1.0.0.0: Population

Taking a broad look at a community's population growth from the past, to the present and into the future is essential to any comprehensive planning process. This section provides a basis for the Economic Development, Transportation, Community Facilities, Housing and Land Use elements of Long County's 10-year Comprehensive Plan update. The dynamics of Long County's past population trends, present population conditions and future estimates of population growth will lay the groundwork for the community initiatives for growth in the next ten years. Future population forecasts supply a vital picture for the planning of infrastructure improvements and land developments patterns that are consistent with the goals and policies established in the other elements of this Plan.

A combination of data sources, including the Unites States 2000 Census Bureau, Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Department of Labor, and the Georgia Department of Education are utilized to create the most accurate portrait of Long County's population dynamics.

This element of the comprehensive plan addresses population characteristics and trends for Long County and provides the foundation for other elements of the comprehensive plan. The following aspects are addressed below:

- **Inventory of Existing Conditions and Assessment of Current and Future Conditions**
    - Total Population
    - Households
    - Age Distribution
    - Racial Composition
    - Educational Attainment
    - Income

1.1.0.0: Inventory

Population Growth, 1800s to 1980

Long County was created on Aug. 14, 1920, when the General Assembly proposed a constitutional amendment to create Long County from Liberty County (Ga. Laws 1920, p. 48). In that year's general election, Georgia voters ratified the proposed amendment on Nov. 2, 1920, which marks the date of Long County's creation. In 1904, Georgia voters had approved a constitutional amendment limiting the number of counties in the state to 145. The next year, the General Assembly created eight new counties, bringing the total number to 145 -- the constitutional limit. Nevertheless, there was continuing pressure to create more counties. Beginning in 1906, lawmakers got around the 145-county limitation by creating new counties through constitutional amendments that were not subject to the limitation. By 1924, Georgia had 161 counties -- 16 of which had been created by constitutional amendment. On Jan. 1, 1932, Milton and Campbell counties merged with Fulton, leaving 159 counties. In 1945, Georgia voters ratified a new constitution -- one which provided an absolute limit of 159 counties, with an additional provision that no new country could be created except through consolidation of existing counties.

Long County was named for Dr. Crawford Long, who in 1842 pioneered the use of anesthesia during surgery.

Population since 1980

The 1980s was a period of heavy migration to Georgia from other states. Between 1980 and 2000, Georgia's population grew by 50 per cent, an increase of 2,728,887 new residents. During that same timeframe, Long County's population increased by 129 per cent. Between 1980 and 1990 total population in Long County increased from 4,524 to 6,316 or 39.6 per cent (Table P-1).

The period of 1990 to 1995 saw Georgia's peak population growth at 11.16 per cent. Likewise, the national population grew by 6.25 per cent during that era. Long County's 34.15 per cent increase was relatively high.

Total population in Long County is projected to increase 23.4 per cent through 2025, lower than state (+39.5 per cent) and national (+27 per cent) averages.

Existing Conditions

Table P-1

Long County Population: 1980-2000

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2010
Total County	**4524**	**5693**	**6316**	**8473**	**10,369**	**11,576**
RDC	**351,200**	**382,100**	**418,304**	**437,964**	**454,169**	**507,306**
State	**5,486,900**	**5,974,500**	**6,478,216**	**6,912,256**	**7,278,606**	**8,144,760**

Source: Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., UGA Data services Unit, 1991

Existing and Future Conditions

Table P-2

Long County: Total Population																		
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Total	4,604	5,693	6,316	8,473	10,369	10,485	10,606	10,713	10,828	10,962	11,078	11,209	11,313	11,445	11,576	12,209	12,835	13,525

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-2

Long County: Total Population																		
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2001**	**2002**	**2003**	**2004**	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Total	4,604	5,693	6,316	8,473	10,369	10,485	10,606	10,713	10,828	10,962	11,078	11,209	11,313	11,445	11,576	12,209	12,835	13,525

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-3
GA. Total Population 1980-2004

Category	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	5,484, 440	5,962,720	6,506,530	7,323,980	8,229,820	8,338,460	8,449,130	8,560,620	8,670, 510

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-3(cont.)

GA. Total Population 2005-2025

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total	8,784,650	8,895,580	9,008,670	9,122,070	9,235,630	9,349,660	9,940,380	10,550,700	11,185,100

Table P-4
US Total Population 1980-2004

Category	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Total	227,226,000	237,925,000	249,464,000	266,086,000	282,125,000	284,844,000	287,635,000	290,459,000	293,229,000

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-4 (cont.)
US Total Population 2005-2025

Category	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2020	2025
Total	296,135,000	298,933,000	301,819,000	304,712,000	307,603,000	310,519,000	325,767,000	341,658,000	358,301,000

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-5

Total Population Comparison										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Long	4,524	5,363	6,202	8,253	10,304	11,749	13,194	14,639	16,054	17,529
Georgia	5,484,440	5,962,720	6,506,530	7,323,980	8,229,820	8,784,650	9,349,660	9,940,380	10,550,700	11,185,100

Woods and Pool Economics, Inc.

Table P-6

Total Population Comparison (per cent of Change)										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Long	0 %	18.55 %	15.64 %	33.07 %	24.85 %	14.02 %	12.27 %	10.95 %	9.87 %	8.98 %
Georgia	0 %	8.72 %	9.12 %	12.56 %	12.36 %	6.74 %	6.43 %	6.43 %	6.13 %	6.01 %

Woods and Pool Economics, Inc.

Tables P-5 and P-6 indicate that Long County's growth rate is continuing. This growth is attributed to residential spillover from Fort Stewart located in neighboring Liberty County. As the tables indicate, when compared to the state's rate of growth Long County is experiencing rapid growth.

Households

The total number of households in Long County has increased by 2,040 from 1,536 in 1980 to 3,576 in 2000 (Table P-7). Total number of households is projected to increase by an additional 872 to 4,736 by 2025. Average household size in Long County has declined through the past two decades, from 2.97 in 1980 to 2.87 in 2000, and is projected to remain stable at 2.86 by 2025 (Table P-4).

From 1980 to 2000, the number of household in Long County increased over six percent per year, more than doubling during this time period, while the State of Georgia and U.S. grew 2.5 percent and 1.38 percent annually, respectively.

Existing Conditions

Table P-7

Long County: Total Number of Households			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Households	1536	2225	3576

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-8

Long County: Number of Households										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Total	1,548	1,987	2,209	2,987	3,609	3,864	4,109	4,342	4,548	4,736

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P- 9

GA Number of Households										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2**
Total	1,886,550	2,124,630	2,380,830	2,684,490	3,022,410	3,265,030	3,501,380	3,727,580	3,929,140	4,1

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-10

United States: Households										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Total	80,824,800	86,553,900	92,255,600	98,679,800	105,819,000	112,466,000	118,879,000	124,948,000	130,209,000	134,777,000

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Growth in the number of households in the State of Georgia exceeded annual growth in the U.S. by 81 per cent annually-percentage wise. From 2005 to 2025, it is projected that the number of households in Long County and the State of Georgia each will grow approximately one percent annually.

Current and Future Conditions

Table P-11

Long County: Average Household Size										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Persons per Household	2.970	2.850	2.830	2.820	2.870	2.840	2.820	2.810	2.820	2.860

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-12

GA Avg. Household Size										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Persons per Household	2.830	2.730	2.660	2.650	2.650	2.610	2.590	2.590	2.600	2.630

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-13

Comparison of the Number of Households										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Long County	1,536	1,866	2,196	2,885	3,574	4,084	4,593	5,103	5,612	6,122
Georgia	1,886,550	2,124,630	2,380,830	2,684,490	3,022,410	3,265,030	3,501,380	3,727,580	3,929,140	4,108,410
US	80,824,800	86,553,900	92,255,600	98,679,800	105,819,000	112,466,000	118,879,000	124,948,000	130,209,000	134,777,000

Woods and Pool Economics, Inc.

Table P-14

Comparison of the Number of Households (per cent)										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Long County	0 %	21.48 %	17.68 %	31.38 %	19.28 %	14.27 %	12.46 %	11.10 %	9.97 %	9.09 %
Georgia	0 %	12.61 %	12.05 %	12.75 %	12.58 %	8.02 %	7.23 %	6.46 %	5.40 %	4.56 %
US	0 %	7.08 %	6.58 %	6.96 %	7.23 %	6.28 %	5.70 %	5.10 %	4.21 %	3.50 %

Woods and Pool Economics, Inc.

The number of households is increasing at a steady rate. Housing will not experience any significant impact because according to projections, an overall increase in the number of housing units is expected to occur during the twenty-year planning period. This increase will occur for two reasons: (1) the county's population is projected to experience significant growth; (2) average household size is steadily declining and will likely continue to decline during the first half of the planning period but may reverse in the second half of the 20 years. However, the projection does not indicate that the trend will reverse. Currently, adequate housing and types of housing exists for the county's population.

Age

Population distribution information by age for the years 1980 to 2000 provides a historical basis for which age groups will be the most predominant in the county's future. Also, the information is helpful in determining the type and amount of services the county may need the most in the coming years. In 1990, the three most predominant age groups in Long County were 15-24 years, 5-14 years, and 25-24 years representing 19.4 per cent, 10.0 per cent, and 16.6 per cent of the total population respectively. In 1990, those persons age 65 and above represented the smallest segment of the Long County population at 5.7 per cent.

Table P-15 presents historical trends and projections in the age distribution of Long County. There has been a continual increase of residents in age groupings from 25 - 44 years old (26.8 per cent). An increase in the 25 to 44 years old group is almost always correlated with an increase in lower age groups since they account for most of the children residents. Through 2025, the same age groups will account for most of the population growth in Long County.

Table P-15

Long County Population Distribution by Age: 1980-1995

Age Group	1980 Total	1980 per cent total	1985 Total	1985 per cent total	1990 Total	1990 per cent total	1995 Total	1995 per cent total
0-4	472	10.3	596	10.5	668	10.6	899	10.6
5-14	779	16.8	873	15.3	965	15.3	1413	16.7
15-24	1035	22.5	1226	21.5	1293	20.5	1700	20.1
25-34	727	15.8	963	16.9	1066	16.9	1418	16.7
35-44	443	9.6	661	11.6	831	13.2	1178	13.9
45-54	374	8.1	456	8.1	551	8.7	774	9.1
55-64	386	8.4	438	7.7	420	6.5	513	6.1
65+	389	8.5	480	8.4	522	8.3	578	6.8

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-16

Long County Population Distribution by Age: 2000-2015

Age Group	2000 Total	2000 per cent total	2005 Total	2005 per cent total	2010 Total	2010 per cent total	2015 Total	2015 per cent total
0-4	1146	11.1	1217	11.1	1221	10.5	1254	10.3
5-14	1764	17.0	2044	18.6	2295	19.8	2386	19.5
15-24	2007	19.4	1632	14.9	1638	14.1	145	15.9
25-34	1726	16.6	1996	18.2	1885	16.3	1506	12.3
35-44	1496	14.4	1539	14.0	1583	13.7	1845	15.7
45-54	1036	10.0	1166	10.6	1379	11.9	135	11.8
55-64	600	5.8	706	6.5	872	7.5	997	8.2
65+	594	5.7	662	6.1	703	6.2	841	6.9

Table P-17
Long County Population Distribution by Age: 2020-2025

Age Group	2020 Total	2020 per cent total	2025 Total	2025 per cent total
0-4	1288	10.0	1305	9.6
5-14	2425	18.9	2517	18.6
15-24	2188	17.0	2297	17.0
25-34	1523	11.9	1832	13.5
35-44	1738	13.5	1404	10.4
45-54	1487	11.6	1744	12.9
55-64	1182	9.3	1231	9.2
65+	1004	7.8	1195	8.3

Table P-18

Georgia: Population by Age		
Category	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Population	6,478,189	8,186,453
0 – 4 Years	495,535	595,150
5 – 9 Years	483,952	615,584
10 – 14 Years	466,614	607,759
15 – 19 Years	497,152	596,277
20 – 24 Years	522,634	592,196
25 – 34 Years	1,174,869	1,299,256
35 – 44 Years	1,015,698	1,353,508
45 – 54 Years	668,951	1,079,992
55 – 59 Years	259,735	375,651
60 – 64 Years	238,779	285,805
65 Years and Over	654,270	785,275

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-19

United States: Population by Age		
Category	**1990**	**2000**
TOTALPopulation	248,709,873	281,421,906
0 – 4 Years Old	18,354,443	19,046,754
5 – 9 Years Old	18,099,179	20,608,282
10 – 14 Years Old	17,114,249	20,618,199
15 – 19 Years Old	17,754,015	19,911,052
20 – 24 Years Old	19,020,312	19,025,980
25 – 34 Years Old	43,175,932	39,577,357
35 – 44 Years Old	37,578,903	45,905,471
45 – 54 Years Old	25,223,086	37,578,609
55 – 59 Years Old	10,351,756	13,383,251
60 – 64 Years Old	10,616,167	10,787,979
65 Years and Over	31,241,831	34,978,972

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Long County has a slightly higher percentage of individuals under the age of 18 than the State average (approximately 33 percent). This increase may indicate a need to monitor the school facility situation.

Table P-20

Long County: Age Distribution										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Total	4,604	5,693	6,316	8,473	10,369	10,962	11,576	12,209	12,835	13,525
Age 0 to 4	472	596	668	899	1,146	1,217	1,221	1,254	1,288	1,305
Age 5 to 9	386	465	536	770	964	1,113	1,198	1,209	1,241	1,288
Age 10 to 14	393	408	429	643	800	931	1,097	1,177	1,184	1,229
Age 15 to 19	496	535	567	744	904	772	913	1,074	1,163	1,179
Age 20 to 24	538	691	726	956	1,103	860	725	871	1,025	1,118
Age 25 to 29	408	536	560	698	943	1,080	831	697	840	1,006
Age 30 to 34	319	427	506	720	783	916	1,054	809	683	826
Age 35 to 39	249	368	438	618	849	746	879	1,011	777	661
Age 40 to 44	194	293	393	560	647	793	704	834	961	743
Age 45 to 49	189	239	294	407	561	625	772	689	818	945
Age 50 to 54	185	217	257	367	475	541	607	746	669	799
Age 55 to 59	213	220	200	269	311	423	489	549	676	604
Age 60 to 64	173	218	220	244	289	283	383	448	506	627
Age 65 to 69	165	181	187	194	196	249	246	343	401	460
Age 70 to 74	100	131	145	158	164	156	203	205	282	336
Age 75 to 79	57	91	112	121	127	122	119	156	160	231
Age 80 to 84	35	44	48	69	64	90	86	89	115	122
Age 85 & Over	32	33	30	36	43	45	49	48	46	46

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Race

The minority population of the county has increased during the past 20 years. In 1980, the percentage of whites was 73.8 per cent; blacks, 25.6 per cent; Hispanics, Asians, Indians, and others were 1.59 per cent. In 2000, the percentages of whites decreased to 68.4 per cent; blacks decreased to 24.25 per cent; however, Hispanics, Asians, Indians, and others increased to 7.35 per cent of the total population of the county.

Through 2025 the black population will decrease by 1.5 per cent, while the white population will decline by 11.94 per cent, and the Hispanic population will increase by 160.9 per cent.

Existing Conditions
Table P-221

Long County: Racial Composition			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Population	4524	6202	10304
White	3342	4687	7049
Black	1162	1349	2499
American Indian Eskimo or Aleut	0	17	75
Asian or Pacific Islander	7	49	85
Other	14	100	403
Persons of Hispanic Origin	72	178	870

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Existing and Future Conditions
Table P-22

Long County: Racial Composition										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
White Population	NA	NA	4,707	5,907	6,877	7,079	7,288	7,498	7,678	7,832
Black Population	NA	NA	1,353	1,911	2,476	2,584	2,712	2,859	2,999	3,165
Native American	NA	NA	25	62	63	66	75	70	61	54
Asian & Pacific Islander	NA	NA	42	104	83	94	112	131	144	160
Hispanic, any Race	69	88	189	489	870	1,139	1,389	1,651	1,953	2,314

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-23
Long County Racial Composition by Percentages

Category	1980	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
White Population	73.87 %	75.57 %	71.57 %	68.4 %	67.89 %	61.55 %	61.02 %	60.59 %	60.23 %
Black Population	25.69 %	21.75 %	23.16 %	24.3 %	24.11 %	21.90 %	21.74 %	21.61 %	21.50 %
Native American	0	0.27 %	0.75 %	0.61 %	0.80 %	0.77 %	0.81 %	0.84 %	0.87 %
Asian & Pacific Islander	.15 %	0.79 %	1.26 %	0.80 %	0.89 %	0.86 %	0.89 %	0.92 %	0.94 %
Hispanic, and Other	1.59 %	2.87 %	13.80 %	5.78 %	6.31 %	14.92 %	15.53 %	16.04 %	16.46 %

EDUCATION

The educational level of a community is often a determinant of economic development. The skill levels of residents in an area can be inferred from the level of education prevalent in the citizenry. Companies requiring skilled workers may look for areas with high rates of high school graduates while industries requiring highly-skilled workers may seek counties with large numbers of college graduates. The reverse is also true, with the county seeking to attract companies that are a good fit for the educational level of its citizens.

Educational level is also important when evaluating a school system's quality. If the number of high school dropouts is particularly high for a certain area, the school system could be in need of improvement. School system quality can also be a factor in determining quality of life for the citizens of an area. The better the school system, the better the perceived quality of life.

Educational Attainment

Educational attainment in Long County has continually improved since the 1980's. In 1980, 54 per cent of Long County residents over the age of 25 had not completed high school (Table P-24). By 2000, this percentage had dropped to 25 per cent, a 66 per cent decrease. The number of citizens aged 25 or higher completing high school or some college has risen from 39.8 per cent in 1980 to 64.2 per cent in 2000. The percentage of residents completing four or more years of college reached 5.8 per cent in 2000. The level of education in the county, however, is still far below the state average, with nearly 25 per cent of Georgians over the age of 25 completing four or more years of college in 2000.

The number of persons attending college has increased more than 230 per cent; however, the number of college graduates has decreased by 43 per cent. Tables 23 and 24 provide the numbers and relative percentages of Long County residents age 25 and older attaining a maximum of each level of education during the period 1980 through 2000.

Current Inventory

Table P-24

Long County: Educational Attainment			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	2283	3367	5527
Less than 9th Grade	674	607	551
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	556	617	870
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	753	1446	2300
Some College (No Degree)	156	388	1247
Associate Degree	NA	133	236
Bachelor's Degree	145	117	199
Graduate or Professional Degree	NA	59	124

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-25

Long County: Educational Attainment Percentage			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
Less than 9th Grade	29.52 %	18.03 %	9.97 %
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	24.35 %	18.32 %	15.74 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	32.98 %	42.95 %	41.61 %
Some College (No Degree)	6.83 %	11.52 %	22.56 %
Associate Degree	NA	3.95 %	4.27 %
Bachelor's Degree	6.35 %	3.47 %	3.60 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	NA	1.75 %	2.24 %

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-26

Georgia: GA Educational Attainment			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	3081513	4012329	5185965
Less than 9th Grade	730846	481679	393197
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	613975	683833	718152
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	878923	1189740	1486006
Some College (No Degree)	411517	682350	1058692
Associate Degree	NA	198951	269740
Bachelor's Degree	450267	518433	829873
Graduate or Professional Degree	NA	257201	430305

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-27

Georgia: Educational Attainment GA PCT			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
Less than 9th Grade	23.72 %	12.00 %	7.58 %
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	19.92 %	17.04 %	13.85 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	28.52 %	29.65 %	28.65 %
Some College (No Degree)	13.35 %	17.01 %	20.41 %
Associate Degree	NA	4.96 %	5.20 %
Bachelor's Degree	14.61 %	12.92 %	16.00 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	NA	6.41 %	8.30 %

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

High School Graduation Test Scores

High School graduation test scores decreased in Long County from 1995 to 2001, mirroring trends elsewhere in the state. Overall, test scores have stayed about 20 per cent lower in Long County than the state average. In 2001, however, test scores were only 16 per cent behind the state average.

Tables 28 and 29 provide a review of educational indicators for Long County students since 1995. Long County high school test scores are lagging behind the state by 38.46 per cent. This drop in test scores is a side effort of the reduced dropout rate. Students who would have dropped out previously are now staying in school and taking the tests. Long County has a 25.58 per cent higher dropout rate than the state. Long County is working with those students that have low skill levels and are in danger of dropping out of school.

The percentage of high school graduates continuing on to post-secondary education is lower than the state level. More students are attending Georgia Public Technical schools than the state average.

No significant trends were noted other than the Long County Board of Education is taking the necessary steps to encourage students to improve skills levels.

Table P-28

Long County: Education Statistics							
Category	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**
H.S. Graduation Test Scores (All Components)	73 %	78 %	42 %	47 %	51 %	52 %	40 %
H.S. Dropout Rate	5.8 %	5.1 %	13.1 %	6.1 %	9.6 %	11.6 %	8.6 %
Grads Attending Georgia Public Colleges	26.5 %	18.9 %	28.6 %	17.3 %	17.9 %	NA	NA
Grads Attending Georgia Public Technical Schools	8.8 %	9.4 %	17.1 %	15.4 %	8.9 %	9.6 %	NA

Source: Georgia Department of Education

Table P-29

Georgia: Education Statistics							
Category	**1995**	**1996**	**1997**	**1998**	**1999**	**2000**	**2001**
H.S. Graduation Test Scores (All Components)	82 %	76 %	67 %	68 %	66 %	68 %	65 %
H.S. Dropout Rate	9.26 %	8.60 %	7.30 %	6.50 %	6.50 %	6.50 %	6.40 %
Grads Attending Georgia Public Colleges	35.0 %	30.0 %	30.2 %	38.8 %	37.5 %	37.3 %	36.1 %
Grads Attending Georgia Public Technical Schools	5.4 %	6.2 %	7.1 %	6.5 %	6.4 %	7.4 %	8.8 %

Source: Georgia Department of Education

Table 30 provides a comparison of Long County education attainment levels as compared to surrounding counties and the state. The table provides the relative percentages of Long County residents and residents of surrounding counties, age 25 and older, attaining a maximum of each level of education during the period 1980 through 2000. Negative percentages indicate a drop in the relative number.

High School Dropout Rate

The high school dropout rate in Long County increased from 1995 to 2000. This trend was seen in Georgia as a whole. The overall average of the dropout rates from 1995 to 2001 for Long County was 8.56 per cent, higher than the state average of 7.29 per cent.

Table P-30

Education Comparison to Surrounding Counties & State (per cent Change 1980-2000)						
Category	**Long**	**Bryan**	**Liberty**	**McIntosh**	**Tattnall**	**State**
Less than 9th Grade	-66.22 %	-50.00 %	-53.83 %	-53.14 %	-50.20 %	-16.14 %
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	-35.36 %	-45.00 %	33.11 %	-20.91 %	22.51 %	30.47 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	26.17 %	184.04 %	69.73 %	118.74 %	80.41 %	0.45 %
Some College (No Degree)	230.31 %	601.53 %	325.14 %	288.10 %	117.61 %	50.86 %
Bachelor's Degree	-43.31 %	1291.11 %	183.22 %	230.60 %	127.32 %	9.50 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	28.00 %	734.31 %	94.41 %	159.38 %	65.87 %	29.48 %

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Less than 9th Grade Education: Long County as compared to surrounding counties and the state of Georgia has decreased the number of persons with less than a 9th grade education the number of well.

9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma): Long County has also decreased the number of persons not completing high school. A negative number in this area indicates a lower number of individuals without a diploma.

High School Graduate & GED: Table 45 indicates that an increased number of adults 25 & older have a GED or High School Diploma. Long County lags behind the surrounding counties in this area, but is performing better than the state average.

Some College: When comparing percentages, Long County is very similar to the surrounding counties and performing better that the state average.

Bachelor's Degree: Long County is not performing as well as surrounding counties when comparing percentages. There has been a decrease in individuals obtaining Bachelor's Degree in a 20-year period.

Graduate or Professional Degrees (1980-2000): Table 30 indicates that the number of individuals holding Graduate or Professional Degrees has increased. Although Long County lags behind the surrounding counties, the county performs well as compared to the state in this area.

The predicted educational attainment level for Long County residents indicates a steady 6 per cent decline in the number of persons, age 25 and older, with no high school diploma. Tables 46 and 47 predict that between 2005 and 2025, there will be a 28.88 per cent increase in persons attending college and a 2.40 per cent increase in the number of persons earning a Bachelor's degree.

Current and Future Assessment
Table P-31

Long County Educational Attainment 2005-2015

Category	2005 Total	2005 % total	2010 Total	2010 % total	2015 Total	2015 % total
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	6069	100 %	6422	100 %	6624	100 %
Less than 9th Grade	520	8.57 %	490	7.63 %	459	6.93 %
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	926	15.26 %	1000	15.57 %	1074	16.21 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	2652	43.70 %	3032	47.21 %	3411	51.49 %
Some College (No Degree)	1509	24.86 %	1779	27.70 %	2050	30.95 %
Bachelor's Degree	214	3.53 %	240	3.74 %	265	4.0 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	141	2.30 %	158	2.46 %	174	2.63 %

Original Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-32

Long County Educational Attainment 2020-2025

Category	2020 Total	2020 % total	2025 Total	2025 % total
TOTAL Adult Population 25 & Over	6924	100 %	7406	100 %
Less than 9th Grade	428	6.17 %	397	5.36 %
9th to 12th Grade (No Diploma)	1148	16.56 %	1222	16.50 %
High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)	3791	54.67 %	4171	56.32 %
Some College (No Degree)	2320	33.46 %	2591	34.99 %
Bachelor's Degree	290	4.18 %	315	4.25 %
Graduate or Professional Degree	191	2.75 %	208	2.81 %

Original Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

INCOME

Per Capita and Median Household

Income data is relevant to many elements of a comprehensive growth management plan. Income levels provide information about the labor force, the cost of living, and the limits of the tax base. These factors are important to the economic development, community facilities and housing element of the comprehensive plan.

Income is reported by per capita and by household. Per capita income is calculated by dividing the total income generated and received by residents of the community by the number of residents in the community. The household income statistics include all households including single member households.

Table P-33 compares the Long County per capita income from years 1980 to 2000 to those from the state of Georgia. The table indicates that Long County has a lower per capita income than the state. However, from 1980 to 2000, the per capita income in

Long County had risen by $ 8,073, representing a 179 per cent increase. In comparison, the state's per capita income increased by $10,080 which represented a 65.65 per cent increase.

The per capita income in Long County has risen slightly since 1980, from $4,513 to $12,586 in 2000. It is expected to increase further to $16,623 by 2010. This is in contrast to the state per capita income, which was $8,477 in 1980 and increased to $25,433 by 2000, and projected to increase to $28,549 by 2010. Although both the county and the state per capita incomes are expected to rise, the state income will rise more than the county income.

Long County's per capita income and median household income have remained far below the state average.

Current Inventory

Table P-33

Per capita income comparisons in 1996 dollars: 1980-2000

Category	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Long County	$4,513	$6,684	$8,815	$10,701	$12,586
State	$15,353	$18,512	$20,715	$22,287	$25,433

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-34

Average Household Income comparisons in 1996 dollars: 1990-2000

Category	1990	2000
Long County	$24,613	$35,725
State	$33,259	$42,158

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Distribution of Households by Income

The distribution of households in Long County is predicted to see a move from the majority of households earning less than $20,000 per year in 1990 to the majority of households earning more $30,000 by 2010. This coincides with the predicted increase in education levels of the citizens in Long County.

In 2000, the state's largest income bracket was $30,000 to $39,999. This is higher than Long County which had the largest population in the $20,000 to $29,999 bracket.

Table P-35

Long County: Household Income Distribution		
Category	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Households	2225	3576
Income less than $5000	NA	NA
Income $5000 - $9999	566	428
Income $10000 - $14999	299	335
Income $15000 - $19999	339	332
Income $20000 - $29999	404	641
Income $30000 - $34999	137	328
Income $35000 - $39999	110	301
Income $40000 - $49999	176	397
Income $50000 - $59999	55	331
Income $60000 - $74999	67	225
Income $75000 - $99999	59	177
Income $100000 or more	13	81

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-36

Long County: Household Income Dist (per cent)		
Category	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Households	100.00 %	100.00 %
Income less than $5000	NA	NA
Income $5000 - $9999	25.44 %	11.97 %
Income $10000 - $14999	13.44 %	9.37 %
Income $15000 - $19999	15.24 %	9.28 %
Income $20000 - $29999	18.16 %	17.93 %
Income $30000 - $34999	6.16 %	9.18 %
Income $35000 - $39999	4.94 %	8.42 %
Income $40000 - $49999	7.91 %	11.10 %
Income $50000 - $59999	2.47 %	9.23 %
Income $60000 - $74999	3.01 %	6.29 %
Income $75000 - $99999	2.65 %	4.95 %
Income $100000 or more	0.58 %	2.28 %

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-37

Georgia: GA Household Income Distribution			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Households	1,869,754	2,366,575	3,007,678
Income less than $5000	302,864	NA	NA
Income $5000 - $9999	319,679	398,078	304,816
Income $10000 - $14999	304,354	204,142	176,059
Income $15000 - $19999	265,302	210,123	177,676
Income $20000 - $29999	215,674	405,424	383,222
Income $30000 - $34999	153,940	186,754	187,070
Income $35000 - $39999	103,371	160,205	176,616
Income $40000 - $49999	62,868	260,712	326,345
Income $50000 - $59999	38,203	179,962	278,017
Income $60000 - $74999	27,517	161,705	315,186
Income $75000 - $99999	47,980	109,354	311,651
Income $100000 or more	28,437	90,116	371,020

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Table P-38

Georgia: GA Household Income Dist (%)			
Category	**1980**	**1990**	**2000**
TOTAL Households	100.00 %	100.00 %	100.00 %
Income less than $5000	16.20 %	7.90 %	NA
Income $5000 - $9999	17.10 %	8.87 %	10.13 %
Income $10000 - $14999	16.28 %	8.62 %	5.85 %
Income $15000 - $19999	14.19 %	8.87 %	5.91 %
Income $20000 - $29999	11.53 %	17.13 %	12.74 %
Income $30000 - $34999	8.23 %	7.90 %	6.22 %
Income $35000 - $39999	5.53 %	6.77 %	5.87 %
Income $40000 - $49999	3.36 %	11.03 %	10.85 %
Income $50000 - $59999	2.04 %	7.61 %	9.24 %
Income $60000 - $74999	1.47 %	6.85 %	10.48 %

Income $75000 - $99999	2.57 %	4.63 %	10.36 %
Income $100000 or more	1.52 %	3.81 %	12.34 %

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Current and Future Assessment

Table P-39

Long County: Per Capita Income										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Income per Capita (1996 $)	$4,513	$6,684	$8,815	$10,701	$12,586	$14,604	$16,623	$18,641	$20,659	$22,677

Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc.

Table P-40

Georgia: GA Per Capita Income										
Category	**1980**	**1985**	**1990**	**1995**	**2000**	**2005**	**2010**	**2015**	**2020**	**2025**
Income per Capita (1996 $)	$15,353	$18,512	$20,715	$22,287	$25,433	$26,975	$28,549	$30,141	$31,767	$33,413

Source: Woods & Pool Economics, Inc.

Table P-41

Comparison of Long County's Per Capita Income to State (%)										
Category	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025
Long (1996 $)	-70.61 %	-63.89 %	-57.45 %	-51.99 %	-50.51 %	-45.86 %	-41.77 %	-38.15 %	-34.97 %	-32.13 %
Georgia (1996 $)	$15,353.00	$18,512.00	$20,715.00	$22,287.00	$25,433.00	$26,975.00	$28,549.00	$30,141.00	$31,767.00	$33,413.00

Woods and Pool Economics, Inc.

Per capita income is predicted to continually rise in Long County but will not meet the state level. However the state's predicted increase averages 5.5 per cent every five years. The predictions for Long County indicate more than an 11 per cent increase every fiver years.

1.2.0.0: Assessment

Population

Long County has undergone a significant population increase since 1980, increasing 129 per cent. This trend compares with significant population growth rates for the state and the nation. The state and national population increased by 50 per cent and 25.1 per cent respectively during that same period.

Explaining population increase requires examining specific segments of the Long County population. Population increases since 1980 occurred primarily in the 25 to 34 age group. The number of residents in this age group increased by 137.4 per cent. The buildup of the Fort Stewart Military Reservation accounts for most of the population increases of younger people.

In 1999, the last year for which complete Georgia Department of Education data for Warren County is available, over 26.8 per cent of high school graduates attended Georgia public colleges and technical colleges. This figure does not include out-of-state or private Georgia colleges. For younger residents entering the workforce after college, there is a mismatch between their education and the type of jobs available in the community. The economy of Long County is dependent upon the region's economy, as most employment opportunities are available in neighboring counties. A significant portion of Long County's labor force commutes to work. Long County residents enjoy the rural nature of living in the county and the close proximity of work in neighboring counties. In short, there is incentive for younger residents to return to Long County after completing post-secondary education.

Total population in Long County is projected to increase 23.4 per cent through 2025, lower than the state (+35.9 per cent) and national (+27 per cent) averages. A significant portion of that growth will come from the 45-64 years old group. The structure of the region's economy explains the trend. The fastest growing employment sectors in the region are projected in high technology sectors such as transportation, communications & public utilities. Projected growth in these employment sectors correlated with the aging of the residents.

Households

The number of households in Long County has increased an average 133 per cent since 1980. This rate is above household growth rates for the state (60.2 per cent) and the nation (30.9 per cent). Through 2025, the number of households in Long County will increase by 22.6 per cent, a lower growth rate compared to state (35.9 per cent) and national (27.3 per cent) averages.

Household growth in Long County has increased at higher rates than the total population. Growth in total households necessitates a corresponding increase in the

housing supply to ensure housing meets the community's needs. Between 1980 and 2000, the housing supply in Long County increased by 144.2 per cent. Housing growth has thus outpaced growth in total households, ensuring a sufficient supply of housing.

The increase of total households relative to increased population in Long County can be explained by the average household size. Average household size has remained relatively stable, declining only by .10 between 1980 and 2000. By contrast the state and national average household size declined by .18 and .15 respectively. Through 2025, average household size throughout Long County will remain higher than state and national levels.

Age

Throughout Long County, the younger age population groups accounted for most of the population growth since 1980, as opposed to state, and national trends. Through 2025, 0 to 34 years old age groups will increase by 15.4 per cent while the 65+ age groups will account for 80.5 per cent of the growth. The 35-54 age groups, the backbone of the Long County economy, will increase by 16.4 per cent While the workforce will become younger, local governments will have to support an aging population that will increasingly be dependent on non-wage sources of income. From a housing and community facilities perspective, future projects and planning will need to take these demographic shifts into account.

Race

Past, current and future race demographics in Long County compare to state and national trends, which project, as a share of total population, a declining white population, an unchanged black population and a growing Hispanic population. Whereas the Hispanic population will account for 8.9 per cent of total population in Georgia and 19.2 per cent nationally by 2025, in Long County, the Hispanic population will account for 16 per cent of the total population.

Education

Education Attainment

Education attainment in Long County has continually improved in the past twenty years but lags behind the state. In 2000, 25.7 per cent of Long County residents did not graduate from high school. The state average was 21.4 per cent.

In 2000, less than 11 per cent of Long County residents obtained a college degree or higher, while 29.5 per cent of residents statewide obtained a college degree.

Since 1980, the number of Long County residents with some college or more has more than doubled to 32.7 per cent. While Long County's college or more rate is less than the state average of 49.9 per cent, the gap is narrowing.

That Long County is catching up to the state average in educational attainment reflects the important role of state and local policy in education over the years and gains in education attainment made region-wide. State education policy, in an attempt to increase statewide test scores and improve its national rating, has increased school resources and facilitated teacher development. As a result, Long County schools have had, since 1980, unprecedented resources devoted to improving educational attainment. On the local level, there is an acknowledgment in the community that today's economy requires education and training. Even in a manufacturing and lower skill service-dominated economy, a high school diploma has become indispensable.

While Long County's economy is still primarily a lower skill service economy, the regional economy is more diverse and requires more educated graduates. Based on these local education attainment levels, the community will need to attract two different types of employment sectors. One the one hand, manufacturing and construction, will allow residents with a high school diploma or less to participate in the local economy. On the other hand, projected employment growth in public utilities, communications, and finance will provide employment opportunities for residents with college education. Current education attainment levels suggest the need to aggressively pursue these sectors.

Test Scores, Drop-Out Rate and Post-Secondary Education

Achievement test scores have declined 33 per cent in Long County between 1995 and 2001. This mirrors declines in the state average.

School drop out rates in Long County have increased from 5.8 per cent to 8.6 per cent between 1995 and 2001.

Income

Per capita and mean household incomes have consistently risen. Since 1980, per capita income has risen 178.9 per cent in Long County versus 222.5 per cent for the state as a whole. Current per capita income is $12,371 higher in Georgia. A similar discrepancy is found in mean household income. Since 1990, it has risen 45 per cent in Long and 54.8 per cent in the state.

Income differentials are generally explained by the lower cost of living in Long County. The average weekly wage paid in Long County is $368, compared to the statewide average of $711. Furthermore, median property values and rent in Long

are less than half the state average. Given the local cost of living, it is unlikely that income will approach the state average by 2025.

1.2.0.0: Goals and Implementation

The Long County Commission is committed to managing growth in a manner that will lessen the added burden to the average tax payer. The county will monitor growth carefully and plan for creation of new and expansion of existing facilities and services well in advance of their predicted demand.

Goal #1 Grow through an increase in total population.

Policy 1.1: Enhance the ability of the county services to provide for future growth of residential population within the county.

Goal #2: Improve the quality of life for all Long County residents.

Policy 2.1: Continue to increase the number and variety of services provided to residents of the county.

Goal #3: Enable new and existing residents to become active in the community.

Policy 3.1: Continue to appoint citizen action committees when needed to address specific issues pertinent to the community.

Goal #4: Continue to improve race relations.

Policy 4.1: Encourage more interaction among all races in civic and public activities.

Policy 4.2: Encourage more minority-owned businesses to locate in Long County.

Policy 4.3: Encourage more interracial participation in community festivals.

Policy 4.4: Initiate, encourage, and support social welfare services for migrant farm workers.

Goal #5: Achieve greater public involvement in education.

Policy 5.1: Promote and encourage all activities of the Long County Public School System.

Policy 5.2: Provide ample servcies and facilities to the Long County Public Schools.

Policy 5.3: Promote and support the community literacy campaign.