

a compendium of economic
development facts and trends

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Georgia and Metro Atlanta Recent Scorecards

Atlanta Leaps to 5th Place

Atlanta moved from a 25th position in last year's ranking from *Forbes Magazine's* annual ranking of the Best Places for Business and Careers. Its ranking was credited to strong job and income growth and a reduction in crime. Atlanta features a diverse economy and pro-business environment. A huge built-in advantage is Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the busiest passenger airport in the world. www.forbes.com

Georgia Among the Best Managed States in the Nation

Georgia tied for 4th place in the Pew Center on the States' 2008 Government Performance Project, a significant improvement from a tie for 40th place in 1999. The overall grade of B+ is the highest awarded in the Southeast. The 2008 report emphasized the value and impact of improvements made by the Governor's Commission for a New Georgia. The measurement criteria were people, money, infrastructure and information.

Georgia Ranks 5th

Georgia ranks as the 5th fastest growing state in warehouse and distribution construction behind California, Texas, Ohio and New Jersey.

FY07 Successes by the Georgia Department of Economic Development

281 company announcements either relocated or expanded to Georgia
17,385 jobs created by those 281 announcements
31 countries with which trade deals were completed
\$12 billion in economic impact of film and TV industry in Georgia
95% of new businesses incorporated had fewer than 50 employees, a strong signal of entrepreneurial activity in Georgia.



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Issue VII

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www.gaports.com has a new interactive [commercial corridor tool](#) to show the location of existing distribution centers and available sites.

Weak Dollar Interests Foreign Business

Weak Dollar Boosts Ports

The weak dollar is making it prudent for foreign companies to build production facilities in Georgia which furthers the advantage of the ports of Savannah and Brunswick for exporting goods. Proximity to the ports further contributes to a more competitive cost of transportation for these companies. Throughout 2008, an increase in foreign investment in U.S. production facilities and an increase in U.S. exports are expected to yield stabilizing economic stimulus, potentially offsetting recessionary pressures.

Bureau of Business Research and Economic Development
at Georgia Southern University

Trade to Brazil Booming

Trade from the Savannah port to Brazil is booming. Brazil is the world's 8th largest economy and 5th most populous country. Savannah to Brazil trade is projected to grow rapidly in the next several years.

Container Trade with Brazil

	% Growth Imports 2006-2007	% Growth Exports 2006-2007
U.S.	-14%	27%
South Atlantic	-14%	23%
Savannah	46%	61%

Georgia Port Authority

Brazil Opens New Consulate General
Located in Atlanta, the new consulate general will serve the Brazilian community throughout the Southeast. It will be one of the largest consulates in Atlanta.

Globalization Gives Georgia economy a boost. The rest of the world is growing at 3% a year creating demand for products.

China Case In Point

With the 10% annual breakneck growth of China (now a \$2.7 trillion economy) the devalued dollar is likely to support increasing U.S. exports and increasing foreign investment in the United States. To that end, in April, Governor Perdue formally opened the Georgia Business Advisory Center in Beijing, the newest addition to the state's 10 international offices. The center will provide a platform for Georgia companies to continue their marketing outreach in the Asian nation. It is the first in the Chinese capital by any U.S. state.

Delta Inaugural Flight - March 30

"This is the first direct link to China from the Southeastern U.S., and the only nonstop link from the U.S. East Coast to Shanghai," said Governor Sonny Perdue. This is a great honor for our state, and for Delta, our hometown airline."

New China Companies in GA
Kingwasong
Hailun Piano
General Protect
Sany Industries
will create more than 650 jobs and \$60 million in investment in the state.

Housing

Top Honors for Livable Communities

Of the top 5 winners from AARP and the National Association of Homebuilders for a first-ever Livable Communities Award, 2 are Georgia-based, Wendt Builders, Inc and the Integral Group of Atlanta. Winners were recognized for creative and unique homes and communities.



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"We have a 50/50 opportunity to dodge a recession," said Dr. Jeffrey Humphreys, UGA, Selig Center for Economic Growth.

The Economy's "R" Word

Georgia Not At the Tipping Point

The R word, has been used to characterize the U.S. economy for 2008, but forecasters predict sub-par growth for Georgia rather than outright recession. Our above average population growth is one shield for a major downturn. The cost of doing business is lower in Georgia than the rest of the United States. Our housing market is stable. To keep us out of a recession, agriculture-based industry must "weather" the region's drought.

Alternative Fuels

Biofuel Top of Mind in Georgia

Biofuel is defined as a fuel (wood or ethanol) composed or produced from biological raw materials. Georgia produces many types of bioenergy, such as wood pellets, biodiesel and ethanol. There are 10 bioenergy production operations in Georgia.

Range Fuels, scheduled for completion in 2009, is the first U.S. commercial plant designed to turn trees and wood scraps into biofuel. Capital is coming from Silicon Valley, dot-com billionaire Vinod Khosia. It will be a \$225 million facility to turn waste wood into ethanol to fuel cars and trucks.

2 Kings Petroleum, LLC recently broke ground on a petroleum and biofuels distribution, production and mixing plant in Blakely. Phase one is a \$10 million investment in the production of biodiesel fuel products.

Georgia also exports corn, peanut oil, and wood pellets to Europe for heating fuel and ethanol production.

Top 2007 Public & Private Headquartered Companies by Revenue

Source: Georgia Trend Magazine

Public

1. Home Depot
2. United Parcel Service Inc.
3. Coca-Cola, Inc.
4. Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc.
5. Delta Airlines, Inc.
6. Aflac Inc.
7. Southern Company
8. SunTrust Banks, Inc.
9. Genuine Parts Co.
10. Novelis, Inc.
11. Mohawk Industries, Inc.
12. Newell Rubbermaid, Inc.
13. Beazer Homes USA, Inc.
14. AGCO Corp.
15. BlueLinx Holdings, Inc.
16. Synovus Financial Corp.
17. Mirant Corp.
18. Superior Essex Inc.
19. Exide Technologies
20. AGL Resources Inc.

Private

1. Cox Enterprises
2. Unisource Worldwide, Inc.
3. Racetrac Petroleum, Inc.
4. Colonial Group, Inc.
5. Southwire
6. Bill Heard Enterprises, Inc.
7. Mansfield Oil Co.
8. Chick-fil-A
9. National Distributing Co., Inc
10. Printpack Inc.
11. Oglethorpe Power Corp.
12. Beaulieu Group LLC
13. Euramax Int'l. Inc.
14. Allied Holdings Inc.
15. Hooters of America Inc.
16. Hardin Construction Co. Inc.
17. Holder Construction Co.
18. John Wieland Homes & Neighborhoods
19. Jones Co.
20. Colonial Pipeline Co.



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Governor Perdue announced the creation of a 6th Center of Innovation, The Center for Energy and Fuel. See www.georgiainnovation.org for all 6 Centers of Innovation.

Legislative Session Results

Friday April 4 Ended the GA Legislative Session
Successes for Business:

HB237 exempts sales tax on machinery integral to the manufacturing process.

HB272 capped energy tax for manufacturers when fuel/energy prices soar.

HB1100 boosts the income tax credit for film, video, or digital productions in Georgia to make GA more competitive for productions.

HB1129 is the Georgia Tourism Development Act that allows tax incentives for companies making significant investments by building destination/tourist attractions.

Governor Initiatives

As a component of the Governor's Conserve Georgia announcements April 24, Governor Perdue launched the Governor's Energy Challenge. Governor Perdue committed that Georgia's state government will reduce its energy usage 15% by 2020 over the 2007 energy-use levels through energy efficiency or in combination with renewable energy. Governor Perdue is challenging Georgia's citizens, businesses, organizations, local governments and school systems to meet the state's 15% reduction goal.



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www.selig.uga.edu for information
on Georgia's economy.

MEAG Power is a public generation and transmission corporation providing wholesale electricity to Georgia's public power utilities. As Georgia's third largest power supplier, MEAG Power also provides statewide economic development services to new and existing industries.

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