

# The University of Georgia

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**College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences**

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**Growth and Change in Georgia's Social, Economic and Demographic Environment**

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**Susan R. Boatright, Editor**

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## FOREWORD

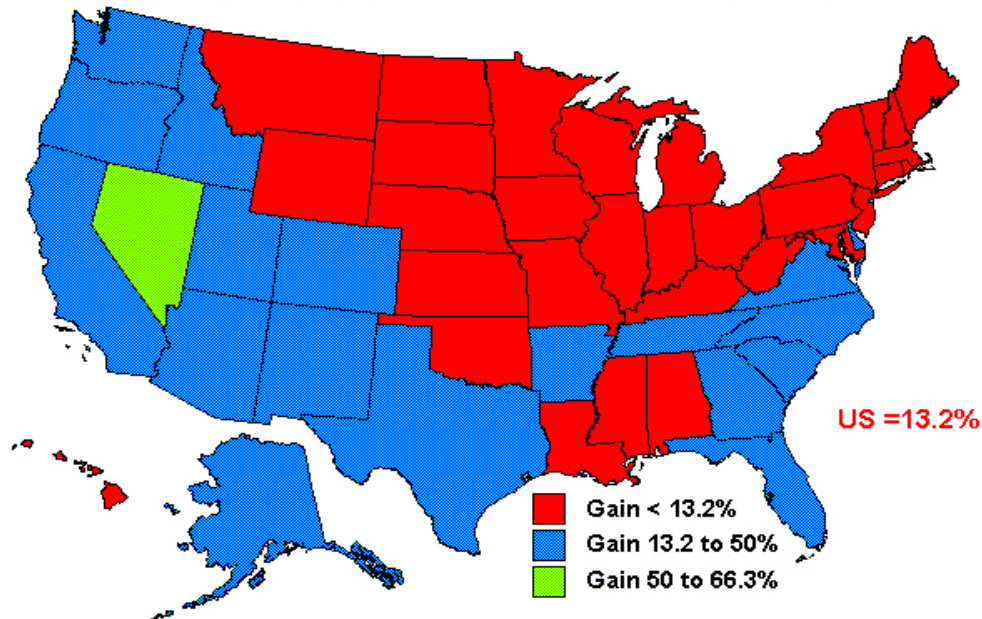
Georgia is currently the tenth most populous state with close to 8.2 million residents. According to the 2000 Census, during the period of 1990-2000 Georgia had the sixth fastest-growing population by percent (26.4) and had the fourth largest numerical increase (1.7 million) of all states. As the fastest-growing state in the South, Georgia experienced the most rapid census-to-census population growth rate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century which was accompanied by increasing diversity.

Technological, economic and demographic changes have transformed Georgia into a major player in regional, national and international arenas. Georgia has the opportunity to take a leadership role with its rich heritage as one of the four original colonies, size, and impressive growth rates. How well Georgia fulfills such a role will depend on how policy makers plan and prepare. Social and economic problems have hindered progress in the past and the challenge will be to adapt to rapid technological and cultural change. Institutions of higher education must work together with public schools and other educational agencies to improve programs and services. They must cooperate actively in a concerted and sustained effort to raise the educational level of all Georgians.

Included in this report is information concerning growth and change in Georgia's population, the educational attainment of state residents, the employment of Georgia's work force and the quality of life as reflected in per capita and family income. As more people and businesses move to Georgia, the need for workers with greater skills and educational levels is expected to increase. The changing means of production from a manufacturing and natural resource-based economy to an information and service-retail-driven economy will require a higher educated and skilled work force. At the same time, the proliferation of low-wage, low-skill service and retail sector jobs will present a completely different set of problems. Employers will face difficulty attracting and keeping motivated workers who are willing to work in a low-wage, yet demanding, environment. The lack of opportunity for advancement in many of these occupations will also hinder the recruitment and retention of loyal workers.

Adapting to these changing trends and conditions will require state and local government leaders, educators and business decision makers to develop new tactics, policies and procedures in order to solve the problems that accompany change. The following maps and charts profile the changing demographic, economic, social and educational trends occurring in Georgia.

## U.S. POPULATION PERCENTAGE CHANGE: 1990-2000



In *Census 2000*, 281.4 million people were counted in the United States, a 13.2 percent increase from 1990. This population growth of 32.7 million people represents the largest census-to-census increase in American history. The previous record increase was 28.0 million people between 1950 and 1960 fueled primarily by the post-World War II baby boom. Based on preferred middle series projections\*, growth will increase in the U.S. to almost 300 million by 2010.

Though growth varied significantly by region with higher rates in the West and South, no state experienced a population decline between 1990 and 2000. State growth for the 90s ranged from a high of 66 percent in Nevada to a low of 0.5 percent in North Dakota. In the South, Georgia was the fastest growing state, up by 26.4 percent since 1990. In rapidly growing states, increase was due primarily to immigrating residents. The economic structures of the growth states are well-diversified, enabling them to withstand the problems created by a fluctuating economy.

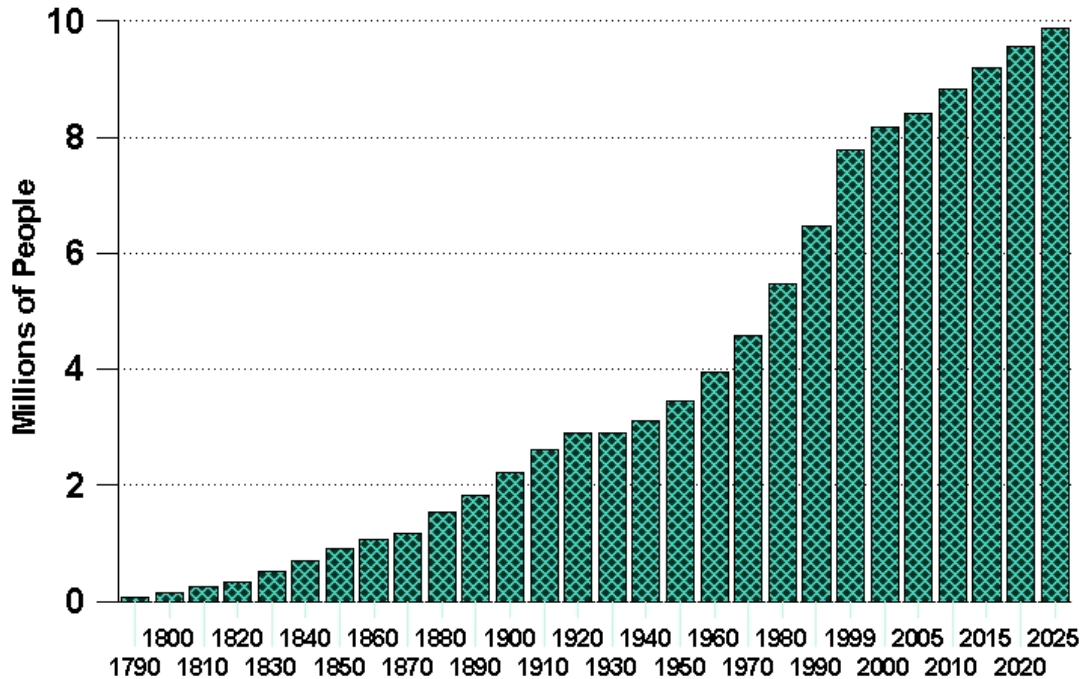
States dependent upon agriculture, energy and heavy manufacturing have experienced the outmigration of young, talented, educated workers. This problem is extremely difficult to stop once it starts. Decision makers must recognize that creating job opportunities in today's information-driven, global economy involves virtually every sector of a community. Comprehensive economic development, however, is a slow, deliberate, long-term venture that cannot be achieved on a short timetable.

Balancing the reality of political timetables with meaningful social and economic development activities is a laborious operation that requires significant citizen input into all phases of the decision-making process. The larger the number of groups and associations involved in the process, the greater its chance of success. Broad-based representation also creates a greater awareness of the complexities associated with social and economic development.

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Map data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*, PHC-T-2. Ranking Tables for States: 1990 and 2000." \*See references.

# GEORGIA TOTAL POPULATION 1790-2025



By 1760 more than one-third of Georgia's population were slaves, and by the eve of the American Revolution, the figure was almost one-half. In 1790, the first US Census showed there were 82,548 white and black Georgians (Indians were not counted). By 1840 the state's population rapidly increased to 691,392. It was not until 1860 that Georgia passed the one million mark. People were still moving to the state, but many were leaving, searching for yet other frontiers located further west. From 1860 to 1960 Georgia's population growth was consistently below the national level. Thousands left the state to earn decent livings and prepare their children for brighter futures.

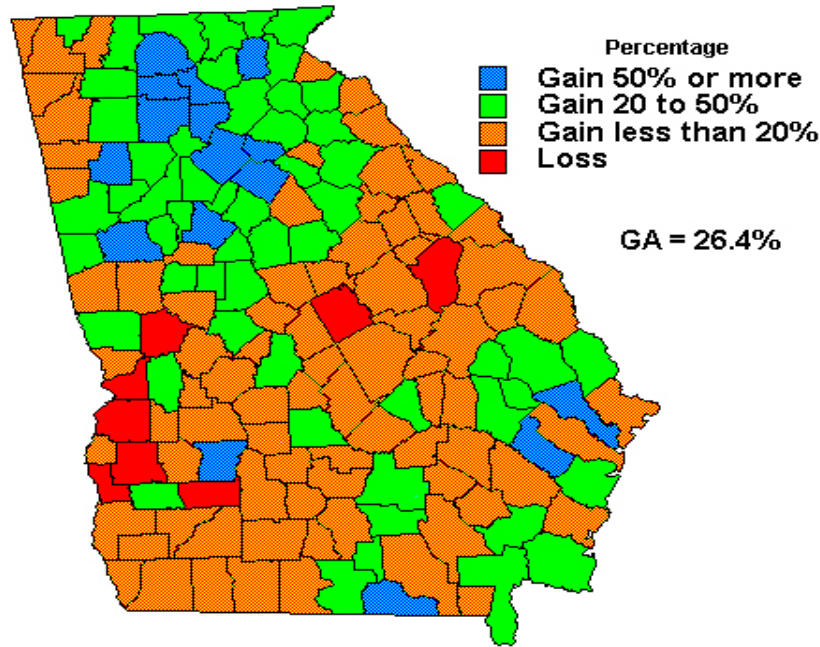
In the 1960s, however, the rate of growth for Georgia was four times greater than that of the nation and has remained consistently above the national average. Companies moved to the South lured by Georgia's mild climate, low taxes and fuel costs and a predominately nonunionized labor force willing to work for lower wages than in the North. People migrated as well, finding jobs for the asking, reversing the 75-yr. old pattern of south to north migration. Several factors affected changing patterns of growth in Georgia. Air conditioning made life more bearable and pesticides available after the war diminished the miseries caused by the mosquito and other notorious pests. Beginning with the 1954 Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, the moderation of racial discrimination began to bring black as well as more white immigrants to Georgia.

During the decade of the 1990s, Georgia's population increased by 1.7 million. As of 2000, Georgia was the 10th most populous state in the nation with a population of nearly 8.2 million residents, an increase of 26.4 percent from 1990. Two projections (based on different interstate migration assumptions)\* indicate that Georgia is expected to have between 9.9 and 11.0 million residents by the year 2025.

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Graph data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Censuses of Population, 1790-2000 (decennial), and P25-1131, Table 1. \* See References.

## POPULATION CHANGE: 1990-2000



During the 1990s Georgia was the sixth fastest-growing state in the nation by percent (26.4%) --the South's fastest growing--and the fourth fastest-growing state by number of persons (1,708,237), an increase of 468 persons per day!

As indicated in the map above, Georgia's accelerated population growth was uneven and scattered across the state. Of the eight counties which lost population during the decade, five had losses of less than one percent. Loss in two others represented a downsizing in military personnel during that time. Population loss is frequently linked to areas of high unemployment and lack of economic diversification. When one industry which dominates the local economy is forced to shut down or lay off, alternatives are few and workers are forced to move elsewhere. These areas also often have residents with lower levels of educational attainment earning lower incomes.

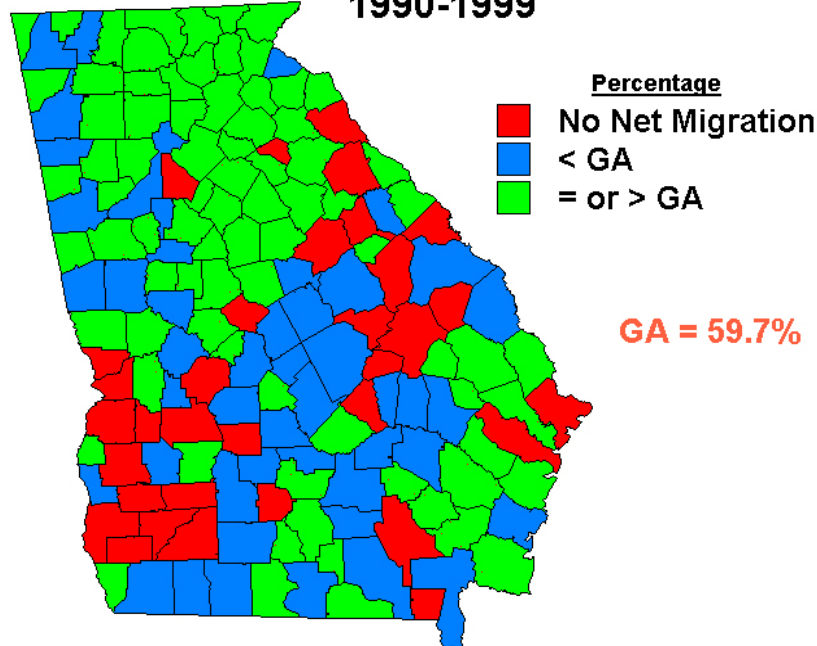
Eighty counties grew by less than 20 percent. These counties gained mostly through natural increase (more births than deaths). Generally, such areas were able to retain many of their young people but did not attract substantial numbers of new residents because their economies were not expanding sufficiently to attract immigrants.

Fifty-five counties had growth rates between 20 and 50 percent and sixteen experienced remarkable growth of over 50 percent during the 1990s. Many of these counties are part of the dynamic economy of metropolitan Atlanta which increased by over one million, the largest gain of any large metropolitan area in the nation. Forsyth and Henry counties on the fringe of the Atlanta metro area grew by more than 100 percent, ranking them as two of five of the fastest-growing counties in the nation. Northeast Georgia mountain counties have grown from attracting many retirees. While Southeast Georgia coastal counties have also benefitted from retirees, much growth there has been the result of military and higher education expansion.

Some population growth is beneficial, creating more jobs and opportunities and producing new revenues with which to provide basic services. Explosive, unplanned growth, on the other hand, burdens the existing infrastructure which is then unable to keep up with demands placed upon it. The charm and sense of community which often lures new residents to an area soon vanishes with increased traffic and pollution, farmland and open spaces lost to development, and sprawling cities. Political and business leaders who have historically supported unconstrained growth and development have in recent years moved toward smart growth strategies that limit negative impacts, balancing and reinforcing positive quality of life features.

## GROWTH BY NET MIGRATION

1990-1999



This map displays the net migration patterns in Georgia counties between the years 1990 and 1999. This study is only conducted during estimate years and is not available in *Census 2000*.

Until 1960, natural increase (an excess of births over deaths) accounted for virtually all of Georgia's growth. New residents represented only 12 percent of the state's growth during the 1960s, climbing to 50 percent in the 1970s, 52 percent in the 1980s and close to 60 percent during the past nine years. Based on Census Bureau projections\*, Georgia is expected to rank 4<sup>th</sup> among 50 states in the number of persons gained through net internal migration during the 30-yr. period of 1995 and 2025. Also during this period, approximately 3.6 million births and 2.3 million deaths are expected, potentially ranking the state 9<sup>th</sup> largest in births, 11<sup>th</sup> largest in deaths, and 4<sup>th</sup> largest in terms of its natural increase.

Counties where growth is primarily a result of new residents have several things in common. First, they are often suburban bedroom communities of larger metropolitan areas. Second, these counties contain a military base, a college or university, or a growth/trade center. Third, they tend to have scenic beauty or tourist attractions. Attributes which characterize rapidly growing counties include economic opportunities and infrastructure such as available housing, educational opportunities, medical facilities and cultural attractions which attract new residents.

New residents create jobs in the host community by their very presence. All facets of the service economy benefit from an influx of new residents. According to the *Wall Street Journal*\* Georgia is the second-most popular destination for interstate moves. New growth is challenging to political leadership who must often use aggressive tools to deal with complex growth issues. The Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) is one step which would limit environmental harm. Other ideas include development impact fees, already imposed in many states. With this system, governments can charge fees for providing new or expanded services such as schools, roads, water supply and treatment, police and fire departments and other government services.

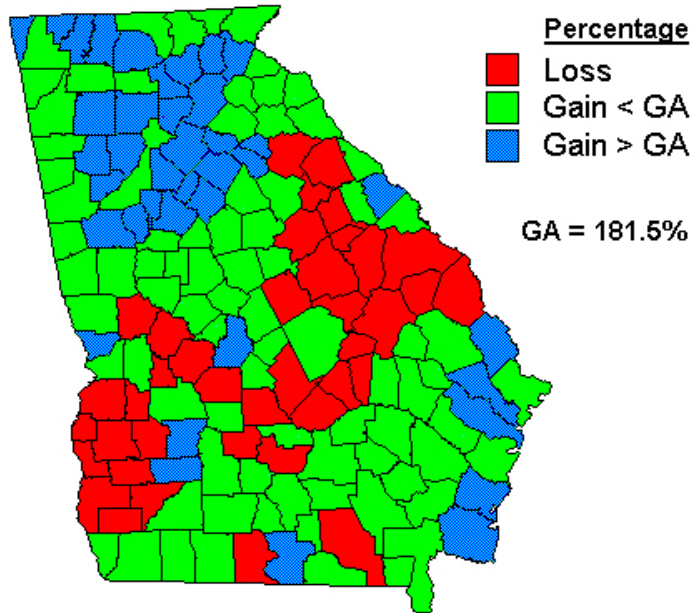
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Map data source: U.S. Census Bureau, CO-99-4. County Population Estimates for July 1, 1999 and Demographic Components of Population Change: April 1, 1990 to July 1, 1999.

\*See References.

## CHANGE IN POPULATION

1930-2000



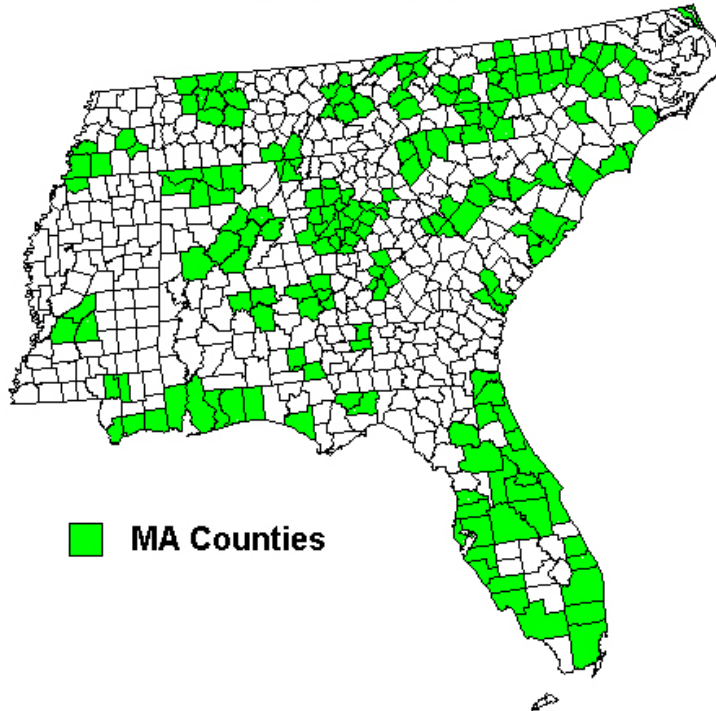
The change in population depicted in this map is important for understanding Georgia's developmental problems. Contemporary social and economic issues have origins deeply rooted in the past. As a result, solving these problems will not be achieved by proposing short-term solutions. They require considerable long-range planning efforts and implementation.

From 1930 to 2000 Georgia's total population grew by 181.5 percent, though 39 counties lost population. Five counties lost more than 50 percent. While many Georgians prospered in the 1920s, a majority lived in the rural areas where economies bordered on disaster. After the first world war ended, cotton prices plummeted and then the boll weevil decimated the cotton crops, forcing thousands of farmers to abandon their farms. New commodities such as livestock, peanuts and tobacco were introduced and agriculture became increasingly mechanized, reducing the need for a large rural labor force. As people left rural Georgia for larger cities in search of jobs, they often found their education and job skills were not comparable to those of their urban counterparts. Rural migrants were sometimes unable to make the necessary adjustment to their new environment and many required public assistance.

A pattern of total state growth with a considerable number of individual counties losing population was interrupted in the 1970s. Only ten counties lost population resulting from a booming agriculture-based rural economy with record prices set. At the same time, industries were expanding into rural areas. These factors produced rural jobs, contributing to the reduction of high levels of rural outmigration and attracting new residents. Many retirees were drawn to rural areas because of improved living conditions, thereby creating additional jobs and attracting more residents. The anti-urban bias in the late 1960s and 1970s and expanded job opportunities caused many people to move into rural areas.

In areas with few economic contributors, population loss follows economic decline. Such counties face a major problem of providing and supporting fundamental public services such as education and community-based health facilities. Once a population starts to decline, the process becomes extremely difficult to reverse. Without these basic services, the retention of future generations is difficult and attracting new industries and families is almost impossible.

## METROPOLITAN AREAS: 2000

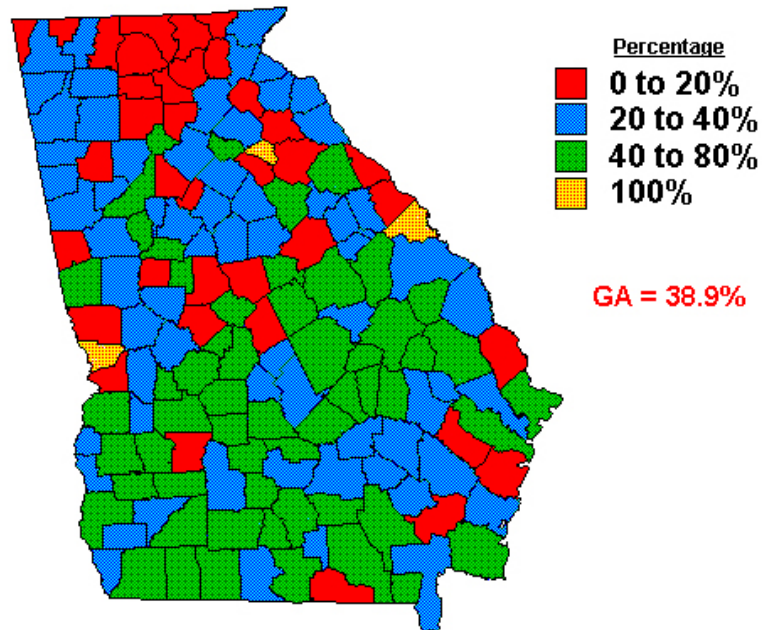


Georgia has 42 metropolitan counties located inside eight Metropolitan Areas (MA) and 117 nonmetropolitan counties. The collective term metropolitan area became effective in 1990. An MA includes metropolitan statistical areas (MSA), consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA), and primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA). The Atlanta MSA was the 11th largest in the U.S. as of 2000 with a population of more than 4.1 million and the second fastest-growing from 1990 to 2000 (38.9%) of the 20 largest metro areas.

The general concept of an MA is that of a core area containing a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Each new qualifying area must include one city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area (of at least 50,000 inhabitants) and a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000. The county (or counties) that contain the largest city becomes the central county (counties) along with any adjacent counties that have at least 50 percent of their population in the urbanized area surrounding the largest city. Additional outlying counties are included in the MA if they meet specified requirements of commuting to the central counties and other selected requirements of metropolitan character (such as population density and percent urban). The terms "metropolitan" and "nonmetropolitan" are basically synonymous with "urban" and "rural." The Office of Management and Budget\* announced the adoption of new standards for defining Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in the December 27, 2000, *Federal Register*. OMB will apply the new standards with *Census 2000* data and will announce definitions based on these standards in 2003.

Note the concentration of metropolitan areas across the Southeast and North Georgia in particular. With the addition of only a few counties, there will be a solid metropolitan area stretching from Alabama to North Carolina. The impact of I-85 can be visualized. As the Southeast evolves from a traditional agrarian-dominated area into one with increasingly sophisticated trades, manufacturing, education, tourism and retirement centers, decision makers will face difficult choices. Many decisions will revolve around issues of increasing services, protecting the environment and consolidating services. These issues will require significant changes in state and local governmental policies and procedures forced by the need for regional planning activities. Major planning issues will involve transportation, affordable housing, quality education, "Subtitle D" landfills, sufficient water and public safety.

## POPULATION LIVING INSIDE MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES: 2000



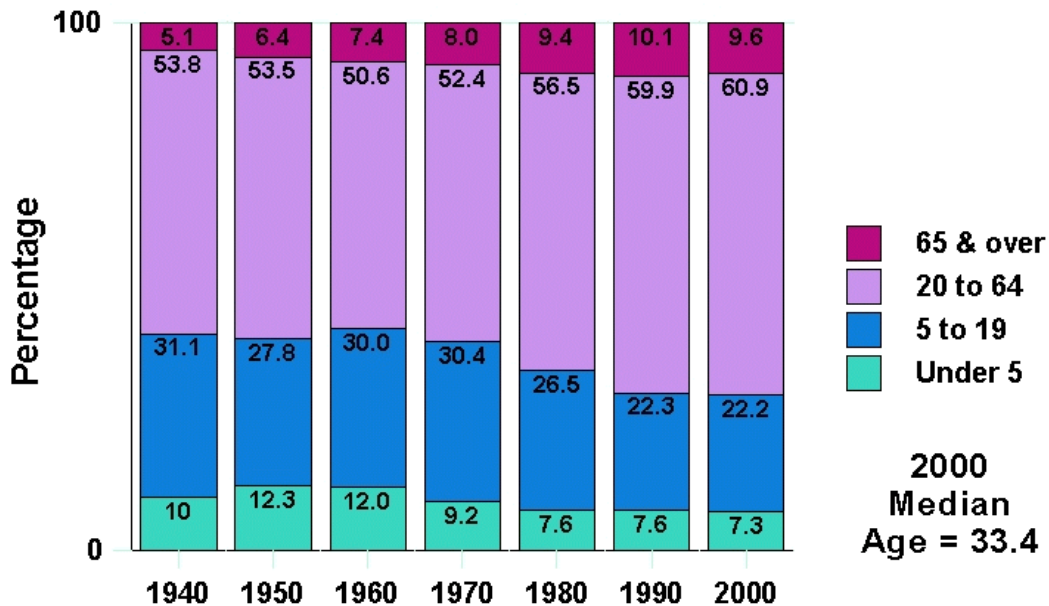
A municipality is a city or town which operates under a charter of incorporation granted by the legislature and may be of any population size. According to Georgia's Official Code, to be eligible for original incorporation as a municipal corporation, the minimum population standards of the area embraced within the proposed municipal boundary are: (1) A total resident population of at least 200 persons; and (2) An average resident population of at least 200 persons per square mile for the total area. Georgia had 535 municipalities in 2000 and close to 39 percent of the state's population lived within municipal boundaries. Over 47 percent of these places were small with populations of fewer than 1,000 people.

Historically, growth in city populations has been due partly to annexations of surrounding territory that have added immediately to total population and/or have facilitated future population growth. Population ranks for large cities alone do not necessarily reflect population ranks of these cities combined with their suburbs. The city of Atlanta, for example, largest municipality in Georgia with 416,474 persons, is currently the 40<sup>th</sup> largest place in the nation but was 12<sup>th</sup> largest in population among urbanized areas (city including suburbs).

The map shows the percentage of the county population that resides within a municipal boundary. Counties in the southern half of the state tend to have larger percentages living within these boundaries. This pattern stands in marked contrast to the situation in the northern section of the state. With few exceptions, population in the northern section tends to be concentrated in unincorporated, suburbanized areas outside of city limits. In three counties (Clarke, Muscogee, and Richmond) there are no unincorporated areas due to consolidated governments.

Georgia's large suburban population residing in unincorporated areas signals an expanding role for county government. County governments are now involved with providing the basic "city services" such as water, sewer, fire and police protection. To meet the needs of this growing population, decision makers increasingly will be faced with the dilemma of providing more services with fewer tax dollars. As a result, in areas with large portions of the population living in unincorporated areas, taxation questions will dominate the future political agendas.

# POPULATION COMPOSITION BY AGE



Over the 60-year period displayed in the chart, the youth population (age 0-19) has declined as a fraction of the total population from 41.1 to 29.5 percent, a trend which is expected to continue in the state as well as nationally. In contrast, persons 65 and older increased by proportion from 5.1 percent in 1940 to 9.6 percent in *Census 2000*. This represents a dramatic increase of over 626 thousand persons, a 395 percent change.

Even with these shifts, Georgians are younger compared to people in other states and the nation. The Georgia total median age in 2000 was 33.4 compared to 35.3 years for the U.S. Georgia's median age is lower than other states due to the age variations by race. The median age for Georgians reporting to be White+ was 36.2 and 29.3 for Black+. Since Georgia has the fifth largest Black population of any state, this large number of young Blacks is a contributing factor to the state's low median age.

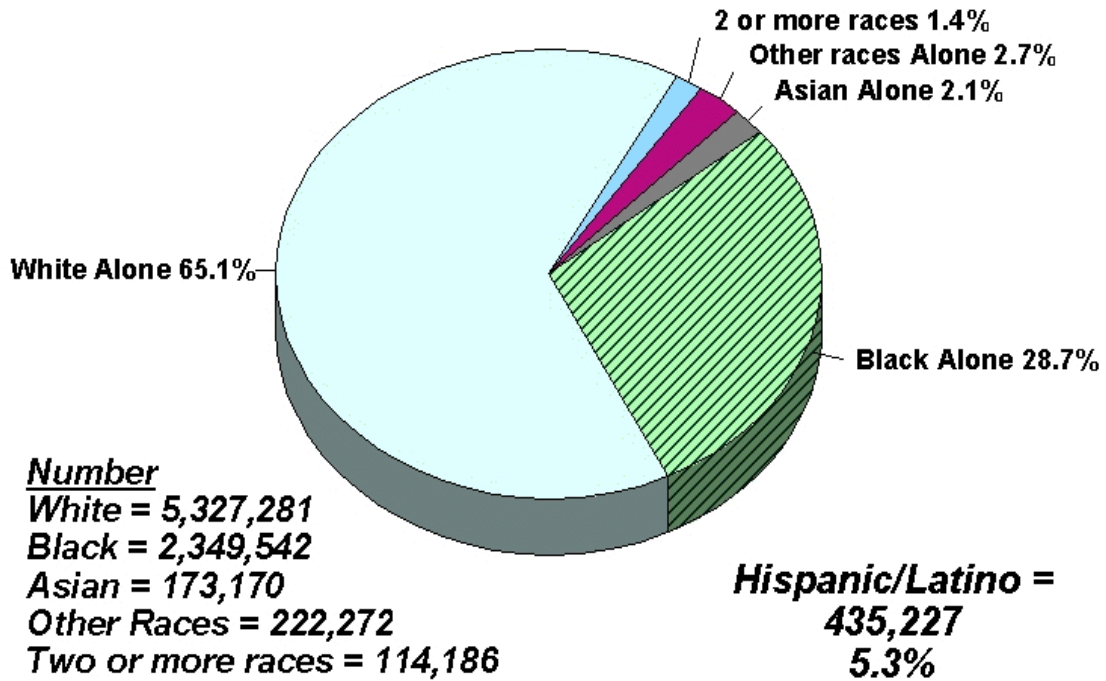
As the Baby Boom generation (those born between 1946 and 1964) reaches retirement age after 2010, their cohort percentage is expected to accelerate to 16.9 percent in 2025. Georgia's dependency ratio, the number of youth (under age 20) and elderly (ages 65 and over) there would be for every 100 people of working ages (20 to 64 years of age), is projected to rise from 65.2 in 1995 to 76.0 in 2025\*.

An increase in numbers of elderly residents and a decrease of youths directly affect the social and economic structure of the state, as well as certain segments of the labor force. Older people frequently are no longer active in the traditional labor market and have different needs from the rest of the population. Yet research has shown that older residents frequently have higher voter participation rates than do young people. Older voters are more likely to be concerned with economic issues since many live on fixed incomes. As a result, school bond referendums may face stiff opposition from the older segment of the population. The decreasing numbers of young people signal the beginning of labor shortages that will significantly affect Georgia business activity.

Graph data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Censuses of Population, 1940-1990 (decennial) and *Census 2000*, "GCT-PL. Redistricting Data Summary File, Georgia. +Those reporting to be one race alone. \*See References.

## GEORGA POPULATION BY RACE: 2000

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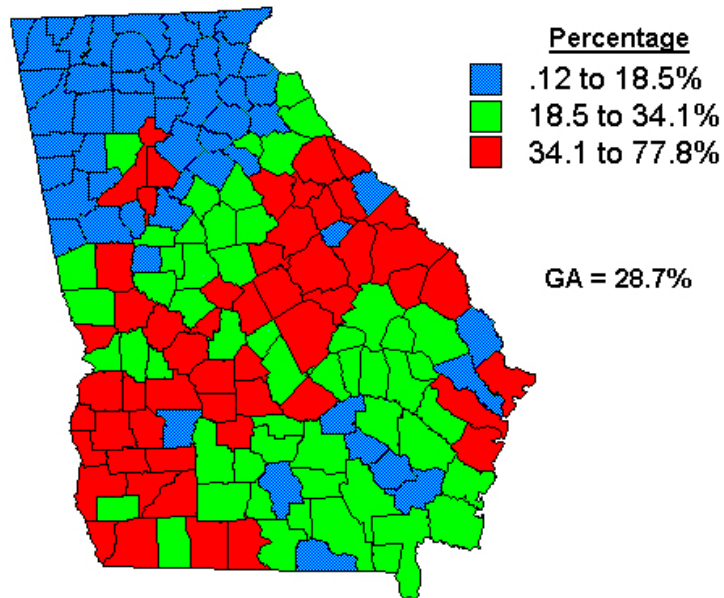


This graph characterizes the racial and ethnic makeup of Georgia's population in *Census 2000*. The question on race was asked of every individual living in the United States and responses reflect self-identification. The question was different from the one asked in the past in several ways. Most significantly, respondents were given the option of selecting one or more race categories to indicate their racial identities. Because of these changes, the *Census 2000* data on race are not directly comparable with data from earlier censuses.

The race categories on this chart are for those who reported one race alone. Overwhelmingly, 98.6 percent of persons reported to be of one race alone. The category, Other races alone, includes persons reporting to be American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or some other race.

The federal government considers race and Hispanic origin to be two separate and distinct concepts. Hispanic is a term created by the U.S. federal government in the early 1970s in an attempt to provide a common denominator to a large, but diverse, population with connection to the Spanish language or culture from a Spanish-speaking country. The term Latino is increasingly gaining acceptance among Hispanics, and the term reflects the origin of the population in Latin America. Since persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race, they are not included in the pie chart.

## BLACK POPULATION: 2000



This map shows the percentage of Georgia's Black population divided into three equal categories. Counties with high percentages of Black residents are primarily located in the southern half of the state with the exception of metropolitan Fulton and DeKalb counties. Areas with high concentrations of Black Georgians were at one time dependent upon plantation agriculture as their major means of economic production. North Georgia, on the other hand, was dominated by a subsistence type of agriculture which diminished the need to acquire slave labor. As a result, the mountainous areas of North Georgia, as well as other mountainous sections of the South, never had large numbers of Black residents. Reasons for the low percentage of Black Georgians in Southeast Georgia involve economics. Black laborers were never abundant in this area containing vast stretches of pine forests and the northern fringe of the Okefenokee Swamp. Currently, over 50 percent of Georgia's Black population lives in seven counties (Fulton, DeKalb, Clayton, Cobb, Richmond, Chatham and Muscogee counties).

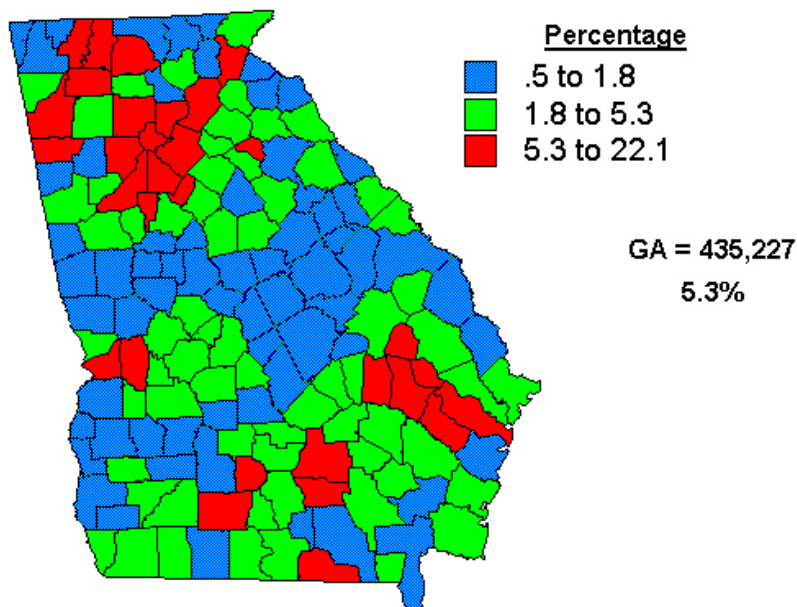
In the first half of the 20th century, declining job prospects and a hostile racial climate compelled African Americans to exit the South. During the last decades of the century, the flow of African Americans reversed. Beginning with the deindustrialization of northern cities in the 1970s, blacks began to return to the South. The flow accelerated during the 1980s, and by the 1990s the South was experiencing a net increase in black migrants from all other regions.

Georgia now ranks third nationwide for the largest number of African Americans reporting to be of one race alone (fifth for those reporting to be Black in combination with some other race). The state ranks fourth for the highest percentage of African Americans reporting one race alone. The increase in Georgia's Black population from 1,746,565 in 1990 to 2,349,542 in 2000 (34.5% based on those reporting Black alone) has outpaced the increase in the general population of 26.4 percent. At the same time, black consumers have moved up the economic ladder which is directly attributable to an increase in educational attainment. Census Bureau projections\* indicate that Georgia will remain one of the top five with the largest Black population well into the 21st century. In southern metropolitan areas, large black middle-class populations provide opportunities for networking, outlets for political advocacy, and greater proximity to extended family.

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Map data source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*, "GCT-PL. Redistricting Data Summary File, Georgia-County."  
\*See References.

## HISPANIC POPULATION: 2000



Persons reporting to be of Hispanic/Latino origin in Georgia increased from 1.7 percent in 1990 to 5.3 percent *Census 2000*. This represents a 300% increase in number from 108,922 to 435,277. According to a Census Bureau population survey conducted in March 2000\*, only three states had higher growth rates in their Hispanic population during the 1990s than Georgia, and two of them Arkansas and North Carolina were in the South.

The increase is due both to the largest wave of immigration legal and illegal in nearly a century and high birth rates among Hispanics. Hispanic women have an average of 3.2 children while non-Hispanic white women have an average of 1.5 children. The relative youthfulness of the Hispanic population is reflected in its population under age 18 and in its median age. While 26.5 percent of Georgia's total population was under the age of 18 in 2000, 31.2 percent of Hispanics were less than age 18. The median age for Hispanics was 24.6 while the median age for the entire state population was 33.4 years.

In a University of Georgia study of buying power\* it was shown that Hispanic consumers will continue to energize the U.S. consumer market due to better employment opportunities. Many young Hispanics are entering the workforce for the first time and moving up the job ladder from entry-level positions. Though not a state with the largest share of total buying power that is Hispanic, Georgia is ranked as having the third-highest growth rate in Hispanic buying power over 1990-2001. As indicated by a U.S. Census Bureau survey of minority-owned business enterprises\*, increasing numbers of Hispanics are starting and expanding their own businesses. Hispanic-owned firms increased by 113 percent between 1992 and 1997 from 5,501 to 11,741.

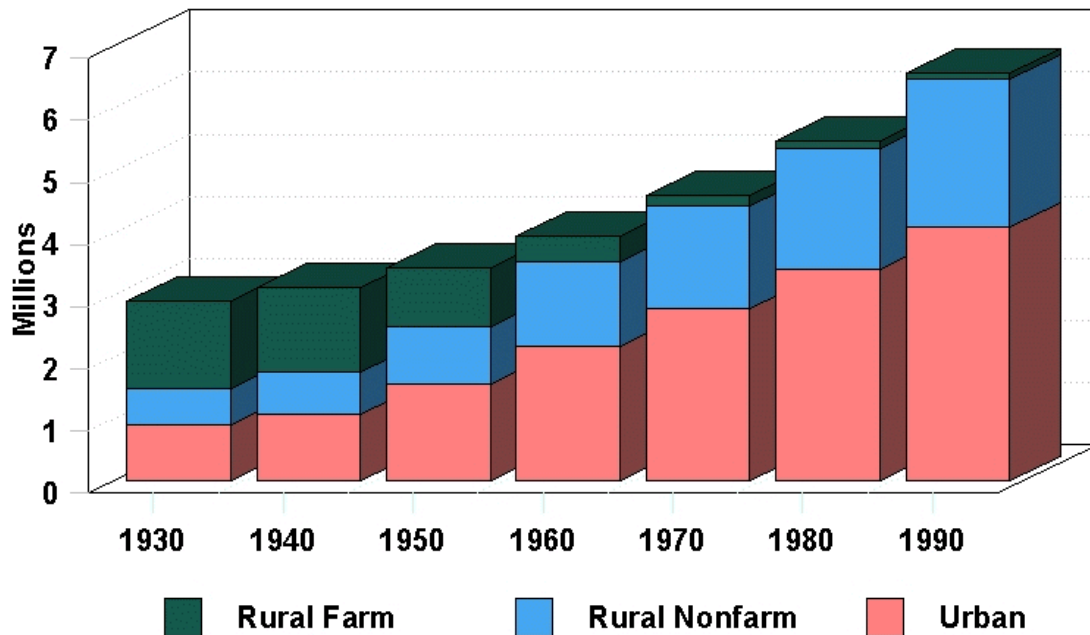
According to an Associated Press release\*, Hispanic influence is being felt throughout the U.S. in music, food, and the halls of Congress. Their presence is felt in many ways soccer fields, banks that offer service in two languages, Cinco de Mayo celebrations, Latin Grammys, salsa outselling ketchup and grocery isles dedicated to ethnic products. There is an increased demand for bilingual workers and a larger pool of available labor. Some 5,000 Hispanics serve in public office across the country, mostly on the local level.

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Map data source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*, "GCT-PL. Redistricting Data Summary File, Georgia-County."  
\*See References.

# URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION

## Georgia



**The rural farm population has decreased by 94% since 1930.**

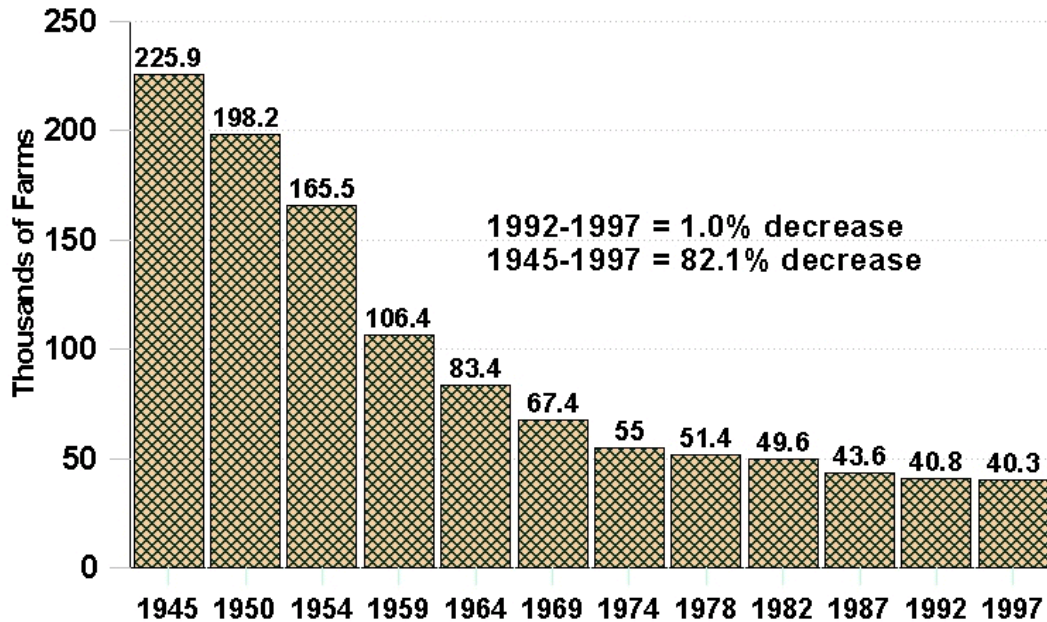
Georgia's rural farm population declined significantly since 1930 from about 1.4 million persons to 80,083 in 1990. Although the farm population decreased, the urban population grew considerably since the 1930s and constituted 63.2 percent of the total population in 1990. Notable growth also occurred since the 1970s in the rural nonfarm population. People gradually began moving from larger, more densely settled places, to less densely settled areas. Though not yet available, the Census Bureau expects to announce the *Census 2000* Urban/Rural delineations in the 2nd quarter of 2002.

Loss of farm population reduces rural tax bases and hastens economic decline. This continues unless new development occurs. Migration into metropolitan areas, in turn, puts additional strains on urban governments as they respond to growth and an increased demand for services. Rural Georgia faces problems which require increased consideration from statewide planning activities. One such effort, dubbed OneGeorgia, proposes to spend one-third of the \$4.8 billion tobacco settlement over 25 years for rural economic development.

Since 1990 most nonmetropolitan areas have been enjoying a rural rebound in virtually every part of the nation.\* More people are moving from urban to rural areas and fewer people are leaving. Increases in the rural nonfarm population will occur with improvements in transportation and increasing urban encroachment on rural areas.

The infringement of urban populations into agricultural environments escalates concerns pertaining to the social acceptability of farming practices. With increasing numbers of people living in rural areas, the need for comprehensive land use planning becomes critical. As an example, the demand for water by a community requires futuristic-type planning. Vast quantities of water are consumed by urban residents, industries and agricultural practices. Commercial and residential encroachment along Georgia's natural watersheds must cease in order to maintain adequate water quality resources necessary for continued population and economic expansion. Prime farm land must be preserved for future generations.

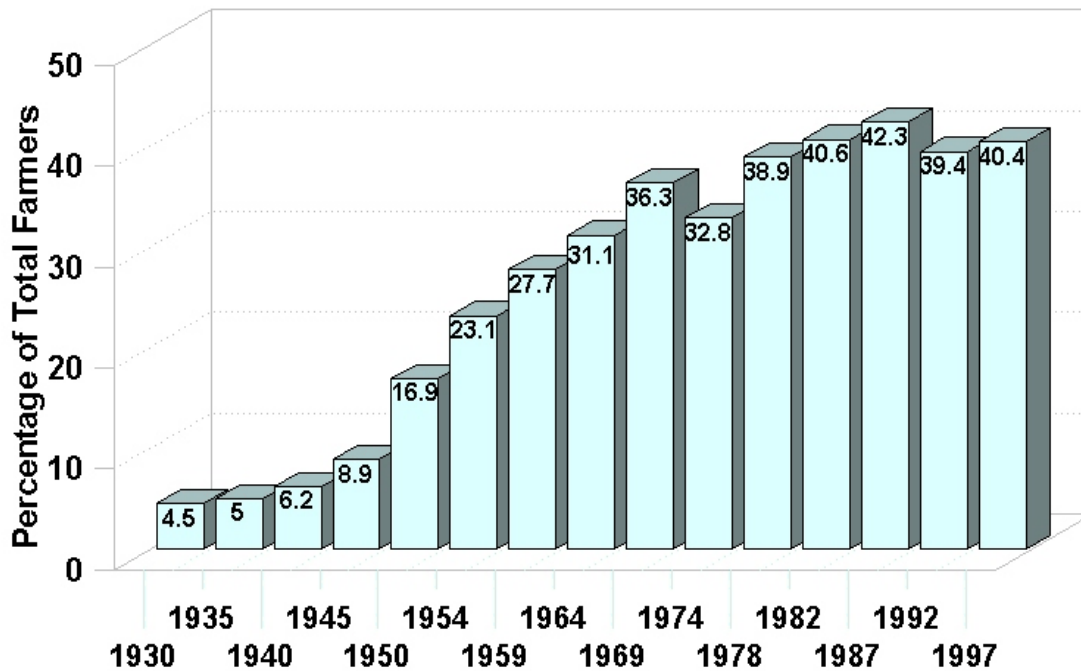
## NUMBER OF FARMS Georgia



There has been a significant decrease in the number of farms in Georgia during the years shown in this graph. The number of farms fell from 225,897 in 1945 to 40,334 in 1997, an 82 percent decrease. Although the number of farms declined, the average farm size grew from 105 to 265 acres, a 152.4 percent increase. A decrease has also been seen in the number of farms owned and operated by Blacks and other races. In 1945, more than 30 percent (70,367) of Georgia's farm owners were Black, decreasing to 2.9 percent (1,175) in 1997. Georgia experienced a significant decrease in the percentage of total land area used for farming during the past 52 years, falling from 63.2 percent in 1945 to 28.8 percent in 1997. During these same years the amount of harvested cropland declined by 51.9 percent from 7,824,189 acres to 3,762,559 acres. The Conservation/Wetlands Reserve Program (CRP/WRP) had 6,275 farms with 453,602 acres enrolled. About ninety percent of that land is planted in trees with the remainder in grasses and wildlife areas.

The agricultural situation in Georgia is similar to the trends occurring in agriculture across the nation. Increased mechanization, improved cultural practices and new crop varieties permit fewer farmers to produce greater yields. Mechanization greatly reduced the need for large numbers of farm laborers and hastened the trend of outmigration from rural areas. Land also became valuable for residential or commercial development and farmers sold their land accordingly. The decline in farms is a fundamental problem facing rural Georgia because it signals the loss of jobs, income and population. This in turn affects businesses that cater to farmers and their families. The loss of rural farm customers is often severe for small rural-based businesses which have low-volume operations. The interdependence between agriculture and the rural economy is evident by many county economies which are driven by agriculture and agribusiness. One of the most serious consequences of a decreasing agricultural economy is the loss of funding for rural school systems, a situation particularly critical in areas where funding for education has been historically low. The environmental ramifications of agricultural development will come into direct contact with increased suburban growth. Future issues such as water allocation, animal waste processing, storage and disposal, preservation of prime farm land and taxation issues will all come into play as traditional land use patterns continue to change.

## OFF-FARM EMPLOYMENT IN GEORGIA 200 Days or More Worked per Year



Off-farm employment cannot be overlooked as a major link between agriculture and local economies and is a reason why agricultural leaders should be involved and promote local economic development activities to produce more jobs. In 1997, 40.4 percent (16,295) of all farm operators in Georgia reported working more than 200 days off the farm. Spouses and other farm family members also earn off-farm income. This additional income, in many cases, has allowed the farm to continue operating during drought or low-market price periods. Off-farm employment is desired and obviously necessary. Therefore, the agriculture sector needs to support community job creation efforts.

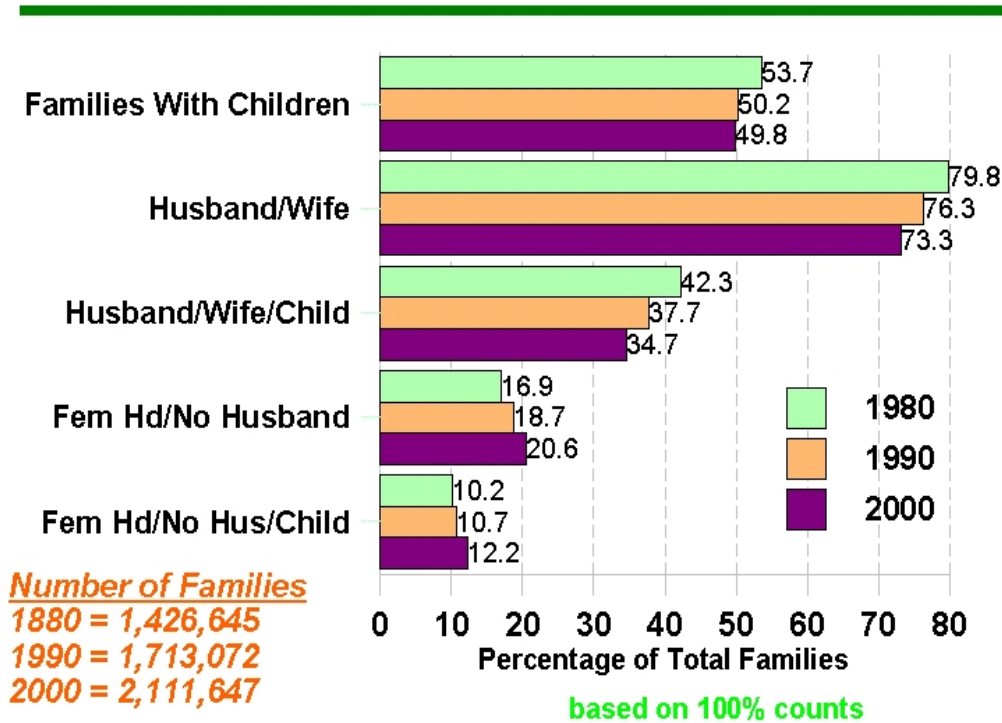
The interdependence of farm and urban segments of the Georgia population continues to be misunderstood and deserves further study. Declining rural communities directly affect agriculture and agribusiness and vice-versa. Continuing outmigration of the rural population to the urban areas is not healthy and leads to diseconomies of scale for both sectors -- urban and rural. Community leaders are beginning to recognize that the future of rural business and agriculture are intertwined. Losses in one sector affect the other.

Rural communities, especially in declining areas, must look for new ways to fund local government, infrastructure and social services. Traditionally, agriculture producers and landowners have provided a majority of the tax base in rural counties. Farm and city leaders must work together to promote agriculture and other natural resources and to develop economic growth planning strategies.

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Graph data source: U.S. Census Bureau, Censuses of Agriculture, 1930-1992 (quinquennial); and USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 1997 Census of Agriculture.

## FAMILIES BY STRUCTURE Georgia



By census definition, a *family household* consists of at least two members related by blood, marriage, or adoption, one of whom is the householder. A *household*, on the other hand, contains one or more people everyone living in a housing unit makes up a household. One of the people who own or rent the residence is designated as the householder. For the purposes of examining family and household composition, only *family households* are presented in the chart.

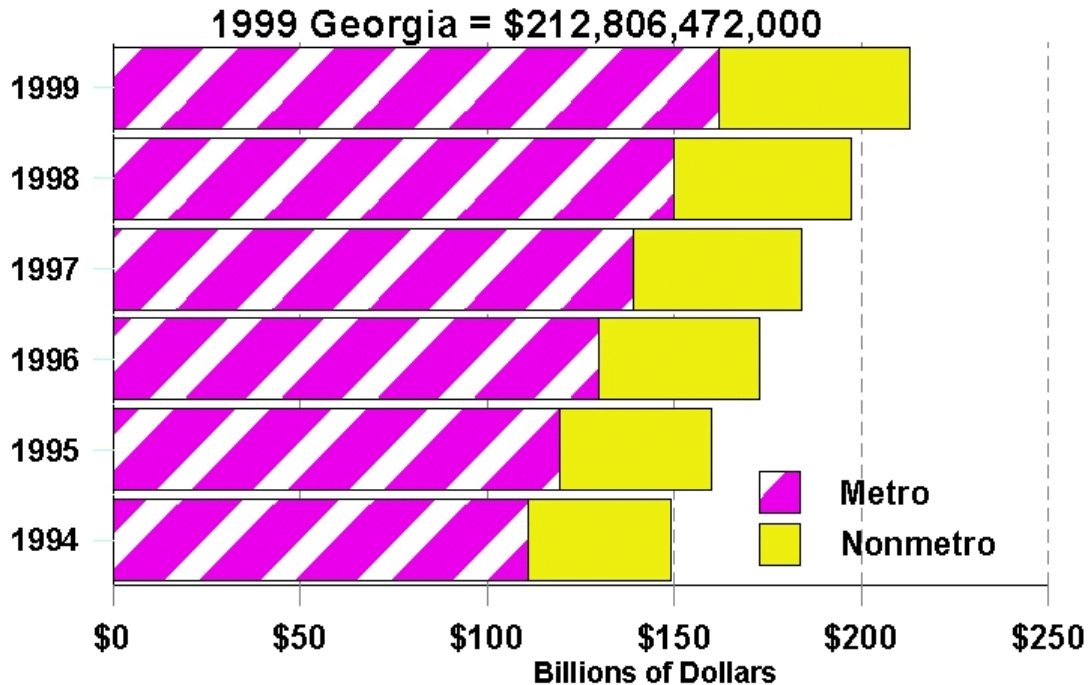
During the 20-year period shown, family structure has undergone significant change. Noticeable decreases have taken place in the percentage of husband/wife families and increases in the percentage of female-headed families. Families have traditionally accounted for a majority of all households, but their proportion of the total is significantly lower now than in the past. The share of households represented by families in Georgia fell from about 76.2 percent in 1980 to 70.2 percent in 2000. Average family size has also decreased from 3.33 in 1980 to 3.14 in 2000.

Though not represented in the chart, nonfamily households as a percent of total households (23.8% in 1980 to 29.8% in 2000) have increased significantly with a vast majority being one-person households--23.6 percent in 2000. Living alone occurs more frequently among those age 65 and over, accounting for 23.5 percent of all non-family households in 2000.

According to a U.S. Census Bureau report on American families\*, changes in fertility, marriage, divorce and mortality have all contributed to declines in the size of American household and family. Several demographic trends have affected the shift from two-parent to one-parent families. A larger proportion of births occurred to unmarried women in the 1990s compared with earlier years. The delay of marriage also increased the likelihood of a nonmarital birth, because adults were single for more years. Another factor was the growth in divorce among couples with children. These trends have important implications for the well-being of children and the programs and policies that relate to welfare, family leave, and other areas of work and family life. Further, the family's resources are strongly influenced by the number of parents in the household.

Graph data source: U.S. Census Bureau, *Census 2000*, DP-1. Profiles of General Demographic Characteristics for Georgia, and *Censuses of Population, 1980 & 1990* (decennial). \* See References.

# TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME



Total personal income (TPI) includes the earnings (wages and salaries, other labor income, and proprietors income); dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments received by, or on behalf of, all the individuals who live in an area. Therefore, the estimates of personal income are presented by the place of residence of the income recipients. During the years shown on the graph Georgia's personal income increased by 42.7 percent while the Nation grew by 32.4 percent. Personal income in metropolitan counties of Georgia grew considerably faster (46%) than in nonmetro counties (33%). In fact, Forsyth and Henry counties were among ten U.S. counties (with populations of at least 50,000) with the highest growth rates in total personal income between 1998 and 1999. Farm income for the state as a whole grew by only five percent, considerably less than the 43 percent increase in nonfarm personal income for the same period. Examining earnings by industry shows that the ag services, construction, finance and service sectors all grew by 63 percent or more between 1994 to 1999.

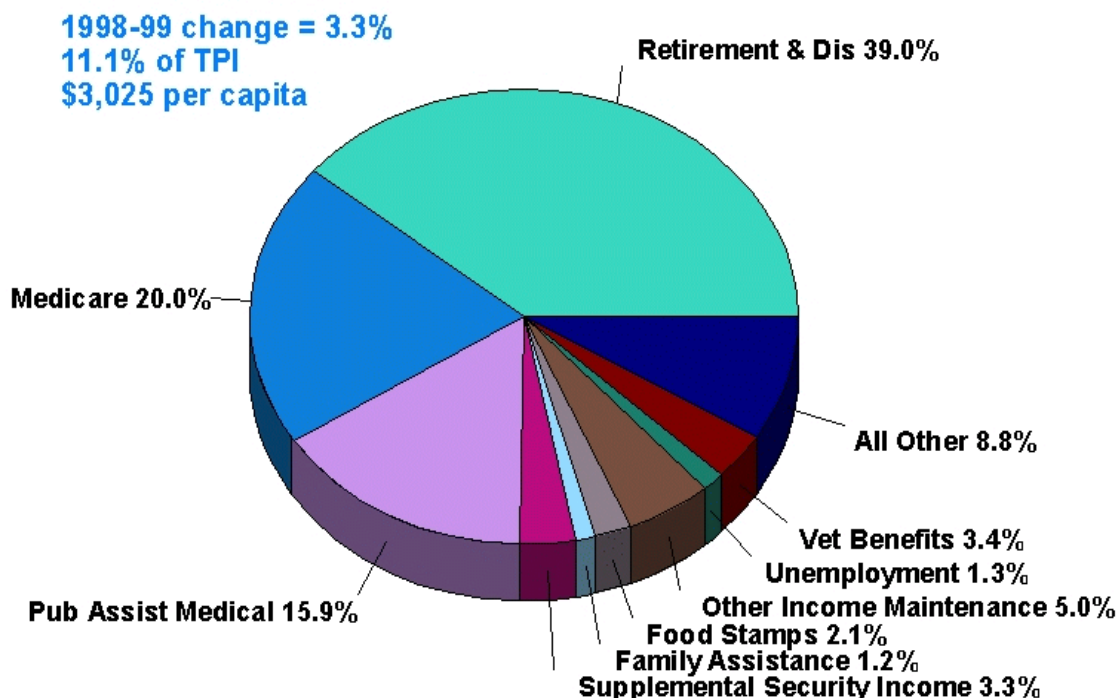
Revised state estimates\* indicate that Georgia's 2000 TPI has increased to \$228.7 billion, ranked 11<sup>th</sup> in the U.S., and accounted for 2.75 percent of the national total of \$8.3 trillion. During the economic expansion which began after the 1990-91 recession, Georgia, along with four Western states (NV, CO, AZ, UT), consistently led the Nation in personal income growth. Strong growth in business services (130%) contributed to this growth.

Georgia's steady growth in personal income has been influenced by 1) many new residents moving into the state who tend to have higher educational attainment levels and incomes than the population of the area into which they move, and 2) a diversified economy comprised of manufacturing, agribusiness, defense spending and tourism which has enabled the state to weather economic recessions better than other sections of the country.

Graph data source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, REIS CD-ROM, 1969-1999.  
\*See References.

## TRANSFER PAYMENTS: 1999

### Georgia total payments = \$23,558,499,000



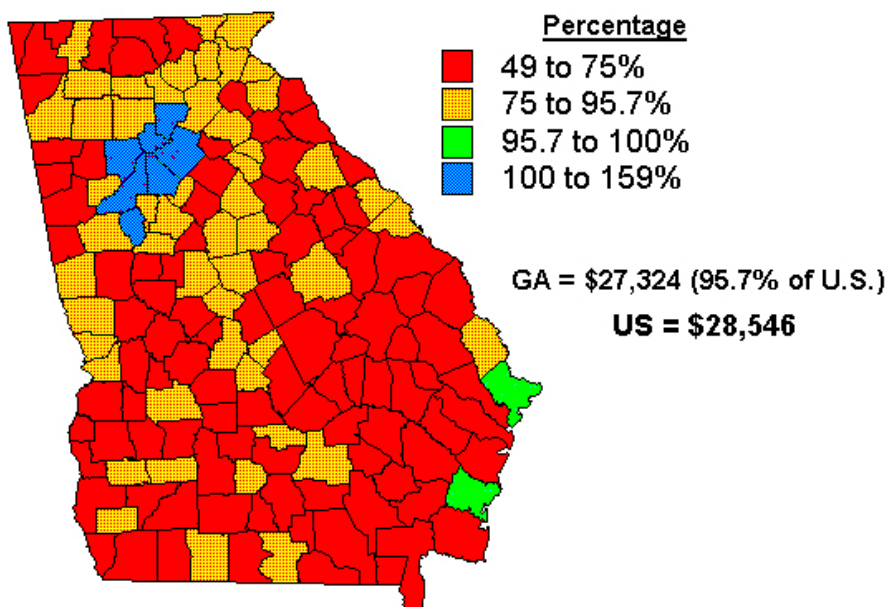
Transfer payments include more than welfare subsidies. This component of personal income measures the payments to persons for whom no current services have been performed. As a component of personal income, they are payments by Federal, State, and local governments and by business to individuals and nonprofit institutions. Although most transfer payments are made in cash or checks, they also include medicare, medicaid, and food stamps. At the State level, approximately 90 percent of total transfer payments are estimated on the basis of directly reported data. The remaining 10 percent are estimated on the basis of indirect, but generally reliable, data.

Government transfer payments include payments under the following programs: federal old age, survivors', disability, and hospital insurance; supplementary medical insurance, state unemployment insurance; railroad retirement and unemployment insurance; government and private business retirement; federal and state government-insured workman's compensation; veteran's benefits, including veteran's life insurance; food stamps; supplemental security income; and direct relief and business losses.

In 1999 transfer payments totaled \$23.6 billion and accounted for 11.1 percent of the state's total personal income. Payments increased in Georgia by 3.3 percent between 1998 and 1999. On the average, each person in Georgia received \$3,025 in transfer payments in 1999. The majority of transfer payments involve retirement and disability payments. The increase in transfer payments not only confirms that many persons are living near or below the poverty level but also reflects the changing age structure.

## PER CAPITA INCOME: 1999

Percentage of U.S. Average



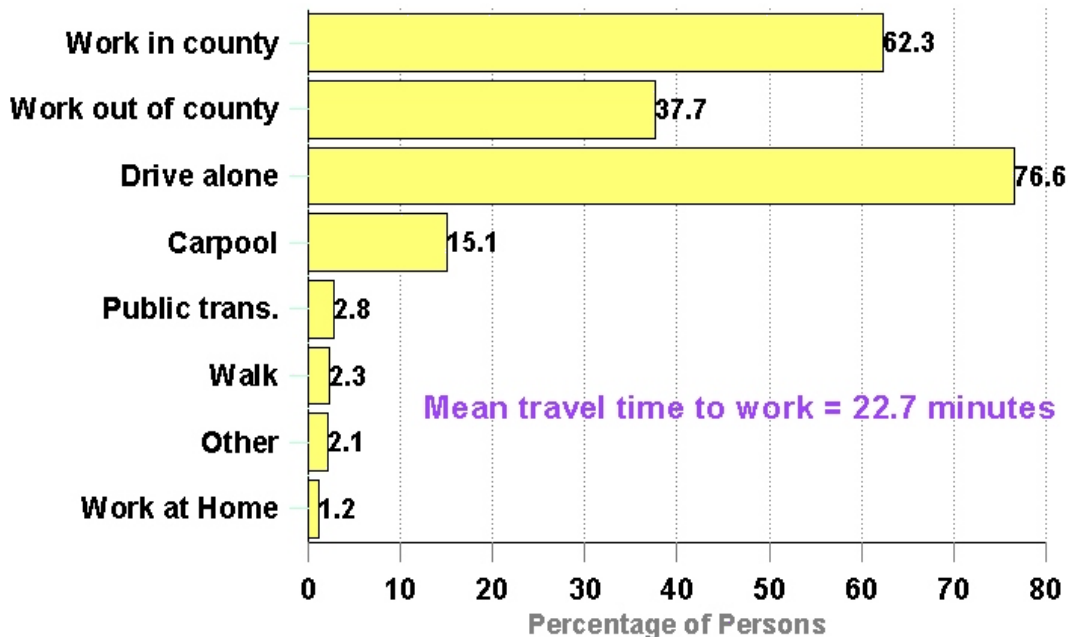
This map shows the 1999 per capita income for Georgia counties as a percent of the U.S. average. Six counties in the Atlanta MSA (Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fayette, Gwinnett and Forsyth) had average per capita incomes greater than the U.S. average of \$28,546. Two additional counties (Chatham and Glynn) exceeded the Georgia average of \$27,324, which is 95.7 percent of the U.S. figure and ranks 26<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation.

The remaining counties had per capita incomes below the state average. Sixty-two counties had averages falling between 75 and 95 percent of the U.S. average and 88 counties had substantially low per capita incomes of less than 75 percent of the U.S. average. Although the state as whole has exceeded the Southeastern average for many years, there are still many counties outside the metropolitan areas where per capita income is very low.

PCI in growing suburban and urban counties continues to increase while in small rural counties, where residents have limited opportunities, per capita income remains relatively low. In 1999 county per capita incomes ranged from a high of \$45,473 in Fulton County (159% of U.S.) to \$13,819 in Long County (48% of U.S.). As an example of the wide variation among county per capita incomes, six Georgia counties (Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fayette, Gwinnett, and Forsyth) are among 250 counties in the nation with the highest per capita incomes, and, in contrast, four counties are among 250 with the lowest per capita incomes (Long, Talbot, Liberty, and Terrell).

Per capita income is the total income of the residents of an area divided by the resident population of that area and serves as an indicator of the quality of consumer markets and of the economic well-being of the residents of an area. This measure, however, can vary widely and should be used with caution. An unusually high or low figure may be the temporary result of unusual conditions such as a natural disaster or a bumper crop. In some instances, income levels of certain groups atypical of the general population of the area, (such as workers for a major construction project--a dam, defense facility or power plant) or persons in a large institution such as a college or prison may cause a higher or lower PCI than normally expected. Per capita income can also be influenced by high percentages of children or elderly persons. These groups are not part of the work force, yet they are included in the equation.

## COMMUTERS AND MODE OF TRANSPORTATION 1990



In 1990, 37.7 percent of Georgia's workforce crossed a county boundary to get to work (figures from Census 2000 not yet available). Compared with other states, Georgia had relatively high levels of out commuting. Reasons for the high figure are related to the large number of small counties in the state. Many counties do not have the population to support a thriving economy with sufficient job opportunities. Most people commute to obtain higher-skilled and higher-paying jobs.

High levels of out commuting may cause bedroom or residential communities to lose a significant proportion of their retail business. The journey to work, in many cases, may include shopping, recreation and the use of personal services (e.g., banks, doctors, etc.). Certain types of retailing, however, can flourish in counties experiencing high levels of out commuting. For example, the number of convenience stores (e.g., milk, bread, gas, etc.) and auto repair shops can be expected to increase in such counties. However, when commuters shop where they work, residential communities may lose a significant portion of their retail business trade including tax revenues. With residences in one county and jobs in another, local business, government revenues, land use, land values, services, traffic congestion and voter registration will continue to be affected.

According to a *Census 2000 Supplementary Survey\** for Georgia based on twelve monthly samples during 2000, 78.9 percent of Georgia's commuters drove to work alone and 12.9 percent carpooled. In addition, 2.7 percent used public transportation, 1.3 percent walked to work, 1.2 percent used other means, and three percent worked at home. These figures indicate a considerable increase in the percentage of persons working at home compared with the 1990 census data.

## BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, EMPLOYMENT & WAGES Georgia Comparison of Annual Averages

	Est1995	Est2000	Emp1995	Emp2000	Wge1995	Wge2000
Ag/For/Fish	3,807	4,698	36,040	44,977	\$322	\$403
Mining	195	227	7,688	7,875	\$734	\$879
Const	18,143	22,199	151,040	202,827	\$508	\$655
Mfg	10,516	10,670	587,604	581,200	\$555	\$721
Trans/PubUtil	7,693	9,115	209,168	258,633	\$737	\$949
Wholesale	22,351	23,372	227,766	258,152	\$729	\$988
Retail	38,966	41,189	628,865	714,247	\$275	\$350
Fin/Ins/REst	15,915	19,905	172,172	199,425	\$693	\$967
Services	63,092	73,189	772,386	995,771	\$501	\$657
Fed govt	1,313	1,667	99,425	97,708	\$666	\$847
Loc govt	2,899	3,484	326,387	351,828	\$440	\$549
St govt	1,970	2,719	136,325	141,754	\$493	\$588
GA TOTAL	188,194	225,063	3,358,052	3,886,580	\$506	\$658

This chart shows a comparison of 1995 and 2000 average number of establishments, employees and weekly wages paid during the those calendar years by employers who are subject to Georgia's Employment Security Law. Employment for membership organizations, private households, and agriculture, forestry and fishing is not all-inclusive. Many employers in these categories are not covered by the law and do not report data.

Georgia's average employment increased by 15.7 percent from 1995 to 2000, an average net gain of 528,528 employees. Factors contributing to this increase include corporate restructuring providing many well-trained people and the annual immigration of a sizeable number of workers from other areas of the nation which were not experiencing Georgia's accelerated growth. In addition, programs to move potential workers from the welfare rolls will increasingly add to the labor supply.

The service sector continued to produce more jobs than any other. These establishments in 2000 represented close to a third of the firms and employed 25.6 percent of the work force. Retail trade, the second largest sector, represented 18 percent of all establishments and employees and had the lowest average wage of all sectors. Though the manufacturing sector represented less than five percent of the firms, it employed 15 percent of the work force. A combination of local, state and federal government agencies made up only 3.5 percent of the total, though they employed 15 percent of the workers. School system personnel are included in this category.

According to a *Dimensions\** report, the Georgia Department of Labor indicated that the economic slowdown has created weak job growth in several key industries including construction, normally a job growth leader. Such contraction is predicted to create a decline in housing permits, less demand for office space and a decrease in speculative building. Although manufacturing employment has fallen, speculation that the passage of NAFTA in 1993 would result in a giant sucking sound as factories moved across the border has not come to pass, at least in Georgia (some rural county economies have had significant losses). Since the bill's passage, Georgia's manufacturing employment has actually grown. In addition, Georgia's real gross product has expanded, the civilian employment has grown, and Georgia's exports to Mexico have nearly tripled since 1993.

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Chart data source: [Georgia Employment and Wages Averages](#), 1995 and 2000. Georgia Department of Labor.  
\*See References.

## OCCUPATIONS IN GEORGIA: 1996-2006

Occupation	1996	2006	# Chg.	% Chg.
<b>Exec/Adm/Mgr</b>	<b>306,310</b>	<b>399,990</b>	<b>93,680</b>	<b>30.6</b>
<b>Professional Spec</b>	<b>733,190</b>	<b>1,009,960</b>	<b>276,770</b>	<b>37.8</b>
<b>Mktg/Sales</b>	<b>488,490</b>	<b>620,930</b>	<b>132,440</b>	<b>27.1</b>
<b>AdmSpt/Clerc</b>	<b>678,300</b>	<b>832,470</b>	<b>154,170</b>	<b>22.7</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>576,270</b>	<b>755,260</b>	<b>178,990</b>	<b>31.1</b>
<b>Ag/For/Fish</b>	<b>79,470</b>	<b>90,700</b>	<b>11,230</b>	<b>14.1</b>
<b>PrecProd/Craft</b>	<b>420,990</b>	<b>492,490</b>	<b>71,500</b>	<b>17.0</b>
<b>Oper/Fab/Labor</b>	<b>633,070</b>	<b>749,480</b>	<b>118,410</b>	<b>18.4</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,916,090</b>	<b>4,951,280</b>	<b>1,035,190</b>	<b>26.4</b>

As shown in the table, all of Georgia's major occupational categories are expected to increase in employment between 1996 and 2006. Professional specialty occupations are predicted to show the most growth, followed closely by service occupations.

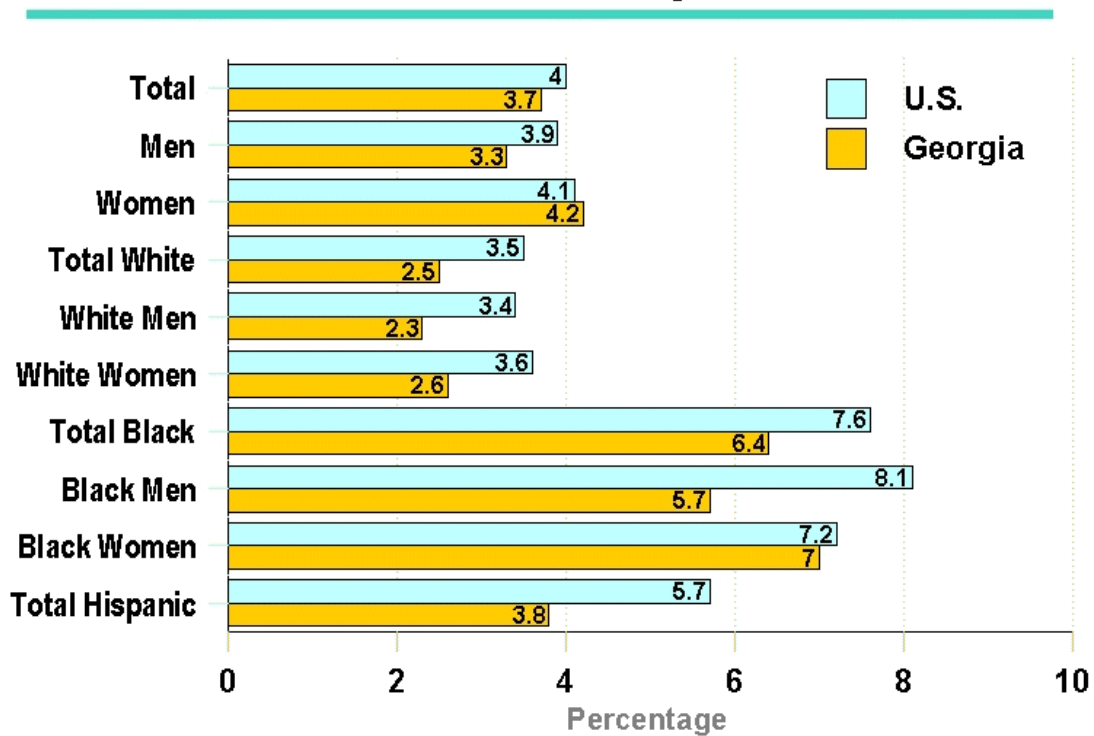
The number of occupations which require education past high school training is rising. Most occupations which are increasing require a minimum of two years of education or training past high school. Many require three or more years of training or a college degree. Almost all computer and other technology related jobs will experience high growth rates during this ten-year period. Two of the top three fastest growing occupations are computer related computer engineers and systems analysts.

But better technology is not enough. People are needed who can deploy, integrate and market new and existing technology. These new jobs have a much higher than average wage and are representative of the high technology jobs experts believe will become a cohesive factor for a stable economy. A phase in this transition relies on attracting high technology manufacturing firms to the state. This goal is deemed so critical that a special committee was formed and given the directive to make Georgia the next national leader in high technology microchip manufacturing.

Health and educational services jobs are steadily increasing in Georgia as a result of rapidly expanding population. Nine of the top 20 fastest growing occupations are in the health services industry where there are expected to be over 65,000 openings for health practitioners and technicians resulting from a growing population as well as the baby-boomer population reaching retirement age. Over 50,000 teachers and instructors will also be needed.

Nearly all sales and marketing occupations are expected to grow during this 10-yr. period with the group as a whole projected to add more than 130,000 new jobs to the labor market. In the majority of occupations, replacement needs provide more openings than do growth.

## SELECTED UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2000 Annual Averages



Each person age 16 and over who is not in an institution such as a prison or mental hospital or on active duty in the Armed Forces is counted and classified in only one group employed or unemployed. The sum of the employed and the unemployed constitutes the civilian labor force. Persons not in the labor force combined with those in the civilian labor force constitute the civilian noninstitutional population 16 years of age and over.

Georgia's total unemployment rate has remained consistently lower than the U.S. average for many years. As the national unemployment rate reached its lowest point in 31 years, rates also fell in thirty-three states in 2000, including Georgia, which was of eight large states to register annual declines for at least each of the last seven years. A diversified economy, composed of agriculture, agribusiness, manufacturing, tourism, defense contracting, transportation and a well-developed service economy, is responsible for the state's low overall unemployment rate and job growth. The demand for better trained and educated employees will continue to foster immigration.

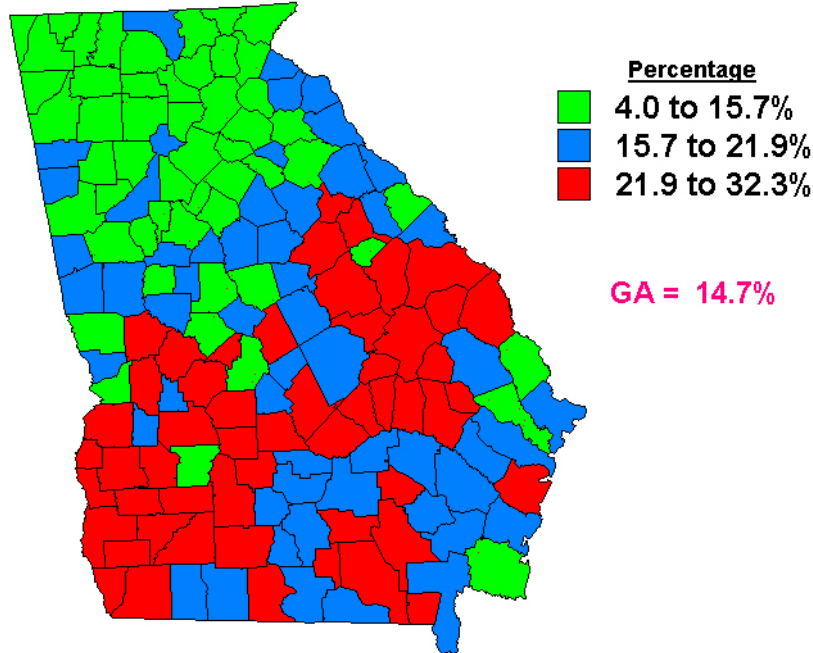
The chart above shows that Georgia's 2000 unemployment rates compare favorably with those for the nation as a whole. Selected rates by race and sex present a more detailed view of unemployment patterns which affect the Black and Hispanic populations significantly more than the White population. Fifty-five counties in Georgia, the majority of which are metropolitan, had unemployment rates equal to or lower than the state average of 3.7. Counties with rates below the state average suffer from problems such as slow job creation, the outmigration of young people, substandard housing, residents with low educational attainment, high unwed birth rates and underdeveloped human resources.

Recent figures from the Georgia Department of Labor\* show that unemployment insurance initial claims were up 78.3 percent during the first half of calendar year 2001 compared to the first half of last year. While over-the-year increases in benefits paid and total weeks paid have increased for all industries, substantial increases can be attributed to two particular industry groups, textiles and business services.

Graph data source: Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment, 2000. U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, LAUS..

\*See References

**PERSONS LIVING BELOW THE POVERTY LEVEL  
1997 Model-Based Estimates**



The U.S. Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is poor. If a family's total income is less than that family's threshold, then that family, and every individual in it, is considered poor. The poverty thresholds do not vary geographically, but they are updated annually for inflation using the Consumer Price Index. The official poverty definition counts money income before taxes and does not include capital gains and noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps). Poverty is not defined for people in military barracks, institutional group quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15 (such as foster children). They are excluded from the poverty universe--that is, they are considered neither as "poor" nor as "nonpoor."

According to state model-based estimates compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau, in 1998 there were 1,087,118 persons living below the poverty level in Georgia, or 14.1 percent. Of this total 455,018 were children 0-17 years old, 21.8 percent of all children that age. School-age children 5-17 years constituted 310,417 or 21 percent of their age group. The poverty average threshold was \$16,660 for a family of four in 1998 and has risen to \$17,603 for 2000. *Poverty in the United States: 2000* (not based on Census 2000) indicated that Georgia's 1998-2000 3-yr. moving average of 12.6 percent was 18<sup>th</sup> highest of fifty states.

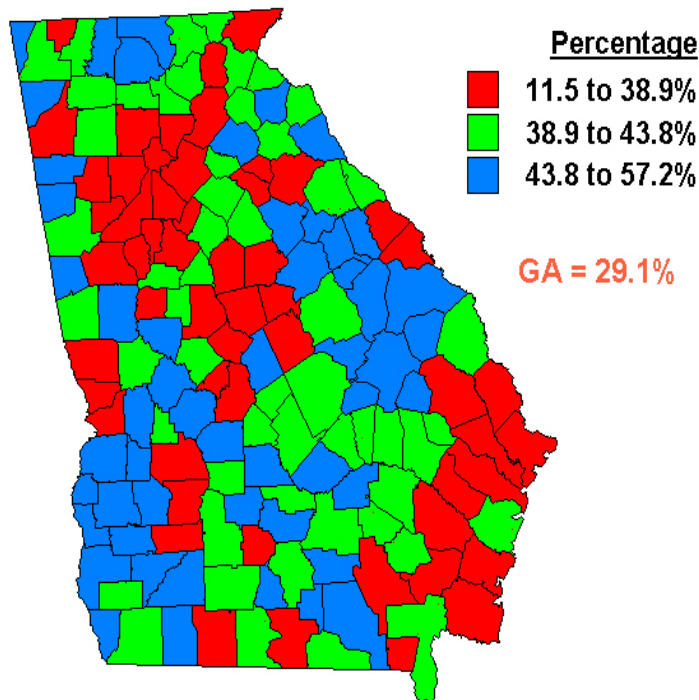
Such figures have implications for income, medical assistance and educational programs. Counties with many poor children will be especially vulnerable to new limits placed on welfare payments unless incomes can be increased through employment. To the extent that they are aware of social services available and take advantage of them, persons living in poverty can consume a considerable portion of tax generated resources. Breaking the cycle of poverty in these areas will require special programs that provide improved educational opportunities, entry level job opportunities, transportation networks and day care facilities.

The chance that a persons will live in poverty varies greatly by race, area and family situation. In general rural residents, farm families, female headed households, and Blacks are more likely to live below the poverty level than the general population. Poverty crosses generational lines and people who are born poor tend to grow up poor. Poverty can become a major obstacle to the state's overall development and efforts should be made to maintain the decreasing proportion.

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Map data source: U.S. Census Bureau. Table A97-13. Estimated Number and Percent People of all Ages in Poverty by County: Georgia 1997.

## PERSONS 25 YRS. OF AGE AND OLDER NOT COMPLETING HIGH SCHOOL: 1990

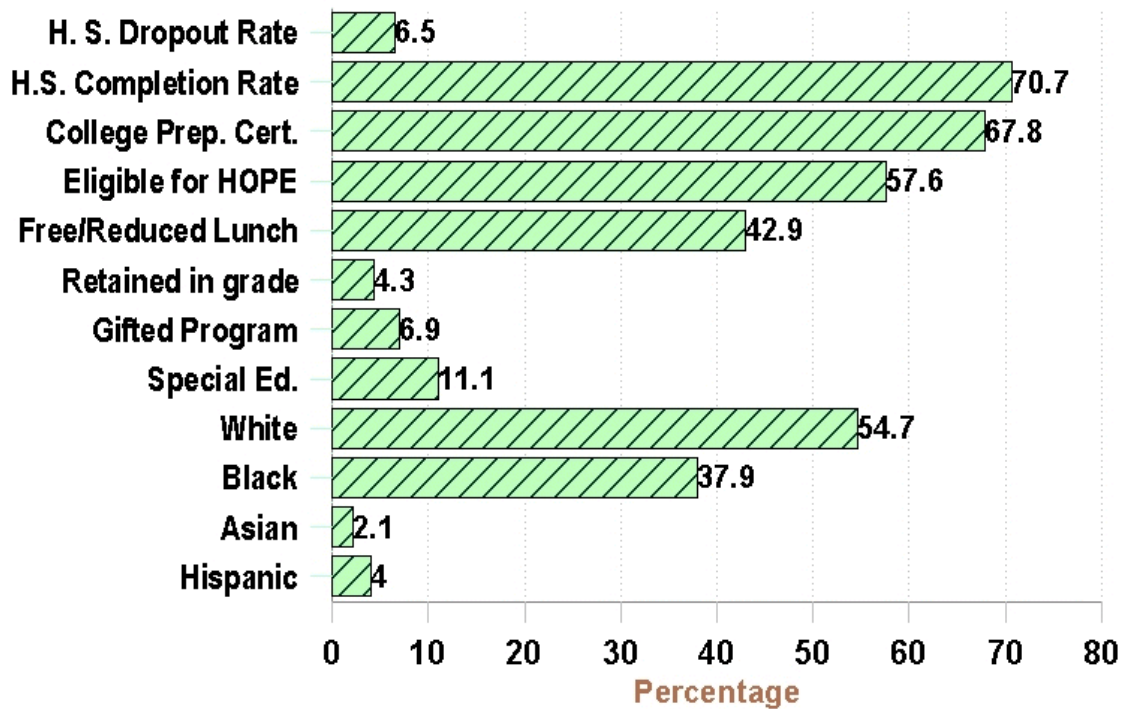


This map shows the percentage of adults ages 25 or older who had not completed a high school education in 1990. The Georgia average was 29.1 percent (25% of Whites and 41% of Blacks) compared to 24 percent for the nation. Twelve percent of Georgians had less than a ninth grade education, 19.3 percent had completed four or more years of college, and 17 percent attended college but did not receive a degree.

A March 2000\* *Current Population Report* indicated that 82.6 percent of Georgia's adults have completed high school or more ranking Georgia 37th highest of 50 states. In addition, 23.1 percent of adult residents have completed bachelor's degrees or higher. Over the past 50 years, the value of a high school education has changed dramatically. During the 1950s and through the 1970s a high school degree was considered a valued asset in the labor market and opened doors to many promising career opportunities. In recent years, however, advances in technology have fueled the demand for a highly skilled labor force, transforming a high school education into a minimum requirement for entry into the labor market.

According to a study in *American Demographics*\* magazine, there is a strong link between a person's education and earning potential. People with strong educations tend to go further to find jobs, often moving across state lines. As a person becomes more specialized in a given field, earnings increase but the number of available jobs becomes more narrow and the payoff from moving may be higher. Mobility is clearly a trait of the residents of the best-educated places. In a study from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics\*, occupations requiring an associate degree or more education will account for 40 percent of total job growth from 1998 to 2008.

## SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOOL STATISTICS Georgia 1999-2000 School Year



Several student statistics taken from the *1999-2000 Georgia Public Education Report Card* are shown in the chart. During the past six years for which the report has been issued, the percent of high school students becoming eligible for the HOPE scholarship has fluctuated, rising from 54.6 to 57.6 percent. The percent of students graduating with college prep endorsement on their diploma also increased from 53.5 to 67.8 percent. In addition, the high school dropout rate has decreased from 9.3 to 6.5 per 100 enrolled in those grades.

Though these are encouraging trends, there are still areas of concern. When current public school enrollment data are analyzed for the high school graduating class of 2000, the class completion rate is 70.7 percent. Therefore 29.3 percent of the students who were enrolled in the ninth grade in 1996-97 did not graduate. In a dropout study *The National Center for Education Statistics\** examined high school completion rates of 18-24-year-olds not currently enrolled in school. Data spanning three 3-year periods show that Georgians in this group had 81.9 percent completion in 1991-93 falling to 81.3 percent for the 1994-96 period and then rising back to 83.7 for the most recent period, 1997-99.

Concerns over high school dropouts stem from an increased understanding of the importance of having an educated workforce. Technological advances in the workplace have increased the demand for skilled labor to the point where today a high school education serves more as a minimum requirement for entry to the labor force. This increased emphasis on educational requirements makes the completion of a high school program more essential than ever.

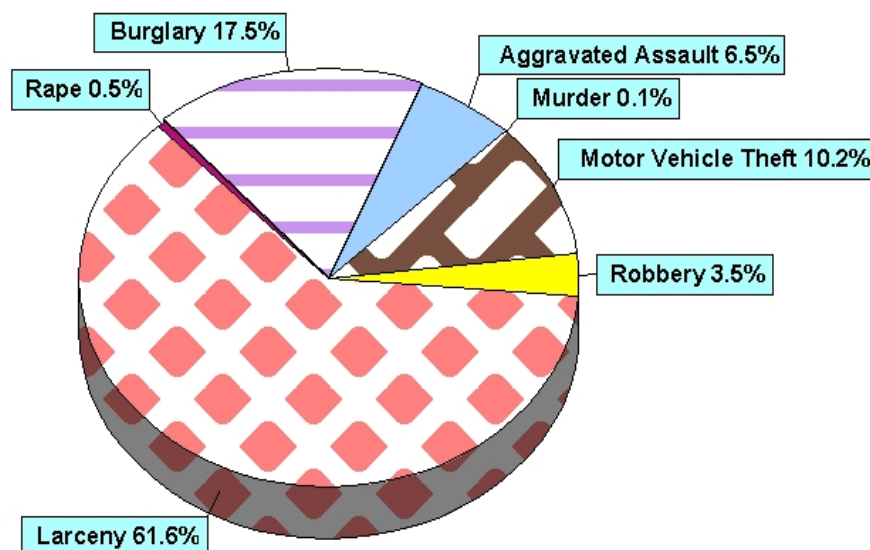
Youths entering adulthood today face more challenging educational requirements than their parents or grandparents 20 to 50 years earlier. When the grandparents of today's high school students entered adulthood, a high school education was viewed as an asset in the labor force; and, for their children and grandchildren, a high school education is a requirement for an entryway to a number of promising career paths. Advanced technical training or a college degree is an asset and will yield a highly paid job.

Graph data source: Georgia Department of Education, Georgia Public Education Report Card, 1999-2000.

\*See References.

# REPORTED INDEX CRIMES: 2000

## Georgia



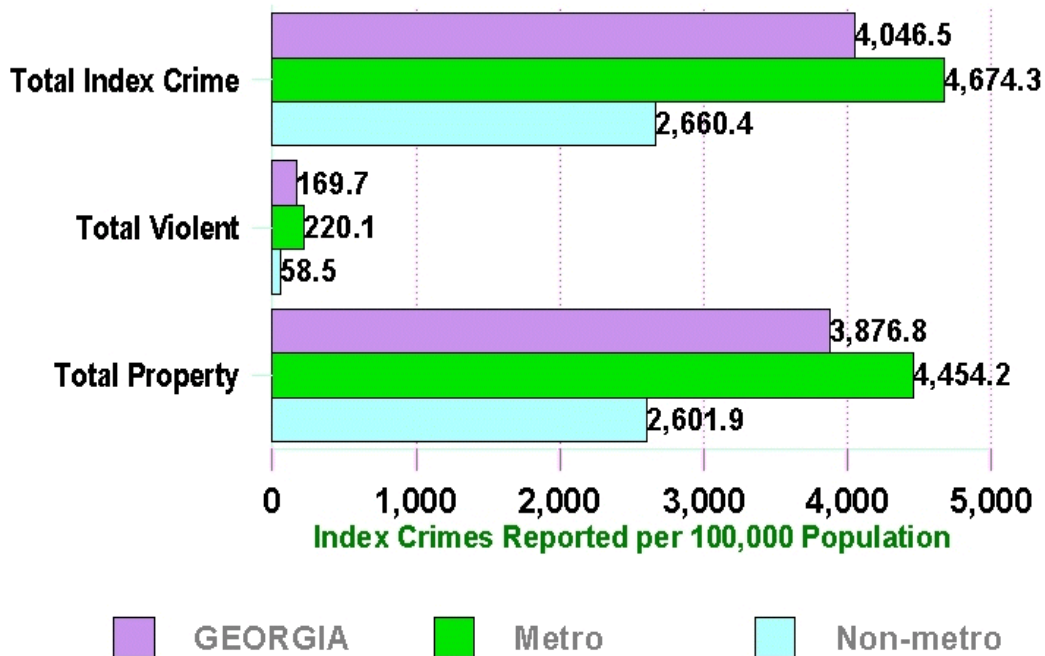
**Total reported index crimes = 331,265**  
**13.1% decrease in number reported since 1999.**

There were 331,265 index crimes reported in the State of Georgia in 2000 which equates to a rate of 4,046.5 crimes per 100,000 population. Violent crimes of murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, comprise 10.7 percent. Index crime arrest data for 2000 shows that the age group of 17 to 21-year-olds accounted for 24 percent of the 57,162 arrests.

Crime is a problem of enormous proportions. Increasing criminal activities are responsible for a growing prison population, overcrowded facilities, and skyrocketing costs associated with the criminal justice system and continue to drain the state's resources. According to the *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*\* most recent data available, total direct expenditures for state and local corrections in Georgia is close to \$1.1 billion, 43.2 percent of total justice system expenditures (\$2.5 billion). Doubling from 1990-2000 to 44,232 inmates, Georgia has the nation's 8<sup>th</sup> largest number of adults incarcerated in federal and state prisons and the 5<sup>th</sup> highest rate (550 per 100,000 population). The Georgia Department of Corrections\* calculates the average cost per inmate incarcerated in state prisons in 2000 to be \$18,184 or \$49.82 per day.

Based on FY2001 statistics from the Georgia Department of Corrections\* recidivism among inmates in Georgia's correction system is close to 50 percent with 16 percent having been imprisoned three or more times. Inmate testing for the same year revealed that 36 percent read at less than a 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. School failure is universally recognized as a precursor to antisocial and self-destructive behavior in adolescents and young adults. The link between educational failure and delinquency is undeniable and without significant intervention, the youthful offenders of today will become the adult offenders of tomorrow. Stuck in low paying jobs or having no employment at all, many offenders return to crime, thereby continuing the cycle of recidivism. Effective education programs attempting to educate illiterate adult offenders can play a role in reducing recidivism. Crime is a costly social problem which diverts valuable resources from other more positive uses.

## METROPOLITAN & NONMETROPOLITAN CRIME Georgia, 2000



Counties with high rates for index crimes are located throughout the state, but high crime rates are more prevalent in or adjacent to metropolitan centers. The Atlanta metropolitan area alone accounted for 55.7 percent of all index crimes reported. The percentage of violent crimes reported was virtually the same in both metro and nonmetro areas.

While 79.5 percent of reported crimes occurred in metropolitan areas which contain 68.8 percent of the resident population, the state's nonmetropolitan areas have not been immune to the problem. Crimes are often more difficult to commit in these areas because people know each other and are much more likely to report suspicious behavior. Rural crime, however, is increasing at an unprecedented rate. Many rural law enforcement agencies currently operate in a period of fiscal constraint, population decline and shrinking tax bases. Uncertain budgets will continue to be among the problems faced by rural law enforcement agencies. In this era of shrinking budgets, law enforcement officials will need to actively seek close cooperation with a variety of public and private agencies and groups to ensure that prevention efforts can be implemented in a cost-effective manner.

According to a *Georgia Trend* article\*, though the sentiment of Georgia lawmakers to lock em up and throw away the key by strengthening sentencing laws has removed more criminals from the streets, the voters who support these measures may not support the costs involved with financing them. Such laws almost mandate crowded prisons and bigger state budgets. Prison construction, though, has been a boon to many communities across the state, creating many full-time jobs with relatively high pay in many rural areas and increasing spending in annual operating funds. While many communities resist prisons in their area, many others compete for them. Prisons have been an important economic development boost for many counties.

Graph data source: Georgia Crime Information Center, Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

\*See References.

## Selected Georgia Vital Statistics: 1999

	Total	White	Black
<b>Live births</b>	126,494	81,017	42,196
<b>Live birth rate</b>	16.2	15.1	18.9
<b>Deaths</b>	61,634	44,759	16,732
<b>Death rate</b>	7.9	8.3	7.5
<b>Infant deaths</b>	1,036	706	330
<b>Infant death rate</b>	8.2	5.4	13.9
<b>Induced terminations</b>	29,942	12,380	16,534
<b>Induced termination rate</b>	16.3	10.4	27.8
<b>Teen pregnancies</b>	24,895	12,504	12,141
<b>Teen pregnancy rate</b>	45.1	36.5	62.0
<b>Unwed births</b>	46,267	17,726	28,107
<b>Unwed births % of total</b>	36.6	21.9	66.6
<b>Marriages</b>	65,009	--	--
<b>Marriage rate</b>	8.3	--	--
<b>Divorces</b>	32,763	--	--
<b>Divorce rate</b>	4.2	--	--

For the selected vital statistics displayed in the chart, rates are based on the 1999 population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Rates are determined per 1,000 population for live births, deaths, marriages and divorces. Rates for infant deaths are calculated per 1,000 live births.

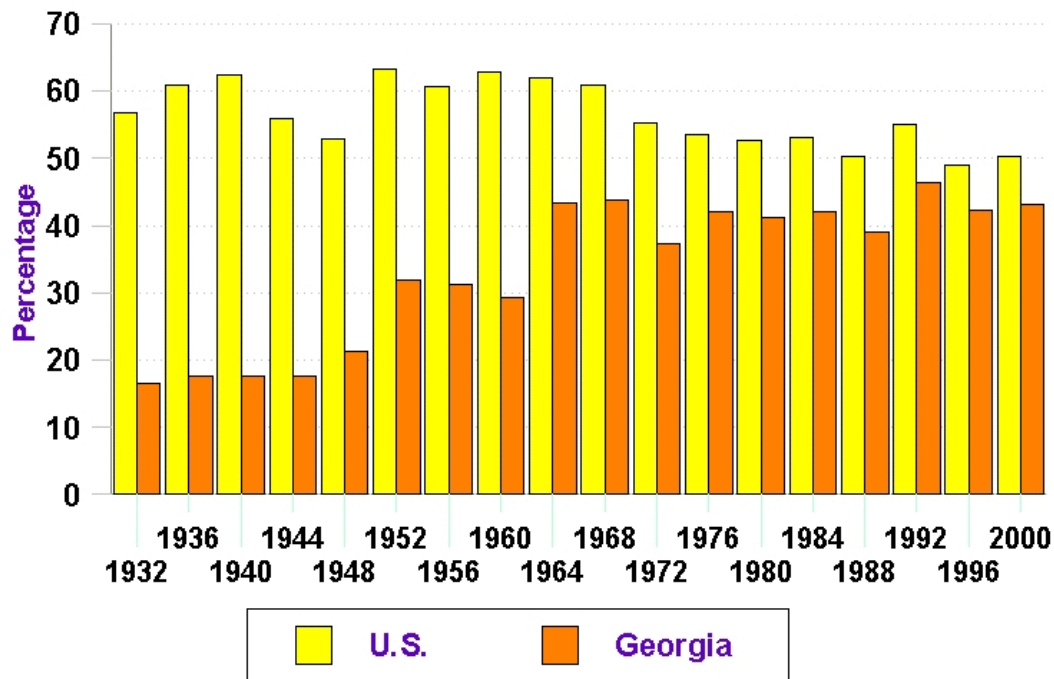
Infant death rates have continued to decline in Georgia, in part due to the expansion of Medicaid services which began in 1989. The challenge is to preserve these gains and to further improve access to the health and social services needed in pre-pregnancy, prenatal care and during the first year of life. Though improvements have occurred, the National Center for Health Statistics\* reports that Georgia's rate of 8.2 was 10<sup>th</sup> highest rate among all states for infant death in 1999.

The 46,267 births to unwed mothers represented 36.6 percent of all live births. When examined by race, 21.9 percent of White births and 66.6 percent of Black births were to unwed mothers. Teenage mothers accounted for 30.9 percent of the unwed births.

According to a Georgia Board for Physician Workforce\* report, the 2000 physician rate was 192 per 100,000 population, or a ratio of 520 persons to 1 physician. However, the maldistribution of physicians continues to be a problem in a majority of counties. Sixty-five percent of all physicians are located in nine counties with populations greater than 150,000, representing 45 percent of the state's population. There are eight counties with no family practitioner.

A U.S. Census Bureau study\* found that 14.4 percent of Georgians were without health insurance coverage throughout the year 2000 with employment-based coverage being the leading source. Rapid changes in the delivery and financing of health care are occurring in an era of heightened competition for resources, creating significant challenges for health providers. As the population continues to live longer, the need for specialized physical and mental health care, long-term treatment facilities, and affordability become increasingly important. Plans must include not only the financial management and location of the health care services, but also the proper education and training of personnel and staff for these operations.

## Percentage of Voting Age Population Casting Votes In Presidential Election Years



During all the Presidential elections held between 1932 and 2000, more than half of the eligible voters in Georgia did not cast a vote for the highest office. Even when a native Georgian ran and was elected President in 1980, only 41 percent participated. In the 1992 Presidential election, 46 percent of the voting age population in Georgia turned out to vote, the highest percentage ever for the state.

The chart above compares the participation rates of the voting age population in Georgia to the U.S. Georgians cast 2,596,804 votes for President, or 43.2 percent of the voting-age population of 5,893,000, ranking it 4<sup>th</sup> lowest among all states in 2000. The Federal Elections Commission official results indicate that 66.9 percent of Georgia's registered voters voted for President in the 2000 General Election. The number of registered voters increased by 1.3 percent between 1996 and 2000 although the estimated population gain was 11.6 percent.

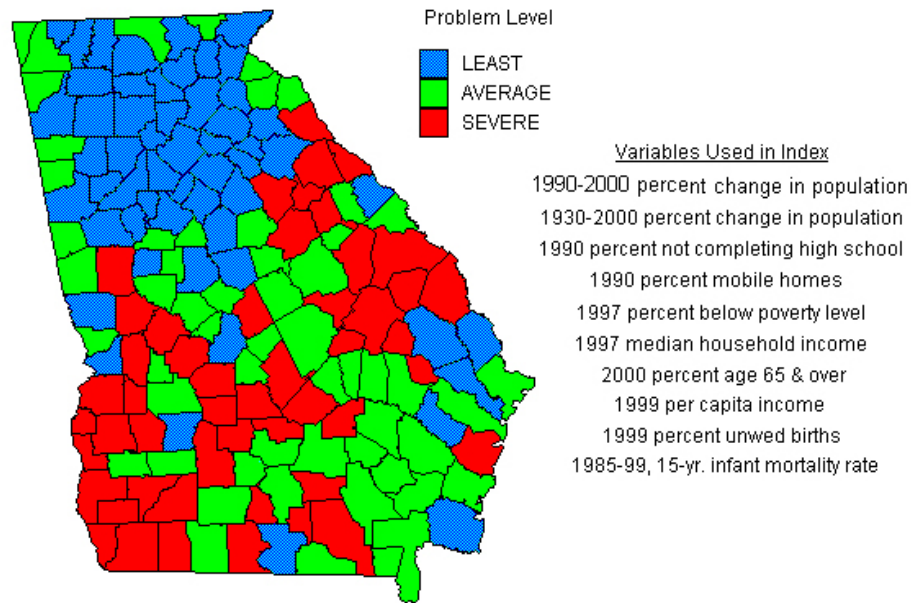
According to an article in the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*,\* voters and nonvoters have long been defined by demographics. Voters tend to be employed, better educated, better paid, older and predominantly white. Nonvoters usually have lower education and income levels, are younger, and are a higher percentage of minorities. Sometimes nonvoters are involved in the process but are satisfied with the system as it is, and therefore do not bother to vote. Years ago, one-party domination resulted in predictable outcomes. Since many believed they knew which candidate would win, they did not feel the need to support or oppose office seekers. Party discipline and civic duty brought voters out. Now many self-interest groups worried about pocketbook issues, crime, abortion, immigration and other issues are factors which may increase voter turnout.

Although many prospective voters meet the age eligibility requirements, other factors may keep them from participating. Noncitizens, convicted felons, persons committed to penal institutions, mental hospitals and other institutions are prohibited from voting. The motor voter law was designed to encourage voter registration and to remove discriminatory and unfair obstacles. Though it does remove significant impediments to participation, the decline in turnout since the 1960s reflects a growing indifference to politics, not a lack of access to the voting booth.

Graph data source: U.S. Federal Election Commission.

\*See References.

## A DEMOGRAPHIC, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDEX



This map divides the counties into three groups based on an index of selected demographic, economic and social characteristics. Each county is assigned a score of one to three for each variable based on its rank compared with other counties.

Counties showing the most economic vitality are generally located in the northern section of the state, are suburbs of urban areas or are growth areas with scenic beauty, making them attractive for tourism. These are some of the fastest growing counties in the nation and generally attract residents with high incomes and educational attainment levels. Unemployment rates are low and educational funding is primarily generated from a residential tax base. The development of a strong business-oriented climate must be balanced with special attention focused on physical infrastructures (transportation, public safety, water and sewer and public utilities). Rapid expansion requires major capital construction with the full burden of financing the projects assumed by homeowners, many of whom relocated in search of lower taxes. Accompanying tax and regulatory issues and land-use planning must be considered to maintain a dynamic economy.

Many counties falling into the lowest tier are rural and have a host of factors limiting their economic growth. High percentages of mobile homes, common to these areas, are taxed differently from traditional housing units, reducing the local tax base. Attracting industries to these areas may face opposition because of the perceived negative consequences associated with mixing commercial developments in residential areas. Many counties in this group are rural and are characterized by long-term population loss, lack of employment opportunities and low levels of infrastructure and government service development. A legacy of low educational attainment and skill development exists. Limited access to health care facilities and professionals produces a less healthy population and often higher disability levels. Many working-age people continue to migrate out leaving behind a large number of young and older residents who require a greater share of government services. These out-migrants are often unskilled and become dependent upon urban social and welfare agencies. Job creation in these areas must be a major priority in order to inhibit further decline.

Georgia presents a complex pattern of economic growth that requires individualized solutions for specialized problems. Depressed areas need innovative approaches to invigorate economies which are structured around depressed agricultural and manufacturing sectors. Areas that are experiencing renewed growth can provide a model for change. Efforts to strengthen economic bases through the addition of diverse manufacturing present a valuable example in rural economic turnaround.

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# The Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development



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To provide feasibility and other short term studies for current or potential Georgia agribusiness firms and/or emerging food and fiber industries.

To provide agricultural, natural resource, and demographic data for private and public decision makers.

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Or contact:

John McKissick, Coordinator  
Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development  
202 Lumpkin House  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602-7509  
Ph (706)542-0760  
[caed@agecon.uga.edu](mailto:caed@agecon.uga.edu)

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