

# Georgia Economic Profile

## Location

Located in the heart of the southeastern United States

Capital: Atlanta

Total Area: 59,441 square miles

Population in 2003 : 8.68 million

9th most populated state in U.S.

Elevation: 4,784 feet (highest)  
sea level (lowest)



## Commercial Services

### COMMUNICATIONS

36 daily and 256 weekly newspapers. 49 television stations (cable available throughout the state). 333 radio stations.

### INDUSTRIAL SUPPORT SERVICES

Fabricating, machining, electric motor repair, finishing, forming, casting, architecture, and other services available in or near most communities.

## Education

### PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1,969 elementary and secondary schools in 180 school systems. 97,280 teachers.

2002 enrollment: 1,470,605 students. 2002 high school graduates: 72,565

### PRIVATE SCHOOLS

568 schools. 2003 enrollment: 92,335

### HIGHER EDUCATION

58 colleges and universities. 23 two-year colleges. 33 area technical colleges.

Graduate studies are available at 19 public and 20 private institutions.

## Climate

Average annual precipitation: 50 inches

Average annual snowfall: trace

Average summer temperature: 73-82°

Average winter temperature: 41-56°

Average freeze-free days: 170-300

## Health

157 general hospitals throughout the state and in most communities. 14,739 MD's. 4,548 dentists. Leading medical schools and research facilities include Emory University in Atlanta and Medical College of Georgia in Augusta.

## Per Capita Income

YEAR	STATE	U.S.
1970	\$3,394	\$4,095
1980	\$8,474	\$10,183
1990	\$17,722	\$19,572
2000	\$28,212	\$29,777
2003	\$29,442	\$31,632

## One-Stop Permitting

Georgia's Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is one of the few state-level agencies approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with authority to issue federally required environmental permits. This responsibility, as well as the issuance of state permits, is vested in one agency, enabling applicants to avoid environmental impact statements and often save 12 to 24 months.

## Quality of Life

### CLIMATE

Georgia enjoys mild year-round temperatures due to its latitude and proximity to the warm waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

### RECREATION

Georgians enjoy a striking variety of scenery, choice recreational playgrounds, and lifestyles-- from the Southern Appalachians to the coastal islands. Major recreational opportunities include Six Flags Over Georgia, Stone Mountain, Callaway Gardens, Jekyll Island, Rock City, and Lake Lanier Islands.

### SCENIC ATTRACTIONS

Appalachian Trail, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Okefenokee Swamp Park, Cohutta Wilderness Area, Chattooga Wild & Scenic River, 100 miles of coastal beaches, 3,000 square miles of mountain forests with deep lakes and clear trout streams.

### STATE PARKS

45 throughout the state. Most offer camping, fishing, motor boating, swimming, hiking, picnic facilities, and accommodations.

### SPORTS

Georgia offers year-round golf, tennis, and other outdoor activities, as well as water and snow skiing in season. Atlanta has major league professional football, baseball,

hockey, soccer and basketball teams. There is intercollegiate competition in these and many other sports.

### CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Nationally acclaimed Atlanta Symphony. Many local orchestras, theaters, galleries, and concerts featuring leading artists.

## Population

YEAR	STATE (million)	U. S. (million)
1950	3.4	151.3
1960	3.9	179.3
1970	4.6	203.2
1980	5.5	226.5
1990	6.5	248.7
2000	8.2	281.4
2003	8.7	290.8

## Government and Taxes

### GOVERNMENT

Georgia's governor, the state's chief executive officer, is elected for a four-year term and can succeed himself for an additional term. The General Assembly is elected for a two-year term, both House and Senate apportioned by population. Legislators convene in January for a 40-day session. Deficit spending is prohibited.

### CORPORATE TAX

6% of income apportioned to Georgia. Unitary method of calculation is not used.

### STATE SALES TAX

4%. Most counties levy an additional 1% to 3% local sales tax.

### PROPERTY TAX

Millage rates vary by county and currently range from 11.25 to 64.40 mills per \$1,000 of fair market value. The average rate is 29.89 mills.

### INVENTORY EXEMPTION

Nearly ninety per cent of Georgia's cities and counties exempt certain business inventories from property taxation.

## **Transportation**

### **AIR**

Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport terminal is the world's largest and offers 2,000 flight operations daily to and from 180 cities throughout the United States, as well as to Japan, England, France, Belgium, Ireland, Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Canada, Korea, Brazil, South Africa, Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Eight other airports throughout the state have scheduled commercial service. 103 open-to-the-public airports serve general aviation.

### **AIR FREIGHT**

24 combination passenger and freight carriers and 12 all-cargo carriers serve Atlanta. Major freight handling facilities include two of the largest air cargo buildings in the world (415,000 and 390,000 square feet), as well as 216,000 and 60,000 square foot facilities.

### **MOTOR FREIGHT CARRIERS**

35 scheduled general commodity and 2,200 intrastate carriers, as well as specialized commodity carriers which provide service to every county in the state.

### **RAIL**

Norfolk Southern Corporation (Southern Railway), CSX Transportation, and 15 private railroads have a combined network of 5,000 miles, with piggyback service available to most communities.

### **HIGHWAYS**

1,244 miles of interstate highways. 18,000 miles of federal and state highways.

### **WATER**

Deepwater ports at Savannah and Brunswick. Savannah leads the South Atlantic Seaboard in technology and volume and is among the nation's top 10 container ports. It has outstanding container facilities, loading-unloading capabilities, and abundant storage.

### **INLAND PORTS**

300 miles of inland waterways with barge docks at Columbus and Bainbridge.

## **Utilities**

### **ELECTRICITY**

Abundant, dependable electricity is available throughout Georgia and is provided by a modern, integrated electrical transmission system. Compared to 52% for the U.S., coal accounts for 64% of fuel used in the state's power generating plants, assuring long-term continuity.

### **NATURAL GAS**

Available throughout the state in industrial quantities, both on a firm and an interruptible basis. Georgia is served by three interstate pipeline companies and has liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage facilities distributed strategically to handle peak loads.

### **WATER**

The high quality of its ground and surface water makes Georgia a prime location candidate for water-using industries. South Georgia's aquifers are among the most productive in the country, with yields up to 6,000 gallons per minute. The state's assignment of water resources protects users from encroachment by other industries or government.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

The state's telephone and other communication services are provided by BellSouth and 36 other telephone companies.