

**SOUTH CAROLINA IS JUST RIGHT**

— FOR THE —

**AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY**



**South Carolina**  
Department of Commerce

Just right for business.



**“We build things in South Carolina — we build tires, we build planes and we build cars.**

Businesses not only want to move to South Carolina, they want to grow here. Great corporate citizens such as BMW, Mercedes and now Volvo are proud to call our state home. They know South Carolina’s workforce builds vehicles with quality, with loyalty and with pride—and that’s not something you can find just anywhere.”

– Governor Nikki Haley



**“Manufacturing is the key contributor of wealth in the U.S., and in South Carolina,** as we have the aptitude and skill level imperative for successful manufacturing operations. The automotive industry continues to drive our economy in the state and over the past two decades, we have transformed South Carolina from being primarily a textile state to one that is leading the manufacturing renaissance.

South Carolina has proven it is a state of business in the automotive sector. We are staking our claim as a car state, and we have continued to set our sights on recruiting automotive-related companies while helping our existing firms continue to grow and be successful.”

– Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt



## South Carolina is Shifting into High Gear

**HOME TO MORE THAN 250 AUTOMOTIVE-RELATED COMPANIES AND SUPPLIERS THAT EMPLOY OVER 58,000 PEOPLE**

South Carolina has a strong, rapidly growing automotive industry with world-wide brands such as BMW, Mercedes-Benz Vans, Volvo, Michelin, Bridgestone, Continental and Giti Tire in the region.

## Driving the Industry

Looking for a reason to bring your business to South Carolina? Experience the SC advantages:

- » Low operating and capital costs
- » Home to the Port of Charleston – 4th busiest East Coast port for container traffic
- » Cost of living one of the lowest in the U.S.
- » One of the lowest industrial power rates in U.S.
- » A right-to-work state
- » readySC – one of the nation’s premier training programs, with more than 2,100 companies served and 280,000 workers trained

## South Carolina’s Automotive Industry is Racing Ahead

The auto industry in South Carolina is creating an economic shift, with billions of dollars invested in the Palmetto State from three international OEM’s — South Carolina has become an attractive state for growth.



## New and Expanding Automotive Facilities

The table below highlights recent automotive announcements.

COMPANY	JOBS	CAPITAL INVESTMENT
Volvo Cars	4,000	\$500 million
Mercedes-Benz Vans	1,300	\$500 million
Citi Tire	1,700	\$560 million
Bridgestone Americas	850	\$1.2 billion
BMW Manufacturing	800	\$1 billion
Michelin North America	400	\$750 million
Continental Tire	1,700	\$500 Million
JTEKT Automotive	250	\$230 million
ZF Group	450	\$175 million
Bosch Rexroth Corporation	160	\$80 million
Gestamp South Carolina	100	\$51 million
Drive Automotive	60	\$50 million
Schaeffler Group	190	\$40 million

## Reasons Why Volvo, BMW and Mercedes-Benz Vans Call South Carolina Home

In the automotive industry, South Carolina has announced \$7.7 billion in capital investment and 17,600 jobs since 2011.

- » Ranks number one in exports of tires and passenger automobiles
- » Second leading exporting state to Germany
- » Automotive industry in the state has nearly quadrupled in two decades
- » Has the 10th fastest growing labor force nationwide
- » Ranks 3rd in the nation for foreign direct investment on the 2014 State New Economy Index



### Volvo Cars

Volvo Cars Corporation is establishing its first manufacturing facility in the Western hemisphere in Berkeley County, S.C. The new facility will have an initial annual production capacity around 100,000 cars and will manufacture the latest generation Volvo models for sale in the US and for export.



### Mercedes-Benz Vans

Mercedes-Benz Vans, a division of Daimler, established its presence in Ladson, S.C. in 2006 to build next generation Sprinter Vans. In 2015, the company announced its third expansion at its Ladson facility to include a new body shop, paint shop, and assembly line, and will represent Mercedes-Benz Vans' first full van manufacturing plant in North America.



### Strategically Located

**LOCATED IN THE SOUTHEAST OF THE UNITED STATES, MIDWAY BETWEEN NEW YORK AND MIAMI**

South Carolina is within 1,000 miles of 67 percent of the U.S. population, allowing effective service to the entire Southeast, which has become a hub for the automotive industry.

South Carolina boasts four primary commercial airports, two Class I railroads along with several short line systems, the world-class Port of Charleston and a dedicated break-bulk and bulk port facility in Georgetown.

Almost one-fifth of the country's population is within a one day drive of South Carolina, and any location in the state is within one hour of a commercial airport with daily non-stop flights to major cities and connections worldwide.

### World Brands Call South Carolina Home

- |             |                  |                |                    |
|-------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| Volvo       | Continental Tire | KEMET          | Robert Bosch       |
| 2 AM Group  | BMW              | Giti Tire      | Behr Heat Transfer |
| Gestamp     | PRETTL           | Dayco Products | Emitec             |
| Draexlmaier | Bridgestone      | Magna          | Plastic Omnium     |
| Michelin    | ZF               | Caterpillar    | SEW Eurodrive      |
| Sonoco      | Schaeffler       | Honda          | Mercedes-Benz Vans |



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