

## What's New in Lexington County

Volume 04 | Issue 04 | November 2021

#### — FROM THE DIRECTOR —

# Lexington County is Harvesting the Benefits of our Local Economy

Fall has arrived, and Lexington County businesses and residents alike are harvesting the benefits of a local economy that's proving resilient to the turbulence we're seeing in the uneven global recovery from pandemic-induce instability.

The S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce (DEW) recently issued their monthly "Community Profiles" summary for Lexington County.

Let me share just a few highlights that speak to the impressive economic engine that is Lexington County. First of all, our unemployment rate sharply trails state and national averages – as it has for years – and has improved steadily since the pandemic first began in winter of 2020.

We were at 2.5% in September, compared with 3.3% for South Carolina, and 4.6% for the whole country. That's down from the 3.5% we saw in June as the Delta variant began affecting business conditions.

The pandemic appears to be subsiding again as another winter approaches. Let's focus on opportunity now.

147,662

EMPLOYED

**3,729** UNEMPLOYED

**3,992**JOB OPENINGS

Employed, unemployed, and job openings in Lexington County in September 2021

There were 147,662 people employed in Lexington County in September, the DEW report says, and 3,992 job openings. Nearly half – 69,903 – of those people working here also live here. There were six counties from which more than 1,000 people each were coming here for jobs, led by 25,396 commuters from neighboring Richland County.

People who live here and people who commute here work in a diverse range of endeavors. The top four (with number of jobs) were retail trade (17,484), health care and social assistance (17,090), manufacturing (12,314), and accommodation and food services (11,403).

Lexington County, of course, is not immune to the national worker shortage and global supply chain issues. Certainly not when Amazon is our largest single employer and we're home to major FedEx and UPS operations, trucking companies, automotive industry suppliers, and more.

However, it's those assets – along with our workforce and infrastructure,

lifestyle and schools – that help keep us resilient now and poised to grow even more robustly as solutions are found and our new normal emerges.

Sincerely,

Sarah J. Johnson

Director, Department of Economic Development

#### — VIDEO FEATURE —

## New Video Featuring All of the Great Amenities of Lexington County



Check out our latest marketing video, featuring all of the great amenities of Lexington County and profiling some of the major industries that call Lexington County home, including Amazon, Nephron Pharmaceuticals, Michelin and

#### - ANNOUNCEMENT NEWS -

## THE HOME DEPOT EXPANDS SUPPLY CHAIN OPERATIONS ACROSS SOUTH CAROLINA

September 24, 2021

#### **COMBINED EXPANSION WILL CREATE NEARLY 100 NEW JOBS**

The Home Depot, Inc. (The Home Depot), a world-leading home improvement retailer, today announced plans to expand operations throughout South Carolina. The company is growing its supply chain and distribution operations in Charleston, Greenville, Jasper and Lexington counties. The combined expansion will create nearly 100 new jobs.

**READ MORE** 

- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SNAPSHOT -

20
ACTIVE PROJECTS

\$1.719 BILLION

#### **NEW INVESTMENT POTENTIAL**

# 5,498 NEW JOB CREATION POTENTIAL

147,662
JOBS

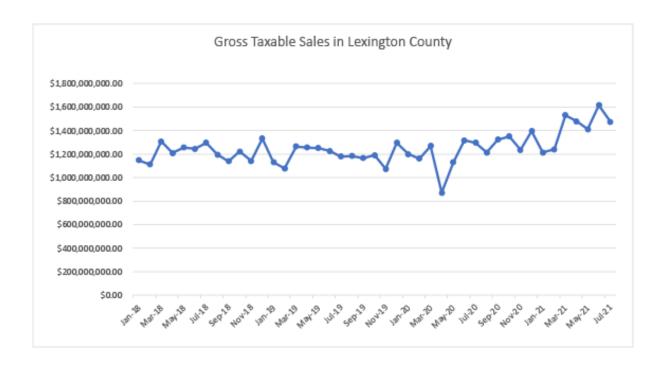
September 2021 employment for Lexington County is an increase of 6,144 jobs since December 2020.

2.5%
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

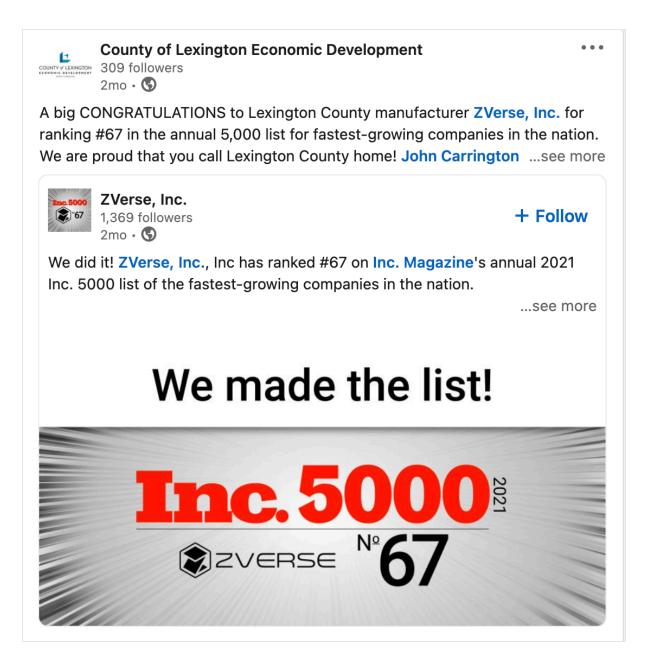
Lexington County's rate in September is lower than S.C. (3.3%) and the U.S. (4.6%).

Source: S.C. Department of Employment & Workforce & The Conference Board's Help Wanted
OnLine® data series, South Carolina Data is Seasonally Adjusted

Gross Taxable Sales Peaked at \$1.6 Billion in June 2021



## - RESOURCES -



## Follow Us on LinkedIn

In an effort to create increased exposure for Lexington County and to drive attention to our new website, we have created a LinkedIn account for the County of Lexington Office of Economic Development. Follow us on LinkedIn and help us spread the word.



#### LEXINGTON COUNTY LEADERSHIP

#### **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)

#### **Lexington County Administrator**

Lynn Sturkie





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