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## State manufacturing jobs remain steady

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The nation has lost nearly 300,000 manufacturing jobs the past two years, but not in Georgia.

Georgia has held its own, with year-over-year job growth of 2% in this sector, and 2,600 jobs added, said Rajeev Dhawan, with the Economic Forecasting Center at Georgia State University's J. Mack Robinson College of Business.

"That may not sound like much, but it has helped offset 1,300 state job losses in corporate, wholesale, and information technology," he said. "As is true in the national economy, most job gains in 2025 were in the healthcare and hospitality sector of the state."

Dhawan predicted manufacturing will continue to grow in the state, with much of the growth coming outside the Atlanta area.



"It helps that the state is now a major player in aerospace with Lockheed, Gulfstream, and suppliers – which will be a boon with the push for increased defense spending by the U.S. and our NATO allies, particularly Germany which will increase its defense budget by a trillion dollars over the next 10 years," he said.

Another area of economic growth in the state will continue to be data centers being built by technology companies, who are expected to spend more than \$100 billion dollars on capital expenditures.

“This will contribute to economic growth through the construction multiplier by engaging building suppliers ranging from concrete suppliers to HVAC contractors,” he said. “But unlike new office buildings, which are subsequently stocked with employees, the multiplier effect with data centers ends when construction is complete. Electricity demand will rise, but it will not lead to hiring many corporate long-term workers.”

Dhawan forecast the state will add 42,900 jobs this year, and personal income will grow by 4.8%.

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