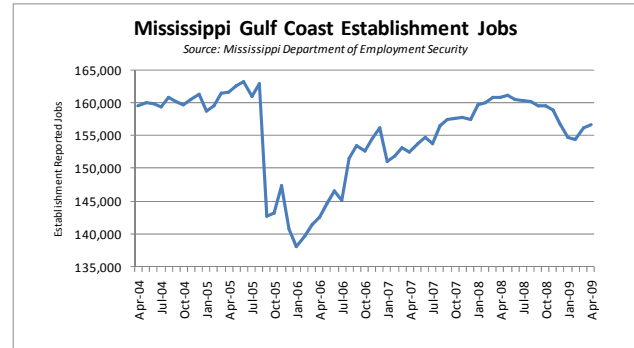


The data referenced in this report is obtained from the Mississippi Department of Employment Security.

Overall unemployment rate along Mississippi Gulf Coast improves to 7.2%

The unemployment rate improved in all three counties for the Mississippi Gulf Coast in April. While this improvement is considered typical between April and March, other positives can be drawn from the statistics that were released by the Mississippi Department of Employment Security. When comparing establishment jobs, or jobs reported in each county, to those of the same month prior year, the gap between 2009 and 2008 narrowed in April, for the second consecutive month. The chart to the right illustrates how growth in establishment jobs has resumed in recent months for the Mississippi Gulf Coast.



The tables below contain data from April 2009 for the Mississippi Gulf Coast and also historical data for the month of April. The fact that the Mississippi Gulf Coast has fared better than both the state and the nation is also evident when comparing establishment reported jobs to prior year levels. Going into the summer months it can be expected that the employment situation will continue to prove and make gains towards 2008 levels.

Table 1: April 2009 Unemployment Rates (unadjusted)

	MS Coast	Hancock	Harrison	Jackson	Mississippi	U.S. Average
Labor Force	162,110	18,050	84,600	59,460	1,302,300	153,834,000
Employed	150,380	16,690	78,700	54,990	1,190,700	140,586,000
Unemployed	11,730	1,360	5,900	4,470	111,600	13,248,000
Rate	7.2%	7.5%	7.0%	7.5%	8.6%	8.6%
Prior Month Rate	8.0%	8.2%	7.8%	8.3%	9.4%	9.0%
Establishment Jobs	156,650	13,950	89,950	52,750	1,122,200	NA
Prior YR Establishment Jobs	160,860	14,090	92,440	54,330	1,159,100	NA

Table 2: Historic April Employment levels for combined three coastal counties

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Labor Force	162,110	168,100	162,270	157,280	175,000	171,960
Employed	150,380	160,070	153,600	139,950	164,740	163,910
Unemployed	11,730	8,030	8,670	17,330	10,260	8,050
Rate	7.2%	4.8%	5.3%	11.0%	5.9%	4.7%
Establishment Jobs	156,650	160,860	152,550	142,500	161,590	159,580

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