



A GUIDE TO AUSTRALASIA'S GAMBLING INDUSTRIES

Facts, Figures and Statistics

CHAPTER THREE

Australia's Gambling Expenditure

2019/20

A Guide to Australasia's Gambling Industries

Published and Prepared by the Australasian Gaming Council (AGC).



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Chapter 3

Australia's Gambling Expenditure

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Version Control

| Version | Date | Explanation |
|---------|--------------|---|
| 2016-17 | May 2019 | 2016-17 Edition. Updated with statistics from <i>Australian Gambling Statistics</i> , 34th Edition. |
| 2017-18 | January 2020 | 2017-18 Edition. Updated with statistics from <i>Australian Gambling Statistics</i> , 35th Edition. |
| 2018-19 | May 2021 | 2018-19 Edition. Updated with statistics from <i>Australian Gambling Statistics</i> , 36th Edition. |
| 2019-20 | January 2023 | 2019-20 Edition. Updated with statistics from <i>Australian Gambling Statistics</i> , 37th Edition. |

OVERVIEW

Aggregate and per capita expenditure – summary

Table 3-1 Summary: Aggregate and per capita gambling expenditure in Australia by state/territory (2019-20)

| | | Casino ¹ | Gaming machines ² | Keno | Lotteries ³ | Minor Gaming | Wagering | Interactive Gaming | All |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| ACT | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 18.419 | 126.125 | 31.230 | 22.700 | - | 80.088 | - | 278.562 |
| Per capita | \$ | 55.27 | 378.49 | 93.72 | 68.12 | - | 240.34 | - | 835.95 |
| NSW | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 1,047.356 | 5,560.616 | 123.773 | 718.519 | - | 2,124.437 | - | 9,574.701 |
| Per capita | \$ | 164.96 | 875.82 | 19.49 | 113.17 | - | 334.61 | - | 1,508.05 |
| NT | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 72.704 | 90.762 | 9.931 | 48.570 | - | 23.741 | 3.790 | 249.498 |
| Per capita | \$ | 394.22 | 492.14 | 53.85 | 263.36 | - | 128.73 | 20.55 | 1,352.84 |
| QLD | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 575.509 | 1,841.515 | 80.188 | 551.993 | - | 811.667 | - | 3,860.871 |
| Per capita | \$ | 145.63 | 465.99 | 20.29 | 139.68 | - | 205.39 | - | 976.99 |
| SA | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 113.160 | 511.490 | 20.138 | 159.881 | - | 234.570 | - | 1,039.239 |
| Per capita | \$ | 81.27 | 367.33 | 14.46 | 114.82 | - | 168.46 | - | 746.34 |
| TAS | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 60.844 | 79.485 | 25.644 | 52.952 | - | 37.081 | - | 256.007 |
| Per capita | \$ | 143.13 | 186.98 | 60.33 | 124.57 | - | 87.23 | - | 602.23 |
| VIC | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 1,235.372 | 1,988.211 | 15.635 | 649.822 | - | 717.435 | - | 4,606.474 |
| Per capita | \$ | 236.72 | 380.98 | 3.00 | 124.52 | - | 137.48 | - | 882.70 |
| WA | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 390.934 | - | - | 419.680 | 29.200 | 538.079 | - | 1,377.893 |
| Per capita | \$ | 191.90 | - | - | 206.01 | 14.33 | 264.13 | - | 676.37 |
| AUST | | | | | | | | | |
| Aggregate | \$ million | 3,514.298 | 10,198.204 | 3.790 | 2,624.117 | 29.200 | 4,567.098 | 3.790 | 21,243.246 |
| Per capita | \$ | 176.64 | 512.58 | 15.41 | 131.89 | 1.47 | 229.55 | 0.19 | 1,067.73 |

Please note that due to rounding totals may not equal the sum of individual values.

Note: As a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for 'Wagering' are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Gambling expenditure in Australia in 2019-20 amounted to \$21.24 (\$25.01 previous corresponding period (pcp)) billion AUD, a 17.7% decrease on the pcp. Expenditure on gaming machines totalled \$10.12 (\$12.7 pcp) billion and accounted for approximately 47.65% (50.8% pcp) of all expenditure on the various gambling forms available.

Expenditure on casino gambling accounted for 16.57% (19.5% pcp) of Australian spend at \$3.52 billion (\$4.9 billion pcp). On the available figures, wagering accounted for 13.9% (\$3.5 billion), and Keno 1.4% (\$350.6 million) of expenditure. Expenditure on lotteries was \$2.63 (\$2.58 pcp) billion, a further 10.3%.

In 2019-20 the average gambling expenditure in Australia per adult was \$1,067.73 (\$1,276.78 pcp) – including on wagering \$229.55, lotteries \$131.89 (\$131.78 pcp), gaming machines \$512.58 (\$649.23 pcp), casinos \$176.64 (\$247.98 pcp) and Keno \$15.41 (\$17.90 pcp).

NSW had the highest expenditure per adult in Australia at \$1,508.05 (\$1,589.82 pcp). Western Australia and the Tasmania again reported the lowest aggregate expenditure figures per adult, at \$676.37 (\$655.74 pcp) and \$602.23 (\$732.56 pcp) respectively per capita.

¹ Includes wagers on table games and gaming machines.

² Excludes gaming machines at casinos.

³ Includes lotteries, lotto and instant scratchies.

EXPENDITURE ON GAMBLING

Aggregate

Table 3-2 Aggregate gambling expenditure in Australia (2019-20) (\$million)

| GAMBLING FORM | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUSTRALIA |
|---------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| GAMING | | | | | \$ million | | | | |
| Casino | 18.419 | 1,047.356 | 72.704 | 575.509 | 113.160 | 60.844 | 1,235.372 | 390.934 | 3,514.298 |
| Gaming machines | 126.125 | 5,560.616 | 90.762 | 1,841.515 | 511.490 | 79.485 | 1,988.211 | - | 10,198.204 |
| Interactive gaming | - | - | 3.790 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.818 |
| Keno | 31.230 | 123.773 | 9.931 | 80.188 | 20.138 | 25.644 | 15.635 | - | 306.539 |
| Lotteries | 22.700 | 718.519 | 48.570 | 551.993 | 159.881 | 52.952 | 649.822 | 419.680 | 2,624.117 |
| Minor Gaming | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 29.200 | 29.200 |
| Total Gaming | 198.474 | 7,450.264 | 225.757 | 3,049.204 | 804.669 | 218.926 | 3,889.039 | 839.814 | 16,676.147 |
| WAGERING | 80.088 | 2,124.437 | 23.741 | 811.667 | 234.570 | 37.081 | 717.435 | 538.079 | 4,567.098 |
| ALL GAMBLING | 278.562 | 9,574.701 | 249.498 | 3,860.871 | 1,039.239 | 256.007 | 4,606.474 | 1,377.893 | 21,243.246 |

Please note that due to rounding totals may not equal the sum of individual values.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Note: As a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for 'Wagering' are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

Per capita

Table 3-3 Per capita gambling expenditure in Australia (2019-20)

| GAMBLING FORM | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUSTRALIA |
|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|
| GAMING | | | | | \$ (value) | | | | |
| Casino | 55.27 | 164.96 | 394.22 | 145.63 | 81.27 | 143.13 | 236.72 | 191.90 | 176.64 |
| Gaming machines | 378.49 | 875.82 | 492.14 | 465.99 | 367.33 | 186.98 | 380.98 | - | 512.58 |
| Interactive gaming | - | - | 20.55 | - | - | - | - | - | 0.19 |
| Keno | 93.72 | 19.49 | 53.85 | 20.29 | 14.46 | 60.33 | 3.00 | - | 15.41 |
| Lotteries | 68.12 | 113.17 | 263.36 | 139.68 | 114.82 | 124.57 | 124.52 | 206.01 | 131.89 |
| Minor Gaming | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 14.33 | 1.47 |
| Total Gaming | 595.61 | 1,173.44 | 1,224.11 | 771.59 | 577.88 | 515.00 | 745.22 | 412.24 | 836.18 |
| WAGERING | 240.34 | 334.61 | 128.73 | 205.39 | 168.46 | 87.23 | 137.48 | 264.13 | 229.55 |
| ALL GAMBLING | 835.95 | 1,508.05 | 1,352.84 | 976.99 | 746.34 | 602.23 | 882.70 | 676.37 | 1,067.73 |

Please note that due to rounding totals may not equal the sum of individual values.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Note: As a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for ‘Wagering’ are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

Percentage change

Table 3.4 Percentage change in gambling expenditure in Australia (2019-20) (\$million)

| GAMBLING FORM | ACT | NSW | NT | QLD | SA | TAS | VIC | WA | AUSTRALIA |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| GAMING | | | | | \$ million | | | | |
| Casino | -28.3 | -25.4 | -21.3 | -37.2 | -10.5 | -25.0 | -26.4 | -26.7 | -27.7 |
| Gaming machines | -24.5 | -14.9 | -15.0 | -24.1 | -25.0 | -23.9 | -26.3 | - | -19.8 |
| Interactive gaming | - | - | 363.3 | - | - | - | - | - | 363.3 |
| Keno | 63.2 | -18.2 | -1.1 | -20.5 | -9.2 | -22.4 | -28.9 | - | -14.5 |
| Lotteries | -7.5 | 0.4 | -1.8 | 5.7 | 4.3 | 10.0 | 1.0 | -2.4 | 1.6 |
| Minor Gaming | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | -8.5 | -8.5 |
| Total Gaming | -16.0 | -15.4 | -13.0 | -23.1 | -18.2 | -17.9 | -22.8 | -15.6 | -18.9 |
| WAGERING | 373.9 | 82.6 | -98.9 | 147.1 | -1.7 | -12.8 | -9.0 | 67.7 | -9.2 |
| ALL GAMBLING | 10.0 | -3.9 | -89.6 | -10.1 | -15.0 | -17.2 | -21.0 | 4.7 | -17.0 |

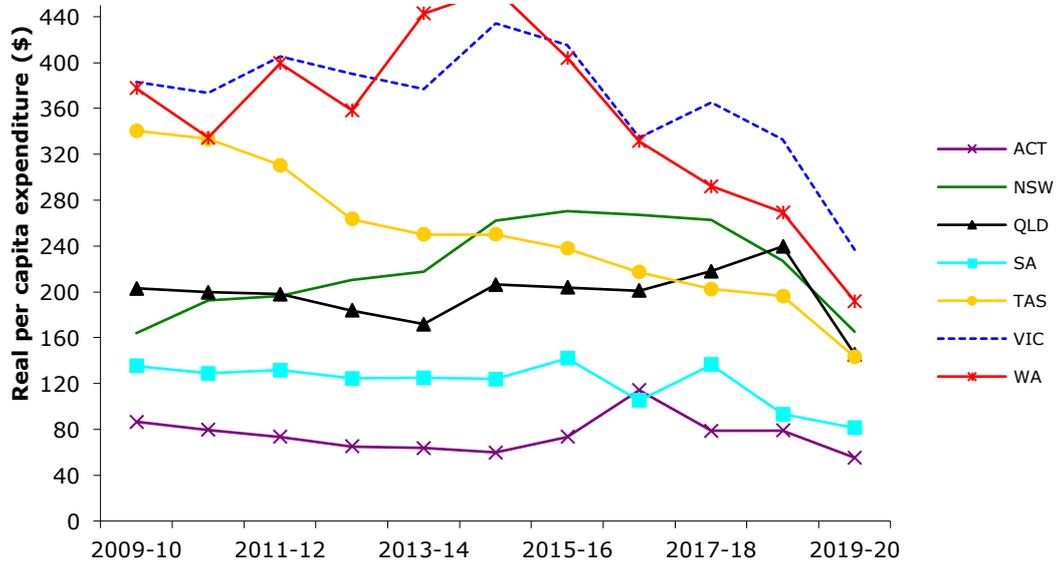
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Note: As a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for 'Wagering' are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

TEN YEAR EXPENDITURE TREND

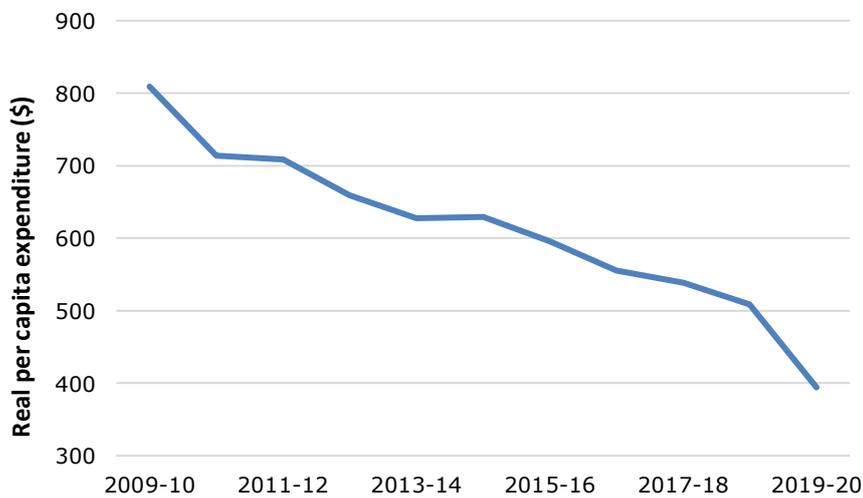
Casinos

Figure 3-1 Real per capita casino expenditure - Australia (excluding NT) (2009-10 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

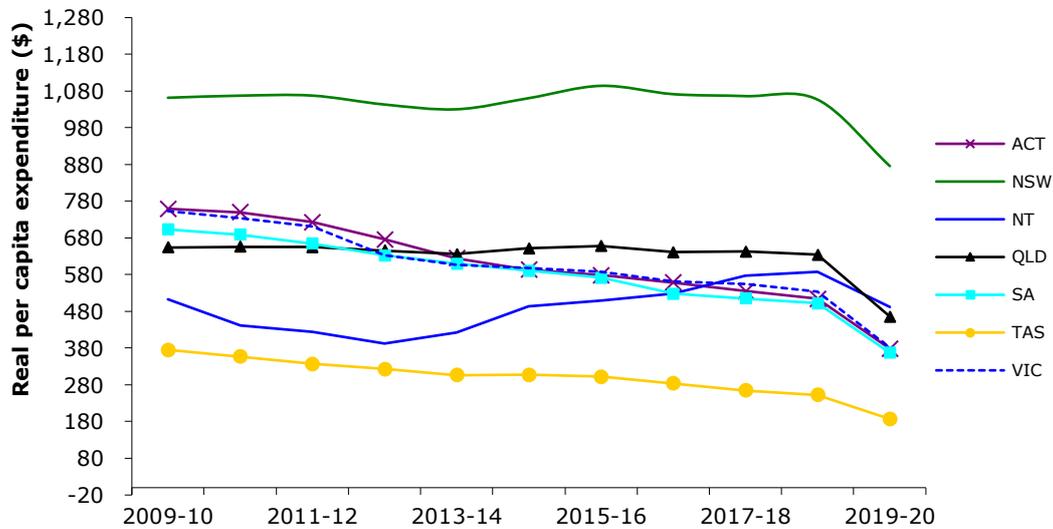
Figure 3-2 Real per capita casino expenditure – Northern Territory (2009-10 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Electronic Gaming Machines

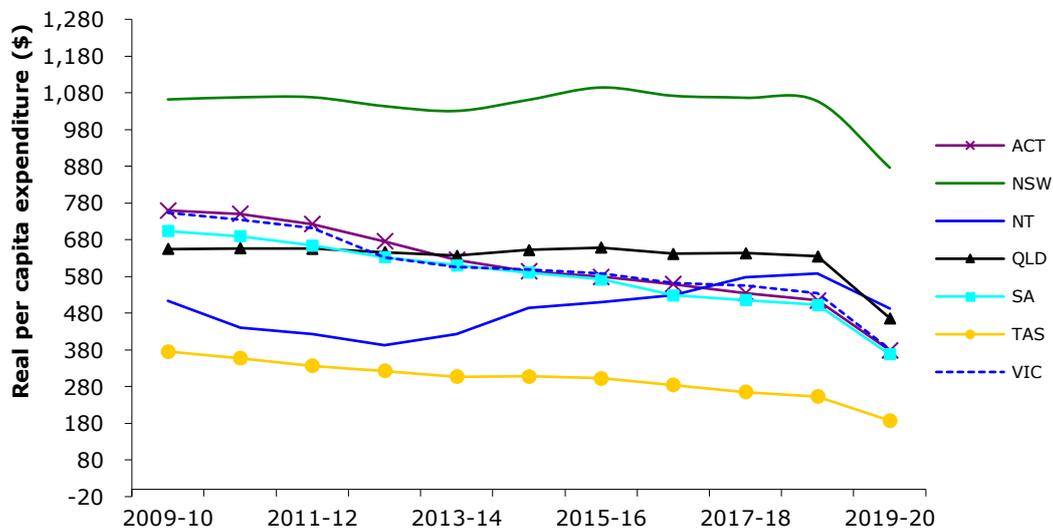
Figure 3-3 Real per capita EGM expenditure – Australia (2009-10 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Lotteries

Figure 3-4 Real per capita lotteries expenditure – Australia (2009-10 to 2019-20)



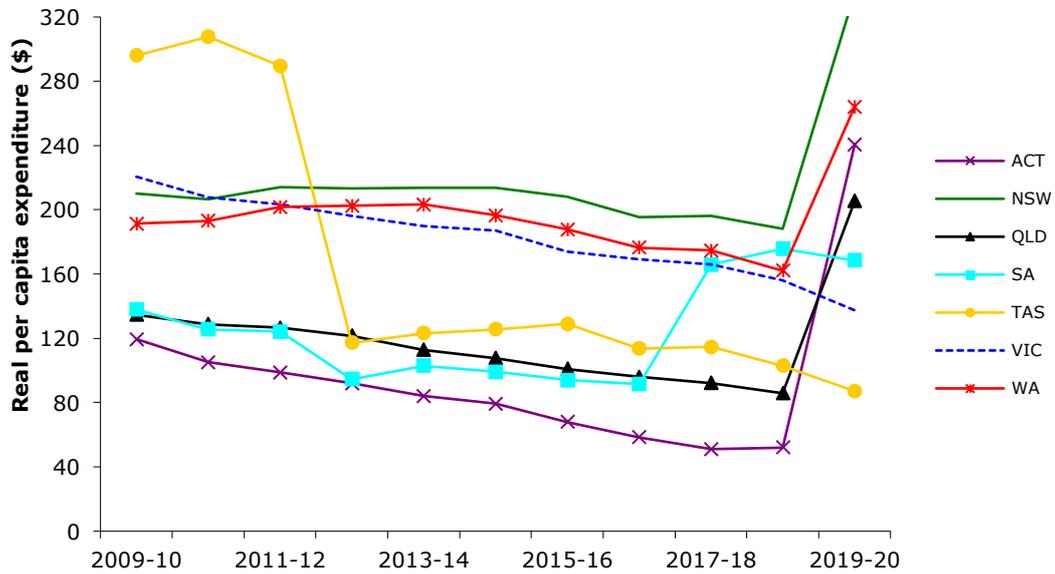
Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

A sharp increase in expenditure in the Northern Territory from 2012-13 may be attributed to the expansion and integration of Tatts Lotteries in the State. further, the Demerger of The Lottery Corporation Limited from Tabcorp Holdings Limited (Tabcorp) was effective from 23 May 2022 by way of Scheme of Arrangement in line with the Tabcorp Demerger Booklet dated 31 March 2022.

The Lottery Corporation started trading on the Australian Securities Exchange on 24 May 2022 on a deferred settlement basis.

Wagering

Figure 3-5 Real per capita wagering expenditure - Australia (excluding NT) (2009-10 to 2019-20)

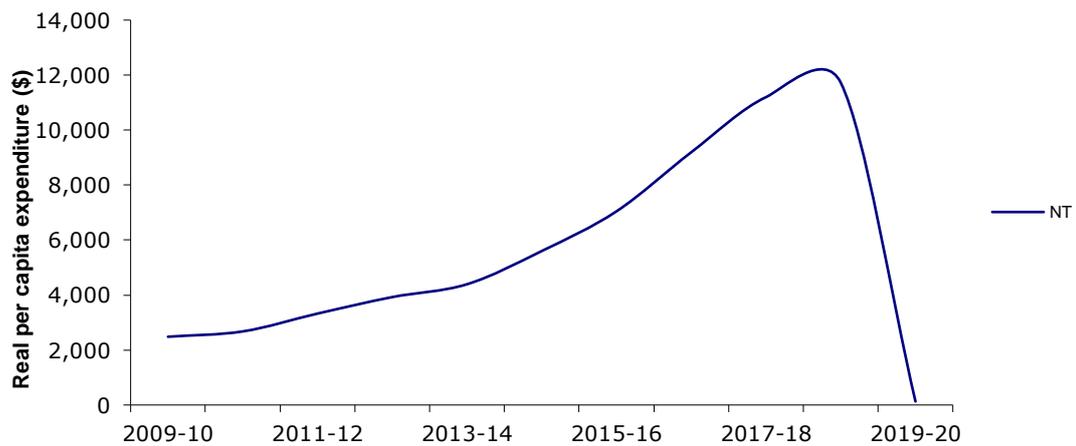


Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics *Explanatory Notes* for further information.

Tasmania has experienced significant fluctuations in race wagering expenditure over a ten-year period. First, there was a large increase in expenditure resulting from the introduction of Betfair in 2005, Australia’s only betting exchange. Expenditure figures for racing subsequently decreased, by almost two thirds, after the TattsBet (now UBET) acquisition of TOTE Tasmania in March 2012.

The sharp changes in the trend lines for this latest edition are as a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for ‘Wagering’ are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

Figure 3-6 Real per capita wagering expenditure - Northern Territory (2009-10 to 2019-20)

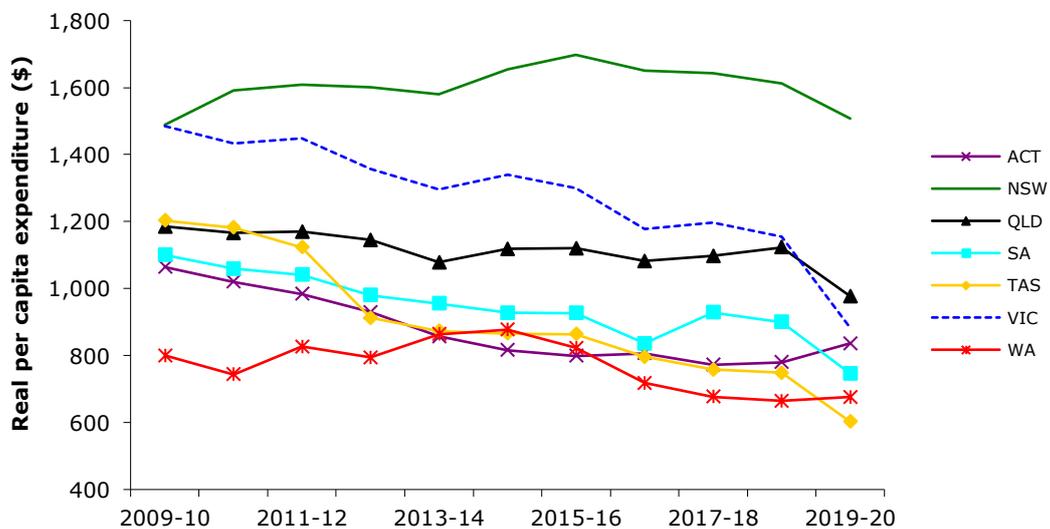


Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

The sharp changes in the trend lines for this latest edition are as a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for 'Wagering' are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

All Gambling

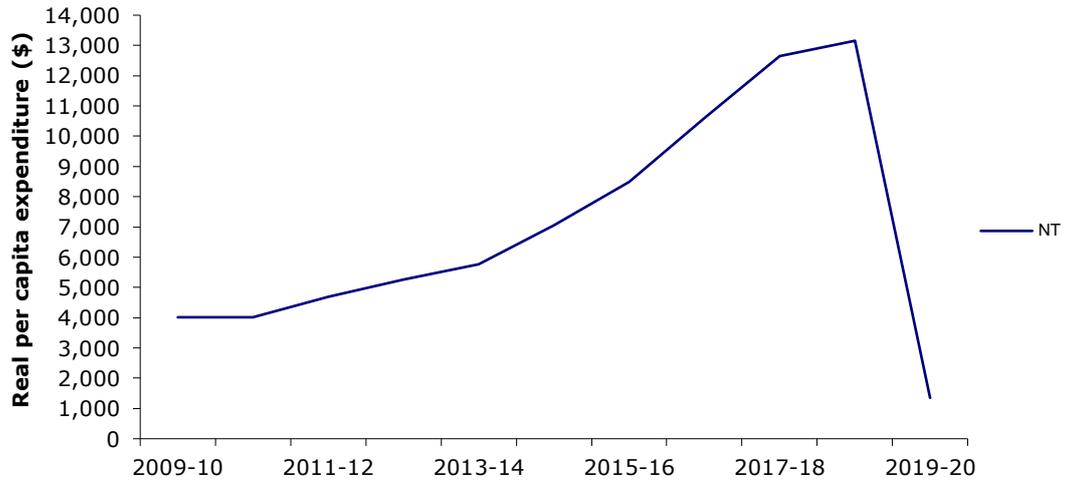
Figure 3-9 Real per capita expenditure - all gambling forms (excluding Northern Territory) (2009-10 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Please note that a number of total per capita expenditure figures in the above graph are incomplete due to unavailable data.

Figure 3-10 Real per capita expenditure – all gambling forms (Northern Territory only) (2009-10 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

The sharp changes in the trend lines for this latest edition are as a result of the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for ‘Wagering’ are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series.

Table 3-5 Real per capita expenditure – all gambling forms in Australia by state/territory (2013-14 to 2019-20)

| | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| ACT | 857.28 | 816.14 | 798.56 | 806.94 | 772.27 | 779.75 | 835.95 |
| NSW | 1,580.36 | 1,654.64 | 1,697.73 | 1,650.49 | 1,642.15 | 1,612.27 | 1,508.05 |
| NT | 5,761.58 | 7,055.55 | 8,486.90 | 10,599.04 | 12,638.13 | 13,154.27 | 1,352.84 |
| QLD | 1,078.61 | 1,118.29 | 1,120.14 | 1,082.00 | 1,097.01 | 1,122.66 | 976.99 |
| SA | 954.92 | 927.61 | 926.60 | 836.37 | 928.78 | 899.92 | 746.34 |
| TAS | 873.01 | 865.72 | 863.81 | 796.13 | 758.35 | 748.27 | 602.23 |
| VIC | 1,295.19 | 1,339.94 | 1,300.04 | 1,177.81 | 1,197.72 | 1,154.63 | 882.70 |
| WA | 863.88 | 877.11 | 822.30 | 718.18 | 677.34 | 664.72 | 676.37 |
| Australia | 1,300.30 | 1,354.93 | 1,367.01 | 1,314.80 | 1,340.20 | 1,324.30 | 1067.73 |

Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

PRICE OF GAMBLING: COST OF PLAY, HOUSE EDGE & RETURN TO PLAYER (RTP)

According to the Productivity Commission,⁴ there are two measures of the price of gambling - the initial outlay in placing a bet, and the net outlay or cost to a consumer when winnings are taken into account.

Net outlay takes into account not only the initial cost to the consumer, but also any money returned in the form of winnings. This 'price' is calculated as the ratio of expenditure⁵ to turnover⁶ - this indicates the percentage of each dollar that, on average for gamblers as a group, over time, is lost.

Another way to understand the price of gambling to the consumer is to calculate the Cost of Play. This can be described as the House Advantage (or House Edge) x Bets per Hour⁷ x Amount Bet.

The House Edge is a term used to describe the mathematical advantage of the gambling game or provider. This advantage results in an assured percentage return to the venue over time.

The House Edge assists the gambling provider as a commercial business to cover its costs of providing the game, paying for the staff and maintaining the gambling venue. It also helps to turn the business a profit.

Any profit the business makes from gambling comes from the money gamblers pay into the game, whether it's a poker machine, Keno, Blackjack or other game.⁸

The flip side of House Edge is known as Return to Player (RTP). RTP is a term used to describe the average percentage of wagered monies that will be paid back to players over time.

It's important to understand that RTP percentages are expected long term averages. Individual players are unlikely to achieve these percentages.

For some gambling forms – particularly Electronic Gaming Machines (EGMs) - legislation dictates minimum payout ratios to players.

EGMs must adhere to the returns listed at Table 3-6 (although in practice payout ratios may be set higher than that required by law).

RTP percentages on an EGM are also long-term averages. Individual players are unlikely to achieve these percentages.

To say that a machine is 'set' to return a certain percentile to players simply means that the game mathematics are structured in such a way that there is an expectation (over time) that the machine is likely to average a return to players of that percentile of the total bets made on the machine.

As gaming machines function on the basis of chance, the player return setting must be understood as an expectation that comes from the rules of chance – it is not a guaranteed outcome.

In fact, gaming machine manufacturers in Australia have pointed out that EGMs are not designed to provide players with money on any regular or long-term basis. Winning sessions may occur, but the more sessions played the greater the likelihood of losses.

⁴ Productivity Commission (1999) *Australia's Gambling Industries, Report No. 10*, Canberra.

⁵ Also referred to as gross profit, expenditure is the net amount lost, or, in other words, the amount wagered less the amount won. Conversely, by definition, it is the gross profit (or gross winnings) due to the operators of each particular form of gambling.

⁶ Turnover is an expression used to describe the amount wagered. This does not include any additional charges that may also be paid at the point of purchase - Tasmanian Gaming Commission (2004) *Australian Gambling Statistics 1977-78 to 2002-03*.

⁷ Please note that for various forms of gambling the amount bet per hour may vary. Calculations of this kind generally involve averages. With larger bets and faster play costs may go up accordingly.

⁸ Excerpted from "Know Your Odds" Tasmanian Government, Department of Health and Human Services. For more information go to <http://knowyourodds.net.au/house-edge/>

The *Australian/New Zealand Gaming Machine National Standard 2022* defines ‘Return to Player’ as ‘The ratio of total wins (including progressives and other features) to the total turnover in a game cycle (note gamble bets do not affect turnover and total wins is only affected by the final gamble outcome).

For more information see: [Responsible Gaming Machine Play | Gaming Technologies Association \(gamingta.com\)](https://www.gamingta.com).

Table 3-6 Average player return percentages (RTP) for gaming machines in Australia by state/territory (2022)

| Location | Casino | Hotels and clubs |
|------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Australian Capital Territory | N/A | 87% |
| New South Wales | 85% | 85% |
| Northern Territory | 85% | 85% |
| Queensland | 85% | 85% |
| South Australia | 87.5% | 87.5% |
| Tasmania | 85% | 85% |
| Victoria | 85% | 87% |
| Western Australia | 90% | N/A |
| New Zealand | 78% | 87% |

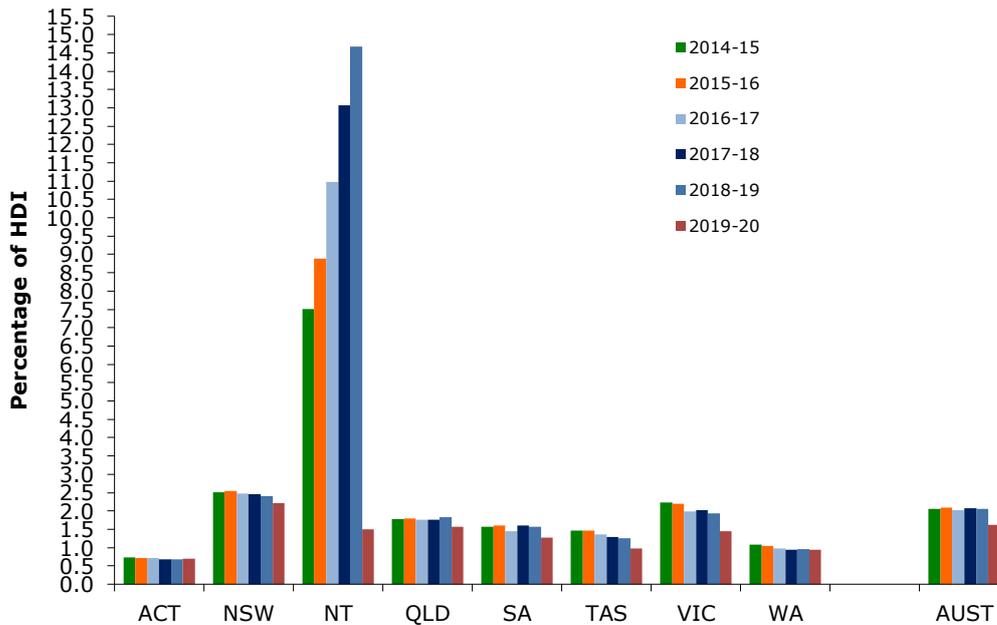
Source: *Australian/New Zealand Gaming Machine National Standard, Revision 11.1, February 2022*

HOUSEHOLD DISPOSABLE INCOME

Household Disposable Income and Gambling

Household Disposable Income (HDI) is the amount of income households have left over after they have paid their income taxes and is considered a key determinant of how much households can spend on consumer goods and services.

Figure 3-11 Proportion of HDI spent on all gambling forms in Australia by state/territory (2014-15 to 2018-19)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Table 3-7 Proportion of HDI spent on all gambling forms in Australia by state/territory (2014-15 to 2019-20)

| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % | | | | | |
| ACT | 0.74 | 0.71 | 0.71 | 0.68 | 0.68 | 0.70 |
| NSW | 2.50 | 2.55 | 2.47 | 2.47 | 2.41 | 2.20 |
| NT | 7.51 | 8.88 | 10.98 | 13.07 | 14.67 | 1.51 |
| QLD | 1.78 | 1.80 | 1.76 | 1.77 | 1.83 | 1.56 |
| SA | 1.57 | 1.60 | 1.45 | 1.60 | 1.56 | 1.27 |
| TAS | 1.47 | 1.46 | 1.36 | 1.29 | 1.26 | 0.98 |
| VIC | 2.23 | 2.19 | 1.98 | 2.02 | 1.94 | 1.44 |
| WA | 1.08 | 1.05 | 0.98 | 0.94 | 0.95 | 0.95 |
| AUST | 2.06 | 2.09 | 2.03 | 2.07 | 2.06 | 1.62 |

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Over the course of the six years covered in Table 3-7, the average proportion of gambling expenditure as a proportion of HDI in Australia has decreased from 2.06% in 2014-15 to 1.62% in 2019-20.

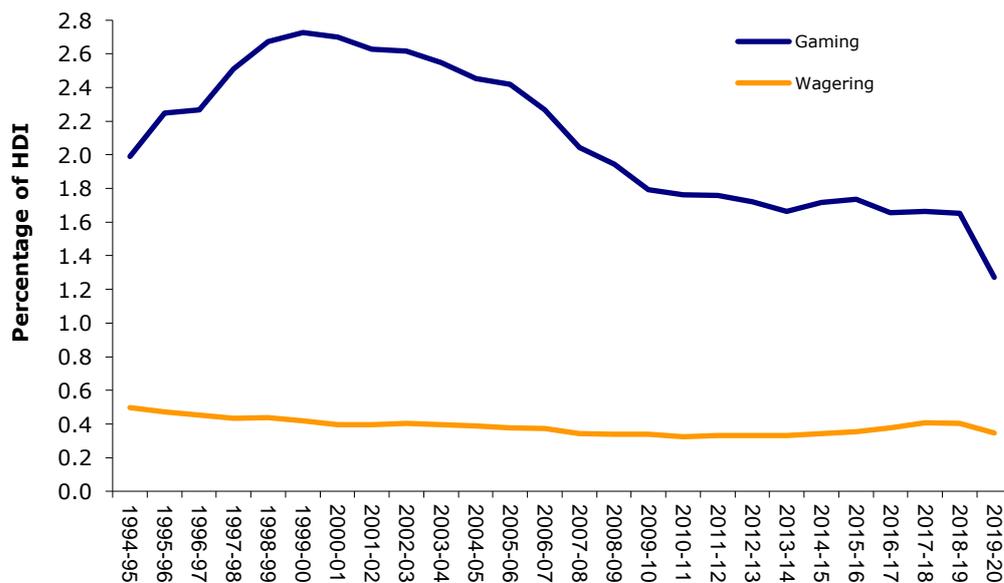
The Northern Territory previously had the highest proportion of expenditure to HDI (14.67% in 2018-19), which was due to the significant proportion of its gambling business that came from interstate and international markets; however, the introduction of POC tax and subsequent changes to the way wagering data are collected, detailed breakdowns for ‘Wagering’ are no longer reported in Australian Gambling Statistics and represent a break in series. As such, the latest figure seems a significant drop, but can instead be seen more as a re-alignment.

The top state in terms of expenditure as a proportion of HDI is New South Wales at 2.20%, a drop from 2.41% in the pcp, where Queensland at 1.56%, Victoria at 1.44% and the Northern Territory at 1.51% hovered closest to (but below) the Australian average of 1.62%. The ACT recorded the lowest of all states and territories at 0.70%, which was a slight increase from the pcp at 0.65%.

Wagering versus gaming

Figure 3-12 shows the change in the spending pattern for gambling in Australia over the past 25 years.

Figure 3-12 Wagering and gaming expenditure in Australia as a proportion of household disposable income (1994-95 to 2019-20)



Source: Queensland Government Statistician’s Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Table 3-8 Expenditure on various forms of gambling as a proportion of HDI in Australia 2019-20 (%)

| | Casino ⁹ | Gaming machines ¹⁰ | Keno | Lotteries ¹¹ | Minor Gaming | Wagering | Interactive Gaming | All gambling |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| ACT | 0.05 | 0.32 | 0.08 | 0.06 | - | 0.20 | - | 0.70 |
| NSW | 0.24 | 1.28 | 0.03 | 0.17 | - | 0.49 | - | 2.20 |
| NT | 0.44 | 0.55 | 0.06 | 0.29 | - | 0.14 | 0.02 | 1.51 |
| QLD | 0.23 | 0.75 | 0.03 | 0.23 | - | 0.33 | - | 1.56 |
| SA | 0.14 | 0.62 | 0.03 | 0.20 | - | 0.29 | - | 1.27 |
| TAS | 0.23 | 0.30 | 0.10 | 0.20 | - | 0.14 | - | 0.98 |
| VIC | 0.39 | 0.62 | 0.01 | 0.20 | - | 0.22 | - | 1.44 |
| WA | 0.27 | - | - | 0.29 | 0.02 | 0.37 | - | 0.95 |
| AUST | 0.27 | 0.78 | 0.02 | 0.20 | 0.00 | 0.35 | 0.00 | 1.62 |

Please note that due to rounding totals may not equal the sum of individual values.

Source: Queensland Government Statistician's Office, Queensland Treasury (2022) Australian Gambling Statistics 1993-94 to 2019-20 (37th edition). Refer to Australian Gambling Statistics [Explanatory Notes](#) for further information.

Overall, all categories of expenditure on various forms of gambling as a proportion of HDI in Australia experienced a reduction – except in the wagering category, where there is a break in statistics caused by the combination of racing and sports betting from the previous pcp.

The most significant reduction was evident in the casino and gaming machines sector, with a decrease of 30.8% for casinos, and gaming machines at 25%.

⁹ Includes wagers at casinos on table games, gaming machines and keno systems.

¹⁰ Does not include gaming machines at casinos.

¹¹ Includes lottery, lotto / Tattsлото, instant lottery and pools.

HOUSEHOLD SPENDING COMPARISON

The Australia Bureau of Statistics regularly produces a Household Expenditure Survey recording the expenditure of Australian households. Data is collected every six years, with the most recent collection taking place in 2015-16.

In 2015-16 the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Household Expenditure Survey recorded the expenditure of 10,046 households.

Most expenditure data was collected over a two-week period during which the respondents were asked to keep a diary of all expenses.¹²

Table 3-9 Estimated average household weekly expenditure (\$) on gambling by household gross income quintile in Australia (2015-16, 2009-10, 2003-04 & 1998-99)

| Year | Household gross income quintile | | | | | All households |
|---------|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| | Lowest | Second | Third | Fourth | Highest | |
| 2015-16 | \$2.26 ²⁵ | \$3.46 | \$5.17 | \$5.36 ²⁵ | \$6.06 | \$4.44 |
| 2009-10 | \$4.22 ¹³ | \$3.97 ¹⁴ | \$7.06 | \$5.58 | \$8.47 | \$5.86 |
| 2003-04 | \$3.67 | \$5.59 | \$3.89 ¹⁵ | \$6.30 | \$7.98 | \$5.48 |
| 1998-99 | \$3.15 | \$5.03 | \$5.53 | \$7.85 | \$7.46 | \$5.80 |

Source: ABS 6530.0 (2017, 2011, 2005, 2000), Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (Gross Household Income Quintiles – Estimates, Table 4.3A), and ABS 6535 series 2003-04 & 1998-99 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia

Table 3-10 Estimated average household weekly expenditure on gambling as a percentage of total goods and services expenditure by household gross income quintile in Australia (2015-16, 2009-10, 2003-04 & 1998-99)

| Year | Household gross income quintile | | | | | All households |
|---------|---------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|---------|----------------|
| | Lowest | Second | Third | Fourth | Highest | |
| 2015-16 | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.3% | 0.2% | 0.3% |
| 2009-10 | 0.8% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.4% | 0.4% | 0.5% |
| 2003-04 | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.5% | 0.6% | 0.5% | 0.6% |
| 1998-99 | 0.9% | 1.0% | 0.9% | 0.9% | 0.6% | 0.8% |

Source: ABS 6530.0 (2017, 2011, 2005, 2000), Household Expenditure Survey, Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (Gross Household Income Quintiles – Estimates, Table 4.3A), and ABS 6535 series 2003-04 & 1998-99 Household Expenditure Survey, Australia

Weekly expenditure on gambling products as a proportion of expenditure on total goods and services is trending down across all household income quintiles since the previous survey period.

The lowest quintile group spent \$2.26 per week on gambling, a decrease of 46.4% compared to 2009-10 (\$4.22 per week). Overall, average household weekly expenditure on gambling products as a proportion of expenditure on total goods and services decreased by 24.2% since the previous survey (from \$5.86 to \$4.44 per week).

¹² Please note: the survey was based on self-report. Gambling expenditure documented in this manner may be under-reported.

¹³ Relative Standard Error of over 25%.

¹⁴ Relative Standard Error of over 50% and is considered too unreliable for general use.

¹⁵ Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Table 3-11 Estimated average household weekly expenditure on selected goods and services by household gross income quintile in Australia by expenditure (\$) and proportion of total expenditure (%) (2015-16)

| | Lowest | | Second | | Third | | Fourth | | Highest | | All | |
|---|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % |
| Audio-visual equipment (TV, home entertainment) | 3.13 | 0.5 | 4.02 | 0.4 | 7.21 | 0.6 | 11.08 | 0.7 | 13.89 | 0.5 | 7.93 | 0.6 |
| Beer | 4.65 | 0.7 | 8.89 | 1.0 | 13 | 1.0 | 12.44 | 0.7 | 18.26 | 0.7 | 11.5 | 0.8 |
| Books, newspapers, magazines | 4.21 | 0.7 | 5.46 | 0.6 | 5.8 | 0.4 | 6.76 | 0.4 | 9.72 | 0.4 | 6.43 | 0.5 |
| Clothing and footwear | 14.06 | 2.2 | 24.1 | 2.6 | 39.32 | 3.0 | 53.33 | 3.2 | 87.77 | 3.4 | 43.75 | 3.1 |
| Confectionery | 6.75 | 1.1 | 9.81 | 1.0 | 13.35 | 1.0 | 15.99 | 1.0 | 19.13 | 0.7 | 13.01 | 0.9 |
| Cultural (cinema, theatre, concerts) | 2.4 | 0.4 | 4.17 | 0.4 | 5.75 | 0.4 | 9.36 | 0.6 | 15.55 | 0.6 | 7.45 | 0.5 |
| Dairy products | 9.15 | 1.4 | 12.55 | 1.3 | 15.14 | 1.2 | 17.74 | 1.1 | 21.01 | 0.8 | 15.11 | 1.1 |
| Gambling | 2.26 | 0.4 | 3.46 | 0.4 | 5.17 | 0.4 | 5.36 | 0.3 | 6.06 | 0.2 | 4.44 | 0.3 |
| Holidays-Australia (selected expenses) | 13.09 | 2.1 | 19.6 | 2.1 | 23.51 | 1.8 | 33.4 | 2.0 | 66.24 | 2.6 | 31.26 | 2.2 |
| Internet charges | 3.47 | 0.5 | 5.23 | 0.6 | 6.85 | 0.5 | 7.91 | 0.5 | 8.81 | 0.3 | 6.47 | 0.5 |
| Meals out and fast foods | 25.68 | 4.1 | 43.66 | 4.7 | 71.13 | 5.5 | 103.04 | 6.2 | 158.63 | 6.1 | 80.27 | 5.6 |
| Mobile telephone account | 6.98 | 1.1 | 11.55 | 1.2 | 18.1 | 1.4 | 22.81 | 1.4 | 26.8 | 1.0 | 17.24 | 1.2 |
| Mortgage repayments (interest) | 17.59 | 2.8 | 32.88 | 3.5 | 72.52 | 5.6 | 115.7 | 6.9 | 163.39 | 6.3 | 80.19 | 5.6 |
| Pay TV fees | 2.07 | 0.3 | 3.11 | 0.3 | 4.68 | 0.4 | 5.03 | 0.3 | 8 | 0.3 | 4.56 | 0.3 |
| Petrol | 17.87 | 2.8 | 28.77 | 3.1 | 43.28 | 3.3 | 45.5 | 2.7 | 51.9 | 2.0 | 37.52 | 2.6 |
| Public transport fares | 1.86 | 0.3 | 3.15 | 0.3 | 5.87 | 0.5 | 7.54 | 0.5 | 10.82 | 0.4 | 5.83 | 0.4 |
| Rent payments | 77.41 | 12.2 | 102.64 | 11.0 | 124.16 | 9.5 | 114.97 | 6.9 | 107.09 | 4.1 | 105.4 | 7.4 |
| Soft drinks and packaged waters | 2.8 | 0.4 | 4.35 | 0.5 | 6.64 | 0.5 | 6.7 | 0.4 | 8.97 | 0.3 | 5.91 | 0.4 |
| Sports fees and charges | 4.41 | 0.7 | 4.86 | 0.5 | 11.66 | 0.9 | 15.4 | 0.9 | 27.74 | 1.1 | 12.89 | 0.9 |
| Tobacco products | 9.01 | 1.4 | 12.94 | 1.4 | 14.9 | 1.1 | 14.2 | 0.8 | 12.77 | 0.5 | 12.88 | 0.9 |
| Toiletries and cosmetics | 6.55 | 1.0 | 10.21 | 1.1 | 13.43 | 1.0 | 18.83 | 1.1 | 26.35 | 1.0 | 15.2 | 1.1 |
| Vegetables (fresh, frozen) | 9.19 | 1.5 | 12.32 | 1.3 | 15.35 | 1.2 | 18 | 1.1 | 21.84 | 0.8 | 15.32 | 1.1 |
| Wine | 3.27 | 0.5 | 5.67 | 0.6 | 7.6 | 0.6 | 7.72 | 0.5 | 22.37 | 0.9 | 9.41 | 0.7 |
| Total expenditure on all goods and services ¹⁶ | 632.03 | 100.0 | 934.32 | 100.0 | 1,301.9 | 100.0 | 1,674.73 | 100.0 | 2,589.06 | 100.0 | 1,425.03 | 100.0 |

Source: ABS 6530.0 (2017) Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (Gross Household Income Quintiles – Estimates, Table 4.3A)

¹⁶ Inclusive of the selected items above and other items not tabulated. Please note that total expenditure figures do not reflect the sum of the columns in either dollar or percentile amounts as the goods and services tabulated represent selected items only. See Australian Bureau of Statistics 6530.0 (2017) Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (Gross Household Income Quintiles – Estimates, Table 4.3A).

Table 3-12 Estimated average household weekly expenditure on selected goods and services in Australia by state/territory by expenditure (\$) and proportion of total expenditure (%) (2015-16)

| | ACT | | NSW | | NT ¹⁷ | | QLD | | SA | | TAS | | VIC | | WA | | AUST | |
|---|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|----------------|------------|
| | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % | \$ | % |
| Audio-visual equipment (home entertainment) | 11.4 | 0.7 | 7.7 | 0.5 | 10.4 | 0.6 | 7.6 | 0.6 | 6.7 | 0.6 | 5.0 | 0.4 | 8.4 | 0.6 | 7.7 | 0.5 | 7.9 | 0.6 |
| Beer | 10.4 | 0.6 | 12.2 | 0.8 | 19.9 | 1.2 | 10.6 | 0.8 | 8.4 | 0.7 | 12.5 | 1.1 | 11.8 | 0.8 | 11.8 | 0.8 | 11.5 | 0.8 |
| Books, newspapers, magazines | 8.4 | 0.5 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 5.6 | 0.3 | 6.0 | 0.4 | 6.1 | 0.5 | 10.3 | 0.9 | 6.8 | 0.5 | 6.8 | 0.5 | 6.4 | 0.5 |
| Clothing and footwear | 54.8 | 3.3 | 46.1 | 3.0 | 32.0 | 1.9 | 40.1 | 3.0 | 37.3 | 3.1 | 40.5 | 3.5 | 46.5 | 3.3 | 41.7 | 2.9 | 43.8 | 3.1 |
| Confectionery | 13.4 | 0.8 | 13.2 | 0.9 | 11.2 | 0.7 | 12.0 | 0.9 | 11.7 | 1.0 | 13.9 | 1.2 | 13.7 | 1.0 | 13.6 | 0.9 | 13.0 | 0.9 |
| Cultural (cinema, theatre, concerts) | 13.5 | 0.8 | 7.7 | 0.5 | 5.3 | 0.3 | 8.5 | 0.6 | 5.8 | 0.5 | 5.0 | 0.4 | 7.5 | 0.5 | 6.4 | 0.4 | 7.5 | 0.5 |
| Dairy products | 15.6 | 0.9 | 14.3 | 0.9 | 16.1 | 0.9 | 15.2 | 1.1 | 15.2 | 1.3 | 14.9 | 1.3 | 15.5 | 1.1 | 16.2 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1.1 |
| Gambling | 2.0 | 0.1 | 5.4 | 0.4 | 5.2 | 0.3 | 3.6 | 0.3 | 1.9 | 0.2 | 5.0 | 0.4 | 4.6 | 0.3 | 6.3 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 0.3 |
| Holidays-Australia (selected expenses) | 46.1 | 2.8 | 29.7 | 1.9 | 90.7 | 5.3 | 28.8 | 2.1 | 28.5 | 2.4 | 31.1 | 2.7 | 31.2 | 2.2 | 35.2 | 2.5 | 31.3 | 2.2 |
| Internet charges | 9.4 | 0.6 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 11.0 | 0.6 | 6.6 | 0.5 | 7.4 | 0.6 | 6.2 | 0.5 | 6.2 | 0.4 | 7.5 | 0.5 | 6.5 | 0.5 |
| Meals out and fast foods | 99.6 | 6.0 | 90.6 | 5.9 | 83.8 | 4.9 | 68.5 | 5.0 | 66.1 | 5.5 | 60.2 | 5.3 | 84.7 | 5.9 | 71.6 | 5.0 | 80.3 | 5.6 |
| Mobile telephone account | 20.0 | 1.2 | 16.8 | 1.1 | 19.9 | 1.2 | 17.3 | 1.3 | 15.5 | 1.3 | 14.4 | 1.3 | 18.5 | 1.3 | 16.9 | 1.2 | 17.2 | 1.2 |
| Mortgage repayments (interest) | 100.3 | 6.0 | 82.6 | 5.4 | 106.3 | 6.3 | 73.7 | 5.4 | 65.1 | 5.5 | 56.2 | 4.9 | 78.9 | 5.5 | 100.0 | 7.0 | 80.2 | 5.6 |
| Pay TV fees | 5.0 | 0.3 | 4.9 | 0.3 | 4.2 | 0.2 | 4.6 | 0.3 | 3.8 | 0.3 | 4.1 | 0.4 | 4.4 | 0.3 | 4.6 | 0.3 | 4.6 | 0.3 |
| Petrol | 40.7 | 2.4 | 40.0 | 2.6 | 32.6 | 1.9 | 36.9 | 2.7 | 30.1 | 2.5 | 35.6 | 3.1 | 37.3 | 2.6 | 37.2 | 2.6 | 37.5 | 2.6 |
| Public transport fares | 3.7 | 0.2 | 8.3 | 0.5 | 2.5 | 0.1 | 4.2 | 0.3 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 2.4 | 0.2 | 6.5 | 0.5 | 3.6 | 0.2 | 5.8 | 0.4 |
| Rent payments | 105.6 | 6.3 | 122.9 | 8.1 | 190.9 | 11.2 | 108.9 | 8.0 | 80.6 | 6.8 | 58.8 | 5.1 | 91.6 | 6.4 | 101.0 | 7.1 | 105.4 | 7.4 |
| Soft drinks and packaged waters | 6.1 | 0.4 | 6.2 | 0.4 | 7.4 | 0.4 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 5.7 | 0.5 | 6.4 | 0.6 | 5.7 | 0.4 | 5.9 | 0.4 | 5.9 | 0.4 |
| Sports fees and charges | 13.0 | 0.8 | 14.0 | 0.9 | 9.9 | 0.6 | 11.5 | 0.8 | 10.9 | 0.9 | 7.5 | 0.7 | 13.0 | 0.9 | 14.1 | 1.0 | 12.9 | 0.9 |
| Tobacco products | 8.0 | 0.5 | 12.1 | 0.8 | 22.4 | 1.3 | 11.3 | 0.8 | 14.1 | 1.2 | 17.5 | 1.5 | 14.7 | 1.0 | 11.4 | 0.8 | 12.9 | 0.9 |
| Toiletries and cosmetics | 15.1 | 0.9 | 14.9 | 1.0 | 13.8 | 0.8 | 15.3 | 1.1 | 13.5 | 1.1 | 12.3 | 1.1 | 16.3 | 1.1 | 16.2 | 1.1 | 15.2 | 1.1 |
| Vegetables (fresh, frozen) | 19.0 | 1.1 | 15.1 | 1.0 | 18.8 | 1.1 | 13.9 | 1.0 | 14.0 | 1.2 | 14.5 | 1.3 | 16.4 | 1.1 | 16.7 | 1.2 | 15.3 | 1.1 |
| Wine | 9.5 | 0.6 | 10.4 | 0.7 | 10.2 | 0.6 | 7.6 | 0.6 | 8.3 | 0.7 | 6.4 | 0.6 | 10.1 | 0.7 | 8.6 | 0.6 | 9.4 | 0.7 |
| Total expenditure on all goods & services¹⁸ | 1,670.2 | 100 | 1,524.7 | 100 | 1,700.0 | 100 | 1,358.9 | 100 | 1,191.7 | 100 | 1,141.1 | 100 | 1,429.9 | 100 | 1,428.8 | 100 | 1,425.0 | 100 |

Source: ABS 6530.0 (2017) Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (States and Territories, Table 13.9A)

¹⁷ Households defined as Very Remote were excluded, accounting for about 22% of the population of NT.

¹⁸ Inclusive of the selected items above and other items not tabulated. Please note that total expenditure figures do not reflect the sum of the columns in either dollar or percentile amounts as the goods and services tabulated represent selected items only. See Australian Bureau of Statistics 6530.0 (2017) Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (States and Territories, Table 13.9A).

Table 3-13 Estimated average weekly allocation of household recreational expenditure by household gross income quintile in Australia (2015-16)

| | Lowest | Second | Third | Fourth | Highest | All households |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|
| Weekly Recreational Expenditure | \$61.80 | \$102.50 | \$149.91 | \$197.75 | \$342.18 | \$171.85 |
| Recreational Spend | | | | | | |
| Audio-visual equipment | 5.1% | 3.9% | 4.8% | 5.6% | 4.1% | 4.6% |
| Books, newspapers, magazines | 6.8% | 5.3% | 3.9% | 3.4% | 2.8% | 3.7% |
| Culture (cinema, theatre, concerts) | 3.9% | 4.1% | 3.8% | 4.7% | 4.5% | 4.3% |
| Gambling | 3.7% | 3.4% | 3.4% | 2.7% | 1.8% | 2.6% |
| Holidays - Australia | 21.2% | 19.1% | 15.7% | 16.9% | 19.4% | 18.2% |
| Sports | 7.1% | 4.7% | 7.8% | 7.8% | 8.1% | 7.5% |

Source: Calculated from ABS 6530.0 (2017) Household Expenditure Survey Australia: Summary of Results, 2015-16 (Gross Household Income Quintiles – Estimates, Table 4.3A)