



GEORGIA - NETHERLANDS COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

The Netherlands has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1819, and opened a new Consulate General in Atlanta in January 2019. Ard Van der Vorst serves as Consul General.

Colocated with the Consulate General is the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA), a Dutch organization that facilitates direct investments by North American companies into The Netherlands and has helped hundreds of American companies initiate operations. Esther Smith serves as Director and head of the NFIA office in Atlanta.

The Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce of the Southeast is also located in Atlanta. The Chamber works to encourage, support and promote trade and investment relationships between The Netherlands and the United States.

In August 2012, Former Governor Nathan Deal traveled to Switzerland and The Netherlands to strengthen and expand business relationships. The Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development led a return visit in spring 2018.

In October 2015, His Excellency Mark Rutte, Prime Minister of The Netherlands, led a large Dutch business mission to Atlanta.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time the office has assisted hundreds of European firms in locating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe.

Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 11 study abroad programs in The Netherlands that focus on industrial design, architecture, business and education. As of Fall 2018, 66 Dutch students were enrolled in USG schools.

Emory University and Georgia Tech offer exchange programs with different partner universities in The Netherlands.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

More than 15,650 spectators attended the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team's faceoff against The Netherlands at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta in September 2016.

Frank de Boer was named head coach of Atlanta United FC in December of 2018.

The High Museum of Art in Atlanta has featured several special exhibits of Dutch artists. In Spring 2018, the museum hosted an exhibit dedicated to the work of Dutch designer Joris Laarman, whose experimental designs are inspired by emerging technologies. In 2016, it featured a special exhibit showcasing the work of Dutch fashion designer Iris van Herpen; and in 2013, the museum showed 35 of the world's most beautiful paintings from the Dutch Golden Age in the exhibit *Girl with a Pearl Earring: Dutch Paintings from the Mauritshuis*.

More than 35,900 Dutch tourists traveled to Georgia in 2018 spending more than \$51.1 million.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2019, Georgia exports to The Netherlands totaled **\$1.3 billion**. The Netherlands is the **8th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to The Netherlands include computers, computer parts and accessories, communication devices, civilian aircraft and reaction initiators.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to The Netherlands: peanuts, reaction initiators and tractors.

IMPORTS: In 2019, Georgia imports from The Netherlands totaled **\$1.1 billion**. The Netherlands ranks **20th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imported products from The Netherlands to Georgia include parts of airplanes or helicopters, petroleum oils, computers, motor vehicles and beer.

Capital Investment

There are at least **43** Georgia companies with operations in The Netherlands, including but not limited to:

- Georgia-Pacific
- InComm
- Interface
- NCR Corporation
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Travelport
- UPS
- WestRock

There are at least **295 Dutch facilities operating in Georgia**. These facilities employ more than 10,500 Georgians.

Leading Dutch companies in Georgia based on investment include DSM Engineering Plastics, Fokker Aerostructures and CSM Bakery Solutions.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers multiple daily direct flights from Atlanta to Amsterdam.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with The Netherlands. The GPA offers five regular shipping services to the Port of Rotterdam.

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.

GDEcD's International Representatives in Europe

Sergio Domingues

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

Ellen Kraft

Business Development Manager
State of Georgia – Europe
ekraft@georgia.org

Ulrike Schauerte

Trade Representative
State of Georgia – Europe
uschauerte@georgia.org

Virginia Sengewald

Business Development Coordinator
State of Georgia – Europe
vsengewald@georgia.org

*Information valid as of December 2019