

**Contact: Tim Young**  
City of Locust Grove  
Phone: (770) 957-5043  
Fax: (770) 957-1223

PO Box 900, 3644 Hwy 42  
Locust Grove, GA 30248  
www.locustgrove-ga.gov



**LOCUST** EST.  
**GROVE** 1893

---

# PRESS RELEASE

## 2020 Vintage Population Estimates Released by Census

*The pace of growth accelerated with massive wave of population increase between 2017 – 2020 as the Great Recession recovery and housing boom took off.*

**Locust Grove, GA May 28, 2021:** The US Census Bureau released data between May 4, 2021 and May 27, 2021 (See accompanying charts) regarding population estimates as of July 1, 2020, and changes since the last decennial census for cities, counties and other Census-Defined Places. The release of Vintage 2020 estimates provides the opportunity to make comparisons with the 2020 Census to evaluate the accuracy of the estimates. The Vintage 2020 estimates are based on the 2010 Census and were created without incorporation or consideration of the 2020 Census results.

**Henry County during the last decade.** The County registered its highest percentage growth in the late 1990s and early 2000s (6% to 9% annual growth) and now posted more moderate growth in the last decade as a whole with a population of 239,139, an increase of 35,217 people and 17.3% overall growth rate.

**Locust Grove Posts Record Growth for Cities.** The City of Locust Grove grew 68.3% between 2010 and 2020 from 5,402 to 9,091. In particular, the rate of growth between 2018 – 2019 was 14.8% and then 10.1% between 2019 and 2020. An accompanying map shows the areas of development between 2016 to 2020 where development began to pick up in previously-developed subdivisions in 2016 – 2017 before exploding in 2018 into every undeveloped subdivision and development of new lots and homes. This pace continues into the Pandemic year as relocation from larger urban areas to Atlanta suburbs increased.

**Henry County Cities.** Henry County cities in total grew nearly 75% faster than the unincorporated county as a whole (25% compared with 14%) with Stockbridge remaining the county's most populous city at 30,125 (18% growth rated in decade); followed by McDonough at 27,582 (25%); Locust Grove at 9,091 (68%); and Hampton at 8,184 (17%). McDonough added the largest number of new residents at 5,498, followed by Stockbridge (4,489), Locust Grove (3,689) and Hampton (1,197).

**The Atlanta Region.** For the Atlanta Region as a whole, growth continues to center primarily along the wedge between I-75 and I-85 north of I-285 and centered along the GA 400 Corridor. Forsyth leads the region and is one of the fastest growing in the nation, increasing by 43% since 2010 and is now larger than Henry County at 250,847 residents. Cherokee, Gwinnett and its "satellite suburbs" of Barrow and Jackson Counties along with Forsyth's own satellite suburb of Dawson County post higher overall rates of growth than Henry County.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

The Atlanta – Athens-Clarke County – Sandy Springs, GA-AL Combined Metropolitan Statistical Area (CSA) showed an overall increase of 873,657 people with a total population of 6,928,515 residents.

**Noted Disparities in Growth and Development Patterns.** There are two patterns of disparity in the growth of the overall region during the last decade. First, there is a pattern for more growth within the “Central Urban Counties” meaning the well-established areas of urban development nearer to employment and a mixed-use lifestyle (i.e., City of Atlanta posting some of the largest percentages of growth for cities over 500,000 in this decade). The opposite is true for the farther-flung exurban counties, with decreases in population in portions of LaGrange (Chambers County, AL), Toccoa (Stephens County, GA), Thomaston (Upson County, GA), and finally Meriwether County, GA, who posted an overall decrease of nearly 4% over the decade.

**Equity in Growth.** The second disparity is the favor of development of areas North of I-20 than South, which although historically the case, almost every county below Interstate 20 posted rates of growth less than the entire region as a whole with exception of the Central Counties of Coweta and Henry, primarily due to their continued development as large employment centers. Given the existence of these new “satellite suburbs” of Gwinnett and Forsyth Counties, the data needs to be monitored for any growing inequities in the Region.

For maps and data compiled from the Census data release, see the Community Development Department page of the City of Locust Grove website: <https://www.locustgrove-ga.gov/our-government/city-departments/community-development>

For information about the Census Population Estimates Program, follow the link below:  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates.html>

Please call Tim Young, City Manager at (770) 957-5043 for more information.

Attachments:

- Atlanta CSA Vintage 2020 Estimates of Population by County/MSA
- Henry County / Cities Vintage 2020 Estimates of Population
- Locust Grove Development Map 2016 – 2020 by period of construction