

MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FRIDAY FACTS

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NISSAN JOB FAIR SATURDAY IN GREENVILLE

Nissan will be recruiting employees for its Canton plant Saturday, September 22, at a Job Fair in Greenville, the Mississippi Employment Security Commission (MESC) announced Thursday. The Nissan Job Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Higher Education Center on Highway 1.

Representatives from MESC will be taking applications and resumes for production worker and maintenance technician positions at the plant. The starting pay for maintenance technicians is \$18 per hour and for production workers is \$13.25 per hour with regular increases to \$20 per hour. Nissan has a comprehensive health benefits package.

The maintenance technician job requires five years of industrial maintenance experience or journeyman certification in industrial electronics, industrial electricity or industrial machine maintenance or three years of certification in industrial electronics, industrial electricity or industrial machine maintenance or three years of experience with programmable controllers, precision CNC tools and industrial troubleshooting.

The production worker job requires 18 months of work experience and Nissan prefers industrial or factory experience.

"The Job Fair is a chance for anyone wishing to work at the new Nissan plant who may have missed an earlier opportunity to put in an application or resume," said Jamie Graham, Nissan project coordinator for MESC.

MESC is taking applications and resumes, screening them for Nissan's job requirements, then forwarding the applications and resumes to Nissan, which sets up interviews and does the hiring.

The plant will employ approximately 4,000 when it opens in the summer of 2003. The plant will produce a full-size pickup, a full-size sport-utility vehicle and the next generation of Nissan minivan.

More information about Nissan jobs can be found on the web at www.mississippiandnissan.com.

MISSISSIPPI EXPORTS RANKED NUMBER ONE

Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority (announce Mississippi is ranked number 1 among all states through June 2001 in terms of percentage of increase in export trade over the same period last year.

Statistics released by the U.S. Department of Commerce indicate Mississippi for the first time has led the nation in a percentage increase of exports. In a year- to-date comparison (January-June) 2001, Mississippi exported \$1,790,048,701 worth of goods, reflecting an increase of 40.68% from the previous reporting period.

According to Liz Cleveland, Bureau Manager of the National/ International Division, MDA, "For calendar year 2000, Mississippi exports exceeded \$2.7 billion and exports supported 54,500 directly related jobs. A large increase is attributed to the sale of electronic components to Mexico (non-automotive).

To support and facilitate the growth of Mississippi exports, MDA offers comprehensive marketing services to any Mississippi company with a commitment to exporting an exportable product or service.

Percentage of change for other Southern states are as follow: Arkansas, 23.42%; Alabama, 11.36%; Tennessee, 2.66%; Georgia, 1.6%; Texas, 0.72%.

"No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave."

- Calvin Coolidge

MADISON THE CITY CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE WITH ANNUAL BANQUET

On Thursday, November 15, 2001, "Madison the City" Chamber of Commerce will host its annual banquet at the Jackson Hilton and Conference Center on County Line Road in Jackson. The event, which includes a reception at 6:00 p.m. and the banquet at 7:00 p.m., celebrates the accomplishments of the Chamber throughout 2001.

This year's theme, "Destination – Excellence," highlights the focus of the Chamber's economic development efforts and sets the stage for future plans for economic growth in the city. The Chamber supports existing Madison businesses, works to attract new corporate citizens, and promotes civic, cultural, and recreational activities that improve the quality of life for Madison's businesses and residents.

Diana O'Toole with the Mississippi Development Authority's (MDA) Tourism Development Division has been selected as the keynote speaker for the banquet. O'Toole is involved with Heritage Tourism as well as administering the Mississippi Hometown Retirement Grants Program. She also works with the Mississippi Main Street Association. O'Toole was instrumental in the development of an innovative approach to Hospitality/Customer Service Training for the State of Mississippi and currently serves as statewide Hospitality Training Manager. This unique training program targets frontline employees of hotels, restaurants and attractions who have daily contact with visitors to the state.

"Tourism really matters in Mississippi. This \$6.1 billion dollar industry is our second largest service sector employer. The dollars spent by visitors have strengthened Mississippi's economy by creating jobs, supporting local businesses, creating greater revenues to support our communities. Mississippi had 34 million visitors last year, a 6.5% increase over the 31.9 million in 1999, a higher growth rate than the U.S. and Mississippi's border states. Hospitality training and customer service are the keys to the continued success of our economic development," said Diana O'Toole, Associate Manager Senior, MDA.

"Recognizing and appreciating the importance of Mississippi's frontline employees are essential elements in continuing to create a favorable impression and projecting a positive image to all who visit our state whether on vacation or on business. Our frontline employees represent the bottom line," added O'Toole.

For more information about the banquet or Madison the City, contact the Chamber at 601-856-7060 or visit them on the World Wide Web at www.chamber@madisonthecity.com.

NEW VIKING OPERATIONS TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

Viking Range Corporation, located in Greenwood, has announced the formation of two new distributorships to begin operation in January in the area currently served by Zamoiski Co. of Baltimore, MD.

Both new distributorships will include former employees of the Zamoiski Co., and employees who will transfer from another Viking distributorship, as well as several new employees. These new companies, subsidiaries of Viking Capital Ventures, the investment arm of Viking Range Corp., will distribute all Viking products as well as other complementary high-end product lines.

"Although our long and very close relationship with the Zamoiski Co. is coming to an end, we are confident our new distributorships will provide the highest level of service possible. We expect a smooth and seamless transition," said Jim Ruberti, Viking Vice President of Sales and Distribution.

For more information about the new dealerships, contact Ruberti at 662-455-1200, ext. 1669.