

APPENDIX A
POPULATION

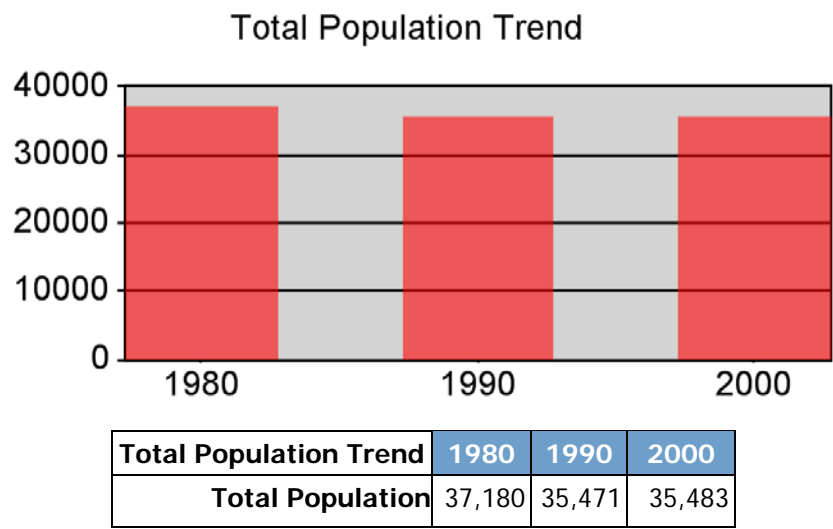
APPENDIX A: POPULATION

Understanding past population trends and patterns is an important first step towards understanding how the population may change in the future. This section presents detailed information on the population demographics for Ware County and the city of Waycross. This includes past trends using data provided by the U.S. Census and future predictions based on county and regional trends and development patterns.

Past Population Trends:

Between 1980 and 2000 the total population of Ware County declined from 37,180 to 35,483; a decrease of 1,697. (Figure A-1).

FIGURE A-1 WARE COUNTY HISTORIC POPULATION TRENDS



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1

FIGURE A-2 POPULATION GROWTH COMPARISON

Total Population Growth Comparison	Ware	Waycross	Georgia
2000 Population	35,483	15,386	8,186,453
*2007 Population Estimate	35,831	14,765	9,544,750
Increase in Population	348	-621	1,358,297
Growth between 1990 and 2000	0.03%	-6.56%	26.37%

Source: U.S. Census and Southern Georgia Regional Commission
 * Estimate, Georgia County Guide

In comparing the growth of Ware County to that of the State of Georgia, it appears that Ware County Has experienced almost no growth from 2000 to 2007. Ware County is growing much slower than the state of Georgia as a whole. City of Waycross appears to have lost population between the last census counts from 1990-2000. It is estimated that the population of the city of Waycross would decrease from by 621 people from 2000 to 2007.

FIGURE A-3 POPULATION PROJECTIONS

Population Projections											
Category	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Ware County	37,180	36,326	35,471	35,477	35,483	35,059	34,635	34,210	33,786	33,362	32,938
Waycross	19,371	17,891	16,410	15,872	15,333	14,324	13,314	12,305	11,295	10,286	9,276

Source: <http://www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2>

The population projections for Ware County predict steady decreases in population for Ware County over the next 20 years. Waycross is projected to see a decrease in population over the next 20 years as well. With proper planning and a drive towards economic development, this projection could be turned around.

Age Distribution:

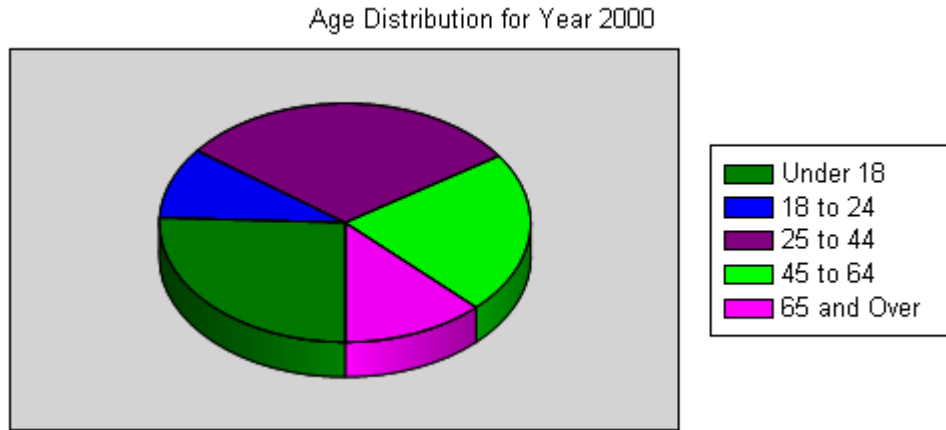
TABLE A-4 HISTORICAL AGE DISTRIBUTION

Age Distribution Trend	WARE			WAYCROSS		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
0-4 Years Old	3,001	2,434	2,267	1,699	1,308	1,013
5-13 Years Old	5,773	5,307	5,016	2,859	2,477	2,344
14-17 Years Old	2,851	1,759	1,521	1,354	750	680
18-20 Years Old	1,848	1,619	1,430	960	733	632
21-24 Years Old	2,340	1,733	1,788	1,281	747	665
25-34 Years Old	5,578	5,197	4,814	2,779	2,181	1,843
35-44 Years Old	3,853	5,101	5,166	1,698	2,074	2,026
45-54 Years Old	3,869	3,516	4,775	1,898	1,431	1,866
55-64 Years Old	3,641	3,445	3,236	2,137	1,643	1,276
65 And Over	4,426	5,360	5,470	2,706	3,066	2,988

Source: U.S. Census

The population of Ware County and the City of Waycross has shown decreases over the past 20 documented years. The decrease in population is fairly distributed throughout the age groups considered. The one group that seems to be on the rise is the retirement age group. The 65 and over population group seems to have increased in both Ware County and the City of Waycross. With a relatively low cost of living, low property taxes, little threat from severe weather risks, and a close proximity to many major interstates and airports, Ware County and Waycross may benefit from marketing itself to attract retirees.

GRAPH A-5, AGE DISTRIBUTION FOR 2000



Graph A-5 shows the age distribution for Ware County for the year 2000. Table A-6 shows age distribution comparisons for Ware County compared to the State of Georgia and the rest of the country. It appears that in 2000, the largest population group in Ware County was between 25 and 44. This supports the fact that the next largest group is under 18, and could likely be the children of the 25-44 age group. Greater Ware County may see a need for increased services and facilities to meet the needs of these families. The issues of more affordable housing, medical services, and job opportunities will all have to be met.

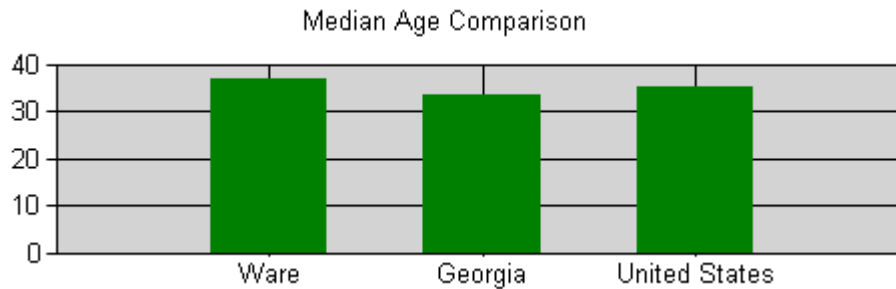
TABLE A-6 AGE DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON

Age Distribution Comparison	Ware	Georgia	United States
Population	35,483	8,186,453	281,421,906
Percent below 18	24.8	26.5	25.7
Percent 18 to 24	9.1	10.2	9.6
Percent 25 to 44	28.1	32.4	30.2
Percent 45 to 64	22.6	21.3	22
Percent 65 and over	15.4	9.6	12.4
Median Age	36.8	33.4	35.3

SOURCE: US Census

Ware County's population is fairly evenly distributed when comparing it to that of the state of Georgia and the United States. The state of Georgia has a slightly higher percent of people ages 25-44, and a slightly lower percent of people 65-44. This could be due to the large retirement community, Baptist Village located in Waycross.

TABLE A-7, MEDIAN AGE COMARISON WARE COUNTY



The median age of people in Ware County seems to be in line with the rest of the state and the United States as a whole. The Median Age in Ware County is right around 35.

Race and Ethnicity:

Table A-8 shows the racial composition trend of Ware County based on use of 2000 Census data.

TABLE A-8 RACIAL COMPOSITION TREND

Racial Composition Trend	WARE COUNTY			WAYCROSS		
	1980	1990	2000	1980	1990	2000
White Alone	28,631	26,007	24,714	11,458	8,299	6,794
Black or African American Alone	8,376	9,238	9,939	7,786	7,995	8,205
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	63	58	63	41	20	19
Asian or Pacific Islander	87	123	183	70	75	98
Other Race	23	45	584	16	21	217

Source: US Census

The racial composition of the population is changing some, but overall just showing steady decreases, as the population of Ware County and Waycross is declining.

TABLE A-9 RACIAL COMPOSITION COMPARISON

Racial Composition Comparison (Percent)	Ware	Georgia	United States
White Alone	69.7	65.1	75.1
Black or African American Alone	28.0	28.7	12.3
American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	0.2	0.3	0.9
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.5	2.1	3.6
Other Race	1.0	2.4	5.5

Source: US Census

The racial composition of the population of the Ware County is very much in line with that of the State of Georgia, and the US as a whole. There is a smaller number of people in the “other race” category, and a smaller number of people in the “Asian or Pacific Islander” in Georgia than Ware County, but for the most part the numbers line up fairly evenly.

A-10 RACIAL COMPOSITION FOR 2000

Racial Composition for Year 2000

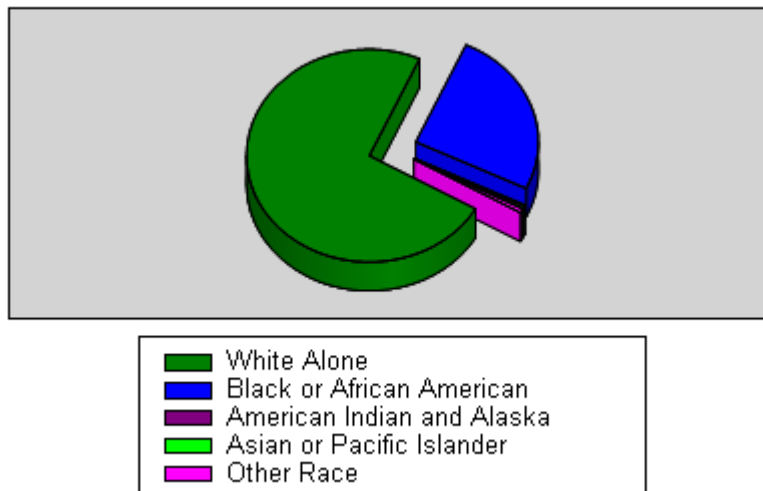


Chart A-10 shows the Racial Composition for the year 2000 for Ware County. It supports the information that is in the tables above.

A-11 HISPANIC POPULATION TREND, WARE COUNTY

Hispanic Trend	1980	1990	2000
Persons of Hispanic Origin	273	190	688

Source: US Census

The Hispanic Population of Ware County has been on a rise and fall for the past 20 years. From 1980 to 1990, the Hispanic population decreased by 83. From 1990 to 2000, however, the population rose by almost 500. The early 90's to 2000 is when the US as a whole started to see a rise in the Hispanic population.

A-12 HISPANIC POPULATION COMPARISON

Hispanic Population Comparison	Ware	Georgia	United States
2000 Population	35483	8,186,453	281,421,920
Hispanic Population	688	435,227	35,305,818
Percent Hispanic	1.94 %	5.32 %	12.55 %

Source: US Census

Although the trend of Hispanic Residents increased in both Ware County and the City of Waycross, when compared to the population of Georgia and the United States, Ware County's Hispanic population is fairly low.

A-13 HOUSEHOLD INCOME, WARE COUNTY

Household Income Trend	1990	2000
Income (\$)	25,738	36,551

Source: US Census

Income:

According to the U.S. Census the household income in 1990 for Ware County was \$25,738.00. In 2000 the number rose to \$36,551.00. Therefore, household income rose by \$10,813.00.

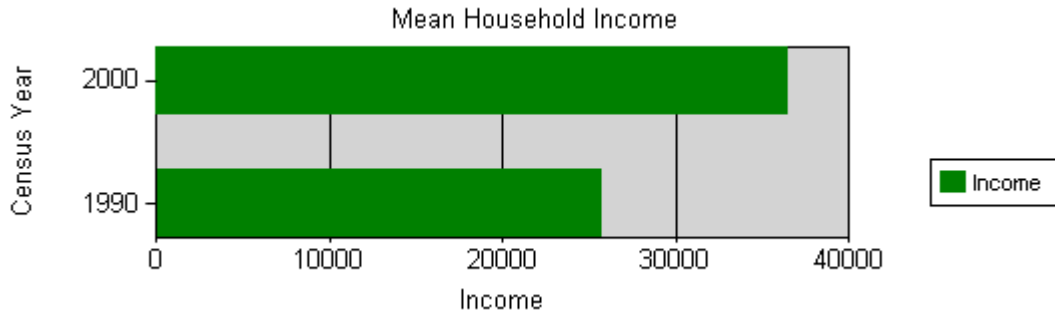
Table A-14 shows how Ware County compares to the State of Georgia in Household Income. Ware County has a lower household income than the State of Georgia. The State of Georgia does appear to be much higher, but when looking back at table A-13 it is evident that Ware County's household income is increasing at a steady rate. The difference in Georgia and Ware County is probably so large due to more metro areas being factored in to this count at a state level.

A-14, HOUSEHOLD INCOME COMPARISON

Mean Household Income Comparison	Ware	Georgia	United States
Income (\$)	36,551	80,077	56,675

Source: US Census

A-15 HOUSEHOLD INCOME WARE COUNTY, GA



The household income for Ware County was around \$26,000 in 1990. By 2000, the household income had increased to about \$36,000. This growth is normal for a 10 year period. The cost of living increases each year, so household income naturally increases to meet this growth.

A-16 PER CAPITA INCOME TREND

Per Capita Income Trend	1990	2000
Per Capita Income (\$)	9,712	14,384

Source: US Census

Ware County has seen a rise in per capita income as shown in Table A-16. Per Capita Income is the total personal income divided by the total population and is often used to measure the personal wealth of a population. The per capita income compared to the State of Georgia is outlined in Table A-16.

A-17 PER CAPITA INCOME COMPARISON

Per Capita Income Comparison	Ware	Georgia	United States
Per Capita Income (\$)	14,384	21,154	21,587

Source: US Census

Ware County’s per capita income for the year 2000 was less than that of Georgia and the United States. Georgia’s per capita income closely mirrors that of the Country, but Ware County falls about \$6,320 behind. The 2009 Georgia County Guide states that Ware County’s per capita income for 2006 was \$23,478, and the State of Georgia’s was \$32,095. However, the Georgia County Guide also gives the Per Capita Income for Non-metro Georgia which was \$24,144 in 2006. This is a much more comparable number for a non-metro county such as Ware.

A-18, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Educational Attainment Trend	1980	1990	2000
Less than 9th Grade	6,041	3,749	2,380
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	5,244	5,050	4,486
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	5,708	7,693	9,009
Some College (No Degree)	2,242	2,999	3,850
Associate Degree		774	862
Bachelor's Degree	1,327	1,386	1,582
Graduate or Professional Degree	810	960	1,049

The trends in table A-18 show school participation and graduation rates on the rise for Ware County for the past 20 years. There are less and less students finishing less than ninth grade, less students attending high school without earning a diploma, and more students graduating or receiving a GED. There are also more Ware County residents receiving some college, and also graduating with a number of different degrees. This could be due to the increased options for education in Ware County.

Educational Attainment Comparison	Ware	Georgia	United States
Less than 9th Grade	10.25 %	7.54 %	7.55 %
9th to 12th Grade (no diploma)	19.32 %	13.86 %	12.05 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	38.80 %	28.71 %	28.63 %
Some College (No Degree)	16.58 %	20.40 %	21.05 %
Associate Degree	3.71 %	5.19 %	6.32 %
Bachelor's Degree	6.81 %	16.01 %	15.54 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	4.52 %	8.30 %	8.86 %

It appears that Ware County has a higher number of high school graduates or those receiving GED's (Equivalent to a HS Diploma) than the State of Georgia and the Country. While Georgia had approximately 29% of High School Graduate/GED's, Ware County had approximately 39%, 10% higher than the state figure. There were, however, a slightly higher percentage of students in Ware County which completed less than a 9th grade education. Table A-18 shows us this number has gone down for Ware County in the past 20 years. Education in Ware County, both high school and higher education is faring well in comparison to the State and Country, and rates have improved since 1980 in all areas.