

## Manufacturing in Anderson, S.C.

Manufacturing is the use of machines, tools and labor to produce goods for use or sales. Materials such as fiber, rubber, steel and aluminum are among the items that could be produced in manufacturing. These materials are items used in manufacturing in our state and in our country. These items start out at a producer as raw materials and end up in a final product and sold to consumers.

Anderson County has over 230 manufacturing businesses including 22 international companies. Anderson has become known as a hub for the automotive and plastic manufacturers. These automotive and plastic goods are produced and end up in cars, trucks and airplanes. BMW cars and Boeing airplanes are just two of the well know names which are benefited by goods manufactured in Anderson. Manufacturing jobs in Anderson County account for 19% of our workforce. Many families depend on these jobs for their lively hood. The South Carolina Department of Commerce is a state based program which helps and encourages manufacturing companies to start their businesses in areas like Anderson County. When we have manufacturers in our county this is a benefit to all citizens. When a product is produced, it has to be produced, assembled and shipped. Items from these plants are bought, sold and recycled. Employees of these plants are working, spending and insured all at other businesses which help our community. Having a manufacturing facility in our area is a win win situation.

Another strong indicator in the manufacturing field is the education opportunities. Manufacturing jobs are closely tied to engineering and industrial design. In Anderson County we have colleges such as Clemson University and Tri-County Technical College which are known for their engineering programs. Even at the high school level you can attend schools like the Career and Technology Center and participate in pre-engineering programs. "Project Lead the Way" is one of the programs offered in high school. These programs can directly impact the manufacturing facilities in Anderson.

Anderson County is located in an area perfect for the transportation of their manufactured goods. We are located in the south east region of the United States, close to the east coast, next to a major interstate and close to major cities like Greenville, Charlotte and Atlanta. This location is a positive point for companies already established here or looking for opportunities here. The shipping/transportation industry puts Anderson, South Carolina in a prime location.

The early days of manufacturing in Anderson included fiber, yarn and cloth to be used in products such as carpet, towels and robes. There were entire communities built around manufacturing plants. The small communities were known as mill villages. Event though the manufacturing industry has evolved and changed in Anderson County it is still a strong and important part of our community.

Hydro Aluminum is a manufacturing company located in Belton, South Carolina. This company takes large logs of aluminum, heats them to thousands of degrees and extrudes them through dies to make certain patterns. These products end up in items such as door frames, window frames, golf carts and truck beds. Aluminum can be used in many other products as well. Hydro Aluminum is an industry located right here in Anderson County that supplies goods all over our country.

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