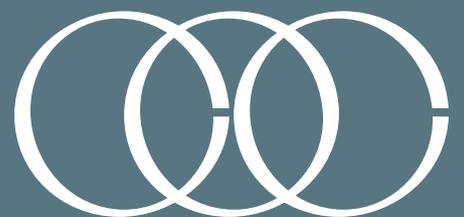




# Guide to Mobile

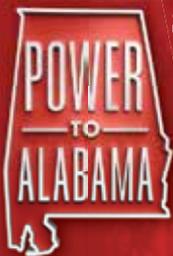
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# Guide to Mobile

Founded in 1702, Mobile is one of America’s oldest cities. The photo above shows towers from four centuries of Mobile buildings: the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Fort Condé, the white cupola atop the 19<sup>th</sup>-century Old City Hall, the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel and the 21<sup>st</sup>-century RSA Battle House Tower.

Known for its streets lined with massive live oaks, Mobile is a picturesque city at the mouth of the Mobile River at Mobile Bay, leading to the Gulf of Mexico. In 30 minutes you can be on the sandy-white beaches of Dauphin Island, yet the mountains of northern Alabama are only hours away. Mobile's diversity is mirrored in a plethora of activities – from the Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo to freshwater fishing, baseball to football, museums to the modern IMAX Dome Theater, tee time on the course to tea time at a historic plantation home, world-renowned Bellingrath Gardens to the Battleship USS ALABAMA, Dauphin Island Sailboat Regatta to greyhound racing, Mardi Gras to the Christmas parade of boats along Dog River. Mobile is a great place to live and work.

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**MOBILE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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www.mobilechamber.com**

# Cool Stuff to Know about Mobile

## It's Mo-beel!

The city's name is pronounced "mo-beel," (with a soft emphasis on the second syllable). The name was given by the French and comes from the Maubilla Indians.



## Mobile-Tensaw River Delta

The Mobile-Tensaw River Delta, the second-largest river delta in the U.S., covers more than 260,000 acres of water, swamps, river bottoms and marshes perfect for exploring, fishing, hunting, boating, canoeing and birding. Designated by the U.S. Congress as a National Natural Landmark, the area is rich in diverse wildlife.

## Inspiring Heights

The RSA Battle House Tower is Alabama's tallest building and the tallest building on the entire Gulf Coast outside of Houston.



## Climate for Sports

From baseball to golf to fishing, Mobile has almost every sporting option and a mild climate for yearlong enjoyment. Regional golf is among the nation's finest, with more than 25 courses.

## Three Centuries of Progress

Founded in 1702, Mobile is one of the oldest U.S. cities. Six different flags have flown over the city: French, Spanish, British, Republic of Alabama, Confederacy and United States of America.

Mobile's cost of living is consistently one of the lowest of the 80 mid-size U.S. metropolitan areas.

## Learn More

Mobile has three major universities – one public, **University of South Alabama**; one private Jesuit, **Spring Hill College**; and one private Southern Baptist institution, **University of Mobile**. The **Mobile County Public School System** is the largest public school system in the state and one of the 50 most populous in the country.



## Under a Canopy of Live Oaks

Mobile is known for its miles of streets canopied by majestic live oaks. The city's oldest living resident, the Duffee Oak, is a massive 300-year-old oak tree and is one of 3,000 live oaks in Mobile more than 100 years old.

## Throw Me Something, Mister!

Mobile is the birthplace of Mardi Gras in the U.S. The first masked carnival society paraded through downtown streets in 1830. Now more than 50 parading and non-parading societies maintain the city's Mardi Gras traditions, including three weeks of parades, balls and pageantry.



Library of Congress photos

# Mobile by the Numbers

## Mobile Bay Region

Mobile and Baldwin counties

Total Land Area: 2,828 square miles

Population: 609,619 (2013 U.S. Census, est.)

The Mobile Bay region is located in southwest Alabama at the head of Mobile Bay. The region includes Mobile and Baldwin counties and covers an area of 2,828 square miles, with the city of Mobile as the dominant urban area.



## Climate

Mobile's mild, semi-tropical climate makes outdoor activities enjoyable year-round. Thanks to the Gulf of Mexico air, summers are consistently warm and the winters are mild. The Mobile area has approximately 219 days of sunshine every year. That makes it sunny 60 percent of the year.

Clear Days .....	103
Partly Cloudy Days.....	116
Annual Average Temperature .....	67.1
Coldest Month – January Average.....	50.4
Warmest Month – July Average .....	82.1
Annual Average Rainfall (inches).....	63.9
Annual Average Snow .....	0
Prevailing Wind Direction .....	North

## Mobile's Population

Mobile is the largest Gulf Coast city between New Orleans and Tampa and is ranked 120<sup>th</sup> in the nation.

	2013 (est.)	2000 Census	1990	1980
City	194,899	198,915	199,973	202,479
County	414,079	399,843	378,643	364,980
Mobile Bay Area (Mobile and Baldwin counties)	609,619	540,258	476,923	443,536

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2013

## Median Household Income

City of Mobile.....	\$42,624
Mobile County.....	\$41,867
Mobile Bay Area.....	\$46,005

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2012

## Demographics

With a 2013 estimated Census population of 609,619, the Mobile Bay region is Alabama's second-largest metro area. Mobile County, the second-largest county in the state, has 414,079 residents. Baldwin County's population is 190,790 and has increased more than 30 percent from 2000 to 2010, making it one of the fastest-growing counties in Alabama. The population for the city of Mobile is 194,899. The Mobile Bay area population is 66 percent Caucasian, 27 percent African-American, 3.5 percent Hispanic, 1.5 percent Asian-American and 2.0 percent other races. Almost 29 percent of the population is under the age of 19.

Since 2004, Mobile's economic development efforts have garnered \$8.5 billion in capital investment and more than 16,345 jobs with an average annual salary of \$50,043.

## About Mobile's Business Community

As the region's lead economic developer, the Mobile Area Chamber and its coalition of public and private investors recruited 39 new businesses and 77 expansions at existing companies since 2004. These efforts garnered \$8.5 billion in capital investment and more than 16,345 jobs with an average annual salary of \$50,043 (since 2004).

## International Business

Mobile has been a player in global commerce since its development as a port more than 313 years ago. Today, the world plays an even greater role. From Austal to AM/NS Calvert to Airbus, much of Mobile's big development news involves international investment. Airbus is nearing completion on its first assembly line in the Americas at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.



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# Business

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Thigpen Photography

*Austal USA is Mobile's largest manufacturing employer with more than 4,200 employees, working on military contracts of \$5.1 billion.*

Founded in 1702 as a French colonial port, Mobile has a rich and colorful international history. But it's also a fast-growing, modern community with an eye on the future.

The city captured the global business spotlight recently when Airbus selected Mobile for its only aircraft assembly site in the western hemisphere. Construction is almost complete on this \$600 million project, and the first deliveries are expected in 2016.

The \$5.2 billion AM/NS Calvert and Outokumpu Stainless USA plants are operating north of Mobile. SSAB Americas steel plant completed a \$220 million expansion adding 137 jobs. On the waterfront, Austal USA has expanded to more than 4,200 employees working on military contracts of \$5.1 billion.

These are only a few of the developments moving Mobile's economy. The following information provides an overview of the area's economic diversity and recent growth.

## Services

The service sector is Mobile's highest-growth sector. Eighty-three percent of the workforce is employed in the service industry, with most of them in trade, transportation, distribution and government sectors.

## Banking

There are a number of sound financial institutions, both old and new, helping with business growth and the security of Mobile's financial future. The Mobile Bay region's largest banks are BB&T, BBVA Compass Bank, Hancock Bank, PNC Bank, Regions Bank and Wells Fargo. Other banks include BancorpSouth, Bank of the Ozarks, Century Bank, Coastal Bank and Trust, Commonwealth National Bank, Community Bank, First Community Bank, iBERIABANK, Merchants Bank, SB&T Bank, ServisFirst Bank and Trustmark National Bank. In Mobile and Baldwin counties, these banks have more than 160 branches. The region also has more than 18 credit unions.

## Healthcare

Mobile is a regional center for medical care, research and education. Nearly 13 percent of Mobile's workforce is employed in the healthcare sector.

There are more than 850 physicians and 175 dentists practicing in the area. Many are affiliated with one or more of the nine hospitals with 2,800 hospital beds serving the Mobile Bay area. In addition, there are many outpatient surgical centers, emergency clinics, home healthcare services, assisted-living facilities and nursing homes.

The University of South Alabama's Mitchell Cancer Institute is a world-class, comprehensive cancer research and treatment center. The institute is expected to have a \$1 billion economic impact on the Mobile Bay region in its first decade of operation. Employing more than 800 professionals, it is the only Stage II and III cancer center between Houston and Tampa. Additionally, Providence Hospital

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# Business

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Thigpen Photography

*Mobile's busy waterfront is home to ship builders, ship repair facilities and extensive port operations connecting Mobile to the world.*

has partnered with M.D. Anderson's Physicians Network to provide a direct link for cancer patients in the Mobile area to be served by the Houston-based hospital.

Other healthcare facilities continue to expand. USA Children's and Women's Hospital opened a \$73 million wing in 2013, almost doubling the hospital's size.

## Technology

As the local economy continues to diversify, high-tech companies continue to grow in the region from software development to security systems. Several successful technology firms have chosen Mobile as their home.

The healthcare information technology sector is particularly well represented in Mobile, with firms such as The SSI Group, Rural Sourcing Inc. (RSI) and CPSI, all of which develop software to improve processes at doctors' offices, clinics and hospitals. The above-mentioned companies accounted for almost a third

of the 3,750 technology jobs in Mobile County in 2014. *Healthcare Informatics*, the premier publication for healthcare IT, consistently ranks all three companies among the Top 100 healthcare product and service providers in the nation.

Atlanta-based RSI recently made a \$700,000 investment to open a software development center in downtown Mobile, creating 100 jobs.

## USA Coastal Innovation Hub USA Technology and Research Park

At the end of 2013, the University of South Alabama (USA) opened its Coastal Innovation Hub as a launchpad for high-technology startups. Similar to other successful incubator programs across the country, the 10,000-square-foot facility offers entrepreneurs affordable office space, laboratories, conference rooms, professional services and the resources and expertise of a research university committed to economic

development. The hub is a joint project of USA's Office of Research and Economic Development and its Melton Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

The 35-acre USA Technology and Research Park serves larger startups by linking university resources with the business community in a single location. It also enhances partnerships between USA and high-tech companies. The park continues to create, attract and retain high-quality and high-paying jobs.

## Maritime

Offshore natural gas, shipbuilding and ship repair are among Mobile's expanding maritime businesses creating a synergy for growth. As offshore drilling increases, Mobile shipbuilders are building offshore supply and rig-tending vessels and repairing rigs and ships at their facilities on the Mobile River.

Virtually every conceivable service for the maritime industry can be found

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# Business

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in this 313-year-old port city. Sources of these services include barge fleetings, container repair and leasing, dunnage, freight forwarding, guard and ship watching, heavy lift and salvage, industrial diving, line handling, marine fumigation, maritime waste disposal, ship chandlers, stevedoring, towing and many more. There are 24 foreign freight forwarders, and 12 of them are custom house brokers. There are also 14 barge lines/towing companies. The largest operations are Crescent Towing Co., Seabulk Towing and Waterways Towing & Offshore Services Inc.

There are five different shipbuilding and/or repair facilities in the area, including BAE Systems Southeast, Austal USA, C&G Boatworks, Horizon Shipbuilding and Signal Ship Repair, with many smaller companies located throughout the Mobile Bay region.

Austal USA, Mobile's largest manufacturing employer, is the fastest growing business along the Mobile River. A recent \$200 million-plus expansion added 1,000 jobs, and the company now has more than 4,200 employees working on \$5.1 billion in military contracts. Austal will build up to 12 Littoral Combat Ships and 10 Joint High Speed Vessels for the U.S. Navy. Six Littoral Combat Ships are currently in various stages of construction in Mobile. The latest expansion includes a new office complex, phase two of the Module Manufacturing Facility and Assembly Bay 6.

The Theodore Ship Channel is host to several other service facilities as well as small workboat yards for ship repair and construction. It is also particularly well-suited to the oil and gas industry, as the channel, capable of a 40-foot draft, is the closest deep-water location to the open Gulf of Mexico, and is home to Aker Solutions and Technip.

Aker Solutions, a manufacturer of subsea umbilicals for the offshore oil and gas industry, recently invested \$6 million in improvements and added 25 jobs. This

is the fifth expansion since the company opened in Mobile in 2003.

Marine Well Containment Co., an oil Spill recovery company, created 10 jobs and brought a \$1.4 billion investment to the area, creating a new and expanded containment system used to cap and contain oil. The investment is equipment only and therefore not included in the Chamber's capital investment figures.

## Other Services

Aside from numerous technology companies and healthcare institutions, other firms providing a wide variety of services have chosen the Mobile Bay area for their headquarters. These companies include Ball Healthcare Services Inc., with nursing homes and assisted living facilities in 10 Alabama communities; Signal International; Shoe Station Inc.; Hargrove Engineers + Constructors; and Volkert Inc. Collectively, Mobile-headquartered firms have more than 3,000 workers regionally.

## Manufacturing and Distribution

### Manufacturing

Mobile's aviation/aerospace industry forms the center of a Gulf Coast regional aerospace industry hub. Construction is nearing completion on a \$600 million aircraft final assembly line for Airbus at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. The development is expected to bring 1,000-plus jobs. Aircraft assembly will begin in 2015 and the first deliveries from Mobile in 2016. Airbus is expected to attract other related companies and suppliers to the area. To date, related announcements include the location of Labinal, an aerospace engineering firm bringing 30 to 50 jobs. Airbus Americas Engineering opened at Mobile Aeroplex in 2008 and employs more than 230 engineers.

Also at the Mobile Aeroplex, VT MAE, an aviation repair and maintenance

company, is one of the largest Mobile Bay region employers with around 1,250 workers. Continental Motors continues to have a solid presence in Mobile with 440 employees.

Mobile Aeroplex is a 1,700-acre industrial area with two runways – one of which is 9,600 feet long and capable of landing any aircraft – has deepwater port access and connects with two interstates – I-65 and I-10. The former U.S. Air Force base is an extremely desirable location for the aerospace industry.

Steel manufacturing is also a major player in Mobile's economy. A \$5.2 billion complex in north Mobile County is comprised of AM/NS Calvert and Outokumpu Stainless USA. The complex is one of the largest private investments in U.S. history and has spurred more than 300 local supplier jobs by companies doing business with the two steel companies. AM/NS Calvert has announced a \$40 million expansion creating 16 jobs. The steel center has sparked other recent investments. Steel Warehouse invested \$17 million and created 60 jobs to process flat-rolled steel for AM/NS Calvert. Vail Rubber Works made a \$2.07 million investment, creating 16 jobs, in a facility to produce the rollers that move slabs of steel for AM/NS Calvert.

SSAB Americas completed a \$220 million heat-treating facility to harden steel, a niche market for SSAB, adding 137 jobs. Steel processor Kloeckner Metals invested \$17.8 million, creating 32 jobs. The company warehouses, processes and distributes steel and iron-free metals.

The Port of Mobile has invested more than \$700 million to improve its facilities and is currently serving Post-Panamax ships, the massive container vessels that will soon be navigating the widened Panama Ship Canal. The most significant investment is APM Terminals (Mobile Container Terminal LLC), a \$300 million intermodal facility bringing together ship, rail, truck and air transportation modes into one contiguous site. The terminal is

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# Business

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Rendering from Airbus

Construction will be complete in 2015 on a \$600 million aircraft final assembly line for Airbus at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley.

operated as a joint venture between APM Terminals North America and Terminal Link, a division of CMA CGM.

The chemical industry is one of the region's largest industry sectors with more than 3,300 employees. Evonik Industries, with a history of more than 30 years in Mobile, is the largest chemical company here, followed by BASF Corp., UOP, Olin, DuPont Crop Protection, Arkema Inc. and Huntsman Americas LLC.

Recent developments in Mobile's chemical industry include a \$113 million expansion at Evonik, adding 72 jobs; a \$40 million expansion at Huntsman Americas, adding 35 jobs; a \$30 million expansion at Lenzing Fibers, adding 63 jobs; and a \$11.4 million expansion at Amvac Chemical, adding 21 jobs. Sharing part of the Evonik site, BASF added a new product line to make biodegradable cleaning agents more effective with a \$90 million investment, adding 20 jobs. Tate & Lyle recently invested \$20 million and added

100 jobs to reopen its production facility for Sucralose, the key sweetening ingredient in Splenda.

## Distribution

Mobile's Gulf Coast location and unique infrastructure of two major interstates, five Class I railroads, two airports, a deepwater port and container terminal is unmatched in the world. Several national distribution centers exist in support of the manufacturing and chemical industry, such as BASF Corp., DuPont Crop Protection and UOP. There are also numerous regional supply and service distribution companies like ACE Hardware, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Blue Bell Creameries, Sherwin Williams and Cintas. Mobile was named in *Logistics Today's* best places for businesses that rely on logistics.

## Workforce Training

Alabama has the best manufacturing workforce training program in the U.S., according to a recent edition of *Expansion Management* magazine. Almost all major Mobile manufacturers have taken advantage of services offered by AIDT, the state workforce training program and its proven method of recruiting, screening and training for company startups and expanding workforces.

This program is available to qualifying Alabama companies with significant hiring needs. The custom-tailored program based on an individual company's needs is offered at no charge. To train potential Airbus employees, AIDT opened the Alabama Aviation Training Center in 2014 with a first class of 22 hourly workers. The \$6 million, 35,000-square-foot, multi-story training center at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley includes five state-of-the-art labs and six classrooms. Two other recent examples are an AIDT training

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# Business

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facility in Calvert to support the steel industry and the Maritime Training Center, located near the Mobile River, to support the shipbuilding industry.

Bringing workforce training to area high schools, the Mobile County Public School System has opened nine signature academies: the Health Career Access Program at Blount High School; the Manufacturing, Industry and Technology Academy at Citronelle High School; the Academy of Teaching and Learning at Mary G. Montgomery High School; the Aviation and Aerospace Academy at B.C. Rain High School; the Coastal Studies Academy at Alma Bryant High School; the Academy of International Studies at Murphy High School; the Industry and Engineering Academy at Theodore High School; Advanced Information Technology at Vigor High School; and the Engineering and Entrepreneurship Academy at Williamson High School.

Developed to address industry needs, these academies give students hands-on learning experiences in career paths readily available in the Mobile Bay area. Many local businesses have partnered with schools to offer internships, job-shadow days and job-site tours. The academies are expected to improve graduation rates by helping students focus on high school as a practical way of achieving employment.

## International Trade

International trade provides extensive benefits to the state of Alabama. Export sales reached \$19.3 billion in 2013, slightly short of the \$19.5 billion in 2012.

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, accounting for \$8.3 billion of Alabama's total merchandise exports in 2013. Other top merchandise exports are chemicals (\$2.5 billion), primary metals (\$1.5 billion), minerals and ores (\$1.4 billion) and forestry products (\$1 billion).

Canada was Alabama's leading trading partner in 2013, with exports

totaling \$4.3 billion. China was second with exports totaling \$2.5 billion. Germany (\$2.2 billion), Mexico (\$2.2 billion) and the United Kingdom (\$693 million) rounded out the top five foreign trading partners for 2013.

Mobile's port ranks 12<sup>th</sup> in the nation in overall waterborne foreign trade by cargo volume and handles more than 25 million tons of cargo annually. In 2012, the Port Authority's containerized, steel and export coal volumes all posted significant growth. Containerized freight held the largest gain with a 22 percent increase over 2011, while steel volumes

gained 8 percent and export coal grew by 5 percent.

Mobile's Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) project enhances the competitiveness of companies engaged in international trade. A number of firms currently use FTZ procedures to significantly reduce costs associated with customs duties and tariffs, and to streamline inbound supply chains.

## In The News...

The Mobile Area Chamber and the fruits of its labor secured dozens of headlines in a variety of publications. Here's a sampling:

### *Forbes.com*

Mobile  
No. 1 mid-sized city for  
New Manufacturing Growth

### *U.S. Department of Commerce*

Southwest Alabama  
Named one of 12 national  
manufacturing communities.

### *Site Selection*

Mobile Area Chamber  
Top 12 Economic Development  
Groups for 2012

Airbus Final Assembly Facility  
Top 10 North American Deals of 2012

### *Business Facilities*

Mobile Area Chamber  
Honorable Mention, Economic  
Development Excellence for cities  
with populations between 200,000  
and 500,000

Airbus Final Assembly Facility  
Honorable Mention, Economic  
Development Deal of the Year

Editors' Location Pick  
No. 2, Economic Growth Potential  
in U.S.

### *Trade & Industry Development*

Airbus Final Assembly Facility  
No. 12, Annual Corporate Investment  
and Community Impact

### *fDi Intelligence*

Airbus Final Assembly Facility  
Runner Up, Best Aerospace Projects  
global category

### *Austal USA*

Honorable Mention, Best Expansions  
global category

### *Mobile*

No. 10, American Cities of the Future,  
populations of 100,000 to 250,000

### *Southern Business and Development*

Mobile  
Top 10, Successful Aviation and  
Aerospace Clusters in the South

### *American Chamber of Commerce Executives*

Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce  
Inaugural Going International Award

### *NerdWallet Finance*

Mobile  
Top 10 Cities on the Rise

### *Mobile*

Cities with the Fastest-Growing  
Incomes

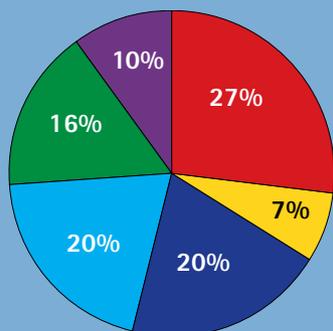
# Largest Employers

## Largest Manufacturing Employers in the Mobile Area – 2014

Name	Industry	Employees
Austal USA	Shipbuilding	4,200
AM/NS Calvert	Steel	1,620
VT MAE	Aerospace	1,250
Outokumpu Stainless USA	Steel	920
BAE Systems Southeast Shipyards	Shipbuilding & Repair	800
Evonik Industries	Chemicals	757
Kimberly Clark	Paper Products	600
SSAB Americas	Steel	587
Continental Motors	Aerospace Engines	440
BASF	Chemicals	400
Horizon Shipbuilding	Shipbuilding & Repair	380
UOP Honeywell	Chemicals	350
Olin Corp.	Chemicals	300

## Largest Non-Manufacturing Employers in the Mobile Area – 2014

Name	Industry	Employees
Mobile County Public School System	Education	7,400
University of South Alabama and USA Medical Facilities	Education/Medical	5,180
Infirmary Health	Medical	5,070
City of Mobile	Government	2,290
Mobile County	Government	1,585
Providence Hospital	Medical	1,520
AltaPointe Health Systems	Medical	1,300
Springhill Medical Center	Medical	1,200
CPSI	Technology	1,200
Regions Bank	Financial	660
AT&T	Utility	624
Alabama State Port Authority	Marine/Transportation	596



### Mobile Manufacturing Profile

Mobile has a diverse group of manufacturers supplying local, regional, national and international customers. Represented in the other category are area seafood processors, textiles, petroleum and wood products.



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# Transportation

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When it comes to infrastructure and extensive transportation options, Mobile leads the way. The city's strategic location on the central Gulf Coast and abundant transportation options keep business moving and growing. Major rail, ship and highway transportation systems converge along the Mobile River at the Port of Mobile to link Mobile businesses with the nation and the world. In addition to a deepwater port, Mobile has two major interstate connectors, five Class I railroad service providers and two airports. Comparing Mobile to 330 other metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) identified by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, *Logistics Today* listed Mobile as the nation's 28<sup>th</sup> most logistics-friendly city and 11<sup>th</sup> in the Southeast.

Thigpen Photography photos



## Port of Mobile

Over the past decade, the Alabama State Port Authority has invested more than \$700 million toward establishing new facilities at the Port of Mobile, including a new container terminal, a new steel terminal, expansion at McDuffie Coal Terminal, a new rail ferry terminal, new warehouses and a new turning basin. The 45-foot ship channel with its 1,000-foot turning basin is only four hours from deepwater. APM Terminals-Mobile, a newly built state-of-the-art marine

terminal, is Post-Panamax capable and offers global access to shippers. A new Intermodal Container Transfer Facility will provide an intermodal rail option to shippers in North Alabama, Tennessee and surrounding states and should open in 2015. McDuffie Coal Terminal is the largest import coal terminal in the nation.



## Railroads

Mobile is served by five national Class I railroads: CSX Transportation, Burlington Northern/Santa Fe, Norfolk-Southern, Canadian National, and Kansas City Southern with piggyback and containerized freight service. An average 2,500 rail cars pass through Mobile daily.

## Highway System

Mobile's highway system includes two major interstates and five federal highways. Interstate 10, the southernmost coast-to-coast interstate highway in the U.S. connects Jacksonville to Los Angeles. Interstate 65, a major north-south route, links the Great Lakes to the Gulf Coast. The area's federal highways are U.S. 31, 43, 45, 90 and 98.

As a major manufacturing center and port city, Mobile offers competitive

trucking for shippers. Most major regional and national trucking lines serve Mobile and operate terminals in the area.

## Airlines

The Mobile Airport Authority owns and operates Mobile's two airports, **Mobile Regional Airport (MOB)** and the **Mobile Downtown Airport (BFM)** at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley. Mobile Regional Airport is served by Delta Air Lines, US Airways, United and American Airlines. More than 600,000 passengers fly through Mobile Regional Airport every year. Daily flights go to five of the nation's largest hubs: Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Dallas/Fort Worth and Houston.

## Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley

A former U.S. Air Force base located on Mobile Bay near downtown Mobile, **Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley** has been transformed into a leading 1,700-acre industrial and trade complex. Built around a fully operational airfield with a 9,600-foot runway, the complex offers transportation infrastructure second to none. Along with a fully-operational airport able to accommodate the largest aircraft, Brookley provides superb road and rail access.

## Air Cargo

From the **Mobile Downtown Airport**, near the port and downtown, Mobile has FedEx air cargo service.

## Public Transportation

Mobile is served by The Wave Transit System, offering bus service throughout the city. The Wave also operates Moda!, a free bus route in downtown Mobile. Baldwin Rural Area Transportation System (BRATS) operates BayLinc, a daily commuter bus connecting Baldwin and Mobile counties.



# Real Estate



Thigpen Photography

Mobile is a great place to live, and it's also a great place to buy a house.

In the second quarter of 2014, the median cost of a home purchased in Mobile County was \$122,100, well below the national average of \$212,400.

Overall, Mobile also has a much lower cost of living than most cities its size, and is among the 20 lowest out of 80 mid-size U.S. metropolitan areas according to the American Chamber of Commerce Researchers Association (ACCRA) survey. ACCRA produces a quarterly cost-of-living index for more than 300 cities throughout the country using the national average base of 100, and ranks the cities accordingly. For the second quarter of 2014, Mobile ranked 92.9 – compared to Atlanta, which ranked 100.2.

When it comes to housing options, Mobile has it all in a range of affordable prices – downtown living, rural solitude, historic neighborhoods, modern subdivisions, waterfront homes and suburban apartment complexes.

There is a selection of existing houses in Mobile's downtown and midtown neighborhoods, in seven historic residential districts, ranging from mansions to Victorian cottages. Farther away from the central business district, suburban neighborhoods offer the options of rolling hills or quiet cul de sacs.

New houses also are available both in town and in the suburbs. New subdivisions, with a variety of house plans, are under development throughout the area, and new housing options downtown can put you a short walk from the central business district.

For a list of Mobile Area Chamber member realtors, visit [www.mobile-chamber.com/membershipdirectory](http://www.mobile-chamber.com/membershipdirectory). You may also want to visit these Real Estate Associations:

**Mobile Area Association of Realtors:**  
[www.mobilerealtor.com](http://www.mobilerealtor.com)

**Baldwin County Association of Realtors:**  
[www.southalabama-coastalareaml.com](http://www.southalabama-coastalareaml.com)

## Cost-of-Living

The following is comparative cost-of-living data for Mobile County. Each number on the report is measured by an index with 100 being equal to the U.S. average. Numbers below 100 indicate a cost of living below the national average. A total of 309 urban areas are studied for this report. Only a few are listed below for comparison purposes.

Savannah.....	90.7
<b>Mobile .....</b>	<b>92.9</b>
St. Louis .....	93.1
Huntsville .....	94.2
New Orleans .....	97.1
Phoenix .....	97.2
Charleston .....	99.9
Atlanta .....	100.2
Los Angeles.....	134.0
New York .....	217.0

Source: ACCRA, Second Quarter 2014

# Real Estate



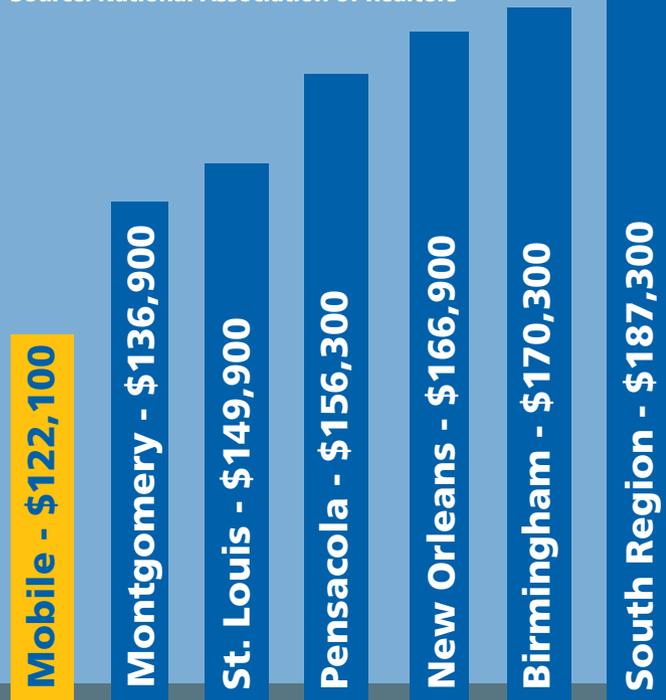
Mobile offers an abundance of housing options, such as quiet waterfront retreats on Dog River (opposite) or historic commercial and residential options close to the center of the city (above).

According to the National Association of Realtors, the median sales price of a home in the second quarter of 2014 was \$122,100 for Mobile County – well below the national average of \$212,400. The median is where half sold for more and half sold for less.

## Median Selling Price

2014 – Second Quarter

Source: National Association of Realtors



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# Healthcare

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Mobile is a regional center for medical care, research and education. Nearly 13 percent of Mobile's workforce is employed in the healthcare sector.

Area hospitals include general facilities, a children's and women's hospital, a private mental health hospital and a rehabilitation hospital. Mobile is also home to a cancer research center affiliated with the University of South Alabama.

Military hospitals are located within 60 miles of Mobile at Pensacola Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Fla., and Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss.

In addition there are many outpatient surgical centers, emergency clinics, military personnel clinics, home healthcare services, assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

Mobile Area Chamber member healthcare facilities include:

**Mobile Infirmary Medical Center**  
5 Mobile Infirmary Circle, Mobile  
(251) 435-2071  
[www.mobileinfirmary.org](http://www.mobileinfirmary.org)

Mobile Infirmary has 689 beds, a trauma center and more than 650 physicians. The Infirmary is the largest non-governmental, not-for-profit hospital in Alabama and offers a complete range of medical services, including surgery and rehabilitation. Infirmary Health System also includes JL Bedsole/Rotary Rehabilitation Hospital, North Baldwin Infirmary and Thomas Hospital.

**JL Bedsole/Rotary Rehabilitation Hospital**  
5 Mobile Infirmary Dr., Mobile  
(251) 431-2016  
[www.mimc.com](http://www.mimc.com)

Rotary Rehabilitation Hospital has 50 beds and offers continuing treatment for various conditions, including head injuries, strokes, chronic pain and cerebral palsy.

**North Baldwin Infirmary**  
1815 Hand Ave., Bay Minette  
(251) 937-5521  
[www.nbinfirmmary.com](http://www.nbinfirmmary.com)

North Baldwin Infirmary provides residents of North Baldwin County with surgical, outpatient diagnostic, emergency, radiology and laboratory services. The 55-bed hospital also offers a state-of-the-art birth center.

**Thomas Hospital**  
750 Morphy Ave., Fairhope  
(251) 928-2375  
[www.thomashospital.com](http://www.thomashospital.com)

Thomas Hospital, an Infirmary Health System hospital, has 150 beds. It recently opened a full outpatient diagnostic and surgical center to accommodate the expanding population in Baldwin County.

**Providence Hospital**  
6801 Airport Blvd., Mobile  
(251) 633-1000  
[www.providencehospital.com](http://www.providencehospital.com)

Serving the Mobile area since 1854, Providence Hospital has 349 beds and is a full-service medical and surgical facility. It includes a rehabilitation and wellness center and an outpatient center. The Cancer Center at Providence Hospital is affiliated with the M.D. Anderson Physicians Network. Providence is one of only seven healthcare systems in the nation – the only one in Alabama – to provide services under the M.D. Anderson program.

**Springhill Medical Center**  
3719 Dauphin St., Mobile  
(251) 344-9630  
[www.springhillmedicalcenter.com](http://www.springhillmedicalcenter.com)

Springhill Medical Center has 252 beds and offers emergency medicine, a diagnostic center, a women's center and family-centered labor and delivery. It is the only private hospital in Mobile. The campus is also home to primary care physicians, a senior residence, sleep center, cancer center, athletic club, orthopedic

surgery center, wound care and hyperbaric center and an emergency department.

## **University of South Alabama**

The College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama (USA) serves the central Gulf Coast and the southern half of the state and is the region's largest healthcare system. The college's research department keeps Mobile's healthcare on the cutting edge of medical science. The university supports a medical system that includes USA Medical Center, USA Children's and Women's Hospital and USA Mitchell Cancer Institute.

**USA Medical Center**  
2451 Fillingim St., Mobile  
(251) 471-7000  
[www.southalabama.edu/usamc](http://www.southalabama.edu/usamc)

The University of South Alabama Medical Center has 406 beds and is the region's only Level 1 trauma center and burn unit with emergency departments. The region is also serviced by Baptist Hospital's Life Flight service in partnership with the university.

**USA Children's and Women's Hospital**  
1700 Center St., Mobile  
(251) 415-1000  
[www.southalabama.edu/usacwh](http://www.southalabama.edu/usacwh)

USA Children's and Women's Hospital has 193 beds and is dedicated exclusively to the care of women and children. The hospital provides general services and specialized programs such as a regional neonatal intensive care nursery.

**USA Mitchell Cancer Institute**  
1660 Springhill Ave., Mobile  
(251) 460-6993  
[www.usamci.com](http://www.usamci.com)

The USA Mitchell Cancer Institute is the first academic cancer research institute in the upper Gulf Coast region. The institute is funded through philanthropic gifts; support from the state of Alabama; the city of Mobile and Mobile County; federal appropriations; competitive contracts and grants; tobacco

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# Healthcare

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USA Children's and Women's Hospital

Former patients in USA Children's and Women's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit recently gathered for a reunion celebrating the completion of a \$72.6 million expansion, adding a five-level, 195,000-square-foot wing and upgrading existing portions of the hospital. The hospital is one of the nation's few freestanding hospitals dedicated specifically to the healthcare needs of children and women.

settlement funds; and the USA Foundation.

### **Mercy Medical**

101B Villa Dr., Daphne  
(251) 621-4200  
[www.mercymedical.com](http://www.mercymedical.com)

With facilities in Mobile and Baldwin counties, Mercy Medical offers specialized medical rehabilitation, Medicare-skilled nursing, hospice, long-term care, outpatient services, home healthcare and residential care.

**AltaPointe Health Systems**  
5750-A Southland Dr., Mobile  
(251) 473-4423  
[www.altapointe.org](http://www.altapointe.org)

AltaPointe Health Systems oversees a comprehensive regional system of mental health, mental retardation and substance abuse prevention programs in Mobile, Baldwin and Washington counties.

### **Emergency Ambulatory Response**

Mobile County has six medical transport agencies, including two aero-medical services (Baptist Hospital Life Flight and Gulf Coast). Mobile Area Chamber member companies include:

**Ferriss Industries Inc.**  
d/b/a First Response Services  
12400 U.S. Hwy. 43 N., Axis  
(251) 421-8214

### **Lifeguard Transportation Service of Mobile**

22 Midtown Park W., Mobile  
(251) 338-8556 (office)  
(251) 338-3338 (dispatch)  
[www.lifeguardambulance.com](http://www.lifeguardambulance.com)

### **Mobile County EMS**

7921C Tanner Williams Rd., Mobile  
(251) 343-7131  
[www.mobilecountyems.org](http://www.mobilecountyems.org)

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# Education

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## Public Schools

**Mobile County Public School System**  
1 Magnum Pass, Mobile  
(251) 221-4000  
www.mcps.com

The **Mobile County Public School System** has the state's largest Advanced Placement program. The system provides services to nearly 60,000 children each year, making it the largest public school system in the state and one of the 50 most populous in the country. The system has two International Baccalaureate high schools and a magnet program serving students in K-12.

The **Regional School for the Deaf and Blind** and **Augusta Evans Special School** offer services to special-needs students.

There are three additional public school systems in Mobile County – **Chickasaw, Saraland and Satsuma**.

New students enrolling in a public school should bring their parent or legal guardian, a photo ID, two proofs of residence and the student's social security card, birth certificate, certificate of immunization and report cards. Immunizations are required for Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, Rubella, Measles and Mumps.

Entrance age requirements: Any child who will be five or six years old on or before Sept. 1 is eligible for kindergarten or first grade, respectively.

**Alabama School of Mathematics and Science**  
1255 Dauphin St., Mobile  
(251) 441-2100  
www.asms.net

The Alabama School of Mathematics and Science attracts some of the brightest high school sophomores, juniors and seniors from all parts of the state and offers outreach programs for local students and schools.

## Private Schools

The area has a large parochial school system operated by the Catholic Archdiocese of Mobile, including McGill-Toolen Catholic High School, St. Mary's Catholic School and Little Flower Catholic School. Many other schools are operated through churches or private boards. In all, there are more than 40 private and denominational schools in Mobile.

Mobile Area Chamber member private and parochial schools include:

**Catholic School System  
Board of Catholic Education**  
352 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 438-4611  
www.mobilearchdiocese.org  
There are eight elementary schools and one high school in Mobile County.

**Little Flower Catholic School**  
Pre-K (3&4), K – 8  
2103 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 479-5761  
www.littleflower.cc

**McGill-Toolen Catholic High School**  
Grades 9 – 12  
1501 Old Shell Road, Mobile  
(251) 445-2900  
www.mcgill-toolen.org

**St. Luke's Episcopal School**  
Pre-K – 12  
3975 Japonica Lane, Mobile  
(251) 666-2991  
www.stlukemobile.com

**St. Mary's Catholic School**  
Grades K – 8  
107 N. Lafayette St., Mobile  
(251) 433-9904  
www.stmarymobile.org

**St. Paul's Episcopal School**  
Grades Pre-K – 12  
161 Dogwood Lane, Mobile  
(251) 342-6700  
www.stpaulsmobile.net

**UMS-Wright Preparatory School**  
Grades Pre-K – 12  
65 N. Mobile St., Mobile  
(251) 479-6551  
www.ums-wright.org

## Colleges

The Mobile area is home to several four-year institutions and two-year community colleges and career training establishments.

**Spring Hill College**  
4000 Dauphin St., Mobile  
(251) 380-4000  
www.shc.edu

Spring Hill College, founded in 1830, is one of the nation's oldest Jesuit institutions. Recognized as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the South, it offers graduate programs in business administration, theology, liberal arts, nursing and education, as well as a Division for Lifelong Studies for adults wishing to further their education.

**University of South Alabama**  
307 University Blvd., Mobile  
(251) 460-6101  
www.usouthal.edu

The University of South Alabama, has more than 16,000 students at campuses in Mobile and Baldwin counties. The university has experienced a boom in both enrollment and building – including a new state-of-the-art health sciences building, an engineering and computing sciences building and a student recreation center.

**University of Mobile**  
5735 College Parkway, Mobile  
(251) 675-5990  
www.umobile.edu

The University of Mobile is a private institution affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention. Students can work toward bachelor's and master's degrees in the arts, business, computer science, nursing and religious studies.

**Faulkner State Community College**  
1900 S. U.S. Hwy. 31 S., Bay Minette  
(251) 580-2202  
www.faulknerstate.edu

Faulkner State Community College, a public two-year institution in Baldwin County, has three campuses located in Bay Minette, Gulf Shores and Fairhope.

# Education

## Bishop State Community College

### Main Campus

351 N. Broad St., Mobile  
(251) 405-7000  
www.bscc.cc.al.us

### Carver Campus

414 Stanton Rd., Mobile  
(251) 662-5400

### Southwest Campus

925 Dauphin Island Pkwy., Mobile  
(251) 665-4100

### Baker-Gaines Central Campus

1365 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Mobile  
(251) 405-4400

Bishop State Community College has four campuses and works with local industries to provide training programs for new and existing employees. The college is expanding its technology training to match the needs of Mobile's new and expanding industries.

## Alabama Aviation Center at Mobile A Unit of Enterprise State Community College

1975 Avenue C, Mobile  
(251) 438-2816  
www.esc.edu

Alabama Aviation Center at Mobile, a Unit of Enterprise State Community College, trains students to work in aviation maintenance and avionics. It was the first two-year college to be designated as an official FAA Educational Resource Center. Its facility at Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley accommodates 300 students.

## Faulkner University

3943 Airport Blvd., Mobile  
(251) 380-9090  
www.faulkner.edu

Faulkner University maintains a campus in Mobile where students can attain associate degrees in most major subjects.



Mobile County Public School System

*In addition to having the state's largest Advanced Placement program, the Mobile County Public School System has nine signature academies with career-oriented curriculums based on current and projected job needs in the Mobile area. The academies, like the Industry and Engineering Academy at Theodore High School, shown above, help students explore career paths and gain real-world job skills while still in high school.*

## Virginia College of Mobile

3725 Airport Blvd., Mobile  
(251) 343-7227  
www.vc.edu

Virginia College offers a wide variety of programs preparing students for careers in business, medical technology, pharmacy, office management, culinary arts and media arts.

## Remington College

828 Downtowner Loop W., Mobile  
(251) 343-8200  
www.remingtoncollege.edu/mobile

Remington College offers programs including medical technology, computer technology and criminal justice.

## Fortis College

3590 Pleasant Valley Rd., Mobile  
(251) 344-1203  
www.fortis.edu

## Fortis College School of Cosmetology

300-F Azalea Rd., Mobile  
(251) 342-3230  
www.fortiscollege.com

Fortis College offers a variety of programs in healthcare and operates a separate cosmetology school.

## MTI Business Solutions

6300 Grelot Rd., Ste. G123, Mobile  
(251) 478-6848  
www.mobiletechwebsite.com

MTI Business Solutions provides business training and computer training to individuals as well as to companies of all sizes.

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# Museums and Attractions

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Mobile has museums and attractions celebrating almost any local topic: history, art, science, horticulture, marine biology, antebellum architecture and, of course, the pageantry and revelry of Mardi Gras. These world-class museums not only make Mobile a cultural destination, but also provide educational facilities seldom found in a city its size.

**The History Museum of Mobile**  
111 S. Royal St., Mobile  
(251) 208-7569  
[www.museumofmobile.com](http://www.museumofmobile.com)

The History Museum of Mobile, located in a national landmark building, uses interactive exhibits to tell the story of Mobile's rich 300-year history.

**Mobile Carnival Museum**  
355 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 432-3324  
[www.mobilecarnivalmuseum.com](http://www.mobilecarnivalmuseum.com)

The William J. and Emily Staples Hearin Mobile Carnival Museum showcases Mobile as the birthplace of Mardi Gras. The museum allows visitors to experience the excitement of a Mardi Gras parade any time of the year.

**Mobile Medical Museum**  
1664 Springhill Ave., Mobile  
(251) 415-1109  
[www.mobilemedicalmuseum.com](http://www.mobilemedicalmuseum.com)

The Mobile Medical Museum uncovers 200 years of medical history.

**National African-American Archives and Museum**  
564 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. Mobile  
(251) 433-8511  
[www.nationalafricanamericanarchives.com](http://www.nationalafricanamericanarchives.com)

The National African-American Archives and Museum provides background on the significant contributions of African-Americans in the city's history.

**Centre for the Living Arts**  
301 Conti St., Mobile  
(251) 208-5671  
[www.centreforthelivingarts.com](http://www.centreforthelivingarts.com)

The Centre for the Living Arts contemporary art gallery, Space 301, shows modern art in an industrial setting.

**Mobile Museum of Art**  
4850 Museum Dr., Mobile  
(251) 208-5200  
[www.mobilemuseumofart.com](http://www.mobilemuseumofart.com)

The Mobile Museum of Art is the setting for a permanent collection of over 9,000 works of art spanning two centuries, as well as a changing series of traveling exhibitions and regional art exhibits.

**Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center**  
65 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 208-6881  
[www.exploreum.com](http://www.exploreum.com)

The Gulf Coast Exploreum Science Center features permanent exhibitions (including "My BodyWorks," "Hands on Hall" and "Minds on Hall") as well as major traveling exhibits and movies in the J.L.Bedsole IMAX® Dome Theater.

**GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico**  
155 S. Water Street, Mobile  
(251) 436-8901, [www.gulfquest.org](http://www.gulfquest.org)

Opening in 2015, the vessel-shaped building will be the first museum dedicated to the Gulf Coast's rich maritime traditions – and only the third interactive maritime museum in the world.

## Natural Beauty

**Bellingrath Gardens and Home**  
12401 Bellingrath Rd., Theodore  
(251) 973-2217  
[www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)

Bellingrath Gardens and Home, just south of the city, is one of America's most beautiful display gardens and one of the Gulf Coast's most popular attractions.

**Mobile Botanical Gardens**  
5151 Museum Dr., Mobile  
(251) 342-0555  
[www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org)

Located near Langan Park, the Mobile Botanical Gardens encompass a 100-acre site of cultivated gardens, woodland trails and a longleaf pine forest.

**Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab**  
101 Bienville Blvd., Dauphin Island  
(251) 861-2141  
[www.disl.org](http://www.disl.org)

The Estuarium at the Dauphin Island Sea Lab shows visitors the ecological balance of the four key fish and wildlife habitats of coastal Alabama: the Mobile-Tensaw Delta, Mobile Bay, the Barrier Islands and the Gulf of Mexico.

**Five Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center**  
30945 Five Rivers Blvd., Spanish Fort  
(251) 625-0814  
[www.alabama5rivers.com](http://www.alabama5rivers.com)

Just minutes from downtown, the state's 83-acre waterfront complex, 5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center, provides public access to the wonders of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta with hundreds of miles of rivers and wetlands.

## Historic House Museums

**Bragg-Mitchell Mansion**  
1906 Springhill Ave., Mobile  
(251) 471-6364  
[www.braggmitchellmansion.com](http://www.braggmitchellmansion.com)

The Bragg-Mitchell Mansion gives a glimpse of lavish plantation life.

**Condé-Charlotte Museum House**  
104 Theatre St., Mobile  
(251) 432-4722  
[www.condecharlottemuseum.com](http://www.condecharlottemuseum.com)

The Condé-Charlotte House, built in the 1820s, is one of the city's oldest surviving houses and is furnished to represent five periods of Mobile's history.

**Oakleigh Historic Complex**  
300 Oakleigh Place, Mobile  
(251) 432-6161  
[www.historicmobile.org](http://www.historicmobile.org)

Built in 1833, Oakleigh, a classic example of Greek Revival architecture, is Mobile's official antebellum mansion.

Other house museums include the **Richards-DAR House**, known for its exceptional iron-lace balconies and the **Portier House**, home to Mobile's first five Catholic bishops.

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# Museums and Attractions

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Thigpen Photography



*Above: The Mobile Museum of Art marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014 with a series of exciting events and a major exhibit, "The Art and Design of Mardi Gras." The exhibit was a collaboration with two other Mobile museums, the Mobile Carnival Museum and the History Museum of Mobile. The exhibit celebrated the designers, artists, craftsmen, float builders and others who make up the creative industry behind the colorful revelry of Mardi Gras.*

## Historic Sites

**Battleship Memorial Park**  
2703 Battleship Pkwy., Mobile  
(251) 433-2703  
[www.ussalabama.com](http://www.ussalabama.com)

Battleship Memorial Park features the USS ALABAMA, a World War II-era battleship, along with the submarine USS DRUM and an aircraft pavilion of historic planes.

**Fort Condé Welcome Center**  
150 S. Royal St., Mobile  
(251) 208-7304  
[www.mobile.org](http://www.mobile.org)

Fort Condé, a partial replica of the French colonial fort built here in the early 1700s, also serves as the city's official welcome center. Operated by the History Museum of Mobile, Fort Condé recently opened extensive exhibits interpreting Mobile's colonial history under the French, Spanish and English.

Guarding the mouth of Mobile Bay, historic **Fort Gaines** on Dauphin Island and **Fort Morgan** on the opposite shore played major roles in the Civil War.

Find more information on sites, museums and attractions at the Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau, [www.mobile.org](http://www.mobile.org).

*Below: In 2015, Oakleigh celebrates 60 years as Mobile's official antebellum house museum. To mark this milestone, curators have created a new and improved visitor experience to guide tourists through the lives of those who lived or worked at this classic 1833 Greek Revival mansion.*



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# Performing Arts

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Thigpen Photography

*The Mobile Symphony's education programs include a full youth orchestra, above, which performs regularly with professional soloists. The symphony also offers music education programs in schools throughout the area.*

Mobile has one of the Gulf Coast's liveliest performing arts scenes. Locally produced opera, symphony, dance and theater, along with traveling shows, give Mobilians a variety of performance options nearly any week of the year.

## Performing Arts Groups

**Mobile Opera** presents two major opera productions each year, along with a variety of educational programs.

**Mobile Symphony** offers a full season of classical and pops concerts at the Saenger Theatre, student concerts and in-school programs. The symphony has become known as one of the nation's best orchestras.

**Mobile Ballet** presents three major productions each year, featuring its own company and soloists from some of the world's best dance companies. It also operates a dance academy.

Several local theater groups are

active in the community, many with their own theater homes. The **Mobile Theatre Guild** has won acclaim at several international competitions. The **Joe Jefferson Players** is Alabama's oldest dramatic company.

The **Playhouse in the Park** trains Mobile's next theater generation at its theater in Langan Park. Another organization offering opportunities for young performers is **Drama Camp Productions** at **Sunny Side Theater**.

The **Mobile Pops** and other music groups, including **Mobile Piano Ensemble**, present concerts at various locations throughout the year.

**Mobile's Singing Children** have performed throughout the nation and is a popular outlet for talented youth.

## Theaters and Art Centers

The historic **Saenger Theatre** is under new management and is attracting a

number of the nation's top touring acts. The ornate 1,800-seat theater is also home to the **Mobile Symphony**.

The **Mobile Civic Center** is a multipurpose complex including an arena, theater and exhibit hall. The theater is home to **Mobile Opera**, **Mobile Ballet** and traveling productions.

**Bernheim Hall**, renovated as part of the expansion of the Ben May Main Library of the Mobile Public Library, offers a more intimate setting for performances, lectures and film.

**University of South Alabama Laidlaw Performing Arts Center** offers music, theater and dance performances by student, faculty and community groups and is home to **Mobile Chamber Music**.

The **Mobile Arts Council** is a nonprofit organization promoting the development of quality arts programs and cultural growth.

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# Performing Arts

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## Performing Arts Online

Find out more about events in the Mobile Bay area by visiting [www.cityofmobile.org/calendar](http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar).

To learn more about the performing arts in the Mobile area, visit these websites:

**Joe Jefferson Players**  
[www.joejeffersonplayers.com](http://www.joejeffersonplayers.com)

**Mobile Arts Council**  
[www.mobilearts.org](http://www.mobilearts.org)

**Mobile Ballet**  
[www.mobileballet.org](http://www.mobileballet.org)

**Mobile Chamber Music**  
[www.mobilechambermusic.org](http://www.mobilechambermusic.org)

**Mobile Mystery Dinners**  
[www.mobilemysterydinners.com](http://www.mobilemysterydinners.com)

**Mobile Opera**  
[www.mobileopera.org](http://www.mobileopera.org)

**Mobile Piano Ensemble**  
[www.mobilepianoensemble.org](http://www.mobilepianoensemble.org)

**Mobile Pops**  
[www.mobilepopsband.com](http://www.mobilepopsband.com)

**Mobile Public Library**  
[www.mplonline.org](http://www.mplonline.org)

**Mobile Saenger Theatre**  
[www.mobilesaenger.com](http://www.mobilesaenger.com)

**Mobile's Singing Children**  
[www.mobilesingingchildren.org](http://www.mobilesingingchildren.org)

**Mobile Symphony Orchestra**  
[www.mobilesymphony.org](http://www.mobilesymphony.org)

**Mobile Theatre Guild**  
[www.mobiletheatreguild.org](http://www.mobiletheatreguild.org)

**Playhouse in the Park**  
[www.playhouseinthepark.org](http://www.playhouseinthepark.org)

**Sunny Side Theater**  
[www.sunnysidedrama.com](http://www.sunnysidedrama.com)

**University of South Alabama Laidlaw Performing Arts Center**  
[www.usouthal.edu/music](http://www.usouthal.edu/music) or  
[www.usouthal.edu/drama](http://www.usouthal.edu/drama)



Mobile Ballet

*The Mobile Ballet, above, and the Mobile Opera, below, lead a lively list of performing arts organizations in Mobile.*



Library of Congress

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# Libraries

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*The Ben May Main Library in downtown Mobile is a resource for families, students and the business community.*

## **Mobile Public Library**

With more than 600,000 items in its collection, the Mobile Public Library serves the citizens of the city of Mobile and Mobile County with 10 locations and a bookmobile. The library not only offers books, but also audio books, CDs, DVDs and e-books.

The Local History and Genealogy Division boasts one of the best regional collections of major city newspapers from 1851 and the *Press-Register* from 1817, as well as impressive sets of maps and census records unmatched on the central Gulf Coast.

The library provides popular events for children and families, and its summer reading program is the largest in the state.

Find out more about the library and its services at [www.mplonline.org](http://www.mplonline.org).

**Ben May Main Library**  
701 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 208-7076  
[www.mplonline.org](http://www.mplonline.org)

**Moorer/Spring Hill Branch**  
4 McGregor Ave., Mobile  
(251) 470-7770

**Parkway Branch**  
1924-B Dauphin Island Pkwy., Mobile  
(251) 470-7766

**Saraland Public Library**  
111 Saraland Loop, Saraland  
(251) 675-2879

**Semmes Branch**  
9150 Moffett Rd., Semmes  
(251) 645-6840

**Theodore Oaks Branch**  
5808 U.S. Hwy. 90 W., Ste. E.  
Theodore  
(251) 653-5012

**Toulminville Branch**  
601 Stanton Rd., Mobile  
(251) 438-7075

**Trinity Gardens Community Library**  
2668 Berkley Ave., Mobile  
(251) 457-5954

**West Regional Branch**  
5555 Grelot Rd., Mobile  
(251) 340-8555

**Local History and Genealogy**  
753 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 208-7093

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# Parks & Outdoors

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*Nestled between GulfQuest National Maritime Museum of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mobile Convention Center, Cooper Riverside Park is the centerpiece of Mobile's waterfront. Recently refurbished, the park provides an excellent vantage point for observing the busy port.*

The Mobile area's incredible climate supports year-round outdoor adventures. There are more than 70 parks and playgrounds in the Mobile area offering facilities for picnicing, canoeing, biking, hiking, camping and other leisure activities.

Here are just a few of the options: **Bienville Square** and **Cathedral Square** are popular downtown spaces, while the 720-acre **Langan Park** to the west offers golf, tennis, outdoor concerts, a children's playground and picnic areas. **Arlington Park**, on Mobile Bay near Mobile Aeroplex at Brookley, includes a pier, a kayak launch point and picnic gazebos. **Medal of Honor Park** in west Mobile features a dog park and a pavilion for outdoor concerts. **Chickasabogue Park**, a county park, has bike and foot trails, fishing, camping, canoeing and swimming.

Just minutes from downtown, the state's 83-acre waterfront complex, **5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center** provides public access to the wonders of the Mobile-Tensaw Delta with hundreds of miles of rivers and wetlands. Across the U.S. Hwy. 90 Causeway, **Meaher State Park** also serves as a gateway to the delta. Swamp tours are the easiest way to view this unique natural resource, where visitors can learn about birds, fish, alligators, bald eagles, black bears and other wildlife in the area.

The white sands of the **Gulf of Mexico** are a short drive away to Dauphin Island in Mobile County or to the shoreline of Baldwin County.

The **Alabama Coastal Birding Trail** is a birdwatcher's paradise. The trail spans two counties and is enhanced by directional and interpretive signage.

## **Parks Online**

To find out more about parks in the Mobile area, click on one of the links below:

**Alabama Coastal Birding Trail**  
[www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdingtrail.com)

**Alabama State Parks**  
[www.alapark.com](http://www.alapark.com)  
[www.outdooralabama.com](http://www.outdooralabama.com)

**City of Mobile**  
[www.cityofmobile.org](http://www.cityofmobile.org)

**5 Rivers – Alabama's Delta Resource Center**  
[www.alabama5rivers.com](http://www.alabama5rivers.com)

**Mobile Botanical Gardens**  
[www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org)

**Mobile County**  
[www.mobilecounty.org](http://www.mobilecounty.org)

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# Sports

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University of South Alabama

*The University of South Alabama's growing football program attracts crowds to Ladd-Peebles Memorial Stadium for games each fall.*

Thanks to an abundance of warm, sunny days, golfing, sailing, boating, fishing or just relaxing by the water are options 12 months of the year.

Mobile has more than 25 golf courses in the metropolitan area, ranging from traditional Scottish links to rolling hills with tight fairways. Alabama's Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail has two courses in the Mobile area, Magnolia Grove and Lakewood Golf Club in Point Clear. The *Wall Street Journal* said the Trail "may be the biggest bargain in the country" and the *New York Times* called the Trail "some of the best public golf on Earth."

Ladd-Peebles Memorial Stadium is home to the Reese's Senior Bowl, pitting squads of college all-stars against one another, and attracting so many scouts it is sometimes called a mini-convention of NFL coaches. Ladd-Peebles is also home to the University of South Alabama Jaguars and regular season high school contests.

The annual GoDaddy Bowl brings more than 40,000 people to the Port City in January.

The Copeland-Cox Mobile Tennis

Center, near Langan Park, is the nation's largest public facility, with 60 hard courts.

The Mobile BayBears, the Double-A affiliate of the Arizona Diamondbacks, play approximately 70 home games at Hank Aaron Stadium each year.

The University of South Alabama, Spring Hill College, the University of Mobile, Bishop State Community College and Faulkner State Community College field teams in basketball, baseball, soccer and other team and individual sports for both men and women.

Mobile offers both deep sea fishing in the Gulf of Mexico and some of the South's best freshwater fishing in the Mobile-Tensaw Delta. The Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo is one of the largest of its kind in the world.

Thousands of runners from around the globe come to Mobile for the Azalea Trail Run, one of the fastest official 10K races in the country. The Port City Pacers are responsible for an almost non-stop string of races throughout the year. The annual First Light Marathon winds through Mobile's historic neighborhoods.

## Sports online

To learn more about sports and recreation in the Mobile area, visit these websites:

Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo  
[www.adsfr.com](http://www.adsfr.com)

City of Mobile  
[www.cityofmobile.org](http://www.cityofmobile.org)

Copeland-Cox Mobile Tennis Center  
[www.mobiletenniscenter.net](http://www.mobiletenniscenter.net)

First Light Marathon  
[www.firstlightmarathon.com](http://www.firstlightmarathon.com)

GoDaddy Bowl  
[www.godaddybowl.com](http://www.godaddybowl.com)

Ladd-Peebles Memorial Stadium  
[www.laddpeeblesstadium.com](http://www.laddpeeblesstadium.com)

Mobile BayBears  
[www.mobilebaybears.com](http://www.mobilebaybears.com)

Mobile Sports Authority  
[www.mobilesportsauthority.com](http://www.mobilesportsauthority.com)

Mobile Sports Hall of Fame  
[www.mobilesportshalloffame.com](http://www.mobilesportshalloffame.com)

Port City Pacers  
[www.pcpacers.org](http://www.pcpacers.org)

Reese's Senior Bowl  
[www.seniorbowl.com](http://www.seniorbowl.com)

Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail  
[www.rtgolf.com](http://www.rtgolf.com)

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# Sports

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Thigpen Photography



*Above: Fishing is a sport Mobile residents enjoy every month of the year, and there's always a great fishing spot close at hand.  
Below: The Azalea Trail Run is one of many competitive runs weaving through Mobile's historic neighborhoods. The run promotes a fit and healthy community and attracts runners from around the globe.*



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# Entertainment

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Thigpen Photography

*Mobile is the birthplace of Mardi Gras in America, but street parties aren't limited to carnival season – just follow the sound of music and revelry to find a lively celebration any time of the year.*



Library of Congress

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# Entertainment

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Catt Sirten/BayFest

Mobile's music scene ranges from local bands in intimate venues to national acts at BayFest drawing crowds of more than 200,000.

It stands to reason that the city known for bringing Mardi Gras to America would know a thing or two about having a good time. And Mobile certainly does. Entertainment is abundant and easy to find.

The list of live music venues is growing throughout the Mobile area, but downtown Mobile serves as the city's entertainment center – with a lively mix of restaurants, nightclubs, bars, galleries and theaters.

Dauphin Street and the historic Saenger Theatre anchor the district known as LoDa, for Lower Dauphin Street. The renovated Saenger attracts major national touring acts, including Wynton Marsalis, Lyle Lovett, Alabama Shakes, Buddy Guy and Norah Jones, and is home to the Mobile Symphony. Local clubs feature live music daily.

A wide variety of restaurants – from elegant to casual – are popular meeting places for dinner before heading off for an evening of entertainment, music and fun.

Mobile recently joined many other cities with lively downtown entertainment scenes in creating designated entertainment districts allowing people to mingle freely and carry beverages between establishments.

BayFest is one of the largest musical festivals on the Gulf Coast, attracting more than 200,000 music lovers to hear some of the nation's top performers in every genre, including country, classic rock, alternative, pop, jazz, R&B, rap, gospel, modern rock and more.

Other festivals such as ArtsAlive and LoDa ArtWalk bring crowds of people to downtown streets to sample what the city has to offer.

But nothing tops the excitement of Mardi Gras season when crowds fill downtown for three weeks of parades.

## Entertainment online

To find more entertainment options in the Mobile area, visit these websites:

**Arts Alive**

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

**BayFest**

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

**Downtown Mobile Alliance**

[www.downtownmobile.org](http://www.downtownmobile.org)

**Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Jazz Festival**

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

**Mobile Civic Center**

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

**Mobile Arts Council**

[www.mobilearts.org](http://www.mobilearts.org)

**Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau**

[www.mobile.org](http://www.mobile.org)

**MOJO (Mystic Order of the Jazz Obsessed)**

[www.mojojazz.org](http://www.mojojazz.org)

**Saenger Theatre**

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

**The Grounds**

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

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# Food

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Thigpen Photography photos



*The annual Blessing of the Fleet in the fishing community Bayou La Batre, south of Mobile, is a celebration of family traditions and a love of seafood. Families gather to parade their decorated shrimp boats, eat great seafood and ask for blessings on the year's seafood harvest.*

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# Food

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Food is what brings Mobile's diverse culture together. A strong sense of community is built by bringing folks together for a good time over exceptional food and drinks. There's always a pot of gumbo simmering on a stove somewhere, and a great meal is easy to find.

When visitors to Mobile think of local food, they automatically think of seafood. But locals know our tables are famous for a lot more than some of the world's best shrimp and oysters. Mobile also takes great pride in a rich variety of Southern produce grown by local farmers. Farmers markets, vegetable and fruit

stands and curb markets make it easy and affordable to enjoy local produce.

Surrounded by fertile farmland in both Mobile and Baldwin counties and blessed with a long growing season, Mobile enjoys a long list of homegrown treats. Summers are filled with vine-ripe tomatoes, strawberries, watermelons, field peas, cantaloupes, okra, butter beans, peaches, squash and the royalty of local produce – Silver Queen corn. Cooler weather brings turnips, collards, persimmons and citrus crops, such as satsumas and lemons.

## Food Festivals Online

Celebrate Mobile's rich food heritage at these festivals:

**Chili Cookoff**, benefit for the American Cancer Society  
[www.mobilechilicookoff.org](http://www.mobilechilicookoff.org) (March)

**BBQ Championship and Hog Wild Festival**, benefits United Cerebral Palsy  
[www.bbqmobile.net](http://www.bbqmobile.net) (March)

**Blessing of the Fleet** in Bayou la Batre  
[www.fleetblessing.org](http://www.fleetblessing.org) (May)

**National Shrimp Festival** in Gulf Shores  
[www.nationalshrimpfestival.com](http://www.nationalshrimpfestival.com) (October)

**Greek Fest**, three days of food, dancing, music and culture at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
[www.greekfestmobile.org](http://www.greekfestmobile.org) (October)

Find out about more food events in the Mobile Bay area by visiting [www.cityofmobile.org/calendar](http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar).



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# Festivals & Events

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## SPRING

**Annual BBQ Championship & Hog Wild Festival** features mouth-watering barbeque prepared by nearly 100 teams as well as live music and family entertainment – all to benefit United Cerebral Palsy of Mobile – (251) 479-4900 or [www.bbqmobile.net](http://www.bbqmobile.net)

**Azalea Trail Run:** One of the premier 10K road races in the U.S. – (251) 473-7223 or [www.pcpacers.org](http://www.pcpacers.org)

**St. Patrick's Day Parade:** Everyone's Irish for this holiday parade in downtown Mobile – (251) 479-5700 or [www.luckoirish.org](http://www.luckoirish.org)

**Mobile Historic Homes Tour:** A rare glimpse inside some of Mobile's most beautiful private homes – (251) 432-6161 or [www.historicmobile.org](http://www.historicmobile.org)



**Dauphin Island Race Regatta:** Popular sailing race across Mobile Bay – (251) 928-3276 or [www.fairhopeyachtclub.com](http://www.fairhopeyachtclub.com)

**Arts Alive!:** Interactive arts festival in March offers performances, hands-on arts activities and displays at Brookley Village area of the Mobile Aeroplex – [www.artsalivemobile.com](http://www.artsalivemobile.com)

**Plantasia! Spring Plant Sale:** Biannual plant sale offering thousands of plants especially selected for our Gulf Coast climate – (251) 342-0555 or [www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org)

**Mobile BayBears:** Baseball season begins in April and runs through September at Hank Aaron Stadium – (251) 479-2327 or [www.mobilebaybears.com](http://www.mobilebaybears.com)

**Blessing of the Fleet:** Decorated boats receive the church's blessing for full fishing nets in Bayou La Batre – (251) 824-2415 or [www.fleetblessing.org](http://www.fleetblessing.org)

**Fairhope Arts & Crafts Festival and Eastern Shore Art Association's Annual Outdoor Art Show:** A weekend of art, music and food – (251) 621-8222 or [www.eschamber.com/artscrafts](http://www.eschamber.com/artscrafts)

**American Red Cross Gumbo Cook-Off:** (251) 544-6100 or [www.redcrossalcoast.org](http://www.redcrossalcoast.org)



**Festival of Flowers:** One of the nation's top garden shows features landscape displays, seminars, markets and, of course, millions of flowers – (251) 639-2050 or [www.festivalofflowers.com](http://www.festivalofflowers.com)

**American Cancer Society Chili Cookoff:** Hot chili takes the chill off at The Grounds – (251) 344-9858 or [www.mobilechilicookoff.org](http://www.mobilechilicookoff.org)

## SUMMER

**Distinguished Young Women** (formerly America's Junior Miss): Finals of this scholarship competition bring the best and brightest high school seniors from all 50 states to Mobile – (251) 438-3621 or [www.distinguishedyw.org](http://www.distinguishedyw.org)

**Kids Days:** Free entertainment for children in Bienville Square and Langan Park – (251) 208-7540 or [www.ncsmobile.org](http://www.ncsmobile.org)



**Market on the Square:** Shop for the freshest crop in town – (251) 208-7540 or [www.ncsmobile.org](http://www.ncsmobile.org)

**Summer Reading Program:** The state's largest summer reading program, Mobile Public Library – (251) 208-7097 or [www.mplonline.org](http://www.mplonline.org)

**Mobile's Fourth of July Celebration:** Music and fireworks over the river, Cooper Riverside Park – (251) 470-7730 or [www.cityofmobile.org](http://www.cityofmobile.org)

**Grand Bay Watermelon Festival:** Entertainment, arts and crafts and the best watermelon around – [www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.com](http://www.grandbaywatermelonfestival.com)

**Alabama Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo and Dauphin Island Young Anglers Tournament:** Dauphin Island – (251) 471-0025 or [www.adsfr.com](http://www.adsfr.com)

**Gulf Coast Ethnic and Heritage Jazz Festival:** Terrific jazz performances highlight a weekend of art, education, culture and music – (251) 432-8343 or [www.gcejazzfest.com](http://www.gcejazzfest.com)

**Alabama Coastal Cleanup:** Mobile and Baldwin County volunteers clean up the coast – [www.alabamacoastalcleanup.com](http://www.alabamacoastalcleanup.com)

## FALL

**Veterans Day Parade:** One of the Gulf Coast's largest celebrations honoring military veterans. Parade rolls through downtown. Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce – (251) 433-6951 or [www.mobilechamber.com](http://www.mobilechamber.com)

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# Festivals & Events

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**Grand Festival of Art by the Bay:** Fairhope Pier Park – (251) 928-2228 or [www.esartcenter.com](http://www.esartcenter.com)

**Greater Gulf State Fair:** Rides, food and miles of displays – (251) 344-4573 or [www.mobilefair.com](http://www.mobilefair.com)

**Wing Bowl Chicken Cook-Off:** Family-friendly event to benefit YMCA of South Alabama's Strong Kids Campaign – (251) 402-2857 or [www.ysal.org](http://www.ysal.org)

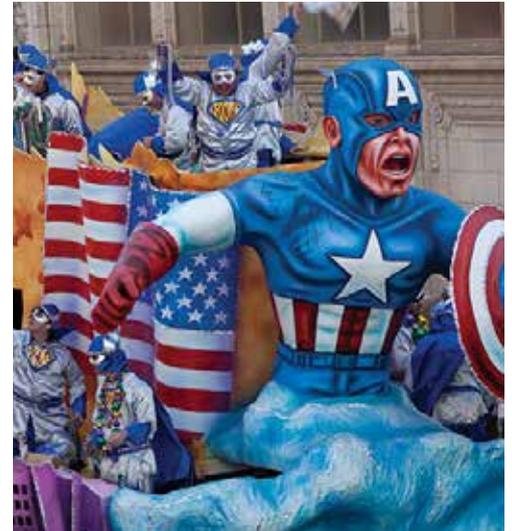
**Greek Fest:** Food, dancing, music and culture, Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church – (251) 438-9888 or [www.greekfestmobile.org](http://www.greekfestmobile.org)

**First Light Marathon:** Mobile's annual marathon benefiting L'Arche Mobile – (251) 438-2094 or [www.firstlightmarathon.com](http://www.firstlightmarathon.com)

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration:** (251) 208-7111 or [www.bscc.cc.al.us](http://www.bscc.cc.al.us)

**Reese's Senior Bowl:** The best senior college football stars and NFL coaches gather in Mobile for what has become the nation's biggest pre-draft event – (251) 438-2276 or [www.seniorbowl.com](http://www.seniorbowl.com)

## WINTER



**Mobile International Festival:** Food, culture and entertainment from around the world – (251) 470-7730 or [www.mobileinternationalfestival.org](http://www.mobileinternationalfestival.org)

**BayFest:** Three days of music, from jazz to bluegrass, in downtown Mobile, with enough variety to please even the pickiest of listeners – (251) 208-7835 or [www.bayfest.com](http://www.bayfest.com)

**Cascading Mums Display and Mum Festival at Bellingrath Gardens:** Lavish display of fall color – (251) 973-2217 or [www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)

**Annual Coastal Bird Fest:** Weekend full of birding events for the novice or experienced birder – [www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com](http://www.alabamacoastalbirdfest.com)

**Market on the Square:** Shop for the freshest crop in town – (251) 208-7540 or [www.ncsmobile.org](http://www.ncsmobile.org)

**Plantasia! Fall Plant Sale:** Biannual plant sale offering thousands of plants especially selected for our Gulf Coast climate – (251) 342-0555 or [www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org](http://www.mobilebotanicalgardens.org)

**National Shrimp Festival:** Four-day celebration of our favorite seafood with music, crafts and more, Gulf Shores – (251) 968-6904 or [www.nationalshrimpfestival.com](http://www.nationalshrimpfestival.com)

**Polo at the Point:** A great event for hat watching, as well as world-class polo, Point Clear – (251) 621-4464 or [www.poloatthepoint.com](http://www.poloatthepoint.com)

**Magic Christmas in Lights:** Bellingrath Gardens dressed up for the holidays – (251) 973-2217 or [www.bellingrath.org](http://www.bellingrath.org)

**Christmas Jubilee:** Annual Holiday Shopping Market presented by the Junior League of Mobile – (251) 471-3348 or [www.juniorleaguemobile.org](http://www.juniorleaguemobile.org)

**Lighting of the Trees in Bienville Square:** Santa and the mayor kick off the Mobile holiday season with light displays throughout downtown – (251) 208-7540 or [www.ncsmobile.org](http://www.ncsmobile.org)

**MoonPie Over Mobile:** New Year's celebration featuring the dropping of a giant MoonPie – (251) 208-7540 or [www.ncsmobile.org](http://www.ncsmobile.org)

**GoDaddy Bowl:** College football bowl game brings thousands to Mobile – (251) 635-0011 or [www.godaddybowl.com](http://www.godaddybowl.com)

**Mardi Gras:** Mobile's original street party includes three weeks of parades and excitement on downtown streets. For a complete schedule of parades, visit [www.mobile.org](http://www.mobile.org)

**Mobile Boat Show** is the largest boat show on the Gulf Coast, featuring hundreds of boats and marine accessories exhibited inside, outside and in the water – (251) 478-7469 or [www.gulfcoastshows.com](http://www.gulfcoastshows.com)

Find out about more events in the Mobile area by visiting [www.cityofmobile.org/calendar](http://www.cityofmobile.org/calendar)

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# Setting Up a Home or Business in Mobile

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Whether you've just arrived in Mobile or are contemplating a move, you're going to love it here. This section provides the information you need to make your move as easy as possible.

## Driver's License

### Alabama Department of Public Safety

Driver's License Examiner

3400 Demetropolis Rd., Mobile

(251) 660-2330

[www.dps.alabama.gov](http://www.dps.alabama.gov) or [www.mobilecountylc.com](http://www.mobilecountylc.com)

For out-of-state new residents, first-time issuance of an Alabama driver's license, suspended driver's license, or a foreign national driver's license, you must apply at the Alabama Department of Public Safety office in Mobile County. New residents with a valid out-of-state driver's license have 30 days to obtain an Alabama license. If you currently have a valid out-of-state license, the only requirement is a vision screening test (\$5) and surrender of your out-of-state license. Although a first-time license must be obtained through the state office, driver's licenses can be renewed at any Mobile County License Commission office.

License Fee: \$24.75, good for four years from date of purchase.

Minimum age: 16

#### Theodore

5808 U.S. Hwy 90 West, Suite D, Theodore  
(251) 574-3286

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

#### Eight Mile

Eight Mile Shopping Center  
4557 St. Stephens Rd., Eight Mile  
(251) 574-3269

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

#### Citronelle

19135 S. Main St., Citronelle  
(251) 574-2069

Hours: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

#### Downtown Mobile

Courthouse Annex  
151 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 574-4851

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday and Friday

## Automobile

### Mobile County License Commission

3925 Michael Blvd., Mobile

205 Government St., Mobile

(251) 574-8566

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

Tags are acquired from the Mobile County License Commission. A new Alabama resident is required to title and register his or her vehicle within 30 days of moving into the state with a valid out-of-state registration. There is a fee plus taxes for all passenger cars. All vehicles (built in 1975 and newer) must have titles. Registration for an out-of-state vehicle must be presented when applying for an Alabama tag. Alabama has a staggered renewal system, and the tag expiration date is according to the first letter of the last name.

The Mobile County License Commission has five convenient locations where you can register a new vehicle, renew your car tag or driver's license, obtain a hunting or fishing license or other license transactions. Tags also can be renewed online, by phone or by mail.

#### Mobile County License Commission Branches:

##### Michael Square/Main Office

3925-F Michael Blvd., Mobile

(251) 574-8530

Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

## Voter Registration

### Mobile County Probate Court

Board of Registrars

205 Government St., Mobile

(251) 574-8586

[www.probate.mobilecountyal.gov](http://www.probate.mobilecountyal.gov)

Voter registration forms are available online and at public libraries. Non-registered residents may also fill out voter registration forms at any Department of Motor Vehicle office and cards will be mailed in a few weeks.

## Dogs

### City of Mobile Animal Shelter

855 Owens St., Mobile

(251) 208-2801

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

All dogs within the city limits are required to be licensed. A license must be purchased during normal office hours, including 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday. Proof of current rabies inoculation is required for all license purchases. Inoculation certificates may be obtained from a veterinarian and are good for one year from the date of issue. City license tags must be renewed between October and January of each year.

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# Licenses

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## Business

### City of Mobile Revenue Department

205 Government St., Mobile

(251) 208-7462

[www.cityofmobile.org/revenue/applications.php](http://www.cityofmobile.org/revenue/applications.php)

City business licenses may be obtained from the license division of the revenue department of the city of Mobile. Rates, based upon a percentage of gross revenues, are published in the license code book. Before obtaining a license, zoning for the property of the contemplated business must be cleared with the city of Mobile zoning officer. Other municipalities in Mobile County also require the purchase of a business license.

### Mobile County License Commission

3925 Michael Blvd., Mobile

205 Government St., Mobile

(251) 574-8566

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

State and county business licenses are required in addition to any business licenses of a municipality. State and county business licenses are valid for one fiscal year, Oct. 1 through Sept. 30. Business licenses must be renewed in October to avoid penalties and interest charges. Applications for a business license are available online. Licenses may be purchased by mail or at the Michael Square office or the Downtown Office. Requirements and fees vary based on license code.

## Marriage

### Mobile County Probate Court

205 Government St., Mobile

(251) 574-8500

[www.probate.mobilecountyal.gov/marriage.asp](http://www.probate.mobilecountyal.gov/marriage.asp)

Minimum age to receive a marriage license is 18. Minors must be accompanied by both parents or legal guardians. There is no waiting period.

## Important Numbers to Know

Area Code.....	251
Emergencies (police, fire, ambulance).....	911
Police (Non-Emergency).....	(251) 208-7211
Automobile Registration.....	(251) 574-8566
Driver's License .....	(251) 660-2330
Voter Registration .....	(251) 574-8586
Hunting, Fishing and Boat Licenses.....	(251) 574-8563
Alabama Power Co. ....	(800) 245-2244
Mobile Gas .....	(251) 476-8052
Mobile Area Water and Sewer System .....	(251) 694-3100
AT&T	
(Residence) .....	(888) 757-6500
(Commercial).....	(888) 620-6900
(Wireless).....	(888) 333-6651
C Spire Wireless.....	(877) 276-8841
SouthernLINC Wireless.....	(251) 694-2337
T-Mobile .....	(904) 294-1762
Verizon Wireless Cellular .....	(251) 338-9253
Xfinity/Comcast Cable .....	(251) 665-2217
Mediacom.....	(251) 666-0849
City of Mobile .....	(251) 208-7777
Mobile County.....	(251) 574-4636
Mobile Bay Convention and Visitors Bureau .....	(251) 208-2000
Mobile Welcome Center.....	(251) 208-7304
Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce	
451 Government Street	
Mobile, AL 36602 .....	(251) 433-6951
	(800) 422-6951

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# Taxes

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## State Income Tax

(No City/County Wage Taxes)

Tax Rate Range: 2% to 5%

Income Brackets: \$500 to \$3,000

Number of Brackets: 3

Personal Exemption:

Single/\$1,500

Married/\$3,000

Dependents/\$300

Standard Deduction:

Single/\$2,000;

Married filing joint return/\$4,000

Medical/Dental Deduction:

Limited to excess of 4% of adjusted gross income

### Eight Mile

Eight Mile Shopping Center

4557 St. Stephens Rd., Eight Mile

(251) 574-3269

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

### Citronelle

109 S. Main St., Citronelle

(251) 574-2069

Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday

### Downtown Mobile – Courthouse Annex

151 Government St., Mobile

(251) 574-4851

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

## Mobile County Sales Tax Rates

City	Total Tax %
Bayou La Batre	9.0
Chickasaw	9.5
Citronelle	8.5
Creola	8.5
Dauphin Island	7.5
Mt. Vernon	9.5
Saraland	10.0
Satsuma	8.5
Semmes	8.5
Mobile	10.0
Prichard	10.0
Unincorporated	5.5

## Property Taxes

Assessment rates are:

10% residential

20% commercial

30% utilities

Rate per \$1,000 assessed valuation

City of Mobile \$ 7.00

Mobile County \$20.50

State \$ 6.50

School \$17.50

A homestead exemption is available to all citizens who use their property exclusively as their home. The maximum amount of the exemption is \$4,000 for state taxes and \$2,000 for county taxes. Additional exemptions are available for persons over 65 years of age or disabled.

## Mobile County Revenue Commission

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

The Revenue Commission is responsible for mapping, appraising, assessing and collecting property taxes in Mobile County. The commission grants tax exemptions to those who qualify and disburses collected taxes to state and county government agencies as directed by law.

### Branches:

#### Michael Square/Main Office

3925 Michael Blvd., Mobile

(251) 574-8530

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

#### Theodore

5808 U.S. Hwy. 90 West, Suite G, Theodore

(251) 574-3286

Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday – Friday

## Taxes on Retirement Income

Social Security, civil service, state/local government and qualified private pensions are exempt. All out-of-state government pensions are tax-exempt if they are defined benefit plans.

### Taxes on Military Retirement and Disability Pay –

Retired pay and survivor benefits are not taxed.

### VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) –

Not subject to federal or state taxes.

Source: [www.retirementliving.com/RLstate1](http://www.retirementliving.com/RLstate1)

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# Utilities, Public Services and Media

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## Electric

### Alabama Power Co.

150 St. Joseph St., Mobile  
(800) 245-2244  
www.alabamapower.com

For new service, a credit score will be obtained through a credit reporting agency to determine if a deposit is necessary. If a deposit is needed, the deposit will be refunded as a credit after service has been maintained for 12 consecutive months.

## Gas

### Mobile Gas, a Sempra Co.

2828 Dauphin St., Mobile  
(251) 476-8052  
www.mobile-gas.com

All new residential accounts require a \$50 deposit and a \$20 connection fee.

## Water and Sewage

### Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (City of Mobile)

207 N. Catherine St., Mobile  
(251) 694-3100  
www.mawss.com

Residential deposit rate of \$100

Need driver's license and proof of residence

### LeMoyne Water System Inc. (North Mobile County)

(municipal-owned)  
11426 Old Hwy. 43, Axis  
(251) 675-1797

Meter application of \$100

Need driver's license and proof of ownership/rental agreement

## Telephone and Cable

### AT&T

(888) 757-6500  
www.att.com

### Xfinity/Comcast Cable

3248 Springhill Ave., Mobile  
(251) 665-2217  
www.comcast.com

### Mediacom

4545 Clearview Dr, Mobile  
(251) 666-0849  
www.mediacomcable.com

## Garbage and Trash

### Public Works Department, City of Mobile

(251) 208-2900

Residential garbage collection: once weekly; trash collections once every other week. Residents living outside city limits of Mobile are responsible for obtaining private service.

## Recycling

### Metro Mobile Recycling Center

1451 Government St., Mobile  
(251) 208-6029, www.cityofmobile.org/recycle  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. – seven days a week

### Mobile County Recycling Center

7450 Hitt Road, Mobile  
www.mobilecounty.org  
Hours: 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. – seven days a week

## Media

Mobile is served by six TV stations (five network affiliates and one public) and 27 radio stations. Mobile has several weekly newspapers and magazines.

*Press-Register* (3 times a week newspaper)/al.com  
18 S. Royal St., Mobile  
(251) 219-5400  
www.al.com

*Lagniappe* (weekly)  
P.O. Box 3003, Mobile  
(251) 450-4466  
www.lagniappemobile.com

*Steppin' Out News* (monthly)  
951 Government St., Ste. 421, Mobile  
(251) 533-5726

WALA TV – Channel 10 (FOX) and WFNA/CW – Channel 55  
1501 Satchel Paige Dr., Mobile  
(251) 434-1010  
www.fox10tv.com or www.gocwvtv.com

WEAR TV – Channel 3 (ABC)  
4990 Mobile Hwy., Pensacola  
(850) 456-3333  
www.weartv.com

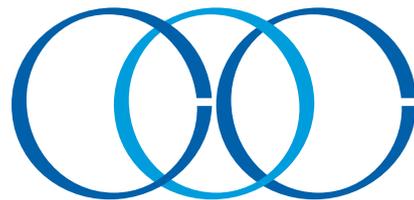
WKRG TV – Channel 5 (CBS)  
555 Broadcast Dr., Mobile  
(251) 479-5555  
www.wkrg.com

WPMI TV – Local 15/UTV44 (NBC) and (UPN)  
661 Azalea Rd., Mobile  
(251) 602-1500  
www.local15tv.com or www.utv44.com

# believe in **mobile** belong to the **chamber**

## we're good for business ... your business

It's tough running a business, but it's easier when the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce has your back. Most of our more than 2,200 members are small businesses working to make a living and make a difference. The Chamber does more than build a strong economy – we offer prime networking venues to develop new contacts and solid resources to help you start, manage and grow your company. Believe in a strong future for Mobile. Belong to the Chamber – because it's good for business and good for Mobile.

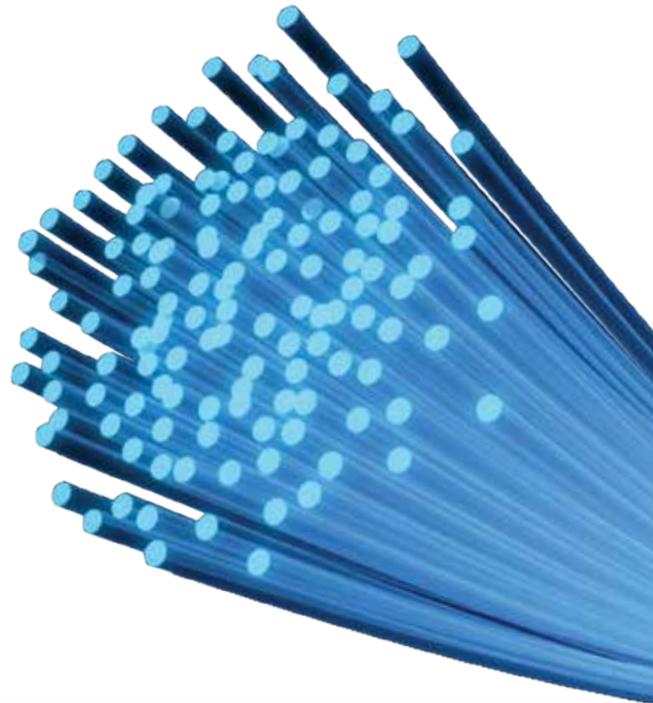
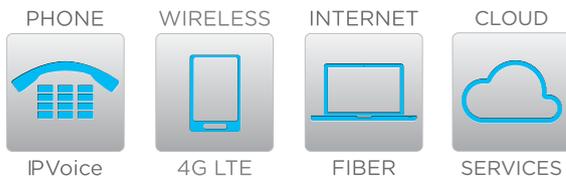


**MOBILE AREA  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

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