

Pat and Michael have faced hardship before...



After years of working at a major hardware retailer as a customer service representative, Pat J. was diagnosed with breast cancer. While going through more than 14 grueling months of chemotherapy, she was unable to work and her immune system was compromised. Even now, she is still in physical therapy trying to build back some of her weakened muscles and control the pain she experiences daily.

With Pat unable to work for over a year and a half, she and her husband, Michael, are now on a very tight budget. Despite all of their hardships, the couple managed to make ends meet between Michael's pension and Pat's disability checks. But late last year, their daughter faced problems of her own, and the two of them had to step up and take a more active role in raising their 6-year-old granddaughter. Between the added expense of caring for a child and rising prices for both monthly expenses and daily necessities, Pat and Michael's finances were stretched to the limit.

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Message From the Director

Today, I would like to focus on thanking the many donors who have stepped up to help their fellow Georgians during this pandemic. I want to express how grateful everyone here at HEAT and all of our recipients are for your generosity and compassion during these difficult times.

By now, I had hoped to be able to talk about seeing the first signs of recovery from COVID-19. And while I certainly hope the worst of the pandemic is behind us, I believe that there will be more challenges ahead for the most vulnerable people in our state.

In recent weeks, I have been truly touched by the outpouring of sympathy and support in our state and our nation for those suffering in Ukraine. But as I turn my focus back to my own community, I see that the situation on the other side of the globe is also affecting people around me. Particularly here in Georgia, where many people have to drive to work every day, the rising cost of fuel is stretching the budgets of low-income families to their breaking

points. On top of that, inflation, which was already putting a strain on many Georgia families, will likely get worse as effects from the war hit the global economy in coming months.

It is at times like these, that I know I can count on HEAT's donors to do everything in their power to support those in need. We have no control over what happens thousands of miles away, but we can work together to make sure that our fellow Georgians are able to support their families no matter what the future holds.

On behalf of the entire HEAT family, I want to say how proud I am of the impact we have been able to have during the pandemic. I know that with the assistance of our incredible donors, we will be able to help Georgia families in need stay warm for many years to come. 🔥



Jeffrey Joseph,
Executive Director

New Demographic Trends in Georgia

by Taylor Hafley, applied demographer, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

Georgia was among the fastest growing states in the United States over the past decade, as the population increased by more than 1 million people. Even so, the population growth was uneven in several important ways. Using data from the 2020 Census, this article highlights three trends unfolding across the Peach State.

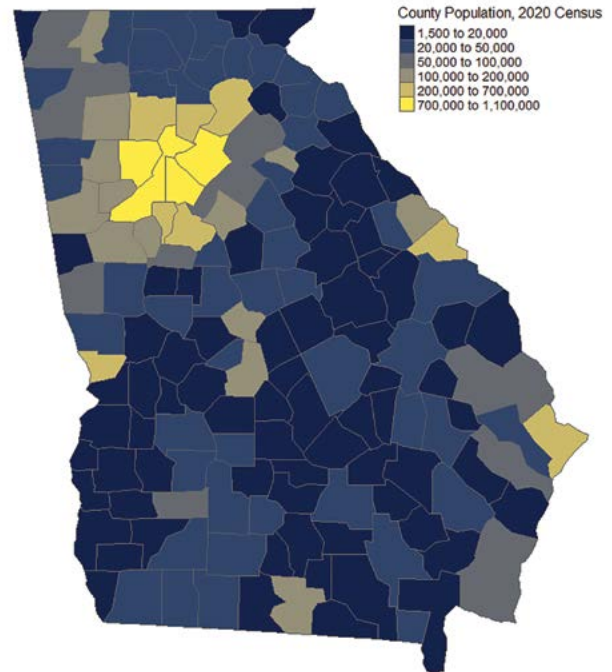
Georgia's population reached 10.7 million in 2020, the eighth most populous state in the country. Over the past decade, Georgia was one of only four states to experience population growth of more than 1 million people. And amid the slowest decade of population growth in the United States since the Great Depression, Georgia's population grew at 10.6%, faster than the nation as a whole.

The population growth, however, was highly concentrated in a few counties. In fact, five counties in metropolitan Atlanta – Gwinnett, Fulton, Cobb, Forsyth and DeKalb – accounted for more than half of the state's population growth between 2010 and 2020. On the flip side, 68 of the state's 159 counties lost population. But population loss is not a recent development for many of these areas. In fact, 25 Georgia counties have lost population for two consecutive decades; and perhaps even more striking, 42 counties have fewer people today than they did in 1940.

Nearly all of Georgia's growth was due to an increase in the adult population. Between 2010 and 2020, the population of Georgians under age 18 remained virtually the same as birth rates declined. In 2010 there were 2,491,552 Georgians under the age of 18 and in 2020 that number increase by 82 to 2,491,634. The state's adult population is growing particularly fast in the over-age-60 demographic. Whereas about 15% of Georgians were over the age of 60 in 2010, roughly one out of three people living in the state are projected to be over the age of 60 in 2040.

Georgia's population continues to grow more diverse. The non-Hispanic White population declined from 5.42 million to 5.36 million people in the last decade. The population of all other racial and ethnic groups grew by more than 10% and increased in regions across the state.

Many of the trends in Georgia hold true across the United States. Nationally, more than half of the counties saw their populations decline over the past decade; the under-age-18 population shrank by 1.1 million; and the population of individuals who identify as non-Hispanic White declined by more than 5 million.



Finally, many of the 2020 Census data reveal long-standing patterns in Georgia. The population has long been concentrated in a few counties. Today, one-third of Georgians live in four counties, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett and Cobb, while another third live in the state's 134 counties that have populations of less than 100,000. In terms of diversity, data from the 2000 and 2010 censuses both showed that Georgia's population was becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. And as people live longer and households start families later, if it all, populations in regions across the globe are aging. 🔥



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A donation of \$350 helps one deserving family pay their utility bill. However, donations of any amount are needed and appreciated.

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In Memoriam: Sister Marie Sullivan (1931-2022)

On February 9, 2022, we said farewell to a beloved member of the HEAT family. Sister Marie Sullivan was an invaluable part of both HEAT and the city of Atlanta for many years. An inspiration to everyone who knew her, Sister Marie's work with vulnerable populations was recognized by numerous organizations throughout Atlanta and helped tens of thousands of struggling Atlantans become self-sufficient. She was a joyful person, full of life and laughter, who touched the life of everyone she knew.

Sister Marie usually wore street clothes and was an avid fan of the Atlanta Braves. Most people who knew her socially were surprised to learn that she was a nun. She enjoyed sailing, Irish music, convertibles and raising Bonsai trees.

In addition to all of the work she did throughout Atlanta, Sister Marie gave nearly 30 years of dedicated service to HEAT, including serving as the chairperson of the HEAT Board and on the nominating/personnel and finance committees.

We are incredibly grateful for everything she did to support our organization throughout the years, and owe so much of what we are now to the example that she set for us. Her grace, compassion and philanthropic philosophy of helping people attain self-sufficiency and stability will serve as a guiding light for many years to come. 🧡



Welcome to the Board

Yoon Ettinger

*Associate General Counsel
Employee Relations, Litigation,
Regulatory Affairs
Southern Company Gas*



Yoon Ettinger joined Southern Company Gas (formerly known as Atlanta Gas Light Resources) in 2014. Since that time, she has undertaken increasing responsibilities. In her current role as associate general counsel, she provides practical and implementable legal advice and risk mitigation strategies to executives and business leaders in the areas of employee relations, litigation and regulatory affairs. In her previous role as chief counsel for litigation and claims, Yoon managed tort and commercial litigation, oversaw the claims department and provided risk mitigation advice to both utility and retail businesses of Southern Company Gas.

Prior to joining Southern Company Gas, Yoon represented companies in the construction, technology and medical industries in tort and commercial disputes.

In addition to her work with Southern Company Gas, Yoon's sense of community responsibility makes her an excellent addition to the HEAT board of directors. She is the current vice-chair of SOAR-GA, Southern Company Gas' Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) employee resource group. She is also currently serving on the board of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta, is a co-chair of the in-house counsel committee of the Korean American Bar Association of Georgia and is on the advisory board of the newly formed AAPI Crime Victims and Education Fund. She previously served on the board of directors of the Georgia Asylum and Immigration Network, which provides pro bono legal services to victims of human trafficking and asylum seekers.

Yoon holds a Bachelor of Science degree in policy analysis and management from Cornell University and a Juris Doctor cum laude from Mercer University's Walter F. George School of Law. Yoon is a member of the State Bar of Georgia and the Order of Barristers. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband, two children and two dogs.

HEAT is incredibly fortunate to have Yoon as a member of our board of directors and we are grateful for the wide range of experience and expertise she brings to us. 🧡



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***Helping low-income
Georgians meet their energy needs***



► *Continued from cover*

When they realized there was not enough money to pay their gas bill this winter, Pat decided to look for help. A friend told her about HEAT, and she called right away. HEAT was able to assist her, and a huge weight was lifted off of her shoulders.

Michael and Pat believe HEAT has done a good job getting the word out about the help it offers. She felt she could trust the organization, since she had heard about it from a friend, and says she will recommend HEAT to friends in need in the future, too.

Pat and Michael are incredibly grateful to HEAT's donors, who enabled them to get the help they needed. They want our donors to know how much their gifts truly and deeply impact people in need.

"I want the donors to know that HEAT really helps people... they go above and beyond," Pat said. "When I first spoke to them, I was so impressed because they made me feel like a human being. I didn't feel like I was put down. It really made me feel like there was hope." 🔥

The HEAT Factor is a newsletter published for friends and supporters of HEAT, Inc.

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HEAT, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) statewide nonprofit organization that raises funds to help Georgians who need temporary financial assistance with energy bills. Thousands of households need help, but only limited funding is available.

Our mission is to provide energy assistance for Georgians in need.



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