



GEORGIA - FRANCE COUNTRY CONNECTION

Government and Commerce

Atlanta is home to the Consulate General of France, which serves six southern U.S. states. France has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1820. Ms. Anne-Laure Desjonquères has served as Consul General since August 2022.

Business France, France's trade and investment arm, is co-located with the Consulate General.

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.

Ambassador of France to the United States, Philippe Étienne visited Governor Kemp in February 2020.

The French American Chamber of Commerce (FACC) has an office in Atlanta. Jacques Marcotte serves as FACC President. The FACC hosts the annual Crystal Peach Awards which recognizes significant inbound and outbound investments between France and the Southeastern U.S.

Atlanta is also home to Alliance Française d'Atlanta, a non-profit organization committed to the study of French language and culture between Americans and French speakers.

Former Governor Deal visited Paris in 2017 and the Georgia Allies visited France in 2016.

Three Georgia cities have sister city agreements with France: Macon – Mâcon; Atlanta – Toulouse; and Augusta – Biarritz.

Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 281 French 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 the past, the University System of Georgia (USG) offered 84 study abroad programs in France in a variety of disciplines.

The Georgia Institute of Technology has maintained an international campus in Metz, France since 1990. More than 5,000 students have studied at GT-Lorraine. The Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) also maintains a full-time campus in Lacoste, France.

Georgia Tech partners with the French Consulate General to present "France-Atlanta", an annual series of events that foster cooperation in the scientific, business, cultural and humanitarian domains. The 11th annual France-Atlanta event series took place from Oct. 1 - Nov. 10, 2020 and was held in a virtual format due to the pandemic.

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, 8,772 French visitors spent \$11.65 million in the state of Georgia.

Atlanta hosts an annual Francophonie Festival that features film, dance, music and cultural events from the French-speaking world.

In 2021, The French piano virtuoso Jean-Yves Thibaudet returns to play music by the acclaimed Hollywood composer Aaron Zigman.

French conductor Nathalie Stutzmann began her term as the fifth Music Director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra in 2021.

Atlanta hosts an annual Francophonie Festival that features film, dance, music and cultural events from the French-speaking world.

Georgia is home to Théâtre du Rêve, the only professional Francophone theater company in the U.S.

International Trade

EXPORTS: In 2021, Georgia exports to France totaled **\$498.9 million**. France is the **20th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to France include civilian aircraft, motor vehicles, insecticides, tall oil, and cyclic hydrocarbons.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to France: tall oil, kraft paper, and acrylic polymers.

IMPORTS: In 2021, Georgia imports from France totaled **\$2.99 billion**. France ranks **13th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from France to Georgia include powered aircraft, medicaments, immunological products, turbojets, and ethyl alcohol.

Capital Investment

At least **45** Georgia companies have operations in France, including but not limited to:

- Cryolife
- Exide Technologies
- Georgia-Pacific
- Halyard Health
- King & Spalding
- Mohawk Industries
- Vernay Laboratories
- Zep

There are approximately **200 French facilities operating in Georgia**. These French-affiliated companies employ more than 23,300 Georgians.

One of the largest French investments in Georgia, based on total employment is Imerys. Located in Georgia since 1986, Imerys processes industrial minerals such as kaolinic clay.

Transportation

Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport offers multiple daily direct flights between Atlanta and Paris. In 2022, there will be an estimated 1,440 flights between Paris and Atlanta carrying 439,457 passengers.

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 The Port of Savannah offers six direct weekly container ship services to France, calling the ports of Le Havre, Fos and Dunkirk.

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

State of Georgia – Europe Office
Max-Weber-Platz 11
81675 Munich, Germany
T: +49 (0) 89 517 027 40

Sergio Domingues

Managing Director
State of Georgia – Europe
sdomingues@georgia.org

Hannah Berbner

Business Development Coordinator
State of Georgia – Europe
hberbner@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

*Information valid as of July 2022