



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce

Just right for business.

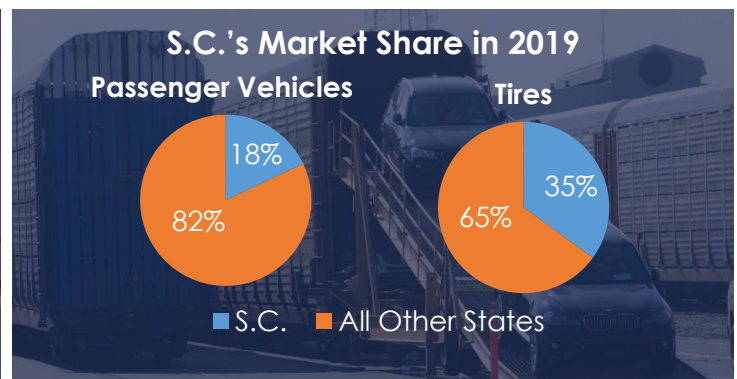
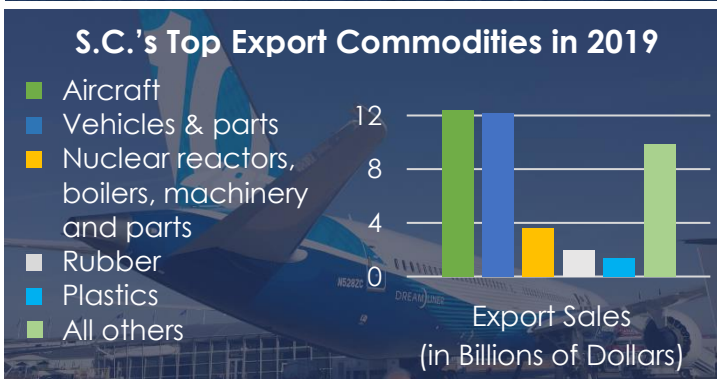
## 2019 INTERNATIONAL TRADE REPORT

For the 10th consecutive year, the state of South Carolina set a record for total export sales in 2019, as the state's exporters sold \$41.5 billion in products in more than 198 countries and territories around the world. This sales figure represents a 19.7 percent increase over the 2018 total and ranks 11th among all states.

"South Carolina's economy is booming, and the news of yet another record-setting year for exports is further confirmation that our global reputation for excellence is hard-earned and well-deserved," said Gov. Henry McMaster. "As we look forward to the next decade, we will continue to work hard to ensure that the Palmetto State remains the best place to do business."

"South Carolina companies continue to produce top-quality products, and the world has taken notice," said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. "Moving forward, we will continue to prioritize the growth of our international trade footprint and will encourage companies of all sizes to expand their reach into new markets overseas."

South Carolina's international trade activity grew and diversified in 2019:



“S.C. Ports container volume has doubled over the past decade, in large part because South Carolina has become a manufacturing powerhouse,” S.C. Ports Authority President and CEO Jim Newsome said. “Many S.C. businesses, including global manufacturers, depend on S.C. Ports to move goods to global markets, further driving exports through the Port of Charleston. We have seen record year-over-year growth and we are making investments to remain globally competitive. In 2021, Charleston Harbor will be the deepest on the East Coast at 52 feet, and the country’s newest container terminal, the Hugh K. Leatherman Sr. Terminal, will begin operations. These major infrastructure projects will further support our state’s exporters and ensure economic success.”

To continue growing the state’s export activity and to assist firms of all sizes that seek to get involved in international trade, S.C. Commerce offers the South Carolina Export Incentives Program. The initiative reimburses small and medium-sized business participation in S.C. Commerce trade missions, major trade exhibitions and international matchmaking. It also finances export training and other export-related initiatives by S.C. Commerce.

For more information on the South Carolina Export Incentives Program, including how eligible firms can participate, visit <http://bit.ly/scexporting>.



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