

Lottery winners who spent all their millions

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From rags to riches and back again

Believe it or not, statistics show 70% of lottery winners end up broke and a third go on to declare bankruptcy, according to the National Endowment for Financial Education. Runaway spending, toxic investments and poor accounting can burn through a lucrative windfall in next to no time. From rags to riches then back to rags again, click or scroll through to see unlucky lottery winners who found out the hard way (all pre-2010 winnings have been adjusted in line with inflation).



Lou Eisenberg, winnings: \$14.2 million

Brooklyn-born Lou Eisenberg became a multimillionaire in 1981, winning the New York State Lottery jackpot on the ominous date of Friday 13 November. The \$5 million win, equivalent to \$14.2 million today, was the largest lottery payout at the time. Eisenberg gambled away most of his winnings and the remainder went on paying off his ex-wives. By 2001, the cash had dried up and Eisenberg was living in a mobile home.



Janite Lee, winnings: \$32.2 million

South Korean immigrant Janite Lee went from rags to riches in 1993, winning a cool \$18 million on the Missouri Lottery, equivalent to \$32.2 million today. Overly generous, the former wig maker's American dream soon turned into a nightmare. Lee donated millions to charity, bankrolled the Democrat Party and

bought everything on credit. By 2001, the philanthropist was bankrupt, owing her debtors a staggering \$2.5 million.



Marva Wilson, winnings: \$2.4 million

Kansas City grandmother Marva Wilson won \$2 million on the Missouri Lottery in 2008, equivalent to \$2.4 million in today's money, but she didn't hold onto it for long. A family acquaintance called Freya Pearson scammed the unfortunate prizewinner out of her winnings, leaving the trusting Wilson with nothing. Pearson was sentenced to five years in prison for her crime.



Ronnie Music Jr, winnings: \$3 million

Instead of investing his winnings sensibly in real estate or stocks and shares, Ronnie Music Jr put his winnings into a crystal meth ring when he landed a \$3 million prize playing the Georgia Lottery in February 2015. The hapless drug dealer was caught, and on top of losing his money Music Jr was sentenced to 21 years in prison in April 2016.



Callie Rogers, winnings: \$3.7 million

Britain's youngest lottery winner, Callie Rogers was over the moon when she scooped up £1.9 million in 2003 at the tender age of 16, equivalent to \$3.7 million today. The supermarket worker from Cumbria quit her job and pretty much went off the rails, splurging on cosmetic surgery, drug-fueled nights out, vacations and gifts. So much so that, by 2013, Rogers had just \$2,580 left in the bank.



Daniel Carley, winnings: \$4.4 million

Another lottery winner who has ended up behind bars, Daniel Carley scooped up CA\$5 million on the Ontario Lottery in 2006, equivalent to CA\$6.2 million (US\$4.4m) in today's money. The St. Catherines resident spent like crazy and, by 2012, Carley was broke and up to his eyeballs in debt. Desperate to make ends meet, he turned to drug dealing and was sentenced in August 2017 to two and a half years in the slammer for selling crack cocaine.



Ibi Roncaioli, winnings: \$5.8 million

Ibi Roncaioli and her doctor husband Joseph were already financially comfortable when Ibi won CA\$5 million on the Canadian Lotto 6/49 in 1991, equivalent to CA\$8.2 million (US\$5.8m) today. But all was not well in the relationship. Ibi had two 'secret' sons from previous relationships and gifted them the bulk of the winnings. When Joseph found out in July 2003, he killed his wife by injecting her with a cocktail of lethal drugs. The former gynecologist served seven years in prison for the crime.



John Roberts, winnings: \$6.8 million

The champagne corks were flying when Edinburgh native John Roberts scored a £3.1 million win on the UK National Lottery in 1998, equivalent to \$6.8 million today, but Roberts wasn't living the high life for long. The Scot spent a fortune on supercars and questionable investments, including a money-pit pub. By 2001, Roberts' winnings had disappeared and he ended up moving into a mobile home.

Francisco Guerrero, winnings: \$9 million

In December 2005, Spanish bricklayer Francisco Guerrero struck it lucky when he won €6.47 million in the Spanish Bonoloto, equivalent to \$9 million in today's money. But he made a number of bad investments and ended up not only losing the money, but losing all of his properties as well. He has repeatedly taken

Santander bank to court for damages, saying he was advised to put his money into the loss-making investments.



Peter Kyle, winnings: \$9.5 million

Former soldier Peter Kyle took home a massive £5.1 million when his numbers came up on the UK National Lottery in 2005, equivalent to \$9.5 million today, and he even won an extra £500 playing bingo to celebrate the win. But all this good luck wasn't to last. By 2008, Kyle had lost the lot and was forced to claim welfare payments from the government, having pumped his cash into a series of bad investments.



William Post, winnings: \$35.4 million

William 'Bud' Post III thought he'd made it big-time when he won \$16.2 million on the Pennsylvania Lottery in 1988, which would be equal to \$35.4 million in today's money. But he didn't feel so lucky when his brother tried to have him murdered to get hold of the money, and his wife successfully sued him for a large chunk of the winnings. With his spending out of control, Post eventually ran up debts of \$1 million and was living on food stamps for several years before his death in 2006 at the age of 66.



Jack Whittaker, winnings: \$162.5 million

In 2002, construction boss Jack Whittaker won a whopping \$314.9 million on the Powerball multi-state lottery and opted for a lump sum payout of \$113 million, which would be \$162.5 million in today's money. Plagued by bad luck, the Virginia native overspent and wasted the cash on bad investments. He was even robbed at one point. By 2007, all the money had gone and Whittaker was back to square one.