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 has maintained a consular presence in Georgia since 1834. William De Baets has served as Consul General since April 2016.

Atlanta is home to two Belgian regional trade representatives. Wim Van Cauteren serves as Commissioner at Flanders Investment and Trade and Djazia Filoso serves as Representative at Wallonia Export and Investment Agency.

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. Anton Mertens serves as President.

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.

Academics
The University System of Georgia (USG) offers at least two study abroad programs to Belgium in international affairs, international business and modern languages. Nearly 35 Belgian students enrolled in USG schools during the 2015-16 school year and 50 USG students studied in Belgium. USG institutions currently host four visiting Belgian scholars.

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

More than 317,000 Belgians visited the U.S. in 2015 marking the third consecutive year of growth in visitation.

International Trade
EXPORTS: In 2016, Georgia exports to Belgium totaled $746.4 million. Belgium is currently the 11th largest export market for Georgia.

Top exports from Georgia to Belgium include medical instruments, chemical products, electric generating sets, parts of gas turbines and chemical woodpulp.

Georgia leads the nation in the export of the following goods to Belgium: kaolin and electric generating sets.

IMPORTS: In 2016, Georgia imports from Belgium totaled $1.04 billion, a 23% increase over 2015. Belgium ranks 17th among Georgia’s importer nations.

Top imports from Belgium to Georgia include medicaments, motor vehicles, monitors and projectors, carpets and other textile floor coverings and parts for heavy machinery.
Capital Investment
There are at least 22 Georgia companies with operations in Belgium, including but not limited to:

- Alston & Bird
- The Coca-Cola Company
- Crawford & Company
- Georgia-Pacific
- Halyard Health
- PrimeGlobal
- UPS
- WestRock

There are more than 87 Belgian facilities operating in Georgia, of which at least 33 are manufacturing locations. These Belgian-affiliated companies employ more than 6,000 Georgians. A list can be found online at insite.georgia.org.

A significant Belgian investment in Georgia, based on total employment, is Anheuser Busch Inc. located in Bartow County.

Transportation
Delta Air Lines offers direct flights from Atlanta to Brussels.

The Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) in Savannah has an established relationship with the ports of Belgium and offers six regular shipping services to Antwerp. GPA’s Brunswick Port also offers shipping services to Zeebrugge.

About GDEcD
The Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD) is the state’s sales and marketing arm, the lead agency for attracting new business investment, encouraging the expansion of existing industry and small businesses, aligning workforce education and training with in-demand jobs, locating new markets for Georgia products, attracting tourists to Georgia, and promoting the state as a destination for arts and location for film, music and digital entertainment projects, as well as planning and mobilizing state resources for economic development.

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