

Mississippi Development Authority
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSISSIPPI EXPORTS RANKED NUMBER ONE

JACKSON, Miss., - 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 percent from the previous reporting period.

According to Liz Cleveland, Bureau Manager, National/International Division, Mississippi Development Authority (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 is as follows:

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| 1. | Arkansas | 23.42 |
| 2. | Alabama | 11.36 |
| 3. | Tennessee | 2.66 |
| 4. | Georgia | 1.6 |
| 5. | Texas | 0.72 |

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