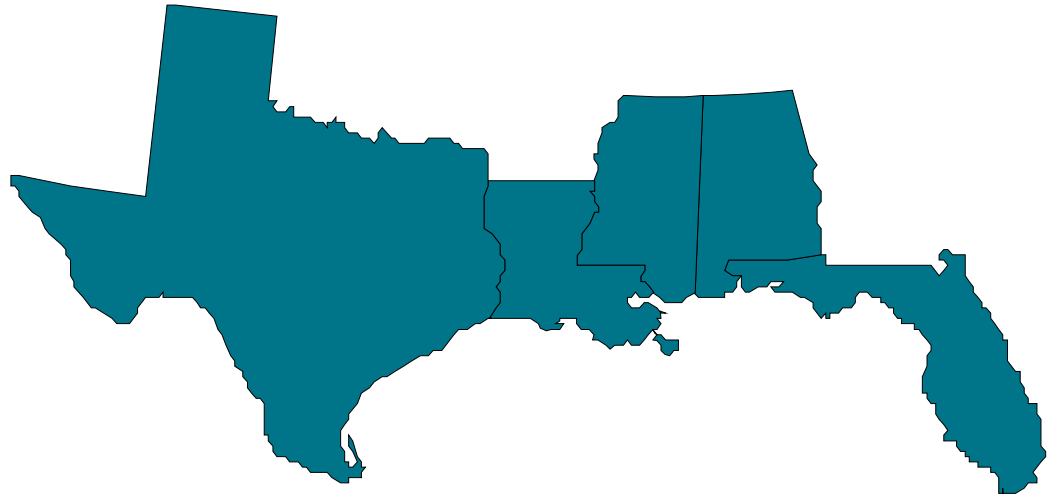# Gulf of Mexico

- Alabama
- West Florida
- Louisiana
- Mississippi
- Texas

Gulf of Mexico Summary

Regional Context

The Gulf of Mexico region includes Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and the Gulf Coast of Florida. These states combined share 1,631 miles of coastline divided as follows: Alabama, 53 miles; Louisiana, 397 miles; Mississippi, 44 miles; Texas, 367 miles; and the Gulf Coast of Florida, 770 miles. The tidal shoreline is much longer at 17,141 miles encompassing complicated networks of bayous, inlets, tidal rivers, and islands in some areas. Louisiana (7,721 miles) has the most extensive tidal shoreline, followed by Florida's Gulf Coast (5,095 miles), together accounting for 75% of the region's tidal shoreline. The inshore habitat created by this extensive tidal shoreline combined with the Gulf of Mexico's relatively warm sub-tropical waters help to create an area second only to Alaska in fisheries productivity.

Houses near marshy waters, Grand Isle, Louisiana

The Gulf of Mexico's warm waters also help to create the country's highest potential for annual hurricane seasons that can disrupt commercial and recreational fishing, and every other aspect of life in its towns and cities. Because most fishing communities are located in low-lying coastal zones they are always at risk from the effects of hurricanes' high winds, associated storm surges, and heavy rain. Hurricanes Katrina, Rita, and Wilma in 2005 provide recent examples of the devastating potential of these storms.[1] Katrina was particularly damaging to fishing communities in Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana; Rita also affected Louisiana as well as Texas; and Wilma affected Florida. Since 1960, Florida has received more major disaster declarations due to hurricanes and tropical storms than the region's other states, followed in descending order by Louisiana and Texas. Alabama and Mississippi have received the fewest major disaster declarations for this cause.

Coastal erosion is another threat in this region. It is particularly notable along Louisiana's coastline. Most of Louisiana's fishing communities are located in this vulnerable area, for example, Empire, Venice, and Grand Isle.

The Gulf Coast is the center of a large fish processing industry that handles both domestically caught and imported products for consumption and other uses. Biloxi and its surrounding areas in Mississippi, and Bayou La Batre in Alabama, have been centers of this industry. Hurricane Katrina damaged or destroyed many processing facilities in these states.

In the aftermath of the storm, Mississippi changed its laws to allow casinos to be built on land within 800 feet of the

shoreline, resulting in increased demand for the real estate in the areas adjacent to the casinos. This has dramatically increased the value of this property leading many land owners including processors to relocate their businesses. These areas are now being redeveloped for non-fisheries uses, while many former fisheries workers are finding work in other industries.

The Gulf Coast is a rapidly developing center for a diverse tourism industry and has long been a destination for those seeking milder climates and coastal waters in retirement. Biloxi, Mississippi offers a quickly growing gaming and entertainment industry, but is declining as a destination for recreational fishing. Texas offers Padre Island National Seashore and saltwater angler services in a variety of places like Corpus Christi.

Although saltwater recreational fishing is found along the entire coast, Florida and Louisiana are particularly notable destinations. Several of Florida's top fishing communities that service saltwater anglers, for example, Key West, Ft. Myers, and Panama City, offer a variety of shoreside support services. Louisiana fishing communities with notable recreational fishing activity include Grand Isle and Venice.

The importance of the Gulf's fishing industry is celebrated in many coastal communities with seafood festivals that are held across the Gulf Coast every year. Festivals include the Blessing of the Fleet in places like Brownsville, Texas, Grand Isle, Louisiana, and Bayou la Batre, Alabama. There are also numerous seafood festivals that are focused on one or more species of seafood that are important to a given area such as the Florida Seafood Festival in Apalachicola, Florida, the Shrimp Festival in Gulf Shores, Alabama, and the annual Shrimporee in Aransas Pass, Texas.

---

[1]The assessment of Hurricane Katrina's impact on Gulf fishing communities and their fishing infrastructure can be accessed at: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/socialsci.htm (accessed 10 June 2008).

<table>
<tr><td>

Fishing Communities Facts

- Many communities in the Gulf of Mexico were originally founded to exploit the rich marine resources.
- Some communities in the Gulf of Mexico, for example, Empire and Venice in Louisiana, are below sea level and protected by levies.
- In many coastal communities, fishermen can no longer afford to live near the water because increasing development and redevelopment of these areas has raised the cost of living beyond their means.

Seafood processing and sales
- In 2006, there were 174 fish processing plants and 255 wholesale businesses located in the Gulf region that together employed 10,841 workers.
- Louisiana had the most wholesaler plants in 2006 (126) that together employed 661 workers, while Texas had the second highest number (77) that together employed 825 workers.

Shrimp fishery
- The combination of long term increases in expenses including marine diesel fuel, combined with the dramatic increase in the amount of relatively cheap imported farm raised shrimp, is making it very difficult for many Gulf fishermen to make a living in commercial fishing. Over 90% of the Nation's shrimp supply is now imported.
- Vietnamese fishermen are now an important part of the shrimp fishery in Mississippi and Louisiana.

Recreational fishing
- Florida had the most saltwater recreational fishermen in the United States in 2006: 3.7 million, and another 2.9 million saltwater anglers from other states reported saltwater fishing trips to Florida in that year. These recreational fishermen released just over 44% of their catch in 2006.

Historical context
- Coastal dwelling American Indians relied on the Gulf of Mexico's inshore marine resources for part of their subsistence for thousands of years before Europeans began arriving in the 16th century.
- Some of the first scientific studies of the Gulf's fishery resources were begun in 1884 by the U.S. Commission of Fish and Fisheries. They eventually included surveys of the oyster beds in areas near Apalachicola, Florida, and inshore waters of Alabama as well as other areas.

</td></tr>
</table>

Some communities have memorials dedicated to fishing including parks and monuments that honor commercial fishing (for example, Cortez, Florida and Biloxi, Mississippi). Some have museums with exhibits that highlight commercial and recreational fishing in the Gulf of Mexico (for example, the Texas Maritime Museum in Rockport, Texas).

The Fishing Communities

Overall, 30 fishing communities in Alabama, 99 in Louisiana, 14 in Mississippi, 68 in Texas, and 119 in West Florida have been profiled by NMFS social scientists because of the nature of their links with commercial and/or recreational fishing. In 2006, 14 of the United States' top fifty ports by landings revenue were located in the Gulf region. They were: Bayou La Batre, Alabama; Dulac-Chauvin, Empire-Venice, Golden Meadow-Leeville, Intracoastal City, Laffitte-Barataria, Louisiana; Brownsville-Port Isabel, Port Arthur, Galveston, and Palacios, Texas; and Apalachicola, Fort Myers, Key West, Tampa Bay-St. Petersburg, Florida. On average, the Gulf of Mexico accounted for 21% of U.S. annual landings revenue from 1997-2006.

The Gulf's top fishing communities were typically smaller towns and villages with populations below 20,000 persons. However, one major metropolitan center approaching 2 million (Houston, Texas), and a few larger coastal cities also have significant fisheries involvement (Tampa and St. Petersburg, Florida; Mobile, Alabama; and Brownsville, Texas). Louisiana's and Alabama's top fishing communities are most likely to have populations below 5,000. Nine of Louisiana's top ten fishing communities and seven of Alabama's top ten fishing communities fall in this group.

Community Resiliency, Growth, Marine Health, and Well Being

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 9.2% of families lived below the poverty line in the U.S., the median income level was $42,000, and 18% of residents over five years of age spoke a language other than English at home. In comparison, the Gulf region has a higher percentage of families living in poverty, a lower median income level, and a higher percentage of residents older than five who spoke a language other than English at home. The differences between the demographics of most, though not all, of the Gulf region's fishing communities and the rest of the U.S. is quite striking. More information on these and other factors that may affect community resiliency are discussed below.

Alabama

The percentage of family households below the poverty level in Alabama in 2000 was 12.5%. The family household poverty rate in fishing communities was generally higher. Coden (24.3%), Bayou la Batre (22.9%), Irvington (18%) and Mobile (17.9%) had the highest poverty rates. The poverty rates in three of the top fishing communities (Dauphin Island, Grand Bay, and Foley) was lower than the national average.

Gulf of Mexico Summary

The percentage of residents over five years of age who spoke a language other than English was 3.9% for the state. With the exception of Bayou La Batre (29.1%), the other fishing communities for which information was available, had a much lower rate of residents who spoke a language other than English at home when compared to the national rate.

The state population grew 6.5% between 1997 and 2006. The number of building permits issued grew 81% and the unemployment rate declined 20% for this period. From 2005-2006, the number of building permits issued increased 4.6%. There were 16 disaster declarations and three emergency declarations during the 1997-2006 time period.

Louisiana

In Louisiana, the percentage of households below the poverty line was 15.8%. Across fishing communities, the household poverty rate ranged from 9.1% (Grand Isle) to 33% (Abbeville), with three fishing communities (Abbeville, 33%, St. Bernard, 30%, and Dulac, 27.8%) having poverty rates more than three times the national average.

The percentage of Louisiana residents over five years of age who spoke a language other than English was approximately half the national average. However, some fishing communities (Golden Meadow, 40%, Chauvin, 34%, and Dulac, 37.4%) had roughly double or more the national average. The median education level attained in Venice ("some high school") was lower than both the state ("some college") and other fishing communities' levels ("high school graduate").

State population declined 1.5% between 1997 and 2006, largely due to out-migration after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (5% decline 2005-2006). In contrast, the issuance of building permits increased 89% during this period, with a 26% increase occurring from 2005-2006. There were 15 disaster declarations and seven emergency declarations from 1997 to 2006.

Mississippi

The percentage of family households below the poverty line in Mississippi was the highest in the region (16%), and the percentage of residents who spoke a language other than English at home was the lowest in the region (3.6%). With the exception of Pascagoula (18.1%), Mississippi's top fishing communities had poverty rates at or lower than the state rate. However, four of these communities had rates above the national poverty level. The percentage of residents in the top fishing communities over five years of age who spoke a language other than English was well below the national rate though generally higher than the state rate.

Mississippi's population growth was 6.5% between 1997 and 2006. The unemployment rate increased 11.5% during this period (6.8% in 2006, the highest in the region). The issuance of building permits increased 65% from 1997-2006, increasing 24% post Hurricane Katrina (2005-2006). There were 14 disaster declarations and two emergency declarations during the 1997-2006 time period.

Texas

In Texas, the percentage of family households below the poverty line was 12%. The poverty rates in the top fishing communities were substantially higher and five of the top Texas fishing communities were roughly twice the national average or more: Brownsville, 32.4%, Port Arthur, 22.9%, Freeport, 22.3%, Port Isabel, 21.7%, and Palacios, 19.8%.

Brownsville (87%), Port Isabel (71%), Palacios (50%), and Freeport (45%) also had the highest percentage of residents over five years of age who spoke a language other than English at home. With the exception of Nederland ($45,000) and Port Neches ($48,000), the median income level in the top fishing communities was lower than the national median income level.

Between 1997 and 2006, Texas' population increased 22%, the number of building permits issued increased 72%, and the unemployment rate fell 9.3%. The number of building permits issued increased 2.9% from 2005-2006. There were 16 disaster declarations and five emergency declarations during the 1997-2006 time period.

West Florida

The percentage of family households below the poverty line in Florida was 9%, with poverty rates in the fishing communities the lowest on average in the region. The western Florida fishing communities of Cortez (7.3%), Key West (5.8%), Madeira Beach (4.1%), and Fort Myers Beach (3%) all had poverty rates below the state and national rates. The poverty rate in Apalachicola (20%) was twice the national rate, while the poverty rates in the other fishing communities ranged from 9.2% to 14%. The percentage of residents over five years of age who spoke a language other than English was less than 8% for six communities, but between 23% and 25% in three other fishing communities.

At the state level, population grew 23% between 1997 and 2006. The number of building permits issued increased 52% despite falling 30% from 2005-2006. There were 23 disaster declarations – more than any other state in the region – and six emergency declarations during the 1997-2006 time period.

List of Fishing Communities & Ports

The following list contains fishing communities and ports that have been identified by NMFS social science staff as having ties to commercial and/or recreational fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico region. Profiles of these fishing communities are available to the public in the following publications:

Identifying Fishing Communities Associated with the Fishing Industry along the Florida Gulf Coast – Final Report.
- *Vol. 1, Escambia- Levy Counties - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeI_Escambia-LevyCos.pdf*
- *Vol. 2, Alachua - Pinellas Counties - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeII_Alachua-PinellasCos.pdf*
- *Vol. 3, Hillsborough - Collier Counties - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeIII_Hillsborough-CollierCos-Summary&Refs.pdf*

Identifying Communities Associated with the Fishing Industry in Louisiana - Final Report.
- *Vol. 1, Ascension - Lafayette Parishes - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeIAscension-LafayetteParishes.pdf*
- *Vol. 2, Lafourche - St. Landry Parishes - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeIILafourche-StLandryParishes.pdf*
- *Vol. 3, St. Martin - Vermillion, Summary - Final Report http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/VolumeIIIStMartin-VermilionSummaryRefAppendix.pdf*

Identifying Communities Associated with the Fishing Industry in Texas Identifying Communities - Final Report.
- *http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/Texas_collapsed-Feb06.pdf*

Identifying Communities Associated with the Fishing Industry in Alabama and Mississippi - Final Report.
- *http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sf/socialsci/pdfs/AlaMiss_PublicReleaseVersion_pdf_Feb06.pdf*

Texas

Alvin
Anahuac
Aransas Pass
Bacliff
Baycity
Bayside
Baytown
Beaumont
Brazoria
Bridge City
Brownsville
Carrollton
Channelview
Clute
Corpus Christi
Crystal Beach
Dickinson
Freeport
Friendswood
Fulton
Galveston
Groves
Highlands
Houston
Indianola
Ingleside
Kemah
Kingsville
Laguna Vista
Lake Jackson
La Marque
League City
Liberty
Los Fresnos
Matagorda
Nederland
Oak Island
Orange
Palacios
Pasadena
Pearland
Port Acres
Port Aransas
Port Arthur
Port Bolivar
Port Isabel
Port Lavaca
Port Mansfield
Port Neches
Port O'Connor
Portland
Robstown
Rockport
Riviera/Riviera Beach
Sabine Pass
San Benito
San Leon
Sargent
Seabrook
Seadrift
Sinton
South Padre Island
Sweeny
Taft
Texas City
Tivoli
Victoria
Vidor

Louisiana

Abbeville
Akers/Port Manchac
Amelia
Arabi
Arnaudville
Avondale
Baldwin
Barataria
Belle Chasse
Belle Rose
Berwick
Boothville
Bourg
Braithwaite
Breaux Bridge
Bridge City
Buras
Cameron
Chalmette
Charenton
Chauvin
Cocodrie
Creole
Cut Off
Cypremort Point
Delacroix
Delcambre
Denham Springs
Des Allemands
Destrehan
Deville
Donaldsonville
Dulac
Empire
Erath
Franklin
Galliano
Gheens
Gibson
Golden Meadow
Gonzales
Grand Isle
Grand Chenier
Gray
Gretna
Grosse Tete
Gueydan
Gueydan
Harvey
Houma
Intracoastal City
Jeanerette
Jonesville
Kaplan
Krotz Springs
Lacombe
Lafitte
Lake Arthur
Lake Charles
La Place
Larose
Leeville
Lockport
Luling
Lydia
Madisonville
Mandeville

Gulf of Mexico Summary

Marerro
Maringouin
Meraux
Metairie
Montegut
New Orleans
Paradis
Patterson
Pearl River
Pecan Island
Pierre Part
Plaquemine
Pointe a la Hache
Ponchatoula
Port Fourchon
Raceland
Reserve
St. Bernard
St. Martinville
Simmesport
Slidell
Terrytown
Theriot
Thibodaux
Vacherie
Venice
Vinton
Violet
Westlake
Westwego
Youngsville
Yscloskey

Mississippi

Bay St. Louis
Biloxi
D'Iberville
Gautier
Gulfport
Kiln
Lakeshore
Long Beach
Moss Point
Ocean Springs
Pascagoula
Pass Christian
Pearlington
Waveland

Alabama

Atmore
Axis
Bay Minette
Bayou La Batre
Bon Secour

Coden
Daphne
Dauphin Island
Eight Mile
Elberta
Fairhope
Foley
Grand Bay
Gulf Shores
Irvington
Lillian
Loxley
Magnolia Springs
Mobile
Orange Beach
Perdido Beach
Robertsdale
Saraland
Semmes
Silverhill
Spanish Fort
St. Elmo
Stapleton
Summerdale
Theodore

Florida

Alva
Anclote
Anna Maria
Apollo Beach
Apalachicola
Archer
Aripeka
Bagdad
Bell
Belleair
Boca Grande
Bradenton
Bradenton Beach
Brandon
Brooksville
Cantonment
Cape Coral
Captiva Island
Carrabelle
Cedar Key
Chiefland
Chokoloskee
Clearwater
Copeland
Cortez
Crawfordville
Crystal River
DeFuniak Springs
Destin

Dover
Dunedin
East Point
El Jobean
Englewood
Estero
Everglades City
Fort Myers
Fort Myers Beach
Fort Walton Beach
Freeport
Gibsonton
Goodland
Gulf Breeze
Gulf Hammock
Gulfport
Hernando
Holiday
Holmes Beach
Homosassa
Homosassa Springs
Hudson
Indian Rocks Beach
Inglis
Inverness
Jena
Keaton Beach
Lakeland
Lamont
Lanark Village
Largo
Lecanto
Longboat Key
Lutz
Lynn Haven
Madeira Beach
Marco Island
Mary Esther
Mexico Beach
Mexico Beach
Milton
Navarre
New Port Richey
Nokomis/Odessa
North Fort Myers
Old Town
Oldsmar
Osprey
Ozona
Pace
Palm Harbor
Palmetto
Panacea
Panama City
Panama City Beach
Pensacola
Pine Island Communities

(includes Pineland,
Matlacha, Bokeelia, St.
James City)
Placida
Port Charlotte
Port Richey
Port St. Joe
Punta Gorda
Redington Beach
Riverview
Royal Palm Hammock
Ruskin
Sanibel Island
Santa Rosa Beach
Sarasota
Seminole
Shalimar
Sopchoppy
Southport
Spring Hill
St. George
St Marks
St Petersburg
Steinhatchee
Suwannee
Tampa
Tarpon Springs
Terra Ceia
Tierra Verde
Treasure Island
Trenton
Valparaiso
Venice
White City
Yankeetown
Youngstown

Geographic Characteristics

State land area (sq. mi): 50,744 % of U.S.: 1.43
Coastline (mi): 53 Shoreline (mi): 607
County equivalents: 61 Coastal: 8 Marine: 2

2000 Sex by Age: State of Alabama and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Total	M F	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 to 84	85 and over
Alabama	4,447,100	48.3% 51.7%	6.7%	14.3%	14.2%	13.6%	15.4%	13.5%	9.4%	7.1%	4.4%	1.5%
Fishing Communities	227,399	49.3% 50.7%	6.8%	14.7%	13.7%	12.8%	15.1%	13.6%	10.0%	7.7%	4.6%	1.1%

2000 Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity: Alabama and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Race								Ethnicity
	Total Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Alabama	4,447,100	71.1%	26.0%	0.5%	0.7%	0.0%	0.7%	1.0%	1.7%
Fishing Communities	227,399	75.1%	14.8%	0.6%	7.3%	0.1%	0.5%	1.5%	1.6%

2000 Demographic Attributes: Selected Fishing Communities compared to State Total

Fishing Communities	Total Population	Median Household Income	% Family Households below Poverty Level	% Persons over 16 in Labor Force	Median Educational Attainment	% >5 yrs Speak Language other than English at Home
Alabama	4,447,100	$34,135	12.5%	59.7%	Some college	3.9%
Bayou La Batre	2,313	$24,539	22.9%	53.7%	HS graduate	29.1%
Bon Secour[1]	1,803	$39,120	11.3%	65.3%	Some college	NA[2]
Coden[3]	1,318	$24,750	24.3%	50.0%	HS graduate	NA[2]
Dauphin Island	1,371	$44,219	6.0%	59.5%	Some college	4.7%
Foley	7,590	$31,596	7.1%	57.0%	Some college	5.7%
Grand Bay	3,918	$38,941	6.9%	57.9%	HS graduate	2.3%
Irvington[4]	1,750	$26,310	18.0%	60.6%	HS graduate	NA[2]
Lillian[5]	1,610	$35,813	14.6%	59.8%	Some college	NA[2]
Mobile	198,915	$31,445	17.9%	58.7%	Some college	5.4%
Theodore	6,811	$33,750	16.3%	58.6%	HS graduate	2.8%

Indicators for Growth, Marine Health, and Population Well-being in Alabama

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population[6]	4,320,281	4,351,037	4,369,862	4,447,100	4,466,618	4,477,571	4,495,089	4,517,442	4,548,327	4,599,030
Building Permits	17,732	20,533	19,029	17,406	17,706	18,403	22,256	27,411	30,612	32,034
Unemployment Rate	4.4	3.9	4.3	4.1	4.7	5.4	5.4	5.1	3.9	3.5
Disaster Declarations	1	3	1	3	2	2	1	1	2	0
Emergency Declarations	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

[1]Census data for Bon Secour was identified as Block Group 4, Census Tract 114.01 in Baldwin County.
[2]NA = data not available.
[3]Census data for Coden was identified as Block Group 1, Census Tract 73 in Mobile County.
[4]Census data for Irvington was identified as Block Group 1, Census Tract 67 in Mobile County.
[5]Census data for Lillian was identified as Block Group 4, Census Tract 116 in Baldwin County.
[6]Estimated population for all years except 2000; actual count was available for this year.

West Florida Tables

Geographic Characteristics

State land area (sq. mi): 53,927	% of U.S.: 1.52
Coastline (mi): 770	Shoreline (mi): 5,095
County equivalents: 67	Coastal: 40 Marine: 35

2000 Sex by Age: State of Florida and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Total	M / F	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 to 84	85 and over
Florida	15,982,378	48.8% / 51.2%	5.9%	13.1%	12.1%	13.0%	15.5%	12.9%	9.7%	9.1%	6.4%	2.1%
Fishing Communities	645,370	49.7% / 50.3%	4.4%	9.9%	9.5%	11.4%	15.3%	15.3%	12.6%	11.7%	7.8%	2.4%

2000 Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity: Florida and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Race								Ethnicity
	Total Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Florida	15,982,378	78.0%	14.6%	0.3%	1.7%	0.1%	3.0%	2.4%	16.8%
Fishing Communities	645,370	81.0%	14.9%	0.3%	1.0%	0.0%	1.2%	1.5%	7.3%

2000 Demographic Attributes: Selected Fishing Communities compared to State Total

Fishing Communities	Total Population	Median Household Income	% Family Households below Poverty Level	% Persons over 16 in Labor Force	Median Educational Attainment	% ≥5 yrs Speak Language other than English at Home
Florida	15,982,378	$38,819	9.0%	58.6%	Some college	23.1%
Apalachicola	2,334	$23,073	19.9%	50.5%	HS graduate	2.6%
Cortez	4,491	$36,577	7.3%	34.3%	Some college	4.8%
Ft. Myers Beach	6,561	$48,045	3.0%	41.5%	Some college	7.2%
Key West	25,478	$43,021	5.8%	70.1%	Some college	24.8%
Madeira Beach	4,511	$36,671	4.1%	61.5%	Some college	6.8%
Marathon	10,255	$36,010	9.4%	63.7%	Some college	23.6%
Panama City	36,417	$31,572	12.1%	56.4%	Some college	7.2%
Port St. Joe	3,644	$33,800	11.2%	49.8%	HS graduate	4.7%
St. Petersburg	248,232	$34,597	9.2%	62.4%	Some college	11.7%
Tampa	303,447	$34,415	14.0%	64.0%	Some college	22.9%

Indicators for Growth, Marine Health, and Population Well-being in Florida

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population[1]	14,683,350	14,908,230	15,111,244	15,982,378	16,354,728	16,682,250	16,981,800	17,366,593	17,768,191	18,089,888
Building Permits	133,990	148,603	164,722	155,269	167,035	185,431	213,567	255,893	287,250	203,238
Unemployment Rate	5.0	4.5	4.0	3.8	4.7	5.7	5.3	4.7	3.9	3.4
Disaster Declarations	0	6	2	2	3	0	2	5	3	0
Emergency Declarations	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0

[1]Estimated population for all years except 2000; actual count was available for this year.

Geographic Characteristics

State land area (sq. mi): 43,562	% of U.S.: 1.23
Coastline (mi): 397	Shoreline (mi): 7,721
County equivalents: 64	Coastal: 38 Marine: 11

2000 Sex by Age: State of Louisiana and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Total	M / F	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 to 84	85 and over
Louisiana	4,468,976	48.4% / 51.6%	7.1%	15.3%	15.5%	13.5%	15.5%	13.1%	8.5%	6.3%	3.9%	1.3%
Fishing Communities	27,188	50.6% / 49.4%	7.1%	15.8%	14.7%	11.7%	15.0%	13.5%	10.0%	7.2%	3.8%	1.2%

2000 Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity: Louisiana and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Race								Ethnicity
	Total Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Louisiana	4,468,976	63.9%	32.5%	0.6%	1.2%	0.0%	0.7%	1.1%	2.4%
Fishing Communities	27,188	80.4%	10.0%	6.0%	1.8%	0.0%	0.5%	1.3%	2.5%

2000 Demographic Attributes: Selected Fishing Communities compared to State Total

Fishing Communities	Total Population	Median Household Income	% Family Households below Poverty Level	% Persons over 16 in Labor Force	Median Educational Attainment	% ≥5 yrs Speak Language other than English at Home
Louisiana	4,468,976	$32,566	15.8%	59.4%	Some college	9.2%
Abbeville	11,887	$19,714	33.3%	50.9%	HS graduate	24.3%
Boothville[1]	291	$49,375	11.9%	51.4%	HS graduate	10.0%
Chauvin	3,229	$25,922	17.1%	44.7%	HS graduate	33.9%
Dulac	2,458	$22,900	27.8%	44.9%	HS graduate	37.4%
Empire	2,211	$27,208	24.1%	54.6%	HS graduate	9.7%
Golden Meadow	2,193	$28,690	15.4%	50.1%	HS graduate	40.0%
Grand Isle	1,541	$33,548	9.1%	57.8%	HS graduate	18.4%
Lafitte	1,576	$33,872	14.4%	53.9%	HS graduate	7.6%
St. Bernard[2]	1,342	$23,566	30.0%	36.9%	HS graduate	NA[3]
Venice[4]	460	$30,000	22.2%	42.7%	Some HS	9.5%

Indicators for Growth, Marine Health, and Population Well-being in Louisiana

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population[5]	4,351,390	4,362,758	4,372,035	4,468,976	4,463,421	4,470,543	4,480,925	4,495,706	4,507,331	4,287,768
Building Permits	15,144	16,483	17,836	14,720	15,653	18,425	22,220	22,989	22,811	28,671
Unemployment Rate	5.7	5.3	4.7	4.9	5.4	5.9	6.2	5.5	6.7	4.0
Disaster Declarations	1	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	3	1
Emergency Declarations	0	0	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	0

[1]Census data for Boothville was identified as zip code tabulation area 70038.
[2]Census data for St. Bernard was identified as Block Group 1, Census Tract 301.01 in St. Bernard Parish.
[3]NA = data not available.
[4]Census data for Venice was identified as zip code tabulation area 70091.
[5]Estimated population for all years except 2000; actual count was available for this year.

Mississippi Tables

Geographic Characteristics

State land area (sq. mi): 46,907   % of U.S.: 1.33
Coastline (mi): 44   Shoreline (mi): 359
County equivalents: 82   Coastal: 12   Marine: 3

2000 Sex by Age: State of Mississippi and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Total	M / F	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 to 84	85 and over
Mississippi	2,844,658	48.3% / 51.7%	7.2%	15.3%	15.7%	13.4%	15.0%	12.7%	8.6%	6.5%	4.0%	1.5%
Fishing Communities	120,074	49.4% / 50.6%	6.8%	14.3%	13.6%	13.2%	15.1%	13.7%	9.8%	7.4%	4.4%	1.5%

2000 Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity: Mississippi and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Race								Ethnicity
	Total Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Mississippi	2,844,658	61.4%	36.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.5%	0.7%	1.4%
Fishing Communities	120,074	67.6%	27.3%	0.7%	2.4%	0.0%	0.7%	1.2%	1.3%

2000 Demographic Attributes: Selected Fishing Communities compared to State Total

Fishing Communities	Total Population	Median Household Income	% Family Households below Poverty Level	% Persons over 16 in Labor Force	Median Educational Attainment	% ≥5 yrs Speak Language other than English at Home
Mississippi	2,844,658	$31,330	16.0%	59.4%	Some college	3.6%
Bay St. Louis	8,209	$34,106	10.0%	60.7%	Some college	7.1%
Biloxi	50,644	$34,106	11.2%	66.8%	Some college	10.1%
Gautier	11,681	$41,244	15.1%	64.8%	Some college	5.8%
Lakeshore[1]	910	$31,071	5.7%	57.3%	Some college	NA[2]
Moss Point	15,851	$32,075	15.8%	55.3%	HS graduate	2.3%
Pascagoula	26,200	$32,042	18.1%	61.3%	Some college	6.8%
Pass Christian	6,579	$40,743	8.2%	60.0%	Some college	7.8%

Indicators for Growth, Marine Health, and Population Well-being in Mississippi

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population[3]	2,731,826	2,751,335	2,768,619	2,844,658	2,856,108	2,863,091	2,874,171	2,892,668	2,908,496	2,910,540
Building Permits	10,079	12,879	12,871	11,270	9,908	11,276	12,010	14,532	13,396	16,618
Unemployment Rate	6.1	5.4	5.3	5.6	5.6	6.7	6.4	6.3	7.8	6.8
Disaster Declarations	1	1	1	0	4	2	2	1	2	0
Emergency Declarations	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0

---

[1]Census data for Lakeshore was identified as Block Group 5, Census Tract 302 in Hancock County.
[2]NA = data not available.
[3]Estimated population for all years except 2000; actual count was available for this year.

Geographic Characteristics

State land area (sq. mi): 261,797   % of U.S.: 7.4
Coastline (mi): 367   Shoreline (mi): 3,359
County equivalents: 254   Coastal: 41   Marine: 17

2000 Sex by Age: State of Texas and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Total	M / F	Under 5	5 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 to 84	85 and over
Texas	20,851,820	49.6% / 50.4%	7.8%	15.7%	15.2%	15.2%	15.9%	12.5%	7.7%	5.5%	3.3%	1.1%
Fishing Communities	2,262,819	49.3% / 50.7%	7.9%	16.4%	14.8%	13.1%	14.9%	12.4%	8.3%	7.1%	4.1%	1.1%

2000 Race and Hispanic/Latino Ethnicity: Texas and Average of Selected Fishing Communities

	Race								Ethnicity
	Total Population	White	Black or African American	American Indian and Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	Some other race	Two or more races	% Hispanic or Latino (of any race)
Texas	20,851,820	71.0%	11.5%	0.6%	2.7%	0.1%	11.7%	2.5%	32.0%
Fishing Communities	2,262,819	70.1%	16.9%	0.5%	3.1%	0.0%	12.1%	2.5%	30.3%

2000 Demographic Attributes: Selected Fishing Communities compared to State Total

Fishing Communities	Total Population	Median Household Income	% Family Households below Poverty Level	% Persons over 16 in Labor Force	Median Educational Attainment	% ≥5 yrs Speak Language other than English at Home
Texas	20,851,820	$39,927	12.0%	63.6%	Some college	31.2%
Brownsville	139,722	$24,468	32.4%	52.4%	HS graduate	87.2%
Freeport	12,708	$30,245	22.3%	54.3%	HS graduate	45.3%
Galveston	57,247	$28,895	17.8%	59.7%	Some college	26.5%
Houston	1,953,631	$36,616	16.0%	63.2%	Some college	41.3%
Nederland	17,422	$45,188	5.5%	62.0%	Some college	8.2%
Palacios	5,153	$27,623	19.8%	50.7%	HS graduate	49.9%
Port Arthur	57,755	$26,455	22.9%	52.8%	HS graduate	23.2%
Port Bolivar[1]	715	$38,631	8.8%	53.5%	HS graduate	NA[2]
Port Isabel	4,865	$25,323	21.7%	57.2%	HS graduate	71.3%
Port Neches	13,601	$47,523	4.4%	63.1%	Some college	8.6%

Indicators for Growth, Marine Health, and Population Well-being in Texas

Indicator	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Population[3]	19,355,427	19,712,389	20,044,141	20,851,820	21,357,926	21,762,430	22,134,047	22,517,901	22,928,508	23,507,783
Building Permits	125,974	156,729	146,564	141,231	150,342	165,027	177,194	188,842	210,611	216,642
Unemployment Rate	5.4	4.9	4.7	4.4	5.0	6.4	6.7	6.0	5.4	4.9
Disaster Declarations	1	3	2	1	2	3	1	0	1	2
Emergency Declarations	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0

[1]Census data for Port Bolivar was identified as Block Group 3, Census Tract 7239 in Galveston County.
[2]NA = data not available.
[3]Estimated population for all years except 2000; actual count was available for this year.