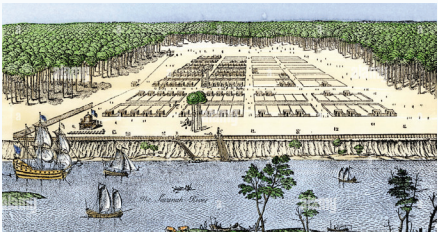


1700's - 1800's



1733

Gen. James Oglethorpe and 114 colonists arrive from England and establish Savannah as the new colony of Georgia.

Cotton and rice quickly become the colony's main exports.

1819

The S.S. Savannah becomes the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean from the United States to Europe, departing from its namesake in Savannah, Georgia.



Georgia Ports Authority

The Georgia Ports Authority – with control over the deepwater ports in both Savannah and Brunswick – was created by an act of the Georgia legislature in response to the post-World War II economic boom. The new authority was empowered to operate state-owned facilities and “to do any other things necessary and proper to foster or encourage the commerce, domestic or foreign, of the state, the United States of America, or the several sister states.” The order was signed by Governor Ellis Arnall on March 9, 1945.

Today the Georgia Ports Authority continues its historic role as the epicenter of Georgia’s and the Southeast’s economy. Interstate highways have joined railroads as the vital arteries of international trade that connect Georgia’s ports with America’s trading partners across the globe.

1900's

1945

Georgia Gov. Ellis Arnall signs legislation creating the Georgia Ports Authority.

Since its founding, Georgia's ports have served as magnets for international trade and investment, enriching the state's economy to benefit all Georgians.



1956

The GPA designates Brunswick and Bainbridge, Georgia as state ports.



1958

Ocean Terminal is purchased from the Central of Georgia Railway. It will later become a roll-on, roll-off terminal, handling primarily automobiles and wheeled heavy equipment.

1962

Three new berths are put into operation at Garden City Terminal.

The GPA purchases Colonels Island in Brunswick.



1982

Mayor's Point Terminal joins the lineup of terminals at the Port of Brunswick.

Three years later, the Yugo is the first automobile to come through Colonels Island terminal.



1995

GPA pioneers the “Savannah Model” of working directly with major retailers to develop nearby distribution centers. Emulated nationwide, the Savannah Model resulted in additional shipping services and cargo coming to Georgia, benefiting both importers and exporters.

2000's

2001

GPA moves more than 1 million TEUs for the first time.

Just five years later, the port handles 3 million TEUs.

Savannah Harbor Expansion Project kicks off to deepen the river to 47 feet.



2014

Garden City Terminal Gate 8 opens to provide three independent gate complexes to serve trucks.

2018

The Port of Savannah handles 10 percent of all U.S. container exports.

Groundbreaking for Mason Mega Rail, the largest on-dock intermodal facility in North America.

Appalachian Regional Port opens in Northwest Georgia.

2021

GPA invests \$138M to realign Berth 1 at Garden City Terminal.

GPA invests \$121M to increase Garden City Terminal ship-to-shore cranes from 30 to 38, including six at Berth 1.



2022

GPA invests \$262M to consolidate RoRo operations to Colonels Island.



2023

Georgia ranked #1 State to Do Business 10 years in a row.

Savannah Transload Facility begins operation.

Gainesville Inland Port given approval for North Georgia, while GPA announces plans for Carolina Connector.



2024

Port of Brunswick achieves record year and sets all-time record.

Garden City Terminal West yard opens, increasing container storage.

GPA board approves Ocean Terminal improvements – berth renovation and overpass.



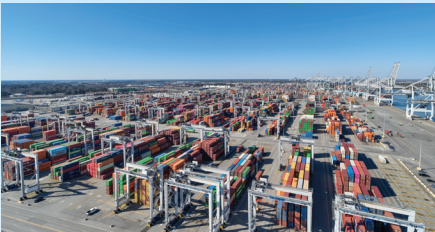
2025

The Port of Brunswick becomes the No. 1 RoRo gateway in the nation by volume.

Georgia Ports celebrates 80th anniversary of driving trade and economic growth.



Ocean Terminal lay berth opens, optimizing Savannah River transit for inbound vessels to Garden City Terminal.



Georgia Ports and Konecranes celebrate 30-year partnership on yard cranes. This included 257 RTGs, 50 rail RMGs, and 49 ship-to-shore cranes.



2026

The Gainesville Inland Port opens in May, a \$134 million inland terminal connecting Gainesville, Georgia to the Port of Savannah.

A renovated U.S. Customs central examination station opens at Garden City Terminal, a \$49.25 million dollar investment in customs inspection efficiency.



Georgia DOT's Brampton Road Connector opened in July 2026. The project links the Port of Savannah's Garden City Terminal directly to the I-16 corridor, providing faster, easier access for truckers — completing the “last mile” program which invested over \$600M in GDOT roadway projects.