



## GEORGIA - FINLAND COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

Atlanta is home to the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Finland. Finland has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1949. John D. Saunders has served as Honorary Consul since 1996.

The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast was established in 1982 and is located in Atlanta. The chamber's purpose is to protect, develop and promote trade, business, financial and professional interests and commercial relations between Finland and the Southeastern United States. Tuomo Aho serves as president.

Founded in 1983, the Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, Inc. (SAFG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the exchange of educational, cultural and amateur athletic endeavors between the countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and the state of Georgia.

The International Association of National Public Health Institutes is based at both the Emory Global Health Institute (EGHI) and Finland's National Institute of Public Health and Welfare. In 2011, EGHI received a \$6 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to work with Finland to strengthen national public health institutes globally, especially in low resource countries. The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973, assisting hundreds of European firms locating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe.

### Academics

In Fall 2019, 23 Finnish students were enrolled in University System of Georgia (USG) schools. In 2016, Atlanta hosted the TransAtlantic Education Leadership Exchange (TELE) Global Summit welcoming a delegation of educational technology experts and business leaders from Finland to present on the Finnish education system.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

The Atlanta Finland Society has sponsored the annual Atlanta Scandinavian Festival since its inception in 1999.

Finnish pianist Juho Pohjonen performed with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in February 2017. The Atlanta Finland Society is a non-profit, educational and cultural organization that strives to help members learn, maintain and enjoy Finnish language, traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage. The society hosts events for traditional festivities such as Vappu (Finnish Labor Day) and Juhannus (Midsummer) and also provides Finnish education to children and adults, as well as Sunday school through the Atlanta Suomikoulu.

In 2018, more than 5,900 people from Finland visited Georgia spending \$11.4 million.

### International Trade

**EXPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia exports to Finland totaled **\$96.2 million**. Finland is the **62<sup>nd</sup>** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Finland include kaolin, computer parts and accessories, tall oil, communication devices and cyclic alcohols.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Finland: kaolin, chemical woodpulp and computer parts and accessories.

**IMPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia imports from Finland totaled **\$383.7 million**. Finland ranks **34<sup>th</sup>** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Finland to Georgia include motor vehicles, cellulose, prepared enzymes, glass fibers and measuring or checking instruments.

### Investment

There are at least **14** Georgia companies with operations in Finland, including but not limited to:

- AGCO Corporation
- Exide Technologies
- Georgia-Pacific
- PrimeGlobal
- The Coca-Cola Company
- UPS

There are at least **19 Finnish facilities operating in Georgia**. These Finnish-affiliated companies employ nearly 900 Georgians.

A large Finnish investment in Georgia, based on total employment, is Kemira Oyj with affiliates such as Kemira Chemical and Kemira Pulp & Paper Chemicals located around the state.

### Transportation

Delta Air Lines offers daily one-connection flights from Atlanta to Helsinki via Amsterdam.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) Brunswick port offers two shipping services calling on the ports of Korkka and Turku.

### 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](http://www.georgia.org).

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