



**John W. Woodward**  
Director, Foreign Investment  
Global Commerce Group

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John Woodward is Director of Foreign Investment in the Global Commerce Group of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, one of the oldest and largest chambers of commerce in the U.S. His responsibility is to draw foreign direct investment to the Atlanta region (21,700 square kilometers, 5.4 million inhabitants). He focuses on industries in Europe and Asia that already have a strong presence in Atlanta, but he also works with emerging markets to generate new sources of international investment. To this end, he marshals the metro chamber's resources, as well as those of relevant partners, to identify and assist international companies that may be contemplating entry or expansion in the U.S. market.

Before this position, Woodward was Director of Economic Development for the City of Richmond (Virginia). In that capacity he played a significant role in several major economic development projects, including the corporate headquarters relocations of Philip Morris USA, "K" Line America, and MeadWestvaco, as well as more than \$2 billion of commercial real estate development, including a \$330 million biotechnology research-and-development facility. He also partnered with regional and state colleagues to attract international investment to Virginia, participating in worldwide trade missions with three governors.

Prior to that, Woodward worked in commercial real estate at the New York headquarters of Cushman & Wakefield, in marketing, financial services, and investment sales. Previously he was a foreign exchange trader with Ruesch International in Washington, DC.

Woodward is a member of CoreNet Global, International Economic Development Council (IEDC), Georgia Economic Developers Association (GEDA), and several bilateral chambers and trade associations; he serves on the boards of the Swedish-American and French-American Chambers in Georgia. A frequent speaker on economic development, he has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, as well as regional print, broadcast and online media.

Woodward earned a BSFS from the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, and an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University. He also completed programs at the Université de Strasbourg and Hautes Etudes Commerciales (Paris).