

Mega Millions **jackpot** enters ‘**uncharted**’ territory’ at record \$1.6 billion

All eyes were on the latest drawing Friday night, when the jackpot was at an already **mind-boggling** \$1 billion. However, with no ticket matching all six numbers drawn – 15, 23, 53, 65, 70 and Mega Ball 7 – the grand prize now swells to \$1.6 billion.

The next drawing is at 11 p.m. **Eastern time** Tuesday.

jackpot 头彩

uncharted 未知的

mind-boggling 难以置信的

eastern time 东部时间

“Mega Millions has already entered historic territory, but it’s truly **astounding** to think that now the jackpot has reached an **all-time** world record,” Gordon Medenica, lead director of the Mega Millions Group and director of Maryland **Lottery** and Gaming, said in a statement. “It’s hard to overstate how exciting this is – but now it’s really getting fun.”

astounding 令人震惊的

all-time 空前的

lottery 彩票

Medenica told The Post that about 57 percent of the possible number combinations were purchased in advance of Friday’s drawing and that it was an “extremely pleasant surprise” there was no winner.

“That means the odds were [a winning ticket] would have gotten picked but it didn’t,” Medenica said. “This is really uncharted territory for all of us.”

What’s more, the jackpot is likely to grow even larger before Tuesday, as word of the record-breaking grand prize grows and prompts even people who don’t normally play the lottery to buy a ticket, Medenica said.

The estimated cash option for a \$1.6 billion jackpot – should a winner choose to take a one-time ***lump sum payment*** instead of annual payouts over 30 years – is about \$905 million, according to Mega Million officials.

lump sum payment 付全款