

## TRANSPORTATION, TERMINALS & TRAVEL

No matter what markets you need to reach, Mississippi puts you right where you need to be in order to reach them—affordably and quickly.

You see, no matter where you are in Mississippi, you're only a day's drive from 48% of the U.S. market. In fact, Atlanta, Dallas, New Orleans and St. Louis, each less than 500 miles from any point in our State, are directly accessible via Mississippi's extensive interstate highway system.

But that's not all we're near. Mississippi is within 500 miles of over 115 million people, 136 metropolitan areas, 144,000 manufacturers and over 2.5 million business and industrial customers.

You can reach any or all of these important markets using one of Mississippi's many modes of reliable transportation. Four major interstates cover 685 miles in our State while 20 rail systems traverse 2,860 miles of track.

Efficient interstate shipping to and from

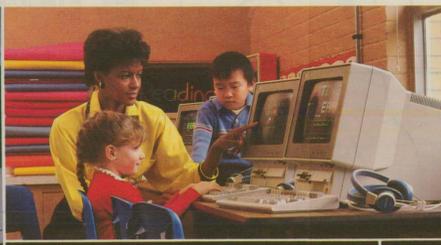
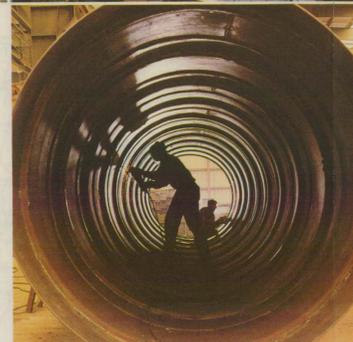
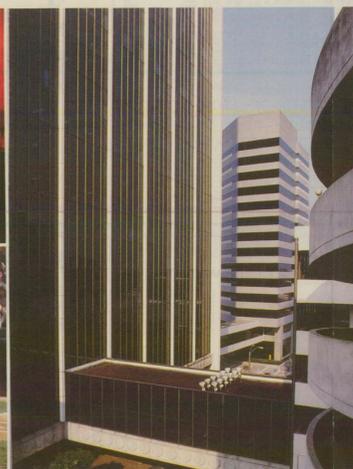
our State is provided by more than 40 general commodity common carriers with over 150 terminals throughout the State.

In addition, Mississippi boasts 76 conveniently located airports, placing 99% of the State's population within 30 miles of an air transportation facility.

Mississippi also features a unique transportation advantage; it is surrounded by three navigable waterways: the Mississippi River to the west, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway to the east, and the Gulf of Mexico to the south. These nearly 800 miles of commercially navigable waterways provide economical and efficient access to national and international markets.

And no matter which coast your clients call home, Mississippi's location in the central time zone makes communication with those clients more convenient for you.

These are only a few of the advantages of a central location, and in Mississippi, you'll benefit from all of them.



**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT REFORM ACT** is a comprehensive package of new initiatives and tax law changes that provide seed capital, jobs tax credits, income tax credits, and property tax exemptions to new and expanding companies in Mississippi.

In addition to providing start-up capital for high growth-oriented businesses and offering tax credits to businesses who create new jobs in our State, this legislation has pushed Mississippi to the nation's forefront by making it the first state to allow tax credits for basic skills training. In addition, it places Mississippi among just thirteen states in the nation currently offering tax credits to employers who provide child care for their employees.

**THE MISSISSIPPI BUSINESS INVESTMENT ACT** provides loans to new and expanding commercial, industrial, agricultural, service, and research and development enterprises in Mississippi to be used for facility construction or improvements. The amount of the loan corresponds directly with the number of jobs created and maintained by the facility.

This innovative legislation represents the financial investment our State is willing to make in corporations who invest in Mississippi.

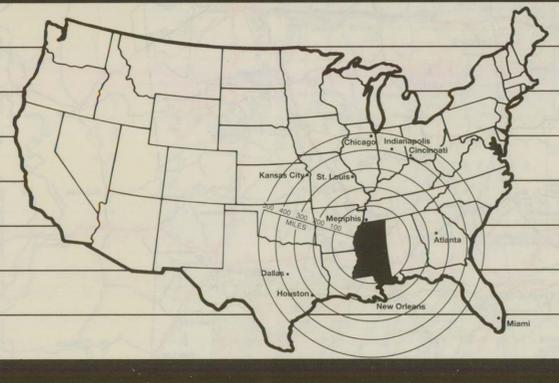
**THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HIGHWAY ACT** is another example of our willingness to adapt and develop in response to the needs of our corporate residents. This legislation provides up to \$17 million in general obligation bonds for the construction and improvement of highways and roads that would make a potential business site that represents a minimum of \$50 million in capital investment more easily accessible.

Mississippi's economic development legislation reflects a unique, supportive attitude toward new and existing business in Mississippi.

It isn't enough to simply invite new business into our State, or to encourage existing business to expand. In Mississippi, we strive every day to give corporations more and better reasons to want to come to Mississippi. And the more we do, the more success our current Mississippi corporate residents achieve in their respective industries.

Mississippi recognizes that the commitment to new and existing corporations must be fully supported by the State as a whole, and not just individual communities. By working together, we have been successful in our efforts to attract national and international corporations with standards of excellence comparable to our own.

The way we see it, this is just the beginning. And when you consider that nearly \$1 billion was spent on business expansion in Mississippi in the last year alone, it's clear that this is the way our current corporate residents see it, too.



## BUSINESS, BUILDINGS & BONDS

Through the enactment of innovative economic development legislation, Mississippi has taken the lead, providing some of the world's leading corporations with more reasons to locate in Mississippi than in any other state in the nation.

In fact, Mississippi's innovative economic development policies have attracted corporate attention at domestic and international levels, currently enabling our State to boast the tenth highest number of new and expanding facilities in the nation.

Frankly, we're not surprised.

In study after study, Mississippi consistently ranks among the nation's top ten business climates. We attribute our unbeatable business climate to four major pieces of legislation that provide the structure for Mississippi's economic development policy:

**THE MAJOR ECONOMIC IMPACT AUTHORITY** is the first of its kind in the nation. More than simply a package of corporate incentives, this legislation represents our State's investment in its communities, enabling them to make improvements favorably affecting current and future corporate and individual residents.

The Authority can fund up to \$20 million in general obligation bonds to help communities develop and improve transportation, education, recreation, and medical facilities to meet the changing needs of new or expanding facilities within a 50-mile radius of the site.

## CAMPUSES, CLASSROOMS & COMMITMENT

Mississippi's commitment to education began early, leading the nation with first planned system of community colleges, the first state-supported school for the handicapped, the first state college for women, the first coeducational college to grant degrees to women, and the oldest land grant college for black Americans.

Since then, we have escalated our commitment to education, and in fact, currently lead the nation in our efforts to constantly upgrade the skills of our teachers, familiarizing them with the latest national teaching techniques and trends, and in our determination to attract and keep some of the nation's finest educators here in Mississippi by maintaining competitive salary levels.

Take a look at some of the exciting things happening in Mississippi's academic world:

- The University of Mississippi has produced the second highest number of Rhodes Scholars in the South, the sixth highest in the nation among public universities, and the nineteenth highest among all U.S. colleges.
- Considered one of the world's foremost cardiovascular physiologists, Dr. Arthur C. Guyton, recently retired chairman of the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Mississippi School of Medicine is the author of the *Textbook of Medical Physiology*. Translated into 10 languages, Dr. Guyton's textbook is regarded as the most widely used medical textbook in the world and the only such textbook authored by one individual.
- The Mississippi School for Math and Science is one of just five state-supported schools devoted exclusively to the study of math and science at the secondary level in the country. This highly competitive boarding school for gifted high school students is located on the campus of the Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi, a state-supported university recognized by *U.S. News and World Report* as one of America's finest undergraduate institutions.
- Freshmen entering Millsaps College, in Jackson, Mississippi, named by the Carnegie Foundation as one of the top 90 liberal arts colleges in the nation, have an average ACT score of 24.5, compared to the national average of 18. The Else School of Management at Millsaps College is listed among the top five regional business schools in the South and Southwest, according to a *U.S. News & World Report* survey of business school deans.
- The Stennis Institute of Government, established at Mississippi State University in 1977 in honor of Mississippi's recently retired 41-year United States Senator John C. Stennis, provides training, research, and scholarships to students, teachers, and community leaders involved in public administration and government in an effort to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state and local government now and in the future.
- Mississippi College, the oldest institute of higher learning in the State, and named by the *New York Times* as one of the top five best buys in college education, ranks in the top 8% of all private colleges in the nation in the number of graduates who later earn a doctorate in a research field.

Some of the nation's most innovative and advanced research activities are taking place right now on the campuses of many of our State's universities. For example:

- Honda Research and Development Company, Ltd., a subsidiary of Honda Motor Company, is currently building a \$4 million addition to the Mississippi State University flight laboratory, where Honda engineers, MSU staff and students will conduct aeronautics research.
- The Department of Polymer Science at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg is one of the nation's foremost polymer research facilities, and has worked with many of the world's leading industries to develop more advanced plastics products.
- The National Center for Physical Acoustics, located at the University of Mississippi in Oxford and originally funded by a grant from the federal government, is a state-of-the-art laboratory in which projects considered to be at the forefront of acoustics research are developed. Studying such topics as the biological effects of medical ultrasound, and the development of robotics and manufacturing technology utilizing acoustics, the Center is the only one of its kind in the United States.
- The Advanced Microelectronics Division at Mississippi State University, part of Mississippi's Institute for Technology Development, produces leading-edge commercial designs of integrated circuits for some of the largest companies in the international electronics industry. In the same facility, operating through United States Department of Defense funding, the Center for Military Replacement Parts conducts vital research in the field of microcircuit obsolescence, an important key to the success of our nation's present and future military systems.

Education is the key to the future. It's a fact that Mississippi realized long ago and it's a fact we keep foremost in our planning and policies today.

In Mississippi, we take education seriously. And for the families and businesses within our borders, that's just one more reason to call Mississippi home.

## TRAINING, TALENT & TECHNOLOGY

If you're looking for a highly trained, modern work force with an old-fashioned work ethic, we've got what you're looking for—right here in Mississippi.

When asked why they chose Ringier America, a printing plant located in Corinth, Mississippi, to print one of our country's highest quality magazines, the National Geographic Society cited the work ethic of our State's work force among the chief factors influencing their decision.

Mississippians have a lot of pride in themselves and in their State—and it shows in the commitment they have to the jobs they perform. In addition to possessing an enviable work ethic, Mississippi's work force is also renowned for its skill.

New and expanding businesses and industries in Mississippi receive full cooperation and assistance from Mississippi's community college system and the Office of Vocational-Technical and Adult Education, and may also receive tax credits from the State for any training they provide for their employees. This highly responsive attitude toward training enables new businesses and industries to begin operations with a fully trained work force.

Many corporations consider Mississippi's work force, coupled with its ideal business climate, to be the perfect combination for success. Take a look at just a few of our satisfied corporate residents:

- In 1961, NASA built a test facility in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, for the static firing of the first and second stages of the Saturn V rocket. Today, that facility is known as the John C. Stennis Space Center, a sprawling 13,480 acre space shuttle engine testing laboratory and scientific think tank with over 5,500 employees. Largely because of the success of the first Mississippi NASA facility, NASA is currently building yet another facility in our State. This multi-billion dollar, state-of-the-art solid rocket motor assembly plant, located in Northeast Mississippi, will build the next generation of rocket boosters for our nation's space shuttle program.
- The Naval Oceanography Command, a world-wide organization providing oceanographic, meteorological and mapping, charting and geodetic support services to naval fleet forces operating across the globe, is headquartered at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi.

- Peavey Electronics, in Meridian, Mississippi, is the world's largest manufacturer of musical equipment and instruments. Employing over 1,800 people, Peavey exports its products to 102 countries from their Mississippi location.
- The Waterways Experiment Station in Vicksburg, Mississippi is the largest research, testing and development laboratory of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Government in the country, employing over 1,600, including 700 highly skilled engineers, scientists, and technicians.
- Mobile Telecommunication Technologies Corporation, founded in 1973 by native Mississippian John N. Palmer, is a world leader in paging and voice messaging systems headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi.
- Vickers, Incorporated, a world leader in advance-technology fluid power, producing hydraulic, electro-hydraulic, and electronic power and motion-control components, packages, and systems, employs nearly 1,000 skilled engineers and technicians, manufacturing over 85% of the engine-driven pumps in operation on today's five-wheeled jets.

By working closely with business and industry to develop new and innovative training programs, Mississippi universities and community colleges graduate highly trained, motivated employees, ready for immediate entrance into the Mississippi work force.

In a day and age where quality, and pride in workmanship is valued more than ever and yet found less and less, Mississippi's work force could be the key to your success.

## HOME, HERITAGE & HOSPITALITY

Long visited for its over 200 tourist attractions, Mississippi continues to enchant residents and visitors alike with its own unique brand of culture, a diverse mixture of the traditional and the trendy, seasoned with a subtle blending of the old and the new.

For example, Mississippi is one of four locations in the world to host the International Ballet Competition, known as the "Olympics of Dance." And yet, blues music connoisseurs will be equally overwhelmed by the legendary musicians and performances witnessed each year at the world famous collection of Blues music in the world can be found in Oxford, Mississippi, at the University of Mississippi Blues Archives.

Mississippi is home to many of the world's most renowned authors, including Nobel Prize winner William Faulkner and Pulitzer Prize winning authors Tennessee Williams, Eudora Welty, Shelby Foote and Beth Henley.

With a mean July temperature of 82 degrees and a mean January temperature of just 53 degrees, Mississippi is the ideal host for hundreds of year-round activities, such as hot air balloon races, a panorama of arts, music and food festivals, sailing, golf, and much, much more.

For example, each fall and spring, hundreds of thousands of visitors journey to our State for a Mississippi tradition—

pilgrimage season—when grand antebellum mansions across the State open their doors to company, and guides dressed in period costumes spin glowing tales of a romantic Old South. And visitors year-round can drive or stroll through our nation's oldest Civil War battlefield park, in Vicksburg, before ending the day with one of the many dinner-dance sunset riverboat cruises offered from points up and down the Mississippi River.

For the outdoorsman, Mississippi is overflowing with recreational opportunities. Amidst its 17 million acres of timberlands, including 6 national forests, hunting enthusiasts will find more than 910,000 acres of quality game habitat within the State's 31 state wildlife management areas.

For those who enjoy summertime water recreation, Mississippi can't be beat for its 485,105 acres of surface water suitable for just that. And in addition to the 14,205 miles of recreational streams, Mississippi may be best known for its Gulf shores, where families flock each year to enjoy fun in the sun on the 26 miles of sandy Mississippi beaches.

Golfers can find enjoyment virtually all over the State on one of Mississippi's 134 golf courses, including Old Waverly, located in West Point, Mississippi.

Designed by professional golfer Jerry Pate and renowned course designer Bob Cupp, Old Waverly gained national prominence when it was nominated for the Best New Course of the Year by *GOLF Digest* Magazine.

While Mississippi's recreational and cultural activities attract visitors seeking pleasure and enjoyment, Mississippi's nationally respected medical facilities attract patients seeking top-quality healthcare.

Mississippi is the location of the largest non-metropolitan hospital in the United States, one of only 4 heart catheterization laboratories in the country, and home to a state-of-the-art surgical suite matched by only one other in the western hemisphere.

The internationally recognized University of Mississippi Medical Center, a diagnostic and treatment center for the entire State, was an international pioneer in organ transplants, having performed the first lung transplant in 1965 and the first heart transplant in 1964. Today, it is one of the few medical facilities in the world performing double lung transplants.

When you consider the exceptional quality of life that exists here, you'll understand why 2.6 million people live in Mississippi—and wouldn't dream of living anywhere else.

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OFFICIAL HIGHWAY MAP  
**MISSISSIPPI**

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