

# Labor Resources for Columbia, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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

## Labor Situation at a Glance in Columbia, South Carolina

<b>Labor Force Characteristics</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Population, 2004	385,189	655,832	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	176,036	298,640	2,046,179
<b>Availability of Labor</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Unemployed Workers, 2004	11,169	19,255	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.3%	5.8%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	195	1,366	22,196
<b>Average Wages</b>	<b>Richland County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$415	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Columbia, 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.

<b>Labor Force</b>			
	<b>30 min. Drive time</b>	<b>45 min. Drive time</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Labor Force 2004	176,036	298,640	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-20,985	-33,234	49,079
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2004	385,189	655,832	4,198,068
Change since 2000	8,309	19,269	186,056
Projected 2010	164,134	414,787	4,446,704
<b>Gender Distribution</b>			
Male	189,644	321,749	2,040,261
Female	195,545	334,082	2,132,454
<b>Age Distribution</b>			
Ages 20-34	89,325	146,440	875,330
Ages 35-49	81,435	137,489	925,330
Ages 50-64	64,463	111,986	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	196,961	328,936	2,084,880
<b>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</b>			
High School	136,949	227,725	778,054
Some College	59,842	106,762	500,194
Associate Degree	25,451	43,758	173,428
Bachelors Degree	44,290	78,226	351,526
Post Bachelor	17,744	33,014	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 Columbia, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	164,867	279,385	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 Richland County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>1,043</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,138</b>	<b>10,145</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>8,622</b>	<b>25,128</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	170	415	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	140	522	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing		50	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	768	2,094	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	367	1,419	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	563	1,119	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.		184	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	399	1,935	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	51	141	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	139	657	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,250	2,427	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	352	2,171	40,207
Textile product mills	54	305	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	6	66	5,321
Paper manufacturing	227	590	14,710
Printing and related support activities	339	780	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	101	850	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	15	566	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>2,605</b>	<b>5,989</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>7,059</b>	<b>17,588</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>2,250</b>	<b>4,709</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>10,277</b>	<b>24,442</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>4,838</b>	<b>12,383</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>3,763</b>	<b>10,448</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Largest Industries by Total Employment In Richland County

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
SCANA Corporation	Columbia	Electric services	5,000	1846
Blue Cross & Blue Shield of SC	Columbia	Health insurance & administration	2,000	1946
Computer Sciences Corp (CSC)	Blythewood	Consulting services	1,100	1974
Westinghouse Electric Corp	Columbia	Nuclear fuel assemblies	1,059	1968
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance	Columbia	Accident & health insurance	1,000	1939
Bose Corp	Blythewood	Radios	960	1995
International Paper	Eastover	Fine paper	726	1983
Schneider Electric-Square D Co	Hopkins	Industrial electrical controls	565	1972
The State-Record Company	Columbia	Newspapers & business services	500	1891
Siemens Diesel Systems Technology	Blythewood	Diesel injectors	490	1999
Intertape Polymer Group	Columbia	Pressure sensitive tapes	425	1951
Indus Utility Systems	Columbia	Computer software	413	1973
FN Manufacturing Inc	Columbia	Handguns	375	1980
Spirax Sarco Inc	Blythewood	Steam systems	317	1998
Consolidated Systems Inc	Columbia	Roof & floor deck centering	300	1957
Companion Professional Services	Columbia	IT placement	300	1976
Hanson Brick	Columbia	Clay face brick	300	1919
Belk Distribution Center	Blythewood	Department store goods distribution	299	2000
GKN Driveline	Columbia	Automotive wheel & main drive assemblies	290	1986
Shakespeare Co-Monofilament Div	Columbia	Polyester/nylon monofilaments	275	1956

### 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)	176,036	298,640	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-20,985	-33,234	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	46%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	11,169	19,255	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.3%	5.8%	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	195	1,366	22,196
Manufacturing	136	1,204	19,196
Distribution	58	126	1,213
Service	1	36	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	49,500	92,113	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 Richland County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	381
Data Processing Technology	180
Engineering Technologies (Total)	154
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	68
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	334
Industrial Electronics	44
HVAC	50
Precision Production (Total)	131
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	97

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	Richland County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$415	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$21,588	\$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	Richland County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$22,372	\$39,027
Wood product	***	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	***	\$37,533
Machinery	***	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	***	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Columbia and Surrounding Area

<b>Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Richland County Area*</b>			
<b>Non-Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.01	\$12.25	\$15.34
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$8.86	\$10.85	\$13.19
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$9.23	\$12.52	\$15.19
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$11.23	\$12.23	\$13.59
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$10.39	\$11.92	\$13.19
Logging Equipment Operators	\$8.56	\$10.24	\$10.65
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.91	\$15.55	\$19.27
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$9.01	\$12.80	\$15.97
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.77	\$11.02	\$12.62
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$11.71	\$12.43	\$13.22
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.82	\$8.60	\$10.52
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.25	\$9.82	\$10.59
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.04	\$16.23	\$19.76
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$9.76	\$12.18	\$13.99
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$8.97	\$10.53	\$12.34
<b>Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Richland County Area*</b>			
<b>Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$34,340	\$49,480	\$63,860
Engineers, NEC	\$30,600	\$46,040	\$57,640
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,120	\$42,380	\$51,840
Industrial Engineers	\$37,180	\$47,060	\$56,080
Mechanical Engineers	\$46,200	\$57,280	\$68,040

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

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available