



New Business Welcome Packet

For more information, visit our website at

www.cityofpascagoula.com or call (228) 938-2352.



Dear Business Owner,

WELCOME TO PASCAGOULA!

We would like to welcome you as a new business owner to the City of Pascagoula. We always welcome new residents and businesses to our City and would like to assist you in any way we can. We hope you enjoy Pascagoula and we are glad you are here.

In this packet you will find some important phone numbers, general information, available services, and resources that we hope will be beneficial to you. Please find enclosed:

- Community Profile
- Business Licenses and Permits
- Business Resources
- Pascagoula Main Street
- Smoke Free Pascagoula
- Municipal Services
- Utilities
- Incentives

As you settle into beautiful Pascagoula, please do not hesitate to call us at City Hall at 228-762-1020 or the Community and Economic Development Department at (228) 938-2352 with any questions you may have. You can also access our webpage at www.cityofpascagoula.com. As you explore your new business community, make sure to meet your new neighbors who may have great advice as well as your City officials who may be able to provide little known services or connections. Again, welcome to Pascagoula, we look forward to seeing you around town!

Sincerely,

Jen Dearman
Director of Community and Economic Development



A Great Place to
Live, Work, & Play!

CITY OF PASCAGOULA COMMUNITY PROFILE

The City of Pascagoula, one of Mississippi's largest cities, is the Seat of Jackson County. The village of Pascagoula was incorporated in 1838. In 1904, Pascagoula and the village of Scranton, which had formed around the railroad station now located in downtown Pascagoula, were combined and incorporated as the City of Pascagoula. Pascagoula is home to the largest employer in the state, Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding.

www.cityofpascagoula.com

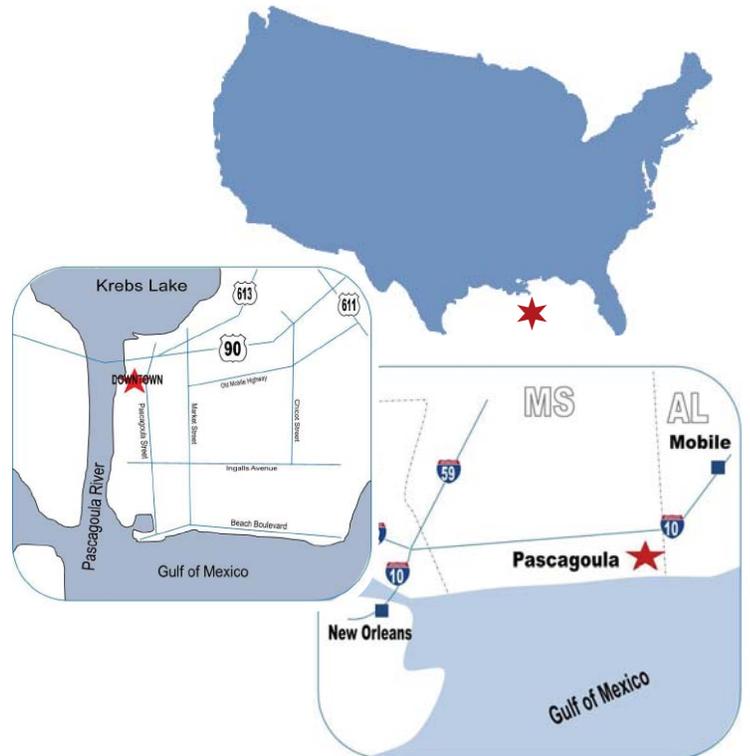
Pascagoula Quick Facts

Population (2010)	22,392
Median Age	34.97
Households	8,481
Median Household Income (2012)	\$40,998
Incorporated Square Miles	15.38
Acres of Parks	200
Median House Value	\$104,440
Organization Budget	\$25,000,000
Population Estimate (2030)	30,250

Services: Police, Water, Sewer, Street, Storm Drainage, Parks, Recreation, Open Space

In travel time, the City is located thirty minutes east of Biloxi, Mississippi and two hours east of New Orleans, Louisiana. The City is thirty minutes west of Mobile, Alabama and four hours south of Jackson, Mississippi. With Highways 90, 613, and 63 transversing it, Pascagoula can easily access Interstate 10 just to its north.

- 30 Minutes to Biloxi, Mississippi
- 30 Minutes to Mobile, Alabama
- 2 hours to New Orleans, Louisiana



Airports

Trent Lott International Airport	(8 miles)
Mobile Regional Airport	(34 miles)
Biloxi-Gulfport International Airport	(39 miles)
Louis Armstrong New Orleans	(121 miles)



LABOR FORCE

The City of Pascagoula is the county seat of Jackson County, which is the third most populous county in Mississippi and is home to the state's largest employer, Ingalls Shipbuilding. Numerous Jackson County employers — including Chevron, Ingalls Shipbuilding and countless others — build their success with the help of a remarkable pool of employees who deliver top quality in often complex positions.

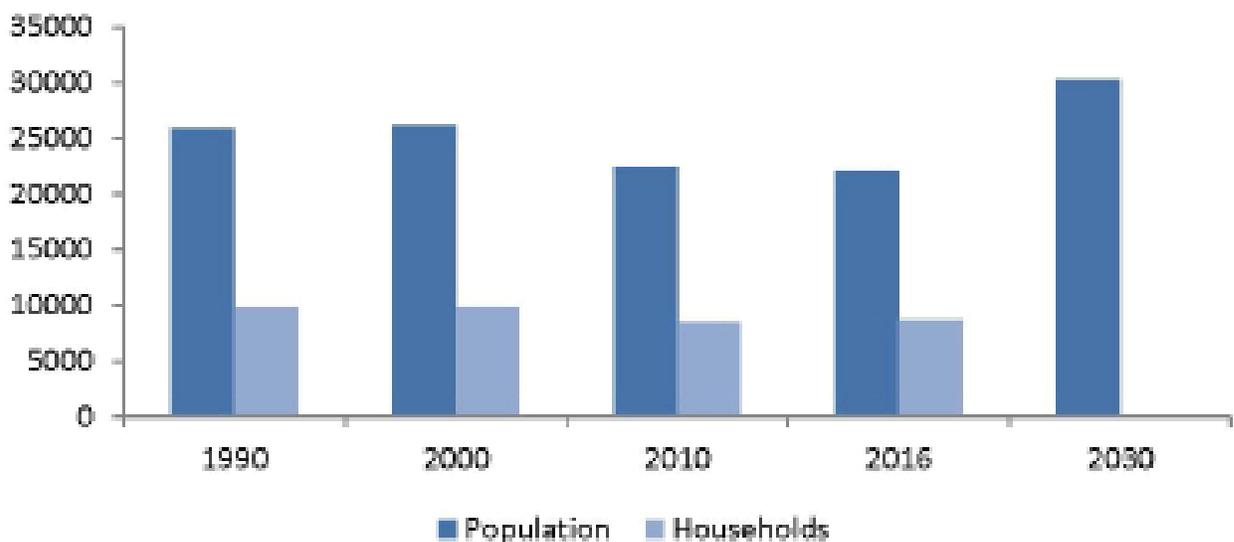
Businesses with operations in Jackson County, Mississippi can count on motivated employees who are committed to their work and proud of their community's reputation for excellence.

Major Area Employers		No. Employees
1	Huntington Ingalls Shipbuilding	10380
2	Chevron Refinery	3600
3	Singing River Health System	2465
4	Signal International	2250
5	VT Halter Marine	675
6	Wal-Mart Pascagoula	500
7	City of Pascagoula	300
8	Knights Marine	240
9	Mississippi Phosphates	225
10	First Chemical	160



Median Household Income	
Pascagoula	\$40,998
Mississippi	\$37,881
United States	\$51,914

Household & Population Estimates



EDUCATION

Pascagoula's population is educated, affluent, skilled diverse and dynamic. For three consecutive years, the Pascagoula School District has been named one of America's Promise Alliance's 100 Best Communities for Young People which recognizes its innovative work in addressing the high school dropout crisis and exceptional services that make Pascagoula an outstanding place for youth to live, learn and grow. On the college level, Pascagoula is uniquely positioned next door to the 2011 Aspen Finalist, MS Gulf Coast Community College and between five universities with seven convenient campuses.



For more information
visit our website at
www.cityofpascagoula.com

Pascagoula School District

The Pascagoula School District (PSD) is a public school district that houses approximately 7,500 students in 19 elementary school (K-5), middle school (6-8), high school (9-12), and specialty school campuses that serve the cities of Gautier and Pascagoula, MS.

Established in 1912, the PSD has a current school budget of \$78 million and employs over 1,100 teachers, administrators, instructional, and other support personnel.

Colleges/Universities

MS Gulf Coast Community College <i>(Jackson County Campus - 7 miles)</i>
University of Southern Mississippi <i>(Gulf Park Campus - 44 miles)</i> <i>(Hattiesburg Campus - 94 miles)</i>
William Carey University <i>(Tradition Campus - 30 miles)</i> <i>(Hattiesburg Campus - 93 miles)</i>
University of South Alabama <i>(37 miles)</i>
Spring Hill College <i>(39 miles)</i>
University of Mobile <i>(48 miles)</i>

Private Education

Resurrection Catholic Elementary
Resurrection Catholic Middle and High School
Bethel Christian Academy
Grace Christian School

Economic Development

The Department of Community and Economic Development works to bring all possible opportunities to the City. The Department acts as an advocate to recruit new businesses, retain existing businesses, and guide stakeholders to resources. The Department also partners with other City departments to ease the permitting, zoning, and incentives processes.

For information on steps to starting a business in Pascagoula, available properties, and demographics, visit the www.cityofpascagoula.com and click on the Business tab at top or contact the Director of Community and Economic Development, Jen Dearman, at (228) 938-6651 or jdearman@cityofpascagoula.com.



Singing River Medical Park

Medical Facilities

Singing River Health Systems

Singing River Health System is a governmental entity organized and existing pursuant to the community hospital statutes of the State of Mississippi operating as a not-for-profit organization. Singing River Health System is one of the largest employers on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, providing jobs for more than 2,700 residents of Jackson County and surrounding areas. SRHS provided \$185 million for employees' salaries and benefits in 2011. Direct and indirect impact from SRHS on Jackson County is an estimated 4,050 jobs and \$259 million per year in wages.



Business Licenses and Permits

Every business needs one or more federal, state or local licenses or permits to operate. Licenses can range from a basic operating license to very specific permits, (e.g., environmental permits).

The following are common types of local permits and licenses:

Privilege License - The law requires those persons desiring to do business in the state to obtain a privilege license from the county or city tax collector in which their place of business is located. The annual fee is based on the amount of inventory for sale, if selling a product, or the number of full time employees if providing a service. Exceptions to this are: autos for hire, pawnbrokers, weapons dealers, travel agencies, vending machines and beer and transient vendors. The majority of small businesses pay between \$20 and \$30.

Building Permit - This permit is generally required if you are constructing or modifying your place of business.

Health Permit - Certain types of businesses will require a health permit. These businesses include: restaurants, bars, lounges, grocery stores, day care facilities, nursing homes, delicatessens, food vending companies, food catering companies, bottled water plants, bakeries and ice plants. Because this is not a complete list, it is best to check with the Health Department to determine if you need a health permit. Contact: Jackson County Health Department Phone: (228)-875-1336

Occupational Permit - This permit is required for home-based businesses in some jurisdictions.

Signage Permit - Some jurisdictions require a permit before you can erect a sign for your business.

Zoning Permit - This permit is generally required if you are developing land for specific commercial use.

Unless otherwise specified, please contact City of Pascagoula's Planning and Building Office at (228) 938-6620.



Business Resources

City of Pascagoula

Within the City of Pascagoula are several departments that offer a variety of services that you may find helpful in your business development: Planning and Building (228-938-6620), Community and Economic Development Department (228-938-2352), and Pascagoula Main Street (228-938-6604).



Jackson County Chamber of Commerce

The Chamber's number one priority is to help local companies grow their businesses by taking the lead in programs and efforts that sustain our strong local economy and make our community a great place to do business. Jackson County prides itself on being one of the most business friendly counties in the state of Mississippi. Centrally located along the Gulf of Mexico, the County offers a strong, skilled workforce and rich diversity.

To apply for membership or to learn more about the Jackson County Chamber, visit their website at www.jcchamber.com or call 228-762-3391.

Jackson County Economic Development Foundation

The purpose of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation is to help existing businesses expand while also assisting businesses interested in establishing a presence in Jackson County, Mississippi.

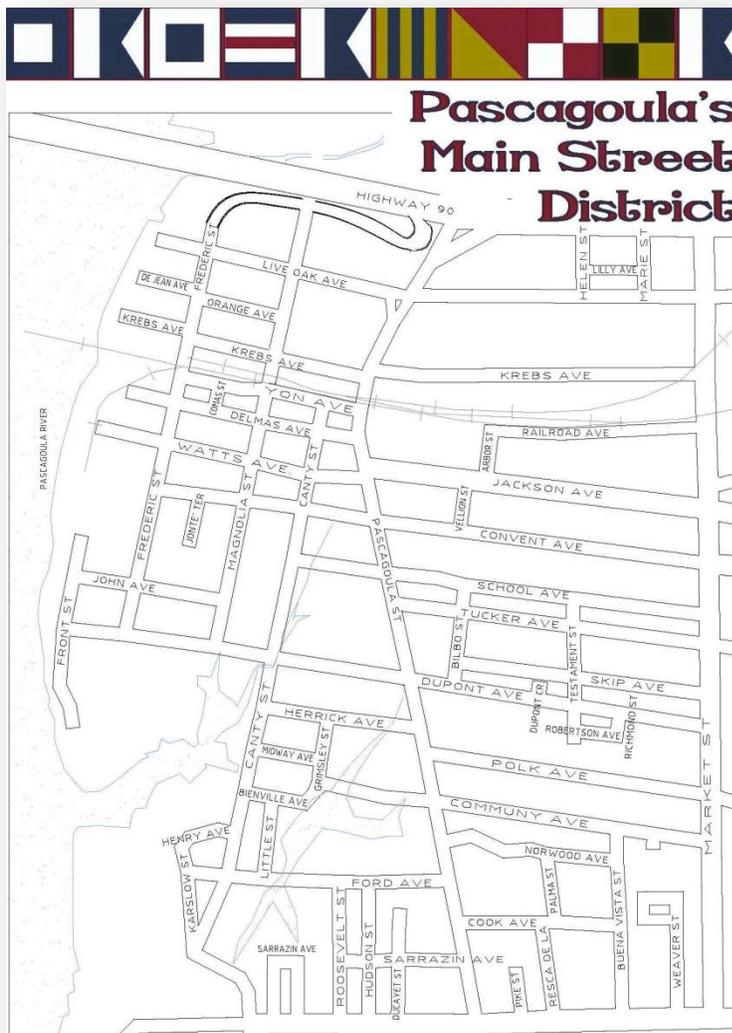


To learn more about the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, visit their website at www.jcedf.org or call 228-769-6263.



Pascagoula Main Street

Located at 504 Yon Street, Pascagoula Main Street Program was formed in 2000 through the partnership of the statewide Mississippi Main Street Association, a program of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mississippi Development Authority. Pascagoula Main Street is a volunteer based publicly and privately supported organization whose goal is to promote, enhance, revitalize, and preserve the Main Street District by focusing on business development, quality of life, and responsible civic investment for the betterment of all of Pascagoula's citizens. The Main Street Director can be reached at (228) 938-6604.



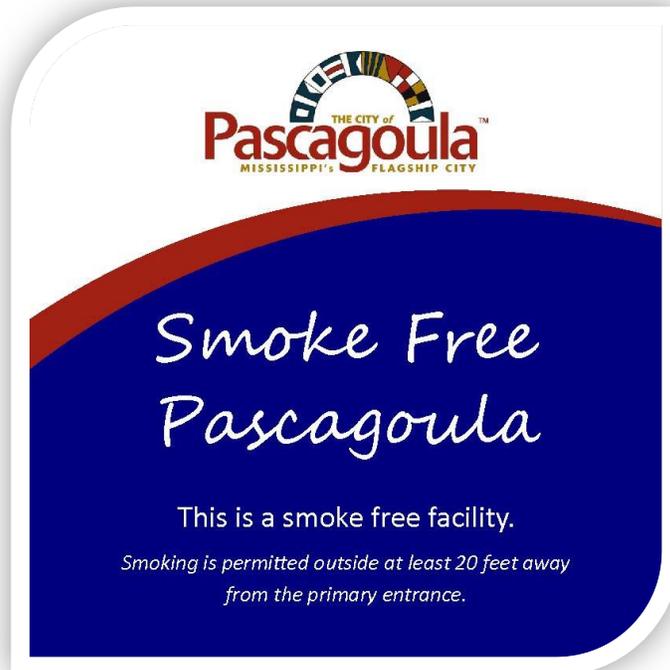
Pascagoula's Main Street District encompasses the central western area of Pascagoula from Highway 90 east to Market Street south to Parsley Avenue north to Ingalls Avenue, and west to the Pascagoula River. Please see the map to the left for the full area.

Today, Pascagoula Main Street is an award-winning program with many initiatives. The Pascagoula Main Street program manages the Available Properties list on the City's website, numerous annual events, and a quarterly Main Street newsletter among other things. Stroll through the Main Street District, enjoy the scenic views, and invest in your community. Pascagoula Main Street, it's for all of us!



Smoke Free Pascagoula

On June 18, 2013, the City of Pascagoula passed a comprehensive ordinance stating all restaurants, worksites, and indoor public places will be smoke-free. This ordinance went into effect on July 18, 2013 and ensures that workers and the public can breathe smoke-free air when they eat out, work, or shop in Pascagoula. Additionally, the ordinance contains a “20-foot rule” forbidding smoking outside within 20 feet of the main entrance of an establishment. To educate local businesses on the effects of the ordinance, the City is offering a free Smoke Free Business Toolkit. For a copy of the ordinance or the toolkit, please check our website at www.cityofpascagoula.com or contact the Community and Economic Development Department at (228) 938-6651. Also, please find enclosed a complimentary door cling in this welcome packet to proudly display and educate your customers.





Municipal Services

City Hall is open Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Physical Address:

Pascagoula City Hall
603 Watts Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39567
228-762-1020

www.cityofpascagoula.com

Mailing Address:

Pascagoula City Hall
P.O. Box 908
Pascagoula, MS 39568

Government Officials:

Mayor	Jim Blevins
At-Large	Brenda Simkins
Ward #1	Larry Taylor
Ward #2	Freddy Jackson
Ward #3	David Tadlock
Ward #4	Burton Hill
Ward #5	Scott Tipton
City Manager	Joseph R. Huffman
City Attorney	Eddie Williams

Public Safety:

	Contact	Chief
Police Department	611 Live Oak Avenue Pascagoula, MS 39567 228-762-2211 (non-emergency)	Kenny Johnson
Fire Department	1707 Jackson Avenue Pascagoula, MS 39567 228-762-3066 (non-emergency)	Robert O'Sullivan

****In cases of emergency, always dial 911****



Utilities

Electricity

Mississippi Power Company
2326 Telephone Road
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Customer Service: 1-800-532-1502
Power Outages: 1-800-ITS-DARK

Singing River Electric Company
500 US 90
Gautier, MS 39553
Customer Service: (228) 497-1313

Water/Sewer/Gas

City of Pascagoula
622 Delmas Avenue
Pascagoula, MS 39568
Telephone: (228) 938-6633

Cable Television/Phone/Internet

AT&T
New Service: 1-800-288-2020

Cable One
5100 Macphelah Road
Pascagoula, MS 39567
Customer Service: (228) 769-1221

Direct TV
Customer Service: 1-800-531-5000

Dish Network
Customer Service: 1-877-871-3961



Commercial Incentives

Numerous incentives on the local, state, and federal level are available to businesses. Please see the list below for a segment of incentives available. For more information, please contact the Community and Economic Development Department at (228) 938-2352.

Advantage Jobs Incentive Program

The Advantage Jobs Incentive Program is a rebate program designed to encourage businesses that create new quality jobs to locate in the state. Jobs must meet or exceed the average annual wage of the state or the county in which the company locates, whichever is lower.

Broadband Technology Tax Credit

Broadband Technology Tax Credits are credits that can be applied to state income or franchise tax of telecommunications businesses. These credits are earned based on a percentage of the cost of equipment used in the deployment of broadband technology in the state. To be eligible for the credit, the items must be sold to, billed to, and paid for by the company receiving the credit.

Free Port Warehouse Property Tax Exemption

An exemption from property taxes is available on finished goods inventory in transit to a destination outside Mississippi.

Historic Tax Credits

The Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) administers a 20% federal tax credit equal to 20% of the amount spent in a certified rehabilitation of a certified historic structure to encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings. The property must be listed on the National Register or part of a National Register Historic District. Owner must hold the building for five years after completing rehabilitation.

A 10% tax credit is also available for the rehabilitation of non-historic, non-residential buildings constructed before 1936. The cost of the rehabilitation must exceed \$5,000. At least 50% of the buildings walls existing at the beginning of the rehabilitation must remain, 75% of the buildings existing external walls must remain in place as external or internal walls, and at least 75% of the buildings internal structure framework must remain in place.

Industrial Property Tax Exemption

An exemption from property taxes is available to eligible industries that locate or expand in the state.

Jobs Tax Credit

Jobs tax credits are credits that can be applied to state income tax to reduce an employer's income tax liability.

Mississippi Aerospace Initiative Incentives Program

Mississippi's Aerospace Initiative Incentives program provides tax incentives to companies that manufacture or assemble components for the aerospace industry or provide research, development or training services for that sector and are looking to locate or expand in the state.

Mississippi Clean Energy Initiative Program

The Mississippi Clean Energy Initiative program allows the Mississippi Development Authority to certify companies that manufacture systems or components used to generate clean, renewable or alternative energy. This includes nuclear, solar, wind and hydro-generation.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Construction or Expansion

A sales and use tax exemption is available for eligible businesses that construct a new facility or expand an existing facility in the state.

Tax Abatement

The City of Pascagoula offers a possible abatement of 80% of ad valorem taxation on the increase in appraised value on new structures or improvements to or renovations of existing structures located in the designated central business district of the municipality for a period of up to seven (7) years. Click to see the [Central Business District Tax Abatement Policy](#), and to apply, please download the [Tax Abatement Application](#).

Tourism Rebate Program

The Mississippi Tourism Rebate Program is a program designed to provide a tax rebate to qualified Applicants of new tourism-oriented projects within the State of Mississippi.

For a complete list of incentives, please visit the Mississippi Development Authority website at www.mississippi.org.

Incentives are also available through the Mississippi Power Commercial Development Department. Please contact 228-867-1061 for more information.