



## GEORGIA - JAPAN COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

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. Yumiko Nakazono has led the state's economic development efforts since 1989. In 2013, Governor Deal presented the Japan office with a commendation recognizing its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Consulate General of Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) are both located in Atlanta. Takashi Shinozuka has served as Consul General since January 2016. Atlanta is also home to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Japan-American Society of Georgia.

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. The 39<sup>th</sup> annual joint meeting was held in September 2016 in Tokyo, Japan.

In August 2013, Governor Deal led a business, trade and tourism mission to Asia, ending in Tokyo to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Georgia's economic development office in Japan. The Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner led a delegation to Japan in 2015.

In October 2014, Haso USA Inc., a Tokyo-based manufacturer of personal use cleaning products, announced its location to Gwinnett County, an investment of \$7 million creating 170 jobs.

In June 2014, Toppan Printing Co., Ltd. announced a \$100 million investment in Griffin creating 80 jobs. In January 2015, Marukan, a Japanese leader in rice vinegar brewing, established its second U.S. brewery in Griffin. Both investments are in Spalding County.

In October 2016, Governor Deal met with the Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. during a visit to Atlanta to discuss Georgia's relationship with Japan.

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

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 21 study abroad programs to Japan in programs such as language, history, business and Japanese culture. More than 145 Japanese students were enrolled in USG schools during the 2015-16 school year and 114 USG students studied in Japan. USG institutions currently host 44 visiting Japanese scholars.

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

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

Tokyo-born Shizuo Z. Kuwahara currently serves as the music director of the Augusta Symphony Orchestra.

Approximately 20,000 attended the 2016 JapanFest in Atlanta, one of the largest Japanese festivals in the U.S.

Gretsch, the Georgia-based musical instruments company, partners with the Terada factory in Nagoya, Japan in manufacturing a selection of its guitars for distribution worldwide.

In 2016, Atlanta hosted the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Japan-America Grassroots Summit, a one-week cultural exchange program held alternately each year in Japan and the U.S. for Japanese and American citizens fostering peace and friendship at the grassroots level.

39,000 visitors from Japan traveled to Georgia in 2015. Visitation from Japan to Georgia is expected to increase by 30% between 2015-2020.

### International Trade

**EXPORTS:** In 2016, Georgia exports to Japan totaled **\$1.59 billion**. Japan is currently the 5<sup>th</sup> largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Japan include civilian aircraft, parts of gas turbines, medical instruments, kaolin and chemical woodpulp.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Japan: kaolin, parts of gas turbines, carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted.

**IMPORTS:** In 2016, Georgia imports from Japan totaled **\$5.07 billion**, a 10% increase from 2015. Japan ranks 5<sup>th</sup> among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Japan include heavy machinery, motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, photographic chemicals and electrical machinery.

### Capital Investment

At least **40 Georgia companies have operations in Japan**, including but not limited to:

- Aflac
- Bridgestone Golf
- First Advantage
- InComm
- Invesco
- Manhattan Associates
- NCR
- Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen
- Travelport
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Turner Broadcasting System Inc.

UPS  
UPS Supply Chain Solutions  
WestRock

There are at least **501 Japanese facilities operating in Georgia**, of which at least 139 are manufacturing locations. These Japanese-affiliated companies employ more than 29,217 Georgians. A list can be found online at [insite.georgia.org](http://insite.georgia.org)

### Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Tokyo.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with Japan. GPA offers two weekly container services to Tokyo and Kobe and one weekly service to Nagoya and Yokohama. GPA's Brunswick Port also offers shipping services to Kawasaki, Kobe, Nagoya and Yokohama.

### About GDEcD

The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state's sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, aligning workforce education and training with in-demand jobs, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development.

### GDEcD's International Representative in Japan

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\*Information valid as of April 2017

