



OPEN

what's new... in Lexington County

Volume 01
Issue 05
Date December 2018

It Was a Busy, Fruitful Fall

Over 100 participants representing 50 employers in Lexington County played in the 11th annual Business, Industry and Ally Appreciation Golf Tournament held on November 1st. Many thanks to our sponsors and volunteers for making it happen!

Governor McMaster recommended, and the US Treasury approved 3 "Opportunity Zones" in the County, one each in Batesburg-Leesville, Cayce, and West Columbia. While operational details are still being clarified, the program is designed to attract equity capital into the Zones to support economic development projects. The program provides capital gains tax relief to encourage investors to develop commercial properties within low-income areas.

A key objective of the County's economic development efforts is the further diversification of business and industry and the employment mix. A sampling of recent announcements and projects that are actively looking at locating or expanding in the County include: a regional corporate operations and training center; an aircraft maintenance and repair operation; a producer of automotive aftermarket products; a distributor of CNC woodworking machinery; a manufacturer of pharmaceutical dosage delivery products, and; a producer/distributor of pizza dough.

- J. Michael Eades, CEcD
Director

Every quarter, we will update you on projects and matters impacting the County of Lexington's economic well-being.

The Economic Development staff is responsible for promoting the County of Lexington as a place to locate new job-creating enterprises and to assist enterprises already located in the County in expansion programs. The Department also develops, manages and markets County-owned business parks consisting of more than 500 acres of available, fully serviced sites. To learn more or see a list of available buildings and sites visit:

www.lexingtoncountysc.com

Economic Development Briefs

Not seasonally adjusted County employment in October was 142,529, up 549 or 0.4% from one year ago and, up 2,351, or 1.7% since January. Lexington's 5-year employment growth was 9.3%, which has outpaced the MSA's 8% growth in employment. October's unemployment was 2.8%, lower than the MSA (3.2%) and the State (3.5%).

Comparing the most current available industry data, the top County employment growth sectors from the 1st quarter 2017 to the 1st quarter 2018 were: manufacturing; health care and social assistance; transportation and warehousing; retail trade; and construction.

Gross taxable monthly sales in September were \$1.140 billion, and net taxable sales were \$3.8 million. Year-over-year 3rd quarter results showed collections to be stable with 2018's collections \$3.620 billion compared to the 3rd quarter 2017's which were \$3.649 billion.

Over \$50 Million in New Investment, 375+ Jobs

Since July, the County recorded 6 projects with new capital investment and job creation. These include: Amazon (E), Harsco Rail (E), Domino's Pizza (N), Laguna Tools (N), NUCOR (E) and Garden State Lumber (N).
(E) Expansion (N) New

Looking Ahead to 2019

Reviewing data trends from SC Works, U.S. Census, and the U.S. BLS, barring any economic disruptions, job growth should increase by 0.50% to 149,642. The County population should increase by 1.25% to 294,275, Median household income should increase by 3.5% to \$59,494, and the poverty rate should drop by 0.70% to 11.7%

Lexington County Council

- District 1: Scotty "Scott" Whetstone
- District 2: Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham, Jr. (Vice Chair)
- District 3: Darrell Hudson
- District 4: Debra B. "Debbie" Summers (Chair)
- District 5: Bobby C. Keisler
- District 6: Erin Long Bergeson
- District 7: Phillip Heyward Yarborough
- District 8: Ned Randall Tolar
- District 9: M. Todd Cullum

County Administrator
Joe Mergo, III

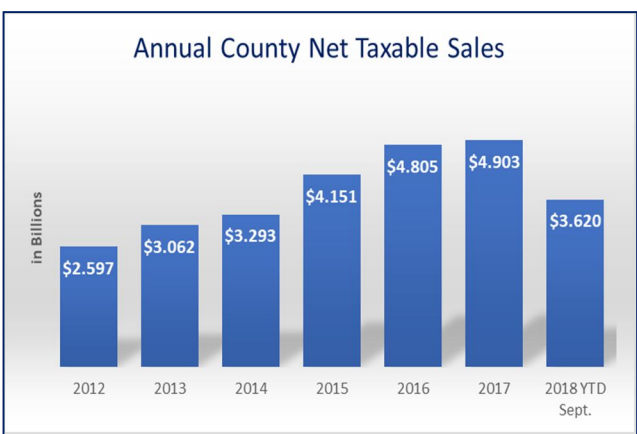
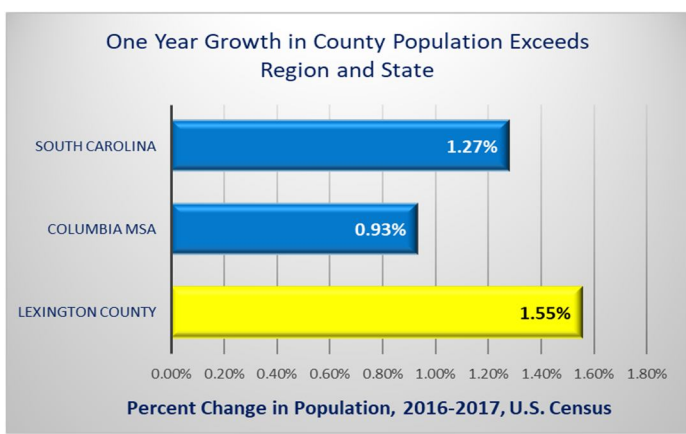
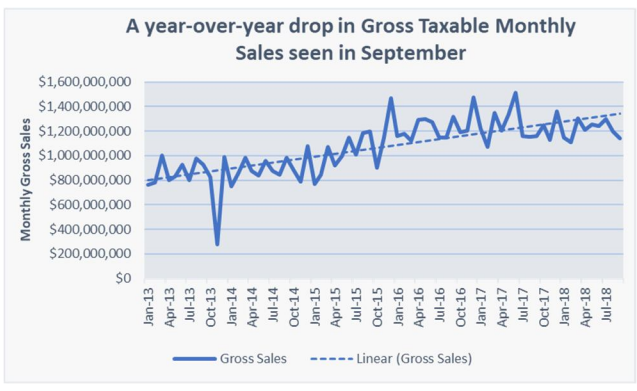
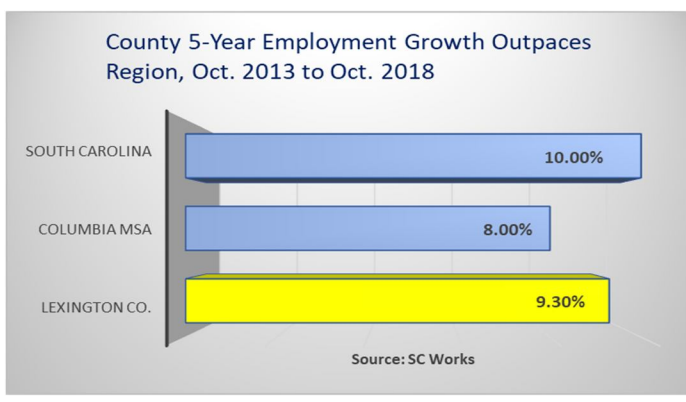


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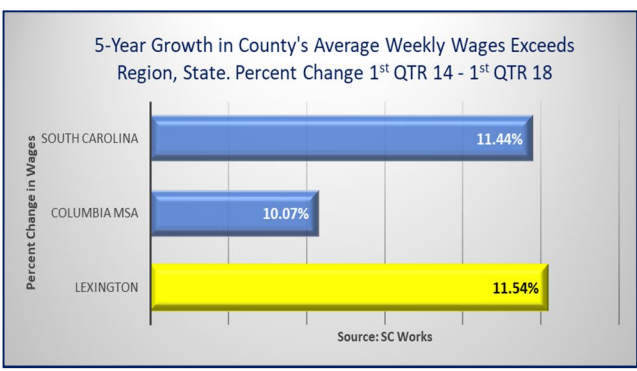
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ECONOMIC UPDATE



Projects in the Pipeline

The County of Lexington, Department of Economic Development staff is tracking 18 active projects with a combined potential capital investment of \$660 million and the potential to create 2,300 new jobs. Of these, announcements are pending on 2 projects valued at \$25 million and the probability to create 43 new jobs.



what's new in Lexington County is our new quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to: EDinfo@lex-co.com