

For Immediate Release

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Governor Musgrove: Growth in Jobs During National Recession Show Positive Business Atmosphere

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove said today that the growth of jobs over the past two months are further evidence of the strong business atmosphere in the state, despite the impact of the national recession.

“We created more than 2,800 new jobs at new and expanded facilities in March and April,” Musgrove said. “That sends a strong message to businesses around the country and around the world that Mississippi is a great place to do business.”

Figures from the Mississippi Development Authority show that 1,636 new jobs were created through new and expanded businesses in March 2003, with a total capital investment of over \$323 million. For the month of April 2003, total capital investments of more than \$440 million created 1,235 jobs.

“Our focus has always been on the work of growing Mississippi and creating quality jobs for Mississippians,” said Musgrove. “These numbers demonstrate that our work is paying off.”

Under Musgrove’s leadership, more than 2,000 new and expanded facilities have opened, creating more than 50,000 jobs and a total business investment of over \$14 billion. The state was listed by *Site Selection* magazine last year as one of the top ten states for new and expanded facilities. In September 2001, the state was named one of the top ten states for small business survival. The January 2003 issue of *Expansion Management* magazine ranked four Mississippi cities among the 50 hottest cities for expansion in the nation.

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