

Georgia Dept. of Econ. Dev.
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Atlanta, GA 30308
Chris Carr, Commissioner
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“This report represents a long-term collaborative commitment to ensure that all Georgia companies have the support they need to be competitive in the global marketplace. I am confident that the expertise provided by education and private-sector industry leaders will boost our state’s economy and maintain Georgia’s status as the No. 1 place in the nation to do business.”

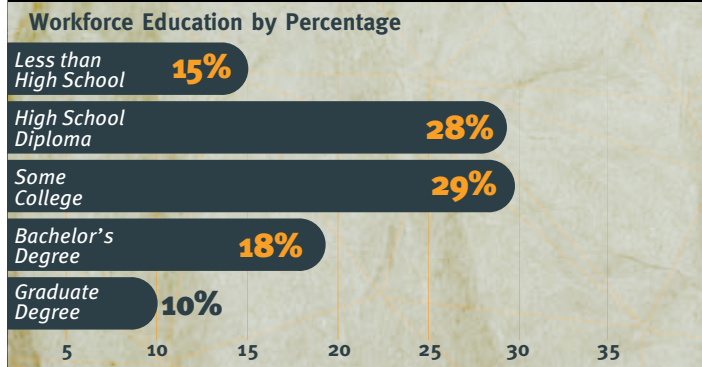
—Gov. Nathan Deal on the release of the report from the High Demand Career Initiative on December 10, 2014



Gov. Nathan Deal (R)

georgia.org

Georgia
Pop. (2014): 10,034,488 Pop. growth 2013—2018: 3.93%
Median household income: \$58,275 Median age: 35.3
Right-to-work state: Yes



Rankings that Matter

GDP.....	11 (\$424,606*)
Business Tax Climate.....	36
Small Business Policy.....	19
ACT Career Readiness Certificates.....	5 (325,958)
High School Graduation.....	48 (70%)
Incentives Transparency Index.....	26

*Real GDP in US millions

Legislative Update

- The High Demand Career Initiative focused on the future needs of strategic industries in Georgia, including agriculture, aerospace, automotive manufacturing, defense, film, television, interactive entertainment, healthcare, life sciences, information technology, logistics and manufacturing.

- House Bill 697 created the Zell Miller Grant scholar designation for technical college students who maintain a 3.5 grade-point average.
- Georgia voters passed a ballot measure in November 2014 which caps the state’s income tax rate at 6 percent, which lawmakers say puts the state on equal footing with neighboring tax-friendly states.

Did You Know?

The small business team in the Georgia’s Department of Economic Development’s Global Commerce division served more than 1,300 startups and small businesses during 2014, a 150-percent increase since May 2013. International companies represented close to 6,000 new jobs and \$2 billion in investment capital in Georgia in 2014. Much of Georgia’s job creation, more than half the jobs created and more than three quarters of new investment, occurred outside metro Atlanta.

Selected Corporate Facility Projects 2014

Company	City	County	Type	New/Expansion	Product	Investment (\$ millions)	Employment
Keurig Green Mountain	Lithia Springs	Douglas	MF	N	Coffee	\$337	550
Carbo Ceramics	Millen	Jenkins	MF	N	Ceramic Propant	255	50
Beaulieu International Group	Cartersville	Bartow	MF	N	Vinyl Flooring	200	350
Kroger Co.	Forest Park	Clayton	DW	N	Groceries	175	700
Huntsman Corp.	Augusta	Richmond	MF	N	Plastic Resins	115	
Toppan Printing	Griffin	Spalding	MF	N	Printing	100	80
Bainbridge Manufacturing	Bainbridge	Decatur	MF	N	Auto Air Systems	100	240
IVC US	Dalton	Whitfield	MF	E	Vinyl Planks	80	200
Manning Mills	Madison	Morgan	MF	E	Plastic Products	50	200

MF = Manufacturing OF = Office DW = Distribution/Warehouse HQ = Headquarters



After 15 years of studies, lawsuits and delays, the Port of Savannah will begin harbor expansion in 2015. The US Congress set aside \$1.5 million in construction funding for the expansion. The port is making room for larger cargo ships that will begin arriving after the Panama Canal expansion is complete in 2016.
Photo courtesy of Georgia Ports Authority



LOOKING FOR THE
#1 BUSINESS CLIMATE
IN THE COUNTRY?

**SELECT
GEORGIA.™**

**NAMED TOP STATE FOR BUSINESS BY AREA DEVELOPMENT,
CNBC AND SITE SELECTION.**

These latest honors only confirmed what everyone at Georgia Power already knew: Our state is a great place for business. If you're considering relocating or expanding here, our Economic Development team will work closely with the Georgia Department of Economic Development to help you with labor analysis, market data, available properties – whatever you need – at no charge. **For a closer look at all Georgia has to offer, visit SelectGeorgia.com or contact Lisa Olens at lzolens@southernco.com.**

