

MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI

Lauderdale County

Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority
March 23, 2006

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

POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Meridian	41,012	41,046	39,968	1,783	1,700
Lauderdale County	75,511	76,931	78,161	77,449	80,132

Most populated cities in Lauderdale County:

City	2005 Population
Meridian	1,783
Marion	1,359

Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	21.0 %	40 to 49	15.2 %
18 to 21	6.4 %	50 to 64	15.6 %
22 to 29	11.6 %	65 and over	15.2 %
30 to 39	14.9 %		

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 Meridian:

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	303 miles	489 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	792 miles	1,277 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	478 miles	771 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	93 miles	150 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	236 miles	381 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	203 miles	327 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Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.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

Lauderdale County	\$643/week	\$16.08/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

Services

Lauderdale County	\$520/week	\$13.00/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:

	Lauderdale County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	36,110	81,160
Male Percentage	51%	
Female Percentage	49%	
Total Employment	32,370	73,930
Manufacturing	3,845	
Services & Misc.	23,640	
Total Unemployed	2,260	5,170
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.4%
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
Meridian	\$ 760	\$ 897	\$ 1,038
Lauderdale County	\$ 895	\$ 1060	\$ 1228

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

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Lauderdale County	\$19,074	\$22,871	\$25,011

Earnings, Lauderdale County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$1,418,421,000

Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	12.2%
Services-Other	13.5%
Wholesale Trade	5.1%
Retail Trade	9.5%
Government	24.3%
Construction	3.4%
Finance & Insurance	4.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	6.5%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	0.0%
Educational Services	0.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	0.0%

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

ASSESSED VALUE

Grand Total Ad Valorem Assessment (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Lauderdale County	\$ 321	\$ 402	\$ 488

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks based in Meridian	3
Banks with one or more branches in Meridian	10

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

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Meridian:

MS 19,
US 11,
I-20,

Railroads in Meridian:

Meridian & Bigbee, Norfolk Southern, Kansas City Southern, Meridian

Air Travel in Meridian:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Meridian Regional, Meridian

Distance (miles)	Local
Length of runway	10,004 feet/3,050 meters
Number of daily outgoing flights	3
Major airlines serving the airport:	
Atlantic Southeast, Northwest Airlin	

Nearest general aviation airport and its location:

Meridian Regional, Meridian

Distance (miles)	Local
Length of runway	10,004 feet/3,050 meters

Common carriers operating in Meridian area 16

Meridian's nearest full-service port:

Demopolis Port

Alabama State Ports, P.O. Box 1588

Mobile, AL 36633

334-441-7002

Distance from Meridian	60 miles/97 kilometers
Name of waterway	Tennessee-Tombigbee
Channel depth	40 feet/12 meters

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

HEALTH CARE

Hospitals in Lauderdale County	7
Number of beds	1,211

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

EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Lauderdale 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 Meridian:

Mississippi Power Company

Water/sewage service in Meridian:

Utility name	City of Meridian
Source	Reservoir, wells
System capacity	10,000,000 gallons per day 37,879 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	7,400,000 gallons per day 28,030 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	10,000,000 gallons per day 37,879 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	8,500,000 gallons 32,197 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	13,000,000 gallons 49,242 kiloliters
Sewer treatment type	Activated sludge
Percent of community served	98%
Present load	85%

Natural gas distributor(s) in Meridian:

Atmos Energy

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

COUNTY FEATURES

County Seat(s)	Meridian
Land area	715 square miles/1,853 square kilometers
County land area in commercial forests	77 %
National Parks/Historic Landmarks:	None

State Parks:

Okatibbee Reservoir
Clarkco
Sam Dale

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 LAUDERDALE COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
Peavey Electronics Corp.-Meridian	1,200	Portable sound equipment, speakers and tape recorders
Avery Dennison Corp.	533	Tablets, pads, and related paper products
Atlas Roofing Corp.	260	Shingles, roofing felt and fiberglass roofing bases; smooth surfaced
Sara Lee Bakery Group	200	Bread, cake, and related products
Magnolia Steel Co., Inc.	170	Fabrication of metal doors and frames

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

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Meridian

Class 4

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 21.90

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:

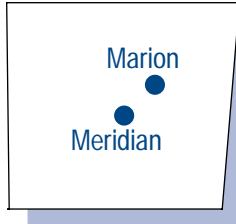
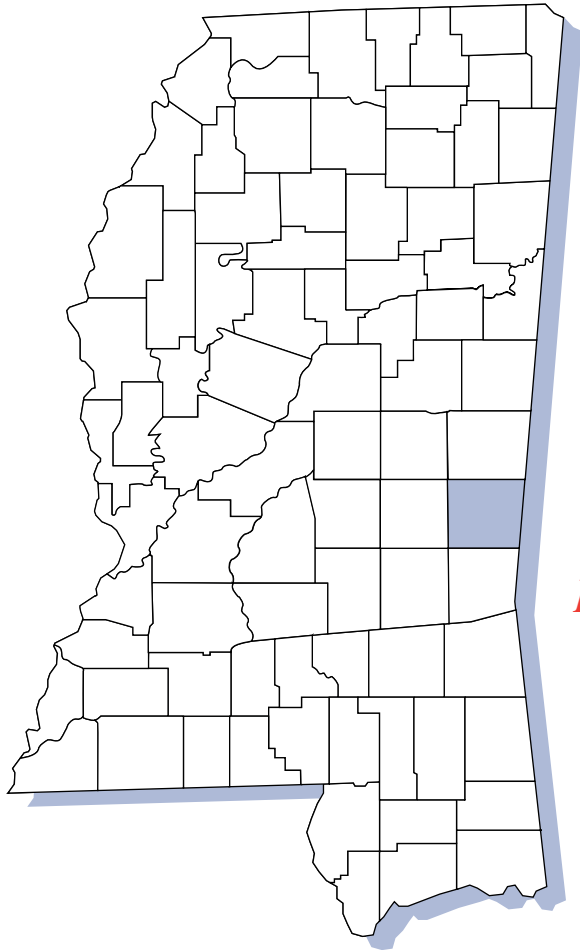
$$\text{Tax} = (\text{V} \times \text{A} \times \text{M}) / 1000$$

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

Example: Home value \$90,219 millage rate 21.90
 $(\$90,219 \times 10\% \times 21.90) / 1,000 = \197.58

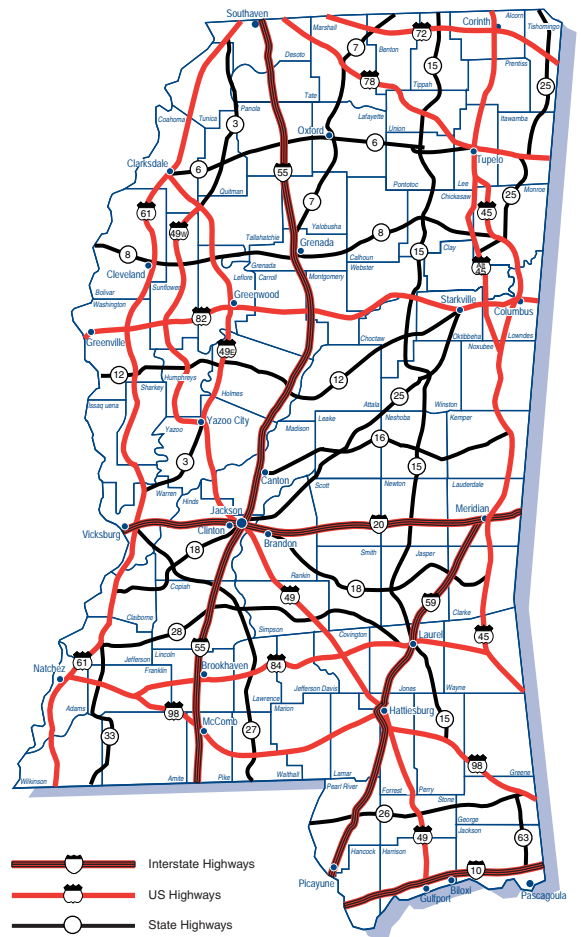
Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

County Location



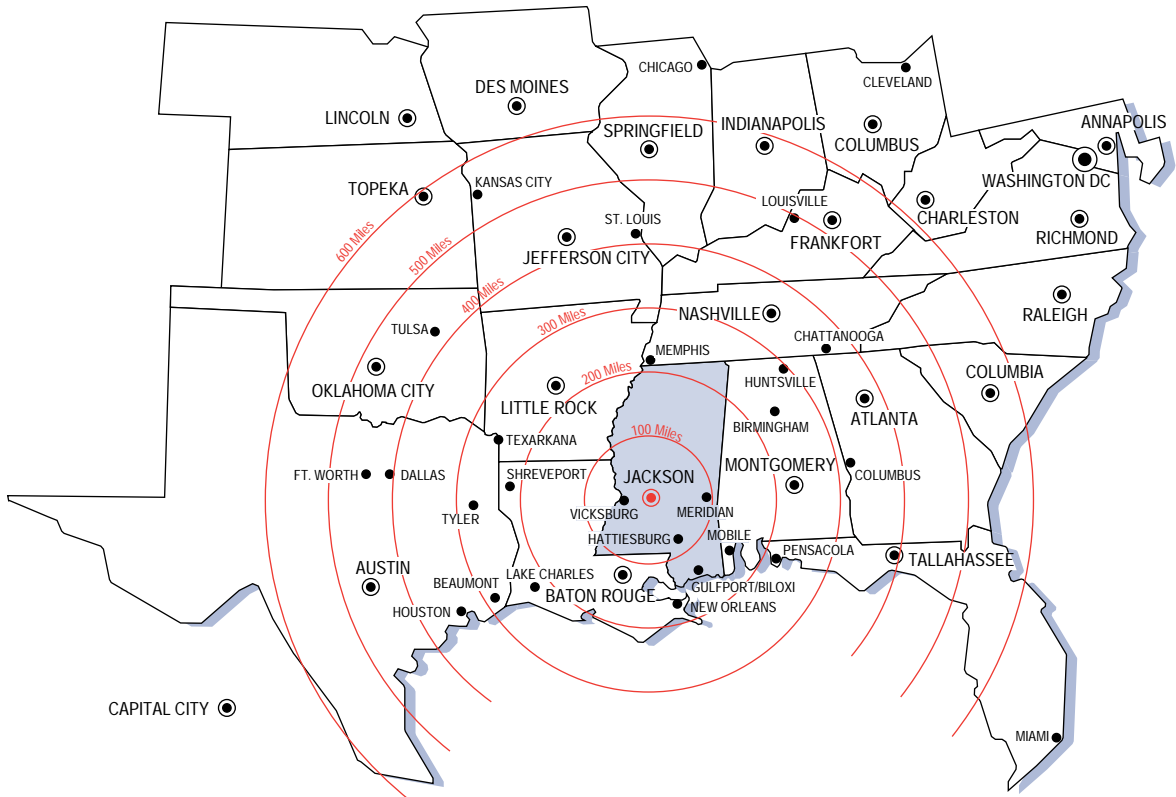
Lauderdale County

Federal/State Highways



- Interstate Highways
- US Highways
- State Highways

Regional Map



CAPITAL CITY ●