



OPEN

what's new... in Lexington County

Volume 04
Issue 01
Date January 2021

LEXINGTON COUNTY WELL POSITIONED FOR POST PANDEMIC GROWTH

Lexington County has strong corporate representation, workforce, and infrastructure to grow two sectors that are experiencing growth through the pandemic and beyond. These are Life Sciences and the Food and Beverage industry.

As a result of the pandemic, the world has learned the advantage of cutting-edge research, manufacturing, and distribution of life-saving medical technology and medicine. Anchored by Nephron Pharmaceuticals, Lexington County is centrally located to world-class research and possesses a rich manufacturing history. We have access to one of the highest concentrations of Blow-Fill-Seal technology in the Central SC region, 35+ pharma and biotech employers, 12,000+ life sciences workers and related graduates, all within a 3.5-hour drive.

The global pharmaceutical market is expected to reach \$1.5 trillion by 2023. Furthermore, the United States market is expected to outpace the top five (5) European countries and Japan with a growth rate of 4-7%.

Weaknesses in the manufacturing of food and beverage, supply chains, distribution and delivery to customers, particularly last mile logistics, were exposed during the pandemic. Companies in this sector made rapid adjustments, and many will generate long-term investment in logistical hubs across the United States. This is a key sector for Lexington County as a number of companies in this industry, as well as the SC State Farmer's Market and the SC Department of Agricultural Laboratories, are located here.

Notably, the North American market accounts for 24% of global sales within the food and beverage sector. Based on Lexington County's business friendly environment, experienced and qualified workforce, and the availability of shovel ready sites, we are a perfect fit for corporations serving this sector.

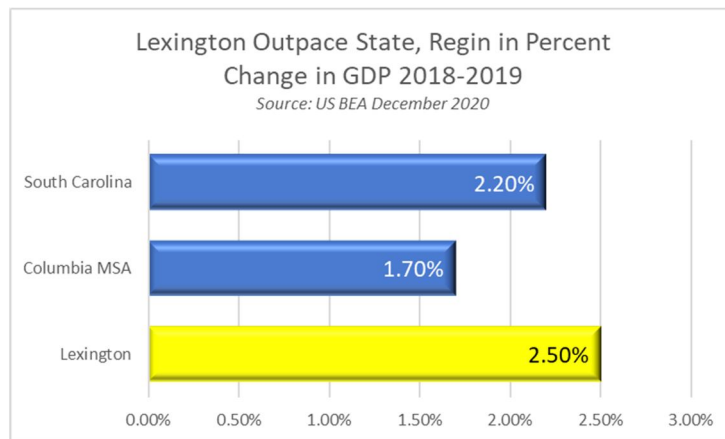
Lexington County's transportation network includes three (3) interstate highways, two (2) class A railroad providers, a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ #127), FedEx's ground hub and UPS's southeast regional air hub, both located at CAE airport in Lexington County, create efficient avenues for outbound and inbound shipments.

Lexington County will continue to work with both sectors to cultivate growth in our County.

Sarah J. Johnson, Director
Department of Economic Development

Economic Development Briefs

Not seasonally adjusted County employment in December was 141,518, an increase of 5,499 since April's COVID low. This represents a 40% return of jobs lost. COVID-impacted employment reached a low of 136,019. The December unemployment rate for the County was 3.5%, Columbia MSA 4.3% and the state 4.6%. The County led the region and state in GDP growth from 2018 to 2019. See graph below.



7th COUNTY RANK

Lexington County ranked 7th in the state for the most job opportunities in December (5,424).

40% JOBS RECOVERED

Rebound in employment from April's low due to Pandemic restrictions, closures, and layoffs.

Source: SC Works



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ECONOMIC SNAPSHOT

6.2% WAGES

Increase in wages across all sectors from 2nd QTR 2019 to 2nd QTR 2020.

141,518 JOBS

December employment for Lexington County

3.5% UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Lexington County's rate in December, lower than region's (4.3%) and state's (4.6%).

Source: SC Works

NEW INDUSTRIAL PARK DRONE VIDEOS

The County has procured four (4) drone videos, that introduce three (3) industrial parks and one (1) speculative building to investors and site selectors. You can watch them on YouTube by clicking the thumbnails below:



SGIP Speculative Bldg.



SGIP Industrial Park



B-L Industrial Park



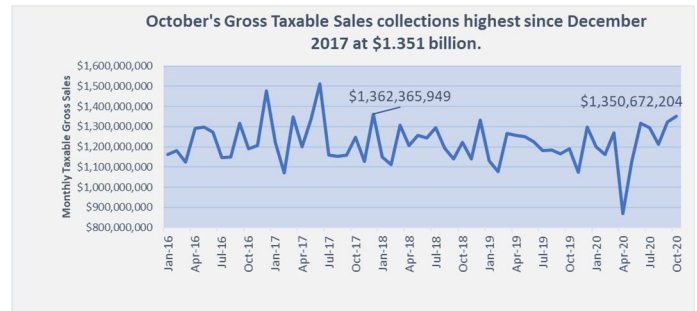
CB&T Park at Brighton

NEW VISITOR'S GUIDE

The Lexington Chamber and Visitor's Center has published a new Visitor Guide. Click [HERE](#) and share the link with family and friends around the country!

PROJECTS IN THE PIPELINE

The County of Lexington, Department of Economic Development staff is working on 19 active projects. These projects have an estimated new investment potential of \$603 million, and the potential to create 1,448 new jobs.



Lexington County Council

- District 1: Scotty "Scott" Whetstone
- District 2: Paul Lawrence "Larry" Brigham, Jr.
- District 3: Darrell Hudson
- District 4: Debra B. "Debbie" Summers
- District 5: Gene "Bimbo" Jones
- District 6: Charlene "Charli" Wessinger
- District 7: Beth A. Carrigg
- District 8: Glen M. Conwell (Vice-Chair)
- District 9: M. Todd Cullum (Chair)

Interim County Administrator
Lynn Sturkie