



## **Chattahoochee Valley Industrial Construction Economic and Workforce Profile Executive Summary**

### **Executive Briefing**

Highlights of population and labor force trends, labor force quality, target industry and occupation trends are excerpted below.

### **Population Trends**

- Between 2000 and 2006, the seven Georgia counties of the Chattahoochee Valley region grew from 249,051 to 254,794 people – an annual growth rate of 0.4 percent.
- The Chattahoochee Valley is expected to grow from a population of 254,794 in 2006 to an estimated 279,372 people in 2012. This represents a projected growth rate of 1.5 percent – a rate well above both the national average and near the state average.
- A significant primary source of growth will come from the estimated 33,000 military personnel, civilian workers, contractors and their dependents that will be moving to Fort Benning as a result of the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) process. The counties projected to be impacted the most will be Muscogee and Harris.
- When compared to the rest of the state, the Chattahoochee Valley Industrial Construction region has a lower proportion of its population among all age groups except for the 65 and over bracket and the youth brackets of 0-14 years and 15-24 years.

### **Labor Force Trends**

- During the past five years, the Chattahoochee Valley (including three adjacent Alabama counties) had a net increase of more than 26,000 jobs.
- Several key companies provide the bulk of the workforce in the targeted industrial construction industries (e.g., heavy and civil engineering construction, specialty trade contractors, non-residential building construction, and architectural and engineering services) including Standard Concrete Products, which employs 300 workers and Robinson Paving Company with 250 workers.
- The turnover rate for the targeted industrial construction industries is higher than the statewide average. However, the region's turnover rate for all NAICS categories is same as the state rate, reaching 11.3 percent in average.
- The proportion of the Chattahoochee Valley workforce aged 19-24 is slightly less than 14 percent, well over the statewide average of 11.7 percent.
- The Chattahoochee Valley has a relatively greater proportion of its construction workforce that is 19-24 year olds than does the rest of the state. Likewise, the region has a smaller proportion of construction workers among the 55-64 age cohort than the rest of the state, with the exception of specialty contractors.
- The percentage of female workers in all targeted industries is relatively small. The architectural and engineering services industry is 21.5 percent female, while the other three targeted industries are less than 18 percent female.



### **Labor Force Quality**

- In 2005, average income earnings in the Chattahoochee Valley region were approximately 13.8 percent lower than the statewide average. On average, workers in this region earned \$33,285 per year compared with \$38,632 statewide.
- Self-employed proprietors account for 13.2 percent of jobs in the area, up from 9.8 percent just a decade ago, but far below the state and national averages of 18.2 percent and 19.1 percent, respectively.
- Approximately 17 percent of area residents aged 25 and older have not completed high school. This figure is similar to the 16 percent of the U.S. and 18 percent of the Georgia population that have not completed high school.

### **Industry and Occupation Trends**

- In 2007, an estimated 14,400 people (from the region's Georgia and Alabama counties) were employed in the region's four targeted industrial construction industries. Almost two thirds of those workers – 66 percent – are found in the specialty trade contractors industry.
- Average annual earnings for workers in the targeted industries are nearly \$43,000.
- In the future, the region's targeted industrial construction industries will demand a ready workforce in several key occupations including: office clerks, general and operations managers, truck drivers, carpenters, construction laborers, first-line supervisors/managers of office and administrative support workers and secretaries except in the legal, medical and executive fields.
- In 2005, the region's universities and colleges awarded more than 1,200 degrees at the bachelor's level or above in the fields related to targeted industries, including a total of 552 degrees in business administration and management, 414 in civic, material, electrical and electronics, mechanical and industrial engineering, and 238 in architecture, architectural engineering, interior design, landscape and environmental architecture. In addition, more than 50 training certificates were awarded in carpentry, heating/AV/ventilation technology, and communications systems installations and repair.