

Mississippi's Vital Statistics

Area:

Land: 46,914 square miles (31st)
 Water: 1,520 square miles (25th)
 Total Area: 48,434 square miles
 Coastline: 44 miles
 Shoreline: 359 miles

Distances:

350 miles long
 180 miles wide

Location:

Between 30° 13' and 34° north latitude
 Between 88° 7' and 91° 41' west longitude

Geographic center

In Leake County, 9 miles northwest of Carthage
 (Longitude: 89E° 43.0'W, Latitude: 32E° 48.9'N)

Bordering states

Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Tennessee

Time zone

Central standard time

Average elevation

300 feet (45th)

Highest point

Woodall Mountain, 806 feet (47th)

Lowest point

Gulf Coast, sea level (3rd)

Highest temperature

115°F on July 29, 1930, at Holly Springs (22nd)

Lowest temperature

-19°F in January 1966 at Corinth (44th)

Admitted to Union

December 10, 1817

Nickname

Magnolia State

Capital

Jackson

Motto

Virtute et Armis ("By valor and arms")

Population (2000)

2,844,658 (31st)

Largest cities (2000)

Jackson, Gulfport, Biloxi, Hattiesburg, Greenville,
 Meridian, Tupelo, Southhaven, Vicksburg,
 Pascagoula, Columbus

Number of counties

82

Largest county

Jackson County, 1,043.3 square miles

Smallest county

Alcorn County, 401.3 square miles

Most populous county (2000)

Hinds County, 250,800

Least populous county (2000)

Issaquena County, 2,274

Mississippi's State Symbols



Beverage

Milk

Fossil

Prehistoric whale

Shell

Oyster shell

Bird

Mockingbird

Grand Opera House

Grand Opera House of Meridian

Song

“Go, Mississippi”

Butterfly

Spicebush swallowtail

Insect

Honeybee

Stone

Petrified wood

Dance

Square dance

Land Mammal

White-tailed deer
red fox

Tree

Magnolia

Fish

Largemouth or Black bass

Natural Science Museum

Mississippi Museum of Natural History

Waterfowl

Wood duck

Flower

Magnolia

Water mammal

Bottlenosed dolphin

Mississippi's Counties

County	2000 Population	Date Organized	County Seat(s)	Named For
Adams	34,340	1799	Natchez	President John Adams
Alcorn	34,558	1870	Corinth	Governor James L. Alcorn
Amite	13,599	1809	Liberty	Indian word meaning "friendly river"
Attala	19,661	1833	Kosciusko	Indian heroine Attala
Benton	8,026	1870	Ashland	Confederate General Samuel Benton
Bolivar	40,633	1836	Cleveland, Rosedale	South American hero Simon Bolivar
Calhoun	15,069	1852	Pittsboro	U.S. Vice President John C. Calhoun
Carroll	10,769	1833	Carrollton, Vaiden	Charles Carroll, signer of Declaration of Independence
Chickasaw	19,400	1836	Houston, Okolona	Chickasaw Indians
Choctaw	9,758	1833	Ackerman	Choctaw Indians
Claiborne	11,831	1802	Port Gibson	William C. C. Claiborne, Governor of Mississippi Territory
Clarke	17,955	1833	Quitman	Judge Joshua Clarke, first Chancellor of State of Mississippi
Clay	21,979	1871	West Point	Henry Clay
Coahoma	30,622	1836	Clarksdale	Indian word meaning "red panther"
Copiah	28,757	1823	Hazlehurst	Indian word meaning "calling panther"
Covington	19,407	1819	Collins	General Leonard Covington, killed in War of 1812
DeSoto	107,199	1836	Hernando	Hernando de Soto
Forrest	72,604	1908	Hattiesburg	Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest
Franklin	8,448	1809	Meadville	Benjamin Franklin
George	19,144	1910	Lucedale	Senator J. Z. George, lawyer, jurist, statesman
Greene	13,299	1811	Leakesville	General Nathaniel Greene, Revolutionary War hero

County	2000 Population	Date Organized	County Seat(s)	Named For
Grenada	23,263	1870	Grenada	Grenada, Spain
Hancock	42,967	1812	Bay St. Louis	John Hancock, signer of Declaration of Independence
Harrison	189,601	1841	Gulfport, Biloxi	President William Henry Harrison
Hinds	250,800	1821	Jackson, Raymond	General Thomas Hinds, hero of Battle of New Orleans
Holmes	21,609	1833	Lexington	Governor David Holmes
Humphreys	11,206	1918	Belzoni	Governor Benjamin Humphreys
Issaquena	2,274	1844	Mayersville	Indian word for "deer river"
Itawamba	22,770	1836	Fulton	Indian Chief Itawamba
Jackson	131,420	1812	Pascagoula	General Andrew Jackson
Jasper	18,149	1833	Bay Springs, Paulding	Sergeant Jasper, hero of Revolutionary War
Jefferson	9,740	1799	Fayette	President Thomas Jefferson
Jefferson Davis	13,962	1906	Prentiss	Confederate President Jefferson Davis
Jones	64,958	1826	Laurel, Ellisville	John Paul Jones, naval hero of Revolutionary War
Kemper	10,453	1833	DeKalb	Reuben Kemper, who led a group of Mississippi men against Spanish Mobile in 1811
Lafayette	38,744	1836	Oxford	General Marquis de Lafayette
Lamar	39,070	1904	Purvis	L. Q. C. Lamar, U.S. senator and statesman
Lauderdale	78,161	1833	Meridian	Colonel James Lauderdale, killed in Battle of New Orleans
Lawrence	13,258	1814	Monticello	Captain James Lawrence, hero of War of 1812
Leake	20,940	1833	Carthage	Governor Walter Leake
Lee	75,755	1866	Tupelo	Confederate General Robert E. Lee
Leflore	37,947	1871	Greenwood	Choctaw Chief Greenwood Leflore
Lincoln	33,166	1870	Brookhaven	President Abraham Lincoln
Lowndes	61,586	1830	Columbus	William Lowndes, noted Carolina congressman
Madison	74,674	1828	Canton	President James Madison
Marion	25,595	1811	Columbia	General Francis Marion, Revolutionary War hero
Marshall	34,993	1836	Holly Springs	U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall
Monroe	38,014	1821	Aberdeen	President James Monroe
Montgomery	12,189	1871	Winona	Richard Montgomery, Revolutionary War general
Neshoba	28,684	1833	Philadelphia	Indian word meaning "wolf"
Newton	21,838	1836	Decatur	Scientist Sir Isaac Newton

County	2000 Population	Date Organized	County Seat(s)	Named For
Noxubee	12,548	1833	Macon	Indian word meaning “stinking water”
Oktibbeha	42,902	1833	Starkville	Indian word meaning “bloody water”
Panola	34,274	1836	Batesville, Sardis	Indian word meaning “cotton”
Pearl River	48,621	1890	Poplarville	Pearl River
Perry	12,138	1820	New Augusta	Commodore Oliver Perry, hero of Battle of Lake Erie
Pike	38,940	1815	Magnolia	General Zebulon Pike
Pontotoc	26,726	1836	Pontotoc	Indian word meaning “weed prairie” or “land of hanging grapes”
Prentiss	25,556	1870	Booneville	Sargeant S. Prentiss, orator
Quitman	10,117	1877	Marks	Governor John A. Quitman
Rankin	115,327	1828	Brandon	Congressman Christopher Rankin
Scott	28,423	1833	Forest	Governor Abram Scott
Sharkey	6,580	1876	Rolling Fork	Provisional Governor W. L. Sharkey
Simpson	27,639	1824	Mendenhall	Judge Josiah Simpson
Smith	16,182	1833	Raleigh	Major David Smith
Stone	13,622	1916	Wiggins	Governor John Marshall Stone
Sunflower	34,369	1844	Indianola	Sunflower River
Tallahatchie	14,903	1833	Charleston, Sumner	Indian word meaning “rock river”
Tate	25,370	1873	Senatobia	T. S. Tate, pioneer settler
Tippah	20,826	1836	Ripley	Indian word meaning “cut off”
Tishomingo	19,163	1836	Iuka	Indian word meaning “warrior chief”
Tunica	9,227	1836	Tunica	Indian word meaning “little people”
Union	25,362	1870	New Albany	The United States
Walthall	15,156	1910	Tylertown	Edward C. Walthall, Confederate general and U.S. senator
Warren	49,644	1809	Vicksburg	Joseph Warren, hero of Revolutionary War
Washington	62,977	1827	Greenville	President George Washington
Wayne	21,216	1809	Waynesboro	General Anthony Wayne, hero of Revolutionary War
Webster	10,294	1874	Walthall	Daniel Webster, statesman
Wilkinson	10,312	1802	Woodville	General James Wilkinson
Winston	20,160	1833	Louisville	Louis Winston, distinguished citizen
Yalobusha	13,051	1833	Coffeeville, Water Valley	Indian word meaning “tadpole place”
Yazoo	28,149	1823	Yazoo City	Indian word meaning “river of death”

Mississippi's Governors

Name	Birthplace	Term	Political Party
TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS			
Winthrop Sargent	Massachusetts	1798 - 1801	Federalist
William C. C. Claiborne	Virginia	1801 - 1805	Democrat
Robert Williams	Virginia	1805 - 1809	Democrat
David Holmes	Pennsylvania	1809 - 1817	Democrat
STATE GOVERNORS			
David Holmes	Pennsylvania	1817 - 1820	Democrat
George Poindexter	Virginia	1820 - 1822	Democrat
Walter Leake	Virginia	1822 - 1825	Democrat
Gerard C. Brandon	Adams County	1825 - 1826	Democrat
David Holmes	Pennsylvania	1826	Democrat
Gerard C. Brandon	Adams County	1826 - 1832	Democrat
Abram M. Scott	South Carolina	1832 - 1833	Democrat
Charles Lynch	South Carolina	1833	Democrat
Hiram G. Runnels	Georgia	1833 - 1835	Democrat
John A. Quitman	New York	1835 - 1836	Whig
Charles Lynch	South Carolina	1836 - 1838	Democrat
Alexander G. McNutt	Virginia	1838 - 1842	Democrat
Tilghman M. Tucker	North Carolina	1842 - 1844	Democrat
Albert G. Brown	South Carolina	1844 - 1848	Democrat
Joseph W. Matthews	Alabama	1848 - 1850	Democrat
John A. Quitman	New York	1850 - 1851	Democrat
John I. Guion	Adams County	1851	Democrat
James Whitfield	Georgia	1851 - 1852	Democrat
Henry S. Foote	Virginia	1852 - 1854	Union-Democrat
John J. Pettus	Tennessee	1854	Democrat
John J. McRae	North Carolina	1854 - 1857	Democrat

Name	Birthplace	Term	Political Party
William McWillie	South Carolina	1857 - 1859	Democrat
John J. Pettus	Tennessee	1859 - 1863	Democrat
Charles Clark	Ohio	1863 - 1865	Democrat
William L. Sharkey	Tennessee	1865	(Provisional)
Benjamin G. Humphreys	Claiborne County	1865 - 1868	Democrat
Adelbert Ames	Maine	1868 - 1870	Military
James L. Alcorn	Illinois	1870 - 1871	Republican
Ridgely C. Powers	Ohio	1871 - 1874	Republican
Adelbert Ames	Maine	1874 - 1876	Republican
John M. Stone	Tennessee	1876 - 1882	Democrat
Robert Lowry	South Carolina	1882 - 1890	Democrat
John M. Stone	Tennessee	1890 - 1896	Democrat
Anselm J. McLaurin	Rankin County	1896 - 1900	Democrat
Andrew H. Longino	Lawrence County	1900 - 1904	Democrat
James K. Vardaman	Texas	1904 - 1908	Democrat
Edmund F. Noel	Holmes County	1908 - 1912	Democrat
Earl L. Brewer	Carroll County	1912 - 1916	Democrat
Theodore G. Bilbo	Pearl River County	1916 - 1920	Democrat
Lee M. Russell	Lafayette County	1920 - 1924	Democrat
Henry L. Whitfield	Rankin County	1924 - 1927	Democrat
Dennis Murphree	Calhoun County	1927 - 1928	Democrat
Theodore G. Bilbo	Pearl River County	1928 - 1932	Democrat
Martin Sennett Conner	Hattiesburg	1932 - 1936	Democrat
Hugh L. White	McComb	1936 - 1940	Democrat
Paul B. Johnson, Sr.	Hillsboro	1940 - 1943	Democrat
Dennis Murphree	Calhoun County	1943 - 1944	Democrat
Thomas L. Bailey	Webster County	1944 - 1946	Democrat
Fielding L. Wright	Rolling Fork	1946 - 1952	Democrat
Hugh L. White	McComb	1952 - 1956	Democrat
James P. Coleman	Choctaw County	1956 - 1960	Democrat
Ross R. Barnett	Standing Pine	1960 - 1964	Democrat
Paul B. Johnson, Jr.	Hattiesburg	1964 - 1968	Democrat
John Bell Williams	Raymond	1968 - 1972	Democrat
William Lowe Waller, Sr.	Lafayette County	1972 - 1976	Democrat
C. Clifton Finch	Panola County	1976 - 1980	Democrat
William F. Winter	Grenada	1980 - 1984	Democrat
William A. Allain	Washington, MS	1984 - 1988	Democrat
Ray Mabus	Choctaw County	1988 - 1992	Democrat
D. Kirkwood Fordice	Tennessee	1992 - 2000	Republican
Ronnie Musgrove	Sardis	2000 - 2004	Democrat
Haley Barbour	Yazoo City	2004 -	Republican

Mississippi's Colleges and Universities

University	City	Type
Alcorn State University	Lorman	Public
Belhaven College	Jackson	Private
Blue Mountain College	Blue Mountain	Private
Coahoma Community College	Clarksdale	Community College
Copiah-Lincoln Community College	Wesson, Natchez, Magee	Community College
Delta State University	Cleveland	Public
East Central Community College	Decatur	Community College
East Mississippi Community College	Scooba, Mayhew	Community College
Hinds Community College	Jackson, Rankin, Raymond, Utica, Vicksburg-Warren	Community College
Holmes Community College	Goodman, Grenada, Ridgeland	Community College
Itawamba Community College	Fulton, Tupelo	Community College
Jackson State University	Jackson	Public
Jones County Junior College	Ellisville	Community College
Mary Holmes College	West Point	Private
Meridian Community College	Meridian	Community College
Millsaps College	Jackson	Private
Mississippi College	Clinton	Private
Mississippi College School of Law	Jackson	Private
Mississippi Delta Community College	Moorhead	Community College

University	City	Type
Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College	Perkinston, Gulfport, Gautier, Lucedale, Biloxi, Long Beach	Community College
Mississippi State University	Starkville	Public
Mississippi State University— College of Veterinary Medicine	Starkville	Public
Mississippi University for Women	Columbus	Public
Mississippi Valley State University	Itta Bena	Public
Northeast Mississippi Community College	Booneville	Community College
Northwest Mississippi Community College	Senatobia	Community College
Pearl River Community College	Poplarville	Community College
Rust College	Holly Springs	Private
Southwest Mississippi Community College	Summit	Community College
Tougaloo College	Tougaloo	Private
University of Mississippi	Oxford	Public
University of Mississippi Medical Center	Jackson	Public
University of Southern Mississippi	Hattiesburg	Public
Wesley Biblical Seminary	Jackson	Private
William Carey College	Hattiesburg	Private