

DATA FOR NEW AND EXPANDED FIRMS LOOKING UP

From Okla. Dept. of Commerce

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) Data collected by the Oklahoma Department of Commerce shows investments announced by new and expanding manufacturers and processors in the first quarter of 1996 has jumped in comparison with the first quarter of 1995. Investments alone totaled nearly \$28 million.

The report uses the following four numbers to measure growth in manufacturing firms; number of companies making announcements, number of jobs created within 3 years, number of jobs created within the project lifetimes and investment made.

Within the next three years, over 1,900 jobs will be created and over 2,300 jobs will be created over the project lifetimes. Compared to the same time last year, over 300 more jobs are expected over the project life-

times. In 1996, both the number of companies making announcements and the number of jobs created by them in first three years almost doubled. In addition, over \$6 million more in investment is planned.

Large announcements were made by: Silverado Foods, Tulsa; Covercraft, Pauls Valley; Lucent Technologies, Oklahoma City; and Southwest Cupid, Enid.

In the service sector, over \$93 million in investment was announced in the first quarter of 1996. During the next three years, service providers plan to increase employment by more than 4,300. Over the lifetime of the companies' projects, over 5,200 jobs are planned.

Service sector numbers are also higher than the first quarter 1995 report. The number of companies making announcements has doubled. There were 300 more jobs created in 1996 than in the same period of 1995 in both areas measured; those jobs created within three years and jobs created within the project lifetimes. Investment has increased over \$70 million. This includes two

large deals, Wal-Mart, Pauls Valley (\$30 million) and Hitch Pork Products (\$35 million). Still, the investment is \$5 million more than last year.

Large service providers making announcements were; America Online, Oklahoma City; Hitch Pork Products, Guymon; Wal-Mart, Pauls Valley; Heartland Wireless Communication, Durant, and Fingerhut Financial Services, Tulsa.

Information for this report comes from a variety of sources, including newspaper clippings, internal Commerce Department reports, and local economic development organizations. This report lists only manufacturers and services wishing to make public announcements concerning their new or expanding firms.

These figures appear in the Oklahoma Department of Commerce's report, *Announced New and Expanded Manufacturers and Services, First Quarter 1996*. For more information, please contact Becky Kyle, Department of Commerce, (405) 841-5187.

DEPT. OF REHABILITATION SERVICES REOPENS SERVICES FOR NEW APPLICANTS

From Dept. of Rehabilitation Services

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) A \$1.5 million supplemental appropriation recently approved by the state House and Senate and signed by Governor Frank Keating has enabled the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services to reopen vocational rehabilitation and independent living services for applicants with severe disabilities, effective April 25.

As part of budget control measures implemented Dec. 12, 1995, Rehabilitation Services had been forced to place all eligible applicants for Visual and Rehabilitative Division services on waiting lists, based on the severity of their disabilities and dates of application. The agency has continued to provide services for more than 22,100 Oklahoma consumers who were receiving services on or before Dec. 12.

At this time, funds are not available to open services to all applicants. Individuals who do not meet the severe disability criteria will continue to be placed on waiting lists.

In addition to the Visual and Rehabilitative Services Divisions, the Department of Rehabilitation Services also administers the School for the Blind in Muskogee and the School for the Deaf in Sulphur. The agency's Disability Determination Division determines medical eligibility for Social Security benefits.

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The report was adopted and members passed the measure with a vote of 47-1.

SB847, authored by Sen. Enoch Kelly Haney, D-Seminole, Appropriates funds to the Commission on Consumer Credit, and providing budgetary limits of the Director.

The General Conference Committee on Appropriations report for the measure allots a total appropriations of \$683,795.00 for general operations and examinations.

Members adopted the report and passed the measure with a vote of 48-0 with an emergency clause.

SB908, by Sen. Keith Leftwich, D-Oklahoma City, prohibits general enrollment fees or nonresident tuition to be charged to children of any employees of the State of Oklahoma who have given their lives in the line of duty.

After adopting the bill's conference committee report, members passed the measure and its emergency clause with a vote of 43 to 0.

SB1002, authored by Sen. Ben Robinson, D-Muskogee, provides additional basis for the issuance of a specified certificate from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission.

After adopting the conference committee report, members passed the bill with a vote of 46-1 with an emergency clause.

SB1050, authored by Sen. Frank Shurden, D-Henryetta, modifies language relating to firearms.

Members adopted the conference committee report for the "gun" bill and passed the measure with a vote of 46-2 with an emergency clause.

SB1115, authored by Sen. Brad Henry, D-Shawnee, modifies statutory references relating to drivers licenses, motorcycle safety instruction permits, and special motorcycle permits.

Members rejected the bill's conference committee report and requested further conference.

SB1207, authored by Sen. Bernest Cain, D-Oklahoma City, allows the Department of Human Services to give consent to release test results for certain children.

Members adopted the Conference committee Report and passed the bill with a vote of 39-5.

SB1290, authored by Sen. Angela Monson, D-Oklahoma City, directs the State Board of Health to promulgate rules regarding the establishment of provider service networks.

Members adopted the conference committee report and passed the measure with a vote of 39-5.