GAMBLING COMMISSION

Gambling Industry Statistics

April 2015 to March 2021

Contents

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Executive Summary 3
Gambling Industry Overview 4
Operators and Licensed Activities 7
Premises 8
Machines across non-remote sectors 9
Arcades (non-remote) 10
Betting (non-remote) 11
Betting (remote) 12
Bingo (non-remote) 13
Bingo (remote) 14
Casino (non-remote) 15
Casino (remote) 16
Lotteries (non-remote and remote) 17
The National Lottery (non-remote and remote) 18

Executive Summary

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Gambling Industry Statistics report on the size and shape of the gambling industry in Great Britain.

This report provides an overview of Gross Gambling Yield (GGY) by sector, along with the numbers of licensed operators and premises. It is based on data reported to us by the operators we licence and regulate.

The production of the most recent Industry Statistics for the period April 2020 to March 2021 has been affected by the impact of Covid-19, the lack of and quality of data submissions from some operators and resource required for the consequential quality assurance. Therefore, the latest publication only contains figures for Remote Casino, Betting and Bingo (RCBB), the National Lottery, and the numbers of operators and licences held for the period between April 2020 – March 2021. We have already announced that targeted regulatory action around industry data submissions will feature in our business plan for 2022/23.

The following report includes figures for all other sectors, based on data from April 2019 to March 2020, as well as historical data back to 2015.

The various lockdown rules and restrictions throughout the latest reporting period have significantly impacted the gambling industry. This mainly involved land-based sectors of the industry, but the restrictions also affected live sporting events which would have potentially impacted the remote sector. Therefore, we have not included estimates where returns have either been late or are not yet due as we would not have confidence in their accuracy.

We accept that this may result in some figures which underestimate the actual totals. Our methodology page explains estimations further.

RCBB accrued £6.9bn GGY which can be broken down into 3 individual areas.

- Online casino games dominate the sector, generating £4.0bn in GGY, £2.9bn of which was from slots games.
- GGY for remote betting totalled £2.6bn, led by football (£1.2bn) and horse betting (£0.9bn).
- GGY for remote bingo totalled £189.1m.

We have seen the highest annual National Lottery sales since we started reporting these statistics, along with strong levels of Returns to Good Causes. National Lottery ticket sales totalled £8.4bn, of which £4.9bn was returned as prizes. Over the same period, the primary contribution to good causes totalled £1.7bn. For more information on National Lottery sales, please see our returns to good causes report.

As of 31 March 2021, there were a total of 2,439 operators (5.4% decrease on the previous period) licensed by the Gambling Commission, 369 of which operate across more than one sector. Between them, operators held licences (remote and/or non-remote) that entitled them to conduct 3,368 activities (4.6% decrease).

The collection of data during this Covid affected period has also impacted on the completeness of the figures with several operators overdue with submitting their returns or have submitted data which is still in question. In addition, resource constraints have meant that data quality assurance procedures to check regulatory return data from land based and society lottery sectors have not been undertaken since the end of the reporting period April 2019 – March 2020. A consequence of this is that the land based and society lottery figures for the latest reporting period have not been updated.

This publication is primarily for anyone who has an involvement or interest in the gambling industry including government, licensed operators, trade bodies, international regulators, journalists, academic researchers, financial institutions, statisticians, consumers, and local authorities.

About the status of official statistics.
Read about how we prepare our industry statistics.

Gambling Industry Overview

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Gross gambling yield

During the period April 2019 to Mar 2020, the regulated gambling industry in Great Britain generated a gross gambling yield (GGY) or equivalent* of £14.1bn, a 1.4% decrease compared with the previous reporting period.

Industry GGY by sector (£m)

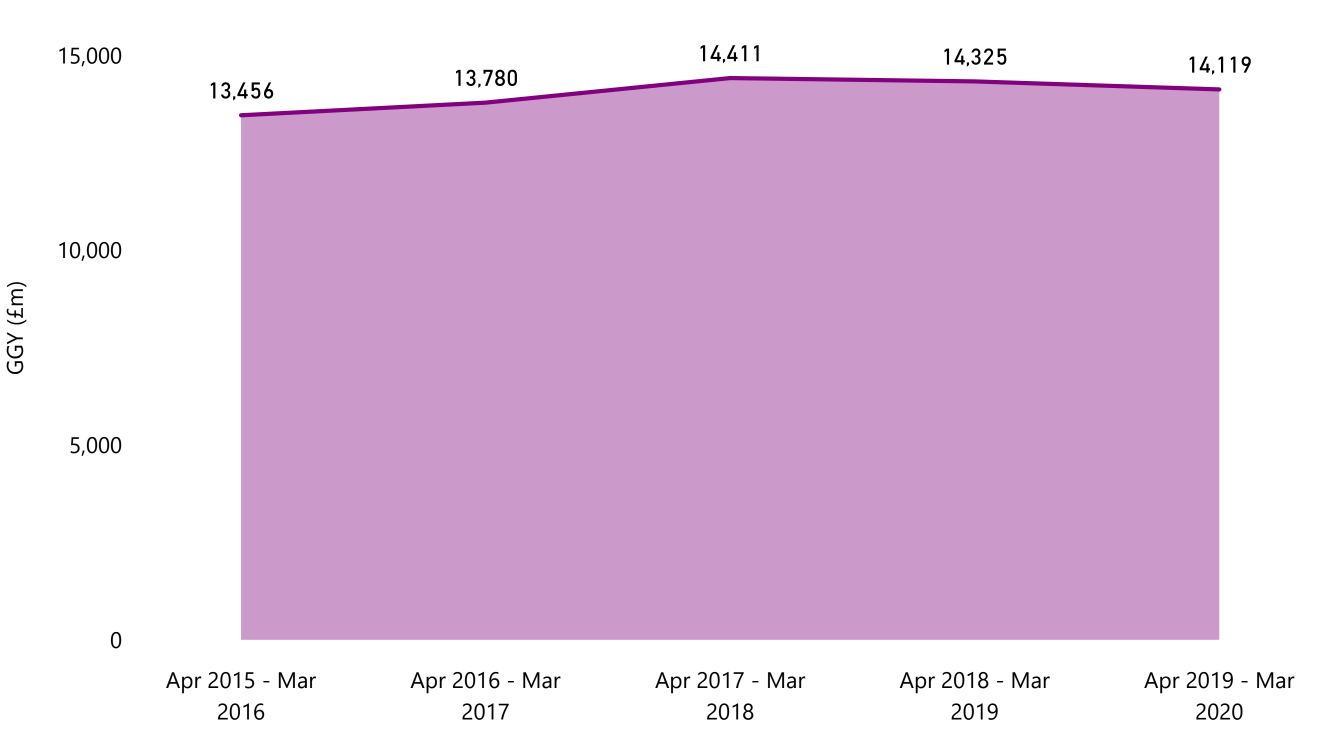
Sector	Apr 2017 - Mar 2018	Apr 2018 - Mar 2019	Apr 2019 - Mar 2020	Apr 2020 - Mar 2021P	% Change
Arcades (non-remote)	424.81	443.05	425.61		
Betting (non-remote)	3,268.26	3,262.14	2,408.24		
Betting (remote)	2,251.61	2,020.76	2,328.92	2,645.33	13.6%
Bingo (non-remote)	680.01	674.34	575.23		
Bingo (remote)	163.93	175.90	175.80	189.07	7.5%
Casino (non-remote)	1,180.72	1,058.82	1,017.59		
Casino (remote)	2,931.13	3,070.00	3,176.04	4,015.62	26.4%
Lotteries* (remote and non-remote)	502.29	540.48	612.60		
The National Lottery* (remote and non-remote)	3,007.80	3,079.30	3,399.21	3,531.65	3.9%
Total	**14,410.55**	**14,324.79**	**14,119.23**		

Notes:
* GGY equivalent for the National Lottery and large society lotteries is total proceeds minus total prizes. This data includes both non-remote and remote GGY.
R - Previously published data revised.
P - Provisional new data.

Gambling Industry Overview (continued) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Gambling industry GGY (£m)



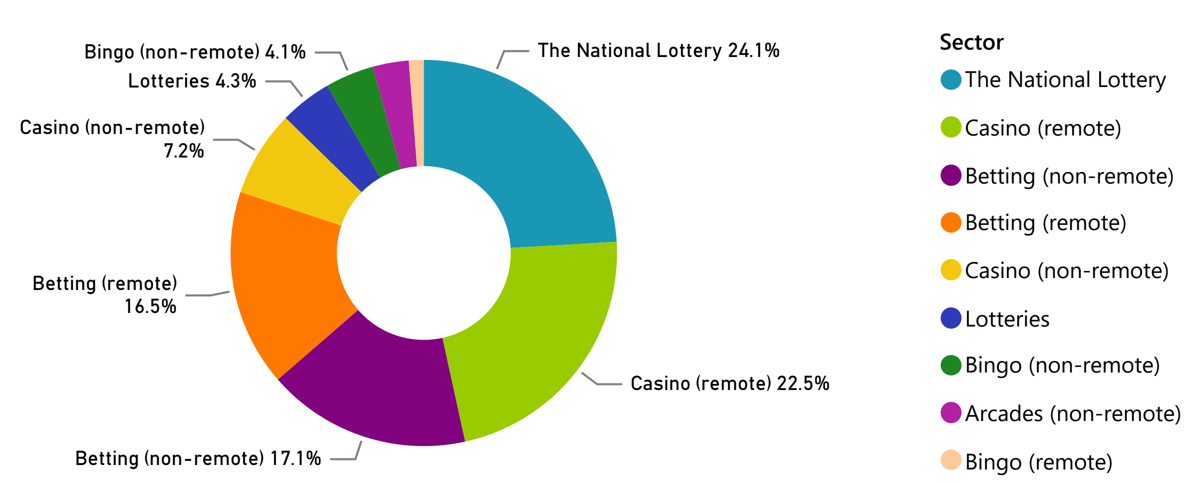
£14,119M

Industry GGY

-1.4%

Change from previous period

Gambling industry GGY by sector for latest period



Key Points:

Overall industry GGY decreased by £205.6m (-1.4%) from £14,324.8m to £14,119.2m between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020.

Declines by sector were seen in betting (non-remote) by £853.9m (-26.2%), bingo (non-remote) by £99.1m (-14.7%), casino (non-remote) by £41.2m (-3.9%) and arcades (non-remote) by £17.4m (-3.9%). Between the same periods GGY increased in casino (remote) by £106.0m (3.5%), National Lottery (non-remote and remote) by £319.9m (10.4%), betting (remote) by £308.2m (15.2%), lotteries (non-remote and remote) by £72.1m (13.3%) and bingo (remote) by £0.1m (0.1%).

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 industry GGY increased by £663.2m (4.9%) from £13,456.1m to £14,119.2m.

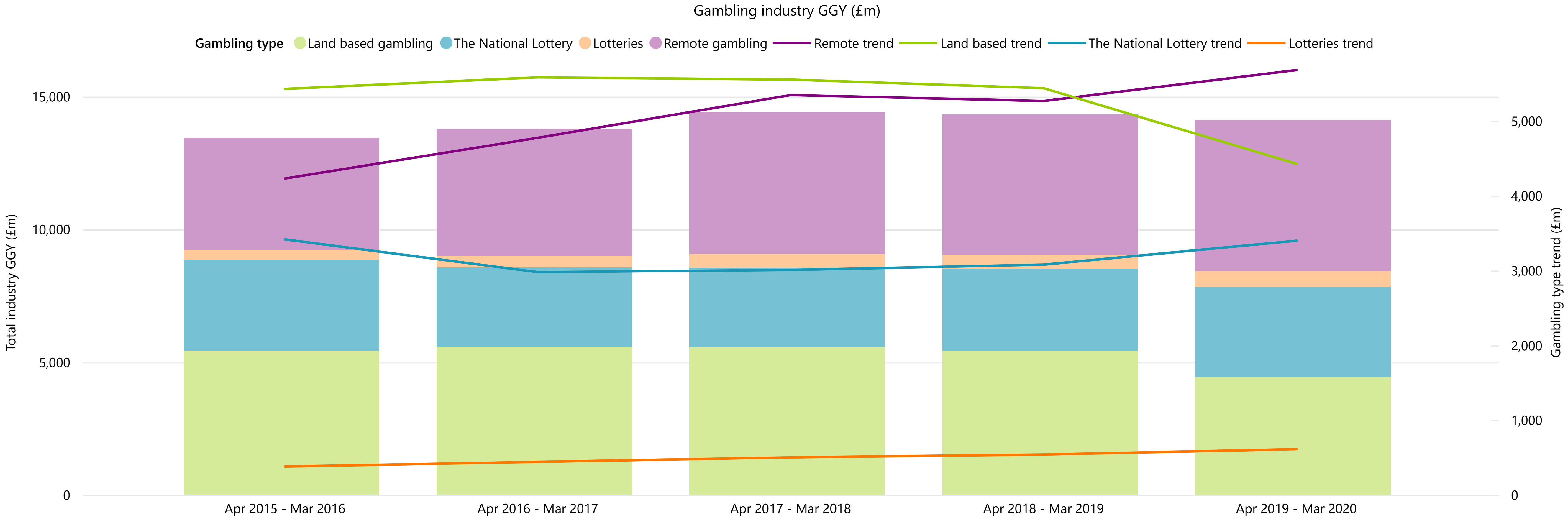
Notes:

For The National Lottery and lotteries, figures are a GGY equivalent. For lotteries, this includes any GGY equivalent raised through external lottery managers.

Sales from operators with gaming machine technical, trading rooms only and gambling software licensed activities are not included in these charts.

Gambling Industry Overview (continued) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION



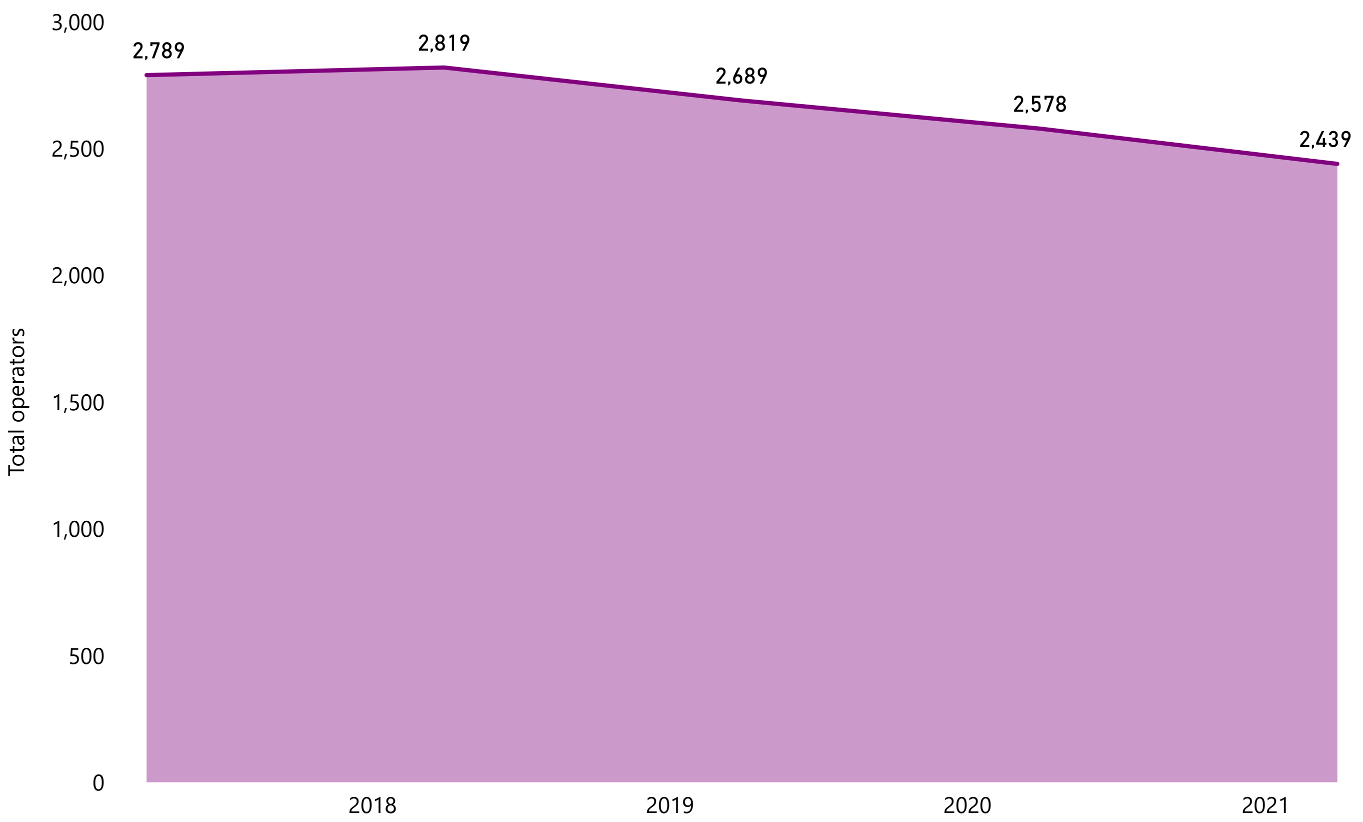
Key Points:

Between April 2019 - March 2020, gambling industry GGY comprised of £5,680.8m (40.2%) remote gambling, £4,426.7m (31.4%) land based gambling, £3,399.2m (24.1%) National Lottery and £612.6m (4.3%) lotteries.

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020, Remote gambling increased by £1,450.0m (34.3%) from £4,230.8m to £5,680.8m, Land based gambling decreased by £1002.1m (-18.5%) from £5,428.7m to £4,426.6m, The National Lottery GGY equivalent decreased by £17.6m (-0.5%) from £3,416.8m to £3,399.2m and Lotteries GGY equivalent increased by £232.8m (61.3%) from £379.8m to £612.6m.

Operators and Licensed Activities 2021

Number of licensed operators



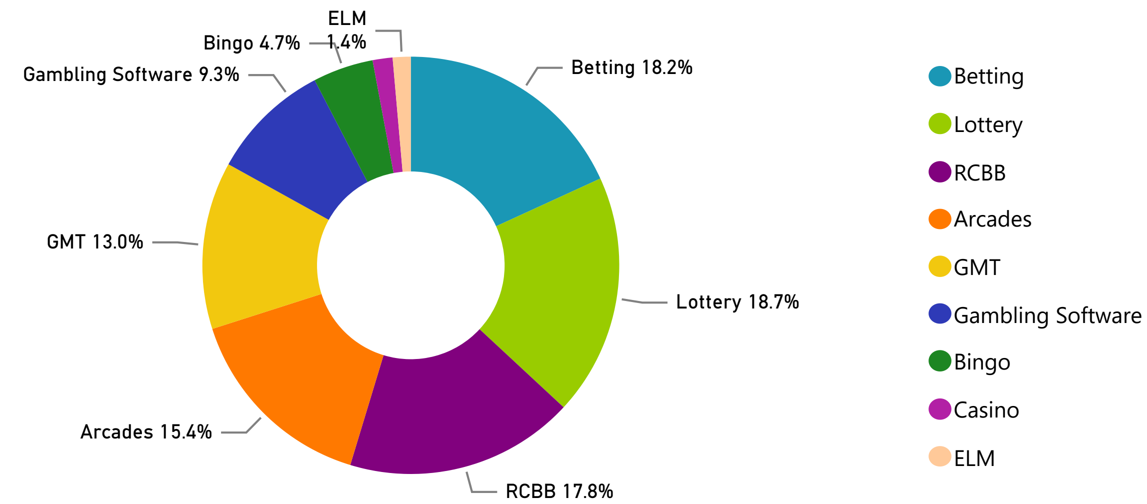
2,439

Licensed operators

-5.4%

Change from previous period

Licensed activities by sector for latest period



Key Points:

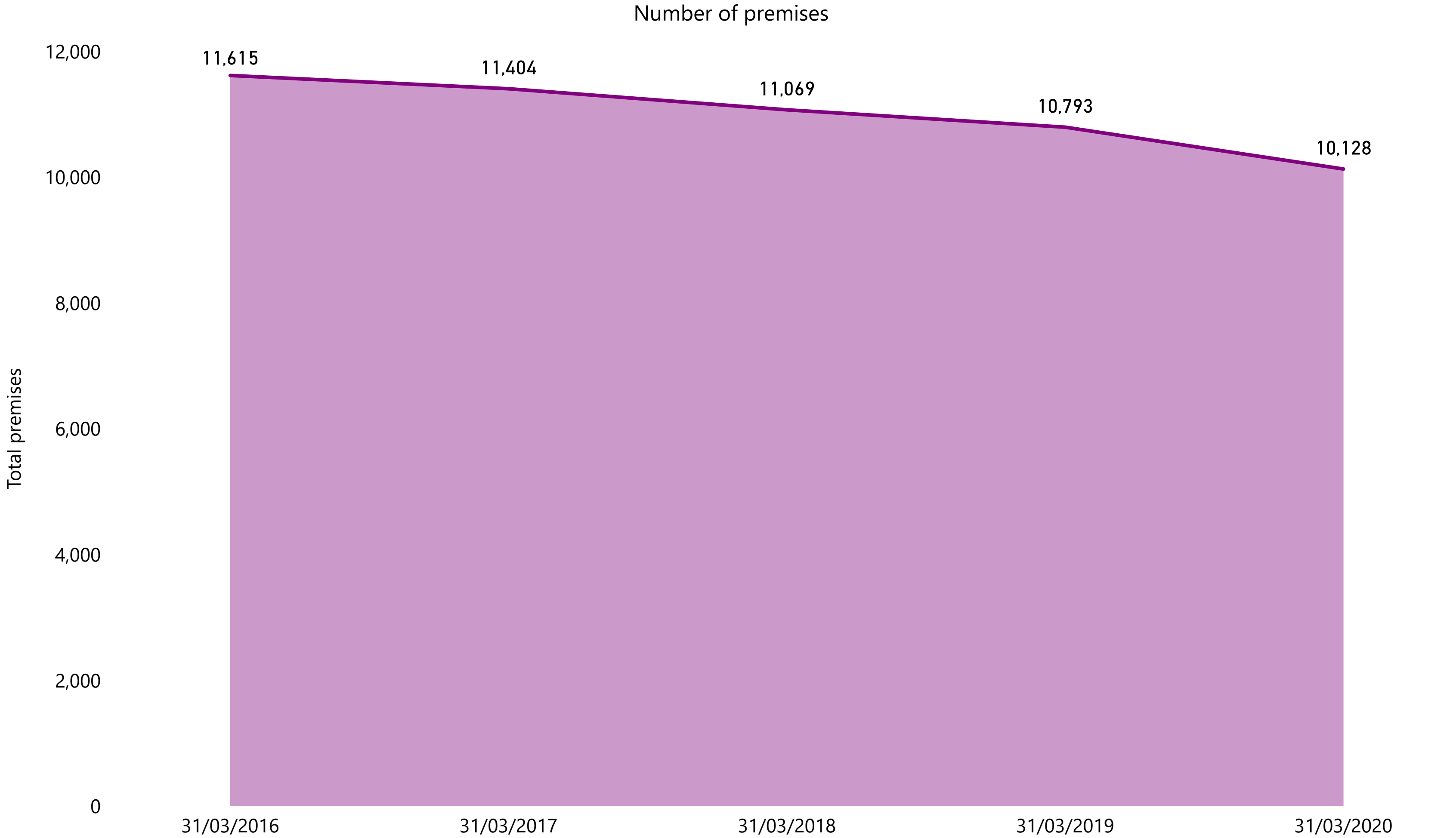
The total number of licensed operators decreased by 139 (-5.4%) from 2,578 to 2,439 between March 2020 and March 2021.

Between March 2017 and March 2021, the total number of licensed operators decreased by 350 (-12.5%) from 2,789 to 2,439.

Between March 2020 and March 2021, the total number of activities operators are licensed for decreased in non-remote betting by 52 (-7.8%), gaming machine technical (GMT) by 41 (-8.6%), arcades by 23 (-4.3%), non-remote bingo by 16 (-9.2%), society lotteries by 16 (-2.5%), gambling software by 8 (-2.5%), non-remote casino by 4 (-7.1%), and external lottery manager (ELM) by 2 (-4.1%). There was an increase in remote casino, betting and bingo (RCBB) by 2 (0.3%).

Premises 2020

GAMBLING COMMISSION

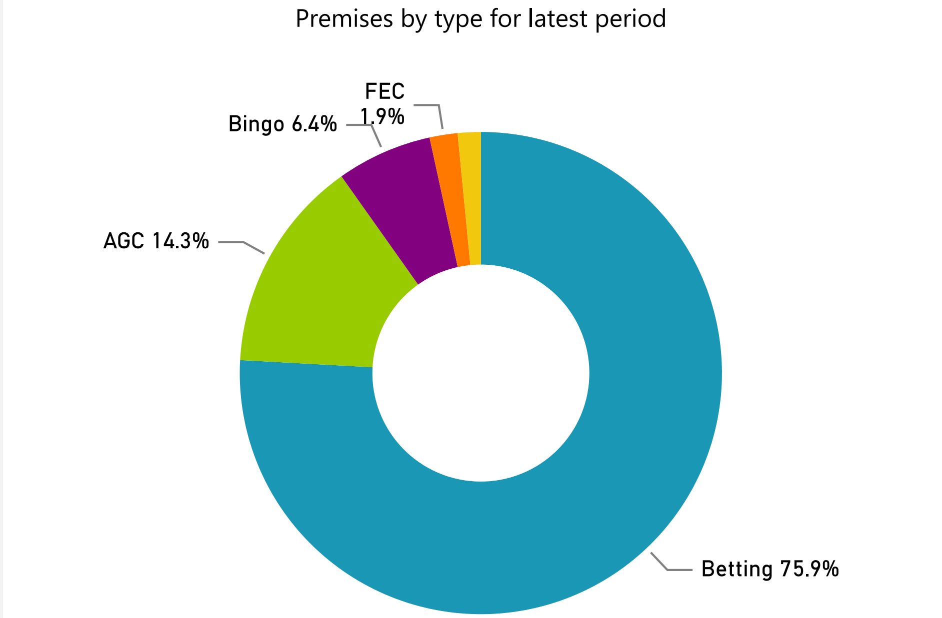


10,128

Premises

-6.2%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

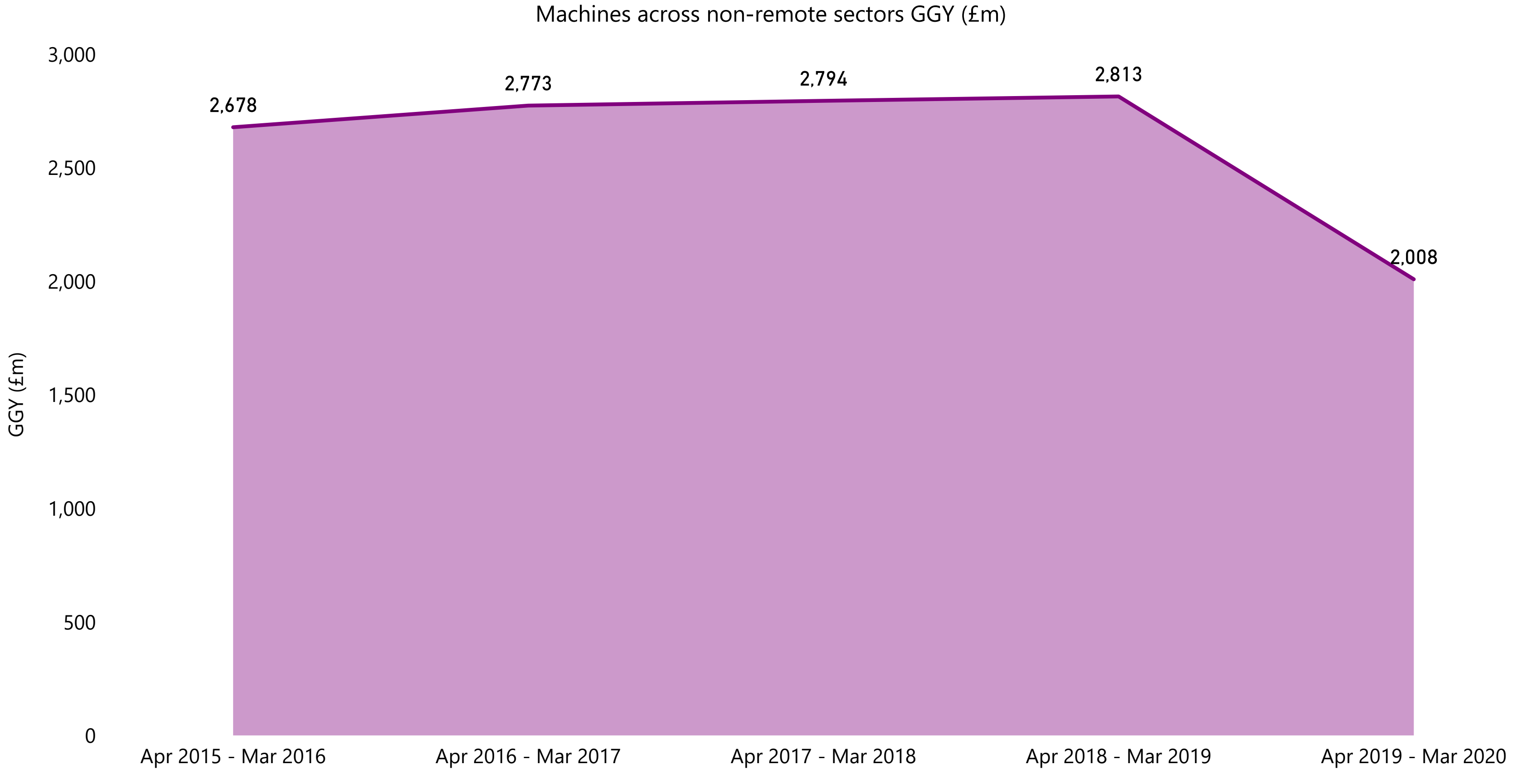
Between March 2019 and March 2020, the overall number of premises decreased by 665 (-6.2%) from 10,793 to 10,128.

By sector, there was a decline in non-remote betting by 639 (-7.7%), arcades by 25 (-1.5%) and bingo by 4 (-0.6%). There was an increase in non-remote casino premises by 3 (2.0%).

Between March 2016 and March 2020, the total number of licensed premises decreased by 1,487 (-12.8%) from 11,615 to 10,128.

Machines across non-remote sectors 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

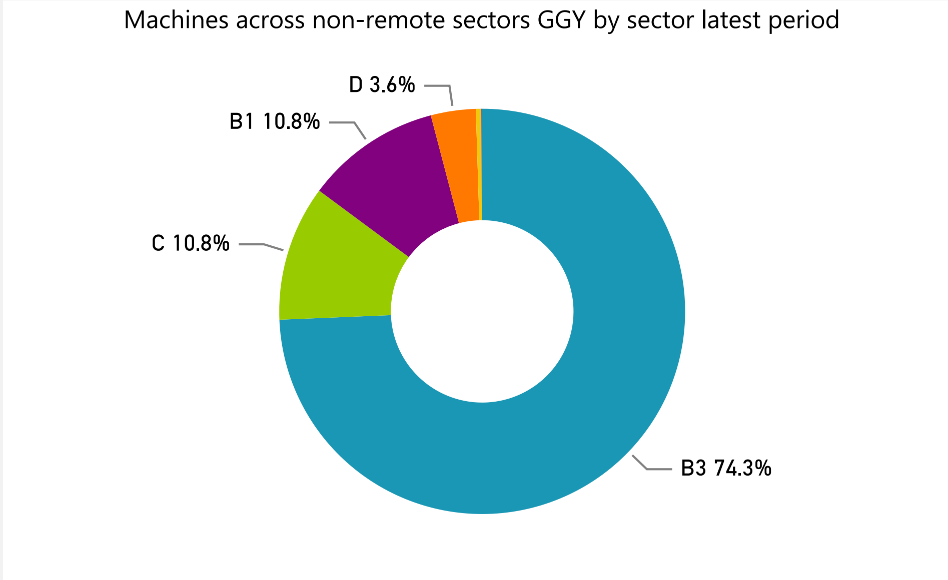


£2,008M

Machines GGY

-28.6%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY for machines across non-remote sectors decreased by £804.9m (-28.6%) from £2,813.2m to £2,008.3m.

By category there was a decrease of GGY for B2 by £1.2bn (-99.0%), C by £31.6m (-12.7%), D by £13.5m (-15.8%) and B4 by £3.9m (-75.3%). There was an increase in B3 by £391.5m (35.5%) and B1 by £9.2m (4.5%).

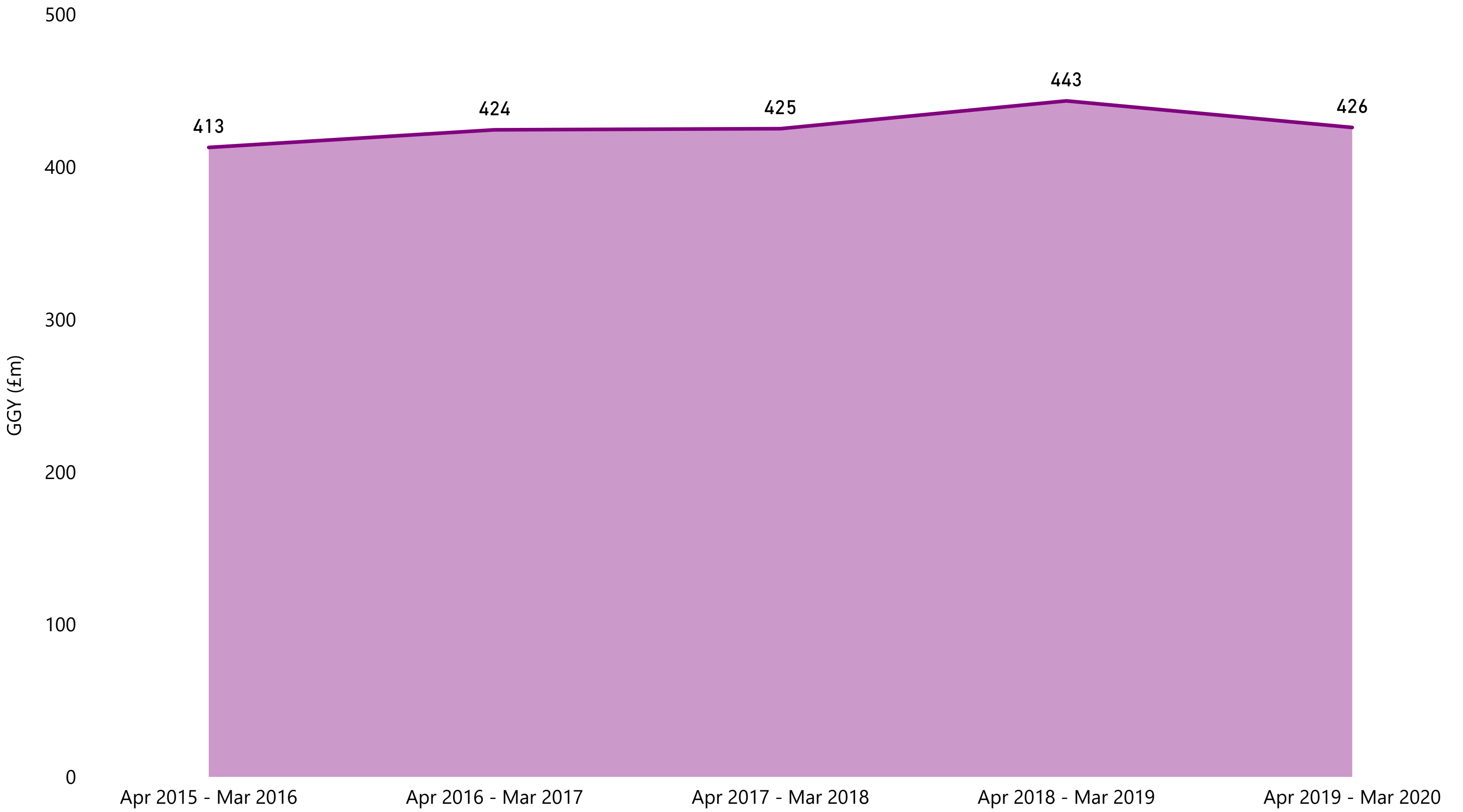
Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 machines across non-remote sectors GGY decreased by £669.4m (-25.0%) from £2,677.7m to £2,008.3m.

Notes:

A change in regulations reducing maximum stakes from £100 to £2 for Category B2 machines took effect in April 2019.

Arcades (non-remote) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

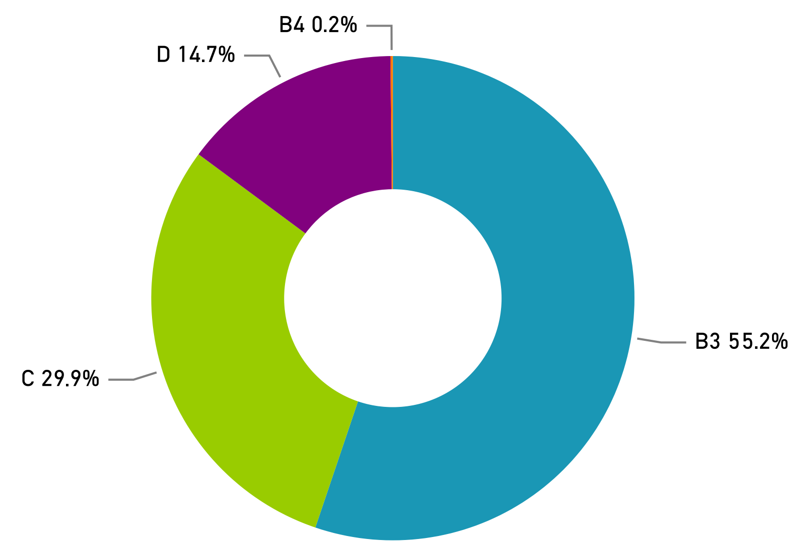


£426M

Arcades (non-remote) GGY

-3.9%

Change from previous period



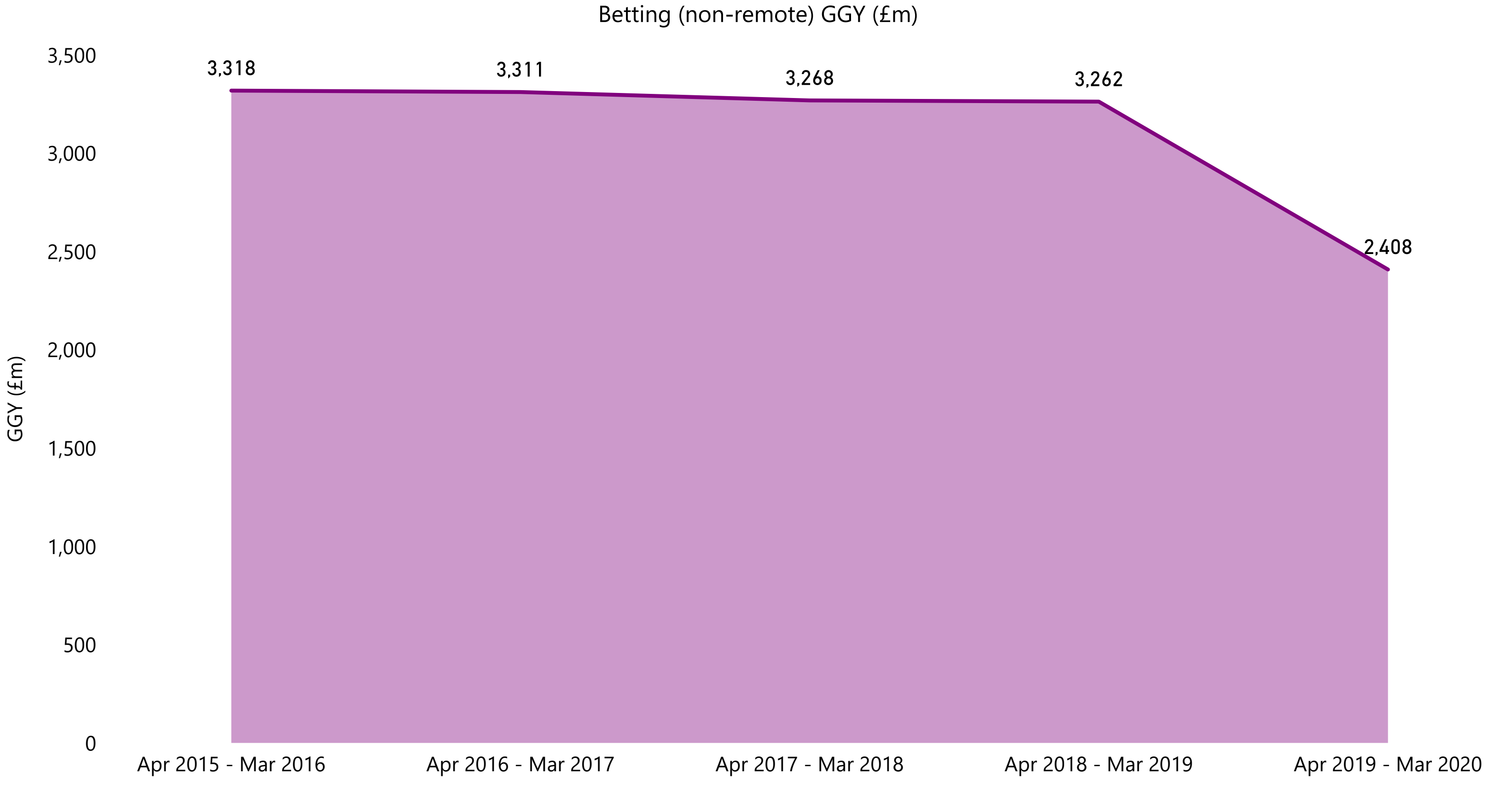
Key Points:

Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY for Arcades (non-remote) decreased by £17.4m (3.9%) from £443.1m to £425.6m.

By category, there was an increase for B3 by £3.0m (1.3%). There were decreases for D by £10.3m (-14.2%), C by £10.0m (-7.3%) and B4 by £0.1m (-10.0%).

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 Arcades (non-remote) GGY increased by £13.1m (3.2%) from £412.5m to £425.6m.

Betting (non-remote) 2019/20

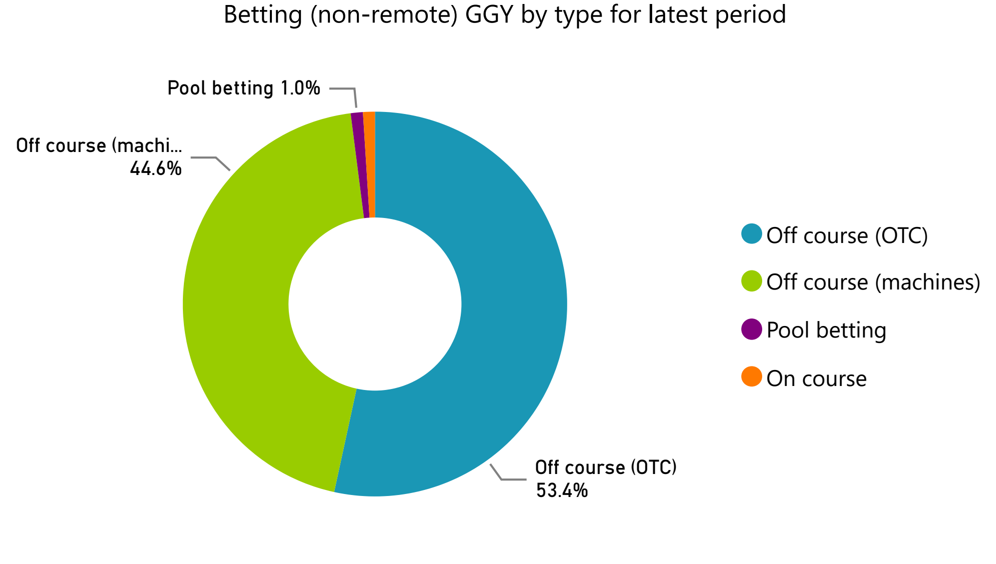


£2,408M

Betting (non-remote) GGY

-26.2%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY for Betting (non-remote) decreased by £853.9m (-26.2%) from £3.3bn to £2.4bn.

By type, there were decreases for Off-course (machines) by £753.0m (-41.2%), Off-course (over the counter) by £66.0m (-4.9%), Pool betting by £30.2m (-55.0%) and On-course by £4.7m (-16.2%).

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 Betting (non-remote) GGY decreased by £910.0m (-27.4%) from £3.3bn to £2.4bn.

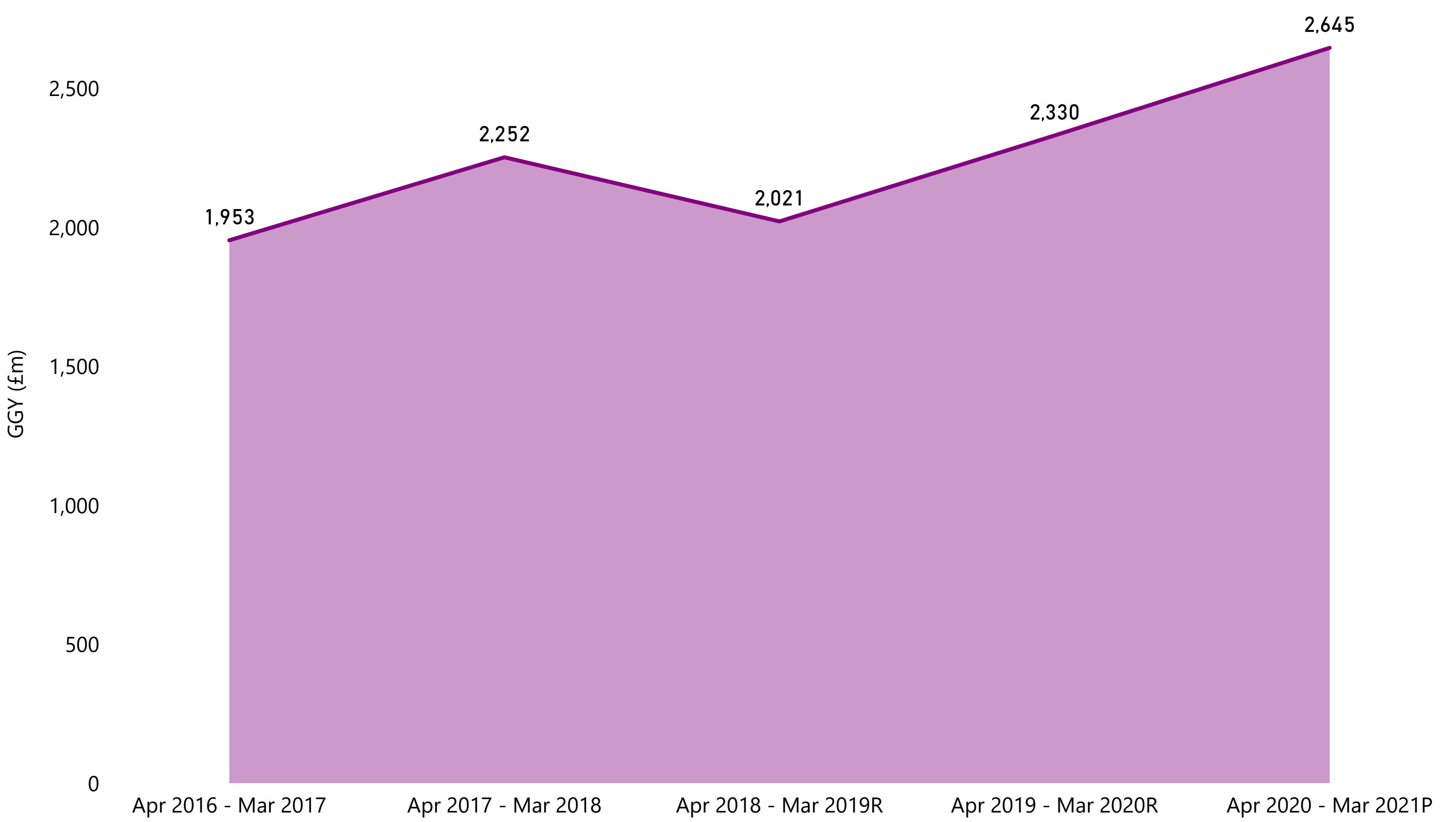
Notes:

A change in regulations reducing maximum stakes from £100 to £2 for Category B2 machines took effect in April 2019.

Betting (remote) 2020/21

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Betting (remote) GGY (£m)



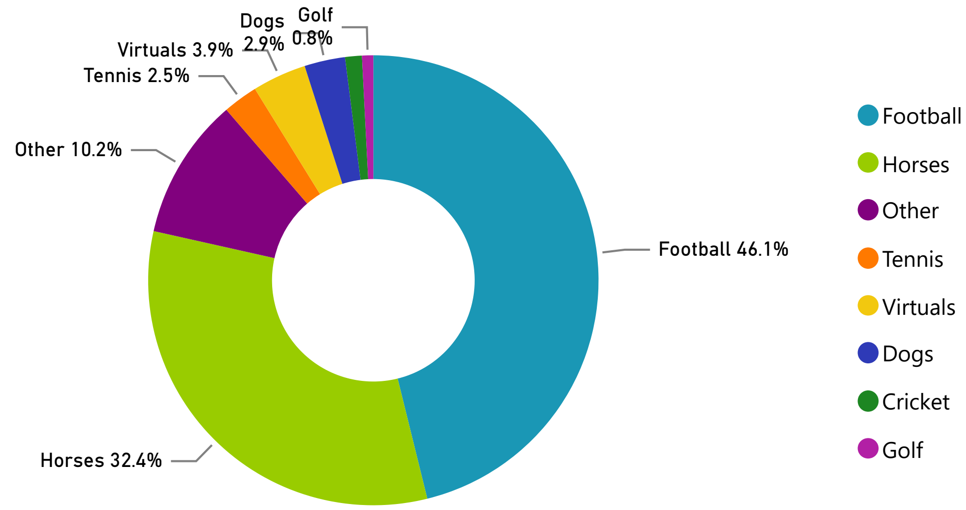
£2,645M

Betting (remote) GGY

13.5%

Change from previous period

Betting (remote) GGY by category for latest period



Key Points:

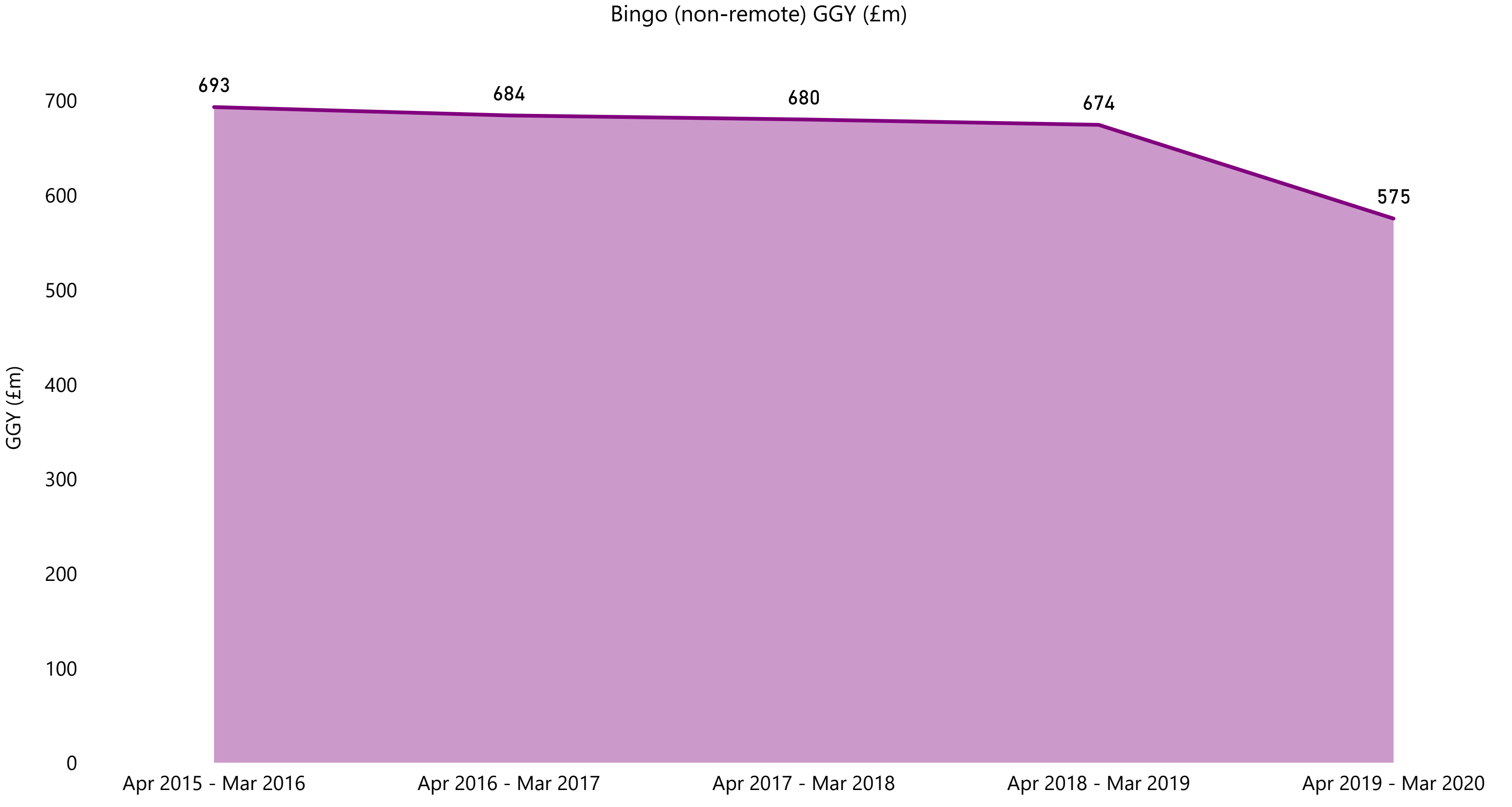
Between periods April 2019 - March 2020 and April 2020 - March 2021, GGY for Betting (remote) increased by £315.4m (13.5%) from £2,329.9m to £2,645.3m.

By category, there were increases for Horses by £201.6m (30.8%), Football by £89.4m (7.9%), Other by £51.3m (23.6%), Virtual by £26.2m (34.2%), Golf by £5.0m (30.3%) and Dogs by £4.2m (5.8%). There was a decrease in GGY for Tennis by £50.6m (-43.3%) and Cricket by £11.7m (-26.8%).

Between periods April 2016 - March 2017 and April 2020 - March 2021 Betting (remote) GGY increased by £692.3m (35.5%) from £2.0bn to £2.6bn.

Bingo (non-remote) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

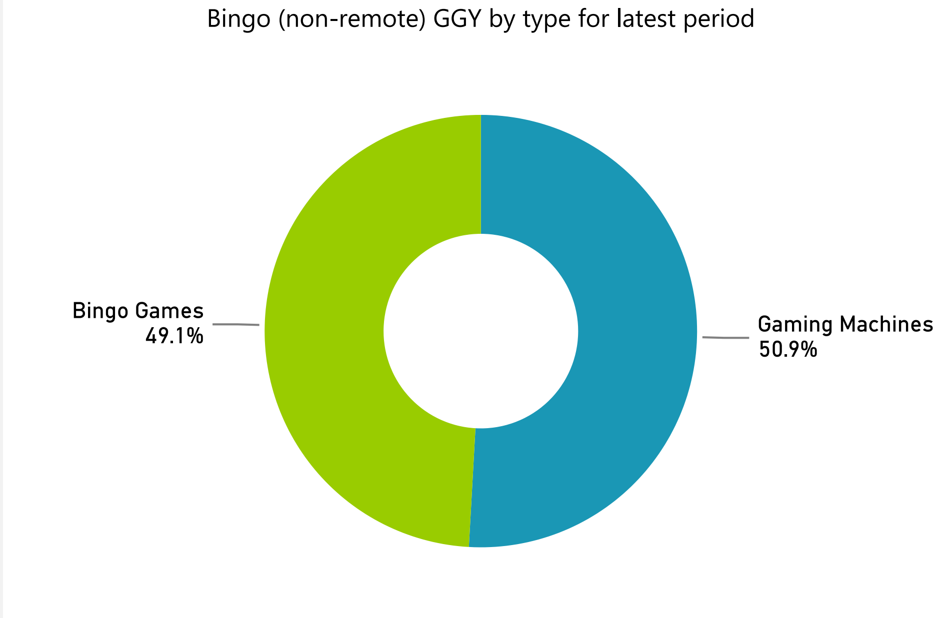


£575M

Bingo (non-remote) GGY

-14.7%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY for Bingo (non-remote) GGY decreased by £99.1m (-14.7%) from £674.3m to £575.2m.

By type, there were decreases in GGY for Bingo Games by £67.2m (-19.2%) and Machines by £31.9.2m (-9.8%).

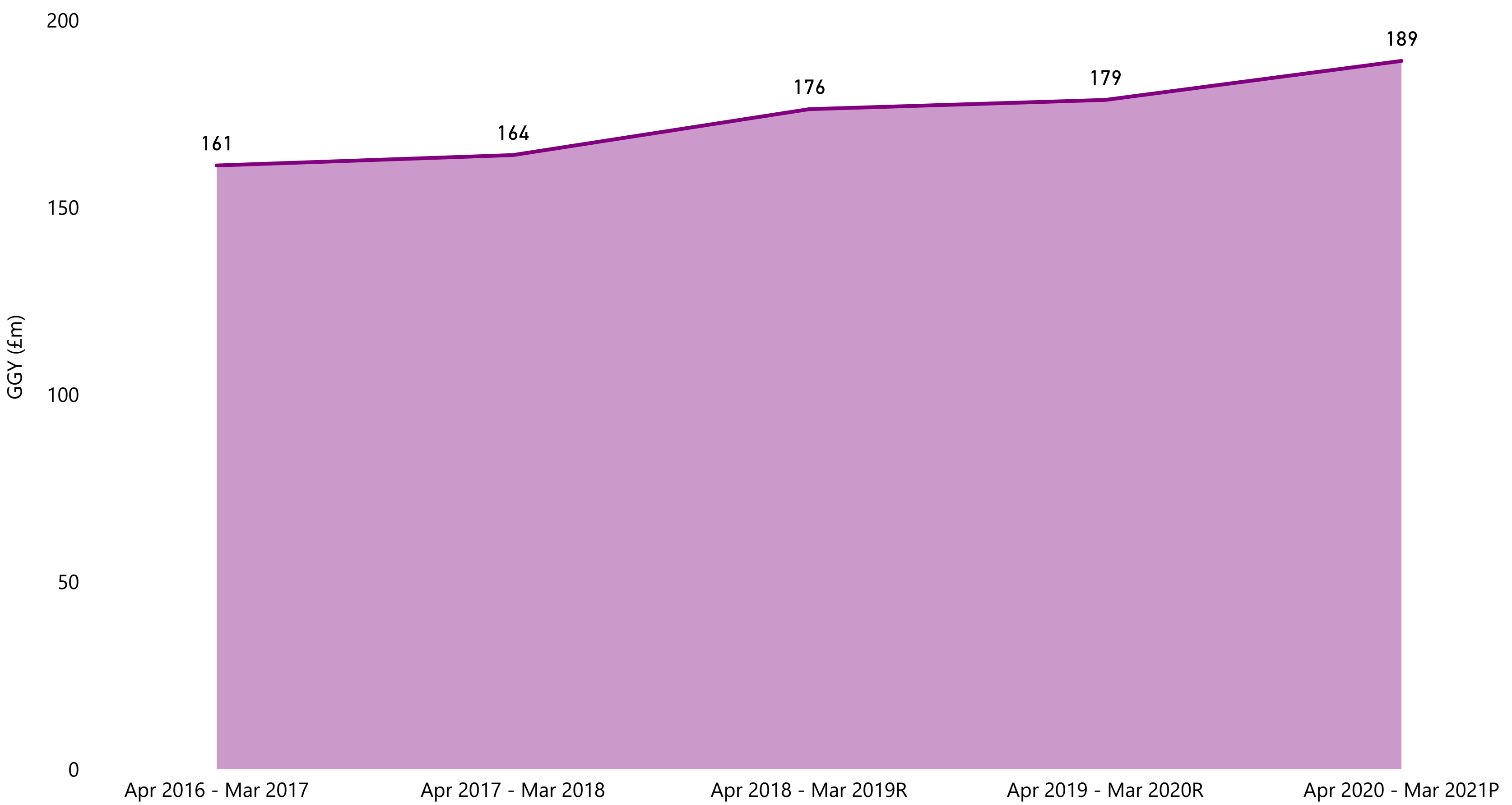
Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 Bingo (non-remote) GGY decreased by £117.9.2m (-17.0%) from £693.1m to £575.2m.

Notes:

Data from electronic bingo terminals (EBTs) is included within bingo games and gaming machines GGY figures.

Bingo (remote) 2020/21

Bingo (remote) GGY (£m)



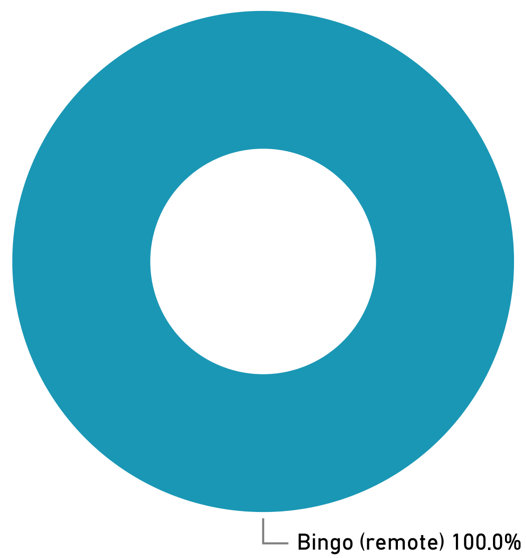
£189M

Bingo (remote) GGY

5.8%

Change from previous period

Bingo (remote) GGY by type for latest period



Key Points:

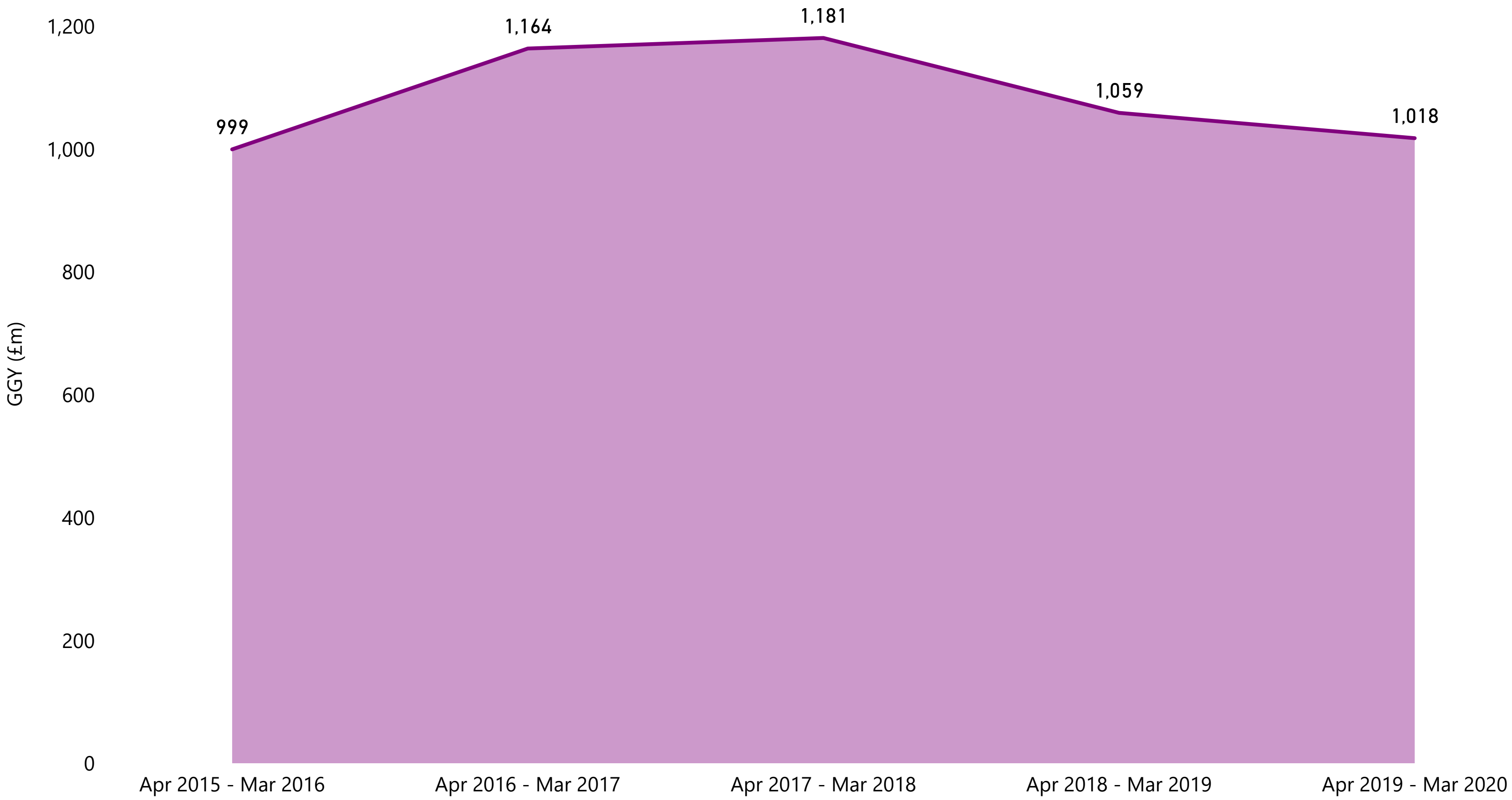
Between periods April 2019 - March 2020 and April 2020 - March 2021, GGY for Bingo (remote) increased by £10.4m (5.8%) from £178.7m to £189.1m.

Between periods April 2016 - March 2017 and April 2020 - March 2021 Bingo (remote) GGY increased by £27.9m (17.3%) from £161.2m to £189.1m.

Casino (non-remote) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Casino (non-remote) GGY (£m)



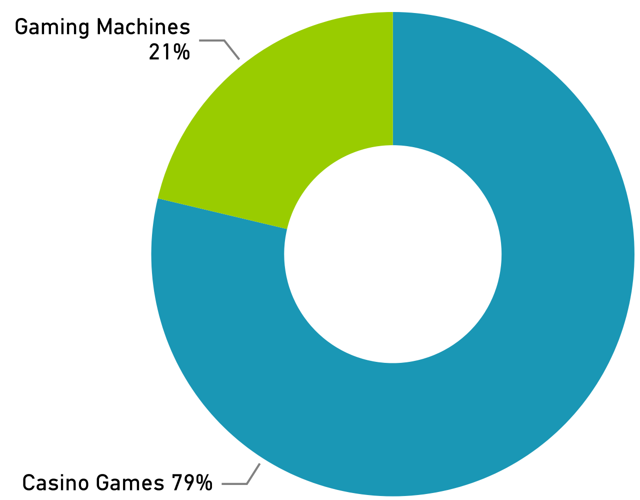
£1,018M

Casino (non-remote) GGY

-3.9%

Change from previous period

Casino (non-remote) GGY by type for latest period



Key Points:

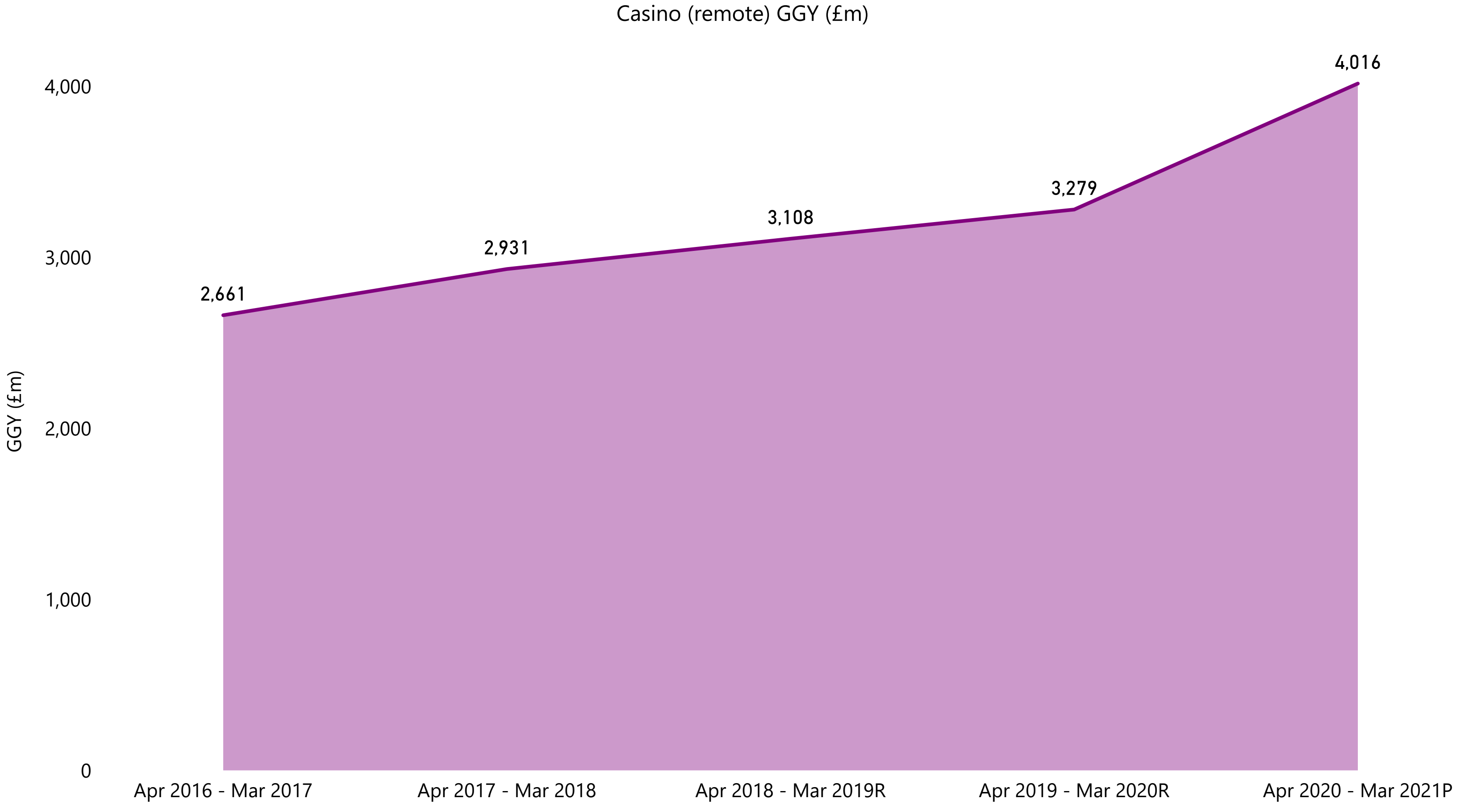
Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY for Casino (non-remote) GGY decreased by £41.2m (-3.9%) from £1.1bn to £1.0bn.

By type, there were decreases in GGY for Casino Games by £38.7m (-4.6%) and Machines by £2.6m (-1.2%).

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 Casino (non-remote) GGY increased by £18.2m (1.8%) from £999.4m to £1.0bn.

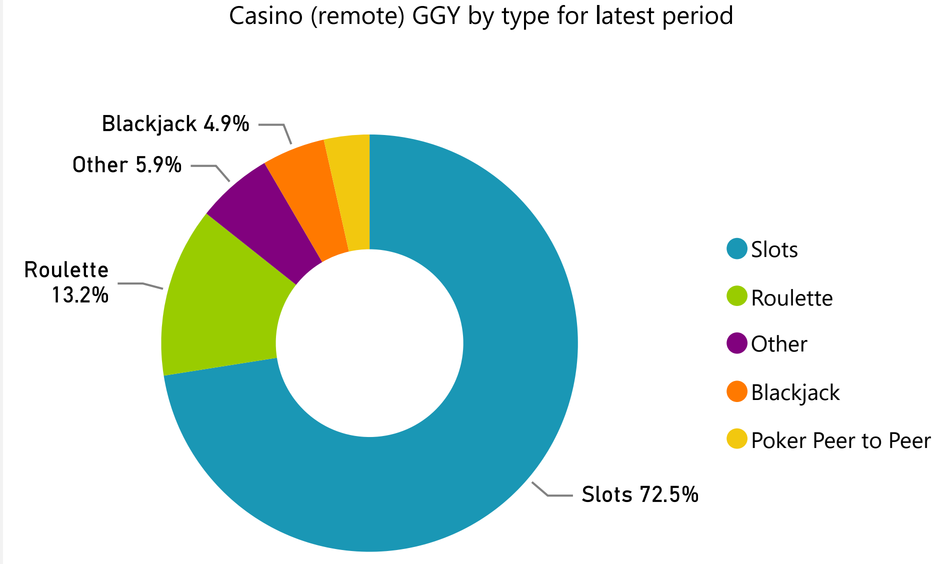
Casino (remote) 2020/21

GAMBLING COMMISSION



£4,016M
Casino (remote) GGY

22.5%
Change from previous period



Key Points:

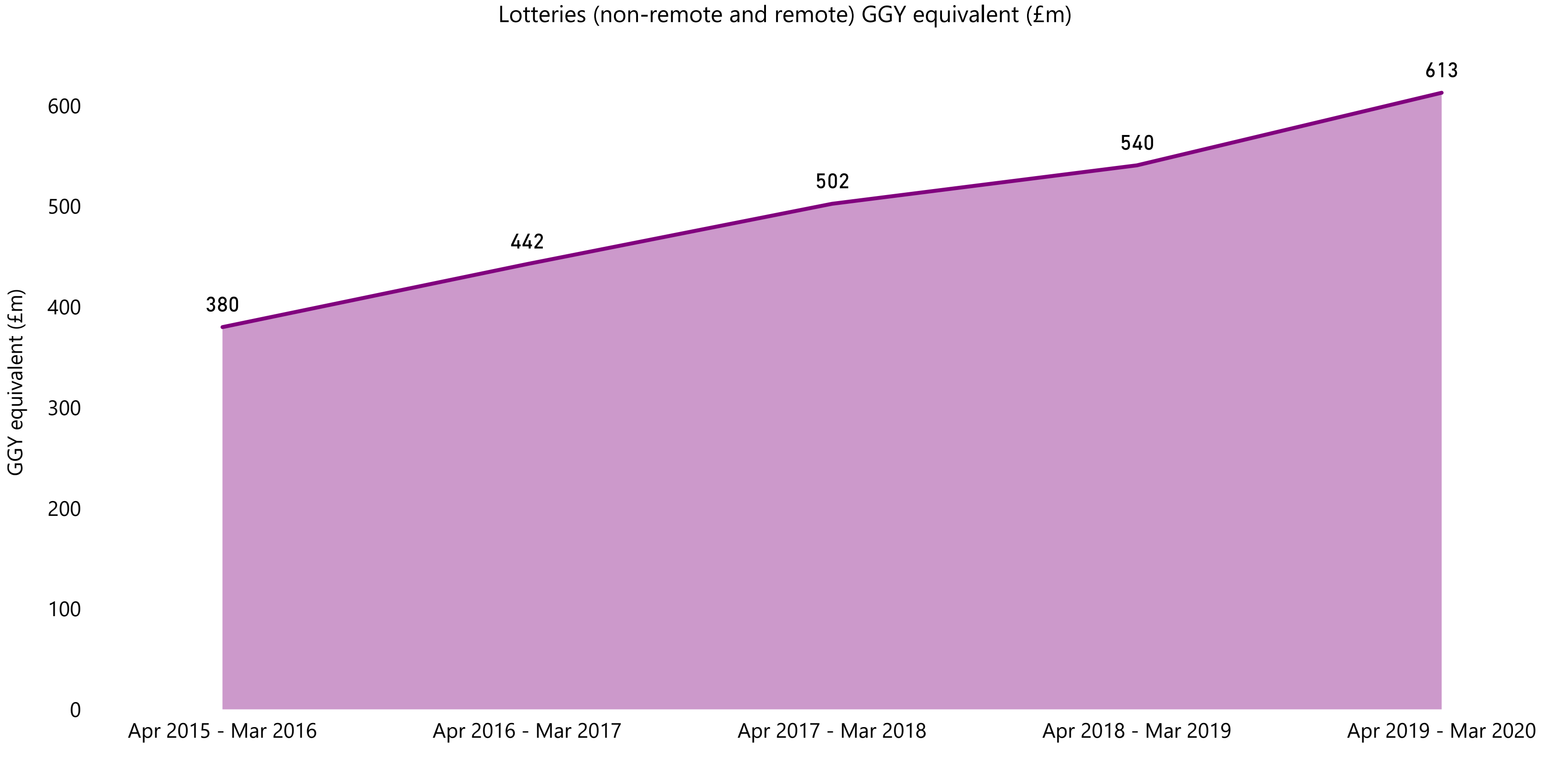
Between periods April 2019 - March 2020 and April 2020 - March 2021, GGY for Casino (remote) increased by £736.7m (22.5%) from £3.3bn to £4.0bn.

By category, there were increases for Slots by £532.4m (22.4%), Roulette by £93.0m (21.4%), Other by £59.7m (33.6%), Poker peer to peer by £43.4.6m (44.2%) and Blackjack by £8.1m (4.3%).

Between periods April 2016 - March 2017 and April 2020 - March 2021 Casino (remote) GGY increased by £1.4bn (50.9%) from £2.7bn to £4.0bn.

Lotteries (non-remote and remote) 2019/20

GAMBLING COMMISSION

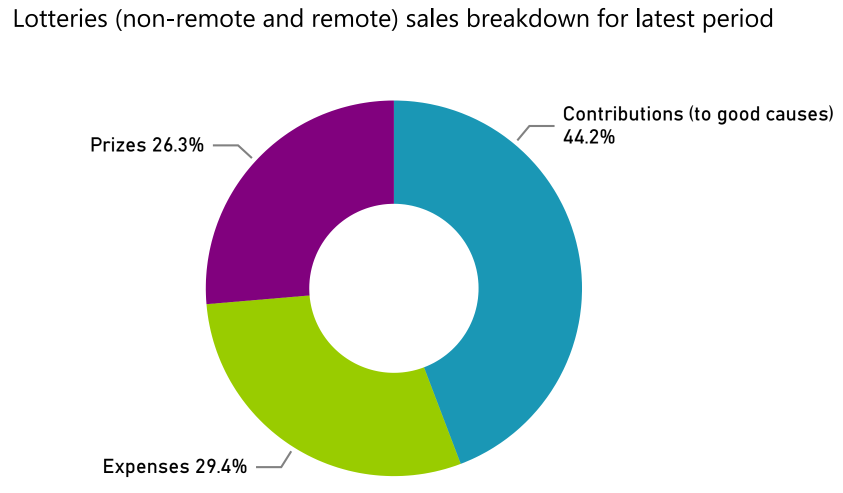


£613M

Lotteries GGY equivalent

13.3%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

Between periods April 2018 - March 2019 and April 2019 - March 2020, GGY equivalent for Lotteries (non-remote and remote) increased by £72.1m (13.3%) from £540.5m to £612.6m.

There were increases in ticket sales by £97.1m (13.2%) from £734.7m to £831.7m, expenses by £36.1m (17.3%) from £208.7m to £244.8m , balance (to good causes) by £36.1m (10.9%) from £331.8m to £367.8m and prizes by £25.0m (12.8%) from £194.2m to £219.1m.

Between periods April 2015 - March 2016 and April 2019 - March 2020 the GGY equivalent for Lotteries (non-remote and remote) increased by £232.8m (61.3%) from £379.8m to £612.6m.

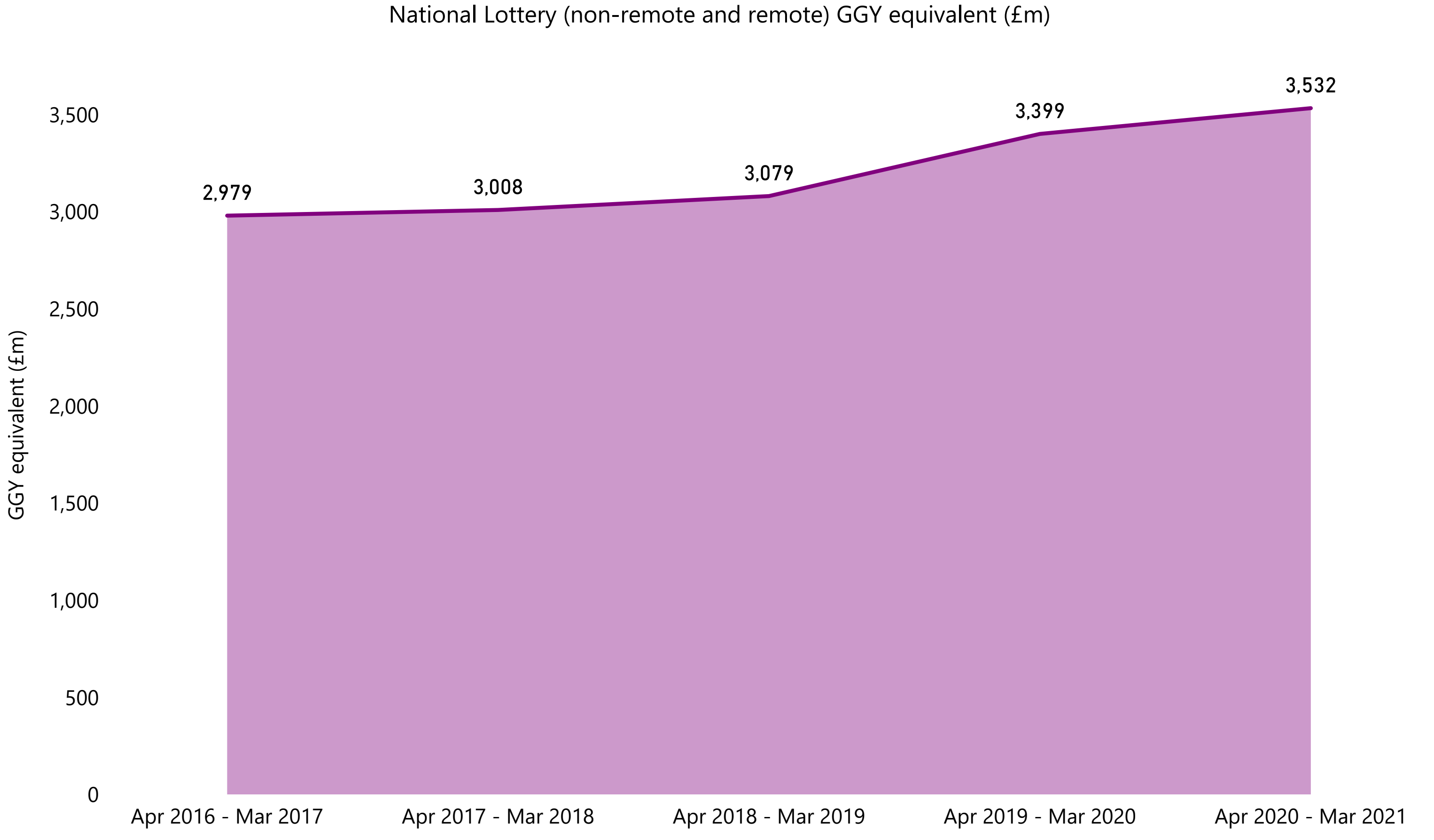
Notes:

GGY equivalent for lotteries is total proceeds minus prizes and includes any GGY equivalent raised through external lottery managers.

These charts include data from large society lotteries and local authority lotteries. They do not include figures from small society lotteries or The National Lottery.

The National Lottery (non-remote and remote) 2020/21

GAMBLING COMMISSION

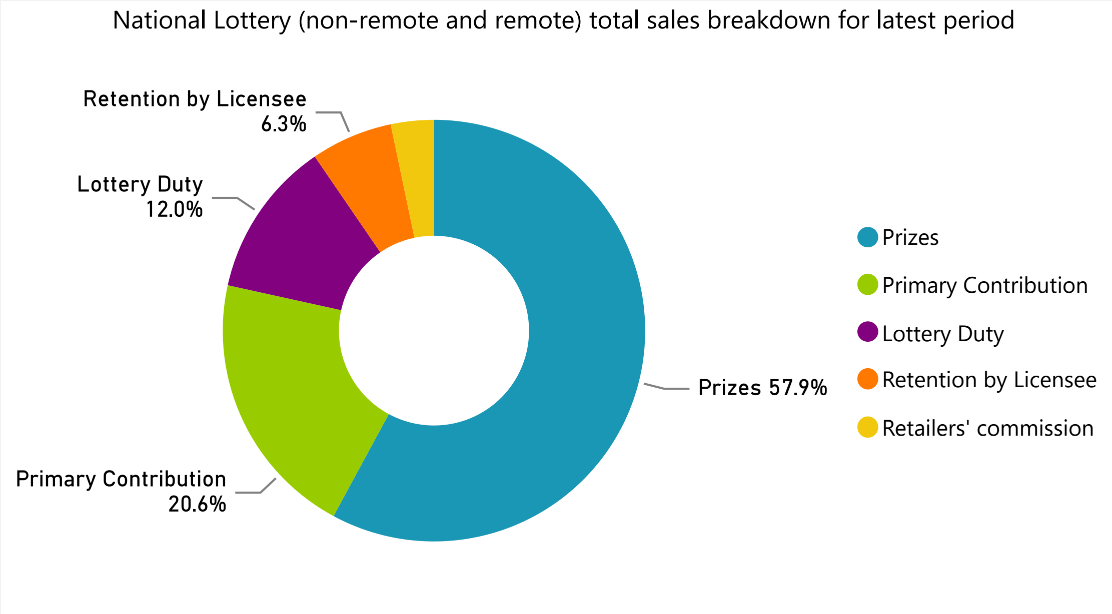


£3,532M

National Lottery GGY equivalent

3.9%

Change from previous period



Key Points:

Between periods April 2019 - March 2020 and April 2020 - March 2021, GGY equivalent for The National Lottery increased by £132.4m (3.9%) from £3.4bn to £3.5bn.

There were increases in ticket sales by £482.2m (6.1%), prizes by £349.7m (7.8%), Contributions (to good causes) by £65.8m (4.0%).

Between periods April 2016 - March 2017 and April 2020 - March 2021 the GGY equivalent for The National Lottery increased by £553.1m (18.6%).

Notes:

GGY equivalent for the National Lottery is total proceeds minus total prizes. This National Lottery data includes data from Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Making gambling fairer and safer

Responsible statisticians:

Andrew Dixon
Senior Data Analyst

Tom Smith
Senior Data Analyst

Helen Bryce
Head of Statistics

For further data and information on the gambling industry, please visit our website at: www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham B2 4BP

T : 0121 230 6666

E : info@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Gambling Commission
Published November 2021