

## History of the operation of electronic gambling machines<sup>1</sup> in Quebec

### Before 1993

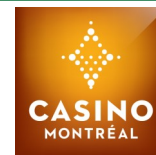
- There are approximately 40,000 illegal video lottery terminals (VLT) located in restaurants, convenience stores, arcades, and professional settings.

Opening of casinos and gambling halls

### 1993

- The [loi sur la Régie des alcools, des courses et des jeux \(RACJ\)](#) is adopted in order to eliminate the illegal market.
- The RACJ now grants VLT licenses to bars and pubs.
- Loto-Québec is mandated to operate the VLT network in licensed establishments.

1993



### 1994

- Beginning of the implementation of the first VLT network controlled by the state. It will last 2 years.
- The VLT network reaches 14,644 machines.

1994

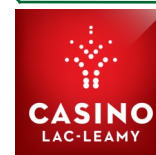


### 2001

- The government's [action plan for problem gambling 2002-2005](#) is announced and includes:
  - Moratorium on new VLT licenses.
  - Narrowing of criteria for granting and maintaining VLT licenses.
  - Removal of 1,000 VLTs.

15,300 VLTs  
for 4,085 licenses<sup>2</sup>

1996



### 2002

- Beginning of the RACJ's moratorium on new VLT licenses.

### 2003

- A [plan to reconfigure the VLT network](#) is announced and includes:
  - 31% reduction in the number of VLT sites in the following 3 years.
  - Removal of 700 VLTs.

14,300 VLTs  
for 3,663 licenses<sup>2</sup>

2007



### 2010

- Mandatory removal of all VLTs within a 2.3 km radius of gambling halls.



### 2011

- End of the moratorium on new licenses.
- Implementation of new socio-economic criteria for the placement of new VLTs.

11,380 VLTs  
across 1,861 sites

2009



### December 2016

- New [action plan](#) for the VLT network is established and includes:
  - Revision of the socio-economic criteria for attributing licenses.
  - Strengthening of responsible gambling measures.
  - Reduction of the number of VLTs to less than 10,000 in bars and pubs.

11,601 VLTs  
across 1,783 sites

### December 2017















- Final phase of VLT removals begins.
- Goal: less than 10,000 VLTs in bars and pubs by the end of 2018.

<sup>1</sup> Electronic gambling machines including video lottery terminals located in bars, pubs, and gambling halls, as well as slot machines located in casinos and gambling halls.

<sup>2</sup> More than one license can be attributed per site (data per site not available before 2007).

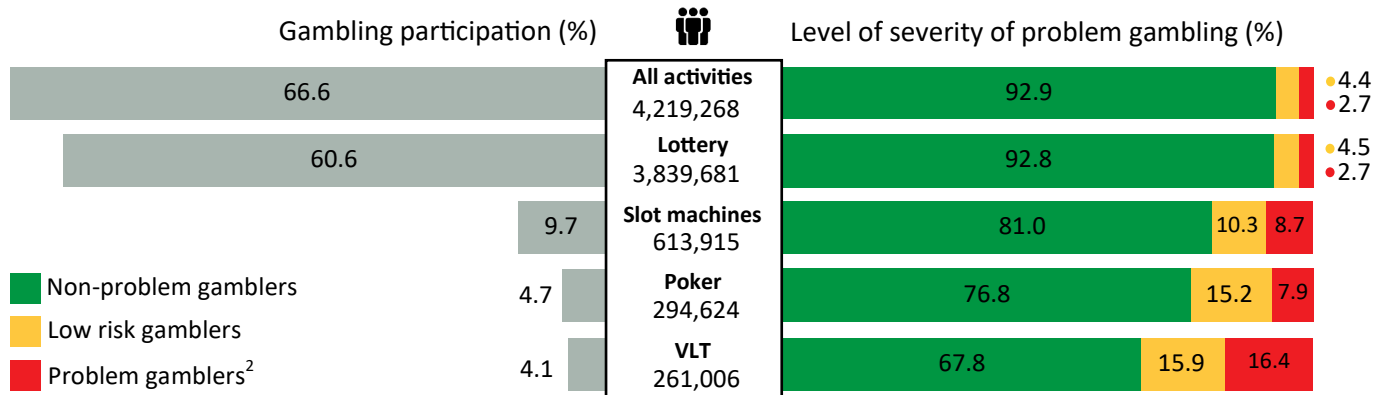
## Characteristics of electronic gambling machines in Quebec, 2018

Even though slot machines and video lottery terminals are physically and electronically very similar, their characteristics differ in many ways due to regulatory requirements.

		Slot machines	Video lottery terminals
<b>Access</b>			
Location and opening hours	Casinos	24 / 24 *	
	Gambling halls	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.	8:30 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.
	Bars		8:00 a.m. to 3:00 a.m.
	* Only in the Montréal and Lac-Leamy casinos. Hours of operation for the Mont-Tremblant and Charlevoix casinos vary based on the day of the week.		
Alcohol	Served at the machine		
<b>Parameters of electronic gambling machines</b>			
Return rate	Legal minimum	83%	83%
	Average minimum	92%	92%
Minimum bet	Casinos	1¢	
	Gambling halls	1¢	1¢
	Bars		1¢
Maximum bet	Legal maximum	No limit	\$2.50
	Currently available	\$100 *	\$2.50
* A few slot machines located in the casinos' high-limits lounges have a maximum bet of \$300.			
Maximum credit	Legal maximum	No limit	25¢
	Currently available	\$100	25¢
Maximum win	Legal maximum	No limit	\$1,000
Cashing out	Player can cash out	At any time	At any time
	Automatic starting at	\$2,000	\$1,000
Time per game	Legal minimum	No limit	5 seconds
Incentives	Stop button	 *	
	Bonus round	 *	 *
* Available on certain slot machines and VLTs.			
Networked machines	Tournament		
	Progressive jackpots *		
* For example, a progressive jackpot of <b>\$1.825 million</b> was won at a slot machine in December 2017.		The outcome of a game on a slot machine or a VLT rests at all times on <b>randomness</b> even when the player can make choices.	

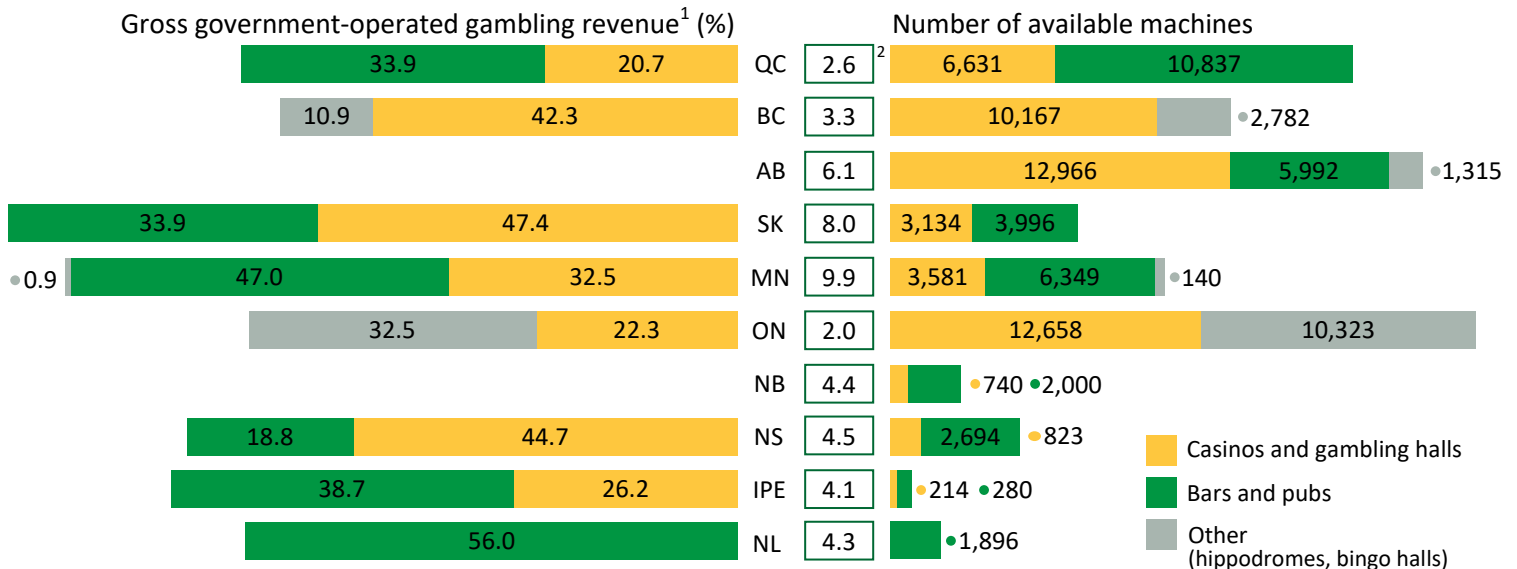
# Statistics on participation, availability, and revenue of electronic gambling machines

**Figure 1. Gambling participation and severity of problem gambling<sup>1</sup> in the adult population, Quebec, 2012**



<sup>1</sup> Defined by the Canadian Problem Gambling Index; <sup>2</sup> Includes moderate risk and problem gamblers

**Figure 2. Revenue and availability of electronic gambling machines, Canada, 2016-2017**



<sup>1</sup> Revenue data for Alberta and New Brunswick not available; <sup>2</sup> Number of machines per 1,000 adults

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## Research chair on gambling studies

Concordia University  
2070 Mackay Street  
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3G 1M8  
Tel.: +1 514 848-2424 ext. 5398  
Website: [concordia.ca/research/lifestyle-addiction](http://concordia.ca/research/lifestyle-addiction)  
E-mail: [lifestyle.lab@concordia.ca](mailto:lifestyle.lab@concordia.ca)

