



GEORGIA PECAN COMMISSION

It's Great to Do Business in Georgia

Area Development Magazine ranked the State of Georgia No. 2 in its annual listing of top states for doing business. States were ranked on the following factors:

- › Cost of doing business
- › Incentive programs
- › Corporate tax environment
- › Cooperative state government
- › Access to capital and project funding
- › Speed of permitting
- › Most Favorable Regulatory Environment
- › Availability of skilled labor
- › Competitive labor costs
- › Work force development programs
- › Right-to-work environment
- › Rail & highway accessibility
- › Competitive utility rates

Here's What Area Development Magazine Says About Georgia

Georgia's "pro-business" environment is the result of state statutes and sound economic development practices. For example, Georgia was the first southeastern state to pass single-factor corporate tax apportionment. This legislation applies the 6 percent corporate tax rate only to the portion of income earned inside the state. Georgia also consistently maintains one of the nation's lowest debt-per-capita levels.

A modern and extensive transportation and logistical infrastructure allows Georgia to compete effectively in a global marketplace. Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport is the world's busiest passenger airport and 10th-largest in the nation for cargo. Georgia's deep-water ports and inland barge terminals are a major reason Georgia now ranks second nationally in exports. Atlanta is also the rail center of the South, with nearly 5,000 miles of railroad track and the largest intermodal facility on the East Coast.

Quality and cost of labor is a key driver in every location decision. Georgia's Quick Start work force development program is one of the best in the nation and provides customized training at no cost to qualified companies in an array of industries. Nearly one million workers at 6,200 companies of all sizes have benefited from Quick Start.

Georgia's pro-business policies continue to attract new business investment. Thirty Fortune 1000 companies have headquarters in Georgia. General Motors, Hitachi, and Greenway Medical Technologies are just some of the companies that continue to invest and expand in Georgia.

AT&T recently announced plans to build a research center in Atlanta to develop the company's latest technologies and applications. "AT&T has been investing and innovating in Georgia since 1879," comments Sylvia Russell, President of AT&T Georgia. "Our decision to locate this unique facility in Atlanta is recognition of the hard work Georgia has done to create a welcoming environment for businesses to invest, innovate, and create jobs."