

***Rehabilitation Services  
Georgia Industries for the Blind Fact Sheet***

**What We Do**

Georgia Industries for the Blind (GIB) provides jobs in manufacturing and packaging for individuals who are blind. The authorizing legislation for GIB was the Javits-Wagner-O'Day Act of 1938, which provided for federal government purchase of products from agencies employing the blind. Georgia's first plant was established in 1949. Today there are three facilities -- one in Bainbridge, which also houses the administrative offices, and the other two in Griffin and Albany.

**Services We Provide**

- Unique to Georgia government, GIB is a not-for-profit organization that operates as a business and generates revenues that make it largely self-supporting. At least 95% of the GIB budget comes from product sales, with the state providing the other 5% in administrative costs.
- While the total number of employees in the GIB labor force fluctuates because of contractual commitments, the organization typically employs 170 hourly workers, 90 of whom are blind.
- A diverse product line includes pillows, plastic cutlery, laundry bags, safety vests and flags, whisk brooms, screen printing, binders, file folders, and card guides.
- Annual product sales over the past three years have averaged \$9.8 million, with 80% coming from federal government contracts with the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense. Other customers include all state of Georgia departments, agencies from other states, civic groups and commercial markets.

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