State of South Carolina
Department of Revenue
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SC INFORMATION LETTER #12-18

SUBJECT: Per Capita Income Figures for State of South Carolina and South Carolina Counties

DATE: December 17, 2012

SUPERSEDES: All previous documents and any oral directives in conflict herewith.

REFERENCE: S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-6-3360 (2000, Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-6-3410 (2000, Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Ann. Chapter 15, Title 12 (Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-36-2120(65) (2000, Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-37-930 (2000, Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Section 12-6-2320 (2000, Supp. 2011)
S. C. Code Section 12-10-80 (2000, Supp. 2011)
Act No. 187, Sec. 7 (2011-2012 Session)

AUTHORITY: S. C. Code Ann. Section 12-4-320 (2000)
S.C. Code Ann. Section 1-23-10(4) (Supp. 2011)
SC Revenue Procedure #09-3

SCOPE: An Information Letter is a written statement issued to the public to announce general information useful in complying with the laws administered by the Department. An Information Letter has no precedential value.

In recent years, a number of income, sales and use, and property tax incentives have been added that require jobs associated with the incentive to meet certain state or county per capita personal income (herein referred to as “per capita income”) requirements to determine qualification for, or the amount of, the particular incentive. In order to aid taxpayers in determining whether the per capita income requirements of an incentive have been met, the Department publishes the county and state per capita income amounts each year.

Previously, the information concerning state per capita income was updated twice a year, usually in April and October while the information concerning per capita income for South Carolina’s counties was updated once a year, usually in May. However, the county per capita income figures are now being published 11 months after the end of the calendar year resulting in the county figures now being published in November instead of May. The state figures will be published in March and September for the 2013 year. The Department publishes both the county and state figures when it receives the figures from the South Carolina Board of Economic Advisors. The most recently available state per capita income figure is:

State of South Carolina $33,388

The following chart contains the most recently available per capita income figures for all South Carolina counties.

County	Per Capita Income
Abbeville	$27,169
Aiken	$35,141
Allendale	$26,164
Anderson	$31,059
Bamberg	$25,818
Barnwell	$26,064
Beaufort	$41,662
Berkeley	$33,184
Calhoun	$34,431
Charleston	$41,656
Cherokee	$26,856
Chester	$28,237
Chesterfield	$24,554
Clarendon	$24,431
Colleton	$29,311
Darlington	$29,355
Dillon	$23,616
Dorchester	$33,468
Edgefield	$33,615
Fairfield	$27,062
Florence	$34,450
Georgetown	$38,403
Greenville	$37,689
Greenwood	$30,398
Hampton	$27,235
Horry	$29,148
Jasper	$26,896
Kershaw	$33,331
Lancaster	$26,302
Laurens	$29,609
Lee	$26,379
Lexington	$35,211
McCormick	$27,509
Marion	$26,397
Marlboro	$24,156

Newberry	$29,697
Oconee	$31,964
Orangeburg	$28,965
Pickens	$27,833
Richland	$36,347
Saluda	$34,544
Spartanburg	$31,670
Sumter	$29,915
Union	$26,859
Williamsburg	$27,263
York	$34,053

Among the incentives that use per capita income are the following:

Personal Property Corporate Headquarters Credit in Code Section 12-6-3410 - The personal property headquarters credit contained in Code Section 12-6-3410 is available to a taxpayer that: (1) meets all the requirements necessary to claim the real property headquarters credit, (2) meets other statutory requirements as to the personal property that is used at the headquarters; and (3) creates at least 75 new full-time headquarters or research and development type jobs at the headquarters and those jobs have an average cash compensation level of more than twice the per capita income of the state based on the most recent per capita income data available as of the end of the taxpayer's taxable year in which the jobs are filled.

"Qualifying Service-Related Facility" Definition in Code Section 12-6-3360 - Code Section 12-6-3360 allows a jobs tax credit for taxpayers that create new full-time jobs at a qualifying new facility or an expansion of an existing qualifying facility. One of the qualifying facilities is a "qualifying service-related facility." A "qualifying service-related facility" includes a business, other than a business engaged in legal, accounting, banking or investment services or retail sales, with a net increase at a single location of at least:

(1) one hundred and seventy five jobs; or

(2) one hundred jobs that have an average cash compensation level of more than one and one-half times the state per capita income or the per capita income in the county where the jobs are located, whichever is lower; or

(3) fifty jobs that have an average cash compensation level of more than twice the state per capita income or the per capita income in the county where the jobs are located, whichever is lower; or

(4) twenty-five jobs that have an average cash compensation level of more than two and one-half times the state per capita income or the per capita income in the county where the jobs are located, whichever is lower; or

(5) one hundred and fifty jobs at a single location comprised of a building or portion of a building that has been vacant for at least twelve consecutive months prior to the taxpayer's investment in the facility.

A taxpayer must use the most recent per capita income data available as of the end of the taxable year in which the jobs are filled.

Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Computer Equipment for "Technology Intensive Facilities" in Code Section 12-36-2120(65) - A sales and use tax exemption is available for computer equipment used in connection with a "technology intensive facility" if the taxpayer meets certain investment requirements and creates at least 100 jobs at the facility over a five year period and those jobs have an average cash compensation of at least 150% of the per capita income of the state according to the most recently published data available at the time the facility's construction starts.

Special Benefits for Life Sciences Facilities in Chapter 15, Title 12 and Code Section 12-37-930 – A business may qualify for special incentives if its facility qualifies as a "life sciences facility". A business will qualify as a "life sciences facility" if it is engaged in pharmaceutical, medicine, and related laboratory instrument manufacturing, processing, or research and development and it invests $100 million in a project and creates 200 full-time new jobs at the project with an average annual cash compensation of at least 150% of the annual per capita income of the state or the county in which the facility is located, whichever is lower. Per capita income must be determined using the most recent per capita income data available as of the end of the taxable year in which the jobs are filled.

Small Business Jobs Tax Credit in Code Section 12-6-3360 - Code Section 12-6-3360(C)(2) provides that small businesses with 99 or fewer employees that increase employment by two or more new full-time jobs may be eligible for the jobs tax credit. The amount of the credit depends in part on whether the gross wages of the new full-time jobs amount to a minimum of 120% of the county's or state's average per capita income, whichever is lower.

Job Development Credit Qualifying Expenditures under Code Section 12-10-80 - Employee relocation expenses for employees with gross wages equal to twice the per capita income of the state or county in which the project is located, whichever is lower, can qualify as eligible expenditures for reimbursement from job development credits.

Special Allocation and Apportionment Incentives under Code Section 12-6-2320 – Several of the special allocation an apportionment provisions contained in Code Section 12-6-2320(B) (which allows a taxpayer meeting certain requirements to use a special method of allocating and apportioning its income) require that certain per capita income requirements be met.

New Sales and Use Tax Exemption for Datacenters – A sales and use tax exemption is available for computers, computer equipment, computer software and some of the electricity used by a qualifying datacenter. To qualify, a taxpayer must invest a minimum of $50 million (or one or more taxpayers must invest a minimum of $75 million) in real or personal property, or both within a five year period; create and maintain at least twenty-five jobs at the datacenter and those jobs must have an average cash compensation of at least 150% of the per capita income of the state or county where the datacenter is located, whichever is lower (per capita income to be determined at the time the datacenter is certified by the Department of Commerce); and the taxpayer must maintain the 25 jobs for three consecutive years after certification.

Each of these incentives has special rules on how to determine whether the per capita income requirements of each particular incentive have been met. Therefore, the appropriate statutes should be consulted to determine whether the per capita income requirements of the particular statute are met as well as to assure that all other requirements of the statute have been met.