

From: South Carolina Department of Commerce <marketing@sccommerce.com>
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Subject: Aerospace Industry Soaring in South Carolina

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February 13, 2015

Much like the Palmetto flag that flies atop South Carolina's grand State House, the aerospace industry in our state is truly soaring. According to [a report](#) completed by the Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina, the state's aerospace sector generates an annual economic output of \$17 billion, and based upon recent growth, that figure will only continue to ascend.

Between 2010 and 2012, the number of aerospace firms increased more than 19 percent in South Carolina. As one of the state's fastest-growing industries, it's no surprise that aerospace has had a noticeable impact on international trade. According to data [announced earlier this week](#), aircraft was South Carolina's fourth most successful export commodity in 2014, helping the state achieve its fifth consecutive record year with more than \$29 billion in total export sales.

The success of the aerospace industry in the Palmetto State is only possible because of the collaborative efforts by the many members of Team South Carolina. On January 30, the [SC Council on Competitiveness](#) hosted the first in a series of events for the state's aerospace industry at the [Southeastern Institute for Manufacturing Technology](#) (SiMT) in Florence. Later this year, the Council, Commerce and several other organizations are partnering to host the second annual [Aerospace Industry Conference and Expo](#) on August 26 and 27 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. The event program will feature industry-important topics such as K-12 education, workforce development and technical symposia on analytics and simulation.

Thanks to a team effort, South Carolina boasts a soaring aerospace industry. Through collaboration with important partners around the state, we will continue to make sure that South Carolina remains *'Just right'* for aerospace.

Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce

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Spotlight: Quality of life in South Carolina

Whether you're strolling through Charleston's historic Battery, taking in a picturesque evening on the shores of Lake Murray or enjoying a delicious meal at one of our state's many fine dining establishments, one overlapping thing will be on display during the Valentine's Day celebrations throughout South Carolina tomorrow - the truly exceptional quality of life that we are all privileged to enjoy. Boasting a diverse geographic landscape, from the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean, there's something for everyone in South Carolina. Steeped in history and tradition, the Palmetto State offers a low cost of living, mild climate and robust secondary and higher education opportunities for its citizens.

South Carolina's quality of life is even gaining attention outside of the state borders. This week, the 2015 S.C. Governor's Conference on Tourism & Travel was held in Myrtle Beach, S.C. Leading up to the event, Duane Parrish, director of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, [predicted a third consecutive record year](#) for the state's \$18 billion tourism industry. However, it's not just tourists who are flocking to the Palmetto State. In its 38th Annual National Movers Study [released last month](#), United Van Lines ranked South Carolina second on its list of top moving destinations.

It's clear that South Carolina boasts the right ingredients, not only for doing business, but for living. Simply put, life in the Palmetto State is *'Just right.'*

Photo courtesy of Perry Baker, South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism.

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Commerce Capture: Giti Tire breaks ground in Chester County

Last June, [Giti Tire](#), the 10th largest company in the world, [announced the establishment](#) of its first U.S. manufacturing facility in Chester County, a capital investment of \$560 million. Yesterday, the company held the official groundbreaking ceremony at its new Richburg, S.C. facility, pictured above. Once fully operational, the plant is expected to employ approximately 1,700 workers and produce nearly 30,000 tires daily. The presence of Giti Tire will further solidify South Carolina's status as the country's leading tire manufacturing hub.

Photo courtesy of [Giti Tire](#).

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