



GREATER HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI REGIONAL PROFILE

Greater Hattiesburg MSA Regional Profile

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GEOGRAPHY

HATTIESBURG •

GEOGRAPHY

LOCATION

Because of its strategic location, the Greater Hattiesburg Area has historically been referred to as the “Hub City.” This name evolved due to the road and rail network connecting Hattiesburg to Gulfport/Biloxi, Jackson, Mobile and New Orleans. The Greater Hattiesburg Area has grown into a major retail, healthcare and education hub for South Mississippi.

The Greater Hattiesburg Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), is comprised of Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties, with a population base exceeding 145,000. The Greater Hattiesburg Area offers a pro-business environment and a superb quality of life.

DISTANCE FROM HATTIESBURG MSA

MS Gulf Coast	70 miles
Mobile	86 miles
Jackson	86 miles
New Orleans	103 miles
Memphis	301 miles
Atlanta	382 miles
Dallas	451 miles

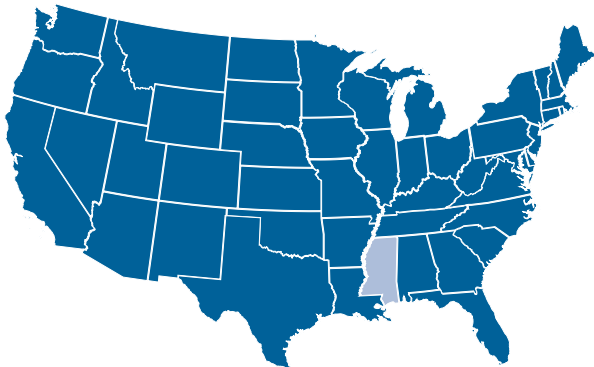
CLIMATE

Average Temperatures:
January High: 60° F
January Low: 36° F
June High: 90° F
June Low: 68° F

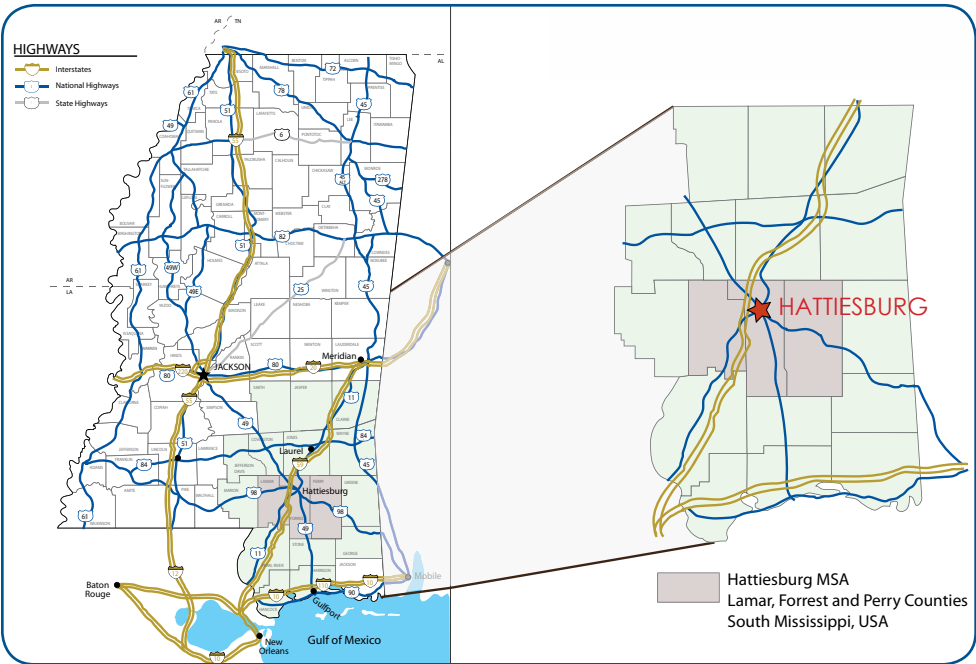
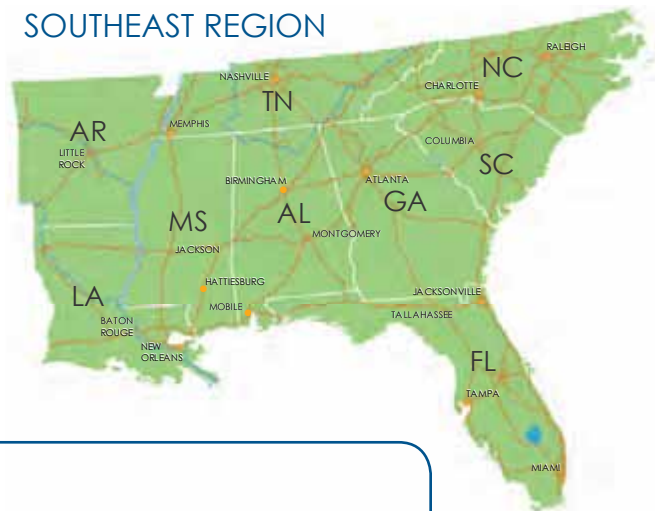
Source: Weather.com

Average Annual
Rainfall: 57.77"
Source: Nationalatlas.gov

NATION



SOUTHEAST REGION





POPULATION & INCOME

POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHICS

AGE	HATTIESBURG MSA	%	ETHNICITY	HATTIESBURG MSA	%
0-17	37,510	26.05	White	100,090	69.51
18-24	19,688	13.67	African American	39,989	27.77
25-44	39,208	27.23	Asian	1,376	0.96
45-64	31,720	22.03	American Indian/ Native Alaskan	300	0.21
65+	15,870	11.02	Other/Two or more races	2,241	1.03

Median Age: 31.91
Source: Claritas, October 2010

AREA POPULATION

YEAR	LAMAR CO.	FORREST CO.	PERRY CO.	HATTIESBURG MSA
2010	51,089	80,643	12,264	143,996
2009	49,538	79,185	12,202	140,925
2000	39,070	72,064	12,138	123,812

Source: Claritas, October 2010

GROWTH RATES (2000-2010)

Lamar County	30.8%
Forrest County	11.9%
Perry County	1.0%
Hattiesburg MSA	16.3%

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Hattiesburg MSA	\$53,262
Mississippi	\$51,152
United States	\$71,071

Source: Claritas, October 2010

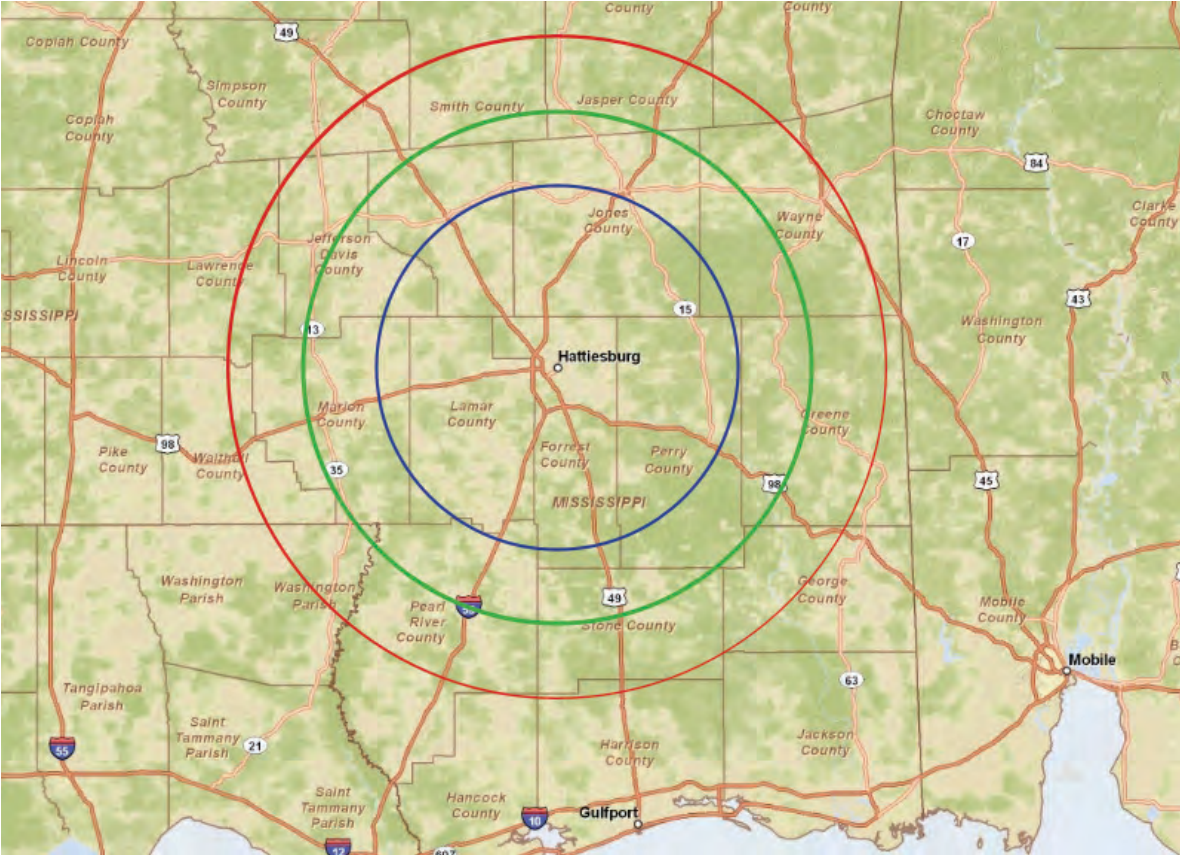
The Hattiesburg MSA's population grew by 16.3% between 2000 and 2010. Lamar County led the way with a 30.8% growth rate.





WORKFORCE

WORKFORCE & TALENT



30 MILE RADIUS

Population 229,300
Workforce 135,680

40 MILE RADIUS

Population 316,200
Workforce 186,250

50 MILE RADIUS

Population 418,000
Workforce 244,520

Source: ESRI

Note: Workforce is calculated as all population ages 20-64

ESTABLISHMENT BASED EMPLOYMENT (IN THOUSANDS)

	SEPT. 2009	SEPT. 2010
Mississippi	1,093.1	1,086.4
Greater Hattiesburg MSA	58.7	59.7

Greater Hattiesburg MSA gained 1,000 jobs between September 2009 and September 2010.

GREATER HATTIESBURG MSA EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR

SECTOR	SEPT. 2009 (in thousands)	% OF OVERALL EMPLOYMENT BASE	SEPT. 2010 (in thousands)	% OF OVERALL EMPLOYMENT BASE
Manufacturing	3.8	6.5%	3.7	6.2%
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	12.5	21.3	12.5	20.9
Leisure and Hospitality	7.2	12.3	7.1	11.9
Government	25.1	42.8	24.3	40.8
Other*	10.1	17.2	12.1	20.3

*Other sectors include: Mining and Logging, Construction, Information, Financial Activities, Professional and Business Services & Education and Health Services.

Source: BLS 2010

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

YEAR	HATTIESBURG MSA	MISSISSIPPI	UNITED STATES
OCT. 2010	8.1%	9.7%	9.0%
2009	7.6	9.6	9.3
2008	5.7	6.8	5.8
2007	5.0	6.2	4.6
2006	5.1	6.8	4.6

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security

The Hattiesburg MSA offers a competitive tax structure, attractive real estate alternatives, strategic location and a skilled workforce in a right to work state with historically low unionization rates. The Tort Reform Act of 2004 led to an enhanced legal climate for business operations in Mississippi.

NewGeography.com ranks Hattiesburg 14th in 2010 Overall Best Cities for Job Growth.

GREATER HATTIESBURG MSA WAGES

TITLE	Average Hourly	Entry Hourly	Experienced Hourly
Total All Occupations	\$15.67	\$7.91	\$19.55
Management	34.10	16.99	42.65
Business and Financial Operations	21.07	12.76	25.23
Computer and Mathematical	20.85	12.53	25.02
Architecture and Engineering	30.58	15.12	38.32
Life, Physical and Social Science	22.53	14.88	26.36
Community and Social Services	16.26	11.59	18.60
Legal	27.46	15.44	33.47
Education, Training and Library	19.48	9.77	24.34
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media	17.65	9.40	21.77
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	28.22	12.93	35.87
Healthcare Support	10.34	8.08	11.48
Protective Service	13.64	8.63	16.14
Food Preparation and Serving-related	8.62	7.36	9.25
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	9.44	7.56	10.38
Personal Care and Service	9.51	7.39	10.57
Sales and Related Occupations	12.55	7.46	15.09
Office and Administrative Support	12.79	8.39	14.99
Farming, Fishing and Forestry	14.63	10.94	16.47
Construction and Extraction	14.31	9.78	16.58
Installation, Maintenance and Repair	17.68	10.80	21.13
Product Occupations	14.85	9.21	17.68
Transport and Material Moving	12.66	7.90	15.04

Source: MDES, May 2009



BUSINESS BASE

TECHNOLOGY

THE GARDEN

The Garden is an innovation and commercialization park owned by The University of Southern Mississippi. The Garden seeks to create, capture and commercialize the knowledge and expertise of university research, including the world-renowned polymer science breakthroughs at The University of Southern Mississippi. It is this focus that sets The Garden apart from typical research parks. The park contains more than 500 acres and is home to the Accelerator, a \$28 million, 60,000 square foot high-tech incubator.



THE ACCELERATOR

Located in The Garden, The Accelerator contains furnished space that is available for lease to companies who need office, laboratory space or pilot manufacturing space. Companies located within the space will have access to state-of-the-art business services and building amenities, shared instrumentation, the National Formulation Science Laboratory, Mississippi Polymer Institute, a technology commercialization company and world-class University of Southern Mississippi researchers. The Accelerator is designed to cultivate innovative ideas from mind to market. It specializes in opportunities in composites, cosmetics, coatings and other polymers and formulation science, biotechnology, sustainable chemistry, alternative energy and more.



CNN/Money rated Hattiesburg as the 9th best place to start a small business in 2009.

GREATER HATTIESBURG MSA TOP 10 MANUFACTURING/DISTRIBUTION AND SERVICE EMPLOYERS*

MANUFACTURING/DISTRIBUTION

1. Marshall Durbin Poultry	1,000
2. Channel Control Merchants, LLC	487
3. Kohler Co.	406
4. Georgia Pacific, Leaf River Pulp Plant	318
5. Dairy Fresh Corporation	300
6. Hood Industries, Inc. – Beaumont	255
7. Johnson Controls Company	218
8. Hattiesburg Paper Corporation	180
9. Western Container	130
10. Hattiesburg Coca-Cola	125

SERVICE

1. Camp Shelby	3,700
2. Forrest General Hospital	2,740
3. Hattiesburg Clinic	1,927
4. The University of Southern Mississippi	1,900
5. Lamar County School District	1,218
6. Wesley Medical Center	1,083
7. Walmart	901
8. Hattiesburg Public School District	850
9. City of Hattiesburg	725
10. Petal School District	564

*Employment figures encompass the company's operations in the Greater Hattiesburg MSA only.

The State of Mississippi is a **Right-to-Work State** and has a superb business climate for manufacturing.

GREATER HATTIESBURG MSA UNIONIZATION RATES:

Private	2.04%
Public	2.33%

RECENT BUSINESS ACTIVITY

With the strong business climate in the Hattiesburg MSA, several new companies have located in this area and many more have expanded their companies and operations. The following is a sampling of companies that have selected the Greater Hattiesburg MSA, expanded operations and/or started up new facilities here in recent years.

NEW AND EXPANDED BUSINESSES

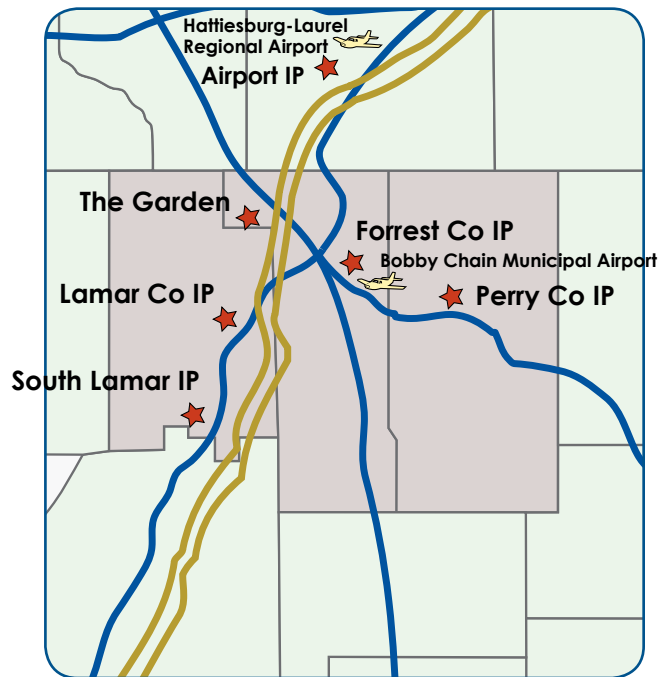
- Blendco
- Deloitte
- Dirt Cheap/Treasure Hunt
- Dream Coach
- Easy Reach
- Evergreen Lumber & Truss
- Flathau's Fine Foods
- Hybrid Plastics
- Kohler Engines
- Lowe's Distribution
- Miss Lou Blueberry Growers Corporation
- Mythic Paint
- Pepsi South/Wis-Pak
- Rexam
- Saddle Creek Corporation (Sam's Club)
- Safeguard Building Systems
- Western Container (Coca-Cola)



GREATER HATTIESBURG MSA INDUSTRIAL/BUSINESS PARKS

Our region boasts publicly owned industrial parks with available sites ranging from 5-150 acres for new and expanding companies. Many of the region's industrial parks are served by one of three Class I rail lines as well as access to substantial highway networks that traverse the Greater Hattiesburg MSA.

The Garden
Forrest County Industrial Park
Lamar County Industrial Park
South Lamar Industrial Park
Perry County Industrial Park
Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional Airport
Industrial Park



DIVERSE ECONOMY

Healthcare, education and military are the three pillars of the Greater Hattiesburg MSA economy. These three sectors provide stability even in uncertain economic times. The Greater Hattiesburg MSA also has very strong service, manufacturing and distribution sectors. The Greater Hattiesburg MSA generates approximately \$2.7 billion annually in retail sales. Global manufacturers such as Kohler and Georgia Pacific have major manufacturing facilities in the Greater Hattiesburg MSA.



HEALTHCARE

The Greater Hattiesburg MSA is known as a medical hub, servicing a broad region of 19 counties. There are two major hospitals encompassing 723 hospital beds. Hattiesburg is home to the largest multi-specialty clinic in the state of Mississippi. Healthcare comprises 12% of the regional economy with more than 8,200 direct employees generating an annual payroll of approximately \$400 million.



Forrest General Hospital
2,740 employees
512 beds
Level II trauma center

Wesley Medical Center
1,083 employees
211 beds

Hattiesburg Clinic
1,927 employees
220 physicians

EDUCATION

The region's education sector contains approximately 7,200 direct employees in K-12 and higher education. The Greater Hattiesburg MSA is home to 2 major universities, 2 community colleges and 8 primary and secondary education districts.

Hattiesburg is continually seeking ways to aid its citizens in obtaining the skills and knowledge needed in today's global economy. Top-tier university research facilities, partnerships and new and upcoming workforce development initiatives fuel the Hattiesburg economy towards long-term growth.

The Greater Hattiesburg MSA's high school graduates have a rare opportunity for residents of a small metro area, to be able to choose from 1 of 4 post-secondary institutions. Few regions can claim that nearly 42% of their student population is enrolled in post-secondary institutions. The Greater Hattiesburg MSA has nearly 28,000 college students within a 30 mile radius.



MILITARY

With 3,700 personnel on 136,000 acres and National Guard training units that come from all over the country, Camp Shelby is a major player in our local economy. Other local military related employers include BAE Systems, Deloitte and JPM. The Mississippi Gulf Coast, just 70 miles south of Hattiesburg, is home to Keesler Air Force Base, Stennis Space Center, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and numerous other military related companies.

Camp Shelby is the largest state-owned National Guard training facility in the United States.





EDUCATION

EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION DESCRIPTION

The Greater Hattiesburg MSA is a college town at its core. With nearly 28,000 college students within a 30 mile radius, our region has a superb higher education base. Our educational attainment statistics far exceed state averages and are on par with the nation as a whole.

HIGHER EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

INSTITUTION	ENROLLMENT
The University of Southern Mississippi*	14,088
William Carey University*	2,389
Jones County Junior College	6,040
Pearl River Community College	5,469
TOTAL STUDENTS	27,519

*Hattiesburg Campus
Fall 2010



Kiplinger Personal Finance ranked Hattiesburg as a Top College Town for Grown Ups in 2007.



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

LOCATION	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 25+ WITH HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA OR HIGHER	PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION 25+ WITH BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER
Hattiesburg MSA	84.28	26.47
State of Mississippi	78.97	18.84
United States	84.72	27.54

Source: Claritas, October 2010



Coldwell Banker Study named Hattiesburg in the Top Ten Affordable College Towns in 2006.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI

With over 90 graduate programs, a nationally renowned Polymer Science and Engineering program, research activity of approximately \$100 million annually and only one of 31 U.S. colleges accredited in all four areas of the arts (art, dance, music and theatre), The University of Southern Mississippi is a true economic and educational force in the Hattiesburg area.

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY (WCU)

WCU offers baccalaureate degrees for over 2,300 students in the areas of the Arts and Letters, Education and Natural and Behavioral Sciences, Business, Religion, Music and Nursing. The M.B.A., M.Ed., M.S. in psychology, M.Ed. in music, M.S. in biomedical science, M.S.N. degrees and a specialist degree in elementary education are also offered. A School of Osteopathic Medicine broke ground in late 2009 and commenced classes in fall 2010 with 110 medical students.



PRIMARY AND SECONDARY (K-12)

SCHOOL	ENROLLMENT	ACT SCORE
Lamar County	8,616	20.9
City of Hattiesburg	4,466	16.7
City of Petal	3,954	21.0
Forrest County	2,477	17.5
Perry County	1,278	17.3
Lumberton	749	18.1
Richton	720	19.3
Forrest County AHS	583	18.9
Presbyterian Christian School	907	25.7
Sacred Heart	668	25.0
Lamar Christian Academy	365	22.6

WCU School of Osteopathic Medicine

- WCU's new medical school is the 29th College of Osteopathic Medicine in the U.S.
- Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Arkansas are the key target states for new medical students.

Average ACT Scores 2009 - 2010

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ENROLLMENT	Average ACT Score	Mississippi Average ACT Score	National Average ACT Score
Lamar County	8,616	20.9	18.8	21.0
City of Petal	3,954	21.0	18.8	21.0
Richton	720	19.3	18.8	21.0

Source: Mississippi Department of Education, October 2010 and ACT, October 2010

Mississippi Curriculum Test, 2nd Edition (MCT2)

Language Arts

GRADE LEv EL (2009-2010)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (LAMAR COUNTY)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (PETAL)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (MISSISSIPPI)
3	65	61	49
4	64	69	53
5	64	68	51
6	70	74	53
7	67	75	52
8	57	72	45

Source: Mississippi Department of Education

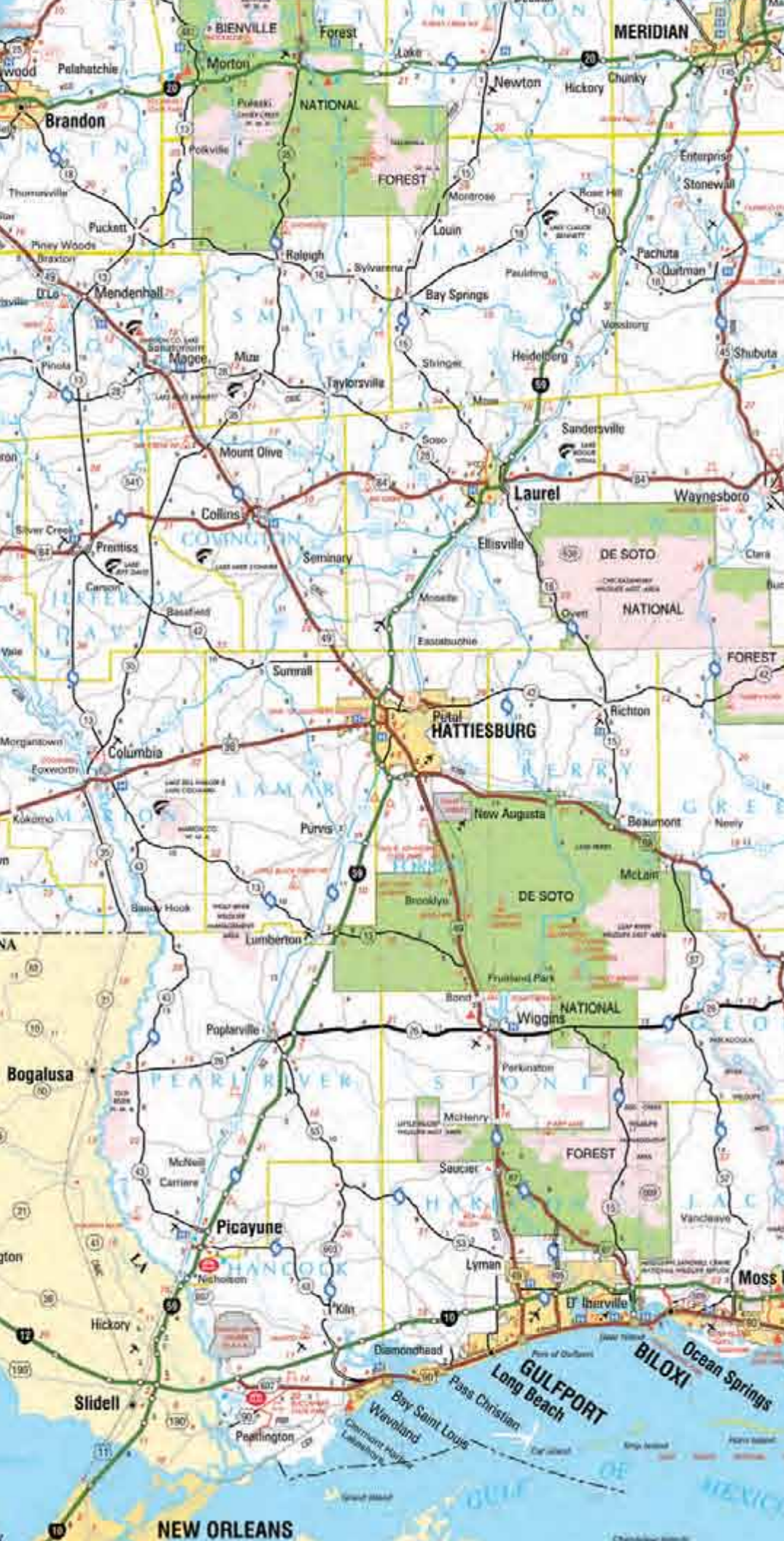
Mathematics

GRADE LEv EL (2009-2010)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (LAMAR COUNTY)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (PETAL)	PERCENT PROFICIENT & ADv ANCED (MISSISSIPPI)
3	72	80	59
4	69	83	59
5	73	80	58
6	74	77	56
7	76	83	60
8	74	78	60

Source: Mississippi Department of Education

The Greater Hattiesburg MSA is filled with a variety of schools that meet and often exceed state and national averages and parental expectations. From pre-school to graduate study, our schools are committed to excellence, offering a variety of innovative educational programs that challenge students to reach higher to achieve their goals.





MARKET ACCESS

MARKET ACCESS

ROADWAYS

Historically, because of our strategic location, the Greater Hattiesburg Area has been referred to as the “Hub City.” This name evolved due to the road and rail network connecting Hattiesburg to Gulfport/Biloxi, Jackson, Mobile and New Orleans. With major markets such as Atlanta, GA and Dallas, TX located within a one-day drive, the Greater Hattiesburg MSA is the center of the Gulf South.

The Greater Hattiesburg Area is served by three main ground transportation corridors. US Highway 49, US Highway 98 and Interstate 59 provide timely access to Interstate 10, Interstate 20, Interstate 55, Interstate 65 and US Highway 84.

WATER ACCESS

Local industries shipping or receiving international goods can choose from ports located at Gulfport/Biloxi, Mobile and New Orleans to minimize logistics costs while choosing a port that offers the desired level of service.

The state of Mississippi is investing approximately \$1 billion to enable the Port of Gulfport to grow from approximately 200,000 containers per year to more than 1,000,000. With the widening of the Panama Canal scheduled for completion in 2014, our state is investing to ensure that South Mississippi is well prepared to capture a large portion of the increased capacity flowing into the Gulf of Mexico.



RAILWAYS

The region is served by three Class I rail lines operating at four area industrial parks. Canadian National, Kansas City Southern (KCS) and Norfolk Southern all serve the Greater Hattiesburg Area. The State of Mississippi recently received a \$20 million TIGER Grant that will allow the first step toward upgrading the KCS mainline from Gulfport to Hattiesburg. Upon completion, the upgrades will allow double stacking of containers and the transit time reduced with an increase in speed to 49 MPH.



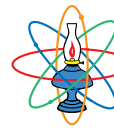
AIRPORTS

Hattiesburg is home to two airports. The Bobby Chain Municipal Airport, located in the Forrest County Industrial Park, offers full services for private or chartered aircraft. The airport is also home to Rescue 7 and Baptist Life Flight, the region's air ambulance service providers. For commercial air transportation, the Greater Hattiesburg Area is served by the Hattiesburg/Laurel Regional Airport (PIB) with two daily flights on Delta Airlines to Memphis. In addition to PIB, Hattiesburg is within a two hour drive to four international airports in Jackson, New Orleans, Gulfport and Mobile.


UTILITY PROVIDERS

ELECTRICITY

The Greater Hattiesburg Area is served by several utility providers. For electrical services, Mississippi Power Company, Pearl River Valley Electric Power Association, Southern Pine Electric Power Association, Dixie Electric Power Association and others meet the area's needs through reliable and competitive electric distribution.



Pearl River Valley
Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



WATER

Water services are anchored by the City of Hattiesburg. With a water system capable of producing more than 20 million gallons per day, the city's system is the region's largest water and sewer provider. Additionally, the area is served by numerous municipal water providers and water associations.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Telecommunications for the area is provided by AT&T and MegaGate Broadband.



GAS

Natural gas providers in our region include Willmut Gas and CenterPoint Energy. The utility providers for our region have the capability and willingness to provide dependable and cost effective service to meet all residential and corporate needs.





QUALITY OF LIFE

QUALITY OF LIFE

With a low cost of living coupled with great schools, engaging area attractions and recreational activities along with a great selection of shopping, dining and cultural events, the Greater Hattiesburg MSA is a fabulous place to live, work and play. Whether you're into sports, theatre, great food, cultural events, art or outdoor activities – the Pine Belt has it covered. It doesn't take long to see why so many enjoy calling the Greater Hattiesburg MSA home.

COST OF LIVING INDEX 2010

LOCATION	ACCRA COST OF LIVING (ALL ITEMS)	ACCRA HOUSING
Hattiesburg, MS	91.4	76.3
New Orleans, LA	96.1	101.1
Birmingham, AL	91.1	73.5
Lexington, KY	91.8	84.5
Little Rock, AR	94.6	90.4
Montgomery, AL	100.6	99.9
Jackson, MS	95.6	92.2
Greenville, SC	90.3	75.7
Auburn-Opelika, AL	98.6	89.8
Gainesville, FL	99.8	98.5
Tampa, FL	92.4	82.2
Columbia, SC	97.2	81.8
Baton Rouge, LA	95.7	100.6

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, October 2010

Mississippi businesses are subject to five major taxes: corporate income tax, inventory tax, franchise tax, sales and use tax and property tax. Tax credits or exemptions are available for qualified companies in all major tax categories.

TAX POLICY

PERSONAL & CORPORATE INCOME TAX

- 3% on 1st \$5,000 taxable income
- 4% on next \$5,000 taxable income
- 5% on taxable income over \$10,000

SALES TAX

- The state of Mississippi sales tax rate is 7%.
- Motor Vehicles: 5%
- Prepared food/beverage: 2%
- Hotels: 2%
- Machinery and equipment: 1.5%

PROPERTY TAX

Each jurisdiction within the Greater Hattiesburg MSA has a different millage rate. One mill is equal to \$1 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Commercial property tax assessment ratio is 15%.

MILLAGE RATES FOR 2010

Forrest County

- Forrest County: 55.09
- Forrest County Schools: 59.48
- City of Hattiesburg: 46.92

City of Hattiesburg

- City of Hattiesburg: 46.92
- Hattiesburg Schools: 61.65
- Forrest County: 55.09

Lamar County

- Lamar County: 50.86
- Purvis Schools: 61.58
- City of Purvis: 50.00

City of Lumberton

- City of Lumberton: 48.49
- Lumberton Schools: 51.55
- Lamar County: 50.86

Perry County

- Perry County: 57.03
- Perry County Schools: 40.00

ESTATE TAX

None

OTHER TAXES

- Unemployment Tax* is 2.7%.
- Franchise Tax is \$2.50 per \$1,000 of MS capital.

*Unemployment Tax is on the first \$8,000 in wages.

HOUSING

The Greater Hattiesburg Area offers a variety of housing options from registered historic districts to lake front neighborhoods.

Hattiesburg Country Club, Canebrake Country Club and Timberton Golf Club (also a 4½ star rated course) rank in the top 10 courses in Mississippi according to *Golf Digest* 2009.

HOME SALES FOR 2006-2010

Year	Number Sold	Average DOM	Average Sale Price	Median Sales Price
2006	1,746	59	\$161,024	\$120,850
2007	1,756	72	154,900	142,500
2008	1,370	96	156,230	142,000
2009	1,217	106	157,260	142,000
2010*	1,001	101	149,600	133,800

*Through October

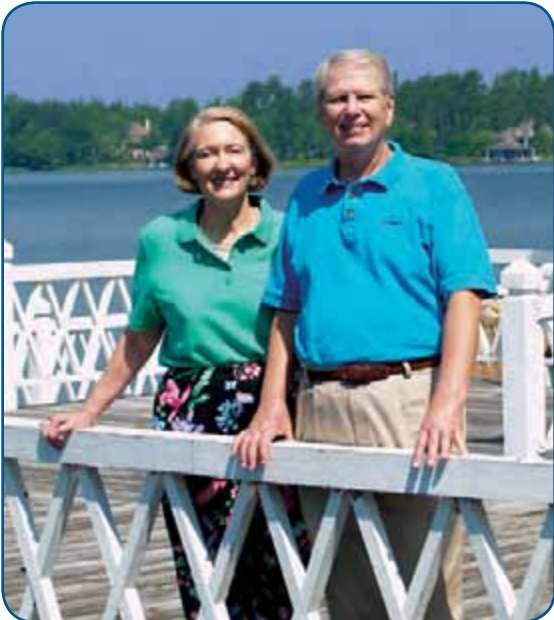
Source: Hattiesburg Area Association of Realtors



Hattiesburg is one of eight towns with safe and maintained cycling trails and amenities suitable for retirement according to *Where to Retire*.



Where to Retire ranked Hattiesburg a Top 100 Place to Retire (2009).



RETIREMENT

The Greater Hattiesburg Area has distinguished itself as a retirement destination for those looking for a place to retire. Hattiesburg has been designated a "Certified Retirement Community" by Hometown Mississippi Retirement, a state-sponsored program designed to recruit retirees to the state. The area offers several amenities and programs geared specifically for retirees including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Senior Fair, Senior Prom and more.

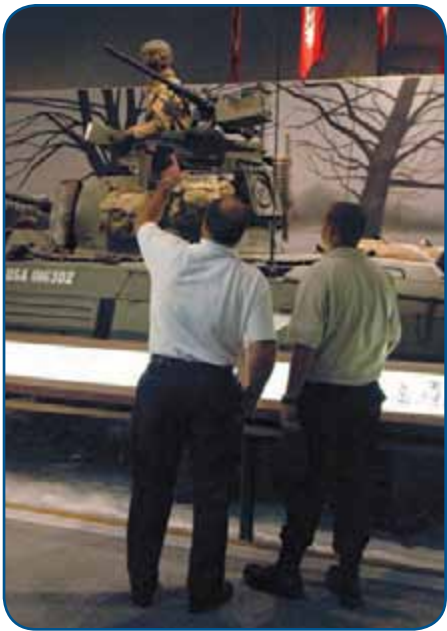
ATTRACTIONS

The Greater Hattiesburg Area boasts many popular activities, attractions and comforts. You'll find a refreshing spirit and genuine southern hospitality, which make Hattiesburg a welcoming destination. Hattiesburg is home to one of only two certified zoo's in the state. There are several parks and outdoor recreational activities including the Longleaf Trace – a rails to trails project extending 40+ miles across the Pine Belt.

The area is home to many museums and galleries all depicting the style and art of our current day residents and our ancestors. You'll want to visit them all. You won't want to miss the state-of-the-art Camp Shelby Military Museum, located just 15 miles south of the city. Full dioramas let you walk though history, not only seeing, but also experiencing it from a soldier's point of view. Exhibits include 15,000 pieces of memorabilia from the War of 1812 to current day campaigns. Outside, the museum grounds showcase tanks, armor, modern helicopters and vehicles from numerous campaigns.

OTHER ATTRACTIONS/EVENTS INCLUDE:

- African American Military History Museum
- Hattiesburg Area Historical Society Museum
- The University of Southern Mississippi Art Gallery
- Lucile Parker Art Gallery at William Carey University
- Hattiesburg Zoo
- HUBFEST
- Hattiesburg Arts Council Gallery at the Hattiesburg Cultural Center
- Quarterly Downtown Art Walks
- Farmer's and Artisan's Market
- Collegiate Athletic Events
- Victorian Holiday Candle Lighting
- Heritage Day
- Live @ 5



CULTURE

Hattiesburg residents enjoy a plethora of arts events that one might expect only in much larger cities. The University of Southern Mississippi's School of Music has a year-round calendar of events that includes symphony, choral and band concerts, opera productions and solo and small ensemble recitals. Well-known guest artists are frequently featured. The Theatre and Dance Department presents theatre productions and dance concerts throughout the year. The William Carey University School of Music has a year-round program of vocal and instrumental concerts by guest artists, faculty and students. The Carey Dinner Theater delights audiences of all ages with a full season of theatre productions augmented in the summer by a professional dinner theatre troupe. Art exhibits by Lucile Parker and other well-known artists are shown in the Lucile Parker Art Gallery on campus.

OTHER CULTURAL PROGRAMS:

- The Hattiesburg Civic Light Opera produces Broadway musicals throughout the year.
- Just Over the Rainbow Theater Group delights audiences with dinner theatre productions.
- The City of Hattiesburg Concert Band offers four free concerts throughout the season.
- The Hattiesburg Civic Chorus and Concert Association sponsors the Meistersingers Chorus, holding special events throughout the year.
- South Mississippi Art Association has two major exhibits each year and presents workshops by well-known artists.
- The Hattiesburg Arts Council maintains a gallery featuring works of Mississippi artists.
- FestivalSouth is an annual week-long series of musical events hosted at various locations throughout the Hattiesburg region.





DINING

The cuisine of South Mississippi offers the palette a unique fusion of coastal fare mixed with decadent southern staples and a hint of creole influence. Menu items of this description can be found throughout the region at local favorite restaurants including Walnut Circle Grill, Crescent City Grill, Purple Parrot Café, 206 Front, brownstone's and more.

If your taste buds long for something more familiar and just as delicious, the Hattiesburg region of South Mississippi is home to countless eateries and memorable dining experiences. In fact, hundreds of restaurants, cafés and delis call this area home, providing a large selection of cuisine to delight every taste bud. Whether you are hungry for Japanese, Italian, Mexican, Thai, Chinese or Cajun/ New Orleans style, you'll find a place at the table for you. World famous barbeque, steakhouses and fine dining establishments call this area of the south home.

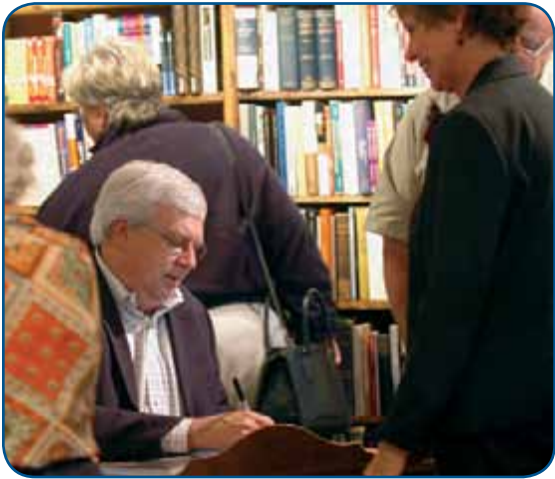


SHOPPING

Shopping opportunities abound in the area from upper-scale boutiques to discount stores for treasure hunters. With a major regional mall and hundreds of other retail establishments both large and small, Hattiesburg residents enjoy shopping that rivals that of cities several times its size. In recent years, numerous new retail centers have opened including Turtle Creek Mall encompassing 900,000 square feet, three Walmart Super Centers, Sam's Club, and the Turtle Creek Crossing Shopping area, home to Target, Old Navy, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Books-A-Million and many others. Current shopping centers continue to grow with new businesses such as Jos. A. Bank Clothiers and major remodels including Belk. There has been a resurgence of older shopping centers such as the Cloverleaf Mall, now the Cloverleaf Center, with discount stores including Steinmart, Treasure Hunt, Trees and Trends and others to delight the avid shopper. Antique stores abound, as well as many other furniture, apparel, drug and specialty stores.

The City of
Hattiesburg ranks
#2 in the state in
retail sales.





Many of the photos contained in the Regional Profile are provided courtesy of VISITHATTIESBURG.™
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ABOUT THE AREA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP

The ADP is the regional Chamber of Commerce, Community and Economic Development organization representing Forrest, Lamar and Perry Counties, the City of Hattiesburg and the City of Petal.

With approximately 1,100 members, the ADP strives daily to enhance the quality of life in the region through economic progress.





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