

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

Labor Situation at a Glance in Florence, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	139,121	280,902	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	77,825	146,070	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	5,561	11,446	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	7.1%	8.9%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	644	1,209	22,196
Average Wages	Florence County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$564	\$581	\$658

Labor Force Characteristics for Florence, 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	77,825	146,070	2,046,179
Change since 2000	12,365	16,781	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	139,121	280,902	4,198,068
Change since 2000	2,527	5,251	186,056
Projected 2010	134,457	265,182	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	65,848	134,113	2,040,261
Female	73,273	146,789	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	28,002	56,696	875,330
Ages 35-49	30,082	60,299	925,330
Ages 50-64	25,257	50,521	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	68,089	137,037	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	44,487	91,428	778,054
Some College	23,385	45,521	500,194
Associate Degree	8,147	15,864	173,428
Bachelors Degree	14,898	27,832	351,526
Post Bachelor	7,166	13,423	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 Florence, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	72,264	134,624	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 Florence County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	200	416	12,379
Mining	15	29	1,603
Utilities	70	109	11,891
Construction	2,578	4,448	111,730
Manufacturing	10,278	20,377	275,573
Wood product manufacturing	509	933	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	82	145	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	425	702	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	936	1,634	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	650	995	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing			7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.		19	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	327	1,096	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	20	33	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	15	37	7,846
Food manufacturing	514	765	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing		2	1,445
Textile mills	356	1,336	40,207
Textile product mills	287	428	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	150	459	5,321
Paper manufacturing	1,781	2,852	14,710
Printing and related support activities	51	108	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	1,035	1,592	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	157	249	23,054
Wholesale Trade	1,785	3,302	62,523
Retail Trade	6,905	12,880	224,031
Transportation and Warehousing	1,035	1,788	46,941
Education and Health Services	11,201	19,804	156,232
Leisure and Hospitality	4,552	8,253	192,748
Professional and Business Services	3,450	6,009	186,481

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

Largest Industries by Total Employment In Florence County

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Honda of South Carolina Mfg Inc	Timmonsville	All terrain vehicles	1,500	1997
Nan Ya Plastics Corp	Lake City	Polyester staple fiber	970	1989
ESAB Welding & cutting products	Florence	Welding & cutting systems	900	1985
Wellman Inc	Johnsonville	Polyesters	750	1954
Wellman Inc	Florence	Nylon & polyester staple fiber	632	1954
Smurfit Stone Container Corp	Florence	Kraft linerboard	546	1963
GE Medical Systems	Florence	Magnets for medical diagnostic	400	1983
Nucor Corp-Vulcraft Div	Florence	Steel joists & girders	380	1962
Crenlo LLC	Florence	Machinery cabs	320	2001
DuPont Teijin Films	Florence	Polyester film	301	1961
Maytag-Florence Cooking Products	Florence	Household Appliances	294	1989
Roche Carolina Inc	Florence	Pharmaceuticals R&D	290	1992
ACS Technologies	Florence	Customized software	250	1978
Florence Concrete Products Co	Florence	Precast prestress concrete	225	1955
Pepsi Cola Bottling Co of Florence	Florence	Bottled soft drinks	217	1936
W Lee Flowers & Company	Scranton	Grocery food distribution	210	1923
McCall Farms Inc	Effingham	Canned vegetables	210	1956
Morning News	Florence	Newspaper	208	1923
International Knife & Saw Inc	Florence	Knives & saws	200	1960
Delta Mills Marketing Co	Pamplico	Synthetic woven fabric	200	1966

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)	77,825	146,070	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	12,365	16,781	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	56%	52%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	5,561	11,446	139,607
Unemployment Rate	7.1%	8.9%	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	644	1,209	22,196
Manufacturing	644	1,209	19,196
Distribution	-	-	1,213
Service	-	1	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	14,164	31,127	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 Florence County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	50
Data Processing Technology	42
Engineering Technologies (Total)	48
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	24
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	*
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	122
Industrial Electronics	15
HVAC	56
Precision Production (Total)	71
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	28

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	Florence County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$564	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$29,338	\$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	Florence County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$37,815	\$39,027
Wood product	\$26,206	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$27,163	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$47,045	\$37,533
Machinery	\$39,997	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$41,887	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$25,068	\$34,350
Food	\$29,493	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$19,814	\$25,618
Apparel	\$12,762	\$23,705
Paper	\$57,515	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$20,748	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$39,319	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$43,918	\$46,620

***Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

Occupational Wages In Florence and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Florence County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	\$9.48	\$10.89	\$12.74
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$7.89	\$10.36	\$12.02
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	\$7.64	\$8.94	\$10.09
Chemical Equipment Operators	\$12.98	\$15.86	\$18.72
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	*	*	*
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	\$14.36	\$14.94	\$16.54
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$11.97	\$13.87	\$16.17
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.85	\$12.91	\$14.03
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$10.34	\$13.60	\$16.21
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$11.88	\$13.55	\$15.51
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$12.30	\$14.66	\$16.28
Machinists	\$12.92	\$14.77	\$16.80
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	\$8.10	\$10.40	\$12.29
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$13.52	\$15.45	\$17.26
Sewing Machine Operators	\$6.80	\$8.12	\$9.54
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	\$8.37	\$9.75	\$10.94
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$11.45	\$15.43	\$19.46
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$10.32	\$12.29	\$13.38
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Florence County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$47,280	\$61,580	\$77,780
Computer Programmers	\$28,640	\$41,560	\$53,660
Engineers, NEC	*	*	*
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$30,260	\$39,300	\$46,220
Industrial Engineers	\$38,520	\$49,500	\$59,320
Mechanical Engineers	\$47,000	\$55,160	\$64,000

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

* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available