



GEORGIA – JAPAN

Economic Development Connection

Government & Commerce

Georgia serves as a leading business partner for Japan. The state of Georgia has had an office in Japan since 1973 and has assisted hundreds of Japanese firms in locating Georgia. Ms. Yumiko Nakazono joined the Georgia Japan office in 1989. In 2013, Governor Nathan Deal presented the Japan office with a commendation recognizing its 40th anniversary.

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.

Atlanta is home to The Japanese Consulate General, one of 17 Japanese diplomatic offices in the United States. Mr. Kazuo Sunaga has served as Consul General since June 2013.

Georgia is a charter member of the Southeastern United States (SEUS)-Japan Alliance, created in 1976. SEUS-Japan promotes trade, investment, understanding and friendship between Japan and states in the southeastern United States, including Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Governor Nathan Deal led a delegation from Georgia to the 2012 conference in Tokyo, Japan.

The University System of Georgia offers at least 26 different study abroad programs to Japan.

In August 2013, Governor Deal led a business, trade and tourism mission to Asia. The mission

ended in Tokyo to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Georgia's economic development office in Japan.

In May 2013, Monroe-based Hitachi Automotive Systems Americas, Inc. announced plans to expand its operations in Walton County, creating 250 new jobs and investing \$80 million. Hitachi Automotive Systems, Ltd., is a wholly owned subsidiary of Hitachi, Ltd., headquartered in Tokyo. The company is engaged in the development, manufacture, sales and services of automotive components.

In October 2013 Yachiyo of America Inc. announced its plans to open a manufacturing plant in Carrollton. The new 130,000-square-foot facility projects to offer more than 200 jobs within three years and represents a \$30 million investment. Yachiyo, a globally recognized automotive supplier, manufactures plastic fuel tanks and sunroofs based in Saitama, Japan.

In December 2013, Toyo Tire North America Manufacturing, Inc. facility announced expansion for the company, creating a total of 650 new jobs and \$371 million investment into the project over the next four years. In 1966, Toyo Tires became the first Japanese tire manufacturer to establish a subsidiary in the United States.

Atlanta is also home to the Asian-American Chamber of Commerce, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), and a Japanese Chamber of Commerce.

Trade Relationship

EXPORTS: In 2013, Georgia exports to Japan totaled **\$1.4 billion**, a 13.4% increase over 2012. Japan is the 5th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Japan include civilian aircraft parts, woodpulp, gas turbines, medical equipment, kaolinic clays and paperboard.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Japan: gas turbines (1st), woodpulp (1st), kaolinic clays (1st), paper and paperboard (1st) and textile floor coverings (1st).

IMPORTS: In 2012, Georgia's imports from Japan totaled **\$4.5 billion**. Japan ranks 5th among Georgia's top importer nations.

Top imports from Japan include self-propelled bulldozers etc., internal combustion piston engines, gas turbines, air and vacuum pumps and electrical capacitors.

Capital Investment

At least **45 Georgia companies have operations in Japan**, including but not limited to:

- AFC Enterprises
- AFLAC
- Alcon
- Arris Group, Inc.
- Bridgestone Golf
- Delta Air Lines
- Kimberly-Clark Health Care
- NCR Corporation
- Newell Rubbermaid
- The Coca-Cola Company
- UPS
- Ventyx

There are at least **399 Japanese facilities operating in Georgia**, of which at least 117 are manufacturing locations. These Japanese-affiliated companies employ more than 25,000 Georgians. A list can be found online at www.georgiafacts.org.

Transportation

Delta Air Lines offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Tokyo.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with four Japanese ports. GPA offers two weekly shipping services to Tokyo and Nagoya, and 3 weekly shipping services to Kobe and Yokohama.

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.

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