



A Look at *Georgia* Agriculture

Capital: Atlanta

Population: 11.03 million

Founded: January 2, 1788 (4th)

State Bird: Brown Thrasher

State Tree: Live Oak

State Flower: Cherokee Rose

Number of Counties: 159

Largest City: Atlanta - 510,800

Nickname: Peach State

Number of Farms: 39,000

Average Farm Size: 253 acres

Total Farmland: 9.95 billion acres



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Climate & Soil

- **Climate:** Georgia has a humid subtropical climate with mild winters and hot, moist summers. This makes it ideal for growing crops like peanuts, peaches, and cotton, and raising livestock.
- **Temperature:** Monthly averages range from 92°F in summer to 32°F in winter.
- **Rainfall:** Central Georgia sees about 40 inches of rain annually, while northeast Georgia can get over 75 inches.
- **Soil Regions:** Georgia has 8 major soil types, including mountains, sandy hills, coastal plains, and fertile flatlands. This variety allows farmers to grow many different crops and support diverse agriculture.
- **Fun Fact:** Georgia is the leading producer of kaolin clay in the U.S. and is also a significant producer of granite, marble, barite, and bauxite, contributing to its robust mining industry.

Crops & Livestock

- **Peanuts:** In 2023, Georgia maintained its position as the leading peanut producer in the United States, harvesting approximately 3.13 billion pounds of peanuts.
- **Cotton:** Georgia ranked second nationally in cotton production in 2023, producing about 2.18 million bales of cotton lint.
- **Peaches:** Despite being known as the "Peach State," Georgia ranked eighth in U.S. peach production in 2023, with a yield of approximately 4,930 tons.
- **Vidalia Onions:** The Vidalia onion, designated as Georgia's official state vegetable in 1990, is cultivated exclusively in a 20-county area defined by legislation passed in 1986.
- **Fruits and Vegetables:** Georgia's top fruits and vegetables include blueberries, watermelons, bell peppers, sweet corn, and cucumbers.
- **Poultry and Eggs:** In 2023, Georgia led the nation in broiler production, with approximately 1.34 billion broilers produced. The state also produced around 5.19 billion eggs, ranking sixth nationally.
- **Beef Cattle:** Beef cattle are raised in all counties across Georgia, contributing significantly to the state's agricultural economy.

General

- Approximately one in seven Georgians is employed in agriculture, forestry, or related sectors.
- Agriculture contributes more than \$83 billion annually to Georgia's economy.
- More than 67% of Georgia is covered in forestland.
- Georgia's top ten commodities, in order of their economic impact, are: Broilers, Eggs, Cotton, Beef, Timber, Peanuts, Greenhouse products, Dairy, Blueberries, Corn.
- Georgia ranks first in the U.S. in the production of: Peanuts, Pecans, Eggs, Broilers. Georgia is also the top forestry state in the country.
- Coca-Cola was invented in May 1886 by Dr. John S. Pemberton in Atlanta, Georgia.
- Plains, Georgia, is the hometown of Jimmy Carter, a former peanut farmer, the 39th President of the United States, and a Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2002.
- Georgia was the first state to charter a state university, The University of Georgia, founded in 1785.