

PURSE

The purse for the landmark 150th Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) in 2024 was the richest in history for America's greatest race when it was elevated to a guaranteed \$5 million.

The substantial \$2 million increase is credited to Churchill Downs Incorporated's 2018 investment into historical horse racing, which supercharges funding for purses.

"These record purse increases are a symbol of the health of horse racing in Kentucky," said Bill Carstanjen, CEO of Churchill Downs Incorporated. "Churchill Downs Incorporated's over \$1 billion investment into live and historical horse racing in Kentucky over the last five years has meaningfully strengthened the entire Kentucky Derby Week and year-round racing program. It's important to acknowledge the state legislature for its commitment to working closely with private enterprise in a truly collaborative partnership to support the continued growth of Kentucky's signature industry."

With a record \$5 million in prize money now guaranteed for the Kentucky Derby, the winner will receive the event's highly sought-after gold trophy, a \$3.1 million payday and possibly millions more as a stallion after retirement from racing. Also, \$1 million will be awarded to the runner-up, \$500,000 to third, \$250,000 to fourth and \$150,000 to fifth.

Previously, the Kentucky Derby purse had been worth \$3 million since 2019, and was \$2 million from 2005-18 and \$1 million from 1996-2004.

"It is truly gratifying to view the steady growth of the Churchill Downs racing product and the entire Kentucky horse racing and breeding industry, which bettors around the world have embraced," said Churchill Downs Racetrack President Mike Anderson. "Through the purses generated by the racing association and the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund, Kentucky horsemen and horsewomen are reaping the benefits of Churchill Downs Incorporated's historic investment as we celebrate this year's milestone 150th Kentucky Derby."

Kentucky Derby Purse Distribution Since 2024

First:	\$3.1 million
Second:	\$1 million
Third:	\$500,000
Fourth:	\$250,000
Fifth:	\$150,000

2019-23 Kentucky Derby Purse Distribution

First:	\$1.86 million
Second:	\$600,000
Third:	\$300,000
Fourth:	\$150,000
Fifth:	\$90,000

2005-18 Kentucky Derby Purse Distribution

First:	\$1.24 million*
Second:	\$400,000
Third:	\$200,000
Fourth:	\$100,000
Fifth:	\$60,000

* Estimated

The following is a listing of developments of the Kentucky Derby purse:

Derby Purse	Years
\$5 million guaranteed	2024-present
\$3 million guaranteed	2019-23
\$2 million guaranteed	2005-18
\$1 million guaranteed	1996-2004
\$500,000-added	1991-95
\$350,000-added	1986-90
\$250,000-added	1982-85
\$200,000-added	1979-81
\$125,000-added	1955-78
\$100,000-added	1946-54
\$75,000-added	1940-45
\$50,000-added	1921-33, '37-39
\$40,000-added	1935-36
\$30,000-added	1920, '34
\$20,000-added	1919
\$15,000-added	1917-18
\$10,000-added	1914-16
\$6,000-added	1896-1912
\$5,000-added	1913
\$3,000-added	1893
\$2,500-added	1888-92, '94-95
\$1,500-added	1876-87
\$1,000-added	1875

Top 10 Purses

Derby Purse	Winner's Share	Year
\$5,000,000	\$3,100,000	2025
\$5,000,000	\$3,100,000	2024
\$3,000,000	\$1,860,000	2023
\$3,000,000	\$1,860,000	2022
\$3,000,000	\$1,860,000	2021
\$3,000,000	\$1,860,000	2020
\$3,000,000	\$1,860,000	2019
\$2,399,600	\$1,639,600	2005
\$2,395,800	\$1,635,800	2017
\$2,391,600	\$1,631,600	2016