

# In a glimpse

AUGUST 2022

## GAMBLING IN FRANCE IN 2021

---

This 2021 assessment on gambling by the French Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (OFDT) offers a summarised view of gambling based on the latest available data. The first part presents the consolidated macro-economic data and developments for 2020 and 2021 sent by gambling operators and the French Gambling Authority (ANJ). The 2019 data was also employed, given the exogenous effect of the public health crisis on this sector of activity. The latest epidemiological data<sup>1</sup> remains unchanged in the absence of surveys carried out in 2020 and 2021.

A reminder of the main data is proposed in the last part of the documents. New results will be available for the adolescent population in 2023. A summary document marking the major changes since 2011 can also be consulted on the OFDT's website<sup>2</sup>.

The changes in macroeconomic and activity indicators observed between 2020 and 2021 were strongly conditioned by the progress of the public health crisis, which restricted the supply of gambling, particularly as a result of the lockdown and curfew measures: sales outlets, casino establishments, racecourses and gaming clubs were closed for almost half the year. These measures also penalised the mobility of gamblers. In addition to the closures, there was a sharp reduction in the commercial offer of sports events that support betting, particularly between March and June 2020, when many sports and horse racing events were cancelled. The subsequent easing of restrictions due to the public health crisis continued to have a significant impact on casino operators, who were affected by the drop in tourist activity and, in particular, the absence of the international clientele on which part of their business usually relies.

2021 was marked by a catch-up effect, following the contraction of the market recorded in 2020, with all the 2021 indicators logically showing strong growth in the sector in relation to 2020. The consolidated annual results showed 7% growth for all gambling activities combined. The health crisis has reinforced and accelerated the digitisation of practices, which had already begun with the opening up of the market to competition in 2010. The online gambling market (excluding the lottery) saw record levels of activity, both in terms of operators' turnover (€2.2 billion) and player accounts (5.4 million). The same trend can be observed in the online lottery games run by Française des Jeux (FDJ), with a sharp increase in the volume of bets placed (+37.5%). Only the turnover of casino establishments continued to fall in 2021.

---

<sup>1</sup> Costes J.-M., Richard J.-B., Eroukmanoff V., Le Nézet O., Philippon A. (2020) [French people and gambling. Results from the 2019 Santé publique France Baromètre](#). Tendances, OFDT, no. 138, 6 p.

<sup>2</sup> Eroukmanoff V. (2021) [Tableau de bord des « Jeux d'argent et de hasard » en France - données 2019](#). Paris, OFDT, 7 p

In 2021, the gambling business was marked by:

1. A strong rebound in the turnover of gaming operators, up by almost 7%, with a total amount of approximately €10.7 billion, largely catching up with the pre-crisis level;
2. Licensed online gambling operators saw their market share increase from 17.4% in 2020 to over 20% in 2021;
3. Household spending on gambling increased, with an average annual expenditure of €201 for gambling, compared to €190 in 2020;
4. A change in gambling practices, with more frequent use of online gambling.

Note. [Les jeux d'argent et de hasard en France en 2021](#), 9 p.