



STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
HALEY REEVES BARBOUR, GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DON THOMPSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

RECEIVED

DEC 19 2008

December 15, 2008

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSIST PRG.

Mr. Donald Arnette, Regional Administrator
United States Department of Agriculture
Food and Nutrition Service
Southeast Region
61 Forsyth Street, Room 8T36
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-3415

Dear Mr. Arnette:

Enclosed is a waiver extension request to exempt all Mississippi counties from the work requirement provisions of 7 CFR 273.24(f)(2)(ii). Mississippi is seeking a 24 month statewide waiver based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average.

Should your staff have questions or need additional information regarding this waiver request, please contact John Davis at (601) 359-4834 or John.Davis@mdhs.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cheryl Sparkman".

Cheryl Sparkman

CS:JDN:jf

Enclosure

WAIVER REQUEST

1. **Waiver serial number:** 2020120
2. **Type of request:** Extension
3. **Primary regulation citation:** 7 CFR 273.24
4. **Secondary regulation citation:**
5. **State:** Mississippi
6. **Region:** Southeast
7. **Regulatory Requirements:** Under 7 CFR 273.24(b), an individual is not eligible to participate in the Food Stamp Program as a member of any household if, during the preceding 36-month period, the individual received food stamp benefits for not less than 3 months (consecutive or otherwise), during which the individual did not work 20 hours or more per week, averaged monthly; participate in and comply with the requirements of a work program for 20 hours or more per week; or participate in and comply with requirements of a program under Section 20 or a comparable program established by the State.

Under 7 CFR 273.24(f), upon the request of a State agency, FNS may waive the applicability of the above provision for any group of individuals in the State if FNS makes a determination that the area in which the individuals reside has an unemployment rate of over 10 percent, or does not have a sufficient number of jobs to provide employment for the individuals.

8. **Description of the proposed alternative procedures:**

Mississippi is seeking a two-year statewide waiver based on having an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during the 36-month period from November 2005 through October 2008. Mississippi's unemployment rate for November 2005 through October 2008 is 6.7; this is at least 20 percent greater than the national unemployment rate for the same time period. The corresponding waiver threshold for November 2005 through October 2008 is 5.9.

9. **Justification for request:** As stated in number 8 above, the State had an average unemployment rate of at least 20 percent above the national average during a recent 36-month time period. All of the raw data supporting our numbers that we have used are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) website.

10. **Anticipated implementation date and time period for which waiver is needed:** The State is requesting a two-year waiver from April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2011.

11. **Proposed quality control review procedures:** There are no special quality control procedures needed in conjunction with this waiver.

12. **Signature and title of requesting official:**

Cheryl Sparkman

13. **Date of request:**

12-17-2008

Series Id: LAUST28000003,LAUST28000004,LAUST28000005,LAUST28000006

Not Seasonally Adjusted

Area: Mississippi

Area Type: Statewide

State/Region/Division: Mississippi

Year	Period	labor force	employ ment	unempl oyment	unempl oyment rate
2005	Jan	1317151	1216171	100980	7.7
2005	Feb	1320234	1224732	95502	7.2
2005	Mar	1320321	1227464	92857	7
2005	Apr	1322601	1235205	87396	6.6
2005	May	1334968	1237341	97627	7.3
2005	Jun	1347502	1240521	106981	7.9
2005	Jul	1348503	1249136	99367	7.4
2005	Aug	1330537	1236091	94446	7.1
2005	Sep	1322713	1196267	126446	9.6
2005	Oct	1321262	1203360	117902	8.9
2005	Nov	1319458	1204737	114721	8.7
2005	Dec	1310531	1207592	102939	7.9
2006	Jan	1287727	1184681	103046	8
2006	Feb	1291664	1196837	94827	7.3
2006	Mar	1283647	1200760	82887	6.5
2006	Apr	1285891	1205389	80502	6.3
2006	May	1295168	1209619	85549	6.6
2006	Jun	1313245	1216757	96488	7.3
2006	Jul	1320698	1220758	99940	7.6
2006	Aug	1296421	1209784	86637	6.7
2006	Sep	1296269	1216023	80246	6.2
2006	Oct	1306183	1226498	79685	6.1
2006	Nov	1313445	1231697	81748	6.2
2006	Dec	1318616	1236906	81710	6.2
2007	Jan	1300496	1210511	89985	6.9
2007	Feb	1305564	1219367	86197	6.6
2007	Mar	1306245	1224322	81923	6.3
2007	Apr	1301578	1225204	76374	5.9
2007	May	1307075	1228172	78903	6
2007	Jun	1325454	1234609	90845	6.9
2007	Jul	1333028	1240025	93003	7
2007	Aug	1304590	1224767	79823	6.1
2007	Sep	1314869	1235034	79835	6.1
2007	Oct	1319265	1239556	79709	6
2007	Nov	1326322	1250343	75979	5.7
2007	Dec	1333251	1249011	84240	6.3
2008	Jan	1320283	1234844	85439	6.5
2008	Feb	1311527	1233605	77922	5.9
2008	Mar	1325977	1246961	79016	6

2008	Apr	1329686	1255639	74047	5.6
2008	May	1342527	1250248	92279	6.9
2008	Jun	1347448	1240752	106696	7.9
2008	Jul	1355453	1238829	116624	8.6
2008	Aug	1327122	1224948	102174	7.7
2008	Sep	1320098	1221087	99011	7.5
2008	Oct	1314906	1224513	90393	6.9
p : Preliminary.					

Step 1**Monthly Labor Force Numbers**Source: www.bls.gov/lau/**AREA**

Mississippi

Nov-05 labor force 1,319,458	Dec-05 labor force 1,310,531	Jan-06 labor force 1,287,727	Feb-06 labor force 1,291,664	Mar-06 labor force 1,283,647	Apr-06 labor force 1,285,891	May-06 labor force 1,295,168	Jun-06 labor force 1,313,245	Jul-06 labor force 1,320,698	Aug-06 labor force 1,296,421
Sep-06 labor force 1,296,269	Oct-06 labor force 1,306,183	Nov-06 labor force 1,313,445	Dec-06 labor force 1,318,616	Jan-07 labor force 1,300,496	Feb-07 labor force 1,305,564	Mar-07 labor force 1,306,245	Apr-07 labor force 1,301,578	May-07 labor force 1,307,075	Jun-07 labor force 1,325,454
Jul-07 labor force 1,333,028	Aug-07 labor force 1,304,590	Sep-07 labor force 1,314,869	Oct-07 labor force 1,319,265	Nov-07 labor force 1,326,322	Dec-07 labor force 1,333,251	Jan-08 labor force 1,320,283	Feb-08 labor force 1,311,527	Mar-08 labor force 1,325,977	Apr-08 labor force 1,329,686
May-08 labor force 1,342,527	Jun-08 labor force 1,347,448	Jul-08 labor force 1,355,453	Aug-08 labor force 1,327,122	Sep-08 labor force 1,320,098	Oct-08 labor force 1,314,906				

Step 2

36-Month Labor Force Totals

AREA
Mississippi

Nov05-Oct08
labor force
47,311,727

Step 3**Monthly Unemployed Numbers**Source: www.bls.gov/lau/

AREA

Mississippi

Nov-05 Unemployed 114,721	Dec-05 Unemployed 102,939	Jan-06 Unemployed 103,046	Feb-06 Unemployed 94,827	Mar-06 Unemployed 82,887	Apr-06 Unemployed 80,502	May-06 Unemployed 85,549	Jun-06 Unemployed 96,488	Jul-06 Unemployed 99,940	Aug-06 Unemployed 86,637
Sep-06 Unemployed 80,246	Oct-06 Unemployed 79,685	Nov-06 Unemployed 81,748	Dec-06 Unemployed 81,710	Jan-07 Unemployed 89,985	Feb-07 Unemployed 86,197	Mar-07 Unemployed 81,923	Apr-07 Unemployed 76,374	May-07 Unemployed 78,903	Jun-07 Unemployed 90,845
Jul-07 Unemployed 93,003	Aug-07 Unemployed 79,823	Sep-07 Unemployed 79,835	Oct-07 Unemployed 79,709	Nov-07 Unemployed 75,979	Dec-07 Unemployed 84,240	Jan-08 Unemployed 85,439	Feb-08 Unemployed 77,922	Mar-08 Unemployed 79,016	Apr-08 Unemployed 74,047
May-08 Unemployed 92,279	Jun-08 Unemployed 106,696	Jul-08 Unemployed 116,624	Aug-08 Unemployed 102,174	Sep-08 Unemployed 99,011	Oct-08 Unemployed 90,393				

Step 4**36-Month Unemployed Totals**

AREA
Mississippi

Nov05-Oct08
Unemployed
3,191,342

Step 1
Step 2
Step 3
Step 4

Please see worksheet entitled "Step 1" for monthly labor force numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 2" for 36-month labor force totals
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 3" for monthly unemployed numbers
Please see worksheet entitled "Step 4" for 36-month unemployed totals

	from Step 2	from Step 4	Step 5	Step 6	Step 7
	Total labor force NOV 2005 - OCT 2008	Total number of unemployed NOV 2005 - OCT 2008	Average Unemployment Rate (unrounded) NOV 2005 - OCT 2008	Average Unemployment Rate (multiply by 100) NOV 2005 - OCT 2008	Average Unemployment Rate (one decimal place) NOV 2005 - OCT 2008
Mississippi	47,311,727	3,191,342	0.0674535	6.74	6.7
National Unemployment Rate	5,497,201,000	269,243,000	0.0489782	4.89	4.9
20% Threshold					5.9

Series Id: LNU01000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Civilian Labor Force Level
Labor force status: Civilian labor force
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2005	147125	147649	147745	148274	148878	150327	151122	150469
2006	149090	149686	150027	150209	150696	152557	153208	152465
2007	151924	151879	152236	151829	152350	154252	154871	153493
2008	152828	152503	153135	153208	154003	155582	156300	155387

1 : Data affected by changes in population controls.

Series Id: LNU03000000
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series title: (Unadj) Unemployment Level
Labor force status: Unemployed
Type of data: Number in thousands
Age: 16 years and over

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
2005	8444	8549	7986	7335	7287	7870	7839	7327
2006	7608	7692	7255	6804	6655	7341	7602	7086
2007	7649	7400	6913	6532	6486	7295	7556	7088
2008	8221	7953	8027	7287	8076	8933	9433	9479

Source: Current Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Dept. of Labor
 Underlying data are available at www.bls.gov/cps, and are attached.

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
149838	150304	150239	149874	149320
151635	152397	152590	152571	151428
153400	153516	154035	153705	153124
154509	155012	154624		

Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
7259	6964	7271	6956	7591
6625	6272	6576	6491	7001
6952	6773	6917	7371	7078
9199	9469	10015		