Decatur County, GA

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

County Facts: Decatur County, GA
Population 27,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate 5.6% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 4.7% for Georgia and 4.4% for the United States. Poverty rate is 4.4% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 5.1% for Georgia and 5% for the United States. Median family income in Decatur County is $36,000, compared to $53,000 for Georgia and $57,000 for the United States. Population growth from 2000-2017 is -5% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 16% for Georgia and 17% for the United States. Manufacturing share of workforce is 27% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 13% for Georgia and 11% for the United States. Farming share of workforce is 10% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 13% for Georgia and 10% for the United States. Great Recession unemployment spike is 8.5% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 13% for Georgia and 10% for the United States.

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 34% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 43% for Georgia and 46% for the United States. Percent reaching upper-middle class: 10% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 16% for Georgia and 20% for the United States. Percent achieving American Dream: 4% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 6% for Georgia and 10% for the United States. Percent giving birth as a teen: 25% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 20% for Georgia and 20% for the United States. Percent landing in jail: 2.6% for Decatur County, GA, compared to 2.2% for Georgia and 1.5% for the United States. Local school expenditure per student (000s): $4.7 for Decatur County, GA, compared to $5.9 for Georgia and $6.4 for the United States.
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 9.1% (Decatur County) vs. 9.3% (U.S. 4-year-college average)
- **Low-income student success rate**: 48.2% (Decatur County) vs. 51.3% (U.S. 4-year-college average)

2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 32.8% (Decatur County) vs. 22.9% (U.S. 2-year-college average)
- **Low-income student success rate**: 15.6% (Decatur County) vs. 19.6% (U.S. 2-year-college average)

* Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus.  † In nearby county

Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**: 43% (Decatur County) vs. 32% (GA) vs. 14% (United States)
- **Percent Hispanic**: 17% (Decatur County) vs. 9% (GA) vs. 5% (United States)
- **Percent over age 65**: 13.9% (Decatur County) vs. 10.7% (GA) vs. 9% (United States)
- **Percent college grad**: 21% (Decatur County) vs. 19% (GA) vs. 9% (United States)
- **Crime rate**: 93 (Decatur County) vs. 84 (GA) vs. 76 (United States)
- **Life expectancy**: 83.2 (Decatur County) vs. 82.4 (GA) vs. 79.6 (United States)

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Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau