



GEORGIA - AUSTRIA COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

Georgia is under the jurisdiction of the Embassy of Austria located in Washington, D.C. Georgia is home to the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Austria. Mr. Paul Seefried has served as Honorary Consul since 2020. Austria first established a consular presence in Georgia in 1949.

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

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 Georgia Allies visited Austria in 2013 and 2018. Former Georgia First Lady, Mrs. Deal led a delegation to Linz for a visit of Voestalpine to learn more about the internship program in 2016.

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

In the Fall semester of 2022, 29 Austrian students will be enrolled in USG schools.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected study abroad programs around the world, but these programs are expected to return to former participation levels soon. In previous years, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered at least 37 study abroad programs to Austria, including a program on international commercial arbitration.

In previous years, 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.

Arts, Culture and Tourism

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 1,504 Austrian visitors spent nearly \$3 million in the state of Georgia.

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.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Austria totaled **\$41.7 million**. Austria is the 80th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Austria include civilian aircraft, bandages, molding boxes for metal foundry, immunological products, and parts and accessories for weapons.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Austria: aircraft, bandages, and kaolin.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Austria totaled **\$1.5 billion**. Austria ranks 20th among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Austria to Georgia include revolvers and pistols, motor vehicles, flavored water, parts and accessories for weapons, and flat-rolled alloy steel.

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

International connectivity has been limited by the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions ease, the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport expects a return to pre-COVID connections.

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.

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