

Turkey and South Carolina: A Job-Creating Economic Partnership



South Carolina imports more from Turkey than any other MENA country besides Israel.

In 2018, South Carolina imported more than \$273 million worth of goods and services from Turkey.

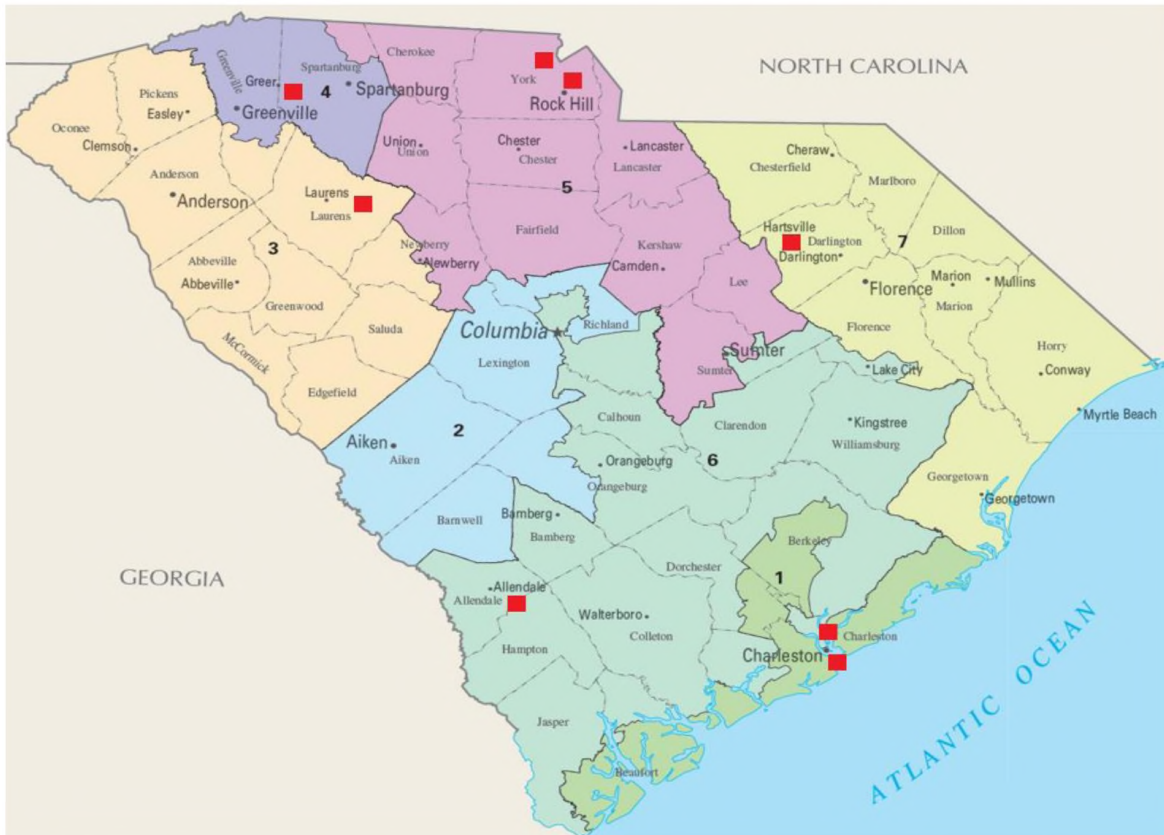
South Carolina is home to more than 1,400 Turkish Americans, many of whom are small business owners.

Turkey is the fourth biggest importer from South Carolina in the MENA region.

In 2018, Turkey imported almost \$100 million worth of goods and services from South Carolina.

Companies from South Carolina such as Sonoco have created hundreds of jobs across Turkey in recent years.

Below are the locations of eight companies in South Carolina that have strong ties to Turkey.



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South Carolina has benefited greatly from its strong ties to Turkey, with Turkish and Turkish-American businesses bringing numerous jobs and millions of dollars in investment to the people of South Carolina.

	<p>AKPA Kimya: Fairfax</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AKPA is a Turkish chemicals company that produces petrochemical, composite, and paint applications. • The company has a distribution and warehousing facility in Fairfax where it has 13 employees resulting from a \$2.6 million investment.
	<p>Fibertex: Laurens County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fibertex is a company headquartered in Denmark which manufactures a wide range of high-performance nonwoven textiles. The company has a 91,000-square-foot facility in Laurens County where it has 44 employees. • In Turkey, the company has a subsidiary with a major facility in Cerkezkoey, close to Istanbul.
	<p>Pulcra Chemicals: Rock Hill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulcra is a developer and manufacturer of innovative specialty chemicals for the fiber, textile and leather industries. • The company has a facility in Rock Hill with 65 employees, and recently spent \$3.1 million expanding the facility. • Chemicals produced in the Rock Hill facility are used by the company's Turkish subsidiary to produce leather.
	<p>Kismet: Charleston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kismet sells Turkish antiquities, bags, ceramics, furniture, lamps, carpets, and tapestries. • The store is owned and managed by local Turkish-American Recep Dinli.

Similarly, companies in South Carolina have played a major role in Turkey's growing prosperity.

	<p>Domtar Paper Company: Fort Mill</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based in Fort Mill, Domtar is the largest integrated producer of uncoated free-sheet paper in North America and the second largest in the world based on production capacity, and is also a manufacturer of papergrade pulp. • Turkey is currently their fourth largest foreign market.
	<p>Boeing: North Charleston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boeing brings together the economies of Turkey and South Carolina. In Turkey, Boeing has facilities in Ankara and Istanbul invests \$180 million annually in work placement, and currently supports nearly 5,000 jobs in the country. • In South Carolina, Boeing has an assembly plant in North Charleston with 6,000 employees.
	<p>BMW: Greer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BMW also connects the economies of Turkey and South Carolina. BMW has a factory in Greer which directly and indirectly employs 23,000 workers. • In Turkey, the company has more than 1,000 employees and imports components from Turkish suppliers. • Turkey is also one of BMW's fastest growing markets, with retail sales there growing by 24% between 2006 and 2011.
	<p>Sonoco: Hartville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headquartered in Hartville, Sonoco is an international provider of consumer packaging, industrial products, protective packaging, and packaging supply chain services and the world's largest producer of composite cans, tubes, and cores. • In Turkey, Sonoco has factories in Gaziantep and Bursa which are operated by around 120 employees.

Sumter County: Home to One of America's Oldest Turkish Communities

Yusuf ben Ali, later known as Joseph Benenhaley, was an Ottoman refugee who served the colonial cause in the Revolutionary War. He made his way to South Carolina where he served as a scout for General Sumter during the American Revolution. The grateful general then gave Benenhaley some land on his plantation to farm and raise a family – which has now grown to a community of several hundreds of people who still identify as “Turks” to this very day!

