

At the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the nation's top research universities and a leading university in civil engineering and architecture, research teams are studying potential new wood products. Georgia Tech's College of Architecture features an Advanced Wood Products Laboratory that coordinates its research efforts with leaders in the wood products industry to study the potential of wood materials and composites in order to develop new products that will be competitive in the world market. ■



For more information, please visit
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Building Material



In today's competitive construction market, having access to the best-quality products is pivotal to building world-class facilities. With its deep natural resources, established companies, unsurpassed logistics and transportation network, and expert professionals, the state of Georgia provides businesses and individuals in the construction industry with the high-quality products needed to construct residential and non-residential buildings.

Natural Resources: The construction industry relies heavily on wood even with today's new innovative building products. Georgia's land is more than 66

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percent forest – or 24 million acres – making one of the state's natural resources a major supplier of building products. The forestry industry constitutes close to 10 percent of all of Georgia's manufacturing jobs and is the fifth-largest manufacturing employer in the state, ranking behind textiles, food processing, transportation equipment, and fabricated metals manufacturing. Some of the key forestry sectors in Georgia include: lumber, veneer, plywood, windows and doors, cabinets, prefabricated wood buildings, manufactured housing, reconstituted and engineered wood.





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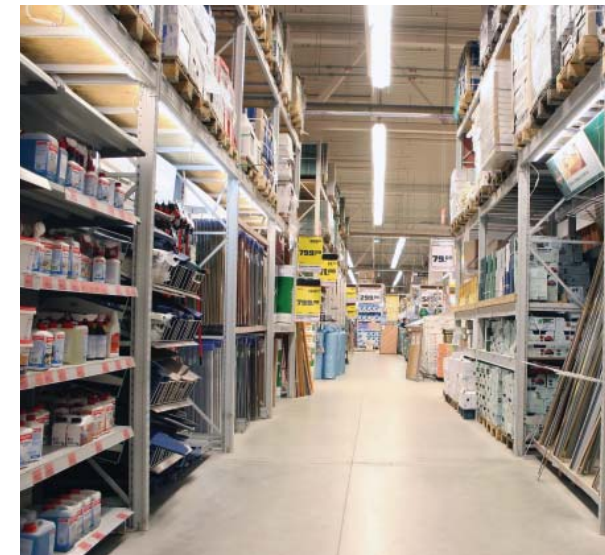
Established Companies: Georgia is home to many well-known building material manufacturers and retailers. The Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement specialty retailer, is headquartered in Atlanta. The Home Depot has expanded its worldwide presence, and currently operates stores or sourcing offices in Mexico, Canada, St. Thomas, Puerto Rico and China.

Atlanta is also the headquarters of Acuity Brands, the parent company of Acuity Lighting Group. Acuity Lighting Group is North America's largest manufacturer of light fixtures and lighting-related products. The northwest region of the state, known as the "Carpet Capital of the World," is home to seven of the world's top 10 carpet manufacturers. Several international manufacturers of heavy equipment are located in Georgia as well, including JCB and Kubota.

Logistics and Transportation Network: Georgia has an unsurpassed logistics and transportation network that allows building material companies based here

to move products quickly and efficiently. Georgia-based companies can easily transport products to destinations in the United States, throughout North America or around the world via a leading air cargo center at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the Ports of Savannah or Brunswick or by the state's extensive highway and rail systems.

Expert Professionals: Once distribution channels are in place, the next step is to find the right people. Companies that depend on well-trained, ready employees to ensure a competitive advantage can look to Georgia to meet their human capital needs. The Georgia Department of Economic Development and the Department of Technical and Adult Education created the Governor's Center of Innovation in Manufacturing Excellence (CIME) at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville. CIME assists manufacturers with applied research and a highly skilled workforce trained to respond to the rapid changes taking place in the manufacturing sector and to fuel its productivity



The Georgia Department of Technical and Adult Education also offers a Certified Manufacturing Specialist Program to maintain a steady stream of qualified workers to manufacturing companies throughout the state. No cost recruiting, screening and training services are also available through the state's internationally recognized Quick Start program.

More than 32,400 licensed construction professionals and 5,300 architects based in Georgia benefit both



non-residential and residential construction projects across the state.

Employment in the construction industry grew by 24,100 jobs from 2004 to 2006, and expected to reach more than 230,000 jobs by 2012. Overall, employment in the construction industry has been strong in recent years, and is expected to show continued growth thru 2012. According to the Georgia Department of Labor, 2007.