

Amid tight times for industry, Southern Gaming Summit starts Wednesday

By Associated Press

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BILOXI, Miss. (AP) — Casino industry officials converge Wednesday on the Mississippi Gulf Coast for the annual Southern Gaming Summit at Biloxi.

This year's meeting comes amid sharp drops in travel and consumer spending. Many major casino projects — including some in Mississippi and Louisiana — have been put on hold because of the national credit meltdown.

The conference also will be looking at potential changes in the political landscape for legalized gambling following the 2008 elections.