



Development Authority of Richmond County

Augusta's Technology Edge

Augusta-Richmond County represents a distinctive combination of a high quality of life and a strong business climate. The county recently ranked among the "Best Place to Be" by *Forbes* Magazine. High-skilled and semi-skilled worker availability, and strong incentives, offer new companies an advantage in locating in Augusta-Richmond County. The county has thousands of companies that provide the area with a strong economy, which is strengthened by three major employers: Savannah River Site (SRS), local hospitals and the U.S. Army's and Fort Gordon.

At the center of the technology-based employers is the **Savannah River Site (SRS)**, a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility, which comprises a majority of the MSA's economy with over 13,800 employees. The Site's mission is to reduce nuclear danger by transferring applied environmental technology to government and non-government entities cleaning up the site, managing the waste, and forming economic and industrial alliances. SRS has an annual budget of \$1.3 billion, including a payroll of nearly \$1 billion.

Health care is another technology-based employer in the region, employing more than 25,000 medical professionals. **The Medical College of Georgia (MCG)** in Augusta is ranked as one of the top 20 medical schools in the nation and is Georgia's Health Sciences University. MCG has schools of Dentistry, Allied Health Sciences, Nursing and Graduate studies, as well as medicine. MCG serves patients from all over the southeast, with over 80 clinics centrally located within one building. *More than a dozen* other major medical facilities are located in the region.

The **U.S. Army Signal Center and Fort Gordon**, the largest and most technologically advanced communications electronics and information technology training center in the world, rounds out Augusta's technology-based economy. In addition, Fort Gordon is home to the Southeast Regional Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Commands serving the 7 southeastern states and Puerto Rico. Eisenhower Army Medical Center is also a teaching hospital and provides the Army's medical and dental residency programs. Communications and Military Intelligence tenant units at Fort Gordon have soldiers deployed throughout the world. In addition to multi-service communications and computer training, Fort Gordon also houses one of only 3 large-scale joint strategic intelligence centers. With the increased emphasis on homeland security, Fort Gordon has become one of the premier disaster medicine and disaster response training centers through expanded partnerships with the Medical College of Georgia and numerous other federal, state and local agencies. Fort Gordon is the area's largest employer with over 17,000 employees, 100 square miles of property, and a \$1.2 billion income impact.

The area has a steady employment growth, affordable housing prices, included in a below the national average cost of living and healthy effective buying income.