

Cherokee County, SC

Fact Sheet

The county was named for the Cherokee Indians 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.

POPULATION

Total Population, 1990, 2000, and 2008 Estimates

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>
Cherokee	44,506	52,537	54,394
Upstate Region*	1,059,891	1,220,542	1,335,571
South Carolina	3,486,310	4,012,012	4,479,800

*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

Population Estimates by Age, 2007

Under Age 5	3,429	20.9%
Age 5 to 19	11,303	20.9%
Age 20 to 34	10,448	19.3%
Age 35 to 59	18,936	35.1%
Age 60 to 74	6,724	12.4%
Age 75+	3,175	5.9%

Population Estimates by Race, 2007

White	41,881	77.7%
Black	11,260	20.9%
Am. Indian / Alaska Native	118	0.2%
Asian	288	0.0%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	14	0.0%
Two or More Races	454	0.8%
Hispanic (all races included)	1,459	2.7%

Source of Population Data: US Census Bureau

Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2007

Less than 9th Grade	3,382	9.4%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	6,786	18.8%
High School Graduate Only	14,217	39.4%
Some College, No Degree	5,449	15.1%
Associate Degree Only	2,358	6.5%
Bachelor's Degree Only	2,679	7.4%
Graduate or Professional Degree	1,198	3.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Households by Type, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimate

Total No. of Households:	20,532
HH's with Individuals Under 18	6,853
HH's with Individuals 65+	4,671
Average Household Size	2.6
Average Family Size	3.18

Source: 2007 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Housing Occupance and Tenure, 2005-2007 3-Yr. Est

Total No. of Housing Units	23,149
Occupied Housing Units	20,532
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	14,612
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	5,920
Rental Vacancy Rate (percent)	12.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

2007 Estimated Number of Housing Units 23,200

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

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INCOME

Median Household Income, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimate

In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars

Cherokee County	\$35,159.00
South Carolina	\$42,405.00

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Amer. Comm. Survey

Per Capita Income, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimates

In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars

Cherokee County	\$17,599.00
South Carolina	\$22,560.00

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Amer. Comm. Survey

TOP 5 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employee	Major Product
NESTLE USA-Prepared Food Division	1500	Frozen prepared foods
The Timken Company	1100	Ball & Roller Bearing Mfg
Freightliner Custom Chassis Corp	640	Motor home chassis
Magnolia Finishing Company	500	Broadwoven Fabric Finishing
Brown Packing Co Inc	350	Animal Processing

Source: SC Appalachian Council of Governments and County Economic Development Office

LABOR FORCE

County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, 2007(Annual Average)

Natural Resources and Mining	75
Construction	1,349
Manufacturing	6,425
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	4,179
Wholesale Trade	585
Retail Trade	2,214
Transportation and Warehousing	1,266
Utilities	114
Information	87
Financial Activities	529
Professional and Business Services	939
Education and Health Services	1,811
Leisure and Hospitality	1,845
Total Government	2448

RETAIL SALES

Gross Retail Sales (Millions)

2000	\$699,698
2001	\$688,316
2002	\$727,435
2003	\$755,229
2004	\$860,082
2005	\$888,126
2006	\$1,113,824
2007	\$1,035,949
2008	\$1,241,924

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TRANSPORTATION

Interstate Access	I-85	Nearest Civil Airport	Spartanburg Downtown Memorial
Nearest Commercial Airline	Greenville-Spartanburg International		
Airlines	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle	Port Access	Port of Charleston, 206 miles from City of Gaffney
		Rail Providers	CSX, NSR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Cherokee County Development Board James R. Cook, III, Executive Director	(864) 489-5721 www.cherokeecounty_sc.org
Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Gene Moorehead, Executive Director	(864) 489-5721 www.cherokeechamber.org
Upstate Alliance Hal Johnson, President/CEO	(864) 283-2300 www.upstatealliance.com

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

www.sciway.net
www.theupcountry.com
www.cherokeecounty-sc.org

PRODUCED BY

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