



Greater Valdosta United Way



2021 DATA

*ALICE in Georgia: A Study of Financial Hardship is brought to you by United Ways of Georgia in partnership with United For ALICE, a driver of innovative research and action around financial hardship for **ALICE** (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) households. United For ALICE and United Ways across Georgia share this work with foundations, government, corporations, and other nonprofits to inform policy and promote positive change for ALICE households.*

Out of the 3.95 million households in Georgia, over 1.8 million – 47% – had income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2021. In 2007, only 32% had income below the threshold.

The ALICE Household Survival Budget for a Georgia family of four with two adults, an infant, and a preschooler in 2021 was \$61,164, well above the FPL at \$26,500 and full-time earnings for most low-wage jobs in the state.

The Household Stability Budget, which accounts for a slightly higher standard of living and a 10% savings category, in Georgia reached a high of \$47,112 per year for a single adult and \$96,984 for a family of four depending on county.

2019 to 2021, the total number of households in Georgia increased by 3% and the number of households below the Threshold increased by 1% (from 1.85 million to 1.87 million)



HOUSING AVAILABILITY

There is a shortage of 200,000 affordable rental units at or below 30% of Area Median Income in Georgia



LACK OF SAVINGS

42% of families below the ALICE Threshold in Georgia have emergency savings or rainy-day funds compared to 80% above the threshold



MENTAL HEALTH

According to the Household Pulse Survey, 22% of respondents below the Threshold reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge nearly every day



STRUGGLING TO PAY BILLS

56% of households below the ALICE Threshold in Georgia said it was somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual items such as food, rent or mortgage, car payments, and medical expenses



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Rural Counties

586,313 Georgia households live in predominantly rural counties. 52% of these households fall under the ALICE Threshold.

ALICE Threshold has worsened since 2021, including sustained high levels of food insufficiency, limited savings and assets, continued difficulty paying bills, and feeling of anxiety and depression.



Supply chain issues and inflation pushed prices up across the board - by 8% annually across the U.S. from 2021 to 2022, compared to less than 3% annually in the prior 10 years - straining ALICE households even more.



65% of the 20 most common occupations in Georgia, paid less than \$20 per hour in 2021.



The top 5 occupations with the highest percentage of workers below the ALICE Threshold in Georgia in 2021 were cooks, cashiers, stockers and order fillers, waiters and waitresses, and fast food and counter workers.

Only 23% of people age 16 and over had the security of a full time job with a salary



ALICE DATA WITHIN GUVW 11-COUNTY SERVICE AREA

COUNTY	HOUSEHOLDS	% ALICE + POVERTY	SINGLE ADULT*	FAMILY OF FOUR*
Atkinson	2,968	61% (1,819)	\$23,016	\$54,384
Bacon	3,874	56% (2,174)	\$23,988	\$54,384
Berrien	6,634	53% (3,532)	\$23,748	\$56,148
Brooks	6,004	57% (3,428)	\$25,404	\$58,548
Clinch	2,361	52% (1,221)	\$23,328	\$54,384
Coffee	14,934	55% (8,284)	\$23,988	\$54,384
Echols	1,327	61% (808)	\$26,124	\$59,496
Jeff Davis	5,246	59% (3,119)	\$23,328	\$52,068
Lanier	3,529	67% (2,370)	\$26,760	\$60,312
Lowndes	45,139	54% (24,329)	\$27,672	\$63,180
Ware	12,763	57% (7,294)	\$23,088	\$54,468

State Median Household Income Average \$66,559

*Annual Wage for Household Survival Budget

Scan here for more information on County- Specific Data, National Reports, the Economic Viability Dashboard, Legislative District Tool, Wage Tool, and more

