



■ **Metro Atlanta**

■ **Metro Dallas-Fort Worth**

■ **Metro Houston**

■ **Tampa Bay**

We continue with our series, "The Best of Economic Development in the American South." Since the spring 2015 issue, we have featured the best of economic development in all 15 Southern states, and now we move to mega-markets (populations over 2.5 million). We polled members of the Southern Economic Development Roundtable to come up with the best of 20 economic development categories in metro Atlanta, Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and Tampa Bay. You can use the results as a unique aid in your search for a suitable site for your business in the American South.



# Best of Economic Development in ATLANTA

## 1. Metro Atlanta's Most Important Employers

- Coca-Cola
- Delta Airlines
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport
- UPS

Also receiving votes: AT&T; Georgia Power; Georgia Tech; Emory University-Emory Healthcare; Home Depot; Southern Company; SunTrust.

## 2. Metro Atlanta's Most Important New Employers

- Baxter International
- Mercedes-Benz
- NCR
- Porsche

Also receiving votes: Caterpillar; GE.

## 3. Metro Atlanta's Most Admired Companies

- Coca-Cola
- Southern Company

## • UPS

Also receiving votes: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Delta Airlines; Emory University-Emory Healthcare; The Home Depot.

## 4. Best Places to Live in Metro Atlanta

- Alpharetta
- Roswell
- Sandy Springs
- Smyrna

Also receiving votes: Decatur; Duluth; Dunwoody; Johns Creek; Mableton; Marietta; Midtown; Northeast Cobb Township; Peachtree Corners; Suwanee; Tucker; Tyrone; Vinings.

## 5. Best Public School Systems in Metro Atlanta

- Buford City Schools
- Decatur City Schools
- Fulton County Schools
- Gwinnett County Schools

Meriwether County was voted one of the best places for manufacturing in South Metro Atlanta. Pictured at right is the Meriwether County Courthouse.



Atlanta-based Delta Airlines and the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport were named as two of Metro Atlanta's most important employers.



Also receiving votes: Bremen City Schools; Carrollton City Schools; Cherokee County Schools; Forsyth County Schools.

#### 6. Best Places for Headquarter Operations in Metro Atlanta

- Alpharetta
- Cobb County
- Duluth
- Midtown Atlanta

Also receiving votes: Downtown; Dunwoody; Norcross; Peachtree Corners; Roswell; Sandy Springs.

#### 7. Best Places for Innovation in Metro Atlanta

- Atlanta Tech Village
- Georgia Tech Advanced Technology Center
- Georgia Tech Enterprise Innovation Institute
- Midtown Innovation District

Also receiving votes: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Emory University.

#### 8. Best Places for Startups in Metro Atlanta

- Advanced Technology Development Center
- Atlanta Tech Village
- Georgia Tech
- Midtown Innovation District

Also receiving votes: Hypepotamus; Strongbox West.

#### 9. Best Places for Distribution Centers in Metro Atlanta

- Clayton County
- Coweta County
- Gwinnett County
- Henry County

Also receiving votes: DeKalb County; Jackson County; Rockdale County.

#### 10. Best Places for Call Centers in Metro Atlanta

- Cobb County
- Duluth
- Fulton County
- Norcross

Also receiving votes: Alpharetta; Roswell; Tucker.

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THE LAKES AT GREEN VALLEY INDUSTRIAL PARK

## Southern Business Development Magazine has named Spalding County and The Lakes at Green Valley as one of the Best Places for Manufacturing in South Metro Atlanta

### The Lakes at Green Valley Industrial Park as one of the Best Industrial Sites in Metro Atlanta



Spalding County and The Lakes at Green Valley Industrial Park are proud to be recognized by Southern Business and Development Magazine. The Lakes at Green Valley Industrial Park is the first Eco mixed-use park in Georgia.

A combination of both an educated workforce and dedicated local leadership have made the difference in attracting new economic growth to Griffin-Spalding County. The Griffin-Spalding County Development Authority works jointly with the City of Griffin and Spalding County to attract capital investment and jobs to the area.

[www.gsda.net](http://www.gsda.net)

109 East Solomon Street • P.O. Box 1009 • Griffin, GA  
(770) 412-9200 • Fax: (770) 412-9222



## BEST OF ATLANTA

- Griffin-Spalding County was voted one of the best places for manufacturing in South Metro Atlanta. Shown at left is historic downtown Griffin.

Mercedes-Benz is building its new North American headquarters in the Atlanta suburb of Sandy Springs. Pictured is a rendering of the facility.

### 11. Best Places for the Life Sciences in Metro Atlanta

- Alpharetta
- Covington-Newton County
- Fulton County
- Marietta
- Norcross

Also receiving votes: Kennesaw; Lawrenceville; Roswell; Smyrna.

### 12. Best Places for Manufacturing in North Metro Atlanta

- Bartow County
- Cherokee County
- Cobb County

### 13. Best Places for Manufacturing in East Metro Atlanta

- DeKalb County
- Gwinnett County
- Newton County

Also receiving votes: Rockdale County

### 14. Best Places for Manufacturing in South Metro Atlanta

- Fayette County
- Henry County
- Meriwether County
- Spalding County

Also receiving votes: Clayton County.

### 15. Best Places for Manufacturing in West Metro Atlanta

- Carroll County
- Coweta County
- Haralson County

Also receiving votes: Paulding.

### 16. Best Locations in Metro Atlanta for Automotive Suppliers

- Bartow County

- Carroll County
- Meriwether County

Also receiving votes: Cherokee County; Coweta County; Fayette County; Gwinnett County; Haralson County.

### 17. Best Locations in Metro Atlanta for the Aerospace Sector

- Cobb County
- Coweta County
- Fayette County

Also receiving votes: Bartow County; DeKalb County; Fulton County.

### 18. Best Industrial Sites in Metro Atlanta

- Highland 75-Bartow County
- Historic Heartland Megasite-Newton County
- Stanton Springs-Newton County
- The Lakes at Green Valley-Spalding County

### 19. Best Community Colleges in Metro Atlanta for Workforce Training

- Chattahoochee Technical College-Marietta
- Georgia Perimeter College-Decatur
- Gwinnett Technical College-Lawrenceville

Also receiving votes: Southern Crescent Technical College-Griffin.

### 20. Fastest Growing Counties in Metro Atlanta (2010-2014)

- Forsyth County 16.4 percent
- Gwinnett County 9.0 percent
- Fulton County 8.2 percent
- Cherokee County 7.8 percent

## You can have it all.



- Excellent training through West Ga. Technical College
- 35 miles from Atlanta airport
- Immediate access to I-85
- Labor draw of over 200,000
- Prime industrial sites ■ Population 22,000
- Charming lifestyle ■ Good schools

**Meriwether County**  
Development Authority

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