

Labor Resources for Laurens, 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 Laurens, South Carolina. Laurens is located in Laurens 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 Laurens.

Labor Situation at a Glance in Laurens, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	170,773	502,204	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	102,998	290,033	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	5,800	17,344	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	5.6%	7.2%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	443	2,319	22,196
Average Wages	Laurens County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$527	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Laurens, 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	102,998	290,033	2,046,179
Change since 2000	24,558	47,466	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	170,773	502,204	4,198,068
Change since 2000	4,112	15,108	186,056
Projected 2010	163,114	473,965	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	82,745	243,106	2,040,261
Female	88,028	259,098	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	34,420	101,847	875,330
Ages 35-49	38,010	112,311	925,330
Ages 50-64	30,667	89,079	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	83,799	247,445	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	52,547	147,915	778,054
Some College	31,115	95,507	500,194
Associate Degree	11,262	34,928	173,428
Bachelors Degree	20,719	67,600	351,526
Post Bachelor	9,577	31,410	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 Laurens, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	97,198	272,689	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 Laurens County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	210	665	12,379
Mining	12	44	1,603
Utilities	102	401	11,891
Construction	2,979	10,698	111,730
Manufacturing	11,775	40,334	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	509	943	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	229	584	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	63	70	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1,980	4,206	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	1,062	3,678	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	209	755	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	205	758	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	436	1,895	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	312	1,122	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	162	953	7,846
Food manufacturing	131	480	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	872	2,892	40,207
Textile product mills	285	1,034	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	68	293	5,321
Paper manufacturing	135	512	14,710
Printing and related support activities	115	448	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	912	3,305	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	1,462	4,676	23,054
Wholesale Trade	1,727	6,265	62,523
Retail Trade	6,728	23,644	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	1,539	5,929	46,941
Education and Health Services	10,803	34,290	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	4,772	16,503	192,748
Professional and Business Services	6,697	22,836	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Laurens County, SC

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Wal-Mart Distribution Ctr	Laurens	Miscellaneous durable goods	1250	1987
Timken-Clinton	Clinton	Roller bearings	1010	1961
Dispoz-O-Products Inc	Fountain Inn	Disposable plastic items	650	1985
Faurecia	Fountain Inn	Interior plastic trim	650	2001
BF Shaw Inc	Laurens	Pipe fabrication	347	1987
Richloom Home Fashions	Clinton	Bedspreads & comforters	275	1978
Teknor Apex Carolina Co	Fountain Inn	Plastic materials & resins	240	1991
Anderson Hardwood Floors	Clinton	Hardwood flooring	225	1946
Avery Dennison	Clinton	Printed labels	210	1983
AstenJohnson Clinton Inc	Clinton	Wet pressed fabrics	207	1967
Jostens Inc	Laurens	Graduation gowns & caps	186	1973
CeramTec North America	Laurens	Custom technical ceramics	180	1961
GEN III Group	Fountain Inn	Metal fabrication	150	1984
Milliken & Co-Gilliland Industrial Corp	Laurens	Knit industrial fabrics	140	
Norbord South Carolina Inc	Kinards	Oriented strand board	131	1998
Fisher Barton Inc	Fountain Inn	Metal stampings & welded assemblies	125	1973
Consolidated Fabricators Inc	Clinton	Fabricated sheet metal	120	1993
Renfro Corp	Clinton	Sock distribution	120	
TNT Logistics	Laurens	Tires	117	1990
Box USA	Laurens	Corrugated containers	115	1970

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)	102,998	290,033	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	24,558	47,466	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	60%	58%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	5,800	17,344	139,607
Unemployment Rate	5.6%	7.2%	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	443	2,319	22,196
Manufacturing	397	2,147	19,196
Distribution	16	85	1,213
Service	29	87	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	20,299	47,088	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 Laurens 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	Laurens County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$527	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$27,384	\$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	Laurens County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$35,,29	\$39,027
Wood product	\$34,975	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$41,997	\$39,031
Primary metal	\$41,995	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$35,883	\$37,533
Machinery	\$31,109	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$30,052	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	***	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$41,665	\$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	\$41,457	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$33,716	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Laurens and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Laurens Area			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
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 & Solderers	\$11.82	\$13.80	15.73
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.02	\$10.77	12.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Laurens Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
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