Government and Commerce
The Consulate General of the Kingdom of Belgium in Atlanta is the official representation of the Belgian government to the southeastern United States. In addition to performing consular services, the office also promotes economic development, trade, investment, tourism, academic and cultural relationships between Belgium and the southeastern United States. Belgium first established a consular presence in Georgia in 1834. Michel Gerebtzoff has served as Consul General since August 2020.

Atlanta is home to two Belgian regional trade representatives. Conny Van Wulpen serves as Trade and Investment Commissioner at Flanders Investment and Trade and Djazia Filoso serves as Trade and Investment Representative at Wallonia Trade Office.

Georgia has two sister-city agreements with Belgium: Atlanta-Brussels and Dalton-Dilbeek.

The Belgian American Chamber of the South is located in Atlanta and actively supports, promotes and enhances business between Belgium and the Southeast U.S. Laura Van den Eynde serves as Executive Director.

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

Former Governor Deal visited Belgium in 2013 and the Georgia Allies visited during their economic mission in 2014.

Academics
The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least nine study abroad programs to Belgium in international affairs, international business, modern languages, and art. As of Fall 2020, 31 Belgian students were enrolled in USG schools.

The Georgia Institute of Technology partners with the Center for European and Transatlantic Studies to offer a summer faculty-led study abroad in Brussels.

Arts, Culture and Tourism
Rome, Georgia’s 2016 International Film Festival awarded Best Foreign Narrative Feature to the Belgian film Jacques a vu directed by Xavier Diskeuve.

More than 7,400 Belgians visited Georgia in 2019 spending $8.5 million.

International Trade
EXPORTS: In 2020, Georgia exports to Belgium totaled $841.4 million. Belgium is the 10th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Belgium include medical instruments, motor vehicles, aircraft, turbines, and heterocyclic compounds.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Belgium: chemical woodpulp, kaolin, and gas turbines.

IMPORTS: In 2020, Georgia imports from Belgium totaled $1.64 billion. Belgium ranks 16th among Georgia’s importer nations.
Investment
There are at least 27 Georgia companies with operations in Belgium, including but not limited to:

- AJC International
- Crawford & Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- Halyard Health
- NCR Corporation
- UPS
- WestRock
- Zep

There are at least 50 Belgian companies with facilities in Georgia. These Belgian-affiliated companies employ at least 4,400 Georgians. Examples of significant Belgian investment in Georgia include Anheuser Busch Inc. located in Bartow County; and UCB, a global pharmaceutical company with U.S. headquarters in Atlanta.

Transportation
Delta Air Lines offers direct flights from Atlanta to Brussels. 2020 international connectivity was limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions ease, the airport expects a return to pre-COVID connections and travel.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with the ports of Belgium and offers regular shipping services to Antwerp. GPA’s Brunswick Port also offers weekly shipping services to Antwerp and Zeebrugge.

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.

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