

## Chapter 02 Mississippi Demographic Profile

This section provides descriptive and statistical information on the demographic characteristics of Mississippi according to the 2000 Census and 2004 population estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### 100 Population

According to the 2004 Census Estimate, Mississippi had 2,902,966 people dispersed in 82 counties and 296 incorporated cities, towns, and villages. While 50.4 percent of the people live in one of the incorporated municipalities, 51.2 percent live in areas classified as rural by the Census Bureau. Nearly 20 percent (19.8) of the people live in a city with a population of 25,000 or more, and only 34.9 percent in a city of 10,000 or more. The state has four metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) completely within its borders: Gulfport-Biloxi (Hancock, Harrison, and Stone counties); Pascagoula (Jackson and George counties); Jackson (Hinds, Madison, Rankin, Copiah, and Simpson counties); and Hattiesburg (Forrest, Lamar, and Perry counties). In addition, four Mississippi counties (DeSoto, Marshall, Tate, and Tunica) are included in the Memphis MSA.

The 2004 Census Estimate reports that the state's gender composition was 48.5 percent male and 51.5 percent female. The racial composition was 61.3 percent white, 36.8 percent black, and 1.8 percent other races. Persons aged 65 or older made up 12.1 percent of the population. These data are reflected in the following table.

Table II-1  
Population by Gender and Race  
2004

| <b>2004 Census Estimate: 2,902,966</b>           |                  |               |                  |              |               |
|--|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Whites</b>                                    | <b>1,780,313</b> | <b>Blacks</b> | <b>1,068,990</b> | <b>Other</b> | <b>53,663</b> |
| Males  | 878,930          | Males         | 503,685          | Males        | 26,118        |
| Females  | 901,383          | Females       | 565,305          | Females      | 27,545        |
| <b>Estimated Population Over Age 65: 352,867</b> |                  |               |                  |              |               |
| <b>Whites</b>                                    | <b>262,905</b>   | <b>Blacks</b> | <b>86,265</b>    | <b>Other</b> | <b>3,697</b>  |
| Males  | 109,350          | Males         | 32,450           | Males        | 1,534         |
| Females  | 153,555          | Females       | 53,815           | Females      | 2,163         |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 Population Estimates.

### 101 Housing

The 2000 Census reported 1,161,953 housing units in Mississippi and an average occupancy of 2.45 persons per unit. By contrast, in 1990 there were 1,010,423 housing units, with an average occupancy of 2.55 persons. The average household size in 2000 was 2.63 persons; the average family size 3.14. Although there has been marked improvement in income, education, and housing, Mississippi remains well below the national average in these areas.

Table II-2  
**Mississippi Non-Agricultural Employment and Job Openings**  
**By Employment Sector**  
 2002 to 2012

| Employment Sector  | 2002<br>Employment | 2012<br>Projected<br>Employment | Projected Growth<br>2002 to 2012 |         |
|--|--------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|
|  |                    |                                 | Number                           | Percent |
| Mining   | 4,830              | 4,580                           | (250)                            | (5.2)   |
| Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities                       | 45,640             | 52,660                          | 7,020                            | 15.4    |
| Construction   | 53,850             | 66,300                          | 12,450                           | 23.1    |
| Manufacturing  | 188,470            | 207,210                         | 18,740                           | 9.9     |
| Wholesale Trade  | 34,910             | 40,080                          | 5,170                            | 14.8    |
| Retail Trade   | 140,820            | 166,060                         | 25,240                           | 17.9    |
| Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate                              | 45,990             | 53,220                          | 7,230                            | 15.7    |
| Information, Professional, Scientific, and<br>Technical Services | 43,860             | 55,270                          | 11,410                           | 26.0    |
| Educational, Health Care, and Social<br>Assistance Services      | 114,460            | 149,438                         | 34,978                           | 30.6    |
| Management, Administrative, and Support<br>Services              | 49,980             | 63,820                          | 13,840                           | 27.7    |
| Accommodation and Food Services                                  | 108,260            | 125,890                         | 17,630                           | 16.3    |
| Other Services (Except Government)                               | 39,590             | 47,200                          | 7,610                            | 19.2    |
| Arts, Entertainments, and Recreation                             | 13,710             | 17,670                          | 3,960                            | 28.9    |
| Self Employed and Unpaid Family<br>Workers                       | 127,700            | 131,710                         | 4,010                            | 3.1     |
| Government   | 241,210            | 265,648                         | 24,438                           | 10.1    |

Source: Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information Department

## 102 Employment

Employment decreased from 1,249,700 in 2004 to 1,237,300 in 2005 (annual average), a one percent decrease, according to the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. This figure includes all Mississippi residents who are employed, whether the employment is within Mississippi or out of state. The average civilian labor force, which includes all residents of the state who are working or seeking employment, was 1,334,400 in 2005. An average of 106,000 Mississippi residents were seeking employment during the year, for an average unemployment rate of 7.9 percent, a 25.4 percent increase from the 6.3 rate reported in 2004.

## 103 Income

Mississippi ranked 49<sup>th</sup> among the states in per capita income and 48<sup>th</sup> in median family income, according to the 2000 Census. In 1999, the per capita income was \$16,257, while the national average was \$21,690. The median family income was \$39,266, more than \$10,000 less than the \$49,507 for the United States. Table II-3 shows additional information on poverty for individuals and families.

## 104 Education

According to the 2000 Census, high school graduation rates in Mississippi rose to 74.3 percent in 2000 from 64.3 percent in 1990, a gain of ten points, although the state is below the national average of 81.6 percent. Approximately 18.6 percent of Mississippians over 25 years of age hold a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 25.1 percent for the United States.

Table II-3  
**Persons and Families by Poverty Status**  
**Mississippi and United States**  
 1999, 1989, and 1979

| Area          | Number of Families<br>Below Poverty Level<br>(in thousands) |       |       | Percent Below Poverty Level |      |      |          |      |      |
|---------------|---|-------|-------|-----------------------------|------|------|----------|------|------|
|               |   |       |       | Persons                     |      |      | Families |      |      |
|               | 1999  | 1989  | 1979  | 1999                        | 1989 | 1979 | 1999     | 1989 | 1979 |
| United States | 6,828   | 6,488 | 5,646 | 12.5                        | 13.1 | 12.5 | 9.6      | 10.0 | 9.6  |
| Mississippi   | 104   | 137   | 120   | 18.2                        | 25.2 | 23.9 | 14.3     | 20.2 | 18.7 |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, [Census 2000](#)