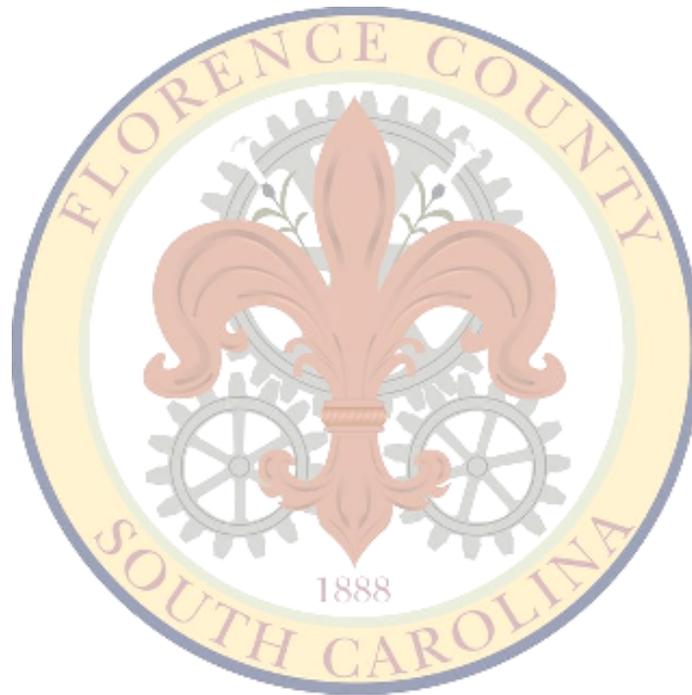


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



FLORENCE COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES.....	2
LIST OF TABLES.....	3
INTRODUCTION.....	5
AIR QUALITY.....	5
LABOR FORCE.....	7
EMPLOYMENT TRENDS.....	8
INCOME.....	11
EMPLOYERS.....	15
COMMUTING.....	18
MIGRATION.....	23
WORKPLACE.....	24
DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT.....	24
INDUSTRY.....	24
AGRICULTURE.....	27
FORESTRY.....	30
MINING.....	33
GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES.....	36
REFERENCES.....	38
INTERNET SOURCES.....	39
APPENDIX.....	40
ELEMENT ADOPTION DATES.....	40

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 5-1	Unemployment Percentages for Florence and Contiguous Counties, January 2008.....	10
Figure 5-2	Median Family Income in the Pee Dee Region, 2000-2006.....	12
Figure 5-3	State Median Family Income by Family Size, 2006 (dollars adjusted for inflation).....	13
Figure 5-4	Approximate Commute Time, Florence County (<i>from intersection of I-20 and I-95</i>).....	20
Figure 5-5	12-month Average National and South Carolina Regular Unleaded Fuel Prices.....	21
Figure 5-6	Locations of Florence County Industrial Parks.....	26
Figure 5-7	Locations of Mines in Florence County.....	35

LIST OF TABLES

Table 5-1	Air Quality EPA Standards.....	6
Table 5-2	Federal Government Expenditure by County Fiscal Year 2005 (<i>in thousands of dollars</i>).....	7
Table 5-3	Southeastern U.S. Projections for 2030.....	7
Table 5-4	Percent of Population for Florence County, 1970-2030.....	7
Table 5-5	Population and Employment Growth Rates for Florence County, 1970-2030.....	8
Table 5-6	Florence County: Age, Gender and Race Composition, 2005.....	8
Table 5-7	Unemployment Trends for Florence County and State of SC, 1990-2005.....	9
Table 5-8	Labor force, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rate (%) for Florence and Adjacent Locations.....	9
Table 5-9	Employment Status by Gender for Florence County, 2000.....	10
Table 5-10	Employment Status by Race for Florence County, 2000.....	11
Table 5-11	Change in Median Family Income for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2000-2006.....	12
Table 5-12	Household Income Range for 1990 and 2000.....	13
Table 5-13	High School Education Attainment for Persons 18 yrs. and Over.....	14
Table 5-14	College Education Attainment for Persons 18 yrs. and Over for Florence and Adj. Counties.....	15
Table 5-15	Largest Employers in Florence County.....	15
Table 5-16	Emergency Room and Inpatient Discharges for Florence, Adjacent Counties and State, 2006.....	17
Table 5-17	FDIC Insured Institutions for Florence and Adjacent Counties.....	18
Table 5-18	New and Existing Industry for Florence County, 1985-2004.....	18
Table 5-19	Daily Commuting To and From Florence County and Surrounding Areas.....	19
Table 5-20	Commute Time for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2000.....	20
Table 5-21	Percentage of Workers 16 Years and Over for Florence and Adjacent Counties.....	21
Table 5-22	Cumulative Investments on Industry for Florence County, 2005-2008.....	22
Table 5-23	Migration for Florence and Adjacent Counties.....	24
Table 5-24	Employed Population 17 Years and Over for Florence County, 2000.....	25
Table 5-25	Payroll Employment Information for Florence County, 2001.....	25

Table 5-26	Projections of Employment Percentage by Type for Florence County, 1970-2030	26
Table 5-27	Location of Industrial Parks in Florence County	26
Table 5-28	Agricultural Statistics for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 1992 and 2002	28
Table 5-29	Agricultural Statistics for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2002	28
Table 5-30	Cash Receipts from Farm Marketing of Crops, Livestock, and Livestock Products in S.C.	29
Table 5-31	Leading S.C. Commodities for Cash Receipts, 2004	30
Table 5-32	Roundwood Timber Output for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2005 (<i>thousands of cubic feet</i>).....	31
Table 5-33	Value of Timber Delivered to SC Mills, 2003.....	31
Table 5-34	Value of Timber Delivered to SC Mills, 2005.....	32
Table 5-35	Mine Permits in Florence County.....	34

INTRODUCTION

The economic element of the Comprehensive Plan examines the characteristics of the local economy including the available workforce and industry. This element provides a baseline analysis of the current economic condition for the County and offers goals for an economic policy. The importance of economic development is quite basic. It is about residents and business owners working together to maintain a strong economy and quality of life. This objective is accomplished by creating, attracting and retaining desirable jobs that will provide a good standard of living. For example, when personal income is increased, the tax base increases which allows a broader level of public services. The well-being of a community is enhanced by a balanced and healthy economy.

A community can anticipate changes and determine its future direction by investing in economic development. It enables them to guide or choose the type of development that is desirable to their community. Some economic developers are employed to maintain and enhance the community's values.

In the last decade, changes within the County and largely on the national scale have had an influence in the types of jobs available. Florence County is significantly affected by transformations in the economy due to evolving technology, a growing global market and the increasing level of education in the workforce. Education is a basic factor in achieving the best results for the economy. Computer literacy is critical in the market today due to the sophistication of machinery as well as a means of communication. Overall, industry businesses are encouraged to relocate to Florence County which in turn provides growth to the County's economy.

Significant biomedical and financial businesses are located in Florence County either in the downtown area or I-95 and I-20 connectors. Specifically, two hospitals and two major pharmaceutical companies as well as banking regional offices and many large local banking services are locally established.

Florence County offers businesses a wide range of transportation options. The CSX Railroad has a major local switching yard and offers a direct rail service to two major seaports: Charleston, S.C. and Wilmington, N.C. The Florence Regional Airport offers commercial connections daily to major southeastern and international hub airports in Charlotte and Atlanta. The airport has expanded their facilities and continues to better serve the regional interests. Furthermore, the interstate highway system, including I-95 and I-20, services the entire County with future road widening projects funded by a one cent capital project sales tax.

All of the elements that make up the Comprehensive Plan play a major role in the developing of the economy. This economic element will provide statistical data and trends pertaining to the employment and business community of Florence County. It is the goal of this document to be used to better plan the future by referencing available data.

There are four simple questions that need to be answered to complete this document:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?
- Where do we put what we want?

(Wisconsin Economic Development Institute, Inc. 2003)

AIR QUALITY

The region's air quality is an important factor when attracting businesses. On March 12, 2008, the EPA signed the most stringent 8-hour standard for ozone, a first in a decade. The changes were based on the most recent scientific evidence regarding the effects of ozone which, together with particulate matter (PM) are primary components to measuring air quality.

The new primary 8-hour standard is 0.075 parts per million (ppm). The secondary standard (concerned with the affects of air quality on vegetation) is set equal to the primary standard (which is focused on human health). The previous standards were both set at 0.08 ppm. Due to the fact that ozone is measured out three decimal places, the standard became 0.084 because of rounding. A non-attainment status is assigned to areas that fail to meet these standards. This status may translate into restrictions for polluters and federally funded transportation projects.

Nationwide, ozone levels have dropped 21 percent since 1980 as more government and business partners addressed air quality issues. Improvements are expected to continue due to such regulations as The Clean Air Interstate Rule, which reduces emissions from power plants and the Clean Diesel Program which reduces emissions from highway, non-road and stationary diesel engines nationwide.

Diesel emission regulations passed for 2007 will further aide local regions in meeting the EPA standards. The final standards for these levels were selected after reviewing 1700 scientific studies about ozone effects on public health and welfare. The advice of the EPA's external scientific advisors combined with staff and public comments were also used to determine these standards. The EPA has updated the Air-Quality Index (AQI) to reflect the change in health standards. Daily air quality is communicated to the public by using the AQI and the range is shown in table 5-1, below.

Table 5-1 Air Quality EPA Standards

Air Quality Index		
Index Values	Descriptors	Cautionary Statements for Ozone
0 to 50	Good	None
51 to 100	Moderate	Unusually sensitive people should consider limiting prolonged outdoor exertion.
101 to 150	Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
151 to 200	Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid prolonged outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit prolonged outdoor exertion
201 to 300	Very Unhealthy	Active children and adults, and people with respiratory disease, such as asthma, should avoid all outdoor exertion; everyone else, especially children, should limit outdoor exertion.

Source: www.scdhec.net/BAQ

Since 1980, Florence County ground level ozone has been significantly reduced. In general, ground level ozone season begins April 1 and ends Oct. 31. The County has a consistent track record of air quality partners coordinating efforts to increase air quality. Most recently, Florence County government and the State's Department of Health and Environmental Control together with representatives from the area's businesses met to review programs that directly improved air quality. Possibly reflecting this effort, ground-level ozone concentrations have decreased every year between 2005 and 2007. Currently, Florence County is exploring more avenues to continue this trend. Particulate matter concentrations, another air quality parameter, continue to meet national EPA standards.

Table 5-2 shows federal government expenditures in 2005 for Florence and adjacent counties. Florence County has the largest population of 130,259 while Sumter is second with 104,909. Even though Florence has a larger population, Sumter has the greatest number of expenditures, mainly due to the presence of Shaw Air Force Base. Florence is number one in the grants category. Sumter and Marion County are the top two in procurements. Sumter is by far the leader in salaries and wages at \$264,987 and Lee County at the lowest with \$2,161.

Table 5-2 Federal Government Expenditure by County Fiscal Year 2005 (in thousands of dollars)

Jurisdiction	Population	Total Expenditures	Retirement and Disability	Other Direct Payments	Grants	Procurement	Salaries and Wages
South Carolina	4,246,933	32,043,535	11,445,585	6,128,668	6,323,699	4,844,153	3,301,430
Florence	130,259	867,033	346,014	204,402	242,949	20,354	53,314
Clarendon	33,127	247,344	96,274	56,753	88,609	1,087	4,621
Darlington	67,369	400,116	170,421	98,605	117,787	1,893	11,410
Dillon	30,851	227,210	75,432	63,269	81,964	1,003	5,541
Lee	20,589	132,312	46,912	37,547	45,175	516	2,161
Marion	34,798	370,888	92,291	75,982	82,163	112,047	8,405
Marlboro	27,722	226,809	77,319	54,431	69,848	9,102	16,109
Sumter	104,909	1,051,161	320,975	126,327	181,964	156,908	264,987
Williamsburg	35,272	295,992	91,923	71,208	97,846	14,795	20,221

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005

LABOR FORCE

The labor force consists of those people who are employed or actively seeking employment, typically those between the ages of 15 and 65. Those who are unsuccessful in seeking employment determine the unemployment rate. Below, Table 5-3 summarizes current and projected characteristics of the Southeastern U.S. population.

Table 5-3 Southeastern U.S. Projections for 2030

	2005	2030
Population	296,507	378,317
Employment	174,250	246,949
Growth Rate	0.98%	1.40%
Percent of Population 65 + years	12.4%	18.6%
Percent of Population 0-17 years	24.8%	23.8%
Mean Household Income	\$86,081	\$115,723

Source: 2007 Woods & Poole Economics

Table 5-4 represents the population percentages and projections for Florence County from 1970-2030. The population age 0 to 17 shows a decrease of 13.1% from 1970 to 2030 while the population 65 and over shows an increase of 12.71%. The population white non-Hispanic decreases from 60.53% in 1990 to 49.69% in 2030. The population black non-Hispanic increases from 38.65% in 1990 to 45.87% in 2030. The Hispanic population (any race) shows a projected increase to 2.42% in 2030.

Table 5-4 Percent of Population for Florence County, 1970-2030

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015	2030
Percent of Population Age 0-17	38.84%	32.11%	28.35%	25.76%	25.98%	25.74%
Percent of Population Age 65 +	6.94%	8.68%	11.08%	11.82%	14.98%	19.65%
Percent of Population White Non-Hispanic	n.a.	n.a.	60.53%	58.50%	53.62%	49.69%
Percent of Population Black Non-Hispanic	n.a.	n.a.	38.65%	39.44%	43.16%	45.87%
Percent of Population Hispanic (Any Race)	0.14%	0.42%	0.44%	1.12%	1.69%	2.42%

Source: 2007 Woods & Poole Economics

Table 5-5, below, shows population and employment growth rate projections for Florence County from 1970 to 2030. The growth rate actually decreases for both. The population rate decreases from +1.12% to +0.68% and the employment growth rate decreases from +1.93% to +1.09%. Although the County's population and employment is slated to continue to grow, the rate of that growth, or acceleration, of these two measures decreases.

Table 5-5 Population and Employment Growth Rates for Florence County, 1970-2030

	1970-2000	1980-2000	2000-2015	2000-2030
Population Growth Rate	+1.12%	+0.65%	+0.68%	+0.68%
Employment Growth Rate	+1.93%	+1.78%	+1.09%	+1.19%
Population Change (<i>Thousands</i>)	+35.68	+15.38	+13.37	+28.35
Employment Change (<i>Thousands</i>)	+34.95	+23.83	+14.08	+34.10

Source: 2007 Woods & Poole Economics

Table 5-6 offers a general overview of the population distribution by age, gender and race. In Florence County, women outnumber men by almost 6% whereas the white and non-white populations differ by 16%.

Table 5-6 Florence County: Age, Gender and Race Composition, 2005

Total Civilian Population	131,097
Distribution by Age	
Under 5	9,685 (7.4)
05-13 years	15,437 (11.8)
14-17 years	7,787 (5.9)
18-24 years	12,632 (9.6)
16 years and over	102,051 (77.8)
18 years and over	98,188 (74.9)
15-44 years	54,027 (41.2)
45-64 years	33,901 (25.9)
65 years and over	16,165 (12.3)
85 years and over	1,991 (1.5)
Distribution by Gender	
Male	47.0%
Female	53.0%
Distribution by Race	
White	57.7%
Non-White	41.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

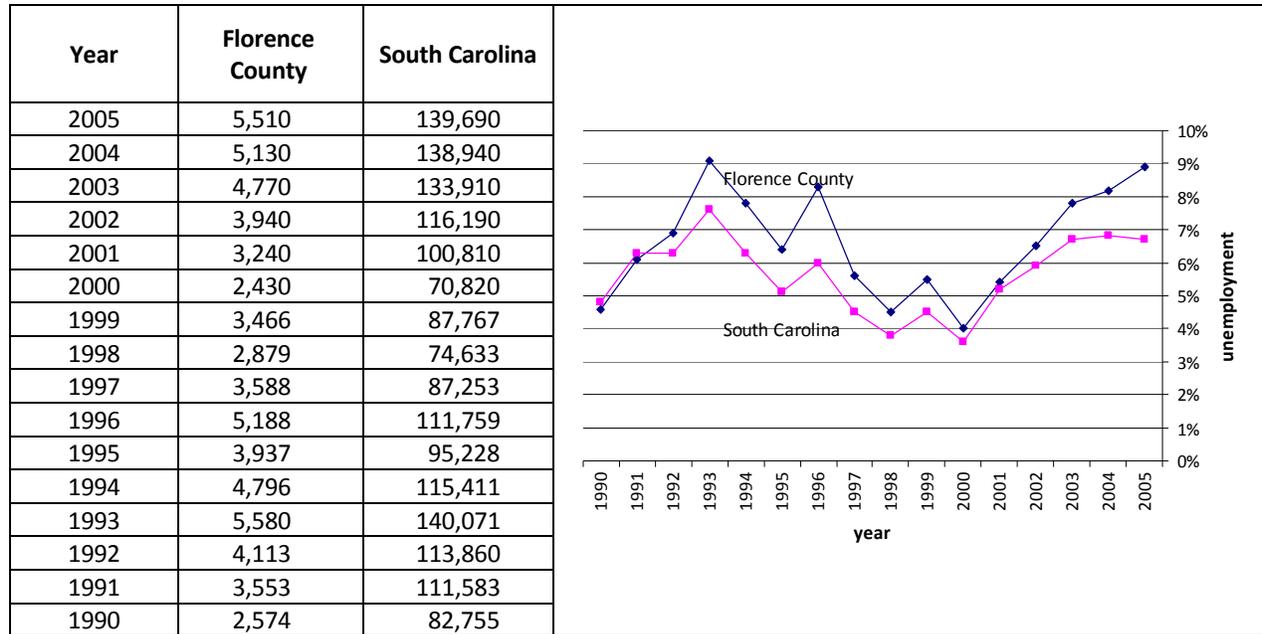
Florence County employs the largest and highest percentage of its County labor force in the Pee Dee region with Sumter County trailing by nearly 1.5% as shown in Table 5-8 and Figure 5-1. Marion and Marlboro counties consistently have the highest unemployment rates in the region. In 2004 and 2005, unemployment in Marion County was 13.7% and 13.8%, respectively. Overall, this part of the Pee Dee region has higher unemployment than the State average.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

As shown in Table 5-7, the percentages of the labor force for Florence County follows the State trend and was closest in 1990, 1991 and 2001, with the County having a better unemployment number during the former two of the three noted years. However, most recently, Florence County unemployment percentage was significantly higher than the State. This deviation for the State trend may be influenced by the loss of many textile companies.

This unemployment trend is slated to reverse, however, with two corporations building new complexes: Pepsi Cola and H.J. Heinz, at the Pee Dee Touchstone Energy Commerce City location.

Table 5-7 Unemployment Trends for Florence County and State of SC, 1990-2005



Source: www.sces.org/lmi/data/labor-force/scunadjusted.xls

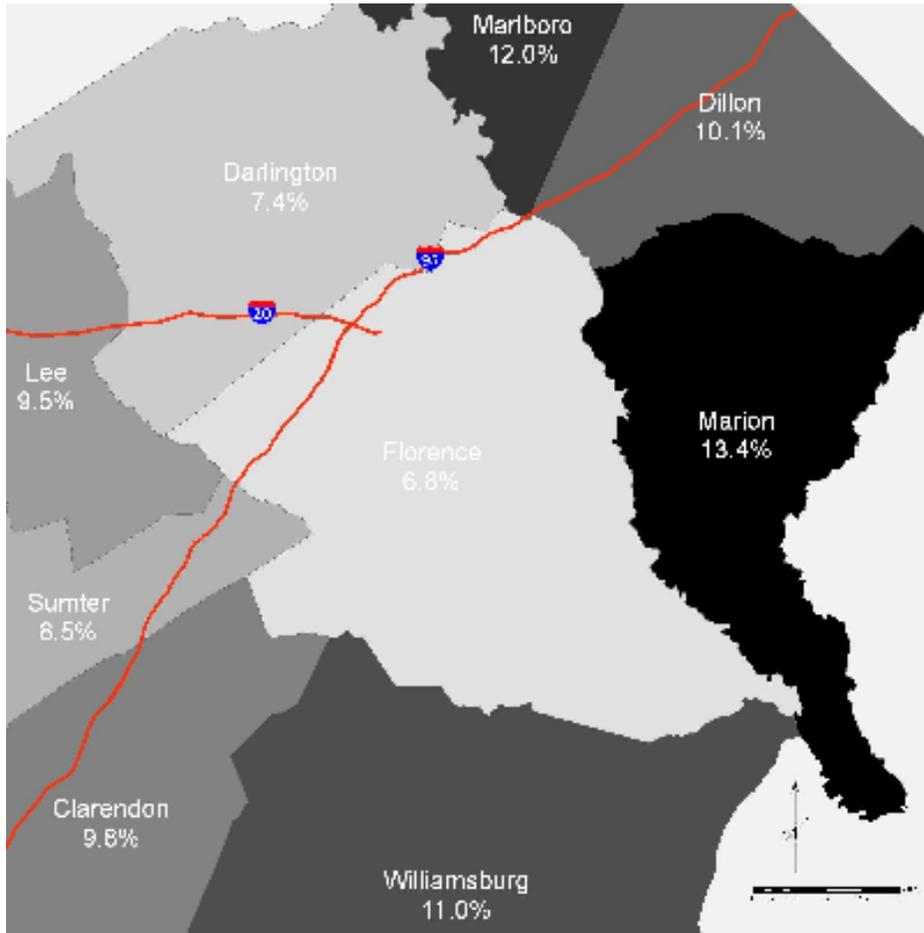
Table 5-8 Labor force, Unemployment, and Unemployment Rate (%) for Florence and Adjacent Locations

Location	Labor Force			Unemployment (%)		
	Jan 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008	Jan 2007	Dec 2007	Jan 2008
South Carolina <i>(in thousands)</i>	2,131.0	2,150.2	2,145.9	127.3 (6.0)	133.4 (6.2)	130.3 (6.1)
Florence	62,070	64,000	64,140	4,430 (7.1)	4,340 (6.8)	4,380 (6.8)
Clarendon	12,950	12,790	12,790	1,250 (9.7)	1,250 (9.8)	1,260 (9.8)
Darlington	30,910	32,010	32,060	2,280 (7.4)	2,370 (7.4)	2,370 (7.4)
Dillon	13,260	13,300	13,360	1,240 (9.4)	1,360 (10.2)	1,350 (10.1)
Lee	8,120	8,230	8,170	820 (10.1)	750 (9.2)	770 (9.5)
Marion	13,110	12,850	13,300	1,750 (13.4)	1,690 (13.2)	1,790 (13.4)
Marlboro	12,240	12,030	12,110	1,580 (12.9)	1,490 (12.4)	1,450 (12.0)
Sumter	46,140	45,070	44,130	3,610 (7.8)	3,790 (8.4)	3,740 (8.5)
Williamsburg	15,520	15,600	15,500	1,690 (10.9)	1,650 (10.6)	1,700 (11.0)

Source: S.C. Workforce Trends (March 2008)

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Figure 5-1 Unemployment Percentages for Florence and Contiguous Counties, January 2008



Source: S.C. Workforce Trends, March 2008; map by Florence County Planning Department (June 2008)

The table below shows the workforce of South Carolina in 2000 distinguished by gender. Comparing the County's total population of those older than 16 years of age, Florence County includes 68.5% of the men and 57.2% of the women participating in the local civilian labor force. Statewide, the labor force reflects a similar gender distribution between men and women of 69.8% and 57.5%.

Table 5-9 Employment Status by Gender for Florence County, 2000

	Florence County		South Carolina	
	Male (%)	Female (%)	Male (%)	Female (%)
Population 16 Years and Over	44,484 (100)	52,532 (100.0)	1,487,654 (100.0)	1,626,362 (100.0)
Civilian Labor Force	30,456 (68.5)	30,040 (57.2)	1,009,423 (69.8)	928,772 (57.5)
Employed	28,154 (63.3)	27,465 (52.3)	955,764 (64.2)	868,936 (53.4)
Unemployed	2,210 (5)	2,555 (4.9)	53,659 (3.6)	59,836 (3.7)
Armed Forces	92 (0.2)	20 (0)	29,143 (2.0)	6,884 (0.4)
Not In Labor Force	14,028 (31.5)	22,492 (42.8)	449,088 (30.2)	690,706 (42.5)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. SF3, Table P43

In Table 5-10, the 2000 South Carolina labor force quantities show the African-American population having the lowest percentage (59.2), white population with the middle percentage (64.8) and other races having the largest percentage (69.2) of the race's population in the labor force. Florence County reflects the national trends within 2 percent for each category. Comparing among race populations in the labor force, the white and other race categories outpace the African-American population at each geographic measure.

Table 5-10 Employment Status by Race for Florence County, 2000

	Florence County (%)	South Carolina (%)	United States (%)
White Population 16 Years and Over	59,212 (100.0)	2,162,722 (100.0)	167,359,106 (100.0)
In Labor Force	38,468 (65.0)	1,401,633 (64.8)	108,079,326 (64.6)
Not In Labor Force	20,744 (35.0)	761,089 (35.2)	59,279,780 (35.4)
African American Population 16 Years and Over	35,924 (100.0)	855,740 (100.0)	24,744,502 (100.0)
In Labor Force	20,833 (58.0)	506,438 (59.2)	14,905,895 (60.2)
Not In Labor Force	15,091 (42.0)	349,302 (40.8)	9,838,607 (39.8)
Other Races Population 16 Years and Over	1,880 (100.0)	95,554 (100.0)	25,064,469 (100.0)
In Labor Force	1,195 (63.6)	66,151 (69.2)	15,835,714 (63.2)
Not In Labor Force	685 (36.4)	29,403 (30.8)	9,228,755 (36.8)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. SF3, Tables P150A-G

Statewide, the South Carolina workforce is dedicated to a high level of service. The State boasts one of the lowest unionization rates in the U.S. at 3.3% in 2006 compared to 12% nationwide (South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, 2008), one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the U.S. with minimal working time lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined (U.S. Dept. of Labor), ranks in the top quartile in productivity based on value added per capita in the U.S. (U.S. Census Bureau/U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis), and fourth best in workforce training programs (including readySC™) in the U.S. and has ranked in the top five for the past eight years (*Expansion Management* magazine). According to the 2005 American Community Survey (U.S. Census Bureau), South Carolina ranks among the lowest in taxes: 44th in property tax and 43rd in income tax percentages among the states.

INCOME

The median family income is another measure of the well being of a community's population. The median family income of an area is the value of income where half of all families have an income more than that value with the other half of families bringing in less than that amount. In the Pee Dee Region, Florence County, as shown in Table 5-11 and Figure 5-2, has the highest level of income since 2000. However, Marlboro County had the greatest percentage increase. Residents from counties in the Pee Dee area may seek better employment opportunities in Florence County due to the reflection of available opportunities and higher salaries.

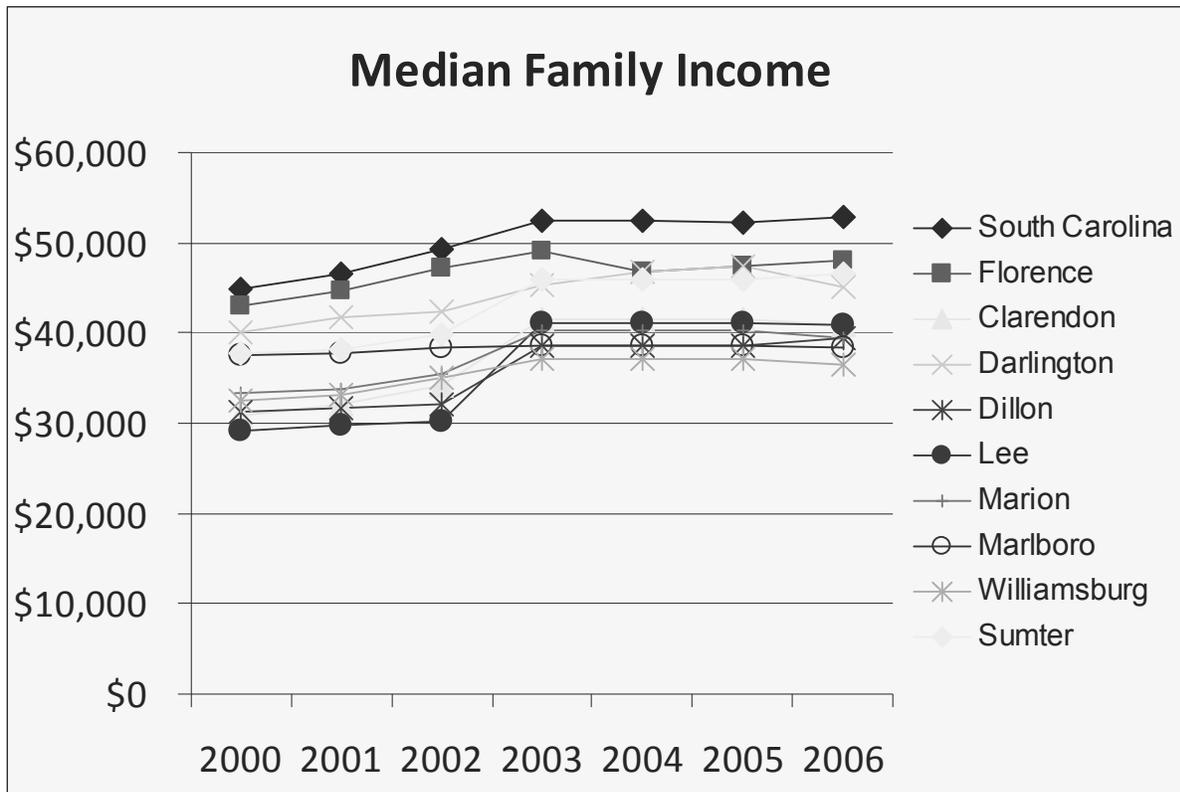
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Table 5-11 Change in Median Family Income for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2000-2006

County	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Percent of Change From 2000 to 2006
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>\$45,000</i>	<i>\$46,600</i>	<i>\$49,200</i>	<i>\$52,400</i>	<i>\$52,400</i>	<i>\$52,250</i>	<i>\$52,900</i>	<i>+8.5</i>
Florence	\$43,100	\$44,600	\$47,200	\$49,000	\$46,700	\$47,450	\$48,000	+9.0
Clarendon	\$30,800	\$32,200	\$34,200	\$41,500	\$41,500	\$41,500	\$41,000	+7.5
Darlington	\$40,000	\$41,700	\$42,300	\$45,400	\$46,700	\$47,450	\$45,100	+8.9
Dillon	\$31,200	\$31,700	\$32,200	\$38,700	\$38,700	\$38,700	\$39,400	+7.9
Lee	\$29,100	\$29,700	\$30,200	\$41,200	\$41,200	\$41,200	\$40,900	+7.1
Marion	\$33,300	\$33,800	\$35,400	\$40,300	\$40,300	\$40,300	\$39,500	+8.4
Marlboro	\$37,500	\$37,700	\$38,400	\$38,600	\$38,600	\$38,600	\$38,300	+9.8
Williamsburg	\$32,500	\$33,200	\$35,100	\$37,100	\$37,100	\$37,100	\$36,500	+8.9
Sumter	\$37,800	\$38,200	\$39,900	\$45,900	\$45,900	\$45,950	\$46,600	+8.1

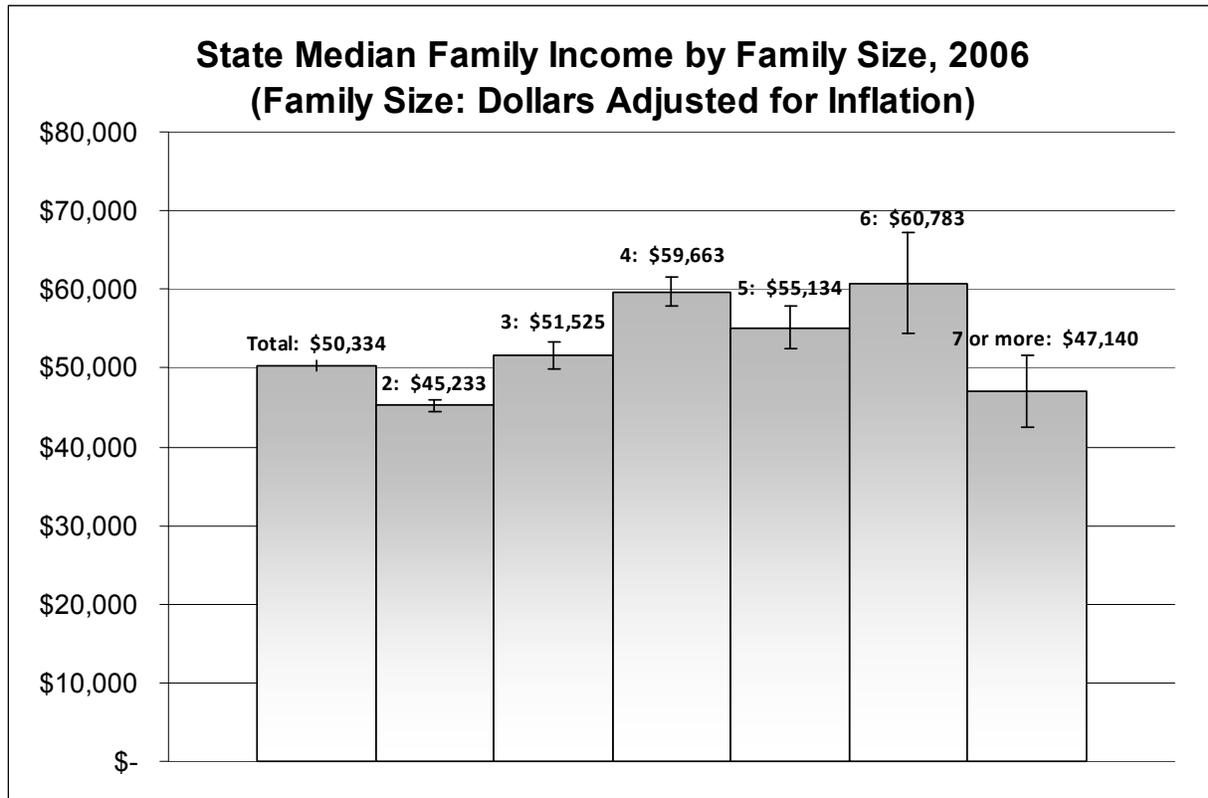
Source: U.S. Department of Urban Development, Economic and Market Analysis Divisions

Figure 5-2 Median Family Income in the Pee Dee Region, 2000-2006



In Figure 5-3 the value shown is the 90% margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90% possibility that the interval defined by the estimate contains the true value.

Figure 5-3 State Median Family Income by Family Size, 2006 (dollars adjusted for inflation)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

Because incomes fluctuate greatly within the ten years between census counts, the Census is limited in providing meaningful short-term trends. Rather, Census data shows a general picture of income rise, fall and change.

Table 5-12 lists the number of households within certain income ranges based on incomes from 1989 and 1999. For the 1990 Census (using 1989 income data), more than 30% of households had an income less than \$15,000. In 2000 (1999 income data), only about 20% of households were in the same category. The median household income (the value where half of all family fall above and below the amount) for 1990 and 2000 was in the upper portion of the \$25,000 - \$34,999 range for both periods. For 2005 and 2006, these values were estimated at \$40,454 and \$41,100, respectively (U.S. Census, American Community Survey, 2006).

Table 5-12 Household Income Range for 1990 and 2000

Household Income	1989 Number	1989 % of Total Household	1999 Number	1999 % of Total Household
Total Households	39,998	100.0%	47,107	100.0%
Less than \$9,999	9,015	22.5%	6,464	13.7%
\$10,000 - \$14,999	3,996	10.0%	3,333	7.0%
\$15,000 - \$24,999	7,438	18.6%	7,361	15.6%
\$25,000 - \$34,999	6,245	15.6%	6,296	13.4%
\$35,000 - \$49,999	6,805	17.0%	8,287	17.6%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	4,452	11.1%	8,335	17.7%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	1,096	2.7%	3,576	7.6%
\$100,000 - 149,999	494	1.2%	2,119	4.5%
\$150,000 and above	457	1.1%	1,336	2.8

Source: Census 2000 analyzed by the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN)

Florence County’s level of income has grown at an increasing rate over the last three Censuses (refer to Figure 5-2). However, the income has continued to lag behind the rest of the state which may be due to only recent attraction of the higher technology industries. However, as the economic base begins to change, Florence’s income level may begin to accelerate.

Another reason for the lower level wage in Florence is that the cost of living is lower than in other parts of the State and country. Therefore, workers are able to relocate and work for a slightly lower wage than they could in other areas, while maintaining or increasing quality of life.

There are a large number of households that make under \$15,000 when you consider that the average income is close to \$40,000 and the median income is close to \$48,000. This problem is not limited to Florence County, but it is one that can be addressed here.

Table 5-13 shows the percentage of high school graduates over the age of 18 for counties in the Pee Dee area is in the 30% range with Marion County topping the range at 38%. Sumter has the lowest percentage at 30.3% and Florence is next at 31%. However, all counties are above the state’s rate of 30%. The 9th-12th grades with no diploma once again reflect Sumter and Florence Counties with the lowest rates (17.5 and 18.3, respectively) and Marlboro County with the highest rate of 27%. Dillon has the highest rate of those with less than a 9th grade education with Sumter and Florence at 8.45% and 8.6% at the lowest percentages.

Table 5-13 High School Education Attainment for Persons 18 yrs. and Over

County	Total	Less Than 9 th Grade		9 th -12 th Grade, No Diploma		Graduate	
		persons	%	persons	%	persons	%
<i>South Carolina</i>	3,002,919	228,213	7.6%	490,832	16.3%	901,827	30.0%
Florence	93,175	8,028	8.6%	17,082	18.3%	28,858	31.0%
Clarendon	24,097	2,876	11.9%	5,684	23.6%	8,300	34.4%
Darlington	49,704	5,227	10.5%	10,129	20.4%	16,217	32.6%
Dillon	21,792	3,128	14.4%	5,512	25.3%	7,368	33.8%
Lee	14,954	2,006	13.4%	3,801	25.4%	5,264	35.2%
Marion	25,666	2,822	11.0%	5,620	21.9%	9,747	38.0%
Marlboro	21,261	2,762	13.0%	5,732	27.0%	7,417	34.9%
Sumter	75,212	6,330	8.45	13,163	17.5%	22,807	30.3%
Williamsburg	26,553	2,813	10.6%	6,492	24.4%	9,247	34.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing; 2000

Post high school educational attainment is another indicator used to assess the preparation of a population for various workplace operations.

Table 5-14 shows attainment levels for Florence County and adjacent counties for degrees of higher education.

Sumter County is shown with the highest percentage of population with some college and no degree at 23% being the only county higher than the state average. Florence ranks second in the Pee Dee region at 19.5% which is below the State’s rate of 21.2%. The number of people with Associate degrees in Sumter County is at 6.5% which is the only Pee Dee County higher than the State average. Lee County has the lowest rate of 3.8%. Florence County seems to host the highest percentage of their population among the Pee Dee region with a Bachelor’s degree at 11.6% and those who graduated or have a professional degree at 5.4% even though no county exceeds the State in either category.

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Table 5-14 College Education Attainment for Persons 18 yrs. and Over for Florence and Adj. Counties

County	Total	Some College, No Degree		Associate Degree		Bachelor's Degree		Graduate or Prof. Degree	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
South Carolina	3,002,919	637,838	21.2%	186,147	6.2%	377,855	12.6%	180,207	6.0%
Florence	93,175	18,125	19.5%	5,201	5.6%	10,845	11.6%	5,037	5.4%
Clarendon	24,097	3,629	15.1%	1,132	4.7%	1,693	7.0%	783	3.2%
Darlington	49,704	9,125	18.4%	2,841	5.7%	4,347	8.7%	1,818	3.7%
Dillon	21,792	3,014	13.8%	976	4.5%	1,195	5.5%	599	2.7%
Lee	14,954	2,094	14.0%	562	3.8%	888	5.9%	339	2.3%
Marion	25,666	4,048	15.8%	1,042	4.1%	1,661	6.5%	726	2.8%
Sumter	75,212	17,359	23.1%	4,919	6.5%	7,333	9.7%	3,301	4.4%
Williamsburg	26,553	4,056	15.3%	1,145	4.3%	1,983	7.5%	817	3.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing; 2000

Florence County is home to Francis Marion University and Florence-Darlington Technical College. Francis Marion University is a four-year college with one of the most diverse student bodies in the South. They offer undergraduate and graduate degrees in over 30 areas of study. Their visual arts and art education program is one of seven colleges in the country accredited by the National Association of Art and Design (NASAD). The School of Business is fully accredited by the Association to Advance & Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) and was named by the Princeton Review as one of the "Best 237 Business Schools."

Florence-Darlington Technical College is a two-year college that offers quality education in more than 60 fields of study. Among the special services and programs at the main campus are the ESAB School of Welding and Cutting, the Advanced Welding and Cutting Center, the Caterpillar Dealer Academy, and a Cisco Systems Training Laboratory. Several degree programs are offered online.

EMPLOYERS

Florence County is dedicated to being a world-class location for business and industry. Table 5-15 lists the largest employers as of 2006 in Florence County. Its climate is a contributing factor as well as the southeastern location between New York and Miami. Industry, new and expanding businesses have invested more than \$1.1 billion since 1997, creating over 6,000 new jobs.

Table 5-15 Largest Employers in Florence County

Industrial Manufacturing		
Name	# of Employees	Product / Service
ABB, Inc.	135	Circuit Breakers
ACS Technologies	250	Customized Software
Aluminum Ladder Company	139	Ladder, Stand, Rails, Platforms, etc.
Crenlo, Inc.	320	Cab Enclosures
Dove Data	140	Laser Toners
Dupont Teijin films	275	Polyester Film
ESAB Welding and Cutting Products	850	Welding Equipment, Cutting Machines
G.E. Medical Systems	400	Medical Diagnostic Imaging Magnets
Honda of South Carolina	1553	All-Terrain Vehicles, Personal Watercraft
Institution Food House	183	Food Products
International Knife & Saw, Inc	220	Woodworking Knives & Saws
Irix Pharmaceuticals	133	Pharmaceuticals
McCall Farms	210	Canned Fruits & Vegetables
Nan Ya Plastics Corporation	889	Polyester Staple Fiber & Filament

Industrial Manufacturing, continued from previous page		
Name	# of Employees	Product / Service
Nucor Corp. Vulcraft Division	400	Steel Joists, Girders, & Decking
Pepsi Cola Bottling Company	230	Soft Drinks
Perfection Clutch, Co.	150	Aftermarket Automobile Parts
Pet Dairy	145	Dairy Products
Roche Carolina	280	Pharmaceutical R & D, Bulk Mfg.
S & W Manufacturing	165	File Folders & Filing Supplies
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation	550	Kraft Linerboard
Socar, Inc.	160	Steel Joists
Superior Machine	168	Repair
Wellman, Inc. (Florence)	416	Nylon & Polyester Staple Fiber
Wellman, Inc (Johnsonville)	190	Resins, Lanolin and Manufacturing Support
Non-Manufacturing		
ADP Tax Credit Services	245	Payroll Tax Service
The Assurant Group	425	Mortgage & insurance Data Processing
Cayce Company, Inc.	259	HVAC Contractors
Charles Ingram Lumber	125	Southern Pine Lumber
Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators/Tricare	1600	Insurance services
Pathology Service Associates, LLC	155	Medical Business Services
Progress Energy	282	Electricity
W. Lee Flowers and Company	250	Grocery Distribution
Wal-Mart	620	Discount Retailer
Washington Mutual, Inc.	1150	Mortgage Services
Government / Institutional		
Carolinas Hospital System	1400	
City of Florence	433	
Florence County	898	
Florence County Department of Social Services	170	
Florence County Disabilities & Special Needs Board	350	
Florence-Darlington Technical College	215	
Florence School District 1	1718	
Francis Marion University	440	
McLeod Regional Medical Center	4375	
South Carolina DHEC	600	
Florence Companies with Foreign Headquarters		
ABB, Inc	Switzerland	
Dupont Teijin Films	Japan	
ESAB Welding & Cutting Products	United Kingdom	
Honda of South Carolina Mfg., Inc.	Japan	
International Knife and Saw	Germany	
Nan Ya Plastics Corporation	Taiwan	
Roche Carolina, Inc.	Switzerland	
Smurfit-Stone Container Corporation	Ireland	
Southeast Express	Japan	

Source: www.fcedp.com

The following excerpts highlight more recent expansion from Florence County industry (Florence County Economic Development):

- Roche Carolina Inc. (RCI) announced in April 2007 an expansion of its Florence pharmaceutical manufacturing facility. The \$60 million investment will involve the construction of a new multi-purpose production unit in an existing manufacturing building. The expansion will help enable Roche to meet production needs for current and future life-saving medications. As a result of this investment, 25 to 30 new positions are expected to be created at the facility.
- Johnson Controls (NYSE: JCI), a global leader in automotive interior experience, building efficiency and power solutions, announced in September 2006, that they had selected Florence County as the site of a new power solutions facility. The \$54 million, 200 employee distribution center will assemble and distribute batteries for the automotive market, including both original equipment (OE) and aftermarket products.
- Leading electronic retailer QVC, Inc., a \$6 billion company based in West Chester, PA, announced in December 2005 that they will invest \$75 million to open a new distribution center on a 265 acre parcel of land in Florence. QVC expects to create 900 jobs over five years in their 1.4 million square foot distribution facility. The company held a grand opening in July 2007.
- Institution Food House, Inc. ("IFH") announced on October 20, 2004 that they would be building a new 330,000 sq. ft. high-tech warehouse in the Touchstone Industrial Park. IFH is the largest independent food service distributor in the Southeast. IFH's new warehouse distribution facility will add more than 70 new employees. The building will be a state-of-the-art warehouse utilizing voice selection item locaters and complete scan control of all inventory. The facility will also have a 200-seat auditorium with closed circuit TV screens for food preparation classes. The on-camera demonstrations will be broadcast from an adjoining commercial kitchen.

Service industries are the biggest employers in Florence County with two hospital systems employing the most people. McLeod Regional Medical Center and Carolina's Hospital System employed a total of 5,775 workers in 2006. Florence County had a total of 78,946 ER and inpatient discharges at a rate of 60,127.78 per 100,000. All Pee Dee counties combined had a total of 252,926 ER visits. While the hospital systems seem to be two of the largest employers, there is still a diversity of manufacturers in the County with well-known national names such as Du Pont, ESAB, General Electric, Honda, Johnson Controls, NanYa, Roche Carolina, and Vulcraft.

Table 5-16 Emergency Room and Inpatient Discharges for Florence, Adjacent Counties and State, 2006

Location	ER Visits	Rate per 100,000 people
South Carolina	1,797,866	41,605.19
Florence	78,946	60,127.78
Clarendon	14,216	42,640.78
Darlington	32,624	48,295.38
Dillon	22,444	72,437.38
Lee	8859	43,090.59
Marion	16,488	47,537.78
Marlboro	15,136	51,921.00
Sumter	46,849	44,861.59
Williamsburg	17,364	48,093.09

Source: www.ors2.state.sc.us/hderratea.php

The banking industry is strong in the Pee Dee region with Florence County leading in number of offices. In Table 5-17, Florence County has twice the number of FDIC insured offices of any county in the Pee Dee with a total of 48. Darlington County has the second most at 20 and Lee County with a total of 4 has the least. Florence County's banking offices are divided among 14 commercial banks and two savings institutions (FDIC 2008).

Table 5-17 FDIC Insured Institutions for Florence and Adjacent Counties

Location	Number of Offices	Deposits (in thousands)	Market Share
Florence	48	1,846,963	3.43%
Darlington	20	495,906	0.92%
Sumter	18	740,578	1.38%
Williamsburg	12	235,390	0.44%
Marion	13	296,708	0.55%
Dillon	7	249,698	0.46%
Marlboro	7	170,888	0.32%
Clarendon	6	230,906	0.43%
Lee	4	101,153	0.19%

Source: FDIC 2005

Table 5-18 lacks any significant trends in Florence County's industrial job expansions and creations. Over the last twenty years, four years stand out. The years 1986 and 1990, show 3,069 jobs were created. In 1997 and 2000, there were 1,825 jobs created. The next significant number is reflected in 2003 when 610 jobs were created.

Florence County has been the location of numerous large-scale corporate establishments. The location of Honda to Timmonsville in 1997, along with the additional companies such as QVC and expansions announced by Roche Carolina, Johnson Controls, and the Institution Food House will increase the number of jobs over the next few years. In 2008, Pepsi Cola Inc. and H.J. Heinz announced building new operations at the Touchstone Energy Commerce City.

Table 5-18 New and Existing Industry for Florence County, 1985-2004

Year	Jobs Created	Amount of Investment	Firms
2004	75	25,000,000	1
2003	610	15,700,000	2
2002	325	36,915,531	14
2001	404	77,107,836	32
2000	967	120,561,711	43
1999	425	85,253,570	45
1998	712	161,169,138	20
1997	858	217,928,849	18
1996	283	25,560,630	28
1995	528	422,607,000	28
1994	145	36,891,000	19
1993	267	130,109,000	21
1992	215	216,691,000	16
1991	402	324,035,000	14
1990	1,900	19,000,000	20
1989	730	338,660,000	30
1988	471	154,730,000	27
1987	854	60,850,000	22
1986	1,169	23,173,000	31
1985	388	148,105,000	25

Source: S.C. Department of Commerce

COMMUTING

Table 5-19 reflects the commute patterns for the workforce of Florence County and surrounding areas. The total number of commuters to Florence County from surrounding areas is 16,209. The majority of these persons are

Darlington County residents. Darlington County receives the majority of Florence residents. The border with Darlington County is the most permeable; it's the most prominent destination and source of commuters for Florence County. Secondly, Dillon, Marion and Williamsburg are destinations for more than 1,000 daily Florence County commuters.

Table 5-19 Daily Commuting To and From Florence County and Surrounding Areas

County/Area	Residents from other counties commuting to Florence County	Residents from Florence County commuting to other counties	Net Inflow To Florence County
Clarendon	684	273	411
Darlington	7,853	3,214	4,639
Dillon	1,108	380	728
Lee	500	240	260
Marion	1,611	474	1,137
Marlboro	259	156	103
Sumter	731	396	335
Williamsburg	1,653	1,349	304
Totals	14,399	6,482	7,917
Other destinations			
Chesterfield	253	133	120
Georgetown	270	213	57
Horry	386	785	-399
Other S. Carolina counties	591	798	-207
N. Carolina counties	310	580	-270

Source: U.S. Census 2000

Table 5-20 indicates that 53% commute to their place of employment in less than 20 minutes. While another 20% commute in less than thirty minutes. Figure 5-2 shows these time periods would fall within the inner circle. However, as Florence County attracts more industry, the commuting will become more of a challenge; although commuting time may remain similar.

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Figure 5-4 Approximate Commute Time, Florence County (from intersection of I-20 and I-95)

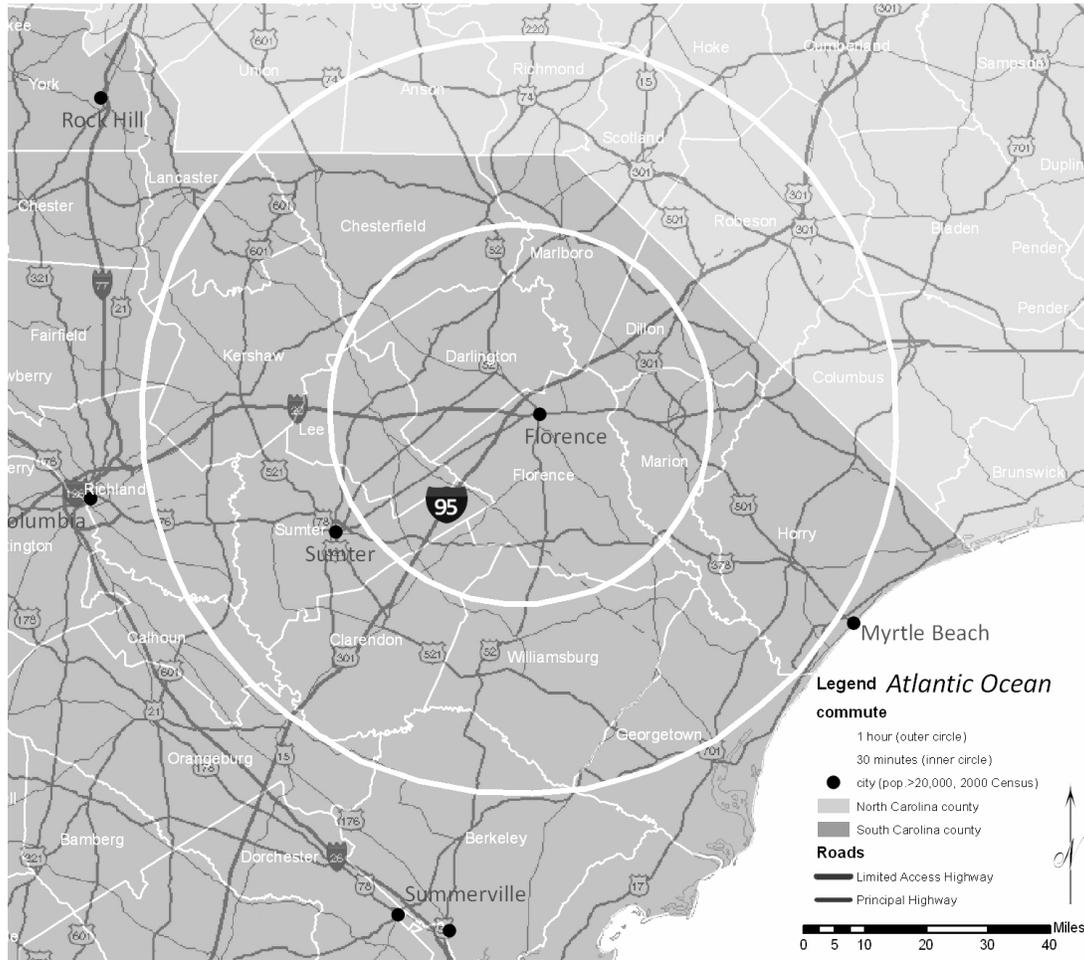


Table 5-20 Commute Time for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2000

Location	Workers 16+ Who Did Not Work at Home	Travel Time From Residence to Work					
		Less Than 9 Minutes	10 to 19 Minutes	20 to 29 Minutes	30 to 39 Minutes	40 to 59 Minutes	60 or More Minutes
South Carolina	1,784,734	13.9	33.4	21.4	16.3	9	5.9
Florence	53,624	14.4	38.9	19.5	13.0	7.5	6.7
Clarendon	11,460	14.4	31.8	16.2	18.8	10.7	8.0
Darlington	27,748	16.6	35.0	20.6	15.8	7.4	4.6
Dillon	11,976	17.2	33.6	14.9	14.0	9.5	10.8
Lee	7,208	10.8	25.1	17.5	22.0	15.2	9.5
Marion	13,600	18.6	36.2	13.6	13.6	9.8	8.3
Marlboro	10,682	16.3	33.9	20.7	16.3	6.4	6.4
Sumter	43,602	17.6	41.9	17.8	10.5	6.3	5.9
Williamsburg	13,254	16.8	28.7	14.5	14.9	10.4	14.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census of Population and Housing

Table 5-21 shows nearly 81% of Florence County workers drive alone while almost 14% choose to carpool. These statistics mirror that carpooling may become more attractive as traffic becomes more of an issue and gas prices soar. Also, with the internet being a primary communications source, we are finding that more companies are hiring employees to work out of their home as well as provide tools for people to find potential carpool options.

Table 5-21 Percentage of Workers 16 Years and Over for Florence and Adjacent Counties

Location	Total Workers 16 Years and Over	Percent of Workers 16 Years and Over (2000, %)					
		Car, Truck, or Van		Public Transit	Walk Only	Other Means	Work at Home
		Drive Alone	Carpool				
South Carolina	1,822,969	79.4	14.0	0.8	2.3	1.3	2.1
Florence	54,482	80.6	13.9	1.0	1.4	1.4	1.6
Clarendon	11,675	77.2	17.8	0.5	2.0	0.7	1.8
Darlington	28,234	80.0	13.4	0.9	2.4	1.6	1.7
Dillon	12,170	76.0	18.0	0.5	1.7	2.2	1.6
Lee	7,310	71.3	21.3	2.3	2.3	1.3	1.4
Marion	13,854	74.2	18.0	1.3	1.3	3.3	1.8
Marlboro	10,828	76.4	17.3	1.3	1.7	2.0	1.3
Sumter	44,325	80.4	14.5	0.8	1.2	1.4	1.6
Williamsburg	13,443	71.4	20.0	4.5	1.5	1.1	1.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

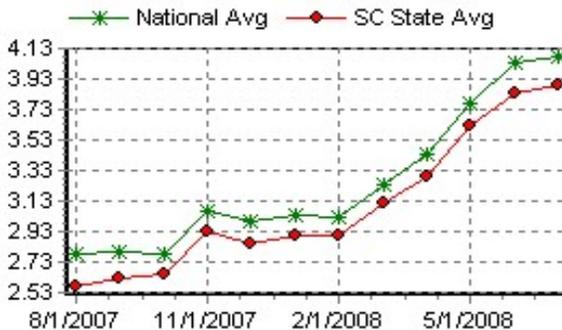
As the area develops, strategic transportation planning including alterations to the car will be necessary to prevent problems such as congestion and lengthy commute times that we see occurring in other major cities. Issues like land use, mass transit and rideshare must be addressed prior to further development to be an effective solution.

Each year congestion, energy prices, pollution and loss of open spaces increase. The funding and building of bigger highway projects have been the responsibility of the federal government in the past. Now, state and local governments have become more involved due to the reductions in federal monies. Management of transportation funds will continue to be critical if we are to resume the growth of Florence County.

The spring and summer seem to reveal higher retail gasoline prices than any other time of the year. Even if crude oil prices decline, the cost of making summer-grade gasoline which produces less smog, is by far more expensive than making winter-grade gasoline. This contributes to the higher retail prices in summer months. Higher gasoline prices translate to price increases of living expenses.

The table below reflects gasoline prices from 2007 to April 2008.

Figure 5-5 12-month Average National and South Carolina Regular Unleaded Fuel Prices



Source: www.fuelgaugereport.com/SCavg.asp

In August of 2005, SAFETEA-LU (Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation, Equity: A Legacy for Users) was passed into law. This law establishes extensive new resources and opportunities to advance highway safety throughout the country in a comprehensive strategic manner. The Office of Safety is encouraged by the

opportunity this legislation offers for saving lives and reducing injuries on our Nation’s highways. Reauthorization of transportation legislation is slated for 2009, with a significant change of focus away from large highway projects towards addressing issues on a local scale.

Mass transit in the Pee Dee region has always played a large role for the commuter. The Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority (PDRTA) was formed in 1974 and was the first in South Carolina. In 1976, they began serving six Pee Dee counties; Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon, Florence, Marion and Marlboro. In 1988, inland county residents seeking job opportunities began to be transported to service jobs at the Grand Strand. The Family Independence Act of 1996 was the beginning of an effort made between PDRTA and DSS to provide transportation for job training as well as interviews and job fairs. PDRTA also serves the Hartsville-Darlington-Florence commuter, demand response and paratransit services. PDRTA is among the top five Largest Demand Response Transit Agencies in the United States and is considered a primary means of transportation for many.

The major benefits of coordinating transportation planning and land use include:

- lower shipping costs and fewer delays for commerce;
- reduced demand on roadway capacity and repairs;
- high transit ridership and auto occupancy;
- lower transit operating costs;
- improved access for transit vehicles;
- increased financial support for public transportation through public-private sector partnerships;
- improved access, more transportation options, and greater mobility for all residents;
- reduced parking needs;
- a more pedestrian oriented environment (Some of the beneficial effects of more people walking would be healthier workers, and increased revenues for businesses along the sidewalks);
- reduction in the rate of death and disability (The accident rate for 1000 million passenger miles for automobile and taxi travel is about eight times that of bus travel);
- reduction of air, noise, and water pollution;
- more available open space;
- stress induced by congestion is minimized, (reducing stress would lead to fewer accidents and incidents of travel related aggression).

Table 5-22 below shows a cumulative investment spreadsheet that shows jobs and investment by new or expanding companies over the past three years.

Table 5-22 Cumulative Investments on Industry for Florence County, 2005-2008

Company	Investment (mil \$)	Added Jobs	Product	Status
2008				
International Knife & Saw	<i>Unknown</i>	35	Knife & saw blades	Expansion
Zenta	<i>Unknown</i>	250	Business & knowledge processing outsourcing	New
Estimated 2008 Totals		285		
2007				
ADP	<i>Unknown</i>	100	Tax credit, payroll services	Expansion
David C. Poole Co.	\$3.00	25	Plastic fiber	New
Dupont	\$1.00	<i>Unknown</i>	Teijin mylar & polyester films	Expansion
McCall Farms	\$3.90	40	Canned & frozen food	Expansion
New Millennium Building System	\$15.00	40	Steel joists and girders	Expansion
2007 continued from previous page				
Pepsi	\$12.00	<i>Unknown</i>	Distribution center	Expansion
Roche Carolina	\$6.00	30	Pharmaceuticals	Expansion
Southern Impressions	<i>Unknown</i>	35	Flag manufacturer	Expansion
Washington Mutual	<i>Unknown</i>	85	Record Storage	Expansion

Estimated 2007 Totals	\$94.90	355		
2006				
ABB, Inc	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	Testing lab relocation	Expansion
ADP Tax Services	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	Federal & State Tax Incentive Services	Expansion
Assurant Solutions	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	Insurance Processing	Expansion
Charles Ingram Lumber	\$0.25	<i>Unknown</i>	Lumber Warehouse	Expansion
Roche	\$15.00	10	Pharmaceuticals	Expansion
W. Lee Flowers	<i>Unknown</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	Food Distribution	Expansion
FedEx Ground	\$12.00	75	Distribution Center	Expansion
Florence Regional Airport	\$1.70		Airport	Expansion
Honda of SC	\$5.80	<i>Unknown</i>	ATV/Personal Watercraft Mfg.	Expansion
Engineered Products & Services	\$1.00	50	Masking Materials	New
International Knife & Saw Inc	\$6.50	72	Knife & saw blades	Expansion
IRX Pharmaceuticals	\$1.00	<i>Unknown</i>	Pharmaceuticals	Expansion
Hudson's Salvage	\$0.75	25	Distribution Center	New
Johnson Controls	\$39.00	200	Automotive batteries	New
Marsh Lumber Co.	\$1.00	30	Lumber products	Expansion
Palmetto Gov't Benefits BC/BS	<i>Unknown</i>	300	BC/BS Insurance	Expansion
Pet Dairy	\$2.00	12	Dairy products	Expansion
Estimated 2006 Totals	\$86.00	774		
2005				
East Coast Erosion Blankets	\$2.00	18	Erosion control products	New
QVC Inc.	\$80.00	600	Distribution center	New
Estimated 2005 Totals	\$82.00	618		

Source: Florence County Economic Development

MIGRATION

Table 5-23 below illustrates how the population of each county of the Pee Dee region has been affected by migration, or the movement of people from one location to another. Traditionally, the movement of populations has had significant effects of a variety of professional, social and cultural issues and may lead to such developments like urbanization of rural communities, gentrification of neighborhoods or redevelopment of built-out areas. Population change has been calculated based on data from the 1990 and 2000 census. Together with migration information, the percentage of the change because of migration can be calculated.

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Table 5-23 Migration for Florence and Adjacent Counties

Location	1990 Census	2000 Census	Migration	Population Change	% Of Change Due To Migration
South Carolina	3,486,310	4,012,012	314,917	525,702	59.90
Florence	114,344	125,761	5,269	11,417	46.15
Clarendon	28,450	32,502	3,106	4,052	76.65
Darlington	61,851	67,394	2,900	5,543	52.32
Dillon	29,114	30,722	-209	1,608	-13.0
Lee	18,437	20,119	921	1,682	54.76
Marion	33,899	35,466	150	1,567	9.57
Marlboro	29,716	28,818	-2,027	-898	225.72
Sumter	101,276	104,646	-5,221	3,370	-154.93
Williamsburg	36,815	37,217	-1,428	402	-355.22

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of population and Housing; 1990 and 2000

WORKPLACE

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT

Downtown development among Florence County municipalities continues to mature. The most significant location of activity is the City of Florence’s downtown revitalization. The City is actively planning, purchasing and redeveloping the downtown area in an effort to attract further residential and business improvements.

City of Florence

The Florence Downtown Development Corporation (FDDC) is a non-profit organization that was established by the City of Florence to assist in the revitalization of the downtown area. This revitalization strategy is important to insure and expand the social, economic and cultural habits of the City. The growth in Florence is inevitable and promotes much needed planning for the area. Currently there are several projects in the works such as the Francis Marion University Performing Arts Center, Florence Little Theater, Cumberland United Methodist Church and Coit Village.

The Downtown Master Plan involves the acquisition of abandoned and distressed properties, design guidelines, establishment of Overlay Zoning Districts, various analyses and historic evaluations. The vision for Florence will be pursued by professionals but with the best interest of the citizens.

Town of Johnsonville

A 2007 ‘Town Plan’ produced in collaboration with Clemson University, American Institute of Architects and the SC Mayor’s Institute for Community Design includes the following three principles:

1. Revitalize Downtown: Reestablish community identity, presence and pride by revitalizing the historic downtown core with civic, institutional and commercial activity
2. Rediscover the River: Regenerate the historic recreational and commercial potential of the Lynches River landing by improving its quality, expanding its use and preserving the river corridor for future generations
3. Create Civic Identity: Establish Johnsonville’s identity, provide interconnection among parts of the town and direct attention and growth to critical areas.

INDUSTRY

Table 5-24 shows Florence County consistently reflects the State’s percentages. The County and State show a heavier focus on sale and office occupations, construction as well as production and transportation.

Table 5-24 Employed Population 17 Years and Over for Florence County, 2000

Total Work Force and Occupation Category	Florence County		South Carolina		United States	
	persons	%	persons	%	persons	%
Employed Population 17 Years and Over	54,482	100.0	1,822,969	100.0	128,279,228	100.0
Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	16,805	30.2	530,117	29.1	43,646,731	33.6
Service Occupations	8,301	14.9	268,661	14.7	19,276,947	14.9
Sales and Office Occupations	13,807	24.8	459,724	25.2	34,621,390	26.7
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	343	0.6	10,679	0.6	951,810	0.7
Construction, Extraction, and Maintenance Occupations	6,132	11.0	209,048	11.5	12,256,138	9.4
Production, Transportation, Material Moving Occupations	10,231	18.4	346,471	19.0	18,968,496	14.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000. SF3, Table P50

Table 5-25 reflects the average monthly employment, total annual payroll, average weekly wage, total taxable wages and total contributions due Florence County in 2001.

Table 5-25 Payroll Employment Information for Florence County, 2001

Average Monthly Employment, Total Annual Payroll, Average Weekly Wage, Total Taxable Wages and Total Contributions for 2001						
Title	Average Monthly Employment	Total Annual Payroll (in \$100,000's)	Avg. Weekly Wage(\$'s)	Total Taxable Wages (in \$100,000's)	Total Contrib. Due (in \$1,000's)	Total Employment Units
Private	50469	14,272.4	544	3934.2	4752.6	3378
Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries	323	54.5	325	25.0	34.2	83
Mining	19	5.3	540	1.7	4.1	3
Construction	3069	897.9	563	263.6	546.3	397
Manufacturing	11043	3,912.6	681	906.0	1339.8	174
Transportation, Community, & Public Utility	2453	777.3	609	182.9	181.0	150
Wholesale Trade	2885	959.2	639	235.3	226.7	213
Retail Trade	12131	1,972.8	313	856.0	801.6	839
Financial, Insurance, Real Estate	4820	1,733.0	691	427.5	378.6	261
Services	13586	3,927.7	556	1020.2	1200.6	1194
Nonclassified Establishments	136	31.9	451	16.1	39.7	63
Federal	731	313.3	824	0.0	0.0	20
State	2861	894.5	601	0.4	0.2	22
Local	8784	2,583.0	565	72.2	43.9	30

Source: www.sces.org/LMI/data/wages/cew/20201/florence.html

Florence County has a strong manufacturing base which should continue in the years ahead as it continues to attract more businesses. Leaders should be aware of national economic trends and attract desirable new industry

by aligning Florence County’s educational and labor pool to be attractive to desirable new industry. Care should be taken that new industries are compatible with the goals and long-term well being of its residents.

Federal cutbacks and national economic trends affect Florence County less severely than other parts of the U.S. Since the federal employment component of the economy is comparatively small, changes in federal workforce should not significantly affect Florence County.

With two growing hospitals and their associated industries and services, it is not surprising that health care will comprise the largest segment of the services portion of the economy. The gradual increase in the average age of the whole population will also contribute to the importance of this segment. With Baby Boomers in their fifties and sixties, the concerns are not only for them but for the assisted living that their parents may require. Facilities and personnel to accommodate these needs will continue to be an important issue.

Agriculture may be expected to decline somewhat as it is throughout the country. Tobacco, traditionally a staple for agriculture, has been greatly reduced. Local farmers may be forced to find an alternative crop to satisfy the needs of urban markets along the East Coast. Being centrally located puts Florence in an accommodating position. Furthermore, values for crops utilized for biofuels such as soybean, corn and switchgrass may have stronger futures.

Table 5-26 below reflects percentage changes and projections for the different types of jobs for Florence County from 1970 to 2030. Manufacturing jobs show a decrease of 16.21% from 1970 to 2030 and farming a decrease of 11.77%. Service jobs will increase from 19.36% to 32% and government jobs project an increase of 9.29%.

Table 5-26 Projections of Employment Percentage by Type for Florence County, 1970-2030

Employment Type	1970	1980	1990	2000	2015	2030
Services	19.36	18.18	21.44	25.06	29.97	32.00
Government	10.62	13.42	15.55	16.84	18.00	19.91
Manufacturing	24.94	22.19	20.16	14.67	10.05	8.73
Farming	12.49	6.43	2.53	1.41	1.04	0.72

Source: 2007 Woods & Poole Economics

With its close proximity to major interstates, industrial parks are distributed throughout the County. Table 5-27 lists the four industrial parks located in Florence County. Three parks are located in the northwestern part of the County and one in the City of Johnsonville.

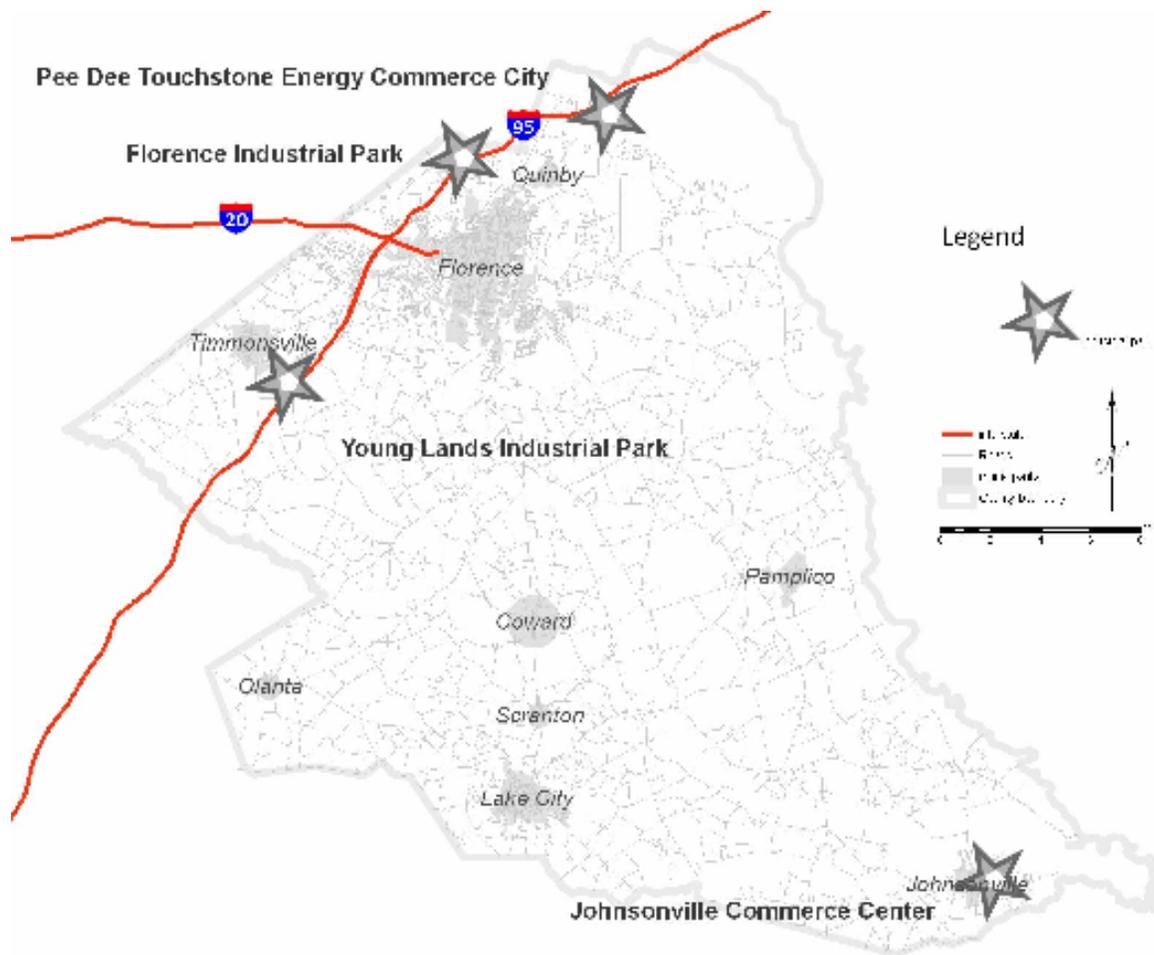
Table 5-27 Location of Industrial Parks in Florence County

Name	Site Location	Municipality
Florence Industrial Park	US Highway 52 @ I-95 at Exit 164	Florence, SC
The Pee Dee Touchstone Commerce City	I-95 at Exit 170	Florence, SC
The Young Lands Industrial Park	Honda Way and I-95 at Exit 150	Timmons ville, SC
Johnsonville Commerce Center	East of SC Highway 51 and 341	Johnsonville, SC

Source: Florence County Economic Development

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Figure 5-6 Locations of Florence County Industrial Parks



Further development of industrial parks benefits Florence County for a number of reasons. Well designed and located parks attract industrial clients that in turn, profit from the proximity of complementary firms, appropriate transportation facilities, supportive infrastructure, and nearby labor. Industrial development concentrated within these parks also reduces possible negative impacts on the surrounding areas. Future land use planning surrounding these parks is also important to the quality of life of residents.

Adequate buffering protects nearby residential neighborhoods and retail sites. Concentrating development helps conserve prime farmlands, open space, timberland, and natural areas. Also, massing industrial development abets the County to gain a greater return from its investments in infrastructure. Water, sewer, power, and gas lines run shorter distances thereby requiring less initial capital and lower maintenance costs. Industrial parks situated along roadways designed to bear greater loads reduce conflicts with daily roadway users.

AGRICULTURE

Since 1974, a ‘farm’ has been defined by Censuses as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (SC State Budget and Control Board, 1992).

Agricultural products have been the mainstay of Florence County and the other counties in the Pee Dee region for over a century. Table 5-30 shows a decline in the number of farms in Florence County, with an increase in the average size of farms in Florence County for a ten-year period. Statewide, the number of farms and the total acreage has increased, with the average farm size decreasing more than 10%. The decrease in the number of farms in Florence County could be contributed to by the complexities of farm product marketing, the price of land, competing uses of prime farmland, drought conditions and children of farmers seeking jobs other than farming.

Other counties that reflect decreases are Darlington, Dillon, Marion, and Williamsburg. The lack of profitable tobacco could explain the reduction in these areas. With the advent of utilizing crops as fuel sources, these statistics may change over the next study period.

Table 5-28 Agricultural Statistics for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 1992 and 2002

Location	1992			2002		
	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Average Size of Farm (acres)	Number of Farms	Land in Farms (acres)	Average Size of Farm (acres)
South Carolina	20,242	4,472,569	221	24,541	4,845,923	197
Florence	781	194,822	249	612	171,388	280
Clarendon	372	135,766	365	390	147,890	379
Darlington	370	156,853	424	361	161,443	447
Dillon	259	108,848	420	197	112,262	570
Lee	280	136,151	486	324	122,518	378
Marion	265	78,382	296	213	93,262	438
Marlboro	174	104,862	603	222	114,963	518
Sumter	406	138,573	341	537	135,805	253
Williamsburg	705	173,188	246	681	205,904	302

Source: www.nass.usda.com

Table 5-29 shows the agricultural statistics for Florence and adjacent counties. While Florence County produces the greatest amount of soybeans in the Pee Dee, the other counties have their own niche crops. The most cotton is grown in Marlboro County. Sumter is first on the list for hay and Clarendon County is best in the Pee Dee region for growing the most oats and corn for grain. Florence County trails Williamsburg County by more than 15% for tobacco production.

Table 5-29 Agricultural Statistics for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2002

Location	Cotton (480 lb. Net Wt. Bales)	Soybeans for Beans (Bushels)	Hay Production (Tons)	Oats For Grain (Bushels)	Tobacco (Thousand Pounds)	Corn For Grain (Bushels)	Wheat For Grain (Bushels)
South Carolina	410,000	8,610,000	783,000	1,180,000	42,000	33,060,000	8,580,000
Florence	20,100	965,800	8,100	24,900	4,940	1,646,200	297,300
Clarendon	3,400	759,500	7,800	67,500	1,464	4,575,000	976,700
Darlington	58,400	594,800	8,100	see note	3,348	1,856,400	526,700
Dillon	22,000	613,600	5,500	26,600	4,309	943,800	1,066,100
Lee	28,500	609,800	7,000	see note	see note	2,330,000	908,300
Marion	3,400	348,200	7,400	37,700	4,680	731,700	230,100
Marlboro	52,500	303,400	6,800	14,400	-	403,700	157,200
Sumter	7,300	735,600	8,700	39,700	see note	4,007,000	834,300
Williamsburg	31,300	527,400	7,100	21,300	5,538	1,207,000	336,200

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA as collected through South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service, South Carolina Agricultural Statistics (Note: Included in other counties; not published separately due to established agency guidelines)

As shown in Table 5-30, Florence County has given up ranks in the State for total farm cash receipts from 2004 to 2005. Farm marketing represents agricultural products sold by farmers multiplied by prices received per unit of production at the local market.

Cash receipts also include net redemption loans made or guaranteed by the Commodity Credit Corporation and other purchases under price support programs. (SC State Budget and Control Board 1997)

Crops include tobacco, oil crops, feed grains, food grains, cotton, vegetables, fruit and nuts, and greenhouse crops. A lesser share of the total state receipts was received from livestock and livestock products at \$5,705,000. Livestock products include dairy products, cattle and hog products, poultry meat products and eggs, and other livestock. (SC State Budget and Control Board 1997) Florence County cash receipts have continued to drop since 1982 when they totaled \$73,402,000. In 1974, the receipts totaled \$63,349,000.

Table 5-30 Cash Receipts from Farm Marketing of Crops, Livestock, and Livestock Products in S.C.

Location	2004 Revised (In thousands of dollars)				2005 Preliminary (In thousands of dollars)			
	Crops	Livestock & Products	Total Receipts	State Rank	Crops	Livestock & Products	Total Receipts	Rank State
South Carolina	\$822,113	\$1,095,552	\$1,917,665	-	\$727,664	\$1,091,065	\$1,818,729	-
Florence	\$45,337	\$5,705	\$51,042	18	\$28,083	\$6,074	\$34,157	23
Clarendon	\$38,492	\$39,045	\$77,537	5	\$30,694	\$39,389	\$70,083	7
Darlington	\$35,492	\$33,913	\$69,405	11	\$29,883	\$31,543	\$61,426	12
Dillon	\$28,303	\$39,099	\$67,402	14	\$21,041	\$40,009	\$61,050	13
Lee	\$22,711	\$22,798	\$45,509	19	\$19,274	\$22,040	\$41,314	17
Marion	\$18,203	\$5,555	\$23,758	29	\$12,824	\$5,761	\$18,585	30
Marlboro	\$19,309	\$12,465	\$31,766	24	\$19,115	\$12,704	\$31,819	25
Sumter	\$25,032	\$68,799	\$93,831	3	\$23,573	\$71,416	\$94,989	3
Total	\$232,879	\$227,379	\$460,250	-	\$184,487	\$228,936	\$413,423	-

Source: South Carolina Agricultural Statistics as collected from Economic Research Service- USDA.

Table 5-31 indicates that broilers are the State's most important agricultural product providing over 1/4th of South Carolina's total agricultural production. The second ranking livestock product is turkey followed by cattle and calves. Chicken eggs and hogs complete the top five livestock products.

Greenhouse and nursery products are at the top of the list in the crops category followed by tobacco, soybeans and cotton.

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Table 5-31 Leading S.C. Commodities for Cash Receipts, 2004

Product	Value (in thousands of dollars)	% State Value
1. Broilers (9-12 week old chickens)	521,884	27.3%
2. Greenhouse/nursery	297,997	15.6%
3. Turkeys	185,280	9.7%
4. Cattle and calves	145,504	7.6%
5. Tobacco	115,004	6.0%
6. Soybeans	89,835	4.7%
7. Cotton	88,218	4.6%
8. Chicken eggs	82,749	4.3%
9. Hogs	52,317	2.7%
10. Corn for grain	50,464	2.6%
11. Dairy products	49,416	2.6%
12. Peaches	30,623	1.6%
13. Wheat	28,214	1.5%
14. Tomatoes	27,825	1.5%
15. Peanuts	23,562	1.2%
16. Cucumbers	10,536	0.6%
17. Hay	9,402	0.5%
18. Watermelons	7,350	0.4%
19. Squash	3,918	0.2%
20. Beans, snap	2,700	0.1%
21. Pecans	1,860	0.1%
22. Sweet potatoes	1,672	0.1%
23. Oats	1,280	0.1%
24. Farm chickens	1,116	0.1%

Source: USDA: Economic Research Service

Regardless of its declining value, agriculture continues to be an important part of the County's economy. Even though a smaller percentage of the Pee Dee population owns farms today, the importance of farming as well as the challenges the farmers face are significant County issues. The Pee Dee Farmers Market located on US 52 as well as various specialty farms offering meats, fruits and vegetables have proven to be a success. Perhaps similar markets would benefit other areas of the County.

FORESTRY

Forest is the major land use in South Carolina. This resource provides the raw materials for a manufacturing industry that produces more than \$6.9 billion worth of products annually statewide. Our nation is becoming more dependent on the South for its supply of timber and wood products. Each American uses the equivalent of one 100-foot tree of wood and paper products every year. That average would include the use of 613 pounds of paper, 200 square feet of lumber, 87 square feet of plywood, and 59 square feet of other board products. (Nodine 1989)

Nearly 67 percent of the County is forested or under vegetative cover (SC State Budget and Control Board 1992). These data are from satellite imagery and are considered to be 85-90% accurate.

Total receipts at South Carolina mills, including roundwood harvested and retained in the state and roundwood imported from other states had an increase of 8 percent for a total of 582 million cubic feet. In 2005, South Carolina had 75 primary roundwood using plants. Three sawmills closed but three new mills were gained.

Pulpwood by volume is our largest forest product while the most valuable forest product is sawtimber. Sawtimber is valued at \$482 million and the pulpwood value is \$281 million. South Carolina exports \$1 billion annually in

forest products. The table below shows you the amount of roundwood timber produced by the State, Florence and adjacent counties in 2005.

Table 5-32 Roundwood Timber Output for Florence and Adjacent Counties, 2005 (*thousands of cubic feet*)

Location	All Products		Saw Logs		Veneer logs		Pulpwood		Composite Panels		Other Industrial	
	Soft Wood	Hard Wood	Soft Wood	Hard Wood	Soft Wood	Hard Wood	Soft Wood	Hard Wood	Soft Wood	Hard Wood	Soft Wood	Hard Wood
South Carolina	532,723	112,501	233,982	23,846	34,299	7,324	236,513	81,223	23,674	108	4,255	0
Florence	13,562	4,548	10,391	669	0	38	2,854	3,841	0	0	317	0
Clarendon	6,473	825	3,299	75	0	66	3,174	684	0	0	0	0
Darlington	7,354	1,503	4,950	40	0	31	2,404	1,432	0	0	0	0
Dillon	5,528	743	3,351	274	865	0	1,261	469	0	0	51	0
Lee	3,378	238	1,391	32	0	0	1,987	206	0	0	0	0
Marion	7,200	4,413	5,198	853	865	43	1,025	3,517	0	0	112	0
Marlboro	8,020	2,880	3,712	616	1,032	0	3,276	2,264	0	0	0	0
Sumter	4,451	641	2,928	202	0	0	1,523	439	0	0	0	0
Williamsburg	18,478	967	10,364	444	0	25	7,951	498	0	0	163	0

Source: S.C. Department of Agriculture

Table 5-33 and Table 5-34 list the cash receipts from timber harvest for 2003 and 2005, respectively. All counties increased in the number of acres of forests from 2003 to 2005 with only Lee County falling in the County value ranking. Williamsburg County continuously ranks the highest in harvested value and ranking among the Pee Dee. Again, Williamsburg County ranks first in delivered value of timber with Dillon, Florence and Marion following consecutively.

Table 5-33 Value of Timber Delivered to SC Mills, 2003

Location	Area (acres)	Percent Forested	Harvested Timber Value	County Value Ranking
South Carolina	11,189,235	88%	\$847,197,383	
Florence	310,076	62	21,086,082	15
Williamsburg	382,671	69	26,400,053	8
Dillon	142,906	55	22,824,433	13
Marion	218,877	76	20,966,043	16
Marlboro	204,683	67	17,305,270	25
Darlington	154,236	42	9,799,858	37
Clarendon	181,002	48	8,659,710	39
Lee	123,070	48	7,250,593	42
Sumter	166,905	41	5,830,253	44

Source: South Carolina Agricultural Statistics (2003)

Table 5-34 lists the acreage and value of timber harvested for 2005. Florence County has the second highest number of acres of forested area with Williamsburg County topping the list with the highest number of acres in the Pee Dee region. Clarendon County has the highest value rank with Williamsburg County as the lowest. However, Williamsburg ranks first in the delivered value of timber category with Marion, Dillon and Florence following consecutively.

Table 5-34 Value of Timber Delivered to SC Mills, 2005

Location	Area (acres)	Percent Forested	Harvested Timber Value	County Value Ranking
South Carolina	12,745,893	66%	\$870,306,810	
Florence	319,223	64	27,880,189	10
Williamsburg	382,671	69	28,199,688	8
Marion	233,149	81	17,522,663	21
Marlboro	204,683	67	15,083,678	25
Darlington	154,236	42	13,168,299	30
Dillon	150,041	58	10,252,905	32
Clarendon	209,546	56	9,934,123	36
Sumter	230,676	57	7,645,817	41
Lee	123,070	48	4,621,188	46

Source: US Forest Service 2005 Timber Products Output Survey and the SC Forestry Commission

Part of the variation in timber revenue is due to the natural life cycle of the product. Trees proliferate, either through human intervention or naturally, and allowed to grow to the proper size, then harvested. Like field crops, the quality and quantity of the timber over any given period depends upon growing conditions. In the case of trees, of course, the time involved is measured in decades rather than seasons.

Another possible reason for irregularities in cash receipts is that individuals sometimes use the timber on their property as a kind of savings account. During periods when they require additional cash flow, standing timber may be sold to provide it. While it is beyond the scope of this document to investigate, a correlation between reduced crop cash receipts and increased timber revenues may exist. Such a correlation would help with prediction of active timbering.

Forest stewardship is the active management of forests and related resources to keep land in a healthy condition for present and future generations and to increase the economic and environmental benefits of those lands.

Responsible forest management offers economic, environmental, and visual benefits to the landowner and all citizens of the County. Recognizing that forestland is a desired land use that enhances water quality and scenic beauty, the County is committed to promoting forest stewardship and preventing the abuse of forestland.

The County recognizes that, in addition to providing innumerable environmental and social benefits, timber is the most valued agricultural crop of South Carolina and supports the third largest manufacturing segment in the state. Forest resources are an important component of our state and local economies. Forest products that may be certified as “green” may increase the value of this South Carolina resource.

South Carolina Best Management Practices (BMPs) for forestry provide a highly effective non-regulatory approach to protecting water quality. Forest operations contribute approximately 4% of the human caused sediment in our waterways, compared to over 85% from agriculture, urban runoff and development. While nonpoint source pollution from forestry is a small part of the total problem, timber harvesting, site preparation, and road construction can nonetheless impair water quality. BMPs are scientifically developed practices endorsed by the EPA, SC DHEC, and the Corps of Engineers for minimizing the impact of timber harvesting operations on other natural resources.

Occasional timber harvest is necessary for many landowners to make forest ownership economically feasible, and to continue providing the benefits of forested land to the County. The County recognizes the rights of private landowners to manage and utilize renewable natural resources, and the responsibility of all citizens to protect and maintain public resources.

Scenic beauty and rural character are important contributions of forestland. Considering that timber harvesting occurs once every 20-60 years on a given site, that soil disturbance and environmental impact are among the least of any land use, and that harvesting can be applied to improve forest health, diversity, and quality; the County recognizes that actions restricting timber harvesting may adversely affect forest stewardship and result in declining forest quality. Therefore, the County may consider enacting policies that are conducive to the best management practices of forestry while restricting abuse of forestland.

According to Nodine in 1989, “our forests are not being managed or utilized at their full potential. Existing resources can continue to support the existing timber industry with some growth, but significant growth can only be accomplished through better management of the forest. Other uses of these forests can also continue to increase through wise stewardship of these resources.”

MINING

In 1974, the South Carolina Mining Act was passed to ensure all mined lands would be returned to some useful purpose and for the protection of people and the environment. This process is also known as the reclamation process. The reclamation process, as well as the mine permitting process, is overseen by the Mining and Reclamation Section of the SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC). The basic objectives of reclamation are to ensure public safety, establish vegetation for soil stability, and protection of adjacent areas. The regulations allow for reclamation such as lakes or ponds, grasslands, woodlands, croplands, parks or recreational areas, landfills or residential or commercial development.

Mining in South Carolina has been one of the State’s most valuable industries for over two centuries. More than \$138 million are contributed to the state annually through payroll and taxes by the mining companies. In the United States, South Carolina ranks 25th in total mineral value and 13th in twenty six of the eastern states. Nationally, the state is ranked second in the production of kaolin which is a fine white clay used in the manufacture of porcelain and ranked first in cement. South Carolina is the only state east of the Mississippi that mines gold.

Currently 13 minerals are being extracted from 485 active mines in South Carolina. There is an annual estimated raw mineral production value at the lip of the mine of \$483 million. The mineral in South Carolina are surface mined which involves the removal of rock and soil prior to the extraction of the mineral. Open pit mining, strip mining and dredging are the three types of surface mines in the State. Mining in South Carolina is very productive and makes a major contribution to the economy.

Table 5-35 provides a list of active mining permits in Florence County, as well as the minerals mined and the reclamation practice. Sand and clay are the major materials mined in Florence County. The table below shows permitted mines.

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Table 5-35 Mine Permits in Florence County

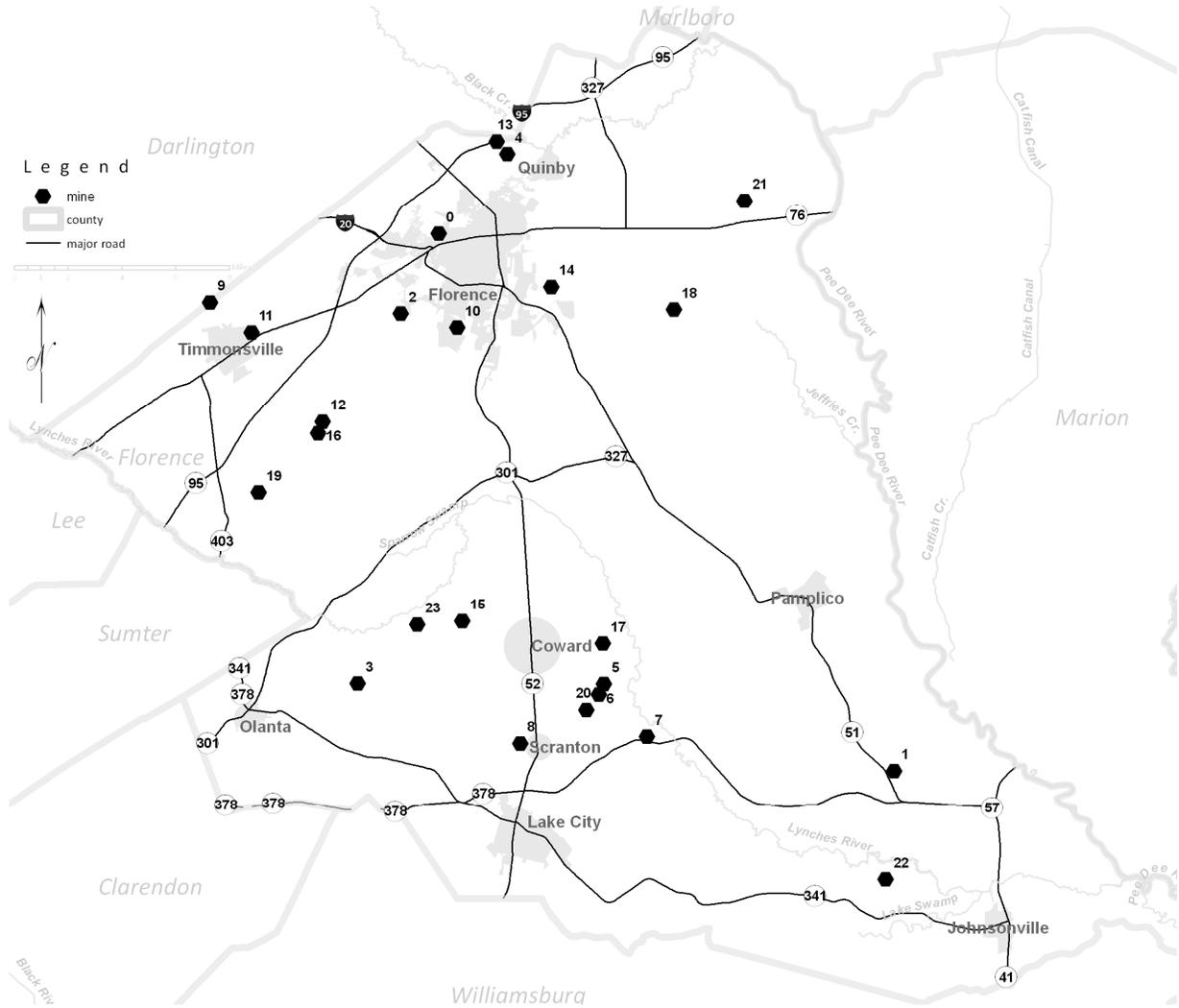
ID	Company Name	Mine Name	Affected Acres	Permitted Acres	Mineral
0	Ellis Sand & Gravel	ELLIS MINE	5	5	Sand
1	Hagley Lake Co Inc	HAGLEY MINE	9	9	Sand
2	Forest Lake Shores LLC	FOREST LAKE SHORES	5	5	Sand
3	Hancock Utilities	HANCOCK #3	5	5	Sand/Clay
4	Legs Pit Pee Dee	LEGG'S PIT	0	0	Sand/Clay
5	Wilkes Landscaping Mine #1	WILKES #1	0	0	Sand/Clay
6	Hancock Utilities	HANCOCK #2	4	4	Sand/Clay
7	G & M Builders G & M #1	G&M 1 MINE	4	4	Sand/Clay
8	Hancock Utilities	HANCOCK #1	7	10	Sand/Clay
9	Mccutcheon Construction Co Inc	MCCUTCHEON MINE #3	2	2	Sand
10	Point South Developers Llc	WILDBIRD RUN MINE	5	5	Sand
11	Willis Construction Company	HUGGINS PIT	5	5	Sand
12	Willis Construction Company	ANDERSON PIT	5	5	Sand
13	L H Stokes & Son Inc	MCLELLAN PIT	5	5	Sand
14	Mccutcheon Construction Co Inc	MCCUTCHEON #2	5	5	Sand, Sand/Clay
15	Mccutcheon Inc	MCCUTCHEON MINE	5	5	Sand, Sand/Clay
16	Goodson Construction Co Inc	R.E. GOODSON MINE	5	5	Sand, Sand/Clay
17	Jerry Hayes Excavation	J. HAYES	5	5	Sand, Sand/Clay
18	L Dean Weaver Construction	POSTON PIT	2	2	Sand, Sand/Clay
19	Mccutcheon Construction Co Inc	MCCUTCHEON #1	5	1	Sand, Sand/Clay
20	Jerry Hayes Excavation	HAYES EXCAVATION	5	5	Sand, Sand/Clay
21	Willis Construction Company	WILLIS CONSTRUCTION MINE #2	13	13	Sand, Sand/Clay
22	Carolina Sand Inc	JOHNSONVILLE PLANT	190	291	Sand
23	South Carolina Prestress Corp	PRESTRESS MINE	69	75	Sand
TOTAL			365	471	

Source: U.S.Census Bureau,Census of Population and Housing 2000

The following map shows the approximate locations of permitted mines in the County. Note that most mines are near streambeds. Some streams are not shown on the map.

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Figure 5-7 **Locations of Mines in Florence County**



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GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The goals of the Economic Element aim to challenge Florence County to think and act progressively about its future. Immediate action is required for the County to maintain the economic status that meets the demand of the people. The following goals create an important outline in which participation will be key to Florence County's future development.

GOAL 1

The redevelopment of the downtown area should be a high priority of the City and County Governments and the Chamber of Commerce.

Implementation Strategy: Establish better communication of all local government entities to provide one unified vision for the betterment of our County. Coordinate efforts for downtown revitalization

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 2

Create new economic markets to cash in on South Carolina's emerging Recreation, Arts and Retirement images.

Implementation Strategy: Focus on the County's natural resources, proximity to the beach, affordable housing, medical facilities and cultural centers. Furthermore, the Pee Dee Regional Transportation Authority affords options to travel the region without sole reliance on an automobile. Advertisements to move to Florence would attract more people to the area.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 3

Explore the creation of an icon that will identify the County to visitors.

Implementation Strategy: Local government should aim to provide non-vehicle transportation to reduce pollution, traffic congestion and for the general physical well being of its citizens.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 4

Focus on attracting 'only in Florence' talent and businesses.

Implementation Strategy: Seek innovative and high profile individuals and businesses that will enhance the County's forward-thinking perspective and quality of life. Continue to address issues that would limit Florence County as an attractive place to expand and locate. Support the development of entry structures welcoming visitors and residents to the County.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 5

Become recognized as a regional cultural center

Implementation Strategy: Support the implementation, development and proliferation of cultural amenities. Seek opportunities to expand culture and art presentations geared towards all ages.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 6

Develop and encourage meaningful architecture in highly visible buildings and structures

Implementation Strategy: Develop entry structures to the County that reflect a distinctive county-wide theme.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 7

Explore and encourage the purchase of local and sustainable products.

Implementation Strategy: Determine the feasibility of purchasing 'green' products through County purchases. Explore the potential of incorporating LEED (Leadership in Energy Efficient Development) certified building guidelines and Low Impact Development (LID). Determine the feasibility of incorporating alternative energy sources to offset energy used from the grid. Provide education and outreach to the public, especially children about the benefits of local products and energy conservation.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 8

Support and encourage best management practices for silviculture and agriculture.

Implementation Strategy: Incorporate best management practices into County operations and policies.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 9

Explore the development of ecotourism.

Implementation Strategy: Support State programs such as the Scenic Rivers Program and explore the feasibility to join the American Rivers, Blue Trails initiative.

Time Frame: Continuous

GOAL 10

Attract global, national and regional interests by forward-thinking operating procedures to increase quality of life.

Implementation Strategy: Support the growth of a County Trail system. Support innovative alternative transportation systems. Support increased passive and active parks. Local government should aim to provide non-vehicle transportation opportunities to reduce pollution, traffic congestion and for the general physical well being of its citizens.

Time Frame: Continuous

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APPENDIX

ELEMENT ADOPTION DATES

Florence County.....October 16, 2008 Ordinance No. 06-2008/09