Whitfield County
Community Profile

98th in order of county creation
December 30, 1851

Prepared for Whitfield County Cooperative Extension by the Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development
The University of Georgia • Athens, GA

Photo: Ed Jackson
Total Population
Whitfield County

Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses & estimate; CAED (Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development); OPB (State Office of Planning & Budget).
Population Composition by Age
Whitfield County

2005 Estimated Median Age
Whitfield Co. = 33.6 yrs.  GA = 34.0 yrs.

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
## 2006 County Population Comparisons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total Rank</th>
<th>Density per sq.mi. land area</th>
<th>% Chg. 2000-06</th>
<th>Rank of % Chg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>92,999</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>320.7</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>62,016</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>382.3</td>
<td>16.5</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>22,319</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>95,322</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>185.8</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>51,419</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>144.6</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MURRAY</td>
<td>41,398</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>120.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>64,606</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>144.7</td>
<td>5.8</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau
Population Change: 1930-2000

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
## Components of Population Change: 2000-2006
### Natural Increase & Net Migration*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Numerical Change</th>
<th># Natural Increase (Births-Deaths)</th>
<th>Rate of Natural Increase</th>
<th># Net Migration</th>
<th>Rate of Net Migration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>9,441</td>
<td>6,900</td>
<td>12.5</td>
<td>2,757</td>
<td>5.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>8,764</td>
<td>1,666</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>7,223</td>
<td>20.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>2,521</td>
<td>-120</td>
<td>-0.9</td>
<td>2,705</td>
<td>20.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>4,757</td>
<td>2,532</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>2,537</td>
<td>4.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>7,315</td>
<td>2,498</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>4,963</td>
<td>16.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MURRAY</td>
<td>4,895</td>
<td>2,151</td>
<td>8.8</td>
<td>2,854</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>3,553</td>
<td>590</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3,158</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. GA Co.</td>
<td>7,403</td>
<td>2,761</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>3,816</td>
<td>8.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
<td>1,777,125</td>
<td>438,939</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>606,673</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source:
U. S. Census Bureau

* Numerical change includes “residual” not represented in either NI or NM.
Average annual estimates of annual rates per 1,000 population

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/07)
Selected Vital Statistics

2005 Rates

- Total births per 1,000 pop: Whitfield Co. = 19.7, Georgia = 15.5
- Unwed per 100 total births: Whitfield Co. = 37.3, Georgia = 40.7
- Teen pregnancy per 1,000 females age 10-19: Whitfield Co. = 52.0, Georgia = 34.2
- Deaths per 1,000 pop: Whitfield Co. = 7.7, Georgia = 7.2
- Induced terminations per 1,000 females age 15-44: Whitfield Co. = 4.9, Georgia = 10.7
- Low birth weight per 100 births: Whitfield Co. = 6.2, Georgia = 8.9
- Infant deaths per 1,000 births: Whitfield Co. = 6.4, Georgia = 8.5

10-yr. rates 1996-2005

2005 Whitfield Co. Natality Data
1,789 total births, 667 unwed births
99 induced terminations
316 teen pregnancies
100 low birth weight babies

2005 Whitfield Co. Mortality Data
700 total deaths
16 infant deaths

Primary data source: GA Dept. Public Health
### Highest Level of Educational Attainment: 2000

- **Grad or Prof Degree**: Whitfield Co. = 4.9%, Georgia = 8.3%
- **Bachelor's degree**: Whitfield Co. = 8.0%, Georgia = 16.0%
- **Associate degree**: Whitfield Co. = 3.9%, Georgia = 5.2%
- **Some college, no degree**: Whitfield Co. = 17.2%, Georgia = 20.4%
- **HS Grad**: Whitfield Co. = 29.0%, Georgia = 28.7%
- **9th-12th no diploma**: Whitfield Co. = 13.8%, Georgia = 18.8%
- **< 9th grade**: Whitfield Co. = 7.6%, Georgia = 18.2%

**Whitfield Co.**
- Not completing HS = 37.0%
- With a bachelor’s + degree = 12.8%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
Selected Public School Statistics
School Year 2005-06

### Teachers w/adv degrees
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 68.1%
- **Georgia**: 55.2%

### College prep certif
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 66.4%
- **Georgia**: 73.9%

### Class '05 Grad Rate
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 68.8%
- **Georgia**: 70.8%

### Gifted
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 8.9%
- **Georgia**: 8.6%

### Special Ed
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 10.6%
- **Georgia**: 11.9%

### Free/Reduc lunch
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 49.8%
- **Georgia**: 76.2%

### Retained in grade
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 4.3%
- **Georgia**: 5.1%

### Absent >15 days
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 9.8%
- **Georgia**: 8.1%

### HS Dropout rate
- **Whitfield Co/Dalton City**: 7.1%
- **Georgia**: 4.7%

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**Primary data source:** Governor's Office of Student Achievement

**Whitfield Co.**
- K12 enrollment = 19,042
- HS dropouts = 427
- General Fund Expenditures per FTE = $7,172
Per Capita Income: 2000-2005

2005 PCI
Whitfield Co. = $29,747
Georgia = $30,914
US = $34,471

Primary data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (5/07)
Per Capita Income: 2000-2005
Percentage Change

-1  1  3  5


Whitfield Co.  Georgia  US

Primary data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (5/07)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>PCI</th>
<th>Rank of PCI</th>
<th>% PCI of GA Total</th>
<th>% Change in PCI 2000-2005</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>$29,747</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>99.9</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>$24,759</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>10.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>$23,846</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>80.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>$28,698</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>96.4</td>
<td>23.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>$25,007</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>13.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>MURRAY</td>
<td>$22,102</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>74.2</td>
<td>10.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>$23,942</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>80.4</td>
<td>9.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA Avg. Co.</td>
<td>$24,592</td>
<td>--</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>14.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (5/07)
Transfer Receipts: 2005
Whitfield Co. Total = $397,448,000

Retirement/Disab 35.0 (Whitfield Co.)
Medicare 20.8 (Georgia)
Pub Med Assist 20.5 (Georgia)
Supp Sec Inc 2.0 (Whitfield Co.), 2.8 (Georgia)
Family Assist 0.3 (Whitfield Co.), 0.6 (Georgia)
Food Stamps 1.7 (Whitfield Co.), 2.8 (Georgia)
Other Inc Maint 6.3 (Whitfield Co.), 6.8 (Georgia)
Unemp 1.5 (Whitfield Co.), 1.4 (Georgia)
Veteran Benefit 1.9 (Whitfield Co.), 3.1 (Georgia)
All Other 7.1 (Whitfield Co.), 6.8 (Georgia)

Whitfield Co.
$4,363 per capita transfer receipts
14.7% of total personal income
7.2% change in total 2004-2005

Primary data source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (5/07)
## Persons Living Below Poverty Level
### 2004 Model-Based Estimates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th># of Persons</th>
<th>% of all Persons</th>
<th>Rank of %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>10,749</td>
<td>11.9</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>6,638</td>
<td>11.0</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>2,882</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>46</td>
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<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>13,548</td>
<td>15.0</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>6,046</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>36</td>
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<tr>
<td>MURRAY</td>
<td>5,302</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>8,776</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA Avg. Co.</td>
<td>7,658</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau (12/06)
Persons Living Below the Poverty Level
2004 Model-Based Estimates

5.3 – 11.9%
11.9 – 15.4%
15.4 – 18.2%
18.2 – 21.2%
21.2 – 26.3%

Georgia
1,217,686 persons
13.7%

Weighted average poverty threshold for a family of 4 persons in 2004 = $19,307

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (12/06)
## Unemployment Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Whitfield Co.</th>
<th>GA</th>
<th>US</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avg. GA County = 5.0

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor
Business Establishments, Employment and Wages
Whitfield County 2006 Annual Averages, % of Total

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor
Employment Comparisons by Industry: 2006

- **Total GOODS Producing**
  - Agriculture: 0.3
  - Construction: 1.9
  - Manufacturing: 5.4
  - Total: 17.4
  - Whitfield Co.: 40.5

- **Total SERVICE Producing**
  - Wholesale trade: 5.4
  - Retail trade: 11.7
  - Finance-Ins: 3.9
  - Transp-warehouse: 5.2
  - Information: 4.0
  - Prof-Sci-Tech: 7.9
  - Adm-Waste svc: 6.9
  - Health-Soc Svcs: 6.0
  - Accom-Food svc: 8.5
  - All other svcs: 8.2
  - Total: 8.7
  - Georgia: 50.8

- **Government**
  - Whitfield Co.: 16.3

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor
Farm Gate Value by Commodity Group: 2006
Whitfield Co. Total Value = $48,846,039

- Poultry-Egg: 65.3%
- Livestock: 23.4%
- Row-Forage crops: 0.9%
- Forestry: 2.5%
- Ornamental Horticulture: 5.5%
- Fruits-Nuts: 0.1%
- Veges: 0.1%
- Other: 2.1%

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA
Components of Gross Property Tax Digest: 2006
Whitfield Co. Gross Digest (40% Value) = $3,235,749,917

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
## County Property Tax Digest Comparisons: 2006

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>% Residential</th>
<th>% Agricultural</th>
<th>% Commercial</th>
<th>% Industrial</th>
<th>% Motor Vehicle</th>
<th>% Other</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>36.5</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>28.5</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>58.8</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>44.1</td>
<td>6.8</td>
<td>18.1</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>6.7</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>37.4</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>17.8</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>MURRAY</td>
<td>42.9</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>18.4</td>
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<td>7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>8.7</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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<td>3.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. GA Co.</td>
<td>41.9</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>7.7</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>'06 County-wide Millage*</th>
<th>'06 School Millage*</th>
<th>'05 Taxes Levied* ($000)</th>
<th>Sales Tax Rate as of 4/07</th>
<th>LOST Type* as of 4/07</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WHITFIELD</td>
<td>21.581</td>
<td>16.115</td>
<td>$82,075</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>LE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CATOOSA</td>
<td>18.710</td>
<td>15.578</td>
<td>$27,488</td>
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<td>LSE</td>
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<td>FANNIN</td>
<td>19.919</td>
<td>13.950</td>
<td>$15,668</td>
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<td>LSE</td>
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<td>FLOYD</td>
<td>29.511</td>
<td>18.996</td>
<td>$78,793</td>
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<td>LE</td>
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<td>LSE</td>
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<td>$20,453</td>
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<td>LSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>WALKER</td>
<td>21.046</td>
<td>17.550</td>
<td>$27,540</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All tax districts are assessed an additional .250 state millage. Taxes Levied, but not necessarily collected. L=Local Option Sales Tax, S=Special Purpose, E=Educational

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
A “pull factor” of 1.0 means that the county’s sales are what would be expected based upon the number of residents and their relative wealth.

Commuting to Work: 2000

- Residents working in county: 86.9%
- Residents working out of county: 13.1%
- Workers coming into county: 40.4%
- Residents driving to work alone: 77.0%
- Residents carpooling: 18.2%
- Residents working at home: 1.7%

Whitfield County
Mean travel time to work = 20.8 min.
Ratio of IN to OUT = 4.48

Resident workers 16+ = 38,909
Residents working in county = 33,796
Residents working out of county = 5,113
Total working in county = 56,711
Workers commuting into county = 22,915

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
This study was developed to assist community leadership with their future planning and decision making.

Special Area Report
# 07-20       July, 2007

Prepared for Whitfield County Cooperative Extension
by Susan R. Boatright
Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences
The University of Georgia • Athens, GA

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To learn more about your county, click on “Georgia Statistics System” at our website:
www.caed.uga.edu