



## *Augusta Economic Development Authority*

### **Augusta's Corporate Community**

Augusta-Richmond County has a strong mix of a vibrant business climate, a savvy labor force, and superb quality of life. Although thousands of visitors flock to the Masters in the month of April, Augusta is also focused on providing important operating advantages to new and expanding businesses. Attracted by the area's low cost of living that is 82% of the national average for 2007, and a ready labor force, the county maintains a healthy growth in business activity.

A great diversity of companies are located in Augusta-Richmond County, including E-Z-GO Textron, International Paper, Tyco Healthcare/Kendall, Kellogg's, Thermal Ceramics, T-Mobile, Automatic Data Processing (ADP), Landmark Aviation, PCS Nitrogen, Solvay Advanced Polymers, General Chemical, Monsanto, CRL Logistics, Procter and Gamble, WeylChem Organics, NutraSweet, DSM, Potash, Electrolux, Castleberry's. SOLO Cup, Olin, Con-Agra, US Battery and FedEx Ground's new regional facility.

*Southern Business & Development* has named Augusta in two of their annual "Top Ten" categories. Augusta was named as one of the "Top Ten Places in the South With Plenty of Talented Labor" and the Augusta Corporate Park was named as one of the "Top Ten SuperSites in the South". Augusta was rated #1 by BizJournals.net in 2007 as "The Most Affordable Place in the United States to Own a Home".

*Expansion Magazine* has ranked the Augusta MSA 36<sup>th</sup> out of 362 hottest cities for manufacturing expansions and relocations. The considering factors were the business environment, work force quality, operating costs, incentive programs, worker training programs, and ease of working with local officials. Augusta MSA is also considered to be "Logistic Friendly", ranking in the top 15 logistic cities in the Southeast as the best place to set up a logistically driven operation according to *Expansion Magazine*.