

# Walker County, GA



GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



Walker County is located in Northwest Georgia. The county seat, LaFayette has over 7,000 residents and is 30 minutes from interstates 24, 59 and 75. U.S. Hwy. 27 traverses the entire county from north to south.

General aviation services are available at Barwick Lafayette Airport with a runway length of 5,350 feet. The Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, located within 27 miles of Walker County offers non-stop service to nine locations throughout the U.S. Air cargo is also available. Airlines serving the Chattanooga airport include: Allegiant, American Airlines, American Eagle, Delta and United Airlines.

Industrial site options include two industrial parks. The Walker County Business Park has 463 acres available and the Northwest Georgia Business & Industrial Park has 38 acres available. Recently, Walker County completed work on equipping both of its industrial parks with fiber technology that will allow unlimited data processing capacity for whatever demand required. These have become some of the first "smart parks" in the State of Georgia.

Georgia Northwestern Technical College (GNTC) has a campus in the county. Classes are offered in a wide range of formats - on campus, online, and hybrid - and are available during the day, at night, and on weekends. Financial assistance, advisement, tutoring, and career services are also offered. GNTC is committed to meeting the needs of the community and local businesses and industry. A variety of continuing education courses is available and numerous economic development initiatives are supported. Additionally, a wide selection of community, state and private colleges and universities are all within driving distance.

With two of Georgia's top 25 tourist attractions, Chickamauga Battlefield National Park, the oldest and largest military park in the United States and Rock City Gardens, an attraction located on Lookout Mountain, nearly half a million people from all over the world visit Walker County each year. With the legendary view of seven states from Lover's Leap, Lookout Mountain was home to Garnet Carter, the inventor of miniature golf and a cofounder of Rock City Gardens.

Target Markets include Automotive, Textile and General Manufacturing.



## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	EMPLOYEES
Roper Corporation	2,050
Shaw Industries	1,371
Nissin Brake	325
Wal-Mart	249
Northwestern Technical	237

Source: Companies

## POPULATION

Population 2019	69,038
Population 2024	68,949
Households 2019	26,685
Median Age	41.7
Median Household Income	\$42,863
Per Capita Income	\$23,173

Source: Gale Research

## ANNOUNCED PROJECTS (2016-2020)

Number of Projects	1
New Jobs	100
Capital Investment	\$43,000,000

Source: GCEP

## LABOR FORCE (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

Labor Force	30,601
Unemployment Rate	4.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population 25+	48,504
High School Graduate (only)	36.6%
Some College	22.3%
Associate's Degree	7.1%
Bachelor's Degree	10.2%
Graduate or Professional	4.7%
ACT-County	19.9/21.1
ACT-State	21.7

Source: Gale Research, Tennessee Department of Education

## EDUCATION

Public Schools	18
Public School Enrollment	9,644
Private Schools	2
Private School Enrollment	312
School Districts	2
Colleges & Universities	2
College & University Enrollment	3,503

Source: Tennessee Department of Education, Individual Schools and GCEP

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

New Employers (Maximum)	2.7%
Experience Rate Range	.04% to 8.1%
Taxable Base	\$9,500

Source: ADP

## SALES TAX - GENERAL AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS

Sales Tax Rate-State	4%
Sales Tax Rate-County	3%
Electricity* (State/Local)	4%/4%
Piped Natural Gas* (State/Local)	4%/4%
Mfg. Water (State/Local)	0%/1%
Mfg. Fuels (State/Local)	0%/1%
Mfg. Equipment (State/Local)	None
Telecommunications (State/Local)	4%/4%

\*Residential

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

## PROPERTY TAX (PER \$1,000 OF ASSESSED VALUE)

Property Taxes-County Incorporated	\$30.697
Property Taxes-County Unincorporated	\$27.226
Property Taxes-County Seat	\$33.517

Source: Tennessee Department of Revenue

## INVENTORY TAX

Finished Goods	None
Raw Materials	None
Goods in Process	None
Materials Consumed in Manufacturing	None
Exceptions	Exemption application must be filed.

Source: Georgia Department of Revenue

## EMPLOYMENT AND WAGES (2020 ANNUAL AVERAGE)

	% OF TOTAL	WEEKLY WAGES
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1%	\$848
Construction	2.4%	\$840
Manufacturing	33.1%	\$834
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	13.3%	\$561
Information	0.2%	\$1,089
Financial Activities	5.4%	\$1,127
Professional & Business Services	4.9%	\$671
Education & Health Services	7.0%	\$647
Leisure & Hospitality	8.5%	\$370
Other Services	2.4%	\$750
Government	22.5%	\$752

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

## ACCESSIBILITY

Largest City or Town	LaFayette
Population-2019	7,339
Miles to Chattanooga	28
Nearest Commercial Airport	Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport
Runway Length	7,400 and 5,575
Miles to Airport	27
Nearest Interstate	I-59; I-75
Miles to Nearest Interstate	26; 25
Foreign Trade Zone	No
Population within 50-mile radius	1,301,149

Source: GCEP, Gale Research

## UTILITIES

Name of Electricity Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Is Natural Gas Available (Yes/No)	Yes
Name of Natural Gas Provider	Atlanta Gas Light
Name of Water Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Excess System Capacity	Yes
Name of Wastewater Provider	Multiple municipal providers
Excess System Capacity	Yes

Source: GCEP

## CONTACT US

**Robert Wardlaw**  
**Walker County Development Authority**  
 101 South Duke Street  
 LaFayette, GA 30728  
 706.638.1437  
[wardlaw@walkercountyga.gov](mailto:wardlaw@walkercountyga.gov)  
[www.walkergada.us](http://www.walkergada.us)

**Charles Wood**  
**Greater Chattanooga Economic Partnership**  
 811 Broad Street, Suite 100  
 Chattanooga, TN 37402  
 423.763.4335  
[cwood@greaterchatt.com](mailto:cwood@greaterchatt.com)  
[www.greaterchatt.com](http://www.greaterchatt.com)



WALKER COUNTY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



GREATER CHATTANOOGA  
ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP