



## GEORGIA - SWITZERLAND COUNTRY CONNECTION

### Government and Commerce

The Consulate General of Switzerland in Atlanta has jurisdiction over Georgia, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North and South Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and the Cayman Islands. Switzerland has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1974. Peter Zimmerli has served as Consul General since 2017.

The Swiss Business Hub USA, helps small and medium-sized U.S. companies do business in Switzerland. The regional office in Atlanta is housed at the Consulate and served by the Trade Commissioner, Kimberly Shulman.

The Southeast Chapter of the Swiss-American Chamber of Commerce is located in Atlanta, providing services and programs to promote the development of Swiss-U.S. business relations. Kurt Boehni serves as Chairman.

In July 2012, former Governor Deal led an economic development mission to Switzerland and The Netherlands. The delegation visited Zurich, Basel, Bern and Amsterdam to meet with business leaders to promote Georgia's economy and expand export and investment opportunities.

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Europe since 1973. Since that time the office has assisted hundreds of European firms operating in Georgia and Georgia companies exporting to Europe. Sergio Domingues serves as managing director. Ulrike Schauerte manages trade for the state of Georgia in Europe.

### Academics

The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least seven study abroad programs to Switzerland, where students can study computing, architecture, international business, political science and German.

26 Swiss students were enrolled in USG schools during the 2018 school year. Emory University also provides programs for students to study abroad in Switzerland.

### Arts, Culture and Tourism

In 2018, more than 16,600 tourists from Switzerland visited Georgia spending \$41.1 million.

Swiss native, Thabo Sefolosa, played basketball for the Atlanta Hawks from 2014-2017.

The Alliance Française d'Atlanta featured a Swiss Movie Series in 2014 as part of its Francophonie programming.

Swiss-born pianist Gilles Vonsattel performed at the UGA Performing Arts Center in 2017. Atlanta musician, recording artist and music educator Elise Witt regularly presents her acclaimed singing workshops across the globe including Switzerland, where she was born.

In 2018, the Zurich Chamber Orchestra performed at Yamacraw Center for the Performing Arts as part of the annual Savannah Music Festival.

## International Trade

**EXPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia exports to Switzerland totaled **\$333.3 million**, a 46% increase over the previous year. Switzerland is the **30<sup>th</sup>** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Switzerland include civilian aircraft, chemical woodpulp, heterocyclic compounds, plates and sheets of plastics and pharmaceutical bandages.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Switzerland: chemical woodpulp, tractors and screws and bolts.

**IMPORTS:** In 2019, Georgia imports from Switzerland totaled **\$598.1 million**. Switzerland ranks **27<sup>th</sup>** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports to Georgia from Switzerland include mineral waters, surveying equipment, tooth brushes, medical instruments and watches.

## Capital Investment

There are at least **18** Georgia companies with operations in Switzerland, including but not limited to:

- Innomed
- Invesco
- Novelis
- Premiere Global Services
- UPS
- WestRock

There are at least **181 Swiss facilities** operating in Georgia, of which at least 38 are manufacturing locations. These Swiss-affiliated facilities currently employ more than 9,600 Georgians.

Switzerland is an important investor in Georgia, ranking 13th among Georgia's total investors based on total employment and 9th based on total number of facilities.

## Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers daily direct flights between Atlanta and Zurich.

## 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 Economic Development Representative in Europe

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