

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 was estimated at \$130.2 billion in 2025 and is projected to grow from \$143 billion in 2026 to \$212 billion by 2030, representing a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 10.4% from 2026-2030.²
- As of 2026, 80% of online gambling players use smartphones as their primary device.³
- As of 2026, the United States has 8 states that have fully legalized online casino games and poker. Whereas 33 US states legalized online sports betting between 2018 and 2026.³
- In August 2021, the Canadian federal government legalized single-event sports betting by passing Bill C-218, which 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.

- Ontario became the first Canadian province to open a regulated competitive online-gambling market to private operators in April 2022, followed by Alberta in July 2026.

Canadian Overview

- Three out of four adult Canadians (74.5%) gambled at least once in the past year.⁴ Online gambling is substantially more common among younger Canadians. In a national survey conducted in late 2024, 32% of adults aged 18–29 and 27% of those aged 30–39 reported gambling online during the preceding year, compared with 16.4% of adults aged 50–64 and 7.9% of those aged 65 or older.⁴
- 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.
- Below is a summary of the online games offered by provincially owned lottery corporations in Canada.

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

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

² The Business Research Company <https://www.thebusinessresearchcompany.com/report/online-gambling-global-market-report>

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

⁴ Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse and Addiction <https://www.ccsa.ca/sites/default/files/2025-11/CCSA-Gambling-Report-Nov-2025-en.pdf>

- Atlantic Lottery discontinued online bingo in March 2026.

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. Live dealer casino games were launched in Nova Scotia in December 2025.