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## Which Region Will Hit the Gaming Jackpot?

*By Jeanine Poggi*

NEW YORK (TheStreet) -- Regional gaming -- like a some hayseed who grabs a seat at the high-roller table, only to begin amassing a stack of chips -- is making a major impact on the casino sector, with more states expanding casino operations by legalizing table games and others in the process of introducing casinos.

Pennsylvania, for one, has been in the spotlight after it legalized table games last week. This is a plus for casino operators Penn National Gaming and Las Vegas Sands, which operate locations in eastern Pennsylvania.

West Virginia also approved table games last year. Penn saw 19% of its 2009 earnings come from the state, according to J.P. Morgan estimates.

A similar bill is pending in Ohio and Kansas City. Kansas City contributes about 20% to Ameristar Casinos total property level earnings, according to J.P. Morgan.

Massachusetts is also being watched as a state that could legalize gaming within the next year. **Telsey Advisory Group analyst Chris Jones says that Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts have expressed interest in building in the area.**

Indeed, as regional markets pick up steam, especially on the East Coast, traditional gaming sectors like Las Vegas and Atlantic City are starting to lose their dominance.

Atlantic City has experienced revenue declines over the past two years. In December, revenue fell 9.9% to \$272.1 million. And the New Jersey gambling hub isn't expected to recover in the near future, as these new markets stand to steal market share.

But while some experts say the expansion of regional gaming could hurt Vegas and AC, many others expect the growing regional players to merely widen the market.

In light of that, which of these markets -- Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Ohio, West Virginia or Kansas City - - will give the biggest boost to the gaming market? Take our poll below to learn the consensus of TheStreet.