



Economic Overview

Worklink



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Demographic Profile

The population in the Worklink was 419,388 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 197,773 with a participation rate of 57.8%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Worklink, 28.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Worklink is \$62,158 and the median house value is \$214,492.

Summary¹

Demographics	Percent			Value		
	Worklink	South Carolina	Link Upstate WIOA	Worklink	South Carolina	Link Upstate WIOA
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	419,388	5,212,774	1,633,221
Male	49.1%	48.7%	48.8%	205,752	2,537,456	797,762
Female	50.9%	51.3%	51.2%	213,636	2,675,318	835,459
Median Age ²	—	—	—	40.3	40.1	39.5
Under 18 Years	20.8%	21.6%	22.2%	87,370	1,127,062	362,592
18 to 24 Years	11.1%	9.1%	9.3%	46,648	475,338	152,655
25 to 34 Years	12.0%	12.9%	13.0%	50,496	671,642	212,814
35 to 44 Years	11.4%	12.4%	12.2%	47,732	647,392	199,057
45 to 54 Years	12.1%	12.2%	12.4%	50,757	634,490	202,179
55 to 64 Years	13.6%	13.3%	13.1%	56,847	693,281	214,383
65 to 74 Years	11.2%	11.3%	10.6%	47,163	589,960	173,349
75 Years and Over	7.7%	7.2%	7.1%	32,375	373,609	116,192
Race: White	81.1%	64.1%	70.7%	340,154	3,339,447	1,155,257
Race: Black or African American	10.0%	25.3%	17.7%	41,837	1,318,630	288,889
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	1,458	16,823	5,258
Race: Asian	1.2%	1.7%	1.7%	5,055	89,723	28,224
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	85	3,642	767
Race: Some Other Race	2.1%	2.7%	3.0%	8,633	142,798	48,760
Race: Two or More Races	5.3%	5.8%	6.5%	22,166	301,711	106,066
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.2%	7.1%	8.1%	21,639	368,900	133,065
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	429,792	5,373,555	1,686,132
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	1.1%	1.2%	1.3%	4,543	60,709	19,907
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	233.9	178.7	212.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	57.8%	60.2%	60.5%	197,773	2,513,298	793,633
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	80.4%	81.6%	81.2%	119,570	1,577,860	497,982
Work from Home	7.6%	10.0%	8.8%	13,995	237,424	65,545
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.9%	0.1%	446	39,412	1,596
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.5%	5.8%	4.5%	11,329	180,043	44,096
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.7%	74.3%	77.1%	8,692	133,696	34,013
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$62,158	\$66,818	\$64,856
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$34,842	\$37,993	\$35,982
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	26.2	25.6	24.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	976	10,086	2,064
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	11.6%	9.6%	11.1%	23,809	254,842	92,081
High School Graduate	28.6%	27.4%	27.8%	58,898	724,281	229,970

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Worklink	South Carolina	Link Upstate WIOA	Worklink	South Carolina	Link Upstate WIOA
Some College, No Degree	19.7%	20.2%	19.3%	40,651	534,191	160,240
Associate's Degree	11.9%	10.5%	11.0%	24,517	276,602	90,806
Bachelor's Degree	17.8%	20.6%	19.7%	36,618	544,605	162,961
Postgraduate Degree	10.4%	11.8%	11.2%	21,339	312,284	92,375
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	190,217	2,401,638	722,670
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$214,492	\$236,700	\$220,409
Homeowner Vacancy	1.0%	1.0%	0.9%	1,286	15,717	4,392
Rental Vacancy	7.4%	8.3%	6.4%	3,570	54,196	12,696
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	26.1%	28.6%	28.3%	43,602	591,532	182,853
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	73.9%	71.4%	71.7%	123,589	1,478,858	462,259
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.6%	5.7%	5.4%	9,414	117,832	35,008
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	15.6%	14.2%	14.3%	63,736	719,720	226,949
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	10.3%	10.5%	10.4%	17,295	217,015	67,132
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.0%	1.2%	1.2%	4,035	64,573	19,914
Disconnected Youth ³	3.4%	2.9%	3.0%	852	8,046	2,646
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	34.6%	38.4%	35.2%	28,107	404,096	119,612
Uninsured	9.9%	10.0%	10.3%	41,275	510,757	165,894
With a Disability, Age 18-64	13.6%	12.0%	12.1%	34,172	366,706	117,250
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	41.0%	42.6%	43.1%	14,012	156,318	50,522
Foreign Born	3.8%	5.6%	6.3%	15,849	293,556	103,565
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.0%	3.0%	3.8%	7,807	150,169	58,533

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2019-2023, unless noted otherwise

2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

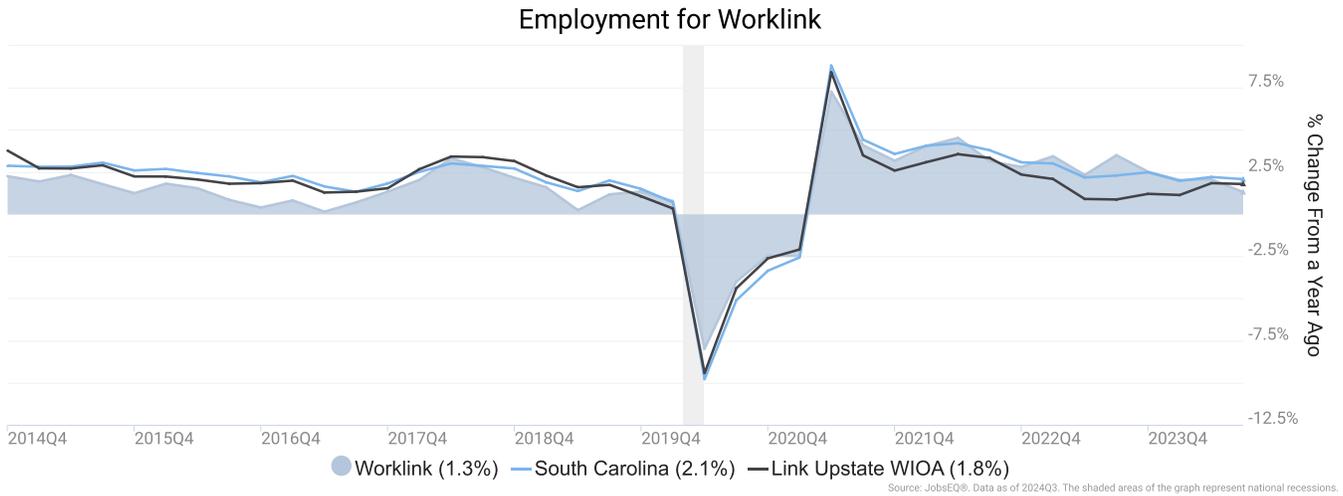
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.

5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.

Employment Trends

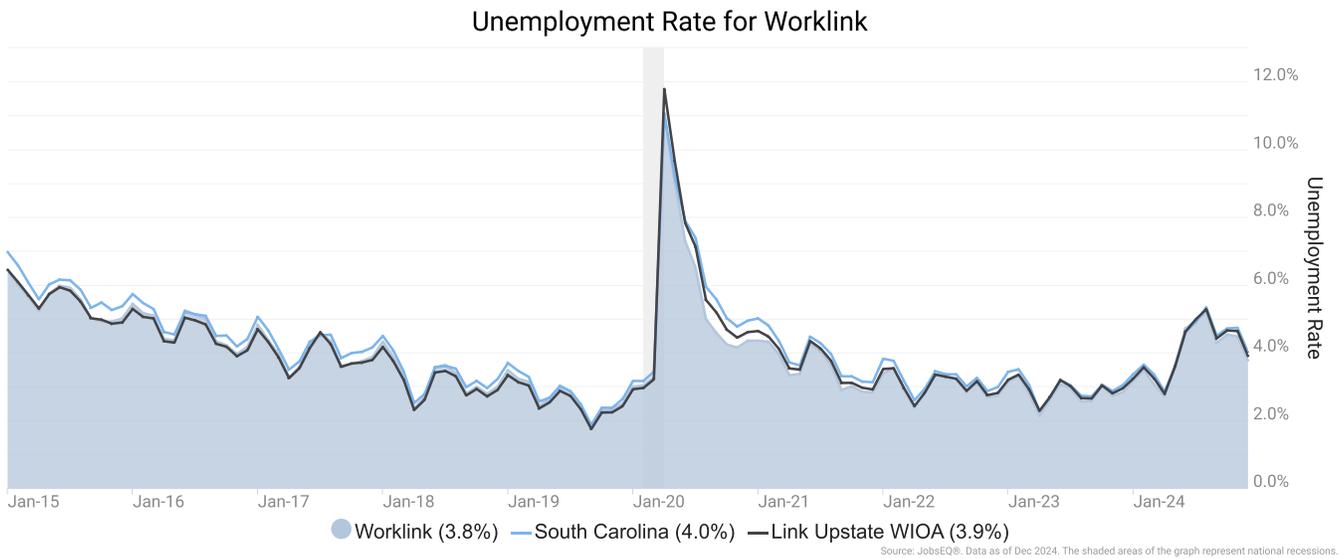
As of 2024Q3, total employment for the Worklink was 151,839 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q3, employment increased 1.3% in the region.



Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q4 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Worklink was 3.8% as of December 2024. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in December 2023, the unemployment rate in the Worklink was 2.8%.

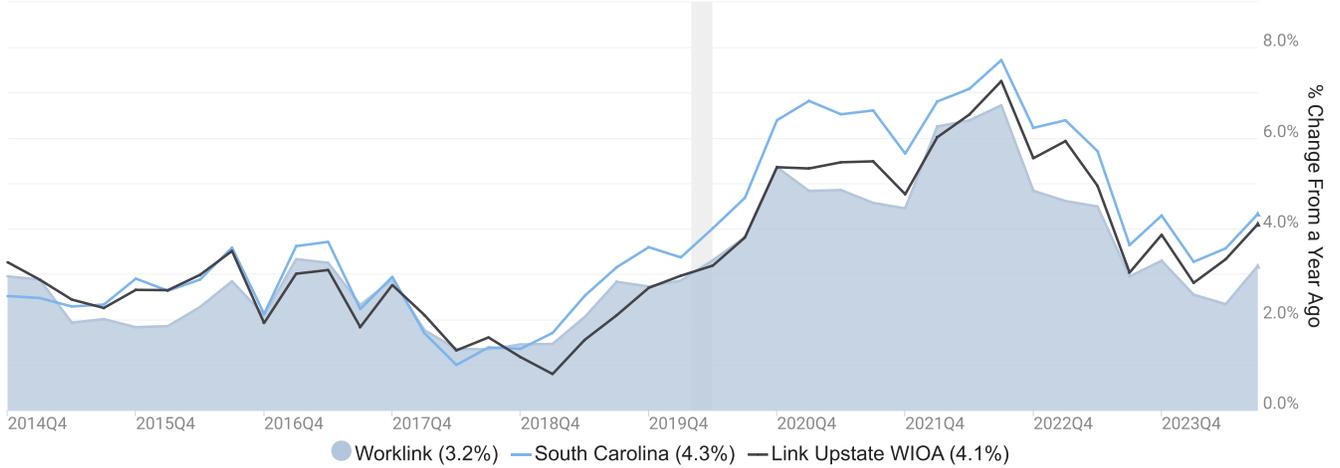


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through December 2024.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the Worklink earned annual wages of \$49,252 as of 2024Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$72,609 in the nation as of 2024Q3.

Average Annual Wages for Worklink



Annual average wages per worker data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Cost of Living Index

The Cost of Living Index estimates the relative price levels for consumer goods and services. When applied to wages and salaries, the result is a measure of relative purchasing power. The cost of living is 8.8% lower in Worklink than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Worklink	\$49,252	91.2	\$53,979
South Carolina	\$58,378	92.8	\$62,941
Link Upstate WIOA	\$55,714	91.3	\$60,990
USA	\$72,609	100.0	\$72,609

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

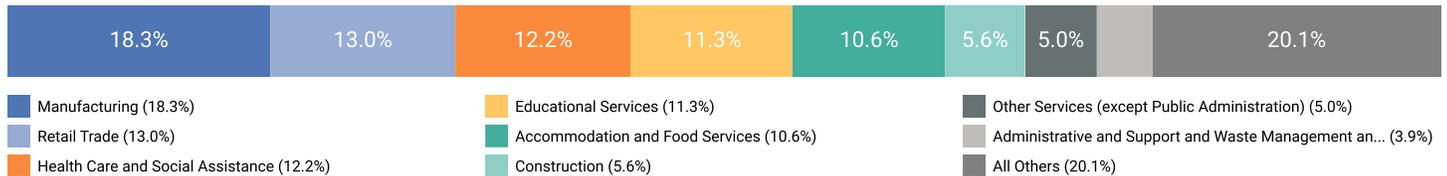
Data as of 2024Q3

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2024Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Worklink is Manufacturing, employing 27,791 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (19,682 workers) and Health Care and Social Assistance (18,542). High location quotients (LQs) indicate sectors in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The sectors with the largest LQs in the region are Utilities (LQ = 2.36), Manufacturing (2.32), and Educational Services (1.41).

Total Workers for Worklink by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q3
Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Sectors in the Worklink with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$136,116), Utilities (\$107,839), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction (\$78,609). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Wholesale Trade (+1,563 jobs), Manufacturing (+1,265), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+1,247).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Worklink is projected to expand by 1,323 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+278 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+172), and Manufacturing (+131).

Worklink, 2024Q3¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31	Manufacturing	27,791	\$65,510	2.32	1,265	0.9%	2,935	1,033	1,772	131	0.5%
44	Retail Trade	19,682	\$33,526	1.32	1,185	1.2%	2,769	1,130	1,561	78	0.4%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	18,542	\$57,773	0.81	1,247	1.4%	2,092	827	987	278	1.5%
61	Educational Services	17,229	\$49,426	1.41	1,136	1.4%	1,737	731	884	122	0.7%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	16,048	\$20,218	1.21	804	1.0%	3,029	1,217	1,640	172	1.1%
23	Construction	8,524	\$53,431	0.94	1,070	2.7%	826	269	461	96	1.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	7,569	\$28,130	1.18	-57	-0.1%	944	352	510	82	1.1%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	5,977	\$43,267	0.65	291	1.0%	736	272	409	56	0.9%
92	Public Administration	5,648	\$48,121	0.79	450	1.7%	566	208	311	48	0.8%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,885	\$67,718	0.44	809	3.7%	467	146	248	73	1.5%
42	Wholesale Trade	4,636	\$71,188	0.82	1,563	8.6%	508	173	291	44	1.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	3,364	\$53,947	0.44	277	1.7%	404	148	217	38	1.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,086	\$21,657	0.99	825	6.4%	496	181	274	41	1.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	2,401	\$71,597	0.40	93	0.8%	221	76	122	23	0.9%
22	Utilities	1,857	\$107,839	2.36	-149	-1.5%	160	60	102	-2	-0.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,690	\$53,216	0.62	198	2.5%	176	72	90	15	0.9%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,473	\$28,218	0.80	41	0.6%	187	85	95	6	0.4%
51	Information	1,029	\$70,881	0.35	65	1.3%	97	33	57	8	0.8%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	277	\$136,116	0.12	-54	-3.5%	27	9	15	4	1.5%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	130	\$78,609	0.24	-34	-4.6%	14	4	8	2	1.3%
99	Unclassified	0	n/a	0.00	-2	n/a	0	0	0	0	
Total - All Industries		151,839	\$49,252	1.00	11,023	1.5%	17,832	6,796	9,714	1,323	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2024Q3

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. All data based upon a four-quarter moving average

Exits and transfers are approximate estimates based upon occupation separation rates.

Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Worklink is Production Occupations, employing 17,292 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (16,096 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (15,569). High location quotients (LQs) indicate occupation groups in which a region has high concentrations of employment compared to the national average. The major groups with the largest LQs in the region are Production Occupations (LQ = 2.10), Architecture and Engineering Occupations (1.30), and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1.25).

Occupation groups in the Worklink with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$112,600), Legal Occupations (\$93,600), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations (\$91,400). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 6.5% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Worklink is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.0% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+162 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+122). Over the same period, the highest separation demand (occupation demand due to retirements and workers moving from one occupation to another) is expected in Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (3,096 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,007).

Worklink, 2024Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
51-0000	Production	17,292	\$47,900	2.10	1,015	4.6%	597	498	0.6%	1,955	699	1,205	51	0.3%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	16,096	\$42,800	0.91	672	3.0%	765	778	1.0%	1,839	788	1,020	31	0.2%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	15,569	\$28,700	1.25	1,084	5.5%	1,105	713	0.9%	3,258	1,336	1,760	162	1.0%
41-0000	Sales and Related	14,637	\$43,100	1.10	840	4.5%	1,381	778	1.1%	2,057	870	1,137	50	0.3%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	11,698	\$40,400	0.89	899	5.2%	779	1,444	2.7%	1,675	595	959	122	1.0%
11-0000	Management	10,249	\$112,600	0.87	214	1.7%	907	1,622	3.5%	945	301	531	113	1.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	9,775	\$59,100	1.19	228	2.1%	368	549	1.2%	918	400	441	76	0.8%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,167	\$90,500	0.90	136	1.3%	1,993	507	1.3%	596	242	239	115	1.4%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,719	\$54,700	1.14	232	2.5%	543	527	1.6%	680	249	352	79	1.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	5,969	\$49,400	0.88	413	4.7%	250	456	1.6%	584	191	322	71	1.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	5,847	\$35,000	0.83	237	3.0%	494	678	2.5%	960	379	466	116	2.0%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	5,812	\$76,900	0.60	214	2.6%	436	985	3.8%	554	167	320	66	1.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,797	\$34,600	0.96	305	4.4%	364	-229	-0.9%	703	283	375	45	0.9%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	4,261	\$33,600	1.09	238	4.5%	180	477	2.4%	823	292	477	55	1.3%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	3,136	\$91,400	1.30	74	1.9%	312	75	0.5%	244	80	132	33	1.0%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	2,747	\$51,300	0.98	75	2.4%	289	52	0.4%	287	110	142	36	1.3%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	2,489	\$90,100	0.52	107	2.8%	252	421	3.8%	181	56	93	32	1.3%

Worklink, 2024Q3¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
33-0000	Protective Service	2,363	\$48,600	0.72	98	3.0%	123	229	2.1%	266	100	149	17	0.7%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,100	\$53,700	0.76	87	3.7%	161	199	2.0%	234	89	124	21	1.0%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,142	\$80,600	0.83	67	4.8%	172	137	2.6%	117	19	87	11	0.9%
23-0000	Legal	595	\$93,600	0.47	12	1.2%	15	16	0.6%	42	15	21	6	1.0%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	378	\$39,100	0.43	33	6.5%	8	111	7.2%	59	23	35	2	0.4%
Total - All Occupations		151,839	\$54,000	1.00	7,280	3.6%	11,496	11,023	1.5%	18,993	7,282	10,388	1,323	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](https://www.jobseq.com)

Data as of 2024Q3 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

1. Data based on a four-quarter moving average unless noted otherwise.

2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

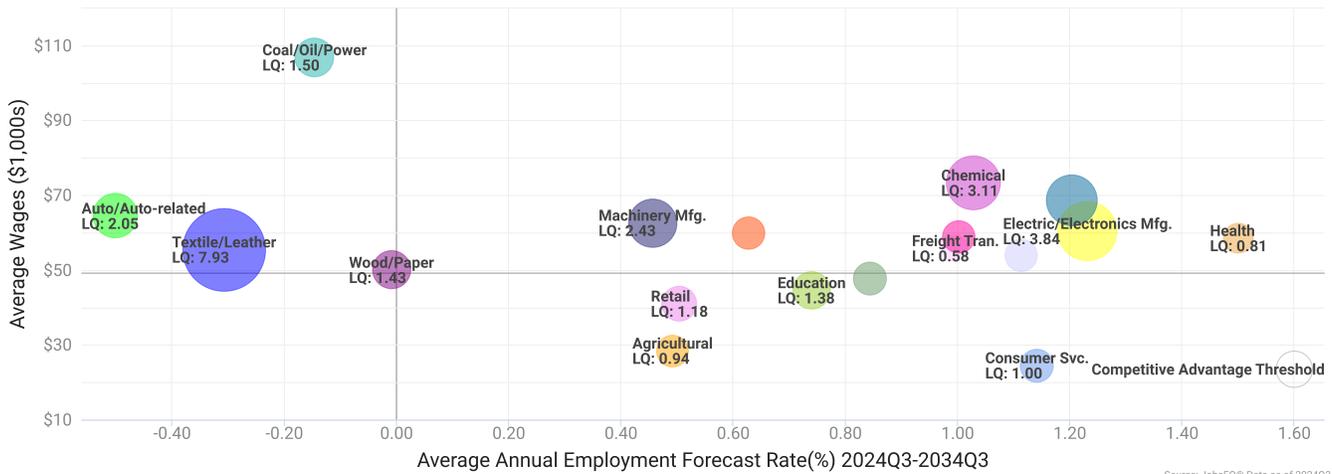
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

Occupation employment data are estimated via industry employment data and the estimated industry/occupation mix. Industry employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and currently updated through 2024Q2, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Wages by occupation are as of 2024 provided by the BLS and imputed where necessary. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Industry Clusters

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. The industry cluster in the Worklink with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 7.93. This cluster employs 2,349 workers in the region with an average wage of \$55,404. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.3% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Worklink as of 2024Q3



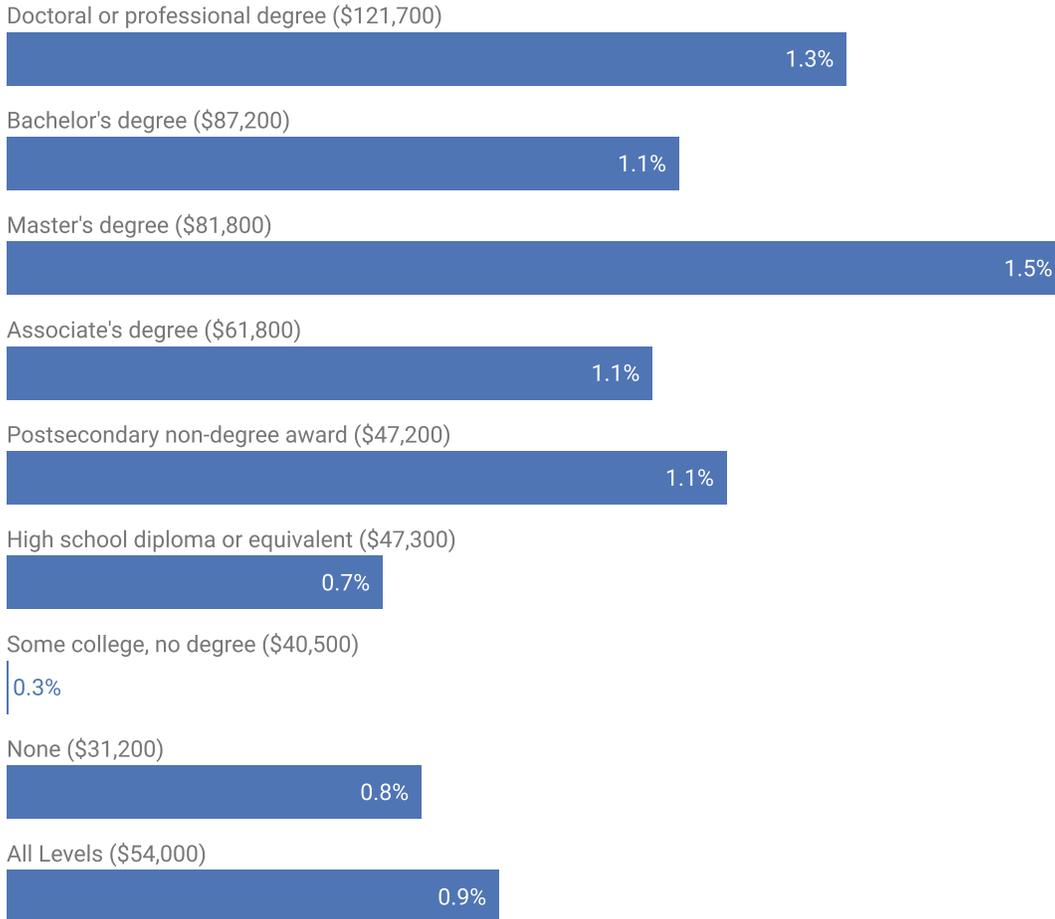
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2024Q3

Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Education Levels

Expected growth rates for occupations vary by the education and training required. While all employment in the Worklink is projected to grow 0.9% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.3% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.1% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.1% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

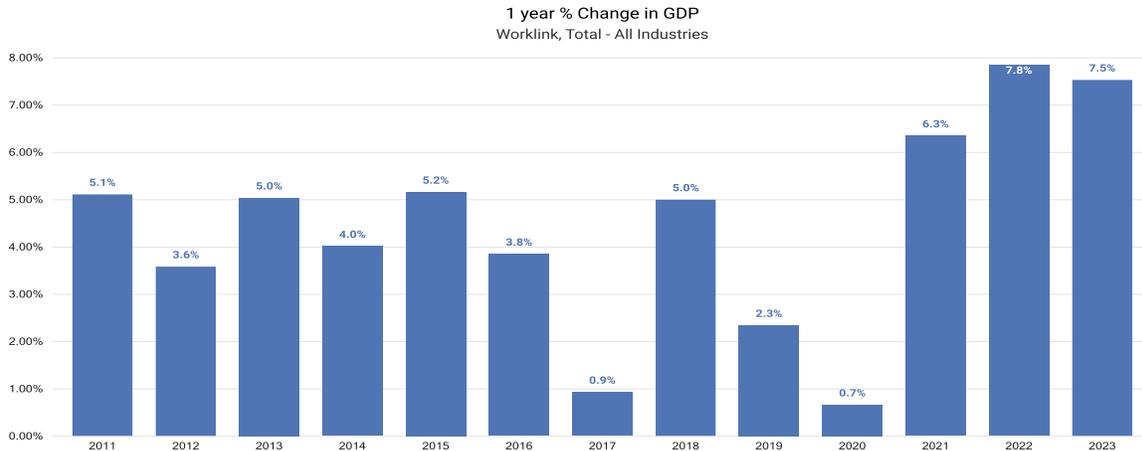


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q3

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2024Q3. Education levels of occupations are based on BLS assignments. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics adapted for regional growth patterns.

Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2023, nominal GDP in the Worklink expanded 7.5%. This follows growth of 7.8% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in the Worklink was \$16,552,917,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Of the sectors in the Worklink, Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$3,721,472,000. The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance (\$1,669,886,000); Retail Trade (\$1,622,432,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$1,535,093,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Worklink, 2023

Manufacturing (31)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Retail Trade (44)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Educational Services (61)



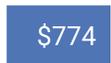
Utilities (22)



Construction (23)



Wholesale Trade (42)



Accommodation and Food Services (72)

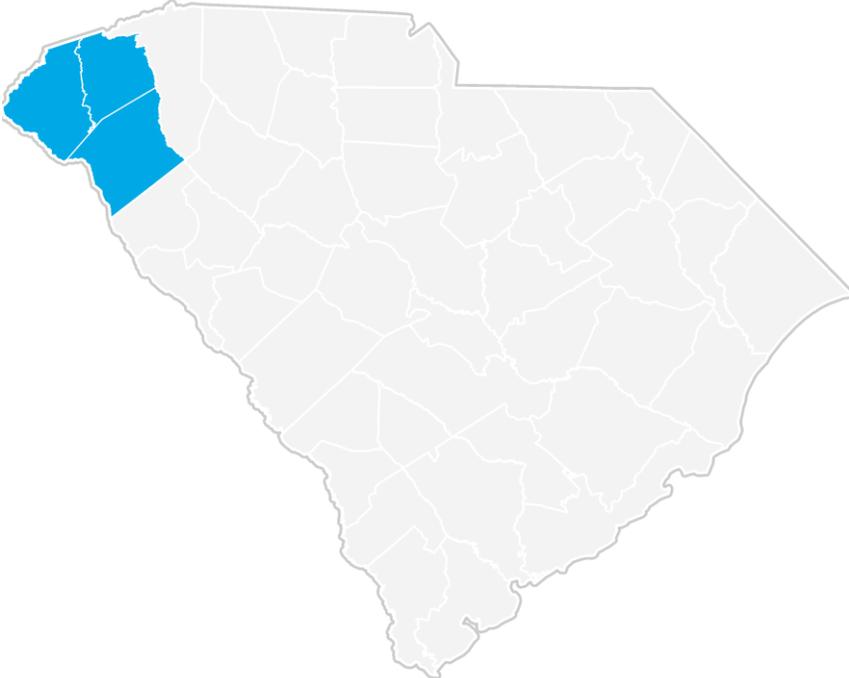


Public Administration (92)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2023.

Worklink Regional Map



Region Definition

Worklink is defined as the following counties:

Anderson County, South Carolina

Oconee County, South Carolina

Link Upstate WIOA is defined as the following counties:

Abbeville County, South Carolina

Anderson County, South Carolina

Cherokee County, South Carolina

Edgefield County, South Carolina

Greenville County, South Carolina

Greenwood County, South Carolina

Laurens County, South Carolina

Pickens County, South Carolina

McCormick County, South Carolina

Newberry County, South Carolina

Oconee County, South Carolina

Pickens County, South Carolina

Saluda County, South Carolina

Spartanburg County, South Carolina

Union County, South Carolina

FAQ

What is a location quotient?

A location quotient (LQ) is a measurement of concentration in comparison to the nation. An LQ of 1.00 indicates a region has the same concentration of an industry (or occupation) as the nation. An LQ of 2.00 would mean the region has twice the expected employment compared to the nation and an LQ of 0.50 would mean the region has half the expected employment in comparison to the nation.

What is separation demand?

Separation demand is the number of jobs required due to separations—labor force exits (including retirements) and turnover resulting from workers moving from one occupation into another. Note that separation demand does not include all turnover—it does not include when workers stay in the same occupation but switch employers. The total projected demand for an occupation is the sum of the separation demand and the growth demand (which is the increase or decrease of jobs in an occupation expected due to expansion or contraction of the overall number of jobs in that occupation).

What is a cluster?

A cluster is a geographic concentration of interrelated industries or occupations. If a regional cluster has a location quotient of 1.25 or greater, the region is considered to possess a competitive advantage in that cluster.

What is the difference between industry wages and occupation wages?

Industry wages and occupation wages are estimated via separate data sets, often the time periods being reported do not align, and wages are defined slightly differently in the two systems (for example, certain bonuses are included in the industry wages but not the occupation wages). It is therefore common that estimates of the average industry wages and average occupation wages in a region do not match exactly.

What is NAICS?

The North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) is used to classify business establishments according to the type of economic activity. The NAICS Code comprises six levels, from the “all industry” level to the 6-digit level. The first two digits define the top level category, known as the “sector,” which is the level examined in this report.

What is SOC?

The Standard Occupational Classification system (SOC) is used to classify workers into occupational categories. All workers are classified into one of over 804 occupations according to their occupational definition. To facilitate classification, occupations are combined to form 22 major groups, 95 minor groups, and 452 occupation groups. Each occupation group includes detailed occupations requiring similar job duties, skills, education, or experience.

About This Report

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