



PRESS RELEASE

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Mobile Chamber Presents 2026 Economic Outlook at 11th Annual State of the Economy

Event highlights key economic trends and recognizes MYER Companies and 68 Ventures for industry excellence.

MOBILE, Ala. – Business leaders from across the region gathered Wednesday, November 19, for the Mobile Chamber’s 11th Annual State of the Economy presented by Hargrove Engineers & Constructors.

The event provided a comprehensive look at the economic trends shaping Mobile’s future and featured insights from Tom Wickham, vice president and managing director of government affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Wickham shared expert analysis on the national macroeconomy, federal policy developments, tariffs, the latest spending bill and what these shifts mean for our regional business climate.

“The U.S. Chamber is committed to achieving 3% annual economic growth, which is a goal that would double the economy in 20 years and give the next generation in Alabama and across the country a better shot at the American Dream. Policies like the One Big Beautiful Bill Act provide tax certainty, encourage investment and strengthen the workforce - critical components to driving growth. These measures matter for Alabama businesses and can build the tailwinds needed to fuel innovation and economic opportunity across the state and the nation,” said **Tom Wickham**, Vice President and Managing Director of Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber also unveiled the results of the [2026 Mobile Area Economic Outlook Survey](#), which pointed to strong momentum heading into the new year.

One key data point highlighted was a 5.14% GDP growth from 2022 to 2023, underscoring a solid economic foundation. Local companies echoed that sentiment, reporting a positive business outlook for 2026 following a successful 2025.

Business leaders pointed out a need to continue to attack the barriers of entry for the local labor force such as affordable housing, childcare and transportation.

“This survey gives our team a clear view of what matters most to Mobile’s business community,” said Mobile Chamber Vice President of Economic Development **David Rodgers**. “In 2026, our focus will be on developing talent and education, recruiting new industries and advancing the infrastructure needed to support continued economic expansion.”

As part of the program, the Chamber also recognized two standout companies whose leadership and performance are driving meaningful progress in the region.



Manufacturer of the Year: MYER Companies

MYER Companies is a family-owned metal fabrication leader that continues to set the standard for operational excellence, sustained growth and meaningful contributions to Mobile's industrial economy.

Founded in 2013, MYER has grown into a leading provider of metal fabrication, machining and field services, employing more than 200 team members and serving major dredging, construction, oil and gas and industrial contractors across the nation.

"MYER's commitment to quality, innovation and workforce development reflects the very best of Mobile's manufacturing community," said Mobile Chamber President and CEO **Bradley Byrne**. "Their growth and investment are creating real opportunities for local families and strengthening the industrial backbone of our region."

Over the past 12 years, MYER has experienced record year-over-year growth, driving new investment and job creation in Mobile. The company is currently adding 36,000 square feet of new manufacturing space at its Mobile facility and adding 50 to 60 full-time positions to support growing demand.

MYER continues to invest heavily in workforce development, partnering with the Southwest Alabama Partnership for Training and Employment, participating in apprenticeship programs and serving in advisory roles for local college technical programs. Many members of MYER's leadership team began in entry-level roles, reflecting the company's commitment to promoting from within and helping employees reach their full potential.

From its start as a small welding shop to its growth into a multi-faceted industrial operation, MYER's trajectory demonstrates a long-standing commitment to operational excellence and reinvestment.

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Innovator of the Year: 68 Ventures

68 Ventures has been named the Mobile Chamber 2025 *Innovator of the Year*, recognizing the Daphne-based development and investment company for its people-first approach to growth, its expanding portfolio of operating businesses and its significant impact on the Gulf Coast economy.

Founded in 2016, 68 Ventures is the parent company to nine operating companies across development, construction and essential services. The company has deployed more than \$1 billion in capital, grown into the region's largest single-family developer and ranked among the nation's top 100 private home builders.

"68 Ventures continues to drive innovation across our region," said Mobile Chamber President and CEO **Bradley Byrne**. "Their focus on investing in people, supporting entrepreneurs and giving back to the community makes them a leader in both business and impact."

What sets the company apart is its investment model. Rather than simply providing capital, 68 Ventures actively partners with entrepreneurs, offering operational expertise, resources and long-term strategic support.

Beyond business growth, 68 Ventures is known for its commitment to community impact. The company donates millions in land and resources each year, raises more than \$200,000 annually through its Ballin' on Belrose fundraiser to support children and families and serves as the title sponsor of the 68 Ventures Bowl in Mobile.

In 2026, the company will launch the Chasing Greatness Leadership and Entrepreneurship Conference at the Mobile Convention Center, bringing national speakers and thought leaders to the region.

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The 11th Annual State of the Economy is made possible thanks to sponsors: Hargrove Engineers and Constructors, Hummingbird Ideas, Second Story Media, LLC, Columbia Southern University, Airbus, ArcelorMittal Calvert, Express Employment Professionals, Millard Maritime, Mobile Area Association of Realtors, OberaConnect LLC, Spire and Outokumpu.

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About the Mobile Chamber

The Mobile Chamber is a private business organization with more than 1,700 members and the economic developer for the City of Mobile and Mobile County. The Mobile Chamber's focus is to provide members with networking, marketing and professional development opportunities, expand jobs in the area, develop the local workforce, advocate legislative priorities and offer resources to help small businesses grow. Additional information is on the Chamber's [website](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#).

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