

Georgia Department of Economic Development



2026

MID-YEAR UPDATE

BUSINESS INCENTIVES



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4

Job Tax Credit, Quality Jobs
Tax Credit

8

Investment Tax Credit

9

Mega Project Tax Credit,
Child Care Tax Credit,
Retraining Tax Credit

10

Research & Development
Tax Credit

11

Tax Exemptions

13

Hiring, Training, and Education

15

Digital Entertainment Tax Credit,
Premium Tax Credit

16

Expansion Services

Look for this green box on the following pages to see which incentives may be applied to payroll withholding.



USING EXCESS TAX CREDITS TO REDUCE GEORGIA PAYROLL WITHHOLDING LIABILITY

Many tax credits may be applied to state payroll withholding liability.* This effectively turns those credits into cash, which the business enterprise can use as it wishes, free of any clawbacks or reporting requirements.

**The business enterprise first must meet requirements to apply the tax credits to its state income tax liability.*



“The partnerships we have developed statewide with the Governor’s Office, the Department of Economic Development, and Georgia Quick Start have been tremendous, as have the local partnerships with the City of West Point and Troup County. I can’t say enough about the support Kia Georgia continues to receive from our state and local community.”

- Stuart Countess,
President & CEO,
Kia Georgia

BEYOND PARTNERSHIP

Our relationship approach to economic development, along with our pro-business environment, world-renowned logistics, and highly-rated workforce are a few of the many reasons companies choose to locate or expand in Georgia.

An investment in Georgia is only the first step in our relationship, which is geared toward your long-term success. Once you call Georgia home, the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) team is here to help you grow. In addition to relocation and expansion services, GDEcD provides free export services, resources for facilitating business innovation, cross-industry connections, and small business services.

RELIABLE & BUSINESS-FRIENDLY

- Main incentives for job creation have been in place for more than 25 years
- Ranked the No. 1 State for Doing Business by Area Development
- AAA rating from all three major credit agencies for more than 20 years

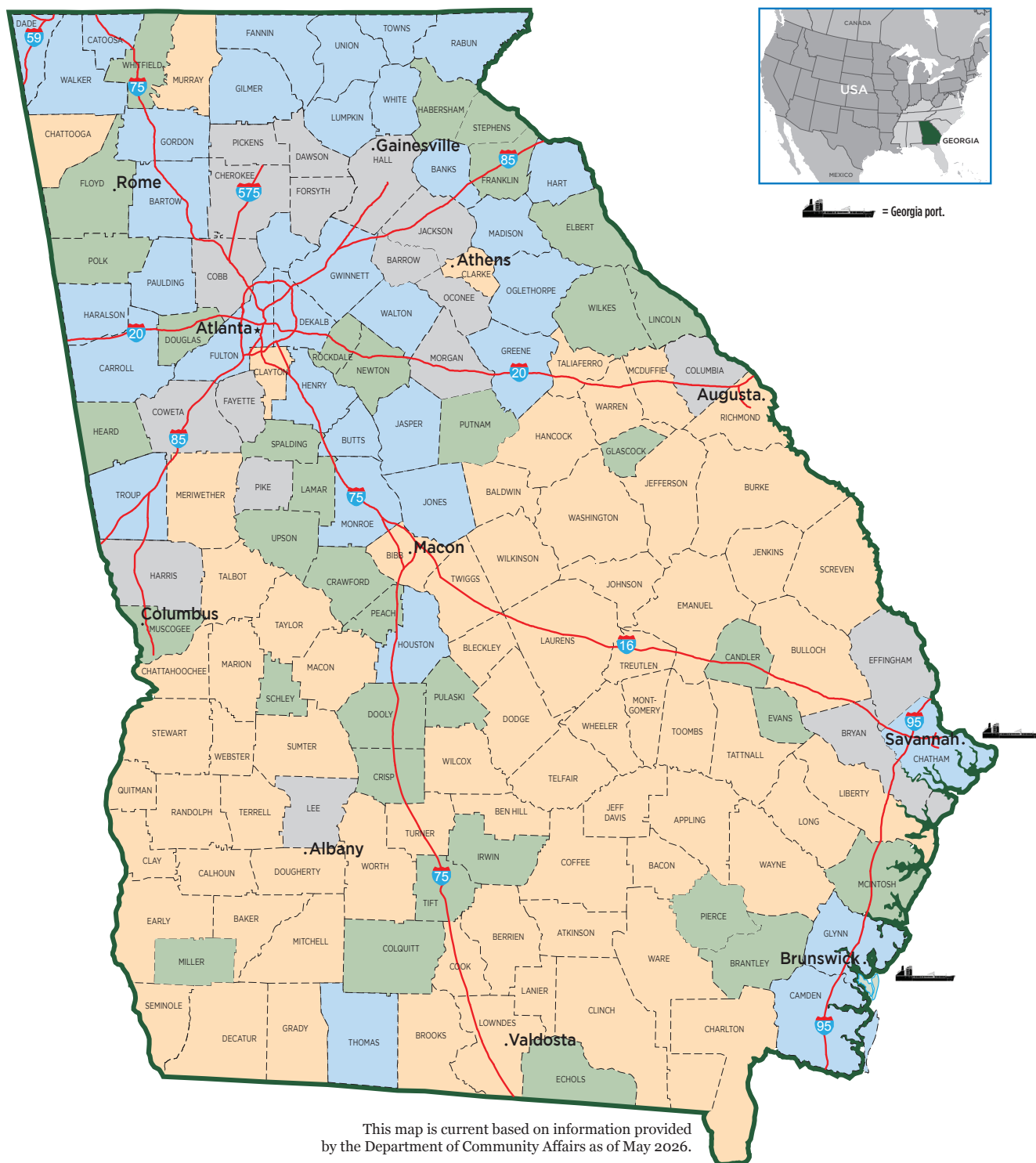
LEADING LOGISTICS & INFRASTRUCTURE

- Largest and fastest-growing container terminal in the U.S.
- Home to one of the world's most traveled and most efficient passenger airports, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- The most extensive rail system in the Southeast

SKILLED, DIVERSE, AND INCLUSIVE WORKFORCE

- Labor force of 5.5 million people is the second largest in the Southeast
- Top ranked workforce training program (Quick Start), and two of the top 20 public universities in the U.S. (Georgia Tech and University of Georgia)

GEORGIA 2026 JOB TAX CREDIT TIERS



TIER	JOB TAX CREDIT \$ (FOR 5 YEARS)	MIN. NEW JOBS	CREDIT ALLOWANCES	CARRY FORWARD
1	\$4,000*	2	100% of tax liability - excess to withholding up to \$3,500 per job	5 years
2	\$3,000*	10	100% of tax liability	5 years
3	\$1,750*	15	50% of tax liability	5 years
4	\$1,250*	25	50% of tax liability	5 years

SPECIAL ZONE	JOB TAX CREDIT \$ (FOR 5 YEARS)	MIN. NEW JOBS	CREDIT ALLOWANCES	CARRY FORWARD
MZ/OZ	\$3,500	2	100% of tax liability - excess to withholding	5 years
LDCT	\$3,500	5	100% of tax liability - excess to withholding	5 years

*Includes \$500 Bonus for Joint Development Authority (JDA). The majority of counties are in a multi-county JDA.

JOB CREATION TAX CREDITS

JOB TAX CREDIT

New and expanding companies may earn Job Tax Credits (JTC) for creating new jobs in Georgia. These credits may eliminate a company's corporate income tax liability, and in certain areas may also reduce the company's payroll withholding obligations.

Each year, all 159 Georgia counties are assigned to one of four tiers based on the unemployment rate, per capita income, and poverty rate. A county's tier level determines the value of the tax credits earned, the allowed uses of the credits, and the minimum number of net new full-time jobs that must be created during a single tax year to qualify. The credit value is earned for the first five years of the job's existence as long as the job is maintained. See charts on page 4 for more details.

QUALIFYING FOR THE JOB TAX CREDIT

To qualify, the Georgia facility must be engaged in (or the headquarters of) a specified industry including:

- Manufacturing
- Warehousing, Distribution, and Logistics
- Software Development
- FinTech
- Data Centers
- Contact Centers
- Telecommunications
- Research and Development Facilities

Job Tax Credit

A distribution facility chooses to locate in a Tier 1 County and create 150 jobs new to Georgia, which are maintained for 5 years.

Credit value: \$4,000 in Tier 1 location

Example Calculation:

150 jobs x \$4,000 credits x 5 years
= \$3,000,000 total credits to claim

To qualify, each job must have a minimum 35-hour work week, offer health insurance benefits consistent with what is offered to existing employees, and pay more than the average wage of the county with the lowest average wage in the state (\$704/week as of June 2026).

Once a project qualifies, it opens a five-year window in which each job created can earn a JTC each year for five years as long as the job is maintained. If the project creates net new jobs above the minimum threshold, a new five-year window opens.

SPECIAL ZONES MZ = Military Zone OZ = Opportunity Zone LDCT = Less Developed Census Tract

Certain areas of the state have special designations that supersede the county tier assignment. Projects in these special zones can qualify by creating fewer jobs, may earn a higher credit value, and can use the credits in more ways. In addition, there is no industry requirement if the project is located in one of Georgia's 40 least-developed counties, an Opportunity Zone (OZ), or a Military Zone (MZ).



**APPLICABLE TO PAYROLL
WITHHOLDING** (SEE PAGE 2)

Job Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40, rules published by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in Chapter 110-9.1, and the Georgia Department of Revenue in Regulation 560-7-8-.36.

JOB CREATION TAX CREDITS CONTINUED

QUALITY JOBS TAX CREDIT

Companies may receive Quality Jobs Tax Credits (QJTC) if they create and maintain net new jobs that pay at least 110% of the county's average wage.

The QJTC credit value is determined by comparing the average for all qualifying jobs to the credit value thresholds (see chart at right). All eligible jobs created in a tax year earn the same QJTC value.

The job creation threshold required to claim QJTC depends on the tier designation of the county and whether it has the Rural County designation. See chart on page 7 for more details.

Once a project qualifies, it opens a seven-year window in which each qualifying job created can earn a QJTC each year for five years as long as the job is maintained.



APPLICABLE TO PAYROLL WITHHOLDING (SEE PAGE 2)

Quality Jobs Tax Credits must first be applied against 100% of the state corporate income tax liability; any excess may then be applied to the company's state payroll withholding. Claimed but unused credits may be carried forward for 10 years.

A qualifying job can earn QJTCs or JTCs, but not both.

However, new jobs that do not meet the requirements for the QJTC may be claimed for JTC if they meet JTC eligibility requirements separately. For current average county wages, view the annual Georgia Employment and Wages report on the Publications page of the Georgia Labor Market Explorer website at explorer.gdol.ga.gov.

Quality Jobs Tax Credits are subject to requirements outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.17 and rules published by the Georgia Department of Revenue in regulation 560-7-8-.51.

Quality Jobs Tax Credit

A manufacturer chooses a Tier 1 location that has a Rural County designation. The facility creates 200 jobs new to Georgia that are maintained for 5 years.

Additional details of example location:

- The 15 new jobs in management each have a wage greater than 110% of the county average wage.
- The average wage for those 15 jobs is greater than 200% of the county average wage.

QJTC value: \$5,000

JTC value: \$4,000

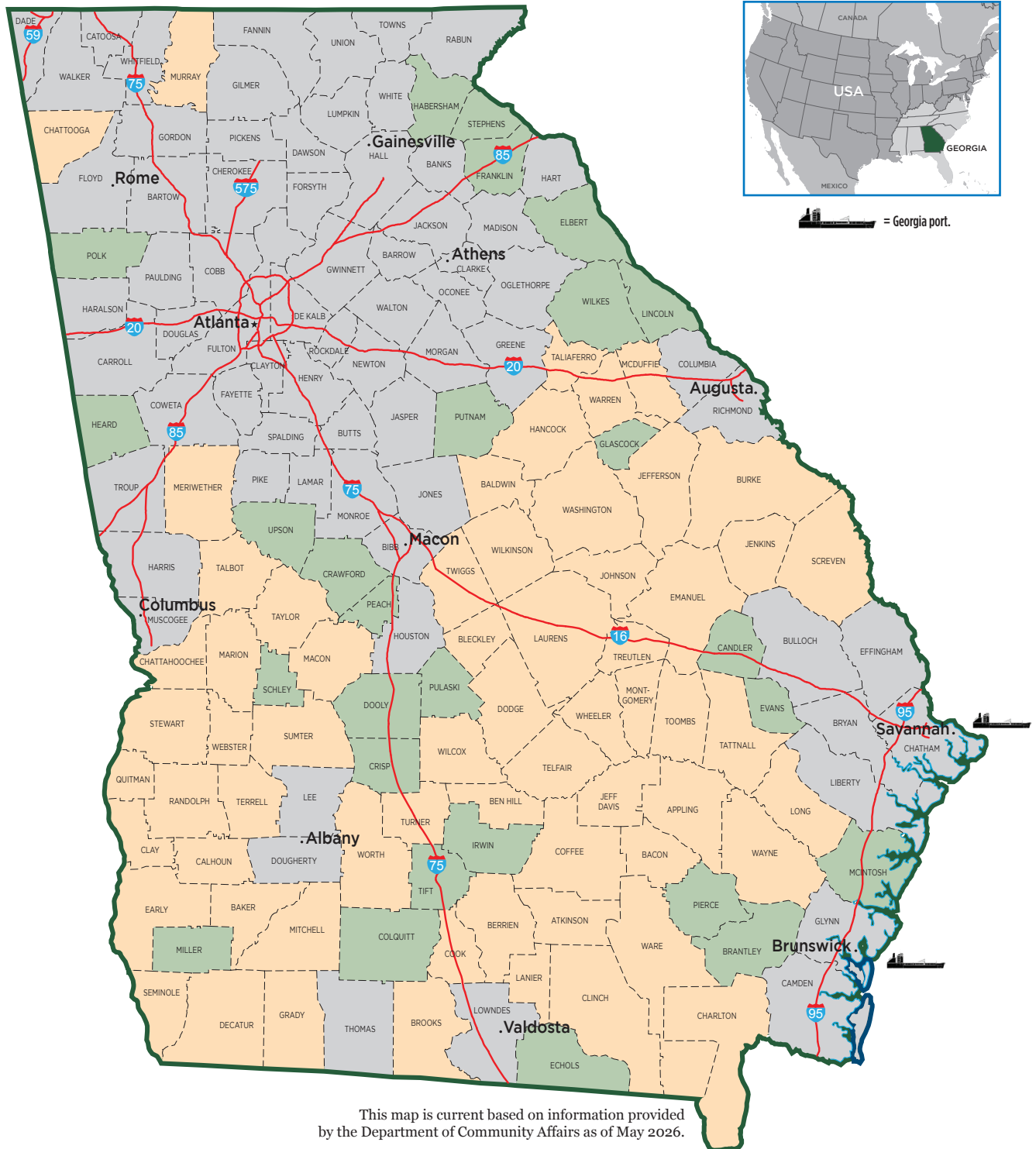
Example Calculation:

15 jobs x \$5,000 QJTC x 5 years
= \$375,000 credits to claim
+ 185 jobs x \$4,000 JTC x 5 years
= \$3,700,000 credits to claim
= \$4,075,000 total credits to claim

% OF COUNTY AVERAGE WAGE	QUALITY JOBS TAX CREDIT \$ (FOR 5 YEARS)
≥110% and <120%	\$2,500
≥120% and <150%	\$3,000
≥150% and <175%	\$4,000
≥175% and <200%	\$4,500
200% or greater	\$5,000



GEORGIA'S 2026 RURAL COUNTY DESIGNATIONS



QJTC COUNTY DESIGNATIONS

TIER & STATUS	MINIMUM NEW JOBS	TIME PERIOD TO CREATE JOBS
Tier 1, Rural	10	12 months
Tier 2, Rural	25	12 months
Remaining Counties	50	24 months

INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT

Georgia has an investment tax credit available to existing manufacturing and telecommunication companies in the state. Depending on the tier status of the county where the investment is made, the value of the credit ranges from 1% - 5% of the investment amount. To qualify a company must:

- Have operated either a manufacturing or telecommunications facility in Georgia for at least 36 months, and make a minimum \$100,000 investment in a new or existing manufacturing or telecommunications facility in Georgia;

OR

- Have operated a corporate office or other support facility for a manufacturing or telecommunications company in Georgia for at least 36 months, and make a minimum \$100,000 investment in a new or existing manufacturing or telecommunications facility in Georgia.

Qualified investment expenses include, but are not limited to:

- Land acquisition
- Improvements
- Buildings
- Machinery and equipment to be used in a manufacturing or telecommunications facility

Higher credits (3% - 8%, depending on tier status) are available for investments in:

- Recycling or Pollution Control Equipment
- Defense Plant Manufacturing Conversion to a New Product

TIER	INVESTMENT CREDITS	MINIMUM INVESTMENT	USE OF CREDITS	CARRY FORWARD
1	5%-8%*	\$100,000	50% of tax liability**	5 years
2	3%-5%*	\$100,000	50% of tax liability**	5 years
3	1%-3%*	\$100,000	50% of tax liability	5 years
4	1%-3%*	\$100,000	50% of tax liability	5 years

*Recycle, Defense Conversion, Pollution Control

**In Tier 1 and 2 Counties with the rural designation, credits may be applied to payroll withholding after first applying to 50% of state corporate income tax liability.

For tier status, see map on page 4.

The duration of a project cannot exceed 36 months unless expressly approved in writing by the Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue. This credit may be applied against 50% of state corporate income tax liability. Excess credits may be carried forward for 5 years. To be eligible to receive the credits, a taxpayer must submit a written application to the Georgia Department of Revenue requesting approval of the project plan no later than thirty (30) days after the completion of the project.

Taxpayers may claim either JOB TAX CREDITS OR INVESTMENT TAX CREDITS for a project, but not both.



APPLICABLE TO PAYROLL WITHHOLDING (SEE PAGE 2)

Once the requirement to first apply the credit to 50% of the state corporate income tax liability is met, eligible companies in designated Rural Counties within Tiers 1 or 2 can apply excess credits to payroll withholding. These Rural Counties, as defined by Georgia law, are identified on the map on page 7.

The amount that can be applied to payroll withholding is capped at \$1 million per company each year. The maximum amount that can be applied to payroll withholding statewide for all claiming companies is \$10 million. If total applications exceed \$10 million, the Georgia Department of Revenue will determine a prorated amount for each eligible company.

Investment Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.2, 48-7-40.3, and 48-7-40.4 and in rules published by the Georgia Department of Revenue in regulation 560-7-8-.37.

Investment Tax Credit

A manufacturer is located in a Tier 1 location. This company invests \$10 million in construction of a new wing for its facility and purchase of machinery and equipment. The total includes \$500,000 in pollution control equipment.

Credit values:

5% investment credits for expansion in Tier 1 location
8% investment credits for pollution control equipment in Tier 1 location

Example Calculation:

\$9.5M x 5% = \$475,000
+ \$0.5M x 8% = \$40,000
.....
= \$515,000 total credits to claim

ADDITIONAL TAX CREDITS

MEGA PROJECT TAX CREDIT

Companies may claim a \$5,250 per job, per year tax credit for the first five years of each net new job position if they meet the following requirements:

- Hire at least 1,800 net new full-time employees
- Invest a minimum of \$450 million OR have a minimum annual payroll of \$150 million, and
- Pay an average wage above specified minimums OR show high growth potential.

Companies have up to six years to meet the above thresholds, but can extend that period up to eight years with more than \$600 million, or up to 10 years with more than \$800 million invested in qualified property.

Companies that claim these credits forego claiming other credits, except for R&D and Retraining Tax Credits. If the required minimum 1,800 new jobs are not maintained, the company may be subject to recapture provisions.

Mega Project Tax Credits are subject to detailed program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.24.

INVESTMENT AMOUNT	INVESTMENT RAMP UP PERIOD	YEARS TO MEET JOB REQUIREMENT
≥\$450M	By end of year 6	6
≥\$600M	By end of year 6	8
≥\$800M	By end of year 8	10



**APPLICABLE TO PAYROLL
WITHHOLDING** (SEE PAGE 2)



CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

The Child Care Tax Credit is for employers who purchase or build qualified child care facilities, or who provide or sponsor child care for employees.

For employers who purchase or build a state-licensed facility, the credit is equal to 100% of the cost of purchase or construction, which can be claimed over 10 years (10% each year). Unused credits can be carried forward for three years.

Employers who provide or sponsor child care at a state-licensed facility are eligible for a credit equal to 75% of the employer's direct costs. Unused credits can be carried forward for five years.

All Child Care Tax Credits can be applied to 50% of the corporate income tax liability.

Child Care Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.6 and rules published by the Georgia Department of Revenue in regulation 560-7-8-.38.

RETRAINING TAX CREDIT

The Retraining Tax Credit mitigates the cost of a company's investment in new technologies in the form of tax credits for retraining existing employees on the new equipment or software.

To be eligible, the training program must be approved by the Technical College System of Georgia. Approved retraining providers are typically company subject matter experts, technology vendors, private training organizations, and Georgia's public technical colleges. Eligible costs include wages paid to employees as they are being trained (and to an instructor from the company) and training materials.

The Retraining Tax Credit value is calculated at 50% of the employer's direct costs, up to \$500 per employee per approved retraining program. No more than \$1,250 of Retraining Tax Credits may be earned by an employee during a tax year.

Retraining Tax Credits can be:

- Used to offset up to 50% of a company's state corporate income tax liability
- Carried forward for 5 years if they are not used during a tax year

Retraining Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.5. For more information, visit <https://tcsg.edu/about-tcsg/econdev/tax-credit/>

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT TAX CREDIT

Georgia companies performing research and development (R&D) activities in the state may be eligible for tax credits. To qualify, the Georgia facility must be engaged in or the headquarters of a specified industry including:

- Manufacturing
- Warehousing, Distribution, and Logistics
- Software Development
- FinTech
- Data Centers
- Contact Centers
- Telecommunications
- Research and Development Facilities

Eligible industries' R&D Tax Credit value is determined each year based on qualifying expenditures in Georgia. These can include in-state purchases of materials and supplies; fees for Georgia-based contract work; and the portion of wages and salaries of the personnel, direct management, and direct support dedicated to R&D activities that occur within the state. Qualifying expenses are based on the federal definition of R&D in Section 41 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. As described in Section 41, qualifying R&D expenses can include activities beyond new product development, such as:

- Developing and testing new prototypes, dyes, and molds.
- Developing and testing new manufacturing assembly line or new distribution facility processes.
- Implementing and testing new plant equipment or ERP software.
- Improvement of legacy software solutions or cloud storage.

Market research does NOT qualify for the R&D Tax Credit.

The R&D credit is applied to 50% of the company's net Georgia corporate income tax liability after all other credits have been applied; any excess may then be used to offset the company's state payroll withholding. Claimed but unused credits may be carried forward for 5 years.

Each tax year, the value of the credit is equal to 10% of the qualified R&D expenditures minus a base amount. If a company had no sales in Georgia during one or more of the three preceding tax years, multiply the company's sales in Georgia in the current taxable year by 0.300 to calculate the base amount. Otherwise, multiply a company's Georgia sales in the current tax year by either:

- The average of the ratios of its aggregate qualified R&D expenses to sales in Georgia for the preceding three taxable years
OR
- 0.300, whichever is less

R&D Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. §48-7-40.12 and rules published by the Georgia Department of Revenue in Regulation 560-7-8-.42.

R & D Tax Credit

Each year from 2021-2023, a Georgia manufacturer spent \$50,000 that qualified for the federal R&D tax credit. Because all the R&D was conducted in Georgia, it was also considered Qualified Research Expenditures (QRE) for the Georgia R&D tax credit. Georgia Gross Receipts (GR) for each year was \$1 million.

2021 \$50,000 QRE/\$1M GR = 0.05	} 0.15 total; 0.05 average
2022 \$50,000 QRE/\$1M GR = 0.05	
2023 \$50,000 QRE/\$1M GR = 0.05	

To determine base amount, use whichever is less:

1. Average ratio of QRE from past 3 years times GR:
 $0.05 \times \$1M = \$50,000$ base amount

OR

2. 0.300 times GR:
 $0.30 \times \$1M = \$300,000$ base amount

During its 2024 tax year, the Georgia manufacturer spent \$150,000 on staff time and materials that qualified for the federal R&D tax credit as well as Georgia's QRE.

$$\begin{aligned} & \$150,000 \text{ QRE} \\ & - \$50,000 \text{ base amount} \\ & \hline & = \$100,000 \\ & \times 10\% \\ & \hline & = \$10,000 \text{ total R\&D tax credits to claim} \end{aligned}$$



**APPLICABLE TO PAYROLL
WITHHOLDING** (SEE PAGE 2)



TAX EXEMPTIONS

EXEMPTIONS FOR MANUFACTURERS

SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia exempts sales and use tax for a wide range of expenditures that manufacturing facilities must make for their operations.

Exemption	Description
Manufacturing Machinery and Equipment	Manufacturing machinery and equipment that is integral and necessary to the manufacturing process and used in a manufacturing facility is exempt from sales tax. Qualifying machinery or equipment must be purchased for a new manufacturing facility, as replacement machinery in an existing manufacturing facility, or for the upgrade or expansion of an existing manufacturing facility. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.62]
Repair to Industrial Machinery	The sale or use of repair or replacement parts, machinery clothing, molds, dies, waxes or tooling for machinery which is necessary and integral to the manufacture of tangible personal property in a presently existing manufacturing plant is exempt from taxation. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.62]
Raw Materials and Packaging	Materials used for further processing, manufacture, or conversion into components of a finished product; materials coated upon or impregnated into a product being manufactured for sale; and non-reusable materials used to package products for sale or shipment may be purchased tax-free. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.62]
Energy Used in Manufacturing	The sale, use, storage, or consumption of energy which is necessary and integral to the manufacture of tangible personal property at a manufacturing plant shall be exempt from all sales and use taxation except for the sales and use tax for educational purposes (typically 1.0%). This includes energy used directly or indirectly in a manufacturing facility. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.64]
Primary Material Handling Equipment	For manufacturers who have a separate portion of their facility designated exclusively for the material handling function, purchases of the machinery and equipment used to handle, move, or store tangible personal property is exempt from sales and use taxes where the total purchase or expansion is valued at \$5 million or more. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.103]

INVENTORY TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia has no state property tax on inventory or any other real or personal property. Under Georgia's Level One Freeport law, counties and municipalities have the option of enacting a local property tax exemption for four different classes of inventory at 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, or 100% of the value. Most counties exempt 100% of the value for Classes One and Two.

There are two classes of goods under Level One Freeport that relate to manufacturers:

Class One: Inventory of goods in the process of being manufactured or produced, including raw materials and partly finished goods.

Class Two: Inventory of finished goods manufactured or produced within this state held by the manufacturer or producer for a period not to exceed 12 months.

EXEMPTIONS FOR DATA CENTERS AND HIGH-TECH COMPANIES SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia exempts sales and use tax on eligible purchases for data centers and high-tech companies.

Exemption	Description
Data Centers	Data center (co-located and single-user) projects that create a minimum number of high-paying jobs and meet a minimum investment threshold may be eligible for a sales and use tax exemption on qualified purchases. The job and investment thresholds are linked to the population of the county where the facility is located. This exemption has a sunset of December 31, 2031.[Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.117]
High-Tech Companies (including single-user data centers)	The sale of certain computer equipment is exempt when the total qualifying purchases by a High Technology Company in a calendar year exceeds \$15 million. A High Technology Company must be classified under certain relevant North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes, which include single-user data centers (but not co-located data centers), software publishers, computer systems design, certain telecommunications firms, financial transaction processing facilities, and R&D centers. This exemption has a sunset of December 31, 2028. Any entity claiming this exemption must pay 10% of all sales and use taxes imposed on the first \$15 million of the eligible purchases or leases each year which otherwise would be exempted under O.C.G.A. § 48-8-3(68). [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.107]

EXEMPTIONS FOR DISTRIBUTION CENTERS SALES AND USE TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia exempts sales and use tax for the following equipment:

Exemption	Description
Primary Material Handling Equipment	Distribution or warehouse facilities that invest \$5 million or more in the purchase or expansion of a facility are eligible for sales and use tax exemptions on qualifying purchases. Qualifying equipment is defined as machinery and equipment used to handle, move, or store tangible personal property. The distribution or warehouse facility may not have retail sales equal to or greater than 15 percent of the facility's total revenues. [Ga. Comp. R. & Regs. 560-12-2-.103]

See dor.ga.gov/list-sales-and-use-tax-exemptions for more sales and use tax exemptions.

INVENTORY TAX EXEMPTION

Georgia has no state property tax on inventory or any other real or personal property. Under Georgia's Level One Freeport law, counties and municipalities have the option of enacting a local property tax exemption for four different classes of inventory at 20%, 40%, 60%, 80%, or 100% of the value. Most counties exempt 100% of the value for Class Three, and more than 20 exempt the newer Class Four.

There are two classes of goods under Level One Freeport that relate to distribution centers and warehouse facilities:

Class Three: Inventory of finished goods stored in a warehouse, dock, or wharf, which is destined for shipment outside this state, for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Class Four: Stock in trade of a fulfillment center that is stored in a warehouse for a period not to exceed 12 months.

Local governments can also hold a referendum to approve Level Two Freeport, which would extend the exemption to any inventory or real property not covered by Level One, including retail inventory. Level One and Level Two Freeport Exemptions are outlined in O.C.G.A. 48-5-48.1, 48-5-48.2, 48-5-48.5, and 48-5-48.6.

FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE (FTZ)

The FTZ program allows qualified companies to defer, decrease, or eliminate duties on materials imported from overseas that are used in products assembled in Georgia. The three international ports of entry in Georgia have FTZ projects associated with them:

- Atlanta - FTZ #26
- Brunswick - FTZ #144
- Savannah - FTZ #104

HIRING, TRAINING, AND EDUCATION



QUICK START EMPLOYEE TRAINING

Among the top ranked workforce training programs in the nation, Quick Start develops and delivers fully customized, strategic workforce solutions for qualified companies investing in Georgia. Services are provided free of charge as a discretionary incentive for job creation for clients opening or expanding in a broad range of industries including:

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Automotive
- Aviation
- Bioscience/Healthcare
- Distribution Centers
- Food Processing
- Headquarters Operations

Services include:

Strategic workforce consultation: Quick Start's training professionals work with company subject-matter experts to guarantee training meets business goals.

Customized post-employment and job-specific training: From fundamental knowledge to supervised on-the-job training on a company's own technology and processes, Quick Start prepares employees for maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

Leadership and productivity enhancement training: Businesses maintain competitiveness and emphasize continuous improvement for all team members with Quick Start's guidance.

Additional details available at GeorgiaQuickStart.org.

GEORGIA'S COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- The Technical College System (TCSG) offers more than 600 associate degree, diploma and certificate programs. Last year, more than 47,000 students graduated from TCSG's 22 colleges.
- The University System of Georgia (USG) is composed of 25 institutions that conferred more than 82,600 degrees last year. Georgia Tech (No. 9) and the University of Georgia (No. 19) ranked in the U.S. News 2025 Top 20 Public National Universities.
- Two of the top five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the nation are located in Georgia, according to the U.S. News 2025 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



HOPE SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANT PROGRAMS

HOPE is Georgia's scholarship and grant program that rewards Georgia students with financial assistance at eligible Georgia colleges and universities. These programs can be advantageous to relocating families with children, and for companies training employees through local technical colleges. GaFutures.org

The HOPE Scholarship is awarded to students meeting certain academic requirements. The HOPE Grant provides tuition assistance for residents seeking a technical degree or certificate from one of Georgia's technical colleges. The HOPE Career Grant results in free tuition, as well as assistance with other fees, for Technical College System of Georgia students in majors that prepare them for jobs currently in high demand.

HOPE CAREER GRANT PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Automotive Technology
Aviation Technology
Bioscience Technology
Certified Engineer Assistant
Commercial Truck Driving
Computer Programming
Computer Technology
Industrial Maintenance
Logistics/Transportation Technology
Precision Manufacturing
Welding & Joining Technology

For a full list and detailed guide on these grants, visit tcsgeu.edu/free-tuition.

GEORGIA PIONEERS INNOVATIVE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

Governor's Top State for Talent Initiative

Georgia has a new, unified high-demand career list for better alignment of education, training and workforce development efforts with the needs of employers across the state. The list is an important component in Governor Kemp's Top State for Talent initiative.

Georgia's Top State for Talent Apprenticeship Program (TSAP)

Georgia employers may be eligible for direct funding to create and expand registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs through TSAP. Today, more than 650 apprentices at nearly 100 employers are currently active in the state's program. Ask a project manager or visit www.tcsgeu.edu/tsap for more information.

CONNECTING WITH HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

GEORGIA MATCH is one of the largest state-run direct admissions initiatives in the nation, sending personalized letters from Governor Kemp to more than 132,000 Georgia high school seniors each year. The colleges listed in each GEORGIA MATCH letter are an academic match based on the student's GPA. The letter includes information on next steps to claim a spot at a college on the student's list. Enrollment was up by 7.1% for TCSG and 5.9% for USG in the first two years of GEORGIA MATCH.

Georgia is one of very few states with tax credits for employers who provide child care services for employees. (SEE PAGE 10)

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND STATEWIDE SOLUTIONS

From Project Purpose in northwest Georgia to Regional Industry Support Enterprise (RISE) on the coast, Georgia's communities are leading customized programs to connect the local workforce to key industries in their regions.

Employers can become partners in Be Pro, Be Proud Georgia, which brings engaging, skilled workforce experiences to high school students across the state. Students get a hands-on introduction to careers in Automation and Robotics, CNC Operator, Machinists, and other skilled professions. Students who opt in receive information while in school about career paths, internships, and more.

MORE OPPORTUNITIES WITH MILITARY VETERANS

Georgia's military and veteran populations are among the largest in the U.S. Employers can connect with transitioning military and veterans through programs like the Georgia Veterans Education Career Transition Resource (VECTR), which helps Georgia veterans and their families into training and the workforce.

Gulfstream, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Hyundai, Hugo Boss, and other employers are hiring Georgia veterans through the Veterans Education Training and Transition (VET2) program, among the first of its kind in the U.S.



INDUSTRY-SPECIFIC TAX CREDITS

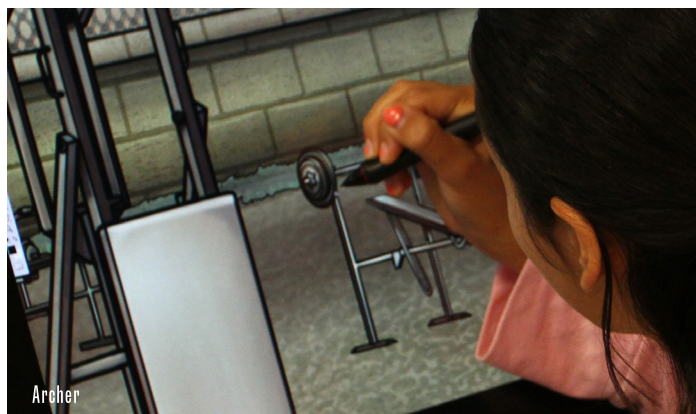
DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT TAX CREDIT

A tax credit of 20% of qualified expenditures in Georgia may be available to digital/interactive entertainment production companies with a minimum of \$250,000 in qualified expenditures in Georgia. An additional 10% uplift can be earned by including an embedded Georgia logo and web link on the project's promotional webpage, or through approved alternatives if they offer equal or greater marketing opportunities for the state.

This tax credit may be used against Georgia income tax liability (any excess can reduce the company's Georgia payroll withholding liability). If the interactive entertainment production company chooses, it may make a one-time sale or transfer of the tax credit to one or more Georgia taxpayers.

Interactive entertainment companies will be eligible for this credit only if their gross income is less than \$100 million. Pre-released interactive games may qualify for the tax credit at the 20% rate for up to three years.

The total credits available for interactive entertainment production companies and affiliates will be capped at \$12.5 million each year and will be awarded on a first-come, first-



served basis. No single company can receive more than \$1.5 million or the amount of its Georgia payroll total (whichever is less) in a given year.

The tax credit described above is part of Georgia's Film, Television, and Interactive Entertainment Tax Credits, which are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 48-7-40.26. For more information, visit Georgia.org/Film.

PREMIUM TAX CREDIT

Georgia offers a tax credit against the annual premium tax applied to insurance companies in the state. The tax credit is earned based on new job creation in Georgia.

The amount of the per-job tax credit, how the credits can be used, and the qualification requirements depend on the community's location, which assigns it a designated tier. The map on page 4 illustrates the tier designations of the counties, and the chart below provides details on how the parameters change based on the tier designation.

Once a company has qualified to earn the premium tax credit, each job can earn an annual credit for years two through six, as long as the job is maintained.

Companies must create between five and 25 net new jobs in a year to qualify, depending on the tier of the county. To qualify, the new jobs must have:

- No predetermined end date
- A regular work week of 35 hours or more
- The same benefits provided to other regular employees of the local company (including access to health insurance coverage)
- An average wage above the average wage of the county with the lowest average wage in the state (\$704/week as of June 2026)

Premium Tax Credits are subject to program requirements as outlined in O.C.G.A. 33-8-4.1 and the 2008 rules and regulations published by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in 110-9-1.

TIER	PREMIUM TAX CREDIT \$ (FOR 5 YEARS)	MINIMUM NEW JOBS	USE OF CREDITS	CARRY FORWARD
1	\$3,500	5	100% of Georgia premium tax liability	10 years
2	\$2,500	10	100% of Georgia premium tax liability	10 years
3	\$1,250	15	50% of Georgia premium tax liability	10 years
4	\$750	25	50% of Georgia premium tax liability	10 years

Premium Tax Credit

An insurance company chooses to locate in a Tier 1 County and create 150 jobs new to Georgia that are maintained for 5 years.

Credit value: \$3,500 in Tier 1 location

Example Calculation:

150 jobs x \$3,500 credits x 5 years

= \$2,625,000 total credits to claim

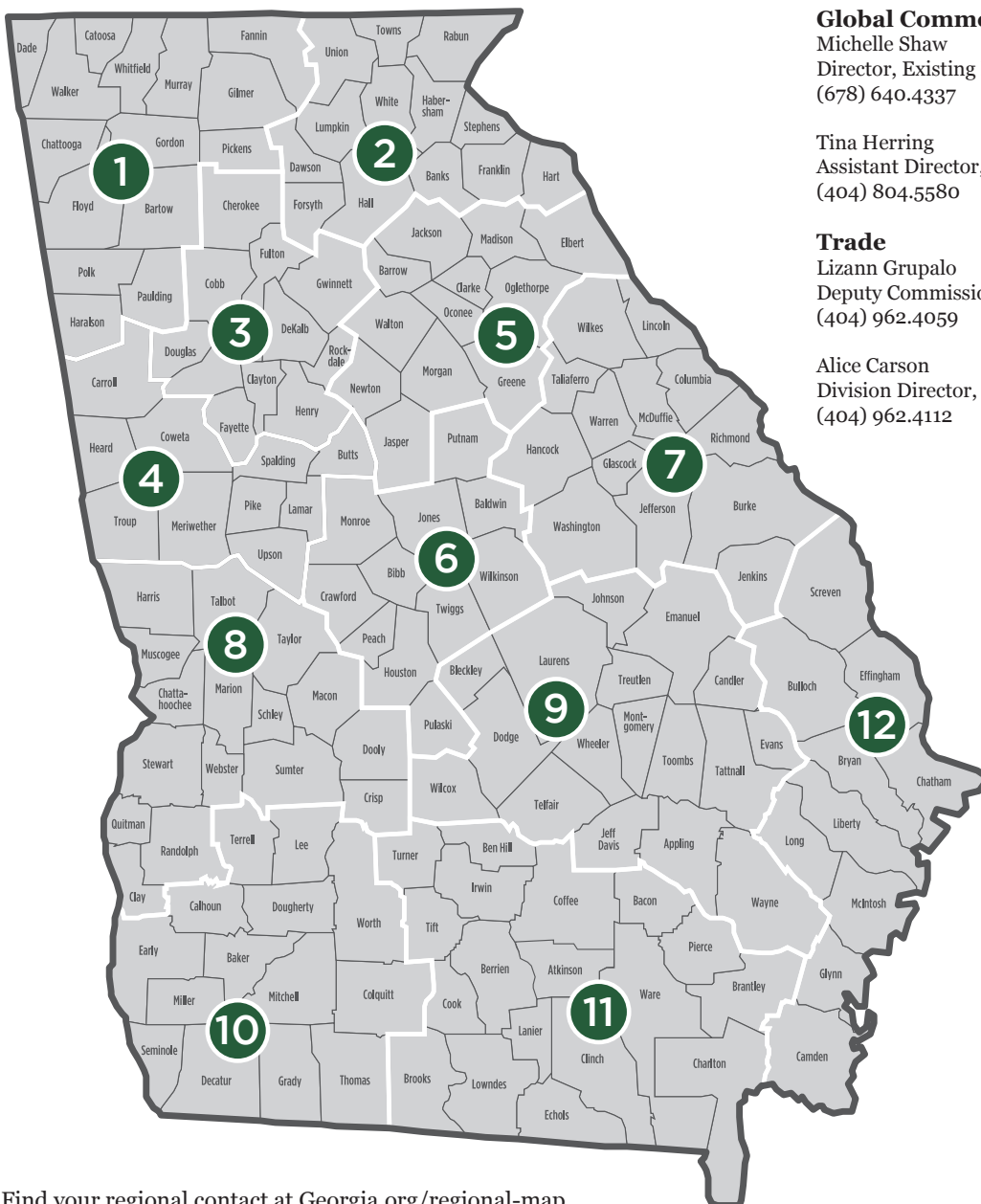
EXPANSION SERVICES

We understand that growth is critical to your continued success. That's why we do everything we can to help companies expand their Georgia locations.

To lead this effort, the Georgia Department of Economic Development has a project manager in each of the 12 regions across the state. These professionals are experts in how to grow your business in our state. As they serve your company, you'll find them to be:

- **Consultative.** Our team is proactive. We ask questions, identify solutions, and are committed to helping you figure out which resources and incentives will most benefit your company and its strategic goals.
- **Collaborative.** We work closely with other agencies in state government, as well as local governments, chambers of commerce, and utility companies. These relationships keep us up to date on changing conditions and emerging opportunities.
- **Communicative.** Our team doesn't just point the way. We connect you with people to help you get things done - providing you with names, contact information, or a personal introduction.

REGIONAL SERVICE MAP



Global Commerce

Michelle Shaw
Director, Existing Industry & Regional Recruitment
(678) 640.4337

Tina Herring
Assistant Director, Existing Industry & Regional Recruitment
(404) 804.5580

Trade

Lizann Grupalo
Deputy Commissioner, Trade
(404) 962.4059

Alice Carson
Division Director, Trade
(404) 962.4112

Find your regional contact at Georgia.org/regional-map.

EXPANSION SERVICES

Existing Georgia firms, as well as new companies, may qualify for many of the programs outlined in this brochure. These services are provided at no charge to the company.

EXPORT SERVICES

Georgia's nationally recognized Trade team has supported exporters for more than four decades, and the state maintains representation in more than 12 strategic markets around the world. Our international representatives are the face of Georgia in global markets, promoting the state as an ideal location for international investment and helping Georgia companies export products and services to new markets. The International Trade Division provides Georgia businesses with free, customized export services including market intelligence, due diligence reports, key in-country contacts, and guidance to help exporters diversify and grow. Core services include:

- Global Insight – Providing knowledge including the “how-to” of exporting, as well as industry-specific and country-specific data. Services include research, export education, consultations, market assessments, and partner resources.
- Global Connections – Matching Georgia suppliers with international customers and representatives through international and domestic trade shows, trade missions, in-country qualified business partner connections, business partner identifications, and Trade Opportunity Alerts.
- Georgia Export Grant – Qualified Georgia companies can apply for a reimbursable export activities grant that provides companies an opportunity to expand their international sales by making it easier to connect with those markets.

Learn more at Georgia.org/trade.

“The International Trade division provides an indispensable resource to the small business community. With exports representing over 60% of our revenue, programs such as the Georgia Export Grant significantly benefit our International Sales activities.”

COLIN SCHOFIELD
VP SALES & MARKETING
JODYJAZZ INC.

INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

The Center of Innovation is exclusive to Georgia and is the state's leading resource for facilitating business innovation. Through the assistance of industry-focused teams, the Center of Innovation helps Georgia businesses clear the path to solutions and growth through expert advice and navigation to the right resources. The Center works with organizations large and small and serves as a trusted partner in exploring new ideas, new products, and new processes to help fuel continued success.

The Center of Innovation's experts have relationships within Georgia's extensive network of strategic industry organizations – suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, researchers, customers, and governmental agencies – to provide meaningful connections to the right industry assets, leading minds, and technical advancements.

Learn more at Georgia.org/Innovation.

“It's worthwhile looking at your biggest pain points and seeing what is really holding us back from growing – and there's a good chance that the Center of Innovation can help

**GROW YOUR
BUSINESS.”**

JESSICA LITTLE
CO-FOUNDER
SWEET GRASS DAIRY



GEORGIA IS YOUR DEDICATED PARTNER

The industry teams at Georgia Department of Economic Development go beyond providing relocation and expansion services. We are here to help you grow and succeed. We are pleased you are considering doing business in our state, and can assist with a range of services including site location, employee training, export assistance, and incentives.



Georgia Department of Economic Development
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