

# FACTS & FIGURES / DEMOGRAPHICS

**Florence County** is a world class location, with one of the best business climates in the southeast. We've recently been named among America's top 50 cities for business relocation and expansion (by Expansion Management Magazine.)

## Grow Your Business In Good Company

Florence County is a proven, successful location for business and industry and home to over 130 companies that have a manufacturing presence. Perhaps that's why over the past five years new and expanding businesses have invested more than 1.1 billion dollars here, including companies like Du Pont, ESAB, Heinz, Honda, GE Healthcare, Johnson Controls, Monster.com, QVC, and Roche. We're at the convergence of interstates I-95 and I-20, midway between New York City and Miami.

## The Certified Sites Program

Our site pre-certification program helps businesses cut down on red tape and save time and money. We make it easier for you to find the site that's perfect for your requirements. Learn more about the Certified Economic Development sites program, the only one of its kind in South Carolina.

**Florence County and the State of South Carolina are continually recognized for the pro-business climate, qualified workforce, and overall quality of life.** South Carolina annually ranks among the premiere business climates in the nation. Our state and local tax structure is highly conducive to new business development and the expansion of existing enterprises. Florence County and South Carolina offer a series of customized performance-based incentive programs designed to reduce both start-up and operating costs.

**Florence County Population:** *Florence County is the hub of the dynamic northeastern South Carolina market area.*

- Current Population at 1,042,013 in a 60-mile radius.
- Civilian Labor Force exceeding 387,226 in a 60-mile radius.
- Working age component of the region's population in excess of 281,000 people with consistent growth projections ensuring a continual re-supply of available employees.
- Cost-of-Living at 96.3% of the national average

## Florence County Population

1980	110,163
1990	114,344
2000	125,761
2007	132,047
2010 (projected)	137,610

## Florence Region Population

2000	620,572
2008 (est.)	657,010

*Source of Mile Radius Statistics: CACI Marketing Systems, using radii as measured from the intersection of I-95 and SR 327 in Florence, SC.*

## Population by Mile Radius

	30 Miles	40 Miles	60 Miles
White	55.2%	53.2%	55.1%
Black	43.5%	41.9%	37.8%
Other	1.3%	4.9%	7.1%
Hispanic	1.1%	1.3%	1.6%

## Households by Mile Radius

	30 Miles	40 Miles	60 Miles
1990	93,557	139,316	315,026
2000	104,954	156,073	359,958
2005	109,483	163,135	380,745

## Households by Mile Radius

	30 Miles	40 Miles	60 Miles
1990	\$21,491	\$21,052	\$21,347
2000	\$31,571	\$30,966	\$31,469
2005	\$35,743	\$35,220	\$36,083

## Florence County Per Capita Personal Income

2006	\$30,334
2005	\$28,486
2004	\$27,340
2003	\$25,988
2002	\$25,422
2001	\$24,789
2000	\$23,796

## MEDIA

Miller Communications  
Morning News  
WBTW TV - 13 (CBS)  
WFXB TV - 43 (FOX)  
WIS - Florence (NBC)  
WJPM TV - 33 (PBS)  
WPDE TV - 15 (ABC)

## TOURISM

Darlington Raceway

## TRANSPORTATION

Florence Regional Airport  
SC State Ports Authority  
Port of Wilmington, NC

## UTILITIES

Santee Electric Cooperative  
SCANA Corporation  
Pee Dee Electric Cooperative  
Progress Energy

# 2008 TOP EMPLOYERS

Name	Approx. # of Employees	Product/Service
1 Honda of South Carolina	1625	All-Terrain Vehicles, Personal Watercraft
2 Nan Ya Plastics Corporation America	860	Polyester Staple Fiber & Filament
3 ESAB Welding and Cutting Products	650	Welding Equipment, Cutting Machines
4 Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation	550	Kraft Linerboard
5 Nucor Corp. Vulcraft Division	400	Steel Joists, Girders, & Decking
6 QVC, Inc.	400	Distribution
7 G.E. Medical Systems	372	MRI Manufacturer
8 Roche Carolina	308	Pharmaceutical R & D, Bulk Mftg.
9 ACS Technologies	270	Customized Software
10 Pepsi Cola Bottling Company	221	Soft Drinks
11 McCall Farms	215	Canned Fruits & Vegetables
12 IFH Foodservice Distribution	210	Food Products
13 Johnson Controls, Inc.	200	Aftermarket Batteries & distribution
14 Angus-Palm, LLC	195	Cab Enclosures
15 Dupont Teijin Films	195	Polyester Film

## Non-Manufacturing (top 10 employers)

1. Administrators/TRICARE (BlueCross BlueShield)	1600	Insurance Services
2 J.P. Morgan Chase	1150	Mortgage Services
3 The Assurant Group	675	Mortgage & Insurance Data Processing
4 Wal-Mart	620	Discount Retailer
5 ADP Tax Credit Services	480	Tax Service
6 Progress Energy	282	Electricity
7 Cayce Company, Inc.	259	HVAC Contractors
8 W. Lee Flowers and Company	250	Grocery Distribution
9 Monster	200	Customer Care Center
10 Pathology Service Associates, LLC	155	Medical Business Services

## Government/Institutional (top 10 employers)

1 McLeod Regional Medical Center	3151
2 Florence School District 1	1718
3 Carolinas Hospital System	1640
4 Florence County	898
5 South Carolina DHEC	600
6 Francis Marion University	440
7 City of Florence	433
8 Florence County Disabilities & Special Needs Board	350
9 Florence-Darlington Technical College	215
10 Florence County Department of Social Services	170

## Florence Companies with Foreign Parent

ABB, Inc.	Switzerland
Dupont Teijin Films	Japan
ESAB Welding & Cutting Products	United Kingdom
Honda of South Carolina Mftg., Inc.	Japan
International Knife and Saw	Germany
Nan Ya Plastics Corporation	Taiwan
Roche Carolina, Inc.	Switzerland
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation	Ireland
SouthEast Express	Japan

# Want Your Website to Stand Out in the crowd?

Go with a company that has a reputation of providing high-quality websites that demand recognition. From straight html to dynamic database driven content with CMS to e-commerce to flash games, all at affordable pricing.

## Some examples:

cokezerosweepstakes.com - Worldwide  
universalfibers.com - Worldwide  
zatarainsfoodservice.com - Hunt Valley, MD  
texaspetefoodservice.com - Winston Salem, NC  
silverbergmd.com - Newport Beach, CA  
newportbaysc.com - Newport Beach, CA  
renuke.com - Oak Ridge, TN  
kenross.com - Johnson City, TN  
pikofflaw.com - Houston, TX & Mexico City, Los Cabos, MX

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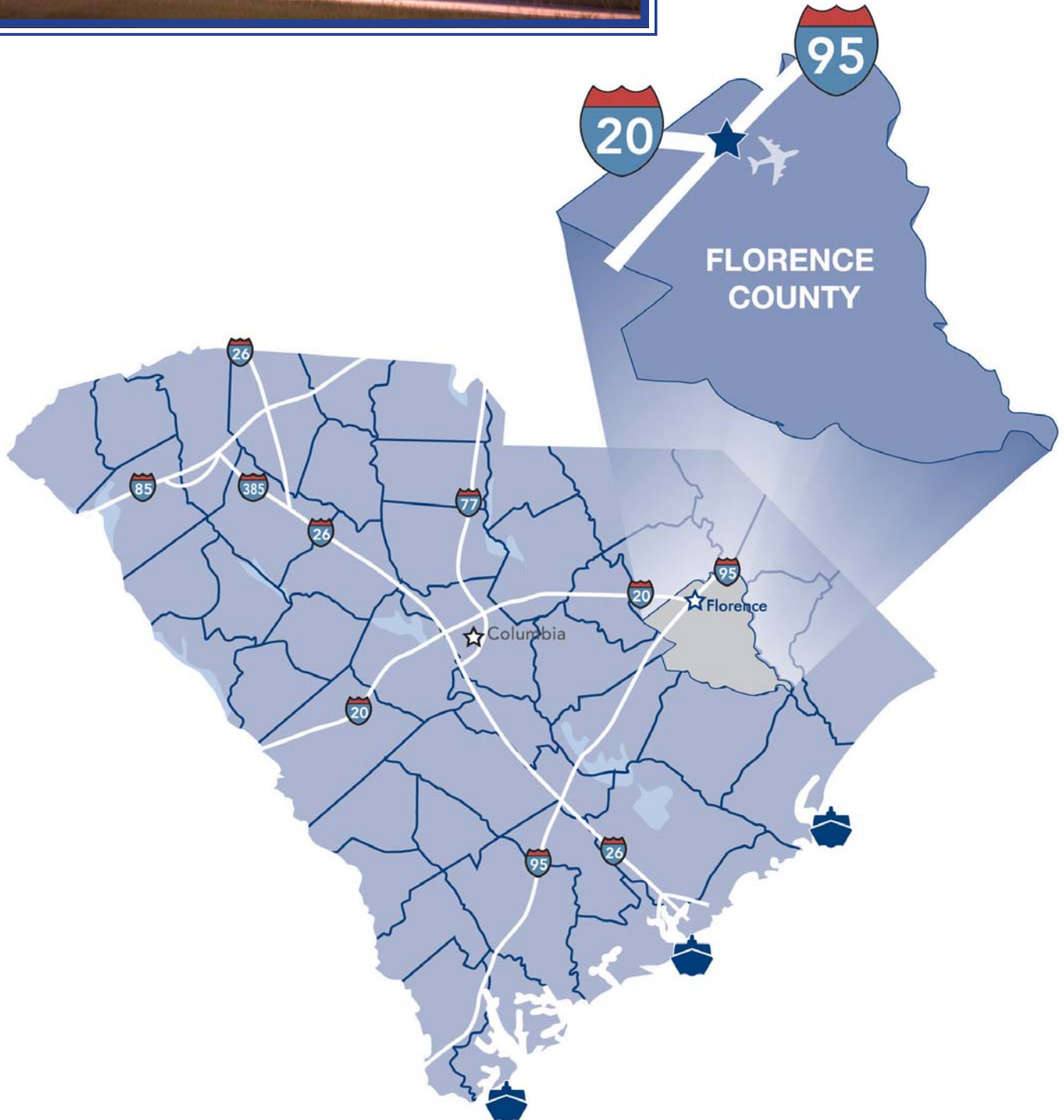
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*Florence intersects with I-20 and I-95.  
Photo courtesy Pee Dee Tourism.*



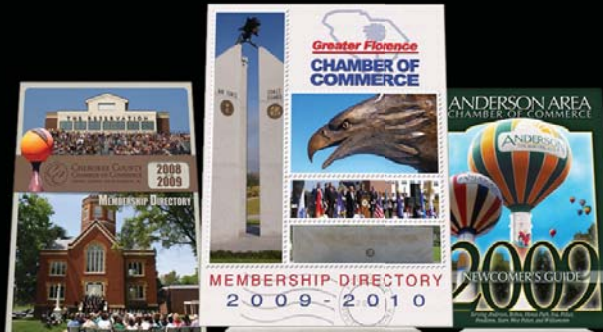
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# Alexander & Lee Publishing Company

## TAXES

### South Carolina's Corporate Income Tax

Companies pay a state corporate income tax on income allocated to South Carolina operations (interest, dividends, royalties, rents, property sale gains and losses, and personal services income) and income apportioned to the operations. South Carolina uses a double weighting of S.C. Sales in income apportionment:

- 25% S.C. property vs. all property.
- 25% S.C. payroll vs. all payroll.
- 50% S.C. sales vs. all sales.
- 15-year net carry-forward for losses in S. C.

A **5% corporate income tax rate** is applied to the sum of these incomes, and the resulting figure is a company's state corporate income tax. In South Carolina, only the state has the authority to tax corporate income.

### South Carolina's Corporate License Fee (Franchise Tax)

All corporations-foreign and domestic-must pay an annual fee to the State Department of Revenue. The rate is one mil per dollar (\$0.001) of a proportion of total paid-in-capital and paid-in-surplus, plus \$15. Earned surplus (retained earnings) is not included in the base in calculating this tax. For corporations doing business outside the state, the license fee is determined by apportionment, in the same manner employed

in computing the state corporate income tax. The minimum corporate license fee is \$25.

### Retail Sales Taxes

South Carolina levies a 5% retail sales tax. Major exemptions from the tax include certain items used in farming, prescription drugs, electricity and machinery used in manufacturing. The entire proceeds of this tax are pledged to the construction and operation of the South Carolina School System. Voters in Florence County in 1993 approved an additional 1 % local option sales tax to reduce property tax rates. One hundred percent of the tax is used as a credit against taxes on all types of property.

### Florence County Property Taxes

Property taxes in South Carolina are levied by local entities only. There are no state property taxes. Included in the list of local entities allowed to levy property taxes are counties, municipalities, school districts, technical colleges and certain special service districts such as water, sewer and drainage control authorities.

With property tax rates among the lowest in the state, a well-trained work force and a diversified economy, we can help put your business in the fast lane.

On behalf of the Greater Florence Chamber of Commerce and Alexander and Lee Publishing, we would like to thank the following advertisers that made it possible to publish the new Chamber Newcomer's Guide and Membership Directory, available both as a beautiful hard copy, and online at flochamber.com.

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