



## GEORGIA - AUSTRIA COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

Georgia is under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of Austria located in Washington, D.C. The current Ambassador of Austria to the United States is Martin Weiss.

Georgia is home to the Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Austria. Ferdinand C. Seefried has served as Honorary Consul General since 1995. Austria first established a consular presence in Georgia in 1949.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973.

The Austrian Trade Commission Southern Region Office, Advantage Austria, has a U.S. branch office located in Atlanta, and Angelika Heitzmann serves as the Trade Commissioner. Advantage Austria offices serve as a gateway to Austria for international companies seeking world-class suppliers.

Georgia and the province of Upper Austria are members of the Regional Leaders Summit (RLS), a strategic alliance of seven international regions from five continents fostering the exchange of best practices on topics of mutual interest. Other members include São Paulo, Brazil; Québec, Canada; Shandong, China; Bavaria, Germany; and Western Cape, South Africa. Georgia hosted the 2014 Regional Leaders Summit in Atlanta; the 2020 edition will be held in Linz, Austria with the theme of “Smart Regions.”

In June 1967, then-Mayor Ivan Allen forged Atlanta’s first sister city relationship with Salzburg, Austria.

The Atlanta Center for International Arbitration and the Vienna International Arbitral Centre have maintained a collaborative partnership since 2016.

### Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least eight study abroad programs to Austria, including a program on international commercial arbitration.

As of Fall 2018, 23 Austrian students were enrolled in USG schools.

In June 2017, Georgia State University Professor Paul Boshears helped put on a special event at the Freies Theater in Innsbruck, Austria. The event was part of a cross-continent collaboration called “Continent” housed at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt in Berlin.

Former Austrian Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Wolfgang Waldner, visited Emory University during his trip to Atlanta in 2016.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

In spring 2016, the Michael C. Carlos Museum presented an exhibit featuring works by Austrian-born artist Susanne Wenger.

The Georgia State University Choir completed an 11-day tour across Germany and Austria in 2017. The group took home first place at the Marktoberdorf International Chamber Choir Competition.

In 2018, approximately 7,200 Austrians visited Georgia spending \$41.8 million.

### International Trade

**EXPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia Exports to Austria totaled **\$148.5 million**. Austria is the **48<sup>th</sup>** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Austria include civilian aircraft, tractors, internal combustion piston engines, molds for rubber or plastics and vaccines for veterinary medicine.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Austria: tractors, molds for rubber or plastics and tall oil.

**IMPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia imports from Austria totaled **\$1.1 billion**. Austria ranks **21<sup>st</sup>** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Austria to Georgia include motor vehicles, revolvers and pistols, mineral waters, flat rolled alloy steel and parts and accessories of arms.

### Investment

There are at least **15** Georgia companies with operations in Austria, including but not limited to:

- Invesco
- NCR Corporations
- Novelis
- PrimeGlobal
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Travelport
- UPS Supply Chain Solutions
- WestRock

A significant Austrian investment in Georgia is Voestalpine AG, an auto parts manufacturer located in Cartersville that employs more than 300 Georgians.

### Transportation

Delta Air Lines provides daily flights from Atlanta to Vienna via Paris or Amsterdam.

### 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. For more information, visit [www.georgia.org](http://www.georgia.org).

### GDEcD's International Representatives in Europe

#### **Sergio Domingues**

Managing Director  
State of Georgia – Europe  
T: (+49) 089.517.027.40  
[sdomingues@georgia.org](mailto:sdomingues@georgia.org)

#### **Ellen Kraft**

Business Development Manager  
State of Georgia – Europe  
[ekraft@georgia.org](mailto:ekraft@georgia.org)

#### **Ulrike Schauerte**

Trade Representative  
State of Georgia – Europe  
[uschauerte@georgia.org](mailto:uschauerte@georgia.org)

#### **Virginia Sengewald**

Business Development Coordinator  
State of Georgia – Europe  
[vsengewald@georgia.org](mailto:vsengewald@georgia.org)

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