

Chapter 1 Population

The population element provides the City of Ludowici the opportunity to inventory and assess the trends and the demographic characteristics of the population. This information will form the foundation for planning decisions such as economic development, community facilities and services, transportation, housing, and land use elements of the comprehensive plan. 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. Both past and present population data will be analyzed to project future population. Characteristics that are analyzed in the element include total population, households, age distribution, racial composition, educational attainment, and income.

1.1 Past, Present, and Projected Population Trends

Total population includes the historic, current, and projected total population of the community. Ludowici's growth rate is compared to that of the County, state, and US. This information will assist the community in identifying trends and future needs.

The historic data is from the Department of Community Affairs, Data View Sets. Information contained in these tables spans a 45-year period. Twenty-five years before the planning year and twenty years after the planning date. The information in this chart is used to identify past, current and future trends.

**Table 1
Population Growth Rates (1980-2025)**

Year	Ludowici		Percent Change (%)		
	No.	%	Long County	Georgia	U.S.
1980	1,286	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
1985	1,289	0.2	25.8	8.7	4.7
1990	1,291	0.2	20.5	9.1	4.9
1995	1,366	8.4	40.2	12.6	6.7
2000	1,440	2.9	28.7	12.4	6.0
<i>(Projections)</i>					
2005	1,479	2.7	15.9	6.7	5.0
2006	1,486	0.5	2.4	1.3	0.9
2007	1,493	0.5	2.3	1.3	1.0
2008	1,500	0.5	2.3	1.3	1.0
2009	1,508	0.5	2.2	1.2	1.0
2010	1,517	2.6	13.7	6.4	4.9
2015	1,556	3.2	12.0	6.3	4.9
2020	1,594	2.4	10.7	6.1	4.9
2025	1,633	2.4	9.7	6.0	4.8

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

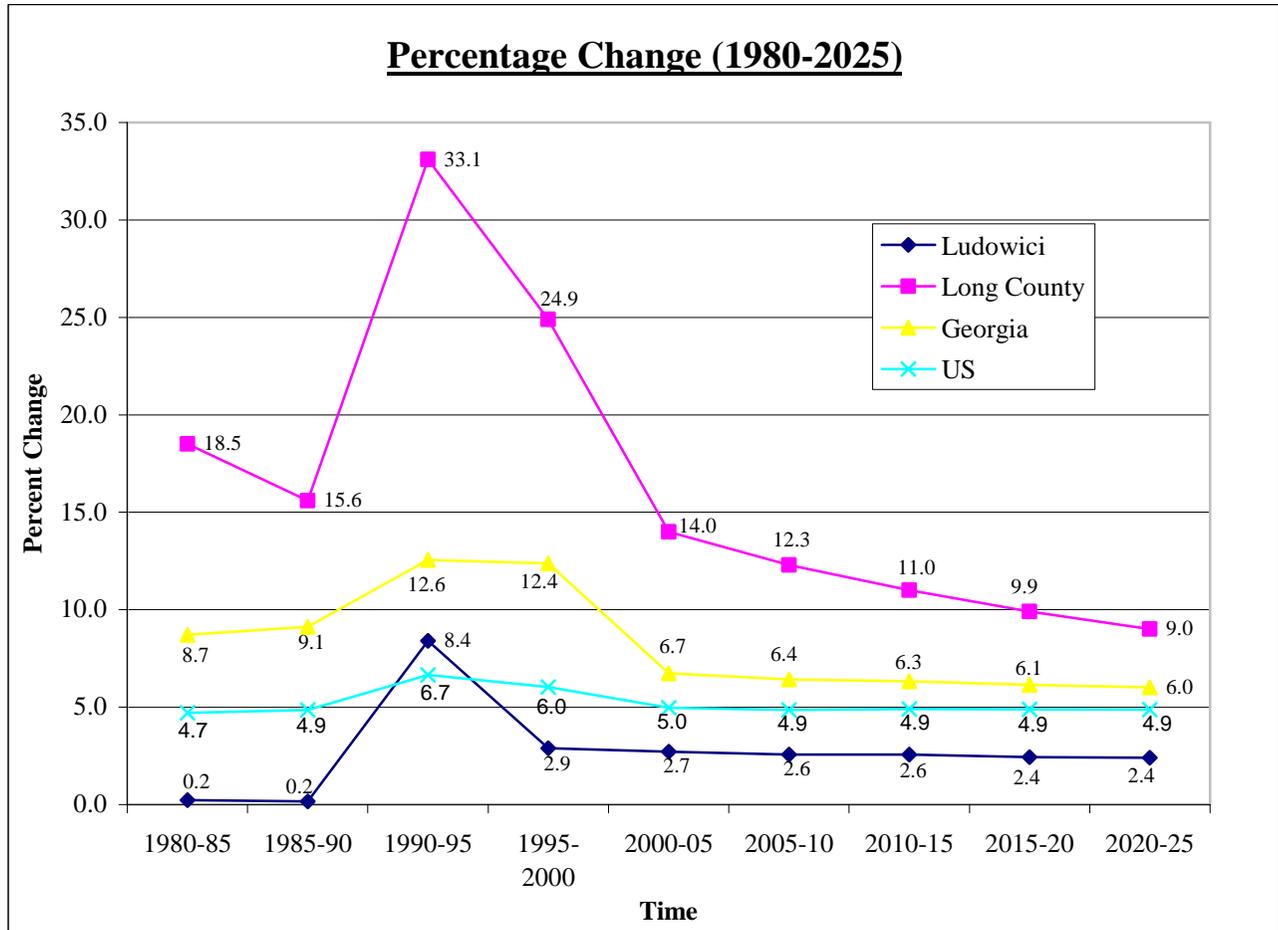


Figure 1 shows the population growth experienced within the city, county, state, and nation. When comparing population growth rates for the period 1980 to 2000, the city is similar to both the state and nation. From 1990 to 2000, the city grew at a slightly faster rate than the nation. A lower population growth rate was experienced in the city, state and nation from 1995 to 2005. In general, the population growth is expected to level out and remain stable to the end of the planning period (2025).

The lack of employment opportunities is hindering growth in the city. Approximately 63.7 percent of Ludowici’s population works outside of Long County. Employment does exist in Long County and Ludowici; however, many people prefer to work out of the County for higher wages. Also, it should be noted that the city and county are rapidly becoming a bedroom community of Liberty and Wayne counties.

1.2 Household Population and Analysis

A household is defined as the number of people occupying a housing unit. A house, an apartment, or other group of rooms or a single room is regarded as a housing unit when it is occupied or intended for occupancy as separate living quarters; that is, when the occupants do not live and eat with any other persons in the structure and there is direct access from the outside or through a common hall.

A household includes the related family members and all unrelated people such as lodgers, foster children, wards, or employees who share the housing unit. A person living alone in a housing unit, or a group of unrelated people sharing a housing unit such as partners or roomers, is also counted as a household. The count of households excludes group quarters.

Table 2
Ludowici: Households (1980-2025)

Year	No.	Household Size
1980	482	2.66
1985	482	2.67
1990	481	2.68
1995	504	2.71
2000	526	2.74
<i>(Projections)</i>		
2005	537	2.74
2010	539	2.78
2015	541	2.80
2020	543	2.82
2025	545	2.84

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

As depicted in Table 2, the number of households in Ludowici grew 9.1 percent from 1980 to 2000. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) projects a 1.5 percent increase in the number of households in Ludowici from 2005-2025.

Average household size increased from 1980 to 2000 and will likely continue to increase throughout the planning period.

An increase in the number of households in the city will have little impact on housing. An overall increase in the number of housing units is expected to occur during the twenty-year planning period.

1.3 Age Distribution and Analysis

Population data by age group for the city are shown in Table 3. The particular age groups have been chosen because of their relationship to community needs.

For instance, the 5-13 age group represents elementary school age students; whereas, the 14-17 age group represents middle and high school students. Age groups 25-34 and 35-44 represent the heart of the workforce, and residents 65 and over represent the retirement age.

Table 3
Ludowici: Age Distribution (1980-2000)

Age	1980		1985		1990		1995		2000	
	No.	(%)								
0 – 4	130	10.1	128	9.9	125	9.7	132	9.6	139	9.7
5 – 13	189	14.7	212	16.4	234	18.1	244	17.8	254	17.6
14 – 17	85	6.6	72	5.6	59	4.6	75	5.5	91	6.3
18 – 20	103	8.0	86	6.7	69	5.3	72	5.3	75	5.2
21 – 24	118	9.2	101	7.8	83	6.4	88	6.4	93	6.5
25 – 34	182	14.2	198	15.3	214	16.6	215	15.7	215	14.9
35 – 44	111	8.6	138	10.7	165	12.8	173	12.6	180	12.5
45 – 54	124	9.6	112	8.7	99	7.7	120	8.8	140	9.7
55 – 64	108	8.4	103	8.0	98	7.6	99	7.2	99	6.9
65 and over	136	10.6	141	10.9	145	11.2	150	11.0	154	10.7
TOTAL	1,286	100	1,291	100	1,291	100	1,368	100	1,440	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

The percentage of children eligible to attend elementary school increased from 1980-1989. From 1990-1999, this age group increased slightly and is projected to continue rising. The age group eligible to attend middle and high school as a percentage of the population experienced a decline in population between the years of 1985-1989; nonetheless, the population is expected to remain stable. The numbers in the workforce increased throughout the twenty-year planning period (1980-1999). The most recent data (1990-1999) shows a decline in this age group as a percentage of the population, but it is projected to fully recover over the planning period. The age group 65 and over remained relatively stable during the last twenty years.

Table 4
Ludowici: Age Distribution

Age	2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
	No.	(%)								
0 – 4	141	9.5	144	9.5	146	9.4	148	9.3	150	9.2
5 – 13	270	18.3	287	18.9	303	19.5	319	20.0	335	20.5
14 – 17	93	6.3	94	6.2	96	6.2	97	6.1	99	6.1
18 – 20	68	4.6	61	4.0	54	3.5	47	2.9	40	2.4
21 – 24	87	5.9	81	5.3	74	4.8	68	4.3	62	3.8
25 – 34	223	15.1	232	15.3	240	15.4	248	15.6	256	15.7
35 – 44	197	13.3	215	14.1	232	14.9	249	15.6	266	16.3
45 – 54	144	9.7	148	9.7	152	9.8	156	9.8	160	9.8
55 – 64	97	6.6	95	6.3	92	5.9	90	5.6	88	5.4
65 and over	159	10.8	163	10.7	168	10.8	172	10.8	177	10.8
TOTAL	1,479	100	1,520	100	1,557	100	1,594	100	1,633	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs

www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 4 shows projected population of Ludowici by age group from 2005 to 2025. The 5-13 age group is projected to increase by 2.2 percent by the end of the twenty-year planning period (2005-2024). The middle to high school age group (14-17) is projected to experience a slight increase in the number of children, but a decline in the overall percentage of population distribution. Persons in the workforce age grouping will increase in number. This growth is projected to be slow, but continuous. The percentage of residents 65 and older is projected to remain constant for the next twenty years.

The population of Ludowici is stable and growing at a slow and steady rate. No radical change in the distribution of age is expected for the next 20-year planning period.

1.4 Racial Composition and Analysis

Racial composition includes the historic, current, and projected racial breakdown of the residents of Ludowici. Race is broken into five categories: *White*, *Black or African American*, *American Indian and Alaskan Native*, *Asian or Pacific Islander*, and *Other* which includes mixed races.

Table 5 shows a slight change in the racial composition of Ludowici during the past twenty-year planning period. The *White* and *African American* categories experienced a slight decrease as a percentage of the population, while the category of *Other Race* experienced a slight increase. The steering committee attributed this change to an increase in the Hispanic population of Ludowici.

Table 5
Racial Composition-Ludowici (1980-2000)

Race	1980		1985		1990		1995		2000	
	No.	(%)								
White	942	72.9	941	72.9	939	72.7	994	72.7	1,048	72.8
African American	333	25.8	336	26.0	338	26.2	341	24.9	343	23.8
American Indian	0	0	1	<1	2	<1	10	<1	17	1.2
Asian American	9	<1	6	<1	9	<1	7	<1	4	<1
Other Race	9	<1	6	<1	3	<1	16	1.2	28	1.9
TOTAL	1,293	100	1,290	100	1,291	100	1,368	100	1,440	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 6
Racial Composition-Ludowici (2005-2025)

Race	2005		2010		2015		2020		2025	
	No.	(%)								
White	1,075	72.6	1,101	72.5	1,128	72.4	1,154	72.4	1,181	72.3
African American	346	23.4	348	22.9	351	22.5	353	22.2	356	21.8
American Indian	21	1.4	26	1.9	30	1.9	34	2.1	38	2.3
Asian American	5	<1	5	<1	6	<1	6	<1	7	<1
Other Race	33	2.2	38	2.5	42	2.7	47	2.9	52	3.2
TOTAL	1,480	100	1,518	100	1,557	100	1,594	100	1,634	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 6 projects racial composition in the city from 2005 to 2025. The *White* and *African American* categories are projected to decrease and the *Other Race* is projected to increase over the next twenty years.

1.5 Educational Attainment

Data on educational attainment are derived from a single question that asks, "What is the highest grade of school completed, or the highest degree received?"

This subsection contains information on public, private, and parochial elementary and high schools (both junior and senior high schools), colleges, universities, and professional schools.

Students living in the City of Ludowici attend Long County schools. According to the Service Delivery Strategy, the Long County Board of Education is the entity that is charged with education all citizens within Long County.

Table 7
City of Ludowici: Educational Attainment

Category	1980		1990		2000	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Less than 9th Grade	178	27	119	17	76	10
9th to 12th Grade	189	29	130	18	137	18
High School Graduate/GED	179	27	300	42	352	45
Some College	60	9	92	13	142	18
Associate Degree	NA	NA	25	3	15	2
Bachelor's Degree	24	4	29	4	30	4
Graduate/Professional Degree	31	5	24	3	30	4
TOTAL	661	100	719	100	782	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 8
Long County: Educational Attainment

Category	1980		1990		2000	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Less than 9th Grade	674	29	607	18	551	10
9th to 12th Grade	556	24	617	18	852	16
High School Graduate/GED	753	33	1,446	43	2,272	42
Some College	156	7	388	12	1,238	23
Associate Degree	N/A	N/A	133	4	233	4
Bachelor's Degree	88	4	117	4	189	4
Graduate/Professional Degree	57	3	59	2	124	2
TOTAL	2,289	100	3,367	100	5,459	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 9
Georgia: Educational Attainment

Category	1980		1990		2000	
	No.	(%)	No.	(%)	No.	(%)
Less than 9th Grade	730,846	24	481,679	12	393,197	8
9th to 12th Grade	613,975	20	683,833	17	718,152	14
High School Graduate/GED	878,923	29	1,189,740	30	1,486,006	29
Some College	411,517	13	682,350	17	1,058,692	20
Associate Degree	NA	NA	198,951	5	269,740	5
Bachelor's Degree	450,267	15	518,433	13	829,873	16
Graduate/Professional Degree	NA	NA	257,201	6	430,305	8
TOTAL	3,081,513	100	4,012,329	100	5,185,965	100

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Educational attainment for residents of Ludowici, Long County and Georgia is shown in Tables 7 – 9. Ludowici compares favorably to Long County and the state in educational attainment. More students are staying in the school system longer. Seventy five (75) percent of Long County residents in 2000 had a High School Diploma, GED or higher level of educational attainment. Within the City of Ludowici alone, 72 percent of adults have a High School Diploma/GED or higher.

The education attainment levels in the city are a good match with the skills, knowledge and abilities needed to participate in the work force. The Long County Board of Education has worked hard to provide an excellent technical curriculum for individuals who are pursuing industrial programs or college.

1.6 Income

Per capita income is the mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a geographic area. It is derived by dividing the total income of all people 15 years old and over in a geographic area by the total population in that area. Note -- income is not collected for people under 15 years old even though those people are included in the denominator of per capita income. This measure is rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Table 10
Per Capita Income: 1980 – 2000 (1996 \$)

Category	1980	1990	2000
Ludowici	\$4,161	\$7,854	\$11,701
Long County	\$4,513	\$8,815	\$12,586
Georgia	NA	\$13,631	\$21,154

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

From 1990-2000, the per capita income in Ludowici rose by \$3,847, representing a 149.0 percent increase over a ten-year period (see Table 10). The state's per capita income increased by \$7,523, equivalent to a 155.2 percent increase over the same ten-year period. The City of Ludowici has been lagging behind the state in per capita income, and this trend is likely to continue.

Table 11
1980-2000 Household Income (1996 \$)

Category	1990	2000
Ludowici	20,883	31,835
Long County	24,613	35,725
Georgia	36,810	80,077

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

As shown in Table 11, from 1990-2000, the average household income in Ludowici rose by \$10,952, resulting in a 152.4 percent increase over the ten-year period. On the other hand, Georgia's household income increased by \$43,267, representing a 217.5 percent increase. The Department of Community Affairs, Data Views, shows that the average household income for Ludowici in 2000 was \$31,835, compared to \$80,077 statewide.

Table 12
Ludowici Household Income Distribution (1990-2000)

Income level	1990	2000
Less than \$9999	164	77
\$10000 - \$14999	50	63
\$15000 - \$19999	70	66
\$20000 - \$29999	76	99
\$30000 - \$34999	25	20
\$35000 - \$39999	17	46
\$40000 - \$49999	38	47
\$50000 - \$59999	16	59
\$60000 - \$74999	15	25
\$75000 - \$99999	7	21
\$100000-124999	1	2
\$125000-149999	0	0
\$150000 or more	0	4
Total	479	529

Source: Georgia Department of Community Affairs
www.georgiaplanning.com/dataviews/census2/

Table 12 depicts the distribution of household income. From 1990 to 2000, the percentage of households making less than \$20,000 per year decreased from almost 60 percent to about 40 percent. During that same period, the percentage of households making \$20,000 to \$60,000 increased from 36 to 51 percent.

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