



LOTTERY WINNER FACT SHEET

WINNERS OF \$50,000 - \$1,000,000

Through an independent research firm, OLG surveys lottery winners about their decisions and experiences. The following information was provided by major prize winners from 1991 through 2005.

Approximately 3,300 winners of \$50,000 to \$1,000,000 have responded to our surveys (36% of all such winners). Here's a summary of what they said:

WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THEIR WINNINGS?

- 87% put money in the bank.
- 61% paid off debts.
- 53% shared money with family or friends.
- 35% took a vacation.
- 34% bought a new car.
- 31% donated to charity.
- 25% paid off mortgage.
- 18% paid for education for self/family.
- 12% bought a house.
- 4% changed their overall lifestyle.
- 3% bought a boat

WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?

- 8% of winners either retired, gave up their job, changed jobs, went to school or opened their own business.
- 30% of winners reported they had been contacted by the news media. Almost all of those contacted (94%) said they received fair and courteous treatment.
- 17% of winners said they were solicited for donations. Among those solicited, most (78%) said it was "not a problem".
- 65% of winners sought professional financial advice.

WINNERS OF \$1 MILLION OR MORE

Two hundred ninety eight of \$1,000,000 or more have responded to our surveys (37% of all such winners). Here's a summary of what they said:

WHAT DID THEY DO WITH THEIR WINNINGS?

- 90% put money in the bank.
- 60% paid off debts.
- 73% shared money with family or friends.
- 56% took a vacation.
- 65% bought a new car.
- 48% donated to charity.
- 38% paid off mortgage.
- 31% paid for education for self/family.
- 36% bought a house.
- 14% changed their overall lifestyle.
- 7% bought a boat

WHAT WAS THE EXPERIENCE LIKE?

- 43% of winners either retired, gave up their job, changed jobs, went to school or opened their own business.
- 74% of winners reported they had been contacted by the news media. Almost all of those contacted (93%) said they received fair and courteous treatment.
- 49% of winners said they were solicited for donations. Among those solicited, most (70%) said it was "not a problem".
- 95% of winners sought professional financial advice.