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Georgia-Colombia Connection

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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.

The second annual Americas Competitiveness Forum will be held in Atlanta on August 17-19, 2008. The Forum will provide an opportunity for governments, 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.



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.

Georgia exported more than \$183 million worth of goods to Colombia in 2007, a 45% increase over the previous year. Georgia ranks as the second largest exporter of paper products to Colombia. Other top exports include: computer and electronic products; chemicals; non-electric machinery; electrical equipment, appliances and components; and food.

Imports from Colombia into the Savannah Customs District totaled over \$173 million in 2007, an increase of 55% over 2006. Top imports from Colombia include: mineral fuel & oils; hydraulic cements; ceramic products; paper; electrical machinery; and sugars.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Georgia firms with operations in Colombia:

Crawford & Company
Delta Air Lines
Hooters of America
Internet Security Systems Inc.
Newell Rubbermaid
SED International Holdings
Spectrum Brands Inc.
UPS Supply Chain Solutions
Weg Electric Motors Corporation



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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 more than 15,000 Colombians living in Georgia (U.S. Census Bureau, 2006).

In 1998 the members of the Latin American Studies Consortium of Georgia State University created a center in the College of Arts and Sciences to specifically address the study of Latin America.

There are currently 549 Colombian students enrolled in the University System of Georgia (USG), and more than 18,000 USG students are enrolled in Spanish language classes (Fall 2007).

