

## Plastics

The plastics industry is one of the world's fastest-growing industries and what better place to locate your facility than in the northeast region of South Carolina. Home to some of the top plastics producers in the world such as Sonoco, Nan Ya Plastics, DuPont, Wellman Recycling, and Tupperware, the North Eastern Strategic Alliance (NESA) Region has the resources and workforce you need to be successful.

The NESA Region's workforce is ranked third in the United States and first in the Southeast in terms of productivity. The region is also home to many sites and buildings that are well suited for the plastics industry as well as an abundance of water and sewer capacity and many rail-served sites.

### Why locate your plastics facility in the NESA Region?

#### Reliable & Low Cost Electricity

- Average electrical rates are \$.05/kWh and back-up power generation is available.

#### Qualified Workforce

- Industry wage rates that are 7% below national averages
- Population base of over 680,000 with a labor draw of over 340,000 workers
- Home to seven colleges and universities and fully committed to promoting educational opportunities
- Per capita income of \$28,333
- One of the lowest unionization rates (4.1 percent) in the nation

#### Infrastructure

The NESA Region is the ideal location for plastics operations and has easy access to many of the state's main transportation hubs including:

- Interstates 95, 20 and the proposed Interstate 73
- U.S. Highways 17, 378, 52, 521, 701, 301, 1, 501
- Florence Regional Airport and Myrtle Beach International Airport
- Over 350 miles Class I CSX rail
- Port of Georgetown

#### Employee Training Programs

- **ReadySC**, a division of the S.C. Technical CollegeSystem, is a pre-employment training program provided at no cost to employers and is 100% customized to fit the needs of new and existing businesses.

- **The Southeastern Institute of Manufacturing and Technology (SiMT)** is the first facility of its kind in the U.S. and features an Advanced Manufacturing Center, a Virtual Reality Center and a National Robotics Center. SiMT offers open-enrollment, on-site and customized training as well as manufacturing startup assistance and consulting services.

### Fast Facts about Plastics in the NESA Region

- **19** plastic and plastic resins producing firms
- **\$1,436,900,000** in sales by plastics firms in 2008
- **4,796** employed by plastics firms
- **10.9%** average annual employment growth rate in plastics industry
- S.C. ranked **11th** in production of plastics

## Occupational Wage Rate Comparison

Occupation Title	USA	SC	NESA
	Median Hourly Wage		
Production Occupations	\$13.53	\$13.26	\$12.53
First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Production and Operating Workers	\$23.40	\$24.02	\$23.38
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	\$13.42	\$10.52	\$9.29
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	\$15.65	\$15.22	\$16.40
Cutting, Punching and Press Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$13.10	\$12.61	\$13.88
Drilling and Boring Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$14.54	\$14.65	\$15.72
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$15.61	\$16.69	\$13.93
Machinists	\$16.94	\$15.25	\$15.19
Molding, Coremaking and Casting Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$12.70	\$13.36	\$10.66
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	\$14.61	\$14.20	\$14.69
Tool and Die Makers	\$21.68	\$20.37	\$19.79
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	\$21.18	\$23.82	\$18.47
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating and Still Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders	\$17.28	\$16.88	\$16.81
Extruding, Forming, Pressing and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators and Tenders	\$13.46	\$14.64	\$14.18
Industrial Engineers	\$34.34	\$32.32	\$30.90
Tool and Die Makers	\$21.68	\$20.37	\$19.79
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	\$21.18	\$23.82	\$18.47

Source: US Department of Labor: Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2007; NESA (extrapolated data)



## Average Annual Percent Growth in Employment in the Plastics Industry (2001-2008)

**NESA Region**  
**+10.9%**

South Carolina  
-1.3%

United States  
-2.7%

Source: JobsEQ



## The NESA Region

Located in the northeastern corner of South Carolina, the nine-county NESA Region is within an 8-hour drive to over 50 percent of the U.S. population. The Region's prime location, strong workforce, great utilities infrastructure and extensive transportation network provide an exceptional business climate.

North Eastern Strategic Alliance  
P.O. Box 100547  
Florence, S.C. 29502  
info@nesasc.org  
843.661.4669