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# Charleston-North Charleston, SC Merchandise Exports in 2015

*The Metropolitan Export Series is a product funded and developed by the International Trade Administration using data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Merchandise export data are available for U.S. metropolitan areas beginning in 2005.*

In 2015, Charleston was the  
**45th**  
largest exporter in the U.S.

## Charleston Exports in 2015

- In 2015, goods exports from the Charleston area grew by 10% over the previous year to reach a record high.
- On average, exports from the Charleston area have increased by 16.4% annually over the past 10 years.

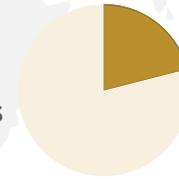
**\$6.5 billion**

Total Charleston goods export value in 2015

**344%**

Charleston area export growth since 2009

Exports from Charleston accounted for **21%** of total South Carolina goods exports



### Goods Exports From Select Charleston Area Counties

County	Export Value
Charleston County	\$5.4 billion
Berkeley County	\$672 million
Dorchester County	\$403 million

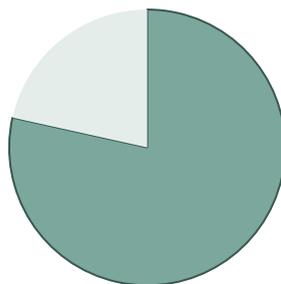
## Exports Sustain Charleston Area Businesses

- In 2014 (latest available), 411 Charleston area companies exported to U.S. FTA partners.
- The same year, 382 area companies exported to Trans-Pacific Partnership countries and 266 exported to the European Union.

**627**

Number of small and medium-sized goods exporters in Charleston in 2014

SMEs account for **78%** of Charleston goods exporters



**91%** of Charleston goods exporters shipped manufactured products overseas



*Note: Exporter counts reflect the number of companies, not establishments, and are therefore not additive across industries and geographies*



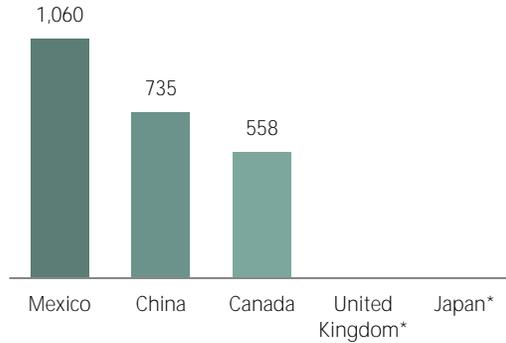
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## Top Charleston Export Markets & Sectors

- In 2015, Mexico was Charleston's top foreign market, accounting for 16% of its total goods exports.
- Transportation equipment was Charleston's top export sector in 2015, accounting for 62% of the area's goods exports.

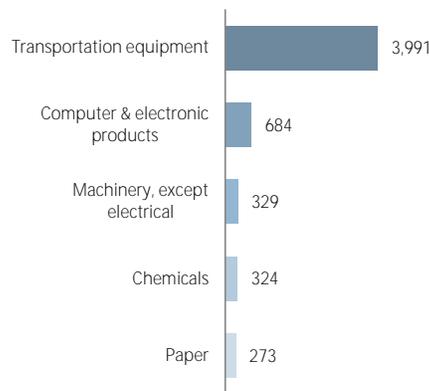
Top Charleston Area Export Markets  
Millions of dollars



In addition to these top markets, Charleston is also a major exporter to:

Colombia  
Vietnam

Top Charleston Export Sectors  
Millions of dollars



In addition to these top sectors, other sectors where Charleston is a major exporter include:

- Electrical equipment, appliances, & components
- Primary metal manufactures
- Forestry & logging

\* Indicates that export value is suppressed due to disclosure concerns.

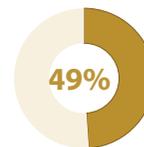
## Current and Future FTAs Matter to Charleston Area Exporters

- The U.S. currently has 14 free trade agreements in force with 20 countries.

In 2015, exports to FTA markets accounted for **37%** of Charleston area exports

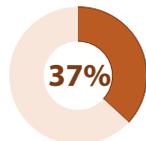
In 2015, Charleston exported:

**\$1.6 billion**  
to NAFTA



**\$3.2 billion**  
to TPP

**\$2.4 billion**  
to all FTAs in force



**\$1.3 billion**  
to TTIP (EU-28)

## Source Notes

Data year: 2015 Last updated: September 2016

Prepared by the Office of Trade and Economic Analysis, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

For additional information and to view the complete data series and methodology, visit [www.trade.gov/metrodata](http://www.trade.gov/metrodata). Exporter data available on <http://tse.export.gov/edb>.