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DIVISION OF TOURISM RELEASES ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

JACKSON, Miss.—The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) Division of Tourism Development released the latest edition of its economic impact report—“Fiscal Year 2001 Economic Impact For Tourism and Recreation in Mississippi.” The report compares Tourism/Recreation figures for Fiscal Year 2001 with Fiscal Year 2000 at both the state and county level.

Tourism/Recreation means big business for Mississippi. In 2000, Mississippi had 34 million visitors, and 79% of overnight leisure trips were from out-of-state. The \$90 daily overnight visitor expenditures averaged only \$1 less than the U.S. National Average.

“Tourism is of paramount importance to our state,” Darienne Wilson, Director of the Division of Tourism Development, emphasizes. “This report shows the significance to Mississippians in terms of dollars and cents.”

Report highlights:

- Tourism/Recreation provided 92,700 jobs in FY 2001.
- Figures show total revenues for FY 2001 of \$6.3 billion, an increase of 3.4% from FY 2000.
- Room and restaurant tax revenues increased by 3.8%.
- Tourism/Recreation General Fund (state) tax revenue totaled \$488.1 million in 2001, up from \$482.3 million in 2000.
- City/county tax revenues climbed 2.1% to \$143.8 million in FY 2001.
- Gaming income increased 1.7%, from \$2.62 billion in FY 2000 to \$2.66 billion in FY 2001.

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**Note to Media Only: If you would like a copy of the report,
please contact the Division of Tourism Development at 601.359.3297.**