GEORGIA WORKFORCE PIPELINE SNAPSHOT

Workforce continues to be a challenge with record economic development success and more job openings than job seekers.

Most working age Georgians have a job but long-term demographic shifts will impact future workforce availability.

Numerous factors influence workforce availability and barriers like workforce housing and quality childcare.

Georgia has a strong educational pipeline but data may indicate that more work may be required on literacy and post-graduation planning.

Georgia Workforce and Economic Resilience Center
Carl Vinson Institute of Government
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
In Georgia, 77% of people ages 25-64 were working or actively seeking work in 2017-2021. The workforce participation rate in parts of rural Georgia was lower than in most metro Atlanta and hub communities. Atlanta City Center/PoM2 falls into the lowest category with a rate of 68.6%.

The labor force participation rate in Georgia has remained steady over time. There has been a slight increase in the rate for those over 65, and a slight decrease for those under 25 since 2000.

In 2010, 72% of Georgia workers 16 years and older worked from home. That had increased to nearly 7% by 2019. The pandemic caused a major increase in 2020, and by 2021, 18% worked from home.

About half of all Georgians age 25-64 not in the labor force have a child present in their home. About 81% of those with a child present and not in the labor force have a child present in their home. About half of all Georgians age 25–64 not in the labor force have a child present in their home. About half of all Georgians age 25–64 not in the labor force have a child present in their home.

Childcare is a barrier to work in Georgia due to expense and lack of availability. The number of establishments grew from 2,247 in early 2009 to 2,685 in late 2022. The number of childcare workers, however, has not increased by very much over the same time period.

The homeownership rate in the United States hit a 40-year low, 63.4%, in 2016 following the Great Recession. The share of homeowners climbed in the years leading up to and during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the figure on the right shows, most of the variability in the homeownership rate was among Georgians under the age of 65. Their homeownership rate declined more than 10% between 2009 and 2015. They have seen an increase since 2015 but remain below Great Recession levels.

In 2010, 2.3% of Georgia workers 16 years and older worked from home. That had increased to nearly 7% by 2019. The pandemic caused a major increase in 2020, and by 2021, 18% worked from home.

Another way to assess economic development success is to compare job announcements to a county’s population. Bryan County had by far the most jobs per 100,000 people during FY 2021-2023. Sumter County came in a distant second with 7,491 jobs.

Jobs dropped sharply during the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020 to 1 job for every 4 unemployed people in Georgia. By June 2023, there were 2 jobs per unemployed person.

One barrier to housing access for Georgia workers is the availability of homes for sale. The figure on the left shows the months supply of inventory, or the number of homes currently listed for sale divided by the last 12 months' average number of pending sales. Georgia's monthly supply of inventory was decreasing prior to 2020, and the demand for housing during the pandemic expedited this trend. Throughout much of 2021 and 2022, there was only one month's supply of inventory available for sale.

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Nearly 62% of Georgia high school students in the class of 2016 enrolled in postsecondary education after graduation. Six years later only 31% of students completed any kind of postsecondary credential or award.

The proportion of high school graduates going to college dropped from 64% in 2015 to 61% in 2021.
The **Georgia Workforce and Economic Resilience Center** is a hub of programs and services designed to support Georgia’s continued economic and workforce competitiveness and assist our state, local, and regional partners on workforce and economic development strategy, decision-making, and implementation. In addition to the workforce conference, Center services include data and labor market analysis; professional development; economic impact and incentives modeling; workforce and economic development strategies; downtown and community development and planning; rural development, and more.

**Georgia Data** is a website developed by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. It contains state- and county-level data on a wide variety of topics, including economics, education, health, labor, and population as well as links to other state data resources. This resource can be accessed at [georgiadata.org](http://georgiadata.org).

To inquire about assistance or for more information on workforce development services at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, please contact Greg Wilson at gjwilson@uga.edu or Rebecca Hunt at rcmciver@uga.edu

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