

VERMONT LOTTERY NEWS RELEASE

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\$155 Million Powerball Jackpot Estimated for May 21 Drawing

Vermont Promotions reverse Tri-State Megabucks Decline

BERLIN, VT; May 19, 2005---The Vermont Lottery announced today that the Powerball jackpot for the Saturday, May 21 drawing is an estimated, annuitized \$155 million. The estimated cash value is \$87.8 million. This is Powerball's highest jackpot since December 8, 2004.

While our Tri-State Megabucks sales have been declining over the last few years, innovative promotional efforts have now reversed this trend, according to Vermont Lottery Executive Director Alan Yandow. "Megabucks has been around since 1985, so we knew we had to look outside the box for new ideas," said Yandow.

Megabucks promotions such as: instant cash prizes; trips; free tickets and more have reenergized player interest and, year to date, resulted in sales above projections. Yandow continued, "The Vermont Lottery is strongly committed to all Tri-State Lotto products, and continually looks for ways to increase player interest."

Currently helping to increase sales is the growing Powerball jackpot. This 15-draw jackpot run started with the Saturday, April 2 drawing. Sales for the first 14 draws, through last Wednesday, generated \$231,570,399 from the Powerball base game and \$30,027,515 from Power Play, with a combined total of \$261,597,914. Power Play has accounted for 11.4% in sales.

During this run, a total of 6,420,499 non-jackpot prizes have been won nationwide. 58 purchased tickets matched five winning numbers for a minimum \$100,000 prize. Since April 2, the total non-jackpot prize payout has been \$51,868,047, with Powerball base totaling \$32,244,522 and Power Play totaling \$19,623,525.

Vermont Lottery games are sold at over 700 agent locations throughout Vermont. For information on lottery games and on-line game draw results, visit www.vtlottery.com.

All profits from Vermont Lottery are used to support the Vermont Education Fund. Vermont Lottery officials encourage everyone to play responsibly.