



“The laws on our books make it too easy to bring frivolous lawsuits against Georgia business owners, which drives up the price of insurance and stops new, good-paying jobs from ever coming to communities that need them most.”

— Gov. Brian Kemp, addressing a Georgia Chamber of Commerce symposium in August, and signaling a push for liability limits to thus challenge Georgia’s #1 “Judicial Hellhole” ranking by the American Tort Reform Foundation

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Georgia

Pop. (2023): 11,033,083

Median household income (2023): \$69,506

Credit Rating: AAA / Stable

Pop. growth 2023–2028: 0.51%

Median age (2023): 37.5

Right-to-work state: Yes

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

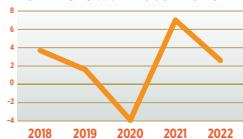
SB 56, signed May 2, requires digital products, goods, services and codes downloaded in Georgia to be subject to Georgia sales and use tax beginning in 2024. SB 246 establishes a student loan repayment program for nursing instructors. Also in May, Gov. Kemp signed HB 408, which extends until 2027 a sales tax exemption for tangible personal property used in construction projects deemed to have a significant regional impact.

The state budget approved by Kemp May 5 includes raises for teachers and law enforcement officers, and as with many states, devotes significant funding to supporting mental health among high school students. Close to \$27 million is directed toward hiring new high school counselors throughout the state.

HB 128: “Classified subcontractors” — to specifically include those from underrepresented communities, including minorities and veterans — will face fewer layers of red tape in pursuit of state contracts, resulting in “increased competition,” said Kemp, “so contracts are delivered at the lowest cost and the best value to the taxpayer.”

GDP
8th

GDP Growth Rate Trend



2022 GDP
(in millions of current US\$)
\$655,827



32nd

Business Tax Climate Rank Change 2023–2024: 0



8th

Higher Ed. R&D Expenditure in \$000s: 3,264,605



5th

Number of NCRCs: 347,625 | Percent Improvement 2022–2023: 0.31%



31st

2023 Workers' Comp Index Rate: 1.15



35th

Industrial power cost per kWh: \$8.65



25th

Total Revenue as Share of Total Expenses, FY 2007–2021: 103.0%

PROJECT WATCH



Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp and Rivian CEO RJ Scaringe
Photo Courtesy of Georgia Dept. of Economic Development

Rivian plans to break ground soon on its \$5 billion EV truck facility east of Atlanta. Construction has been delayed through legal challenges, with opponents of the project near the rural towns of Rutledge and Social Circle having exhausted legal appeals last year.

In November, nearly two years after announcing the project, the California-based carmaker that currently produces in Normal, Illinois, officially closed on a complex land agreement that clears the way for construction at the 1,800-acre site in Georgia.

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Brinson	Forsyth	Palmetto
Buford	Fort Valley	Quitman
Cairo	Grantville	Sandersville
Calhoun	Griffin	Sylvania
Camilla	Hogansville	Sylvester
Cartersville	Jackson	Thomaston
College Park	LaFayette	Thomasville
Commerce	LaGrange	Washington
Covington	Lawrenceville	West Point
Crisp County	Mansfield	Whigham
Doerun	Marietta	
Douglas	Monroe	



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