

Investing in Georgia

Economic Development Newsletter



Welcome to King & Spalding's economic development news bulletin, *Investing in Georgia*. In this edition, you will find:

- Ongoing coverage of tax reform proposals, including a report published by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget that addresses possible changes in the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds
- Several interesting reports on trends in economic conditions and business climates, both in Georgia and elsewhere across the country
- News regarding our incoming Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development

We hope you find this helpful, as we partner to keep Georgia a great place to live and work!

Bill Holby
King & Spalding Economic Development Practice Group

Recent Developments

2014 State Business Tax Climate Index. The Tax Foundation, a non-partisan tax research group based in Washington, D.C., describes itself as an advocate for smarter tax policy. In pursuit of that goal, the Tax Foundation publishes an annual Business Tax Climate Index, which is designed to enable business leaders, government policymakers and taxpayers to gauge how their states' tax systems compare. The good news is that Georgia was not included among the ten lowest ranked, or worst, states in the 2014 Index. [More »](#)

Georgia By The Numbers. Continuing with news on economic trends, a recent edition of the Atlanta Business Chronicle (October 11 – 17) had a variety of interesting statistics about the state of our Georgia economy. For example, Gov. Deal announced on October 8 that the state's revenues were up 8.3% during September, totaling \$1.72 billion or an increase of \$132 million over September 2012. [More »](#)

In The News

Tax Reform: The Truth About Municipal Bonds. The Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB), a bipartisan, non-profit organization

October 2013

By the numbers

\$20.6 trillion

Collective value of the S&P 500 as of 9/30/13

\$5.9 trillion

Collective value of the S&P 500 as of 3/09/09, its bear market low

51%

Increase in productivity of the average American worker over the last 17 years, according to the Department of Labor

4.0 million barrels

Drop in anticipated net US oil imports per day from 2011 (9.5 million barrels per day) to 2020 (estimated 5.5 million barrels per day), according to the International Energy Agency

2.7 million

Number of young people between the ages of 18-35 who need to sign up for insurance on the new health insurance exchange in order to subsidize older Americans -- an average of 14,835 per day

committed to educating the public about issues that have significant fiscal policy impact, is made up of some of the nation's leading budget experts (including past Chairmen and Directors of the Budget Committees, the Congressional Budget Office, the Office of Management and Budget, the Government Accountability Office, and the Federal Reserve Board). The CRFB is posting a series of articles in its blog series, "*The Tax Break-Down*", which analyze and review tax breaks under discussion as a part of tax reform. [More »](#)

Economic Trends Show Improvement. The October 2013 "*State Economic Monitor*" has been released, showing economic and finance trends in the states, along with a new page with interactive maps and charts for each state. Among the trends identified in this most recent issue:

- State revenues are improving; however, economic conditions are facing headwinds.
- Thirty-six states have lower unemployment rates than a year ago and twelve states have higher.
- State tax revenues are up in 45 states in the second quarter of 2013 relative to the same quarter in 2012.
- Many states have surpassed pre-recession spending levels in nominal terms. [More »](#)

Looking Ahead

SEC Talks Tough. No, this isn't a football article. Based upon recently published articles in The Bond Buyer and elsewhere, Securities and Exchange Commission member Daniel Gallagher has sworn to take up the cause of municipal market reform at the SEC, accepting the baton from Elisse Walter, who recently left the Commission. Many of the recommendations included in the SEC's comprehensive 2012 report on the municipal market remain unimplemented, and these issues have been slow to gain traction with federal policymakers. [More »](#)

Carr to Drive the State Economic Development Agency. On September 12, Gov. Nathan Deal announced his nomination of Senator Johnny Isakson's chief of staff, Chris Carr, to succeed Chris Cummiskey as the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. Cummiskey is joining Southern Co. as chief commercial officer of Southern Power. [More »](#)

About King & Spalding

Celebrating 125 years of service, King & Spalding is an international law firm with more than 800 lawyers in Abu Dhabi, Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Dubai, Frankfurt, Geneva, Houston, London, Moscow, New York, Paris, Riyadh (affiliated office), San Francisco, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C. The firm represents half of the *Fortune* 100 and, according to a *Corporate Counsel* survey in August 2009, ranks fifth in its total number of representations of those companies. For additional information, visit www.kslaw.com.

This e-mail and any attachments are not intended to be and should not be relied upon as legal advice. In some jurisdictions, this may be considered "Attorney Advertising." Should you no longer wish to receive [or you know someone who would like to receive] e-mails from King & Spalding's Economic Development Practice Group, please contact Ann Vance at avance@kslaw.com.

© 2013 King & Spalding

during the 6 month enrollment period

Top 1%

Of household net worth requires \$6.8 million; of annual income requires \$521,411, per the Federal Reserve

2001

The last of four consecutive fiscal years that the United States ran a surplus (i.e., tax receipts exceeded outlays)

435

Number of House of Representatives members who are up for re-election on November 4, 2014 (100%). The party of the sitting President has gained seats during such midterm elections only twice since 1938

12

The proposed height of the basketball hoop, up two feet from the current 10 foot goal, recommended due to the increasing height of basketball players. The recommendation was made by Kansas Jayhawks coach Phog Allen... in 1928



Contact

Bill Holby

+1 404 572 4663

bholby@kslaw.com

