

RECENT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECOGNITIONS

BUSINESS CLIMATE RANKINGS

- *Area Development* named South Carolina a 2014 Gold Shovel Award winner in recognition of economic development projects undertaken in 2013. This is the sixth year in a row that South Carolina has received a Gold or Silver Shovel Award in its population category. South Carolina was a Gold Shovel Award recipient in 2012 and 2011 and a Silver Shovel Award recipient in 2013, 2010, and 2009. *Source: Area Development, June 2014.*
- South Carolina consistently ranks high on *Site Selection* magazine's "Top State Business Climates" and in 2012 took the 7th spot overall and placed 2nd in the magazine's survey of corporate real estate executives. Corporate executives have ranked South Carolina in the top 10 for the past ten years. The magazine's New Plant Database showed that South Carolina had the 18th most new projects between January and August 2013. *Source: Site Selection, November 2013.*
- South Carolina tied for 2nd place on a ranking of Top States for Doing Business in 2013, according to *Area Development* magazine's recent survey of site consultants. States were ranked in 17 categories based on the number of times they were named as a "top-5" choice by the responding consultants. South Carolina was the consultants' top choice in both the certified shovel-ready sites and right-to-work environment. South Carolina was ranked in cost of doing business (#2), corporate tax environment (#2), cooperative state government (#2) and nine other categories. *Source: Area Development, Summer 2014.*
- South Carolina is one of the leaders on the latest state Rankings Report from *Business Facilities* magazine, placing in five categories. South Carolina ranked 8th for Best Business Climate, 7nd for Lowest Cost of Labor, 3rd as a Nuclear Power Generation Leader, 7th in Automotive Manufacturing Strength and 10th as an Automotive Parts Supplier Leader. *Source: Business Facilities, July/August 2013.*
- South Carolina was named a runner-up for *Business Facilities'* 2012 State of the Year designation. Bridgestone Americas' \$1.2 billion off-road radial tire plant in Aiken County also received an honorable mention in the magazine's 2012 Economic Development Deal of the Year competition. The Bridgestone project marked the largest single initial capital investment in state history and involved transplanting technology that had been used exclusively in Bridgestone's facilities in Japan. *Source: Business Facilities, January 2013.*
- *Site Selection* magazine designated South Carolina a Top Ten Competitive State of 2013. The designation is based on criteria that include announced projects, capital investment and jobs; tax climate; number of ACT Certified Work Ready certificates and other factors. *Source: Site Selection, May 2014.*

- *Trade & Industry Development* magazine selected three South Carolina companies, Boeing, Google, and Colgate-Palmolive Co., among the winners of a 2014 Corporate Investment & Community Impact (CiCi) Award for projects undertaken during 2013. The CiCi Award recognizes both the companies making investments in the community and the economic developers responsible for securing the investments. This is the ninth consecutive year that South Carolina economic development projects have received a CiCi Award. *Source: Trade & Industry Development, March/April 2014.*
- South Carolina's attraction for foreign investors was also underscored in IBM's *2013 Global Location Trends* report. For the second consecutive year, South Carolina came in 1st in the nation for jobs through foreign investment. The data are derived from IBM's Global Investment Locations Database which tracks announcements by companies on their location decisions. *Source: IBM, 2013 Global Location Trends, December 2013.*
- Statistics from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) show that South Carolina ranks 4th in the nation in the percent of private-industry employment in majority-owned, U.S. affiliates of foreign companies at 7 percent and 104,300 employees. *Source: U.S. BEA, Survey of Current Business, August 2012. Data are 2010.*
- South Carolina ranks 5th in the nation for globalization on the *2012 State New Economy Index*. The ranking for this category is based on two indicators – share of the manufacturing and service workforce employed in producing goods and services for export and share of the workforce employed by foreign-owned companies. The report also ranks South Carolina 9th on its green economy indicator based on the amount of electricity in the state generated by non-carbon energy sources. Nuclear power makes up more than half of the total energy consumed in South Carolina. South Carolina is also among the report's "Top Five Movers" based on growth in high-tech jobs. *Source: The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, December 2012.*
- South Carolina came in as one of the ten best states for business on *Chief Executive* magazine's annual poll of CEOs, ranking 5th. About 500 business leaders rated states on taxation and regulation, workforce quality and quality of life. *Source: Chief Executive, May 2014.*
- *Forbes* magazine ranks South Carolina's regulatory environment 12th best in the nation for business. The 2013 ranking is based on the state's labor regulations, health insurance coverage mandates, the tort system, tax incentives and other measures. *Source: Forbes, The Best States for Business, September 25, 2013.*
- South Carolina's credit rating is one of the highest in the nation according to the country's three major credit rating agencies, Moody's (AAA), Standard & Poor's (AA+) and Fitch (AAA). *Source: South Carolina Office of the State Treasurer.*
- The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, a nonprofit advocacy group, ranks South Carolina's tax system as the 19th best for entrepreneurship and small business. South Carolina's corporate income tax rate is the 10th lowest in the nation, and the state's gasoline and diesel taxes are the 3rd lowest. *Source: Business Tax Index 2014, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, April 2014.*

- The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports that the annual average price of electricity for industrial users in South Carolina in 2012 was 10 percent below the U.S. average, 6.02 cents per kilowatt hour versus the U.S. average of 6.67 cents. *Source: U.S. EIA, Electric Power Annual, December 2013.*
- An annual manufacturing and logistics analysis from Ball State University gave South Carolina an A in two categories, manufacturing industry health and global reach, and a B in sector diversification. Manufacturing industry health is based on share of income earned by manufacturing employees, the wage premium for manufacturing workers relative to other workers and manufacturing employment per capita. Global reach is determined by export activity and foreign direct investment. *Source: 2014 Manufacturing + Logistics National Report, Ball State University, June 2014.*
- The International Economic Development Council (IEDC) recognized SCRA with a 2013 Gold Excellence in Economic Development Award for its SC Launch program. The award is in the Tech-Based Economic Development category for communities with populations greater than 500,000. In 2005, SCRA began meeting a legislative mandate to develop three new business, laboratory and light manufacturing facilities called Innovation Centers. The SCRA MUSC (Medical University of South Carolina) Innovation Center in Charleston supports bioscience research, the SCRA USC (University of South Carolina) Innovation Center in Columbia is designed for companies moving to the light manufacturing stage and the Duke Energy Innovation Center near Clemson University focuses on advanced materials research. SCRA was launched with state money and is now an applied research company with a public mission. *Source: SCRA and IEDC, October 2013.*
- SCRA was named a Nonprofit Organization of the Year by the 2013 American Business Awards. The national award recognized SCRA for its role in leading collaborative entrepreneurial and economic development efforts. SCRA also received awards in the categories of Tech Innovation of the Year and Corporate Social Responsibility Program of the Year. *Source: The American Business Awards, June 17, 2013.*

WORKFORCE RANKINGS

- South Carolina ranked 2nd on the list of the Top 10 States for High Tech Employment Growth 2010-2011.,; Columbia was ranked 4th and Charleston out of the Top 25 Metro Areas for High Tech Employment Growth, 2006-2011 with growth rates of 40 and 39 percent. *Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics; calculations by Bay Area Council Economic Institute, 2011.*
- South Carolina's workforce training program, readySC™, was one of three state workforce training programs recognized by *Business Facilities* magazine with an Economic Development Achievement Award. readySC™ received an honorable mention for Achievement in Workforce Training. *Source: Business Facilities, March/April 2012.*
- Apprenticeship Carolina™ and readySC™ received a 2013 Silver Excellence in Economic Development Award from the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) in the Partnerships with Educational Institutions Category for their work with ZF Group in Laurens, South Carolina. readySC™ and Apprenticeship Carolina™ worked with local leaders to establish the Center for Advanced Manufacturing (CAM), which offers labs and

classrooms for technology-based skills training. Both organizations helped guarantee that the automotive supplier had the workforce it needed for success. *Source: IEDC, October 2013.*

- South Carolina is a right-to-work state with a low unionization rate of 3.7 percent overall, ranking 4th lowest in the United States. South Carolina's unionization rate for the private sector at 2.5 percent is the 7th lowest in the nation and the rate for manufacturing at 3.9 percent is also the 7th lowest. *Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 24, 2014 and www.unionstats.com.*
- The Community College Futures Assembly, a national independent policy think tank that convenes annually to discuss critical issues facing two-year colleges, recognized Apprenticeship Carolina™ as one of ten innovative workforce development best practices. The South Carolina Technical College System, which hosts Apprenticeship Carolina™, was named a Bellwether Finalist for planning and hosting a national-caliber technology conference. *Source: Community College Futures Assembly, January 2009 & January 2013.*

INDUSTRY SPECIFIC RANKINGS

- In 2013, for the third consecutive year, South Carolina ranked 1st among U.S. states in tire exports, accounting for nearly 30 percent of the value of all tires exported from the U.S. South Carolina also ranked 1st in exports of gas turbines exceeding 5,000 KW and 2nd in exports of automobiles. *Source: U.S. Dept. of Commerce, February 2014.*
- The Fuel Cells 2000 publication, *State of the States: Fuel Cells in America 2013*, named South Carolina a top five state for fuel cell forklifts deployed or ordered and for hydrogen fueling stations. South Carolina has also been recognized as the only state with uniform statewide permitting of hydrogen and fuel cell facilities. The state's R&D activities at the University of South Carolina, Clemson University and the Savannah River National Laboratory were also noted. Fuel Cells 2000 also named South Carolina a top five fuel cell state in 2012, 2011, and 2010. *Source: State of the States: Fuel Cells in America 2013, Fuel Cells 2000, September 2013.*
- A study done by Battelle and the Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) found that South Carolina's bioscience sector grew by 45 percent from 2001 to 2010. South Carolina was one of only eight states where bioscience employment grew by more than 30 percent during that time period. The report also showed that South Carolina's bioscience industry is diverse with medical devices the state's largest subsector. *Source: Battelle/BIO State Bioscience Industry Development 2012, June 2012.*

CITY AND TOWN RANKINGS

- South Carolina was amongst the nation's fastest-growing states from 2003 to 2013, with a population growth rate of over 15 percent. South Carolina now has a population of more than 4.7 million people, ranking 24th in the nation. *Source: U.S. Census Bureau, July 2013.*
- *fDi Magazine* selected Greenville as a top ten Micro American Cities of the Future 2013/14. The magazine ranked Greenville 2nd overall among cities in North and South America in the category of cities with a population under 100,000 residents. *Source: fDi Magazine, April/May 2013.*

- The Charleston MSA is one of *Forbes'* ten Best Midsize Cities for Jobs 2013. Ninety-two cities fell into the midsize category with an employment base between 150,000 and 450,000. The magazine compiled the list based on recent, mid-term and long-term employment growth. *Source: Forbes, America's Best Cities for Jobs 2013, May 2013.*
- The Charleston MSA ranks 11th among 200 large metros on the annual 2013 Milken Institute Best-Performing Cities index. The index ranks MSAs based on job, wage and technology performance. The report cited Charleston's high-tech GDP growth which outpaced the national growth rate between 2007 and 2012 and ranked 5th best in the country. The report noted the area's job growth in aerospace and automotive manufacturing. Greenville, Spartanburg, and Columbia were also ranked Best-Performing Cities. *Source: Milken Institute, 2013 Best-Performing Cities Index, December 2013.*
- *Fast Company* magazine featured Charleston as one of the fastest growing cities for software and Internet technology jobs – referring to the city as “Silicon Harbor.” The article also cited Charleston's quality of life and local efforts to promote the area's knowledge economy. *Source: Fast Company, June 5, 2012.*

INFRASTRUCTURE RANKINGS

- The S.C. State Port Authority's environmental efforts landed them a spot on *Inbound Logistics'* 2013 Green Supply Partner list. The magazine cited the authority's electrified cranes, a new agricultural commodity transload facility that will replace a diesel operation, the truck replacement program that helps drivers buy more fuel-efficient trucks and the Rapid Rail system that matches truckers with containers reducing empty trips. *Source: Inbound Logistics, June 2013.*
- The *Journal of Commerce* acknowledged that the Port of Charleston is “regarded as the most productive East Coast port.” Charleston averages 41 container moves per hour per crane with an average trucker turn time of 20 minutes. Plus, transit time from open sea to dockside is from one to two hours, fastest on the East Coast. *Source: Journal of Commerce, January 7, 2008 plus additional 2010 info from Port.*
- The Port of Charleston is one of only a handful of ports to have received the Presidential “E” and “E-Star” awards for excellence in exporting. Shippers in two dozen states use Charleston to access foreign customers and suppliers. *Source: South Carolina State Ports Authority, 2014.*