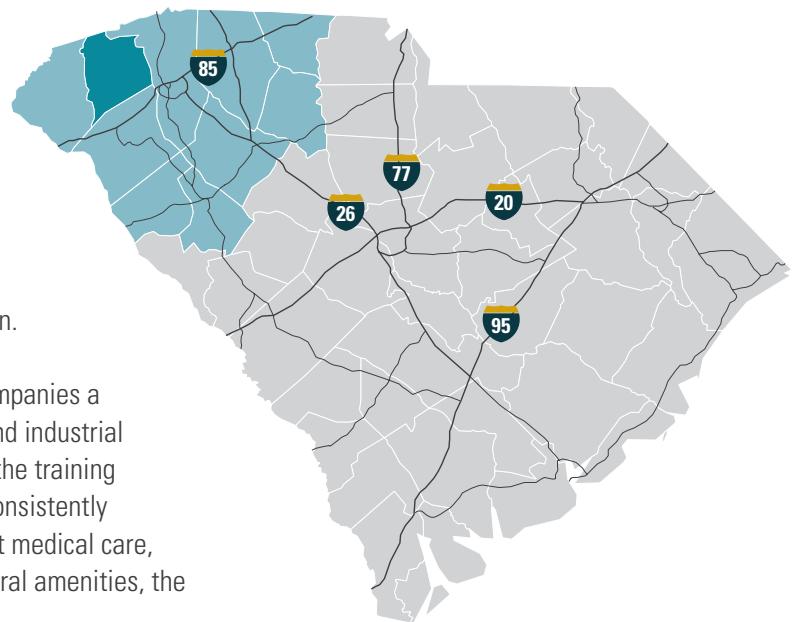# Pickens
COUNTY

GEM OF THE FOOTHILLS

Pickens County is an area rich in history, beauty, and vision for the future. Pickens is part of one of the nation's fastest growing regions, the I-85 Corridor yet, maintains a small town atmosphere, while located only 30 minutes from Greenville and two hours from Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. The bordering Blue Ridge region provides a beautiful backdrop for natural attractions such as Lakes Jocassee and Keowee, Table Rock State Park, scenic Highway 11, and the SC Botanical Garden. Pickens is also home to Clemson University, Southern Wesleyan University, and Tri-County Technical College, offering Pickens companies a competitive advantage. Leaders from the education, business, and industrial communities work together to ensure Pickens students possess the training and education they need when they enter the workforce. From consistently high academic achievement in schools, access to state-of-the-art medical care, consistently low crime rate, to a variety of recreational and cultural amenities, the quality of life in Pickens, South Carolina is second to none.

TOTAL POPULATION

	2018	2020	2023	Population Growth 2018-2023
Pickens County	125,176	131,404	135,495	8.2%
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	5.1%	4.8%	4.6%
5 to 9	5.0%	5.0%	5.1%
10 to 14	5.5%	5.4%	5.2%
15 to 24	21.1%	22.1%	21.1%
25 to 34	12.1%	11.6%	12.5%
35 to 44	10.5%	10.0%	10.5%
45 to 54	11.8%	11.2%	11.0%
55 to 64	12.4%	12.5%	12.4%
65+	16.5%	17.3%	17.6%
MEDIAN AGE	**36.2**	**36.0**	**36.3**

34% of the 2023 population is prime working age

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

	2018	2020	2023
Pickens County	$46,893	$48,571	$51,152
South Carolina	$50,748	$53,366	$60,025
United States	$58,100	$62,203	$72,603

POPULATION *by Race & Ethnicity*

	2018	2020	2023
White	89.0%	82.7%	88.6%
Black	7.0%	6.5%	7.1%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	2.0%	2.1%	2.0%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%
Some Other Race	n/a	2.5%	n/a
Two or More Races	1.8%	5.9%	2.0%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	3.7%	5.0%	5.5%

HOUSEHOLDS & FAMILIES

	2018	2020	2023
Total Households	47,939	50,364	52,323
Total Families	30,767	31,702	32,857
Average Household Size	2.50	2.43	2.41
Owner Occupied	60.3%	59.7%	62.7%
Renter Occupied	27.7%	29.6%	26.6%
Vacant	11.9%	10.7%	10.7%

EDUCATION

2023 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AGE 25+

- 13.2% Graduate / Professional Degree
- 16.6% Bachelor's Degree
- 12.3% Associate Degree
- 16.5% Some College, No Degree
- 24.0% High School Diploma
- 6.2% GED / Alternative Credential
- 8.2% 9th-12th Grade, No Diploma
- 3.1% Less than 9th Grade

88.8% high school diploma or higher

29.8% bachelor's degree or higher

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

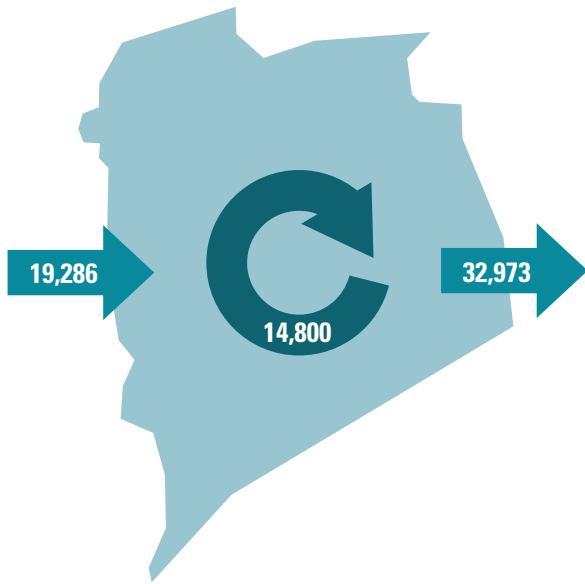|	2022-23
K-12 Schools	17,125
2-Year Schools*	Not Available
4-Year and Graduate Schools	29,641

DEGREE COMPLETIONS

	2022-23
Associates Degrees*	Not Available
Bachelor's Degrees	5,516
Graduate/Professional Degrees	2,193

*Pickens County is served by Tri-County Technical College, whose enrollment and completion data are assigned to the main campus in Anderson County.

COMMUTING PATTERNS

WORKER INFLOW & OUTFLOW

19,286 → 14,800 → 32,973

Live and work in Pickens County — 14,800
Commute into Pickens County — 19,286
Commute out of Pickens County — 32,973

TRAVEL DISTANCE TO WORK

Less than 10 miles	45.9%
10-24 miles	31.5%
25-50 miles	10.6%
50 miles or more	12.0%

77.4%
of workers travel less than 25 miles

WHERE DO WORKERS LIVE?
Pickens County

Pickens County	43.4%
Anderson County	16.1%
Greenville County	15.1%
Oconee County	8.9%
Spartanburg County	2.9%
Richland County	1.0%
Laurens County	0.8%
Lexington County	0.8%
York County	0.7%
Charleston County	0.6%

In 2023, the Pickens County labor force totaled 59,768 workers and unemployment remained low at 2.9%.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

2023 EMPLOYMENT
by Industry

Government	26.9%	10,134
Leisure & Hospitality	17.7%	6,678
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	17.6%	6,642
Manufacturing	14.0%	5,264
Education & Health Services	9.4%	3,546
Professional & Business Services	5.0%	1,887
Construction	3.7%	1,385
Financial Activities	2.5%	927
Other Services (except Government)	2.3%	870
Information	0.6%	210
Natural Resources & Mining	0.3%	106
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT		**37,654**

2023 BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS
by Industry

517 Trade, Transportation and Utilities

480 Professional and Business Services

335 Leisure and Hospitality

314 Education and Health Services

308 Construction

272 Financial Activities

193 Other Services (except Government)

145 Manufacturing

55 Information

GROSS RETAIL SALES
by Fiscal Year

	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
Pickens County	$2,543,923,426	$2,537,823,406	$2,740,435,477	$3,128,494,191	$3,525,157,609

TOP 10 MAJOR EMPLOYERS

COMPANY	PRIMARY PRODUCT(S) / INDUSTRY	EMPLOYEES
Clemson University	Higher education (research university)	5,000+
State of SC	State government	2,501 to 5,000
School District of Pickens County	Public education (K-12)	1,001 to 2,500
Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company, Inc.	Fire sprinklers and systems components	501 to 1,000
Pickens County	County government	501 to 1,000
ARAMARK Campus LLC	Dining services	501 to 1,000
Milliken & Company - Pendleton Finishing Plant	Broadwoven fabric mill, textile finishing	501 to 1,000
Baptist Easley Hospital	Healthcare	501 to 1,000
Yokohama Industries Americas, Inc.	Automotive fluid handling components	251 to 500
YMCA of Easley, Pickens, and Powdersville	Fitness and recreational sports center	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

allegiant

American Airlines

avelo

Breeze

DELTA

Southwest

UNITED

PICKENS COUNTY AIRPORT

PORT

INLAND PORT GREER

- **35 miles** from the City of Pickens
- **175,873** rail lifts in 2023

PORT OF CHARLESTON

- **227 miles** from the City of Pickens
- **2.5 million** TEUs handled in 2023

HIGHWAY

INTERSTATES

85

HIGHWAYS

76   123   178

RAIL

MAJOR PROVIDERS

NS NORFOLK SOUTHERN

SHORT-LINE PROVIDERS

Pickens

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

PICKENS COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR CENTER

PICKENS COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA · EST. 1868

Alliance Pickens South Carolina.USA

CLEMSON UNIVERSITY

SOUTH CAROLINA STATE SC PARKS

UpstateSCAlliance

Upstate SC Alliance
John Lummus, President / CEO
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