

Clarke County ALABAMA



Grow With Us!



Clarke County Economic Development Partnership
P.O. Box 81 · Grove Hill, AL 36451 · 251-275-4254 · info@clarkecountyal.com

Clarke County ALABAMA

Community Snapshot

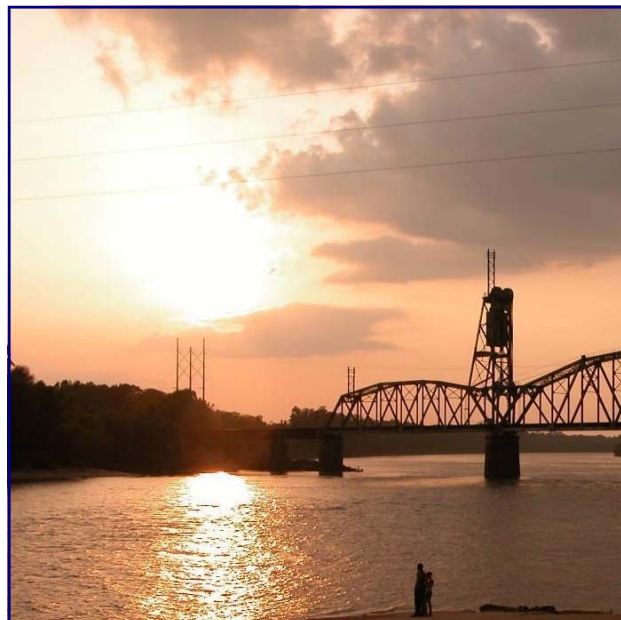
Natural Resources...

Clarke County's abundant natural resources stem, in part, from two great bodies of water that make up portions of its eastern and western boundaries—the Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers.

Those natural resources include 724,900 acres of forests, or about 91% of the total land area.

Clarke County's forest products industry continues to be the county's leading industry. The abundant forest resource and sustainable forest management practices found in Clarke County make this possible.

The industry in Clarke County is supported by forest resources estimated to encompass 725,000 acres or 3% of the total forest resource in Alabama. With Clarke County being strategically located in the heart of the Alabama – Mississippi timber basin, we are able to draw resources from a 360 degree radius.



Pro-Business Climate...

Companies locating in Clarke County will find an excellent business climate and cost-saving operating conditions. To ensure your success, Clarke County is prepared to deliver both an attractive location package and a capable, experienced workforce to meet company needs today and tomorrow.

We invite you to learn more about Clarke County and ... ***Grow With Us!***

Location

Area of State	Southwest
Square Miles	1,230
Number of Acres	792,600
Number of Forested Acres	724,900
Highway and Interstate Access.....	US-43; US-84; US-80; I-65, I20/59, I-10 and I-85

Demographics

	County	30 Miles from Center
Population	27,022	56,200
Households.....	10,531	21,811
Average Household Size.....	2.53	2.55
Median Household Income.....	\$30,928	\$32,189

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Demographics

General Characteristics

Total Population	27,022
Male	12,836
Female	14,186
Median Age	36.7
Under 5 years	7.73%
18 years and over	73.54%
65 years and over	13.67%
White	54.48%
Black or African American	44.32%
American Indian	0.24%
Hispanic or Latina	0.54%
Other	0.85%
Two or more races	0.54%
Average household size	2.53
Total housing units	13,147
Owner-occupied housing units	8,645
Renter-occupied housing units	1,886



Housing Characteristics

Total Housing Units	13,147
Average value	\$90,443
Median value	\$66,680
Median mortgage and selected monthly owner costs.....	\$698
Specified renter-occupied units	1,931
Median rent	\$343

Social Characteristics

Educational Attainment	
Population 25 years and over	17,702
Less than 9th grade	1,734
9th to 12th, no diploma	3,431
High school graduate	6,667
Some college, no degree	2,887
Associate degree	846
Bachelor's degree	1,343
Graduate or professional degree	794
Percent high school grad or higher	70.8%
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	12.1%
Marital Status	
Population 15 years and over	21,300
Never married	4,921
Married	11,955
Separated	524
Widowed	1,832
Divorced	1,635

Economic Characteristics

Employment Status	
Population 16 and over	20,937
In labor force	11,359
Not in labor force	9,578
Commuting to work	10,226
Worked at home	138
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	26.2
Occupation	
Management, professional, and related ..	2,471
Service occupations	1,331
Sales and office occupations	2,266
Farming, fishing, and forestry	241
Construction, extraction, and maintenance	1,422
Production, transportation, and material moving occupations	2,612
Median household income	30,928
Household income-average	42,957
Per capita income	16,896

Source of all data: U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI projections for 2005

Education & Training

K-12

The Grove Hill, Coffeeville, and Jackson schools, a part of the Clarke County School System, are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and have exemplary programs of instruction. A separate Thomasville City School System, also accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, serves the students of Thomasville. Two AISA schools are located in the county, as well as a number of church schools and a home school association. See the list of schools on Page 11.

Alabama Southern Community College

Alabama Southern Community College serves Clarke County through the campuses located in Thomasville and Jackson. Because of Clarke County's centralized location, additional colleges and universities are conveniently located within a one-hundred mile radius.

Alabama Southern is a rural, multi-campus, comprehensive two-year college serving Southwest Alabama through two campuses and one center. The College offers a wide range of excellent university transfer and career programs through the Thomasville, Alabama campus in Clarke County.

Responding to the heart and soul of the economic base of rural Southwest Alabama, Alabama Southern has established the Center for Excellence in Forestry, Paper and Chemical Technology in partnership with Auburn University and as a unit of the Alabama Technology Network.

Alabama Technology Network

Alabama Technology Network's (ATN) sole mission is to provide solutions that help Alabama industries, companies, and businesses achieve their goals of becoming and staying more competitive. The ATN-Thomasville Center, one of 10 centers located throughout the state, offers expertise in a variety of fields, either in-house or through joint projects with other ATN centers.

Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT)

Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) was established in 1971 for the sole purpose of recruiting and training work forces for new and expanding industries. The mission of AIDT is to provide quality workforce development for Alabama's new and existing industries, and to expand the opportunities of its citizens through the jobs these industries create. The AIDT program is consistently ranked among the best in the nation by site selection consultants and industry representatives. Recently, the AIDT workforce training program ranked number one in *Expansion Management* magazine's annual survey of more than 70 site-selection consultants. AIDT services include trainee recruitment and screening, job-specific pre-employment and on-the-job training. A full range of customized technical training programs are offered at no charge to the employers and to the trainees. Management and supervisory training programs, including ISO 9000, are also available. Training is conducted by AIDT staff or contract instructors and can be delivered on-site, in leased space and through a fleet of Mobile Training Units (MTUs) customized to meet specific company needs.

Alabama Career Center

The primary purpose of the Alabama Career Center is to match employers' requirements with applicants' skills. As a new or expanding industry has the need for employees, the Career Center stands ready to: assist the employers in the local, intrastate or interstate recruitment of applicants; prescreen applicants to meet employer qualifications; provide interview facilities for the employers; conduct any desired testing of potential employees to measure aptitudes for specified job skills using validated tests; and perform any related service which might be needed.

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Available Workforce

Companies locating in Clarke County will find a well experienced, readily available workforce to meet and exceed production needs. The workforce of Clarke County is capable of producing a variety of products, on time, and conforming to the highest quality standards.

In addition to the hundreds of unemployed workers in Clarke County, the recruiting area provides thousands of others actively looking for work. Detailed information gathered during the 2000 Census indicates that an even larger pool of potential workers could be drawn from the 3,800 Clarke County residents who drive 30 minutes or more to their present jobs and almost 2,000 individuals from the County and 6,600 from surrounding counties working only part-time or occasionally.

In Clarke County, more than 16% of the potential area workforce (almost 2,000 people in the county and 8,600 total in the region) have only part time or occasional work.

Almost 25% of the County's workforce is employed outside Clarke County.

More than 36% of Clarke County's workforce drive 30 minutes or more to their current jobs with almost 1,000 driving more than one hour to work.

*Workforce Investment Advisory Area, Region 9, Selected Categories**

UNDEREMPLOYMENT			
	Alabama	Region 9	Clarke
Labor Force	2,170,500	126,840	12,560
Employed	2,061,500	118,460	11,700
Underemployment Rate	24.0	22.8	22.2
Under Employed Workers	494,760	27,009	2,597
Unemployed	109,000	8,380	860
Available Labor Pool	603,760	35,389	3,457

Based on December 2004 labor force data. WIAA Region 9 includes Clarke, Baldwin, Conecuh, Escambia, Monroe, and Washington Counties.

UNEMPLOYMENT HISTORY

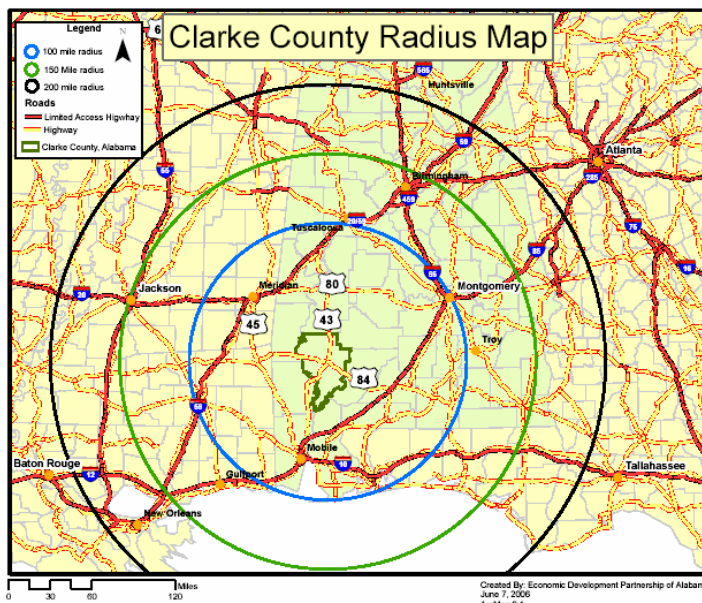
CLARKE COUNTY	May 06	June 06	July 06	Aug 06	Sept 06	Oct 06	Nov 06	Dec 06	Jan 07	Feb 07	Mar 07	Apr 07	YTD AVG
Civilian Labor Force	10,071	10,283	10,353	10,238	10,248	10,266	10,144	10,218	10,098	10,021	10,076	10,015	10,169
Employment	9,608	9,636	9,625	9,543	9,656	9,741	9,632	9,665	9,478	9,431	9,542	9,554	9,593
Unemployment	463	647	728	695	592	525	512	553	620	590	534	461	577
Unemployment Rate	4.6	6.3	7.0	6.8	5.8	5.1	5.0	5.4	6.1	5.9	5.3	4.6	5.7

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Location

Clarke County is within easy driving distance to the Port of Mobile, Montgomery, Birmingham, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, and Jackson, Mississippi.

Clarke County has highway and interstate accessibility including US-43, US-84, and US-80 connecting to I-65, I-20/59, I-10, and I-85 within a 100-mile radius. U.S. Highway 43 (north and south) and U.S. Highway 84 (east and west) both pass through Clarke County. Extensive improvements and enhancements of all three US Highways are included in the state Transportation Department's 5-Year Plan.



Commercial Air Service

Nearest Commercial Air Services: Mobile, AL. Number of Daily Flights: 28

Major Carriers: Atlantic Southeast; Comair; Continental Express; Delta; Northwest Airlinck; United Express; and US Airways

Municipal Air Service

Jackson Municipal Airport
runway 5001 x 75 ft.
asphalt, in good condition

Grove Hill Municipal Airport
runway 2704 x 75 ft.
asphalt, in good condition

Trucking

Trucking rate estimates can be supplied when potential shipments are identified.

Distances to Major Cities

	Coffeeville	Fulton	Grove Hill	Jackson	Thomasville
Atlanta:	297	276	280	297	265
Birmingham:	170	149	153	169	138
Huntsville:	301	244	248	264	233
Jacksonville, FL:	430	418	410	425	425
Memphis:	300	302	306	322	291
Mobile:	88	88	80	66	94
Montgomery:	138	116	123	135	106
Nashville:	360	339	343	357	329
New Orleans:	204	230	222	207	236
Tampa:	508	496	488	501	503
Grove Hill:	20	7	0	17	15
Latitude:	31:45:28	31:47:18	31:42:32	31:30:32	31:54:46
Longitude:	88:05:24	87:43:39	87:46:37	87:53:38	87:44:09

Source: Street Atlas, Shortest Distance

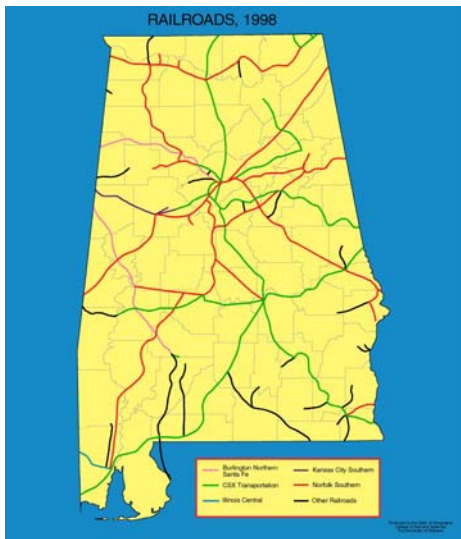
Clarke County ALABAMA

Location

Water

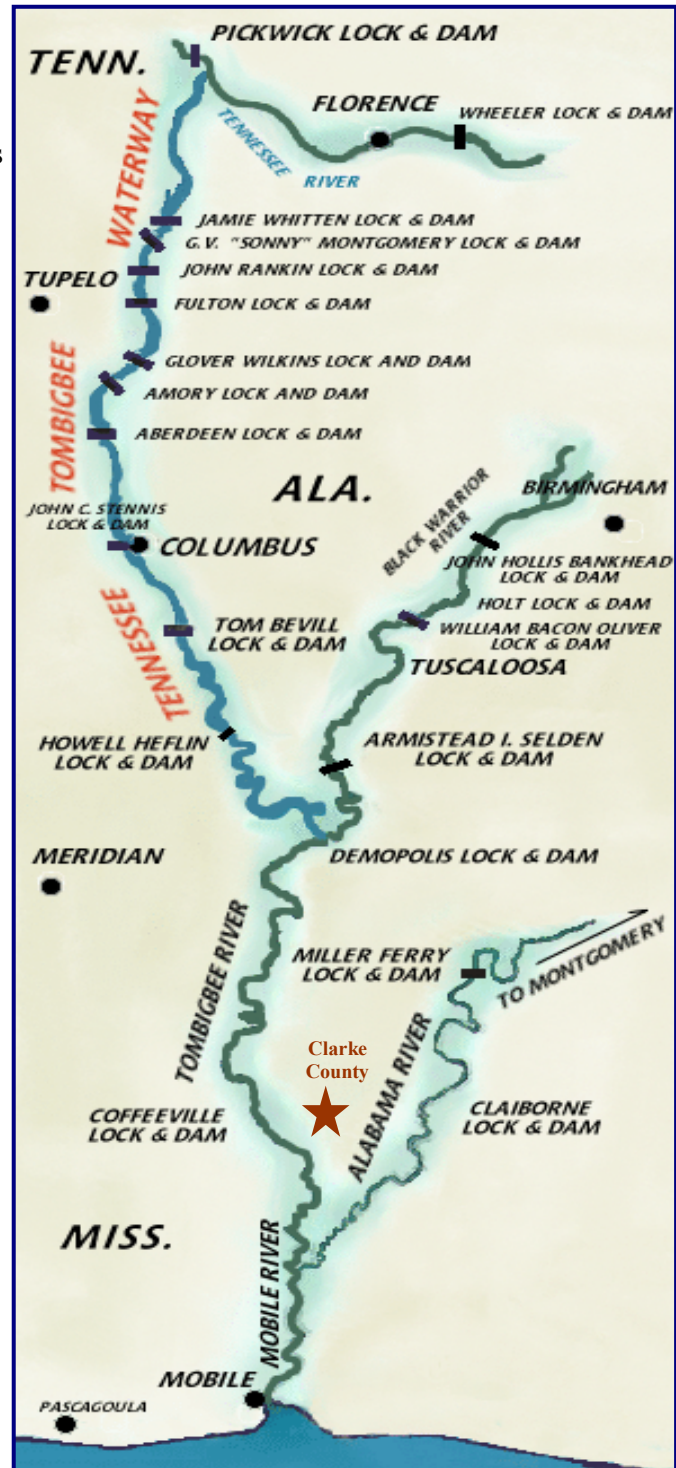
Clarke County offers access to over 1,000 miles of navigable waters! With the Mobile/Alabama River as the primary river of this system, the Alabama River can be navigated from Mobile Bay to just north of Montgomery, a distance of about 350 miles. The Alabama River bounds Clarke County on the east. The Tombigbee River, including the canal to the Tennessee River, (Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway) has about 450 miles of navigable waterway. The Tombigbee River bounds Clarke County on the west. The Black Warrior River, a tributary of the Tombigbee, can be navigated about 220 miles to the port of Birmingham.

Clarke County has port facilities available on the Tombigbee River.



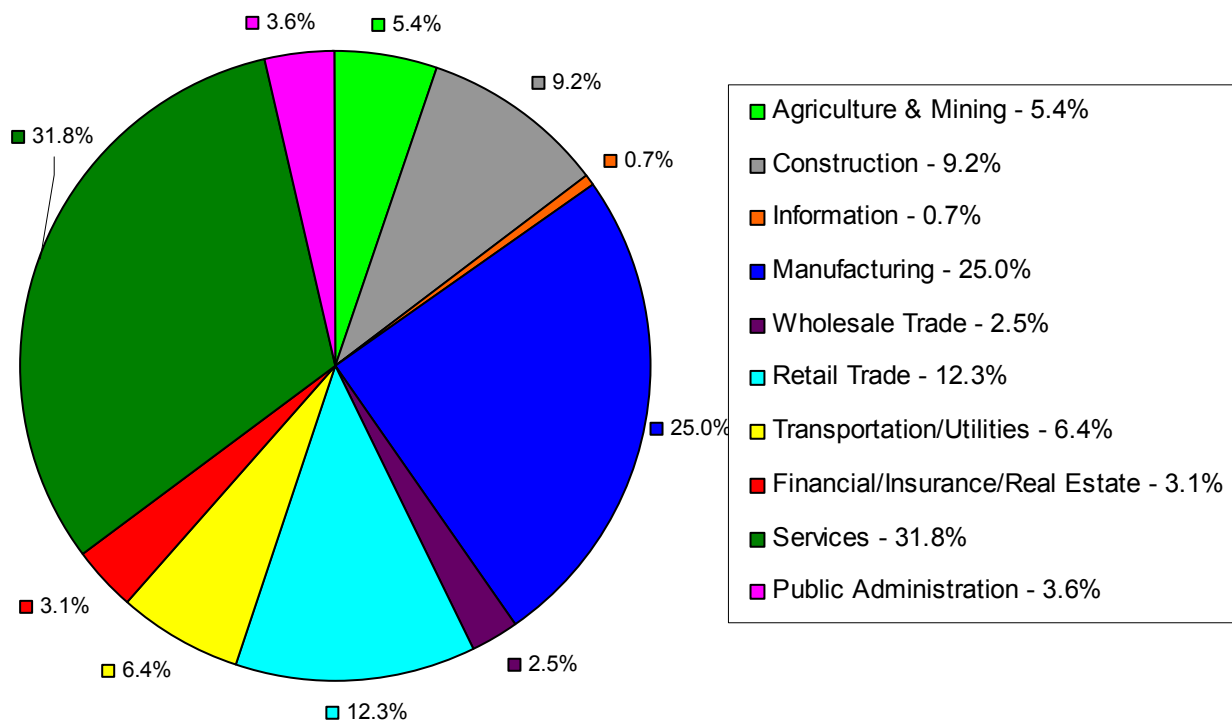
Rail

Norfolk Southern Railway Company serves Clarke County and has 2,141 miles of track in Alabama.



Clarke County ALABAMA

Existing Industry



Major Employers

Boise (Pulp, Paper, Forest Products)	700
Clarke County Schools	475
New Era Cap Company	350
A.C. Fabricated Products (Tents)	240
Scotch Lumber	225
Thomasville City Schools	221
Scotch Plywood	175
Louisiana-Pacific*	150
Vanity Fair Mills	110
Browder Veneer	50
Dumas Manufacturing	50
Thomasville Lumber	50

*currently under construction

Utilities

Electric Power

Electricity is distributed to the Clarke County area by two utilities, Alabama Power Company and Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Cooperative. Alabama Power is an investor-owned affiliate of the Southern Company while Clarke-Washington is a consumer-owned electric cooperative. Alabama territorial regulations set the service area for power loads under 2500 kilowatts. Over 2500 kilowatts, new loads become competitive.

Alabama Power Company (800-245-2244)

Alabama Power is a member of the Southern Company, the largest investor owned electric utility in the United States. Alabama Power has a reliability rate of 99% and prices that are among the lowest in the nation.

Clarke-Washington Electric Membership Coop. (251-246-9081)

Clarke-Washington EMC, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a member owned electric cooperative headquartered in Jackson, Ala. Clarke-Washington EMC serves more than 19,647 meters across some 3,889 miles of line in Clarke, Washington, Monroe and Wilcox counties.

Natural Gas

Clarke-Mobile Gas District (251-246-2428)

Clarke-Mobile Gas District is a public utility and the sole provider of natural gas for Clarke County. The district is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the mayors from Jackson, Grove Hill, and Thomasville.

Communication

BellSouth – Jackson, Thomasville and Fulton

Through BellSouth's constant network upgrades and investments, today's infrastructure in Alabama matches that of any place in the world in technological superiority. Alabama has access to the world's foremost information resources through advanced digital switching and signaling systems, fiber optic cable and digital subscriber lines. BellSouth provides the telecommunications backbone of communications throughout the region and a first-class connection to a worldwide telecommunications network.

TDS – Grove Hill

TDS Telecom is a national communications provider. TDS provides local phone service to rural and suburban communities nationwide as well as leading edge business technology. TDS Telecom is committed to the communities they serve.

CenturyTel – Coffeeville

CenturyTel is a leading provider of a full array of communications services primarily to rural areas and small to mid-size cities in 26 states.

Water

All municipalities in the county provide water and sewer services within their city limits. Nine water authorities provide service to rural areas of the county.

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Available Properties

Clarke County Buildings					
<i>Name</i>	<i>Square Ft.</i>	<i>Expandable</i>	<i>Eave Height</i>	<i>Zoning</i>	<i>Rail</i>
Food World Building	42,000	No	16'	Business/ Commercial	Not Available
Jackson Plaza Building	28,635	No	18'	Business/ Commercial	Not Available
*Jackson Spec Building	50,000	Yes	24'	Industrial	Not Available
*Thomasville Spec Building	50,000	Yes	24'	Industrial	On Site

Clarke County Sites					
<i>Name</i>	<i>Available Acreage</i>	<i>Total Acreage</i>	<i>Utilities</i>	<i>Rail</i>	<i>Zoning</i>
Fulton Industrial Site	409	409	< 1 Mile	Not Available	Light Industrial
Grove Hill Industrial Site	120	120	Existing	Not Available	Industrial
Jackson North Industrial Site	25	53	Existing	Not Available	Industrial
Jackson River Park	52	505	Existing	Not Available	Industrial
Jackson West Industrial Park	240	240	Existing	Not Available	Industrial
North Clarke Industrial Park	365	1,185	Existing	On Site	Heavy Industrial
Paul Parham Industrial Park	25	150	Existing	Adjacent Track	Industrial
Parham Property	328	328	< 1 Mile	Not Available	Industrial
Thomasville Medical/ Professional Park	96	96	Existing	Adjacent Track	Medical/ Professional
Thomasville South Industrial Park	145	145	Existing	Adjacent Track	Industrial
White-Smith Property	720	720	< 1 Mile	Not Available	Industrial

* To be completed first quarter 2008.

Clarke County ALABAMA

Taxes and Incentives

GOZone

The Gulf Opportunity Zone Act established tax incentives and bond provisions to support the rebuilding of local and regional economies in Gulf Coast areas that were devastated by the hurricanes of 2005, including Clarke County. It allows investors to take advantage of tax-exempt borrowing to rebuild, acquire, construct, reconstruct, or renovate non-residential real property, qualified residential rental projects, and public utility property located in the affected areas. Also, investors may capture accelerated depreciation benefits in the first year equal to 50 percent of the cost of new investments. More information on GOZone incentives can be found on our web site at www.clarkecountyal.com; or at www.irs.gov.

Property Tax

Commercial/Industrial 20% Assessment

Appraised Value	\$100,000.00
x Assessment %	0.20
= Assessed Value	20,000.00
Millage Rate	0.0380
= Tax Due	\$760.00

Millage Rates

STATE	Clarke Co. (rural)	Cities
General Fund	2.5	2.5
Soldier Fund	1.0	1.0
School Fund	3.0	3.0
COUNTY		
General Fund	6.5	6.5
Road & Bridge	2.5	2.5
Fire Districts	2.0	2.0
COUNTY		
SCHOOLS	15.5	15.5
MUNICIPALITIES		5.0
TOTAL	33	38

Note: One mill = .001 or 1/10 of a penny

Tax Structure

State sales tax	County sales –mfg
..... 4.0 % 0.25%
County sales tax	State use
..... 1.0%	County use .. 1.0%

State Incentives

Subject to certain geographic and jurisdictional limitations and qualification, cities, counties and public industrial authorities may grant abatements of ad valorem (property) taxes and sales and use taxes and certain mortgage and recording taxes, with respect to real and personal property acquired to establish or expand qualifying industrial and research enterprises in Alabama.

Alabama provides a “capital credit” to companies that invest in certain projects located in the State. The capital credit is an annual income tax credit equal to five percent of a project’s capital costs each year for a 20-year period.

More information on state incentives can be found at the Alabama Revenue Department’s web site, which is www.ador.state.al.us.

Clarke County is also a HUB zone, which provides federal contracting opportunities for qualified small businesses.

Local Incentives

For some projects, the local government may be willing to offer incentives to help provide a cost efficient, competitive environment. The availability and types of incentives must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis through negotiation between the business/industry and the appropriate local leaders.

Clarke County ALABAMA

Quality of Life

Attractions

The **Clarke County Museum** can be found in Grove Hill. The building formerly the Alston-Cobb House, was constructed in 1854. Within its walls lies a treasure trove of Southwest Alabama history, including Native American exhibits, artifacts from the county's historic rural life, and reminders of the Civil War and the two World Wars. One of the most popular exhibits is the fossils of the Zeuglodon, a prehistoric whale that swam in the ocean waters that once covered the county.



Kathryn Tucker Windham Museum on the campus of Alabama Southern in Thomasville honors this woman's contribution to literature, the preservation of our culture, folklore, and traditions as well as the art of storytelling. Mrs. Windham, a Thomasville native, was named one of Alabama's "unforgettable faces" by the state tourism department.



Old Lock #1 Park is located off Highway 69 between Coffeeville and Jackson. The lock and dam has been determined as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. A park offering picnic areas, a boat launch, and primitive camping has been developed.



Events

Annual events include a youth baseball clinic in Thomasville, Relay for Life in Grove Hill, Jackson, and Thomasville, Pioneer Day at the museum in Grove Hill each fall, Jackson's Fall Festival, the Clarke-Washington Fair, patriotic celebrations for July 4th and Veteran's Day, and Christmas parades and celebrations in every community.

Medical

When it comes to inevitable illnesses and accidents, Clarke County residents can rest assured they are in good hands. There are three hospitals in the county—Southwest Alabama Medical Center in Thomasville, Grove Hill Memorial Hospital in Grove Hill, and Jackson Medical Center in Jackson. There are also two nursing homes in the county—Thomasville Nursing Home and Jackson Health Care Facility. In addition, there are three assisted living facilities. Complete dental care, ophthalmology, and other health coverages are available, including specialists from metropolitan areas who have part-time clinics here.

School

<p>Clarke County High School..... 9-12 251-275-3368</p> <p>Clarke Preparatory School K4-12 251-275-8576</p> <p>Coffeeville Schools.....K-12 251-276-3227</p> <p>Grove Hill Elementary SchoolK5-4 251-275-3423</p> <p>Joe M. Gillmore Elementary K4 - Grade 2 251-246-2525</p>	<p>Jackson Intermediate School Grades 3-5 251-246-1599</p> <p>Jackson Middle School Grades 6-8 251-246-3597</p> <p>Jackson High School Grades 9-12 251-246-2571</p> <p>Jackson Academy K4 -12 251-246-5552</p> <p>Thomasville High School .. 8-12 334-636-4451</p>	<p>Thomasville Elementary School..... K-4 334-636-0063</p> <p>Thomasville Middle School 5-7 334-636-4928</p> <p>Wilson Hall Middle School 5-8 251-275-8993</p> <p>Alabama Southern Community College 251-246-0010</p>
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Contact Information

There's never been a better time to locate your business in Clarke County, Alabama. Clarke County is poised for growth, with progress evident in every area of the county.

In partnership with the Clarke County Commission, the five municipalities, and local business leaders, Clarke County has a vibrant and successful county-wide economic development organization. These entities are working together to realize the tremendous economic development potential of Clarke County and stand ready to assist in your development needs.

With a pro-business climate and focus on the future, Clarke County represents southwest Alabama's most promising development opportunities. We invite you to come to Clarke County and... ***Grow With Us!***

Economic Development Office

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Clarke County Commission

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