Accounts (IEA) is one of several programs constituting the System of National Accounts. The IEA produces detailed annual and quarterly income and expenditure accounts for all sectors of the Canadian economy, namely households, businesses, governments and non-residents.

**Survey of Household Spending (SHS):** an annual survey that began in 1997 and replaced the Family Expenditure Survey and the Household Facilities and Equipment Survey. The SHS collects data on expenditures, income, household facilities and equipment, and other characteristics of families and individuals living in private households.

**Gambling industries:** This industry group covers establishments primarily engaged in operating gambling facilities, such as casinos, bingo halls and video gaming terminals, or providing gambling services, such as lotteries and off-track betting. It excludes horse race tracks and hotels, bars and restaurants that have casinos or gambling machines on the premises.

**Gambling profit:** net income from all provincial and territorial government-controlled gambling, such as lotteries, casinos and VLTs after prizes and winnings, operating expenses

(including wages and salaries), payments to the federal government, other overhead costs, and other expenses are deducted. Other expenses includes categories such as 'special payments' or 'win contributions,' which vary by province and can influence profit rates.

**Gambling revenue:** all money wagered on provincial and territorial government-run lotteries, casinos and VLTs, less prizes and winnings. Gambling revenue generated by and for charities and on Indian reserves is excluded.

**Government casino:** a government-regulated commercial casino. Permits, licences and regulations for casinos, both charity and government, vary by province. Government casinos, now permitted in several provinces, also vary by the degree of public and private involvement in their operations and management. Some government casinos are run entirely as Crown corporations, while others contract some operations—for example, maintenance, management or services—to the private sector.

**Video lottery terminal (VLT):** a coin-operated, free-standing, electronic game of chance. Winnings are paid out through receipts that are turned in for cash, as opposed to cash payments from slot machines. Such terminals are regulated by provincial lottery corporations.

**Table 5 Household expenditures on all gambling activities by income group, 2008**

	Average expenditure		Percentage reporting	Gaming as % of total income	
	All households	Reporting households		All households	Reporting households
<b>Income after tax</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>
		\$		%	
Less than \$20,000	200	395	51	1.5	2.8
\$20,000 to \$39,999	330	500	66	1.1	1.7
\$40,000 to \$59,999	345	475	73	0.7	1.0
\$60,000 to \$79,999	305	390	77	0.4	0.6
\$80,000 and over	430	555	78	0.4	0.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Household Spending.

## Notes

1. Refers to total money wagered on all non-charity government-controlled gambling, such as lotteries, casinos and VLTs, minus prizes and winnings.
2. Survey of Household Spending (SHS) and National Accounts rankings of provincial expenditures differ, in part because the SHS includes both charity and non-charity gambling activity.
3. Employment at racetracks and 'racinos' (racetracks with slots and/or other gaming activities) is excluded. These activities are coded under 'spectator sports.'