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# Gambling in Canada: Statistics 2020-2021

Stevens, Rhys

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# GAMBLING IN CANADA

Statistics 2020-2021

## Abstract

Statistics about gambling in Canada for fiscal year 2020-21 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021) compiled from annual reports of government organizations responsible for conducting, managing and regulating in each of Canada's provinces and territories.

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## Introduction

Statistics about gambling in Canada for fiscal year 2020-21 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021) are available within the annual reports of organizations that are responsible for conducting, managing and regulating in each of Canada's provinces and territories. Such information can be useful for understanding how much Canadians spend on this activity, determining the share of revenues returned to government, and quantifying the financial impact of provincial COVID-19 control measures. Differences in reporting and accounting practices between jurisdictions make comparisons inexact but gambling statistics are useful for establishing and comparing trends over time.

The tables included in this publication draw upon gambling statistics that are available from the [Canadian Gambling Statistics \(1970-2021\)](#) online database.

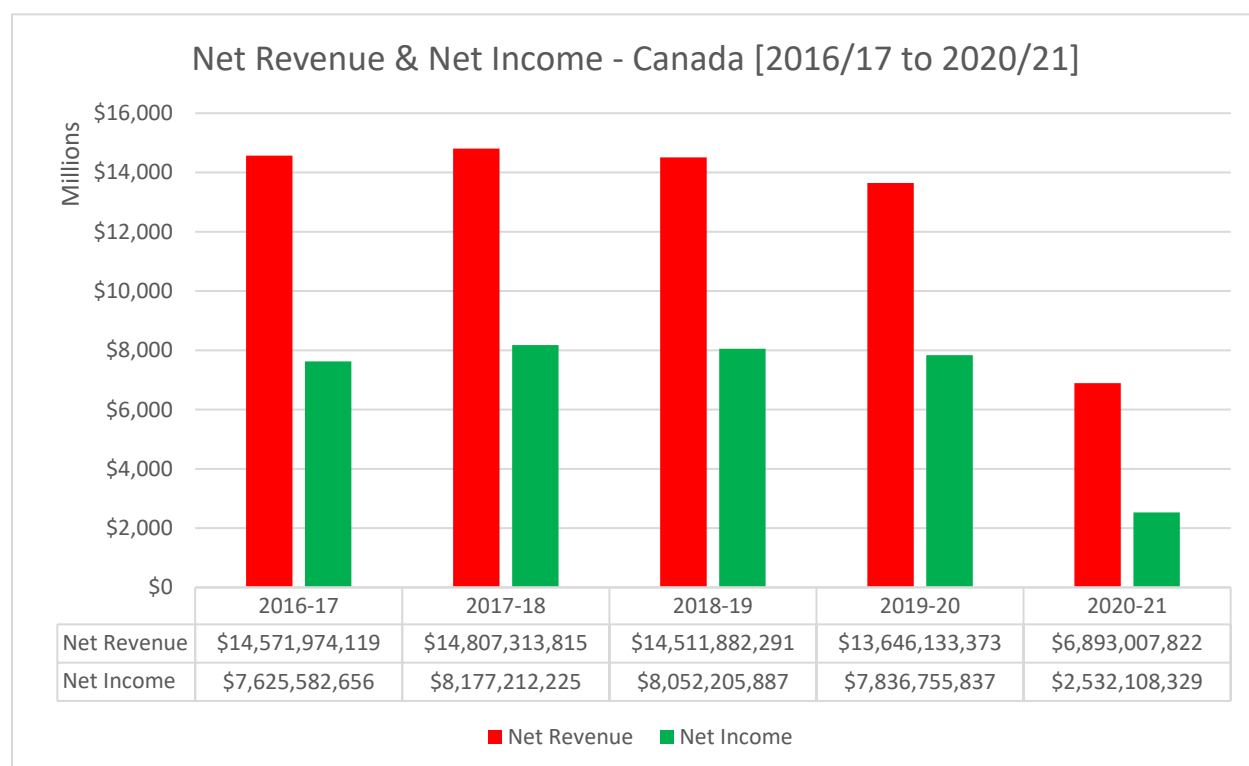
## Section 1. Gambling Net Revenue & Net Income

Definitions:

**Net Revenue:** Revenues remaining after the deduction of prizes and winnings have been paid to gamblers.

**Net Income:** Revenues remaining to government after deduction of prizes and winnings as well as other expenses related to the cost of sales (e.g., retailer commissions, federal tax expenses, etc.).

Table 1.1. Net Revenue &amp; Net Income Canada [2016/17 to 2020/21]

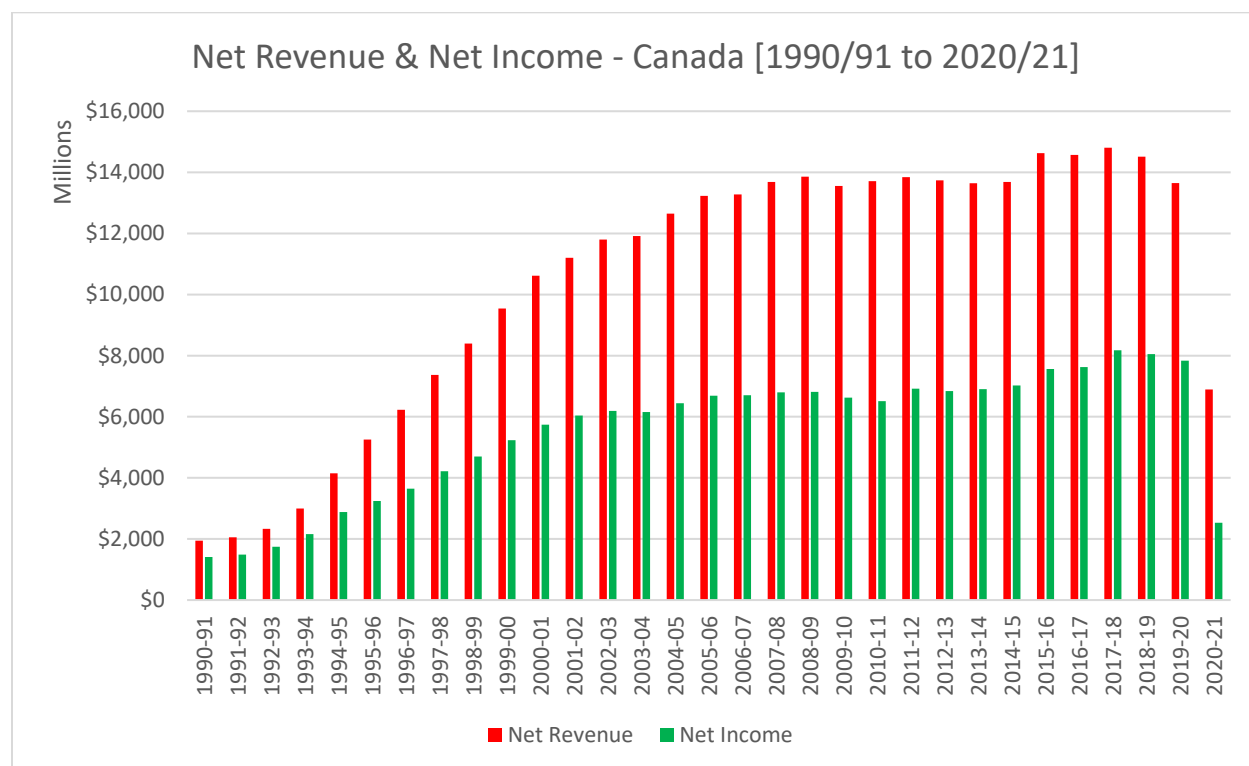


Net revenue and net income from commercial gambling as reported by Canada's provinces and territories was significantly lower in 2020-21 (net revenue = **\$6,893,007,822<sup>1</sup>**; net income = **\$2,532,108,329<sup>1</sup>**) than in comparison to previous years. **Table 1.2** provides this information for the past thirty-year period. This is primarily a result of COVID-19-related venue closures, which began in March 2020. Re-openings for some venues (e.g., land-based casinos, VLTs in bars and lounges) were on-again, off-again during much of 2020-21 in some jurisdictions while in others they closed for the entire period.

Net revenue and net income by province and territory is included in **Table 1.3** while **Table 1.4** provides net revenue and net income by province and territory on a per capita basis.

<sup>1</sup> New Brunswick figures not included in 2020-21 aggregate net income and net revenue figures due to a delay in reporting.

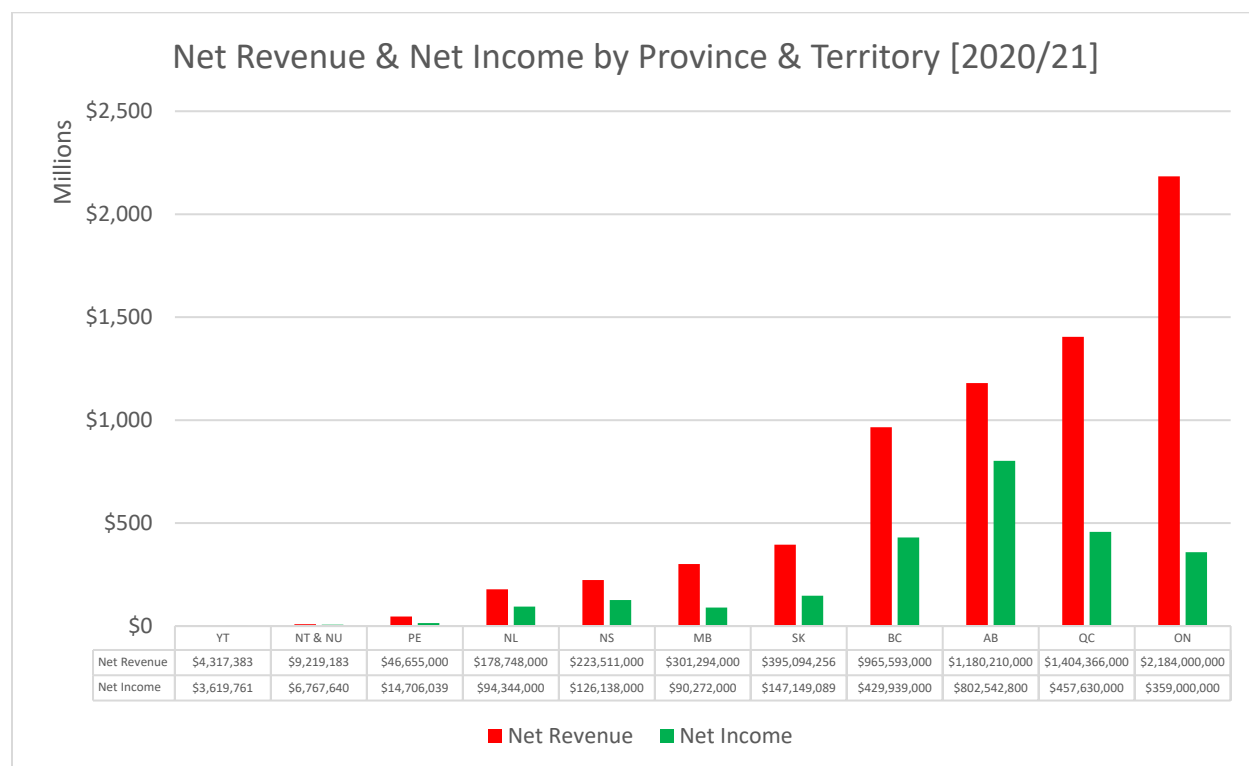
Table 1.2. Net Revenue &amp; Net Income Canada [1990/91 to 2020/21]



Net revenue from commercial gambling as reported by Canada's provinces and territories in 2020-21 (net revenue = **\$6,893,007,822**) was not this low since 1996/97 (net revenue = **\$6,226,132,875**).

Net income from commercial gambling as reported by Canada's provinces and territories in 2020-21 (net income = **\$2,532,108,329**) was not this low since 1993/94 (net income = **\$2,156,216,000**).

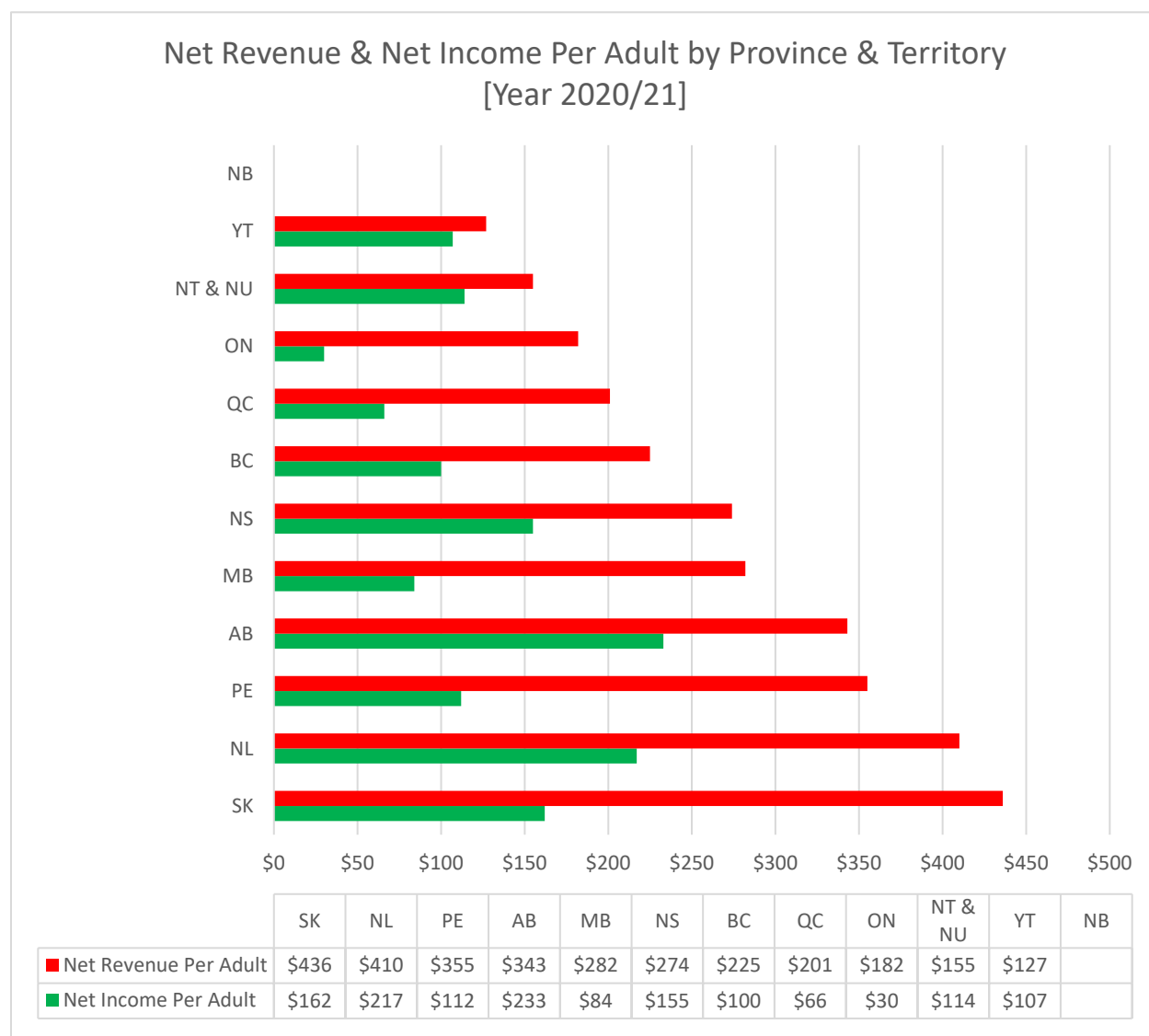
Table 1.3. Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



Canada's two most populous provinces of Ontario (ON) and Quebec (QC) generated the greatest amount of net revenue in 2020-21 despite lengthy venue closures for some gambling formats. Alberta (AB) overtook British Columbia (BC) in net revenue as casino venues closed in BC during the entire 2020-21 fiscal period. Five-year net revenue trends by province and territory appear in **Table 1.5** and **Table 1.7**.

Net revenue and net income figures for 2020-21 in some jurisdictions were either not yet available (e.g., NB) or not reported in the same way as in past years (e.g., AB for net income) and therefore not completely comparable. The general net income trend was, however, down significantly for all jurisdictions in comparison to 2019-20 with the lone exceptions being Yukon (YT). Five-year net income trends by province and territory appear in **Table 1.6** and **Table 1.8**.

Table 1.4. Net Revenue &amp; Net Income Per Adult by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



The impact of COVID-19 venue closures in 2020-21 significantly reduced net revenue per adult and net income per adult in all provinces<sup>1</sup> and territories. In general, Canada's territories and its most populous provinces of Ontario (ON) and Quebec (QC) generated the lowest per capita net revenue. Saskatchewan (SK) and Newfoundland & Labrador (NL) generated the highest.

Alberta (AB) and Newfoundland & Labrador (NL) generated the highest net income per capita.

Table 1.5. Net Revenue by Province &amp; Territory Line Chart [2016/17 to 2020/21]

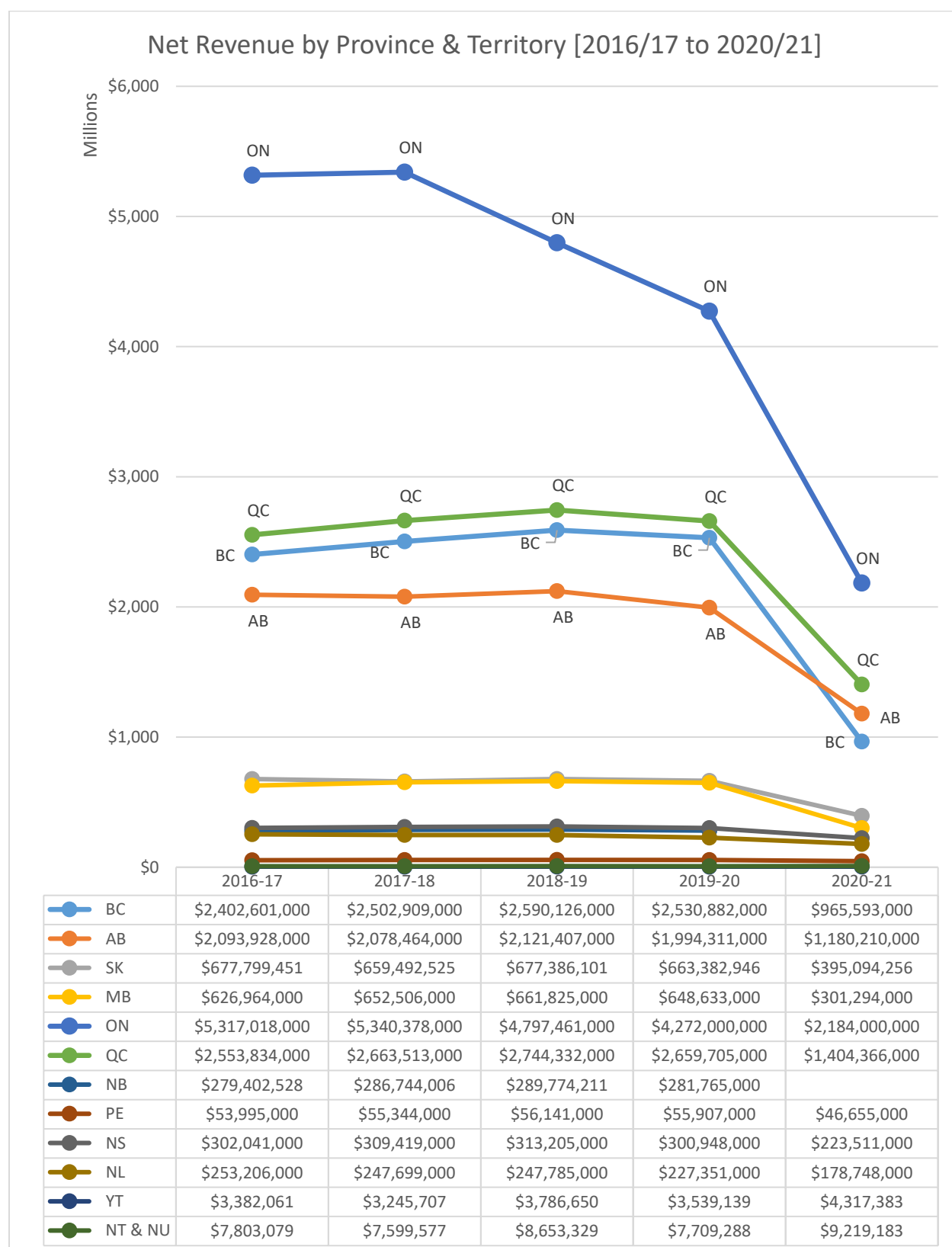


Table 1.6. Net Income by Province &amp; Territory Line Chart [2016/17 to 2020/21]

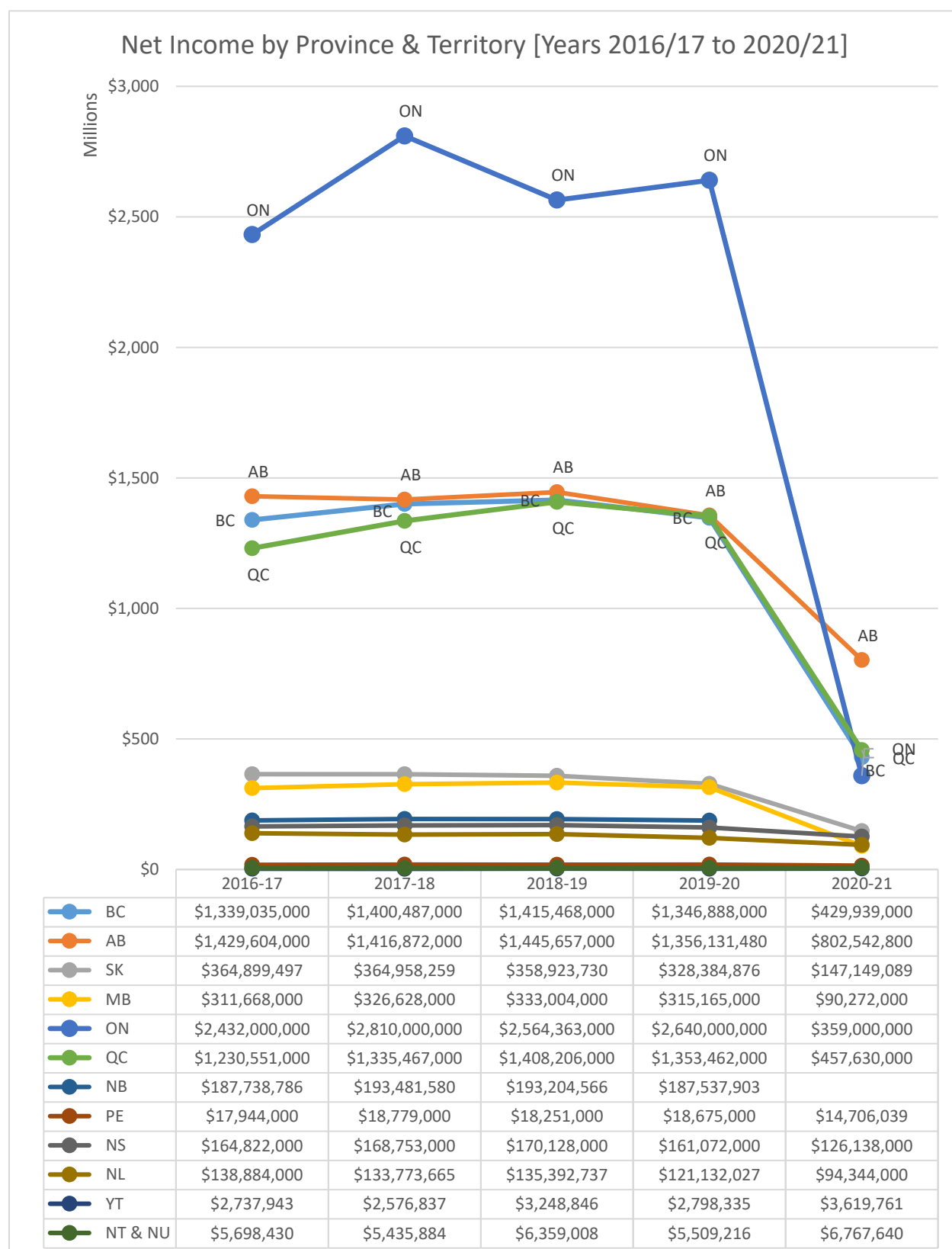


Table 1.7. Net Revenue by Province &amp; Territory Bar Chart [2016/17 to 2020/21]

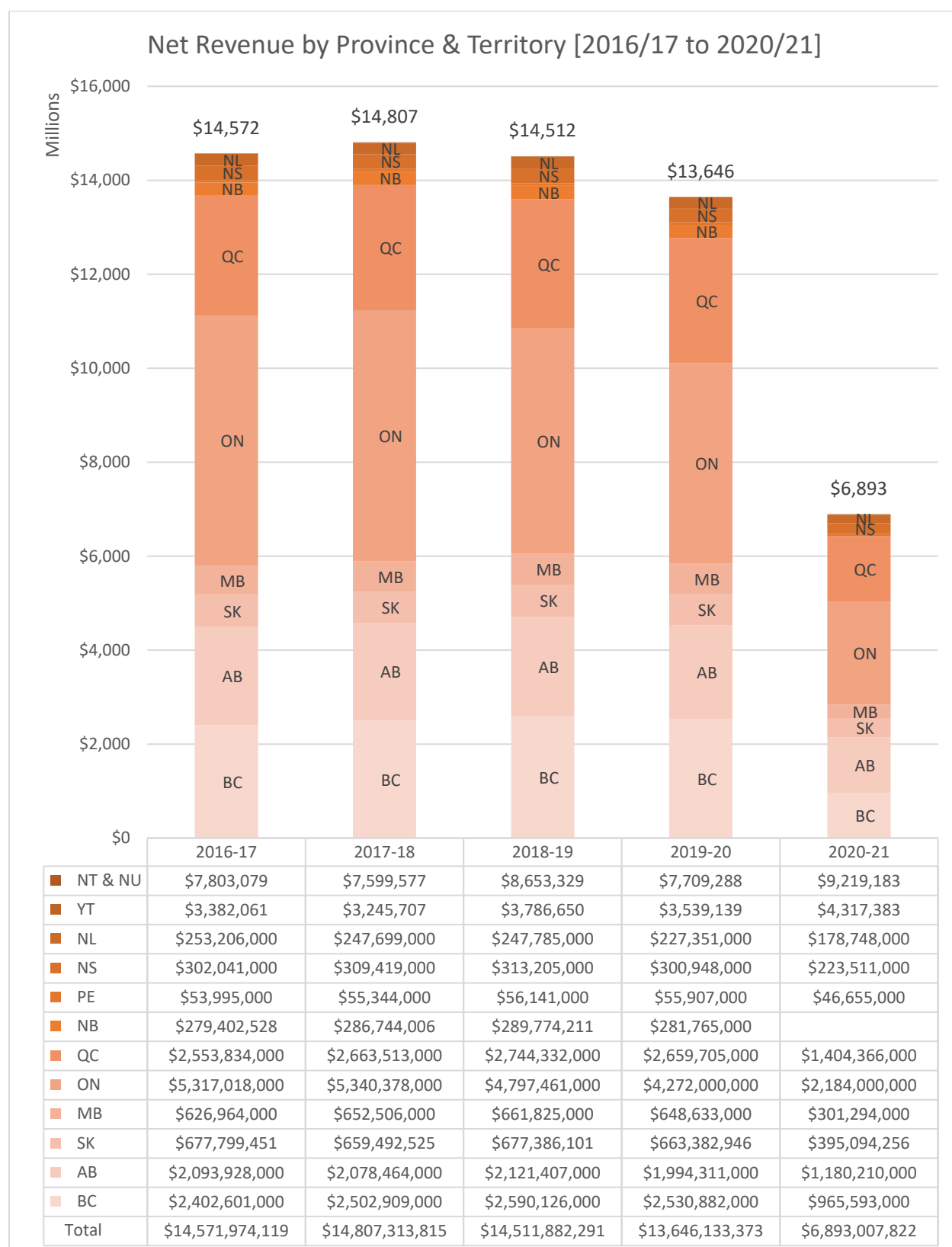


Table 1.8. Net Income by Province &amp; Territory Bar Chart [2016/17 to 2020/21]



## Section 2. Sources of Gambling Net Revenue & Net Income

### Definitions:

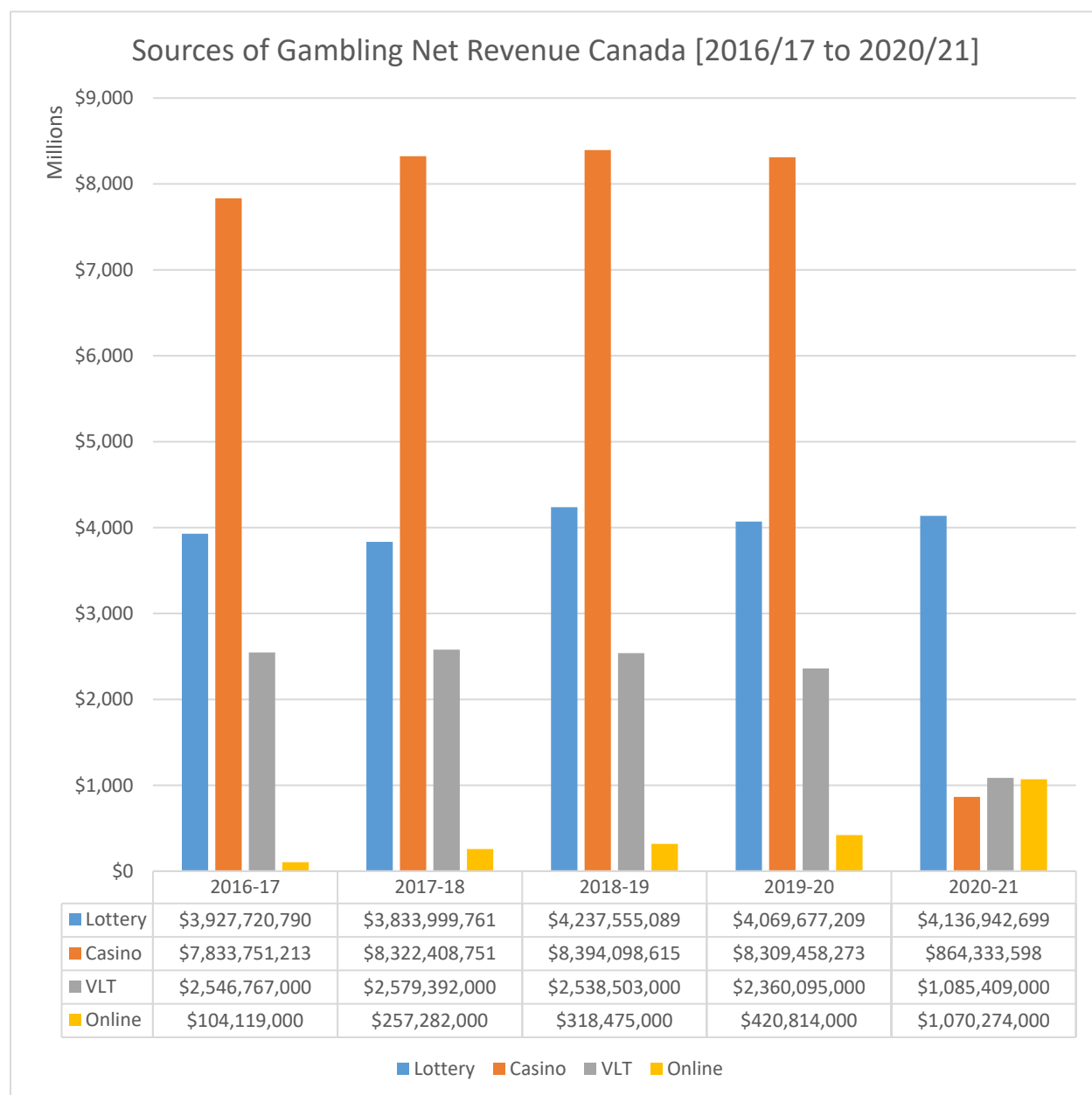
**Lottery:** Refers to commercial lottery tickets (i.e., inter-provincial lottery games, instant tickets, sports lottery). Most often purchased in-person.

**Casino:** Refers to commercial casino gambling. Typically includes slot machines and casino table games. Most often provided in-person.

**VLT:** Refers to video lottery terminal gambling in bars, restaurants and gaming halls.

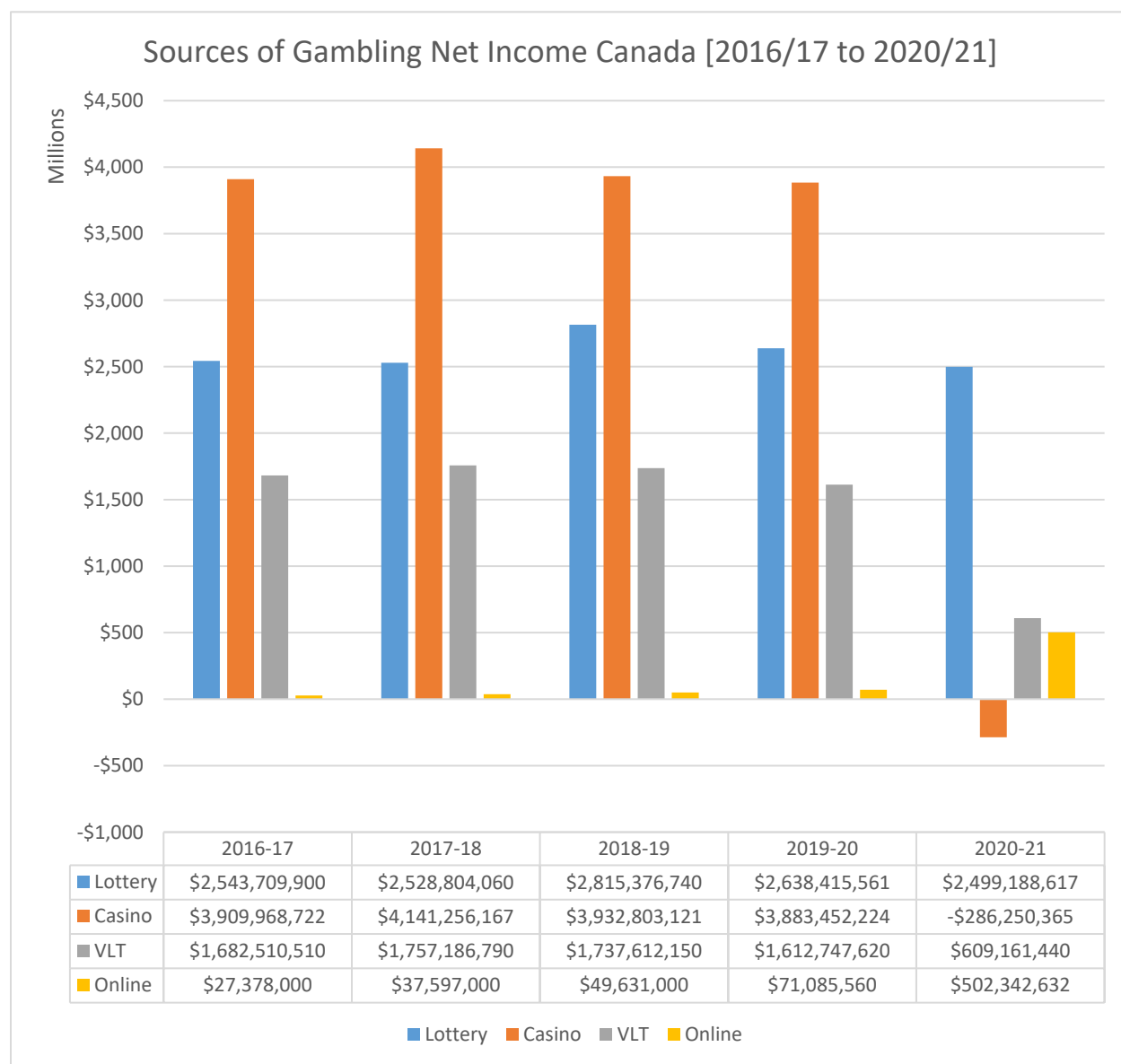
**Online:** Refers to online casino-style games provided by a provincial operator. Certain jurisdictions also include ticket lottery products purchased online in this category.

Table 2.1. Sources of Gambling Net Revenue Canada [2016/17 to 2020/21]



In 2020-21, lottery provided the greatest source of net revenue from amongst Canada's gambling formats. This is due to the fact that lottery was least impacted by the COVID-19 closures of gambling venues. Casino and VLT net revenues declined the most in 2020-21 in comparison to past years because of venue closures and disruptions. Net revenue from online formats continued their growth trajectory in 2020-21 and more than doubled from 2019-20. Note that figures for New Brunswick (NB) are not included in 2020-21 totals as they are not yet available.

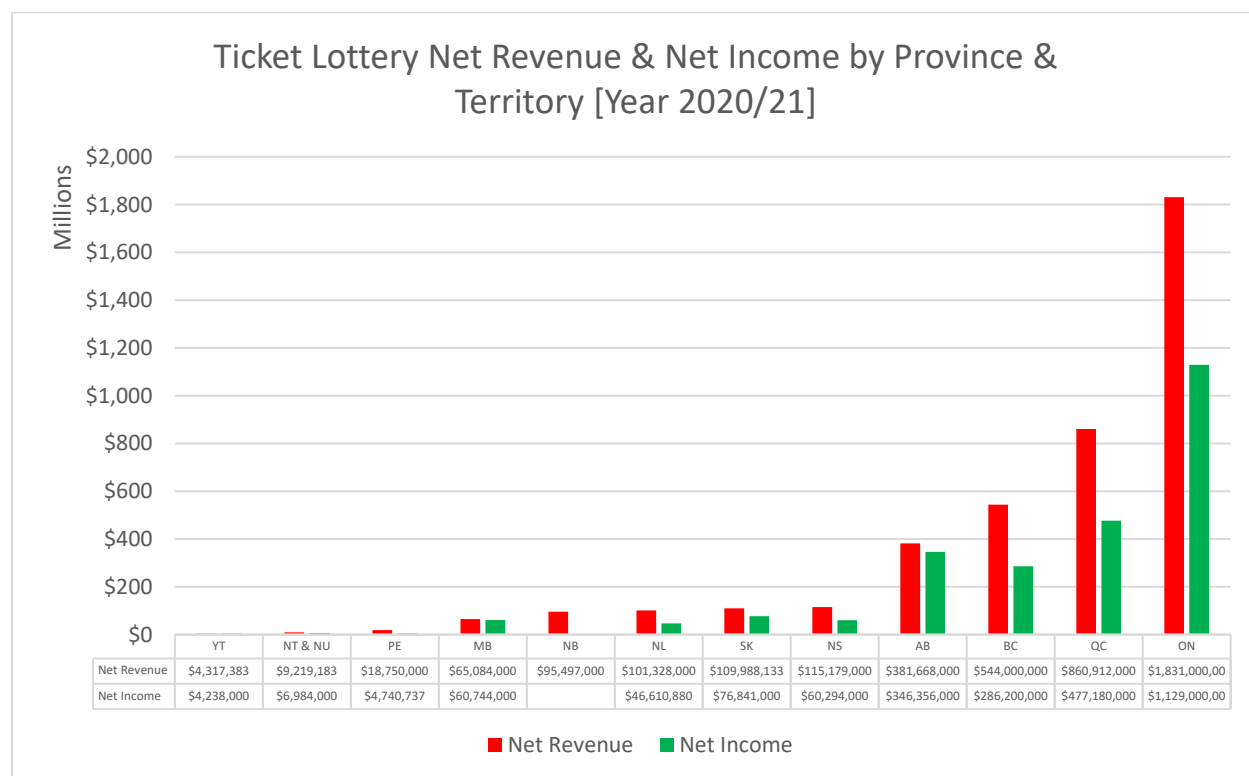
Table 2.2. Sources of Gambling Net Income Canada [2016/17 to 2020/21]



In 2020-21, lottery provided the greatest source of net income from amongst Canada's gambling formats. Lottery was least impacted by the COVID-19 closures of gambling venues. Casino and VLT net income declined most in 2020-21 in comparison to past years because of venue closures and disruptions. Casino net income was negative in 2020-21 due to both venue closures and disruptions as well as ongoing casino services provider expenses<sup>2</sup>. Net income from online formats grew significantly in 2020-21. Note that BC started reporting online net income for the first time in 2020-21, which alone increased this total by \$251.8-M. Note also that some figures for New Brunswick (NB) are not included in 2020-21 totals as they are not yet available.

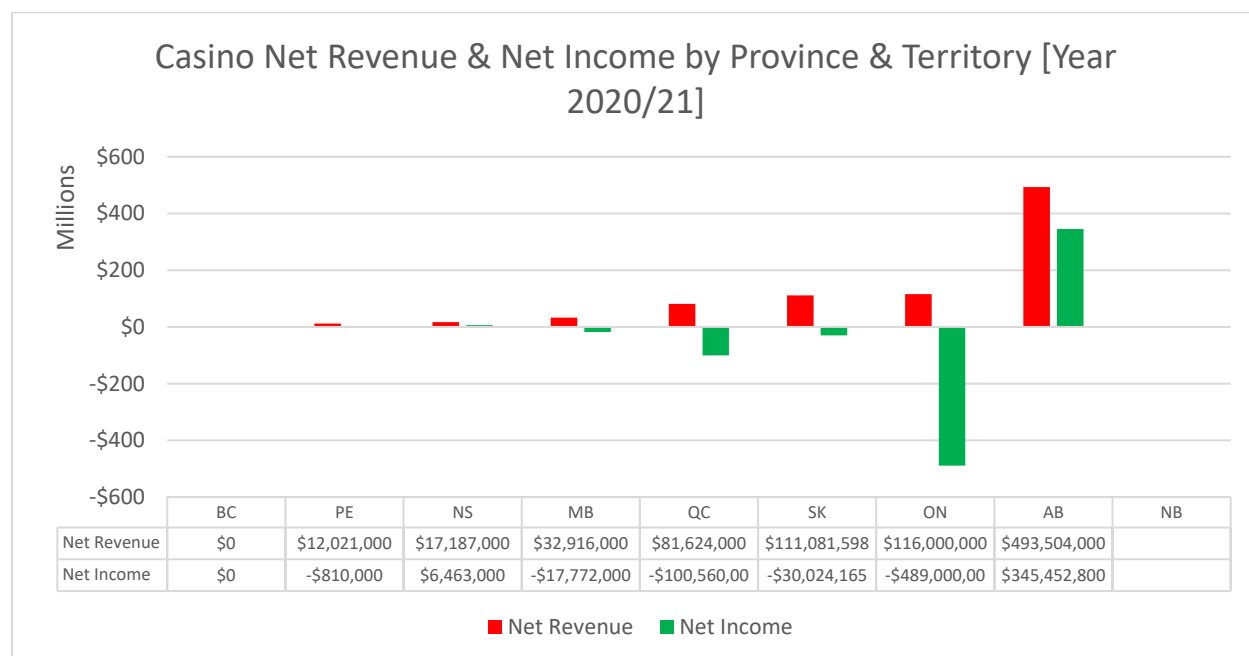
<sup>2</sup> In Ontario, gaming site expenses were incurred throughout 2020-21, even while operations were closed, including fixed fee payments made to service providers. See p.32 of OLG annual report 2020-21 for details.

Table 2.3. Lottery Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



Ticket lottery net revenue and net income in virtually all provinces and territories were both flat in 2020-21 versus past years (as shown in **Table 2.2**) despite the impact of COVID-19 closures. This format is available in all jurisdictions and the most populous provinces generate the highest net revenues and net incomes. Note that figures for New Brunswick (NB) are not included in 2020-21 net income totals as they are not yet available.

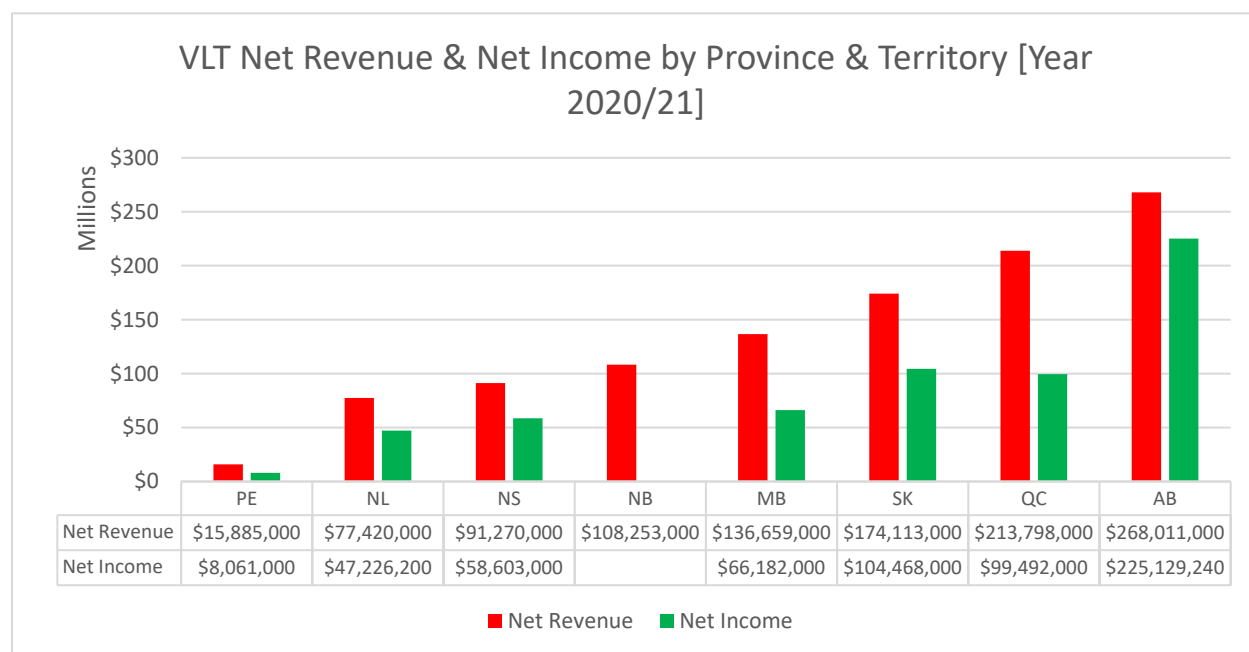
Table 2.4. Casino Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



Casino net revenue and net income in most provinces offering this format were both down significantly in 2020-21 versus previous years (as shown in **Table 2.2**) due to COVID-19 related venue closures and disruptions. Alberta (AB) fared comparatively better than most other provinces though net revenue and net income were both down roughly 50% in 2020-21 versus 2010-20. This is perhaps a result of AB venues being open for more days as well as the AB charitable casino model<sup>3</sup>. Note that figures for New Brunswick (NB) are not included in 2020-21 totals as they are not yet available.

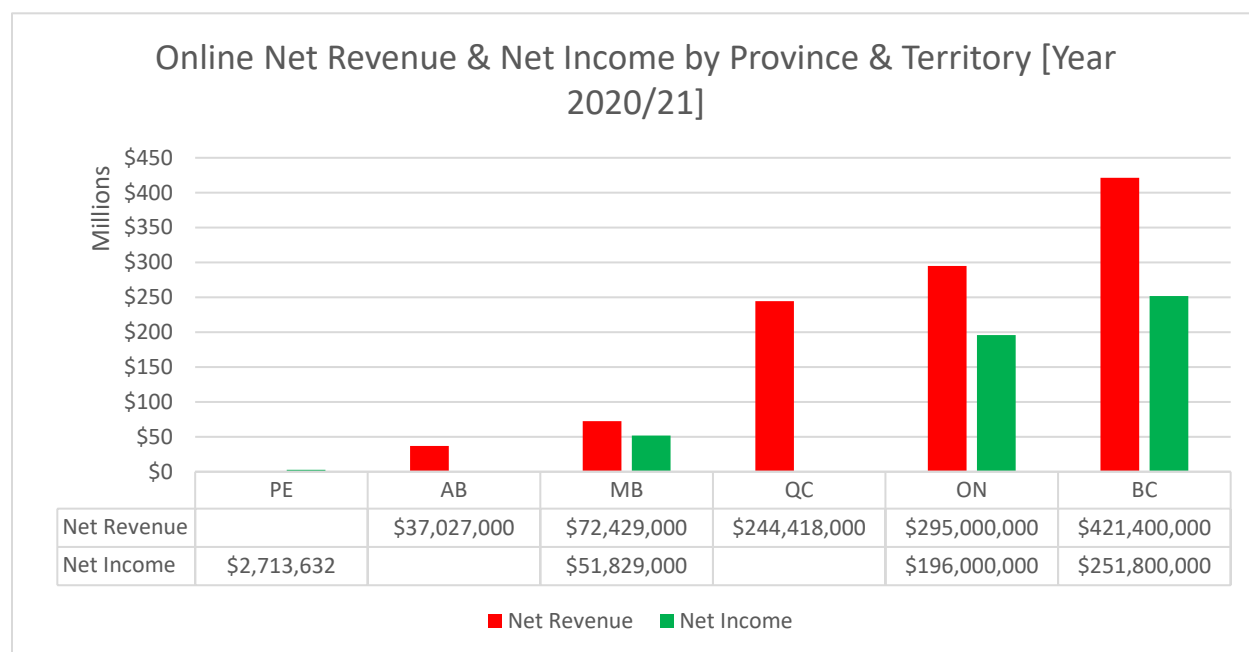
<sup>3</sup> AGLC provides equipment to retail operators through slots supplied to casinos and Racing Entertainment Centres (RECs). Retail operators earn commission from the slots.

Table 2.5. VLT Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



VLT net revenue and net income in all provinces offering this format were both down significantly in 2020-21 versus previous years (as shown in **Table 2.2**) due to COVID-19 related venue closures and disruptions. Note that figures for New Brunswick (NB) are not included in 2020-21 net income totals as they are not yet available.

Table 2.6. Online Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Province &amp; Territory [2020/21]



Online net revenue and net income in all provinces offering this format were all up significantly in 2020-21 versus previous years (as shown in **Table 2.2**). This format remained open during the COVID-19 venue closures and disruptions that affected other formats. Alberta (AB) provided an online gambling format for the first time starting in 2020-21 but only reported net revenue and not net income. Online gambling is offered in the Atlantic provinces (NB, NS, PE, NL) by the Atlantic Lottery Corporation Inc. (ALC) but revenues are not reported by the ALC separately by province. Recent net income reporting by Prince Edward Island (PE) Lottery Commission distinguishes between “net profit” derived from “in person” and “online” lottery tickets.

## Section 3. Provincial & Territorial Net Revenue & Net Income

Notes:

**British Columbia:** In 2020-21, casino venues were closed for the entire fiscal period which is reason net revenue and net income figures are \$0. In 2020-21, online net income was separately reported from ticket lottery for the first time. VLT format is not available in jurisdiction.

**Alberta:** In 2020-21, online gambling was introduced and net revenue is included for the first time. Net income not reported.

**Saskatchewan:** Online format is not available in jurisdiction.

**Manitoba:** Casino net revenue and net income figures do not include First Nations casinos or Shark Club Gaming Centre.

**Ontario:** VLT format is not available in jurisdiction.

**Quebec:** Casino and VLT net revenue and net income figures do not include First Nations facilities.

**New Brunswick:** Online net revenue and net income not reported separately and included within Ticket Lottery. Figures for 2020-21 not yet reported.

**Prince Edward Island:** Online net revenue not reported separately and included within Ticket Lottery.

**Nova Scotia:** Online net revenue and net income not reported separately and included within Ticket Lottery.

**Newfoundland & Labrador:** Online net revenue and net income not reported separately and included within Ticket Lottery. Casino format is not available in jurisdiction.

**Yukon:** Ticket lottery net revenue and net income includes breakopen tickets. VLT, online and commercial casino formats not available in jurisdiction.

**NWT & Nunavut:** VLT, online and commercial casino formats not available in jurisdiction.

Table 3.1. British Columbia Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

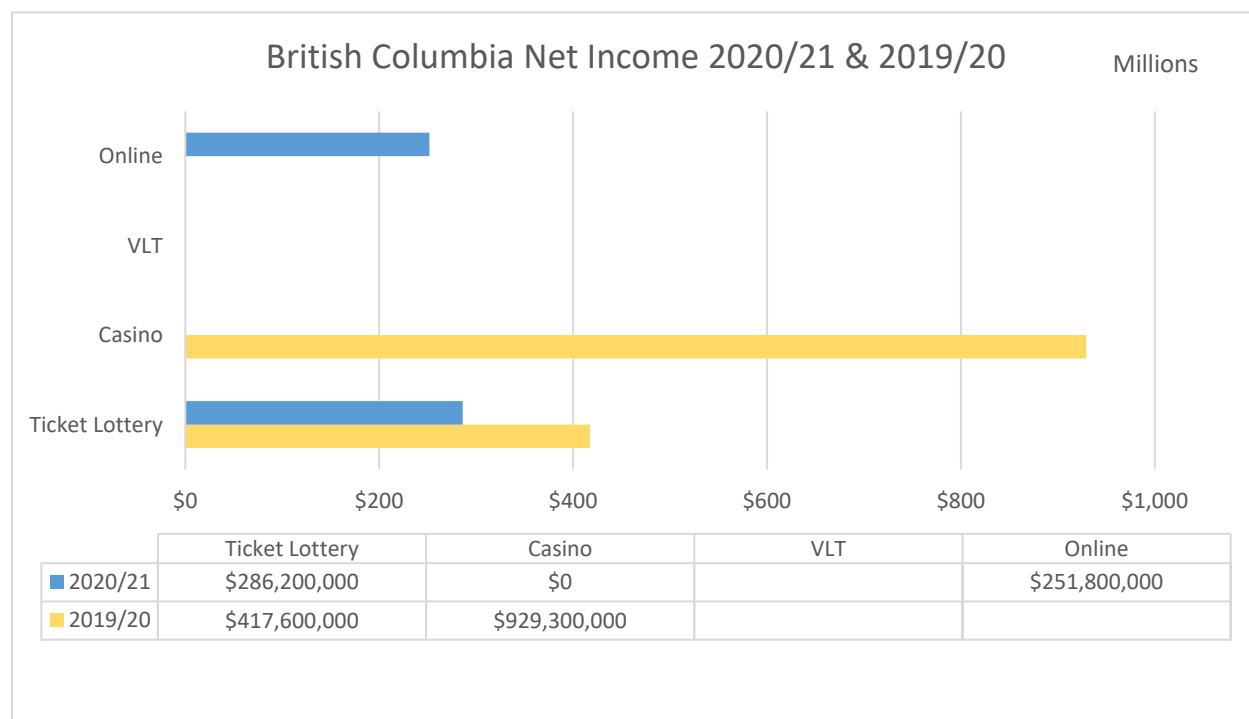
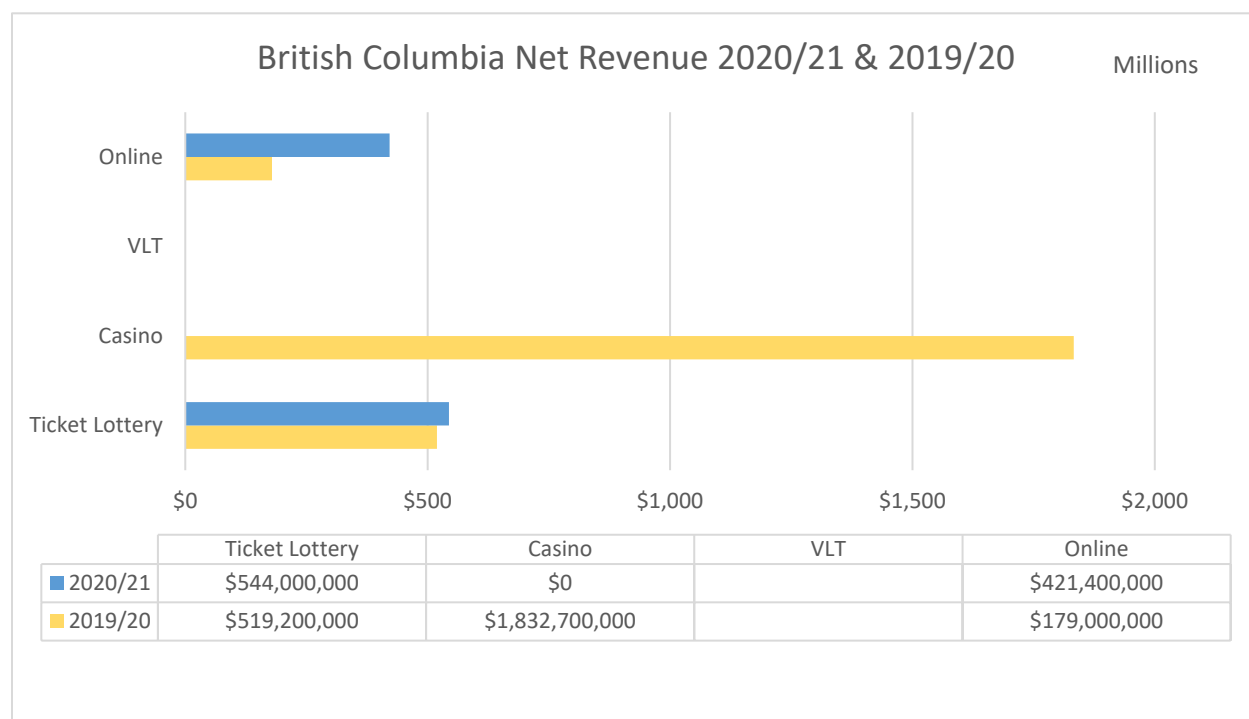


Table 3.2. Alberta Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

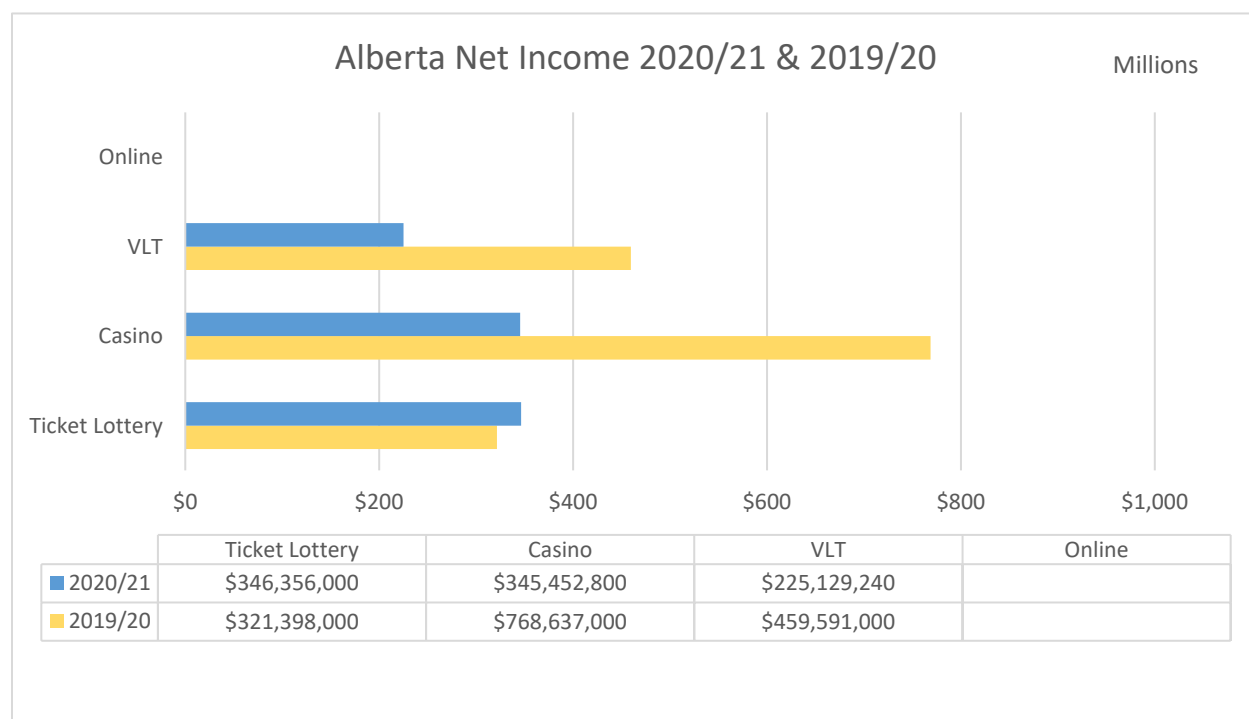
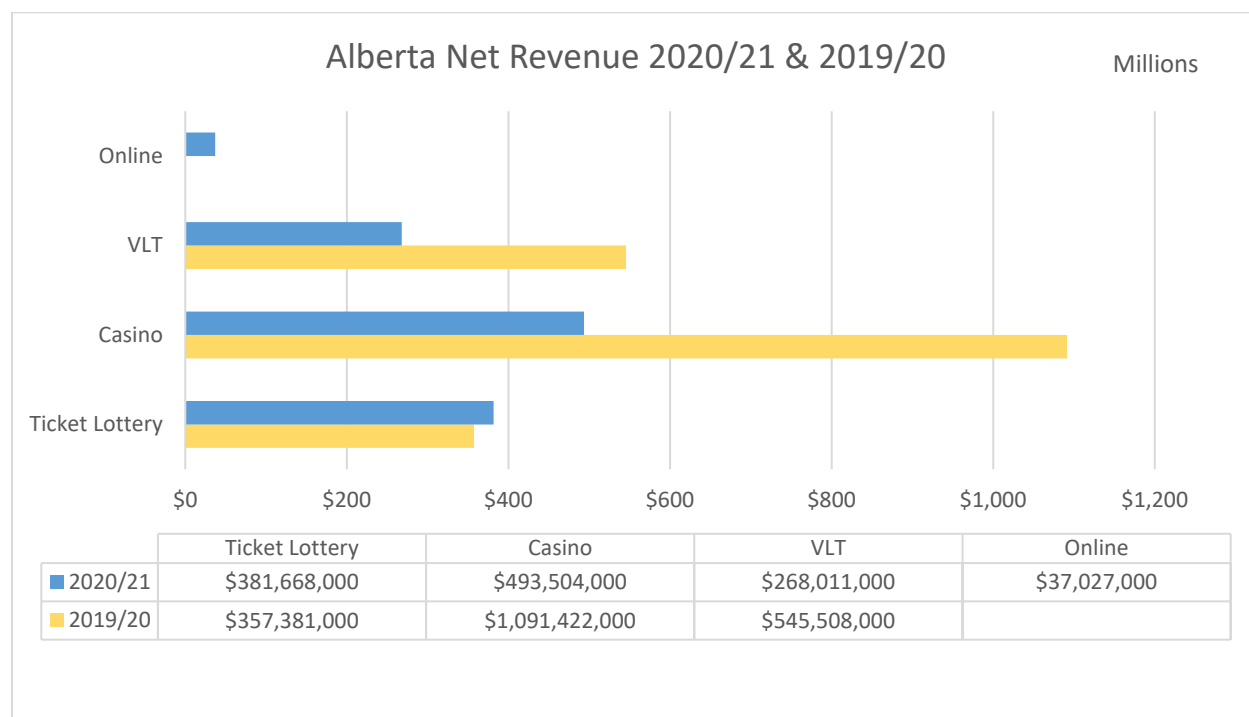


Table 3.3. Saskatchewan Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

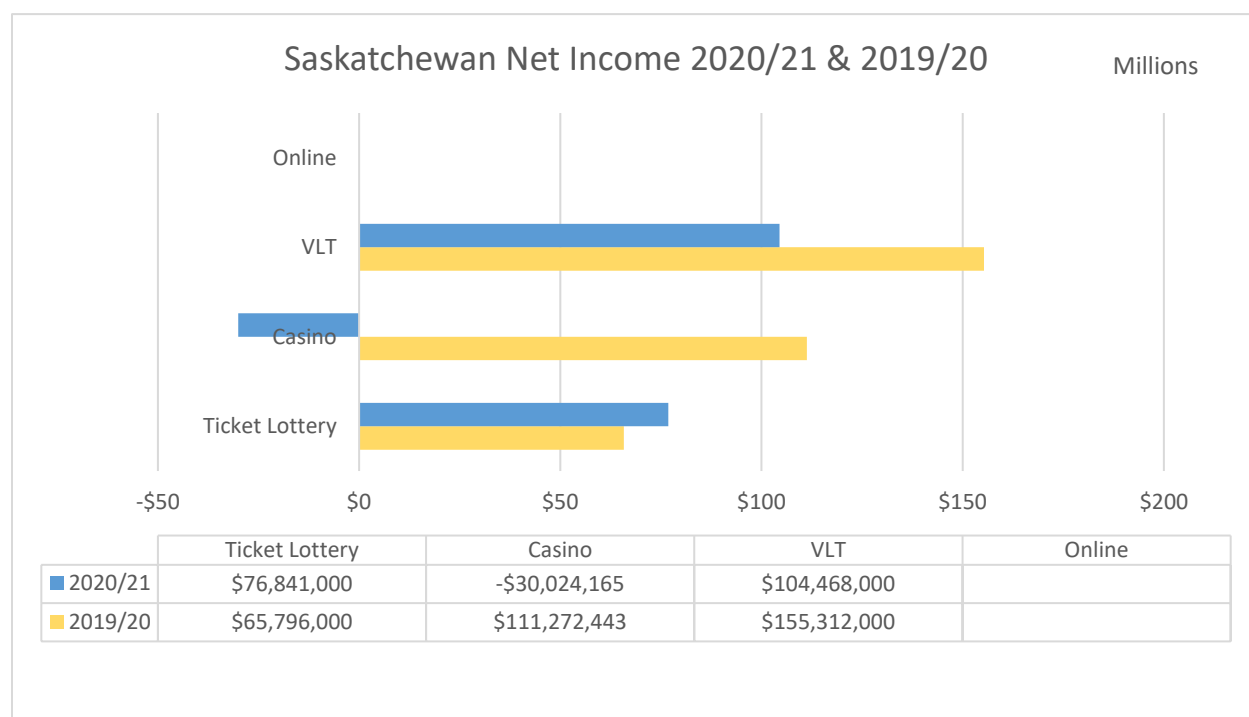
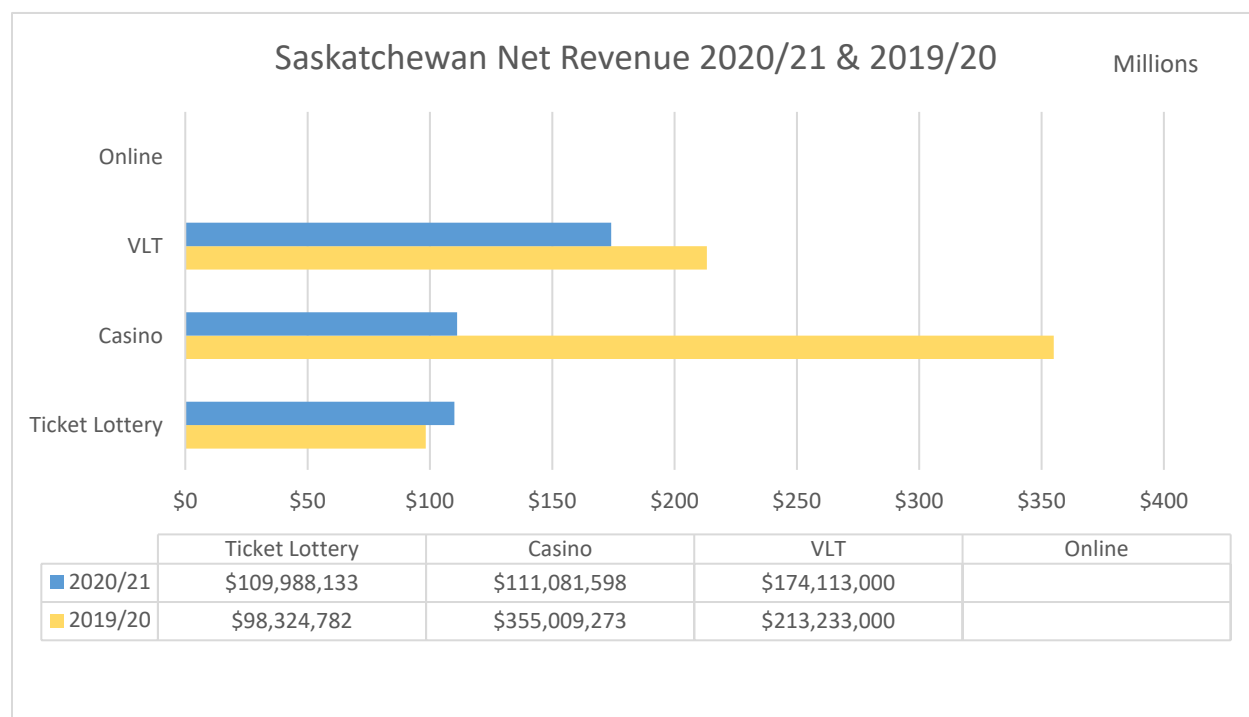


Table 3.4. Manitoba Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

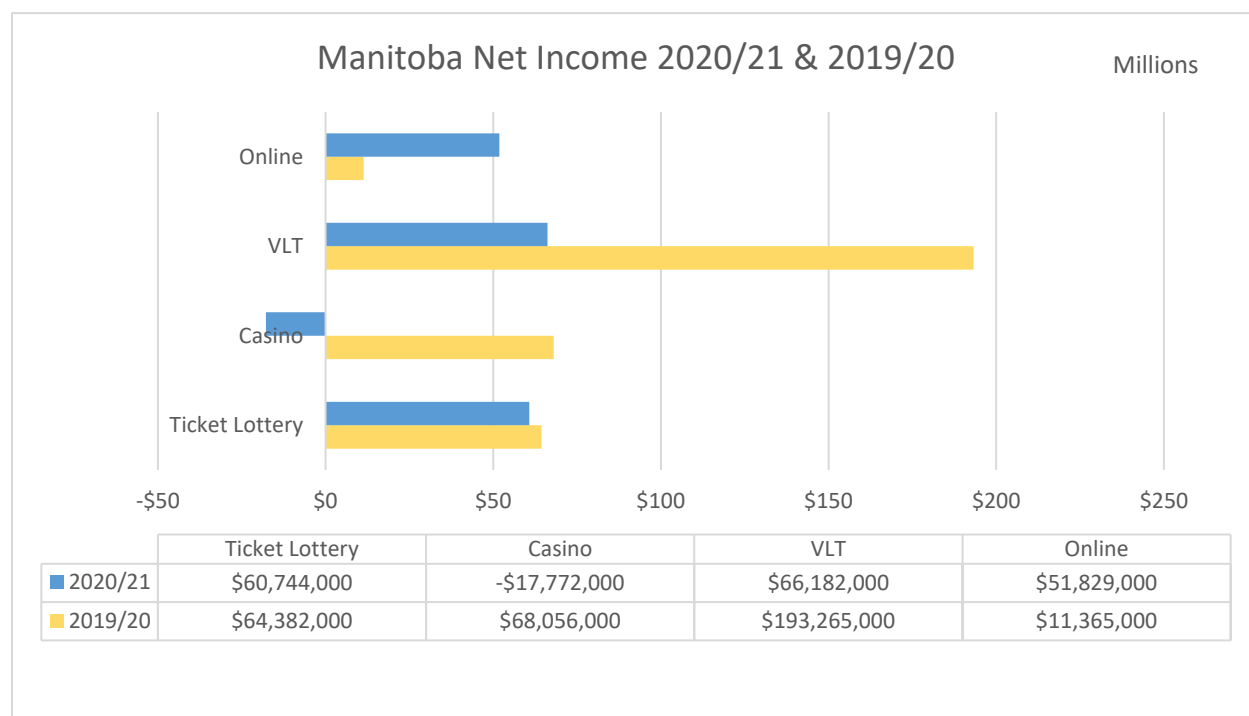
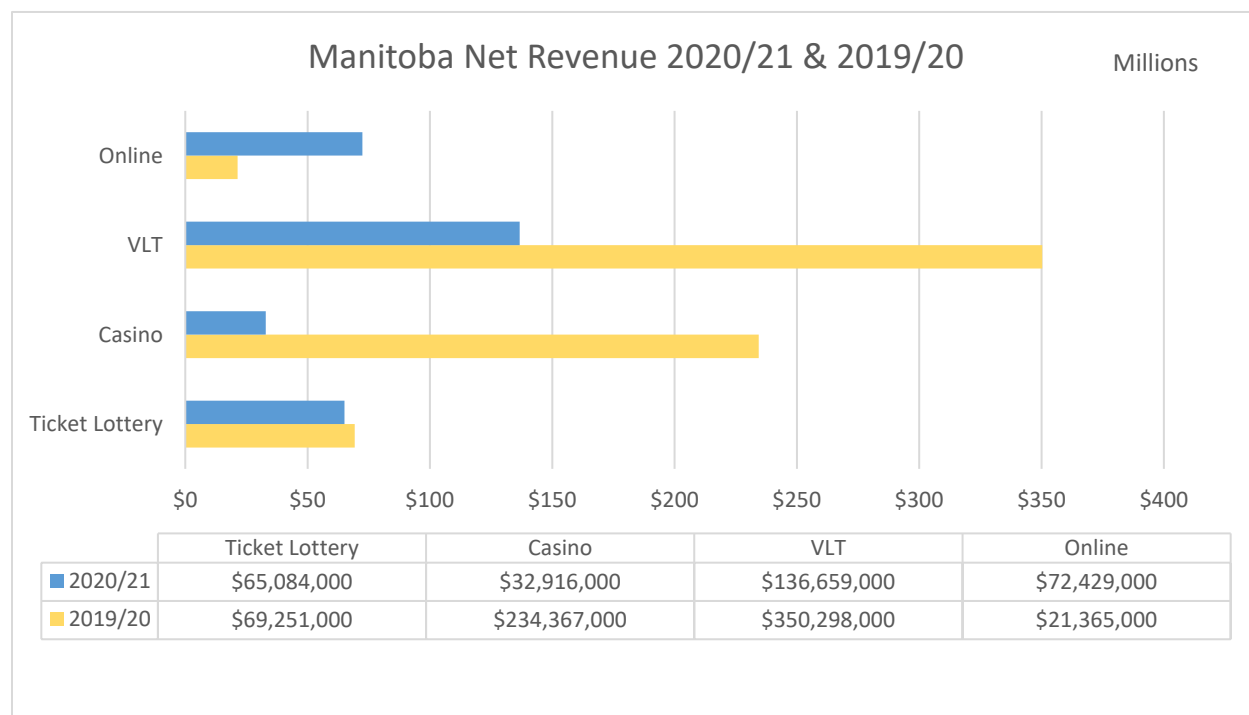


Table 3.5. Ontario Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

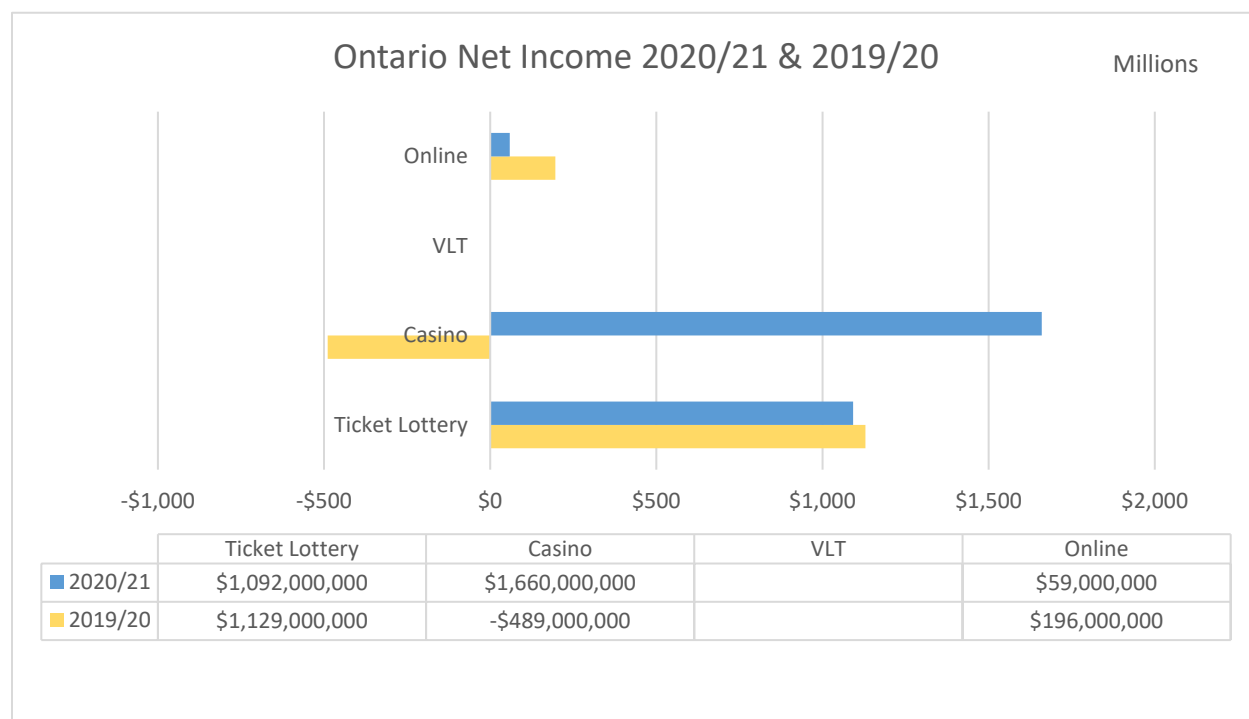
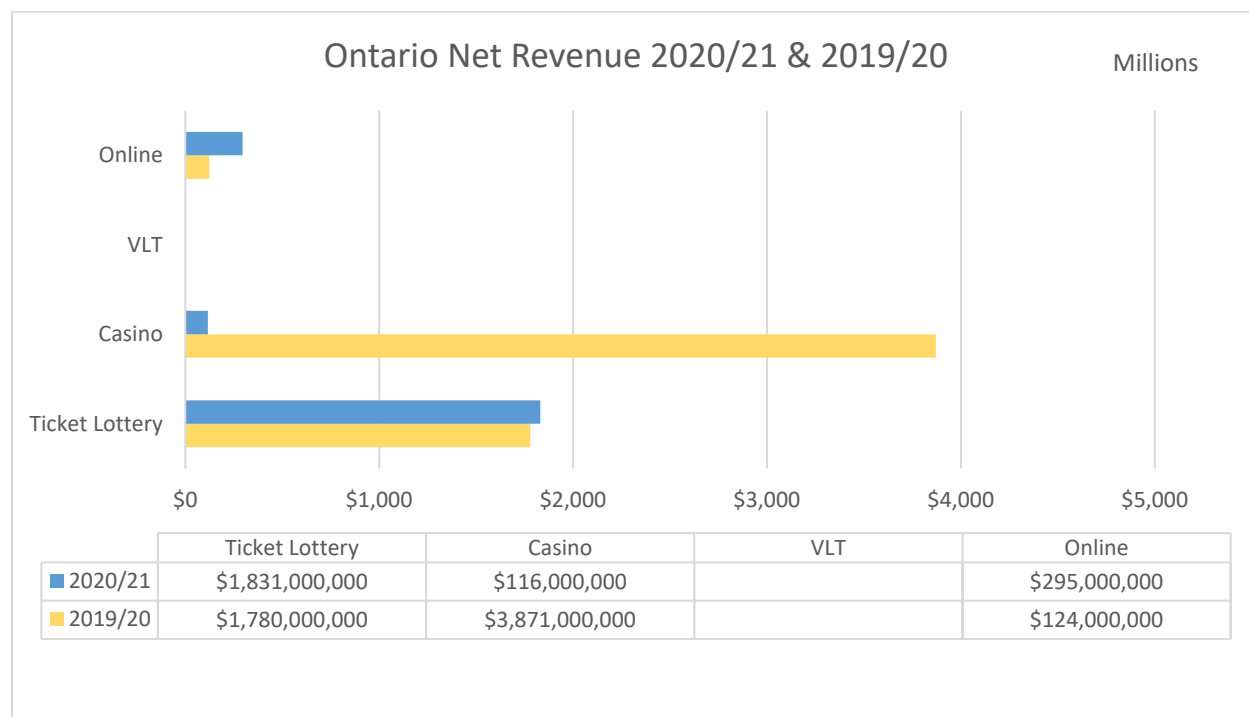


Table 3.6. Quebec Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

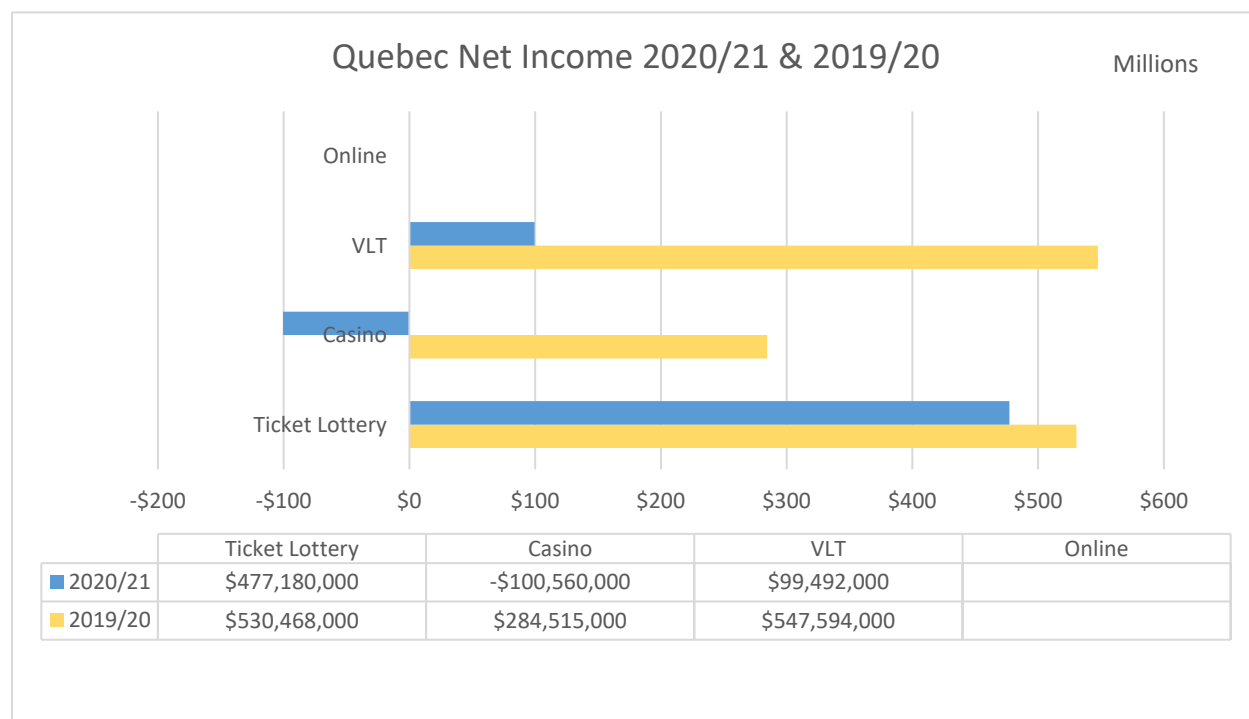
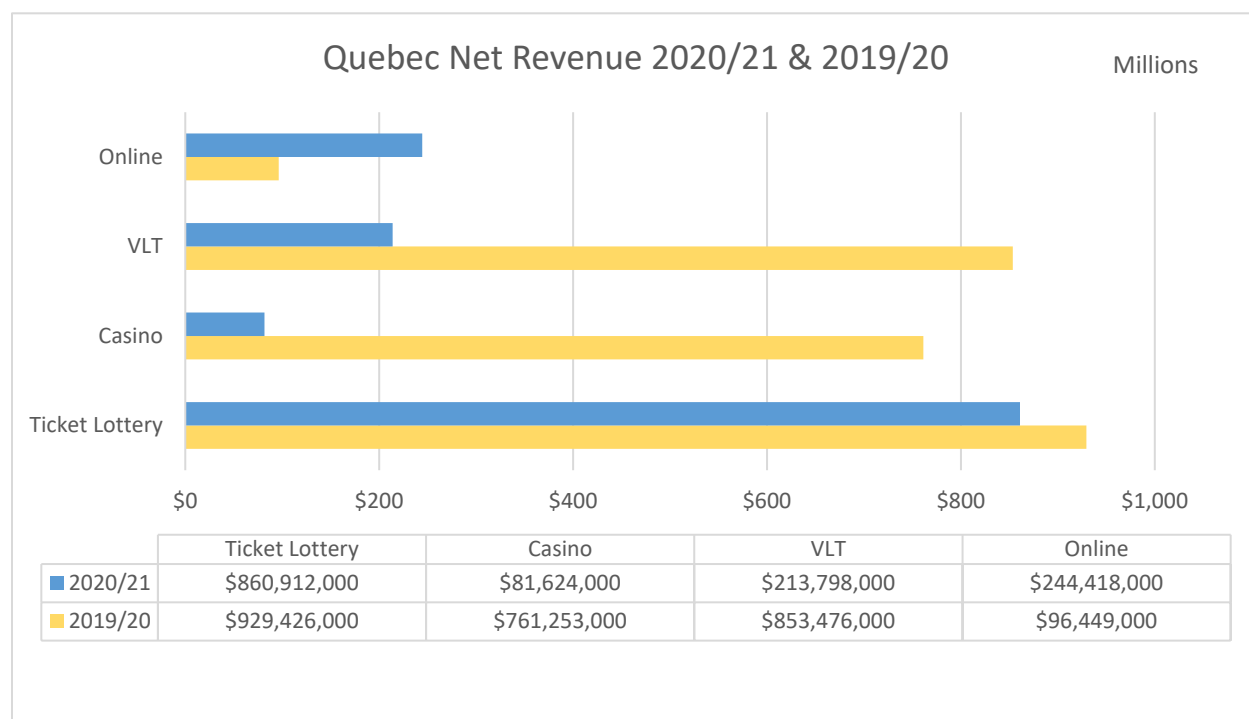


Table 3.7. New Brunswick Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

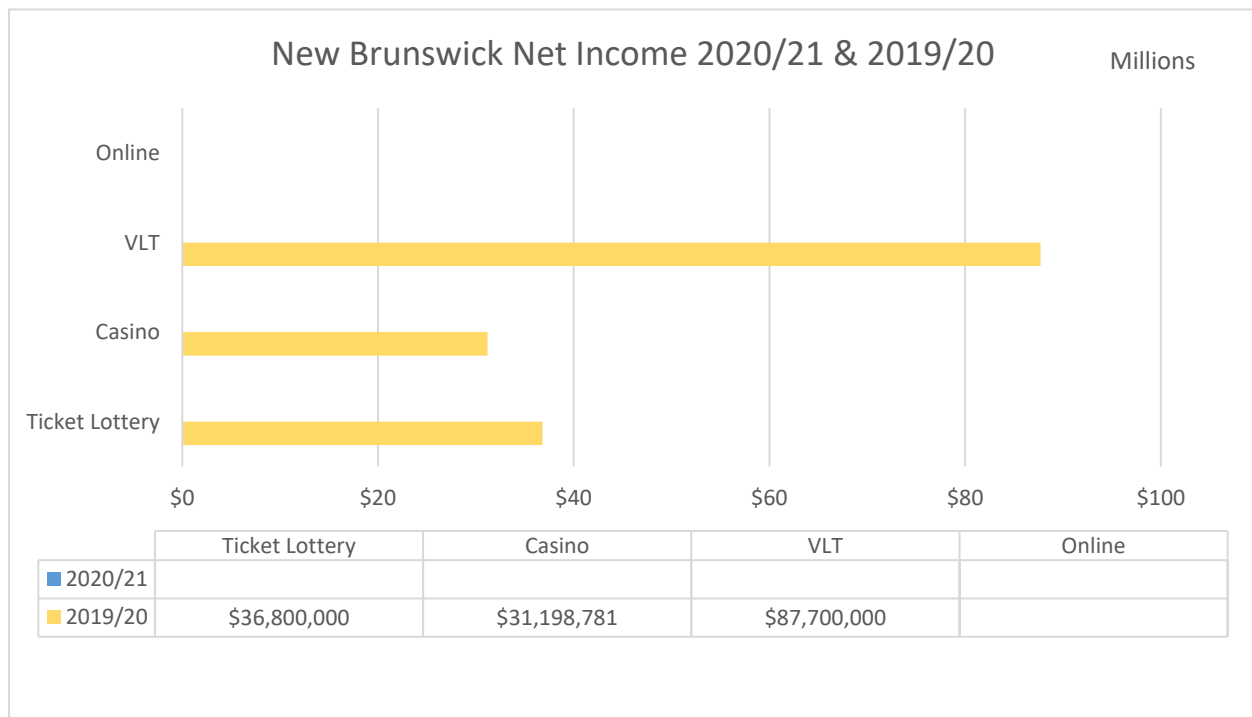
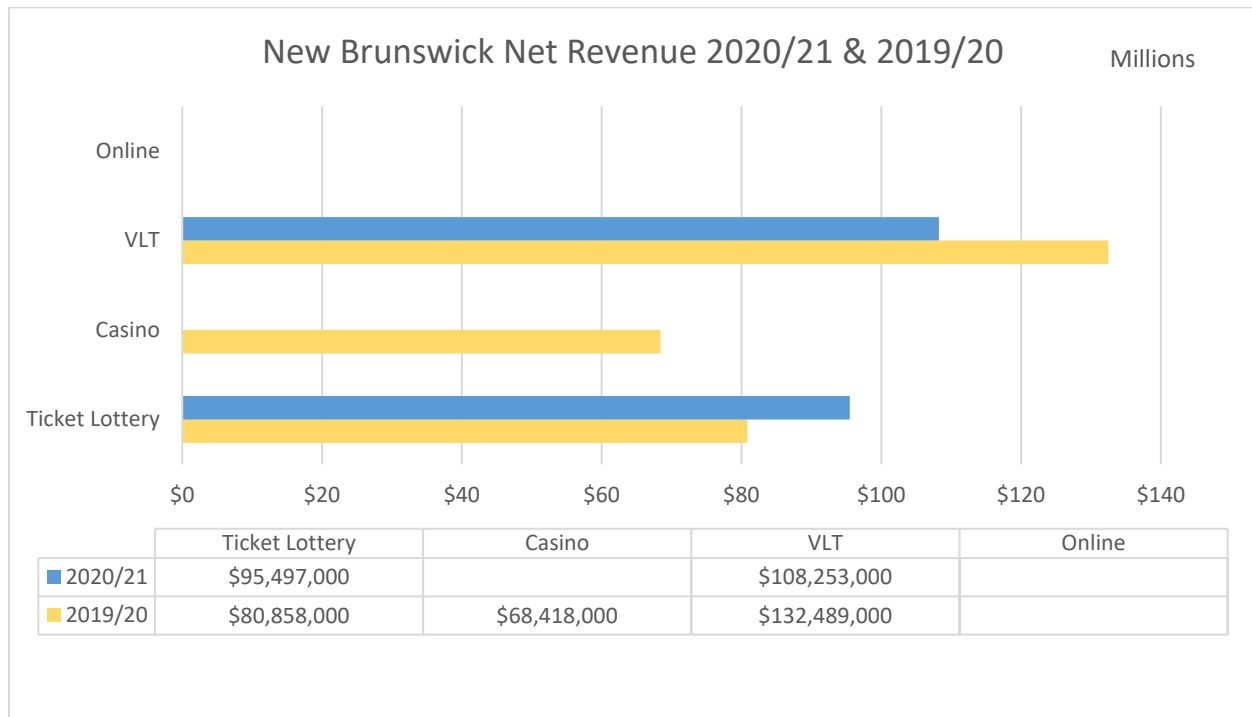


Table 3.8. Prince Edward Island Net Revenue & Net Income by Format [2020/21 & 2019/20]

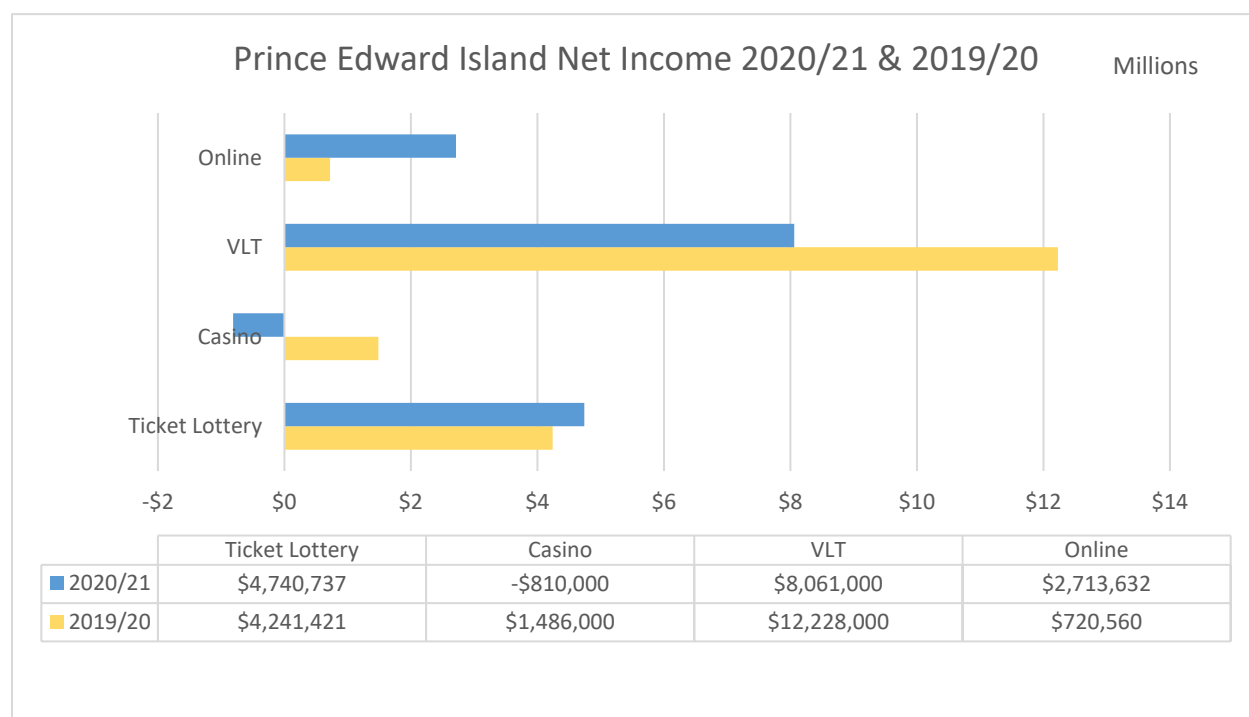
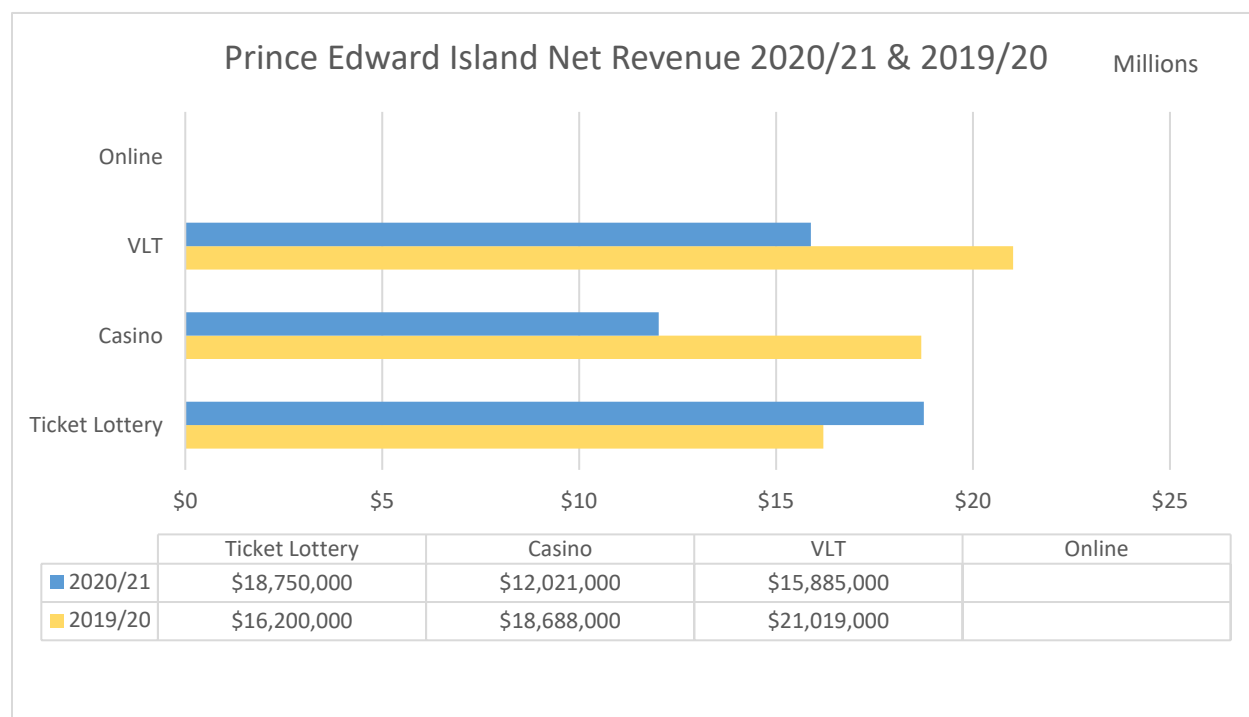


Table 3.9. Nova Scotia Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

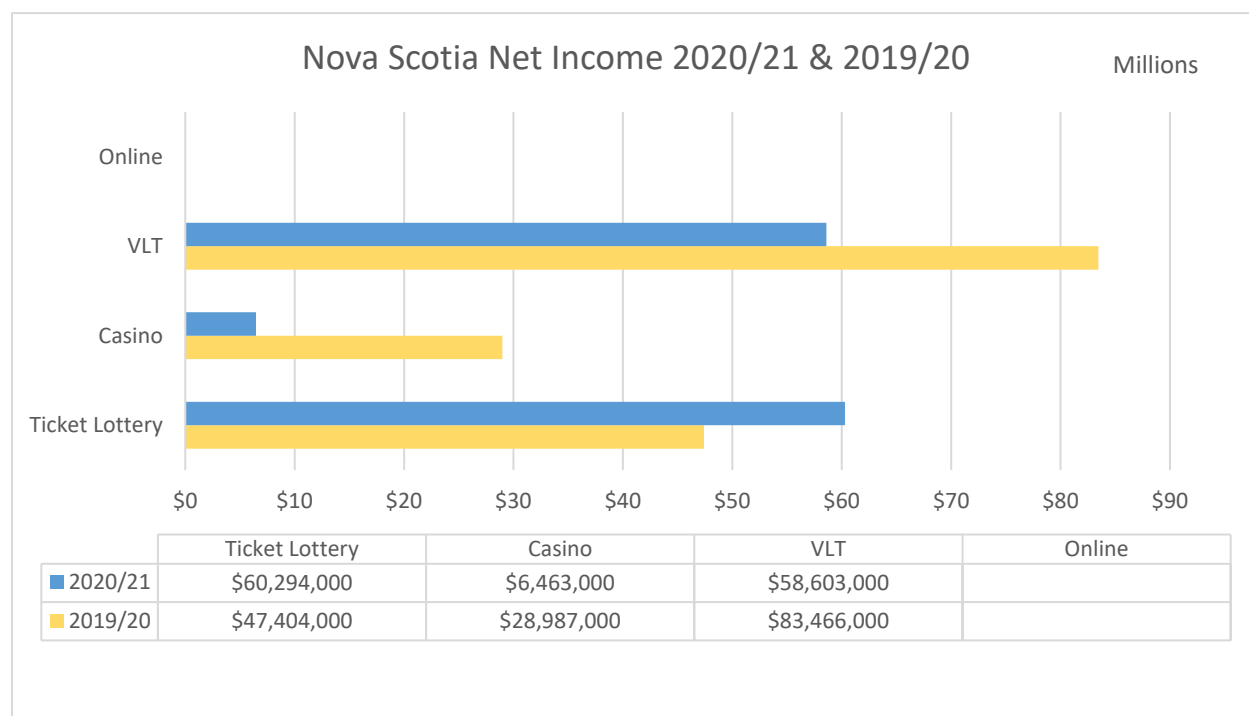
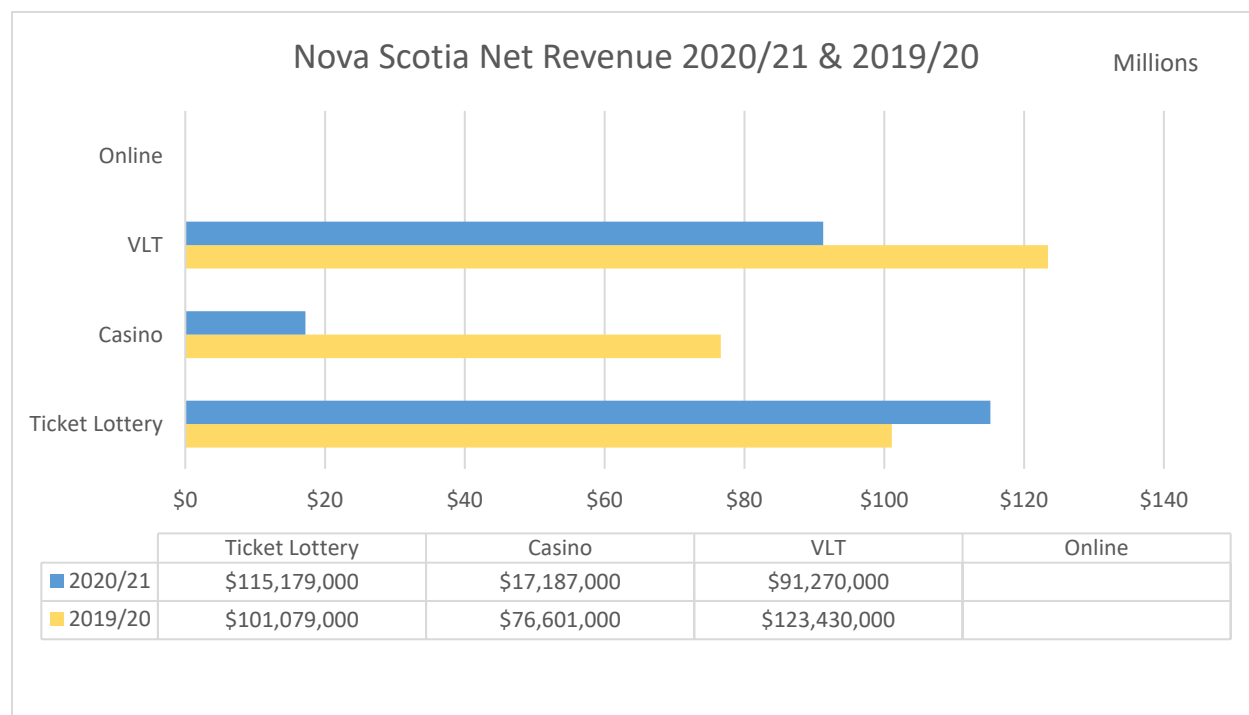


Table 3.10. Newfoundland &amp; Labrador Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

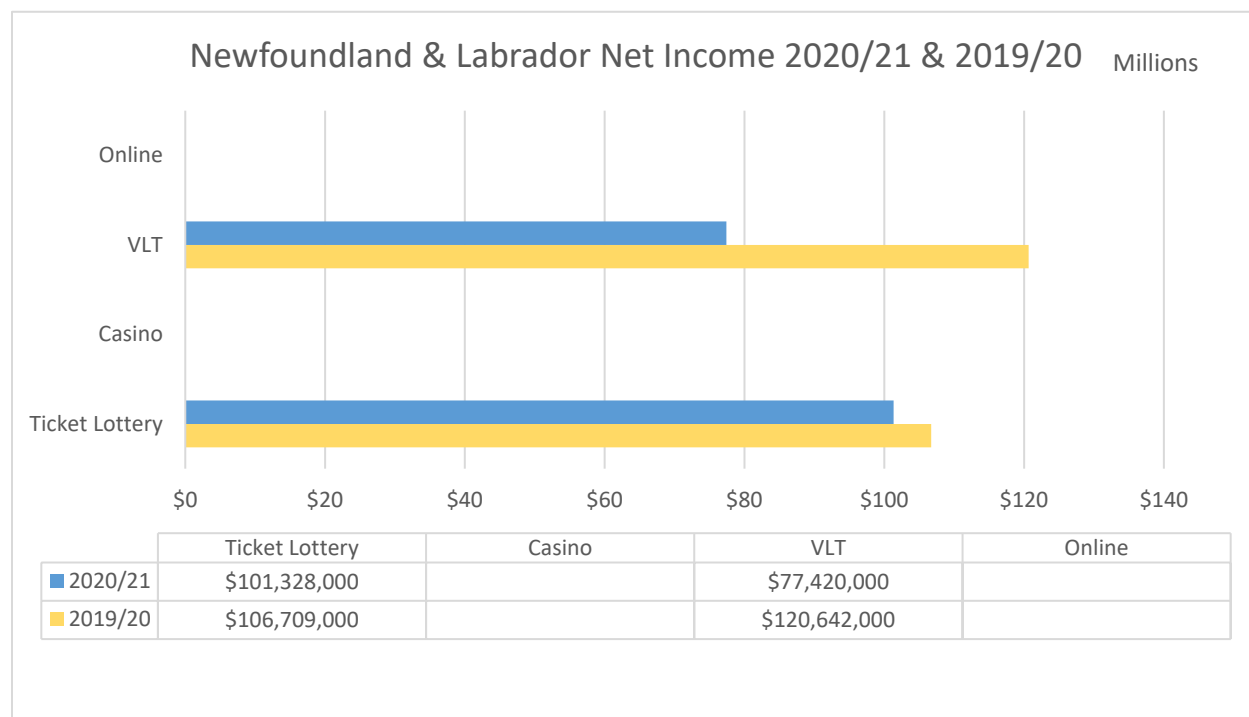
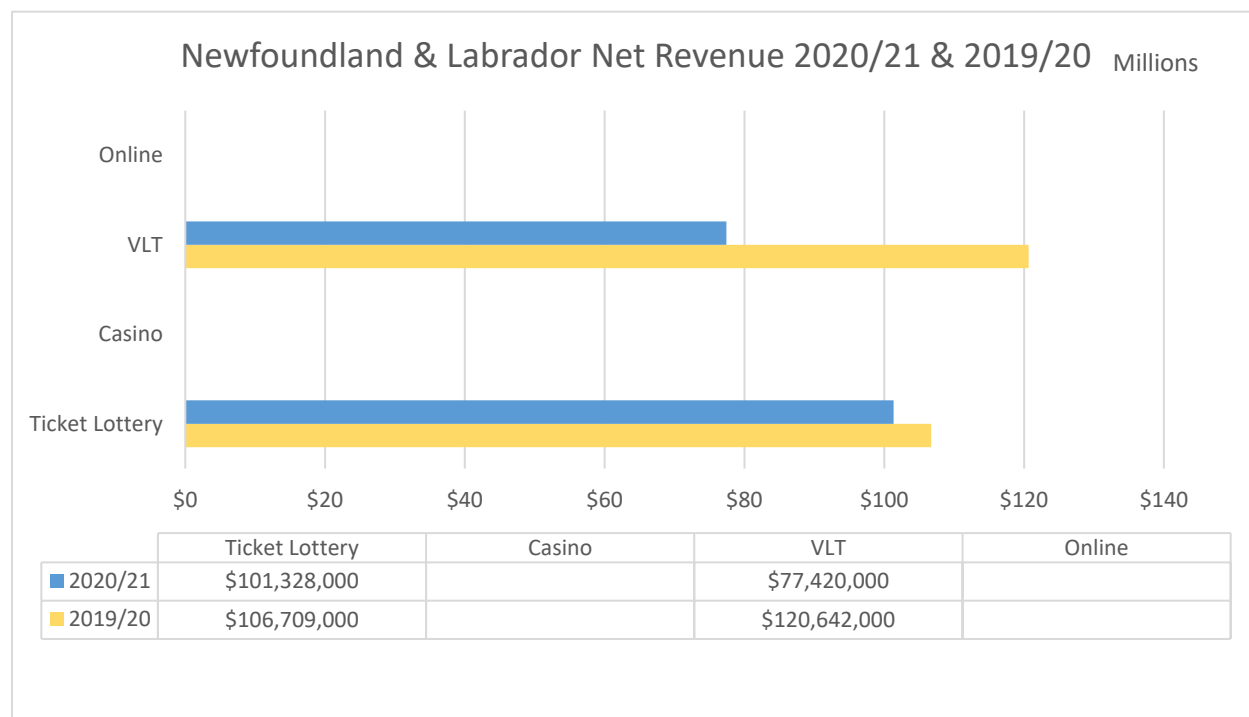


Table 3.11. Yukon Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]

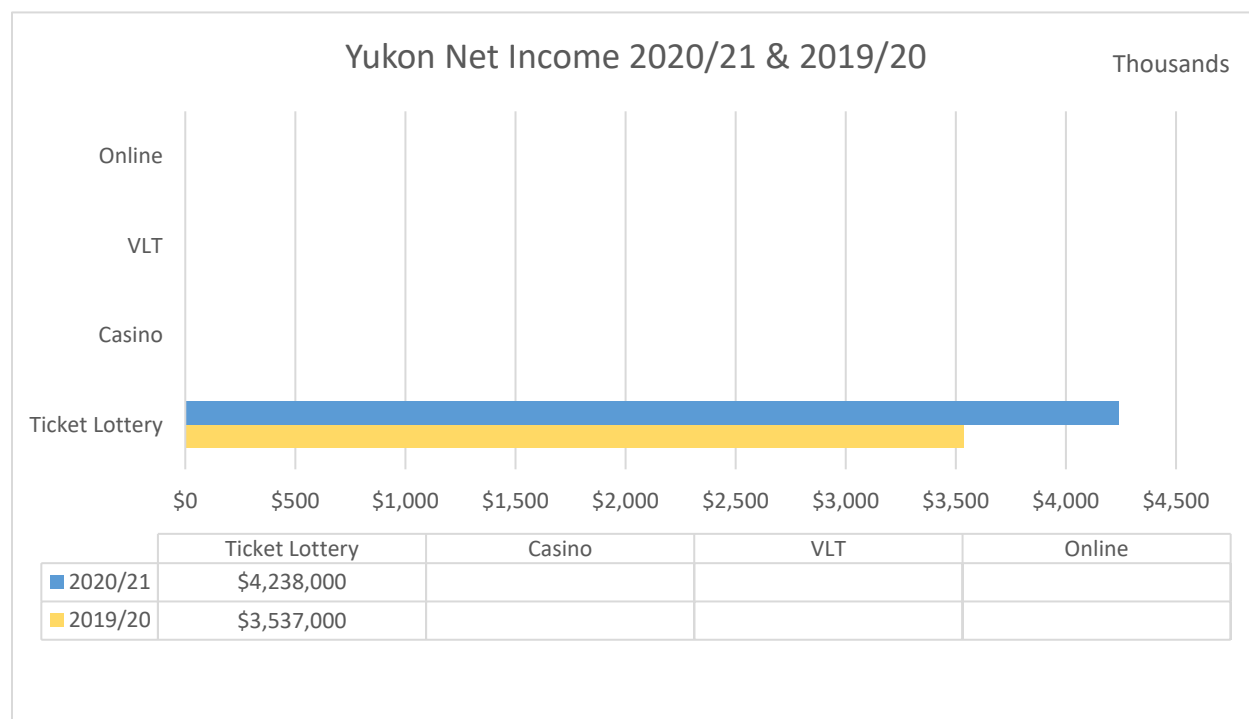
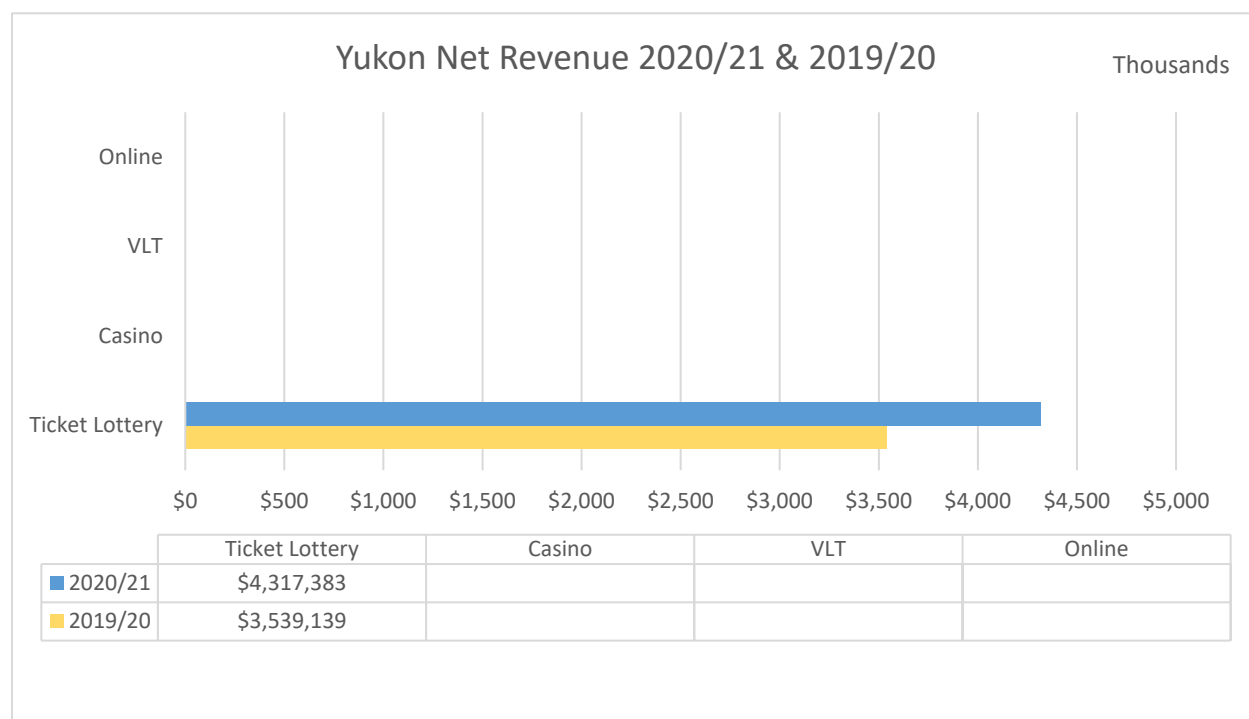
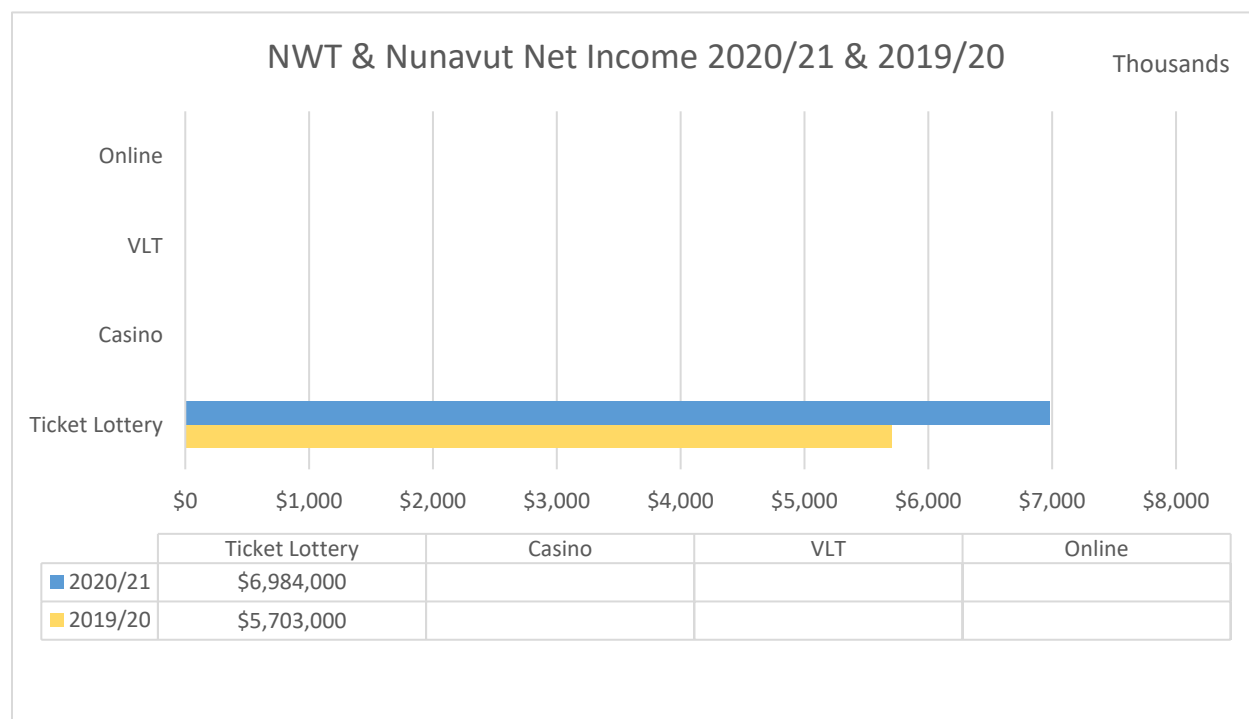
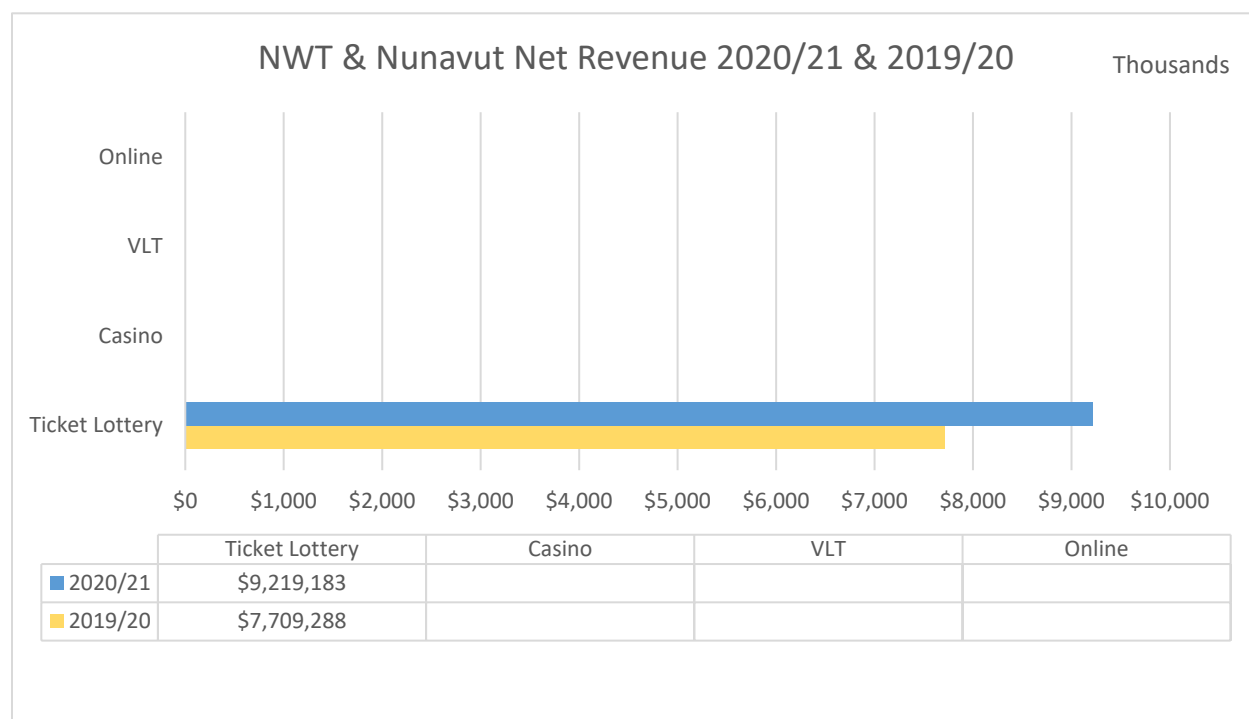


Table 3.12. NWT &amp; Nunavut Net Revenue &amp; Net Income by Format [2020/21 &amp; 2019/20]



## Sources

**British Columbia:** British Columbia Lottery Corporation (BCLC)

**Alberta:** AGLC: Alberta Gaming, Liquor and Cannabis; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC)

**Saskatchewan:** SaskGaming; Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority (SIGA); Saskatchewan Lotteries Trust; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC); Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA)

**Manitoba:** Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC)

**Ontario:** Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation (OLG)

**Quebec:** Loto-Québec

**New Brunswick:** New Brunswick Lotteries & Gaming Corporation (NBLGC); Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC)

**Prince Edward Island:** Prince Edward Island Lotteries Commission; Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC)

**Nova Scotia:** Alcohol, Gaming, Fuel and Tobacco Division of Service Nova Scotia; Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC); Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation (NSGC)

**Newfoundland & Labrador:** Atlantic Lottery Corporation (ALC)

**Yukon:** Yukon Lottery Commission; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC)

**Northwest Territories:** NWT & Nunavut Lotteries; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC)

**Nunavut:** NWT & Nunavut Lotteries; Western Canada Lottery Corporation (WCLC)