



INNOVATION IN METRO ATLANTA

Innovation is a key catalyst driving regional prosperity. It is the result of a complex interaction of inventors, entrepreneurs, companies, investors, universities, service providers, and government leaders.

STRENGTHS

OPPORTUNITIES



TALENT

- Metro Atlanta has a large pool of regional high-tech talent, employing over 163,000 individuals in high-tech occupations in 2015.
- Nearly 190,000 people were employed in innovation industries in Metro Atlanta in 2015.
- The concentration of workers in high-tech occupations is lower than other leading innovation regions, but Metro Atlanta is closing the gap. Its concentration of high-tech workers as a share of all workers increased by 30% between 2006 and 2015.
- In 2015, nearly 10% of the region's employment was in innovation industries. The proportion of Metro Atlanta's employment in innovation industries is lower than other leading innovation regions.



HIGHER EDUCATION

- In 2014, Metro Atlanta institutions awarded 9,960 STEM degrees representing a 40% increase compared to a decade earlier.
- Total academic R&D expenditures reached \$1.85 billion in 2014, outpacing leading innovation regions like San Diego, Denver & Boulder, and Austin. Research productivity is high and increasing.
- Between 2013 and 2014, Metro Atlanta added 50,000 adults with a bachelor's degree or higher. However, the region's share of highly educated adults relative to its total population lags other leading innovation regions.



PRIVATE INVESTMENT

- Metro Atlanta reached a six-year high with 136 M&A deals in 2015. In each of the past 5 years, Metro Atlanta has outperformed San Diego, Austin, Denver & Boulder, and Research Triangle in M&A activity.
- In 2015, Metro Atlanta's companies attracted \$3.5 billion in total private investment funding.
- Early stage funding in Metro Atlanta has typically lagged other leading innovation regions. However, angel, seed, and series A investment totaled \$211 million between 2013 and 2015, a 3-fold increase over the previous seven year average of \$70 million.

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		In rank relative to Comparison Regions? ● = lowest ● = middle ● = highest	To its prior performance?	To Comparison Regions over time*?
INNOVATION RESOURCES	Higher Education Attainment		↑	⬆
	STEM Degrees Awarded		↑	⬆
	Concentration of High-Tech Occupations*		↑	⬆
INNOVATION PROCESSES	Academic Research and Development (R&D) Expenditures		↔	⬆
	Patent Production		↓	⬇
	Academic Licenses		↓	⬇
	Academic Research Productivity (Licensing)		↑	⬆
	Startups Spinning Out of Universities		↓	⬇
	Academic Research Productivity (Startups)		↔	⬇
	Small Business Innovation Research and Tech Transfer Grants (SBIR/STTR)		↔	↔
	Angel and Seed Funding		↑	⬆
	Venture Capital Investment		↑	⬆
	Total Private Investment		↓	⬇
	Merger and Acquisition Activity		↑	↔
	IPO Activity		↑	↔
INNOVATION RESULTS	Rate of New Entrepreneurs		↓	↔
	Innovation Industry Employment as Share of Total Employment		↑	⬇
	Innovation Industry Wage Growth*		↔	⬇

Prior Performance

- ↑ Improvement
- ↔ About the same
- ↓ Slippage

Over Time

- ⬆ Gaining Ground
- ↔ Little Change
- ⬇ Losing Ground

The Metro Atlanta Innovation Indicators Project is the second comprehensive evaluation of innovation data for the 29-county region. It illustrates how metro Atlanta is performing on different measures of innovation relative to its own history and comparison regions: Austin, Boston, Denver/Boulder, Research Triangle, and San Diego.

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