

Population, Diversity & Housing

- **Population is a challenge in Lowndes County** and across the region, according to a recent Georgia Trend article². Almost no county is expected to grow in the region, and most are projected to see populations decline over the next decade and a half. An aging workforce is also a strain for communities trying to attract new business and industry. A 2019 State of the Region Report³, published by the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, notes that Lowndes County has the greatest overall population of residents age 65+ (12,619) in the 18-county region for which they collect data. Lowndes County's births (at nearly 12,000 from 2010-2017), however, far exceeded deaths (around 6,000 during the same timeframe).
- While diversity is increasing in the region (with nearly half of the municipalities being Minority-Majority), Lowndes County remains majority Caucasian/White, although only by a slim margin, also according to the 2019 State of the Region Report. A survey conducted by One Valdosta-Lowndes found, in fact, that **racial equality and inclusion was a top concern among residents**.
- The bulk of the housing in the Region is owner-occupied (63%) and the majority of the region is not cost-burdened (spending more than 30% of income on housing). **Lowndes had the lowest home ownership rate of all counties at 52%**. One-third of the population in the county also spend over 30% of their income on housing – the highest rate in the region – according to the State of the Region Report.



Source: <https://www.valdosta.edu/diversity/>

² Snyder, K.K. "Valdosta | Lowndes County: Well-rounded Region," Georgia Trend. March 1, 2019.

³ Southern Georgia Regional Commission. "State of the Region Report," April 2019.