

Georgia

Atlanta attracts tech expansions

Tech talent finds a welcome home in the Peach State.

Commercial real estate company CBRE ranks Atlanta ninth on its list of best markets for tech talent, citing the city's 46.7 percent growth in tech jobs since 2010.

PSA, parent company of French automotive brands Peugeot and Citroën, plans to open its North American operations base in Atlanta.

PSA North America President Larry Dominique said the company chose Atlanta for the expansion because the city bridges the gap between technology development and a humming car culture. The expansion will further add to Georgia's sizeable tech workforce — already more than 385,000 jobs — beginning with tech hires to push the company's Free2Move app in the U.S.

PSA is hardly alone in looking to Atlanta. Las Vegas-based data center company Switch is opening its own million-square foot center in Atlanta — a multi-billion-dollar investment in the area — and Google invested \$300 million to expand its own data center in 2015.

But while Georgia as a whole earned respectable scores for welcoming new technologies, it still has room for improvement in the Short-Term Rentals category. While short-term rentals are operational across the state, municipal regulations in Savannah present significant hurdles to rental services like Airbnb and VRBO.

Sources: (Hypeotamus) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution) (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

In 2017, Georgia passed a law to test driver-assistive truck platooning, but testing faces some restrictions.

WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

Georgia can create more new jobs and make short-term rentals legal statewide.

WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

Georgia took in more than \$160 per capita in venture capital funding in 2017, a 151 percent increase over 2016 that brings the state's total haul above \$1 billion.

Best & Brightest	B
Fast Internet	B-
Grants Advanced Degrees	B
Tech Workforce	B
Tax Friendly	C+
Attracts Investment	B
Entrepreneurial Activity	D+
Ridesharing	A
Short-Term Rentals	C
Sustainable Policies	B
Self-Driving Vehicles	B
Drones	B



Attracts Investment

Georgia attracted more than \$163 per capita in venture capital in 2017, and \$447 in R&D investment.



Grants Advanced Degrees

11 percent of Georgia residents over the age of 24 have an advanced degree, a greater share than many other states.



Tech Workforce

Georgia has roughly 37 tech jobs per 1,000 people, more than several of its neighbors.



Fast Internet

More than 60 percent of Georgia households have internet connections of at least 10 mbps, and 46 percent enjoy speeds of 25 mbps or more.

Atlanta, a Rising Tech Hub, Lures Big Expansions

Recent hiring by Atlanta companies is helping cement the city's role as a regional tech hub.

IT management consulting firm CapTech plans to add 100 jobs to its new office located in the city's tallest building. "CapTech is excited to contribute to Atlanta's boom in tech job creation," said Boyd Christain, CapTech's Atlanta office lead.

Privacy software company OneTrust will create 500 jobs in Atlanta in an expansion that brings along a \$5 million investment. "Having previously built two successful technology companies in this city, I believe Atlanta has the top technology talent pool for building a leading, successful software company to serve our global customer base" said OneTrust Co-chairman Alan Dabbieri.

The expansions are part of a larger statewide trend. Georgia has added more than 6,000 tech jobs since 2016 and attracted more than \$600 million as the result of tech companies expanding or relocating to the southern state.

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