

French Industry in SC

Foreign companies play a vital role in South Carolina's economy. Foreign firms from more than 40 countries employ approximately 100,000 workers in the state. Attracting foreign investment is essential in today's global economy and the state of South Carolina has a long history of welcoming and growing manufacturing and research and development operations of multinational corporations.

The state of South Carolina has recorded capital investment from French companies totaling nearly \$3 billion since 2001, creating more than 3,200 new jobs in the past thirteen years. There are over 60 French companies in the state, employing nearly 15,000 South Carolinians. France is South Carolina's 15th largest trading partner purchasing over \$450 million in products in 2014.

Michelin North America is the largest French company based in South Carolina. With more than 8,000 employees, Michelin has invested more than \$4.5 billion in multiple manufacturing plants in the state since it began operations in the 1970s. Michelin North America, Michelin Aircraft Tire, and the Michelin Americas Research & Development Corporation are all headquartered in Greenville, SC.

The following industry giants represent just a few of the many major French firms with a presence in South Carolina:



Advantage South Carolina

Strategically located between New York City and Miami, South Carolina's exceptional transportation opportunities make reaching markets an easy task.



Thanks to its world-class business environment, skilled workforce, transportation infrastructure and close proximity to manufacturing firms in diverse industries, South Carolina has succeeded in attracting substantial capital investment from around the world.

#1 South Carolina ranks first among US states for jobs created by new and expanding international firms.
IBM Global Location Trends Report, 2014

Several key competitive advantages distinguish South Carolina as a business location:

Low Cost of Doing Business – South Carolina businesses thrive thanks to lower operating and capital costs, including nearly all aspects of managing a business, from employee wages to utilities, construction and taxes. The cost of living in South Carolina is 12 percent less than the national average and is the 10th lowest in the nation. The average salary in South Carolina ranks the 6th lowest in the nation and 2nd lowest in the Southeast region. Construction costs in South Carolina are the 6th lowest in the United States and the 4th lowest in the Southeast. Business-friendly regulations and smart investments in energy infrastructure give South Carolina the region's most affordable power costs. Industrial power costs in the state average only 6.25 cents per kilowatt hour, the lowest in the Southeast. The average South Carolina industrial electricity rate is among the lowest in the nation and 11 percent less than the national average of 7.01 cents per kilowatt hour. Compared with other southeastern states, South Carolina offers very low rates for natural gas to industrial users. The average price to industrial users

in 2014 was \$6.11 per thousand cubic feet, lower than Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

Workforce and Education – With a labor force of over 2.1 million people, South Carolina businesses can rely on a stable, highly-skilled, and efficient workforce at competitive wage rates. Among the 50 states, South Carolina boasts one of the top ten fastest growing labor forces nationwide and as a right to work state businesses in South Carolina can operate free from disruptive work stoppages.

Transportation Infrastructure – Served by 5 interstate highways, an efficient port with numerous worldwide shipping connections and the capability to support post-Panamax vessels, two Class One rail carriers and three major airports, South Carolina offers manufacturers numerous means of reaching customers and suppliers around the world.



Favorable Tax Climate and Incentives – An independent research group, The Tax Foundation, ranked South Carolina the state with the 12th lowest corporate income tax in the United States in 2014. South Carolina offers the following tax advantages:

- No state property tax
- No local income tax
- No inventory tax
- No sales tax on manufacturing machinery, industrial power or materials for finished products
- No wholesale tax
- No unitary tax on worldwide profits

- Favorable corporate income tax structure and one of the lowest rates in the nation

In addition, South Carolina offers a host of tax incentives to businesses choosing to locate or expand their manufacturing operations in the state:

- Job Development Tax Credits
- Economic Development Set-Aside Grants
- Corporate Headquarters Tax Credits
- Research and Development Tax Credits

Recent Investments from France

Since 2006, companies from France have announced over \$2 billion in capital investment creating more than 2,200 new jobs. The table below highlights a few of these recent announcements.

New and Expanding French Companies South Carolina, 2006- 2015		
Company	Jobs	Capital Investment
Michelin North America (2013)	100	\$200 Million
Michelin North America (2012)	500	\$750 Million
Michelin North America (2011)	270	\$200 Million
Nexans	200	\$85 Million
SPF North America	50	\$10 Million
Le Creuset (2011 & 2012)	25	\$5.6 Million
Chomarat North America	20	\$10 Million

South Carolina has an office in Europe, with a dedicated staff and a long and successful track record of helping international companies establish, relocate and expand business operations in the United States.

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