

# ALICE IN CALHOUN COUNTY

## 2019 Point-in-Time Data

Population: 134,159 • Number of Households: 53,827

Median Household Income: \$49,055 (state average: \$59,584)

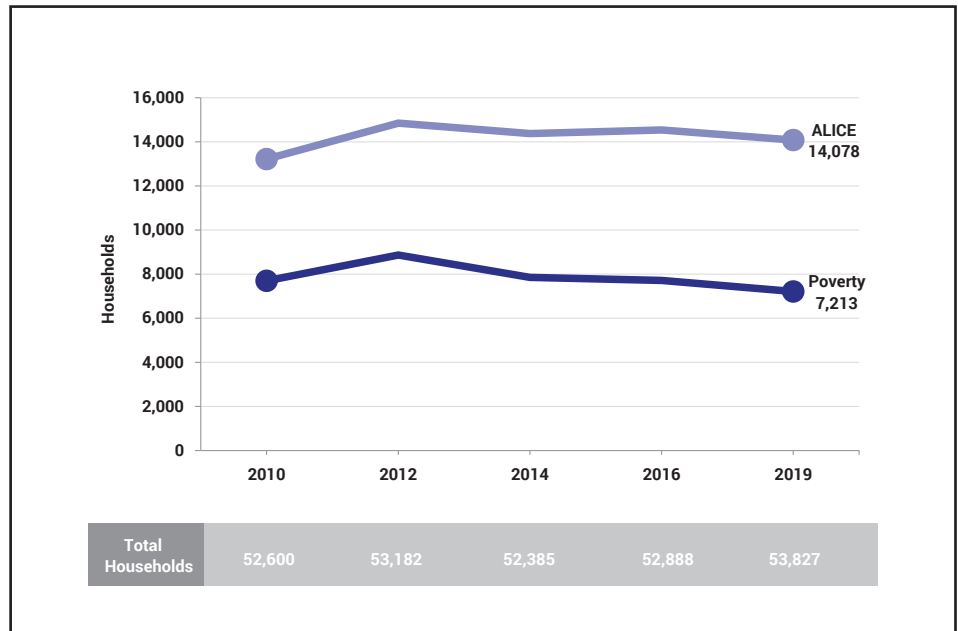
Unemployment Rate: 5.6% (state average: 5.0%)

ALICE Households: 26% (state average: 25%) • Households in Poverty: 13% (state average: 13%)

## How has the number of ALICE households changed over time?

ALICE is an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed – households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). While conditions improved for some households between 2010 and 2019, many continued to struggle, especially as wages failed to keep pace with the cost of household essentials (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan).

## Households by Income, Calhoun County, 2010 to 2019

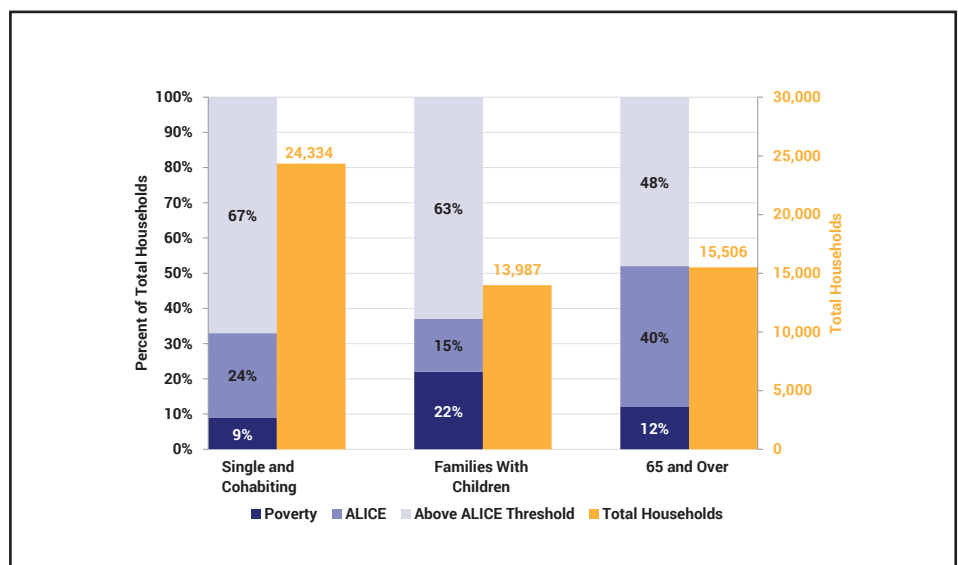


Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2010-2019; American Community Survey, 2010-2019

## What types of households are struggling?

In the past few decades, there have been major shifts in household composition. The share of American adults who have never been married is at a historic high, as is the number of senior households. There is also a growing number of people who live alone or with roommates, and an increasing share of grown children who live with their parents. Yet all types of households continue to struggle: ALICE and poverty-level households exist across all of these living arrangements.

## Household Income by Household Type, Calhoun County, 2019



Sources: ALICE Threshold, 2019; American Community Survey, 2019

# Why do so many households struggle?

## The cost of household basics outpaces wages...

The Household Survival Budget reflects the bare minimum cost to live and work in the modern economy and includes housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, technology (a smartphone plan), and taxes. It does not include savings for emergencies or future goals like college or retirement. In 2019, household costs were well above the Federal Poverty Level of \$12,490 for a single adult and \$25,750 for a family of four.

Household Survival Budget, Calhoun County, 2019		
	SINGLE ADULT	2 ADULTS, 1 INFANT, 1 PRESCHOOLER
<b>Monthly Costs</b>		
Housing	\$486	\$757
Child Care	\$-	\$1,073
Food	\$254	\$773
Transportation	\$457	\$929
Health Care	\$189	\$569
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$168	\$474
Taxes	\$240	\$559
<b>Monthly Total</b>	<b>\$1,849</b>	<b>\$5,209</b>
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,188</b>	<b>\$62,508</b>
<b>Hourly Wage*</b>	<b>\$11.09</b>	<b>\$31.25</b>

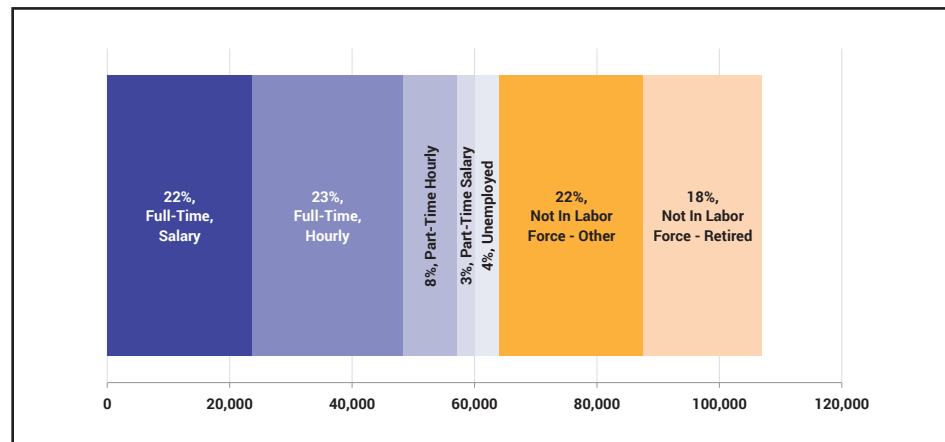
\* Wage working full-time required to support this budget

For ALICE Survival Budget Sources, see the 2020-21 Methodology Overview available at [UnitedForALICE.org/Methodology](https://www.unitedforalice.org/methodology)

## ...and the labor landscape is challenging for ALICE workers

A breakdown of the labor force shows a small portion of adults (16 years and older) who were unemployed and a large number who were working. However, a significant portion of full- and part-time workers were paid by the hour; these workers were more likely to have fluctuations in income and less likely to receive benefits. There was also a high number of workers outside of the labor force (people who are not employed and not looking for work), which helped keep wages low: When more workers are available, employers have less incentive to raise wages to attract employees.

## Labor Status, Population 16 and Over, Calhoun County, 2019



Note: Data for full- and part-time jobs is only available at the national level; these national rates (49% of full-time workers and 73% of part-time workers paid hourly) have been applied to the total county workforce to calculate the breakdown shown in this figure. Full-time represents a minimum of 35 hours per week at one or more jobs for 48 weeks per year.

Sources: American Community Survey, 2019; Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2019

Calhoun County, 2019		
Town	Total HH	% ALICE & Poverty
Albion City	2,812	57%
Albion Township	440	41%
Athens Township	908	36%
Battle Creek City	20,813	47%
Bedford Charter Township	3,747	37%
Burlington Township	669	34%
Clarence Township	805	30%
Clarendon Township	426	34%
Convis Township	642	30%
Eckford Township	540	25%
Emmett Charter Township	4,705	34%
Fredonia Township	703	25%
Homer Township	1,170	43%
Lee Township	414	32%
Leroy Township	1,429	28%
Marengo Township	845	25%
Marshall City	3,276	38%
Marshall Township	1,257	22%
Newton Township	1,036	22%
Pennfield Charter Township	3,705	34%
Sheridan Township	745	42%
Springfield City	2,276	51%
Tekonsha Township	628	45%

Note: Municipal-level data on this page is for County Subdivisions. Municipal-level data relies on 5-year averages and is not available for the smallest towns. Since there are missing geographies, totals will not match county-level numbers.