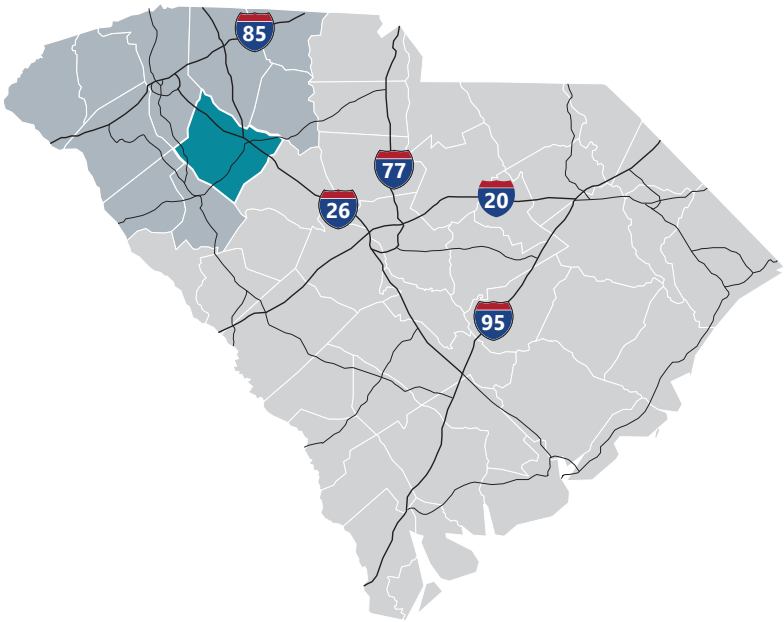
Business-Centered

Laurens County

The county and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War leader Henry Laurens (1724-1792). From humble beginnings as a center of textile manufacturing, to the diverse industry mix of today, Laurens County has always enjoyed a climate conducive to business and economic growth. Laurens County is located in the northwest quadrant of South Carolina between the Columbia MSA and the Greenville/Spartanburg MSA - two of the Southeast's most rapidly growing metropolitan areas. Laurens lies about 170 miles inland from the port city of Charleston and about 50 miles southeast of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Laurens County offers historic charm, the pastoral landscape of the Upstate, quality education and health care, abundant outdoor recreation, and cultural diversity. Additionally, Laurens County offers plenty of activities close to home to relieve stress and cultivate relaxation.



Total Population

	2010	2019	2024	Growth Rate[1]
Laurens County	66,537	68,778	69,975	0.4%
Upstate SC	1,362,073	1,507,423	1,588,080	1.08%
South Carolina	4,625,364	5,195,563	5,526,057	1.25%

[1]Projected Annual Growth Rate 2019-2024

Population by Age

	2010	2019	2024
Under 5	6.5%	5.8%	5.7%
5 to 9	6.2%	5.9%	5.7%
10 to 14	6.5%	6.0%	6.2%
15 to 24	14.1%	12.3%	12.1%
25 to 34	10.8%	12.3%	11.0%
35 to 44	13.0%	11.2%	11.7%
45 to 54	14.7%	13.1%	12.1%
55 to 64	13.4%	14.5%	14.1%
65+	15.0%	19.1%	21.6%
Median Age	39.9	41.9	43.0

36.6% of the 2019 population is of prime working age

Households & Families

	2010	2019	2024
Total Households	25,525	26,411	26,876
Total Families	17,707	18,063	18,291
Average HH Size	2.5	2.5	2.5
Renter Occupied*	28.0%	25.5%	25.3%
Owner Occupied*	72.0%	74.5%	74.7%

*Housing tenure data is a percentage of total occupied housing units

Median Household Income

	2019	2024
Laurens County	$39,611	$44,179
South Carolina	$51,389	$57,210
United States	$60,548	$69,180

Population by Race & Ethnicity

	2010	2019	2024
White	70.4%	70.5%	70.1%
Black	25.5%	24.2%	23.5%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Asian	0.3%	0.5%	0.6%
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Some Other Race	2.3%	2.8%	3.4%
Two or More Races	1.3%	1.7%	2.0%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	4.1%	5.0%	5.9%

Per Capita Income

	2019	2024
Laurens County	$19,592	$22,188
South Carolina	$28,244	$32,417
United States	$33,028	$37,585

2019 Highest Education Attainment, Age 25+

High School Diploma or Higher

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Graduate/ Professional Degree 5.6%

Bachelor's Degree 10.1%

Associate's Degree 9.7%

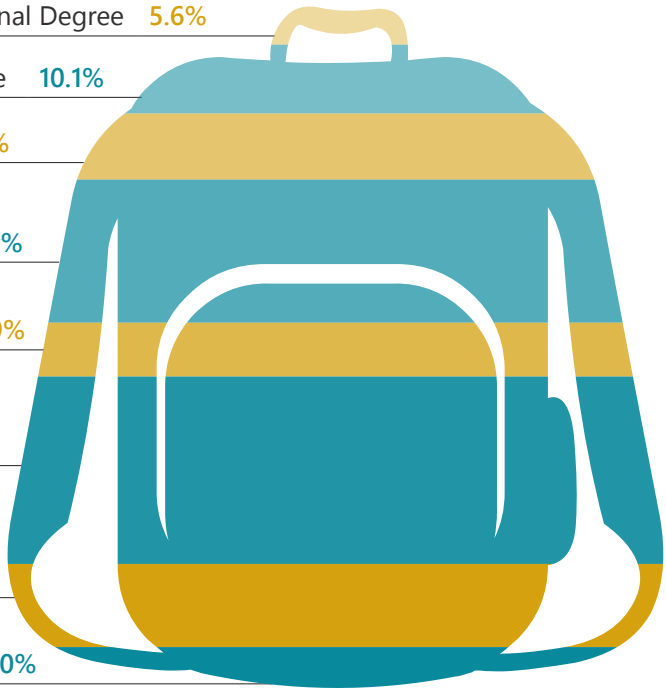
Some College, No Degree 21.0%

GED/ Alternative Credential 7.9%

High School Graduate 27.5%

9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma 12.2%

Less than 9th Grade 6.0%



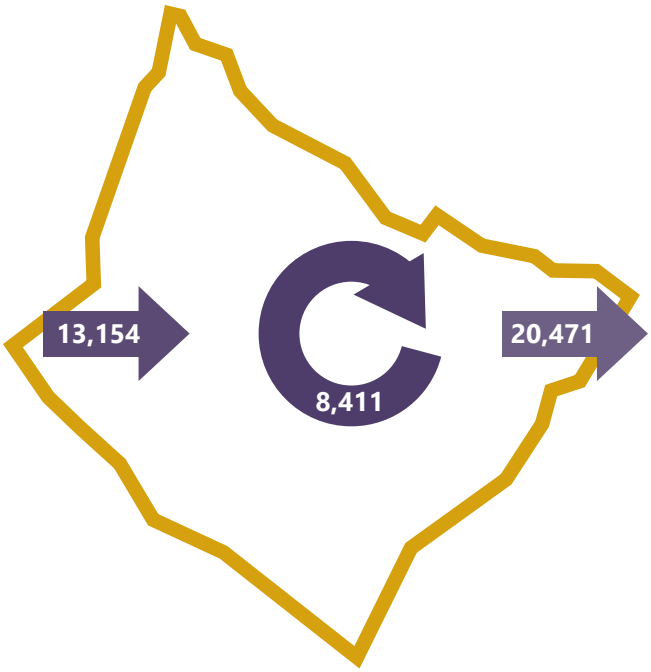
2017 Commuting Patterns

Travel Distance to Work

Less than 10 miles	24.6%
10-24 miles	30.5%
25-50 miles	24.5%
50 miles or more	20.4%

55.1% of workers travel less than 25 miles

Worker Inflow/Outflow



Live and Work in Laurens County	8,411
Commute into Laurens County	13,154
Commute Out of Laurens County	20,471

Where Do Laurens County Workers Live?

Laurens County	39.0%
Greenville County	19.6%
Spartanburg County	7.1%
Greenwood County	6.4%
Anderson County	4.1%
Newberry County	2.6%
Richland County	2.3%
Union County	1.7%
Pickens County	1.6%
Lexington County	1.4%

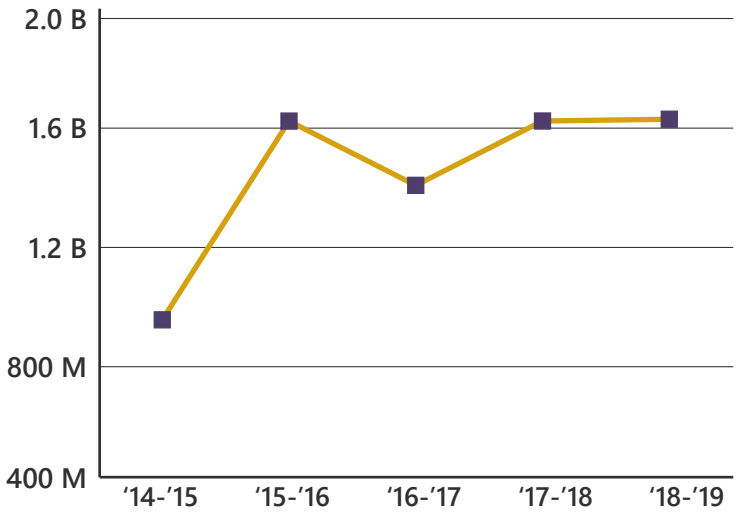
2019 Employment by Industry

Agriculture/Mining	0.6%	161
Construction	6.5%	1,909
Manufacturing	25.1%	7,389
Wholesale Trade	2.8%	819
Retail Trade	12.1%	3,546
Transportation/Utilities	4.9%	1,445
Information	1.5%	446
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	3.4%	1,003
Services	39.8%	11,718
Public Administration	3.4%	994
Total	100%	29,430

2019 Civilian Population in Labor Force (16+)

Employed	95.1%
Unemployed	4.9%

Gross Retail Sales By Fiscal Year



2019 Business Establishments by Industry

Top 5 Manufacturing Employers

Company	Employees	Primary Product(s)
ZF Transmissions	2,500	Auto transmissions
Yanfeng	951	Interior auto systems
Sterilite Corporation	700	Household plastics
Country Fresh	430	Food preparation
D&W Finepack	400	Disposable plastic items

Top 5 Non-Manufacturing Employers

Company	Employees	Industry
Laurens County School Districts	1,328	Public Education, K-12
Walmart Distribution Center	858	Retail Distribution
South Carolina State Government	810	State Government
Prisma Health | Laurens County Memorial Hospital	500	Health Services
Renfro	382	Distribution

Airport Access

Greenville Spartanburg International
- 50 non-stop daily departures
- 16 major cities and 19 major airports across the US
  - Allegiant Air
  - American Airlines
  - Delta
  - Frontier Airlines
  - Southwest Airlines
  - United Airlines

Laurens County Airport

Port Access

Inland Port Greer
- 40 miles from the City of Laurens
- 121,600 rail lifts in 2018
- 6.4% growth from 2017

Port of Charleston
- 175 miles from the City of Laurens
- 2.3 M TEUs handled in 2018
- 6.4% growth from 2017

Highway Access

Interstates
- I-26
- I-385

Highways
- US-25
- US-76
- US-221
- SC-72

Rail Access

Rail Providers
- CSX
- Carolina Piedmont

UpstateSCAlliance

Upstate SC Alliance
John Lummus, *President/CEO*
864.283.2300
www.upstatescalliance.com

APPALACHIAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Appalachian Council of Governments
30 Century Circle, Greenville, SC 29607
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Additional Resources

www.growlaurenscounty.com
www.laurenscounty.org
www.golaurens.com
www.upstateforever.org
www.southcarolinaparks.com
www.sciway.net

Sources: ESRI Business Analyst (2019 and 2024 Estimates); US Census Bureau (2010 Census Data); US Bureau of Labor Statistics; Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, US Census Bureau (2017; Commuting Patterns & Where do County Workers Live), Manufacturer's News, Appalachian Council of Governments, Upstate SC Alliance, and SC Department of Revenue and Taxation (Fiscal Year Retail Sales).