



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.

The Consulate General of Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) are both located in Atlanta. Japan has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1974. Kazuyuki Takeuchi has served as Consul General since September of 2019. 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. Georgia will host the 42nd annual joint meeting October 20-23, 2019 in Savannah.

Savannah, Georgia hosted the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association and Southeast U.S./Japan Association in October, 2019. SEUS-Japan is a prestigious gathering of global business leaders celebrating economic and cultural ties.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner brought a delegation to Japan in 2015 and Former Governor Nathan Deal led economic development missions to Japan in both 2013 and 2017.

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 35 study abroad programs to Japan in programs such as language, history, business and Japanese culture. As of Fall 2018, 140 Japanese students were enrolled in USG schools.

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

Arts, Culture and Tourism

JapanFest is held annually in Atlanta and draws crowds of more than 20,000 people. The festival includes a variety of dance and music performances as well as cultural workshops.

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 26th 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.

In 2018, more than 31,300 Japanese tourists traveled to Georgia spending more than \$74.4 million, making

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2019, Georgia exports to Japan totaled **\$1.4 billion**. Japan is the **7th** largest export market for Georgia.

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

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Japan: kaolin, paper and paperboard and articles of iron or steel.

IMPORTS: In 2019, Georgia imports from Japan totaled **\$6.5 billion**. Japan ranks **5th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports to Georgia from Japan include construction machinery, motor vehicles, tractors, motor vehicle parts and accessories and electrical capacitors.

Capital Investment

There are at least **35** Georgia companies with operations in Japan, including but not limited to:

- Aflac
- Halyard Health
- Immucor
- Interface
- NCR Corporation
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Vernay Laboratories

Japan is a leading investor nation in Georgia, ranking first among Georgia's international investors based on total dollar value of investments, and third based on total number of facilities.

There are more than **337 Japanese facilities operating in Georgia**. These Japanese-affiliated companies employ approximately 30,000 Georgians.

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.

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. GPA's Brunswick Port also offers shipping services to Hitachi, Kawasaki, Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama and Kanda.

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.

GDEcD's International Representative in Japan

Yumiko Nakazono

Managing Director
State of Georgia – Japan
Holland Hills Mori Tower RoP#1202
5-11-1 Toranomon
Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-0001 – JAPAN
T: +81 (3) 6402.5035
ynakazono@georgia.org

*Information valid as of December 2019

We **SPEAK** Business

