

COLUMBIA REGIONAL BUSINESS REPORT

Staff Report

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Winners announced for 'Best Places to Work'

Johnson & Johnson, an insurance company based in Mount Pleasant, ranks No. 1 among small and medium-size businesses, according to the "Best Places to Work in South Carolina" competition. And Edward Jones, an investment firm based in Florence, ranks No. 1 among employers with 250 or more employees.

Eight Midlands-area companies were named to the list, with KeenanSuggs Insurance, at No. 5, being the highest-ranked small business and AgFirst Farm Credit Bank the highest-ranked large business, at No. 3.

The nominees [were announced](#) in August, and the winners were announced Thursday night at an awards dinner in Columbia.

In the Midlands, McAngus Goudelock & Courie LLC, C.F. Evans & Co. Inc., First Community Bank and the S.C. Education Lottery were also named to the small and medium-size employers list, which includes employers with 15-249 employees. And Palmetto Health, and Seibels, Bruce & Co. were also named among large employers, with 250 or more employees.

"South Carolina is home to some of the best places to work in the nation," said Otis Rawl Jr., president and CEO of the S.C. Chamber of Commerce. "Congratulations to these innovative companies that are setting the example as superb organizations for our state's work force to prosper."

The program is sponsored by a partnership among the [S.C. Chamber of Commerce](#), the [Society for Human Resource Management-S.C. State Council](#) and [SC Biz News LLC](#), the publishers of *SCBIZ* magazine, the *Charleston Regional Business Journal*, the *Columbia Regional Business Report* and *GSA Business*. [Nexsen Pruet](#) presents the annual awards program.

The "Best Places" competition identifies and recognizes South Carolina's best employers and is open to all S.C. organizations with at least 15 employees working in South Carolina.

The 2009 rankings are:

Small/Medium Employers (15-249 employees)

1. [Johnson & Johnson](#), Charleston
2. [SynTerra](#), Greenville

3. [Select Health of South Carolina Inc.](#), Charleston
4. [Clover Community Bank](#), Clover
5. [KeenanSuggs Insurance](#), **Columbia**
6. [Life Cycle Engineering](#), Charleston
7. [McAngus Goudelock & Courie LLC](#), **Columbia**
8. [Environmental Express](#), Mount Pleasant
9. [Longleaf Holdings USA LLC](#), Spartanburg
10. [First Reliance Bank](#), Florence
11. [C.F. Evans & Co. Inc.](#), **Orangeburg**
12. [First Community Bank](#), **Lexington**
13. [Buist Moore Smythe McGee P.A.](#), Charleston
14. [S.C. Education Lottery](#), **Columbia**

Large Employers (250 or more employees)

1. [Edward Jones](#), Florence
2. [Elliott Davis LLC](#), Greenville
3. [AgFirst Farm Credit Bank](#), **Columbia**
4. [Palmetto Health](#), **Columbia**
5. [Stanley Inc.](#), North Charleston
6. [Seibels, Bruce & Co.](#), **Columbia**