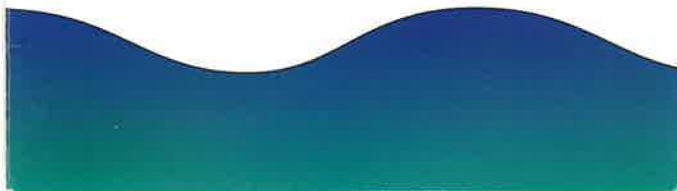
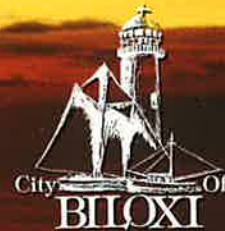




*There's a  
great deal  
happening in  
Biloxi...*



# *The Playground of the South...*



As the City of Biloxi prepares to mark the fifth anniversary of casino gaming, we have compiled a host of statistical data to show the tremendous impact that this industry has made on all aspects of our community.

This anniversary, which will be celebrated throughout the month of August, is a milestone for Biloxi, our neighboring communities along the Coast and the entire state of Mississippi. We should all be proud of the success we have enjoyed. And, just think, there's a great deal more excitement yet to come.

**A.J. Holloway**

**Mayor, City of Biloxi, June 1997**

**City Council**

**Ward 1: Tom Ferrill**

**Ward 2: Eric Dickey**

**Ward 3: Jim Compton**

**Ward 4: Charles T. Harrison, Jr.**

**Ward 5: Dianne Harenski**

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# Development & Growth

August 1992-June 1997

## CASINO GAMING

Currently, Biloxi has eight casinos: Boomtown, Casino Magic, Grand Casino, Isle of Capri, Lady Luck, New Palace Casino, The President, and Treasure Bay. Additionally, two new casino resorts, Imperial Palace and Beau Rivage (Mirage Resorts), are currently under construction. The Imperial Palace is a \$300 million casino planned for Biloxi's Back Bay and expected to open later this year. The Beau Rivage is a \$600 million project on U.S. 90 with opening set for late 1998.

Each casino, on average, employs about 1,200 individuals with a breakdown as follows:

**CASINO EMPLOYEES**  
 33% . . . are local Biloxians  
 33% . . . relocated to Biloxi to work and live  
 33% . . . work in Biloxi, but live elsewhere

From August '92 (advent of dockside gaming) through May '97, the total gross gaming revenue generated in Biloxi was \$1.94 billion.

In general, casinos operating in the City of Biloxi are taxed at a rate of about 12 percent. Of that 12 percent, 8 percent is channeled to the state of Mississippi and about 4 percent is divided locally as follows:

GROSS GAMING REVENUES	
City (General Fund)	40%
City (Public Safety)	20%
City (Public Schools)	20%
County (Public Safety)	10%
County (Public Schools)	10%



The City of Biloxi has received over \$45 million from direct gaming tax revenues.



## CONSTRUCTION & HOUSING

The total dollar valuation for building permits (commercial and residential) issued in the City of Biloxi during 1996 (YTD) is over \$223 million. The yearly breakdown for the previous six years is:

**BUILDING PERMIT VALUATION**

1991	\$11,040,454
1992	17,540,310
1993	134,430,677
1994	118,944,131
1995	70,382,302
1996	118,800,000
1997 (YTD)	223,578,780

There is currently over \$1.4 billion of new construction in the planning and development stage in the City of Biloxi.

The 1996 average sales price of residential property on the Mississippi Gulf Coast is \$86,922, a 30 percent increase since 1992. The average days in the market was 122 days and a total of 1,020 homes were sold in 1996. U.S. News & World Report ranked the MS Gulf Coast as the third hottest real estate market in the country.

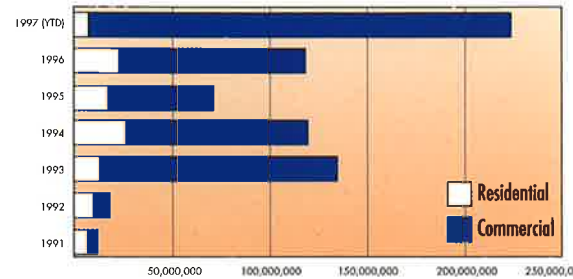
Between 1989 and 1994, no new multi-family dwellings were constructed in the City of Biloxi. In 1995 and 1996, over 700 apartment units were constructed. In 1997 there are two condominium projects, totaling 102 units, under development and 144 unit apartment complex.



New housing starts averaged 75 per year before 1993. In 1993 and 1994, 136 new homes were constructed in each year with the number dropping back to 76 in 1995. In 1996 the number of new home construction starts totaled 93 and year-to-date in 1997 the number is 67.

Based on a survey conducted by W.S. Loper and Associates, the Biloxi area has a total of 3697 market-rent apartments and 1640 assisted apartment units. The vacancy rate for multi-family (apartment) housing in Biloxi is about 6.9%. The average market rental rate for one bedroom units is \$405.36, up 3.6% from 1995. For two bedroom apartments, the average rental rate is \$503.18, a 6.6% increase from 1995. Three bedroom apartments rent for about \$623.26.

## DOLLAR VALUATION OF BUILDING PERMITS



## ECONOMY & TOURISM

Based on a recent survey, the population of Biloxi has increased 15.29% from 1990 to a level of 53,403 residents today.

Tourism sales represent about 47% of retail sales in the Biloxi economy.

According to the Harrison County Tourism Commission, the number of visitors has doubled from 1.5 million tourists in 1992 to over 3 million tourists during 1993 to over 6.5 million today. Hotel occupancy increased from 53 percent in 1990 to 68 percent in 1996.

The State of Mississippi and local authorities recently approved a \$10 million expansion for the Mississippi Coast Coliseum and Convention Center, which will nearly double the total square

footage of the facility, to 180,000 square feet. This facility, located in Biloxi, averages over 200 events per year involving approximately 650,000 participants.

The Gulfport-Biloxi Regional Airport has 42 daily flights by four airlines to five hubs including Atlanta, Houston, Memphis, Orlando and Tampa.

ASA/Delta and Reno Air both offer new jet service. Passengers have increased 143% in four years.

## AIRLINE SERVICE

Passengers Dep & Arr	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	Est 1997
Scheduled	171,581	220,560	242,416	228,543	224,568	323,000
Charter	5,942	117,698	283,547	254,587	206,939	162,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>177,523</b>	<b>338,258</b>	<b>525,963</b>	<b>483,030</b>	<b>431,507</b>	<b>485,000</b>

Sales tax collections in the City of Biloxi have increased each year since 1992 reaching an all time high of \$8.1 million in 1996.

Retail sales continue to grow and can be credited for a \$50 million expansion of Edgewater Mall and the redevelopment of the Vieux Marché (central business district) in downtown Biloxi.

The 1996 civilian labor force for the City of Biloxi increased to 19,040, an all time high, up from the 1993 level of 18,400.

New hotel-motel construction continues with the increase in visitors. The Mississippi Gulf Coast hotel-motel industry has grown from 6,447 rooms in 1993 to 9,956 rooms in 1996, with another 5,824 rooms either opened, under construction or proposed in 1997, for a total of 15,780 rooms. In addition to a number of well-known national chain hotels, the Biloxi hotel-motel industry is also welcoming high-rise casino-hotel developments: The Imperial Palace casino is constructing a 30-floor, 1,200-room hotel, while the Beau Rivage Casino is planning a 1,800-room hotel. Meanwhile, Grand Casino, currently the largest casino operation in Biloxi, is now constructing a new 500-room luxury hotel and a 42,000-square-foot convention center development at its expanded site in Biloxi, with a planned opening in early '98. Casino Magic is now constructing a 378-room hotel tower with a planned opening of early '98.



## GOVERNMENT

The capital projects (public works) budget for the City of Biloxi grew dramatically in an attempt to facilitate dockside gaming and general

population growth. These expenditures, which include all infrastructure improvements, are as follows:

### PUBLIC WORKS EXPENDITURES

FY 1991/1992	\$483,150
FY 1992/1993	\$2,255,203
FY 1993/1994	\$5,743,629
FY 1994/1995	\$21,084,651
FY 1995/1996	\$18,544,599

The Public Safety budget for the City of Biloxi has also increased significantly as a result of the increased numbers of residents and visitors attracted by casinos. These

expenditures, which include both police and fire departments, are as follows:

### PUBLIC SAFETY EXPENDITURES

FY 1991/1992	\$5,501,294
FY 1992/1993	\$6,549,190
FY 1993/1994	\$8,111,144
FY 1994/1995	\$11,384,240
FY 1995/1996	\$14,174,673

In the last three years, the Police Department has purchased 100 new

automobiles and hired 53 new officers. The Fire Department has built a new double-pumper fire station on Biloxi's Back Bay and in conjunction with the Police Department, a new Public Safety Complex is currently scheduled for construction.

To facilitate the orderly development of the city, a Comprehensive Land Use and Development Plan was prepared to plot proposed improvements to infrastructure, transportation, and community facilities for the next 25 years. The comprehensive plan also outlines possible funding sources for many of the proposed improvements.

Even with all of the investment made in infrastructure throughout the City of Biloxi and with all of the improvements made in services in all city departments, Biloxi residents and business owners received two tax decreases in the past five years – for a total of a 6 percent reduction – and household garbage collection fees decreased by 65 percent.

visit our website at [biloxi.ms.us](http://biloxi.ms.us)