Knocking at the College Door

Projections of High School Graduates

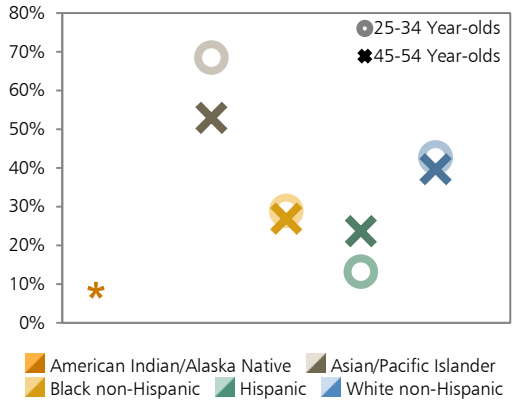
GEORGIA

National and regional trends mask important variation among states in the supply of high school graduates. This profile provides brief indicators for Georgia related to: current levels of educational attainment, our projections of high school graduates into the future, and two common barriers to student access and success – insufficient academic preparation and inadequate finances.

Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity[1]

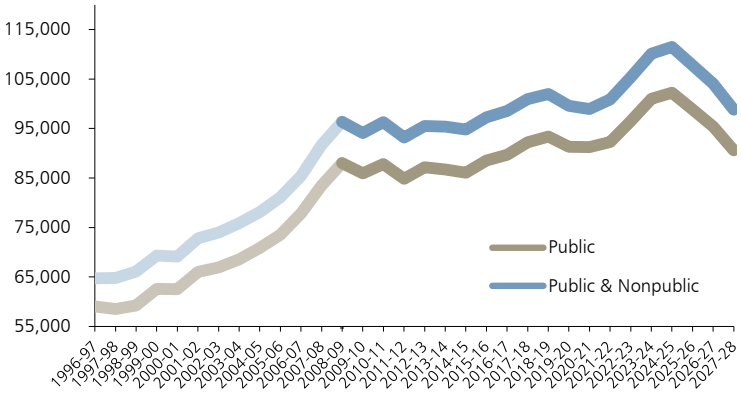
The overall rate at which Georgians hold an associate's degree or higher is flat for both younger working-age adults (aged 25-34) and older adults (aged 45-54) at about 35.5%. At a time when the economy is demanding a more highly-educated labor force, a lack of improvement across generations could be problematic.

Widening attainment gaps along racial/ethnic lines is partially responsible for the flat rates. Younger Asians/Pacific Islanders, White non-Hispanics, and Black non-Hispanics have higher degree rates than their older counterparts. On the other hand, younger Hispanics are much less likely to hold a postsecondary degree than their elders, 13% and 24%, respectively. Large gaps between the younger populations of different racial/ethnic groups are also evident beyond the margins of error: Hispanics trail Black non-Hispanics (29%), who trail White non-Hispanics (43%), who trail Asians/Pacific Islanders (69%). These gaps are wider than they are among older workers.



Note: No estimates are reported due to insufficient sample size or a coefficient of variation that exceeded 25% for at least one of the estimates.

Production of High School Graduates



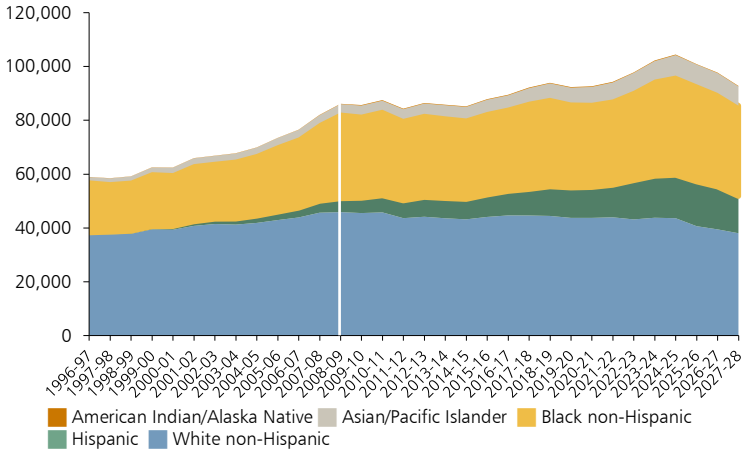
Georgia saw explosive growth in its high school graduate classes since 1993-94 all the way up to 2008-09, having increased by over 34,000 (55%) over that time. Projections indicate that growth will halt briefly before resuming within a few years. Graduate numbers are expected to flatten out between 2008-09 and 2014-15, before growth resumes through 2018-19. Following another modest dip through 2020-21, production is projected to pick up again, eventually topping 111,000 in 2024-25.

Nonpublic schools have produced between 8-10% of all Georgia graduates historically, and projections indicate they will retain roughly the same share through 2027-28.

Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

Projections indicate that White non-Hispanic public high school graduates from Georgia peaked in 2008-09 at 96,325, and this group can expect to see relatively stable numbers between 43,000 and 45,000 through 2024-25.

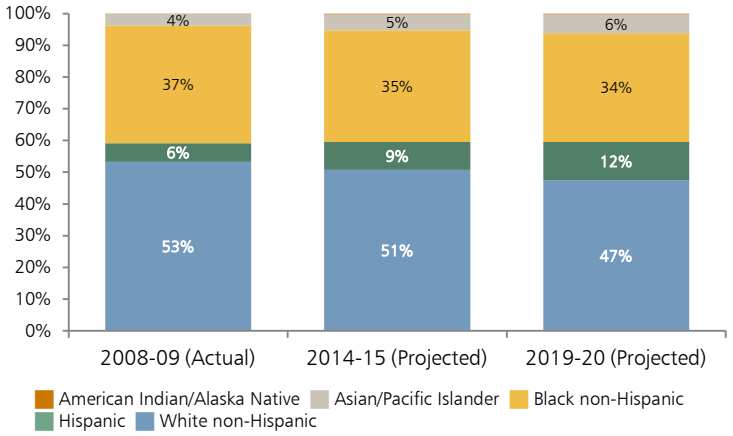
- Black non-Hispanic numbers are projected to follow a similar pattern: having peaked in 2008-09, they will hover between 30,000 and 32,000 through 2021-22.
- Hispanic graduates will continue rapid growth reaching 121% increase between 2008-09 and 2019-20, a rate faster than all but five other states.
- Asian/Pacific Islander graduates will also have a rate of increase faster than all but five other states, at 72%.
- American Indians/Alaska Natives are also projected for significant growth, but relative to their small numbers (140 graduates in 2008-09).



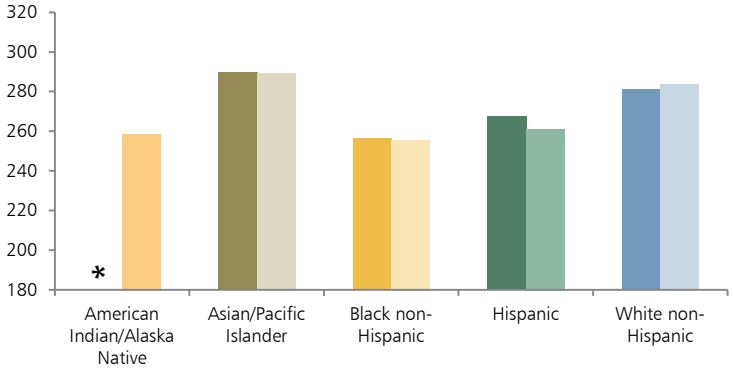
Composition of Public High School Graduates by Race/Ethnicity

The tremendous growth projected among Hispanics is the biggest factor in the rapid diversification of Georgia's public high school graduating classes.

- In 2008-09, White non-Hispanics accounted for 53% of the class, but projections indicate that will shrink to 47% in 2019-20. 2016-17 will mark the year Georgia will become 'majority-minority' with more non-White graduates than White non-Hispanic graduates.
- The share of Hispanics is projected to double to 12% between 2008-09 and 2019-20.
- Asians/Pacific Islanders will also be up 2 percentage points over the same timeframe, to 6%.
- Black non-Hispanics are projected to see their share decline, from 37% to 34%.



Composite Math and Reading Scores by Race/Ethnicity[2]



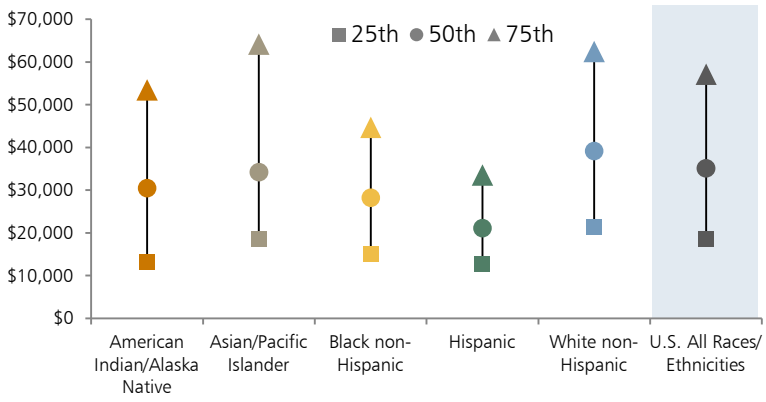
Note: Georgia in darker shades; U.S. in lighter shades. *Reporting standards were not met and no score is available.

Academic preparation is a major factor in access to and success in college. One indicator of readiness comes from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) math and reading scores for eighth graders in 2011.

- Black non-Hispanic students scored 256.3, lowest of all the racial/ethnic groups, about the same as they did nationally. (No state-level score was available for American Indians/Alaska Natives.)
- Hispanic students in Georgia scored 267.4, better than they performed nationally.
- Large gaps in performance are evident, however: White non-Hispanics and Asians/Pacific Islanders both scored significantly better, at 281.3 and 289.7, respectively.

Annual Income by Race/Ethnicity[3]

A second major barrier is access to the financial resources needed to pay for college. The statewide median income among working-age adults (25-64) in Georgia from 2006 to 2010 was $33,001, compared with $35,147 for the nation. White non-Hispanics were the only group to earn a median income ($39,188) higher than the state or national medians by an amount beyond the margin of error. Asians/Pacific Islanders earned somewhat less ($34,125). At the other end of the income spectrum, Hispanics' median income was $21,132, 64% of the statewide median; nearly three-quarters earned less than the median. The median for Black non-Hispanics, $28,257, was significantly higher than for Hispanics.



Projections of high school graduates are from WICHE, *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School* Graduates, 2012. 1996-97 to 2008-09 are actual reported graduates and 2009-10 to 2027-28 are projections. The National Center for Higher Education Management Systems supplied the data used in the first and last figures. State-level estimates for those figures are only reported for a racial/ethnic group when the coefficients of variation for all estimates do not exceed 25% and sample size is 50 or greater. Readers should understand that estimates for small samples can be imprecise due to large standard errors. WICHE provides relevant data tables at http://wiche.edu/knocking-8th/technicalNotes.

[1]*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-10 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) File. Average annual percent of population aged 25-34 and 45-54 with an Associate's degree or higher in 2008-10.

[2]*Source:* U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2009 and 2011 Mathematics and Reading Assessments, generated using the NAEP Data Explorer. http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata/. *Notes*: Composite scores are the average of the Math and Reading scores for 8th graders tested in 2011, scale of 0 to 500; scores for 12th graders taking NAEP were not available for this state.

[3]*Source:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-10 American Community Survey Five-Year Public Use Microdata Sample File. *Note*: Percentiles for wage/salary income were calculated for persons age 25-64 with positive earnings; unemployed persons with $0 income were also included. Figures are in 2010 dollars. Native Hawaiians are included in Asian/Pacific Islander.

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Visit http://wiche.edu/knocking to obtain the full publication and download these projections as graphs or data files.