

# export

## Georgia - Ireland Connection

Updated: March 2009

### Government & Commerce



The Ireland Chamber of Commerce in the United States (ICCUSA) is located in Atlanta; the ICCUSA is a non-profit membership organization that promotes the business interests of its members and the development of economic, commercial, financial, and educational relationships between the United States and Ireland. Maurice A. Buckley, President of ICCUSA, has played an influential role in encouraging the business relations between the U.S. and Ireland.

The Industrial Development Agency of Ireland has an office in Atlanta. The IDA is an Irish Government agency with responsibility for securing new investment from overseas in manufacturing and internationally traded services sectors. Ciaran Morris serves as its representative.

During the Ireland Chamber of Commerce USA's annual St. Patrick's Day 2009 breakfast in Atlanta, Ireland's minister of social and family affairs, Mary Hanfin, announced that Ireland plans to establish a consulate general in Atlanta. The opening of the Atlanta office is part of a larger strategic review of U.S.-Ireland relations launched by Ireland's government



### Trade

Georgia ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among U.S. states exporting to Ireland, while Ireland is 29<sup>th</sup> among countries importing to Georgia. In 2008, Georgia exports to Ireland totaled \$186 million. The top exports from Georgia to Ireland include machinery, medical instruments, aircraft/spacecraft, vehicles, and organic chemicals. Georgia led in exports to Ireland of special woven fabrics among U.S. states in 2008. Other Georgia exports experiencing an increase in movement to Ireland include miscellaneous food, glass, miscellaneous manufacturing, and perfume/cosmetics.



In 2008, Ireland ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in imports into the Savannah Customs District. Imports from Ireland totaled over \$2.1 billion, in 2008. Top imports from Ireland into the Savannah Customs District include pharmaceutical products, machinery, optic & surgical equipment, organic chemicals, and cosmetics.

### Capital Investment

#### *Georgia companies with operations in Ireland:*

Arris Group  
Delta Air Lines  
ET3, LLC  
InterfaceFlor Inc.  
Nova Information Systems, Inc.  
S1 Corporation  
United Parcel Service

#### *Irish companies with operations in Georgia:*

Allied Irish Banks  
Datalex Communications  
Elan Corporation PLC  
Oldcastle Inc.  
Western Plastics, Ltd.





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## Transportation

Delta Airlines offers 7 weekly direct flights from Atlanta to Dublin and 7 weekly direct flights to Shannon.



## Community & Education

According to the 2006 U.S. Census, over 900,000 Georgia citizens have an Irish heritage.

The city of Savannah hosts the second largest annual St. Patrick's Day celebration in the U.S., behind New York. In 2009, the event held its 185<sup>th</sup> year of the celebration. The parade draws thousands of spectators to partake in the festivities.



The Georgia Southern University Center for Irish Studies provides students with the opportunity to explore the Irish culture through academic programs, study abroad programs, and various cultural events.

The Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) opened a research facility in Athlone, Ireland in 2006. GTRI Ireland is the first applied research facility outside the United States. The facility focuses on the research and development in the areas of digital media, radio frequency identification (RFID), biotechnology and energy. In addition, the GTRI helps connect Southeast U.S. businesses with tech markets in Europe.



In June 2008, Georgia Lt. Governor Casey Cagle welcomed, the Northern Ireland company, Consilium Technologies Group to Georgia. The company is establishing TotalMobile USA Inc., a subsidiary that will provide mobile office software for cell phones and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to state employees. Consilium also plans to work with Atlanta based company AT&T to expand to other markets.

