

**ZMATH 2015f.00878**

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**Lottery perception.**

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Summary: Data from two complementary sources can inform our choices when betting on lottery numbers. Firstly, records of past winning combinations that signal whether or not lottery results are obtained through random processes. Secondly, the combinations that people bet on. It may be the case that there is, in general, no reason to question the fairness of lottery draws. In contrast, people seem to express preferences for certain classes of combinations. Therefore, as argued here, only data of the second kind would be relevant for choosing lottery numbers or, perhaps more interestingly, for understanding people's behaviour.

*Classification:* K50

*Keywords:* lottery; combinations; probability; randomness