



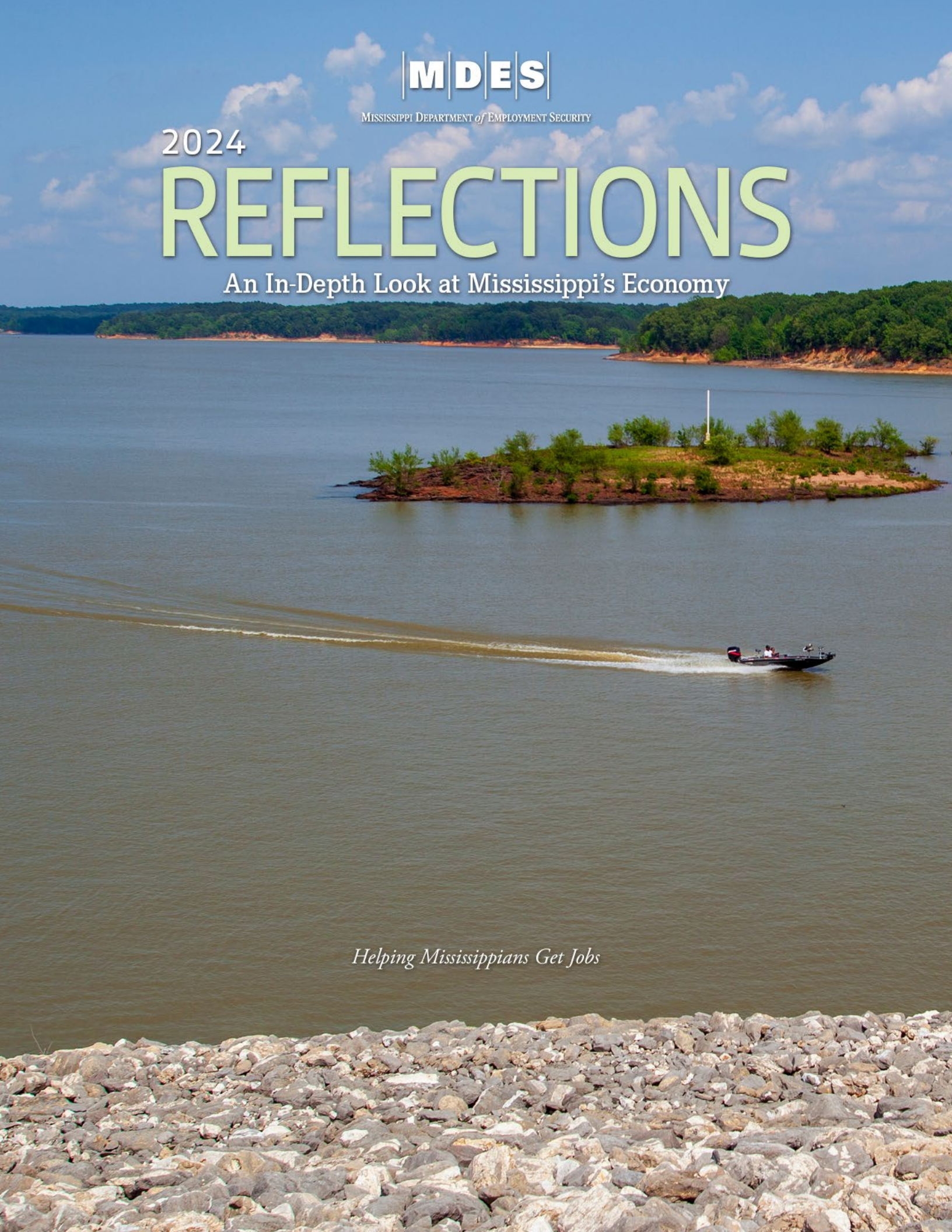
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT of EMPLOYMENT SECURITY

2024

REFLECTIONS

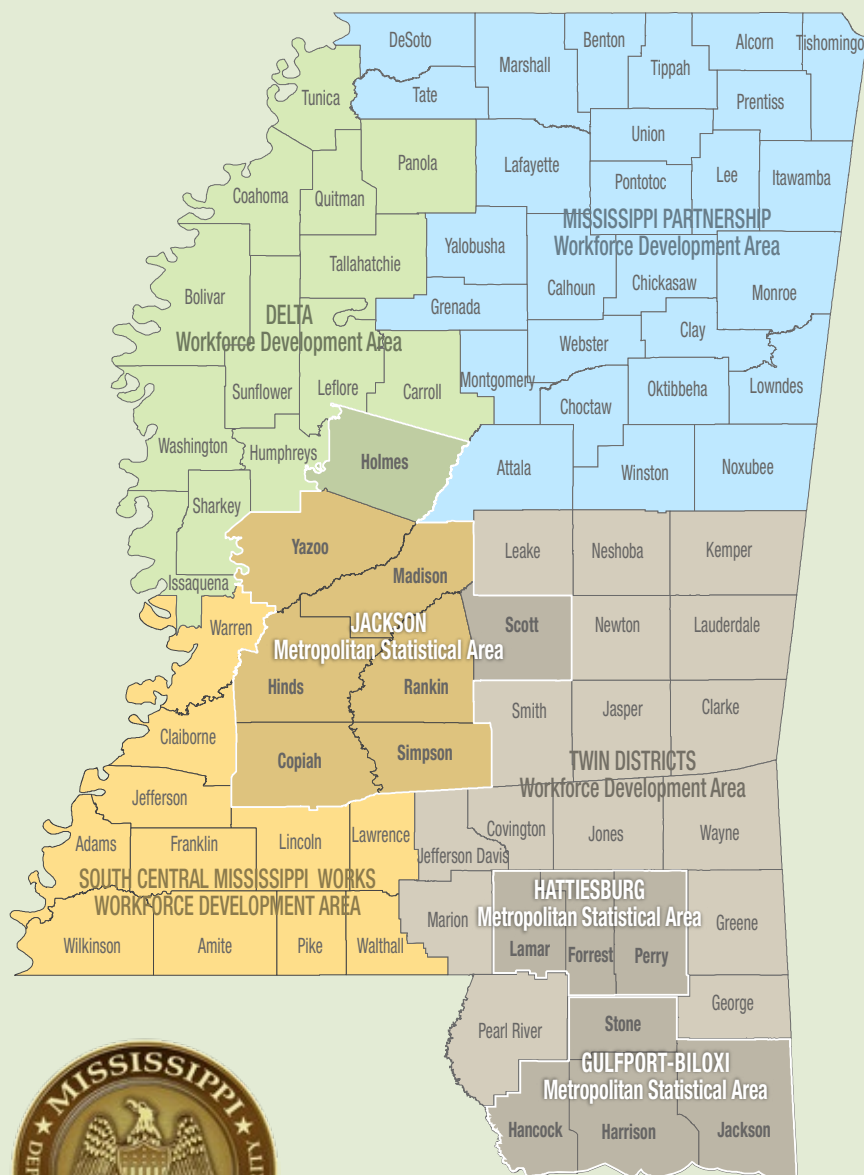
An In-Depth Look at Mississippi's Economy

Helping Mississippians Get Jobs



REFLECTIONS

An In-Depth Look at Mississippi's Economy



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On the Cover: Sardis Dam and reservoir lake on the Tallahatchie River at John W. Kyle State Park in Panola County, Mississippi.

Produced by the Labor Market Information Department of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security

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A photograph of a sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with the sun low on the horizon and its light reflecting on the clouds and water. The sky is a mix of blue and orange.

Methodology

Intended as an aide to state and local workforce development boards and policymakers, this publication is produced using quantitative data to evaluate trends in Mississippi's economy. There are numerous ways to measure economic activity, but in many cases the data are not available below state levels. To provide insight and challenges for microgeographic areas, focus was placed on five commonly available sub-state measures.

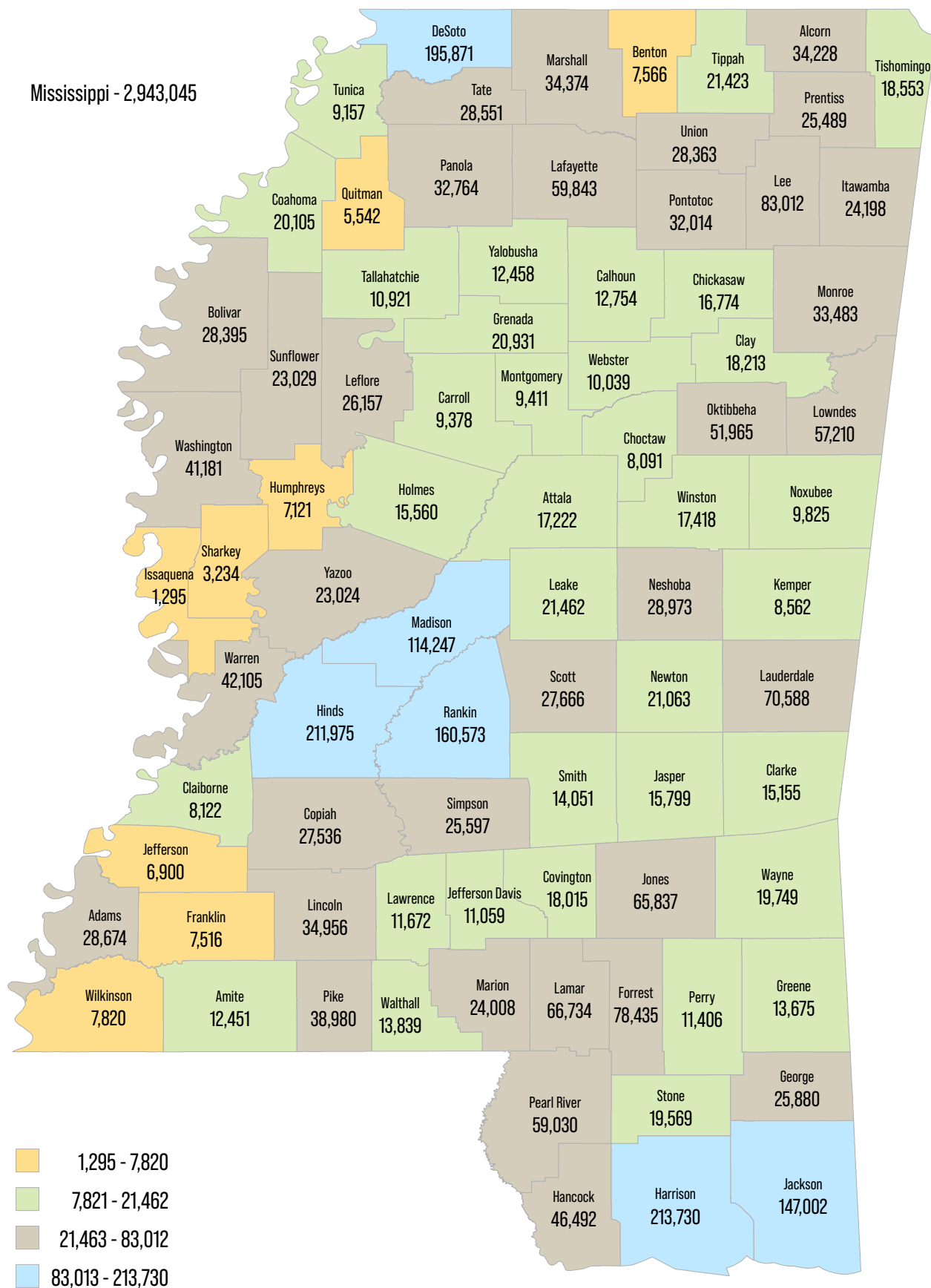
Five sectors considered include: population, labor force, employment by industry, per capita income, and sales tax revenues. Generally, it's best to examine both long- and short-term trends to understand where the state's economy has been and where it might be headed, therefore statistics across five years are examined. Data is provided at the following levels: Statewide, County, Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and Workforce Development Area (WDA).

Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES) analysts endeavor to be objective and thorough, within the limits of available data. Statistics contained in this publication were generated internally by the Labor Market Information (LMI) Department of MDES with some exceptions. Population figures were derived from U.S. Census Bureau data, per capita income was extracted from tables produced by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), and sales tax collection figures originated from Mississippi Department of Revenue annual reports.

Publications and other data sets that might be of use to policymakers and workforce development board staff are produced periodically by the LMI Department. These can be accessed at our website: mdes.ms.gov. Inquiries regarding the data and analysis found in this publication should be directed to lmi-info@mdes.ms.gov.

NOTE: Effective beginning with this publication, the counties included in two Metropolitan Statistical Areas have changed. Jackson MSA now includes Holmes and Scott counties. Gulfport-Biloxi-Pascagoula MSA now includes Stone County, and the name has changed to Gulfport-Biloxi MSA. The MSA data has been updated to reflect these changes. The changes are due to the Bureau of Labor Statistics updating the areas to reflect delineations based on the 2020 Census, as published in OMB Bulletin No. 23-01.

2024 Population



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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Area Population

Gradual Demographic Shifts Reflect Mississippi's Evolving Population Trends Amid Overall Decline

Between 2020 and 2024, Mississippi experienced a statewide population decline of 15,491 residents, representing a 0.5 percent decrease. Over 70 percent of the decrease occurred from 2020 to 2021. This downward trend reflects broader patterns of outmigration and population stagnation in several counties. While the state's total population fell, the impact varied widely across counties and regions, with some areas experiencing sharp losses while others grew steadily.

A handful of counties showed strong population growth over the five-year period. DeSoto County led with an increase of 9,742 residents or 5.2 percent. Madison County added nearly 5,000 residents, reflecting a 4.6 percent increase, followed closely by Harrison County with an increase of 4,895 (2.3%). These counties are among the state's fastest-growing, driven by suburban expansion, economic development, and proximity to metro centers. Lafayette County posted the highest percentage increase of 7.0 percent (3,927), followed by Stone County (+6.8% or 1,240), and George County (+6.2% or 1,513).

In contrast, many counties faced significant population losses. Hinds County reported the largest net decline, losing 14,797 residents (-6.5%) over the five years. Other notable losses occurred in Washington (-3,467), Yazoo (-3,646), and Bolivar (-2,448) Counties. Sharkey County had the highest percentage drop at 14.3 percent, followed by Yazoo (-13.7%) and Tallahatchie (-13.6%). These losses were concentrated primarily in the Delta region and rural areas, where declining economic opportunities and outward migration have had sustained impacts.

Mississippi's four Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) also reflected these population trends. The Delta WDA experienced the largest regional decline,

losing 18,277 residents (-7.2%). In contrast, the Twin Districts and Mississippi Partnership WDAs each added about 10,000 residents (1.1%) each, showing concentrated growth in southern and northeastern parts of the state. Among the state's Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Gulfport-Biloxi led with a population increase of 10,121 residents (2.4%), while Hattiesburg added 2,511 (1.6%). The Jackson MSA was the only metro region to see a decline, losing 12,705 residents (-2.1%) during the same period.

The racial makeup of Mississippi is gradually diversifying. While White residents remain the majority at 58.6% statewide in 2024 (down from 58.9% in 2020), many counties saw slight decreases in White populations and simultaneous increases in residents categorized as "Other" – those not categorized as White Alone or Black Alone. The Black population, which is the second-largest racial group at 37.7% in 2024, remained relatively steady across the state. However, areas like Bolivar, Sunflower, and Coahoma continue to have a predominantly Black population, whereas northeastern counties like Alcorn, Itawamba, and Tishomingo remain overwhelmingly White.

Ethnic diversity has also increased, particularly in the Hispanic population, which rose from 3.6% to 4.1% statewide between 2020 and 2024. This trend is reflected more strongly in counties like Scott (which grew from 14.6% to 16.5% Hispanic), Harrison, and DeSoto. The rise in Hispanic populations aligns with economic trends in sectors like agriculture, manufacturing, and service industries that tend to draw immigrant labor. These demographic shifts signal slow but steady diversification, particularly in counties experiencing economic or infrastructural development.

Mississippi Population

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 to 2024		RANK		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Pop. 2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
MISSISSIPPI	2,958,536	2,947,209	2,941,939	2,943,172	2,943,045	(15,491)	(0.5)			
Adams	29,427	28,504	28,558	28,854	28,674	(753)	(2.6)	27	67	52
Alcorn	34,732	34,344	34,094	34,046	34,228	(504)	(1.5)	22	55	38
Amite	12,702	12,626	12,572	12,474	12,451	(251)	(2.0)	62	36	47
Attala	17,817	17,716	17,529	17,346	17,222	(595)	(3.3)	52	60	59
Benton	7,669	7,645	7,574	7,491	7,566	(103)	(1.3)	76	30	35
Bolivar	30,843	30,140	29,443	28,850	28,395	(2,448)	(7.9)	29	78	74
Calhoun	13,216	12,962	12,913	12,766	12,754	(462)	(3.5)	60	54	61
Carroll	9,940	9,831	9,747	9,532	9,378	(562)	(5.7)	70	58	68
Chickasaw	17,083	17,011	16,870	16,838	16,774	(309)	(1.8)	53	42	43
Choctaw	8,207	8,134	8,086	8,072	8,091	(116)	(1.4)	74	31	36
Claiborne	9,096	8,668	8,599	8,425	8,122	(974)	(10.7)	73	68	79
Clarke	15,547	15,417	15,212	15,240	15,155	(392)	(2.5)	56	49	51
Clay	18,621	18,482	18,334	18,265	18,213	(408)	(2.2)	49	53	49
Coahoma	21,228	20,712	20,404	20,253	20,105	(1,123)	(5.3)	45	69	66
Copiah	28,271	27,918	27,811	27,737	27,536	(735)	(2.6)	32	66	53
Covington	18,301	18,280	18,126	18,020	18,015	(286)	(1.6)	50	38	41
DeSoto	186,129	188,957	191,585	193,961	195,871	9,742	5.2	3	1	4
Forrest	78,212	77,996	78,284	78,432	78,435	223	0.3	8	19	23
Franklin	7,661	7,686	7,619	7,626	7,516	(145)	(1.9)	77	32	44
George	24,367	24,795	25,219	25,589	25,880	1,513	6.2	34	9	3
Greene	13,529	13,664	13,583	13,625	13,675	146	1.1	59	21	18
Grenada	21,577	21,324	21,152	21,103	20,931	(646)	(3.0)	44	63	57
Hancock	46,130	46,004	46,047	46,161	46,492	362	0.8	16	16	20
Harrison	208,835	209,526	210,972	211,394	213,730	4,895	2.3	1	3	10
Hinds	226,772	222,017	217,383	214,517	211,975	(14,797)	(6.5)	2	82	70
Holmes	16,876	16,535	16,147	15,836	15,560	(1,316)	(7.8)	55	71	73
Humphreys	7,735	7,558	7,342	7,217	7,121	(614)	(7.9)	78	62	75
Issaquena	1,325	1,318	1,284	1,280	1,295	(30)	(2.3)	82	26	50
Itawamba	23,865	23,945	24,034	24,139	24,198	333	1.4	37	17	16
Jackson	143,378	144,482	145,218	146,165	147,002	3,624	2.5	5	5	9
Jasper	16,352	16,155	16,020	15,970	15,799	(553)	(3.4)	54	57	60
Jefferson	7,245	7,137	7,086	6,974	6,900	(345)	(4.8)	79	46	65
Jefferson Davis	11,274	11,170	11,086	10,997	11,059	(215)	(1.9)	65	35	45
Jones	67,173	66,747	66,464	66,141	65,837	(1,336)	(2.0)	11	72	48
Kemper	8,962	8,809	8,692	8,620	8,562	(400)	(4.5)	72	50	64
Lafayette	55,916	57,700	58,776	59,400	59,843	3,927	7.0	12	4	1
Lamar	64,393	65,420	65,811	66,207	66,734	2,341	3.6	10	8	7
Lauderdale	72,676	72,032	71,323	70,901	70,588	(2,088)	(2.9)	9	75	56
Lawrence	11,984	11,790	11,766	11,718	11,672	(312)	(2.6)	63	44	54
Leake	21,250	21,270	21,279	21,336	21,462	212	1.0	41	20	19
Lee	83,319	83,002	82,946	82,893	83,012	(307)	(0.4)	7	41	28
Leflore	28,341	27,676	26,938	26,595	26,157	(2,184)	(7.7)	33	76	71
Lincoln	34,844	34,961	34,807	34,815	34,956	112	0.3	20	23	22
Lowndes	58,783	58,133	57,694	57,369	57,210	(1,573)	(2.7)	14	73	55
Madison	109,252	109,972	111,694	113,068	114,247	4,995	4.6	6	2	6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mississippi Population

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 to 2024		RANK		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Pop. 2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Marion	24,376	24,308	24,142	24,133	24,008	(368)	(1.5)	38	47	39
Marshall	33,783	33,660	33,897	34,180	34,374	591	1.7	21	12	14
Monroe	34,135	33,918	33,561	33,636	33,483	(652)	(1.9)	23	64	46
Montgomery	9,793	9,696	9,547	9,565	9,411	(382)	(3.9)	69	48	62
Neshoba	29,003	28,923	28,854	28,908	28,973	(30)	(0.1)	26	25	25
Newton	21,254	21,088	21,017	21,041	21,063	(191)	(0.9)	43	34	30
Noxubee	10,226	10,116	10,019	9,938	9,825	(401)	(3.9)	68	51	63
Oktibbeha	51,705	51,803	51,661	51,721	51,965	260	0.5	15	18	21
Panola	33,170	32,902	32,553	32,651	32,764	(406)	(1.2)	24	52	34
Pearl River	56,207	56,519	57,338	58,198	59,030	2,823	5.0	13	7	5
Perry	11,459	11,507	11,440	11,433	11,406	(53)	(0.5)	64	28	29
Pike	40,193	39,976	39,592	39,271	38,980	(1,213)	(3.0)	19	70	58
Pontotoc	31,195	31,332	31,449	31,761	32,014	819	2.6	25	11	8
Prentiss	24,974	25,052	25,094	25,310	25,489	515	2.1	36	14	12
Quitman	6,153	5,897	5,683	5,592	5,542	(611)	(9.9)	80	61	77
Rankin	157,175	157,600	158,733	160,184	160,573	3,398	2.2	4	6	11
Scott	27,977	27,617	27,710	27,619	27,666	(311)	(1.1)	31	43	32
Sharkey	3,774	3,629	3,483	3,378	3,234	(540)	(14.3)	81	56	82
Simpson	25,890	25,699	25,615	25,653	25,597	(293)	(1.1)	35	39	33
Smith	14,205	14,199	14,095	14,108	14,051	(154)	(1.1)	57	33	31
Stone	18,329	18,736	18,834	19,004	19,569	1,240	6.8	47	10	2
Sunflower	25,702	24,681	24,314	23,940	23,029	(2,673)	(10.4)	39	79	78
Tallahatchie	12,647	11,969	11,762	11,517	10,921	(1,726)	(13.6)	66	74	80
Tate	28,119	28,173	28,372	28,389	28,551	432	1.5	28	15	15
Tippah	21,737	21,599	21,480	21,377	21,423	(314)	(1.4)	42	45	37
Tishomingo	18,854	18,745	18,626	18,524	18,553	(301)	(1.6)	48	40	42
Tunica	9,734	9,644	9,461	9,380	9,157	(577)	(5.9)	71	59	69
Union	27,814	28,029	28,130	28,275	28,363	549	2.0	30	13	13
Walthall	13,873	13,835	13,815	13,835	13,839	(34)	(0.2)	58	27	26
Warren	44,550	43,440	42,684	42,323	42,105	(2,445)	(5.5)	17	77	67
Washington	44,648	43,605	42,490	41,902	41,181	(3,467)	(7.8)	18	80	72
Wayne	19,807	19,672	19,617	19,743	19,749	(58)	(0.3)	46	29	27
Webster	9,904	9,975	9,953	9,989	10,039	135	1.4	67	22	17
Wilkinson	8,524	8,303	8,175	7,988	7,820	(704)	(8.3)	75	65	76
Winston	17,686	17,573	17,527	17,476	17,418	(268)	(1.5)	51	37	40
Yalobusha	12,436	12,438	12,395	12,369	12,458	22	0.2	61	24	24
Yazoo	26,670	25,180	24,698	24,603	23,024	(3,646)	(13.7)	40	81	81
Metropolitan Statistical Areas										
Gulfport-Biloxi	416,672	418,748	421,071	422,724	426,793	10,121	2.4	2	1	1
Hattiesburg	154,064	154,923	155,535	156,072	156,575	2,511	1.6	3	2	2
Jackson	618,883	612,538	609,791	609,217	606,178	(12,705)	(2.1)	1	3	3
Workforce Development Areas										
Delta	252,116	246,097	241,051	237,923	233,839	(18,277)	(7.2)	4	4	4
MS Partnership	879,295	881,464	883,298	886,199	889,279	9,984	1.1	2	2	1
SC MS Works	794,129	785,312	781,207	780,065	775,987	(18,142)	(2.3)	3	3	3
Twin Districts	1,032,996	1,034,336	1,036,383	1,038,985	1,043,940	10,944	1.1	1	1	1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mississippi Population Demographics

	POPULATION		Pct. Female		Pct. Male		Pct. White		Pct. Black		Pct. Other		Pct. Hispanic	
	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024
MISSISSIPPI	2,958,536	2,943,045	51.4	51.6	48.6	48.4	58.9	58.6	37.9	37.7	3.2	3.6	3.6	4.1
Adams	29,427	28,674	50.3	48.3	49.7	51.7	41.6	39.4	56.4	57.7	2.0	2.9	3.7	3.5
Alcorn	34,732	34,228	51.0	50.7	49.0	49.3	84.9	84.5	12.7	12.7	2.3	2.8	3.6	4.0
Amite	12,702	12,451	51.6	51.7	48.4	48.3	59.0	59.7	39.5	38.4	1.5	1.9	1.3	1.5
Attala	17,817	17,222	52.2	52.4	47.8	47.6	54.3	53.3	43.9	44.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.3
Benton	7,669	7,566	50.1	50.6	49.9	49.4	61.9	62.8	35.9	34.6	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.9
Bolivar	30,843	28,395	52.8	53.6	47.2	46.4	33.7	33.6	64.3	64.2	2.0	2.2	2.5	2.8
Calhoun	13,216	12,754	51.5	51.3	48.5	48.7	69.4	69.2	28.6	28.4	2.0	2.3	5.6	7.0
Carroll	9,940	9,378	47.9	47.6	52.1	52.4	64.1	64.4	34.1	33.6	1.7	1.9	1.6	2.0
Chickasaw	17,083	16,774	50.6	51.3	49.4	48.7	52.0	52.6	45.5	44.6	2.5	2.8	3.9	4.2
Choctaw	8,207	8,091	51.0	50.9	49.0	49.1	68.3	68.9	29.6	28.7	2.1	2.4	1.7	2.1
Claiborne	9,096	8,122	52.8	52.5	47.2	47.5	11.4	12.4	86.6	85.3	1.9	2.3	1.1	1.6
Clarke	15,547	15,155	52.6	53.0	47.4	47.0	64.0	63.4	34.5	34.8	1.4	1.8	0.9	1.2
Clay	18,621	18,213	52.6	53.0	47.4	47.0	38.9	37.9	59.5	60.4	1.6	1.8	1.1	1.3
Coahoma	21,228	20,105	53.3	51.7	46.7	48.3	20.5	22.3	78.0	75.9	1.5	1.9	1.8	5.0
Copiah	28,271	27,536	51.7	51.6	48.3	48.4	46.5	46.8	51.6	50.1	1.9	3.1	3.8	5.7
Covington	18,301	18,015	50.9	51.1	49.1	48.9	61.6	61.2	36.3	36.3	2.2	2.5	2.4	2.7
DeSoto	186,129	195,871	51.6	52.0	48.4	48.0	64.9	59.5	31.3	36.2	3.7	4.3	5.5	6.1
Forrest	78,212	78,435	53.0	53.3	47.0	46.7	59.5	59.5	37.4	36.9	3.1	3.6	4.2	4.6
Franklin	7,661	7,516	50.6	50.5	49.4	49.5	63.1	63.6	35.1	34.4	1.8	2.1	1.0	1.5
George	24,367	25,880	49.3	49.4	50.7	50.6	89.9	89.4	7.5	7.7	2.6	2.9	2.8	3.4
Greene	13,529	13,675	41.5	41.2	58.5	58.8	72.8	72.2	25.8	26.1	1.5	1.7	1.2	1.7
Grenada	21,577	20,931	52.3	52.3	47.7	47.7	54.8	53.6	43.3	44.3	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.5
Hancock	46,130	46,492	51.0	51.4	49.0	48.6	87.4	87.2	8.6	8.6	4.0	4.2	4.1	4.3
Harrison	208,835	213,730	51.0	51.4	49.0	48.6	67.5	67.0	26.1	26.3	6.4	6.7	6.6	7.4
Hinds	226,772	211,975	53.2	53.5	46.8	46.5	25.0	24.6	73.1	73.4	1.8	2.1	2.0	2.4
Holmes	16,876	15,560	52.0	52.3	48.0	47.7	15.1	15.9	83.8	82.8	1.1	1.4	0.8	1.1
Humphreys	7,735	7,121	52.8	53.7	47.2	46.3	21.0	20.8	77.5	77.3	1.5	1.9	0.9	1.4
Issaquena	1,325	1,295	33.1	30.3	66.9	69.7	37.0	35.9	61.3	62.9	1.7	1.2	8.9	8.5
Itawamba	23,865	24,198	50.4	50.8	49.6	49.2	90.2	89.7	7.7	8.0	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9
Jackson	143,378	147,002	50.7	51.0	49.3	49.0	73.2	73.1	21.7	21.5	5.1	5.4	7.0	8.2
Jasper	16,352	15,799	51.2	51.0	48.8	49.0	45.2	45.8	53.4	52.3	1.5	1.9	1.2	1.7
Jefferson	7,245	6,900	50.7	50.9	49.3	49.1	13.4	14.1	85.3	84.1	1.2	1.8	1.0	1.1
Jefferson Davis	11,274	11,059	52.4	52.6	47.6	47.4	38.1	38.9	60.4	59.1	1.5	2.0	0.7	1.3
Jones	67,173	65,837	51.1	51.2	48.9	48.8	68.3	68.1	29.4	29.3	2.3	2.6	6.1	6.5
Kemper	8,962	8,562	49.7	49.9	50.3	50.1	33.5	33.5	61.3	60.8	5.2	5.7	0.8	1.1
Lafayette	55,916	59,843	51.5	52.2	48.5	47.8	72.4	72.0	23.3	23.4	4.2	4.5	3.8	3.8
Lamar	64,393	66,734	51.8	52.0	48.2	48.0	75.0	73.2	21.7	23.2	3.3	3.5	3.7	3.7
Lauderdale	72,676	70,588	51.6	51.2	48.4	48.8	53.0	52.3	44.7	45.0	2.3	2.7	2.4	2.7
Lawrence	11,984	11,672	51.2	51.6	48.8	48.4	65.5	65.4	32.6	32.4	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.3
Leake	21,250	21,462	50.9	50.8	49.1	49.2	50.4	51.2	40.6	39.2	9.0	9.5	5.6	7.8
Lee	83,319	83,012	51.9	52.2	48.1	47.8	66.3	65.1	30.9	31.7	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.7
Leflore	28,341	26,157	52.9	52.4	47.1	47.6	22.9	22.9	75.4	75.2	1.7	2.0	2.9	3.6
Lincoln	34,844	34,956	51.8	51.9	48.2	48.1	68.0	67.9	30.2	29.8	1.8	2.3	1.2	1.4
Lowndes	58,783	57,210	52.0	52.0	48.0	48.0	52.6	51.2	44.9	45.8	2.5	2.9	2.2	2.4
Madison	109,252	114,247	52.0	52.2	48.0	47.8	57.8	56.7	38.0	38.3	4.2	5.0	3.7	4.1

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Mississippi Population Demographics

	POPULATION		Pct. Female		Pct. Male		Pct. White		Pct. Black		Pct. Other		Pct. Hispanic	
	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024	2020	2024
Marion	24,376	24,008	51.3	51.1	48.7	48.9	66.4	66.3	31.6	31.3	2.0	2.4	1.7	2.1
Marshall	33,783	34,374	50.0	50.1	50.0	49.9	51.1	52.9	46.9	44.4	2.0	2.7	4.5	5.9
Monroe	34,135	33,483	51.9	51.8	48.1	48.2	67.8	67.5	30.6	30.6	1.6	1.9	1.5	1.7
Montgomery	9,793	9,411	51.4	51.7	48.6	48.3	53.2	53.0	44.9	44.8	1.9	2.2	1.3	1.7
Neshoba	29,003	28,973	52.1	52.4	47.9	47.6	58.8	58.0	21.7	21.9	19.5	20.1	1.6	2.1
Newton	21,254	21,063	51.9	52.0	48.1	48.0	61.2	60.7	31.7	31.5	7.1	7.7	1.7	2.1
Noxubee	10,226	9,825	52.5	52.3	47.5	47.7	26.3	27.2	72.3	71.2	1.4	1.6	1.5	2.0
Oktibbeha	51,705	51,965	49.7	50.0	50.3	50.0	57.7	56.4	37.6	38.0	4.7	5.6	2.5	2.5
Panola	33,170	32,764	51.9	51.9	48.1	48.1	48.2	48.2	50.1	49.9	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.2
Pearl River	56,207	59,030	50.8	50.5	49.2	49.5	84.5	84.4	12.2	12.0	3.3	3.6	4.0	4.7
Perry	11,459	11,406	50.8	51.0	49.2	49.0	79.0	78.9	19.0	18.7	2.0	2.4	1.5	2.2
Pike	40,193	38,980	52.5	52.6	47.5	47.4	43.3	42.2	54.7	55.6	2.0	2.2	1.6	1.8
Pontotoc	31,195	32,014	50.5	50.7	49.5	49.3	81.5	80.1	15.8	16.7	2.6	3.2	6.6	7.8
Prentiss	24,974	25,489	50.5	50.8	49.5	49.2	82.6	81.2	15.4	15.8	1.9	3.0	1.5	1.6
Quitman	6,153	5,542	52.9	52.6	47.1	47.4	25.3	24.4	72.9	73.1	1.8	2.4	0.1	0.6
Rankin	157,175	160,573	51.6	51.8	48.4	48.2	75.7	73.4	21.4	23.2	2.9	3.4	3.2	3.6
Scott	27,977	27,666	50.9	50.6	49.1	49.4	59.0	59.1	37.6	37.2	3.3	3.7	14.6	16.5
Sharkey	3,774	3,234	51.9	52.2	48.1	47.8	26.2	24.4	71.9	73.1	1.9	2.5	2.3	2.7
Simpson	25,890	25,597	51.3	51.7	48.7	48.3	62.3	62.2	35.6	35.3	2.1	2.5	1.6	1.8
Smith	14,205	14,051	51.4	52.1	48.6	47.9	75.1	74.1	23.8	24.4	1.2	1.6	1.6	1.8
Stone	18,329	19,569	49.7	49.5	50.3	50.5	78.4	78.4	19.1	18.6	2.5	3.0	2.3	3.0
Sunflower	25,702	23,029	47.1	48.3	52.9	51.7	24.7	24.7	73.9	73.6	1.4	1.8	2.5	3.3
Tallahatchie	12,647	10,921	47.1	49.3	52.9	50.7	39.0	39.9	58.4	57.8	2.6	2.3	3.5	2.8
Tate	28,119	28,551	51.4	51.4	48.6	48.6	66.7	67.3	31.3	30.5	2.1	2.1	2.8	3.6
Tippah	21,737	21,423	51.1	50.9	48.9	49.1	80.9	80.6	16.8	16.8	2.3	2.7	5.0	5.8
Tishomingo	18,854	18,553	51.0	50.6	49.0	49.4	95.5	94.7	2.7	3.2	1.7	2.1	2.9	3.7
Tunica	9,734	9,157	52.8	53.4	47.2	46.6	19.8	19.3	78.1	78.3	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.6
Union	27,814	28,363	50.8	50.7	49.2	49.3	80.9	80.5	15.7	16.0	3.3	3.4	4.6	5.0
Walthall	13,873	13,839	51.6	51.7	48.4	48.3	53.8	54.5	43.6	42.1	2.6	3.4	1.7	2.2
Warren	44,550	42,105	52.0	52.2	48.0	47.8	48.3	47.7	49.5	49.9	2.2	2.5	2.0	2.3
Washington	44,648	41,181	53.4	53.5	46.6	46.5	25.3	24.6	73.0	73.6	1.7	1.8	1.4	1.7
Wayne	19,807	19,749	51.6	51.6	48.4	48.4	58.0	57.6	40.4	40.5	1.6	1.9	1.7	2.0
Webster	9,904	10,039	51.5	52.1	48.5	47.9	79.8	79.5	18.4	18.0	1.7	2.5	1.6	2.2
Wilkinson	8,524	7,820	46.8	46.0	53.2	54.0	28.3	29.7	70.5	68.8	1.2	1.5	1.0	1.5
Winston	17,686	17,418	51.1	50.5	48.9	49.5	50.6	50.4	46.8	46.3	2.6	3.2	1.4	1.9
Yalobusha	12,436	12,458	51.1	51.8	48.9	48.2	58.9	59.1	39.3	38.5	1.8	2.4	1.5	1.9
Yazoo	26,670	23,024	43.2	47.5	56.8	52.5	38.8	39.1	59.1	58.9	2.0	2.1	4.1	2.9
Metropolitan Statistical Areas														
Gulfport-Biloxi	416,672	426,793	50.9	51.2	49.1	48.8	72.1	71.8	22.4	22.3	5.5	5.8	6.3	7.1
Hattiesburg	154,064	156,575	52.3	52.6	47.7	47.4	67.4	66.8	29.5	29.8	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.1
Jackson	618,883	606,178	51.9	52.3	48.1	47.7	48.1	48.1	49.3	48.8	2.6	3.1	3.3	3.8
Workforce Development Areas														
Delta	252,116	233,839	51.6	51.8	48.4	48.2	29.9	30.1	68.4	68.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.6
MS Partnership	879,295	889,279	51.3	51.5	48.7	48.5	66.1	64.6	31.1	32.1	2.8	3.3	3.5	4.0
SC MS Works	794,129	775,987	51.8	52.1	48.2	47.9	48.5	48.4	49.0	48.7	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9
Twin Districts	1,032,996	1,043,940	51.1	51.3	48.9	48.7	67.7	67.6	27.8	27.6	4.5	4.8	4.7	5.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Labor Force

Mississippi's Workforce Sees Modest Growth Amid Deep Regional Disparities and Uneven Recovery

From 2020 to 2024, the Mississippi labor market experienced a strong recovery following the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The civilian labor force grew by 23,842 (1.9%), while the number employed increased by 82,766 (7.2%). Unemployment in the state was reduced by over 59%, dropping from 99,139 in 2020 to 40,215 in 2024, with the unemployment rate falling from 7.9% to 3.2%. Employed Mississippians increased by 22,165 between 2023 and 2024, indicating continued recovery and improving labor conditions across the state.

Mississippi counties have shown consistent improvement in unemployment rates since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. Many counties experienced steep declines in unemployment over the five-year span, like Tunica (-11.7 percentage points) and Holmes (-9.8 percentage points), which saw some of the most dramatic improvements. While the long-term trend is downward, year-over-year changes from 2023 to 2024 indicate a slowdown in unemployment improvements. Most counties showed minimal shifts—typically within ± 0.2 percentage points. Only a few counties, such as Humphreys (+0.7) and Clay (+0.7), saw noticeable increases, while Greene experienced a drop of 0.7 percentage points over the year. This trend of marginal year-over-year change implies that Mississippi's unemployment rate may have reached a new baseline level,

From 2020 to 2024, most counties saw an increase in the number of residents employed. Large counties like DeSoto (+9,200), Rankin (+8,380), and Harrison (+8,310) had the largest increases. Despite

statewide gains, several rural counties faced a continuous decline - Washington (-890), Leflore (-720), and Coahoma (-500). These counties, in the Delta region, are part of a broader trend where low job opportunities highlight structural workforce challenges. These figures indicate that population centers and economically diverse regions continue to rebound more robustly than rural counties.

Across Mississippi's Workforce Development Areas and Metropolitan Statistical Areas, the data indicate broad-based improvement in the labor force. All regions experienced significant drops in the number unemployed, ranging from 56.8 percent to over 64.6 percent. The Twin Districts WDA saw the most significant increase in employed residents over the five years (34,120 or 8.6%). Similarly, Mississippi Partnership and South Central Mississippi Works WDAs both posted over 7.0 percent gains in residents employed. Metropolitan areas like Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson also reflected solid gains, with Gulfport-Biloxi increasing 17,750 (10.8%) and Jackson gaining 20,930 (8.2%). These trends suggest that both urban and rural regions in Mississippi are steadily rebounding and contributing to the state's overall labor force growth. The data also highlights variations across Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Workforce Development Areas. For example, the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA unemployment rate decreased from 8.6% in 2020 to 2.9% in 2024, while the Delta Workforce Area—historically higher unemployment rate—improved from 10.5% to 4.4%. Despite the narrowing gap, disparities remain between regions, indicating the need for localized workforce solutions.



Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 TO 2024	
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
UNITED STATES							
Civilian Labor Force	160,742,000	161,204,000	164,287,000	167,116,000	168,106,000	7,364,000	4.6
Unemployed	12,947,000	8,623,000	5,996,000	6,080,000	6,761,000	(6,186,000)	(47.8)
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	5.3%	3.6%	3.6%	4.0%	(4.1)	
Employed	147,795,000	152,581,000	158,291,000	161,037,000	161,346,000	13,551,000	9.2
MISSISSIPPI							
Civilian Labor Force	1,247,593	1,257,614	1,257,493	1,247,610	1,271,435	23,842	1.9
Unemployed	99,139	68,034	47,585	38,555	40,215	(58,924)	(59.4)
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	5.4%	3.8%	3.1%	3.2%	(4.7)	
Employed	1,148,454	1,189,580	1,209,908	1,209,055	1,231,220	82,766	7.2
Workforce Development Areas							
DELTA							
Civilian Labor Force	92,700	90,440	87,110	85,140	86,330	(6,370)	(6.9)
Unemployed	9,700	6,900	4,320	3,560	3,820	(5,880)	(60.6)
Unemployment Rate	10.5%	7.6%	5.0%	4.2%	4.4%	(6.1)	
Employed	83,000	83,540	82,790	81,580	82,510	(490)	(0.6)
MS PARTNERSHIP							
Civilian Labor Force	385,480	391,910	393,950	388,270	394,380	8,900	2.3
Unemployed	28,610	19,430	14,070	11,670	12,130	(16,480)	(57.6)
Unemployment Rate	7.4%	5.0%	3.6%	3.0%	3.1%	(4.3)	
Employed	356,870	372,480	379,880	376,600	382,250	25,380	7.1
SC MS WORKS							
Civilian Labor Force	339,910	341,210	341,680	340,510	347,580	7,670	2.3
Unemployed	26,870	18,620	12,800	10,350	10,790	(16,080)	(59.8)
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	5.5%	3.7%	3.0%	3.1%	(4.8)	
Employed	313,040	322,590	328,880	330,160	336,790	23,750	7.6
TWIN DISTRICTS							
Civilian Labor Force	429,510	434,060	434,750	433,700	443,160	13,650	3.2
Unemployed	33,950	23,080	16,390	12,980	13,480	(20,470)	(60.3)
Unemployment Rate	7.9%	5.3%	3.8%	3.0%	3.0%	(4.9)	
Employed	395,560	410,980	418,360	420,720	429,680	34,120	8.6
Metropolitan Statistical Areas							
Gulfport-Biloxi							
Civilian Labor Force	180,490	183,570	183,770	183,790	188,210	7,720	4.3
Unemployed	15,520	9,570	6,710	5,310	5,490	(10,030)	(64.6)
Rate	8.6%	5.2%	3.7%	2.9%	2.9%	(5.7)	
Employed	164,970	174,000	177,060	178,480	182,720	17,750	10.8
Hattiesburg							
Civilian Labor Force	67,630	69,550	70,130	69,790	70,360	2,730	4.0
Unemployed	4,820	3,460	2,440	1,980	2,080	(2,740)	(56.8)
Rate	7.1%	5.0%	3.5%	2.8%	3.0%	(4.1)	
Employed	62,810	66,090	67,690	67,810	68,280	5,470	8.7
Jackson							
Civilian Labor Force	274,670	275,770	276,610	276,800	282,890	8,220	3.0
Unemployed	20,750	13,960	9,600	7,670	8,040	(12,710)	(61.3)
Rate	7.6%	5.1%	3.5%	2.8%	2.8%	(4.8)	--
Employed	253,920	261,810	267,010	269,130	274,850	20,930	8.2

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Adams	Civilian Labor Force	9,870	9,970	9,900	9,760	10,150	280	2.8
	Unemployed	1,130	830	520	440	470	(660)	(58.4)
	Unemployment Rate	11.4	8.3	5.3	4.5	4.6	(6.8)	--
	Employed	8,740	9,140	9,380	9,320	9,680	940	10.8
Alcorn	Civilian Labor Force	14,240	14,160	14,040	14,110	14,120	(120)	(0.8)
	Unemployed	910	680	490	410	410	(500)	(54.9)
	Unemployment Rate	6.4	4.8	3.5	2.9	2.9	(3.5)	--
	Employed	13,330	13,480	13,550	13,700	13,710	380	2.9
Amite	Civilian Labor Force	4,260	4,260	4,270	4,250	4,400	140	3.3
	Unemployed	370	320	220	170	180	(190)	(51.4)
	Unemployment Rate	8.7	7.5	5.2	4.0	4.1	(4.6)	--
	Employed	3,890	3,940	4,050	4,080	4,220	330	8.5
Attala	Civilian Labor Force	6,990	7,010	7,040	6,990	7,000	10	0.1
	Unemployed	560	400	280	240	240	(320)	(57.1)
	Unemployment Rate	8.0	5.7	4.0	3.4	3.4	(4.6)	--
	Employed	6,430	6,610	6,760	6,750	6,760	330	5.1
Benton	Civilian Labor Force	3,290	3,320	3,320	3,210	3,250	(40)	(1.2)
	Unemployed	240	180	140	100	100	(140)	(58.3)
	Unemployment Rate	7.3	5.4	4.2	3.1	3.1	(4.2)	--
	Employed	3,050	3,140	3,180	3,110	3,150	100	3.3
Bolivar	Civilian Labor Force	10,690	10,610	10,420	10,490	10,660	(30)	(0.3)
	Unemployed	980	760	510	390	400	(580)	(59.2)
	Unemployment Rate	9.2	7.2	4.9	3.7	3.8	(5.4)	--
	Employed	9,710	9,850	9,910	10,100	10,260	550	5.7
Calhoun	Civilian Labor Force	5,570	5,510	5,460	5,260	5,370	(200)	(3.6)
	Unemployed	430	270	200	150	150	(280)	(65.1)
	Unemployment Rate	7.7	4.9	3.7	2.9	2.8	(4.9)	--
	Employed	5,140	5,240	5,260	5,110	5,220	80	1.6
Carroll	Civilian Labor Force	3,650	3,640	3,590	3,400	3,370	(280)	(7.7)
	Unemployed	260	190	150	120	120	(140)	(53.8)
	Unemployment Rate	7.1	5.2	4.2	3.5	3.6	(3.5)	--
	Employed	3,390	3,450	3,440	3,280	3,250	(140)	(4.1)
Chickasaw	Civilian Labor Force	6,690	6,640	6,370	5,950	5,970	(720)	(10.8)
	Unemployed	730	420	280	250	250	(480)	(65.8)
	Unemployment Rate	10.9	6.3	4.4	4.2	4.2	(6.7)	--
	Employed	5,960	6,220	6,090	5,700	5,720	(240)	(4.0)

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Choctaw	Civilian Labor Force	3,060	3,050	3,070	3,040	3,110	50	1.6
	Unemployed	230	170	130	100	110	(120)	(52.2)
	Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.6	4.2	3.3	3.5	(4.0)	--
	Employed	2,830	2,880	2,940	2,940	3,000	170	6.0
Claiborne	Civilian Labor Force	3,030	2,830	2,740	2,760	2,810	(220)	(7.3)
	Unemployed	440	330	230	200	220	(220)	(50.0)
	Unemployment Rate	14.5	11.7	8.4	7.2	7.8	(6.7)	--
	Employed	2,590	2,500	2,510	2,560	2,590	0	0.0
Clarke	Civilian Labor Force	6,220	6,150	6,050	6,140	6,260	40	0.6
	Unemployed	480	350	260	200	210	(270)	(56.3)
	Unemployment Rate	7.7	5.7	4.3	3.3	3.4	(4.3)	--
	Employed	5,740	5,800	5,790	5,940	6,050	310	5.4
Clay	Civilian Labor Force	7,520	7,660	8,190	8,320	8,300	780	10.4
	Unemployed	890	540	340	280	340	(550)	(61.8)
	Unemployment Rate	11.8	7.0	4.2	3.4	4.1	(7.7)	--
	Employed	6,630	7,120	7,850	8,040	7,960	1,330	20.1
Coahoma	Civilian Labor Force	7,940	7,680	7,250	6,990	6,800	(1,140)	(14.4)
	Unemployed	1,010	660	400	340	370	(640)	(63.4)
	Unemployment Rate	12.7	8.6	5.5	4.9	5.4	(7.3)	--
	Employed	6,930	7,020	6,850	6,650	6,430	(500)	(7.2)
Copiah	Civilian Labor Force	10,790	10,840	10,800	10,770	11,020	230	2.1
	Unemployed	870	680	460	370	390	(480)	(55.2)
	Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.3	4.3	3.4	3.5	(4.6)	--
	Employed	9,920	10,160	10,340	10,400	10,630	710	7.2
Covington	Civilian Labor Force	7,470	7,440	7,440	7,310	7,480	10	0.1
	Unemployed	560	410	280	210	220	(340)	(60.7)
	Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.5	3.8	2.9	2.9	(4.6)	--
	Employed	6,910	7,030	7,160	7,100	7,260	350	5.1
DeSoto	Civilian Labor Force	91,330	94,580	96,660	96,480	97,940	6,610	7.2
	Unemployed	5,380	4,040	2,980	2,550	2,790	(2,590)	(48.1)
	Unemployment Rate	5.9	4.3	3.1	2.6	2.8	(3.1)	--
	Employed	85,950	90,540	93,680	93,930	95,150	9,200	10.7
Forrest	Civilian Labor Force	35,180	35,840	36,000	35,800	36,090	910	2.6
	Unemployed	2,660	1,910	1,280	1,040	1,090	(1,570)	(59.0)
	Unemployment Rate	7.6	5.3	3.6	2.9	3.0	(4.6)	--
	Employed	32,520	33,930	34,720	34,760	35,000	2,480	7.6

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Franklin	Civilian Labor Force	2,690	2,700	2,700	2,710	2,800	110	4.1
	Unemployed	220	180	140	110	110	(110)	(50.0)
	Unemployment Rate	8.2	6.7	5.2	4.1	3.9	(4.3)	--
	Employed	2,470	2,520	2,560	2,600	2,690	220	8.9
George	Civilian Labor Force	8,430	8,410	8,410	8,440	8,760	330	3.9
	Unemployed	800	600	440	350	380	(420)	(52.5)
	Unemployment Rate	9.5	7.1	5.2	4.1	4.3	(5.2)	--
	Employed	7,630	7,810	7,970	8,090	8,380	750	9.8
Greene	Civilian Labor Force	2,970	2,920	2,900	2,920	2,890	(80)	(2.7)
	Unemployed	410	310	240	180	160	(250)	(61.0)
	Unemployment Rate	13.8	10.6	8.3	6.2	5.5	(8.3)	--
	Employed	2,560	2,610	2,660	2,740	2,730	170	6.6
Grenada	Civilian Labor Force	8,720	8,610	8,460	7,950	8,000	(720)	(8.3)
	Unemployed	660	460	330	300	280	(380)	(57.6)
	Unemployment Rate	7.6	5.3	3.9	3.8	3.5	(4.1)	--
	Employed	8,060	8,150	8,130	7,650	7,720	(340)	(4.2)
Hancock	Civilian Labor Force	21,090	21,550	21,500	21,510	22,020	930	4.4
	Unemployed	1,520	1,060	720	590	600	(920)	(60.5)
	Unemployment Rate	7.2	4.9	3.3	2.7	2.7	(4.5)	--
	Employed	19,570	20,490	20,780	20,920	21,420	1,850	9.5
Harrison	Civilian Labor Force	88,940	89,900	90,040	89,690	91,840	2,900	3.3
	Unemployed	8,070	4,710	3,270	2,580	2,660	(5,410)	(67.0)
	Unemployment Rate	9.1	5.2	3.6	2.9	2.9	(6.2)	--
	Employed	80,870	85,190	86,770	87,110	89,180	8,310	10.3
Hinds	Civilian Labor Force	100,790	99,020	97,000	95,820	97,950	(2,840)	(2.8)
	Unemployed	9,460	6,060	3,770	2,960	3,130	(6,330)	(66.9)
	Unemployment Rate	9.4	6.1	3.9	3.1	3.2	(6.2)	--
	Employed	91,330	92,960	93,230	92,860	94,820	3,490	3.8
Holmes	Civilian Labor Force	5,810	5,560	5,330	5,230	5,350	(460)	(7.9)
	Unemployed	870	540	310	270	280	(590)	(67.8)
	Unemployment Rate	15.0	9.7	5.8	5.2	5.2	(9.8)	--
	Employed	4,940	5,020	5,020	4,960	5,070	130	2.6
Humphreys	Civilian Labor Force	2,750	2,600	2,480	2,410	2,460	(290)	(10.5)
	Unemployed	320	250	140	120	140	(180)	(56.3)
	Unemployment Rate	11.6	9.6	5.6	5.0	5.7	(5.9)	--
	Employed	2,430	2,350	2,340	2,290	2,320	(110)	(4.5)

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Issaquena	Civilian Labor Force	310	310	300	280	300	(10)	(3.2)
	Unemployed	30	30	20	20	20	(10)	(33.3)
	Unemployment Rate	9.7	9.7	6.7	7.1	6.7	(3.0)	--
	Employed	280	280	280	260	280	0	0.0
Itawamba	Civilian Labor Force	10,560	10,770	10,810	10,410	10,610	50	0.5
	Unemployed	720	460	360	300	300	(420)	(58.3)
	Unemployment Rate	6.8	4.3	3.3	2.9	2.8	(4.0)	--
	Employed	9,840	10,310	10,450	10,110	10,310	470	4.8
Jackson	Civilian Labor Force	63,420	64,810	64,890	65,230	66,820	3,400	5.4
	Unemployed	5,420	3,430	2,440	1,910	1,990	(3,430)	(63.3)
	Unemployment Rate	8.5	5.3	3.8	2.9	3.0	(5.5)	--
	Employed	58,000	61,380	62,450	63,320	64,830	6,830	11.8
Jasper	Civilian Labor Force	6,580	6,390	6,360	6,370	6,460	(120)	(1.8)
	Unemployed	530	410	280	210	230	(300)	(56.6)
	Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.4	4.4	3.3	3.6	(4.5)	--
	Employed	6,050	5,980	6,080	6,160	6,230	180	3.0
Jefferson	Civilian Labor Force	2,480	2,410	2,400	2,320	2,390	(90)	(3.6)
	Unemployed	360	300	250	210	220	(140)	(38.9)
	Unemployment Rate	14.5	12.4	10.4	9.1	9.2	(5.3)	--
	Employed	2,120	2,110	2,150	2,110	2,170	50	2.4
Jefferson Davis	Civilian Labor Force	4,670	4,630	4,620	4,590	4,810	140	3.0
	Unemployed	380	290	190	150	180	(200)	(52.6)
	Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.3	4.1	3.3	3.7	(4.4)	--
	Employed	4,290	4,340	4,430	4,440	4,630	340	7.9
Jones	Civilian Labor Force	28,850	28,430	28,970	29,300	30,250	1,400	4.9
	Unemployed	1,750	1,360	980	770	800	(950)	(54.3)
	Unemployment Rate	6.1	4.8	3.4	2.6	2.6	(3.5)	--
	Employed	27,100	27,070	27,990	28,530	29,450	2,350	8.7
Kemper	Civilian Labor Force	3,320	3,310	3,270	3,190	3,270	(50)	(1.5)
	Unemployed	310	230	180	140	140	(170)	(54.8)
	Unemployment Rate	9.3	6.9	5.5	4.4	4.3	(5.0)	--
	Employed	3,010	3,080	3,090	3,050	3,130	120	4.0
Lafayette	Civilian Labor Force	25,480	26,830	27,310	27,400	28,260	2,780	10.9
	Unemployed	1,620	1,190	930	750	750	(870)	(53.7)
	Unemployment Rate	6.4	4.4	3.4	2.7	2.7	(3.7)	--
	Employed	23,860	25,640	26,380	26,650	27,510	3,650	15.3

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Lamar	Civilian Labor Force	28,400	29,570	30,010	29,960	30,200	1,800	6.3
	Unemployed	1,810	1,280	960	790	830	(980)	(54.1)
	Unemployment Rate	6.4	4.3	3.2	2.6	2.7	(3.7)	--
	Employed	26,590	28,290	29,050	29,170	29,370	2,780	10.5
Lauderdale	Civilian Labor Force	29,490	29,300	29,080	28,450	28,850	(640)	(2.2)
	Unemployed	2,170	1,530	1,120	880	910	(1,260)	(58.1)
	Unemployment Rate	7.4	5.2	3.9	3.1	3.2	(4.2)	--
	Employed	27,320	27,770	27,960	27,570	27,940	620	2.3
Lawrence	Civilian Labor Force	4,480	4,510	4,640	4,630	4,820	340	7.6
	Unemployed	390	300	210	170	180	(210)	(53.8)
	Unemployment Rate	8.7	6.7	4.5	3.7	3.7	(5.0)	--
	Employed	4,090	4,210	4,430	4,460	4,640	550	13.4
Leake	Civilian Labor Force	8,460	8,450	8,410	8,430	8,640	180	2.1
	Unemployed	620	440	320	250	260	(360)	(58.1)
	Unemployment Rate	7.3	5.2	3.8	3.0	3.0	(4.3)	--
	Employed	7,840	8,010	8,090	8,180	8,380	540	6.9
Lee	Civilian Labor Force	38,890	39,280	38,710	37,760	38,120	(770)	(2.0)
	Unemployed	3,250	1,840	1,290	1,060	1,080	(2,170)	(66.8)
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	4.7	3.3	2.8	2.8	(5.6)	--
	Employed	35,640	37,440	37,420	36,700	37,040	1,400	3.9
Leflore	Civilian Labor Force	10,310	10,340	9,870	9,060	8,990	(1,320)	(12.8)
	Unemployed	1,040	780	490	410	440	(600)	(57.7)
	Unemployment Rate	10.1	7.5	5.0	4.5	4.9	(5.2)	--
	Employed	9,270	9,560	9,380	8,650	8,550	(720)	(7.8)
Lincoln	Civilian Labor Force	13,830	14,340	14,350	14,100	14,480	650	4.7
	Unemployed	1,050	750	550	460	470	(580)	(55.2)
	Unemployment Rate	7.6	5.2	3.8	3.3	3.2	(4.4)	--
	Employed	12,780	13,590	13,800	13,640	14,010	1,230	9.6
Lowndes	Civilian Labor Force	24,290	24,220	24,120	24,070	25,140	850	3.5
	Unemployed	2,040	1,420	970	770	820	(1,220)	(59.8)
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	5.9	4.0	3.2	3.3	(5.1)	--
	Employed	22,250	22,800	23,150	23,300	24,320	2,070	9.3
Madison	Civilian Labor Force	52,760	53,820	55,170	55,930	57,110	4,350	8.2
	Unemployed	3,380	2,250	1,670	1,390	1,430	(1,950)	(57.7)
	Unemployment Rate	6.4	4.2	3.0	2.5	2.5	(3.9)	--
	Employed	49,380	51,570	53,500	54,540	55,680	6,300	12.8

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Marion	Civilian Labor Force	8,660	8,800	8,740	8,630	8,870	210	2.4
	Unemployed	700	530	380	310	320	(380)	(54.3)
	Unemployment Rate	8.1	6.0	4.3	3.6	3.6	(4.5)	--
	Employed	7,960	8,270	8,360	8,320	8,550	590	7.4
Marshall	Civilian Labor Force	13,710	13,930	14,040	13,970	14,160	450	3.3
	Unemployed	1,030	790	540	480	500	(530)	(51.5)
	Unemployment Rate	7.5	5.7	3.8	3.4	3.5	(4.0)	--
	Employed	12,680	13,140	13,500	13,490	13,660	980	7.7
Monroe	Civilian Labor Force	13,640	13,830	13,610	12,850	12,790	(850)	(6.2)
	Unemployed	1,340	790	590	540	510	(830)	(61.9)
	Unemployment Rate	9.8	5.7	4.3	4.2	4.0	(5.8)	--
	Employed	12,300	13,040	13,020	12,310	12,280	(20)	(0.2)
Montgomery	Civilian Labor Force	3,910	3,890	3,940	3,810	3,870	(40)	(1.0)
	Unemployed	310	230	160	130	130	(180)	(58.1)
	Unemployment Rate	7.9	5.9	4.1	3.4	3.4	(4.5)	--
	Employed	3,600	3,660	3,780	3,680	3,740	140	3.9
Neshoba	Civilian Labor Force	11,180	10,960	10,820	10,810	11,190	10	0.1
	Unemployed	940	560	420	340	360	(580)	(61.7)
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	5.1	3.9	3.1	3.2	(5.2)	--
	Employed	10,240	10,400	10,400	10,470	10,830	590	5.8
Newton	Civilian Labor Force	8,300	8,530	8,380	8,100	8,200	(100)	(1.2)
	Unemployed	630	450	340	270	270	(360)	(57.1)
	Unemployment Rate	7.6	5.3	4.1	3.3	3.3	(4.3)	--
	Employed	7,670	8,080	8,040	7,830	7,930	260	3.4
Noxubee	Civilian Labor Force	4,470	4,260	4,090	3,960	4,080	(390)	(8.7)
	Unemployed	420	300	200	150	170	(250)	(59.5)
	Unemployment Rate	9.4	7.0	4.9	3.8	4.2	(5.2)	--
	Employed	4,050	3,960	3,890	3,810	3,910	(140)	(3.5)
Oktibbeha	Civilian Labor Force	21,740	22,190	22,020	21,700	22,380	640	2.9
	Unemployed	1,690	1,250	910	730	770	(920)	(54.4)
	Unemployment Rate	7.8	5.6	4.1	3.4	3.4	(4.4)	--
	Employed	20,050	20,940	21,110	20,970	21,610	1,560	7.8
Panola	Civilian Labor Force	11,770	11,680	11,470	11,280	11,650	(120)	(1.0)
	Unemployed	1,200	840	540	450	490	(710)	(59.2)
	Unemployment Rate	10.2	7.2	4.7	4.0	4.2	(6.0)	--
	Employed	10,570	10,840	10,930	10,830	11,160	590	5.6

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Pearl River	Civilian Labor Force	22,690	23,100	23,380	23,690	24,390	1,700	7.5
	Unemployed	1,640	1,290	900	730	730	(910)	(55.5)
	Unemployment Rate	7.2	5.6	3.8	3.1	3.0	(4.2)	--
	Employed	21,050	21,810	22,480	22,960	23,660	2,610	12.4
Perry	Civilian Labor Force	4,040	4,140	4,110	4,030	4,070	30	0.7
	Unemployed	350	270	190	150	160	(190)	(54.3)
	Unemployment Rate	8.7	6.5	4.6	3.7	3.9	(4.8)	--
	Employed	3,690	3,870	3,920	3,880	3,910	220	6.0
Pike	Civilian Labor Force	14,510	14,440	14,070	13,870	13,830	(680)	(4.7)
	Unemployed	1,290	1,010	670	550	570	(720)	(55.8)
	Unemployment Rate	8.9	7.0	4.8	4.0	4.1	(4.8)	--
	Employed	13,220	13,430	13,400	13,320	13,260	40	0.3
Pontotoc	Civilian Labor Force	13,170	13,210	12,910	12,200	12,450	(720)	(5.5)
	Unemployed	1,120	650	490	370	380	(740)	(66.1)
	Unemployment Rate	8.5	4.9	3.8	3.0	3.1	(5.4)	--
	Employed	12,050	12,560	12,420	11,830	12,070	20	0.2
Prentiss	Civilian Labor Force	10,370	10,590	10,560	10,340	10,260	(110)	(1.1)
	Unemployed	760	500	370	310	310	(450)	(59.2)
	Unemployment Rate	7.3	4.7	3.5	3.0	3.0	(4.3)	--
	Employed	9,610	10,090	10,190	10,030	9,950	340	3.5
Quitman	Civilian Labor Force	2,120	2,120	2,100	2,060	2,080	(40)	(1.9)
	Unemployed	240	180	110	90	100	(140)	(58.3)
	Unemployment Rate	11.3	8.5	5.2	4.4	4.8	(6.5)	--
	Employed	1,880	1,940	1,990	1,970	1,980	100	5.3
Rankin	Civilian Labor Force	74,190	76,150	77,920	78,870	80,550	6,360	8.6
	Unemployed	3,870	2,730	2,220	1,800	1,850	(2,020)	(52.2)
	Unemployment Rate	5.2	3.6	2.8	2.3	2.3	(2.9)	--
	Employed	70,320	73,420	75,700	77,070	78,700	8,380	11.9
Scott	Civilian Labor Force	11,110	11,180	11,290	11,210	11,470	360	3.2
	Unemployed	720	560	420	310	330	(390)	(54.2)
	Unemployment Rate	6.5	5.0	3.7	2.8	2.9	(3.6)	--
	Employed	10,390	10,620	10,870	10,900	11,140	750	7.2
Sharkey	Civilian Labor Force	1,630	1,570	1,470	1,360	1,360	(270)	(16.6)
	Unemployed	150	120	70	60	60	(90)	(60.0)
	Unemployment Rate	9.2	7.6	4.8	4.4	4.4	(4.8)	--
	Employed	1,480	1,450	1,400	1,300	1,300	(180)	(12.2)

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Simpson	Civilian Labor Force	10,300	10,390	10,470	10,490	10,720	420	4.1
	Unemployed	690	530	380	310	320	(370)	(53.6)
	Unemployment Rate	6.7	5.1	3.6	3.0	3.0	(3.7)	--
	Employed	9,610	9,860	10,090	10,180	10,400	790	8.2
Smith	Civilian Labor Force	5,510	5,550	5,560	5,460	5,530	20	0.4
	Unemployed	360	270	210	160	170	(190)	(52.8)
	Unemployment Rate	6.5	4.9	3.8	2.9	3.1	(3.4)	--
	Employed	5,150	5,280	5,350	5,300	5,360	210	4.1
Stone	Civilian Labor Force	7,060	7,330	7,350	7,360	7,540	480	6.8
	Unemployed	520	380	280	240	240	(280)	(53.8)
	Unemployment Rate	7.4	5.2	3.8	3.3	3.2	(4.2)	--
	Employed	6,540	6,950	7,070	7,120	7,300	760	11.6
Sunflower	Civilian Labor Force	8,990	8,840	8,770	8,970	8,960	(30)	(0.3)
	Unemployed	830	660	420	340	380	(450)	(54.2)
	Unemployment Rate	9.2	7.5	4.8	3.8	4.2	(5.0)	--
	Employed	8,160	8,180	8,350	8,630	8,580	420	5.1
Tallahatchie	Civilian Labor Force	4,530	4,150	4,030	4,290	4,560	30	0.7
	Unemployed	370	270	180	150	150	(220)	(59.5)
	Unemployment Rate	8.2	6.5	4.5	3.5	3.3	(4.9)	--
	Employed	4,160	3,880	3,850	4,140	4,410	250	6.0
Tate	Civilian Labor Force	12,050	12,210	12,340	12,160	12,340	290	2.4
	Unemployed	890	650	450	370	390	(500)	(56.2)
	Unemployment Rate	7.4	5.3	3.6	3.0	3.2	(4.2)	--
	Employed	11,160	11,560	11,890	11,790	11,950	790	7.1
Tippah	Civilian Labor Force	8,770	8,980	9,270	9,300	9,510	740	8.4
	Unemployed	640	430	320	270	270	(370)	(57.8)
	Unemployment Rate	7.3	4.8	3.5	2.9	2.8	(4.5)	--
	Employed	8,130	8,550	8,950	9,030	9,240	1,110	13.7
Tishomingo	Civilian Labor Force	7,650	7,700	7,830	7,540	7,410	(240)	(3.1)
	Unemployed	530	370	300	250	260	(270)	(50.9)
	Unemployment Rate	6.9	4.8	3.8	3.3	3.5	(3.4)	--
	Employed	7,120	7,330	7,530	7,290	7,150	30	0.4
Tunica	Civilian Labor Force	4,280	4,050	3,860	3,710	3,780	(500)	(11.7)
	Unemployed	670	360	180	140	150	(520)	(77.6)
	Unemployment Rate	15.7	8.9	4.7	3.8	4.0	(11.7)	--
	Employed	3,610	3,690	3,680	3,570	3,630	20	0.6

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Labor Force Annual Averages by County

							2020 TO 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Union	Civilian Labor Force	12,650	12,730	13,130	13,000	13,180	530	4.2
	Unemployed	970	560	410	320	320	(650)	(67.0)
	Unemployment Rate	7.7	4.4	3.1	2.5	2.4	(5.3)	--
	Employed	11,680	12,170	12,720	12,680	12,860	1,180	10.1
Walthall	Civilian Labor Force	5,140	5,150	5,240	4,970	4,980	(160)	(3.1)
	Unemployed	400	330	230	190	200	(200)	(50.0)
	Unemployment Rate	7.8	6.4	4.4	3.8	4.0	(3.8)	--
	Employed	4,740	4,820	5,010	4,780	4,780	40	0.8
Warren	Civilian Labor Force	19,210	18,900	18,910	18,320	18,360	(850)	(4.4)
	Unemployed	1,710	1,150	760	620	620	(1,090)	(63.7)
	Unemployment Rate	8.9	6.1	4.0	3.4	3.4	(5.5)	--
	Employed	17,500	17,750	18,150	17,700	17,740	240	1.4
Washington	Civilian Labor Force	17,930	17,310	16,200	15,640	16,030	(1,900)	(10.6)
	Unemployed	1,740	1,260	810	680	730	(1,010)	(58.0)
	Unemployment Rate	9.7	7.3	5.0	4.3	4.6	(5.1)	--
	Employed	16,190	16,050	15,390	14,960	15,300	(890)	(5.5)
Wayne	Civilian Labor Force	7,520	7,420	7,250	7,100	7,320	(200)	(2.7)
	Unemployed	630	470	330	240	260	(370)	(58.7)
	Unemployment Rate	8.4	6.3	4.6	3.4	3.6	(4.8)	--
	Employed	6,890	6,950	6,920	6,860	7,060	170	2.5
Webster	Civilian Labor Force	4,350	4,440	4,430	4,370	4,450	100	2.3
	Unemployed	280	210	150	120	120	(160)	(57.1)
	Unemployment Rate	6.4	4.7	3.4	2.7	2.7	(3.7)	--
	Employed	4,070	4,230	4,280	4,250	4,330	260	6.4
Wilkinson	Civilian Labor Force	2,680	2,690	2,490	2,480	2,510	(170)	(6.3)
	Unemployed	360	300	160	140	140	(220)	(61.1)
	Unemployment Rate	13.4	11.2	6.4	5.6	5.6	(7.8)	--
	Employed	2,320	2,390	2,330	2,340	2,370	50	2.2
Winston	Civilian Labor Force	7,300	7,240	7,190	7,110	7,190	(110)	(1.5)
	Unemployed	620	430	300	230	240	(380)	(61.3)
	Unemployment Rate	8.5	5.9	4.2	3.2	3.3	(5.2)	--
	Employed	6,680	6,810	6,890	6,880	6,950	270	4.0
Yalobusha	Civilian Labor Force	5,120	5,180	5,070	5,080	5,180	60	1.2
	Unemployed	380	270	190	170	170	(210)	(55.3)
	Unemployment Rate	7.4	5.2	3.7	3.3	3.3	(4.1)	--
	Employed	4,740	4,910	4,880	4,910	5,010	270	5.7
Yazoo	Civilian Labor Force	8,930	8,840	8,640	8,510	8,720	(210)	(2.4)
	Unemployed	900	620	380	280	310	(590)	(65.6)
	Unemployment Rate	10.1	7.0	4.4	3.3	3.6	(6.5)	--
	Employed	8,030	8,220	8,260	8,230	8,410	380	4.7

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

Mississippi's Unemployment Benefits Plummet Post-Pandemic as Economic Conditions Improve Across Counties and Regions

From 2020 to 2024, Mississippi experienced a dramatic 91.3 percent decline in regular unemployment insurance benefits paid, dropping from nearly \$634.5 million in 2020 to approximately \$54.9 million in 2024. This steep decrease highlights a significant statewide recovery from the economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initial surge in 2020 reflects widespread job loss during the height of the crisis, while the steady decrease in the following years suggests improving employment conditions and labor market stabilization.

Despite the overall statewide recovery, the data reveal considerable variation at the county level. Nearly all counties saw sharp declines in benefits paid, with several experiencing reductions exceeding 90 percent, such as Harrison (-95.1%), Lee (-94.3%), and Pontotoc (-96.0%). Even counties with relatively lower declines, such as

Humphreys (-82.5%) and Issaquena (-58.9%), still reflect substantial reductions in unemployment-related support. These figures indicate that while the recovery is widespread, some areas may still be adjusting or experiencing slower economic rebounds than others.

At the regional level, all four Workforce Development Areas (WDAs) saw significant drops in benefits paid, with the Twin Districts WDA experiencing the most significant decline at 92.9 percent. Metropolitan Statistical Areas followed a similar trend: Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson saw declines of 94.4 percent and 92.1 percent, respectively. These regional shifts underscore how broad-based the economic recovery has been across urban and rural areas alike. However, the severity of the reductions also signals reduced reliance on unemployment benefits as the state workforce reengages in stable employment.





Mississippi Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid

						2020 to 2024	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
MISSISSIPPI	634,479,110	111,842,298	36,827,159	47,578,395	54,891,258	(579,587,852)	(91.3)
Adams	6,560,916	1,320,671	378,513	514,633	609,235	(5,951,681)	(90.7)
Alcorn	5,160,605	854,323	220,420	426,506	327,434	(4,833,171)	(93.7)
Amite	1,209,997	264,496	70,669	100,129	137,490	(1,072,507)	(88.6)
Attala	3,133,459	627,242	196,333	272,924	316,362	(2,817,097)	(89.9)
Benton	1,384,102	271,587	135,794	98,073	100,504	(1,283,598)	(92.7)
Bolivar	5,803,242	1,687,251	733,410	725,950	877,780	(4,925,462)	(84.9)
Calhoun	3,184,793	522,637	215,984	175,595	174,938	(3,009,855)	(94.5)
Carroll	1,325,487	262,374	70,007	151,581	157,852	(1,167,635)	(88.1)
Chickasaw	6,815,697	1,210,810	373,614	540,803	462,456	(6,353,241)	(93.2)
Choctaw	1,275,270	225,507	75,705	83,558	165,154	(1,110,116)	(87.0)
Claiborne	2,648,051	741,894	240,644	383,034	342,457	(2,305,594)	(87.1)
Clarke	2,244,173	511,870	157,958	143,856	254,172	(1,990,001)	(88.7)
Clay	7,143,059	1,455,344	428,082	581,045	962,009	(6,181,050)	(86.5)
Coahoma	7,087,346	1,722,516	642,709	805,554	892,023	(6,195,323)	(87.4)
Copiah	4,966,545	1,114,813	316,002	368,217	493,296	(4,473,249)	(90.1)
Covington	2,957,141	552,367	161,780	185,749	191,578	(2,765,563)	(93.5)
DeSoto	20,906,209	3,246,254	1,270,719	1,981,360	2,460,096	(18,446,113)	(88.2)
Forrest	15,870,483	2,813,483	872,826	1,060,788	1,397,996	(14,472,487)	(91.2)
Franklin	809,928	163,808	95,675	58,840	103,874	(706,054)	(87.2)
George	2,917,389	614,623	258,338	194,405	294,881	(2,622,508)	(89.9)
Greene	1,301,784	257,563	137,788	98,993	96,732	(1,205,052)	(92.6)
Grenada	4,084,724	748,901	267,587	482,559	391,309	(3,693,415)	(90.4)
Hancock	7,588,766	984,719	307,368	459,652	435,768	(7,152,998)	(94.3)
Harrison	59,119,208	7,024,625	1,947,877	2,491,484	2,908,744	(56,210,464)	(95.1)
Hinds	67,214,621	11,728,169	3,198,552	4,182,594	4,949,548	(62,265,073)	(92.6)
Holmes	6,657,694	1,530,394	448,043	640,100	713,247	(5,944,447)	(89.3)
Humphreys	2,103,804	608,067	216,374	283,741	367,151	(1,736,653)	(82.5)
Issaquena	118,388	73,929	33,643	46,050	48,696	(69,692)	(58.9)
Itawamba	4,300,965	608,446	197,354	319,168	238,480	(4,062,485)	(94.5)
Jackson	35,774,209	4,893,887	1,497,635	1,908,873	2,289,523	(33,484,686)	(93.6)
Jasper	2,518,470	678,337	210,256	186,376	257,517	(2,260,953)	(89.8)
Jefferson	1,676,048	545,380	193,925	262,980	299,366	(1,376,682)	(82.1)
Jefferson Davis	1,949,021	455,412	148,032	222,332	329,870	(1,619,151)	(83.1)
Jones	9,135,309	1,752,796	460,227	484,638	655,220	(8,480,089)	(92.8)
Kemper	1,711,350	464,367	289,153	226,525	280,201	(1,431,149)	(83.6)
Lafayette	9,002,951	1,343,433	472,424	510,012	579,913	(8,423,038)	(93.6)
Lamar	9,097,103	1,476,830	416,288	608,310	854,343	(8,242,760)	(90.6)
Lauderdale	12,891,372	2,536,116	890,594	1,029,048	1,146,066	(11,745,306)	(91.1)
Lawrence	1,771,697	355,105	137,017	186,211	226,212	(1,545,485)	(87.2)
Leake	3,455,928	743,383	197,020	179,432	237,737	(3,218,191)	(93.1)
Lee	26,756,816	3,624,391	1,113,431	1,436,780	1,522,004	(25,234,812)	(94.3)
Leflore	7,020,422	1,998,179	716,006	918,005	987,984	(6,032,438)	(85.9)
Lincoln	5,078,175	773,393	238,549	405,647	370,377	(4,707,798)	(92.7)
Lowndes	13,068,874	2,558,341	934,894	1,132,710	1,351,134	(11,717,740)	(89.7)
Madison	22,386,149	4,260,755	1,171,504	1,680,555	1,888,466	(20,497,683)	(91.6)

Note: County data will not add to state totals due to inclusion of out-of-state payments.

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Department.

Mississippi Regular Unemployment Insurance Benefits Paid

						2020 to 2024	
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Marion	3,220,339	754,690	241,054	349,217	302,298	(2,918,041)	(90.6)
Marshall	4,716,808	999,701	414,652	564,538	551,310	(4,165,498)	(88.3)
Monroe	10,368,640	1,553,189	704,226	1,290,777	1,007,888	(9,360,752)	(90.3)
Montgomery	1,739,846	412,557	145,997	166,507	172,395	(1,567,451)	(90.1)
Neshoba	5,682,339	604,402	226,075	321,011	384,499	(5,297,840)	(93.2)
Newton	3,510,445	545,458	203,525	263,157	194,859	(3,315,586)	(94.4)
Noxubee	2,458,608	577,008	282,637	245,937	365,020	(2,093,588)	(85.2)
Oktibbeha	9,467,957	1,818,422	586,722	728,630	945,572	(8,522,385)	(90.0)
Panola	7,864,442	1,560,988	483,858	701,730	887,964	(6,976,478)	(88.7)
Pearl River	5,052,360	787,259	269,758	396,099	453,063	(4,599,297)	(91.0)
Perry	1,370,304	299,521	89,853	117,876	132,599	(1,237,705)	(90.3)
Pike	6,177,609	1,211,460	408,654	581,919	644,009	(5,533,600)	(89.6)
Pontotoc	9,098,075	1,129,540	461,455	374,587	367,525	(8,730,550)	(96.0)
Prentiss	4,909,077	798,878	231,107	356,737	368,536	(4,540,541)	(92.5)
Quitman	1,672,379	470,804	204,654	252,625	243,706	(1,428,673)	(85.4)
Rankin	22,012,583	3,222,353	1,043,005	1,384,185	1,618,130	(20,394,453)	(92.6)
Scott	4,014,564	771,779	247,965	219,553	278,490	(3,736,074)	(93.1)
Sharkey	846,767	346,547	88,205	183,032	146,265	(700,502)	(82.7)
Simpson	3,291,297	607,139	191,932	245,665	301,374	(2,989,923)	(90.8)
Smith	1,507,415	315,550	110,680	131,473	161,061	(1,346,354)	(89.3)
Stone	2,651,386	442,630	112,981	176,959	270,668	(2,380,718)	(89.8)
Sunflower	4,796,827	1,511,569	662,587	770,235	895,013	(3,901,814)	(81.3)
Tallahatchie	2,432,781	773,007	288,476	363,820	366,951	(2,065,830)	(84.9)
Tate	4,920,582	864,012	293,496	405,069	475,492	(4,445,090)	(90.3)
Tippah	4,249,459	684,440	217,994	277,874	299,967	(3,949,492)	(92.9)
Tishomingo	2,518,675	405,236	181,713	342,807	313,497	(2,205,178)	(87.6)
Tunica	5,538,426	893,249	246,779	281,536	381,177	(5,157,249)	(93.1)
Union	7,561,758	880,335	270,518	261,532	315,535	(7,246,223)	(95.8)
Walthall	1,609,476	437,365	140,751	183,789	197,162	(1,412,314)	(87.7)
Warren	11,939,325	2,335,939	579,461	823,618	879,783	(11,059,542)	(92.6)
Washington	11,359,914	2,806,627	1,079,372	1,533,749	1,754,452	(9,605,462)	(84.6)
Wayne	3,103,192	633,665	281,912	141,649	207,663	(2,895,529)	(93.3)
Webster	1,674,608	330,308	97,591	120,333	133,787	(1,540,821)	(92.0)
Wilkinson	737,635	239,596	61,557	97,600	121,513	(616,122)	(83.5)
Winston	4,188,855	720,057	249,067	249,984	354,893	(3,833,962)	(91.5)
Yalobusha	2,581,467	489,500	148,119	243,117	303,242	(2,278,225)	(88.3)
Yazoo	6,455,320	1,494,927	339,555	408,439	594,456	(5,860,864)	(90.8)
Metropolitan Statistical Areas							
Gulfport-Biloxi	105,133,569	13,345,861	3,865,861	5,036,968	5,904,703	(99,228,866)	(94.4)
Hattiesburg	26,337,890	4,589,834	1,378,967	1,786,974	2,384,938	(23,952,952)	(90.9)
Jackson	136,998,773	24,730,329	6,956,558	9,129,308	10,837,007	(126,161,766)	(92.1)
Workforce Development Areas							
Delta	64,627,919	16,245,501	5,914,123	7,657,708	8,720,261	(55,907,658)	(86.5)
MS Partnership	176,671,939	28,960,399	10,187,635	13,669,522	15,026,452	(161,645,487)	(91.5)
SC MS Works	166,545,372	30,817,263	8,805,965	11,868,055	13,776,748	(152,768,624)	(91.7)
Twin Districts	198,644,050	30,915,332	9,736,943	11,597,455	14,015,548	(184,628,502)	(92.9)

Note: County data will not add to state totals due to inclusion of out-of-state payments.
Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Department.



Employment and Industry Trends

Mississippi Employment Growth Shows Strong Gains in Metro Areas but Persistent Declines in Rural Regions

Between 2020 and 2024, Mississippi experienced steady job growth, with total average monthly employment increasing by more than 77,800 jobs, representing a 7.1 percent gain, regaining lost ground and surpassing pre-pandemic employment levels. The largest contributions came from sectors such as Leisure & Hospitality (19,044 jobs or 15.7%), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (18,999 jobs or 8.1%), and Education & Health Services (16,313 jobs or 5.8%). Construction also saw notable expansion, adding over 6,300 jobs, a 13.5 percent increase, reflecting continued demand in building and infrastructure. In contrast, Natural Resources & Mining and Information recorded net declines over the five years.

Looking at industry shares of total employment, Education & Health Services remained the largest sector, accounting for about one-fourth of all jobs in 2024. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities held steady as the second-largest category, making up roughly 21.7 percent. Manufacturing's share slipped from 12.9 percent in 2020 to 12.1 percent in 2024, highlighting slower growth than service-oriented industries. Meanwhile, Leisure & Hospitality expanded its share to 12 percent of total employment, a reflection of strong recovery and growth in restaurants, hotels, and recreational services. These shifts suggest Mississippi's employment base is gradually moving toward service industries, with health care, hospitality, and logistics driving much of the state's economic stability.

Growth was concentrated in metro counties and areas with diversified economies. DeSoto County (8,730), Madison County (8,645), and Harrison County (8,147) all saw substantial gains, support-

ed by population growth and service expansion as the economy reopened. In contrast, counties like Hinds (-4,439), Leflore (-1,447), and Washington (-1,096) struggled to recover fully, reflecting shifts away from traditional industries. Marshall County (+28.9%), Clay County (+27.4%), and Tate County (+20.1%) saw some of the largest percentage gains in the state, as employers in manufacturing and distribution rebounded and/or expanded during the recovery. However, other counties such as Sharkey (-15.8%), Coahoma (-12.6%), and Noxubee (-10.4%) continued to lose jobs, reflecting the pandemic's long-term impact on fragile local economies with fewer employment anchors. These trends underscore how COVID-19 not only reshaped Mississippi's short-term employment landscape but also widened existing divides between metro growth hubs and struggling rural counties.

The MS Partnership Workforce Development Area (WDA) and Twin Districts WDA each added about 20,000 jobs, driven by Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Education & Health Services; and Leisure & Hospitality as these sectors rebounded strongly from pandemic-related slowdowns. The South Central MS Works area grew by about 13,000 jobs (4.2%), while the Delta WDA was the only area to lose jobs, declining by 2,700 (-3.3%), a sign that rural regions dependent on agriculture and small-scale industries had a harder time regaining footing after COVID-19-related shutdowns. Mississippi's metropolitan areas proved most resilient, with the Gulfport-Biloxi MSA (8.4%) and Jackson MSA (4.6%) leading growth, highlighting how larger labor markets were better positioned to adapt to post-pandemic economic conditions.

Mississippi Total Average Monthly Employment by Place of Work

Mississippi	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 to 2024	
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	1,089,889	1,117,326	1,145,430	1,160,928	1,167,717	77,828	7.1
Natural Resources & Mining	14,563	14,408	14,390	14,637	14,191	(372)	(2.6)
Agric., Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	11,465	11,322	11,074	11,225	10,984	(481)	(4.2)
Mining	3,098	3,086	3,316	3,412	3,207	109	3.5
Construction	46,997	47,857	48,876	51,223	53,350	6,353	13.5
Manufacturing	140,108	144,536	148,698	145,060	141,595	1,487	1.1
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	234,390	241,501	249,434	253,088	253,389	18,999	8.1
Wholesale Trade	33,423	33,875	35,201	36,039	36,709	3,286	9.8
Retail Trade	133,582	137,124	139,478	139,685	139,128	5,546	4.2
Transportation & Warehousing	58,077	61,142	65,317	67,690	67,600	9,523	16.4
Utilities	9,308	9,360	9,438	9,674	9,952	644	6.9
Information	10,821	10,712	11,351	11,149	10,681	(140)	(1.3)
Financial Activities	42,801	43,058	44,487	45,466	45,701	2,900	6.8
Finance & Insurance	31,060	31,153	32,333	33,337	33,513	2,453	7.9
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	11,741	11,905	12,154	12,129	12,188	447	3.8
Professional & Business Services	111,788	119,561	122,268	122,015	121,953	10,165	9.1
Professional & Technical Services	35,647	37,781	40,796	42,177	43,888	8,241	23.1
Management of Companies & Enterprises	11,061	11,170	10,963	11,084	11,239	178	1.6
Administrative & Waste Services	65,080	70,610	70,509	68,754	66,826	1,746	2.7
Education & Health Services	281,363	280,853	285,045	291,891	297,676	16,313	5.8
Educational Services	105,965	106,059	107,590	108,300	108,790	2,825	2.7
Health Care & Social Assistance	175,398	174,794	177,455	183,591	188,886	13,488	7.7
Leisure & Hospitality	120,944	128,996	135,327	138,723	139,988	19,044	15.7
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	8,911	9,781	10,335	11,889	12,662	3,751	42.1
Accommodation & Food Services	112,033	119,215	124,992	126,834	127,326	15,293	13.7
Other Services	20,169	21,054	21,445	22,209	22,565	2,396	11.9
Public Administration	65,946	64,791	64,111	65,467	66,630	684	1.0

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



Mississippi Total Average Monthly Employment by Place of Work

							2020 to 2024	
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg	Pct Chg
Delta WDA	TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	81,863	81,219	80,420	80,398	79,150	(2,713)	(3.3)
	Natural Resources and Mining	3,362	3,192	3,113	3,078	2,830	(532)	(15.8)
	Construction	2,484	2,437	2,455	2,996	2,683	199	8.0
	Manufacturing	8,793	9,202	9,114	8,574	8,006	(787)	(9.0)
	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	17,004	16,921	16,651	16,424	16,192	(812)	(4.8)
	Information	587	542	556	516	492	(95)	(16.2)
	Financial Activities	2,865	2,772	2,677	2,631	2,610	(255)	(8.9)
	Professional & Business Services	4,394	4,303	3,967	3,878	4,264	(130)	(3.0)
	Education & Health Services	24,106	23,628	23,988	24,021	24,039	(67)	(0.3)
	Leisure & Hospitality	10,092	10,219	10,061	10,323	10,056	(36)	(0.4)
	Other Services	1,768	1,702	1,537	1,627	1,621	(147)	(8.3)
	Public Administration	6,410	6,302	6,301	6,330	6,358	(52)	(0.8)
Mississippi Partnership WDA	TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	312,450	322,387	330,707	331,157	332,409	19,959	6.4
	Natural Resources and Mining	2,780	2,948	2,925	2,949	2,953	173	6.2
	Construction	10,869	11,081	11,251	11,857	12,432	1,563	14.4
	Manufacturing	56,286	59,773	61,342	58,325	55,983	(303)	(0.5)
	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	76,365	80,088	84,036	85,405	86,601	10,236	13.4
	Information	2,831	2,653	2,680	2,369	2,190	(641)	(22.6)
	Financial Activities	9,999	9,910	10,131	10,211	10,012	13	0.1
	Professional & Business Services	28,397	28,455	27,128	25,510	25,267	(3,130)	(11.0)
	Education & Health Services	75,695	75,524	77,007	78,913	80,038	4,343	5.7
	Leisure & Hospitality	30,956	33,367	35,474	36,558	37,607	6,651	21.5
	Other Services	5,232	5,590	5,660	5,718	5,675	443	8.5
	Public Administration	13,041	12,998	13,072	13,342	13,652	611	4.7
South Central Mississippi Works WDA	TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	314,000	316,266	322,340	325,999	327,055	13,055	4.2
	Natural Resources and Mining	3,161	3,038	3,065	3,235	3,223	62	2.0
	Construction	12,967	13,243	13,811	14,457	15,298	2,331	18.0
	Manufacturing	27,023	27,584	29,070	28,372	27,434	411	1.5
	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	66,167	67,473	70,269	71,946	71,165	4,998	7.6
	Information	3,927	3,070	3,069	2,989	3,037	(890)	(22.7)
	Financial Activities	16,132	15,893	15,910	15,664	15,584	(548)	(3.4)
	Professional & Business Services	35,474	36,405	35,661	34,210	33,396	(2,078)	(5.9)
	Education & Health Services	89,892	89,038	89,428	92,025	94,209	4,317	4.8
	Leisure & Hospitality	30,903	32,529	34,269	34,998	35,163	4,260	13.8
	Other Services	6,432	6,586	6,772	6,864	7,030	598	9.3
	Public Administration	21,921	21,405	21,017	21,240	21,516	(405)	(1.8)
Twin Districts WDA	TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	347,086	353,437	359,392	365,163	367,265	20,179	5.8
	Natural Resources and Mining	4,734	4,666	4,861	4,946	4,821	87	1.8
	Construction	16,644	17,170	17,557	17,709	17,955	1,311	7.9
	Manufacturing	47,940	47,896	49,104	49,683	50,054	2,114	4.4
	Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	67,395	69,065	69,794	69,836	69,647	2,252	3.3
	Information	2,682	2,734	2,734	2,781	2,614	(68)	(2.5)
	Financial Activities	12,041	12,007	11,925	12,185	12,249	208	1.7
	Professional & Business Services	28,634	28,698	28,600	28,931	28,245	(389)	(1.4)
	Education & Health Services	89,261	89,902	91,411	93,163	94,880	5,619	6.3
	Leisure & Hospitality	48,492	52,230	54,648	56,056	56,283	7,791	16.1
	Other Services	6,109	6,396	6,496	6,868	7,023	914	15.0
	Public Administration	23,156	22,671	22,261	23,006	23,494	338	1.5

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Mississippi Total Average Monthly Employment by Place of Work

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2020 TO 2024		RANK		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	
MISSISSIPPI	1,089,889	1,117,326	1,145,430	1,160,928	1,167,717	77,828	7.1	--	--	
Adams	9,413	9,719	10,042	10,058	10,115	702	7.5	20	21	
Alcorn	13,394	13,200	13,365	13,538	13,271	(123)	(0.9)	66	60	
Amite	1,830	1,820	1,902	1,988	2,038	208	11.4	35	13	
Attala	4,399	4,467	4,574	4,601	4,510	111	2.5	44	48	
Benton	997	1,036	1,062	1,041	1,038	41	4.1	50	41	
Bolivar	10,137	10,109	10,223	10,623	10,569	432	4.3	25	38	
Calhoun	3,049	3,000	2,998	2,952	2,905	(144)	(4.7)	67	71	
Carroll	1,087	1,066	1,088	1,063	1,042	(45)	(4.1)	58	70	
Chickasaw	4,949	5,119	4,927	4,566	4,497	(452)	(9.1)	77	77	
Choctaw	2,070	2,145	2,206	2,286	2,250	180	8.7	38	17	
Claiborne	3,476	3,207	3,234	3,329	3,256	(220)	(6.3)	72	75	
Clarke	2,758	2,725	2,696	2,977	2,987	229	8.3	33	18	
Clay	5,126	5,606	6,499	6,852	6,531	1,405	27.4	11	2	
Coahoma	7,110	7,056	6,800	6,654	6,216	(894)	(12.6)	79	81	
Copiah	6,235	6,200	6,305	6,333	6,434	199	3.2	36	44	
Covington	5,617	5,634	5,722	5,692	5,783	166	3.0	40	46	
DeSoto	63,937	67,171	70,213	71,095	72,667	8,730	13.7	1	7	
Forrest	38,643	38,914	39,747	39,787	39,390	747	1.9	18	50	
Franklin	1,493	1,433	1,453	1,536	1,556	63	4.2	47	39	
George	4,902	4,786	4,875	5,088	5,243	341	7.0	28	24	
Greene	1,839	1,814	1,828	1,845	1,889	50	2.7	48	47	
Grenada	9,944	9,867	9,835	9,381	9,340	(604)	(6.1)	78	73	
Hancock	13,664	14,232	13,990	14,217	14,399	735	5.4	19	32	
Harrison	80,866	84,236	86,690	88,716	89,013	8,147	10.1	3	15	
Hinds	113,611	112,129	111,242	109,300	109,172	(4,439)	(3.9)	82	68	
Holmes	3,024	2,990	3,029	3,011	2,999	(25)	(0.8)	55	58	
Humphreys	2,137	2,016	2,019	1,995	1,922	(215)	(10.1)	71	78	
Issaquena	173	177	174	176	207	34	19.7	51	4	
Itawamba	5,671	5,850	5,995	5,974	6,000	329	5.8	29	31	
Jackson	48,024	49,664	49,912	50,613	51,303	3,279	6.8	5	27	
Jasper	4,069	3,952	3,920	4,062	3,857	(212)	(5.2)	70	72	
Jefferson	956	928	955	928	953	(3)	(0.3)	54	55	
Jefferson Davis	1,460	1,425	1,492	1,520	1,639	179	12.3	39	10	
Jones	26,285	25,708	26,691	27,693	28,390	2,105	8.0	8	20	
Kemper	1,661	1,674	1,697	1,730	1,775	114	6.9	42	25	
Lafayette	22,690	23,747	24,553	25,088	25,442	2,752	12.1	6	11	
Lamar	18,795	19,615	20,144	20,208	20,129	1,334	7.1	12	23	
Lauderdale	31,375	31,271	31,491	31,161	31,040	(335)	(1.1)	75	61	
Lawrence	2,386	2,415	2,593	2,653	2,700	314	13.2	30	8	
Leake	5,053	5,094	5,129	5,322	5,416	363	7.2	27	22	
Lee	52,566	54,220	54,182	52,904	52,532	(34)	(0.1)	56	54	
Leflore	14,013	14,433	14,123	13,291	12,566	(1,447)	(10.3)	81	79	
Lincoln	11,948	12,642	12,871	12,675	12,767	819	6.9	15	26	
Lowndes	23,897	24,147	24,598	24,968	25,486	1,589	6.6	9	28	
Madison	51,560	53,273	56,906	59,344	60,205	8,645	16.8	2	5	

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

COMMENTS
Decreases in only Natural Resources & Mining and Information
Large increases in Education & Health Services and Professional & Business Services
Large decrease in Education & Health Services
Minor changes in most sectors; Largest increase in Manufacturing
No large changes in any sector
No large changes in any sector
Largest increases in Education & Health Services and Other Services
Largest decreases in Natural Resources & Mining and Manufacturing
Decreases in most sectors
Large decrease in Manufacturing
Large percent increase in Construction
Large significant decrease in Professional & Business Services; Decreases in most sectors
Large significant increase in Professional & Business Services
Extraordinary increase in Manufacturing
Decreases in all sectors except Construction and Public Administration; Seven over 10 percent
Largest increases in Construction and Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Large decrease in Manufacturing
Significant increase in Construction; Large decrease in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Increases in most sectors, largest in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Large increases in Education & Health Services and Leisure & Hospitality; Large decrease in Professional & Business Services
Largest increase in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Increases in most sectors, largest in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
No large changes in any sector
Large decrease in Professional & Business Services
Increases in most sectors with significant increase in Construction; Large decrease in Professional & Business Services
Gains in most sectors; Significant increase in Natural Resources & Mining
Large decreases in most sectors, largest in Professional & Business Services
Losses in almost all sectors
Decreases in almost all sectors
No large changes in any sector
Increases in most sectors, largest in Education & Health Services
Increases in all but a few sectors, largest in Public Administration
Decreases in most sectors, large decreases in Construction and Natural Resources & Mining
Little change in most sectors
Large significant increase in Construction
Increases in most sectors, largest in Manufacturing
No large changes in any sector
Increases in most sectors, largest in Leisure & Hospitality
Increases in most sectors; Large percent increase in Manufacturing
Decreases in all but four sectors, largest in Professional & Business Services
Largest increases in Manufacturing and Education & Health Services
Large increase in Manufacturing; Large decrease in Professional & Business Services
Large decrease in Professional & Business Services
Decreases in most sectors, largest in Manufacturing
Increases in most sectors, largest in Education & Health Services and Leisure & Hospitality
Increases in most sectors, largest in Manufacturing and Construction
Large increase in Trade, Transportation & Utilities; Large percent increase in Construction

Mississippi Total Average Monthly Employment by Place of Work

						2020 TO 2024		RANK		
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	
Marion	7,899	8,092	8,144	8,200	8,318	419	5.3	26	33	
Marshall	8,762	9,651	10,661	11,225	11,291	2,529	28.9	7	1	
Monroe	9,528	10,038	10,029	9,333	9,148	(380)	(4.0)	76	69	
Montgomery	2,251	2,247	2,419	2,443	2,432	181	8.0	37	19	
Neshoba	11,616	11,548	11,555	11,787	12,095	479	4.1	23	40	
Newton	5,174	5,450	5,373	5,170	5,127	(47)	(0.9)	59	59	
Noxubee	2,411	2,272	2,163	2,144	2,160	(251)	(10.4)	74	80	
Oktibbeha	19,638	19,890	20,205	20,337	20,428	790	4.0	16	42	
Panola	9,907	10,007	10,038	10,098	10,368	461	4.7	24	35	
Pearl River	10,338	10,459	10,910	11,406	11,629	1,291	12.5	13	9	
Perry	2,165	2,227	2,219	2,062	2,098	(67)	(3.1)	61	67	
Pike	14,470	14,583	14,518	14,783	14,377	(93)	(0.6)	64	56	
Pontotoc	11,989	12,195	11,996	11,659	11,759	(230)	(1.9)	73	63	
Prentiss	7,206	7,415	7,518	7,497	7,229	23	0.3	52	52	
Quitman	959	977	1,020	1,026	1,001	42	4.4	49	37	
Rankin	60,885	62,429	63,999	66,497	67,059	6,174	10.1	4	14	
Scott	12,914	12,791	12,991	13,627	13,546	632	4.9	22	34	
Sharkey	1,084	1,049	1,013	942	913	(171)	(15.8)	68	82	
Simpson	7,024	6,977	7,090	7,463	7,683	659	9.4	21	16	
Smith	2,671	2,723	2,738	2,733	2,675	4	0.1	53	53	
Stone	4,537	4,654	4,747	4,878	4,801	264	5.8	32	30	
Sunflower	7,918	7,826	8,009	8,480	8,222	304	3.8	31	43	
Tallahatchie	2,645	2,424	2,401	2,527	2,724	79	3.0	45	45	
Tate	5,295	5,626	5,806	5,931	6,361	1,066	20.1	14	3	
Tippah	6,280	6,516	6,817	6,964	7,028	748	11.9	17	12	
Tishomingo	6,200	6,319	6,538	6,324	6,121	(79)	(1.3)	63	62	
Tunica	5,973	5,725	5,728	5,996	5,800	(173)	(2.9)	69	66	
Union	10,700	11,019	11,896	12,252	12,223	1,523	14.2	10	6	
Walthall	2,336	2,348	2,514	2,370	2,270	(66)	(2.8)	60	65	
Warren	18,727	18,682	19,305	19,155	18,797	70	0.4	46	51	
Washington	15,697	15,366	14,758	14,516	14,601	(1,096)	(7.0)	80	76	
Wayne	4,761	4,751	4,691	4,669	4,723	(38)	(0.8)	57	57	
Webster	1,923	1,994	2,005	2,028	2,037	114	5.9	43	29	
Wilkinson	1,535	1,543	1,475	1,468	1,441	(94)	(6.1)	65	74	
Winston	4,846	4,917	4,991	5,113	5,065	219	4.5	34	36	
Yalobusha	2,734	2,713	2,655	2,665	2,657	(77)	(2.8)	62	64	
Yazoo	6,115	5,941	5,937	6,120	6,235	120	2.0	41	49	
Metropolitan Statistical Areas										
Gulfport-Biloxi	147,091	152,786	155,339	158,424	159,517	12,426	8.4	1	1	
Hattiesburg	59,604	60,757	62,111	62,057	61,617	2,013	3.4	3	3	
Jackson	261,368	262,728	267,499	271,696	273,331	11,963	4.6	2	2	
Workforce Development Areas										
Delta	81,863	81,219	80,420	80,398	79,150	(2,713)	(3.3)	4	4	
MS Partnership	312,450	322,387	330,707	331,157	332,409	19,959	6.4	2	1	
SC MS Works	314,000	316,266	322,340	325,999	327,055	13,055	4.2	3	3	
Twin Districts	347,086	353,437	359,392	365,163	367,265	20,179	5.8	1	2	

Source: MDES, Labor Market Information Department in cooperation with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

COMMENTS
Large increase in Construction
Increases in most sectors; Significantly large increase in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Large decrease in Manufacturing
More than double increase in Manufacturing
Increases in most sectors with only a few small losses
Decrease in Education & Health Services
Decreases in most sectors, largest in Manufacturing
Increases in most sectors
Largest increases in Education & Health Services and Manufacturing
Increases in almost all sectors
Large decrease in Manufacturing
Large decrease in Manufacturing; Increases in Education & Health Services and Leisure & Hospitality
Large decrease in Manufacturing
Off-setting increases and decreases in sectors
No large changes in any sector
Increases in all sectors but Financial Activities
Largest increases in Manufacturing, Education & Health Resources, and Natural Resources & Mining
Decreases in most sectors, largest in Education & Health Services
Increases in most sectors, largest in Construction
No large changes in any sector
Increases in most sectors; Minor decreases in a few sectors
Largest increases in Education & Health Services and Construction
No large changes in any sector
Increases in most sectors; Large increase in Manufacturing
Significant increase in Natural Resources & Mining; Large increase in Manufacturing
Decrease in Manufacturing
Decreases in most sectors
Growth in almost all sectors, largest in Manufacturing
Decreases in most sectors
Increases in Manufacturing and Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Decreases in all sectors except Construction and Education & Health Services; Six over 10 percent
Decreases in almost all sectors, largest in Manufacturing
Increases in most sectors
Decreases in all sectors except two
Increases in most sectors; Decrease in Manufacturing
Large decrease in Manufacturing
Largest increase in Manufacturing
Increases in all sectors, largest in Leisure & Hospitality
Largest increases in Leisure & Hospitality and Education & Health Services
Increases in most sectors, largest in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Losses in all sectors but Construction
Large increase in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Increases in most sectors, largest in Trade, Transportation & Utilities
Increases in most sectors; Large increases in Education & Health Services and Professional & Business Services

Per Capita Income

Per Capita Income Growth Reveals Economic Disparities and Opportunities Across Mississippi Counties, FY 2019–2023

Mississippi's per capita income grew steadily from 2019 to 2023, rising from \$39,142 to \$49,652, a net change of \$10,510 or 26.9 percent. Although the state still lags the U.S. average per capita income of \$69,810, the state's growth outpaced the national percentage increase of 25.6 percent over the same period. The gains reflect an upward trend across most counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and Workforce Development Areas (WDAs), though the pace and magnitude of growth varied widely.

Several counties experienced significant gains in per capita income. Madison County led the state with a per capita income of \$86,331 in 2023, an increase of 33.8 percent since 2019. Sharkey County posted the largest percentage growth, surging 58.2 percent to \$57,998. Other strong performers included Tunica (44.8%), Issaquena (43.8%), and Quitman (39.4%), all of which posted notable income growth despite starting from lower baselines.

In contrast, some counties struggled with modest or uneven growth. Chickasaw County recorded only a 16.1 percent increase, raising its per capita income to \$39,952; Jasper and Marion Counties also posted relatively low percentage gains of 12.2 percent and 12.6 percent, respectively. These slower increases highlight the persistent regional disparities in income growth, particularly in rural and

economically challenged areas. While most counties saw improvements, wide gaps remain between high-income areas such as Madison and DeSoto and low-income areas such as Holmes, Issaquena, and Greene.

At the regional level, Mississippi's MSAs and WDAs showed upward trends. The Jackson MSA recorded the highest per capita income in 2023 at \$57,265,

reflecting a 30.0 percent increase since 2019. The Gulfport-Biloxi and Hattiesburg MSAs also grew steadily, though the per capita income for each remained below the state average. Among WDAs, the South Central Mississippi Works had the strongest per

capita income in 2023 at \$54,845. The Delta region showed the largest percentage gain of 32.6 percent, though it still trails the state average in absolute terms.

Overall, Mississippi's per capita income growth reflects both progress and persistent inequality. Many counties and regions demonstrated strong gains, narrowing the gap with national averages in growth rates, yet the absolute dollar differences remain substantial. Wealthier urban counties and workforce regions continue to outpace rural and economically distressed areas.

2023 Per Capita Income Comparison

UNITED STATES	\$69,810
MISSISSIPPI	\$49,652
Gulfport-Biloxi MSA	\$48,268
Hattiesburg MSA	\$47,865
Jackson MSA	\$57,265



Mississippi Per Capita Income

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2019 to 2023		Ranking		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	PCI 2023	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Mississippi	\$39,142	\$42,448	\$46,869	\$47,134	\$49,652	10,510	26.9			
Adams	36,052	39,532	46,018	43,763	45,973	9,921	27.5	36	29	25
Alcorn	38,560	41,700	44,564	44,838	47,651	9,091	23.6	25	42	56
Amite	33,358	35,307	38,849	39,677	42,205	8,847	26.5	62	46	32
Attala	34,920	39,478	43,268	40,948	42,656	7,736	22.2	56	62	64
Benton	34,869	38,552	42,696	41,656	45,081	10,212	29.3	41	24	16
Bolivar	37,310	41,861	48,333	47,141	51,015	13,705	36.7	13	4	6
Calhoun	35,190	39,821	43,094	40,976	42,728	7,538	21.4	55	66	66
Carroll	37,932	40,883	45,568	43,280	45,400	7,468	19.7	40	67	75
Chickasaw	34,410	38,161	42,560	39,303	39,952	5,542	16.1	70	80	80
Choctaw	34,018	37,473	41,521	40,350	42,655	8,637	25.4	57	49	37
Claiborne	31,384	34,595	37,863	36,563	38,756	7,372	23.5	78	69	57
Clarke	37,896	41,643	43,336	43,977	46,428	8,532	22.5	32	50	62
Clay	39,109	43,003	48,828	48,588	51,599	12,490	31.9	9	9	13
Coahoma	37,030	41,207	46,198	45,494	47,742	10,712	28.9	23	20	17
Copiah	33,549	36,598	39,747	40,099	42,003	8,454	25.2	63	51	40
Covington	38,304	39,614	44,498	47,546	47,970	9,666	25.2	21	32	39
DeSoto	43,856	47,055	52,130	53,228	56,470	12,614	28.8	4	6	18
Forrest	36,470	39,995	44,064	43,111	45,405	8,935	24.5	39	44	46
Franklin	36,160	38,849	41,053	40,858	42,359	6,199	17.1	59	76	78
George	34,191	37,787	39,825	39,624	41,804	7,613	22.3	65	65	63
Greene	28,619	31,669	33,505	33,883	34,362	5,743	20.1	82	79	73
Grenada	35,449	38,847	43,450	42,405	44,304	8,855	25.0	46	45	42
Hancock	37,898	40,586	45,007	45,554	48,425	10,527	27.8	18	21	23
Harrison	38,060	41,706	46,491	45,966	48,902	10,842	28.5	16	17	19
Hinds	40,117	44,461	47,455	48,559	51,350	11,233	28.0	10	13	21
Holmes	29,464	32,983	37,311	35,690	38,193	8,729	29.6	80	48	15
Humphreys	34,334	39,161	43,856	41,320	43,876	9,542	27.8	49	34	22
Issaquena	25,070	30,267	37,134	33,862	36,046	10,976	43.8	81	15	3
Itawamba	35,450	38,893	41,930	41,166	42,737	7,287	20.6	54	72	69
Jackson	38,526	41,521	45,976	45,432	48,028	9,502	24.7	20	35	45
Jasper	41,010	41,529	45,460	47,049	45,999	4,989	12.2	35	81	82
Jefferson	33,842	36,846	39,827	39,648	41,876	8,034	23.7	64	59	54
Jefferson Davis	30,029	33,086	36,895	37,986	40,428	10,399	34.6	69	22	8
Jones	38,860	40,922	44,858	48,221	49,765	10,905	28.1	15	16	20
Kemper	31,988	36,044	38,601	37,428	39,625	7,637	23.9	71	64	52
Lafayette	42,595	45,856	49,445	49,944	52,791	10,196	23.9	6	25	51
Lamar	41,279	43,813	48,416	49,684	51,997	10,718	26.0	8	19	33
Lauderdale	40,185	43,836	47,312	47,519	50,952	10,767	26.8	14	18	30
Lawrence	36,688	38,229	43,288	44,957	45,871	9,183	25.0	38	38	41
Leake	34,108	34,793	40,423	42,401	41,066	6,958	20.4	67	75	70
Lee	44,117	47,105	52,704	52,029	54,255	10,138	23.0	5	26	60
Leflore	38,184	42,323	50,269	49,155	51,319	13,135	34.4	11	5	9
Lincoln	38,938	41,503	44,550	45,492	47,781	8,843	22.7	22	47	61
Lowndes	40,193	43,495	47,971	48,298	51,172	10,979	27.3	12	14	27
Madison	64,546	68,742	77,637	80,692	86,331	21,785	33.8	1	1	10

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

Mississippi Per Capita Income

						2019 to 2023		Ranking		
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	PCI 2023	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Marion	38,098	39,324	41,242	40,825	42,902	4,804	12.6	53	82	81
Marshall	36,514	40,207	44,871	44,357	46,470	9,956	27.3	31	28	28
Monroe	37,179	40,689	44,562	43,271	44,517	7,338	19.7	44	71	74
Montgomery	34,575	38,244	42,537	41,480	42,976	8,401	24.3	52	52	47
Neshoba	37,848	40,117	45,174	46,932	47,423	9,575	25.3	28	33	38
Newton	35,404	36,818	41,623	41,079	41,357	5,953	16.8	66	77	79
Noxubee	34,506	37,465	44,879	42,953	44,881	10,375	30.1	43	23	14
Oktibbeha	34,014	36,690	39,966	39,730	42,241	8,227	24.2	61	56	49
Panola	34,268	38,738	42,503	41,496	43,391	9,123	26.6	50	41	31
Pearl River	37,931	39,812	43,747	44,036	47,020	9,089	24.0	30	43	50
Perry	33,310	35,727	37,992	37,339	40,688	7,378	22.1	68	68	65
Pike	31,357	33,993	38,123	37,095	39,426	8,069	25.7	74	58	35
Pontotoc	35,127	38,565	42,985	42,069	43,359	8,232	23.4	51	55	58
Prentiss	32,048	35,283	38,526	38,145	39,413	7,365	23.0	75	70	59
Quitman	31,711	35,663	42,720	42,372	44,213	12,502	39.4	47	8	4
Rankin	45,156	48,255	52,813	53,715	56,864	11,708	25.9	3	11	34
Scott	31,790	33,244	38,297	38,932	39,510	7,720	24.3	72	63	48
Sharkey	36,660	43,450	53,584	54,048	57,998	21,338	58.2	2	2	1
Simpson	38,502	40,589	44,917	46,256	47,645	9,143	23.7	26	40	53
Smith	39,700	40,335	45,339	48,639	47,687	7,987	20.1	24	60	71
Stone	34,480	36,941	39,764	40,156	42,642	8,162	23.7	58	57	55
Sunflower	29,601	33,676	38,008	36,927	39,498	9,897	33.4	73	30	11
Tallahatchie	31,869	35,904	43,093	42,278	44,389	12,520	39.3	45	7	5
Tate	37,984	40,988	45,157	45,107	47,426	9,442	24.9	27	36	44
Tippah	37,946	42,426	44,606	42,729	45,880	7,934	20.9	37	61	68
Tishomingo	35,865	39,063	41,999	42,481	45,018	9,153	25.5	42	39	36
Tunica	33,514	38,836	43,421	46,504	48,516	15,002	44.8	17	3	2
Union	35,262	37,974	41,673	41,120	42,339	7,077	20.1	60	74	72
Walthall	33,122	34,852	38,818	38,277	38,989	5,867	17.7	76	78	77
Warren	40,838	44,994	48,887	49,499	52,095	11,257	27.6	7	12	24
Washington	36,556	41,171	45,860	45,608	48,299	11,743	32.1	19	10	12
Wayne	36,961	38,028	43,106	46,037	46,161	9,200	24.9	33	37	43
Webster	38,763	41,770	45,217	44,320	47,027	8,264	21.3	29	54	67
Wilkinson	30,209	34,176	37,071	35,413	38,503	8,294	27.5	79	53	26
Winston	36,263	39,059	43,700	43,721	46,075	9,812	27.1	34	31	29
Yalobusha	36,946	40,333	42,995	42,201	44,057	7,111	19.2	48	73	76
Yazoo	28,715	33,840	37,577	36,682	38,819	10,104	35.2	77	27	7
Metropolitan Statistical Areas										
Gulfport-Biloxi	38,045	41,309	45,852	45,479	48,268	10,224	26.9	2	2	2
Hattiesburg	38,228	41,274	45,452	45,473	47,865	9,637	25.2	3	3	3
Jackson	44,063	47,912	52,669	53,998	57,265	13,202	30.0	1	1	1
Workforce Development Areas										
Delta	34,838	39,165	44,542	43,694	46,211	11,373	32.6	4	2	1
MS Partnership	39,064	42,379	46,692	46,509	48,941	9,877	25.3	2	3	3
SC MS Works	42,524	46,222	50,778	51,761	54,845	12,321	29.0	1	1	2
Twin Districts	37,655	40,407	44,594	44,969	47,136	9,481	25.2	3	4	4

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis



Sales Tax Collections

Mississippi's Sales Tax Revenue Shows Widespread Growth with Notable Regional Variations from 2020 to 2024

Between FY 2020 and FY 2024, Mississippi saw an overall 25.0 percent increase in sales tax collections to nearly \$4.16 billion in FY 2024. This growth reflects strong consumer activity and economic resilience in various parts of the state, particularly in metropolitan and economically expanding counties. Counties such as Rankin, Harrison, DeSoto, and Madison contributed significantly to statewide revenue, each posting net gains of over \$65 million. Madison County, for instance, experienced a 41.5 percent increase, reflecting ongoing suburban development and strong commercial expansion.

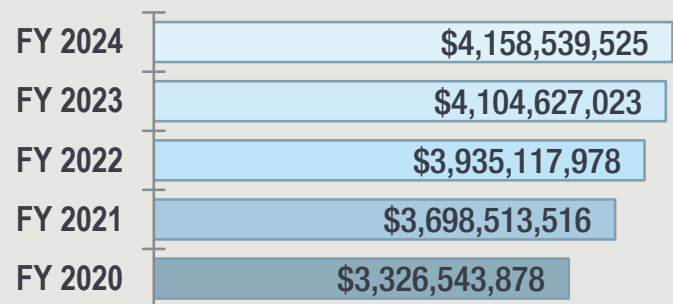
However, not all counties shared equally in this growth. Hinds County, which historically contributes high tax revenue due to its central location and urban base, experienced a net decline of \$1.9 million in sales tax collections, representing a 0.7 percent decrease. This may point to a shifting retail landscape, economic stagnation, or population loss. Similarly, Claiborne County also saw a drop of 5.6 percent, highlighting persistent challenges in economically distressed areas. These declines contrast starkly with counties like Noxubee and Quitman, which saw 58.5 percent and 57.5 percent growth, despite starting from a modest tax base.

The Jackson MSA, while still leading all MSAs in total collections at \$941.9 million, grew at a modest 21.1 percent over four years. In contrast, the

Gulfport-Biloxi MSA and Hattiesburg MSA grew by 25.9 percent and 23.8 percent, respectively, with the former reaching nearly \$576 million in FY 2024. These gains suggest that coastal and mid-sized metro areas are becoming increasingly vital to Mississippi's retail and tax base.

The Mississippi Partnership WDA had a 29.9 percent increase, followed by the Twin Districts WDA at 25.5 percent. These regions encompass some of the fastest-growing counties in both tax collections and population. On the other hand, Delta WDA showed only a 20.0 percent increase, indicating slower economic recovery or stagnation. Taken together, the data underscores how Mississippi's sales tax revenue growth is geographically uneven, driven by regional economic development, migration patterns, and workforce concentration.

**Sales Tax Collected 2020-2024
Mississippi**



Mississippi Sales Tax Collected

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	2020 to 2024		RANK		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Tax 2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
MISSISSIPPI	3,326,543,878	3,698,513,516	3,935,117,978	4,104,627,023	4,158,539,525	831,995,647	25.0			
Adams	32,604,902	35,776,928	39,250,749	41,193,092	39,474,097	6,869,195	21.1	23	27	55
Alcorn	39,566,063	43,966,226	46,988,874	49,546,010	49,196,916	9,630,853	24.3	21	16	41
Amite	4,073,870	4,113,099	4,504,864	5,157,129	5,857,132	1,783,262	43.8	65	59	8
Attala	13,654,314	14,821,505	15,609,469	16,363,253	16,737,112	3,082,798	22.6	46	46	50
Benton	2,146,657	1,743,010	1,705,933	2,381,197	2,316,433	169,776	7.9	80	80	80
Bolivar	29,957,927	32,652,362	32,446,437	35,367,523	37,205,262	7,247,335	24.2	26	25	42
Calhoun	6,806,123	7,017,893	7,424,502	8,246,553	8,744,820	1,938,697	28.5	57	57	33
Carroll	1,832,874	2,148,880	2,561,300	2,824,309	2,542,578	709,704	38.7	78	70	13
Chickasaw	11,063,592	12,249,567	11,851,692	11,806,338	12,491,552	1,427,960	12.9	53	64	77
Choctaw	2,940,548	3,090,301	3,157,609	3,141,071	3,495,099	554,551	18.9	74	74	65
Claiborne	3,323,109	2,913,361	3,101,554	2,844,703	3,136,046	(187,063)	(5.6)	76	81	82
Clarke	6,113,484	6,384,067	6,178,836	7,808,137	8,754,061	2,640,577	43.2	56	50	9
Clay	15,669,708	15,935,839	16,631,965	17,417,370	18,212,299	2,542,591	16.2	40	51	70
Coahoma	16,603,884	18,011,516	18,397,157	19,334,980	18,983,264	2,379,380	14.3	37	53	75
Copiah	15,101,400	15,896,229	17,069,009	18,349,938	18,458,915	3,357,515	22.2	38	44	52
Covington	13,800,946	15,684,357	15,166,048	16,615,234	16,680,878	2,879,932	20.9	47	49	57
DeSoto	230,128,581	267,677,309	289,254,983	303,156,910	304,793,651	74,665,070	32.4	3	3	23
Forrest	103,101,944	113,413,464	120,116,746	129,224,931	127,104,346	24,002,402	23.3	8	9	47
Franklin	2,953,325	3,019,064	3,150,179	3,568,518	3,496,647	543,322	18.4	73	75	66
George	19,413,983	22,819,915	23,952,326	25,235,158	27,121,092	7,707,109	39.7	32	23	12
Greene	3,930,279	3,994,676	4,468,922	4,629,091	5,047,354	1,117,075	28.4	68	65	35
Grenada	30,178,349	32,571,378	33,526,696	38,583,198	37,691,611	7,513,262	24.9	25	24	39
Hancock	38,000,156	43,847,867	48,722,619	51,298,743	50,822,996	12,822,840	33.7	19	15	19
Harrison	293,289,008	338,957,866	363,381,314	371,778,536	368,118,487	74,829,479	25.5	1	2	37
Hinds	293,453,805	312,286,605	324,603,374	301,561,623	291,525,396	(1,928,409)	(0.7)	4	82	81
Holmes	6,513,061	6,767,525	7,115,388	7,231,258	8,312,433	1,799,372	27.6	58	58	36
Humphreys	3,003,204	3,057,210	3,316,676	3,431,627	3,542,864	539,660	18.0	72	76	68
Issaquena	99,219	149,777	229,076	465,816	279,340	180,121	181.5	82	79	1
Itawamba	13,294,122	16,510,888	15,996,093	16,434,836	16,272,610	2,978,488	22.4	48	48	51
Jackson	112,362,828	126,350,629	131,891,076	133,642,318	138,862,576	26,499,748	23.6	7	8	45
Jasper	7,321,270	8,283,602	8,372,213	8,669,701	9,486,883	2,165,613	29.6	55	55	31
Jefferson	2,118,145	1,993,174	2,006,740	2,167,327	2,339,473	221,328	10.4	79	78	78
Jefferson Davis	3,570,467	3,725,460	4,119,456	4,599,344	4,586,544	1,016,077	28.5	70	66	34
Jones	73,166,532	77,080,565	82,763,594	87,816,913	88,136,569	14,970,037	20.5	13	13	59
Kemper	2,523,761	2,553,858	2,609,173	3,143,640	3,399,884	876,123	34.7	75	67	15
Lafayette	68,072,745	73,575,164	88,482,923	96,938,784	100,744,735	32,671,990	48.0	11	5	5
Lamar	83,357,776	94,295,170	101,095,320	101,516,666	103,870,208	20,512,432	24.6	10	10	40
Lauderdale	92,625,128	102,946,836	108,018,534	111,881,313	110,739,184	18,114,056	19.6	9	11	63
Lawrence	4,384,182	4,819,556	5,278,536	5,672,025	5,880,702	1,496,520	34.1	64	61	18
Leake	12,377,747	13,238,342	13,704,985	15,476,438	16,055,871	3,678,124	29.7	50	42	29
Lee	151,957,348	173,352,552	178,858,952	185,605,606	181,899,512	29,942,164	19.7	6	7	61
Leflore	32,091,424	34,971,611	35,290,925	37,518,553	37,978,288	5,886,864	18.3	24	30	67
Lincoln	41,445,018	45,346,939	47,838,556	49,163,530	50,100,356	8,655,338	20.9	20	17	56
Lowndes	67,425,007	74,539,747	77,804,327	83,961,846	100,039,292	32,614,285	48.4	12	6	4
Madison	164,103,857	186,625,269	204,359,381	216,766,734	232,209,678	68,105,821	41.5	5	4	11

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

Mississippi Sales Tax Collected

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	2020 to 2024		RANK		
						Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.	Tax 2024	Net Chg.	Pct. Chg.
Marion	22,921,486	25,408,316	27,281,088	30,185,285	30,789,605	7,868,119	34.3	29	20	17
Marshall	21,467,299	23,943,992	28,097,245	26,834,785	25,686,105	4,218,806	19.7	34	35	62
Monroe	22,659,609	25,652,122	25,234,918	27,319,693	28,425,874	5,766,265	25.4	30	31	38
Montgomery	6,182,009	6,983,787	8,700,941	8,087,905	7,632,967	1,450,958	23.5	60	63	46
Neshoba	27,005,488	30,352,070	32,168,257	34,489,754	35,084,861	8,079,373	29.9	27	18	27
Newton	9,913,133	11,266,738	11,856,009	14,061,345	13,710,992	3,797,859	38.3	52	41	14
Noxubee	5,119,023	5,365,822	5,655,798	5,989,685	8,113,173	2,994,150	58.5	59	47	2
Oktibbeha	49,875,368	53,338,961	58,081,585	61,808,712	64,985,174	15,109,806	30.3	14	12	26
Panola	35,164,227	39,230,421	40,522,526	41,412,866	41,241,624	6,077,397	17.3	22	29	69
Pearl River	39,962,199	45,102,945	47,721,019	50,756,401	53,053,792	13,091,593	32.8	16	14	21
Perry	4,398,827	4,547,165	4,481,599	5,006,805	5,255,413	856,586	19.5	67	68	64
Pike	44,894,967	48,461,481	51,611,785	53,228,812	51,572,018	6,677,051	14.9	17	28	74
Pontotoc	23,431,530	26,209,650	28,002,737	29,576,610	31,276,281	7,844,751	33.5	28	21	20
Prentiss	14,454,063	16,774,036	17,300,497	16,929,007	17,791,381	3,337,318	23.1	43	45	49
Quitman	1,415,082	1,823,170	1,921,798	2,516,646	2,228,938	813,856	57.5	81	69	3
Rankin	245,764,719	273,156,519	297,984,036	317,284,898	322,318,102	76,553,383	31.1	2	1	24
Scott	20,786,783	21,868,432	21,722,039	25,813,714	25,089,446	4,302,663	20.7	35	34	58
Sharkey	2,526,878	2,674,261	2,993,819	3,213,025	3,135,342	608,464	24.1	77	73	43
Simpson	18,507,446	20,465,925	22,320,711	24,290,033	26,395,540	7,888,094	42.6	33	19	10
Smith	5,063,838	5,260,801	6,271,101	6,121,407	6,545,136	1,481,298	29.3	61	62	32
Stone	13,895,630	15,787,400	16,317,375	17,535,993	18,034,326	4,138,696	29.8	42	38	28
Sunflower	14,170,971	16,163,742	16,595,953	17,222,485	18,374,327	4,203,356	29.7	39	36	30
Tallahatchie	4,107,171	4,064,888	4,228,992	3,893,143	4,729,729	622,558	15.2	69	72	72
Tate	18,248,153	21,059,389	22,458,009	24,441,381	22,178,048	3,929,895	21.5	36	40	54
Tippah	12,536,615	14,713,095	14,359,154	14,824,305	15,063,539	2,526,924	20.2	51	52	60
Tishomingo	11,764,543	13,711,464	14,896,275	16,254,844	17,124,565	5,360,022	45.6	45	32	6
Tunica	9,681,130	8,413,185	9,316,851	12,649,960	11,974,173	2,293,043	23.7	54	54	44
Union	23,244,412	26,610,989	27,884,360	29,217,172	28,343,779	5,099,367	21.9	31	33	53
Walthall	4,727,295	5,611,256	6,060,252	6,164,751	6,263,208	1,535,913	32.5	62	60	22
Warren	52,011,015	57,231,440	55,241,127	57,552,878	59,812,262	7,801,247	15.0	15	22	73
Washington	44,504,760	48,368,338	47,187,400	52,112,986	51,448,632	6,943,872	15.6	18	26	71
Wayne	14,732,699	15,223,033	17,078,828	18,548,856	18,153,066	3,420,367	23.2	41	43	48
Webster	4,303,006	4,758,190	5,529,018	5,753,009	6,257,112	1,954,106	45.4	63	56	7
Wilkinson	3,577,335	3,704,428	3,588,335	3,772,286	3,949,247	371,912	10.4	71	77	79
Winston	12,018,340	13,545,065	14,125,310	15,449,554	16,170,625	4,152,285	34.5	49	37	16
Yalobusha	4,805,727	5,088,024	5,404,174	5,551,128	5,462,413	656,686	13.7	66	71	76
Yazoo	13,474,706	15,572,347	16,214,077	16,834,762	17,612,851	4,138,145	30.7	44	39	25
Metropolitan Statistical Areas										
Gulfport-Biloxi	457,547,622	524,943,762	560,312,384	574,255,590	575,838,385	118,290,763	25.9	2	2	1
Hattiesburg	190,858,547	212,255,799	225,693,665	235,748,402	236,229,967	45,371,420	23.8	3	3	2
Jackson	777,705,777	852,638,851	911,388,015	928,132,960	941,922,361	164,216,584	21.1	1	1	3
Workforce Development Areas										
Delta	201,671,812	218,496,886	222,124,298	239,195,177	241,976,794	40,304,982	20.0	4	4	4
MS Partnership	883,012,854	994,805,965	1,063,024,039	1,121,620,762	1,147,146,678	264,133,824	29.9	2	1	1
SC MS Works	946,519,096	1,036,993,620	1,104,183,265	1,125,573,039	1,140,401,670	193,882,574	20.5	3	3	3
Twin Districts	1,023,635,392	1,148,393,574	1,219,458,477	1,275,855,723	1,284,503,570	260,868,178	25.5	1	2	2

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

Economic Stability Index

Mississippi's Index of Economic Stability Highlights Regional Growth Strengths and Ongoing Challenges

The Index of Economic Stability provides a composite measure of economic well-being across Mississippi counties, Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), and Workforce Development Areas (WDAs). Each area is evaluated based on employment/job growth, population growth, sales tax growth, labor force employed, and per capita income. Mississippi is benchmarked at 1.000 across all categories, with the composite index serving as the baseline for comparison. Counties that perform above 5.000 demonstrate stronger relative stability, while those falling closer to 4.500 or below face economic challenges.

Several counties emerge as economic leaders within the index. Issaquena County ranks first with a composite score of 6.041, boosted by exceptionally high sales tax growth despite weaker per capita income. Madison County follows closely with 6.019, driven by balanced growth in population, employment, and especially strong per capita income. Lafayette County (5.375), DeSoto County (5.319), and Rankin County (5.258) round out the top five, reflecting a mix of robust job creation, rising population, and higher-than-average household earnings. These counties illustrate where economic development and demographic expansion reinforce one another.

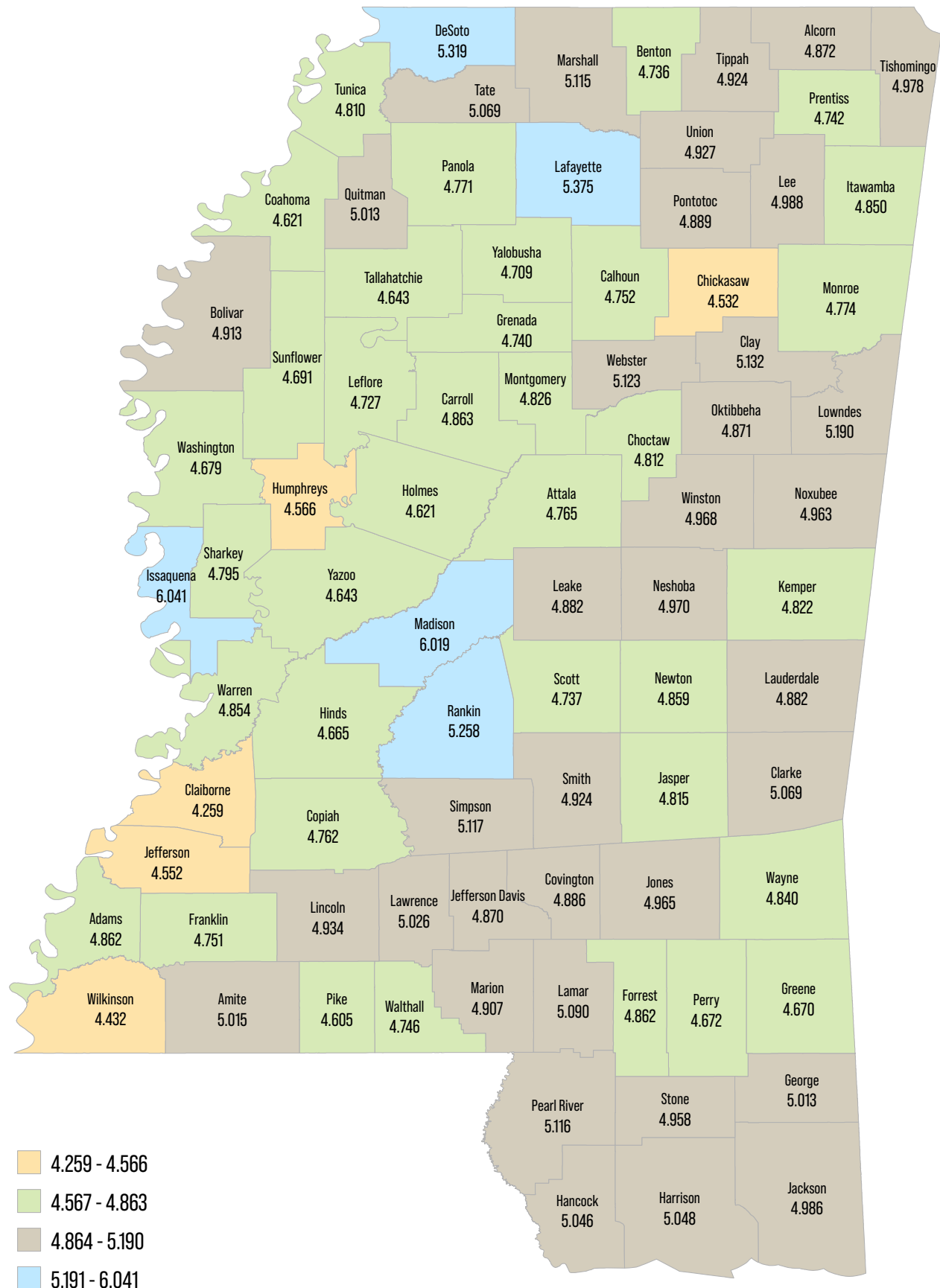
On the opposite end, several counties continue to struggle with economic stability. Claiborne County (4.259), Wilkinson County (4.432), Chickasaw County (4.532), and Jefferson County (4.552) rank among the lowest in the state. These counties show weaknesses in multiple areas, particularly employment growth, population retention, and per capita income. The low composite scores highlight ongoing structural barriers.

At the MSA level, Jackson leads with a composite score of 5.086, reflecting relatively strong per capita income growth and consistent labor force stability. Gulfport-Biloxi ranks second at 5.023, showing balanced gains across employment and population. With a score of 4.943, Hattiesburg places third, reflecting healthy but more modest growth in sales tax and per capita income. These results show that Mississippi's urban centers continue to anchor economic activity in the state, though performance varies by local economic base.

Among the WDAs, the Mississippi Partnership demonstrates the strongest performance with a composite score of 5.035, supported by a healthy population and sales tax growth. South Central Mississippi Works follows at 5.023, bolstered by high per capita income levels. The Twin Districts area ranks third with 4.958, while the Delta lags at 4.712, reflecting persistent challenges with employment and income growth. These patterns highlight regional disparities, with northern and central areas outperforming much of the Delta in overall economic stability.

Overall, the Index of Economic Stability underscores the uneven distribution of economic strength across Mississippi. While certain counties and regions are experiencing significant growth and rising incomes, others face stagnant or declining indicators. Policymakers and workforce leaders can use this data to identify where targeted interventions—such as workforce training, infrastructure investment, or small business support—may be most needed. Strengthening weaker areas while sustaining growth in high-performing counties will be key to improving statewide stability and competitiveness.

2024 Composite Index



Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security
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Mississippi Economic Stability Index

	Five Year Total Employment Growth	Five Year Total Population Growth	Five Year Sales Tax Growth	Labor Force Employed 2024	Per Capita Income 2023	Composite Index	Rank
MISSISSIPPI	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	5.000	
Adams	1.003	0.980	0.968	0.985	0.926	4.862	43
Alcorn	0.925	0.991	0.995	1.003	0.960	4.872	39
Amite	1.039	0.985	1.150	0.990	0.850	5.015	18
Attala	0.957	0.972	0.981	0.997	0.859	4.765	57
Benton	0.972	0.992	0.863	1.001	0.908	4.736	65
Bolivar	0.973	0.925	0.993	0.994	1.027	4.913	33
Calhoun	0.889	0.970	1.028	1.004	0.861	4.752	59
Carroll	0.895	0.948	1.110	0.996	0.914	4.863	42
Chickasaw	0.848	0.987	0.903	0.989	0.805	4.532	80
Choctaw	1.015	0.991	0.951	0.996	0.859	4.812	52
Claiborne	0.874	0.898	0.755	0.952	0.781	4.259	82
Clarke	1.011	0.980	1.145	0.998	0.935	5.069	14
Clay	1.189	0.983	0.930	0.990	1.039	5.132	7
Coahoma	0.816	0.952	0.915	0.976	0.962	4.621	76
Copiah	0.963	0.979	0.978	0.996	0.846	4.762	58
Covington	0.961	0.990	0.967	1.002	0.966	4.886	36
DeSoto	1.061	1.058	1.059	1.003	1.137	5.319	4
Forrest	0.951	1.008	0.986	1.001	0.914	4.862	44
Franklin	0.973	0.986	0.947	0.992	0.853	4.751	60
George	0.998	1.068	1.117	0.988	0.842	5.013	19
Greene	0.959	1.016	1.027	0.975	0.692	4.670	71
Grenada	0.877	0.975	0.999	0.997	0.892	4.740	63
Hancock	0.984	1.013	1.070	1.005	0.975	5.046	16
Harrison	1.027	1.029	1.004	1.003	0.985	5.048	15
Hinds	0.897	0.940	0.795	1.000	1.034	4.665	72
Holmes	0.926	0.927	1.021	0.979	0.769	4.621	75
Humphreys	0.839	0.925	0.944	0.974	0.884	4.566	78
Issaquena	1.117	0.983	2.252	0.964	0.726	6.041	1
Itawamba	0.987	1.019	0.979	1.003	0.861	4.850	47
Jackson	0.997	1.031	0.989	1.002	0.967	4.986	22
Jasper	0.885	0.971	1.037	0.996	0.926	4.815	51
Jefferson	0.930	0.957	0.884	0.938	0.843	4.552	79
Jefferson Davis	1.048	0.986	1.028	0.994	0.814	4.870	41
Jones	1.008	0.985	0.964	1.005	1.002	4.965	26
Kemper	0.997	0.960	1.078	0.988	0.798	4.822	50
Lafayette	1.047	1.076	1.184	1.005	1.063	5.375	3
Lamar	1.000	1.042	0.997	1.004	1.047	5.090	12
Lauderdale	0.923	0.976	0.956	1.000	1.026	4.882	37
Lawrence	1.056	0.979	1.073	0.994	0.924	5.026	17
Leake	1.000	1.015	1.038	1.002	0.827	4.882	38
Lee	0.933	1.002	0.958	1.003	1.093	4.988	21
Leflore	0.837	0.928	0.947	0.982	1.034	4.727	66
Lincoln	0.997	1.008	0.967	0.999	0.962	4.934	29
Lowndes	0.995	0.978	1.187	0.999	1.031	5.190	6
Madison	1.090	1.051	1.132	1.007	1.739	6.019	2

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Mississippi Economic Stability Index

	Five Year Total Employment Growth	Five Year Total Population Growth	Five Year Sales Tax Growth	Labor Force Employed 2024	Per Capita Income 2023	Composite Index	Rank
Marion	0.983	0.990	1.075	0.995	0.864	4.907	34
Marshall	1.203	1.023	0.957	0.996	0.936	5.115	11
Monroe	0.896	0.986	1.003	0.991	0.897	4.774	55
Montgomery	1.008	0.966	0.988	0.998	0.866	4.826	49
Neshoba	0.972	1.004	1.039	0.999	0.955	4.970	24
Newton	0.925	0.996	1.106	0.999	0.833	4.859	45
Noxubee	0.836	0.966	1.268	0.990	0.904	4.963	27
Oktibbeha	0.971	1.010	1.042	0.997	0.851	4.871	40
Panola	0.977	0.993	0.938	0.989	0.874	4.771	56
Pearl River	1.050	1.056	1.062	1.002	0.947	5.116	10
Perry	0.904	1.001	0.956	0.992	0.819	4.672	70
Pike	0.927	0.975	0.919	0.990	0.794	4.605	77
Pontotoc	0.915	1.032	1.068	1.001	0.873	4.889	35
Prentiss	0.936	1.026	0.985	1.001	0.794	4.742	62
Quitman	0.974	0.905	1.260	0.983	0.890	5.013	20
Rankin	1.028	1.027	1.049	1.009	1.145	5.258	5
Scott	0.979	0.994	0.966	1.003	0.796	4.737	64
Sharkey	0.786	0.861	0.993	0.987	1.168	4.795	54
Simpson	1.021	0.994	1.141	1.002	0.960	5.117	9
Smith	0.935	0.994	1.034	1.001	0.960	4.924	31
Stone	0.988	1.073	1.038	1.000	0.859	4.958	28
Sunflower	0.969	0.901	1.037	0.989	0.795	4.691	68
Tallahatchie	0.961	0.868	0.921	0.999	0.894	4.643	73
Tate	1.121	1.021	0.972	1.000	0.955	5.069	13
Tippah	1.045	0.991	0.961	1.003	0.924	4.924	32
Tishomingo	0.921	0.989	1.164	0.996	0.907	4.978	23
Tunica	0.906	0.946	0.989	0.992	0.977	4.810	53
Union	1.066	1.025	0.975	1.008	0.853	4.927	30
Walthall	0.907	1.003	1.060	0.991	0.785	4.746	61
Warren	0.937	0.950	0.920	0.998	1.049	4.854	46
Washington	0.868	0.927	0.925	0.986	0.973	4.679	69
Wayne	0.926	1.002	0.986	0.996	0.930	4.840	48
Webster	0.989	1.019	1.163	1.005	0.947	5.123	8
Wilkinson	0.876	0.922	0.883	0.975	0.775	4.432	81
Winston	0.976	0.990	1.076	0.998	0.928	4.968	25
Yalobusha	0.907	1.007	0.909	0.999	0.887	4.709	67
Yazoo	0.952	0.868	1.046	0.996	0.782	4.643	74
Metropolitan Statistical Areas							
Gulfport-Biloxi	1.012	1.030	1.007	1.003	0.972	5.023	2
Hattiesburg	0.965	1.022	0.990	1.002	0.964	4.943	3
Jackson	0.976	0.985	0.969	1.003	1.153	5.086	1
Workforce Development Areas							
Delta	0.902	0.932	0.960	0.987	0.931	4.712	4
MS Partnership	0.993	1.017	1.039	1.001	0.986	5.035	1
SC MS Works	0.972	0.982	0.964	1.001	1.105	5.023	2
Twin Districts	0.988	1.016	1.004	1.001	0.949	4.958	3

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Summary & Conclusions

Mississippi's Economic Landscape 2020–2024: Uneven Growth, Regional Disparities, and Signs of Resilience

The Index of Economic Stability shows that Mississippi's economic landscape is defined by both growth hubs and struggling regions. Leading counties such as Madison, Lafayette, and DeSoto are driving stability through strong employment, population expansion, and rising incomes, while other areas like Claiborne and Wilkinson face deep-rooted economic challenges. At the regional levels, MSAs and the Mississippi Partnership WDA demonstrate momentum that can serve as models for struggling communities. Closing these gaps will require focused investment in workforce development, infrastructure, and local economic initiatives to ensure that all regions of Mississippi can share in sustainable growth and long-term stability.

The per capita income trends from 2019 to 2023 illustrate that Mississippi experienced measurable growth overall, with the state's average rising by 26.9 percent, slightly outpacing the national growth rate of 25.6 percent. Strong performers were Madison, Rankin, DeSoto, and Lafayette Counties. These counties, along with metropolitan areas like Jackson, saw incomes climb well above the state average. Several counties, particularly in the Delta and southwest Mississippi, continue to post some of the lowest per capita incomes, despite occasional spikes in growth rates. Areas like Issaquena, Holmes, and Wilkinson remain far below the state average, underscoring the challenges of limited industry presence, high poverty rates, and stagnant population growth.

The sales tax data from FY 2020 to FY 2024 highlights steady growth across Mississippi. While the strongest increases were concentrated in counties with expanding populations, robust retail markets, or significant tourism activity, even rural areas showed signs of resilience. These patterns suggest that sales tax growth is closely tied to regional economic development and consumer activity,

reinforcing the role of both metropolitan areas and local industries in sustaining state revenues. Looking forward, the combination of population shifts, workforce dynamics, and industry growth will likely continue to shape sales tax trends across Mississippi.

Mississippi's unemployment insurance trends from 2020 to 2024 illustrate a sharp return to pre-pandemic conditions, with benefits paid dropping more than 90 percent since their 2020 peak. This decline reflects both a strengthening labor market and reduced reliance on unemployment assistance as more residents reentered the workforce. While most areas have stabilized, some regions continue to face slower rebounds, underscoring the importance of ongoing workforce development and targeted economic support.

The data shows that the statewide population is beginning to stabilize. Even though the population decreased from 2020 to 2024, over 70 percent of the decrease occurred between 2020 and 2021. The population increased from 2022 to 2023 and had a minimal change from 2023 to 2024. With the latest announced economic development projects, more job opportunities, and improved income, the state could see an increase in population.

Mississippi's 2024 data reflects a state in transition. While many rural and historically challenged counties continue to see declines in residents and labor force participation, other areas are driving growth and helping lift statewide economic indicators. The sharp rise in employment and per capita income demonstrates resilience in Mississippi's labor market, even as population shifts highlight the need for targeted development strategies. These trends suggest that the state is moving toward greater economic stability, though unevenly, across regions.

Phraseology

Civilian Labor Force - that proportion of the civilian noninstitutional population that is employed or actively seeking employment.

Civilian Noninstitutional Population - are persons 16 years of age and older who are not inmates of institutions (for example, penal and mental facilities, homes for the aged), and who are not on active duty in the Armed Forces.

Covered Employment - the number of workers for firms registered under the Mississippi Employment Security Law who earned wages during the pay period including the twelfth of the month. State and local government is included but not federal government.

COVID-19 - (referenced as COVID-19 pandemic) a respiratory illness caused by a coronavirus.

Employed - all persons who during the reference week, (a) did any work at all as paid employees, worked in their own business, profession, or on their own farm or worked 15 hours or more as unpaid workers in an enterprise operated by a member of the family, and (b) all those who were not working but who had jobs or businesses from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, bad weather, childcare problems, maternity or paternity leave, labor management dispute, job training, or other family or personal reasons, whether or not they were paid for the time off, or were seeking other jobs. Persons are counted only once even if they hold multiple jobs.

Hispanic * - refers to those who identified themselves in the enumeration process of the U.S. Census as being of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin. These individuals are further classified by detailed Hispanic ethnicity, such as, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, and Other Hispanic or Latino. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic or Latino may be of any race. [BLS]

Industry * - a group of establishments that produce similar products or provide similar services. For example, all establishments that manufacture automobiles are in the same industry. A given industry, or even a particular establishment in that industry, might have employees in dozens of occupations. The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) groups similar establishments into industries. [BLS]

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) - the general concept of an MSA is one of a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that nucleus. These are defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a standard for Federal agencies in the preparation and publication of statistics relating to metropolitan areas.

Pandemic - disease outbreak occurring over a wide geographic area typically affecting a significant proportion of the population.

Personal Income * - is the income received by, or on behalf of, all persons from all sources: from participation as laborers in production, from owning a home or business, from the ownership of financial assets, and from government and business in the form of transfers. It includes income from domestic sources as well as the rest of world. It does not include realized or unrealized capital gains or losses. Personal income is measured before the deduction of personal income taxes and other personal taxes and is reported in current dollars (no adjustment is made for price changes). [BEA]

Unemployed - all persons who had no employment during the reference week, were available for work, except for temporary illness, and had made specific efforts to find employment during the 4-week period ending with the reference week. Persons who were waiting to be recalled to a job from which they had been laid off need not have been looking for work to be classified as unemployed. Persons that are classified as unemployed have not necessarily filed or would be eligible for unemployment benefits.

Unemployment Rate * - represents the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labor force (the labor force is the sum of the employed and unemployed). The unemployment rate is calculated as: $(\text{Unemployed} \div \text{Labor Force}) \times 100$. [BLS]

Workforce Development Area (WDA) - these are state designated areas in which an appointed Workforce Development Board is charged with designing and managing a system that provides convenient access to services and program information for employers, job seekers, and others in need of assistance. Multiple agencies and groups partner together to provide the services. Each board is employer led and demand driven. Mississippi is divided into four such areas.

* Definition provided by BLS or BEA as noted in brackets.



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