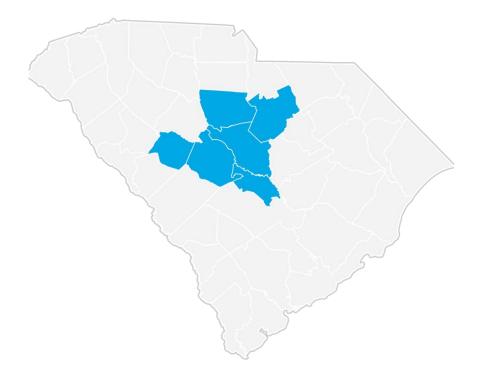
# Economic Overview Columbia, SC MSA





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### **Demographic Profile**

The population in the Columbia, SC MSA was 808,377 per American Community Survey data for 2013-2017.

The region has a civilian labor force of 407,734 with a participation rate of 64.1%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Columbia, SC MSA, 33.1% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 32.3% in the nation.

The median household income in the Columbia, SC MSA is \$52,728 and the median house value is \$145,900.

	Sun	nmary <sup>1</sup>				
		Percent			Value	
	Columbia, SC			Columbia, SC		
	MSA	South Carolina	USA	MSA	South Carolina	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	_	808,377	4,893,444	321,004,407
Male	48.6%	48.6%	49.2%	392,671	2,376,759	158,018,753
Female	51.4%	51.4%	50.8%	415,706	2,516,685	162,985,654
Median Age <sup>2</sup>			_	36.3	39.0	37.8
Under 18 Years	22.5%	22.3%	22.9%	181,673	1,090,955	73,601,279
18 to 24 Years	12.1%	9.7%	9.7%	97,666	476,888	31,131,484
25 to 34 Years	13.7%	13.0%	13.7%	110,712	638,521	44,044,173
35 to 44 Years	12.5%	12.2%	12.7%	101,399	598,756	40,656,419
45 to 54 Years	13.1%	13.3%	13.4%	106,060	649,562	43,091,143
55 to 64 Years	12.5%	13.2%	12.7%	100,979	643,506	40,747,520
65 to 74 Years	8.4%	10.0%	8.6%	67,738	489,068	27,503,389
75 Years, and Over	5.2%	6.3%	6.3%	42,150	306,188	20,229,000
Race: White	60.2%	67.3%	73.0%	486,443	3,292,598	234,370,202
Race: Black or African American	33.3%	27.2%	12.7%	269,161	1,332,110	40,610,815
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	1,615	14,992	2,632,102
Race: Asian	2.0%	1.5%	5.4%	16,173	71,994	17,186,320
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	660	3,015	570,116
Race: Some Other Race	1.7%	1.5%	4.8%	13,630	74,328	15,553,808
Race: Two or More Races	2.6%	2.1%	3.1%	20,695	104,407	10,081,044
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.4%	5.5%	17.6%	43,519	267,398	56,510,571
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) <sup>5</sup>	_	_	_	825,033	5,024,369	325,719,178
Population Annual Average Growth <sup>5</sup>	1.2%	1.2%	0.8%	9,449	58,026	2,448,797
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	64.1%	60.4%	63.3%	407,734	2,351,303	161,159,470
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	82.5%	80.3%	81.6%	258,324	1,503,639	103,761,701
Armed Forces Labor Force	1.8%	0.8%	0.4%	11,754	30,597	1,024,855
Veterans, Age 18-64	7.8%	6.7%	4.9%	39,328	199,107	9,667,749
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.2%	75.2%	75.8%	29,970	149,698	7,326,514
Median Household Income <sup>2</sup>	_	_	_	\$52,728	\$48,781	\$57,652
Per Capita Income	_	_	_	\$27,694	\$26,645	\$31,177
Poverty Level (of all people)	15.6%	16.6%	14.6%	120,260	790,657	45,650,345
Households Receiving Food Stamps	13.4%	14.0%	12.6%	40,923	262,863	15,029,498
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	_	_	_	23.7	24.3	26.4



#### Summary<sup>1</sup>

		Percent		Value				
	Columbia, SC			Columbia, SC				
	MSA	South Carolina	USA	MSA	South Carolina	USA		
Commute via Public Transportation	0.7%	0.6%	5.1%	2,539	12,509	7,607,907		
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64								
No High School Diploma	9.7%	11.8%	11.4%	40,643	299,485	19,230,541		
High School Graduate	26.0%	28.7%	26.0%	109,073	726,629	43,784,920		
Some College, No Degree	22.0%	21.6%	21.2%	92,340	546,668	35,803,629		
Associate's Degree	9.1%	10.1%	9.0%	38,156	255,572	15,199,517		
Bachelor's Degree	21.0%	18.2%	20.5%	87,999	460,068	34,602,913		
Postgraduate Degree	12.2%	9.6%	11.8%	50,939	241,923	19,917,735		
Housing								
Total Housing Units	_	_	_	347,343	2,229,324	135,393,564		
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) <sup>2</sup>				\$145,900	\$148,600	\$193,500		
Homeowner Vacancy	2.0%	1.9%	1.7%	4,326	25,557	1,346,331		
Rental Vacancy	7.3%	9.4%	6.1%	7,998	62,147	2,838,344		
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	32.8%	31.4%	36.2%	100,086	586,775	42,992,786		
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	6.0%	6.5%	8.8%	18,299	122,220	10,468,418		
Social								
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.7%	1.4%	1.4%	13,462	66,722	4,437,324		
Disconnected Youth <sup>4</sup>	1.8%	2.8%	2.7%	952	7,258	456,548		
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	40.7%	40.5%	34.5%	69,857	413,645	24,106,567		
With a Disability, Age 18-64	11.8%	12.7%	10.3%	58,085	372,078	20,276,199		
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	43.7%	36.7%	41.4%	25,408	136,607	8,395,884		
Foreign Born	5.1%	4.9%	13.4%	41,209	237,789	43,028,127		
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.9%	2.8%	8.5%	21,946	127,811	25,654,421		
Union Membership								
Total <sup>3</sup>	2.7%	2.1%	10.7%	_	_	-		
Private Sector <sup>3</sup>	1.0%	1.2%	6.4%	_		_		
Manufacturing <sup>3</sup>	0.9%	1.4%	8.7%	_	_	_		
Public Sector <sup>3</sup>	8.8%	6.6%	35.1%	_	_	_		

Source: JobsEQ®

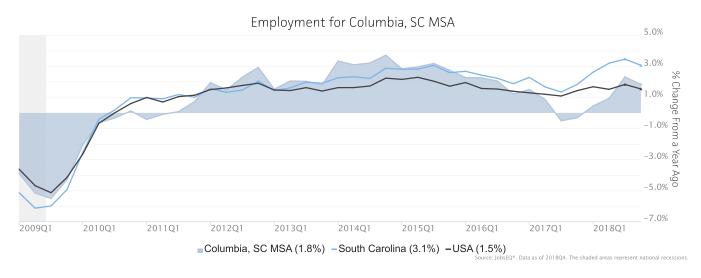
1. American Community Survey 2013-2017, unless noted otherwise

Anterican Continuing Survey 2013-2017, unless hole of one wise
Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.
2017; Current Population Survey, unionstats.com, and Chmura; county- and zip-level data are best estimates based upon industry-, MSA-, and state-level data
Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
Census 2017, annual average growth rate since 2007



### **Employment Trends**

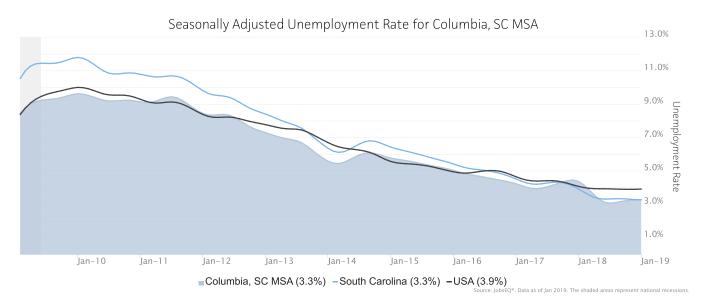
As of 2018Q4, total employment for the Columbia, SC MSA was 404,585 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2018Q4, employment increased 1.8% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.

### **Unemployment Rate**

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Columbia, SC MSA was 3.3% as of January 2019. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in January 2018, the unemployment rate in the Columbia, SC MSA was 4.4%.

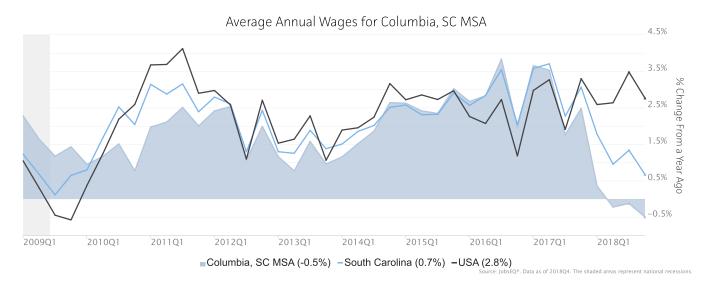


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through January 2019.



### Wage Trends

The average worker in the Columbia, SC MSA earned annual wages of \$43,776 as of 2018Q4. Average annual wages per worker decreased 0.5% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$55,713 in the nation as of 2018Q4.



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.



## Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 2.6% lower in Columbia, SC MSA than the U.S. average.

#### **Cost of Living Information**

		Cost of Living Index	ĸ
	Annual Average Salary	(Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Columbia, SC MSA	\$43,776	97.4	\$44,945
South Carolina	\$43,569	95.0	\$45,856
USA	\$55,713	100.0	\$55,713

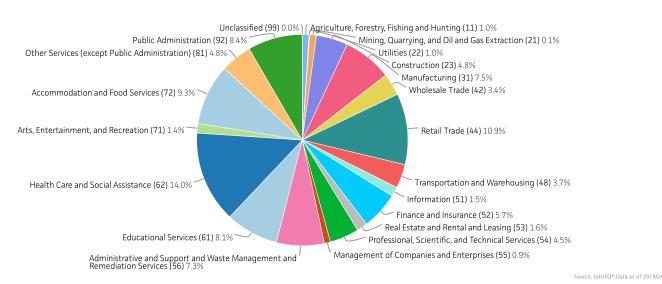
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2018Q4

Cost of Living per C2ER, data as of 2018q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.



### **Industry Snapshot**

The largest sector in the Columbia, SC MSA is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 56,678 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (44,052 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (37,686). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Utilities (LQ = 1.98), Public Administration (1.78), and Finance and Insurance (1.46).



Total Workers for Columbia, SC MSA by Industry

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4.

Sectors in the Columbia, SC MSA with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$83,279), Finance and Insurance (\$69,511), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$66,058). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 10 years are Accommodation and Food Services (+9,063 jobs), Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+7,570), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+6,439).

Over the next 10 years, employment in the Columbia, SC MSA is projected to expand by 36,750 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+10,190 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+3,889), and Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (+3,617).



			Current		10-Yea	r History		:	10-Year Forecas	t			
					Total	Avg Ann %		Separations					
		Four Qua	rters Ending wit	th 2018q4	Change	Chg in Empl		(Appro	(Approximate)		Growth		
NAICS	Industry	Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl	Region	Total New Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl	Avg Ann Rate		
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	4,165	\$34,934	0.75	705	1.9%	4,896	2,003	2,630	263	0.6%		
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	318	\$62,797	0.18	19	0.6%	310	104	214	-8	-0.3%		
22	Utilities	4,175	\$83,279	1.98	298	0.7%	3,736	1,359	2,397	-20	0.0%		
23	Construction	19,587	\$49,389	0.85	-2,685	-1.3%	23,534	7,389	13,206	2,938	1.4%		
31	Manufacturing	30,339	\$56,960	0.91	-399	-0.1%	29,815	11,454	19,553	-1,192	-0.4%		
42	Wholesale Trade	13,696	\$65,132	0.89	-455	-0.3%	16,017	5,626	9,303	1,088	0.8%		
44	Retail Trade	44,052	\$28,218	1.03	1,605	0.4%	63,038	26,662	33,728	2,648	0.6%		
48	Transportation and Warehousing	14,782	\$42,075	0.83	4,687	3.9%	18,580	7,104	9,531	1,946	1.2%		
51	Information	5,907	\$61,287	0.74	-859	-1.3%	6,131	2,131	3,730	271	0.4%		
52	Finance and Insurance	23,260	\$69,511	1.46	-687	-0.3%	26,132	8,850	14,336	2,946	1.2%		
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,634	\$46,615	0.95	357	0.6%	7,428	3,181	3,783	464	0.7%		
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	18,048	\$66,058	0.67	1,658	1.0%	18,480	6,094	10,216	2,169	1.1%		
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	3,818	\$56,174	0.63	-461	-1.1%	3,877	1,327	2,252	299	0.8%		
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	29,548	\$30,576	1.13	7,570	3.0%	39,647	15,290	20,740	3,617	1.2%		
61	Educational Services	32,757	\$45,211	0.99	60	0.0%	34,048	15,121	16,282	2,645	0.8%		
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	56,678	\$49,625	0.98	6,439	1.2%	67,894	28,356	29,348	10,190	1.7%		
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,860	\$19,189	0.73	893	1.7%	9,241	3,872	4,750	619	1.0%		
72	Accommodation and Food Services	37,686	\$16,081	1.03	9,063	2.8%	67,901	28,342	35,670	3,889	1.0%		
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	19,329	\$27,553	1.09	1,943	1.1%	24,288	10,389	12,373	1,525	0.8%		
92	Public Administration	33,945	\$46,627	1.78	2,762	0.9%	31,816	13,305	18,059	452	0.1%		
99	Unclassified	1	\$84,758	0.00	0	2.4%	1	1	1	0	0.9%		
	Total - All Industries	404,585	\$43,776	1.00	32,512	0.8%	497,101	197,158	263,193	36,750	0.9%		

Source: JobsEQ® Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.



### **Occupation Snapshot**

The largest major occupation group in the Columbia, SC MSA is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 62,840 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (42,048 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (34,979). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Protective Service Occupations (LQ = 1.55), Legal Occupations (1.30), and Community and Social Service Occupations (1.27).

Occupation groups in the Columbia, SC MSA with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$106,300), Legal Occupations (\$74,800), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$73,600). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.3% among Legal Occupations to 5.7% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 10 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Columbia, SC MSA is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+4,029 jobs) and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+3,542). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Office and Administrative Support Occupations (70,706 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (61,952).

				Cı	urrent			10-Year	History Avg Ann	10-Year Forecast					
		Four Qua	arters Ending 2018q4	, with	201	8q4		Total Change	% Chg in Empl		Separations			Growth	
			Avg Ann			Unempl	Online			Total New				Avg Ann	
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Rate	Job Ads <sup>2</sup>	Empl	Region	Demand	Exits	Transfer	Empl	Rate	
11-0000	Management	21,757	\$106,300	0.89	367	1.6%	1,355	821	0.4%	20,130	6,086	11,609	2,435	1.1%	
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	18,831	\$61,900	0.89	454	2.3%	1,066	676	0.4%	19,304	5,794	11,485	2,025	1.0%	
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	10,873	\$70,400	0.91	265	2.4%	1,522	616	0.6%	8,850	1,978	5,469	1,403	1.2%	
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	5,679	\$72,900	0.82	144	2.3%	298	8	0.0%	4,624	1,475	2,715	434	0.7%	
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,000	\$62,100	0.91	47	1.5%	157	314	1.1%	2,914	820	1,910	183	0.6%	
21-0000	Community and Social Service	8,350	\$42,500	1.27	141	1.6%	453	762	1.0%	10,379	3,539	5,835	1,004	1.1%	
23-0000	Legal	4,309	\$74,800	1.30	57	1.3%	146	-291	-0.7%	3,342	1,149	1,810	382	0.9%	
25-0000	Education, Training, and Library	22,560	\$46,900	1.00	395	1.8%	938	462	0.2%	22,043	10,022	9,700	2,321	1.0%	
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	5,900	\$46,700	0.82	122	1.9%	231	145	0.2%	6,281	2,513	3,328	440	0.7%	
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	24,745	\$73,600	1.08	341	1.4%	1,629	2,012	0.9%	17,283	6,933	6,809	3,542	1.3%	
31-0000	Healthcare Support	11,025	\$27,700	0.98	370	3.4%	385	1,413	1.4%	15,916	6,772	6,670	2,474	2.0%	
33-0000	Protective Service	13,474	\$37,700	1.55	372	2.9%	267	3,078	2.6%	15,214	6,696	7,838	680	0.5%	
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	34,979	\$20,600	1.01	1,768	5.0%	1,490	7,971	2.6%	65,981	27,643	34,309	4,029	1.1%	
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	13,053	\$25,400	0.93	547	4.2%	479	616	0.5%	18,447	8,215	8,793	1,439	1.1%	
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	13,949	\$23,500	0.81	423	3.0%	439	2,509	2.0%	25,016	11,405	10,879	2,732	1.8%	

#### Occupation Snapshot in Columbia, SC MSA, 2018q4



#### Occupation Snapshot in Columbia, SC MSA, 2018q4

				Cu	irrent			10-Year	History		0-Year Forecast			
		Four Qua	rters Ending 2018q4	g with	201	2018q4			Avg Ann % Chg in Empl		Separ	ations	Gro	owth
			Avg Ann			Unempl	Online			Total New	Total New			Avg Ann
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Wages <sup>1</sup>	LQ	Unempl	Rate	Job Ads <sup>2</sup>	Empl	Region	Demand	Exits	Transfer	Empl	Rate
41-0000	Sales and Related	42,048	\$35,000	1.04	1,409	3.3%	3,046	1,350	0.3%	61,903	25,922	33,174	2,806	0.6%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	62,840	\$35,100	1.07	1,964	3.1%	2,256	5,007	0.8%	72,810	32,255	38,451	2,104	0.3%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,940	\$27,100	0.74	113	5.7%	14	427	2.5%	2,898	728	2,113	58	0.3%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	17,086	\$41,100	0.91	672	4.0%	427	-1,834	-1.0%	20,477	6,322	11,871	2,284	1.3%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	16,853	\$45,500	1.09	370	2.3%	1,163	978	0.6%	17,914	6,090	10,343	1,481	0.8%
51-0000	Production	24,099	\$39,000	0.98	852	3.4%	611	714	0.3%	26,157	9,743	16,935	-521	-0.2%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	27,234	\$31,600	0.98	1,155	4.2%	1,311	4,761	1.9%	37,903	13,792	21,095	3,016	1.1%
	Total - All Occupations	404,585	\$43,900	1.00	n/a	n/a	19,683	32,512	0.8%	495,783	195,892	263,141	36,750	0.9%

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2018Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Occupation wages are as of 2017 and should be taken as the average for all Covered Employment

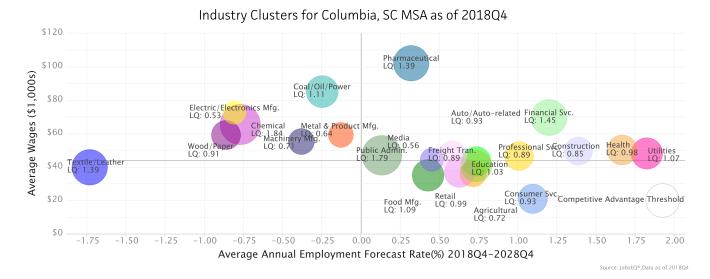
2. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region; data represents a sampling rather than the complete universe of postings. Ads lacking zip code information but designating a place (city, town, etc.) may be assigned to the zip code with greatest employment in that place for queries in this analytic. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list).

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2018Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2017 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



### **Industry Clusters**

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Columbia, SC MSA with the highest relative concentration is Chemical with a location quotient of 1.84. This cluster employs 6,962 workers in the region with an average wage of \$65,437. Employment in the Chemical cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.8% per year over the next ten years.



Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2018Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2018Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

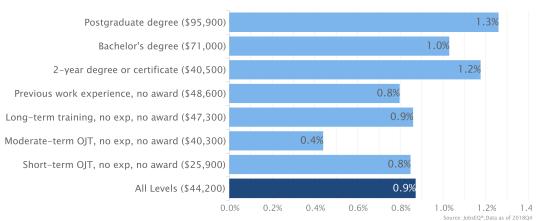






### **Education Levels**

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Columbia, SC MSA is projected to grow 0.9% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.3% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.0% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.2% per year.



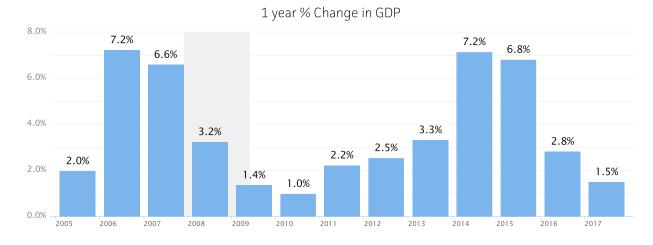
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required for Columbia, SC MSA

Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2018Q4. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.



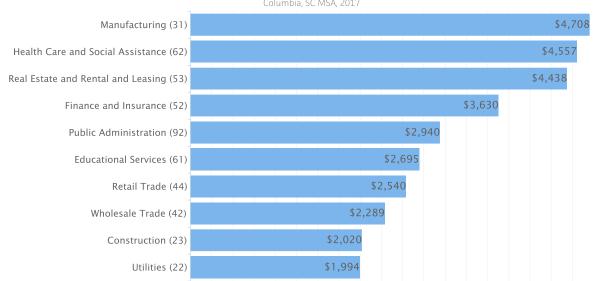
### **Gross Domestic Product**

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2017, nominal GDP in the Columbia, SC MSA expanded 1.5%. This follows growth of 2.8% in 2016. As of 2017, total GDP in the Columbia, SC MSA was \$40,822,469,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.

Of the sectors in the Columbia, SC MSA, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2017, \$4,707,514,000 The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$4,556,600,000); Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$4,438,310,000); and Finance and Insurance (\$3,629,946,000).



GDP (in \$ millions) Columbia. SC MSA, 2017

Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2017.



### **Region Definition**

#### Columbia, SC MSA is defined as the following counties:

Calhoun County, South Carolina

Fairfield County, South Carolina

Kershaw County, South Carolina

Lexington County, South Carolina

Richland County, South Carolina

Saluda County, South Carolina



### FAQ

#### What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

#### What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

#### What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a *competitive advantage* in that cluster.

#### What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

#### What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the "all industry" level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the "sector," which is the level examined in this report.

#### What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 820 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 23 major groups, 96 minor groups, and 449 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

#### About This Report

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