

export

GEORGIA-BELGIUM CONNECTION

Updated June 11, 2009

GOVERNMENT & COMMERCE

Atlanta is home to the Consulate of the Kingdom of Belgium. Mr. Benoît Standaert serves as Consul.

The Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce (BACC), which has its managerial center located in New York City, maintains a chapter in Atlanta. A not-for-profit organization, the BACC formed in 1918 as a result of the growing commerce between Belgium and the United States.

The Flanders Investment & Trade Agency, located in Atlanta, promotes sustainable international business in the interest of both Flanders-based companies and overseas enterprises. Mr. Ludwig Van den Bossche serves as the Trade Commissioner for the Atlanta location.

The Walloon Foreign Trade Board in Atlanta promotes trade and investment between the southeastern US and the Wallonia region of Belgium.

Atlanta has a sister city relationship with Brussels, and the city of Dalton, GA has a sister city relationship with Dilbeek, Belgium. The mission of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission is to increase the knowledge, goodwill, and understanding of the world through people-to-people diplomacy, education, cultural and economic exchanges, and humanitarian assistance.

TRADE RELATIONSHIP

Belgium ranks 10th among Georgia's export destinations, and Georgia ranks as 9th among states exporting to Belgium. Georgia leads among US states in exports of wood pulp; salt, sulfur, earth, and stone, and fats and oils to Belgium. Georgia ranks second in exports of products of animal origin and carpets and other textile floor coverings, and third in tobacco. Georgia exported nearly \$785 million to Belgium in 2008, a 42% increase from 2007.

Imports

The Port Authority of Savannah ranked 7th among states receiving imports from Belgium in 2008. Top imports included: vehicles, not railway; machinery; inorganic chemicals and rare earth minerals; photography or cinematography; and pharmaceutical products. A total of nearly \$850 million worth of goods were imported in 2008, an increase of 4% from 2007.



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CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Georgia companies with operations in Belgium include:

CIBA Vision Corp.	LXE Inc.
The Coca-Cola Company	Micromeritics Instrument Corp.
Cox Enterprises Inc.	Newell Rubbermaid Inc.
CP Kelco	NIIT Technologies
Crawford & Company	Polyvision Corp.
Delta Air Lines Inc.	PRG-Schultz International Inc.
Immucor Inc. Infor Global Solutions	Recall Corp.
Interface Inc.	Ross Enterprise
Invesco Ltd.	Russell Corp.
JBoss Inc.	S1 Corp.
Kimberly-Clark Health Care	

Belgian companies with operations in Georgia include:

ABX Logistics USA Inc.	IBT Inc.
Barcovie LLC	Innogenetics Inc.
Barco Visual Solutions LLC	KBC Bank
Barco INC.	NMC America Inc.
Barco Federal Systems LLC	NorthgateArinso Inc.
BDO Seidman LLP	Prayon Inc.
Bekaert Corp.	Resilux America LLC
Bekaert Combustion Technology USA	Safmarine Inc.
Bosal North America	Solvay Advanced Polymers
Harveys Supermarkets	Solvay Pharmaceuticals Inc.
EskoArtwork	Unimed Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Gilbos of America Inc.	

TRANSPORTATION

Delta currently offers direct daily flights from Atlanta to Belgium.

The Port of Savannah has three services that ship weekly to Belgium and one service that ships every 10 days to Zeebrugge.





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COMMUNITY & EDUCATION



According to the Census Bureau's 2005-2007 American Community Survey, 4,200 Georgians claim Belgian Ancestry.

Atlanta is home to the Belgian Club of Atlanta (BCA). The BCA seeks to give Belgians living in and around the Atlanta the opportunity to come together and keep the spirit of the Belgian culture alive. The BCA organizes at least one event per month and makes an effort to put together both family-oriented and adult events.



During the Fall 2006 semester, the University System of Georgia had 24 students from Belgium enrolled. The University System also offers 2 study abroad programs in Belgium.

