

"We have consistently set records, only to shatter them the following vear as we have never been content to rest on our laurels."

- Gov. Brian Kemp, announcing an FY 2021-2022 total of \$21.2 billion worth of investments and expansions in Georgia, a 94% increase from the previous fiscal year

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Georgia

GDP

GDP Growth Rate Trend

2021 GDP

(in millions of current US\$)

\$575,292

2017 2018 2019 2020 Pop. (2022): 10,940,545 Median household income (2022): \$67,470 Credit Rating: AAA / Stable

Pop. growth 2022-2027: 0.51% Median age (2022): 37.2 Right-to-work state: Yes

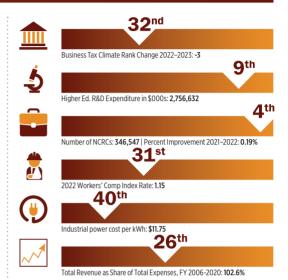
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Tax Reduction and Reform Act of 2022 phases in a reduced personal income tax rate from the current 5.75% to 4.99% by the 2029 tax year, beginning with a rate of 5.49% in 2024. The rate reductions do not apply to corporate taxes.

HB 1291 extends the sunset of an exemption for purchases of qualified computer equipment to December 31, 2028. Beginning in 2024, the exemption is to exclude prewritten software as a qualifying purchase. Also beginning in 2024, taxpayers claiming the exemption will be subject to a tax on 10% of the first \$15 million of qualifying purchases.

HB 1058 authorizes affiliated groups that file a federal consolidated return to make a five-year election to file consolidated corporate tax returns in Georgia, beginning in 2023. Previously, such groups first were required to seek permission to do so from the state Department of Revenue.

SB 379 creates a High Demand Career Initiatives Program that is to establish Georgia's first-ever state-funded apprenticeship initiative. The program awards up to \$50,000 in funding to Georgia businesses to upskill workers through registered apprenticeships within high-demand industries.



PROJECT WATCH



FREYR's new battery facility in Georgia is to be based on technology developed at MIT. Photo courtesy of FREYR Battery

orway-based FREYR Battery in November announced plans for a \$2.57 billion Giga America battery cell plant in Coweta County, just south of Atlanta. The facility, on 368 acres at the Bridgeport Industrial Park, is to create more than 700 jobs over seven years. FREYR says the site offers substantial room for

additional upstream and downstream development projects "to further strengthen an anticipated strong cost position and improve the carbon footprint of the batteries produced." The company's battery cells can be used for electric vehicles and stationary energy storage.

"With the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act, we expect U.S. demand for energy storage systems, passenger EV and other electric mobility applications to grow rapidly over the next decade," said FREYR CEO Tom Einar Jensen.

FREYR's announcement followed EV battery mega-projects launched in Georgia by SK Innovation (\$2.6 billion) and Hyundai Motor company (\$5.54 billion), which broke ground in October. Then, in December, even bigger news came along: Gov. Brian Kemp announced that Hyundai and SK On had selected a site in Bartow County for a new EV battery manufacturing facility that will supply Hyundai Motor Group's plants in the U.S. Stakeholders estimate it will create more than 3,500 new jobs through approximately \$4-5 billion of investment in Bartow County, located in northwest Georgia.

WHEN SPEED TO MARKET MATTERS, GEORGIA IS OUT IN FRONT

TWO ELECTRIC VEHICLE OEM'S LOCATED

STATE-OWNED MEGASITE READY TO GO 60+ GRAD CERTIFIED SITES READY FOR DEVELOPMENT

