

export

GEORGIA-PANAMA CONNECTION

Updated: June 22, 2010

GOVERNMENT & COMMERCE



The U.S. Panama Business Council launched its Southeast Chapter in Atlanta on July 15, 2008. The Council, which was established in 1994, aims to strengthen the bonds of cooperation between the United States and Panama and create business opportunities for business leaders of both nations.

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded in Atlanta in 1984. The Chamber promotes domestic and international economic development of Hispanic businesses and Hispanic business people and serves as a link between businesses in Latin America and those in Georgia. The organization seeks to bring the issues and concerns of the growing number of Hispanic entrepreneurs to the forefront of Georgia's economic agenda.



The second annual Americas Competitiveness Forum was held in Atlanta in August 2008. The Forum provides the opportunity for government entities, the business community, and representatives from academia and non-governmental organizations to discuss actions that can be taken to improve competitiveness and economic prosperity in the Americas. The third annual ACF will be held in Chile in September of 2009.

TRADE



The United States and Panama signed a Free Trade Agreement in June of 2007. The agreement is now pending approval by the U.S. Congress and Panama's legislature.

Georgia ranked 7th among states exporting to Panama in 2009. Georgia led in exports of paper and paperboard; soap, wax, and dental preparations; aluminum; photography and cinematography; textile floor coverings; and live animals. Georgia ranked 2nd among states in tanning dye, paint, and putty; prepared meat and fish; beverages; fats and oils; meat; and wadding, felt, twine, and rope. Georgia was 3rd in exports of tools and cutlery; miscellaneous food; miscellaneous manufacturing; and plastic. Georgia's exports to Panama totaled more than \$146 million in 2009.

Georgia is the 4th largest destination for Panamanian imports. In 2009, Georgia imported \$13.5 million worth of goods from Panama. Top imports to Georgia include: sugars, organic chemicals, fish/seafood, and baking related products.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Georgia companies with operations in Panama:

AFC Enterprises Inc.
The Coca-Cola Company
Delta Air Lines Inc.
Hooters of America

Lanier Worldwide Inc.
UPS Supply Chain Solutions
Zep Manufacturing

Panamanian companies with operations in Georgia:

Transoceanic Trade Inc.



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TRANSPORTATION

Delta Airlines offers daily direct service from Atlanta to Panama City, Panama.

Multiple ocean carriers, including Hapag-Lloyd, Maersk and Mediterranean Shipping sail weekly from the Port of Savannah to the Panama Canal.

COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

There are 60 Panamanian students enrolled in University System of Georgia institutions (Fall 2007). There are more than 18,000 university students in Georgia enrolled in Spanish language programs.

