German Industry in South Carolina

Foreign companies play a vital role in South Carolina’s economy. Foreign firms from more than 40 countries employ approximately 140,000 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.

Germany

The state of South Carolina has recorded capital investment from German companies totaling over $5.5 billion since 2011, creating more than 12,000 new jobs. There are over 200 German companies in the state, employing more than 40,000 South Carolinians. Germany is South Carolina’s 3rd largest trade partner purchasing more than $3.7 billion in products in 2018. With investment topping $140 million in 2018, German companies accounted for nearly one-third of all FDI and nearly one-half of jobs created by FDI in South Carolina.

BMW Manufacturing

BMW Group Plant Spartanburg- BMW Manufacturing is the largest German company based in South Carolina, employing 11,000 people on its seven-million square foot campus. BMW has invested more than $10.5 billion in South Carolina since beginning operations in 1992. Since beginning production in 1994, BMW Manufacturing has gone through six major expansions. Today, the BMW Manufacturing produces more than 1,500 vehicles a day and exports 70 percent of its vehicles to 125 countries. The factory is the global producer of the BMW X3, X3 M, X5, X5 M and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles and X4, X4 M, X6 and X6 M Sports Activity Coupes.

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