Government & Commerce

In February 2014, the Georgia Department of Economic Development selected Entrepreneurs International as the state’s newest international trade representative, which includes coverage in Colombia. Georgia is the first U.S. state to have representation in Colombia, which is now the 11th strategic international market providing economic development service to Georgia.

The Consulate General of Colombia is located in Atlanta, and has jurisdiction over the states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. Mr. Andrés Vargas serves as Consul General.

The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce was founded in Atlanta in 1984. The chamber promotes domestic and international economic development of Hispanic businesses and people and serves as a link between businesses in Latin America and those in Georgia. The organization seeks to bring the issues and concerns of the growing number of Hispanic entrepreneurs to the forefront of Georgia’s economic agenda.

Each year a Colombian Independence Day festival is held in Atlanta, where more than 15,000 people gather to celebrate Colombian culture, music and history.

There are over 26,000 residents with Colombian heritage living in the state of Georgia, according to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau.

Trade Relationship

Colombia and the United States signed a free trade agreement in 2006 to encourage trade between the countries. The agreement went into effect on May 15, 2012, allowing 80% of U.S. exports of consumer and industrial products to Colombia to be duty free, with remaining tariffs phased out over 10 years.

Colombian trade office Proexport Colombia is located in Sandy Springs. This office promotes exports from Colombia and the Southeastern United States and Georgia's investment relationship with Colombia.

EXPORTS: In 2013, Georgia exports to Colombia totaled $337.5 million, a 1.4% increase over 2012. Colombia is currently the 26th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Colombia include automatic data processing machines, washing machines, wood pulp, poultry and television receivers.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Colombia: poultry (1st), wood pulp (1st), carpets (1st), and kaolinic clays (1st).
Georgia ranks as a top exporter within the United States of the following goods to Colombia: washing machines (1st), poultry (1st), wood pulp (1st) and television receivers (3rd).

Imports: In 2013, Georgia’s imports from Colombia totaled $201 million. Colombia ranks 38th among Georgia’s top importer nations.

Top imports from Colombia include petroleum oils, coloring matter, articles of apparel, inorganic chemicals and ceramic products.

Capital Investment

There are at least 16 Georgia companies that have operations in Colombia, including but not limited to:

- Alcon
- Crawford & Company
- Delta Air Lines
- Genuine Parts Company
- Hooters of America, Inc.
- Merial Inc.
- NCR Corporation
- Newell Rubbermaid Inc.
- Sed International Holdings, Inc.
- Travelport, LP
- UPS Supply Chain Solutions

There are at least three Colombian facilities operating in Georgia. These Colombian-affiliated companies employ at least 435 Georgians. A list can be found online at www.georgiafacts.org.

Transportation

Delta Air Lines offers daily direct flights from Atlanta to Bogotá, Colombia.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with the Colombian port of Buenaventura, offering a weekly service with 15 carriers.

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.

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