County Facts: Thomas County, GA
Population 45,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 5.9% (Thomas County), 4.7% (GA), 5.4% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 23.5% (Thomas County), 17.8% (GA), 10.8% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $57 (Thomas County), $53 (GA), $57 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 13% (Thomas County), 11% (GA), 9% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 16% (Thomas County), 10% (GA), 6% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 7.9% (Thomas County), 1.7% (GA), 1% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 5.3% (Thomas County), 4.7% (GA), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 41% (Thomas County), 43% (GA), 47% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 13% (Thomas County), 16% (GA), 24% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 5% (Thomas County), 6% (GA), 10% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 20% (Thomas County), 25% (GA), 31% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 1.6% (Thomas County), 1.5% (GA), 1.6% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.4 (Thomas County), $5.9 (GA), $6.3 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 9.1%
- Low-income student success rate: 48.2%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 34.1%
- Low-income student success rate: 22.9%

Georgia 4-year-college average: 9.3%
U.S. 4-year-college average: 51.3%
Low-income share of students: 48.2%
Low-income student success rate: 22.9%

Southwest Georgia Tech College (public)

Georgia 2-year-college average: 15.6%
U.S. 2-year-college average: 17.7%
Low-income share of students: 23.5%
Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 30% (Thomas County), 32% (GA), 32% (United States)
- Percent Hispanic: 14% (Thomas County), 9% (GA), 9% (United States)
- Percent over age 65: 17% (Thomas County), 15.1% (GA), 13% (United States)
- Percent college grad: 19% (Thomas County), 21% (GA), 19% (United States)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 144 (Thomas County), 84 (GA), 76 (United States)
- Life expectancy (years): 81.9 (Thomas County), 82.4 (GA), 82.4 (United States)
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