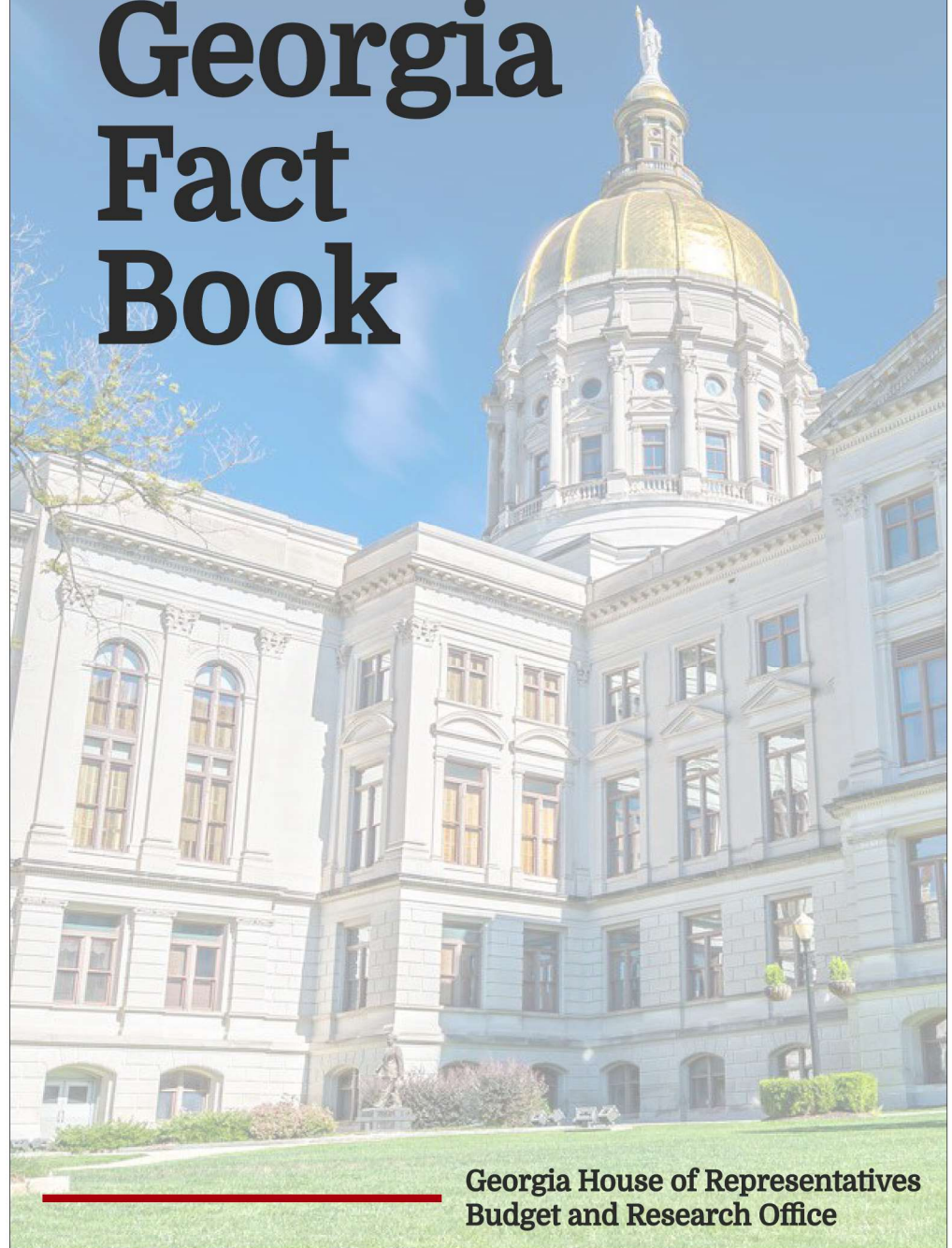

2024

Georgia Fact Book



Georgia House of Representatives
Budget and Research Office

2024

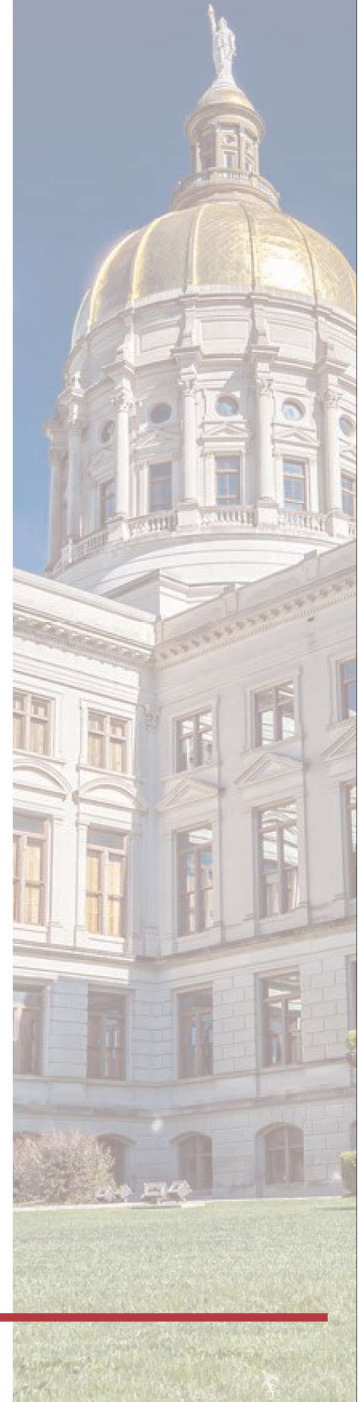
Georgia Fact Book

A Snapshot of Georgia Facts,
Figures, and Budgetary Highlights



First Edition
January 2024

Georgia House of Representatives
Budget and Research Office



note from the director

January 2024

Welcome to the inaugural publication of the Georgia Fact Book! The Georgia Fact Book is a collaborative effort of the House Budget and Research Office to highlight key facts and figures of the state budget, components of agency services, and citizen needs.

The Fact Book provides an overview of Georgia including a brief history of Georgia's state capitols, state and local government structure, as well as demographics of Georgia's population and state government workforce. A summary of Georgia's state budget and revenue sources is provided, followed by more detailed highlights by policy area. The Georgia Fact Book shines a spotlight on functions/statistics in which the state is doing well and includes areas that could use improvement.

It is our hope that this Georgia Fact Book is both interesting and informative, and serves as a quick reference guide for key data points about our great state.

Christine Murdock

Christine Murdock

Director, House Budget and Research Office

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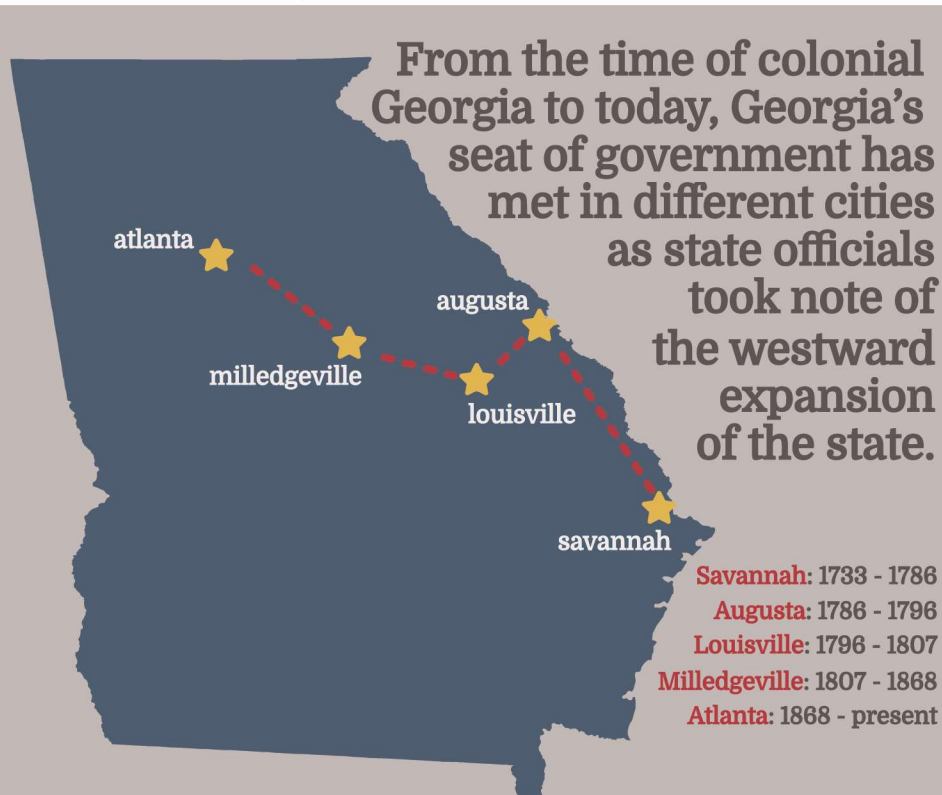
About Georgia

state capitol
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state capitol

A Capital City on the Move

From the time **James Oglethorpe** founded the colony of Georgia in **1733** until Georgia's statehood, **Savannah** served as the seat of government. Georgia's first state Constitution directed the state legislature to meet in Savannah or elsewhere if it so chose. During the **Revolutionary War**, the state government met not only in Savannah, but also **Augusta** and a few other towns. The General Assembly rotated between Savannah and Augusta after the war, meeting in taverns, private homes, and public buildings. As the number of frontier settlers grew, the desire to permanently move the capital to Augusta grew, and Augusta was made the official capital in **1786**. It served as the state capital for **10 years** until Georgia's first capitol building in **Louisville** was completed, making Louisville Georgia's **third capital in 1796**. Louisville's time as the capital of Georgia only lasted until **October 1807**, when construction of the new, castle-like statehouse in the new capital of **Milledgeville** was completed. Milledgeville served as Georgia's capital city for **60 years**.



state capitol

Finding and Building a Home in Atlanta

First meeting in **Atlanta** on **July 4, 1868**, the legislature met in Atlanta's old city hall, located where the current capitol stands. With the building serving as the state capitol, the Atlanta city hall, and the Fulton County courthouse, the legislature eventually moved to the Kimball Opera House and used that building from **January 1869** until **July 1889**.

In **September 1883**, lawmakers appropriated **\$1 million** for construction of a new capitol. The design by Chicago firm Edbrooke and Burnham was selected and the construction bid was won by Toledo firm Miles and Horn. **Indiana limestone** was chosen for the building's exterior as a more practical, cost-effective material. **Georgia marble** was used throughout most of the building's interior, particularly the pink **Etowah marble** for the second-floor walls. **Georgia granite** was used for the foundation in addition to **500,000** bricks salvaged from the old city hall building.



Construction began on **November 13, 1884**, with the cornerstone not being laid until **September 2, 1885**. Construction was completed in **March 1889**, with the project finishing **\$118.43 under budget**. The formal dedication took place on **July 4, 1889**.

The building looks almost the same as it did in 1889, with one major exception: **the dome**. A proposal was made in **1957** to replace the deteriorating tin-covered dome with one covered in **Georgia gold**, and Dahlonega residents donated the **43 ounces of gold** needed to cover the dome. A wagon train brought the gold from Dahlonega to Atlanta in **August 1958**. The dome was completely regilded in **1981** after the original gold showed substantial deterioration.



"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Only **half occupied** at its dedication, the **State Capitol** was only **20 years old** before officials started looking for additional space.

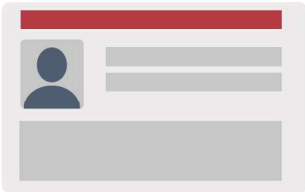
house of representatives

Who is in the House?

180

The House shall consist of “**not fewer than 180 Representatives,**” per the Georgia Constitution.

Qualifications



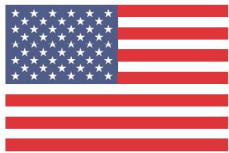
AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE



GEORGIA CITIZEN FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS



LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR



UNITED STATES CITIZEN

House Constitutional Officers

Constitutional officers of the House include the **speaker**, the **speaker pro tempore**, and the **clerk of the House**, all of which are elected by the House. The current Constitutional officers are:



Speaker
Jon Burns

In office since
January 9, 2023



Speaker Pro Tempore
Jan Jones

In office since
January 11, 2010



Clerk
Bill Reilly

In office since
August 16, 2013

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

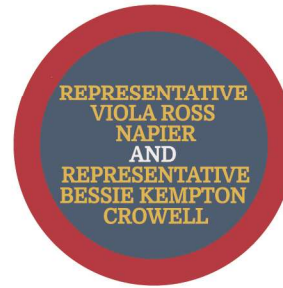
In 1967, George L. Smith was the **first speaker of the House** elected by the body. Previously, the speaker was appointed by the governor.

house of representatives

Notable Georgians in the House



The first **33 Black members of the General Assembly** (three Senators and 30 Representatives) were elected in **1868**. Later that year, the General Assembly voted to expel the lawmakers due to their race, although they were later reinstated through military and judicial actions. However, they would face harsh recriminations and violence as Reconstruction ended and Jim Crow era laws began. A bronze sculpture commissioned by the **Georgia Legislative Black Caucus** honors the **Original 33** at the Capitol.



In **1922**, two years after the **19th Amendment** granted women the right to vote, Viola Ross Napier of Bibb County and Bessie Kempton Crowell of Fulton County became the **first women elected to the General Assembly**. Napier, who served two terms in the House, was also the first female lawyer to argue in front of both the Georgia Court of Appeals and the Georgia Supreme Court and later served as Macon's city clerk for **27 years**. Crowell served three terms in the House and worked in journalism as a reporter during World War I for the Atlanta Constitution and later as editor and publisher of the Fulton County Daily Report.



Tom Murphy was **speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives** for over **29 years**, making him the **third longest speaker** of any state legislature in American history. From Bremen, he served as speaker during the terms of five governors. He served as a member of the House for **42 years** from **1961 until 2003**. During his tenure, Speaker Murphy championed the **economic development** of Atlanta as well as issues related to children and **disadvantaged Georgians**. Outside of politics, he was an attorney and World War II veteran.



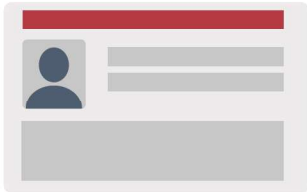
David Ralston was **speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives** from **2010 until 2022**. A Blue Ridge attorney, he had previously served in the State Senate for three terms and ran for attorney general in **1998** before being elected to the State House in **2002**. Speaker Ralston's legacy includes **historic mental health care legislation** as well as criminal justice reform that included landmark **hate crimes legislation**. He graduated from North Georgia College and State University as well as the **University of Georgia** School of Law.

Who is in the Senate?

56

The Senate shall consist of "not more than 56 Senators," per the Georgia Constitution.

Qualifications



AT LEAST 21 YEARS OF AGE



GEORGIA CITIZEN FOR AT LEAST 2 YEARS



LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT FOR AT LEAST 1 YEAR



UNITED STATES CITIZEN

Senate Constitutional Officers

Constitutional officers of the Senate include the president of the Senate, the president pro tempore, and the secretary of the Senate. The lieutenant governor, elected in a statewide election, serves as the Senate president and the other officers are elected by the Senate. The current Constitutional officers are:



President Burt Jones

In office since January 12, 2023



President Pro Tempore John F. Kennedy

In office since January 9, 2023



Secretary David Cook

In office since July 2, 2013

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Georgia's last five governors all served as state senators at some point in their careers.

Notable Georgians in the Senate



The first Black state senator since Reconstruction and first Black member of the General Assembly since 1907, Leroy Johnson represented Atlanta for 12 years in the Senate from 1963 until 1975, eventually becoming the Judiciary Committee Chair. His time as a senator included working to desegregate the Capitol building. A graduate of Morehouse College, Atlanta University, and North Carolina Central School of Law, Johnson's career outside of the Capitol included work as an educator, lawyer, civil rights activist, and crime investigator.



An Atlanta insurance executive, Paul Coverdell served in the State Senate from 1971 until 1989. During that time, he served for 14 years as Minority Leader. He resigned from the State Senate upon becoming director of the Peace Corps, serving until 1991 when he successfully sought a seat in the U.S. Senate. He served in the U.S. Senate from 1993 until his death in 2000. His legacy in Georgia includes his name being added to the Legislative Office Building at the Capitol.



From Soperton, Hugh Gillis was born into a family of public servants. His career in public service rivaled few in the nation, serving 56 years in the Georgia General Assembly. After 12 years in the State House, he served in the State Senate from 1957 until 1959 and again from 1963 until his retirement in 2005. In addition to chairing the Senate Natural Resources Committee, he championed technical schools and secured funding for Mercer University's medical school.



A retired grocer and former Air National Guard commander, Jack Hill was elected to 15 terms in the State Senate. Serving as the Senate Appropriations Chair from 2003 until his death in 2020, he shepherded funding for rural Georgia, including for Georgia Southern University, while ensuring good stewardship of tax dollars. Jack Hill State Park, located in his hometown of Reidsville, honors his legacy.

holidays & observances

The State of Georgia recognizes **26 unique holidays and observances**, in addition to **13 state holidays** in which many state offices are closed. These include days that promote various subjects, such as remembering fallen peace officers, prison chaplain appreciation, and childhood cancer awareness. Georgia also distinguishes **17 state symbols** spanning as far back as the **18th century** with the adoption of the state seal in **1799**. Other symbols include the state bird, the state vegetable, and, most recently, the General Assembly adopted the **pecan** as the **state nut** in **2021**. The following are just brief highlights of our recognized holidays and symbols.

26 | 17

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES | STATE SYMBOLS

HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES

History of Georgia's State Symbols

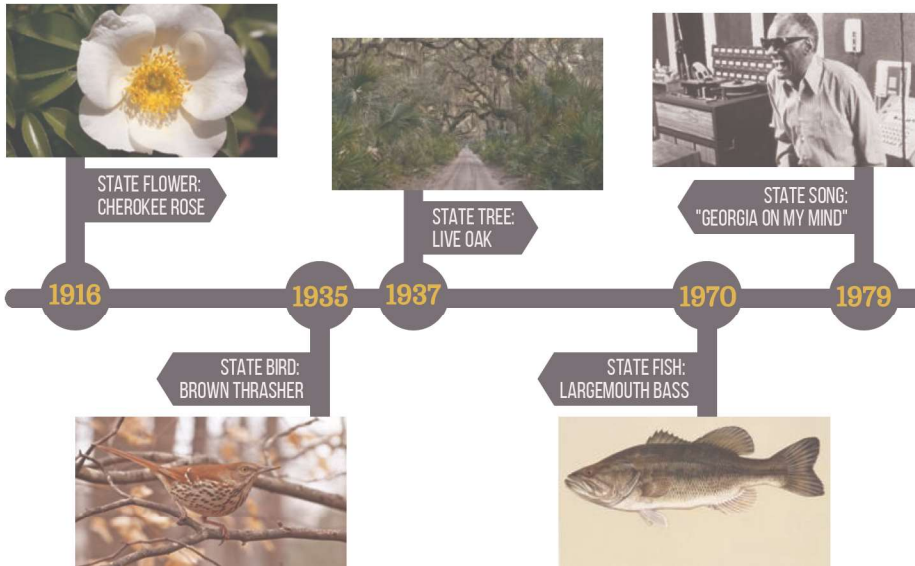
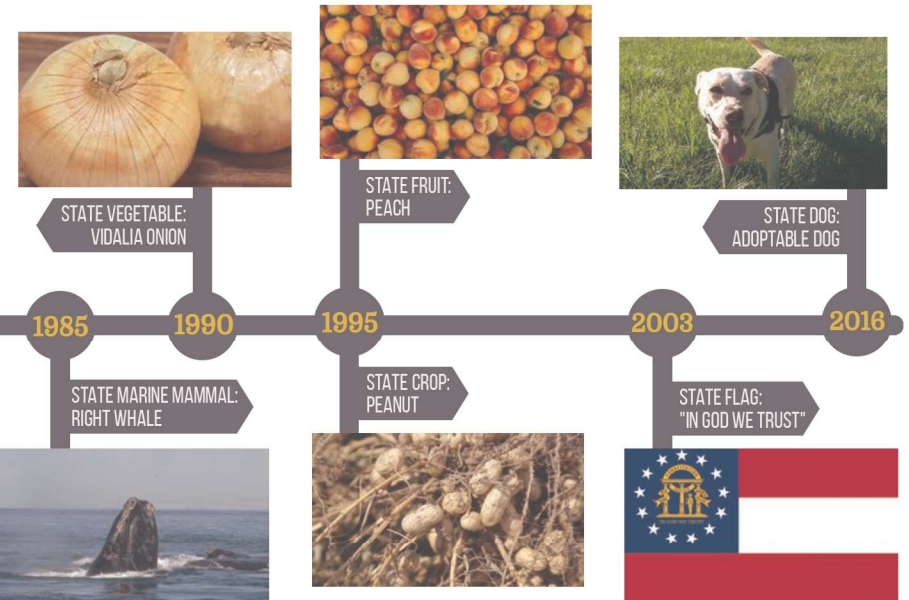


Photo Source: <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/quick-facts/>; <https://www.visitvidaliaga.com>

holidays & observances

Unique Georgia Holidays

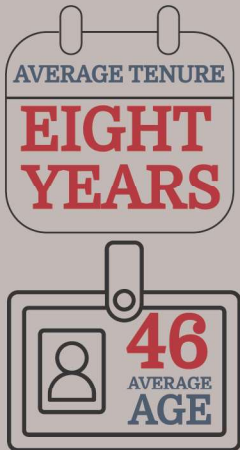


state employees

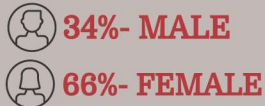
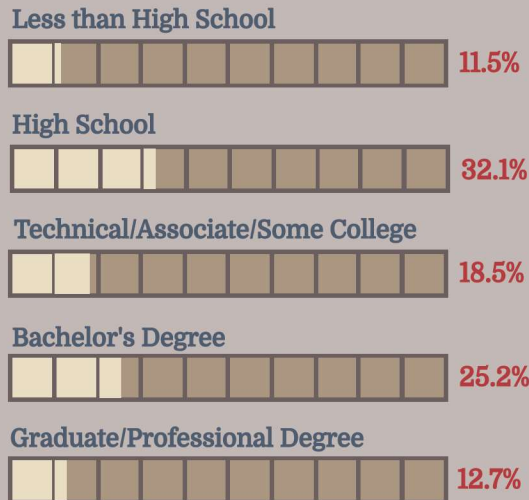
Georgia's Workforce

Like many employers, the State of Georgia faces **recruitment and retention challenges** within its workforce. Georgia's population grew by **14.4%** over the last decade. However, the state government workforce decreased by **8.7%** over the same period and currently stands at **61,864 full-time employees**. The state workforce is also **aging**. The average age of a state employee is **46 years old**. Given that **more than half** of state employees are members of the Baby Boomer generation or Generation X, successfully recruiting and retaining **younger generations** is crucial to the future of state government.

STATE EMPLOYEE STATS



EDUCATION LEVEL



largest agency
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
8,852 STAFF (FY 2023)

smallest agency
3 STAFF (FY 2023)
COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Nearly **23%** of executive branch employees are eligible to retire within the next **five years**.

state employees

Employee Retention

A recent retention study indicated the top reasons for **state employee attrition** were inadequate compensation, limited career opportunities, and negative work-life balance. To address state agency turnover, the governor and General Assembly have taken actions over several years to **enhance employee compensation**. In addition to targeted salary adjustments for critical positions, the state funded a **\$5,000** cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) in **FY 2023**, followed by a **\$2,000** COLA in **FY 2024** for all state employees. Additionally, the General Assembly increased the employer match for the state's **401(K)** program to **9%** to incentivize continued service.

As a result of these efforts, the state has achieved several **significant workforce developments**, including a decreased voluntary turnover rate. The system-wide turnover rate for full-time employees peaked at an alarming **25.3%** in **FY 2022**. The following year, turnover was down to **21%**. With these improvements, the state has shown an increased ability to attract more Georgians into state service, particularly the **younger generations**. In **FY 2022**, on average there were only **11 applicants** for every state job posting. For **2023**, the number of applicants has increased by **20%**. **Millennials** represented **44.6%** of new hires in **FY 2023** and **Generation Z** represented **21.9%**.

While progress has been made, retention continues to be an issue with many agencies. Agencies with some of the highest turnover in **2023** include the **Department of Juvenile Justice** (37.7%), the **Department of Driver Services** (37.1%), the **Department of Corrections** (31.5%), the **Department of Human Services - Division of Family and Children Services** (24.1%), and the **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities** (22.1%)

Sources: Department of Administrative Services, "Annual Workforce Report Fiscal Year End 2022" and "Annual Workforce Report Fiscal Year End 2023"

FY 2023

\$53,809
average state employee salary

\$124 MILLION
cost to provide a **\$1,000** pay raise for state employees

STARTING SALARIES FOR CRUCIAL STATE POSITIONS:

DBHDD	DDS	DOC	LAW	AG
\$36,521	\$32,000	\$40,040	\$67,000	\$39,500
licensed practical nurse	driver examiner	correctional officer	assistant attorney general	meat inspector

population demographics

Georgia's population has grown significantly over the past few decades. Georgia ranks **eighth in the nation** for population, with over **10.9 million** people as of **2022**. The state's thriving economy, job opportunities, and lower cost of living continues to stimulate **domestic migration**.



10,912,876
TOTAL
POPULATION



613,810+
VETERANS

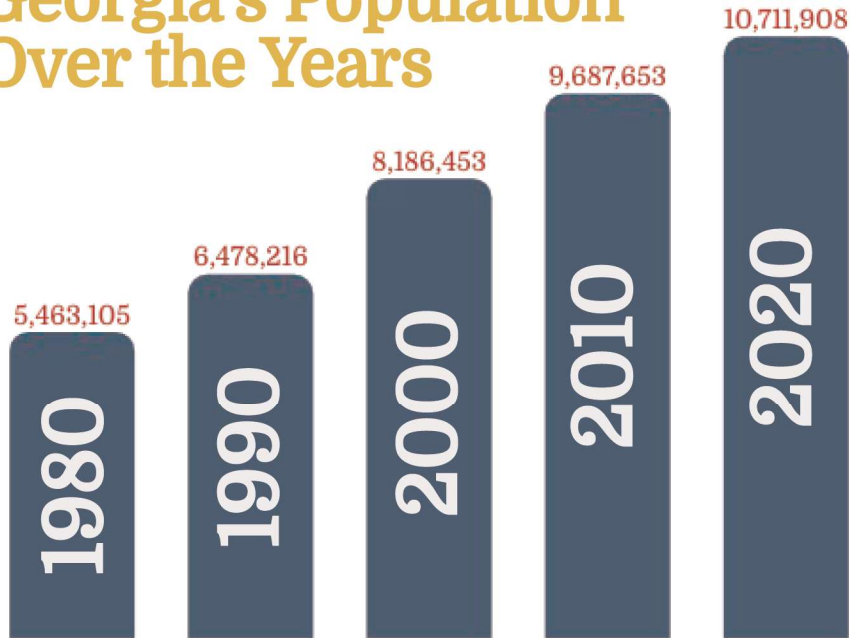


\$65,030
MEDIAN
HOUSEHOLD
INCOME



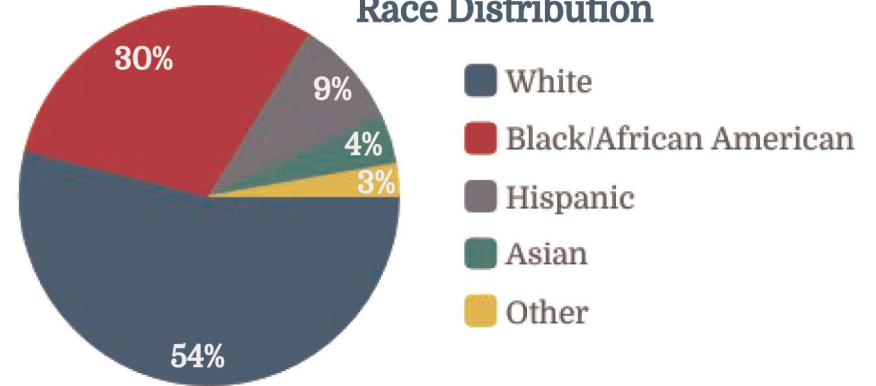
14%
POVERTY
RATE

Georgia's Population Over the Years



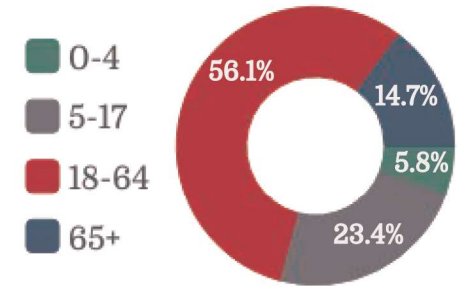
population demographics

Race Distribution

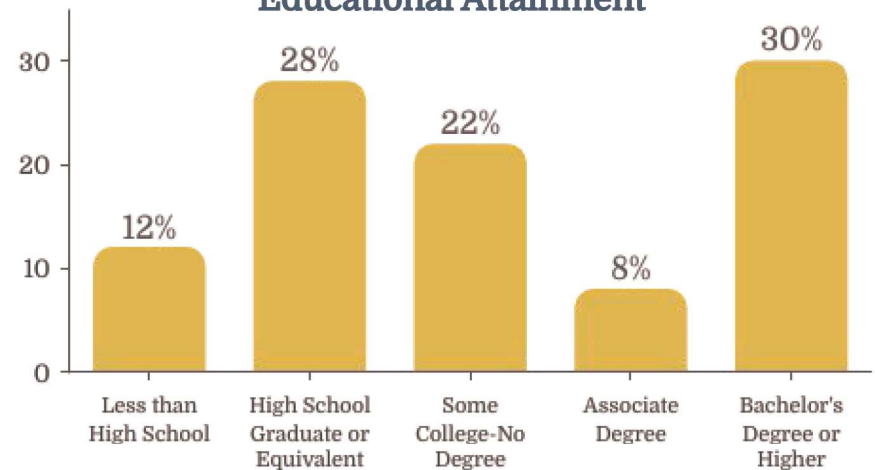


Age Distribution

20%
OF GEORGIA'S POPULATION
WILL BE AT LEAST
60 YEARS OLD
BY 2030.



Educational Attainment

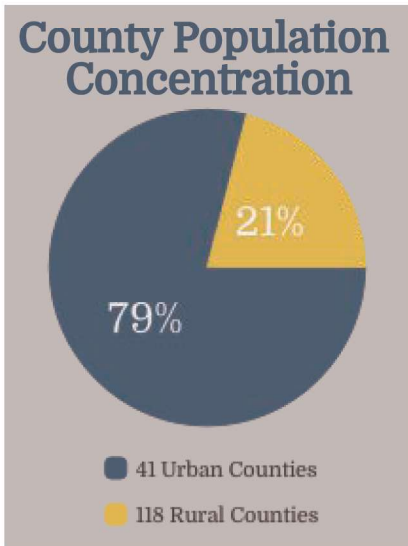


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

population demographics

Cities and Counties

The State of Georgia has **159 counties**, the second largest number in the United States, only behind Texas with 254. Georgia also contains **537 cities and towns**, from Abbeville to Zebulon. While **Atlanta, Georgia** is one of the largest cities in the United States, Georgia also boasts a large number of **rural communities** around the state. The pie chart below illustrates the urban and rural county difference, with “rural” being defined as having a population of **50,000** or less.



largest county:
Fulton County
1,074,634

smallest county:
Taliaferro County
1,600

OLDEST CITY



Savannah
[1773]

NEWEST CITY



Mableton
[2022]



FIRST COUNTIES
1777
Burke Camden Chatham Effingham
Glynn Wilkes Liberty Richmond

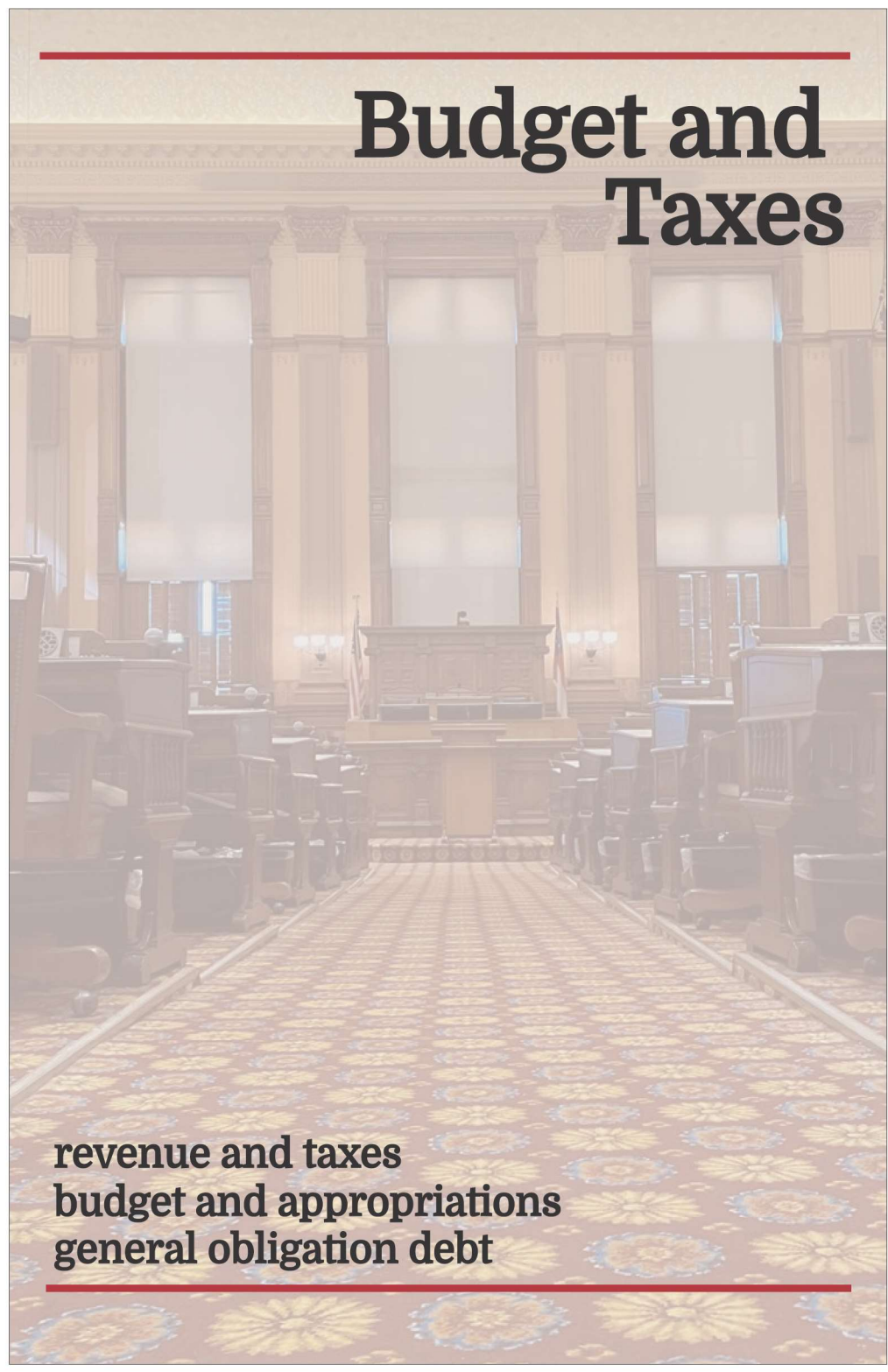


LAST COUNTY
Peach
[1924]

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Georgia's **only county** named after a woman is **Hart County**, named after **Nancy Hart** who fought against the British in the Revolutionary War.

Budget and Taxes

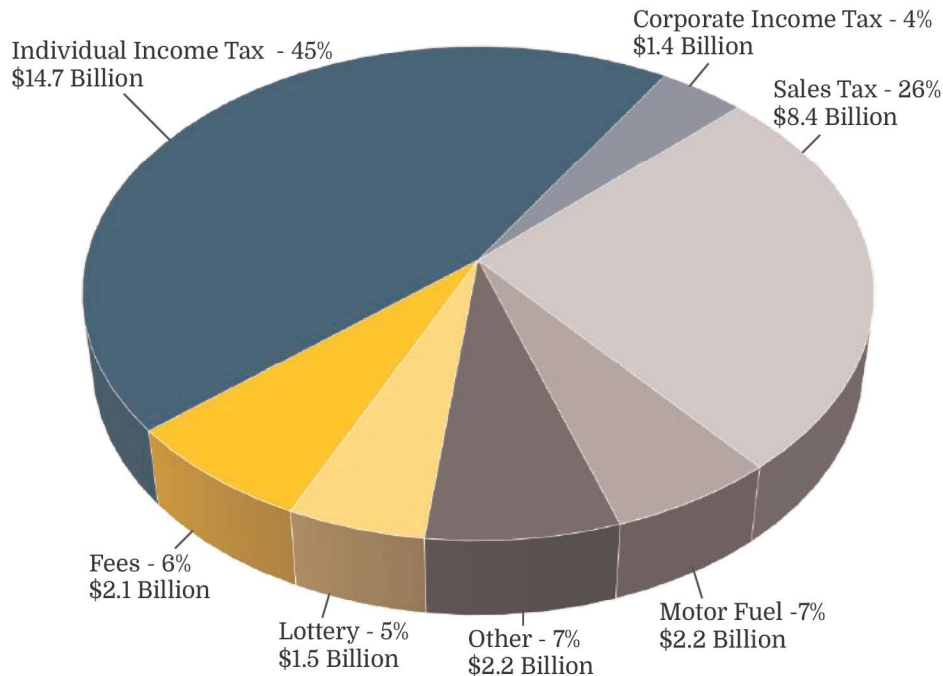


revenue and taxes
budget and appropriations
general obligation debt

revenue and taxes

HB 19, the **FY 2024** original budget, is set by a revenue estimate of **\$32.4 billion**. Individual income, corporate income, and state sales tax combined generate **75% of revenue** appropriated in the state budget. Motor fuel and other taxes generate **14% of revenue** including motor fuel taxes and interest, alcohol/tobacco taxes, and motor vehicle/title ad valorem taxes. Interest, sales, and fees collected by agencies, but deposited into the state treasury, comprise **6% of revenue**. Lottery deposits comprise **5% of state revenue**.

FY 2024 State Revenue by Fund Source \$32.4 Billion



\$3,110
STATE TAX REVENUE
PER CAPITA
[FY 2022]

seventh
LOWEST IN THE
NATION

Source: "State Government Tax Collections per Capita, SFY 2022," Kaiser Family Foundation.

revenue and taxes

State Tax Programs

TAX TYPE	2023 RATE	FY 2023 REVENUE
INCOME	INDIVIDUAL 5.75%	\$16.9 BILLION
	CORPORATE 5.75%	\$3.8 BILLION
SALES	4%	\$8.9 BILLION
MOTOR FUEL	NON-DIESEL 29.1¢ per gallon	\$837.2 MILLION
	DIESEL FUEL 32.6¢ per gallon	
TOBACCO	37¢ PER PACK OF CIGARETTES OTHER RATES VARY	\$235.6 MILLION
ALCOHOL	VARIABLES BY TYPE, VOLUME, AND POINT OF SALE	\$227 MILLION
PROPERTY	NO STATE PROPERTY TAX	
MOTOR VEHICLE TITLE AD VALOREM AND OTHER TAXES	TITLE AD VALOREM 7% [WITH EXCEPTIONS] OTHER RATES VARY	\$1.2 BILLION
INSURANCE PREMIUM	2.25%	\$680.8 MILLION

Beginning on **January 1, 2024**, the individual income tax rate in Georgia will drop from **5.75%** to **5.49%** for all income brackets. The governor and General Assembly leaders announced plans in **December 2023** to accelerate the drop to **5.39%** for the **2024 tax year**. The decrease from **5.75%** to **5.39%** is projected to provide a savings of more than **\$1.1 billion** to Georgia taxpayers. Per **O.C.G.A. 48-7-20**, the individual income tax rate can drop an additional **0.10% per tax year** that certain criteria set in statute is met until it reaches a low of **3.99%**.

budget and appropriations

Georgia's Appropriations Process

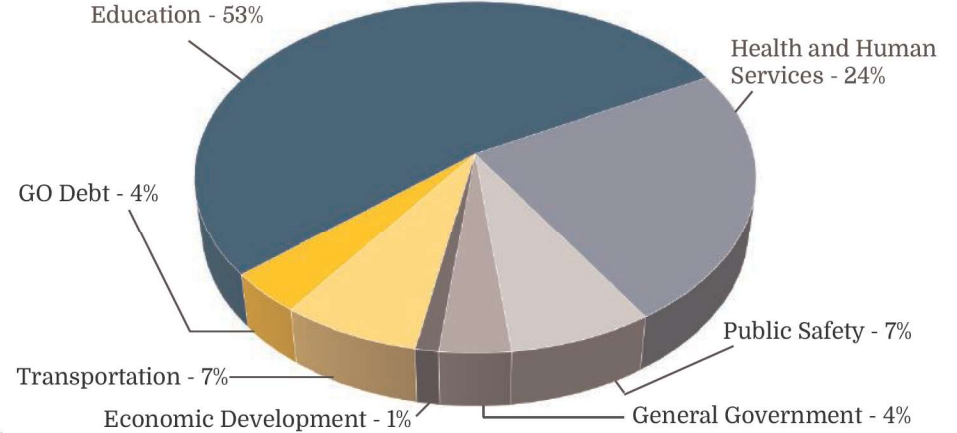
Each session, the General Assembly considers **two budgets**: one to **amend the current year's budget** and one to create a **budget for the approaching fiscal year**. The governor controls spending through the **revenue estimate**, which sets the **cap on the amount of funds** the legislature may appropriate. Within five days of the General Assembly convening for regular session, the governor must release his budget recommendations to the legislature. While hundreds of bills are introduced each session, the budget is the only piece of legislation the General Assembly is **Constitutionally-required to pass each year**.

The budget is the **state's spending plan** to provide services to **nearly 11 million Georgians** each year. It sets the state's priorities and authorizes spending by agency, program, and purpose. The **FY 2024 budget** is set by a revenue estimate of **\$32.4 billion**. More than **90%** of all state funding is appropriated to **10 state agencies** and to pay the state's debt service. Funding for remaining state agencies and government functions is **less than 10%** of the state budget.

	Agency	FY 2024 State Funds	Percent of Budget	Cumulative Percent
1	Department of Education	\$11,860,383,900	36.56%	36.56%
2	Department of Community Health	\$4,755,971,201	14.66%	51.23%
3	University System of Georgia Board of Regents	\$3,184,870,919	9.82%	61.05%
4	Department of Transportation	\$2,280,785,794	7.03%	68.08%
5	Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities	\$1,498,212,940	4.62%	72.70%
6	Department of Corrections	\$1,329,528,125	4.10%	76.79%
7	GO Debt Sinking Fund	\$1,255,377,796	3.87%	80.67%
8	Georgia Student Finance Commission	\$1,191,200,309	3.67%	84.34%
9	Department of Human Services	\$985,477,516	3.04%	87.38%
10	Department of Early Care and Learning	\$506,324,539	1.56%	88.94%
11	Technical College System of Georgia	\$499,860,598	1.54%	90.48%
12-49	Remaining 38 Agencies	\$3,088,693,213	9.52%	100%
	Total	\$32,436,686,850	100%	100%

budget and appropriations

FY 2024 Budget by Policy Area



Education comprises **53%** of the state budget at **\$17.3 billion**. This includes state general funds for K-12 education, Board of Regents and Technical College System institutions, as well as lottery funds for Pre-K and the HOPE Scholarship and Grant. Funding for K-12 education is **the state's single largest expenditure at \$11.8 billion**. **Health and human service agencies** consume the second largest and fastest-growing amount of state resources at **\$7.6 billion** or **24%** of the state budget. This includes funding for the Department of Community Health (Medicaid and PeachCare programs), the Department of Public Health, as well as the services provided through the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, and the Department of Human Services.

Public safety agencies make up **7%** of the budget or **\$2.4 billion**. This includes funding for the Department of Public Safety as well as the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. It also includes funding for the Departments of Corrections, Community Supervision, and Juvenile Justice. **Transportation** funding totals **\$2.2 billion** or **7%** of the budget. These funds are utilized for capital construction projects, routine maintenance, and traffic management, along with local maintenance and improvement grants (LMIG) and airport aid.

Bond debt totals **\$1.2 billion** or **4%** of the budget. Georgia remains **one of 11 states** with a **Triple-A rating** from all three bond rating agencies. Triple-A designation serves as the most widely-accepted performance standard for measuring state budgets and making sound, long-term investments. Funding for **23 general government agencies** totals **\$1.2 billion** or **4%** of the budget. This includes funding for the legislative and judicial branches of government as well as other public-facing agencies including the Department of Driver Services, Department of Revenue, and the Office of the Secretary of State.

Economic development agencies make up a small, but impactful portion of the state budget at **\$384 million** or **1%**. Funds budgeted here include the Departments of Agriculture, Community Affairs, Economic Development, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

general obligation debt

General Obligation (GO) Debt may only be incurred if the General Assembly authorizes the project in the **appropriations bill** and specifies the **purpose**, the **maximum principal amount** of the debt, and **funds** the highest annual debt service requirement to amortize the debt.

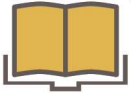
The issuance of GO Debt is limited to the following:



Acquire, construct, or improve land, waters, property, highway, buildings, structures, equipment, or facilities of the state;



Make loans to specified government entities for water or sewage facilities, or for solid waste recycling or solid waste facilities; and

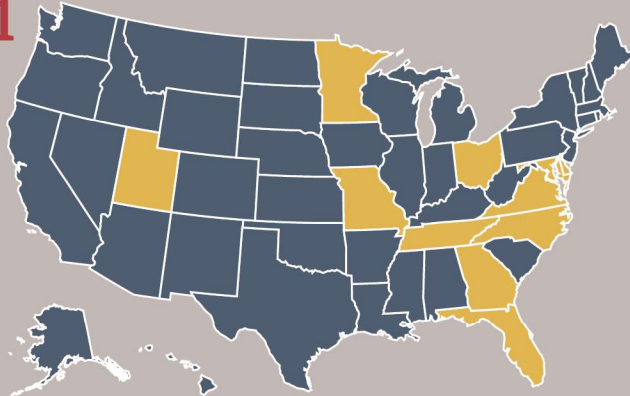


Provide educational facilities for public school systems and public library facilities for library systems.

Spotlight on Georgia's Triple-A Bond Rating

Since **1997**, Georgia has earned a **Triple-A bond rating** from all three rating agencies: **Fitch Ratings**, **Standard & Poor's Global Ratings**, and **Moody's Investor Services**. Georgia has held these ratings without interruption, maintaining the coveted **Triple Triple-A** status through the Great Recession and the economic uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Georgia is **1** of only **11** states that issue debt with the **Triple Triple-A** distinction.



Bond raters repeatedly cite Georgia's **broad and diverse economy**, proven ability to achieve **fiscal balance**, and low to moderate debt with **rapid amortization** as justification for the **Triple-A bond rating**.

general obligation debt

Georgia's Debt Management Plan

Georgia's commitment to **manage debt responsibly** is embedded in the state's **Constitution**, which caps the annual debt service requirement at **10% of the prior year's actual treasury receipts**. However, the state is guided by an even stricter debt management plan. This plan projects the debt service needs for outstanding debt and new projects for the current fiscal year as well as the **four succeeding fiscal years**. The plan **caps the debt ratio at 7%** to serve as a guide to the governor and General Assembly as they consider authorizing new state debt each year.

Actual State Debt as a Percentage of Prior Year Treasury Receipts



Source: Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission

*Projected

In practice, the **actual debt service ratio is even lower** based on authorized projects. According to the most recent debt management plan, the projected debt service ratio for **FY 2023** is **3.7%**, well below the Constitutional and debt management plan limits.

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Georgia ranks **45th** in state debt per capita at **\$1,354**.

Source: Tax Foundation, Facts and Figures 2023



Policy Areas

**economic development
broadband
lottery for education
education
higher education
health
human
public safety
courts
transportation
natural resources
general government services**

economic development

Ranked **#1 state in the country in which to do business** by Area Development Magazine and home to **440 Fortune 500 companies** with **18** headquartered here, Georgia takes its economy seriously. Georgia is the **eighth** most populous state, with **10.9 million people**, and it is ranked **seventh** in the nation for net domestic migration from 2020-2021. **5.3 million** people participate in our labor force, and the unemployment rate is just **3.4%**, as of **October 2023**. In **FY 2023**, industries within the State of Georgia created **38,406 new jobs**, and annual investments increased by **131%**, for a total investment of **\$24.26 billion**.

Spotlight on Key Georgia Industries

AGRICULTURE

The Georgia **Department of Agriculture** was established in **1874**, and it supports the state's number one industry. It is the **oldest state department of agriculture** in the United States.

GEORGIA FARM STATS

42,439
farms statewide

235 ACRES
state average farm size

9,953,730
acres of farmland

3,628,707
acres of harvested cropland

59.8 YEARS
average age of primary producer farmer

\$9.57 BILLION
market value of agriculture products sold

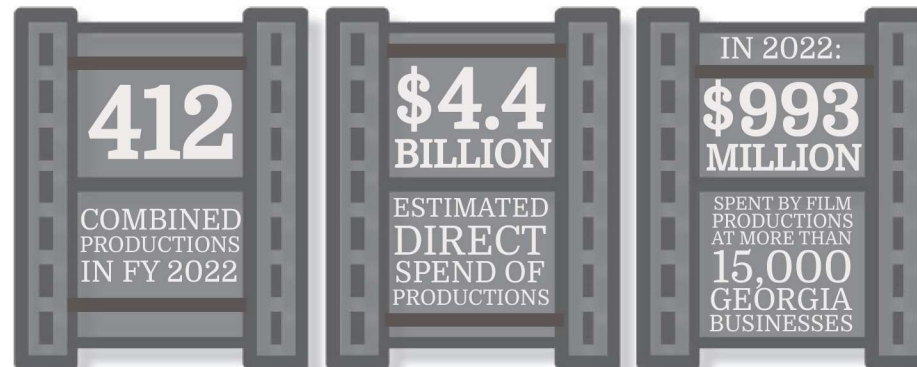
2021 NATIONAL COMMODITY RANKINGS



Sources: https://secure.caes.uga.edu/extension/publications/files/pdf/AP%201219-1_2.PDF
[https://caed.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/caed/publications/annual-reports-farm-gate-value-reports/2021_GeorgiaFGVReportDec2022%20\(1\).pdf](https://caed.uga.edu/content/dam/caes-subsite/caed/publications/annual-reports-farm-gate-value-reports/2021_GeorgiaFGVReportDec2022%20(1).pdf)

economic development

FILM



Source: Georgia Screen Entertainment Coalition

Georgia Film Academy

Located in **29** University System of Georgia (USG) and Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) institutions, the **Georgia Film Academy** (GFA) is considered the gold standard worldwide for training future workers and helps ensure more talented Georgians **remain in state** to work.

- The **GFA** offers professional certifications in **three pathways**:
 - Film and Television Production;
 - Film and Television Post-Production; and
 - Digital Entertainment, Esports, and Game Development.
- Nearly **12,000 students** have enrolled in **GFA** since it began in **spring 2016**.
- As of **spring 2023**, **1,654 students** have earned professional certifications.
- GFA hosts summer camps for high school students in screenwriting and filmmaking, including **160 campers** at Trilith Studios since **2019**.
- More than **1,100 students** have participated in GFA's competitive internship/apprenticeship program receiving paid, hands-on training on more than **130** film and TV productions in Georgia since **2016**. Approximately **70% of students** find a job in the business within the **first year** after the internship.

Source: Georgia Film Academy

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

The **U.S. Soccer Federation** announced its plans in **December 2023** to move its **headquarters to Georgia** and construct a national training center in **Fayette County**.

economic development

TOURISM

Georgia has a diverse landscape that includes more than **100 miles of coastline**, the **Appalachian Mountains**, and everything in between.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

167.7 MILLION } THE LARGEST NUMBER OF VISITORS EVER
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

\$39.8 BILLION = VISITOR SPENDING

\$73 BILLION = TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT [13% YEAR-OVER-YEAR INCREASE]

\$4.7 BILLION = STATE AND LOCAL TAX REVENUE [10.1% INCREASE OVER 2021]

442,600+ JOBS SUPPORTED | **RANKED 5TH** FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS AMONG THE 50 STATES



Source: Department of Economic Development; GA CVB Industry Talking Points

FINTECH

Georgia serves as an epicenter for **FinTech**. More than **200 companies** offering banking, blockchain, information security, and data analytics services are located in Georgia, and they handle approximately **70%** of all U.S. transactions.

42,000 Georgians work in FinTech, a **7% increase** in the last two years.

Two of the country's **largest fiber routes** intersect in metro Atlanta, along with major research lines. Every major international and North American fiber provider possesses a **core interconnection point** in Atlanta.



Created in **2019**, the **Georgia FinTech Academy** is a collaboration between the region's FinTech industry and the **University System of Georgia** to provide an opportunity for students to participate in classes, events, and projects to **prepare for jobs in the industry**.



Georgia Institute of Technology's **Financial Services Innovation Lab** and Georgia State University's **FinTech Lab** both act as an avenue to connect students with the financial services industry and **FinTech professionals**.

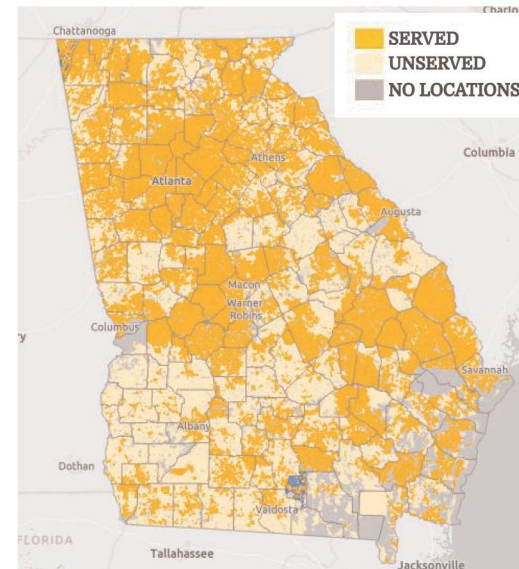
Source: <https://www.georgia.org/industries/technology/fintech>

broadband

Broadband is **essential** to the success of all Georgians. Access to broadband allows for advancements in public safety, education, economic development, healthcare, and government services. Broadband availability is categorized as either **unserved** or **underserved**. An "unserved" area is a location without broadband speeds of **25/3 Mbps**. An "underserved" area is a location without access to broadband speeds of **100/20 Mbps**. A "location" is any building with a business or residential purpose.

The **2023 Georgia Broadband Availability Map** shows **204,968** unserved locations, a **54.9% decrease** from the previous year. Rural areas account for about **90%** of the unserved locations. Of the identified unserved locations, approximately **120,000** are without a funding agreement. With significant state and federal investments in broadband deployment, Georgia is continuing to address the technological barriers in the state. By the end of **2024**, Georgia will have received about **\$3 billion** in broadband investments since **2020**.

2023 Georgia Broadband Availability Map



Sources: Georgia Technology Authority; Department of Community Affairs

5th
GEORGIA'S
NATIONAL
RANKING FOR
INTERNET
ACCESS

[2021 U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT]

FIRST

state in the U.S. to precisely map the availability of broadband services and identify areas that need accessibility.

Access to 100/20 Mbps Service: Comparison by State

	GA	FL	AL	MS	NC	SC	TN
100/20	88.5%	94.0%	79.1%	66.9%	91.7%	91.1%	87.5%

Source: FCC Form 477

lottery for education

Georgia Lottery History

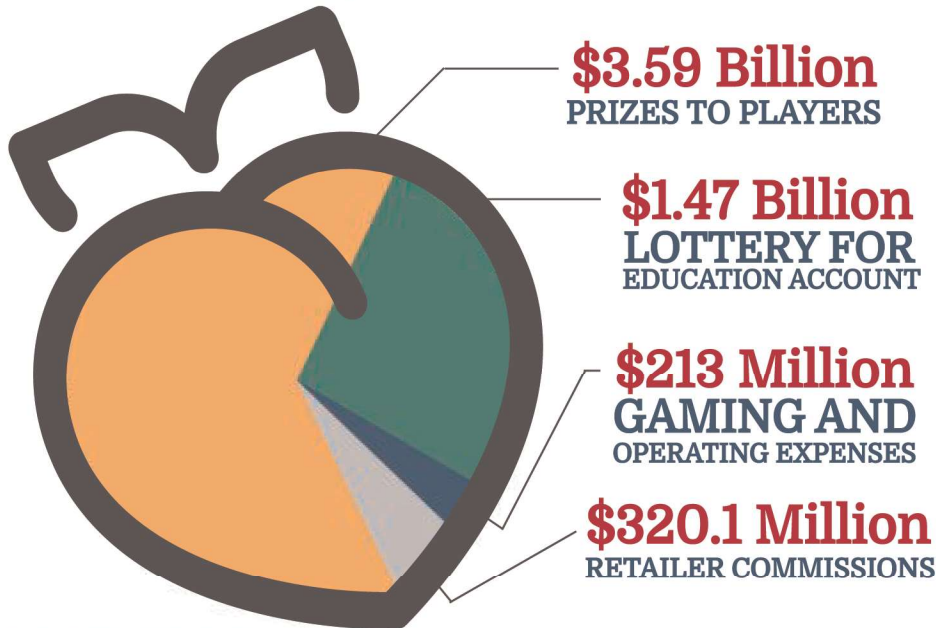
In **1992**, Georgia voters ratified the '**Lottery for Education Act**' allowing for the creation of the **Georgia Lottery**. The Act authorized the use of lottery proceeds for educational purposes and programs, which led to the creation of Georgia's **Pre-K** and **HOPE Scholarship** programs.

The **Georgia Lottery Corporation** (GLC) was established as the Georgia Lottery administrator and began selling tickets on **June 29, 1993**. After selling more than **52 million** tickets in the opening week, the Georgia Lottery paid back its startup line of credit **within two weeks**. The Lottery met its **first-year sales goal** of **\$463 million** in just **five months**, and ended its first full year in operation with **\$1.1 billion** in total sales.

AS OF 2023

OVER \$27.2 BILLION
HAS BEEN TRANSFERRED INTO THE
LOTTERY FOR EDUCATION ACCOUNT.

Lottery Proceeds - FY 2022



Source: Georgia Lottery Corporation

lottery for education

Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally

With the authorization to spend **lottery proceeds** on educational purposes and programs, the **Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally** (HOPE) scholarship and grant programs were established. The programs use lottery funds to provide **tuition payments** to eligible students throughout the state. The **first HOPE scholarship** was awarded to a student at **Gwinnett Technical College** in **September 1993**.

AS OF 2023

MORE THAN \$16.9 BILLION
HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED TO PROVIDE
AWARDS TO MORE THAN
2 MILLION HOPE RECIPIENTS.

FY 2023



Georgia Pre-K

Georgia's **Pre-Kindergarten** (Pre-K) program was designed to prepare the state's **four-year old children** for kindergarten. Initially begun as a pilot program serving **750** students in **1992**, the program now operates throughout the **entire state**, providing **84,000 Pre-K slots** in the **2023-2024** school year. Lottery funds were first utilized to provide Pre-K programs in the **1993-1994** school year.

AS OF 2023

MORE THAN \$9 BILLION
HAS BEEN APPROPRIATED TO SEND OVER
2 MILLION FOUR-YEAR-OLDS TO
PRE-K PROGRAMS IN GEORGIA.

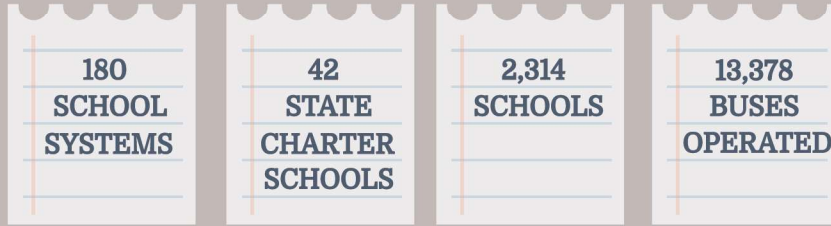
Sources: Georgia Student Finance Commission; Department of Early Care and Learning

education

Department of Education

The **Department of Education** (DOE) is responsible for developing, reviewing, and revising the statewide content standards known as the **Georgia Performance Standards** (GPS). The DOE assists school systems in administering the **Georgia Milestones Test**, and provides **support** by ensuring they receive funding earned through the **Quality Basic Education** (QBE) funding formula and other grant programs.

FY 2024 EDUCATION STATS



Quality Basic Education (QBE) Funding

The **Quality Basic Education** program is the single largest expenditure in the state budget. This funding formula provides the state's **Constitutionally-required financial obligation** to school systems and has been **fully funded** the last five of six fiscal years.

State QBE Funds and State QBE Funds Per FTE

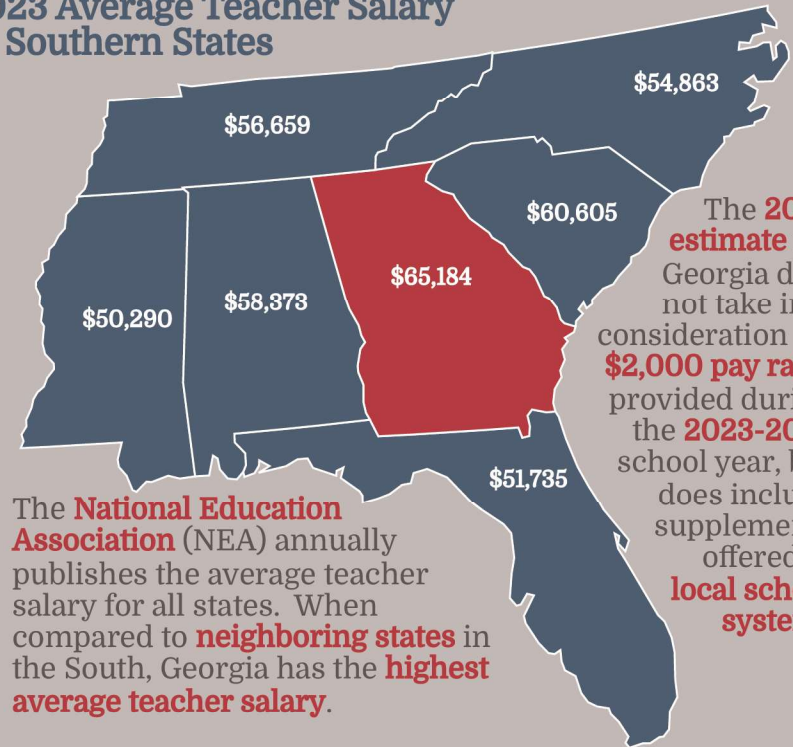


education

Teacher Pay

Since **FY 2020**, Georgia teachers have received a **\$7,000 pay raise**, for a total increase to the base teacher salary of **20.5%** in five years. The current base teacher salary is **\$41,092**.

2023 Average Teacher Salary in Southern States



The **2023 estimate** for Georgia does not take into consideration the **\$2,000 pay raise** provided during the **2023-2024** school year, but does include supplements offered by **local school systems**.

The **National Education Association** (NEA) annually publishes the average teacher salary for all states. When compared to **neighboring states** in the South, Georgia has the **highest average teacher salary**.

Source: "Rankings of the States 2022 and Estimates of School Statistics 2023," National Education Association

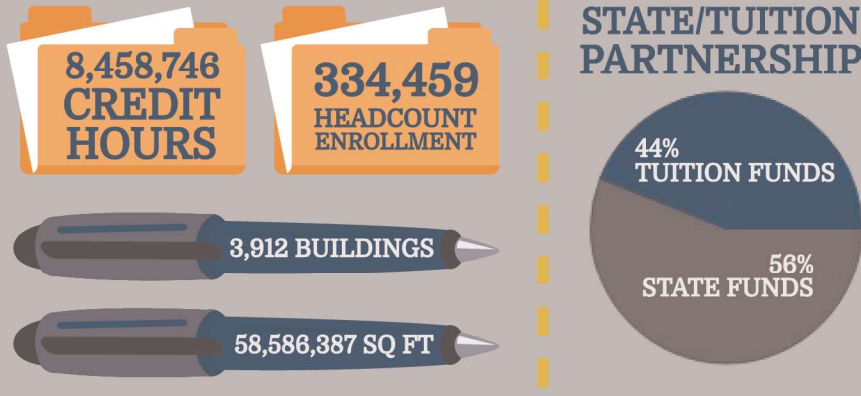
A \$1,000 TEACHER PAY RAISE COSTS THE STATE APPROXIMATELY \$147.5 MILLION.

higher education

University System of Georgia

Created in 1931, the **University System of Georgia** (USG) serves as the state's public higher education agency. The **Board of Regents** is appointed by the governor and they select the **chancellor**. The University System of Georgia is comprised of **26 institutions**, ranging from access institutions to research universities.

FY 2024 USG STATS



Full-Time In-State Undergraduate Tuition Public Four-Year Institutions in Southern States 2019-2020



"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

In FY 2022, the economic impact of the University System of Georgia was \$20.1 billion.

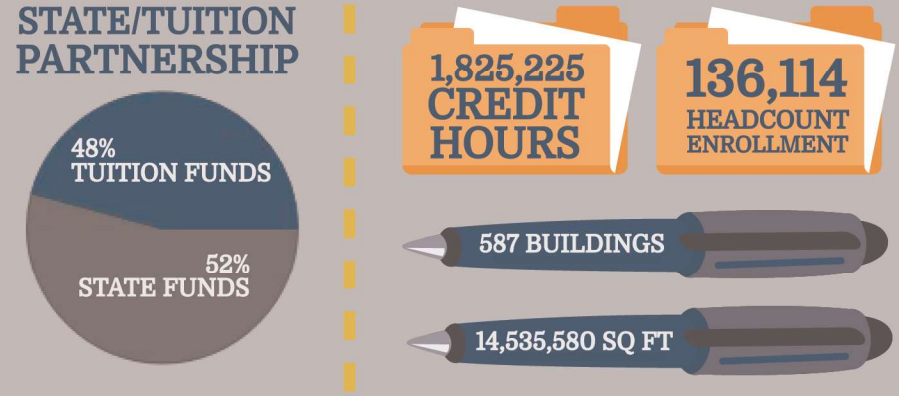
Source: "The Economic Impact of the University System of Georgia Institutions on their Regional Economies in FY 2022" Selig Center for Economic Growth, June 2023

higher education

Technical College System of Georgia

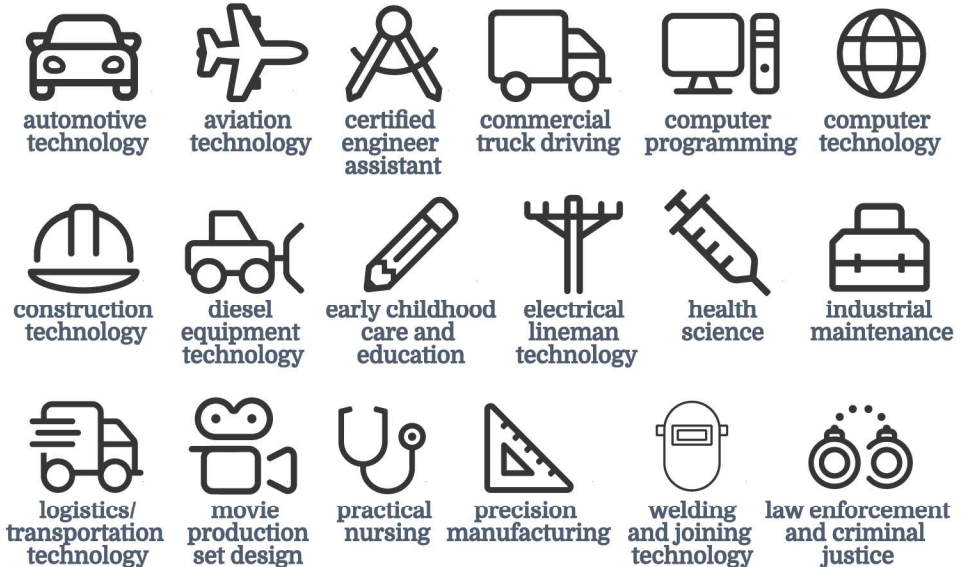
Created in 1984, the state funds **technical education** through the **Technical College System of Georgia** (TCSG). Comprised of **22 institutions** across the state with **88 campuses**, TCSG's mission is to build a well-educated, globally competitive workforce through **technical education, adult education, and customized training** for Georgia's businesses and industries.

FY 2024 TCSG STATS



Spotlight on High Demand Career Fields

TCSG offers **18 programs** of study which are considered **high demand career fields**. These programs focus on careers in need of a **trained and capable workforce**. Through the **Hope Career Grant**, TCSG students are eligible for **free tuition** to complete these vital programs.



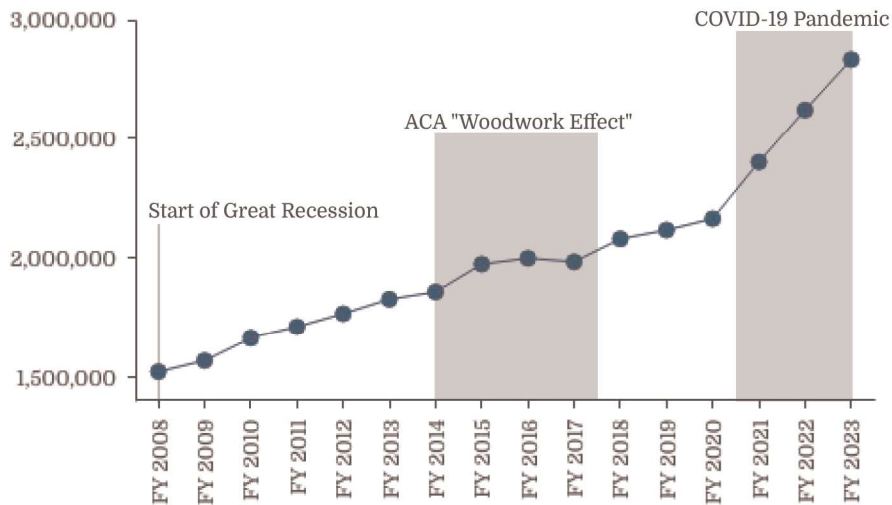
health

Medicaid in Georgia

Medicaid is a joint federal and state program administered by the **Department of Community Health** that provides health coverage to **2.7 million** children, pregnant women, low-income adults, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, based on income.

During the **COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE)**, Georgia Medicaid enrollment grew by **29%** due to the federal requirement to delay eligibility redeterminations. With the ending of the PHE, **redeterminations** began again in **April 2023**.

Georgia Medicaid Enrollment: FY 2008 - FY 2023



1 IN 4 GEORGIA RESIDENTS ARE COVERED BY MEDICAID.



52% OF GEORGIA BIRTHS ARE COVERED BY MEDICAID.



MORE THAN HALF OF GEORGIA CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS ARE COVERED BY MEDICAID.

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

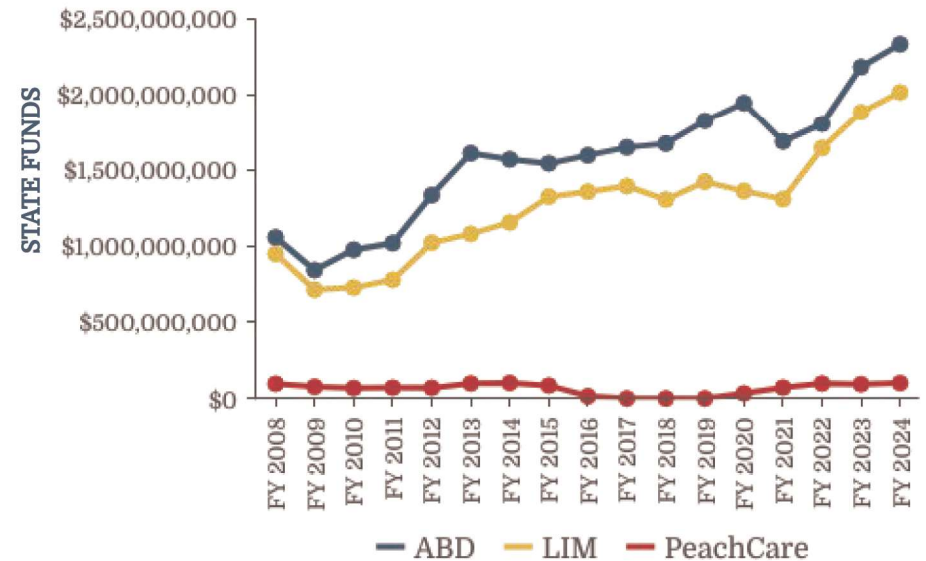
Effective **January 1, 2024**, there is **no longer a waiting period** for children and pregnant women who are lawful, permanent residents to **receive Medicaid**.

health

Medicaid Funding

As a jointly-funded program, **Medicaid funding** is determined by a percentage of federal and state funding. The federal portion is referred to as the **Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP)** rate. This rate is calculated annually with a formula based on the average per capita income of a state relative to the national average, which determines how much the federal government pays for its **Medicaid match**. In the **FY 2024** budget, Georgia's FMAP rate is **65.89%**. A total of **\$4.4 billion** in state funds is appropriated for Georgia's match for Low-Income Medicaid (LIM); Aged, Blind, and Disabled (ABD) Medicaid; and the PeachCare for Kids programs.

Medicaid Appropriations



The State Health Benefit Plan

The **State Health Benefit Plan (SHBP)** is operated by the **Georgia Department of Community Health**. This plan is the state's administrator of health insurance coverage for over **665,000 members** including state employees, teachers, other public school employees, retirees, and covered dependents. There are **three** approved vendors and **seven** plan options.



Georgia Investment in Maternal and Infant Health

Budget Investments

- In **FY 2024**, the General Assembly provided the **Department of Public Health** with **\$1.7 million** for a **pilot program** to provide home visiting in at-risk and underserved rural communities during pregnancy and early childhood to **improve birth outcomes**, reduce preterm deliveries, and decrease infant/maternal mortality.
- The **Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities** received **\$50,000** in the **FY 2023** budget to support pregnant women recovering from substance use.
- The **FY 2023** budget provided **\$825,212** to increase select OB/GYN delivery codes to **2020 Medicare reimbursement levels** to bring them up to the same year as most of the primary care codes.
- \$47.9 million** is included in the state budget to support the extension of postpartum Medicaid coverage from **60 days** to **12 months**.
- The **Maternal and Neonatal Care Designation Program** was established by **HB 909** in **2018** and received a **\$152,826** appropriation in **FY 2020**. Facilities that provide perinatal care receive a designated level of care from basic to advanced to protect mothers and babies by ensuring they receive **appropriate care**.

Georgia's Rank: Maternal and Infant Health (2021)

Indicator	Rate (2017)	Rate (2021)	U.S. Rank
Low Birthweight Deliveries	9.9%	10.6%	3rd
Cesarean Deliveries	34.2%	35.1%	5th (Tied with AL)
Preterm Births	11.4%	11.9%	9th
Life Expectancy at Birth	77.2 years (2018)	75.6 years (2020)	37th
Teen Births	21.9 per 1,000	16.6 per 1,000	16th
Infant Mortality	7.18 per 1,000	6.25 per 1,000	12th

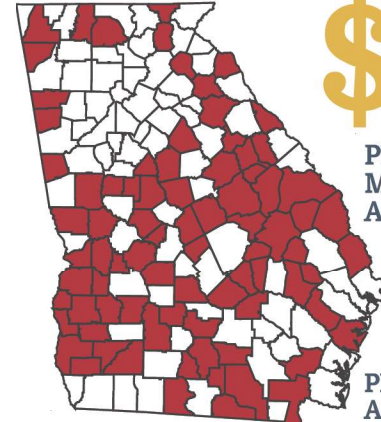
Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/georgia/ga.htm>

\$150,000

PROVIDED IN THE FY 2024 BUDGET FOR A MATERNAL FETAL MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP AT THE MEDICAL COLLEGE OF GEORGIA.

\$240,000

PROVIDED IN THE FY 2024 BUDGET TO START A NEW RURAL OB/GYN TRAINING PROGRAM AT THE MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.



COUNTIES WITH NO OB/GYN SHOWN IN RED.

Legislative Accomplishments

- SB 46** (2023 Session) requires that a pregnant woman be tested for **HIV** and **syphilis** by their prenatal provider at their **first prenatal visit**, at **28-32 weeks gestation**, and at **delivery**. The patient has the option to opt-out of such testing.
- SB 106** (2023 Session) creates a **Medicaid program** to provide **remote maternal health clinical services** to women with high-risk pregnancies, and creates a home-visiting pilot program through the **Department of Public Health**.
- SB 338** (2022 Session) extended **postpartum Medicaid coverage** to **12 months**, and had previously been extended from 60 days to six months postpartum with **HB 1114** (2020 Session).
- HB 146** (2021 Session) supports new parents by providing **120 hours** of paid time off for **eligible state employees**, while **HB 1090** (2020 Session) requires employers to provide break time to employees who need to **express breast milk**.
- SB 273** (2014 Session) established the **Maternal Mortality Review Committee** (MMRC). Made up of maternal and mental health experts and clinicians, the MMRC **reviews maternal deaths** to determine cause and preventability.

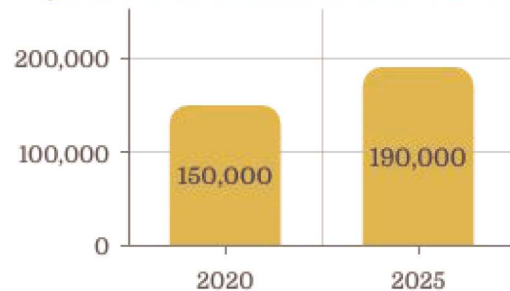
"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

HB 937 (2022 Session) provides coverage for **annual mammograms** at no cost for **Medicaid-eligible patients**.

health

Spotlight on Alzheimer's Disease in Georgia

Projected Growth in Alzheimer's, 2020-2025



According to the **Alzheimer's Association**, the prevalence of older adults with Alzheimer's in Georgia is expected to increase by **26.7%** from **150,000** in 2020 to **190,000** in 2025.

State Alzheimer's Programs

Georgia Memory Net supports Georgians living with **memory loss** or **cognitive impairment**. Georgia Memory Net clinics provide early screening/diagnosis, care planning, community service referrals, and education for patients and their families. There are currently **six sites** in Albany, Atlanta, Augusta, Columbus, Gainesville, and Savannah with more on the horizon and **several telehealth locations**. The Georgia Memory Net program is supported with **\$7.1 million** in the state budget.

A **Dementia Care Specialist Program** was created with **\$1.3 million** in the **FY 2023** budget. The program allows for a dementia care specialist to be placed at all **12 Area Agencies on Aging** to provide access to early screening, improve care coordination, and enhance data collection.

How Georgia Ranks in Causes of Death (2021)

Condition	National Rate per 100,000	Georgia Rate per 100,000	U.S. Rank
Alzheimer's Disease	36.0	44.5	4th
Kidney Disease	16.4	20	6th
Stroke	41.1	47.9	8th
Heart Disease	209.6	195.2	13th
Cancer	182.4	151.5	23rd
Diabetes	31.1	25.1	26th

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/georgia/ga.htm>

human

Behavioral Health in Georgia

The **Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD)** supports Georgians experiencing **mental health and substance use conditions and intellectual/developmental disabilities** through a network of community providers, hospitals, and other supports. DBHDD was established in the **FY 2010** budget with an appropriation of **\$700.7 million** in state funds and the **FY 2024** DBHDD budget included **\$1.4 billion** in state funds. The following includes DBHDD program highlights:



COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARDS

There are **22 Community Service Boards (CSBs)** across Georgia that provide **community-based** behavioral health services.

CSUs + BHCCs



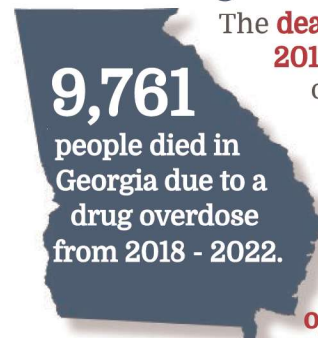
There are **15 Crisis Stabilization Units (CSUs)** (10 adult, five children/adolescent) and **13 Behavioral Health Crisis Centers (BHCCs)** in Georgia that provide shorter-term care for Georgians experiencing a behavioral health crisis.



HOSPITALS

DBHDD manages **five psychiatric hospitals** with locations in Atlanta, Milledgeville, Columbus, Augusta, and Savannah. These hospitals provide inpatient forensic, medical, and other services for those experiencing **severe mental health disorders**.

Georgia 2017-2021 Overdose Death Rates



The **death rate** due to drug overdose in Georgia from **2018-2022** was **18.3 per 100,000**. The number of overall drug overdose deaths across the state increased by **91.8%** from **2018-2021**. From **2019-2021**, fentanyl overdose deaths have increased by **230%**. In **2021**, nearly **1,300** Georgians died from an overdose involving fentanyl. While Georgia is set to receive a minimum of **\$640 million** from various **opioid settlements**, an additional **\$200 million** is expected and several cases are still pending.

Source: Department of Public Health

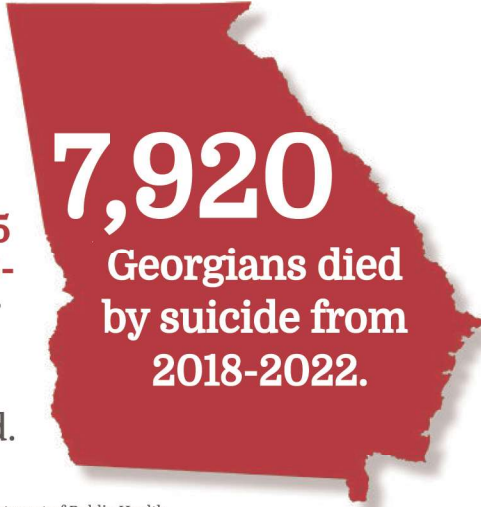
Georgia Mortality Rates

Indicator	Rate (2021)	U.S. Rank
Depression	19.2%	12th
Suicide Mortality	15.3 per 100,000	26th
Drug Overdose Mortality	23.5 per 100,000	39th

Sources:
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/stats_of_the_states.htm;
https://www.americashealthrankings.org/explore/measures/Depression_a/GA;
<https://oasis.state.ga.us/oasis/webquery/qryMortality.aspx>

2018-2022 Suicide Rates

Suicide is the **third leading cause** of death for Georgians aged **10-49** years. The suicide rate in Georgia was **14.5 per 100,000** from **2018-2022**, with the number of deaths increasing from **1,565** to **1,626** during that time period.



Sources: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Department of Public Health

Recent Investments in Behavioral Health

'988' LIFELINE

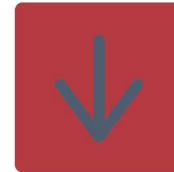
On **July 16, 2022**, the **'988' lifeline** was launched to provide free, **24/7 access** to mental health resources to people experiencing suicidal crisis. Similar to dialing '911,' the shorter number makes it easier for people to remember during a crisis. In **FY 2023** and **FY 2024**, the General Assembly invested **\$3.8 million** to support the establishment of the hotline. As of **October 31, 2023**, the **seven-day average** of calls, texts, and chats was **753.4** with most coming from those aged **25-34 years** (24.4%) and **males** (51.7%). The top counties include Wilkinson, Ware, and Tift.

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

In **2022**, "**The Year of Mental Health**," the General Assembly invested **\$108 million** in new funds into behavioral health supports across **eight agencies**.

Georgia Foster Care Data

10,387 CHILDREN [AS OF 11/2023] are currently in Georgia's foster care system, ACCORDING TO THE GEORGIA DIVISION OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES.



This is a **27%** decrease compared to May 2018, when there were **14,228** youth in the state's custody.

41.8%



of children who exited care in **FY 2023** returned to their original caregiver or a non-custodial parent.

Recent Investments in Georgia Foster Care

FY 2023 - FY 2024

- \$6.7 million was provided in **FY 2023** and an additional **\$5 million** in **FY 2024** to provide alternatives to **hotel placements** of children with complex needs.
- \$27.8 million was appropriated for a **10% provider rate increase** for child caring institutions, child placing agencies, foster parents, and relative caregivers for a total appropriation of **\$342.6 million**.
- \$3 million was provided to increase the annual clothing allowance for foster youth by **\$275 per child** for a total of **\$5.6 million**.
- \$2.5 million was budgeted to pilot a **university summer program** to expose high school foster youth to postsecondary options.
- \$950,000 was funded to provide additional support for the **Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)** program, which advocates on behalf of youth in the child welfare system.

public safety

Department of Public Safety

The **Georgia Department of Public Safety** was created in **1937** and oversees three main divisions: the **Georgia State Patrol (GSP)**, **Capitol Police**, and the **Motor Carrier Compliance Division (MCCD)**.

The primary focus of the GSP is the **enforcement of traffic laws** and **investigation of traffic crashes**. GSP currently has **787 troopers** divided over 52 patrol posts and seven specialized units. The **Crime Suppression Unit** is one of the specialized units tasked with reducing crime in Atlanta and other metro areas as needed. Since **April 2021**, the unit has recovered **700** stolen vehicles valued at over **\$14 million**.

GEORGIA STATE PATROL STATS

Ranked 36th
IN THE COUNTRY FOR STATE
LAW ENFORCEMENT SALARY

\$153,397
COST TO RECRUIT AND
TRAIN ONE TROOPER



787
CURRENT
NUMBER
OF GSP
TROOPERS

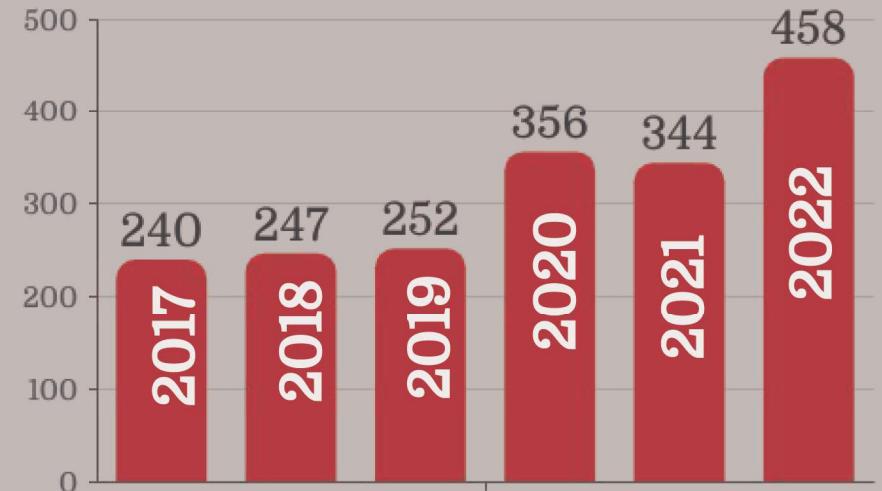
public safety

Georgia Bureau of Investigation

The **Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI)** is a statewide law enforcement agency that supports Georgia's criminal justice system through **criminal investigations**, **forensic services**, and the use of **digital criminal justice information services**.

The **Medical Examiner's Office (MEO)** completes forensic pathology services for **155 of the 159 counties** in Georgia. The MEO has **three** centralized locations in Atlanta, Macon, and Pooler.

Medical Examiner Office: Cases per Doctor



The Division of Forensic Sciences

41,772
PIECES OF
EVIDENCE
IN **BACKLOG**

The **Division of Forensic Sciences** was established in **1952** and was the second **statewide crime lab** in the country. Laboratory scientists and technicians collect and analyze **physical evidence** from law enforcement officers, investigators, and district attorneys throughout the state. As of **FY 2023**, there were **41,772 pieces of evidence** awaiting processing. The Georgia General Assembly continues to prioritize the funding of additional positions to **mitigate the backlog**.

public safety

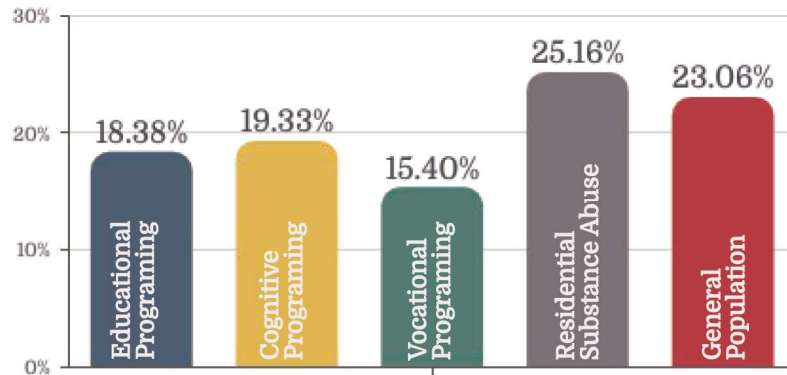
Department of Corrections

The **Georgia Department of Corrections** (GDC) operates more than **80 facilities** across the state to house and rehabilitate almost **50,000 offenders**. Inmates are given access to numerous programs designed to assist the offender with **risk reduction services, substance abuse, educational attainment, and job skills** to promote employability upon re-entering society. On average there are **8,000 offenders** enrolled in career, technical, and higher education services monthly.

Educational Programs in State Prisons

Offenders have the ability to access **academic education** in almost all GDC facilities excluding a few transition centers and county correctional facilities. Inmates who participate in correctional education programs have **43% lower odds** of recidivating and a **13% higher chance** of finding employment upon re-entry, according to the U.S. Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Three-Year Felon Reconviction Rate



Every **\$1** invested in correctional education saves nearly **\$5** in re-incarceration costs over 3 years.

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

There are **more than 300** career, technical, and higher education programs offered at **Georgia Department of Corrections** facilities.

public safety

General Educational Development Program

The **Georgia Department of Corrections** (GDC) provides voluntary educational programs for offenders who do not have a high school diploma or **high school equivalency (HSE) diploma** (formerly known as GED). Offenders are taught in a classroom setting by full-time and part-time GDC staff with the help of local technical college instructors. GDC offenders earned **8% of all HSEs** in the nation and **21.6% of all HSEs** earned in Georgia.

2022 HSE GRADUATE STATS

1,440
DIPLOMAS

930 - State Prisons
190 - Private Prisons
97 - Transitional Centers
91 - Substance Abuse Programs
87 - County Facilities
45 - Probation Detention Centers



13 graduates under the age of 18

27 life-sentenced graduates

[22 have the potential for parole]



82.9%
male graduates



17.1%
female graduates

Career Pathway Program

As part of GDC's **Career Pathway Program**, offenders receive a certificate through the **Technical College System of Georgia** for all **on-the-job** and **skills** training. Certificates are awarded for completion of all vocational programs. In **FY 2022**, there were a total of **3,456** college-level classes completed, resulting in **110** Associate Degrees, and **seven** Bachelor Degrees.

THOUSANDS OF CAREER PATHWAY COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED SINCE FY 2021, INCLUDING:



courts

Georgia Supreme Court



- Established in **1845**; first met on **January 26, 1846**.
- Nine justices** elected statewide in **nonpartisan** elections for **six-year terms**; vacancies appointed by the governor.
- Chief justice** and **presiding justice** elected by justices.

The **three terms** of the Supreme Court begin in **December, April, and August**. Each case is assigned to a term and must be decided by the end of the next term (same terms/requirements apply to Court of Appeals).

Exercises **exclusive appellate jurisdiction** in certain cases, including those concerning Constitutionality, election contests, habeas corpus, death sentences, and cases certified to the Supreme Court by the Court of Appeals. It also answers **any question of law** certified to it by federal courts and issues rulings related to judicial/lawyer discipline.

Georgia Court of Appeals



- Established in **1906**.
- Fifteen judges** elected statewide in nonpartisan elections for **six-year terms**; vacancies appointed by the governor.
- Chief judge** elected by judges based on seniority; Chief judge appoints a **presiding judge** for each of the **five** divisions.

Intermediate appellate court which reviews appeals from superior, state, and juvenile courts in all cases not reserved for the Supreme Court.

Cases mostly heard in **three-judge panels** (one per division), but some heard by all **15** when the case involves a **novel issue** or is of **particular interest** to the state.

If the full court hears a case and **divides equally** on a decision, that case is **immediately transmitted** to the Supreme Court.

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

The **first meeting** of the Georgia Supreme Court took place in the dining hall of the **old Claiborne Hotel** in Talbotton.

courts

Georgia State-Wide Business Court



- Specialized forum commencing operations on **August 1, 2020** for complex commercial cases that meet particular subject matter and **amount-in-controversy requirements** (real property disputes of at least \$1 million or \$500,000 for other qualifying cases).
- One judge** appointed by the **governor**, subject to confirmation by the House and Senate **Judiciary Committees**.

Cases are heard by the court through three ways upon **joint consent of parties**: direct filing; transfer from state or superior court; or an agreement like a contractual forum-selection clause.

NATHAN DEAL
JUDICIAL CENTER



Dedicated in **February 2020**, the **Nathan Deal Judicial Center** houses Georgia's Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and State-wide Business Court. Built where the Georgia Archives building once stood, the **\$131 million** structure has more than **224,000 square feet** of space for Georgia's judiciary.

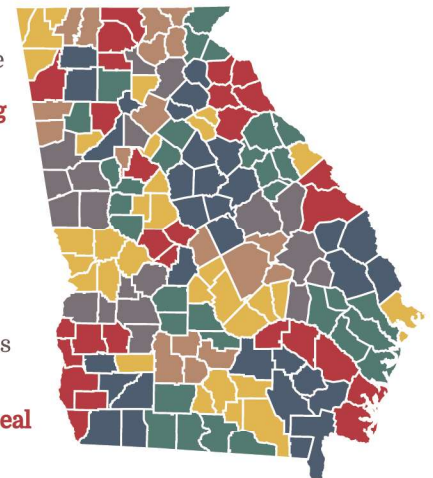
Georgia Superior Courts

Trial courts of general jurisdiction for civil and criminal cases, with exclusive jurisdiction over **non-juvenile felony cases, divorce cases, and cases relating to title of land**.

Superior courts are located in **each county**, with counties divided into **50 judicial circuits**.

225 superior court judges (as of 2023) elected circuit-wide in **nonpartisan elections** for **four-year terms**; vacancies appointed by the governor.

Superior courts also hear cases on **appeal from local courts**.



courts

Courts of Limited Jurisdiction in Georgia

state court

Courts established by **local legislation** within one county (**73 in total**) that hear **misdemeanors** (including traffic cases), issue search/arrest warrants, hold criminal preliminary hearings, and try civil matters not exclusively within superior court jurisdiction.

judge

Elected in **nonpartisan elections** for four-year terms.

juvenile court

Courts in **each county** which handle cases for delinquent children **under the age of 17** and deprived children **under the age of 18**, while having concurrent jurisdiction with superior courts in matters like capital felonies and termination of parental rights (superior courts have jurisdiction over juveniles who commit certain violent felonies).

Usually appointed by **superior court judges** for four-year terms.

probate court

Courts in **each county** with original jurisdiction in the probate of wills, administration of estates, guardianships, and involuntary hospitalization of mentally incapacitated adults; also involved with administering oaths of office and issuing both marriage and firearms licenses. Depending on the county, **probate judges may also supervise elections**, hear traffic cases, handle certain misdemeanor cases, and hold civil jury trials.

Elected in **partisan elections** for four-year terms.

magistrate court

Courts in **each county** that can **issue warrants** as well as hear **minor criminal cases and civil claims** such as county ordinance violations, dispossessory matters, and landlord-tenant disputes; magistrates can also issue warrants.

Chief magistrates and other magistrates either **appointed or elected** depending on county.

municipal court

Courts **established by cities** to deal with traffic cases, local ordinance violations, and sometimes misdemeanor offenses.

Either **appointed** by city government or **elected**.

courts

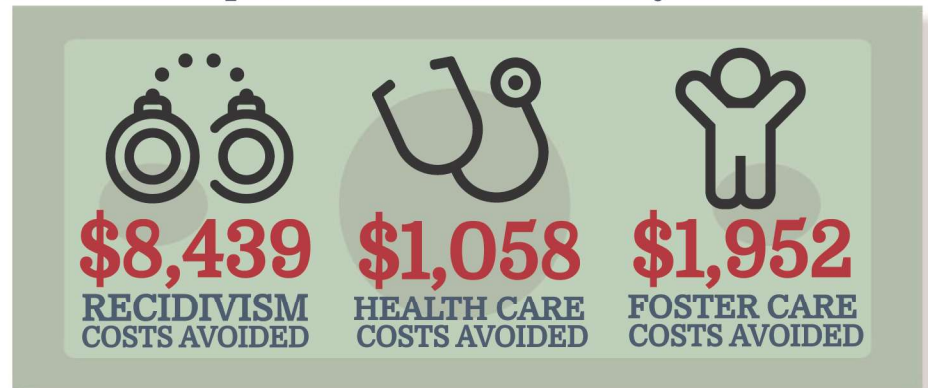
Georgia Accountability Court Program

The **Georgia Accountability Court Program** diverts **low-risk, non-violent offenders** to treatment courts with intensive community supervision. In FY 2022, **7,185** participants were served in **171** accountability courts around Georgia. There are **five different types** of accountability courts: adult felony drug court, mental health court, veterans treatment court, DUI court, and family treatment court. A benefit of the accountability court program is the cost savings found by **avoiding incarceration** and **decreasing recidivism**.

Cost Comparison



Economic Impact of Each Accountability Court Graduate



"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Accountability courts are one of the **largest providers** of substance abuse and mental health services in the state.

transportation

Department of Transportation (DOT)


316,850,000

ANNUAL MILES TRAVELED ON GEORGIA ROADS




Construction Costs

roads



\$1 MILLION to pave **one mile**



rails

\$2 MILLION per mile to upgrade to **CLASS II** standards

wrenches



\$5 MILLION to **replace** one **bridge**

transportation




Georgia's Deep Water Ports

Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) operates **two deep water ports**, one in Brunswick and one in Savannah. These ports support more than **500,000** jobs and contribute **billions** in revenue and taxes to the state's economy. The ports currently handle container cargo and rolling cargo at a record pace. When combined with the expanded capabilities due to the completion of the **Savannah Harbor Expansion Project** (SHEP), increased berth capacity, and increased infrastructure investments, the ports **eliminated the backlog of ships** due to a surge in east coast port usage. SHEP dredging began in **2015** with an initial harbor depth of **42 feet**. At completion in **2022**, the channel had been deepened to **47 feet** with high tide providing a **54-foot** depth. The project cost **\$973.1 million**, with the state investing **\$303.2 million**, the GPA investing **\$241.6 million**, and the federal government funding the remaining **\$428.3 million**. The deeper channel allows for **1,000** containers worth of additional cargo to be loaded on larger ships, increasing efficiency in vessel transport.

In **FY 2023**, GPA handled **5.4 million 20-foot equivalent units** (TEUs). The port is ranked the **fourth busiest in the nation** and has plans for **4% to 6% growth** in the coming years. The GPA has a **\$1.9 billion** port master plan for infrastructure investments in Savannah as well as a **\$6 million** workforce housing initiative in partnership with **Housing Savannah, Inc.**, and the **Community Housing Services Agency, Inc.** to ensure a reliable workforce. The ports are essential to logistics on the east coast as well as to the economies of both the State of Georgia and the communities in which they are located.



PORT OF SAVANNAH

-  Single **largest** and **fastest-growing** port in the nation.
-  Two terminals: **Ocean Terminal** and **Garden City Terminal**.
-  **10,000 feet** of contiguous berth space.



PORT OF BRUNSWICK

-  Vital link to **global markets** for automotive and other rolling cargo shippers; **23** carmakers and **17** heavy machinery producers.
-  Two terminals: **Mayor's Point Terminal** and **Colonel's Island Terminal**.
-  In **FY 2023**, 705,303 units (vehicles, heavy machinery, boats) were handled, **75%** of which were imports and **25%** were exports.

Photo Source: Georgia Ports Authority

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

Georgia ports and barge terminals support **more than 560,000 jobs** throughout the state and contribute over **\$33 billion** in income to Georgia's economy.

natural resources

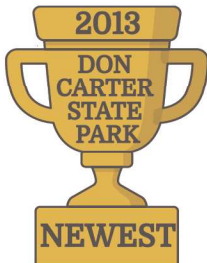
State Parks and Historic Sites

In an environmentally diverse state, the **Georgia Department of Natural Resources'** (DNR) Division of **State Parks and Historic Sites** works to preserve our state's recreational and historic resources. Extending from mountains, forests, and historic sites to swamps, rivers, and beaches, the DNR welcomes **14.2 million people** into its **48 state parks** and **15 historic sites** annually. This translates to an impact of **\$1.6 billion** on Georgia's economy. Whether staying in one of the more than **430 cottages and lodges** or stopping only for the day, visitors have an opportunity to enjoy Georgia DNR's **900 miles** of hiking, biking, nature, paddling, and equestrian trails.



LOCATION:
Flovilla, Georgia

- FEATURES:**
- 765 Acres
 - Spring waters known for healing qualities



LOCATION:
Gainesville, Georgia

- FEATURES:**
- 1,316 Acres
 - Only state park on Lake Lanier



Photo Source: Department of Natural Resources

JACK HILL STATE PARK



Renamed in **2020** for the late Senate Appropriations Chairman, **Jack Hill State Park** boasts **662 acres** of land, **12 acres** of lake, and **10 cottages** for visitors to experience. Whether boating, fishing, geocaching, or golfing, there is much for visitors to enjoy in this southeastern Georgia state park.

natural resources

Wildlife Resources

With a mission to conserve and promote fishing, hunting, and wildlife resources through management, education, and scientific research, the **Wildlife Resources Division** (WRD) of DNR focuses on enhancing Georgia's wildlife resources. Whether it's fishing in one of the **11 public fishing spots** or sporting alongside approximately **820,000** other hunters throughout the state, the WRD is critical to ethically communing with our state's abundant wildlife.

DNR oversees **133 wildlife management areas** (WMAs) to help support wildlife conservation while also allowing public access to fishing, hunting, and other outdoor recreational activities. In total, Georgia's DNR oversees **1,108,187 acres** of WMAs.



Photo Source: Department of Natural Resources

Spotlight on the Law Enforcement Division

Having a responsibility to protect Georgia's wildlife population and environment, DNR's **Law Enforcement Division** enforces laws and regulations pertaining to boating safety, threatened and/or endangered animals, game and nongame animals, and more. DNR's **190 game wardens** perform on average **385 search and rescue operations** annually, one of their most imperative job requirements.



— general government services —

Whether **renewing a driver's license**, **paying taxes**, or **participating in the election process**, Georgia's residents are served by state agencies **every single day**. The following are just **a few snapshots** of how the state serves Georgians.

Department of Driver Services

The **Department of Driver Services** (DDS) oversees the issuance of commercial and regular passenger **driver's licenses** and other state **identification cards**. The department also offers various **safety and training courses**.

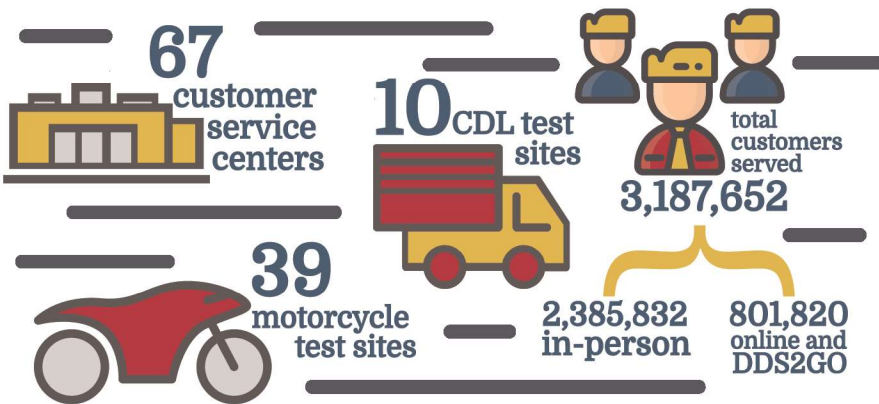
8,441,481  **VALID GEORGIA DRIVERS** AS OF 2022

DIGITAL

Georgia offers a **digital license or ID** through both Apple Wallet and Google Wallet. While **not a replacement** for a physical driver's license or identification card, Georgia's digital license and ID can be used at **TSA checkpoints** located in participating airports, including **Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport**.

150,000+
DIGITAL LICENSE
AND ID DOWNLOADS
IN FY 2023

2022 DDS STATS



REAL ID

Established to deter terrorism, **REAL ID** is a program that sets **minimum standards** for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards. IDs with a **black or gold star** are **REAL ID-compliant**.

8,948,335
REAL ID-COMPLIANT
GEORGIANS

AS OF 2022

"IS IT NOT TRUE?"

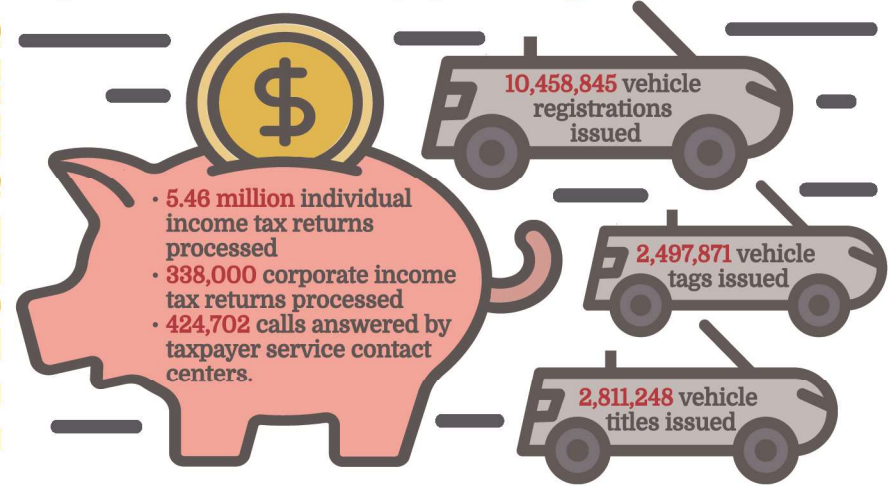
In FY 2022, the Georgia Department of Revenue collected and distributed **\$8.1 billion** in local sales tax revenue on behalf of local governments.

— general government services —

Department of Revenue

The **Department of Revenue** (DOR) is charged with **collecting taxes**, as well as enforcing **tax-related laws** and managing **vehicle registrations** for the state.

FY 2022 STATS



TOP THREE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATES - FY 2022



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
76,632 ISSUED



GIVE WILDLIFE A CHANCE
58,321 ISSUED



SUPPORT WILDLIFE
52,222 ISSUED

Georgia Secretary of State

In addition to overseeing the state's **elections**, the **Secretary of State's** (SOS) office manages **annual corporate filings**, administers the majority of **professional licenses**, and **regulates securities** offered in the state.

PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS

FY 2022

- 520,000 licenses
- 50,206 new licenses issued
- 262,140 licenses renewed
- \$22,086,328 in revenue generated



7,893,617
registered voters
[AS OF DECEMBER 2023]



6,877,701
active voters
[AS OF DECEMBER 2023]



2,722 [AS OF 2022]
precincts

— house budget and research office —

About HBRO

The **House Budget and Research Office** (HBRO) provides objective financial information and policy analysis to the **180 members** of the Georgia House of Representatives. The current **staff of 16** support the **Appropriations Committee**, **38** additional standing committees, and **three** special committees of the Georgia House. Outside of the legislative session, staff serve as a resource for member **information requests**, produce reports on timely **policy topics**, and staff time-limited **study committees**.

The legacy budget office for the Georgia General Assembly, the **Legislative Budget Office** (LBO) was created in **1971** and drafted budgets for both the House of Representatives and the Senate until **2005**. With the creation of the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office, the LBO was changed to the **House Budget Office** in **2005** which exclusively served the House of Representatives. To create efficiencies within the House in **2011**, the functions of research and standing committee staffing were merged with the budget office to create the **House Budget and Research Office**, one seamless office that serves members more effectively by linking budget and policy together.

Since its inception, the (now) House Budget and Research Office has served **eight speakers** from Speaker George L. Smith to current Speaker Jon Burns and has had **six directors**. Many former staff continue their public service once they leave HBRO; **26 former staff** have retired from service to state government and another **31 former staffers** are still active in Georgia state government either as staff within state agencies or lobbying at the State Capitol.

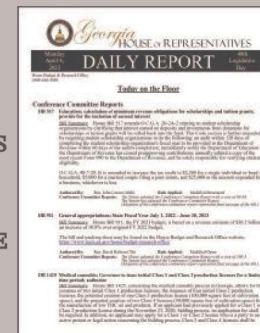
DIRECTORS	1971 to 1992 - Pete Hackney	SPEAKERS SERVED	George L. Smith
	1992 to 2004 - Robert Hobbs		Tom Murphy
	2005 to 2008 - Charlie Walker		Terry Coleman
	2008 to 2011 - John Brown		Glenn Richardson
	2011 to 2022 - Martha Wigton		Mark Burkhalter
	2023 to PRESENT - Christine Murdock		David Ralston
			Jan Jones
			Jon Burns

HBRO STATS

2023 SESSION
[January - March]

741 BILL SUMMARIES WRITTEN

371 COMMITTEE MEETINGS STAFFED



2023 INTERIM
[April - December]

1,607 MEMBER INTERACTIONS
[Phone calls, texts, emails]

1,902 PUBLIC INTERACTIONS
[Phone calls, emails]

86 STUDY + STANDING COMMITTEE MEETINGS STAFFED





HOUSE BUDGET AND RESEARCH OFFICE

412 Coverdell Legislative Office Building

18 Capitol Square

Atlanta, GA 30334

(404) 656-5050

<https://www.legis.ga.gov>
