

Mississippi Gulf Coast Economic Snapshot

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Focus: Employment

When comparing preliminary reports for Establishment Jobs¹ on the Mississippi Gulf Coast from December 2014 to December 2012, the combined coastal counties of Mississippi have added 3,870 jobs over the last 24 months, or 2.5% growth compared to the overall state level of 2.4% during that same time period. Construction jobs in Jackson County have been the largest driver of employment (roughly 3,000 jobs), while Leisure & Hospitality and Healthcare have also added jobs. While the progress is clear, the region still lacks almost 5,000 jobs when compared to pre-recession and to Pre-Katrina levels; the variance would be greater if growth would have been applied to those historical benchmarks.

Establishment Jobs in December on the Mississippi Gulf Coast (Hancock, Harrison, and Jackson Counties)

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security

	12/31/2014	12/31/2012	Change	% Change	Pre Recession			
					12/31/2008	Change	12/31/2004	
Manufacturing	18,140	18,360	(220)	-1.2%	21,330	(3,190)	21,840	(3,700)
Agri., Forestry, Mining, Utilities	1,860	1,800	60	3.3%	1,740	120	2,100	(240)
Construction	11,450	8,500	2,950	34.7%	11,910	(460)	6,550	4,900
Wholesale Trade	2,060	2,010	50	2.5%	2,310	(250)	2,260	(200)
Retail Trade	17,630	17,840	(210)	-1.2%	19,050	(1,420)	19,730	(2,100)
Transportation and Warehousing	3,470	3,380	90	2.7%	3,630	(160)	3,760	(290)
Information	1,680	1,570	110	7.0%	2,220	(540)	2,660	(980)
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	6,010	5,850	160	2.7%	6,040	(30)	6,010	0
Professional Services	5,770	5,890	(120)	-2.0%	6,290	(520)	5,960	(190)
Management of Companies	1,240	1,240	0	0.0%	920	320	1,330	(90)
Waste Mgt.	9,800	9,520	280	2.9%	9,980	(180)	6,970	2,830
Educational Services	1,120	1,100	20	1.8%	660	460	510	610
Health Care	12,190	11,740	450	3.8%	11,140	1,050	11,910	280
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	340	360	(20)	-5.6%	260	80	310	30
Leisure & Hospitality	27,210	26,590	620	2.3%	27,860	(650)	32,320	(5,110)
Other Services and Government	3,270	3,140	130	4.1%	3,340	(70)	3,860	(590)
Government and Education	33,230	33,710	(480)	-1.4%	32,610	620	33,150	80
Total Establishment jobs	156,470	152,600	3,870	2.5%	161,290	(4,820)	161,230	(4,760)

¹Establishment jobs are those located in each respective county. These exclude self-employed individuals.

Mississippi Gulf Coast Economic Highlights

- The combined, three-county sales tax base on the Mississippi Gulf Coast has grown 3.3% in the most recent four months and has increased in 29 of the last 35 months.
- The number of establishment jobs on the Mississippi Gulf Coast has increased in 31 consecutive months (compared to same month prior year).
- Recent job growth in the region has largely been fueled by construction in Jackson County. While the region has added almost 4,000 jobs since 2012, growth slowed in 2014 but remained positive.
- In 2014, the number of residential permits applied for on the Mississippi Gulf Coast exceeded prior year after declining in 2013. The value of commercial permits applied for approached \$175 million in 2014 compared to \$163 million in 2013 (source: Treen Permit Reports).

About GCBC

The Gulf Coast Business Council engages top executives of businesses – large and small – to be the united voice on public policy issues important to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, to serve as a facilitating organization and help develop future leaders. The Gulf Coast Business Council champions common economic and business interests through identifying issues, convening resources, framing public policy and finding solutions for the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Sound research serves as a foundation for the Business Council's program of work. Please visit www.msgcbc.com/research to download other examples of research published by the Gulf Coast Business Council.

Update: Sales Taxes

After a sluggish start to 2014, the Mississippi Gulf Coast reported year-over-year increases in sales tax diversions² in the last four months of the year, generating more than \$600,000 in incremental revenue for the twelve municipalities in the region. When compared to 2008, the region's sales tax base is only 97.4% of what it was before the recession, while the region is 104.5% of pre-Katrina levels (benchmarks not adjusted for inflation).

January - December 2014 Sales Tax Diversion

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

	2014	2013	2014 vs 2013
BAY ST LOUIS	1,328,819	1,354,379	-1.9%
BILOXI	11,295,630	11,196,344	0.9%
DIAMONDHEAD	498,991	449,880	10.9%
D'IBERVILLE	6,176,370	5,994,574	3.0%
GAUTIER	2,005,384	2,232,936	-10.2%
GULFPORT	19,513,055	19,608,932	-0.5%
LONG BEACH	1,319,631	1,353,903	-2.5%
MOSS POINT	1,711,041	1,691,884	1.1%
OCEAN SPRINGS	4,635,854	4,542,327	2.1%
PASCAGOULA	5,501,265	5,516,796	-0.3%
PASS CHRISTIAN	1,197,448	1,139,785	5.1%
WAVELAND	2,238,423	2,157,875	3.7%
Combined Cities	\$57,421,911	\$57,239,615	0.3%

²Cities receive 18.5% of sales taxes which are collected, while the state receives 81.5%.