



## GEORGIA - ITALY COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

Georgia serves as headquarters to the Honorary Consulate General of the Italian Republic. Italy has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1899. Filiberto Calascibetta has served as the Honorary Consul since August 2020.

The Italy America Chamber of Commerce – Georgia Chapter was founded in 2019 and is based in Atlanta. The chapter is in charge of developing the activities of the chamber in the state.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time the office has assisted hundreds of European firms locating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe.

La Società Italiana, the Italian American Club of Atlanta, was founded in 1986 to perpetuate Italian heritage, culture and ideals through social and charitable events.

In March 2019, Italy's Ambassador to the U.S., Armando Varricchio, visited Atlanta, Georgia to celebrate the expansion of Aquafil USA, Italy's largest company in Georgia.

In 2017, Former Governor Nathan Deal led an economic development mission to Italy to promote Georgia business.

Georgia has one sister city agreement with Italy: Athens – Cortona.

### Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 100 Italian 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 68 study abroad programs to Italy, where students can study business, art, archeology, education, history, language, literature, architecture, music, art history, classical culture, and agriculture.

Since 1970, the University of Georgia academic facility in Cortona, Italy has produced more than 8,000 alumni. UGA is currently partnering with the Insubria Center on International Security to assist European governmental authorities in conducting self-assessments of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear facilities.

The Georgia Institute of Technology partners with the Politecnico di Torino and the University of Trento to offer dual master's degrees in electrical and computer engineering and computer science. The university also offers three undergraduate programs where students can study in Italy.

Kennesaw State University is currently expanding its facilities in Tuscany at its Montepulciano campus.

Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs in Rome and Siena where students study art history and chemistry. Emory also provides direct enrollment options at the Accademia dell'Arte in Arezzo.

### 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, 4,913 Italian visitors spent over \$5.6 million in the state of Georgia.

In 2019, Cinema Italy celebrated its 13<sup>th</sup> annual film festival in Atlanta.

In 2021, Georgia Tech presented Amygdala, an audiovisual installation representing the collective emotional state of the Internet and its changes on the basis of events that take place around the world. Amygdala is created by fuse\*, an Italian studio and production company.

The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra has featured two guest conductors in 2018: Roberto Abbado in February and Carolo Rizzi in April.

### International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Italy totaled **\$557.3 million**. Italy is the **18th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Italy include kraft paper and paperboard, civilian aircraft, chemical woodpulp, parts of gas turbines, parts of planes or helicopters.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Italy: kaolin and kraft paper.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Italy totaled **\$2.5 billion**. Italy ranks **14th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Italy to Georgia include eyewear and their accessories, motor vehicles, packing or wrapping machinery, furniture, and tiles.

### Investment

There are at least **24** Georgia companies with operations in Italy, including but not limited to:

- Brand Energy & Infrastructure Services
- Georgia-Pacific
- Immucor
- NCR Corporation
- The Coca-Cola Company
- UPS

There are at least **92 Italian facilities operating in Georgia**. These Italian-affiliated companies employ 5,000 Georgians.

### Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Rome, Milan and Venice. In 2022, there will be an estimated 800 flights carrying nearly 218,000 passengers between Georgia and Italy.

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 has an established relationship with Italy. The Port of Savannah offers four direct weekly container ship services to Italy, calling six ports, including Genoa, Livorno and Tarragona.

### 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).

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