



GEORGIA - KOREA COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Republic of Korea has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1976. Mr. Sangpyo Suh has served as Consul General since July 2023.

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 and the Korean American Coalition.

Governor Kemp led economic development missions to Korea in 2019 and 2024.

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 2024, 1,910 Korean students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 46 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

In 2023, 33,500 Korean visitors spent \$66.1 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 2023, Georgia exports to South Korea totaled \$1.05 billion. Korea was the 13th largest export market for Georgia in 2023.

Top exports from Georgia to South Korea include civilian aircraft parts, turbojets and turbo propeller parts, plates and sheets of plastics, electric storage batteries and parts thereof, and instruments and appliances used in medical sciences

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to South Korea: Plates and sheets of plastics, chemical wood pulp, and kaolin.

IMPORTS: In 2023, Georgia imports from South Korea totaled \$14.8 billion. Korea was the 2nd largest import market for Georgia in 2023.

Top imports to Georgia from South Korea include motor vehicles designed to transport people, parts and accessories for tractors and public transport passenger vehicles, binders made for foundry molds or cores, self-propelled bulldozers and excavators, and fork-lift trucks

Georgia leads the nation in the import of the following goods from South Korea: Self-propelled bulldozers and excavators, fork-lift trucks, and lifting or handling machinery.

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 **110 Korean facilities**. These Korean-affiliated companies currently employ more than 17,000 Georgians.

In 2006, Korean-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 (HMG) will invest \$5.54 billion and open its first fully dedicated electric vehicle and battery manufacturing facility in the State of 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 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 thrice daily direct flights from Atlanta to Seoul, South Korea. In 2024, the airport expects 983 flights between Georgia and South Korea carrying 263,000 passengers.

There are 15 international cargo flights per week between South Korea and Atlanta.

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

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

GDEcD's International Representatives in Korea

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