

# PETAL, MISSISSIPPI

Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority  
 March 23, 2006

(601) 359-3449/www.mississippi.org

## POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Petal	7,884	8,594	7,579	7,919	8,225
Forrest County	68,323	72,236	72,604	74,469	87,263

### Most populated cities in Forrest County:

City	2005 Population
Hattiesburg	45,693
Petal	7,919

### Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	18.9 %	40 to 49	13.3 %
18 to 21	11.8 %	50 to 64	13.5 %
22 to 29	16.0 %	65 and over	12.2 %
30 to 39	14.2 %		

Median age of county population, 2004: 30.6

Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, Census of Population, 1990 and 2000; 2005 and 2010 Population Estimates, Demographics Now.

## LOCATION

### Distance to selected cities from Petal:

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	395 miles	637 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	824 miles	1,329 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	480 miles	774 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	89 miles	144 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	294 miles	474 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	121 miles	195 kilometers

Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.

## LABOR UNIONS

Information on labor union activity in Mississippi can be obtained by calling MDA at 601-359-3449.

## WAGES

### Annual Average, 2004\*:

#### Manufacturing

Forrest County	\$661/week	\$16.53/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

#### Services

Forrest County	\$522/week	\$13.05/hour
Mississippi	\$508/week	\$12.70/hour
United States	\$724/week	\$18.10/hour

\*All rates include management personnel.

Source: County data-Mississippi Department of Employment Security, U.S. data-U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2004 Annual Average.

## LABOR FORCE

### Annual Average, 2004:

	Forrest County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	35,970	133,319
Male Percentage	51%	
Female Percentage	49%	
Total Employment	33,900	123,160
Manufacturing	2,391	
Services & Misc.	20,310	
Total Unemployed	1,960	6,770
Unemployment Rate	5.5%	5.1%
U.S.	5.5%	
Mississippi	6.2%	

\*Commuting area includes all contiguous counties in Mississippi and neighboring states.

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security 2004, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

## RETAIL SALES

### Gross Retail Sales (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Petal	\$ 64	\$ 82	\$ 113
Forrest County	\$ 844	\$ 998	\$ 1120

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, Annual Report, Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1995; 2000, 2004.

## INCOME

### Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Forrest County	\$17,656	\$22,093	\$24,803

### Earnings, Forrest County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$1,367,168,000

### Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	8.1%
Services-Other	13.6%
Wholesale Trade	3.7%
Retail Trade	8.8%
Government	35.7%
Construction	3.8%
Finance & Insurance	5.1%
Transportation & Warehousing	5.1%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	14.0%
Educational Services	0.7%
Accommodation & Food Services	2.8%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2003.

## ASSESSED VALUE

### Grand Total Ad Valorem Assessment (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Forrest County	\$ 269	\$ 380	\$ 435

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

## FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

**Banks based in Petal** None

**Banks with one or more branches in Petal** 6

Source: Mississippi Banker's Association, Mississippi Bank Directory, 2005-2006 Edition.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Highways in Petal:

MS 42  
US 11,

### Railroads in Petal:

Canadian National, Norfolk Southern

### Air Travel in Petal:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional, Moselle

Distance (miles) 7

Length of runway 6,500 feet/1,982 meters

Number of daily outgoing flights 2

Major airlines serving the airport:

Northwest Airlink

Nearest general aviation airport and its location:

Bobby L. Chain, Hattiesburg

Distance (miles) 3

Length of runway 6,219 feet/1,896 meters

**Common carriers operating in Petal area** 15

### Petal's nearest full-service port:

Port of Gulfport

Post Office Box 40

Gulfport, MS 39502

228-865-4300

Distance from Petal 78 miles/126 kilometers

Name of waterway Gulf of Mexico

Channel depth 36 feet/11 meters

Source: Mississippi Department of Transportation; Mississippi Port Authorities; unpublished data collected by MDA, 2005.

## HEALTH CARE

**Hospitals in Forrest County** 2

**Number of beds** 545

Source: Mississippi Department of Health, Directory of Mississippi Health Facilities, 2004.

## EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Forrest County and Mississippi, request an Education Profile. Education Profiles are prepared for all Mississippi counties and may be obtained by calling 601-359-3593, or online at [www.mississippi.org](http://www.mississippi.org).

## UTILITIES AND SERVICES

### Electricity distributor(s) in Petal:

Mississippi Power Company

### Water/sewage service in Petal:

Utility name	Petal Water & Sewer Department
Source	Wells
System capacity	6,900,000 gallons per day 26,136 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	900,000 gallons per day 3,409 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	1,400,000 gallons per day 5,303 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	1,000,000 gallons 3,788 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	22,000,000 gallons 83,333 kiloliters
Sewer treatment type	Regional system
Percent of community served	95%
Present load	NA

### Natural gas distributor(s) in Petal:

Entex

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

## COUNTY FEATURES

<b>County Seat(s)</b>	Hattiesburg
<b>Land area</b>	470 square miles/1,218 square kilometers
<b>County land area in commercial forests</b>	73 %
<b>National Parks/Historic Landmarks:</b>	
DeSoto National Forest	

### State Parks:

Paul B. Johnson

### Tourism related information

Call 1-800-WARMEST

Source: Mississippi Elected Officials Directory; Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning; unpublished data collected by MDA.

## LARGEST MANUFACTURERS IN FORREST COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
Marshall Durbin Food Corp.-Hattiesburg	811	Fresh and frozen poultry (whole and parts)
Dairy Fresh Corp.	280	Homogenized milk
York International, Engineered Systems Group	277	Custom-made commercial air conditioning equipment
Kohler Engines, Inc.	235	Single-cylinder, air-cooled, gas-powered, 4-cycle, vertical shaft engines, 6-10 hp
Barkley Filing Systems	220	File folders, file guides and index cards

Source: Mississippi Manufacturers' Database, MDA, March 2006.

## FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Petal

Class 7

Source: Mississippi State Rating Bureau, August 2002.

## COST OF HOUSING

### Average Selling Price of Homes, 2004:

Jackson	\$199,485
Gulfport	\$189,900
Hattiesburg	\$204,780
Tupelo	\$192,228

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living, 2004.

## PROPERTY TAX

**General county millage** 32.00

**Property tax-** Counties and municipalities levy a property tax on real and personal tangible property. Most property is assessed at 15% of true value. Motor vehicles and utilities (excluding railroads) are assessed at 30% and owner-occupied residential properties are assessed at 10% of true value.

### To calculate annual property tax:

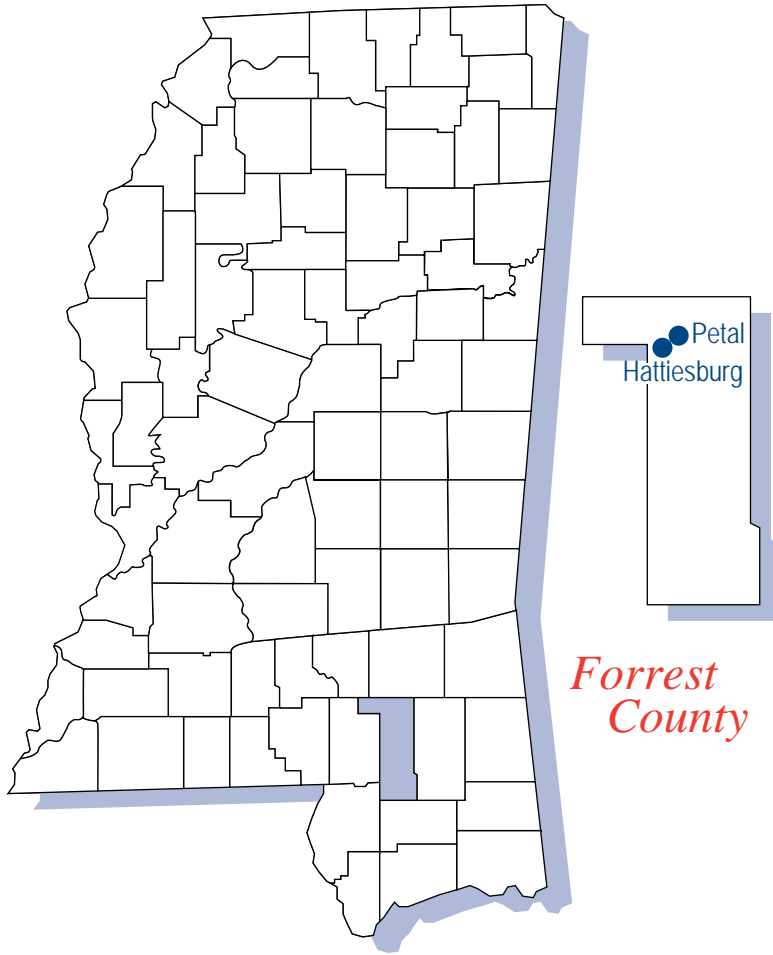
$$\text{Tax} = (\text{V} \times \text{A} \times \text{M}) / 1000$$

V = property value (\$), A = assessment percentage (%),  
M = millage rate

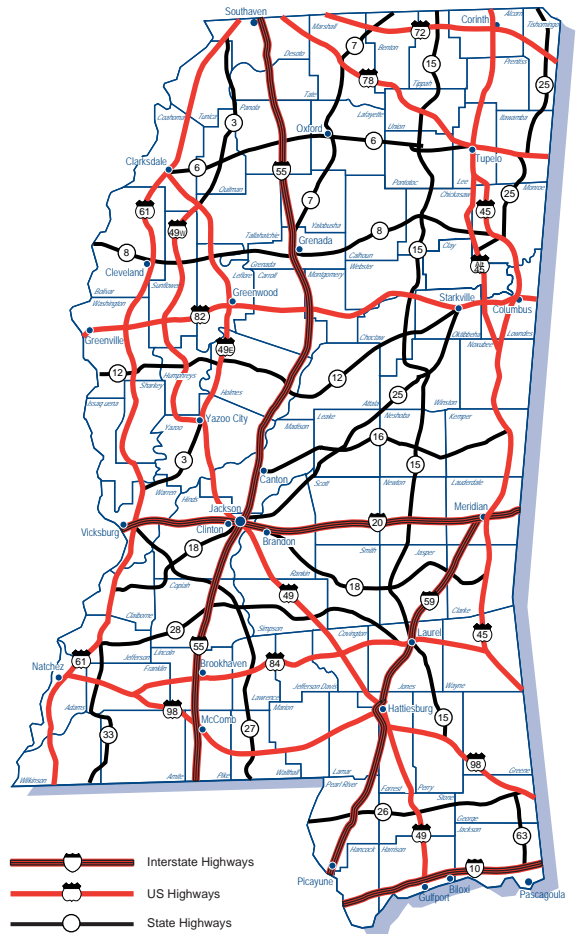
Example: Home value \$96,226 millage rate 32.00  
 $(\$96,226 \times 10\% \times 32.00) / 1,000 = \$307.92$

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

# County Location



# Federal/State Highways



# Regional Map

