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Have you had a windfall lately?

Fri Mar 28, 2008 @ 10am GMT

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By Jennifer Hill

LONDON (Reuters) - A growing number of people are landing windfalls, creating a new class of the "transient wealthy" in Britain, a poll shows.

People are three times more likely to land a windfall than buy a new car, and twice as likely to strike it rich than move home - although odds of winning the lottery remain slim - according to ICICI Bank UK.

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While the odds of winning the National Lottery are one in 14 million, one in five people in the UK come into a cash windfall -- the equivalent to one windfall for every person living in London.

More than a third of 2,115 people surveyed by YouGov said they had received a work bonus in the past six months.

A fifth had come into money via premium bonds, the same proportion had profited from shareholdings, 15 percent had received an inheritance and a tenth profited from a house sale.

Lottery winners only accounted for 5 percent of windfalls received in the last six months.

"The likelihood of suddenly coming into money is much higher than in years gone by," said Deepak Varghese, head of retail and private banking