

Online Gambling

Overview

- Around 1 in 5 adults worldwide have tried online gambling as of 2025. This equals approximately 882 million people worldwide who have gambled online.¹
- The online global gambling market is projected to reach \$117.5 billion by end of 2025, growing at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 12.3%, and is expected to reach \$186.58 billion by 2029.²
- Between 2024 to 2025, the online gambling market grew from \$106.22 billion to \$117.5 billion, marking a 10.6% year-over-year growth.²
- As of 2025, 80% of online gambling users access platforms through smartphones.²
- As of 2025, the United States has 7 states that have fully legalized online casino games and poker. Whereas 30 US states legalized online sports betting between 2018 and 2024.³
- In August 2021, the Canadian federal government legalized single-event sports betting by passing Bill C-218 and it is now available in all provinces.
- Research shows that players who set spending limits when gambling online and who have an accurate understanding of the games that they play, also report the most satisfying online gambling experiences.

Legality in Canada

- Section 206 of the Criminal Code of Canada makes it illegal to operate or place a bet through an offshore online casino. Gambling must be authorized by a province.

- Under section 207 of the Criminal Code of Canada, provincial governments are permitted to conduct and manage computer-based lottery schemes like online gambling and offer them to their own residents in accordance with provincial laws.

Canadian Overview

- Three out of four adult Canadians (74%) gambled at least once in the past year.⁴
- Online gambling is the third most popular way to gamble in Canada (after lottery play and electronic gaming machines), with 27% gambling online in the past year and 14% gambling monthly.
- Online gambling is more common among younger people: 47% of those aged 18-34 gamble online, and 28% gamble exclusively online. In contrast, people aged 55 and older are more likely to gamble only in person (63%).⁵
- Atlantic Lottery was the first provincially owned lottery corporation to have a transactional website, launched in 2004. The provincial government in British Columbia, through the British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC), was the first province in Canada to offer casino-style games online in July 2010. New Brunswick was the first Atlantic province to launch casino style games in August 2020.
- Over 90% of Canadians now have access to regulated online casino-style games.

¹ The Lancet <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667%2824%2900167-1/fulltext>

² The Business Research Company <https://blog.tbrc.info/2025/02/online-gambling-market-size-2/>

³ Statista <https://www.statista.com/topics/9667/online-gambling-in-the-united-states/#topicOverview>

⁴ Mental Health Research Canada

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5f31a311d93d0f2e28aaf04a/t/6758554dbd98a04b86ea1fb0/1733842255109/Full+version+MHRC+Mental+Health+During+Covid+and+Beyond+Poll+22.pdf>

- Below is a summary of the online games offered by provincially owned lottery corporations in Canada.

AREA	Lottery	Bingo	Sports	Casino	Poker
Nova Scotia	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
New Brunswick	✓	✓	✓	✓	-
Newfoundland & Labrador	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Prince Edward Island	✓	✓	✓	-	-
Québec	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ontario	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Saskatchewan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Alberta	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Manitoba	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
British Columbia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- BCLC, Loto-Québec and Manitoba Lotteries joined the Canadian Poker Network, the first regulated poker network in North America, allowing players from the three provinces to play at the same online tables.

Nova Scotia

- As part of the 2011 Responsible Gaming Strategy the Nova Scotia government announced it would consider existing and emerging research related to Internet gambling to better understand the trend and determine best practices and policies with respect to regulation. Online casino-style games were launched in Nova Scotia in July 2022.