

# COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

South Delta Planning & Development District, Inc.

*2012 - 2017*



# **COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

**FOR THE  
SOUTH DELTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.**

**COUNTIES**

**BOLIVAR  
HUMPHREYS  
ISSAQUENA**

**SHARKEY  
SUNFLOWER  
WASHINGTON**

**September 2012**

**PREPARED BY  
South Delta Planning and Development District, Inc.  
124 South Broadway, Greenville, MS 38702**



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# INTRODUCTION

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The South Delta Planning and Development District, Inc. was incorporated under State Law as a non-profit corporation on September 8, 1967. In January 1976, the Charter was changed and the organization is currently a non-profit, non-taxable corporation as designated by The Internal Revenue Code 501 (C) (3). In 1971, the Governor of the State of Mississippi changed the name from Economic Development District, to Planning and Development District, and delineated its boundaries.

The South Delta Planning and Development District, Inc. serves Bolivar, Sunflower, Washington, Humphreys, Sharkey and Issaquena counties as well as the 35 municipalities within these six counties. The region served has a land area of 3,602 square miles and an estimated population (July1, 2012) of 127,549.

South Delta assists local governments with economic development efforts, workforce, housing, community development, childcare and programs for the elderly. The District serves as the Regional Clearinghouse Coordinator, the Delta Workforce Investment Area administrator, the Area Agency on Aging and the U. S. Census Data Affiliate.

This Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) has been developed through a cooperative effort between citizens, local elected officials, CEDS Committee members and District personnel. Through surveys, meetings, research and observations this document provides an overview of the District as a whole and the individual factors involved in development of the area. The CEDS is to be

the basis for district-wide planning and implementation activities for the next five years. However, this document, the analysis and the ideas within are not static. This plan will be revisited numerous times over the next five years and, with the assistance of each local government and the CEDS committee, the plans, goals and objectives will be amended as necessary to reflect changes in the area.

This document includes broad goals and objectives that encompass the needs of the region and the efforts to address those needs. It also includes very specific project activities to address the readily identifiable needs of the area and an action plan for implementation. Also found in this document is an evaluation section. This section provides a method of determining success and failure while providing the basis for future updates.

The completed CEDS will be made available to the public for review and comment. Until such time as the CEDS is considered final, it will be available at the offices of South Delta Planning and Development as well as in each county courthouse in the area. The document will be provided to State and Federal agencies for integration into state and regional economic development efforts.

# ORGANIZATION AND MANAGEMENT

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The South Delta Planning and Development District, Inc. was incorporated under State Law as a non-profit corporation on September 8, 1967. In January 1976, the Charter was changed and the organization is currently a non-profit, non-taxable corporation as designated by The Internal Revenue Code 501 (C) (3). In 1971, the Governor of the State of Mississippi changed the name from Economic Development District, to Planning and Development District, and delineated its boundaries.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

South Delta Planning and Development District is governed by county and municipal governments through their selection of representatives to the Board of Directors. At the annual meeting of the District, which is an open meeting, elections of Board members is carried out. Each county makes nominations from their county and members are voted on by the full Board.

There are 24 directors serving staggered three year terms. These directors, in accordance with 13 CFR 304.2 (c)(2), include at least one Private Sector Representative and one or more of the following: Executive Directors of Chambers of Commerce, or representatives of institutions of post-secondary education, workforce development groups or labor groups, all of which must comprise in the aggregate a minimum of 35 percent of the governing body. The District's governing body shall also be made up of a simple majority of elected officials. The number of directors from each county varies depending on the population of the county. The two largest counties have five directors and the smallest, three. The current Board of Directors is listed on the following page.

<b><u>Board Member</u></b>	<b><u>County</u></b>	<b><u>Representing</u></b>
Willie Simmons	At-Large	Elected Official - Legislature
Cora Burnside	Washington	Elected Official
Paul Watson	Washington	Elected Official
Marilyn Hansell	Washington	Elected Official
Edgar Donahoe	Sunflower	Elected Official
Barry Bryant	Sunflower	Elected Official
Willie Smith	Sharkey	Elected Official
Michael Parker, Sr.	Issaquena	Elected Official
Annie Cartlidge	Issaquena	Elected Official
Willie Brown	Humphreys	Private Sector - Workforce
Henry Reed	Humphreys	Private Sector - Mid-Delta Home Health
Bern Prewitt	Bolivar	Private Sector - Flying Service/Mosquito
Billy Nowell	Bolivar	Elected Official
Merlin Richardson	Sharkey	Elected Official
Mike Gordon	Washington	Elected Official
Helen Johnson	Washington	Elected Official
J. Y. Trice	Bolivar	Private Sector - Bank Board
Henry Phillips	Bolivar	Private Sector - Higher Education
Richard D. Stevens	Humphreys	Private Sector – Catfish Production
Larry White	Issaquena	Private Sector - Minister
Russell Stewart	Sharkey	Private Sector – Bank of Anguilla
Clanton Beamon	Sunflower	Private Sector - Delta Housing Dev.
Steve Shurden	Sunflower	Private Sector - Auto Parts Store



At the first board meeting following the District’s annual meeting, officers of the corporation are selected by the Board of Directors. The President of the Board then appoints an executive committee with at least one representative from each county served. The executive committee, also serving as the loan committee, meets every other month. The full board meets a minimum of once per year. A meeting open and advertised to the public is to be held in the last quarter of each year. This public meeting provides an opportunity to present to the general public an overview of the District’s activities throughout the year.

**MEMBER GOVERNMENTS**

South Delta Planning and Development District is made up of six counties and the thirty-five municipalities within those counties.

**Bolivar County**

**Humphreys County**

**Issaquena County**

Alligator

Belzoni

Mayersville

Benoit

Isola

**Sunflower County**

Beulah

Louise

Doddsville

Boyle

Silver City

Drew

Cleveland

**Sharkey County**

Indianola

Duncan

Anguilla

Inverness

Gunnison	Cary	Moorhead
Merigold	Rolling Fork	Ruleville
Mound Bayou		Sunflower
Pace	<b><u>Washington County</u></b>	
Renova	Arcola	
Rosedale	Greenville	
Shaw	Hollandale	
Shelby	Leland	
Winstonville	Metcalfe	

**CEDS COMMITTEE**

Eleven individuals were appointed to serve as the CEDS Committee. In accordance with 13 CFR Part 303.6 (a), the CEDS Committee represents the main economic interests of the region and includes public officials, community leaders and a majority of private sector representatives. The CEDS committee is as follows:

Paula Sykes	Sunflower County	Higher Education
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Willie Brown	Humphreys County	Workforce Investment Area
Joe Woods	Bolivar County	Labor Groups
David Smith	Sunflower County	Public Official
Judson Thigpen	Bolivar County	Community Leader/Chamber
Daniel Hooker	Washington County	Private Sector Representative
Henry Reed	Humphreys County	Private Sector Representative
Russell Stewart	Sharkey/Issaquena Counties	Private Sector Representative
Charles Weissinger	Sharkey/Issaquena Counties	Private Sector Representative
Johnny Dobbins	Washington County	Private Sector Representative
James Denson	Sharkey County	Private Sector Representative

This committee provides insight into the issues facing the region as they relate growth and development. The CEDS committee brings with it knowledge of a broad range of topics from health care to education and from private business ownership to public policy. All of the areas knowledge represented by the committee are vital to the future development of the South Delta region.

## **BYLAWS AND AMPLIFICATION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAKEUP**

The following Bylaws of the South Delta Planning and Development District (amended 2007) illustrate the organization of the Board of Directors and the structural framework from which the District operates.

(ADOPTED October 30, 2007)

AMENDED BYLAWS  
OF  
SOUTH DELTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

A. Intent:

It is intended that the membership composition of the Corporation and its Board of Directors be so constituted as to equitably represent the interests of rural and urban areas, and the respective populations of the six (6) member counties.

B. Membership:

The governing body or Board of Directors of the Corporation shall be composed of representatives nominated by the Board of Supervisors of each of the six (6) counties of Bolivar, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Sunflower, and Washington and elected at the annual meeting.

C. Composition of Board:

The Board of Directors is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the Region, and, unless otherwise prohibited by applicable State or local law, includes at least one (

1) Private Sector Representative and one (1) or more of the following: Executive Directors of Chambers of Commerce, or representatives of institutions of post-secondary education, workforce development groups or labor groups, all of which must comprise in the aggregate a minimum of thirty-five (35) percent of the District Organization's governing body. The governing body shall also have at least a simple majority of its membership who are elected officials and/or employees of a general purpose unit of State, local or Indian tribal government who have been appointed to represent the government. Upon District Organization 's showing of its inability to locate a Private Sector Representative to serve on its governing body following extensive due diligence, the Assistant Secretary may waive the Private Sector Representative requirement. The Assistant Secretary shall not delegate the authority to grant a waiver under this paragraph.

D. Rights and Liabilities of Members:

The rights and liabilities of the members of the Corporation are the rights and liabilities conferred and imposed by the Laws of the State of Mississippi.

E. Membership Participation:

The Code of Federal Regulations, Title 13, Chapter III, Part 304.2(a), bases the eligibility requirements for EDA assistance under the Public Works and loan guarantee programs upon the

"active participation" of eligible areas in the economic development planning process of the district.

Active participation by units of local government in the economic development planning process of the district is established by:

- (1) A record of financial support of the district operations through annual contributions,

as determined by the Executive Director and the district budget , and ;

- (2) A record of full and timely participation in the OEDP process and other official planning and evaluation projects of the district, and;

- (3) A record of attendance and participation in meetings scheduled by the district in the regular conduct of business and planning activities.

The active participation status will be determined by the Executive Director of the district, subject to appeal to the Executive Board of all official challenges.

## ARTICLE II - MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

### A. Annual Meeting

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the membership (hereinafter called the Annual Meeting) during each year on a day at a place and time to be designated in one of the said six (6) counties by the Board of Directors. A notice of such meeting designating the date, time and place shall be mailed to the membership at least five (5) days prior to the date for such meeting .

#### B. Quorum

Members representing at least four (4) of the said counties shall constitute a quorum for all meetings of the membership.

#### C. Election of Directors and Other Business

At each Annual Meeting the members shall elect a Board of Directors as hereinafter provided and transact such other business as may properly come before the membership.

#### D. Proxies

All members may vote in any meeting of the membership by proxy, but all proxies must be in writing and record must be kept in the minutes of the meeting of all proxies voted in the meeting.

#### E. Special Meetings

A special meeting of the membership may be called by the President with concurrence of



one other member of the Board of Directors or by a majority of the Board of Directors and notice of such meeting shall be mailed to the membership at least five (5) days prior to the date set for such meeting. Only such business shall be transacted at such special meeting as shall be designated and described in the notice published as hereinabove provided for; provided, however, that special meetings of the representatives of individual counties may be called at any time for any purpose by a member of the Board of Directors representing that county or by a majority of the representatives of that county.

### ARTICLE III - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### A. Election

The Corporation shall have a Board of Directors elected by the membership at each Annual Meeting from among their number as specified below. Each Director shall serve until his successor in office shall be elected.

#### B. Number and Composition

The governing body of the organization shall be a Board of Directors composed of not more than 25 members, which shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors in each county in accordance with applicable slates of the State of Mississippi with a maximum of five (5) members from any one county. The Board of Directors must include at least one (1) Private Sector Representative and one (1) or more of the following: Executive Directors of Chambers of Commerce, or representative of institutions of post-secondary education, workforce development groups or labor

groups, of which must comprise a minimum of thirty-five (35) percent of the Board. The Board must have at least a simple majority of elected officials or employees of State, local or Indian tribal government. If unable to locate a Private Sector, the Assistant Secretary shall grant a waiver. If prohibited by State or local law, a legal opinion from the State or entity is acceptable. Board composition is as follows: Bolivar County - five (5) Directors; two (2) elected officials; three (3) others. Humphreys County - three (3) Directors; two (2) elected officials; one (1) other. Issaquena County - three (3) Directors; two (2) elected officials; one (1) other. Sharkey County - three (3) Directors; two (2) elected officials; one (1) other. Sunflower County - four (4) Directors; two (2) elected officials; two (2) others. At Large - one (1) member of the Mississippi Legislature.

#### C. Terms of Office and Eligibility

The terms of office of the Directors shall be staggered. There shall be one director elected to serve a term of three (3) years, one director elected to serve a term of two (2) years and the balance of such directors from each of the various counties are elected to serve a term of one (1) year. After the initial election of directors, each subsequent election of a director, shall be for a term of three (3) years.

If an elected director is a representative of a county as an elected public official, and his term of office as an elected public official expires before the expiration date of his term as a director, then such director must resign his directorship since he becomes ineligible due to the expiration of his term as an elected public official.

#### D. Vacancies

Vacancies occurring on the Board of Directors due to resignation or death shall be filled by the appointment of a director by the Board of Supervisors of the county represented. Such appointments will be made to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting of the membership. If the resignation of a director is promulgated by the expiration of the term of office as an elected public official, then such appointment of a replacement shall be made from the representative members of that county who are elected public officials.

#### ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS

##### A. Election

The Corporation shall have a President, Vice-President, and a Secretary-Treasurer to be elected by the Board of Directors from among their number.

##### B. Duties and Responsibilities

The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Corporation and it will be his duty to carry into execution all directives of the members and the Board of Directors; to act for and on behalf of the Corporation; to execute documents for and on behalf of the Corporation, except as the Board of Directors may otherwise provide; and to perform such other general executive duties as are inherently attendant to the office, duties, and responsibilities of the chief executive of this Corporation. The President shall preside over all sessions of the Board of

Directors and the membership and shall have the authority to call special meetings for the Board of Directors and special meetings of the membership, when concurred in by one other member of the Board of Directors.

The Vice-President shall act for the President in his absence and shall serve the remaining term of the President upon his death or resignation.

The Secretary-Treasurer of the Corporation shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of the records of the Corporation. The offices for the Corporation shall be the repository of the Corporation records.

#### C. Executive Committee

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Board of Directors, appointed by the President, composed of six (6) members, each of whom shall be a member of the Board of Directors, and there shall be one member from each of the six counties: Bolivar County, Humphreys County, Sunflower County, Washington County, Sharkey County and Issaquena County. The President shall automatically be an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee, and shall appoint the other five (5) members. who shall serve for one year terms. Any vacancies created on the Executive Committee shall be filled by the President.

The Executive Committee shall have all powers and authority conferred by the Charter and Bylaws upon the Board of Directors and may take any actions, adopt any resolutions or perform any other official actions that the full Board of Directors may do, except amendment to these bylaws, and such actions shall be duly recorded in the same manner as actions taken at meetings of the Board of Directors. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

#### D. Compensation and Expenses

Officers of the Corporation shall receive no compensation for their services, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for the necessary expenses, including traveling expenses, incurred in the discharge of their duties.

#### E. Powers

The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the management and direction of the affairs of the Corporation, and they shall be privileged to receive money, material and services as are received by the Corporation to be expended as they may direct; to hire such personnel to assist them in managing the affairs of the Corporation as they may desire; to vest employees of the Corporation with such powers and authority as may be deemed necessary and desirable; to sue and be sued; to enter into contracts and agreements; to deal with the corporate assets in any manner not contrary to law; and to exercise all rights and powers reasonable necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Charter of Incorporation as may be permitted by the laws and

statutes of the State of Mississippi .

#### F. Regular Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors will be held during January, April , July, and October of each year. Provision for notification of the January meeting will be made in the same manner as the Annual Meeting.

#### G. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the President with the concurrence of one other Director or a majority of the Board of Directors upon giving at least two (2) days prior notice. Any matter of business may be discussed at any meeting of the Board of Directors.

#### H. Quorum, Proxies, and Special Procedures

Thirteen (13) members of the Board of Directors or their proxies shall constitute a quorum for meeting of the Board of Directors; provided, however, that any motion, resolution , or other matter of business except amendments to these Bylaws, may be enacted at any time by the written approval of a majority, or such larger proportion as may otherwise be required , of the whole Board of Directors and such action shall be effective upon receipt of the required number of written statements approving such action by the Executive Director, or such other person or official as the Board of Directors may designate, and such action shall be duly recorded in the same manner as actions taken at meetings of the Board of Directors .

## I. Compensation and Expenses

A per diem payment, in lieu of travel cost reimbursement, shall be paid to the Board of Directors for each board meeting attended.

## ARTICLE V - FISCAL

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be as prescribed by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall authorize the Executive Director to designate a depository or depositories as may be deemed proper.

The Corporation shall comply strictly with all laws of the State of Mississippi which may affect the fiscal structure of the Corporation and such other regulations as may apply.

All checks shall be signed by either the Secretary-Treasurer and the Executive Director or the Secretary-Treasurer and the President; the Administrative Assistant and the President or the Administrative Assistant and the Executive Director; provided, however, that, additionally, checks issued against accounts of the Housing Authority of the Corporation may also be signed by the Executive Director and the Assistant Director of Housing.

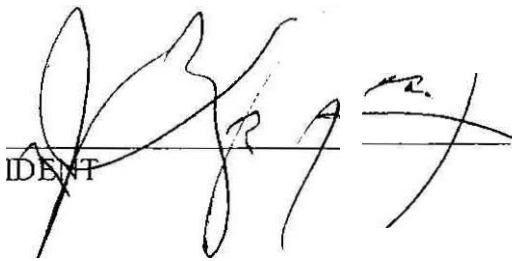
## ARTICLE VI - PURPOSE OF CORPORATION

The purpose of this Corporation is the civic improvement and economic development of its member counties.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Upon giving ten (10) days prior notice of the proposed amendment, these Bylaws may be amended by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Directors. Votes for or against an amendment to these Bylaws may be cast only by Directors physically present at the meeting at which the vote is taken.

PRES

  
IDENT

ATTEST:

  
SECRETARY



# REGIONAL ANALYSIS

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South Delta Planning and Development District includes 41 units of local government. Six counties and thirty-five municipalities make up that number. The counties served by the District are Bolivar, Humphreys, Issaquena, Sharkey, Sunflower and Washington. The regional analysis section of this document serves to give insight into the traits and characteristics that make up the area known as South Delta. Population and demographics, clusters, infrastructure, financial resources and external forces will be looked at from a regional standpoint as well as on a county-by-county basis where necessary.

## **POPULATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS**

### **Population**

South Delta is comprised of 3,602 square miles of land area. That equates to approximately 8% of Mississippi's land area. Based on U. S. Census Bureau 2012 Population Estimates, there are 127,459 people living in the South Delta region. This is only 4.3% of the estimated 2012 Mississippi population. The population of the District, between 2000 and 2010, has decreased by 17.47% while the population of the State has steadily increased. The District population has shown another decrease of 2.28% between 2010 and 2012.

South Delta Planning and Development District experienced a total population decline of 22.18% from 1990 to 2012. The majority of the District's population resides in three of the six counties. These three counties – Bolivar, Sunflower and Washington – have over 87% of the population. Going hand in hand with this is the fact that the majority of the civilian labor force resides in and is employed in these three counties. Residents of the three smaller counties, the three southern

counties of the District, must obtain employment from the limited opportunities in each county.

Those unable to find employment within their own county must commute to the surrounding areas.

In general it can be stated that there are certain predominant population, labor force, income and educational trends in the South Delta District that have existed in past years and are still present in varying degrees today. In the past, the District's economy was based solely on agriculture when the black laborer performed work on the farm manually. With the advent of mechanized farming, the need for the black laborer who possessed very little education and few job skills was diminished drastically so that he was forced to seek employment elsewhere, usually in the industrialized cities of the North. In 2012, just as in 2007, the District can be described as an economically depressed area experiencing a continuing decline in population due to out-migration; unemployment rates that are high; median family incomes that are extremely low; and educational levels that are far below standard.

The population of the District has declined by approximately 81,830 persons between 1960 and 2010. All counties within the District have experienced a population loss during the period. While all counties in the District have experienced significant population losses during the past several decades, Issaquena County has experienced the greatest loss, percentage wise. The County lost 60.68% in population during the period 1960-2010. In terms of absolute numbers, Washington County lost the greatest amount of population during the same period amounting to over 25,000 persons.

The District's non-white population has steadily declined during the decades between 1960 - 2010. The non-white population lost over 30% during the 50-year period which represents 50% of the area's overall population decline during the period. While all counties experienced an appreciable decline in the non-white population during the decades 1960-2010, Humphreys, Issaquena and Sharkey Counties experienced the greatest losses with 50.9%, 60.7% and 54.2% respectively. From 1960-80 the declines in non-white population represented a decreasing non-white proportion of the District's total

population, and by 1980 the percentage had decreased to 60.5%. However this trend reversed. Although there is still a significant decrease in population, there is an increase in the non-white proportion of the District's population to 71.7%.

A continuing decline of the population in the South Delta District can be attributed to out-migration. During the period from 1990-99 there were 26,767 births in the District, which was down approximately 15% from the total of the previous period. During the period 2004 – 2005 there were 2,625 births keeping pace with the recent averages. The number of deaths in the District during the period 2004 – 2005, 1,586 has decreased slightly from the annual average during the 1990 – 1999 period. Despite the fact that births in the District on the average outnumber deaths, overall population continues to decline. A tremendous out migration continues to outnumber the natural increase in population occurring from births and deaths. The District's overall out-migration rate decreased from 30.8% during the period 1950-60 to 14.1% during the period 1970-80. The out-migration of the District diminished by several percentage points from decade to decade until the 1990's, when it took an upward turn and continues in that direction.

Based on 2010 Census figures, the District's median age is 35.9 years while Mississippi's is 36 and the United States' 37.2. The District's median age in 1960 was 19.9 years indicating the District's population is becoming somewhat older. Of the District's population in 2010, 29.7% were 0-19 years old while 17.2% were 60 years of age or older. This left 53.1% of the District's population in the productive working age group of 20-59 years as compared with 53.2% for Mississippi and 54.5% for the United States.

Characteristically non-whites, who are located at the lower end of the economic scale, comprise the largest percentage of the District's population of 0-19 years of age. As well, non-whites comprise a

slight majority of the ages of 20-59 years. However, the 60+ age groups are distributed almost evenly between non-whites and whites.

Generally, over the last decade and a half, people have migrated outside the bounds of the District. From 2000-2006 the District's urban population decreased 7.84% and the rural population decreased by 6.54%. The District's loss in population is escalating and no longer limited to primarily urban residents.

Of the 35 incorporated municipalities within the South Delta District, only five (four of which are located in Humphreys County) experienced population losses from 1960-70, and sixteen experienced losses from 1970-1980 and 26 experienced losses from 1980-1990 and 15 experienced losses from 1990-2000. The 2010 Census indicate that all but two of the District's municipalities have lost population during the period of 2000 – 2010. Further, the Census data reflects that some of the relatively large urban areas of the District that experienced a population gain during the period of 1980-1990 have lost population during the years 1990-2010.

**Strategic Finding:** The District as a whole has declined significantly in both its urban and rural populations from 2000 to 2010. In terms of total urban population, the South Delta is virtually even with where it was in 1960. There will be no drastic upward changes in population unless there are significant changes in economic conditions. Until opportunities and quality of place improve, the steady out-migration of population will continue. Therefore, efforts must be placed on retaining and attracting population to the area. The “brain drain” must slow down.

### **Income and Education**

The average median household income of the District (\$26,731) is approximately 31% less than that of the State and just less than half (49.3%) that of the Nation. In 2010, an average of eighteen

percent of the District's households had an annual income of less than \$10,000. Of the District's member counties, Sunflower had the largest percentage of families under \$10,000 income, 21.2%. Washington County had the most families below the \$10,000 level and the largest number of families with income above \$25,000. In 2010 Sharkey County had the highest median family income and Issaquena had the lowest, \$40,313 and \$28,036 respectively. Economically, the District continues to significantly lag behind the State and Nation.

Transfer payments have made up the largest share of personal income for all South Delta counties except Issaquena. Transfer payments are government payments to individuals that are not paid in return for goods and services to the government. Examples include social security, unemployment compensation and welfare payments. In 2010 36.9% of South Delta's citizens had an income below the poverty level.

The educational attainment level within the District is considerably lower than that of the State and the Nation. Only 68% of the District's total population above 25 years of age completed high school, compared to 80.3% for the State and 85.4% for the Nation. Education levels in the District have improved considerably since 2000, from a 50.7% high school completion percentage to 68.8%. These improvements are encouraging, but there is still much to be done in order for the South Delta region to compete in the State, the Nation, and the World.

**Strategic Finding:** With regard to income and education, these two factors must be one of the major focal points for improvement of the region. All other man-based factors are dependent on these two things for improvement. As long as the level of educational attainment among the working age population is so much lower than the State and the Nation, economic development and high paying job opportunities will pass the region by.

## **Employment and Labor Force**

With a loss in population and a decrease in the labor force of over 1,900 persons, from 2000-2010, the District's overall labor force participation rate 54.2%, while slightly below that of the State's at 59.1%, is considerably below that of the Nation at 64.5%. The female labor force participation rate at 53.2% is less than that of the State and compares even less favorably with the Nation at 59.3%. A disparity in labor force participation is found among the males of the District, which is 55.4%, below that of the State 63.9% and far short of that of the Nation at 70.1%. The labor force participation rate of females is increasing across the board while that of males is decreasing. Of the District's member counties, Washington, Bolivar and Sharkey have the highest overall participation rate.

As the percentage of non-white population has increased, the non-white labor force participation rate has increased proportionately as well. The District's labor force participation rate among nonwhites is 57.1%, 12 percentage points higher than 2000, as compared to 64.1% for the State, 9 percentage points higher than 2000. Of the counties in the District, Sharkey County has the highest participation rate among non-whites followed by Washington and Humphreys Counties. Sharkey County has the highest participation rate among non-white males at 70.4% and Sunflower County has the lowest rate, 35%. The District's labor force steadily declined from 66,811 in 1960 to 57,565 in 1970, rebounded in 1980 to 60,865 continued upward in 1990 to 64,030 and has fallen drastically to 55,624 in 2010.

Employment is down in the District as it is throughout the Nation. The trends in employment status are not just reflected but compounded within the South Delta District.

The average unemployment rate in the District increased from 9.18% in 2000 to 14.58% in 2010. All of the counties within the District saw a decrease in unemployment rates in the early to mid 2000s, with Bolivar County dropping to 8.4% in 2004. Following the up turn of the Nation's economy, the

unemployment rates in the district decreased somewhat from 2000 – 2005. However, as the Nation goes so goes the South Delta Region and the recent unemployment rates of the District are significantly higher than the State and Nation.

**Strategic Finding:** It is apparent, from the information provided, that the unemployment rate in the South Delta region is well above that of the State and the Nation. Bringing new job opportunities to the area is very important. However, retaining the jobs currently in the area is of the utmost importance. It is imperative that the counties of this region and SDPDD work together to provide existing businesses the opportunities for expansion and prosperity. One component of this is a workforce that improves and advances with time and technology. To this end the District is the fiscal agent for the Delta Workforce Investment Area (DWIA). It provides the administrative functions associated with the Workforce Investment Act. Six South Delta staff members currently provide support to the Board and coordinate WIA programs and activities in the 14 county workforce area.

In accordance with the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, it is the purpose of the Delta Area Workforce Investment Area Board to provide workforce activities in the local area that will increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants and increase occupational skills attainment by participants, and, as a result, improve the quality of the workforce, reduce welfare dependency and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the fourteen counties which constitute the Delta Area Region.

In FY'07, the DWIA was awarded \$10 million to serve WIA eligible adults, dislocated workers and youth, since then the awards have steadily decreased, as is the case with all Federal and State funding, yet the need continues to increase as the Region, State and Nation fall farther behind the rest of the world in the ultra-competitive global market. Seven WIN Job Centers (one-stop operators) in the 14 counties provide adult and dislocated worker services, while Community Based Organizations and one

school district provide youth activities. The DWIA focuses a lot of activity on economic development to recruit new businesses and retain existing businesses through On the Job Training and Customized Training. WIA eligible participants are provided services through Individual Training Accounts to help them get a first job or a better job.

New efforts are underway in the DWIA to focus on sector training initiatives to address local needs. The DWIA will be exploring specific job sectors and will allocate a certain amount of funds to that specific sector. Some areas to be considered include health care, hospitality and advanced manufacturing.

These sector initiatives will focus on key industries, promote education and training, provide opportunities for career advancement and create new jobs while building the area's skilled workforce. These efforts will also help create shared objectives and priorities between public and private partners to leverage new and existing resources.

## **Housing**

Housing characteristics in the South Delta region are directly related to the environment of the population. One of the negative housing characteristics in the area, as well as in the State, is the age of housing. Seven percent of all housing units in the six county area were constructed prior to 1939. This percentage, though not large, does indicate some definite deteriorating factors among the housing stock in the area. This figure continues a gradual decrease, which indicates efforts in the region to remove the deteriorated or dilapidated housing. The fact remains that with these older units it is difficult to maintain and make repairs especially when the population is aging and the primary source of income in the area is transfer payments. It is also an unfortunate by-product of the regional and



national economy that there is not much of a new housing stock to replace these older homes. Only 2.9% of the area's housing stock has been constructed since 2005.

The vast majority of renters in the District are of low and moderate income levels. According to the 2010 Census there are 19,277 renters in the South Delta area. This reflects a slight decrease in renters from the 2000 Census. Studies in the District have shown a need and desire among the renters to become homeowners; however, financing for low and moderate income families is often difficult or even impossible to obtain. South Delta has, when programs are available, been attempting to address this need through some innovative financing and down payment assistance. The popular trend nationwide has been toward providing assistance for homebuyers rather than continuing to subsidize rent for low and moderate income families.

A number of the 26,887 owner occupied units in the District area are in need of minor to major repairs. Many code violations, including overcrowded conditions, are being alleviated through a variety of homeowner rehabilitation programs in the District. Currently owner occupied rehabilitation/reconstruction programs exist in all six counties.

**Strategic Finding:** With the realization that it is very much a component of economic development, housing is becoming a priority of the area. Housing stock deficiencies are beginning to be addressed through local initiatives as well as through programs funded by the State and Federal government. Additionally, great strides are being made in the development of public-private partnerships to continue to address these needs.

## **CLUSTERS**

South Delta Planning and Development District has approximately four significant clusters outside of the agriculture related fields. Agriculture, although no longer the total basis for all of the economy of the region, is still a major component of the local economy. In 2006 the largest cluster in the area appeared to be Food Products and Services. This cluster, in 2006, employed approximately 10,600 people with average wages of \$17,000 a year. The employment number for this cluster was a decrease of 11% from 2005. This cluster has continued to decrease in significance. Processed food production is still one part of the manufacturing based cluster but, it is no more prevalent than other types of manufacturing.

The District has the largest medical facility within a 120-mile radius. Five of the six counties in the region have hospitals located within their boundaries. Delta Regional Medical Center, located in the City of Greenville, is the largest medical facility in the area. Only Issaquena County does not have a medical facility of its own. Issaquena and Sharkey counties share a hospital located in the City of Rolling Fork. The Health Cluster has become the largest employment cluster in the region with a total monthly employment of 7,627 in 2011. These employees had an average annual wage of \$32,582. The Health Cluster may continue to experience increases as the population of the area ages and health concerns such as obesity, diabetes and hypertension prevail..

Following the Health Cluster are the Education and Accommodation Clusters. The Education cluster will remain strong with the location of a four-year university and a community college within the district. The Accommodations Cluster has continued to increase in the area. This increase is a direct reflection of the shift in economic development focus. As agriculture and manufacturing opportunities have decreased the region has looked to tourism for much needed support of the local economy.

**Strategic Finding:** The information garnered from the cluster analysis is yet another indicator of “the way things have been” in the South Delta area. The low levels of training and educational attainment have left the majority of the labor force qualified for and working at the lowest paying jobs. The Health Cluster and the Accommodation Cluster are likely to continue the growth trend based on the aging population and the rise in tourism. These clusters must be nurtured in order to provide more opportunities for employment and economic growth. The Delta has a rich artistic history that can be developed into the backbone of the regional economy.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Water**

The principal difference between the infrastructure of urban and rural areas is in the capacity of the water and sewer systems. Urban networks generally have a superior capacity per person in both quantitative and qualitative evaluations. Water supplies in the urban area are more reliable and have better treatment facilities. A greater amount is available on a per capita basis for domestic purposes and also for fire flows in emergency situations. In addition to municipal water and sewer systems, there are water associations operating within the District to provide domestic water supplies to rural areas. Most of these were organized through the United States Department of Agriculture – Rural Development and were designed to furnish domestic needs only. In most instances, industrial uses of fire flow demands would be beyond the design capacity of such systems.

In accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996, the State of Mississippi has implemented a Capacity Development Program to improve the technical, managerial, and financial capacity of the state’s public water systems and to prevent the creation of new systems that do not have the technical, managerial, and financial capacity to comply with current and future provisions of

the Act. Included in the requirements of the Act is the development of an annual report on all of the public water systems in the State of Mississippi. This report provides much needed information in the development of projects throughout the District. It not only indicates water production capacity but provides ratings to discern the capability of the system on the issues of technology, management and finances. These factors must be considered for projects to improve these water systems as well as for projects that rely on access to water.

**Strategic Finding:** It appears that the populated areas of the region are generally served by public water systems. There may be some pockets of population that are too remote to be included in an organized water system and must rely on private wells for access to water. Many of the unserved areas surrounding municipalities or organized communities have been recently connected to existing systems. Those remaining will be connected as funding becomes available. One of the major concern of the area is not access to water but, access to water systems that are technologically sound, well managed and financially capable of remaining viable. The second, equally major concern is the aging components of the municipal water systems in the region. Many of these systems are beginning to experience catastrophic failures. These issues will have to be at the forefront of infrastructure improvement planning for many years to come.

## **Sewer**

Urban sanitary wastewater facilities are characterized by more sophisticated treatment methods and consequently higher quality treated effluent. Most of the small towns in the district utilize lagoon treatment while the largest city uses a mechanical treatment plant. Several of the communities that were utilizing mechanical plants then changed to lagoon type treatment for cost savings are being forced to make plans to return to the mechanical systems. This issue has just recently arisen with the changes in the permitted limits for discharge. Most of the small communities in the region cannot meet

the new limits because of location and environment. These communities had discovered that the operation and management costs related to mechanical treatment was too high for their financial capacity. Unfortunately, the choices for their wastewater treatment are going to be very limited.

A number of the unincorporated communities in the District have formed utility districts, which allowed them to provide sewer service to area residents. These systems may face the same uncertain future as the municipal systems and may have to return to a form of septic system for their wastewater service needs.

**Strategic Finding:** More and more information on the health hazards of poor wastewater handling is being disseminated to the public. As this happens more communities are seeking ways to improve their quality of place and the human condition of their area. Additionally, the changes to discharge requirements implemented by the Environmental Protection Agency will bring about the need to revisit wastewater systems that have recently been addressed. Efforts to assist both units of local government and unincorporated communities in identifying funding for addressing these issues must continue. These efforts are not only vital to maintaining a healthy populace but also in attracting people and business opportunities to the region.

## **Transportation**

The South Delta area has a multi-modal transportation network capable of handling almost any type of cargo. Proximity to the Mississippi River makes water transportation of bulk materials possible. The public ports at Greenville and Rosedale offer shippers the opportunity to import or export large volumes of goods to regional, national or international markets. Numerous industrial port facilities also line the harbor front. Unfortunately, both of these port facilities are full and no longer have useable land available to offer industries wishing to locate at the ports.

The remainder of the transportation system in the District is characteristic of the State as a whole. The principal north-south and east-west thoroughfares are U. S. Highways 61 and 82. Greenville, the largest city in the District, is the site of the Highway 82 Bridge and the newly built Highway 82 Bridge. Greenville has one of the four bridges in the state that crosses the Mississippi River. The crossing currently gives Greenville a locational advantage because of its exposure to larger volumes of traffic and its access to a greater regional trade area. Highway 61 passes through Leland, which is eight miles to the east of Greenville. A secondary roadway network that serves even the smaller communities with paved access roads complements the primary thoroughfares. The counties build and maintain a network of farm-to-market roads that are either paved or gravel surfaced. This operation is assisted by both State and Federal funds, but the county provides the manpower and management.

A proposal for another bridge over the Mississippi River has been approved as part of the construction of Interstate 69 (I-69) an intercontinental highway linking Canada, the United States and Mexico. It appears that the most likely route for I-69 will be through southern Bolivar County and to the north of the City of Greenville. Greenville has been identified as a location requiring further study for access and connectivity. The location of I-69 and any connector routes through the South Delta Planning and Development District would have a major economic impact on the region.

The only commercial airport in the District is located in Greenville, which is within 75 miles of any point in the District. The regularly scheduled commercial flights are regionally oriented, providing a commuter style connection to the larger air facility in the City of Atlanta, GA. Chartered flights and air freight services are also available. A number of improvements have been made to the Cleveland and Greenville airports with additional improvements planned with the availability of funding.

The Genesee and Wyoming Railway, formerly known as the Columbus and Greenville, provides the South Delta District with rail-freight service. The Genesee and Wyoming is an east-west railway that

once crossed the entire state. Now the railway only provides service from Greenville to Greenwood. This service is marginal at best considering the current track conditions. The Great River Railroad, although still in existence, is no longer in operation. Rail access to industrial sites is currently very limited. The Great River Railroad is the focus of an effort to find funding for revitalization of the north south connector that would serve the growing Port of Rosedale and provide east west rail access at Greenville.

One relatively recent and economically disturbing development is the abandonment of railroad lines in the South Delta region. The Illinois Central Gulf lines from Clarksdale through Drew, Ruleville and Belzoni were abandoned in the early 1980's. The ICG line from Hollandale to Vicksburg and north of Cleveland has also been abandoned because of low profits and high maintenance expenses.

**Strategic Finding:** Transportation facilities in the South Delta region must be improved in order for the area to be competitive with the state, the nation and the world. Every component of the transportation system within the District is in need of improvement. Some, like the Port of Greenville and the Rosedale-Bolivar County Port, have taken steps to improve their facilities and the services offered. However, both of these port facilities have many more improvements that could be made, not the least of which is taking the steps necessary to open more land for development.

Air transportation, although not terrible considering the population of the area, should continue to be at the forefront of improvement considerations. An area that does not have access to a functioning commercial airport will not be considered for business location over an area that does. Therefore, it is imperative that the Mid-Delta Regional Airport be maintained at its current level of service and improved with every opportunity. Also, interest has been expressed in a local airport at the City of Rolling Fork, and because of the present lack of public air facilities in Sharkey and Issaquena Counties, the possibility should be investigated further.

Rail service in the District is not even remotely close to the level necessary to make this area a viable option for business location or in support of business that has located elsewhere in the state. The Great River Railroad, that provided service from the Port of Rosedale to a junction with the Genesee and Wyoming in Leland, is currently not in operation due to age and deterioration of the equipment and rails. The Great River Railroad is actively seeking opportunities to rehabilitate the line. The Genesee and Wyoming has shut down service beyond Greenwood. With the location of the Toyota plant at Tupelo and the steel mill in Columbus, it is critical that the South Delta region have rail access to the eastern side of the state. Plans must be made for the future to keep access to rail service in South Delta area. Even though rail traffic has been very light in recent years, the total loss of rail service would be highly detrimental to economic development in the area.

### **Industrial Parks and Sites**

Nine local governments in the District – Greenville, Cleveland, Indianola, Shelby, Rosedale, Belzoni/Humphreys County, Rolling Fork, Issaquena County and Hollandale – have organized industrial parks. Several smaller communities have industrial sites reserved and serve those sites with utilities, but they are not of a magnitude that would classify them as industrial parks. More specific attention is focused on industrial facilities in a table in the appendix.

Numerous light and heavy industries are located throughout the District and their contribution to the economic growth of the District has been considerable. The total land area presently occupied by industrial users is very small with the greatest concentration being in Greenville, Cleveland and Indianola. The larger communities are better able to support the needs of most manufacturers. Consequently, it can be anticipated that their dominance of attracting new industries in the District will continue for the years ahead.



**Strategic Finding:** Currently the only shortage of industrial development space within the District is at the Port of Greenville and the Rosedale-Bolivar County Port. All other industrial parks and sites have land available for development. Most of these sites are served with the necessary infrastructure. However, some of the infrastructure serving these industrial parks is beginning to age considerably and some has been surpassed by the needs of industries currently being served. Future efforts must include upgrading and maintaining existing industrial parks and sites. Beyond this, efforts must focus on the development of larger regional industrial development areas designed for the larger type of industry such as an automotive manufacturing facility. This need not be the first item of business but as I-69 continues toward completion it should be addressed.

### **Water Resources**

One of the primary natural resources of the District is the abundant water supply. In addition to the Mississippi River, which forms the western border of the District, underground aquifers have provided domestic water supplies of very good quality. Lakes and ponds provide numerous opportunities for water-oriented recreation as well as aesthetic enhancement of building sites.

The State Bureau of Land and Water Resources, in accordance with a state law passed in April 1985, requires a permit for all surface and well water users except those that are for domestic use only or wells with surface casing less than six inches in diameter. The Yazoo Water Management District has undertaken the process of assessing the areas water resources. They are utilizing this assessment as a planning tool for coordinating the efforts of water districts throughout the region. They are also using this information in their efforts to conserve water resources.

Water resources in the area have good potential for industrial transportation, recreational, agricultural and domestic usage. Much has been done already to realize those potentials, particularly in

industrial and transportation applications, as well as tourism/sporting of a hunting nature. Greenville has excellent slack-water harbor facilities on Lake Ferguson and functions as a major river port in the inland waterways system. The Greenville Port facility has been expanded recently to include a four-berth covered bridge crane. Additionally, the Bolivar County Port facility at Rosedale has been greatly expanded with the assistance of EDA funding. Both of these port facilities continue to seek opportunities for growth and expansion.

The Yazoo River is navigable in the eastern portion of the District, and a port has been proposed for Belzoni. The ports of Greenville and Rosedale, along with a future port at Belzoni, will provide reasonable access to water transportation. Then all areas of the South Delta region will be within 50 miles of a river port when the projects are completed.

**Strategic Finding:** In recent years it has been reported that groundwater supplies are dropping and measures should be undertaken to conserve the State's water resources. The dwindling water supplies in the Delta are due primarily to heavy agricultural uses such as crop irrigation and catfish farming, both large consumers of water. The groundwater is not being replaced fast enough to offset the consumption. An educational program should be established to provide information on water reclamation activities for the agriculture industry.

Port projects, as with all new major construction projects in the South Delta area, have careful environmental evaluations in order to assess the impact of the projects on their surroundings. The various sections of the Environmental Policy Act of 1969 have set forth methods of improving the quality of previously damaged areas, such as streams polluted by domestic waste. In order to assure the continued potential of the District's natural resources for future generations, it is imperative that our present action be consistent with conservation goals for the future.

## FINANCIAL RESOURCES

### County Financial Resources

	Bolivar County	Humphreys County	Issaquena County	Sharkey County	Sunflower County	Washington County
Total General Fund Assets	\$14,106,657	\$4,635,864	\$1,899,794	\$2,323,858	\$6,665,406	\$19,671,983
Total General Fund Liabilities	\$8,561,514	\$3,743,314	\$1,532,193	\$2,081,195	\$5,069,582	\$16,613,472
Total General Fund Revenues	\$9,677,941	\$4,240,567	\$1,595,496	\$2,285,886	\$6,306,696	\$17,701,696
Total General Fund Expenditures	\$9,816,703	\$4,854,849	\$1,646,798	\$2,338,513	\$6,244,761	\$19,277,633
Excess of General Fund Revenues  Over (under) expenses	(\$138,762)	(\$614,282)	(\$51,302)	(\$52,627)	\$61,935	(\$1,575,937)

### 2011 Millage Rates

The Total Millage rates for the six counties included in the South Delta Planning and Development District are: Bolivar – 112.77, Humphreys – 136.47, Issaquena – 113.78, Sharkey – 103.55, Sunflower – 111.37, and Washington – 99.80.

**Strategic Finding:** The financial resources of the units of government that make up South Delta Planning and Development District are based on a number of factors. These factors include the general financial status of the counties as indicated in the annual audits, millage rates, and retail sales and

collections. All of these factors work hand in hand to make up the financial health of an area. It is imperative that efforts are made to bring in population and business that in turn supports retail and holds millage rates to an affordable amount.

## **EXTERNAL FORCES**

### **Natural**

The State of Mississippi, like any other state, is susceptible to a number of natural and man-made hazards. The South Delta region faces the same hazards as the rest of the state and some not associated with the entire state. The region, just like the rest of Mississippi, is threatened annually by devastating tornadoes, drought and severe thunderstorms. Not as frequent, but just as devastating, is the threat of winter storms and hurricanes that approach the state from an angle leaving the region vulnerable to spin off tornadoes and flooding. The South Delta region, by its very nature, is extremely vulnerable to flooding resulting from storms and prolonged periods of rain. Additionally, the threat always exists for a break in the levee that retains the Mississippi River.

In addition to threats already mentioned, is the region's location along the New Madrid fault. This location expands the list of natural threats to include earthquakes. Though the threat of an earthquake may seem very small it is a very real possibility and like the others must be included in emergency planning efforts.

### **Political**

There are several politically based external forces that are at work in the South Delta Planning and Development District. These political forces include Federal and State programs as well as the current pro-business administration.

Portions of the District were included in the Mid Delta Empowerment Zone Alliance. This Empowerment Zone designation, a joint program through the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban

Development for urban zones and the U. S. Department of Agriculture for rural zones, had a ten year time frame. Even though the time frame for the Empowerment Zone has expired, the benefits of this designation are still in evidence. The broad and flexible usage of the funds associated with the designation provided an additional resource for financing projects of all types. These projects have included water system improvements, sewer system improvements, port facility additions and drainage improvements just to name a few. All of these projects continue to provide benefit to the citizens of the region long after the expiration of the Empowerment Zone designation. In addition to the direct funding of projects and the enhanced consideration from other funding sources for “EZ” areas, the Empowerment Zone offered tax benefits to employers in the area.

In recent years the Legislature has increased its efforts to assist in the development of the Delta. Special legislation has come about that has set aside funding for culturally significant projects designed to enhance the tourism draw of the region and educational improvements. Examples of this would be the B. B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center in Indianola, Grammy Museum Mississippi to be built in Cleveland and the Greenville Higher Education Center. Actions of this nature make the State and the District much more appealing for potential business development.

### **Economic**

The previous cluster analysis leads us to a number of conclusions concerning the impact, of the national economy as a whole and private sector actions, on the economy of the South Delta region. It stands to reason that the two highest ranking clusters, Food Products and Service and Health, would not feel the same impact of the ups and downs of the national economy as other clusters might. Food and health care are items of necessity and as such are not as easily impacted by downturns in the economy. Elective health care procedures along with dining out may take a downward turn but the necessities of life remain constant.

Multi-million dollar private sector investment in the State of Mississippi should be a boon to all areas of the State, not just the location of the investment. These benefits may be somewhat indirect but, benefits nonetheless. The location of the Nissan and Toyota plants in the state are not likely to improve the economy of the South Delta region directly through investment and job creation. However, these new facilities improve the overall financial status of the State thereby allowing the Legislature the opportunity to increase the funding for programs that help all areas of the State. These programs include the Small Municipalities and Limited Population County Grant Program, the Rural Impact Program and the Development Infrastructure Program just to name a few.

In addition to the economic growth of the State resulting from the location of two major automotive manufacturers, the boost in environmental awareness must be capitalized upon. The national trend toward more environmentally friendly fuels such as ethanol and bio-diesel should result in private sector investment in an area that has more than doubled its corn acreage.

## **Social**

Although the overall population of the District has continued to decrease, the Hispanic population has been on a very slow but steady rise. Based on statistics and regional trend observations this increase is likely to continue. As the overall population declines through out migration and the participating workforce declines through out migration and aging another segment of the population will step in to fill the void.

**Strategic Finding:** It is crucial for the future economic health of the South Delta region that the external factors be considered for future project development and implementation. Capitalizing on the returning but, changing agricultural sector of the economy, fostering the health and accommodation/tourism clusters and supporting the influx of automotive manufacturing in the State is imperative for future growth and stability. Because of the potential for natural disasters in the area

(floods, tornadoes) it is essential to develop as disaster resistant as possible. It is also critical to understand that disasters happen and knowledge of the assistance available from agencies such as the Economic Development Administration, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is imperative.

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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In the original study of The Mississippi Delta that formed the basis for the Delta Regional Commission, it was surmised, “A Delta without change is a symbol without meaning”. In order to progress during the 21st Century, a change of direction is required. This change in direction will be guided by the findings generated in the analysis section of this plan as well as by the input received through a survey of leaders throughout the District. The Regional Analysis, the survey and previous CEDS have established some very broad goals for the District. These goals have then been looked at in terms of objectives that when achieved will help in attaining the goals.

These goals, resulting from establishment of needs, pertain to a wide variety of issues in the region. The issues range from the very broad, economic improvement, to the very specific, construction of I-69 and connectors. The broad goals and objectives, while they may not specifically state a strategic finding, are designed to address these findings. All of these goals and objectives should work hand in hand to improve the region. The items addressed in this section of the document should be considered the “road map” for South Delta Planning and Development District for the next five years.

**Goal: Attract new private sector investment to the region while retaining and expanding existing business.**

- Focus on and encourage downtown development
- Encourage the development of tourism based business, capitalizing on the cultural history of the area as well as the outdoor recreational opportunities
- Focus on development of regional, large-scale industrial sites
- Continue efforts to expand and improve ports along the Mississippi River



- Continue implementation of economic development
- Assist local developers in marketing of industrial parks and sites
- Coordinate financial resources for economic development projects
- Pursue funding for economic development based projects
- Continue to develop existing clusters
- Focus efforts on assisting business development related to the resurgence of agriculture and related industries

**Goal: Develop an ethically sound, well-trained and educated workforce**

- Encourage and assist in the development of employment opportunities in the private sector
- Coordinate activities and training needs with the Delta Workforce Investment Area
- Encourage the use of “One Stop” (WIN Job Centers)
- Encourage the development of partnerships between local schools and business leaders to emphasize the importance of education and training
- Continue to provide high quality training through the use of appropriate providers

**Goal: In order to enhance competitiveness in the realm of economic development, upgrade and maintain basic infrastructure**

- Continue efforts to assist in the location of I-69 within the District
- Seek funding for planning requirements and implementation of I-69 connector routes
- Continue to seek funds for the implementation of water, sewer, storm drainage and street improvement projects
- Assist communities in updating needs assessments

- Establish a geographic information system to maintain infrastructure records for member governments
- Encourage establishment of telecommunications infrastructure

**Goal: Improve the “quality of place” within the region to enhance competitiveness**

- Continue implementation of housing programs designed to improve quality of the housing stock
- Continue implementation of home buyer activities thus establishing pride of ownership as well as increasing tax base
- Seek funds for implementation of recreation projects
- Focus on downtown transportation enhancement programs
- Seek funds for construction of community centers and multi-purpose facilities
- Encourage the implementation of zoning ordinances
- Encourage the development of localized comprehensive plans
- Main Street Program participation should be encouraged
- Focus on maintaining and expanding health care facilities

# STRATEGIC PROJECTS, PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

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The following pages of this document provide a list of potential projects. These projects are based on the overall goals and objectives set forth on previous pages. The list includes very specific projects of a regional nature as well as rather broad projects based on the desires of individual communities. Some of the activities listed are in the beginning stages of implementation while others are still in the very early planning and development stage. Regardless of their status or range of benefit, all of these projects are important in one way or another to the South Delta Planning and Development District and its citizens.

Funding for these projects could come from a number of sources. Federal, state and local funds could be used for the implementation of these projects. Private sector funding may also be necessary for the larger projects. Federal sources could include but, are not limited to, Delta Regional Authority, Economic Development Administration, USDA Rural Development, HUD, Federal Highway Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency. State funds may come from the Mississippi Development Authority, Mississippi Emergency Management Agency, MS Department of Health, MS Department of Environmental Quality and the MS Department of Transportation.

	<u>Strategic Project, Program or Activity</u>	<u>Responsible Partners</u>	<u>Potential Funding</u>	<u>Estimated Job Creation</u>
<b>Regional</b>				
Vital	Design of I-69 Connectors	Bolivar County Washington Co.	Federal State Local	100+
Vital	Rebuild Railroad connecting Bolivar Co. to Washington Co.	Bolivar County Washington Co.	Federal State	50+
Vital	Reopen rail service to the east side of the State		Federal State Private	
Vital	Construct Grammy Museum Mississippi	Cleveland Bolivar Co.	Federal State Local Private	10 Direct 144+ Indirect
	Establishment of Revolving Loan Fund for Historic and/or Brownfield Properties	SDPDD Area	Federal State Local	
	Construction of I-69 Corridor	Federal Highway Administration	Federal	100-500
	Completion of Mississippi Blues Trail	MS Blues Commission	State	

	Open development ready land at the Port of Greenville	Greenville Washington Co. Port Commission	State Federal	25-100
	Open development ready land at the Port of Rosedale	Bolivar County Port Commission	State Federal	25-100
<b>Bolivar County</b>				
	Recreational Improvements All County Parks	Bolivar County	State	
	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Bolivar County	State	
Benoit	Sanitary Sewer System Improvements	Benoit	State Local	
	Construction of Town Maintenance Facility	Benoit	Local	
Beulah	Construction of new Town Hall/Fire Station	Beulah	Local State	
Merigold	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Merigold	State	
	Downtown Development	Merigold	Local State	
Mound Bayou	ADA upgrades and repairs to City Hall	Mound Bayou	Local State	

Mound Bayou	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Mound Bayou	State	
	Downtown Development	Mound Bayou	State Local	
	Water System Improvements	Mound Bayou	State Local	
Boyle	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Boyle	State	
Pace	Water & Sewer System Improvements	Pace	State	
	Renovate vacant school building for multi-purpose use	Pace Bolivar County	State Local	
Renova	Construction of Public Park & Playground	Renova	State Local	
Rosedale	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Rosedale	State	
	Construction of a Community Facility Building	Rosedale	State Local	
	Rehabilitation of Public Parks	Rosedale	State Local	
Shaw	Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements	Shaw	State Federal	
	Downtown Improvements (Sidewalks and Lighting)	Shaw	State Local	
Shelby	Industrial Facility Renovations	Shelby Bolivar County	State Federal	

	Downtown Improvements (Sidewalks and Lighting)	Shelby	State Local	
Winstonville	Sanitary Sewer System Improvements	Winstonville	State Federal	
	Construction of a Multi-purpose Building	Winstonville	State Local	

<b>Humphreys Co.</b>				
	Construction of Health and Human Services Complex	Humphreys County	State Federal Local	10-25
	Basketball Court Construction/Park Renovations	Humphreys County	State Local Federal	
Belzoni	Improve Public Tennis Courts	Belzoni	State Federal Local	
	Water/Sewer System Improvements	Belzoni	State Federal	
Louise	Install New Water Well	Louise	State Federal	
	Renovate Town Hall	Louise	State Local	

	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Louise	State	
<b>Issaquena County</b>				
	Provide Water To Unserved Areas	Issaquena County	State Federal	
	Construct Additions to County Courthouse	Issaquena County	State Local	
	Construct Multi-Purpose Facility	Issaquena County	State Local	
Mayersville	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Mayersville	State	

<b>Sharkey County</b>				
	Construct Five Basketball Courts	Sharkey County	State Local	
Anguilla	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Anguilla	State	
	Construction of a Multi-Purpose Facility	Anguilla	State Local	
	Renovate Industrial Facility	Anguilla	State Federal	
Rolling Fork	Water System Improvements	Rolling Fork	State Federal	



	Sanitary Sewer System Improvements	Rolling Fork	State Federal	
	Renovate Public Swimming Pool	Rolling Fork	Local Federal	
<b>Sunflower County</b>				
	Industrial Building Sale	Sunflower County	Local State	
	Street and Drainage Improvements	Sunflower County	Local State	
	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Sunflower County	State	
Drew	Sewer System Improvements	Drew	State	
	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Drew	State	
Indianola	Homebuyer Assistance	Indianola	State	
	Industrial Park Access Road	Indianola	State Federal Local Private	15
	Renovation of Neighborhood Parks	Indianola	Local	
	Sewer System Improvements	Indianola	State Local	
Inverness	Purchase Equipment for Fire Department	Inverness	State	
	Sewer System Improvements	Inverness	State	

Inverness	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Inverness	State	
	Street Improvements	Inverness	State Local	
Moorhead	Purchase Three Police Cars	Moorhead	Federal	
	Renovate City Hall	Moorhead	State Local	
	Street and Drainage Improvements	Moorhead	State Federal	
	Sewer System Improvements	Moorhead	State Federal	
	Construct Multi-Purpose Building	Moorhead	State Local	
	Renovate Baseball Facilities/Construct Walking Track	Moorhead	State Federal Local	
Ruleville	Street Improvements	Ruleville	State Federal	
	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Ruleville	State	
	Downtown Improvements (Sidewalks and Lighting)	Ruleville	State Local	
Sunflower	Street Improvements	Sunflower	State Federal	
	Construct Community Facility Building	Sunflower	State Federal	

	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Sunflower	State	
	Renovate Public Park	Sunflower	State Federal Local	

Sunflower	Downtown Improvements (Sidewalks and Lighting)	Sunflower	State Local	
<b>Washington Co.</b>				
	Renovate Buildings for Economic Development Purposes	Washington County	State Local Federal	
	Construct Multi-Family Housing	Washington County	State Federal	
Arcola	Downtown Improvements (Sidewalks and Lighting)	Arcola	State Local	
	Construct Indoor Recreation Facility	Arcola	State Local	
	Renovate Public Bldg. For Community Resource Center	Arcola	State Local	
Greenville	Rehabilitate Historic Area of Downtown	Greenville	State Local Federal	25-100
	Neighborhood Park Improvements	Greenville	State Local	

	Reconstruction of Major Traffic Arteries	Greenville	State	
Hollandale	Purchase Equipment for Fire Department	Hollandale	State Federal	
	Street Improvements	Hollandale	Federal State	
Leland	Owner Occupied Housing Rehabilitation	Leland	State	
	Construction of Indoor Recreational Facility	Leland	Local State	

# ACTION PLAN

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Design of I-69 Connectors	Construction costs unknown – location to be established	Strategic Finding- Transportation Improvement for Easier Access	Feasibility Study and Environmental Study Phase
The City of Greenville has commissioned studies for the purpose of reviewing alternate routes to I-69. Upon finalization of route selection, South Delta will assist in obtaining funding for the construction of the connector.			
Rebuild Rail from Bolivar Co. To Washington County	\$5,000,000 EDA \$1,000,000 State \$1,000,000 Federal \$3,000,000	Strategic Finding-  Transportation Improvement for Easier Access	Seeking Funding
Bolivar County and the Port Commission, owner of the railroad, have obtained a preliminary cost estimate for the rehabilitation of the rails. South Delta has made initial contact with potential funding sources.			
Establish RLF for Historic/Brownfield Property Redevelopment	Construction costs unknown	Strategic Finding- Enhanced Quality of Place, Employment Opportunity	Preliminary costs estimate preparation/Seeking Funding
South Delta is currently seeking cost information and funding opportunities.			
Grammy Museum Mississippi	\$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000	Strategic Finding- Employment Opportunity, Enhanced Quality of Place	Seeking Funding
South Delta will prepare applications and act as the administrative agency for the project infrastructure. The City of Cleveland, the Cleveland Music Foundation and Delta State University are sponsors of the project.			

# PERFORMANCE MEASURES

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Any “plan of action” to be successful must produce positive results. The evaluation process for this plan must be the measurement of the economic conditions that it has prioritized.

An analysis of economic indicators will attest to improvements in the area economy or a continuation of the downside. Statistics are cold, hard facts. They are not infallible but they do measure in the same manner and the same factors every time. Success or failure can be measured by analysis of:

- Unemployment figures
- Gain or loss of jobs
- Diversification of employment
- Population out migration or growth
- Health care statistics
- Area tax base statistics
- Housing analysis

As indicators change, the plan will need to be flexible and adjustable. Elimination of some problems will allow other problems to increase in priority. As goals are reached, new goals must be established. Although goals are accomplished, the aim of this plan will not be reached until “the bottom

is at the top". Success will be measured in "degrees of accomplishment, not by the elimination of goals".

It is a basic axiom in sociology that one's interests determine one's ideologies. The Delta is no exception. Economic and social interests play a large part in perceptions of economic development, with each group proposing models that are supportive of its own perceived interests.

Despite these differences, there are also commonalities. All groups list economic development as a major priority, feel that interracial communication is important in achieving this goal, and that this communication has improved. A number of models of development are needed for a region like the Delta. However, the actualization of any type of development needs planning and communication to enhance the process. A commitment to economic development and recognition of the need for interracial communication exists among all leadership groups. These commonalities represent the hope of the future for this region.

<b>GEOGRAPHIC POPULATION DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTY</b>		
<b>REGION</b>	<b>LAND AREA (SQUARE MILE)</b>	<b>POPULATION PER SQUARE MILE</b>
South Delta PDD	3,552.9	36.7
Mississippi	46,907.0	63.2
Counties:		
Bolivar	876.3	38.9
Humphreys	418.1	22.4
Issaquena	413.0	3.4
Sharkey	427.7	11.5
Sunflower	693.8	42.4
Washington	724.0	70.6
<b>SOURCE:</b>		
U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.		



**POPULATION TREND PERCENT CHANGE BY URBAN PLACE - 1960 - 2010**

REGION	1960	% CHANGE	1970	% CHANGE	1980	% CHANGE	1990	% CHANGE	2000	% CHANGE	2010
<b>Bolivar Co.</b>											
Alligator	227	23.4	280	-8.5	256	-26.95	187	17.65	220	-5.45	208
Benoit	453	4.4	473	8.6	499	28.46	641	-4.68	611	-21.93	477
Beulah	421	5.2	443	-2.7	431	6.73	460	2.83	473	-26.43	348
Boyle	848	1.5	861	3.1	888	-26.69	651	10.6	720	-9.72	650
Cleveland	10,172	31	13,327	9	14,524	5.92	15,384	-10.03	13,841	-10.89	12,334
Duncan	465	28.8	599	-16.4	501	-16.97	416	38.94	578	-26.82	423
Gunnison	448	21.7	545	29.9	708	-13.7	611	3.6	633	-28.59	452
Merigold	602	28.2	772	-25.7	574	-0.35	572	16.08	664	-33.89	439
Mound Bayou	1,354	57.6	2,134	36.7	2,917	-23.83	2,222	-5.4	2,102	-27.07	1,533
Pace	420	49.8	629	-17.5	519	-31.79	354	2.82	364	-24.73	274
Renova			0		659	-3.49	636	-2.04	623	7.22	668
Rosedale	2,339	11.1	2,599	7.5	2,793	-7.09	2,595	-6.97	2,414	-22.41	1,873
Shaw	2,062	21.8	2,512	-20.3	2,461	-4.55	2,349	-1.58	2,312	-15.57	1,952
Shelby	2,384	10.9	2,645	-4	2,540	10.47	2,806	4.28	2,926	-23.82	2,229
Winstonville	327	63.9	536	-9.3	486	-43	277	15.16	319	-40.13	191
<b>Humphreys Co.</b>											
Belzoni	4,142	-18	3,394	-12.1	2,982	-14.96	2,536	5.01	2,663	-16.07	2,235
Isola	532	-13.9	458	82.1	834	-12.23	732	4.92	768	-7.16	713
Louise	481	-7.7	444	-9.9	400	-14.25	343	-8.16	315	-36.83	199
Silver City	431	-14.2	370	2.1	378	-7.94	348	-3.16	337	0	337
<b>Issaquena Co.</b>											
Mayersville					378	-13.23	328	142.38	795	-31.19	547
<b>Sharkey Co.</b>											
Anguilla	580	5.5	612	55.2	950	-7.05	883	2.72	907	-19.96	726
Cary	428	20.8	517	9.1	470	-16.6	392	8.93	427	-26.7	313
Rolling Fork	1,619	25.6	2,034	27.3	2,590	-5.64	2,444	1.72	2,486	-13.8	2,143
<b>Sunflower Co.</b>											
Doddsville	190	45.3	276	-15.9	232	-35.78	149	-27.52	108	-9.26	98
Drew	2,143	20.1	2,574	-1.8	2,528	-7.08	2,349	3.62	2,434	-20.83	1,927
Indianola	6,714	33.3	8,947	-8.8	8,221	43.64	11,809	2.18	12,066	-11.46	10,683
Inverness	1,039	7.7	1,119	-7.6	1,034	13.54	1,174	-1.79	1,153	-11.62	1,019
Moorhead	1,754	30.2	2,284	3.2	2,358	2.5	2,417	6.45	2,573	-6.53	2,405
Ruleville	1,902	23.6	2,351	41.7	3,332	-2.61	3,245	-0.34	3,234	-7.02	3,007
Sunflower	662	48.5	983	4.5	1,027	-29.02	729	-4.53	696	66.52	1,159
<b>Washington Co.</b>											
Arcola	366	41.3	517	13.7	588	-4.08	564	-0.18	563	-35.88	361
Greenville	41,502	1.2	42,009	-3.3	40,613	11.36	45,226	-7.94	41,633	-17.37	34,400
Hollandale	2,646	23.2	3,260	33	4,336	-17.53	3,576	-3.89	3,437	-21.38	2,702
Leland	6,295	-4.7	6,000	11.1	6,667	-4.53	6,365	-13.56	5,502	-18.56	4,481
Metcalfe					952	14.71	1,092	1.56	1,109	-3.79	1,067

SOURCE:  
U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010

**POPULATION TRENDS PERCENT CHANGE, 1960 - 2010  
(2015 THROUGH 2025 PROJECTED POPULATION CHANGE)**

	1960	% CHANGE	1970	% CHANGE	1980	% CHANGE	1990	% CHANGE	2000
South Delta PDD	212,259	-13.6	183,312	-3.1	177,561	-7.8	163,786	-3.5	158,039
Mississippi (000)	2,178	1.8	2,217	13.7	2,520	2.1	2,573	10.5	2,844
Counties									
Bolivar	54,464	-9.3	49,409	-7.0	45,965	-8.9	41,875	-3.0	40,633
Humphreys	19,093	-23.5	14,601	-4.6	13,931	-12.9	12,134	-7.6	11,206
Issaquena	3,576	-23.5	2,737	-8.2	2,513	-24.0	1,909	19.1	2,274
Sharkey	10,738	-16.8	8,937	-10.9	7,964	-11.3	7,066	-6.9	6,580
Sunflower	45,750	-19.0	37,047	-5.9	34,844	-5.6	32,867	-4.6	34,369
Washington	78,638	-10.2	70,581	2.5	72,344	-6.1	67,935	-7.3	62,977

	2000	% CHANGE	2010	% CHANGE	2015P	% CHANGE	2020P	% CHANGE	2025P
South Delta PDD	158,039	-17.47%	130,429	-7.28%	120,933	-6.10%	113,553	-4.47%	108,475
Mississippi (000)	2,844	4.32%	2,967	3.40%	3,068	2.87%	3,156	2.25%	3,227
Counties									
Bolivar	40,633	-15.97%	34,145	-4.59%	32,579	-4.04%	31,262	-2.94%	30,344
Humphreys	11,206	-16.34%	9,375	-8.55%	8,573	-7.65%	7,917	-5.66%	7,469
Issaquena	2,274	-38.17%	1,406	-25.46%	1,048	2.86%	1,078	5.75%	1,140
Sharkey	6,580	-25.29%	4,916	-13.97%	4,229	-13.67%	3,651	-11.97%	3,214
Sunflower	34,369	-14.31%	29,450	-6.77%	27,456	-6.13%	25,772	-4.49%	24,615
Washington	62,977	-18.80%	51,137	-8.00%	47,048	-6.75%	43,873	-4.97%	41,693

P = Projections

SOURCE:

- U. S. Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Mississippi 1960-90.
- U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.
- U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010
- Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning, Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi Population Projections 2015, 2020, and 2025.

**POPULATION TRENDS PERCENT CHANGE (NON-WHITE POPULATION) 1960 - 2010  
(2015 - 2025 PROJECTIONS)**

	1960	% CHANGE	1970	% CHANGE	1980	% CHANGE	1990	% CHANGE	2000
South Delta PDD	134,588	-18.3	109,893	-2.2	107,379	-5.4	101,552	5.3	106,913
Counties									
Bolivar	36,943	-17.0	30,659	-5.4	28,979	-8.2	26,616	1.3	26,974
Humphreys	13,335	-28.7	9,512	-3.1	9,213	-10.2	8,269	-1.5	8,143
Issaquena	2,400	-29.0	1,704	-17.5	1,406	-23.5	1,076	-33.6	1,437
Sharkey	7,491	-22.4	5,812	-9.4	5,264	-10.2	4,727	-2.2	4,621
Sunflower	31,020	-24.5	23,428	-7.0	21,792	-2.4	21,263	14.7	24,390
Washington	43,399	-10.6	38,778	5.0	40,725	-2.8	39,601	4.4	41,348

	2000	% CHANGE	2010	% CHANGE	2015P	% CHANGE	2020P	% CHANGE	2025P
South Delta PDD	106,913	-12.41%	93,647	-5.18%	88,793	-3.93%	85,300	-2.41%	83,247
Counties									
Bolivar	26,974	-15.85%	22,699	-2.23%	22,192	-1.76%	21,802	-0.95%	21,595
Humphreys	8,143	-11.92%	7,172	-6.58%	6,700	-5.67%	6,320	-3.66%	6,089
Issaquena	1,437	-35.98%	920	-23.59%	703	8.11%	760	8.55%	825
Sharkey	4,621	-23.26%	3,546	-13.99%	3,050	-12.72%	2,662	-11.68%	2,351
Sunflower	24,390	-9.98%	21,957	-4.60%	20,947	-4.09%	20,091	-2.52%	19,585
Washington	41,348	-9.66%	37,353	-5.76%	35,201	-4.36%	33,665	-2.56%	32,802

P = Projections

**SOURCE:**

U. S. Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Mississippi 1960-2000.  
 U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.  
 Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning, Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi  
 Population Projections 2015, 2020, and 2025.

**POPULATION TRENDS (NON-WHITE PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL POPULATION) - 1960 - 2010  
(2015, 2020, 2025 PROJECTIONS)**

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015P	2020P	2025P
South Delta PDD	63.4	59.9	60.5	62.0	67.6	71.7	73.4	75.1	76.7
Counties									
Bolivar	67.8	62.1	63.0	63.6	66.3	66.4	68.1	69.7	71.1
Humphreys	69.8	65.2	66.1	68.1	72.7	76.5	78.2	79.8	81.5
Issaquena	67.1	65.3	55.9	56.4	63.2	65.4	67.1	70.5	72.4
Sharkey	69.8	65.0	66.1	66.9	70.2	72.1	72.1	72.9	73.1
Sunflower	67.8	63.2	62.5	64.7	71.0	74.6	76.3	77.9	79.6
Washington	55.2	54.9	56.3	58.3	65.7	73.0	74.8	76.7	78.7

P = Projections

**SOURCE:**

U. S. Census of Population, General Population Characteristics, Mississippi, 1960-90.

U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

U. S. Census Bureau, 2010.

Mississippi State Institutions of Higher Learning, Center for Policy Research and Planning, Mississippi Population Projections  
2015, 2020, and 2025

**AGE, RACE (WHITE/NON-WHITE) AND SEX DISTRIBUTION, 2010**

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>BOLIVAR</b>									
Total Population	34,145	9,897	29.0%	9,456	27.7%	8,667	25.4%	6,125	17.9%
Male	15,876	4,861	30.6%	4,532	28.5%	3,952	24.9%	2,531	15.9%
Female	18,269	5,036	27.6%	4,924	27.0%	4,715	25.8%	3,594	19.7%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>HUMPHREYS</b>									
Total Population	9,375	2,971	31.7%	2,263	24.1%	2,503	26.7%	1,638	17.5%
Male	4,390	1,536	35.0%	1,041	23.7%	1,142	26.0%	671	15.3%
Female	4,985	1,435	28.8%	1,222	24.5%	1,361	27.3%	967	19.4%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>ISSAQUENA</b>									
Total Population	1,406	337	24.0%	396	28.2%	402	28.6%	271	19.3%
Male	816	200	24.5%	267	32.7%	224	27.5%	125	15.3%
Female	590	137	23.2%	129	21.9%	178	30.2%	146	24.7%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>SHARKEY</b>									
Total Population	4,916	1,390	28.3%	1,094	22.3%	1,428	29.0%	1,004	20.4%
Male	2,251	677	30.1%	506	22.5%	631	28.0%	437	19.4%
Female	2,665	713	26.8%	588	22.1%	797	29.9%	567	21.3%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>SUNFLOWER</b>									
Total Population	29,450	8,214	27.9%	9,004	30.6%	7,936	26.9%	4,296	14.6%
Male	15,726	4,181	26.6%	5,422	34.5%	4,323	27.5%	1,800	11.4%
Female	13,724	4,033	29.4%	3,582	26.1%	3,613	26.3%	2,496	18.2%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>WASHINGTON</b>									
Total Population	51,137	15,868	31.0%	12,401	24.3%	13,809	27.0%	9,059	17.7%
Male	23,803	8,084	34.0%	5,638	23.7%	6,287	26.4%	3,794	15.9%
Female	27,334	7,784	28.5%	6,763	24.7%	7,522	27.5%	5,265	19.3%

**AGE, RACE (WHITE/NON-WHITE) AND SEX DISTRIBUTION, 2010**

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>SOUTH DELTA PDD</b>									
Total Population	130,429	38,677	29.7%	34,614	26.5%	34,745	26.6%	22,393	17.2%
Male	62,862	19,539	31.1%	17,406	27.7%	16,559	26.3%	9,358	14.9%
Female	67,567	19,138	28.3%	17,208	25.5%	18,186	26.9%	13,035	19.3%

COUNTY	TOTAL POPULATION	0-19 YEARS		20-39 YEARS		40-59 YEARS		60 AND OVER	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>MISSISSIPPI (000)</b>									
Total Population	2,967	849	28.6%	786	26.5%	791	26.7%	541	18.2%
<b>UNITED STATES (000)</b>									
Total Population	308,746	83,268	27.0%	82,830	26.8%	85,562	27.7%	57,086	18.5%

**SOURCE:**

U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

**LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION - 2010**

REGION	POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER			LABOR FORCE			PARTICIPATION RATE %		
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
South Delta PDD	102,600	48,755	53,845	55,624	26,988	28,636	54.2%	55.4%	53.2%
Mississippi	2,274,381	1,086,103	1,188,278	1,345,154	694,551	650,603	59.1%	63.9%	54.8%
United States (000)	238,734	116,032	122,702	154,037	81,323	72,714	64.5%	70.1%	59.3%
Counties:									
Bolivar	27,125	12,365	14,760	15,681	7,604	8,077	57.8%	61.5%	54.7%
Humphreys	7,140	3,208	3,932	3,756	1,751	2,005	52.6%	54.6%	51.0%
Issaquena	1,414	719	695	729	430	299	51.6%	59.8%	43.0%
Sharkey	3,766	1,801	1,965	2,149	1,101	1,048	57.1%	61.1%	53.3%
Sunflower	23,864	13,021	10,843	10,390	4,830	5,560	43.5%	37.1%	51.3%
Washington	39,291	17,641	21,650	22,919	11,272	11,647	58.3%	63.9%	53.8%

SOURCE:  
U. S. Census Bureau, 2010





**NON-WHITE LABOR FORCE PARTICIPATION - 2011 Annual Average**

REGION	POPULATION 16 YEARS AND OVER			LABOR FORCE			PARTICIPATION RATE %		
	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
South Delta PDD	63,740	29,700	34,040	36,390	16,080	20,310	57.1%	54.1%	59.7%
Mississippi	793,450	362,380	431,070	508,491	228,135	280,356	64.1%	63.0%	65.0%
Counties:									
Bolivar	16,300	7,180	9,120	9,473	4,133	5,340	58.1%	57.6%	58.6%
Humphreys	4,800	2,070	2,730	3,001	1,279	1,722	62.5%	61.8%	63.1%
Issaquena	700	400	300	308	153	155	44.0%	38.3%	51.7%
Sharkey	2,540	1,150	1,390	1,665	810	855	65.6%	70.4%	61.5%
Sunflower	15,740	8,660	7,080	7,276	3,032	4,244	46.2%	35.0%	59.9%
Washington	23,660	10,240	13,420	14,667	6,673	7,994	62.0%	65.2%	59.6%

**SOURCE:**

2012 Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information.  
U. S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS, 1970 - 2011**

REGION	UNEMPLOYED-1970		UNEMPLOYED-1980		UNEMPLOYED-1990		UNEMPLOYED-2000		UNEMPLOYED-2011	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
South Delta PDD	4,696	8.1	5,904	9.5	6,550	11.0	8,075	13.1	7,920	14.2
Mississippi	37,539	5.0	72,168	7.1	88,000	7.4	93,778	7.4	140,500	10.5
United States (000)	4,088	4.9	7,637	7.1	6,874	5.4	7,947	5.8	13,393	8.7
Counties:										
Bolivar	1,446	9.4	1,618	10.3	1,350	8.9	2,517	15.1	1,820	11.6
Humphreys	192	4.6	740	14.0	410	8.8	470	11.4	680	16.1
Issaquena	40	5.1	70	7.8	100	12.8	110	13.5	120	17.6
Sharkey	337	12.2	183	7.5	370	14.9	374	14.5	320	13.2
Sunflower	884	7.9	1,062	9.1	1,460	9.7	1,530	12.9	1,710	16.2
Washington	1,797	7.6	2,231	8.2	2,860	10.7	3,074	11.9	3,500	15.6

**SOURCE:**

U. S. Census, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi, 1960-1980.  
 Mississippi Statistical Abstract 1991 and 2006.  
 2012 Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information.  
 Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2007.

**NON-WHITE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE TRENDS, 1970 - 2011**

REGION	UNEMPLOYED-1970		UNEMPLOYED-1980		UNEMPLOYED-1990		UNEMPLOYED-2000		UNEMPLOYED-2011	
	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%	NUMBER	%
South Delta PDD	3,581	13.3	4,498	14.7	5,250	17.5	5,630	16.3	5,643	16.8
Mississippi	19,327	8.6	37,436	12.8	46,460	13.2	43,800	10.9	58,520	13.1
United States (000)	566	7.1	16,553	14.3	1,527	11.3	1,269	7.6	3,300	11.2
Counties:										
Bolivar	1,146	15.5	1,368	16.7	1,140	14.5	1,250	13.8	1,212	13.9
Humphreys	130	6.1	436	18.8	380	15.5	520	16.2	422	14.5
Issaquena	35	9.3	44	12.9	60	18.2	80	22.9	79	19.9
Sharkey	269	18.7	157	11.8	320	22.5	320	21.9	304	19.5
Sunflower	645	12.6	897	15.0	1,230	15.8	1,090	16.9	1,044	14.9
Washington	1,356	12.8	1,596	12.8	2,120	16.4	2,370	17.0	2,582	18.3

**SOURCE:**

U. S. Census, General Social and Economic Characteristics, Mississippi, 1960-1980.  
 Mississippi Statistical Abstract 1991 and 2001.  
 Statistical Abstract of the United States: 2001 and 2007.  
 2012 Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Labor Market Information

**INDUSTRIAL PARKS - SOUTH DELTA PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, INC.**

NAME	ACRES TOT/BAL.	FIRE PROTECTION	WATER	SEWER	GAS	RAIL	BARGE	DISTANCE COMMUNITY AIRPORT
Cleveland Ind. Park	200/130	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	20 mi.	4 mi.
Greenpointe Ind. Park	450/450	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	1 mi.	18 mi.
Greenville Airport	2017/894	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	10 mi.	On Site
Greenville Port	945/450	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	On Site	10 mi.
Greenville Ind. Park	250/250	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	4 mi.	3 mi.
NE Greenville Ind. Park	370/250	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1 mi.	3 mi.
Humphreys County	58/30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	35 mi.	3 mi.
Hollandale	42/18	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1 mi.	15 mi.	1 mi.
Indianola	100/46	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	28 mi.	4 mi.
Indianola Airport	80/65	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3 mi.	26 mi.	On Site
Issaquena Co. Ind. Park	15/10	Yes	Yes	Yes	4.5 mi.	No	2 mi.	35 mi.
Rolling Fork	22/9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	30 mi.	43 mi.	20 mi.
Rosedale Harbor	1200/1123	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	On Site	19 mi.
Rosedale Ind. Park	270/250	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	On Site	1 mi.	19 mi.
Shelby Industrial Park	40/40	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	14 mi.	35 mi.	15 mi.

SOURCE:

Mississippi Development Authority