

Greene County is located near the western border of Alabama at about the midpoint north-south of the state. It is directly southwest of both Birmingham and Tuscaloosa. Greene County has a population of 13,600 of which 81.3% is nonwhite. The population decreased 17.5% between 1950-60.

Income

The median income for all families in Greene, in 1959, was \$1404. For whites it was \$4300; for nonwhites it was \$971. 51% of the nonwhite families earned under \$1000, 78% earned under \$2000, 87% earned under \$3000. The total income from all sources for all families in Greene was about \$7,000,000.

At the top end of family incomes, .5% earned over 5% of the total incomes; 3% of the families earned over 16% of the total incomes; 8% earned 35%.

At the bottom, over 35% earned less than 2%; over 60% earned less than 3%; over 83% earned about 40% of the total income of Greene County.

Three families earned over \$25,000. Only fifteen families earned over \$15,000.

Education

The median year of schooling completed for those over 25 years old (1959) was about 5.8. For whites it was about 10.0; for nonwhites about 5.0.

Occupations and Employment

The difference in occupation concentration ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ between whites and nonwhites is shown in the table below.

<u>Type of Occupation</u>	<u>% of whites in that occupation</u>	<u>% of nonwhites</u>
Mrgs. Officials, Proprietors, except farm	13	0
Clerical Workers	8	0
Sales workers	8	2
craftsmen, Foremen	12	2
Farmers and farm mgrs	14	30
Private Household workers	1	14
Farm laborers and Foremen	2	20
Laborers except farm	4	11

Unemployment in Greene County was ~~8.2~~ 5.0% of the work force in 1960. For whites it was 4.8%; for nonwhites 5.2%. 80% of the white unemployed had been clerical and sales or craftsmen and operatives. 35% of the nonwhite unemployed had been laborers except farm; 20% had been farm laborers and foremen; 20% had been craftsmen and operatives; and 10% had been private household workers.

The percentage of employed persons that are in each of several industry groups (with 96% of the work force accounted for) are shown below and give a rough idea of the allocation of labor resources in Greene.

Agriculture	41%
Private Household and personal services	13
Wholesale and retail trade	12
Manufacturing	12
Professional and related services	7
Construction	5
Transportation, Communications & Utilities	3
Public Administration	3

Agriculture

Agriculture production accounted for about 25% of the total income of Greene County in 1959. The number of farms decreased from 2199 to 1603 and total farm acreage decreased from 340,000 to 293,000 between 1954-59. There was a slight increase in land concentration during this period.

In 1959, 1% of the farms had over 33% of the land; 4% had over 60%. At the bottom, 6% had .03% of the land; 63% of the farms had 8% of the land.

Tenancy did not change much from 1954-59; in 1959 white tenancy was 15%; nonwhite tenancy was 72%. There is a trend, however, toward the elimination of white tenancy. 320 white farmers operate 225,000 acres of land; 1283 nonwhite farmers operate 69,000 acres of land.
(the paragraph below gives figures by the 1000)

The value of farm products sold rose from \$2451 in 1954 to \$3707 in 1959. Crop sales rose about 10% to \$1603, but field crops (almost entirely cotton) fell 5% to \$1288, while forestry ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ rose 350% to \$305. Livestock sales rose 100% to \$2105; dairy sales increased fourfold to \$289 and cattle and/or calves sold increased 125% to \$1651.

39 farms sold between \$20,000-39,999 worth of farm products in 1959; 9 farms sold over \$40,000 worth of farm products. Of the latter 9, I would estimate that 4 are cattle farms, 3 are cotton farms, 1 is dairy, and 1 specializes in forest products.

In 1959, \$399,239 was spent on hired labor as opposed to \$314,110 in 1954. 27 farms spent between \$2500-4999 on hired labor; 23 farms spent over \$5000.

Manufacturing

There are only 2 manufacturing plants employing over 25 persons in Greene. They employ about 60% of the manufacturing employees of Greene. Colson Lumber Co. 50-100; Sumter Veneer Works (a woodworks plant) 50-100. The latter may well be owned by an outside concern.

(Ownership of timber lands is a source of considerable potential wealth even if no income is being earned on it at the present time. Northern concerns (see American Can and Sumter County) own land in this section of Alabama. This county produces virtually nothing of the products that it consumes. Greene is second to Lowndes in having the lowest median income for all families for a county in Alabama. There is only one county in Mississippi with a lower median family income. The source of capital that must have been necessary for the growth in livestock ~~and~~ prove interesting.)