

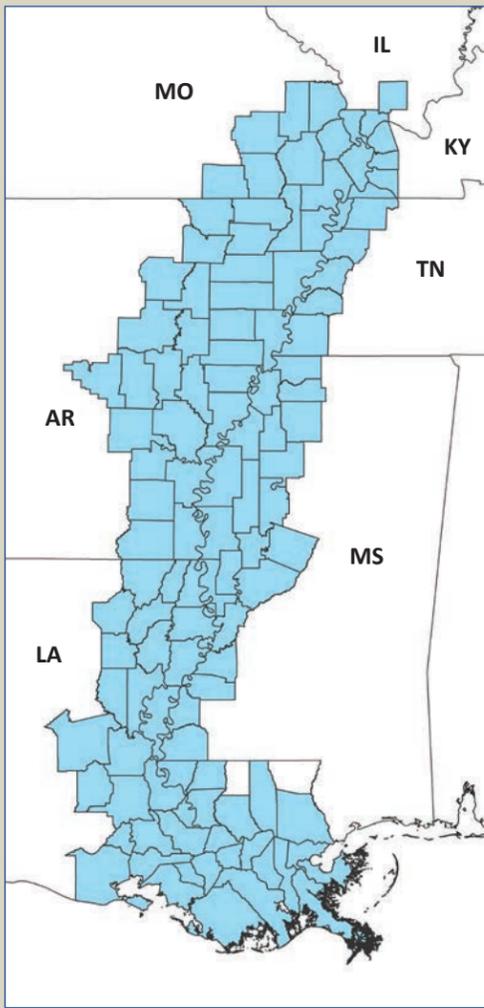
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER A DIVERSE REGIONAL ECONOMY

STUDY AREA

- Includes 113 counties and parishes in seven states.
- Extends from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico.



The LMRCC is a coalition of 12 state natural resource conservation and environmental quality agencies in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee. It provides the only regional forum dedicated to conserving the natural resources of the Mississippi River floodplain and focuses on habitat restoration, long-term conservation planning and nature-based economic development. LMRCC staff work out of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Lower Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Vicksburg, Mississippi.

**READ THE
FULL REPORT AT:
LMRCC.ORG**

LMRCC MEMBER AGENCIES

- Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality
- Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
- Kentucky Department for Environmental Protection
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
- Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
- Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality
- Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks
- Missouri Department of Conservation
- Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

OVERVIEW

The Lower Mississippi River and its associated natural resources support a diverse and productive regional economy, according to a new profile released by the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee. In their research, economists sought to document the economic values derived from or associated with the Lower Mississippi River and its abundant water, extensive forests, rich soil, diverse fish and wildlife, and other resources.

HIGHLIGHTS

💰 Considered together, 10 river-related economic sectors generate \$151.7 billion in annual revenue and employ 585,423 people.

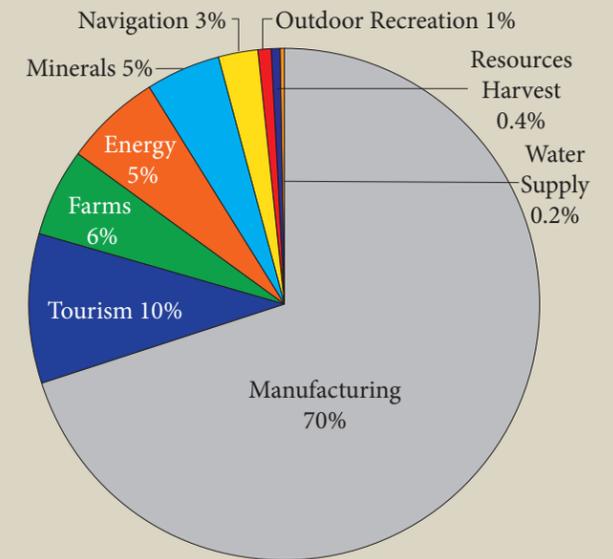
💰 The manufacturing sector generates 70 percent of the region's revenue.

💰 Employment is more evenly distributed among the sectors, with tourism providing nearly as many jobs as manufacturing. The agriculture, outdoor recreation and mineral extraction sectors also are significant employers.

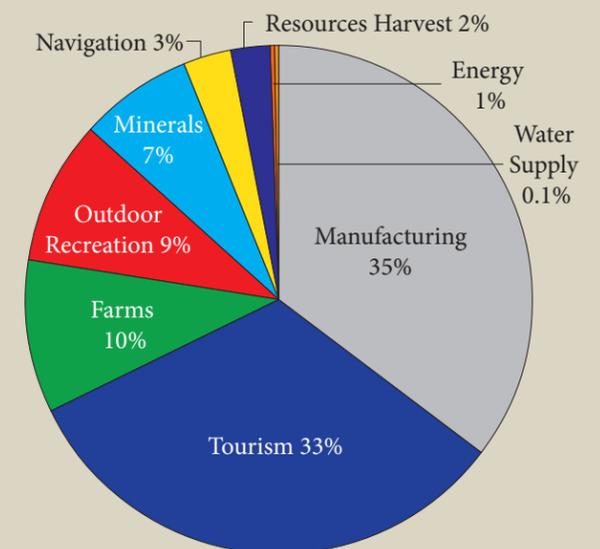
**\$151.7 BILLION
ANNUAL REVENUE**

585,423 JOBS

REVENUE



JOBS



Economists examined 10 economic sectors associated with the Lower Mississippi River and its natural resources. Many sectors use the river for water supply, cooling water, shipping, harvest of resources, recreation and waste disposal. Tourism and outdoor recreation benefit from the natural beauty of the river region.



MANUFACTURING is the region's largest revenue-generating sector. It produces \$106 billion in revenue each year and employs 207,000 people. Products from this sector include chemicals, food, fabricated metal, machinery, transportation equipment and wood products. Employment is concentrated in southern Louisiana, near Memphis, Tennessee, and in portions of Arkansas. The river provides an important shipping route as well as cooling water and a means of waste disposal.

AGRICULTURE is the third largest contributor to the regional economy. Cropland covers 22.5 million acres. Production of soybeans, corn, rice, cotton and other crops represents 82 percent of this sector's revenue. Including crops, livestock production and fish farming, the sector generates a total of \$8.7 billion in annual revenue and employs 56,000 people.



MINERAL EXTRACTION in the region involves oil and gas production and extraction of non-fuel products such as salt, clay, crushed stone, and sand and gravel. Louisiana generates 99 percent of the region's natural gas and 92 percent of its oil, with the rest coming from Mississippi. The mineral sector produces \$7.8 billion in annual revenue, mostly from oil and gas extraction, and employs 41,000 people.



OUTDOOR RECREATION along the Lower Mississippi River includes fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, paddling, cycling and camping. Economists calculated revenue and employment for three activities: fishing, hunting and wildlife watching. Together, these activities result in 38 million trips annually, generating \$1.3 billion in trip expenditures and employing more than 54,000 people.



COMMERCIAL NAVIGATION is one of the most visible sectors of the river-related economy. Shippers hauled nearly 474 million tons of commodities on the Lower Mississippi River in 2011, generating \$4.2 billion in revenue and employing nearly 19,000 people. More than 20 ports service the region's shippers. River navigation facilitates a wide array of economic activity, including farming, mineral extraction and manufacturing.



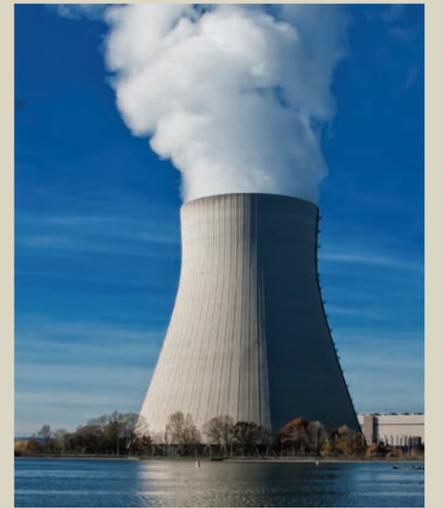
NATURAL RESOURCES HARVESTING is a diverse sector that produces freshwater fish from the river, saltwater species such as shrimp, finfish and crabs from coastal areas, timber products such as sawlogs and pulp, and other products such as alligator skins. Overall, the sector produces \$560 million in annual revenue and employs nearly 14,000 people.



TOURISM benefits from the region's rich cultural and historic resources, generating \$15.5 billion in annual expenditures and employing 190,000 people, second only to manufacturing. Major tourist attractions are concentrated in and around New Orleans, Louisiana, and Memphis, Tennessee. This sector has proven to be resilient in the face of natural and man-made disasters such as floods, hurricanes and oil spills.



ENERGY PRODUCTION depends on the Mississippi River for shipment of fuel to power plants and cooling water. Thermoelectric power plants in the region use an estimated 6.9 billion gallons of river water daily. The energy sector produces \$6.8 billion in annual revenue and employs at least 2,700 people. Coal is used to produce nearly half the region's electricity, followed by natural gas and nuclear fuel.



NATURAL RESOURCES SERVICES are not captured in the commercial economy of the Lower Mississippi River region because markets do not exist to provide measures of economic values; however they provide many benefits to society. Louisiana coastal marshes are nurseries for nearly all commercial seafood species and they are buffers against tropical storms. Forests capture atmospheric carbon. Wetlands help lessen flooding.



WATER SUPPLY, including both surface water and groundwater, is crucial to many other sectors. Energy production is the dominant user of surface water and agriculture is the dominant user of groundwater. All economic sectors combined withdraw 24 billion gallons of water each day. The water supply sector produces relatively little annual revenue (\$385 million) and employs few people (600).



The Economic Profile of the Lower Mississippi River: An Update was prepared for the Lower Mississippi River Conservation Committee by Industrial Economics, Inc. of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Dominika Dziegielewska-Parry, Ph.D, of Jackson, Mississippi. The report provides an updated economic profile of the same region economists examined for a similar report released in 2004, but readers are cautioned not to make direct comparisons between the two reports because some data sources used were different.

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