

LOTTERY DREAMS

Floridians spend about \$273 a year on lottery tickets. For the heavy betting, look to Massachusetts.

BY BILL VARIAN

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The average Floridian spends \$273.22 on the lottery annually.

That's everything from Powerball to scratch-offs, according to LendEDU, an online company that helps consumers compare financial products, from student loans to credit cards.

All that betting brings in about \$5.8 billion.

Floridians spend more on the lottery than the \$219.54 that people spend nationally, but not a crazy amount more. For that, look to Massachusetts, where the average resident spends \$737.01, or about 2 percent of the average state household **income**.

The state whose residents feel least lucky? North Dakota, where the average person spent \$34.68.

The numbers are from 2017, the most recent year for when information from all states was available.

An employee prints 10,000 lottery tickets for a customer's lottery club at Ybor Metro Market in Tampa. Printing the \$20,000 worth of tickets took the employees about five hours.

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