



- There are **661,737** incorporated businesses in Georgia (SOS: 2/2/11)
- 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 20<sup>th</sup> in US for Small Business Survival Index Policy Environment for Entrepreneurship (SBE Council 12/10)**
- GA ranks #1 in US in Entrepreneurial Activity: 0.50% entrepreneurs per % of population (Kauffman/ITIF 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 #2 workforce training leaders ([Business Facilities](#) '10)
- GA ranks #19 overall in the New Economy Index (Kauffman/ITIF 11/10)
- GA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> best state in US to do business, up from #8 ([Site Selection](#) 11/10)
- GA ranks #8 in US for best state for business, careers & regulatory environment ([Forbes](#) 10/10)
- GA continues to rank in the Top 10 for Entrepreneurship and has led the nation over the last decade for having the largest positive change in entrepreneurial activity. Atlanta/Marietta/Sandy Springs ranks 4<sup>th</sup> (Kauffman 8/10)
- GA ranks #2 in US for highest number of black-owned businesses at 20.4% (US Census 7/10)
- GA ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in US for doing business: #2 best transportation, #3 workforce, #9 cost of living (CNBC 7/10-'09 study)
- 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 9<sup>th</sup> among 50 states (American Legislative Exchange Council 6/10)
- GA ranks 6<sup>th</sup> Best State for Business in US citing legislation that attracts businesses & jobs (Forbes 5/10)
- GA ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in US as best state for business ([Chief Executive](#) 5/10)
- GA ranks 21<sup>st</sup> in US for best Business Tax Index for Entrepreneurship & Small Business (SBE Council 5/10)
- GA ranks #10 in US for states with a majority of women-owned firms (Center for Women's Business Research 12/09)
- GA ranks in top 3 in US for number of franchisors (>100) headquartered in GA – (IFA 1/09)
- Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) are the fastest growing business segment; Women Business Enterprises (WBE) are the second fastest growing segment (GMBEC 2/10)
- Atlanta ranks 4<sup>th</sup> best city for college grads (Bloomberg Businessweek 7/10)
- Metro Atlanta direct business revenue generated by airport spiked 40% or \$32.6B in '09 (from '05); on-airport jobs: 58,000 up slightly from '05

### Miscellaneous

- Atlanta ranks #6 in US for jobs in 2010 (JobSerf Employment Index 1/11)
- 2009 saw the highest entrepreneurship activity of all time in US
- Nine Metro Atlanta companies on Inc. 500's fastest growing companies (Inc. Magazine 8/10)
- Atlanta in Top 10 startup-friendly cities (Entrepreneur Magazine 8/10)
- 14 Fortune 500 companies are home to GA
- Atlanta ranks 9<sup>th</sup> best US city for young professionals (Forbes 6/10)
- Atlanta ranked 11<sup>th</sup> 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)
- ATDC ranks in Top 10 in US for best technology incubators (Forbes 4/10)
- 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)
- 14% of [Inc. 500's](#) fastest growing companies in the U.S. started with less than \$1000