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Valdosta State University
Average Population Growth by County 2010 – 2016

- Lowndes County: 0.78% (Rank 60)
- Georgia: 1.09%
- US: 0.70%

Source: Georgia REAPrject.org
Data: Regional Income Growth, EPA/11-19-2017
Real per Capita Personal Income Growth by County
2010 – 2016

Avg per capital growth rate
Lowndes 0.46%  Rank 107
Georgia  1.56%
US      0.44%

Source: Georgia REAProject.org
Data: Regional Income Division, GA DCC 11-13-2017
Agriculture

Crop Strengths
- Soybeans
- Cotton
- Peanuts

Threats
- Diesel prices
- Some chemicals

Opportunities
Use of Information Management Systems and advanced technologies
- Predictive analytics
- Machine learning
- Drone analytics
### Greater Lowndes area Non-farming Industry Mix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry</th>
<th>% Employment</th>
<th>Avg Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Goods–Producing</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>3.4%</td>
<td>$623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>$993</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>$849</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Service–Providing</strong></td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>$566</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>$465</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation &amp; Food</td>
<td>11.4%</td>
<td>$269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care &amp; related</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
<td>$734</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</td>
<td>4.8%</td>
<td>$754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>$761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>$741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Avg weekly wage**
- Lowndes: $660
- Georgia: $956

**Avg real growth rate**
- 0.10% (72 out of 159)
- 1.19%
Non-farming Industry Changes

Major industry growth
• Farm equipment
• Transportation and Warehousing
• Wholesale trade
• Information services

Major Industry weakness
• State Government
• Retail Trade
• Education services
• Administrative services
Foreclosure Rates Rise

2017:
Lowndes 1 in 2905

2016:
Lowndes 1 in 1271

2015:
Lowndes 1 in 1365

2014:
Lowndes 1 in 1273
Valdosta–MSA

Initial Unemployment Claims unchanged
• Dec 2016  337 claims
• Dec 2017  340 claims

Non–Farm Employment  net gain 4,200 jobs or 6.9%
• Dec 2016  61,050
• Dec 2017  65,250

Labor Force size  net gain 910 or 1.4%
• Dec 2016  64,340
• Dec 2017  65,250

Unemployment rates
• Dec 2016  5.1%
• Dec 2017  4.2%
Threats

- Stagnant wages
- Export demand
- Higher interest rates (pace)
- Aging and shrinking population of rural areas
Strengths and Opportunities

- Improved consumer expectations
- Availability of qualified labor
- Positive economic growth
- Reduced regulations
- Incubation Program
- Locate a Georgia Rural Institute in South Georgia