



GEORGIA ENTREPRENEUR & SMALL BUSINESS QUICK FACTS

404.962.4820 | memccclanahan@georgia.org | www.georgia.org/smallbusiness

Revised 7/1/10

- There are approx. 754,000 incorporated businesses in Georgia (SOS: 7/10)
- 97.5% categorized as small by the Federal Gov't. (< 500 employees) compared to 99.7% nationally
- 95% employ fewer than 50
- 87% of all of GA businesses employ 5 and under (AEO / US Census)

Georgia Rankings

- GA ranks #1 in US for Entrepreneurship – up from #3 (Kauffman 5/09)
- GA wins Silver Shovel Award for innovation in economic development ([Area Development](#) 6/10)
- GA lauded as a “top performer (#6) in infrastructure & infrasystems measures”(Enterprising States, US Chamber 6/10)
- GA’s economic outlook ranks 9th among 50 states ([American Legislative Exchange Council](#) 6/10)
- GA ranks 6th Best State for Business in US citing legislation that attracts businesses & jobs (Forbes 5/10)
- GA ranks 7th in US as best state for business ([Chief Executive](#) 5/10)
- GA ranks 21st in US for best Business Tax Index for Entrepreneurship & Small Business (SBE Council 5/10)
- GA ranks 20th in US for Small Business Survival Index Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship (SBE Council 12/09)
- GA ranks #1 in US for best workforce - #3 in cost of living, transportation and infrastructure network – Top 20 in cost of doing business, technology & innovation, business friendliness and access to capital (CNBC 8/09)
- GA ranks #10 in US for states with a majority of women-owned firms (Center for Women’s Business Research 12/09)
- GA ranks 8th best state in US to do business, up from #10 ([Site Selection](#) 11/09)
- Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) are the fastest growing business segment; Women Business Enterprises (WBE) are the second fastest growing segment ([GMBEC](#) 2/10)
- GA ranks #6 as Best State for Business ([Forbes Magazine](#) 9/09)
- GA ranks #8 in Top 10 Pro-Business States (6 years running) (Pollina Corporate Real Estate '09)
- 18 GA companies made [Inc. 500](#) list of nation’s fastest growing private businesses ([Inc. 500](#) 9/-09)
- GA ranks in top 3 in US for number of franchisors (>100) headquartered in GA – (IFA 1/09)
- GA’s Stage 1 business growth rate is 2.8 times national average and 2.4 times national average for Stage 2 growing companies (Lowe Foundation 11/08)

Miscellaneous

- 14 Fortune 500 companies are home to GA
- New business creation at 14-year high – appx. 558K new businesses created each month in 2009 (Kauffman 6/10)
- Atlanta ranks 9th best US city for young professionals (Forbes 6/10)
- Atlanta ranked 11th among the nation’s top markets for quality of life in America (Portfolio.com/bizjournals 5/10)
- Atlanta named Best City for new grads due to affordable rent & opportunities for popular entry-level categories: sales, marketing, customer service (Apartments.com and CBcampus.com 5/10)
- The top-performing 1% of firms in any given year generate roughly 40% of all new jobs; gazelle firms (ages 3-5 yrs.) comprise less than 1% of all companies yet generate roughly 10% of all new jobs (Kauffman 3/10)
- From '05-07: Stage 1 (1-9 empl.) establishments created 73.2% of job growth and Stage 2 (10-99 empl.) created 25.8% of job growth (Lowe Foundation '09)
- Second stage companies represent 10% of established businesses and 37% of jobs (EG 09)
- Between '07 and '08, GA added the 4th most people and was the 9th fastest growing state in terms of its year-over-year growth rate.” (US Census)
- Small businesses comprise over 50% of the workforce (SOS 2/09)
- Small businesses in inner cities added nearly 3x the number of new jobs than larger companies in '95-'02 (SBA 3/08)
- Entrepreneurs responsible for 67% of inventions & 95% of radical innovations since WW II. (Public Forum Institute)
- 14% of [Inc. 500](#)'s fastest growing companies in the U.S. started with less than \$1000