Cherokee County
Community Profile

79th in order of county creation
December 26, 1831

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 OPB Proj.</td>
<td>269,221</td>
<td>240,955</td>
<td>221,315</td>
<td>214,346</td>
<td>141,903</td>
<td>90,204</td>
<td>51,699</td>
<td>31,059</td>
<td>23,001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 OPB Proj.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012 Estimate</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary data sources: U.S. Census Bureau, decennial censuses and estimates; GA Office of Planning &amp; Budget projections (2012 series).</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population Composition by Age
Cherokee County

2012 Median Age
Cherokee Co. = 37.2yrs.
GA = 35.7 yrs.

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total Rank</th>
<th>Density per sq.mi. land area</th>
<th>% Chg. 2010-12</th>
<th>Rank of % Chg.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE</td>
<td>221,315</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>524.8</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>100,661</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>219.0</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBB</td>
<td>707,442</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2,083.5</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>22,422</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>106.4</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>187,928</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>838.9</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULTON</td>
<td>977,773</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1,856.6</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>55,766</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>156.7</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICKENS</td>
<td>29,268</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>126.1</td>
<td>-0.6</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau (3/13)
Population Change: 1930-2010

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
Population Change: 2000-2010

Loss
Gain < US
Gain > US but < GA
Gain > GA
Gain > 2x GA

Avg. GA County = 14.2%
GA = 18.3%
US = 9.7%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (3/11)
## Components of Population Change

### Natural Increase & Net Migration*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>4/1/2010-7/1/2012 Numerical Change*</th>
<th>4/1/2010-7/1/2012 # Natural Increase (Births-Deaths)</th>
<th>4/1/2010-7/1/2012 # Net Migration</th>
<th>7/1/2011-7/1/2012 1-yr Natural Increase Rate</th>
<th>7/1/2011-7/1/2012 1-yr Net Migration Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE</td>
<td>6,969</td>
<td>3,884</td>
<td>3,065</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>7.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>504</td>
<td>1,055</td>
<td>-559</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>-1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBB</td>
<td>19,366</td>
<td>12,701</td>
<td>6,745</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>214</td>
<td>-151</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>12,417</td>
<td>2,997</td>
<td>9,013</td>
<td>7.0</td>
<td>22.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULTON</td>
<td>57,190</td>
<td>15,866</td>
<td>40,490</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>21.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>-32</td>
<td>5.1</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICKENS</td>
<td>-158</td>
<td>-41</td>
<td>-147</td>
<td>-0.4</td>
<td>-5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avg. County</td>
<td>1,461</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>571</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>-3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEORGIA</td>
<td>232,282</td>
<td>136,956</td>
<td>90,782</td>
<td>6.1</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Numerical change includes “residual” not represented in either NI or NM.

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau (3/13)
Selected Vital Statistics

2011 Rates

- Total births per 1,000 pop: 12.8 (Cherokee Co.), 13.5 (Georgia)
- Unwed per 100 total births: 25.4 (Cherokee Co.), 45.1 (Georgia)
- Teen pregnancy per 1,000 females age 10-19: 13.0 (Cherokee Co.), 25.5 (Georgia)
- Deaths per 1,000 pop: 5.6 (Cherokee Co.), 7.2 (Georgia)
- Induced terminations per 1,000 females age 15-44: 9.7 (Cherokee Co.), 14.7 (Georgia)
- Low birth weight per 100 births: 7.4 (Cherokee Co.), 9.4 (Georgia)
- Infant deaths per 1,000 births: 5.1 (Cherokee Co.), 7.9 (Georgia)

10-yr. rates 2002-2011

- 2011 Cherokee Co. Natality Data: 2,786 total births, 708 unwed births, 200 teen pregnancies, 201 low birth weight babies
- 2011 Cherokee Co. Mortality Data: 1,213 total deaths, 20 infant deaths

Primary data source: GA Dept. Public Health, OASIS
Highest Level of Educational Attainment: 2007-2011
5 Yr. Avg. – American Community Survey

Cherokee Co.
Not completing HS = 11.0%
With a bachelor’s + degree = 33.6%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau
Selected Public School Statistics
School Year 2010-11

- Teachers w/adv degrees: Georgia = 67.3%, Cherokee Co. = 79.7%
- College prep certif: Georgia = 65.6%, Cherokee Co. = 79.8%
- HOPE Eligible: Georgia = 45.8%, Cherokee Co. = 40.2%
- Class ’11 Grad Rate: Georgia = 74.8%, Cherokee Co. = 80.9%
- Gifted: Georgia = 10.4%, Cherokee Co. = 12.0%
- Special Ed: Georgia = 10.2%, Cherokee Co. = 10.4%
- Econ Disadvantaged: Georgia = 30.0%, Cherokee Co. = 30.0%
- Retained in grade: Georgia = 3.6%, Cherokee Co. = 3.6%
- Absent >15 days: Georgia = 5.3%, Cherokee Co. = 8.8%
- HS Dropout rate: Georgia = 3.7%, Cherokee Co. = 3.7%

Primary data source:
Governor’s Office of Student Achievement

Cherokee Co.
K12 enrollment = 38,313
HS dropouts = 419
General Fund Expenditures per FTE = $7,883
## Per Capita Income: 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>PCI</th>
<th>Rank of PCI</th>
<th>% PCI of GA Total</th>
<th>% Change in PCI 2007-2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE</td>
<td>$36,898</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>102.6</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>$27,762</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>77.2</td>
<td>-5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBB</td>
<td>$45,923</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>127.6</td>
<td>-1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>$32,395</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>90.0</td>
<td>-3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>$41,354</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>114.9</td>
<td>4.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULTON</td>
<td>$57,451</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>159.7</td>
<td>-7.3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>$26,382</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PICKENS</td>
<td>$36,407</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>101.2</td>
<td>1.4</td>
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<tr>
<td>GA Avg. Co.</td>
<td>$29,704</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>82.6</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (4/13)
Per Capita Income: 2007-2011
Percentage Change

Cherokee Co., Georgia, US

Primary data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (4/13)
Per Capita Income: 2007-2011

- **Cherokee Co.**: $36,898
- **Georgia**: $35,979
- **US**: $41,560

Primary data source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (4/13)
Transfer Receipts: 2011
Cherokee Co. Total = $1,001,569,000

Primary data source: Bureau of Economic Analysis (4/13)
Median Household Income
2011 Model-Based Estimates

US: $50,502
GEORGIA: $45,886
GA Avg. Co.: $38,797
CHEROKEE: $65,769
BARTOW: $45,072
COBB: $57,995
DAWSON: $53,339
FORSYTH: $85,137
FULTON: $54,893
GORDON: $42,253
PICKENS: $50,282

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau (12/12)
## Persons Living Below Poverty Level
### 2011 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>CHEROKEE</td>
<td>20,767</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>18,897</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBB</td>
<td>90,520</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>2,696</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>14,389</td>
<td>8.0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULTON</td>
<td>183,931</td>
<td>20.0</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>10,199</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICKENS</td>
<td>4,251</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA Avg. Co.</td>
<td>11,552</td>
<td>23.2</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: U. S. Census Bureau (12/12)
Persons Living Below the Poverty Level
2011 Model-Based Estimates

Weighted average poverty threshold for a family household of 4 persons in 2011 = $23,021

Georgia
1,836,715 Persons
--
19.2%
------------
US = 15.9%

Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau (12/12)
Civilian Labor Force Average Annual Unemployment Rates

2012 Rates

Cherokee Co. = 7.2
GA = 9.0
US = 8.1

Avg. GA County = 10.1

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor
### Establishments, Employment & Wages: 2012 Averages

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cherokee County</th>
<th>Avg. #</th>
<th>Avg. Monthly Employment</th>
<th>Avg. Wage Weekly</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GOODS PRODUCING</td>
<td>899</td>
<td>6,928</td>
<td>$827</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ag, forestry, fishing</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>$415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>694</td>
<td>2,836</td>
<td>$843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>3,997</td>
<td>$821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL SERVICE PROVIDING</td>
<td>3,967</td>
<td>30,624</td>
<td>$625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wholesale trade</td>
<td>433</td>
<td>1,674</td>
<td>$1,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail trade</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>7,850</td>
<td>$475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transp/Warehousing</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>$734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance/Insurance</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>1,472</td>
<td>$1,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional/Sci/Tech</td>
<td>794</td>
<td>2,371</td>
<td>$963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin/Suppt/WasteMgmt/Remediation</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>2,445</td>
<td>$633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care/Soc Svcs</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>4,256</td>
<td>$794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodations/Food Svc</td>
<td>302</td>
<td>5,750</td>
<td>$272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL GOVERNMENT</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>7,702</td>
<td>$793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES</td>
<td>5,387</td>
<td>45,608</td>
<td>$686</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor (7/13)
Employment Comparisons by Industry Group: 2012

- **Goods Producing**
  - Cherokee Co.: 15.2
  - Avg. GA County: 21.9
  - Georgia: 13.6

- **Service Providing**
  - Cherokee Co.: 16.9
  - Avg. GA County: 51.4
  - Georgia: 67.1

- **Government**
  - Cherokee Co.: 16.9
  - Avg. GA County: 26.5
  - Georgia: 16.9

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Labor (7/13)
Components of 2012 Property Tax Gross Digest
Cherokee County

- Residential: 56.6%
- Ag- Preferential - Environ-Conserv: 15.3%
- Timber *: 0.004%
- Mobile Home: 0.2%
- Motor Vehicle: 8.5%
- Industrial: 2.7%
- Commercial: 14.8%
- Public Utility: 1.9%

40% Assessment Value of Property
Gross Digest = $7,196,329,256
Homestead & Property Exemptions = $522,421,889
Net M&O Digest = $6,673,907,367
Value of exempt property = $431,573,581

* Timber taxed at 100% based on previous year sales

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
### Millage Rates, Taxes Levied, & Sales Tax Rate

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2012 County-wide Millage*</th>
<th>2011 Taxes Levied* ($000)</th>
<th>Sales Tax Rate as of 10/1/2013</th>
<th>LOST Type* as of 10/1/2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEROKEE</td>
<td>29.235</td>
<td>$210,251</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARTOW</td>
<td>25.880</td>
<td>$81,851</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COBB</td>
<td>30.260</td>
<td>$792,136</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAWSON</td>
<td>24.334</td>
<td>$31,850</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORSYTH</td>
<td>26.624</td>
<td>$212,634</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FULTON</td>
<td>38.272</td>
<td>$2,058,678</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>MLE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GORDON</td>
<td>29.278</td>
<td>$44,441</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PICKENS</td>
<td>22.480</td>
<td>$33,468</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>LSE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Countywide Includes .250 state millage. Taxes levied, but not necessarily collected. L=Local Option, S=Special Purpose, E=Educational, M=MARTA

Primary data source: GA Dept. of Revenue
Farm Gate Value by Commodity Group: 2011
Cherokee Co. Total Value = $58,637,035

- Poultry-Egg: 54.7%
- Ornamental Horticulture: 21.7%
- Forestry: 0.5%
- Row-Forage crops: 0.5%
- Livestock: 19.6%
- Fruits-Nuts-Veges: 0.8%
- Other: 2.2%

Primary data source: Center for Agribusiness & Economic Development, UGA (1/13)
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.

Primary data sources: Georgia Dept. of Revenue, Sales & Use Tax Unit. Pull factors calculated.
Commuting to Work: 2007-2011
5 Yr. Average – American Community Survey

Percentage of:
- Residents working in county: 42.7%
- Residents working out of county: 57.3%
- Residents driving to work alone: 78.7%
- Residents carpooling: 10.0%
- Residents working at home: 9.0%

Travel time to work for residents not working at home:
< 20 min. = 29.1%
20-44 min. = 41.1%
45+ min. = 29.7%

Cherokee Co.
Resident workers 16+ = 101,984
Residents working in county = 43,518
Residents working out of county = 56,812

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
# 13-11 September 2013

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

Georgia Cooperative Extension
www.caes.uga.edu/center/caed/

To learn more about your county check the “Georgia Statistics System” website:
www.georgiastats.uga.edu