



Atlanta Regional Commission  
regional impact + local relevance

# ARC 2021 ANNUAL REPORT – **ATLANTA REGION**

[atlantaregional.org](http://atlantaregional.org)

September 2021



ARC works closely with local governments and community partners in metro Atlanta to improve quality of life and secure future success. This report measures progress in the region in the three long-range goals of the Atlanta Region's Plan: providing **World-Class Infrastructure**, fostering **Healthy, Livable Communities**, and developing a **Competitive Economy**.



## WORLD-CLASS INFRASTRUCTURE

ARC works with its regional partners to develop and maintain world-class infrastructure, including a transportation network that improves mobility, and a sustainable supply of clean water.

### Improving mobility across the region

**\$2.7 billion** in federal and state transportation funds in 2021 throughout the Atlanta region to improve the region's transportation network.

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- Major road and highway projects include interchange improvements at I-285 and I-20 West; construction of a full diamond interchange on SR 400 at McGinnis Ferry Road in Forsyth County; and access ramps onto I-75 North Managed Lanes in Cobb County.
- Expanded transit options: arterial rapid transit on Metropolitan Parkway in the City of Atlanta; construction of two MARTA bus hubs serving South DeKalb County and the City of Stonecrest; and reduced wait times for local service on Gwinnett County Transit.
- Bike-ped projects include construction of the Global Gateway Connector, a bike-ped trail between College Park MARTA station and the Skytrain Station in South Fulton County; an extension of the Noonday Creek Trail in Cherokee County; and an extension of the Rockdale River Trail to Conyers in Rockdale County.

**21.2 million** fewer miles traveled by the **6,960 metro Atlanta residents** who participated in the **Georgia Commute Options** program, saving them **\$12.2 million** in fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

### Securing a sustainable future

**2,176** toilet rebates were received by Atlanta region residents, facilitating the replacement of older, inefficient toilets.



The **Metro Water District** partnered with **Georgia Public Broadcasting** to create a Live Exploration of Georgia's water systems called **Georgia's Water Live**. Over **79,000 students, teachers and parents** across the region tuned in during the live broadcast, where over **400 questions** were answered.

## ARC's COVID-19 RESPONSE

### Helping organizations transition to hybrid work environments

Georgia Commute Options (GCO), a program managed by ARC, served a vital role in helping organizations move to telework environments during peak pandemic times. As shelter-in-place orders began to lift in Georgia, GCO began helping companies establish hybrid work environments (continued telework, flexible schedules, and shared spaces), recognizing the strong desire of most employees surveyed to continue teleworking at a higher level than pre-pandemic.



# HEALTHY, LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

ARC works to foster vibrant, pedestrian-friendly communities and supports healthy living and aging by offering a range of services for older people and individuals with disabilities.



## Improving quality of life for residents of all ages & abilities

**\$23 million** in state and federal funds allocated by ARC to **the Atlanta region** for direct services provided to older persons and people with disabilities, including **congregate and home-delivered meals, transportation, home modifications and repairs, and COVID relief.**

## Making Atlanta an even better place to live, work, and play

**\$1.2 million** in **Livable Centers Initiative** study grants to help 11 Atlanta region communities develop plans and policies to create more vibrant, walkable, and connected places.

**\$320,000** in **Community Development Assistance Program grants** to three Atlanta region communities. Ten **Atlanta region communities** will also receive critical planning and technical support through ARC or its community partners.

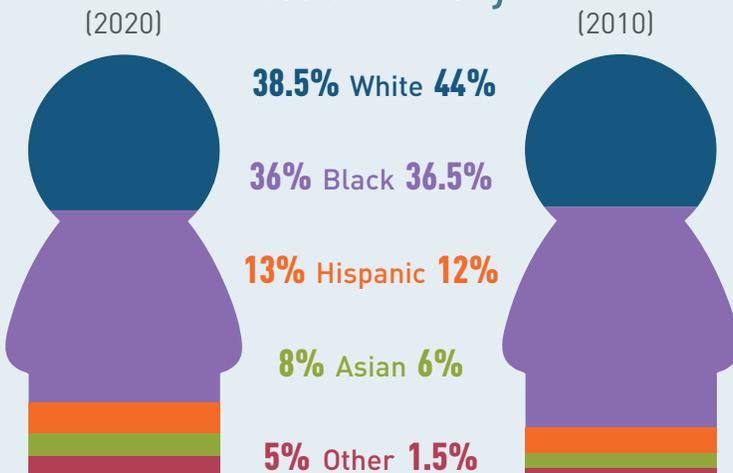
# BY THE NUMBERS: ATLANTA REGION POPULATION

## U.S. Census Counts



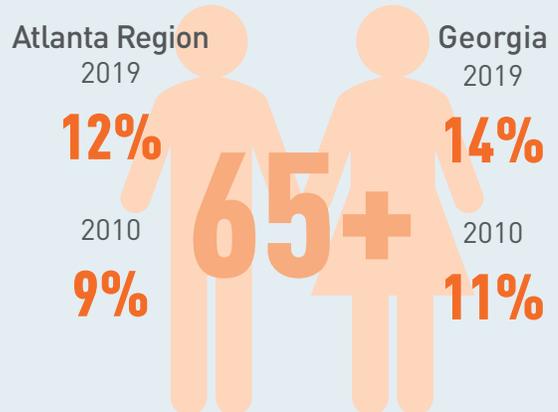
Source: U.S. Census Counts – 11-County Region

## Race & Ethnicity



Source: ARC analysis of data from U.S. Census and 2019 ACS 1-year.

## Percent of Population 65+



# COMPETITIVE ECONOMY

ARC works with its regional partners to ensure our economy thrives and remains competitive.



## Planning for a stronger, more competitive economy

ARC's CATLYST program is a 5-year effort designed to improve regional competitiveness and collaboration throughout the 10-county region. Through the hard work of volunteer project teams and ARC staff, CATLYST continues to support our region's efforts to ensure the creation of a region that works for everyone. A few highlights of the regional economic development strategy include:

- **CARES Act funding** – To support the implementation of the Competitive Economic Development Strategy specifically to assist communities and sectors impacted by COVID-19, ARC provided a grant to the Airport area communities known as Aerotropolis to develop a Pandemic Response Economic Strategy. Additionally, ARC is also providing technical assistance to local governments to respond to COVID impacts through data analysis, informational forums, and technical studies.
- **Continued Collaborative Marketing** – The Atlanta Regional Marketing Alliance continues to support the efforts of local economic development agencies through combined marketing to site location consultants and real estate brokers as well as sharing best practices to support each county and economic development organization in the Atlanta Region.
- **Identifying Effective Affordable Housing Strategies** – CATLYST continues to support a multi-disciplinary team in creating a regional strategy designed to increase the availability of quality, affordable housing. For more information and the latest updates on the strategy, visit [AtlantaRegionalHousing.org](http://AtlantaRegionalHousing.org).

## Cultivating leaders to meet the region's challenges

**344** Metro Atlanta residents took part in ARC leadership programs, including: Regional Leadership Institute (RLI), Leadership Involvement Networking Knowledge (LINK), Arts Leaders of Metro Atlanta (ALMA), Community Planning Academy (CPA), and Model Atlanta Regional Commission (MARC).

# BY THE NUMBERS: ECONOMY

## Median Household Income

**\$71,742**

Atlanta Region

**\$61,980**

Georgia



## Jobs – Atlanta Region

(2021)

**2,761,090**

(2010)

**1,691,998**

## Poverty Rate (2019)

↓ **10%** in Atlanta region live below poverty level

↓ **13%** in Georgia live below poverty level

Source: 2019 ACS 1-year and JobsEQ, 2021 Q1.

All data unless specified otherwise is through June 30, 2021.



Atlanta Regional Commission

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