



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 has served as Consul General since July 2019.

The state of Georgia has had representation in Israel since 1994. Sima Amir serves as Managing Director of the state's office in Israel, leading the economic development efforts in the market.

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

In the Fall semester of 2022, 71 Israeli 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 four study abroad programs to Israel in business and dance.

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

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, 2,613 Israeli visitors spent \$4.72 million in the state of Georgia.

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.

The Hambridge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences had one Nonfiction Writing Fellow in 2015 hailing from Israel.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Israel totaled **\$280.2 million**. Israel is the **34th** largest export market for Georgia.

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

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Israel: kraft paper, sauces, paper, and paperboard.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Israel totaled **\$650.7 million**. Israel ranks **29th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Israel to Georgia include plastics, medical instruments, parts of exercise equipment, insecticides, and parts of turbojets.

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 1,000 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.

Transportation

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

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

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah offers three direct weekly container ship services to Israel, calling the ports of Haifa and 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.

GDEcD's International Representative in Israel

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