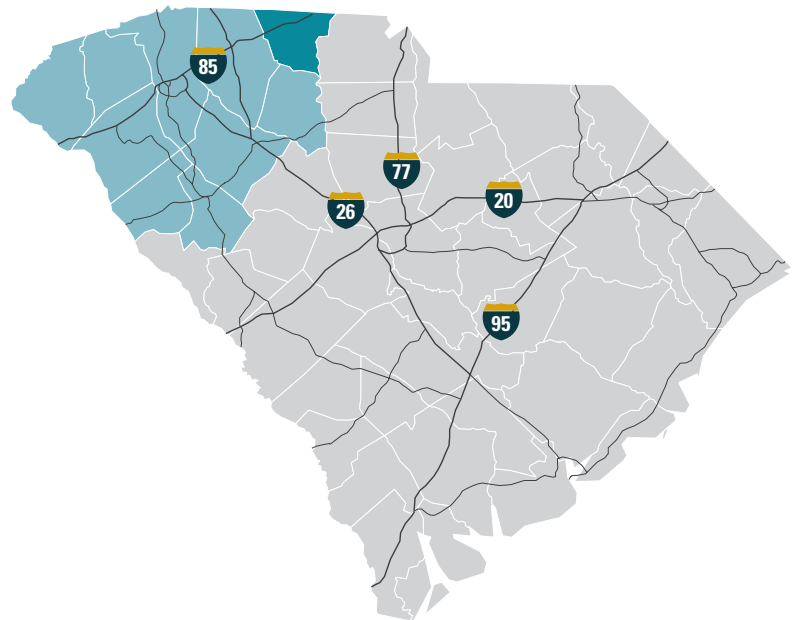


Cherokee COUNTY

DISCOVER YOUR POTENTIAL

The county was named for the Cherokees who once made it their home. It was formed in 1897, and the county seat is Gaffney. Iron mining was 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 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. The Port of Charleston is easily accessible via major highways. Cherokee offers an unbeatable combination of such factors as an abundant and educated workforce 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.



TOTAL POPULATION

	2018	2020	2023	Population Growth 2018-2023
Cherokee County	57,198	56,216	56,714	-0.8%
Upstate SC	1,480,312	1,511,905	1,590,636	7.5%
South Carolina	5,091,702	5,118,425	5,373,555	5.5%

Source: US Census Bureau (2020 Decennial Census and 2018 & 2023 Population Estimates Program data)

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION *by Age*

	2018	2020	2023
Under 5	5.9%	5.7%	5.8%
5 to 9	6.6%	6.1%	6.1%
10 to 14	6.7%	6.8%	6.6%
15 to 24	13.1%	13.1%	13.0%
25 to 34	12.8%	11.8%	13.1%
35 to 44	11.6%	11.1%	11.7%
45 to 54	13.7%	13.8%	12.8%
55 to 64	13.0%	13.6%	13.1%
65+	16.7%	17.9%	17.7%
MEDIAN AGE	39.4	40.8	39.5

37.6% of the 2023 population is prime working age

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	2018	2020	2023
Cherokee County	\$36,867	\$35,511	\$47,409
South Carolina	\$50,748	\$53,366	\$60,025
United States	\$58,100	\$62,203	\$72,603

POPULATION *by Race & Ethnicity*

	2018	2020	2023
White	76.4%	71.5%	76.2%
Black	20.7%	20.2%	20.1%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
Asian	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%
Some Other Race	n/a	2.8%	n/a
Two or More Races	1.7%	4.5%	2.2%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	4.5%	4.9%	5.8%

HOUSEHOLDS & FAMILIES

	2018	2020	2023
Total Households	22,017	22,349	22,535
Total Families	15,052	14,820	15,112
Average Household Size	2.57	2.46	2.46
Owner Occupied	62.7%	62.0%	64.2%
Renter Occupied	26.9%	28.4%	26.0%
Vacant	10.4%	9.6%	9.9%

EDUCATION

2023 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AGE 25+



- 7.0% Graduate / Professional Degree
- 9.4% Bachelor's Degree
- 12.2% Associate Degree
- 18.3% Some College, No Degree
- 31.1% High School Diploma
- 7.8% GED / Alternative Credential
- 10.3% 9th-12th Grade, No Diploma
- 4.0% Less than 9th Grade

85.8%
high school diploma
or higher

16.3%
bachelor's degree
or higher

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

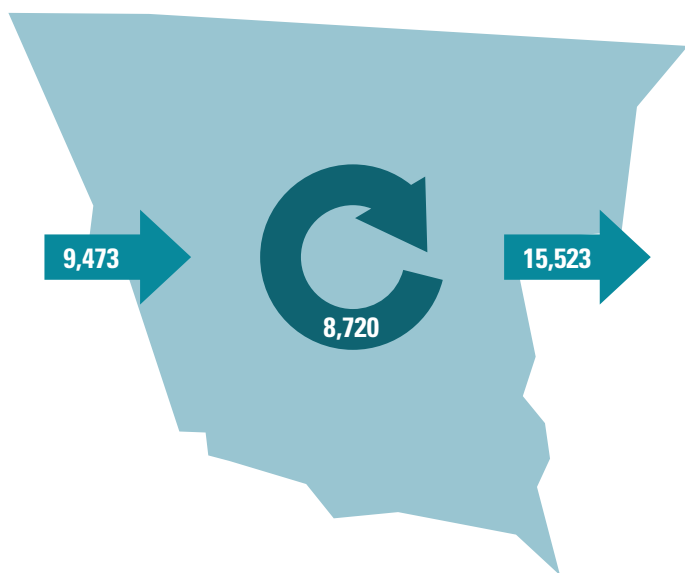
	2022-23
K-12 Schools	8,405
2-Year Schools	612
4-Year and Graduate Schools	1,786

DEGREE COMPLETIONS

	2022-23
Associates Degrees	29
Bachelor's Degrees	358
Graduate/Professional Degrees	97

COMMUTING PATTERNS

WORKER INFLOW & OUTFLOW



Live and work in Cherokee County	8,720
Commute into Cherokee County	9,473
Commute out of Cherokee County	15,523

TRAVEL DISTANCE TO WORK

Less than 10 miles	45.2%
10-24 miles	25.9%
25-50 miles	14.4%
50 miles or more	14.5%



71.1%

of workers travel less than 25 miles

WHERE DO WORKERS LIVE?

Cherokee County

Cherokee County	47.9%
Spartanburg County	15.8%
Cleveland County, NC	5.5%
Greenville County	4.3%
York County	3.2%
Rutherford County, NC	2.6%
Union County	2.0%
Anderson County	1.8%
Gaston County, NC	1.6%
Richland County	1.1%

In 2023, the Cherokee County labor force totaled 23,381 workers and the unemployment rate was 4.2%.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

2023 EMPLOYMENT

by Industry

Manufacturing	30.7%	6,058
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	21.2%	4,173
Professional & Business Services	12.2%	2,403
Government	11.3%	2,233
Leisure & Hospitality	9.6%	1,884
Education & Health Services	7.2%	1,412
Construction	3.6%	714
Other Services (except Government)	2.1%	405
Financial Activities	1.7%	345
Information	0.2%	46
Natural Resources & Mining	0.1%	26
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT		19,715

2023 BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

by Industry

266	110	92
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	Leisure and Hospitality	Professional and Business Services
87	84	81
Education and Health Services	Financial Activities	Construction
71	69	10
Other Services (except Government)	Manufacturing	Information

GROSS RETAIL SALES

by Fiscal Year

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Cherokee County	\$1,873,547,799	\$1,727,416,872	\$1,744,644,117	\$2,038,781,100	\$2,033,124,628

TOP 10 MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	PRIMARY PRODUCT(S) / INDUSTRY	EMPLOYEES
Cherokee County School District	Public education (K-12)	1,001 to 2,500
Nestle Prepared Foods Division	Frozen prepared foods	1,001 to 2,500
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp.	RV, bus, and walk-in van chassis manufacturing	501 to 1,000
Dollar Tree Distribution Center	Distribution	501 to 1,000
Milliken & Company - Allen Plant	Chemical manufacturing	251 to 500
Hamrick Mills, Inc	Print cloth, shade cloth & sheeting	251 to 500
Limestone University	Higher education (4-year university)	251 to 500
Milliken & Company - Magnolia Finishing Plant	Textile finishing	251 to 500
Suminoe Textile of America Corp.	Automotive textile products	251 to 500
Cherokee County	County government	251 to 500

AIRPORT



GREENVILLE-SPARTANBURG INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

- 50 non-stop daily departures
- 24 major cities & 27 airports
- 2.6 million passengers flown in 2023
- 78,715 tons of air cargo moved in 2023



SPARTANBURG DOWNTOWN MEMORIAL AIRPORT

PORT



INLAND PORT GREER

- 40 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 175,873 rail lifts in 2023

PORT OF CHARLESTON

- 202 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 2.5 million TEUs handled in 2023

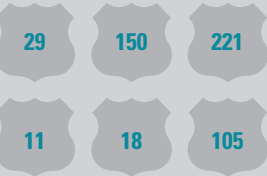
HIGHWAY



INTERSTATES



HIGHWAYS



RAIL



MAJOR PROVIDERS



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



Upstate SC Alliance

John Lummus, President / CEO

864.283.2300 • upstateSCAlliance.com

Sources: Esri Business Analyst, Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport, Lightcast (2024.1 QCEW), SC Dept of Education, SC Dept of Revenue and Taxation, SC Ports Authority, Upstate SC Alliance, US Bureau of Labor Statistics, and US Census Bureau (Decennial Census, Population Estimates Program & 2021 LEHD)