

Athens, Georgia

Background

Athens, home to the University of Georgia, retains its old charms while cultivating new ideas. Antebellum homes that grace the city still stand because Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's March to the Sea took a route that left this northeast Georgia town intact (while burning Atlanta, about 60 miles to the southwest). The Athens Music History Walking Tour, available through the local convention and visitors' bureau, stops at Weaver D's soul food restaurant with the slogan, "Automatic for the People," that went national as the name of locally-grown REM's 1992 album. The college music scene that spawned the B-52s and the Indigo Girls in the 1970s and 1980s, continues to support a thriving music industry.

Present-day Athens started as a small settlement where an old Cherokee trail crossed the Oconee River. In 1785 the state's General Assembly chartered the university, which established a campus here in 1801. Three years later, the school held its first graduation ceremony. The city was named for the ancient Greece's center of learning.

Undoubtedly the major influence in the city and surrounding Clarke County, the University of Georgia is also the area's largest employer. The comprehensive land grant and sea-grant institution offers all levels of degree programs in numerous disciplines. Other educational institutions in Athens are the Navy Supply School, Athens Technical College, and branches of Piedmont College and Old Dominion University.

Other major employers are focused on health care, government, and manufacturing. They include Athens Regional Medical Center and St. Mary's Health Care System, which have enlarged their facilities and specialized in areas including oncology, pediatrics and heart disease. Manufacturing is a major employment sector.

The city's official government merged with its home county in 1991, creating the Unified Government of Athens-Clark County.

With its shops, boutiques and restaurants, Athens offers plenty to do. The Georgia State Museum of Art, Museum of Natural History, and the State Botanical Garden here are affiliated with the university. The restored 1910 Morton Theater once hosted Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, and Louis Armstrong, and now hosts dramatic and musical performances. Undoubtedly the strong presence of young people in Athens has contributed to its burgeoning artistic scene. The city center is home to bars, galleries, cafes, and music venues that cater to the city's creative climate. The annual AthFest in June, hosts 120 bands to support local education. The city's charms, attractive to all ages, have not gone unnoticed by the media. Athens has been named one of the best places for small business, the best college town for retirees, and the best place to recapture your youth. The city also has a lively bicycle culture, and hosts several annual bicycle races.

The climate is mild, with average temperatures about 20 degrees warmer than the U.S. average. Snowfall is next to nothing, but precipitation is at its highest from January-March. Spring is lovely, with three to four inches of rain, sunshine up to 70 percent of the time starting in April, and temperatures averaging in the 70s.

Rankings

Business/Finance Rankings

- The Athens metro area appeared on the Milken Institute “2020 Best Performing Cities” list. Rank: #34 out of 201 small metro areas. Criteria: job growth; wage and salary growth; high-tech output growth. *Milken Institute, “Best-Performing Cities 2020,” February 26, 2020*
- *Forbes* ranked 203 smaller metro areas (population under 268,000) to determine the nation’s “Best Small Places for Business and Careers.” The Athens metro area was ranked #6. Criteria: costs (business and living); job growth (past and projected); income growth; quality of life; educational attainment (college and high school); projected economic growth; cultural and leisure opportunities; workplace tolerance laws; net migration patterns. *Forbes, “The Best Small Places for Business and Careers 2019,” October 30, 2019*

Safety Rankings

- The National Insurance Crime Bureau ranked 382 metro areas in the U.S. in terms of per capita rates of vehicle theft. The metroarea+[] metro area ranked #186 (#1 = highest rate). Criteria: number of vehicle theft offenses per 100,000 inhabitants in 2018. *National Insurance Crime Bureau, “Hot Spots 2018,” June 25, 2019*

Seniors/Retirement Rankings

- Athens made *Southern Living’s* list of charming and unique southern places to retire or dream of retiring to. From the presence of unique amenities and things to do, to continued learning opportunities, and great places to eat, these favorite places are perfect for settling down. *Southern Living, “South’s Best Retirement Towns 2019,” July 2019*
- From its Best Cities for Successful Aging indexes, the Milken Institute generated rankings for metropolitan areas, weighing data in nine categories—health care, wellness, living arrangements, transportation and convenience, financial characteristics, education, employment, community engagement, and overall livability. The Athens metro area was ranked #62 overall in the small metro area category. *Milken Institute, “Best Cities for Successful Aging, 2017” March 14, 2017*
- Athens made the 2019 *Forbes* list of “25 Best Places to Retire.” Criteria focused on high-quality retirement living at an affordable price, include: housing/living costs compared to the national average and state taxes; air quality; crime rates; good economic outlook; home price appreciation; college presence; doctor availability; bikability; walkability; healthy living. *Forbes.com, “The Best Places to Retire in 2019,” April 23, 2019*
- Athens was identified as #15 of 20 most popular places to retire in the Southeast region by *Topretirements.com*. The site separated its annual “Best Places to Retire” list by major U.S. regions for 2018. The list reflects the 20 cities that visitors to the website are most interested in for retirement, based on the number of times a city’s review was viewed on the website. *Topretirements.com, “20 Most Popular Places to Retire in the Southeast: 2018,” September 10, 2018*

Business Environment

CITY FINANCES

City Government Finances

Component	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$ per capita)
Total Revenues	280,298	2,262
Total Expenditures	251,655	2,031
Debt Outstanding	263,978	2,130
Cash and Securities ¹	445,378	3,594

Note: (1) Cash and security holdings of a government at the close of its fiscal year, including those of its dependent agencies, utilities, and liquor stores.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2017

City Government Revenue by Source

Source	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$ per capita)	2017 (%)
General Revenue			
From Federal Government	6,742	54	2.4
From State Government	2,865	23	1.0
From Local Governments	51,598	416	18.4
Taxes			
Property	53,763	434	19.2
Sales and Gross Receipts	21,322	172	7.6
Personal Income	0	0	0.0
Corporate Income	0	0	0.0
Motor Vehicle License	0	0	0.0
Other Taxes	5,256	42	1.9
Current Charges	78,983	637	28.2
Liquor Store	0	0	0.0
Utility	19,833	160	7.1
Employee Retirement	32,871	265	11.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2017

City Government Expenditures by Function

Function	2017 (\$000)	2017 (\$ per capita)	2017 (%)
General Direct Expenditures			
Air Transportation	2,191	17	0.9
Corrections	19,258	155	7.7
Education	0	0	0.0
Employment Security Administration	0	0	0.0
Financial Administration	8,853	71	3.5
Fire Protection	13,267	107	5.3
General Public Buildings	6,738	54	2.7
Governmental Administration, Other	10,848	87	4.3
Health	1,860	15	0.7
Highways	12,712	102	5.1
Hospitals	0	0	0.0
Housing and Community Development	0	0	0.0
Interest on General Debt	16,430	132	6.5
Judicial and Legal	14,136	114	5.6
Libraries	2,009	16	0.8
Parking	0	0	0.0
Parks and Recreation	11,785	95	4.7
Police Protection	31,323	252	12.4
Public Welfare	737	5	0.3
Sewerage	14,813	119	5.9
Solid Waste Management	7,645	61	3.0
Veterans' Services	0	0	0.0
Liquor Store	0	0	0.0
Utility	22,891	184	9.1
Employee Retirement	12,644	102	5.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finances 2017

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population Growth

Area	1990 Census	2000 Census	2010 Census	2018* Estimate	Population Growth (%)	
					1990-2018	2010-2018
City	86,561	100,266	115,452	123,310	42.5	6.8
MSA ¹	136,025	166,079	192,541	205,303	50.9	6.6
U.S.	248,709,873	281,421,906	308,745,538	322,903,030	29.8	4.6

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (*) 2014-2018 5-year estimated population

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census, Census 2000, Census 2010, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household Size

Area	Persons in Household (%)							Average Household Size
	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven or More	
City	33.4	35.4	14.3	11.1	3.6	1.5	0.7	2.40
MSA ¹	28.6	35.7	15.1	13.0	5.0	1.7	1.0	2.50
U.S.	27.7	33.9	15.7	13.0	6.0	2.3	1.4	2.60

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Race

Area	White Alone ² (%)	Black Alone ² (%)	Asian Alone ² (%)	AIAN ³ Alone ² (%)	NHOPI ⁴ Alone ² (%)	Other Race Alone ² (%)	Two or More Races (%)
City	62.7	27.7	4.1	0.1	0.1	2.7	2.6
MSA ¹	71.7	20.2	3.4	0.1	0.0	2.2	2.3
U.S.	72.7	12.7	5.4	0.8	0.2	4.9	3.2

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Alone is defined as not being in combination with one or more other races; (3) American Indian and Alaska Native; (4) Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Hispanic or Latino Origin

Area	Total (%)	Mexican (%)	Puerto Rican (%)	Cuban (%)	Other (%)
City	10.7	6.6	1.0	0.3	2.9
MSA ¹	8.4	5.0	0.8	0.2	2.4
U.S.	17.8	11.2	1.7	0.7	4.2

Note: Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin can be of any race; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Segregation

Type	Segregation Indices ¹				Percent Change		
	1990	2000	2010	2010 Rank ²	1990-2000	1990-2010	2000-2010
Black/White	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Asian/White	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hispanic/White	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: All figures cover the Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; Figures are based on an analysis of 1990, 2000, and 2010 Census Decennial Census tract data by William H. Frey, Brookings Institution and the University of Michigan Social Science Data Analysis Network. In this analysis all racial groups (whites, blacks, and asians) are non-Hispanic members of those races. Hispanics are shown as a separate category; (1) Segregation Indices are Dissimilarity Indices that measure the degree to which the minority group is distributed differently than whites across census tracts. They range from 0 (complete integration) to 100 (complete segregation) where the value indicates the percentage of the minority group that needs to move to be distributed exactly like whites; (2) Ranges from 1 (most segregated) to 102 (least segregated); n/a not available.

Source: www.CensusScope.org

Ancestry

Area	German	Irish	English	American	Italian	Polish	French ²	Scottish	Dutch
City	8.9	8.4	8.6	5.1	3.3	1.5	1.6	2.7	0.9
MSA ¹	8.6	9.4	9.8	8.7	3.0	1.3	1.6	2.9	0.9
U.S.	13.7	9.9	7.3	6.4	5.2	2.8	2.4	1.7	1.2

Note: Figures are the percentage of the total population reporting a particular ancestry. The nine most commonly reported ancestries in the U.S. are shown. Figures include multiple ancestries (e.g. if a person reported being Irish and Italian, they were included in both columns); (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Excludes Basque
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Foreign-Born Population

Area	Percent of Population Born in								
	Any Foreign Country	Asia	Mexico	Europe	Caribbean	Central America ²	South America	Africa	Canada
City	9.9	3.0	3.0	0.9	0.3	1.0	0.9	0.6	0.2
MSA ¹	7.7	2.5	2.2	0.8	0.2	0.8	0.6	0.4	0.2
U.S.	13.5	4.1	3.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.7	0.3

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Excludes Mexico.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Marital Status

Area	Never Married	Now Married ²	Separated	Widowed	Divorced
City		55.0	31.8	1.7	8.1
MSA ¹		42.8	42.0	1.6	9.0
U.S.		33.3	48.1	2.0	10.8

Note: Figures are percentages and cover the population 15 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Excludes separated

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Disability by Age

Area	All Ages	Under 18 Years Old	18 to 64 Years Old	65 Years and Over
City	11.1	5.8	9.2	33.9
MSA ¹	12.2	5.9	9.9	35.4
U.S.	12.6	4.2	10.3	35.0

Note: Figures show percent of the civilian noninstitutionalized population that reported having a disability. Disability status is determined from six types of difficulty: vision, hearing, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living. For children under 5 years old, hearing and vision difficulty are used to determine disability status. For children between the ages of 5 and 14, disability status is determined from hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, and self-care difficulties. For people aged 15 years and older, they are considered to have a disability if they have difficulty with any one of the six difficulty types; Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Age

Area	Percent of Population									Median Age
	Under Age 5	Age 5–19	Age 20–34	Age 35–44	Age 45–54	Age 55–64	Age 65–74	Age 75–84	Age 85+	
City	5.5	20.9	34.8	11.2	8.8	8.8	6.1	2.9	1.2	27.6
MSA ¹	5.5	20.9	27.3	12.0	11.1	10.7	7.5	3.5	1.3	32.1
U.S.	6.1	19.3	20.7	12.6	13.2	12.8	8.8	4.5	1.9	37.9

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Gender

Area	Males	Females	Males per 100 Females
City	58,641	64,669	90.7
MSA ¹	99,316	105,987	93.7
U.S.	158,984,190	163,918,840	97.0

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Religious Groups by Family

Area	Catholic	Baptist	Non-Den.	Methodist ²	Lutheran	LDS ³	Pentecostal	Presbyterian ⁴	Muslim ⁵	Judaism
MSA ¹	4.4	16.3	2.3	8.4	0.4	0.8	2.8	2.0	0.4	0.2
U.S.	19.1	9.3	4.0	4.0	2.3	2.0	1.9	1.6	0.8	0.7

Note: Figures are the number of adherents as a percentage of the total population; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included;

(2) Methodist/Pietist; (3) Latter Day Saints; (4) Reformed; (5) Figures are estimates

Source: Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study

Religious Groups by Tradition

Area	Catholic	Evangelical Protestant	Mainline Protestant	Other Tradition	Black Protestant	Orthodox
MSA ¹	4.4	21.1	9.8	1.7	2.5	0.1
U.S.	19.1	16.2	7.3	4.3	1.6	0.3

Note: Figures are the number of adherents as a percentage of the total population; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, 2010 U.S. Religion Census: Religious Congregations & Membership Study

ECONOMY**Gross Metropolitan Product**

Area	2017	2018	2019	2020	Rank ²
MSA ¹	10.1	10.5	10.8	11.2	205

Note: Figures are in billions of dollars; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Rank is based on 2018 data and ranges from 1 to 381

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Economies: GMP & Employment 2018-2020, September 2019

Economic Growth

Area	2015-17 (%)	2018 (%)	2019 (%)	2020 (%)	Rank ²
MSA ¹	6.8	1.5	1.3	1.4	6
U.S.	1.9	2.9	2.3	2.1	—

Note: Figures are real gross metropolitan product (GMP) growth rates and represent average annual percent change; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Rank is based on 2017 2-year average annual percent change and ranges from 1 to 381

Source: U.S. Conference of Mayors, U.S. Metro Economies: GMP & Employment 2018-2020, September 2019

Metropolitan Area Exports

Area	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Rank ²
MSA ¹	286.0	320.8	327.4	332.1	297.7	378.2	236

Note: Figures are in millions of dollars; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) Rank is based on 2018 data and ranges from 1 to 387

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, International Trade Administration, Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, Industry and Analysis, Exports by Metropolitan Area, data extracted April 15, 2020

Building Permits

Area	Single-Family			Multi-Family			Total		
	2017	2018	Pct. Chg.	2017	2018	Pct. Chg.	2017	2018	Pct. Chg.
City	189	345	82.5	176	261	48.3	365	606	66.0
MSA ¹	581	729	25.5	190	340	78.9	771	1,069	38.7
U.S.	820,000	855,300	4.3	462,000	473,500	2.5	1,282,000	1,328,800	3.7

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; Figures represent new, privately-owned housing units authorized (unadjusted data); All permit data are based on estimates with imputation

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Manufacturing, Mining, and Construction Statistics, Building Permits, 2017, 2018

Bankruptcy Filings

Area	Business Filings			Nonbusiness Filings		
	2018	2019	% Chg.	2018	2019	% Chg.
Clarke County	8	0	-100.0	345	338	-2.0
U.S.	22,232	22,780	2.5	751,186	752,160	0.1

Note: Business filings include Chapter 7, Chapter 9, Chapter 11, Chapter 12, Chapter 13, Chapter 15, and Section 304; Nonbusiness filings include Chapter 7, Chapter 11, and Chapter 13

Source: Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Business and Nonbusiness Bankruptcy, County Cases Commenced by Chapter of the Bankruptcy Code, During the 12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2018 and Business and Nonbusiness Bankruptcy, County Cases Commenced by Chapter of the Bankruptcy Code, During the 12-Month Period Ending December 31, 2019

Housing Vacancy Rates

Area	Gross Vacancy Rate ² (%)			Year-Round Vacancy Rate ³ (%)			Rental Vacancy Rate ⁴ (%)			Homeowner Vacancy Rate ⁵ (%)		
	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019	2017	2018	2019
MSA ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
U.S.	12.7	12.3	12.0	9.9	9.7	9.5	7.2	6.9	6.7	1.6	1.5	1.4

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (2) The percentage of the total housing inventory that is vacant; (3) The percentage of the housing inventory (excluding seasonal units) that is year-round vacant; (4) The percentage of rental inventory that is vacant for rent; (5) The percentage of homeowner inventory that is vacant for sale; n/a not available

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Housing Vacancies and Homeownership Annual Statistics: 2017, 2018, 2019

INCOME**Income**

Area	Per Capita (\$)	Median Household (\$)	Average Household (\$)
City	22,498	36,637	56,917
MSA ¹	26,301	45,246	67,981
U.S.	32,621	60,293	84,938

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Household Income Distribution

Area	Percent of Households Earning							
	Under \$15,000	\$15,000-\$24,999	\$25,000-\$34,999	\$35,000-\$49,999	\$50,000-\$74,999	\$75,000-\$99,999	\$100,000-\$149,999	\$150,000 and up
City	22.2	14.8	11.5	13.2	13.7	8.3	9.9	6.4
MSA ¹	17.1	12.4	10.8	13.4	15.1	10.0	12.4	8.8
U.S.	10.9	9.3	9.3	12.6	17.5	12.5	14.6	13.3

Note: (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Poverty Rate

Area	All Ages	Under 18 Years Old	18 to 64 Years Old	65 Years and Over
City	31.6	34.8	34.0	10.7
MSA ¹	23.2	26.1	25.1	8.7
U.S.	14.1	19.5	13.2	9.3

Note: Figures are percentage of people whose income during the past 12 months was below the poverty level; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

EMPLOYMENT

Labor Force and Employment

Area	Civilian Labor Force			Workers Employed		
	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019	% Chg.	Dec. 2018	Dec. 2019	% Chg.
City	60,174	59,225	-1.6	57,919	57,596	-0.6
MSA ¹	100,586	99,032	-1.5	97,069	96,483	-0.6
U.S.	162,510,000	164,007,000	0.9	156,481,000	158,504,000	1.3

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted and covers workers 16 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Unemployment Rate

Area	2019											
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
City	4.3	4.0	3.8	3.2	3.4	4.2	4.1	3.9	3.2	3.2	2.7	2.8
MSA ¹	4.0	3.7	3.5	2.9	3.1	3.8	3.7	3.5	2.9	2.9	2.5	2.6
U.S.	4.4	4.1	3.9	3.3	3.4	3.8	4.0	3.8	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.4

Note: Data is not seasonally adjusted and covers workers 16 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Average Wages

Occupation	\$/Hr.	Occupation	\$/Hr.
Accountants and Auditors	32.90	Maintenance and Repair Workers	15.80
Automotive Mechanics	20.70	Marketing Managers	62.80
Bookkeepers	17.90	Network and Computer Systems Admin.	30.50
Carpenters	20.90	Nurses, Licensed Practical	21.50
Cashiers	10.30	Nurses, Registered	33.00
Computer Programmers	39.10	Nursing Assistants	12.80
Computer Systems Analysts	39.40	Office Clerks, General	15.20
Computer User Support Specialists	22.00	Physical Therapists	38.30
Construction Laborers	16.30	Physicians	102.30
Cooks, Restaurant	12.50	Plumbers, Pipefitters and Steamfitters	n/a
Customer Service Representatives	16.00	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers	20.50
Dentists	n/a	Postal Service Mail Carriers	24.00
Electricians	24.40	Real Estate Sales Agents	25.80
Engineers, Electrical	n/a	Retail Salespersons	11.40
Fast Food and Counter Workers	9.40	Sales Representatives, Technical/Scientific	21.80
Financial Managers	55.40	Secretaries, Exc. Legal/Medical/Executive	16.50
First-Line Supervisors of Office Workers	26.10	Security Guards	15.10
General and Operations Managers	44.80	Surgeons	130.40
Hairdressers/Cosmetologists	11.70	Teacher Assistants, Exc. Postsecondary*	9.50
Home Health and Personal Care Aides	11.60	Teachers, Secondary School, Exc. Sp. Ed.*	27.10
Janitors and Cleaners	12.20	Telemarketers	n/a
Landscaping/Groundskeeping Workers	15.30	Truck Drivers, Heavy/Tractor-Trailer	23.90
Lawyers	38.60	Truck Drivers, Light/Delivery Services	19.30
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	10.10	Waiters and Waitresses	10.80

Note: Wage data covers the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; (*) Hourly wages were calculated from annual wage data based on a 40 hour work week; n/a not available.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Metro Area Occupational Employment & Wage Estimates, May 2019

Employment by Occupation

Occupation Classification	City (%)	MSA ¹ (%)	U.S. (%)
Management, Business, Science, and Arts	40.6	41.8	37.9
Natural Resources, Construction, and Maintenance	5.5	6.9	8.9
Production, Transportation, and Material Moving	13.8	14.3	13.3
Sales and Office	18.7	18.7	22.1
Service	21.4	18.3	17.9

Note: Figures cover employed civilians 16 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Employment by Industry

Sector	MSA ¹		U.S.
	Number of Employees	Percent of Total	Percent of Total
Construction, Mining, and Logging	n/a	n/a	5.4
Education and Health Services	n/a	n/a	16.1
Financial Activities	n/a	n/a	5.8
Government	27,400	28.0	15.0
Information	n/a	n/a	1.9
Leisure and Hospitality	11,200	11.5	10.8
Manufacturing	n/a	n/a	8.4
Other Services	n/a	n/a	3.9
Professional and Business Services	8,500	8.7	14.1
Retail Trade	11,000	11.2	10.6
Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities	n/a	n/a	4.2
Wholesale Trade	n/a	n/a	3.9

Note: Figures are non-farm employment as of December 2019. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and include workers 16 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included; n/a not available

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Employment Statistics, Employment, Hours, and Earnings

Occupations with Greatest Projected Employment Growth: 2019 – 2021

Occupation ¹	2019 Employment	2021 Projected Employment	Numeric Employment Change	Percent Employment Change
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food	136,080	144,300	8,220	6.0
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	120,220	124,600	4,380	3.6
Retail Salespersons	142,430	145,980	3,550	2.5
Registered Nurses	81,850	85,330	3,480	4.3
Waiters and Waitresses	82,110	85,490	3,380	4.1
Personal Care Aides	36,320	39,290	2,970	8.2
General and Operations Managers	87,040	89,810	2,770	3.2
Cooks, Restaurant	37,750	40,430	2,680	7.1
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	66,320	68,830	2,510	3.8
Software Developers, Applications	30,720	33,200	2,480	8.1

Note: Projections cover Georgia; (1) Sorted by numeric employment change

Source: www.projectionscentral.com, State Occupational Projections, 2019–2021 Short-Term Projections

Fastest Growing Occupations: 2019 – 2021

Occupation ¹	2019 Employment	2021 Projected Employment	Numeric Employment Change	Percent Employment Change
Occupational Therapy Assistants	1,080	1,210	130	12.0
Physical Therapist Assistants	2,510	2,740	230	9.2
Physician Assistants	3,850	4,200	350	9.1
Nurse Practitioners	6,840	7,460	620	9.1
Home Health Aides	13,830	15,060	1,230	8.9
Information Security Analysts	2,860	3,110	250	8.7
Speech-Language Pathologists	3,570	3,870	300	8.4
Physical Therapist Aides	980	1,060	80	8.2
Amusement and Recreation Attendants	8,400	9,090	690	8.2
Personal Care Aides	36,320	39,290	2,970	8.2

Note: Projections cover Georgia; (1) Sorted by percent employment change and excludes occupations with numeric employment change less than 50

Source: www.projectionscentral.com, State Occupational Projections, 2019–2021 Short-Term Projections

TAXES

State Corporate Income Tax Rates

State	Tax Rate (%)	Income Brackets (\$)	Num. of Brackets	Financial Institution Tax Rate (%) ^a	Federal Income Tax Ded.
Georgia	5.75	Flat rate	1	5.75	No

Note: Tax rates as of January 1, 2020; (a) Rates listed are the corporate income tax rate applied to financial institutions or excise taxes based on income.

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, State Corporate Income Tax Rates, January 1, 2020

State Individual Income Tax Rates

State	Tax Rate (%)	Income Brackets (\$)	Personal Exemptions (\$)			Standard Ded. (\$)	
			Single	Married	Depend.	Single	Married
Georgia	1.0 - 5.75	750 - 7,001 (i)	2,700	7,400	3,000	4,600	6,000

Note: Tax rates as of January 1, 2020; Local- and county-level taxes are not included; Federal income tax is not deductible on state income tax returns; (i) The Georgia income brackets reported are for single individuals. For married couples filing jointly, the same tax rates apply to income brackets ranging from \$1,000, to \$10,000.

Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, State Individual Income Tax Rates, January 1, 2020

Various State Sales and Excise Tax Rates

State	State Sales Tax (%)	Gasoline ¹ (¢/gal.)	Cigarette ² (\$/pack)	Spirits ³ (\$/gal.)	Wine ⁴ (\$/gal.)	Beer ⁵ (\$/gal.)	Recreational Marijuana (%)
Georgia	4	34.47	0.37	3.79	1.51	0.48	Not legal

Note: All tax rates as of January 1, 2020; (1) The American Petroleum Institute has developed a methodology for determining the average tax rate on a gallon of fuel. Rates may include any of the following: excise taxes, environmental fees, storage tank fees, other fees or taxes, general sales tax, and local taxes; (2) The federal excise tax of \$1.0066 per pack and local taxes are not included; (3) Rates are those applicable to off-premise sales of 40% alcohol by volume (a.b.v.) distilled spirits in 750ml containers. Local excise taxes are excluded; (4) Rates are those applicable to off-premise sales of 11% a.b.v. non-carbonated wine in 750ml containers; (5) Rates are those applicable to off-premise sales of 4.7% a.b.v. beer in 12 ounce containers.

Source: Tax Foundation, 2020 Facts & Figures: How Does Your State Compare?

State Business Tax Climate Index Rankings

State	Overall Rank	Corporate Tax Rank	Individual Income Tax Rank	Sales Tax Rank	Property Tax Rank	Unemployment Insurance Tax Rank
Georgia	32	6	36	29	28	39

Note: The index is a measure of how each state's tax laws affect economic performance. The lower the rank, the more favorable a state's tax system is for business. States without a given tax are given a ranking of 1. The scores/rankings for the District of Columbia do not affect other states. The 2020 index represents the tax climate as of July 1, 2019.

Source: Tax Foundation, State Business Tax Climate Index 2020

COMMERCIAL UTILITIES

Typical Monthly Electric Bills

Area	Commercial Service (\$/month)		Industrial Service (\$/month)	
	1,500 kWh	40 kW demand 14,000 kWh	1,000 kW demand 200,000 kWh	50,000 kW demand 32,500,000 kWh
City	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Average ¹	203	1,612	25,706	2,520,671

Note: Figures are based on annualized rates; (1) Average based on 187 utilities surveyed; n/a not available

Source: Edison Electric Institute, Typical Bills and Average Rates Report, Summer 2019

TRANSPORTATION

Means of Transportation to Work

Area	Car/Truck/Van		Public Transportation			Bicycle	Walked	Other Means	Worked at Home
	Drove Alone	Car-pooled	Bus	Subway	Railroad				
City	73.0	10.2	4.9	0.1	0.0	1.6	3.9	1.2	5.2
MSA ¹	76.9	10.2	3.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	2.6	1.0	5.2
U.S.	76.4	9.1	2.5	1.9	0.6	0.6	2.7	1.3	4.9

Note: Figures are percentages and cover workers 16 years of age and older; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Travel Time to Work

Area	Less Than 10 Minutes	10 to 19 Minutes	20 to 29 Minutes	30 to 44 Minutes	45 to 59 Minutes	60 to 89 Minutes	90 Minutes or More
City	16.6	49.5	16.4	8.6	3.7	3.1	2.0
MSA ¹	13.6	42.1	20.9	12.8	5.0	3.5	2.2
U.S.	12.5	28.7	20.9	20.7	8.2	6.3	2.8

Note: Note: Figures are percentages and include workers 16 years old and over; (1) Figures cover the Athens-Clarke County, GA Metropolitan Statistical Area—see Appendix B for areas included
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Key Congestion Measures

Area	1982	1992	2002	2012	2017
Annual Hours of Delay, Total (000)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	3,800
Annual Hours of Delay, Per Auto Commuter	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	27
Annual Congestion Cost, Total (million \$)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	77
Annual Congestion Cost, Per Auto Commuter (\$)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	548

Note: n/a not available

Source: Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 2019 Urban Mobility Report

Freeway Travel Time Index

Area	1982	1987	1992	1997	2002	2007	2012	2017
Urban Area Index ¹	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.11
Urban Area Rank ^{1,2}	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Note: Freeway Travel Time Index—the ratio of travel time in the peak period to the travel time at free-flow conditions. For example, a value of 1.30 indicates a 20-minute free-flow trip takes 26 minutes in the peak (20 minutes x 1.30 = 26 minutes); (1) Covers the Athens-Clarke County GA urban area; (2) Rank is based on 101 larger urban areas (#1 = highest travel time index); n/a not available

Source: Texas A&M Transportation Institute, 2019 Urban Mobility Report

Public Transportation

Agency Name / Mode of Transportation	Vehicles Operated in Maximum Service ¹	Annual Unlinked Passenger Trips ² (in thous.)	Annual Passenger Miles ³ (in thous.)
Athens Transit System			
Bus (directly operated)	22	1,542.5	5,594.6
Demand Response (directly operated)	3	7.5	35.8

Note: (1) Number of revenue vehicles operated by the given mode and type of service to meet the annual maximum service requirement. This is the revenue vehicle count during the peak season of the year; on the week and day that maximum service is provided. Vehicles operated in maximum service (VOMS) exclude atypical days and one-time special events; (2) Number of passengers who boarded public transportation vehicles. Passengers are counted each time they board a vehicle no matter how many vehicles they use to travel from their origin to their destination. (3) Sum of the distances ridden by all passengers during the entire fiscal year.

Source: Federal Transit Administration, National Transit Database, 2018