

# Valdosta-Lowndes County

est. 1825

Industrial Authority

QUICK FACTS

## Location

- Commercial, retail, and cultural hub of region
- 60-minute flight to Atlanta
- Convenient access to major highways, transportation hubs and rest of country
- Access to nearby international airports
- Four colleges and universities in community
- Home of Moody Air Force Base
- Long, hot summers and short, mild winters; average temperature is 66.1 degrees
- Typical rainfall is 51 inches per year

## Transportation

- Access to Interstate 75, a major trade route
- Rail Service by Norfolk Southern, CSX Transportation, and Valdosta Railway
- With 5,000 miles of track, Georgia's rail system is most extensive in Southeastern United States
- Access to costal ports, including Savannah
- In 2010, Georgia ranked 12th among U.S. States in dollar value of exports and exported to 216 countries and territories (export.gov)

## Population and Affordability

- Georgia is the seventh fastest-growing state (2010)
- Valdosta Metropolitan Statistical Area is Georgia's 10th largest (of 15)
- Valdosta MSA's cost-of-living is 4.3 percent less than national average (2011)

## Business Focused

- Forbes "Best Small Places to do Business"
- Third in Georgia for "Cost of Doing Business"; 91st in nation (Forbes, 2011)
- Work Ready certified
- Incentive zones: Tier 3, Opportunity, HUB, Military
- ISO fire rating of 2

## Diversified Economy

- Industrial base strong on logistics and distribution, health care, agribusiness, corporate
- Center of 17-county market area with population of 500,000
- Strong retail sector with growth opportunities
- Existing industries include South Georgia Pecan, Steeda Autosports, Letica Corp., Martin's Famous Pastry Shoppe, DuPont, Regal Marine, SAFT America, Langdale Forest

## Education

- Four colleges and universities
- School system enrollment of approximately 17,750 students
- 12 private schools

## Recreation

- Voted ESPN's "TitleTown USA" by fans across America in 2008
- Wild Adventures Water & Theme Park
- Fishing, hunting, golf
- Theater, symphony, art galleries
- The Azalea Festival, Downtown Christmas Festival, parades, marathon, college sports

## Demographics (U.S. Census Bureau)

- City population: 46,699 (2010)
- County population: 109,233
- Valdosta Metropolitan Statistical Area Population: 139,588
- Total Population Median Age: 31.3
- People in labor force (over 16, county): 58,089
- Median household income (county): \$40,728
- Per capita income (county): \$19,757

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