

## **Metro area grows to 3 million;**

### **ARC seeking ways to manage future**

The Atlanta Journal and Constitution

October 5, 1996, Saturday,, ALL EDITIONS

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**Section:** LOCAL NEWS; Pg. 01D

**Length:** 349 words

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## **Body**

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With a naturalization ceremony for six new citizens, the 10-county metropolitan core of Atlanta passed the **3 million** population mark on Friday.

Atlanta's **3 million**-resident milestone was marked at the Atlanta Regional Commission's Outlook '96 conference, which was aimed at getting the region's leaders to think about new **ways** to **manage** the explosive growth.

"As we reached the **3-million** mark this morning you could feel a renewed resolve among the nearly 1,000 community leaders present to look at new **ways** to work together and meet **future** challenges," said Harry West, executive director of the **ARC**.

The first **million** point was passed in 1960, when regional leaders met a new arrival at Hartsfield International Airport with the keys to the city, West said. The second came just 12 years ago, with the birth of twins at Piedmont Hospital. The fourth is expected around 2016.

The choice of a naturalization ceremony for Friday's event was symbolic, said **ARC** spokeswoman Julie Ralston.

"It more reflects that we are existing in a global marketplace and attracting people here for jobs from all over the world," she said. "Newcomers drive our growth."

The milestone comes as the region is confronting tough new challenges to continued growth, speakers at the conference noted. The Chattahoochee River, the region's key water source, is one of the most overtaxed in the nation, and other waterways are reaching limits as well. The region also is under a virtual moratorium on road-building until its leadership can come up with a **way** to clean up the air.

The latter problem was illustrated by another set of statistics released by the **ARC** Friday. While the population **grew** by 32 percent from 1985 to 1995, the average number of miles driven by cars and trucks in the region soared by 65 percent.

That level of traffic growth is not sustainable, said Clay Long, chairman of the Georgia Conservancy.

"Sustainability is doing things in such a **way** that you can keep doing them," he told the conference. "It argues for a pattern of growth that allows you to keep **growing**."

## **Graphic**

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## Metro area grows to 3 million;ARC seeking ways to manage future

Map: A cool **3 million**

The 10-county Atlanta **metro area** added its **3 millionth** resident Friday.

Here's a county-by-county comparison of the 1996 population and the projected population by 2005:

## CHEROKEE

1996: 117,100

2005: 183,100

+5.1%

## CLAYTON

1996: 207,000

2005: 219,600

+0.7%

## COBB

1996: 521,200

2005: 560,100

+0.8%

## DEKALB

1996: 589,600

2005: 610,700

+0.4%

## DOUGLAS

1996: 84,800

2005: 104,100

+2.**3**%

## FAYETTE

1996: 80,700

2005: 113,200

+**3**.8%

## FULTON

1996: 745,500

2005: 773,500

+0.4%

## GWINNETT

1996: 456,900

2005: 549,200

+2.1%

## HENRY

1996: 88,300

Metro area grows to 3 million;ARC seeking ways to manage future

2005: 140,300

+5.3%

ROCKDALE

1996: 63,400

2005: 86,500

+3.5%

10-county **metro area**, 2005: 3,340,300

Growth rate from 1996 to 2005: 1.4%

Source: Atlanta Regional Commission.

/ Vernon Carne / Staff

## Classification

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**Language:** ENGLISH

**Subject:** CITIZENSHIP (90%); NATURALIZATION (90%); IMMIGRATION (78%); POPULATION GROWTH (78%); CITY LIFE (78%); POPULATION SIZE (78%); CONFERENCES & CONVENTIONS (77%); EXECUTIVES (71%); WATER RESOURCES (70%); SUSTAINABILITY (66%); STATISTICS (63%)

**Industry:** AIRPORTS (69%); MOTOR VEHICLES (50%); HIGHWAYS & STREETS (50%); ROAD & BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION (50%)

**Geographic:** ATLANTA, GA, USA (93%); GEORGIA, USA (73%)

**Load-Date:** October 7, 1996