

# Columbia Area Fast Facts

## Industry

**Richland County has a diverse mix of industries, strengthening the community's sustainability during market fluctuations.**

- ✓ Growing destination for innovative and high-value operations such as **Scout Motors** (electric vehicles), **Integer Technologies** (defense tech) and **The Ritedose Company** (life sciences).
- ✓ The Columbia area is a nexus for manufacturing and office operations. The county offers support for industries to locate and grow their facilities, such as discretionary incentives to offset costs.
- ✓ Proud home to numerous headquarters locations and providers of major services and goods: **BlueCross BlueShield of SC**, **Mungo Homes**, **Colite International**, **RhythmLink International**, **Colonial Life & Accident Insurance**, **Vän Robotics**, **Mark Anthony Brewing**, and **Dominion Energy South Carolina**.
- ✓ Location on the East Coast and in the center of South Carolina provides industries prime logistical access to major cities, interstates, airports, and ports.
- ✓ Richland County is part of a network of local and state partners that support businesses' continued operational success with a variety of services, such as site selection, project negotiation, workforce recruitment and development, and more.



## Economic Impact

# 14,747

**New jobs gained in Richland County since 2011**

# \$5.4B

**in announced capital investments in Richland County since 2011**

# \$2B

**Invested in commercial development projects in Richland County since 2019**

### Historic Projects

#### Scout Motors

2023 | \$2B | **4,000 new jobs**

#### Mark Anthony Brewing

2020 | \$400M | **300 new jobs**



**Columbia Area**  
Development Partnership  
Richland County's Economic Engine

For More Information:

[ColumbiaAreaDevelopment.com](https://ColumbiaAreaDevelopment.com)

# Workforce

## Higher Education

Richland County is home to top-ranked two- and four-year colleges, including the state's flagship university - **University of South Carolina**, the region's largest technical college - **Midlands Technical College**, and longstanding institutions - **Benedict College**, **Allen University**, **Columbia College**, and **Columbia International University**.

## K-12

Richland County is served by 3 school districts: **Richland One**, **Richland Two**, **Lexington-Richland Five**.

## Workforce Development

Richland County collaborates with numerous workforce development and retention partners in the community to boost awareness of opportunities.

Local school districts are on the forefront of career-ready programs, such as **Richland Two's Student Innovation Center (R2i2)**, which offers engineering, electric vehicle, computer programming and more.

Businesses in Richland County have access to statewide resources and programs to boost employee skills and recruit skilled talent, like **readySC**, **Apprenticeship Carolina**, and training incentives.

Richland County is partnering on a regional training center to support manufacturing growth.

**A top-ranked location**

**Columbia is ranked #9 in best places to start a career**  
*WalletHub*

**South Carolina is ranked best state for its manufacturing workforce**  
*Site Selection Magazine*

**South Carolina leads the nation in population growth**  
*US Census Bureau*



# Quality of Life

**Richland County is home to the state's capital city – Columbia – a hub for a diverse mix of cultures, ages, and career levels.**

**36.6**

**Median Age** (*youngest county in the state*)

**\$278,100**

**Average Home Cost** (*more than 40% lower than the national average*)

**89.8**

**Cost of Living Index**  
(*2nd lowest cost MSA in SC*)

**South Carolina is the #1 destination for movers**  
*U-Haul*

