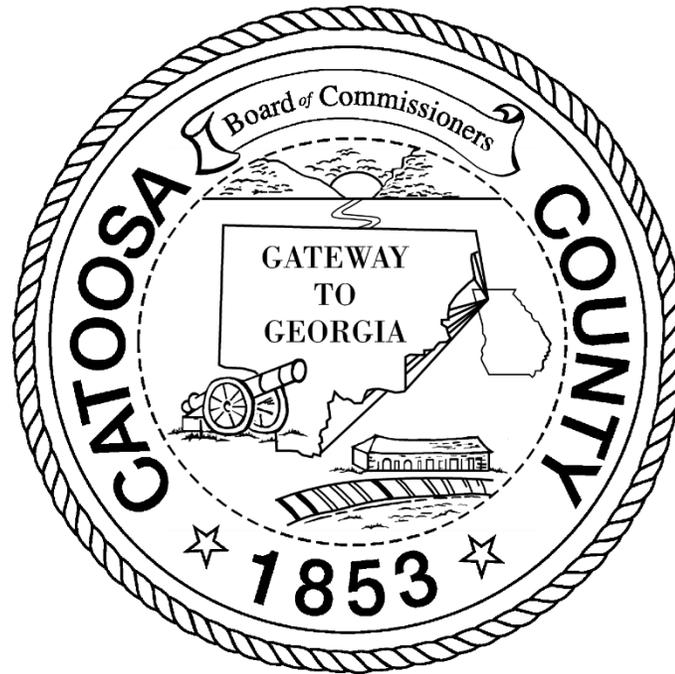


CATOOSA COUNTY

The Gateway to Georgia



- ▶ Located in Northwest Georgia on the Tennessee border, Catoosa County is around 100 miles northwest of Atlanta and 17 miles south of Chattanooga, Tennessee. With a population of over 66,000, the County consists of two major cities, Ringgold- the county seat, and Fort Oglethorpe.



- ▶ Catoosa County, Georgia has all the resources needed to support your growing business.
 - ▶ located on Interstate-75, a major North-South transportation vein
 - ▶ 15 miles to the Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport
 - ▶ 110 miles to the Hartsfield- Jackson Atlanta International Airport
 - ▶ 30 miles to the Appalachian Regional Inland Port (coming 2018)
 - ▶ Within driving distance to the maritime ports of Savannah, GA
- ▶ Our highly skilled workforce is bolstered by a partnership between the Catoosa County Public School System and Georgia Northwestern Technical College Catoosa County Campus. GNTC Catoosa County Campus produces workers that have acquired the unique skills needed for the industries in our area.
- ▶ Our infrastructure, skilled workforce, excellent schools, temperate weather and low cost of living make a great place to put down roots for businesses and families.

Even with the explosive industrial and retail growth of the past few decades, Catoosa County retains its small town feel, natural beauty and sense of community.

HISTORY

- ▶ Born from the Cherokee Indian nation, Catoosa County was created on December 5, 1853 with land taken from neighboring Walker and Whitfield counties. The name is derived from the Cherokee word "catoosa," meaning "between two hills".
- ▶ Ringgold was designated as the county seat one year after the county was created. It was named for Major Samuel Ringgold who died of wounds received in the Mexican War, Battle of Palo Alto in 1846.
- ▶ Built at the turn of the century, Fort Oglethorpe was home to the 6th Cavalry and was considered to be the best Cavalry post in the United States. In 1946 the military installation was sold by the government to a local group of civilians as a ready made town. Today, the original Cavalry Post Buildings on Barnhardt Circle are used as private homes.



Ringgold Depot located in Ringgold, GA.



Original Cavalry Post Building located on Barnhardt Circle in Fort Oglethorpe, GA.

LOCAL TAXES

► Sales Tax:

Catoosa County has a 7% sales tax.

- 3% local sales tax.
- 4% state sales tax.

► Property Tax:

All real and personal property in Catoosa County is assessed at 40% of its total fair market value, and the **millage rate** is applied to the 40% value. The effective tax rate is per \$1,000 of a property's total fair market value. This rate applies to all land, buildings, machinery, equipment and inventory.

LOCAL TAXES

▶ Property Tax

- ▶ **Current Millage Rate (2016):** Catoosa County has the lowest millage rate in our area and has continuously had one of the lowest millage rates in the State.
 - ▶ The average millage rate for the State of Georgia is 30 mills.

2016 MILLAGE RATE OF CATOOSA COUNTY AND SURROUNDING COUNTIES				
Catoosa Co.	Dade Co.	Walker Co.	Whitfield Co.	Chattooga Co.
25.987	26.175	27.571	28.317	28.921

- ▶ City of Ringgold: 3.150 mills
 - ▶ City of Fort Oglethorpe: 6.753 mills
- ▶ Source: [GA Department of Revenue 2016 report](#)

LOCAL TAXES

- ▶ **Freeport Tax Exemption:** The governing authority of any county or municipality may elect, with the approval of the voters, to exempt certain goods typically stored in distribution warehouses from payment of personal property tax.

Voters have elected to exempt the following types of commercial and industrial inventory in Catoosa County:

- ▶ Class 1 -- Raw materials and goods in process of manufacture -- **100% exemption**
- ▶ Class 2 -- Finished goods produced in Georgia within the last 12 months -- **100% exemption**
- ▶ Class 3 -- Finished goods stored in Georgia within the last 12 months and destined for shipment out-of-state -- **100% exemption**

*City of Ringgold- 100% exemption

*City of Fort Oglethorpe- 40% exemption

INFRASTRUCTURE

▶ Power

Electricity is provided by Georgia Power and local Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) distributors North Georgia EMC (NGEMC) and Electric Power Board of Chattanooga (EPB).

- ▶ A company has a “one time” choice of electrical provider if they have a total of 900kW connected load (includes all equipment, lights, computers - anything that needs power). Incentives through local utility providers may be available for new and expanding businesses.

INFRASTRUCTURE

▶ Water & Sewer

Water is provided by the City of Ringgold (water capacity of 1 million gallons/day), [Catoosa Utility District](#), and [Dalton Utilities](#) (water capacity of 1 million gallons/day).

▶ Sewer is provided by:

- ▶ City of Ringgold (sewer capacity is capped at 4 million gallons per day by the City of Chattanooga in the City of Ringgold's sewer system. Options to double flow to 8 million gallons per day are available)
- ▶ City of Fort Oglethorpe

INFRASTRUCTURE

▶ Natural Gas

Atlanta Gas Light has Medium Pressure (2"-4") and High Pressure (4") gas lines throughout the county.

▶ Advanced Telecommunication Support

Ringgold Telephone Company, Electric Power Board of Chattanooga (EPB), Charter, Comcast, and AT&T provide local telecommunications service.

INFRASTRUCTURE

► **Transportation**

Located on the Georgia/ Tennessee border in Northwest Georgia, Catoosa County is conveniently located 17 miles south of Chattanooga, TN, 160 miles northeast of Birmingham, AL, and 100 miles north of Atlanta, GA.

- We are easily accessible by Interstate 75, one of the country's major north/ south transportation hubs.
- Catoosa County has four exits off Interstate 75.
- In addition to I-75, the following routes run through Catoosa County:
 - U.S. Route 27
 - U.S. Route 41
 - U.S. Route 76
 - State Route 1
 - State Route 2
 - State Route 3
 - State Route 146
 - State Route 151
 - State Route 401

INFRASTRUCTURE

▶ Airports

Atlanta, GA's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the busiest and most efficient airport in the world. It is only 110 miles from Catoosa County.

▶ Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport, located in Chattanooga, TN, is about 15 miles away.

INFRASTRUCTURE

► Inland Port

- [Appalachian Regional Port](#), Chatsworth, GA, (~30 miles) This transportation asset will provide a powerful new gateway to the Port of Savannah, GA, the second busiest port on the East Coast. The Appalachian Regional Port, through CSX, will provide a direct, 388-mile rail route to the Georgia Ports Authority's Garden City Terminal. It will create and expand international markets for regional businesses. **Expected to open 2018.**

► Maritime Ports

- [The Port of Savannah, GA](#) (~350 miles), home to the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind in North America, is comprised of two modern, deepwater terminals: Garden City Terminal and Ocean Terminal. Garden City Terminal is the fourth busiest container handling facilities in the United States, encompassing more than 1,200 acres and moving millions of tons of containerized cargo annually.
- [The Port of Brunswick, GA](#) (~415 miles) is comprised of three deepwater terminals. The port's well-earned reputation for productivity and efficiency is heightened by its position as one of the fastest growing auto and heavy machinery ports in North America.

[Port Tax Credits](#) through the State of Georgia may be available if your business utilizes Georgia ports for exports or imports.

INFRASTRUCTURE

► Rail

[CSX](#) and [Norfolk Southern](#) handle millions of carloads of freight on the state's rail network which passes through Catoosa County. Assistance is available if you are looking to build or expand a rail served facility.

INCENTIVES

- ▶ New businesses may qualify for State and Local Incentives based on new hires or investment.
- ▶ Existing businesses who are looking to expand may also be eligible for State and Local Incentives.

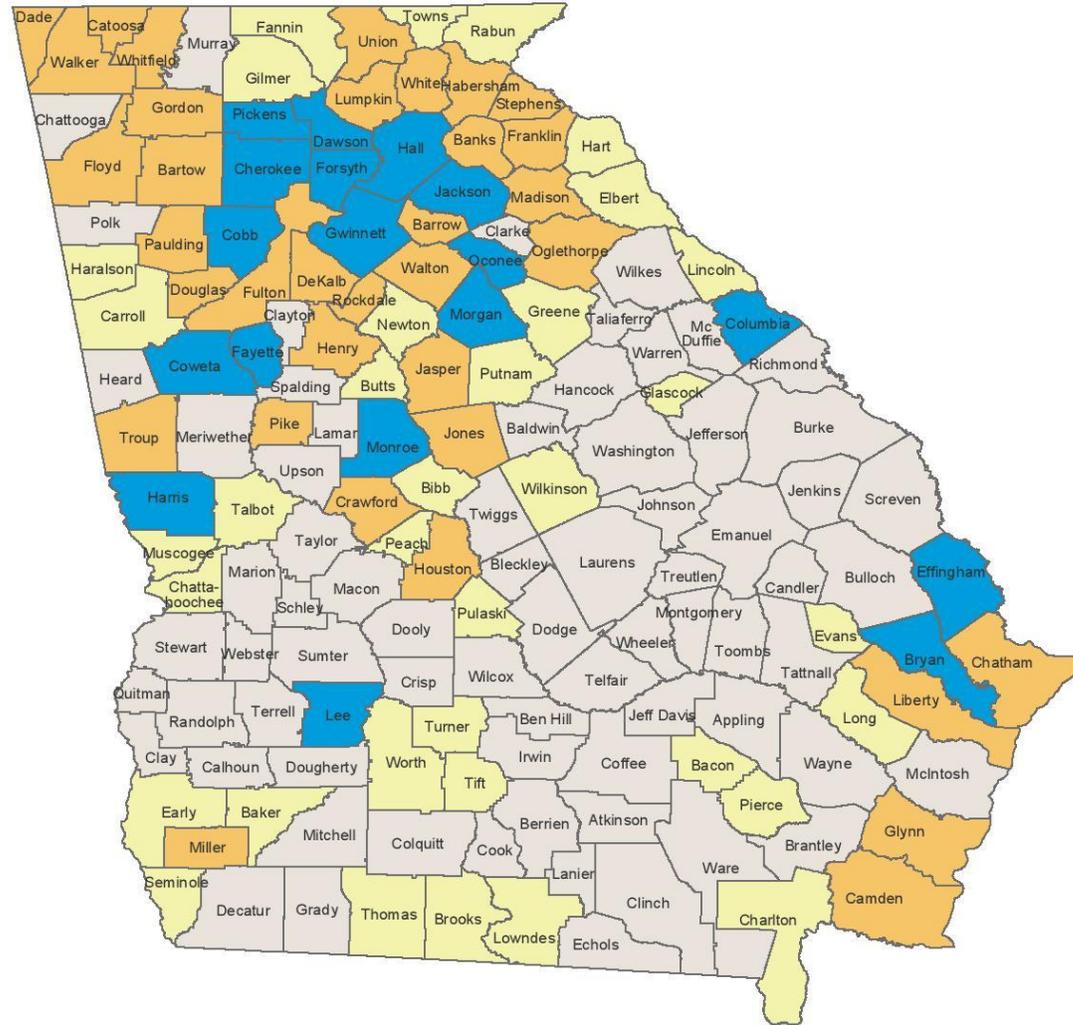
INCENTIVES

▶ Job Tax Credits

- ▶ Catoosa County is a Tier 3 community
- ▶ Any industrial or manufacturing business that creates at least 15 net new jobs will receive \$1,750 per job created to be used to offset 50% of income tax liability

INCENTIVES

2017 Job Tax Credit Tiers



-  Tier 1 71 Counties
-  Tier 2 35 Counties
-  Tier 3 35 Counties
-  Tier 4 18 Counties

For more information on Tax Credits:
<http://www.dca.ga.gov/economic/TaxCredits/index.asp>

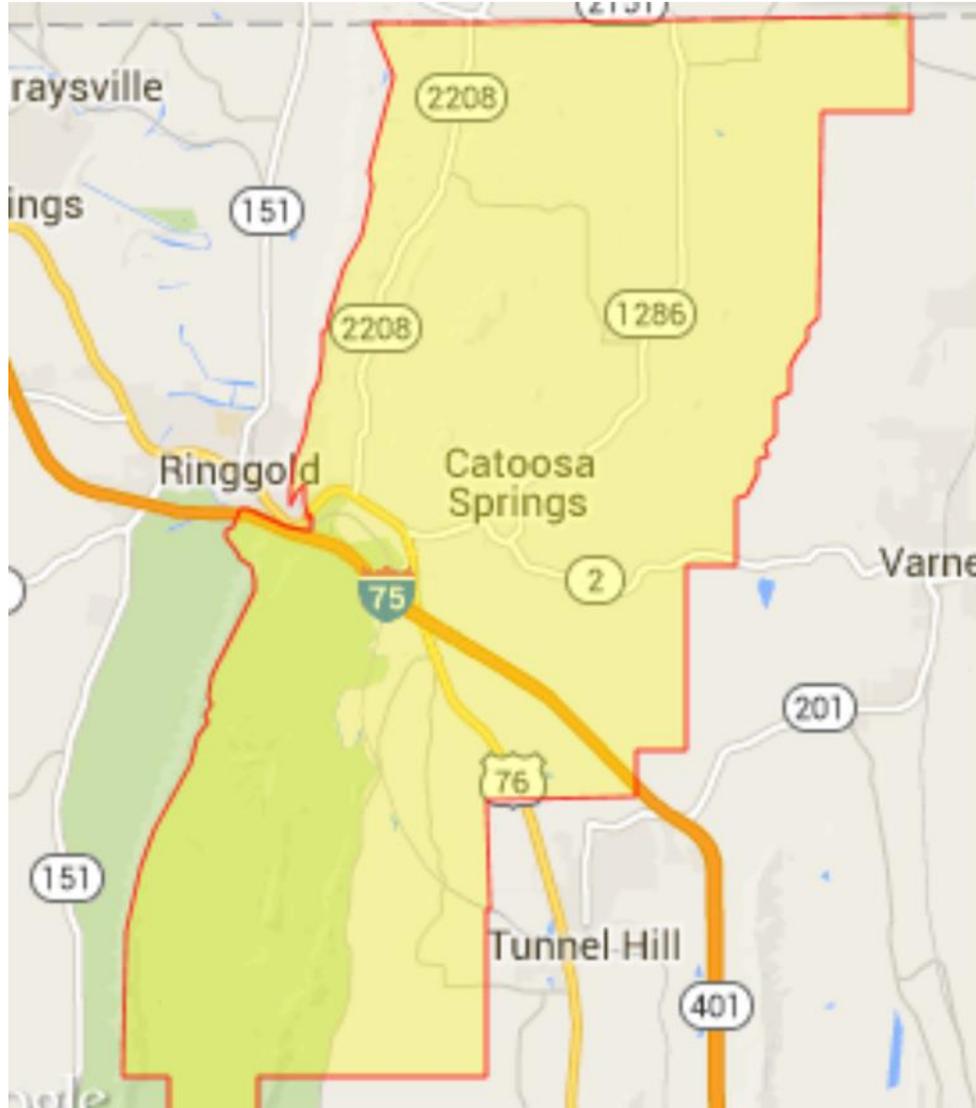
INCENTIVES

▶ **Military Zone Designation**

- ▶ Catoosa County's census tract 301 was designated by the State of Georgia as a Military Zone.
- ▶ Any lawful business (includes restaurant and retail) that creates at least 2 NEW jobs is eligible for a job tax credit of \$3,500 per new job to be used towards 100% of state income tax and payroll tax liability.

INCENTIVES

► Military Zone Designation



WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

- ▶ **Catoosa County has the highest median income, lowest poverty rate, and lowest unemployment rate in the Chattanooga Region.**

POPULATION

	Year 2000 Total Population	Year 2010 Total Population	Year 2016 Total Population Estimate	Year 2021 Total Population Estimate	2016-2021 % Projected Annual Growth Rate
Catoosa Co.	53,330	63,942	66,834	69,413	0.76%
Hamilton Co., TN	307,896	336,463	357,438	374,184	0.92%
Walker Co.	61,053	68,756	68,788	68,575	-0.06%
Whitfield Co.	83,477	102,599	105,605	107,446	0.35%

Source: GA Power Market Profile
Updated August 2017

MEDIAN AGE

	Year 2010	Year 2016 Estimate	Year 2021 Estimate
Catoosa Co.	38.2	39.7	40.4
Hamilton Co., TN	39.2	40.4	41.3
Walker Co.	39.7	41	42.5
Whitfield Co.	34.1	34.8	35.8

Source: GA Power Market Profile
Updated August 2017

Name	Poverty %, All Ages	Name	Median Household Income
Catoosa County, GA	13.1	United States	\$55,775
United States	14.7	Georgia	\$51,225
Franklin County, TN	15.0	Catoosa County, GA	\$50,979
Hamilton County, TN	15.2	Hamilton County, TN	\$48,943
Whitfield County, GA	15.3	Franklin County, TN	\$47,286
Coffee County, TN	15.9	Tennessee	\$47,243
Dade County, GA	16.2	Whitfield County, GA	\$45,921
Tennessee	16.7	Gordon County, GA	\$44,580
Georgia	17.2	Coffee County, TN	\$44,452
Murray County, GA	17.8	Bradley County, TN	\$43,772
Gordon County, GA	18.1	Dade County, GA	\$43,632
Bradley County, TN	18.1	Sequatchie County, TN	\$43,207
Polk County, TN	18.4	Murray County, GA	\$43,142
Sequatchie County, TN	18.7	Walker County, GA	\$42,249
Walker County, GA	18.8	Marion County, TN	\$41,090
Van Buren County, TN	18.9	Meigs County, TN	\$41,061
Marion County, TN	19.0	Rhea County, TN	\$39,863
Meigs County, TN	20.2	Bledsoe County, TN	\$39,730
Chattooga County, GA	20.4	Van Buren County, TN	\$39,348
McMinn County, TN	23.0	McMinn County, TN	\$39,207
Rhea County, TN	23.3	Polk County, TN	\$38,923
Bledsoe County, TN	26.1	Chattooga County, GA	\$38,063
Grundy County, TN	26.1	Grundy County, TN	\$33,595

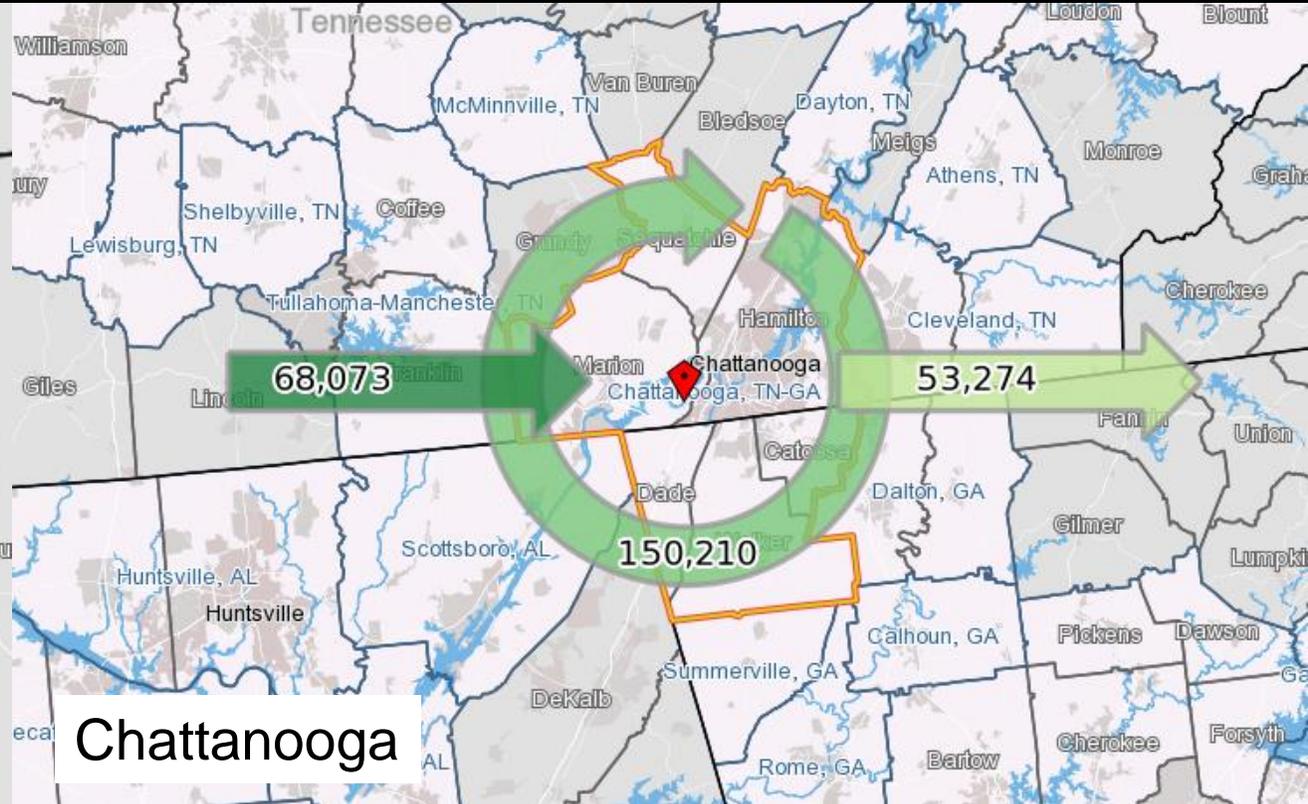
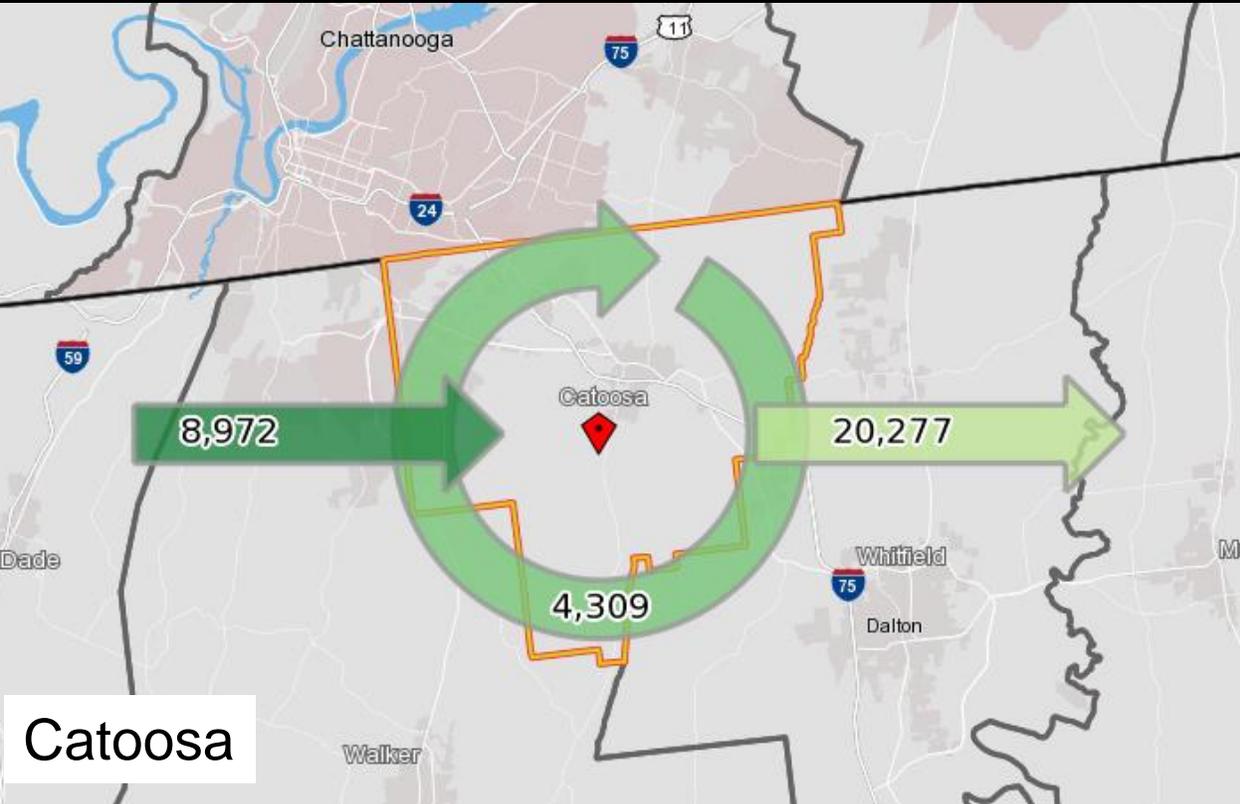
*Source: 2015 US Census Bureau Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates, release date Dec. 2016

2016 ANNUAL AVERAGES

	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE
CATOOSA CO.	32,216	30,658	1,558	4.8%
WALKER CO.	30,209	28,525	1,684	5.6%
WHITFIELD CO.	46,293	43,552	2,741	5.9%
GEORGIA	4,920,464	4,656,255	264,209	5.4%
UNITED STATES	159,187,000	151,436,000	7,751,000	4.9%

Source: GA Dept. of Labor
Updated August 2017

INFLOW / OUTFLOW PATTERNS



Catoosa

Chattanooga

Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.

- Employed and Live in Selection Area
- Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside

Analysis Selection

	2014	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	13,281	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	8,972	67.6%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	4,309	32.4%
Living in the Selection Area	24,586	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	20,277	82.5%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	4,309	17.5%

Note: Overlay arrows do not indicate directionality of worker flow between home and employment locations.

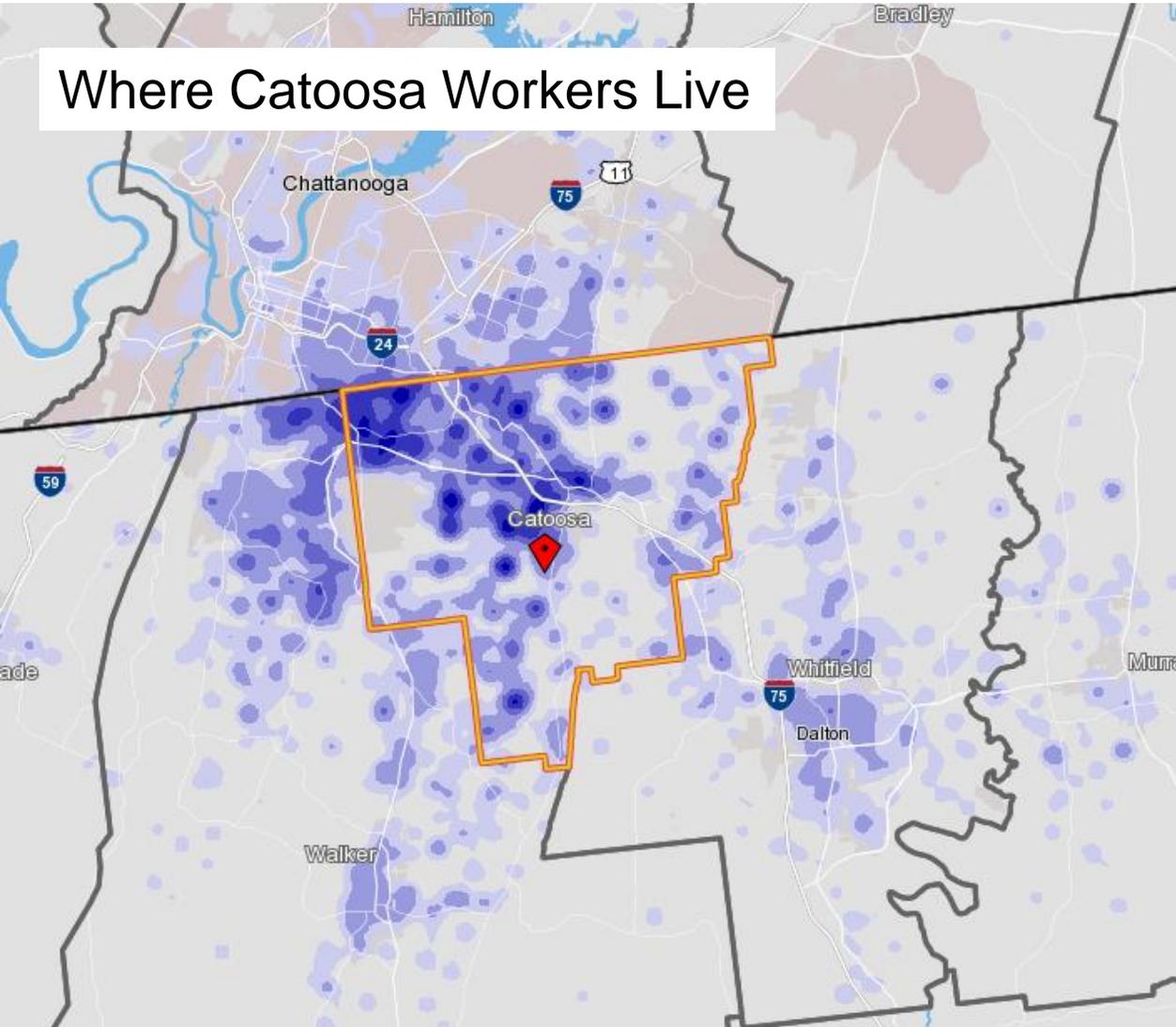
- Employed and Live in Selection Area
- Employed in Selection Area, Live Outside
- Live in Selection Area, Employed Outside

Analysis Selection

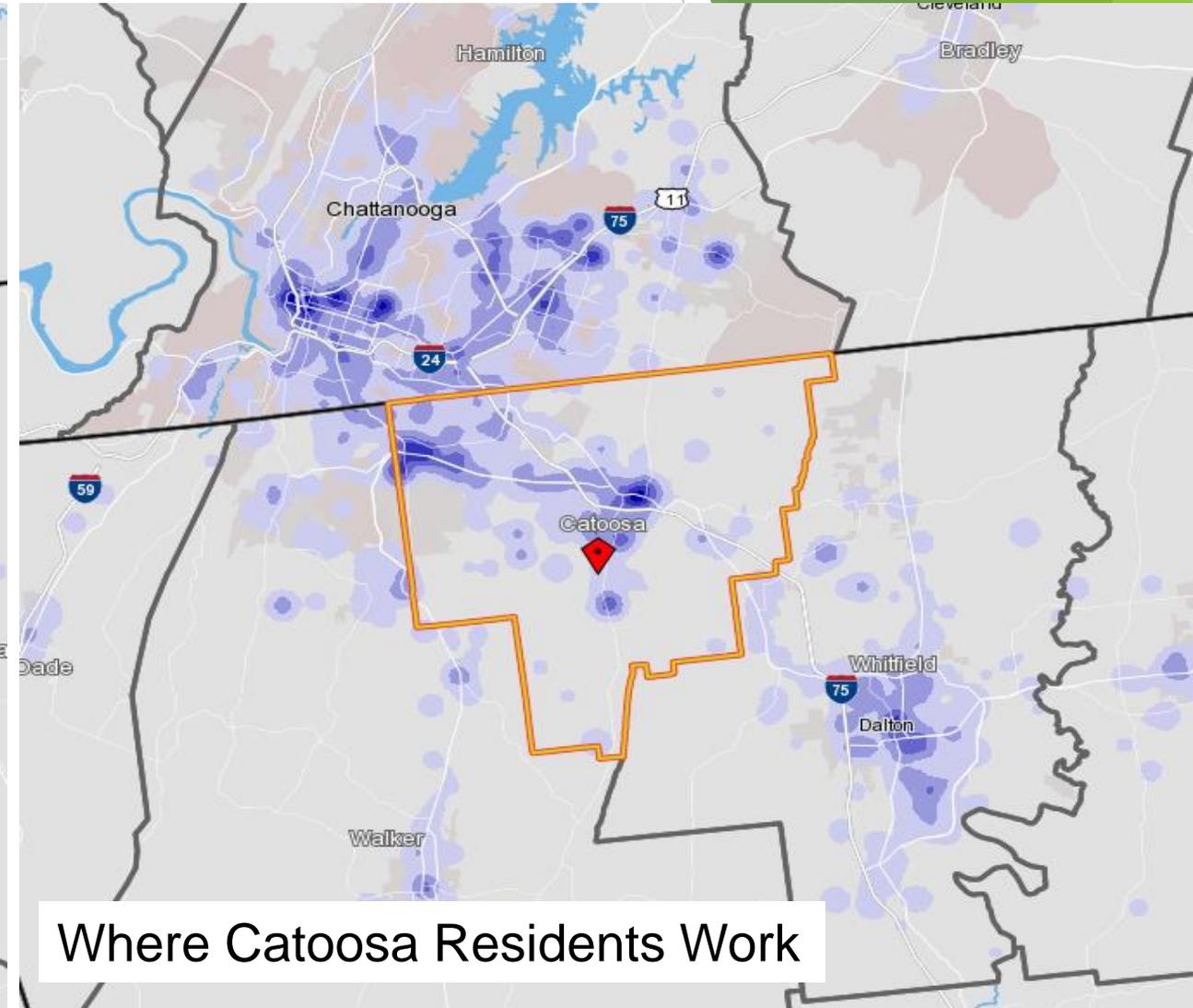
	2014	
	Count	Share
Employed in the Selection Area	218,283	100.0%
Employed in the Selection Area but Living Outside	68,073	31.2%
Employed and Living in the Selection Area	150,210	68.8%
Living in the Selection Area	203,484	100.0%
Living in the Selection Area but Employed Outside	53,274	26.2%
Living and Employed in the Selection Area	150,210	73.8%

COMMUTE PATTERNS

Where Catoosa Workers Live

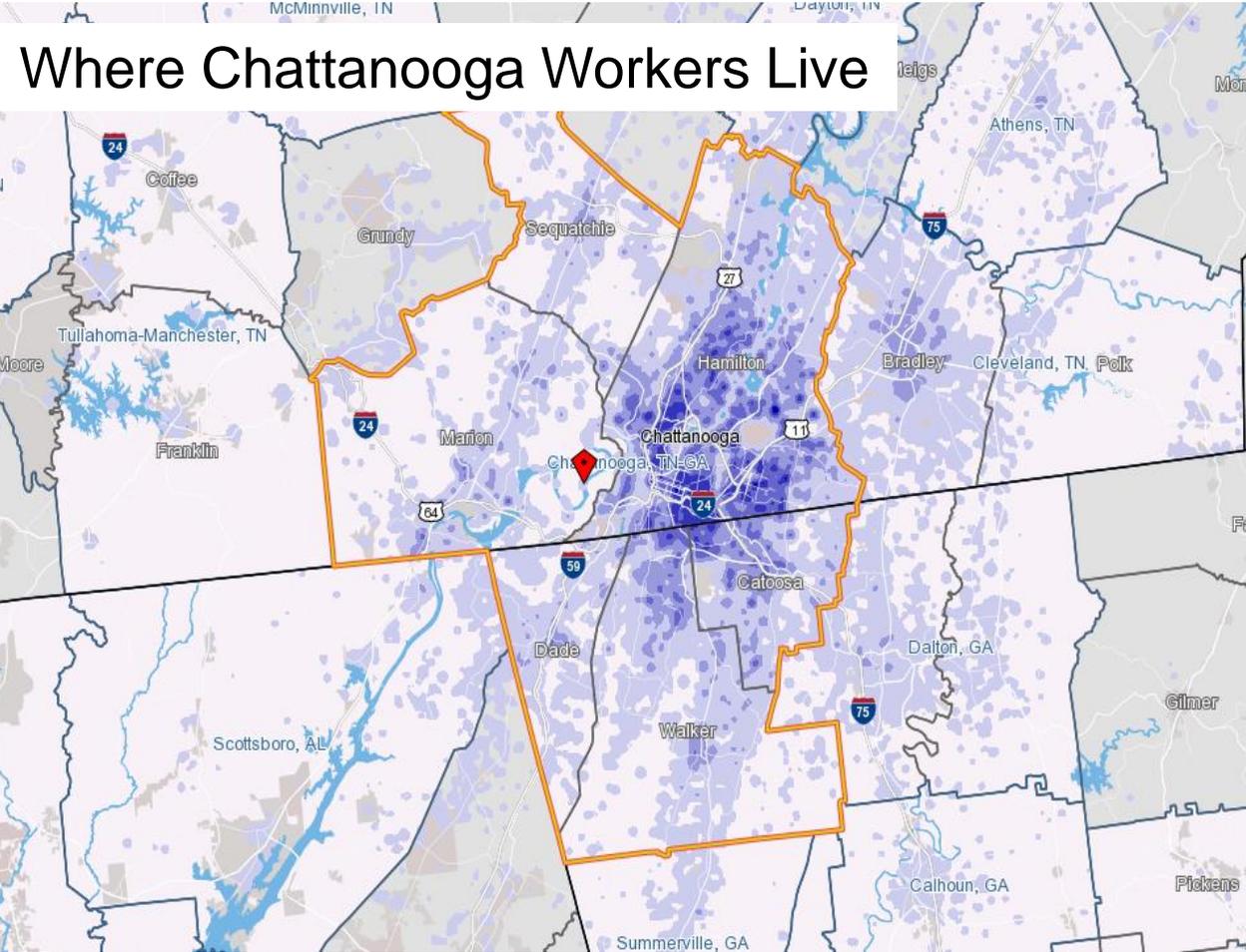


Where Catoosa Residents Work

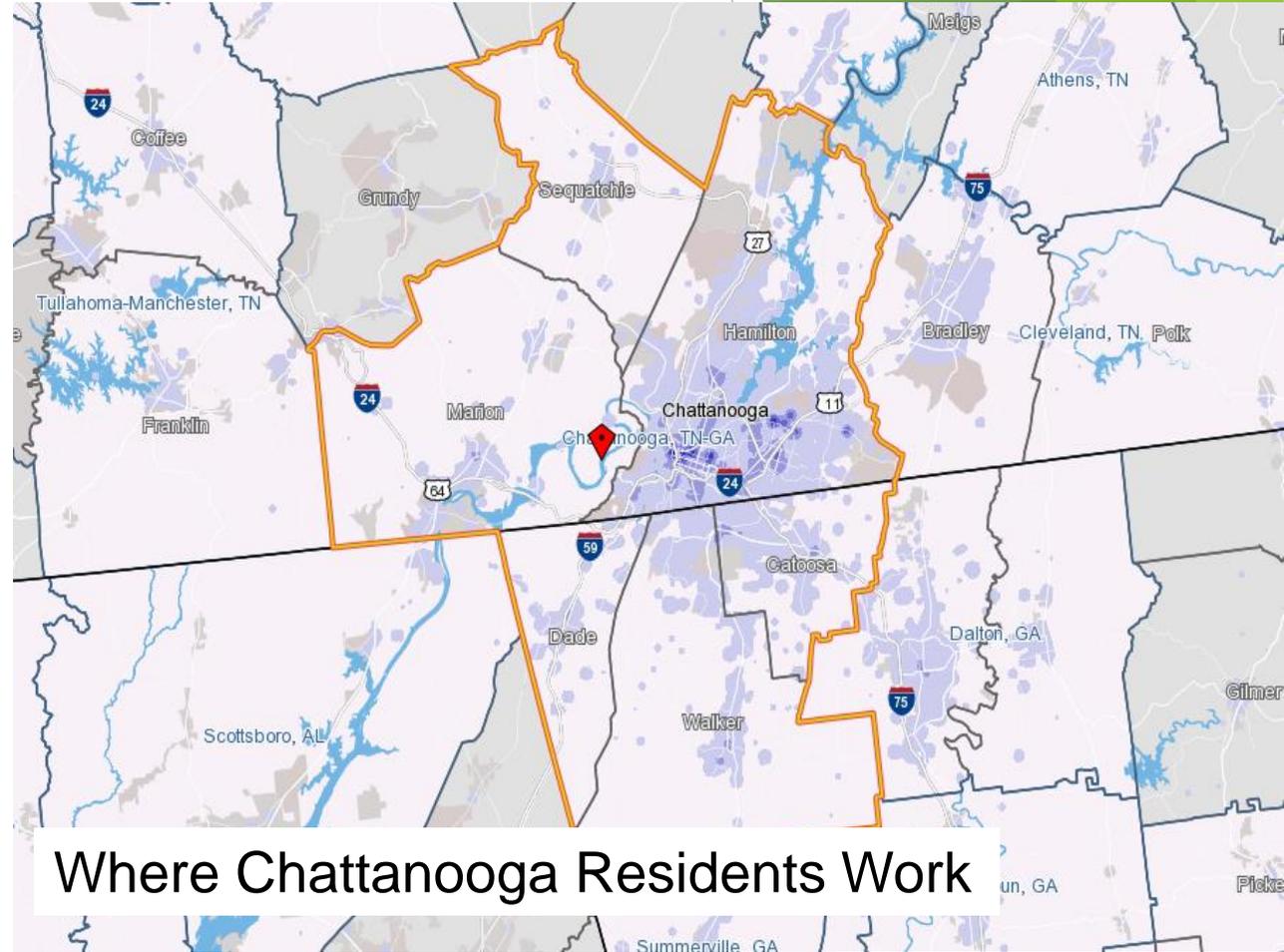


COMMUTE PATTERNS

Where Chattanooga Workers Live



Where Chattanooga Residents Work



2016 EDUCATION OF LABOR FORCE (CATOOSA AREA)

	% OF TOTAL	AGE 18-24	AGE 25-34	AGE 35-44	AGE 45-64	AGE 65+
SOME HS	16.7%	30%	16.3%	13.9%	14%	16.5%
HS GRAD/ GED	31.8%	30.7%	27.6%	31.1%	33.3%	34.8%
SOME COLLEGE	22.2%	30.6%	25.1%	20.5%	21.4%	16.8%
COLLEGE GRAD 2 YR	5.8%	2.6%	7.9%	6.8%	6.7%	3%
COLLEGE GRAD 4 YR	9.1%	2.7%	12.1%	11.8%	9.7%	6.2%
POST GRAD	4.5%	0.6%	4%	5.7%	5.7%	4%

- Catoosa Area= Catoosa County, Walker County, Whitfield County

Source: GA Dept. of Labor
Updated August 2017

WORKFORCE

► Labor Profile

CLASS OF 2016 PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES	
CATOOSA CO.	755
WALKER CO.	662
WHITFIELD CO.	1,307

CATOOSA AREA TECHNICAL COLLEGE GRADUATES				
TOTAL GRADUATES			% CHANGES	
2014	2015	2016	2014-15	2015-16
2181	4007	2,272	83.7%	56.7%

Catoosa Area= Catoosa County, Walker County, Whitfield County

Source: GA Dept. of Labor
Updated August 2017

WORKFORCE

▶ Labor Profile

▶ Top Programs of Study at Catoosa Area Technical Colleges

1. ***Welding Technology****
2. Business Administration and Management
3. ***Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology****
4. Automotive Mechanics Technology
5. Health Services

*These programs of study fulfill the workforce needs of industrial employers in Catoosa County.

QUALITY OF LIFE

▶ Education

- ▶ Catoosa County Public Schools (CCPS) consist of 16 schools and two alternative campuses: the Performance Learning Center (PLC) and Catoosa Online Academy (COA).
- ▶ 10,854 students are enrolled in the CCPS system.
- ▶ 2016 Graduation Rate: Georgia 79.2%
Catoosa County 85.5%

QUALITY OF LIFE

▶ Education

- ▶ Catoosa County Public Schools are accredited through AdvanceED/Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).
- ▶ School Awards and Recognition:
 - ▶ 7 county schools are Georgia Schools of Excellence
 - ▶ 3 county schools are National Blue Ribbon Schools
 - ▶ 3 county schools are Georgia Dream Schools

QUALITY OF LIFE

► Education

- Catoosa County Public Schools are incorporating more than one technology system in order to transform their schools to a *digital learning environment*.
- Every student has a digital device and teachers use digital platforms to prepare them for a technology driven workplace.



QUALITY OF LIFE

- ▶ **Higher Education:** Catoosa County, GA has a multitude of higher education opportunities all located within a 20 mile radius.
- ▶ *Georgia Northwestern Technical College* located in Ringgold, GA offers programs such as logistics and mechatronics that funnel an educated workforce directly to our local industry.
- ▶ *Dalton State College* is a four-year college located in Dalton, GA. DSC enrolls around 5,000 students.
- ▶ *Covenant College* is a Christian liberal arts college in Lookout Mountain, GA.
- ▶ *Chattanooga State Community College* is a two-year community college in Chattanooga, TN with a total undergraduate enrollment of roughly 11,000 students.
- ▶ *The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga* is the second largest campus of the University of Tennessee System with a student population of over 10,000.
- ▶ *Southern Adventist University* is located in the suburb of Collegedale, TN. SAU enrolls around 3,000 students.

QUALITY OF LIFE

► Healthcare

- *Cornerstone Medical Center* opened its doors to our community in 2016. They are located in Fort Oglethorpe and offer emergency, laboratory, radiology and pharmacy services. CHI Memorial took over management of the facility in August 2017.



QUALITY OF LIFE

- ▶ **Healthcare:** Catoosa County, GA has access to three major hospital systems within 17 miles: Erlanger Health System, Parkridge Hospital System, and CHI Memorial Hospital System.
 - ▶ *CHI Memorial*, which is operated by Denver-based Catholic Health Initiatives, is located downtown Chattanooga, TN. In 2004, Memorial was named one of the "100 Top Teaching Hospitals" by Thomson Reuters.
 - ▶ *Erlanger Health System* is a non-profit academic teaching center affiliated with the University of Tennessee's College of Medicine. Erlanger is also the area's primary trauma center, a Level-One Trauma Center for adults, and the only provider of tertiary care for the residents of southeastern Tennessee, north Georgia, northeastern Alabama, and western North Carolina. Erlanger treats approximately 250,000 people every year. In 2008, Erlanger was named one of the nation's "100 Top Teaching Hospitals for Cardiovascular Care" by Thomson Reuters.
 - ▶ *Parkridge Medical Center* is located east of downtown Chattanooga, TN in the Glenwood district and is run by Tri-Star Healthcare. Tri-Star also operates Parkridge East Medical Center in nearby East Ridge, Tennessee.

QUALITY OF LIFE

► Civil War History

- [Chickamauga Battlefield](#) located in Fort Oglethorpe, GA is the oldest and largest military park in the United States, founded in 1890 to commemorate the 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, the second bloodiest battle of the U.S. Civil War.
- [Old Stone Church Museum](#): Old Stone Church in Ringgold was used as a hospital for both Confederate and Union Troops wounded in the Battle of Ringgold and as a stable by the Union.
- [Ringgold Depot](#): The Ringgold Depot was significant in transporting Confederate soldiers during the Civil War and is one of the few remaining antebellum railroad depots in the state. It was the backdrop for the Great Locomotive Chase in 1862. From here General Sherman led his troops through Ringgold Gap to begin his campaign against Atlanta and the heart of the South.



Chickamauga Battlefield

QUALITY OF LIFE

▶ Recreation and Performing Arts

- ▶ *Catoosa County Parks and Recreation Department* houses numerous parks, gyms and ball fields with an abundance of youth and adult recreation options.
- ▶ *Northwest Georgia Amphitheatre* is a 3,500 seat outdoor entertainment and event venue managed and maintained by Catoosa County Parks and Recreation Department.
- ▶ *The Tennessee River Blueway* flows between the Nickajack and Chickamauga dams and includes three canoe launches in Catoosa County.
- ▶ *The Colonnade* is an indoor civic center and performing arts theatre located in Ringgold. It is managed by Catoosa County Government.

QUALITY OF LIFE

► More Sites & Amusements

- [Boyd's Speedway](#) located in Ringgold, GA is a 1/3-mile banked clay oval track has been hosting racers since 1952, including several NASCAR legends.
- Established in 1983, the [Georgia Winery](#), located in Ringgold, GA, is the first of its kind in Georgia and is the only winery in the Northwest Georgia and Chattanooga area.
- [Lake Winnepesaukah](#) located in Catoosa County, is a family amusement park that features 33 rides and a water park. The park opened in 1925 and got its name from New Hampshire's Lake Winnepesaukee.
- [SoakYa Water Park](#) is located in Catoosa County and features a lazy river, water slides and a toddler splash park with pint-sized slides and water play equipment.



Boyd's Speedway



Lake Winnepesaukah



For assistance on locating YOUR business in Catoosa County,
contact

Catoosa County Economic Development Authority

706-965-2500

www.catoosaeda.org