

## Cost per Hour Chart

| Game                              | House Edge | Bets per Hour | Bet Size    | Total \$ Wagered/hr | Player Cost/hr |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------|
| <b>Blackjack – 2 Deck Minimum</b> |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Basic strategy                    | 0.5%       | 80            | \$50.00     | \$4000              | \$20.00        |
| Average play                      | 1.5%       | 80            | \$50.00     | \$4000              | \$60.00        |
| Weak play                         | 3.0%       | 80            | \$50.00     | \$4000              | \$120.00       |
| Naive play                        | 6.0%       | 80            | \$50.00     | \$4000              | \$240.00       |
| <b>Let it Ride</b>                | 3.5%       | 45            | \$5.00      | \$225               | \$7.88         |
| <b>Roulette Single Zero</b>       |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Inside minimum                    | 2.7%       | 40            | \$1.00      | \$40                | \$1.08         |
| Inside typical                    | 2.7%       | 40            | \$20.00     | \$800               | \$21.60        |
| Outside – Min                     | 2.7%       | 40            | \$5.00      | \$200               | \$5.40         |
| <b>Caribbean Ante</b>             |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Ante                              | 5.32%      | 45            | \$5.00      | \$225               | \$11.97        |
| <b>Pal Gow</b>                    |            |               |             |                     |                |
| No banking                        | 2.54%      | 40            | \$10.00     | \$400               | \$10.16        |
| Banking – every other hand        | 1.27%      | 40            | \$10.00     | \$400               | \$5.08         |
| <b>3 Card Poker</b>               |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Ante                              | 3.37%      | 70            | \$5.00      | \$350               | \$11.80        |
| Pair Plus                         | 2.32%      | 70            | \$5.00      | \$350               | \$8.12         |
| <b>Alberta VLTs</b>               |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Max bet                           | 8.0%       | 500           | \$2.50      | \$1250              | \$100.00       |
| Min bet                           | 8.0%       | 500           | \$0.25      | \$125               | \$10.00        |
| Average bet                       | 8.0%       | 500           | \$1.50      | \$750               | \$60.00        |
| <b>Slots</b>                      |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Casino Average                    | 8.4%       | 600           | \$0.25-1.00 | \$150-600           | \$12.60-50.40  |
| Nickels - bet 10                  | 8%         | 600           | \$0.15      | \$90                | \$7.20         |
| - bet 45                          | 8%         | 600           | \$2.25      | \$1350              | \$108.00       |
| Quarters - bet 3                  | 8%         | 600           | \$0.75      | \$450               | \$36.00        |
| Dollars - bet 3                   | 6%         | 600           | \$3.00      | \$1800              | \$90.00        |
| <b>Baccarat</b>                   |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Bank                              | 1.06%      | 60            | \$10.00     | \$600               | \$6.36         |
| Player                            | 1.24%      | 60            | \$5.00      | \$300               | \$3.72         |
| Tie                               | 14.36%     | 60            | \$5.00      | \$300               | \$43.08        |
| <b>Blackjack – 6 Deck Minimum</b> |            |               |             |                     |                |
| Basic strategy                    | 0.71%      | 80            | \$5.00      | \$400               | \$2.84         |
| Average play                      | 1.5%       | 80            | \$5.00      | \$400               | \$6.00         |
| Weak play                         | 3.0%       | 80            | \$5.00      | \$400               | \$12.00        |
| Naive play                        | 6.0%       | 80            | \$5.00      | \$400               | \$24.00        |

Source: Manitoba Lottery Corporation

### Gambling is Entertainment

1 hour Roulette, inside typical = about \$21.00

1 movie, 1 popcorn and 1 soda = about \$21.00

1 hour VLT, average bet = about \$60.00

1 dinner for two = about \$60.00

1 hour, nickel slots, bet 45 = about \$108.00

2 hockey tickets, parking and 2 hot dogs = about \$108.00



### Help is Available

Are you concerned that you or someone you know may have a gambling problem? Call the 24-hour, toll-free Help Line at 1-866-332-2322, contact your nearest AADAC office, or visit

[www.aadac.com](http://www.aadac.com)

**RESPONSIBLE**  
**GAMBLING**  
hold your own

1-866-332-2322

**Alberta**  
Gaming and  
Liquor Commission

**AADAC**  
Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission  
An Agency of the Government of Alberta

# THE COST OF PLAY

understanding  
the costs  
before you  
play





### Cost of Play

Whether you play slots, craps, blackjack, roulette or any other game in a casino, it is important to remember that games of chance are based on random outcomes and always favour the casino. These games of chance are a form of entertainment, at a price to you, the player. Casino gaming should not be considered a way for you to make money.



This brochure provides information about the advantage the casino has in various games – also known as the “house advantage” and the cost to you to play. Beyond mathematical probabilities, it covers other factors you should take into account, such as the amount wagered, length of time spent playing a game and, to a degree, the level of a player’s skill at certain games.

We encourage you to play responsibly by betting within your limits and recognize that over time the house will come out ahead.

### Casino House Advantage and Expected Loss

By looking at the chart you can compare your gambling options, and place a realistic ‘cost’ on the various games. You could consider the cost per hour to be the price for the entertainment the casino games offer players.

#### Cost per Hour of Play is calculated as follows:

$$\begin{matrix} \text{House Edge} \\ \times \\ \text{Bets Per Hour} \\ \times \\ \text{Average Bet Amount} \end{matrix}$$

Keep in mind that the cost per hour of play is a theoretical value; it is the average amount you will lose or spend over time on a particular game. Your actual results in the short term could fluctuate wildly up or down, but over time the longer any particular game is played, the more the results will conform to the expected cost per hour. Keep in mind that if you are playing faster or are betting higher amounts than listed, your cost per hour will increase accordingly.

