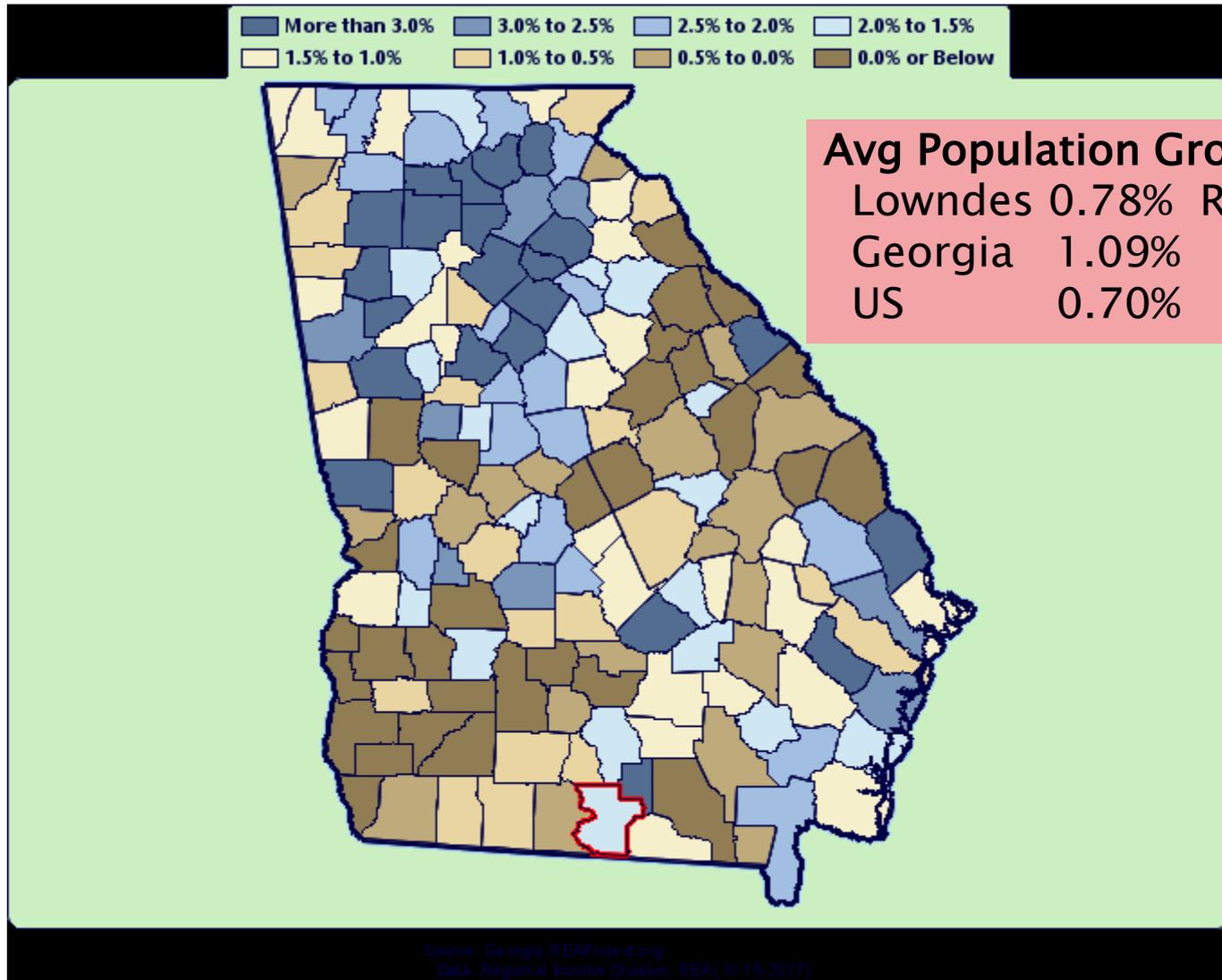


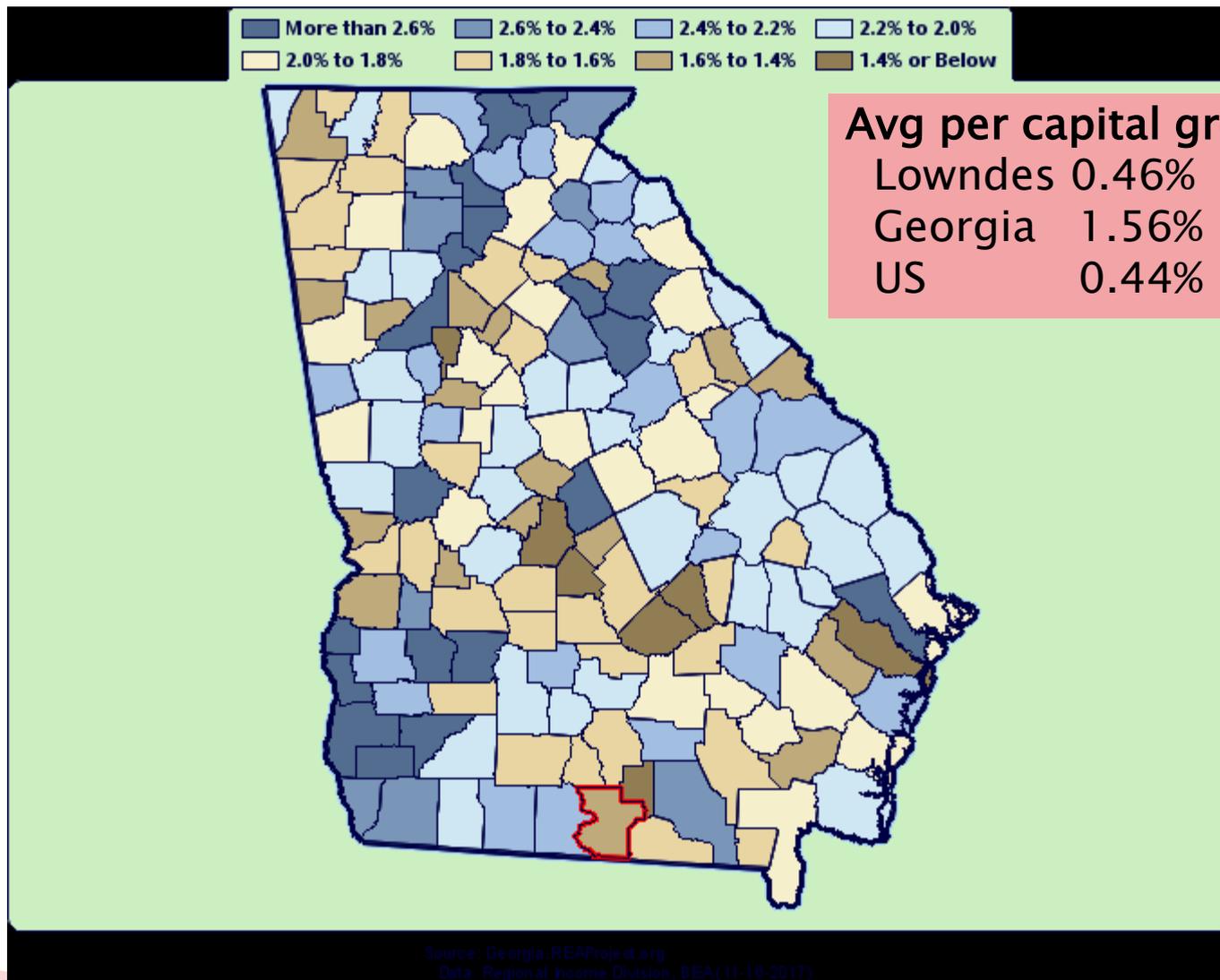
Business Outlook Breakfast

Dr. Cynthia Royal Tori
Professor of Economics
Valdosta State University

Average Population Growth by County 2010 – 2016



Real per Capita Personal Income Growth by County 2010 – 2016



Agriculture

Crop Strengths

- Soybeans
- Cotton
- Peanuts

Threats

- Diesel prices
- Some chemicals

Opportunities

Use of Information Management Systems and advanced technologies

- Predictive analytics
 - Machine learning
 - Drone analytics
- 

Greater Lowndes area Non-farming Industry Mix

Industry	% Employment	Avg Wage
Goods-Producing	18%	\$884
Agriculture	3.4%	\$623
Construction	4.7%	\$993
Manufacturing	9.6%	\$849
Service-Providing	59%	\$566
Retail Trade	13.0%	\$465
Accommodation & Food	11.4%	\$269
Health Care & related	8.6%	\$734
Transportation & Warehousing	4.8%	\$754
Government	23%	\$761
Local Government	15.5%	\$741

	<u>Avg weekly wage</u>	<u>Avg real growth rate</u>
Lowndes	\$660	0.10% (72 out of 159)
Georgia	\$956	1.19%

Non-farming Industry Changes

Major industry growth

- Farm equipment
- Transportation and Warehousing
- Wholesale trade
- Information services

Major Industry weakness

- State Government
 - Retail Trade
 - Education services
 - Administrative services
- 

Foreclosure Rates Rise

2017:

Lowndes 1 in 2905

2016:

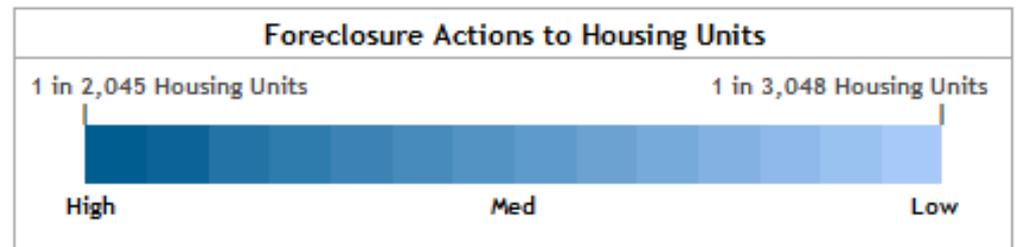
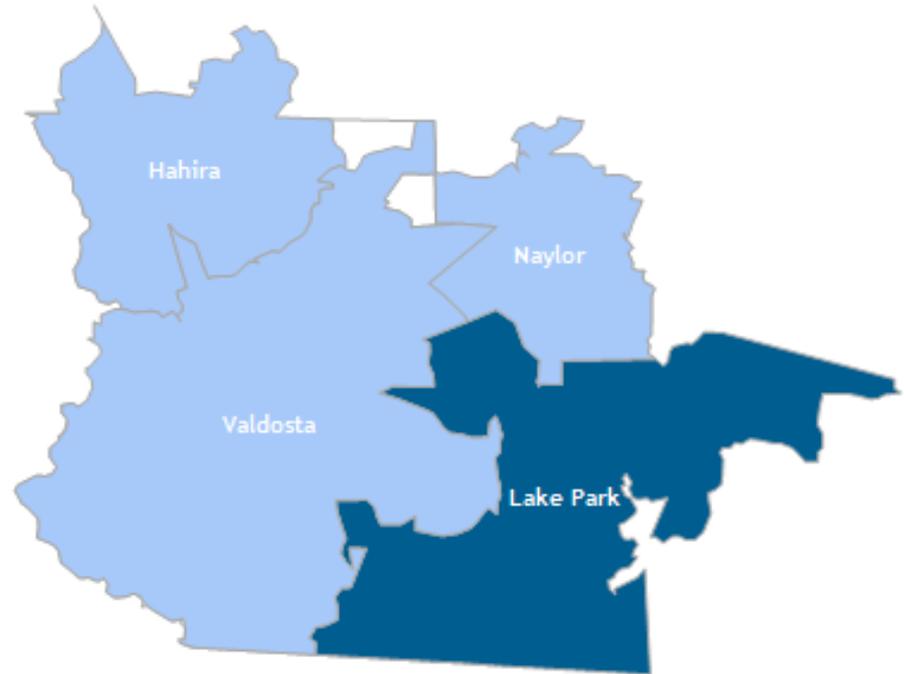
Lowndes 1 in 1271

2015:

Lowndes 1 in 1365

2014:

Lowndes 1 in 1273



Valdosta-MSA

Initial Unemployment Claims unchanged

- Dec 2016 337 claims
- Dec 2017 340 claims

Non-Farm Employment net gain 4,200 jobs or 6.9%

- Dec 2016 61,050
- Dec 2017 65,250

Labor Force size net gain 910 or 1.4%

- Dec 2016 64,340
- Dec 2017 65,250

Unemployment rates

- Dec 2016 5.1%
- Dec 2017 4.2%

Threats

- Stagnant wages
 - Export demand
 - Higher interest rates (pace)
 - Aging and shrinking population of rural areas
- 

Strengths and Opportunities

- Improved consumer expectations
 - Availability of qualified labor
 - Positive economic growth
 - Reduced regulations
 - Incubation Program
 - Locate a Georgia Rural Institute in South Georgia
- 



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