



## GEORGIA - KOREA COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea is located in Atlanta and serves Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Republic of Korea has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1971. Mr. Yoonjoo Park has served as Consul General since June 2021.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Korea since 1985. Peter Underwood serves as Managing Director in Seoul.

Atlanta is home to the Korea Southeast U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Korean American Chamber of Commerce, and the Korean American Coalition.

Governor Kemp led an economic development mission to Korea in June 2019.

Three Georgia communities have sister city agreements with South Korea: Atlanta – Daegu; Cobb County – Seongdong-Gu; and Gwinnett County – Gangnam-Gu.

### Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 1,895 Korean students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected study abroad programs around the world, but these programs are expected to return to former participation levels soon. In previous years, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered 43 study abroad programs to South Korea in programs such as language, engineering, computing, business and education.

Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs to Seoul as well as an exchange with Yonsei University. Georgia Tech offers a summer language intensive program as well as exchange programs with three partner universities.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 7,264 South Korean visitors spent \$36.45 million in the state of Georgia.

The first Korean-American co-production *Papa*, released in 2012, was filmed in Atlanta, Georgia.

Atlanta Ballet Company member Sujin Han is from South Korea. Eric Nam, the internationally recognized K-pop phenomenon, was born and raised in Atlanta, where he was a member of the prestigious Atlanta Boy Choir.

Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musicians Dae Hee Ahn (Second Violin) and Yang-Yoon Kim (Viola) are from South Korea.

Every year the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta hosts a three-day Korean Festival. The annual event attracts thousands.

In October 2018, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta and The Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta sponsored the “Korean American Friendship Concert” in Duluth, Georgia to celebrate 50 years of the Korean community in Atlanta.

## International Trade

The United States-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) was signed on June 30, 2007 and went into effect on March 15, 2012. This comprehensive trade agreement eliminated tariffs and non-tariff barriers to trade in goods and services.

**EXPORTS:** In 2021, Georgia exports to Korea totaled **\$860.6 million**. Korea is the **10th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Korea include parts of gas turbines, civilian aircraft, medical instruments, chemical woodpulp, and physical and chemical analysis instruments.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Korea: chemical woodpulp, kaolin, and ball or roller bearings.

**IMPORTS:** In 2021, Georgia imports from Korea totaled **\$8.8 billion**. Korea ranks **3rd** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Korea to Georgia include motor vehicles, gear boxes, construction vehicles, engines, and fork-lift trucks.

## Capital Investment

There are at least **19** Georgia companies with operations in Korea, including but not limited to:

- American Megatrends
- First Advantage Corporation
- InComm
- Novelis
- Unicoi Systems
- UPS

Georgia is home to at least **100 Korean facilities**. These Korean-affiliated companies currently employ more than 9,400 Georgians.

In 2006, Koeran-owned company Kia made one of the biggest single foreign investments in the history of Georgia by establishing a state-of-the-art production facility in West Point, Georgia. Since then, Kia and its suppliers have helped create more than 14,000 jobs and currently produces more than 340,000 vehicles a year.

In May 2022, Governor Brian Kemp announced that Hyundai Motor Group will open its first fully dedicated electric vehicle (EV) and battery manufacturing facility in the State of Georgia. HMG will invest \$5.54 billion in

opening a state-of-the-art U.S. smart factory in the state.

Sangsin Technology America, a global leader in brake friction materials has created 200 jobs and invested \$20 million in its first North American manufacturing facility in McDonough, Georgia.

SK innovation, a developer and manufacturer of lithium-ion batteries for hybrid electric vehicles, will create more than 2,000 jobs and invest \$1.67 billion in a new manufacturing plant in Jackson County. SKI has committed to a second phase investing an additional \$940 million and 600 jobs.

Hanwha Q CELLS Korea is a global leading photovoltaic manufacturer of high-performance, high-quality solar cells and modules. They created more than 500 jobs and invested \$150 million in a new solar module manufacturing facility in Dalton.

## Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Seoul, South Korea. In 2022, there will be an estimated 256 flights between Georgia and South Korea carrying 187,712 passengers.

There are six international cargo flights per week between Incheon, South Korea and Atlanta.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with ports of Korea and offers seven regular shipping services to the Port of Busan. GPA's Brunswick Port also offers shipping services to Incheon, Masan, Pyongtaek and Kunsan.

## About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) plans, manages and mobilizes state resources to attract new business investment to Georgia, drive the expansion of existing industry and small business, locate new markets for Georgia products, inspire tourists to visit Georgia and promote the state as a top destination for arts events and film, music and digital entertainment projects. For more information, visit [www.georgia.org](http://www.georgia.org).

## GDEcD's International Representatives in Korea

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