Economic Overview

Worklink WDA

Demographic Profile

The population in the Worklink WDA 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 WDA, 28.2% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

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

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Worklink WDA	South Carolina	USA	Worklink WDA	South Carolina	USA
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	419,388	5,212,774	332,387,540
Male	49.1%	48.7%	49.5%	205,752	2,537,456	164,545,087
Female	50.9%	51.3%	50.5%	213,636	2,675,318	167,842,453
Median Age[2]	—	—	—	40.3	40.1	38.7
Under 18 Years	20.8%	21.6%	22.2%	87,370	1,127,062	73,645,238
18 to 24 Years	11.1%	9.1%	9.1%	46,648	475,338	30,307,641
25 to 34 Years	12.0%	12.9%	13.7%	50,496	671,642	45,497,632
35 to 44 Years	11.4%	12.4%	13.1%	47,732	647,392	43,492,887
45 to 54 Years	12.1%	12.2%	12.3%	50,757	634,490	40,847,713
55 to 64 Years	13.6%	13.3%	12.8%	56,847	693,281	42,626,382
65 to 74 Years	11.2%	11.3%	10.0%	47,163	589,960	33,293,127
75 Years and Over	7.7%	7.2%	6.8%	32,375	373,609	22,676,920
Race: White	81.1%	64.1%	63.4%	340,154	3,339,447	210,875,446
Race: Black or African American	10.0%	25.3%	12.4%	41,837	1,318,630	41,070,890
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.3%	0.3%	0.9%	1,458	16,823	2,924,996
Race: Asian	1.2%	1.7%	5.8%	5,055	89,723	19,352,659
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	85	3,642	629,292
Race: Some Other Race	2.1%	2.7%	6.6%	8,633	142,798	21,940,536
Race: Two or More Races	5.3%	5.8%	10.7%	22,166	301,711	35,593,721
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	5.2%	7.1%	19.0%	21,639	368,900	63,131,589
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates)[4]	—	—	—	429,792	5,373,555	334,914,895
Population Annual Average Growth[4]	1.1%	1.2%	0.6%	4,543	60,709	1,885,495
People per Square Mile[4]	—	—	—	233.9	178.7	94.8
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	57.8%	60.2%	63.3%	197,773	2,513,298	168,567,852
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	80.4%	81.6%	83.0%	119,570	1,577,860	107,055,165
Work from Home	7.6%	10.0%	13.5%	13,995	237,424	21,267,373
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.9%	0.5%	446	39,412	1,287,774
Veterans, Age 18-64	4.5%	5.8%	4.2%	11,329	180,043	8,410,268
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.7%	74.3%	77.0%	8,692	133,696	6,478,181
Median Household Income[2]	—	—	—	$62,158	$66,818	$78,538
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	$34,842	$37,993	$43,289
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	26.2	25.6	26.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.5%	0.4%	3.5%	976	10,086	5,528,841
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	11.6%	9.6%	10.0%	23,809	254,842	17,176,172
High School Graduate	28.6%	27.4%	25.0%	58,898	724,281	43,057,491
Some College, No Degree	19.7%	20.2%	19.3%	40,651	534,191	33,315,654

Summary[1]

	Percent			Value		
	Worklink WDA	**South Carolina**	**USA**	**Worklink WDA**	**South Carolina**	**USA**
Associate's Degree	11.9%	10.5%	9.2%	24,517	276,602	15,894,085
Bachelor's Degree	17.8%	20.6%	22.8%	36,618	544,605	39,256,774
Postgraduate Degree	10.4%	11.8%	13.8%	21,339	312,284	23,764,438
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	190,217	2,401,638	142,332,876
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units)[2,5]	—	—	—	$214,492	$236,700	$303,400
Homeowner Vacancy	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1,286	15,717	850,724
Rental Vacancy	7.4%	8.3%	5.5%	3,570	54,196	2,605,688
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	26.1%	28.6%	35.0%	43,602	591,532	44,590,828
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	73.9%	71.4%	65.0%	123,589	1,478,858	82,892,037
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.6%	5.7%	8.3%	9,414	117,832	10,602,826
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	15.6%	14.2%	12.4%	63,736	719,720	40,390,045
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	10.3%	10.5%	11.8%	17,295	217,015	15,004,950
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%	4,035	64,573	4,405,676
Disconnected Youth[3]	3.4%	2.9%	2.4%	852	8,046	420,352
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	34.6%	38.4%	34.0%	28,107	404,096	23,701,745
Uninsured	9.9%	10.0%	8.6%	41,275	510,757	28,000,876
With a Disability, Age 18-64	13.6%	12.0%	10.7%	34,172	366,706	21,269,700
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	41.0%	42.6%	47.0%	14,012	156,318	10,001,264
Foreign Born	3.8%	5.6%	13.9%	15,849	293,556	46,108,901
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.0%	3.0%	8.4%	7,807	150,169	26,299,012

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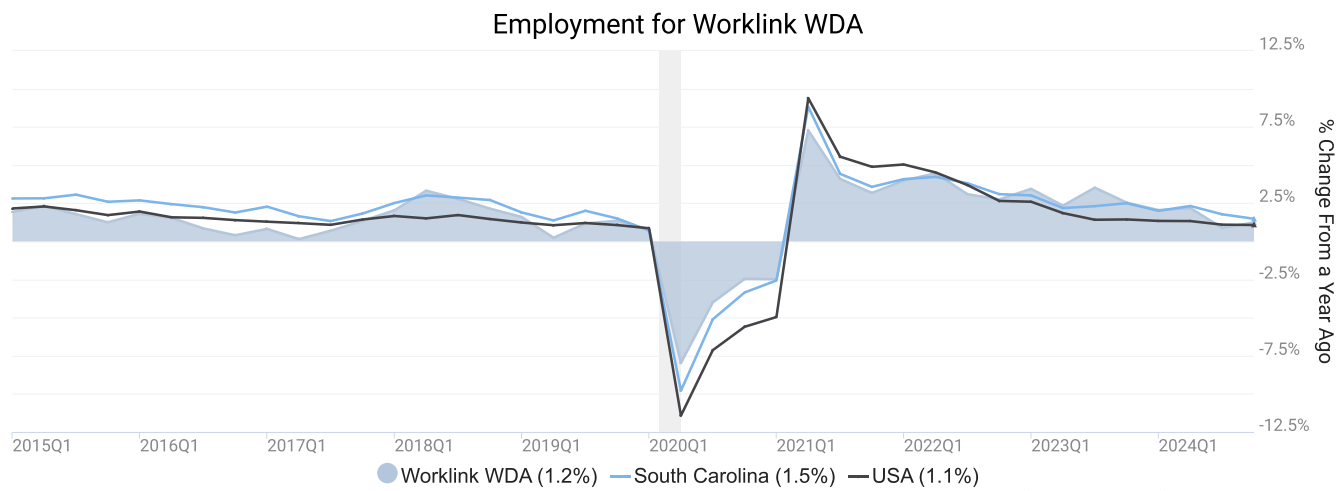3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.
4. Census Population Estimate for 2023, annual average growth rate since 2013.
5. The Census's method for calculating median house values changed with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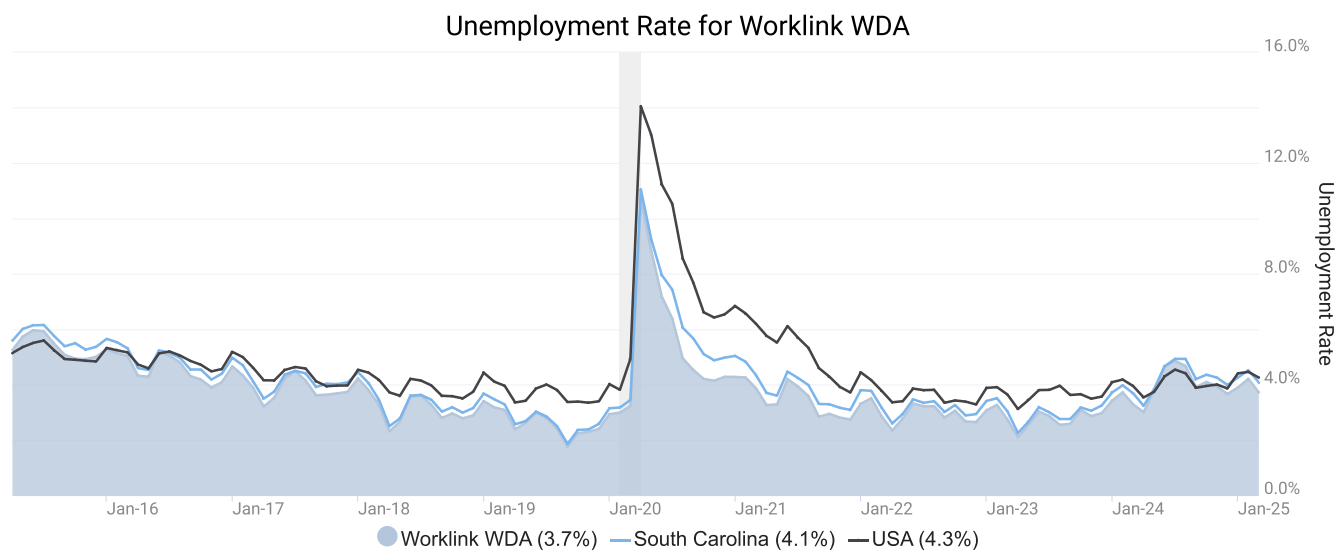
Employment Trends

As of 2024Q4, total employment for the Worklink WDA was 152,127 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q4, employment increased 1.2% in the region.

Employment for Worklink WDA

Worklink WDA (1.2%) — South Carolina (1.5%) — USA (1.1%)

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 Worklink WDA was 3.7% 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 Worklink WDA was 3.3%.
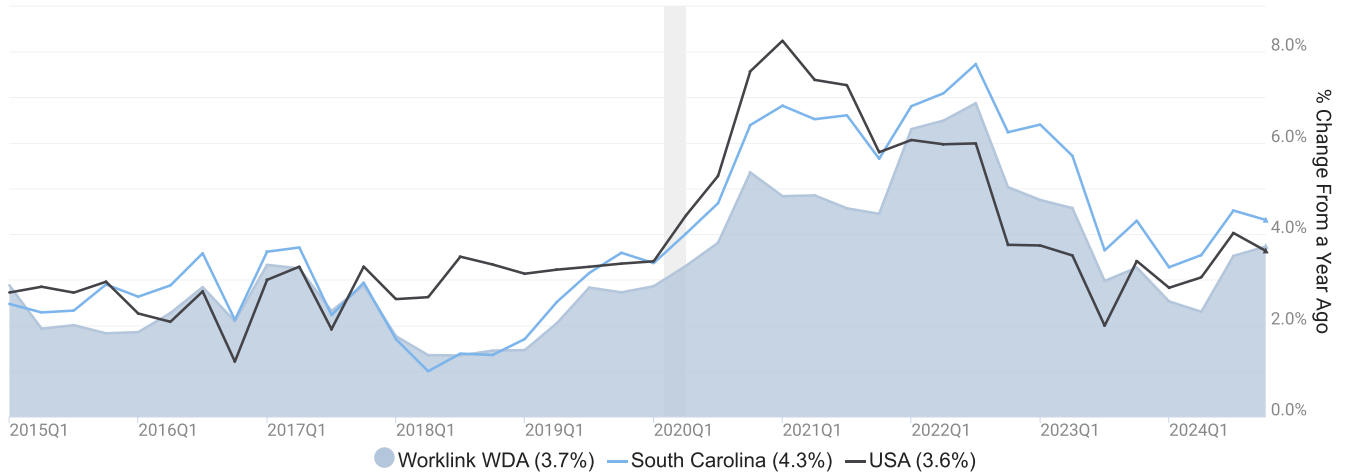
Unemployment Rate for Worklink WDA

Worklink WDA (3.7%) — South Carolina (4.1%) — USA (4.3%)

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 Worklink WDA earned annual wages of $49,832 as of 2024Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.7% 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 Worklink WDA

Worklink WDA (3.7%) — South Carolina (4.3%) — USA (3.6%)

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 8.8% lower in Worklink WDA than the U.S. average.
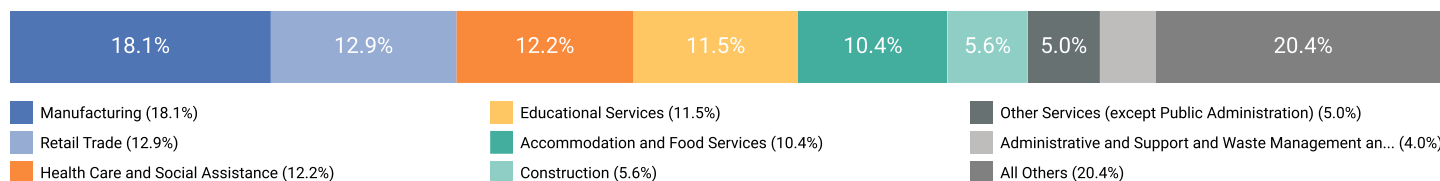
Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Worklink WDA	$49,832	91.2	$54,615
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 Worklink WDA is Manufacturing, employing 27,493 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (19,635 workers) and Health Care and Social Assistance (18,619). 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 = 2.37), Manufacturing (2.30), and Educational Services (1.42).

Total Workers for Worklink WDA by Industry

18.1%	12.9%	12.2%	11.5%	10.4%	5.6%	5.0%		20.4%

- Manufacturing (18.1%)
- Retail Trade (12.9%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (12.2%)
- Educational Services (11.5%)
- Accommodation and Food Services (10.4%)
- Construction (5.6%)
- Other Services (except Public Administration) (5.0%)
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management an... (4.0%)
- All Others (20.4%)

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 Worklink WDA with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises ($127,880), Utilities ($107,916), and Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction ($79,084). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Wholesale Trade (+1,808 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+1,348), and Educational Services (+1,227).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Worklink WDA is projected to expand by 1,325 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 (+170), and Manufacturing (+126).

Worklink WDA, 2024Q4[1]

NAICS	Industry	Current Empl	Current Avg Ann Wages	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
31	Manufacturing	27,493	$66,025	2.30	805	0.6%	2,902	1,022	1,754	126	0.5%
44	Retail Trade	19,635	$33,397	1.33	1,212	1.3%	2,766	1,128	1,559	78	0.4%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	18,619	$57,836	0.81	1,348	1.5%	2,100	831	991	278	1.5%
61	Educational Services	17,482	$50,663	1.42	1,227	1.5%	1,763	742	898	124	0.7%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	15,780	$20,647	1.19	426	0.5%	2,978	1,196	1,612	170	1.1%
23	Construction	8,470	$55,422	0.93	957	2.4%	820	268	458	95	1.1%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	7,638	$28,545	1.18	56	0.1%	953	356	515	83	1.1%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	6,013	$43,960	0.65	311	1.1%	740	273	411	56	0.9%
92	Public Administration	5,676	$48,632	0.79	431	1.6%	569	209	312	48	0.8%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	4,936	$68,579	0.45	828	3.7%	472	148	251	73	1.5%
42	Wholesale Trade	4,890	$71,283	0.86	1,808	9.7%	536	182	307	47	1.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	3,532	$54,974	0.46	401	2.4%	425	156	228	41	1.2%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,110	$21,795	0.97	797	6.1%	500	183	275	42	1.3%
52	Finance and Insurance	2,397	$71,539	0.40	81	0.7%	221	76	122	23	0.9%
22	Utilities	1,866	$107,916	2.37	-77	-0.8%	160	60	103	-3	-0.1%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,677	$49,465	0.62	168	2.1%	175	71	90	15	0.9%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,491	$29,543	0.81	66	0.9%	189	86	96	6	0.4%
51	Information	1,011	$70,919	0.35	81	1.7%	96	32	56	8	0.8%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	282	$127,880	0.12	-37	-2.4%	28	9	15	4	1.5%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	129	$79,084	0.23	-36	-4.8%	14	4	8	2	1.3%
99	Unclassified	0	n/a	0.00	-2	n/a	0	0	0	0	
	Total - All Industries	**152,127**	**$49,832**	**1.00**	**10,852**	**1.5%**	**17,865**	**6,810**	**9,731**	**1,325**	**0.9%**

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 Worklink WDA is Production Occupations, employing 17,170 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (16,172 workers) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (15,344). 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 = 2.09), Architecture and Engineering Occupations (1.30), and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (1.23).

Occupation groups in the Worklink WDA with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations ($113,100), Legal Occupations ($93,900), and Architecture and Engineering Occupations ($91,700). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.4% among Legal Occupations to 7.2% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Worklink WDA 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 (+159 jobs) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+124). 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 (3,051 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,005).

Worklink WDA, 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
51-0000	Production	17,170	$48,300	2.09	1,104	5.0%	517	308	0.4%	1,938	694	1,196	49	0.3%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	16,172	$42,900	0.91	745	3.3%	577	788	1.0%	1,847	792	1,025	31	0.2%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	15,344	$28,900	1.23	1,186	6.1%	1,091	386	0.5%	3,211	1,316	1,735	159	1.0%
41-0000	Sales and Related	14,620	$43,500	1.11	925	4.9%	1,048	774	1.1%	2,056	869	1,136	51	0.3%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	11,886	$40,600	0.90	1,007	5.8%	668	1,600	2.9%	1,702	604	974	124	1.0%
11-0000	Management	10,278	$113,100	0.88	237	1.9%	675	1,617	3.5%	947	302	532	113	1.1%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	9,909	$59,400	1.20	257	2.4%	297	604	1.3%	929	405	447	77	0.8%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	8,204	$91,000	0.90	150	1.4%	1,491	619	1.6%	598	243	240	115	1.4%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,741	$55,100	1.14	258	2.7%	488	535	1.7%	682	250	353	79	1.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	5,952	$49,700	0.88	458	5.2%	192	404	1.4%	582	190	322	71	1.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	5,863	$35,200	0.82	265	3.3%	409	629	2.3%	962	379	467	115	2.0%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	5,839	$77,100	0.60	236	2.9%	280	993	3.8%	556	168	322	66	1.1%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	4,830	$34,900	0.97	339	4.9%	324	-195	-0.8%	708	285	378	45	0.9%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	4,306	$33,900	1.09	265	4.9%	191	510	2.6%	830	294	481	56	1.3%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	3,127	$91,700	1.30	81	2.1%	215	71	0.5%	244	79	132	32	1.0%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	2,781	$51,600	0.98	85	2.6%	234	88	0.6%	291	111	144	36	1.3%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	2,500	$90,500	0.52	118	3.1%	123	422	3.8%	182	56	93	32	1.3%

Worklink WDA, 2024Q4[1]

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	2,364	$48,900	0.72	107	3.3%	97	215	1.9%	266	100	149	17	0.7%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,112	$53,900	0.76	96	4.0%	121	196	2.0%	236	90	125	21	1.0%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,149	$81,000	0.83	73	5.1%	120	154	2.9%	118	19	88	11	0.9%
23-0000	Legal	593	$93,900	0.47	13	1.4%	8	14	0.5%	42	15	21	6	1.0%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	386	$39,000	0.44	37	7.2%	5	122	7.9%	61	24	35	2	0.4%
	Total - All Occupations	**152,127**	**$54,400**	**1.00**	**8,043**	**4.0%**	**9,172**	**10,852**	**1.5%**	**19,001**	**7,286**	**10,393**	**1,322**	**0.9%**

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.

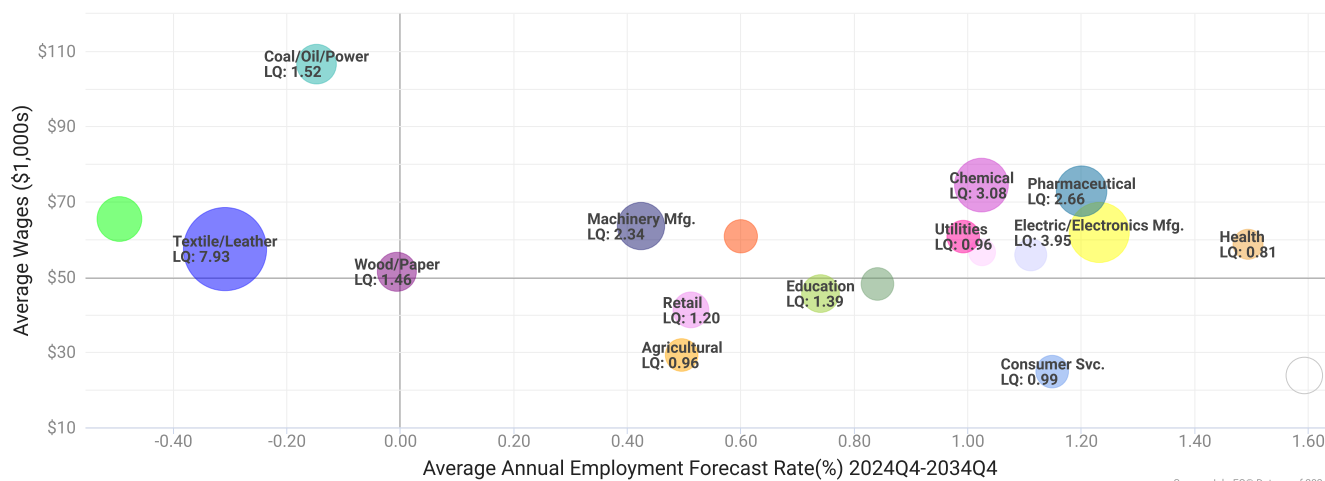2. Wage data represent the average for all Covered Employment

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 Worklink WDA with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 7.93. This cluster employs 2,327 workers in the region with an average wage of $57,466. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.3% per year over the next ten years.
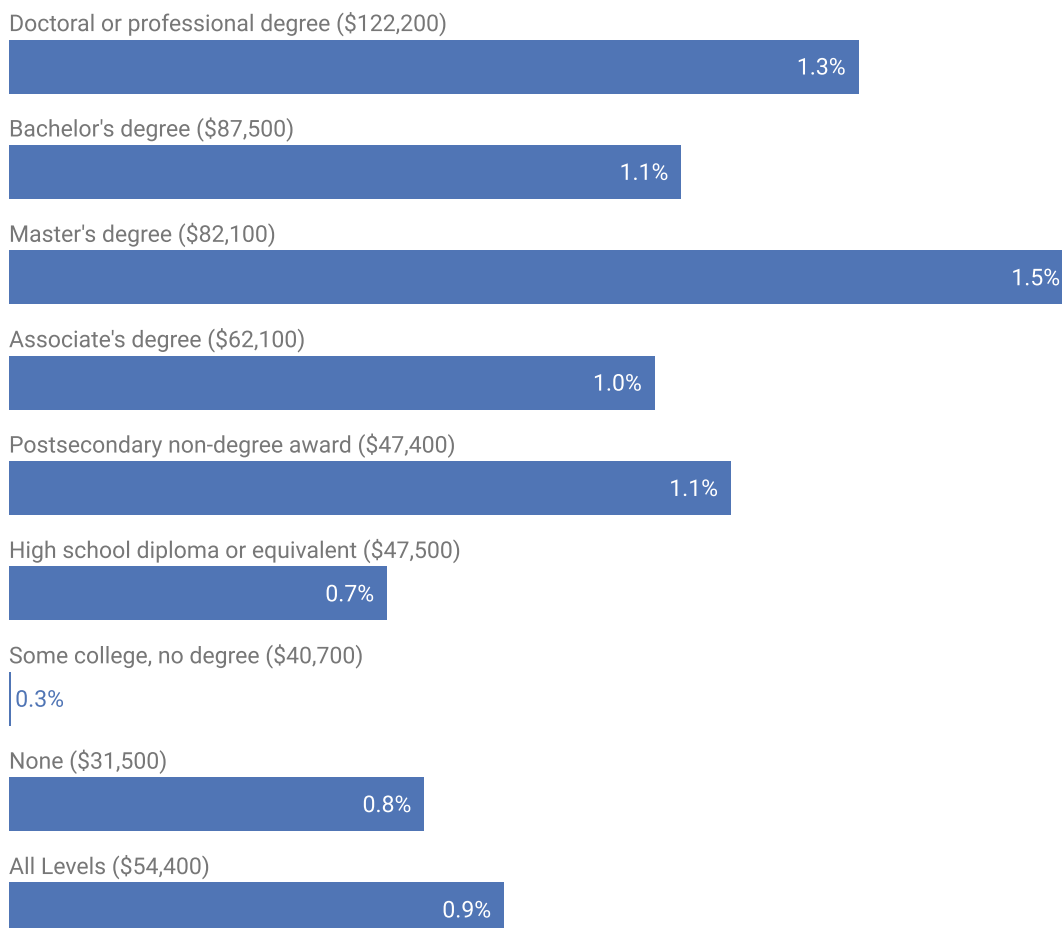
Industry Clusters for Worklink WDA as of 2024Q4

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 Worklink WDA 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 1.0% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

Doctoral or professional degree ($122,200)
1.3%

Bachelor's degree ($87,500)
1.1%

Master's degree ($82,100)
1.5%

Associate's degree ($62,100)
1.0%

Postsecondary non-degree award ($47,400)
1.1%

High school diploma or equivalent ($47,500)
0.7%

Some college, no degree ($40,700)
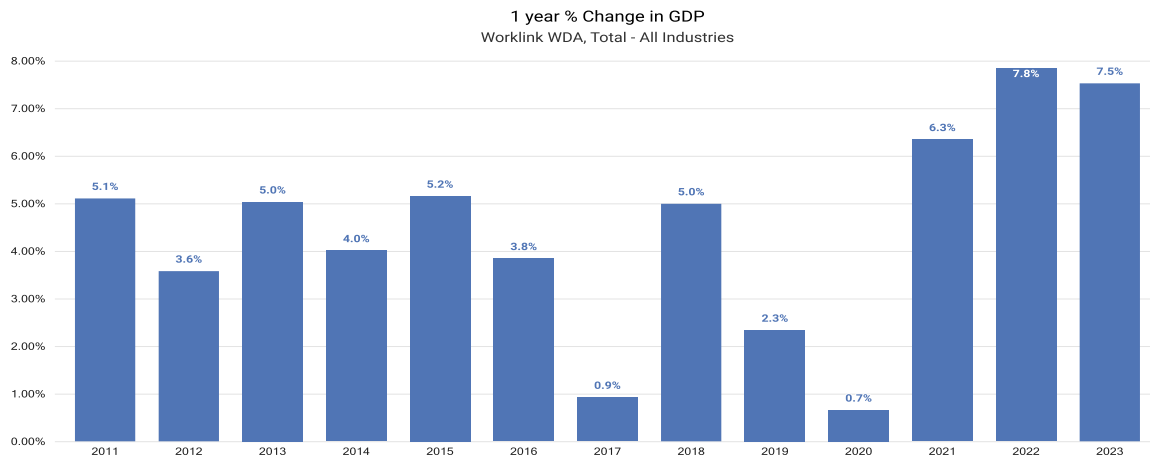0.3%

None ($31,500)
0.8%

All Levels ($54,400)
0.9%

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 Worklink WDA expanded 7.5%. This follows growth of 7.8% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in the Worklink WDA was $16,552,917,000.

1 year % Change in GDP
Worklink WDA, Total - All Industries

Year	% Change
2011	5.1%
2012	3.6%
2013	5.0%
2014	4.0%
2015	5.2%
2016	3.8%
2017	0.9%
2018	5.0%
2019	2.3%
2020	0.7%
2021	6.3%
2022	7.8%
2023	7.5%

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 WDA, 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 WDA, 2023

Manufacturing (31)

$3,721

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

$1,670

Retail Trade (44)

$1,622

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

$1,535

Educational Services (61)

$1,507

Utilities (22)

$1,123

Construction (23)

$923

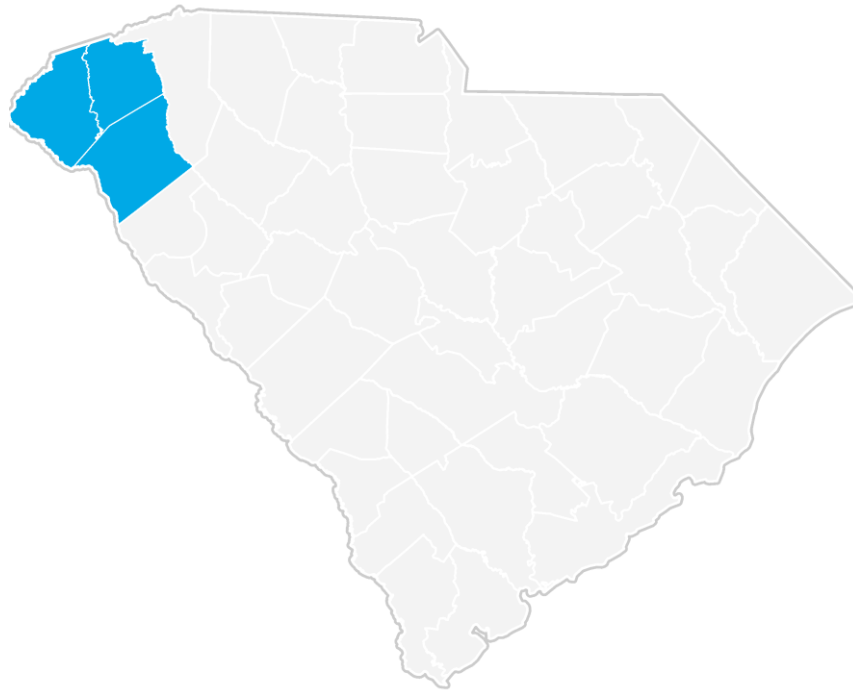Wholesale Trade (42)

$774

Accommodation and Food Services (72)

$612

Public Administration (92)

$499

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

Worklink WDA Regional Map

Region Definition

Worklink WDA is defined as the following counties:

Anderson County, South Carolina

Pickens County, South Carolina

Oconee 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.