

COLUMBIA, MISSISSIPPI

Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority
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(601) 359-3449/www.mississippi.org

POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Columbia	6,807	6,946	6,603	6,189	5,834
Marion County	25,512	26,057	25,595	25,440	30,277

Most populated cities in Marion County:

City	2005 Population
Columbia	6,189

Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	22.4 %	40 to 49	15.1 %
18 to 21	6.0 %	50 to 64	15.7 %
22 to 29	11.1 %	65 and over	15.3 %
30 to 39	14.3 %		

Median age of county population, 2004: 36.1

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 Columbia:

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	406 miles	655 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	834 miles	1,345 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	490 miles	790 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	85 miles	137 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	304 miles	490 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	95 miles	153 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Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.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

Marion County	\$350/week	\$8.75/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

Services

Marion County	\$417/week	\$10.43/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:

	Marion County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	10,490	70,480
Male Percentage	54%	
Female Percentage	46%	
Total Employment	10,150	67,000
Manufacturing	1,266	
Services & Misc.	3,676	
Total Unemployed	730	3,950
Unemployment Rate	6.7%	5.6%
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
Columbia	\$ 146	\$ 176	\$ 241
Marion County	\$ 186	\$ 247	\$ 367

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

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Marion County	\$14,108	\$17,790	\$19,898

Earnings, Marion County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$246,145,000

Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	12.6%
Services-Other	7.4%
Wholesale Trade	2.3%
Retail Trade	10.3%
Government	23.1%
Construction	15.2%
Finance & Insurance	4.9%
Transportation & Warehousing	5.4%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	0.0%
Educational Services	0.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	1.7%

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

ASSESSED VALUE

Grand Total Ad Valorem Assessment (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Marion County	\$ 89	\$ 109	\$ 128

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks based in Columbia 2

Banks with one or more branches in Columbia 5

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

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Columbia:

MS 13,
US 98

Railroads in Columbia:

NA

Air Travel in Columbia:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional, Moselle

Distance (miles)	38
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:

Columbia-Marion County, Columbia

Distance (miles)	Local
Length of runway	4,460 feet/1,360 meters

Common carriers operating in Columbia area 22

Columbia's nearest full-service port:

Port of Gulfport

Post Office Box 40
Gulfport, MS 39502
228-865-4300

Distance from Columbia	103 miles/166 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 Marion County 1

Number of beds 79

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

EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Marion 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.

UTILITIES AND SERVICES

Electricity distributor(s) in Columbia:

Mississippi Power Company

Water/sewage service in Columbia:

Utility name	City of Columbia
Source	Wells
System capacity	3,950,000 gallons per day 14,962 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	850,000 gallons per day 3,220 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	1,000,000 gallons per day 3,788 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	1,100,000 gallons 4,167 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	1,590,000 gallons 6,023 kiloliters
Sewer treatment type	Lagoons
Percent of community served	100
Present load	NA

Natural gas distributor(s) in Columbia:

Entex

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

COUNTY FEATURES

County Seat(s)	Columbia
Land area	549 square miles/1,421 square kilometers
County land area in commercial forests	60 %
National Parks/Historic Landmarks:	None

State Parks:

None

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 MARION COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
Pioneer Aerospace Corp.	400	Parachutes; recovery and deceleration systems
Orleans Furniture, Inc.	375	Dining room furniture
Wellstone Apparel, LLC	300	Men's and boys' leisure shirts
Georgia-Pacific Corp.-Columbia	110	Pine dimension lumber
Rogers Lumber Corp.	42	Rough softwood lumber

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

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Columbia

Class 6

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 43.75

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 43.75
 $(\$96,226 \times 10\% \times 43.75) / 1,000 = \420.99

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

