

State exports up 23 percent

COLUMBIA — South Carolina's 2010 exports totaled more than \$20.3 billion in goods sold to 192 countries around the world, representing a 23.2 percent increase over 2009 totals.

That export growth ranked South Carolina 17th in the U.S.

"A twenty-three percent increase in exports is only the beginning of what we will continue to see in South Carolina when we work on improving and modernizing our ports system and market our great state to the world," said Gov. Nikki Haley.

The state's top 10 export industries last year were vehicles, machinery, rubber, plastics, electrical machinery, organic chemicals, paper and paperboard, optics and medical equipment, wood

pulp and iron and steel. Of the top product sectors, the three experiencing the largest percentage increase were cotton yarn and fabric at an 89 percent increase, optical and medical equipment at nearly a 73 percent increase and inorganic chemicals and rare earth metals at nearly a 70 percent increase.

"South Carolina continues to see an increase in exports to markets around the world. Both Canada and Germany remain very important trade partners for South Carolina, and China is increasingly becoming an important market for goods made in our state. We look forward to seeing these trends continue in the coming years and the jobs that come with them," said Bobby Hitt, Secretary of Commerce.

Posting a 23 percent increase from 2009, Canada moved ahead of Germany as South Carolina's leading export market in 2010, purchasing more than \$3.17 billion in products.

Germany purchased more than \$2.9 billion in products. China moved up from number five in 2009 to number three in 2010, purchasing more than \$2.15 billion — more than doubling purchases from the previous year. Rounding out the top 10 export markets in 2010 in order of rank were Mexico at number four, the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, Kuwait, India and Japan.

Of the top 20 countries, three of South Carolina's most impressive growth markets in 2010 were Kuwait, China and South Korea.