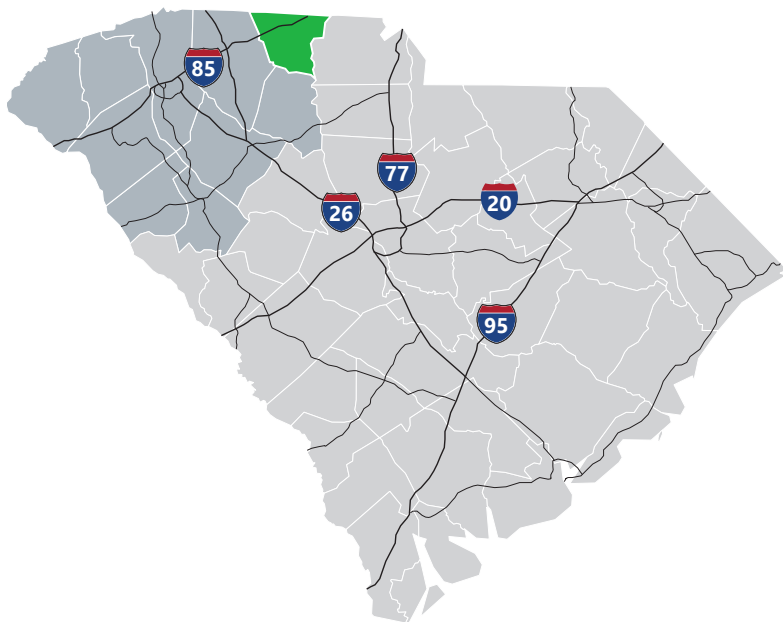




# Discover Your Potential

## Cherokee County

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 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.



### Total Population

	2010	2019	2024	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Cherokee County</b>	55,342	58,189	59,416	0.4%
<b>Upstate SC</b>	1,362,073	1,507,423	1,588,080	1.08%
<b>South Carolina</b>	4,625,364	5,195,563	5,526,057	1.25%

<sup>1</sup>Projected Annual Growth Rate 2019-2024

## Population by Age

	2010	2019	2024
Under 5	6.7%	6.0%	5.8%
5 to 9	6.7%	6.3%	6.0%
10 to 14	6.9%	6.3%	6.4%
15 to 24	13.8%	11.7%	11.5%
25 to 34	11.5%	13.2%	11.3%
35 to 44	13.9%	12.2%	12.9%
45 to 54	14.2%	13.6%	12.9%
55 to 64	12.8%	13.5%	13.6%
65+	13.4%	17.3%	19.6%
Median Age	38.3	40.2	41.8

39.0% of the 2019 population is of prime working age

## Population by Race & Ethnicity

	2010	2019	2024
White	75.0%	74.7%	74.3%
Black	20.4%	19.7%	19.3%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	0.6%	0.7%	0.8%
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	2.2%	2.6%	3.0%
Two or More Races	1.4%	1.8%	2.1%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	3.7%	4.4%	5.0%

## Households & Families

	2010	2019	2024
Total Households	21,519	22,331	22,778
Total Families	14,941	15,284	15,517
Average HH Size	3.0	3.1	3.1
Renter Occupied*	31.1%	28.9%	28.7%
Owner Occupied*	68.9%	71.1%	71.3%

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

## Median Household Income

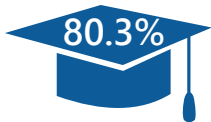
	2019	2024
Cherokee County	\$32,987	\$35,523
South Carolina	\$51,389	\$57,210
United States	\$60,548	\$69,180

## Per Capita Income

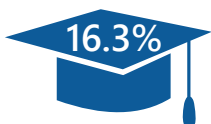
	2019	2024
Cherokee County	\$19,033	\$20,394
South Carolina	\$28,244	\$32,417
United States	\$33,028	\$37,585

## 2019 Highest Education Attainment, Age 25+

High School Diploma  
or Higher



Bachelor's Degree  
or Higher



Graduate/ Professional Degree 6.0%

Bachelor's Degree 10.3%

Associate's Degree 8.1%

Some College, No Degree 18.6%

GED/ Alternative Credential 6.4%

High School Graduate 30.9%

9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma 13.3%

Less than 9th Grade 6.6%





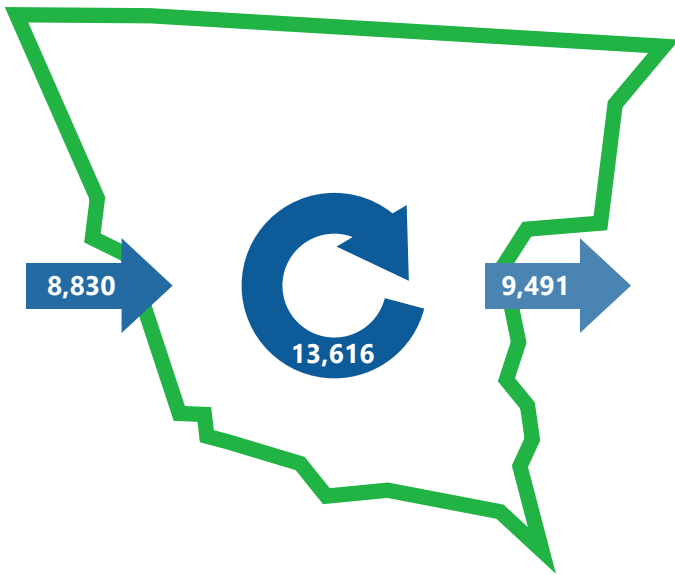
## Commuting Patterns

### Travel Distance to Work

Less than 10 miles	39.2%
10-24 miles	24.5%
25-50 miles	18.1%
50 miles or more	18.2%

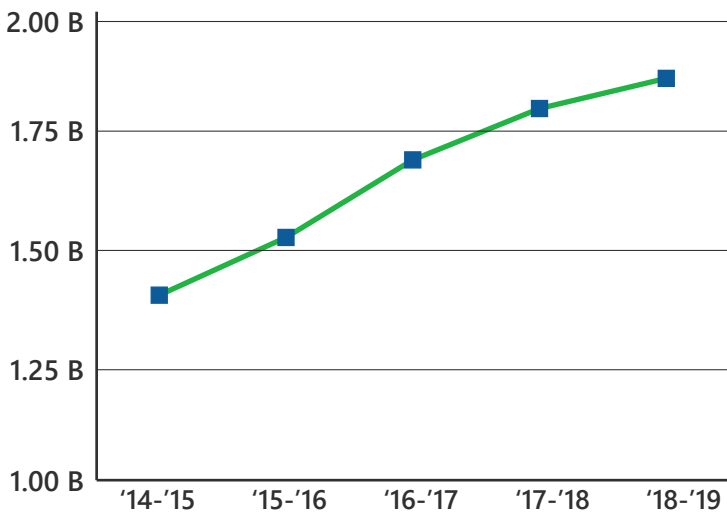
**63.7% of workers travel less than 25 miles**

### Worker Inflow/Outflow



Live and Work in Cherokee County	13,616
Commute into Cherokee County	8,830
Commute Out of Cherokee County	9,491

### Gross Retail Sales By Fiscal Year



### Where Do Cherokee County Workers Live?

Cherokee County	41.1%
Spartanburg County	21.5%
Greenville County	6.6%
Mecklenburg County, NC	4.1%
Richland County	3.2%
York County	2.7%
Cleveland County, NC	2.3%
Lexington County	1.6%
Gaston County, NC	1.6%
Anderson County	1.4%

### 2019 Employment by Industry

Industry	Percentage	Count
Agriculture/Mining	0.5%	130
Construction	6.1%	1,475
Manufacturing	24.9%	6,043
Wholesale Trade	3.4%	834
Retail Trade	12.2%	2,943
Transportation/Utilities	8.3%	2,012
Information	0.7%	175
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	3.0%	724
Services	37.7%	9,134
Public Administration	3.1%	760
Total	100%	24,230

### 2019 Civilian Population in Labor Force (16+)

Employed	93.6%
Unemployed	6.4%

### 2019 Business Establishments by Industry



## Top 5 Manufacturing Employers

Company	Employees	Primary Product(s)
Nestlé USA	1,400	Frozen prepared foods
Milliken & Company	989	Broadwoven fabrics, fabric dyeing and finishing
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	909	Motor home chassis
Hamrick Mills	890	Ball and roller bearings
The Timken Company	625	Print cloth, shade cloth & sheeting

## Top 5 Non-Manufacturing Employers

Company	Employees	Industry
Cherokee County School District	1,580	Public Education, K-12
Dollar Tree Distribution	450	Logistics
UPS	400	Logistics
Mary Black Health System	300	Health Services
Limestone College	269	Higher Education



### 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

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport



### Port Access

Inland Port Greer

- 40 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 121,600 rail lifts in 2018
- 6.4% growth from 2017

Port of Charleston

- 202 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 2.3 M TEUs handled in 2018
- 6.4% growth from 2017



### Highway Access

Interstates

- I-85

Highways

- US-29
- US-150
- US-221
- SC-11
- SC-18
- SC-105



### Rail Access

Rail Providers

- CSX
- Norfolk-Southern



**Cherokee County Development Board**  
 Jim Cook, *Executive Director*  
 864.206.2804  
[www.cherokeecountydevelopmentboard.com](http://www.cherokeecountydevelopmentboard.com)



**APPALACHIAN**  
 COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
**Appalachian Council of Governments**  
 30 Century Circle, Greenville, SC 29607  
 864.242.9733  
[www.scacog.org](http://www.scacog.org)

## Additional Resources

[www.cherokeecountysc.gov](http://www.cherokeecountysc.gov)  
[www.cherokeechamber.org](http://www.cherokeechamber.org)

[www.upstatealliance.com](http://www.upstatealliance.com)  
[www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org)

[www.southcarolinaparks.com](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com)  
[www.sciway.net](http://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, Cherokee County Development Board, and SC Department of Revenue and Taxation (Fiscal Year Retail Sales).