



## 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. Mr. Urs Broennimann has served as Consul General since July 2022.

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.

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 Georgia Allies visited Switzerland in 2015.

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.

### Academics

In the Fall semester of 2022, 30 Swiss 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 ten study abroad programs to Switzerland, where students can study computing, architecture, international business, political science and German.

### 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, 2,527 Swiss visitors spent \$4.88 million in the state of Georgia.

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 2021, Georgia exports to Switzerland totaled **\$237.6 million**. Switzerland is the **36th** largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Switzerland include civilian aircraft, heterocyclic compounds, motor vehicles, parts of gas turbines, and metal plates and sheets.

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

**IMPORTS:** In 2021, Georgia imports from Switzerland totaled **\$755.9 million**. Switzerland ranks **27th** among Georgia's importer nations.

Top imports from Switzerland to Georgia include flavored waters, rangefinders, watches, medicaments, and machinery for working rubber and plastics.

### 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 **100 Swiss facilities** operating in Georgia, of which at least 15-20 are manufacturing locations. These Swiss-affiliated facilities currently employ more than 9,400 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.

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.

### 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).

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\*Information valid as of July 2022