Transportation and the Economy

Three major components of Georgia’s transportation system are vital to the state’s economy – the interstate highway system, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and the deep-water ports of Savannah and Brunswick.

Georgia’s Interstate Highway System

Georgia has over 1,200 miles of interstate highways which connect Georgia to neighboring states and the rest of the nation, connect Georgia’s major cities and help move workers from their homes to places of employment in the major cities. According to the University of Georgia Terry School of Business, Georgia economic products can now reach approximately 80% of Americans overnight using the interstate highway system.

Georgia’s Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Atlanta’s airport has consistently been ranked as the busiest airport in the entire world. According to airport statistics released by Hartsfield-Jackson, Atlanta is within a two-hour flight for 80 percent of the U.S. population. The airport is a major connection for flights, serving 150 U.S. destinations and more than 75 destinations in 50 countries. It handles some 2,500 flights and 275,000 passengers a day and more than 104 million passengers each year. There are 3 air cargo complexes at the airport totaling over 2 million square feet in area with all cargo areas having docks and convenient access to the interstate highways The airport also hosts the only Perishables Complex in the southeast, allowing for rapid movement of agricultural products.

Combining all aspects of the airport’s operations, it is estimated that it generates $23.5 Billion in economic activity for the State of Georgia on an annual basis.
Economic & Information Metrics
State of Georgia

Transportation and the Economy
State of Georgia Ports Authority

Port of Savannah
- The Savannah port handled a record 4.2 Million 20 foot container units in FY2018 for an impressive 8.40% increase over the prior year (325,000 additional container units)
- 4th Busiest Port in the Nation with 26 weekly vessel calls
- The port supports 440,000 full and part-time jobs across the State of Georgia
- For the past 10 years, the Port of Savannah has been the fastest growing port in the U.S. with a consistent annual growth rate of 4.50%.
- Intermodal rail lifts at the port are rapidly expanding where by 2020, rail lift capacity will be 1,000,000 containers per year, cutting container transit time to markets such as Chicago, St. Louis and Memphis, by 24 hours.
- Federal approval of the Savannah harbor dredging project will enhance the state's shipping freight sector and deepen the port from 42 feet to 47 feet.

Port of Brunswick
- At 1,700 acres, the colonial auto-port terminal at the Port of Brunswick is the nation's largest. The auto-port terminal handled 2.5 Million Tons of cargo in 2018 making it the nation's second busiest port for automobile trade.
- The port supports 11,000 jobs (a 20% increase since 2014)
- The Mayors Point terminal at the Port of Brunswick is a major forest products terminal handling over 139,000 tons of product in 2018

Data as of June 30, 2019