GEORGIA IN PERSPECTIVE

2013

Statistics, Trends, Facts & Figures for Key Policy Issues

GOVERNOR’S OFFICE of PLANNING & BUDGET
Dear Fellow Georgians:

We are fortunate to live in one of the most dynamic states in the nation. Georgia is built on a foundation of solid economic growth, based on policies that encourage business investment and job growth.

Today Georgia has nearly 10 million residents. The state's population grew by 18% between 2000 and 2010, more than twice the national average and is the fourth fastest growing in the nation. We are now the eighth largest state in the country.

With this growth has come increasing demands on state government to provide necessary services in such areas as education, transportation, health care, and environmental protection. Even as we work to encourage effectiveness and efficiency at all levels of state government, and provide services with the resources provided, demand for services continues by way of increasing student enrollment, maintaining our infrastructure, and providing safety net services for Georgia's most vulnerable citizens.

In state dollars, our budget now stands at over $18 billion annually. In today's economy of limited resources, performance data provides the information to ensure that funds are utilized in the most effective manner to benefit all of Georgia's people. Updated every two years, Georgia In Perspective is a summary of data that provides policy makers a context for making resource allocation decisions, set policy, and determine if the policies implemented are having the desired effect.

The information is presented by policy area: Growing Georgia, Mobile Georgia, Healthy Georgia, Educated Georgia, Safer Georgia, and Responsible and Efficient Government. The six policy areas also provide the framework for the state's strategic goals. By grouping state services by policy area, it is possible to get a quick overview of work of state government and state programs.

Captured in this one publication are some of the important trends and statistics with a national, regional or county comparison. The data offered in this publication provide an understanding of where we are as a state today and some of our past experience. Using performance and trend information, we can make better informed decisions that ensure that a future generation of Georgians will enjoy increasing prosperity as a result of policies that promote and sustain growth.

Sincerely,

Teresa MacCartney, Director

Governor's Office of Planning and Budget
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GOVERNOR’S OFFICE of PLANNING & BUDGET
Editor’s Note:

*Georgia in Perspective* is a compilation of data from a wide range of sources, including federal and state agencies as well as private and non-profit organizations. The Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget has attempted to present the most currently available annual data in this report. However, the most current year for which data are available at publication time for *Georgia in Perspective* varies considerably. For example, national data from federal agencies frequently have a two year lag time between occurrence of events being tracked and publication of data, due to the amount of time required to compile and publish national summary data for 50 states. Georgia state agency data are generally available for the most recently completed fiscal year; however, for some types of data the compilation time is greater for such reasons as fiscal closeout.
“Strategic economic growth in Georgia can be traced back to the state’s vast range of competitive resources that keeps Georgia top of mind for businesses here and around the world. From our talented workforce, comprehensive incentives and other business assets, Georgia takes intentional steps to make certain businesses in our state can compete in the global market place.”

Georgia Department of Economic Development

INDICATORS

Population Growth
Population Change
Age Distribution and Population by Race
Limited English Proficiency
Income and Gross Domestic Product
Median Household Income and Poverty Rate
Unemployment Rate and TANF
SNAP and Homeownership
Housing Values and Employment by Industry
Jobs and Agricultural Production
Exports and Tourism
Energy Consumption and Clean Water
Air Quality
Georgia’s population was relatively stable during the first half of the last century, followed by a period of rapid population growth.

During the 1960s, Georgia’s population grew by 16.3% followed by growth rates of approximately 19% during each of the succeeding two decades.

The fastest pace of growth occurred in Georgia during the decade between 1990 and 2000, ranking it 6th in population growth among the 50 states. Growth increased by 26.4%, twice the national average rate of 13.2%.

The overall population growth rate in Georgia for the decade between 2000 and 2010 was 18.3%.

During the most recent decade, the growth rate peaked at 2.6% between 2005 and 2006. The high growth rate between 2005 and 2006 was due in part to migration following Hurricane Katrina.

In 2007, Georgia’s population growth slowed in response to changing economic conditions, reaching the lowest point (1.0%) in 2010.

Between 2010 and 2012 Georgia added 205,197 new residents. Despite the 2nd lowest growth rate in more than a decade (1.1%), the state was the 4th fastest growing in the nation.

Between 2010 and 2011, 3 of Georgia’s metropolitan statistical areas ranked among the country’s 25 fastest growing areas:
- Hinesville-Fort Stewart ranked 1st, with a 4.1% growth rate,
- Warner Robins ranked 8th with a growth rate of 2.2%,
- Savannah ranked 16th with a growth rate of 2.0%, and
- Fort Stewart and Warner Robins metropolitan areas are home to large military installations.
During the last decade, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida registered annual growth rates exceeding 1.5%. Alabama and Tennessee experienced the slowest growth rates in the region.

The slowdown in population growth that occurred in the latter part of the last decade persisted into the first two years of the current decade. Population growth rates between 2010 and 2012 are well below the average annual growth rates experienced by southeastern states and the nation as a whole during the prior decade.

During the last decade, Georgia and North Carolina experienced the highest growth rates in the region. In the current decade, Georgia’s population grew at the 2nd fastest rate among the southeastern states.

Population growth rates between 2011 and 2012 among the southeastern states ranged from 1.2% in Florida to 0.4% in Alabama.

Population change occurs due to natural increase (number of births minus number of deaths) and net migration (people moving into the area minus people moving out). Since the shift in economic conditions in 2007, natural increase has become a larger contributor to population growth regionally.

Overall, between 2000 and 2009 natural increase accounted for 45% of the state’s population growth. Between 2011 and 2012, natural increase was the driving force in Georgia’s population growth, accounting for 56.1% of the population increase.

Migration represented more than half of the population growth in 4 of the 6 southeast states (Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina and Tennessee) between 2011 and 2012. Natural increase was the major contributor to growth in only 2 of the region’s states (Alabama and Georgia).
Whites represent the largest racial group in Georgia. However, as a percentage of the total population, the white population declined between 2000 and 2010, from 62.7% to 55.9%.

Blacks represent the second largest race group in Georgia, comprising 30% of the total population in 2010, a small increase from 28.4% in 2000.

The Hispanic population experienced the fastest growth between 2000 and 2010, nearly doubling from 429,976 to 853,689 during that decade.

Asians represented the second fastest growing group, increasing 83.6% between 2000 and 2010.

The number of persons indicating that they were of 2 or more races increased from 1.2% in 2000 to 1.6% in 2010.

The Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander population increased from 3,146 to 5,152 over the last decade.

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The U.S. Census Bureau’s five-year American Community Survey (ACS) provides information about language spoken at home for each county in the state.

The 2006–2010 ACS data indicates that the percentage of households with residents who speak English less than very well ranges from 4 counties with 0% to 6 counties with more than 10% of households (Echols, Whitfield, Gwinnett, Hall, Atkinson, and Clayton).

Spanish is the primary language spoken in 4 of Georgia’s counties (Atkinson, Hall, Whitfield, and Echols) with high proportions of households with residents who do not speak English well.

Clayton and Gwinnett counties have the greatest diversity of languages spoken among their residents. While Spanish is the primary non-English language spoken, approximately one-quarter of limited English proficient residents speak an Asian language.
Per capita income in Georgia and the nation as a whole experienced a temporary decline in response to changing economic conditions during the last decade.

Despite the temporary dip, Georgia experienced an overall 26.5% increase in per capita income between 2000 and 2011, from $28,541 to $36,104. Nationally, income increased at a faster pace during this period (37.4%).

Although Georgia’s per capita income lags behind the national average, the state has the 14th lowest cost of living among the 50 states.

Income among Georgia’s counties varies considerably, from $23,887 in Hancock County to $81,629 in Forsyth County. Forsyth and Fayette counties rank among the top 50 highest income counties in the country.

Per capita gross domestic product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a state per resident.

In 2000, Georgia’s per capita real GDP ($40,076) was very similar to the national average ($39,775).

Nationally, per capita GDP generally increased until 2007, while in Georgia GDP remained fairly stable. As a result, there was a widening gap in GDP between Georgia and the nation as a whole.

GDP declined steeply between 2008 and 2009 both nationally and in Georgia, in response to the economic recession, followed by a period of stabilization.

The most current figures indicate Georgia ($37,270) lagged behind the nation ($42,070) in GDP in 2011.
Median Household Income and Poverty Rate

- Median income in Georgia fluctuated considerably over the past decade, peaking mid-decade but declining during the economic downturn. There were gains, however, during 2010 and 2011.

- Although Georgia ranks 36th for median household income among the states, the state’s median household income of $45,973 is the highest among southeast states.

- More than half of Georgia’s population, 53.8%, is in the prime workforce ages between 25 and 64 years old. According to the Census Bureau, among all metropolitan areas in the country, the Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta metropolitan area has the second highest percent of young workforce-aged adults between 35 to 44 years old.

The poverty rate measures the percentage of people in families with income below the thresholds specified by the federal government. The thresholds vary by family size.

- Georgia’s poverty rate, 19.1% in 2011, ranked 5th highest among the 50 states, and higher than the national rate of 15.9%.

- The poverty rate has increased both nationally and in Georgia since the mid-2000s. In Georgia, the poverty rate increased from 14.4% in 2005 to 19.1% in 2011.

- 11 of Georgia’s 159 counties had poverty rates above 30% in 2010: Stewart, Calhoun, Atkinson, Clay, Dougherty, Bulloch, Clarke, Wheeler, Hancock, Burke, and Telfair.
During the early part of the last decade, Georgia’s unemployment rate was below the national average. However, since August 2007, the state’s unemployment rate has exceeded the national average every month.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Georgia’s unemployment rate peaked in late 2009 at 10.5%, but has since decreased and was 8.5% in November 2012.

Annual unemployment rates vary considerably at the local level. Two of Georgia’s counties registered average annual unemployment rates below 7% in 2011: Oconee and Miller. Five counties had rates exceeding 15% during that same year: Telfair, Warren, Chattahoochee, Jenkins, and Hancock.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) is a monthly cash and work opportunities assistance program for low income families and children under the age of 18.

The TANF program has four purposes:
- Assist needy families so children can be cared for in their home.
- Reduce dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage.
- Prevent out-of-wedlock pregnancies.
- Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

The number of TANF cases decreased 67% from 57,663 in June 2003 to 18,586 in June 2012.

At $280, Georgia’s monthly TANF benefit ranked 8th lowest among the states for a single parent family of three in July 2011.
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides food and nutrition assistance to eligible families. SNAP cases can include one person or entire families.

Between October 2007 and July 2012, the number of SNAP cases increased by 127% in Georgia with an average monthly caseload of 860,000 in FY 2011.

Georgia ranked 10th among the states in the increase in average monthly household food stamp participation between 2007 and 2011.

According to the Department of Human Services, the average amount a family received in SNAP assistance in FY 2011 was $305 per month. Households are eligible if total resources, such as checking accounts, savings accounts, and savings bonds are less than $2,000.

Homeownership rates are the number of owner-occupied housing units divided by the total occupied housing units.

Georgia’s homeownership rate has fluctuated over the past decade, from a high of 68.5% in 2007 to a low of 64.6% in 2011. The recent decline in homeownership rates began in 2006 nationally and in 2007 in Georgia.

Homeownership rates in Georgia were slightly higher than the national rate in all but one year during the period between 2000 and 2011.

Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Marietta had the 19th highest foreclosure rate among metropolitan areas in August 2012, however, foreclosures were down 22.3% compared to a year earlier.

New single unit residential construction in Georgia fluctuated greatly over the past decade, ranging more than 94,000 units in 2005 to less than 14,000 in 2011.
Median housing values peaked nationally and in Georgia in 2008 but have declined each year since that time.

- Median housing values in Georgia were slightly below national levels, during the last decade, but the gap widened during the middle part of the past decade.

- Median rent in Georgia’s 35 most populous counties ranged from $416 per month in Walker County to $908 in Forsyth County in 2011 according to the Census Bureau.

- Georgia has the 6th highest foreclosure rate in the nation, which has resulted in declining housing values. As of August 2012, there were 9,478 foreclosure filings in Georgia, representing 1 in every 431 housing units. The August figure, however, represents a decline in filings statewide, compared to June 2010 when there were 12,037 filings.

Overall employment in Georgia declined 2.1% between 2001 and 2011.

- The recession and housing foreclosures have impacted the construction industry, which lost more than 58,000 jobs between 2001 and 2011.

- Employment in the manufacturing industry decreased by 28.6% between 2001 to 2011.

- In contrast to construction and manufacturing, the finance, professional and business services sector remained relatively stable during the period between 2001 and 2011, increasing by 1.9%.

- Georgia’s service sector, which includes the industries of leisure and hospitality, information, education and health, gained 172,832 jobs over the past decade, posting a 13.8% increase.
• The Bureau of Labor Statistics tracks the number of jobs covered by the Unemployment Insurance Tax Program, which excludes farm employment.

• The number of non-agricultural jobs peaked in Georgia at 4.1 million in 2007. As economic conditions worsened, the number jobs in Georgia declined to 3.84 million in 2010. There was a small recovery in 2011, with the number of jobs increasing to 3.88 million.

• Small business contributes 1 out of 5 jobs to the U.S. economy. The Department of Community Affairs State Small Business Credit Initiative encourages small business through lending programs, a loan participation program for underserved markets, a hybrid loan guarantee/risk reserve pool program, and a portfolio insurance program.

• Georgia was ranked by Forbes Magazine as the 8th best state for business climate in 2012 because of the state’s regulatory environment, labor supply and growth prospects.

• Value of agricultural sector production is the gross value of the commodities and services produced. Overall, Georgia’s agricultural value increased from $5.8 billion to $9.8 billion between 2000 and 2011.

• Georgia’s top five agricultural commodities in 2011 were:
  - Broilers,
  - Cotton,
  - Chicken Eggs,
  - Peanuts, and
  - Greenhouse/Nursery.

• Georgia also leads the nation in pecan production. Albany is known as the "pecan capital of the world".

• Net farm income in Georgia increased between 2000 and 2011, from $2.1 billion to $2.5 billion according to the US Department of Agriculture.
Exports and Tourism

The value of Georgia’s exports more than doubled between 2000 and 2011 from $14.9 billion to $34.8 billion.

Georgia’s top 5 exports in 2011:
- Transportation equipment,
- Machinery (except electrical),
- Chemicals,
- Paper, and
- Computers and electronic products.

Georgia’s top trade partners are Canada, China, Mexico, Singapore, Japan, Germany, and Brazil, exporting more than $1 billion worth of products to each of these countries.

Georgia exported to 221 destinations in 2011 and is ranked 12th in the nation in terms of export value.

Georgia cultivates strong tourism through convention and conference business, coastal tourism, and the world’s busiest airport.

Despite a dip in tourism expenditures in 2009, direct tourism expenditures in Georgia increased 46.5% between 2000 and 2011.

Tourism generated more than $1.7 billion in tax revenue for state and local governments in 2011.

According to the Georgia Department of Economic Development, travel industry spending directly supported 238,400 of the state’s jobs in 2011.

In 2011, $7.3 billion in wages and salaries were generated in Georgia from the travel industry. Domestic travelers accounted for $20.5 billion in spending, and international travelers generated $2.2 billion the same year.
Four main fuel types contribute to Georgia’s total energy consumption: coal, petroleum, natural gas and electricity fuels such as nuclear, hydropower and wood.

The average amount of energy consumed by each Georgian decreased by 10.6% between 2000 to 2010.

Georgia ranked 24th among the 50 states for per capita total energy consumption in 2010.

Georgia is a leading state in the production of lumber and pulpwood, which contribute feedstock for biomass electricity generation. In 2011, Georgia ranked 3rd in the nation in net electricity generation from biomass.

Between 2006 and 2010, Georgia’s electric power generation from renewable sources increased by 8.6%.

Pollutants that cause water quality standard violations can pose risks to human health, impact fish and wildlife populations and decrease the recreational quality of these waters.

Total number of river miles in Georgia is 70,150 miles.

The total number of river miles assessed in Georgia increased 38% between 2000 and 2012, from 9,996 to 13,838.

The proportion of river miles assessed that met standards remained stable at 40.2% in 2000 and 40.7% in 2012.

Note: Water quality standards define the goals for a water body by designating its uses and setting criteria to protect those uses, including limits that define acceptable amounts of specific pollutants.

Source: Energy Information Administration and Bureau of Economic Analysis

Source: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division
Particulate Matter 2.5 (PM-2.5) is a mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets found in the air. Fine particles can be emitted directly from smoke or formed in the atmosphere from emissions from sources such as power plants, industrial, and mobile sources. Fine particulate matter is less than 2.5 microns in diameter.

Portions of Georgia, including Macon, Atlanta and Rome, have been in "non-attainment status" for PM-2.5. Non-Attainment occurs when the area in question does not meet the air quality standard set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

PM-2.5 concentrations declined in Georgia by 35% between 2000 and 2011, from 17.22 to 11.19.

Despite fluctuations over the past decade, ozone levels have decreased from 0.094 parts per million of volume of air in 2000 to 0.074 in 2011.

The number of days the Air Quality Index exceeded 100 in the Atlanta metropolitan area has also fluctuated over the past decade, from a high of 81 in 2000 to a low of 15 in 2009.

The Clean Air Campaign in Georgia estimates that by using commute alternatives, Georgians reduce the amount of pollutants released into the air by 1,800 pounds per day. Commute alternatives include vanpools, carpools, teleworking and public transit.

The Georgia Clean Air Campaign offers financial incentives to Georgians who use commute alternatives, including commuter cash and prizes as well as carpool rewards.
Transportation is an essential segment in Georgia’s economy, providing the infrastructure to move people and products within the state and to and from other states and nations. The transportation infrastructure encompasses roads, airports, rail, and ports.

The logistics industry includes the transportation infrastructure as well as the firms that move freight in, out, and through the state.

The logistics sector in Georgia generates more than $16 billion in sales each year. The 11,000 logistics providers in the state generate 142,000 jobs.
Public transit in Georgia is provided by 14 urban systems and 114 rural systems.

Urban transit system travel in 2010 totaled 65.4 million revenue vehicle miles and provided 177.5 million passenger trips. These services were provided through use of 1,182 buses and 318 rail cars.

Rural transit systems travelled 12.4 million revenue vehicle miles, serving communities with 1.6 million passenger trips. Rural transit systems own 480 paratransit vehicles and 298 ADA compliant vehicles.
There are a total of 104 public use airports in Georgia: 30 level I airports, 32 level II, 33 level III general aviation airports, and 9 level III commercial service airports.

- Hartsfield-Jackson improved international capacity with the opening of its new 12 gate International Terminal in May 2012.
- Hartsfield-Jackson has three main air cargo complexes which maintain more than 1.3 million square feet of air cargo handling space. According to the Airports Council International, Hartsfield-Jackson Airport ranked 10th in the nation in total cargo in 2011.
- In September 2012, Atlanta’s airport handled 53,929 metric tons of cargo, a 3.1% decline from September of 2011.

There are a total of 104 public use airports in Georgia: 30 level I airports, 32 level II, 33 level III general aviation airports, and 9 level III commercial service airports.

- The number of Georgia airports meeting recommended runway length increased from 66 in 2005 to 84 in 2010.
- Aviation related industry accounted for 16% of Georgia’s GDP in 2010.

According to a study by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT), the economic impact of Georgia’s airports include $62.6 billion in overall economic output, including 471,000 jobs with an annual payroll of $17.8 billion.

Military airports in Georgia contribute an additional 55,000 military and civilian jobs and $11 billion to the state’s economy.
Georgia has a rich rail history that began in the mid-1830s. Today, the state’s rail program includes passenger and freight rail services.

Passenger rail services are provided by Amtrak and includes service from New York to New Orleans on the Crescent Line and service from New York to Miami on the Silver Meteor/Silver Star. Amtrak stations are located in Toccoa, Gainesville, Atlanta, Savannah, and Jesup and served more than 200,000 passengers in 2011.

Freight rail operates on a network of nearly 5,000 miles of railroad statewide. In addition to CSX and Norfolk Southern, 22 short-line operators provide shipping services to Georgia business and industry. CSX operates 1,626 miles of railroad and Norfolk Southern operates 1,912 miles.

The mainline tracks in Georgia include 2,436 railroad miles, moving more than 80 million gross tons of product each year.

The top freight moved by rail in Georgia include clay, concrete, glass, stone, non-metallic minerals, and pulp/paper.
Deep Water Ports

Georgia’s deep-water ports and inland barge terminals include the Ports of Savannah, Brunswick, Bainbridge, and Columbus. These ports contribute more than 352,146 jobs and $66.9 billion in total sales to the state’s economy.

The total annual tonnage handled by Georgia’s ports declined in 2009 but has improved each year since.

The Port of Savannah ranks 4th among U.S. container ports in volume. In FY 2012, total container trade increased 1.9%. The Garden City Terminal has been the fastest growing container port in the country for the past 10 years.

Central America was the fastest growing import trade lane between FY 2008 and FY 2012 for the Port of Savannah, growing by 483%, and Northeast Asia was the fastest growing export trade lane during the same period with growth at 17%.

Vessel calls to Georgia’s ports are defined as vessel arrivals for the purposes of business, requiring an entry, clearance, and stay at a port.

The number of vessel calls to the state’s ports increased 19.5% between 2003 and 2012, from 2,446 to 2,923.

In FY 2012, 2,373 of the vessel calls to Georgia Ports were at the Port of Savannah which was number two in export volume in the country that year.

In FY 2012, Savannah's top imports were furniture and retail consumer goods and the top exports were wood pulp and food.

The Port of Brunswick autoport facility handles more than a dozen major manufacturers and is 3rd busiest U.S. port for automobile imports, behind only Los Angeles and Newark, New Jersey.
There are 15 interstates in Georgia, covering 1,248 miles. The greatest portion of interstates (719 miles) is located in rural areas. 465 miles of freeways are located in urban areas, and the remainder cover small urban areas.

Georgia’s interstates are evaluated based on COPACES (Computerized Pavement Conditions Evaluation System) which includes rating rutting, cracks, and other surface deficiencies on a scale of 1 to 100. The evaluation judges how well the pavement structure is maintained.

The proportion of Georgia’s interstates meeting standards has declined from 95.1% in 2005 to 75.9% in 2012.

Well-maintained freeways reduce the need for costly reconstruction.

There are a total of 14,455 bridges in Georgia. The state owns 6,583 of these bridges, and localities own 7,872 of these structures.

The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is required to inspect all bridges and bridge culverts every two years.

GDOT evaluates bridges based on strength and deck condition to determine a structure’s capacity to carry a load. Additionally, GDOT assists counties in solving bridge problems.

The percentage of bridges inspected meeting GDOT standards increased from 85% in 2004 to 89% in 2012.

GDOT has a web-based service that allows the department to monitor potential problems with bridges.
Passenger trips per transit hour reflects the average number of unlinked passenger trips per revenue hour that trains and buses are running and are available to carry passengers in a given year. An increase in passenger trips per transit hour equates to an increase in the transit system effectiveness.

- The number of passenger trips per transit service hour in the Atlanta metropolitan area decreased over the past decade by 16.9% for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), from 20 to 15 and by 25% for non-MARTA transit services, from 53 to 44.

- In addition, Atlanta’s overall transit ridership decreased 8% between 2000 and 2010, from 170 million passenger boardings to 157 million boardings in 2010.

- Ridership on MARTA decreased 12.6% between 2002 and 2010, from 159 million to 139 million.

Evening peak hour speed measures the average speed on metropolitan Atlanta highways between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. The target average peak hour speed is 40 miles per hour on interstate freeways.

- During the five-year period between 2008 and 2012, evening peak hour speed did not meet the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) target in 2 years (2008 and 2012).

- GDOT estimated that the annual cost of congestion statewide in 2010 was $2.49 billion, a decrease of 19.4% since 2005, when the cost was estimated at $3.09 billion.

- One of the ways GDOT is working to reduce highway congestion is through use of Highway Emergency Response Operators (HERO). HERO units clear traffic incidents that delay traffic in metropolitan Atlanta. Average HERO response time was 13.0 minutes in September 2012.
Motor Vehicle Fatalities

- In 2011, motor vehicle crashes killed 1,226 people in Georgia. 1 out of 4 of these crashes involved an alcohol-impaired driver.

- Georgia counties with the highest 5 year average motor vehicle fatality rates between 2007 and 2011 were Taliaferro, Warren, Talbot, Stewart, and Greene counties. Metropolitan Atlanta counties with low fatality rates include Fayette, Cobb, Cherokee, Gwinnett, and Forsyth.

- Rural areas of the state have higher fatality rates per 100 million vehicle miles driven (1.78), compared to urban areas (0.79).

- In 2011, 130 Georgian pedestrians were among those killed in motor vehicle accidents.

Motor Vehicle Fatality Rate: Georgia Counties, 2007-2011 (Five-year Average)

- Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for 15-20 year olds in the United States.

- During 2010, 175 young Georgia drivers under the age of 21 years were involved in fatal crashes, a 41% decrease from 298 in 2006.

- 197 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving a driver between the ages of 15 and 20 years in Georgia in 2010. In these crashes, the young drivers represented one-third of those deaths and nearly one-third were occupants of other vehicles involved in the crash.

- According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 11% of drivers under the age of 20 involved in fatal accidents nationally were distracted at the time of the crash.

Fatalities in Crashes Involving Young Drivers (Ages 15-20): Georgia, 2010

- Source: National Highway Safety Travel Administration National Center for Statistics and Analysis

Fatalities in Crashes Involving Young Drivers (Ages 15-20): Georgia, 2010

- Source: National Highway Safety Travel Administration National Center for Statistics and Analysis
The motor vehicle fatality rate measures the number of fatalities per 100 million vehicle miles traveled.

The motor vehicle fatality rate declined between 2000 and 2011, both nationally and in Georgia. Georgia’s fatality rate declined by 29.9% during this period, and declined 28.1% nation-wide.

Nationally, motor vehicle accidents were the leading cause of death for children age 4 and ages 11-14 years.

Seat belt usage is the most effective way to save lives and reduce injuries in motor vehicle accidents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The use of seat belts reduces crash-related injuries and death by 50%.

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety reports that the percentage of Georgians using seatbelts increased between 2000 and 2011, from 73.6% to 93.0%.

Source: National Highway Safety Travel Administration National Center for Statistics and Analysis
HEALTHY GEORGIA 2013

Ensuring access to care and encouraging active lifestyles.

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Health Status of Georgians

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), over the past decade the percentage of adults in Georgia rating their health as good or better has remained stable at 84%. Nationwide, the proportion of adults rating their health as good or better is similar (85%).

Environmental factors impacting health include housing, access to food, income distribution, transportation means, racial disparities, and physical conditions such as air quality.

Lifestyle factors include smoking, obesity, stress, nutrition, blood pressure, and alcohol and drug use.

Health care factors include insurance status, prenatal care, immunizations and dental care.

According to the CDC, lifestyle choices have the greatest impact on a person’s health.

America’s Health Rankings™ combine measures on personal behaviors, clinical care, community environment and health policy into a composite score* of a state’s health. The composite score indicates the percentage a state is above or below the national norm in overall health. A score of -0.2 is 20% below the national average.

Over the past decade, Georgia has ranked below the national average on health factors, and in 2012 ranked 36th among all states.

Georgia’s strengths include:
- Low prevalence of binge drinking
- High immunization coverage

Georgia’s challenges include:
- Low high school graduation rate,
- High levels of air pollution,
- High infant mortality rate, and
- High prevalence of low birthweight.

*Note: In 2002 Arkansas and Wyoming tied for 25th state ranking. In 2012, Louisiana and Mississippi tied for 49th.
Since 2000, the number of dentists in Georgia per 10,000 residents has remained stable, at 4.4 to 4.5 per 10,000 Georgians, lower than the national average of 6.0.

The Georgia Health Sciences University is the only dental school in Georgia. In 2010, Georgia’s dental school graduated 63 students. Over the last 30 years, 85% of graduates from Georgia's dental program have remained in Georgia to practice.

According to the Center for Health Workforce Planning and Analysis at the University System of Georgia, nearly 1 in 7 counties in the state have no dentists and 6.9% of counties have only one dentist. There are 104 dental health professional shortage areas in Georgia.

Georgia is among 20 states receiving CDC funding to enhance the infrastructure and capacity of the state’s oral health programs.

Articles in the American Journal of Public Health (2011) and the Journal of Pediatrics (2012), indicate that childhood dental problems are linked to school absenteeism and poorer academic performance.

Tooth decay is the most prevalent chronic disease among children, according to the CDC.

The Georgia Department of Public Health reports that there was a small decline in the percentage of 3rd grade children with a history of dental decay between 2005 and 2011, from 56% to 52%.

The percentage of 3rd grade children with untreated tooth decay also declined, from 27% to 19% between 2005 and 2011.

3rd grade children in rural areas are more likely to have a history of tooth decay (60%) compared to urban children (48%) but in both areas, children have the same likelihood of having untreated dental problems (19%).
Insurance Status

Employers are the primary sponsor of health insurance in the United States and Georgia. In Georgia, the proportion of residents with employer sponsored health insurance declined from 55% to 48% between 2008 and 2011. Nationally, a similar percentage of the population (49%) was covered by employer sponsored health insurance in 2011.

The average family premium for private sector employer based health insurance in Georgia more than doubled (110%) between 2000 and 2011, from $6,637 to $13,963. However, the national average family coverage premium ($15,022) was significantly higher than the cost in Georgia in 2011.

Approximately 1.8 million (20%) Georgians are uninsured, ranking Georgia 6th highest among the states for the percentage of total population uninsured.

Medicaid is a joint state and federal partnership providing health care coverage. Nationally, Medicaid accounts for 16% of health care spending and is the largest source of payment for nursing home care and childbirth.

Average monthly Medicaid enrollment in Georgia increased 50.2% between FY 2001 and FY 2011, from 996,901 to 1,498,405.

PeachCare is Georgia’s State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), providing low cost health insurance for children in families who are not eligible for Medicaid and cannot afford private health insurance.

PeachCare enrollment increased by 77.7% between 2001 and 2011, from 112,281 to 199,505.

In 2009, Georgia ranked 40th among the states with respect to the percentage of eligible children enrolled in the SCHIP.
Georgia Physicians and Safety Net Clinics

- Georgia ranked 39th in the nation with respect to the number of physicians per capita in 2010, an increase from 40th in 2008, according to the American Medical Association.

- The number of physicians per 100,000 residents increased from 192 in 2000 to 204 in 2010, and the number of primary care physicians declined during the same period from 83 to 77.

- Health Professional Shortage Areas are designated by the federal Health Resources and Services Administration as having shortage of primary medical care. There are 143 primary health professional shortage areas in Georgia.

- The state dedicated $2 million in funding to the Georgia Board for Physician Workforce and the Board of Regents for resident development in FY 2013.

Safety net clinics include the following in Georgia: Federally Qualified Health Centers, Georgia Farm Worker Health Programs, Georgia Volunteer Health Care Program, and Rural Health Clinics.

- 128 of Georgia’s 159 counties have some type of safety net clinic; however, 31 counties do not have this type of resource available to serve its residents.

- The counties with the greatest number of safety net clinics include Fulton (23), Chatham (12), DeKalb (10), and Dougherty (9).

- 8 of the counties without safety net clinics are located in the northwestern portion of the state and 6 of these counties are located in the central portion of the state.

Source: Georgia Board for Physician Workforce

Source: Georgia Department of Community Health
Emergency Room Utilization

Data from the American Hospital Association’s 2010 Annual Survey indicates that there were 422 emergency room visits per 1,000 residents in Georgia, ranking 27th among the states. The emergency room visit rate in Georgia increased 11% between 2000 and 2010. In comparison, the national rate increased 13%, from 366 to 412 visits per 1,000 residents.

Data from the Georgia Department of Public Health indicates that there were 3.5 million visits to the state’s emergency rooms. Medicaid paid for more than a quarter (27.8%) of these visits. Other major sources of payers from emergency room visits include self-pay (27.1%), private insurance (24.1%), and Medicare (14.1%). Nationally, the collection rate for self pay patients ranges between 5% and 10%.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality’s Medical Expenditure Panel Survey, in 2009, the average cost for an emergency room visit in the United States was $1,318.
Utilization of public community mental health services declined during the early portion of the last decade. However, since 2009 utilization has increased from 15.2 per 1,000 residents in 2009 to 17.0 in 2010.

The state of Georgia settled a law suit with the U.S. Department of Justice in 2010 that included provisions to increase access to community services for mental health patients. Since then, the rate at which mental health consumers used hospital services has declined.

Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities provided housing vouchers for 648 people with mental illness in FY 2012.

More than 3 out of 4 (76.2%) Georgia’s adult mental health consumers in 2011 reported being positive about services received, higher than the national average of 70.5%.

Children with special health care needs have or are at increased risk for a chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition and require health and related services of a type or amount beyond that required by children generally.

The percentage of children with special health care needs has increased both nationally and in Georgia over the past decade. In 2001, 12.7% of children under the age of 18 years had some type of special need, and by 2010 that proportion had increased to 16.0%.

Nearly 1 out of 4 (23.7%) children with special health care needs have a condition that affects their activities and 13.2% miss 11 or more days of school.

Approximately 1 out of 5 (19%) of Georgia’s families with special health care needs children pay $1,000 or more out of pocket for medical expenses annually.

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**Mental Health and Children with Special Health Care Needs**

**Mental Health Utilization Rates: Georgia, 2003-2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Hospital Utilization</th>
<th>Community Utilization</th>
<th>Total Utilization Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>17.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>18.8</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.9</td>
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<td>18.6</td>
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<tr>
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<td>1.0</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>16.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>17.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Percent of Children Ages 0-17 Years with a Special Health Care Need: United States and Georgia, 2001, 2006, 2010**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Georgia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-2010</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: SAMSHA Center for Mental Health Services, Uniform Reporting System, Mental Health National Outcome Measures

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Survey of Children With Special Health Care Needs
Infections caused by pneumococci are a major cause of death and disease globally. Pneumococcal vaccinations in Georgia are given year round and are administered only once after the age of 65 years. Some adults with weakened immune systems may receive more than one dose over their lifetime.

Pneumonia and meningitis are the most common manifestations of invasive pneumococcal disease. Bacteria spread in the respiratory tract to cause ear infection, sinusitis or recurrent bronchitis.

The highest rate of pneumococcal disease occurs in the elderly and young children and affects those suffering from chronic conditions and weakened immune systems.

61.8% of elderly Georgians were vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in 2010, the 3rd lowest rate among the states.

All children attending day care or school are required to be vaccinated against: diphtheria, polio, measles, mumps and rubella, Haemophilus influenzae type b, Hepatitis B, varicella, as well as pneumonia and pertussis.

To overcome barriers to vaccination, Georgia’s public health departments:
- Remind parents when their children’s vaccinations are due
- Offer extended clinic hours
- Provide vaccinations on a walk-in basis
- Distribute educational materials on immunization.

In 2011, Georgia ranked 5th nationally for the percentage of children 19-35 months of age who were vaccinated.

Georgia ranks 1st among the six southeast states for the percentage of children vaccinated.

Infections caused by pneumococci are a major cause of death and disease globally. Pneumococcal vaccinations in Georgia are given year round and are administered only once after the age of 65 years. Some adults with weakened immune systems may receive more than one dose over their lifetime.

Pneumonia and meningitis are the most common manifestations of invasive pneumococcal disease. Bacteria spread in the respiratory tract to cause ear infection, sinusitis or recurrent bronchitis.

The highest rate of pneumococcal disease occurs in the elderly and young children and affects those suffering from chronic conditions and weakened immune systems.

61.8% of elderly Georgians were vaccinated against pneumococcal disease in 2010, the 3rd lowest rate among the states.
• In 2010, Georgia ranked 13th nationally for the rate of teen births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 years, and ranked 4th highest among its southeast neighbors.

• Georgia’s teen birth rate is consistently higher than the national rate. In 2010, Georgia’s rate was 41.4 compared to the national rate of 34.2.

• The teen birth rate has steadily declined both nationally and in Georgia since 2007.

• Children born to teen mothers are more likely to have increased health and behavioral problems and poor school performance (Child Trends 2012).

• Educating expectant mothers about smoking cessation during pregnancy, prenatal care, eating right and appropriate weight gain can help deter low birthweight. Socioeconomic factors must also be considered; low birthweight babies and teen mothers are more likely to use Medicaid and state services.

• Low birthweight babies weigh less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces and very low birthweight infants weigh less than 3 pounds, 5 ounces.

• Low birthweight is the leading cause of death within the first months of life for infants. Babies born at low birthweight face an increased risk of physical and developmental health problems.

• Georgia’s low birthweight rate has increased over the last decade, from 8.9% in 2002 to 9.7% in 2010. During that time, the state’s rate remained above the national rate.

• Five of Georgia’s counties had high percentages of babies born at lowest birthweight between 2006 and 2010: Taliaferro, Quitman, Terrell, Randolph, and Ben Hill. Counties with the lowest rates were Echols, White, Dawson, Brantley, and Fayette.

• Beginning in 2011, Georgia implemented a Medicaid waiver, Planning for Healthy Babies, intended to improve birth outcomes.
Obesity: Youth and Adults

![Graph showing percentage of high school and middle school students who are obese in the United States and Georgia from 2003 to 2011.](image)

- A child who is classified as obese has a body mass index (BMI) for age and sex that is greater than or equal to the 95th percentile.
- In 2011, 15% of Georgia’s high school students were obese, compared to 13% nationally. Georgia ranked 9th with respect to the percentage of high school students who were obese in 2011.
- The percentage of Georgia’s high school students who are obese increased from 11% in 2003 to 15% in 2011.
- Georgia’s SHAPE Initiative has provided 21 schools with a total of $87,000 for projects to reduce obesity among the state’s children.
- In 2013, the Georgia State Health Benefit Program coverage was expanded to include primary care and dietitian services for children age 3-18 years with a diagnosis of obesity.

![Graph showing prevalence of obesity among adults in Georgia from 2003 to 2010.](image)

- Georgia’s Department of Public Health (DPH) defines obesity as having a body mass index (BMI) of 24.9 or greater.
- Many factors, including poor diet and physical inactivity have contributed to the rise in both adult and youth obesity.
- Georgia’s DPH estimates the annual cost of obesity in the state at $2 billion annually.
- Obesity increases the risk of many diseases and health conditions, including hypertension, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke, osteoarthritis, dyslipidemia and some cancers.
- Despite fluctuating over the past decade, the percentage of Georgia’s adults who are obese increased 11.3%, from 26.6% in 2003 to 29.6% in 2010.
- Georgia was ranked as the 24th most obese state in the nation in 2010.
Approximately 19,000 (5%) middle school students and 72,000 (17%) high school students in Georgia smoke cigarettes. Georgia’s high school students rank 20th among their peers nationally on the percentage who smoke.

The percentage of Georgia students who have tried smoking declined between 2003 and 2011, 28% among middle school students and 22% among high school students.

Tobacco use in adolescence is associated with other risky behaviors including sexual behavior and alcohol and drug use.

In 2005, Georgia banned smoking in all public places, except bars or restaurants that do not serve children, mandated separate hotel rooms for smokers, and required workplaces to have separate ventilation for smokers.

Approximately 1.3 million adults in Georgia smoke cigarettes.

The percentages of smokers fluctuated over the past decade. Georgia saw a reduction in the proportion of adults that smoke from 22.8% in 2003 to 17.6% in 2010. However, rates in Georgia and nationally increased in 2011 to 21.2%.

A 2010 study prepared by the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine estimated that smoking accounted for $2.9 billion in direct medical expenditures in Georgia.

Adult smokers lose an average of 16 years of life compared to adult non-smokers, and 1 out of 6 Georgians die annually from smoking related illnesses.

Tobacco use during pregnancy can cause premature births, sudden infant death, and stillbirths, in addition to changes in fetal brain and nervous system development.
Diabetes and Cardiovascular Disease

In 2010, 9.7% of Georgia adults were diabetic compared to 8.7% nationwide.

The percentage of adult Georgians with diabetes declined slightly from a high of 10.1% in 2007 to 9.7% in 2010.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that 25.8 million people have diabetes, the leading cause of blindness and kidney failure.

The Medical Expenditure Panel Survey estimates the national expenditures for the treatment of diabetes exceeded $51 billion in 2010; 10% of the cost was paid for by Medicaid.

Diabetes is a disease with serious complications and can lead to premature death. However, those living with the disease can control the disease and reverse the course of the disease through proper nutrition, regular physical activity and well-managed treatment plans.

Cardiovascular disease includes all diseases of the heart and blood vessels, including ischemic heart disease, stroke, congestive heart failure, hypertensive disease and atherosclerosis.

Like diabetes, cardiovascular disease can be moderated by living a healthier life and understanding what risk factors influence an individual’s likelihood of developing the disease.

Total expenditures for heart conditions nationally exceeded $107 billion in 2010 and hypertension accounted for an additional $42 billion.

Nearly 21,000 Georgians died of cardiovascular disease in 2010, representing 30% of all deaths during that year. The lowest rates were registered in Towns, Fayette, Rabun, DeKalb, and Gwinnett counties. The highest cardiovascular disease death rates were reported for Montgomery, Jeff Davis, Wilkinson, Treutlen, and Upson counties.
Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women and one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among women of all races and Hispanic origin.

Mammograms screen for breast cancer and allow for early detection. When detected early, especially when the woman exhibits no other signs or symptoms of the cancer, her survival rate increases by as much as 30%.

Mammograms are recommended biennially for women over 40 years of age and annually for those over the age of 50.

The percentage of women 40 years and older who have had a mammogram in the previous two years in Georgia fluctuated within a narrow range between 2000 and 2010, ranging from a high of 78.9% to a low of 74.5%. Georgia women were screened at a slightly higher rate in 2010, (77.2%) compared to the nation as a whole (75.2%).

Pap tests primarily detect cervical cancer; and like mammograms, early detection improves survival rates.

Nationwide, in 2010, 81.3% of women 18 years and older had a pap test within the last three years.

Georgia ranked 4th among the 50 states with respect to the percentage of women having a pap test within three years in 2010 (86.6%).

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is the primary risk factor for cervical cancer, however, a woman’s age and genetic factors also play a role.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, in 2011, 53.0% of females 13-17 year olds in the United States and 48.4% in Georgia had received at least one shot in the three series HPV vaccination.
Colorectal Cancer Screening and Cancer Mortality

Colorectal cancer screenings are recommended for both men and women over the age of 50.

Colon cancer is detected through colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy and fecal occult blood test. Polyps in the colon detected by these tests can be removed and prevent the onset of cancer or allow for earlier, aggressive treatment.

In men, colorectal cancer is the third most common type of cancer deaths, after lung and prostate cancers.

It is estimated that as many as 60% of deaths from colorectal cancer could be prevented if all men and women over the age of 50 years were screened routinely for colorectal cancer (CDC).

Among cancers that affect men and women, colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related death in the United States (CDC). In Georgia, cancer is the second leading cause of all deaths; cardiovascular disease is the leading cause.

Cancer mortality rates in Georgia declined all but one year between 2000 and 2008, from 206.0 to 172.6 per 100,000 residents. Men in Georgia have a higher cancer mortality rate (219.8 per 100,000 population) than women (142.9 per 100,000).

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among Georgians (51.1 per 100,000 population), followed by male prostate cancer (25.8 per 100,000) and female breast cancer (21.8 per 100,000).

The Medical Expenditures Panel Survey estimates that medical expenses for cancer in 2010 nationwide at $81.7 billion.

A significant public-private investment resulted in Winship Cancer Institute at Emory University becoming Georgia’s first cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute.
During the period between 2005-2008 and 2010, 72,950 Georgians died of cancer. The cancer mortality rate during this period declined 8%, from 186.1 to 171.2 per 100,000 residents (OASIS).

The highest cancer mortality rates for cancer during this period were recorded in the following counties: Taliaferro, Quitman, Calhoun, Tattnall, Warren. Three of the five counties with the highest cancer mortality rates are small communities with fewer than 5,000 residents.

Note: Data are unavailable for 2009.
HIV/AIDS and Pneumonia Mortality

The human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) affects the immune system, and the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) is the advanced stage of HIV.

In 2010, there were 23,451 known Georgians living with AIDS. Of individuals with AIDS, 77% were male and 23% were female. The largest number of persons (39%) were 40-49 years of age.

The age-adjusted mortality rates for individuals with AIDS/HIV declined during the last decade nationally and in Georgia. In Georgia the rate declined from 9.0 to 5.5 per 100,000 residents and nationally the rate declined from 5.2 per 100,000 to 3.0.

Effective drug treatments and therapies are prolonging the lives of those living with AIDS.

Early screening helps detect HIV earlier, prevents the transmission of HIV and allows for initiation of treatment to slow the onset of AIDS.

Pneumonia related deaths most often occur among the elderly population, the very young (under the age of 2 years) or in patients with diseases that weaken the immune system, such as AIDS.

During the period between 2000 and 2009 the age-adjusted pneumonia death rate per 100,000 residents in Georgia declined 38.3%, from 29.0 to 17.9. Nationally the pneumonia death rate declined 33.8%, from 23.1 to 15.3.

During the period between 2005 and 2010, more than 6,000 Georgia residents aged 60 and older died of pneumonia. The highest death rates for this condition were recorded in Stewart, Miller, Bacon, Washington, and Wilcox counties.

Flu and pneumonia together are the 8th leading cause of death in the United States.
The leading causes of unintentional injury deaths in Georgia are motor vehicle accidents, falls, poisoning, fire and drowning. Traumatic injuries include multiple fractures, paralysis, punctured lungs, stab wounds and brain injuries. These types of injuries must be treated at a trauma center as death or the inability to recover may result if not treated within the first hour of injury.

Each year, an estimated 700 Georgians lose their lives to traumatic injuries. Georgia’s trauma mortality rate is 20% higher than the national average.
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The percentage of adult Georgians completing high school has increased significantly since the 1970s, from less than half (40.6%) to more than 4 out of 5 (84.3%) adults 25 years and older in 2011. The proportion of adults completing high school remained stable in 2010 and 2011.

Georgia lagged behind the nation as a whole with respect to high school completion by the age of 25 years. During the 1970s and 1980s, the discrepancy was at least 10%. Since the 1990s, however, the gap has gradually decreased.

Georgia invests a significant portion of the State’s annual budget to educate its citizens. Education represents more than half of the state’s total budget.

Education is a crucial element in sustaining and growing the economy of the state. Georgia has made significant investments in education and training in strategic industries and high demand professions, such as health professions with service cancelable loans and other incentive programs.

The proportion of Georgians 25 years and older completing college tripled between 1970 and 2011, from 9.2% to 27.6%.

The percentage of adult Georgians completing a college education has remained similar to the national average.

Georgia was the first state in the nation to have a completion plan for every public higher education institution. The plans detailed how the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia will attain the state’s goal of adding 250,000 post-secondary graduates to Georgia’s rolls by 2020.
Education is a key to earnings, with median income increasing with each level of education completed.

A college graduate with a bachelor's degree in Georgia earns, on average, $17,566 more per year compared to a high school graduate.

Earnings for Georgia’s college graduates ($48,405) are comparable to the national average ($48,309).

Median earnings for adults with less than a high school education have declined recently. Between 2007 and 2011, earnings in Georgia declined 13.6%, from $20,050 to $17,318.

In contrast to adults with less than a high school education, median earnings for Georgia’s college graduates increased 2.9% between 2007 and 2011 and increased by 3.6% for adults completing a graduate or professional degree.

Education prepares adults for labor force participation. The American Community Survey data confirm that the higher the level of education, the more employable an adult becomes.

Less educated working age adults between the ages of 25 to 64 years are more likely to be unemployed compared to college graduates.

More than 1 out of 7 adults in Georgia and nationwide who had not completed high school were unemployed in 2011.

Unemployment rates are lower for high school graduates (12.7%) and adults completing some college (10.4%) compared to high school drop outs (17.9%).

Adults with a college degree or higher are most likely to be employed; only 1 out of 20 college educated adults were unemployed both nationally and in Georgia in 2011.
Georgia was the first state to establish a universal Pre-K program for four year olds. The Pre-K program is available in public schools, through Head Start agencies, private child care centers, faith-based organizations, military facilities, and state colleges and universities.

Pre-K enrollment in Georgia has increased 24.2%, from 65,364 in Fall 2002 to 81,182 in Fall 2012.

During the Fall of 2012, 58.6% of Georgia’s four-year-olds enrolled in Pre-K.

Georgia’s Lottery funds the Pre-K program. The FY 2013 budget for the lottery contributed more than $299 million to the Pre-K program.

Children who attend Pre-K perform better in reading, language and math in kindergarten.

Georgia’s 181 public school districts enrolled more than 1.6 million kindergarten through 12th grade students in Fall 2012.

Between Fall 2002 and Fall 2012, K-12 public school enrollment increased by nearly 200,000; a 13.4% increase.

Over the past decade, annual student enrollment increased steadily until Fall 2007, followed by annual growth of less than 1% between Fall 2008 and Fall 2011. Enrollment growth showed a more robust increase in Fall 2012 (1.1%).

Approximately 1 out of 12 public school students are kindergarteners (8.3%), 2 out of 5 attend elementary school (39.2%), 1 out of 4 are middle school students (23.5%) and more than 1 out of 4 attend high school (29.0%).

Source: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
- Georgia’s public school population has become increasingly diverse. In Fall 2012, 56.5% of students are racial or ethnic minorities compared to 48.4% in Fall 2002.
- Since Fall 2002, the Hispanic public school student population increased at the fastest pace, more than doubling (135.3%).
- The percentage of Black students enrolled in Georgia’s public schools has remained relatively stable at approximately 37% over the past decade.
- Among students not attending public school, the number enrolled in Home Study increased the fastest between FY 2000 and FY 2011 (41.8%), from 28,898 to 40,979.
- Private school enrollment in Georgia increased 24.1% between the FY 2000 and FY 2011, from 87,514 to 108,565.
- More than twice as many Georgia students attend private school than are home schooled.

Source: Georgia Department of Education

1 out of 8 of Georgia’s children attend a private school or are home schooled.

Home Study and Private School Enrollment:
Georgia, FY 2000-FY 2011

Source: Georgia Department of Education
The No Child Left Behind Act required states to participate in the biennial National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) tests for 4th and 8th grade reading and mathematics to provide a national comparison of student academic progress.

The National Center for Education Statistics administers NAEP to elementary and secondary students in various subject areas. Four of the nine total subject areas are reported at the state level including mathematics. Both private and public school children are assessed, although, only public school data are available for state comparisons.

Georgia’s 4th grade students have been steadily closing the gap with the national average math scores. In 2011, Georgia 4th grade students scored 19 points higher in mathematics than in 2000.

Note: NAEP scores range from 0 to 500.

NAEP measures 4th grade student reading performance. Students respond to questions that assess comprehension of literary and informational text.

In 2011, Georgia exceeded the national average in 4th grade reading for the first time since testing began in 1992.

Since 2002, reading scores for 4th graders have increased 3%, from 215 to 221.

In 2011, 1 out of 3 (34%) of Georgia’s 4th grade students were reading below basic level, and 2 out of 3 (66%) were reading at or above basic level.
Similar to the 4th grade NAEP scores, 8th grade mathematics scores have continuously improved over the past decade.

In 2011, 8th grade students scored 13 points higher in mathematics compared to the 2000 NAEP scores.

However, 8th grade mathematics students lag behind the national average by 5 points, with a score of 278.

In 2011, 8th grade students scored 4 points higher in mathematics compared to 2002.

The lag between Georgia’s student reading scores has narrowed, from 5 points in 2002 to 2 points in 2009 and 2011.

8th grade reading score trends in Georgia are similar to the national trend of a slight decline in scores between 2003 and 2005, followed by improvements each year, beginning in 2007.
High School Graduation and Dropout Rates

In 2012, the U.S. Department of Education published graduation rates based on the 2008 formula meeting federal education regulations that permits uniformity across states. The new formula tracks the percentage of 9th grade students who graduate within 4 years.

Nationally, Georgia ranks 44th in high school graduation among all states.

Among the southeastern states, graduation rates in 2011 ranged from a low of 67% in Georgia to a high of 86% in Tennessee.

Asian/Pacific Islander and white students have the highest graduation rates, at 79% and 76% respectively. The graduation rate for Blacks was 60% and 58% among Hispanics.

The dropout rate calculation is the number of students with a withdrawal code corresponding to a dropout divided by the number of students that attended the school.

Georgia’s dropout rate declined 47% between the 2000-2001 and the 2010-2011 school years, from 7.2% to 3.7%. Georgia has the 19th highest dropout rate among the states.

Research indicates that chronic school truancy is an indicator of whether a student will dropout before graduating from high school.

The National Dropout Prevention Center has identified best practices for reducing the number of students dropping out of school. These best practices include use of incentives and sanctions, family involvement, and creating a supportive environment for students.
The ACT is a standardized test used by most colleges to determine admittance, along with other deciding factors including coursework, grades, letters of recommendations, and other criteria.

Students taking the SAT are tested in mathematics, critical reading and writing, for a composite score of 2,400 (each section is worth a total of 800 points).

In 2012, 73,187 of Georgia’s high school seniors took the SAT Test.

The combined average score for Georgia’s students was 1,452 in 2012, up seven points from the previous year (1,445).

The ACT is a standardized test that colleges use comparably to the SAT to determine admittance. The ACT assesses student’s general educational development and ability to complete college-level work.

The ACT tests four subjects—English, reading, mathematics and science. Each section is worth a maximum of 36 points and the total score, or composite score, is the average of all four sections.

47,169 of Georgia’s graduating seniors took the ACT in 2012, 52% of all graduates.

The average composite ACT score for Georgia increased slightly from 19.8 in 2002 to 20.7 in 2012. Average ACT scores among Georgia’s students were slightly below the national average of 21.1 in 2012.
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) assures access to quality education for children with disabilities. In Georgia, 1 in 10 of public school children received special education services.

Nationally, during the 2009-2010 school year 6.4 million children and youth (13% of public school students) received special education services, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Three state schools serve blind and deaf students: the Georgia Academy for the Blind in Macon, the Georgia School for the Deaf in Cave Spring in Floyd County, and the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf in Clarkston.

Among Georgia’s school systems, the percentage of students served in special education ranges from 6% (Chickamauga City and Worth County) to 16% (Screven, Baker, Madison, Putnam, Meriwether, and Banks counties).

Source: Georgia Department of Education
The average public school teacher salary in Georgia was $52,815 during the 2009-2010 school year, compared to the national average $55,623.

Georgia is competitive among the six southeast states with respect to public school teacher salaries. Georgia’s average teacher salary is more than $5,000 higher compared to Alabama, which recorded the second highest salary in the region.

Average salaries for full-time faculty at public two-year colleges among the southeastern states ranges from a high of $54,244 in Florida to $46,503 in Tennessee.

The average salary for faculty at Georgia’s two-year colleges ranked 3rd during the 2010-2011 school year among the southeastern states.

Georgia’s public two-year college faculty members were paid $6,000 less than their peers in Florida and $1,400 more than faculty in Tennessee.

Average salaries for full-time faculty at public four-year colleges in the southeast range from a high of $79,333 in North Carolina to a low of $67,160 in Tennessee.

In Georgia in 2010-2011, the average faculty salary at four-year public colleges and universities was $72,774.

The average salary for faculty at public four-year colleges in Georgia ranked 3rd among the 6 southeastern states in 2011.

Four-year college faculty salaries in Georgia increased 4.9% between 2005 and 2010.
The Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) provides student-centered, high quality, and affordable technical, academic, adult education and training. This system contributes to building literate and economically strong communities and businesses in Georgia.

Georgia’s Technical College System students may enroll in programs that lead to an associate degree, a diploma, or a technical certificate.

Overall, during the past decade, Technical College System enrollment increased 44%.

There was steady growth in TCSG enrollment during the early portion of the past decade, followed by a stabilization during mid-decade. Following the economic changes that occurred starting in 2007, enrollment increased each year until 2011.

The number of Technical College awards more than doubled in Georgia between 2000 and 2011, from 15,304 to 37,771.

More than 1 out of 3 Technical College System students continue their education following completion of a course of study.

In 2011, more than half of Technical College System award recipients were employed in the field or a related field (60%).

1 out of 6 Technical College System award recipients were employed out of their field (17%) in 2011.

*Note: There is some duplication of graduates who are both employed and continuing their education concurrently.
The Technical College System of Georgia oversees the state’s adult education efforts.

Adult education provides adult learners with the opportunity to study for and earn a General Educational Development (GED) diploma. Students completing a GED are able to attend college or enter the labor force. The curriculum for adult basic education focuses on reading, writing, and math skills.

The Adult Basic Education program is designed to provide special attention to adults returning to school to resume educational programs which were interrupted in earlier years. The goal of the program is a fully literate Georgia.

The number of Adult Basic Education graduates has fluctuated over the past several years from a high of 41,141 in 2005 to a low of 22,661 in 2011.

The Technical College System of Georgia has awarded between 18,000 and 19,000 (GED) diplomas annually since 2005.

The passage rate for Adult Basic Education students intending to obtain a GED declined between 2005 and 2011, from 75.3% to 66.4%.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Georgia ranks 13th among the 50 states, for the highest percentage of adults lacking a high school diploma. However, the proportion of adult Georgians without a high school education declined from 21.4% in 2000 to 15.6% in 2011.

Percent of Adult Education Students Who Met Intended Goal to Obtain a GED: Georgia, 2005-2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>75.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>73.1%</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>69.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>66.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>66.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Technical College System of Georgia
The Technical College System of Georgia has developed educational programs to ensure Georgia businesses have a trained workforce in strategic industries. The customized training assists companies starting up or are utilizing new technologies or business processes.

More than 56,000 students are enrolled in programs that prepare graduates to work in strategic industries.

Students in Technical College programs increase their earnings following graduation. Students training for life science and health/elder care industries increase their earnings by 30% after completing their studies. Students completing training for the aerospace industry earn the highest incomes following graduation ($34,675).

Georgia’s public colleges and universities operate under the University System of Georgia (USG) umbrella. The system consists of research universities, regional universities, state universities, state colleges and two-year colleges.

USG is responsible for providing higher education to Georgia residents to create a more educated Georgia through instruction, research and public service.

In Fall 2012, approximately 314,000 students were enrolled at a USG college or university, a decrease of 3,662 from the previous fall.

Enrollment in the University System of Georgia increased 34.9%, more than 81,000 students, between Fall 2002 and Fall 2012.
The number of minority students attending University System of Georgia colleges and universities increased by 84.7% between 2002 and 2012.

The Black student population enrolled at USG institutions increased by 63.5% between 2002 and 2012, from 22.7% to 27.5% of total students.

The percentage of Asian American students enrolled in the USG system increased from 5.6% in 2002 to 7.1% in 2012.

Hispanics now represent 5.7% of student enrollment in the USG system. The number of Hispanics students enrolled increased between 2002 and 2012 by 245.9%.

Females comprised more than half (57%) of the student population enrolled in USG in Fall 2012.

The University System of Georgia attracts students from around the globe.

In Fall 2012, international students comprised 7.4%, 23,162 of more than 314,000 students within the USG system.

1 out of 4 of international students (25%) are from the East Asian and Pacific region.

One-fifth of international students are from South/Latin America and the Caribbean, and an additional one-fifth are from South Asia.

The number of non-citizen students enrolled in the University System of Georgia increased by 405 students or 2% between Fall 2011 and Fall 2012.
Three-quarters of students entering a University System of Georgia college or university return to school the following fall.

First-year retention rates for university students in Georgia have fluctuated over the past decade within a fairly narrow range.

Among degree seeking, full-time freshmen who entered a University System of Georgia institution in Fall 2011, 69.8% returned to the same institution the following year, slightly below the highest retention rate recorded, which was in FY 2004 (72.0%).

The retention rate for incoming freshmen returning to any USG institution was slightly higher in FY 2011 at 74.0%.

Key indicators of post-secondary performance: six-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshman at four-year colleges and three-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time freshmen at two-year colleges

The proportion of Georgia’s university students completing their degree has increased significantly since the mid-1990s.

Among first-time, full-time bachelor’s degree seeking undergraduates at four-year colleges who entered a University System of Georgia college or university in Fall 2005, 52% graduated within six years from the same institution and 60% graduated from an institution within the system.

Source: University System of Georgia Board of Regents

Source: University System of Georgia Board of Regents
There are four research universities within the University System of Georgia (USG): University of Georgia, Georgia Health Sciences University, Georgia State University, and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Between FY 2003 and FY 2012, Georgia’s research universities were awarded more than $7.3 billion in research funds.

Overall, external research funding increased by 68% between FY 2003 and FY 2012.

In FY 2012, research funding increased by $68 million compared to the previous year.

The research awards received by USG research universities encompass a wide range of topics, from national security to advances in medicine.

Research within the University System of Georgia spans many subject areas and is primarily concentrated in the four research universities.

More than two-thirds of USG research funding is provided by the federal government (70%).

State and local government provide 3% of USG external research funding.

Industry provides 11% of USG research funds.

Nonprofits also contribute 14% of USG research funds.

- Federal
- Industry
- State & Local
- International
- Foundation/Other

Source: USG research universities

Source: University System of Georgia Board of Regents
HOPE Scholarship and Tuition Costs

- Between 1993 and 2012, $6.6 billion were disbursed to Georgia colleges and universities through the HOPE scholarships and grants program funded by the Georgia Lottery.

- 2 out of 3 HOPE scholarships and grants have been disbursed to students attending the state’s public colleges and universities.

- 1 out of 4 scholarships and grants were disbursed to public technical colleges, and the approximately 11% remaining scholarships went to private colleges and universities.

MEDIAN TUITION AND FEES AT GEORGIA’S UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES ($5,919) WAS MORE AFFORDABLE THAN THREE OTHER SOUTHEAST REGION STATES IN FY 2011. SUCH COSTS IN GEORGIA ARE LOWER THAN SOUTH CAROLINA ($9,267), ALABAMA ($7,136), AND TENNESSEE ($6,190).

TUITION IN GEORGIA AS A PERCENTAGE OF MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (13%) WAS THE SAME AS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE IN FY 2011.

THE PERCENTAGE OF FAMILY INCOME REQUIRED TO PAY COLLEGE TUITION AND FEES AT GEORGIA’S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES INCREASED SUBSTANTIALLY BETWEEN FY 2009 AND FY 2011, FROM 9% TO 13%.

HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally), Georgia’s scholarship and grant program, provides financial assistance at public and private colleges and universities and public technical colleges.

THE HOPE SCHOLARSHIP IS AVAILABLE TO GEORGIA RESIDENTS MEETING ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS. THE AMOUNT OF THE AWARD IS BASED UPON A PER HOUR RATE AT THE INSTITUTION THE STUDENT ATTENDS.


The percentage of median income required to pay college tuition and fees at Georgia’s colleges and universities increased substantially between FY 2009 and FY 2011, from 9% to 13%.

HOPE Scholarship and Tuition Costs

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Source: Southern Regional Education Board

Students Earning Georgia’s HOPE Scholarships and Grants: FY 2002-2012

- The percentage of family income required to pay college tuition and fees at Georgia’s colleges and universities increased substantially between FY 2009 and FY 2011, from 9% to 13%.

Source: Georgia Student Finance Commission

Disbursements of Georgia’s HOPE Scholarship and Tuition Costs to Georgia’s Educational Institutions, 1993-2012

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Source: Georgia Student Finance Commission

AN EDUCATED GEORGIA

66 GEORGIA IN PERSPECTIVE
Source: Technical College System of Georgia
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Child Protection

In Georgia, people who work with children and families are required to report suspected abuse to the Division of Family and Children Services (DFCS). Mandated reporters include: physicians, hospital personnel, dentists, psychologists, podiatrists, nurses, professional counselors, school teachers, and child welfare staff.

The largest number of child abuse and neglect reports are received from Georgia’s schools.

In the early part of the last decade, the number of reports of child abuse and neglect received by DFCS climbed steeply. Abuse and neglect reports peaked in 2004 at 101,563 but has declined steadily to 63,547 in 2011.

In 2011, 65 of Georgia’s children died as a result of child maltreatment, a rate of 2.61 per 100,000 children, higher than the national rate of 2.10.

More than half of the 21,148 reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in Georgia investigated by DFCS in FY 2011 were substantiated (55%).

Nearly 7,000 substantiated cases of abuse and neglect were serious enough to warrant on-going services be provided to the family.

The maltreatment rate per 1,000 children in Georgia declined from 14.1 in 2007 to 7.4 in 2011.

Neglect is the most frequent type of maltreatment identified in Georgia. In 2011, 64.3% of Georgia’s substantiated cases involved this type of maltreatment.

More than one out of three of Georgia’s maltreatment victims (34.5%) are under the age of four years.

In 2011, nearly 3 out of 4 (72.3%) perpetrators of substantiated abuse and neglect are parents, followed by other relatives (10.2%), and non-biological parents (5.8%).
Active Child Protective Services (CPS) cases include the number of CPS investigations and Family Preservation cases being handled by DFCS.

Substantiated cases of abuse and neglect are opened by DFCS for ongoing CPS action when the level of risk for recurring maltreatment is high or moderate.

The monthly number of CPS cases in Georgia fluctuates considerably. Overall, the number of active cases declined 71.7% between 2004 and 2011, from 28,815 to 8,163.

Active CPS cases have declined largely in response to the utilization of diversion. "Diversion" is an option DFCS uses to assist families when the safety of children is not in question, emphasizing a strength-based, prevention-driven, community response to vulnerable children and families. DFCS refers diverted families to resources available in their communities.

The monthly number of children that were in out of home care by DFCS in Georgia decreased 72.3% between July 2004 and September 2012, from 28,815 to 7,979.

During FY 2012, there were a total of 13,921 children in DFCS legal custody.

More than one-quarter of children in DFCS custody (29.9%) in September 2012 were under the age of 4 years.

In September 2012, nearly half (47%) of children in out of home placement were placed with their siblings, and only 4.3% of these children were placed in institutions.

In 2011, the majority of children (63.1%) leaving out of home placement returned home, and 74.8% of the children reunified with their families, returned home in less than 12 months.
The Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) employees work in Regional Offices, Regional Drug Enforcement Offices and other special units, responding to requests for assistance from local enforcement agencies.

Since 2000, there has been a 28.6% decline in the number of cases investigated by the GBI, mostly due to resource issues and workforce reductions. The number of cases initiated by the agency declined from 10,900 in 2000 to 7,779 in 2011.

The number of narcotics cases initiated by the GBI declined 65.4% between 2000 and 2011, while crimes against persons cases declined 25.7% during the same period.

Polygraph and background cases, bomb disposal services and property crime cases declined 53.3%, 38.3%, 32.3%, respectively.

GBI Investigative Division staff expended more than 60,000 hours investigating crimes in August 2012.

Nearly one out of three GBI investigative hours expended in August 2012 were spent on crimes against persons, followed by drug investigations (27.1% of investigative hours).

Crime scenes, property crimes, and bomb disposal accounted for nearly 1 out of 4 (22.9%) of GBI total investigative hours during that time period.

A small portion of GBI’s investigative hours in August (4%) were spent on polygraphs and background examinations.

Note: Other Investigations include preliminary investigations, public corruption, et cetera.
Georgia’s violent crime rate (373.2 per 100,000 residents) is slightly lower than the national rate (386.3).

Among the southeastern states, Georgia ranks second lowest in overall violent crime rate. The state with the lowest rate in the region is North Carolina with a rate of 349.8 while Tennessee ranks highest at 608.2.

Georgia ranks third lowest among the southeastern states with respect to the murder and non-negligent manslaughter rate. The state’s rate is 5.6 per 100,000 residents, compared to 5.3 in North Carolina and 5.2 in Florida.

Georgia has the second highest property crime rate among the southeastern states at 3,626.5 per 100,000 residents. Florida ranks lowest in the region at 3,522.0 per 100,000 and South Carolina ranks highest at 3,904.2 per 100,000.

Georgia’s rate of reported violent crime increased between 2005 and 2007, followed by steep declines beginning in 2009.

Georgia’s violent crime rate was higher than the national average for 3 years during the last decade.

In 2011, aggravated assault was the most frequently reported violent crime in Georgia, with a rate of 222.9 per 100,000 residents. Robbery is the second most frequently reported violent crime in the state with a rate of 123.8 per 100,000 residents.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, violent offenders have a greater probability of being arrested compared to property offenders. In 2011, an offender was charged in 64.8% of reported murder and non-negligent manslaughter cases, compared to 21.5% for larceny-theft, or 12.7% for burglary cases reported.
Overall, property crime rates declined both nationally and in Georgia over the past decade.

Although the property crime rate fluctuated over the past decade in Georgia, the rate per 100,000 residents declined 14.6%, from 4,246.4 in 2000 to 3,626.5 in 2011.

Nationally, the property crime rate per 100,000 residents declined at a slightly faster pace (19.6%), from 3,618.3 in 2000 to 2,908.7 in 2011.

Georgia’s property crime rate continues to exceed the national average, despite an overall decline since 2000.

In 2011, larceny-theft was the most frequently reported non-violent crime in Georgia, with a rate of 2,351.7 per 100,000 residents, followed by burglary at 974.6 per 100,000, and motor vehicle theft at 300.3 per 100,000 residents.

In 2012, there were 57,570 inmates in Georgia’s state prisons. Nearly half (46.0%) of these prisoners were convicted of violent offenses, and 1 out of 5 (21.5%) was convicted of property offenses. More than half (58.9%) of prisoners have had no prior incarcerations.

Three out of four (75%) of Georgia’s prisoners have substance abuse problems, and 53% of the inmates receive mental health treatment.

Although the average age of Georgia’s prisoners is 37.2 years, only 1 out of 3 (32.3%) inmates have earned a General Education Diploma (GED) or its equivalent compared to 84.3% of the total adult population.

Average daily costs for physical health care for Georgia’s prisoners was $8 in FY 2012, as was the average cost per day for mental health care.
The percentage of time served by Georgia’s inmates varies considerably by type of crime committed.

Sex offenders in Georgia serve the greatest proportion of their sentence; approximately 87%.

Violent offenders in Georgia, serve the 2nd greatest proportion of their sentences. Over the past decade the percentage of time served by violent offenders has increased from 67% in 2000 to 78% in 2012.

Georgia’s property offenders are serving an increasing percentage of their sentences, increasing from 48% in 2000 to 66% in 2012.

Drug offenders serve the smallest percentage of their sentences. In 2012, drug possession offenders served 55% and drug sales offenders served 43%.

Georgia’s incarceration rate has remained above the national average for the past three decades. In 2010, the state’s incarceration rate (550 prisoners per 100,000 residents) ranked 8th highest in the nation.

In 2011, the Department of Corrections and State Board of Pardons and Parole instituted the Performance Incentive Credit (PIC). PIC provides incentives to offenders to complete educational programs and work productively during incarceration for consideration of up to 12 months early consideration for parole.

Criminal justice reform established an accountability court committee to implement new drug and mental health accountability courts.

Similar to other states, Georgia has experienced an increase in inmates that are elderly or have chronic conditions. Inmates with chronic conditions are enrolled in in-house chronic care clinics.
Reconviction Rates and Offender Populations

The three-year return to prison rate is defined as the percentage of offenders who return to prison for either new offenses or for technical violations of their release. The three-year felony reconviction rate is the percentage of offenders who are convicted of a new felony resulting in either prison or probation within 3 years of release from prison.

The three-year return to prison rate in Georgia increased slightly in the early part of the past decade, from 31% to 33%, but has since declined to 26.7%

Georgia’s three-year felony reconviction rate has remained fairly stable over the past decade, from a high of 29% in 2001 to a low of 27% in four of the years since 2000.

At the end of FY 2012, there were 163,265 probationers, 57,570 inmates, and 24,426 parolees in Georgia.

Over the past decade, Georgia’s inmate population increased by 32.9%, from 43,324 in 2000 to 57,570 in 2012.

The probation and parolee populations increased more slowly between 2000 and 2012. The number of probationers increased by 22.8%, from 132,997 to 163,265 and the number of parolees increased 10.0%, from 22,211 to 24,426.

Discretionary parole decisions can enhance public safety by ensuring that dangerous offenders remain incarcerated and by providing the necessary structure and assistance to select offenders who seek to become law-abiding citizens.
There are 146 counties with jails in Georgia, which housed 38,699 inmates in September 2012.

In 2012, the majority (62%) of county jail inmates were awaiting trial, 16% of inmates were sentenced to county jails, and 9% were state sentenced inmates housed at county facilities.

Between 2007 and 2012, the county jail population decreased by 1%.

The number of county jail inmates sentenced to state institutions decreased by 20.3% from 4,416 in September 2007 to 3,520 in September 2012.

The number of county jails over capacity decreased from 40 in September 2007 to 32 in September 2012.

Paroled offenders are released prior to serving their entire sentence based on their likelihood of re-offending.

In 2012, 1 out of 4 (26.4%) parolees were initially convicted of violent crimes and another quarter were convicted of property crimes (26.1%). Additionally, 1 out of 5 (20.3%) parolees were convicted of drug sales/trafficking, and more than 1 of out of 7 were convicted of drug possession.

Georgia has the 13th highest parole population in the United States with 341 parolees per 100,000 adult residents.

During FY 2011, 69% of parolees were employed and 67% of parolees who entered drug treatment successfully completed their treatment.
Parole Completion Rates and Correction Costs

Parole Supervision Completion Rate: United States and Georgia, 2006-2012

Parole supervision begins when an offender is released from prison into the community prior to serving their entire sentence. Successful completion of parole supervision requires an offender to show success in re-integrating into the community via employment, stable residence, program completion, etc.

The successful parole completion rate in Georgia increased between 2006 to 2012, from 60% to 72%.

Georgia's parolees are considerably more likely to successfully complete parole compared to parolees nationwide.

Nationally, the average parole completion rate has also increased, from 45% in 2006 to 52% in 2012.

Note*: Successful parole completion excludes offenders who are revoked, abscond or in jail at the time of discharge from parole.

Note**: National completion rates for 2011 and 2012 are estimated.

Parole Completion Rates and Correction Costs

State Daily Cost by Offender Placement: 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Offender Placement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$1.27</td>
<td>Regular Probation Supervision</td>
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<tr>
<td>$4.30</td>
<td>Intensive Probation Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$4.94</td>
<td>Parole Supervision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$16.33</td>
<td>Day Reporting Centers</td>
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<tr>
<td>$33.09</td>
<td>Pre-release Centers</td>
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<td>Transition Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$42.43</td>
<td>Detention Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$44.51</td>
<td>State Prisons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In FY 2012, the Georgia Department of Corrections operated:

- 113 Probation circuit offices
- 1 Probation Residential Substance Abuse Treatment centers
- 14 Day reporting centers
- 14 Transitional centers
- 32 State prisons
- 4 Private prisons by contract
- 23 County correctional institutes
- 9 Probation Detention Centers
- 1 Inmate boot camp

The average cost per Georgia offender in state prison is $16,246 per year compared to $463.55 for regular probation supervision and $1,569.50 for intensive probation supervision.

Incarceration costs vary based on security level needed to maintain the prisoner; $22,079 per year for close security prisons versus $15,115 per year for medium security facilities.

Source: State Board of Pardons and Paroles

Source: Georgia Department of Corrections and Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles
In 2012, the Georgia State Legislature passed House Bill 1176 to implement recommendations from the Criminal Justice Reform Council. The bill amended state law to focus prison bed utilization for serious offenders. Additionally, the legislation created a grant program for accountability courts that will provide treatment for drug offenders and other offenders with a mental health diagnosis as an underlying factor for their crime as opposed to incarceration.

HB 1176 created different classes of offense types for burglary, theft, forgery, and drug crimes. The classes with lower-risk offense types have a new shorter maximum sentence under the statute. This allows for prison space to be afforded to the most serious and/or violent offenders in the future.

The above chart, prepared by the state’s contactor for prison population projections, Applied Research Services, indicates the projected prison population growth prior to the passage of House Bill 1176 in the “Baseline”. The new “HB 1176” blue trend line indicates how the new statutory policies will reduce prison growth as the sentencing impact occurs on the offenders eventually being sentenced to shorter sentences for the lower level crime classifications. The true impact of the reform is not seen in the prison population until the start of 2015 because that is the approximate time the new offenders convicted under the new statutes will begin to complete their prison sentences.

The Criminal Justice Reform Council expanded its role and reviewed Georgia’s Juvenile Justice system in FY 2013. This resulted in the formation of two workgroups. One workgroup reviewed Community-Based Options, while the second one focused on Juvenile Dispositions and Out-of-Home Placements. Additionally, the Council continued to examine the adult corrections system. Final recommendations by the Council will be presented to the General Assembly for consideration of appropriate statutory changes.
In 2011, 42,480 of Georgia’s juveniles were arrested. While the number of juvenile arrests has fluctuated over the past decade, there was an overall decline of 6.3% in arrests between 2000 and 2011.

The greatest number of juvenile arrests occurred in 2008 (57,797), followed by a decline to 42,480 in 2011.

Juveniles were most frequently arrested in 2011 for larceny (19%), other assaults (14%), and disorderly conduct (10%).

Drug offenses were the reason for 7.8% of juvenile arrests in 2011; 547 arrests involved sales or manufacture of drugs and 2,753 were possession charges.

A large increase in arrests (72%) was registered for offenses against family and children between 2007 and 2011.

Juvenile offenders under Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) supervision most frequently enter the system due to the following offenses: property (22%), status (19.7%), violence (16.6%), or public order (16.0%).

In FY 2011, there were 14,268 admissions to secure detention at Regional Youth Detention Centers (RYDC) a 14.7% decrease from FY 2009. The average length of stay in secure detention at a RYDC was 15 days in FY 2011.

In 2011, nearly one out of nine Georgia high school students (11.7%) reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property during the previous year, higher than the national average of 7.4%.

Note: Status offenses are crimes defined as criminal due to the offender’s age, such as truancy and curfew violations. VOP is a violation of parole, VOAC is a violation of aftercare, VOAP is a violation of alternative plan.
A RYDC provides temporary, secure care and supervision to youth charged with offenses and awaiting placement or treatment in a community program or long-term facility. A Youth Development Campus (YDC) provides secure care, supervision and treatment services to youth committed for long-term programs.

The average daily population served by DJJ declined by 21.3% between FY 2004 and FY 2011, from 20,323 to 15,991.

The majority of Georgia’s youth offenders entering the juvenile justice system are placed in community programs (82%). The remainder of juvenile offenders are distributed among non-secure residential settings (5.1%), YDC (4.6%), and RYDC (8.2%).

The average length of stay for youth committed to a DJJ facility increased from 621 days in FY 2009 to 705 days in FY 2011.

More than 2 out of 5 youth (44.4%) admitted to a YDC in FY 2011 were committed to the department due to a violent offense. An additional 1 out of 10 (10.5%) youth offenders were admitted to a YDC because they committed a violent sexual offense.

1 out of 3 youth admitted to a YDC in FY 2011 committed a property offense.

Drug offenses represent a very small proportion of offenses for which youth are placed in a YDC (1.7%).

DJJ operates the state’s 181st school district which serves 52,000 youth each year; providing an opportunity for youth in custody to earn a high school diploma.

Note: VOP is violation of parole, VOAC is violation of aftercare, VOAP is violation of alternative plan.
INDICATORS

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**ECONOMIC FREEDOM RANKING**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. South Dakota</td>
<td>0.469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. New Hampshire</td>
<td>0.357</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. North Dakota</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Idaho</td>
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<td>5. Virginia</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Tennessee</td>
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<td>7. Oklahoma</td>
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<td>8. Iowa</td>
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<td>9. Alabama</td>
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<td>10. Colorado</td>
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<td>11. Missouri</td>
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<td><strong>12. Georgia</strong></td>
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<td>14. Florida</td>
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<td>15. Texas</td>
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**REGULATORY POLICY RANKING**

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<td>2. Iowa</td>
<td>0.154</td>
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<td>3. Utah</td>
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<td>4. Virginia</td>
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<td>5. North Dakota</td>
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<td>6. Nebraska</td>
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<td>10. Alabama</td>
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<td>11. Michigan</td>
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<td>12. South Carolina</td>
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<td>13. Idaho</td>
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<td>14. Arizona</td>
<td>0.084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. Wisconsin</td>
<td>0.079</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Mercatus Center, George Mason University*
Georgia has a diversified tax base with more than one-quarter of revenues (27.1%) coming from sales tax revenues and nearly half (47.6%) from individual and corporate income taxes.

The motor fuel tax is projected to represent 5.1% of total state revenue in FY 2013. The motor fuel tax rate is 7.5 cents per gallon plus a 4% sales tax. The state constitution stipulates that motor fuel funds can only be used for the construction and maintenance of roads and bridges.

The Georgia State Lottery is also anticipated to represent 4.5% of state revenue in FY 2013. On average, for every dollar spent on a lottery ticket, 25 cents funds the Pre-K and HOPE programs.

Additional sources of revenue include fees and sales (6.0%), other taxes (6.0%), and Tobacco Settlement funds (0.8%).

Over the decade Georgia experienced 2 periods of flat or declining revenues: 2002-2004 and 2008-2010.

Since FY 2000, total state revenues have fluctuated, with declines during the early part of the last decade and in FY 2008 in response to dips in the economy. Overall during this period, revenues increased 29% from $15.0 billion to $19.3 billion.

The state aggressively funded the revenue short fall reserve in FY 2006 and FY 2007, which helped cushion the impact of the latest revenue decline.

Note: The data from fiscal years 2000-2011 are historical numbers. Revenue numbers for Fiscal Years 2012 and 2013 are estimated.
Education is Georgia’s highest priority. At 53.5%, more than half of the state budget is dedicated to Pre-K to college education.

Healthy Georgia, at 23.6% of expenditures, funds Medicaid and the State Health Benefit Plan, mental health services, and child protective services.

Safe Georgia represents 8.6% of expenditures, and funds adult and juvenile corrections, probation, parole, and Georgia Bureau of Investigation.

Growing Georgia (1.2%) funds economic development.

Responsible and Efficient Government programs (3.6%) include administrative functions such as building maintenance, contract management, and IT services.

Mobile Georgia, at 4.5% of expenditures, funds transportation services.

Georgia’s Revenue Shortfall Reserve was created in 1976 to serve as a savings account or “Rainy Day” fund. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, shortfall reserve funds enabled states to meet increased service demand in the face of declining revenues during the recent recession.

In 2010, the Shortfall Reserve cap was increased from 10% to 15% of previous year net revenue collections in order to increase Georgia’s savings capacity.

Reserve sources include state net revenues and agency surpluses. 4% of the net revenue of the preceding fiscal year must remain in the fund. The Governor is authorized to release reserve funds beyond that amount.

The revenue shortfall reserve peaked at $1.5 billion in 2007 and was $378 million in FY 2012.

Revenue Shortfall Reserve: Georgia, FY 2000-FY 2012

Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Governor’s Budget Report

Appropriations by State Priority Policy Area: Georgia, FY 2013

Source: Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget, Governor’s Budget Report
Rating agencies scrutinize states in several areas to judge a state’s fiscal health. The better a state’s bond rating, the lower the interest it must pay on the bonds it issues.

Rating agency analysts use 10% debt service level as standard warning level for states approaching limited fiscal flexibility.

Georgia has maintained its triple-A bond rating from all three rating agencies every year for more than a decade.

Currently, Georgia is 1 of 8 states with a triple-A bond rating from all three major bond rating agencies. The other states are Delaware, Iowa, Maryland, Missouri, North Carolina, Utah, and Virginia.

Georgia has implemented a formal debt management plan (DMP) to help the State fund ongoing spending priorities. Georgia’s DMP sets target levels in three areas: Debt Per Capita, Debt Service to Revenues, and Debt to Personal Income.

To restrict over-borrowing, Georgia’s constitution sets a debt limit at 10% of the prior year’s total treasury receipts, and the state’s DMP sets 7% as the planning level for debt.

Debt service to prior year revenues measures the percentage of revenue dedicated to debt service. Steadily increasing revenue and moderate borrowing at low interest rates keep this measure within target levels.

The 2007 to 2009 recession reduced state treasury receipts. As a result, debt service to prior year revenues exceeded the 7% planning level. The debt service to revenues ratio were 7.2% in 2010 and 7.8% in 2011.

To bring the debt service ratio to within planning levels, the state’s DMP prescribes a $800 million general obligation bond borrowing ceiling annually. The plan anticipates that the ceiling, combined with increased treasury receipts, will return the debt service ratio below target planning levels by FY 2013.

### Georgia’s Bond Ratings: 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rating Agency</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moody Investor Services</td>
<td>Aaa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard and Poor’s</td>
<td>AAA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitch’s Investor’s Service</td>
<td>AAA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Rating Agencies*

### 2012-2016 Debt Management Plan Debt Ratio Targets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Levels</th>
<th>Without GARVEEs*</th>
<th>With GARVEEs*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt per Capita</td>
<td>$1,200</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service to Prior Year Revenues</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debt to Personal Income</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
<td>4.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: GARVEE bonds are tax-exempt debt instrument financing mechanisms backed by annual federal appropriations for federal-aid transportation projects.*

*Source: Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission, Debt Management Plan*

### Historic and Projected Annual Debt Service as Percentage of Prior Year Receipts, FY 2007-FY 2016

*Source: Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission, Debt Management Plan*
Debt Plan Ratios

Historic and Projected Debt Per Capita: Georgia, FY 2007-FY 2016

- Debt per capita measures the state debt burden per state resident. Net tax-supported debt per capita is calculated as the total tax-supported debt divided by the population of the state.
- Figures for the years 2007 through 2011 represent the actual debt per capita. Figures for 2012-2016 reflect projected debt per capita. Georgia has kept the debt per capita below the target mark.
- The debt per capita planning level was raised in 2007 from $1000 to $1200 due to rising infrastructure costs.
- Net tax-supported debt items are debt items supported by the state’s tax revenues and are guaranteed by the state. Items which are paid by tax revenues pledged to that payment, such as motor fuel tax pledged to certain State Road and Tollway Authority bonds, are considered tax-supported debt.

Historic and Projected Debt As Percent of Personal Income, FY 2007-FY 2016

- Debt as a percent of personal income measures the debt burden to Georgians’ personal incomes. It is calculated as the amount of tax-supported debt divided by the total personal income of the state’s population.
- Between FY 2007 and FY 2011, the debt as a percentage of personal income decreased slightly, despite an 8.8% increase in debt. Debt to personal income most likely remained stable due to overall growth in personal income among Georgia’s residents.
- The state’s planning level for debt as percentage of personal income has remained at 3.5%. From 2007-2011, the state debt ratio has ranged from 2.5% to 2.7%.
- In years FY 2012 to FY 2016, the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission anticipates the debt as a percentage of personal income will decrease due to rising personal incomes in the state.

Source: Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission, Debt Management Plan
The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is a standard annual financial report prepared by most governments. The CAFR includes basic information about the state, the auditor’s report, financial statements and a statistical section.

While the state budget presents the projected expectations and plan of use for state funds over a year, the state CAFR reports the historical use and financial condition of state government.

Georgia created a State Accounting Office on July 1, 2005 to establish statewide standards and practices and align responsibility for the state’s financial reports and the accounting system.

The time taken to complete the CAFR has decreased from a high of 18 months in 2003 to an approximate completion time of six months for the past 8 years.

In the CAFR, the state auditor presents an unqualified or qualified opinion of the report. An unqualified opinion indicates that:

- Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) have been applied.
- If reporting methods differ from GAAP, methods have been applied appropriately and disclosed.
- The report adheres to statutory requirements and regulations.
- Material and relevant information is disclosed.

Qualifications indicate instances where scope is limited or GAAP has not been applied appropriately.

The goal of the State is to achieve an unqualified opinion on the CAFR.

The number of qualifications to the CAFR have ranged from a high of 10 in 1998 to 0 in recent years.
The Georgia Department of Audits provides accountability over operations funded through state appropriations, through financial and performance audits. The department's goal is to have 80% of its recommendations implemented within 24 months of the release of the report.

The number of significant financial audit findings for Georgia state government agencies has fluctuated significantly over the past decade. The number of findings peaked in 2006 at 125. Since that time, the number of findings has decreased sharply, with 40 findings issued in 2011.

The vast majority of audit findings requiring corrective action have been acted upon. In 2000, 9 out of 10, 91%, of findings were acted upon and in 2010 86% of such findings were acted upon.

Benefits paid to Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) retirees and beneficiaries increased 66.4% between 2004 and 2011 from $702 million to $1.17 billion. This increase was the result of increases in the number of retirees and beneficiaries receiving benefits.

The funding ratio of actuarial liabilities for Georgia’s state retirement systems decreased across all but one system (Military Pension) between 2004 and 2011.

The actuarial value of ERS decreased by 1.0% from $12.8 billion in 2004 to $12.7 billion in 2011.

There were more than 40,000 retired members and beneficiaries in the Employee’s Retirement System in 2011, a 34.7% increase since 2004.

Note: Funds over 100% mean actuarial assets are greater than actuarial liabilities.
Georgian state government is an "at-will" employer meaning that either party may end the employment relationship at any time for any reason except an unlawful reason without incurring a penalty. The state eliminated its civil service system in 1996.

The average tenure of state employees is approximately 10 years. In FY 2012, more than 1 out of 3 (38.0%) of Georgia's state employees have been employed with the state 5 years or less. An additional one 1 out of 4 (22.8%) employees has been with the state between 6 and 10 years.

In FY 2012, only 5.4% of the Georgia state employees were age 25 years or under. In contrast, nearly half (47.9%) of state employees are age 46 years or older.

Nearly half (45.4%) of Georgia's state workforce is employed in pay grades 11-13, with a minimum salary of $24,300 and maximum at $51,400.

Nearly 1 out of 4 (24.0%) state employees are in the lowest pay grades, with maximum earnings of $38,700 per year.

Fewer than 1 in 20 state workers in Georgia are in the highest pay grades whose salaries start at $52,200.

**Note:** *Rounded Values*
In 2012, there were 12,686 total separations among state employees. More than half (56%) of these separations were voluntary, citing departure for professional and personal reasons. One in six separations was due to retirement.

Involuntary turnover includes reasons such as failure to meet terms of employment, dismissal, and release, and reductions in workforce. There were 2,469 such terminations in FY 2012, or 20% of total separations.

Between FY 2010 and FY 2012, resignations increased from 43% to 46% while retirements decreased slightly from 18% to 16%.

The overall turnover rate among state employees was 16.4% in FY 2012, which is the highest it has been since FY 2008.

The DOAS’ Risk Management Services (RMS) manages claims such as workers compensation, property and auto liability claims. The Workers’ Compensation (WC) program provides benefits to employees for compensable work injury or illness.

In 2009, RMS introduced the Comprehensive Loss Control Program (CLCP) to help state agencies address risk causes and prevent claims.

Since FY 2005, the number of WC claims declined an average of 450 fewer claims per year.

The cost of claims have risen about $4.4 million a year, ranging from $54 million in 2006 to $87 million in 2011. Costs have risen due to increases in medical costs, utilization of medical treatments, severity of injuries, and rehabilitation services and costs.

Recently, four agencies saw claim increases: University System of Georgia, Department of Human Services, Department of Transportation and Department of Corrections.
The Property Program protects state-owned assets from damage from various hazards. The Automobile Property Damage Program protects state-owned or leased vehicles.

FY 2008 saw the largest increase of claim costs from $7 million to nearly $33 million due to the tornado in March and May of 2008.

The number of Property Claims increased from FY 2009 to FY 2012, while the cost of claims decreased to $2.9 million in 2011 and $4.7 million in 2012.

With the growth in use of the optional Auto-Property Damage insurance coverage, part of the Property Trust Fund, the following agencies have seen the largest portion of recent claim increases:
- Department of Public Safety,
- University System of Georgia, and
- Department of Corrections.

Since FY 2005, the cost of auto liability claims have fluctuated as the cases and situations vary substantively. Costs range from $3 million a year to $8.6 million a year, the highest level of claims costs in FY 2007.

Between FY 2005 and 2011, the number of claims decreased steadily at an average rate of 77 less claims a year, while FY 2012 saw a 133 claim increase from FY 2011. FY 2011 saw the lowest number of claims reported at 509 claims.

The agencies with the most auto liability claims are:
- University System of Georgia,
- Department of Transportation,
- Department of Human Services, and
- Department of Public Safety.

*Note: Excludes General Liability Claims

Source: Department of Administrative Services
The state operates one of the largest state government fleets in the nation with over 19,000 on-road passenger vehicles.

For fiscal years 2005-2010 and 2012, the average age of a vehicle in the state fleet was 8.9 years.

Note: FY 2011 data is unavailable.

Automotive Resources International (ARI) is a contractor service, which the state uses to manage and track its fleet maintenance activities.

In December 2012, 5,992 vehicles, 31% of the fleet, participated in the ARI motor vehicle maintenance program.

As of December 2012, the average mileage of the state fleet vehicles was 107,104 miles.

The percentage of the state fleet with over 135,000 miles has fluctuated over the past five years, with the lowest percentage (28%) reported in FY 2010 and highest percentage (32%) reported in FY 2008 and FY 2012. The higher percentages were due in part to limited funding for replacement vehicles.

The number of vehicles with over 200,000 miles also fluctuated, with the highest number (2,236 vehicles) reported in FY 2012.
The state property officer (SPO) oversees the state’s management of real estate and facilities. The SPO is responsible for the State Properties Commission (SPC), Georgia Building Authority (GBA), and the Construction Division of the Georgia State Finance and Investment Commission (GSFIC).

GBA manages nearly 8 million square feet of space, including 36 buildings and 30 other properties. GBA provides physical property management and access control for state facilities.

GBA has launched several significant energy conservation measures. As a result, electricity consumption at all GBA operated facilities has decreased 33.6 million kilowatt hours or nearly 35% from FY 2006 to FY 2012. The annual electrical cost has fluctuated, but the state spent nearly a million dollars less in FY 2012 than in FY 2008.

GSFIC’s Construction Division managed 115 total projects in FY 2012 with a budget of $945,766,810.

70% of GSFIC managed projects are attributed to 3 educational agencies: Board of Regents (30%), Technical College System of Georgia (28%), and the Department of Education (11%). The remaining projects support the Department of Public Health (5%) and other agencies (25%).

GSFIC has begun working with the Board of Regents to improve contracting processes by developing standard form contracts to be used by both agencies.
Technology Investments

Georgia Information Technology Investments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY 2010</th>
<th>FY 2011</th>
<th>FY 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure Operations</td>
<td>$198,436,294</td>
<td>$187,122,666</td>
<td>$214,586,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Application Support</td>
<td>$896,695,742</td>
<td>$860,543,420</td>
<td>$519,027,892</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total IT Investment</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,095,132,036</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,047,666,086</strong></td>
<td><strong>$733,614,494</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: State of Georgia State IT Annual Report, Georgia Technology Authority

The state spent more than $700 million on technology in FY 2012 compared to over $1 billion in 2010 and 2011.

The Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) manages the delivery of IT infrastructure services to 85 Executive Branch agencies and managed network services to 1,400 state and local government entities.

GTA’s Georgia Enterprise Technology Services (GETS) program provides IT services through an outsourced model to consolidate, virtualize, and migrate the state IT environment.

Through GETS, the state is investing $184 million in infrastructure and $99 million in network services.

GTA anticipates that the GETS program will improve connectivity and security, while saving the state a projected $181 million over the life of the contracts.

The FY 2012 application portfolio tracked over 30 projects totaling about $321 million that span multiple years and 14 agencies. Included in the portfolio are projects in the planning phase totaling $124 million.

The FY 2012 project portfolio is a 37% increase over FY 2011, primarily due to new projects in the health-care sector.

The State’s Critical Project Review Panel oversees high-impact, high-cost technology investments to help ensure successful outcomes.

Independent verification and validation services are used to perform project assurance for the largest and most critical technology projects.

Over the past 4 years, Critical Projects Review Panel and project assurance saved taxpayers an estimated $280 million that would have been lost to failed or challenged technology projects.

Source: State of Georgia State IT Annual Report, Georgia Technology Authority

Technology Project Budget by Agency: Georgia, FY 2012

Source: State of Georgia State IT Annual Report, Georgia Technology Authority

A RESPONSIBLE & EFFICIENT GEORGIA
The Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) produces monthly enterprise portfolio scorecard reports.

Continually tracking the health of the state’s major IT projects helps identify potential problems and immediately take corrective actions to mitigate the risk of a failed project.

Georgia’s project delivery effectiveness compares favorably with other governmental entities and the private sector.

In FY 2012, Georgia completed three-fourths of state IT projects on time and on budget. According to the Standish Group’s 2010 CHAOS Report, approximately 1 in 5 (18%) government IT projects and more than 1 in 3 (37%) of all industry IT projects are completed on time and on budget.

The Center for Digital Government’s Digital States Performance Institute (DSPI) identifies and promotes best and emerging practices in the public sector IT community. The Digital States Survey assesses state use of information and communications technology.

The 2012 Digital States survey focuses on outcomes and assesses how technology is aligned with and being used to achieve the stated policy objectives of the Governor.

Georgia ranked high among other Southeastern states, with Tennessee being the only state in the region to receive a higher ranking.

States graded as a "B" are trending up, measure results, and prepare for sustainable operations.

The Digital States Survey uses the following criteria: approach consistent with state priorities; return on investment; improvement; innovative solutions; effective collaboration.

---

**Digital States Survey Performance Grade: Southeastern States, 2010 and 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida</td>
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<td>D</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: The Georgia Technology Authority and *The Standish Group 2010 CHAOS Report*
Broadband allows users to access the Internet and Internet-related services at significantly higher speeds than those available through “dial-up” Internet access services. Broadband speeds vary significantly depending on the particular type and level of service available.

Broadband is an enabling technology for state services. Education, telemedicine and public safety are all greatly enhanced by broadband technology.

The fastest advertised broadband internet speeds tend to be in urban areas.

In 2009, GTA was awarded $5.2 million in American Reinvestment Recovery Act funds for broadband data and development. A key component of this project is the creation of regional broadband plans.
The number of citizens visiting Georgia state websites to transact business or to find information continues to increase.

In FY 2012, the Georgia.gov web pages received 36,447,297 unique visitors, an increase of 17.4% from the prior year.

Mobile visitors increased from an average of less than 5,000 per month in 2010 to 377,000 per month in Fall 2012. Mobile traffic increased from 12% of all traffic on Georgia.gov in July 2012 to 20% in December 2012.

Georgia’s IT Roadmap identifies workforce mobility and citizen access through multiple platforms among the top focus areas for the state.

The newly redesigned Georgia.gov received the 2012 Special Innovation Award from the Center for Digital Government. The new design displays effectively on mobile devices and features smarter searches.
For more information on the 2013 Georgia in Perspective data sources, please contact the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget

alice.zimmerman@opb.state.ga.us
or
kathy.kinsella@opb.state.ga.us
Sources

A GROWING GEORGIA

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
- Energy Information Administration, http://www.eia.doe.gov/
- Georgia Department of Human Resources, Division of Family and Children’s Services
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division

A MOBILE GEORGIA

- Center of Innovation for Logistics
- Georgia Department of Transportation, Aviation Programs
- Georgia Department of Transportation, Transit Services, http://www.dot.state.ga.us/travelinggeorgia/transit/Pages/default.aspx
- Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, http://www.grta.org/
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Department of Aviation, http://www.atlantaairport.com/

A HEALTHIER GEORGIA

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease and Health Promotion, Diabetes Data and Trends, http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/DDTSTRS/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics, http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Immunization Survey, http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/stats-surv/imz-coverage.htm#nis
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wide-ranging Online Data for Epidemiologic Research (WONDER), http://wonder.cdc.gov/
- Georgia Board of Physicians Workforce
- Georgia Department of Community Health
- Georgia Department of Public Health, Online Analytical Statistical Information System (OASIS), http://oasis.state.ga.us/
- Georgia Trauma Care Network Commission
- US Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Service Administration, http://www.hrsa.gov/
AN EDUCATED GEORGIA

- Department of Early Care and Learning, http://decal.ga.gov
- Georgia Board of Regents, http://www.usg.edu/
- Georgia Governor’s Office of Student Achievement, http://www.gaosa.org/
- Southern Regional Education Board, http://www.sreb.org
- Technical College System of Georgia; http://www.technicalcollegesystemofgeorgia.org/
- U.S. Census Bureau, http://www.census.gov/

A SAFER GEORGIA

- Applied Research Services
- Department of Human Services, Division of Family & Children Services
- Georgia Bureau of Investigation, http://gbi.georgia.gov/02/gbi/home/0,2615,67862954,00.html
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs, http://www.dca.state.ga.us/development/research/programs/jailreports.asp
- Georgia Department of Corrections, http://www.dcor.state.ga.us/
- Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles
- U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation, http://www.fbi.gov/stats-services/fbi-resources

RESPONSIBLE AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT

- Federal Funds Information for States
- Georgia Department of Administrative Services
- Georgia Employee Retirement System
- Georgia Teachers Retirement System
- Georgia Technology Authority
- Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget; http://opb.georgia.gov/governors-budget-reports
- Office of the State Property Officer