In every table, counties with asterisks (*) beside their names are metropolitan counties, or counties that are part of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). All other counties are considered nonmetropolitan. In 2007, Georgia had 70 metropolitan and 89 nonmetropolitan counties.

AGRICULTURE

Pages 10-11 Farm Income and Production Expenses: 2006

Farm gross income consists of estimates for the following items: Cash receipts from the marketing of crops and livestock; income from other farm-related activities, including recreational services and the sale of forest products; government payments to farmers; the value of food and fuel produced and consumed on farms; the gross rental value of farm dwellings; and the value of the net change in the physical volume of farm inventories of crops and livestock. Production expenses include the expenses associated with farm dwellings.

The BEA State totals used to estimate farm earnings are based on the State estimates of the income of all farms prepared by the Economic Research Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). BEA modifies the USDA estimates to conform to the definitions and classifications of the national income and product accounts. The methods used to estimate farm proprietors' income at the county level rely heavily on data obtained from the censuses of agriculture and on selected annual county data prepared by the State offices affiliated with the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), USDA. The NASS data are used, wherever possible, to interpolate and extrapolate the census-based estimates to non-census years. Administrative records data from the Farm Service Agency of USDA are used directly to account for total government program payments to farmers.

Pages 12-13 Farms, Land in Farms, and Harvested Cropland: 1964-2002

For the purpose of the Census of Agriculture, a farm is any place from which $1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. The $1,000 value is not adjusted for inflation. For the 1997 and 2002 censuses, operations receiving $1,000 or more in Federal government payments were counted as farms, even if they had no sales and otherwise lacked the potential to have $1,000 or more in sales. If a place does not have $1,000 in sales, a “point system” assigns dollar values for acres of various crops and head of various livestock species to estimate a normal level of sales. Point farms are farms with fewer than $1,000 in sales during 2002 but have points worth at least $1,000. Point farms tend to be very small. Some, however, may normally have large sales, but experience low sales in a particular year due to bad weather, disease, changes in marketing strategies, or other factors. The census of agriculture uses the point system to help identify farms meeting the current definition. For 2002, a farm that had $500 point value and $500 in government payments is considered a farm. This would not have been true for the 1997 census. For farms with production contracts, the value of the commodities produced is used, not the amount of the fees they receive.

Nine changes have been made in the farm definition since1850. The current definition was first used for the 1974 census. For the 1959, 1964, and 1969 censuses places of less than 10 acres were counted as farms if the sales of agricultural products for the year amounted, or normally would amount, to at least $250. Places of 10+ acres were counted as farms if the sales of agricultural products for the year amounted, or normally would amount to, at least $50.

ECONOMICS

Pages 34-35 Per Capita Income: 1997-2006

Per Capita Income is calculated as the personal income of the residents of a given area divided by the resident population of the area. In computing per capita personal income, BEA uses the Census Bureau's annual midyear population estimates.

Per capita income is calculated as the total personal income of the residents of an area divided by the population of the area and is often used as an indicator of the quality of consumer markets and of the economic well-being of the residents of an area. In computing per capita personal income for States and counties, BEA uses the Census Bureau's annual midyear population estimates. Except for college students and other seasonal populations, which are measured on April 1, the population for all years is estimated on July 1.

The local area estimates of per capita personal income should be used cautiously for several reasons. In some instances, the change in the per capita personal income of an area may be the result of unusual conditions. For example, the income of an area may be raised for a year as the result of a bumper crop, or it may be reduced for a year as the result of a hurricane. In other instances, the per capita personal income of an area may reflect the income levels of certain groups of the resident population, but it may not be indicative of the economic well-being of the residents of the area. For example, the per capita income of an area may be substantially raised for several years by a major construction project--such as a defense facility, power plant, or dam--that attracts highly paid workers whose wages and salaries are measured at the construction site. However, this high per capita income may not be indicative of the economic well-being of most of the residents of the area (or, in many cases, of the resident construction workers themselves, because they frequently send a substantial portion of their wages to dependents who live in other areas).

Conversely, the per capita income of an area may be reduced by the presence of a large institutional population--like that of a college or a prison--because little income is attributed to the residents of these institutions. However, this low income may not be indicative of the economic well-being of most of the residents of the area (or, in many cases, of the institutional populations, because some of these populations, such as college students, typically receive support from their families who live in other areas). Caution must also be used where the population changes rapidly.

Per capita income of counties where farm proprietors' income is a large portion of personal income can also be misleading. Farm proprietors' income reflects current production, not current cash flows. Farm proprietors' income excludes sales out of inventories, which are included in current gross receipts, because these sales represent income from a previous year's production, not from current production. Furthermore, farm proprietors' income includes the value of additions to inventories. Therefore, the estimates of farm proprietors' income do not reflect the farmers' attempts to regulate their cash flow by adjusting inventories. In addition, the per capita income of sparsely populated counties which are dependent on farming reacts more sharply to weather and world market demand and to changing government policies affecting agriculture than the per capita income of counties where the sources of income are more diversified.

Pages 42-45 Total Personal Income; Transfer Receipts: 2006

Total Personal Income is the income that is received by all persons from all sources. It is calculated as the sum of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, proprietors' income with inventory valuation and capital consumption adjustments, rental income of persons with capital consumption adjustment, personal dividend income, personal interest income, and personal current transfer receipts, less contributions for government social insurance. The state and county estimates of personal income are presented by the state and county of residence of the income recipients. However, the source data for most of the components of wage and salary disbursements, supplements to wages and salaries, and contributions for government social insurance are on a place-of-work basis. Consequently, a residence adjustment is made to convert the estimates based these source data to a place-of-residence basis. All state and local area dollar estimates are in current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

The estimates of total earnings by place of work are based on the 2002 North American Industrial Classification Industry (NAICS) system. Wage and salary disbursements consist of the monetary remuneration of employees, including corporate officers' salaries and bonuses, commissions, pay-in-kind, incentive payments, and tips. They reflect the amount of payments disbursed, but not necessarily earned during the year. Wage and salary disbursements are measured before deductions, such as social security contributions and union dues. In recent years, stock options have become a point of discussion. Wage and salary disbursements include stock options of nonqualified plans at the time that they have been exercised by the individual. Stock options are reported in wage and salary disbursements. The value that is included in wages is the difference between the exercise price and the price that the stock options were granted. Proprietors' income includes the inventory valuation adjustment and capital consumption adjustment.

Transfer receipts are payments to persons for which no current services are performed. It consists of payments to individuals and to nonprofit institutions by Federal, state, and local governments and by businesses. Government payments to individuals include retirement and disability insurance benefits, medical payments (mainly Medicare and Medicaid), income maintenance benefits, unemployment insurance benefits, veterans' benefits, and Federal grants and loans to students.

LABOR

Pages 96-99 Establishments, Employment and Wages: 2007

The employment and wage information is compiled from reports submitted by employers who are subject to Georgia's Employment Security Law. Because the law specifically protects the confidentiality of individual employers, data are not disclosed in the following cases: 1) There are fewer than three establishments in an industry group, and/or 2) One establishment accounts for 80 percent or more of the employment within the group.

Establishment: This usually indicates a single physical business location. However, an employer operating two or more establishments in the same type of business in a county may be shown as one establishment. **Employment:** The numbers of employees on payrolls of employers covered by the Employment Security Law during the pay period that includes the 12th day of the month. This includes full-time, part-time and temporary workers and both hourly-paid and salaried employees. Employees who were not on the payroll on the 12th of the month will not be included. **Average Weekly Wages:** The total dollars paid (including bonuses, incentive pay, etc.) to all employees (both hourly and salaried) during the year divided by the average number of employees. This figure is then divided by 52 weeks to obtain a weekly figure.

POPULATION

Pages 112-113 Migration Flow Based on IRS Tax Returns: 2006-2007

Migration flow data show migration patterns based on year-to-year changes in the addresses entered on individual income tax returns by taxpayers. The data are the result of a joint effort between the IRS and the US Census Bureau. The data were developed by matching the records of individual income tax returns filed in a “base year” with the tax returns filed in the following year, using the social security number of the ”primary taxpayer” (on joint returns, the secondary taxpayer number was not used). If the county of residence listed did not change, the taxpayer was considered a “non-migrant.” If the base year county of residence did not match, the taxpayer was considered an ”out-migrant.” Those taxpayers whose ”following year” county matched were considered ”in-migrants.” The counts for personal exemptions represent actual number of individuals [taxpayer(s) and dependents] who were reported on the tax return.

Pages 118-119 Farm, Rural and Urban: 1990-2003

The US Census Bureau defines “urban” for the 2000 Census as all territory, population and housing units in urbanized areas and in places of more than 2,500 persons outside of urbanized areas. "Urban" classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas. An “urbanized area” consists of a central place(s) and adjacent territory with a general population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile of land area that together have a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people. The Census Bureau uses published criteria to determine the qualification and boundaries of UAs. “Rural” consists of territory, population and housing units not classified as urban. The "rural" classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Rural-urban Continuum Codes form a classification scheme that distinguishes metropolitan (metro) counties by the population size of their metro area, and nonmetropolitan (nonmetro) counties by degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metro area or areas. The metro and nonmetro categories have been subdivided into three metro and six nonmetro groupings, resulting in a nine-part county codification. The codes allow researchers working with county data to break such data into finer residential groups beyond a simple metro-nonmetro dichotomy, particularly for the analysis of trends in nonmetro areas that may be related to degree of rurality and metro proximity.

Code	Description
Metro counties:	
1	Counties of metro areas of 1 million population or more.
2	Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population.
3	Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population.
Nonmetro counties:	
4	Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area.
5	Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area.
6	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area.
7	Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area.
8	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area.
9	Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area.

2003 Urban Influence Codes divide counties into 12 groups. Metro counties are divided into two groups by the size of the metro area—those in "large" areas with at least 1 million residents and those in "small" areas with fewer than 1 million residents. Nonmetro micropolitan counties are divided into three groups by their adjacency to metro areas—adjacent to a large metro area, adjacent to a small metro area, and not adjacent to a metro area. Nonmetro noncore counties are divided into seven groups by their adjacency to metro or micro areas and whether or not they have their "own town" of at least 2,500 residents.

2004 County Typology Codes, Economic Dependence, County Indicators

1 **Farming-dependent**—either 15 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietors' earnings derived from farming during 1998-2000 or 15 percent or more of employed residents worked in farm occupations in 2000.

2 **Mining-dependent**—15 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietors' earnings derived from mining during 1998-2000.

3 **Manufacturing-dependent**—25 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietors' earnings derived from manufacturing during 1998-2000.

4 **Federal/State government-dependent**—15 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietors' earnings derived from Federal and State government during 1998-2000.

5 **Services-dependent**—45 percent or more of average annual labor and proprietors' earnings derived from services (SIC categories of retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and services) during 1998-2000.

6 **Nonspecialized**—did not meet the dependence threshold for any one of the above industries.

Pages 120-121 Metropolitan, Micropolitan and Combined Statistical Areas: 2008

The general concept of a metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area is that of a core area containing a substantial population nucleus, together with adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core.

The term "core based statistical area" (CBSA) became effective in 2000 and refers collectively to metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas. The 2000 standards provide that each CBSA must contain at least one urban area of 10,000 or more population. Each metropolitan statistical area must have at least one urbanized area of 50,000 or more inhabitants. Each micropolitan statistical area must have at least one urban cluster of at least 10,000 but less than 50,000 population. Under the standards, the county (or counties) in which at least 50 percent of the population resides within urban areas of 10,000 or more population, or that contain at least 5,000 people residing within a single urban area of 10,000 or more population, is identified as a "central county" (counties). Additional "outlying counties" are included in the CBSA if they meet specified requirements of commuting to or from the central counties.

If specified criteria are met, adjacent metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, in various combinations, may become the components of a new set of areas called Combined Statistical Areas (CSA). For instance, a combined statistical area may comprise two or more metropolitan statistical areas, a metropolitan statistical area and a micropolitan statistical area, two or more micropolitan statistical areas, or multiple metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas.

Pages 122-131 Municipalities and Census Designated Places: 2000-2007

Municipality (incorporated place) - A type of governmental unit, incorporated under state law as a city, town, borough, or village, generally to provide a wide array of specific governmental services for a concentration of people within legally prescribed boundaries. New for Census 2000 are city and borough and municipality. A few incorporated places do not have a legal description.

Census Designated Place – A geographic entity that serves as the statistical counterpart of an incorporated place for the purpose of presenting census data for an area with a concentration of population, housing, and commercial structures that is identifiable by name, but is not within an incorporated place. CDPs usually are delineated in cooperation with state and local officials based on US Census Bureau guidelines. For Census 2000, for the first time, CDPs did not need to meet a minimum population threshold to qualify for tabulation of census data.

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

Pages 146-147 Child Protective Services: Calendar Year 2007

A **case** count represents the total number of families entered into the system. New information is added any time a new investigation is completed. A case may include several children and several incidents of maltreatment. An **incident** count represents the number of maltreatment incidents that occurred to any one child (i.e., a report of both physical abuse and neglect on one child counts as two incidents of maltreatment). The number of incidents will be greater than the number of cases; it will equal or exceed the number of children. The number of victims represents a duplicated count of children since a child may be in more than one investigation during the year.