

**Census Bureau Release of 2008 Population Estimates Shows Continued Recovery from Hurricane Katrina**

The Census Bureau recently released its official estimates of population at July 1, 2008 for the cities of the three Mississippi coastal counties. The results can be seen in the table below:

<b>NAME</b>	<b>Census 2000</b>	<b>7/1/2005 Pop</b>	<b>7/1/2006 Pop</b>	<b>7/1/2007 Pop</b>	<b>7/1/2008 Pop</b>	<b>% of 2005 Pop</b>	<b>% of 2000 Pop</b>
<b>Hancock County</b>	<b>42967</b>	<b>46546</b>	<b>40421</b>	<b>39687</b>	<b>40140</b>	<b>86.2</b>	<b>93.4</b>
Bay St. Louis city	8209	8276	Z	Z	8052	97.3	98.1
Waveland city	6674	7203	Z	Z	5249	72.9	78.6
Balance of Hancock County	28084	31067	28430	26969	26839	86.4	95.6
<b>Harrison County</b>	<b>189601</b>	<b>193187</b>	<b>171875</b>	<b>176105</b>	<b>178460</b>	<b>92.4</b>	<b>94.1</b>
Biloxi city	50644	49904	44342	44292	45670	91.5	90.2
D'Iberville city	7608	8146	7064	7423	7928	97.3	104.2
Gulfport city	71127	72304	64316	66271	70055	96.9	98.5
Long Beach city	17320	17234	Z	Z	12234	71.0	70.6
Pass Christian city	6579	6861	Z	Z	3993	58.2	60.7
Balance of Harrison County	36323	38738	34782	36414	38580	99.6	106.2
<b>Jackson County</b>	<b>131420</b>	<b>135571</b>	<b>130577</b>	<b>130098</b>	<b>130694</b>	<b>96.4</b>	<b>99.4</b>
Gautier city	16828	16814	16251	16096	16306	97.0	96.9
Moss Point city	15851	15078	14583	14199	13951	92.5	88.0
Ocean Springs city	17225	17726	17140	17246	17149	96.7	99.6
Pascagoula city	26200	25101	23719	23452	23609	94.1	90.1
Balance of Jackson County	60463	60852	58884	59105	59679	98.1	98.7
<b>Total Coastal Population</b>	<b>363988</b>	<b>375304</b>	<b>342873</b>	<b>345890</b>	<b>349294</b>	<b>93.1</b>	<b>96.0</b>

Source: US Census Bureau

Note: 1) Z indicates no estimate for this jurisdiction due to excessive housing damage from Hurricane Katrina; 2) Bay St. Louis and Waveland 2008 populations reflect the annexations to their boundaries.

The columns “% of 2005 Pop” and “% of 2000 Pop” refer to the 2008 estimated population as a percentage of the July 1, 2005 and April 2000 populations, allowing comparison to the last population estimate before Hurricane Katrina and to the last census. By making these comparisons the degree of recovery from the hurricane can be measured. The total coastal population has returned to 93.1% of its level immediately prior to Hurricane Katrina, while 96.0% of the 2000 population has been recovered.

These numbers correlate well with the percentage of public school enrollment recovered by September 2008 and the 2008 average annual residential employment in the three coastal counties. The late September 2008 K-12 enrollment for the area was 92.3% of the September 2004 enrollment. Residential jobs in the three counties averaged 96.3% of the 2004 total.