



POR 0
BOS 0

7:30 PM

If only you had played Powerball a few months ago, the odds were so much higher!

E-MAIL

FACEBOOK

TWITTER

GOOGLE

LINKEDIN

3

By **Matt Rocheleau**

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 08, 2016

It was easier to win the Powerball jackpot just a few months ago.

Before changes were made to the game this past fall, contestants had a 1 in 175 million chance of capturing the grand prize.

But those good ol' days are gone.

Your odds of hitting the jackpot now? 1 in 292 million.

In October, a switch was made that made it tougher to win the jackpot but bettered contestants' odds of winning smaller prizes.

Under the old setup, players chose five numbers from between 1 and 59 and also chose a sixth number, the Powerball, which ranges from 1 to 35.

Under the new parameters, players must choose five numbers between 1 and 69 and the Powerball is now chosen from between 1 and 26.



The game has undergone several other evolutions during its history that have made it increasingly tougher to win the jackpot.

The jackpot odds were about 1 in 55 million when Powerball started in 1992.

On the other hand, the tougher odds of winning the grand prize have increased the chances for larger jackpots.

The current jackpot, an estimated \$800 million, is the largest such prize in US history. No one has hit the jackpot since Nov. 4.

The largest jackpot ever won previously in the United States was \$656 million, in the Mega Millions game in March 2012.

The previous record for Powerball's jackpot was \$590.5 million on May 18, 2013.



Current Powerball odds

Overall odds of winning a prize are 1 in 24.87. Odds shown here are based on a \$2 play.

Prize	Needed to win	Odds
Grand Prize	All 5 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 292,201,338.00
\$1,000,000	All 5 numbers	1 in 11,688,053.52
\$50,000	4 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 913,129.18
\$100	4 numbers	1 in 36,525.17
\$100	3 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 14,494.11
\$7	3 numbers	1 in 579.76
\$7	2 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 701.33
\$4	1 number plus Powerball	1 in 91.98
\$4	Powerball only	1 in 38.32

SOURCE: Powerball

Powerball odds before changes made in Oct. 2015

Overall odds of winning a prize are 1 in 31.85. Odds shown here are based on a \$2 play.

Prize	Needed to win	Odds
Grand Prize	All 5 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 175,223,510.00
\$1,000,000	All 5 numbers	1 in 5,153,632.65
\$10,000	4 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 648,975.96
\$100	4 numbers	1 in 19,087.53
\$100	3 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 12,244.83
\$7	3 numbers	1 in 360.14
\$7	2 numbers plus Powerball	1 in 706.43
\$4	1 number plus Powerball	1 in 110.81
\$4	Powerball only	1 in 55.41

SOURCE: Powerball

Matt Rocheleau can be reached at matthew.rocheleau@globe.com. Follow him on Twitter [@mrochele](https://twitter.com/mrochele)

Get [Today's Headlines](#) from the Globe in your inbox:

[Privacy Policy](#)

SHOW 3 COMMENTS

Recommended for you

Top 10 Trending Articles

Most Viewed

Most Commented

Most Shared

Newton mourns victims of restaurant crash

Did Bill Clinton violate election rules in Mass.?

Spotlight Church abuse report: Church allowed abuse by pri...

Bernie Sanders wins by just one vote in Methuen

Massachusetts Democratic primary

Bernie Sanders loses like a Republican

Learn more

Bill Clinton's New Bedford rally raises more concerns

[SUBSCRIBE](#) [BOSTON GLOBE INSIDERS](#) [EPAPER EDITION](#) [NEWS IN EDUCATION](#)

Mitt Romney plans Thursday speech on 'state of the 2016 p...

[MY ACCOUNT](#)

[LOGOUT](#)

Parents of Boston Latin student threatened with lynching s...

[MANAGE MY ACCOUNT](#)

[DOWNLOAD CUSTOMER SERVICE APP](#)

Why working in the restaurant industry can be hard on you...

SOCIAL

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[GOOGLE+](#)

[CONTACT](#)

[HELP](#)

[FAQS](#)

[GLOBE NEWSROOM](#)

[ADVERTISE](#)

MORE

[ARCHIVES](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#)

[TERMS OF SERVICE](#)

[TERMS OF PURCHASE](#)

[YOUR AD CHOICES](#)

[WORK AT BOSTON GLOBE MEDIA](#)