



## Interstate Highway System: 75% of US Population within 1,000 Miles

South Carolina is crisscrossed by five interstate highways: I-20, I-26, I-77, I-85 and I-95. Offering excellent east-west and north-south access, these interstates are enhanced by more than 41,000 miles of state-maintained highways.

South Carolina has ranked in Annual Highway Report's top ten since 2000, except for 2002. The Reason Foundation focuses on overall highway performance and efficiency. (Source: *The Reason Foundation, September 2014*)

South Carolina has more than 91 miles of state-maintained highways for every 10,000 people living in the state, the highest ratio of any state with at least one million people in its labor force. (Sources: *Reason Foundation, U.S. Census Bureau*)

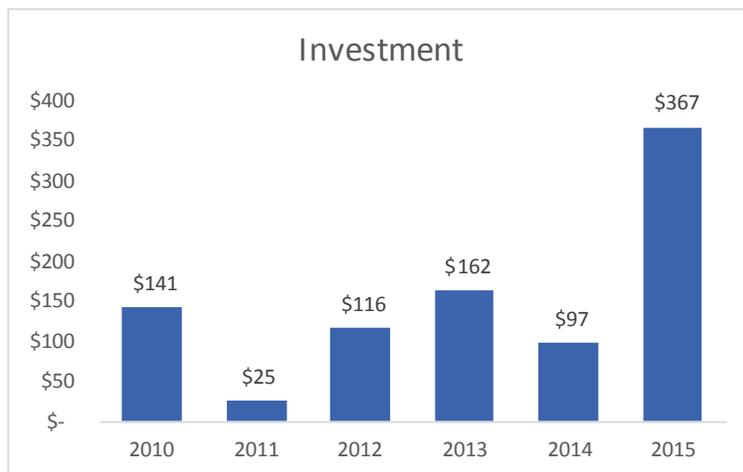


## Distribution & Logistics Sector: Confidence In Our State Infrastructure

In 2015, companies in the state announced capital investment of more than \$367 million and 2,410 jobs created from distribution and logistics companies. (Source: *South Carolina Department of Commerce, Investment Report*)

Dollar tree is establishing new distribution operations in the Upstate Corporate Park located in both Cherokee and Spartanburg counties. The \$104.4 million investment is expected to create 400 new jobs over the next five years. (Source: *South Carolina Department of Commerce, Press Release 2015*)

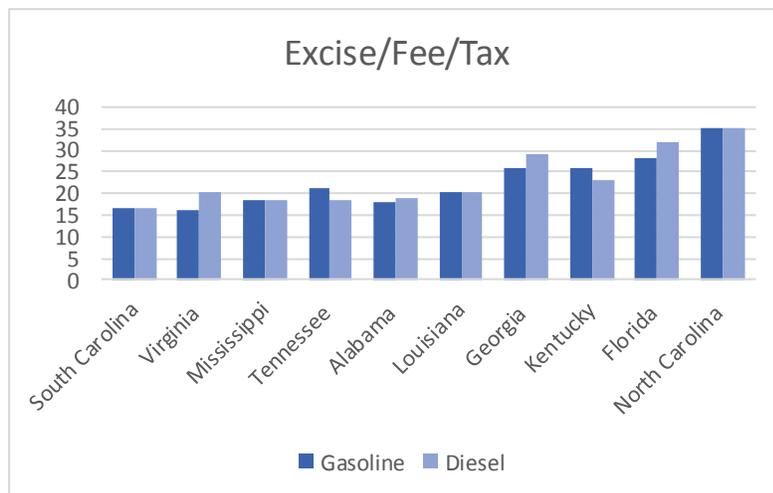
Charleston Harbor has been a key economic driver for more than 300 years. To meet the depth requirements of the growing number of large vessels calling Charleston, a next-generation harbor deepening project is underway that will make Charleston the deepest harbor on the East Coast. The project reached a key milestone in September 2015 with the USACE's issuance of the Chief's Report, their final substantive approval required for deepening to progress through construction. The construction phase is expected to begin in 2016 and will deliver a channel depth of 52 feet and entrance channel depth of 54 feet, as well as enlarged turning basins. (Source: *South Carolina Ports Authority, 2016*)



## Low Fuel Cost: Better Bottom Line

South Carolina consistently has one of the lower retail fuel costs in the nation, and typically the lowest in the Southeast, both for gasoline and motor diesel fuel. In March 2016, gasoline retail costs in South Carolina were the second least expensive in the country. (Source: AAA Fuel Gauge Report, March 2016)

South Carolina's low fuel cost is due, in part, to the state's low tax levels. Retail buyers, when compared to the national average, pay around 9 cents less per gallon in taxes for gasoline in South Carolina and diesel purchasers pay around 10 cents less per gallon. South Carolina provides the lowest fuel tax among the Southeastern states. The state's gasoline tax is the 4th lowest in the nation and diesel tax is the 5th lowest. (Source: Federation of Tax Administrators, 2016)



## Port of Charleston: Cornerstone of the Southeast

The Port of Charleston is the 7th largest US Custom District by value of its US waterborne foreign trade, and the largest in the Southeast. Nearly \$75 billion worth of goods moved through the Port of Charleston in 2015. The Port of Charleston is the 15th largest US Custom Port by volume for US waterborne foreign container trade, and the 6th largest on the East Coast, with more than 18 million tons moving through the Port in 2015. (Source: Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Division)

The Port of Charleston has been pivotal in supporting South Carolina's export growth, which has increased at a faster pace than the national average. From 2010 to 2015, total exports grew in South Carolina by 52% compared to 42% growth in the United States, reaching a total value of more than \$30 billion in 2015 alone. (Source: TradeStats Express)

The State Ports Authority and the State of South Carolina plan to spend a combined \$2 billion during the next decade on capital projects, including a new 280-acre marine terminal on the former Charleston Naval Base. (Source: South Carolina Ports, 2015).

TOTAL TRADE		
Rank	Customs District	Dollars
1	Los Angeles, CA	\$370,834
2	New York City, NY	\$204,432
3	Houston-Galveston,	\$178,157
4	Savannah, GA	\$107,691
5	New Orleans, LA	\$90,578
6	Seattle, WA	\$83,129
7	Charleston, SC	\$75,802
8	Norfolk, VA	\$71,809
9	San Francisco, CA	\$63,012
10	Miami, FL	\$52,434

## Recent rankings: South Carolina is Recognized Nationally

South Carolina's attraction for foreign investors was underscored in IBM's 2014 Global Location Trends report. For the third consecutive year, South Carolina came in 1st in the nation for jobs through foreign investment. The data derived from IBM's Global Investment Locations database which tracks announcements by companies on their location decisions. (Source: IBM, 2014 Global Location Trends, September 2015)

South Carolina named the 4th out of 10 states on the Top Ten Competitive States of 2014. (Source: Site Selection, 2015)

**Area Development** named South Carolina a **2015 Gold Shovel Award** winner in recognition of economic development projects undertaken in 2014. This is the **seventh 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 2014, 2012, and 2011 and a Silver Shovel Award recipient in 2013, 2010, and 2009. (Source: Area Development, June 2015)