

# Preparing for the Future in Troup County, Georgia

## ● Supportive Research Report 2008



## Sustainable Development Report Card

Produced for Troup County and the  
Cities of LaGrange, West Point, and Hogansville

# PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE IN TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA

## Sustainable Development Report Card

*Produced for*

Troup County and the Cities of LaGrange, West Point, and Hogansville

*Prepared by*

Georgia Tech's Enterprise Innovation Institute

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March 2008  
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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

In June 2007, leaders in Troup County and the cities of LaGrange, West Point, and Hogansville kicked off a two-year strategic planning initiative to create a framework for sustainable development. The goal of the effort is to develop innovative strategies for promoting quality growth, fostering healthy economic development, enhancing the quality of life of residents, and protecting Troup County's natural environment, sense of place, and community. Troup County leadership wants to preserve and enhance places for area residents and businesses by proactively, progressively and fairly directing the community's growth and development to shape its future.

Georgia Tech - through its Enterprise Innovation Institute and Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development - conducted research, assessments, and strategy development in support of this initiative. This report is one in a series of reports entitled *Preparing for the Future in Troup County, Georgia* produced by Georgia Tech.

## OVERVIEW



Troup County was formed on June 8, 1825. It is located in west Georgia on the Georgia-Alabama border and is easily accessible via Interstates 85 and 185. The county is within an hour of Auburn, Columbus, and Atlanta. The county seat, centrally located LaGrange, is also Troup's largest city. Hogansville is the gateway to Troup County from the north and West Point is the gateway to both the county and Georgia from the south. The county's rich history has been shaped by its people. For example, it was home to the Nancy Harts, a legendary group of women who helped to save the area from destruction by Union soldiers in 1865, and to Fuller E. Callaway Sr., the textile magnate whose legacy impact on Troup County can still be felt today.

The county's many assets include LaGrange College, West Georgia Technical College, the Callaway Foundation, and West Point Lake. It is home to the headquarters for industrial leaders such as Milliken, Interface, and ITC Holding Company (which is the conglomerate for InterCall, Knology, and several other enterprises). Troup County is also the future home of Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia Inc.'s first assembly plant in North America.

In 2000, Troup County was considered a Tier 3 county according to the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, but it has since been designated a Tier 2 county, a designation it continued to hold in 2007. The tier system has four levels of economic status, with Tier 4 being the most prosperous level and Tier 1 being the least prosperous. Tier designations are based on a county's relative rankings within the state for unemployment rate, poverty rate, and per capita income.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Some information was derived from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, County Snapshots and Job Tax Credit Program.

## METHODOLOGY

To make better decisions about where to go and how to get there, it is important to evaluate where you've been and where you are. This is the purpose of the Sustainable Development Report Card, a tool that reviews key demographic, economic, educational, social, health, and environmental metrics for a community and reviews its performance according to other comparable communities.

This report card includes an analysis of more than 120 metrics to evaluate Troup County's past and recent performance. All data is pre-Kia. These metrics are essential for creating realistic benchmarks for the planning process that will enable leaders in Troup County and its cities to measure their future success.

Data were gathered and analyzed for Troup County and comparable areas. The metrics used were greatly influenced by data availability at the county level. Comparable areas included the counties in the West Georgia Region (Region 4), the state, and a small group of peer counties.

### The Region



Region Four covers the West Georgia Region and includes these 10 counties:

Butts	Meriwether
Carroll	Pike
Coweta	Spalding
Heard	Troup
Lamar	Upson

### The Peer Group

Although it is important to compare Troup County to counties within its region and the state, counties often exhibit similarities to others not close geographically. Therefore, to provide a better understanding of where Troup County is doing well and areas where there is room for improvement, it is important to relate it to a peer group of similar counties.

Counties in the peer group are considered to be most similar to Troup County in terms of their dynamics affecting their economic development potential. To determine the peer group for Troup, counties in Georgia were screened according to the following criteria:

1. Counties with a population between 75 and 125 percent of Troup County's 2006 population.
2. Counties designated as "micropolitan."
3. Counties with direct interstate access.
4. Counties with three to five cities and towns.
5. Counties that met the above four criteria and have a share of their population living in incorporated and unincorporated areas closest to that of Troup County.

Troup County's peer group includes:

Barrow County

Bulloch County

Spalding County

For several indicators, data is provided for Peer A, Peer B, and Peer C, which does not correspond to the above.

## Data Sources

Several state and federal agencies and commercial information providers were the data sources for this report and are identified throughout the document. Some key sources include the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services, Georgia Department of Labor, Georgia Department of Revenue, Georgia Department of Transportation, Georgia Environmental Protection Division, *The Georgia County Guide* by the University of Georgia, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, U.S. Census Bureau, and Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. Efforts have been made to utilize the latest reliable data available.

## SUMMARY EVALUATION

Troup County's performance has been reviewed and examined by Georgia Tech specialists according to several measures in 10 key categories relating to sustainable community economic development. These categories include community growth, fiscal capacity, self sufficiency, economic base, workforce, youth development, education, civic and social capital, community health, and environmental preservation. Indicators have been reviewed to suggest areas of strength and areas upon which to focus improvement efforts.

For each category, Troup County has been assessed according to the following rating system:

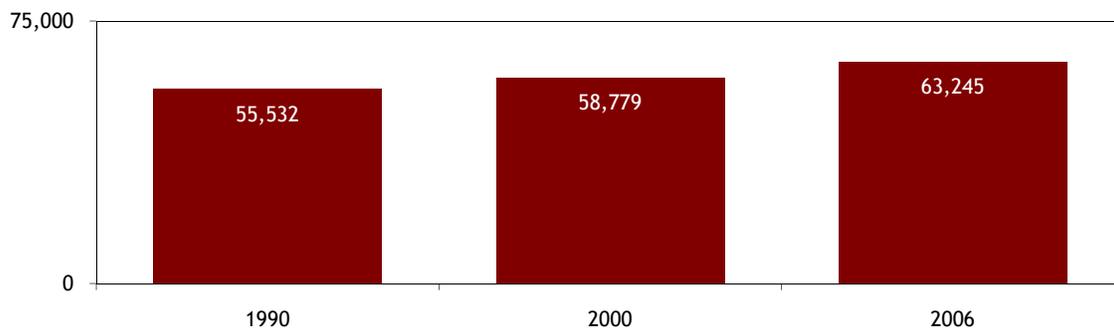
- + Troup County is doing well overall and in most areas. Efforts should be made to sustain its performance.
- ✓ Troup County is doing okay in some areas, but could use improvement in other areas. There is opportunity and potential for enhancing the community's performance.
- Troup County needs improvement in most areas. There is significant opportunity for enhancing the community's performance and such opportunities should be given urgent consideration.

PERFORMANCE CATEGORY	RATING
Community Growth and Change	+
Fiscal Capacity	+
Self Sufficiency	–
Economic Base	✓
Workforce	✓
Youth Development	–
Education	✓
Civic Spirit and Social Capital	✓
Community Health	✓
Environmental Preservation	✓

## COMMUNITY GROWTH AND CHANGE

- As of 2006, Troup County was home to an estimated 63,245 residents. Over the years, the county has experienced slow but steady growth. The community's growth from 1990 to 2000 (5.8 percent) was far less than that of the west Georgia Region (22 percent), the average for its peer group (26.1 percent), and the state of Georgia (26.4 percent). During this period, Troup County posted an annual growth rate of just 0.57 percent. While during the period of 2000 to 2006, growth appeared to slow down some for Georgia overall when compared to the previous decade, Troup County grew by another 7.6 percent. This growth was outpaced by that of its region (15.6 percent) and the state (14.4 percent). Regarding the growth of Troup County's peer counties, all three outpaced Troup's growth during the 1990s, two of them to a large degree. Since 2000, two of the three continued to experience growth that significantly outpaced the growth of Troup.

### Population in Troup County, Georgia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

### Population Comparisons

	1990	2000	Growth	2006	Growth
<b>TROUP COUNTY</b>	55,532	58,779	5.8%	63,245	7.6%
Peer A	54,457	58,417	7.3%	62,185	6.5%
Peer B	43,125	55,983	29.8%	63,207	12.9%
Peer C	29,721	46,144	55.3%	63,702	38.1%
West Georgia Average	33,119	40,394	22.0%	46,712	15.6%
Georgia	6,478,216	8,186,453	26.4%	9,363,941	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The growth of the city of LaGrange has followed the pattern of its county in terms of growth, but to a lesser extent. At the same time, the city of West Point saw some net loss in its population overall during the 1990s with the loss appearing to mainly occur within the Troup County portion of the city. West Point's Harris County portion, which accounts for approximately 21.4 percent of its overall population, has not appeared to shift much. Since 2000, however, West Point's population has barely shifted. While the city of Hogansville saw some loss in its population during the 1990s, it has appeared to regain much of its loss since 2000. Concerning the growth of the cities with the Troup County's overall population growth, there appears to be growth occurring outside the boundaries of the three cities; however, the overall growth has been fairly marginal.

**Population Comparisons**

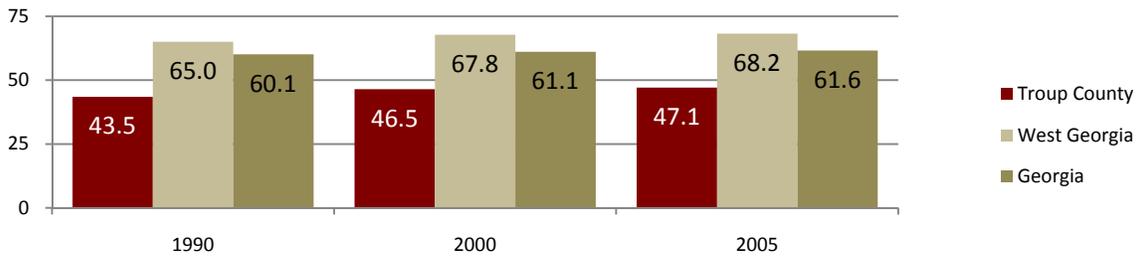
	1990	2000	Growth	2006	Growth
<b>TROUP COUNTY</b>	55,532	58,779	5.8%	63,245	7.6%
City of LaGrange	25,597	25,998	1.6%	27,652	6.4%
City of West Point	3,571	3,382	-5.3%	3,352	-0.9%
City of Hogansville	2,976	2,774	-6.8%	2,909	4.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Troup County is situated within a growing west Georgia area that has had notable growth for several years and posted growth since 2000 that has outpaced that of the state overall.

Although the share of Troup County residents who choose to live outside the cities has increased steadily over time, the county continues to have a greater share of city residents than elsewhere. The percentage of residents living in areas outside the three cities increased from 1990 to 2000 and again, but to a lesser degree, from 2000 to 2005. This corresponds with the observations concerning population trends among the cities and county. Although in 1990, 43.5 percent of its residents lived in unincorporated areas, 46.5 percent did so in 2000 and 47.1 percent did so in 2005. This resembles the increasing trends of its region and state. The implications of more residents choosing locations outside the cities include, but are not limited to, the demand for public services this shift places on county government and questions concerning whether available city services are and will be used to their optimum capacity should these trends continue. This may be of particular interest for Troup County’s cities, especially LaGrange, which have built up capacity to provide services, and it provides reason for the current effort launched by leadership among the county and cities to strategically plan for the future. Despite the trends, Troup County’s share of residents living outside city boundaries is far less than the rate for its region and state.

**Change in Percentage of Residents Outside City Limits**



Source: Georgia County Guide

City residents compose a higher portion of Troup County’s residents than the average for its region as well as the shares for its peers and the state overall.

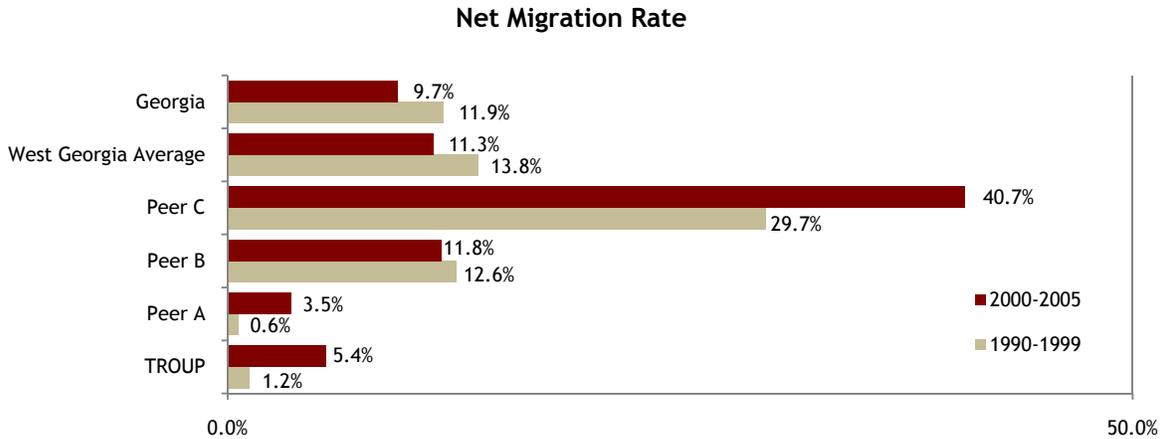
**Percentage of Residents within City Limits**

	1990	2000	2005
<b>TROUP COUNTY</b>	56.5%	53.5%	52.9%
Peer A	40.0%	40.8%	38.6%
Peer B	40.8%	43.9%	43.2%
Peer C	45.0%	43.4%	39.1%
West Georgia Average	35.0%	32.2%	31.8%
Georgia	39.9%	38.9%	38.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Georgia County Guide

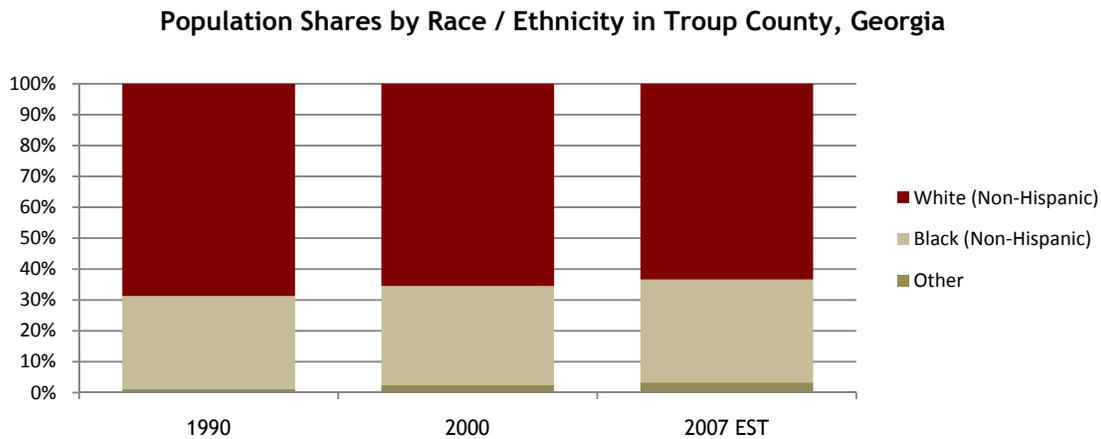
- **Troup County has seemingly become more attractive to newcomers over time.** The county's net migration rate has been positive and reflective of more residents moving in than moving out. From 1990 to 1999, Troup's net migration rate was marginal at 1.2 percent. However, this rate increased notably to 5.4 percent from 2000 to 2005. During the same period, the net migration rate for west Georgia and Georgia overall decreased some. Still, Troup's net migration rate has been comparably much lower than that of its region and state.

When comparing Troup County to its peers, two of them far exceeded Troup in terms of their net migration rate during both periods, with one of them experiencing a significant increase in its rate during the 2000 to 2005 period.



Source: University of Georgia, Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

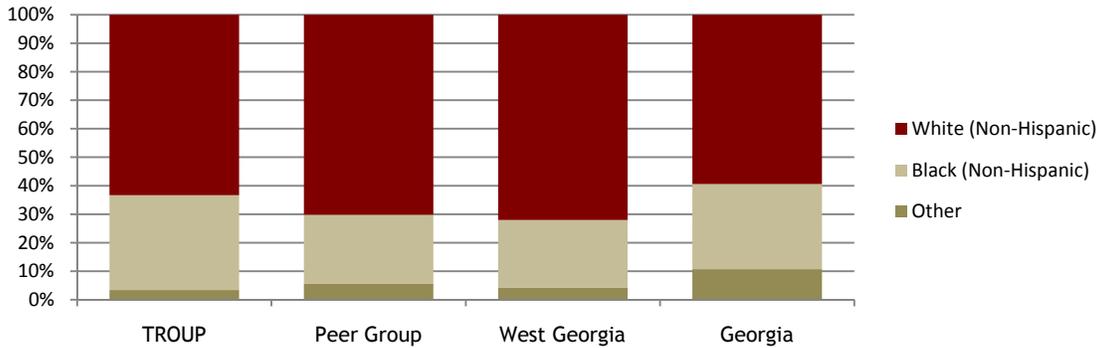
- **Troup County's population is becoming more diverse over time.** While Whites appear to be accounting for smaller shares of the county's population, African-Americans are accounting for greater shares than previously. However, the segment of the population that has grown most significantly is Troup's Hispanic residents. The county's Hispanic population has increased five-fold, from an estimated 289 residents in 1990 to more than 1,463 residents in 2007. Those of Asian or Pacific Islander descent grew by a marginal amount, while the presence of Native Americans remained stable.



Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Troup County has a higher degree of non-White residents than its peer group and region. When compared to the state, the county has a greater share of African-American residents but smaller shares of Hispanic, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Native American residents. Regarding the latter groups, Troup also has lower shares of such residents than do its peers and region.

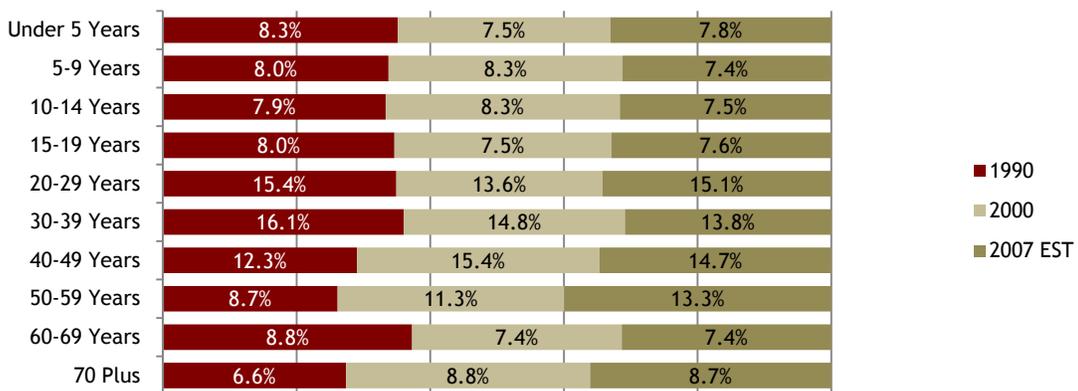
### Population Shares by Race / Ethnicity Comparison 2007



Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

- Troup County is certainly seeing growth in its baby boom population and is also benefiting from some recent growth in its young adult population.** The county appears to be experiencing a steady growth in the share of its population varying between ages 50 and 59 (baby boom generation). At the same time, the community has seen a steady decrease in the share of its population above age 60. A review of the other age groups from 1990 to 2000 and from 2000 to 2007 showed some fluctuation. Since 2000, however, Troup appears to be seeing some growth in the presence of younger residents within certain age groups (under 5 years, 15 to 19 years, and 20 to 29 years). At the same time, it appears to be seeing a reduced presence of middle-age residents (30 to 49 years) and, perhaps corresponding with this observation, of younger sets of school-age children (5 to 14 years).

### Population Shares by Age in Troup County, Georgia

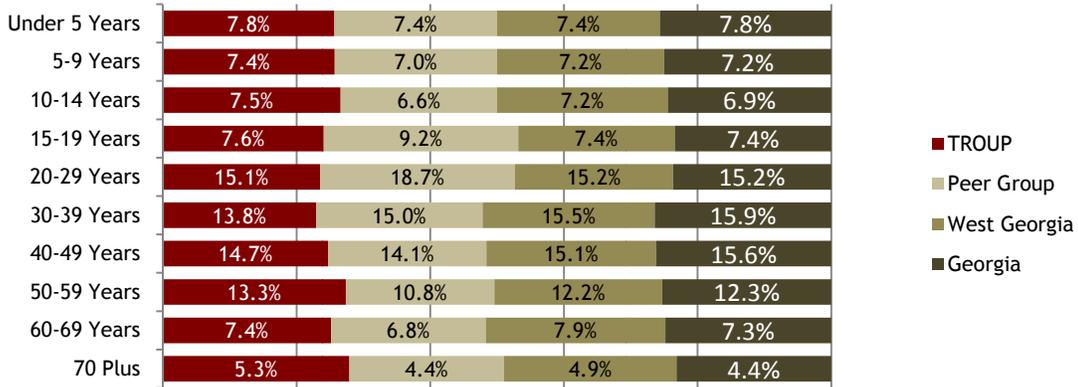


Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Residents between 20 and 49 account for the largest shares of the population in Troup County, which follows the pattern elsewhere. The county appears to have a greater share of residents 14 years and younger than do its peer group, region, and state. At the same time, it appears to have

a smaller share of young adults, or residents between 20 and 39, than do its counterparts. The county's share of residents between 40 and 49 is lower than that of its region and the state, and its share of residents in some of the more mature age groups (50 to 59 years, 70-plus years) is higher than that of its region and the state.

**Population Shares by Age Comparison, 2007**

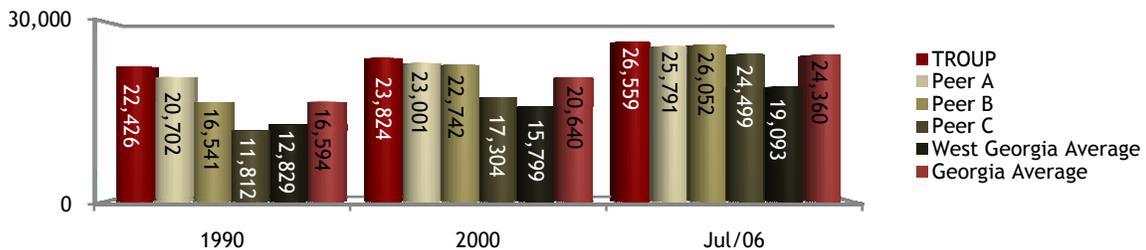


Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

The median age in Troup County is estimated at 34.6 years. Troup's median is higher than two of its peers but lower than the average for west Georgia (35.5 years) and almost on par with the state (34.4 years).

- **Troup County's average household has become smaller in size.** This indicates fewer children per household, a trend found elsewhere. The county's persons per household shifted from 2.66 in 1990 to 2.61 in 2000 to 2.53 in 2006. In addition, it appears that Troup County has a smaller number of persons per household than the average for its peer group (2.59) and region (2.64), and the rate for the state (2.60).<sup>2</sup>
- **The number of housing units has steadily increased.** Troup County's housing stock increased by 6.2 percent during the 1990s and by another 11.5 percent from 2000 to 2006. The county's housing stock has maintained an above-average supply. The housing stock growth since 1990 reveals that residential construction activity has grown steadily. Regarding the number of housing units in 1990, 2000, and 2006, Troup County has maintained a base exceeding that of its peers as well as the average for West Georgia and the state.

**Housing Units Comparison**

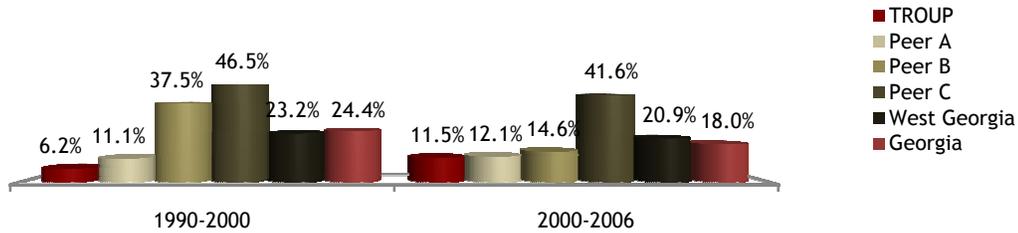


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

In terms of absolute growth in housing stock, Troup County has lagged behind its peers, region, and state.

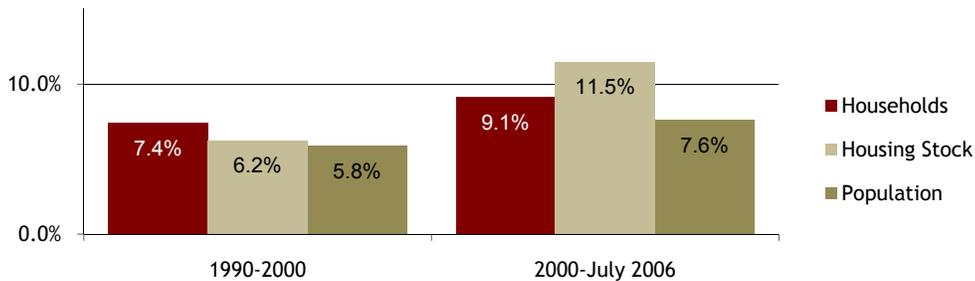
### Growth in Housing Stock Comparison



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Although Troup County’s growth in households slightly outpaced its growth of housing stock during the 1990s, the opposite was true during the period of 2000 to 2006. Over both periods, the growth of housing stock and household formation exceeded the population growth experienced by the county.

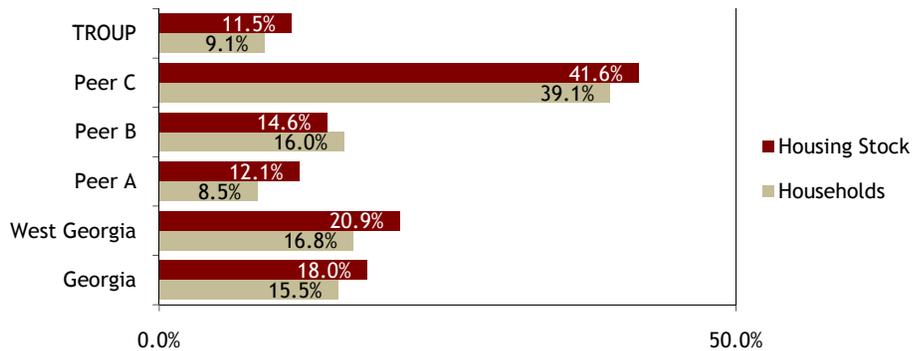
### Growth in Housing Stock Vs. Growth in Households in Troup County, Georgia



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A review of what has occurred for two of Troup’s peers, its region, and the state, indicates that it is common for housing stock to outpace household formation.

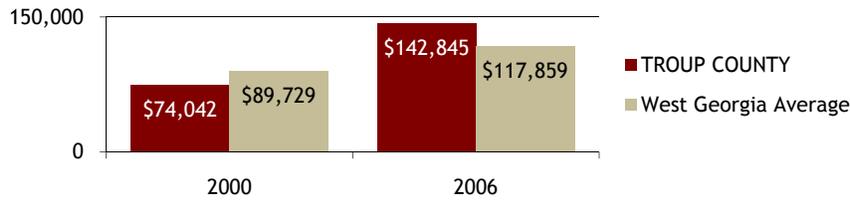
### Growth in Housing Stock v Growth in Households 2000 to 2006



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- **The value of residential construction has increased significantly in recent years.** The value of new residential construction rose from \$43.7 million in 2000 to \$66.9 million in 2006. The number of residential permits authorized for construction during this same period decreased from 590 to 468. Taken together, this indicates a trend toward building higher- value units. In 2000, Troup’s average per unit value of residential construction was lower than the regional average. The opposite was true in 2006, suggesting a possible new trend.

**Value for New Residential Construction Unit**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- **Troup County has recently set aside additional land for conservation and timber purposes.** Land designated for taxable use as residential, commercial, and industrial properties have increased notably from 2000 to 2006, all outpacing the population growth in the county during this period. However, conservation properties account for more of Troup County’s lands than these three uses combined and it increased by 56.3 percent during the same period. Timber land almost doubled in acreage. This means that Troup County has thousands of acres of “open land” that are not immediately available for development. This can bode well for providing time to strategically plan future land use.

About Conservation Properties: This is a classification of covenanted agricultural properties. Similar to preferential, owners of agricultural land and improvements may elect to enter into the conservation use program and have their property valued based on its current use as farmland rather than its prospective use as residential or commercial land. The owners must enter into a 10- year covenant and will have their land valued according to a table developed by the state. There are substantial financial penalties for selling the land for residential or commercial development before the expiration of the 10-year covenant.<sup>3</sup>

**Acreage of Land by Taxable Use in Troup County, Georgia**

	2000	2006	Change
Agricultural	116,468	89,545	-23.1%
Commercial	2,303	2,607	13.2%
Conservation	52,279	81,725	56.3%
Industrial	932	1,016	9.0%
Residential	30,202	33,274	10.2%
Timber	5,405	10,283	90.3%

Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

From 2000 to 2006, Troup County’s level of growth in taxable residential property and reduction in taxable agricultural property closely mirrored that of its region, but that’s where the similarities end. The west Georgia region experienced significantly greater growth in taxable commercial and industrial properties, while Troup County outpaced the region in terms of its growth in conservation and timberland property.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

**Change in Taxable Land Comparison 2000 to 2006**

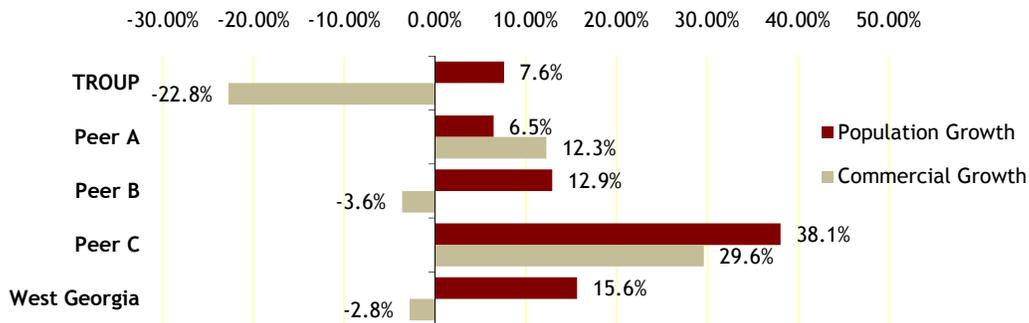
	TROUP COUNTY	West Georgia Average
Agricultural	-23.1%	-23.3%
Commercial	13.2%	33.8%
Conservation	56.3%	40.8%
Industrial	9.0%	39.5%
Residential	10.2%	10.5%
Timber	90.3%	-84.5%

Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

A review of the shares of taxable land in 2000 and a comparison to 2006 shows that conservation and timber lands have increased their share, while agricultural is accounting for less of the taxable land. This suggests a conversion of agricultural to conservation property in the interest of preserving rural land. The level of residential, commercial, and industrial taxable land in Troup County has remained fairly stable during this time period.

- **Troup County’s amount of taxable commercial development decreased sharply from 2000 to 2006.** While the county’s population climbed 7.6 percent during this period, its number of taxable commercial buildings decreased by 22.8 percent. While the west Georgia region also experienced a decline, Troup County’s level of commercial development dropped to a much larger degree than did its region. Given the county’s relatively marginal level of population growth, notable growth in commercial development would not be anticipated, but neither would a decline.

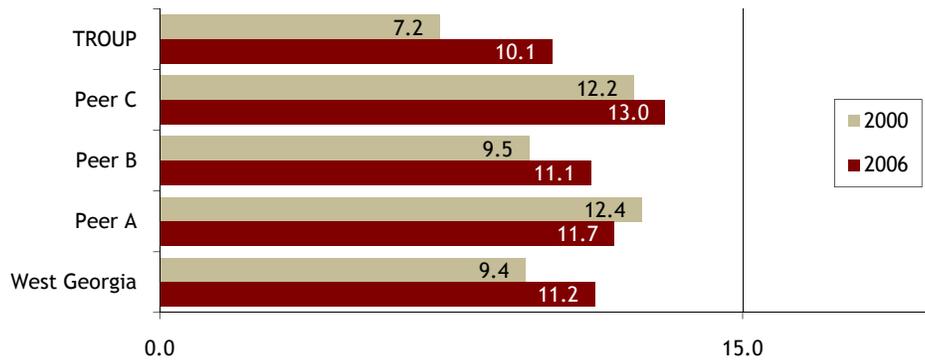
**Population Growth v Commercial Growth 2000 to 2006**



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Revenue and U.S. Census Bureau

However, when reviewing the ratio of population to commercial development, it appears that Troup County has had an above-average level of commercial development and continues to do so despite the reduction in developed commercial properties. These market dynamics may provide some explanation for the change in commercial development seen in Troup County.

### Persons Per Commercial Development



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Revenue, U.S. Census Bureau

## FISCAL CAPACITY<sup>4</sup>

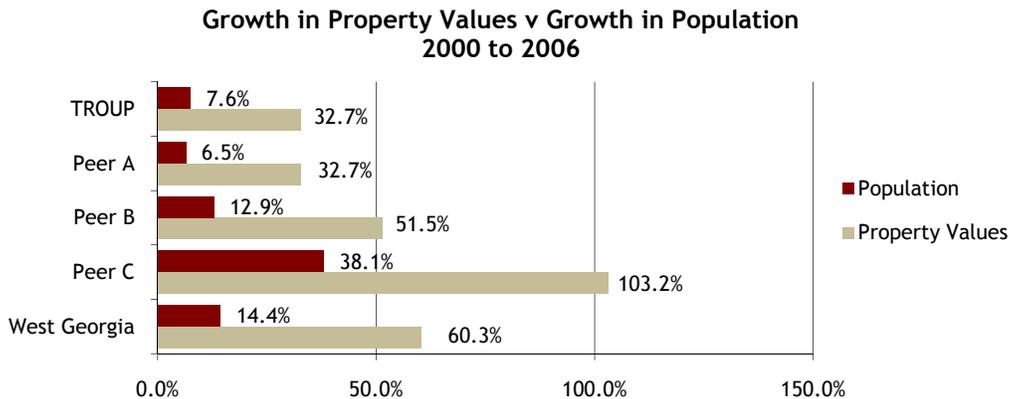
- Troup County’s growth in local government revenue greatly outpaced its growth in population. From 2000 to 2004, total revenue grew by 51.1 percent, from \$32.4 to \$49 million, resulting in \$811 per capita. This compared to a statewide per capita of \$736.<sup>5</sup>
- Growth in expenditures in Troup County also exceeded its rate of population growth, but did not exceed the growth in revenues. The county’s expenditures increased by 36.7 percent, from \$27.7 million in 2000 to 37.8 million, in 2004. Troup’s resulting 2004 per capita expenditures of \$644 were higher than that of the statewide average (\$626) but lower than its per capita revenues.<sup>6</sup>
- While Troup County did not have any long-term debt burden in 2000, it registered an above-average per capita debt burden in 2006. Unlike Troup County, its three peers saw a decline in their per capita debt burden from 2000 to 2006. Although the average burden for the west Georgia region climbed during this period, it did so to a lesser extent than it did for Troup. The resulting effect was that Troup County’s per capita debt burden exceeded that of two of its peers and the average for its region in 2006.

Long-Term Debt Per Capita

	2000	2006	Change
TROUP COUNTY	\$0	\$341	\$341
Peer A	\$458	\$283	(\$175)
Peer B	\$70	\$41	(\$29)
Peer C	\$120	\$64	(\$56)
West Georgia Average	\$187	\$316	\$129

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

- Property values in Troup County have risen, but to a lesser degree than the average for its counterparts. From 2000 to 2006, the county’s property values increased 32.7 percent, outpacing its population growth of 7.6 percent. While property value growth exceeded population growth in all areas, two peers and the region saw this happen to a greater extent than did Troup.



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Revenue and U.S. Census Bureau

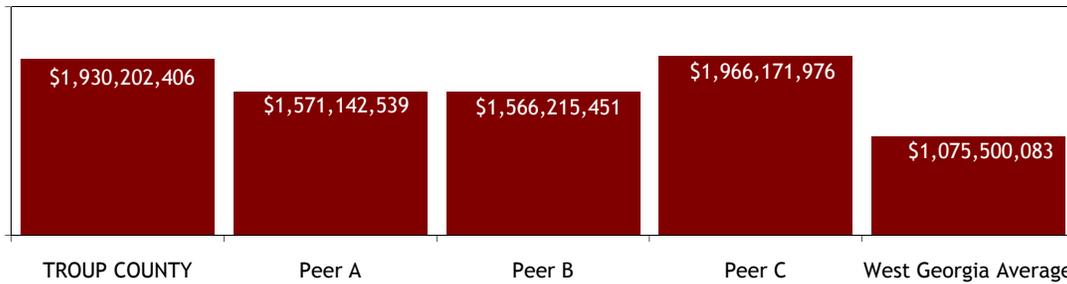
<sup>4</sup> Data provided at the county government level.

<sup>5</sup> Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs, County Snapshot

<sup>6</sup> Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs, County Snapshot

Demonstrative of the market value assigned to property in Troup County, total assessed valuation of properties exceeded that of two of its peers and the average for west Georgia in 2006.

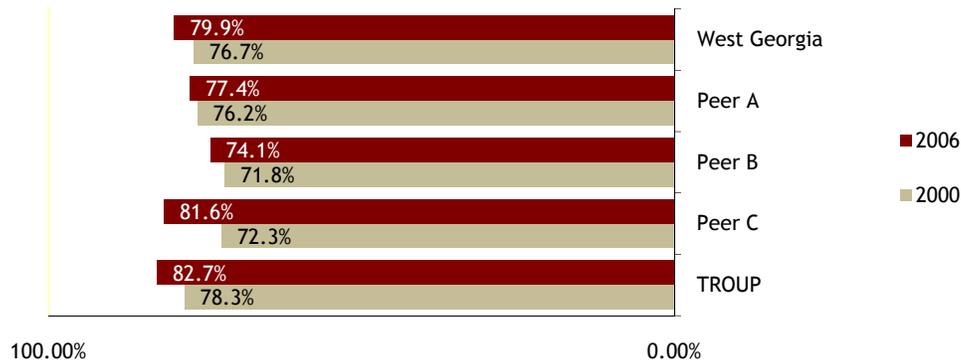
### Assessed Valuation of Private Property Comparison



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

- Residential property accounts for the vast majority of Troup County’s land use development, a share that has been increasing over time.** Although the share of land devoted to residential property has increased to some extent, so too has the county’s level of residential development. In 2000, residential property accounted for 78.3 percent of all property development (non-motor-vehicle-related). By 2006, its share grew to 82.7 percent. Residential property has accounted for a higher share of Troup County’s developments than is the case for its peers and region.<sup>7</sup>

### Residential Development As Percent of All Land Development



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Revenue

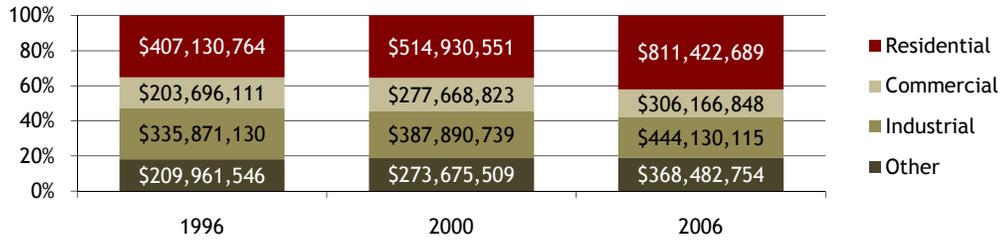
Comparing Troup’s development mix in 2006 to that of its peers and West Georgia indicates that residential development and commercial development both appear to account for a higher share of Troup’s development than all of its peers and the region overall. Even with the Troup County commercial development decline from 13.9 percent in 2000 to 10.7 percent in 2006, Troup still has had a larger share of commercial development in 2006 than two of its peers and the West Georgia average (8.2 percent). Troup also has had a smaller share of developed farmland than its counterparts.

Residential development is the dominant land use in Troup County, but it does not account for the majority of the tax base. In 1996, residential property accounted for 35.2 percent of the property values. This share minimally shifted to 35.4 percent in 2000, then jumped to 42 percent in 2006. In

<sup>7</sup> Based on data provided by the Georgia Department of Revenue.

2006, commercial and industrial properties combined accounted for 38.9 percent of the digest. Together, this reflects a fairly balanced tax digest.

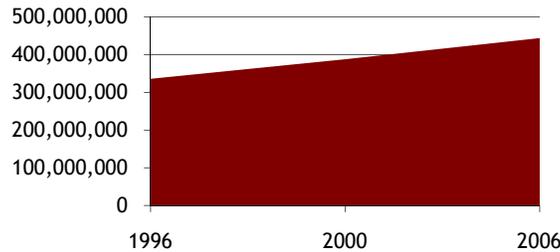
### Tax Digest (Assessed Values) Per Property Type in Troup County, Georgia



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

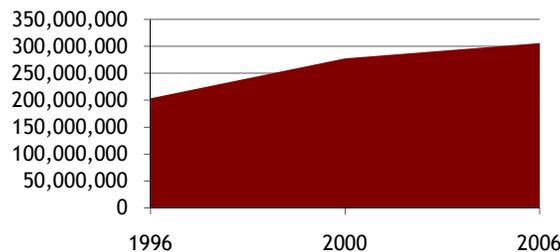
Troup County has seen some notable increase in the value of its commercial and industrial development. Despite the reduction in taxable developments, the value of commercial properties rose 36.3 percent from 1996 to 2000 and by another 10.3 percent from 2000 to 2006. This exceeded the rate of population growth during both periods. The value of industrial development accelerated 15.4 percent from 1996 to 2000 and by another 14.5 percent from 2000 to 2006.

### Value of Industrial Development in Troup County, Georgia



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

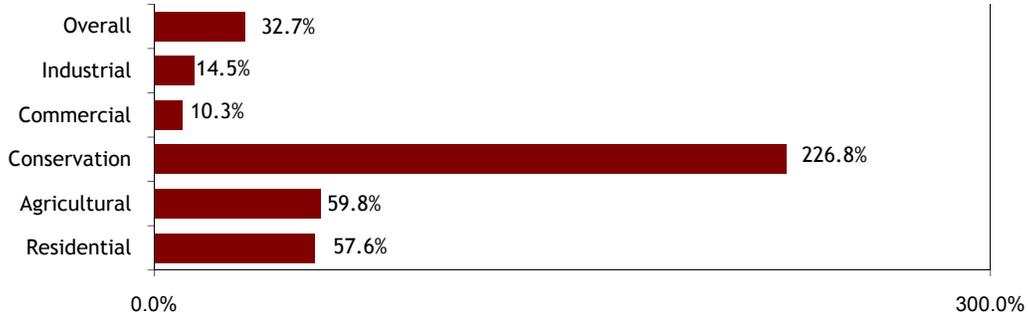
### Value of Commercial Development in Troup County, Georgia



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

- Conservation property in Troup County had the most growth in property values in recent years.** From 2000 to 2006, such property grew 226.8 percent in terms of value. Second to this was the change in valuation in agricultural properties despite the reduction in actual taxable lands of such properties. Although the growth in valuation in conservation lands may in part be attributable to the increased taxable designation of such lands, taken together with the phenomenon observed regarding agricultural lands, it may also be in part attributable to a higher value being assigned to open and rural lands. Growth in property values exceeded the growth in population by more than four times.

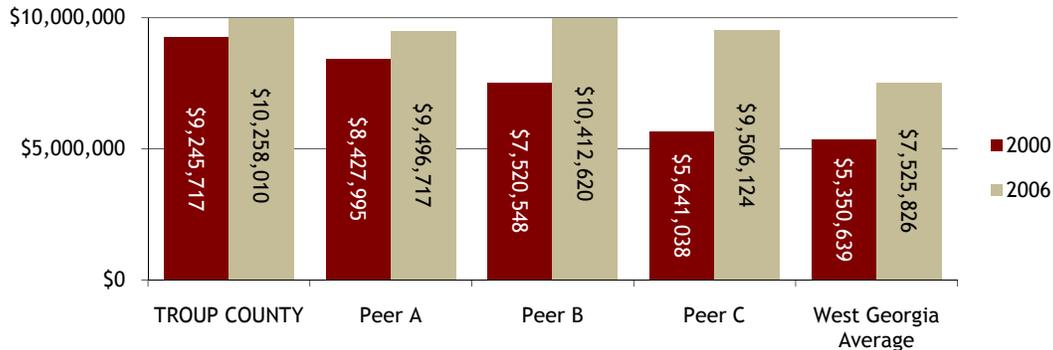
**Growth in Property Values in Troup County, Georgia  
2000 to 2006**



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Revenue

- Troup County's revenues collected through local sales taxes have been above average compared to its peers and region.** Specifically, the county's revenues collected through the local option sales tax (LOST) were higher than its peers and the average for west Georgia in 2000 and higher than two of its peers and the region average in 2006. Like elsewhere, Troup saw some increase in LOST revenues from 2000 to 2006.

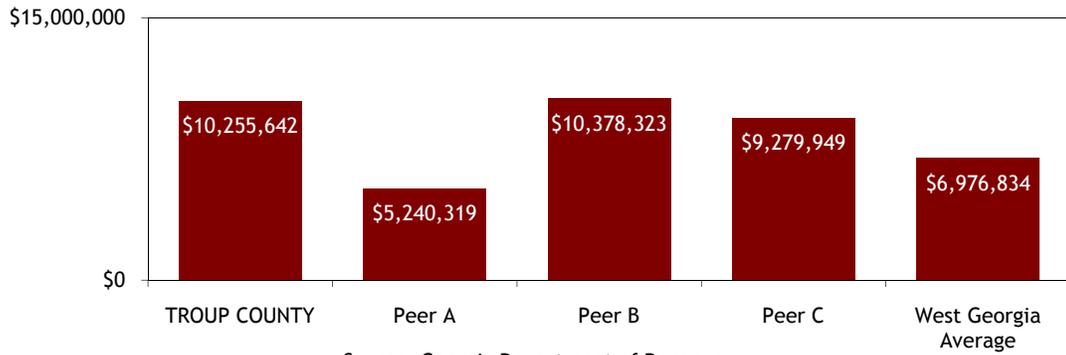
**LOST Comparison**



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

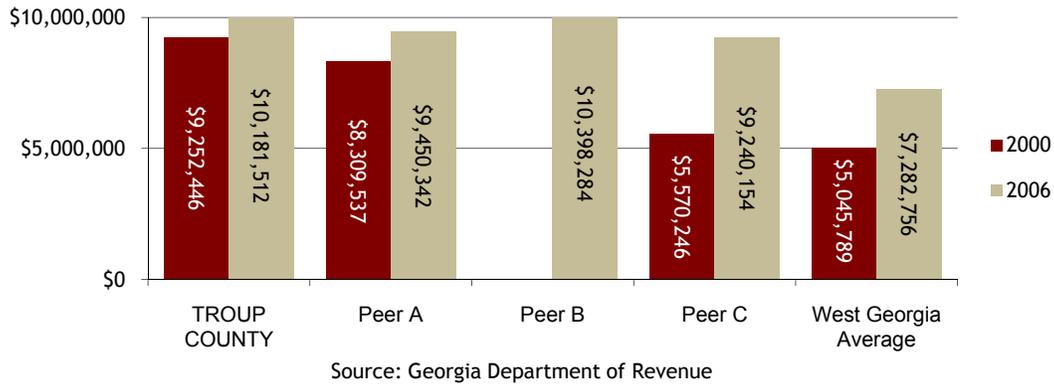
Concerning Troup County's revenues through the special local option sales tax (SPLOST), comparable data is not available for 2000, but the 2006 revenues revealed that the county also had higher revenues from this source than did two of its peers and the average for its region.

### SPLOST Comparison 2006



Troup County's revenues collected through the educational local option sales tax (ELOST) saw some increase (10 percent) from 2000 to 2006. Still, following suit with LOST and SPLOST, Troup County collected revenues above the norm for some of its counterparts.<sup>8</sup>

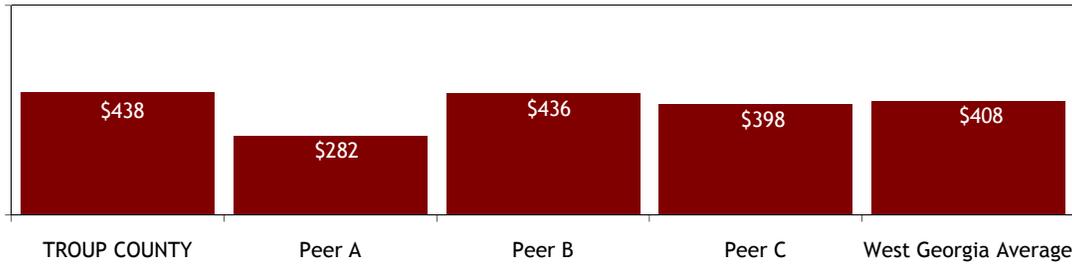
### ELOST Comparison



Troup County maintained a higher sales tax revenue per capita rate than did its peers and the average for its region. In 2005, the county received \$437.69 in average sales tax revenues per resident. In addition to this being higher than each of its peers, it was also higher than six of its regional counterparts.

<sup>8</sup> Comparable data is not available for Peer B for 2000.

**Sales Tax Revenue Per Capita Comparison 2005**



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

Troup County’s comparative per capita strength results from most of its sales tax revenues being collected from visitors, or non-residents. Approximately 37.8 percent of Troup County’s sales tax revenue comes from its residents and an estimated 62.2 percent from non-Troup County residents who shop in the community.

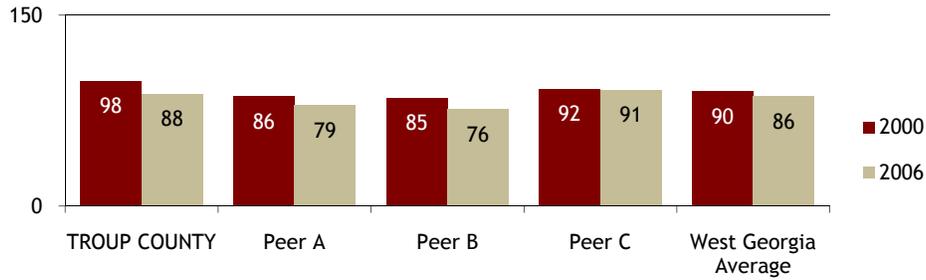
**Troup County's Export Ratio**

2005 SPLOST Revenue	\$	9,062,000
2005 LOST Revenue	\$	9,216,000
2005 ELOST Revenue	\$	9,135,000
Total Sales Tax Revenue	\$	27,413,000
Estimated Retail Expenditures by Troup Residents	\$	345,823,249
Estimated Tax Revenue by Troup Residents	\$	10,374,697
Estimated Tax Revenue Share Troup Residents		37.8%
Estimated Tax Revenue Share from non-Troup Residents		62.2%
Estimated Export Ratio		62.2%

Source: Calculated based on data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., and the Georgia Department of Revenue

- Troup County has seen a decrease in its fiscal capacity in recent years.** The fiscal capacity index is a measure developed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) that indicates a community’s capacity based on its property tax digest and other sources of revenue in comparison to the capacity of other communities in Georgia. The average score for Georgia’s counties and municipalities is 100, meaning a score above 100 is an indicator of comparative fiscal strength. It appears that fiscal capacity in Troup County, its peers, and the average county in west Georgia has been consistently below the state average. The capacity in Troup County, all three peers, and five of its regional counterparts dropped from 2000 to 2006. However, Troup County’s 2006 fiscal capacity was higher than two of its peers and the regional average.

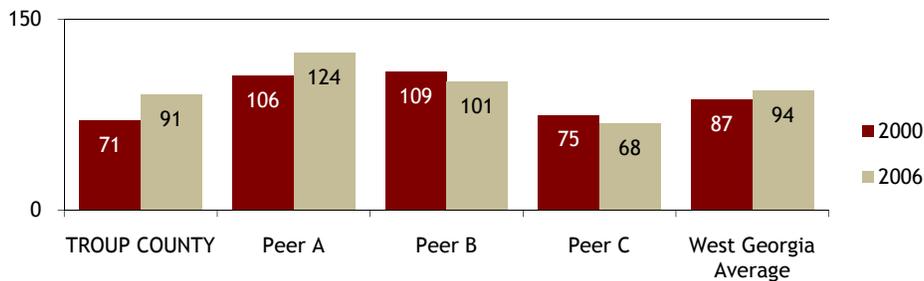
### Fiscal Capacity Comparison



Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

- Troup County has increased its fiscal effort or the ratio of tax revenue collections to estimated potential.** The fiscal effort index measures a community's actual revenues collected compared to its estimated potential revenue collections. A score of less than 100 indicates that a community is taxing less than its calculated capacity to raise revenue. A score of more than 100 indicates that a community is taxing more than its calculated capacity to raise revenue. Troup County's fiscal effort index was 91 in 2006, a notable jump over its 2000 index, but also indicative that the community's tax collection has not quite reached its full potential. The average index for the region also rose during this period. Two peers posted indices in 2006 indicating they are taxing above their estimated capacity to raise revenue; one of those, along with the under-capacity peer, had a fiscal effort decline from 2000 to 2006. The county's index of 91 was lower than two of its peers and the regional average in 2006.

### Fiscal Effort Comparison



Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

- Troup County appears to have had an above-average local government capacity to deal with growth in demand for public services.** In 2006, the county had one local government employee per 15 residents, far exceeding the average ratios for its peer group average (1:24), the region (1:22), and the ratio for the state (1:23). Such employment is viewed as a proxy for the availability of local government services. This is not a new phenomenon as the same appears to be the case for 1990 and 2000.

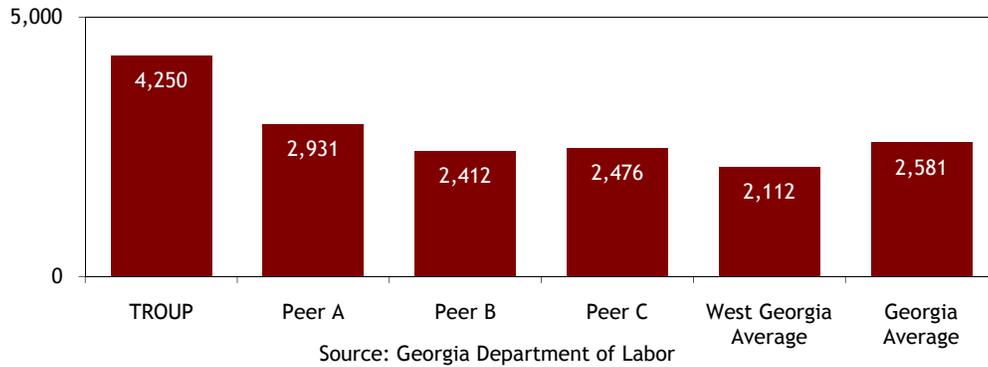
**Population per Local Government Employee Ratio**

	1990	2000	2006
TROUP COUNTY	15.5	13.8	14.9
Peer A	47.2	23.2	21.2
Peer B	23.2	25.6	26.2
Peer C	26.8	23.0	25.7
West Georgia Average	23.3	21.6	22.1
Georgia	21.7	23.3	22.8

Source: Georgia Department of Labor; U.S. Census Bureau

Troup County's number of local government employees in 2006 exceeded that of each of its peers as well as the average for west Georgia and the state.

**Local Government Employees, 2006**



## SELF SUFFICIENCY

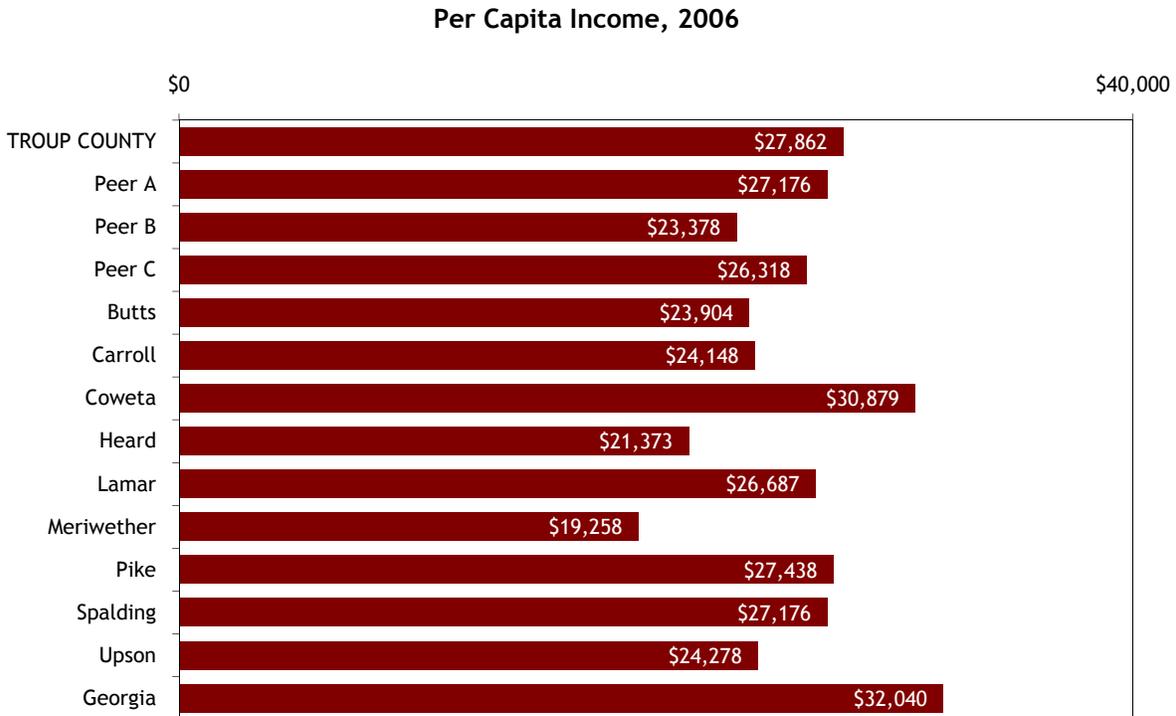
- Troup County's growth in per capita income has exceeded its population growth substantially.** This was especially the case during the 1990s, with the trend continuing during the 2000-to-2006 period, although to a lesser degree. From 1990 to 2000, the community's per capita income increased by 55.4 percent, from \$15,491 to \$24,069 (in current dollars), compared with population growth of 5.8 percent during the 1990s. From 2000 to 2006, per capita income grew 15.8 percent, compared with a 7.6 percent increase in population. Although Troup's increase in per capita income was below two of its peers, the regional average, and Georgia during 1990s, Troup saw a higher rate of growth than the average for its region and the state from 2000 to 2006.

**Per Capita Income Comparison**

	1990	2000	1990-2000 Growth	2006	2000-2006 Growth
Troup	\$15,491	\$24,069	55.4%	\$27,862	15.8%
Region	\$13,594	\$21,994	61.8%	\$25,300	15.0%
Georgia	\$17,603	\$27,988	59.0%	\$32,040	14.5%
Peer A	\$14,279	\$22,637	58.5%	\$27,176	20.1%
Peer B	\$12,655	\$19,594	54.8%	\$23,378	19.3%
Peer C	\$14,328	\$23,244	62.2%	\$26,318	13.2%

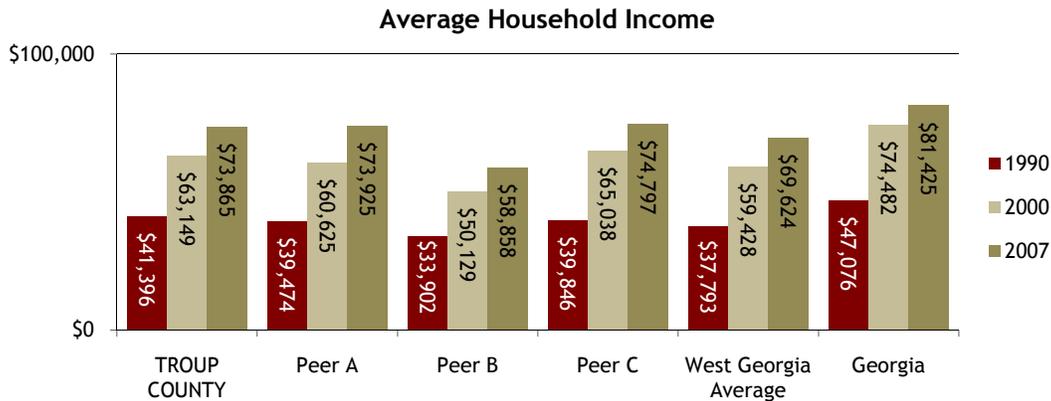
Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Troup County's per capita income in 2006 was below the state of Georgia, but above that of each of its peers and the average for counties in its region. This is a continuing and improving trend as the same can be observed in 1990 and 2000.



Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. and U.S. Census Bureau

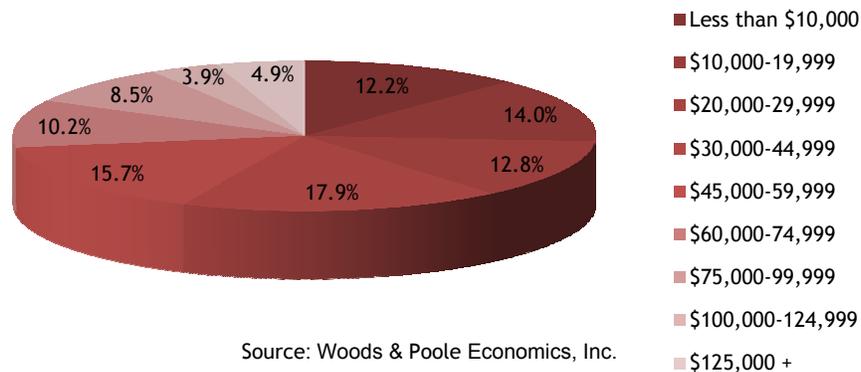
- Average household income in Troup County has consistently exceeded the average for the West Georgia region, but fallen short of that for the state overall.** In 2007, Troup’s average household income was \$73,865 compared with \$69,624 for its region and \$81,169 for the state. Although in 1990, Troup County’s average household income was higher than all three of its peers, this was not the case for 2000 and 2007. In terms of growth, Troup County’s average household income rose 17 percent from 2000 to 2006, exceeding the growth rate for Georgia (9.3 percent) but falling short of the average growth rate for West Georgia (17.2 percent).



Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

- Almost one in five Troup County households earned between \$30,000 and \$45,000 per year in 2007, accounting for the largest share of households.** Just over one-fourth (26.2 percent) of the county’s households earned less than \$20,000.

**Distribution of Households by Income in Troup County, Georgia, 2007**

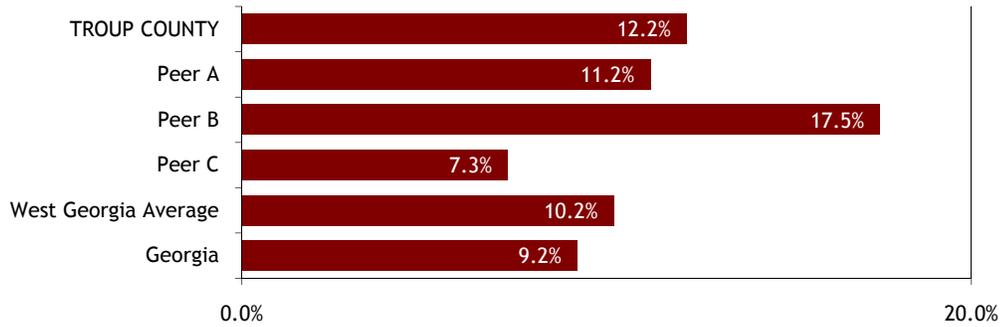


Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

A review of the households earning less than \$10,000 showed that Troup County’s share (12.2 percent) was relatively high when compared to 10.2 percent for the region, 9.2 percent for the state, and 11.2 percent and 7.3 percent for peer counties A and C, respectively.<sup>9</sup> Peer County B had a greater share (17.5 percent) of such households.

<sup>9</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau

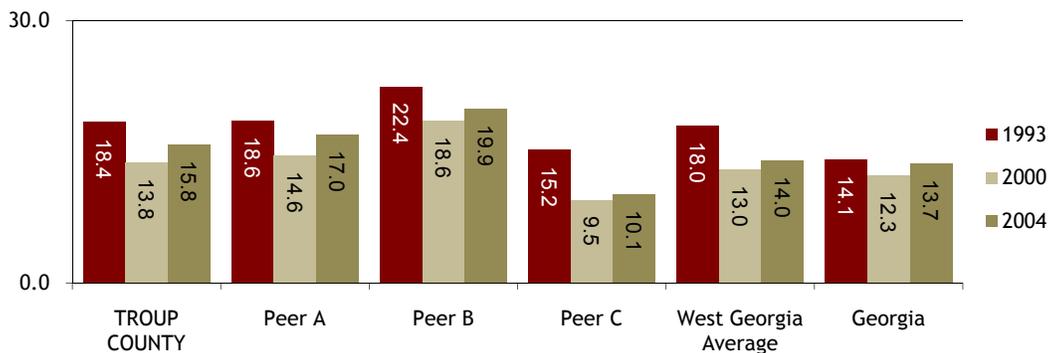
**Percentage of Households with Incomes Less than \$10,000 in 2007**



Source: Based on data from Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

- **Although Troup County’s poverty rate has fluctuated in recent years, it remains higher than the average for the region and Georgia.** As of 2004, 15.8 percent of the community’s population lived below the poverty level, an increase from the 2000 level equal to 14.5 percent, but down from the 1993 level of 18.4 percent. The average poverty rate of counties in the region and for the state of Georgia was approximately 14 percent that same year. This indicates that Troup County has a below-average share of residents who are self-sufficient or have the economic means to support their basic needs. However, the county posted a poverty rate below that for two of its peers.<sup>10</sup>

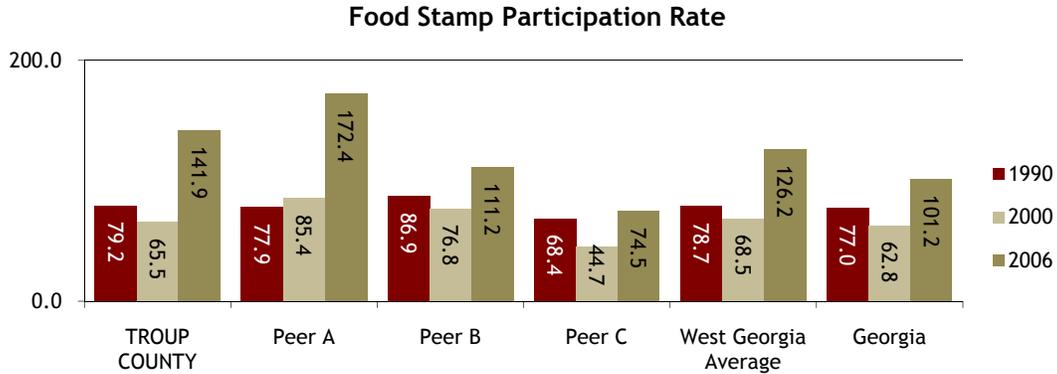
**Poverty Rate**



Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

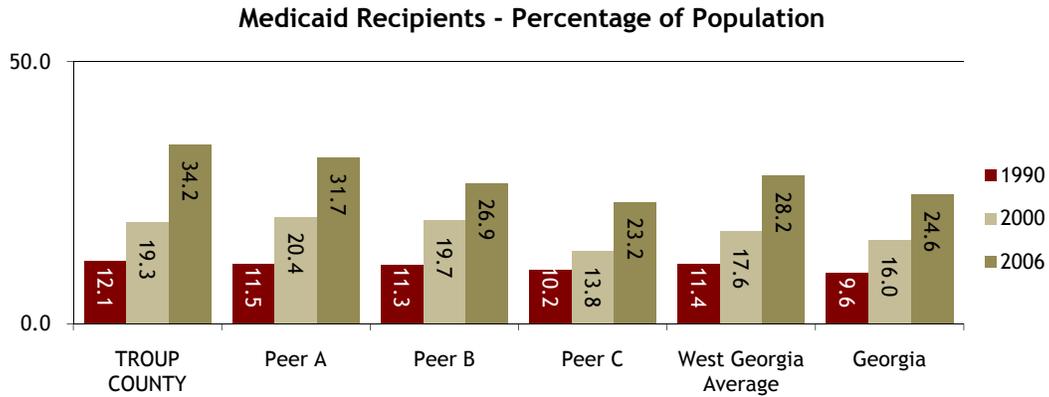
- **Troup County’s food stamp participation rate has escalated in recent years.** Its rate in 2006 (141.9 per 1,000 population) represents a significant increase over 2000 (65.5) and 1990 (79.2). This is in line with an overall observable increasing trend in food stamp participation. However, Troup County’s increase from 2000 to 2006 (117 percent) was notably greater than the rate of increase seen in the region (84 percent) and the state (61 percent). As a result, the county’s 2006 rate was notably higher than the average for its region (126.2) and state (101.2), as well as for two of its peers. Similar to Troup, one peer county also experienced a significant increase in food stamp participation of 102 percent from 2000 to 2006.

<sup>10</sup> The poverty level is defined annually based on guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For example, in 2002, the poverty level for a U.S. family of four was a household earning less than \$18,100 per year.



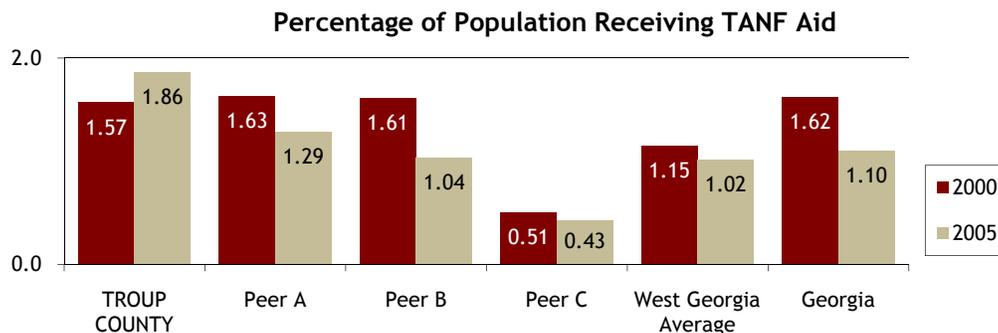
Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- Following the trends of the region, the state, and its peer counties, Troup County saw its percentage of residents receiving Medicaid increasing over the years. The community’s share almost tripled from 1990 to 2005. Troup County’s percentage of Medicaid recipients in 2005 was high compared to each of its counterparts.



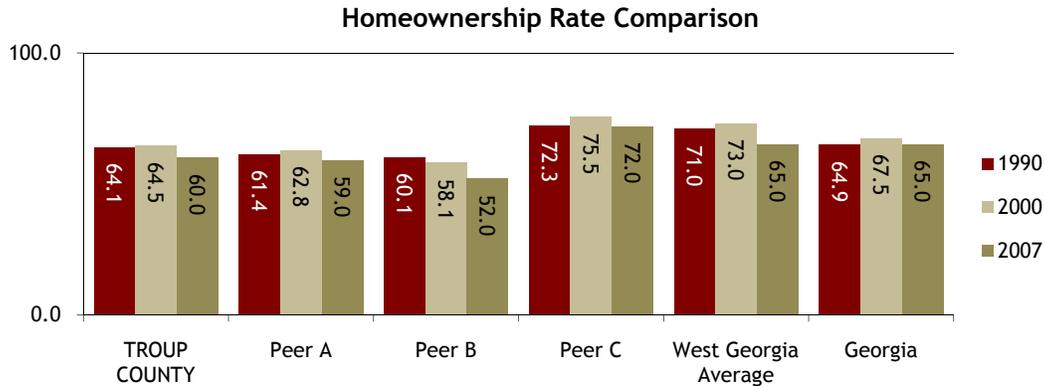
Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- Troup County has also seen a steady rise in its percentage of Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) recipients. The county’s rate increased from 1.57 percent in 2000 of its population receiving TANF aid to 1.86 percent in 2005. During the same period, each of Troup County’s peers, all but one of its west Georgia region counterparts, and the state saw their recipient rates decrease.



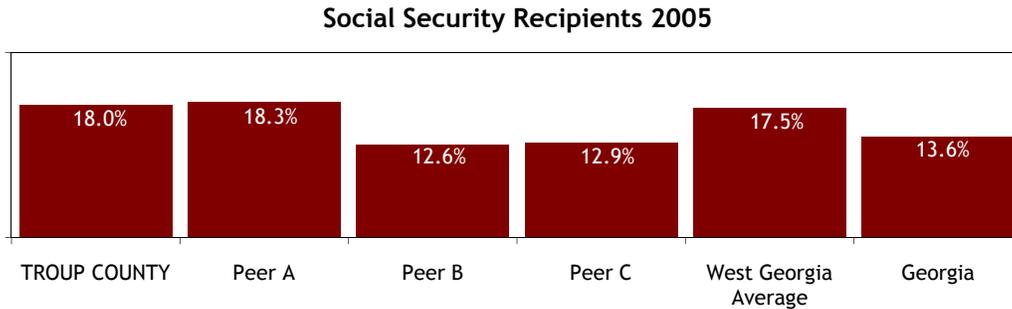
Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- **Troup County’s percentage of owner-occupied units, an indicator of homeownership, has been comparably lower than the norm for its region and state.** Troup County’s homeownership rate was higher than that of two of its peers.



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, HomeGain

- **Troup County appears to have an above-average percentage of its population receiving Social Security benefits.** Although the county’s percentage of such residents did not shift from 2000 to 2005, it remained true that nearly one in five (18 percent) persons received the old age, survivor, and disability insurance (OASDI) benefits. This was substantially higher than two of Troup’s peers and the state, and just above the average for west Georgia.



Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- **Based on household income levels, a fairly sizable segment of the Troup County population cannot afford to purchase an average-priced home in the community.** To afford the average home on the market in Troup, a prospective homeowner needs a household income of approximately \$38,000.<sup>11</sup> However, more than one-third (38.9 percent) of Troup County’s households earn less than \$30,000. These households compose a higher share of Troup County’s households than they do for two of its peers, the average county in west Georgia, and the state.

<sup>11</sup> Based on a calculation of one-third of the average home price, a common rule of thumb calculation used by the mortgage industry.

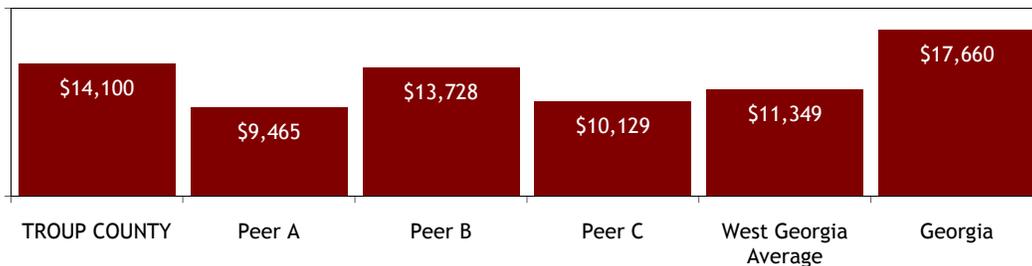
**Average Home Price v Affordability 2007**

	Average Home Price	Required Household Income	Households Below \$30,000
TROUP COUNTY	\$114,278	\$38,093	38.9%
Peer A	\$112,893	\$37,631	36.6%
Peer B	\$122,697	\$40,899	46.6%
Peer C	\$130,381	\$43,460	27.9%
West Georgia Average	\$114,969	\$38,323	34.2%
Georgia	\$148,021	\$49,340	31.1%

Source: HomeGain.com for average home prices; Woods & Poole Economics, Inc. for income

- **Troup County has seen an increase in the presence of mobile homes.** In 1996, the county had 852 such homes, but that number grew to 1,527 by 2000. From 2000 to 2006, the total grew by a more marginal amount to 1,585. This is opposite the trend of its peer group and region, which both saw an average drop in mobile homes. Troup’s number of mobile homes in 2006 was lower than that of two of its peers but higher than the average for the west Georgia region (1,162).<sup>12</sup>
- **Although Troup County has a portion of its residents without health insurance, it appears to have a lower share of such residents than the norm.** In 2000, the year for which the most recent data is available, 15.3 percent of Troup’s residents were uninsured and 12.5 percent of those under the age of 18 did not have insurance. This was lower than the rates for two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the state overall.
- **Troup County has consistently enjoyed relatively high per capita bank deposits.** In 2005, while Troup at \$14,100 remained below the state (\$17,660), it remained above the average for West Georgia (\$11,349) and each of its peer counties. The same was true in 1990 and 2000. Per capita bank deposits in Troup County’s financial institutions grew 28 percent from 1990 to 2000, but dropped by 1.2 percent from 2000 to 2005.

**Per Capita Bank Deposits, 2005**

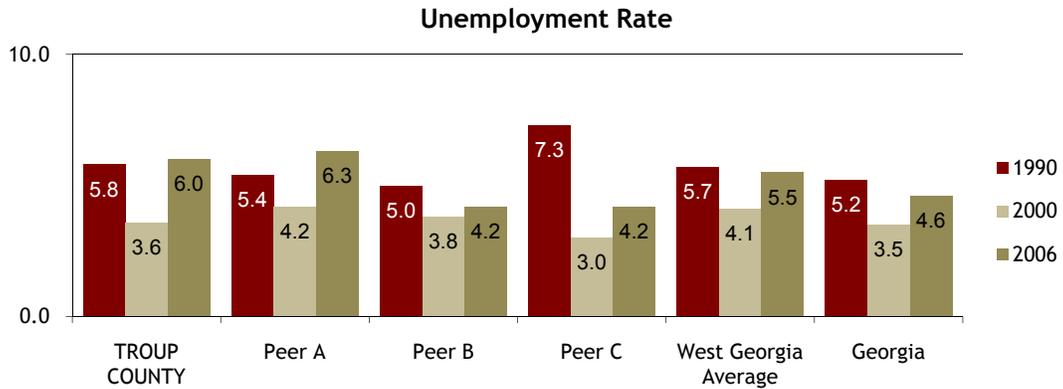


Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

- **Troup County appears to have a high bankruptcy rate.** In 2005, it posted a rate of 13.1 bankruptcies per 1,000 in population, resulting in it having the 10<sup>th</sup> highest rate in Georgia.<sup>13</sup>
- **Troup County’s unemployment rate has been comparatively high.** Its 2006 rate exceeded that of two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the rate for the state, and the same was true in 1990. In 2000, the county posted a relatively low rate.

<sup>12</sup> Source: Georgia Department of Revenue.

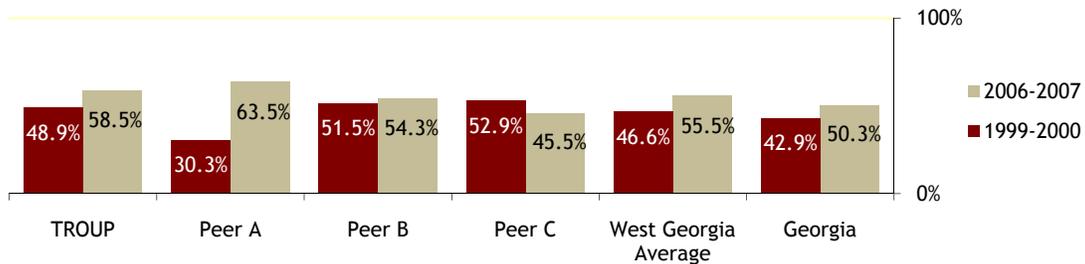
<sup>13</sup> Source: Georgia County Guide



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- Troup County's number of students eligible for free lunch has grown in recent years, corresponding with trends elsewhere.** It increased from 48.9 percent of all students in 2000 to 58.5 percent in 2006. Troup County's 2006 rate exceeds that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

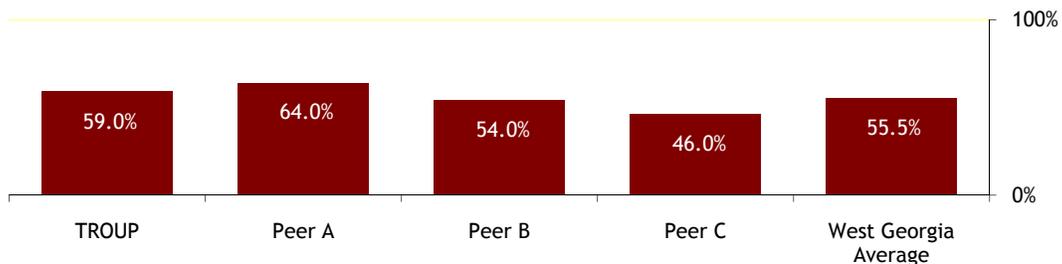
### Percentage of Students Eligible for Free School Lunch 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

- Troup County appears to have an above-average percentage of economically disadvantaged students.** During the 2006-to-2007 school year, these students accounted for 59 percent of the student body. This was a higher percentage than in two of Troup County's peers and what had been the average for west Georgia.

### Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students 2006-2007

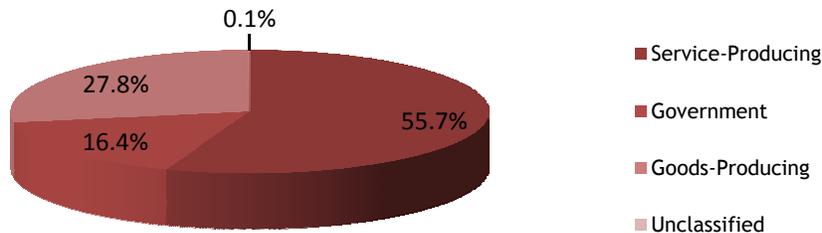


Source: Georgia Department of Education

## ECONOMIC BASE<sup>14</sup>

- **Troup County's service-producing industries account for more than half of its economic base.** Jobs in these industries accounted for 55.7 percent of all jobs, but this was lower than what was observed for Georgia where such industries accounted for 65.6 percent of all jobs, but similar to its peer group and region. Service-producing jobs in west Georgia accounted for 54 percent of jobs, and such jobs accounted for a range of 56.4 to 58.5 percent in Troup's peer counties. Within Troup County, these jobs grew by 4 percent from 2001 to 2006, while such jobs within the state grew by almost double that rate at 7.7 percent. Service-producing jobs in the region grew even more substantially, by 13.3 percent. The growth of such jobs within Troup's peer counties varied greatly from 5.3 percent in peer county A, to 12.4 percent in peer county B, to 62.4 percent in peer county C.

Employment by Major Sector in Troup County, Georgia, 2006



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County has an above-average share of goods-producing jobs.** These jobs include those in agriculture, forestry, and fishing; mining; construction; and manufacturing industries. More than 80 percent of the county's goods-producing jobs are in manufacturing. In 2006, the share of goods-producing jobs (27.8 percent) in Troup County was significantly higher than that of the state (17.5 percent) and also greater than all other comparison areas. The region's percentage was 25.9; peer county A was 20.4; peer county B was 17.2; and peer county C was 23.8. From 2001 to 2006, these jobs in Troup declined by 27.9 percent, a greater decline than in any comparison area.

Production Jobs Comparison<sup>15</sup>

	2001	Share	2006	Share	Change
TROUP COUNTY	12,178	35.3%	8,782	27.8%	(27.9%)
Peer A	5,517	24.3%	4,754	20.4%	(13.8%)
Peer B	3,962	18.8%	3,940	17.2%	(0.6%)
Peer C	3,317	29.4%	3,673	23.8%	10.7%
West Georgia Average	4,401	30.6%	3,939	25.9%	(10.5%)
Georgia	723,455	19.4%	689,607	17.5%	(4.7%)

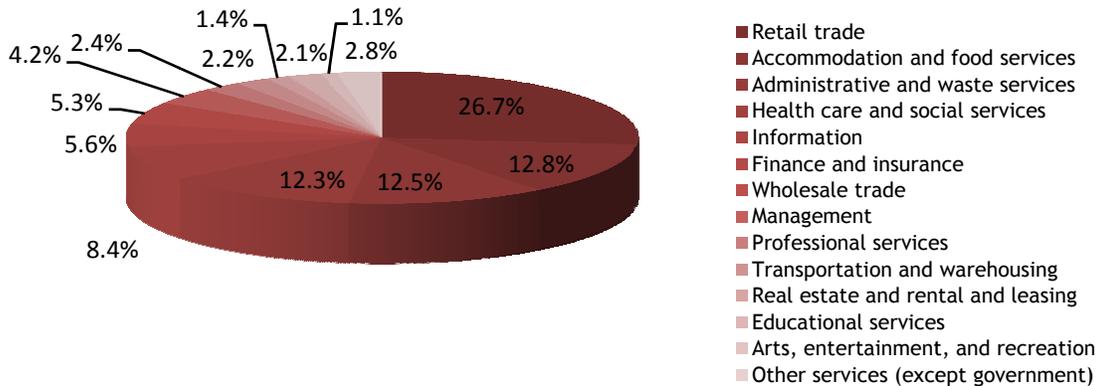
Source: Georgia Department of Labor

<sup>14</sup> All data is pre-KIA. is it Kia or KIA?

<sup>15</sup> To enable comparisons to 2006, 2001 is being used instead of 2000 data due to 2001 being the year the Georgia Department of Labor converted its data from the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS).

- **Signaling an economy significantly reliant on retail activity, Troup County’s largest service-producing industry has been retail trade.** This industry accounted for 26.6 percent of the service-producing jobs in 2006. This concentration was higher than other comparison areas, with Georgia having 18 percent; the region having 23.9 percent; peer county A having 22 percent; peer county B having 26 percent; and peer county C having 22.7 percent. Troup’s next largest service-producing industries are accommodation and food services (12.8 percent), administrative and waste services (12.5 percent), and health care and social services (12.3 percent).

**Employment by Service-Producing Industry Type in Troup County, 2006**



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County’s largest employment sectors overall are manufacturing, retail trade, and local government.** In terms of manufacturing, the county’s share is above the norm. Troup’s share of retail trade and local government jobs appear to be within the range of its peers, region, and state. One other industry sector that seems to have an above-average share of employment for Troup County is information.

**Troup’s Larger Employment Sectors, 2006**

Industry	West Georgia Average					
	Troup	Georgia	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C	
All industries	31,572	15,212	3,938,343	23,314	22,933	15,449
MANUFACTURING	22.5%	21.3%	11.2%	16.1%	9.4%	13.8%
Retail trade	14.8%	12.9%	11.8%	12.9%	14.7%	13.2%
Local government	13.5%	13.9%	10.4%	12.6%	10.5%	16.0%
Accommodation and food services	7.1%	8.5%	8.7%	8.8%	11.7%	9.2%
Administrative and waste services	7.0%	5.6%	6.7%	7.6%	2.0%	7.6%
Health care and social services	6.9%	11.0%	9.1%	14.8%	9.7%	7.1%
Construction	5.1%	5.6%	5.4%	4.1%	6.6%	8.6%
INFORMATION	4.7%	2.5%	2.9%	0.8%	1.4%	0.3%
Finance and insurance	3.1%	2.8%	4.0%	2.3%	2.6%	2.2%
Wholesale trade	2.9%	3.3%	5.0%	3.9%	2.2%	5.5%
State government	2.5%	5.5%	3.4%	7.9%	15.1%	1.2%
Management of companies, enterprises	2.3%	2.8%	1.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other services (except government)	1.5%	1.8%	2.5%	2.8%	1.8%	1.5%

## Troup's Larger Employment Sectors, 2006 (cont'd)

Industry	Troup	West Georgia				
		Average	Georgia	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1.3%	1.7%	5.1%	1.4%	2.5%	6.3%
Transportation and warehousing	1.2%	2.0%	3.9%	0.9%	4.2%	2.8%
Educational services	1.2%	0.9%	1.2%	0.3%	0.7%	0.4%
Real estate and rental and leasing	0.8%	0.9%	1.6%	1.2%	1.8%	0.8%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.6%	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	N/A
Federal government	0.5%	0.6%	2.4%	0.6%	0.6%	1.0%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	0.2%	0.7%	0.6%	N/A	1.2%	N/A
Unclassified	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Mining	N/A	N/A	0.1%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utilities	N/A	1.7%	0.3%	N/A	0.3%	0.3%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County's largest local employers are not in the government or public sectors.** They include: Wal-Mart Associates, Inc.; Milliken & Company, Inc.; West Georgia Medical Center; Interface Flooring Systems, Inc.; and InterCall, Inc.
- **Shifts in Troup County's industry base between 2001 and 2006 followed statewide and national trends.** The share of jobs by goods-producing industries decreased 7.5 percent, while the share of jobs by service-producing industries increased 6.7 percent. In terms of specific industries, manufacturing's share decreased most notably by 7.5 percent.

## Employment Shares by Industry in Troup County, Georgia

	2001	2006	Change
Goods-producing	35.3%	27.8%	-7.5%
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	0.2%	0.2%	0.0%
Mining	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Construction	5.2%	5.1%	-0.1%
Manufacturing	29.9%	22.5%	-7.5%
Service-producing	49.0%	55.7%	6.7%
Wholesale trade	2.1%	2.9%	0.8%
Retail trade	15.5%	14.8%	-0.7%
Transportation and warehousing	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%
Utilities	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Information	5.7%	4.7%	-1.0%
Finance and insurance	2.0%	3.1%	1.1%
Real estate and rental and leasing	0.6%	0.8%	0.2%

**Employment Shares by Industry in Troup County, Georgia (cont'd)**

	2001	2006	Change
Professional, scientific, and technical services	1.1%	1.3%	0.2%
Management of companies and enterprises	2.4%	2.3%	-0.1%
Administrative and waste services	5.6%	7.0%	1.4%
Educational services	1.0%	1.2%	0.2%
Health care and social services	4.9%	6.9%	2.0%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	0.6%	0.6%	0.0%
Accommodation and food services	5.1%	7.1%	2.0%
Other services (except government)	1.5%	1.5%	0.1%
Unclassified	0.3%	0.1%	-0.2%
Total: Private Sector	84.6%	83.6%	-1.0%
Total: Government	15.4%	16.4%	1.0%
Federal government	0.4%	0.5%	0.0%
State government	2.2%	2.5%	0.4%
Local government	12.8%	13.5%	0.6%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County has seen some significant industry growth.** Reflecting some level of diversification, growth was seen in 12 different industries from 2001 to 2006. The community saw the greatest growth in its finance and insurance industry whose employment increased by 42.8 percent from 687 jobs in 2001 to 981 jobs in 2006. The community's transportation and warehousing industry was the second highest growth industry with a growth rate of 41.8 percent during this time period. Following that was health care and social services (28.7 percent), accommodation and food services (27.2 percent), and wholesale trade (27.1 percent).

**Employment in Troup's Growing Industries**

Industry	Troup County			Change in Other Areas				
	2001	2006	Change	West Georgia Average	Georgia	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C
Finance and insurance	687	981	42.8%	19%	8%	4%	11%	28%
Transportation and warehousing	268	380	41.8%	10%	2%	-	11%	66%
Health care and social services	1,684	2,168	28.7%	23%	20%	46%	12%	64%
Accommodation and food services	1,771	2,253	27.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wholesale trade	730	928	27.1%	10%	5%	39%	29%	233%
Real estate and rental and leasing	207	246	18.8%	6%	15%	24%	85%	3%

**Employment in Troup's Growing Industries (cont'd)**

Industry	Troup County			Change in Other Areas				
	2001	2006	Change	West Georgia Average	Georgia	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	55	64	16.4%	32%	-5%	N/A	18%	N/A
Administrative and waste services	1,922	2,195	14.2%	31%	19%	13%	12%	37%
Educational services	337	377	11.9%	-3%	41%	25%	27%	757%
Professional, scientific, and technical services	380	415	9.2%	14%	11%	5%	47%	351%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County had a fair amount of shrinkage in certain industries in recent years as well.** Following national and statewide trends, manufacturing industries shrunk by 31.3 percent. The county also lost a large portion (24.1 percent) of its information sector.<sup>16</sup>

**Employment in Troup's Shrinking Industries**

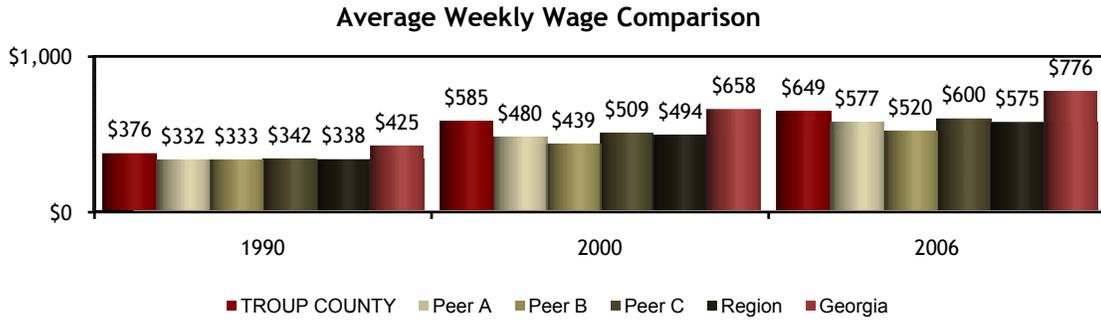
Industry	Troup County			Change in Other Areas				
	2001	2006	Change	West Georgia Average	Georgia	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C
Unclassified	95	17	-82.1%	-86%	-62%	-78%	N/A	-74%
Manufacturing	10,325	7,098	-31.3%	-9%	-9%	-20%	-10%	-5%
Information	1,951	1,480	-24.1%	-9%	-18%	-12%	-11%	-21%
Arts, entertainment, and recreation	220	187	-15.0%	-30%	11%	24%	10%	N/A
Retail trade	5,330	4,670	-12.4%	0%	3%	1%	-1%	12%
Management of companies and enterprises	837	737	-11.9%	-23%	-29%	N/A	N/A	N/A
Construction	1,781	1,596	-10.4%	5%	9%	21%	14%	50%
Other services (except government)	511	487	-4.7%	-11%	0%	-38%	4%	18%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Average weekly wages in Troup County have grown steadily over the years.** Such wages grew by 55.6 percent from 1990 to 2000 and by 10.9 percent into 2006. The average weekly wage in 2006 was \$649, which exceeded its peers and the average for the region, but fell short of the state's average. The same was true for 1990 and 2000. While the absolute wages in Troup are high relative to other regions, the growth rates from 2000 to 2006 were significantly lower for Troup

<sup>16</sup> While there is an observable loss in unclassified industries, this may be due to improvements made in the classification of industries during this period and, therefore, does not lend itself for drawing conclusions.

(10.9 percent) than for other areas, with the state growing 17.9 percent, the region growing 16.5 percent, and peer counties experiencing growth ranging from 17.9 to 20.2 percent.



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- In 2006, Troup County’s high-wage employment sectors by private enterprises included (in descending order): textile product mills; textile mills; professional, scientific, and technical services; manufacturing; management of companies and enterprises; machinery manufacturing; information; finance and insurance; and fabricated metal product manufacturing. Troup County’s weekly wages are greater than the average for west Georgia for all industries, with the exception of management of companies and enterprises. Four industries (machinery manufacturing, textile product mills, textile mills, and fabricated metal product manufacturing) have wages above the state, while the other five high-wage industries have lower wages than Georgia.

**Average Weekly Wage in Select High-Wage Industries, 2006<sup>17</sup>**

	Troup	Peer A	Peer B	Peer C	West Georgia Average	Georgia
Management: companies/enterprises	1,147	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,160	1,574
Finance and insurance	948	745	754	865	760	1,268
Machinery manufacturing	917	881	N/A	1,063	906	836
Textile product mills	878	N/A	N/A	N/A	538	675
Textile mills	831	571	N/A	N/A	677	646
Manufacturing	825	804	590	808	720	849
Information	809	773	648	598	731	1,322
Professional, scientific, and technical services	801	749	645	336	650	1,237
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	791	467	543	808	629	743

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

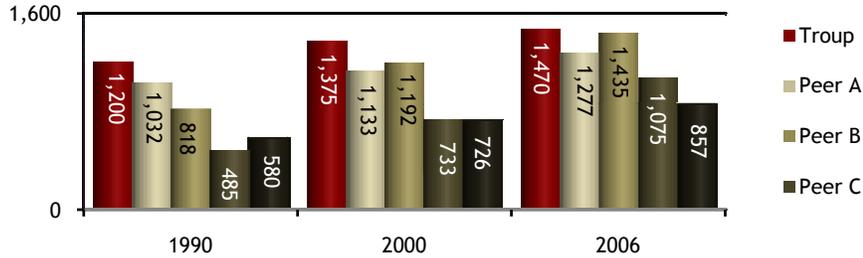
- Troup County’s leading growth industry -- finance and insurance -- is also a top-three wage leader for the community. Troup’s average wages in this industry exceeded the region and each of its peer counties, although it was substantially lower than the state. In addition, even though the manufacturing industry is shrinking, Troup County has been able to retain some higher-wage sectors of this industry. Troup County’s average weekly wage in manufacturing (\$825) exceeded

<sup>17</sup> High-wage industries are industries with average weekly wage rates 20 percent or more above Troup’s overall average weekly wage. Industries provided are at the two-digit NAICS level.

the regional average and each of its peers in 2006, although the state of Georgia has slightly better wages in this industry.

- **Troup County’s business community has grown over the years.** From 1990 to 2000, the number of businesses in the county grew 14.6 percent. It increased again, by 6.9 percent, from 2000 to 2006. However, the county’s growth in net new businesses since 2000 (6.9 percent) was lower than the average for its region (18.0 percent) and the state (20.8 percent), and significantly lower than that of its peers. Despite the slower growth, Troup County has maintained an above-average business presence when compared to its peers and the average for west Georgia.

**Number of Businesses in the Private Sector**



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

**Net New Businesses in the Private Sector**

	Net New Businesses 1990-2000	Percent Change	Net New Businesses 2000-2006	Percent Change
Troup	175	14.6%	95	6.9%
West Georgia Average	146	25.1%	131	18.0%
Peer A	101	9.8%	144	12.7%
Peer B	374	45.7%	243	20.4%
Peer C	248	51.1%	342	46.7%
Georgia	44,083	30.3%	39,319	20.8%

Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

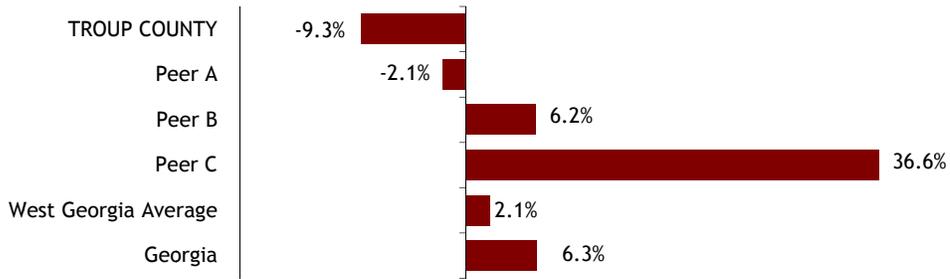
Prior to the arrival of Kia, Troup County saw a net loss of private-sector jobs in recent years. The county had notable growth (25.7 percent) in net new private-sector jobs created during the 1990s, exceeding the pace of its region and each of the peer counties. However, Troup had a net loss of more than 2,700 jobs, or 9.3 percent, from 2000 to 2006. During this period, the region saw marginal growth while the state saw some greater growth.

**Net New Private-Sector Jobs**

	Net New Jobs 1990-2000	Percent Change	Net New Jobs 2000-2006	Percent Change
TROUP	5,951	25.7%	-2,706	-9.3%
West Georgia Average	2,193	22.6%	245	2.1%
Peer A	3,672	24.3%	-389	-2.1%
Peer B	5,698	55.7%	981	6.2%
Peer C	2,136	30.0%	3,383	36.6%
Georgia	772,514	33.1%	195,985	6.3%

Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

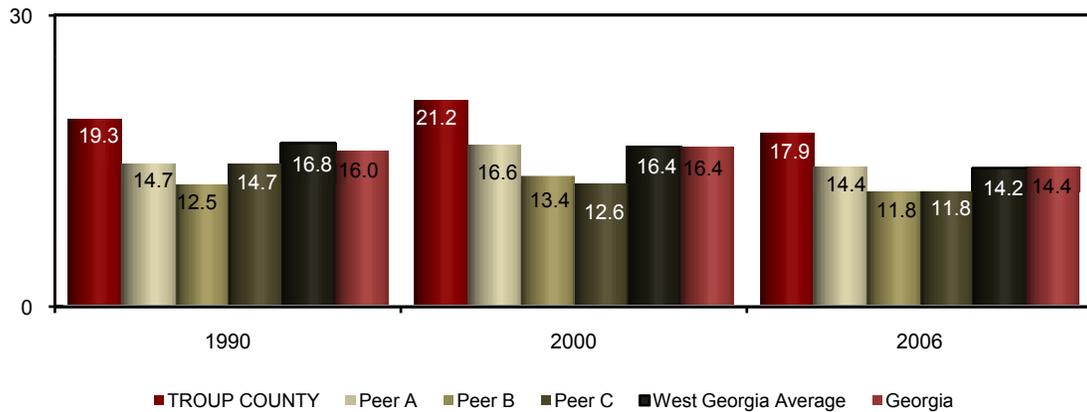
### Change in Net Jobs Comparison 2000 to 2006



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

- Troup’s net change in jobs since 2000 was significantly outpaced by its net gain in new businesses. This signals a trend toward an increasing entrepreneur and small-business base. Indeed, the number of jobs per business in Troup County decreased from 2000 to 2006, corresponding with regional and statewide trends and reflecting a growing presence of smaller companies. Still, in 2006, Troup County’s number of jobs per business was larger than its region and the state, indicating a below-average presence of smaller firms.

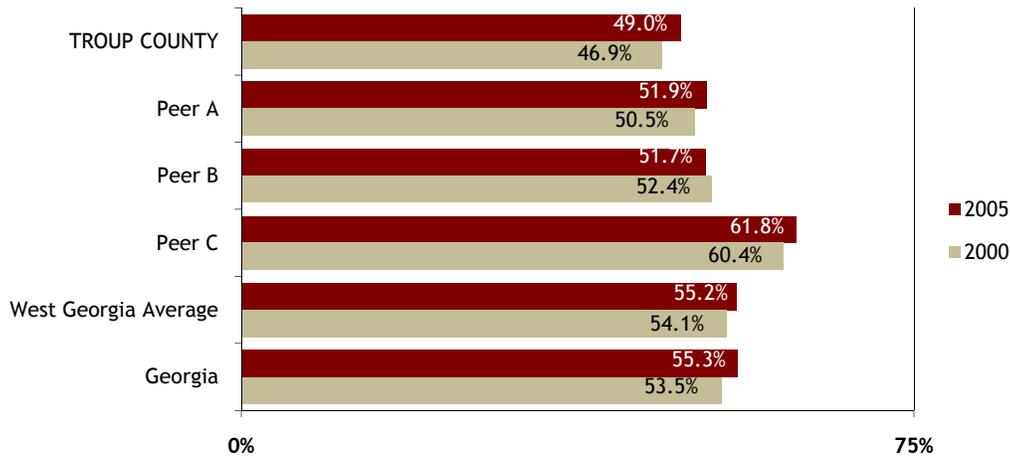
### Jobs Per Business Comparison



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

Other data confirms that Troup County’s economic base includes an above-average presence of larger businesses, bucking the trends elsewhere. In 2005, the county had a lower share (49 percent) of businesses with one to four employees, when compared to the state (55.3 percent), the average for west Georgia (55.2 percent), and its peers, but a higher percentage in almost every other larger employee category. However, corresponding with the earlier observation regarding a trend toward growth in entrepreneurial and small businesses, Troup County increased its share of such businesses by a larger degree than did that of its peers, its region, and the state.

**Businesses with Less than 5 Employees Comparison**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

**Businesses by Employment Size Comparison**

	1 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 19	20 to 49	50 to 99	100 to 249	250 to 499	500 to 999	1000+
TROUP	49.0%	19.7%	13.2%	10.3%	3.7%	2.9%	0.8%	0.2%	0.2%
Peer A	51.9%	20.7%	12.8%	9.9%	2.2%	1.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.0%
Peer B	51.7%	21.9%	13.6%	9.1%	2.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%
Peer C	61.8%	16.7%	10.6%	6.5%	2.5%	1.3%	0.5%	0.1%	0.0%
West Georgia	55.2%	18.9%	12.2%	8.4%	2.8%	1.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%
Georgia	55.3%	18.3%	12.3%	8.7%	3.0%	1.7%	0.5%	0.2%	0.1%

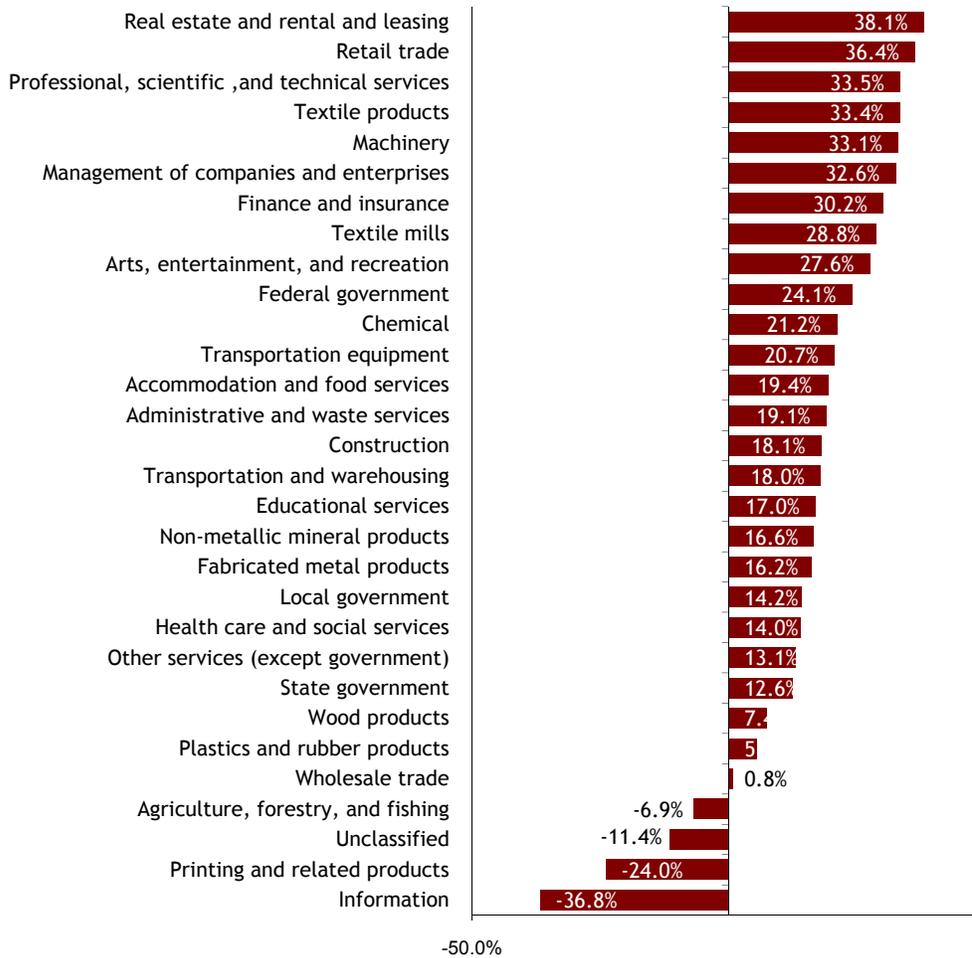
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns

- Although Troup County saw some significant overall job loss in recent years, it experienced a notable increase in overall wages. From 2001 to 2006, average wages in 12 of the county’s industries increased by more than 20 percent. Leading the pack were real estate and rental and leasing; retail trade; professional, scientific, and technical services; textile products manufacturing; and machinery manufacturing. The county also saw some notable dips in the information; printing; unclassified; and agricultural, forestry, and fishing industries.

Growth in Troup County’s fastest wage-growth industries exceeded growth in other areas of comparison. Troup’s five industries with the highest wage growth from 2001 to 2006 exceeded the wage growth for the same industries in the west Georgia region, in Georgia, and in all but one industry in peer County B. Troup County showed wage growth in 26 industries; 13 of these industries exceeded wage growth in Georgia, 15 exceeded wage growth in the West Georgia region, and 11 exceeded wage growth in all three peer counties.

Troup County had declining wages in four industries from 2001 to 2006: information; printing; unclassified; and agriculture, forestry, and fishing. The observable decline in wages within the printing and related products and information industries ran contrary to trends elsewhere.

### Troup County's Change in Wages 2001 to 2006

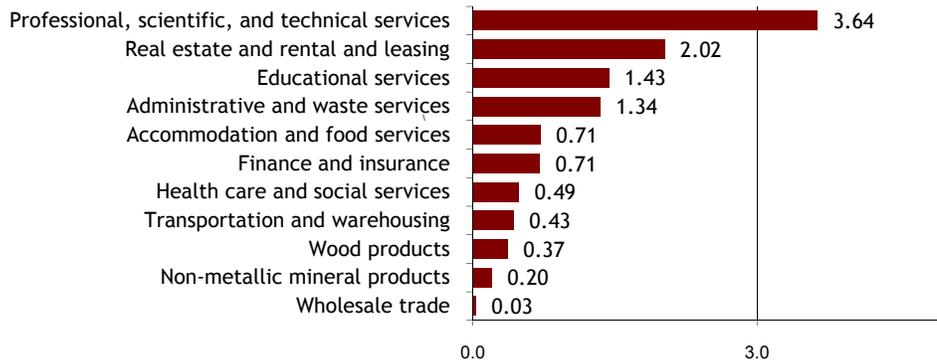


Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

- Four industries in Troup County have yielded more “prosperous” opportunities as wage growth outpaced job growth from 2001 to 2006.** This analysis is based on the prosperity index, which measures the ratio of wage growth to job growth to determine the quality of jobs being created. The four referenced industries are professional, scientific, and technical services; real estate and rental and leasing; educational services; and administrative and waste services. Any industry with an index below 1.0 reveals that jobs grew faster than wages; therefore, the jobs created offer lower wages than average.

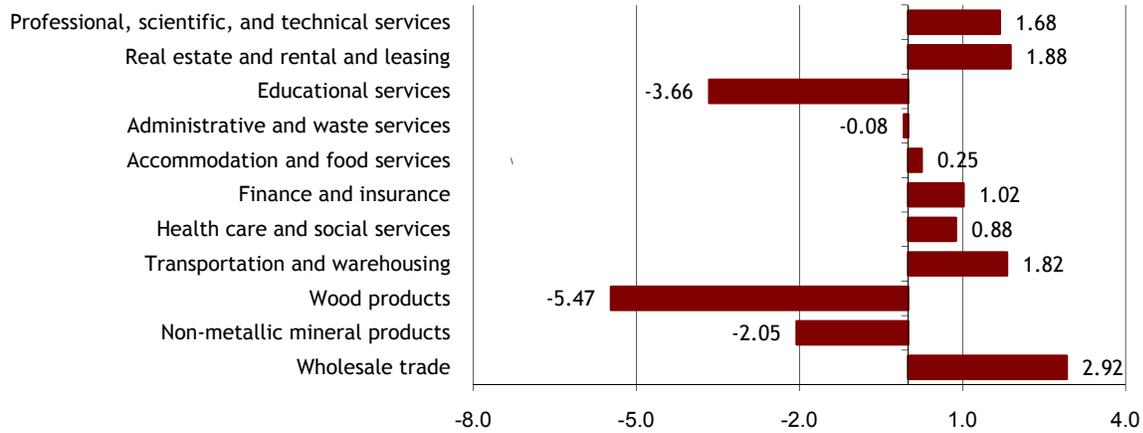
Exploring the same industries for the west Georgia region reveals some similarities and differences compared to Troup County. The professional, scientific, and technical services and the real estate and rental and leasing industries also revealed themselves to offer greater prosperity at the regional level, although to a lesser degree than Troup. The educational services and the administrative and waste services industries for the region overall appeared to not yield as much prosperity as those in Troup County. Most of the industries that did not increase in prosperity in Troup County were also not more prosperous in the region, except for the finance and insurance and the transportation and warehousing industries.

### Troup County Prosperity Index by Growth Industry 2001 to 2006



Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

### West Georgia Average Prosperity Index for Selected Industries 2001 to 2006

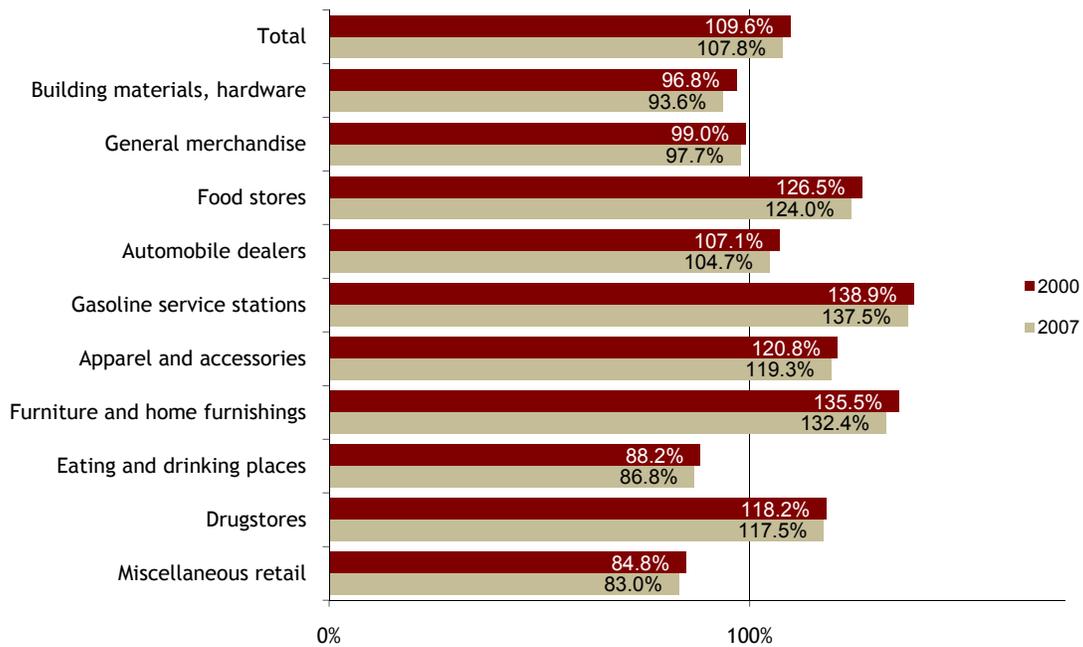


Source: Based on data from Georgia Department of Labor

- Troup County has had some overall success in capturing rather than leaking retail dollars.** Although the county's overall capture of retail dollars declined slightly from 2000 (109.6 percent) to 2007 (107.8 percent), several sectors remained strong in terms of their ability to attract outside dollars. Retail capture markets include food stores, automobile dealers, gasoline service stations, apparel and accessories, furniture and home furnishings, and drugstores (circled in red in the chart below). In each case, the county saw the strength of its capture rate weaken some from 2000 to 2007.

Troup County is also experiencing retail leakage in the following markets: building materials and hardware, general merchandise, eating and drinking places, and miscellaneous retail. Of these, the county only had significant leakage in the eating and drinking places and miscellaneous retail markets, suggesting that residents are traveling outside of the county for these needs. These sectors had a marginal increase in their leakage of dollars from 2000 to 2007.

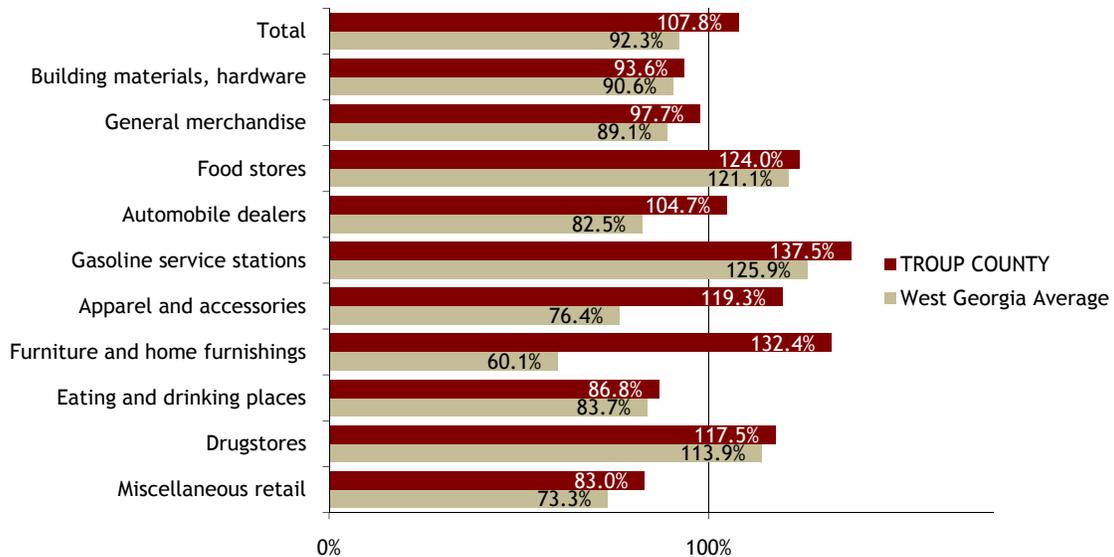
### Retail Capture and Leakage In Troup County, Georgia



Source: Based on data from Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.  
 Above 100 = Retail Capture  
 Below 100 = Retail Leakage

In 2007, Troup County showed an overall retail capture rate (107.8 percent), while its region showed overall retail leakage (92.3 percent). West Georgia appears to be leaking dollars in every sector. Even in markets where Troup County is leaking dollars, it appears to be doing so to a lesser extent than its region.

### Retail Leakage Comparison 2007



Source: Based on data from Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.  
 Above 100 = Retail Capture  
 Below 100 = Retail Leakage

Carroll, Spalding, and Troup are the only counties in the west Georgia region that are capturing retail. The region is particularly good at capturing retail from drugstores, gasoline service stations, and food stores (areas capturing retail dollars are shown in red in the following table). Miscellaneous retail, eating and drinking places, furniture and home furnishings, and apparel and accessories are of the weakest for capturing retail in the West Georgia region.

**Retail Capture in the West Georgia Region 2007**

	TROUP	Butts	Carroll	Coweta	Heard	Lamar	Meriwether	Pike	Spalding	Upson
Total	108%	84%	100%	77%	28%	63%	76%	16%	111%	87%
Building materials, hardware	94%	39%	94%	109%	15%	57%	45%	18%	99%	43%
General merchandise	98%	6%	119%	71%	8%	17%	27%	4%	133%	104%
Food stores	124%	87%	122%	118%	38%	112%	67%	18%	149%	121%
Automobile dealers	105%	25%	72%	61%	10%	79%	111%	5%	135%	82%
Gasoline service stations	137%	465%	148%	85%	93%	90%	120%	51%	59%	87%
Apparel and accessories	119%	22%	79%	61%	9%	6%	5%	4%	117%	77%
Furniture and home furnishings	132%	10%	49%	51%	14%	9%	55%	0%	51%	67%
Eating and drinking places	87%	73%	100%	73%	32%	59%	63%	20%	94%	68%
Drugstores	118%	128%	117%	103%	30%	119%	106%	12%	121%	120%
Miscellaneous retail	83%	49%	103%	44%	42%	32%	106%	41%	70%	93%

Source: Based on data from Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

- **Troup County has received several patents and publications, denoting innovation occurring within its economy.** From 1976 to 2007, a total of 321 patents were issued to Troup County entities or individuals. Of the 296 company patents, approximately one-third (101) were issued since 2000, signaling some probable level of patent acceleration. Milliken and Interface led the pack among the companies receiving patents.<sup>18</sup> The level of scientific publishing by Troup County authors is an indicator of local knowledge generation. From 1990 to 2006, a total of 18 publications of scientific nature were released.<sup>19</sup>
- **Prior to Kia, the city of LaGrange was already a destination for foreign-based firms.** For example, LaGrange had already housed nine foreign-based firms representing five countries.

**Foreign-Based Firms in LaGrange, Georgia**

Company	Home Country
AE Light Metal Casting Georgia, Inc.	Germany
Freudenberg-NOK	Japan
LaFarge Cement	France
Linde Gas LLC	Germany
Nesper International, Inc.	Germany
Novelis Foil Products	Canada
Ropak Corp.	United Kingdom
SAFA, LLC	Japan
Yasufuku USA, Inc.	Japan

Source: Georgia Department of Economic Development

<sup>18</sup> Source: U.S. Patent & Trademark Office

<sup>19</sup> Source: ISI Web of Science

## WORKFORCE<sup>20</sup>

- Troup County's workforce grew significantly during the 1990s, but to a much lesser extent since then. The workforce grew 14.1 percent, from 26,403 to 30,213 members, during that decade and exceeded its population growth of 5.8 percent. However, this rate of growth did not keep pace with the rate of growth of its peers, the west Georgia region, and Georgia overall. And, since 2000, there has been almost no growth in the county's workforce.

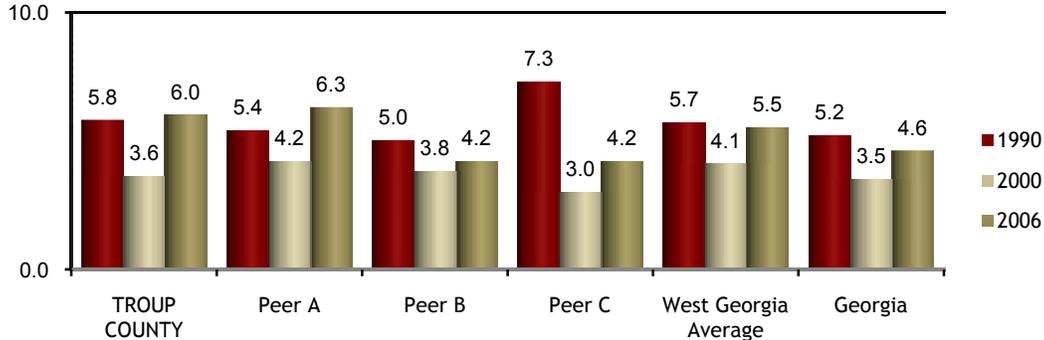
### Civilian Labor Force

	1990	2000	1990-2000 Growth	2006	2000-2006 Growth
TROUP	26,403	30,213	14.4%	30,559	1.1%
Peer A	26,776	28,237	5.5%	29,057	2.9%
Peer B	19,679	27,411	39.3%	31,674	15.5%
Peer C	15,266	25,254	65.4%	31,655	25.3%
West Georgia	161,307	204,832	27.0%	222,529	8.6%
Georgia	3,300,158	4,242,889	28.6%	4,741,860	11.8%

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- Troup County's unemployment rate has been comparatively high. Its 2006 rate exceeded that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state, and the same was true in 1990. In 2000, the county posted a rate that was relatively low. This corresponds with the observed job loss for the county and signals an available workforce.

### Unemployment Rate

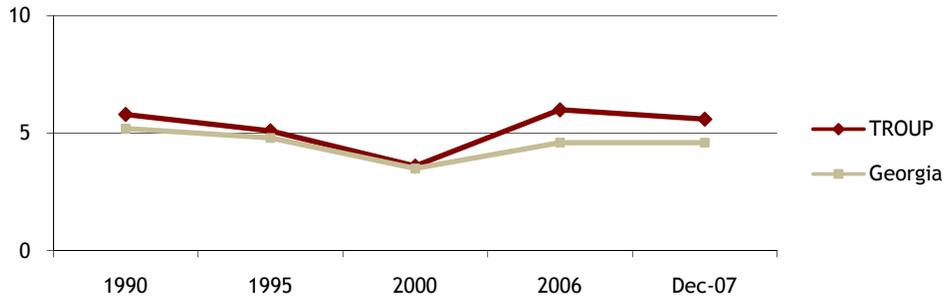


Source: Georgia Department of Labor

As of December 2007, Troup County's unemployment rate was 5.6 percent, which was higher than the rate for Georgia (4.6 percent). Consistent with the state, Troup's unemployment rate dropped from 1990 to 2000 and has risen since then. At each interval, the county posted a rate consistently higher than that of the state.

<sup>20</sup> All data is pre- Kia.

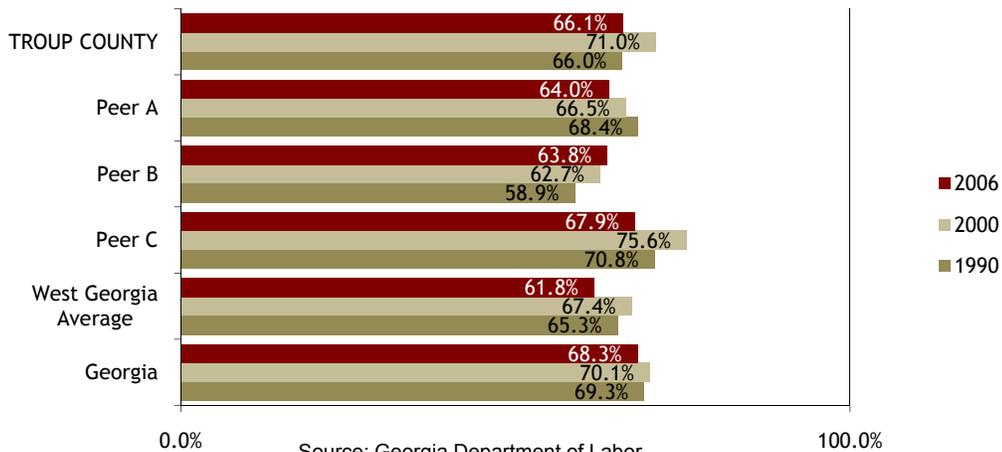
### Unemployment Rate



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- Troup County's labor force participation rate has been consistently above the norm for its peer group and region.** Labor force participation rate is the civilian labor force (employed and unemployed persons) divided by the population of working-age residents (for this purpose, such residents were defined as those 17 years and older). Excluded from this calculation are institutionalized or incarcerated individuals. It represents the share of able-bodied persons who are either employed or who are actively seeking employment. One can infer that the higher the labor force participation rate, the higher the willingness to work among those legally able. A low labor force participation rate can reflect a community with a large number of people who want to work but effectively drop out of the labor force due to a lack of jobs matching their skill sets or their desired earnings. Based on this data, Troup County's workforce appears to have a willingness to work that exceeds two of its peers and its region but not that of Georgia. Although Troup County's rate increased from 1990 to 2000, it decreased from 2000 to 2006, and it remained below the state average during both periods.

### Labor Force Participation Rate



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- The vast majority of Troup County residents appear to work inside the county.** Based on the 2000 U.S. Census "journey to work" data, which is the most recent data available on commuting patterns, an estimated 83.8 percent did so in 2000. Top destinations for Troup residents who commuted outside the county were Chambers County, Alabama, and Coweta and Fulton counties in Georgia. These are the same top three destinations that could be observed in 1990. Beyond the top three, there were some differences. In 1990, Meriwether and Harris counties rounded out the top five, but in 2000, Harris and Muscogee counties did so.

**Top Destinations for Troup Out-Commuters**

1990		2000	
Top Destinations	Out-Commuters	Top Destinations	Out-Commuters
Chambers, AL	702	Chambers, AL	751
Coweta	642	Coweta	708
Fulton	396	Fulton	550
Meriwether	272	Harris	373
Harris	218	Muscogee	306

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- **Troup County employers have also had some success drawing in workers who live outside the county.** Almost a third (30.1 percent) of the Troup County workforce lived outside the county in 2000. This represents a sharp increase from 1990 when 16.2 percent of the county’s workers lived outside the county. In comparing 1990 and 2000, Chambers County continued to be the lead source for non-resident workers; Harris and Meriwether swapped for second and third place; Randolph County remained the fourth greatest source; and Lee County in Alabama replaced Heard County to round out the top five.

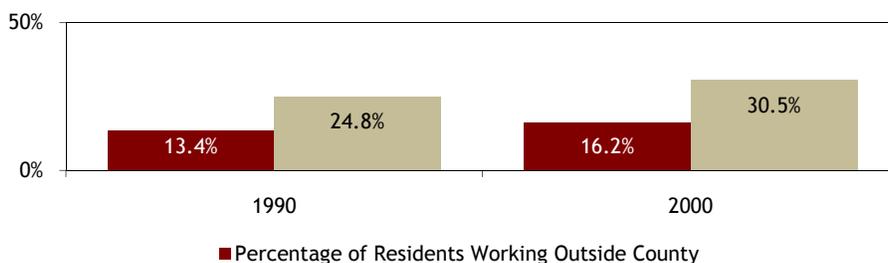
**Top Residences for Troup In-Commuters**

1990		2000	
Top Residences	In-Commuters	Top Residences	In-Commuters
Chambers, AL	2,529	Chambers, AL	2,934
Meriwether	1,044	Harris	1,183
Harris	785	Meriwether	956
Randolph, AL	563	Randolph, AL	872
Heard	523	Lee, AL	790

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

From 1990 to 2000, Troup County saw both an increase in the percentage of its residents leave the county for work and in the percentage of its workers who commute to Troup County for work from somewhere else. The latter is most notable as nearly one-third of the county’s workforce in 2000 was non-resident, signaling Troup County’s increased dependence on a regional labor market.

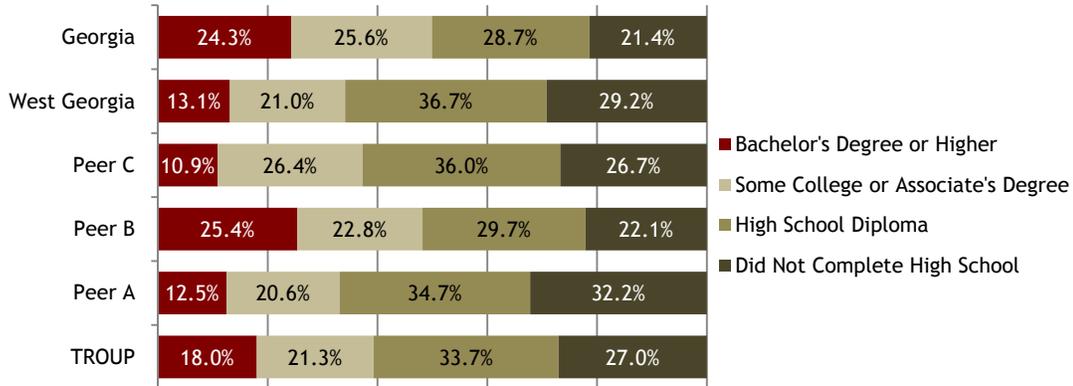
**Commuting Patterns for Troup County, Georgia**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- Troup County appears to have an above-average share of residents with some college education.** The county's combined share of those with some college or an associate's degree or a bachelor's degree or higher equated to 39.3 percent of its population and, while lagging behind the state, it exceeded that of two of its peers and its region in 2000 (the year of the most recent data available). Troup County appeared to have a higher proportion of residents who did not complete high school when compared to two of its peers and state, but its share was lower than the average for west Georgia, indicating this has been a regional trend.

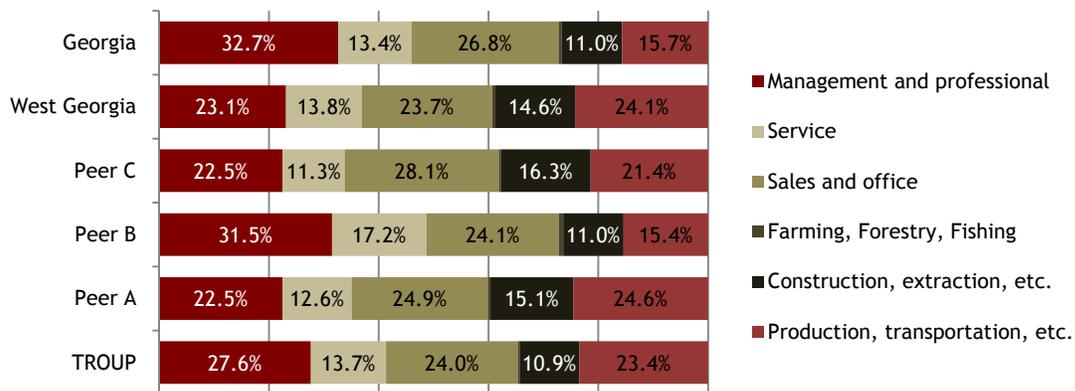
**Educational Attainment of Adults 25 Years and Older 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- The largest share of Troup County residents has held management and professional occupations, consistent with trends elsewhere.** From 1990 to 2000, the time-frame of the most recent available data, the county saw an increase in its proportion of residents holding such occupations. During the same time, it saw a decrease in its share of workers in construction and production-related occupations.

**Occupations by Residents 2000**

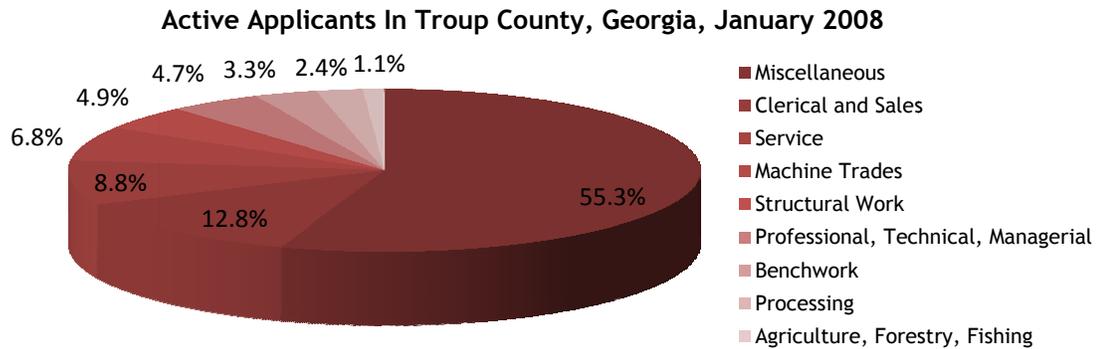


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Troup County's share of residents holding office-type positions (65.3 percent) was above that of two of its peers and the average for west Georgia (60.6 percent) but below that of the state (72.9 percent). The community's share of management and professional occupations exceeded that of two of its peers and the average for west Georgia. In 2000, Troup had a higher proportion of

residents holding production, transportation, and material-moving occupations than two of its peers and the state.

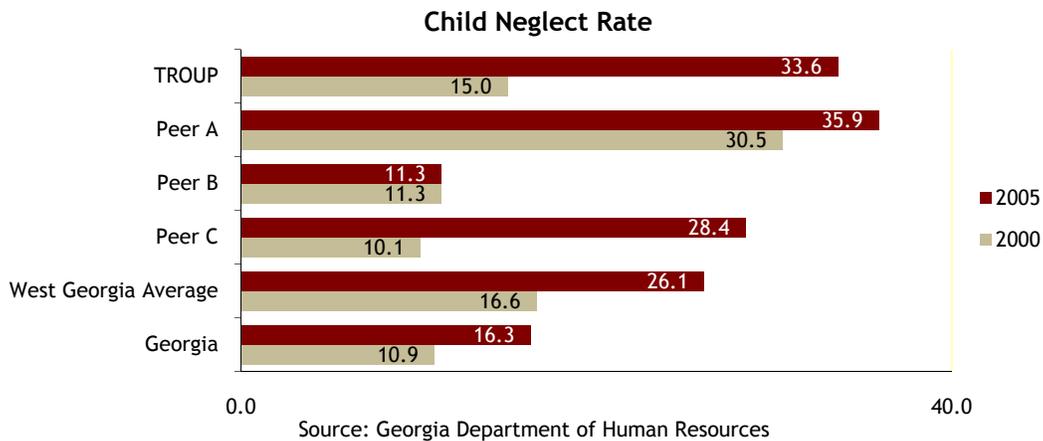
- **The majority of Troup County’s job applicants are seeking non-production-oriented positions (excluding those in the miscellaneous category).** As of January 2008, Troup County housed 2,551 active applicants looking for work, according to the Georgia Department of Labor. Outside of the miscellaneous category, the largest share (12.8 percent) of applicants sought clerical and sales positions. Another 8.8 percent sought service-related positions. The third highest share (6.8 percent) of applicants sought machine trades positions.



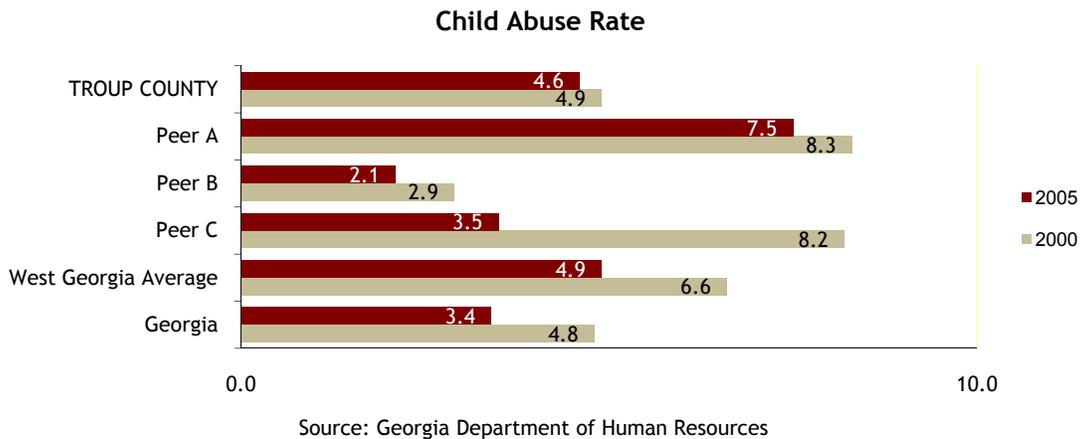
Source: Georgia Department of Labor

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- **Troup County appears to have a variety of day care options.** As of August 2006, Troup County was home to 27 child care facilities. This exceeded the number of such facilities in two of its peers as well as the average for its region and state. The county also is reported to have 29 family day care centers.
- **Troup County appears to have a relatively high rate of child neglect in recent years.** In 2005, Troup County’s rate of substantiated incidences of child neglect was 33.6 cases per 1,000 children under age 18. While this appears to represent more than two-fold increase over 2000 (15 cases per 1,000 children), some of the difference may be related to changes in how incidences of neglect are reported. Differences between areas may relate to difference in reporting by different areas. Still, it speaks to the need to address neglect prevention measures and strong children support networks in Troup County. Troup County’s 2005 rate was higher than two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the rate for the state as a whole.



- **While child neglect has been on the rise, Troup County has apparently seen some decrease in its child abuse rate.** While in 2000, its rate was 4.9 substantiated incidents of abuse per 1,000 children under the age of 18, in 2005, it was 4.6. Still, the county’s rate in 2005 was higher than that of two of its peers and Georgia, although lower than the average for its region.



- **Troup County has seen a steady increase in its juvenile arrest rate (for ages 10 to 17).** Its rate appears to have consistently exceeded the average for west Georgia and the rate for the state. Georgia has also seen a steady increase, but to a lesser degree than Troup. Two of the county’s

peers posted 2004 rates largely above Troup County. However, Troup’s region and two of its peers saw a decrease in its average rate from 2000 to 2004.

**Juvenile Arrest Rate**

	1990	2000	2004
TROUP COUNTY	3.31%	6.70%	8.06%
Peer A	1.64%	15.79%	13.87%
Peer B	0.75%	3.21%	11.28%
Peer C	1.13%	5.07%	4.48%
West Georgia Average	1.04%	5.96%	5.83%
Georgia	2.89%	4.21%	6.14%

Source: Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- **Corresponding with trends elsewhere, Troup County’s teenage pregnancy rate has been steadily decreasing. However, its rate has consistently remained above average for its region and state.** The rate was 46.1 pregnancies per 1,000 female teenagers in 2005, shifting slightly downward from its rate in 2000 (48.8 births to teenagers aged 10 to 19) and significantly lower than the rate in 1990 (66.8). It is however still significantly higher than that of each of its peers, the average for the west Georgia region (37.4), and the rate for the state (37.6). The teenage pregnancy rate decreased on average within West Georgia and within the state overall.

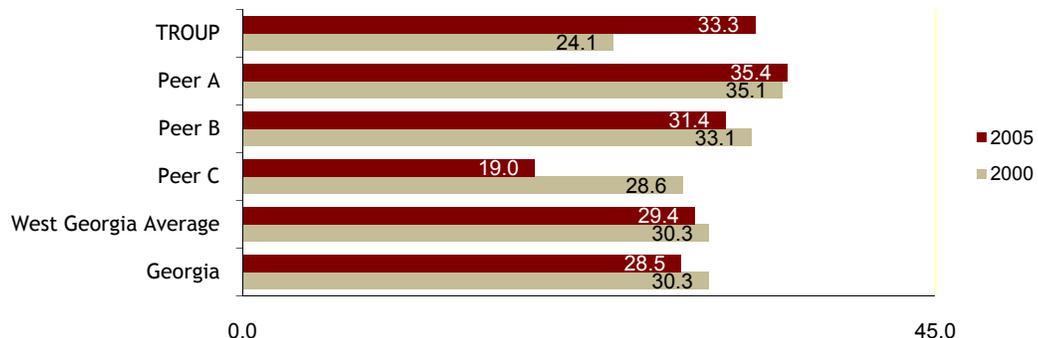
**Teenage Pregnancy Rate**

	1990	2000	2005
TROUP COUNTY	66.84	48.80	46.10
Peer A	66.76	54.00	45.77
Peer B	48.60	32.10	29.79
Peer C	62.53	44.80	35.54
West Georgia Average	61.37	44.08	37.37
Georgia	60.32	41.06	37.60

Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- **The repeat teenage pregnancy rate in Troup County has been on the rise.** From 2000 to 2005, Troup County saw a sharp spike in its repeat teenage pregnancy rate, with 33.3 percent of repeat pregnancies among females aged 15 to 17. This appeared to buck trends for the most part. During the same period, two of Troup County’s peers saw a decrease while one saw slight increase. The average for west Georgia and the rate for the state also dropped. The county’s rate in 2005 exceeded that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

**Repeat Teenage Pregnancy Rate**



Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

- **Troup County’s high school dropout rate has been slowly rising in recent years.** The dropout rate refers to the percentage of children who drop out during any given year. During the 2006-to-2007 school year, Troup’s rate (5.7 percent) exceeded the rate for two of its peers, the average for west Georgia (5.2 percent), and the rate for the state (4.1 percent). While Troup County saw a slight increase in its rate from the 1999-to-2000 to the 2006-to-2007 school years, the opposite was true for its peers, region, and state.<sup>21</sup>

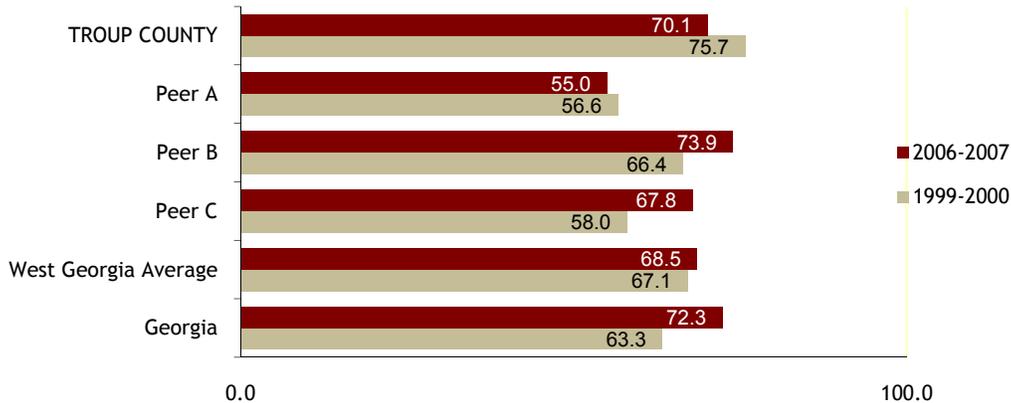
**High School Dropout Rate**

	1990	2000	2007
TROUP COUNTY	4.2	5.5	5.7
Peer A	9.6	11.3	7.9
Peer B	6.2	7.0	3.9
Peer C	9.3	8.0	4.7
West Georgia Average	6.5	8.2	5.2
Georgia	5.5	5.5	4.1

Source: Georgia Department of Education

- **Troup County has seen a reduction in its high school graduation rate.** For the 1999-to-2000 school year, its rate was higher than that of the state, but the opposite was true for the 2006-to-2007 school year when Troup County saw its rate go from 75.7 percent to 70.1 percent. Still, its 2006-to-2007 rate was higher than that of two of its peers and the average for its region.<sup>22</sup>

**High School Graduation Rate**



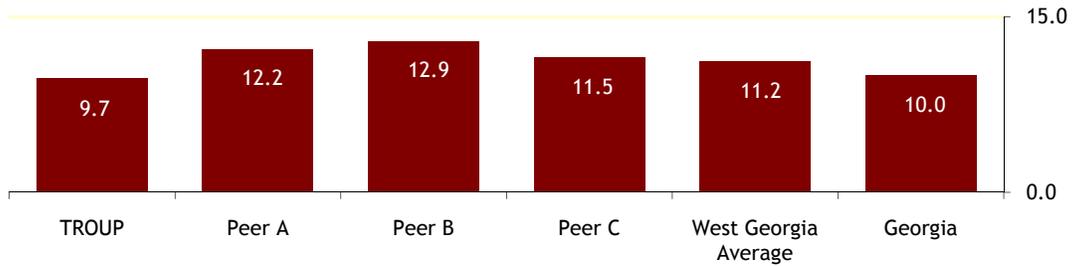
Source: Georgia Department of Education

- **On a positive front that should bode well for future graduation rates, Troup County has posted a below-average chronic absenteeism rate.** Students absent for more than 15 days during the school year are considered to have chronic absenteeism. Troup County’s rate during the 2006-to-2007 school year was lower than that of each of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

<sup>21</sup> This indicator also appears in the Education section of this report.

<sup>22</sup> This indicator also appears in the Education section of this report.

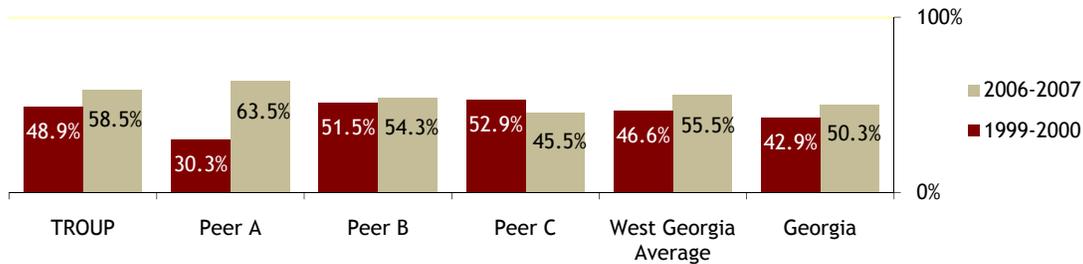
### Absenteeism Rate 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

- Troup County's number of students eligible for free lunch has grown in recent years, corresponding with trends elsewhere. It increased from 48.9 percent of all students in 2000 to 58.5 percent in 2006. Troup County's 2006 rate exceeds that of two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the rate for the state.

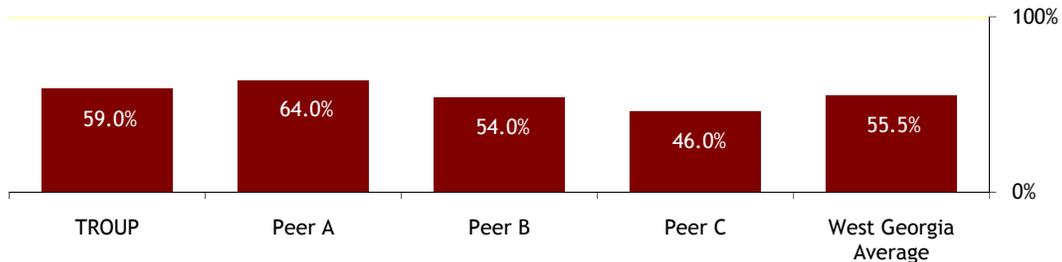
### Percentage of Students Eligible for Free School Lunch 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

- Troup County appears to have an above-average percentage of economically disadvantaged students. During the 2006-to-2007 school year, these students accounted for 59 percent of the student body. This was a higher percentage than that in two of Troup County's peers and what had been the average for West Georgia.

### Percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

## EDUCATION<sup>23</sup>

- Troup County schools are accredited through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to recognize their efforts in quality management and continual improvement. The school system completed the process to receive this distinctive designation in 2007. In addition, LaGrange High School has been repeatedly recognized as among the nation's best. Troup County's school system's 21 schools include 14 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, 3 high schools, and 1 alternative school for grades 5 through 11. The system served 11,921 enrolled students during the 2006-to-2007 school year.
- The Troup County school system did not meet the state's adequate yearly progress (AYP) requirements. While 18 of its 20 schools did meet AYP for the 2006-to-2007 school year, two of its high schools -- Callaway High School and Troup County High School -- did not, due to not meeting academic performance standards. Likewise, none of the school systems in Troup County's peer counties achieved AYP, and only three of the school systems in its region met state standards.
- Troup County's teachers are well-educated, which appears to be above the norm. For the 2006-to-2007 school year, more than half (65.2 percent) held advanced degrees compared to an average 56.2 percent for Georgia.
- Troup County schools employ slightly more seasoned teachers than the state average. For the 2006 to 2007 school year, the average years of experience among Troup teachers were 14.3 years, compared to an average of 12.3 years for the state.
- Although Troup County has seen a notable increase in expenditures per student in recent years, its rate has remained lower than that for the state. Troup County's 2005-to-2006 expenditures per student (\$7,030) represent a 23.4 percent increase over 1999 to 2000 (\$5,695). During the same period, the expenditures per student for Georgia climbed 29.3 percent, from \$5,625 to \$7,273 per student. During both years, Troup County and Georgia both posted revenues that exceeded expenditures and saw those revenues grow generally in concert with expenditures.
- Overall, Troup County schools fare better than the state averages for technology.
  - 100 percent of Troup County classrooms have high-speed Internet access (state: 98.2 percent)
  - There were 2.69 students per computer (not including servers) (state: 3.72)
  - 100 percent of classrooms have access to PeachStar video (state: 73 percent)
- Troup County first graders appear to be nearly on par with the performance of first graders statewide. The county had just a slightly higher share of students not meeting standards in reading and English/language arts, according to the Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT).<sup>24</sup>
- Troup County's fourth graders appear to be comparably strong in terms of their math performance, near average in reading comprehension, and below average regarding science. This is according to performance on the CRCT when comparing the county to school districts in its peer counties, west Georgia, and the state. Troup County's fourth graders scores exceeded that of two of its peer counties, the average for its region, and the overall performance seen in the state.<sup>25</sup>

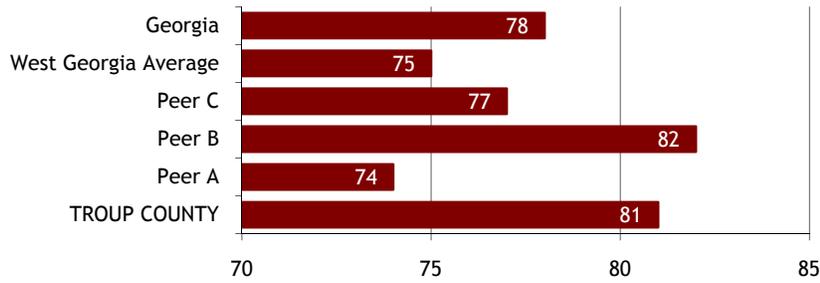
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<sup>23</sup> Data for this section was derived from the Georgia Department of Education's Report Card as available on the department's Web site ([www.doe.k12.ga.us](http://www.doe.k12.ga.us)), unless otherwise noted.

<sup>24</sup> Due to a change in test content, comparable year-to-year data is not available.

<sup>25</sup> Due to a change in test content, comparable year-to-year data is not available.

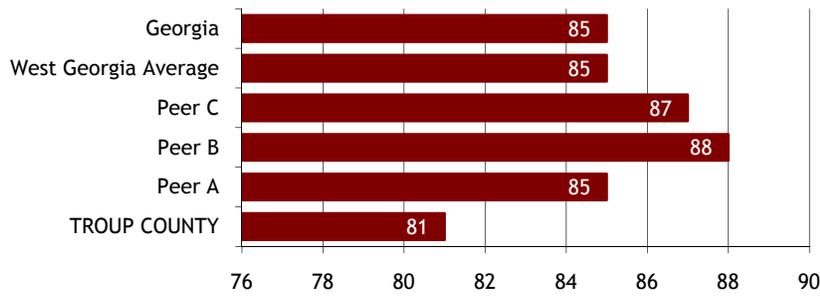
### Fourth Graders Meeting or Exceeding Math Standards, 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

The vast majority of Troup County’s fourth graders have met or exceeded standards in reading comprehension. Reading comprehension has significant implications for the ability to learn later in life, graduate from high school, succeed in post-secondary education, and develop the critical communications skills necessary for the workplace. However, Troup’s rate of students doing so was lower than the rate for its peers, the average for west Georgia (85 percent), and the rate for the state (85 percent).

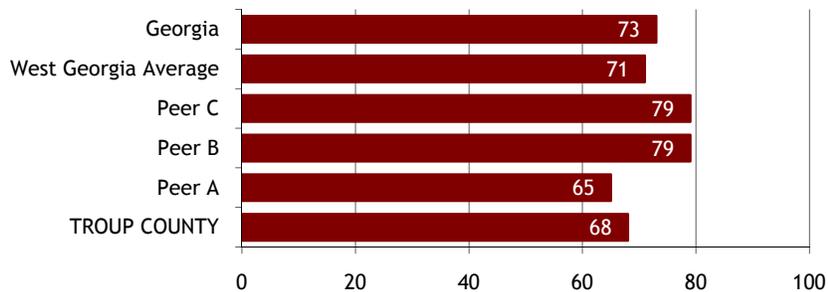
### Fourth Grader Meeting or Exceeding Reading Comprehension Standards, 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

In terms of their performance in science, Troup County’s fourth graders were outperformed by counterparts in two peers, the west Georgia region and the state for the 2006-to-2007 school year. In addition, Troup County’s fourth-graders’ performance in science lagged behind their performance in math and reading comprehension, as was generally the case for most of the comparables groups.

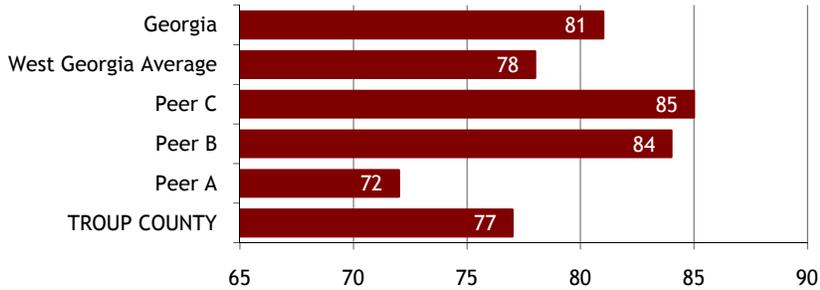
### Fourth Grader Meeting or Exceeding Science Standards, 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

- The vast majority of Troup County’s eighth graders met or exceeded standards, but their performance appears to not be on par with most of their counterparts. Troup’s eighth graders appear to be notably below average in math, according to their CRCT scores, when compared to those in two peers, the average for west Georgia, and Georgia overall.

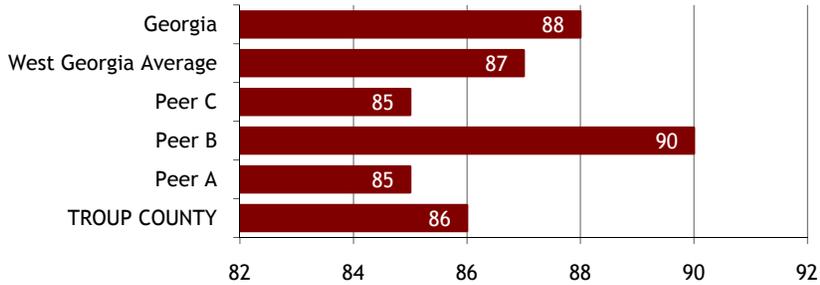
**Eighth Grader Meeting or Exceeding Math Standards, 2006-2007**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Although the vast majority of Troup County’s eighth graders met or exceeded expectations in terms of their performance in reading comprehension, this, too, is an area where the county’s performance has lagged slightly behind the average for the region and the rate for the state.

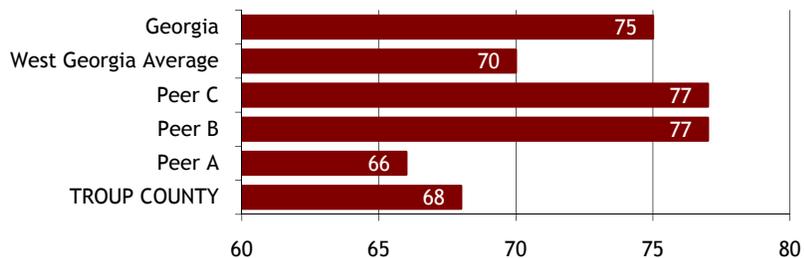
**Eighth Grader Meeting or Exceeding Reading Comprehension Standards, 2006-2007**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Where Troup County’s eighth graders appear to really lag behind is science performance. Although most of the county’s students have met or exceeded standards, this has happened to a lesser degree than two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state. Troup County’s eighth-graders’ performance in science lagged behind their performance in math and reading comprehension, as was the case elsewhere.

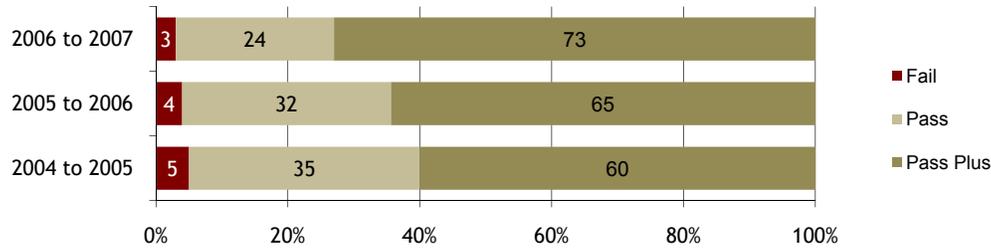
**Eighth Grader Meeting or Exceeding Science Standards, 2006-2007**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

- **Troup County has seen a steady improvement in the performance of students on the Georgia High School Graduation Test in all subjects.** Troup students have especially excelled in the areas of English/language arts and mathematics. Concerning performance on English/language arts test specifically, the county has seen a steady and notable increase in its students who achieve a “pass plus” score. Although its percentage of students who have failed has always been fractional, it has also decreased over time.

**Troup County Performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test - English / Language Arts**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Two of Troup County’s peers, its region, and the state also recently declined somewhat in their percentage of students failing the English / language arts test. In the 2006-to-2007 school year, Troup County’s percentage of students doing so was less than that of one peer, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

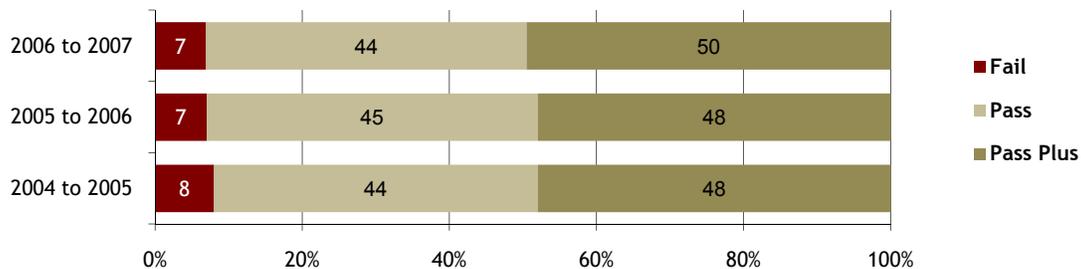
**Students Failing the English / Language Arts Graduation Test**

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
TROUP COUNTY	5%	4%	3%
Peer A	9%	4%	3%
Peer B	4%	3%	2%
Peer C	4%	2%	7%
West Georgia Average	5%	6%	4%
Georgia	5%	4%	4%

Note: Numbers are rounded.  
Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County shifted slightly toward better performance among its students on the mathematics test.

**Troup County Performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test - Mathematics**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

While Troup County saw fewer students fail the mathematics test over the past three years, the opposite was true for two of its peers and the average county in its region. For the 2006-to-2007 school year, the county's fail rate was less than that of two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the rate for the state.

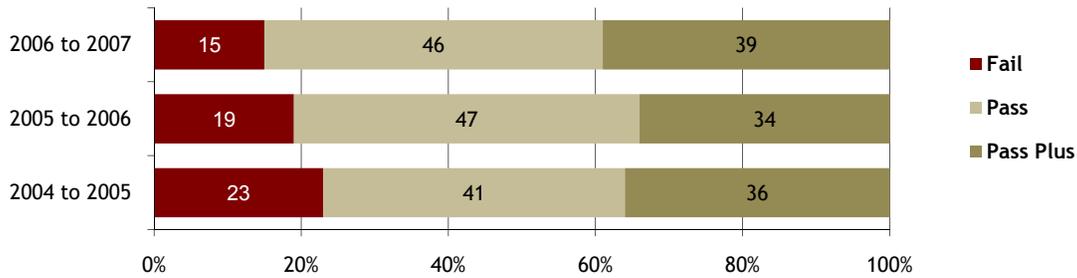
**Students Failing the Mathematics Graduation Test**

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
TROUP COUNTY	8%	7%	7%
Peer A	11%	8%	9%
Peer B	6%	6%	5%
Peer C	7%	4%	8%
West Georgia Average	9%	10%	10%
Georgia	8%	8%	8%

Note: Numbers are rounded.  
Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County saw significant improvement among the performance of its students on the social studies test. The percentage of students failing the test dropped 8 percent over the past three years.

**Troup County Performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test - Social Studies**



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County generally followed trends elsewhere in Georgia in terms of seeing its failure rate among students on the social studies test decrease. However, the county has continued to maintain an above-average failure rate when compared to its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

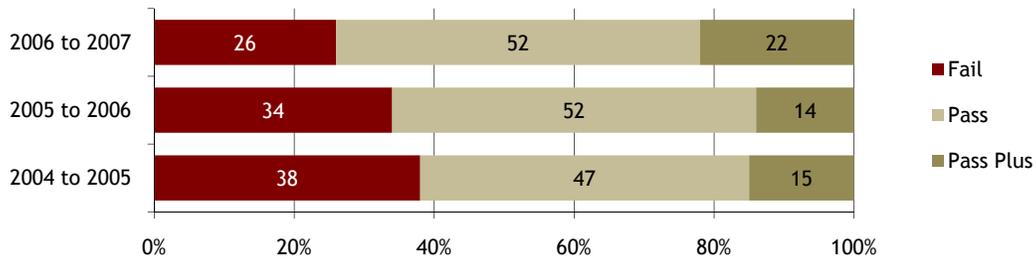
**Students Failing the Social Studies Graduation Test**

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
TROUP COUNTY	23%	19%	15%
Peer A	21%	15%	13%
Peer B	15%	15%	12%
Peer C	14%	11%	12%
West Georgia Average	20%	19%	14%
Georgia	16%	14%	12%

Note: Numbers are rounded.  
Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County has also seen significant improvement in students' performance on the science test. The failure rate among students on this test also dropped during the past three years.

### Troup County Performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test - Science



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County's trend toward better performance on the science test was also evident compared to the performance of one of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state, though none saw quite as much of a drop in the failure rate as Troup. While for the 2004-to-2005 and 2005-to-2006 school years the county had a failure rate that exceeded two of its peers, the average for West Georgia, and the state's rate, its rate for the 2006-to-2007 school year was lower than one peer and the west Georgia average and on par with another peer and the state's rate.

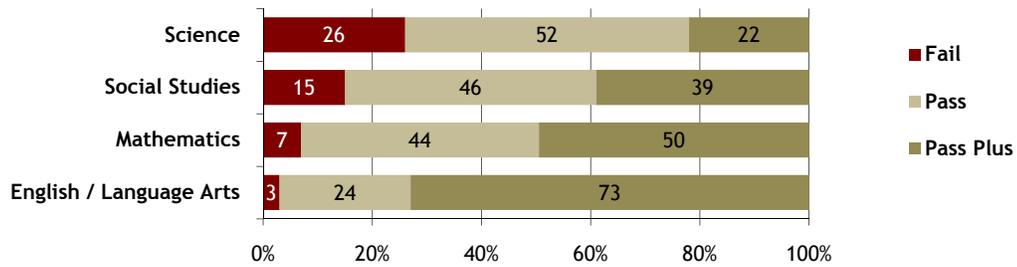
### Students Failing the Science Graduation Test

	2004-2005	2005-2006	2006-2007
TROUP COUNTY	38%	34%	26%
Peer A	41%	33%	34%
Peer B	34%	26%	25%
Peer C	29%	22%	26%
West Georgia Average	36%	32%	29%
Georgia	32%	27%	26%

Note: Numbers are rounded.  
Source: Georgia Department of Education

A review of the performance of Troup County's students on the graduation test's four subjects, almost three quarters (73 percent) achieved a "pass plus" on their English / language arts test and half (50 percent) did so on their mathematics test. Social studies appear to be their next strongest subject, and science is their subject with the most opportunity for improvement.

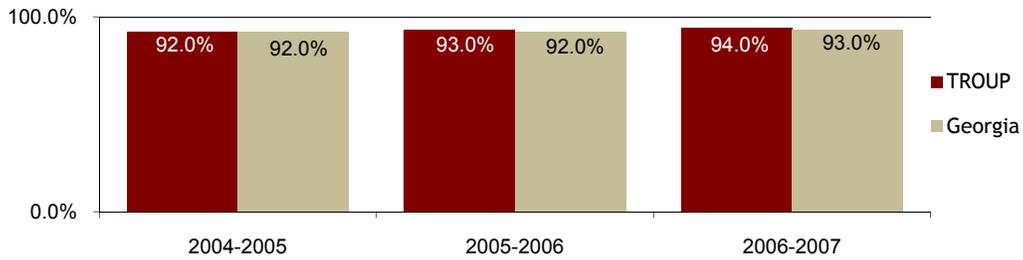
### Troup County Performance on the Georgia High School Graduation Test, 2006-2007



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Developing skills in math and science is critical if Troup seeks to grow the knowledge-based workforce that is essential for supporting higher-wage, higher-skilled jobs. Specifically considering mathematics, 94 percent of Troup County’s students taking the high school graduation test passed the exam in the 2006-to-2007 school year, a steady increase over the 2004-to-2005 and 2005-to-2006 years. Troup County’s performance exceeded that for the state overall during the last two school years.

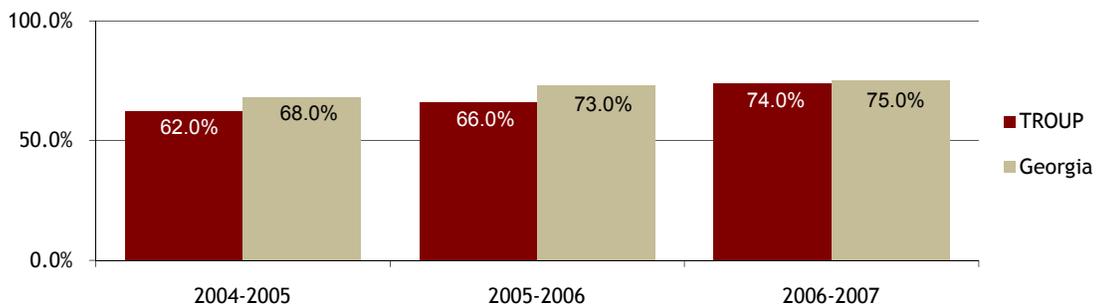
### Troup v State of Georgia High School Graduation Test Performance - Passing Mathematics



Source: Georgia Department of Education

Troup County’s high school graduation test performance in science increased significantly, shifting from 62 percent passing the test in the 2004-to-2005 school year to 74 percent in the 2006-to-2007 year. Unlike with mathematics, a lower proportion of Troup students have passed the science test than in the state overall.

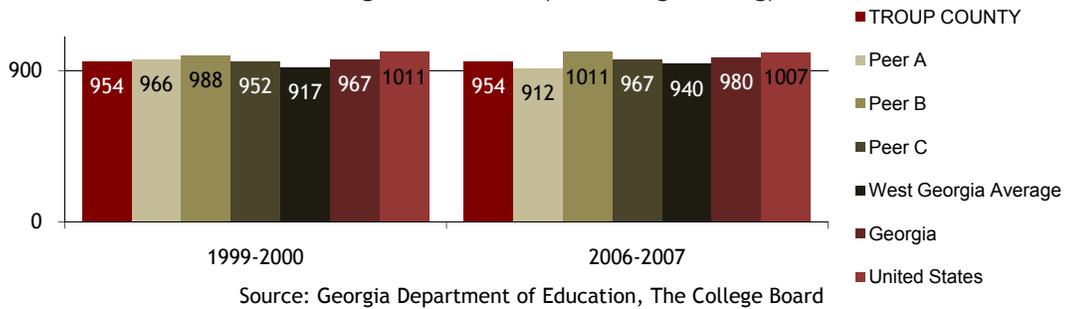
### Troup Vs. State of Georgia High School Graduation Test Performance - Passing Science



Source: Georgia Department of Education

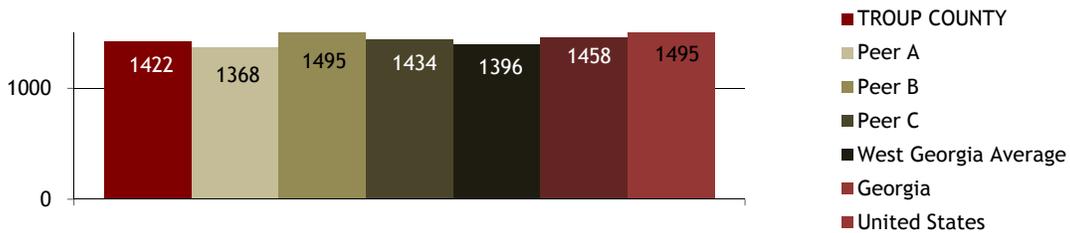
- **Troup County’s SAT performance has consistently lagged behind Georgia and the nation, but has exceeded the average for its region.** The county’s performance has also consistently lagged behind that of one of its peers. In 2006-2007, a total of 301 students took the SAT exam, which is slightly up from 1999-2000 when a total of 288 students took the exam.

### Average SAT Scores (Excluding Writing)



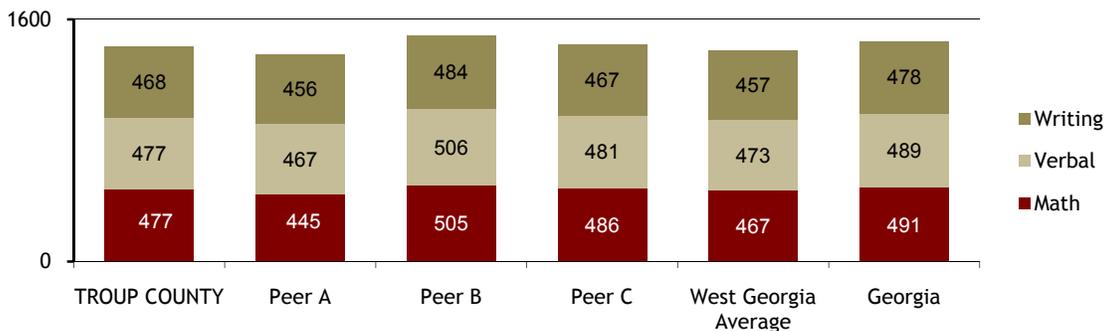
When looking at the composite score with the addition of the writing test for the 2006 to 2007 school year, one can find similar observations regarding Troup County's performance.

### Average SAT Scores (Including Writing), 2006-2007



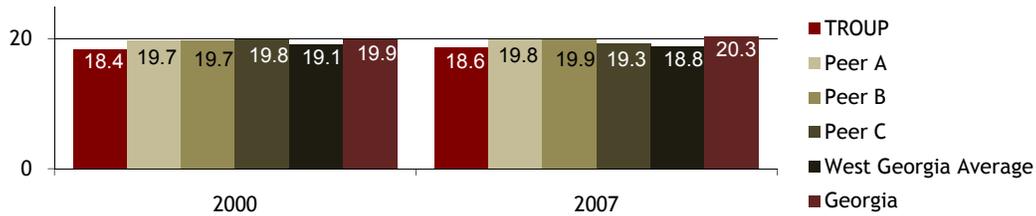
Regarding math, verbal, and writing scores separately, Troup County exceeded one of its peers and the average for its region in math and verbal, and two of its peers and the average for its region in writing. Troup County students had the same average score for math and verbal, which exceeded their average score for writing.

### Average SAT Scores, 2006-2007



- Troup County's student performance on the ACT has barely shifted in recent years. The county's ACT performance has lagged behind that of its peers, region, and state.

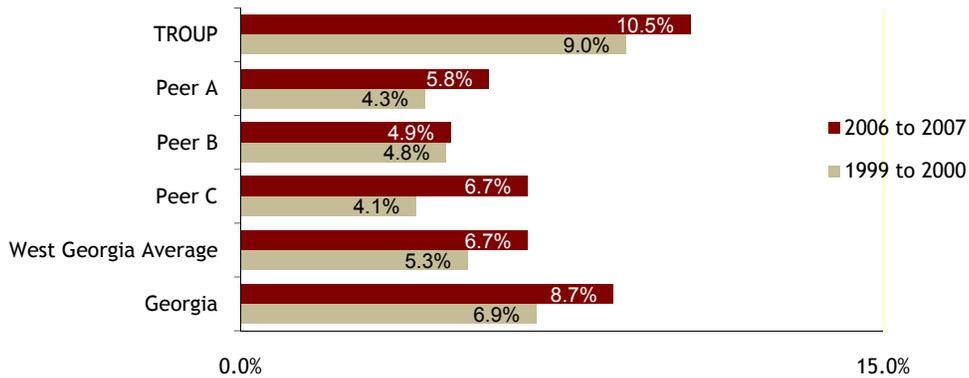
### Average ACT Scores



Source: Georgia Department of Education, The College Board

- Troup County has had an above-average percentage of gifted students.** The county saw its percentage of such students increase from the 1999-to-2000 to the 2006-to-2007 school years. During both school years, Troup County's share of gifted students greatly surpassed that of its peers and the average for its region, and also exceeded the rate for the state.

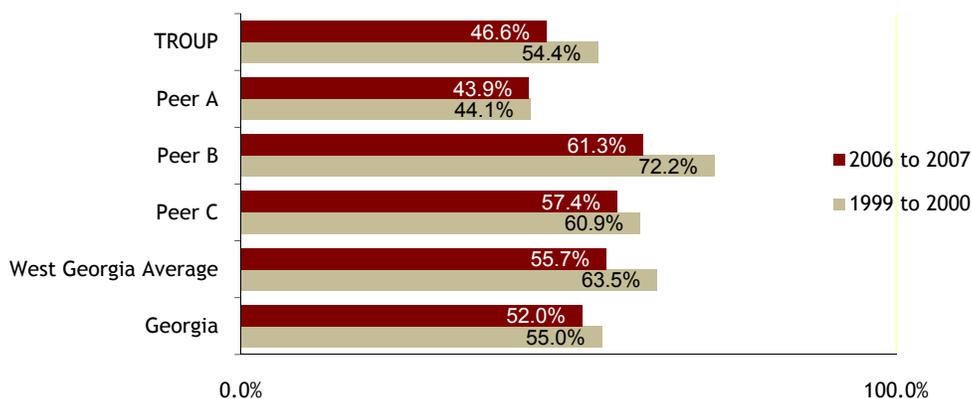
### Gifted Students Comparison



Source: Georgia Department of Education

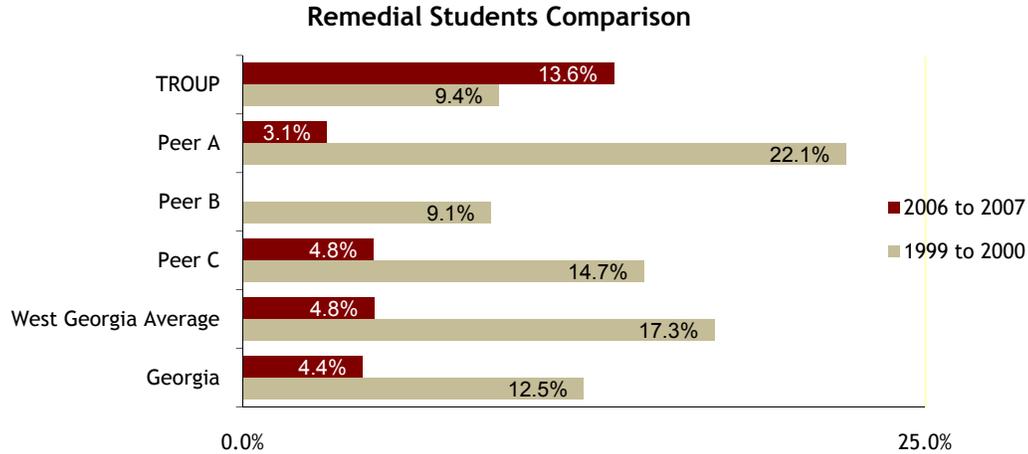
- Troup County's percentage of high school students participating in vocational labs has dropped and been generally below average.** The county's vocational lab participation rate dropped from 54.4 percent in the 1999-to-2000 school year to 46.6 percent in the 2006-to-2007 school year. During both periods, Troup County's participation rate was lower than that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

### Vocational Lab Participation Comparison



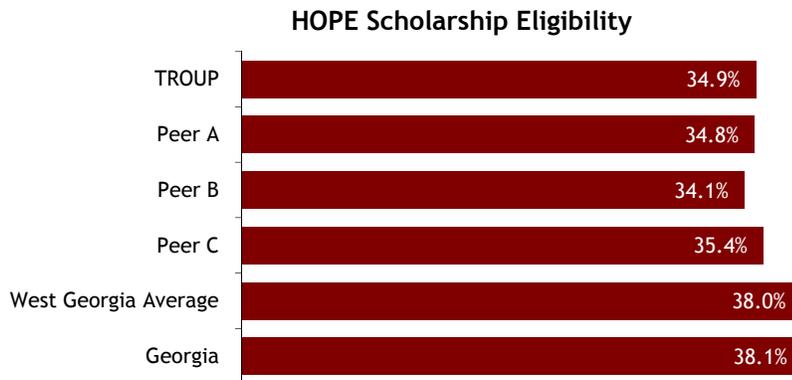
Source: Georgia Department of Education

- **Troup County’s percentage of high school students requiring remedial education has increased significantly.** For the 1999-to-2000 school year, there were 9.4 percent of such students, but for the 2006-to-2007 school year, there were 13.6 percent. This growth in the need for remedial education bucks the trends seen by the county’s peers, region, and state. Troup County’s 2006-to-2007 rate exceeded that of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.



Source: Georgia Department of Education

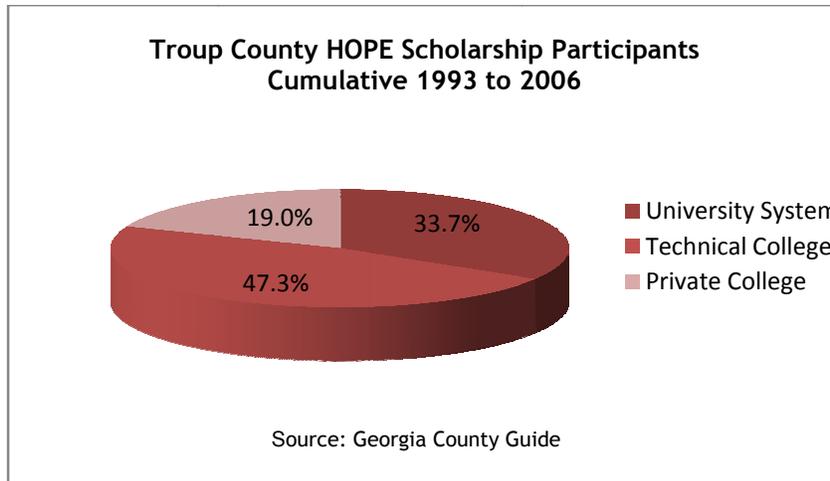
- **Troup County’s HOPE scholarship eligibility appears to be below average.** Although for 2006 to 2007, the county’s rate of eligibility exceeded the rate for two of its peers, it lagged behind the average for west Georgia and the rate for Georgia.



Source: Georgia County Guide

From 1993 to 2006, a total of 10,917 students from Troup County participated in HOPE. Of those, 33.7 percent were enrolled in a University System college, 47.3 percent were enrolled in a technical college, and 19 percent were enrolled in a private college.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Source: Georgia County Guide



- Almost half of Troup County students have earned college prep diplomas.** The share of graduates earning such diplomas increased substantially from 2000 to 2007, but decreased among peers and Georgia. Vocational diplomas accounted for the second highest share of graduates; however, corresponding with the trends in its peer group, region and state, such diplomas accounted for a smaller share of Troup’s diplomas in 2007 than it did in 2000. Also, there was a drop in Troup County students earning special education diplomas as well as diplomas with dual seals.<sup>27</sup>

**Diplomas Earned by Troup County High School Graduates**

	TROUP		Peer Group Average		West Georgia Average		Georgia	
	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2007	2000	2007
College Prep Diplomas	39.7%	46.7%	45.5%	37.1%	39.7%	45.2%	52.9%	48.7%
Vocational Diplomas	41.2%	37.9%	31.3%	32.3%	31.1%	31.5%	25.0%	24.4%
Special Ed. Diplomas	5.4%	3.4%	3.9%	5.9%	4.5%	5.5%	3.4%	4.3%
Diplomas with Dual Seals	13.6%	11.9%	19.2%	24.7%	24.7%	17.8%	18.6%	22.6%
Total Graduates	514	614	1165	1484	3035	3938	64,333	81,323

Source: Georgia Department of Education

- Compared to the state norm, Troup County has a smaller share of students who attend Georgia public colleges and require learning support.** Of the 2006 graduates, 17.8 percent of Troup’s graduates required such support compared to 21.8 percent for the state. The percentage of such students did increase some both for the county and Georgia, up from their 2005 rates of 15.5 percent and 19.6 percent, respectively.

<sup>27</sup> The State of Georgia is implementing a one-diploma system. This data precedes the implementation of this system.

- **Troup County has seen a higher percentage of students go to a Georgia technical college than has the state as a whole.** Approximately 29.8 percent of the county's 2006 graduates entered a Georgia public college in the 2006-to-2007 school year - while this reflects a higher percentage than what was observed for the 2005 graduates, it is notably lower than the 41.6 percent for the state as a whole. However, this does not mean that Troup County is seeing fewer of its graduates go on to college, as this data only pertains to public colleges in Georgia and does not account for students who attend private college or a non-Georgia public college. What is notable is that 15.3 percent of Troup County's 2006 graduates entered a Georgia technical college, exceeding the state rate of 10.1 percent.
- **The vast majority of graduates from West Georgia Technical College find employment.** In 2005, the college reported that 84.4 percent of its graduates were employed, exceeding the state average among technical colleges (not including the jointly affiliated colleges with the Board of Regents) of 73.6 percent. Of those employed, 73.7 percent were employed within their field, surpassing the state average of 63.1 percent, and 10.7 percent were employed out of field, which was comparable to the state's rate of 10.5 percent. Notably, West Georgia Tech ranked seventh among the state's 34 technical colleges in 2005 for its percentage of graduates who were employed.<sup>28</sup> For the year 2007, West Georgia Tech, in its annual report, reported an even higher placement rate of 98.6 percent.

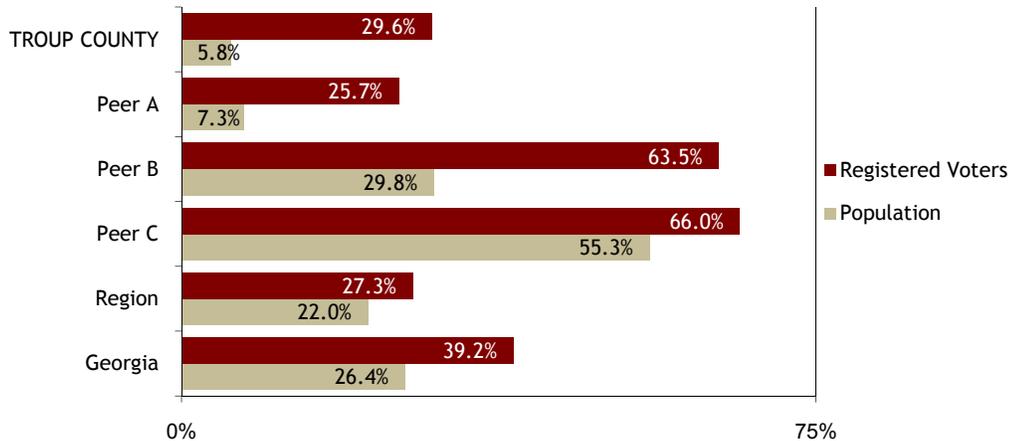
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<sup>28</sup> Source: Technical College System of Georgia ([www.dtae.org](http://www.dtae.org)), 2005 Annual Report

## CIVIC AND SOCIAL CAPITAL

- Troup’s number of registered voters has grown significantly over the years, outpacing the community’s population growth. Registered voters increased by 29.6 percent from 1990 to 2000. During that period, Troup’s growth rate in registered voters was more than five times the growth rate of its population (5.8 percent).

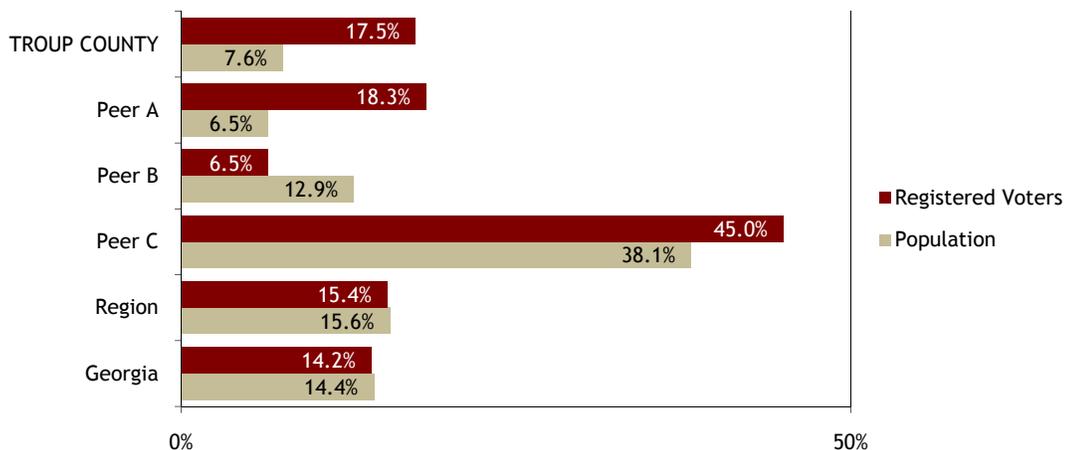
Growth in Registered Voters vs. Growth in Population 1990-2000



Source: The Georgia County Guide, U.S. Census Bureau

During the period of 2000 to 2006, the community’s growth rate in registered voters (17.5 percent) more than doubled its rate of population growth (7.6 percent). Growth in registered voters outpaced population growth in other comparison areas as well during this period for two of Troup’s peers, but not for its region and state.

Growth in Registered Voters vs. Growth in Population, 2000-2006

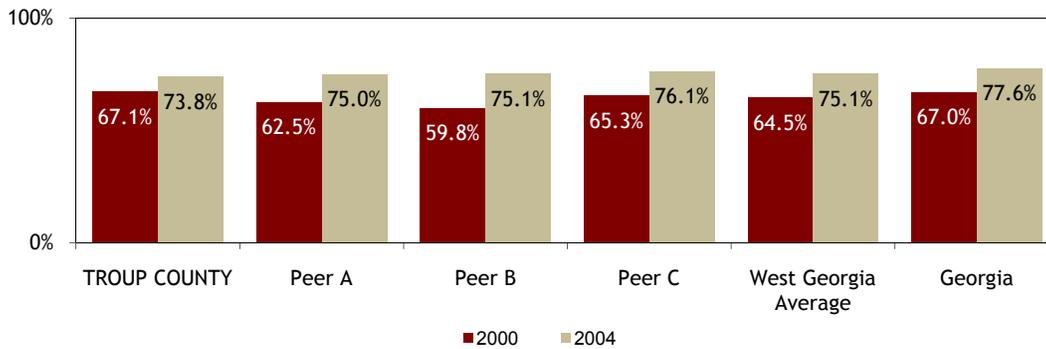


Source: The Georgia County Guide, U.S. Census Bureau

- Troup County’s voter participation rate has been comparably lower than most of its counterparts in recent years. A review the percentage of registered voters who voted in the 2000 and 2004 general elections for president, showed Troup’s rate increased along with its peers, the average for west Georgia, and Georgia overall, but did so to a lesser degree than each of these

counterparts. As a result, in 2004, Troup County’s voter participation rate was exceeded by that of its peers, region, and state. That year, nearly three-quarters (73.8 percent) of those registered to vote in Troup County did so.

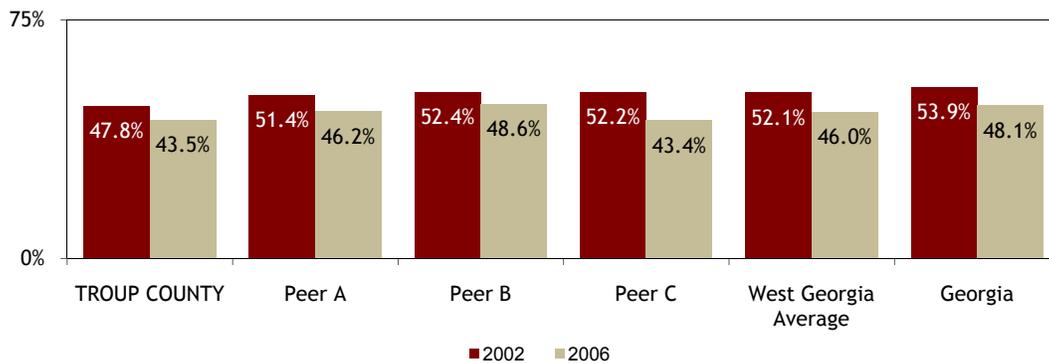
**Voter Participation Rate in General Election for President  
2000 and 2004**



Source: The Georgia County Guide, U.S. Census Bureau

When reviewing the voter participation in the general elections for governor, one sees the rates are not as high as those observed in a presidential election. Troup County, along with its peers, region, and state, saw its voter participation rate drop from the 2002 to 2006 elections. During both years, Troup County’s voter participation rate was below that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for Georgia as a whole. During the 2006 election, the county’s rate was just a fraction higher than one of its peers.

**Voter Participation Rate in General Election for Governor  
2002 and 2006**



Source: The Georgia County Guide, U.S. Census Bureau

- **Troup County’s crime rate has fluctuated over the years and has been higher than the norm for its region and state.** The county saw its crime rate drop from 1990 to 2000, then rise again in 2005. This pattern was consistent with the average for west Georgia, the rate for the state, and for one of Troup’s peers. However, Troup County’s resulting 2005 rate notably exceeded that of its peers, the average for its region, and the rate for Georgia. The average for west Georgia specifically appeared to be half of Troup’s rate.

**Crime Rate Per 1,000 Population Comparison**

	1990	2000	2005
TROUP COUNTY	63.98	57.99	69.05
Peer A	70.53	68.97	53.21
Peer B	35.73	20.30	38.00
Peer C	35.54	35.72	44.97
West Georgia Average	34.19	31.43	34.79
Georgia	65.71	41.39	43.72

Note: Numbers are rounded.  
Source: Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- **Troup County has seen a steady increase in its juvenile arrest rate (for ages 10 to 17).** Its rate appears to have consistently exceeded the average for west Georgia and the rate for the state. Georgia has also seen a steady increase, but to a lesser degree than Troup. Two of the county's peers posted 2004 rates largely above Troup County. However, Troup's region and two of its peers saw a decrease in the average rate from 2000 to 2004.

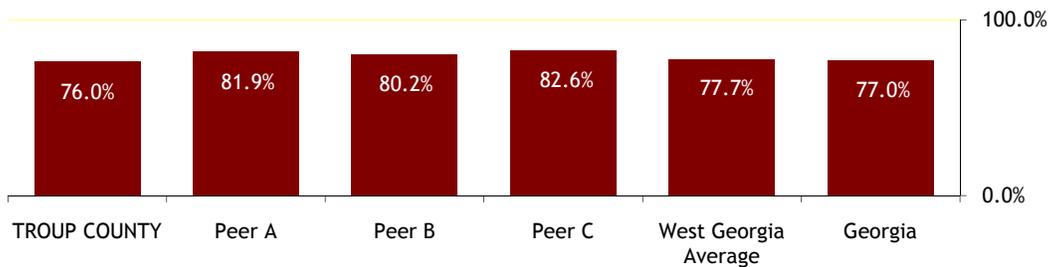
**Juvenile Arrest Rate**

	1990	2000	2004
TROUP COUNTY	3.31%	6.70%	8.06%
Peer A	1.64%	15.79%	13.87%
Peer B	0.75%	3.21%	11.28%
Peer C	1.13%	5.07%	4.48%
West Georgia Average	1.04%	5.96%	5.83%
Georgia	2.89%	4.21%	6.14%

Source: Georgia Bureau of Investigation

- **Troup County appears to have a below-average rate of proper safety belt usage.** When reviewing the percentage of persons (over age 5) using seat belts, one note the county's rate is lower than that of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.

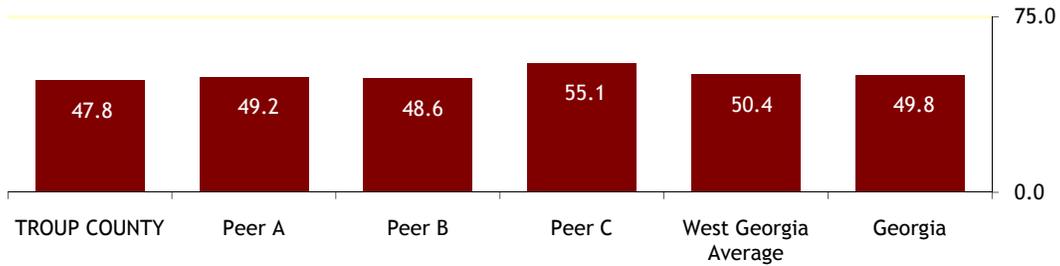
**Safety Restraint Use 1996 to 2003**



Source: Georgia Department of Transportation

Concerning the rate of proper child safety belt usage by occupants under age 6 (per 10,000 drivers) from 1996 to 2003, the county's rate was lower than that of each of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for Georgia.

**Proper Child Safety Belt Usage by Occupants Under 6 Years  
1996 to 2003**



Source: Georgia Department of Transportation

- **Troup County appears to have relatively high motor vehicle crash rates that can be linked to specific behaviors.** The county has an above-average rate of crashes involving drivers maintaining unsafe or illegal speeds. From 1996 to 2003, the county’s rate exceeded that of all three of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state. Troup County also had an above-average rate of crashes involving alcohol or drug use during this same period— its rate was higher than that of two of its peers, the average for the region, and the rate for Georgia.

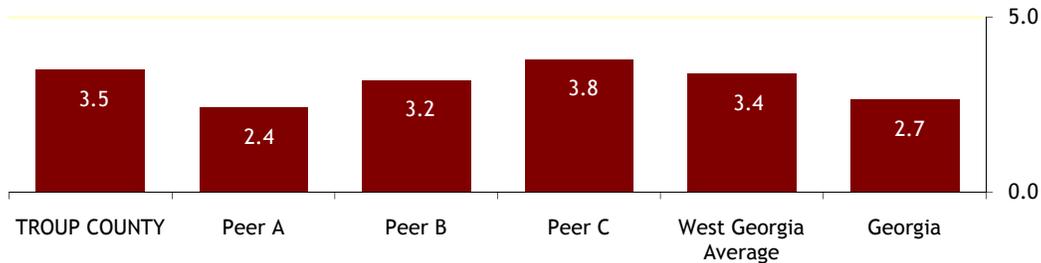
**Crash Rate 1996 to 2003**

Crashes Per 10,000 Licensed Drivers		
	Unsafe or Illegal Speed Drivers	Alcohol & Drug Use Drivers
TROUP COUNTY	48.4	20.8
Peer A	41.1	20.6
Peer B	29.3	26.0
Peer C	43.2	19.0
West Georgia Average	39.2	16.6
Georgia	34.8	17.8

Source: Georgia Department of Transportation

Coinciding with these observations regarding motor vehicle crashes, Troup County has an above-average fatality rate due to such crashes when compared to two of its peers, its region, and state.

**Motor Vehicle Crash Fatality Rate Per 10,000 Licensed Drivers  
1996 to 2003**



Source: Georgia Department of Transportation

- **Troup County appears to lag behind in terms of local government support for public safety.** In 2006, the county allocated 32.3 percent of its budget to public safety, which was notably lower than two of its peers and just below the average for its region (33.7 percent).

**Local Government Support for Public Safety, 2006**

Portion of Total Budget	
TROUP COUNTY	32.3%
Peer A	43.8%
Peer B	28.8%
Peer C	46.7%
West Georgia Average	33.7%

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

- **Troup County’s private institutional support to address civic and social needs has increased in recent years.** The county’s number of civic and related associations grew 23.4 percent from 2000 to 2005, and employment by these organizations also increased by 10.3 percent, exceeding the rate of population growth (6.6 percent) during this period. In terms of organizational presence, Troup County has a level higher than that of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the average for the state. Regarding staff capacity, the county’s level is also higher than that of two of its peers and the average for the region.

**Civic and Related Associations**

	2000		2005	
	Organizations	Staff	Organizations	Staff
TROUP COUNTY	77	428	95	472
Peer A	81	646	74	712
Peer B	45	286	51	346
Peer C	42	217	39	365
West Georgia Average	45	266	50	311
Georgia Average	49	454	53	494

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- **Troup County appears to have an above-average level of volunteerism.** Following are some observations regarding the level of activity as of 2007.
  - As an indicator of youth volunteerism, Troup County is home to two Learn and Serve America programs. The county’s Whitesville Road Elementary School has 1,080 participants, accounting for 5.4 percent of the state’s total known participation (20,015). This is notable when compared to Troup County’s estimated share (0.7 percent) of Georgia’s population between the ages of 5 and 19.<sup>29</sup> The county’s other Learn and Serve America program is located at Callaway High School.<sup>30</sup>
  - As an indicator of adult volunteerism, Troup County is home to four AmeriCorps programs. Together, these programs have 33 members, which rank third behind the combined membership of such programs in Atlanta or Macon.
  - As an indicator of senior citizen volunteerism, Troup County operates two Senior Corps programs with a total of 124 participants. In 2007, these participants accounted for 2 percent of the state’s total known participation (6,052). This was higher than the county’s estimated share (0.7 percent) of Georgia’s population age 60 and older.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup> Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

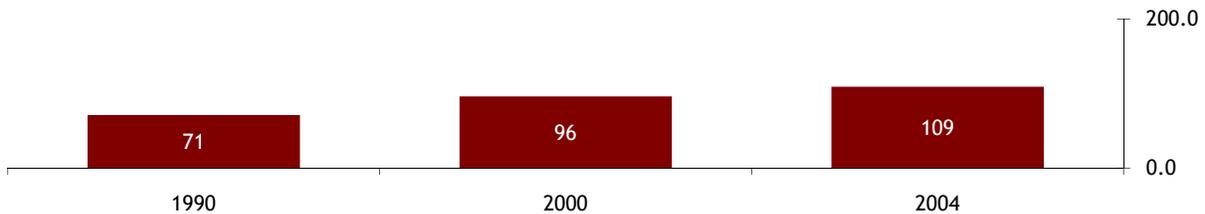
<sup>30</sup> Source: Corporation for National and Community Service

<sup>31</sup> Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

- **Troup County has had a steady rise in its number of physicians, which has significantly outpaced its population growth.** From 1990 to 2000, Troup’s number of physicians grew 35.2 percent while the county’s overall population increased marginally by 5.8 percent. From 2000 to 2004, Troup County saw a little more significant growth in its presence of physicians as they increased in number by 13.5 percent during the period when the county continued to have marginal population growth. As of 2004, Troup County counted 109 physicians.

**Number of Physicians in Troup County, Georgia**

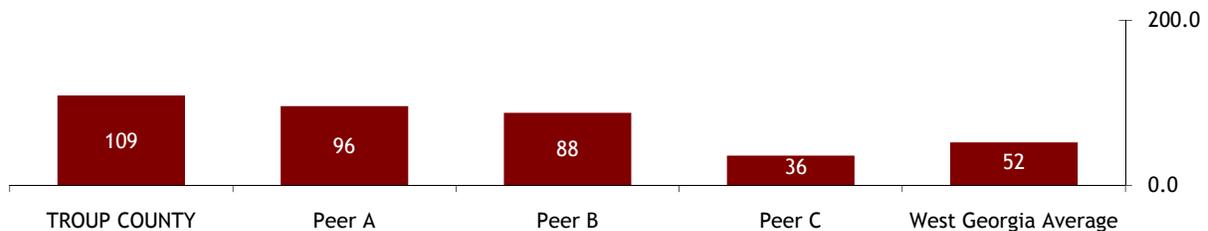


Source: Georgia Board of Physician Workforce

Given Troup County’s growth in the number of physicians, there has been a significant increase in Troup’s physician rate (rate of physicians per 100,000 population). As a result, the county’s physician rate in 2004 is significantly higher than that of its peers and the average for West Georgia.

Due to the significant growth in the number of physicians providing care to its residents, Troup County’s level of physicians appears to exceed that of its peers and the average for west Georgia.

**Number of Physicians 2004**



Source: Georgia Board of Physician Workforce

- **Troup County is home to the West Georgia Medical Center, which, data suggest, holds untapped capacity.** The hospital has a bed capacity of 276 and posted an occupancy rate of 40.5 percent in 2004. Troup’s hospital occupancy rate was significantly below the state and two of its peer counties, and slightly below the average for west Georgia.

### Hospital Occupancy Rates

	1990	2000	2004
TROUP COUNTY	47.6	44.3	40.5
Peer A	58.4	51.4	61.3
Peer B	45.9	47.6	53.9
Peer C	57.3	19.0	21.7
West Georgia Average	44.0	34.9	43.5
Georgia	54.5	45.4	50.5

Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

A partial explanatory factor for the lower occupancy rate— the average length of stay (4.4 days) at West Georgia Medical Center was slightly lower than the average for west Georgia (4.5), the rate for one of its peers, and the rate for Georgia (4.8 days) in 2004.

- **Troup County has three nursing homes.** Combined, these homes had 404 beds in 2004. The county's bed capacity exceeds that of each of its peers and the average for west Georgia (239). Although the county appears to have an above-average level of capacity, it also had a higher occupancy rate than one of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state in 2004. Also, while its peers, the west Georgia average, and the state each had occupancy decline, Troup County saw a slight increase from 2000 to 2004, bucking the trend and reflecting a higher level of demand for such care.

### Nursing Home Occupancy Rates

	1990	2000	2004
TROUP COUNTY	97.0	94.5	96.2
Peer A	97.6	97.5	96.5
Peer B	94.0	93.5	88.6
Peer C	97.9	99.0	97.8
West Georgia Average	97.9	96.1	93.3
Georgia	94.6	91.0	86.6

Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

- **Troup County has had some growth in its private institutional support for health care.** From 2001 to 2006, the county saw a marginal increase (3.4 percent) in the number of health care and social services organizations, from 118 to 122. Growth in the number of these organizations lagged behind other areas, with the average county in the region increasing 11.7 percent, the state of Georgia increasing 22.5 percent, and Troup's peer counties experiencing between 19 and 41.5 percent growth. However, employment by these organizations showed much more substantial growth, increasing from 1,684 to 2,168, or by 28.7 percent during this short time period, signaling a notable increase in the availability of health care and social services. Troup's growth in employment for these organizations topped growth in the state (19.8 percent), the average for west Georgia (23 percent), and one of its peers. Both in 2001 and 2006, Troup County's number of organizations exceeded that of two of its peers, the average for west Georgia and the average for the state. In terms of staff capacity, the county exceeded that of one of its peers and the average for its region in both years and the average for Georgia in 2006.

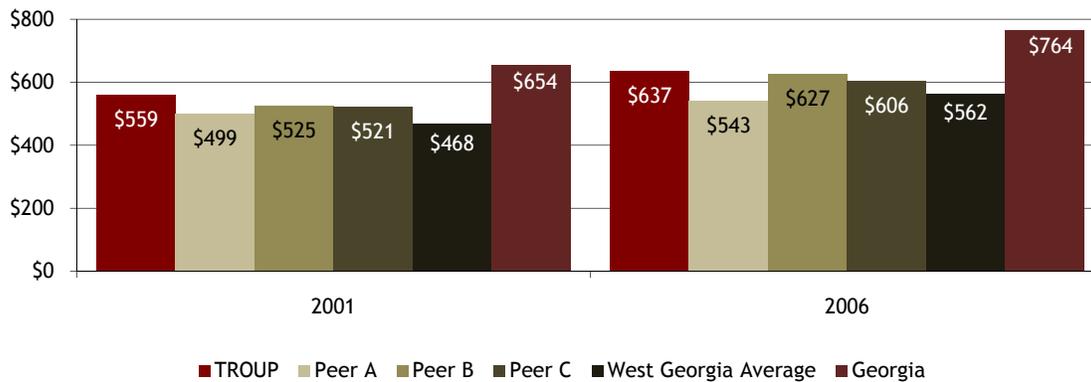
**Health Care and Social Services**

	2001		2006	
	Organizations	Staff	Organizations	Staff
TROUP COUNTY	118	1,684	122	2,168
Peer A	100	2,366	119	3,452
Peer B	112	1,986	151	2,234
Peer C	41	668	58	1,094
West Georgia Average	67	1,362	75	1,675
Georgia Average	97	1,895	112	2,127

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County’s average weekly wage in health care and social services has risen steadily and is above average for its region.** While in 2001 the average wage for this sector was \$559, it grew 14 percent to \$637 in 2006. This indicates that the community has recruited some more experienced or higher-skilled health care and social service professionals, suggesting a potentially increased quality of service in Troup. A comparison of wage growth in other areas shows that Troup’s wages grew at a slower rate than the average for west Georgia (20.2 percent), the rate for two of Troup’s peers, and the rate for the state (16.8 percent). However, in both 2001 and 2006, Troup County’s average wages in health care and social services exceeded that of its peers and the average for its region. Its wage levels are not yet at the level of the State’s, which is likely due to Georgia’s wages being driven by the costs associated with much larger metropolitan areas.

**Average Weekly Wages in Health Care and Social Services**



Source: Georgia Department of Labor

- **Troup County’s mortality rate has been significantly high.** For the 10-year period of 1995 to 2004, Troup County’s overall mortality rate (1,106.4 per 100,000 population) exceeded the rate of each of its peers, the average for west Georgia and the rate for the state.

**Mortality Rate 1995 to 2004**

	Overall Mortality Rate	Infant Mortality Rate
	(Deaths Per 100,000 Population)	(Deaths Per 1,000 Live Births)
TROUP COUNTY	1,106.4	10.2
Peer A	990.2	10.7
Peer B	712.1	11.9
Peer C	740.9	5.5
West Georgia Average	979.4	9.2
Georgia	768.7	8.7

Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

The county's infant mortality rate has also been relatively high. The county's rate (10.2) for the 10-year period of 1995 to 2004 was notably higher than one of its peers, the average for west Georgia (9.2), and the rate for the state (8.7).<sup>32</sup>

- **Troup County has had an above-average rate of sexually transmitted diseases.** The county's rate (5.8 per 100,000 population) from 2000 to 2004 exceeded that of two of its peers as well as the averages for west Georgia (4.1) and the state (4.2).<sup>33</sup>
- **Troup County's incidence of tuberculosis appears to be above the norm for its region.** From 1998 to 2005, the county had 26 cases of tuberculosis, exceeding the level of incidences experienced by each of its peers and the average for west Georgia (21). Troup County had the second highest incidence among counties in west Georgia, and four of its regional counterparts had less than five cases during this period.<sup>34</sup>
- **Troup County's suicide rate is higher than the regional and state averages.** The county's rate (11.3 per 100,000 population) in 2005 was higher than the west Georgia regional county average (5.8) and the Georgia rate (9.8). Two of Troup's peers had higher rates (13.3 and 14.7), but the third peer had a rate of zero. Troup County's rate has risen since its 8.5 figure in 1995, while average rates have declined in the west Georgia region during that same time period. During this time the State's rate increased from 8.8 to 9.8, one of the peer's rates increased, and another one's decreased (the third peer again had a rate of zero in 1995). It is worth noting that Troup County's 2005 rate was based on seven suicides, and in 1995 there were five. In 2005, there was only one teen suicide in Troup County. That year, there was only one other teen suicide in the region, and only one of the peers had an instance of teen suicide. That year the state's teen suicide rate was 2.9 per 100,000 people.<sup>35</sup>
- **Troup County appears to have an above-average percentage of its population (age 5 and over) with a disability.** In 2000, the year of the most recent data available, the county's rate (23.3 percent) was higher than that for two of its peers, the average for west Georgia (22.5 percent), and the rate for the state (19.7 percent).<sup>36</sup>
  - Troup County's percentage of individuals with *physical disabilities* (24.2 percent) was below the average for west Georgia (25.2 percent), but higher than the rate for the state (23 percent) and the rate for two of its peers.
  - Troup County also had a higher percentage of individuals with *mental health disabilities* (13.8 percent) when compared to that for one of its peers and the state (13.6 percent), although it was on par with the average for west Georgia (13.8 percent).
  - There was a lower share (24.1 percent) of persons with a disability that prevented them from gainful employment in Troup County than in Georgia overall (25.2 percent), although the county's percentage of such persons exceeded that of two of its peers and the average for West Georgia (23.2).
- **Troup County's Healthy Start Index declined significantly during recent years.** The Healthy Start Index is a measure of the percentage of infants born weighing 2,500 grams or more, born to mothers receiving prenatal care in the first trimester, and born to mothers who did not drink alcohol or smoke during pregnancy. The county's index shifted from 77.6 percent in 2000 to 61.4 percent in 2005. The index for the region and state also shifted downward, but to a lesser degree

<sup>32</sup> Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources

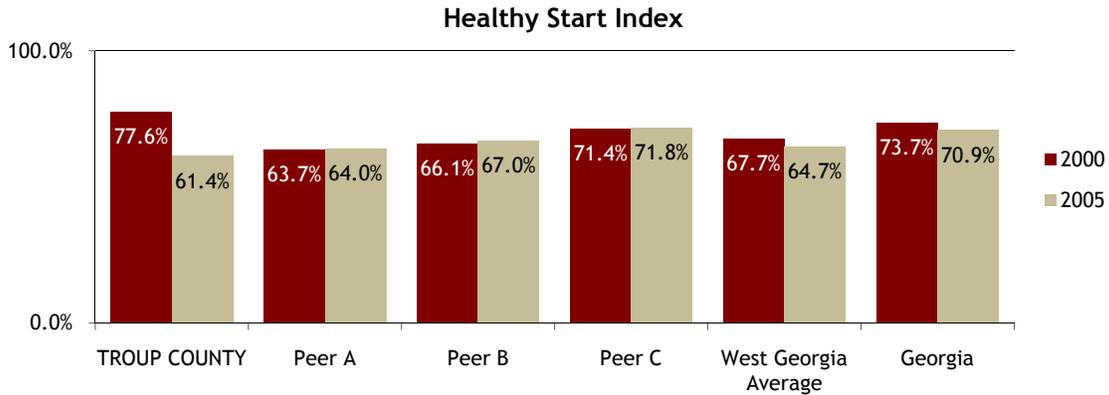
<sup>33</sup> Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>34</sup> Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>35</sup> Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Department of Health and Human Services

<sup>36</sup> Source: U.S. Census Bureau

than Troup. The county’s peers each improved their index during this period. Troup County’s 2005 rate was lower than that of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state.



Source: Georgia Department of Human Resources and Georgia Family Connections Partnership

- **Troup County’s percentage of the population without health insurance has been below average.** In 2000, the most recent year the data is available, 15.3 percent of Troup’s population lacked insurance. This rate was lower than two of its peers, the average for West Georgia (16.1 percent), and the rate for the state (15.8 percent) that year. Considering the county’s youth population (those under age 18), Troup’s rate of uninsured (12.5 percent) remained lower than two of its peers, the regional average (13.1 percent), and the rate for Georgia (14.2 percent).
- **In terms of local government support for health and human services, Troup County appears to be lagging.** In 2006, the county dedicated 2.7 percent of its budget to health and human services, a rate below the norm vis-a-vis two of its peers and the average for West Georgia.

**Local Government Support for Health and Human Services, 2006**

Health & Human Services	
TROUP COUNTY	2.7%
Peer A	3.4%
Peer B	1.2%
Peer C	4.5%
West Georgia Average	3.1%

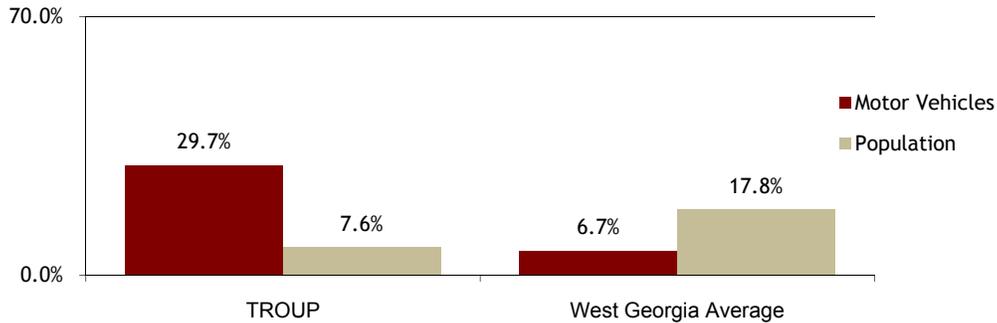
Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

## ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION

- **Troup County’s persons per automobile ratio declined by a marginal degree from 2000 to 2006.** In 2000, there were 1.3 persons per automobile, but the ratio was 1.1 in 2006. This suggests a slight increase in single-occupant vehicles. In 2006, Troup’s ratio was lower than its peer group average (1.3) and on par with that of its region (1.1).

As of 2006, Troup County residents owned an estimated 57,556 motor vehicles, representing a 29.7 percent increase over such ownership in 2000 and far outpacing the county’s growth in population (7.6 percent) during this period. The opposite trend occurred in the region, as the average growth in motor vehicles was 6.7 percent compared to an average population growth of 17.8 percent.

**Growth in Motor Vehicle Usage Vs. Population Growth  
2000 to 2006**



Source: Georgia Department of Revenue for motor vehicles;  
U.S. Census Bureau for population

- **Troup County has three active municipal water systems.** Together, these systems serve more than 50,000 people, with the city of LaGrange accounting for the vast majority (84.3 percent in 2005) of those served. The county’s public water systems serve more customers than do any of its peers as well as the average county in west Georgia and the state. The number of those served by the county’s public water systems dropped slightly from 2000 to 2005, despite the population growth and contrary to the average trend for its region and state. As of 2005, Troup County had a total of 19,104 permitted water taps, which exceeded each of its peers and all but two of its regional counterparts.

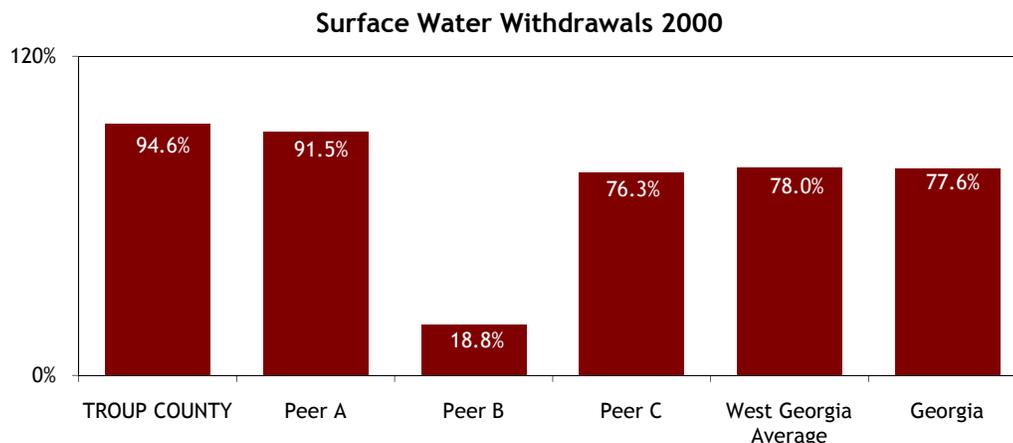
**Population Served by Public Water Systems**

	2000	2005	Change
TROUP COUNTY	50,450	50,152	(0.6%)
Peer A	47,301	46,051	(2.6%)
Peer B	39,469	28,860	(26.9%)
Peer C	24,723	38,491	55.7%
West Georgia Average	26,378	29,074	10.2%
Georgia Average	42,342	44,644	5.4%

Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

- **The vast majority of Troup County’s water comes from surface sources.** The county’s level of surface withdrawals (94.6 percent) exceeds that of its peers, the average for west Georgia, and the rate for the state. Only 5.4 percent of the county’s water supply is supplied by groundwater. (A review of February 2005 permit data confirms this trend.) Within the last 10 years, Troup County

had only one reported health-based violation (for the city of West Point) where there was an instance of a contaminant exceeding safety standards.<sup>37</sup>



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

- Troup County stakeholder concerns about water quality appear valid.** According to the *Guidelines for Eating Fish from Georgia Waters, 2007 Update* by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), some stretches of the Chattahoochee River have enough contamination to warrant limits on the amount of certain types of fish consumed from the river. Specifically, in West Point Lake researchers found species with higher levels of mercury and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), two contaminants frequently detected in significant amounts in certain species from some bodies of water in Georgia.<sup>38</sup> There are restrictions on hybrid bass and channel catfish, where DNR recommends limiting consumption to one meal per week.

The county is served by the Middle Chattahoochee - Lake Harding Watershed that supports more than 130 different rivers, streams, creeks, and lakes. Approximately two dozen of these are located in Troup County. As of 2004, nearly half (46.3 percent) of the waterways served by this watershed had sections considered “impaired” by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and thus unsafe for drinking. These included nine waterways in Troup County, including the 22,911-acre West Point Lake, Long Cane Creek (14 miles near Panther, Blue John, Long Cane Creeks from LaGrange to Chattahoochee River), and Blue John Creek. Of note, two of the waterways were assessed in 2002 as having water that was “impaired” - Flat Shoals Creek and Shoals Creek - but were assessed as having water that was “good” in 2004. While PCBs (in fish tissue) were identified as the top pollutant for West Point Lake, the top pollutant for the rivers, streams, and creeks was identified as fecal coli form, which was estimated to be impairing 295 miles of waterways. Other causes for impairment have been identified by EPA to a lesser degree, such as water temperature, copper, dissolved oxygen, zinc, and toxicity.<sup>39</sup>

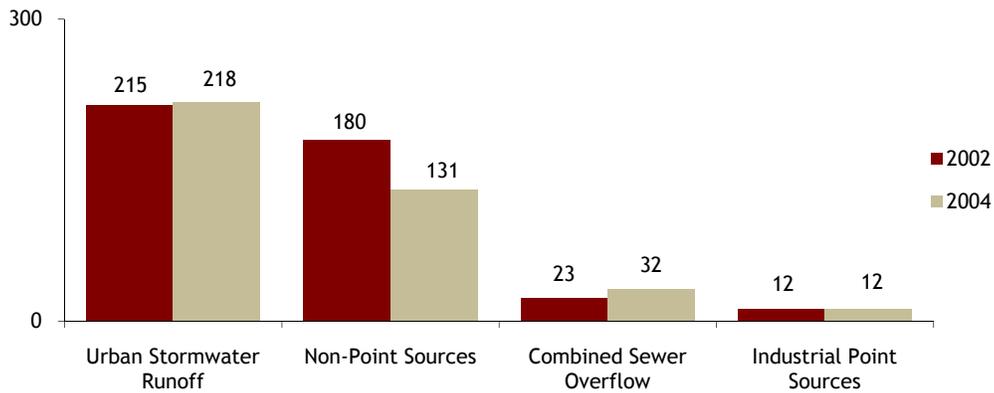
According to EPA, the main source of pollution for the streams, rivers, and creeks is “urban runoff,” suggesting that future pollution could be arbitrated some by changes in land use controls and design. Non-point source pollution was the second leading source. While combined sewer overflows and industrial point source discharge accounted for some of the pollution (third and fourth contributing sources, respectively), they did so to a minimal degree.

<sup>37</sup> Specifically, in July 2005 incident the contaminant was HAA5 (Total Halo Acetic Acids).

<sup>38</sup> It is now illegal to manufacture PCBs; however, in the past, these synthetic oils were used regularly as fluids for electrical transformers, cutting oils, and carbonless paper. Although they were banned in 1976, they do not break down easily and remain in aquatic sediments for years. Over time, levels of PCBs are decreasing. Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

<sup>39</sup> Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, National Assessment Database, 2004

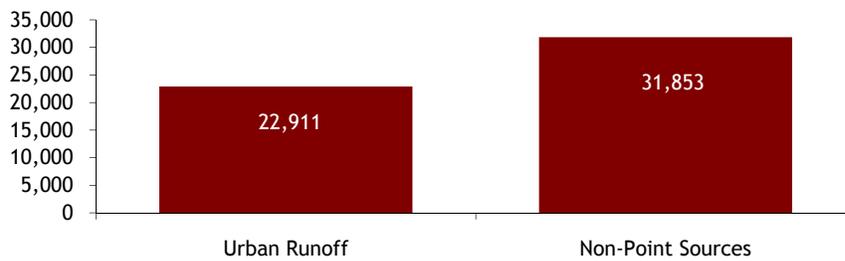
**Miles of Polluted Rivers, Creeks, and Streams in Troup County**



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Regarding area lakes, ponds, and reservoirs, the EPA identified non-point source pollution as the leading source and urban storm water runoff as a secondary source.

**Acres of Impaired Waters in Lakes, Ponds, Reservoirs 2004**



Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

EPA identified 13 waterways in Troup County that had “good” water status, including Flat Shoals Creek, Long Cane Creek (19 miles upstream of LaGrange), Whitewater Creek, Chattahoochee River, and Shoal Creek.

- **Troup County has seen its water usage increase substantially.** The amount of water withdrawn through its public systems grew 92.2 percent from 2000 to 2007, vastly exceeding the population growth during this period and over a span when its population served appears to have leveled off. In 2000, the county’s municipal systems withdrew 10.77 million gallons per day, but these systems withdrew an estimated 20.7 million in 2007.

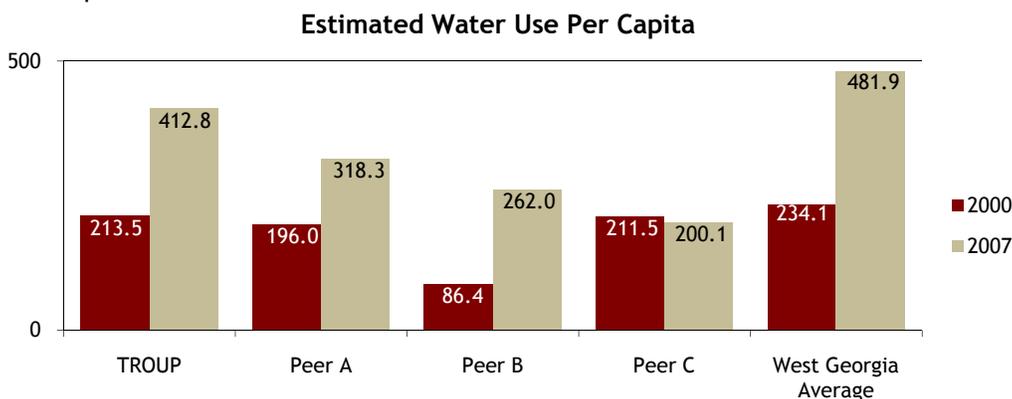
**Public Water Supply (Million Gallons per Day)**

	2000	2007	Change
TROUP COUNTY	10.77	20.70	92.2%
Peer A	9.27	14.66	58.1%
Peer B	3.41	7.56	121.7%
Peer C	5.23	7.70	47.2%
West Georgia Average	5.32	14.15	165.9%

Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

Troup County’s estimated water usage per capita (for public water supply) exceeded that of its peers in 2000 and 2007. While in 2000, the county’s per capita usage was not higher than the average for

west Georgia, the opposite was true in 2007. Troup County's rate of usage was higher than five of its regional counterparts in 2007.<sup>40</sup>



Source: Georgia County Guide for 2000;  
Georgia Environmental Protection Division for 2007

- **Troup County has maintained appropriate air quality requirements.** As of 2005, it was compliant with the ozone maintenance area requirements.<sup>41</sup> This was not the case for three other counties in west Georgia.
- **Troup County has fewer sites on the Georgia Environmental Protection Division's (EPD) Hazardous Site Inventory (HSI) than do many other areas of the state.** A listing on this site means that "there has been a known or suspected release of a regulated substance above a reportable quantity at the site, and the site has yet to show that they meet state cleanup standards." To determine whether a release is reportable, EPD considers issues such as toxicity of the substance released, amount released, proximity to residential neighborhoods and drinking water wells, the extent to which the release is contained, and the accessibility of the site. Sites can also be placed on the HSI if the site "otherwise poses a threat to human health and the environment." As of July 2007, Troup County had three such sites and west Georgia had 33 sites.

Troup's three sites are:

- (1) LaGrange—Municipal Solid Waste Landfill, I-85/SR 109, 2233 Greenville Road, LaGrange. The city of LaGrange has earned national recognition for an environmentally innovative approach to dealing with the methane gas naturally produced by solid waste landfills. Namely, the city has been working with ARCADIS to implement a process for increased biodegradation that enables the production of a higher quality of landfill gas, one with higher methane content that can be used as a renewable energy source for producing electricity.
- (2) East Beasley Road Drum Site, East Beasley Road and Hines Road, Hogansville. This site has a release of nickel that exceeds a reportable quantity because it has the potential to contaminate groundwater. The nearest drinking-water well is less than 0.5 miles from the area affected by the release. Investigations are being conducted to determine how much cleanup is necessary for source materials, soil, and groundwater.

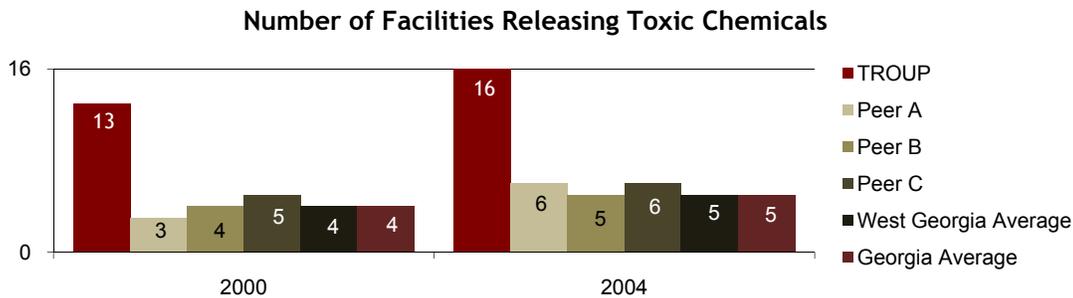
<sup>40</sup> To calculate the 2007 estimated water use per capita, figures from three Georgia EPD reports were used. The June 2007 surface water withdrawal and February 2005 groundwater withdrawal reports were used to determine public water supply. The February 2005 water permit report was used to determine population served. Given that the years are not exactly the same, the water use per capita is offered as estimation and deemed a close proxy.

<sup>41</sup> EPA recently revised the ozone standard from 1-hour ozone standard to an 8-hour average ozone standard. This indicator is helpful in determining whether the emissions of certain air pollutants (such as sulfur dioxide, carbon monoxide, lead, and nitrogen dioxide) affect a community's human health and environment. As a result, more of Georgia's counties are now classified as being in non-attainment.

(3) Chem-Am, 3562 Hogansville Road (HWY 29), LaGrange. This site has a known release of tetrachloroethene in groundwater at levels exceeding the reportable quantity. This release has resulted in known human exposure greater than or equal to the maximum contaminant level for tetrachloroethene. This site has unlimited access. The nearest individual residence is between 301 and 1,000 feet from the area affected by the release. Investigations are being conducted to determine how much cleanup is necessary for source materials, soil, and groundwater.

Annually, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) awards points to local governments for implementing sound solid waste management practices, such as recycling, education, and effective yard trimmings management programs. Communities must have their Solid Waste Management Plan and Short-Term Work Program up to date to be considered. Aggressive recycling programs and educational programs also earn them points. According to the 2002 Georgia Solid Waste Management Report published by DCA, Troup County ranked as an Extra Effort County, while LaGrange made the list of Extra Effort Cities.

- **Troup County appears to have an above-average presence of facilities releasing toxic chemicals.** As of 2004, the county housed 16 such facilities, or 30.2 percent of west Georgia’s total facilities. Troup County has more toxic release facilities than do its peers or any other county in its region. While its peers and most counties in its region saw an increase in their facility presence, Troup County’s increase of such facilities, from 13 in 2000 to 16 in 2004, was greater than all but one of these.



Source: Georgia County Guide, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

While Troup County saw its toxic release inventory escalate from 2000 to 2004, corresponding with the observed growth in facility presence, its 2006 volume represents a dramatic decrease. This is especially notable considering that the volume of toxic releases has steadily increased in west Georgia and the state during this time period. In all three years, Troup County’s release exceeded that of its peers, but fell below the norm for its region and state.

**Toxic Release Inventory (Pounds)**

	2000	2004	2006	2000-2006 Change
TROUP	410,707	426,460	298,555	(27.31%)
Peer A	108,460	158,341	132,244	21.84%
Peer B	2,746	7,651	3,510	27.82%
Peer C	337,132	88,863	89,101	(73.57%)
West Georgia	10,141,576	18,873,092	21,408,572	111.10%
Georgia	115,767,541	118,864,819	122,581,272	5.89%

Source: Georgia Environmental Protection Division

- **There are no superfund sites in Troup County or the west Georgia region.** These are sites considered the nation’s worst toxic waste sites, and therefore are on National Priorities List (NPL) or being considered for the NPL.