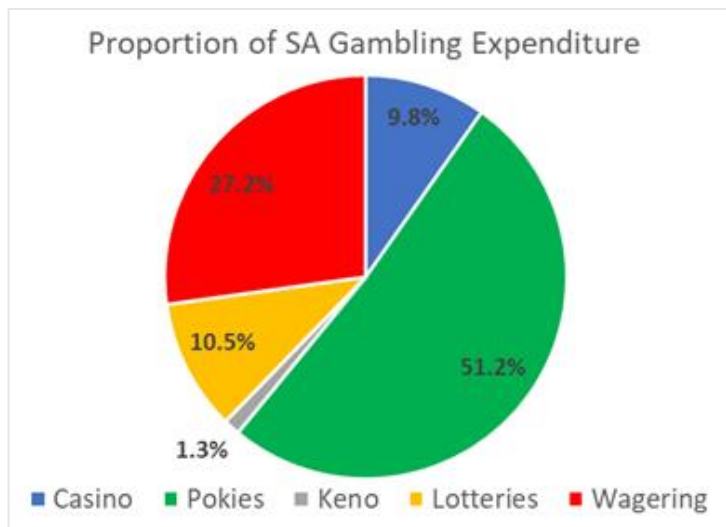


South Australian Gambling Statistics*

In 2022-23, South Australians spent \$1,792m on gambling, an average of \$1,227 per person. This was around 20% below the national average per capita expenditure of \$1,527.

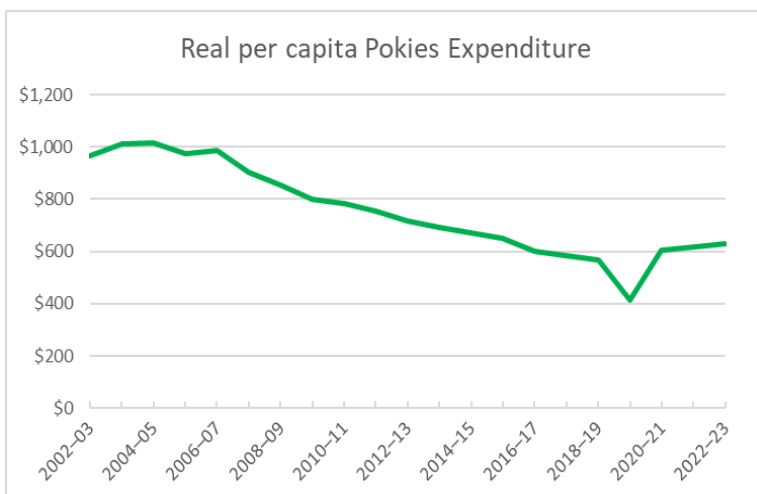
As the pie-chart shows, just over half (\$917.5m) the SA expenditure was spent (lost) on poker machines (electronic gaming machines), via the 12,672 pokies machines spread across hotels, clubs and the casino.

Sports betting (wagering) accounted for \$487m of expenditure, while \$188.5m was spent on lotteries and \$175m at the Adelaide casino.



Poker Machines

While pokies accounted for the largest proportion of gambling expenditure, the 2022-23 pokies share of the gambling spend was less than the pre-COVID figure of 56% in 2018-19. However, this *relative* decline is largely due to the rise of online wagering as actual expenditure on pokies has still risen in recent years.

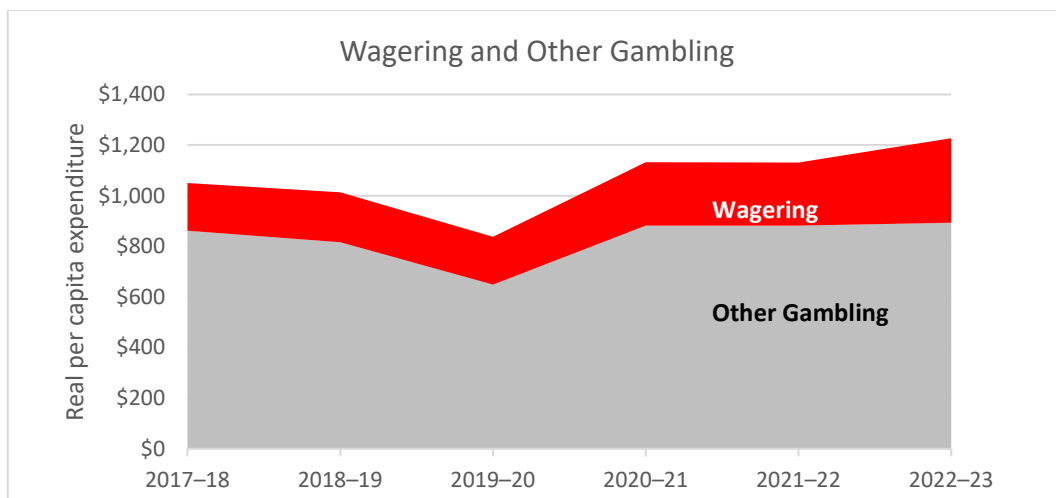


As the graph shows, prior to COVID there had been a long-term decline in pokies expenditure (in real per capita terms) from a high point in 2004-05, down to a low of \$412 in 2019-20 when COVID caused venues to close for a period. Since then expenditure has not only bounced back, it has grown each year and real per capita pokies expenditure is now 11% higher than the immediate pre-COVID level (2018-19).

* All data is from the [Australian Gambling Statistics, 39th edition](#), released in September 2024. All inflation-adjusted "real" data uses 2023-24 as the base year.

Sports Betting

While wagering (horse racing and sports betting) accounted for just over one-quarter of SA gambling losses in 2022-23, it is the fastest growing form of gambling. SA figures prior to the introduction of the point of consumption wagering tax on 1 July 2017 are unreliable as they do not include money lost to interstate (largely online) bookmakers. However, since that time there has been a massive increase in expenditure on wagering – from \$219m in 2017-18 to \$487m in 2022-23. Adjusted for inflation and population growth, this translates to a 78% increase expenditure in just 5 years – from \$188 per head (inflation adjusted) in 2017-18 to \$334 in 2022-23. This accounts for more than 80% of the total growth in gambling losses over the last 5 years, and as the graph shows, without this expansion of sports betting, there would have been little growth in overall gambling expenditure in SA.



Lotteries and the Casino

Lotteries and the Adelaide casino represent a smaller, but still significant part of South Australian gambling losses. SA lotteries had a significant increase in gambling expenditure in 2018-19 after the national Pools competition closed, but expenditure has remained fairly steady since then with real expenditure hovering around \$130 per capita. By contrast, losses at the casino vary significantly from year to year, from an inflation-adjusted high point of \$216m total expenditure in 2015-16 to a COVID-effected low of \$128m in 2019-20. The graph below shows the changes in real per capita expenditure.

