

May 2022

Gaming machines: 4,000 checks have led to 255 reports to the police

Every year, the Danish Gambling Authority completes more than 1,500 compliance checks in gambling arcades and pubs. From 2019 to 2021 almost 4,000 checks led to more than 250 criminal cases.

17 of the Danish Gambling Authority's employees are dedicated to conducting compliance checks in the land-based gambling sector – that is all gambling which does not take place online. This means that they check gambling arcades and pubs with gaming machines, among other things.

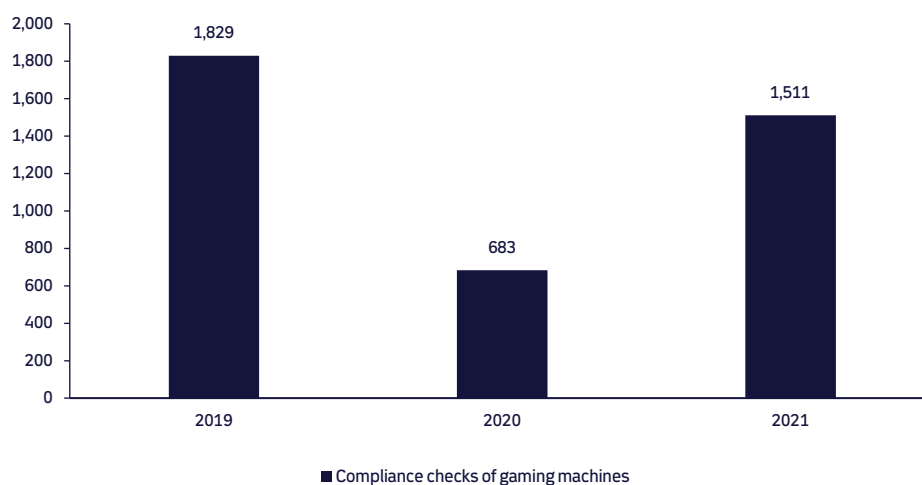
More than 1,500 checks in 2021

In 2021, the compliance workers completed 1,511 basic compliance checks at premises with gaming machines, cf. figure 1. In 2020, markedly fewer compliance checks were completed due to lockdowns and other measures related to Covid-19. In 2019, there were no lockdowns and that year, the number of checks amounted to 1,829. This means that the Danish Gambling Authority have completed a total of 4,023 compliance checks during the past three years.

4,023

Compliance checks at premises offering gambling on gaming machines from 2019 to 2021.

Figure 1. Number of compliance checks of gaming machines 2019 - 2021



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority

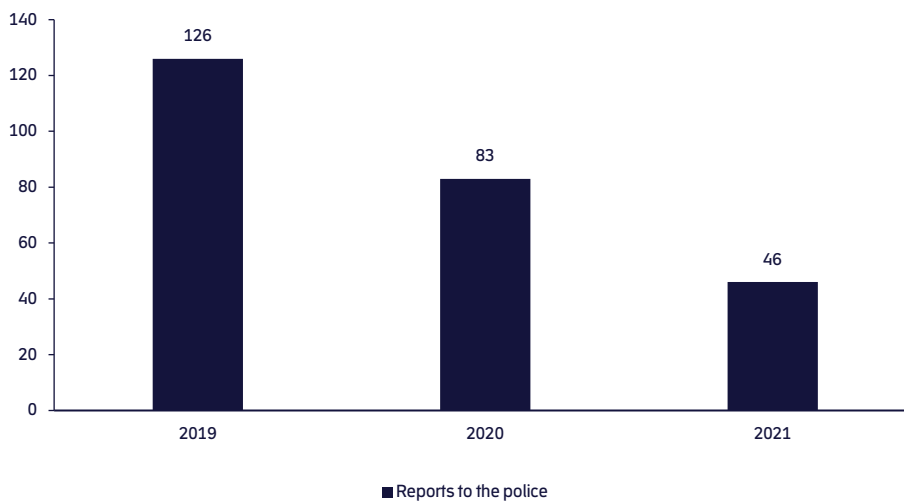
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255 reports to the police

Out of the 1,511 premises checked by the Danish Gambling Authority's employees in 2021, 106 were checked again because they did not fully comply with the rules. In most cases, it was minor breaches that were corrected when the Danish Gambling Authority came back for a second check.

Nevertheless, it is sometimes necessary to report gambling operators to the police. This is typically the case if the Danish Gambling Authority finds that young people under 18 gamble on gambling machines, if the gambling arcade is not manned, or if other types of gambling are offered than those permitted. From 2019 to 2021, the Danish Gambling Authority has sent 255 reports to the police, cf. figure 2.

Figure 2. Reports to the police 2019 – 2021



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority

Annual check of fees brings in extra fees of DKK 500,000

The 23,000 gaming machines in Denmark are owned by approx. 300 gambling operators, who pay a fee per gaming machine in operation. In 2021, the fee was DKK 670 per gaming machine. It is the gambling operators themselves who report to the Danish Gambling Authority the number of active gaming machines and thereby the size of the fee they will be paying.

DKK 499,765

Extra fees charged from gambling operators with gaming machines in 2020

Gaming machines, duties and fees

Restaurants, cafes, bars and pubs can have up to three gaming machines installed. Only gambling arcades can have more than three gaming machines. The 23,000 gaming machines are installed in 983 gambling arcades and 1,277 restaurants and pubs.

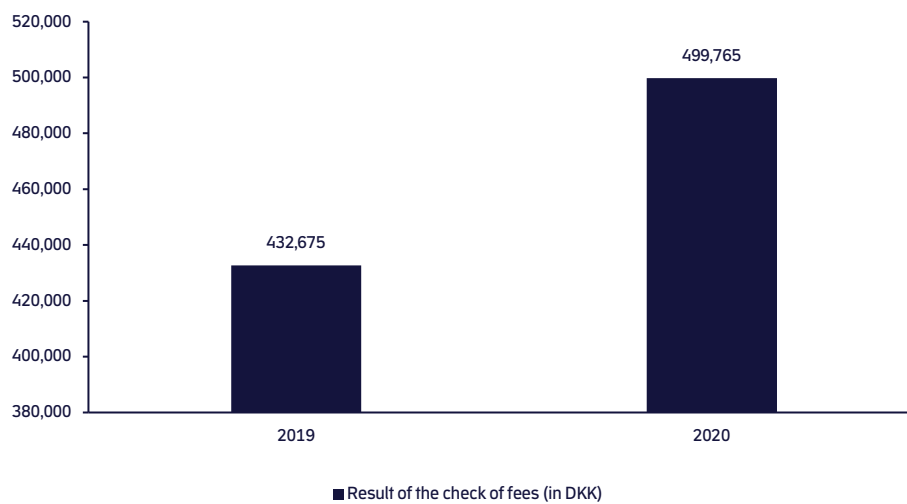
In 2022, the annual fee is DKK 678 for having installed a gaming machine. The fee is paid to the Danish Gambling Authority, while the duty is paid to the Danish Tax Agency. The duty for gaming machines is 41 percent of the gross gaming revenue (deposit minus winnings). If the gross gaming revenue exceeds a certain amount limit, there is an additional duty of 30 percent.

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All gaming machines are connected to the Danish Gambling Authority's data system tracking the activity on the gaming machines. Every year, the Danish Gambling Authority compares the reported fees with the actual activity on the gaming machines. The past two years, this check has brought in almost DKK 500,000 in extra fees a year, *cf. figure 3*. Together with the annual fees, the extra check ensures resources that enable the Danish Gambling Authority's to continue an efficient and effective compliance check of the part of the gambling market taking place in gambling arcades, kiosks and at pubs.

Naturally, the check goes both ways. So, if a gambling operator has paid for inactive gaming machines, the Danish Gambling Authority refunds the fee. In 2020, the Danish Gambling Authority refunded DKK 136,895 to gambling operators with inactive gaming machines.

Figure 3. Check of fees on gaming machines 2019 and 2020



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority

The Danish Gambling Authority ensures the framework for a fair gambling market

In addition to the on-site compliance checks, the Danish Gambling Authority also monitors all online gambling in Denmark, and it is also the Danish Gambling Authority who issues licences for gambling – both online and land-based. The Danish Gambling Authority are also responsible for the register of self-excluded players (ROFUS) and StopSpillet (StopGambling) – helpline about compulsive gambling.