

City of Biloxi Overview



Dear Reader:

Thank you for your interest in the City of Biloxi where we enjoy a low cost of living, outstanding schools, modern medical facilities, safe neighborhoods, cutting edge arts, cultural and recreational amenities, incredible environmental resources and a diverse economy. Biloxi, also known as "America's Cinderella Story" and the "Capital of the Playground of the South," is a nice place to visit, but it's a great place to live and work.

The 2003-04 General Market Analysis is designed to consolidate the considerable amount of information that is available about living, working and playing in Biloxi into one folder specific to your inquiry. The City of Biloxi website, biloxi.ms.us, provides supplementary, up-to-the-minute information that you also may find of interest.

I encourage you to visit and experience for yourself the unique charm and the dynamic "can do" spirit of our city. My office and the entire city staff stand ready to assist in any way possible as you explore the many development opportunities Biloxi has to offer.

Sincerely,

A.J. Holloway
Mayor

Biloxi City Council

- George Lawrence
- Eric Dickey
- Jim Compton
- Charles T. Harrison, Jr.
- Tom Wall
- Mike Fitzpatrick
- David Fayard

Biloxi City Government

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

The Biloxi City Council meets the first, third and fourth Tuesdays of each month at City Hall, located at 140 Lameuse Street. City Council agendas are posted each week on the Biloxi website.

City of Biloxi Miscellaneous Facts

Number of City employees (excluding police & fire)	301
Area in square miles	62
Miles of water mains	231
Miles of sanitary sewer lines	235
Number of parks	26
Park acreage	170
Number of community centers	5

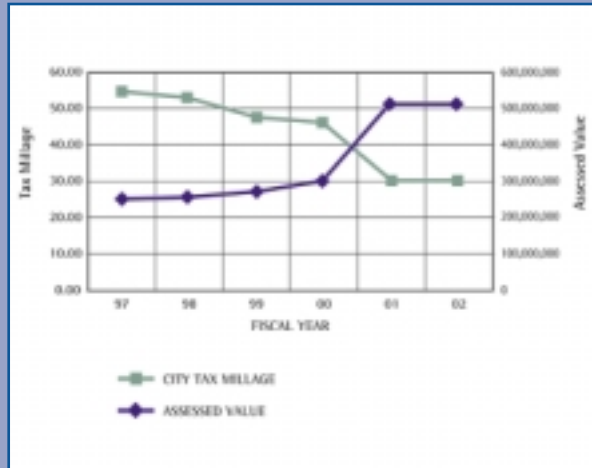




State and Local Taxes

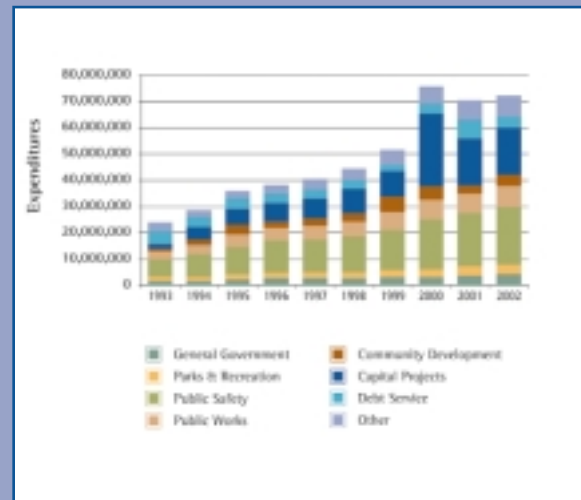
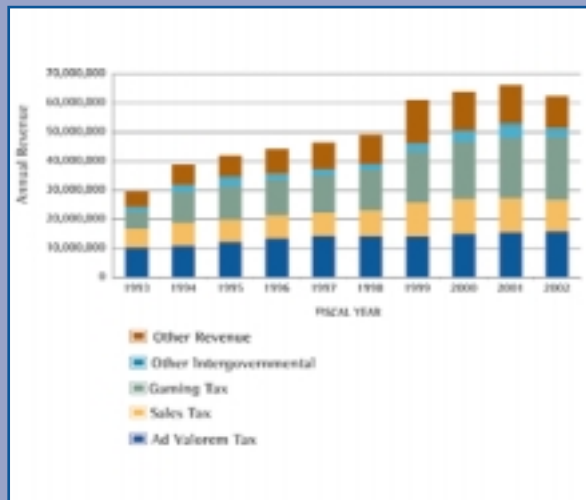
The general retail sales tax rate in Mississippi is 7%. Income is taxed by the State at a rate of 3% for the first \$5,000 of taxable income, 4% for the next \$5,000 of taxable income and 5% for taxable income over \$10,000; no state income tax is levied on income from state and federal retirement. Motor vehicles are assessed at 30%.

Property taxes are levied in Mississippi by cities and counties based on the assessed value of real and personal property. Assessed value is a prescribed percentage of the true (appraised) value of each class of property as defined by State Code. Biloxi's base millage rate is set each September by the Mayor and City Council and is consistently among the lowest in the State.



City of Biloxi Revenues and Expenditures

During the fiscal year ended September 30, 2002, Biloxi's major revenue sources were property tax, sales tax and gaming tax. The graph below illustrates the trend in annual totals for each of the City's major revenue sources. Since casino gaming was approved in Harrison County in 1992, gaming tax revenues have become the single largest revenue source for the City. Revenues from local taxes on casino gaming have allowed Biloxi's governing authority to reduce property tax rates while increasing municipal services and capital spending. Because of the significant growth in the City's tax base (assessed value), property tax revenues have trended upward in spite of the last several years' property tax reductions.



In keeping with the administration's priorities, public safety and capital projects are the largest expenditure categories of the City of Biloxi. Spending for police and fire protection has tripled since 1992 as the City has not only increased the number of police and fire personnel, but has increased their compensation and improved their training, equipment and facilities.

The administration's ongoing multimillion dollar capital campaign includes an extensive list of public improvement projects that already are improving working and living conditions for residents and business owners throughout the City. Detailed information about major projects, including project budget and status information, is available on the City's website. Citywide street and drainage improvements totaling more than \$80 million, implementation of the first phases of the City's \$10 million sports complex, revitalization and redevelopment activities in East Biloxi, development of the Popp's Ferry Causeway waterfront park, and construction of a new fire station, water tower and recreation facility in the Woolmarket area are examples of the City's capital projects budget diversity.

Source: City of Biloxi Comprehensive Annual Financial Report