

FOREST, MISSISSIPPI

Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority
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(601) 359-3449/www.mississippi.org

POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Forest	5,074	5,320	5,987	5,751	5,604
Scott County	24,192	24,987	28,423	28,656	27,279

Most populated cities in Scott County:

City	2005 Population
Forest	5,751
Sebastopol	249
Morton	NA

Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	22.9 %	40 to 49	15.0 %
18 to 21	6.1 %	50 to 64	16.2 %
22 to 29	11.5 %	65 and over	13.4 %
30 to 39	15.0 %		

Median age of county population, 2004: 35.2

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 Forest:

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	352 miles	568 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	774 miles	1,248 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	430 miles	694 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	48 miles	77 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	243 miles	392 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	184 miles	297 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Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.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

Scott County	\$472/week	\$11.80/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

Services

Scott County	\$391/week	\$9.78/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:

	Scott County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	12,840	177,610
Male Percentage	55%	
Female Percentage	45%	
Total Employment	12,690	165,930
Manufacturing	5,491	
Services & Misc.	3,761	
Total Unemployed	690	8,390
Unemployment Rate	5.2%	4.7%
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
Forest	\$ 109	\$ 121	\$ 133
Scott County	\$ 193	\$ 193	\$ 215

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

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Scott County	\$15,091	\$17,653	\$20,225

Earnings, Scott County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$342,031,000

Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	49.1%
Services-Other	5.8%
Wholesale Trade	2.3%
Retail Trade	7.1%
Government	15.6%
Construction	2.8%
Finance & Insurance	2.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	4.5%
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
Scott County	\$ 91	\$ 113	\$ 142

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks based in Forest 2

Banks with one or more branches in Forest 4

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

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Forest:

MS 21,
US 80
I-20

Railroads in Forest:

Kansas City Southern

Air Travel in Forest:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Jackson-Evers International, Jackson

Distance (miles) 35

Length of runway 8,500 feet/2,591 meters

Number of daily outgoing flights 40

Major airlines serving the airport:

American Eagle, Continental Express, Delta, Northwest,
Southwest, TWExpress, United

Nearest general aviation airport and its location:

G. V. Sonny Montgomery, Forest

Distance (miles) Local

Length of runway 3,600 feet/1,098 meters

Common carriers operating in Forest area 22

Forest's nearest full-service port:

Port of Vicksburg

Post Office Box 709

Vicksburg, MS 39180

601-636-1012

Distance from Forest 88 miles/142 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 Scott County 2

Number of beds 55

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

EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Scott 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 Forest:

Mississippi Power Company

Water/sewage service in Forest:

Utility name	City of Forest
Source	Wells
System capacity	5,000,000 gallons per day 18,939 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	2,900,000 gallons per day 10,985 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	4,500,000 gallons per day 17,045 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	1,500,000 gallons 5,682 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	7,200,000 gallons 27,273 kiloliters
Sewer treatment type	Activated sludge
Percent of community served	100
Present load	60%

Natural gas distributor(s) in Forest:

Entex

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

COUNTY FEATURES

County Seat(s)	Forest
Land area	610 square miles/1,581 square kilometers
County land area in commercial forests	66 %
National Parks/Historic Landmarks:	None

State Parks:

Roosevelt
Ross Barnett Reservoir

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 SCOTT COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
Tyson Foods, Inc.-Jack Lee Drive Plant	1,500	Processing and deboning of poultry; broilers (fresh or frozen); fast food cuts
Koch Foods, Inc.-Forest	1,382	Deboned and marinated poultry parts; bread and battered fully-cooked poultry
Koch Foods, Inc.-Processing Plant	830	Fresh and frozen poultry
Peco Foods of Mississippi, Inc.	700	Deboned poultry meat and parts
Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems	636	Defense electronic subsystems; radar systems and equipment

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

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Forest Class 7

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 40.52

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:

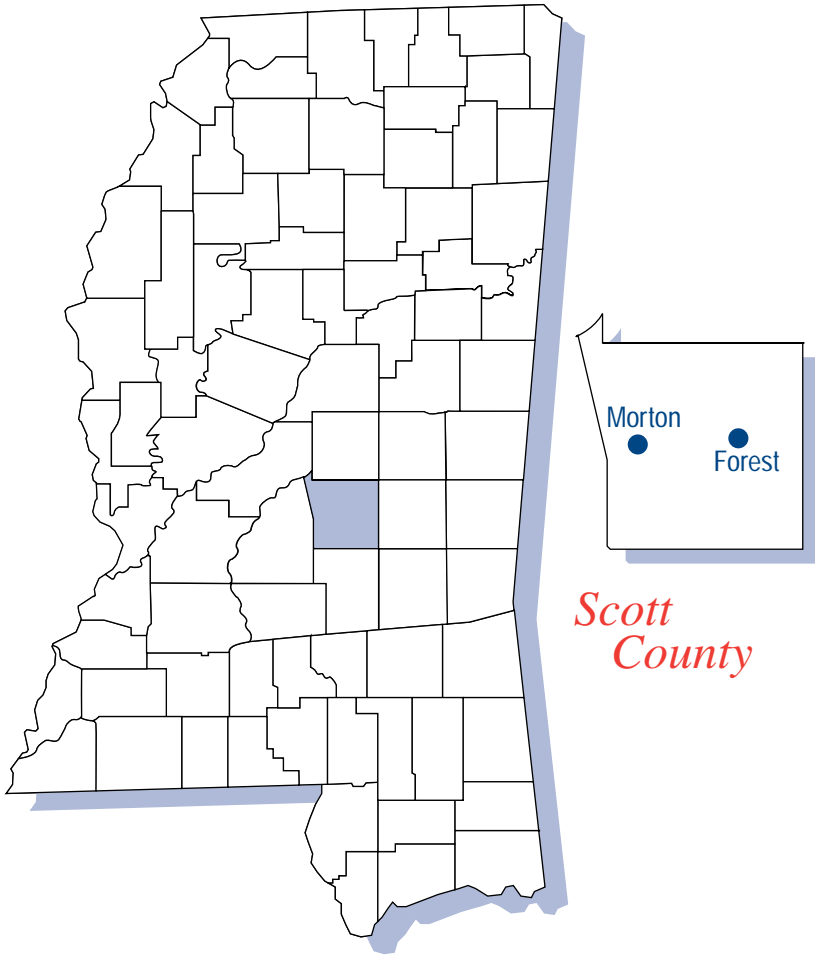
$$\text{Tax} = (V \times A \times M) / 1000$$

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

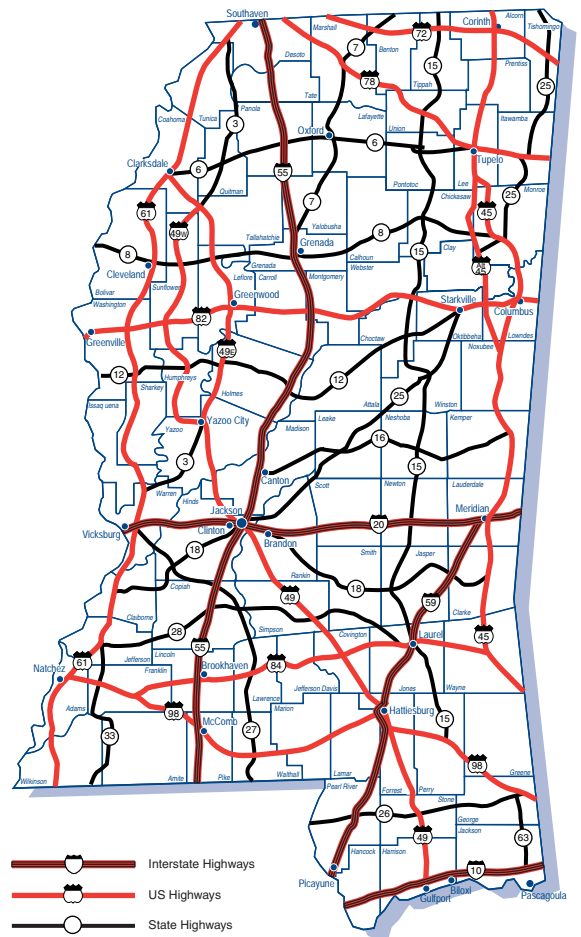
Example: Home value \$102,999 millage rate 40.52
 $(\$102,999 \times 10\% \times 40.52) / 1,000 = \417.35

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

County Location



Federal/State Highways



Regional Map

