

Blue Economy

Why Mississippi for the Blue Economy?

The ocean never rests, nor does Mississippi's presence in the Blue Economy. With navigable waterways on three sides, including 120 miles of a southern border with the Gulf of Mexico, Mississippi's unique geography provides significant access to the world's maritime economy. Mississippi is home to 15 ports along waterways throughout the state, including two deep-draft ocean ports along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. From aquaculture to shipbuilding, the state has decades of experience in manufacturing, processing, added value, and research and development related to ocean resources.



Mississippi has **two deep-draft ocean ports**

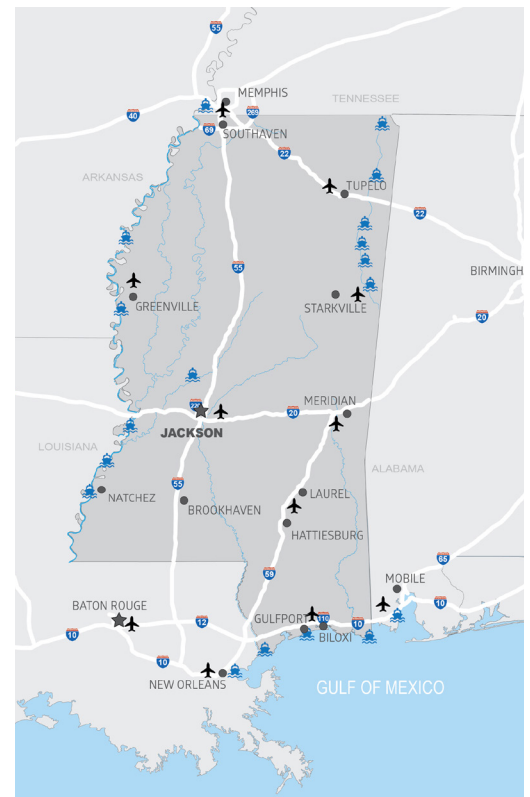


Three navigable waterways border Mississippi: The Mississippi River, the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, and the Gulf of Mexico, all provide access to national and international markets.

Stennis Space Center is home to a collection of world-class maritime assets, including NOAA's National Data Buoy Center, the U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility, the U.S. Navy's Meteorology and Oceanography Command, a branch of the Naval Research Laboratory, the Naval Oceanographic Office, and the U.S. Navy SEAL's Special Boat Team 22.

High Demand Blue Economy Occupations			
Occupation	Mississippi		National Average Wage
	Employment	Average Wage	
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	5,751	\$50,100	\$53,600
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	30,255	\$33,600	\$39,700
Team Assemblers	15,243	\$39,300	\$42,900
Electricians	6,255	\$55,700	\$68,700
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	8,603	\$69,400	\$73,400
General Operations Managers	25,860	\$94,200	\$128,800
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	2,138	\$48,800	\$49,100
Machinists	3,079	\$48,900	\$54,500
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	808	\$45,300	\$51,700
Carpenters	5,755	\$43,800	\$60,000
Industrial Engineers	2,163	\$93,500	\$104,700
First-Line Supervisors of Construction Trades and Extraction Workers	7,088	\$67,400	\$82,200

Source: JobsEQ, Data as of 2024Q1.



Incentives

New or expansion projects investing more than \$60 million may qualify for a **fee-in-lieu of property taxes**. The negotiated fee may be awarded for up to 10 years, but cannot be less than one-third of the property tax levy. For projects with new investment less than \$60 million, a **standard property tax exemption** may be available. The exemption may be awarded for up to 10 years, and reduces a portion of taxes, excluding school taxes.

The **Advantage Jobs Program** provides a cash rebate of a percentage of Mississippi payroll to qualified manufacturers for a period of up to 10 years. Companies are deemed eligible based on the average wage paid to employees.

The **Research and Development Skills Tax Credits** are equal to \$1,000 per employee per year for a five-year period that can be used to reduce an eligible entity's income tax liability. These credits are available for any position requiring research or development skills.

Research and Development Partners



Mississippi State University

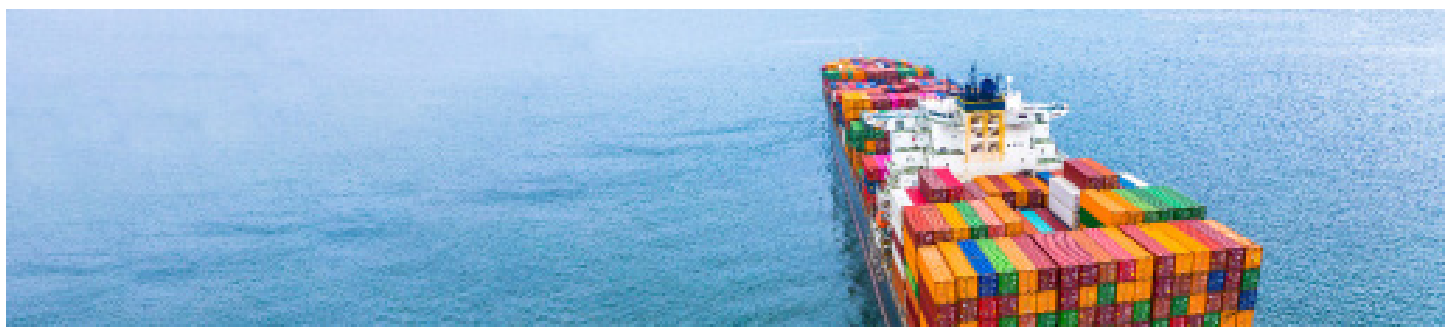
The **Northern Gulf Aquatic Food Research Center**, a multi-million-dollar facility under construction in Ocean Springs, is the first of its kind on the Mississippi Coast. The three-phase center will provide the Gulf Coast seafood industry with robust safety testing and quality assurance. The first phase includes construction of a biosafety laboratory and an analytical chemistry laboratory. Additional phases will include a commercially equipped pilot plant for processing, shelf-life research and product development, and business incubator space.



The University of Southern Mississippi

The **Blue Tech Accelerator Program** provides access to mentoring, program management, seed funding, and critical maritime infrastructure. The Accelerator supports uncrewed maritime systems prototyping and waterborne testing in the Gulf of Mexico, aquaculture facilities and resources, access to potential customers in the region, and access to USM's research and development capabilities.

The \$25,000,000 **Thad Cochran Marine Aquaculture Center**, located at the Cedar Point research site in Ocean Springs, houses Gulf Coast Research Laboratory's marine aquaculture research and graduate education programs. The Center includes approximately 100,000 square feet of culture space devoted to live feed, broodstock, hatchery, nursery/growout, laboratory, experimental, and analytical facilities.



For more information on the Blue Economy, contact a Cooperative Energy Economic Development team member or visit www.CooperativeEnergy.com



ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

The Blue Economy Property Spotlight

PORT BIENVILLE INDUSTRIAL PARK



Port Bienville Industrial Park has more than 3,600 acres of available property for heavy industrial development and is home to 14 leading companies carving out exceptional success across diverse sectors. Port Bienville connects tenant operations to ports along the Gulf Coast Intercoastal Waterway, including the Port of New Orleans, opening Mississippi River routes and deep-water global access. The Park's shortline rail connects to CSX which offers access to virtually the entire Eastern U.S., while heavy-haul trucking roads move goods to multiple connections including Interstates 10, 12, 59 and U.S. Highways 49 and 90 for nationwide coverage.

- Parcel size: 13 to 1,000+ acres
- Shallow draft barge dock
- Shortline railroad connecting to CSX
- All environmental due diligence complete

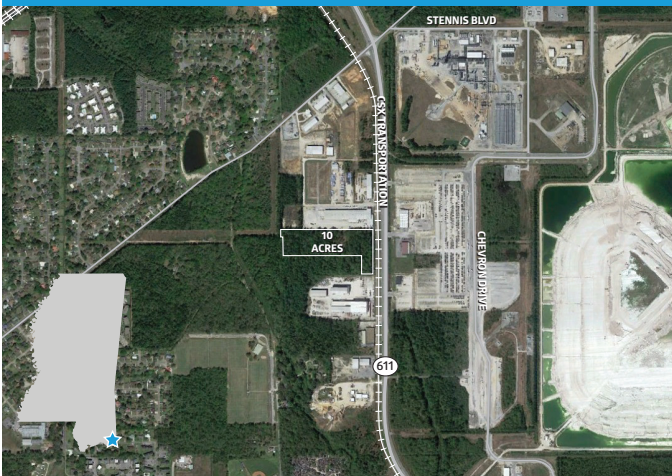
SUNPLEX INDUSTRIAL PARK



Located on four-lane Mississippi Highway 57 within one mile of Interstate 10 and one mile of U.S. Highway 90, SUNPLEX Light Industrial Park has become a prime location for more than 25 companies large and small. Tenants range from Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems to Respiritek and American Baitworks Company. SUNPLEX offers 35 remaining acres of fully permitted, master-planned industrial property, with a full range of transportation and infrastructure amenities.

- Parcel size: 1-12 acres
- Foreign Trade Zone #92
- All utilities and transportation infrastructure on site
- Ideal for research and development or light manufacturing and assembly
- Home to the Northern Gulf Aquatic Food Research Center

JACKSON COUNTY INDUSTRIAL SITE



Situated on Industrial Road/ Mississippi Highway 611, this 10-acre tract of land is in the heart of industrial activity in Jackson County, Mississippi. Within minutes from the Bayou Casotte Harbor of the deep-water Port of Pascagoula, Chevron's Pascagoula Refinery, and Gulf LNG's facility, and immediately next to the Rolls-Royce naval marine foundry.

- Parcel size: 10 acres
- Rail access: CSX
- Foreign Trade Zone #92