

Mississippi

Mississippi has both deep-draft and shallow-draft navigation within and along its borders ([see map](#)). The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway along the southern border of the state is an important waterway connecting the Gulf states from Texas to Florida. The Gulf ports of Biloxi, Pascagoula and Gulfport combined to ship and receive more than 39 million tons. The western border of Mississippi is 411 miles of the Lower Mississippi River (miles 305-715). The Yazoo River, a tributary of the Mississippi carries a small amount of fertilizer and grain. The state also contains most of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, a relatively new alternate route for commodities moving to and from the world markets using the port of Mobile, Alabama. Mississippi also borders 1 mile (mile 214) of the Tennessee River.

In 2008, 53 million tons of commodities (mostly petroleum, chemicals, aggregates and grain) moved to, from, and within Mississippi. These commodities had a combined value of \$13.4 billion. These tonnages and values include foreign shipments and receipts.



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Waterways Council, Inc. is the national public policy organization advocating a modern and well-maintained national system of ports and inland waterways.

Mississippi 2008 Tonnage by Commodity Groups					
Shipped From, To and Within the State					
<i>(values in millions of dollars)</i>					
Commodity	Shipped	Received	Within	Total	Value
Coal	**	2,870,530	**	2,907,700	\$113
Petroleum	10,722,239	5,155,459	143,160	16,307,178	\$2,005
Aggregates	**	4,152,118	**	4,153,618	\$1,128
Grain	3,636,965	106,308	**	3,756,407	\$689
Chemicals	1,414,178	1,613,073	30,045	3,117,386	\$1,852
Ores/Minerals	**	694,599	0	694,559	\$118
Iron/Steel	351,572	878,223	32,675	1,327,820	\$952
Other	2,794,272	17,702,565	120,709	20,738,255	\$6,346
TOTAL	18,759,847	33,172,875	371,826	52,304,548	\$13,203
<i>** Insufficient barge operators to release this tonnage – included in "Other Commodities"</i>					
<i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i>					

An analysis of the waterborne commerce data for the State of Mississippi shows almost 19 million tons of commodities were shipped on the river system out of the state. About 5.4 million of these tons were shipped to foreign countries. A sizeable portion of this tonnage (almost 11 million tons) consisted of petroleum products. Docks in the state received almost 33.2 million tons, with petroleum being the largest commodity. 20.5 million tons were shipped from foreign countries. Over 370 thousand tons moved within the state. In 2008, the 52 million tons shipped to, from and within Mississippi were worth \$13.2 billion.

2008 Mississippi Waterborne Commerce							
Shipped to and from Other States and Countries							
<i>(tonnage in thousands of tons; values in millions of dollars)</i>							
Shipments	Commodity			Shipments	Commodity		
To	Tons	Value	Top	From	Tons	Value	Top
Foreign Ports	5,395	\$2,938	Petroleum	Foreign Ports	20,488	\$4,500	Crude Petroleum
Louisiana	4,928	\$1,280	Grain	Alabama	3,980	\$550	Coal
Florida	4,339	\$640	Petroleum	Louisiana	3,771	\$820	Petroleum
Texas	1,402	\$580	Petroleum	Kentucky	1,447	\$139	Aggregates
Alabama	1,001	\$177	Other	Missouri	872	\$102	Aggregates

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics

Mississippi docks shipped commodities by barge to 27 states and foreign countries, and received commodities from 16 states, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, and foreign countries ([see map](#)). The leading state shipped to was Louisiana, with almost 5 million tons and a value of over \$1,280 million, with Grain being the primary commodity. The leading state shipping by barge to Mississippi was Alabama, which shipped over 3.9 million tons, with coal being the primary commodity.

There are approximately 133 manufacturing facilities, terminals, and docks on the waterways of Mississippi that shipped and received tonnage in 2008.

There are no locks located on the Mississippi River in the state of Mississippi.

Mississippi has eight locks on the Tennessee–Tombigbee Waterway, a project that was completed in 1985. The Tenn-Tom makes direct navigation possible between the Ohio River Basin and the Gulf of Mexico by connecting the Tennessee River to the Black Warrior-Tombigbee river system. Mississippi contains or borders the upper 139 miles of the 234 mile waterway.

Mississippi contains three ports on the Gulf of Mexico. Pascagoula is a major port for the receipt of petroleum products such as gasoline and other petroleum products. The port includes Bayou Casotte. Gulfport docks receive food products as its top commodity. Biloxi docks do not handle foreign traffic but receives mainly coal from Alabama and aggregates from Alabama and Kentucky. On the Mississippi River, Vicksburg received crude petroleum transloaded into barges. Natchez handled commodities such as aggregates, grains and cement. Movements in and out of Greenville were mostly to and from Louisiana, with grains such as soybeans and rice shipped from Greenville and petroleum products, aggregates and chemicals coming in. The port of Rosedale Harbor includes Lower Mississippi River miles 585-590 and shipped grains such as soybeans to Louisiana and received mostly chemicals.

Major Mississippi Ports – 2008 Waterborne Commerce						
<i>(tons in thousands; values in millions)</i>						
Port	Tons				Commodity	
	Total	Domestic	Foreign		Value	Top
			Imports	Exports		
Biloxi	3,508	3,508	0	0	\$234	Coal
Gulfport	2,143	43	1,453	648	\$3,087	Food Products
Pascagoula	33,591	9,453	19,063	5,075	\$6,421	Petroleum Prod
Natchez	499	499	0	0	\$388	Grain
Vicksburg	3,550	3,550	0	0	\$583	Crude Petroleum
Greenville	3,018	3,018	0	0	\$675	Grain
Rosedale Harbor	778	778	0	0	\$177	Grain
<i>Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterborne Commerce Statistics</i>						
<i>* - Domestic Commodity Traffic Only</i>						

