

Labor Resources for Gaffney, 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 Gaffney, South Carolina. Gaffney is located in Cherokee 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 Gaffney.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Gaffney, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	162,451	409,104	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	76,661	203,773	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	6,399	15,532	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	8.3%	7.5%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	562	1,156	22,196
Average Wages	Cherokee County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$556	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Gaffney, 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	76,661	203,773	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-5,105	-2,304	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	162,451	409,104	4,198,068
Change since 2000	14,682	67,175	186,056
Projected 2010	414,479	1,729,410	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	78,618	198,087	2,040,261
Female	83,833	211,017	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	32,696	82,032	875,330
Ages 35-49	36,467	92,517	925,330
Ages 50-64	28,962	72,433	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	80,261	202,333	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	51,994	124,403	778,054
Some College	30,673	81,482	500,194
Associate Degree	10,102	27,365	173,428
Bachelors Degree	16,002	46,521	351,526
Post Bachelor	8,010	22,595	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 Gaffney, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	70,262	188,240	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 Cherokee County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,045	4,744	12,379
Mining	113	553	1,603
Utilities	982	4,295	11,891
Construction	10,088	42,915	111,730
Manufacturing	29,693	114,106	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	640	2,920	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	729	3,274	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	445	2,144	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	2,288	10,515	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	1,522	7,827	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	599	2,885	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	973	4,284	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	2,181	10,805	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	745	2,643	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	589	2,760	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,257	6,147	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	102	490	1,445
Textile mills	4,523	15,737	40,207
Textile product mills	686	3,510	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	746	2,226	5,321
Paper manufacturing	1,037	5,090	14,710
Printing and related support activities	634	2,709	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	20	98	288
Chemical manufacturing	1,698	8,208	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1,971	9,003	23,054
Wholesale Trade	5,123	23,281	62,523
Retail Trade	19,420	85,568	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	4,530	18,618	46,941
Education and Health Services	28,480	128,531	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	16,370	72,011	192,748
Professional and Business Services	14,789	70,032	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Cherokee County

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
NESTLE USA Prepared Food Div	Gaffney	Frozen prepared foods	1,512	1980
Sanders Bros Inc	Gaffney	Fabricated metal products	1,200	1955
The Timken Company	Gaffney	Tapered roller bearings	1,000	1970
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	Gaffney	Motor home chassis	650	1989
Overnite Transportation Co	Gaffney	Trucking-motor freight	530	
Hamrick Mills	Gaffney	Print cloth & sheeting	444	1900
Brown Packing Co Inc	Gaffney	Beef	250	1947
Newark Electronics-Premier Farnell	Gaffney	Electronic parts & equipment	210	1989
Springfield LLC	Gaffney	Broadwoven fabrics	200	1999
Oxford Industries	Gaffney	Ladies' sportswear	190	
Alcoa Home Exteriors	Gaffney	Molded plastics	175	
Wellstone Mills-Gaffney Div	Gaffney	Yarn	171	1989
The Robert Allen Group	Gaffney	Draperies & upholstery	156	1986
Core Molding Technologies	Gaffney	Fiberglass plastic products	114	1997
Watts Regulator Co	Chesnee	Water heater regulators	100	1987
Linpac Paper	Cowpens	Kraft liner	96	1992
Carolina Cotton Works Inc	Gaffney	Fabric dyeing	88	1994
Bic Corporation	Gaffney	Pens	85	1992
Fashion Technologies Inc	Gaffney	Textile engraving	80	1959
Hamrick Industries	Gaffney	Ladies' apparel	70	1974

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)	76,661	203,773	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-5,105	-2,304	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	47%	50%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	6,399	15,532	139,607
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	7.5%	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	562	1,156	22,196
Manufacturing	354	925	19,196
Distribution	208	220	1,213
Service	-	11	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	17,153	41,709	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 Cherokee County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	99
Data Processing Technology	99
Engineering Technologies (Total)	89
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	27
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	20
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	156
Industrial Electronics	63
HVAC	54
Precision Production (Total)	86
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	19

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	Cherokee County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$556	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$28,900	\$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	Cherokee County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$36,201	\$39,027
Wood product	\$23,045	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$29,534	\$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	\$16,875	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$26,991	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$31,728	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	\$20,688	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$34,935	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	***	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$36,894	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Gaffney and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Cherokee County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$ 8.07	\$ 10.00	\$ 11.63
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$ 8.75	\$ 10.68	\$ 11.53
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$10.42	\$12.09	\$13.72
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	\$12.11	\$13.69	\$14.99
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$9.04	\$10.87	\$12.51
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$10.25	\$12.05	\$13.75
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.52	\$15.51	\$19.19
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$9.91	\$12.80	\$15.27
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$14.53	\$18.41	\$22.73
Machinists	\$13.16	\$15.93	\$18.56
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$9.05	\$11.25	\$13.15
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$8.37	\$10.24	\$11.08
Sewing Machine Operators	\$8.17	\$9.40	\$10.64
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.72	\$11.49	\$13.01
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.90	\$17.43	\$21.75
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$12.30	\$14.85	\$17.09
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Cherokee County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$36,740	\$52,760	\$67,600
Engineers, NEC	\$46,640	\$53,500	\$62,540
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$32,780	\$44,180	\$54,900
Industrial Engineers	\$56,180	\$68,440	\$83,220
Mechanical Engineers	\$49,780	\$64,200	\$81,160

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

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available