

Cherokee County, SC

Fact Sheet

The county was named for the Cherokee Indians who once made it their home. It was formed in 1897, and the county seat is Gaffney. Iron mining was such an important activity in this region before the Civil War, it is sometimes called the Old Iron District. Today, Cherokee County enjoys a thriving and profitable local economy and an abundance of natural and manufactured resources. Cherokee County sits in a prime location just off I-85 between Charlotte, NC and Greenville/Spartanburg, SC. Charlotte's Douglas International Airport and the Greenville - Spartanburg International Airport are both within 45 miles and the mainline of Norfolk Southern Railroad runs through Cherokee County. The Port of Charleston is easily accessible via major highways. Cherokee County offers an unbeatable combination of such factors as an abundant and educated work force with customized training by South Carolina Special Schools, a diversified industrial base, a high standard of living and quality of life, pro-business local governments, and easy access to transportation routes.

POPULATION

Total Population, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cherokee	52,537	55,342	56,366
Upstate Region*	1,220,542	1,362,073	1,464,635
South Carolina	4,012,012	4,625,364	5,016,816

*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

Population by Race, 2000, 2010 and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
White	76.9%	75.0%	74.4%
Black	20.6%	20.4%	20.8%
Am. Indian / Alaska Native	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Asian	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	1.2%	2.2%	2.5%
Two or More Races	0.8%	1.4%	1.5%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	2.1%	3.7%	4.6%

Population by Age, 2000, 2010 and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Under Age 5	7.2%	7.0%	6.8%
Age 5 to 9	7.4%	7.0%	6.9%
Age 10 to 14	7.2%	7.0%	7.1%
Age 15 to 19	6.9%	6.9%	6.9%
Age 20 to 34	20.8%	17.7%	17.2%
Age 35 to 44	14.9%	14.5%	13.4%
Age 45 to 54	13.8%	14.4%	14.0%
Age 55 to 64	9.4%	12.4%	13.0%
Age 65+	12.4%	13.0%	14.6%

Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2010

Less than 9th Grade	9.7%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	14.3%
High School Graduate Only	42.1%
Some College, No Degree	13.9%
Associate Degree Only	6.1%
Bachelor's Degree Only	8.4%
Graduate/Professional Degree	5.5%

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Households Families, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
# of Households	20,495	21,519	22,469
# of Families	14,614	14,941	15,518

Households Families, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Ave HH Size:	2.53	2.48	2.47
Owner-Occupied:	15,146	16,172	16,670
Renter-Occupied:	5,349	5,668	5,799
Median Age:	35.3	38.3	38.9

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2015 (unless otherwise stated)

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INCOME

Median Household Income, 2000, 2010, 2015 Est.				Per Capita Income, 2000, 2010, 2015 Estimates			
	2000	2010	2015		2000	2010	2015
Cherokee	\$33,896	\$41,640	\$47,886	Cherokee	16,421	20,065	10,623
South Carolina	\$37,137	\$47,704	\$53,665	South Carolina	18,795	23,283	25,493

TOP 5 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employees	Major Product
NESTLE USA-Prepared Food Division	1500	Frozen prepared foods
Frightliner Custom Chassis	900	Motor Home Chassis
The Timken Company	520	Ball & Roller Bearings
Magnolia Finishing Company	500	Broadwoven Fabric Finishing
Springfield LLC	379	Textile Machinery

Source: SC Appalachian Council of Governments and County Economic Development Office

LABOR FORCE

County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, 2010 (Annual Average)

Natural Resources and Mining	77
Construction	708
Manufacturing	5483
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	3835
Wholesale Trade	515
Retail Trade	2281
Transportation and Warehousing	926
Utilities	112
Information	80
Financial Activities	539
Professional and Business Services	469
Education and Health Services	1971
Leisure and Hospitality	1689
Total Government	2186

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2015 (unless otherwise stated)

RETAIL SALES

Gross Retail Sales (Millions) by Fiscal Year

FY 2002-03	\$756,525
FY 2003-04	\$710,388
FY 2004-05	\$860,483
FY 2005-06	\$968,227
FY 2006-07	\$1,142,921
FY 2007-08	\$1,134,964
FY 2008-09	\$1,118,482
FY 2009-10	\$1,062,377
FY 2010-11	\$1,194,585

Source: SC Department of Revenue and Taxation

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TRANSPORTATION

Interstate Access	I-85	Nearest Civil Airport	Spartanburg Downtown Memorial A
Nearest Commercial Airline	Greenville-Spartanburg International	Port Access	Port of Charleston, 206 miles from City of Gaffney
Airlines	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle	Rail Providers	CSX, NSR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cherokee County Development Board James R. Cook, III, Executive Director	(864) 489-5721 www.cherokeecounty-sc.org
Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Kayla Robbs, Executive Director	(864) 489-5721 www.cherokeechamber.org
Upstate Alliance Hal Johnson, President/CEO	(864) 283-2300 www.upstatealliance.com

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

www.sciway.net
www.theupcountry.com
www.cherokeecounty-sc.org

PRODUCED BY

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