

Labor Resources for Aiken, South Carolina

Executive Summary

This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of Aiken, South Carolina. Aiken is located in Aiken County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of Aiken.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Aiken, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	116,647	237,608	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	52,272	107,180	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	3,293	6,705	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.3%	6.1%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	329	1,313	22,196
Average Wages	Aiken County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$737	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Aiken, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	52,272	107,180	2,046,179
Change since 2000	805	-3,146	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	116,647	237,608	4,198,068
Change since 2000	5,194	13,620	186,056
Projected 2010	132,821	335,769	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	56,405	115,509	2,040,261
Female	60,242	122,099	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	22,080	45,804	875,330
Ages 35-49	25,941	50,927	925,330
Ages 50-64	21,003	43,176	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	56,162	113,455	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	37,075	74,567	778,054
Some College	22,873	46,889	500,194
Associate Degree	7,534	16,139	173,428
Bachelors Degree	15,363	32,770	351,526
Post Bachelor	7,969	16,169	178,529

**Prime working age group:* People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

Employment Characteristics for Aiken, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	48,978	100,475	1,906,571

Total Employment data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Aiken County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	158	503	12,379
Mining	131	267	1,603
Utilities	270	589	11,891
Construction	3,811	8,610	111,730
Manufacturing	6,995	21,933	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	54	292	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	538	1,177	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	7	118	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,030	2,373	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	55	850	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	30	363	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	26	435	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	376	2,752	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	38	112	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	30	303	7,846
Food manufacturing	75	931	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	1,758	3,945	40,207
Textile product mills	18	287	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	1	21	5,321
Paper manufacturing	35	523	14,710
Printing and related support activities	78	534	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	257	829	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	929	2,039	23,054
Wholesale Trade	618	3,759	62,523
Retail Trade	5,421	14,242	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	812	2,933	46,941
Education and Health Services	4,667	16,736	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	3,716	10,277	192,748
Professional and Business Services	10,897	19,283	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Aiken County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Westinghouse Savannah River	Aiken	Nuclear materials	11,700	1952
Kimberly-Clark Corp	Beech Island	Tissue products	1,200	1966
Bridgestone Firestone	Graniteville	Passenger & light truck tires	925	1997
AGY, Inc	Aiken	Glass fiber	690	1960
Avondale Mills-Gregg Plant	Graniteville	Dyeing & finishing of fabrics	654	1950
Shaw Industries	Aiken	Carpet yarns	605	1993
Avondale Mills-Townsend Plant	Graniteville	Blended fabrics	468	1966
Hubbell Power Systems	Aiken	High voltage insulators	415	1963
Newman Technology	Aiken	Exhaust systems & parts	350	2001
ASCO Valve Manufacturing	Aiken	Solenoid valves	340	1987
Glaxo Smithkline	Aiken	Proprietary drugs	274	1978
PACTIV Corporation	Beech Island	Plastic food service products	260	1974
SKF Automotive Division	Graniteville	Automotive hub units	256	1997
RE Phelon Co	Aiken	Aluminum die-casting	210	1979
TTX SRD-Hamburg	North Augusta	Rebuilt railway cars	200	1967
Carlise Tire & Wheel	Aiken	Metal stamping	200	1991
United Defense LP	Aiken	Fabricated & welded metal	177	1967
Avondale Mills-Swint Plant	Graniteville	Twills,sateen, bedford cords	149	1963
Pepperidge Farm Inc	Aiken	Retail bakery products	137	1976
Halocarbon Products Corp	North Augusta	Specialty organic chemicals	132	1983

Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

Availability of Labor

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	52,272	107,180	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	805	-3,146	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	45%	45%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	3,293	6,705	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	6.1%	6.8%

The *labor force participation rate* is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

Unemployment reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	329	1,313	22,196
Manufacturing	145	916	19,196
Distribution	29	185	1,213
Service	155	213	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	15,449	37,863	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Aiken County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	165
Data Processing Technology	165
Engineering Technologies (Total)	65
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	51
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	101
Industrial Electronics	20
HVAC	46
Precision Production (Total)	23
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	18

Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Aiken County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$737	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$38,312	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

** Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Aiken County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$40,129	\$39,027
Wood product	\$17,794	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$41,662	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$36,151	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$35,787	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$27,676	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$18,843	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$25,614	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$20,229	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$39,196	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$53,670	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Aiken and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Aiken Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$7.36	\$8.39	\$9.10
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$6.25	\$8.43	\$11.73
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$6.89	\$9.14	\$10.53
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$6.50	\$7.54	\$8.49
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$11.16	\$14.53	\$17.30
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.28	\$17.73	\$22.53
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.41	\$12.38	\$13.47
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.66	\$16.02	\$19.13
Machinists	\$11.77	\$14.94	\$16.63
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.35	\$12.93	\$16.16
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.10	\$7.40	\$8.62
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.20	\$10.33	\$11.58
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.15	\$15.62	\$18.02
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$12.30	\$15.78	\$18.86
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$6.21	\$7.89	\$9.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Aiken Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$67,760	\$76,060	\$88,260
Computer Programmers	*	*	*
Engineers, NEC	\$70,360	\$75,740	\$85,860
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$44,000	\$56,040
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	*	*	*

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available