

## Pierce County, Georgia

Located 245 miles southeast of Atlanta.



Population			Latest data available	
Year	County	GA (millions)	U.S. (millions)	
2007	17,881	9.5	304	
2005	17,119	9.1	296	
2004	16,720	8.8	296	

Per Capita Income			
Year	County	GA	U.S.
2006	\$23,001	\$32,095	\$36,714
2005	\$22,383	\$30,914	\$34,471
2004	\$28,504	\$29,782	\$33,050



### Education

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: 4 county public schools with 212 teachers, 3,263 students, and 146 high school graduates in 2005; 1 private school with 4 students in 2005.

#### HIGHER EDUCATION:

Technical College: Okefenokee at Waycross (9 miles) with 1,800 students.

2-yr: South Georgia College at Douglas (48 miles) with 1,361 students; Waycross College at Waycross (9 miles) with 900 students.

4-yr: Georgia Institute of Technology at Atlanta (249 miles) with 15,575 students; Georgia Southern University at Statesboro (90 miles) with 15,075 students; Valdosta State University at Valdosta (70 miles) with 9,900 students.

### Local Taxes

PROPERTY: Property taxes are determined by tax rates and assessment ratios which vary by location. The only realistic way to compare property taxes from different locations is to use 'effective tax rates' (tax rate multiplied by assessment ratio). Effective tax rates combine city, county, school, and state tax rates into one convenient figure -- the annual tax for each \$1000 of property at its fair market value. This rate applies to all property: land, buildings, machinery, equipment, and inventory.

#### Effective Rates:

City	Year	Within City	Outside City
Blackshear	2007	\$14.34	\$8.82

SALES: City and county have 3% local sales tax in addition to the 4% state sales tax.

### Incentives/Exemptions

INVENTORY (Freeport): *Freeport* is the general term used for the exemption of ad valorem tax on inventories as defined by Georgia law. The law offers manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers and warehouse operations an attractive inventory tax exemption on three classes of property.

Pierce County and Blackshear exempt 100% on all three classes of certain business inventory from property taxation.

JOB TAX CREDIT: Tier: 2, Amount: \$2,500 as of 2009

Tier refers to the economic well-being of a county. For more information go to <http://www.dca.state.ga.us/economic/TaxCredits/programs/taxcredit.asp>

JOINT DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY: Yes

## Municipal Services

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FIRE PROTECTION: 15 volunteer personnel. Fire insurance classification 7.

ZONING: City has zoning ordinance and subdivision design standards.

## Transportation

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COMMERCIAL AIRPORT: Brunswick-Golden Isles Airport (45 miles) service by ASA; Jacksonville Airport (79 miles) service by ASA, AirTran, American, American Eagle, Comar, Continental, Continental Express, Delta, Northwest, Southwest, United Express, US Airways, US Airways Express.

GENERAL AVIATION AIRPORT: Brunswick-Golden Isles Airport (45 miles) with a 8,000 feet Bituminous runway, aircraft tiedown, airframe & power plant repair, hangar, lighted runway, VOR, ILS, NDB; Waycross Airport (9 miles) with a 5,100 feet bituminous runway, aircraft tiedown, airframe & power plant repair, hangar, lighted runway, NDB, VOR, ILS, localizer.

RAIL: CSX piggyback - Savannah (93 miles); CSX rail - Blackshear (local); Norfolk Southern piggyback - Savannah (93 miles).

WATER:

Navigable River: Altamaha River (9 foot channel depth) with public barge dock at Brunswick (45 miles).

Seaport: Brunswick Seaport (45 miles) with maintained channel depth of 32 feet.

## Utilities

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ELECTRICITY: A part of Georgia's modern integrated electrical transmission system, Pierce County has excellent ability to supply industrial demands. Compared to 47% for the U.S., coal accounts for 84% of fuel used by the state's power generating plants. This assures long-term continuity.

Blackshear is served by Georgia Power Co. Oglethorpe Power serves portions of county through member REMC's. If demand exceeds 900kw, any supplier can step in and offer service.

NATURAL GAS: Available in industrial quantities on both a firm and an interruptible basis.

WATER: Plant capacity: 750,000 gal/day. Consumption: 400,000 gal/day average, 500,000 gal/day maximum. Elevated storage capacity: 75,000 gal. Source: 3 deep wells. Pumping capacity: 18,000 gal/min.

SEWER: Plant Capacity: 500,000 gal/day; Plant Load: 400,000 gal/day; Secondary treatment plant.

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