



GEORGIA - JAPAN COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of Japan and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) are both located in Atlanta. Japan has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1974. Mr. Mio Maeda has served as Consul General since November 2022.

Atlanta is also home to the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Japan-American Society of Georgia.

Georgia serves as a leading business partner for Japan. The state of Georgia has had continuous economic development representation in Japan since 1973 and has assisted hundreds of Japanese firms in locating to Georgia. Joseph Huntemann has led the state's economic development efforts in Japan since March 2021, prior to which he served as a Project Manager with the Department for eight years.

Georgia is a charter member of the Southeastern United States (SEUS) Japan Alliance, established in 1976, which brings together business leaders and government officials from both regions annually.

Savannah, Georgia hosted the 42nd Annual Joint Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Southeast Association and Southeast U.S./Japan Association in October, 2019. SEUS-Japan is a prestigious gathering of global business leaders celebrating economic and cultural ties.

The Georgia Department of Economic Development Commissioner brought a delegation to Japan in 2015 and Former Governor Nathan Deal led economic development missions to Japan in both 2013 and 2017.

Ten Georgia cities have sister city agreements with Japan, including: Elberton – Takamatsu;

Atlanta – Fukuoka; Macon – Kurobe; and Georgia is a sister state to Kagoshima Prefecture.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 154 Japanese 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) offers 49 study abroad programs to Japan in programs such as language, history, business, and Japanese culture.

Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs to Japan as well as exchanges with Kansai Gaidai University and Kwansei Gakuin University.

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, 2,850 Japanese visitors spent \$6.25 million in the state of Georgia.

JapanFest is held annually in Atlanta and draws crowds of more than 20,000 people. The festival includes a variety of dance and music performances as well as cultural workshops.

In 2021, Shoko Teruyama will be the juror for The Hudgen Center's 4th National Cup Show and will also have her own piece on exhibition.

Three members of the Atlanta Ballet Company are from Japan: Airi Igarashi, Saho Kumagai, and Fuki Takahashi.

The Hambridge Center for Creative Arts and Sciences had one Visual Arts Fellow in 2020 hailing from Japan.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Japan totaled **\$1.2 billion**. Japan is the **7th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Japan include civilian aircraft, medical instruments, chemical woodpulp, parts of gas turbines, and kaolin.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Japan: insecticides, gas turbines, and kaolin.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Japan totaled **\$7 billion**. Japan ranks **5th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Japan to Georgia include construction vehicles, motor vehicles, tractors, engines, and electrical capacitors.

Capital Investment

There are at least **35** Georgia companies with operations in Japan, including but not limited to:

- Aflac
- Halyard Health
- Immucor
- Interface
- NCR Corporation
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Vernay Laboratories

Japan is a leading investor nation in Georgia, ranking first among Georgia's international investors based on total dollar value of investments, and third based on total number of facilities.

There are more than **343 Japanese facilities operating in Georgia**. These Japanese-affiliated companies employ approximately 30,000 Georgians.

In August 2017, Rinnai, a home appliances manufacturer, announced a \$69 million investment in Griffin, creating 150 jobs. Rinnai is headquartered in Peachtree City and based in Nagoya, Japan.

In November 2019, Nippon Light Metal Georgia, specializing in aluminum products for the automotive industry announced a new manufacturing facility in

Adairsville, creating 110 jobs and investing \$50 million in the project.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Tokyo. In 2022, there will be an estimated 237 flights between Japan and Georgia with 72,522 passengers.

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 Japan. The Port of Savannah offers direct weekly container ship service to the ports of Kobe and Tokyo. The Port of Brunswick offers direct service for Roll-on/Roll-off cargo to Japan, calling the ports of Chiba, Fukuyama, Hitachi, Kawasaki, Kobe, Nagoya, Toyohashi, Yokohama, and Yokosuka.

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 Japan

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