



# WAREHOUSE & DISTRIBUTION

## *Mississippi Delivers*

Even in today's technology-driven economy, a solid and efficient supply chain is an important factor in the success of many industries. As our economy continues to expand globally, the warehouse and distribution services industry faces even greater challenges in moving goods around the world. Mississippi offers a prime location for storing and moving goods throughout the central United States, which is why so many companies have chosen to locate their warehouse and distribution facilities in the state.

### An Industry Overview

Mississippi's central location, combined with its outstanding transportation network and proximity to Memphis, has attracted an estimated 2,289 warehouse and distribution facilities to the state. These facilities employ more than 29,000 workers. Some recent warehouse and distribution project announcements in Mississippi include Creative Logistics and Warehousing, which announced 133 new jobs and a \$2.15 million capital investment and Exel, Inc., which announced an \$11 million expansion, both in north Mississippi. FedEx Ground also has located in north Mississippi, along with Williams-Sonoma, BMW Distribution, Future Electronics and many more.

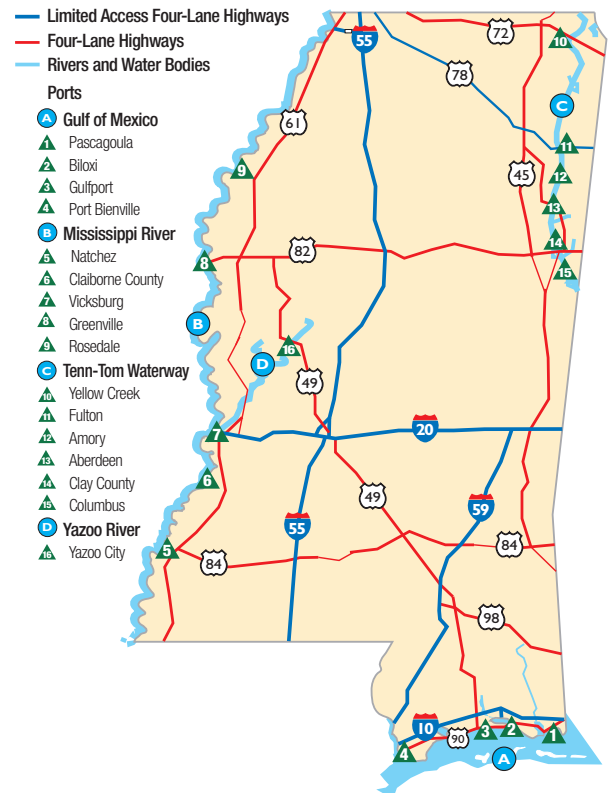
In addition, the southern region of the U.S. continues to experience growth within the retail sector, which requires many retailers to seek additional warehouse and distribution facilities near their customers.

### An Accessible Location

Mississippi is in the heart of one of the fastest growing regions in the nation, which gives warehouse and distribution facilities easy access to much of their market. The state offers distributors a number of location options, including an abundance of land available in industrial and technology parks throughout the state, as well as locations in close proximity to major airports, particularly in the Memphis metropolitan area.

In fact, Memphis, which is home to FedEx and a hub for UPS, is just north of the Mississippi/Tennessee state line. Having access to the distribution capital of the world, where shipments can leave as late as 10 p.m. each day, is an added advantage to Mississippi based warehouse and distribution facilities.

Mississippi's location, which is central to both U.S. coasts, also provides easy access to many other major metropolitan areas. In fact, the state is within a day's drive of more than 50 percent of the U.S.

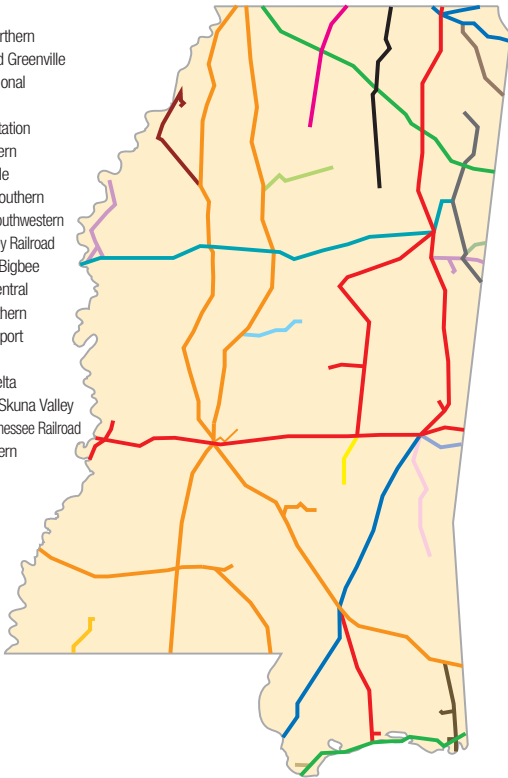


Mississippi Warehouse Distribution	
Total Employment	29,000
Total Warehouse & Distribution Centers	2,289



## Railways

- Burlington Northern
- Columbus and Greenville
- Canadian National
- Illinois Central
- CSX Transportation
- Gloster Southern
- Golden Triangle
- Kansas City Southern
- Kosciusko & Southwestern
- Luxapallia Valley Railroad
- Meridian and Bigbee
- Mississippi Central
- Meridian Southern
- Mississippi Export
- Mississippiian
- Mississippi Delta
- Mississippi & Skuna Valley
- Mississippi Tennessee Railroad
- Norfolk Southern
- Port Bienville
- Redmont
- WATCO



business population, including such major markets as Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas, Houston, Little Rock, Memphis, Mobile, Nashville, New Orleans and St. Louis.

The state's highway system ranks among the four best in the country and the best in the southern United States. Interstate 55, which runs north and south, provides access to major markets like Chicago, Memphis, New Orleans and St. Louis, while Interstates 10 and 20, running east and west, provide access to Atlanta, Birmingham, Dallas and Los Angeles. The Interstate 69 corridor, which is now under construction, will eventually connect Houston and Indianapolis, with a portion of this interstate running through Mississippi.

Mississippi is also home to 75 airports, including Jackson-Evers International Airport, the state's busiest. Three other major commercial airports can be found in or near the state, including the Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport, the Memphis International Airport and the New Orleans International Airport. Twenty rail systems serve Mississippi with more than 2,800 miles of track, and the state's 16 ports include three on the Gulf Coast that provide access to worldwide commerce. In addition, three of the six Class A rail lines run through Hattiesburg.

## A Qualified Workforce

A well-qualified and affordable workforce is an essential element to operating a successful warehouse and distribution center.

Mississippi's labor force of 1.3 million workers is very reliable, with a low three percent absenteeism rate and only a five percent turnover rate. This reliability and stability help ensure the success of warehouse and distribution centers located in the state. In addition, labor costs in Mississippi are among the lowest in the nation, which helps hold down the overall cost of doing business in the state.

With eight public universities, 13 private colleges and universities, and 15 community colleges, Mississippi graduates more than 120,000 students each year. These graduates are well-trained to meet the needs of today's warehouse and distribution centers.

## A Supportive Business Climate

Mississippi offers a strong, supportive business climate, where the cost of doing business is low and many other tools are available to help your distribution center compete in today's economy. Locations within Mississippi can offer companies substantial savings compared with many other parts of the U.S.

Economic incentive programs provide income tax credits for job creation and retraining of employees. The **Mississippi Advantage Jobs Incentive Program** provides quarterly incentive payments based on a percentage of withholding to qualifying companies for up to 10 years, which provides an important cash benefit to new companies locating in the state. Cities and counties may also offer a property tax exemption for qualifying projects.

The **Tort Reform Act of 2004** is another important element of the business climate in Mississippi. This act ensures fairness in the courtroom for Mississippi businesses, with provisions that address joinder and venue; innocent seller protection; and non-economic damages caps.

Mississippi also offers access to **Foreign Trade Zones**, which are located along the Gulf Coast, in the Jackson/Vicksburg area, and in north Mississippi.

In addition, the state offers a variety of training programs through the **community/junior college system** to assist companies in preparing workers for new job opportunities within the warehouse and distribution industry.

To learn more about how Mississippi delivers, call the Mississippi Development Authority at 1.800.360.3323 or visit our website at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).