Many commerce departments, bi-national chambers of commerce, and other organizations promoting trade and investment with the European Union have offices in Georgia. These organizations work to assist their members, develop business contacts and foster commercial relations and exchanges between Georgia and their countries. Examples include:

- Austrian Trade Commission
- Flanders Investment and Trade; Walloonia Export & Investment
- Danish-American Chamber of Commerce
- The Trade Council of Denmark
- Finnish American Chamber of Commerce
- French Trade Commission
- Enterprise Rhône-Alpes International
- German American Chamber of Commerce
- Irish Chamber of Commerce of Atlanta
- Italian Trade Commission
- Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce
- Polish-American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeastern U.S.
- Swedish American Chamber of Commerce
- British-American Business Group of Atlanta

Since taking office in 2011, Governor Nathan Deal has traveled to the U.K., Germany, Switzerland, Austria, the Netherlands, France, and Belgium on business and economic development missions.

Upper Austria, Bavaria (Germany) and the state of Georgia are members of the Regional Leaders Summit (RLS), a forum of seven regions (states, federal states and provinces) from four continents that strategize for a sustainable world. Georgia hosted the 2014 Regional Leaders Summit.
Many Georgia cities participate in Sister Cities International partnerships, which facilitate cultural and economic exchanges between countries. The following are the current partnerships:

- Athens- Athens, Greece
- Athens- Cortona, Italy
- Athens- Iasi, Romania
- Atlanta- Ancient Olympia, Ilia, Greece
- Atlanta- Brussels, Antwerpen, Belgium
- Atlanta- Bucharest, Bucuresti, Romania
- Atlanta- Newcastle upon Tyne, England, U.K.
- Atlanta- Nuremberg, Bayern, Germany
- Atlanta- Salzburg, Salzburg, Austria
- Atlanta- Toulouse, Midi-Pyrenees, France
- Augusta- Biarritz, France
- Columbus- Bistrita, Romania
- Dalton- Dilbeek, Belgium
- Gainesville- Eger, Hungary
- Lagrange- Craigavon, County Armagh, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom
- Macon- Macon, Bourgogne, France
- Marietta- Linz am Rhein, Germany
- Savannah- Patras, Akhaia, Greece
- Savannah- Halle, Germany

The Georgia Institute of Technology and the University System of Georgia host one of 15 “European Union Centers” located at universities across the U.S. and partially funded by the European Commission. The Georgia EU Center offers research, teaching and outreach programs.

The University System of Georgia offers more than 200 study abroad programs to countries in the European Union. Students have the opportunity to study topics such as economics, business, science, medicine, architecture, history and religion.

Trade Relationship

EXPORTS: In 2013, Georgia exports to the European Union totaled more than $7.08 billion.

Top exports from Georgia to the EU include civilian aircraft engines and parts, gas turbines, woodpulp, medical and surgical instruments, motor vehicles, kraft paper products and kaolinic clays.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to the EU: woodpulp (1st), kraft paper and paperboard (1st), kaolinic clays (1st), tall oil (1st), carpets (1st), peanuts (1st), poultry (3rd) and gas turbines (3rd).

IMPORTS: In 2013, Georgia imports from the EU totaled $22.7 billion.

Primary EU imports include motor vehicles, medical products, gas turbines, petroleum oils, airplane parts, revolvers and pistols and x-ray apparatus.

Capital Investment

More than 194 Georgia companies have operations in the European Union. There are more than 1,750 facilities in Georgia whose countries of origin are in the European Union.

In 2012, Denmark-based Dinex Group opened a manufacturing plant in Dublin-Laurens County. The automotive emissions control manufacturing plant plans to bring an investment of $15 million and more than 250 jobs to Georgia.

In August 2012, Austria-based voestalpine, an automotive industry supplier, announced the opening of its manufacturing plant in Cartersville, Georgia. The company’s $62 million facility will be its first in the southeast United States.

In November 2012, Porsche North America, the U.S. importer and subsidiary of Germany-based Porsche, broke ground on the new North American headquarters in Hapeville, Georgia. Purac Biomaterials, owned by Dutch company Purac, announced in December 2012 that it will be building a new biomedical polymers manufacturing facility in Tucker, Georgia. The new biomedical science facility will be a $30 million investment, creating more than 30 high-tech jobs.
Transportation

Delta Air Lines provides daily direct flights to 18 cities in the EU:
- Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- Barcelona, Spain
- Brussels, Belgium
- Dublin, Ireland
- Düsseldorf, Germany
- Frankfurt, Germany
- London, England
- Madrid, Spain
- Manchester, England
- Milan, Italy
- Venice, Italy
- Munich, Germany
- Paris, France
- Rome, Italy
- Stuttgart, Germany
- Zurich, Switzerland

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah maintains 56 service lines that ship weekly to 26 EU ports.

GPA has a European office, based in Norway, which covers the European Union. The office is managed by Mr. Arthur Rondan.

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 Economic Development Representatives in the EU

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time the office has assisted hundreds of European firms located in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe. Ms. Antje Abshoff represents Georgia in Europe, and Mr. Mike Harling has led the Georgia’s economic development efforts in the U.K. and Ireland since 2002.

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