

# Labor Resources for Darlington, 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 Darlington, South Carolina. Darlington is located in Darlington 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 Darlington.

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

<b>Labor Force Characteristics</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Population, 2004	119,482	246,496	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	68,054	128,183	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	4,728	10,024	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	6.9%	8.9%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	483	1,022	22,196
<b>Average Wages</b>	<b>Darlington County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$642	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Darlington, 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	68,054	128,183	2,046,179
Change since 2000	12,378	15,070	49,079
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2004	119,482	246,496	4,198,068
Change since 2000	1,756	3,268	186,056
Projected 2010	122,056	235,119	4,446,704
<b>Gender Distribution</b>			
Male	56,439	117,093	2,040,261
Female	63,044	129,403	2,132,454
<b>Age Distribution</b>			
Ages 20-34	23,790	49,549	875,330
Ages 35-49	25,948	53,392	925,330
Ages 50-64	22,040	44,390	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	58,413	120,509	2,084,880
<b>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</b>			
High School	38,422	81,291	778,054
Some College	20,220	39,930	500,194
Associate Degree	7,038	13,825	173,428
Bachelors Degree	12,384	23,477	351,526
Post Bachelor	5,793	11,115	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 Darlington, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	63,326	118,159	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 Darlington County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>2,293</b>	<b>3,713</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>9,413</b>	<b>18,622</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	496	806	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	54	103	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	628	747	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	816	1,943	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	449	753	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	312	726	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	13	23	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	15	21	7,846
Food manufacturing	370	603	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	188	1,384	40,207
Textile product mills	186	330	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	54	212	5,321
Paper manufacturing	2,280	2,858	14,710
Printing and related support activities	41	80	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	669	1,193	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	101	181	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>1,476</b>	<b>2,750</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>5,501</b>	<b>10,387</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1,705</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>8,106</b>	<b>14,967</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>3,578</b>	<b>6,589</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>3,161</b>	<b>4,945</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Largest Industries by Total Employment In *Darlington* County

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Sonoco Products	Hartsville	Paper packaging products	2,021	1899
Galey & Lord Inc/Society Hill Plt	Society Hill	Dyeing & finishing of cloth	725	1988
Georgia-Pacific Dixie Products	Darlington	Paper plates	500	1938
Wellman Inc/Palmetto Plant	Darlington	Polyester staple fiber	450	1973
Nucor Steel	Darlington	Steel angles, channels & flats	401	1969
APAC Coastal Carolina	Darlington	Asphalt	375	1964
MSD Inc	Darlington	Relays and industrial controls	250	1990
Darlington Veneer Co	Darlington	Hardwood plywood	205	1918
Stingray Power Boats	Hartsville	Fiberglass boats	190	1979
Chesterfield Lumber Co	Darlington	Lumber	180	1939
Roller Bearing Co of America	Hartsville	Bearings	144	1967
Perfection Clutch	Timmons ville	Clutches	133	1981
Craig Industries Inc	Lamar	Ladies' sportswear	100	1981
JBE Inc	Hartsville	Sub-assembly ATVs & personal watercraft		
Anderson Brass Co	Hartsville	Brass valves	75	1981
HRS Textiles Inc	Darlington	Non woven textile fabrics	74	1979
Ampak	Hartsville	Paper spools	70	1966
Frazier Industrial Co	Lamar	Steel storage racks	63	1998
Hartsville Oil Mill-Darlington Plt	Darlington	Cottonseed oil, meal & linters	60	1900
Royster-Clarke-Rainbow Division	Hartsville	Fertilizer	56	1931

### 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)	68,054	128,183	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	12,378	15,070	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	57%	52%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	4,728	4,945	139,607
Unemployment Rate	6.9%	8.9%	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	483	1,022	22,196
Manufacturing	483	1,017	19,196
Distribution	-	-	1,213
Service	-	4	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	14,301	28,931	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 Darlington County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	89
Data Processing Technology	81
Engineering Technologies (Total)	86
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	24
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	161
Industrial Electronics	40
HVAC	56
Precision Production (Total)	123
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	63

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	Darlington County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$642	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$33,377	\$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	Darlington County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$48,419	\$39,027
Wood product	\$27,665	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	\$61,438	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,948	\$37,533
Machinery	\$38,226	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$33,541	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	***	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$23,969	\$34,350
Food	\$41,851	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	\$61,112	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$30,290	\$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 Darlington and Surrounding Area

<b>Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Darlington County Area*</b>			
<b>Non-Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.48	\$10.89	\$12.74
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$7.89	\$10.36	\$12.02
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$7.64	\$8.94	\$10.09
Chemical Equipment Operators	\$12.98	\$15.86	\$18.72
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$14.36	\$14.94	\$16.54
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$11.97	\$13.87	\$16.17
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.85	\$12.91	\$14.03
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.34	\$13.60	\$16.21
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.88	\$13.55	\$15.51
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.30	\$14.66	\$16.28
Machinists	\$12.92	\$14.77	\$16.80
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$8.10	\$10.40	\$12.29
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$13.52	\$15.45	\$17.26
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.80	\$8.12	\$9.54
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$8.37	\$9.75	\$10.94
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.45	\$15.43	\$19.46
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.32	\$12.29	\$13.38
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
<b>Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Darlington County Area*</b>			
<b>Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Chemical Engineers	\$47,280	\$61,580	\$77,780
Computer Programmers	\$28,640	\$41,560	\$53,660
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,260	\$39,300	\$46,220
Industrial Engineers	\$38,520	\$49,500	\$59,320
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,000	\$55,160	\$64,000

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

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available