



GEORGIA - BELGIUM COUNTRY CONNECTION

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. Mr. 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. Michel Chen 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

In the Fall semester of 2022, 30 Belgian 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 nine study abroad programs to Belgium in international affairs, international business, modern languages, and art.

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

COVID-19 severely impacted the tourism industry in Georgia, but international visitation is expected to reach past numbers soon. In 2021, 931 Belgian visitors spent nearly \$1 million in the state of Georgia.

Rome, Georgia's 2016 International Film Festival awarded Best Foreign Narrative Feature to the Belgian film *Jacques a vu* directed by Xavier Diskeuve.

In August 2022, the Museum of Arts and Sciences hosts an international full dome film festival featuring multimedia artwork and artistic experiences from 14 countries, including Belgium.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to Belgium totaled **\$822.9 million**. Belgium is the 13th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Belgium include medical instruments, heterocyclic compounds, parts of turbojets, polyamides, kaolin.

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

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from Belgium totaled **\$2.4 billion**. Belgium ranks 15th among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Belgium to Georgia include immunological products, motor vehicles, television receivers, diphosphorus pentoxide, and petroleum oils.

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 provides daily flights from Atlanta to Brussels.

There are eight international cargo flights per week between Liege, Belgium, and Atlanta.

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.

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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