

If the lottery were an investment, your stake was the amount invested, the potential prize and the chance of getting it were your return, which UK lottery would be the best investment ?

TABLES A

UK lotteries comparison of value for money for your stake money when taking into account potential prize

Playing for the Jackpot or single prize- value for money table , High prize/odds = best							
Current Lotto at £1 per ticket				Euro at £2 per ticket			
Lottery type	Odds of any prize	cost/line £	chance of prizes/ £	Main prize odds million to 1	potential prize £millions	Based on £2 spent Modified odds millions to 1	Jackpot prize /modified odds
Lotto triple rollover	1 in 52.7	£ 1.00	0.02	13.98	14	6.99	2.00
Euromillions Jackpot £135M or better	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	135	116.53	1.16
Lotto double rollover or better	1 in 52.7	£ 1.00	0.02	13.98	8	6.99	1.14
Lotto hotpicks Pick1	1 in 9	£ 1.00	0.114548	0.000009	£ 0.000005	0.000005	1.11
Lotto hotpicks Pick2	1 in 79	£ 1.00	0.012755	0.000078	£ 0.00004	0.000039	1.02
Lotto hotpicks Pick4	1 in 14126	£ 1.00	0.000071	0.014125	£ 0.007	0.007063	0.99
Lotto hotpicks Pick3	1 in 922	£ 1.00	0.001086	0.000921	£ 0.000450	0.000461	0.98
Lotto single rollover	1 in 52.7	£ 1.00	0.02	13.98	6.5	6.99	0.93
Lotto hotpicks Pick5	1 in 317814	£ 1.00	0.000003	0.317813	£ 0.13	0.158907	0.82
Euromillions guaranteed £85 M	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	85	116.53	0.73
Sat lotto	1 in 52.7	£ 1.00	0.02	13.98	5	6.99	0.72
Euromillions quadruple rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	36	116.53	0.31
wed Lotto	1 in 52.7	£ 1.00	0.02	13.98	2	6.99	0.29
Euromillions triple rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	27	116.53	0.23
Lotto plus 5*	1 in 52.7	£ 0.20	0.09	13.98	0.25	1.40	0.18
Euromillions single rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	18	116.53	0.15
Thunderball	1 in 13	£ 1.00	0.08	8.06	0.5	4.03	0.12
Euromillions no rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	13	116.53	0.11
The Health lottery	1 in 209	£ 1.00	0.0048	2.1176	0.1	1.06	0.09

* lotto plus 5 is £1 for 5 draws so details are per draw

The UK lotto draw is highlighted in the margin

The top table shows the current situation prior to autumn 2013. The price of a lotto ticket is £1.00.

A Lotto triple rollover is best value because its large jackpot is 8 times easier to win than Euromillions and at half the price . This is followed by Euromillions £135 M rollover jackpot.

Following this is a Lotto double rollover ranked above pick 1,2,3,4 hotpicks. The hotpicks only appear in this table because they have no consolation prize, there are only one set of odds, for the fixed prize. Whilst they have nowhere near the life changing ability of the Jackpots of other lotteries they are easier to win and cheaper, so are good value for money.

Currently The (non rollover) Saturday Lotto at £1 is better value than even a quadruple rollover on the Euromillions. The Wednesday lotto follows close behind. Surprisingly, The Wednesday lotto is ahead of even a triple rollover on Euromillions.

You will notice that The health lottery appears to be the worst value for money terms of what you can win for your outlay and the ease of winning it because of the low jackpot- and it still costs £1.

New Lotto at £2 per ticket Euro at £2 per ticket							
Lottery type	Odds of any prize	cost/line £	chance of prizes per £ staked	Main prize odds million to 1	potential prize £millions	Based on £2 spent Modified odds millions to 1	Jackpot prize /modified odds
Euromillions £135M or better	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	135	116.53	1.16
Lotto hotpicks Pick1	1 in 9	£ 1.00	0.114548	0.000009	£ 0.000005	0.000005	1.11
Lotto hotpicks Pick2	1 in 79	£ 1.00	0.012755	0.000078	£ 0.00004	0.000039	1.02
Lotto triple rollover	0 in 52.7	£ 2.00	0.01	13.98	14	13.98	1.00
Lotto hotpicks Pick4	1 in 14126	£ 1.00	0.000071	0.014125	£ 0.007	0.007063	0.99
Lotto hotpicks Pick3	1 in 922	£ 1.00	0.001086	0.000921	£ 0.00045	0.000461	0.98
Lotto hotpicks Pick5	1 in 317814	£ 1.00	0.000003	0.317813	£ 0.13	0.158907	0.82
Euromillions guaranteed 85 or better	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	85	116.53	0.73
Lotto double rollover	1 in 52.7	£ 2.00	0.01	13.98	8	13.98	0.57
Lotto single rollover	1 in 52.7	£ 2.00	0.01	13.98	6.5	13.98	0.46
Sat lotto	1 in 52.7	£ 2.00	0.01	13.98	5	13.98	0.36
Euromillions quadruple rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	36	116.53	0.31
Euromillions triple rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	27	116.53	0.23
Euromillions single rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	18	116.53	0.15
wed Lotto	1 in 52.7	£ 2.00	0.01	13.98	2	13.98	0.14
Thunderball	1 in 13	£ 1.00	0.08	8.06	0.5	4.03	0.12
Euromillions no rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.04	116.53	13	116.53	0.11
The Health lottery	1 in 209	£ 1.00	0.0048	2.1176	0.1	1.06	0.09

The bottom table shows what happens after autumn 2013. The price of a lotto ticket is then £2.00.

You will notice now that The Lotto double rollover had been demoted to less value than all the hotpicks, as its price has doubled.

The massive Euromillions Jackpot of £135 million is now best value and the lotto triple rollover has slipped to fourth place in the middle of the hotpicks..

The Saturday non rollover Lotto maintains its better value status than even a quadruple rollover on the Euromillions because the odds are less, and you can still win a life changing amount, but it only just scrapes ahead. The Wednesday lotto has been demoted to just below a Euromillions single rollover draw.

It still beats Thunderball, Euromillions (no rollover) and The Health lottery. These are by comparison poor value for money in terms of Megabucks winning power per £1.

The new Lotto 50 x £20,000 raffle winners draw has not been included as the odds are over 200,000 to 1. Nor has the Euromillions UK millionaire raffle at odds of between 3 and 9 million to 1. They would not change these tables.

The Lotto plus 5 draw is to be discontinued.

If the lottery were an investment, your stake was the amount invested, the potential prize and the chance of getting it were your return, which UK lottery would be the best investment ?

TABLES B

If you are more interested in **any** prize but with a chance at the jackpot:-
with chances of more consolations per £ stake

Playing for any prize tier , High Value for money = best

Current Lotto at £1 per ticket								
Euromillions at £2 per ticket								
Lottery type	Odds of any prize	cost/line £	chance of prizes/ £	Jackpot odds million to 1	Jackpot potential prize £millions	jackpot prize / odds	Based on £2 spent Modified prize/ odds	Value for money = (modified prize / odds) X (chance of prizes/£)
Lotto triple rollover or better	0 in 52.65	£ 1.00	0.019	13.98	14	1.00	2.00	38
Lotto double rollover	1 in 52.65	£ 1.00	0.019	13.98	8	0.57	1.14	22
Lotto single rollover	1 in 52.65	£ 1.00	0.019	13.98	6.5	0.46	0.93	18
Lotto plus 5*	1 in 52.65	£ 0.20	0.095	13.98	0.25	0.02	0.18	17
Sat lotto	1 in 52.65	£ 1.00	0.019	13.98	5	0.36	0.72	14
Euromillions quad rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.038	116.53	36	0.31	0.31	12
Thunderball	1 in 13	£ 1.00	0.077	8.06	0.5	0.06	0.12	10
Euromillions triple rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.038	116.53	27	0.23	0.23	9
Euromillions single rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.038	116.53	18	0.15	0.15	6
wed Lotto	1 in 52.65	£ 1.00	0.019	13.98	2	0.14	0.29	5
Euromillions no rollover	1 in 13	£ 2.00	0.038	116.53	13	0.11	0.11	4
The Health lottery	1 in 209	£ 1.00	0.0048	2.1176	0.1	0.05	0.09	0.45

* lotto plus 5 is £1 for 5 draws so details are per draw

New Lotto at £2 per ticket								
Euromillions at £2 per ticket								
Lottery type	Odds of any prize	cost/line £	chance of prizes/ £	Jackpot odds million to 1	Jackpot potential prize £millions	jackpot prize / odds	Based on £2 spent Modified prize/ odds	Value for money = (modified prize / odds) X (chance of prizes/£)
Euromillions quad rollover	1 in 13	£2.00	0.038	116.53	36	0.31	0.31	12
Thunderball	1 in 13	£1.00	0.077	8.06	0.5	0.06	0.12	10
Lotto triple rollover	1 in 52.65	£ 2.00	0.009	13.98	14	1.00	1.00	10
Euromillions triple rollover	1 in 13	£2.00	0.038	116.53	27	0.23	0.23	9
Euromillions single rollover	1 in 13	£2.00	0.038	116.53	18	0.15	0.15	6
Lotto double rollover	1 in 52.7	£2.00	0.009	13.98	8	0.57	0.57	5
Lotto single rollover	1 in 52.7	£2.00	0.009	13.98	6.5	0.46	0.46	4
Euromillions no rollover	1 in 13	£2.00	0.038	116.53	13	0.11	0.11	4
Sat lotto	1 in 52.7	£2.00	0.009	13.98	5	0.36	0.36	3
wed Lotto	1 in 52.7	£2.00	0.009	13.98	2	0.14	0.14	1
The Health lottery	1 in 209	£1.00	0.0048	2.1176	0.1	0.05	0.09	0.45

The UK lotto draw is highlighted in the margin

Using these terms of reference, where the chance of consolation prizes is given more prominence, (whilst the price is still £1) a Lotto triple rollover or better comes top. A Euromillions jackpot would need to be £115 million to beat this. All the other Lotto rollovers and a normal Saturday Lotto follow until a Euromillions quad rollover is reached.

The lotto plus 5 draws fare well because they are cheap and have a good chance of a small prize.

Thunderball is a midfield player, better than a Euromillions triple rollover in terms of potential return per £ stake.

Note that any Euromillions rollover beats the Wednesday lotto. Surprisingly a non rollover Euromillions draw comes second last beating the Health lottery by a huge margin.

The increased price of a UK lotto ticket causes changes to the order.
The Euromillions quadruple rollover (or better) beats everything, followed by a Lotto triple rollover.

Look whats happened to Thunderball! Its equal second with a Lotto triple rollover, because of ease of consolation prizes for £1 a line..
Next, demoted below lesser Euro rollovers but not far behind is the £2 per line Lotto double rollover. **Any** Euromillions draw is now better than **any** normal Lotto draw.

Saturdays and Wednesdays non rollover lottos have been relegated to the bottom of the league beating by a country mile the The Health Lottery.

The new Lotto 50 x £20,000 raffle winners draw has not been included as the odds are over 200,000 to 1. Nor has the Euromillions UK millionaire raffle at odds of between 3 and 9 million to 1. They would not change these tables.