

# Labor Resources for Whitmire, 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 Whitmire, South Carolina. Whitmire is located in Newberry 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 Whitmire.

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

<b>Labor Force Characteristics</b>	<b>within 30 min.</b>	<b>within 45 min.</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>
Population, 2004	46,489	186,574	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	23,442	92,832	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	1,895	7,244	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	8.1%	8.1%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	791	1,899	22,196
<b>Average Wages</b>	<b>Newberry County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$605	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for Whitmire, 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	23,442	92,832	2,046,179
Change since 2000	1,929	3,692	49,079
<b>Population</b>			
Population 2004	46,489	186,574	4,198,068
Change since 2000	455	1,659	186,056
Projected 2010	67,477	192,950	4,446,704
<b>Gender Distribution</b>			
Male	22,404	90,185	2,040,261
Female	24,085	96,389	2,132,454
<b>Age Distribution</b>			
Ages 20-34	9,009	37,132	875,330
Ages 35-49	10,026	96,389	925,330
Ages 50-64	8,596	33,831	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	22,170	90,610	2,084,880
<b>Highest Level of Educational Attainment</b>			
High School	16,007	62,131	778,054
Some College	7,140	32,030	500,194
Associate Degree	2,594	11,353	173,428
Bachelors Degree	4,167	17,670	351,526
Post Bachelor	2,213	8,779	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 Whitmire, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	21,547	85,587	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 Newberry County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>518</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>1,124</b>	<b>3,252</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>5,104</b>	<b>14,656</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	142	361	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	51	279	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	16	41	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	480	1,446	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	441	996	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing		52	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.	1	122	10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing		12	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	12	274	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	381	823	7,846
Food manufacturing		41	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	78	230	40,207
Textile product mills	20	183	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	59	130	5,321
Paper manufacturing		7	14,710
Printing and related support activities		21	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	40	201	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	77	204	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>406</b>	<b>1,300</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>2,110</b>	<b>6,161</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>633</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>2,937</b>	<b>9,223</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>1,320</b>	<b>192,748</b>
<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>1,049</b>	<b>186,481</b>

Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

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

Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
Louis Rich	Newberry	Processed turkey	1236	1972
Renfro Corp-Whitmire Plt	Whitmire	Hosiery	560	1993
Sea-Pro Boats Inc	Newberry	Boat building & repairs	300	1988
Georgia Pacific Corp	Prosperity	Southern pine plywood	287	1975
Thomas & Howard Co	Newberry	Food distribution	250	
International Paper- Newberry Mill	Newberry	Lumber	178	1946
McKechnie Vehicle Components	Newberry	Automotive wheel trim	171	1981
American Fiber & Finishing Inc	Newberry	Woven industrial fabrics	150	1986
ISE Newberry Inc	Newberry	Egg products & processing	150	1982
PCA	Newberry	Corrugated shipping containers	110	1966
Trucast Inc	Newberry	Turbo charger wheels	104	1996
Georgia Pacific Corp	Prosperity	Lumber & chips	100	1973
Komatsu America Corp,Newberry Mfg Op	Newberry	Backhoe loaders	82	2001
MacLean Fiberglass	Newberry	Fiberglass reinforced plastics	82	1981
International Paper	Prosperity	Extrusion coated paperboard	81	1990
Kiswire	Newberry	Bead wire	75	1997
SBFI	Newberry	Trading desks	69	1991
Metal Masters Inc	Newberry	Precision machine parts	50	1973
Pleasurecraft Marine Engine Co	Little Mountain	Marine engines	48	1983
Charles K Doolittle Inc	Newberry	Logging	45	1974

### 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)	23,442	92,832	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	1,929	3,692	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	50%	50%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	1,895	1,895	139,607
Unemployment Rate	8.1%	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	791	1,899	22,196
Manufacturing	760	1,827	19,196
Distribution	15	36	1,213
Service	16	36	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	7,779	26,378	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 Newberry County, SC	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates/Degrees Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	441
Data Processing Technology	246
Engineering Technologies (Total)	259
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	77
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	2
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	267
Industrial Electronics	86
HVAC	85
Precision Production (Total)	319
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	110

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	Newberry County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$605	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$31,454	\$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	Newberry County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$34,607	\$39,027
Wood product	\$25,591	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	***	\$39,031
Primary metal	***	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,319	\$37,533
Machinery	\$38,633	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	***	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	***	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$16,594	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$33,722	\$34,350
Food	***	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	***	\$31,898
Textile product mills	***	\$25,618
Apparel	\$32,654	\$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 Whitmire and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Newberry 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 & Solders	\$11.82	\$13.80	15.73
Woodworking Machine Setters	\$9.02	\$10.77	12.66
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Newberry 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