



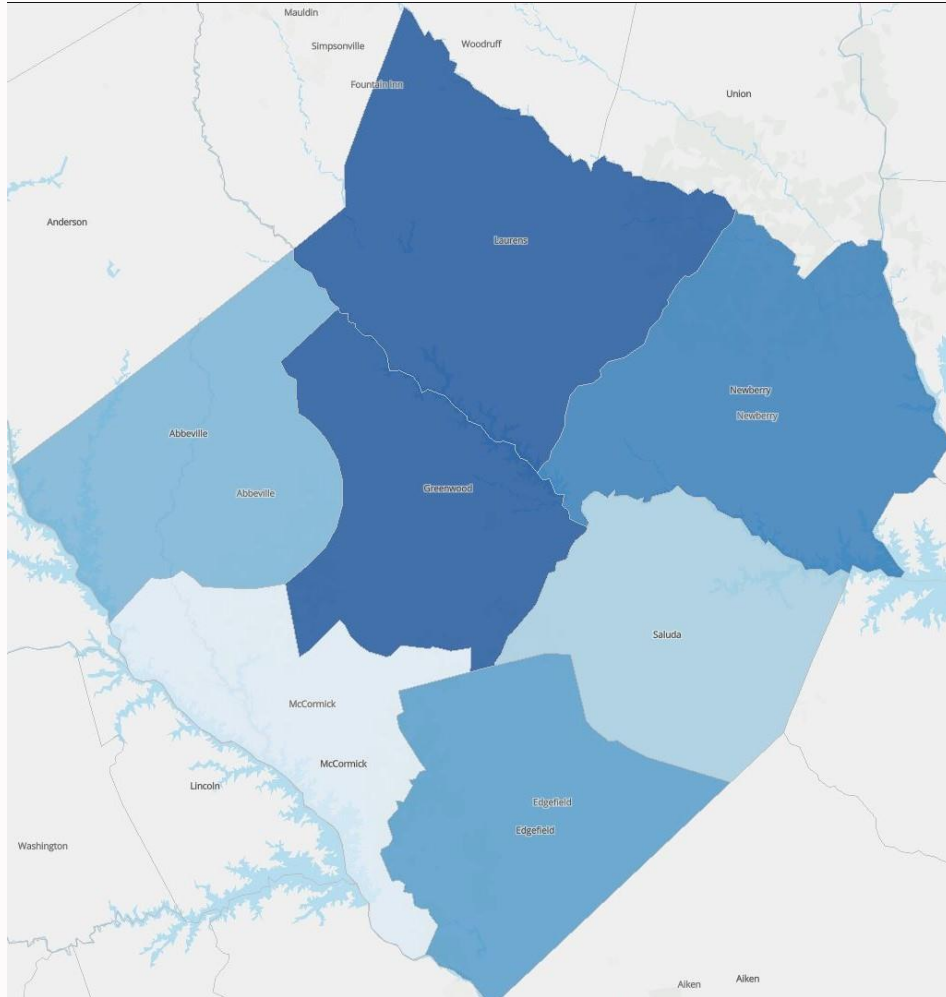
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
**Employment and Workforce**  
*“The Workforce Agency”*

Upper Savannah WDA

Leah Price, Workforce Insights Analyst, Labor Market Information

May 1, 2023

# Quick Facts



## Upper Savannah WDA *as of March 2023*

**Population: 256,216**  
**Labor Force: 112,244**  
**Employed: 108,038**  
**Unemployed: 4,206**  
**Unemployment rate: 3.7%**

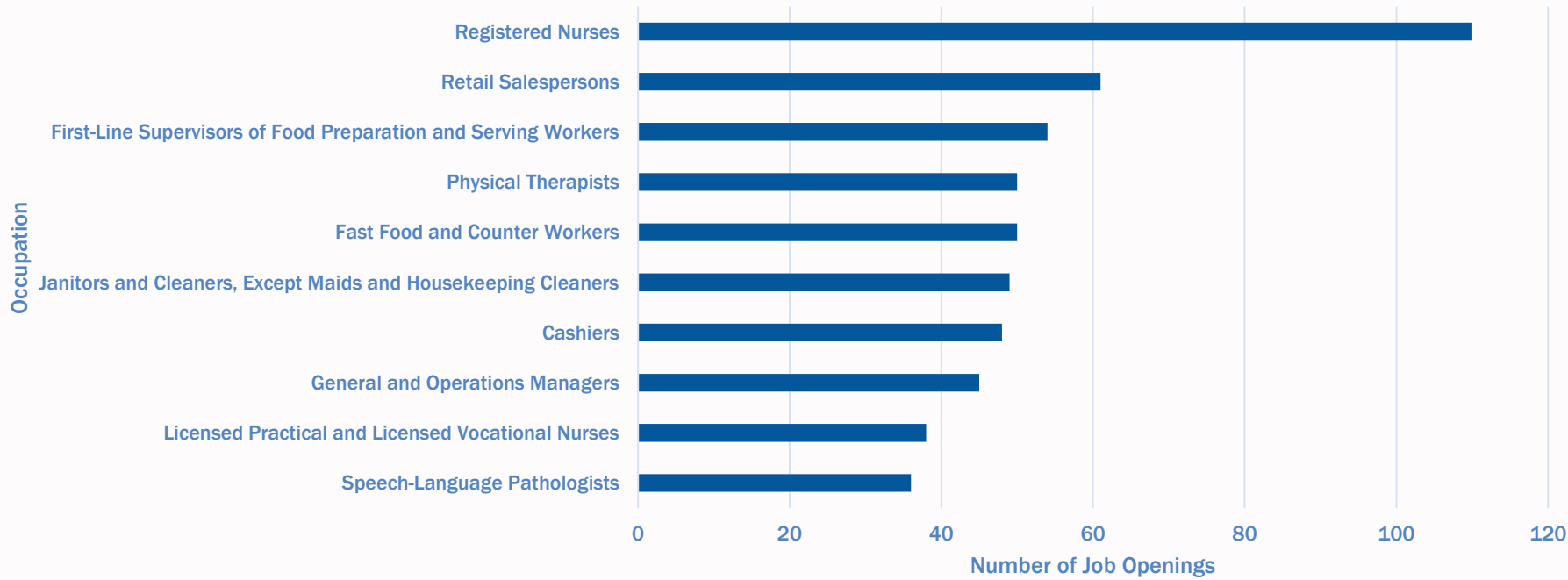
## South Carolina *as of March 2023*

**Population: 5,282,634**  
**Labor Force: 2,393,147**  
**Employed: 2,316,712**  
**Unemployed: 76,435**  
**Unemployment rate: 3.2%**

Source: [scworkforceinfo.com](http://scworkforceinfo.com) (DEW/US Bureau of Labor Statistics and US Census Bureau data)

# Upper Savannah WDA: Top Occupations

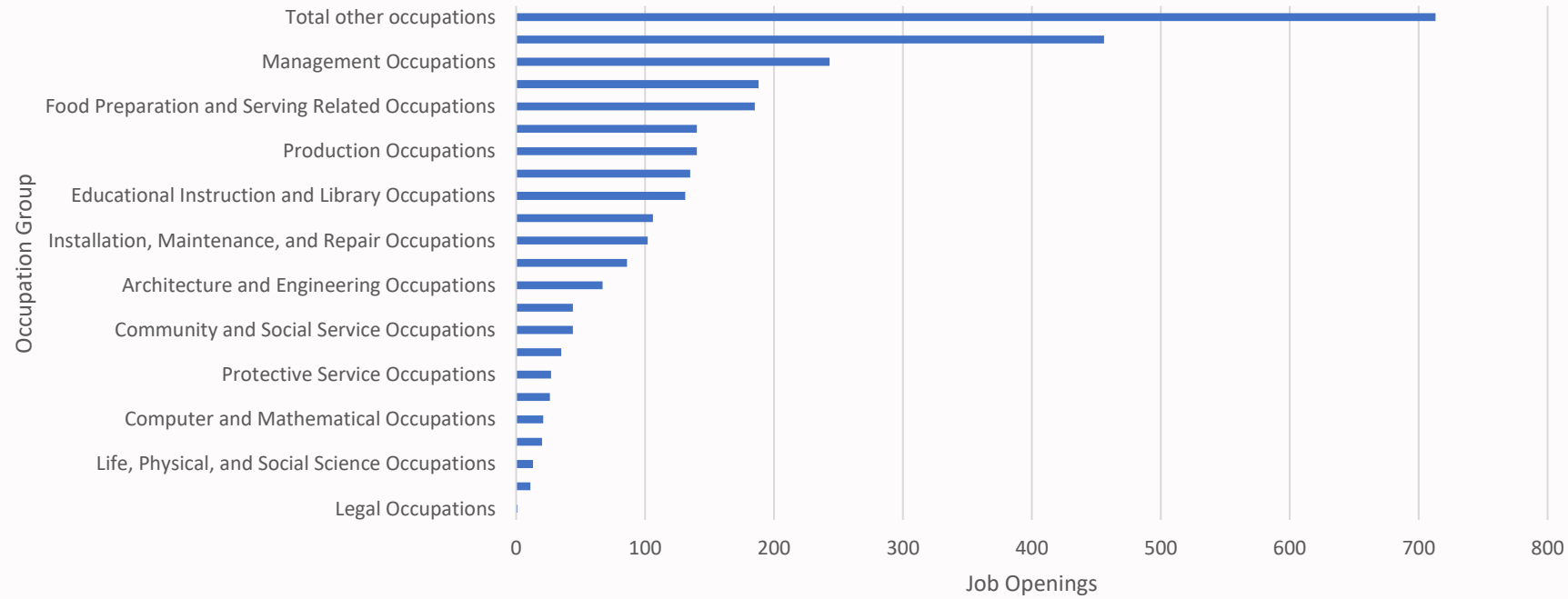
Top Job Postings in Upper Savannah WDA



Source: [www.scworkforceinfo.com](http://www.scworkforceinfo.com)

# Upper Savannah WDA: Top Industries

Top Job Openings in Upper Savannah WDA



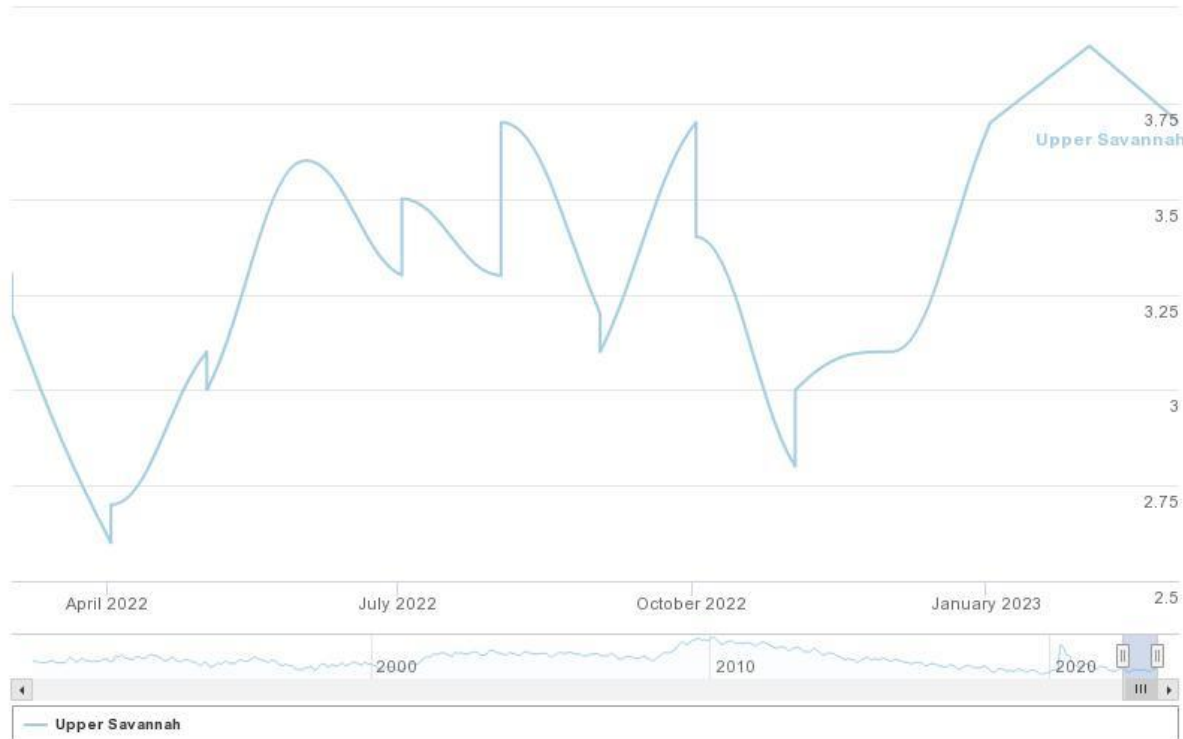
Source: Labor Insight (Lightcast) 2022 data

# Where are the workers? ... They are already working.

- “The Great Resignation,” as it is described is not representative of the current market.
- Quits are up however so are job openings and hires have kept pace.
- Workers hold more influence over the labor market.
- Businesses, especially low-wage service ones, have struggled to find workers across the board.

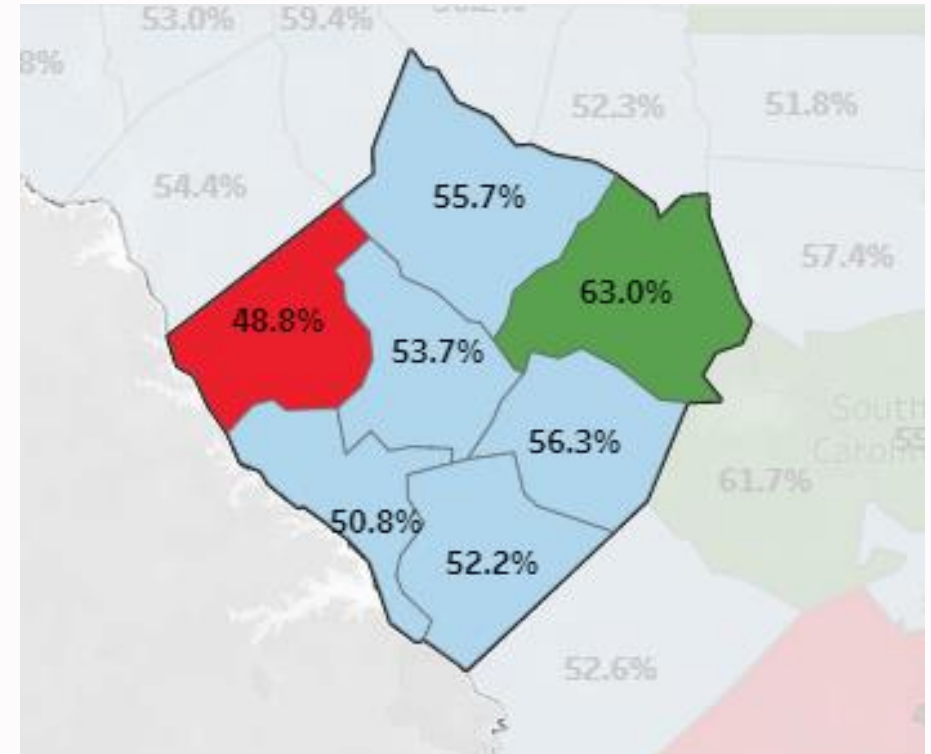
# Labor Force Attributes

Not seasonally adjusted Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment data in Upper Savannah  
Unemployment Rate (%)



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, SC Dept of Employment & Workforce  
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Upper Savannah WDA LFPR ranges from 48.8% to 60.3%



Source: Labor Insight (Lightcast) 2022 data

# No, but really, where are the workers?

- Fears of a recession have been persistent, but it's possible that 2023 is the year it actually happens, thanks to Federal Reserve interest rate hikes seeking to cool inflation.
- While a mild economic downturn would yield a more balanced labor market, it would be at great expense for those who lose their jobs.
- There are other solutions, however. Our state has among the lowest labor force participation rates in the country, limiting the potential hiring pool. Last year, DEW sought to identify the causes of this fact.

# Labor Force Participation Rate Task Force



## The survey gathered:

information from individuals who worked in South Carolina in 2019, filed for unemployment in 2020 and were not found in recent wage records in the state.



## Individuals were asked:

- Current work status
- Demographics
- Work history
- Actual or perceived barriers to employment
- How they might be convinced to return to the workforce



## Respondents:

More than 6,000 people responded (out of 150,392.)



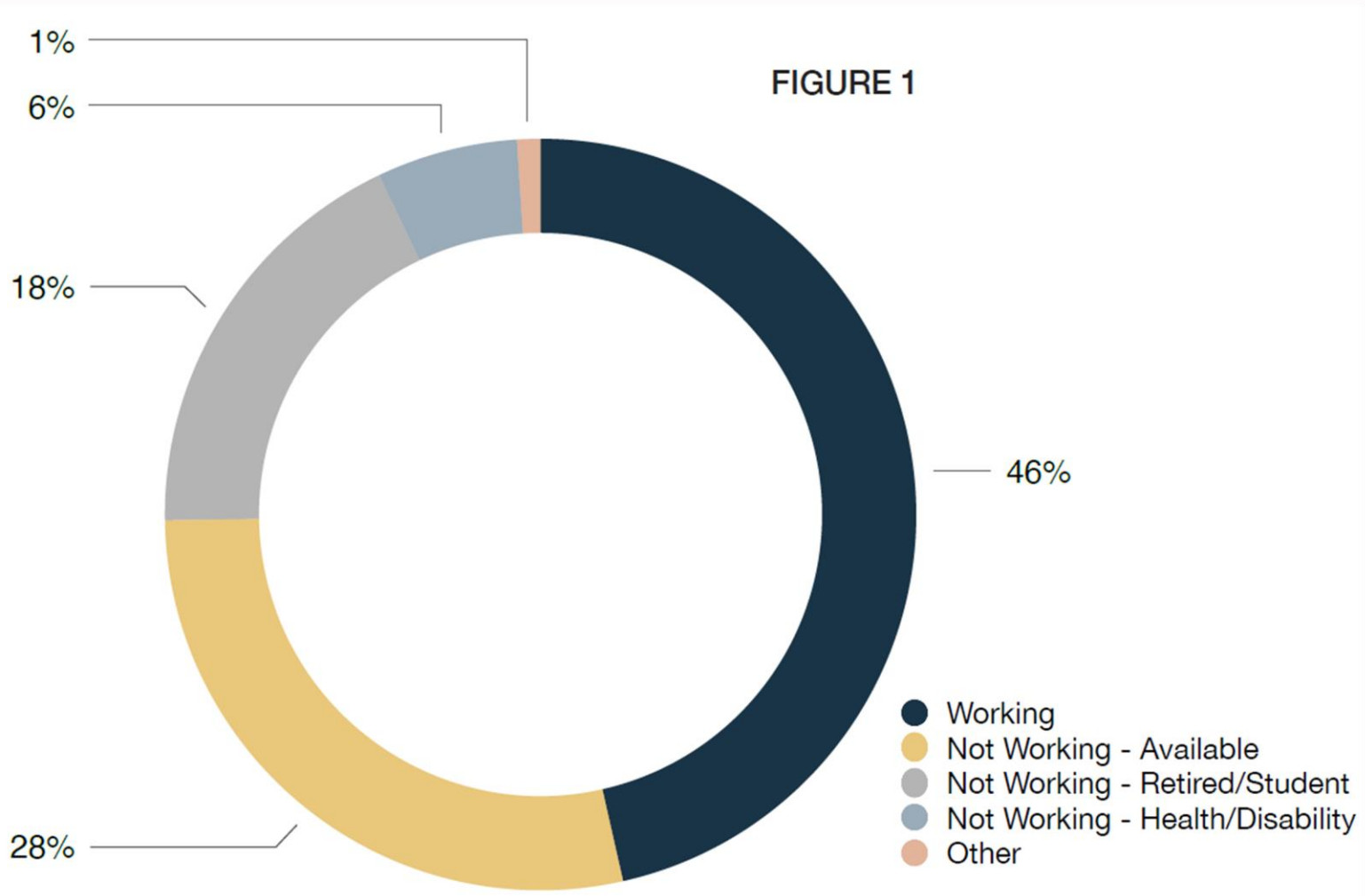


# Labor Force Participation Rate Task Force

## TASK FORCE SURVEY

### Key Findings:

- Working:..... **46%**
- Not working, not available to work:... **26%**
- Not working but could work:..... **28%**



# Labor Force Participation Rate Task Force

## TASK FORCE SURVEY

The most frequently identified barriers to work are:

- Lack of good paying jobs.
- Gaps in employment history.
- More optimal working hours.
- Lack of transportation.
- Disabilities.

Four primary factors that would get people back to work are:

- Better paying jobs.
- Work closer to home.
- More flexible jobs hours.
- More flexible job conditions (i.e. work from home.)

Barrier	Females	Males	Black/African-American	White
Low pay jobs	23%	27%	22%	24%
Health	20%	19%	18%	25%
Gaps in employment history	20%	20%	17%	23%
Optimal hours not available	20%	9%	17%	17%
Lack of transportation	19%	18%	21%	18%
Lack of childcare	19%		16%	13%
Stay with child	18%		11%	16%
Disabilities	15%	19%	14%	17%
Age (too old)	12%	15%		19%
Low self-esteem	10%	9%		14%
Criminal Record		19%	13%	
Lack of information about jobs		8%		
Lack of training			8%	

# CONTACT US!

- If you need help finding data or analysis about our state's workforce, whether it's on our website or not, please don't hesitate to contact LMI.
- Email address: [Imicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov](mailto:Imicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov)
- Website: <https://scworkforceinfo.com>

**Thank you for your time!**