

Mississippi Gulf Coast Economic Snapshot

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Military and Defense Metrics

- In Fiscal year 2013, the Mississippi Department of Revenue reported gross sales on the Mississippi Gulf Coast of \$5.9 billion. In 2012, more than 400 Department of Defense contracts worth \$4.1 billion were awarded in the three coastal counties.
- Roughly 1 in 10 people on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are veterans.
- The Mississippi Department of Employment Security reports 156,270 establishment jobs as of April 2014—the Mississippi Gulf Coast’s military bases employ roughly 21,500 military and civilian personnel.
- In addition to military personnel and civilian labor, an additional 40,000 people visit the region’s military bases annually for training.
- The direct economic impact which the Mississippi Gulf Coast’s military installations has on the economy exceeds \$3 billion—this figure does not include all DoD spending in the region’s shipyards and other venues.

Focus: Military and Defense

In October 2013, the Harrison County Development Commission published *A Salute to the Military: A Way of Life on the Mississippi Gulf Coast*. This Economic Snapshot includes highlights of HCDC’s report and provides a context to how important Military and Defense is to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Economy.

Table: Summary of Key South Mississippi Military Installments

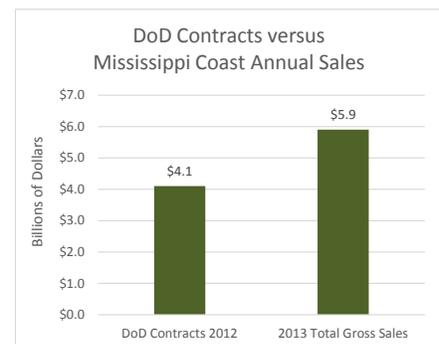
Installation/Activity	Location	Highlights
Stennis Space Center	Hancock County	Over 5,000 direct jobs supported and more than \$600 million annual economic impact.
Coast Guard Stations	Gulfport & Pascagoula	Over 160 direct personnel. Provide port, waterway, and coastal security.
Naval Construction Battalion Center	Gulfport	One of two Seabee installations in the United States. Over 6,000 employed and \$850 million annual economic impact on region.
Trent Lott Training Complex	Gulfport	Over 700 personnel and \$60 million annual economic impact.
Keesler Air Force Base	Biloxi	Annual economic impact of \$1.2 billion. Over 12,000 military and civilian personnel with an additional 28,000 who train at facilities.
Supervisor of Shipbuilding	Pascagoula	Over 500 personnel. Administers contracts valued at \$45 billion.

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.

The Importance of Military Funding

Spending on Military and Defense in America is driven primarily by two annual pieces of federal legislation: the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and the Defense Appropriation bill. Roughly 1 in 10 people who work on the Mississippi Gulf Coast are directly impacted by military spending; when considering indirect impacts (such as housing, spending with local vendors, etc), the region depends greatly on military and defense funding. The military is not only important to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, but to the state as a whole. Military spending in Mississippi amounts to roughly \$2,000 per resident.



Total defense contracts awarded in 2012 amounted to \$4.1 billion. By contrast, all sales reported in FY 2013 were \$5.9 billion.