



## South Carolina: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment

### September 2012

#### Exports Support Jobs for South Carolina's Workers

Export-supported jobs linked to manufacturing account for an estimated 7.6 percent of South Carolina's total private-sector employment. Over one-quarter (28.5 percent) of all manufacturing workers in South Carolina depend on exports for their jobs (2009 data latest available).

#### Exports Sustain Thousands of South Carolina Businesses

A total of 3,644 companies exported from South Carolina locations in 2009. Of those, 3,056 (84 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-eighth (13 percent) of South Carolina's total exports of merchandise in 2009.

#### Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in South Carolina

In 2009, foreign-controlled companies employed 102,600 South Carolina workers. Major sources of foreign investment in South Carolina in 2009 included Germany, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom.

Foreign investment in South Carolina was responsible for 6.9 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2009.

#### South Carolina Depends on World Markets

South Carolina's export shipments of merchandise in 2011 totaled \$24.7 billion.

The state's largest market was Germany. South Carolina posted merchandise exports of \$4 billion to Germany in 2011, 16.2 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Germany was followed by Canada (\$3.7 billion), China (\$3 billion), Mexico (\$1.8 billion), and United Kingdom (\$1.4 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is transportation equipment, which accounted for \$8.3 billion of South Carolina's total merchandise exports in 2011. Other top merchandise exports are machinery (\$3.6 billion), chemicals (\$2.9 billion), plastics and rubbers (\$2.4 billion), and computers and electronic products (\$1.4 billion).

#### South Carolina's Metropolitan Exports

In 2011, the following metropolitan areas in South Carolina recorded merchandise exports: Greenville-Mauldin-Easley (\$11.7 billion), Charleston-North Charleston-Summerville (\$2.3 billion), Spartanburg (\$1.7 billion), Columbia (\$1.5 billion), Florence (\$814 million), Anderson (\$572 million), Myrtle Beach-North Myrtle Beach-Conway (\$219 million), and Sumter (\$160 million). Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord (including some parts of North Carolina) exported \$6.3 billion, while Augusta-Richmond County (including some parts of Georgia) exported \$1.4 billion.

Prepared by the Office of Trade and Industry Information, International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. For more resources please see [www.trade.gov/mas/ian](http://www.trade.gov/mas/ian).

Sources include resources from the U.S. Department of Commerce's International Trade Administration, Bureau of the Census, and Bureau of Economic Analysis. For detailed information on each section, please see our footnotes.