

PURSE

Thanks to an investment into historical racing machines in 2018, the purse of the Kentucky Derby presented by Woodford Reserve (Grade I) has been \$3 million since 2019.

The winner will receive the event's highly sought-after gold trophy and a \$1.86 million payday. Also, \$600,000 will be awarded to the runner-up, \$300,000 to third, \$150,000 to fourth and \$90,000 to fifth.

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

Kentucky Derby Purse Distribution Since 2019

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
\$3 million guaranteed	2019-present
\$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
\$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
\$2,219,600	\$1,459,600	2012
\$2,213,200	\$1,453,200	2006