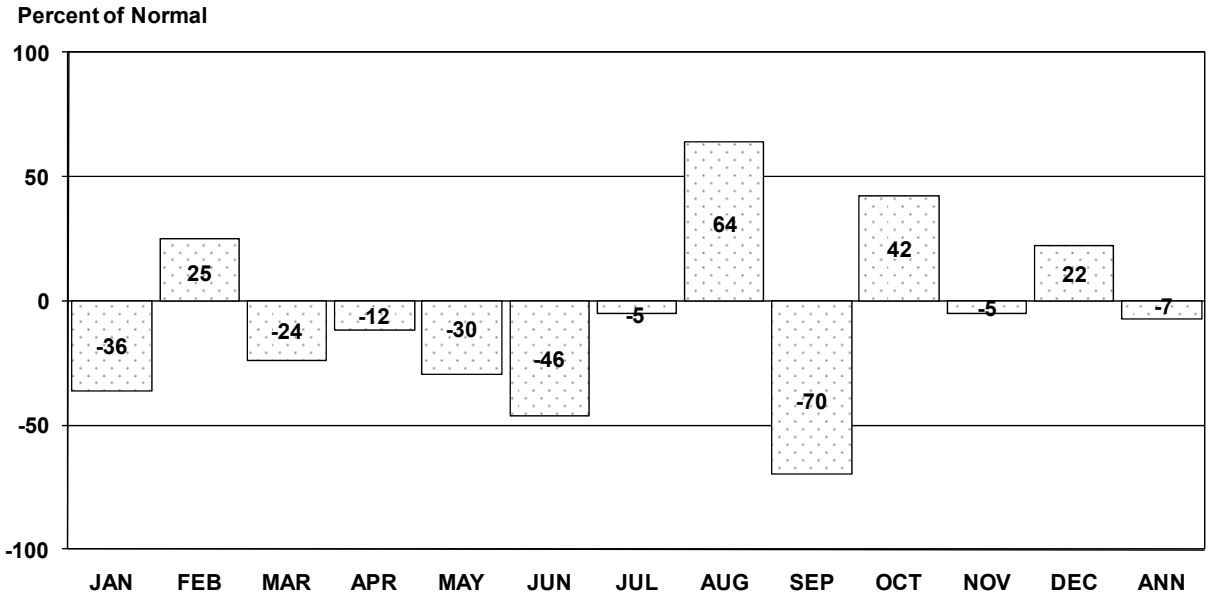
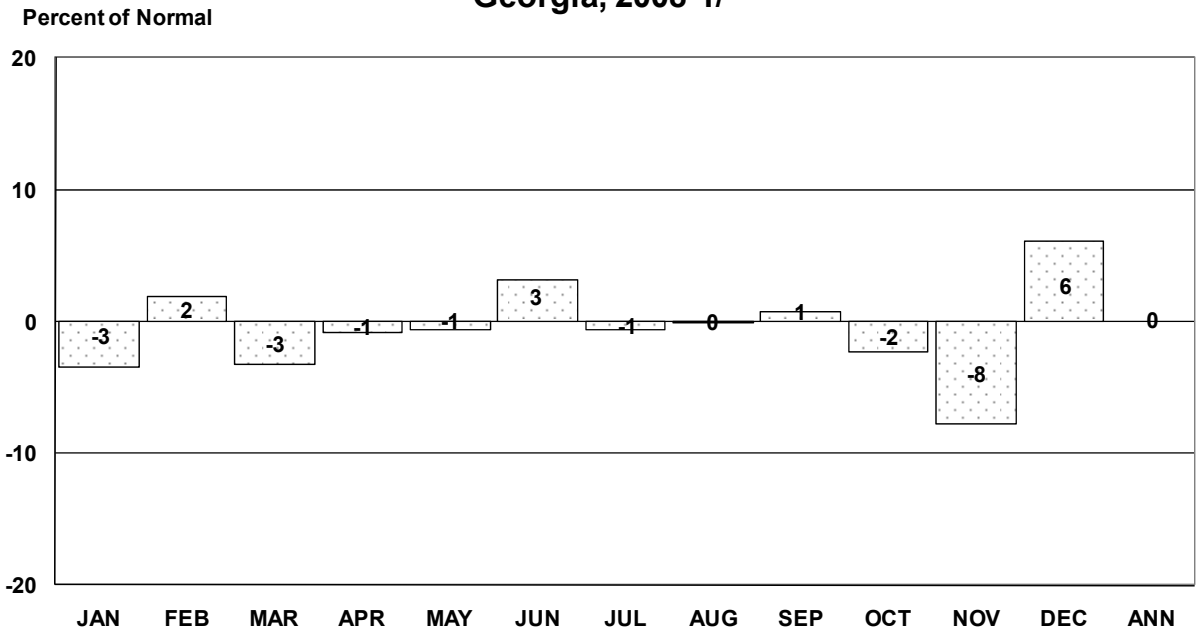
PRECIPITATION
Percent of Normal by Month and Annual Average
Georgia, 2008 1/



1/ Data from Climatological Data Monthly Summaries, Georgia 2008, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

TEMPERATURE
Percent of Normal by Month and Annual Average
Georgia, 2008 1/



1/ Data from Climatological Data Monthly Summaries, Georgia 2008, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration.

GENERAL

2008 CROP WEATHER SUMMARY

January: The State experienced rains and periods of extremely cold weather. Showers were frequent and provided temporary relief to the long standing drought conditions. Topsoil moisture improved considerably during the month. Some fields in middle Georgia became muddy and difficult to work in due to the abundant rains. Rains increased water levels in ponds. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition. Extremely cold temperatures during the month slowed the growth of winter forages and grains. The pecan harvest was completed. Other activities included preparing greenhouses for seeding tobacco plants, applying herbicides to wheat, feeding hay to livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

February: Other than a few brief cold spells, February proved to be a warm month for Georgia. The state continued to receive frequent rainfall improving drought conditions. Farmers, in some areas, were hampered by a surplus of topsoil moisture and had to wait for drier field conditions before carrying out fieldwork. Pastures, in north Georgia, were suffering from dry weather, but were starting to show some improvement toward the end of the month. Small grain producers applied fertilizer to their crops. Wheat was in mostly good condition. Low temperatures hurt some early Rabbiteye blueberries. Other activities included clipping tobacco plants in greenhouses, burning pastures and hayfields, spreading lime and poultry litter, feeding hay to livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

March: The weather was highly variable in March. Conditions fluctuated between sunny and warm, and cold and windy. The State received some beneficial rains during the month and topsoil moisture was mostly adequate. However, a significant rain deficit still existed, due to the long-standing drought. Small grains were in good condition. Some livestock producers had to supplement feeding with hay. Hay supplies were getting short in some areas. Planting began for corn and fresh market vegetables. A frost at the end of the month damaged blooming plants around the state, particularly peaches and vegetables. Other activities included preparing for corn and tobacco planting, clipping tobacco plants in greenhouses, pasture weed control, spreading poultry litter, feeding hay to livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

April: The State experienced cloudy, wet weather and erratic temperatures. Rains delayed producers preparing land for peanuts and cotton. Corn planting was behind schedule. Wheat and ryegrass looked good. Peach conditions continued to decline due to the low temperatures during February, March and April. Cool temperatures stressed some vegetable crops. Frost was reported in some areas. Due to the dry conditions, at the end of April, many fields were too dry to plant. Other activities included preparing fields and equipment for planting, applying poultry litter, planting corn and vegetables, clipping and spraying tobacco plants in greenhouses, applying lime and fertilizer to pastures and hayfields, hay feeding for livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

May: The State experienced dry conditions, scattered rains and high winds. Soil moisture vanished faster than it appeared, with ponds not having the opportunity to re-charge. Below normal cold temperatures caused light frost in some areas of the State. It was too cold for most farmers to plant in north Georgia. Lack of rain had a negative impact on wheat and hay crops. Dry weather slowed planting. High winds caused some breakage in commercial grape vines. Some beef producers feed hay due to dry conditions and slow grass growth. Occasional rains kept crop conditions from worsening, and contributed to much needed moisture. Other activities included cutting hay and planting vegetables.

June: Isolated showers throughout the State have allowed some relief to farmers; however, hot weather greatly reduced soil moisture in June. Despite scattered showers, dry conditions continued to have a negative impact on crops. Hay cutting and bailing was behind schedule. Heat and lack of rain has severely affected dry land corn, pasture and hayfields. Some producers suspended there planting efforts due to a lack of rainfall. Oat harvest started with early yields being reported as good. The blueberry crop was in good condition. Wheat continued to be harvested. Watermelon and cantaloupe harvest was in full swing. Other activities included side dressing nitrogen, spraying fields for insects, dusting in soybeans and cotton fields, and peanut fungicide sprayings.

July: Scattered showers provided limited improvement to moisture condition. Drought conditions were still prevalent in areas of the State, causing hay and row crops to wilt. Heavy insect damage was reported by farmers. Some farmers expected reduced yields due to drought conditions and insect damage on corn. A high number of tobacco budworms were spotted in peanuts. Other activities included irrigating crops as needed, controlling crop insect damage applying weed control to some late planted peanuts and cotton.

GENERAL

August: Rains provided relief to some crops and helped to replenish soil moisture. High temperatures combined with high humidity, towards the beginning of the month, stressed some crops and livestock. Rains continued to be beneficial to pastures and hayfield. Scattered showers from hurricane Fay aided farmers in some areas in the State. Corn, cotton and pecans suffered minimal wind damage from tropical storm Fay. Boll rot was reported in cotton due to the continued wetness. Dry conditions continued in some parts of the State. Other activities included planting fall vegetables, side dressing cotton with nitrogen, spraying peanuts with fungicides, irrigating crops, cutting hay, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

September: The weather was dry with few showers. Dry weather delayed planting for fall crops. Army worms and stink bugs were sighted in some fields. Red crown rot appeared in soybeans. Soybeans, pasture and vegetables returned to a healthy condition after the damages from tropical storm Fay. Water shed ponds dropped significantly due to a lack of rain. Boll rot was reported in cotton and white mold in peanuts. Dry weather had a negative impact on peanuts, soybeans and late planted cotton. Other activities included harvesting corn and peanuts, cutting and baling hay, applying late season herbicides and fungicides, applying insecticides to crops and hayfields, applying growth regulator on cotton, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

October: A considerable amount of rain fell across the State; however, some areas still experienced dry conditions. Dry weather continued to delay the planting of fall crops. Pasture and hayfields declined due to drought and cool temperatures. The cool temperatures also slowed maturing of some late cotton. Some producers had to irrigate in order to have enough moisture to plant wheat and rye. Dryland peanuts were dug early due to a lack of soil moisture. Cotton harvest was underway and there was a good bit of variability in the yields. The commercial grape harvest was nearing completion. Other activities included harvesting corn and sorghum for grain, digging and combining peanuts, cutting and baling hay, mowing and harrowing tobacco stalks, and cotton defoliation.

November: The State experienced cool temperatures along with little precipitation. Cool temperatures and lack of rain slowed crop progress. Cold weather caused frost in some peanut and soybean fields, hindering harvest. Some growers were harvesting irrigated fields first and waiting to harvest low yielding cotton and soybean fields. Growers reported good yields for cotton and peanuts. Small grain and winter grazing planting continues. More rain was needed to provide moisture to continue planting wintergrazing and fall grains. Dryland small grains were showing signs of stress from the continued lack of rain. Pecan growers reported yields being lower than anticipated. Other activities included planting small grains, mowing and harrowing cotton stalks, digging and combining peanuts, defoliation and harvest of cotton, spreading poultry litter, cutting and baling hay, hauling peanut hay to storage, and feeding hay to livestock.

December: The State experienced rains and periods of extremely cold weather in December. Showers were frequent and provided temporary relief to the long standing drought conditions. Topsoil moisture improved during the month. Some fields became muddy and difficult to work in due to rains. Fall vegetables were doing well despite the cold temperatures. Freezes, in some areas, limited ryegrass and small grain growth. Cotton and soybeans were left to be harvested in some areas. Snow, reported in the northern part of the State, didn't prevent farmers from maintaining livestock. Winter wheat was in mostly good condition. Cold weather slowed the growth of winter grazing. Other activities included planting small grains for grazing, irrigating crops as needed and applying fertilizer, feeding hay to livestock, and the routine care of poultry and livestock.

GEORGIA PRECIPITATION--2008 Monthly Averages and Percent of Normal by Climatological Divisions and Agricultural Statistical Districts[1/]

	District 1 Northwest		District 2 North Central		District 3 Northeast		District 4 West Central		District 5 Central	
Month	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal
January	2.65	49	2.74	93	2.96	49	3.69	71	3.61	71
February	4.81	99	5.48	52	5.00	97	6.33	130	5.34	120
March	6.02	99	5.79	51	5.35	89	4.88	85	3.78	74
April	3.67	82	3.42	52	3.23	80	3.39	82	3.18	94
May	3.19	76	3.45	30	2.60	53	3.08	83	2.24	72
June	2.55	61	2.05	67	1.65	38	2.07	55	1.73	46
July	5.64	127	4.83	85	4.54	98	4.57	93	3.02	66
August	5.02	131	6.64	48	7.06	149	7.07	182	5.58	135
September	1.13	28	0.88	38	1.86	45	0.81	25	1.05	30
October	3.18	98	3.88	66	3.53	87	4.61	163	3.90	142
November	2.23	50	2.51	52	3.27	72	3.41	86	4.43	130
December	8.05	179	6.51	112	6.06	128	4.21	94	4.96	131
Annual Total	48.14	90	48.18	86	47.11	82	48.12	95	42.82	91

	District 6 East Central		District 7 Southwest		District 8 South Central		District 9 Southeast		State Average	
Month	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal	Inches	% of Normal
January	3.19	67	4.32	75	3.59	67	3.65	85	3.38	64
February	4.84	118	7.36	151	7.10	165	5.29	149	5.73	125
March	3.74	80	2.65	47	2.55	50	2.35	57	4.12	76
April	3.37	107	3.83	104	2.74	81	2.67	91	3.28	88
May	2.47	79	1.38	38	2.71	86	2.49	79	2.62	70
June	1.43	32	3.78	78	2.84	60	3.29	61	2.38	54
July	4.44	95	4.45	75	4.51	85	6.57	116	4.73	95
August	6.01	121	12.60	300	9.11	186	8.75	137	7.54	164
September	1.39	37	0.97	26	1.12	29	1.45	30	1.18	30
October	4.74	157	4.49	173	4.45	174	7.07	222	4.43	142
November	5.27	179	3.86	105	4.28	137	2.37	91	3.51	95
December	3.22	92	6.67	168	3.76	101	1.03	33	4.94	122
Annual Total	44.11	94	56.36	107	48.76	99	46.98	95	47.84	93

1/ Average precipitation and normal precipitation from NOAA Climatological data for Georgia, 2006, Volume 110, Nos. 1 - 12. Normal precipitation represents a 30 year period from 1971 to 2000.

GEORGIA TEMPERATURES--2008 Monthly Averages and Percent of Normal by Climatological Divisions and Agricultural Statistical Districts[1/]

	District 1 Northwest		District 2 North Central		District 3 Northeast		District 4 West Central		District 5 Central	
Month	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal
January	39.10	98	38.50	95	38.60	95	42.30	96	43.30	95
February	44.30	101	44.40	101	44.70	101	48.00	101	50.70	104
March	50.80	98	49.50	96	49.20	95	53.30	97	54.30	96
April	59.70	101	57.80	99	57.40	98	61.40	100	61.70	98
May	66.30	99	65.00	98	64.70	98	69.40	100	69.70	99
June	76.50	103	75.40	103	75.70	103	79.00	104	79.80	103
July	77.70	99	75.70	98	76.10	99	79.20	100	80.20	99
August	76.90	100	75.40	99	75.90	100	78.70	100	79.30	100
September	72.60	102	70.30	100	70.00	100	74.10	102	74.30	101
October	59.50	99	57.90	97	58.00	97	61.60	98	62.20	97
November	46.30	91	46.50	91	46.80	92	50.40	94	50.50	91
December	44.80	104	44.40	103	44.70	104	49.10	106	51.20	107
Annual Total	59.54	100	58.40	99	58.50	99	62.21	100	63.10	99

	District 6 East Central		District 7 Southwest		District 8 South Central		District 9 Southeast		State Average	
Month	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal	Degrees	% of Normal
January	44.70	97	46.40	96	48.00	98	49.80	99	43.41	97
February	51.70	104	52.20	100	52.90	101	55.30	104	49.36	102
March	55.70	98	56.10	96	56.60	95	58.50	98	53.78	97
April	62.40	99	64.60	100	64.40	99	65.20	99	61.62	99
May	71.00	100	72.80	101	72.70	100	72.90	100	69.39	99
June	81.40	105	80.70	103	80.60	103	80.80	102	78.88	103
July	80.90	100	80.90	100	81.10	100	81.10	99	79.21	99
August	80.50	101	79.50	99	80.10	100	80.90	100	78.58	100
September	75.40	101	76.20	100	76.20	100	76.90	100	74.00	101
October	62.90	98	64.60	98	64.10	96	66.10	98	61.88	98
November	51.60	92	53.90	93	53.50	91	55.70	93	50.58	92
December	52.60	109	53.90	107	54.50	106	56.50	108	50.19	106
Annual Total	64.23	100	65.15	100	65.39	99	66.64	100	62.57	100

1/ Average temperature and normal temperature from NOAA Climatological data for Georgia, 2006, Volume 110, Nos. 1 - 12. Normal temperature represents a 30 year period from 1971 to 2000.

EXPORT VALUES OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES[1/]--Georgia, 2004-2008

Commodity	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	--Million Dollars--				
Cotton & Linters	354.8	336.1	495.8	363.9	583.9
Cottonseed & Products	8.0	8.7	11.8	12.2	25.2
Fats, Oils & Greases	3.3	2.1	2.6	4.3	6.3
Feed Grains & Products	24.9	18.5	21.3	51.0	65.1
Feeds & Fodders	14.1	16.2	17.0	18.3	25.0
Fruits & Preps.[2/]	15.0	20.1	25.2	24.9	42.7
Hides & Skins	15.8	15.3	11.1	12.1	11.7
Live Animals & Meat (Exc. Poultry)	18.8	16.1	22.4	27.4	33.8
Peanuts & Products	94.1	95.1	103.7	110.3	152.7
Poultry & Products	271.1	318.6	310.9	420.2	555.1
Seeds	19.1	20.1	22.5	21.3	20.6
Soybeans & Products	24.1	13.1	9.0	35.2	81.3
Tobacco - Unmfd.	58.8	33.4	42.5	54.1	58.8
Tree Nuts	26.5	32.2	30.5	71.5	91.6
Vegetables & Preps.	40.3	56.8	63.6	63.9	61.6
Wheat & Products	42.3	39.1	39.6	61.7	148.6
Other[3/]	75.8	86.3	96.8	91.4	101.7
Total[4/]	1,106.7	1,127.8	1,326.3	1,443.7	2,065.7

1/ Source: ERS, USDA, FATUS, U.S. Agricultural Trade Update, July, 2009. 2/ Apples, apple juice, and apple products, as well as other miscellaneous fruit assumed to equal the previous year; current year production data have not yet been released. 3/ Other = Sugar and tropical products, minor oilseeds, essential oils, beverages other than juice, nursery and greenhouse, wine, and misc. vegetable products. 4/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

FARM LABOR--Number of Hired Workers, Hours Worked, and Wage Rates, Southeast Region, Survey Weeks of 2006-2008[1/2/]

		Year and Survey Week										
		2006				2007[3/]			2008			
	Unit	Jan 8-14	Apr 9-15	Jul 9-15	Oct 8-14	Apr 8-14	Jul 8-14	Oct 7-13	Jan 8-14	Apr 8-14	Jul 8-14	Oct 7-13
All Hired												
Number of Workers	1,000 Persons	28	31	41	29	31	41	29	29	25	41	31
Worked per Week	Hours	34.5	36.5	38.3	39.1	36.5	38.3	39.1	37.3	37.2	36.6	39.3
Type of Hired Worker												
All Hired Workers	$ per Hour	9.45	9.19	8.68	9.10	9.19	8.68	9.10	9.03	9.66	9.00	9.04
Field	$ per Hour	8.74	8.49	8.21	8.76	8.49	8.21	8.76	8.47	8.93	8.56	9.44
Livestock	$ per Hour	8.77	8.68	8.05	8.65	8.68	8.05	8.65	8.87	8.81	8.27	9.12
Field & Livestock	$ per Hour	8.75	8.55	8.18	8.72	8.55	8.18	8.72	8.62	8.90	8.50	9.52

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ The Southeast Region includes GA, AL, and SC. 3/ January data unavailable.

FARM LABOR--Hired Workers Annual Average Wage Rates, Georgia, 2001-2008[1/2/]

	Unit	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
All Hired	$ per Hour	7.78	8.03	8.41	8.53	8.84	9.05	9.15	9.24
Field	$ per Hour	7.26	7.28	7.66	7.96	8.36	8.48	8.50	8.88
Field & Livestock	$ per Hour	7.28	7.49	7.88	8.07	8.37	8.51	8.53	8.87

1/ Excludes Agricultural Service Workers. 2/ Annual rates are averages of the wage rates for each survey week weighted by the number of hours worked during the week. The annual average is based on data collected for January, April, July, and October and published in November release.

FARMS--Number, Size and Value, Georgia, 2001-2008

	Unit	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number of all Farms[1/]	Thousands	49	49	49	49	49	49	48	48
Number of Farms									
Cattle[2/]	Thousands	22	22	22	22	21	21	21	
Hogs[2/]	Thousands	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.0	0.8	0.7	1.1	
Dairy[2/]	Thousands	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	
Total Land in Farms	1,000 Acres	10,850	10,800	10,800	10,800	10,700	11,000	10,300	10,400
Average Farm Size	Acres	220	220	219	220	218	224	215	218
Value per Acre[3/]	Dollars	1,900	2,050	2,200	2,330	3,140	3,800	4,350	4,300

1/ Prior to 1975, defined as places of 10 acres or more that had annual sales of agricultural products of $50 or more and places of less than 10 acres that had annual sales of $250 or more. Beginning with 1975, a farm is a place as of June 1, that sells or could sell $1,000 of agricultural products during the year. 2/ Discontinued in 2007. 3/Average value includes land and buildings.

NUMBER OF FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS--2001-2008

	Unit	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Georgia									
Economic Sales Class									
$1,000-$9,999	Number	31,900	32,100	32,200	31,800	31,800	31,200	30,400	30,200
$10,000-$99,999	Number	10,400	10,800	10,800	11,000	11,200	11,100	10,500	10,000
$100,000+	Number	6,900	6,400	6,300	6,200	6,000	6,700	7,000	7,600
United States									
Economic Sales Class									
$1,000-$9,999	Number	1,189,920	1,201,840	1,199,270	1,181,190	1,166,320	1,153,310	1,228,560	1,222,000
$10,000-$99,999	Number	621,490	604,570	600,540	599,280	596,040	595,950	608,670	604,500
$100,000+	Number	337,220	328,950	327,050	332,500	336,330	339,530	367,720	373,500

LAND IN FARMS BY ECONOMIC SALES CLASS--2001-2008

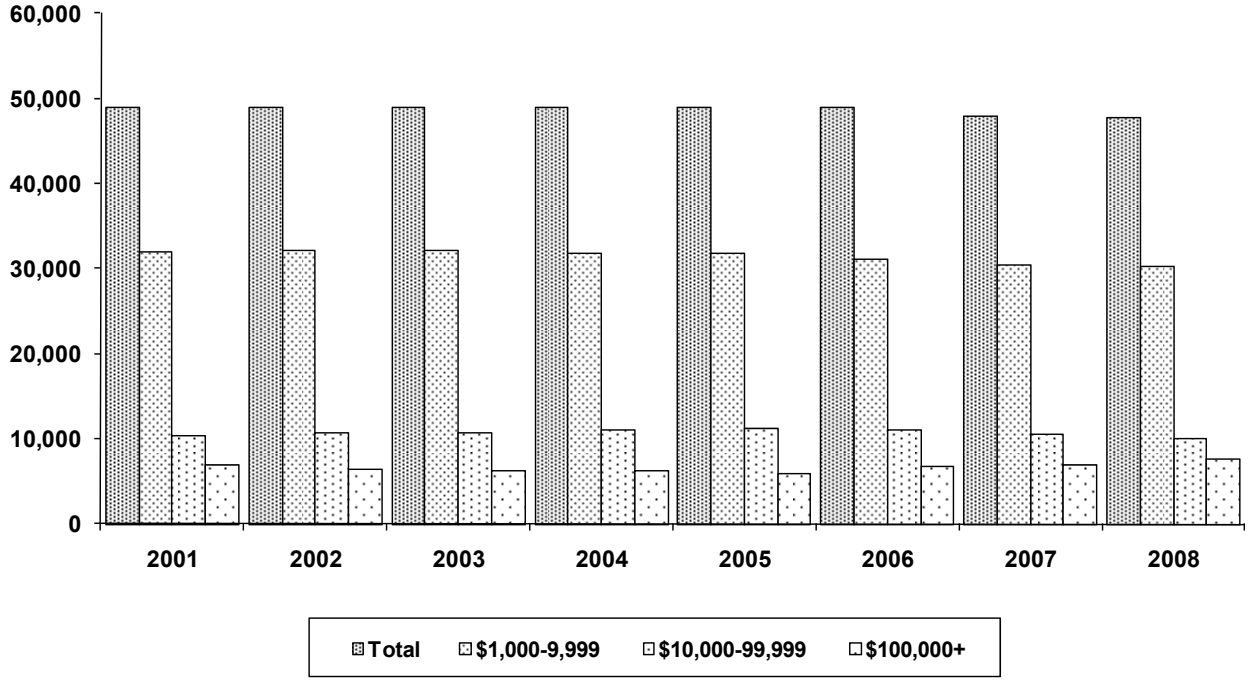
	Unit	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Georgia									
Economic Sales Class									
$1,000-$9,999	1,000 Acres	3,500	3,600	3,700	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,000	3,200
$10,000-$99,999	1,000 Acres	2,880	2,930	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,500	2,350
$100,000+	1,000 Acres	4,470	4,270	4,300	4,400	4,300	4,600	4,800	4,850
United States									
Economic Sales Class									
$1,000-$9,999	1,000 Acres	127,090	126,625	124,252	120,872	117,850	114,610	107,870	106,700
$10,000-$99,999	1,000 Acres	274,895	271,155	268,990	264,810	258,230	252,180	228,220	225,300
$100,000+	1,000 Acres	540,085	542,520	543,508	546,578	551,860	559,000	585,370	587,900

FARM REAL ESTATE--Average values per acre, by Region and State, January 1, 2003-2009[1/*]

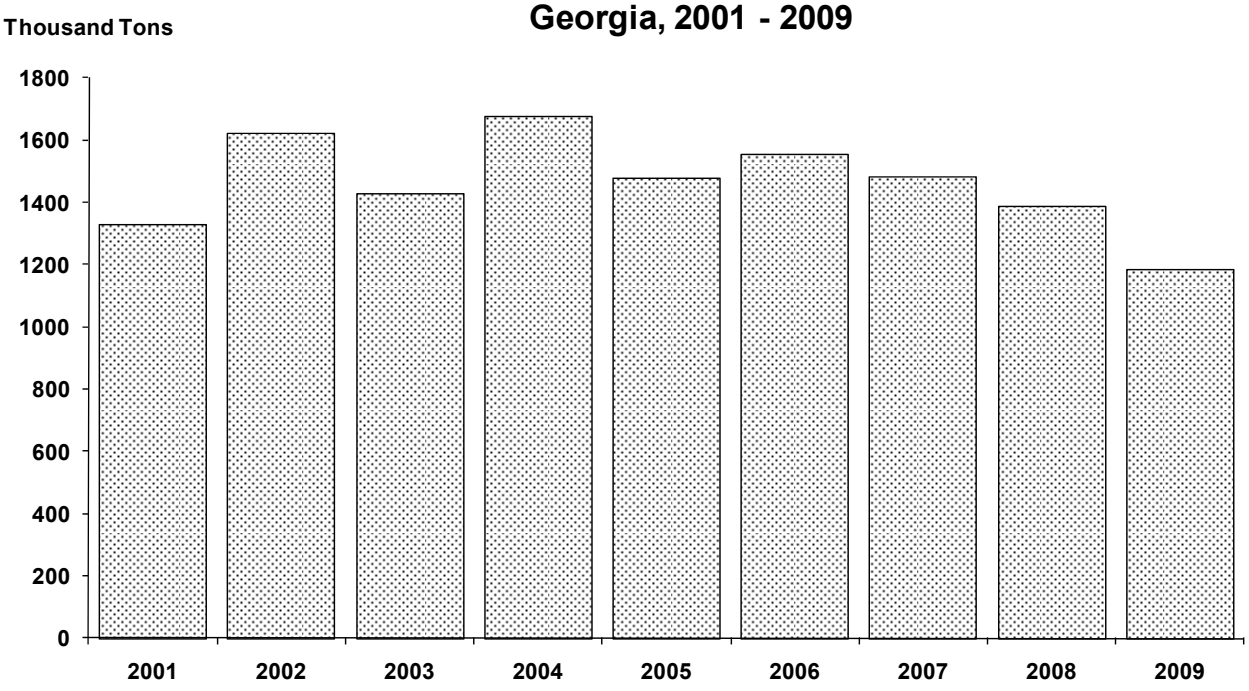
State	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Change 2008-2009
				--Dollars--				--Percent--
Southeast:	2,270	2,350	3,220	3,580	3,890	3,940	3,660	-7.1
Alabama	1,760	1,850	2,050	2,100	2,200	2,300	2,150	-6.5
Florida	2,900	2,920	4,790	5,230	5,500	5,640	5,150	-8.7
Georgia	2,200	2,330	3,140	3,800	4,350	4,300	4,000	-7.0
South Carolina	2,050	2,140	2,370	2,550	2,820	2,950	2,900	-1.7

1/ Value of farmland and buildings. *Revised.

FARMS
Total Number & Number by Economic Sales Class
Georgia, 2001-2008



FERTILIZER CONSUMPTION
Years Ending June 30
Georgia, 2001 - 2009



FERTILIZER--Commercial Consumption of Fertilizer Mixtures and Direct Application Materials, Selected Years, Ending June 30, Georgia[1/]

Kind	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
					--Tons--				
Mixtures	828,484	994,912	890,139	961,967	896,402	972,446	860,622	744,210	577,399
Nitrogen Materials									
Anhydrous Ammonia	1,618	4,099	1,245	2,493	755	1,143	3,362	3,760	2,026
Ammonium Nitrate	39,899	50,647	47,142	47,842	42,661	34,250	35,553	35,457	34,554
Ammonium Sulfate	4,995	4,589	5,242	8,347	7,423	8,169	12,843	14,507	18,137
Nitrogen Solution	153,781	187,197	184,277	224,057	156,249	194,049	227,641	212,741	224,214
Urea	14,023	11,522	13,459	16,190	14,656	17,569	20,894	30,634	49,044
Other Nitrogen Material	31,615	34,334	48,568	47,337	43,048	46,827	32,142	57,331	28,007
Total	245,931	292,388	299,933	346,266	264,792	302,007	332,435	354,430	355,982
Phosphate Materials									
Ammonium Polyphosphate	20,878	24,615	25,526	29,470	25,047	20,851	26,678	27,576	11,846
Diammonium Phosphate	12,802	15,411	15,461	21,423	19,602	25,798	27,071	27,602	37,286
Triple Super Phosphate	2,021	2,734	1,644	2,138	2,575	2,820	957	236	128
Other Phosphate Material	5,434	4,496	2,194	6,715	5,527	2,773	9,949	5,039	2,987
Total	41,135	47,256	44,825	59,746	52,751	52,242	64,655	60,453	52,247
Potash Materials									
Muriate of Potash	18,659	25,254	24,118	28,005	26,592	29,652	40,282	50,138	47,328
Sulfate of Potash Magnesia	3,842	3,865	4,800	8,441	11,137	6,529	8,899	11,645	12,122
Other Potash Material	8,691	8,381	5,368	13,148	11,679	11,344	7,533	8,457	4,127
Total	31,192	37,500	34,286	49,594	49,408	47,525	56,714	70,240	63,577
Secondary and Micronutrients and Organic Materials	181,092	247,471	160,757	258,015	215,056	193,855	168,510	156,720	135,187
Total All Fertilizers	1,327,834	1,619,527	1,429,940	1,675,588	1,478,409	1,553,585	1,482,936	1,386,053	1,184,383

1/ Georgia Department of Agriculture Summary of Plant Food Tonnage, Year-To-Date July through June.