County Facts: Forrest County, MS
Population 75,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 4.8% (Forrest County), 5.1% (MS), 5.1% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 23.2% (Forrest County), 22.2% (MS), 15.1% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $45 (Forrest County), $42 (MS), $57 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 16% (Forrest County), 13% (MS), 10% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 2.1% (Forrest County), 2.1% (MS), 1.7% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 1.7% (Forrest County), 2.9% (MS), 3.6% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.7% (Forrest County), 4.7% (MS), 3.6% (United States)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 41% (Forrest County), 41% (MS), 46% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 14% (Forrest County), 13% (MS), 20% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 8% (Forrest County), 6% (MS), 10% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 10% (Forrest County), 10% (MS), 20% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 33% (Forrest County), 32% (MS), 20% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $4.4 (Forrest County), $4.5 (MS), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - U of Southern Mississippi (public): 12.7%
  - Mississippi 4-year-college average: 12.9%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

- **Low-income student success rate**
  - U of Southern Mississippi (public): 47.5%
  - Mississippi 4-year-college average: 46.1%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 51.3%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - Mississippi 2-year-college average: 15.6%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 24.4%

### Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**: Forrest County: 30%, MS: 38%, United States: 14%
- **Percent Hispanic**: Forrest County: 14%, MS: 2%, United States: 3%
- **Percent over age 65**: Forrest County: 17%, MS: 12.8%, United States: 11.6%
- **Percent college grad**: Forrest County: 21%, MS: 17%, United States: 14%
- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**: Forrest County: 142, MS: 89, United States: 76
- **Life expectancy (years)**: Forrest County: 82.5, MS: 81.3, United States: 83.2

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau