

Labor Resources for Bluffton, 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 Bluffton, South Carolina. Bluffton is located in Beaufort 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 Bluffton.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Bluffton, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	44,336	39,234	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	19,235	17,282	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	939	872	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	4.9%	5.5%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	7	7	22,196
Average Wages	Beaufort County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$525	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Bluffton, 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	19,235	17,282	2,046,179
Change since 2000	1,498	1,493	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	44,336	39,234	4,198,068
Change since 2000	4,296	3,125	186,056
Projected 2010	47,876	42,418	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	22,561	20,125	2,040,261
Female	21,776	19,109	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	9,755	8,666	875,330
Ages 35-49	8,528	7,831	925,330
Ages 50-64	7,370	6,481	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	20,461	18,022	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	11,469	11,089	778,054
Some College	9,989	8,294	500,194
Associate Degree	2,857	2,271	173,428
Bachelors Degree	8,603	6,377	351,526
Post Bachelor	4,574	3,325	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 Bluffton, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	18,296	16,410	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 Beaufort County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	34	74	12,379
Mining			1,603
Utilities	46	31	11,891
Construction	2,012	1,683	111,730
Manufacturing	405	475	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	6	4	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	22	15	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing			6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	60	40	27,357
Machinery manufacturing			21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing		0	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	22	15	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	10	7	7,846
Food manufacturing	22	15	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	7	5	40,207
Textile product mills			9,724
Apparel manufacturing			5,321
Paper manufacturing			14,710
Printing and related support activities	26	17	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	37	25	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing			23,054
Wholesale Trade	216	211	62,523
Retail Trade	2,609	2,038	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	261	215	46,941
Education and Health Services	2,441	1,847	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	3,524	2,655	192,748
Professional and Business Services	1,786	1,327	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Beaufort County

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Resort Services Inc	Bluffton	Cleaning chemicals	265	1972
Island Packet	Bluffton	Daily newspaper	100	1970
NUFARM Specialty Products	Lobeco	Chemical intermediates	92	1966
Beaufort Gazette	Beaufort	Newspapers	77	1895
Rea Construction	Beaufort	Asphalt mix	65	1937
Athena Corp	Beaufort	Polymer counter tops, bathtubs	54	1987
Kigre Inc	Hilton Head Island	Laser components & laser glass	45	1986
Cocoa-Cola Bottling	Port Royal	Soft drinks distribution	40	1907
Data Publishing Co Inc	Hilton Head Island	Yellow pages publishing	34	1984
Caribbean Clear International	Hilton Head Island	Water purification systems	30	1984
2 Stroke International	Burton	Engines & parts	30	1995
Minster Machine Co	Beaufort	Ancillary equipment for stamping presses	25	1979
Frey Media, Inc	Beaufort	Publishing & printing	23	1985
Seabrook Classics	Seabrook	Reproduction furniture	20	1992
Honeycomb Companies	Bluffton	Handmade beeswax candles	20	1994

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)	19,235	17,282	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	1,498	1,493	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	43%	44%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	939	872	139,607
Unemployment Rate	4.9%	5.5%	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	7	7	22,196
Manufacturing	5	6	19,196
Distribution	3	2	1,213
Service	-	-	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	2,294	3,635	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 Beaufort County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	70
Data Processing Technology	70
Engineering Technologies (Total)	75
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	*
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	235
Industrial Electronics	154
HVAC	81
Precision Production (Total)	*
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	*

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	Beaufort County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$525	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$27,316	\$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	Beaufort County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$38,518	\$39,027
Wood product	\$19,137	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$31,956	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$43,852	\$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	\$26,690	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$19,263	\$34,350
Food	\$53,339	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$31,571	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	***	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$25,512	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$53,054	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	***	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Bluffton and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Beaufort Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$7.89	\$9.65	\$10.29
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$11.55	\$13.37	\$15.99
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	*	*	*
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.90	\$11.20	\$12.29
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.25	\$14.49	\$17.83
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	*	*	*
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$10.20	\$13.13	\$14.80
Machinists	\$7.90	\$12.77	\$16.65
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$6.67	\$9.46	\$12.50
Molding & Casting Machine Op	*	*	*
Sewing Machine Operators	\$8.38	\$9.77	\$11.04
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	*	*	*
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.22	\$13.75	\$15.96
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.00	\$12.03	\$13.31
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$7.12	\$10.53	\$14.99
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Beaufort Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	*	*	*
Computer Programmers	\$26,740	\$39,860	\$51,400
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$27,020	\$38,420	\$47,640
Industrial Engineers	*	*	*
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,520	\$58,740	\$67,520

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

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available