

# 2013

## Richland County Executive Summary



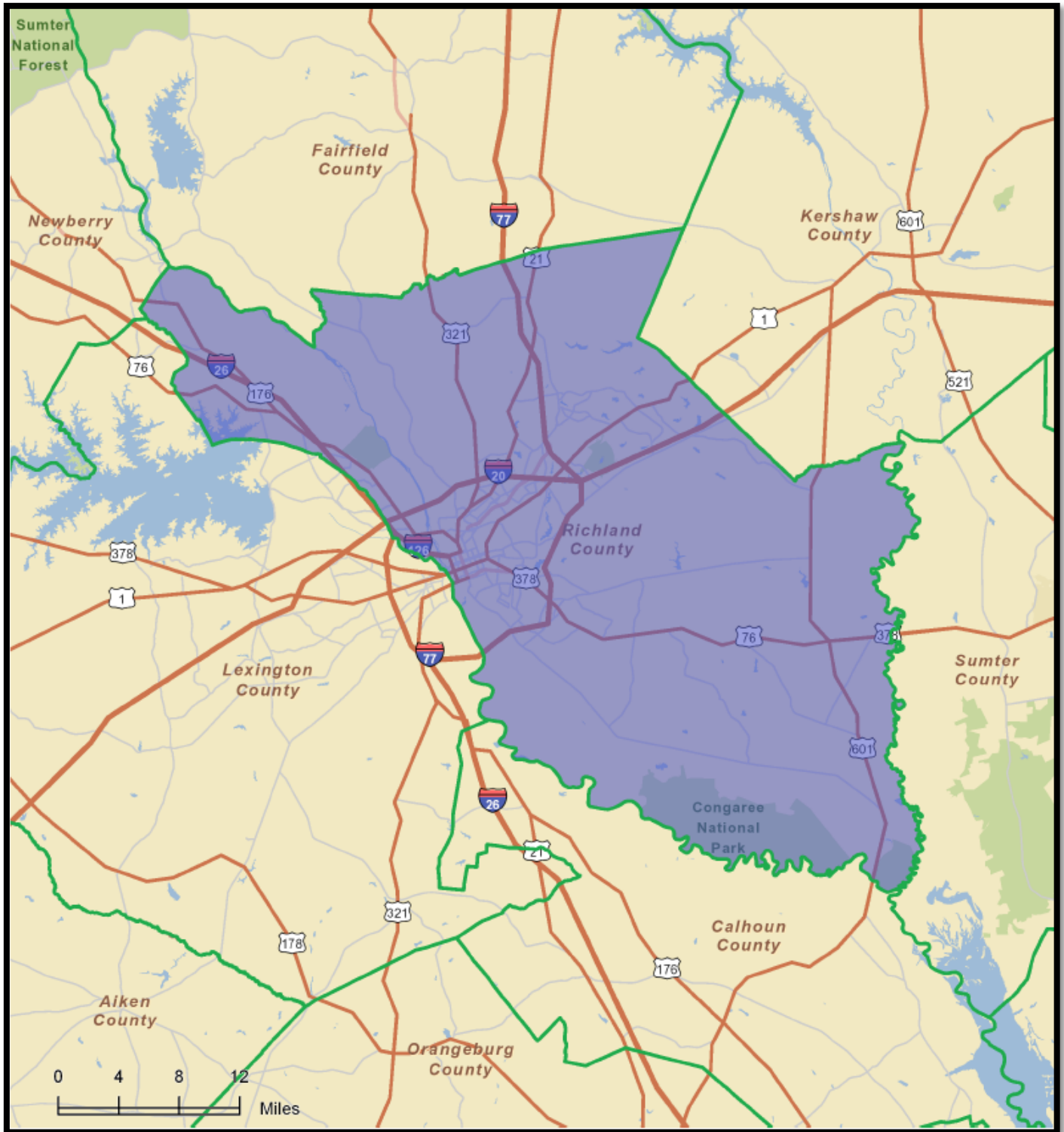
Select Photos Courtesy of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Central/SC**  
*Business Friendly. Business Ready.*

1201 Main St., Suite 100  
Columbia, SC 29201  
(803) 733-1131  
[www.centralsc.org](http://www.centralsc.org)

# ***LOCATION***

**R**ichland County is located in the Midlands region of South Carolina. It is uniquely positioned halfway between New York and Miami, within 24 hour ground access to more than 66 percent of the U.S. market. The total area of the county is 757 square miles. The county seat, which also the state capital, is the City of Columbia. The elevation of Columbia is approximately 500 feet above sea level.





# TRANSPORTATION

## HIGHWAYS

Interstates in Richland County:

I-26 (12 Interchanges), I-77 (16 Interchanges), I-20 (11 Interchanges)

Other Interstates near Richland County:

I-385, 53 miles; I-85, 85 miles; I-95, 42 miles

US & State Highways in Richland County:

US601, US211, US176, US321, US378, US76, SC48, SC277, SC764, SC262, SC268, SC215

Delivery Days to:

Atlanta:	1
Houston:	3
San Francisco:	5

Chicago:	3
New York:	4
St. Louis:	4

## AIRPORTS

**Columbia Owens Downtown:** One paved runway (5,002 ft.), jet and 100 low-lead fuel, FBO is Midland Aviation, terminal building, t-hangars, flight instruction, pilots' shop stocks supplies and maintenance. Rental cars are available from Enterprise and Budget at a location outside of the airport.

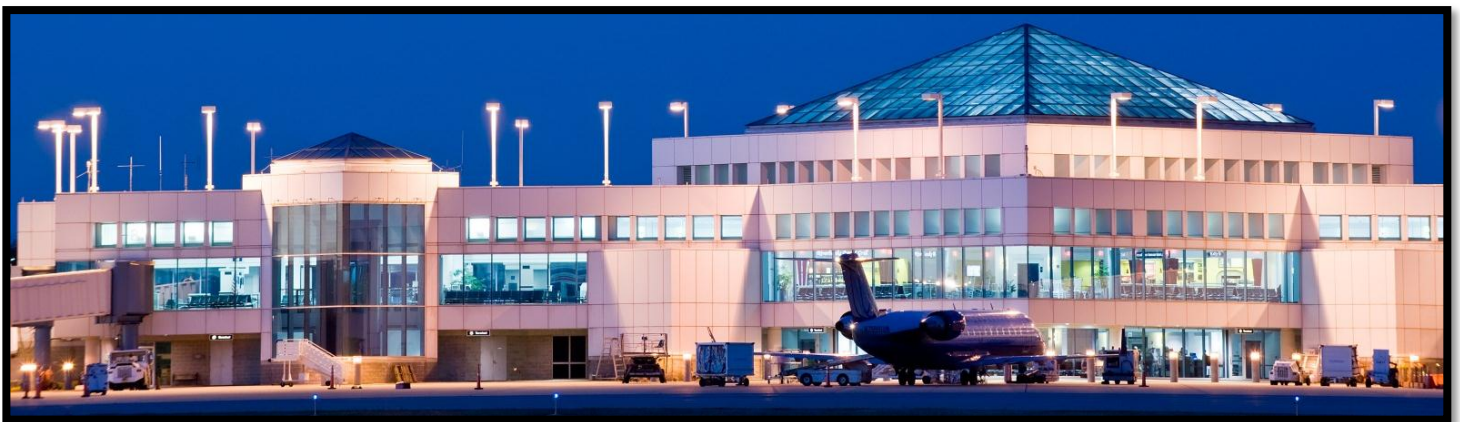
**Columbia Metropolitan Airport (CAE):** Located 8 miles from the CBD of Columbia and offers regularly scheduled commercial airline services. There are approximately 60 scheduled arrivals and departures per day from Columbia Metropolitan. Annually, the airport serves more than 1.2 million passengers and processes more than 168,000 tons of air cargo.

**Scheduled Airlines Serving Columbia Metro:** American Eagle, Delta, Continental, US Airways, and United.

**Air Freight Operators:** Airborne Express, Bankair, Federal Express, Mountain Air Cargo, Piedmont, United Parcel Service\*

\*In the summer of 1994, UPS selected Columbia as the new home of a \$45 million southeast regional air cargo hub. Today, the hub handles 42,000 packages per hour and holds many unique advantages for Columbia area businesses.

Runway Lengths: 8,602 ft. x 150 ft. and 8,000 ft. x 150 ft.



## **PORTS**

As the deepest port in the South Atlantic, the Port of Charleston offers a decided advantage for companies with intermodal logistics and transportation needs. The Port of Charleston is 96 miles from Richland County and can be accessed through the state's extensive interstate system, or rail system.



In the Port of Charleston, the State Port Authority (SPA) handled 1.38 million TEUS. Top commodity groups include agricultural products, consumer goods, machinery, metals, vehicles, chemicals and clay products. In the fiscal year 2011, the SPA served 1,729 ships and barges at its seaport terminals in Charleston and Georgetown.

The Port of Charleston is one of the busiest container ports along the Southeast and Gulf coasts and is recognized as one of the nation's most

efficient and productive ports. The Charleston Customs district ranks as the nation's eighth largest in dollar value of international shipments, with cargo valued at more than \$50 billion in 2010.

Other port specifications include: 45 ft. depth at mean low tide throughout the main shipping channel and 47 ft. in the entrance channel; 5 terminals; 41 average crane moves per hour, and truck turn times of 21 minutes per gate mission on average with a nine-minute average queuing time outside the interchange gates.

## **RAIL TRANSPORTATION**

The Richland County rail system is served by CSX Transportation & Norfolk Southern (NS). CSX Transportation operates approximately 1,249 route miles in South Carolina and covers virtually every region of the state; major commodities include: petroleum and coal products, lumber and wood products, and chemicals. Norfolk Southern operates approximately 679 route miles in South Carolina and has trackage rights over CSXT from Newberry to Spartanburg. Major commodities transported over the NS line include: coal, lumber and wood products, chemicals, pulp, paper, and allied products and transportation equipment.

Existing rail passenger service in South Carolina is provided by Amtrak. South Carolina is fortunate when compared to some states in that it has four trains (actually eight when trains in both north and south bound directions are counted) operating over three routes all owned by freight railroads (one NS, two CSXT) all of which connect the South with the Northeast.

# DEMOGRAPHICS

## POPULATION

	2000	2010	2012	2017	% Δ 2012-2017
<b>Richland County</b>	320,677	384,504	395,322	424,055	7%
<b>City of Columbia</b>	116,277	129,272	132,235	139,834	6%
<b>South Carolina</b>	4,012,012	4,625,364	4,723,723	5,032,194	7%
<b>United States</b>	281,421,906	308,745,538	313,914,040	323,986,227	3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ESRI Forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

## POPULATION BY AGE

	2012		2017	
<b>0 – 4</b>	25,109	6.4%	27,150	6.4%
<b>5 – 9</b>	24,594	6.2%	26,473	6.2%
<b>10 – 14</b>	24,051	6.1%	26,206	6.2%
<b>15 – 19</b>	32,915	8.3%	33,647	7.9%
<b>20 – 24</b>	42,322	10.7%	42,183	9.9%
<b>25 – 34</b>	60,401	15.3%	65,271	15.4%
<b>35 – 44</b>	49,912	12.6%	52,657	12.4%
<b>45 – 54</b>	51,518	13.0%	51,455	12.1%
<b>55 – 64</b>	44,225	11.2%	49,830	11.8%
<b>65 – 74</b>	23,186	5.9%	29,933	7.1%
<b>75 – 84</b>	12,071	3.1%	13,612	3.2%
<b>85+</b>	5,018	1.3%	5,638	1.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Summary File, ESRI Forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

## POPULATION WITHIN COMMUTING DISTANCE

City of Columbia	2000	2010	2012	2017	% Δ 2012-2017
<b>15 mile radius</b>	457,087	541,828	549,303	589,789	7%
<b>30 mile radius</b>	611,829	729,155	748,737	801,681	7%
<b>45 mile radius</b>	876,531	1,008,159	1,031,469	1,089,071	6%

Source: U.S. Census Summary Profile from ESRI Forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

## POPULATION BY RACE

	2010		2012		2017	
<b>White Alone</b>	181,974	47.3%	187,104	47.3%	198,531	46.8%
<b>Black Alone</b>	176,538	45.9%	180,531	45.7%	192,270	45.3%
<b>American Indian Alone</b>	1,230	0.3%	1,301	0.3%	1,697	0.4%
<b>Asian Alone</b>	8,548	2.2%	9,097	2.3%	10,669	2.5%
<b>Pacific Islander Alone</b>	425	0.1%	444	0.1%	526	0.1%
<b>Some Other Race Alone</b>	7,358	1.9%	7,654	1.9%	8,872	2.1%
<b>Two or More Races</b>	8,431	2.2%	9,191	2.3%	11,490	2.7%
<b>Hispanic Origin (Any Race)</b>	18,637	4.8%	19,487	4.9%	23,116	5.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ESRI Forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

## INCOME & HOUSEHOLDS

Per Capita Income 2012 = \$25,843

Median Household Income 2012 = \$47,835

### HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION

	2012			2017	
<\$15,000	20,817	13.9%		21,378	13.2%
\$15,000-\$24,999	16,001	10.7%		13,172	8.2%
\$25,000-\$34,999	17,877	11.9%		15,806	9.8%
\$35,000-\$49,999	22,628	15.1%		22,799	14.1%
\$50,000-\$74,999	28,492	19.0%		35,618	22.0%
\$75,000-\$99,999	17,026	11.4%		21,401	13.2%
\$100,000-\$149,999	17,233	11.5%		19,740	12.2%
\$150,000-\$199,999	5,386	3.6%		6,910	4.3%
\$200,000+	4,215	2.8%		4,795	3.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau and ESRI forecasts for 2012 and 2017.

### AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD CONSUMER EXPENDITURES (2011)

Category	Avg. Amount Spent	Category	Avg. Amount Spent
Food	\$7,135.92	Healthcare	\$3,304.77
Alcoholic Beverages	\$551.65	Entertainment & Rec	\$2,974.40
Housing	\$18,733.43	Personal Care Prod	\$650.71
Household Operations	\$1,410.78	Education	\$1,174.63
Housekeeping Supplies	\$643.79	Smoking Products	\$404.79
Household Furnishings	\$1,645.66	Misc.	\$1,043.05
Apparel & Services	\$1,568.29	Support Payments	\$2,220.77
Transportation	\$9,322.24	Life/Other Insurance	\$364.46
Travel	\$1,677.14	Pension & Soc. Sec.	\$6,049.36

Source: ESRI Household Budget Expenditures Forecasts for 2011, derived from BLS 2006 and 2007 Consumer Expenditure Survey

## HOUSEHOLDS

	2000	2012	2017	% Δ 2012-2017
Richland County	120,101	149,679	161,623	8%

Source: ESRI Demographic Data from the Census 2010 Summary Profile

## HOUSING UNITS

Richland County	Total	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied
1990	109,563	60,157	41,435
2000	129,793	73,757	46,344
2010	145,194	89,023	56,171
2012	149,679	91,025	58,654
2017	161,623	98,710	62,913
% Δ 2012-2017	8.0%	8.4%	7.3%

Source: ESRI Demographic Data from the Census 2010 Summary Profile

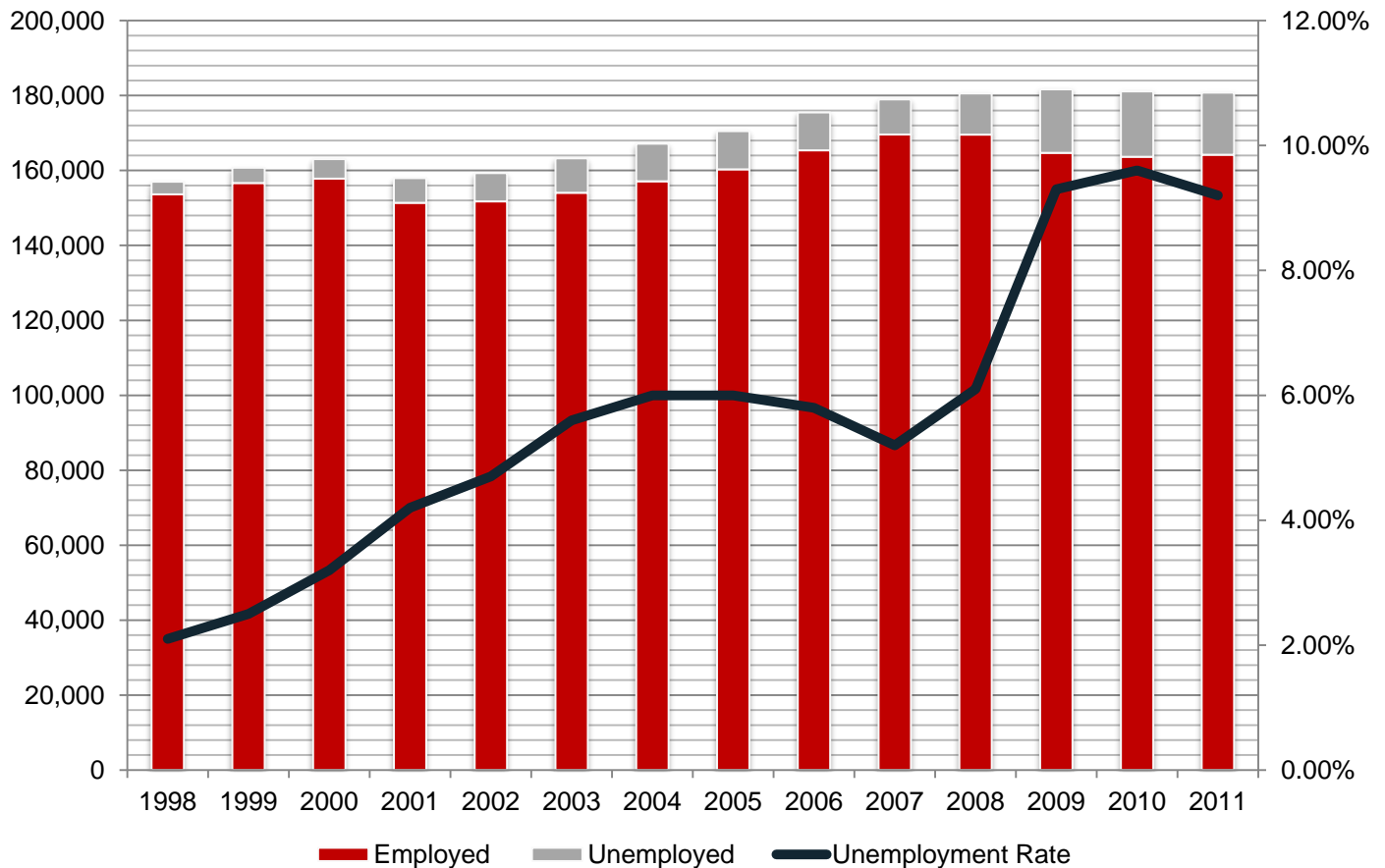
# LABOR & EMPLOYMENT

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1998	156,982	153,635	3,347	2.1%
1999	160,718	156,670	4,048	2.5%
2000	163,028	157,835	5,193	3.2%
2001	157,978	151,389	6,589	4.2%
2002	159,320	151,753	7,567	4.7%
2003	163,261	154,065	9,196	5.6%
2004	167,156	157,105	10,051	6.0%
2005	170,517	160,303	10,214	6.0%
2006	175,498	165,390	10,108	5.8%
2007	178,947	169,621	9,326	5.2%
2008	180,578	169,578	11,000	6.1%
2009	151,669	164,725	16,944	9.3%
2010	181,121	163,683	17,438	9.6%
2011	180,783	164,190	16,593	9.2%

Source: The Bureau of Labor Statistics LAUS

## LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT TRENDS 1998-2011





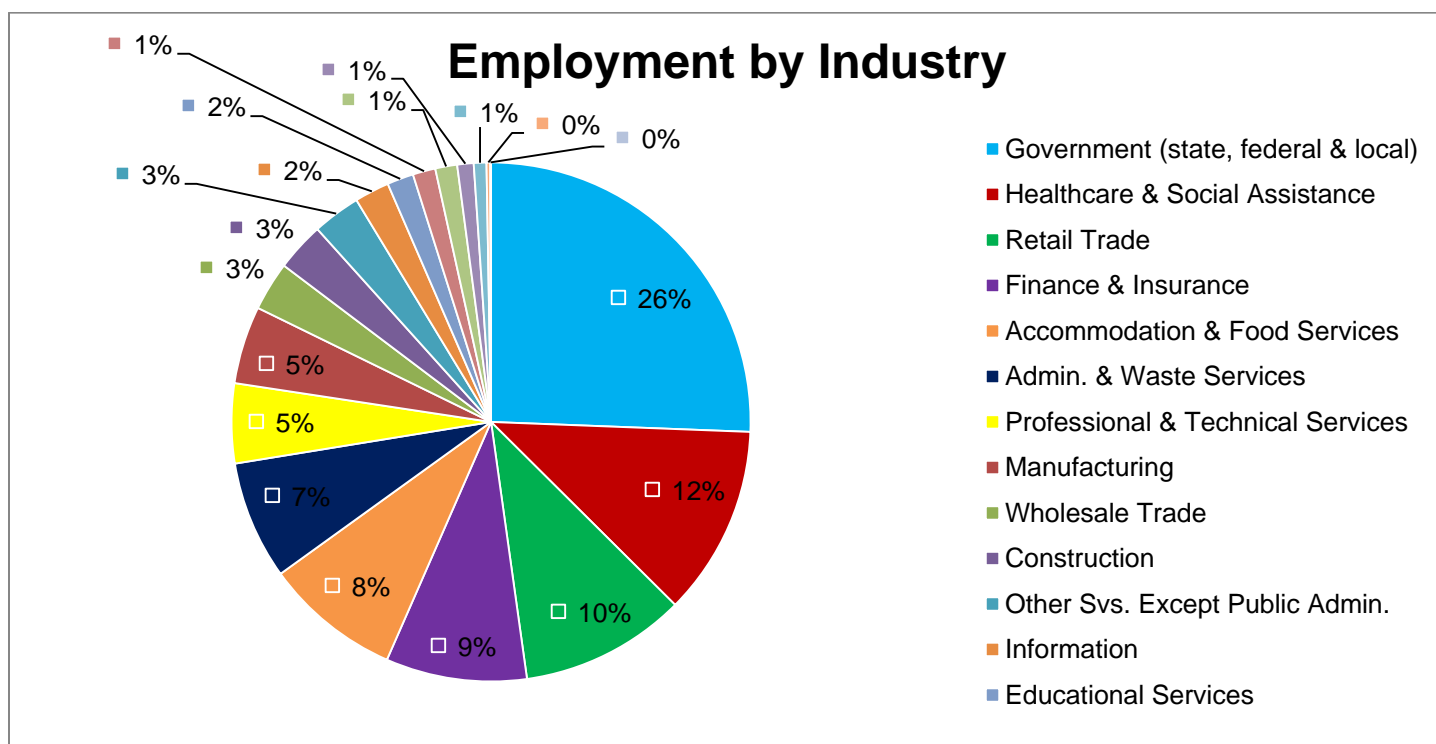
## UNIONS

South Carolina is a right-to-work state and has the lowest private sector unionization rate in the U.S. (at 1.3%); South Carolina also ranks second lowest in Private Manufacturing (at 1.9%), and third lowest overall (at 3.3%). At 0.4%, the Columbia Metropolitan Statistical Area has the second lowest private sector unionization membership rate among all MSAs in US.

## INDUSTRY SECTORS

Industry Description	Employing Units	Employment	Avg Weekly Wage
<b>Total</b>	8,893	201,535	\$804
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing</b>	21	463	\$611
<b>Mining</b>	8	93	\$1,042
<b>Construction</b>	592	6,055	\$849
<b>Manufacturing</b>	246	9,653	\$1,110
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	474	6,084	\$1,156
<b>Retail Trade</b>	1,339	20,604	\$491
<b>Transportation &amp; Warehousing</b>	141	1,568	\$844
<b>Information</b>	161	4,318	\$1,133
<b>Finance &amp; Insurance</b>	676	17,509	\$1,170
<b>Real Estate</b>	363	2,815	\$789
<b>Professional &amp; Technical Services</b>	1,279	9,894	\$1,181
<b>Mgmt. of Companies &amp; Enterprises</b>	37	2,719	\$964
<b>Admin. &amp; Waste Services</b>	535	14,707	\$522
<b>Educational Services</b>	123	3,285	\$671
<b>Healthcare &amp; Social Assistance</b>	787	23,593	\$868
<b>Arts, Entertainment, Recreation</b>	96	2,035	\$269
<b>Accommodation &amp; Food Services</b>	730	16,910	\$281
<b>Other Svs. Except Public Admin.</b>	922	5,960	\$564
<b>Government (state, federal &amp; local)</b>	118	51,043	\$897

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Quarterly Census of Employment & Wages Annual 2011.





## WORKER TRAINING



Created in 1961, ready SC™ is one of the longest running and most experienced worker training programs in the nation. The ready SC™ program focuses on the training needs of new and existing business and industry in South Carolina. They provide recruiting, assessment, training development, management and implementation services to customers who are creating new jobs with competitive wages and benefits. These services are provided through state funds at little or no cost to the company.

Midlands Technical College (MTC) offers approximately 100 degree, diploma and certificates in career programs and arts and sciences. Last year, Midlands Technical College provided training for more than 100 area business and industries. The college's Northeast Campus, adjacent to the Carolina Research Park, is the site of MTC's Enterprise Campus and the MTC Center of Excellence for Technology. The campus consists of 100 developable acres and offers proximity to major interstates, quality workforce, and shared technology-specific spaces.

## WORKER TRAINING STATISTICS

Category	Results
Trainees Trained this year (FY 2011 – 2012)	4,400
Trainees trained since 1961	271,000
Companies served this year (FY 2011 – 2012)	82
Companies served since 1961	2,016
Total number of projects	82
New Projects	37
Expanding Projects	45
Number of new companies	23
Average Trainee Age	38 years
Average Trainee Education	12.4 years
Trainee Race	(W) 55%; (B) 36%; (O) 9%
Trainee Sex	(Male) 77%; (Female) 23%

Source: readySC™

From 1998 to 2011 ready SC™ has trained 3,487 workers at companies in Richland County including: American Italian Pasta, American Koyo Bearing, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Bose Corp., Dana Corporation, FN Manufacturing, Huron Tech, Lamson and Sessions, Little Tykes, Midland Manufacturing, Modine Manufacturing Company, Select Comfort, Siemens Diesel Systems Technology, Spirax Sarco, Thermal Engineering, UPS, Verizon Wireless, and Wachovia.

## MAJOR EMPLOYERS

Company Name	Employment	NAICS	Industry
BlueCross BlueShield of SC	6,459	524114	Finance and Insurance
University of South Carolina	5,148	611110	Education
SC Dept. of Transportation	4,553	920000	Government
Richland School District 1	4,036	611110	Education
SC Dept. of Mental Health	3,751	923120	Government
SC Dept. of Health & Environmental Control	3,445	920000	Government
Richland School District 2	3,300	611110	Education
AT&T	2,400	517210	Telecommunications
Providence Hospitals	2,255	622110	Healthcare
Humana Military Healthcare/TriCare	2,210	524114	Finance and Insurance
Palmetto GBA	1,900	524114	Finance and Insurance
Richland County Government	1,700	920000	Government
Midlands Technical College	1,600	611110	Education
Verizon Wireless	1,500	517210	Call Center
Wells Fargo Bank	1,475	522110	Finance and Insurance
Dorn VA Medical Center	1,457	620000	Healthcare
Computer Science Corp (CSC)	1,345	541511	Information Technology
First Citizens Bancorporation, Inc.	1,250	551111	Finance and Insurance
Westinghouse Electric Co.	1,200	541330	Alternative Energy
Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Co.	1,032	561422	Finance and Insurance
UCI Medical Affiliates Inc.	1,000	541611	Medical
Bank of America	750	522110	Finance and Insurance
International Paper Co	726	322121	Wood & Paper Products
SCBT Financial Corporation	696	551111	Finance and Insurance
Teleperformance	680	561422	Call Center
Wells Fargo Bank	600	561422	Finance and Insurance
Bose Corp	550	334310	Electronics and Computers
Schneider Electric	530	335313	Electronics and Computers
Aflac Insurance	521	524113	Finance and Insurance
TD Bank	514	522110	Finance and Banking
FN Manufacturing LLC	510	332811	Metal Products
Belk Distribution Center	510	423990	Distribution
Thomas & Howard	500	424410	Distribution
Companion Data Services	450	541990	Data Center
SC Federal Credit Union	439	522130	Finance and Banking
Nelson, Mullins, Riley & Scarborough	432	541110	Legal Services
House of Raeford Farms Inc.	425	311615	Food Processing
Sysco	413	424410	Food Processing
Sodexo Inc.	400	722310	Consulting Services
Intertape Polymer Group	400	322222	Wood & Paper Products
Columbia Intl. Univ.	400	611310	Education
Staples Shared Service Center	400	541121	Shared Services
McEntire Produce	400	311410	Food Production
PriceWaterHouseCoopers	400	541121	Shared Services
Rogers, Townsend & Thomas	373	541110	Legal Services
Hanson Brick East LLC	350	327121	Non-Metallic Minerals
BB&T	350	522110	Finance and Insurance
Consolidated Systems Inc.	325	332322	Metal Products
Aetna	320	524210	Insurance Processing
Pure Power Technologies LLC	308	336312	Automotive
Koyo Corp of USA	300	332991	Metal Products
Ellett Brothers	258	423910	Distribution

Wilbur Smith Associates	250	541330	Engineering Services
Owen Steel Co Inc.	250	332312	Metal Products
CMC Steel Fabricators Inc.	250	332312	Metal Products
Pontiac Foods	240	311410	Food Distribution
Kroger Co.	235	311920	Food Processing
Columbia College	217	611310	Education
Trane US Inc.	210	333415	Machinery
Capital City Insurance Co.	200	524126	Finance and Insurance
Coca-Cola Bottling Co.	200	312111	Food Processing
Spirax Sarco Inc.	200	332911	Metal Products
Amcor Rigid Plastics	180	326199	Plastics and Rubber
TM Floyd & Company	180	517919	Information Technology
American Italian Pasta Co Inc.	170	311823	Food Processing
Tyson Prepared Foods	170	311823	Food Processing
Mars Petcare Us Inc.	156	311111	Food Processing
LPA Group	152	541310	Consulting Services
Husqvarna Construction Products Inc.	150	333515	Construction
Metso Minerals Industries Inc.	150	333131	Machinery
Seibels Bruce Group Inc.	150	524126	Finance and Insurance
Pure Fishing	150	423910	Consulting Services
Wabtec Global Services	123		Manufacturer of Brakes
Jarden Applied Materials	120	325221	Advanced Materials
RR Donnelley & Sons Co.	118	323110	Wood & Paper Products
Hardaway Concrete Co Inc.	110	327320	Non-Metallic Minerals
Finnchem USA Inc.	104	325181	Chemicals
Coveright	100	326112	Plastics and Rubber
Securitas Security Services USA Inc.	100	561612	Consulting Services
Stone International LLC	100	315299	Textiles
Thermal Engineering Corp	100	332811	Metal Products
AMBAC International Corp	97	336312	Aerospace & Aviation
ATI Systems	90	561612	Consulting Services
American Spiralweld Pipe Co	90	331210	Metal Products
Howden North America Inc.	85	423830	Electronics and Computers
Patterson Dental Supply Inc.	80	423450	Medical
VC3	80	541519	Information Technology
Garlock Helicoflex	75	339991	Aerospace & Aviation
Marwin Co Inc.	75	321918	Wood & Paper Products
Carolina Ceramics Brick Co	70	327121	Non-Metallic Minerals
Coreslab Structures Inc.	65		Non-Metallic Minerals
Patterson Fan Co Inc.	60	333412	Machinery
Sodexo Inc.	60	722310	Consulting Services
Constantia-Hueck Foils LLC	57	332999	Metal Products
American Solid Woven Corp	55	313310	Textiles
Pure Power Technologies LLC	52	541712	Automotive
Bio-Medical Applications Management Co.	50	423450	Medical
Colite International Ltd	50	339950	Metal Products
Crowson-Stone Printing Co Inc.	50	323119	Wood & Paper Products
Merritt Veterinary Supplies	50	423450	Medical
ThyssenKrupp Elevator Corp	50	811310	Metal Products
Vulcan Materials Co.	50	327390	Non-Metallic Minerals

Source: Central SC Records

## COMMUTING PATTERNS

91,838 workers live and work in Richland County; 119,893 commute into Richland County, and 54,984 commute out of Richland County. Richland County's interstate system allows local residents and residents of other counties to easily commute into and/or out of Richland County for work. Additionally, the vast majority of residents that commute spend 15-19 minutes commuting to work—extending the labor draw for companies in Richland County.

Commute Destination	
Lexington County	21,579
Greenville County	4,558
Charleston County	3,819
Spartanburg County	2,340
Horry County	1,845

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics 2010.

Commute Origin	
Lexington County	41,894
Kershaw County	7,847
Greenville County	5,086
Charleston County	4,649
Sumter County	3,893

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, OnTheMap Application LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics 2010.

## COMMUTER CHARACTERISTICS

Subject	Estimate
Workers Age 16 and over	184,174
Worked in County of Residence	80.5%
Worked Outside County of Residence	18.0%
Worked Outside State of Residence	1.5%
Travel Time to Work	
Less than 10 minutes	12.8%
10 to 14 minutes	16.0%
15 to 19 minutes	20.3%
20 to 24 minutes	18.1%
25 to 29 minutes	7.2%
30 to 34 minutes	13.9%
35 to 44 minutes	4.3%
45 to 59 minutes	3.7%
60 or more minutes	3.6%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)	21.2
Means of Transportation to Work	
Car, Truck or Van	86.9%
Public Transportation	1.2%
Walked	3.7%
Bicycle	0.2%
Taxicab, motorcycle, or other means	2.3%
Worked at home	5.9%

Source: American Community Survey 2007 – 2011 5-year Estimates



# LIVING HERE

## FESTIVALS & EVENTS

**R**ichland County has long been the hub of arts, music, history, and culture in the state. This strong presence of an artistic community lends itself to the many festivals and events in the city and the throughout the county.

**SC Archaeology Festival:** Hosted by the Archaeological Society of South Carolina and the State Park Service, this festival teaches festival goers how early man survived. See demonstrations in hide-tanning, pre-historic pottery-making, fish trap weaving, making friction fires and more.

**Carolina Carillon Holiday Parade:** This is Richland County's kickoff to the holiday season. The parade includes marching bands, beautiful floats, and local entertainers.

**Holiday Tours of Historic Columbia:** Get in the holiday spirit by visiting Columbia's historic homes. Decorated in period holiday finery for a limited time, these historic homes are a wonderful way for people to step back in time to holidays past.

**Vista after Five:** A concert series that is held in the fall on every Thursday in the historic Vista district of Columbia. This concert series features classic beach music bands from around the southeast, great food, great dancing and ice cold beer.

**St. Patrick's Day in Five Points:** One of the largest St. Patrick's Day Festivals in the Southeast is held in Columbia. The festival features the Get to the Green 5K Run and 1-Mile walk through the beautiful historic Shandon neighborhood. Immediately following the race is the Carolina First Parade with amusing and entertaining floats and bands. Once the parade wraps up, spectators enjoy the head to head competition between area waiters/waitresses, seeking the title of "Columbia's Best Server." Local and national acts start up on all three stages around noon and keep rockin' until 6:00 p.m. Children and families will enjoy rides and entertainment in MLK Park until 6:00 p.m.

**Bark to the Park:** Held in Finlay Park, this festival is a fun filled day with your dog. Activities include a doggie parade, doggie contests, pet friendly vendors, demos, silent auction, raffle, animal welfare information, food, music, and fun. For more information visit: [www.barktothepark.com](http://www.barktothepark.com).

**Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Festival:** Features original work from over 300 talented artists and crafts people. All juried exhibitors work has been handmade by the exhibitors and must be their own original design and creation. Experience the creative process in action with several of the exhibitors demonstrating their craft in their booths. Something for every taste and budget with items from the most contemporary to the most traditional.



**Five Points after Five:** Every fall after the Finlay Park Summer Concert Series ends, the Five Points after Five Concerts series begins. Every Thursday around five o'clock by the fountain in five points local and regional musical acts take the stage. The artists range from Jam bands, to reggae, to folk, to bluegrass.

**Governor's Carolighting:** This special event heralds the official start of South Carolina's yuletide season with the lighting of the State's Christmas Tree. The program features the Governor's All-Star High School Chorus and Band, USC Trumpet Choir, the Palmetto Mastersingers, Carolighting Children's Choir, Handbell Choir, and the Governor's seasonal message.

**3 Rivers Music Festival:** Columbia's original music festival is entering its' sixth year of existence. This three day music festival is held in the historic Vista in downtown Columbia. It has been host to national acts such as Ray Charles, Edwin McCain, George Clinton and the P-Funk All Stars, Moe, Outkast, 2skinny J's, Sevendust, Sting Cheese Incident, Nappy Roots, and Ludacris.

**Palmetto Sportman's Classic:** The largest family-oriented wildlife show in the Carolinas, it features information on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation and natural resources. Activities are held for adults and children throughout the show. There will be presentations on archery, animal displays, fishing, hunting and conservation.

**Riverfest:** Sponsored by the Epilepsy Foundation of SC, the festival is the major fund-raiser for this organization. Held annually at Riverfront Park, this festival is ranked by The Southeastern Tourism Society as one of the Top Twenty Events in the Southeast. Entertainment includes games, rides, local and regional bands and the ever popular competitive Celebrity Raft Race.

**Artista Vista:** A great opportunity for people to stroll through art galleries, bars and restaurants, shops and showrooms in the historic Vista district of Columbia. Strolling musicians herald the fast approaching winter holidays and dancing bonbons gather to light the festive tree.

**SC Oyster Festival:** The South Carolina Oyster Festival is Columbia's largest outdoor oyster roast with more than 5,000 pounds of fresh oysters served steamed and fried. The family-friendly event features free children's activities, live music, food, and drinks. Guests can experience a full day of activities on the historic grounds with oysters by the serving, a variety of foods, soft drinks, beer, and a special wine pavilion. Entertainment includes bands on two stages throughout the day. Performances include Woodwork Roadshow, offering a clever presentation of traditional and progressive acoustic music; Tom Hall and the Plowboys, rock with elements of zydeco, folk, and bluegrass with a Cajun flavor; The Blue Iguanas, local Columbia bluegrass traditionalists; Casual Kings, an up and coming rock quartet; and Columbia's own Danielle Howle, one of the nation's finest singer/songwriters of our generation.

**SC State Fair:** This 11 day long family fun filled fair features carnival rides, great fair food, grandstand performances by national acts and agricultural competitions. This is definitely an SC event that should not be missed.

**Summer Concert Series:** Each Saturday during the summer months, South Carolina's best musicians present a free concert including blues, rock, beach, jazz, big band and more. Bring your picnic baskets and lawn chairs to Columbia's Finlay Park for a pleasant evening of music.

**Five Points Blues Festival:** The Annual Blues Festival featuring artists from all over the county. Martin Luther King Park near Green Street plays host to this event each fall. Come and enjoy fabulous blues music completely free of charge. Beverages will be available for your purchase.

**Annual Chili Cook Off:** Chili Cook-Off is a spicy-hot event sponsored by Group Therapy, one of the favorite and oldest nightspots in Five Points. Every November, up to 60 competitors battle to win the title of “Best Chili” for various categories. Don’t miss this hot event, which also features live music and benefits the Babcock Center.

These are just a sampling of the festivals and events in Richland County. Art, musical, and educational events are continually happening in Richland County. Please visit the Columbia CVB website for a complete event calendar for the 2012 year. [www.columbiacvb.com](http://www.columbiacvb.com).

## RECREATION

From golf, amusement parks, and relaxing on the lake, to mountain biking, there is so much to do in Richland County. Richland County has a temperate climate, but unlike our neighbors further south, we have four distinct seasons of great weather to enjoy all of your favorite outdoor activities.

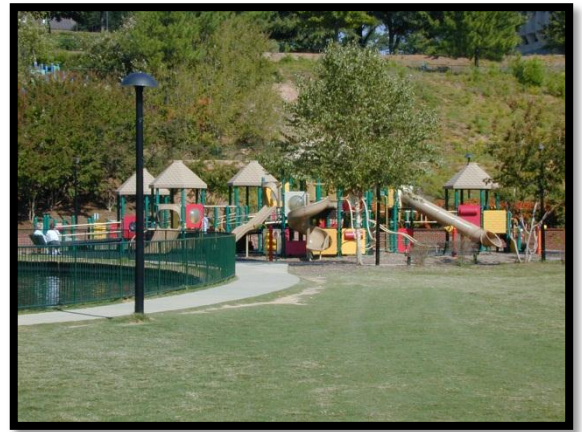
**Coldstream County Club:** This course, consistently voted best public golf course in the midlands by readers of The State Newspaper, requires good club selection and control on its tight, demanding, shot-making slopes. Spread throughout the suburban hills of Irmo near Lake Murray, Coldstream has a country club atmosphere with a large swimming pool, state-of-the-art tennis courts, lounge and banquet facilities in addition to challenging golf. At 6,155 yards, par 71, it is an interesting challenge to golfers of all skill levels.



**Congaree National Park:** The Park preserves the largest contiguous tract of old-growth bottomland hardwood forest in the US and contains one of the tallest deciduous forests in the world. The site protects numerous national and state champion trees and provides suitable habitat for future champions within its 22,200 acres. Its wetlands are widely acknowledged to be the most outstanding example of the southern bottomland hardwood ecosystem left in the world providing a habitat for diverse populations of flora and fauna. The National Park is designated as an International Biosphere, a Globally Important Bird Area and a National Natural Landmark. Activities within the park include hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, fishing, birding and nature study. The Harry Hampton Visitor Center offers exhibits that interpret the forest.



**Finlay Park:** One of the best known parks in the state of South Carolina, Finlay has hosted just about everything from festivals and political rallies to road races and Shakespearian plays. This beautiful 18-acre park has become the jewel of the downtown area, offering a green oasis in contrast to the glass, asphalt and concrete in the urban environment. There is a children's playground, a running and rollerblade track and plenty of green grass for picnics, laying in the sun or game of frisbee with your friends.



**Golf Club of SC at Crickentree:** Designed by Ken Killian of Kemper Lakes fame, the Golf Club of SC at Crickentree is one of the Midlands' finest. With tift-eagle greens and Bermuda fairways situated among rolling hills and towering hardwoods, Crickentree provides a fitting challenge to players of all skill levels. The double green for the 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> holes is a memorable feature. The signature is No. 10, a tight par-4 whose 387-yard fairway is crossed twice by a creek, with a deep but narrow green guarded by water and bunkers.

**Granby Park:** This park opened in November 1998 as a gateway to the rivers of Columbia, adding another access to the many river activities available to residents. Granby is a 24 acre linear park with canoe access points, fishing spots, bridges and 1/2 mile of nature trail along the banks of the Congaree River. The trail is the first leg of the 12-mile greenway that will connect the cities of Columbia, West Columbia, Cayce and Richland and Lexington Counties. The park is at the end of Catawba Street off Huger Street and has wonderful views of the river from the new overlooks.

**Sesquicentennial State Park:** Sesquicentennial State Park, affectionately known to locals as "Sesqui", is a spacious, green getaway in the heart of the Sandhills region. Once you're immersed in the 1,400 acres of pines, camping sites, and nature trails you forget just how close you are to bustling, downtown Columbia, South Carolina. The park features a 30-acre lake and a mixed pine and hardwood forest located in a sandhills ecosystem. Amenities and activities at Sesqui include:



boating, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, bird watching, hiking trails, walking trails, biking trails, and fishing.

**Hickory Ridge Golf Course:** Built in 1957, this varied terrain, 9-hole public course features many trees and bunkers. Golfers face open fairways and putting greens, both with Bermuda turf. Other course amenities include a chipping area, practice bunker, and food and beverages.

**Plex Indoor Sports:** One of two premier indoor sports complexes in the midlands, Plex Indoor Sports offers numerous opportunities for sports and recreation. Soccer, flag football, lacrosse, volleyball, dodgeball, tennis, and a roller skating are among the activities available to members.



**Lake Murray:** This 50,000 acre man-made lake with 525 miles of shoreline is the largest lake in the Midlands one of the largest in the state. It is operated by South Carolina Electric and Gas Company and is known for striped bass fishing and summer water sports. Public access is available through public parks near the dam, public boat ramps and marinas, and Dreher Island State Park. Another great attraction of the lake is the Purple Martins at Doolittle Island. The island is North America's first officially designated Purple Martin sanctuary. On summer evenings, boats gather at dusk to watch the spectacle of thousands of Purple Martins coming to roost.

**LinRick Golf Course:** This course is 257 acres of picturesque terrain, eight ponds, and rolling hills. This Russell Breeden design provides a challenge for players of all ages and abilities. The friendly PGA staff is on hand to assist you in the pro shop.

**Northwoods Golf Club:** Northwoods Golf Club is a P.B. Dye-designed course. The signature hole, no.14, features the famous Dye railroad ties and a variety of tees, mounds and bunkers. Northwoods offers full-service bar and grill, full pro shop services, group and individual lessons and lighted driving range and putting green.

**Oak Hills Golf Club:** Situated on 160 acres of gently rolling hills nestled among thousands of oaks, pines and picturesque dogwoods, Oak Hills is a world class 6,900 yard layout from the back tees. The golf course has undergone a recent renovation and is gaining a reputation as the golf jewel of The Midlands. Oak Hills is located on the northeast side of Columbia, Approximately 15 minutes from downtown.

**Riverfront Park & Historic Columbia Canal:** Riverfront Park opened in 1983 for recreational usage of the land where the original waterworks for the City of Columbia was situated. The park, which separates the Historic Columbia Canal and the Congaree River, is approximately 167 acres and is just west of Huger Street. A popular jogging/walking trail runs 2 1/2 miles along the linear park and offers wonderful views of the river. There is also a beautiful brick amphitheater as well as a self-guided walkway by the old parts of the water plant. The park hosts several events annually such as Riverfest, Greekfest and several smaller concerts.

**Riverside Golf Course:** This Par-3 course has relatively open fairways, undulating greens and is great for improving your short game. The signature hole, No. 2, is a 112-yard Par-3, requiring a precision tee shot to a well-bunkered green.

**Three River Greenway:** Enjoy the beauty of the Congaree, Saluda and Broad Rivers along this three-mile lighted greenway. Activities include jogging, walking, bank fishing access, canoe/kayak access, trails for cross country and mountain biking, and picnic facilities. Concerts are held at the greenway's amphitheater.

## PLACES TO VISIT

There are so many sights to see and places to visit in Richland County. We have attractions ranging from a president's boyhood home to the most contemporary children's museum in the southeast.

**African-American History Monument:** The Monument is the first of its kind on any of the nation's state house grounds. This monument traces African American history from the Middle Passage, to the fight for freedom in the Civil War, the struggle for civil rights and emergence into mainstream America. At the base of the monument are four rubbing stones from regions of Africa where slaves were captured: Senegal, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Congo and Ghana.

**Adventure Children's Museum:** This hands-on learning center is designed to enrich the lives of children, families and teachers through diverse exhibits and programs. The 67,000 sq. ft. museum features eight world-class galleries/exhibits, an innovative mix of high-tech and high-touch opportunities, a 200-seat theater and two unique resource centers. Children can also explore the human body through Eddie, at 40 ft. tall he is the world's largest child.



**Fort Jackson Museum:** Named for President Andrew Jackson, displays and exhibits here recount the history of training the American soldier from 1917 to present day. Tours are self-guided.

**The Governor's Mansion:** Built in 1855 to house officers of a military academy, the state's governors have lived here since 1868. First floor tours include the state dining room, two drawing rooms, the library and the smaller palmetto dining room, all furnished with period antiques. The complex also includes the Boylston House, which has a gift shop, the Lace House and the gardens, which are open year round.

**Hampton-Preston Mansion:** Built in 1818, this house was purchased in 1823 by Wade Hampton, one of South Carolina's wealthiest planters. The mansion was spared during the burning of Columbia because it served as the headquarters of Union Gen. John A. Logan. The property changed hands several times, serving in 1890 as a College for Women. Restored to its antebellum appearance, the house is furnished with Hampton and Preston family pieces. Four acres of gardens surround the house.

**Historic Columbia Foundation Tours:** Offers several tours of historic Columbia including a historic church tour, an architectural tour, a WWII tour, an African American tour, and one covering all the historical points in Columbia.

**Kensington Mansion:** Located in lower Richland



County, this beautiful plantation mansion was built in 1854. Kensington is an Italian Revival house furnished with the Scarborough-Hamer Collection of decorative arts and fine furniture from the Victorian period. It has 29 rooms and 12,000 square feet of floor space. The raised basement contains a massive cistern that held 10,000 gallons of water for household use. The original kitchen building stands beside the main house.

**McKissick Museum:** Located on the campus of the University of South Carolina, on the beautiful USC horseshoe, this is the largest university museum in the Southeast. It houses collections in material culture, decorative arts, natural sciences, history and fine arts. Rotating exhibitions scheduled, and some permanent displays in silver and gems and minerals.

**Mann-Simmons Cottage:** The home of Celia Mann, a slave who bought her freedom in Charleston and walked to Columbia to begin a new life. She served as a midwife in antebellum Columbia from 1850-1867 and was influential in the formation of the First Calvary Baptist Church, one of the city's first black congregations. The house contains the history of her remarkable family, who lived there and worked in the neighborhood for more than 120 years.



**Robert Mills House:** Designed in 1823 by Robert Mills, a native Charlestonian and architect of the Washington Monument. The Federal Greek Revival brick house showcases the hallmarks of Mills' designs: symmetrical columns and doorways, curved walls, Venetian windows, twin parlors and ceiling ornamentation. A fine collection of early 19th-century

English Regency, French Empire and American Federal furniture complements the decorative devices.

**Memorial Park:** The largest monument of its type outside of Washington D.C., stands here as memorial to 980 South Carolinians who died in Vietnam. The park also features a new Holocaust monument. Designed by renowned sculptor Irwin Hyman, the monument stands on a granite Star of David and features the names of Holocaust liberators and survivors of South Carolina engraved on its granite walls. The memorial includes a map of the death camps across Europe and a chronology of World War II.

**Randolph Cemetery:** This cemetery was founded in 1871 and named in memory of B.F. Randolph, an African American who served as a senator in the South Carolina Legislature during Reconstruction. Randolph was killed in 1868 by whites in Abbeville while campaigning. Randolph and eight other African-Americans who served in the State General Assembly during Reconstruction are among those interred here.

**The SC State House:** The history of South Carolina's State House is as colorful as the state itself. Begun in 1851, the original architect was dismissed for fraud and dereliction of duty and the structure dismantled due to defective materials. Work on a new structure was begun in 1855 and suspended in 1865 as Sherman's Union Army swept through leaving its mark on Columbia and the State House. Completed in 1907, the copper-domed granite building today wears six bronze stars to mark hits from



Sherman's cannons. There are several monuments and gardens on the state house grounds. Tours are available and there is a gift shop.

**SC Confederate Relic Room & Museum:**

Established in 1896, this is the oldest museum in the Columbia area. The museum focuses on the state's military history from the Revolutionary War to the present, with an emphasis on the Confederate era.

**SC State Museum:** This interactive "people's museum" offers exhibits and programs in art, history, natural history, science and technology. Hands-on exhibits are featured throughout its four-story 1890s building, which housed the world's first all-electric textile mill. At SC State Museum you can climb aboard the "Best Friend of Charleston" train or take a stroll along a boardwalk at the beach diorama or just learn about S.C.'s astronauts, innovators and other famous sandlappers.

**Southern Patriot Tour Boat:** The Southern Patriot is a 65 foot double deck cruise boat located on beautiful Lake Murray, northwest of Columbia. This charter boat offers scenic, sunset and purple martin tours on beautiful Lake Murray. Private charters are also available.

**Trinity Episcopal Cathedral & Cemetery:** This circa 1845 church is located across from the state house on the corner of Gervais and Sumter streets. Designed by Edward Brickell White, a well-known architect, this church is modeled after York Cathedral in England. It was miraculously spared when Sherman burned Columbia in 1865. Today, it is one of the 20 largest Episcopal churches in the nation. James F. Byrnes, statesman and US Supreme Court Justice, and six governors, including Wade Hampton III, are buried in its churchyard.

**Riverbanks Zoo & Botanical Gardens:** Named as one of the 10 great zoos in America, Riverbanks offers a world of diversity. More than 2,000 animals thrive in recreated natural habitats as diverse as a Pacific coral reef and an African savanna to a working South Carolina farm. There is brand new birdhouse that features four galleries filled with penguins, hornbills and exotic Asian birds. Visitors can spend hours traveling through the new Ndoki Forest exhibit seeking a family of gorillas, an elephant herd and a gang of meerkats on their way to search for giraffes, zebras and rhinos. The Australian exhibit features koalas, lorikeets and wallabies. Just across the scenic Lower Saluda River, visitors can explore 70 acres of woodlands, gardens, historic ruins and plant collections set among the varied topography of Riverbanks Botanical Garden.





**Tunnelvision & Light at the End of the Tunnel:** This clever optical illusion mural by famed South Carolina artist Blue Sky tempts drivers to take the “tunnel route” through the wall of the AgFirst Farm Credit Bank.

**Woodrow Wilson Family Home:** Thomas Woodrow Wilson, 28<sup>th</sup> president of the United States, lived in Columbia for four years while his father taught at Columbia Theological Seminary. Designed and built by Wilson’s parents in 1872, this Tucson villa-style cottage is furnished with Wilson family pieces, including Wilson’s birth bed. The gardens surrounding the house have been restored to resemble those created by Mrs. Wilson, who planted magnolia trees in front of the house.

## **HEALTHCARE**

**R**ichland County has several large hospital including Palmetto Baptist Medical Center, Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital, the soon to be constructed Palmetto Parkridge, and two locations for Providence Hospital. There is also a veterans’ hospital, the William Dorn VA Medical Center, and an army hospital at Fort Jackson. Total, these hospitals employ over 8,000 people and maintain nearly 2,000 beds. Services include: 24-hour Emergency Department, Emergency Medical Service (ambulance), Ambulatory Care Unit, Surgical Nursing Unit, Prepared Childbirth Classes, Breast Health Center, Cancer Institute, Center for Pain Management, Center for Sleep Disorders, Homecare Resources, Hospice of the Midlands, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Outpatient Surgery and Testing, Behavioral Health Services, Respiratory Therapy, Medical Nursing Unit, Cardiac Rehabilitation Program (certified), Physical Therapy (Inpatient and Outpatient), Laboratory (CAP certified), Healthworks Education Program, Radiology (Including CT-Scan, Ultrasound, Nuclear Medicine, & Teleradiology) and much more.

**Palmetto Health Richland Hospital:** is a 649-bed complex in Columbia and a regional community teaching hospital which includes the Children’s Hospital, the Center for Cancer Treatment and Research, The Heart Center, Columbia’s highest level trauma center, and Palmetto SeniorCare. Affiliated with the University of South Carolina, Richland Memorial has more than 30 pediatric subspecialties and has started the state’s first mismatched bone marrow transplant program. Their other specialties include high-risk obstetrics, orthopedics, psychiatry, cardiology, oncology, nephrology, neonatology, neurology, neurosurgery, and medical/surgical services. The hospital treats more than 225,000 patients from across the state and is supported by a medical and dental staff of more than 900.

**Palmetto Health Baptist Hospital:** Operates at a capacity of 489 acute care beds with some 2,300 full- and part-time employees, nearly 700 physicians and 500 volunteers. Voted the “Best Hospital” for ten consecutive years by the readers of The State, South Carolina’s largest daily newspaper, Palmetto Baptist is regarded as one of the best equipped and up-to-date hospitals in the Southeast. Baptist is a leader in surgical services, performing more



outpatient surgery than any hospital in the state. The Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient services for children, adolescents and adults. The Birthplace celebrates more than 3,600 babies born each year, offering private birthing suites with special amenities. Palmetto Baptist also provides many programs designed to help improve the health of the community, these include a women's resource center, screenings for early detection of disease, educational classes, membership programs for older adults and children, and a corporate health/risk reduction program.

**Providence Hospital:** Located in downtown Columbia, this 258-bed facility is best known for the expertise in cardiac care it provides through Providence Heart Institute, which serves as a nationally recognized referral center for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular disease. Cardiovascular care, however, is only one center of excellence at Providence. The physicians and staff at Providence also provide extraordinary care in the fields of general surgery, orthopedics, internal medicine, ophthalmology, emergency medicine, nuclear medicine and related diagnostic services, rehabilitation services, and occupational medicine. The hospital's lifesaving efforts are significantly enhanced by the LifeNet South Carolina, a helicopter service that operates 24 hours a day as an airborne intensive care unit, transporting critically ill patients to Providence and other facilities throughout the Carolinas and Georgia.



**Providence Hospital Northeast** is a 56-bed community hospital established in 1999 that includes a transitional care unit for newly discharged patients who require skilled nursing and rehabilitative care. Also located on the campus of Providence Hospital Northeast is

Providence Orthopaedic & Neuro Spine Institute. The Institute is a unique collaboration among Providence and leading orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons, providing medical and surgical treatment of the bones, joints and spine.

**Other Healthcare:** There are ten daycares available for the elderly and physically challenged. Thirteen nursing homes also are available along with 51 residential care communities. Free clinics in the region put basic medical care within reach of people who otherwise could not afford care. A strong network of private and public mental health centers and facilities make extensive psychiatric and counseling services available to all Columbia residents. South Carolina was the second state in the nation to establish a state-supported hospital for the mentally ill. Today, Columbia has hospitals, facilities and community programs that provide mental health care to children, adolescents, adults, senior citizens and people with physical disabilities. The University Of South Carolina School Of Medicine is located in Columbia and provides services to many counties in the region. More than two-thirds of its graduates are practicing primary care medicine, the highest percentage of all U.S. medical schools.

## CLIMATE

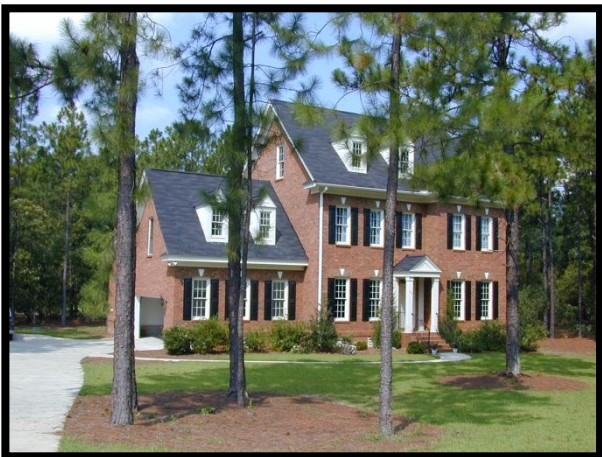
The average annual temperature in Richland County is 61.21 degrees Fahrenheit. In January, the average temperature is 42.99 degrees Fahrenheit, while in July the average temperature is 80.13 degree Fahrenheit. The mean yearly precipitation is 47.89 inches; the greatest monthly average occurs in July (5.36 inches) and the least occurs in November (2.98 inches).

## HOUSING

There are several housing opportunities in Richland County. With a median sale price of \$142,600, our region has the advantage of one of the lowest housing costs in the nation. Not only do we have one of the lowest costs in housing we have a wide variety of housing to choose from. Richland County offers the best of both worlds, a wide selection of homes are available in the metropolis of downtown Columbia, as well as the more rural areas of Blythewood. The following are just a sampling of the areas to live in Richland County.

**Downtown Columbia:** The heart of Columbia is filled with homes and great architecture, the undeniable charm of shady streets, wrap around porches and community parks. Most of these tree lined historic neighborhoods surround and intermingle with the CBD of Columbia and the University of South Carolina. Being so close to the city center and the university makes the availability of great restaurants, shops, bars, banks and grocery stores within walking distance. Some of the most cherished neighborhoods in Downtown Columbia include Shandon, University Hill, Old Shandon, Elmwood Park, Wheeler Hill, Wales Garden, Arsenal Hill, Laurel Hill, Heathwood, Rosewood, Olympia, Cotton Town, Melrose Heights and Forrest Hills. The rise in popularity for living in town, close to where one works has spurred the development of new homes and apartments in and around the downtown area. Price Range: \$60,000 - \$1.5million.

**Forest Acres/Arcadia Lakes:** This area is named for its heavy concentration of pine, poplar, sweetgum, hickory and oak trees. Forest Acres is known for its good schools and close proximity to dining, shopping, movie theatres, grocery stores and downtown Columbia. Price Range: \$75,000 - 600,000.



**Northeast Columbia:** Is one of the fastest growing areas in Greater Columbia, the area is known for its club-like communities and an extensive variety of recreation facilities. Several large golf communities can be found along-side spectacular lakes and ponds. Some of Columbia's most popular neighborhoods feature exciting amenities for you to choose from and some offer gated entrances for more privacy. The new housing developments are nestled amongst major tennis facilities, equestrian centers, polo fields, baseball/softball complexes and modern fitness centers. Price Range: \$65,000 - \$750,000

**Southeast Columbia:** Some of the first suburban communities established right outside Columbia's historic neighborhoods are in Southeast Columbia and still are just minutes from the CBD of



Columbia. One of the most popular neighborhoods in this area is nicknamed “behind the VA” simply because the neighborhood is behind the VA Hospital. This neighborhood is filled with tall pines, azaleas, community parks and great homes. There has recently been a surge in the redevelopment of this in town area. The Woodhill Mall has recently been developed into a new shopping center with popular shops like Target and Pier One and restaurants and coffee shops like Panera and Starbucks. Price Range: \$60,000 - \$400,000

## **SHOPPING**

Richland County has 5 malls; including, Columbiana Centre, Columbia Place Mall, Richland Mall, The Village at Sandhills, and Dutch Square Center. Belk, Dillards, JC Penney, Parisians, Rich’s Macy’s and Sears are the major department stores that anchor the malls. Some of the stores include Banana Republic, The Limited, Ann Taylor Loft, Express, Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, William Sonoma, The Gap, OldNavy, Talbot’s, Bath and Body Works, American Eagle, Victoria’s Secret, Chico’s and many more.



There are also many shopping centers spread out throughout the county. Familiar stores include Petsmart, TJMaxx, Marshalls, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Tuesday Morning, Michael’s Arts & Crafts, Bed Bath & Beyond, Pier 1 Imports, Toys R Us, World Market, Linens-n-Things, Stein Mart and Kohl’s. Major discount chains such as Kmart, Target and Wal-Mart also offer several locations throughout the county. Not only are there plenty of national chain stores to choose from but Columbia has several unique shopping districts. The Devine Street shopping area is home to some of the nicest women’s clothing boutiques in Columbia. There are also stores that sell fine make up and fragrance, men’s clothing, furniture, home decor and women’s shoes.

Devine street is also a great place to find many of Columbia’s favorite local restaurants. Another shopping area is the Vista. The Vista has a larger selection of national chain restaurants mixed in with local favorites. The Vista is also home to some of Columbia’s finer home décor stores as well as art galleries. Just right over the river from the Vista is Meeting Street. Meeting Street is home to Columbia’s antique district. There are several malls and smaller antique dealers located along Meeting Street whom carry a wide variety of merchandise.



Lastly, the Five Points area is located close to the University of South Carolina campus. This area has several delis, bars, restaurants and shops that cater to the college students as well as the young bohemian residents of Columbia.



## GOVERNMENT

Richland County is governed under a Council/Administrator format. The Council consists of eleven members representing individual districts and a Chairman who is elected at-large. County Council members serve four-year terms.

## POLICE & FIRE

Department	Resources
<b>Richland County Sheriff's Department</b>	
Officers	467
Patrol Cars	490
Total Personnel	604
<b>Columbia City Police Department</b>	
Officers	300
Patrol Cars	134
Total Personnel	393
<b>Richland County Fire Department</b>	
Paid Firefighters	400
Volunteers	100
Fire Stations	28
Fire Engines	29
Ladder Trucks	4

## UTILITIES

Utility	Provider / Data
<b>Water &amp; Wastewater Services</b>	
City of Columbia	
Water Capacity	146 MGD
Excess Capacity	70 MGD
Sewer Capacity	60 MGD
Excess Capacity	20 MGD
<b>Telephone Services</b>	AT&T, Verizon
<b>Gas Suppliers</b>	South Carolina Pipeline, SCE&G
<b>Electric Suppliers</b>	SCE&G, Mid-Carolina Electric Coop, Tri-County Electric Coop

## MEDIA

The State Newspaper is published in Columbia, SC and has statewide coverage. Other local publications include: The Columbia Free Times Magazine, The Columbia Star, The Greater Columbia Business Monthly Magazine, and several others.

# EDUCATION

## PRIMARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

Richland County has two public school districts comprised of eighty-four schools, which includes fifty elementary schools, nineteen middle schools and fifteen high schools.

District	Richland 01	Richland 02
Enrollment	23,945	25,964
Total SAT Score	1347	1410
Total ACT Score	18.3	20.3
Pupil / Teacher Ratio	20.6:1	21.5:1
Expenditure Per Pupil	\$11,944	\$9,576
Attendance Rate	95.2%	97.7%
Annual Dropout Rate	4.1%	1.6%
Teachers with Advanced Degrees	69.2%	71.8%

Source: South Carolina Department of Education 2012 School District Report Cards

Richland County Schools have demonstrated a history of excellence. Richland School District Two's significant achievements include: Second highest in the state for number of National Board Certified teachers, and top 20 nationally, Palmetto Gold Awards, Palmetto Silver Awards, Micro Society George Award, National Federation of State High School Associations 4A Region 4 National Award of Excellence, and several others.

## PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Private School	Enrollment	Grades	Denomination
Asbury Kindergarten & Preschool	47	PK-KG	Methodist
Ben Lippen School	844	PK-12	Christian
Bethel Learning Center	298	PK-4	African Methodist
Cardinal Newman School	488	7-12	Roman Catholic
Chesterbrook Academy	184	PK-KG	Nonsectarian
Columbia Jewish Day School	93	PK-5	Jewish
Covenant Classical Christian	143	PK-12	Presbyterian
Eastminster Day School	56	PK-KG	Presbyterian
Family Christian Academy	47	PK-2	Pentecostal
Full Gospel Christian Academy	101	PK-2	Christian
Hammond School	943	PK-12	Nonsectarian
Harmony School	69	PK-3	Nonsectarian
Heathwood Hall Episcopal School	792	PK-12	Episcopal
Hope Academy	99	PK-KG	Baptist
Kilbourne Park Baptist	156	PK-KG	Baptist
Montessori Early Learning Center	147	Ungraded	Nonsectarian
Montessori School of Columbia	56	PK-5	Nonsectarian
New Heights School	125	PK-7	Christian
Northminster ECDC	72	PK-KG	Presbyterian
Right Direction Christian Academy	13	PK-KG	Christian
Sandhills School	49	6-10	Nonsectarian
Shandon Presbyterian CDC	134	PK-KG	Presbyterian
Shandon United Methodist	214	PK-KG	Methodist
Sloan's School	16	7-12	Nonsectarian
St. John Baptist Preschool	107	PK-KG	Baptist

<b>St. John Neumann Catholic</b>	356	PK-6	Roman Catholic
<b>St. Joseph School</b>	312	PK-6	Roman Catholic
<b>St. Martin De Porres School</b>	81	PK-6	Roman Catholic
<b>St. Peters Catholic School</b>	114	PK-6	Roman Catholic
<b>Trinity Cathedral CDC</b>	92	PK-KG	Episcopal
<b>VV Reid School</b>	264	PK-5	African Methodist

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, Private School Universe Survey data for the 2009-2010 School Year

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Population Age 25+	Percent
Less Than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3.4%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade, No Diploma	7.8%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	22.2%
Some College, No Degree	22.0%
Associate's Degree	8.5%
Bachelor's Degree	22.0%
Graduate or Professional Degree	14.2%
High School Graduate or Higher	88.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	36.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau's 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## HIGHER EDUCATION

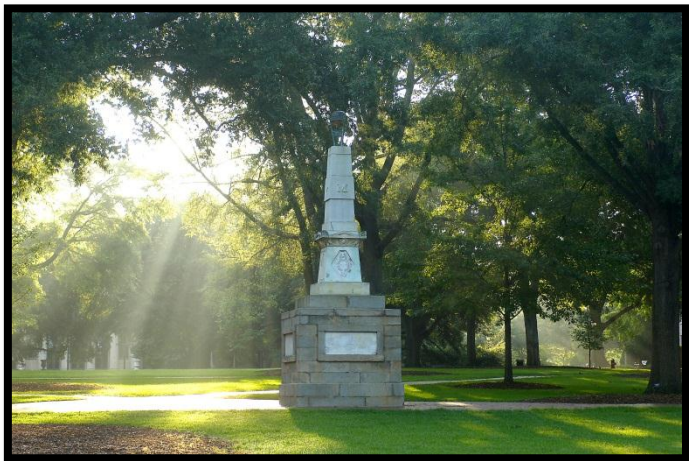
Richland County and the Columbia area boast eight diverse institutions of higher education, more than any other region in the state. These institutions range from a large, public research institution with graduate programs in law and medicine to a small liberal-arts women's college. Also available are two historically African-American institutions, a nationally renowned technical college system, two seminaries, and a junior college of business with an ABA approved Paralegal Studies Program.

**Midlands Technical College** is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate degrees, diplomas and certificates. MTC's Continuing Education program is one of the largest of its kind among two-year colleges in the state, serving approximately 30,000 residents during the past year. Approximately one in three college-bound high school graduates in the Midlands area is served by Midlands Technical College. MTC is the largest source of transfer students to Columbia College and the University of South Carolina, outside the USC system.



Established in 1801, the **University of South Carolina** has consistently ranked as one of the nation's top research universities. The University remains the oldest state institution in the United States to be continuously supported by public funds. From the historic Horseshoe located just blocks from the South Carolina State House, the University has grown into a 290-acre campus and is expanding west towards the Congaree River.

The University of South Carolina's operates 8 campuses throughout the state, the Columbia campus offers more than 324 degree programs through its 14 degree granting colleges and schools.



The University of South Carolina's Innovista Research District is a strategic economic development effort that connects USC with entrepreneurs, businesses and stakeholders; its purpose is to attract and create technology-intensive, knowledge based companies, which result in higher paying jobs and an improved standard of living in South Carolina.

As a part of their overall economic development initiative, the Horizon I was built across from the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center

and features 125,000 square feet of dry lab and wet lab space, and is home to National Science Foundation Industry/University Cooperative for Fuel Cell Research. Researchers at Innovista are on the forefront of technology and innovation; their research includes breakthroughs in future fuels, health sciences and nanotechnologies

The University's Moore School of Business is widely regarded as one of the nation's best, and has consistently ranked in the top three IMBA programs by U.S. News and World Report for the last 22 consecutive years.

**Columbia College:** Founded in 1854—and affiliated with the United Methodist Church—Columbia College is a private, residential, four-year Liberal Arts College for women. Women's leadership development is integral to the Columbia College experience, with distinct emphasis on the 4C's: Courage, Commitment, Confidence and Competence. The Women's College offers over 30 majors, a premedical program, and individualized programs of study. More than half of Columbia College alumnae pursue advanced degrees, including law school or medical school. The Evening Program offers twelve majors that rank among the most sought-after programs for working adults in the Midlands area. The Graduate Program offers a Master of Education in Divergent Learning for educators, and a Master of Arts in Organizational Change and Leadership for professionals in any discipline.

**Benedict College:** Founded in 1870, Benedict College is a private, co-educational liberal arts institution located in Columbia, SC. Benedict College has produced over 15,000 graduates and currently has over 3,100 students enrolled in baccalaureate degree programs. Benedict was recently named one of the top 100 institutions in the nation graduating African American scholars by Diverse Magazine. The College is a major economic contributor to the region and South Carolina, with a local annual economic impact of \$106.7 million.

**Allen University** is located across the street from Benedict College. Founded by the African American Episcopal Church, the university has a distinguished history and is recognized for outstanding development of men and women for leadership roles. This private liberal-arts college enrolls over 800 undergraduates in nine areas of study, including liberal arts, business and education.



In addition to the intuitions of higher education mentioned here, the Central SC Region is home to numerous other institutions of higher education, listed below.

### **HIGHER EDUCATION STATISTICS**

<b>Institution</b>	<b>Enrollment</b>	<b>Graduates</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Allen University</b>	644	80	Columbia
<b>Benedict College</b>	3,213	339	Columbia
<b>Central Carolina Technical College</b>	4,522	647	Camden
<b>Claflin University</b>	1,961	359	Orangeburg
<b>Columbia College</b>	1,266	413	Columbia
<b>Columbia International Univ.</b>	1,177	282	Columbia
<b>Midlands Technical College</b>	12,224	1,914	Columbia
<b>Morris College</b>	979	130	Sumter
<b>Newberry College</b>	1,110	191	Newberry
<b>Orangeburg-Calhoun Technical College</b>	3,003	512	Orangeburg
<b>Piedmont Technical College</b>	6,213	1,081	Newberry
<b>South Carolina State Univ.</b>	4,326	723	Orangeburg
<b>University of South Carolina</b>	30,721	7,041	Columbia
<b>U.S.C. Sumter</b>	1,018	91	Sumter

*Source: The South Carolina Commission on Higher Education. Fall 2011 Enrollment data and 2010 – 2011 Graduation data*