

Higher Education and Georgia's Workforce

Alexandra Hill ■ Beata Kochut ■ Jeffrey Humphreys

At the county level, the Selig Center's analysis of the Census Bureau's *American Community Survey* (five-year, 2013-2017) demonstrates extreme variation in postsecondary educational attainment of Georgians ages 25-64. For example, over 53 percent of Forsyth County's working-age adults have a bachelor's degree or higher compared to less than 6 percent in Quitman County. The pattern is not random. Postsecondary educational attainment is much higher in metropolitan counties than in rural (nonmetropolitan) counties.

The top 15 counties in terms of the percent of the adults ages 25-64 with a bachelor's degree or higher, in order, are Forsyth, Fulton, Oconee, Fayette, Cobb, DeKalb, Clarke, Cherokee, Columbia, Gwinnett, Chattahoochee, Bryan, Chatham, Coweta, and Henry. All are metropolitan counties: nine are in the Atlanta MSA, two are in the Athens MSA, two are in the Savannah MSA, and one each in the Augusta and Columbus MSAs.

The percentage of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher does not exceed the statewide average (31.3 percent) in any rural county. The 15 rural counties with the highest percentage of residents with a bachelor's degree or higher are Bulloch, Lumpkin, Camden, Thomas, Stephens, Jackson, Rabun, Catoosa, Greene, Baldwin, White, Habersham, Early, Troup, and Union. The percentage of adults with college degrees is less than 10 percent in 22 counties, 16 of which are rural. If Georgia is to make substantial progress in raising the state's overall level of

educational attainment, it needs policies designed to reduce this disparity.

The county-level analysis of postsecondary educational attainment is based on the percent of the population with a bachelor's degree or higher and does not factor in the percent of the population with some college—no degree, certificates, or associate degrees. It is possible that including this data would show less disparity in postsecondary educational attainment between metropolitan and rural counties, but doing so is unlikely to narrow the divide very much. Moreover, county-level data on certificates and other non-degrees are not available.

U.S. Census Data and Local Workforce Development Areas

Since a large proportion of workers in Georgia live 20 or even 40 miles away from their jobs and often cross county lines on their commutes to work, county-level analysis may not fully reflect skills available in the area. This issue is more of a problem here than in many other states because Georgia has 159 counties and many are very small. For this reason, the Georgia Department of Labor's Local Workforce Development Areas (LWDAs) is used to explore the supply of educated workers available in 18 regions of the state.

The postsecondary educational attainment of the workforce varies widely among LWDAs. The LWDAs with top concentrations of high-level (bachelor's degree

or higher) skills include Cobb, DeKalb, and Fulton counties, and the Atlanta region. The LWDA with fairly high concentrations of high-level skills include Georgia Mountains, Macon-Bibb County, East Central Georgia, Lower Chattahoochee, and Coastal Georgia. The LWDA with top concentrations of mid-level (some college or associate degree) skills include Middle Georgia, Central Savannah River, Lower Chattahoochee, and Coastal Georgia. Those with fairly high concentrations of mid-level skills include Northwest Georgia, Atlanta Regional, East Central Georgia, Middle Flint, and Southwest Georgia. The LWDA with top concentrations of basic-level (high school graduates, includes equivalency) skills include Three Rivers, Middle Flint, Heart of Georgia, and Southern Georgia. The LWDA

with fairly high concentrations of basic-level skills include Northwest Georgia, Macon-Bibb County, Middle Georgia, Central Savannah River, and Southwest Georgia. The LWDA with the most low level (no high school diploma) skills include Northwest Georgia, Middle Flint, Heart of Georgia, and Southwest Georgia, followed by the Georgia Mountains area, Three Rivers, Northeast Georgia, Central Savannah River, and Southern Georgia.

Alexandra Hill and Beata Kochut are senior research analysts in the Selig Center; Jeffrey Humphreys is the Center's director.

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Table 1
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, 2013-2017
(estimated numbers)

County	LWDA	Total	No High School Diploma	High School Graduate*	Some College or Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Georgia		5,393,396	664,881	1,452,688	1,589,636	1,686,191
Appling	16	9,371	2,033	3,781	2,396	1,161
Atkinson	18	4,204	1,201	1,703	941	359
Bacon	18	5,790	1,012	2,423	1,698	657
Baker	17	1,689	335	631	545	178
Baldwin	11	21,505	3,180	8,005	6,029	4,291
Banks	2	9,580	2,047	3,973	2,380	1,180
Barrow	9	40,180	6,179	13,350	13,480	7,171
Bartow	1	54,898	8,726	18,605	16,401	11,166
Ben Hill	18	8,682	1,540	3,463	2,745	934
Berrien	18	9,796	1,757	4,146	2,821	1,072
Bibb	10	77,502	9,362	24,444	23,195	20,501
Bleckley	16	5,879	699	2,554	1,565	1,061
Brantley	18	9,639	1,729	4,696	2,497	717
Brooks	18	8,074	1,389	2,985	2,688	1,012
Bryan	20	18,482	1,244	4,596	6,377	6,265
Bulloch	20	32,671	3,837	8,395	10,917	9,522
Burke	12	11,470	1,875	4,342	3,966	1,287
Butts	8	12,993	2,873	5,477	3,268	1,375
Calhoun	17	3,954	933	1,626	1,031	364
Camden	20	26,288	1,986	8,012	10,149	6,141
Candler	16	5,409	1,347	1,819	1,533	710
Carroll	8	57,118	8,894	19,387	17,333	11,504
Catoosa	1	34,385	4,102	10,272	12,924	7,087
Charlton	18	7,127	1,499	3,162	1,864	602
Chatham	20	149,712	13,862	35,885	50,702	49,263
Chattahoochee	14	4,539	241	1,159	1,542	1,597
Chattooga	1	13,049	3,020	5,210	3,458	1,361
Cherokee	7	127,163	10,720	28,615	40,126	47,702
Clarke	9	55,955	7,155	11,464	13,936	23,400
Clay	14	1,407	186	657	467	97
Clayton	7	145,438	21,941	47,108	47,622	28,767
Clinch	18	3,442	762	1,153	1,047	480
Cobb	4	409,476	34,609	70,471	110,391	194,005
Coffee	18	22,268	4,551	8,335	6,133	3,249
Colquitt	17	23,014	6,063	8,614	5,439	2,898
Columbia	13	76,909	4,732	17,599	26,770	27,808
Cook	18	8,646	1,612	3,057	2,638	1,339
Coweta	8	73,727	6,840	21,458	23,029	22,400
Crawford	11	6,678	728	2,377	2,555	1,018
Crisp	15	11,267	1,632	4,764	3,335	1,536
Dade	1	8,258	1,459	2,769	2,891	1,139
Dawson	2	12,178	1,499	3,544	3,538	3,597
Decatur	17	13,650	2,523	4,720	4,529	1,878
DeKalb	5	415,509	43,129	83,984	108,594	179,802
Dodge	16	11,449	1,709	4,793	3,243	1,704
Dooly	15	7,638	1,744	3,044	2,152	698
Dougherty	17	45,196	6,624	12,969	16,167	9,436
Douglas	7	75,125	7,140	22,039	24,265	21,681
Early	17	5,044	651	1,876	1,555	962
Echols	18	2,194	689	704	639	162
Effingham	20	30,534	3,348	11,027	9,881	6,278
Elbert	9	9,752	1,821	4,378	2,522	1,031
Emanuel	16	11,362	1,968	4,940	2,959	1,495
Evans	16	5,441	1,134	2,191	1,261	855

(continued)

Table 1 (Continued)
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, 2013-2017
(estimated numbers)

County	LWDA	Total	No High School Diploma	High School Graduate*	Some College or Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Fannin	1	12,050	1,269	4,679	3,951	2,151
Fayette	7	56,030	2,401	9,824	15,449	28,356
Floyd	1	48,375	8,883	14,996	14,327	10,169
Forsyth	2	112,693	7,558	17,017	28,118	60,000
Franklin	2	11,005	2,116	4,300	3,104	1,485
Fulton	6	566,170	41,963	98,341	131,527	294,339
Gilmer	1	14,890	2,973	5,271	4,141	2,505
Glascock	13	1,553	274	654	478	147
Glynn	20	42,437	5,131	11,895	13,811	11,600
Gordon	1	29,948	6,510	10,208	9,104	4,126
Grady	17	12,744	2,463	4,455	4,029	1,797
Greene	9	7,916	1,480	2,966	1,842	1,628
Gwinnett	7	484,081	58,480	108,307	142,326	174,968
Habersham	2	21,610	4,173	7,326	5,849	4,262
Hall	2	98,126	22,304	25,998	27,607	22,217
Hancock	13	4,927	1,326	2,288	993	320
Haralson	1	14,931	2,597	5,557	4,499	2,278
Harris	14	17,451	1,377	4,006	7,171	4,897
Hart	2	12,824	2,205	5,099	3,955	1,565
Heard	8	6,066	995	2,818	1,560	693
Henry	7	115,738	9,953	32,967	37,963	34,855
Houston	11	79,770	6,076	21,593	30,953	21,148
Irwin	18	4,673	766	1,898	1,428	581
Jackson	9	33,851	5,378	10,731	10,542	7,200
Jasper	9	7,167	1,594	2,773	2,083	717
Jeff Davis	16	7,471	1,575	2,597	2,560	739
Jefferson	12	8,011	1,648	3,425	2,102	836
Jenkins	13	4,441	812	1,973	1,297	359
Johnson	16	5,274	1,008	2,436	1,337	493
Jones	11	14,879	1,510	5,459	4,655	3,255
Lamar	8	8,709	1,067	3,257	2,667	1,718
Lanier	18	5,518	873	1,849	1,811	985
Laurens	16	23,904	3,372	10,501	6,244	3,787
Lee	17	15,833	1,508	4,432	5,572	4,321
Liberty	20	30,548	2,220	9,206	13,017	6,105
Lincoln	13	3,999	594	1,827	1,149	429
Long	20	9,406	1,107	2,793	3,968	1,538
Lowndes	18	53,847	7,430	15,363	17,056	13,998
Lumpkin	2	14,657	2,456	3,960	4,441	3,800
Macon	15	7,559	1,850	2,585	2,549	575
Madison	9	15,056	2,360	5,257	4,670	2,769
Marion	15	4,558	859	1,700	1,438	561
McDuffie	13	10,603	1,745	4,163	2,936	1,759
McIntosh	20	7,264	1,143	2,575	2,724	822
Meriwether	8	10,718	2,080	4,336	3,141	1,161
Miller	17	2,872	453	1,006	1,018	395
Mitchell	17	11,859	2,642	4,592	3,321	1,304
Monroe	11	14,339	1,857	5,201	3,625	3,656
Montgomery	16	4,567	747	1,788	1,379	653
Morgan	9	9,070	1,049	3,257	2,801	1,963
Murray	1	20,742	6,441	7,692	4,705	1,904
Muscogee	14	103,615	11,227	27,581	36,808	27,999
Newton	9	54,286	7,134	16,959	19,042	11,151
Oconee	9	18,404	860	3,172	4,908	9,464

(continued)

Table 1 (Continued)
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, 2013-2017
(estimated numbers)

County	LWDA	Total	No High School Diploma	High School Graduate*	Some College or Associate Degree	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Oglethorpe	9	7,857	1,582	2,695	2,320	1,260
Paulding	1	82,521	6,562	26,708	28,080	21,171
Peach	11	13,318	1,865	3,788	5,100	2,565
Pickens	1	15,846	2,609	4,549	5,058	3,630
Pierce	18	9,857	1,598	3,918	3,194	1,147
Pike	8	9,460	846	3,796	3,026	1,792
Polk	1	20,970	4,429	8,036	5,819	2,686
Pulaski	11	6,342	1,146	2,590	1,818	788
Putnam	11	10,937	1,526	4,273	3,136	2,002
Quitman	14	970	245	378	290	57
Rabun	2	8,034	1,141	3,143	2,092	1,658
Randolph	14	3,320	637	1,288	1,017	378
Richmond	12	104,715	15,893	31,921	34,454	22,447
Rockdale	7	46,182	5,074	14,052	14,098	12,958
Schley	15	2,497	358	900	864	375
Screven	20	7,280	1,059	3,017	2,062	1,142
Seminole	17	4,079	614	1,581	1,265	619
Spalding	8	32,410	5,534	12,165	9,339	5,372
Stephens	2	12,404	1,994	4,124	3,601	2,685
Stewart	14	3,428	1,025	1,393	552	458
Sumter	15	14,448	2,702	4,857	4,532	2,357
Talbot	14	3,332	518	1,496	900	418
Taliaferro	13	969	323	441	142	63
Tattnall	16	14,448	3,765	5,337	3,544	1,802
Taylor	15	4,230	757	1,616	1,359	498
Telfair	16	9,680	2,969	4,398	1,502	811
Terrell	17	4,481	955	1,396	1,700	430
Thomas	17	22,951	3,741	6,937	6,992	5,281
Tift	18	20,007	3,175	6,883	6,550	3,399
Toombs	16	13,316	2,158	5,288	3,744	2,126
Towns	2	4,377	494	1,320	1,624	939
Treutlen	16	3,477	680	1,347	982	468
Troup	8	35,212	4,942	12,722	11,001	6,547
Turner	18	4,038	918	1,541	1,075	504
Twiggs	11	4,297	1,112	1,658	1,112	415
Union	2	10,356	1,354	3,631	3,456	1,915
Upson	8	13,370	2,269	5,048	4,374	1,679
Walker	1	35,916	5,567	12,934	11,478	5,937
Walton	9	45,375	5,337	16,875	14,208	8,955
Ware	18	18,335	2,907	7,480	5,453	2,495
Warren	13	2,855	536	1,316	528	475
Washington	13	10,752	1,873	4,659	2,734	1,486
Wayne	16	15,740	2,627	6,161	4,842	2,110
Webster	15	1,303	175	675	307	146
Wheeler	16	4,353	918	2,213	847	375
White	2	14,167	1,920	4,494	4,951	2,802
Whitfield	1	52,624	16,537	14,585	13,994	7,508
Wilcox	16	4,941	858	2,457	1,160	466
Wilkes	13	4,786	731	2,249	1,255	551
Wilkinson	11	4,629	647	2,491	1,091	400
Worth	17	10,463	1,936	4,208	3,134	1,185

*Includes equivalency.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Public Use Microdata Samples; IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota.

Table 2
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, Distribution and Rank, 2013-2017

County	LWDA	No High School Diploma		High School Graduate*		Some College or Associate Degree		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
		Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Georgia		12.3	NA	26.9	NA	29.5	NA	31.3	NA
Appling	16	21.7	25	40.3	39	25.6	136	12.4	113
Atkinson	18	28.6	7	40.5	37	22.4	153	8.5	149
Bacon	18	17.5	62	41.8	29	29.3	89	11.3	122
Baker	17	19.8	37	37.4	73	32.3	45	10.5	134
Baldwin	11	14.8	101	37.2	75	28.0	109	20.0	50
Banks	2	21.4	26	41.5	30	24.8	143	12.3	114
Barrow	9	15.4	94	33.2	112	33.5	28	17.8	66
Bartow	1	15.9	83	33.9	105	29.9	83	20.3	47
Ben Hill	18	17.7	59	39.9	44	31.6	51	10.8	130
Berrien	18	17.9	57	42.3	24	28.8	97	10.9	128
Bibb	10	12.1	125	31.5	118	29.9	81	26.5	25
Bleckley	16	11.9	127	43.4	21	26.6	121	18.0	63
Brantley	18	17.9	56	48.7	5	25.9	132	7.4	154
Brooks	18	17.2	67	37.0	80	33.3	31	12.5	108
Bryan	20	6.7	154	24.9	147	34.5	22	33.9	12
Bulloch	20	11.7	130	25.7	145	33.4	29	29.1	17
Burke	12	16.3	78	37.9	66	34.6	21	11.2	125
Butts	8	22.1	23	42.2	26	25.2	140	10.6	132
Calhoun	17	23.6	15	41.1	32	26.1	129	9.2	144
Camden	20	7.6	151	30.5	123	38.6	5	23.4	30
Candler	16	24.9	13	33.6	106	28.3	101	13.1	103
Carroll	8	15.6	91	33.9	103	30.3	76	20.1	48
Catoosa	1	11.9	126	29.9	128	37.6	9	20.6	43
Charlton	18	21.0	31	44.4	18	26.2	126	8.4	150
Chatham	20	9.3	143	24.0	148	33.9	26	32.9	13
Chattahoochee	14	5.3	157	25.5	146	34.0	25	35.2	11
Chattooga	1	23.1	16	39.9	43	26.5	123	10.4	136
Cherokee	7	8.4	147	22.5	151	31.6	53	37.5	8
Clarke	9	12.8	120	20.5	153	24.9	142	41.8	7
Clay	14	13.2	115	46.7	7	33.2	32	6.9	156
Clayton	7	15.1	97	32.4	113	32.7	38	19.8	51
Clinch	18	22.1	22	33.5	110	30.4	74	13.9	90
Cobb	4	8.5	146	17.2	158	27.0	118	47.4	5
Coffee	18	20.4	34	37.4	70	27.5	115	14.6	86
Colquitt	17	26.3	9	37.4	71	23.6	145	12.6	105
Columbia	13	6.2	156	22.9	150	34.8	19	36.2	9
Cook	18	18.6	50	35.4	92	30.5	72	15.5	80
Coweta	8	9.3	142	29.1	131	31.2	59	30.4	14
Crawford	11	10.9	135	35.6	89	38.3	7	15.2	82
Crisp	15	14.5	104	42.3	25	29.6	86	13.6	96
Dade	1	17.7	60	33.5	108	35.0	17	13.8	92
Dawson	2	12.3	121	29.1	132	29.1	94	29.5	16
Decatur	17	18.5	52	34.6	98	33.2	33	13.8	94
DeKalb	5	10.4	138	20.2	154	26.1	127	43.3	6
Dodge	16	14.9	99	41.9	28	28.3	102	14.9	85

(continued)

Table 2 (Continued)
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, Distribution and Rank, 2013-2017

County	LWDA	No High School Diploma		High School Graduate*		Some College or Associate Degree		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
		Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Dooly	15	22.8	17	39.9	45	28.2	106	9.1	146
Dougherty	17	14.7	102	28.7	134	35.8	12	20.9	41
Douglas	7	9.5	141	29.3	130	32.3	44	28.9	18
Early	17	12.9	119	37.2	77	30.8	65	19.1	57
Echols	18	31.4	3	32.1	115	29.1	92	7.4	155
Effingham	20	11.0	134	36.1	85	32.4	43	20.6	45
Elbert	9	18.7	49	44.9	16	25.9	134	10.6	133
Emanuel	16	17.3	66	43.5	20	26.0	130	13.2	102
Evans	16	20.8	32	40.3	40	23.2	151	15.7	78
Fannin	1	10.5	137	38.8	56	32.8	37	17.9	65
Fayette	7	4.3	159	17.5	155	27.6	114	50.6	4
Floyd	1	18.4	53	31.0	121	29.6	85	21.0	40
Forsyth	2	6.7	155	15.1	159	25.0	141	53.2	1
Franklin	2	19.2	42	39.1	53	28.2	105	13.5	98
Fulton	6	7.4	152	17.4	156	23.2	150	52.0	2
Gilmer	1	20.0	36	35.4	91	27.8	111	16.8	68
Glascocock	13	17.6	61	42.1	27	30.8	66	9.5	141
Glynn	20	12.1	123	28.0	138	32.5	41	27.3	21
Gordon	1	21.7	24	34.1	102	30.4	75	13.8	93
Grady	17	19.3	40	35.0	95	31.6	52	14.1	89
Greene	9	18.7	48	37.5	69	23.3	149	20.6	44
Gwinnett	7	12.1	124	22.4	152	29.4	88	36.1	10
Habersham	2	19.3	41	33.9	104	27.1	116	19.7	55
Hall	2	22.7	19	26.5	144	28.1	107	22.6	33
Hancock	13	26.9	8	46.4	9	20.2	154	6.5	158
Haralson	1	17.4	64	37.2	76	30.1	79	15.3	81
Harris	14	7.9	149	23.0	149	41.1	3	28.1	19
Hart	2	17.2	68	39.8	46	30.8	64	12.2	116
Heard	8	16.4	75	46.5	8	25.7	135	11.4	120
Henry	7	8.6	145	28.5	136	32.8	36	30.1	15
Houston	11	7.6	150	27.1	141	38.8	4	26.5	24
Irwin	18	16.4	76	40.6	36	30.6	70	12.4	111
Jackson	9	15.9	84	31.7	117	31.1	60	21.3	39
Jasper	9	22.2	21	38.7	61	29.1	93	10.0	137
Jeff Davis	16	21.1	30	34.8	97	34.3	23	9.9	138
Jefferson	12	20.6	33	42.8	23	26.2	124	10.4	135
Jenkins	13	18.3	54	44.4	17	29.2	91	8.1	152
Johnson	16	19.1	44	46.2	10	25.4	138	9.3	143
Jones	11	10.1	139	36.7	82	31.3	57	21.9	34
Lamar	8	12.3	122	37.4	72	30.6	69	19.7	54
Lanier	18	15.8	87	33.5	109	32.8	35	17.9	64
Laurens	16	14.1	107	43.9	19	26.1	128	15.8	77
Lee	17	9.5	140	28.0	139	35.2	15	27.3	22
Liberty	20	7.3	153	30.1	127	42.6	1	20.0	49
Lincoln	13	14.9	100	45.7	12	28.7	98	10.7	131
Long	20	11.8	128	29.7	129	42.2	2	16.4	73
Lowndes	18	13.8	112	28.5	135	31.7	50	26.0	26

(continued)

Table 2 (Continued)
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, Distribution and Rank, 2013-2017

County	LWDA	No High School Diploma		High School Graduate*		Some College or Associate Degree		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
		Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Lumpkin	2	16.8	71	27.0	142	30.3	77	25.9	27
Macon	15	24.5	14	34.2	101	33.7	27	7.6	153
Madison	9	15.7	90	34.9	96	31.0	61	18.4	61
Marion	15	18.8	45	37.3	74	31.5	54	12.3	115
McDuffie	13	16.5	74	39.3	49	27.7	113	16.6	70
McIntosh	20	15.7	89	35.4	90	37.5	10	11.3	124
Meriwether	8	19.4	39	40.5	38	29.3	90	10.8	129
Miller	17	15.8	88	35.0	94	35.4	14	13.8	95
Mitchell	17	22.3	20	38.7	60	28.0	110	11.0	127
Monroe	11	13.0	118	36.3	83	25.3	139	25.5	29
Montgomery	16	16.4	77	39.2	50	30.2	78	14.3	87
Morgan	9	11.6	131	35.9	88	30.9	63	21.6	36
Murray	1	31.1	4	37.1	79	22.7	152	9.2	145
Muscogee	14	10.8	136	26.6	143	35.5	13	27.0	23
Newton	9	13.1	116	31.2	119	35.1	16	20.5	46
Oconee	9	4.7	158	17.2	157	26.7	119	51.4	3
Oglethorpe	9	20.1	35	34.3	100	29.5	87	16.0	75
Paulding	1	8.0	148	32.4	114	34.0	24	25.7	28
Peach	11	14.0	109	28.4	137	38.3	6	19.3	56
Pickens	1	16.5	73	28.7	133	31.9	49	22.9	32
Pierce	18	16.2	80	39.7	47	32.4	42	11.6	118
Pike	8	8.9	144	40.1	42	32.0	47	18.9	58
Polk	1	21.1	28	38.3	63	27.7	112	12.8	104
Pulaski	11	18.1	55	40.8	33	28.7	100	12.4	112
Putnam	11	14.0	111	39.1	54	28.7	99	18.3	62
Quitman	14	25.3	12	39.0	55	29.9	82	5.9	159
Rabun	2	14.2	106	39.1	52	26.0	131	20.6	42
Randolph	14	19.2	43	38.8	57	30.6	68	11.4	121
Richmond	12	15.2	96	30.5	122	32.9	34	21.4	38
Rockdale	7	11.0	133	30.4	124	30.5	71	28.1	20
Schley	15	14.3	105	36.0	86	34.6	20	15.0	84
Screven	20	14.5	103	41.4	31	28.3	103	15.7	79
Seminole	17	15.1	98	38.8	58	31.0	62	15.2	83
Spalding	8	17.1	69	37.5	68	28.8	96	16.6	71
Stephens	2	16.1	82	33.2	111	29.0	95	21.6	35
Stewart	14	29.9	6	40.6	35	16.1	157	13.4	101
Sumter	15	18.7	47	33.6	107	31.4	55	16.3	74
Talbot	14	15.5	92	44.9	15	27.0	117	12.5	107
Taliaferro	13	33.3	1	45.5	13	14.7	159	6.5	157
Tattnall	16	26.1	10	36.9	81	24.5	144	12.5	110
Taylor	15	17.9	58	38.2	64	32.1	46	11.8	117
Telfair	16	30.7	5	45.4	14	15.5	158	8.4	151
Terrell	17	21.3	27	31.2	120	37.9	8	9.6	140
Thomas	17	16.3	79	30.2	125	30.5	73	23.0	31
Tift	18	15.9	85	34.4	99	32.7	39	17.0	67
Toombs	16	16.2	81	39.7	48	28.1	108	16.0	76
Towns	2	11.3	132	30.2	126	37.1	11	21.5	37

(continued)

Table 2 (Continued)
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, Distribution and Rank, 2013-2017

County	LWDA	No High School Diploma		High School Graduate*		Some College or Associate Degree		Bachelor's Degree or Higher	
		Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank	Percent	Rank
Treutlen	16	19.6	38	38.7	59	28.2	104	13.5	99
Troup	8	14.0	108	36.1	84	31.2	58	18.6	59
Turner	18	22.7	18	38.2	65	26.6	120	12.5	109
Twiggs	11	25.9	11	38.6	62	25.9	133	9.7	139
Union	2	13.1	117	35.1	93	33.4	30	18.5	60
Upson	8	17.0	70	37.8	67	32.7	40	12.6	106
Walker	1	15.5	93	36.0	87	32.0	48	16.5	72
Walton	9	11.8	129	37.2	78	31.3	56	19.7	53
Ware	18	15.9	86	40.8	34	29.7	84	13.6	97
Warren	13	18.8	46	46.1	11	18.5	156	16.6	69
Washington	13	17.4	63	43.3	22	25.4	137	13.8	91
Wayne	16	16.7	72	39.1	51	30.8	67	13.4	100
Webster	15	13.4	114	51.8	2	23.6	147	11.2	126
Wheeler	16	21.1	29	50.8	3	19.5	155	8.6	148
White	2	13.6	113	31.7	116	34.9	18	19.8	52
Whitfield	1	31.4	2	27.7	140	26.6	122	14.3	88
Wilcox	16	17.4	65	49.7	4	23.5	148	9.4	142
Wilkes	13	15.3	95	47.0	6	26.2	125	11.5	119
Wilkinson	11	14.0	110	53.8	1	23.6	146	8.6	147
Worth	17	18.5	51	40.2	41	30.0	80	11.3	123

*Includes equivalency.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Public Use Microdata Samples; IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota.

Figure 1
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
By County in Georgia, 2013-2017

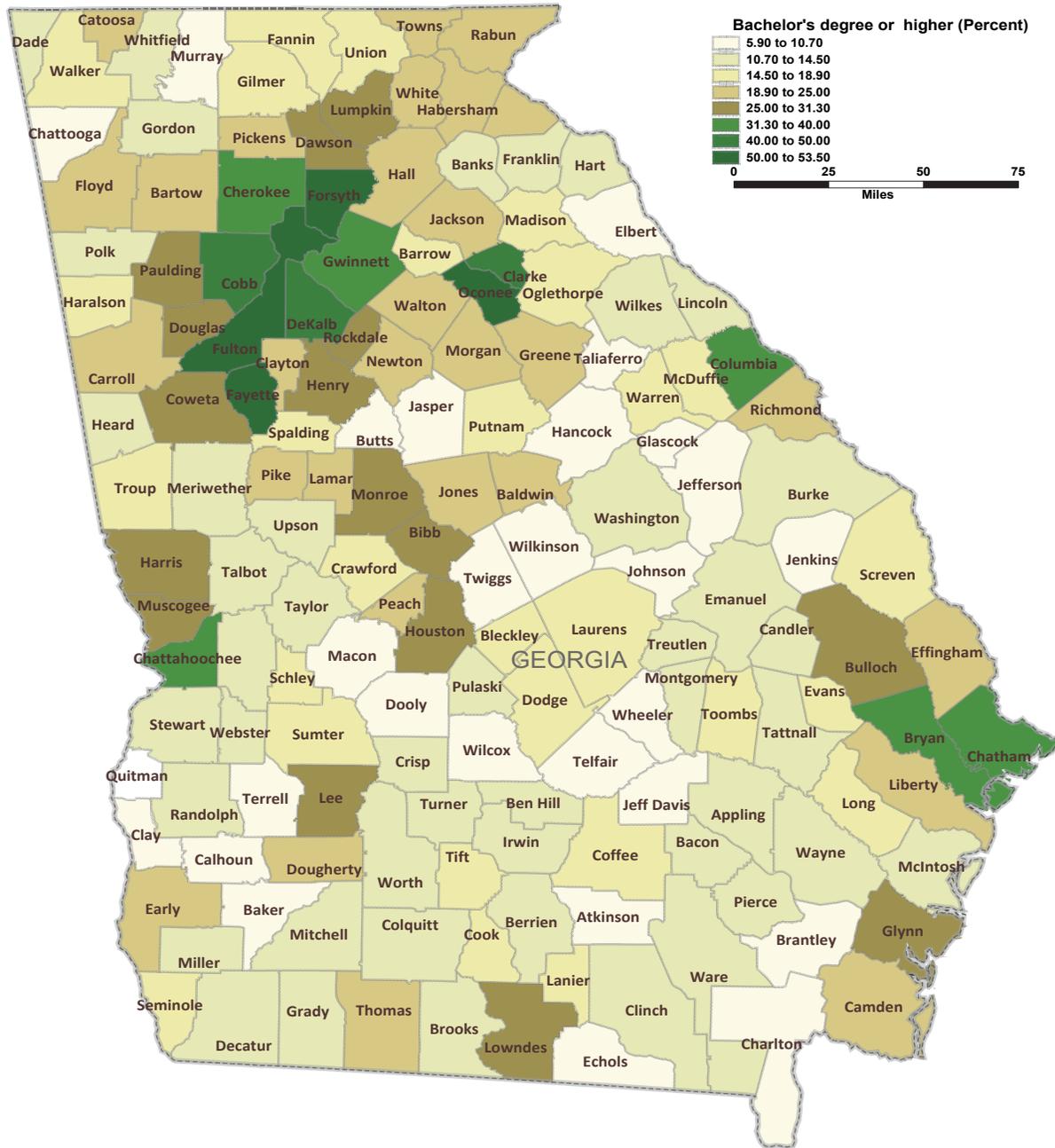


Table 3
Educational Attainment for Population Ages 25-64
in Georgia's Local Workforce Development Areas, 2013-2017
(estimated numbers)

<u>Local Workforce Development Area</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>No High School Diploma</u>	<u>High School Graduate*</u>	<u>Some College or Associate Degree</u>	<u>Bachelor's Degree or Higher</u>
1 Northwest Georgia	459,403	81,684	152,071	140,830	84,818
2 Georgia Mountains	342,011	51,261	87,929	94,716	108,105
4 Cobb County	409,476	34,609	70,471	110,391	194,005
5 DeKalb County	415,509	43,129	83,984	108,594	179,802
6 Fulton County	566,170	41,963	98,341	131,527	294,339
7 Atlanta Regional	1,049,757	115,709	262,912	321,849	349,287
8 Three Rivers	259,783	36,340	90,464	78,738	54,241
9 Northeast Georgia	304,869	41,929	93,877	92,354	76,709
10 Macon-Bibb	77,502	9,362	24,444	23,195	20,501
11 Middle Georgia	176,694	19,647	57,435	60,074	39,538
12 Central Savannah River Area	124,196	19,416	39,688	40,522	24,570
13 East Central Georgia	121,794	12,946	37,169	38,282	33,397
14 Lower Chattahoochee	138,062	15,456	37,958	48,747	35,901
15 Middle Flint	53,500	10,077	20,141	16,536	6,746
16 Heart of Georgia	156,082	29,567	64,601	41,098	20,816
17 Southwest Georgia	177,829	31,441	59,043	56,297	31,048
18 Southern Georgia	206,137	35,408	74,759	62,278	33,692
20 Coastal Georgia	354,622	34,937	97,401	123,608	98,676
Georgia	5,393,396	664,881	1,452,688	1,589,636	1,686,191

*Includes equivalency.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Public Use Microdata Samples; IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota.

Table 4
Distribution and Supply of Workers by Skill Level
in Georgia's Local Workforce Development Areas, 2013-2017
(percent)

Local Workforce Development Area	Skill Level Distribution*			
	Low	Basic	Mid-level	High-level
1 Northwest Georgia	17.8	33.1	30.7	18.5
2 Georgia Mountains	15.0	25.7	27.7	31.6
4 Cobb County	8.5	17.2	27.0	47.4
5 DeKalb County	10.4	20.2	26.1	43.3
6 Fulton County	7.4	17.4	23.2	52.0
7 Atlanta Regional	11.0	25.0	30.7	33.3
8 Three Rivers	14.0	34.8	30.3	20.9
9 Northeast Georgia	13.8	30.8	30.3	25.2
10 Macon-Bibb	12.1	31.5	29.9	26.5
11 Middle Georgia	11.1	32.5	34.0	22.4
12 Central Savannah River Area	15.6	32.0	32.6	19.8
13 East Central Georgia	10.6	30.5	31.4	27.4
14 Lower Chattahoochee	11.2	27.5	35.3	26.0
15 Middle Flint	18.8	37.6	30.9	12.6
16 Heart of Georgia	18.9	41.4	26.3	13.3
17 Southwest Georgia	17.7	33.2	31.7	17.5
18 Southern Georgia	17.2	36.3	30.2	16.3
20 Coastal Georgia	9.9	27.5	34.9	27.8
Georgia	12.3	26.9	29.5	31.3

(continued)

Table 4 (Continued)
Distribution and Supply of Workers by Skill Level
in Georgia's Local Workforce Development Areas, 2013-2017

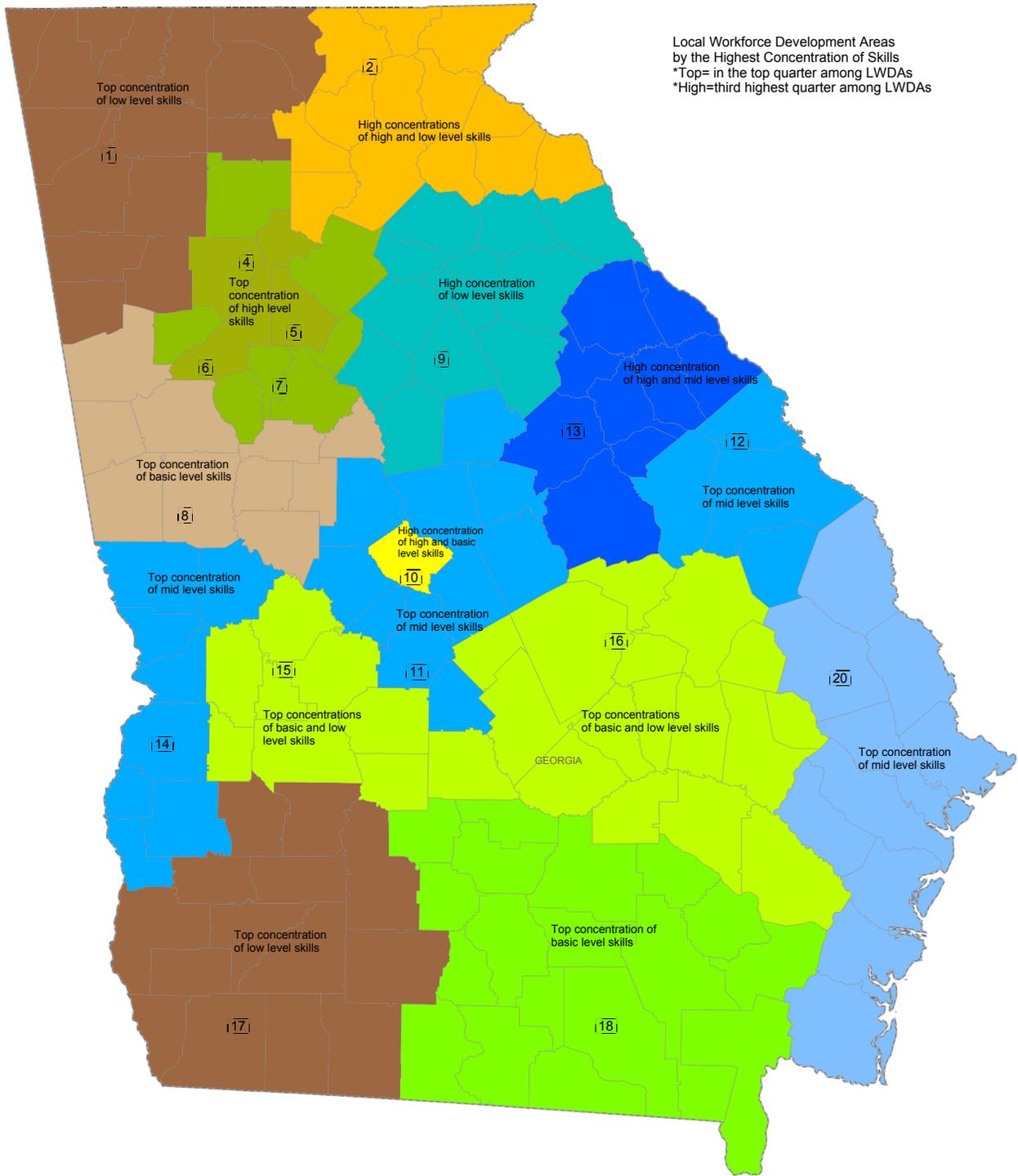
Local Workforce Development Area	Skill Supply**			
	<u>Low</u>	<u>Basic</u>	<u>Mid-level</u>	<u>High-level</u>
1 Northwest Georgia	Top	Fairly high	Fairly high	Fairly low
2 Georgia Mountains	Fairly high	Fairly low	Fairly low	Fairly high
4 Cobb County	Low	Low	Low	Top
5 DeKalb County	Low	Low	Low	Top
6 Fulton County	Low	Low	Low	Top
7 Atlanta Regional	Fairly low	Low	Fairly high	Top
8 Three Rivers	Fairly high	Top	Fairly low	Fairly low
9 Northeast Georgia	Fairly high	Fairly low	Fairly low	Fairly low
10 Macon-Bibb	Fairly low	Fairly high	Fairly low	Fairly high
11 Middle Georgia	Fairly low	Fairly high	Top	Fairly low
12 Central Savannah River Area	Fairly high	Fairly high	Top	Fairly low
13 East Central Georgia	Fairly low	Fairly low	Fairly high	Fairly high
14 Lower Chattahoochee	Fairly low	Fairly low	Top	Fairly high
15 Middle Flint	Top	Top	Fairly high	Low
16 Heart of Georgia	Top	Top	Low	Low
17 Southwest Georgia	Top	Fairly high	Fairly high	Low
18 Southern Georgia	Fairly high	Top	Fairly low	Low
20 Coastal Georgia	Low	Fairly low	Top	Fairly high

*Skill levels definitions: Low: No high school diploma; Basic: High school graduate (includes equivalency);
Mid-level: Some college or associate degree, High: Bachelor's degree or higher

**Skill supply distribution based on LWDA quartile distribution: Low: below first quartile, Fairly low: between first quartile and median, Fairly high: between median and third quartile, Top: above third quartile.

Source: Selig Center for Economic Growth, based on U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2017 5-Year Public Use Microdata Samples; IPUMS USA, University of Minnesota.

Figure 2
Local Workforce Development Areas
By Highest Concentration of Skills





ADVANCING GEORGIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE
THROUGH POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The Power of Potential

A Report to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Grant #INV-000318: College Completion and the Georgia Workforce

December 2019

University of Georgia*

The full report is available on our website (www.selig.uga.edu)