



**Alabama-Tombigbee
Regional Commission
Comprehensive Economic
Development Strategy
2017-2021**



Resolution

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission (ATRC) receives planning grant funds from the Economic Development Administration (EDA);

WHEREAS, the work plan consists of developing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years;

WHEREAS, the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission staff has gathered public input in each of their ten county members and has prepared this document;

WHEREAS, the CEDS was submitted to the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission Board;

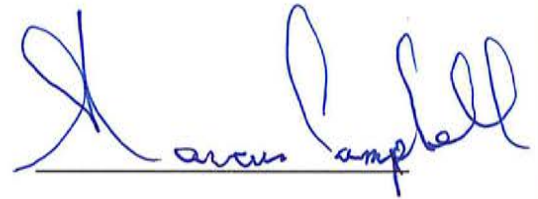
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission Board adopts the 2017 CEDS and any changes made under the guidance of the EDA or ATRC staff;

FURTHERMORE, the Alabama-Tombigbee Regional Commission Board will use this document in guiding the agency's development efforts.

DONE THIS 13th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2017.



Attest



Chair

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Executive Summary

The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission is a multi-funded regional (sub-state) planning and development commission which was founded on August 28, 1970. The Commission was named an Economic Development District by the Economic Development Administration in 1974. The Commission consists of Community and Economic Development, Aging, Medicaid Waiver, and Rural Transportation programs. The Commission serves Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox counties as well as forty-eight municipal governments.

A requirement of each designated Economic Development District (EDD) is to produce a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) every five years. A CEDS defines the vision and goals of the EDD. In addition, the CEDS also outlines the strategies proposed to pursue those goals. An integral part of this analysis is the identification of the areas strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This traditional SWOT analysis allows the area to take an inventory of assets and needs in order to better develop its goals. Once the area has identified its goals, it can then use its strengths to formulate the strategies to help them realize them.

The basis of the strategies contained in this document is recommendations from the Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission's CEDS Strategy Committee, local government officials, and the public. The importance of regionalism, workforce development, tourism, and small business incubation were stressed throughout the planning process.

This CEDS should be viewed as a working document; one that adjusts to accommodate the needs of changing communities. It is to be viewed as a starting point, as guidance for continued development and growth. It is pivotal that the plan be visited often to ensure progress.

Profile of the Alabama Tombigbee Region

Demographic and Socioeconomic Characteristics

The ATRC region encompasses ten counties in southwest Alabama: Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Dallas, Marengo, Monroe, Perry, Sumter, Washington, and Wilcox. This area includes 18% of the land in Alabama, while accounting for only 4% of the state's population. The majority of the area is considered part of Alabama's Black Belt.

Prior to the Civil War, the area's economy was dependent upon cotton. The area's rich soil coupled with the presence of navigable rivers led to favorable conditions. The plantation form of agriculture was present throughout the region. The region's population grew during this period as large landowners continued to increase the number of slaves working on their plantations. After the end of the war, the population steadily declined as African Americans left the region due to the severe segregation that existed.

The population of the region has continued to decline. Table 2.1 provides the population of the region's counties since 1960. It can be seen that on average the region's counties have lost 18% of their population in the last fifty years. Only Clarke and Monroe have seen population increases.

Table 2.1 Estimates of the Population of Alabama Counties 1960-2010						
Area	Census					
	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Alabama	3,266,740	3,444,354	3,894,025	4,040,587	4,447,100	4,779,736
Choctaw	17,870	16,589	16,839	16,018	15,922	13,859
Clarke	25,738	26,724	27,702	27,240	27,867	25,833
Conecuh	17,762	15,645	15,884	14,054	14,089	13,228
Dallas	56,667	55,296	53,981	48,130	46,365	43,820
Marengo	27,098	23,819	25,047	23,084	22,539	21,027
Monroe	22,372	20,883	22,651	23,968	24,324	23,068
Perry	17,358	15,388	15,012	12,759	11,861	10,591
Sumter	20,041	16,974	16,908	16,174	14,798	13,763
Washington	15,372	16,241	16,821	16,694	18,097	17,581
Wilcox	18,739	16,303	14,755	13,568	13,183	11,670
ATR Region	239,017	223,862	225,600	211,689	209,045	194,440
ATR Region as % of State	7%	6%	6%	5%	5%	4%
Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1960-2010 Censuses of Population						
Special tabulation by the Alabama State Data Center, The University of Alabama						

Today, the region is sparsely populated with population centers in Selma, Demopolis, Monroeville, Thomasville, and Jackson. Over 40% of the population is minority in all counties with the exception of Washington. In Dallas, Sumter, and Wilcox Counties over 70% of the population identifies itself as a minority. The median age of the region is 40.6 years which is older than both the state (38.4 years) and national (37.6 years) averages. The area continues to be plagued by younger individuals moving to more urbanized areas presenting both social and economic challenges.

Two main economic indicators used to quantify distress are the poverty rate and median income figures. For the ten county region, the individual poverty rate is 30.6% meaning that one of every three individuals live below the poverty level. The national and state averages are 15.5% and 18.8% respectively. Dallas, Perry, Sumter, and Wilcox counties all have poverty rates over 35% with Sumter rate being the highest at 42.7%. Median income divides the income distribution into two equal groups, half having income above that amount, and half having income below that amount. The median income for the ATRC region is \$28,765.10, which is just 65% of the state (\$43,623.00) and 53% of the national amount (\$53,889.00). This income gap is significant and is a testament to the region's distress.

The region's workforce consists of 72,150 workers of which 12,778 are unemployed resulting in an unemployment rate of 8.6%. The unemployment rate in these counties is historically higher than the state and national averages. The economy of the region continues to be dependent upon the wood products industry. Jobs in this industry range from logging crews to manufacturing and account for thousands of jobs in the region. Numerous investments throughout the region have solidified the importance of the wood products industry. In 2016 existing firms invested over \$19,000,000 in the region creating over 150 additional jobs (Alabama Forestry Commission 2016). Table 2.2 provides examples of economic development investments in the ATRC region over the past five years.

Table 2.2 Economic Development Investments in the ATRC Region 2012-2017		
County	Company	Amount
Choctaw	Georgia-Pacific	\$120,000,000
Clarke	iSpice	\$8,000,000
Clarke	Louisiana Pacific Corporation	\$14,000,000
Clarke	Canfor	\$5,000,000
Dallas	Eovations, LLC	\$500,000
Dallas	International Paper	\$300,000,000
Dallas	PalletOne of Alabama, LLC	\$500,000
Marengo	Two Rivers Lumber	\$65,000,000
Monroe	Sterling Packaging, LLC	\$6,000,000
Monroe	Millennium Blok	\$7,000,000
Washington	Huntsmen Corporation	\$65,000,000
Wilcox	GDCopperUSA	\$110,000,000

In addition to wood products, a number of other industries employ a significant number of residents. The GD Copper USA plant in Sunny South employs over 300. This facility produces copper tubing. American Apparel in Selma, which makes military uniforms, employs well over two-hundred. This facility is one of the few textile mills still in operation in the region. The textile industry was at one time the largest in the region. Selma has two auto suppliers, Honda Lock-America Inc. (372 employees) and Seoyon E-Hwa Interior Systems Alabama (413 employees). There are a number of food processing facilities with high job numbers including R. L. Zeigler Co., Inc. in Selma (191 employees) and Foster Farms in Demopolis (405 employees).

Underemployment continues to be an issue in the region. A worker is considered underemployed if the worker's experience, skills, or training is underutilized. According to annual state workforce reports, the underemployment rate for the workforce development regions containing ATRC counties in 2016 was 28.1% in Region 9 (Choctaw,

Clarke, Conecuh, Monroe, Washington) and was 20.6% in Region 6 (Dallas, Marengo, Perry, Sumter, Wilcox). The report cites lack of job opportunities, low wages, distance from jobs, personal obligations, owning a house, childcare responsibilities, and taking care of someone other than a child as the main reasons for underemployment.

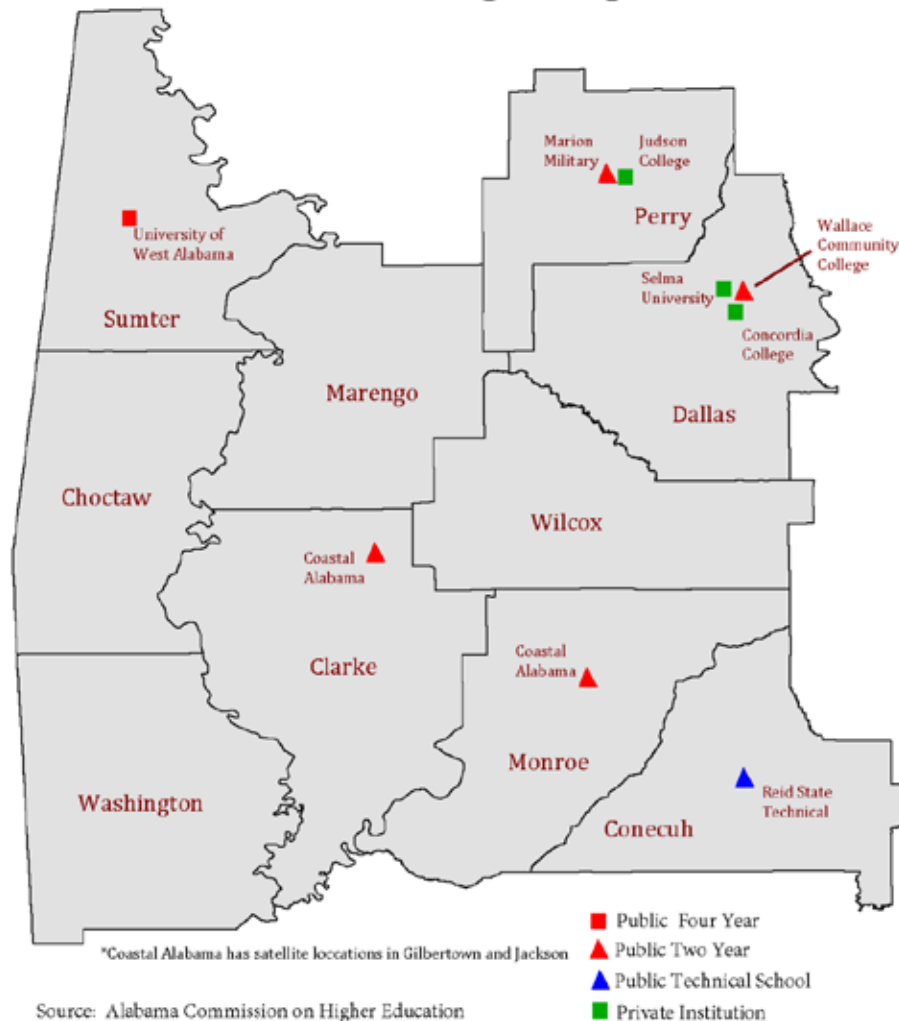
Educational attainment levels in the region lag behind state and regional averages. Regionwide 79.3% of adults have obtained a high school diploma compared to the state average of 84.3%. Additionally 12.8% of adults in the region have completed a bachelor's degree or higher while 23.5% is the statewide average.

Profiles for the region and each county are included in Appendix 1.

Education & Workforce Development

There are a number of institutions of higher education present in the region. The University of West Alabama is the only public four year institution in the region. Located in Livingston, the University had an on campus enrollment of 1,819 for the 2017 Fall Semester. Four year private universities in the region include Judson College (Marion), Selma University (Selma), and Concordia College (Selma). Junior colleges in the region include Coastal Alabama (Thomasville/Monroeville), Marion Military Institute (Marion), and Wallace Community College (Selma). Shelton State and Bishop State also have a presence in the region. Reid State Technical College is a technical school located in Evergreen.

Institutions of Higher Education in the Alabama-Tombigbee Region



There are a number of workforce initiatives working in the region. Southwest Alabama Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) is an employer established and employer-led nonprofit organization. The group works to develop partnerships to attract, educate, and train workers to better meet employer needs. Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Monroe, Washington, and Wilcox Counties are included in this region. Sumter and Marengo Counties are included in the West Alabama Works Council. In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce of West Alabama, this agency leads workforce development efforts in West Alabama. Dallas and Perry County are in Central Alabama Works region. In addition to the statewide workforce initiative, Wilcox Works has been established in Wilcox County. This entity was established to help individuals prepare for and obtain employment. The opening of the GD Copper USA facility in Sunny South spurred the formation of this group which is based in Camden.

A number of local workforce development programs have been implemented to strengthen the region's workforce. An example of these programs include the dual enrollment program offered by the Thomasville City School System. These programs allow high school juniors and seniors to complete coursework toward a degree. The system has agreements with Coastal Alabama Community College (welding) and the University of West Alabama (sports medicine). The University of West Alabama has an automotive technician program that prepares workers for employment opportunities at the Mercedes Benz plant in Vance, AL.

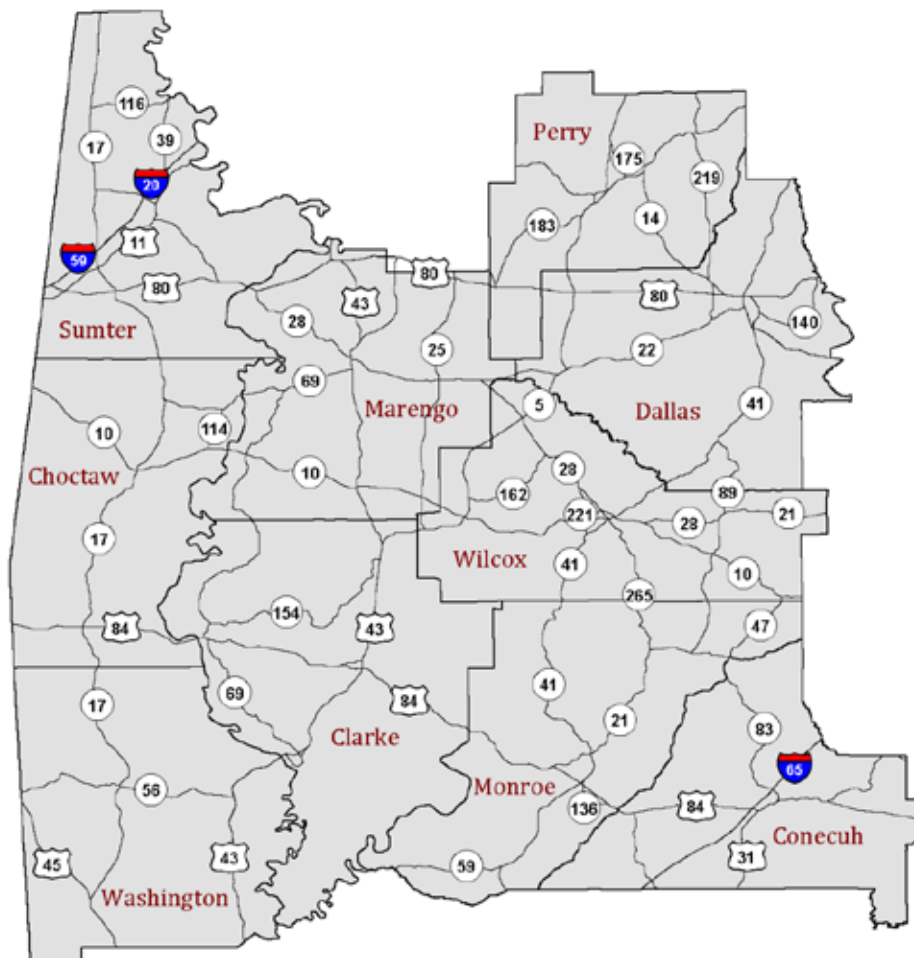
Alabama Industrial Development Training (AIDT) is a nationally recognized independent agency under the supervision and oversight of the State of Alabama's Secretary of Commerce. The agency encourages economic development through job-specific training. AIDT provides a variety of services including trainee recruitment and screening, safety assistance, industrial maintenance assessments and continuous improvement/process improvement assessments all at no charge.

Infrastructure & Facilities

Highways

A number of state and federal highways provide access to the region. Highways 43, 45, 80, and 84 are major federal highways in the region. None of these roadways have four lanes for their entire run through the region. Interstate 20/59 traverses Sumter County and provides access to Epes, Livingston, York, and Cuba. Interstate 65 runs through Conecuh County in the southern end of the region. Each county also maintains a county road system. The majority of these roads are paved, but hundreds of miles of unpaved roads are present in the region. The condition of local road systems range from extremely poor to good. Lack of maintenance funds is cited as the primary obstacle with regards to local road systems.

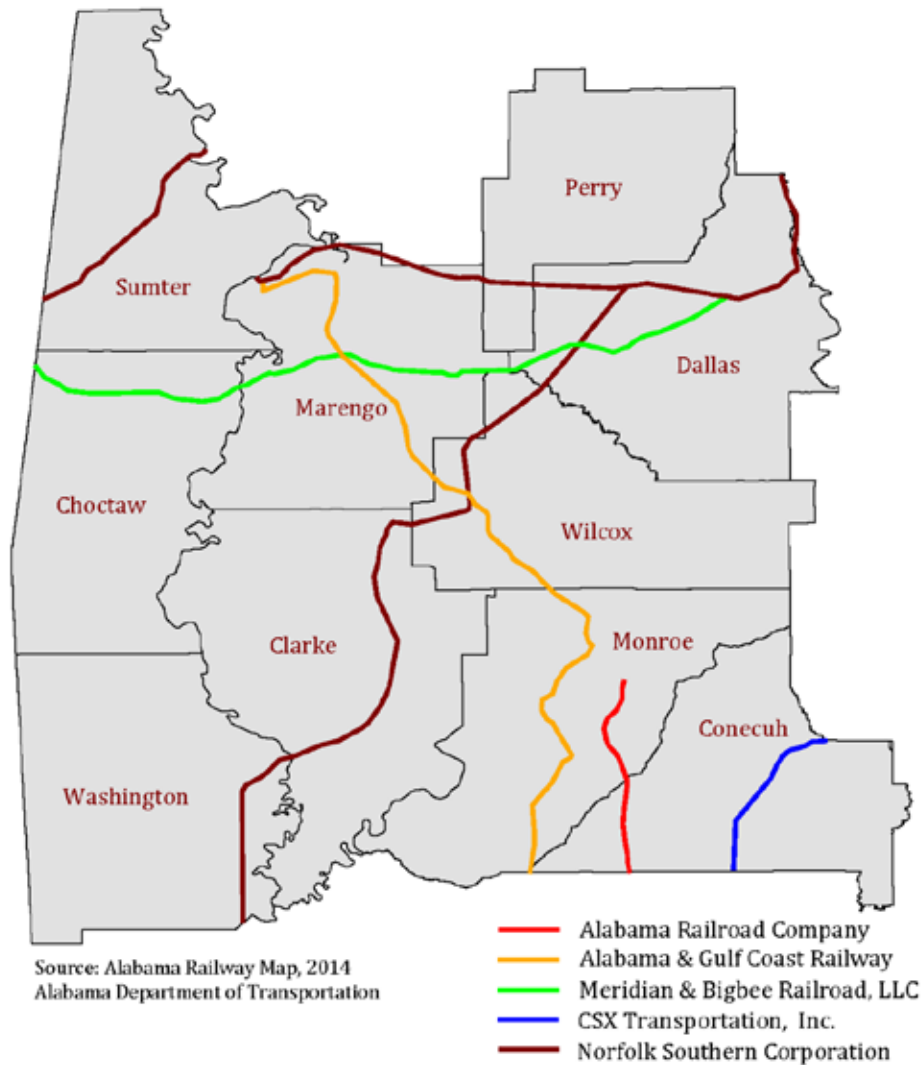
Major Highways in the ATRC Region



Railroads

The region has a number of active railroads. Class I railroads have a base gross operating revenue in excess of \$346.79 million per year. Norfolk Southern and CSXT are the Class I railroads presently operating in the region. Class II railroads are any railroad that have a base gross operating revenue between \$27.74 million and \$346.79 million per year. The Alabama & Gulf Coast Railroad is the only Class II railroad in the region. Class III railroads have base gross operating revenues of less than \$27.74 million per year. They are feeder lines for Class I railroads. The Alabama Railroad Company and the Meridian & Bigbee Railroad, LLC are the two Class III railroads operating in the region at this time.

Railroads in the Alabama-Tombigbee Region



Airports

There are no airports offering commercial flights available in the region. To access commercial carriers individuals must travel to Birmingham, Mobile, Montgomery, or Pensacola. There are a number of smaller public use airports in the region. These facilities are primarily used for leisure activities, corporate use, and agricultural uses. There are plans for a regional airport in Thomasville.

Public Airports in the Alabama-Tombigbee Region



Source: National Plan of Intergrated Airport Systems, Federal Aviation Administration

Water & Sewer

Various municipalities, counties, and authorities provide water and sewer within the ten-county region. Water infrastructure is widespread throughout the region, but there are a number of areas without access to public water. These pockets are primarily isolated areas where the cost of running the infrastructure is restrictive. Households in these areas must rely on wells for water. Sewer infrastructure in the region is not as widespread with virtually no areas in unincorporated areas having access to public sewer. There are also numerous small towns without this infrastructure. The lack of sewer is a significant public health issue in the region. Many households have failing septic systems, while many have no disposal method at all. The cost to construct and maintain sewer systems is the primary prohibiting factor. A number of smaller towns including Fulton and Coffeenville have accessed USDA funding to construct these systems in recent years.

A primary concern in the ATRC region is the condition of existing water and sewer systems. Many of the systems in the region were constructed over fifty years. Undersized lines and deterioration of lines are two significant challenges many systems are facing. Cast iron pipe in water systems and terra cotta clay pipe in sewer systems is still widespread in the region. This problem is widespread as most systems in the area were constructed during the same time period. USDA, CDBG, DRA, and State Drinking Water Loan Funds are programs being used to address this issue but due to limited funding the process is slow.

Broadband

Broadband infrastructure, which enables high speed internet access, has become essential in education, healthcare, and economic development. Within the ATRC region this infrastructure is lacking. Table 2.3 provides the percent of the population with access to varying speeds. Presently, no one in the ATRC region can access 1 gigabyte speeds. Only a small percentage have access to 100+ mbps. This infrastructure must be in place to attract economic development and provide sufficient education and healthcare systems.

Table 2.3 Broadband Access in the ATRC Region			
County	% of population with access		
	25+ mbps	100+ mbps	1 gbit
Choctaw	14.9	0	0
Clarke	51.9	44.2	0
Conecuh	31.7	31.3	0
Dallas	79.2	77.0	0
Marengo	10.6	10.6	0
Monroe	52.3	52.3	0
Perry	0	0	0
Sumter	42.5	41.5	0
Washington	13.3	13.2	0
Wilcox	45.1	31.1	0

*Source: Alabama's Broadband Now
(<https://broadbandnow.com/Alabama>)*

Hospitals

Public health and supportive facilities are important to any region’s economic development. There are ten hospitals in the region. Currently, Perry County does not have a hospital. There are plans to build a new regional medical center in Thomasville, this project should be under construction in 2018. There are regional connections to hospital facilities and specialists in Tuscaloosa, Meridian, Montgomery, and Mobile.

Pressing health related problems in the ATRC region are the overall lack of rural health facilities and the need for additional physicians, dentists and medical specialists. A chief concern regarding doctors already practicing in the region is that these doctors are getting older and nearing retirement. The region must attract medical doctors to replace these doctors as they age and retire.

Hospitals in the Alabama-Tombigbee Region



Source: Alabama Department of Public Health

Industrial Parks & Sites

Every county in the ATRC region has industrial land available. A number of sites also have speculative buildings available. Table 2.4 provides a listing of available sites throughout the region. There are two Certified Advantage Sites in the region. A Certified Advantage Site is a site that has been thoroughly vetted by numerous economic development agencies in the state. These sites are as close to shovel ready as possible. The Thomasville South Industrial Park in Clarke County and the Monroeville Industrial Park East in Monroe County are Certified Advantage Sites.

Table 2.4 Available Industrial Sites in the Alabama-Tombigbee Region

County	City	Name	Total Acreage	Available Acreage	Zoning
Choctaw	Butler	Butler Industrial Park	80	64	None
Choctaw	Butler	Choctaw Industrial Park	277	146	Light Industrial
Choctaw	Butler	Highway 17 North	25	25	None
Clarke	Thomasville	D. Smith Property	32	32	None
Clarke	Grove Hill	Garrett Family Property	156	156	None
Clarke	Grove Hill	Grove Hill Industrial Site	116	116	None
Clarke	Jackson	Hwy 177 Industrial Park	240	240	None
Clarke	Jackson	Jackson Industrial Park	150	25	None
Clarke	Jackson	Jackson River Park	505	44	None
Clarke	Thomasville	Joe Davis Industrial Park	188	20	None
Clarke	Jackson	MWS Property	720	720	None
Clarke	Thomasville	North Clarke Industrial Park	1185	365	None
Clarke	Jackson	Parham Property - Jackson	318	318	None
Clarke	Thomasville	Thomasville South Industrial Park	185	62.9	Light Industry
Conecuh	Castleberry	Clark Property	112	112	None
Conecuh	Castleberry	Evergreen I.P. at Castleberry	60	42	None
Conecuh	Evergreen	Evergreen L.P. Site	123	110	None
Conecuh	Evergreen	Evergreen/I-65 Industrial Park	40	40	Agriculture
Conecuh	Evergreen	Fairview Commons	811	687	None
Conecuh	Evergreen	McMillan I-65 Property	450	450	None
Conecuh	Evergreen	McMillan Property	351	351	None
Conecuh	Evergreen	Miller Property	173	173	None
Dallas	Selma	Craig Industrial Park	700	700	None
Dallas	Selma	Craig West Park Drive Site 1	76.3	76.3	None
Dallas	Selma	Selfield Industrial Park	114	114	None
Dallas	Selma	South Dallas Beers-Godwin Site	300	300	None
Dallas	Selma	South Dallas Godwin Site	190	190	None
Dallas	Selma	South Dallas Industrial Park	600	500	None
Dallas	Selma	South Dallas Rail Site	74	74	None

County	City	Name	Total Acreage	Available Acreage	Zoning
Marengo	Demopolis	AL/MS Intermodal Complex	164	108	Light Industry
Marengo	Demopolis	Demopolis River Site	52	52	Light Industry
Marengo	Demopolis	Industrial Park South	60	60	None
Marengo	Linden	Linden Industrial Park	300	197	Light Industry
Marengo	Linden	Miller Tract	2677	2677	None
Marengo	Demopolis	Tosco Tract	2283	2283	Light Industry
Monroe	Beatrice	Beatrice Industrial Park	73	73	Heavy Industrial
Monroe	Frisco City	Grower's Supply Site	54.8	54.8	Heavy Industry
Monroe	Monroeville	Jordan Property	99	99	None
Monroe	Monroeville	Monroe County Airport Site	32	32	Light Industry
Monroe	Monroeville	Monroeville Industrial Park	92.5	70	None
Monroe	Monroeville	Monroeville IP East Site	32.4	25.8	Light Industry
Monroe	Monroeville	Ziebach Property	105	105	None
Perry	Marion	City of Marion Industrial Park	72	62	Heavy Industrial
Perry	Uniontown	Old Uniontown Airport Industrial Site	40.9	40.9	None
Perry	Marion	Vaiden Field & Industrial Complex	480	170	None
Sumter	Epes	Port of Epes Industrial Park	572	500	Heavy Industry
Washington	McIntosh	Bates Creek RV Park	76	76	None
Washington	Chatom	Chatom Industrial Park	41	41	None
Washington	McIntosh	Forty-Three North	45.4	45.4	None
Washington	McIntosh	Stringer Property	20	20	None
Washington	McIntosh	The Village LLC	66	41	None
Washington	McIntosh	Washington County Business Park	58	38	None

Source: <http://advantagealabama.com/>

Southwest Alabama Manufacturing Community

Choctaw, Clarke, Conecuh, Monroe, and Washington Counties are included in the Southwest Alabama Manufacturing Community. The Investing in Manufacturing Communities Partnership (IMCP) incentivizes and facilitates collaboration in selected communities to support growth in the US manufacturing sector, support the creation of new manufacturing jobs, support regional economic growth, and increase federal support for regional economic and workforce development objectives. Only 24 communities nationwide have been selected for this program.

Enterprise Zone Designation

The Alabama Enterprise Zone Act (1987) provides certain tax incentives to corporations, partnerships and proprietorships that locate or expand within the designated Enterprise Zone counties. In addition to state-level tax incentives, businesses may also receive local tax and non-tax incentives for locating or expanding within a designated Enterprise Zone.

With the exception of Dallas, all counties in the ATRC region are in a designated Enterprise Zone.

Economic Clusters

A number of economic clusters have been identified in the ATRC region.

Craig-South Dallas

Continuing development of the Craig Field Industrial Park makes this a prime area for development. The complex is complete with paved roads, utilities, fire protection, perimeter fencing, and rail access. Craig's proximity to Hyundai in Montgomery and EADS development in Mobile is an asset. Hyundai Motor suppliers continue to be a strong market.

North Clarke-West Wilcox

This cluster is an excellent example of multi-jurisdictional cooperation in economic development, leading to the location of the Chinese copper tubing manufacturing operation near the Wilcox-Clarke County line. The Louisiana Pacific mill in Thomasville is fully operational and the company invested \$14,000,000.00 in the mill in 2016. Both JMC Steel mills are shuttered but there is hope that they will reopen.

There continues to be significant business, institutional, and professional expansion in this corridor. The construction of the Thomasville Regional Medical Center will aid economic efforts in this area.

Conecuh County I-65 Corridor

The City of Evergreen's aggressive approach to economic development has spurred interest in development at the United States Highway 84 and State Highway 83 exits on I-65. The location of a FedEx terminal adjacent to the airport has helped drive development in this area. Commercial development has followed with a major truck terminal and restaurants locating. A major missing link is the four-laning of United States Highway 84 westward, part of the coast-to-coast El Camino Corridor.

Demopolis-Marengo County-Sumter County

With its position as the gateway city at the intersection of United States Highways 80 and 43 as well as its location along Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway, the potential to attract development and become a major economic engine is there. WestRock and Two Rivers Lumber are driving forces in this development. Expansion of the student enrollment and facilities at the University of West Alabama is a factor, along with local industries in Sumter County. The Port of Epes, a 572 acre industrial park located near the Town of Epes, has the potential to realize major development. Completion of United States Highway 80 and the four-laning of United States Highway 43 to link with Interstate 20/59 will have positive effects on this cluster.

South Clarke- Washington County

The Boise Cascade Paper Company continues to be a major player in this cluster with 570 employees at its Jackson Facility. The AM/NS Calvert steel processing plant located in Calvert (1,600 employees) has potential to spur growth in this area. Industrial sites available in Jackson and along Highway 43 in Washington County provide numerous areas for growth and development.

Geography, Environment, and Natural Resources

Climate

The region's climate is classified as humid sub-tropical (Cfa) under the Köppen climate classification. Characteristics of this classification include hot summers, mild winters, and year round precipitation. The ATRC region is located in the southern half of the state which experiences average high temperatures in the 90s during the summer months and lows in the 40s during the winter months. The average precipitation is approximately 65 inches.

The region's mid-latitude location makes it susceptible to a number of weather hazards. The hazard with the highest risk of occurrence is tornadoes. There are two tornado seasons in Alabama occurring in the spring and winter. The region has been affected by numerous tornadoes including the 2011 super outbreak. The hazard with the highest risk of economic impact is hurricanes. Hurricane season in Alabama extends from May to October, with September being the peak month. Hurricanes hit Alabama at an average rate of approximately once every 1.5 years (<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/article/h-1283>). Both of these events significantly impact the region's largest industry, wood products.

Physiography

The Alabama Tombigbee Region is located entirely in the East Gulf Coastal Plain. This section is underlain by Mesozoic and Cenozoic sedimentary rocks, which gently dip southward at 20 to 40 feet per mile. The resistant beds form cuestas that slop gently southward and more steeply northward as a series of southeasterly to easterly trending hills. There are six physiographic areas in the region; these are the East Fall Line Hills, Black Prairie Belt, Chunnennuggee Hills, Southern Red Hills, Lime Hills, and Southern Pine Hills (Figure 2).

The Fall Line Hills is dissected upland with a few broad, flat ridges separated by valleys ranging from 100 to 200 feet deep. The Fall Line Hills occupy a zone where streams descend from resistant Paleozoic sedimentary and Piedmont crystalline rocks to the less resistant sand and clay of pre-Selma age in the Coastal Plain.

The Black Prairie Belt lies to the south of the Fall Line Hills and occupies a narrow crescent-shaped area characterized by an undulating deeply weathered plain of low relief. This area developed mainly on chalk and marl of the Selma Group. Because of the impurity of the chalk and marl along with other factors, typical karst features generally formed in carbonate rock

terrains are missing. The Arcola Cuesta occurs near the middle of the belt and trends southeastward and eastward, characterized by a line of hills rising 50 to 75 feet above the surrounding prairie floor.

The Chunnennuggee Hills is a pine forested series of sand hills and cuestas developed on the Ripley Formation and Prairie Bluff Chalk. In western Alabama the more hardened beds of the Ripley Formation support the prominent northward-facing cuesta, generally known as the Ripley Cuesta. This cuesta rises 100 to 200 feet above the prairie floor to the north.

The Southern Red Hills includes the Flatwoods, a lowland generally about 5 to 8 miles wide that extends from Sumter County to just east of the Alabama River along the north edge of the area. The flat-lying, relatively smooth surface of the Flatwoods is at an altitude of about 200 feet and is developed on the dark clay of the Porters Creek Formation. The Flatwoods are bordered to the south by a range of hills that rises 200 to 400 feet. In this area, the hills are underlain by formation of the Wilcox Group; but, farther east, the Clayton Formation forms the boundary ridge south of the Chunnennuggee Hills. The northern edge of the Southern Red Hills lies at an altitude of 600 feet and local relief of several hundred feet is common. Considerably large areas of "red levels" or undissected uplands remain, especially at the outer edge of the belt. Along the southern edge of the Southern Red Hills, a cuesta, known as the Buhrstone Hills, rises 300 to 400 feet above the nearby streams. The Buhrstone Hills is considered to be the most rugged topographic region in the Alabama Coastal Plain. This belt is 10 or more miles wide, extending from the Pearl River in Mississippi across Alabama to about the middle of the state. It is developed on the resistant siliceous claystone and sandstone of the Tallahatta Formation.

The Lime Hills from near the Alabama-Mississippi boundary extend eastward in a belt 5 to 8 miles wide across southwestern Choctaw County into Conecuh County. The rugged topography approaches that of the Buhrstone Hills in places. This topography is caused partly by the Hatchetigbee anticline and partly by changes from soft clay, sand, and marl to resistant limestone in the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits.

The Hatchetigbee anticline affects an area at least 50 miles long and 20 miles wide. Stratigraphic displacement at the surface is at least 600 to 700 feet. The southern flank of the anticline lies in the Lime Hills and the northern flank in the Southern Red Hills. The topography in the western part of the Lime Hills is attributed to the resistant beds in the Tallahatta Formation and the resistant limestone of the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits. Relief of 200 to 250 feet from valley floors to ridge crests is common.

The eastern part of the Lime Hills in Monroe and Conecuh Counties is less rugged and the hills are approximately 100 to 150 feet above the valley floors. The sand, clay, and marl of the upper Eocene and Oligocene deposits have been almost entirely replaced by more resistant limestone.

The Southern Pine Hills, a cuesta-like elevated southward sloping dissected plain, is developed on Miocene estuarine deposits to the north and on sand and gravel of the Pliocene Citronelle Formation to the south. The plain ranges in altitude from 400 feet in the north to

about 100 feet a few miles inland from the Gulf of Mexico. Relief is greatest in the northern part where streams draining eastward to the Tombigbee River and westward to the Alabama River drop to base level in relatively short distances. The relief is as much as 250 feet in this area. To the south the topography is more subdued, being characterized by low rounded hills.

Soils

There are three main soil types in the Alabama Tombigbee region: Coastal Plain, Prairie, and Major Flood Plains and Terraces. Coastal Plain soils consist of marine and fluvial sediment eroded from the Appalachian and Piedmont areas. The southern part of ATRC's region consists mainly of these soils. Prairie soils exist in an east-west band across the northern part of the region. These soils are derived from alkaline, Selma chalk, or acid marine clays. Major flood plain soils occur along the region's riverbanks. These soils are formed from the alluvium deposits.

Water Resources

There are two large rivers, the Alabama and the Tombigbee, within the region. Both of these rivers have direct access to the Gulf of Mexico. The Tombigbee is part of the 234 mile Tennessee-Tombigbee System that connects the nations' midsection to the Gulf of Mexico. Coal and timber are the major commodities transported along this waterway. The Alabama River is part of the Mobile River Basin. The river's primary use is recreation. Other rivers in the region include the Sucarnoochee and Escatawpa. The major flood plain areas of the region exist along these rivers.

E. SWOT Analysis

The first step towards identifying goals and objectives is analyzing the current state of the region as a whole. Participants in the CEDS process were asked to identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that exist in the ten county area. This list was compiled as a starting point for the CEDS process. It identifies where the region is now and where we want to be in the future. By focusing on these two ideas a plan can be developed. Goals, objectives, and strategies can be devised to progress the region. The following pages identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified during the CEDS process.

STRENGTHS

River System
Recreation
Historical Sites
Workforce Development
Cost of Living
People
Natural Resources
Higher Education
Available Sites
Existing Industry
Recreation Opportunities
Spirit of Regionalism

WEAKNESSES

Deteriorating Infrastructure
Litter
Four Lane Access
Negative Perception of the Area
Lack of Zoning
Lack of Broadband
Outmigration of Youth
Lack of Specialized Healthcare
Lack of Match Money
Public Transportation
Lack of Affordable Housing

OPPORTUNITIES

Thomasville Regional Hospital
Selma Riverfront Redevelopment
Bridgeport Park
Tourism
Deteriorating Infrastructure
Business Incubators
Regional Airport
Industrial Sites
Public/Private Partnerships
Brownfield Development

THREATS

Natural Disasters
Out Migration
Lack of Medical Facilities
Lack of Broadband
Funding Cuts
Aging Population
Low Tax Base
Deteriorating Infrastructure

Strategic Direction/Action Plan

The Alabama Tombigbee Regional Commission promotes economic expansion and the enhancement of the quality of life in the ten county service area by providing efficient and effective services, strong regional leadership, and effective utilization of available resources. The Commission believes the strategies proposed in this CEDS are a step towards realizing the long term vision for the region:

“To provide vibrant, resilient communities with strong education systems that provide a well-equipped workforce for employers.”

Regional efforts are crucial to the success of the ten-county region. Key local players essential to making these efforts a success include ATRC, local officials, economic developers, school system representatives, business and industry leaders, chambers of commerce, healthcare professionals, and residents. Through collaboration and partnerships these individuals can help move the region towards its goals. Local, statewide, and regional (Delta Regional Authority) goals were taken into consideration during the planning process. The goals for the region along with objectives, strategies, and performance measures have been provided on the following pages. The performance measures provided for each set of strategies will also be used to quantify the overall effectiveness of the CEDS.

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life for residents of the region.

Objectives	Strategies	Performance Measures
Expand and retain healthcare opportunities in the region.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide assistance in recruiting and retaining healthcare facilities · Encourage areas to pursue the Innovative Readiness Training program through the Delta Regional Authority · Promote the Delta Doctors J-1 waiver program within the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of IRT sessions held in region · Number of patients treated at IRT sessions · Number of new healthcare providers recruited
Develop and expand recreation opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Encourage areas to create recreation plans · Support multi-jurisdictional recreation initiatives · Incorporate tourism opportunities into recreation facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funding invested in recreation projects
Enhance and support arts and culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote Creative Place-making · Convene regional arts and culture stakeholders to discuss collaborating efforts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of entities pursuing Creative Place-Making or other initiatives
Improve housing stock regionwide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Encourage affordable housing developers to consider the region · Work with current housing providers to improve the condition of existing units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of affordable housing units constructed in region · Amount of funding invested in improving current housing stock

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with jurisdictions to utilize housing rehabilitation and weatherization funds 	
Increase the availability of officers, training, and equipment for law enforcement agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Encourage multi-jurisdictional partnerships for training · Encourage and assist agencies to apply for grant opportunities to provide officers, equipment, and training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funding received for equipment and training · Multi-jurisdictional training programs held
Provide more disaster resistant communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Maintain an updated hazard mitigation plan · Seek mitigation grant funds to retrofit infrastructure · Install and maintain backup power generators within utility systems · Provide storm shelters for residents · Integrate Mitigation Planning into other planning efforts · Implement building codes · Adopt zoning ordinances · Encourage participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and enforcement of flood ordinances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of counties with updated mitigation plan · Amount of funding received for mitigation efforts

Goal 2: Provide a skilled, well-equipped workforce for employers.

Objectives	Strategies	Performance Measures
<p>Develop and expand workforce development efforts including soft skills training and employability to provide a resilient workforce</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase the number of internships, apprenticeships, work co-op programs, and other initiatives · Collaborate with groups to develop and pursue funding for new and expanded programs · Encourage multiple organizations to partner to provide programs and services · Increase the availability of career readiness centers, local assistance with job search, and preparation services · Work with industries and local educators to identify workforce needs and develop programs to address those needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of individuals in programs · Amount of funding received for programs · Number of new career assistance locations
<p>Attract skilled workers from outside the region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Create awareness of opportunities available in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of workers commuting or relocating to region
<p>Strengthen training for existing business and industry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with existing industries to identify training needs and strategies to address these needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of workers trained through training

Goal 3: Expand and diversify the region's economy while retaining current businesses and industries.

Objectives	Strategies	Performance Measures
Increase the number of small business startups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Encourage the use of state and federal small business resources · Assist jurisdictions pursuing business incubators projects · Encourage multi-jurisdictional/ multi-organization supported incubators · Provide funding through ATRC's Revolving Loan Fund program to eligible startups · Market the region for small supplier companies that complement the new, expanding aerospace industry in the Mobile, AL area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of new business startups · Number of jobs created · Number of businesses in incubators · Amount of funding invested in incubators · Amount of money loaned to startup businesses
Expand tourism and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Promote tourism and recreation opportunities to encourage users from outside the region · Grow the economy by attracting tourism and recreation based businesses to the area · Expand and develop recreational opportunities while preserving the natural environment · Coordinate region wide efforts and campaigns to promote and develop the tourism/recreation industry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funding invested in tourism/recreation facilities · Amount of funding invested in promoting tourism · Number of jobs created · Capital investment

Ensure availability of sites and infrastructure that meet prospect criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Industrial site planning · Infrastructure availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of available sites
Support downtown redevelopment programs and other related initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Redevelopment planning · Convene local stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of communities pursuing redevelopment
Retain existing business and industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reinforce relationships with current businesses and industries · Work to define and address existing industry needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Number of contacts with existing industry

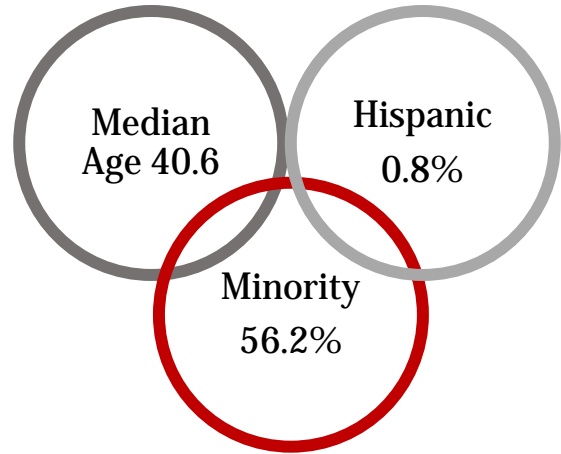
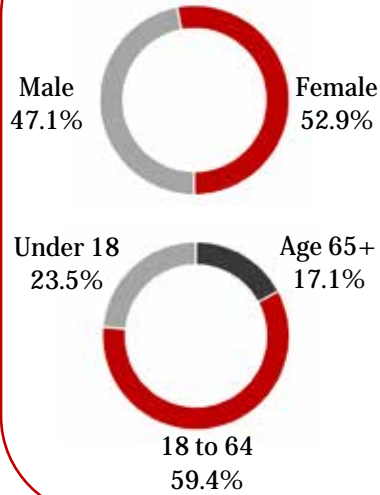
Goal 4: Improve infrastructure throughout the region.		
Objectives	Strategies	Performance Measures
Expand and rehabilitate the region's basic infrastructure (water, sewer, gas, electricity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assist jurisdictions with infrastructure planning · Assist jurisdictions in pursuing funding for expansion and rehabilitation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funds invested in improvements · Number of customers affected · Number of jobs created · Capital investment
Make investments in the region's transportation infrastructure (e.g. highways, railroads, ports, waterways, and airports) to support the growth of key industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with local jurisdictions to identify areas where investments are warranted · Assist jurisdictions in pursuing funding for needed improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funds invested in improvements · Number of jobs created · Capital investment
Expand and improve access to affordable digital infrastructure (e.g. broadband internet, cellular, and satellite access) across the region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Work with providers, local officials, and state government to identify needs and plan for improvements · Pursue funds for improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funds invested in improvements · Number of new customers served
Support state and local economic development organizations in their efforts to put in place deal-ready sites for business recruitment and expansion projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Assist jurisdictions with industrial park and economic development planning · Assist jurisdictions in pursuing funding for needed improvements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Amount of funds invested in improvements · Number of jobs created · Capital investment

APPENDIX ONE
COUNTY PROFILES

ATRC REGION



POPULATION Total: 187,618



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$28,765.1

Per Capita Income
\$17,353.3

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.98

% of Individuals below
Poverty
30.6%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance 15.1%

22.9% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate 25.5%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$77,380

Total Units
94,109

Median Gross Rent
\$525.50/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 72,150

12,778 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 8.6%

Biggest Industry: Wood Products

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



Individuals with a high school diploma 79.3%

Individuals with a bachelor's degree or higher 12.8%

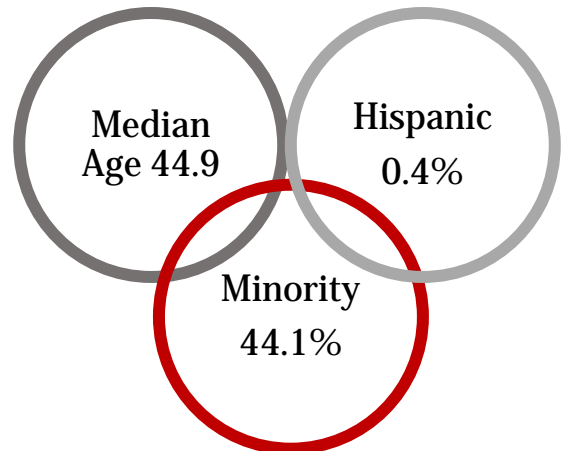
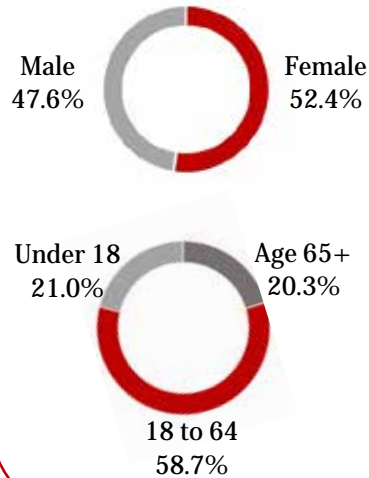
Number of Institutions of High Education:
Public Four Year- 1
Public Two Year- 4
Private Institution- 3
Private Technical School- 1

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

CHOCTAW COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 13,395



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$33,536

Per Capita Income
\$20,755

1 Adult Living Wage
\$10.18

% of Individuals below
Poverty
23.4%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance 14.0%

21.2% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate 26.1%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$61,100

Total Units
7,232

Median Gross Rent
\$497/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 5,097

692 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 6.3%

Top Employer
Georgia Pacific Naheola Mill
Employees: 800

Industry: Paper Manufacturing

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate
Less than 9 th Grade	8.1%	32.5%
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	15.4%	
High School Graduate	36.8%	15.0%
Some College	20.3%	17.5%
Associate's Degree	7.4%	
Bachelor's Degree	7.4%	12.1%
Graduate or professional	4.5%	

Higher Education

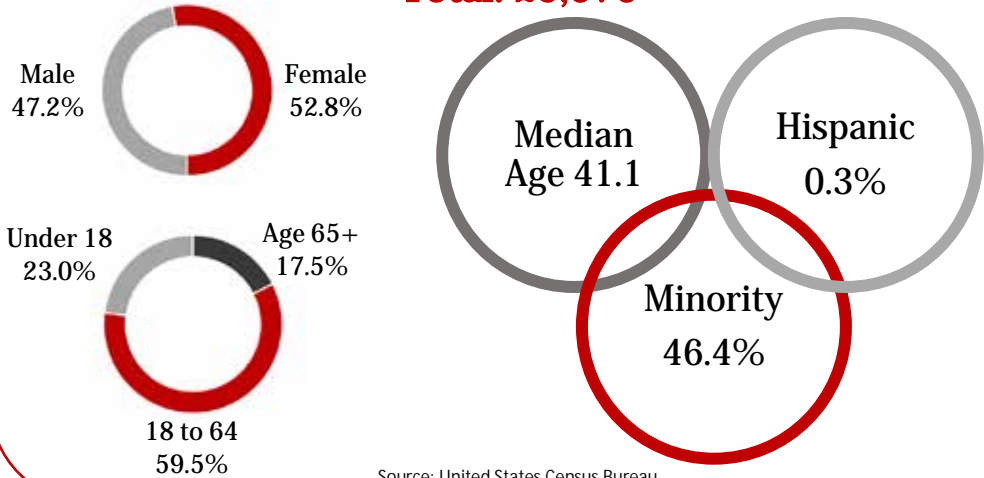
Coastal Alabama Community College

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

CLARKE COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 25,070



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$32,011

Per Capita Income
\$20,064

1 Adult Living Wage
\$10.03

% of Individuals below
Poverty
24.7%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance
14.0%

24.7% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate
27.0%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$86,900

Total Units
12,600

Median Gross Rent
\$545/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 10,122

1,961 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 9.7%

Top Employer
Boise Cascade Corporation
Employees: 570

Industry: Paper Manufacturing

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	4.7%	36.1%	\$18,343
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	14.7%		
High School Graduate	43.9%	22.6%	\$27,335
Some College	16.7%		
Associate's Degree	7.0%	17.0%	\$35,066
Bachelor's Degree	8.4%		
Graduate or professional	4.5%	9.4%	\$54,102

Higher Education

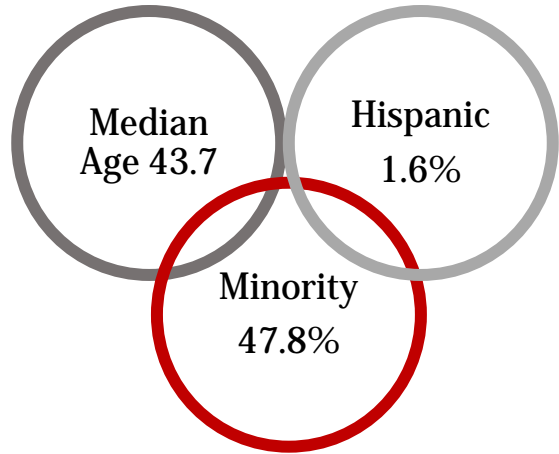
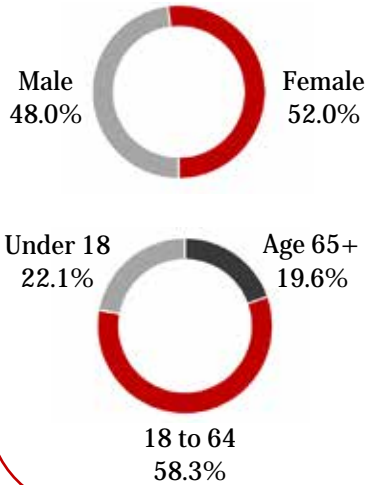
Coastal Alabama Community College

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

CONECUH COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 12,865



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$24,900

Per Capita Income
\$15,968

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.73

% of Individuals below
Poverty
33.8%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance
17.0%

24.4% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate
28.6%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$70,100

Total Units
7,070

Median Gross Rent
\$522/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force **4,802**

1,084 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate **10.5%**

Top Employer
Guyoung Tech
Employees: 450

Industry: Auto Manufacturing

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	7.4%	48.0%	\$16,923
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	14.5%		
High School Graduate	44.5%	29.2%	\$24,175
Some College	18.3%	23.9%	\$21,146
Associate's Degree	7.1%		
Bachelor's Degree	4.5%	2.3%	\$45,714
Graduate or professional	3.7%		
			\$61,908

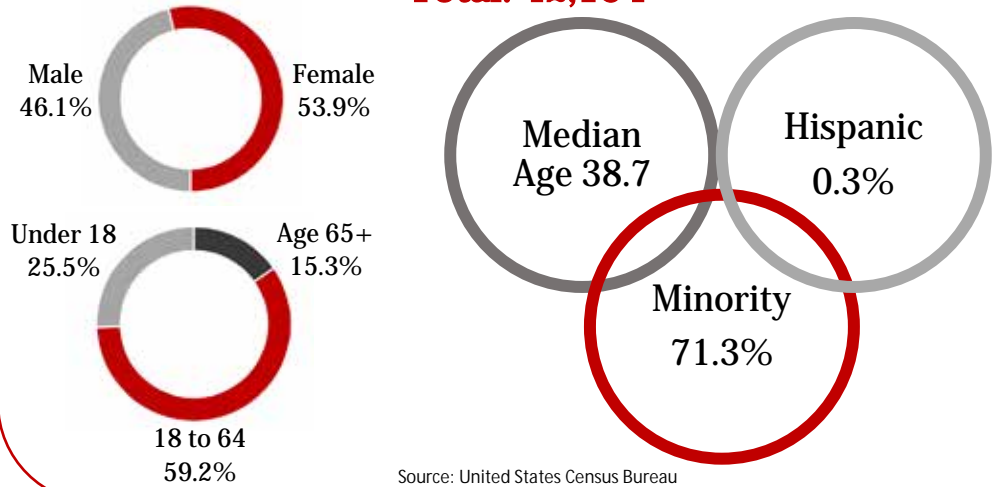
Higher Education
Reid State Technical

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

DALLAS COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 42,154



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$27,306

Per Capita Income
\$17,808

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.64

% of Individuals below
Poverty
35.0%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no
health insurance
14.0%

29.8% Food insecurity
rate

Child food
insecurity rate
31.5%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$81,500

Total Units
20,243

Median Gross Rent
\$564/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force **16,883**

2,762 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate **8.5%**

Top Employer
International Paper Company
Employees: 768

Industry: Paper Manufacturing

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	6.2%	41.2%	\$19,154
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	15.7%		
High School Graduate	34.6%	29.0%	\$22,053
Some College	21.3%	22.4%	\$26,825
Associate's Degree	8.1%		
Bachelor's Degree	8.2%	7.2%	\$38,266
Graduate or professional	5.9%		

Higher Education

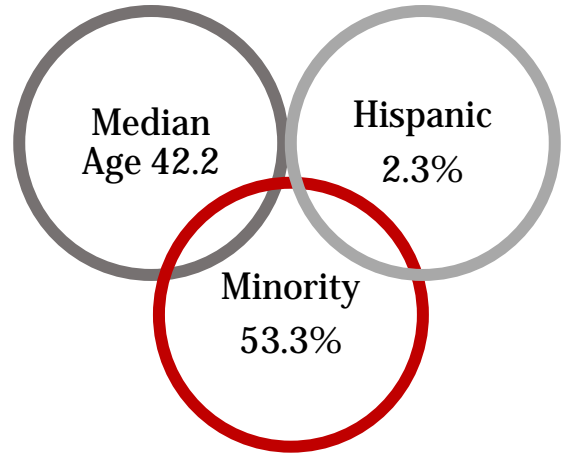
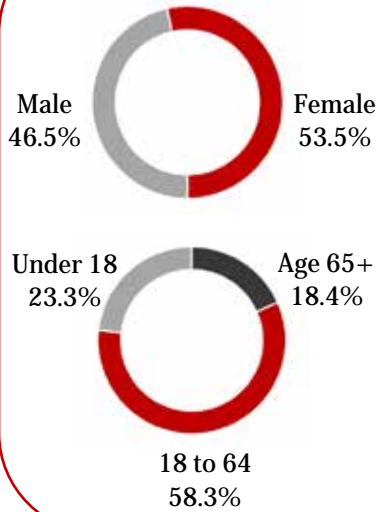
Wallace Community College Selma, Concordia College
Alabama, Selma University

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

MARENGO COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 20,306



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$32,042

Per Capita Income
\$21,471

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.73

% of Individuals below
Poverty
26.1%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance
13.0%

22.9% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate
25.5%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$90,800

Total Units
10,218

Median Gross Rent
\$530/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 7,760

887 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 5.5%

Top Employer
Rock Tenn Company
Employees: 512

Industry: Paper Manufacturing

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



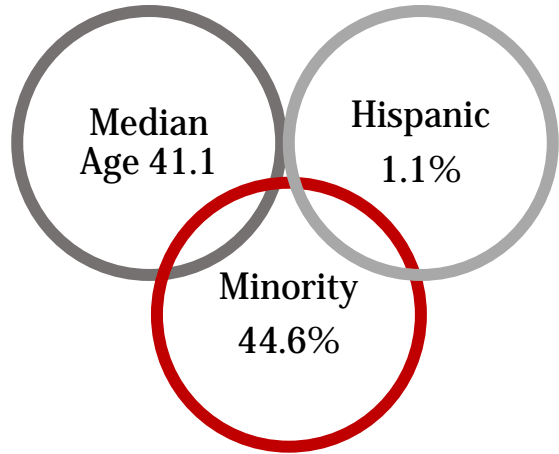
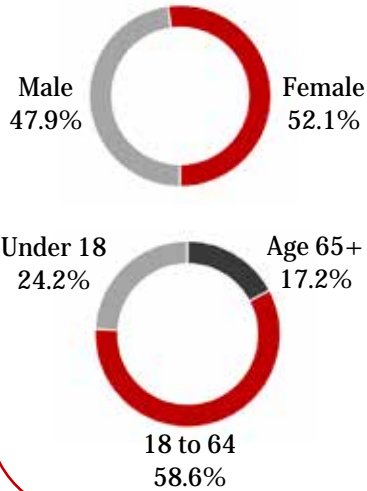
	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	5.5%	40.3%	\$20,069
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	9.9%		
High School Graduate	42.0%	23.2%	\$23,243
Some College	20.7%	21.9%	\$31,565
Associate's Degree	6.7%		
Bachelor's Degree	9.7%	5.9%	\$43,451
Graduate or professional	5.6%		
			\$52,879

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

MONROE COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 22,217



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$27,257

Per Capita Income
\$15,863

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.90

% of Individuals below
Poverty
31.4%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance
18.0%

25.0% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate
29.1%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$81,200

Total Units
11,296

Median Gross Rent
\$537/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 8,261

1,710 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 9.7%

Top Employer
Georgia Pacific
Employees: 479

Industry: Fluff pulp

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	6.5%	37.4%	\$17,080
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	12.7%		
High School Graduate	44.7%	34.9%	\$26,406
Some College	16.0%		
Associate's Degree	8.0%	20.8%	\$31,283
Bachelor's Degree	8.0%		
Graduate or professional	4.2%	4.3%	\$45,982

Higher Education

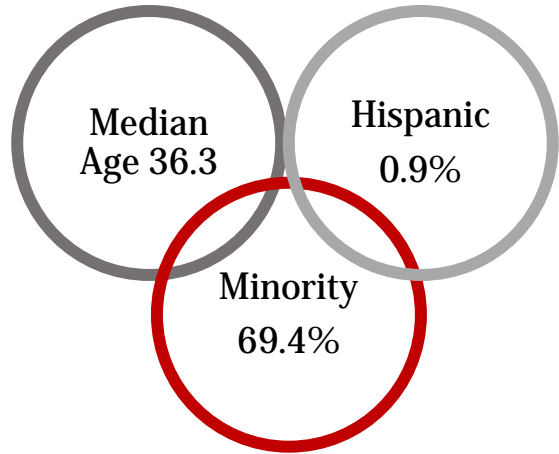
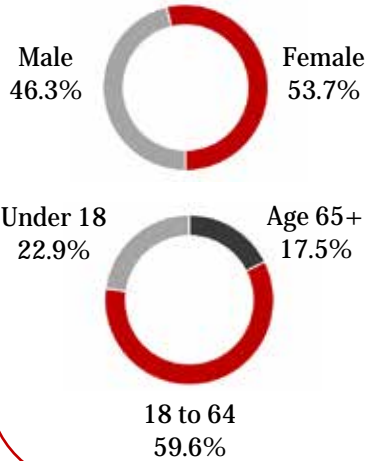
Coastal Alabama Community College

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

PERRY COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 10,038



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$24,537

Per Capita Income
\$14,804

1 Adult Living Wage
\$10.03

% of Individuals below
Poverty
36.4%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance
15.0%

29.0% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate
31.4%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$66,300

Total Units
4,711

Median Gross Rent
\$512/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force **3,227**

362 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate **4.5%**

Top Employer
Perry County Chamber of Commerce
Employees: unable to confirm
Industry: Government

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate
Less than 9 th Grade	7.3%	38.5%
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	18.0%	
High School Graduate	38.6%	20.2%
Some College	16.7%	26.5%
Associate's Degree	6.0%	
Bachelor's Degree	7.2%	6.9%
Graduate or professional	6.1%	

Higher Education

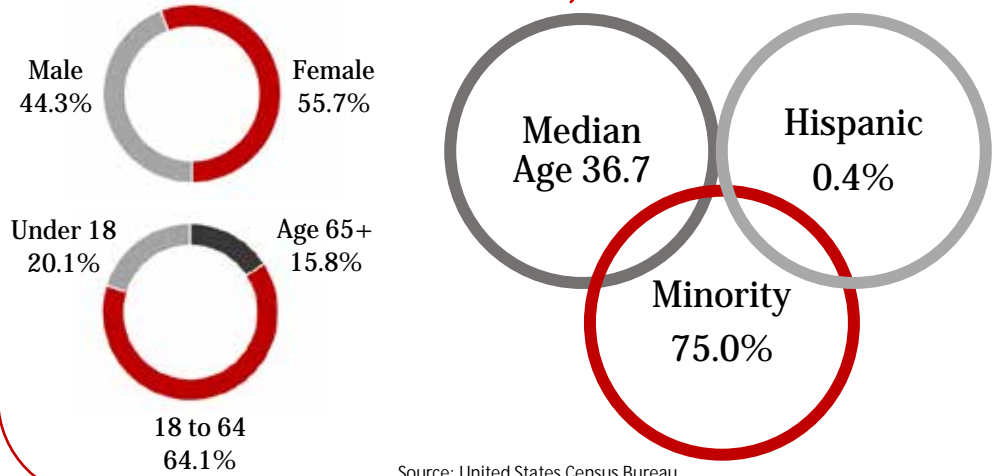
Judson College, Marion Military Institute

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

SUMTER COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 13,341



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$19,501

Per Capita Income
\$12,887

1 Adult Living Wage
\$10.60

% of Individuals below
Poverty
42.7%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no
health insurance 17.0%

30.2% Food insecurity
rate

Child food
insecurity rate 30.3%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$72,900

Total Units
6,752

Median Gross Rent
\$555/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 5,317

894 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 8.2%

Top Employer
McElroy Truck Lines
Employees: 750
Industry: Trucking

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate
Less than 9 th Grade	8.4%	49.4%
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	13.2%	
High School Graduate	40.5%	30.2%
Some College	16.2%	34.6%
Associate's Degree	5.3%	
Bachelor's Degree	9.8%	9.7%
Graduate or professional	6.5%	

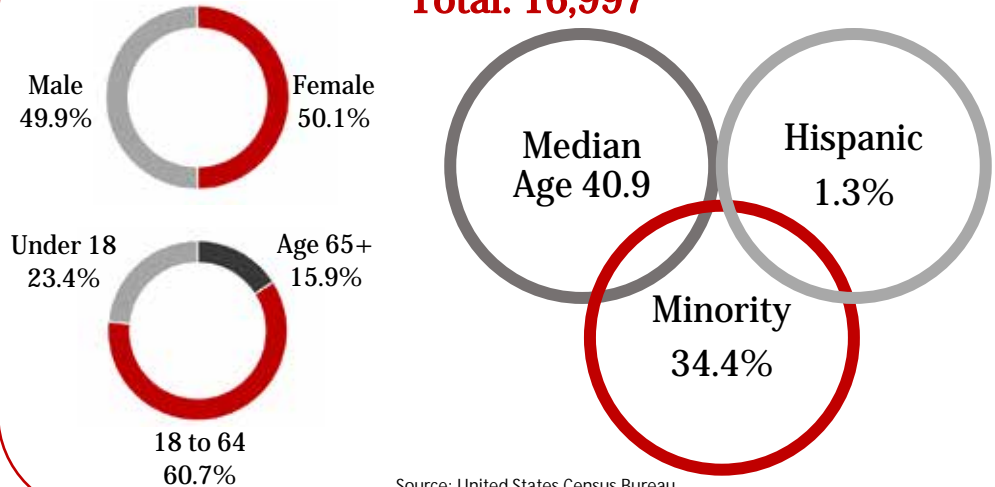
Higher Education
University of West Alabama

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

WASHINGTON COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 16,997



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$42,811

Per Capita Income
\$19,743

1 Adult Living Wage
\$10.06

% of Individuals below
Poverty
19.1%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no health insurance 15.0%

17.3% Food insecurity rate

Child food insecurity rate 25.1%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$85,700

Total Units
8,371

Median Gross Rent
\$569/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force 7,069

1,412 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate 10.4%

Top Employer
BASF

Employees: 400
Industry: Chemical

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



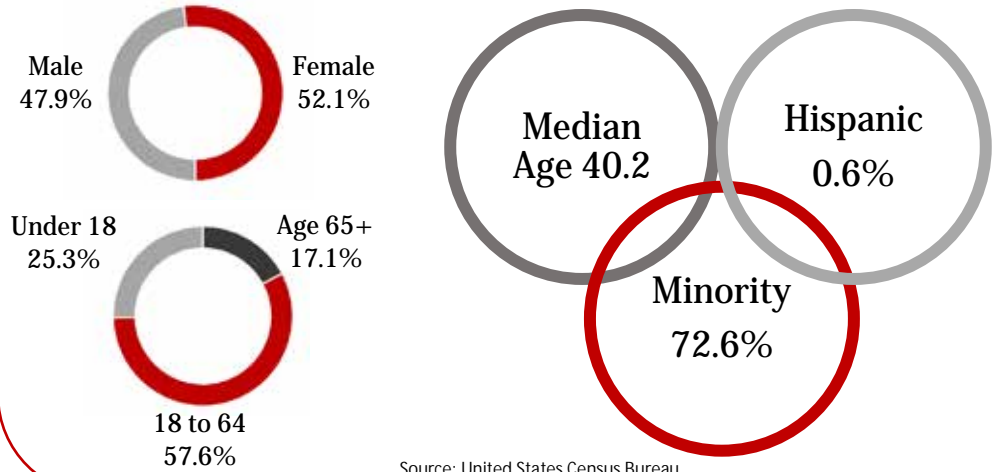
	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate	Median earnings Age 25+
Less than 9 th Grade	5.9%	31.9%	\$9,469
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	13.6%		
High School Graduate	46.1%	13.6%	\$29,144
Some College	17.1%		
Associate's Degree	7.4%	10.4%	\$30,385
Bachelor's Degree	6.7%		
Graduate or professional	3.2%	5.2%	\$51,850

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education

WILCOX COUNTY



POPULATION Total: 11,235



Source: United States Census Bureau

ECONOMICS

Median Household Income
\$23,750

Per Capita Income
\$14,170

1 Adult Living Wage
\$9.92

% of Individuals below
Poverty
37.7%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Living Wage Calculator

HEALTH

Population with no
health insurance
16.0%

32.2% Food insecurity
rate

Child food
insecurity rate
32.9%

Sources: Feeding America: Map the Meal Gap and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

HOUSING

Median Value
\$77,300

Total Units
5,616

Median Gross Rent
\$424/month

Source: United States Census Bureau

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force **3,612**

744 Unemployed

Unemployment Rate **8.4%**

Top Employer
International Paper Company
Employees: 500
Industry: Paper

Sources: United States Census Bureau and AL.com: The biggest employer in every Alabama county

EDUCATION



	Percent Age 25+	Poverty Rate
Less than 9 th Grade	7.0%	48.7%
9 th to 12 th No Diploma	15.7%	
High School Graduate	41.3%	36.2%
Some College	17.7%	
Associate's Degree	5.9%	25.0%
Bachelor's Degree	8.1%	
Graduate or professional	4.4%	8.4%

Sources: United States Census Bureau and Alabama Commission on Higher Education