



GEORGIA - JAPAN COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) are both located in Atlanta. Japan has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1974. Mr. Mio Maeda has served as Consul General since November 2022.

Atlanta is also home to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Japan-American Society of Georgia.

Georgia serves as a leading business partner for Japan. The state of Georgia has had continuous economic development representation in Japan since 1973 and has assisted hundreds of Japanese firms in locating to Georgia. Joseph Huntemann has led the state's economic development efforts in Japan since March 2021, prior to which he served as a Project Manager with the Department for eight years.

Georgia is a charter member of the Southeastern United States (SEUS) Japan Alliance, established in 1976, which brings together business leaders and government officials from both regions annually.

Savannah, Georgia hosted the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association and Southeast U.S./Japan Association in October, 2019. SEUS-Japan is a prestigious gathering of global business leaders celebrating economic and cultural ties.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner brought a delegation to Japan in 2015 and 2023, and Former Governor Nathan Deal led an economic development mission to Japan in 2017.

Ten Georgia cities have sister city agreements with Japan, including: Elberton – Takamatsu;

Atlanta – Fukuoka; Macon – Kurobe; and Georgia is a sister state to Kagoshima Prefecture.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2024, 177 Japanese students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 48 study abroad programs to Japan in programs such as language, history, business, and Japanese culture.

Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs to Japan as well as exchanges with Kansai Gaidai University and Kwansei Gakuin University.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

In 2023, 8,300 Japanese visitors spent \$14.8 million in the state of Georgia.

JapanFest is held annually in Atlanta and draws crowds of more than 20,000 people. The festival includes a variety of dance and music performances as well as cultural workshops.

In 2021, Shoko Teruyama will be the juror for The Hudgen Center's 4th National Cup Show and will also have her own piece on exhibition.

Three members of the Atlanta Ballet Company are from Japan: Airi Igarashi, Saho Kumagai, and Fuki Takahashi.

The High Museum of Art's 2023 collection "Samurai Armor from the Collection of Ann and Gabriel Barbier-Mueller" featured one of the most important collections of samurai armor outside of Japan.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2023, Georgia exports to Japan totaled \$1.54 billion. Japan is the 7th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Japan include civilian aircraft, motor cars and other vehicles designed to transport people, medical devices, chemical wood pulp of dissolving grade, and chemical wood pulp of soda or sulfate.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Japan: insecticides, chemical wood pulp of dissolving grades, and kaolin.

IMPORTS: In 2023, Georgia imports from Japan totaled \$7.1 billion. Japan ranks 5th among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Japan to Georgia include construction vehicles, motor vehicles, tractors, air conditioning machines, and engines.

Capital Investment

There are at least **35** Georgia companies with operations in Japan, including but not limited to:

- Aflac
- Halyard Health
- Immucor
- Interface
- NCR Corporation
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Vernay Laboratories

Japan is a leading investor nation in Georgia, ranking first among Georgia's international investors based on total dollar value of investments, and third based on total number of facilities.

There are more than **510 Japanese facilities operating in Georgia**. These Japanese-affiliated companies employ approximately 39,200 Georgians.

In November 2019, Nippon Light Metal Georgia, specializing in aluminum products for the automotive industry announced a new manufacturing facility in Adairsville, creating 110 jobs and investing \$50 million in the project.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Tokyo. In 2024, the airport expects 366 flights carrying more than 85,000 passengers between Georgia and Tokyo. There are three cargo flights per week between Osaka and Atlanta.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with Japan. The Port of Savannah offers direct weekly container ship service to the Port of Yokohama. The Port of Brunswick also offers direct service for Roll-on/Roll-off cargo to Japan.

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.

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