

Economic Benefits

Value added

An industry's contribution to the national economy is measured by its share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). There is no GDP calculation for gambling in the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) measurements, and subsequently the Productivity Commission undertook an estimate in 1997-98. The value-added (in basic prices) from gambling was estimated to be \$3.5 billion, while value-added (at producers' prices), which took into account taxation, was estimated to be \$7.3 billion, or 1.5% of GDP.¹

Estimated value added (basic prices) from gambling in Australia (1997-98)¹

Gambling type	\$ million
Lotteries	342
Casinos	632
TABs & bookmakers ²	764
Clubs ³	1,411
Hotels ³	400
Total	3,549

Estimated value added from the casino industry in Australia (2006-07 and 2005-06)⁴

	2006-07	2005-06
	\$ billion	
Wages and salaries	1.017	0.830
Taxation contribution	1.006	0.957
Other value added	0.884	0.678
Total	2.907	2.465

In 2006-07, the Australian casino industry directly contributed over \$2.9 billion to GDP, compared with a \$2.5 billion contribution in 2005-06.

Employment

In 1998, the ABS stated that gambling businesses employed over 220,000 Australians, 47,000 in businesses predominantly serving gambling, such as lotteries and casinos, and 120,000 in hotels and clubs that offer gambling in their range of services. It was estimated that 70,000 hotel and club staff deliver gambling services and that gaming generates a significant proportion of the other entertainment provided in those venues.

A large proportion of jobs in hotels, clubs and casinos are taken up by first time job seekers, older adults, women and part-time employees. These venues offer excellent training in hospitality, and foster skills that are transferable to other industries.

Casinos

The number of employees in the casino industry in Australia totalled 19,917⁴ in 2006-07.

Lotteries

In Employment in lottery agencies across Australia in 2004-05 is estimated at 7,104⁵ people.

Estimated employment in Australian pub and club businesses (2004-05)⁶

Jurisdiction	Pub and Employees ⁷	Club
New South Wales	59,228	
Victoria	19,106	
South Australia	26,534	
Western Australia	11,090	
Tasmania	3,674	
Australian Capital Territory	120	
Northern Territory	294	
Australia	125,105	

Estimated employment in Australian racing industry (various years)⁸

Business	Employees
Trainers	5,463
Jockeys	718
Apprentices	235
Race club staff	15,545
On-course totalisator staff	2,880
Registered bookmakers	638
Bookmakers' assistants	3,122
Thoroughbred racing industry ⁹	28,601

Taxation

Gambling specific taxes in 2005-06 across all states and territories in Australia totalled \$4.7 billion¹⁰.

1 Productivity Commission (1999) Australia's Gambling Industries, Report No. 10, 26 November 1999.

2 This includes "other".

3 Estimates do not take into account that gambling services may attract increased expenditure on non-gambling services such as meals and drinks.

4 Australasian Casino Association (2008), Australian Casino Industry Report FY2007.

5 Based on industry interviews.

6 Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006) Clubs, Pubs, Taverns and Bars, Australian Bureau of Statistics (2006), Gambling Industries, Australia, 2004-05, Cat. no 8684.0, ABS, Canberra.

7 Businesses with gambling facilities are those providing either poker/gaming machines, TAB facilities and/or keno services to patrons.

8 Australian Racing Board (2001), Size and Scope of the Australian Thoroughbred Industry Australian Racing Board (2007) and industry interviews.

9 Selected statistics.

10 Office of Economic and Statistical Research (2008), Australian Gambling Statistics 2007.