Government & Commerce

Atlanta is home to the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Finland. Mr. John D. Saunders serves as Honorary Consul.

The Finnish American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast was established in 1982 and is located in Duluth. The chamber’s purpose is to protect, develop and promote trade, business, financial and professional interests and commercial relations between Finland and the Southeastern United States. Mr. Eric Estroff serves as president.

The Atlanta Finland Society is a non-profit, educational and cultural organization that strives to help its members learn, maintain and enjoy the Finnish language, traditions, customs, history and cultural heritage. It hosts events for traditional festivities such as Vappu (Finnish Labor Day) and Juhannus (Midsummer). The society also provides Finnish education to children and adults, as well as Sunday School through the Atlanta Suomikoulu.

The Scandinavian American Foundation of Georgia, Inc. (SAFG) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the exchange of educational, cultural and amateur athletic endeavors between the countries of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden and the state of Georgia. Founded in 1983, the foundation has channeled the resources of individuals, corporations, organizations and government agencies in achieving these goals.

The International Association of National Public Health Institutes is based at both the Emory Global Health Institute and Finland’s National Institute of Public Health and Welfare. Emory University’s Global Health Institute received a $6 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to work with Finland to strengthen national public health institutes globally, especially in low resource countries.

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. Ms. Antje Abshoff serves as managing director.

The University of Georgia has an exchange program with the University of Helsinki.

Trade Relationship

EXPORTS: In 2013, Georgia exports to Finland totaled $264 million, a 65% increase over 2012. Finland is currently the 29th largest export market for Georgia. Georgia is Finland’s second largest import market.

Top exports from Georgia to Finland include civilian aircraft engines and parts, kaolinic clays, hand tools, tall oil and organic surface-action agents.
Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Finland: civilian aircraft engines and parts (1st), kaolinic clays (1st), tall oil (1st) and rubber tires (1st).

**Imports:** In 2013, Georgia’s imports from Finland totaled **$119 million**. Finland ranks 49th among Georgia’s importer nations.

Top imports from Finland include petroleum oils, measuring instruments, paper and paperboard and electrical transformers.

**Capital Investment**

There are at least **16 Georgia companies that have operations in Finland**, including but not limited to:
- AGCO Corporation
- Alcon
- CP Kelco
- Georgia-Pacific
- Novelis Inc.
- Recall Corporation
- UPS
- UPS Supply Chain Solutions

There are at least **35 Finnish facilities operating in Georgia**, of which at least 13 (approximately 36%) are manufacturing locations. These Finnish-affiliated companies employ more than 1,300 Georgians. A list can be found online at [www.georgiafacts.org](http://www.georgiafacts.org).

The largest Finnish investment in Georgia, based on total employment, is Kemira Oyj. With affiliates such as Kemira Chemical and Kemira Pulp and Paper Chemicals located around the state, the manufacturing company employs more than 1,550 Georgians.

In 2010, FP-Pigments Inc. chose to open its first U.S. operations in Rome, Georgia. With an initial investment of $20 million in the state, the paint and coating manufacturing company currently employs 20 Georgians.

**Transportation**

Delta Air Lines offers daily flights from Atlanta to Helsinki via Amsterdam.

**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.

**GDEcD’s Economic Development Representative in Europe**

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