



**LSL Planning, Inc.**

*Community Planning Consultants*

October 3, 2013

LeNolon Edge, AICP  
 Director  
 Planning and Building Services  
 Jasper County  
 358 Third Avenue  
 Ridgeland, SC 29936

Re: Jasper County Comprehensive Plan: Sub-Task #6: Labor Force

Mr. Edge:

Included below is draft addition to the Economic Development Chapter. Please let me know if you have any questions or comments concerning the draft language.

| <b>Table 5.1 Jasper County Labor Force Summary</b> |  |       |        |
|--|--|-------|--------|
| Age (18 to 64 years)                               | 15,882   |       |        |
| Employed (16+ years)                               | 10,462   |       |        |
| Education and Qualifications (25+ years)           | High School Diploma or GED   | 39.6% |        |
|  | Associates Degree  | 4.8%  |        |
|  | Bachelors Degree   | 6.7%  |        |
| Skills and Background                              | Educational services, and health care and social assistance                                | 1,728 | 16.50% |
|  | Retail trade   | 1,399 | 13.40% |
|  | Construction   | 1,229 | 11.70% |
|  | Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services                   | 1,218 | 11.60% |
|  | Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services | 1,101 | 10.50% |
|  | Transportation and warehousing, and utilities  | 1,015 | 9.70%  |
|  | Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing                              | 583   | 5.60%  |
|  | Other services, except public administration   | 562   | 5.40%  |
|  | Manufacturing  | 554   | 5.30%  |
|  | Public administration  | 525   | 5.00%  |
|  | Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining                                     | 360   | 3.40%  |
|  | Wholesale trade  | 153   | 1.50%  |
|  | Information  | 35    | 0.30%  |

## 5.1 LABOR FORCE

A thorough understanding of the current industrial base and the Jasper County labor force is critical to selecting target industries and solidifying an economic development plan. Understanding the labor force and existing employment sectors ensures that the community's blend of assets combine to form an ideal location for target businesses.

Almost one third of employed Jasper County residents (3,127) work in educational services, health care, social assistance and retail trade roles. The educational services sector include agencies that provide instruction and training in a wide variety of subjects while health care and social assistance include organizations that provide assistance to individuals. With over 1,700 workers in this sector, there is a population that is well versed in the education and general health care fields. With the expansion of universities and a significant retirement community in the Lowcountry, Jasper workers will continue to serve the needs of a growing community. Retail trade is also a strong sector, with close to 1,400 workers supporting tourists, visitors and an increasing County population.

The next third (4,513) of employed residents serve in construction, hospitality, accommodations, professional, administrative, transportation, warehousing and utility related jobs. Each of the four sectors employs over 1,000 residents. These industries are strong support jobs for increasing development and construction opportunities, port-related activities, general management and accommodation of visitors that frequent the Lowcountry Region. More specifically, these sectors can be described as follows:

- Companies primarily engaged in the construction of buildings or engineering projects (e.g., highways and utility systems). Establishments primarily engaged in the preparation of sites for new construction and subdividing land for sale as building sites also are included in this sector.
- Establishments that operate facilities or provide services to meet varied cultural, entertainment, and recreational interests of their patrons. Businesses providing customers with lodging and/or preparing meals, snacks, and beverages for immediate consumption.
- Businesses that specialize in performing professional, scientific, and technical activities for others. These activities require a high degree of expertise and training.
- Establishments performing routine support activities for the day-to-day operations of other organizations.
- Industries providing transportation of passengers and cargo, warehousing and storage for goods, scenic and sightseeing transportation, and support activities related to modes of transportation.

Jasper County should focus on attracting primary employers and diversifying the economy. The top two thirds of the employment analysis are mainly Secondary Employers that serve the local community. A majority of the goods and services created by those organizations are consumed within the community. While these roles are valuable to Jasper County, the multiplier effect of spending is less than that of primary employers. Retail, education, health care, entertainment and construction businesses are examples of secondary employers, exactly the types of sectors employing a majority of the population.

Primary employers are businesses that export goods and services outside of the local economy. These exports inject new dollars into the economy, resulting in increased wages and jobs as revenue earned by the business is spent on employee salaries and goods and services that it purchases from local suppliers. As this funding is earned, it is redistributed throughout the rest of the economy, multiplying in impact. Manufacturing, back office, life sciences, and software / IT are examples of primary employers.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions by phone (616-336-8176) or by email at [jirousek@slplanning.com](mailto:jirousek@slplanning.com).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David M. Jirousek".

David M. Jirousek, AICP  
Senior Planner