

UPSTATE SOUTH CAROLINA

*Business
moves here*





BUSINESS *moves here*

South Carolina's 10-county Upstate region is located at the heart of one of America's fastest-growing megaregions, between Atlanta and Charlotte.

Anchored by the cities of Greenville, Spartanburg and Anderson, nearly **1.5 million people** choose to call the Upstate home. It's a region where **539 international companies** thrive. Where ideas are engineered and brought to life. Where educators and industries collaborate to cultivate tomorrow's talent, and a place that welcomes **more than 34 newcomers each day**.

Business is moving in the Upstate. More than **145 companies**, large and small, **have announced new locations during the last 5 years**. All taking advantage of a strategic locale within the booming economic engine of the Southeast.

A POWERHOUSE *in the global economy*

UNITED STATES

\$21.00T

CHINA

\$14.72T

JAPAN

\$5.05T

SOUTHEAST*

\$5.00T

GERMANY

\$3.84T

UK

\$2.76T

INDIA

\$2.66T

FRANCE

\$2.63T

*SOUTHEAST
UNITED STATES GDP
RANKS #4
IN THE WORLD
BATON ROUGE, LA

Global GDP 2020

*Southeast defined as 12 states including: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

PLAY VIDEO ►



A REGION WITH *global reach*

As a gateway between domestic and global markets, business moves in Upstate SC thanks to a robust, four-modal transportation network, connecting to 100 million people in a day's drive.



A THRIVING *business climate*

Across diverse industries, companies choose Upstate SC for its low-risk, competitive cost environment, and the "can-do," cooperative spirit offered by state and local government.



AN INNOVATION *corridor*

Innovation is in our DNA. The Upstate is home to a high concentration of engineers, a wealth of entrepreneurial and landing pad resources, and collaborative research campuses driven by industry needs.



A WORKFORCE *that works*

With a well-educated and highly trained labor force 711,000+ strong, the future looks bright in the Upstate, with a vibrant pipeline of talent nurtured by regional programs.



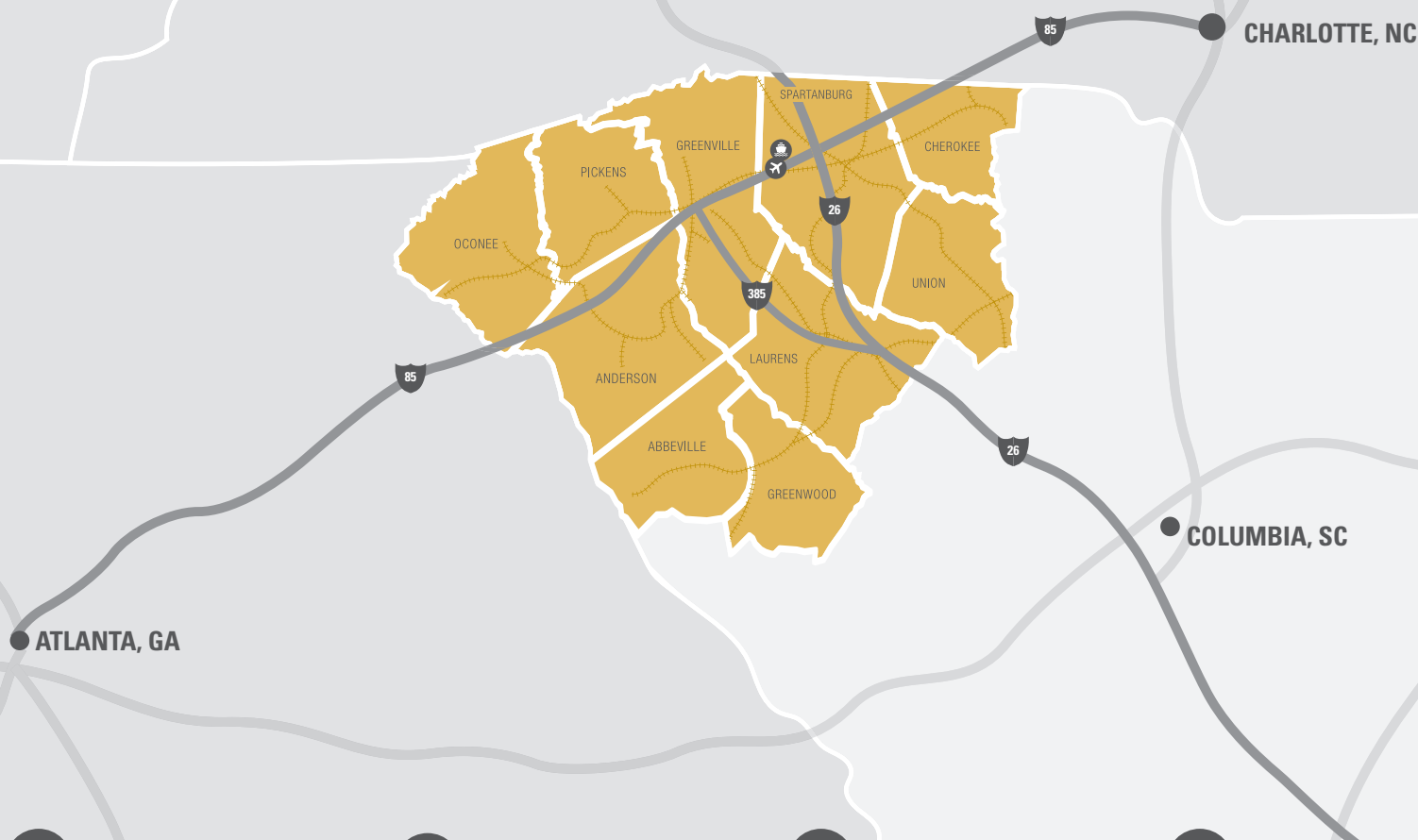
A LIFE THAT'S *elevated*

Big city influence meets Southern indulgence here. When it comes to food, adventure and culture, there's no place quite like Upstate South Carolina.



A REGION *with global reach*

Upstate South Carolina's central location within the booming Southeastern United States provides access to major markets, raw materials and growing industries. **Companies here have access to the most efficient port on the East Coast as well as interstate and rail connecting to more than 100 million consumers in a day's drive.** One thing is for sure: business never stops moving here.



INTERSTATES

I-85 spans the region, connecting **Atlanta and Charlotte**. I-26 provides a direct route to the Port of Charleston. **One-day truck service reaches 44% of the U.S. population.**



PORTS

Accessibility to the **Port of Charleston and the Inland Port Greer** offer a significant advantage. Upstate businesses are in proximity to the **deepest sea port in the Southeast**, boasting the most productive crane moves per hour and a **60-minute truck turn time**.



RAIL

Whether your company is receiving raw materials or shipping finished goods to market, the Upstate's well-connected rail system can save companies time and money. Our region is served by major rail providers **CSX and Norfolk Southern**, with **short-line services available**.



AIR

Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport (GSP) offers passengers departures to **17 major cities**, with one-stop access to the world. International cargo flights also benefit Upstate companies. **Charlotte and Atlanta airports** are only 1 to 2.5 hours away.

FOREIGN TRADE ZONE #38

Upstate manufacturers engaged in high volumes of foreign trade can **save millions through access to Foreign Trade Zone #38, which can expedite movement of goods and lower costs associated with fees and duties**. South Carolina Ports Authority serves as the FTZ administrator, and a trusted partner in helping business move.



UPSTATE INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES *by country*

- 131 GERMANY
- 62 JAPAN
- 54 UNITED KINGDOM
- 50 CANADA
- 34 FRANCE
- 25 SWITZERLAND
- 24 ITALY
- 22 CHINA
- 22 NETHERLANDS
- 19 SWEDEN
- 16 IRELAND
- 12 BELGIUM
- 10 AUSTRIA
- 8 MEXICO
- 7 DENMARK

GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

As home to **more than 535 international companies representing 34 countries**, welcoming businesses and individuals from all geographies is an Upstate business imperative. And we've perfected it over decades.

Whether navigating complex issues of immigration, human resources or raising capital, the Upstate's collaborative business network is ready to respond to all time zones. **The proof is in our FDI and export volumes.**



10.1%

of Upstate jobs are with foreign-owned enterprises
• **2x national average**



50

international companies announced new operations in Upstate since 2017



A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Yearning for home? Learn about the latest European Union business regulations, celebrate the Shinnenkai New Year's celebration or say "Prost!" at Oktoberfest with our region's **45 international organizations**.

From business-centered organizations like the World Affairs Council and European American Chamber of Commerce-Carolinas, to social groups through Upstate International, to supplementary international schools, expats find hints of homeland across the Upstate.

EXPORTS *by the numbers*

84%

of SC exporters are small to medium size enterprises

SC #1

leading exporter of passenger vehicles and tires

2021 SC exports totaled more than

\$29.7B





A THRIVING *business climate*



The Upstate is a business location of choice by foreign and domestic companies for the region's international flair, "can-do" attitude and forward-thinking leadership. From deeply established global manufacturers like Bosch and GE to tech start-ups like Chartspan, the Upstate's public and private leaders come together to foster companies of all sizes. Business is on the rise with more than \$8.4 billion in capital investment announced in the last five years.

UPSTATE STRENGTHS *at a glance*



2,089
manufacturers



300+
robotics &
automation
companies



90+
software
companies

South Carolina has
4TH LOWEST
utility rates on East Coast

South Carolina has
1.7%
private industry union rate
(lowest in U.S.)

SOUTH CAROLINA RANKINGS

#5

BUSINESS CLIMATE

*Site Selection,
Surveyed Executives*

A

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY HEALTH

Ball State Manufacturing Scorecard

#4

STATE FOR DOING BUSINESS

Area Development

#5

FASTEST GROWING STATE

in the Eastern U.S.

#1

BUSINESS INCENTIVE PROGRAMS

Area Development

#4

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Area Development

A DIVERSE ECONOMY

Once called the "Textile Capital of the World," the Upstate is known today as a place where we **don't just make products, we engineer them.** Businesses here are world leaders in development and application of innovative technologies and perfecters of production processes.

From Milliken's ResQTM **flame-resistant fabrics** protecting first responders, to **rapid prototyping** and 3D printing at GE's Advanced Manufacturing Works, to **corporate strategy** and planning at headquarters facilities, business moves here as companies meet today's demands and anticipate tomorrow's challenges.

400+

aerospace-related companies
in South Carolina

AEROSPACE



Honeywell



22 OEMs

of passenger vehicles within
a day's drive of Upstate SC

AUTOMOTIVE



275+

food industry companies
in the Upstate

FOOD & BEVERAGE



Industrial engineering concentration

2.5 TIMES

national average (Upstate SC)

ENGINEERED MATERIALS



11,473

Upstate STEM
graduates in 2020

LIFE SCIENCES



368

global, national and North American
headquarters located in the Upstate

OFFICE & PROFESSIONAL



AN INNOVATION *corridor*

Innovation is the nucleus of the Upstate. Our industries are **patent-generating powerhouses**, backed by one of America's highest concentrations of engineering talent. Deemed **"The New Startup South"** by Bloomberg, our region is small in size though strong in its ability to meet industry needs.

Creators behind many of the Upstate's products — from Ryobi power tools to Prisma Health's VESper ventilator expander — benefit from collaborative innovation campuses and entrepreneurial support. Together, **industries and academic researchers are pioneering advancements** across fields from genetic discovery to light weighting materials. Industry-driven inquiry leads innovation in **packaging design** at Clemson University's Sonoco Institute. The Greenville Technical College Center for Manufacturing Innovation (CMI) explores **advancements of robotics in manufacturing**, and the International Transportation Innovation Center (ITiC) serves as a **proving ground for mobility innovation**.



A PLACE TO LAUNCH

The Upstate understands that global business investment is changing. Looking for a turnkey space to launch your US sales office? Maybe you want a small production or distribution space as you scale up operations?

For international companies seeking to launch in new markets, the Upstate offers **a sweet spot where foreign-direct investment expertise and an entrepreneurial ecosystem intersect**, with partners here to help.

More than **135 entrepreneurial resources** span the Upstate, ready to serve companies of all sizes. Business incubators to help you scale ideas from start-up. Capital and equity partners poised to help you grow. Business counseling, grant support, angel networks, short-term warehouse space. **See why we outpace the nation in FDI and punch above our weight class in new business activity.**



PLAY VIDEO ►

“One of the best things we’ve experienced here is the Spark Center SC, which helped us to get a temporary office, address and mailing services. Now, having the Spartanburg Community College right around the corner supplying us with technical scholar students, mechanics, mechatronics and programmers is a great help for us to develop our talent inside our company.”

Per Blohm, Former General Manager, USA AWL Automation

INNOVATION *campuses*



Upstate is home to
53
accelerator and co-working spaces

#26
Most Innovative Among
All National Universities
Clemson University

#3
for high-tech job growth
*South Carolina // US Chamber
of Commerce Foundation*

CHANGING THE FUTURE OF CANCER CARE: KIYATEC

KIYATEC is shaping the future of cancer treatment with its 3D cell culture platform that models patient responses to cancer drugs, with applications for individual patient care and pharmaceutical development. The Greenville-based startup is a model of Upstate entrepreneurial support: founder Matt Gevaert began his research at Clemson University, and the company has grown since 2011 using support from the Clemson University Research Foundation's technology transfer office, Prisma Health's Institute for Translational Oncology Research (ITOR), SCRA Launch and more.

Catalysts for INNOVATION

SCRIBBLE

SCRA

SCLaunch®
An SCRA Collaboration

NEXT
INNOVATE COMMERCIALIZE GROW

START-UP TO LARGEST MANAGED SERVICE PROVIDER

Healthcare data company ChartSpan exemplifies the Upstate's entrepreneurial potential. Founded in 2011 by brothers Jon-Michial Carter and Patrick Carter, a medical accelerator program drew the start-up to Greenville.

"After we got here, ... we said, 'This is a special place, and it would be foolish to leave.' It was an easy decision to stay," says Co-Founder Jon-Michial Carter.

NEXT Upstate's incubator space and business support network, along with access to capital, attracted the company to stay long after the accelerator program ended. And continued support from the SC Department of Commerce and Greenville Area Development Corporation helped them to grow. In 2016, ChartSpan established a downtown headquarters, with a planned 300 jobs.

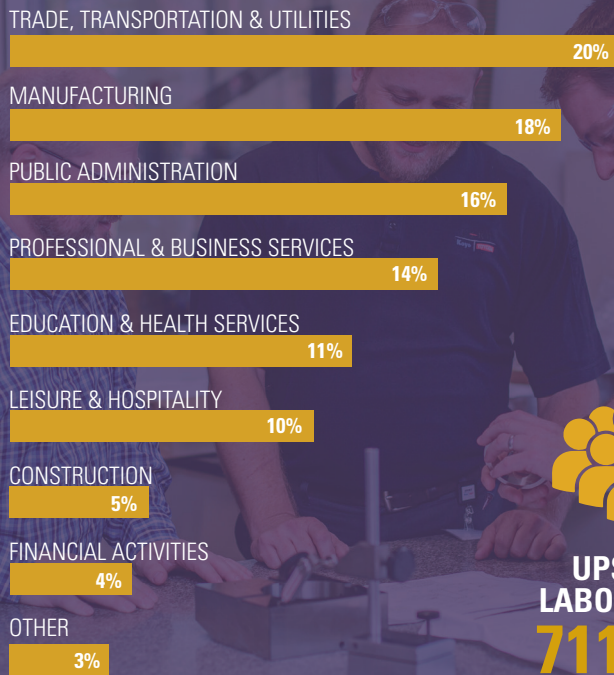


Nurses, medical assistants and certified nursing assistants support ChartSpan's clients — physicians and medical practices who use the software to manage patients' chronic health conditions. The company has seen triple-digit revenue growth and raised more than \$37.2 million for scale-up.

A WORKFORCE *that works*

We take pride in the bright minds driving today's business success, and the talent pipeline preparing for tomorrow's opportunities. From **industry-informed STEAM programs** starting in early childhood to **200+ students pursuing graduate degrees in automotive engineering**, education reigns supreme in the Upstate. And it doesn't end at graduation: with **apprenticeship programs, technical training assistance, and customized onboarding programs**, Upstate resources are at the ready for workforce development.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY SECTOR



26+
colleges
& universities



22,000+
graduating into
the workforce each year

“

There is a rich pipeline of talent in this area. Not only do we have access to wonderful engineering institutes, we have great talent in terms of manufacturing capabilities on the shop floor. We certainly draw on state universities like Clemson University and University of South Carolina, and we use our support system through technical colleges.

Travis Dover,
VP of Capsule Operations,
Lonza

[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)

STRENGTH IN ENGINEERING

10,824
engineers

• *1.45 times the national job concentration*

2,394
engineering technicians

• *20.1% growth 2016-2021*



[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)

“

The Upstate of South Carolina is really an engineering hub. The engineering experience and knowledge that's come into GE Renewables has been an asset. We're working with GE engineers all over the world to improve our product offerings, and we're doing it and benefitting in the Upstate.”

Paul Miner, Lead Test Engineer,
GE Renewable Energy

FORWARD-LOOKING APPROACH *to building a strong workforce*

STEAM INITIATIVES - K-12

Inspiring young minds to take an interest in STEAM careers? That's where the Upstate shines: take, for example: **IMAGINE Upstate** festival showcasing Upstate employers and career pathways and **Science on the Move** bringing activities to elementary schools across the region. The nationally recognized **Pickens County Scholar Technician®** program serves as another example of Upstate workforce development initiatives providing hands on learning experiences, driving enrollment in technical training and helping connect companies with talent.



PROMISE PROGRAMS

Across the Upstate, local **high school graduates are promised a tuition-free path to the area's postsecondary institutions** thanks to scholarship programs. These programs are funded by public-private partnerships and foundations and are available in many Upstate counties.

READY SC

Powered by the SC Technical College System, readySC™ is a national leader in providing well-trained employees to companies investing in South Carolina. The program **includes employee recruitment and training with curriculum tailored to fit a company's unique needs**. This training is provided at little to no cost to qualifying companies.



“ReadySC was able to provide us with the right people at the right time with the right knowledge and skills. In addition, their ability to leverage resources and collaborate with necessary stakeholders to meet our company's needs was quite remarkable.”

Mike Edmonds,
Human Resources Manager, ZF Transmission

APPRENTICESHIP CAROLINA

Apprenticeship Carolina provides employers informational and technical assistance to create **federally recognized, demand-driven registered apprenticeship programs** across a full spectrum of occupations.

 **870+** registered programs  **40,230** total apprentices



SC CODES

SC Codes offers **programming courses for all South Carolinians** to unlock careers in technology. The program offers free online coding curriculum and localized mentors. **Businesses can also partner to create custom courses to meet their workforce needs.**

ATTRACTING TOP TALENT

Have talent needs that require recruiting bright minds from beyond the region? Move Upstate SC offers **free talent recruitment tools** that employers can use to showcase the opportunities and lifestyle offered in the Upstate.



“

Apprenticeship Carolina allows us to take eager, talented, entry-level candidates and mold them into the technicians that we need to help us continue to grow locally, domestically and globally.”

Tom Hobbs,
Human Resources Manager, Standard Textile

[PLAY VIDEO ▶](#)

A LIFE *that's elevated*

Catch some feels while spinning your wheels on the Upstate's **550+ miles of bike trails**. Find the latest craft craze on tap at one of our **26 breweries**. Ignite a passion for learning at one of the region's premier museums. Root for the home team at a **Greenville Drive game**. Revisit history at one of our four national parks. Ride the rapids on one of our **wild and scenic rivers**. Or kick up your feet and revel in our **scenic mountain overlooks**.

There's something for everyone in Upstate South Carolina's diverse communities, **where big-city influence meets Southern indulgence**. And with a **cost of living 24% below the national average**, your money goes further here.

Whether you crave an urban high-rise in the center of it all, a convenient suburban community, or rolling pastures to enjoy nature's serenity, our region offers **unmatched quality of life**.

LIVE MORE. SPEND LESS.

Cost of Living

METRO	100% COMPOSITE INDEX
New York, NY	239.3
Washington, DC	154.4
Sacramento, CA	122.3
Atlanta, GA	106.6
Dallas, TX	103.9
Detroit, MI	103.8
Charleston, SC	98.9
Nashville, TN	96.1
Charlotte, NC	94.9
SPARTANBURG, SC	93.0
Cleveland, OH	92.4
GREENVILLE, SC	90.9
Mobile, AL	86.3

NOTE: Composite cost reflects an index of consumer expenditures, with the U.S. assigned baseline of 100.
SOURCE: C2ER Cost of Living Index, 2021.

TOP TEN COOLEST TOWN IN AMERICA

Spartanburg // Matador Network

BEST SMALL CITIES IN THE U.S.

Greenville // National Geographic Traveler

25 BEST PLACES TO VISIT

Greenville // Forbes



“Every person that I’ve relocated to this area loves it. The fact that there is such a nice, vibrant downtown area, whether it’s entertaining guests or going out as a family. It’s a great community to be a part of, and my employees love that they can live in the country, downtown, or the suburbs. There’s something for everyone in the Upstate.”

Steve Prout, President, Southeast, Solar Atmospheres

PLAY VIDEO ▶



A TEAM INVESTED *in your success*

Choosing to expand your business is a big decision. As you explore your options, let our team be an extension of yours.

We are here to be your first point of contact, providing a seamless experience to make your search process as efficient as possible. We work together with the S.C. Department of Commerce and the region's local economic developers to meet your research needs and connect you with solutions. Take advantage of the services, research, and support we provide.

BUSINESS SERVICES

- Customized industry and labor reports
- Site search and community tours
- Connections to local and state government agencies offering support
- Referrals to professional services and advisory firms
- Advice on how to leverage networks in the market to meet with peers, decision-makers and influencers



864.283.2300



development@upstatealliance.com



upstateSCalliance.com



/upstateSCalliance



Upstate SC Alliance



@SCUpstate



Upstate SC Alliance



UpstateSCAlliance

upstateSCalliance.com
864.283.2300