Georgia Bureau of Investigation
September Monthly Report
FY2026

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

Chris Hosey
Director

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Director's Highlights

- Southwestern Regional Drug Enforcement Office (SWRDEO) – On October 16, 2025, the GBI arrested and charged eight people for Conspiracy to Traffic Cocaine and other drug charges. Additional arrests are expected. "Operation Halftime," a 10-month investigation, resulted in the seizure of approximately 17 kilograms of cocaine, 10 firearms, and $44,600.00 in U.S. currency.

  On Friday, October 10, 2025, search warrants were executed in Dougherty, Fulton, Henry, Sumter, and Webster Counties. This investigation was successful due to the collaboration of multiple law enforcement agencies, including the SWRDEO, GBI's Region 3 Investigative Office in Americus, GA, Webster County Sheriff's Office (SO), Sumter County SO, Lee County SO, Americus Police Department (PD), Albany-Dougherty Special Investigations Unit, Georgia Department of Public Safety (DPS), Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Georgia Department of Corrections (GDC), and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

- Middle Georgia Gang Task Force (MGGTF) and GBI's Region 13 Investigative Office in Perry, GA – On October 10, 2025, the GBI arrested and charged 30 people following a joint drug investigation by MGGTF, GBI's Region 13 Investigative Office, Warner Robins PD, Houston County SO, Perry PD, United States Marshals Service (USMS), Georgia State Patrol Aviation Unit (GSP), Bibb County SO, Butts County SO, GDC, and Georgia Department of Community Supervision (DCS).

  Following a 21-month investigation, on October 8, 2025, Warner Robins PD SWAT, GBI Special Enforcement Team, and Houston County SWAT executed seven search warrants in Warner Robins, GA. As a result of these search warrants, Warner Robins PD Detectives and GBI Agents seized approximate 24.5 pounds of suspected Marijuana, 53 suspected Ecstasy Pills, 6 grams of suspected Methamphetamine, 2 grams of Crack Cocaine, 6 Firearms, and a large amount of US Currency. Twenty-four individuals were arrested and face a variety of charges including: Possession of Marijuana, Sale of Marijuana, Sale of Marijuana – Party to the Crime, Trafficking Marijuana, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Crack Cocaine with Intent to Distribute, Possession of Ecstasy (MDMA) with Intent to Distribute, Sale of Ecstasy (MDMA), Sale of Ecstasy – Party to the Crime, Possession of schedule II- Hydrocodone, Violation of Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act, Possession of a Firearm during the Commission of a Felony, Possession of a Firearm by Convicted Felon, and Obstruction. All arrestees were booked into the Houston County Jail after their arrests. Six additional individuals were currently incarcerated on October 8, 2025, and charged during this investigation.

- Child Exploitation and Computer Crimes (CEACC) Unit – On October 2-6, 2025, "Operation H.O.O.K." (Hands Off Our Kids), a four-day proactive online undercover investigation, coordinated by the Georgia Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, GBI, and Whitfield County SO resulted in the arrest of 11 people, ranging in age from 24 to 56, on numerous charges, including human trafficking charges. Additional charges and arrests may follow.

  Thirty-one cases were established that met the threshold for arrest. Nine of those cases were concluded with arrests after the perpetrator attempted to meet the "child" in person, traveling from areas around Whitfield County, Georgia, with the intent to meet a child for sex.

"Operation H.O.O.K." took months of planning and involved the collaboration of the following 14 law enforcement agencies: Whitfield County SO, Bartow County SO, Forsyth County SO, Gordon County SO, Murray County SO, Jackson County SO, Heard County SO, Grovetown PD, Cartersville PD, Homeland Security Investigation (HSI), United States Secret Service (USSS), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Georgia Office of Public Safety Support, GBI (CEACC, Georgia Information and Sharing Analysis Center, West Georgia Regional Drug Enforcement Office, Georgia Cyber Crimes Center). GBI and Whitfield County SO digital forensic investigators were on hand during the operation to forensically process seven electronic devices that were seized as evidence during the operation.

- Human Exploitation and Trafficking (HEAT) Unit – On October 2, 2025, "Operation Johns and Bonds" resulted in the GBI arresting and charging five people for pandering. All five individuals were booked into the Henry County Jail. On September 25, 2025, the GBI's HEAT Unit and Henry County PD collaborated in a targeted operation focused on demand reduction in the commercial sex trade. The joint mission aimed to apprehend individuals attempting to purchase sex and to offer support and services to those being exploited. During the operation, one woman was safely recovered and given immediate assistance and access to services to ensure her safety and well-being.

- Metro Gang Task Force (MGTF) and Appalachian Regional Drug Enforcement Office (ARDEO) – On October 1, 2025, 20 people were arrested and charged following a search warrant operation in Stephens County, GA. GBI's MGTF, GBI's ARDEO, FBI North Georgia Major Offenders Task Force, FBI Safe Streets Task Force, Stephens County SO, Toccoa PD, Cornelia PD, Banks County SO, Habersham County SO, GSP, DCS, and Georgia Counterdrug Task Force executed six search warrants in the area of Stephens County, GA, along with 20 arrest warrants, with the assistance and support of the Mountain Judicial Circuit. These warrants represent the conclusion of a more than 12-month investigation of a drug trafficking organization (DTO) directed by Manathan Colbert. The Colbert DTO is responsible for trafficking cocaine, crack cocaine, pills, and marijuana throughout Stephens, Habersham, and Rabun Counties.

  To date, this investigation has led to the seizure of approximately 29 pounds of marijuana, 5 ounces of cocaine, 6 grams of crack cocaine, 45 in-box pills, 19 oxycodone pills, and 59 firearms. Those arrested during this operation face charges including Violation of Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, Trafficking Cocaine, Illegal Use of Communication Facility, Violation of the Georgia Street Gang and Terrorism Prevention Act, Sale of Schedule II Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana with Intent to Distribute, Sale of Cocaine, and Sale of Marijuana, Possession of a Firearm by a Convicted Felon, Possession of Cocaine, Possession of Marijuana. This investigation is ongoing, and additional arrests are expected.

- From January 1 to October 31, 2025, the GBI investigated a total of seventy (70) Officer Involved Shootings (OIS).
  On Thursday, October 30, 2025, at about 12:10 a.m., the Bibb County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to the Circle K Convenience Store located at 4775 Chambers Road, Macon, GA. A man, later identified as Zachary Ward, age 28, of Macon, GA was described as acting in an erratic manner and was harassing customers. When deputies arrived, they encountered Ward, who attempted to attack the deputy with a screwdriver. The deputy subsequently shot Ward. Ward was pronounced dead on the scene. No officers were injured. The GBI will conduct an independent investigation. Once complete, the case file will be given to the Macon Judicial Circuit District Attorney's Office for review.

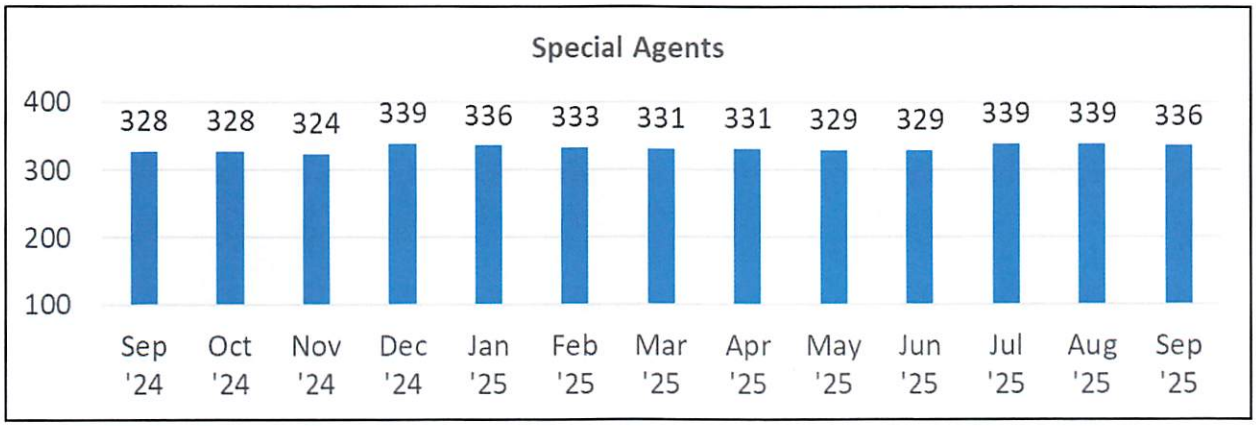
Promotions Effective in November 2025

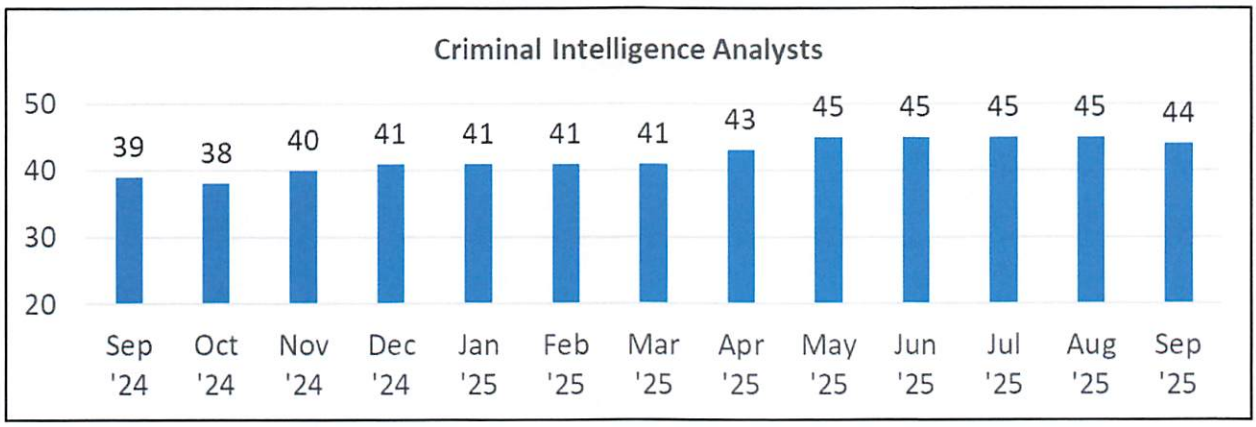
- Dustin Hamby was promoted to Special Agent in Charge at the Region 1 Investigative Field Office.
- Teresa Bull was promoted to Division of Forensic Sciences Toxicology Assistant Manager at HQ.
- Kasey Wilson was promoted to Division of Forensic Sciences Toxicology Assistant Manager at HQ.
- Alexander Covin was promoted to Division of Forensic Sciences Trace Evidence Assistant Manager at HQ.
- Larry Rudeseal was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge at Appalachian RDEO.

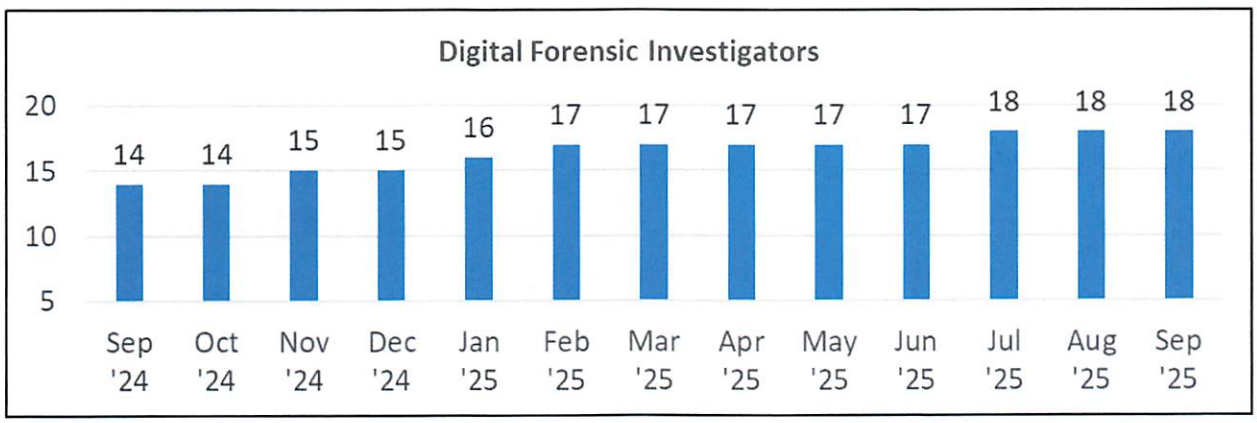
Staffing Report

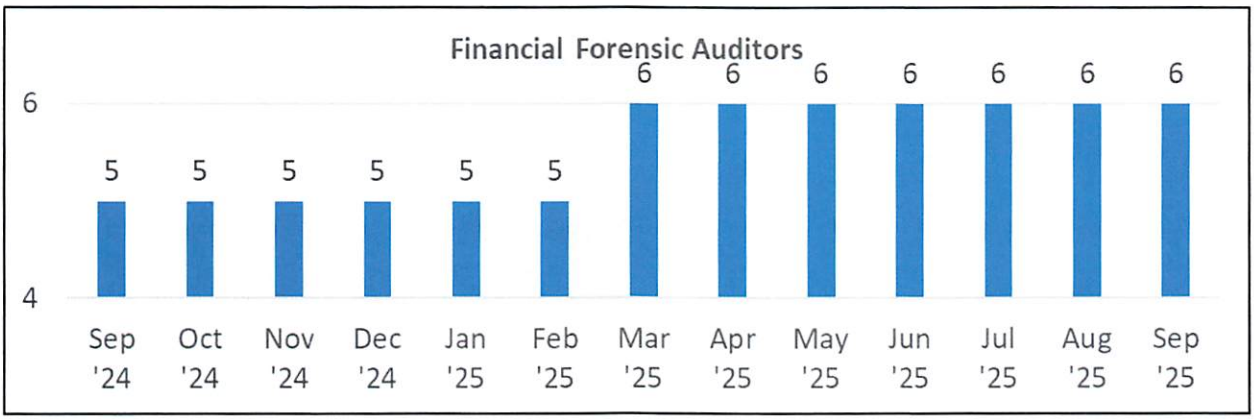
Filled Positions

(All Fund Sources)








Financial Forensic Auditors
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5 5 5 5 5 5 6 6 6 6 6 6 6
Sep '24
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Nov '24
Dec '24
Jan '25
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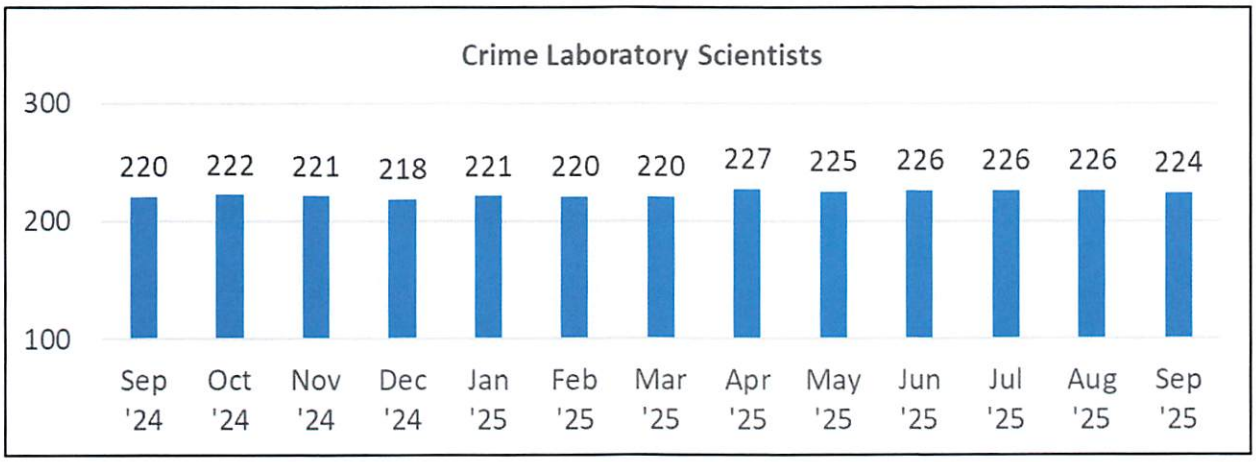
Apr '25
May '25
Jun '25
Jul '25
Aug '25
Sep '25


Crime Laboratory Scientists
300
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100
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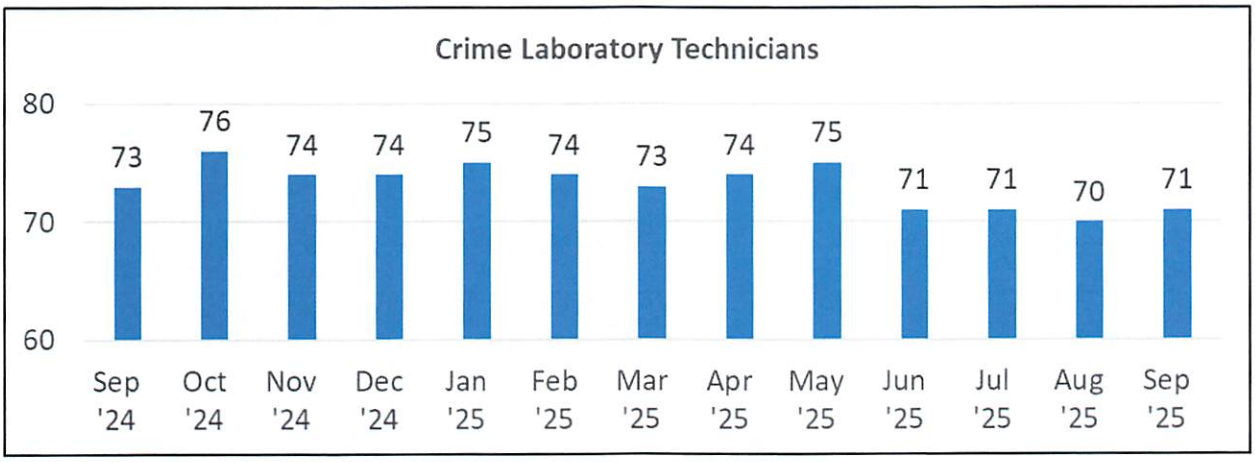
Aug '25
Sep '25


Crime Laboratory Technicians
80
70
60
73 76 74 74 75 74 73 74 75 71 71 70 71
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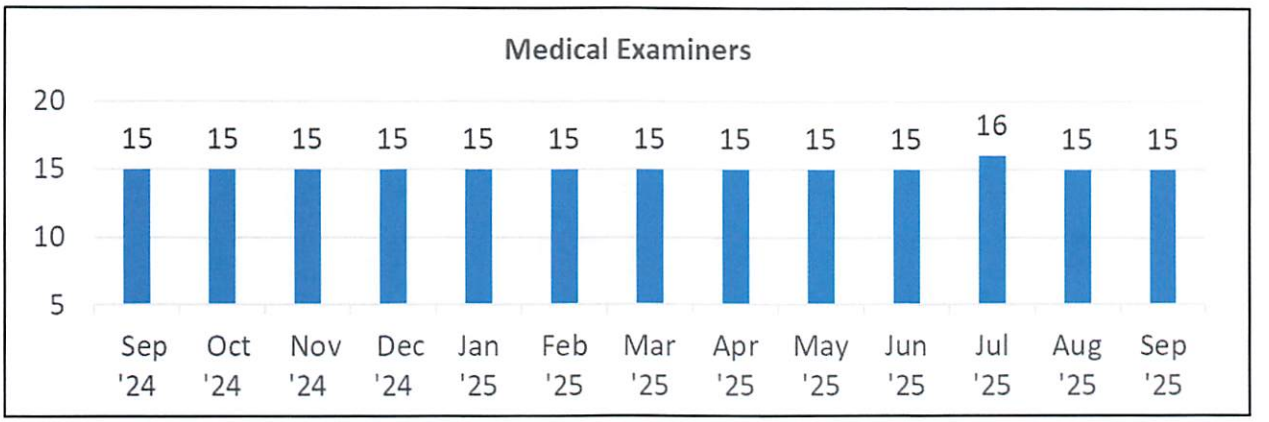
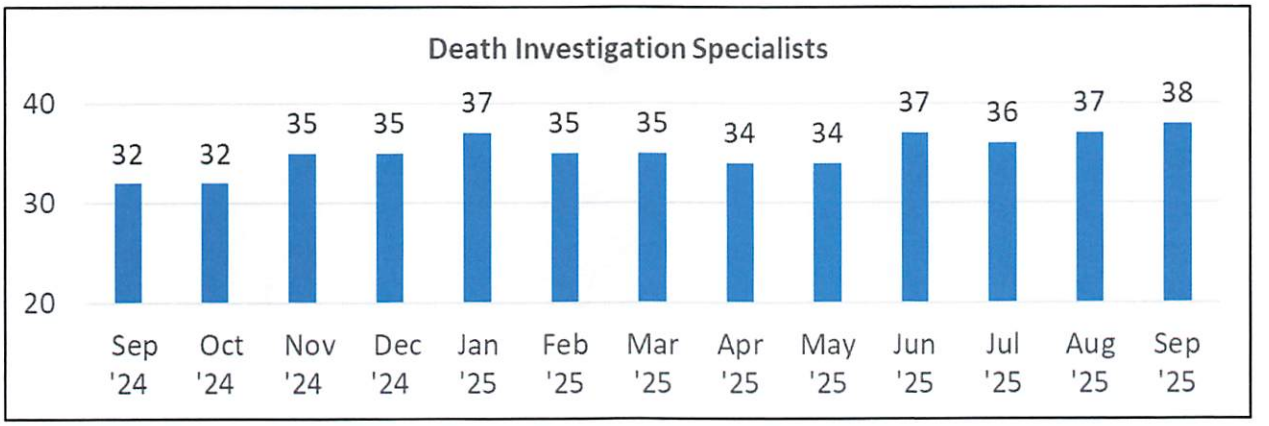
Aug '25
Sep '25





GBI Vacancies – YTD FY2026

(State Funds Only)

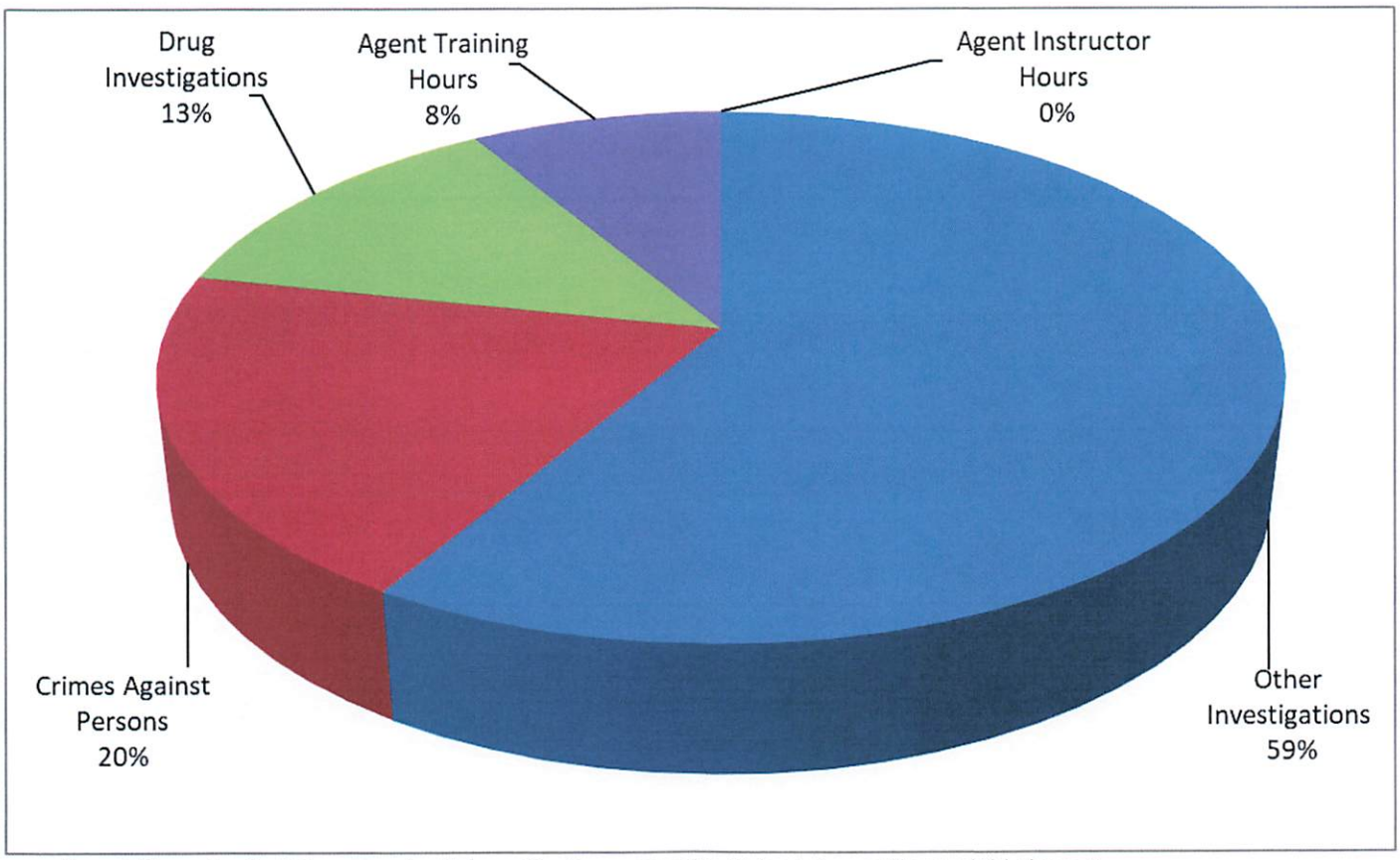
	Jul '25	Aug '25	Sept '25	Oct '25	Nov '25	Dec '25	Jan '26	Feb '26	Mar '26	Apr '26	May '26	Jun '26
DOFS	38	38	38									
Scientist Positions	21	21	23									
Investigative Division	20	20	25									
Sworn Agent Positions	5	5	8									
GCIC	4	4	4									
Admin	6	7	6									

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										351
**Drug Investigations	76	60	80										216
***Other Investigations	650	529	692										1,871
Total	888	708	842										2,438

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.*

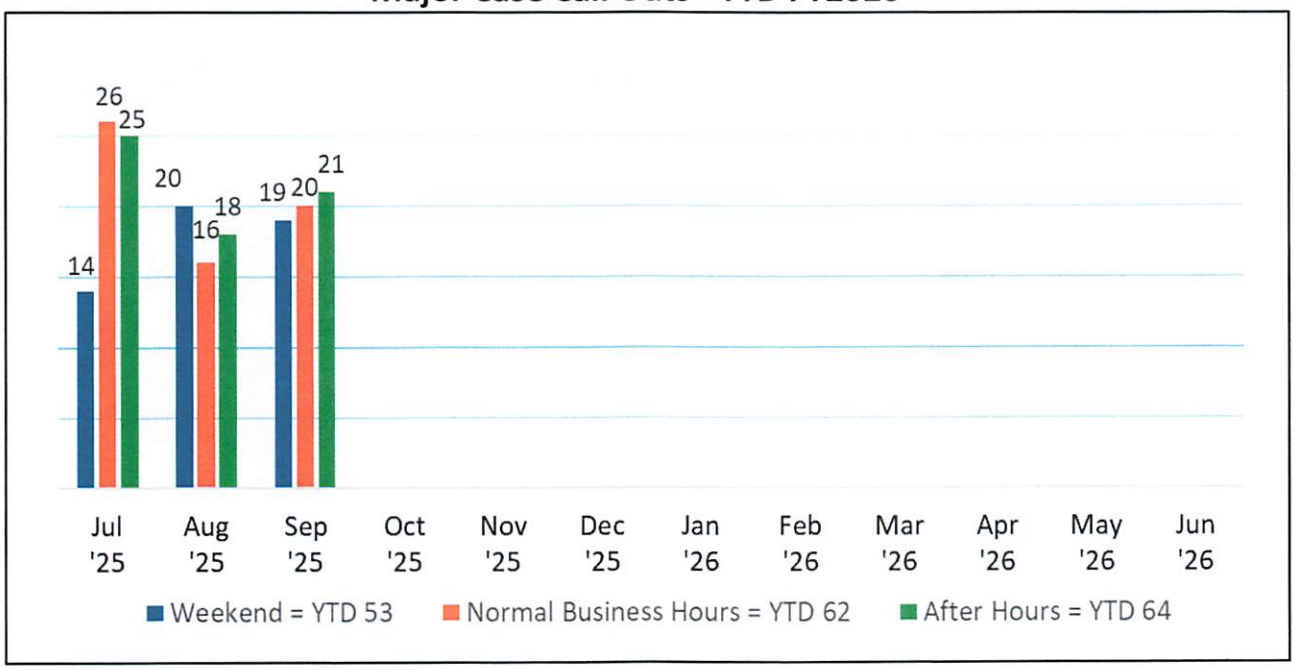
*** ***Other Investigations*** *- corruption, cyber, bomb disposal, election, technology, cold case review, property crimes, special events, etc.*

Recoveries, Seizures, Arrests – YTD FY2026

	September 2025	YTD FY2026
Property Stolen	$0.00	$0.00
Property Recovered	$0.00	$0.00
* Contraband Seized	$27,744,320.00	$32,068,782.85
Arrests	59	201
* Cases Closed	649	1,273

**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



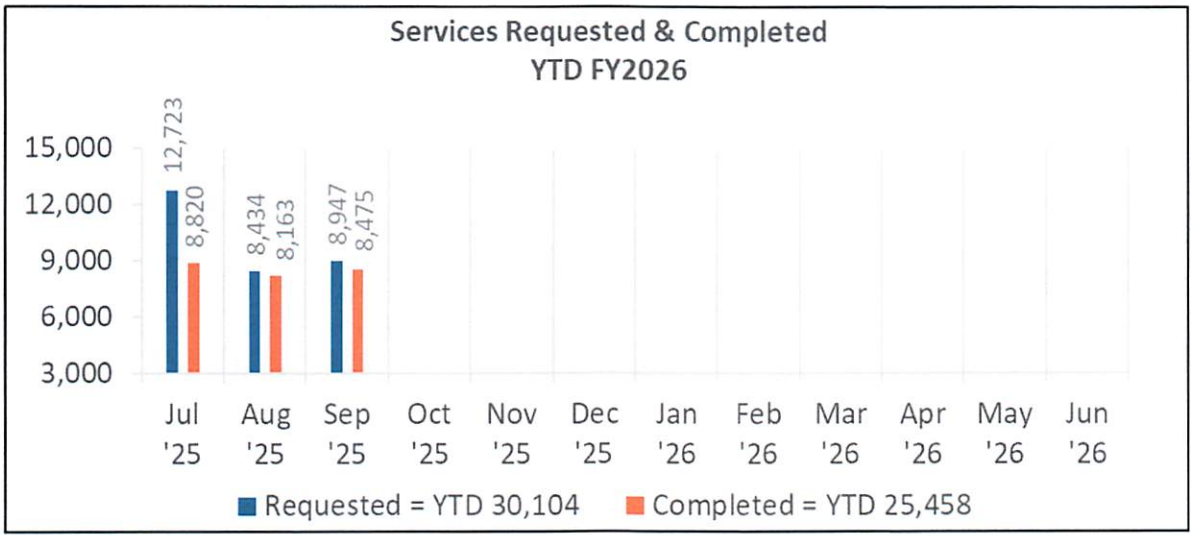
Georgia Information Sharing and Analysis Center (GISAC) Watch Desk Activity YTD FY2026

	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										76
See Send App Tips	954	1,225	1,461										3,640
Suspicious Activity	3	2	1										6
***Requests for Info.**	1,351	1,552	1,456										4,359

** 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.*

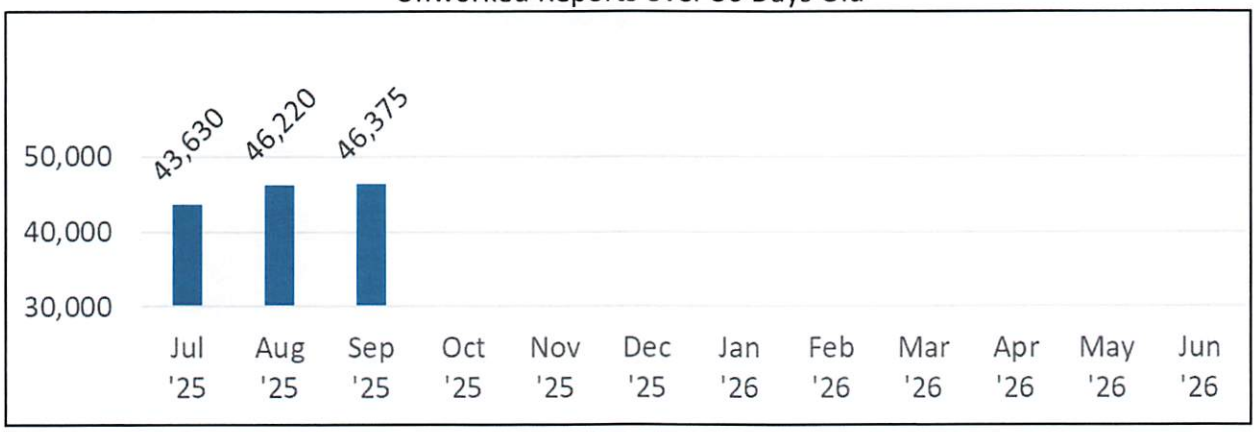
Investigative Division Notes:

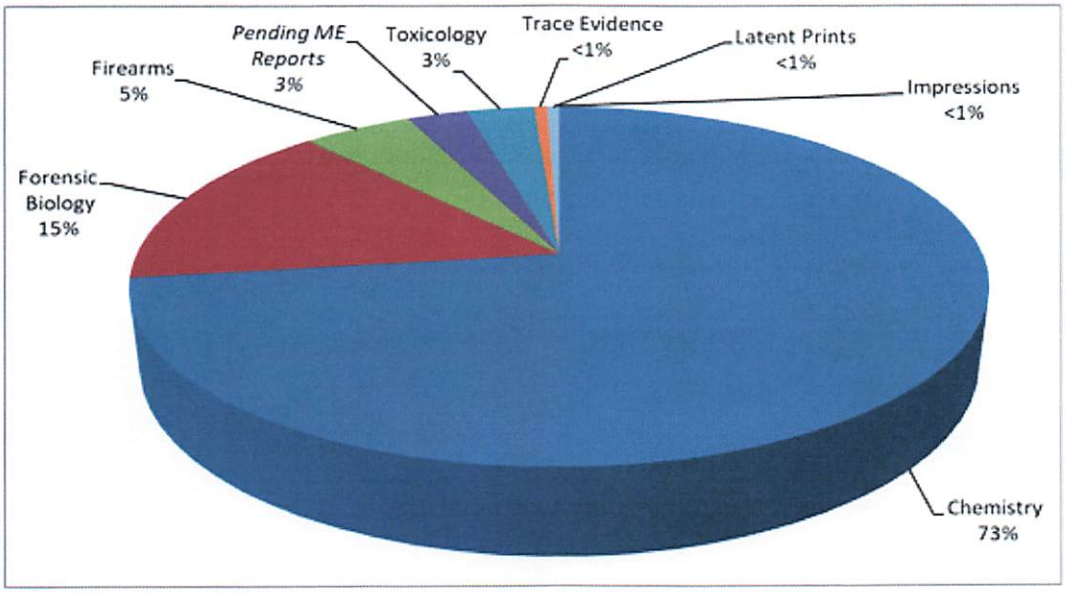
- Thirty-nine (39) Special Agent applicants are currently in the hiring process. Background investigations are ongoing.



Backlog Report – YTD FY2026

Unworked Reports over 30 Days Old





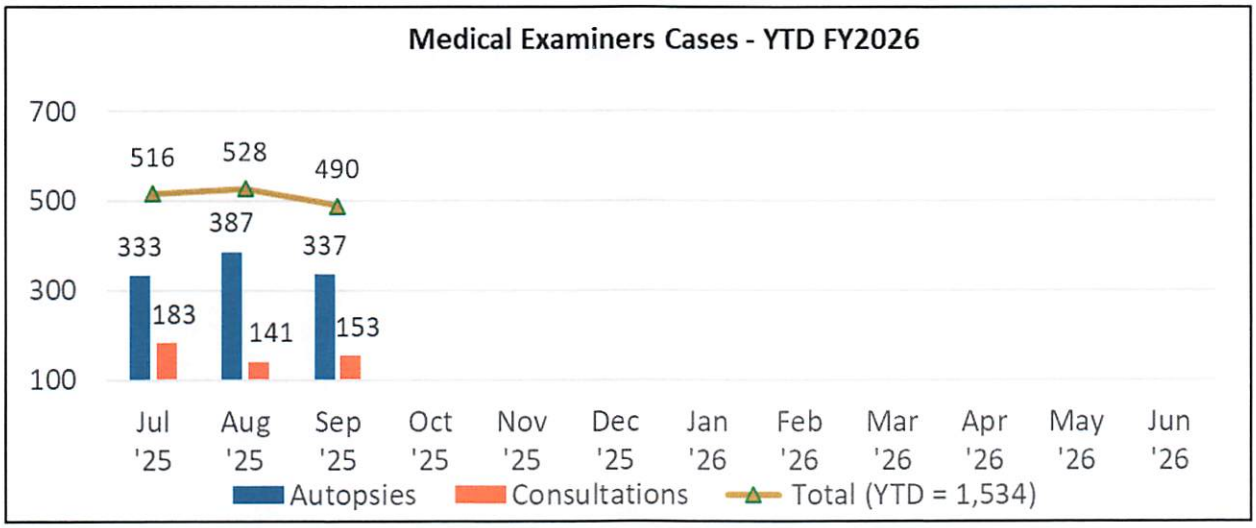
Combined DNA Index System (CODIS)

	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										6,695
Confirmed Hits	37	43	48										128

Crime Laboratory Notes:

- The Crime Laboratory has 21 Scientists in training within their respective disciplines.

Medical Examiners (includes all laboratories)



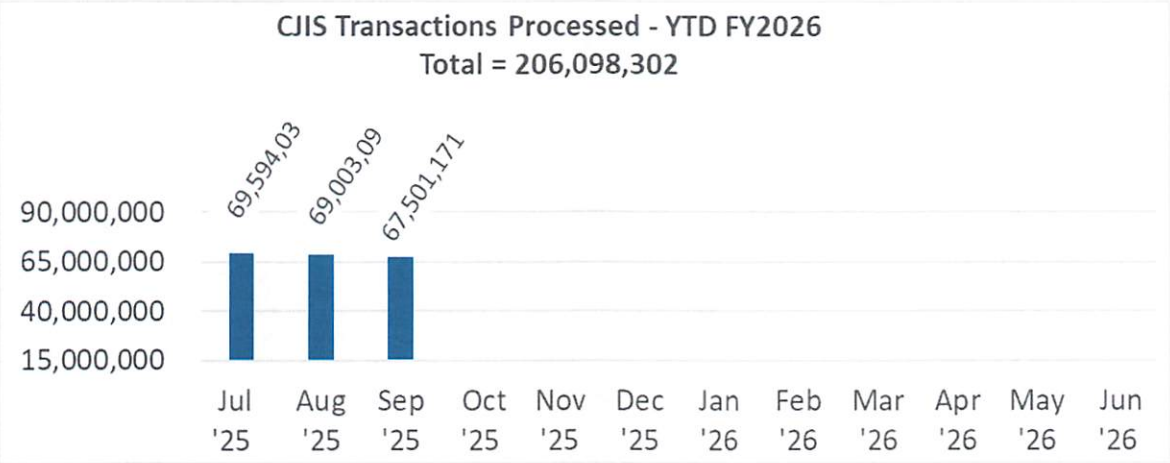
MEO Backlog – YTD FY2026

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									
***Released w/in 90 Days**	75.6%	63.6%	63.1%									

MEO Notes:

- On October 16, 2025, Dr. Brittany Walter, Forensic Anthropologist, began employment with the GBI Medical Examiner's Office.
- Dr. Rachel Geller, GBI's Associate Medical Examiner and Forensic Pathology Director, was highlighted in the Georgia Association of Pathology September 2025 newsletter.
- Two Medical College of Georgia residents began their one-month forensic rotation with the GBI Medical Examiner's Office.
- During October 2025, FY26 MEO Fellows received classroom/lecture training on legal issues and transportation deaths.



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									
Submissions w/Palms	16,806	11,778	***Not Avail.									
Submissions w/Photos	10,629	7,590	***Not Avail.									
Latent Print AFIS HITS	16	24	***Not Avail.									
Applicant Fingerprint Submissions (Non-Criminal)												
Submissions	47,314	37,097	43,735									
Submissions through Rap Back	5,522	4,136	5,680									
Applicant Fingerprint Triggering Events	1,440	1,099	1,286									
Final Disposition Submissions												
Local Agencies	81,109	72,924	74,570									
GCIC	267	278	178									
Rapid ID Transactions												
Transactions	2,017	1,868	1,852									
Transactions w/AFIS HITS	58%	60%	56%									
Transactions w/NCIC HITS	52%	52%	54%									
****Transactions w/FBI RISC HITS**	14%	15%	17%									

*** 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.*

**** 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.*

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	20	20	16									
Sex Offender Registry *(Database Total 40,300)*												
Records Added	125	130	132									
Protection Order Registry *(Database Total 198,501)*												
Records Added	2,952	3,149	3,146									
Criminal Justice Agencies *(e.g. Law Enforcement Agencies, Criminal Court Systems, Corrections, etc.)*												
Audited	0*	0*	*13									
In Compliance	0*	0*	3									
Out of Compliance	0*	0*	10									
Trained	5	6	4									
Non-Criminal Justice *(e.g. Civil Courts, City, County and Charter Schools, Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), Department of Community Health (DCH), etc.*												
Audited	39	51	30									
In Compliance	21	31	19									
Out of Compliance	18	20	11									
Trained	10	21	51									
Learning Management System (LMS) *An on-line system for criminal justice and non-criminal justice staff to enroll and attend e-learning courses.*												
Georgia Criminal Street Gang Database	9	5	3									
CJIS Network Operator Certification (CNO)	3,637	2,941	2,781									
CJIS Security Policy Awareness and Training/Awareness Statement	7,165	6,231	5,630									

** The CJIS Compliance unit began a new 3-year audit cycle, which included preparation for the new cycle in the months of July and August – 2025. Audit numbers for criminal justice agencies resumed in September 2025.*

GCIC Notes:

- During September 2025, the percentage of electronically received fingerprint cards vs. mailed/manual fingerprint cards was 99.6%.
- The Georgia AFIS and Rap Back Integration was an award recipient in the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) 2025 Technology Innovation Showcase.

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										2,191

Facilities – Major Projects Status

- GBI Headquarters' Medical Examiner's Office new construction is scheduled to begin in November 2025.
- The new Central Medical Examiner's Building is currently in the schematic design phase.