



FACT SHEET

South Carolina State Ports Authority • PO Box 22287 • Charleston, SC 29413-2287 • www.scsa.com • 843-723-8651

SOUTH CAROLINA'S PORTS

In fiscal year 2009, the South Carolina State Ports Authority (SPA) served 1,802 ships and barges at its seaport terminals in Charleston and Georgetown.

In the Port of Charleston, the SPA handled 1.37 million TEUs, or 20-ft equivalent units. The SPA's Charleston breakbulk cargo totaled 549,008 tons. Top commodities across Charleston docks include agricultural products, consumer goods, machinery, metals, vehicles, chemicals and clay products.

Georgetown, a dedicated breakbulk and bulk facility, handled 286,254 tons of cargo in FY09. Steel, petroleum coke and wood briquettes are top cargoes.

RANKING

The Port of Charleston is one of the busiest container ports along the Southeast and Gulf coasts and is recognized as one of the nation's most efficient and productive ports.

The Charleston Customs district ranks as the nation's eighth largest in dollar value of international shipments, with cargo valued at more than \$62 billion annually.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

The SPA has several major projects underway to serve its customers and the state's business community. The \$148-million Charleston harbor deepening project completed in May 2004 took the inner harbor channels to -45 feet at mean low water. In 2005, the Arthur Ravenel Bridge spanning the Cooper River was completed and, with 186 feet of vertical clearance at mean high water, allows Charleston to handle larger vessels under any tidal condition.

The SPA's fiscal year 2010 capital improvement program calls for \$75 million in the development and enhancement of new and existing facilities. In April 2007, the SPA received permits for a new three-berth, 280-acre marine terminal at the former Charleston Naval Base. Site preparation and construction is already underway for the 170-acre first phase of the terminal. South Carolina is also partnering with Georgia for a bi-state port facility in Jasper County on the Savannah River. The SPA jointly acquired the 1,500-acre tract in July 2008.

CARGO PROFILE

Charleston is one of only a handful of ports to have received the Presidential "E" and "E-Star" awards for excellence in exporting. Although shippers in two dozen states use Charleston to access foreign customers and suppliers, 45% of SPA tonnage and about a third of containers are related to South Carolina firms. North Europe and Asia are the SPA's top markets, combining for 54% of total volume, but more than 150 nations are served directly from SPA docks.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

International trade through the SPA's facilities provides thousands of good-paying jobs to South Carolinians through maritime, transportation, distribution and manufacturing companies involved in the movement of trade.

MARITIME BUSINESSES

In addition to the 700 South Carolina companies from every county in the state that regularly ship through the SPA, there are hundreds of transportation companies that facilitate trade. These businesses include the SPA and its 600 employees; 36 steamship lines; five stevedores and hundreds of longshoremen; 149 truck lines; two Class I railroads; two tug companies; 52 customs house brokers and freight forwarders; and hundreds of other firms.

FINANCIAL DATA

The SPA is an enterprise agency structured as a private business. It has not received operating or capital subsidies in more than two decades. Port-issued revenue bonds have provided the funds to complete development of the Wando Welch Terminal and millions of dollars in other projects. These bonds and the interest payable on them are an obligation of the SPA – not the State or taxpayers.

THE AUTHORITY BOARD

The Authority Board is appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. David J. Posek, Chairman; Bill H. Stern, Vice Chairman; Whitemarsh S. Smith, III, Treasurer; John F. Hassell, III, Secretary; Harry J. Butler, Jr.; Colden R. Battey, Jr.; Karen K. Floyd; S. Richard Hagins; and Douglas M. Robertson; H.B. "Buck" Limehouse (*ex-officio*); and Joe E. Taylor, Jr. (*ex-officio*) – John F. Hassell, III., Interim President & CEO.

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