



MISSISSIPPI'S INDUSTRIAL GULF PORTS

FINAL REPORT

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National Center for Intermodal Transportation, Mississippi State University

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16. Abstract: There are three major ports on the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi. The thrust of this research will be to access the technical performance of the three ports. An analysis of the technical performance rates of the various port segments to determine capacity utilization and make recommendations as to where additional input could be achieved. Data gathered and analysis performed in this study will provide baseline data for planning, design, improvement and assessment of the nation's intermodal ports.			
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Mississippi's Industrial Gulf Ports

By
Warren C. Couvillion and Albert J. Allen

Introduction

Water plays a major role in the movement of commodities in Mississippi. As a State, Mississippi ranked 20th in waterborne traffic in 1999, moving over 46 million short tons of commodities. (...The U.S. Waterway System- TRANSPORTATION FACTS, Navigation Data Center U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, December 2000)

Mississippi's port activities generate \$38 million in state payroll taxes and \$21 million in state sales taxes. Port and servicing industries account for 2585 jobs and have a 69.27 million payroll. Freight transport services trucking, warehousing and distribution account for another 4207 jobs and 94.80 million in payroll. Port user industries account for 26,877 jobs and have payrolls of 601.08 million. In 1999 the Mississippi economy measured as Gross State Product was about \$65 billion. Ports generated \$1.4 billion which was approximately three percent of the Gross State Product. (Parsons, Brinckerhoff)

Mississippi has 16 ports in the state, four are located on the Gulf Coast, five on the Mississippi River, one on the Yazoo River, and six along the Tenn Tom Waterway. The Port of Yazoo County is on the Yazoo River. Ports located on the Mississippi River are: Port of Rosedale; Port of Greenville; Port of Vicksburg; Claiborne County Port; and the Port of Natchez. The Tenn Tom Ports are: Yellow Creek Port; Port of Itawamba; Port of Amory; Port of Aberdeen; Clay County Port; and Lowndes County Port. The four ports on the Gulf are: Port Bienville; Port of Gulfport; Port of Biloxi; and the Port of Pascagoula. This report will focus on the industrial ports on the Gulf namely: Port Bienville; Port of Gulfport; and the Port of

Pascagoula. The Port of Biloxi is basically a small craft harbor, utilized for fishing and pleasure boats.

The Port of Gulfport is located in Harrison County, Mississippi in the extreme South Central portion of the State. There is direct access to US Highways 49 and 90 and is located three miles from US Interstate 10.

The Port of Pascagoula was established in 1956 by the Mississippi State Legislature and is located in Jackson County, Mississippi on the Gulf of Mexico. Highway connections include US Highway 90 and Interstate 10.

Port Bienville is located in Hancock County Mississippi in the Port Bienville Industrial Park in the western portion of extreme South Mississippi. The ports' access road connects directly with US Highway 90 and it is located 18 miles from the point of intersect for US Interstates 10 and 59.

In the year 1999, the Port of Pascagoula ranked 18th in total tonnage, with 18,865,707 short tons and 37th in value of business with \$2,021,035,000 dollars while the Port of Gulfport ranked 77 in tonnage with 1,779,098 short tons and 41st in the value of business. (Waterborne Trade Atlas) This source of information was provided by Port of Gulfport personnel. Data were not available from this source for Port Bienville.

Exports and Imports

Port of Gulfport

Exports from the Port of Gulfport were \$919.08, \$924.259, and 924.822 million for the years 1997, 1998, and 1999, respectively. In 1999 the top ten countries accounted for 95 percent

of the exports. These countries and the value of exports to them are shown in Table 1.

Mexico was the leading importer for goods going through the Port of Gulfport. In 1999 they accounted for \$ 381.822 million or 41 percent of total exports during that year. For the period 1997-1999 the leading country for goods through the port was also Mexico with Russia being second. Russia was the leading country for exports in 1997, but there was a severe cutback for 1999 when goods shipped to Russia from Gulfport went from \$249.892 to \$38.864 million. Other major countries were located in Central America. (Table 1.) The major commodities exported were apparel, meat, and paper. For the three year period meat was the leading export, however the value in 1999 dropped from \$249+ to \$104+ million as shown in Table 2.

Imports into the Port of Gulfport were \$567.794 in 1997, \$608.932 in 1998, and \$948.098 in 1999. Total value of trade was \$1,486.812, \$1,532.351, and \$1,872.920 for the years 1997-1999, respectively. The top 10 imports in 1999 and the top 10 for the 1997-1999 period are shown in Table 3. The top ten commodities exported accounted for 90 percent of total imports in 1999 and 95 percent for the 1997-1999 period.

As with exports, Mexico was the leading country for the 1997-1999 period with \$465.554 million in imports in 1999 and \$921.465 million for the period 1997-1999. Honduras was second followed by Guatemala, Columbia, El Salvador and Costa Rica. The remaining top 10 countries are shown in Table 3. The top 10 countries accounted for 98 percent of total imports for the period 1997-1999. The major goods imported into the Gulfport were knit and woven apparel and edible fruit and nuts (mainly bananas). In 1999 aluminum ranked fifth going from \$0 to over \$28 million. Wood accounted for over \$93 million for the 1997-1999 time period.

(Table 4.)

Port of Pascagoula

Exports from the Port of Pascagoula were \$332.160 millions of dollars in 1999, and 1346.963 million for the period 1997-1999. Exports were \$493+ millions in 1997, \$521+ millions in 1998, and declined in 1999. Russia ranked as the top country receiving goods exported through the Port of Pascagoula for the 1997-99 period. During the year 1999, Latvia ranked 1st with 56.713 in exports from Pascagoula. China ranked second and India third.(Table 5.) Compared to the Port of Gulfport, Central America plays a lesser role in receiving products from Pascagoula. Fertilizers; meat; and mineral fuel, oil etc. are the three major products exported through the Port of Pascagoula. Wood; organic chemicals; and paper, paperboard ranked 4th through 6th, respectively as shown in Table 6..

Saudi Arabia is the primary country providing imports to Pascagoula accounting for more than half of the imports. Mexico ranks second with Venezuela, Iraq, and Norway ranking 3rd through 5th, respectively, for the 1997-1999 time period. The top 10 countries accounted for about 97 percent of imports for the three year period. These data are shown in Table 7.

As shown in Table 8., the major commodity imported into Pascagoula is mineral fuel, oil, etc. with machinery being a distant second and salt, sulfur, earth, and stone ranking third. Fuel accounted for \$4375 million of the \$4815 million imported from 1997-1999. In 1998 and 1999 there were \$55 and \$31 million of iron/steel products imported.

Port Bienville

The major country for both exports and imports is Mexico. According to port personnel

virtually all trade through the port is with Mexico. Data for the years 1998-2000 are shown in Table 9. Currently data were not broken down into exports and imports. As shown in Table 9., Port Bienville moved over 400,0000 metric tons of cargo in each of the years. In tonnage moved general (newsprint, honey, etc); coal; and pulpwood ranked first through third in that order. No pulpwood was moved in the year 2000.

Facilities

Port of Gulfport

Major tenants

The major tenants at the Port of Gulfport are Dole Fresh Fruit, Chiquita Banana, Crawley Maritime, Dupont, and Turbana Corporation, I.T.O. Corporation, and Duratex.

Berths

There are nine deepwater berths at the port with depths at least 32 feet deep. Berth uses and preferences are as follows at the current time:

West Terminal Berth # 1- Chiquita Preferential

(Containerized Bananas)

General Cargo Secondary

West Terminal Berth # 2 – Chiquita Preferential

(Containerized Bananas)

General Cargo Secondary

West Terminal Berth # 3 – Turbana Preferential

(Palletized Bananas)

General Cargo Secondary

West Terminal Berth # 4- Freezer Cargo Preferential

General Cargo Secondary

West Terminal Berth # 5 - Freezer Cargo Preferential

General Cargo Secondary

West Terminal Berth # 6 – Public Container Terminal

(Crowley) Preferential

Dupont Bulk Ore Preferential

General Cargo Tertiary

East Terminal Berth # 1 – Dole Preferential

(Containerized Bananas)

General Cargo Secondary

East Terminal Berth # 2 – General Break Bulk Cargo

East Terminal Berth # 3 – General Bulk Cargo

Rail

The Port is serviced by CSX Transportation and the KC-IC-CN alliance. The port is located on the Kansas City Southern Mainline.

Warehousing

There are 16 warehouses on sight and arrangements can be made for off port storage. Four of the warehouses are provide over 140,000 square feet of cold storage. The other warehouses range in size from 5000 to 150,000 square feet. There are over 400,000 square feet

of permanent storage currently at the port. A new facility is currently under construction and there are also several temporary storage units on the premises.

Container Handling

The port has two container gantry cranes and mobile cranes including a derrick barge. As stated above, Gulfport ranks 25th in the U.S. in handling containers. Currently there is a port expansion taking place that should improve both capacity and efficiency for handling containers.

Port of Pascagoula

Major Tenants

Major tenants at the Port of Pascagoula include: Ingalls Shipbuilding; Chevron; Mississippi Phosphates Corporation; First Chemical Corporation; Gulf Coast Cold Storage; Naval Station Pascagoula; and Fried Goldman Offshore.

Berths

The Port of Pascagoula is laid out in two channels, West Harbor and Bayou Casote Harbor. Each of the channels is 38 feet in depth. It has nine deep water berths totaling 5720 feet in length. There is also a 695 foot barge berth with a 15 foot draft.

Rail

Rail service is available and the Port is serviced by CSX Transportation ; Illinois Central and Mississippi Export Railroad.

Warehousing

There is approximately 800,000 square feet of covered storage and 2,000,000 cubic feet of cold storage located at the Port of Pascagoula.

Container Handling

The Port currently does not have facilities to handle containers.

Port Bienville

Major Tenants

The major tenants at the Port Bienville Industrial Park include: Trinity Marine; Manufab, Inc.; Peoples Bank; Contech Power Systems; Kimberly Clark; polychemie, Inc.; Marine Concrete Structures; Eaglebrook; Professional Construction Service; Atlas Powder Company; General Electric Plastics; Wellman, Inc.; Calcon Carbon Corp. The major shipping company located at the port is Linea Peninsula, a container operator/exporter. There are platted sites at the park to allow for the Port to expand its operations with 800 acres on terminal and 700 acres off terminal. Currently there are tenants on approximately 248 acres.

Berths

The port has three berths 600 feet in length with drafts from 16 to 20 feet. There are also five barge berths 1050 feet in length that have drafts ranging from 10-12 feet.

Rail

Port Bienville has its own railroad, Port Bienville Shortline Railroad and this line connects with CSX Transportation (a Class 1 railroad).

Warehousing

The Port has a 20,000 square foot storage shed and a 30,000 square foot warehouse located on the property.

Container Handling

There are six acres of hard surface area located at the Port. Located on the facility are reefer plugs, container to rail and container to truck loading capabilities. There are three mobile cranes that handle the containers.

Services

Port of Gulfport

The following services are offered at the Port of Gulfport: stevedoring; mooring and unmooring assistance; pilotage; fuel; underwater inspection; marine vendors; tugs; water; trucking; and other services by approved licensed companies. The Ports Business Division can provide an approved list of service companies. The contact number is 228-865-4300. The website for the Port of Gulfport is www.gulfport.state.ms.us

There is an interactive CD that will be completed in May of 2001 that will give much more detail on the services and contacts for these services. More information can also be derived from the ports' website.

Port of Pascagoula

The major services provided by the port and other business around the port include: tug and barge fleetings; bunkering and industrial supplies; cold storage; line handling; pilotage; ship chandling, steamship agents; and stevedores. More detailed information concerning specific companies that handle each of the services can be found on the Port's website:

www.portofpascagoula.com

Port Bienville

The Port offers the following services: cargo handling; drayage; towing; repairs; fresh water; stevedoring; mooring assistance; divers; short term dock space; pilots; heavy equipment sales and service; and customs brokers. There is also a 10 - inch diameter pipeline to move ethyl glycol from barges located at the Port. More information about the port can be found on their website: www.portandharbor.com

Time in Port

Before undertaking the study it was thought that information on capacity utilization of the berths in the ports studied may be a major part of this study. After meeting with port personnel it was determined that berth space was not a problem for the ports. Generally, all of the ports could handle more ships with the current spaces. Deeper channels is more of a problem than berth space.

For the Port of Gulfport details were gathered on time spent in port by the different vessels. It should be noted that the type of ship was in large part the determinant of time spent in

port. Average time spent at the Gulfport docks was 46 hours for the year 1999. The range was from less than an hour to over 250. In general the boats bringing in bananas in containers stayed in port a little over 24 hours. The roll on roll off vessels that handled containers on trailers stayed in port from 6 to ten hours. Boats handling poultry that had to be loaded with pallets and each box hand removed from the pallets and stacked in the hull usually stayed in port over 100 hours. The type of details were not gathered from the other ports.

Governance

Port of Gulfport

The Port of Gulfport was established in 1972 and has a five member board. This board is appointed by the governor (three members), the county board of supervisors (one member) and the City of Gulfport (one member). The name of this group is the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Port Commissioners (MSPA). This board is responsible to the Mississippi Department of Economic Development.

Port of Pascagoula

The oldest industrial Port on the Gulf Coast was established by the Mississippi State Legislature in 1956. Jackson County Port Authority Board of Commissioners is the governing body over the Port. There are nine members, four appointed by the county board of supervisors and five appointed by the Governor.

Port Bienville

Port Bienville was established in 1962. The Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission has jurisdiction over the Port. There is an executive director and a seven member

board with two members appointed by the City of Bienville and five appointed by the county board of supervisors.

General Observations

The three industrial ports on the Gulf of Mexico in Mississippi play an important role in Mississippi's economy. It is felt that this role will increase as time goes on. All three ports offer many services to shippers and ships and all are constantly striving to upgrade their facilities to improve the services. The majority of counties in Mississippi and states in the United States and more than 70 countries in the world do business with Mississippi's Gulf Ports. More detail on the individual ports is available by directly contacting the ports or visiting the web sites listed above.

Data for this report was obtained from files from the respective ports, observations by the authors, the two reports listed in the references, and individual conversations with personnel from all of the three ports.

As a result of this NCIT project another project, with NCIT participation, to provide the Port of Gulfport with an interactive CD to be used by the port to provide detailed information for their customers and prospective customers. The CD should be available by June of 2001.

References

Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, "Comprehensive Assessment of the Ports of Mississippi". Final Report to Mississippi Department of Transportation, January, 2000.

Waterborne Trade Atlas, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc. September, 2000.

Table 1. Value of Exports, Port of Gulfport, Top 10 Countries, 1997-1999.						
Country	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	1997-99
	Rank	1997	1998	1999	Dollars	Rank
All Countries		919.018	924.292	924.822	2768.1	
Mexico	1	172.932	254.283	381.413	808.63	1
Honduras	2	176.334	149.289	161.437	487.06	3
El Salvador	3	47.291	43.715	79.623	170.63	6
Guatemala	4	59.843	58.955	69.548	188.35	4
Costa Rica	5	62.592	58.101	61.827	182.52	5
Russia	6	327.98	249.892	38.864	616.74	2
Latvia	7	0.11	0	38.087	38.197	8
Columbia	8	37.172	45.032	27.468	109.67	7
Nicaragua	9	6.46	7.54	10.859	24.859	9
Poland	10	0	0	10.645	10.645	12
Panama		3.087	3.452	4.379	20.918	10
Dominicon Republic		1.173	0.518	9.912	22.603	11
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.						

Commodity	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	Rank
	Rank	1997	1998	1999	1997-1999	1997-99
All Countries		919.018	924.292	924.822	2768.132	
Woven Apparel	1	46.622	106.225	149.630	302.477	2
Meat	2	320.312	259.312	104.520	684.144	1
Paper, Paperboard	3	94.598	96.526	94.251	285.375	3
Manmade Filament, Fabric	4	48.649	54.451	92.146	195.246	5
Cotton+ Yarn, Fabric	5	102.337	90.339	75.392	268.068	4
Knit Apparel	6	19.771	15.962	67.632	103.365	7
Machinery	7	57.719	63.356	61.969	183.044	6
Spcl Woven Fabric, Etc.	8	8.215	19.853	38.308	66.376	9
Plastic	9	39.241	28.920	30.145	98.306	8
Electrical Machinery	10	9.943	8.094	15.499	33.536	12
Rubber		5.343	3.050	14.906	23.299	14
Miscellaneous Chemical Products		16.169	11.862	12.047	40.078	11
Explosives		9.359	12.025	10.506	31.890	13
Woodpulp, etc		28.309	19.602	0.301	48.212	10

Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.

Table 3. Value of Imports Port of Gulfport, Top 10 Countries, 1997-1999.						
	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	1997-99
Country	Rank	1997	1998	1999	Dollars	Rank
All Countries		568	609	948	2125	
Mexico	1	173.016	282.895	465.554	921.465	1
Honduras	2	194.808	127.753	171.081	493.642	2
Guatemala	3	58.762	69.513	63.108	191.383	3
Columbia	4	32.543	31.725	52.602	116.87	4
El Salvador	5	21.818	12.792	51.659	86.269	5
Costa Rica	6	1.406	10.357	42.946	54.709	7
Argentina	7	0	0	28.601	28.601	9
Brazil	8	15.534	13.381	21.627	50.542	8
Australia	9	38.883	11.91	21.316	72.109	6
Peru	10	2.337	7.461	6.774	16.572	12
Bolivia		7.658	9.476	2.551	19.685	11
Nicaragua		5.883	12.414	5.044	23.341	10
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.						

Table 4. Value of Imports, Port of Gulfport, Top 10 Imports, 1997-1999.						
	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	1997-99
Commodities	Rank	1997	1998	1999	1997-99	Rank
All Countries		568	609	948	2125	
Knit Apparel	1	116.86	117.159	316.62	550.639	2
Woven Apparel	2	117.879	189.094	290.947	597.92	1
Edible Fruit and Nuts	3	202.371	173.315	146.326	522.012	3
Wood	4	27.834	32.09	33.922	93.846	5
Aluminum	5	0.09	0	28.513	28.603	7
Ores, Slag, Ash	6	46	27.543	26.035	99.578	4
Wading, Felt, Twine, Rop	7	19.636	22.305	20.351	62.292	6
Spices Coffee and Tea	8	0	0	16.924	16.924	9
Leather Art; Saddlry; Bag	9	1.074	2.76	13.082	16.916	10
Electrical Machinery	10	4.291	12.683	10.832	27.806	8
Fish and Seafood		5.876	4.719	4.699	15.294	11
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Service, Inc.						

Table 5. Value of Exports, Port of Pascagoula, Top 10 Countries, 1997-1999.						
	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	1997-99
Country	Rank	1997	1998	1999	Dollars	Rank
All Countries		493.37	521.433	332.16	1346.963	
Latvia	1	0	10.247	56.713	66.96	7
China	2	38.166	74.814	44.995	157.975	2
India	3	52.252	0	33.308	85.56	4
Mexico	4	13.023	3.049	25.484	41.556	8
Dominican Republic	5	23.828	19.438	25.615	68.881	6
Brazil	6	34.722	35.101	21.678	91.501	3
Russia	7	68.246	82.36	16.841	167.447	1
Thailand	8	0	0.232	14.742	14.974	14
Ukraine	9	1.452	2.39	8.09	11.932	15
Panama	10	36.174	35.85	7.672	79.696	5
Belize		6.69	1.178	7.409	15.277	13
Guatemala		11.433	1.343	7.223	19.999	11
Netherlands		20.326	6.452	4.761	31.539	9
Ecuador		7.839	6.101	6.052	19.992	12
Columbia		20.358	2.738	3.32	26.416	10
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.						

Table 6. Value of Exports, Port of Pascagoula, Top 10 Exports, 1997-1999.						
	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	Rank
Commodities	Rank	1997	1998	1999	1997-1999	1997-99
All Countries		493.37	521.433	332.16	1346.963	
Fertilizers	1	91.932	85.887	97.830	275.649	2
Meat	2	63.744	121.464	92.836	278.044	1
Mineral Fuel, Oil etc.	3	124.645	47.908	48.885	221.438	3
Organiz Chemicals	4	24.729	0.641	25.243	50.613	5
Wood	5	39.262	26.853	21.268	87.383	4
Paper, Paperboard	6	19.887	9.758	17.154	46.799	6
Machinery	7	18.120	3.946	7.947	30.013	8
Vehicles, Not Railway	8	0.934	0.777	3.560	5.271	13
Plastic	9	4.407	0.106	3.288	7.801	12
Railway; Trf Sign Eq	10	12.168	0.000	3.120	15.288	11
Prepared Meat, Fish, etc		12.195	4.768	1.308	18.271	10
Woodpulp, etc.		10.367	19.602	0.301	30.270	7
Iron/Steel Products		10.367	15.226	1.204	26.797	9
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.						

Table 7. Value of Imports Port of Pascagoula, Top 10 Countries, 1997-99.						
Country	Rank	-----Millions of Dollars-----			Total	Rank
	1999	1997	1998	1999	Imports	1997-99
All Countries		2094	1032	1689	4815	
Saudi Arabia	1	1292	555	757	2604	1
Mexico	2	505	186	353	1044	2
Iraq	3	0	35	161	196	4
Venezuela	4	201	78	130	409	3
Norway	5	0	39	66	105	5
Kuwait	6	19	0	50	69	8
Morocco	7	27	29	34	90	6
United Kingdom	8	0	9	22	31	9
Canada	9	9	48	21	78	7
Finland	10	0	0	18	18	11
Trinidad & Tobago		0	0	13	13	12
France		2	8	12	22	10
Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.						

Table 8. Value of Imports, Port of Pascagoula, Top 10 Imports, 1997-1999.						
	1999	-----Millions of Dollars-----				1997-1999
Commodities	Rank	1997	1998	1999	Total	Rank
All Countries		2094	1032	1689	4815	
Mineral Fuel, Oil, etc.	1	2035	858	1482	4375	1
Machinery	2	0	17	98	115	2
Salt, Sulfur, Earth, Stone	3	27	29	34	90	3
Iron/Steel Products	4	9	55	31	95	5
Electrical Machinery	5	2	10	21	33	4
Inorg Chem; Rare Earth Mt	6	6	4	14	24	7
Rubber	7	3	0	4	7	8
Wood	8	0	0	3	3	10
Cereals	9	0	0	2	2	11
Cotton + Yarn, Fabric	10	0	46	1	47	12
Ships and Boats		4	9	0	13	6
Special Other		5	1	0	6	9

Source: Waterborne Trade, United States Ports, Global Trade Information Services, Inc.

Table 9. Volume of Trade in Port Bienville, 1998-2000.				
Commodity	1998	1999	2000	Total
	-----Metric Tons-----			
All Commodities	403080.98	409095.84	470058.36	1282235.18
General (Newsprint, Honey,etc)	95583.49	149336.23	202308.05	447227.77
Coal	135416.05	141786.98	165537.73	442740.76
Pulpwood	120967.57	30272.00	0.00	151239.57
Ferric Sulfate	28023.55	25131.65	16630.72	69785.92
Miscellaneous	0.00	36800.00	32200.00	69000.00
Twine	7052.25	12092.30	13628.28	32772.83
Sand	0.00	0.00	27574.90	27574.90
Lumber	5260.69	4712.61	6210.38	16183.68
Explosives	6654.50	5058.84	3983.49	15696.83
U.S.D.A.	3317.67	3474.73	1129.42	7921.82
Structured Steel	485.47	400.23	404.19	1289.89
Hazard Mateial	0.00	30.27	851.20	881.47
Source: Port Bienville personnel.				