

# Commerce and Labor

Located in northwestern South Carolina, the county is part of the growing corridor along Interstate-85 (I-85) between Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. The county's population grew nearly twelve percent (12%) in the 1980's and twelve percent (12%) in the 1990's. Since July 1, 2001, the county has seen an estimated ten (10%) increase in population, to the July 1, 2009 estimate of 286,822.

Spartanburg County is the home of BMW Manufacturing Corporation and more than one-hundred (100) other international firms, representing 19 countries. Spartanburg has the highest per capita international investment of any area in the country. Spartanburg County has also attracted national headquarters of companies such as Extended Stay America, Advance America and Denny's. In addition, more than 500 manufacturing firms call Spartanburg County home. The high concentration of international firms in Spartanburg County has provided national and international exposure to the area. (2009 Spartanburg County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) (<http://www.economicfuturesgroup.com>)

SPARTANBURG COUNTY MAJOR EMPLOYERS 2009 DATA		
Company Name	Employees	% of Workforce
Spartanburg County Schools	5,185	3.8%
Spartanburg Regional Medical Center	4,607	3.3%
BMW Manufacturing Corporation	5,400	3.9%
State of South Carolina	2,387	1.7%
Milliken and Company	N/A	1.0%
Spartanburg County	1,678	1.2%
Cryovac	1,152	0.8%
Mary Black Memorial Hospital	1,006	0.7%
Michelin Tire Company	952	0.7%
Kohler Company	909	0.7%

Source: 2009 Spartanburg County Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Spartanburg County has a work force readily available to businesses looking to locate or expand in the area. In March 2008, BMW Manufacturing Co. announced that it would hire five-hundred (500) new workers by 2012 as part of an expansion plan to boost production capacity at the Spartanburg County plant.

While the textile industry is still a major component in the industrial community, Spartanburg County has diversified its manufacturing industries over the past thirty (30) years. Such industries include automotive, food

processing, packaging, metal working and stamping. Business flourishes in this area as a result of the I-85 corridor, the pro-business climate, the cultural amenities and the unparalleled quality of life; all located in the foothills of the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains. (<http://www.economicfuturesgroup.com>)

Based on information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, the available labor force is approximately 135,000. As of February 2010, the unemployment rate for Spartanburg County was at 13.2%. In addition, the unemployment for the State of South Carolina was 12.5% in February 2010.

