

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation
February Monthly Report
FY2025**



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety
No meeting held in April 2025**

**Chris Hosey
Director**

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Director's Highlights

- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit – On March 26, 2025, after an investigation spanning several months, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), in collaboration with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI), the Bartow County Sheriff's Office (SO), and other key law enforcement partners, executed a federal search warrant at Wellmade Performance Flooring and multiple residences in the Cartersville, Bartow County, GA area. This operation targeted allegations of labor trafficking involving foreign nationals, as well as financial crimes linked to the employer's business practices. Wellmade Industries' owner, Zhu "George" Chen, Jiaya "Morgan" Chen, and Jianjun Lu have been arrested and charged with trafficking persons for labor servitude. Sixty-two (62) employees/victims were encountered and offered services the day of the search warrant. The number of victims is increasing due to former employees reaching out. This investigation is active and ongoing.
- Middle Georgia Gang Task Force (MGGTF) – On March 13, 2025, following an eleven-month investigation, the Warner Robins Police Department (PD) SWAT, GBI Special Enforcement Team, and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Macon executed search warrants in Warner Robins, GA. As a result of these search warrants, Warner Robins PD detectives and GBI agents seized approximately 15 pounds (estimated 67,000 pills) of suspected fentanyl pills, approximately 12 pounds of suspected crystal methamphetamine, two firearms, and cash.

On March 17, 2025, the GBI arrested four Warner Robins residents in a multi-agency drug investigation conducted by Warner Robins PD, GBI MGGTF, Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS), Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), US Marshal's Service, and DEA.

Latray McKenzie, age 26, of Warner Robins, GA was charged with Trafficking in Fentanyl, Sale of Fentanyl, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, Use of a Communication Facility in Commission of a Felony, Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Sale of Methamphetamine, Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute, 2 counts of Possession of a Firearm During the Commission of a Crime, and 2 counts of Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon.

Justin High, age 37, of Warner Robins, GA was charged with Trafficking in Methamphetamine, Sale of Methamphetamine, Trafficking Fentanyl, Sale of Fentanyl, Use of a Communication Facility in Commission of a Felony, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, and Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute within 1,000 feet of a school.

Takora Prater, age 38, of Warner Robins, GA was charged with Trafficking Methamphetamine, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, and Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute within 1,000 feet of a school.

Aretha Veal, age 56, of Warner Robins, GA was charged with Trafficking Fentanyl, Sale of Fentanyl, Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, Possession of Fentanyl with Intent to Distribute, Trafficking Methamphetamine, and Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute.

McKenzie, High, Prater, and Veal were booked into the Houston County Jail.

- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit – On March 14, 2025 – The GBI arrested and charged Reed Skelton, age 26, of Hart County, GA with Trafficking of Persons for Sexual Servitude. The Hart County SO requested the GBI to investigate a human trafficking case that occurred in Fulton County, GA. The investigation revealed that in the fall of 2024 Skelton began communicating with a minor through social media. Skelton lived in Hart County and traveled to Fulton County with the intent of meeting the minor. He brought the minor to a hotel in Fulton County and then paid for sex with the minor. Skelton was arrested in Hall County and booked into the Hall County Jail. GBI’s HEAT Unit aggressively pursues cases of Human Trafficking throughout the state of Georgia, along with state and local partners. This case involved multi-jurisdiction cooperation amongst the GBI, Cobb County PD, Hart County SO, Hall County SO, Gainesville PD, Fulton County SO, Georgia State Patrol, and the Georgia Attorney General’s Office. This investigation is active and ongoing.
- 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. Forty (40) cold cases are being reviewed or reinvestigated at this time. Fifteen (15) were requests from designated family members and twenty-five (25) were GBI initiated. CCU has also opened thirteen (13) GBI cold case unidentified remains (UID) cases in hopes of identifying the victims with FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy). Four (4) of the unidentified remains cases have been identified.
- From January 1 to March 31, 2025, the GBI investigated a total of sixteen (16) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS). On March 26, 2025, GBI’s Region 10 – Atlanta Regional Field Office was requested by the Atlanta Police Department (APD). APD received a 911 call from an individual located in the 2000 block of Lakewood Drive SW in Atlanta stating that a man with a gun was threatening people at the location. When the officer arrived on scene, Travis Walker, age 42, of Atlanta, GA, was at the location, a muffler shop, angry about his car. An employee was kneeling near Walker, working on Walker’s vehicle. Walker was standing over the employee with a gun in his hand. The officer gave Walker commands to take his hand off the gun. The officer then fired his weapon, hitting Walker. Walker eventually followed commands and laid on the ground. A handgun was recovered near Walker. Walker was transported to a local hospital with non-life-threatening injuries. No officers were injured.

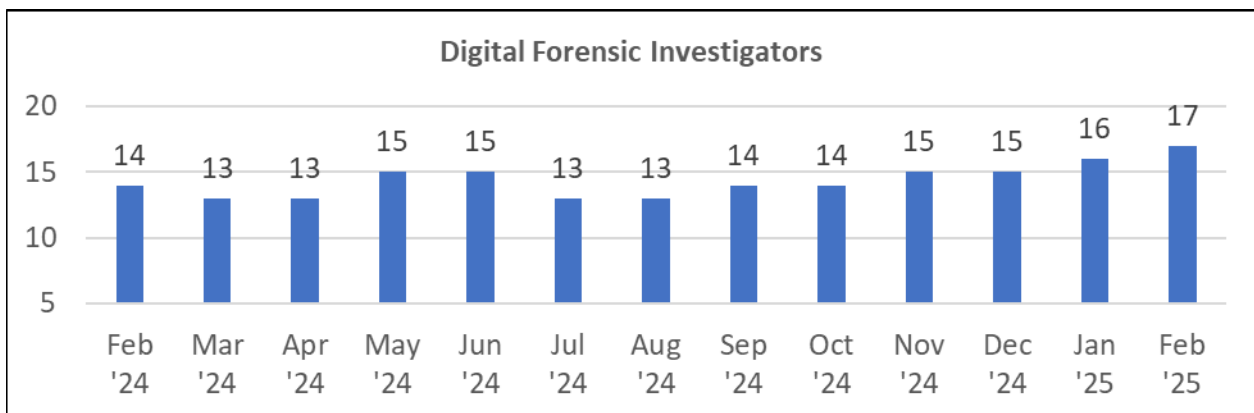
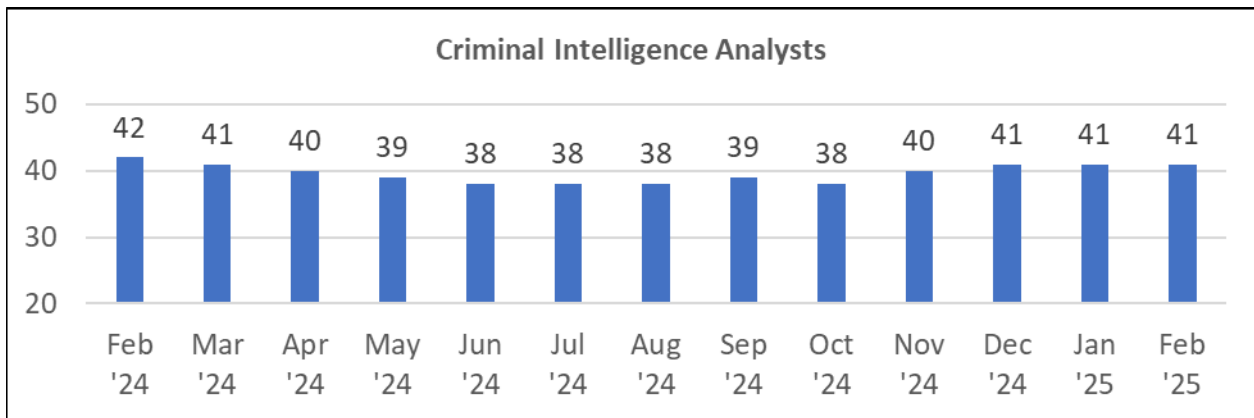
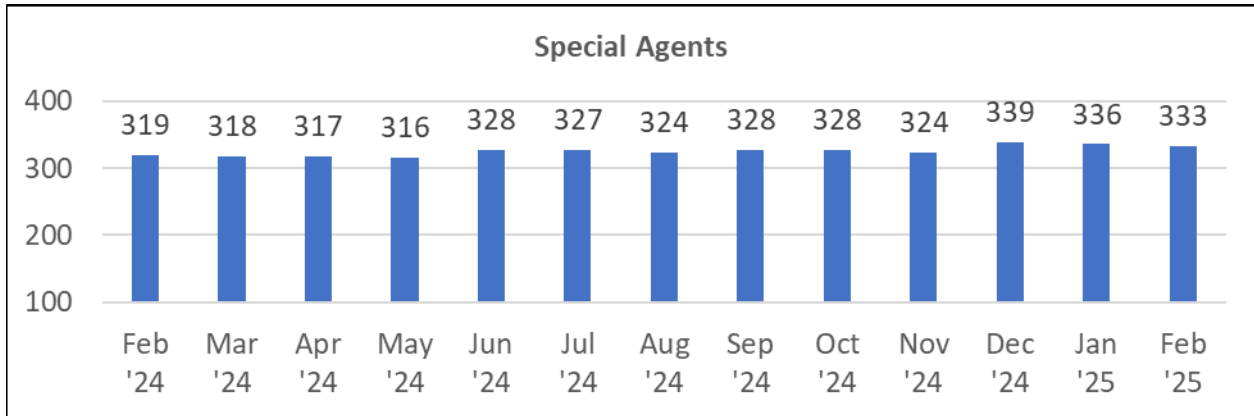
Promotions Effective April 2025

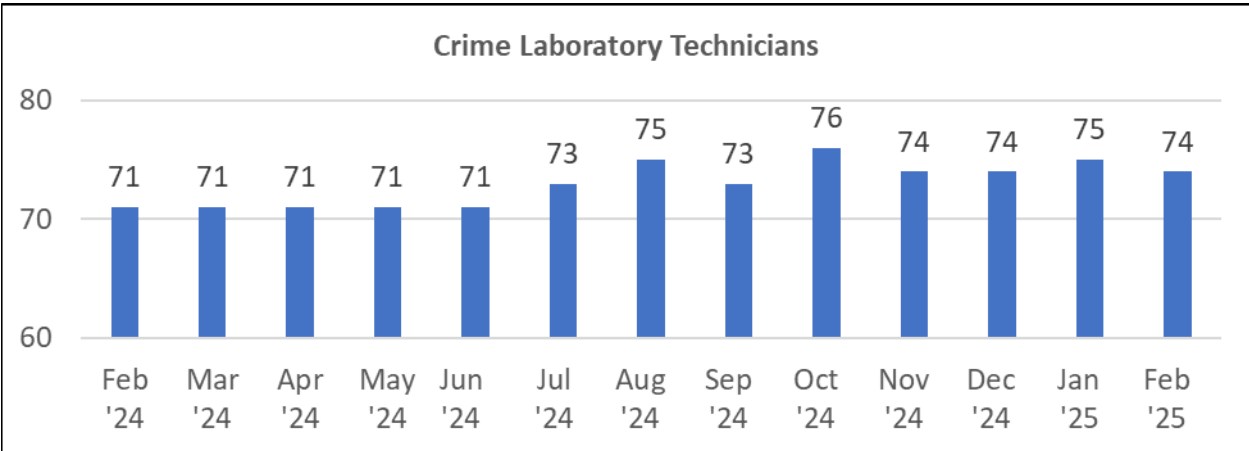
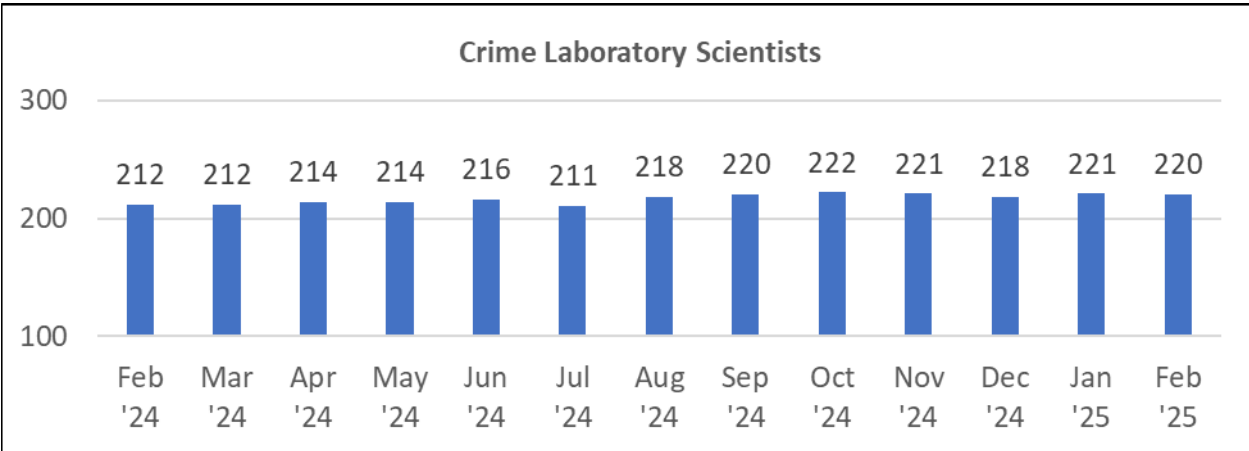
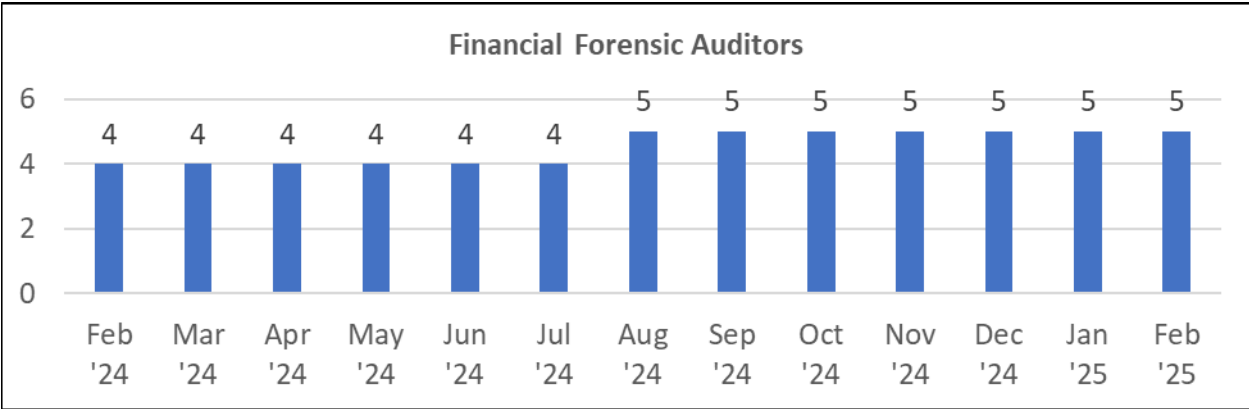
- Tonya Bailey was promoted to Division of Forensic Sciences Chemistry Section Assistant Manager at Headquarters in Decatur, GA, effective April 1, 2025.

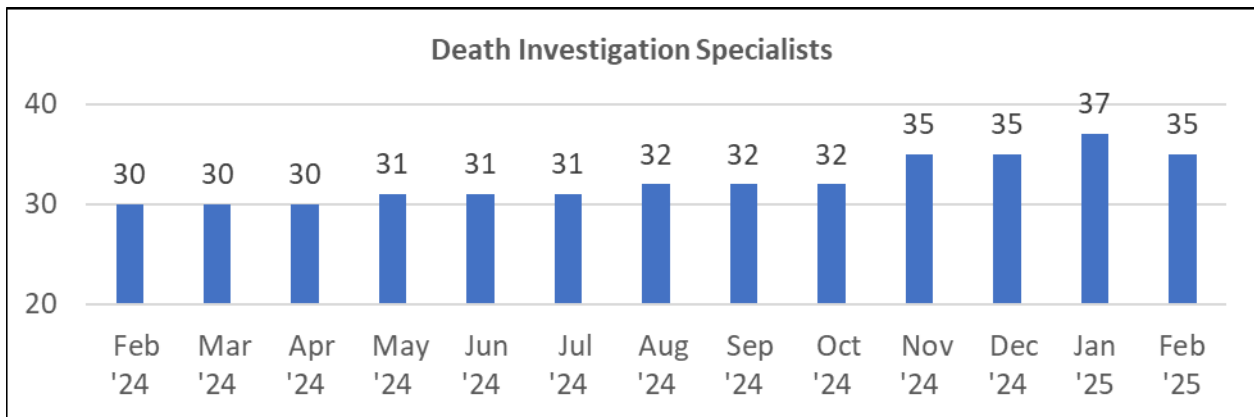
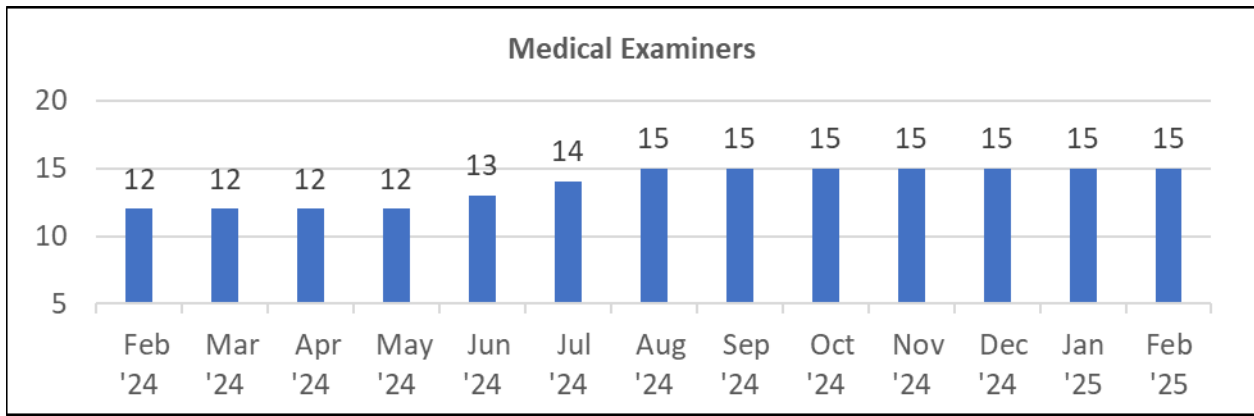


Staffing Report

Filled Positions (All Fund Sources)







GBI Vacancies -- FY2025

(State Funds Only)

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sept '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
DOFS	58	46	45	39	39	42	36	41				
Scientist Positions	32	25	23	21	22	25	23	24				
Investigative Division	44	42	35	33	34	19	20	21				
Sworn Agent Positions	20	22	14	14	18	3	6	8				
GCIC	9	9	7	9	9	9	11	11				
Admin	5	5	4	4	5	6	6	6				

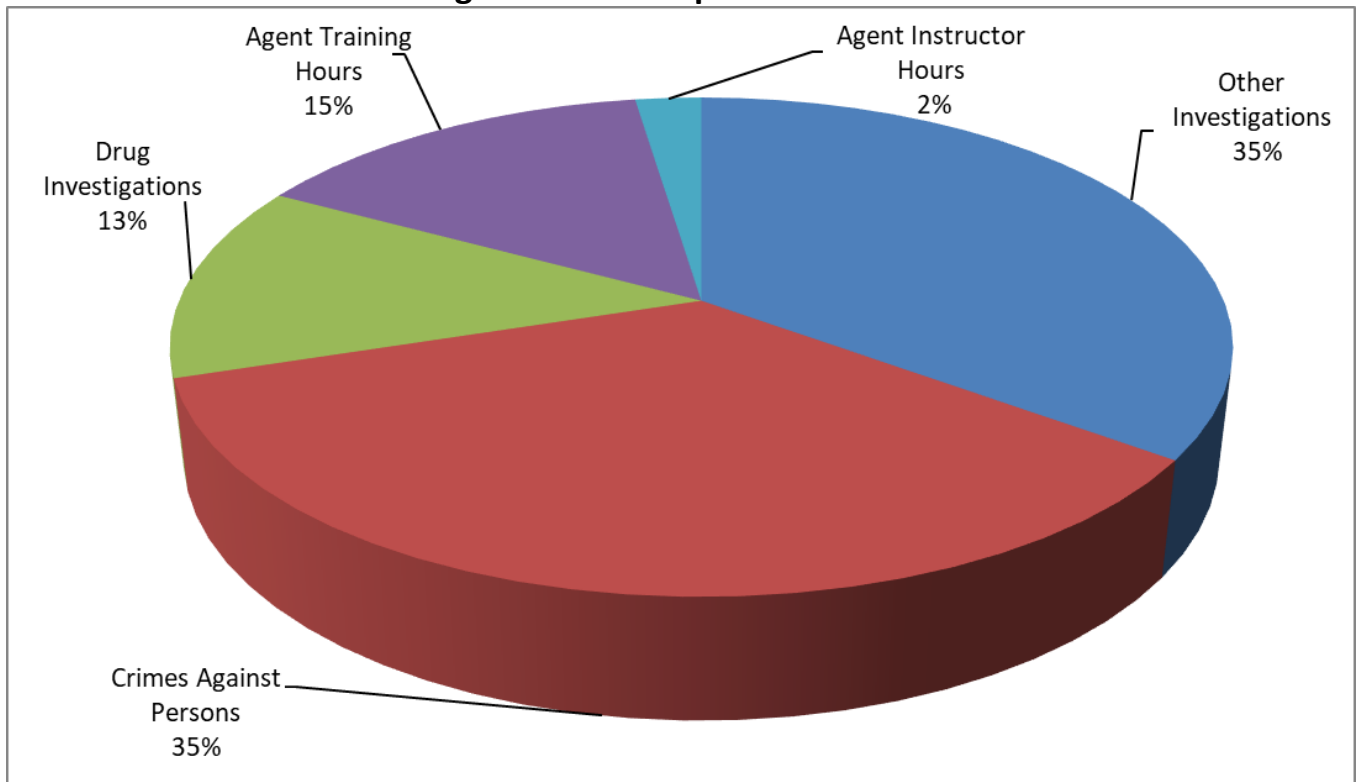


Investigative Division

Investigative Cases – YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
* Crimes Against Persons	85	106	130	110	72	62	87	78					730
** Drug Investigations	16	22	23	24	18	15	19	28					165
*** Other Investigations	412	462	424	463	375	359	417	418					3,330
Total	513	590	577	597	465	436	523	524					4,225

Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2025



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

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

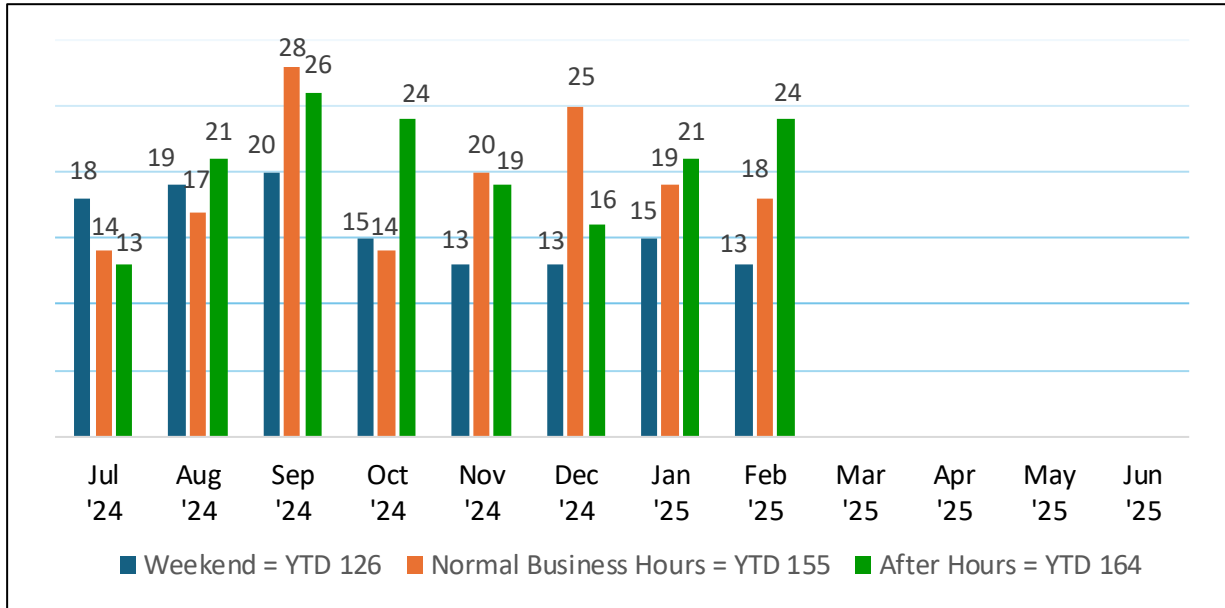
*** **Other Investigations** - corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2025

	February 2025	YTD FY2025
Property Stolen	\$0.00	\$140,449.52
Property Recovered	\$0.00	\$237,690.30
Contraband Seized	\$5,634,180.64	\$125,157,387.60
Arrests	90	737
Cases Closed	452	4,099

Note: Monthly totals are accurate at the time of this report. However, the totals may change due to late reporting and pending updates.

Major Case Call Outs - YTD FY2025



Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)

Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
Threats to Life	34	42	62	36	41	27	49	39					330
See Send App Tips	2,352	628	803	571	630	744	653	573					6,954
Suspicious Activity	0	1	0	1	4	1	0	1					8
*Requests for Info.	1,936	1,978	1,659	1,816	1,516	1,441	1,741	1,702					13,789

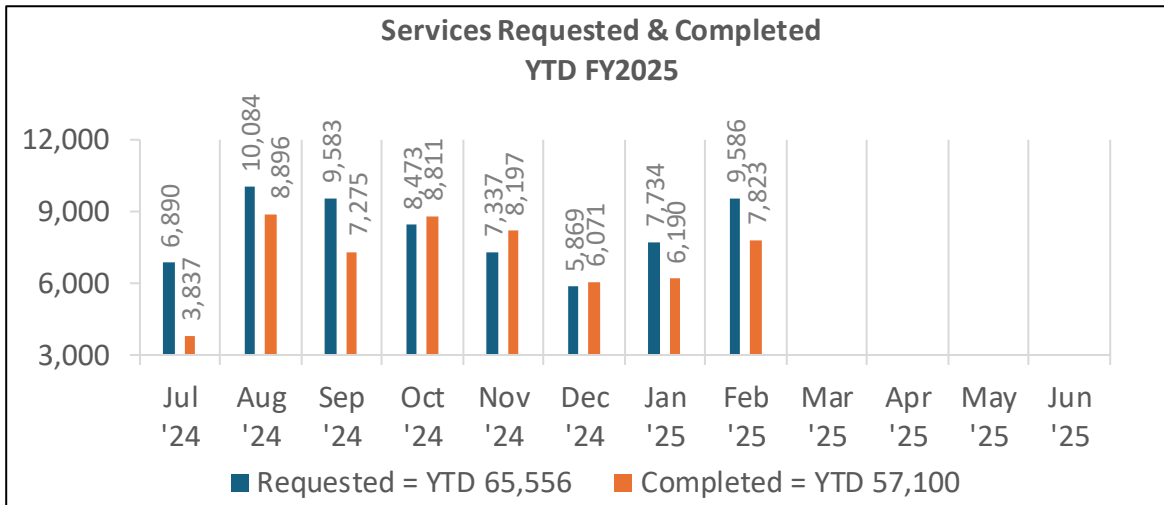
* The GISAC Requests for Information (RFI) totals are accurate at the time of this report. However, the numbers may change due to pending updates and modifications within the reporting system.

Investigative Division Notes:

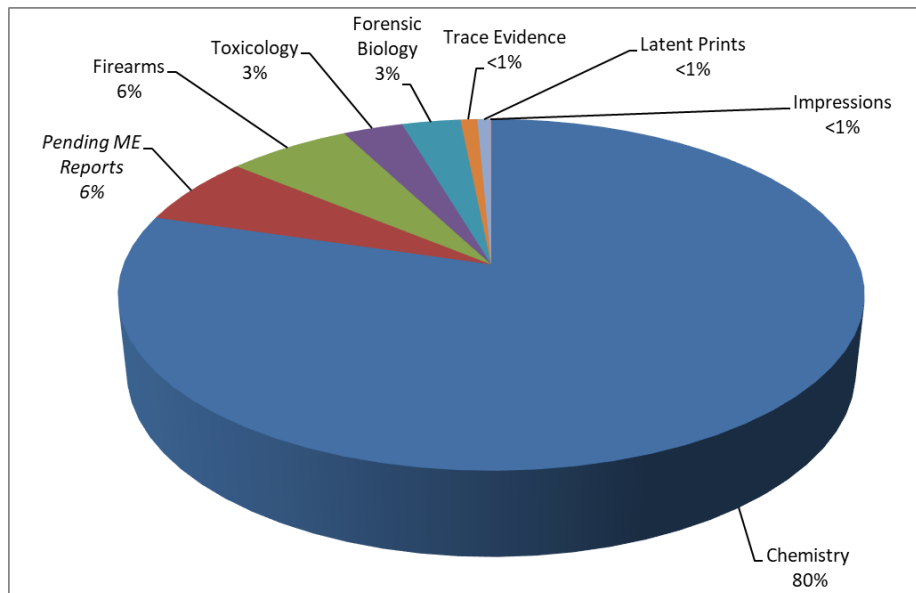
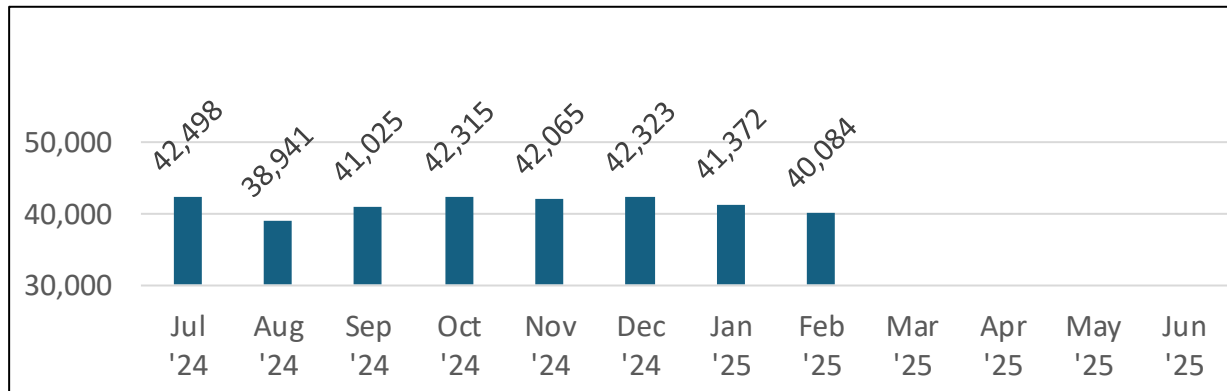
- Thirty-five (35) Special Agent applicants passed the Special Agent applicant assessments. Twenty-nine (29) successfully completed the polygraph phase. Twenty-four (24) successfully completed the background phase and have moved forward in the hiring process to the Command Staff interviews.



Crime Laboratory



Backlog Report – YTD FY2025 Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old



Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

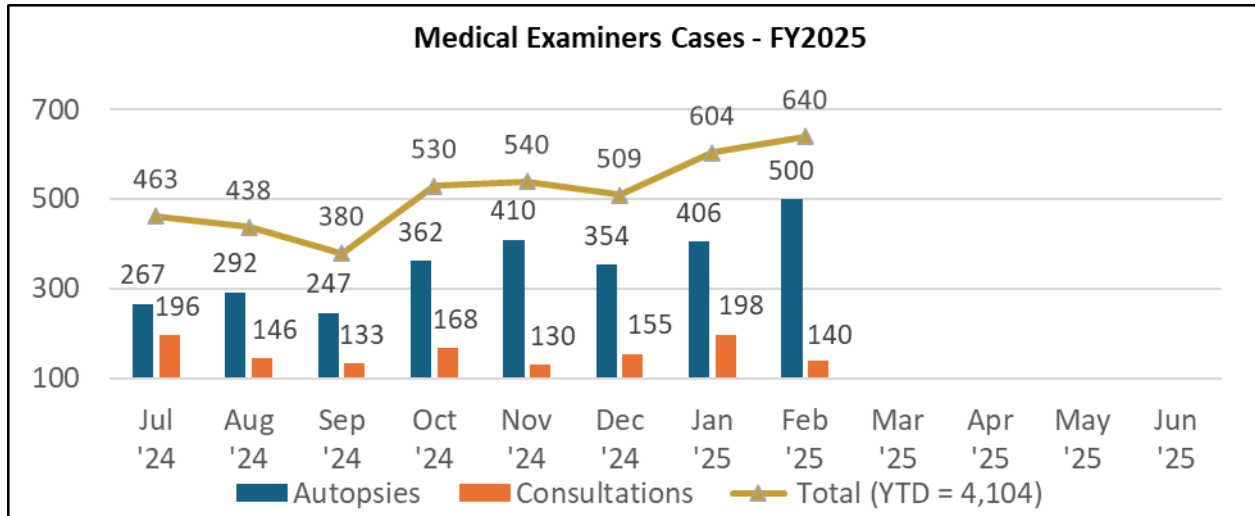
	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	YTD FY2025
Samples Entered	1,710	1,926	1,301	1,366	1,331	1,315	671	1,450					11,070
Confirmed Hits	65	35	49	55	45	37	38	33					357

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 26 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.
- On April 1, 2025, three (3) Crime Lab Scientists, one (1) Death Investigation Specialist, and one (1) Forensic Technician began employment with the GBI Division of Forensic Sciences.
- The Division of Forensic Sciences (DOFS) Virtual Symposium is scheduled for June 17, 2025.



Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



MEO Backlog - FY2025

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

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
Reports Pending	1,938	2,110	2,113	2,436	2,863	2,712	2,494	2,557				
*Released w/in 90 Days	68.9%	53.0%	67.8%	61.7%	53.1%	58.0%	30.0%	52.9%				

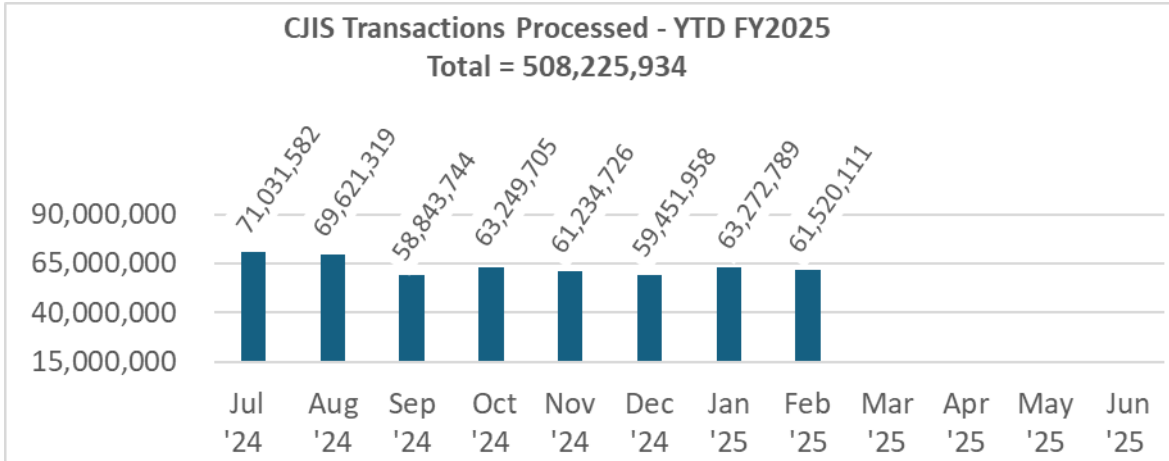
* Due to the number of old case reports released in January 2025 (including a 2022 case), an overall decrease is shown in the Percentage of Cases Released within 90 Days during January.

MEO Notes:

- On March 26-27, 2025, GBI's Medical Examiner's Office Chief Medical Examiner, Director of Medical Operations, Senior Death Investigation Specialist and the GBI's Body Recovery Team assisted with the National Guard Patriot Exercise held at the Guardian Center in Perry, GA. Training exercises provide simulated natural disaster environments for units to test their response and capabilities to conduct domestic operations.
- The Medical College of Georgia's Pathology Residency Program at Augusta University matched four (4) new residents to rotate with the GBI's Medical Examiner's Office.



Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)



AFIS, CCH, and Applicant Activity Report

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
Criminal Fingerprint Submissions												
Submissions	44,936	45,969	43,645	46,204	41,533	41,768	40,370	43,436				
Submissions w/Palms	15,948	16,590	14,953	15,873	15,157	14,742	15,336	15,536				
Submissions w/Photos	11,132	11,617	10,231	10,937	10,625	10,259	10,509	10,269				
Latent Print AFIS HITS	19	44	40	27	18	5	18	18				
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	48,959	52,249	38,524	41,219	34,648	32,310	36,078	35,884				
Submissions through Rap Back	6,157	6,245	5,099	5,554	4,582	3,962	3,657	3,560				
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,107	1,122	1,062	1,044	977	1,082	1,102	1,168				
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	71,469	71,214	61,447	69,512	60,994	61,691	61,025	75,049				
GCIC	326	287	285	260	222	266	328	329				
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	1,893	2,128	1,592	1,296	1,769	1,478	1,649	1,692				
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	49%	52%	49%	45%	45%	45%	47%	49%				
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	55%	51%	47%	50%	53%	52%	51%				
**Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	14%	15%	15%	14%	13%	13%	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 '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25
Off-Line Search Requests	17	14	10	15	11	19	18	22				
Sex Offender Registry <i>(Database Total 38,392)</i>												
Records Added	106	145	138	125	113	136	110	140				
Protection Order Registry <i>(Database Total 174,467)</i>												
Records Added	2,854	3,190	2,621	2,962	2,553	2,496	2,554	2,572				
Criminal Justice Agencies <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
Audited	20	36	38	19	23	45	45	45				
In Compliance	4	5	5	7	5	14	14	14				
Out of Compliance	16	31	33	12	18	31	31	31				
Trained	10	4	4	19	5	2	1	4				
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	63	32	41	33	39	19	39	58				
In Compliance	32	25	32	18	26	11	24	29				
Out of Compliance	31	7	9	15	13	8	15	29				
Trained	12	57	16	57	6	349	16	10				
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	11	12	29	5	4	6	14	17				
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	3,058	3,078	3,018	2,532	2,345	2,732	4,039	5,527				
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	5,538	6,878	7,064	5,389	4,730	6,303	7,972	12,009				

GCIC Notes:

- During February 2025, the percentage of electronically received fingerprint cards vs. mailed/manual fingerprint cards was 99.6%



Administration

Office of Privacy and Compliance / Open Records Unit

Open Records/Archives Requests - YTD FY2025

	Jul '24	Aug '24	Sep '24	Oct '24	Nov '24	Dec '24	Jan '25	Feb '25	Mar '25	Apr '25	May '25	Jun '25	FY 2025
Open Records Requests	694	573	573	586	681	576	544	702					4,929

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- Region 1 - Calhoun Office new construction completion date has been rescheduled to May 2025.
- GBI Headquarters' Medical Examiner's Office new construction is scheduled to begin in May 2025.
- Central Regional Crime Lab (Macon/Dry Branch, GA) Medical Examiner's Office design firm has been selected.