



Online Poker Fast Facts

- The first online poker site was established in 1999, and poker's popularity has surged ever since. Live Poker began operations in April, 2005.
- Estimated value of wagers through online poker sites worldwide in 2005: US\$60 billion. (Source: Poker Players Alliance)
- Gambling Web sites attract more than 29 million unique visitors each year. (Source: ComScore Media Metrix)
- Projected growth rates of online wagers in the U.S. market are expected to be 15 to 20 percent by the year 2008. (Source: Poker Players Alliance)
- 41 percent of online poker players have incomes of more than US\$75,000 a year. (Source: Peter D. Hart Research Associates Inc.)
- Average number of real money players online at any time during the day: 120,000. (Source: PokerPulse.com)
- PokerPulse.com, a Canadian company that tracks the industry, says that at peak times, the largest online poker site has more than 50,000 people playing at more than 5,000 tables.
- Hundreds of thousands of people around the world now play poker online 24 hours a day.
- Poker's popularity has been spurred on by television shows such as Celebrity Poker Showdown, World Series of Poker and The World Poker Tour, along with poker-playing celebrities such as Ben Affleck, Toby Maguire and Jennifer Tilly.
- In 2003, a 27-year-old Internet player named Christopher MoneyMaker – his real name – won the World Series of Poker and \$2.5 million. He had never played in a live tournament before.
- In 2002, Restoration Hardware didn't carry any poker-related products; by 2004, they were the hottest gift item of the holiday season.