

DECATUR, MISSISSIPPI**Newton County**Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority
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(601) 359-3449/www.mississippi.org

POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Decatur	1,250	1,311	1,426	1,319	1,255
Newton County	20,339	21,141	21,838	22,165	24,418

Most populated cities in Newton County:

City	2005 Population
Newton	3,526
Decatur	1,319
Hickory	480
Lake	367
Chunky	363

Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	20.5 %	40 to 49	14.3 %
18 to 21	8.1 %	50 to 64	16.4 %
22 to 29	10.9 %	65 and over	16.1 %
30 to 39	13.7 %		

Median age of county population, 2004: 35.8

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 Decatur:**

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	342 miles	552 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	745 miles	1,202 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	462 miles	745 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	71 miles	115 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	215 miles	347 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	216 miles	348 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Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.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**

Newton County	\$583/week	\$14.58/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

Services

Newton County	\$381/week	\$9.53/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:	Newton County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	9,760	109,590
Male Percentage	52%	
Female Percentage	48%	
Total Employment	9,540	102,050
Manufacturing	1,654	
Services & Misc.	2,473	
Total Unemployed	540	6,810
Unemployment Rate	5.4%	6.2%
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
Decatur	\$ 5	\$ 7	\$ 7
Newton County	\$ 120	\$ 123	\$ 139

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

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Newton County	\$15,813	\$19,299	\$22,003

Earnings, Newton County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$202,293,000

Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	32.3%
Services-Other	7.9%
Wholesale Trade	0.4%
Retail Trade	7.9%
Government	33.4%
Construction	2.1%
Finance & Insurance	1.7%
Transportation & Warehousing	2.2%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	0.0%
Educational Services	0.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	1.5%

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

ASSESSED VALUE

Grand Total Ad Valorem Assessment (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Newton County	\$ 67	\$ 86	\$ 99

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks based in Decatur None

Banks with one or more branches in Decatur 2

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

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Decatur:

MS 15,

Railroads in Decatur:

Kansas City Southern

Air Travel in Decatur:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Meridian Regional, Meridian

Distance (miles) 28

Length of runway 10,004 feet/3,050 meters

Number of daily outgoing flights 3

Major airlines serving the airport:

Atlantic Southeast, Northwest Airlinck

Nearest general aviation airport and its location:

James H. Easom Field, Newton

Distance (miles) 10

Length of runway 3,000 feet/915 meters

Common carriers operating in Decatur area 16

Decatur's nearest full-service port:

Port of Vicksburg

Post Office Box 709

Vicksburg, MS 39180

601-636-1012

Distance from Decatur 116 miles/187 kilometers

Name of waterway Mississippi River

Channel depth 9 feet/3 meters

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

HEALTH CARE

Hospitals in Newton County 1

Number of beds 49

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

EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Newton 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 Decatur:

Mississippi Power Company

Water/sewage service in Decatur:

Utility name	Decatur Water Works
Source	Wells
System capacity	504,000 gallons per day 1,909 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	504,000 gallons per day 1,909 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	504,000 gallons per day 1,909 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	500,000 gallons 1,894 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	NA
Sewer treatment type	Lagoons
Percent of community served	95%
Present load	75%

Natural gas distributor(s) in Decatur:

Entex

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

COUNTY FEATURES

County Seat(s)	Decatur
Land area	580 square miles/1,501 square kilometers
County land area in commercial forests	68 %
National Parks/Historic Landmarks:	
Bienville National Forest	

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 NEWTON COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
La-Z-Boy South	944	Upholstered reclining/rocking chairs
Peavey Electronics Corp.-Decatur	400	Tape recorders and console mixing systems
ESCO Corp.	325	Steel castings/mining, construction, and forestry markets
La-Z-Boy Plywood Plant No. 21	200	Softwood (pine) plywood milling for La-Z-Boy furniture
Tri-C Wood Products, Inc.	65	Hardwood flooring

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

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Decatur

Class 8

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 30.68

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:

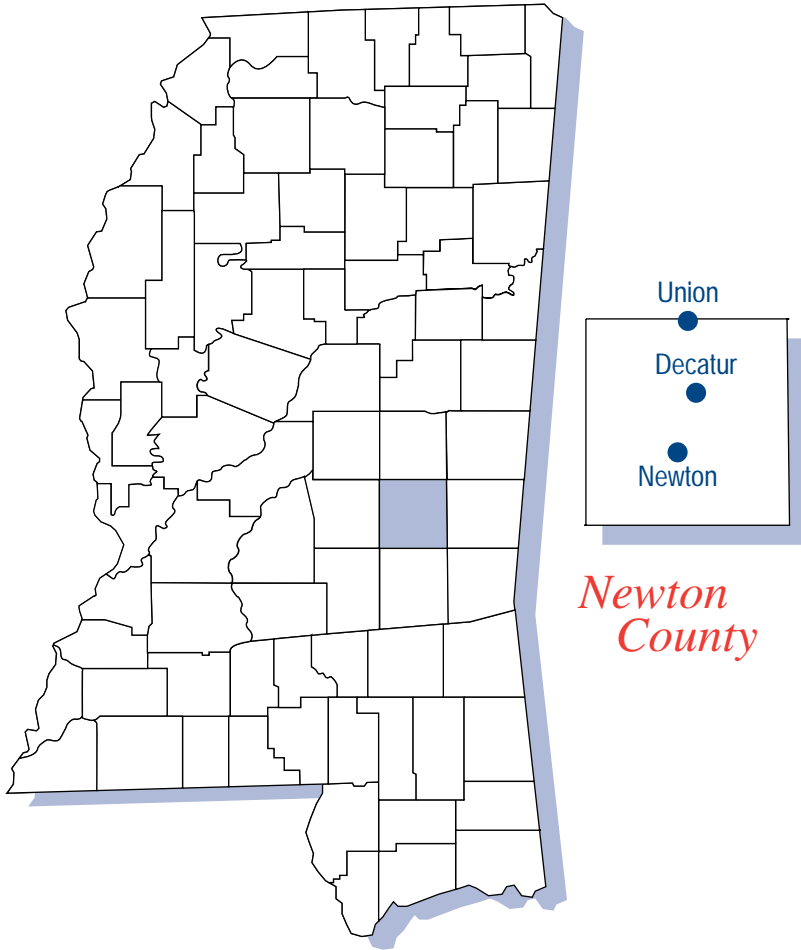
$$\text{Tax} = (\text{V} \times \text{A} \times \text{M}) / 1000$$

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

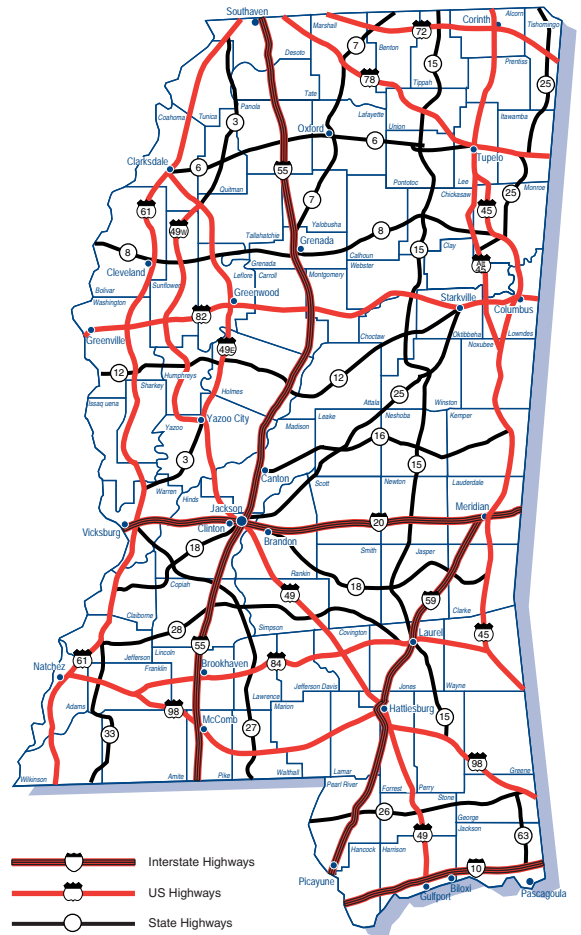
Example: Home value \$90,219 millage rate 30.68
 $(\$90,219 \times 10\% \times 30.68) / 1,000 = \276.79

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

County Location



Federal/State Highways



Regional Map

