



GEORGIA - IRELAND COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of Ireland in Atlanta, which opened in 2010, is the official representation of the Irish Government to the Southeastern United States. Ms. Caoimhe Ní Conchúir has served as the Consul General since July 2022.

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 on Trade and Colm Reilly leads on FDI.

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.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 55 Irish students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected study abroad programs around the world, but these programs are expected to return to former participation levels soon. In previous years, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered 32 study abroad programs to Ireland in a variety of studies, such as business, engineering, humanities and journalism.

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

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 1,676 Irish visitors spent nearly \$1.32 million in the state of Georgia.

Savannah, Georgia is home to the third-largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the world, attracting up to 400,000 visitors every year. In 2021, Irish Bluegrass group We Banjo 3 will perform at the Elm Street Cultural Arts Center in Woodstock, Georgia.

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

In 2021, Gateway Performance Productions in partnership with the Little 5 Points Center for Art and Community in Atlanta, GA presented *We Have Risen* commemorating Ireland's Journey to liberty in drama, dance and song with a historical African American Dimension - originally commissioned by the Irish government through the Consulate General of Ireland in 2016.

In 2021 the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra presents presented Celtic Thunder IRELAND, a brand-new revue show that revisits their most popular Irish and Celtic songs of the past decade and celebrates the influence of Irish and Celtic music around the world.

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

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Ireland totaled **\$138.1 million**. Ireland is the **48th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Ireland include civilian aircraft, medical instruments, albumins, parts of pumps for liquids, and ether-alcohols.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Ireland: parts of pumps and liquids, and chemical woodpulp.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Ireland totaled **\$1.8 billion**. Ireland ranks **19th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Ireland to Georgia include immunological products, perfumes, fork-lift trucks, medical instruments, and orthopedic appliances.

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.

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. In 2022, there will be an estimated 280 flights between Dublin and Atlanta carrying over 80,000 passengers.

There is one international cargo flight between Shannon, Ireland, and Atlanta every week.

International connectivity has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions ease, the airport expects a return to pre-COVID connections.

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 July 2022