

**Georgia Bureau of Investigation
October Monthly Report
FY2026**



**Presented to the Board of Public Safety
December 11, 2025**

**Chris Hosey
Director**

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Director's Highlights

- Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) – On October 29-30, 2025, Agents and Officers executed five search warrants in Woodstock, Sandy Springs, and Atlanta. Law enforcement seized more than 500 pounds of marijuana packaged for distribution, along with nine firearms. The investigation revealed that associates of Cartel Jalisco New Generation (CJNG) were working with metro Atlanta contacts to traffic firearms, marijuana, cocaine, and methamphetamine. ARDEO, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS), Atlanta Police Department Narcotics Unit, Sandy Springs Police Department, and the Homeland Security Investigations Violent Gang Task Force arrested and charged Jubenal Farfan Arellano, age 52, of Mexico, Omar Flores Mena, age 33, of Mexico, and Jose Radilla Maldonado, age 29, of Sandy Springs with Racketeering and Attempt or Conspiracy to Violate the Georgia Controlled Substances Act. Mena was also charged with Possession of Cocaine and Methamphetamine. All three arrestees were booked into the Cherokee County Jail. Additional charges are expected in this investigation for the arrestees and additional suspects. These arrests were the result of a lengthy drug investigation into this criminal drug trafficking organization. The following agencies contributed to the investigation: the Atlanta Police Department Narcotics Unit, the Cherokee County Sheriff's Office Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad (CMANS), the Sandy Springs Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). *The ARDEO is a multi-agency unit that covers 30 counties in North Georgia*
- GBI Region 14 – On October 31, 2025, Agents were at a home in Hortense, Brantley County, interviewing Warren Edmond Leanon West, age 49, in connection with an ongoing child molestation investigation. As the interview ended, West ran from the agents and shot at them twice before running into the woods behind the home. While GBI Agents and Brantley County Sheriff's Office Deputies formed a perimeter around the property, they heard another gunshot that appeared to come from the woods behind the home. The Glynn County Sheriff's Office, Camden County Sheriff's Office, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Georgia State Patrol (GSP) responded to assist. After searching the home and property, West was located behind the woods, alive, but with what appeared to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. West was life-flighted to Jacksonville, Florida, for advanced trauma care. A few days later, West succumbed to his injuries and died. No agents were injured during the incident.
- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit – On November 10, 2025, "Operation Raydiant Shadows" resulted in twelve individuals (ages 17 to 58) arrested and charged with pandering. The multi-agency online undercover investigation was coordinated by GBI's HEAT Unit, in partnership with the Albany-Dougherty Special Investigations Unit, Albany Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), and Georgia State Patrol (GSP). Additional charges and arrests may be forthcoming. The operation targeted sex traffickers and commercial sex buyers in the Dougherty County area. The goal was to draw in commercial sex buyers for demand reduction and draw in commercial sex workers to offer services. The objective was to identify and arrest pimps and human traffickers through this two-fold approach. This investigation is active and ongoing.

- Office of Special Investigations (OSI) - Cold Case Unit (CCU) – Fifty cold cases are being reviewed or reinvestigated at this time. Sixteen were Coleman-Baker Act (CBA) requests from designated family members and the remaining cases were GBI initiated from cold cases throughout the State. CCU has also opened thirteen GBI cold case unidentified remains (UID) cases in hopes of identifying the victims with FIGG (Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy). Four of the unidentified remains cases have been identified.
- West Metro Regional Drug Enforcement Office (WMRDEO) – On November 20, 2025, WMRDEO and the Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) received intelligence regarding a potential large quantity of illicit narcotics located in a house in Atlanta, GA. Utilizing surveillance and intelligence, Special Agents were able to secure a search warrant for the house. Approximately 419 kilograms of methamphetamine and three firearms were seized. The narcotics were found in a refrigerated truck outside the home. GBI arrested and charged Juan Hernandez, age 40, and Nelsonen Sorto, age 36 of Atlanta, GA, with Trafficking Methamphetamine and were both booked into the Fulton County Jail. Several other agencies assisted, including the Hall County Sheriff's Office, the Atlanta Police Department, Georgia State Patrol (GSP), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Once the investigation is complete, the case file will be given to the Atlanta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's office for prosecution.
- From January 1 to November 30, 2025, the GBI investigated a total of 74 Officer Involved Shootings (OIS).

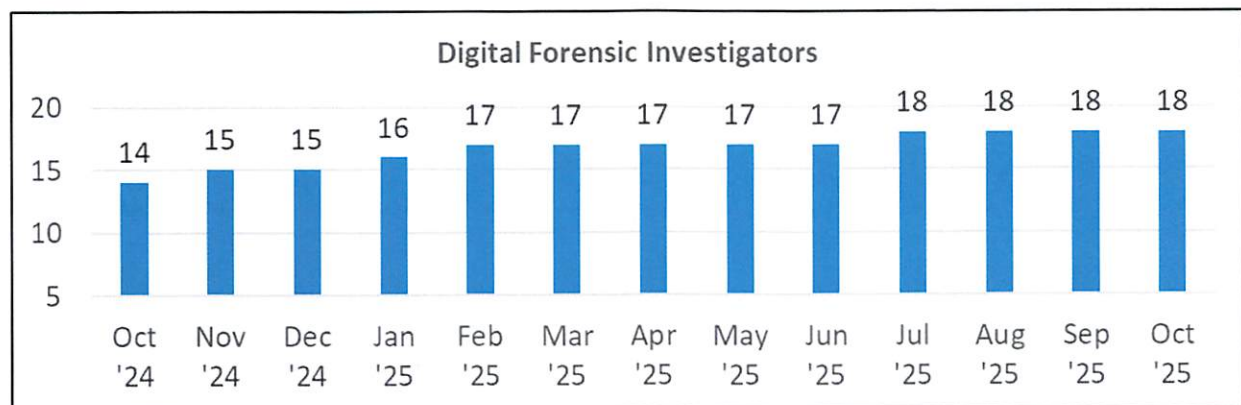
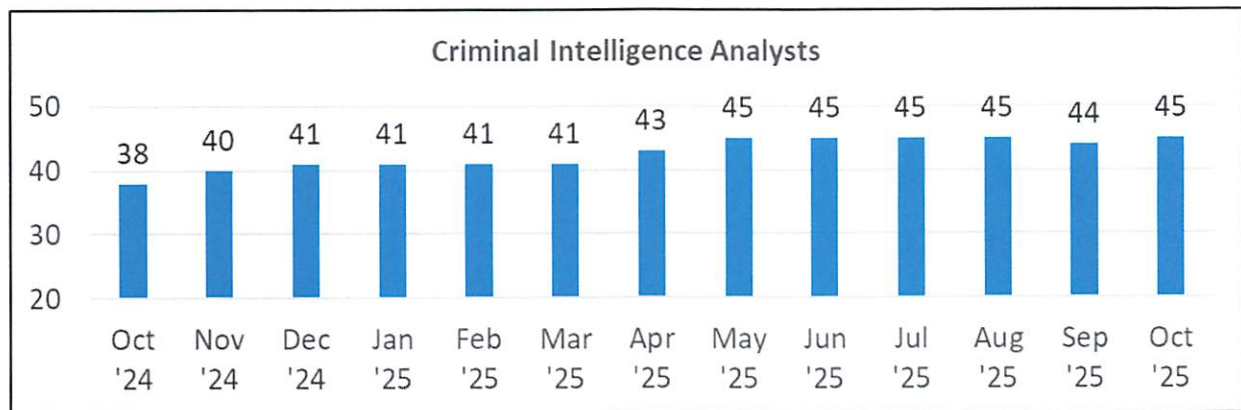
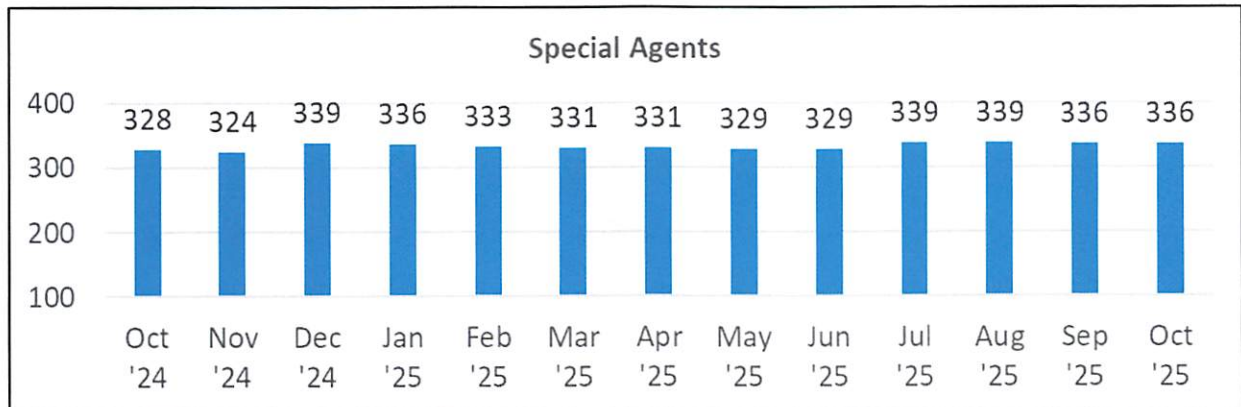
GBI Region 2 – November 25, 2025 – At the request of the LaGrange Police Department, GBI agents investigated an officer involved shooting in LaGrange, GA. Cody Porter, age 32, from LaGrange, GA, was shot during the incident and suffered non-life-threatening injuries. No officers were injured during the incident. The preliminary information indicates that on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, at about 12:00 a.m., officers from the LaGrange Police Department saw Porter walking east on Laurel Lane. Officers approached Porter, who was armed with a machete and known to have several active felony probation violation warrants. When officers tried to arrest him, Porter refused to comply and ran away. Additional officers with the LaGrange PD and the Troup County Sheriff's Office were dispatched to assist and began chasing Porter. During the chase, two officers deployed tasers and a Bola Wrap in an attempt to subdue Porter, but both were ineffective. Porter continued to flee and disregarded the officers' commands to drop the machete. The chase ended along the 200 block of Laurel Lane, where officers tried to persuade Porter to comply and surrender the machete. However, Porter continued to ignore their requests. The officers made several additional attempts to disarm Porter using less-than-lethal pepper balls, but these were also ineffective. During a verbal exchange between the officers and Porter, he raised the machete towards them and then threw it at the officers. One officer fired their weapon, hitting Porter once in the leg. Porter was taken by ambulance to Piedmont Midtown Hospital in Columbus, Georgia, where he received treatment for injuries sustained in the shooting. Porter was arrested and charged with Aggravated Assault, along with multiple felony probation violations. Porter was booked into the Troup County Jail. This investigation is active and ongoing. The GBI will conduct an independent investigation. Once complete, the case will be given to the Coweta Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review.

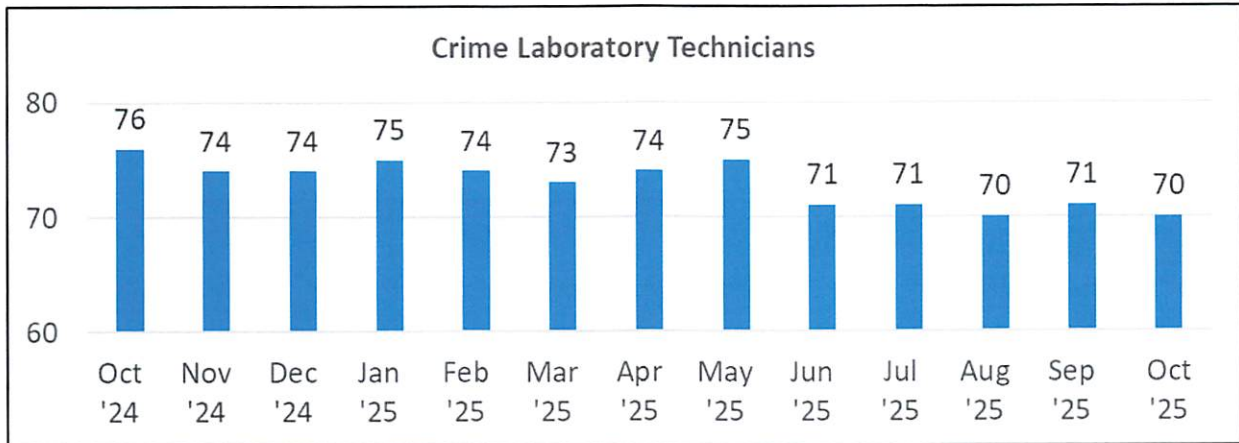
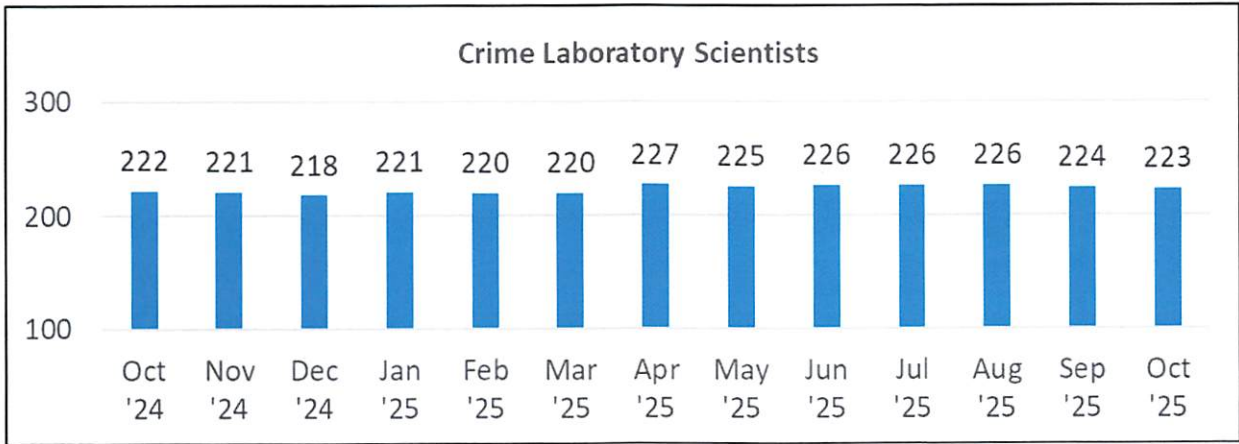
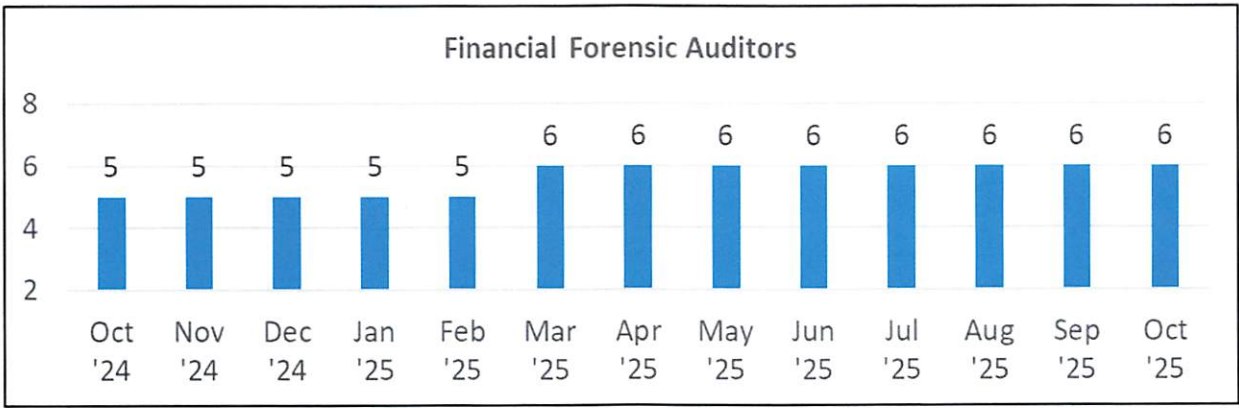


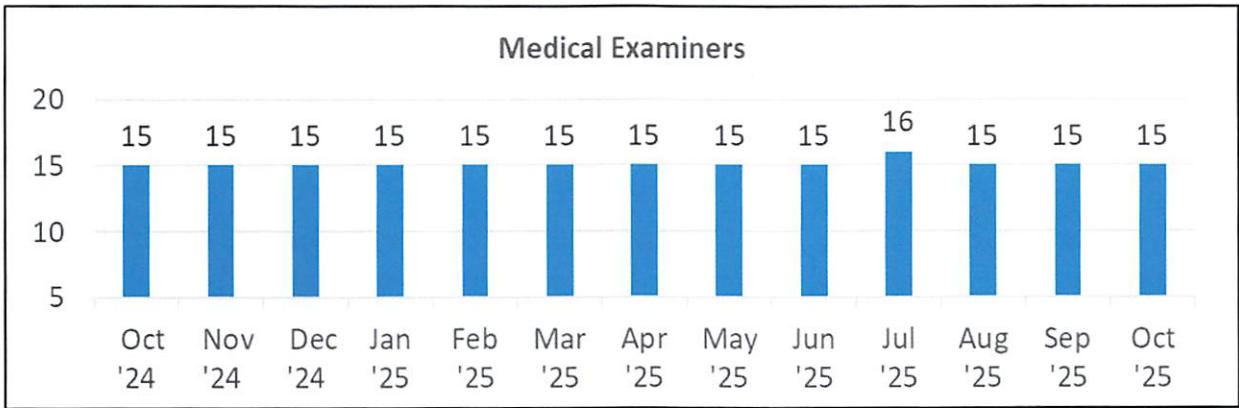
Staffing Report

Filled Positions

(All Fund Sources)







GBI Vacancies – YTD FY2026

(State Funds Only)

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sept '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
DOFS	38	38	38	41								
Scientist Positions	21	21	23	22								
Investigative Division	20	20	25	26								
Sworn Agent Positions	5	5	8	9								
GCIC	4	4	4	5								
Admin	6	7	6	7								

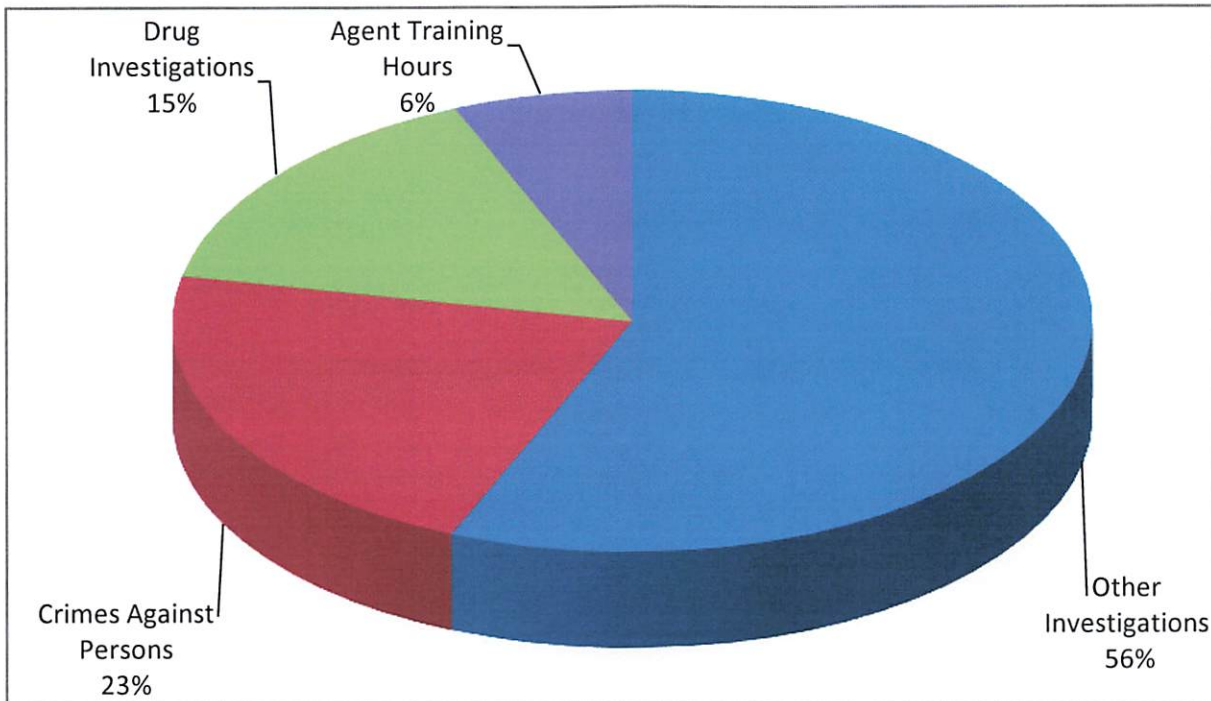


Investigative Division

Investigative Cases – YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
* Crimes Against Persons	162	119	70	110									461
**Drug Investigations	76	60	80	69									285
***Other Investigations	650	529	692	496									2,367
Total	888	708	842	675									3,113

Investigative Hours Expended - YTD FY2026



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

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

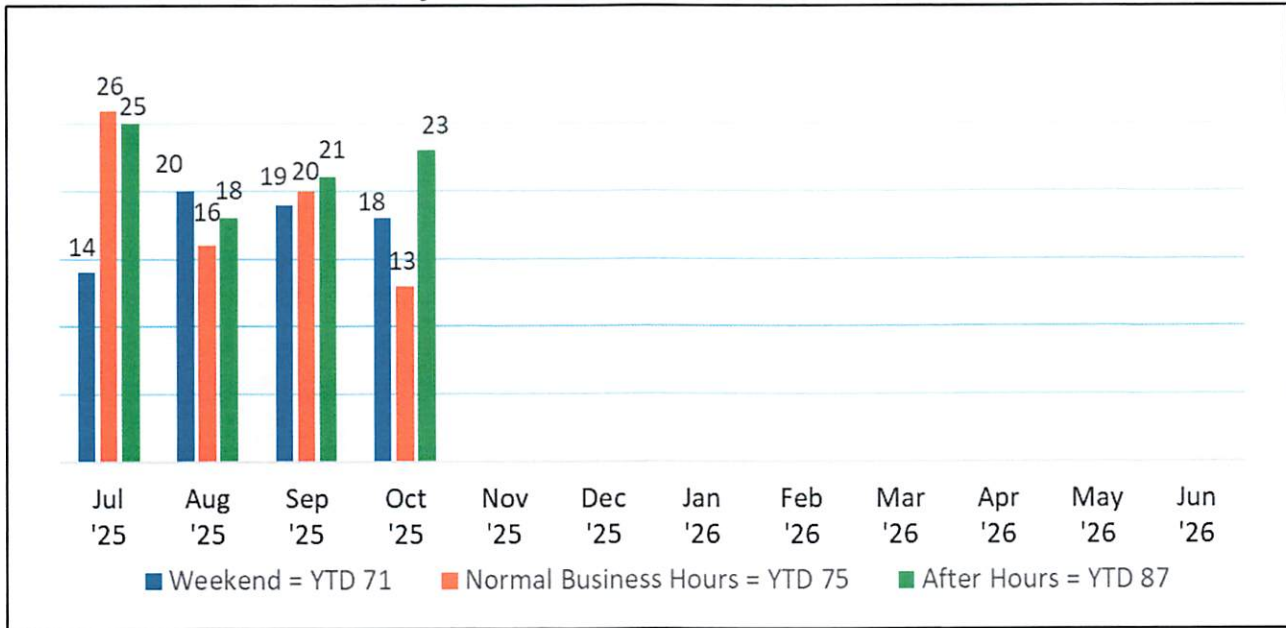
*** **Other Investigations** - corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2026

	October 2025	YTD FY2026
Property Stolen	\$0.00	\$0.00
Property Recovered	\$2,321.00	\$2,321.00
* Contraband Seized	\$1,658,785.00	\$33,727,567.85
Arrests	140	341
* Cases Closed	664	1,937

**Note: In July 2025, we began the process of transitioning to a new case management system which includes the migration of data. Reported totals may change as a result.*

Major Case Call Outs - YTD FY2026



Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC)

Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
Threats to Life	15	30	31	29									105
See Send App Tips	954	1,225	1,461	1,236									4876
Suspicious Activity	3	2	1	0									6
*Requests for Info.	1,351	1,552	1,456	1,324									5683

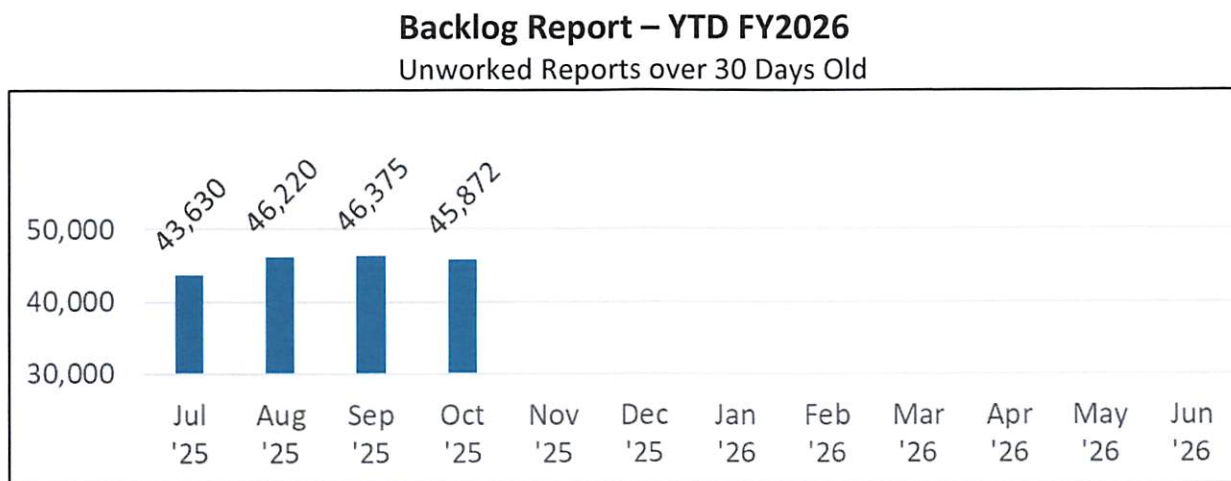
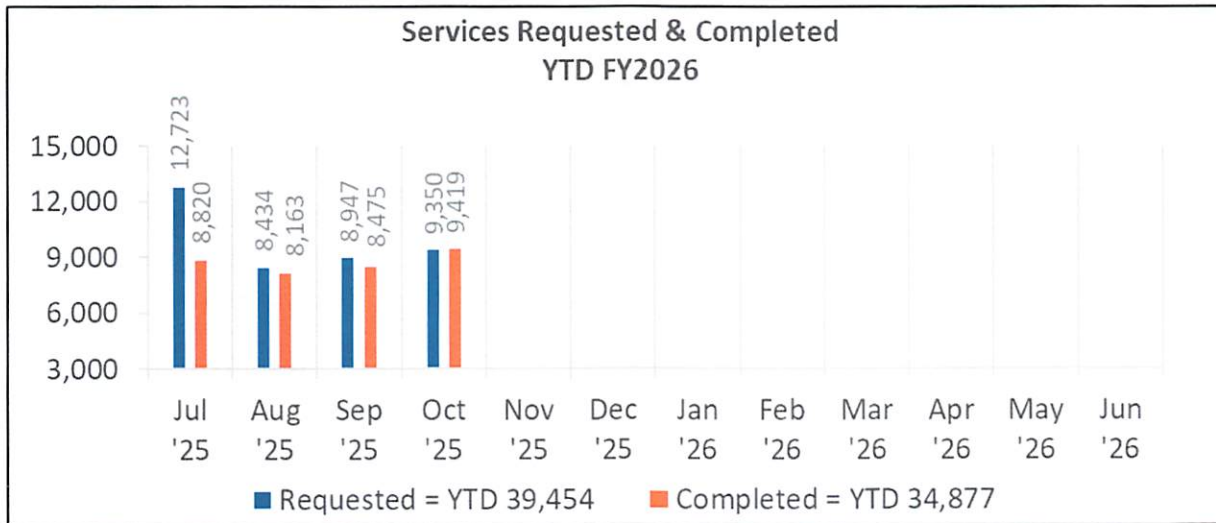
** Note: In July 2025, we began the process of transitioning to a new case management system which includes the migration of data. The GISAC Requests for Information (RFI) totals may change due to pending updates and modifications within the reporting system.*

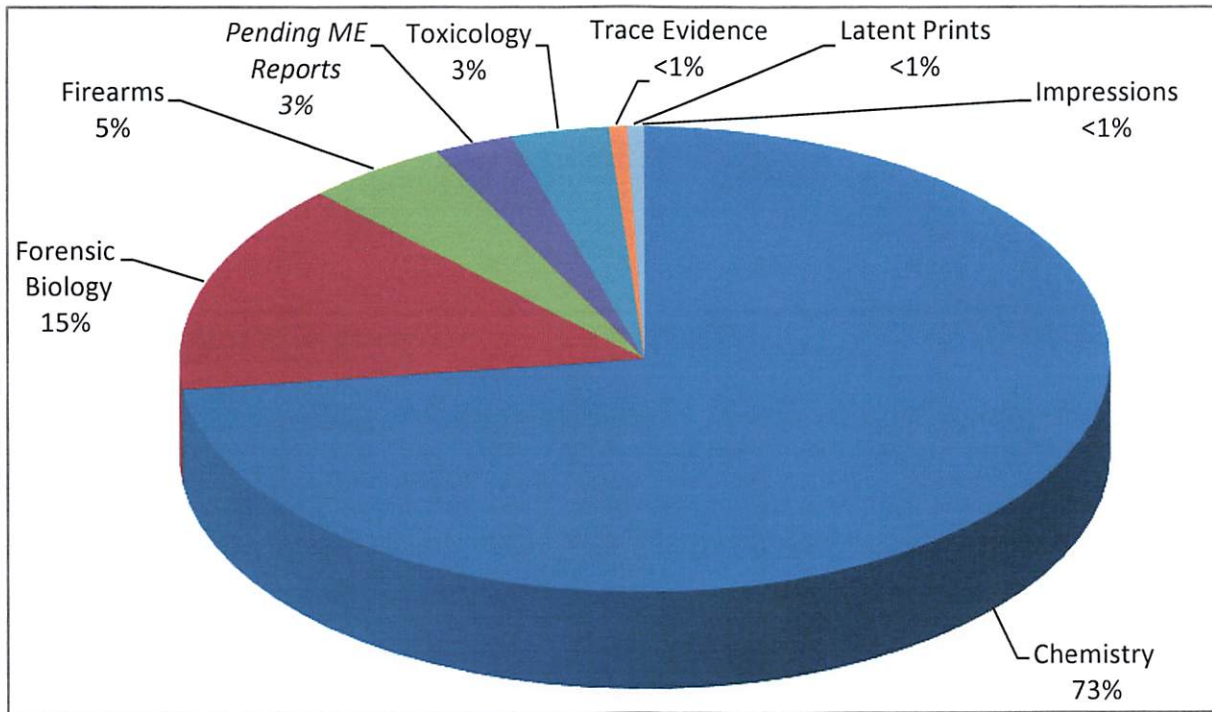
Investigative Division Notes:

- Eleven (11) Special Agent applicants have received conditional offers for employment with tentative hire date of January 1, 2026.



Crime Laboratory





Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

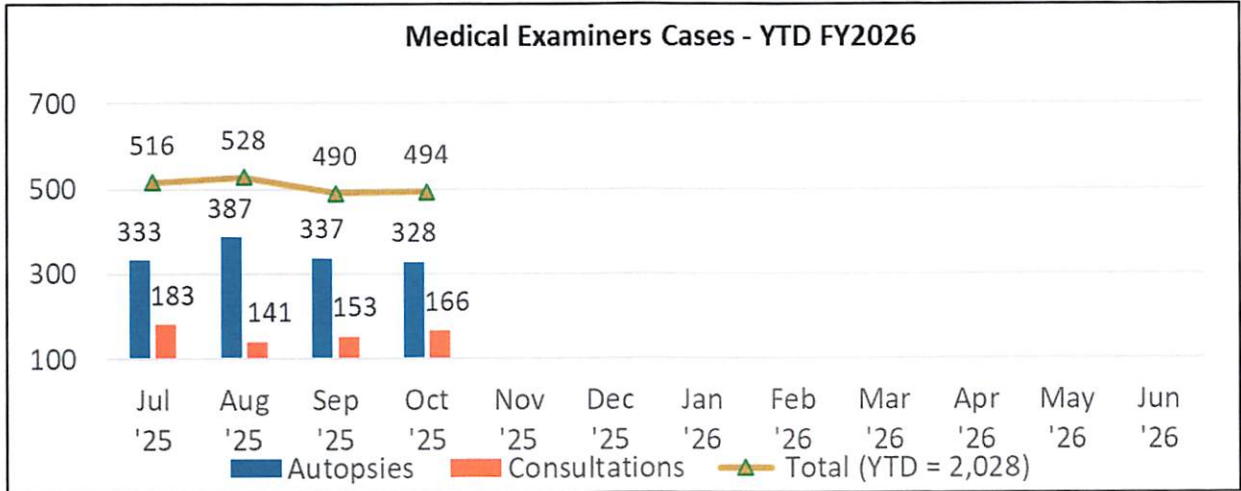
	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	YTD FY2026
Samples Entered	1,923	2,477	2,295	2,907									9,602
Confirmed Hits	37	43	48	47									175

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 20 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.



Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



MEO Backlog – YTD FY2026

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

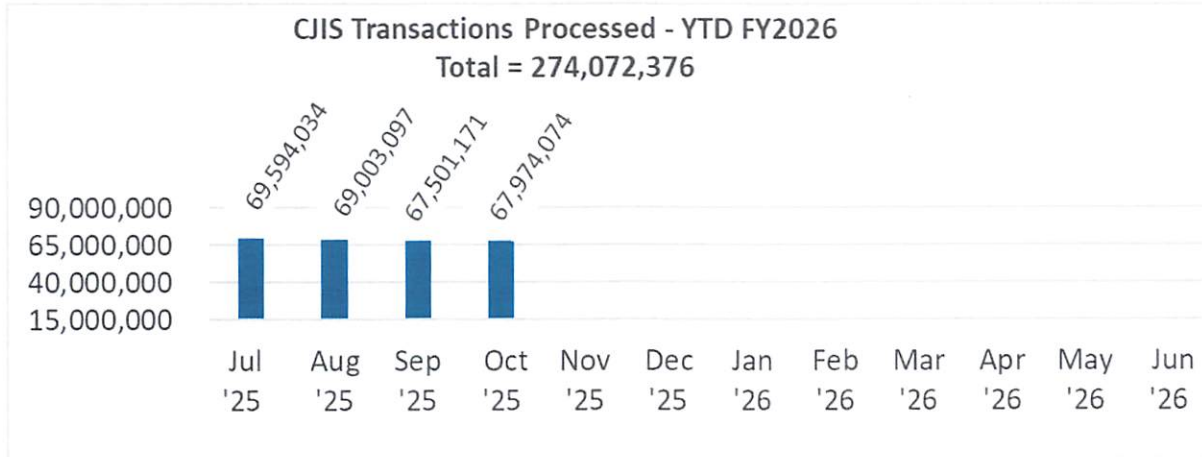
	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Reports Pending	1,779	1,401	1,250	1,269								
*Released w/in 90 Days	75.6%	63.6%	63.1%	61.4%								

MEO Notes:

- College of American Pathologists (CAP) award winner began rotation with the GBI Medical Examiner's Office.
- Fellowship Director provided didactic lectures for Fellows on elder abuse and neglect.
- The Medical Examiner's Office received 14 applications for the 2027-2028 Fellowship.



Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC)



AFIS/MBIS, CCH, and Applicant Activity Report

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Criminal Fingerprint Submissions												
Submissions	45,867	30,989	37,054	36,880								
Submissions w/Palms	16,806	11,778	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.								
Submissions w/Photos	10,629	7,590	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.								
Latent Print AFIS HITS	16	24	*Not Avail.	*Not Avail.								
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	47,314	37,097	43,735	42,604								
Submissions through Rap Back	5,522	4,136	5,680	5,628								
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,440	1,099	1,286	1,407								
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	81,109	72,924	74,570	80,573								
GCIC	267	278	178	309								
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	2,017	1,868	1,852	2,068								
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	58%	60%	56%	60%								
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	52%	54%	56%								
Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS	14%	15%	17%	18%								

* The Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) was upgraded to Multimodal Biometric Identification System (MBIS) on August 25, 2025, and the numbers are not available at this time. The MBIS vendor is working to resolve the issue and provide the data/numbers.

GCIC Activity Report

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
Off-Line Search Requests	19	20	16	12								
Sex Offender Registry <i>(Database Total 40,300)</i>												
Records Added	125	130	132	122								
Protection Order Registry <i>(Database Total 198,501)</i>												
Records Added	2,952	3,149	3,146	3,171								
Criminal Justice Agencies <i>(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)</i>												
Audited	0	0	13	32								
In Compliance	0	0	3	1								
Out of Compliance	0	0	10	31								
Trained	5	6	4	**19								
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	39	51	30	51								
In Compliance	21	31	19	27								
Out of Compliance	18	20	11	24								
Trained	10	21	51	12								
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	9	5	3	3								
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	3,637	2,941	2,781	3,159								
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	7,165	6,231	5,630	6,550								

***Criminal justice and non-criminal justice training data includes 16 training courses presented at the GCIC Training Symposium. It was held October 27-28, 2025, at the Jekyll Island Convention Center, with 718 registrants attending.*



Administration

Office of Privacy and Compliance / Open Records Unit

Open Records/Archives Requests - YTD FY2026

	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sep '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26	FY 2026
Open Records Requests	721	750	720	732									2923

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- GBI Headquarters’ Medical Examiner’s Office construction preparation has begun.
- The new Central Medical Examiner’s Building is currently in the schematic design phase.
- The new Region 11 Investigative Office is currently in the design development phase.