Chapter 3

Socioeconomic Environment of the Region

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3.1 Introduction

The Gulf Coastal Plain includes portions of six states (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida) and borders the Gulf of Mexico from Florida to Southern Texas. Numerous rivers - including the Alabama, Mississippi, Rio Grande, and Trinity– cross the plain and flow into the Gulf. The Mississippi which originates in the Interior Plains to the north, is the most important of these rivers. Barges carrying cargoes from many parts of the country travel along the river. Soil deposited along the banks of the Mississippi and other rivers in the Gulf Coastal Plain creates fertile farmland. The Plain also has belts of hilly forests and grazing land, and large deposits of petroleum and natural gas lie beneath it and in the offshore Gulf waters. The Gulf Coastal Plain has many sandy beaches, swamps, bays and offshore islands (World Book, 1994)

The purpose of this research is to provide a socio-demographic profile of the Gulf Coastal Plain. The profile presented includes the following (1) land area, agriculture, forest, oil , gas and related industries, (2) demographic and social characteristics; (3) major economic indicators; and (4) productivity measures.

3.2 Land Area, Agriculture, Forests, Oil and Gas and Related Industries

As of 1999 (Table 1), the total area for the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas was 477, 379 square miles which included a land area of 457,081 square miles, a water area of 15,544 square miles and 4,753 coastal square miles. Louisiana has the greatest number of coastal square miles (1,931) followed by Florida (1,308), Mississippi (591), Alabama (519), and Texas (404). Florida has the largest number of square miles of inland water area (4,683), followed by Texas (4,959), Louisiana (4,153), Alabama (968) and Mississippi (781). The land mass of the targeted area (Table 2) consists of 302.7 million acres. Texas with the largest land area of 170.8 million acres, reported 155.5 million acres as rural land and 28.3 million acres of this acreage as crop land. The States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi have less than six percent of rural land as cropland. Table 3 summarizes the number of farms, average farm size and total cropland. As can be seen, Texas with the unusually large land mass has a greater number and size of farms. The average farm size in Texas, 676 acres, was 39 percent greater than the national average while the average farm size was only 291 acres in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida. The U.S. average farm size of 487 acres was 68 percent greater than the average for these four states.

Table 1 Land and Water Area.

State	Total Area	Land Area	Water Area		
			Total	Inland Sq. Mi.	Coastal Sq. Mi.
Alabama	52,237	50,750	1,487	968	519
Florida	59,928	53,937	5,991	4,683	1,308
Louisiana	49,651	43,566	6,084	4,153	1,931
Mississippi	48,286	46,914	1,372	781	591
Texas	267,277	261,914	5,363	4,959	404
Total	477,379	457,081	20,297	15,544	4,753

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 2 Land Cover/Use by State (non-federal - 1992) in millions of acres.

State	Total Surface area 1	Total	Developed 2	Rural Land	
				Total	Crop Land
Alabama	33.1	31.2	2.0	29.1	3.1
Florida	37.7	30.4	4.6	25.8	3.0
Louisiana	30.6	26.4	1.8	24.8	6.0
Mississippi	30.5	28.0	1.3	26.7	5.7
Texas	170.8	163.7	8.2	155.5	28.3
Total	302.7	279.7	17.9	261.9	46.1

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

1- Includes Water land not shown separately
2- Includes urban and built up areas in units of 10 acres or grater. And rural transportation.

Table 3 Number of Farms, Size of Farm and Farm Acreage.

State	Number of Farms	Average Size of Farm	Total Cropland
United States	1,911,859	487	431,144
Alabama	43,384	210	4,198
Florida	34,799	300	3,640
Louisiana	23,823	331	5,331
Mississippi	31,318	323	5,947
Texas	194,301	676	37,662
Average (Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas)	65,525	548	11,356

Source: 1999 County and City Extra

Table 4 Farm Income - Farm Marketing, 1997 and Principal Commodities, by State.

State	Total	Crops	Livestock and Products	State rank for total farm marketings and four principal commodities in order of marketing receipts
United States	208,665	112,097	96,568	Cattle, dairy products, corns, soybeans
Alabama	3,227	796	2,431	26 - Broilers, cattle, cotton, chicken, eggs
Florida	6,243	4,978	1,265	9 - Greenhouse, oranges, tomatoes, sugar
Louisiana	2,140	1,481	659	32 - Cotton, sugar, rice, soybeans
Mississippi	3,476	1,470	2,006	23 - Broilers, cotton, soybeans, aquaculture
Texas	13,461	5,277	8,184	2 - Cattle, cotton, greenhouse, dairy products

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

In millions of dollars, cattle includes calves and greenhouse includes nursery.

Table 4 summarizes productivity for crops and livestock for each state in the region. During 1997, Alabama reported total farm related incomes of $3.2 billion which included $797 million in crop sales and $2.4 billion dollars in livestock and other product sales. Louisiana reported the lowest crop and livestock sales of only $2.1 billion. As expected, Texas ($13.4 billion) and Florida ($6.2 billion) reported greatest farm income. Table 4 also provides state rankings for total farm marketing and the four principal commodities in order of farm receipts. Texas ranked second in the nation in the sale of farm commodities. The four leading commodities sold included cattle, cotton, greenhouse including nursery products and dairy products. Florida ranked 9th in the sale of farm commodities. Major commodities sold included greenhouse, oranges, tomatoes, and sugar. The States of Mississippi (23rd) , Alabama (26th), and Louisiana (32nd) national rankings ranged from 23rd to 32nd. Major commodities sold in these states included cattle, cotton, soybeans, and broilers.

Table 5 presents data on the national forest system land for 1997; the gross area within unit boundaries which comprises all publicly and privately owned land within authorized boundaries of the national forests; and national grasslands, land utilization projects, and research and experimental areas. Also reported is land in the national forest system. Presently, there are 191 million acres in the national forest land system, of which 1.2 million acres are in Mississippi, 1.1 million acres are in Florida, 665 thousand acres are in Alabama, 755 thousand acres are in Texas and 604 thousand acres are in Louisiana.

Also presented are data on crude petroleum and

Table 5 National Forest System Land, 1997.

State	1 Gross area within unit boundaries	2 National Forest System Land	Other lands within unit boundaries
United States	231,664	191,913	40,051
Alabama	1,290	665	625
Florida	1,418	1,147	271
Louisiana	1,025	604	421
Mississippi	2,312	1,158	1,154
Texas	1,994	755	1,239

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
In thousands of acres
1 - Comprises all publicly and privately owned land within authorized boundaries of national forests, purchase units, national grasslands, land utilization projects, research and experimental areas, and other areas
2 - Federally owned land within the gross area within unit boundaries

natural gas production in the region for year 1997. The value and quantity of crude petroleum production are given in Table 6. Texas (537 million barrels) leads the region in the production of crude petroleum, followed by Louisiana (134 million barrels), Mississippi (21 million barrels), Alabama (15 million barrels) and Florida (6 million barrels). The value of the crude petroleum in the State of Texas ($10 billion) was almost 25 percent of the value of all petroleum production in the United States ($40.6 billion). Texas (6.454 billion cubic feet) also leads the region in natural gas production and was followed by Louisiana (5,230 billion cubic feet), and Alabama (553 billion cubic feet). Again, Texas, generating $15.9 billion dollars from the marketing of natural gas in 1997, produced almost one third of all U.S. revenues from natural gas productivity. Louisiana ($12.4 billion) had significant revenues from the sale of natural gas. Together, the States of Texas and Louisiana generated 59 percent of all natural gas produced in the United States and 63 percent of all revenues generated from the sale of natural gas during 1997.

The States of Texas and Louisiana have significant oil and natural gas reserves (Table 7). Texas alone had 5,687 billion barrels of proved crude oil reserves and 37,761 billion cubic feet of natural gas reserves which represented more than 20 percent of the total U.S. oil and gas reserves. Louisiana has a little less than 5 percent of the national oil and gas reserves.

Table 6 Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas - Productions and Value, by State, 1997.

State	Crude Petroleum		Natural Gas Marketed Production - 1	
	Quantity (mil. Bbl)	Value (mil dol.)	Quantity (bil. Cu ft)	Value (mil dol.)
United States	2.355	40,574	19,865	46,131
Alabama	15	276	553	1,557
Florida	6	na	6	na
Louisiana	134	2,578	5,230	12,352
Mississippi	21	356	107	186
Texas	537	10,013	6,454	15,976

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
1- Excludes non-hydrocarbon gases

We also examined the toxic release by states from 1988 to 1996 (Table 8). These data summarize the release of core chemicals for the years 1988, 1994, 1995, and 1996. During 1988, Texas and Louisiana had the greatest amount of release of toxic chemicals, 318,632 and 250,845 pounds respectively. When compared to 1996 data, these states also had the greatest decrease in release of core toxic chemicals. Louisiana reduced toxic chemical release by 48.26 percent and Texas by 41.16 percent. Another major environmental concern for the region is hazardous waste sites on the national priority list located in each of the targeted states. Table 9 provides a ranking of each state in terms of the number of hazardous waste sites on the national priority list for 1998. As can be seen, Mississippi ranked 47th with three sites; Alabama ranked 32nd with 12 sites; Louisiana ranked 27th with 15 sites; Texas ranked 11th with 32 sites; and Florida ranked 6th with 53 sites on the national priority list.

Finally, serious crime known to police was assessed as a major environmental concern (See Table 10). Crime rates are reported per 100,000 persons in the population. The crimes in the State of Louisiana (6,741) and Texas (5,707) were higher than the national crime rate (5,079) while the crime rate in Alabama (4,857) was lower.

Table 7 Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids - Reserves by States, 1997.

State	Crude Oil		Natural gas (bil cu ft)	Natural gas liquids (mil bbl)
	Proved (bil bbl)	Indicated (bil bbl)		
United States	22,546	3,207	167,223	7,973
Alabama	47	—	4,968	93
Florida	91	—	96	17
Louisiana	714	313	9,673	437
Mississippi	183	—	582	6
Texas	5,687	479	37.761	2,687

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
Proved reserves are estimated quantities of the mineral, which geological and engineering data demonstrate with reasonable certainty to be recoverable in future years from known reservoirs under existing economic and operating conditions. Indicated reserves of crude oil are quantities other than Proved reserved, which may become economically recoverable from existing productive reservoirs through the application of improved recovery techniques using current technology. Based on a sample of operators of oil and gas wells.

Table 8 Toxic Release by States: 1988 to 1996 (in thousands of pounds).

State and outlying area	Core Chemicals				
	1988	1994	1995	1996	% Change 1988- 96
Alabama	109,690	96,649	100,495	89,469	18.42
Florida	61,527	71,434	52,111	46,914	23.75
Louisiana	250,845	114,824	122,288	129,789	48.26
Mississippi	59,600	42,834	39,671	39,321	34.03
Texas	318,632	199,765	205,724	187,485	41.16

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 9 Hazardous Waste Sites on the National Priority List: 1998.

	Total Sites	Rank	Federal	Non-Federal
Alabama	12	32	3	9
Florida	53	6	6	47
Louisiana	15	27	1	14
Mississippi	3	47	–	3
Texas	32	11	4	28
Total	115		14	101

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 10 Serious Crime Known to Police 1996.

	Rate	Violent	Property
United States	5,079	634	4,445
Alabama	4,8567	569	4,287
Florida	na	na	na
Louisiana	6,741	912	5,829
Mississippi	na	na	na
Texas	5,706	644	5,062

Source: 1999 County and City Extra
Per 100,000 estimated by FBI.

3.3 Social and Demographic Profile

3.3.1 Population Distribution

This section of the profile summarizes available social and demographic data for the States of Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. In some instances, where applicable, comparisons were made between the targeted states and the U.S. population. The area had a 1998 population of 46.2 million (Table 11). Texas and Florida had the largest population with 19.8 million and 14.9 million persons, respectively. States of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi had much smaller populations ranging from 2.7 million to 4.6 million persons. The population density in the region was greater than the U.S. population density. This is particularly noted in Florida with 104.8 persons per square kilometer compared to the U.S. average of 29.2 persons per square kilometer. Mississippi was the only state in the targeted region with a population density lower than the U.S. average of 22.5 persons per square kilometer. The U.S. population grew by 9.8 percent between 1980 and 1990, 5.6 percent between 1990 and 1995, and another 2.9 percent between 1995 and 1998. Population growth in Texas and Florida grew at a faster pace than the U.S. population for this same period. As can be seen in Table 12, Florida grew by 32.7 percent between 1980 and 1990, by 9.6 percent between 1990 and 1995, and by 5.2 percent between 1995-1998. During the period 1980 to 1998, the U.S. population increased by 19.32 percent, compared to population increases of 11.77 percent in Alabama, 53.05 percent in Florida, 3.8 percent in Louisiana, 6.71 percent in Mississippi and 38.88 percent in Texas. Average population growth for the period more than doubled U.S. population growth in the States of Florida and Texas while population growth in Mississippi and Louisiana languished at less than seven percent.

As population density rises to high levels, familiar problems of urban living can be expected to occur, such as high crime rates. Expected to interact with these problems are crises in the physical environment, such as air and water pollution, acid rain, and growing outputs of hazardous waste (Anderson and Taylor, 2000). However, these data present conflicting views. For example, while the population density of Texas was increasing, release of core toxic chemicals has been reduced by approximately 40 percent. This trend also holds in the State of Florida where the population increased by 53 percent between 1980 and 1998 while the release of hazardous chemicals was reduced by 15 percent between 1988 and 1996.

Table 13 summarizes population distribution by race. There appears to be significant variation in the racial distribution of the population in the region. The U.S. had a 1997 white population of 270 million (82.7 percent) and a black population of 34 million (12.7). Included in these populations were 30 million (11.0 percent) Hispanics. Other races comprised approximately five percent of the U.S. population. The Hispanic population is counted in the black and white population as well as presented as a stand alone category (Tables 13 and 14). The Gulf Coastal Plain States presented a somewhat different population distribution. For example, in the State of Alabama, 73 percent of the 1998 population was white, 25.9 percent was black, and only .9 percent was Hispanic. Mississippi and Louisiana also had similar patterns of population distribution. In Mississippi, 62.6 percent of the population was white, 36.4 percent was black, and only .8 percent was Hispanic. In Louisiana 66.2 percent of the population was white, 36.4 percent was black, and 2.6 percent was Hispanic. As expected, Texas and Florida had larger Hispanic populations. In Texas, 29.4 percent of the population was Hispanic and in Florida 14.4 percent of the population was Hispanic. In summary, a large percentage of blacks was found in the States of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama and a large percentage of Hispanics was found in the States of Florida and Texas. Additionally, the percentage of blacks and Hispanics in Gulf Coastal Plain States is more than twice as great as these populations were in other parts of the country.

Table 11 Population in thousands.

State	Number (1998)	Per Square Kilometer (1997)
United States	270,299	29.2
Alabama	4,352	32.9
Florida	14,916	104.8
Louisiana	4,369	38.6
Mississippi	2,752	22.5
Texas	19,760	28.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 12 Resident Population in thousands.

States	1980	1990	1995	1998	Percent Change				Popu Dens
					1980 - 1990	1990 - 1995	1995 - 1998	1980 - 1998	1998
United States	226,546	248,765	262,765	270,299	9.8	5.6	2.9	19.32	76.4
Alabama	3,894	4,040	4,270	4,352	3.8	5.7	1.9	11.77	85.8
Florida	9,746	12,938	14,180	14,916	32.7	9.6	5.2	53.05	276.2
Louisiana	4,206	4,222	4,328	4,369	0.4	2.5	0.9	3.8	100.3
Mississippi	2,521	2,575	2,690	2,752	2.2	4.5	2.3	6.71	58.7
Texas	14,229	16,986	18,694	19,760	19.4	10.1	5.7	38.88	75.4

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States

Table 13 Population by Race (1998).

Area	Total	White		Black	American Indian, Eskimo Aleut	Asian, Pacific Islander	Hispanic Origin 1
		Hispanic	Non Hispanic				
Alabama	4,352	36	3,141	1,132	15	28	43
Florida	14,916	2,080	10,239	2,268	58	271	2,243
Louisiana	4,369	100	2,787	1,407	19	55	117
Mississippi	2,752	18	1,701	1,003	10	19	23
Texas	19,760	5,640	1,038	2,430	96	556	5,863

1 - Persons of Hispanic Origin may be of any race
Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 14 Population by Race (1997).

State	White	Black	American Indian, Eskimo Aleut	Asian, Pacific Islander	Hispanic
United States	82.7	12.7	0.9	3.7	11.0
Alabama	73.1	25.9	0.4	0.6	0.9
Florida	82.5	15.4	0.4	1.7	14.4
Louisiana	66.2	32.1	0.4	1.2	2.6
Mississippi	62.6	36.4	0.4	0.7	0.8
Texas	84.6	12.2	0.5	2.7	29.4

Hispanic persons may be any race
Source: 1999 County and City Extra

3.3.1 Age, Sex Distribution and Educational Attainment

Tables 15 and 16 summarize the population distribution in the region by age. Florida has a larger percentage of persons 65 years of age and older. Generally, when reviewing population distribution by age, little discernable difference can be found between the United States population and the population in the Gulf Coastal Plain States. However, the dependency ratio may be a little more meaningful. The dependency ratio is the distribution of persons in the dependent population. Here, we are using ages less than 18 and ages greater than 65 years of age to compare with persons ages 18 to 64. This crude dependency ratio for the United States was .6281. For every 1,000 persons ages 18 to 64 there were approximately 628 persons less than age 18 and age 65 and older. The dependency ratio was .5485 in Alabama, .6218 in Florida, .6339 in Louisiana, .6585 in Mississippi and .7816 in Texas. Surprisingly, Texas had the highest dependency ratio. Proportionately, the States of Alabama, Florida, and Louisiana had a proportionately higher working age population than Mississippi and Texas. We also looked at the percentage of the population in each state 65 years of age and older. As of 1998, 12.7 percent of the U.S. population was 65 years of age and older compared to 13.1 percent in Alabama, 18.3 percent in Florida, 11.5 percent in Louisiana, 12.2 percent in Mississippi, and 10.1 percent in Texas. Persons less than age 17 would provide some indication of the future viability of the labor force. In 1997, persons less than 18 years of age comprised 26.0 percent of the U.S. population compared to 24.6 percent in Alabama, 23.7 percent in Florida, 27.4 percent in Louisiana, 27.6 percent in Mississippi, and 28.7 percent in Texas.

Age distributions has important implications for the region. Currently, the U.S. population has an increasing proportion of older people. With the shrinking size of families, the proportion of elderly people is growing faster than the number of younger potential caretakers. With regard to age, the following generalizations can be made: (1) racial minorities and ethnic groups are an increasing proportion of the older population; (2) the proportion of the population classified as the oldest old (those over eighty-five) will also continue to grow (Treas, Judith. 1997); (3) women will continue to outnumber men in old age, especially among the oldest old (Treas, 1997); and (4) since the educational status of the elderly is increasing rapidly, the historical gap in educational attainment between the old and the young will likely disappear by the middle of the twenty-first century (Uhlenbert, 1992).

Table 15 Population by age in thousands as of July 1998.

Age Distribution	United States	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Total	270,299	4,352	14,916	4,369	2,752	19,760
Under 5 years	18,966	295	953	313	202	1,615
5 to 17 years	50,906	789	2,587	878	555	4,014
18-24 years	25,470	436	1,206	475	300	2,049
25-34 years	38,774	620	1,926	589	381	2,829
35-44 years	44,520	687	2,318	683	415	3,242
45-54 years	34,585	561	1,816	551	330	2,451
55-64 years	22,676	395	1,377	376	234	1,560
65-74 years	18,395	313	1,448	280	184	1,113
75 to 84 years	11,952	191	976	168	112	661
85 years and over	4,054	64	310	56	40	227
% 65 years and over	12.7	13.1	18.3	11.5	12.2	10.1

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999

Table 16 Population(Percent) by age - 1997.

Age Distribution	United States	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Under 5 years	7.2	6.8	6.5	7.2	7.4	8.3
5 to 17 years	18.8	18.0	17.2	20.2	20.2	20.4
18-24 years	9.3	10.1	8.1	10.7	10.9	10.3
25-34 years	14.8	14.6	13.4	14.0	14.1	14.4
35-44 years	16.4	15.8	15.4	15.8	15.1	16.4
45-54 years	12.6	12.6	12.0	12.4	11.8	12.1
55-64 years	8.2	8.2	9.0	8.4	8.3	7.6
65-74 years	6.9	6.9	10.0	6.4	6.7	5.7
75 years and older	5.8	5.8	8.5	5.0	5.5	4.4

Source: 1999 County and City Extra

The population for the Gulf Coastal Plain States was also characterized by sex (Table 17). In all states reviewed, the proportion of women exceeded the proportion of men. The sex ratio for the United States in 1996 was 96. The sex ratio in the Gulf Coastal Plain States was lower than the U.S. average for all states except Texas. Texas had a 1996 sex ratio of 98. There were 98 men for every 100 women in Texas, 93 men for every 100 women in Alabama, 95 men for every 100 women in Louisiana, and 92 men for every 100 women in Mississippi.

Educational attainment, dropout rate, and college complete rates were used to measure educational attainment. Educational attainment is a good measure of skill level and future levels of potential productivity of a region. Often times these factors are associated with location and type of industry in an area. These values are used to provide some indication of the literacy level of the general population of the region. The dropout rate is calculated for persons 16 years of age and older. A dropout is a person who is not in regular school and who has not completed the 12th grade or received a general equivalency degree. The high school completion and college graduate rates were calculated for persons age 25 years old and over. In all states, the 1990 dropout rate was higher than the U.S. average (U.S. - 11.2, Alabama - 12.6, Florida - 14.3, Louisiana - 12.5, Mis-

Table 17 Population by Sex (1996).

State	Total (1996)	Male		Female		Sex Ratio
		Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
United States	267,636,091	131,141,684	49.0	136,494,406	51.0	96
Alabama	4,319,154	2,077,103	48.1	2,242,051	51.9	93
Florida	14,653,945	7,121,971	48.6	7,531,974	51.4	95
Louisiana	4,351,769	2,097,553	48.2	2,254,216	51.8	93
Mississippi	2,730,501	1,310,640	48.0	1,419,861	52.0	92
Texas	19,439,337	9,603,032	49.4	9,836,305	50.6	98

Source: 1999 County and City Extra

sissippi - 11.8, and Texas - 12.9). Similarly, the high school completion rates were lower in the Gulf Coastal Plain States than for the U.S. as a whole. The college completion rates were also lower for populations in the target area. While the national college completion rate was 23.9 percent for persons 25 years of age and older, the completion rates were 19.3 percent in Alabama, 21.7 percent in Florida, 18.1 percent in Louisiana, 20.9 percent in Mississippi, and 22.4 percent in Texas.

Table 18 Educational Attainment, Dropout rate, College Completion.

State	Dropout Rate (1990)	Educational Attainment	
		High School Graduated	B.S. Degree or more
U.S.	11.2	82.1	23.9
Alabama	12.6	77.6	19.3
Florida	14.3	81.4	21.7
Louisiana	12.5	75.7	18.1
Mississippi	11.8	77.5	20.9
Texas	12.9	78.5	22.4

Source: 1999 County and City Extra

3.3.2 Labor Force Participation

Data are presented on labor force participation in Tables 19, 20, and 21. When examining the employment ratio, the data suggested greater than 60 percent of the U.S. population was employed in the civilian labor force. However, in the States of Louisiana, Mississippi and Florida, less than 60 percent of the population was employed in the civilian labor force. On the other hand, labor force participation was greater than 65 percent in the State of Texas. The unemployment rate is another indicator of labor force participation. These data suggest that the 1997 unemployment rate was higher in the Gulf Coastal Plain States than for the U.S. as a whole. Louisiana had the highest unemployment rate with 6.1 percent of the civilian labor force being unemployed. Florida had the lowest unemployment rate, 4.8. When viewing unemployment rates by sex (Table 19), male unemployment rates for these states does not appear to vary greatly from the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.9. However, the unemployment rates for females was higher in all states except Florida where the female unemployment rate was 4.8 compared to the national rate of 5.0. Again, female unemployment rates in Louisiana and Mississippi were higher than the U.S. average. In these states, the female unemployment rate was 6.9 while the female unemployment rates in Texas was 5.6 and 5.9 in Alabama.

Table 20 summarizes the number of employees in non-farm establishments in 1998. The data suggests that a large proportion of the civilian labor force were employed in manufacturing in Alabama and Mississippi while larger proportions of the population were employed in services in the Louisiana and Florida.

Two sectors of civilian unemployment were reviewed (Table 21); professional, managerial and technical; and precision, production, craft, and repair. The Gulf Coastal Plain States were less likely to have persons employed in professional, managerial and technical fields and also less likely to have persons employed in the precision, production, craft and repair occupations. Almost 50 percent of the U.S. population was employed in these professional and skilled occupations compared to little over 40 percent of the population in the target area.

3.3.3 Personal Income and Poverty Indicators

Personal income is the current income received by persons from all sources minus their personal contributions for social insurance. Classified as persons are individuals (including owners of unincorporated firms), nonprofit institutions that primarily serve individuals, private trust funds, and private non-insured welfare funds. Personal income includes transfers from government and business such as social security benefits, public assistance, etc., but excludes transfers among persons. Disposable personal income is personal tax and non-tax payments. It is the income available to persons for spending or savings. So as to provide a more complete depiction of income in the Gulf Coastal Plain States, four income scenarios are presented, per capita income, disposable per capita income, median household income, and median income for family of four. Average per capita income in 1998 was $26,412 in the United States, $21,442 in Alabama, $25,852 in Florida, $18,958 in Mississippi, and $24,957 in Texas. In the State of Mississippi, the per capita income was almost 40 percent lower than the U.S. average; the median household income was 30 percent lower

than the U.S. median household income; and the median income of a family of four was 33 percent lower than the U.S. median income for a family of four. Persons residing in Louisiana and Alabama also had much lower per capita, disposable and median household incomes than the national average. In these states, income was at least 20 percent lower than the U.S. average while the per capita income in Florida was only 2.1 percent lower than the U.S. per capita income. These trends hold true for the median household income and the median income for a family of four in Texas and Florida.

Earnings from selected industries were also examined. As seen in Table 23, almost 70 percent of earning in the State of Florida came from the service related industries including retail trade, finance, insurance, and real estate. A larger than average proportion of earnings came from goods-related industries in Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, and Louisiana.

Table 19 Characteristics of the Civilian Labor Force: 1997.

Area	Employed Population Ratio	Unemployment Rate		
		Total	Male	Female
United States	63.8	4.9	4.9	5.0
Alabama	61.8	5.1	4.4	5.9
Florida	59.3	4.8	4.7	4.8
Louisiana	58.3	6.1	5.4	6.9
Mississippi	58.4	5.7	4.7	6.9
Texas	65.2	5.4	5.2	5.6

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Poverty rates are an indicator of economic well-being. The United States had a 1997 poverty rate of 13.3 percent for all persons and 19.9 percent for children under age 18 (Table 24). All states in the region had poverty levels higher than the national average. There were also larger percentages of children under

Table 20 Employees in Non-farm Establishment 1998 in thousands.

Sector	U.S.	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Total	125,832	1,804	6,667	1,897	1,132	8,939
Construction	5,965 (4.75)	102 (5.66)	351 (5.27)	128 (6.75)	55 (4.86)	496 (5.55)
Manufacturing	18,716 (14.88)	379 (21.01)	496 (7.44)	192 (19.13)	245 (21.65)	1,107 (12.39)
Transportation and Public Utilities	6,549 (5.21)	92 (5.10)	336 (5.04)	114 (6.01)	54 (4.78)	542 (6.07)
Wholesale and Retail Trade	29,300 (23.29)	439 (24.34)	1,684 (25.26)	442 (23.30)	244 (19.75)	2,107 (23.58)
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	7,341 (5.84)	87 (4.83)	430 (6.45)	87 (4.59)	42 (3.72)	495 (5.54)
Services	37,525 (29.83)	449 (24.89)	2,415 (36.23)	510 (26.89)	262 (23.15)	2,515 (28.14)
Government	19,862 (15.79)	347 (19.24)	957 (14.36)	367 (19.35)	223 (19.70)	1,510 (16.9)

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
* National totals differ from the sum of the state figures because of differing benchmarks among States and differing industrial and geographic stratification.

Table 21 Civilian Employment.

State	Professional Managerial, Technical	Precision Prod, Craft and Repair	Total
United States	38.4	11.0	49.4
Alabama	30.4	11.3	41.3
Florida	31.2	11.5	42.7
Louisiana	31.6	9.7	40.3
Mississippi	28.4	13.7	42.1
Texas	31.2	12.2	43.4

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

age 18 living in poverty in the target region. In Alabama, 25.6 percent of children live at or below the poverty level which is almost 30 percent higher than the U.S. poverty rate for children. These trends also exist in Louisiana and Texas, where 23.6 percent of children live in poverty. When assessing data summarizing percentage of persons and children lacking health insurance in the region as another indicator of economic well-being, we found 16.1 percent of persons and 15 percent of children in the U.S. lacked some form of health insurance in 1997. This problem was perhaps worse in the State of Texas where 23.6 percent of the population and 24.5 percent of children lack health insurance. Lack of health insurance can possibly be explained by the large first generation Hispanic population in Texas. Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida also had large proportions of children without insurance. Again, larger minority populations, greater proportions of children and families living below the poverty level, and lower family and per capita incomes exist and could be related to lower levels of health insurance among these populations.

3.3.4 Health Indicators

This section will summarize the general health status of residents of the region. It will include a discussion of birth and fertility rates, death and infant death rates by race, and death rate by leading cause. Birth rate and fertility rates for 1997 are presented in Table 25. The crude birth rate of a population is the number of babies born each year for every 1000 member of the population. The U.S. birth rate was 14.5. As expected, with a larger proportion of older persons in the population, Florida had a lower birth rate of 13.5 while Texas (17.2), Mississippi (15.2), and Louisiana (15.2) had higher birth rates. In general, minority groups tend to have somewhat higher birthrates than White non-minority groups and lower socio-economic groups tends to have higher birthrates than those higher on the socio-economic scale. This region had larger black and Hispanic populations coupled with lower socio-economic indicators for the population in general. The total fertility rate is defined as the number of births that 1,000 women would have in their lifetime, if at each year of age, they experienced the birth rates occurring in that specified year. Fertility rates were estimated for women age 15-44 years. The U.S. average fertility rate was 65.0. Fertility rate in the region ranged from a low of 62.1 in Alabama to a high of 75.3 for Texas. The U.S. teenage pregnancy rate for

Table 22 Per capita, disposable and median income.

State	Per Capita Income	Disposable Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Median Income of Family of Four
	1998	1998	1997	1996
United States	26,412	22,353	37,005	51,518
Alabama	21,442	18,818	31,939	44,879
Florida	25,852	22,064	32,455	44,829
Louisiana	21,346	18,771	33,260	41,851
Mississippi	18,958	17,067	28,499	38,748
Texas	24,957	21,928	35,075	46,757

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999

1997 was 12.8. Teen pregnancy rates were much higher in the target area. Alabama had a rate of 17.6; Florida had a rate of 13.4; Louisiana had a rate of 18.6; Mississippi had a rate of 20.7; and Texas had a rate of 16.1. In Mississippi, the teenage pregnancy rate was more than 60 percent greater than the national average. The region also reported somewhat higher than average births to unmarried women rate. For all states, the birth rate to unmarried women was greater than the national average. While the national average was 32.4 percent, Mississippi had a births to unmarried women rate of 45.5 which was 40 percent higher than the U.S. average. Similarly, Louisiana had an unmarried women birth rate of 43.9, more than 35 percent greater than the U.S. average rate.

The average lifetime expectancy for a person born in the United States (Table 26) in between 1989 and 1991 was 75.37 years. The average life expectancy in Alabama (73.64), Louisiana (73.05) and Mississippi (73.03) was lower than the national average. However, in the States of Florida (75.84) and Texas (75.14), the life expectancy was higher than the national average. Life expectancy also varied with regard to race. The average life expectancy for

Table 23 Earnings as of1997, and percent by selected industries.

State	Farm	Goods-related including manufacturing	Service Related including retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate	Government
United States	0.9	24.3	59.9	14.8
Alabama	1.7	28.9	51.5	18.0
Florida	0.8	15.1	68.8	14.8
Louisiana	0.8	26.5	55.8	16.9
Mississippi	2.1	28.7	50.2	19.0
Texas	0.8	26.7	58.6	13.8

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 24 Poverty and Health Insurance.

State	% below poverty		Average % lacking health insurance		Home Ownership Rate
	Persons	Children < 18	Persons	Children < 18	
	1997	1997	1997	1997	1998
United States	13.3	19.9	16.1	15.0	66.3
Alabama	15.7	25.6	15.5	14.4	72.9
Florida	14.3	20.9	19.6	20.3	66.9
Louisiana	16.3	23.6	14.9	21.3	66.6
Mississippi	16.7	22.3	20.1	18.4	75.1
Texas	16.7	23.6	24.5	24.9	62.5

Source: 1999 County and City Extra

Table 25 Birth rate and fertility rates (1997).

State	Birth Rate	Fertility Rate	Births to teenage mothers % of total	Births to unmarried women % of total
United States	14.5	65.0	12.8	32.4
Alabama	14.1	62.1	17.6	33.9
Florida	13.1	64.9	13.4	36.0
Louisiana	15.2	65.7	18.6	43.9
Mississippi	15.2	66.3	20.7	45.5
Texas	17.2	75.3	16.1	30.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population.
Fertility rate per 1,000 women age 15-44 years estimated.

Table 26 Average Lifetime in Years by Race (1989-91).

State	Total	White	Black
United States	75.37	76.13	69.13
Alabama	73.64	75.01	69.23
Florida	75.84	76.82	68.77
Louisiana	73.05	74.87	68.62
Mississippi	73.03	74.78	69.41
Texas	75.14	75.75	69.79

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

whites was 76.13 years and 69.13 years for blacks. Blacks in Alabama (69.23), Mississippi (69.41) and Texas (69.79) had higher life expectancy than the national average (69.13). In summary, this region, with its larger minority population was expected to have lower life expectancy because blacks and Hispanics have shorter life expectancies than whites.

In reviewing data on death and infant mortality rates (Table 27), it is interesting to note that Mississippi (10.1) and Florida (10.6) had death rates much higher than the U.S. average death rate (8.6). Texas was the only state with a lower death rate (7.3). The crude death rate can be an important measure of the overall standard of living of a population. In general, the higher the standard of living enjoyed by a group within the country, the lower the death rate (Anderson and Taylor, 2000). The death rate also reflects factors such as the quality of medicine and health-care. Poor medical care, which goes along with a low standard of living will correlate with a high death rate (Anderson and Taylor, 2000).

The infant death rate represents deaths to infants under one year old and excludes fetal deaths. The infant death rate in Alabama (10.5), Mississippi (11.0), and Louisiana (9.0) was higher than the U.S. average (7.3). The black and white infant mortality rates were higher than the national average in the States of Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.

Infant mortality rates are important to compare across racial-ethnic groups since they are a good indicator of the overall quality of life as well as the chances of survival for members of that racial group.

Inadequate health care and health facilities may cause higher infant mortality rates, and consequently the greater infant mortality among minorities and those in lower socio-economic strata in the United States suggest the lack of adequate health care and adequate access to health facilities is one cause of the high infant mortality rates. Other causes include presence of toxic waste, malnutrition of the mother, inadequate food, and outright starvation.

Table 27 Death and Infant Mortality Rate.

State	Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate by Race (1996)		
		Total	White	Black
United States	8.6	7.3	6.1	14.7
Alabama	9.9	10.5	8.2	15.5
Florida	10.6	7.5	5.8	13.3
Louisiana	9.2	9.0	6.5	12.8
Mississippi	10.1	11.0	8.0	14.6
Texas	7.3	6.3	5.7	11.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
Death rate per 1,000 population, Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live birth.

Table 28 is a compilation of data on death rates by leading cause. The leading cause of death for all states in the region was heart disease, cancer, cerebro-vascular diseases, and chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases.

3.3.5 General Indicators

Table 29 presents a summary, profile of social, economic, and demographic characteristics of the States of Alabama, Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas which can be compared to similar U.S. indicators. Deviation from U.S. indicators can be seen in the population distribution by race, birth rate, teen pregnancy rate, births to unmarried women, female headed households, percentage of families below poverty, percentage of children below poverty, medi-

Table 28 Death Rates, by Leading Cause (1996).

Cause	U.S.	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Heart Disease	276.4	315.9	345.4	270.4	351.2	221.8
Cancer	203.4	222.4	261.8	214.1	212.0	167.3
Cerebro-vascular diseases	60.3	66.9	68.6	59.2	62.9	51.5
Accidents and Adverse effects	35.8	51.4	37.5	41.7	55.6	38.0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	16.5	27.5	19.5	20.9	31.9	20.7
Chronic Obstructive pulmonary diseases	40.0	40.7	53.5	33.1	37.1	33.3
Diabetes Mellitus	23.3	26.6	26.4	37.3	19.8	24.0
HIV	na	8.3	21.4	13.8	8.5	10.8
Suicide	11.6	12.0	15.0	12.2	11.4	11.6
Homicide	7.9	12.4	8.3	18.3	13.8	8.3
Total	872.5	1002.3	1065.6	909.9	982.4	731.7

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
Deaths per 100,000 resident population.

an family and per capita income, and high school completion rate.

Viewing the summary profile of the socio economic and demographic characterization of the region found large minority populations, greater percentage female population, higher birth rate, higher teen pregnancy rate, higher death and infant death rate, larger household size, greater proportion of female headed households, greater percentage of persons and children in poverty, lower per capita and median family income, lower physician rate, and higher crime rates.

Table 29 Social, economic, and demographic profile of the U.S., Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Texas.

Cause	U.S.	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Population	270,298,524	4,351,999	14,915,980	4,358,967	2,752,092	19,759,614
% Hispanic[1]	11.0	0.9	14.4	2.6	0.8	29.4
% African American	12.7	25.9	15.4	32.1	36.4	12.2
% Female	51.0	51.9	51.4	51.8	52.0	50.6
Birth rate[2]	14.7	14.1	13.1	15.0	15.1	17.3
Teen Pregnancy Rate (1997)	12.8	17.6	13.4	18.6	20.7	16.1
Birth Unmarried Women (1997)	32.4	33.9	36.0	43.9	45.5	30.7
Infant death rate[3]	7.3	10.5	7.5	9.0	11.0	6.3
Death rate	8.7	10.0	10.6	9.1	7.3	9.8
# Persons per household	2.63	2.58	2.46	2.74	2.75	2.73
% Owner occupied housing	65.4	71.0	67.1	64.9	73.0	61.8
% Female households	11.6	13.4	10.7	15.6	15.9	11.8
% Families below poverty	10.0	14.3	9.0	19.4	20.2	14.1
% persons below poverty	13.3	15.7	14.3	16.3	16.7	16.7
% children <18 below poverty	19.7	25.6	20.9	23.6	22.3	23.6
Median Family Income	37,005	31,939	32,455	33,260	28,499	35,073
Med family income of family of 4	51,518	44,879	44,829	41,851	38,748	46,757
Per capita income ($/year)	14,420	11,486	14,698	10,635	9,648	12,904
Unemployment rate[4]	4.9	5.1	4.8	6.1	5.7	5.4
% High School graduates	82.1	77.6	81.4	75.7	77.5	78.5
Physician rate[5]	224	169	213	200	129	176
Hospital bed rate[6]	455	565	459	556	630	441
Crime rate[7]	5,079	4,857	na	6,741	na	5,070

Source: Country & City Data Book 2000. [1] Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin may be of any race, [2] per 1,000 resident population as of July 1, 1997, [3] Infant death per 1,000 live births, [4] Civilian Unemployed as a percent of the total civilian labor force, [5] Active, nonfederal physicians per 100,000 resident population estimated as of July 1, 1999, [6] Per 100,000 resident population estimated as of July 1, 1999, [7] per 100,000 residents.

Productivity

This section of the report provides a summary of some indicators of productivity for the region. Included are measures of gross state product by industry, manufacturers summaries, average hourly wage, business starts and failures, private employer firms, employment, and estimated receipts, summary of retail trade, residential and non-residential construction contracts, and performance sector research and development expenditures by states. Gross products by state data are presented for construction, manufacturing, transportation, public utilities, wholesale trade, retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate, services and government. As can be seen in Table 30, the gross state products in the region were higher in the agricultural products sector. Gross state products in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama were lower than the national average in nearly all sectors except farm related products. However, in Alabama gross state products were higher than the national average in the government sector. Gross state products in Texas and Florida were higher than the national average in the industry sectors.

We also examined change in productivity between 1990 and 1996. In the United States, gross national products increased by 34.8 percent between 1990 and 1996. We compared the rate of increase in gross national products for the country as a whole to the rate of change in gross state products for Gulf Coastal Plain States. Rate of growth as measured by gross state products increased by 39.5 percent in Alabama, 41.3 percent in Florida, 32.9 percent in Louisiana, 31.4 percent in Mississippi and 41.9 percent in Texas. Between 1990 and 1996, productivity rate increases were greater in Alabama and Texas than the national average. We also looked at more recent changes in the rate of change in gross national products. Percent change in gross state products between 1995 and 1996 indicate that productivity in the region was increasing at rates higher than the national average in all states in the region. These trend data indicate that perhaps the Gulf Coastal Plain region was beginning to grow at rate higher than other parts of the nation as measured by gross state products.

Hourly wages (Table 32) also can be an indicator of the health of the economy for the region. The national average wage for employees in the manufacturing sector in 1998 was $34,561. Income was generally lower than the national average in all states in the region. Per employee income was 32 percent lower than the national average in Mississippi ($23,666), 19 percent lower in Alabama ($27,679), 12 percent lower in Florida ($30,554), a little over one percent lower in Texas ($34,131), and less than one percent lower in Louisiana ($34,439). Average production rate per employee was higher in the State of Louisiana and lower in the other states in the region.

Productivity in private employer firms (Table 34) and retail establishments (Table 35 was also examined. In 1996, there were 80,000 private employer firms in Alabama, 341,600 in Florida, 81,000 in Louisiana, 48,300 in Mississippi, and 359,400 in Texas. These companies provided employment to 16,260,700 persons in 1996. Estimated receipts for all states in the region were $2.5 trillion dollars. There were 260,500 retail trade establishments in the five state region in 1996. Almost half, 104,100 were located in the State of Texas and another 91,300 could be found in Florida. Less than 25 percent of the retail trade establishments in the region were located in the States of Alabama (25,700 establishments), Louisiana (23,600 establishments), and Mississippi (15,800 establishments). Upon closer scrutiny of retail sales by type of stores, nationally, we found that retail receipts increased by 1.8 percent between 1996 and 1997. Comparatively, these sales increased by 2.1 percent in Alabama, 1.9 percent in Florida, 2.2 percent in Louisiana, 1.6 percent in Mississippi, and 1.0 percent in Texas. Next, we looked at the region compared nationally to average household retails sales during 1997. The average household in the United States spent $25,437 on retail sales in 1997 compared to $23,122 in Alabama, $28,015 in Florida, $24,866 in Louisiana, 19,888 in Mississippi, and $25,302 in Texas. Since Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana had similar population sizes and distributions of population by race, we compared retail sales receipt by sector in these three states in the region. Total retail receipts in 1997 in Alabama were $38.1 billion, in Louisiana were $39.1 billion, and in Mississippi were $19.6 billion.

Business starts and failures were used as indicators of long term growth and productivity. Florida had 13,029 new business start-up and 2,047 business failures in 1998. Texas had fewer business start-ups, 10,936 but more business failures, 6,785. Alabama with a relative high rate of growth as indicated by increases in gross state products had a large number of business start ups (2,645) compared to its relative strength in the region. On the other hand, Louisiana which has a population about the same size as Alabama had fewer business start-ups (1,849).

Finally, we examined expenditures by state for research and development. It is thought that dollar allocation to research and development would stimulate development of industry start-up and hence spur the economy. Proportionately, industrial expenditures for research and development in Alabama was higher than in other states in the region. This factor may very well be associated with increases in state national products and business start-up in the state.

Table 30 Gross State Product by Industry (1996)*.

Industry	U.S.	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas	U.S. Aver.
Farms, Forestry Fisheries[1]	11.7	1.8	5.8	1.3	1.5	6.4	.23
Construction	264.3	3.6	14.7	4.4	1.9	20.8	5.3
Manufacturing	1,323.7	21.0	28.8	21.9	12.8	90.8	26.4
Transportation, Public Utilities	611.7	8.8	30.4	10.2	5.7	55.4	12.2
Wholesale Trade	493.3	6.0	25.2	6.2	3.0	38.4	9.9
Retail Trade	648.5	9.5	39.2	9.2	5.5	46.6	13.0
Finance, Insurance Real Estate	1,255.9	10.6	67.8	13.4	5.4	66.6	25.1
Services[2]	1,342.9	13.9	73.4	16.5	7.8	86.7	28.6
Government [3]	839.6	14.0	40.1	11.8	7.6	57.9	16.8
Total[1]	6,923.1	90.7	326.1	109.6	51.7	502.0	138.5

* in billion dollars
1 - includes mining not shown separately.
2 - includes agricultural services.
3 - includes federal civilian and military and state and local governments.

Table 31 Gross State Product in 1996 in billion of dollars.

Area	1990	1993	1994	1995	1996	Percent Change 1990 – 1996	Percent Change 1995 – 1996
United States	5,659.8	6,440.0	6,868.0	7,228.3	7,631.8	34.8	5.3
Alabama	71.1	83.0	89.3	95.0	99.2	39.5	4.44
Florida	255.2	300.7	321.7	339.0	360.5	41.3	6.4
Louisiana	91.1	94.7	103.9	112.9	121.1	32.9	7.3
Mississippi	38.7	46.6	50.8	53.6	56.4	31.4	5.2
Texas	388.9	453.0	484.1	511.2	551.8	41.9	8.0

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 32 Manufacturers Summary and Average Hourly Wages (1998).

Area	Number (1,000)	Total Payroll (million dollars)	Per Employees (dollars)	Average Hourly Wage Production Employee
United States	18,667	645,140	34,561	13.49
Alabama	383	10,587	27,679	12.11
Florida	486	14,853	30,554	11.43
Louisiana	175	6,037	34,439	14.64
Mississippi	239	5,654	23,666	10.72
Texas	1,055	36,008	34,131	12.15

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 33 Business Starts and Business Failures (1998).

Area	Business Starts	Business Failures
United States	155,141	71,857
Alabama	2,645	546
Florida	13,029	2,047
Louisiana	1,849	377
Mississippi	1,347	177
Texas	10,936	6,785

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 34 Private employer Firms, Employment and Estimated Receipts (1996).

	Employer Firms (1,000)	Employment (1,000)	Estimated Receipts (billion dollars)
United States	5,478.0	102,187.3	16,665
Alabama	80.4	1,568.8	222
Florida	341.6	5,357.9	714
Louisiana	81.0	1,498.1	241
Mississippi	48.3	883.3	116
Texas	359.4	6,952.6	1,163

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 35 Retail Trade, Summary of Establishment 1996.

Area	Total Establishments	Paid Employees	Annual Payroll
United States	1,597.3	21,487	317,660
Alabama	25.7	337	4,181
Florida	91.3	1,276	18,727
Louisiana	23.6	334	4,230
Mississippi	15.8	187	2,315
Texas	104.1	1,525	22,339

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 36 Retail Sales by Type of Store (1997).

Sector	U.S.	Alabama	Florida	Louisiana	Mississippi	Texas
Total all stores 1996 - 1	2,465,147	36,729	158,978	37,956	19,021	170,864
Total all stores 1997 - 1	2,546,287	38,063	166,211	39,122	19,635	176,772
%Change 1996-97	1.8	2.1	1.9	2.2	1.6	1.0
Average Household Sales 1997	25,437	23,122	28,015	24,866	19,888	25,302
Food Stores 428,842	6,600	26,312	7,289	3,918	30,153	
General Merchandise	322,463	5,964	19,552	5,971	3,367	24,528
Automotive Dealers	631,625	9,833	45,848	9,993	4,746	49,451
Eating and Drinking Places	245,314	3,138	16,474	3,747	1,517	17,095
Gasoline Service Stations	156,291	2,742	7,972	2,703	1,342	10,939
Building Materials and Garden Supplies	144,681	2,357	8,722	2,088	1,239	8,034
Apparel and Accessory Stores	112,577	1,615	7,689	1,543	627	7,684
Furniture and Home Furnishings	141,851	1,617	10,212	1,566	729	8,623

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.
1 - includes other types stores shown separately.

Table 37 Construction Contracts Value (1998).

Area	Total	Residential	Non Residential
United States	375,263	173,008	134,038
Alabama	5,976	2,241	2,243
Florida	28,200	15,192	9,411
Louisiana	4,371	1,544	1,685
Mississippi	3,391	1,101	1,245
Texas	32,415	15,168	11,988

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 38 New Privately Owned Housing Units Started , 1999 (in thousand of units).

Area	Total Units (1996)	Total Units (1999)	Percent Change 1996 – 1999	Single Family Units 1999
United States	1,469	1,631	11.03	1,386
Alabama	23.6	23.1	(-2.12)	18.1
Florida	129.1	152.6	18.2	111.0
Louisiana	19.3	14.3	25.8	12.3
Mississippi	13.1	14.5	10.7	11.0
Texas	125.0	155.3	24.2	107.9

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

Table 39 Performance Sector of R& D Expenditures by States, 1995 (in million of dollars).

State	Industry	Universities and Colleges
United States	183,013	22,101
Alabama	1,681	335
Florida	5,223	559
Louisiana	423	315
Mississippi	315	113
Texas	8,385	1,472

Source: Statistical Abstract of the United States, 1999.

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