

Geography

Location

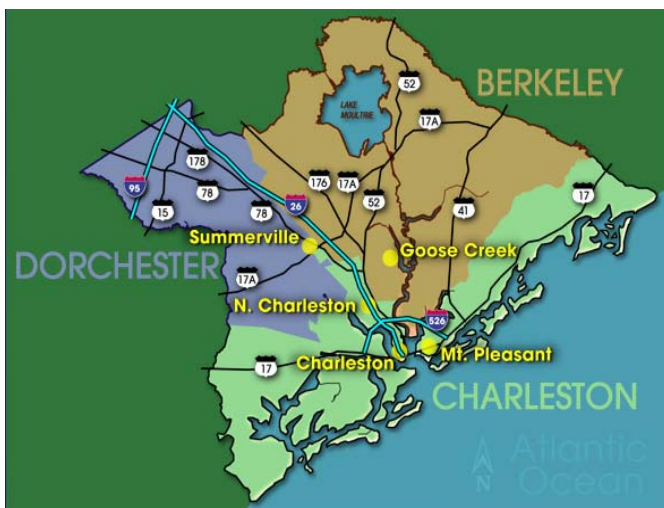
- The Charleston region of South Carolina is comprised of three counties – Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester.
- The region is situated about halfway between Washington D.C. and Miami, each about 500 miles (800 km) away.



- The region stretches along the south-central South Carolina coast.
- Includes over 90 miles (145 km) of Atlantic coastline.
- Reaches 50 miles (80 km) inland toward the intersection of Interstate highways 26 and 95.



From a geographic perspective, Charleston is strategically located for companies engaged in global commerce.



With its long coastline, the Charleston region features a large number of rivers and other tributaries, as well as freshwater lakes and salt marshes. Water is a common feature throughout the region.

Land and Water Area

Berkeley County	1,229.23 sq. miles	3,184 km ²
Charleston County	1,357.14 sq. miles	3,515 km ²
Dorchester County	576.74 sq. miles	1,494 km ²
Charleston Region	3,163.11 sq. miles	8,192 km ²

With an integrated highway system, a growing international airport, and the most productive container port in the United States, businesses located in the Charleston region find highly efficient access to the marketplace — by land, by air and by sea.

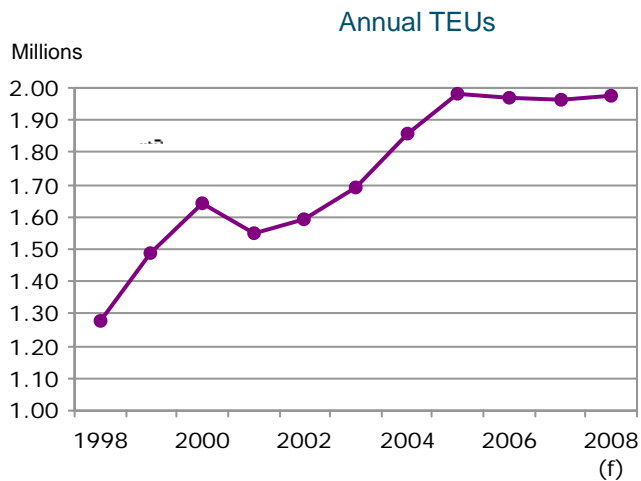
Efficient Highway Network

The Charleston region is efficiently served by a number of major, well-connected roadways:

- 3 Interstate highways: I-26 (east/west), I-95 (north/south); I-526 (perimeter east/west)
- 3 major U.S. highways
- 7 major state highways

The Port of Charleston

- The most productive container port in North America,
- The Charleston Customs District ranks as the nation's sixth largest in dollar value of international shipments.
- In 2006, the Port of Charleston handled 1.97 million 20-foot equivalents (TEUs), marking a new all-time record.
- Charleston is one of only a handful of ports to have received the Presidential "E" and "E-Star" awards for excellence in exporting.



Technology

- Recent capital investments and more streamlined procedures have cut trucker turn time in the yards by more than half.
- The Port uses the ORION computer system to expedite the cargo clearance process (most cleared up to three days prior to arrival).
- A new Yard Management System provides up-to-date information on cargo shipments.

Geography

- Charleston's port terminals are closer to the open sea than any competing port by a significant margin.
- With deep, wide channels and a short traveling distance, Charleston's facilities allow ships to spend minimum time in-port.

Countries Served

- Although shippers in two dozen states use Charleston to access international customers and suppliers, 45% of tonnage and about one-third of containers are related to South Carolina firms.
- Northern Europe and Asia are the Port's top markets, combining for 54% of total volume, but more than 150 countries in all are served directly from the port's docks.



Top Trade Routes

North Europe	34%
Northeast Asia	17%
India & Other Asia	14%
Mediterranean	10%
South America East	7%
South America West	4%
Africa	4%
Middle East	4%
East Europe	3%
Southeast Asia	3%
Central America	2%

Related Website

For more information on the Port of Charleston, visit:

www.port-of-charleston.com

Data Source

South Carolina State Ports Authority, 2006