



South Carolina: Exports, Jobs, and Foreign Investment February 2013

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 3,868 companies exported from South Carolina locations in 2010. Of those, 3,279 (85 percent) were small and medium-sized enterprises with fewer than 500 employees.

Small and medium-sized firms generated over one-seventh (15 percent) of South Carolina's total exports of merchandise in 2010.

Foreign Investment Creates Jobs in South Carolina

In 2010, foreign-controlled companies employed 104,300 South Carolina workers. Major sources of foreign investment in South Carolina in 2010 included Germany, France, Japan, and United Kingdom.

Foreign investment in South Carolina was responsible for 7.0 percent of the state's total private-industry employment in 2010.

South Carolina Depends on World Markets

South Carolina's export shipments of merchandise in 2012 totaled \$25.2 billion.

The state's largest market was Canada. South Carolina posted merchandise exports of \$4.0 billion to Canada in 2012, 15.7 percent of the state's total merchandise exports. Canada was followed by Germany (\$3.7 billion), China (\$3.2 billion), Mexico (\$2.0 billion), and United Kingdom (\$1.4 billion).

The state's largest merchandise export category is Transportation Equipment, which accounted for \$8.5 billion of South Carolina's total merchandise exports in 2012. Other top merchandise exports are Machinery, Except Electrical (\$3.5 billion), Chemicals (\$2.9 billion), Plastics & Rubber Products (\$2.6 billion), and Computer & Electronic Products (\$1.7 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), Sumter (\$160 million)