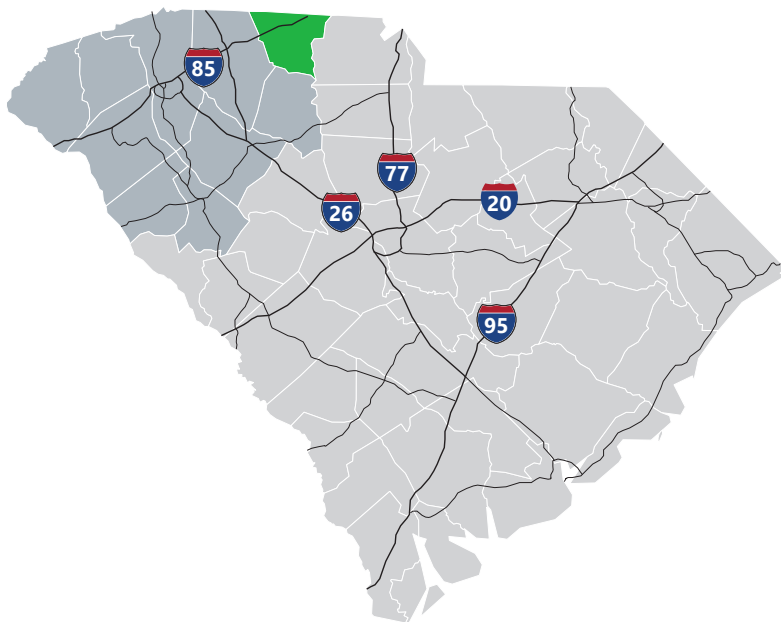




# Discover Your Potential

## 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	2020	2025	Growth Rate <sup>1</sup>
<b>Cherokee County</b>	55,342	57,978	59,212	0.42%
<b>Upstate SC</b>	1,362,073	1,534,241	1,622,166	1.12%
<b>South Carolina</b>	4,625,364	5,282,232	5,629,430	1.28%

<sup>1</sup>Projected Annual Growth Rate 2020-2025

## Population by Age

	2010	2020	2025
Under 5	6.7%	5.9%	5.7%
5 to 9	6.7%	6.3%	5.9%
10 to 14	6.9%	6.3%	6.4%
15 to 24	13.8%	11.6%	11.5%
25 to 34	11.5%	13.2%	11.0%
35 to 44	13.9%	12.1%	13.1%
45 to 54	14.2%	13.6%	12.8%
55 to 64	12.8%	13.5%	13.6%
65+	13.4%	17.6%	20.0%
Median Age	38.2	40.4	42.1

38.9% of the of 2020 population is prime working age

## Population by Race & Ethnicity

	2010	2020	2025
White	75.0%	74.9%	74.5%
Black	20.4%	19.5%	19.1%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Asian	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%
Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	2.2%	2.7%	3.1%
Two or More Races	1.4%	1.9%	2.2%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	3.7%	4.5%	5.1%

## Households & Families

	2010	2020	2025
Total Households	21,519	22,310	22,770
Total Families	14,941	15,220	15,449
Average HH Size	2.54	2.55	2.55
Renter Occupied*	27.9%	27.4%	27.4%
Owner Occupied*	61.8%	61.4%	61.4%

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

## Median Household Income

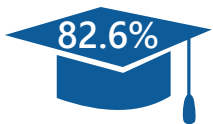
	2020	2025
Cherokee County	\$35,511	\$37,345
South Carolina	\$53,366	\$56,881
United States	\$62,203	\$67,325

## Per Capita Income

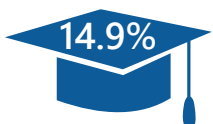
	2020	2025
Cherokee County	\$19,912	\$21,787
South Carolina	\$29,227	\$32,506
United States	\$34,136	\$37,691

## 2020 Highest Education Attainment, Age 25+

High School Diploma or Higher



Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Graduate/ Professional Degree 5.0%

Bachelor's Degree 9.9%

Associate's Degree 9.2%

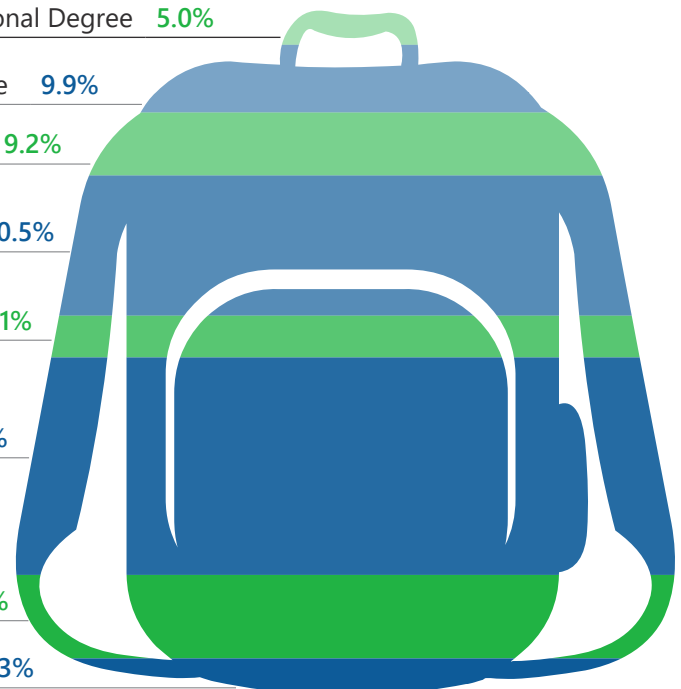
Some College, No Degree 20.5%

GED/ Alternative Credential 6.1%

High School Graduate 31.9%

9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma 12.2%

Less than 9th Grade 5.3%





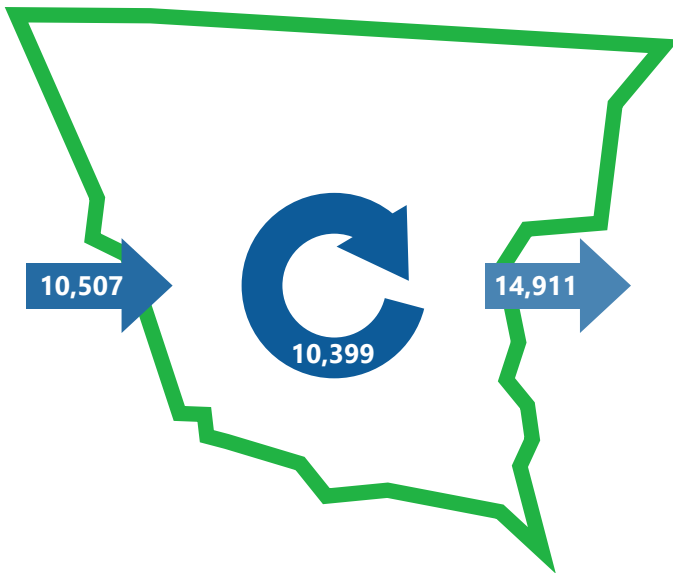
## 2018 Commuting Patterns

### Travel Distance to Work

Less than 10 miles	38.5%
10-24 miles	25.1%
25-50 miles	18.5%
50 miles or more	17.8%

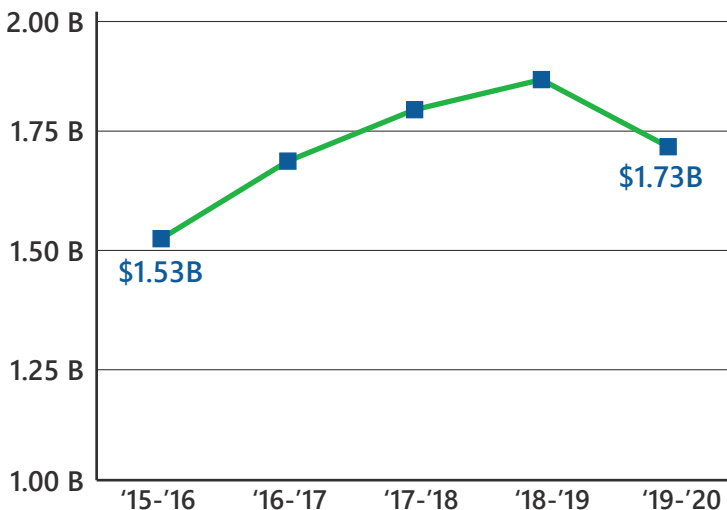
**63.6% of workers travel less than 25 miles**

### Worker Inflow/Outflow



Live and Work in Cherokee County	10,399
Commute into Cherokee County	10,507
Commute Out of Cherokee County	14,911

### Gross Retail Sales by Fiscal Year



### Where Do Cherokee County Workers Live?

Cherokee County	49.7%
Spartanburg County	15.1%
Cleveland County, NC	6.1%
Greenville County	3.6%
York County	2.9%
Rutherford County, NC	2.5%
Union County	2.1%
Gaston County, NC	1.5%
Laurens County	1.1%
Anderson County	1.1%

### 2020 Employment by Industry

Agriculture/Mining	0.5%	113
Construction	6.0%	1,390
Manufacturing	26.7%	6,204
Wholesale Trade	2.8%	651
Retail Trade	11.6%	2,681
Transportation/Utilities	8.3%	1,926
Information	0.6%	135
Finance/Insurance/Real Estate	3.7%	847
Services	36.6%	8,499
Public Administration	3.3%	772
Total	100%	23,218

### 2020 Civilian Population in Labor Force (16+)

Labor Force	87.5%
Unemployed	12.5%

### 2020 Business Establishments by Industry



## Top 5 Manufacturing Employers

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

## Top 5 Non-Manufacturing Employers

Company	Employees	Industry
Cherokee County School District	1,486	Public Education, K-12
Dollar Tree Distribution	700	Logistics
UPS	400	Logistics
Cherokee Medical Center	300	Health Services
Limestone College	269	Higher Education



### Airport Access

Greenville Spartanburg International

- 50 non-stop daily departures
- 17 major cities and airports across the US
  - Allegiant Air
  - American Airlines
  - Delta
  - Southwest Airlines
  - United Airlines
- 2.6 M passengers served in 2019
- 57,304 tons of air cargo moved in 2019

Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport



### Port Access

Inland Port Greer

- 40 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 157,343 rail lifts in 2019
- 29.4% growth from 2018

Port of Charleston

- 202 miles from the City of Gaffney
- 2.4 M TEUs handled in 2019
- 5.18% growth from 2018



### 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**  
 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 (2020 and 2025 Estimates); US Census Bureau (2010 Census Data); US Bureau of Labor Statistics; Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics, US Census Bureau (2018; 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).