



GEORGIA - KOREA COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of the Republic of Korea is located in Atlanta and serves Georgia, Alabama, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ambassador Seong-jin Kim has served as Consul General since October 2014.

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 Southeast U.S. Korean Chamber of Commerce, Korean American Chamber of Commerce and the Korean American Coalition.

Governor Deal traveled to Korea in 2011 and 2013.

Three Georgia communities have sister city agreements with South Korea: Atlanta - Daegu; Cobb County - Seongdong-Gu; and Gwinnett County - Gangnam-Gu.

Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 18 study abroad programs to South Korea in programs such as language, engineering, computing, modern languages and education. Nearly 2,300 Korean students were enrolled in USG schools during the 2015-16 school year and 117 USG students studied in South Korea. USG institutions currently host 207 visiting scholars from South Korean universities.

In 2012, the Georgia Department of Education signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education to promote the sharing of best practices between charter schools.

Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs to Seoul as well as an exchange with Yonsei University.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

The first Korean-American co-production *Papa*, released in 2012, was filmed in Atlanta, Georgia.

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.

Every year the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta hosts a three-day Korean Festival. The annual event attracts thousands and includes a range of activities featuring Korean food, music, dance and artists.

14,000 South Koreans visitors travelled to Georgia in 2014 and 1.78 million Koreans visited the U.S. in 2015 marking five consecutive years of tourism growth for this market.

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 2016, Georgia exports to Korea totaled **\$984.3 million**. Korea is currently the 8th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Korea include civilian aircraft, parts of turbojets or turbopropellers, chemical woodpulp, kaolin and medical instruments.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Korea: kaolin, chemical woodpulp and carpets and other textile floor coverings.

IMPORTS: In 2016, Georgia imports from Korea totaled **\$6.2 billion**. Korea ranks 4th among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Korea include motor vehicles, motor vehicle parts and accessories, spark ignition piston engines, heavy machinery and fork-lift trucks.

Capital Investment

There are at least **24 Georgia companies with operations in Korea**, including but not limited to:

- American Megatrends, Inc.
- Delta Air Lines
- First Data Corporation
- Hooters of America Inc.
- InComm
- Invesco Ltd.
- NCR Corporation
- Novelis, Inc.
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Travelport, Ltd.

Georgia is home to at least **75 Korean facilities**, of which at least 28 are manufacturing locations. These Korean-affiliated companies currently employ over 10,000 Georgians. A full list can be found online at insite.georgia.org.

The largest Korean investment in Georgia is KIA Motors Manufacturing Georgia, Inc. (KMMG) in West Point. In June 2012, Kia and 26 nearby suppliers announced that they would make investments totaling more than \$1.5 billion in the state. KMMG is the first manufacturing site in North America for KIA Motors Corporation and began mass production in November

2009. As of 2012, the plant has the ability to build 360,000 vehicles annually from U.S. and globally-sourced parts.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Seoul, South Korea.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with ports of Korea and offers six weekly shipping services to the Port of Busan. GPA's Brunswick Port also offers fortnightly shipping services to Incheon, Masan, Pyongtaek and Kunsan.

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 Representatives in Korea

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