

LAUREL, MISSISSIPPI

Prepared by the Mississippi Development Authority
 March 23, 2006

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

POPULATION

Population:	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
Laurel	18,796	18,504	18,393	16,677	15,545
Jones County	61,929	62,849	64,958	65,662	68,842

Most populated cities in Jones County:

City	2005 Population
Laurel	16,677
Ellisville	3,232
Sandersville	933
Soso	397

Age breakdown of county population, 2004:

0 to 17	20.3 %	40 to 49	15.4 %
18 to 21	7.2 %	50 to 64	16.5 %
22 to 29	11.0 %	65 and over	15.3 %
30 to 39	14.4 %		

Median age of county population, 2004: 36.7

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 Laurel:

Area	Distance	
Atlanta, Georgia	358 miles	577 kilometers
Chicago, Illinois	817 miles	1,318 kilometers
Dallas, Texas	473 miles	763 kilometers
Jackson, Mississippi	84 miles	135 kilometers
Memphis, Tennessee	272 miles	439 kilometers
New Orleans, Louisiana	146 miles	235 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Source: Official Mississippi Highway Map; unpublished data collected by MDA.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

Jones County	\$526/week	\$13.15/hour
Mississippi	\$639/week	\$15.98/hour
United States	\$920/week	\$23.00/hour

Services

Jones County	\$513/week	\$12.83/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:

	Jones County	Commuting Area*
Labor Force	32,410	113,579
Male Percentage	55%	
Female Percentage	45%	
Total Employment	28,210	104,310
Manufacturing	6,866	
Services & Misc.	10,781	
Total Unemployed	1,530	6,500
Unemployment Rate	5.1%	5.7%
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
Laurel	\$ 435	\$ 556	\$ 613
Jones County	\$ 619	\$ 796	\$ 827

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

INCOME

Per Capita Personal Income:

	1995	2000	2003
Jones County	\$17,104	\$21,963	\$24,030

Earnings, Jones County:

Earnings by Place of Work, 2003 \$990,985,000

Sources of Earnings by Place of Work, 2003:

Manufacturing	23.2%
Services-Other	12.9%
Wholesale Trade	3.4%
Retail Trade	6.9%
Government	24.2%
Construction	5.2%
Finance & Insurance	3.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	3.9%
Healthcare & Social Assistance	5.7%
Educational Services	0.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	2.1%

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

ASSESSED VALUE

Grand Total Ad Valorem Assessment (in millions):

	1995	2000	2004
Jones County	\$ 218	\$ 294	\$ 384

Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Banks based in Laurel 1

Banks with one or more branches in Laurel 9

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

TRANSPORTATION

Highways in Laurel:

MS 15,
US 11,
I-59

Railroads in Laurel:

Norfolk Southern

Air Travel in Laurel:

Nearest Commercial Airport and its location:

Hattiesburg-Laurel Regional, Moselle

Distance (miles) 16

Length of runway 6,500 feet/1,982 meters

Number of daily outgoing flights 2

Major airlines serving the airport:

Northwest Airlink

Nearest general aviation airport and its location:

Hesler Noble Field, Laurel

Distance (miles) Local

Length of runway 5,512 feet/1,680 meters

Common carriers operating in Laurel area 15

Laurel's nearest full-service port:

Port of Gulfport

Post Office Box 40

Gulfport, MS 39502

228-865-4300

Distance from Laurel 100 miles/161 kilometers

Name of waterway Gulf of Mexico

Channel depth 36 feet/11 meters

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

HEALTH CARE

Hospitals in Jones County 1

Number of beds 285

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

EDUCATION

For detailed information on education in Jones 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 Laurel:

Mississippi Power Company

Water/sewage service in Laurel:

Utility name	City of Laurel
Source	Wells
System capacity	10,000,000 gallons per day 37,879 kiloliters per day
Average consumption	5,799,000 gallons per day 21,966 kiloliters per day
Peak consumption	7,600,000 gallons per day 28,788 kiloliters per day
Storage capacity	4,150,000 gallons 15,720 kiloliters
Sanitary sewer capacity	14,000,000 gallons 53,030 kiloliters
Sewer treatment type	Oxidation ditch
Percent of community served	99%
Present load	46%

Natural gas distributor(s) in Laurel:

Entex

Source: Unpublished data collected by MDA, 2001.

COUNTY FEATURES

County Seat(s)	Laurel, Ellisville
Land area	700 square miles/1,812 square kilometers
County land area in commercial forests	66 %
National Parks/Historic Landmarks:	
DeSoto National Forest	

State Parks:

None

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 JONES COUNTY

Manufacturing	Employees	Type of Business
Howard Industries, Inc.-Transformer Plant	3,200	Power and distribution transformers
Wayne Farms	1,200	Poultry, ice-packed
Sanderson Farms, Inc.-Laurel Processing Plant	1,018	Young chickens (usually under 20 weeks of age), including broilers, fryers, roasters, and capons (in
Masonite Corp.	739	Basic hardboard made from hardboard produced at this location; standard
Howard Industries, Inc.-Ballast Plant	640	Electronic ballasts for fluorescent lighting fixtures: commercial

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

FIRE INSURANCE RATING

Laurel

Class 5

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 30.33

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:

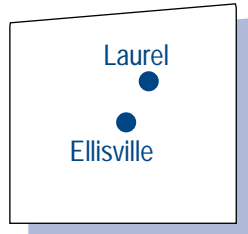
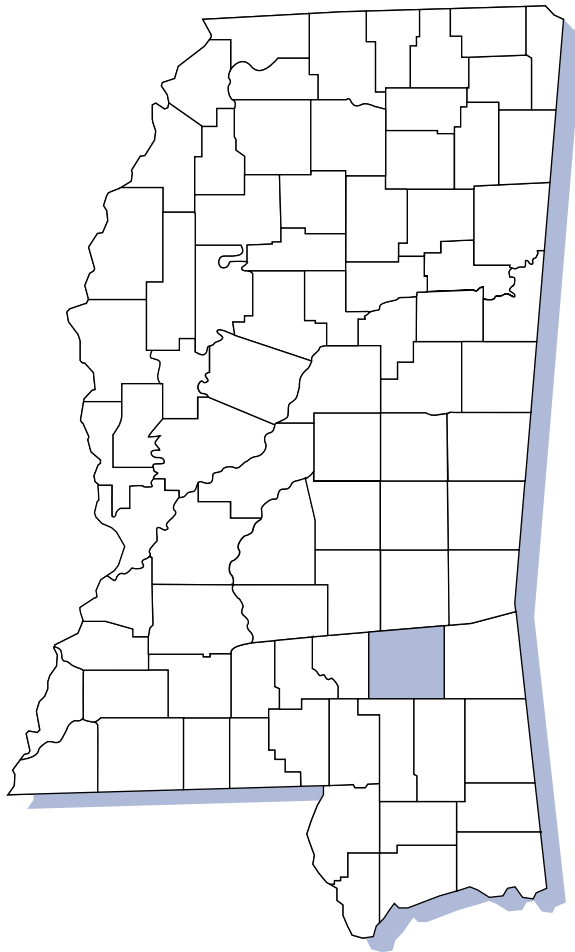
$$\text{Tax} = (\text{V} \times \text{A} \times \text{M}) / 1000$$

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

Example: Home value \$73,573 millage rate 30.33
 $(\$73,573 \times 10\% \times 30.33) / 1,000 = \223.15

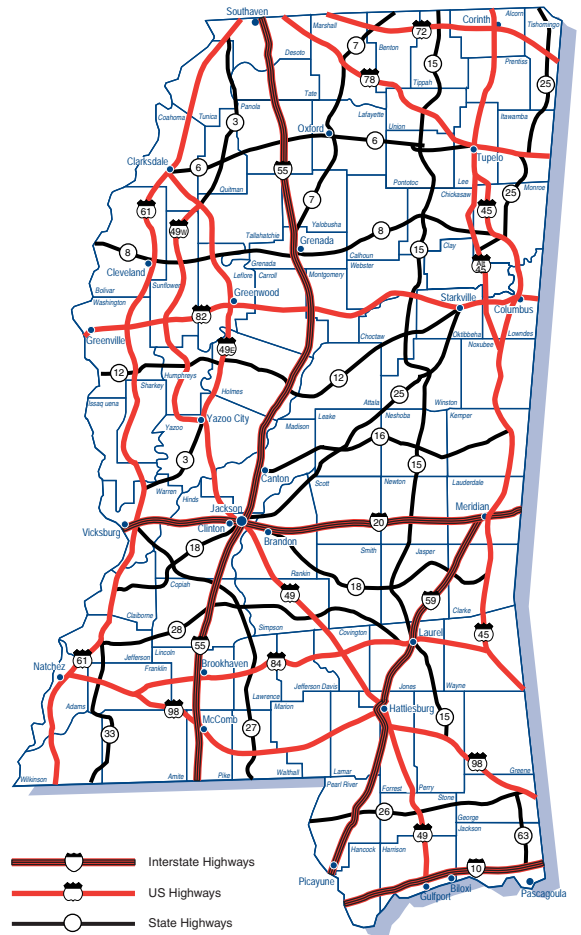
Source: Mississippi State Tax Commission, 2004-2005.

County Location



Jones County

Federal/State Highways



- Interstate Highways
- US Highways
- State Highways

Regional Map

