



## **New Business Welcome Packet**

For more information, visit our website at

[www.cityofpascagoula.com](http://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](http://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](http://www.cityofpascagoula.com)

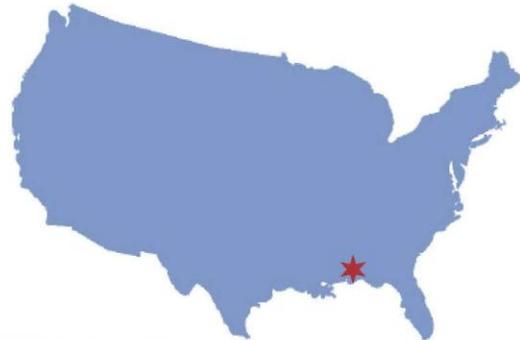
## Pascagoula Quick Facts

Population-2010	22392
Median Age	34.97
Households	6750
Median Household Income	\$36,376
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



# 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.

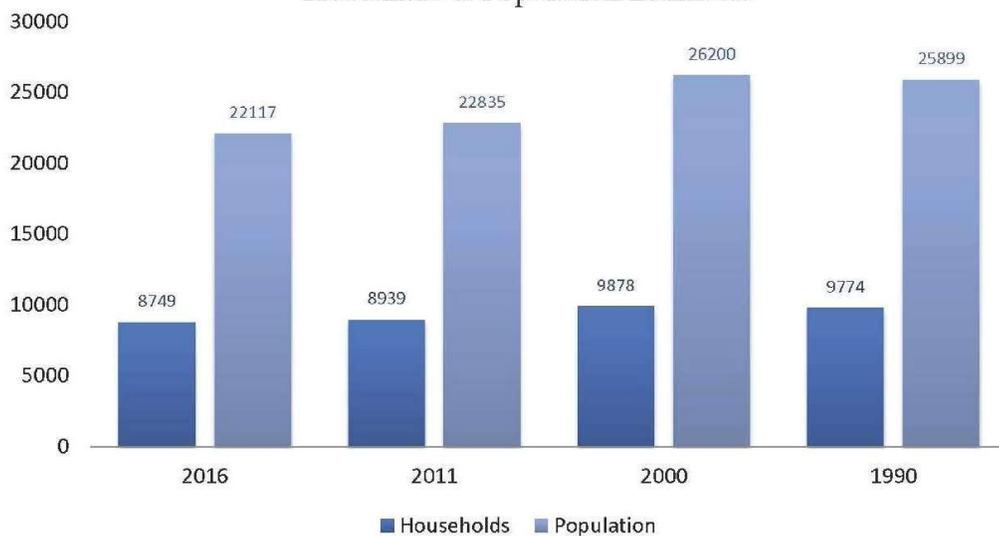
Businesses with operations in Jackson County, Mississippi can count on motivated employees who are committed to their work and proud of their community's reputation for excellence.

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	\$36,376
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. The national award was given to Pascagoula School District to recognize its outstanding and innovative work in addressing the high school dropout crisis and for its programs and services that make it an outstanding place for youth to live, learn and grow.



For more information  
visit our website at  
[www.cityofpascagoula.com](http://www.cityofpascagoula.com)

Pascagoula School District	College/University
Applied Technology Center	MS Gulf Coast Community College
Arlington Elementary	University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast
Beach Elementary	William Carey University on the Coast
Central Elementary	University of South Alabama
Cherokee Elementary	Spring Hill College
Colmer Middle School	University of Mobile
Eastlawn Elementary	
Jackson County Exceptional School	
Jackson Elementary	
Lake Elementary	
Opportunity Center	
Pascagoula High School	
Trent Lott Academy	

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

## Economic Development

Department of Community and Economic Development is working to bring all possible opportunities to the City. In addition, one of the focuses of the Pascagoula Main Program is Economic Restructuring to strategically attract new developments. These groups work in unison with other City departments including the Planning and Building Department to ease the process of permitting, zoning, and incentives.

For more information, please contact the Community and Economic Development Director, Jen Dearman, at (228) 938-6651 or [jdearman@cityofpascagoula.com](mailto:jdearman@cityofpascagoula.com).



## 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](http://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.

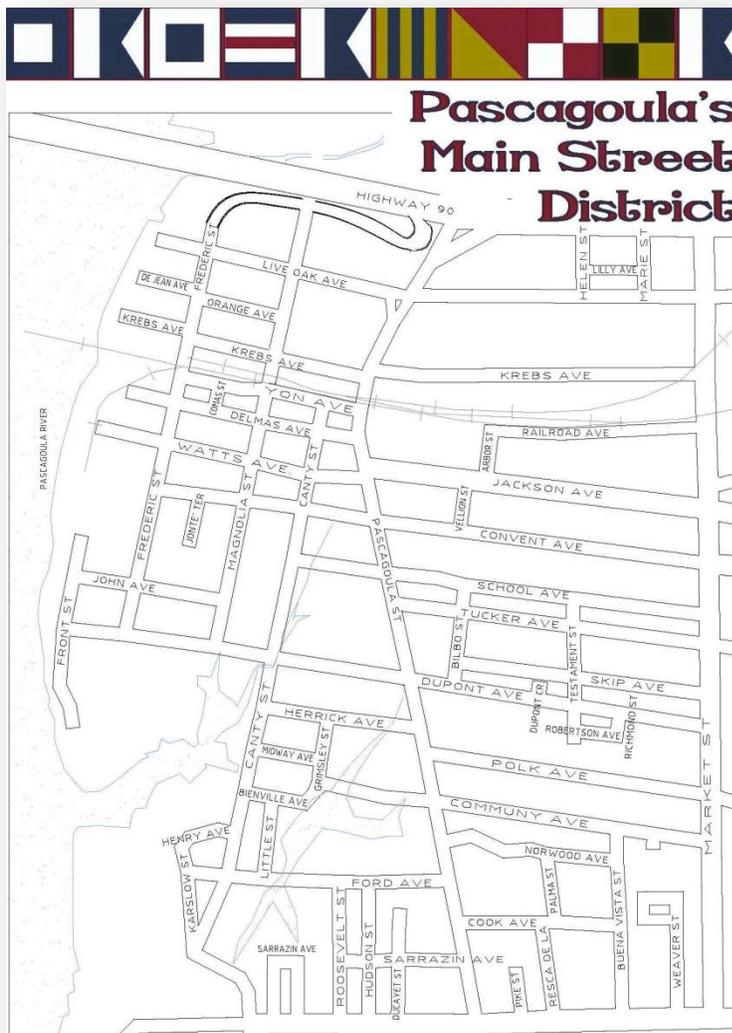


To learn more about the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation, visit their website at [www.jcedf.org](http://www.jcedf.org) or call 228-769-6263.



## 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.



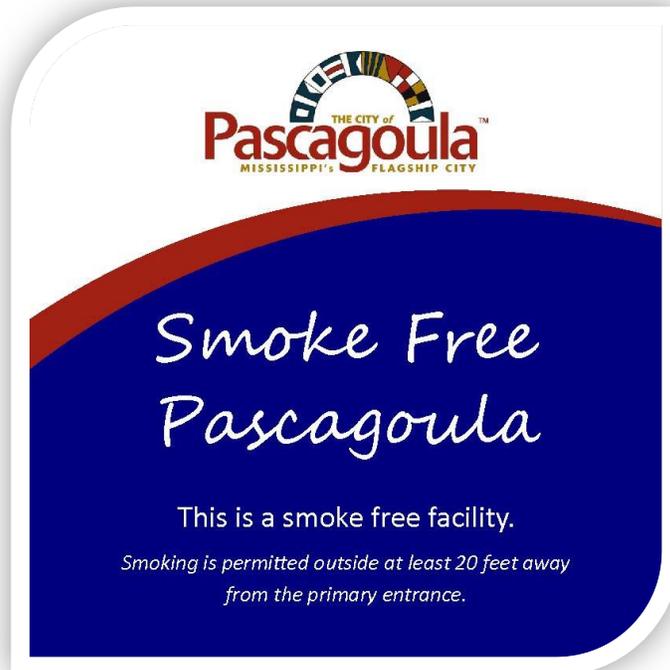
Pascagoula's Main Street District encompasses the central western area of Pascagoula from Highway 90 east to Market Street south to Parsley Avenue north to Ingalls Avenue, and west to the Pascagoula River. Please see the map to the left for the full area.

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](http://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](http://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](http://www.mississippi.org).

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