



Lottery Ticket Purchasing Laws and Revenues

**Current as of April 13, 2026*

Executive Summary

Only one state in the South – **Alabama** – does not have a statewide lottery. Of the other 14 South states with active lotteries, all but **South Carolina** currently permit self-service ticket purchases via ticket vending machines (TVMs) in stores or other establishments. Further, only seven states in the South expressly permit purchasing digital lottery tickets online via an app or website: **Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.**

State	Year State Lottery Established	Where Can Lottery Tickets Be Purchased?		
		In-Person	Vending Machine	Online
Alabama	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Arkansas	2009	✓	✓	✓
Florida	1988	✓	✓	-
Georgia	1993	✓	✓	✓
Kentucky	1989	✓	✓	✓
Louisiana	1991	✓	✓	-
Mississippi	2019	✓	✓	-
Missouri	1986	✓	✓	-
North Carolina	2005	✓	✓	✓
Oklahoma	2005	✓	✓	-
South Carolina	2002	✓	-	-
Tennessee	2004	✓	✓	✓
Texas	1992	✓	✓	-
Virginia	1988	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia	1984	✓	✓	✓

Source: [National Association of State and Provincial Lotteries \(2026\)](#).

Findings and Analysis – State Revenues from Lottery Ticket Sales

According to a recent U.S. Census Bureau report, state lottery ticket sales continued to increase, doubling from \$52.8 billion to \$104.7 billion nationwide during the Fiscal Year 2008 to 2024 period. However, this increased play has been a double-edged sword, with states seeing a lower net share of revenues as more and larger prize payouts have followed the growing ticket sales. For example, in Fiscal Year 2008, the net revenue states received totaled approximately 39 percent of the total revenue from lottery ticket sales, while, by Fiscal Year 2024, that net revenue had declined to only 33 percent. Further, half of the top 10 states for lottery prize payouts in FY 2024 came from the South – namely, Virginia (80 percent), Kentucky (75 percent), Missouri (74 percent), Arkansas (73 percent), and South Carolina (71 percent).¹

¹ Rob Simon, “Sales of Lottery Tickets Nearly Doubled and Prizes More Than Doubled From 2008 to 2024,” U.S. Census Bureau, April 8, 2026, <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2026/04/state-lottery-ticket-sales-soar.html>.



Table 1.

Lottery Prizes and Net Revenue as a Share of Total Ticket Sales: Fiscal Years 2008–2024

(In percent)

Year	Prizes	Net revenue
2008	61	39
2009	62	38
2010	62	38
2011	62	38
2012	63	37
2013	63	37
2014	63	37
2015	64	36
2016	64	36
2017	65	35
2018	65	35
2019	65	35
2020	67	33
2021	67	33
2022	67	33
2023	66	34
2024	67	33

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances.

Accurate data on revenue from in-person point-of-sale transactions at retail locations, through terminal vending machines (TVMs), or from online purchases is not easily accessible from state revenue departments or lottery corporations. However, it may be insightful to distinguish revenues from draw-style games and instant-style games, especially since instant games are more commonly available online or through TVMs. Fortunately, a report from the Louisiana Lottery Corporation and the private publisher La Fleur’s Gaming Almanac has provided Fiscal Year 2024 data for all lottery-playing states. This data is broken down by reported sales in millions and by lottery game type. According to the report, more than 96 percent of all state lottery sales revenue came from traditional sales, including games like Powerball sold in person, via vending machines, and online. The instant sales category, which includes games such as scratch-offs, is further divided into machine sales and electronic ticket purchases.

Comparison of Southern States Lottery Ticket Income by Sales Type in Fiscal Year 2024 (\$ million)

State	Traditional Lottery Ticket Sales	Instant Ticket Lottery Machines Sales	eInstant / Online Instant Ticket Sales	Total Lottery Ticket Sales
Arkansas	\$613.0	-	-	\$613.0
Florida	\$9,417.5	-	-	\$9,417.5
Georgia	\$5,017.8	-	\$648.7	\$5,666.5
Kentucky	\$1,463.0	-	\$634.9	\$2,097.9



State	Traditional Lottery Ticket Sales	Instant Ticket Lottery Machines Sales	eInstant / Online Instant Ticket Sales	Total Lottery Ticket Sales
Louisiana	\$639.6	-	-	\$639.6
Mississippi	\$473.6	-	-	\$473.6
Missouri	\$1,604.7	\$138.1	-	\$1,742.8
North Carolina	\$4,242.0	-	\$1,133.6	\$5,375.5
Oklahoma	\$354.7	-	-	\$354.7
South Carolina	\$2,384.7	-	-	\$2,384.7
Tennessee	\$1,887.7	-	-	\$1,887.7
Texas	\$8,389.8	-	-	\$8,389.8
Virginia	\$2,617.0	-	\$2,904.0	\$5,521.0
West Virginia	\$258.0	-	-	\$258.0

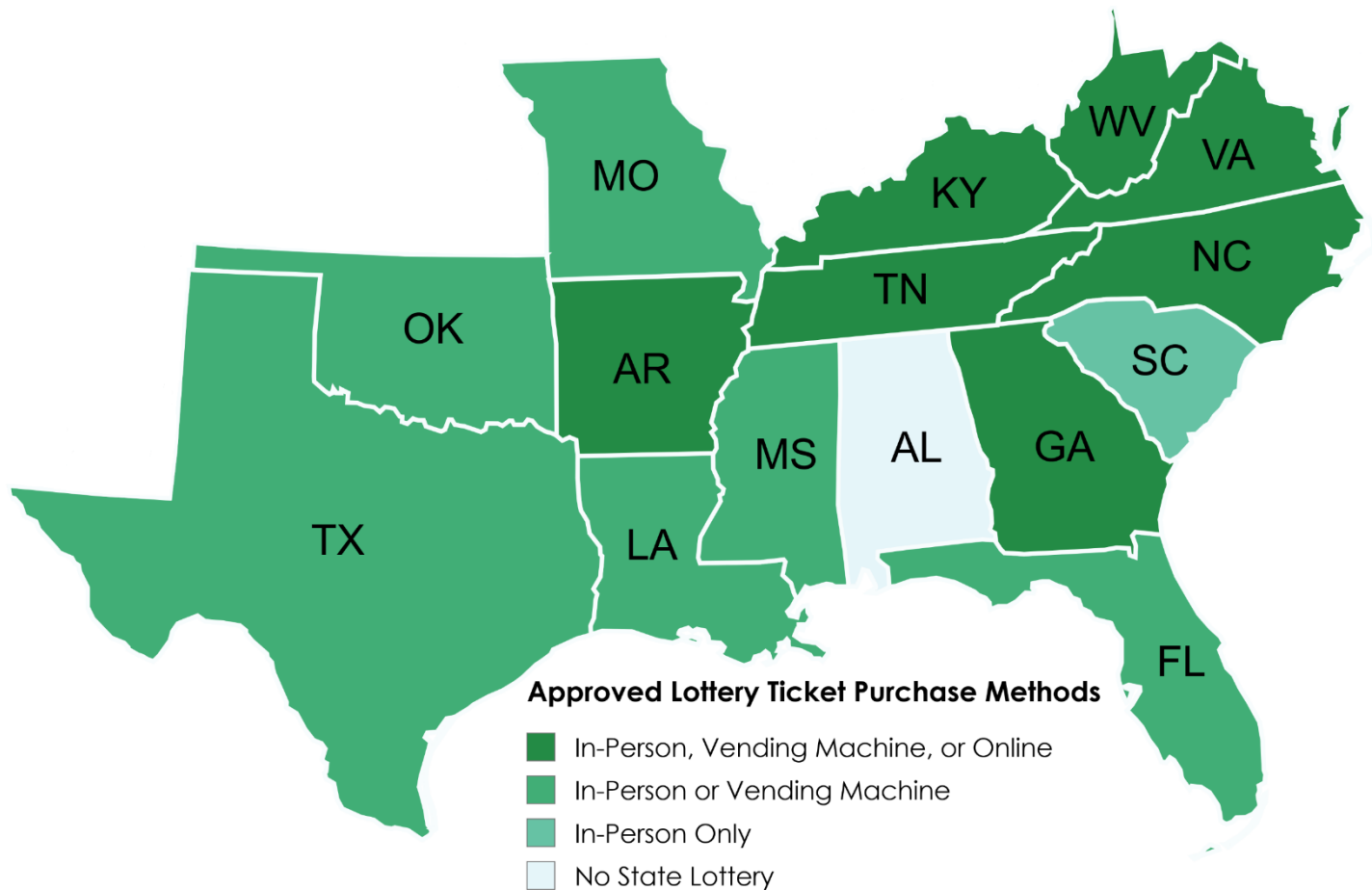
Source(s): Author's visualization using data from the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, LaFleur's 2025 Gaming Almanac, and the Louisiana Lottery Corporation \(September 2025\)](#).

Notably, the Virginia Lottery is a significant outlier, with more than 61 percent of its lottery ticket sales – regardless of game type – coming from online sales. The chart below, from the [Virginia Lottery's Fiscal Year 2025 Comprehensive Annual Report](#), shows the growing trend of online-dominated lottery ticket sales.

Schedule of Retail Sales vs Online Sales (unaudited)					
Virginia Lottery Sales Comparison	Fiscal Year Ending June 30 for the Years Shown				
	Retail	% of	Online	% of	Total
	Sales	Total	Sales	Total	Sales
Fiscal Year 2016	2,004,471,706	99.88%	2,426,244	0.12%	2,006,897,950
Fiscal Year 2017	1,985,786,557	99.79%	4,085,636	0.21%	1,989,872,193
Fiscal Year 2018	2,131,615,568	99.62%	8,204,167	0.38%	2,139,819,735
Fiscal Year 2019	2,279,113,685	99.37%	14,450,884	0.63%	2,293,564,569
Fiscal Year 2020	2,126,232,190	98.96%	22,373,062	1.04%	2,148,605,252
Fiscal Year 2021	2,460,523,148	75.50%	798,452,864	24.50%	3,258,976,012
Fiscal Year 2022	2,399,925,387	63.96%	1,352,489,878	36.04%	3,752,415,265
Fiscal Year 2023	2,419,585,283	52.46%	2,192,270,537	47.54%	4,611,855,820
Fiscal Year 2024	2,454,171,656	44.45%	3,066,833,210	55.55%	5,521,004,866
Fiscal Year 2025	2,248,546,591	38.97%	3,522,093,302	61.03%	5,770,639,893

Source: [Virginia Lottery \(December 2025\)](#).

Findings and Analysis – State TVM and Online Lottery Ticket Laws



Arkansas

State law provides significant discretion to the Office of the Arkansas Lottery’s director to operate and contract with various entities for the sale of lottery tickets or shares via in-person retail, TVM, online, and other electronic means.² Pursuant to the state’s administrative rules, the state’s lottery office may sell lottery tickets via TVMs that are capable of dispensing instant tickets and other games, verifying user identification and age information, accepting U.S. currency or accumulated player credits, auxiliary power source, and a method of instantaneously stopping sales and deactivating when monitoring and detecting potential underage users.³ As with TVMs, the state’s administrative rules and statutes grant the director of the state’s lottery office the authority to sell lottery tickets online or via other electronic means capable of dispensing instant tickets and other games, verifying user identification and age information, and monitoring and detecting potential underage users.⁴

Florida

State statute provides for the use of vending machines that dispense online, instant, or other lottery tickets. However, the TVMs must be authorized by the state lottery authority, placed within the retailer’s direct line of sight, and always

² [Ark. Code Ann. § 23-115-207.](#)

³ [Ark. 23 CAR § 371-401.](#)

⁴ [Ark. 23 CAR § 371-203.](#)



monitored by on-duty employees. However, TVMs are prohibited from redeeming winning tickets and may only provide change for cash ticket purchases.⁵

Georgia

The Georgia Lottery Corporation authorizes the chief executive officer to authorize merchants, vendors, equipment, and the direct sales of lottery tickets.⁶ Further, the state broadly defines allowable lottery games to include instant or other tickets issued by mechanical or electronic devices or machines, as well as online games.⁷

Kentucky

Kentucky treats vending machines as Lottery equipment; retailer materials indicate they are allowed and must be placed inside the store in a staffed area.⁸ Notably, this is not required for TVMs located in areas inaccessible to underage persons, such as bars, taverns, or liquor stores.⁹ Likewise, online vending of lottery tickets – through vendor contracts – is permitted under the broad authority granted to the Kentucky Lottery Corporation.¹⁰

Louisiana

The statute provides broad authority to the Louisiana Lottery Corporation to maintain a statewide network of lottery retailers and vendors, including those that utilize TVMs at authorized locations. It also explicitly prohibits the sale of non-instant games online – such as lottery tickets.¹¹ During the 2025 session, lawmakers passed [House Resolution 217 \(2025\)](#), which called for a feasibility study by legislative staff on the implementation of and revenue projections for expanding lottery ticket sales to online vendors or directly through the lottery corporation’s website.

Mississippi

Mississippi code explicitly prohibits the sale or playing of lottery tickets online, on personal computers, mobile apps, or video lottery terminals – for all game types, including drawing and instant-style tickets.¹² Nothing in state statute or regulations appears to prohibit authorized vendors or retailers from using TVMs for approved drawing and instant lottery games.

Missouri

State statute generally grants the state lottery commissioners the power to determine the types of lottery games to be conducted, the sales and playing methods, and other broad governance authority.¹³ Further, the state’s administrative regulations for the Missouri Lottery Commission permit retailers, vendors, and other licensees to sell lottery tickets using game terminals that print tickets after the player enters numbers and other information.¹⁴ However, the Missouri Lottery Commission does not permit the sale or playing of tickets online.¹⁵

North Carolina

State law grants the commission the authority to determine the type and methods of play permitted for draw and instant-style lottery games. Further, the statute expressly permits play via non-in-person means such as computer

⁵ [Fla. Stat. Ann. § 24.112.](#)

⁶ [O.C.G.A. § 50-27-23.](#)

⁷ [O.C.G.A. § 50-27-3\(13\).](#)

⁸ [202 Ky. Admin. Regs. 3:030.](#)

⁹ [Ky. Rev. Stat. § 154A.450.](#)

¹⁰ [Ky. Rev. Stat. § 154A.060.](#)

¹¹ [La. Rev. Stat. 47:9050.](#)

¹² [Miss. Code § 27-115-17\(2\)\(d\).](#)

¹³ [Mo. Rev. Stat. § 313.230.](#)

¹⁴ [Mo. 12 CSR 40-85.005.](#)

¹⁵ [Missouri Lottery Commission.](#)



terminals or other internet-connected devices as long as no currency, cash, or other redemptions are provided via these electronic means.¹⁶ Further, North Carolina Education Lottery rules expressly permit approved retailers to use vending machines if they are located within an employee’s line of sight and have a means to confirm and verify a player’s age and eligibility.¹⁷

Oklahoma

State code requires lottery tickets to be sold only by authorized retailers at approved locations, which must be in person or via an on-site machine.¹⁸ Further, the Sooner State’s administrative code defines online games to mean only the use of terminals or TVMs that are connected to the internet and not the purchase and playing of lottery games via the internet on a personal computer or device.¹⁹

South Carolina

State code expressly limits the use of machines or other electronic devices to be accessed and used only by retail employees to disburse tickets and not for customers to purchase or play lottery tickets.²⁰ This statute prohibits the sale of lottery tickets via TVMs or online.

Tennessee

State law permits broad authority for conducting draw and instant-style lottery games and the sale or playing of such tickets. Notably, state code also prohibits TVMs from accepting credit or debit cards and from issuing change to players. Customers must pay with exact cash or change at TVMs, and must use the official state portal for online purchases.²¹ The Volunteer State also permits the purchase of lottery tickets online; these must be purchased through the approved mobile app.²²

Texas

The Texas Lottery Commission is explicitly authorized to facilitate the sale of lottery tickets through authorized retailers, using in-person or approved terminals (also known as TVMs). Further, the code explicitly empowers the commission to enforce the state’s prohibition on remote – or online – purchasing of lottery tickets.²³ The state’s administrative code requires vendors utilizing TVMs supplied and placed by the Texas Lottery Commission. It also specifies the locations where a machine may be placed, the requirements for remote shut-off by the retail manager, and the means for verifying player eligibility.²⁴

Virginia

The state lottery framework grants the Virginia Lottery’s board the authority to determine the means and methods of selling lottery tickets, including the express authority to establish rules governing the online or machine-based sale of such tickets.²⁵

¹⁶ [N.C. Gen. Stat. § 18C-131.](#)

¹⁷ [N.C. Education Lottery Policies and Procedures Rule 8.01.](#)

¹⁸ [Okla. Stat. 3A § 703 and § 709.](#)

¹⁹ [Okla. Admin. Code § 429:15-1-2.](#)

²⁰ [S.C. Code § 59-150-20\(7\).](#)

²¹ [Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-51-123.](#)

²² [Tennessee Education Lottery Corporation.](#)

²³ [Tex. Gov’t Code § 466.015.](#)

²⁴ [16 Tex. Admin. Code § 401.368.](#)

²⁵ [Va. Code § 58.1-4007.](#)



West Virginia

State code generally permits lottery devices, granting the West Virginia Lottery Commission the authority to set rules for machine-based lottery systems while restricting such TVMs from dispensing cash or currency. The same statute also permits the use of new or existing technology for the sale or playing of lottery games, including computer devices or online portals.²⁶ Utilizing this statutory authority, the West Virginia Lottery announced the approval of an online lottery ticket vendor in November 2022, permitting players in the state to purchase lottery tickets directly from their devices.²⁷

²⁶ [W. Va. Code §29-22-9.](#)

²⁷ [“West Virginians Can Now Play the Record \\$1.6B Powerball From Their Phone,” PR Newswire, November 4, 2022.](#)