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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2024</th>
<th>Growth Rate¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County</td>
<td>55,342</td>
<td>58,189</td>
<td>59,416</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upstate SC</td>
<td>1,362,073</td>
<td>1,507,423</td>
<td>1,588,080</td>
<td>1.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>4,625,364</td>
<td>5,195,563</td>
<td>5,526,057</td>
<td>1.25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹Projected Annual Growth Rate 2019-2024

Discover Your Potential
### Population by Age

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

**39.0% of the 2019 population is of prime working age**

### Households & Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2010</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Households</td>
<td>21,519</td>
<td>22,331</td>
<td>22,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Families</td>
<td>14,941</td>
<td>15,284</td>
<td>15,517</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average HH Size</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renter Occupied*</td>
<td>31.1%</td>
<td>28.9%</td>
<td>28.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owner Occupied*</td>
<td>68.9%</td>
<td>71.1%</td>
<td>71.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Median Household Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County</td>
<td>$32,987</td>
<td>$35,523</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$51,389</td>
<td>$57,210</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$60,548</td>
<td>$69,180</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Per Capita Income

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County</td>
<td>$19,033</td>
<td>$20,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>$28,244</td>
<td>$32,417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>$33,028</td>
<td>$37,585</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 2019 Highest Education Attainment, Age 25+

- **High School Diploma or Higher**: 80.3%
- **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%
Commute into Cherokee County
Commute Out of Cherokee County
Live and Work in Cherokee County
9,853
9,468
14,317

62.4% of workers travel less than 25 miles

Travel Distance to Work
Less than 10 miles: 37.8%
10-24 miles: 24.6%
25-50 miles: 19.7%
50 miles or more: 17.8%

2019 Civilian Population in Labor Force (16+)
Employed: 93.6%
Unemployed: 6.4%

2019 Business Establishments by Industry
- Manufacturing: 64
- Retail: 309
- Hospitality: 156
- Professional Services: 298
- Transportation and Warehousing: 29

Where Do Cherokee County Workers Live?
- Cherokee County: 51.0%
- Spartanburg County: 14.4%
- Cleveland County, NC: 6.2%
- Greenville County: 3.2%
- Union County: 2.6%
- Rutherford County, NC: 2.5%
- York County: 2.5%
- Gaston County, NC: 1.7%
- Anderson County: 1.2%
- Richland County: 1.0%

10-24 miles
25-50 miles
50 miles or more
Less than 10 miles

Worker Inflow/Outflow

2019 Employment by Industry
- 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)

Gross Retail Sales By Fiscal Year
- '14-'15: $1.00 B
- '15-'16: $1.25 B
- '16-'17: $1.50 B
- '17-'18: $1.75 B
- '18-'19: $2.00 B
### Top 5 Manufacturing Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Primary Product(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nestlé USA</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>Frozen prepared foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Milliken &amp; Company</td>
<td>989</td>
<td>Broadwoven fabrics, fabric dyeing and finishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>Motor home chassis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamrick Mills</td>
<td>890</td>
<td>Print cloth, shade cloth &amp; sheeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Timken Company</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Ball and roller bearings</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 5 Non-Manufacturing Employers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Employees</th>
<th>Industry</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee County School District</td>
<td>1,580</td>
<td>Public Education, K-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dollar Tree Distribution</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>Logistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UPS</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>Logistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherokee Medical Center</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limestone College</td>
<td>269</td>
<td>Higher Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 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

### Additional Resources

- www.cherokeecountydevelopmentboard.com
- www.marcheers.com
- www.cherokeechamber.org
- www.upstatealliance.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, Cherokee County Development Board, and SC Department of Revenue and Taxation (Fiscal Year Retail Sales).