

# export

## Georgia-Colombia Connection

Updated: June 4, 2009



### GOVERNMENT & COMMERCE

The Consulate General of Colombia is located in Atlanta, and has jurisdiction over the states of Georgia, Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Mr. Camilo de Bedout Herrera has served as Consul General since 2005.



Atlanta is home to the Colombian-American Chamber of Commerce. Established in 1999, the Chamber now has more than 70 members. Mr. Cesar Felipe Gonzalez serves as president.



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.

### TRADE

The United States signed a Free Trade Agreement with Colombia in February of 2006. Implementation of the agreement is pending approval from the U.S. Congress.

In 2008 Georgia ranked 7<sup>th</sup> among states exporting goods to Colombia and led in exports of wood pulp, prepared meat, fish, etc., baking related items, and textile floor coverings. Georgia ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in exports of meat; cocoa; salt, sulfur, earth, and stone; photography/cinematography; live animals; and manmade staple fibers. Georgia exported more than \$232 million worth of goods to Colombia in 2008, a 27% increase over the previous year.

Imports from Colombia into the Savannah Customs District totaled over \$194 million in 2008, an increase of 11% over 2007. Top imports from Colombia include: mineral fuel & oils, salt/sulfur/earth/ stone, plastic, electrical machinery, and spices/coffee/tea.



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### CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Georgia firms with operations in Colombia:

CIBA Vision Corporation  
Crawford & Company  
Delta Air Lines  
Hooters of America  
SED International Holdings  
Spectrum Brands Inc.  
UPS Supply Chain Solutions  
Weg Electric Motors Corporation



### TRANSPORTATION

Delta Air Lines offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Bogotá, Colombia.

Multiple ocean carriers, including Maersk and Evergreen sail weekly from the Port of Savannah to the Port of Buenaventura in Colombia.



### COMMUNITY & EDUCATION

There are nearly 600,000 Spanish speakers and more than 15,000 Colombians living in Georgia (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006).

In 2006, there were 515 Colombian students enrolled in the University System of Georgia (USG), and more than 18,000 USG students are enrolled in Spanish language classes, and 217 earned degrees in Spanish in 2006.

Every year, a Colombian Independence Day festival is held in Atlanta where more than 15,000 gather to celebrate Colombian culture, music, and history.

