

Gambling Participation

Australia

In 1999 the Productivity Commission undertook a wide-ranging study of gambling in Australia. Part of this report was a national survey of gambling participation.

The Productivity Commission estimated that 82% of Australian adults participated in at least one form of gambling activity during 1997-98. Specifically, 38.6% of adults participated in gaming machine play, while 24.3% bet on horse or greyhound racing. Lotteries had the highest participation rate of all gambling forms in Australia (60%) followed by instant scratch tickets (46.2%). Also popular was keno with 15.9% of adults participating, table games at casinos (10.3%) and betting on sporting events (6.3%).¹

No comparable national survey has been conducted, however many of the states and territories have conducted surveys into gambling participation within their jurisdiction.

Australian Capital Territory

An ACT survey undertaken in 2001² reported that a territory participation level in gambling was then estimated at 72.9%.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	48.4
Scratch Tickets	43.4
Gaming Machines	38.1
Racing	23.3
Keno	6.9
Casino Table Games	10
Sports Betting	5.9
Total Gambling	72.9

New South Wales

The 2006 NSW Gambling Prevalence Survey conducted by ACNielsen³ found that 69% of the NSW adult population had gambled at least once during the previous year.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	56
Gaming Machines	31
Racing	20
Keno	11
Casino Table Games	5
Sports Betting	8
Total Gambling	69

Northern Territory

A study conducted in 2005⁴ found that 73% of adult residents in the Northern Territory participated in at least one gambling activity during the 12 month period preceding the survey.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	53
Scratch Tickets	29
Gaming Machines	27
Racing	19
Keno	23
Casino Table Games	10
Sports Betting	6
Total Gambling	73

Queensland

The recently released Queensland Household Gambling Survey, 2006-07⁵ found that 75% of the state residents had gambled during the last 12 months.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	62
Art Union Tickets	25
Gaming Machines	30
Racing	16
Keno	16
Casino Table Games	5
Sports Betting	5
Total Gambling	75

South Australia

Gambling participation in South Australia was studied between October and December 2005⁶. This study showed the overall gambling participation rate of South Australian adults to be 70%.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	52
Scratch Tickets	24.4
Gaming Machines	30
Racing	18.6
Keno	8
Casino Table Games	5.2
Sports Betting	4.2
Total Gambling	70

Tasmania

In June 2006 Roy Morgan Research⁷ found Tasmanian gambling participation was 85%.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	60
Scratch Tickets	32
Gaming Machines	29
Racing	26
Keno	21
Casino Table Games	5
Sports Betting	5
Total Gambling	85

Victoria

The 2003 Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey⁸ found some 77.4% of Victorians had participated in gambling over the previous 12 month period.

Gambling Type	% of the Population
Lotteries	60.5
Scratch Tickets	33.9
Gaming Machines	33.5
Racing	28.2
Keno	5.1
Casino Table Games	7.3
Sports Betting	5.6
Total Gambling	77.4

Western Australia

In the absence of any recent comprehensive study, the only available participation figures for Western Australia remain those of the Productivity Commission Report in 1999. Owing to the configuration of the Western Australian gambling environment, participation rates across a number of the categories differ. For example EGM gambling is permitted only in the one casino in this state and thus has an estimated participation rate of only 16% - lower than other jurisdictions and below the national average.

With regard to overall participation rates however, Western Australia has been rated in some areas with significantly greater participation than the national average – especially with regard to lotteries and scratch tickets, with participation rates of 74% and 53% respectively.

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

2 Australian Institute for Gambling Research (2001). Survey of the Nature and Extent of Gambling and Problem Gambling in the ACT, 2001

3 NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing, Department of Arts, Sport and Recreation (2006) Prevalence of Gambling and Problem Gambling in NSW – A Community Survey, 2007.

4 Charles Darwin University School for Social and Policy Research and School of Health Sciences (2006) An Overview of Gambling in the Northern Territory, 2006.

5 Queensland Government, Research and Community Engagement Division (2008), Queensland Household Gambling Survey 2006-07, 2008.

6 Government of South Australia Department for Family and Communities (2006) Gambling Prevalence in South Australia Oct-Dec 2005.

7 Roy Morgan Research (2006) The Fourth Study into the impact of Gambling on Tasmania with Particular Reference to Problem Gambling.

8 Australian National University, Centre for Gambling Research (2004), 2003 Victorian Longitudinal Community Attitudes Survey, Gambling Research Panel Report No. 6