



GEORGIA - IRELAND COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta, which opened in 2010, is Ireland's newest consulate in the U.S. since the 1930s. Ciara O'Floinn has served as the Consul General since August 2020.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in the UK and Ireland since 1992. Colin McCullagh leads the state's economic development efforts in this market.

The Atlanta chapter of the Irish Chamber of Commerce promotes the development of economic, commercial, financial and educational relationships between the U.S. and Ireland. IDA Ireland, an Irish government agency responsible for securing international investment also had an office in Atlanta, where John McGeown serves as VP of Industrial Technology and Lifesciences.

Minister of State for Financial Services Michael D'Arcy visited Georgia in March 2018 and met with Former Governor Nathan Deal to discuss and expand upon the economic ties between Georgia and Ireland. Minister D'Arcy also attended the St. Patrick's Day celebrations held in Savannah.

Former Governor Nathan Deal led an economic development mission to Dublin in 2016 to foster business, trade and tourism opportunities between Ireland and Georgia.

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 23 study abroad programs to Ireland in a variety of studies, such as business, engineering, humanities and journalism. As of Fall 2018, 34 Irish students were enrolled in USG schools.

Georgia Southern University is home to the Center for Irish Research and Training and provides one of the largest U.S. summer study programs in Ireland.

Emory University provides multiple study abroad programs to Ireland as well as exchanges with Trinity College, University College in Dublin and the National University of Ireland in Galway.

The Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets opened the 2016 college football season in Dublin, Ireland in the Aer Lingus College Football Classic.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

Savannah, Georgia is home to the third-largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world, attracting up to 400,000 visitors every year.

IrishFest Atlanta was launched in 2013 to promote Ireland's culture through traditional music, song, dance and language.

Aris is Atlanta's own Irish theatre company presenting an annual season repertoire based on Irish literary traditions, mythology and storytelling.

Academics

The six-time Grammy Award winning Irish musical group The Chieftains performed at the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in March 2017.

In 2018, more than 13,900 Irish tourists traveled to Georgia, spending \$21.8 million.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2018, Georgia exports to Ireland totaled **\$82 million**. Ireland is currently the 65th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Ireland include civilian aircraft, parts for office machines, communication devices, medical instruments, and centrifugal pumps.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Ireland: parts of pumps for liquids, gas turbines, wood pulp, and carpets.

IMPORTS: In 2018, Georgia's imports from Ireland totaled **\$1 billion**. Ireland ranks 18th among Georgia's import nations.

Top imports from Ireland include perfumes, heavy machinery, medical instruments, pharmaceuticals, and beer.

Capital Investment

At least **27 Georgia companies have operations in Ireland**, including but not limited to:

- AGCO Corporation
- Arris Group
- Elavon
- Equifax
- Exide Technologies
- Georgia-Pacific
- Invesco
- Graphic Packing Corporation
- Mohawk Industries
- Travelport
- UPS

There are at least 43 Irish facilities operating in Georgia. These companies employ more than 4,100 Georgians.

The largest Irish investment in Georgia, based on total employment, includes Club Car, Inc. in Augusta, employing more than 1,200 Georgians.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Dublin. The United States operates border pre-clearance facilities in Shannon and Dublin.

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.

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*Information valid as of December 2019

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