

“Comparing Lowndes County with the communities that rank #1 and #2, it’s clear that they have a smaller portion of their labor forces involved in retail and hospitality industry jobs than we do, and a higher portion working in higher wage manufacturing. As the Chamber has been saying for years, it’s the mix of jobs that matters.”

Dr. Cynthia Tori

Asked if these statistics should be cause for concern in our community, Dr. Tori said, “If we are satisfied with these rankings, then we can continue the status quo. If we want our community to do better, we will have to identify a community-wide strategy to accomplish this.”

| | Median Household Income | Median Family Income | % Below Poverty | Population |
|---------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Brooks | \$35,284 | \$45,599 | 22.3% | 15,403 |
| Lanier | \$41,867 | \$50,498 | 21.9% | 10,400 |
| Echols | \$27,933 | \$39,000 | 36.3% | 3,988 |
| Lowndes | \$38,348 | \$50,089 | 23.4% | 114,552 |
| GEORGIA | \$49,604 | \$59,198 | 17.4% | |

American Community Survey, Census.gov Median household income includes income of everyone over 15 years who lives in the household, whether or not they are related (family, non-family, single person, etc.). Median family income includes income of everyone over 15 years who is part of a family.

“The economic information presented by Dr. Tori is a huge concern to the Chamber and our Board. We feel that a significant change is needed in our community to improve our area’s standing in these key economic indicators. The Chamber is prepared to work with the other key organizations within the Valdosta-Lowndes County community to develop an overall economic growth strategy for our community. A true collaborative effort by the key business and governmental organizations will be needed to accomplish a positive change in our community dynamics going forward.”

Carl Holley (Fowler, Holley, Rambo and Stalvey)
2014 Chairman of the Board



Upcoming Chamber Events:

Chamber Choice Awards

Thursday, April 3 • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Sponsored by: **Citizens Community Bank**

Rainwater Conference Center

RSVP to pmartin@valdostachamber.com

Visit: www.ValdostaChamber.com/Top10Events

World Class Employee Recognition

Tuesday, May 6 • 7:30 - 9 a.m.

Sponsored by: **First State Bank & Trust and**

ELeadOne/Fresh Beginnings

Time for Nominations: www.ValdostaChamber.com

Nominations are due by March 12!

VALDOSTA - LOWNDES COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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416 North Ashley Street
Valdosta, GA 31601

Phone: 229-247-8100 / Fax: 229-245-0071
www.ValdostaChamber.com / fb.vlcchamber

