

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

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

<b>Labor Force Characteristics</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Population, 2004	82,631	263,459	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	38,289	127,110	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	3,667	10,560	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	9.6%	8.1%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	299	1,132	22,196
<b>Average Wages</b>	<b>Union County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$485	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Union, 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	38,289	127,110	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-3,594	-3,506	49,079
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2004	82,631	263,459	4,198,068
Change since 2000	4,809	39,778	186,056
Projected 2010	211,268	1,121,026	4,446,704
<b>Gender Distribution</b>			
Male	39,576	127,154	2,040,261
Female	43,055	136,305	2,132,454
<b>Age Distribution</b>			
Ages 20-34	16,110	52,069	875,330
Ages 35-49	18,495	59,003	925,330
Ages 50-64	15,029	47,263	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	40,306	129,088	2,084,880
<b>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</b>			
High School	26,799	83,681	778,054
Some College	14,899	49,675	500,194
Associate Degree	4,935	16,727	173,428
Bachelors Degree	7,858	26,664	351,526
Post Bachelor	3,783	13,166	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 Union, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	34,621	116,549	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 Union County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>797</b>	<b>3,223</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>2,624</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>4,723</b>	<b>26,869</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>14,202</b>	<b>73,313</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	286	1,954	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	418	2,306	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	207	1,363	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,080	6,865	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	742	4,874	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	274	1,711	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	436	2,580	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	1,015	6,582	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	310	1,505	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	296	1,935	7,846
Food manufacturing	585	3,795	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing	47	307	1,445
Textile mills	1,550	9,407	40,207
Textile product mills	417	2,333	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	230	1,337	5,321
Paper manufacturing	482	3,130	14,710
Printing and related support activities	260	1,626	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing	9	61	288
Chemical manufacturing	778	4,889	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	805	5,153	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>2,486</b>	<b>14,470</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>9,562</b>	<b>53,533</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>1,908</b>	<b>11,054</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>13,385</b>	<b>80,781</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>7,493</b>	<b>44,728</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>7,348</b>	<b>42,646</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

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

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Carlisle Finishing	Carlisle	Finishing cotton fabric	650	1956
Conso International Co	Union	Trimmings-narrow fabrics	520	1959
Timken USA	Union	Anti-friction roller bearings	434	1965
Disney Direct Marketing Inc	Jonesville	Distribution center	142	1997
Paragon Plastics Inc	Union	Molded & extruded tubes	100	1984
Sonoco	Union	Plastic products	90	1969
Haemonetics Corp	Union	Pharmaceuticals	79	1985
Webb Forging Co	Carlisle	Ferrous forgings	77	1982
Weavetex Inc	Jonesville	Woven textiles	60	2002
Consumer Products Enterprise	Union	Felt	52	1993
Piedmont Concrete Products	Union	Concrete products	40	1974
BMC Manufacturing	Union	Home fragrances, candles	36	1994
D&D Specialties Inc	Union	Metal doors & frames	31	1981
The Union Daily Times	Union	Newspaper	29	1850
Duraco Products of South Carolina	Union	Rope products	29	1986

### 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)	38,289	127,110	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-3,594	-3,506	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	46%	48%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	3,667	10,560	139,607
Unemployment Rate	9.6%	8.1%	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	299	1,132	22,196
Manufacturing	268	1,018	19,196
Distribution	30	103	1,213
Service	1	12	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	10,380	32,848	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 Union County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees 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	Union County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$485	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$25,213	\$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	Union County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$31,022	\$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 Union and Surrounding Area

<b>Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Union Area</b>			
<b>Non-Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
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 & Solders	\$12.30	\$14.85	\$17.09
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
<b>Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Union Area*</b>			
<b>Exempt Occupations</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Experienced</b>
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