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



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### By Matt Rocheleau

GLOBE STAFF JANUARY 08, 2016

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

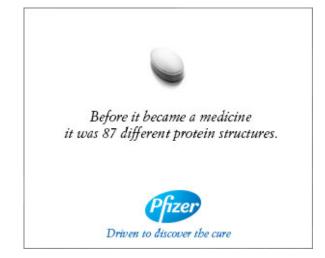
Before changes were made to the game this past fall, contestants had a 1 in 175 million chance of capturing the grand prize.

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** 

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