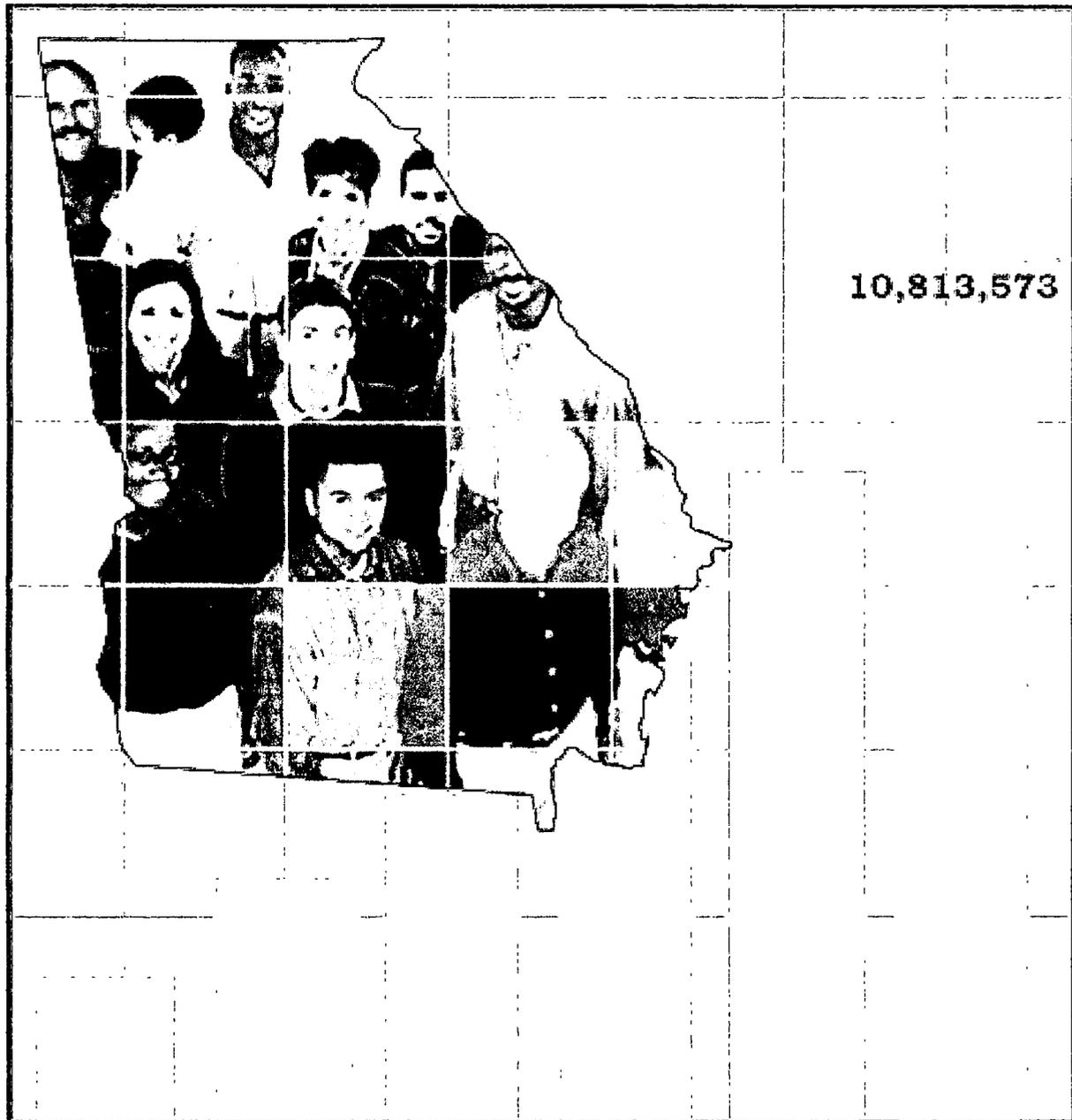


# Georgia 2015

## Population Projections



# Georgia Population Projections Table of Contents 2010-2015

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Georgia's 2015 Population Projections Highlights.....  | 1  |
| Impact of Population Growth on Georgia by 2015.....  | 2  |
| Georgia's Growth Continues.....  | 3  |
| County Size and Growth.....  | 4  |
| Metropolitan/Micropolitan Statistical Areas.....   | 5  |
| Components of Growth.....  | 5  |
| Natural Increase.....  | 5  |
| Net Migration.....   | 6  |
| Growth by Race and Ethnicity .....   | 7  |
| Language Issues.....   | 9  |
| Age Issues   |    |
| The Elderly Population .....   | 9  |
| The Youth Population.....  | 9  |
| Georgia Residential Population Projections.....  | 11 |
| Appendix   |    |
| What is the Difference Between a Population Estimate and Projection?.....  | 14 |
| How is Growth Computed?.....   | 14 |
| What is the difference between Residential and Household Population?.....  | 14 |
| What are Group Quarters and how do they affect the Population Projection?.....   | 14 |
| Fertility.....   | 15 |
| Life Expectancy.....   | 15 |
| What are metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas? .....  | 15 |
| Migration .....  | 15 |
| How do OPB projections compare to the US Census Bureau estimates and<br>the Atlanta Regional Commission projections? ..... | 16 |

For a printer friendly version of this document click [HERE](#).

To view all associated tables for this document click [HERE](#).

All questions and inquiries can be addressed via email to:

**Robert Giacomini**  
Research Director

**Judy Hadley**  
Statistical Research Analyst

# Georgia 2015 Population Projections

## Highlights: Forecasts based on current trends

At current growth rates, Georgia's population will grow 34% between 2000 and 2015 to 10,813,573.

Georgia will likely become the eighth largest state in the nation in 2015, moving from its current ninth place, past the State of Michigan.

Twelve counties are expected to grow by 75% or more between 2000 and 2015.

By 2015, half of the state's population will reside in 12 counties: Gwinnett, Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Clayton, Henry, Cherokee, Chatham, Forsyth, Hall, Richmond and Muscogee.

By 2015, one out of eleven Georgians will reside in Gwinnett County. Gwinnett County's 2015 population of 1,030,700 will be larger than the total population of the 79 smallest Georgia counties *combined*.

Twenty-three counties are expected to lose population between 2000 and 2015.

In 2015, seven counties are expected to have a population less than 5,000: Taliaferro, Webster, Quitman, Glascock, Clay, Stewart, and Schley.

Georgia's African American population is currently the fourth largest in the nation behind New York, Texas and Florida. By 2015, only New York will have a significantly larger African American population than Georgia.

As a percentage of the total state population, Georgia will likely have the largest percentage of African American residents among the ten largest states by 2015.

At least four out of ten people moving to Georgia are international migrants. For thirteen of the last fourteen years, domestic and international migration has accounted for more than half of Georgia's annual population growth.

By 2015, approximately 10% of Georgia's population will be Hispanic, 28% African-American/Black, 59% Non-Hispanic White and 3% other minorities.

Georgia's Hispanic population is expected to increase 143% between 2000 and 2015. The African-American and Non-Hispanic White populations are each expected to increase about 25% during the same time period.

In 2000, 10% or more residents speak a language other than English at home in fifteen Georgia counties. In Echols, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, and Whitefield Counties, one in five residents speak a foreign language at home.

By 2015 13.6% of Georgia's population will be age 65 and older. Over 80% of this age group will be Non-Hispanic Whites.

By 2015, one in three Georgians will be under 20 years of age. About half of this age group will likely be Hispanic, African American or other minorities.

Just over half of Georgia's 2015 population will be considered of working age (20-64). This population of approximately 5 1/2 million will likely be comprised of 59% White, 9% Hispanic and 32% African American and other minorities.

*The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) periodically produces population projections for the state and each county.*

# Impact of Population Growth on Georgia by 2015

## YOUTH

Georgia will gain more than 1.25 million children (under age 20) between 2000 and 2015.

The state currently spends approximately \$4,581 on each new student for education.

In current dollars, an increase in students in grades K-12 of approximately 1 million would cost the state an additional \$4.6 billion annually at current funding levels.

One million new students would require almost 44,000 new classrooms to be constructed with an average class size of 23.

The state currently spends \$5,236 for each new child in construction costs.

In current dollars, building classrooms for one million new students would cost \$5.3 billion.

## The ELDERLY

Between 2000 and 2015, the highest growth rate in the 65 and older category will be among those citizens 85 and older. This population should number more than 290,000 in 2015, a 341% growth over 2000.

Over the next decade the baby boom generation will enter their retirement years. This will significantly change the demand for both private and government services.

The population 85 and older requires significantly more health services than the population 65 to 84. The cost of medical care increases greatly in the years just prior to death.

## MOTOR VEHICLES

Georgia's increasing population will also place additional demands on the state infrastructure. The number of vehicles on the state highways could increase from 7.3 million in 2000 to at least 9 million in 2015.

If motor vehicles increase at rates similar to those in the 1990s, the number could be as much as 10 million vehicles in Georgia.

The number of vehicles traveling on each lane mile of freeway in Atlanta could increase from 18,700 per day to almost 25,000 per day, if vehicle travel increases as fast as the population.

## CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

At current incarceration rates, the state's prison population will increase from 43,270 in 2000 to 53,291 in 2015.

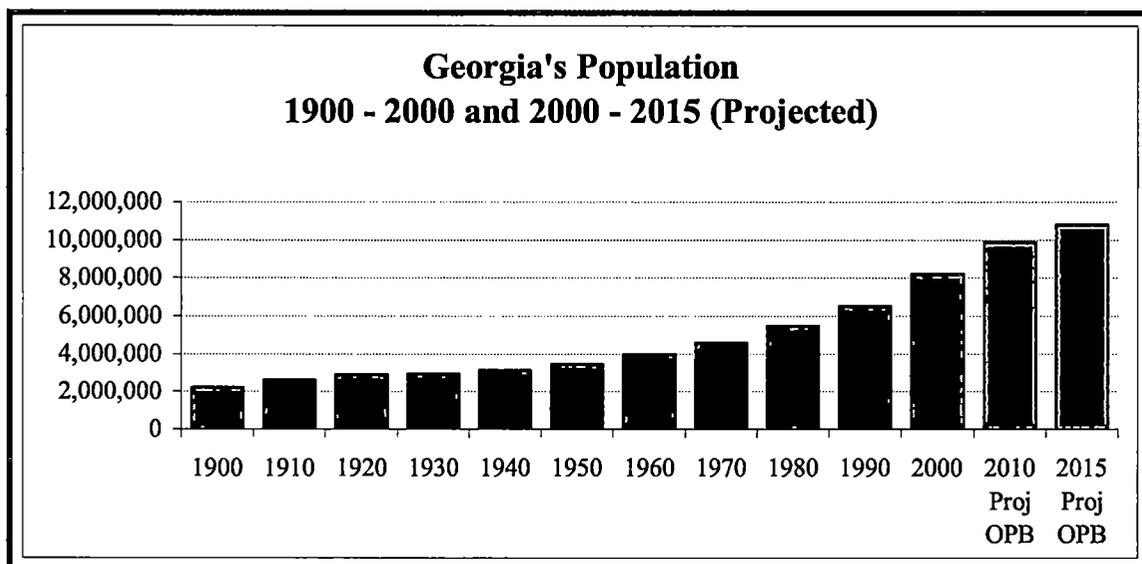
Current daily cost is approximately \$50 per prisoner or about \$18,250 a year. An additional 10,000 prisoners would cost the state \$182,500,000 annually.

## REPRESENTATION

Depending on total population growth nationwide and Georgia's population share compared to other states, Georgia may pick up an additional congressional seat following the 2010 Census.

## Georgia's Growth Continues

Georgia's resident population increased 26% between 1990 and 2000. This was the fastest growth of any decade this century. Georgia's population more than doubled between 1950 and 2000, increasing 256%.



In spite of the recession of the past few years, Georgia's growth has continued. The US Census Bureau estimates that Georgia grew by more than 642,930 people between 2000 and 2004, more than all but three states (California, Florida and Texas). Georgia's growth rate of 7.9 percent between 2000 and 2004 was the fifth fastest growing state in the nation.<sup>1</sup>

The US Census Bureau estimated that Georgia had an average population increase of about 2% per year between 2000 and 2004 or about 160,700 people per year. This rate would give Georgia an estimated growth of 20% between 2000 and 2010.

| <b>Georgia and US Population Characteristics<br/>US Census Bureau Estimates 2003</b> |                |             |                   |
|--|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| <b>Population</b>  | <b>Georgia</b> | <b>U.S.</b> | <b>State Rank</b> |
| Population 2003 Census Estimates   | 8,676,460      | 290,788,976 | 9                 |
| % of Population Age 17 and Under   | 26.4%          | 25.0%       | 7                 |
| % of Population 65 and Older   | 9.6%           | 12.4%       | 48                |
| <b>Percentage of Population by Race</b>  |                |             |                   |
| % of Population African American/Black   | 28.7%          | 12.8%       | 5                 |
| % of Population Asian/Pacific Islander   | 2.5%           | 4.3%        | 21                |
| % of Population All Other/Multiple Races   | 1.3%           | 2.4%        | 43                |
| % of Population Hispanic/Latino  | 6.2%           | 13.7%       | 22                |
| % of Population Non-Hispanic White   | 61.8%          | 67.9%       | 42                |
| *Rank is based on 1 being the highest using US Census 2000-2004 Estimates            |                |             |                   |

## County Size and Growth

### Fastest Growing Counties

Twelve counties are expected to increase their residential population by 75% or more between 2000 and 2015: Forsyth:137%, Henry:135%, Newton:121%, Paulding:117%, Cherokee:91%, Lee:91%, Pickens:90%, Butts:88%, Dawson:87%, Barrow:84%, Walton:75% and Gwinnett:75%.

An additional 36 counties will grow more than 34% between 2000 and 2015.

According to the Census Bureau, Georgia had 5 of the top 10 fastest growing counties in the US for April 1 2000 to July 1 2003. There are more than 3,000 counties in the US. Georgia also had 20 of the top 100 fastest growing counties for this time period. In addition to the twelve counties listed above, the US Census Bureau's list of Georgia's 20 fastest growing counties included Bryan, Chattahoochee, Carroll, Coweta, Effingham, Hall, Jackson and White Counties.<sup>ii</sup>

### Counties Losing Population

Twenty-three counties are expected to lose population between 2000 and 2015. Taliaferro, Stewart, Randolph, Calhoun, Warren, Quitman, Webster, and Liberty counties are expected to lose more than 10% of their residential population between 2000 and 2015. It is quite possible that troop movement from the military base influences the projected decrease in Liberty County's population<sup>iii</sup>.

Show me the MAP

### Largest County Populations

By 2015, half of the state's population will reside in 12 counties: Gwinnett, Fulton, Cobb, DeKalb, Clayton, Henry, Cherokee, Chatham, Forsyth, Hall, Richmond and Muscogee. 57% of Georgians will live in the 28 county metropolitan Atlanta area. Roughly 75% of the state's population will reside in 21% of the state's total land area.

### Smallest County Populations

100 Georgia counties have populations less than 35,000 but cover 62% of the total land area. To place this in perspective, Turner Field in Atlanta could hold the entire population of any of the smallest 100 counties.

### Population Density

In 2000, Georgia had a population density of 141 people per square land mile. Five Georgia counties have 1,000 people or more per square land mile: DeKalb, Fulton, Clayton, Cobb and Gwinnett. Of the ten largest states in population, only Texas will have a lower population density than Georgia. In the Southeast, Florida, North Carolina and Virginia will likely continue to have higher populations per square mile than Georgia.

By 2015, Georgia is expected to have 187 people per square land mile. Nine counties are expected to have 1,000 people or more per square land mile by 2015, adding Forsyth County to the above list of five. In spite of Gwinnett County's rapid growth, it will not have the highest population density. DeKalb, Clayton and Cobb Counties are all expected to have more people per square mile of land area.

Show me the MAP

A complete table of population projections for Georgia Counties may be found on page 11 of this report.

## Metropolitan / Micropolitan Statistical Areas

According to the February 2004 US Census Bureau listing, Georgia now has 15 Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Georgia also has 28 micropolitan statistical areas, which have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population. Additional "outlying counties" are included in the statistical area if they meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties.<sup>iv</sup>

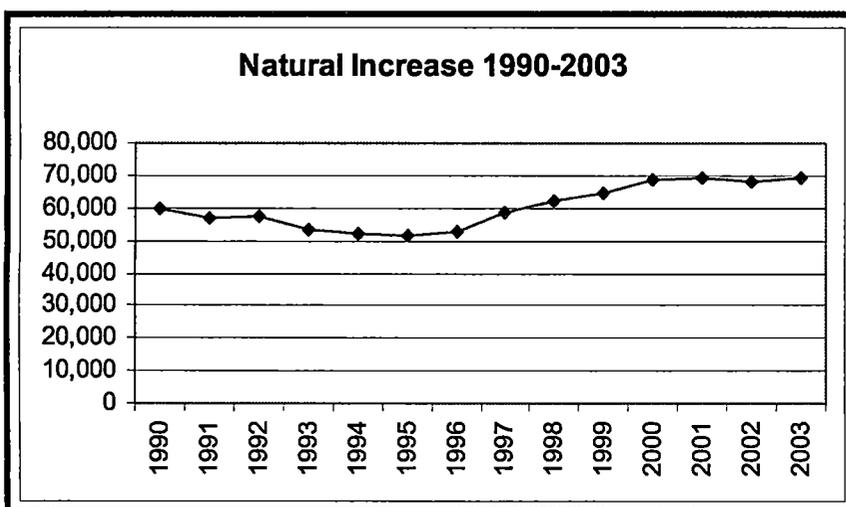
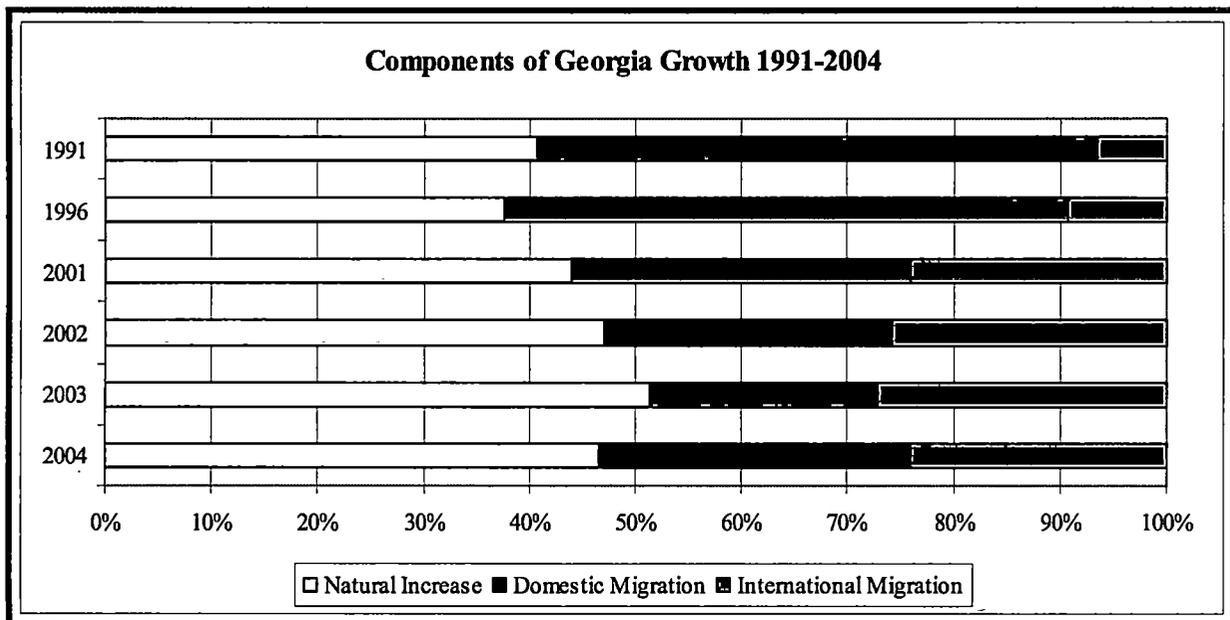
As areas grow toward each other, the area may become a "Combined Statistical Area". Georgia has 5 Combined Statistical Areas: Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Gainesville GA-AL, Chattanooga-Cleveland-Athens TN-GA, Columbus-Auburn-Opelika GA-AL, Macon-Warner Robins-Fort Valley, and Savannah-Hinesville-Fort Stewart.

Show me the Metropolitan MAP

Show me the Micropolitan MAP

## Components of Growth

An area's population grows by natural increase and net migration. With the exception of 2003, less than half of Georgia's growth has been due to natural increase (more births than deaths). The relative decline in domestic migration may be due in part to the economic recession.



### Natural increase

Georgia's natural increase has been rising since the mid-1990s. Natural increase is computed as births minus deaths.

There are usually slightly more than two births for each death. However, there are several Georgia counties that have more deaths than births.

According to Georgia Vital Records, Brooks, Fannin, Glascock, Lincoln, Randolph, Stewart, Talbot, Taliaferro, Towns, Union, Upson and Webster Counties all had more deaths than births between 2000 and 2003.

Show me the MAP

## Net migration

Net migration is the number of people moving into the area minus the number of people moving out of an area.

In the last four years only three states, Arizona, Florida, and Nevada, have gained more people from other states than Georgia.

Georgia is now considered one of America's international gateways. At least four out of ten people moving to Georgia are international migrants. An estimated yearly average of 37,500 people moved to Georgia from another country between 2001 and 2004.

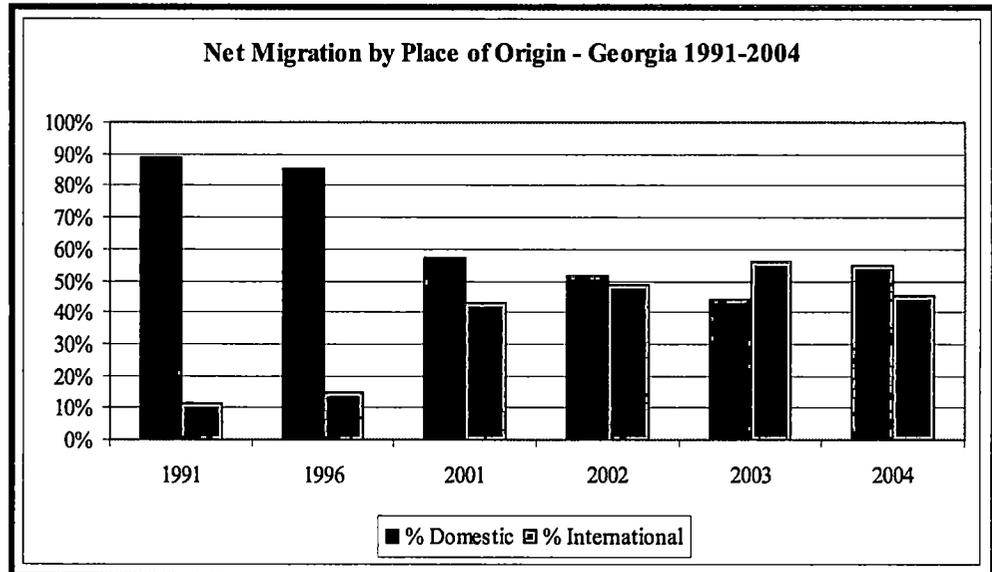
This ranks Georgia as the seventh most popular state for international migrants. In the Southeast only Florida has higher migration levels.

This number does not capture the number of foreigners who enter the United States at a different gateway and then move to Georgia at a later time. For example, the person may enter the country in New York, California, or Texas and then move to Georgia.

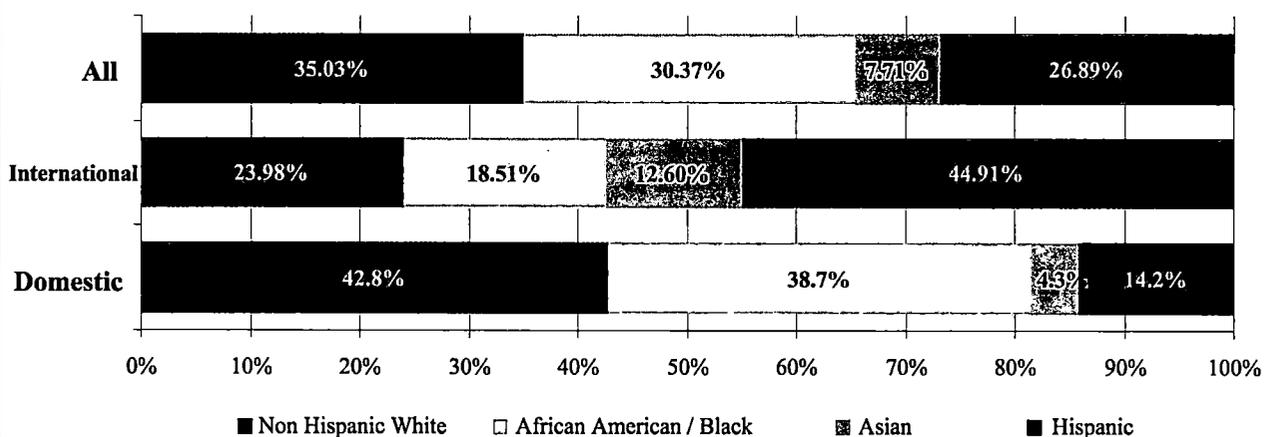
The graph above also indicates how domestic migration slowed during the recession. While not back to the 2001 numbers, the 2004 estimated domestic migration is considerably higher than it was in 2003.

Census estimates do not allow for detailed analysis on the region of origin of migrants. However, Census 2000 provides more detailed information. The following table shows the race and Hispanic origin of both domestic and international migrants to Georgia between 1995 and 2000.

Hispanics, Blacks and Asians were a majority of both domestic and international migrants during this period and constituted two out of every three persons moving into the state.



## Migration to Georgia: 1995-2000



## Growth by Race and Ethnicity

In the following discussion White, African Americans, and other minority projections do not include Hispanics. Hispanics may be of any race. Over 90% of Non-Whites are African Americans or Black. The remainders are Asians, Alaskan Natives, American Indians and Pacific Islanders. At the 2000 Census, the majority of Georgia's resident population was Non-Hispanic White. This is expected to remain true for 2015. In the 2015 OPB population projections, 134 counties are expected to have 50% or more White residents. Twenty counties are expected to have 50% or more African American or other non-white residents, and 4 counties are expected to have 20% or more Hispanic residents.

By 2015, the OPB projections indicate that about 40% of the resident population will be minority that is either non-white or Hispanic.

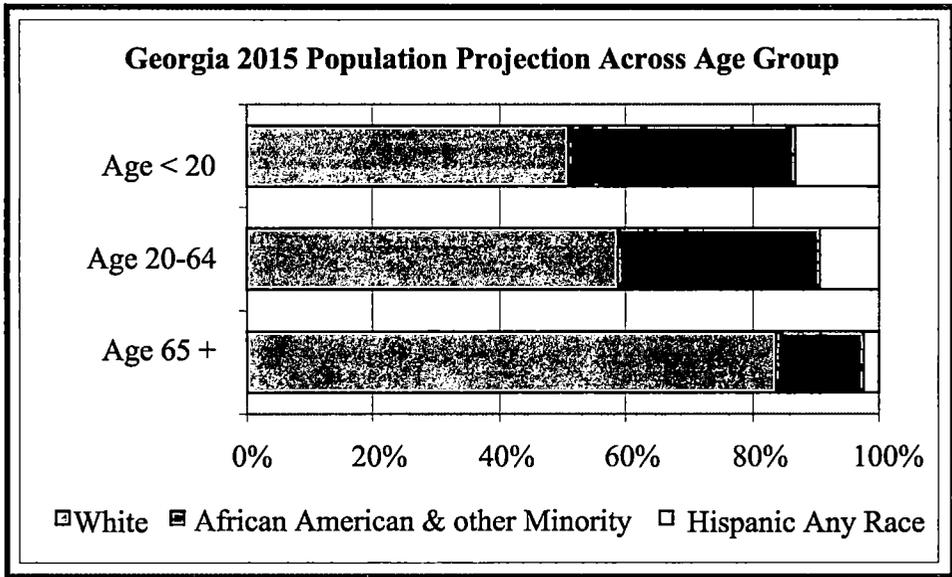
The US Census Bureau's 2003 estimates have Georgia's Hispanic population growing by 24 percent between 2000 and 2003, from 435,277 to 541,123. Georgia ranks 10<sup>th</sup> among the 50 States in the percentage of minority residents (38%).

| <b>2000-2015 Georgia Residential Population by Race/Ethnicity</b> |                        |  |                            |  |                            |  |
|---|------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
|   | <b>2000<br/>Census</b> | <b>Race /<br/>Ethnicity<br/>% 2000</b> | <b>2010<br/>Projection</b> | <b>Race /<br/>Ethnicity<br/>% 2010</b> | <b>2015<br/>Projection</b> | <b>Race /<br/>Ethnicity<br/>% 2015</b> |
| <b>White</b>  | 5,128,663              | 62.6%                                  | 5,944,068                  | 60.3%                                  | 6,424,856                  | 59.4%                                  |
| <b>African American &amp;<br/>Other Minorities</b>                | 2,623,728              | 32.0%                                  | 3,029,371                  | 30.7%                                  | 3,329,862                  | 30.8%                                  |
| <b>Hispanic Any Race</b>  | 434,062                | 5.3%                                   | 891,531                    | 9.0%                                   | 1,058,855                  | 9.8%                                   |
| <b>Totals</b>   | 8,186,453              | 100.0%                                 | 9,864,970                  | 100.0%                                 | 10,813,573                 | 100.0%                                 |

The percentage of Hispanics in Georgia's 2015 resident population is expected to grow from 5.3% to 9.8%. The number of Whites, African Americans, and other minorities will also grow but their percentage of the total population will drop about 2% each.

The number of Whites, African Americans, and other minorities will increase about 25% each between 2000 and 2015. However, the number of Hispanics is expected to increase about 143% between 2000 and 2015.

| <b>2000-2015 Georgia Residential Population<br/>Numeric Growth of Race/Ethnic Groups</b> |   |                                 |   |                                 |
|--|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | <b>Numeric<br/>Growth<br/>2000 - 2010</b> | <b>% Growth<br/>2000 - 2010</b> | <b>Numeric<br/>Growth<br/>2000 - 2015</b> | <b>% Growth<br/>2000 - 2015</b> |
| <b>White</b>   | 815,405                                   | 15.9%                           | 1,296,193                                 | 25.3%                           |
| <b>African American<br/>&amp; Other Minorities</b>                                       | 405,643                                   | 15.5%                           | 706,134                                   | 26.9%                           |
| <b>Hispanic Any Race</b>   | 457,469                                   | 105.4%                          | 624,793                                   | 143.9%                          |
| <b>Total</b>   | 1,678,517                                 | 20.5%                           | 2,627,120                                 | 32.1%                           |

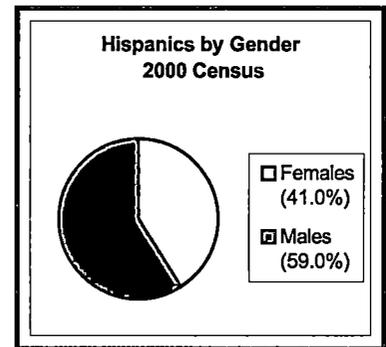
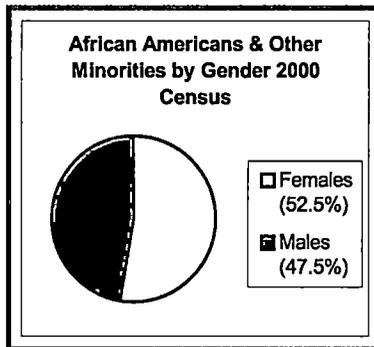
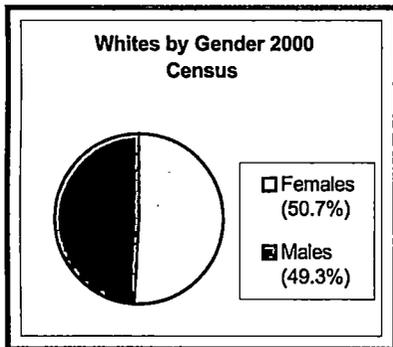


The age spread is not uniform across the racial/ethnic groups. The White population has a lower percentage of youth (under 20 years of age) and a higher percentage of elderly (age 65 and older) than the other two groups.

| Age Group Shift By Race/Ethnicity 2000 - 2015 |               |               |                                   |                                   |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Age Group                                     | 2000          | 2015          | 2000                              | 2015                              | 2000          | 2015          |
| Race / Ethnicity                              | White         | White         | African American & Other Minority | African American & Other Minority | Hispanic      | Hispanic      |
| Age < 20                                      | 26.1%         | 29.1%         | 35.1%                             | 39.6%                             | 36.3%         | 46.1%         |
| Age 20-64                                     | 62.0%         | 51.9%         | 58.6%                             | 54.2%                             | 61.7%         | 50.6%         |
| Age 65+                                       | 11.9%         | 19.1%         | 6.3%                              | 6.2%                              | 1.9%          | 3.3%          |
| <b>Total</b>                                  | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b>                     | <b>100.0%</b>                     | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

Across all race and ethnic groups, the percentage of the working age population will decline as the percentage of youth and elderly increase.

At the 2000 Census, the genders were almost equal in the White population. Females outnumbered males in African American and other minority populations. Hispanic males far outnumbered the Hispanic females. In 2000, 59% of Hispanics were male. However the proportion as well as the number of Hispanic females is expected to increase. By 2015, about 43% of Hispanics are expected to be female.



## Language Issues

English as a Second Language is becoming more prevalent as Georgia becomes more and more diverse. 10% or more residents in 15 Georgia counties speak a language other than English at home. In Echols, Gwinnett, Habersham, Hall, and Whitefield Counties, one in five residents speak a foreign language at home. This does not necessarily mean that they are not proficient in English.

These counties are Atkinson (16%), Chattahoochee (14%), Clarke (12%), Colquitt (11%), Clayton (15%), Cobb (15%), DeKalb (17%), Echols (22%), Fulton (13%), Gwinnett (21%), Habersham (21%), Hall (21%), Liberty (13%), Toombs (10%) and Whitfield (22%).

The majority of these residents speak Spanish but many other languages are also represented. Some school systems have as many as 30 languages being spoken at one school.

Show me the MAP

## Age

### The Elderly Population

Georgia has a lower percentage of the population aged 65 and over than all but two states. The 2004 US Census Bureau estimates that 12.4% of the population is age 65 and over. The 2004 US Census Bureau estimates have 9.6% of Georgia residents at age 65 and over.

The 2015 OPB population projection expects that 13.6% of the state residents will be age 65 and older. Thirty-five counties are expected to have at least 20% of their county population age 65 or older. Six counties are expected to have at least 25% of their county population age 65 or older.

There are 3 major concentrations of elderly population. The north Georgia mountains, the lower southwest counties along the state line and central Georgia counties which include Taliaferro, Wilkes, Lincoln, Greene, and Putnam Counties.

Show me the MAP

### The Youth Population

Georgia has a slightly higher percentage of young persons age 19 and under than the national average. In 2004, an estimated 25% of the nation was under age 20 while 26% of Georgia residents were estimated to be under age 20 and under.

The 2015 OPB population projection expects 34% of Georgia residents to be under age 20. Twenty-seven counties are expected to have 35% or more young people. Seven counties are expected to have 37% or more young people. Note that college students and young military personnel influence the resident populations in some counties. Additionally, many immigrants are young and just starting their families. Counties with large immigrant populations are quite likely to see an increase in the number of county births.

Show me the MAP

**Georgia 2010-2015 Residential Population Projection  
Alphabetic County List**

| <b>Georgia Residential Population Projections</b> | <b>2000 Residential Census</b> | <b>2010 Residential Projection</b> | <b>2015 Household Projection</b> | <b>Group Quarters Projection</b> | <b>2015 Residential Projection</b> | <b>2000-2015 Projected Residential Growth %</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Georgia</b>                                    | <b>8,186,453</b>               | <b>9,864,970</b>                   | <b>10,554,171</b>                | <b>259,402</b>                   | <b>10,813,573</b>                  | <b>32.1%</b>                                    |
| Appling   | 17,419                         | 18,724                             | 19,112                           | 282                              | 19,394                             | 11.3%   |
| Atkinson  | 7,609                          | 8,755                              | 9,317                            | 41                               | 9,358                              | 23.0%   |
| Bacon   | 10,103                         | 10,263                             | 10,159                           | 162                              | 10,321                             | 2.2%  |
| Baker   | 4,074                          | 4,848                              | 5,301                            | 14                               | 5,315                              | 30.5%   |
| Baldwin   | 44,700                         | 46,063                             | 38,326                           | 8,188                            | 46,514                             | 4.1%  |
| Banks   | 14,422                         | 18,006                             | 20,047                           | 30                               | 20,077                             | 39.2%   |
| Barrow  | 46,144                         | 70,553                             | 84,176                           | 487                              | 84,663                             | 83.5%   |
| Bartow  | 76,019                         | 105,241                            | 121,005                          | 950                              | 121,955                            | 60.4%   |
| Ben Hill  | 17,484                         | 16,655                             | 16,003                           | 367                              | 16,370                             | -6.4%   |
| Berrien   | 16,235                         | 17,133                             | 17,460                           | 145                              | 17,605                             | 8.4%  |
| Bibb  | 153,887                        | 154,889                            | 149,678                          | 5,562                            | 155,240                            | 0.9%  |
| Bleckley  | 11,666                         | 12,483                             | 12,130                           | 750                              | 12,880                             | 10.4%   |
| Brantley  | 14,629                         | 16,921                             | 18,193                           | 81                               | 18,274                             | 24.9%   |
| Brooks  | 16,450                         | 15,819                             | 15,023                           | 482                              | 15,505                             | -5.7%   |
| Bryan   | 23,417                         | 33,135                             | 38,603                           | 143                              | 38,746                             | 65.5%   |
| Bulloch   | 55,983                         | 64,275                             | 64,335                           | 3,900                            | 68,235                             | 21.9%   |
| Burke   | 22,243                         | 24,561                             | 25,471                           | 294                              | 25,765                             | 15.8%   |
| Butts   | 19,522                         | 31,817                             | 30,930                           | 5,830                            | 36,760                             | 88.3%   |
| Calhoun   | 6,320                          | 5,715                              | 4,059                            | 1,319                            | 5,378                              | -14.9%  |
| Camden  | 43,664                         | 49,896                             | 50,597                           | 2,227                            | 52,824                             | 21.0%   |
| Candler   | 9,577                          | 11,226                             | 11,744                           | 423                              | 12,167                             | 27.0%   |
| Carroll   | 87,268                         | 125,109                            | 140,966                          | 3,200                            | 144,166                            | 65.2%   |
| Catoosa   | 53,282                         | 69,356                             | 78,280                           | 450                              | 78,730                             | 47.8%   |
| Charlton  | 10,282                         | 12,142                             | 11,336                           | 1,600                            | 12,936                             | 25.8%   |
| Chatham   | 232,048                        | 244,446                            | 239,959                          | 9,621                            | 249,580                            | 7.6%  |
| Chattahoochee                                     | 14,882                         | 23,556                             | 15,481                           | 10,000                           | 25,481                             | 71.2%   |
| Chattooga   | 25,470                         | 28,722                             | 28,952                           | 1,670                            | 30,622                             | 20.2%   |
| Cherokee  | 141,903                        | 224,238                            | 270,115                          | 1,400                            | 271,515                            | 91.3%   |
| Clarke  | 101,489                        | 110,647                            | 108,463                          | 7,407                            | 115,870                            | 14.2%   |
| Clay  | 3,357                          | 3,394                              | 3,366                            | 52                               | 3,418                              | 1.8%  |
| Clayton   | 236,517                        | 314,086                            | 354,370                          | 3,152                            | 357,522                            | 51.2%   |
| Clinch  | 6,878                          | 7,327                              | 7,096                            | 425                              | 7,521                              | 9.3%  |
| Cobb  | 607,751                        | 735,922                            | 801,883                          | 9,246                            | 811,129                            | 33.5%   |
| Coffee  | 37,413                         | 42,743                             | 43,416                           | 1,942                            | 45,358                             | 21.2%   |
| Colquitt  | 42,053                         | 45,442                             | 45,684                           | 1,445                            | 47,129                             | 12.1%   |
| Columbia  | 89,288                         | 116,642                            | 131,578                          | 725                              | 132,303                            | 48.2%   |
| Cook  | 15,771                         | 16,827                             | 17,120                           | 262                              | 17,382                             | 10.2%   |
| Coweta  | 89,215                         | 129,899                            | 152,694                          | 755                              | 153,449                            | 72.0%   |
| Crawford  | 12,495                         | 12,829                             | 12,890                           | 119                              | 13,009                             | 4.1%  |
| Crisp   | 21,996                         | 21,983                             | 21,552                           | 467                              | 22,019                             | 0.1%  |
| Dade  | 15,154                         | 17,582                             | 18,053                           | 878                              | 18,931                             | 24.9%   |
| Dawson  | 15,999                         | 24,757                             | 29,736                           | 122                              | 29,858                             | 86.6%   |
| Decatur   | 28,240                         | 28,281                             | 27,699                           | 643                              | 28,342                             | 0.4%  |

| Georgia Residential Population Projections | 2000 Residential Census | 2010 Residential Projection | 2015 Household Projection | Group Quarters Projection | 2015 Residential Projection | 2000-2015 Projected Residential Growth % |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Dekalb                                     | 665,865                 | 711,604                     | 711,451                   | 14,607                    | 726,058                     | 9.0%                                     |
| Dodge                                      | 19,171                  | 20,204                      | 18,861                    | 1,841                     | 20,702                      | 8.0%                                     |
| Dooly                                      | 11,525                  | 11,606                      | 10,312                    | 1,310                     | 11,622                      | 0.8%                                     |
| Dougherty                                  | 96,065                  | 94,404                      | 88,968                    | 4,639                     | 93,607                      | -2.6%                                    |
| Douglas                                    | 92,174                  | 125,065                     | 142,885                   | 1,000                     | 143,885                     | 56.1%                                    |
| Early                                      | 12,354                  | 11,978                      | 11,603                    | 250                       | 11,853                      | -4.1%                                    |
| Echols                                     | 3,754                   | 4,585                       | 5,061                     | 0                         | 5,061                       | 34.8%                                    |
| Effingham                                  | 37,535                  | 54,807                      | 64,619                    | 255                       | 64,874                      | 72.8%                                    |
| Elbert                                     | 20,511                  | 20,966                      | 20,982                    | 252                       | 21,234                      | 3.5%                                     |
| Emanuel                                    | 21,837                  | 21,983                      | 21,248                    | 814                       | 22,062                      | 1.0%                                     |
| Evans                                      | 10,495                  | 13,315                      | 14,282                    | 623                       | 14,905                      | 42.0%                                    |
| Fannin                                     | 19,798                  | 24,626                      | 27,361                    | 151                       | 27,512                      | 39.0%                                    |
| Fayette                                    | 91,263                  | 116,659                     | 130,880                   | 612                       | 131,492                     | 44.1%                                    |
| Floyd                                      | 90,565                  | 100,288                     | 101,270                   | 4,200                     | 105,470                     | 16.5%                                    |
| Forsyth                                    | 98,407                  | 183,430                     | 232,229                   | 719                       | 232,948                     | 136.7%                                   |
| Franklin                                   | 20,285                  | 23,280                      | 24,493                    | 564                       | 25,057                      | 23.5%                                    |
| Fulton                                     | 816,006                 | 826,843                     | 802,464                   | 30,287                    | 832,751                     | 2.1%                                     |
| Gilmer                                     | 23,456                  | 31,752                      | 36,367                    | 202                       | 36,569                      | 55.9%                                    |
| Glascock                                   | 2,556                   | 2,822                       | 2,889                     | 104                       | 2,993                       | 17.1%                                    |
| Glynn                                      | 67,568                  | 76,339                      | 79,495                    | 1,627                     | 81,122                      | 20.1%                                    |
| Gordon                                     | 44,104                  | 56,512                      | 63,092                    | 427                       | 63,519                      | 44.0%                                    |
| Grady                                      | 23,659                  | 25,435                      | 26,086                    | 284                       | 26,370                      | 11.5%                                    |
| Greene                                     | 14,406                  | 17,248                      | 18,711                    | 208                       | 18,919                      | 31.3%                                    |
| Gwinnett                                   | 588,448                 | 870,611                     | 1,024,006                 | 6,694                     | 1,030,700                   | 75.2%                                    |
| Habersham                                  | 35,902                  | 44,362                      | 47,230                    | 1,955                     | 49,185                      | 37.0%                                    |
| Hall                                       | 139,277                 | 194,861                     | 223,732                   | 2,501                     | 226,233                     | 62.4%                                    |
| Hancock                                    | 10,076                  | 11,221                      | 8,257                     | 2,900                     | 11,157                      | 10.7%                                    |
| Haralson                                   | 25,690                  | 31,596                      | 34,605                    | 400                       | 35,005                      | 36.3%                                    |
| Harris                                     | 23,695                  | 30,975                      | 34,981                    | 249                       | 35,230                      | 48.7%                                    |
| Hart                                       | 22,997                  | 24,458                      | 24,801                    | 534                       | 25,335                      | 10.2%                                    |
| Heard                                      | 11,012                  | 11,484                      | 11,674                    | 109                       | 11,783                      | 7.0%                                     |
| Henry                                      | 119,341                 | 221,174                     | 279,753                   | 933                       | 280,686                     | 135.2%                                   |
| Houston                                    | 110,765                 | 142,626                     | 158,029                   | 2,669                     | 160,698                     | 45.1%                                    |
| Irwin                                      | 9,931                   | 10,413                      | 10,317                    | 369                       | 10,686                      | 7.6%                                     |
| Jackson                                    | 41,589                  | 59,781                      | 69,494                    | 850                       | 70,344                      | 69.1%                                    |
| Jasper                                     | 11,426                  | 15,212                      | 17,362                    | 69                        | 17,431                      | 52.6%                                    |
| Jeff Davis                                 | 12,684                  | 13,574                      | 13,943                    | 92                        | 14,035                      | 10.7%                                    |
| Jefferson                                  | 17,266                  | 16,330                      | 15,563                    | 474                       | 16,037                      | -7.1%                                    |
| Jenkins                                    | 8,575                   | 9,175                       | 9,365                     | 136                       | 9,501                       | 10.8%                                    |
| Johnson                                    | 8,560                   | 9,587                       | 8,278                     | 1,430                     | 9,708                       | 13.4%                                    |
| Jones                                      | 23,639                  | 29,634                      | 32,706                    | 398                       | 33,104                      | 40.0%                                    |
| Lamar                                      | 15,912                  | 17,723                      | 17,974                    | 815                       | 18,789                      | 18.1%                                    |
| Lanier                                     | 7,241                   | 7,665                       | 7,629                     | 268                       | 7,897                       | 9.1%                                     |
| Laurens                                    | 44,874                  | 49,790                      | 51,373                    | 1,200                     | 52,573                      | 17.2%                                    |
| Lee  | 24,757                  | 36,790                      | 46,392                    | 841                       | 47,233                      | 90.8%                                    |
| Liberty                                    | 61,610                  | 55,431                      | 49,097                    | 5,100                     | 54,197                      | -12.0%                                   |
| Lincoln                                    | 8,348                   | 8,944                       | 9,247                     | 74                        | 9,321                       | 11.7%                                    |

| Georgia Residential Population Projections | 2000 Residential Census | 2010 Residential Projection | 2015 Household Projection | Group Quarters Projection | 2015 Residential Projection | 2000-2015 Projected Residential Growth % |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Long                                       | 10,304                  | 11,881                      | 12,729                    | 0                         | 12,729                      | 23.5%                                    |
| Lowndes                                    | 92,115                  | 100,565                     | 97,780                    | 6,987                     | 104,767                     | 13.7%                                    |
| Lumpkin                                    | 21,016                  | 28,222                      | 30,356                    | 1,447                     | 31,803                      | 51.3%                                    |
| Macon                                      | 14,074                  | 14,455                      | 12,884                    | 1,500                     | 14,384                      | 2.2%                                     |
| Madison                                    | 25,730                  | 30,358                      | 32,830                    | 162                       | 32,992                      | 28.2%                                    |
| Marion                                     | 7,144                   | 7,258                       | 7,235                     | 86                        | 7,321                       | 2.5%                                     |
| McDuffie                                   | 21,231                  | 21,939                      | 21,932                    | 341                       | 22,273                      | 4.9%                                     |
| McIntosh                                   | 10,847                  | 11,427                      | 11,719                    | 65                        | 11,784                      | 8.6%                                     |
| Meriwether                                 | 22,534                  | 23,223                      | 23,083                    | 490                       | 23,573                      | 4.6%                                     |
| Miller                                     | 6,383                   | 6,200                       | 5,948                     | 140                       | 6,088                       | -4.6%                                    |
| Mitchell                                   | 23,932                  | 23,774                      | 21,828                    | 1,918                     | 23,746                      | -0.8%                                    |
| Monroe                                     | 21,757                  | 26,788                      | 28,908                    | 750                       | 29,658                      | 36.3%                                    |
| Montgomery                                 | 8,270                   | 10,159                      | 9,786                     | 1,200                     | 10,986                      | 32.8%                                    |
| Morgan                                     | 15,457                  | 19,798                      | 22,124                    | 194                       | 22,318                      | 44.4%                                    |
| Murray                                     | 36,506                  | 46,293                      | 51,608                    | 214                       | 51,822                      | 42.0%                                    |
| Muscogee                                   | 186,291                 | 183,614                     | 172,878                   | 9,489                     | 182,367                     | -2.1%                                    |
| Newton                                     | 62,001                  | 109,345                     | 135,750                   | 1,200                     | 136,950                     | 120.9%                                   |
| Oconee                                     | 26,225                  | 32,402                      | 36,852                    | 246                       | 37,098                      | 41.5%                                    |
| Oglethorpe                                 | 12,635                  | 15,051                      | 16,299                    | 138                       | 16,437                      | 30.1%                                    |
| Paulding                                   | 81,678                  | 142,388                     | 176,783                   | 722                       | 177,505                     | 117.3%                                   |
| Peach                                      | 23,668                  | 25,960                      | 26,193                    | 1,023                     | 27,216                      | 15.0%                                    |
| Pickens                                    | 22,983                  | 36,039                      | 43,524                    | 227                       | 43,751                      | 90.4%                                    |
| Pierce                                     | 15,636                  | 17,961                      | 19,161                    | 130                       | 19,291                      | 23.4%                                    |
| Pike                                       | 13,688                  | 18,072                      | 20,378                    | 276                       | 20,654                      | 50.9%                                    |
| Polk                                       | 38,127                  | 43,643                      | 45,832                    | 862                       | 46,694                      | 22.5%                                    |
| Pulaski                                    | 9,588                   | 10,162                      | 9,304                     | 1,165                     | 10,469                      | 9.2%                                     |
| Putnam                                     | 18,812                  | 21,505                      | 22,770                    | 268                       | 23,038                      | 22.5%                                    |
| Quitman                                    | 2,598                   | 2,242                       | 2,234                     | 0                         | 2,234                       | -14.0%                                   |
| Rabun                                      | 15,050                  | 17,598                      | 19,066                    | 275                       | 19,341                      | 28.5%                                    |
| Randolph                                   | 7,791                   | 6,628                       | 6,103                     | 368                       | 6,471                       | -16.9%                                   |
| Richmond                                   | 199,775                 | 193,914                     | 180,454                   | 11,109                    | 191,563                     | -4.1%                                    |
| Rockdale                                   | 70,111                  | 86,162                      | 95,599                    | 1,109                     | 96,708                      | 37.9%                                    |
| Schley                                     | 3,766                   | 4,490                       | 4,900                     | 9                         | 4,909                       | 30.4%                                    |
| Screven                                    | 15,374                  | 15,576                      | 15,212                    | 492                       | 15,704                      | 2.1%                                     |
| Seminole                                   | 9,369                   | 9,527                       | 9,418                     | 314                       | 9,732                       | 3.9%                                     |
| Spalding                                   | 58,417                  | 65,238                      | 68,923                    | 1,040                     | 69,963                      | 19.8%                                    |
| Stephens                                   | 25,435                  | 25,739                      | 25,085                    | 863                       | 25,948                      | 2.0%                                     |
| Stewart                                    | 5,252                   | 4,450                       | 3,931                     | 273                       | 4,204                       | -20.0%                                   |
| Sumter                                     | 33,200                  | 32,954                      | 31,247                    | 1,648                     | 32,895                      | -0.9%                                    |
| Talbot                                     | 6,498                   | 6,693                       | 6,798                     | 18                        | 6,816                       | 4.9%                                     |
| Taliaferro                                 | 2,077                   | 1,708                       | 1,621                     | 23                        | 1,644                       | -20.8%                                   |
| Tattnall                                   | 22,305                  | 23,094                      | 19,749                    | 3,800                     | 23,549                      | 5.6%                                     |
| Taylor                                     | 8,815                   | 9,120                       | 8,809                     | 464                       | 9,273                       | 5.2%                                     |
| Telfair                                    | 11,794                  | 11,076                      | 9,389                     | 1,461                     | 10,850                      | -8.0%                                    |
| Terrell                                    | 10,970                  | 10,566                      | 10,155                    | 214                       | 10,369                      | -5.5%                                    |
| Thomas                                     | 42,737                  | 46,235                      | 46,825                    | 1,286                     | 48,111                      | 12.6%                                    |
| Tift                                       | 38,407                  | 42,261                      | 42,907                    | 1,445                     | 44,352                      | 15.5%                                    |

| Georgia Residential Population Projections | 2000 Residential Census | 2010 Residential Projection | 2015 Household Projection | Group Quarters Projection | 2015 Residential Projection | 2000-2015 Projected Residential Growth % |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Toombs                                     | 26,067                  | 27,489                      | 27,777                    | 442                       | 28,219                      | 8.3%                                     |
| Towns                                      | 9,319                   | 11,469                      | 12,268                    | 650                       | 12,918                      | 38.6%                                    |
| Treutlen                                   | 6,854                   | 7,691                       | 7,023                     | 875                       | 7,898                       | 15.2%                                    |
| Troup                                      | 58,779                  | 63,974                      | 65,039                    | 1,677                     | 66,716                      | 13.5%                                    |
| Turner                                     | 9,504                   | 9,708                       | 9,666                     | 173                       | 9,839                       | 3.5%                                     |
| Twiggs                                     | 10,590                  | 10,224                      | 10,166                    | 121                       | 10,287                      | -2.9%                                    |
| Union                                      | 17,289                  | 23,349                      | 26,562                    | 462                       | 27,024                      | 56.3%                                    |
| Upson                                      | 27,597                  | 28,849                      | 29,182                    | 454                       | 29,636                      | 7.4%                                     |
| Walker                                     | 61,053                  | 66,425                      | 68,201                    | 1,223                     | 69,424                      | 13.7%                                    |
| Walton                                     | 60,687                  | 89,688                      | 105,751                   | 700                       | 106,451                     | 75.4%                                    |
| Ware                                       | 35,483                  | 36,408                      | 33,504                    | 3,000                     | 36,504                      | 2.9%                                     |
| Warren                                     | 6,336                   | 5,651                       | 5,298                     | 114                       | 5,412                       | -14.6%                                   |
| Washington                                 | 21,176                  | 20,172                      | 18,616                    | 1,473                     | 20,089                      | -5.1%                                    |
| Wayne                                      | 26,565                  | 29,960                      | 29,324                    | 2,400                     | 31,724                      | 19.4%                                    |
| Webster                                    | 2,390                   | 2,071                       | 2,090                     | 2                         | 2,092                       | -12.5%                                   |
| Wheeler                                    | 6,179                   | 8,096                       | 7,438                     | 1,526                     | 8,964                       | 45.1%                                    |
| White                                      | 19,944                  | 29,343                      | 34,356                    | 531                       | 34,887                      | 74.9%                                    |
| Whitfield                                  | 83,525                  | 96,930                      | 103,578                   | 781                       | 104,359                     | 24.9%                                    |
| Wilcox                                     | 8,577                   | 9,061                       | 7,659                     | 1,604                     | 9,263                       | 8.0%                                     |
| Wilkes                                     | 10,687                  | 10,678                      | 10,538                    | 145                       | 10,683                      | 0.0%                                     |
| Wilkinson                                  | 10,220                  | 10,345                      | 10,291                    | 92                        | 10,383                      | 1.6%                                     |
| Worth                                      | 21,967                  | 21,560                      | 21,170                    | 212                       | 21,382                      | -2.7%                                    |

Source: Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget 2015 Population Projections as of 12/04

## **Appendix**

### **What is the Difference Between a Population Estimate and a Population Projection?**

Estimates usually are for the present and the past, while projections are estimates of the population for future dates. This document includes some US Census Bureau population estimate data as well as the OPB 2010-2015 population projections.

### **How is Growth Computed?**

The 2010-2015 OPB population projections by age, race, and sex for Georgia counties were developed using the cohort-survival model (also known as the cohort-component model). The method uses the following demographic equation:

$$\text{Population}_1 = \text{Population}_0 + \text{Births} - \text{Deaths} + \text{Net Migration}$$
$$2015 \text{ population} = 2000 \text{ population} + \text{expected births} - \text{expected deaths} + \text{expected migration}$$

The existing OPB population projections were updated with the most recent census data as well as the actual birth and death data for 1990 through 2003. Additionally, a comparison was made to the US Census 2003 population estimates, which include the most recent migration data.<sup>v</sup>

Projections were produced for males and females using 3 racial/ethnic groupings, non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Non-Whites and Hispanics of any race. The 2010-2015 population projection is the first time that OPB has produced Hispanic population projections.

### **What is the difference between residential and household populations?**

#### **Household population**

The household population is the population residing in homes, apartments and other normal family dwellings. The household population is computed first, and then the group quarters population is added to create the resident population.

#### **Resident population**

The residential population is the household population plus the group quarters population.

### **What are Group Quarters and how do they affect the population projections?**

The group quarters population is the population residing in college dorms, nursing homes, prisons, military barracks and other non-household settings. The group quarters population for a county does not usually vary much unless a new facility is built, the existing facility capacity is changed or a facility closes.

The group quarters population is expected to grow by at least 25,580 between 2000 and 2015. The change includes some expected construction and some counting changes. No doubt, other construction will be announced later in the decade and increase this estimate.<sup>vi</sup>

OPB surveys the group quarters facilities annually and reports the facility population to the US Census Bureau. This annual report enables the US Census Bureau to track the facility changes between the decennial census reports.

Show me the MAP

## Fertility

For fertility calculations, women aged 15–44 years are considered of childbearing age. Fertility rates vary considerably by race and ethnicity.

Fertility rate = number of births of a specific race/ethnicity / number of women age 14–44 of that specific race/ethnicity.

The fertility rates used in these projections are a combination of the national fertility rates published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and a computed county fertility rate.

For more details, see the August 2003 NCHS report: *New Report Revises Birth and Fertility Rates for the 1990s Uses 2000 Census Population Estimates to Improve Accuracy*  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/03facts/revisesrates.htm>.

## Life expectancy

The life expectancy/survival rates used in this projection are taken from those published by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS). For more details, see the NCHS Mortality Tables website:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/datawh/statab/unpubd/mortabs.htm>.

## What are metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas?

Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas are metropolitan areas (MAs) that are not closely associated with other MAs. These areas typically are surrounded by nonmetropolitan counties.

Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population. Additional "outlying counties" are included in the statistical area if they meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties.<sup>vii</sup>

## Migration

The population is classified as movers or non-movers depending on where they move. If a family moves to a different home within the same county, they are non-movers for migration calculations (intra-county). If they move across county lines, they are movers at the county level but non-movers at the state level (inter-county). If they move to another state, they are movers at both state and county levels (inter-state and inter-county).

Internal or domestic migration calculates people who move within the United States. International migration calculates people who move into or away from the United States.

One of the main reasons people move to an area is for work. The job market has suffered during the 2001–2003 recession years. It is probable that as the job market picks up, there will be increased migration into Georgia.

The US Census Bureau supplies in-migration and out-migration data. They collect data from a variety of sources including the Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The estimated yearly migration rate in this projection is an average of the net county migration from 2000 to 2003. There are no age/race/sex details in the Census migration data; therefore it is distributed in each county according to that county's characteristics.

## How do the OPB projections compare to the US Census estimates and the Atlanta Regional Commission projections?

The OPB population projections are in line with the US Census Bureau estimates for 8 of the 10 Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) counties. The OPB projections are higher than the US Census Bureau estimates for Fulton and DeKalb counties.

The ARC projections are generally lower than either the OPB projections or the US Census Bureau estimates. ARC has a much higher projections for Fulton County than either the OPB projections or the US Census Bureau estimates. The ARC DeKalb County projection is in line with the OPB DeKalb County Projection.

The OPB projections, the US Census estimates and the Atlanta Regional Commission projections all use different methodology. They will never have an exact match. There are many different calculations done by each group. For example, the OPB population projection primarily uses the cohort component method. The US Census estimates include residuals in addition to the cohort component method to make the total estimate add up to a pre-set national total. The Atlanta Regional Commission projection uses an econometric module to produce employment data in addition to the cohort component method.

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/003153.html>

<sup>ii</sup> CB04-57 US Census Bureau, April 4, 2004. Data for 2004 county growth is not available at this time. <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/releases/archives/population/001758.html>

<sup>iii</sup> The US Census Bureau shows a high yearly out-migration for Liberty County population. It appears that the military personnel are being counted when they move out but not when they move in. The Census Bureau plans to change the way migration is calculated before the 2010 census. It is expected that this change will influence future net migration estimates.

<sup>iv</sup> OMB BULLETIN NO. 04-03 Feb. 2004, [http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04\\_attach.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/bulletins/b03-04_attach.pdf).

<sup>v</sup> The 2001-2003 data used for the 2010 projection reflects the recent slow economy. If there were a strong economic recovery in the next few years, the population projections would change.

<sup>vi</sup> GQ note: Fort Benning has barracks in both Muscogee and Chattahoochee Counties. They report a higher occupancy to OPB than the US Census Bureau uses. OPB is using the larger figure. In general, the group quarters population is constant unless a new facility is opened or closed. It is impossible to determine future development at this time. Therefore, the 2010 group quarters number is being carried forward to 2015.

<sup>vii</sup> US Census Bureau website Metropolitan Statistical Area, [http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/ma\\_metadata.html#msa](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/cob/ma_metadata.html#msa).