



## GEORGIA - ISRAEL COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

Atlanta is home to the Consulate General of Israel to the Southeast, which has jurisdiction over Alabama, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Israel has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1956. Anat Sultan-Dadon served as Consul General since July 2019.

The state of Georgia has had representation in Israel since 1994.

Conexx: America Israel Business Connector was established in 1992 as the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce to help Israeli and Southeastern businesses explore new markets and develop business relations. The chamber is headquartered in Atlanta.

In March 2015, former Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed participated in a mission to Israel organized by the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Metro Atlanta Chamber and Conexx. Delegates attended the Cybertech cybersecurity conference in Tel Aviv.

In January 2018, Commissioner Pat Wilson led an economic and trade delegation to Israel, attending the 2018 Cybertech cybersecurity conference.

In June 2018, the state of Georgia and the Israel Innovation Authority recently signed an MOU focused on the identification of specific projects, partnerships and collaborations between entities from each region in hopes of leading to cooperation in innovation.

Georgia and Israel have two sister-city agreements: Atlanta - Ra'anana and Sandy Springs – Western Galilee.

The Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) is a joint public safety partnership project that facilitates inter-agency cooperation and training between state of Georgia law enforcement agencies and the police force of the state of Israel. This partnership has been in place since 1992.

### Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers three study abroad programs to Israel in business and dance. As of Fall 2018, 72 Israeli students were enrolled in USG schools.

Emory University provides exchange programs with Tel Aviv University and Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

Atlanta is home to the largest Jewish Film Festival in the world. The 23-day festival features contemporary and classic independent Jewish films from around the world.

Since 2009, the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival has expanded into a year-round producer of more than 60 diverse Jewish music experiences annually, often featuring Israeli traditional and contemporary musicians.

Emory University's Schwartz Center for Performing Arts featured a Festival of Contemporary Dance and Theater from Israel as part of its 2016-2017 season. The Atlanta Opera's General and Artistic Director, Tomer Zvulun, is an Israeli citizen.

In 2018, 6,000 Israelis traveled to Georgia spending more than \$10.6 million.

## International Trade

The U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement took effect on September 1, 1985, eliminating duties on manufactured goods.

**EXPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia exports to Israel totaled **\$242.6 million**, a 23% increase over the previous year. Israel is the **32<sup>nd</sup>** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Israel include civilian aircraft, Kraft paper and paperboard, motor vehicles, parts of gas turbines and tractors.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Israel: Kraft paper and paperboard, electric generating sets and sauces and condiments.

**IMPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia imports from Israel totaled **\$603.2 million**. Israel ranks **26<sup>th</sup>** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports to Georgia from Israel include articles of plastics, plastic containers, sporting goods, medical instruments and parts of turbojets or turbopropellers.

## Capital Investment

There are at least **6** Georgia companies with operations in Israel, including but not limited to:

- Arris Group
- Delta Air Lines
- McClarens
- PrimeGlobal
- Travelport

There are at least 21 Israeli facilities operating in Georgia. These Israeli-affiliated companies employ more than 1000 Georgians. In February 2015, Caesarstone, an Israeli manufacturer of high-quality engineered quartz surfaces, announced an expansion in Bryan County that created more than 130 jobs for Georgians.

Delta Air Lines offers multiple daily one-stop flights from Atlanta to Tel Aviv via New York, Paris and Amsterdam.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with two ports in Israel. GPA offers regular shipping service to the Port of Haifa and to the Port of Ashdod.

## 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).

## GDEcD's International Representative in Israel

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\*Information valid as of December 2019

## Transportation

