

The Workforce Investment Network (WIN) is an innovative strategy designed to provide convenient, one-stop employment and training services to Mississippi employers and job seekers. Combining federal, state and community workforce programs and services into physical locations and electronic sites, WIN In Mississippi creates a system that is both convenient and user-friendly. Visit www.mdes.ms.gov and click on Employer Services for more specific information about the Biloxi WIN Job Center.



The mission of the South Mississippi Contract Procurement Center, located in Biloxi, is to enhance national defense and economic development in Mississippi by assisting businesses in obtaining federal, state, local government and commercial contracts. It provides its services only to Mississippi businesses. The services are provided at no charge.

Local Business Assistance

(Area code is 228 for all numbers)

Biloxi Community Development Department

Jerry Creel, Director 435-6280
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 508
Biloxi, MS 39533
Office Location: 676 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
jcreel@biloxi.ms.us, biloxi.ms.us

Biloxi Bay Chamber of Commerce

Tina Ross-Seamans, Director 435-6149
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 889
Biloxi, MS 39533
Office Location: Lighthouse Visitors Center
1050 Beach Boulevard
info@biloxibaychamber.com
www.biloxibaychamber.org

Biloxi Chamber of Commerce

Rachel Seymour, Director 604-0014
Mailing Address: 1197E Seaway Road
Gulfport, MS 39503
Office Location: Lighthouse Visitors Center
1050 Beach Boulevard
Rachael@mscoastchamber.com, www.biloxi.org

Biloxi Main Street Program

Kay Miller, Manager 435-6339
Mailing Address & Office Location:
932 Howard Avenue
Biloxi, MS 39530
kmiller@biloxi.ms.us
www.mainstreetbiloxi.com

Biloxi WIN Job Center

Robert Freeman and Joy Corrie 388-7997
Mailing Address & Office Location:
2306 Pass Road
Biloxi, MS 39531
www.mdes.gov

Gulf Regional Planning Commission

Elaine Wilkerson, Executive Director 864-1167
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1232 Pass Road
Gulfport, MS 39501
egw@grpc.com
www.grpc.com

Harrison County Development Commission

Larry Barnett, Executive Director 896-5020
Mailing & Office Location:
12281 Intraplex Parkway
Gulfport, MS 39503
hcde@mscoast.org, www.mscoast.org

The Innovation Center

(formerly the Gulf Coast Business Technology Center)
Stephen Whitt, Executive Director 392-9741
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 100
Biloxi, MS 39532
contact@innovatems.com
www.innovatems.com

Mississippi Small Business Development Center – Gulf Coast

Mitch McDowell and Connie Whitt, Business Counselors 396-8661
Mailing Address & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 227
Biloxi, MS 39532
gcsbdc@olemiss.edu www.mssbdc.org

South Mississippi Contract Procurement Center

Marcia McDowell, Director 396-1288
Mailing & Office Location:
1636 Popp's Ferry Road, Suite 203
Biloxi, MS 39532
www.msipc.com

Southern Mississippi Planning and Development District

Leslie Newcomb, Executive Director 868-2311
Mailing Address & Office Location:
9229 Highway 49
Gulfport, MS 39503
info@smpdd.com
www.smpdd.com

OTHER BUSINESS ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

Mississippi Development Authority

Leland Speed, Executive Director
(601) 359-3449
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 849
Jackson, MS 39205
Main Office Location:
501 North West Street
www.mississippi.org
MDA Regional Office - Biloxi
523-4034

Mississippi Power Company

Arnie Williams, Economic Development Director
865-5003
Mailing Address & Office Location:
2605 13th Street
Gulfport, MS 39502
vlacoste@soco.com, www.mspower.com/ecodev

U.S. Small Business Administration

863-4449
www.sba.gov
Gulfport SBA Branch Office:
Hancock Bank Plaza
2510 14th Street, Suite 103
Gulfport, MS 39501

Local Tax Incentives

In 2011, the City of Biloxi and Harrison County adopted tax incentive programs to encourage development and redevelopment in specified areas; the Biloxi program allows ad valorem tax exemptions for up to seven years, with the term depending upon material used in construction and how well a new business blends with the character of its neighborhood.

“This program is about making things happen in Biloxi,” stated Mayor A.J. Holloway. “I encourage all developers looking to build in Biloxi to take part in this program. We’re not promising everyone that they will be granted a full exemption on their city property taxes, but we’re encouraging new or rebuilding businesses to look into this program. We want to help you open for business in Biloxi. We want to help make things happen.”

To view a map of areas eligible for local tax exemptions, visit biloxi.ms.us or contact Biloxi’s Community Development Department Director, Jerry Creel, at jcreel@biloxi.ms.us

Commercial Development

Biloxi Commercial Construction

	FY2006 & Valuation		FY2008 & Valuation		FY2010 & Valuation	
Total # Permits	1,103	\$121.5m	3,377	\$227.6m	2,458	\$128.0m
Commercial	354	\$ 56.2m	399	\$169.4m	150	\$108.6m

Source: Biloxi Community Development Annual Reports

295 new lots, in all development categories, were approved for platting in Biloxi in 2009, and 77 new lots were created in 2010.

Number of Retail Establishments

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	1,367	1,367	1,108	955
D’Iberville	266	315	329	347
Gulfport	2,059	2,196	2,088	1,857
Harrison County	5,021	5,298	4,815	4,248

Gross Retail Sales

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	\$ 982m	\$ 791m	\$ 895m	\$ 787m
D’Iberville	\$ 283m	\$ 435m	\$ 381m	\$ 417m
Gulfport	\$ 1.5b	\$ 2.1b	\$ 1.85b	\$ 1.57b
Harrison County	\$ 3.4b	\$ 4.6b	\$ 4.8b	\$ 4.0b

Gross Retail Sales Tax Collections

	FY04	FY06	FY08	FY10
Biloxi	\$ 66m	\$ 52.9m	\$ 60.6m	\$ 53.3m
D’Iberville	\$ 18.6m	\$ 28.8m	\$ 25.2m	\$ 28.2m
Gulfport	\$ 97.5m	\$ 138m	\$ 123m	\$ 104m
Harrison County	\$ 217m	\$ 278.2m	\$ 278.3m	\$ 240m

Source: Mississippi Department of Revenue

In its most recent ranking in 2010, the Milken Institute, an economic think-tank, ranked the Biloxi metro area as the 101st “Best Performing Small City” in the nation, based on factors such as job growth, growth in wages, salaries and output.



Mississippi is a right to work state with competitive wage rates – average hourly earnings are roughly 75 percent of the United States average – directly corresponding to the state’s lower-than-average living and business costs.