



*Biloxi
General
Market
Analysis
2011-2012*



biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi General Market Analysis Contents

Biloxi Overview

Biloxi City Government	1
Location Map	1
The City's Financial Health	2
State & Local Taxes	2
Principal Property Tax Payers	3
Principal Employers	3
Revenue & Expenditure Trends	3
The Development Process	4
Annexation Status	5
General Demographics	6
Labor Force & Employment	7
Access & Transportation	8-9
Local Business Assistance	10

The Market

Local Tax Incentives	11
Commercial Development	11-14
Residential Development	15-17
Tourism	18-20
Gaming	21-23
Keesler Air Force Base	24
Other Federal Installations	25
I-10 Corridor	26
Seafood Industry	27-28

Quality of Life

Health Care	30
Education	31-33
New & Restored Facilities	34
Parks & Recreation	35-36
Other Recreation Resources	37
Arts & Culture	38-39
Environmental Resources	39-40

Inside Back Cover	Map Info
Back Pocket	Major Projects

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Letter from the Mayor

Dear Reader:

Thank you for your interest in the City of Biloxi.



The 2011-2012 Biloxi General Market Analysis provides detailed information about our community and the components that drive our vibrant post-Katrina economy. Biloxi offers a broad range of development opportunities, enhanced by an excellent quality of life, an acclaimed public school system and state-of-the-art health care facilities. Residents enjoy safe and friendly neighborhoods and a diverse array of cultural and recreational resources and activities.

I encourage you to visit the City's website, biloxi.ms.us, for current information that supplements this publication and to subscribe to Bmail, to receive email updates.

My office and entire staff stand ready to assist you in any way possible. I hope you'll visit Biloxi soon. We have a great deal to offer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.J. Holloway". The signature is fluid and cursive.

A.J. Holloway
Mayor

Biloxi's 1848, cast iron lighthouse stands as a symbol of resilience. It is the prominent feature on Mississippi license plates, is the most-photographed landmark in the State of Mississippi, and tops the Sun Herald's 2011 list of *South Mississippi's Top 10 Icons*. The City offers tours of the Lighthouse six days a week.

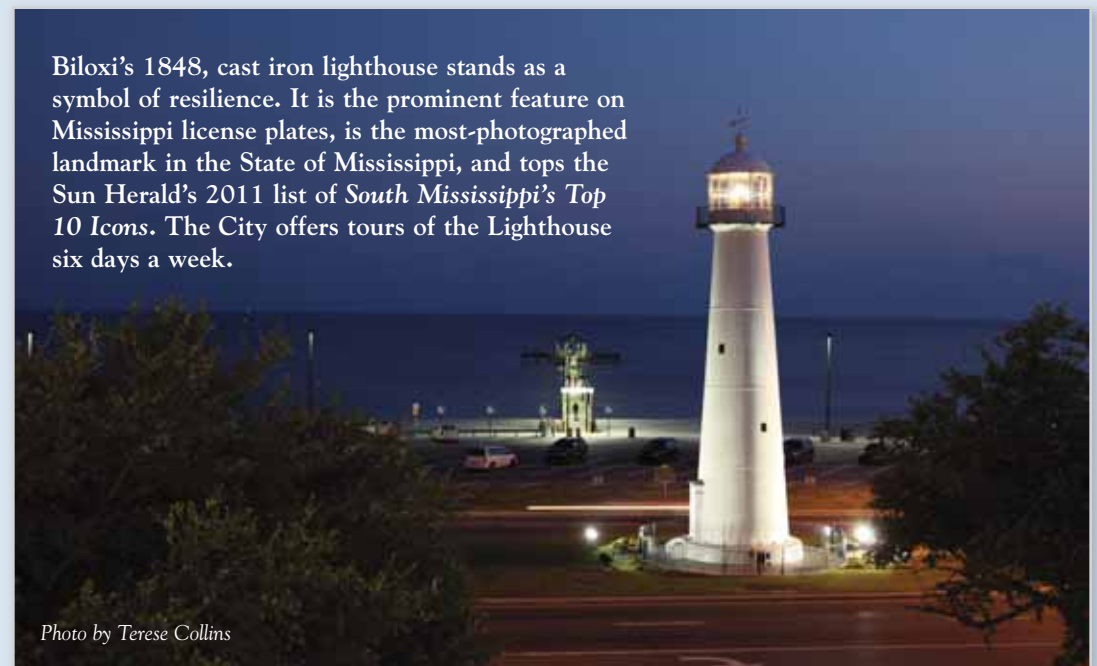


Photo by Terese Collins

Biloxi City Government

The Biloxi City Council meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first, third and fourth Tuesdays of each month at City Hall, located in downtown Biloxi at 140 Lameuse Street.

The City operates under a strong Mayor-Council form of government. The Mayor and seven Council Members representing individual wards are elected every four years.

City Council agendas are posted on the Biloxi website biloxi.ms.us.

Mayor's Office

A.J. Holloway, Mayor
228-435-6254
mayor@biloxi.ms.us

City Council

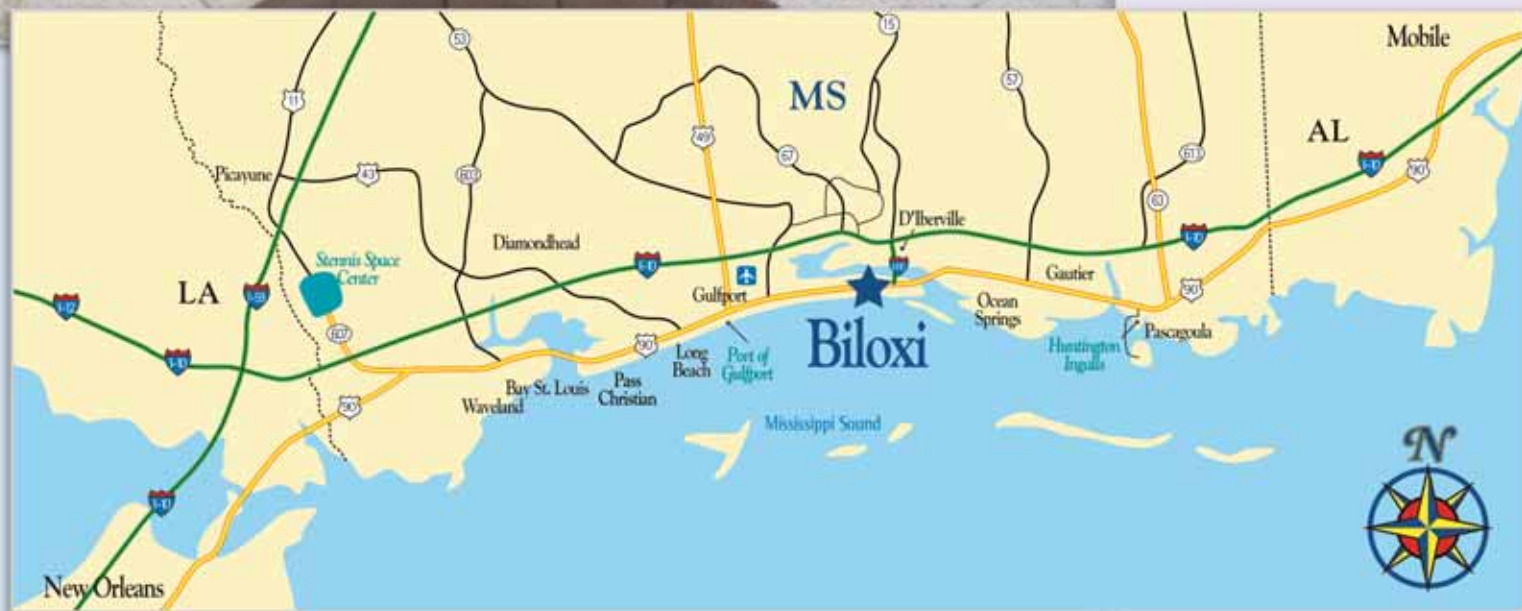
- George Lawrence, Ward 1, glawrence@biloxi.ms.us
- William "Bill" Stallworth, Ward 2, bstallworth@biloxi.ms.us
- Lucy Denton, Ward 3, ldenton@biloxi.ms.us
- Clark Griffith, Ward 4, cgriffith@biloxi.ms.us
- Tom Wall, Ward 5, twall@biloxi.ms.us
- Edward "Ed" Gemmill, Ward 6, egemmill@biloxi.ms.us
- David Fayard, Ward 7, dfayard@biloxi.ms.us

City Council Office

228-435-6257
citycouncil@biloxi.ms.us



The Mayor and members of the City Council at their swearing-in ceremony: (front row, left to right) David Fayard, Lucy Denton, A.J. Holloway, Tom Wall; (back row, left to right) George Lawrence, William "Bill" Stallworth, Edward "Ed" Gemmill, and Clark Griffith.



Incorporated in 1838, the City of Biloxi is located in Harrison County, Mississippi and its southern corporate boundary is the Gulf of Mexico. Biloxi is part of the Biloxi-Gulfport-Pascagoula Combined Statistical Area, which enjoys a diverse economic base dominated by tourism, casino gaming, fishing, seafood processing, shipping, shipbuilding, and petroleum and chemical processing. Keesler Air Force Base, Naval Construction Battalion Center-Gulfport and Huntington Ingalls Industries' (formerly Northrop Grumman) Pascagoula shipbuilding facility are located within this statistical area defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.



Visit <http://co.harrison.ms.us> or www.mstax.org for more information about state and local taxes. Information about Biloxi and Harrison County tax rolls also may be accessed at <http://co.harrison.ms.us>.

The City's Financial Health

As shown in the **Revenue Trends Chart**, the City's ad valorem tax revenue and sales tax revenue in FY2010 remained about the same as in FY2009, while gaming tax declined slightly. Since casino gaming was legalized in 1992, gaming tax revenue has become the largest regular revenue source for the City. Local and state gaming tax information is detailed on page 21.

The City's ad valorem tax rate has not changed since FY2001, when the Mayor and City Council decreased the rate by 34.8%.

The **Expenditure Trends Chart** shows that in FY2006, expenditures for Public Works increased due to the cost of removing Hurricane Katrina debris. Normally, in keeping with the administration's priorities, public safety and capital projects are the largest expenditure categories of the City's governmental funds.

In response to the national economic recession, the City initiated policies to restrict expenditures in FY2009, including the reduction of City staff through a policy of attrition and a freeze in hiring. Additional steps were taken in FY2010 to reduce costs, including furloughing employees six days, reducing overtime and longevity pay, and increasing employees' share of health insurance costs. Donations to social service agencies and other nonprofits were decreased and the City has decreased General Fund cash funding of capital projects.

The City ended FY2010 with a General Fund balance of \$18 million, which is considered adequate; the City's goal is to equalize General Fund revenue and expenditures in FY2011.

Biloxi's Credit Rating

In May 2010, Standard & Poor's Rating Services raised its standard long-term rating of Biloxi from **BBB+** to **AA-** with a **stable outlook**. Its rationale was based on the City of Biloxi's:

- Historically very strong financial reserves that allowed it to absorb the loss of revenues associated with the impact of Hurricane Katrina;
- Stable tax base; and
- Moderate overall debt burden.

The City's credit ratings have not been reviewed or changed since Standards & Poor's May 2010 rating.

State & Local Taxes

Mississippi's general retail **sales tax rate is 7%**. Of the taxes collected by the state each month, 18.5% of the sales tax revenue generated within a municipality is remitted to that City. Information about state and local **gaming taxes** is provided on pages 21.

Income in Mississippi is taxed at a rate of 3% for the first \$5,000 of taxable income, 4% for the next \$5,000 and 5% for taxable income over \$10,000; no state income tax is levied on income from qualifying retirement pensions.

Property taxes are levied by Mississippi municipalities and counties on the assessed value of land, buildings, mobile homes, automobiles, business inventory and equipment and are collected in arrears. Assessed value is a prescribed percentage of the true (appraised) value of each class of property:

Class of Property	Ratio
Class I Single family, owner-occupied, residential real property	10%
Class II All other real property, Except Class I or IV	15%
Class III Personal property, except motor vehicles and Class IV	15%
Class IV Public Utility property	30%
Class V Motor vehicles	30%

Property in Biloxi is appraised and taxes are collected by Harrison County. The City of Biloxi levies a tax on real and personal property, based on the assessed value of property as compiled by the Harrison County Tax Assessor. The Base Millage Rate (levy) is set by the Mayor and City Council at the first regular Council meeting each September.

Taxes for the Biloxi Public School District (BPSD) are set annually by the School Board, are billed and collected by the county, and remitted to the school district through the City.

Local Millage Rate FY08-09 through FY10-11

	FY10-11	FY09-10	FY08-09
City of Biloxi	30.10	30.10	30.10
BPSD	41.55	40.08	38.03
Harrison County	35.95	35.95	35.95
Total Levy	107.60	106.13	104.08

Biloxi's Principal Property Tax Payers 2010

Taxpayer & Rank	Taxable Assessed Value	% of Total Assessed Valuation
1. Beau Rivage Resort & Casino	\$ 77,474,590	12.83%
2. IP Casino Resort Spa	\$ 36,890,731	6.11%
3. Isle Casino Hotel	\$ 23,685,298	3.92%
4. Mississippi Power Company	\$ 21,924,109	3.63%
5. Grand Biloxi Casino Hotel & Spa	\$ 19,380,881	3.21%
6. Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	\$ 16,446,535	2.72%
7. Palace Casino	\$ 7,538,997	1.25%
8. Bell South	\$ 6,634,953	1.10%
9. Boomtown Casino	\$ 5,928,986	0.98%
10. Biloxi Regional Medical Center	\$ 5,854,485	0.97%
Total	\$221,759,565	36.71%

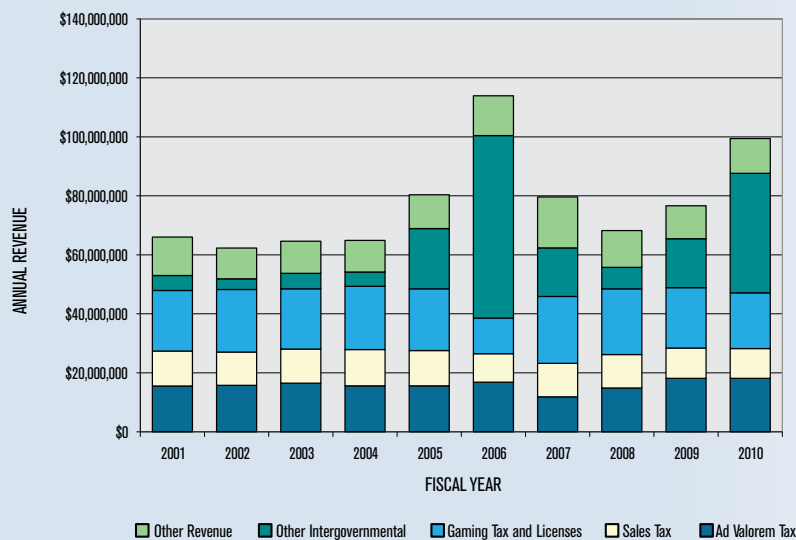
Biloxi's Principal Employers 2006 & 2010

Employer	Top 10 2006		Top 10 2010	
	# Employees	Rank	# Employees	Rank
Keesler Air Force Base	16,000	1	10,896	1
Beau Rivage Resort & Casino	3,600	2	2,889	2
IP Casino Resort Spa	2,900	3	1,989	3
Biloxi Veterans Administration Hospital	NA	—	1,780	4
Grand Biloxi Casino Hotel & Spa	1,500	4	876	5
Biloxi Public School District	720	6	850	6
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino	NA	—	845	7
Isle Casino Hotel	1,200	5	695	8
City of Biloxi	652	8	660	9
Biloxi Regional Medical Center	542	10	653	10
Boomtown Casino	700	7	NA	—
Palace Casino Resort	600	9	NA	—
Total	28,414		22,133	

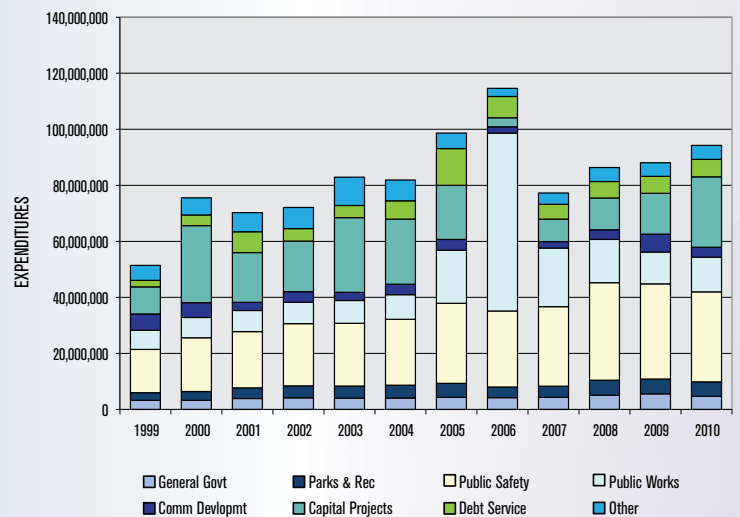
Source: Biloxi Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, Fiscal Year Ended 9/30/10



GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS REVENUE TRENDS



GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS EXPENDITURE TRENDS



Jerry Creel,
Director & Building Official
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Phone (228) 435-6280
Physical Location:
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Biloxi, MS 39530

Mailing Address:
Post Office Box 508
Biloxi, MS 39533

Planning Division: 435-6266
Building Division: 435-6270
Business License Info: 435-6247

The Biloxi Development Process

Biloxi's Community Development Department operates in a "developer friendly" climate to facilitate local development. Recent updates to the Biloxi Land Development Ordinance have streamlined and enhanced the permit application process. Well trained, helpful staff assist developers in their efforts to "grow Biloxi" into a more diversified, sustainable community. All development-related permit applications are available on-line and at the Community Development Department, taking the guess work out of the permit process.



The Land Development Ordinance (LDO) defines Biloxi zoning classifications and land use

regulations as well as the step-by-step review process for each type of proposed project. In addition, the LDO provides specific information about permits required for each development activity and any applicable review process that may involve the Development Review Committee, the Planning Commission, the Architectural and Historical Review Commission, and/or the City Council. The LDO is available at Community Development, City Hall, any branch of the Biloxi Library and on the City's website.

The Planning and Building Divisions work with developers to insure compliance with permit and licensing requirements to safeguard the public health and safety. All general contractors and subcontractors must be licensed by the State of Mississippi or the City of Biloxi to perform the work identified in a Biloxi Building Permit.



Biloxi's website, biloxi.ms.us, includes links to:

- the **Biloxi Comprehensive Plan**;
 - the **Biloxi Land Development Ordinance and Official Zoning District Map**;
 - development application **Forms and Permits**;
 - **agendas** for upcoming meetings of the City Council, Planning Commission, and Architectural and Historical Review Commission;
 - **Flood Elevation/Flood Zone Maps**;
 - **Biloxi Code of Ordinances**, including the **Building Code**; and
 - **Stormwater management** links and educational materials.
-

Licensing Requirements

- Contractors with a City of Biloxi Business License must provide certification of \$300,000 in general liability insurance, with the City listed as a certificate holder, and a \$5,000 License and Permitting Surety Bond.
- Mississippi contractors with offices located outside of Biloxi must provide the City with a copy of their Mississippi Contractors License, certification that \$300,000 in general liability insurance is held, with the City listed as a certificate holder, and a \$5,000 License and Permitting Surety Bond.
- Contractors from other states must obtain a license from the State of Mississippi.

Development Review Meetings

A standard review schedule is in place to expedite permit review and approval; meetings are held at the Biloxi Community Development Department.

- The **Development Review Committee (DRC)** meets Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m. to review commercial and multi-family development applications to insure compliance with life safety, planning and building codes.
- The **Biloxi Planning Commission** meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 2 p.m.
- Meetings of the **Architectural and Historical Review Commission (AHRC)** are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 8:30 a.m.

Floodplain Information

Biloxi's Building Codes require that new buildings be elevated to the base flood elevation. For answers to floodplain questions, visit the City's website or call/email Biloxi's full-time Floodplain Administrator, Rick Stickler: phone 435-6270, email rstickler@biloxi.ms.us.

Stormwater Management Information

Development in the City of Biloxi is subject to regulations and policies of the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, which also monitors compliance. Links on the City's website provide information to help developers plan for and comply with stormwater management, flood prevention and water quality protection regulations. The Biloxi stormwater management contact is Christy LeBatard: phone 435-6269, email clebatard@biloxi.ms.us.

Biloxi Comprehensive Plan

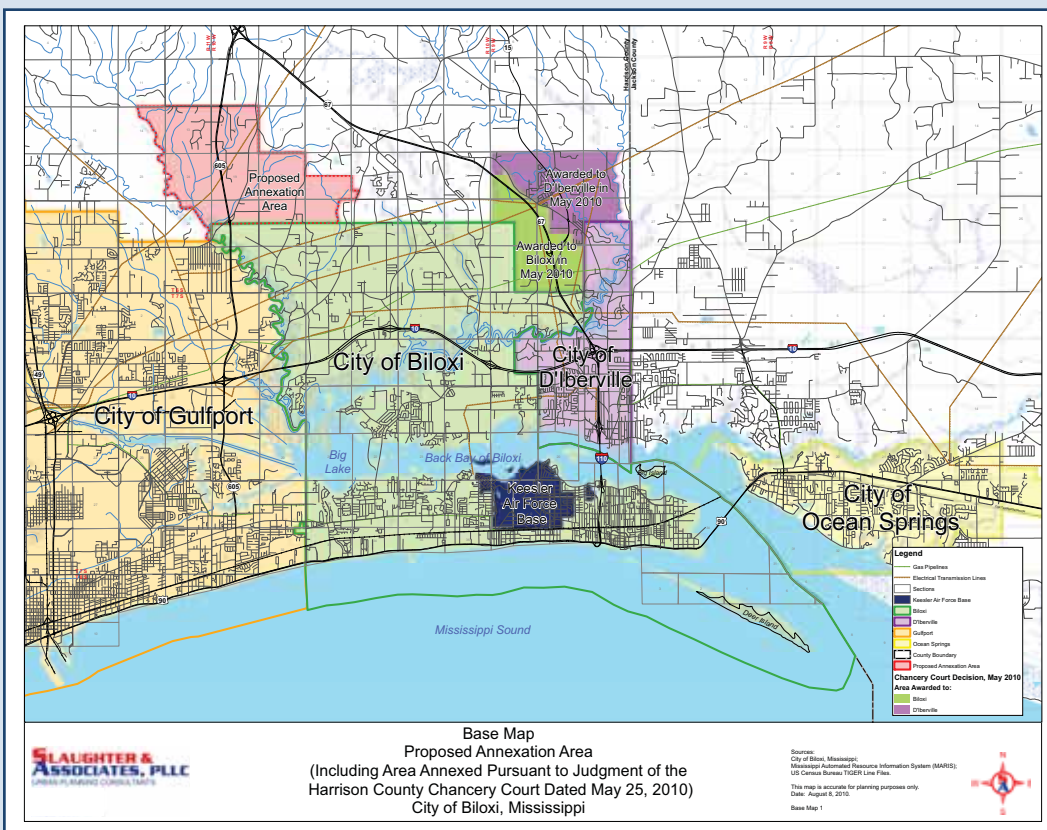
The City adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan in December 2009 to redefine long-range goals and policies to insure overall physical growth and future development are well coordinated. The Plan update was guided by the goal of preserving and promoting public health and safety while improving community character, economic prosperity and quality of life. A link to the Comprehensive Plan is included on the City's website.

Annexation

In May 2010, an annexation ruling awarded the City of Biloxi about 2.5 square miles located at the City's northeastern boundary along new Highway 67. The ruling is being appealed by the City of D'Iberville. Among the court's findings, were:

- 1) the area south of Lamey Bridge Road and the Highway 67 corridor "are within the path of growth of the City of Biloxi, not the City of D'Iberville;"
- 2) the complete lack of interconnection between the Biloxi Critical Area and the City of D'Iberville is a significant indicator that the Biloxi Critical Area is not within a path of growth of the City of D'Iberville;" and
- 3) the critical area is adjacent to the City of Biloxi and is accessible only from Biloxi; D'Iberville has no municipal streets extending into the area nor has it extended water or sewer services into the area.

In June 2011, the City of Gulfport's suit to annex 2.5 square miles on Biloxi's northwestern boundary was dismissed. In response, Mayor Holloway said "This is outstanding news for Biloxi. We think that the judge looked at the facts in the case – just as he did in the annexation attempt by D'Iberville – and he made a sound ruling." Mayor Holloway continued, "The important issue here is that Biloxi has a natural path of growth." Court rulings in both cases are posted as a link on the City's website.



City of Biloxi Facts

Biloxi was settled in 1699 and incorporated in 1838. Its name originates from a Native American tribe that used the area as a hunting ground. Biloxi is centrally located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in Harrison County, midway between New Orleans and Mobile.

Climate

Annual rainfall 61"
 Annual average snowfall
 less than 1"
 Average January temperature
 52° F
 Average July temperature . . . 92° F
 Annual sunny days 219

Number of City employees
 (including police and fire) 623
 Area in square miles 62*
 Park acreage 258
 Number of playgrounds 20
 Number of ball fields 30
 Community Centers 2
 Miles of paved streets 220
 Miles of water mains 251
 Miles of sanitary sewer lines . . 235
 Number of police stations 1
 Number of fire stations 9
 Number of fire hydrants 1,890

Source: Biloxi Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, FY10

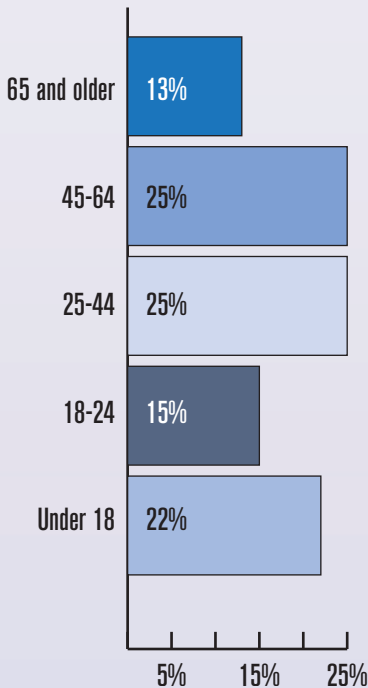
*This does not include 2.5 square miles from the May 2010 annexation ruling, which will not be official until the appeal is heard.

Civilian veterans comprise a significant percentage of the City of Biloxi population:

Biloxi	19.8%
Harrison County	17.4%
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	16.5%
Mississippi	9.9%

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey for 2005-2009, 50.3% of Biloxi's population is male, 49.7% female.

Biloxi Population Age Distribution



Unless otherwise indicated, the source for information on these two pages is the 2005-2009 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, American FactFinder, U.S. Census Bureau.

General Demographics

As of May 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau had not released 2010 Census detailed population data by city and town; for a schedule of 2010 Census release dates, visit www.census.gov. Once the information is available, City of Biloxi 2010 Census data will be posted on biloxi.ms.us.

The City of Biloxi is part of the Biloxi-Gulfport Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which is comprised of Hancock, Harrison and Stone Counties. MSAs are geographic entities defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for use by federal statistical agencies in collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics. An MSA contains a core urban area of 50,000 or more population.

Annual Estimates of Resident Population

	2005	2007	2009	2010
Biloxi	50,579	46,246	45,766	45,766
Harrison County	95,843	176,257	181,191	183,018*
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	256,655	231,583	238,772	NA

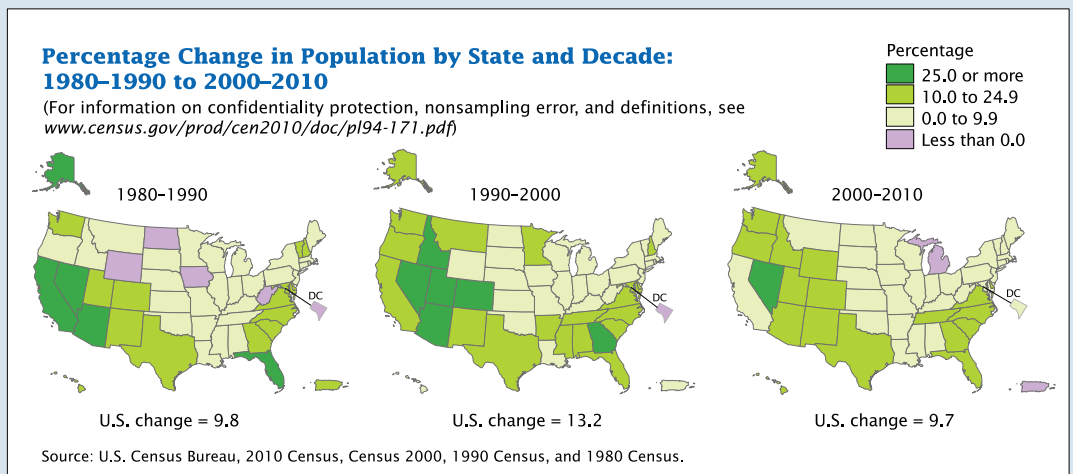
Sources: Annual Estimates of Resident Population, U.S. Census Bureau; *HCDC Data & Demographics at mscoast.org

Selected Population Characteristics (2005-2009 Estimates)

	Median Age	Per Capita Income	Average Household Size	Median Household Income
Biloxi	35.7	\$25,526	2.4	\$44,519
Harrison County	35.1	\$22,444	2.59	\$44,570
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	36.2	\$22,218	2.58	\$44,379
Mississippi	35.0	\$19,534	2.6	\$36,796

Educational Attainment – Age 25 Plus

	Biloxi	Harrison Co.	Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	Mississippi
High School Graduate or higher	85.4%	83.6%	83.1%	78.9%
Bachelor's Degree or higher	23.0%	19.7%	19.5%	19.1%
Associate's Degree	8.9%	8.5%	8.4%	7.5%
Bachelor's Degree	14.4%	12.4%	12.5%	12.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	8.6%	7.2%	7.0%	6.7%



Labor Force & Employment

Civilian Labor Force, Twelve Month Moving Averages (as of April 2011)

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Biloxi	21,080	19,000	2,080	9.9%
Harrison County	88,780	80,900	7,880	8.9%
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	115,830	105,490	10,340	8.9%
Mississippi	1,322,100	1,186,800	135,300	10.2%

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Services (MDES)

Unemployment Rate Comparisons

	4/2007	4/2009	4/2011
Biloxi	6.4%	7.6%	9.6%
Harrison County	5.4%	6.9%	8.9%
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA	5.3%	7.0%	9.0%
Mississippi	5.8%	8.6%	10.0%

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Services

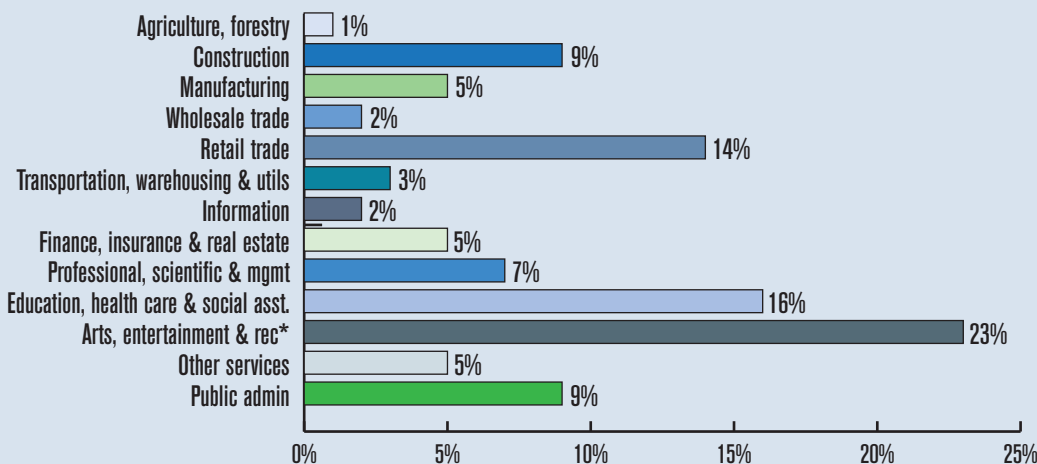
Biloxi-Gulfport MSA Establishment Based Employment by Category

Category	2006	2008	2010
Manufacturing	6,020	6,150	5,470
Nonmanufacturing	94,740	104,230	99,790
Natural Resources & Mining	320	260	280
Construction	7,280	6,790	5,840
Trade, Transp. & Utilities	19,110	19,420	18,300
Information	1,280	1,190	1,080
Financial Activities	3,890	4,540	4,410
Prof. & Business Services	11,520	12,590	12,070
Educ. & Health Services	8,370	9,180	9,460
Leisure & Hospitality	18,010	23,540	21,860
Other Services	2,000	2,280	2,110
Government	22,960	24,440	24,380
Government Education	5,880	6,160	6,130
Total Nonagricultural Employment	100,760	110,380	105,260

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Services

Note: MDES has not made employment sector information by city available since 2005.

Biloxi Employment by Industry, 2005-2009



*includes accommodation & food services.

Biloxi Population Employment Status, 2005 - 2009

Population 16 years and over

- 37,866
- In Labor Force 25,502
- Civilian Labor Force ... 22,942
- Armed Forces 2,560
- Not in Labor Force 12,364

In 2005 – 2009, for the employed population 16 years and older, the leading industries in Biloxi were Arts, Entertainment and Recreation (includes accommodation and food services) 23% and Educational Services, Healthcare and Social Assistance 16%

Travel to Work in Biloxi

- Drove to Work Alone 76.6%
- Carpooled 14.1%
- Used Public Transportation 0.2%
- Walked 5.3%
- Other Means 1.5%
- Worked at Home 2.3%

Average Commute 18.8 minutes.

Types of Workers in Biloxi

- Private Wage & Salary Workers ..
- 74%
- Fed., State & Local Government Workers 21%
- Self-Employed (not incorporated business) 5%

A City map with major streets designated is included in the inside back cover pocket.

Access & Transportation

Strategically located on the Interstate-10 corridor between New Orleans and Mobile, Biloxi is benefiting from considerable investment of federal, state and local resources in transportation improvements that enhance access.

Ground Transportation

biloxi.ms.us, www.gomdot.state.ms.us

Of the 1,622 miles of roads in Harrison County, 1,492 are paved, according to the Mississippi Department of Transportation. Of the County total, the City of Biloxi maintains 220 miles of paved streets within its municipal boundaries.

Businesses that depend upon interstate transportation have direct access to seven major interstate highways in the Alabama-Mississippi-Louisiana area via Interstate 10, which runs through North Biloxi. Realignment and reconstruction of Highway 67, from U.S. Highway 49 to Interstate 110, has significantly enhanced access to Biloxi from the north.

The Mississippi Department of Transportation completed \$4.1 million in rehabilitation work on the Walter L. Nixon Sr. Interstate 110 drawbridge in July 2011, enhancing the flow of north-south vehicular traffic in **East Biloxi**; installation of new street lights along Highway 90 near the I-110 Loop, from Caillavet Street to Benachi Avenue, have improved pedestrian and vehicular safety as have the City's recent lighting projects on other sections of U.S. 90, along new Highway 67, and on Bayview Avenue. \$30,000 is budgeted for the Pine Street extension and \$705,000 in improvements have been completed at the Division Street-I-110 interchange.

In **West Biloxi**, the City is continuing design work to improve Popp's Ferry Bridge and vehicular approaches at an estimated construction cost of \$6.6 million. \$400,000 in street repairs are under construction in Bent Oaks Subdivision; Saylor Drive recently was reconstructed for approximately \$60,000; Beauvoir Road has been repaved for about \$275,000; and Pass Road intersection improvements, estimated to require \$676,000 in local funds as federal match, are in the design phase. Discussions are ongoing between the City and the Coast Coliseum and Convention Center about extending Popp's Ferry Road south to U.S. Highway 90.

In **North Biloxi**, traffic improvements to the Cedar Lake Road – Interstate 10 interchange area are under design, with an estimated construction cost of \$162,000. The federally-required environmental review has been completed for Phase IV of Popp's Ferry Road, which involves widening this major connector from Cedar Lake Road to Lamey Street; right-of-way has been acquired, and utilities are being relocated. Phase IV activities are estimated at \$7.4 million.

The City recently completed improvements to Brodie Road (\$3.2 million) and Brasher Road (\$2.2 million).

The City's \$355 million FEMA-funded infrastructure project, that includes rebuilding more than 100 miles of City streets in addition to installing new storm drain lines, water and sewer, sidewalks, curbs and gutters, broke ground in 2011.

Interstate 10 National Freight Corridor

www.i10freightstudy.org

At 2,500 miles in length, Interstate 10 links the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, crossing Mississippi and seven other states. And, according to the I-10 National Freight Corridor Study, 29% of the total freight tonnage transported in the U.S. originates or ends up in one of the eight states that Interstate 10 crosses. Trucks carried more than 60% of the freight moving along I-10, by volume and value, and an estimated 13% traveled by rail, 25% by waterborne carriers and less than one percent by air. These and other early findings of the I-10 National Freight Corridor Study demonstrate the contribution I-10 makes to the nation's overall economy.

Currently, there are two I-10 interchanges in Biloxi, providing convenient access to refueling services, restaurants and hotels for interstate travelers and freight haulers.

Public Transportation - Coast Transit Authority

www.coasttransit.com

Coast Transit Authority (CTA) operates an efficient public transportation system in Mississippi's three coast counties through both a Fixed Route and ADA/Paratransit Service that provides curb-to-curb transportation service for people with disabilities that are within a ¼ mile corridor of a Fixed Route.

Within the City of Biloxi, Beachcomber trolleys, Bike & Bus and Casino Hopper buses served more than 855,000 passengers in 2010; the new Bike & Bus service allows passengers to place bikes on the front of fixed route buses and trolleys, at no additional cost, and is averaging 650 bikes per month.

A new \$1.2 million transit station on Highway 90 enhances access both to the beach and to those attending conventions and concerts at the nearby Coast Coliseum and Convention Center. Other passenger shelters are in the process of being installed along CTA routes and special shelter designs are being developed for installation in Biloxi's historic districts.



Other Ground Transportation Services

www.greyhound.com

Greyhound Bus Line passenger transportation services are available at downtown Biloxi's multimodal center. Other ground transportation options in Biloxi include private buses, taxis, limousines and shuttle services as well as access to nationally-affiliated rental car agencies.

Rail

www.csx.com, www.mserrailroad.com

East-West rail service through Biloxi is provided by CSX Transportation and north-south rail access is provided by Mississippi Export (MSE) Railroad, which connects the Canadian National Railroad and the east-west line of CSX. Through hauling agreements, MSE also connects to the Norfolk Southern in Mobile, Alabama and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and to Kansas City Southern in Jackson, Mississippi.

In 2010, CSX reported handling nearly 295,000 carloads of freight on the +130 miles of track it operates and maintains in South Mississippi. Products shipped include textile chemicals, aggregates, liquefied petroleum gas, packaging paper, and plastics.

Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport

www.flygpt.com

As of June 2011, the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport is served by five commercial airlines, offering nonstop service to Atlanta, Charlotte, Dallas/Ft. Worth, Houston, Memphis, and St. Petersburg/Clearwater. Airfares are very competitive with commercial airports in New Orleans and Mobile. The 165,000 square foot terminal offers seven gates and comfortable lobby, ticket, security and baggage claim areas.

More than 700 acres are available at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport for businesses seeking Foreign Trade Zone tax advantages.



Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport Destinations

Passenger Activity History Summary

	Enplaned	Deplaned	Total Passengers	% Change
2004	442,365	431,013	873,378	1.8%
2006	402,905	394,940	797,845	3.5%
2008	488,033	486,828	974,861	7.0%
2010	449,074	444,498	893,572	11.6%

General aviation – Million Air, with fixed base operations (FBO) at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, is investing \$12 million to build a general aviation facility that will refuel and maintain private planes and other services. The 5,200 square-foot building, to be complete in 2011, includes an atrium in the lobby, conference rooms, a business center and U.S. Customs service. The complex will include its own 80,000-gallon fuel depot and Million Air projects it will pump up to six million gallons of fuel each year for commercial, business and military customers. Because it is located within a Foreign Trade Zone, inbound pilots will save \$0.057 a gallon on state tax and outbound pilots will get an additional \$0.247 break on federal tax.

Air Cargo – Gulf Coast International Cargo operates the air cargo facility at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport. The facility includes 20,000 square feet of chiller space, 20,000 square feet of cargo sorting and distribution space and 6,000 square feet of office space.

Airside access from the runway system is designed with safety and efficiency as the top priorities, allowing the ramp to facilitate two MD11s or DC10s or one B747. As the demand for air cargo activity increases, expansion is an option with 120 acres reserved for additional air cargo handling services.

Mississippi State Port at Gulfport

www.shipmspa.com

The world-class Mississippi State Port at Gulfport is the third busiest container port on the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and is the second largest importer of green fruit in the United States. The Port encompasses 204 acres, has approximately 6,000 feet of berthing space and averages more than two million tons of cargo a year. It also includes more than 160 acres located within Foreign Trade Zone No. 92.

The State Port is only 16 miles from shipping lanes and only five nautical miles from the Intercoastal Waterway; it has direct access to Highway 49 and is ten minutes from Interstate 10, allowing trucks to distribute products to 75% of the U.S. market within 24 hours.

The State Port received a \$570 million HUD grant to complete Hurricane Katrina restoration, expand the port by 84 acres and elevate it to 25 feet, which is projected to quadruple the port's capacity. The port has been redesigned to modernize container operations, including automating equipment to move cargo. For detailed information about the State Port's expansion plans and status, visit www.portofthefuture.com.

When complete, the State Port expansion project could add 1,100 direct jobs and 3,600 indirect jobs to the area as early as the end of 2015, and no later than 2017, according to Governor Haley Barbour. He said the local port project will come to fruition after expansion of the Panama Canal is completed, creating a perfect opportunity for business expansion.

Foreign Trade Zone No. 92

www.mscoastftz.org

Businesses that import, export or re-export goods may benefit by operating at a site located in one of South Mississippi's Foreign Trade Zone No. 92 sites, which provide quick and safe access to the Gulf of Mexico, the Intercoastal Waterway, rail and interstate highway systems. FTZ advantages:

- indefinite storage of goods within the FTZ encourages volume buying, transportation discounts, and distribution of goods under the most favorable market conditions;
- bulk shipments may be broken down and repackaged within an FTZ, which can ensure transportation savings and allow improperly labeled merchandise to be correctly labeled without fines or penalties;
- no quotas are applicable in the FTZ, therefore goods arriving in excess of U.S. quotas may be held without penalty until the next quota period;
- duty and tax free exportation frequently is available;
- goods may be displayed in an FTZ and sold at wholesale;
- 24-hour security provided by the FTZ may result in reduced insurance costs.

For more detailed information and other FTZ No. 92 sites in South Mississippi, visit www.mscoastftz.org.

The Workforce Investment Network (WIN) is an innovative strategy designed to provide convenient, one-stop employment and training services to Mississippi employers and job seekers. Combining federal, state and community workforce programs and services into physical locations and electronic sites, WIN In Mississippi creates a system that is both convenient and user-friendly. Visit www.mdes.ms.gov and click on Employer Services for more specific information about the Biloxi WIN Job Center.



The mission of the South Mississippi Contract Procurement Center, located in Biloxi, is to enhance national defense and economic development in Mississippi by assisting businesses in obtaining federal, state, local government and commercial contracts. It provides its services only to Mississippi businesses. The services are provided at no charge.

Local Business Assistance

(Area code is 228 for all numbers)

Biloxi Community Development Department

Jerry Creel, Director 435-6280
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 508
Biloxi, MS 39533
Office Location: 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
jcreel@biloxi.ms.us, biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce

Tina Ross-Seamans, Director 435-6149
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 889
Biloxi, MS 39533
Office Location: Lighthouse Visitors Center
1050 Beach Boulevard
info@biloxibaychamber.com
www.biloxibaychamber.org

Biloxi Chamber of Commerce

Rachel Seymour, Director 604-0014
Mailing Address: 1197E Seaway Road
Gulfport, MS 39503
Office Location: Lighthouse Visitors Center
1050 Beach Boulevard
Rachael@mscoastchamber.com, www.biloxi.org

Biloxi Main Street Program

Kay Miller, Manager 435-6339
Mailing Address & Office Location:
932 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
kmiller@biloxi.ms.us
www.mainstreetbiloxi.com

Biloxi WIN Job Center

Robert Freeman and Joy Corrie 388-7997
Mailing Address & Office Location:
2306 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
www.mdes.gov

Gulf Regional Planning Commission

Elaine Wilkerson, Executive Director 864-1167
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1232 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
egw@grpc.com
www.grpc.com

Harrison County Development Commission

Larry Barnett, Executive Director 896-5020
Mailing & Office Location:
12281 Intraplex Parkway
Gulfport, MS 39503
hcde@mscoast.org, www.mscoast.org

The Innovation Center

(formerly the Gulf Coast Business Technology Center)
Stephen Whitt, Executive Director 392-9741
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 100
Biloxi, MS 39532
contact@innovatems.com
www.innovatems.com

Mississippi Small Business Development Center – Gulf Coast

Mitch McDowell and Connie Whitt, Business Counselors 396-8661
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 227
Biloxi, MS 39532
gcsbdc@olemiss.edu www.mssbdc.org

South Mississippi Contract Procurement Center

Marcia McDowell, Director 396-1288
Mailing & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 203
Biloxi, MS 39532
www.msipc.com

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

Leslie Newcomb, Executive Director 868-2311
Mailing Address & Office Location:
9229 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
info@smpdd.com
www.smpdd.com

OTHER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Mississippi Development Authority

Leland Speed, Executive Director
(601) 359-3449
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205
Main Office Location:
501 North West Street
www.mississippi.org
MDA Regional Office - Biloxi
523-4034

Mississippi Power Company

Arnie Williams, Economic Development Director
865-5003
Mailing Address & Office Location:
2605 13th Street
Gulfport, MS 39502
vlacoste@soco.com, www.mspower.com/ecodev

U.S. Small Business Administration

863-4449
www.sba.gov
Gulfport SBA Branch Office:
Hancock Bank Plaza
2510 14th Street, Suite 103
Gulfport, MS 39501

Local Tax Incentives

In 2011, the City of Biloxi and Harrison County adopted tax incentive programs to encourage development and redevelopment in specified areas; the Biloxi program allows ad valorem tax exemptions for up to seven years, with the term depending upon material used in construction and how well a new business blends with the character of its neighborhood.

“This program is about making things happen in Biloxi,” stated Mayor A.J. Holloway. “I encourage all developers looking to build in Biloxi to take part in this program. We’re not promising everyone that they will be granted a full exemption on their city property taxes, but we’re encouraging new or rebuilding businesses to look into this program. We want to help you open for business in Biloxi. We want to help make things happen.”

To view a map of areas eligible for local tax exemptions, visit biloxi.ms.us or contact Biloxi’s Community Development Department Director, Jerry Creel, at jcreel@biloxi.ms.us

Commercial Development

Biloxi Commercial Construction

	FY2006 & Valuation		FY2008 & Valuation		FY2010 & Valuation	
Total # Permits	1,103	\$121.5m	3,377	\$227.6m	2,458	\$128.0m
Commercial	354	\$ 56.2m	399	\$169.4m	150	\$108.6m

Source: Biloxi Community Development Annual Reports

295 new lots, in all development categories, were approved for platting in Biloxi in 2009, and 77 new lots were created in 2010.

Number of Retail Establishments

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	1,367	1,367	1,108	955
D’Iberville	266	315	329	347
Gulfport	2,059	2,196	2,088	1,857
Harrison County	5,021	5,298	4,815	4,248

Gross Retail Sales

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	\$ 982m	\$ 791m	\$ 895m	\$ 787m
D’Iberville	\$ 283m	\$ 435m	\$ 381m	\$ 417m
Gulfport	\$ 1.5b	\$ 2.1b	\$ 1.85b	\$ 1.57b
Harrison County	\$ 3.4b	\$ 4.6b	\$ 4.8b	\$ 4.0b

Gross Retail Sales Tax Collections

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	\$ 66m	\$ 52.9m	\$ 60.6m	\$ 53.3m
D’Iberville	\$ 18.6m	\$ 28.8m	\$ 25.2m	\$ 28.2m
Gulfport	\$ 97.5m	\$ 138m	\$ 123m	\$ 104m
Harrison County	\$ 217m	\$278.2m	\$ 278.3m	\$ 240m

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

In its most recent ranking in 2010, the Milken Institute, an economic think-tank, ranked the Biloxi metro area as the 101st “Best Performing Small City” in the nation, based on factors such as job growth, growth in wages, salaries and output.



Mississippi is a right to work state with competitive wage rates – average hourly earnings are roughly 75 percent of the United States average – directly corresponding to the state’s lower-than-average living and business costs.

City of Biloxi New (Nonrenewal) Licenses Issued

	2004	2006	2008	2010
January	16	24	19	17
February	19	22	13	21
March	25	24	17	16
April	38	13	14	27
May	25	13	17	17
June	36	34	12	26
July	26	23	24	22
August	32	27	13	26
September	41	26	23	28
October	32	25	24	25
November	21	25	17	19
December	19	23	21	23
Total	330	279	212	267

Source: City of Biloxi Licensing Division

Gross Retail Sales Tax Collections

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Lumber & Building Materials	\$ 30.5m	\$ 80m	\$ 61.6m	\$ 36.4m
Machinery, Equip. & Supplies	\$ 46m	\$ 86m	\$ 50m	\$ 30m
Food & Beverage	\$ 328m	\$ 168m	\$265.4m	\$ 246m
Misc. Retail	\$ 108m	\$ 62m	\$118.6m	\$104.6m
Misc. Service	\$ 110m	\$ 57m	\$ 73.3m	\$ 74.4m
Apparel & General Merchandise	\$ 168m	\$ 149m	\$ 145m	\$ 130m
Contracting	\$ 7.4m	\$ 15.5m	\$ 12.5m	\$ 9.8m

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

Biloxi Development and Redevelopment Highlights

In **East Biloxi**, the \$45 million expansion of the **Palace Casino** and a \$1.3 million renovation at the **Hard Rock Hotel and Casino** were completed and construction began on the \$29 million **Jimmy Buffet Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant** on Biloxi's Back Bay. On the heels of completing renovations estimated at \$1.4 million at the **IP Casino**

Resort Spa, **Boyd Gaming Corporation** announced its \$278 million purchase of IP and committed another \$44 million in improvements to the Biloxi property.

Other **East Biloxi** projects include:

- the **Kroc Center**, a 52,000 square foot recreational facility, estimated to cost \$16 million
- the **First Missionary Baptist Church**, with a \$2.1 million valuation
- **Ferrara Marina**, renovation of dry dock facilities on Back Bay, at an estimated cost of \$250,000
- **Half Shell Oyster House**, renovations estimated at \$200,000
- **McElroy's Harbor House Seafood Restaurant**, projected to cost \$4.5 million
- the 200-room **Sheraton Four Points Hotel**, renovations estimated at \$7 million



Historic Downtown Biloxi

www.mainstreetbiloxi.com

Winner of the Mississippi Main Street Association's "Spirit of Main Street" award in 2011, the **Biloxi Main Street Program** coordinates efforts of business and property owners, residents and government agencies to revitalize the historic downtown area. The nonprofit organization promotes the area's potential for mixed-use redevelopment based on its high traffic volume, substantial employee population, and easy access from both I-10 and Highway 90. A recent Biloxi Main Street study estimated daily visitor traffic in downtown at more than 50,000 people, more than an adequate number of consumers to support additional restaurants, arts-based venues, and other retail businesses.

In 2011, Biloxi Main Street sponsored a **Façade Grant Program** that provided five grants to property owners, not only to improve the downtown streetscape, but to stimulate additional investment. An **Investors Fair** is being organized for the spring of 2012, to promote available downtown and East Biloxi property to developers, investors and entrepreneurs.

Also in 2011, the City awarded nine grants through its \$350,000 CDBG-funded **Downtown Façade Improvements Program**, to support downtown revitalization. The new Coast Transit open-air bus stop at Highway 90 and the Rue Magnolia will improve access to the pedestrian gateway into downtown.



New commercial projects along **Central Beach Boulevard** include:

- **Hog Heaven BBQ & Blues Restaurant**, with a \$127,000 valuation
- **Sharkhead's Souvenir Shop**, estimated at \$2.1 million
- **Shaggy's Restaurant**, estimated at \$850,000
- **Big Play**, a family-oriented entertainment complex
- **South Beach** condo-hotel, estimated at \$2.1 million
- the **Hilton Garden Inn**, valued at approximately \$12 million, is approved for construction

In **West Biloxi**, **Edgewater Mall** has more than one million square feet under its roof and features four major department stores, +90 specialty stores, a food court, three restaurants and a rock climbing wall. It is home to the Biloxi campus of the **Tulane School of Continuing Studies** and the temporary home of the **Biloxi Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum**. Nearby **Edgewater Village** offers expanded shopping and dining opportunities, complementing construction of an \$11 million **Super Walmart**.

Other new commercial projects in West Biloxi include:

- a **Dollar General Store**, estimated at \$681,000
- a **Family Dollar Store**, at a cost of \$375,000
- construction of **Polk Drug/Convenience Store**, at an estimated cost of \$845,000
- renovation of **The Shoppes at Popp's Ferry**, at a cost of about \$600,000

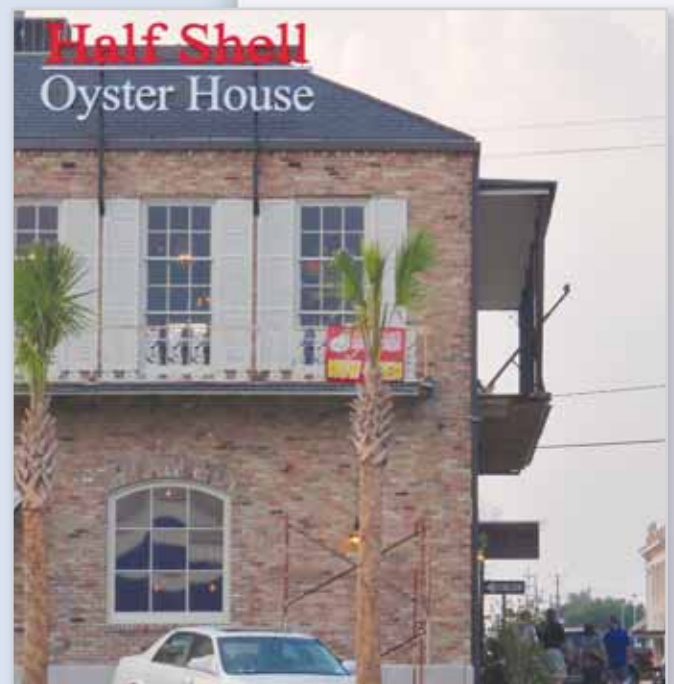
In **North Biloxi**, new commercial development includes:

- **Cypress Park Office Building**, estimated at \$350,000
- **Cedar Lake Methodist Activity Center**, valued at \$1.5 million
- **Episcopal Church of the Redeemer**, at a cost of approximately \$1.8 million
- **Virginia College** interior renovations, estimated at \$875,000
- **Health Management Associates** new medical center, projected to cost \$132 million

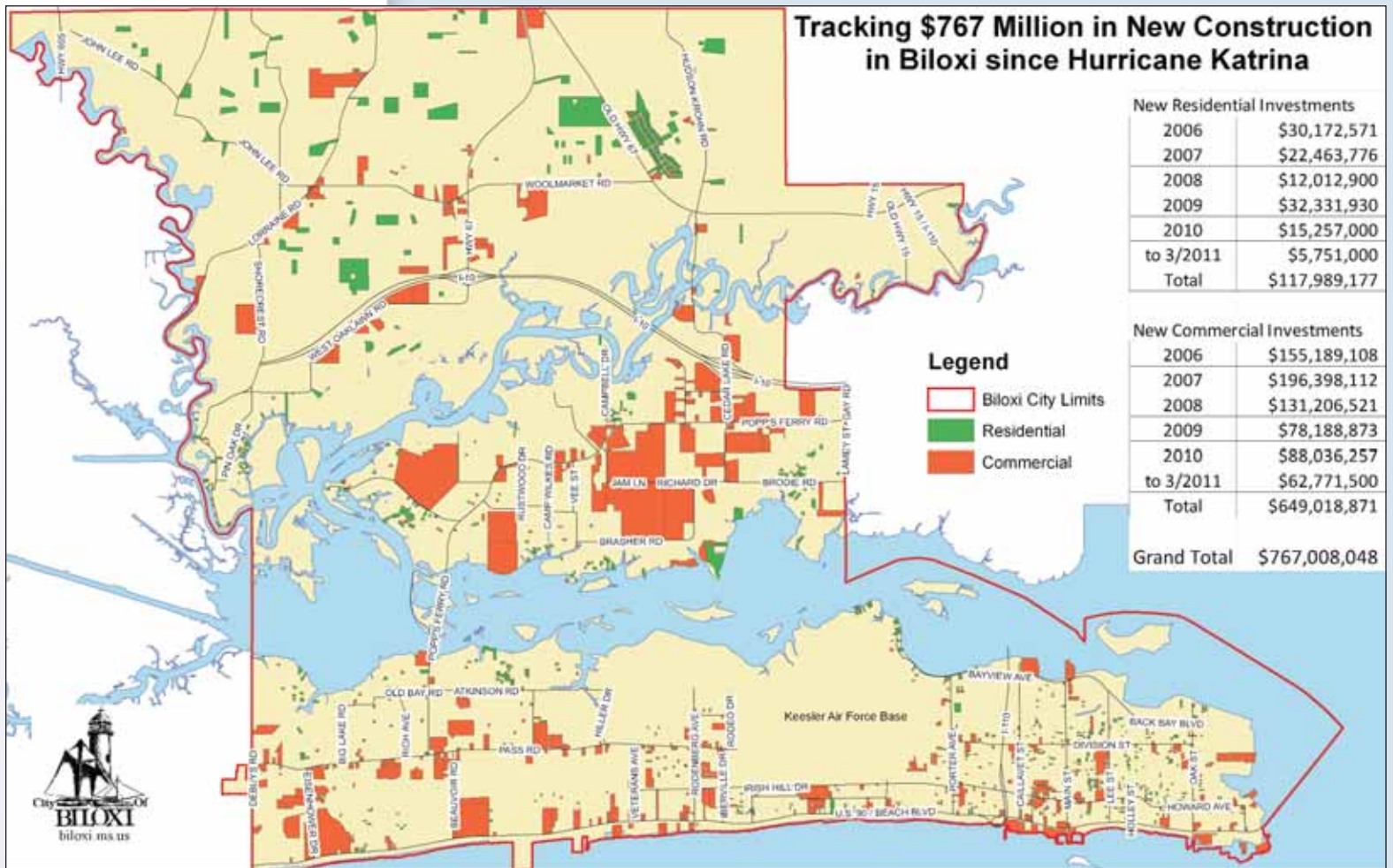
Woolmarket new development includes:

- **Harrison County Utility Authority** wastewater treatment plant and installation of transmission lines, at approximately \$26 million
- **Southern Tire Mart**, at an approximate cost of \$2.5 million
- **Stribling Equipment**, estimated at over \$3.7 million
- **The First United Methodist Church**, at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million

In its first quarter 2011 economic brief, the Gulf Coast Business Council reports that local employment sectors most likely to have big job gains are retail, construction, manufacturing, and leisure and hospitality.



"New construction is underway throughout Biloxi," Jerry Creel, Director of Community Development stated. "To encourage continued development, the City has engaged Buxton Retail Analysis Corporation to provide a study of potential national retailers compatible with Biloxi's location and psychographics."



“All these things are happening without the people of Biloxi having to buy the business. At City Hall, we provide the services, the infrastructure, and we stay out of the way.”

Mayor A.J. Holloway

Visit Biloxi.ms.us to identify new construction, year-by-year, in the City of Biloxi following Hurricane Katrina.

In 2011, Biloxi’s \$355 million infrastructure project broke ground, which involves rebuilding more than 100 miles of City streets, including new storm drain lines, water and sewer, sidewalks, curbs and gutters. As of October 2011, more than \$311 million in private sector commercial and residential projects were either under construction or permitted and ready to start building in Biloxi.



The Innovation Center

www.innovatems.com

Working with new and expanding businesses in Biloxi, the Innovation Center offers typical business incubator services along with business planning assistance and a variety of workshops and seminars to tenants and nontenants. The Center also hosts an annual small business resource conference to encourage networking and expanding training opportunities.

Residential Development

Residents of the City of Biloxi continue to enjoy a diversity of housing options, from low maintenance zero lot line homes to expensive waterfront estates and everything in between. The Mississippi Gulf Coast real estate market is not suffering as greatly as other areas of the country; in fact, in 2010 the average sale price of a single family home was higher than the average in 2004.

Biloxi Households & Families

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, during the period 2005-2009, the City of Biloxi had a total of 23,000 housing units, 18% of which were vacant. Of the total housing units, 60% were single-unit structures, 32% were multi-unit structures and 8% were mobile homes. 32% of the housing units were built since 1990. Of the 82% occupied households, 57% were owner occupied and 43% were renter occupied. The average household size was 2.4 people.

During the same period, median monthly housing costs for owners with mortgages was \$1,285, for owners without mortgages it was \$353, and for renters \$775. 30% of owners with mortgages, 13% of owners without mortgages, and 49% of renters in Biloxi spent 30% or more of household income on housing.

Families made up 59% of the households in Biloxi during 2005-2009. This figure includes both married-couple families (39%) and other families (20%). Nonfamily households made up 41% of all households; most of these were people living alone, but 9% were households in which no one was related to the householder.

Gulf Coast Summary of Sales Activity

Single Family Residences, Condominiums and Townhomes

	Total Sold	Ave. Sale Price	Ave. Days on Market
2004	4,849	\$129,411	140
2006	5,278	\$160,824	108
2008	2,999	\$148,839	142
2010	2,673	\$132,457	164

Source: Mississippi Gulf Coast Multiple Listing Service

New Residential Construction Permitted in Biloxi by Calendar Year

Year	Single-Family # of Units	Valuation	Multi-Family # of Units	Valuation	Condominiums # of Units	Valuation
2008	91	\$13.7m	376	\$22.7m [†]	56	\$7m
2009	476	\$30.1m	0	0	89	\$14.6m
2010	63	\$14.4m	210	\$24m	0	0
2011*	59	\$11.0m	72**	\$4.9m**	0	0

*Through July 12, 2011

** This total does not include renovation of 48-units at Waterford Place, a \$1 million renovation of Saxony Apartments as this chart reflects only new construction.

[†] Approximately.

Residential Construction, Renovation & Repair Permitted in Biloxi by Calendar Year

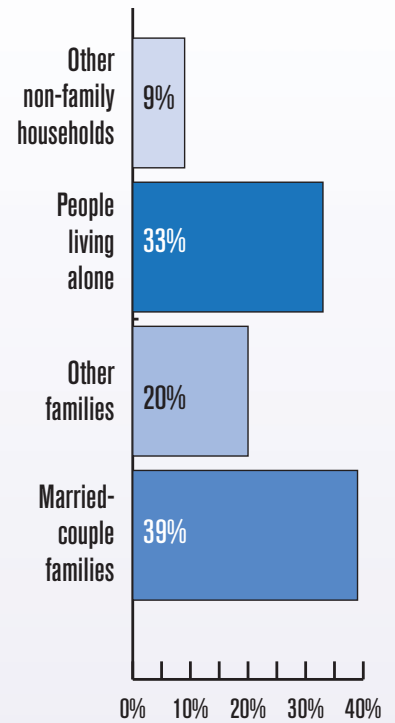
Year	# of All Residential Building Permits Issued	Valuation of All Residential Permits Issued
2007	968	\$71.7m
2008	720	\$52m
2009	613	\$43.8m
2010	457	\$19m

Source: Biloxi Community Development Department Annual Reports

Condominiums in Biloxi

The national economic recession, combined with the high cost of insurance in Coastal areas, has resulted in a cooling off of development and sales of condominiums in the Biloxi area. While more than \$545 million in condo development was in some phase of City review or had been approved for construction in 2007, no building permits for new condominium construction have been applied for since 2009, when the Bay Cove Phase II project, with 89 units valued at \$14.6 million, was approved. Some existing condominium owners/developers have sought City approval for conversion to multi-family apartments or hotel units as a temporary measure to help them weather the economic down turn. As in most of the U.S., it's a buyer's market in Biloxi.

Types of Households in Biloxi 2005-2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2009



In November 2010, additional Hurricane Katrina related recovery money was allocated to South Mississippi to help residents in the six southernmost counties rebuild Katrina damaged homes. Qualified applicants may apply for up to \$75,000 in grant funds.

The City of Biloxi offers a \$30,000 Down Payment Assistance Program to qualifying residents earning 80% or less of the area median income. For detailed information, contact the City's Federal Programs Manager, Susan Pickich, at 435-6280, spickich@biloxi.ms.us.

Apartment Information

A June 2011 apartment survey identified there are a total of 4,503 market-rent apartment units in Biloxi. In 2011, the average rental rate for a 3-bedroom apartment in Biloxi was \$872, a decrease of 2.6% in the average rental rate for the same size apartment in 2010.

Market-Rent Apartment Supply by City & Vacancy Trends

	April 2008	Vacancy Rate	May 2009	Vacancy Rate	June 2010	Vacancy Rate	June 2011	Vacancy Rate
Biloxi	4,500	5.9%	4,375	10.3%	4,503	12.8%	4,503	13.0%
Gulfport	3,468	6.6%	4,160	14.6%	4,212	13.2%	4,182	12.9%
Pascagoula	2,150	6.6%	2,288	10.9%	2,557	17.9%	2,348	13.7%
MS Gulf Coast	14,556	6.5%	15,746	12.1%	16,659	14.4%	16,456	12.5%

Source: W.S. Loper and Associates

Selected Characteristics of Market-Rent Apartment Units Biloxi Area* – June 2011

	Studio	1-BR	2-BR	3-BR	Total
# of Apartments	40	1,720	3,061	580	5,401
# Under Construction	0	0	0	0	0
Vacancy Rate	7.5%	11.2%	13.0%	9.3%	12%
Average Rental Rate (6/2011)	\$432	\$590	\$711	\$872	NA
Average Rental Rate (6/2010)	\$415	\$602	\$717	\$895	NA
2010 to 2011 % Change	4.2%	-1.9%	-0.8%	-2.6%	NA
Average Size	345 sf	722 sf	1,019 sf	1,303 sf	NA
Average Rent per Square Foot	\$126	\$83	\$70	\$67	NA

*This information pertains to units in the Biloxi Area, not necessarily within the City of Biloxi.

NA: Not Applicable

Source: W.S. Loper and Associates



In an innovative response to national real estate market trends, which are being felt to a lesser degree in Biloxi, developers are renovating the 48-unit Saxony Apartments on Beach Boulevard into high-end apartments that will be converted to condominiums when local real estate sales improve. Meanwhile, tenants will have the option to pay rent or negotiate rent-to-own leases.

Affordable Housing

www.biloxihousing.org

The Biloxi Housing Authority (BHA) currently operates eight properties in the City of Biloxi, two of which are "senior only" developments. In 2010, the BHA provided housing to 820 families and assisted another 550 families with housing through the Housing Choice Voucher Program. As of 2010, the Public Housing and Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher programs collectively have provided more than 1400 families with housing assistance in the City of Biloxi.

City of Biloxi – Assisted Apartment Supply & Vacancy

	Studio	Vacant	1-BR	Vacant	2-BR	Vacant	3-BR	Vacant	4-BR or More	Vacant
	15	1	422	4	588	5	375	2	59	0

Source: W.S. Loper and Associates, Mississippi Gulf Coast Apartment Surveys

Assisted Apartment Unit Supply by Project Type and City

	HUD 236	HUD 202/236	HUD 202/8	HUD 221d3	HUD 8	LIHTC/AX EXP.	Total FmHA	LRPH	All Units
Biloxi	278	0	52	0	100	464	0	565	1,459
D'Iberville	0	0	0	0	0	96	0	0	96
Gulfport	0	0	169	104	256	1,148	264	23	1,964

Source: W.S. Loper and Associates, Mississippi Gulf Coast Apartment Surveys

39 HOPE VI Bayview Oaks Homeownership units are available for purchase. Located at the corner of Bayview Avenue and Braun Street near the Back Bay of Biloxi, the Bayview Oaks homes are available to those earning 80% or less of the area median income. Requirements to purchase a home include qualifying for a primary mortgage from a lender of the buyer's choice and completing a Homeowner Education Course. Specific qualifying and income calculation information is available on the BHA website.



Workforce Housing

visit www.msgrc.com

Charged with developing affordable, quality workforce housing solutions for residents of Biloxi and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, the Gulf Coast Renaissance Corporation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization certified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institution Fund. Certification qualifies Renaissance for an allocation of tax credits through the New Market Tax Credit Program, which will be effective through January 2013. The Regional Employer Assisted Collaboration of Housing (REACH) Program, initiated by Renaissance and funded through the state's Long-Term Workforce Housing Program, assists businesses in providing housing for their employees. Employers have the option of providing \$5,000 to \$10,000 per participating employee, which will be tripled through the program and used for housing down payment and closing costs.

Retirement in Biloxi

www.gulfcoastretirement.org
www.visitmississippi.org

Listed as a Modern Maturity magazine's "Top Ten Places for Active Retirement," Biloxi retirees take advantage of the wide range of local activities available, including golfing at designer courses, dancing and eating at casino resorts, year-round boating and fishing, enjoying concerts, symphony and theater performances, educational forums and walks on the beach. This culturally- and recreationally diverse social life is complemented by state-of-the-art medical facilities, exceptional housing options and active local churches and religious institutions. Keesler Air Force Base, with the second largest military medical facility in the U.S. and a new \$60 million Base Exchange and commissary opened in March 2010, adds to Biloxi's appeal for military retirees considering a move to the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

As a Certified Retirement City, the City of Biloxi passed a comprehensive three-month screening process conducted by the state's official retiree attraction program, Hometown Mississippi Retirement. The City was evaluated on its affordable cost of living, low taxes, low crime rate, quality medical care, educational and cultural opportunities, recreation and hospitality.

New Retirement Residential Facilities in Biloxi

The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi is constructing a \$25.3 million residential complex on a 10-acre site in North Biloxi. Scheduled to be complete by the summer of 2012, the new **Santa Maria del Mar Retirement Apartment Complex** will consist of two 6-story wings to house a total of 135 efficiency units, 74 one-bedroom units and a manager's apartment. A common area between the wings will contain administrative offices, lounges, an assembly room, vending areas, kitchen, laundry and mail rooms.

Further expanding availability of senior housing, in March 2011 the Biloxi Housing Authority opened the renovated **Seashore Oaks**, formerly the United Methodist Retirement Home on Beach Boulevard. Purchased through its subsidiary, Biloxi Community Development Corporation, BHA is managing this 227-unit complex through the Long-Term Workforce Housing Program, which provided \$21.5 million of the \$27 million designated for the project. 162 units are available for households with incomes of 80% or less of area median income (AMI) and 65 units will be rented to households with incomes less than 120% of the AMI. 82 of the units provide assisted-living services.



Santa Maria del Mar Conceptual Drawing



For more information about retirement living in Biloxi, visit www.gulfcoastretirement.org or www.seniorsresourceguide.com/gulfcoast

The beaches of the Mississippi Gulf Coast were chosen by an online travel adviser as one of the country's Top 10 beach destinations for the 2011 Memorial Day weekend, behind only Hilton Head, South Carolina, and Hermosa Beach, California, and ahead of beaches in Hawaii, Florida and the Northeast.

"Sailboats, casinos and spectacular beaches await you on Mississippi's Gulf Coast this Memorial Day weekend," said the www.cheapflights.com story, which was carried by the London-based Reuters News Agency and the Los Angeles Times. "The recovering seaside region has made wonderful strides in the past few years and is burgeoning with festivities the whole family will enjoy," the story concluded.

Harrison County, home to nine casinos, eight of which are located in Biloxi, outpaced the other 81 counties of Mississippi in FY2009 and FY2010 in every category of tourism-related economic impacts according to the Mississippi Development Authority, Tourism Division in its *FY2010 Economic Contribution of Travel and Tourism in Mississippi Report*. Tunica County, home to nine casinos and located near the Memphis metro area, ranked second in almost every category during the same period.



The Biloxi Area Tourism Industry

Mississippi Gulf Coast tourism is a \$1.6 billion industry and accounts for one-third of the state's total tourism revenue. In addition to that, in FY2010, the three Coast counties accounted for \$93 million, or about 43%, of the state's total tourism capital investment (TCI). TCI is a tourism industry term that accounts for the economic impact of new construction and expansion/renovation of tourism-related businesses/projects with public and/or private funding sources during a given fiscal year; TCI valuation is based on commercial permits issued and related data that considers museums, retail establishments, infrastructure, casinos and many others factors.

In FY2010, Harrison County alone accounted for more than \$77 million, or about 37% of the state's total TCI.

Estimated County Tourism Expenditures, Employment and TCI*

County	Tourism Expenditures by Visitors FY2009	Tourism Expenditures by Visitors FY2010	Direct Tourism Employment FY2009	Direct Tourism Employment FY2010	State & Local Taxes From Tourism FY2008	State & Local Taxes From Tourism FY2009	TCI* FY2009	TCI FY2010
Hancock	\$159m	\$140m	1,850	1,785	\$ 17m	\$ 15m	\$ 44m	\$ 7m
Harrison	\$1.3b	\$1.3b	20,000	20,000	\$141m	\$141m	\$115m	\$ 77m
Jackson	\$130m	\$139m	1,750	1,860	\$ 12m	\$ 13m	\$ 13m	\$ 9m
Tunica	\$825m	\$1.07b	11,240	10,540	\$105m	\$ 96m	\$ 12m	\$ 12m

*TCI Tourism Capital Investment: new construction and expansion/renovation of tourism-related businesses/projects with public/private funding sources during a fiscal year; TCI valuation is based on commercial permits issued & the Tourism factor.
Source: Mississippi Development Authority, Tourism Division

Biloxi Visitor Information & Services

www.gulfcoast.org

www.biloxibaychamber.com, www.mscoastchamber.com

Opened during the summer of 2011, the Biloxi Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center welcomes tourists to explore the history of Biloxi through exhibits, photographs and video and offers brochures, maps and related information. Located just west of the I-110 Loop on U.S. Highway 90 and just north of the historic Biloxi Lighthouse, the Center is easy to locate and access.

Information about Biloxi attractions also is available on the City's website. www.biloxi.ms.us

The Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau, the operating arm of the Harrison County Tourism Commission, lists Biloxi area attractions, travel resources, and related information on its website.

The Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art operates the Mississippi Sound Welcome Center; visit www.georgeohr.org for more information.

Biloxi is served by two chambers of commerce that provide business assistance information; both are located in the Biloxi Visitors Center.

Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center

www.mscoastcoliseum.com

The Mississippi Coast Coliseum is the largest beachfront facility of its kind in the South and continues to be a crowd favorite for sports and live entertainment. Since its opening in 1977, it has played host to Broadway theatre, comedians, superstar entertainers, professional sports, rodeos, festivals, circuses, and ice shows. It also is home to the SPHL 2010 regular season champions, the **Mississippi Surge Hockey Team**. The Arena can accommodate 3,000-4,000 in theatre configuration or 15,000 with full arena festival seating.

The adjoining Convention Center is a flexible facility offering 400,000 square feet of expanded and renovated exhibit and meeting space. Home to the Harrison County Tourism Commission, this state-of-the art facility offers an array of modern meeting space amenities, including catering, technology and audiovisual services. The facility can accommodate large conferences and intimate events.

A Convention Center District Master Plan is being developed by the Coliseum Commission as a development guide for the proposed extension of Popp's Ferry Road south to U.S. Highway 90. The plan is being designed to attract certain types of businesses, such as a hotel, retail shops and restaurants.

Events at the Mississippi Coast Coliseum & Convention Center

	FY2008*	FY2009	FY2010
# Events	197	216	227
Total # Event Days	372	426	479
# People	462,553	426,632	460,245

*The Coliseum and Convention Center's fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30.
Source: Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center

Hotels/Motels

In July 2010, Biloxi welcomed the 195-room **Four Points by Sheraton Biloxi Beach Hotel**, following a \$7 million renovation of the former Gulf Towers Building. Located on U.S. Highway 90 at the I-110 Loop, Four Points' restaurant and lounge are enjoyed by residents as well as guests of the downtown hotel. The \$20 million **South Beach Hotel & Suites**, located on U.S. Highway 90 on the Old Biloxi Strip, opened in 2010 and offers 100 suite-style accommodations, most with kitchens and in-suite laundry facilities. A 142-room **Hilton Garden Inn** is scheduled to begin construction on U.S. Highway 90 near Rodenberg Avenue at an estimated cost of \$12 million.

As detailed in the Hotel/Motel Inventory chart, the three Coast county area currently has about 75% of the 17,534 hotel rooms that existed before Hurricane Katrina. There are 819 rooms in Hancock County, 2,813 in Jackson County, and 9,575 in Harrison County. For more information regarding Biloxi hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts, visit the Mississippi Hotel & Lodging Association website at www.mshla@aol.com.



Hotel/Motel Inventory

	July 2005	July 2011	% of Rooms Operating 2011 vs. Pre-Katrina
Biloxi			
Casino	6,292	4,761	76%
Noncasino	2,939	1,819	62%
Biloxi Total	9,231	6,580	71%
Harrison County	13,565	9,575	71%
Mississippi Gulf Coast (including Biloxi)	17,534	13,200	75%

Source: Mississippi Hotel and Lodging Association

Occupancy rates in the Gulfport-Biloxi Metropolitan Statistical Area decreased by almost 7% between May 2010 and May 2011, from 67.9% to 62.3%, influenced in part by the increase in gas prices on the drive-in market. The average daily rate for the same May-to-May period increased 6%, from \$77.92 in 2010 to \$82.59 in 2011, according to the Mississippi Hotel and Lodging Association.

Golf

www.golfcoast.com

The Biloxi area has welcomed golfers since 1908, when it became home to the first golf course to open in Mississippi. With courses designed by Tom Fazio, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Mark McCumber, Davis Love and Jerry Pate, the Mississippi Gulf Coast distinguishes itself as a top golf destination.

Golf-related tourism has an estimated \$60 million annual impact on the Biloxi area economy, according to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Golf Association, a number that continues to rise largely because there is a course to fit every budget and every level of play. Lured both by the variety of courses and the Coast's mild winters, thousands of Midwest "snowbirds" flock to Biloxi each year to perfect their swing while their neighbors at home shovel snow.

In December 2010, *Golfweek* magazine released its list of "top 50 casino courses" in the U.S. and four are either golf courses owned and operated by a Biloxi casino resort or are directly affiliated with a Biloxi casino property. The only state with more golf courses ranked in the nation's top 50 is Nevada.

An official PGA TOUR Champions Tour event, the **Mississippi Gulf Resort Classic** draws estimated annual attendance of 50,000, according to the event committee. Held at Fallen Oak, about 78 golfers compete for a total purse of \$1.6 million and a \$240,000 first-place share.

Biloxi Casinos with Golf Courses Listed in Nation's Top 50

- #2 – Fallen Oak (Beau Rivage, Saucier)
- #23 – Grand Bear (Grand Casino Biloxi, Saucier)
- #39 – The Preserve (Palace Casino, Vancleave)
- #40 – Shell Landing (IP Casino, Gautier)



Fallen Oak

NOAA's most recent economic study in 2008 showed that expenditures of recreational fishermen generated more than \$12 billion in sales and supported more than 113,000 jobs throughout the Gulf region. A 2011 survey is underway to update this information.

"We know how to have a good time here along the beautiful Mississippi Gulf Coast and we back that up with world-class big-game fishing," stated Bobby Carter, Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic Tournament Director.

Recreational and Sports Fishing

www.dmr.state.ms.us
www.gulfcoastfishingcharters.org

The Mississippi Gulf Coast area enjoys the enviable reputation of being one of the world's finest fish hatcheries, where many species of fresh water, saltwater and deep sea game fish are usually in abundance anytime of the year, creating a sportsman's paradise. Fresh water tributaries of the Mississippi River feed into the Gulf of Mexico, supporting more than 200 varieties of fish. From pier fishing, floundering along the beach, offshore charter boat fishing, saltwater fly fishing, spear fishing, surf fishing on one of the barrier islands, or fishing on one of the Mississippi Sound's artificial reefs, fishing is always in season in Biloxi.

Biloxi's marinas, piers and boat launches have benefited from multi-million dollar reconstruction and are once again supporting a high volume of recreational boating and fishing activity. Fishing charter services are available at both the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and Point Cadet Marina for fishing trips in the Mississippi Sound and offshore in the Gulf.

A new bait shop and fuel dock complex is being designed for the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor and debris is being hauled away to make way for a new Point Cadet Fishing Pier to replace the old Highway 90 fishing bridge.

The **Mississippi Gulf Coast Billfish Classic**, hosted annually in June at the Isle Casino, awarded a total of \$1,246,300 in prize money during its 15th anniversary tournament in 2011. A field of 60 boats competed and 21 boats collected prize money. The Classic is a qualifying event for the IGFA Offshore World Championship.

The Isle Casino and Hotel also hosts the **Southern Kingfish Association National Championship Tournament** each November, with more than 300 boats competing for cash and prizes. In 2011, the **Gorenflo Cobia Tournament** celebrated its 25th anniversary, with cash and prizes of up to \$100,000, at Biloxi's Point Cadet Marina.

Cruisin' the Coast

www.cruisinthecoast.com

Each October, car aficionados in Biloxi enjoy the more than 4500 antique cars that participate in the week-long festivities organized as Cruisin' the Coast. Marketed as "the world's largest street party," the event includes numerous activities at various locales, including street parties, casino-sponsored entertainment, and outdoor concerts. Started in 1996 as a festival to celebrate antique, classic and hot rod vehicles, nostalgic music and related events, Cruisin' has grown from 374 registered cars in its inaugural year to 4,854 in 2010.

The 15th annual Cruisin' the Coast was held October 2-9, 2011. Future dates of Cruisin' the Coast are: Oct. 7-14, 2012; Oct. 6-13, 2013; Oct. 5-12, 2014; Oct. 4-11, 2015; Oct. 2-9, 2016.

Smokin' the Sound

www.smokinthesound.com

Smokin' the Sound is the first race of the year for the Offshore Super Series Powerboat Racing Association, and takes place in and around Biloxi's Point Cadet during the late spring. Speed, colorful race boats, come-from-behind victories and an airshow of helicopters are

the norm for this extended-weekend event.

Smokin' the Sound was started in 2004 and each year draws a larger crowd, estimated at several thousand in 2011. Great local entertainment and outdoor parties complement the best in offshore racing with over 30 boats competing in ten categories; in 2011, Smokin' the Sound also featured Pro-Am racing. Prime seating is available in all price ranges, from premium and VIP viewing in designated areas to free seating on the sand beach.

Scrapin' the Coast

www.scrapinthecoast.com

In 2011, Scrapin' the Coast held its 9th annual event at the Coast Coliseum, featuring a variety of modified mini-trucks and late-model cars. With more than 2,000 registered vehicles on display, this event attracts thousands of spectators, adding to Biloxi's diverse range of year-round activities.



Gaming Taxes & Fees

When gaming was legalized in Mississippi in 1992, a taxing formula also was adopted to ensure that residents throughout the State, regardless of location, enjoyed the benefits of the taxes that casinos pay. Under the formula, each casino's gross gaming revenue is taxed at a rate of about 12%. Of that, 8% goes to the State of Mississippi's general fund, 3.2% goes to the city in which the casino operates and 0.8% goes to the county. The gross gaming revenue tax is distributed in Biloxi as follows:

- 40% City General Fund
- 20% Biloxi Public School District
- 10% Harrison County Public School District
- 20% City Public Safety
- 10% Harrison County Public Safety

In addition to the taxes on gross gaming revenue, the State, City and County annually receive licensing and permit fees from each casino.

In Mississippi, each casino's gross gaming revenue is proprietary information however, the State requires every casino to report it monthly and the City of Biloxi requires the same information from each casino located within its municipal boundaries. The monthly reports submitted to the City of Biloxi are updated by the 20th of each month and are posted on the City's website.

Gulf Coast Gaming Visitor Detail (First Quarter Comparisons)

	FY11	FY09	FY07	FY05
Quarter Total # Patrons	3.90m	4.09m	4.27m	6.13m
From Mississippi	25.42%	25.53%	25.69%	23.67%
From Alabama	14.93%	14.45%	14.27%	14.61%
From Florida	15.20%	15.75%	18.61%	19.82%
From Louisiana	22.44%	21.71%	21.66%	14.27%

Source: Mississippi Gaming Commission Quarterly Surveys

As reported in the Mississippi Gaming Commission's Gulf Coast Gaming Visitor Detail Reports, the largest percentage of local casino visitors consistently comes from the State of Mississippi. In the past five years, there has been an 8.2% increase in the number of casino patrons from Louisiana and a 4.62% decrease in visitors from Florida, while the percentage of Alabama visitors has remained relatively the same.

Gulf Coast Casino Hotel Lodging (First Quarter Comparisons)

	# of Casinos With Hotels	Total # Rooms	# Hotel Employees	% Occupancy	Average Daily Rate
FY11	9	5,564	1,182	81.82%	\$73.83
FY09	9	5,559	1,363	84.68%	\$73.64
FY07	9	5,084	1,641	86.56%	\$71.37
FY05	9	7,011	2,616	86.43%	\$64.49

Source: Mississippi Gaming Commission Quarterly Surveys

Biloxi Casinos

Beau Rivage Resort & Casino

875 Beach Boulevard
www.beaurivage.com
386-7111

- # Employees 2,366
- # Hotel Employees 435
- Gaming Square Footage 76,715
- Other Square Footage 2,150,000
- # Slot Games 1,997
- # Table Games 88
- # Poker Games 16



AAA Four Diamond resort. Hotel, restaurants, retail, convention center, showroom, Fallen Oak, a Tom Fazio designed 18-hole Golf Course, spa and salon, arcade

Beau Rivage was named one of the top 100 hotels in the continental U.S. and Canada by "Travel + Leisure." The Beau's sommelier, Mark Warren, is Mississippi's only Advanced Level sommelier, according to "Wine Spectator."

Gross Gaming Revenues Generated by Biloxi Casinos

Calendar Years 2005-2011

2011*	\$ 568.4m
2010	\$ 830.8m
2009	\$ 833.5m
2008	\$ 951.2m
2007	\$1,007b
2006	\$ 845.2m
2005	\$ 657.2m

*January – August 2011

Source: Mississippi Sales Tax Commission

"This year's State of the States Report confirms that there's good reason to be optimistic about the future of gaming. The industry has made tough choices and implemented new strategies to persevere. As a result, casinos across 22 states continue to make significant contributions to the U.S. economy," stated Frank Fahrenkopf, President of the American Gaming Association, about the 2011 AGA report released in May 2011.

- The 2011 Southern Gaming Summit and Bingo World Conference in Biloxi was the largest casino show in the country outside Las Vegas.
- Isle of Capri Casinos Inc., parent company of the Isle Casino Biloxi, is the only top 10 publicly traded casino company to have a female president.
- Mississippi has the third lowest casino tax rate in the U.S. and Larry Gregory, former Mississippi Gaming Commission Executive Director, said "That entices businesses... it also promotes jobs."



Boomtown Casino

676 Bayview Avenue
 www.boomtownbiloxi.com
 432-7290

# Employees	591
# Hotel Employees	NA
Gaming Square Footage	51,665
Other Square Footage	90,785
# Slot Games	1,169
# Table Games	18
# Poker Game	5

Restaurants, bakery, entertainment stage

Grand Biloxi Casino Hotel & Spa

280 Beach Boulevard
 www.grandbiloxi.com
 436-2946

# Employees	774
# Hotel Employees	76
Gaming Square Footage	28,785
Other Square Footage	453,520
# Slot Games	735
# Table Games	32
# Poker Games	—

Hotel, restaurants, Grand Bear, an 18-hole Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, spa and salon, and lobby bar

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi

777 Beach Boulevard
 www.hardrockbiloxi.com
 374-7625

# Employees	778
# Hotel Employees	117
Gaming Square Footage	53,800
Other Square Footage	126,200
# Slot Games	1,268
# Table Games	52
# Poker Games	6

Four Diamond-rated Hotel, plus restaurants, showroom entertainment, retail, spa and salon, meeting space.

Rock 'n' roll memorabilia is displayed throughout the resort.

IP Casino Resort Spa

850 Bayview Avenue
 www.ipbiloxi.com
 436-3000

# Employees	1,659
# Hotel Employees	212
Gaming Square Footage	75,790
Other Square Footage	118,354
# Slot Games	1,894
# Table Games	62
# Poker Games	14

AAA Four Diamond resort. Hotel, restaurants, convention center, showroom, retail and banquet facilities, spa and salon, arcade, Shell Landing, IP's preferred golf course

IP's thirty-two restaurant has won the "Wine Spectator" Award of Excellence three years in a row and the "Wine Enthusiast" Award of Distinction twice.

Isle Casino Hotel

151 Beach Boulevard
 www.theislebiloxi.com
 800-843-4753

# Employees	621
# Hotel Employees	38
Gaming Square Footage	57,252
Other Square Footage	675,952
# Slot Games	1,219
# Table Games	27
# Poker Games	9

Hotel, restaurants, live entertainment, spa, and meeting space

Palace Casino Resort

154 Howard Avenue
 www.palacecasinoresort.com
 432-8888

# Employees	530
# Hotel Employees	74
Gaming Square Footage	6,260
Other Square Footage	9,500
# Slot Games	773
# Table Games	15
# Poker Games	—

Hotel, restaurants, bakery, The Preserve Golf Club, recognized by "Golfweek" and "Golf Digest" as one of America's Best New Courses

As of June 2011, the Palace Casino Resort became the first smoke-free casino in Mississippi, restricting smoking to a new \$1 million smoking lounge.

Treasure Bay Casino & Hotel

1980 Beach Boulevard
 www.treasurebay.com
 385-6000

# Employees	562
# Hotel Employees	17
Gaming Square Footage	24,557
Other Square Footage	715
# Slot Games	803
# Table Games	22
# Poker Games	—

Hotel, restaurants, live entertainment, gift shop

Source of employee information, gaming space footage, and games: Mississippi Gaming Commission Quarterly Survey, First Quarter 2011



Biloxi Casino Expansions, Acquisitions and New Construction

During the summer of 2011, the **Palace Casino** completed a major renovation and expansion project, valued at more than \$45 million, that adds more table games and hundreds of new slot machines, and boasts three new restaurants that open directly onto the new casino floor. With smoking restricted to a new \$1 million smoking lounge that has its own heating and air conditioning system, the casino, hotel, restaurants, retail areas and lounge/sports bar will be smoke-free.

In 2010, the **Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Biloxi** invested approximately \$1.3 million in property renovations and **IP Casino Resort Spa** completed renovations estimated at \$1.4 million.

In June 2011, **Boyd Gaming Corporation** announced that it is buying **IP Casino Resort Spa** for \$278 million and will invest another \$44 million in improvements within 12 months of closing. As a part of the sales agreement, Boyd also will contribute \$10 million to the Engelstad Family Foundation for Biloxi area charitable organizations, to be distributed over the next five years.

Construction is under way at **Jimmy Buffett's Margaritaville Casino & Restaurant Biloxi**, on the Back Bay of Biloxi, the first new casino in South Mississippi since Hard Rock Biloxi opened in 2007. Phase I plans, valued at \$50 million with equipment, include construction of a 20,000-square-foot casino with 750 slot machines and 18 table games, a restaurant with indoor and outdoor seating, a 17,000-square foot events center, a gift shop and 12-slip marina. Projected to create about 650 jobs, Margaritaville Biloxi is expected to open in early 2012.

A planned Phase II would add 20,000 square feet to the casino, expand the kitchen, dedicate a museum to Gulf Coast music and culture, and enhance the marina.

According to Pascagoula native, Jimmy Buffett, he played his first professional job for Jake Mladinich at Trader John's in Biloxi. Buffett said he broke a couple of guitar strings during his performance and Mladinich threatened to fire him if he broke another. Buffett said that could have been the start and end of his career.





- An estimated 160,000 people attended Keesler's Open House and Air Show, Angels Over the Bay, in March 2011. The Navy Blue Angels and Army Golden Knights joined many other performers in celebrating Keesler's 70th anniversary.
- Keesler's dormitory housing construction project recently was cited by Vice President Biden as one of the top 100 Recovery Act Projects changing America.
- In 2010, Keesler completed the largest military family housing project in Air Force history. The \$287.8 million project involved construction of more than 1,000 new homes, with floor plans for the single family and duplex units that meet or exceed the Air Force's benchmark square footage standards.
- In May 2011, almost 1,000 athletes celebrated Keesler's 25th year of hosting the Mississippi Special Olympics by participating in the Summer Games.
- An estimated 12,646 military retirees live within a 50-mile radius of Keesler.



Keesler Air Force Base

www.keesler.af.mil

In 2011, the City of Biloxi joined Keesler Air Force Base in celebrating the base's 70th anniversary. In 1941, the City deeded 1,563 acres to the War Department, which activated the land as a U.S. Army Air Corps technical training center just a few months before the U.S. entered World War II. Since its activation, more than 2.2 million students have been trained at Keesler, with an average daily student load of over 4,000. According to its FY2010 Economic Impact Report, Keesler employed about 8,200 military personnel and approximately 4,000 civilian workers.

The host training unit, the 81st Training Wing, is the electronics training Center of Excellence for the U.S. Air Force. The unit hosts the 2nd Air Force, the 403rd Wing (Hurricane Hunters) as well as the 2nd largest Air Force medical treatment facility in the U.S., Keesler Medical Center.

81st Training Wing

The 81st Training Wing at Keesler is one of the Air Force's largest technical training groups, providing training for the Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and other military and civilian federal agency personnel in computer and communications systems, electronics, air traffic control, weather, personnel, finance and force support. The 81st also provides advanced training for C-21 pilots.

As home to the Air Force's new cyber schoolhouse, in which officers and enlisted students are trained in new cyber operations specialties, Keesler is implementing 19 new cyber courses replacing 13 previous communications courses.

The 81st Medical Group, which has more than 1,600 military and civilian personnel, provides a comprehensive array of quality healthcare services and trains doctors, nurses and technicians in the second largest medical treatment facility in the Air Force. The 81st operates the only medical genetics center in the U.S. Department of Defense and is only one of three medical training facilities in Mississippi.

The Commander of the 81st Medical Group oversees the Gulf Coast Multi-Service Market, comprised of five military medical treatment facilities from Mobile to New Orleans, coordinating health care for 110,000 beneficiaries along the Gulf Coast.

The 81st Medical Group also provides personnel for five Air Force Expeditionary Medical Support hospitals; on average, 300 Keesler medical personnel are deployed annually to both combat zones and humanitarian efforts.

2nd Air Force

In addition to conducting basic military and technical training, the 2nd Air Force also manages nearly 5,000 active training courses taught annually to approximately 250,000 military personnel in locations around the world. Training operations range from intelligence to space and missile operations and maintenance. The group oversees training at four other training wings besides Keesler, and at more than 92 worldwide locations, with nearly 16,000 active duty and civilian personnel stationed at over 100 locations.

403rd Wing

The 403rd is the only Air Force Reserve Command Wing in Mississippi. It provides supervisory staff to squadrons and flights that support tactical airlifts, which include the movement of personnel, supplies and equipment. Composed of 1,400 reservists, including 250 full-time air reserve technicians, the 403rd Wing includes the well-known Hurricane Hunters weather reconnaissance squadron that has earned international respect through flight missions into tropical storms and hurricanes to collect meteorological data.

Keesler Air Force Base FY10 Economic Impact Analysis

Manpower	Payroll
8,233 Keesler Military/Students for Total Payroll	\$ 195,602,777
4,095 Civilian Personnel for Total Payroll	\$ 211,407,706
Purchasing – Local Vendors/Contractors	\$ 153,042,981
Secondary Jobs Created Payroll	\$ 147,364,577
Economic Impact	\$ 708,999,617
Economic Impact FY10 using State Standard Economic Multiplier	\$1,193,425,931
(excludes retiree payroll & community services)	
Military Retiree Payroll (within a 50-mile radius)	\$ 386.5 million
Military Retirees in Gulf Coast area	21,646
Total Volunteer Hours Recorded	38,620
Appraised Value of Volunteer Hours	\$ 782,055

Source: Keesler AFB



Other Federal Installations in the Biloxi Area

Biloxi is located in close proximity to other federal installations, expanding business and employment opportunities for Biloxi residents, who enjoy short commutes via Interstate 10.

Naval Construction Battalion Center – Gulfport www.cnic.navy.mil/gulfport

The Naval Construction Battalion Center (NCBC), located in neighboring Gulfport, is home to Naval Mobile Construction Battalions 1, 7, 11, 74 and 133, known as the Atlantic Fleet Seabees. The NCBC's three missions are training, mobilization and logistics to support expeditionary forces. The Center also is responsible for preserving and storing war reserves, including construction materials and equipment, and for training an estimated 20,000 students every year.

In 2010, the base was home to about 4,900 active duty Seabees, 900 civilians, and 150 contractors. With an annual financial scope of \$150 million, which includes operating budgets and military payroll, base officials estimate it has an annual economic impact in South Mississippi of \$350 million. In 2011, on-going base improvement and expansion projects were valued at more than \$151.4 million.

Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center www.ang.af.mil

The Trent Lott Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) is located on 220 acres at the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport; its mission is to provide an integrated, year round realistic training environment of supersonic airspace, gunnery ranges, systems, facilities and equipment for deployed units to enhance their capabilities and combat readiness. The CRTC supports units from all branches of the military, as well as National Guard and Reserve components.

The local facility trains nearly 17,000 military personnel each year and has a \$100 million economic impact on the region.

Home to the 255th Air Control Squadron and the 209th Civil Engineering Squadron, the CRTC also supports the Drug Enforcement Agency's "Blue Lightning" Strike Force, which is actively involved with drug interdiction.

NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center www.ssc.nasa.gov

Celebrating its 50th anniversary in October 2011, the Stennis Space Center is the nation's largest rocket engine test facility and is home to more than 30 federal, state, academic and private organizations and numerous technology-based companies. Located within a 13,800-acre area owned by the federal government, Stennis' 125,000-acre noise buffer zone is designated a national asset and Stennis itself was named a historic aerospace site in 2008 by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

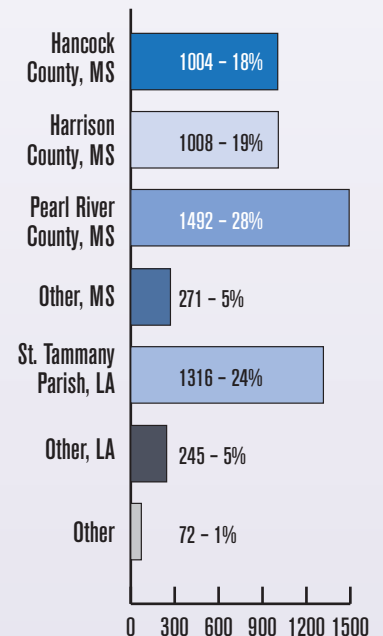
In 2010, the direct global impact of Stennis was \$875 million; the direct economic impact within a 50-mile radius of the facility was \$616 million. A Mississippi State University study estimates that Stennis had an impact of \$110.2 million on local government tax revenue in 2010. The workforce totals approximately 5,400, with an average salary with benefits of \$87,000.

NASA's new A-3 Test Stand, a \$175 million project that is projected to be complete in 2013, will be the only test stand in the nation with the combined capabilities to conduct long-duration tests on full-scale engines at simulated altitudes up to 100,000 feet, and to gimbal, or rotate, the engines during the test as they would operate during flight.

Stennis is home to the largest concentration of oceanographers in the world.



2010 Residential Distribution of Stennis Personnel



Source: www.nasa.gov



I-10 Corridor Opportunities in the Biloxi Area

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce's *Enterprising States 2011* report ranks Mississippi as 12th in the nation for business birth rate, 12th for productivity growth, and 15th for state and local tax burden.

The world-class INFINITY science, technology and visitor's center located on the I-10 Corridor near NASA's Stennis Space Center, west of Biloxi, is being constructed after years of collaborative planning, design and fund raising work by federal, state and local agencies. The Infinity Center is estimated to cost about \$35 million and will include 72,000 square feet of interactive exhibits and activities.

With a high quality of life and low cost of doing business, the Mississippi Gulf Coast is a major player in the aerospace and shipbuilding industries. The region has one of the greatest concentrations of avionics and aircraft maintenance personnel in the U.S., when compared to other mid-size metropolitan markets, and the Mississippi Gulf Coast accounts for more than half of U.S. ship industry sales.

South Mississippi is home to some of the biggest names in the aerospace and shipbuilding industries, including Lockheed Martin, Huntington Ingalls Inc., Signal International, VT-Halter Marine, Rolls Royce Naval Marine, and Northrop Grumman. Frequently described as the I-10 Technology Corridor, the 200-mile stretch of Interstate 10 that runs from New Orleans to Mobile through South Mississippi links these major industry sectors with each other, NASA's Stennis Space Center and Keesler Air Force Base.

Extensive information about the aerospace and shipbuilding industries along the I-10 Technology Corridor in South Mississippi has been compiled by the Mississippi Gulf Coast Alliance for Economic Development and is available at www.mscoastaerospace.com and www.mscoastshipbuilding.com.



The Seafood Industry

The seafood industry continues to play an important role in the diversity of Biloxi's local economy. Worldwide demand for fresh and processed seafood, especially shrimp, continues to grow, justifying local processors' investments in technological advances that keep them competitive with Louisiana, Texas and other Gulf region seafood-related businesses.

Some good news for shrimpers – that the International Trade Commission voted in March 2011 to continue existing antidumping duty orders on frozen warm water shrimp from Brazil, China, India, Thailand, and Vietnam – came on the heels of the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. This event had a devastating impact on those whose livelihoods are tied to the Gulf, especially commercial seafood harvesters and charter boat business owners. Portions of state and federal waters were closed from May 2010 until April 2011. At the peak of contamination, 37% of federal Gulf waters and all Mississippi Gulf waters were closed.

During the 2010-2011 oyster season, which runs mid-October through mid-April, the Mississippi Commission of Marine Resources allowed only tonging, not dredging, of oysters in an effort to conserve oyster resources in the gradual process of being restored after Hurricane Katrina. This restriction on harvesting resulted in only 43,702 sacks being landed; before Hurricane Katrina, the Mississippi oyster industry landed approximately 300,000 sacks a year.

Then, during a 42-day period in May-June 2011, an estimated 5.6 trillion gallons of fresh water from the Mississippi River flood were discharged through Louisiana's Bonnet Carre Spillway into the Gulf, resulting in the mortality of an estimated 95% of the re-established oyster reefs in the Mississippi Sound. It is unlikely that there will be a local 2011-2012 oyster harvest.

Local Support for the Seafood Industry

The Mississippi Department of Marine Resources (DMR) provides resources to support marketing of Mississippi's commercial fisheries products. Its publications may be accessed through DMR's website: www.dmr.ms.state.us.

Numerous federal and academic agencies in the Biloxi area are engaged in marine, coastal, estuarine and atmospheric research, which supports the local seafood industry through species conservation/restoration, water quality enhancement, invasive species monitoring, and related programs. Federal researchers include the Environmental Protection Agency, National Oceanography and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Navy.

Local marine-oriented research centers include the Mississippi State University Coastal Research and Extension Center, the University of Southern Mississippi's Gulf Coast Research Lab, the Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium and local offices of the Gulf of Mexico Program, the Mississippi Laboratory Southeast Fisheries Science Center, the National Estuarine Research Reserve System, the Northern Gulf Institute, and the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies.



About 85 percent of Mississippi's harvest is **brown shrimp**, which are most abundant from June to October. They congregate in water between 15-120 feet deep and are caught mostly at night.

Found in shallow water, usually no deeper than 90 feet, **white shrimp** are caught mostly during daylight hours. October to January are the best months to fish for white shrimp.

Pink shrimp are usually found in waters 36-108 feet deep and generally are caught at night. They are most abundant between October and April.

Source: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources



- At the turn of the nineteenth century, Biloxi was known as The Seafood Capital of the World - its seafood factories were world leaders in oyster canning production.
- In 2009, the dockside value of commercial fisheries in the Gulf was \$629 million.
- Warm water oysters from the Gulf of Mexico can reach 4 inches in less than 9 months, with most of the 3" marketable oysters taking about 18-24 months. A female oyster can produce 100 million eggs during one breeding season.
- According to NOAA Fisheries Service, the cost of fuel accounts for more than 48% of costs to operate a shrimping vessel.





Biloxi's Commercial Docking Facilities

The Commercial Docking Facility, south of Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, provides 51 berthing spaces for the local commercial seafood fleet, with berth sizes ranging from 35 – 60 feet. Located off of Bayview Avenue on Biloxi's Back Bay, the **Lighthouse Fishing Docks** provide 35 slips for the local commercial fleet, with berths ranging in size from 45 – 100 feet.

Smaller commercial boats engaging in charters, tours and other water-based businesses also have two facilities at which to dock. The **Biloxi Small Craft Harbor** is located on Highway 90, east of the Commercial Docking Facility and the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino. Having recently benefited from more than \$7 million in repairs, the harbor offers 141 boat slips, ranging from 25 – 60 feet, an on-site boat ramp, a harbor master's building, and public restrooms with showers. Design of a fuel dock and bait shop is underway, with an estimated construction cost of about \$1.1 million. An estimated 20 commercial fishing and charter boats dock in the Small Craft Harbor, as does the Biloxi Shrimping Tour boat. 16 slips are reserved for transients.

The **Point Cadet Marina**, located south of Highway 90 and the Isle Casino Hotel, has been renovated at a cost of about \$7.3 million. There are 300 slips at Point Cadet Marina, 20 of which are reserved for transients. In addition to the research vessels of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory, 24 charter boats dock here. Expansion of the marina is being considered as part of a comprehensive plan to enhance public access to the Biloxi waterfront.

"Last year's oil spill was just the latest obstacle for the shrimp industry," said John Williams, Executive Director of the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

"We've dealt with hurricanes, escalating fuel costs - a lot of things that are out of our control. But battling unfair trade practices is something we can do to try to make a difference for shrimp fishermen. Our industry still has a lot of work to do to ensure that it can remain competitive, but at least this should give us the opportunity we deserve to compete on a level playing field."

Mississippi Annual Landings of Brown Shrimp

Year	Pounds	\$
2004	13,052,681	\$ 15,162,832
2005	5,213,743	\$ 7,770,095
2006	5,071,731	\$ 6,111,031
2007	8,009,397	\$ 11,318,896
2008	5,382,305	\$ 9,213,467
2009	6,347,459	\$ 6,847,481
Total	43,077,316	\$ 56,423,802

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service

Mississippi Annual Landings of Oysters

Year	Pounds	\$
2004	3,029,391	\$ 6,073,242
2005	610,384	\$ 1,447,132
2006*	0	\$ 0
2007	299,088	\$ 818,544
2008	2,610,349	\$ 6,869,160
2009	2,191,724	\$ 6,100,264
Total	8,740,936	\$ 21,308,342

*About 95% oyster mortality occurred on the major commercial reefs during Hurricane Katrina and 35% of Mississippi's oyster fleet was lost, according to the Mississippi Department of Marine Resources.
Source: National Marine Fisheries Service

Mississippi Annual Landings of All Seafood Species Combined

Year	Pounds	\$
2004	183,558,261	\$ 43,618,143
2005	167,609,834	\$ 23,385,725
2006	221,720,414	\$ 21,586,062
2007	227,834,261	\$ 39,340,404
2008	201,822,002	\$ 43,696,487
2009	230,284,417	\$ 37,998,473
Total	1,232,829,189	\$ 209,625,294

Source: National Marine Fisheries Service





*“Our quality of life,
enhanced with diverse
environmental resources,
is outstanding.”*

Mayor A.J. Holloway

In July 2011, the first da Vinci robotic assisted thyroidectomy was performed in Mississippi at Biloxi Regional Medical Center. Cedar Lake Surgery Center houses the first surgical suite in the world dedicated to the performance and teaching of balloon sinuplasty™ techniques.



Health Management Associates announced plans in late 2011 to construct a \$132 million medical center in the Biloxi Commerce Park. With a 2014 completion date, the 144-bed facility will offer 24-hour emergency care, intensive care, diagnostic imaging and inpatient/outpatient surgery.

Health Care

With comprehensive acute care medical facilities located throughout Biloxi, residents enjoy a wide diversity of state-of-the-art health care services. Easy access to modern medical facilities gives Biloxi a distinct advantage over similar size cities. During the past ten years, the area has experienced considerable growth in the medical services industry, including construction of multimillion dollar facilities as well as expansion of treatment options performed by physicians in all areas of specialization.

Biloxi Regional Medical Center

www.biloxiregional.net

Located in downtown Biloxi, the Biloxi Regional Medical Center is an acute care, private hospital with 198 beds. The six story, 170,000 square foot facility has all private rooms that include private showers. Opened at its current location in 1986, BRMC offers high-quality healthcare, state-of-the art equipment, expansive services and unique programs.

Special services include a heartburn clinic, a healing center, women's care programs, imaging, rehabilitation and psychiatric services, MAKOplasty partial knee replacement surgery, da Vinci robotic surgery, and bariatric surgery.

Cedar Lake Medical Park

www.cedarlk.com

Conveniently located near the I-10 and Cedar Lake Road interchange in North Biloxi, Cedar Lake Surgery Center is a privately owned, licensed and accredited outpatient surgical center. Initially established in 1977, it was the first freestanding outpatient surgery center in Mississippi. The 16,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art facility houses the latest in medical equipment, including the newest Instatrak sinus surgery computer system, laser technology and the most advanced arthroscopy and surgical equipment.

The facility can accommodate 23-hour stays and is designed so patients may have surgical or endoscopic procedures and return to the comfort and convenience of their homes the same day.

The medical park includes a surgery center, a medical offices building, and an open MRI. The medical offices building houses more than 50 physicians representing every medical discipline. All doctors are Board Certified and local hospital staff members.

Keesler Medical Center

www.keesler.af.mil

Housed in nine buildings, the Keesler Medical Center consists of 900,000 square feet and has an annual operating budget of about \$82 million. Keesler Medical Center is one of the largest medical facilities in the Air Force, providing quality, cost-effective healthcare for more than 27,000 enrollees, including almost 7,500 active-duty members. In addition, the 81st Medical Group Commander oversees the Gulf Coast Multi-Service Market, which includes five military medical treatment facilities from Mobile to New Orleans, coordinating care for 110,000 eligible beneficiaries along the Gulf Coast.

The Medical Center offers an estimated 60 service and education programs with a staff of more than 1,600 military and civilian members, and enjoys partnerships with Tricare, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, the VA Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System Medical Center and Gulfport Memorial Hospital.

Completion of a \$50+ million inpatient tower is projected to be complete in the fall of 2011, and a new \$10 million Radiation Oncology Center began treating patients in March 2010. The hospital's Diagnostic Imaging Department boasts the only 3-Tesla MRI system in the Air Force, and the Keesler Warfighter Refractive Surgery Center is the Air Force's flagship for laser eye surgery in the Southeast.

The Keesler Medical Center also is a teaching facility with medical, surgical residencies and physician assistant training. The 81st MDG also provides training to dental residents.

Veterans Administration Medical Center in Biloxi

www.biloxi.va.gov

Centrally located on the south side of the Back Bay of Biloxi, the Veterans Affairs Gulf Coast Veterans Health Care System (VHCS) serves more than 50,000 veterans in its Mississippi, Alabama and Florida service region, providing a full range of patient care services. The Biloxi-based VHCS also provides support to readjustment counseling centers and VA National Cemeteries along the Gulf Coast.

With almost 2,000 employees, the VA Gulf Coast VHCS operates the 11th largest compensation and pension program in the nation. Several major expansion projects, estimated to cost \$150 million, are in progress at the VHCS in Biloxi, with much of the work to be completed in 2011.

Health care services include dental care; mental health programs; specialty care including neurology, oncology and audiology; pharmacy services; hospital inpatient services for acute medicine, surgery and intensive care; extended care that includes nursing home care, hospice care, dementia care and adult day care.

Education

In June 2011, after a challenging two-year certification process, Biloxi was named an **Excel by 5** community. Through the certification process, all segments of the community – healthcare, education, daycare, recreation, public safety, and the businesses – worked together to develop or enhance local resources to help all Biloxi pre-school children prepare for their first classroom experience. According to the state office, children in communities certified through the Excel by 5 Program will be healthier and better prepared to begin their formal education at age 5. All pre-schoolers in Biloxi are eligible to participate in Excel by 5 activities and to enjoy its family resource center located at Lopez Elementary School.



Biloxi Public Schools

www.biloxischools.net

The **Biloxi Public School District** is among the small percentage of districts statewide to receive the highest academic accreditation by the Mississippi Department of Education. Indicators tied to the No Child Left Behind Act reveal that Biloxi students are performing at “above” or “well above” the national average and scores on the state’s required Subject Area Tests in algebra, biology, English and U.S. History verify that students are passing the standardized tests at a very high rate.

State-of-the-art educational and athletic facilities and extensive extracurricular activities enhance students’ opportunities for a well-rounded educational experience. In addition to traditional college preparatory classes, Biloxi High offers more than 100 courses in business, performing arts, technology and vocational skills. Advanced placement courses also are available to challenge qualifying students.

The Biloxi High Career Tech Center, open to students in grades 10-12, offers programs of study in a wide variety of fields, including culinary arts, drafting, business and computer technology, building trades, child care, and automotive service technology.

Biloxi Public School District Information, 2010-2011

Total number of students	4,913
K-5 student/teacher ratio (average)	19.5 to 1
Secondary student/teacher ratio (approx.)	25 to 1
Average teacher salary	\$48,457
Mean ACT composite score	20.4*
2011 graduates entering college	220

*Statewide mean ACT composite score was 18.7
Source: Biloxi Public School District

Parochial Schools

- **Cedar Lake Christian Academy** offers a K-12 grade curriculum in Biloxi. www.clcalions.com
- **The Catholic Diocese of Biloxi** offers a PK3 – 12 grade curriculum in/near Biloxi at three sites:
 - **Nativity BVM Elementary** in East Biloxi, www.nativitybvm.org
 - **Our Lady of Fatima** in West Biloxi, www.olfbiloxi.org
 - **St. Patrick High School** North of Biloxi, www.stpatrickhighschool.net



Biloxi First, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to improving Biloxi’s public educational system. Founded in 1989, its goals are to inspire and support creative projects, improve the quality of education, and help to develop the full scholastic potential of Biloxi Public School students. Through more than 50 named

grant programs, Biloxi First has awarded more than \$160,000 in grants, and the program continues to grow through the generosity of local individuals and businesses.



Visit biloxischools.net to sign up for The Windtalker, the Biloxi Public School District’s free on-line newsletter.



In October 2010, the National Catholic High School Honor Roll named St. Patrick as one of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in the United States. Selection to the honor roll is based on academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education.

In March 2011, Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College broke ground on construction of a \$9 million Hospitality and Resort Management Center east of DeBuys Road, at its Jefferson Davis campus. It is the largest construction project in the community college's history.



Ranked at No. 86 in 2010, MGCCC was named as one of the country's top 100 community colleges, according to *Community College Week* magazine; MGCCC has been named in the top 100 eight times since 2002. It is the only community college in Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Tennessee to make the top 100 list.

Higher Education

Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

www.mgccc.edu

The Jefferson Davis Campus of Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College (MGCCC) gives Biloxi residents the convenience of close-to-home education with an emphasis on quality, variety and affordability. With tuition fees among the lowest in the state, MGCCC is one of the largest community colleges in Mississippi and is one of the top associate degree producers in the nation. It offers academic, vocation-technical and workforce development programs, fine arts activities and an award-winning athletic program.

In addition to being consistently ranked as a top 100 community college in the U.S., MGCCC was ranked in 2010 by *Community College Week* magazine as No. 5 in the number of education major graduates; No. 36 in the number of degrees earned in engineering technologies and engineering-related fields; and No. 45 in the number of degrees awarded to African American students.

Mississippi State University Coastal Research & Extension Center

www.msstate.edu

MSU has a significant presence in Biloxi with its 24,000 square foot Coastal Research and Extension Center (CREC) in North Biloxi. The \$3.75 million complex includes a distance learning center, biological and chemical labs and conference rooms. The Center coordinates the educational programs and research activities of +10 sites in South Mississippi and is structured to provide education and outreach for Mississippi coastal residents regarding almost every aspect of the environment.

Tulane University School of Continuing Studies, Biloxi

www.scs.tulane.edu

Consistently ranked among the top 50 universities in the U.S., Tulane University opened its Biloxi campus in 2002 in Edgewater Mall in West Biloxi.

Emphasizing a flexible approach to higher education designed to meet the needs of working adults, the Biloxi Campus offers courses toward associates' and bachelors' degrees programs as well as subject-specific certificates. A Master of Liberal Arts degree also is offered as well as a Master of Professional Studies degree in Homeland Security Studies.



University of Southern Mississippi, Gulf Coast

www.usm.edu

The University of Southern Mississippi offers a variety of two- and four-year degree programs at its main campus in Hattiesburg, approximately 70 miles north of Biloxi; at its 65-acre Gulf Coast Campus in nearby Long Beach; and at five other teachings sites: the Gulf Coast Research Lab in Ocean Springs, the Gulf Coast Student Service Center in Gulfport, at Stennis Space Center, and at two locations in Biloxi – on Keesler Air Force Base and aboard USM's research vessels that dock at the Point Cadet Marina.

In 2007, Cross Creek, located on the I-10 corridor in West Harrison County, was selected as the preferred location for an additional campus of USM. Academic programs will be addressed in the planning process to support university expansion in the areas of tourism, technology, business development and research.

Virginia College

www.vc.edu

Virginia College in Biloxi is a technical college that offers a variety of courses resulting in both diplomas and associate degrees. Programs are offered in office management, the paralegal field, various health and medical services areas including pharmacy technician and therapeutic massage, and an associate degree program in business administration.

William Carey University

www.wmcarey.edu

With its main campus in Hattiesburg, William Carey also offers higher education opportunities to Gulf Coast students at its 30-acre Tradition Campus, located in the planned community just north of Biloxi. Phase I of the new campus opened in 2009, at a cost of approximately \$14 million; additional phases are planned to accommodate up to 3,000 students. Offering bachelors' degrees in a variety of academic fields, William Carey also offers courses toward masters' degrees in business, education, psychology and nursing as well as a specialist degree in elementary education.



USM Research Buoy

Field-oriented classes offered through USM's Gulf Coast Research Lab maximize academic research opportunities in the Gulf and on the barrier islands, thanks to oceanographic and fisheries research vessels, such as the 97-foot Tommy Munro, which operates out of Biloxi's Point Cadet Marina.



Workforce Education in the Biloxi Area

Mississippi offers a comprehensive **Workforce Education Program**, at little or no cost, through the state's community college system. Designed to guarantee a new or expanding company has the workers it needs to succeed, the program includes customer-designed pre-employment training, post-employment training and upgrade/retraining services.

A program that can be leveraged with the Workforce Education Program is the federal government's **Workforce Investment Act**. Through WIA's on-the-job training program, an employer may be reimbursed up to 50% of new workers' wages for up to six months. When participants complete the training, the employer may realize additional savings through a tax credit under the **Targeted Job Tax Credit Program**. For more information, visit the **Workforce Investment Network (WIN)** office located at 2306 Pass Road in Biloxi or call (228) 388-7997.



New and Recently-Restored Biloxi Public Facilities and Structures

Construction of new facilities and structures in Biloxi has maximized the use of public resources to meet existing and future needs of residents and visitors. Funding from Hurricane Katrina Recovery Block Grants, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and numerous other federal and state agencies is helping the City administration achieve its goal of rebuilding public buildings and structures efficiently, while incorporating design elements that reflect the vernacular architecture of old Biloxi.

The \$12 million **Biloxi Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center**, dedicated on July 14, 2011, is approximately 25,000 square feet, which includes 15-foot deep porches on both levels. In addition to an information area and gift shop, the Center houses exhibits that trace the City's 312-year history, a theater, meeting rooms that can be reconfigured to accommodate small and large gatherings, and offices for both local chambers of commerce.

At more than 70,000 square feet, the \$19.7 million **Biloxi Public Library and Civic Center** is the largest municipal building ever constructed in Biloxi. Actually two separate buildings, the nearly 50,000 square-foot Civic Center is attached by a large open air courtyard to the 22,000 square-foot library.

The Civic Center's 42,000 square-foot ballroom features balcony seating around three sides and boasts a 30-foot ceiling as well as a portable dance floor. The large central courtyard will enhance the facility's appeal as a year-round venue for community events and activities.



Building or Structure	Rehab Cost
Biloxi Lighthouse	\$ 421,629
City Hall	\$ 805,457
Creole Cottage	\$ 28,000
Old Brick House	\$ 684,176
Swetman House	\$ 219,685
West End Hose Company No. 3 Fire Museum	\$ 74,162
White House Fountain	\$ 114,983

Recently- and Soon-to-Be Restored Public Facilities & Structures

Within the last several years, the City of Biloxi has completed restoration of or major renovations to five of the historic buildings and two of the historic structures it owns and operates.

Ongoing renovation of four historic buildings owned by the City in the downtown involves work on the **Magnolia Hotel**, which includes installation of an elevator to bring it into ADA-compliance; this project is expected to cost about \$694,000 and to be complete in early 2012.

Interior and exterior renovation of the **Saenger Theatre for the Performing Arts**, totaling almost \$402,000, will be complete in December 2011, as will Slay House restoration work of approximately \$250,000. The architecturally-significant Slay House was donated to the City after Hurricane Katrina with the condition that it be relocated from its original site on the corner of Reynoir and Jackson Streets; it now contributes to the historic streetscape of the Rue Magnolia. Funding assistance for this project was provided by a Mississippi Department of Archives and History grant.

The City is in the process of renovating the **Old Biloxi Library** located south of City Hall on Lameuse Street for Administration Department offices. At an estimated acquisition and renovation cost of \$950,000, this project is projected to be complete in the spring of 2012, accomplishing the dual purposes of consolidating administrative functions into a more efficient space and preserving an important local landmark.



Biloxi Parks & Recreation

www.biloxi.ms.us

The City's Parks & Recreation Department currently operates and maintains 53 facilities throughout Biloxi; offers a Special Needs Program for residents with physical or mental handicaps; organizes numerous annual events, programs, and activities for residents of all ages; and coordinates the City's sports leagues. The department also coordinates and promotes the local Farmers Market.

Following Hurricane Katrina, equipment for City playgrounds was donated by KaBoom, Home Depot, the Allstate Foundation, and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids, and installed with the assistance of hundreds of volunteers. Hands On America provided considerable volunteer resources to help rebuild John Henry Beck Park in East Biloxi, and both Miramar Park and the park at the Margaret Sherry Memorial Library in North Biloxi have been enhanced through corporate donations and volunteer labor.



Annual Activities

- Children's Mardi Gras Parade
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Senior Games
- End of School & Back to School Pool Parties
- Juneteenth Celebration
- "July is Parks & Recreation Month" Activities
- KaBoom Play Day
- Halloween at the Town Green and in Woolmarket
- Fishing Rodeo
- Mayor's Cup Run
- Christmas on the Town Green and in Woolmarket

Biloxi's Special Needs Program

Biloxi's Special Needs Program is the only one like it on the Coast, offering year-round activities for residents of all ages with mental and physical disabilities. Participation in the special needs sports league has increased by 75% in recent years. All activities in this program, including participation in league sports, are offered at no cost to residents. Efforts are underway to add a soccer league and to expand the special events monthly roster.

Biloxi's Age-Specific Recreation Programs

The Summer Playground Program is hosted at various public school sites across Biloxi to serve children 5 to 14 years of age; Sun Camp, serving those with physical and mental disabilities, is hosted at the Mercy Cross Recreation Center. All camps run from June 1 to July 31, Monday – Friday, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. In the City's **Start Smart Program**, Koosh products are used to teach children ages 3 – 6 basic sports skills and how to play organized sports including baseball, soccer and basketball. The Parks & Recreation Department also is an active partner in the

Biloxi Excel by 5 Program, a public-private partnership that focuses on assisting parents prepare their children to succeed in school.

Activities, programs and events for **adults age 55 and older** include monthly luncheons, an ongoing arts and crafts program, a senior prom, and an annual Senior Games and Awards Banquet. Programs for those age 55 and older are regularly scheduled at both of the City's Community Centers.

Biloxi Parks & Recreation Resources

Park acreage	258*
Playgrounds	20
Ball fields	30
Community Centers	2
Natatorium	1

*In response to citizen input provided during development of the Biloxi 2010 Comprehensive Plan, the City is engaged in ongoing site evaluation to identify and purchase land for parks and recreational activities in the Woolmarket area.



Special Needs Programs & Sports Leagues

- Challenger League Baseball
- Miracle on the Court Basketball
- Special Needs Easter Egg Hunt
- Arbor Day Disability Walk
- Fishing Rodeo
- Disability Fair at Edgewater Mall
- Sun Camp
- Art Ability Program with Biloxi Public Schools
- Movie Nights



Biloxi City League Sports Participation

League	2009	2010
Baseball	641	613
Softball	338	323
Basketball	388	362
Soccer	1120	700
Football/Cheerleading	562	420
TOPS soccer*	100	115
Hispanic Soccer	250	325
Total Participants	3,399	2,858

*TOPS soccer is a league for those with physical or mental handicaps
 Source: Parks & Recreation Annual Reports



Renaissance Garden at Hiller Park

Planning is ongoing for development of a Renaissance Garden at Hiller Park, which is led by the volunteer efforts of the Mississippi Renaissance Garden nonprofit organization. Preliminary project components include development of therapeutic and educational gardens and a public horticulture center.

Biloxi Community Centers

The 43,000 square foot **Donal Snyder, Sr. Community Center** features a four lane lap pool with ramp access; a therapeutic pool; a wooden-floor gymnasium; an indoor walking track; racquetball courts; fitness room; and various table games. A downstairs multi-purpose room, which has an adjoining kitchen, and two meeting rooms on the second floor support many community programs and meetings.

The **Dr. Frank G. Gruich, Sr. Community Center** will continue to house programs and recreational activities sponsored by the City's Recreation Division for adults age 55 and older as well as be available for community meetings and private events. This center has a stage, second floor balcony seating on three sides, and catering kitchen facilities.

City of Biloxi Sports League

www.biloxi.ms.us/PR
 email: sports@biloxi.ms.us

The Biloxi Parks & Recreation Department coordinates NFL Punt, Pass and Kick and MLB Pitch, Hit and Run Programs as well as league activities for five different sports.

Biloxi Sports Complex

765 Wells Drive

The 68-acre Complex includes concession stands, 9 press boxes, restrooms, and storage. All fields and tennis courts are lighted and parking is available for more than 500 vehicles. Little league batting cages and softball batting cages are located on site as well as four softball, five little league, and one adult baseball field, all with natural turf. There are nine soccer playing fields with goals and three International fields, also with natural turf. In 2010, the Complex hosted the USTA League Tennis Championships on its eight hard-surface tennis courts.

Popp's Ferry Recreation Area

2150 Popp's Ferry Drive

This 15-acre recreation area has lighted playing fields and courts, 18 sets of soccer goals, concessions, restrooms, a pavilion and storage. Parking capacity exceeds 500 vehicles. There are two International, two U-10 and four U-6 natural turf soccer fields and four hard-surfaced tennis courts.

Hiller Park

380 Hiller Drive

Amenities include lighted fields and courts, a batting cage, concessions, restrooms, pavilions, walking trails, boat launch facilities and parking for more than 500 vehicles. There also are two natural turf softball fields and eight hard-surface tennis courts.

Biloxi Natatorium

email: aquatics@biloxi.ms.us

1384 Father Ryan Avenue

The Biloxi Natatorium has an Olympic size pool with digital touch pads for electronic timing and bleacher seating that can accommodate 250 for swim meets and other events. The Aquatics Division offers swim lessons, lifeguarding classes, and sponsors a summer swim team.

Biloxi Parks, Public Open Spaces & Playgrounds

(parks/public open spaces exceeding 1/2-acre)

- Biloxi Town Green
- Businessmen's Park
- Cavalier Ball Park
- Circle Park
- D'Anella Park
- Doris C. Bush Park
- Edgewater Park
- Hiller Park
- I-110 Overpass Pedestrian Walkway
- John Henry Beck Park
- John Joseph O'Reilly Park
- Larry Bogard Volunteer Ball Park
- Lopez Park
- McDonald Ball Park
- Miramar Park
- Park/playgrounds at 3 of 4 Biloxi Public Library Branches
- Penzoil Park
- Point Cadet Waterfront Area
- Popp's Ferry Causeway Park
- Savarro Park
- St. Mary's Park
- Todd Miguez Park

Other City Recreational and Environmental Resources

A master plan for redeveloping 17-acres of public waterfront property on the eastern tip of Point Cadet is evolving, led by the City with assistance from the Tulane Regional Urban Design Center and guided by community input. The \$24 million preliminary **Point Cadet Redevelopment** project includes an educational, recreational and entertainment district anchored by reconstruction of the **Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum**. The first phase also proposes marina expansion, an open air pavilion, and initial work on a playground, landscaping, paving and walkways to connect the Point under the Biloxi-Ocean Springs Bridge. Public investment will be complemented by privately-operated restaurant and retail development.

The 10-acre **Popp's Ferry Causeway Park**, located in North Biloxi, was purchased by the City in 2000 to enhance the area for the public's enjoyment and to preserve the ecosystems of this unique estuarine environment, where the fresh water of the Tchoutacabouffa and Biloxi Rivers meets the salt water of the Back Bay of Biloxi. Recreational improvements include boat launch ramps, open air pavilions, raised boardwalks and walking trails.

In addition to providing and maintaining numerous public piers, pavilions, marinas and boat launch ramps, the City of Biloxi is reconstructing the **Point Cadet Fishing Bridge** at a cost of about \$7.7 million. Concrete rubble from the old bridge is being barged south of Deer Island to expand the Katrina fishing reef. The reconstructed 4,700 foot long pier will feature two vehicle lanes bordered by ADA-compliant sidewalks.

Plans for reconstruction of the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor's **bait shop and fuel dock** are being reviewed by FEMA. With an estimated cost of \$1.1 million, this project will support recreational and commercial boaters with facilities built to withstand 140 mph winds. While new floodplain maps require the facility to be built 19 feet above sea level, fuel pumps and bait tanks will be at ground level. An elevator will facilitate access for handicapped individuals to the 2nd floor tackle shop area.





- Approximately 20 pieces of public art are located in the median of U.S. Highway 90 in Biloxi. One of the Coast's top visitor attractions, the marine-related wood sculptures are carved from standing dead trees killed by Hurricane Katrina's storm surge. Created by artists Marlin Miller and Dayton Scoggins, these works of art are referred to collectively as the **Highway 90 Sculpture Garden**.
- The Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport also is expanding public access to the arts through its **Arts in the Airport**, which invites artists to submit works for display to showcase the Coast's cultural heritage.
- The **Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra** is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2011!
- Biloxi is listed as #6 on the City-Data list of "Top 100 cities with strongest arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation and food services industries" in its size category.



Biloxi Arts & Cultural Heritage

There is a long history of public and private support for the arts in Biloxi, as demonstrated by consistently high levels of attendance at local performances and productions, exhibits, cultural activities and festivals as well as through generous monetary and other contributions. For such a small metro area, Biloxi residents and visitors enjoy access to a surprisingly diverse and affordable range of high quality visual and performing arts.

Performing Arts

Biloxi's historic **Saenger Theatre for the Performing Arts** is the host site for many events throughout the year, including concerts by the **Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra** and **Youth Orchestra**, programs sponsored by the **Coast Community Concert Association**, productions of the **Mississippi Gulf Coast Opera Theatre** and performances by the **Gulf Coast Ballet Theatre**.

Other Biloxi arts entities that provide regularly-scheduled performances are **Center Stage Theatre**, the **Biloxi Little Theatre**, **KNS Theatre**, and the **Mississippi Coast Jazz Society**.

Visual Arts

Named "Best New Arts Venue" in the January 2011 edition of *Southern Living* magazine, Phase I of the Frank Gehry-designed **Ohr-O'Keefe Museum of Art**, opened in 2010. Phase I complex includes the Mississippi Sound Welcome Center, IP Casino Resort Spa Exhibitions Gallery, Gallery of African American Art and the Pleasant Reed House. The City of Biloxi Center for Ceramics and the John S. and James L. Knight Gallery are under construction and are scheduled to open in 2012.

The Museum showcases the works of local, regional and international artists, hosts a variety of art classes and special exhibits and sponsors **Mud Daubers Camp**, a five-week summer camp for children.

Gallery 782 Co-Art, a nonprofit arts cooperative, is the anchor of a burgeoning downtown arts district. Advocating arts-based redevelopment of the historic downtown, the Gallery works collaboratively with Biloxi Main Street and the nearby **Duste Bonge Art Foundation** to entice residents and visitors into the downtown through public art receptions, exhibits, workshops and special events.

The **Duste Bonge Art Foundation** features a rotating exhibit of original works by the Biloxi native, along with other works. The Foundation is planning a new book about Bongé, one of the few female abstractionists, to be published by the University Press of Mississippi.

Biloxi Museums and Cultural Heritage

Biloxi's Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum operates two 65' two-masted Biloxi Schooners, offering sailing experiences to the public. The schooners dock at the Schooner Pier Complex on U.S. Highway 90, which also is host site for the annual **Billy Creel Memorial Wooden Boat Show**.

Temporarily located at Edgewater Mall, the Museum conducts year-round educational programs and a summer **Sea-n-Sail Adventure Camp** for children. Reconstruction of a 25,000 square foot museum is estimated to cost between \$7 – 8 million; construction and exhibit fabrication and installation are projected to be complete within two years, following FEMA design approval.

Beauvoir, Harrison County's only **National Historic Landmark**, reopened in 2008 after extensive restoration work. Beauvoir was the last home of Davis, the only President of the Confederacy; the mansion has been

restored to reflect the period during which he was in residence, 1879-1889. The grounds, House Museum, reconstructed pavilions and a gift shop are open to the public seven days a week. The Presidential Library and Museum Building is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2011.

The **Magnolia Hotel**, restored at a cost of about \$694,000, is scheduled to open in early 2012 as the **Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum**, featuring state-of-the-art exhibits and original Mardi Gras costumes to interpret the history and traditions of Biloxi's Mardi Gras season.

The **West End Hose Company No. 3 Fire Museum** on Howard Avenue interprets the history of Biloxi firefighters through exhibits and displays of vintage equipment.

The **Purple Heart Memorial** and the **USS Biloxi Bell/USS Biloxi Mast** remind those visiting **Glennon Park/Guice Park** by the Biloxi Small Craft Harbor of the sacrifices past generations have made to preserve democracy. The **Hurricane Camille Memorial** and the **Hurricane Katrina Memorial** remind residents and visitors of two devastating events that reshaped Biloxi's built environment.

Annual Local Cultural Events

- Mardi Gras Celebration
- St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Fireman's Day Parade
- Mississippi Gulf Coast Spring Pilgrimage
- Crawfish Festival at the Coast Coliseum
- Smokin' the Sound
- Scrapin' the Coast
- Blessing of the Fleet
- Billy Creel Memorial Wooden Boat Show
- Great Biloxi Schooner Races, "Race of the White Wings"
- 4th of July Fireworks Display
- Summer Fair at the Coast Coliseum
- Biloxi Seafood Festival
- Fall Muster at Beauvoir
- Cruisin' the Coast
- Old Biloxi Cemetery Tours
- Veterans Day Parade
- Christmas in the City festivities
- Christmas on the Water Boat Parade
- Blues Festival at the Coliseum
- Preservation in May Programs

Environmental Conservation & Enhancement

The City of Biloxi actively supports conservation and restoration of the natural resources that provide a vast array of recreational and commercial opportunities to its residents and visitors. For instance, the City of Biloxi was one of the first cities in the state to employ a full-time City arborist and to adopt a **tree protection ordinance** to safeguard its magnificent Live Oaks, magnolias and other significant trees; the City is a long-time **Tree City, USA** designee.

A partner of the **Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain**, established to conserve and protect local open spaces of ecological, cultural or scenic significance, the City of Biloxi also was one of the first cities in Mississippi to establish a **Community Court** system to facilitate enforcement of local codes to improve the safety and appearance of residential and commercial property throughout Biloxi. Enforcement of local codes in 2010 resulted in 2,576 code violations being resolved, of which 937 involved the clearing of weeds and debris.

Biloxi's **Comprehensive Land Development Ordinance** requires a specific ratio of pervious surface to impervious area for residential and commercial development, which enhances stormwater management efforts in compliance with federal and state-mandated regulations.

Biloxi Code Enforcement

Year	Code Violation Requests Processed	Total # Cleared
2011*	844	641
2010	2435	2576
2009	4787	3928
2008	3739	603
2007	1983	1847

*Through July 15, 2011
Source: Biloxi Community Development Department Annual Reports

Development of a comprehensive **Stormwater and Flood Management Ordinance** is underway, with adoption anticipated in early 2012, which will not only help minimize residential and commercial property damage from flood events, but will improve local water quality and erosion control efforts.

The City contracts for citywide, weekly **recycling pickup service** and participates in the Harrison County Beautification Program, a public-private partnership, to provide the monthly **Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program** to protect air, water and soil resources by providing a free alternative to illegal dumping and improper disposal

of harmful waste in local landfills. The City also participates in annual Telephone Directory Recycling, Christmas Tree Recycling, and Great American Clean Up Programs.

Deer Island and the Gulf Islands National Seashore

Located directly off of Point Cadet, the City annexed **Deer Island** in 1999. In 2002, 90% of the island was purchased by the state from private owners to become part of the **Mississippi Coastal Preserves System**, which is comprised of natural areas managed by the state to restore, enhance and maintain their ecological integrity.

Through its participation with the **Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership** (GCHTP), the Biloxi Parks and Recreation Department is working with the Coastal Preserves Program and National Park Service to create a Deer Island Blueway that will highlight the ecological, cultural and historical resources of the island and enhance public access through designated canoe and kayak paddling routes and, possibly, pedestrian boat-ferry services.

Inclusion of Horn Island, Petit Bois Island, Ship Island, and two miles of the western tip of Cat Island in the **Gulf Islands National Seashore** ensures that these offshore resources are protected through federal reef re-establishment, erosion control and other island conservation programs. In 1978, Congress designated Horn Island and Petit Bois Island as national wilderness areas to minimize human impact on their ecosystems. All four of these barrier islands, located 10 -12 miles south of Biloxi, are home to a diverse range of plant and animal life, including a greater variety of bird species than any other ecosystem in the continental U.S. Lands and waters of the barrier island system provide habitat for marine creatures, insects, birds and mammals, including threatened and endangered species.



The **Gulf Coast Heritage Trails Partnership** is a public-private effort to establish a safe, coast-wide network of trails connecting neighborhoods, businesses, schools, and green and blue spaces to enhance the general public's enjoyment of and access to scenic, historic, educational and natural areas. The **Bike Biloxi Program**, which hosts a "Dinner Ride in Downtown" series and - thus far - has established downtown and East Biloxi bicycle routes, is one product of this partnership.

Biloxi's social offerings, aesthetics and openness are what attach residents to the community, according to the Knight Foundation and Gallop's 2010 "Soul of the Community" study.

A designated **Preserve America Community**, Biloxi's built environment benefits from the commitment of City officials and residents to preserve and enhance historic buildings, sites and cultural activities. The **Biloxi Preservation in May Celebration** is an annual collaborative effort of the City, Biloxi Main Street, Biloxi Bay Chamber, Biloxi Chamber of Commerce, Local History and Genealogy Department of the Biloxi Library and Biloxi Public School District that honors the past and showcases the City's rich cultural heritage through special programs, exhibits and receptions.



The Mississippi Gulf Coast's variety of environmental resources contributes greatly to residents' high quality of life and growth in the **ecotourism market** has favorably impacted these resources by expanding support for conservation and enhancement programs.

Local Biodiversity

The **Mississippi Coastal Bird Checklist** identifies the 387 local bird species and is available online, in a print-friendly format, at www.pascagoulariver.audubon.org and www.mscoastaudubon.org.



The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative

www.gulfresearchinitiative.org

The **Gulf of Mexico Alliance** is a partnership of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas, formed with the goal of increasing regional collaboration to enhance the ecological and economic health of the Gulf of Mexico. In 2011, BP and the Gulf of Mexico Alliance executed an agreement for the implementation of BP's \$500 million **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative** (GRI) to coordinate scientific studies, over a 10-year period, of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill effects and associated impacts on the environment and public health.

“Biloxi is the name that people know and the place that people love.”

Mayor A.J. Holloway





biloxi.ms.us



For Additional Information

City of Biloxi	biloxi.ms.us
Biloxi Public School District	www.biloxischools.net
Mississippi Gulf Coast Agencies & Links to:	www.gulfcoast.org
Harrison County Development Commission	
The Innovation Center	
Mississippi Coast Coliseum Commission	
Mississippi Development Authority	
Mississippi Foreign Trade Zone, Inc.	
Mississippi Gulf Coast Convention & Visitors Bureau	
Mississippi State Port at Gulfport	
Mississippi State Tax Commission	
Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport	www.flygpt.com
Harrison County and links to databases:	www.co.harrison.ms.us
Landrolls	
Deeds & Records	
Uniform Commercial Code	
The Official State of Mississippi website:	www.state.ms.us

Turn your email into Bmail

Sign up at biloxi.ms.us for the most current news about Biloxi.



biloxi.ms.us

City of Biloxi Frequently Called Numbers

(Area code is 228 for all numbers, unless noted otherwise)

- **Auto tag info** 435-8242
County Courthouse at Lameuse Street and MLK Boulevard
- **Birth certificates** 601-576-7960
State Department of Vital Statistics
- **Building permits** 435-6270
To obtain permits for construction and improvements
- **Business licenses** 435-6247
To obtain a license to do business in the city
- **City Council** 435-6257
To reach council members or clerks of council
- **City Court** 435-6125
Information on traffic tickets and court docket
- **Drivers licenses** 392-1183
- **Emergency police and fire** 911
Non-emergency: 435-6100 (police) or 435-6200 (fire)
- **Garbage collection** 328-1820
- **Housing Authority** 374-7771
- **Human Resources** 435-6259
For information on city employment
- **Mayor's office** 435-6254
Citizen services, proclamations, public records requests
- **Parks & Recreation** 435-6294
Information on programs, or to rent most city facilities
- **Planning Commission** 435-6266
To apply for a change in zoning or land use
- **Public schools** 374-1810
Administrative office for all Biloxi public schools
- **Visitor information** 374-3105
or 1-800-BILOXI-3
- **Voter registration** 435-6279
To register to vote or change in address
- **Water service** 374-7953