



- There are **669,741** registered businesses in Georgia (SOS: 1/5/12)
- 97.5% categorized as small by the Federal Gov't. (< 500 employees) compared to 99.7% nationally
- 95% employ fewer than 50
- 78.8% employ fewer than 10
- 87% employ 5 and under (AEO / US Census)

### Georgia Rankings

- GA ranks #11 for Best State for Business and Careers (Forbes 11/11)
- GA ranks #2 in US for best business climate ([Site Selection](#) 11/11)
- GA ranks: #2 in U.S. as a site selection location of choice; #1 for workforce as a factor in consultants' decisions; #2 for infrastructure & transportation; tied at #4 for economic recovery; #1 for both labor availability and workforce development programs; among top five states in 10 of the publication's 12 categories. (Area Development 9/11)
- GA's economic outlook ranks 11<sup>th</sup> among 50 states (American Legislative Exchange Council 8/11)
- GA ranks 4<sup>th</sup> in US for Best State for Business; #13 for Access to Capital (CNBC 6/11)
- GA wins Silver Shovel Award for innovation in economic development ([Area Development](#) 6/11)
- GA ranks #5 in US for Best Business Climate ([Site Selection](#) 6/11)
- GA ranks #5 in US (up from #7) for Best State for Business (Chief Executive 5/11)
- GA ranks #12 in US for dollar value of exports (\$28.7B) @ 20.8% increase from '09-'10 (GDEcD 5/11)
- GA ranks #18 (up from #21) for best Business Tax Index for Entrepreneurship & Small Business (SBE Council 4/11)
- GA ranks #1 in US for fastest growth of women-owned businesses (American Express OPEN 4/11)
- GA ranks #2 in workforce training leaders ([Business Facilities](#) '11)
- GA ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in US for Small Business Survival Index Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship (SBE Council 12/10)
- GA ranks #1 in US, tied w/NV, in Entrepreneurial Activity: 0.50% entrepreneurs per % of population (Kauffman/11/10)
- GA ranks #5 best state for business: #1 in workforce development - #3 in labor - #1 in labor/workforce development - #3 in shovel-ready - #2 most attractive metro for business (Atlanta) ([Area Development](#) '10)
- GA ranks #19 overall in the New Economy Index (Kauffman/ITIF 11/10)
- GA leads the nation over the last decade for having the largest positive change in entrepreneurial activity (Kauffman 8/10); Atlanta/Marietta/Sandy Springs ranks 8th top city for small business (Huffington Post 11/11)
- GA ranks #2 in US for highest number of black-owned businesses at 20.4% (US Census 7/10);
- GA ranks in top 3 in US for number of franchisors (>100) headquartered in GA – (IFA 1/09)

### Miscellaneous

- **Metro Atlanta small businesses ahead of nation in hiring, pay hikes in 2011 (Small Business Scorecard 1/12)**
- Atlanta #1 in percentage of black-owned businesses relative to the black population; #3 for number of black-owned businesses per African-American adults age 25+ and ranks #4 Overall (The State of Urban Business 2011)
- Atlanta #15 in top U.S. markets for life science companies that include biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, biofuels and medical devices (Jones Lang LaSalle 12/11)
- Atlanta in Top 100 world cities for an innovation economy in 2011
- Metro Atlanta ranks in Top 10 in US for best regions for clean jobs (Brookings Institution 7/11)
- Atlanta ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among major cities in foreign direct investment (Global Atlanta 6/11)
- GA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> in US for most tax-friendly states for retirees (Kiplinger's 6/11)
- Atlanta ranks 48/385 US metros w/25% population between ages 18-34 w/bachelor's degree/higher (On Numbers 6/11)
- Metro Atlanta ranks #1 in US in minority-run firms; #2 in self-employed minorities; #2 as entrepreneurial region; #1 in increasing household incomes & affordable housing. Black-owned businesses grew 99% between '02-'07 (Forbes 3/11)
- Atlanta ranks #2 in US as most socially networked city behind Washington DC (Men's Health 3/11)
- Atlanta ranks #6 in US for jobs in 2010 (JobSerf Employment Index 1/11)
- Atlanta in Top 10 startup-friendly cities (Entrepreneur Magazine 8/10)
- 14 Fortune 500 companies and 32 Fortune 1000 companies are home to GA
- 14% of Inc. 500's fastest growing companies in the U.S. started with less than \$1000