



SECURITY



Atlanta is one of the safest major metropolitan cities in the United States, with consistently declining crime rates. Atlanta fell from 24th to 27th in overall crime rates among metro areas reporting with populations of more than one million. Among U.S. cities with populations over four million, Atlanta is the second safest in terms of violent crime. The task of ensuring the safety and security of the FTAA Secretariat—and all of its events—will be driven by a single command center in cooperation with city and state authorities.



Atlanta's friendly downtown Ambassadors (above in white) supplement the police in securing the streets and offering helpful information to residents and visitors.

Atlanta is an increasingly popular destination for major events, conferences and business relocations from around the United States and beyond. This fact is a reflection of the city's ability to coordinate and secure corporate and cultural interests of every kind.

SAFER EVERY DAY.

According to the most recent crime statistics (2002), total crime in Metro Atlanta fell by 4 percent, violent crime by nearly 8 percent, and property crime by 3 percent. Crime has fallen in Atlanta for six consecutive years.

Atlanta's police department is the largest law enforcement agency in Georgia and is among the most experienced in the nation. It has successfully managed security, law enforcement and emergency services for major events, conferences and gatherings, including the 1988 Democratic National Convention, the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games, numerous national business conventions and visits from international dignitaries, including frequent presidential visits. A credit to its security capabilities, Georgia will also host the G8 Summit, a gathering of the leaders of the world's most economically developed nations, in June 2004.

Major Crimes Per 100,000 Inhabitants

Year	Crime Index Per 100,000 Inhabitants
1996	17,070
1997	13,922
1998	14,025
1999	13,489
2000	13,136
2001	12,238
2002	11,355
<i>Percent Change, Rate Per 100,000 Inhabitants</i>	
2002/2001	-7.2%
2002/1998	-19%

Source: "Crime in the United States", 2003 edition of annual FBI publication



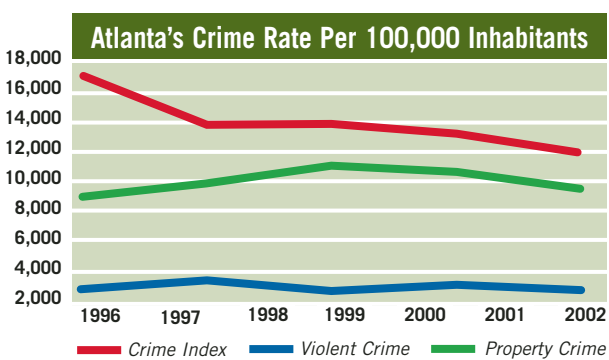
Preventive Measures

The Atlanta Police Department houses its own Homeland Security Office, an arm of the federal department created to address domestic security threats. Additionally, the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) is designed to ensure preventive measures are taken to eliminate and reduce the impact of disasters. GEMA helps communities analyze hazards in the event of a crisis and creates mitigation strategies and emergency operations plans.

Such plans are in place for Technology Square—one of the conceptual homes of the FTAA. Wherever in Atlanta the Secretariat chooses to reside, the Atlanta Police Department, its Homeland Security Office and GEMA will work together to integrate the Secretariat into its preventive and emergency strategies, ensuring rapid and coordinated crisis response by key local authorities to protect the Secretariat, its staff and delegates.

In addition to the security and protection provided by the Atlanta Police Department, the headquarters building where the FTAA Secretariat is housed will be covered by its own security operation.

With more than 2,300 employees, the Atlanta Police Department is the largest law enforcement agency in Georgia. The department employs a community-oriented philosophy and actively promotes collaborative problem-solving between itself and the community. The department's approach is emblematic of the strong bond city authorities have forged with the citizenry.



Source: "Crime in the United States", 2003 edition of annual FBI publication

SPOTLIGHT : ENVIRONMENT

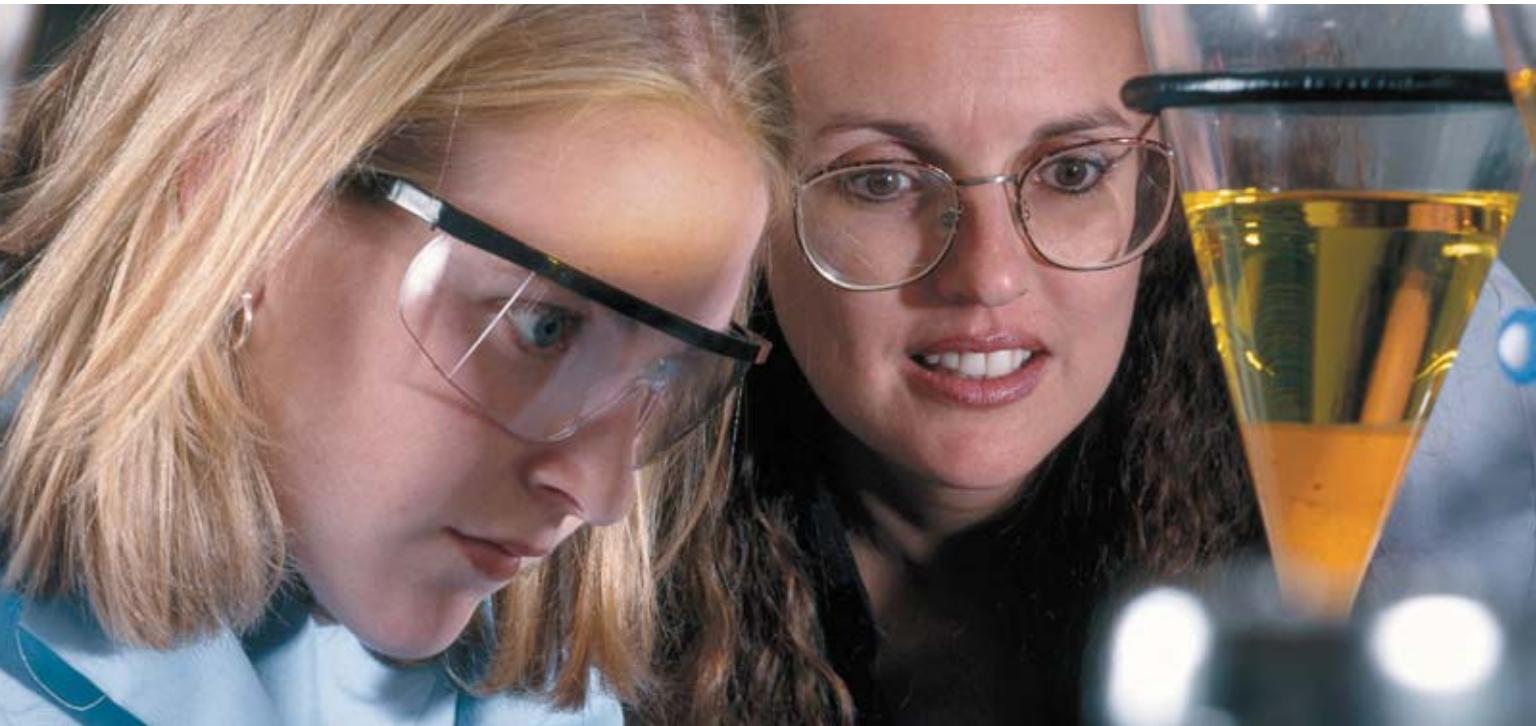
Thanks to Atlanta's geographic location and moderate climate, weather-related disruptions in school and business activities are rare in the metro area. In the past 20 years, there have been no catastrophic earthquakes, hurricanes, or tornadoes in Metro Atlanta. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport never closes its operations. Delays and cancellations of flights are infrequent.



HUMAN RESOURCES



Atlanta ranks as one of the most highly educated major metropolitan areas in the United States. As the ninth most populated area in the U.S., nearly one in three Atlanta residents over the age of 25 have earned college degrees—a reflection of the professional ambitions of the Atlanta community and a major reason why the city is a leading destination for corporate business from around the world.



The Atlanta community is among the best educated in the United States, with a remarkably skilled professional workforce and rich academic environment. The city is the leading destination for young professionals in the United States.

Atlanta has one of the more diversified economies in the U.S., with the business sector thriving in numerous fields—from telecommunications, finance and retail to biotechnology, computer software and logistics. Estimates suggest that by 2005, Atlanta's labor force will consist of nearly 2.4 million people.

HIGHLY SKILLED, HIGHLY EDUCATED, HIGHLY MOTIVATED.

Atlanta's workforce is highly skilled and the metro area leads the nation in attracting college graduates. Metro Atlanta has led the nation in job growth in the last decade, creating more than 626,000 new jobs. *Newsweek* magazine ranked Atlanta as the city most likely to lead the nation in job creation over the next 25 years. Additionally, the state's widely recognized workforce training program, Quick Start, helped create more than 30,000 jobs in Georgia in Fiscal Year 2003 alone.

Atlanta also has a strong academic environment. More than 200,000 students attend 45 accredited colleges and universities in Metro Atlanta. Metro Atlanta's two largest public universities, Georgia State University (GSU) and Georgia Tech, together enroll nearly 40,000 students a year.

Advanced degree programs in business and international studies abound. Esteemed programs include the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs at Georgia Tech, the Goizueta Business School at Emory University, the Dean Rusk Center at The University of Georgia, and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at GSU.

SPOTLIGHT : INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Atlanta is sensitive to the needs of its international students. English-as-a-Second-Language courses are available in every school district. The Atlanta International School tailors high school programs specifically for international students and is one of several schools that offers an International Baccalaureate program for students in the upper grades. The school's student body includes students from more than 60 countries. Mercer University and Georgia Tech are among the many local institutions that offer intensive English programs designed to help international students prepare for enrollment at U.S. universities.



Translation and Interpretation

Georgia has a wealth of professional translators and interpreters in a range of languages. Additionally, Atlanta has access to translation and interpretation resources across the U.S., and can summon any number of these professionals at the Secretariat's request.

Established to promote the design, implementation and evaluation of public policy, the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University houses the departments of economics, public administration and policy studies. Believing better public policy will emerge through public/private collaboration, the school develops student awareness of the relationship between the market economy, trade and the government—reflecting Atlanta's forward-thinking attitude toward 21st century economics.

Translators and Interpreters in Georgia

Languages	Translators	Interpreters
English - Spanish	600+	417
English - Portuguese	39	25
English - French	45	33
Spanish - Portuguese	68	19
Spanish - French	27	10
Portuguese - French	14	14

Sources: Atlanta Association of Interpreters & Translators and Georgia Commission on Interpreters

SPOTLIGHT: THE ICAPP ADVANTAGE

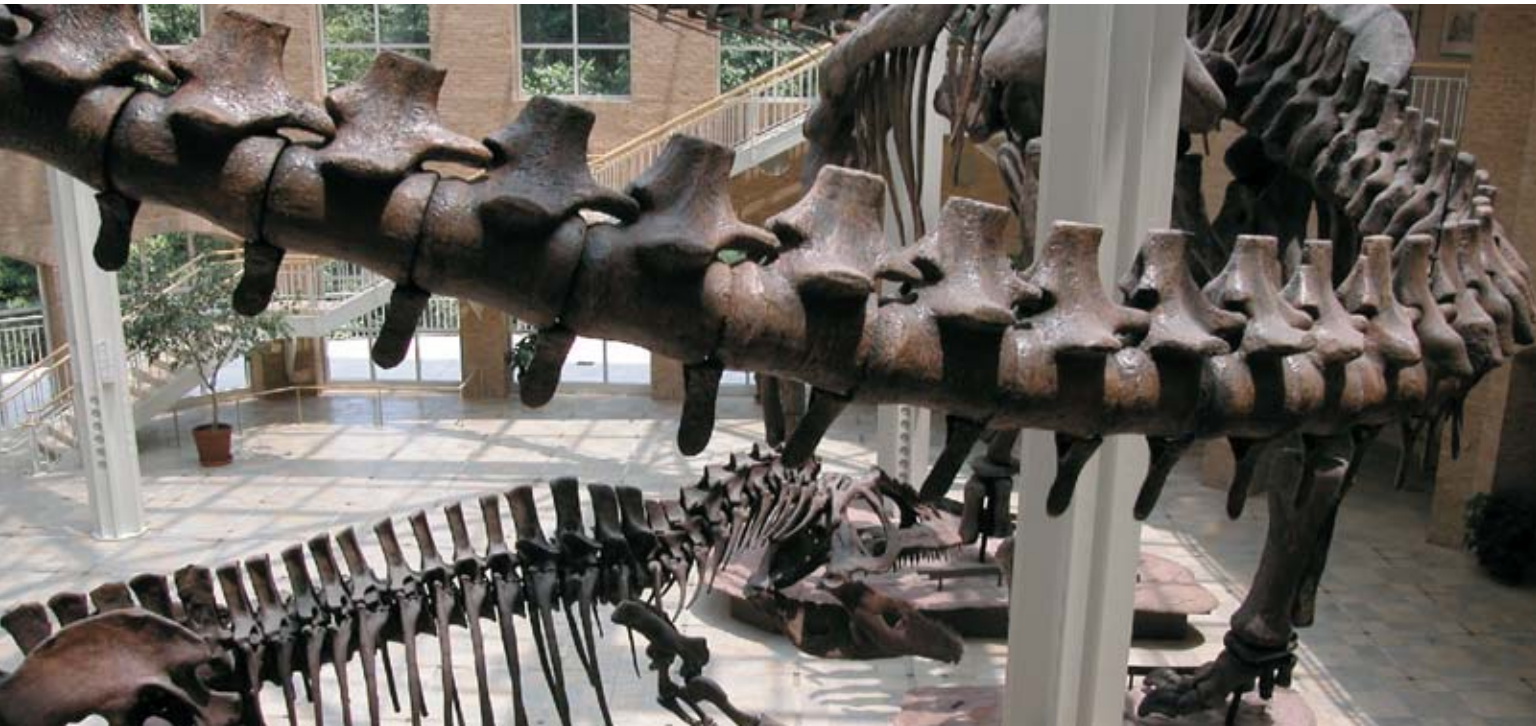
The Intellectual Capital Partnership Program of Georgia (ICAPP) is an economic development incentive program that expedites the education of knowledge workers in high demand and low supply so that businesses get the talent they need to succeed. A partnership of the Governor's Office, the University System of Georgia and the business community, ICAPP Advantage reduces a company's risk in recruiting these knowledge workers by providing customized and expedited education for highly skilled employees based on that company's specific needs.



QUALITY OF LIFE



Few cities in the Western Hemisphere can boast the combination of characteristics that make Atlanta such a great place to live, work and grow—small town friendliness and big city culture, a low cost of living and moderate temperatures year-round are just the beginning. It's no wonder that Atlanta consistently shows up on top-ten lists for best places to live, to start a business, to avoid stress. In Atlanta, the FTAA will discover a lifestyle that is as conducive to business as it is enjoyable.



Fernbank Museum of Natural History displays a variety of dinosaurs and is the only museum in the world to collectively assemble skeletons of the world's largest dinosaurs. Unearthed in the badlands of Patagonia, Argentina, Gigantosaurus holds the title of the largest meat eater ever classified and Argentinosaurus, the largest plant eater ever discovered.

Atlanta leads the U.S. in residential growth—and this influx produces a high level of energy and a sense of optimism throughout the city.

A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND GROW.

Atlanta draws people from all over the U.S.—and all over the world. In fact, the city attracted 183,000 new residents in 2001, and for the last 10 years, has led the U.S. in residential growth. This influx has greatly enhanced the quality of life in the metro area by increasing its diversity. Most new residents come to Atlanta for its employment and educational opportunities and stay for the lifestyle it offers.

Atlanta is among the least expensive major metropolitan cities in the U.S., ranking as the 3rd lowest of 25 urban areas for cost of living. As a result, residents enjoy a higher level of disposable income than in other major U.S. metropolitan areas. This fact, coupled with income growth that outpaces the U.S. average, gives Atlantans the means to live well.

The capital of the Southern U.S., Atlanta has retained the storied hospitality for which the region is known. The climate is certainly a contributing factor—mild weather brings people out of the house and onto front porches to talk to their neighbors. And Atlanta's neighborhoods—hundreds of them in and around the city—feel like small communities within the city.



Atlanta's Average Monthly Temperatures

January	40°F/4°C
April	67°F/19°C
July	79°F/26°C
October	64°F/18°C

Source: Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, "Metro Atlanta Overview"

In Atlanta your housing dollar goes farther: the median home value in the metro area is US\$146,500.



A huge range of interesting attractions awaits newcomers and visitors to Atlanta. The city attracts 17 million visitors a year—for business and a wide variety of cultural and recreational activities.

Centennial Olympic Stadium was built to accommodate 85,000 spectators for the 1996 Games. In time for the 1997 baseball season, it was re-constructed to allow a spectacular view of the Atlanta skyline and became Turner Field, where the Atlanta Braves play home games.

SMALL TOWN FRIENDLINESS AND BIG CITY CULTURE.

History buffs will want to visit the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site and see where Dr. King was born. The Carter Center and Presidential Library has a wealth of historical and political exhibits, including President Carter's Nobel Peace Prize—and the Atlanta History Center offers award-winning exhibitions featuring objects dating from the early 19th century to the present.

Philips Arena is the place to go for exciting Atlanta Hawks basketball or Atlanta Thrashers hockey. The Woodruff Arts Center is home to the High Museum of Art, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and Alliance Theater, which are regarded among the finest cultural institutions in the U.S. At the Fernbank Museum of Natural History, visitors can stand under a dinosaur or enjoy a martini before an IMAX film. The Center for Puppetry Arts is a great place to see a marionette show or explore the hands-on puppet museum. The new children's museum, Imagine It!, offers children as young as one year wonderful learning experiences, including creating sand sculptures, painting on walls and making music.

Atlantans have myriad shopping opportunities to choose from—more in fact than most U.S. cities. In total number of square meters of retail space per capita, Atlanta is more than 47 percent above the national average—and has the sixth highest Buying Power Index in the nation. All that buying power has attracted every retail store imaginable to Metro Atlanta. Lenox Mall and Phipps Plaza are the premier malls in the area and feature

upscale retail, drawing shoppers from all over the Southeastern U.S. There are an additional six malls in the area, including the enormous Mall of Georgia, which has hundreds of stores, five themed courtyards and an outdoor concert venue.

For those who prefer nature and the outdoors, there are abundant parks throughout the city. The Chattahoochee River winds through the metro area and the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains are only an hour north of the city. There's great golfing at any one of 160 courses around the city—and at more than 300 courses around the state. Hikers can take a short day-trip to the North Georgia mountains where wooded trails await. Sailors will want to check out Lake Lanier or the Georgia coast. And lovers of sand and surf can head to the beaches of Georgia's barrier islands, such as Cumberland Island, Sea Island or St. Simon's Island, to name a few.

Atlanta is a great place to live for sports fans too—seven professional sports teams, including baseball, basketball, football, ice hockey and soccer compete in world-class sports facilities. The city has hosted many major sporting events, including the National Football League Super Bowl, Major League Baseball's All-Star Game and World Series, the National Basketball Association's All-Star Game and the Professional Golf Association's The Tour Championship. College basketball's Final Four tournament was held here—and, of course, the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games.

And when evening rolls around, there's a vibrant and diverse nightlife in Atlanta. Many areas, including Midtown, Buckhead, and the Little Five Points neighborhoods offer a variety of dance clubs and music halls, featuring live rock music, salsa, jazz, country & western, rock music and techno. For a quieter evening, classical music lovers will want to hear the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra perform at Symphony Hall during the regular season—or at Chastain Park's outdoor amphitheater in the summer.

There's the Atlanta Ballet and the Atlanta Opera. More than 20 theater companies stage a variety of productions, from Broadway musicals to experimental theater to improvisational comedy. Many art galleries host openings every weekend.

More than 8,000 restaurants in the city offer a range of dining experiences, from luxurious, multi-course meals to rooms of exotic ambience serving cuisine of every ethnicity—Brazilian, Costa Rican, Peruvian, Chinese, Argentine, Caribbean, Mexican, Jamaican, French, Korean and Moroccan, among many others.

State-of-the-Art Health Care, Education and Research

Atlanta's excellent health care facilities are anchored by more than 60 hospitals that house 12,300 beds and employ nearly 18,000 physicians and more than 100,000 health services personnel. World-class institutions such as Emory University School of Medicine and the Morehouse School of Medicine graduate nearly 250 medical students every year. Many of the city's hospitals are recognized internationally for their breakthroughs in a variety of medical procedures, including cardiac care, organ transplant and children's health.

Atlanta's reputation as a leading city for medical advances in the U.S. is further enhanced by The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an agency that works to make the world healthier by protecting all people from disease. The CDC conducts research of international importance to fight epidemics in developing countries and around the world.

Crawford Long Hospital, St. Joseph's Hospital of Atlanta and Emory University Hospital are known internationally for their work in oncology and alleviating heart-related diseases. St. Joseph's is one of fifty hospitals in the U.S. designated by the National Cancer Institute to have access to the latest and most advanced cancer treatments and therapies. Emory Hospital's Division of Cardiology ranks among the top ten heart and heart surgery hospitals in the U.S. And Angioplasty—the less-invasive alternative to cardiac bypass surgery—was pioneered at Emory.

Grady Memorial is the leading trauma center in Georgia and one of the largest in the Southeastern U.S., supported by a well-trained staff of Emory and Morehouse School of Medicine residents.

More than 100 years old, Piedmont Hospital has grown with Atlanta and is a leader in neuroscience, women's services and organ transplants. The hospital received a large grant for a new and expanded organ transplant clinic, which opened in 2001.

Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, recognized for excellence in cardiology, cancer treatment, transplant services and many other pediatric specialties, is home to one of the largest childhood oncology programs in the country and has state-of-the-art pediatric kidney, heart, lung and liver transplant programs.

Spiritual Vibrancy and Diversity: Atlanta's Religious Institutions

One of the world's best known pastors, Martin Luther King Jr. preached at Ebenezer Baptist Church near downtown Atlanta. His legacy is only part of the long and rich religious heritage of the city, which embraces all denominations. Atlanta has a strong Catholic tradition—which has grown by 483 percent over the last thirty years—and has engaged many Latin American and Caribbean newcomers. Residents of this region are known for having strong spiritual communities, and as Atlanta has become more international, new residents have brought and integrated their religious traditions into the city.

Religious Affiliations in Atlanta

- Assemblies of God
- Baptist
- Buddhism
- Catholicism
- Episcopalian
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Lutheran
- Methodist
- Presbyterian
- Unitarian Universalists

Source: Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Highest Cost of Living: Top 25 Major U.S. Cities

City	ACCRA Cost of Living Index Number
1. San Francisco, CA	180.7
2. New York City, NY	175.0
3. Los Angeles, CA	145.4
4. Oakland, CA	142.2
5. Nassau Suffolk, NY	140.6
6. San Diego, CA	137.6
7. Newark, NJ	136.2
8. Boston, MA	136.2
9. Washington, DC	133.5
10. Chicago, IL	132.8
11. Seattle, WA	119.5
12. Portland, OR/Vancouver, WA	113.2
13. Miami, FL	113.1
14. Riverside-San Bernardino, CA	111.0
15. Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN	109.8
16. Denver, CO	106.1
17. Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH	104.5
18. St. Louis, MO/IL	102.6
19. Phoenix-Mesa, AZ	98.5
20. Kansas City, MO/KS	98.2
21. Dallas, TX	96.9
22. Baltimore, MD	96.0
23. Atlanta, GA	95.9
24. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL	95.7
25. Pittsburgh, PA	95.4

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index

SPOTLIGHT : QUALITY OF LIFE

Atlanta consistently ranks high in national publications for quality of life:

“Four-Star Quality of Life”
Expansion Management Magazine

“One of the Best Places to Live and Work”
Employment Review Magazine

“Top Ten Cities for Work & Play”
Black Enterprise Magazine

“Best Places to Be Single”
Forbes Magazine

Source: Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, “Metro Atlanta Overview”



Excellent Instruction for All Ages and Interests: Atlanta's Educational Institutions

More than 700,000 students are served through Metro Atlanta's 27 public school systems that include more than 800 elementary, middle and high schools. Two hundred private elementary and secondary schools also serve the metro area.

In the Atlanta area, 45 accredited degree-granting colleges and universities offer more than 400 fields of study to over 200,000 students. The Goizueta Business School at Emory University, Terry College of Business/Dean Rusk Center at University of Georgia, and the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University offer extensive degree programs in business and international studies. The largest consortium of historically African-American educational institutions in the U.S., the Atlanta University Center is comprised of seven institutions, including Morehouse and Spelman colleges and the Morehouse School of Medicine.

Atlanta's educational infrastructure is particularly distinguished by the innovative relationships forged between the University System of Georgia and businesses operating in the state. Dedicated to developing pools of highly trained workers, the State of Georgia works hand-in-hand with companies to create training programs to serve the just-in-time needs of business. For example, the Quick Start Program has partnered with more than 3,400 companies since 1967 to create customized training for nearly 473,000 Georgia workers at little or no cost to the companies involved. And ICAPP—the Intellectual Capital Partnership Program—links companies with Georgia colleges and universities to develop advanced curricula for knowledge workers, select candidates and conduct training. Countries of the FTAA can benefit from the legacy of these business/education partnership models.

For families who come to Atlanta from other countries, the city's public schools offer English-as-a-Second-Language courses in every district. And the Atlanta International School is an independent, non-profit school for 4- to 18-year olds that offers excellent academic programs to U.S. and international students.

Financial Institutions

Metro Atlanta is home to the Sixth District U.S. Federal Reserve Bank—and to the local offices of more than 10 international banks. Corporate headquarters for some of the world's top companies in banking and finance operate in the metro area as well. In total there are 13,800 financial establishments in Metro Atlanta, 1,535 of them depository institutions.

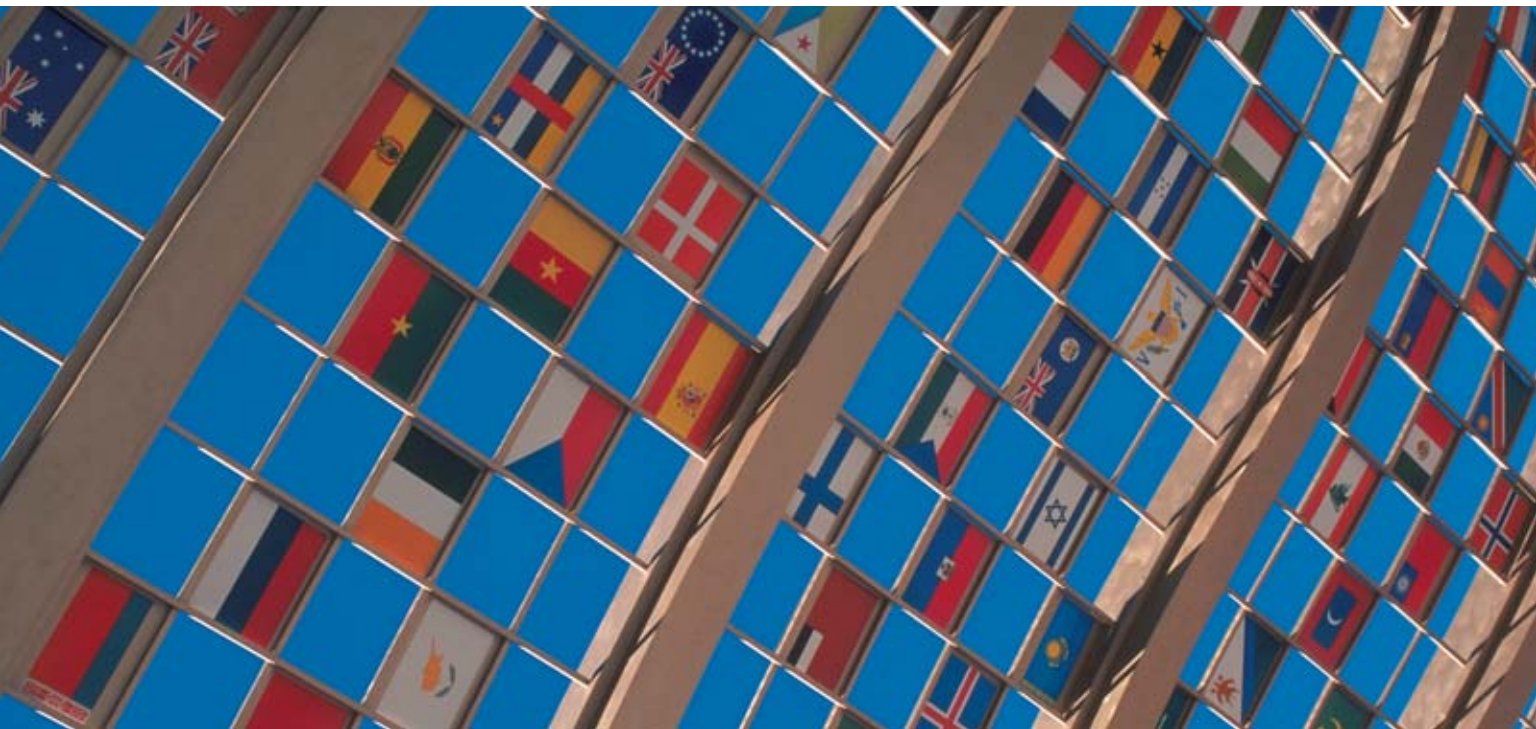
Financial institutions in Atlanta employ more than 140,000 people in the areas of credit intermediation, financial investment, and funds and trusts. Atlanta's strong financial industry is further supported by the headquarters presence of SunTrust Banks and the local operations of 28 of the 40 Fortune 1,000 commercial banks.



DIPLOMACY & MIGRATION



In the early 1980s, Atlanta began to fulfill its destiny as an international city. And in 20 short years the city has become truly global—not only in terms of business—but in the wide variety of countries having a diplomatic presence here. The services the State of Georgia provides to the diplomatic consular community assure that Atlanta retains and builds on its reputation as a global city.



The city takes its international and hospitable reputation seriously. As the home of the FTAA Secretariat, Atlanta and Georgia would provide access to the full range of protocol services for all accredited diplomats.

As Atlanta's international reputation has increased, more and more countries have established diplomatic ties with the city.

MIGRATION & DIPLOMACY: ASSISTANCE THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS.

The State of Georgia has cultivated a dynamic international community in Atlanta. The city is home to a thriving and engaged consular corps, numerous bi-national chambers of commerce and trade commissions. And the State is actively involved in facilitating migration of international VIPs and promoting business and cultural ties among foreign missions, companies and government in Atlanta.

FTAA member nations would join 50 other countries' consular missions already in Atlanta. Sixteen of these consular missions are from the Americas. And a 1.5- hour flight to Washington, DC allows access to diplomatic missions of virtually every country in the world.

The Governor's Office of Protocol Services, housed at the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism (GDITT), serves as Georgia's central point of contact for the Atlanta Consular Corps, foreign government officials and international VIPs. The office provides guidance, information and assistance with living, working and traveling in Georgia. Protocol Services is pleased to offer the FTAA its services to assist with visas, entry and exit formalities, migration and diplomacy.



Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is known by international travelers for its efficiency, ease of access as a U.S. entry point and its unparalleled network of world-wide air connections.

FTAA diplomats traveling through or residing in Georgia would enjoy benefits such as designated parking areas and courtesy VIP services at the airport and throughout the state.

ATLANTA HOSPITALITY STARTS AT THE AIRPORT: MIGRATION ISSUES.

● Visas

Diplomats accredited and assigned to the FTAA Secretariat will enjoy diplomatic recognition accorded by the State Department of the U.S. and supported by the State of Georgia and City of Atlanta.

For qualifying staff and delegates, the State of Georgia will provide letters of recommendation to U.S. consulates or embassies in support of official visas.

● Entry & Exit Formalities

Atlanta and the State of Georgia are dedicated to ensuring ease of entry for international travelers arriving at or departing from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

While all cities in the U.S. are subject to entry and exit formalities as dictated by the federal government, the State of Georgia, working closely with airport and federal authorities of the U.S., can arrange—and in most cases expedite—customs, immigration and security clearances. In fact, the Governor's Office of Protocol Services will work with the FTAA Secretariat to establish comprehensive policies and procedures to make travel to and from the city as efficient and convenient as possible. Neither the city nor the state levies taxes on passengers who depart, arrive or transit through the airport.





Passenger Facilities' Taxes

The following U.S. federal and passenger facilities' taxes are automatically included in airline ticket prices—no need to stand in line to pay taxes.

Passenger Civil Aviation Security Tax (AY Tax)	US\$2.50
Flight Segment Tax (ZP Tax)	US\$3.10
Passenger Facility Tax (XF Tax)	US\$4.50
Total	US\$10.10

Additional U.S. Federal Taxes

US\$13.70 Added to each international ticket segment involving departures from and arrivals at U.S. airports

7.5% of base fare is added as a tax to all U.S. domestic flights

Source: Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism

To make travel in and out of the airport as easy and comfortable as possible, both the State of Georgia and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport staff protocol offices charged with facilitating customs and security clearances for diplomats.

Migration Support

The Protocol Services office functions as the point of contact for Georgia's consular and international business community, working in tandem with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to serve traveling diplomats, dignitaries and international business people:

- Arrange and expedite customs and immigration clearances for VIP arrivals
- Arrange security clearances for qualified individuals to meet or escort VIPs to departure gates
- Coordinate with embassies and other organizations to receive advance notification of the travel schedules of influential VIPs and provide "meet-and-greet" services.

Diplomatic Services

Protocol Services can also facilitate the building and strengthening of relationships between FTAA member nations and the worldwide community. The office seeks to develop and strengthen business, trade and cultural relationships for diplomatic missions in Georgia—and would provide the same support to members of the FTAA Secretariat:

- Facilitate introductions between the FTAA and other local, state and federal agencies—as well as to the local international business community
- Generate periodic communications to keep Secretariat and staff informed about issues and events
- Assist in the details of official visits to or from FTAA member countries
- Promote business, government, academic and cultural exchange by supporting programs and events sponsored by the FTAA.

Atlanta Consular Corps

FTAA nations noted with an asterisk*

Argentina*	<i>Italy</i>
<i>Australia</i>	Jamaica*
<i>Austria</i>	<i>Japan</i>
Barbados*	<i>Korea</i>
<i>Belgium</i>	<i>Liberia</i>
Bolivia*	<i>Luxembourg</i>
Brazil*	Mexico*
Canada*	<i>Netherlands</i>
Chile*	<i>New Zealand</i>
Colombia*	Nicaragua*
Costa Rica*	<i>Nigeria</i>
<i>Cyprus</i>	<i>Norway</i>
<i>Czech Republic</i>	Panama*
<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Philippines</i>
Dominican Republic*	<i>Romania</i>
Ecuador*	<i>Sao Tome and Principe</i>
<i>Finland</i>	<i>Slovenia</i>
<i>France</i>	<i>Spain</i>
<i>Germany</i>	<i>Sri Lanka</i>
<i>Greece</i>	<i>Sweden</i>
Guatemala*	<i>Switzerland</i>
Honduras*	<i>Tanzania</i>
<i>Iceland</i>	<i>Thailand</i>
<i>India</i>	<i>Turkey</i>
<i>Israel</i>	<i>United Kingdom</i>

Source: Georgia Department of Industry, Trade & Tourism



FINANCIAL



The State of Georgia, City of Atlanta and its business community are eager to receive the FTAA Secretariat. Hemisphere, Inc. has arranged an attractive package of financial programs demonstrating the broad range of support among our citizens for hosting the FTAA.



The Hemisphere, Inc. team has had discussions with a number of developers regarding the possibilities of constructing a signature headquarters building for the Secretariat. This rendering represents one of the offerings received. The site plan that follows demonstrates how the FTAA building would be incorporated into a larger development within the central business corridor of Atlanta. Other possibilities are under consideration, but further criteria and design specifications are needed from the FTAA to finalize direction.

The financial package offered aims to facilitate the work of the Secretariat and ease the transition process for families relocating to Metro Atlanta.

FTAA SECRETARIAT HEADQUARTERS: CLASS A SPACE IN A WORLD-CLASS CITY.

Atlanta's robust commercial real estate market offers the FTAA Secretariat an array of office building solutions unrivaled by any other bidding city. Hemisphere, Inc. has had lengthy discussions with a number of real estate developers and commercial property owners and can provide a variety of space configurations for the FTAA's temporary and long-term needs. Hemisphere, Inc. is committed to arranging for the FTAA Secretariat the provision of 50,000 to 70,000 square feet (5,000 to 7,000 square meters) of Class A office space within the city's central business corridor for an FTAA Secretariat staff of approximately 200 individuals.

However, Hemisphere, Inc., in collaboration with its civic partners and the internationally renowned College of Architecture at the Georgia Institute of Technology, have envisioned the possibility of engaging the FTAA in the design process for an original signature headquarters. The headquarters, a stand-alone building, could reflect in its architectural style the vision and mission of this new hemispheric organization. To that end, a number of current prestige properties that could house the Secretariat during the period of design and construction have been identified to be presented to the FTAA for consideration. With multiple space options—and multiple developers interested in pursuing the FTAA opportunity—Atlanta is reticent to name any one building as the headquarters site at this time. Further discussions will be



welcomed and encouraged. The opportunity to mutually create an architectural expression of the vision of the FTAA would be a great honor for Hemisphere, Inc., the State of Georgia and the City of Atlanta. As we move forward in the site selection process, Atlanta will refine the parameters of its offer to reflect the facilities and location preferred by the FTAA—ensuring that the guarantee of Class A office space for the Secretariat meets the organization’s criteria and needs as specifically as possible.

Air Travel

Should the FTAA locate its Secretariat in Atlanta, Delta Air Lines would offer substantial discounts—as high as 58 percent off for some flights—to FTAA Secretariat principal delegates on round-trip and one-way fares to cities throughout the Western Hemisphere, including Central America, South America, the Caribbean nations, Canada, Mexico, the contiguous 48 United States of America, plus Alaska, Hawaii, San Juan and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Pending contractual agreement with the Secretariat, Delta will reduce fares to and from cities in the Western Hemisphere on last-minute, unrestricted tickets an average of 27 percent. Discount fares will be reduced an additional 10 percent to 25 percent.

In addition to these special pricing programs, Delta also commits to working with the Secretariat to negotiate the following:

- Medallion conversions for a select number of delegates
- Access to Crown Room and partner airline VIP lounges
- Special discounts on hotels and rental cars
- Dedicated support service desk with U.S. toll-free number and staff for select delegates for reservations, itinerary changes, etc.
- Corporate welcome package for delegates relocating to Atlanta
- Making exceptions to excess baggage rules during certain times of the year
- Partnering in sponsorship of key events hosted by the Secretariat in Atlanta

Hotel Offers

Members of the Atlanta hospitality industry look forward to hosting the Secretariat at their establishments and are pleased to offer the Secretariat a discount equal to the prevailing U.S. government rate. For every 10 rooms

booked in a single block, one room will be free. For heads of delegations and VIP guests, the hotels will provide upgrades to Executive Level or one-bedroom suites when available.

Real Estate Services

Atlanta’s residential real estate leaders have joined efforts to present a comprehensive value package in support of the FTAA Secretariat in Atlanta and to help newcomers make the transition to life in the city. This package includes substantial reduction (47 percent) or waiver of fees related to the purchase of a home or lease of residential property—and assistance, guidance and education on local real estate customs and practices related to home search, contract negotiation, mortgage process and home inspections, all provided by bilingual and internationally accredited real estate agents.

Of special note, Settling-In Services will be offered at a 47 percent discount and include assistance establishing banking services, obtaining a driver’s license and automobile tags, plus coordinating visits to private and public schools, identifying appropriate language schools and translators.

Financial Services

Substantial discounts and enhanced services have been offered to FTAA personnel by three leading local financial institutions. These packages include dedicated relationship managers to assist in establishing credit, provide wealth management services and secure deep discounts on a range of financial services.

FTAA Concierge

All of the aforementioned services will be coordinated and managed for the convenience of the Secretariat on-site by a full-time concierge desk. The Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce has committed to establish this service desk.

Highlighted in the proposed site plan above, the FTAA Secretariat would enjoy the close proximity of a variety of amenities, including an Americas art and cultural center, residential and hotel accommodations, retail stores and greenspace.



ADDITIONAL COMMITMENTS

The Georgia Governor's Office of Protocol Services, housed in the Georgia Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism, is eager to welcome the FTAA, and is pleased to offer a wide array of liaison services that will help the Secretariat and its staff integrate into our community. Protocol Services will welcome new FTAA diplomat arrivals and assist them in transitioning to living and working in Georgia. It will arrange introductions and facilitate communication between the FTAA and all local, state and federal agencies, as well as Georgia's consular and business community.



For qualifying international travelers to and from Atlanta’s airport, Protocol Services, working in tandem with the airport protocol office, simplifies and expedites the arrival and departure process.

With Atlanta’s growth into a cosmopolitan city, the State of Georgia has developed a rich infrastructure of diplomatic services to support missions from all over the world.

THE STATE OF GEORGIA WELCOMES THE FTAA.

● Liaison Services

Below is a summary of the State of Georgia’s liaison services offering to the FTAA. Please see the Diplomacy & Migration section for details.

The Governor’s Office of Protocol Services has already established an efficient and collaborative partnership with Atlanta’s Consular Corps and looks forward to offering the same services to the FTAA. The office would organize periodic communications to keep Secretariat staff and FTAA nations’ missions to the Secretariat informed of issues and events—and can assist with details of official visits to or from member countries. The office will also promote academic and cultural exchanges by supporting programs and events sponsored by the consulates.

Additionally, Protocol Services offers to the FTAA a wide array of administrative and governmental affairs support, including the following:

- Organizing and executing programs and events of mutual interest and benefit to consular, trade and international government offices
- Arranging and scheduling meetings with the governor and other senior state and city officials
- Maintaining a listing of governmental resources that exist to serve the international community and the FTAA.



The State of Georgia stands ready to facilitate the work of the FTAA by providing heads and senior members of delegations the highest possible level of liaison services.

A COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP.

● Legal status of FTAA

One of the most important reflections of Atlanta's and Georgia's commitment to hosting the FTAA is local and state governments' dedication to working with U.S. federal authorities on behalf of the Secretariat. While legal status of ministers and staff is the purview of the U.S. federal government, we anticipate that the FTAA Secretariat would be offered the same privileges and immunities accorded to international organizations operating in the U.S. as defined under the International Immunities Act:

- The capacity to buy and sell real and personal property and to institute legal proceedings
- Immunity of FTAA from suit and judicial process as is enjoyed by foreign governments
- Immunity of FTAA property and assets from search and confiscation
- Official communications of the FTAA will be accorded the same privileges, exemptions and immunities as foreign governments under similar circumstances.

FTAA staff and employees would be granted the same privileges and immunities under similar circumstances as officers and employees of foreign governments. The baggage and effects of officers and employees would be admitted free of customs duties and free of internal revenue taxes. Once in the U.S., FTAA officers and staff would enjoy the same privileges, exemptions and immunities as foreign government officers and employees with respect to:

- Laws regulating entry into and departure from the United States
- Alien registration and fingerprinting
- Registration of foreign agents.

Finally, officers and employees of international organizations are immune from suit and legal process relating to acts performed by them in their official capacity, except when such immunity may be waived by the foreign government or international organization concerned.

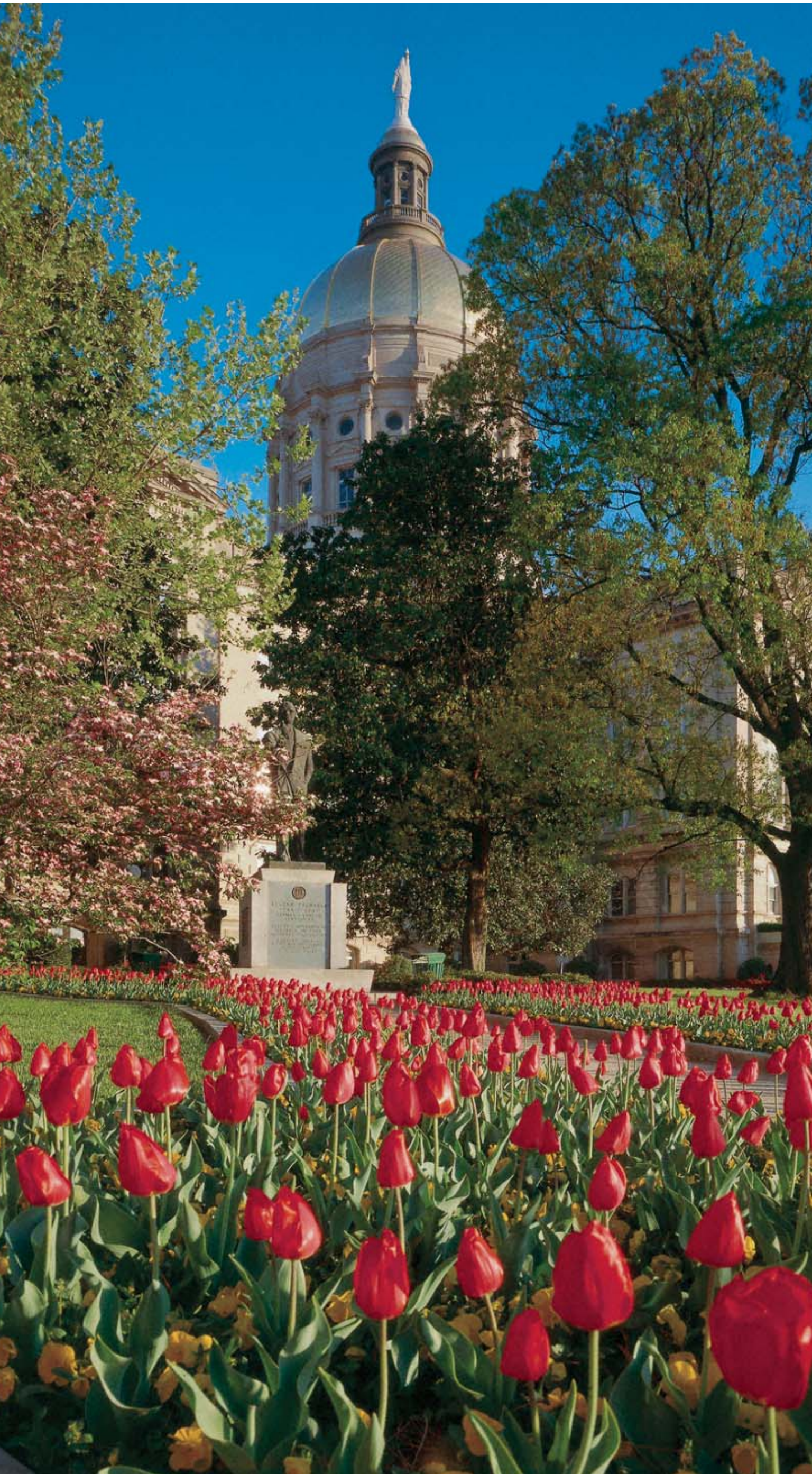
Per the agreement on state and local taxation of foreign employees of public international organizations, all wages, fees, salaries and other remuneration or benefit received as compensation for their work in official capacities is excluded from gross income and exempt from all taxes on income.

Entry & Exit Formalities

While visa requirements are the purview of the U.S. federal government, Atlanta and the State of Georgia's experience with hosting the 1996 Centennial Olympic Games indicates our ability to serve as an effective liaison between foreign governments and the U.S. federal government. The City and the State will make every effort to extend the services of the Office of Protocol to the FTAA delegates and contract staff while on official business related to the FTAA Secretariat.

Conclusion

The State of Georgia, City of Atlanta and the business community extend a sincere invitation to the FTAA Secretariat to make Atlanta its home. We look forward to hosting the staff and heads of delegations of the FTAA and to working as partners to open a gateway to the future for the advancement of free trade in the Americas.





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