#7 of 8: Machinery and Equipment Wholesalers

Machinery and Equipment Wholesalers: 24

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published November 17, 2026

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THE DATA

24

Machinery and Equipment Wholesalers (2022)

Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Port Royal, SC ranks #7 of 8 South Carolina metros on machinery and equipment wholesalers.

This figure—24 active businesses in the NAICS 4238 sector—reveals a hidden industrial strength beneath the region's coastal reputation. While the Lowcountry is known for tourism and luxury housing, this ranking signals a growing presence of industrial logistics and equipment distribution infrastructure.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 4238 (Machinery, equipment, and supplies merchant wholesalers) · ALEX Intelligence computation
https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-11-17-hilton-head-istand-4238-msa

01

Industrial Growth in a Coastal Market

Hilton Head’s position at #7 in South Carolina for machinery and equipment wholesalers defies the typical coastal real estate narrative. It suggests that the region is evolving into a regional hub for industrial distribution, driven by its strategic location near major transportation corridors and ports. This shift supports long-term economic diversification beyond tourism and residential development.

02

Infrastructure as a Hidden Catalyst

The low count of 24 wholesalers may seem modest, but its ranking reflects a high-value, specialized sector. This industrial activity is likely supported by recent infrastructure upgrades and zoning flexibility in Beaufort County, which enable logistics and supply chain operations. As housing affordability pressures mount, this sector offers a counterintuitive path to economic resilience.

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