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March 1, 2013

## **South Carolina's exports reach record: nearly \$25.3 billion in 2012**

***Ranks first among U.S. states in tire exports; Canada,  
Germany and China top export markets***

In South Carolina, we are a sum of our parts, and each of our 46 counties has a special element, a unique quality that sets us apart from other states. This is especially true of South Carolina's rural communities. Our state is emerging as a world leader in manufacturing and our rural counties are integral in drawing businesses to South Carolina. Since 2011, Commerce has been able to successfully recruit more than 5,700 jobs and more than \$522 million investment to our rural areas. And, with more than 20 percent of South Carolina's workforce living in our state's rural communities, it is vitally important we promote growth in these areas.

On Monday, March 4, Commerce will join with Governor Haley to showcase our rural and economic development leaders from across the state during the 23rd annual South Carolina Rural Summit. This event will present a unique opportunity for community leaders, economic developers and state officials to exchange ideas on improving rural South Carolina.

I have often said economic development is a team sport and very little gets done on the sidelines. By supporting our rural partners we show that we are in

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Commerce showed South Carolina's 2012 exports totaled more than \$25.3 billion in goods sold to 197 countries around the world. The figures represent a 2.23 percent increase over 2011 totals and a record for the state. In 2012, South Carolina's export growth ranked the state 17th in the U.S.

"It is great to see South Carolina's export numbers continue to grow. Companies want to be able to reach world markets with their products, and our state certainly provides that opportunity with world-class port facilities. These numbers also show the strong economic ties our state has with countries around the globe," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

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## **Rural Infrastructure Authority awards grants for projects in 14 South Carolina communities**

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the game with them and on course to win.

-Secretary Bobby Hitt

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## Upcoming Seminars & Workshops

SpeedNews Aerospace Manufacturing Conference

South Carolina Rural Summit

South Carolina Supply Chain Summit

## News Makers

State official: Oconee County doing economic development right

S.C. moves up to No. 2 in tire production

Nephron plans mass hiring in the fall, will open Cayce plant in a year

Ground being broken on inland port in upstate SC

Port adds new service to Asia

Boeing Co. adding Dreamlifter facility in North Charleston

The South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority (RIA) has awarded nearly \$3.8 million in grants for 14 water, sewer and drainage projects in 13 counties across the state. These projects will benefit more than 8,000 residents.

“Setting the table is a key part of economic development success. The RIA grants help

those communities lacking resources in making the infrastructure improvements necessary for them to succeed and remain sustainable,” said Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt, who also serves as chairman of the RIA’s Board of Directors.

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## South Carolina TDL Summit Thursday, March 14

*Secretary Bobby Hitt joins industry leaders to discuss trends and future growth*

Registration is now open for the third annual South Carolina Transportation Distribution and Logistics (TDL)

Summit: Bridging the Gap for Tomorrow’s Infrastructure which will take place in Columbia, S.C., on Thursday, March 14. The South Carolina TDL Summit, being held at Seawell’s Banquet and Reception Center, will provide attendees with an in-depth look at the state’s infrastructure needs, strategies and latest industry trends.

“The transportation, distribution and logistics network in South Carolina has a major impact on our state’s economic growth,” said TDL Council member, South Carolina Commerce Secretary Bobby Hitt. “I’m looking forward to building on the dialogue and actions that resulted from last year’s TDL Summit and identifying solutions that will help us bridge the gap as we plan for the future,” he added.

For a full list of speakers, sponsorship information and to register for the South Carolina TDL Summit visit [www.tdlcouncilsc.com/summit](http://www.tdlcouncilsc.com/summit).

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