2023 METRO ATLANTA PROFILE
BUILT FOR BUSINESS
Metro Atlanta, the global capital in the sunny Southeast, has always been built for business. The region’s dramatic growth is carving a path to a sustainable future.

This top-tier destination competes on the world’s stage and strives to be the best, most productive, most inclusive place to do business.

Across the metro Atlanta region you will find a diverse brain trust of talent with the in-demand skills to elevate your organization. A multicultural mecca that builds on its history as the torchbearer of the Civil Rights movement, today’s metro Atlanta is prosperous, vibrant and welcoming.

**ATLANTA IS A CITY ON THE MOVE, THE CENTER OF A REGION ON THE RISE.**
Metro Atlanta, the bustling capital of the Southeast, is a magnet for tomorrow’s workforce and a mosaic of welcoming hometowns. It’s the eighth-largest and one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation.

Home to more than six million people in 2021, Atlanta’s 29-county Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) experienced the fourth-largest population increase of all MSAs in the nation – an increase of roughly 775,000 people from 2011 to 2021.

There is no majority racial group in metro Atlanta. The largest racial groups are:

- White (45.7%)
- Black or African American (33.4%)
- Two or more races (9.5%)
- Asian (6.3%)

The region’s Asian American population grew by 50%, roughly 129,000 people, between 2011 and 2021. The Hispanic or Latino population grew by 21%, about 117,000 people, since 2011. Hispanic or Latino residents make up 11.2% of metro Atlanta’s population. 13.8% of metro Atlanta residents are foreign-born.
ATLANTA METROPOLITAN
STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)

6,222,106  22,496  8,686  37.2  29
POPULATION  SQUARE KM  SQUARE MILES  MEDIAN AGE  COUNTIES

25 YEARS AND OVER WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER  42.2%

MALE | FEMALE
48.4% | 51.6%

WHITE  45.7%

BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN  33.4%

HISPANIC OR LATINO  11.2%

TWO OR MORE RACES  9.5%

ASIAN  6.3%

FOREIGN-BORN  13.8%
BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY

With the amenities of an international crossroads and lower cost of doing business than peer regions, Metro Atlanta was built for business. As the capital of the most business-friendly state in the country, this has always been a place where opportunity can become reality. One of the largest economies in the nation with a GDP of $422 billion, metro Atlanta’s business community keeps rising.

Home to headquarters of 31 of America’s largest corporations (Fortune 1000), including 17 ranked in the elite Fortune 500, as well as more than 200 of the nation’s fastest-growing private companies (Inc. 5000), metro Atlanta is a premier location for the headquarters of companies across industries. The region has also attracted more than 30 corporate innovation centers.

Atlanta is a global business hub, home to nearly 1,000 international companies. Flights from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, the busiest and most efficient airport in the world, travel nonstop to 70 international and 150 domestic destinations. 30+ bi-national Chambers of Commerce are located in the region, in addition to more than 60 Consular Offices, 26 of which are Consuls General representing their countries as posted diplomats in Atlanta.

A business-friendly environment and low cost of doing business are key elements for why companies choose metro Atlanta. Area Development ranked Georgia the #1 state for doing business for the last nine years (2014-2022).
GEORGIA QUICK START HAS BEEN RANKED THE #1 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY FOR MORE THAN 13 YEARS IN A ROW.

(AREA DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE, 2023)
SKILLED AND DIVERSE TALENT

PRE-K THROUGH 12TH GRADE
Metro Atlanta’s talent pipeline is robust. More than one million students are served through its 37 public school systems, including 1,100 elementary, middle and high schools. Metro Atlanta is also home to approximately 350 private schools.

Georgia offers free pre-K classes for four-year-old children throughout the state. The pre-K program is a lottery-funded educational program.

English-as-a-Second Language courses are available in every public school district.

Metro Atlanta has several immersion schools, both public/charter and private, that teach in languages other than English, including Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese and Spanish.

There are 87 IB World Schools in Georgia. These authorized schools offer one or more International Baccalaureate programs of education.

Schools in the metro area offer a wide variety of education for children with special needs. Supported by unique organizations like the Marcus Autism Center and the Atlanta Speech School, public and private schools offer access to a variety of educational resources.

HIGHER EDUCATION
A greenhouse for smart, skilled talent, metro Atlanta has more than 295,000 students enrolled in 70+ two- and four-year college and university campuses in the metro Atlanta/Athens area. Businesses in the region benefit from a large and thriving pipeline of homegrown talent. Approximately 60,500 degrees are awarded in the metro Atlanta/Athens area annually (associate’s, bachelor’s, master’s and doctorate).

Approximately 25% of Georgia State University’s enrollment is first-generation college students, and it is the #1 public or nonprofit university in the U.S. to confer undergraduate degrees to Black students.
EDUCATION AND TALENT

The Georgia Institute of Technology leads the nation in the number of engineering bachelor’s degrees awarded and is ranked #1 in the nation for its undergraduate Aerospace Engineering and Industrial Engineering programs. All of the school's graduate engineering programs rank in the top 10. The school awards more engineering bachelor’s degrees to minorities and women than any other school in the country.

Emory University is ranked among the top national universities. Emory’s nursing school is ranked #2 in the country and its graduate public health program is #4. This private university includes a top-performing School of Medicine, School of Law, and the Goizueta Business School.

Metro Atlanta is home to the Atlanta University Center (AUC) Consortium, the world’s oldest and largest association of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). The AUC is comprised of four member institutions: Clark Atlanta University, Morehouse College, Morehouse School of Medicine and Spelman College. Spelman College is the #1 HBCU in the nation.

The **HOPE Scholarship and HOPE Grants** are funds available for qualified Georgia residents that provide assistance towards the cost of tuition at eligible public and private colleges and universities.

**HOPE Career Grants** waive tuition for qualified students enrolling in specific high-demand fields in Georgia’s Technical Colleges, including 18 programs of study like automotive technology, nursing, health science, commercial truck driving and movie production set design.
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METRO ATLANTA IS HERE, NOW AND NEXT.
GEORGIA HAS BEEN NAMED THE #1 STATE FOR DOING BUSINESS FOR THE LAST NINE YEARS IN A ROW.

(AREA DEVELOPMENT MAGAZINE, 2014-2022)
GOVERNMENT

Atlanta is the capital city of the state of Georgia. One of the most recognizable features of the downtown Atlanta skyline is the gold-domed state capitol.

The 29 counties that make up metro Atlanta are individually governed by boards of commissioners, city councils and mayors.

Atlanta’s symbol is the phoenix, the legendary bird of Egyptian mythology, representing Atlanta’s rise from the ashes of the Civil War. The seal of the city bears the phoenix and the Latin term “Resurgens,” which means “rising again.”

TAXES

Georgia’s tax structure is among the most stable in the country, with a consistent AAA bond rating from all three agencies. Georgia’s corporate income tax rate is 5.75% (single factor sales tax apportionment). In the metro Atlanta region of 29 counties, the total (state and local) sales tax rate ranges from 6% (Cherokee, Cobb and Gwinnett counties) to 8.9% (City of Atlanta in Fulton and DeKalb counties).

Georgia’s individual income tax rate is a graduated tax based on an individual’s federal adjusted gross income. The tax rate ranges from 1% to 5.75% based on six income brackets.

Property tax rates (millage rates) are set locally by each county and city. Real and personal property are assessed at 40% of fair market value.
Metro Atlanta offers access to an extensive healthcare system with more than 100 hospitals, 88,000 hospital workers, and 28,000 nurses and nurse practitioners. The system includes one Level 1 Trauma Center, three Level 2, four Level 3, three Level 4, two Pediatric Trauma Centers and one Designated Burn Center.

A few of Metro Atlanta’s top-ranked medical facilities include:

**Shepherd Center** | Ranked #8 in the nation and specializing in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury and stroke, Atlanta’s Shepherd Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital.

**Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta** | CHOA’s pediatric research program is ranked #1 for National Institute of Health funding among pediatric departments nationwide.

**Northside Hospital** | The nation’s leader in maternity services, Northside Hospital delivers more babies a year than any other hospital in the country and was recently designated as a Level IV Maternal Center.

In addition to high-quality patient care facilities, metro Atlanta is home to renowned medical research organizations like the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Center for Global Health Innovation**.
COST OF LIVING

■ COST OF LIVING INDEX 2022: SELECT U.S. METROS

[Bar chart showing cost of living for various U.S. metros, with Atlanta, GA, Boston, MA, Chicago, IL, Dallas, TX, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, New York, NY, San Francisco, CA, and Washington, DC. The U.S. average is 100.]
TRANSPORTATION

With unparalleled connectivity, Atlanta is home to the world’s busiest and most efficient airport, plus the planes, trucks, trains and ports to keep business moving swiftly.

AIR CARGO

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is served by more than 20 all-cargo air carriers. Nearly 730,000 metric tons of cargo passed through ATL in 2022.

AIR SERVICE

ATL, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, is a true global leader and one of the most connected airports on the planet. The single busiest and most efficient airport in the world, its five runways serve more than 110 million passengers a year. More than 80% of U.S. metros are within a two-hour flight from Atlanta.

HIGHWAYS

Three major highways (I-75, I-85, I-20) converge near Atlanta’s central business district. The perimeter highway (I-285) circles the city in a 62.7-mile loop. Georgia 400 is a six-lane highway providing yet another route to the city via north metro Atlanta. Atlanta’s major highways contain High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, which decrease drive times during peak hours and are free-of-charge to electric vehicles.
METRO ATLANTA’S TRANSPORTATION NETWORK EASILY CONNECTS PEOPLE AND PRODUCTS TO THE GLOBAL MARKETPLACE

RAIL
Abundant rail service makes metro Atlanta the rail center of the Southeast.

More than 4,600 railroad miles in Georgia – the largest intermodal hub in the region. Served by two class-one railroads (CSX and Norfolk Southern) and over 20 short-line companies.

OCEAN
The Port of Savannah, located 250 miles from Atlanta, is the largest and fastest-growing single-container terminal in North America.

The Port of Brunswick, located 300 miles from Atlanta, is the second-busiest port in the U.S. for import and export of Ro/Ro (Roll-On/Roll-Off) vehicle cargo.

INLAND PORTS
Georgia currently hosts two inland port facilities with a third planned. The model allows containers to be trucked for shorter distances and staged at an intermodal yard, where they are loaded onto trains moving hundreds of containers in a single trip.

MASS TRANSIT
MARTA is the region’s heavy rail and bus service, providing service to 1.7 million traveler. Every weekday, 500,000 people are transported by MARTA. Service is available at 38 rail stations, including direct access in the Hartsfield-Jackson airport and along 101 bus routes covering 1,439 miles. Other rapid bus services, including Cobb County Transit and Gwinnett County Transit, connect to MARTA.
Metro Atlanta is the epicenter of the Southeast. Named the Best Place to Live in the U.S. by Money Magazine for 2022-2023, Atlanta attracts people from every corner of the globe. The city’s culture is as rich and diverse as our population, with a legacy built by our country’s Civil Rights leaders. A culinary cornucopia and center for music and film production, our world-class stadiums regularly attract events like the Super Bowl and the World Cup. And a temperate climate means we enjoy year-round sunshine to explore our City in a Forest, or the region’s lakes, mountains and trails.
MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

THE ATLANTA BELTLINE | Among the largest, most wide-ranging urban redevelopment programs in the United States, this network of public parks, multi-use trails, planned transit and affordable housing spans a historic 22-mile railroad corridor. [www.beltline.org](http://www.beltline.org)

ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN | Located on 30 acres in Midtown, the Atlanta Botanical Garden is an urban oasis, maintaining plant and art collections for display, education, research, conservation and enjoyment. [www.atlantabg.org](http://www.atlantabg.org)

THE CARTER CENTER | Founded by former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and activist Rosalynn Carter, the Center is committed to waging peace, fighting disease and building hope around the world. [www.cartercenter.org](http://www.cartercenter.org)

THE COLLEGE FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME | The Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame celebrates and honors the people, traditions and passion of college football. The Hall is 95,000 square feet of more than 50 engaging exhibits. [www.cfbhall.com](http://www.cfbhall.com)

GEORGIA AQUARIUM | The largest aquarium in the Western Hemisphere with more than 10 million gallons of water, the Georgia Aquarium contains hundreds of exhibits and tens of thousands of animals across seven galleries. [www.georgiaaquarium.com](http://www.georgiaaquarium.com)

FOX THEATRE | The beautiful historic Fox Theatre, featuring unique Moorish architecture, is one of Atlanta’s premier venues. Each year it holds more than 150 performances, ranging from national touring Broadway shows to popular musicians to a summer film series. [www.foxtheatre.org](http://www.foxtheatre.org)
MAJOR ATTRACTIONS

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER AND NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK | The Center is an official memorial dedicated to the advancement of the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leader of America’s nonviolent movement for justice, equality and peace. The National Historic Park includes Dr. King’s birth home and the original Ebenezer Baptist church where Dr. King served as pastor. www.thekingcenter.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS | An impactful cultural attraction that connects the American Civil Rights Movement to today’s struggle for global human rights, the National Center for Civil and Human Rights is a striking center for engagement and learning. www.civilandhumanrights.org

PONCE CITY MARKET | Located along the Atlanta Beltline in a vibrant converted historic Sears building, Ponce City Market is now the epicenter for shopping, dining and gathering among local residents and tourists alike. www.poncecitymarket.com

WOODRUFF ARTS CENTER | Located in Midtown, the Woodruff Arts Center is the third-largest arts organization in the U.S. The Woodruff Arts Center includes world-renowned High Museum of Art, Alliance Theatre and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. www.woodruffcenter.org

WORLD OF COCA-COLA | The World of Coca-Cola offers visitors the chance to trace the history of the world’s most famous beverage brand. Every year more than 1.2 million guests visit the museum in downtown Atlanta. www.worldofcoca-cola.com
MAJOR EVENTS & FESTIVALS

Atlanta Dogwood Festival
Atlanta Film Festival 365
Atlanta Jazz Festival
Atlanta Pride Festival and Parade
Atlanta Science Festival
Atlanta St. Patrick’s Day Parade
Decatur Craft Beer Festival
DragonCon
Festival Peachtree Latino
Little 5 Points Halloween Festival and Parade
MomoCon
Shaky Knees
National Black Arts Festival
Sweetwater 420 Fest
Taste of Atlanta
Virginia Highland Summerfest
SPORTS

Atlanta has a sports team for every fan, at every level of play. Both the Atlanta United MLS team and the Atlanta Falcons football team play at the iconic Mercedes-Benz Stadium, a venue for the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Atlanta Hawks and the Atlanta Dream play show-stopping basketball at State Farm Arena and the Gateway Center Arena.

NASCAR fans watch races at the world-class track at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton. And the iconic Atlanta Braves fill up the baseball stadium at Truist Park in the center of the Battery Atlanta entertainment district.

ATLANTA IS HOME TO 17 PROFESSIONAL SPORTS TEAMS:

Atlanta Braves - Baseball/MLB
Atlanta Dream - Basketball/WNBA
Atlanta Falcons - Football/NFL
Atlanta Hawks - Basketball/NBA
Atlanta United - Soccer/MLS
Atlanta Gladiators - Hockey/ECHL
Atlanta Hustle - Ultimate Frisbee/AUDL
Atlanta Reign - ESports/OWL
Atlanta Roller Derby - Roller Derby/WFTDA
Atlanta Soul - Ultimate Frisbee/PUL
Atlanta Talon - ESports/NBA2K
Atlanta United II - Soccer/USL
College Park Skyhawks - Basketball/NBA G
Georgia Spartans - Basketball/UBA
Georgia Swarm - Lacrosse/NLL
Gwinnett Stripers - Baseball/MiLB
Rugby ATL - Rugby/MLR (2020)
ATLANTA SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

#1 Highest MLS fanbase attendance – Atlanta United, 2022
#4 Highest MLB fanbase attendance – Atlanta Braves, 2022
#3 Highest increase in NBA fanbase attendance – Atlanta Hawks, 2022

NATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS
Super Bowl LIII (2019) - Professional Football
College Football Playoff National Championship (2018 and 2025)
FIFA World Cup (2026) - Professional Soccer
MLS All-Star Game (2018) - Professional Soccer
U.S. Olympic Team Trials (2020) - Marathon
NCAA Men’s Final Four (2020) (canceled due to COVID-19)
NCAA Men’s Basketball Regional (2025)

ANNUAL SPORTS EVENTS
SEC Championship
Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl
Chick-fil-A Kickoff Game
Cricket Celebration Bowl
Peachtree Road Race
PGA Tour Championship
Atlanta Open
RECREATION

With 50% tree coverage in the region, we have earned the name “City in a Forest.” Among those trees are miles of parks, lakes, mountains, rivers, national recreation areas and trails to explore.
ENJOY METRO ATLANTA’S OUTDOORS

PIEDMONT PARK | A true urban oasis of 185 acres in Midtown Atlanta.

CHATTahoochee RIVER NATIONAL RECREATION AREAS | A 48-mile stretch that covers four counties. In addition to providing recreational activities such as fishing, hiking and boating, the park contains a variety of 19th century historic sites and Native American archeological sites.

WESTSIDE PARK AT BELLWOOD QUARRY | Opened in 2021, Atlanta’s largest greenspace.

LAKE LANIER AND LAKE ALLATOONA | Popular metro destinations for fishing, swimming and boating.

NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS | Outdoor activities in this mountainous region north of Atlanta, which includes the Chattahoochee National Forest, the southern entry point to the Appalachian Trail, 11 state parks and many lakes and rivers.

ALTA | The largest city tennis league in the world, with more than 80,000 members.

THE ATLANTA TRACK CLUB | The second-largest running organization in the U.S., serving 30,000 members who are runners and walkers of all ages and paces.

More than 100 public, private and semi-private golf courses that can be played more than 300 days a year.
SOURCES


As of 2023.