

# BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC

## Press Information

Media Information

March 8, 2019

### **BMW Manufacturing Continues as Largest U.S. Automotive Exporter by Value.**

Export Value From South Carolina Totals More Than \$8.4 Billion in 2018.

Plant Produces 4.5 Millionth BMW Built in South Carolina.

September 8<sup>th</sup> Marks 25 Years of Production in South Carolina.

**Spartanburg, S.C.** For the fifth consecutive year, BMW Manufacturing led the nation in automotive exports by value, according to data released this week by the U.S. Department of Commerce. BMW exported 234,689 X models from its Spartanburg, SC, plant during 2018. About 81 percent of these Sports Activity Vehicles and Coupes were exported through the Port of Charleston with an export value of more than \$8.4 billion, according to Commerce Department data. This confirms that the South Carolina factory is the leading U.S. automotive exporter by value.

The remaining 19 percent of BMW X models were exported through five other southeastern ports: Savannah, GA; Brunswick, GA; Jacksonville, FL; Miami, FL; and Everglades, FL. All totaled, the Spartanburg plant exported nearly 66 percent of its total production volume of 356,749 units. BMW Manufacturing's production volume and exports declined slightly in 2018 due to model updates of the popular BMW X4 and BMW X5.

"Despite last year's model changeovers and the ongoing uncertainty regarding trade and tariffs, Plant Spartanburg is still positively contributing to the U.S. balance of trade," said Knudt Flor, president and CEO of BMW Manufacturing. "This achievement clearly reinforces BMW's ongoing commitment in the U.S. With additional models such as the first-ever BMW X7, the BMW X3 M and X4 M, and the recently-announced BMW X3 and X5 plug-in hybrid vehicles, we anticipate an increase in production and exports for 2019."

In 2017, BMW announced an additional \$600 million investment in the Spartanburg plant from 2018 through 2021 for manufacturing infrastructure for future generations of X models. Last



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month, the plant produced the 4.5 millionth BMW built in South Carolina. Later in the year, associates will mark 25 years of BMW production in the state.

“The remarkable partnership between BMW and South Carolina continues to thrive, and this is evident by the fact that our state remains the nation’s leader in the export sales of completed passenger vehicles,” said South Carolina Secretary of Commerce Bobby Hitt. “I offer my congratulations to BMW and its Upstate workforce on another strong year. Together, we’re showing the world that South Carolina truly is ‘Just right.’”

“BMW is a significant port user whose operations are a tremendous asset to the Port and the state of South Carolina,” said Jim Newsome, president and CEO of the South Carolina Ports Authority. “As customers of both Inland Port Greer and the Port of Charleston, BMW’s continued expansion has been a driver of our strong import and export volumes. We are proud to serve the nation’s leading automotive exporter and look forward to supporting their future growth.”

BMW Group Plant Spartanburg produces more than 1,400 vehicles each day. In 2018, the Spartanburg plant produced 356,749 vehicles. The factory has a production capacity of 450,000 vehicles and employs more than 11,000 people.

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### **BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC**

BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC is a subsidiary of BMW AG in Munich, Germany, and is the global producer of the BMW X3, X5, X5 M and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles and X4, X6 and X6 M Sports Activity Coupes. In addition to the South Carolina manufacturing facility, BMW Group North American subsidiaries include sales, marketing and financial services operations in the United States, Canada and throughout Latin America; and a design firm and technology office in California. For more information on BMW Manufacturing, visit [www.bmwusfactory.com](http://www.bmwusfactory.com).

### **BMW Group In America**

BMW of North America, LLC has been present in the United States since 1975. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars NA, LLC began distributing vehicles in 2003. The BMW Group in the United States has grown to include marketing, sales, and financial service organizations for the BMW brand of motor vehicles, including motorcycles, the MINI brand, and Rolls-Royce Motor Cars; Designworks, a strategic design consultancy based in California; technology offices in Silicon Valley and Chicago, and various other operations throughout the country. BMW Manufacturing Co., LLC in South Carolina is the BMW Group global center of competence for BMW X models and manufactures the X3, X4, X5, X6 and X7 Sports Activity Vehicles and Coupes. The BMW Group sales organization is represented in the U.S. through networks of 347 BMW passenger car and BMW Sports Activity Vehicle centers, 148 BMW motorcycle retailers, 125 MINI



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passenger car dealers, and 37 Rolls-Royce Motor Car dealers. BMW (US) Holding Corp., the BMW Group's sales headquarters for North America, is located in Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

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**Journalist note:** BMW Plant Spartanburg information is available at [www.bmwusfactory.com](http://www.bmwusfactory.com). Information about BMW Group and its products in the USA is available at [www.press.bmwna.com](http://www.press.bmwna.com) and [www.bmwusanews.com](http://www.bmwusanews.com).

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