

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation
February Monthly Report
FY2024**



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety
April 11, 2024**

**Chris Hosey
Director**

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Director's Highlights

- Commercial Gambling Unit (CGU) -- On March 5, 2024, GBI's CGU, along with the Muscogee County Sheriff's Office, and in cooperation with the Georgia Lottery Corporation executed search warrants at nine business locations in the Chattahoochee Judicial Circuit for violations of Georgia's gambling laws. Search warrants were executed at the following: Hop In, 7890 Veterans Parkway, Columbus, GA; Hop In, 4499 Warm Springs Rd, Columbus, GA; Hop In, 1400 Double Churches Rd, Columbus, GA; Lotto Mart, 400 3rd Avenue, Columbus, GA; Citgo Quik Mart, 314 5th Street, Columbus, GA; Hop In, 3875 St. Mary's Road, Columbus, GA; Hop In, 5757 Buena Vista Road, Columbus, GA; Hop In, 3021 Macon Road, Columbus, GA; and the Hop In, 871 U.S. Hwy 27, Cataula, GA. During the course of a lengthy investigation, agents discovered businesses operating Coin Operated Amusement Machines (COAMS) where customers were receiving cash payouts for winning credits. In Georgia, COAMS must be properly licensed by the Georgia Lottery and credits may only be redeemed for non-cash prizes such as lottery tickets and/or store merchandise. In total, more than 40 agents, investigators, and police officers launched the raids in a simultaneous and coordinated fashion. Multiple arrests are pending as a result.
- Region 11 – On March 8, 2024, GBI's Region 11 – Athens Field Office was requested by the Athens-Clarke County Police Department to assist in investigating a drive-by shooting that resulted in the death of a 3-year-old and injury of a 9-year-old. A suspect vehicle was identified leaving the scene. Three suspects were quickly identified, and arrest warrants were obtained for each of them. One suspect is in custody. The intended targets were two members of Red Tape Gang who were sitting on the porch of a trailer. The projectiles penetrated the walls of the trailer, striking the 3-year-old and 9-year-old. The three suspects are members of a rival criminal street gang, Everybody Eats (EBE). Warrants were issued for the three suspects for Felony Murder, Aggravated Assault, and Violation of Criminal Street Gang and Terrorism Act. The FBI Safe Streets Gang Task Force and Middle Georgia Gang Task Force are assisting Athens-Clarke County PD in fugitive apprehension. The Attorney General's Office will be prosecuting this case.
- Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) – Between the dates of March 22, 2024, and March 27, 2024, GBI's ARDEO, with assistance from the Hall County Sheriff's Office, Lumpkin County Sheriff's Office, White County Sheriff's Office, and the Georgia State Patrol, executed several arrest warrants and search warrants in Hall County and White County. The GBI received information that Dwayne Beck, age 42, of Cleveland, GA, had active arrest warrants and was trafficking methamphetamine. After further investigation, on March 22, 2024, law enforcement located Beck in White County and after a short car chase, arrested him for his warrants. After his arrest, investigators found that Beck possessed suspected methamphetamine and a firearm. Beck was charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Fleeing and Attempting to Elude, and Driving Under the Influence. Ashley Ingram, age 32, of Gainesville, GA, was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Felony, and Possession of a Schedule IV Controlled Substance.

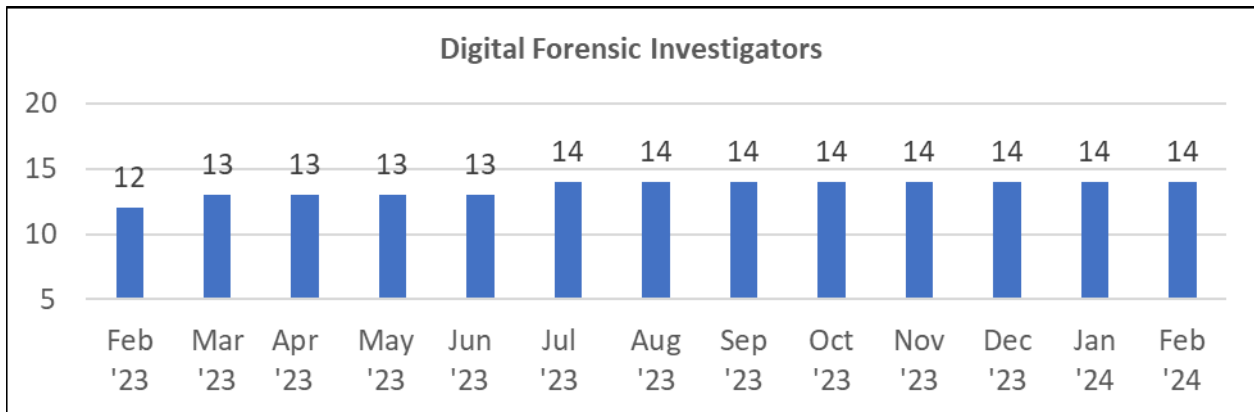
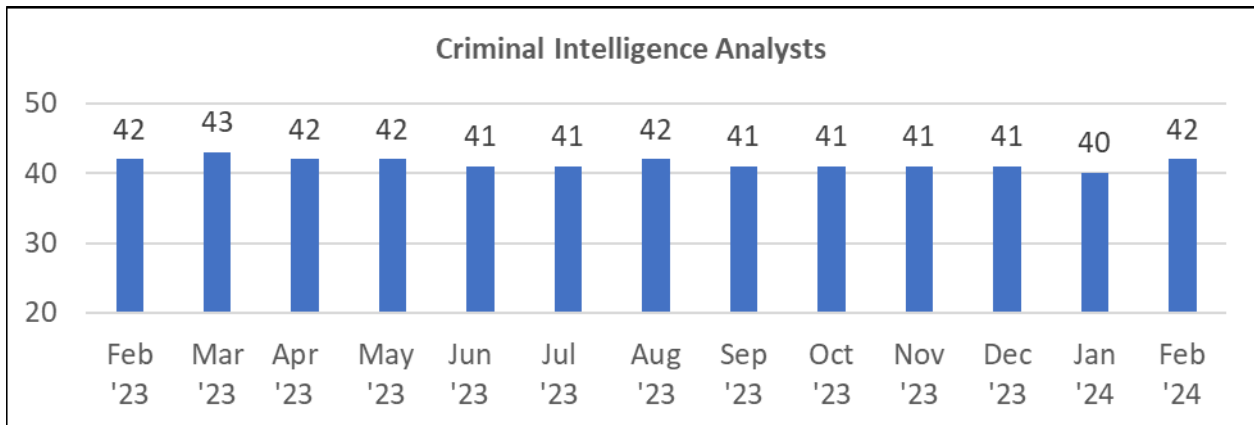
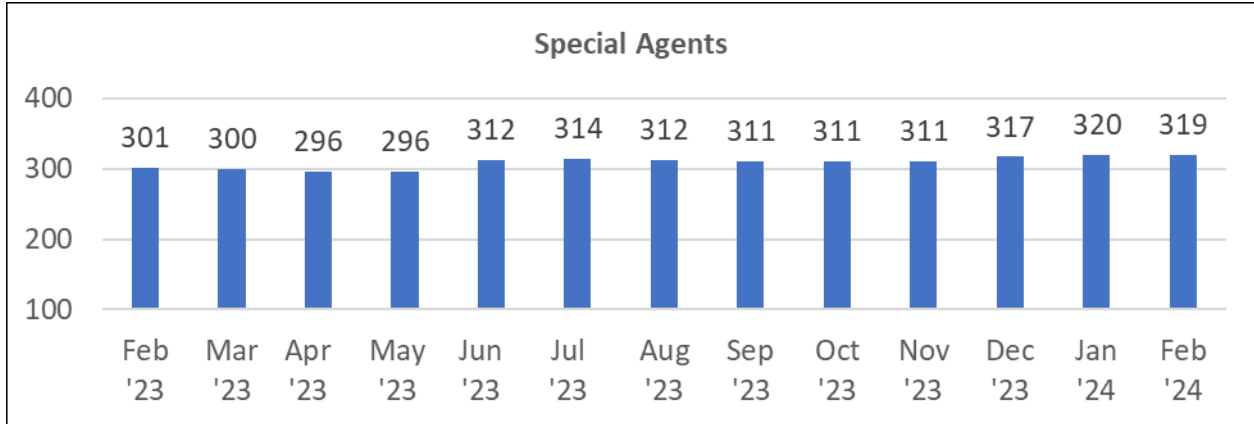
As the investigation continued, on March 27, 2024, Christopher Lee Frazier, age 36, of Cleveland, GA, was arrested for Violation of Probation and was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute. Siarra Ferrar, age 31, of Gainesville, GA, was charged with Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute. Mashelia Martin, age 54, of Cleveland, GA, was charged with Simple Battery. Preston Lee Esco, age 36, of Cleveland, GA, was arrested for Violation of Probation. Michael Anthony Jones, age 36, of Cleveland, GA, was arrested for Failure to Appear.

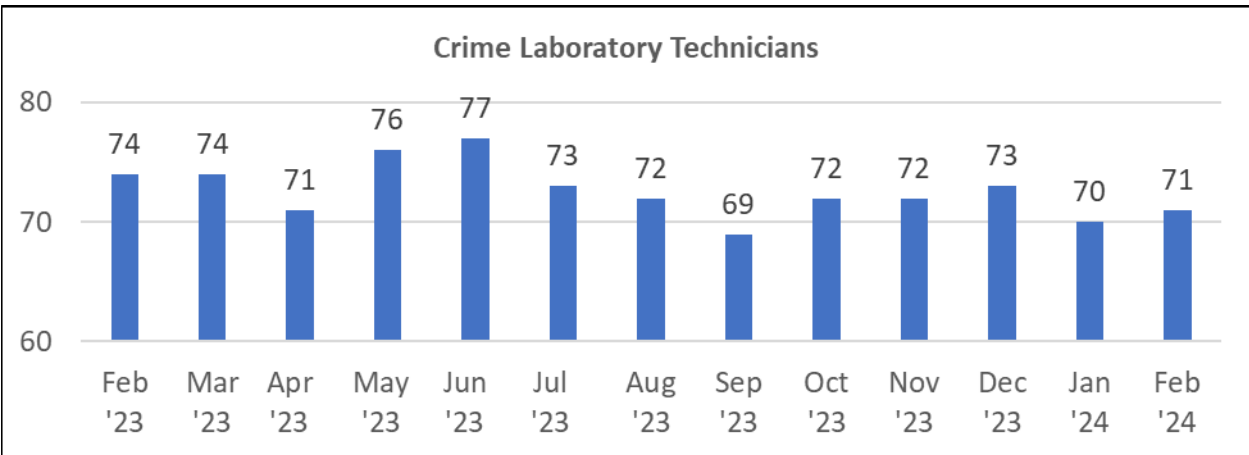
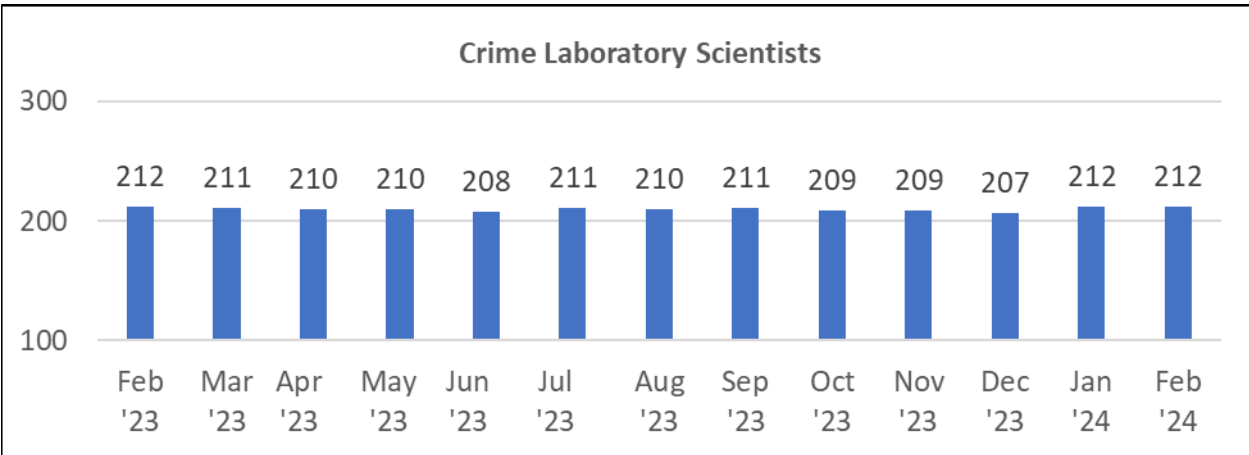
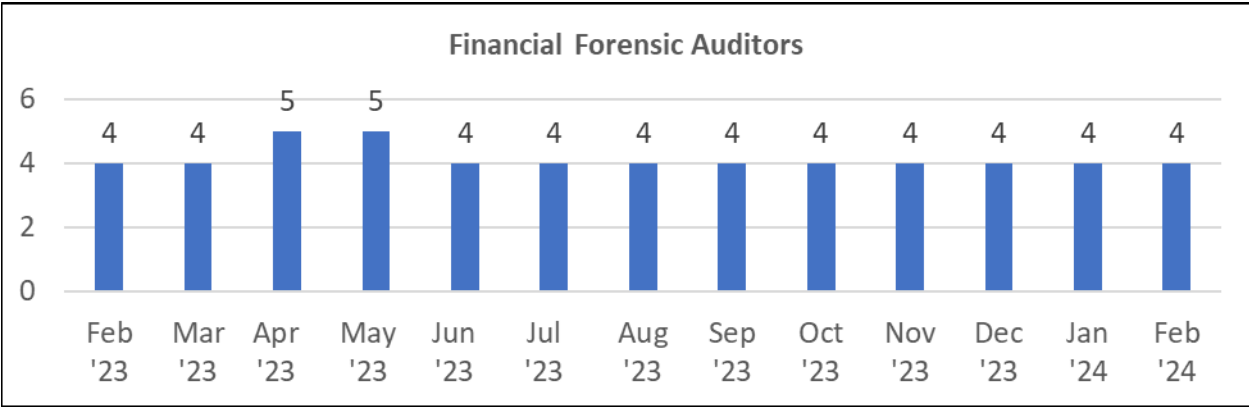
- Office of Special Investigations (OSI) - Cold Case Unit (CCU) – The Coleman-Baker Act (CBA) request webform has been on the GBI website Home page since June 30, 2023. Twenty-four (24) cold cases are being reviewed at this time. Seven (7) were requests from designated family members and seventeen (17) were GBI initiated. CCU has also opened seven (7) GBI cold case unidentified remains (UID) cases in hopes of identifying the victims with FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy).
- From January 1 to March 31, 2024, the GBI investigated a total of seventeen (17) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). OIS number seventeen (17) was on March 28, 2024. GBI's Region 10 – Conyers Field Office was requested by the Clayton County Police Department (CCPD). CCPD officers were investigating allegations of sexual assault and false imprisonment involving Robert Prince, age 38, of College Park, GA, and his wife. As officers were arriving to execute a search warrant at the location where the alleged sexual assault took place, Prince was observed driving past the location in a black vehicle. CCPD officers followed Prince to the Valero gas station on Riverdale Road and attempted to detain him for questioning. Prince exited his car and started shooting at the responding officers, hitting the windshield and body of the police vehicle. Officers retreated to cover and returned fire, killing Prince. Prince was pronounced dead on the scene. His body was taken to the GBI Crime Lab in Decatur for an autopsy. No officers were injured in this incident. The GBI will conduct an independent investigation. Once complete, the case file will be given to the Clayton County District Attorney's Office for review.
- On March 20, 2024, the Georgia House of Representatives recognized the GBI's work to combat gang crimes in Georgia with House Resolution 1443, sponsored by Representative Soo Hong. Read House Resolution 1443: <https://tinyurl.com/2s339y9u>

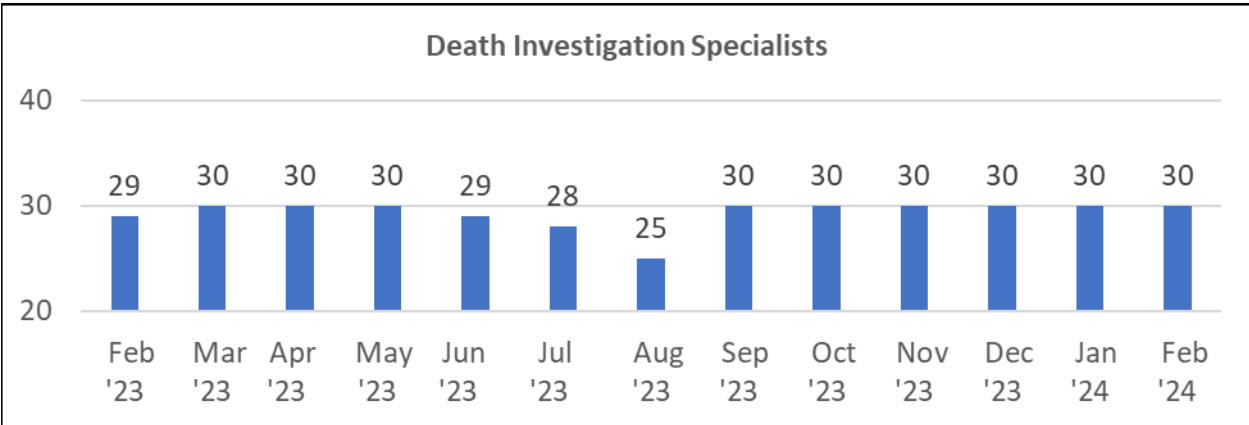
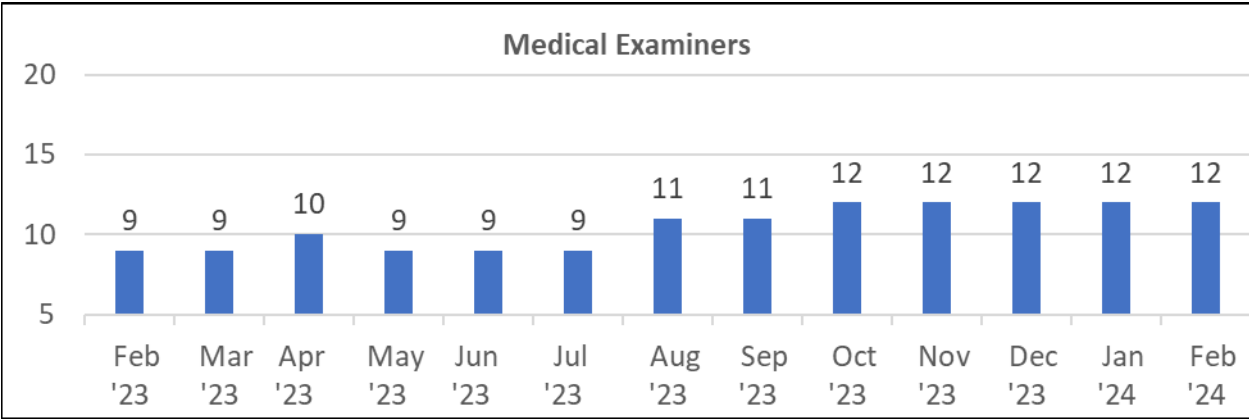


Staffing Report

Filled Positions







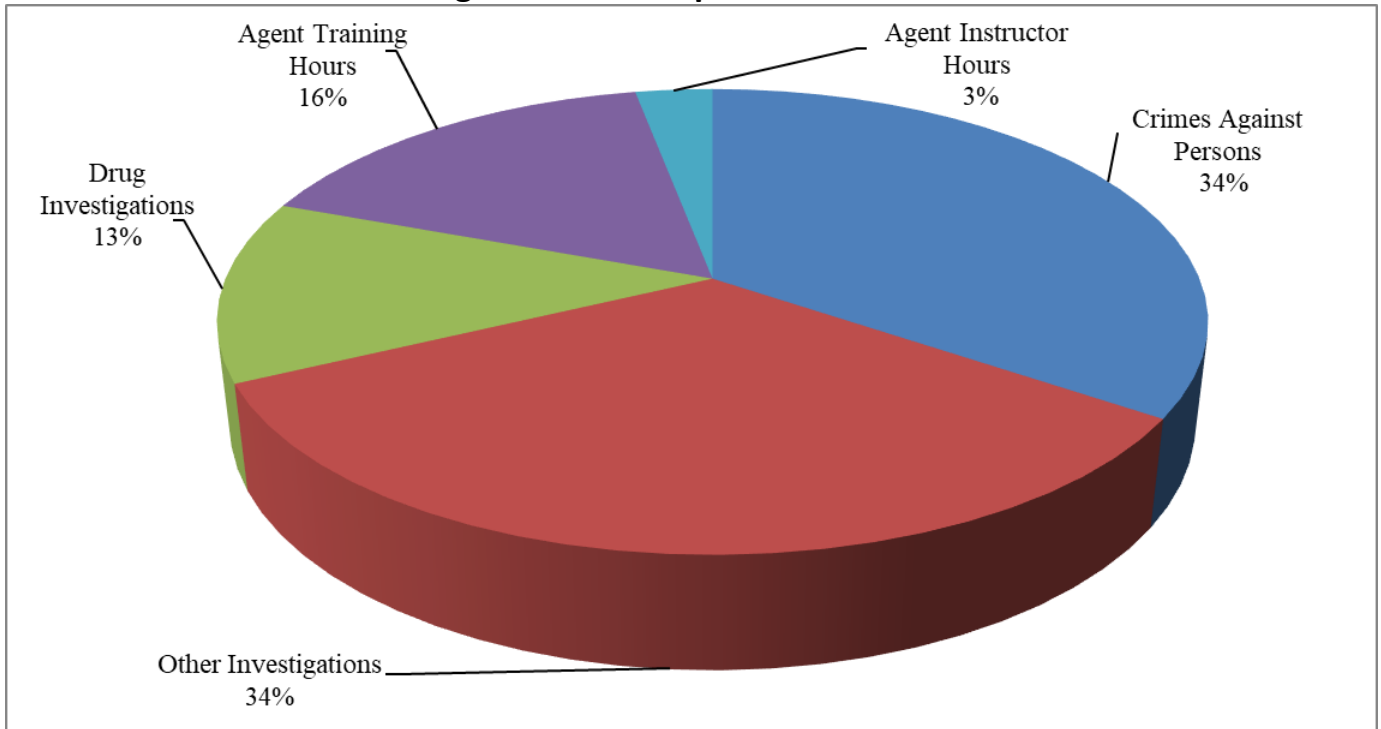


Investigative Division

Investigative Cases – YTD FY2024

	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	FY 2024
* Crimes Against Persons	78	78	116	75	63	63	79	91					643
**Drug Investigations	23	21	18	25	19	18	28	35					187
***Other Investigations	416	545	409	537	436	392	419	536					3,690
Total	517	644	543	637	518	473	526	662					4,520

Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2024



* **Crimes Against Persons** - death investigations, assaults, kidnapping, robbery, child abuse & exploitation/trafficking, etc.

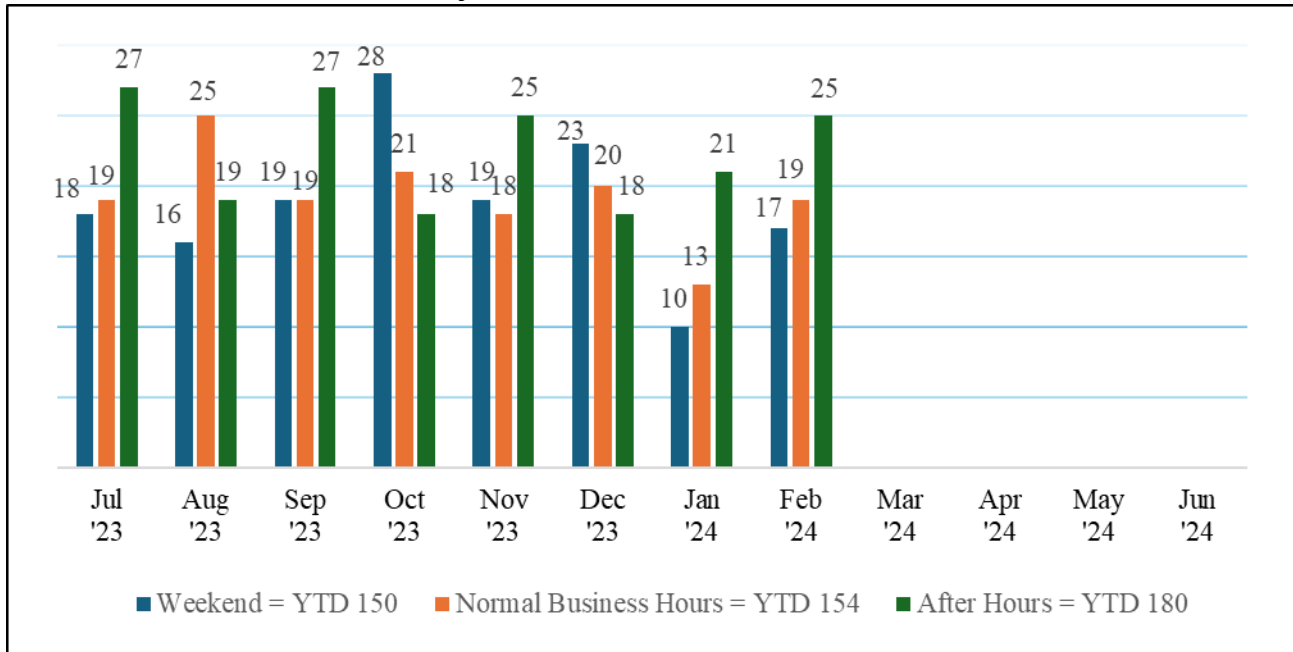
** **Drug Investigations** - felony investigations, trafficking, manufacturing, distribution, etc.

*** **Other Investigations** - corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2024

	February 2024	YTD FY2024
Property Stolen	\$70,000.00	\$934,797.61
Property Recovered	0	\$624,419.54
Contraband Seized	\$6,546,312.60	\$690,480,226.45
Arrests	83	737
Cases Closed	637	4,473

Major Case Call Outs - YTD FY2024



Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2024

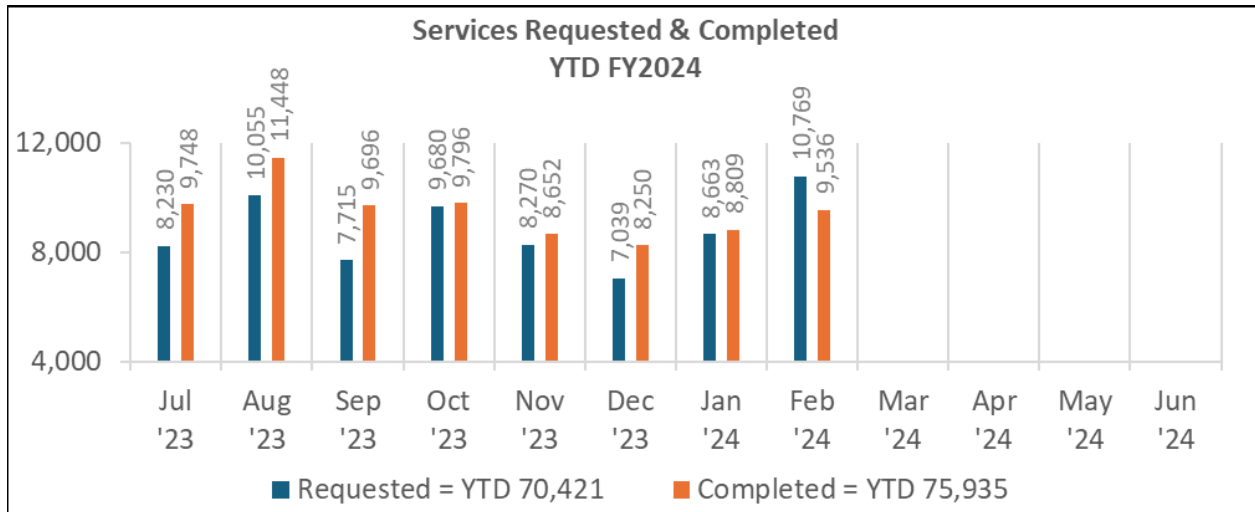
	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	FY 2024
Threats to Life	48	47	42	25	31	27	51	43					314
See Send App Tips	308	306	298	271	277	431	405	709					3,005
Suspicious Activity	4	4	1	3	8	4	1	1					26
Requests for Info.	1,466	1,398	1,189	1,478	1,287	1,001	1,505	1,749					11,073

Investigative Division Notes:

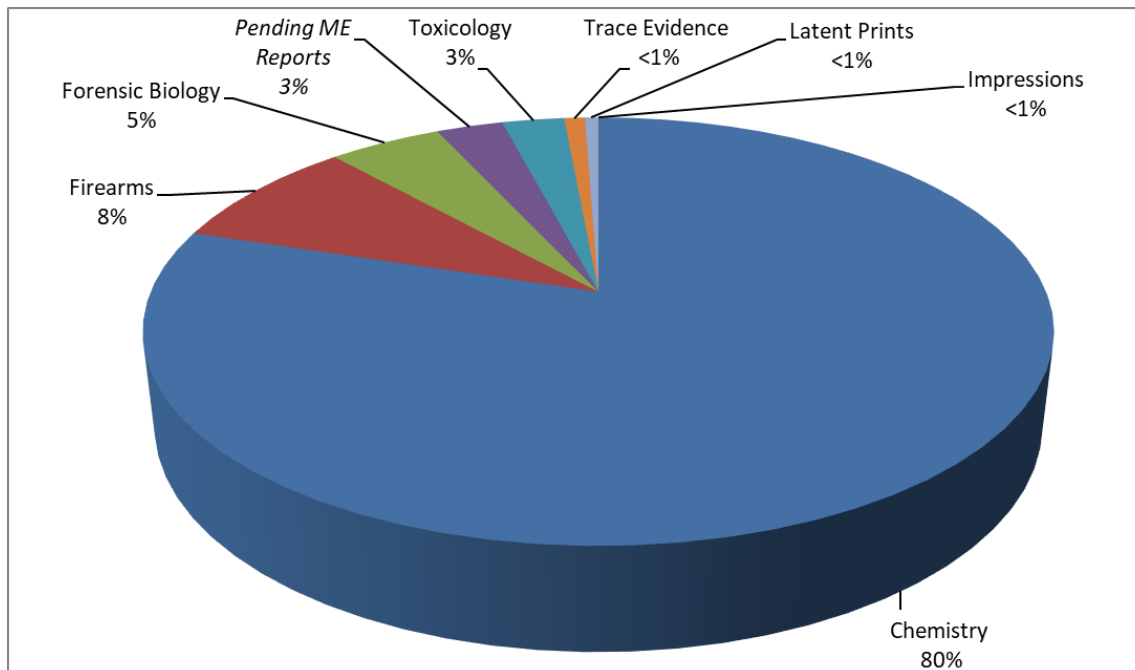
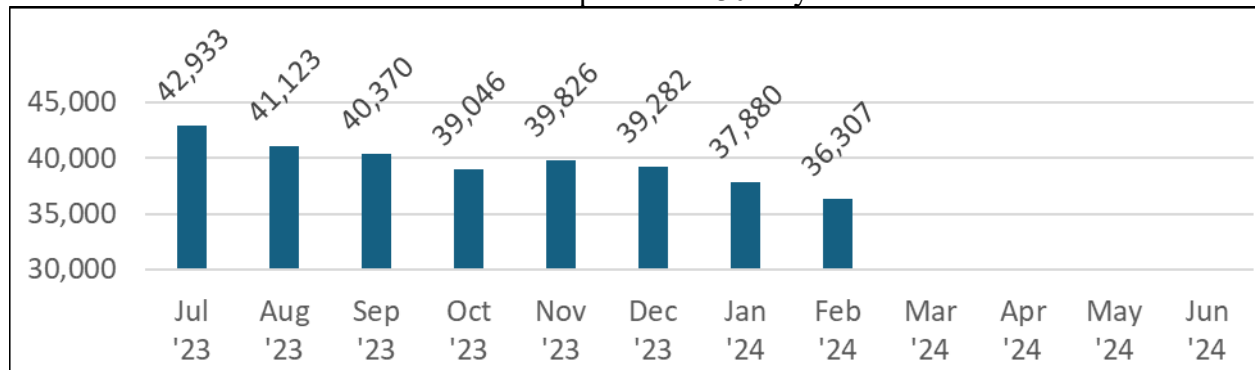
- Currently 39 Special Agent applicants are going through the selection process.
- Seven new Special Agents graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Training Course on March 22, 2024.
- GBI's Basic Agent Academy started on March 24, 2024 with 14 Special Agents.



Crime Laboratory



Backlog Report – YTD FY2024 Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old



Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

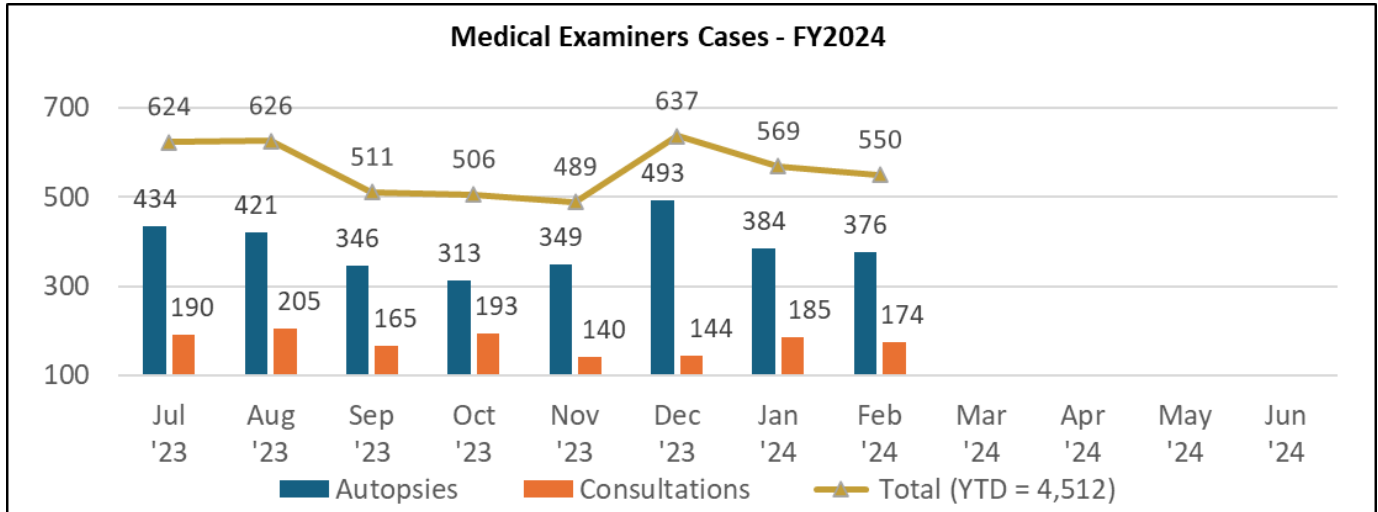
	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	YTD FY2024
Samples Entered	1,030	2,766	1,221	2,839	1,386	1,047	1,889	2,712					14,890
Confirmed Hits	118	94	49	84	118	101	103	75					742

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 17 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.



Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



MEO Backlog - FY2024

Medical Examiner data is calculated as >90 days from the date of examination in accordance with National Association of Medical Examiner accreditation standards.

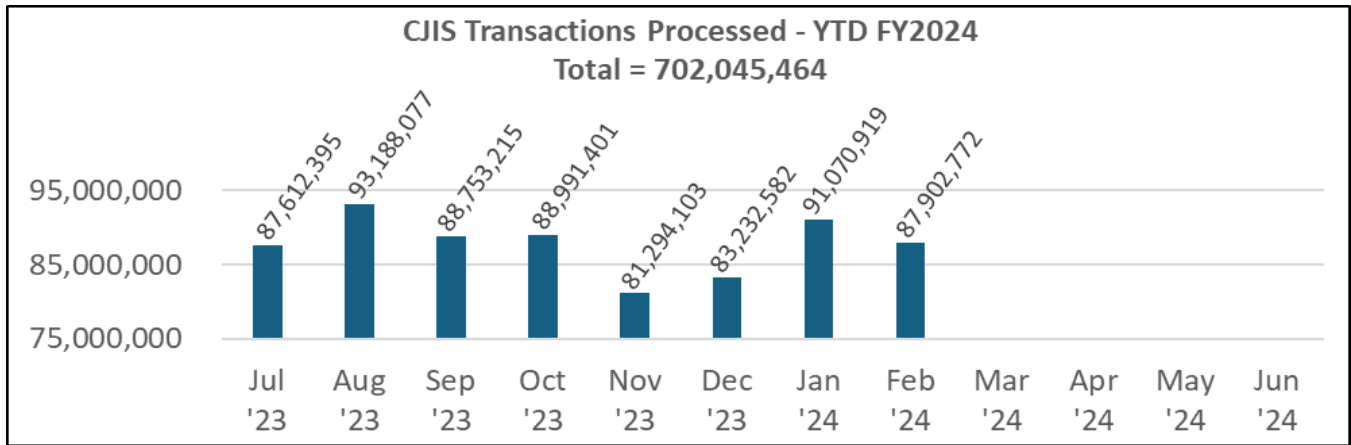
	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Reports Pending	979	969	1,006	1,081	1,096	1,012	1,045	1,029				
Released w/in 90 Days	51.3%	63.3%	53.0%	65.3%	49.1%	58.1%	52.8%	83.5%				

MEO Note:

- GBI's 2023-2024 ME Fellows have completed all of their traditional classroom/lecture training and are working to finalize their examination and report training.
- On March 27, 2024, Medical Examiner Dr. Rachel Geller hosted four Mercer University School of Medicine students who are interested in becoming Forensic Pathologists in the Macon Medical Examiner's Office.



Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)



AFIS, CCH, and Applicant Activity Report

	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Criminal Fingerprint Submissions												
Submissions	39,421	39,740	37,731	39,951	35,821	35,610	35,821	38,309				
Submissions w/Palms	17,431	17,443	16,518	16,042	14,726	15,594	14,726	15,905				
Submissions w/Photos	13,095	13,384	12,292	12,106	10,920	11,694	10,920	11,649				
Latent Print AFIS HITS	43	24	12	15	32	17	32	30				
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	45,372	52,440	40,497	40,595	35,060	32,563	35,060	40,466				
Submissions through Rap Back	4,797	6,372	5,742	5,798	4,807	4,537	4,807	4,739				
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	667	692	690	727	694	687	694	957				
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	59,107	66,673	58,667	90,189	87,445	57,940	87,445	69,731				
GCIC	795	582	376	234	274	223	274	272				
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	1,188	1,425	1,443	1,475	1,321	1,531	1,321	1,672				
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	47%	57%	51%	49%	52%	48%	52%	50%				
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	50%	53%	53%	53%	53%	50%	53%	52%				
*Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	13%	15%	15%	15%	14%	12%	14%	14%				

* Repository for Individuals of Special Concerns (RISC). This group includes Wanted Persons including the Immigration Violator File, National Sexual Offenders, Known or appropriately Suspected Terrorists and other persons of special interest groups defined by FBI.

GCIC Activity Report

	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24
Off-Line Search Requests	13	25	19	13	19	12	28	15				
Sex Offender Registry <i>(Database Total 38,292)</i>												
Records Added	135	148	114	123	103	97	96	97				
Protection Order Registry <i>(Database Total 171,876)</i>												
Records Added	2,675	3,145	2,726	2,786	2,473	2,138	2,510	2,138				
Criminal Justice Agencies <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
Audited	50	27	36	47	23	30	20	30				
In Compliance	20	9	7	18	8	1	2	8				
Out of Compliance	30	18	29	29	15	29	18	22				
Trained	1	6	6	3	5	3	3	1				
Non-Criminal Justice <i>(e.g. Civil Courts, City, County and Charter Schools, Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Department of Community Health (DCH), etc.)</i>												
Audited	42	43	33	48	63	41	56	39				
In Compliance	28	26	22	36	36	23	39	24				
Out of Compliance	14	17	11	12	27	18	17	15				
Trained	7	6	6	7	5	2	7	9				
Learning Management System (LMS) <i>An on-line system for criminal justice and non-criminal justice staff to enroll and attend e-learning courses</i>												
Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database	15	17	18	15	0	0	0	0				
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	2,278	5,277	8,638	5,179	4,232	3,448	10,478	3,173				
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	1,446	1,831	2,719	1,701	1,814	1,390	3,637	6,197				



Administration

Office of Privacy and Compliance / Open Records Unit

Open Records/Archives Requests - YTD FY2024

	Jul '23	Aug '23	Sep '23	Oct '23	Nov '23	Dec '23	Jan '24	Feb '24	Mar '24	Apr '24	May '24	Jun '24	FY 2024
Open Records Requests	457	500	571	335	475	423	618	1,074					4,453

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- Renovation of the Eastern Lab in Augusta was completed in March 2024.
- HQ MEO expansion. Design services scheduled for completion December 2024.
- Region 1 - Calhoun Office new construction. Scheduled for completion in January 2025.