

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

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

<b>Labor Force Characteristics</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Population, 2004	75,580	224,726	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	34,026	103,357	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	2,536	7,202	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	7.5%	6.6%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	3,211	4,240	22,196
<b>Average Wages</b>	<b>Saluda County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$582	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Saluda, 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	34,026	103,357	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-2,268	-5,518	49,079
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2004	75,580	224,726	4,198,068
Change since 2000	12,779	19,546	186,056
Projected 2010	347,505	527,461	4,446,704
<b>Gender Distribution</b>			
Male	36,847	109,166	2,040,261
Female	38,733	115,561	2,132,454
<b>Age Distribution</b>			
Ages 20-34	15,436	45,196	875,330
Ages 35-49	15,880	46,528	925,330
Ages 50-64	13,654	40,608	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	36,458	107,121	2,084,880
<b>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</b>			
High School	23,294	69,557	778,054
Some College	13,891	41,763	500,194
Associate Degree	5,405	16,272	173,428
Bachelors Degree	9,914	30,548	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,760	14,500	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 Saluda, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	31,490	96,155	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 Saluda County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>722</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>7,413</b>	<b>11,567</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>36,643</b>	<b>49,152</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	593	1,046	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	1,533	1,735	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	415	425	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	2,823	4,061	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	2,502	3,110	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	269	537	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	1,530	1,536	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	7,921	8,176	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	160	210	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	1,039	1,540	7,846
Food manufacturing	1,113	1,710	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	4,937	5,659	40,207
Textile product mills	958	975	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	100	160	5,321
Paper manufacturing	1,445	1,559	14,710
Printing and related support activities	1,086	1,259	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	2,112	2,836	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	3,065	3,315	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>6,702</b>	<b>8,664</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>16,168</b>	<b>23,496</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>3,563</b>	<b>5,077</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>25,121</b>	<b>36,415</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>12,420</b>	<b>17,689</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>12,308</b>	<b>18,119</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Largest Industries by Total Employment In Saluda County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Amick Farms Inc	Batesburg- Leesville	Processed poultry	1250	1948
Gentry's Poultry Co	Ward	Processed poultry	180	1955
Carolina By Products	Ward	Animal feed	100	1995
Quality Stitching	Saluda	Athletic apparel	90	1993
International Paper	Johnston	Finished SYP dimension boards	66	1985

### 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)	34,026	103,357	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-2,268	-5,518	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	45%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	2,536	7,202	139,607
Unemployment Rate	7.5%	6.6%	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	3,211	4,240	22,196
Manufacturing	2,798	3,686	19,196
Distribution	384	476	1,213
Service	28	78	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	13,618	37,594	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their resident 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 Saluda County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	152
Data Processing Technology	142
Engineering Technologies (Total)	142
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	19
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	2
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	231
Industrial Electronics	62
HVAC	85
Precision Production (Total)	282
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	86

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	Saluda County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$582	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$30,240	\$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	Saluda County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$44,329	\$39,027
Wood product	\$27,340	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$36,866	\$39,031
Primary metal	\$37,245	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$39,364	\$37,533
Machinery	\$40,266	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	\$42,473	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	\$43,121	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$54,270	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$26,882	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$39,731	\$34,350
Food	\$31,557	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$39,400	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$33,065	\$25,618
Apparel	\$32,778	\$23,705
Paper	\$41,772	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$39,369	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$51,361	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$49,466	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In Saluda and Surrounding Area

<b>Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Saluda Area</b>			
<b>Non-Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	*	*	*
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	*	*	*
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$9.97	\$11.63	13.39
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.80	\$11.81	13.64
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.17	\$14.25	16.9
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.07	\$12.82	14.72
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.46	\$14.49	16.33
Machinists	\$11.68	\$13.85	16.14
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$8.42	\$10.84	13.95
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$8.05	\$10.05	12.28
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.70	\$9.02	10.67
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$9.09	\$10.47	12.09
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.11	\$14.95	16.78
Welders, Cutters & Solders	\$11.82	\$13.80	15.73
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.02	\$10.77	12.66
<b>Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Saluda Area*</b>			
<b>Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
Chemical Engineers	\$46,820	\$55,460	\$66,020
Computer Programmers	\$32,400	\$40,960	\$49,560
Engineers, NEC	\$45,360	\$49,520	\$56,100
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,240	\$39,140	\$46,920
Industrial Engineers	\$43,060	\$50,620	\$59,020
Mechanical Engineers	\$49,380	\$56,920	\$63,920

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

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available