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Forestry generates \$18.6 billion impact on SC economy

COLUMBIA—South Carolina Forestry Commission officials announced the economic impact of the forest products sector in grand fashion today, unveiling a large wooden sign representing the industry's \$18.6 billion contribution to the state's economy.

The new economic impact figure was revealed at a statewide meeting of forestry professionals organized by the SCFC, the South Carolina Forestry Association and forest industry allies.

While the updated figure was the main attraction of the meeting, other highlights of a recent economic analysis show that South Carolina forestry represents the state's:

- **Number one manufacturing sector**, in terms of jobs (**90,320**) and labor income (**\$4.5 billion**)
- **Number one export commodity** from the Port of Charleston, at **\$1.5 billion**
- **Number one agribusiness crop**, totaling **\$759 million**

A daylong program of speakers addressed other forestry-related economic issues, including a damage report update from the February 2014 ice storm, the establishment of a forest products marketing program, and the overall U.S. economic outlook presented by Wells Fargo Senior Economist Mark Vitner.



State Forester Gene Kodama, agency director of the South Carolina Forestry Commission, left, joined South Carolina Forestry Association President & CEO Cam Crawford Tuesday in announcing forestry's sizable contribution to the state's economy.

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