JOBS**e**Q

Economic Overview

Midlands

Demographic Profile

The population in the Midlands was 739,836 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 373,830 with a participation rate of 64.0%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Midlands, 38.9% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Midlands is $66,715 and the median house value is $217,991.

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Midlands	Central WIOA	South Carolina	Midlands	Central WIOA	South Carolina
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	739,836	1,472,574	5,212,774
Male	48.4%	48.4%	48.7%	357,907	712,795	2,537,456
Female	51.6%	51.6%	51.3%	381,929	759,779	2,675,318
Median Age[2]	—	—	—	36.8	38.8	40.1
Under 18 Years	22.2%	22.3%	21.6%	164,092	328,558	1,127,062
18 to 24 Years	11.6%	9.9%	9.1%	86,156	145,561	475,338
25 to 34 Years	13.8%	12.9%	12.9%	101,900	189,710	671,642
35 to 44 Years	12.8%	12.9%	12.4%	94,856	189,540	647,392
45 to 54 Years	12.1%	12.4%	12.2%	89,345	182,743	634,490
55 to 64 Years	12.3%	12.8%	13.3%	91,094	188,663	693,281
65 to 74 Years	9.5%	10.3%	11.3%	70,046	152,100	589,960
75 Years and Over	5.7%	6.5%	7.2%	42,347	95,699	373,609
Race: White	54.2%	58.4%	64.1%	401,263	859,380	3,339,447
Race: Black or African American	34.4%	31.3%	25.3%	254,576	460,613	1,318,630
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	1,677	4,166	16,823
Race: Asian	2.5%	2.2%	1.7%	18,669	32,276	89,723
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	603	735	3,642
Race: Some Other Race	2.6%	2.1%	2.7%	19,323	31,215	142,798
Race: Two or More Races	5.9%	5.7%	5.8%	43,725	84,189	301,711
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.7%	6.4%	7.1%	49,656	94,137	368,900
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates)[4]	—	—	—	755,088	1,508,775	5,373,555
Population Annual Average Growth[4]	0.9%	1.0%	1.2%	6,149	14,611	60,709
People per Square Mile[4]	—	—	—	352.4	191.9	178.7
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	64.0%	62.2%	60.2%	373,830	727,909	2,513,298
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	82.8%	82.5%	81.6%	232,872	458,599	1,577,860
Work from Home	10.2%	11.1%	10.0%	36,358	76,107	237,424
Armed Forces Labor Force	1.8%	1.0%	0.9%	10,702	12,086	39,412
Veterans, Age 18-64	7.0%	6.2%	5.8%	31,712	55,236	180,043
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	72.2%	73.0%	74.3%	22,902	40,341	133,696
Median Household Income[2]	—	—	—	$66,715	$68,035	$66,818
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	$37,704	$37,634	$37,993
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	24.5	26.0	25.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	2,130	3,357	10,086
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	7.8%	8.7%	9.6%	29,308	65,492	254,842
High School Graduate	22.8%	25.2%	27.4%	86,127	189,086	724,281
Some College, No Degree	21.1%	20.4%	20.2%	79,406	153,368	534,191

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Midlands	**Central WIOA**	**South Carolina**	**Midlands**	**Central WIOA**	**South Carolina**
Associate's Degree	9.5%	10.3%	10.5%	35,757	76,963	276,602
Bachelor's Degree	23.5%	21.9%	20.6%	88,565	164,609	544,605
Postgraduate Degree	15.4%	13.5%	11.8%	58,032	101,138	312,284
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	327,027	650,253	2,401,638
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)[2,5]	—	—	—	$217,991	$230,885	$236,700
Homeowner Vacancy	0.9%	0.9%	1.0%	1,834	3,712	15,717
Rental Vacancy	5.1%	5.1%	8.3%	5,247	9,166	54,196
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	32.4%	28.8%	28.6%	95,575	167,506	591,532
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	67.6%	71.2%	71.4%	199,295	414,589	1,478,858
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.9%	5.7%	5.7%	17,284	33,187	117,832
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	14.6%	14.2%	14.2%	103,466	202,140	719,720
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	10.5%	11.0%	10.5%	30,846	63,895	217,015
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.3%	1.2%	9,494	18,506	64,573
Disconnected Youth[3]	1.4%	2.8%	2.9%	639	2,309	8,046
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	39.0%	39.1%	38.4%	59,766	120,231	404,096
Uninsured	8.8%	8.9%	10.0%	63,310	128,324	510,757
With a Disability, Age 18-64	12.1%	11.6%	12.0%	53,446	100,850	366,706
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	47.0%	44.1%	42.6%	25,107	44,522	156,318
Foreign Born	5.8%	5.3%	5.6%	43,080	78,599	293,556
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.9%	2.5%	3.0%	20,045	35,181	150,169

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.
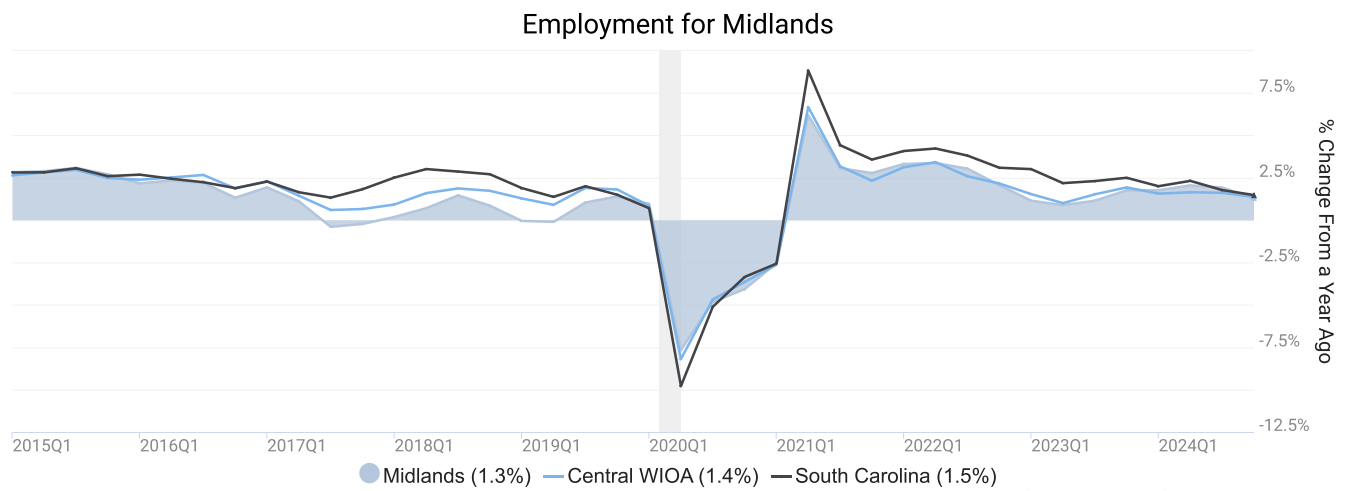3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.
5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with the 2022 data set, so pre-2022 values are not directly comparable with later data.
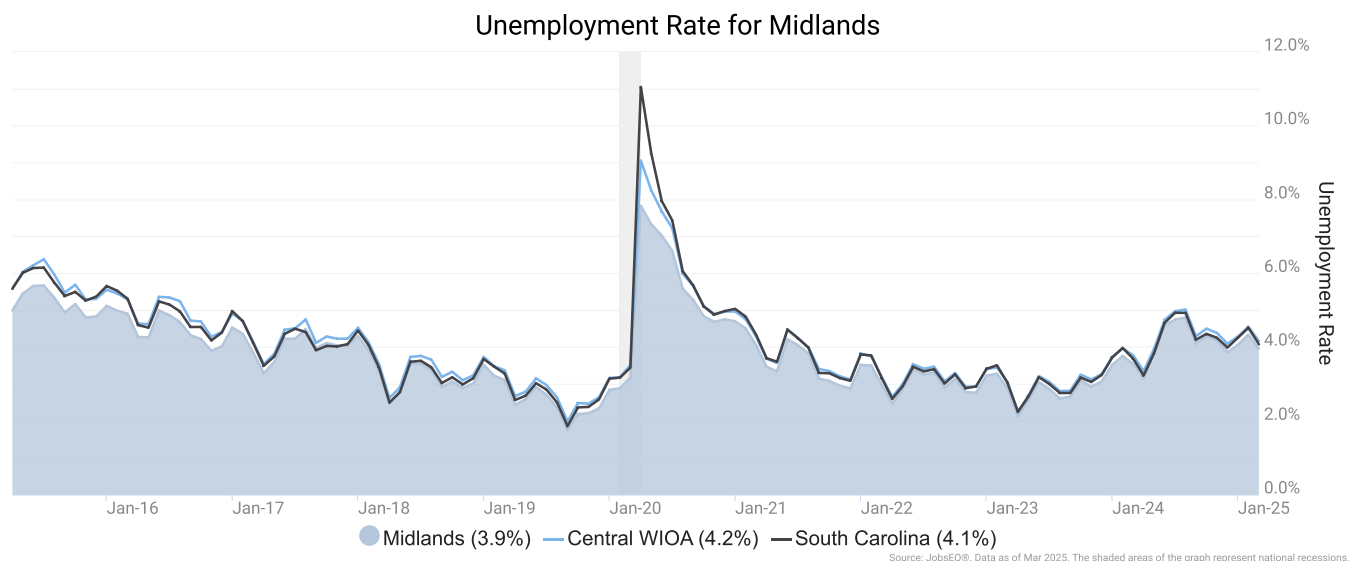
Employment Trends

As of 2024Q4, total employment for the Midlands was 390,700 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q4, employment increased 1.3% in the region.

Employment for Midlands

Legend: Midlands (1.3%) — Central WIOA (1.4%) — South Carolina (1.5%)

Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of 2024Q4. The shaded areas of the graph represent national recessions.

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 2024Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4.
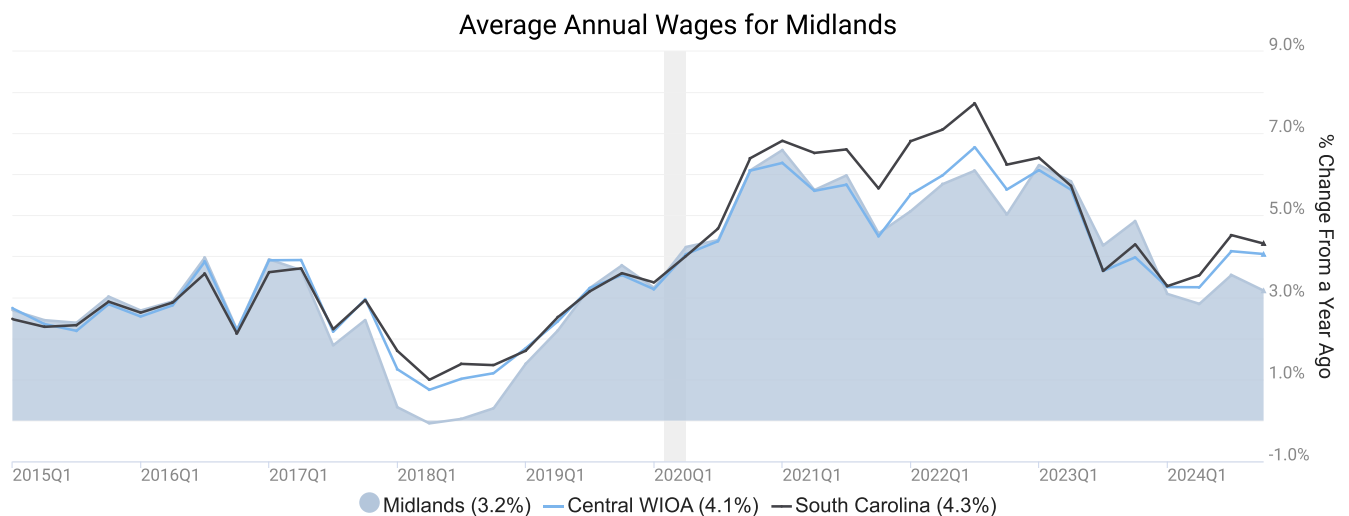
Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Midlands was 3.9% as of March 2025. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.3%. One year earlier, in March 2024, the unemployment rate in the Midlands was 3.5%.

Unemployment Rate for Midlands

Legend: Midlands (3.9%) — Central WIOA (4.2%) — South Carolina (4.1%)

Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of Mar 2025. The shaded areas of the graph represent national recessions.

Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through March 2025.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the Midlands earned annual wages of $58,374 as of 2024Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.2% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were $73,145 in the nation as of 2024Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Midlands

Midlands (3.2%) — Central WIOA (4.1%) — South Carolina (4.3%)

Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of 2024Q4. The shaded areas of the graph represent national recessions.

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 2024Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4.

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 10.5% lower in Midlands than the U.S. average.
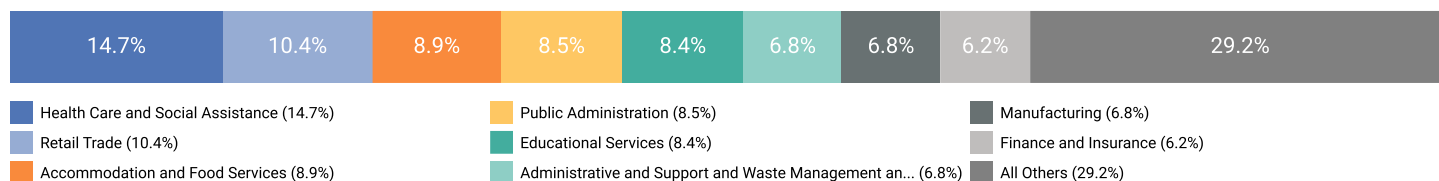
Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Midlands	$58,374	89.5	$65,188
Central WIOA	$58,260	90.1	$64,678
South Carolina	$58,950	92.8	$63,558
USA	$73,145	100.0	$73,145

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q4
Cost of Living per COLI, data as of 2024Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Midlands is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 57,601 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (40,692 workers) and Accommodation and Food Services (34,768). 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 Public Administration (LQ = 1.80), Finance and Insurance (1.59), and Utilities (1.38).

Total Workers for Midlands by Industry

14.7%	10.4%	8.9%	8.5%	8.4%	6.8%	6.8%	6.2%	29.2%

- Health Care and Social Assistance (14.7%)
- Retail Trade (10.4%)
- Accommodation and Food Services (8.9%)
- Public Administration (8.5%)
- Educational Services (8.4%)
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management an... (6.8%)
- Manufacturing (6.8%)
- Finance and Insurance (6.2%)
- All Others (29.2%)

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q4
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 2024Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4.

Sectors in the Midlands with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities ($106,680), Management of Companies and Enterprises ($94,937), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction ($91,010). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+4,425 jobs), Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+3,946), and Transportation and Warehousing (+2,493).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Midlands is projected to expand by 2,834 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Health Care and Social Assistance with a +1.2% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+696 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+279), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+237).

Midlands, 2024Q4[1]

NAICS	Industry	Current Empl	Current Avg Ann Wages	Current LQ	5-Year History Empl Change	5-Year History Ann %	1-Year Forecast Total Demand	1-Year Forecast Exits	1-Year Forecast Transfers	1-Year Forecast Empl Growth	1-Year Forecast Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	57,601	$65,463	0.97	4,425	1.6%	6,326	2,567	3,063	696	1.2%
44	Retail Trade	40,692	$37,143	1.07	876	0.4%	5,652	2,337	3,229	87	0.2%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	34,768	$22,348	1.02	-425	-0.2%	6,461	2,633	3,549	279	0.8%
92	Public Administration	33,102	$62,926	1.80	695	0.4%	3,153	1,215	1,817	121	0.4%
61	Educational Services	32,922	$58,215	1.04	2,155	1.4%	3,246	1,397	1,689	160	0.5%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	26,696	$41,758	1.13	-723	-0.5%	3,221	1,213	1,823	185	0.7%
31	Manufacturing	26,555	$74,237	0.86	1,388	1.1%	2,805	987	1,694	124	0.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	24,382	$85,200	1.59	1,957	1.7%	2,162	772	1,242	148	0.6%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	21,455	$89,467	0.76	3,946	4.1%	1,968	642	1,089	237	1.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	19,827	$41,680	1.19	1,000	1.0%	2,432	922	1,335	175	0.9%
23	Construction	17,807	$65,615	0.76	795	0.9%	1,701	563	962	177	1.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	15,961	$53,578	0.82	2,493	3.5%	1,912	704	1,031	177	1.1%
42	Wholesale Trade	13,740	$86,281	0.94	662	1.0%	1,463	512	861	90	0.7%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	6,653	$63,403	0.96	98	0.3%	682	282	355	46	0.7%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	5,851	$24,920	0.71	240	0.8%	924	343	517	63	1.1%
51	Information	4,876	$71,742	0.65	-1,179	-4.2%	450	154	268	28	0.6%
22	Utilities	2,794	$106,680	1.38	-1,022	-6.0%	217	90	153	-26	-0.9%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,692	$94,937	0.44	-1,133	-6.8%	260	85	142	33	1.2%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2,011	$50,090	0.43	-363	-3.3%	256	117	130	9	0.4%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	315	$91,010	0.22	24	1.6%	32	10	19	3	0.9%
99	Unclassified	1	$87,501	0.00	-5	-33.8%	0	0	0	0	1.0%
	Total - All Industries	**390,700**	**$58,374**	**1.00**	**15,903**	**0.8%**	**45,292**	**17,481**	**24,977**	**2,834**	**0.7%**

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q4
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 2024Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Midlands is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 52,631 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (36,568 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (33,766). 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 Legal Occupations (LQ = 1.53), Protective Service Occupations (1.48), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (1.18).

Occupation groups in the Midlands with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations ($118,100), Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations ($100,100), and Legal Occupations ($96,700). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Legal Occupations to 8.1% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Midlands is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +1.6% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (+315 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+311). 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 (6,614 jobs) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (5,857).

Midlands, 2024Q4[1]

| | | Current | | | | | 5-Year History | | | 1-Year Forecast | | | |
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages[2]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads[3]	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	52,631	$44,900	1.15	1,912	3.5%	2,041	-1,085	-0.4%	5,838	2,538	3,319	-18	0.0%
41-0000	Sales and Related	36,568	$48,200	1.08	1,925	5.0%	2,920	-151	-0.1%	4,849	2,027	2,724	97	0.3%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	33,766	$29,500	1.05	2,146	6.6%	2,141	-38	0.0%	6,883	2,850	3,764	270	0.8%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	31,972	$43,500	0.94	1,941	6.2%	1,584	3,140	2.1%	4,479	1,604	2,564	311	1.0%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	27,622	$100,100	1.18	393	1.4%	4,044	2,445	1.9%	1,880	809	756	315	1.1%
11-0000	Management	26,065	$118,100	0.86	582	2.0%	2,593	3,667	3.1%	2,350	695	1,376	279	1.1%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	22,654	$78,500	0.90	752	2.9%	1,723	2,738	2.6%	2,048	642	1,196	210	0.9%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	20,563	$63,300	0.97	525	2.4%	1,234	1,074	1.1%	1,920	847	951	122	0.6%
51-0000	Production	19,644	$49,300	0.93	1,134	5.7%	570	-150	-0.2%	2,247	805	1,382	60	0.3%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	16,814	$35,800	0.92	593	3.7%	812	1,871	2.4%	2,652	1,062	1,326	264	1.6%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	15,953	$56,100	1.05	449	3.1%	1,389	424	0.5%	1,560	581	840	139	0.9%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	13,222	$52,300	0.76	728	5.6%	595	87	0.1%	1,273	425	713	136	1.0%
33-0000	Protective Service	12,524	$46,700	1.48	465	4.0%	443	-431	-0.7%	1,428	539	830	58	0.5%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	11,905	$36,000	0.93	624	5.5%	675	-479	-0.8%	1,727	716	922	90	0.8%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	10,272	$96,300	0.83	372	3.0%	1,048	879	1.8%	743	233	380	130	1.3%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	9,960	$36,200	0.98	562	5.6%	325	617	1.3%	1,868	669	1,091	108	1.1%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	8,101	$54,400	1.11	233	2.6%	1,269	233	0.6%	813	310	419	85	1.1%

Midlands, 2024Q4[1]

		Current					5-Year History			1-Year Forecast			
SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages[2]	LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads[3]	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	5,760	$92,600	0.93	133	2.0%	582	423	1.5%	439	145	247	47	0.8%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	5,599	$60,300	0.78	261	3.8%	366	326	1.2%	591	224	324	43	0.8%
23-0000	Legal	4,947	$96,700	1.53	68	1.4%	298	214	0.9%	333	123	184	27	0.5%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	3,112	$77,700	0.87	137	3.5%	308	251	1.7%	296	52	219	25	0.8%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	1,046	$38,600	0.46	90	8.1%	24	-152	-2.7%	167	64	99	4	0.3%
	Total - All Occupations	**390,700**	**$58,900**	**1.00**	**16,023**	**4.0%**	**26,984**	**15,903**	**0.8%**	**46,418**	**17,959**	**25,626**	**2,834**	**0.7%**

Source: JobsEQ®

Data as of 2024Q4 unless noted otherwise

Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

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

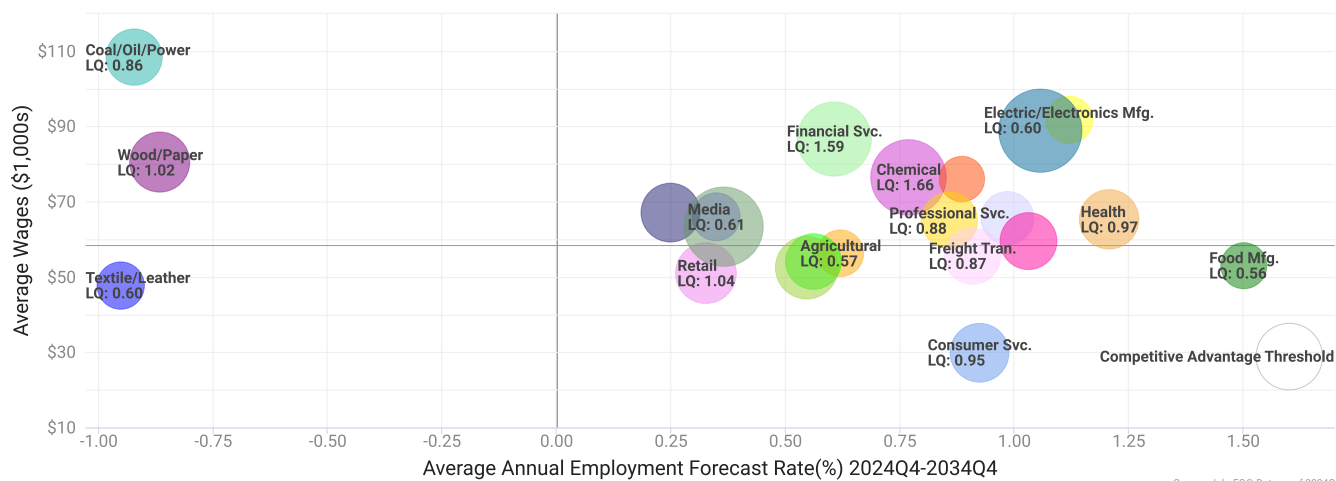2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

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 2024Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4. 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 Midlands with the highest relative concentration is Pharmaceutical with a location quotient of 2.03. This cluster employs 1,670 workers in the region with an average wage of $88,836. Employment in the Pharmaceutical cluster is projected to expand in the region about 1.1% per year over the next ten years.
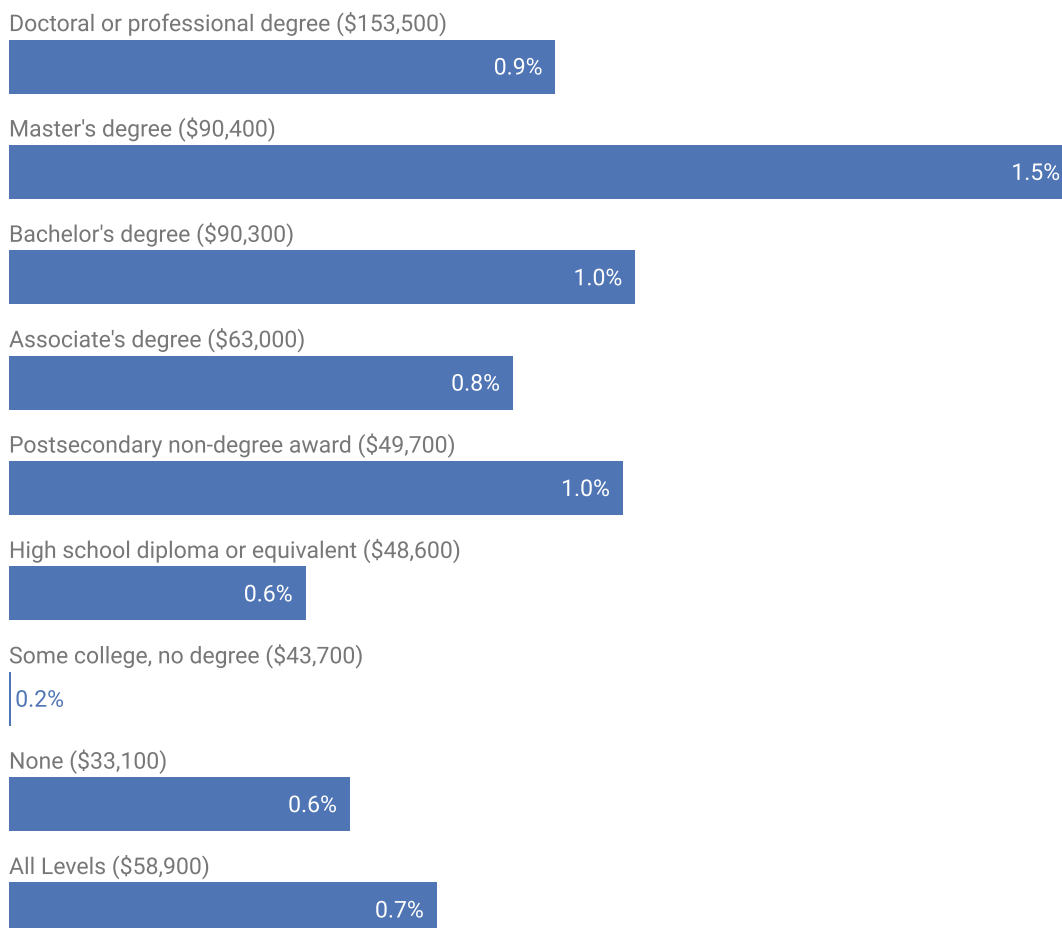
Industry Clusters for Midlands as of 2024Q4

Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2024Q4

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 2024Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q4. 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 Midlands is projected to grow 0.7% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.9% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.0% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.8% per year.

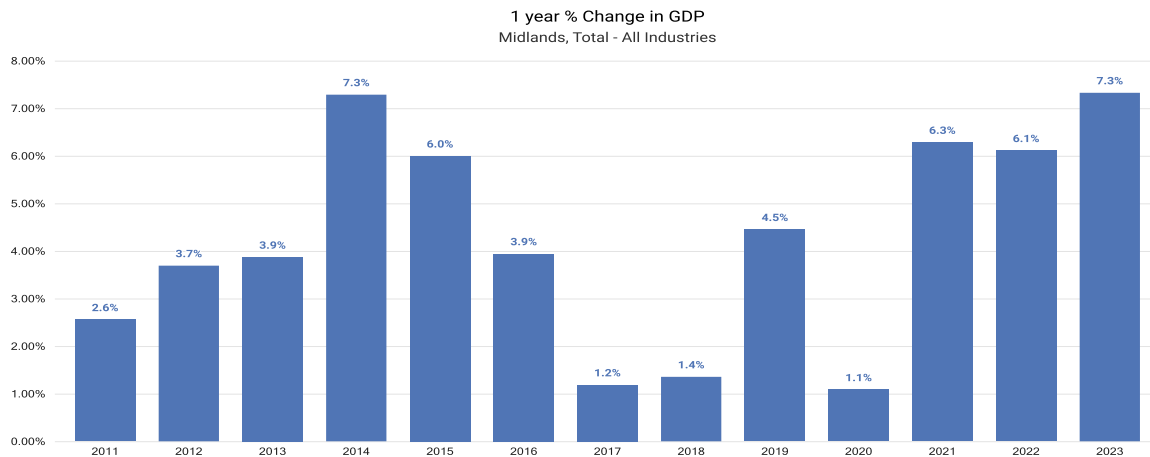## Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

Doctoral or professional degree ($153,500)
0.9%

Master's degree ($90,400)
1.5%

Bachelor's degree ($90,300)
1.0%

Associate's degree ($63,000)
0.8%

Postsecondary non-degree award ($49,700)
1.0%

High school diploma or equivalent ($48,600)
0.6%

Some college, no degree ($43,700)
0.2%

None ($33,100)
0.6%

All Levels ($58,900)
0.7%

Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q4

Employment by occupation data are estimates are as of 2024Q4. 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 Midlands expanded 7.3%. This follows growth of 6.1% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in the Midlands was $51,156,617,000.

1 year % Change in GDP
Midlands, Total - All Industries

Year	% Change
2011	2.6%
2012	3.7%
2013	3.9%
2014	7.3%
2015	6.0%
2016	3.9%
2017	1.2%
2018	1.4%
2019	4.5%
2020	1.1%
2021	6.3%
2022	6.1%
2023	7.3%

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 Midlands, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, $6,385,885,000 The next-largest contributions came from Health Care and Social Assistance ($5,696,570,000); Finance and Insurance ($4,511,615,000); and Manufacturing ($4,091,177,000).

GDP (in $ millions)

Midlands, 2023

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)
$6,386

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)
$5,697

Finance and Insurance (52)
$4,512

Manufacturing (31)
$4,091

Public Administration (92)
$3,735

Retail Trade (44)
$3,589

Wholesale Trade (42)
$3,579

Educational Services (61)
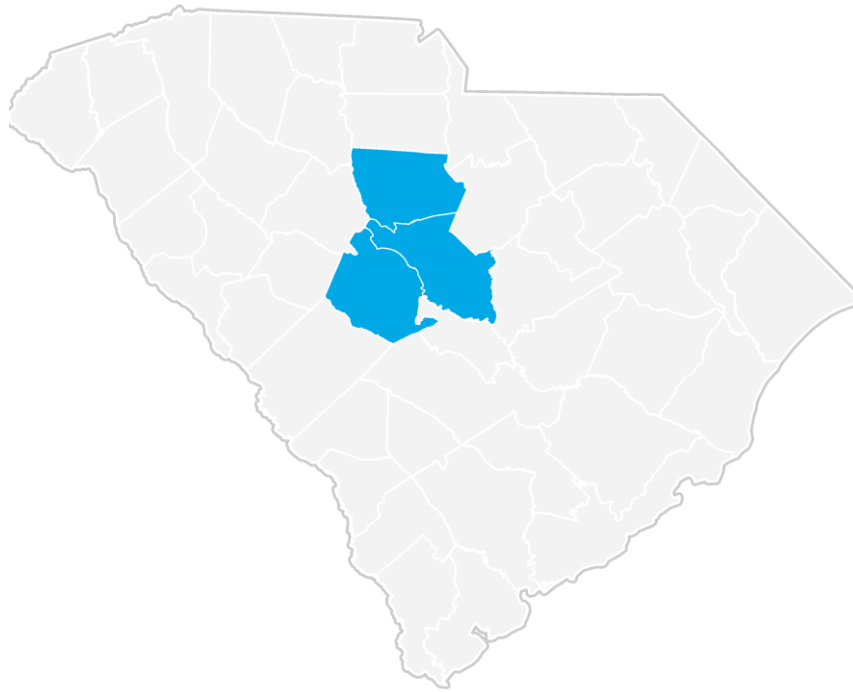$3,205

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)
$2,869

Construction (23)
$2,073

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

Region Definition

Midlands is defined as the following counties:

Fairfield County, South Carolina	Richland County, South Carolina
Lexington County, South Carolina	

Central WIOA is defined as the following counties:

Aiken County, South Carolina	Fairfield County, South Carolina
Allendale County, South Carolina	Lancaster County, South Carolina
Bamberg County, South Carolina	Lexington County, South Carolina
Barnwell County, South Carolina	Orangeburg County, South Carolina
Calhoun County, South Carolina	Richland County, South Carolina
Chester County, South Carolina	York 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.