



## PLAYERS GUIDE TO “THE HOUSE EDGE” ON CASINO BANKERS GAMES

Casino games, such as Roulette, Blackjack, Punto Banco etc, are bankers’ games and, as such, are games of “unequal chance”. The nature and structure of these games therefore gives an advantage to the casino (the House). This is called the House “Edge”, and it gives a measure of the percentage that a casino would expect to retain, on average, from each hand or spin, given normal patterns of play.

It usually works in two ways:

- In games such as Blackjack, for example, the Dealer wins all bets from losing players, even if their own hand is also bust. This is because the Dealer “holds the bank”. By contrast, a player will win only if their own hand beats that of the dealer.
- In other banker games, like Roulette, the “Edge” is achieved by the casino paying slightly less than the “true” odds for a particular bet. For example, the true odds for a single Roulette number to win are 36 to 1, since there are 37 compartments on the wheel. However, winning bets are actually paid at 35 to 1.

The “Edge” is a universally accepted feature of international casino gaming and, in fact, is often **less** in the UK than that applied in other countries. The Casino industry and the Gambling Commission both support a policy of openness, as such this page aims to make players more aware of the House Edge and understand the way it is applied.

Only the basic House Edge percentages have been illustrated. However, please note that these figures will vary in certain playing conditions. In Blackjack, for example, the Edge can fluctuate widely (both for and against the house) depending on the techniques applied by individual players. There are many books and websites dedicated to the best playing strategy to assist players in developing their own technique.

The House Edge for the most common games are listed below:

### AMERICAN ROULETTE (SINGLE ZERO)

Even Chances    1.35%

Numbers        2.70%

### BLACKJACK

6 decks (Best Technique)        0.55%

(Where the dealer may draw on “soft” 17        0.85%)

Perfect Pairs	5.79%
21+3	3.23%
Top 3	9%

### 3 CARD POKER

On 'Pair Plus' wagers	2.7%
Ante and Play	2%
On 'Prime' wagers	3.6%

### PUNTO BANCO

If 'Banco' wins	1.06%
If 'Punto' wins	1.24%
If 'Egalite' wins	14.4%

### DICE

Win Line	1.4%
Don't Win Line	1.36%

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