

# CHAPTER 2 POPULATION



# POPULATION

## 2.1 Introduction

The population element is a key component of the Comprehensive Plan. The information derived from population data creates a basis upon which a community can evaluate and determine the structure of all the other planning elements. Historic population data illustrate a community's total population trends in age characteristics, sex and race statistics, and educational attainment levels. Analysis of these numbers allows a community to see the changes that have occurred in its population over time. Historic population trends place a community's population growth or decline in perspective and inform the other planning elements.

Population projections, based on past trends, help communities plan for their future by providing information regarding expected degree of population growth or decline. Although these numbers are only indicators of what will probably happen, they allow planning for future provisions of services, facilities, jobs, and housing. This data facilitates one of the primary functions of the planning process: to help communities set goals and policies and establish programs needed to ensure quality of life for existing and future residents.

## 2.2 General Population Trends

Over the past seven decades, the City of Griffin has experienced cycles of population growth and decline. According to the US Bureau of the Census, since 1930 the population of Griffin has grown from 10,321 to a 2002 estimate of 23,226. During that period however, Griffin's population declined between 1970 and 1980 from 22,734 persons to 20,728. It is also estimated to have slightly declined since the last census from 23,451 to 23,226.

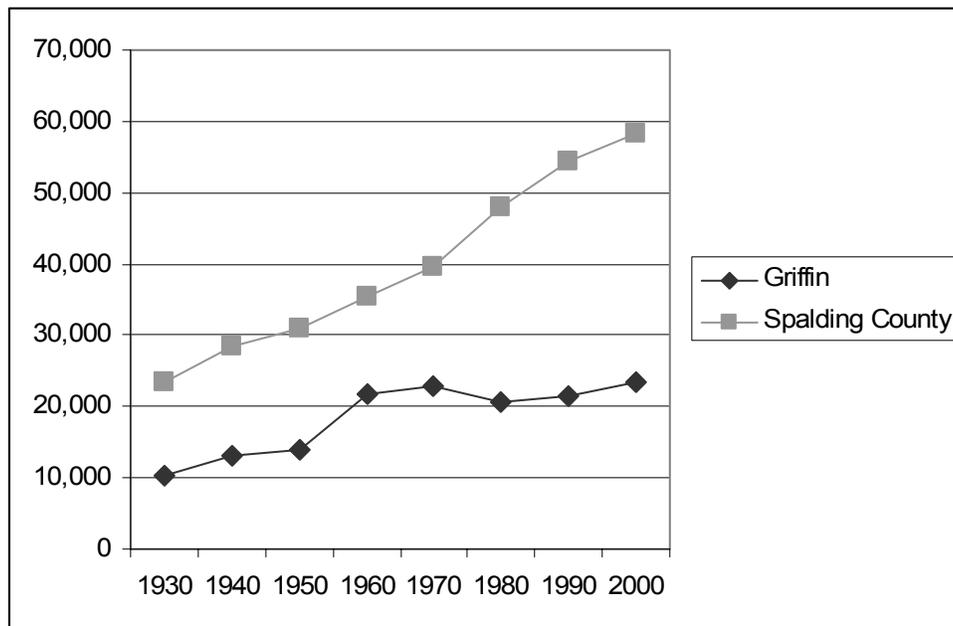
**Figure 2-1** and **Figure 2-2** provide the historic census counts from 1930 to 2000, and the 2002 estimate for the City of Griffin and Spalding County.

**Figure 2-1  
Total Population  
Griffin, Spalding County and Georgia  
1980 – 2002**

Year	Total Population		
	Griffin	Spalding County	Georgia
1980	20,728	47,899	5,462,982
1985	NA	50,841	5,962,708
1990	21,347	54,457	6,478,149
1995	21,785	57,035	7,188,538
2000	23,451	58,417	8,186,453
2002	23,226	59,410	8,560,310

*Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2003*

**Figure 2-2  
Population Change  
Griffin and Spalding County  
1930 – 2000**



**Figure 2-3** compares the annualized rates of population growth between Griffin, Spalding County, and Georgia. Griffin experienced slow, stable growth between 1980 and 1995. The City’s fastest, recent growth occurred during the late 1990s. The rate of population growth for both Georgia and Spalding County outpaced the City’s over the past 22 years.

**Figure 2-3**  
**Historic Rates of Population Change (Annualized Rate)**  
**Griffin, Spalding County and Georgia**  
**1980 – 2002**

Years	Griffin	Spalding County	Georgia
1980-1985	0.3%	1.2%	1.8%
1985-1990	0.3%	1.4%	1.7%
1990-1995	0.4%	0.9%	2.2%
1995-2000	1.5%	0.5%	2.8%
2000-2002	-0.5%	0.8%	2.3%

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

## 2.3 Composition of Population

This population composition inventory provides data on age groups, household sizes, income levels, and the educational attainment of the City’s residents. These data help assess Griffin’s needs throughout the planning horizon. This information is essential to determining the present and future needs of community housing, recreation areas, child care, schools, community facilities, social programs, and medical services for all age groups, including small children, teenagers, and the elderly.

### 2.3.1 Age Distribution

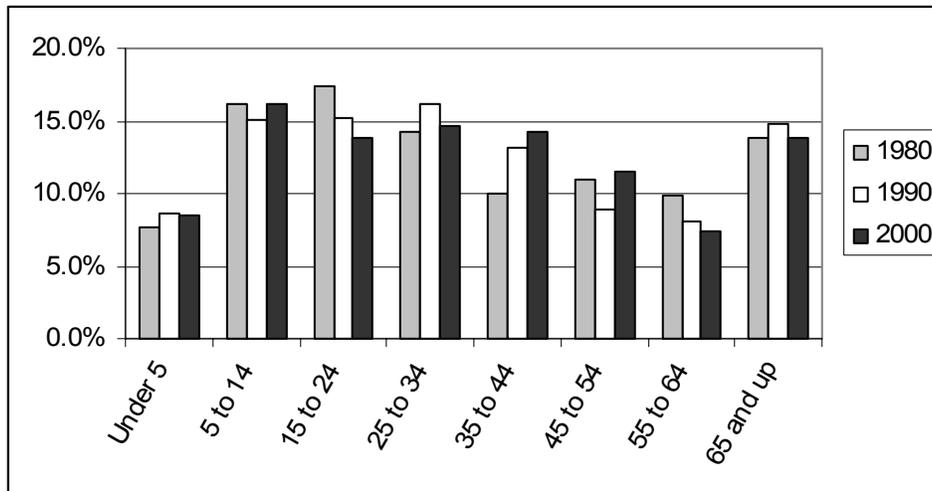
**Figure 2-4** provides the number of persons by age group for 1980, 1990, and 2000 for the City of Griffin. The “35 to 44” age bracket experienced the fastest growth of any age group over the past two decades. The “Under 5,” “25 to 34,” and “65 and up” brackets have all experienced consistent growth in total population. **Figure 2-5** graphically depicts the age distribution as a share of total population. Many of the age brackets have seen both positive and negative changes in their share of total population. The Baby Boomer generation can be seen most clearly in the large jump in the 35 to 44 age bracket between 1980 and 1990, and the increase in the 45 to 54 age bracket between 1990 and 2000. The most consistent decline in share of total population has occurred in the 55 to 64 age bracket.

**Figure 2-4  
Age Distribution of Residents  
Griffin  
1980 – 2000**

	1980	1990	2000
Under 5 years	1,590	1,834	1,985
5 to 14 years	3,363	3,223	3,797
15 to 24 years	3,606	3,234	3,236
25 to 34 years	2,941	3,444	3,451
35 to 44 years	2,065	2,812	3,330
45 to 54 years	2,266	1,901	2,690
55 to 64 years	2,036	1,732	1,725
65 and up	2,861	3,167	3,237

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau*

**Figure 2-5  
Population Age Distribution  
Griffin  
1980 – 2000**



### 2.3.2 Race Distribution

The Griffin population is primarily white and black with a small percentage of other races (Figure 2-6). The African-American population increased from 1980 to 2000 by 2,888. The population of whites declined sharply during the 1980s, followed by a slight increase of 88 residents during the 1990s. As of the 2000 Census, there is no majority race in Griffin; African-Americans are the most populous comprising 49.9% of the total population.

During the 1990s, Griffin saw a resurgence in its Hispanic population, increasing dramatically from 63 residents in 1990 to 520 in 2000. Similar growth in the Hispanic population is occurring throughout Georgia.

**Figure 2-6  
Griffin, Racial Composition  
1980 – 2000**

	<b>1980</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>
White population	11,834	10,930	11,018
Black population	8,809	10,205	11,697
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut population	19	34	39
Asian or Pacific Islander population	47	139	239
Other race population	19	39	229
Hispanic origin (any race)	251	63	520
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau</i>			

### **2.3.3 Education**

This section includes two types of data: metrics from the local public schools and educational attainment. Metrics from the local schools include the dropout rate and standardized test scores. This data allow the local school system’s performance to be tracked over time and compared against other districts. Educational attainment is the number of years in school that residents in the community have attained. The implications of educational attainment data include evaluation of local public educational programs, technical schools or training encouraged, and/or additional programs to assure a labor force sufficiently qualified for the existing or future economic base.

Education is generally the costliest service that a local government provides and its operations touch directly on the lives of many of the families within the community. It is important to evaluate the quality of education being provided, to gauge the effectiveness of this public service, and to insure that tax dollars are being spent in a productive manner. Maintaining high educational levels is also important for economic development; a good public school system can insure that a community will have an educated workforce in the years to come as well as attract businesses and residents seeking superior education.

**Figure 2-7** provides test score levels and dropout rates for the Griffin-Spalding School System. The high dropout rate within the system is alarming: 6.7% for grades 6 through 12 and 11.7% for grades 9 through 12 (compared to 3.4% and 5.8% for the state). While these rates declined between the 2001 and 2002 school years, they remain nearly twice as high as the state’s. The system falls behind state averages on four of the remaining six measures. The share of students performing well on their AP exams is slightly higher than the state average. Fifty-one percent of the graduates from Griffin-Spalding school system enrolled in a Georgia school of higher education, including both universities and technical schools.

**Figures 2-8** and **2-9** record the educational attainment of Griffin, Spalding County, the surrounding counties and Georgia. Griffin showed marked increase in the number of residents with a high school diploma or higher or a bachelor’s degree or higher. Compared with Spalding and surrounding counties, the share of Griffin’s residents with a bachelor’s degree or higher is

quite good at 16.4%. The City's share of high school graduates, however, lags behind most surrounding counties as well as the state.

**Figure 2-7**  
**Education Characteristics**  
**Griffin-Spalding County School System and Georgia**  
**1999 – 2002**

	Griffin-Spalding County School System			Georgia		
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
<b>Dropout Rate, Grades 6-12 (percent)</b>	6.5	8.9	6.7	3.8	3.7	3.4
<b>Grade 8 Writing Assessment</b>	351	353	353	354	357	357
<b>High School Graduation Tests (percentage of eleventh graders passing on first administration)</b>						
<i>All components except writing</i>	66	65	69	68	65	69
<i>Writing</i>	81	89	85	90	92	87
<b>College Admissions/Credit Test Data</b>						
<i>SAT highest average math and verbal average scores, total</i>	983	988	978	984	991	991
<i>ACT composite score</i>	19.7	19.3	19.6	19.9	19.9	19.8
<i>AP exams, percent of test scores 3 or higher</i>	66	54	57	56	52	56
<i>Source: Georgia Department of Education, 2003</i>						

**Figure 2-8**  
**Education Attainment**  
**Griffin, Spalding County, Surrounding Counties and Georgia**  
**1990**

	<b>Griffin</b>	<b>Spalding</b>	<b>Butts</b>	<b>Fayette</b>	<b>Henry</b>	<b>Lamar</b>	<b>Pike</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
Persons 25 years and over	13,209	33,651	9,748	39,171	36,993	8,153	6,491	4,023,420
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	2,626	6,021	1,586	1,709	3,200	1,577	1,043	483,755
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> grade, no diploma	3,146	7,447	2,471	3,565	6,816	1,844	1,236	686,060
High school graduate	3,352	10,898	3,590	11,800	14,103	2,713	2,518	1,192,935
Some college, no degree	1,663	4,338	1,150	9,273	6,844	949	894	684,109
Associate degree	526	1,214	248	2,726	2,072	251	199	199,403
Bachelor's degree	1,228	2,333	421	7,320	2,745	520	367	519,613
Graduate or professional degree	668	1,400	282	2,778	1,213	299	234	257,545
Percent high school graduate or higher	56.3	60.0	58.4	86.5	72.9	58.0	64.9	70.9
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	14.4	11.1	7.2	25.8	10.7	10.0	9.3	19.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census

**Figure 2-9**  
**Education Attainment**  
**Griffin, Spalding County, Surrounding Counties and Georgia**  
**2000**

	<b>Griffin</b>	<b>Spalding Butts</b>	<b>Fayette</b>	<b>Henry</b>	<b>Lamar</b>	<b>Pike</b>	<b>Georgia</b>
Persons 25 years and over	14,497	37,110	59,016	75,501	10,227	8,833	5,185,965
Less than 9th grade	1,845	4,041	1,313	3,069	952	745	393,197
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	3,391	7,924	3,189	8,838	1,979	1,438	718,152
High school graduate	4,208	12,885	5,208	25,901	3,789	3,539	1,486,006
Some college, no degree	2,209	6,145	2,208	17,907	1,912	1,459	1,058,692
Associate degree	471	1,487	4,268	5,026	444	415	269,740
Bachelor's degree	1,625	3,106	14,111	10,215	690	902	829,873
Graduate or professional degree	748	1,522	7,236	4,545	461	335	430,305
Percent high school graduate or higher	63.9	67.8	92.4	84.2	71.3	75.3	78.6
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	16.4	12.8	36.2	19.5	11.3	14.0	24.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census

### 2.3.4 Households

**Figure 2-10** compiles total households and average household size data for the City of Griffin. Due to declining household size over the past thirty years, the number of households in Griffin increased at a rate faster than did total population.

This is not just a local trend but also a state and national trend. In the past, the number of household's rate of increase was much slower than the total population growth rate and household size was larger. People typically reared more children and multi-generational households were more common than today. However, the birth rate is declining and there are more single household dwellers. A larger percentage of people are choosing not to marry. The divorce rate has also increased significantly in recent decades. Married couples are waiting longer to have children and are raising smaller families. Women are working in greater numbers, thus making it more difficult to raise larger families. In addition, it is typical for the elderly to be moved into a care facility when they are unable to care for themselves rather than receiving permanent care from a family member. These factors are responsible for the increasing number of total households and declining average household sizes in our society.

**Figure 2-10**  
**Number of Households and Household Size**  
**Griffin**  
**1970-2000**

	Total number of households	Average household size
1970	7,255	3.13
1980	7,512	2.76
1990	8,076	2.64
1995	8,315	2.62
2000	8,876	2.60
<i>Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Jordan, Jones &amp; Goulding</i>		

### 2.3.5 Income Levels

Per capita income levels in Spalding County have remained below the state average since 1980 (**Figure 2-11**). Data for Griffin is not available in the same format for comparison; however, **Figure 2-12** provides historic income level data for Griffin in actual dollars and 2000 dollars. In 1999, the per capita income level for Griffin was lower than the per capita income level for Spalding County and the state of Georgia for 2000. Though these are two different data sources, this finding does suggest that income levels are higher outside of the City.

**Figure 2-11**  
**Per Capita Income (2000 Dollars)**  
**Spalding County and Georgia**  
**1980 –2000**

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Spalding County	15,460	16,832	18,476	20,427	23,391
Georgia	16,822	20,284	22,677	24,406	28,343

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census*

**Figure 2-12**  
**Per Capita Income**  
**Griffin**  
**1979-1999**

	1979	1989	1999
Griffin (Actual Dollars)	5,768	10,520	15,563
Griffin (2000 Dollars)	13,681	15,571	16,086

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census*

Household income for Spalding County and Georgia appears in **Figure 2-13**. Actual household income has increased in the City of Griffin, however, when adjusted for inflation household income decreased between 1979 and 1989, but increased between 1989 and 1999 (**Figure 2-14**).

**Figure 2-13**  
**Mean Household Income (2000 Dollars)**  
**Spalding County and Georgia**  
**1980 –2000**

	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Spalding County	45,225	47,336	51,077	55,995	62,645
Georgia	47,879	55,696	60,643	65,102	75,416

*Source: Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., 2003*

**Figure 2-14**  
**Median Household Income**  
**Griffin**  
**1979-1999**

	1979	1989	1999
Griffin (Actual Dollars)	16,060	20,915	30,088
Griffin (2000 Dollars)	38,093	29,045	31,099

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census*

The distribution of income in Griffin is provided in **Figure 2-15**. Griffin has a higher share of households with incomes less than \$35,000 and a lower share of households with incomes

greater than \$35,000. This discrepancy is greatest with the highest and lowest income groups. For example, Georgia has twice the percentage of households with incomes over \$100,000 than Griffin. In 1999, the median household income was \$30,088 compared to the state's \$42,433.

**Figure 2-15**  
**Household Income Distribution**  
**Griffin**  
**1999**

<b>Income Range</b>	<b>Number of Households</b>	<b>Percent of Households</b>	<b>Percent of Georgia Households</b>
<\$10,000	1,525	17.2	10.1
\$10,000 – \$14,999	829	9.4	5.9
\$15,000 – \$24,999	1,387	15.7	12.3
\$25,000 – \$34,999	1,374	15.5	12.6
\$35,000 – \$49,999	1,385	15.6	16.7
\$50,000 - \$74,999	1,244	14.0	19.7
\$75,000 - \$99,999	566	6.4	10.4
≥100,000	550	6.2	12.4

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census*

**Figure 2-16** summarizes poverty status data for Griffin and Georgia from the latest Census. Poverty levels in Griffin are significantly higher than Georgia as a whole. Across each of the populations included in the table, Griffin's rate of poverty is roughly twice as high as the state's. The number of families in poverty, families with children, individuals, and elderly all have poverty rates approximately twice as high as the statewide rates. One in five residents of Griffin lives in poverty. And one in six of the city's families lives in poverty. The poverty rate did decline slightly during the 1990s from 23% to 21%.

**Figure 2-16**  
**Poverty Status**  
**Griffin**  
**1999**

	<b>Griffin</b>		<b>Georgia</b>
	<b>Count</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Total families	6,018	100.0	100.0
Families in poverty	1,068	17.7	9.9
With children under 18	869	14.4	7.7
With children under 5	462	7.7	3.7
Total individuals	23,451	100.0	100.0
Total individuals in poverty	4,908	21.4	13.0
Individuals 65 years and over	489	2.1	1.2

*Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000*

## 2.4 Population Projections

Internal as well as external forces may influence the future population of an area. The development that takes place in another city or county can occasionally have a profound impact on an area's future population. Examples of internal forces include an area's transportation accessibility, housing opportunities, economic development trends, and infrastructure capabilities. These are some of the factors that can have an influential role in determining an area's future population totals.

Attempting to predict demographic changes with accuracy is often difficult. Utilizing previous and current demographic trends is beneficial in projecting future population totals. The integration of internal (listed above) and external factors is also a component of the population projection. Typically, there is a range of population totals to choose from; these reflect different population scenarios.

For this plan, three population scenarios are presented in **Figure 2-17** and illustrated graphically in **Figure 2-18**. The High Forecast is based on the preferred population projection from the 1999 Comprehensive Plan for Griffin. The cohort-survival based projection incorporates birth rates, death rates, and migration and has been updated with the latest Census 2000 data. The forecast presented here incorporates a policy of attracting 100 additional residents to Griffin per year via various city policies. This method yielded a 2025 population for Griffin of 29,566. The medium projection is based on a geometric extrapolation of population trends between 1980 and 2002.<sup>1</sup> The low forecast comes from the Spalding County Comprehensive Plan. This more conservative number hedges against new annexation by the city and assumes a modest, stable rate of positive growth for Griffin's population.

The cohort with policy (High) projection requires that the government of Griffin adopt policies to encourage persons to reside in the city. Both the **Housing** and **Economic Development** elements include goals and policies aimed at increasing the population and retaining existing residents. The objective is to reverse the negative net migration of the city to a positive by providing employment opportunities and improved quality of life for the residents of Griffin.

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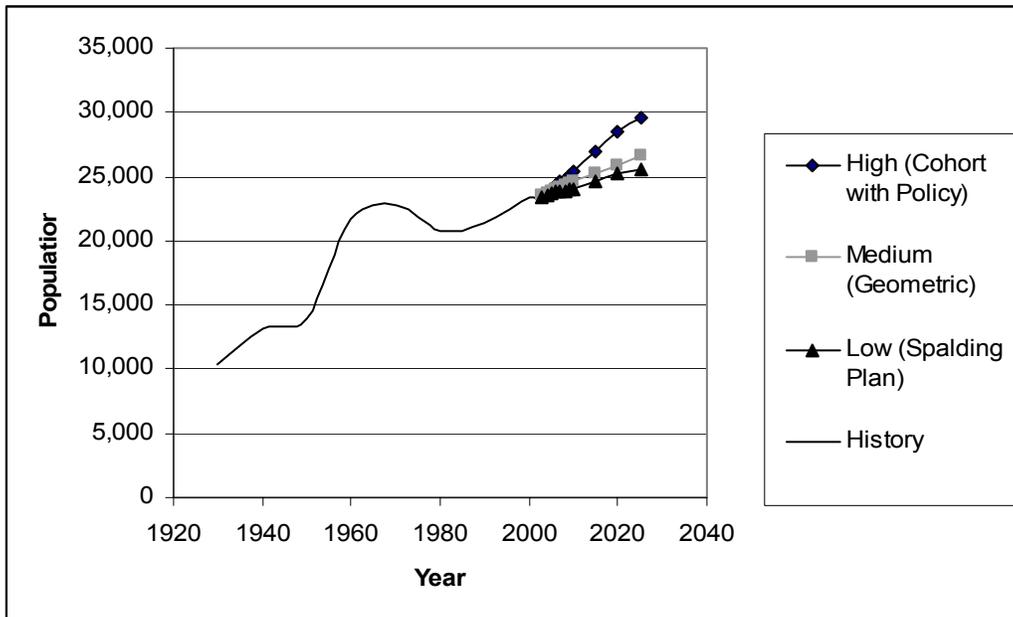
1. A linear regression was employed ( $r^2 = 0.91$ ).

**Figure 2-17  
Projected Total Population  
Griffin  
2000-2025**

<b>Year</b>	<b>High Forecast</b>	<b>Medium Forecast</b>	<b>Low Forecast</b>
2000*	23,451	23,451	23,451
2002**	23,226	23,226	23,226
2003	23,489	23,487	23,403
2004	23,751	23,748	23,579
2005	24,014	23,884	23,756
2006	24,294	24,020	23,801
2007	24,575	24,156	23,847
2008	24,855	24,292	23,892
2009	25,135	24,428	23,938
2010	25,416	24,565	23,983
2015	26,911	25,245	24,575
2020	28,503	25,926	25,170
2025	29,566	26,607	25,506

*Source: Jordan, Jones & Goulding, US Bureau of the Census.*  
 Notes: \* = Observation. \*\* = Estimate.

**Figure 2-18  
Projected Total Population  
Griffin  
2000-2025**



Residents outside the Griffin city limits will use some City facilities. Therefore, projections for Spalding County are needed to assist in determining public facility needs for the City. **Figure 2-19** provides projections for Spalding County similar to the ones provided for the City.

**Figure 2-19**  
**Projected Total Population**  
**Spalding County**  
**2000-2025**

Year	Low Projection	Middle Projection	High Projection
2000*	58,417	58,417	58,417
2001**	59,076	59,076	59,076
2002**	59,410	59,410	59,410
2003	-	62,107	-
2004	-	64,803	-
2005	61,800	65,670	63,300
2006	-	66,548	-
2007	-	67,437	-
2008	-	68,338	-
2009	-	69,269	-
2010	65,000	70,200	72,600
2015	69,000	75,000	85,800
2020	72,400	79,200	94,400
2025	75,885	85,632	103,000

*Source: Draft Spalding County 2004-2024 Comprehensive Plan, JJG, November 2003*  
 Notes: \* = Observation. \*\* = Estimate.

**Figure 2-20** compiles household size and total household trends for Griffin. After having declined for decades, average household size is expected to stabilize around 2.6 persons per household. Total households are expected to exceed 10,000 for the first time in the city’s history by 2025.

**Figure 2-20**  
**Historic and Projected Number of Households and Household Size**  
**Griffin**  
**1980–2025**

	<b>Total number of households</b>	<b>Persons per household</b>
1980	7,512	2.76
1990	8,076	2.64
2000	8,876	2.62
2005	9,116	2.62
2010	9,485	2.59
2015	9,710	2.60
2020	9,933	2.61
2025	10,117	2.63

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau; Woods and Poole Economics, 2002; Jordan, Jones & Goulding*

Finally, the age distribution of a population will have an impact on the type of public facilities needed for a community. **Figure 2-21** projects age distribution based on the Middle Projection.

## **2.5 Summary of Key Findings**

- Since 1930, Griffin has experienced cycles of population growth and decline. The latest estimate of total city population in 2002 is 23,226. It has dropped slightly since the 2000 Census, which counted 23,451 people in the city.
- Since 1980, the “35 to 44” age bracket has experienced the fastest growth of any age group. The most consistent decline over that period has been the “15 to 24” age bracket.
- African-Americans are most populous racial group in the city, comprising 49.9% of the population. The white population comprises 46.4% of the population. Other racial groups comprise only 3.7% of the population.
- Both Griffin and Spalding County lag behind the State in terms of educational attainment. 63.9% of the city’s population are high school graduates, while 16.4% have a bachelor’s degree or higher. The state’s educational attainment figures are 78.6% are high school graduates, while 24.3% have a bachelor’s degree or higher.
- The average household size in Griffin is 2.6 persons per household.
- The poverty rate in Griffin is higher than that of both Spalding County and the State. In 1999, the city’s poverty rate stood at 21.4%, compared to the state’s poverty rate of 13%. The mean household income in 1999 was \$30,088, and the per capita income was only \$15,563.
- By 2025, the population of Griffin is anticipated to reach somewhere between 25,506 and 29,566. The average household size is anticipated to rise slightly to 2.63. The percentage of the population over 65 is anticipated to rise from 13.8% to 16.3%.

**Figure 2-21**  
**Projected Population Age Distribution**  
**Griffin**  
**2000-2025**

	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2015	2020	2025
Under 5 years	1,985	1,799	1,807	1,818	1,831	1,848	1,869	1,890	1,960	1,994	2,005
5 to 14 years	3,797	3,552	3,528	3,492	3,466	3,448	3,441	3,505	3,676	3,832	3,942
15 to 24 years	3,236	3,310	3,358	3,415	3,427	3,462	3,505	3,465	3,403	3,395	3,568
25 to 34 years	3,451	3,182	3,207	3,189	3,235	3,235	3,215	3,207	3,350	3,441	3,387
35 to 44 years	3,330	3,403	3,345	3,324	3,274	3,262	3,226	3,226	3,178	3,163	3,300
45 to 54 years	2,690	3,247	3,298	3,358	3,392	3,427	3,459	3,438	3,244	3,150	3,126
55 to 64 years	1,725	2,440	2,486	2,529	2,597	2,594	2,652	2,730	2,930	3,069	2,926
65 and up	3,237	2,814	2,855	2,895	2,934	3,016	3,060	3,103	3,505	3,881	4,353
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,451</b>	<b>23,748</b>	<b>23,884</b>	<b>24,020</b>	<b>24,156</b>	<b>24,292</b>	<b>24,428</b>	<b>24,565</b>	<b>25,245</b>	<b>25,926</b>	<b>26,607</b>

Source: US Bureau of the Census; Jordan, Jones & Goulding