

1.1.0.0: Total Population

POPULATION PLANNING ELEMENT

The Population Element provides local governments the opportunity to inventory and assess trends in population growth or decline and in the demographic characteristics of the population. This information, merged with information in the Natural and Historic Resources Elements which identify constraints and/or opportunities affecting future development, forms a foundation for the Economic Development, Community Facilities, Housing and Land Use Elements of the Joint Comprehensive Plan.

This information assists local governments in determining community service and infrastructure needs, employment opportunities and housing needed to support the existing and future population. In addition, this element may be used as a basis for determining desired growth rate, population densities and development patterns that are consistent with the goals and policies established in the other plan elements.

Specific items addressed include:

- Total population including current, historic and projected community populations and comparisons with that of Georgia as a whole.
- Housing units by community
- Age Distribution of the population
- Racial Composition
- Educational Attainment including community percentage of high school graduates, dropout rates, standardized achievement scores
- Income and distribution of income by households

Historic Population Growth of Catoosa County

Catoosa County was created by the Georgia legislature in 1853. The first decennial census was taken in 1860. See chart on page P-4. Countywide populations did not exceed 10,000 until 1930. the population doubled to above 20,000 in thirty years in 1960. It doubled again in thirty years in 1990, exceeding 40,000. Growth projections by the Census and Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. do not show the population doubling in the next thirty years, by 2020, however. The Regional Advisory Council (RAC) projections show the region doubling by 2020, which if Catoosa doubled its 1990 population, would then have over 80,000 population.

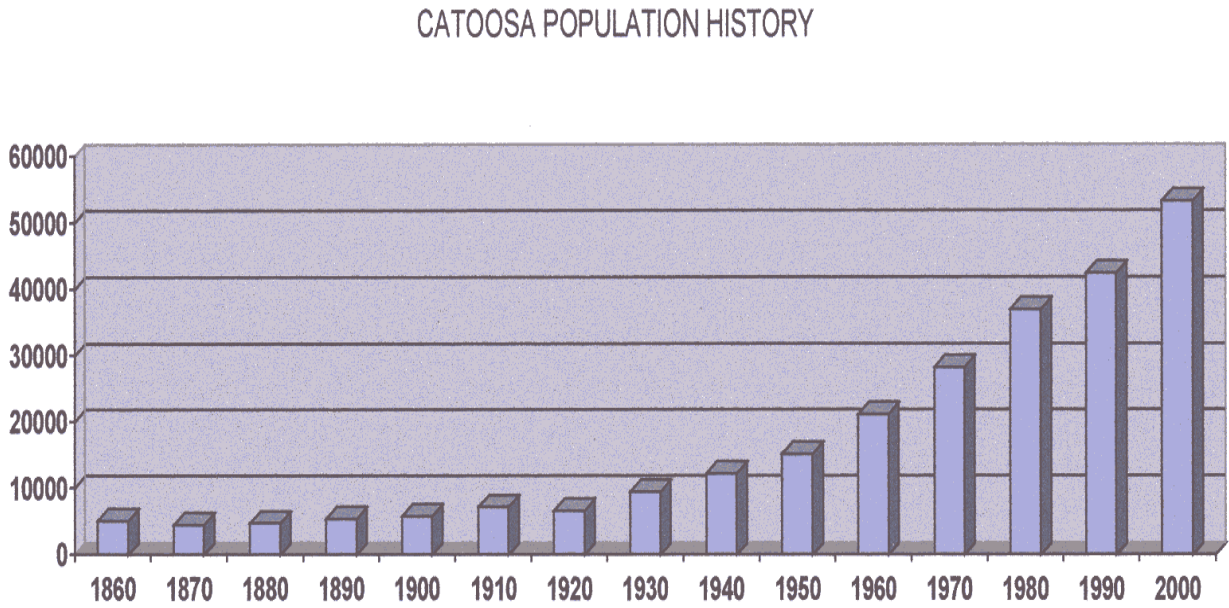
Total Population

Table P-9 compares current, historic and projected total population growth for the counties and its cities and compares it to that of Georgia. These projections show Catoosa County growing about 1,000 per year between 1990 and 2020. These projections may be low.

Assessment and Needs

Planners should use figures in Table P-9 as minimum population (1,000 +/- per year) growth and 2,000 per year as a future maximum. Growth in the next five years should be monitored through records from E-911 to determine actual growth rates. Housing permits and mobile home permits are also accurate representations of growth when multiplied by the Census 2000 average persons per housing unit data. Annual estimates should be made using residential units added to E-911 multiplied by the same factor. Catoosa schools are adding an average (last five years) of 212 new students per school year, and should break 10,000 enrollment by 2003.

CATOOSA POPULATION HISTORY



Note: Catoosa County was created on December 5, 1853, by an act of the General Assembly from Walker and Whitfield counties.

TABLE P-9
TOTAL POPULATION

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2010	2015	2020
Catoosa County	36,991	39,805	42,464	48,008	53,282	54,273	55,264	56,255	57,246	58237	63,245	68,432	73,701
Ft. Oglethorpe	5,443	6,064	5,880	6,210	6,940	7,008	7,076	7,144	7,212	7,280	7,673	8,057	8,419
Ringgold	1,882	1,718	1,675	1,767	2,422	2,472	2,523	2,574	2,625	2,674	2,944	3,209	3,466
Georgia	5,462,989	5970,602	6,478,216	7,332,334	8,186,453	8,294,053	8,401,653	8,509,253	8,616,853	8,724,453	9,678,750	9,511,500	9,846,000

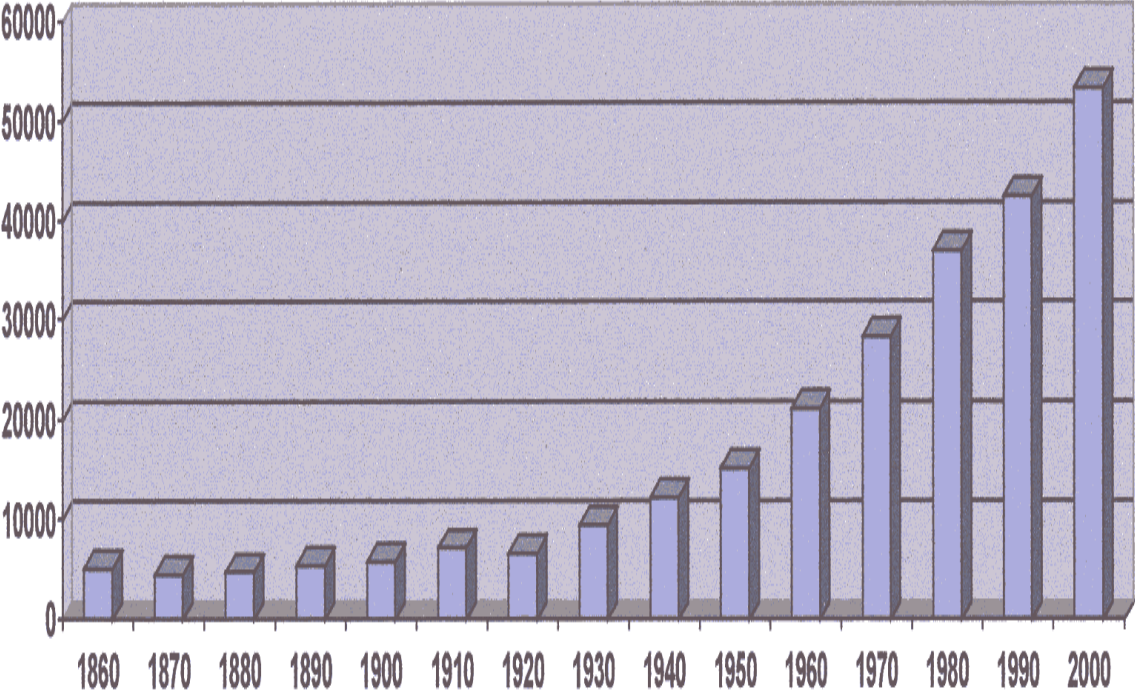
Source: Bureau of Census, Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., PCensus-Tetrad. Data adjusted to Census 2000. Projections & interpolations by Coosa Valley RDC staff. For year 2025, Catoosa, 78,900; Fort Oglethorpe, 8,798; Ringgold, 3,708; Georgia, 9,869,000

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