



Economic Overview

Catawba



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Demographic Profile

The population in the Catawba was 421,641 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 213,479 with a participation rate of 63.8%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Catawba, 36.3% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 36.5% in the nation.

The median household income in the Catawba is \$78,557 and the median house value is \$301,813.

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Catawba	Central WIOA	South Carolina	Catawba	Central WIOA	South Carolina
Demographics						
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	421,641	1,472,574	5,212,774
Male	48.7%	48.4%	48.7%	205,168	712,795	2,537,456
Female	51.3%	51.6%	51.3%	216,473	759,779	2,675,318
Median Age ²	—	—	—	40.3	38.8	40.1
Under 18 Years	23.2%	22.3%	21.6%	97,939	328,558	1,127,062
18 to 24 Years	7.6%	9.9%	9.1%	32,106	145,561	475,338
25 to 34 Years	12.0%	12.9%	12.9%	50,642	189,710	671,642
35 to 44 Years	14.0%	12.9%	12.4%	58,821	189,540	647,392
45 to 54 Years	13.6%	12.4%	12.2%	57,337	182,743	634,490
55 to 64 Years	12.7%	12.8%	13.3%	53,704	188,663	693,281
65 to 74 Years	10.4%	10.3%	11.3%	43,658	152,100	589,960
75 Years and Over	6.5%	6.5%	7.2%	27,434	95,699	373,609
Race: White	68.9%	58.4%	64.1%	290,377	859,380	3,339,447
Race: Black or African American	20.2%	31.3%	25.3%	85,196	460,613	1,318,630
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	1,792	4,166	16,823
Race: Asian	2.5%	2.2%	1.7%	10,687	32,276	89,723
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	31	735	3,642
Race: Some Other Race	1.8%	2.1%	2.7%	7,727	31,215	142,798
Race: Two or More Races	6.1%	5.7%	5.8%	25,831	84,189	301,711
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.7%	6.4%	7.1%	28,270	94,137	368,900
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	438,761	1,508,775	5,373,555
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	2.2%	1.0%	1.2%	8,658	14,611	60,709
People per Square Mile ⁴	—	—	—	242.3	191.9	178.7
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	63.8%	62.2%	60.2%	213,479	727,909	2,513,298
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	84.2%	82.5%	81.6%	140,153	458,599	1,577,860
Work from Home	14.8%	11.1%	10.0%	29,670	76,107	237,424
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.2%	1.0%	0.9%	627	12,086	39,412
Veterans, Age 18-64	5.3%	6.2%	5.8%	13,462	55,236	180,043
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	77.6%	73.0%	74.3%	10,446	40,341	133,696
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$78,557	\$68,035	\$66,818
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$41,771	\$37,634	\$37,993
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	28.2	26.0	25.6
Commute via Public Transportation	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	679	3,357	10,086
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	8.4%	8.7%	9.6%	18,600	65,492	254,842
High School Graduate	24.3%	25.2%	27.4%	53,571	189,086	724,281
Some College, No Degree	19.9%	20.4%	20.2%	43,867	153,368	534,191

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Catawba	Central WIOA	South Carolina	Catawba	Central WIOA	South Carolina
Associate's Degree	11.1%	10.3%	10.5%	24,407	76,963	276,602
Bachelor's Degree	23.4%	21.9%	20.6%	51,569	164,609	544,605
Postgraduate Degree	12.9%	13.5%	11.8%	28,490	101,138	312,284
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	175,476	650,253	2,401,638
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$301,813	\$230,885	\$236,700
Homeowner Vacancy	0.6%	0.9%	1.0%	696	3,712	15,717
Rental Vacancy	4.8%	5.1%	8.3%	2,003	9,166	54,196
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	23.9%	28.8%	28.6%	39,070	167,506	591,532
Owner-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	76.1%	71.2%	71.4%	124,683	414,589	1,478,858
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.0%	5.7%	5.7%	6,614	33,187	117,832
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	10.5%	14.2%	14.2%	43,580	202,140	719,720
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	8.4%	11.0%	10.5%	13,828	63,895	217,015
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	4,775	18,506	64,573
Disconnected Youth ³	5.0%	2.8%	2.9%	1,072	2,309	8,046
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	33.2%	39.1%	38.4%	30,795	120,231	404,096
Uninsured	8.5%	8.9%	10.0%	35,679	128,324	510,757
With a Disability, Age 18-64	9.6%	11.6%	12.0%	23,900	100,850	366,706
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	42.8%	44.1%	42.6%	10,231	44,522	156,318
Foreign Born	6.3%	5.3%	5.6%	26,544	78,599	293,556
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%	9,890	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.

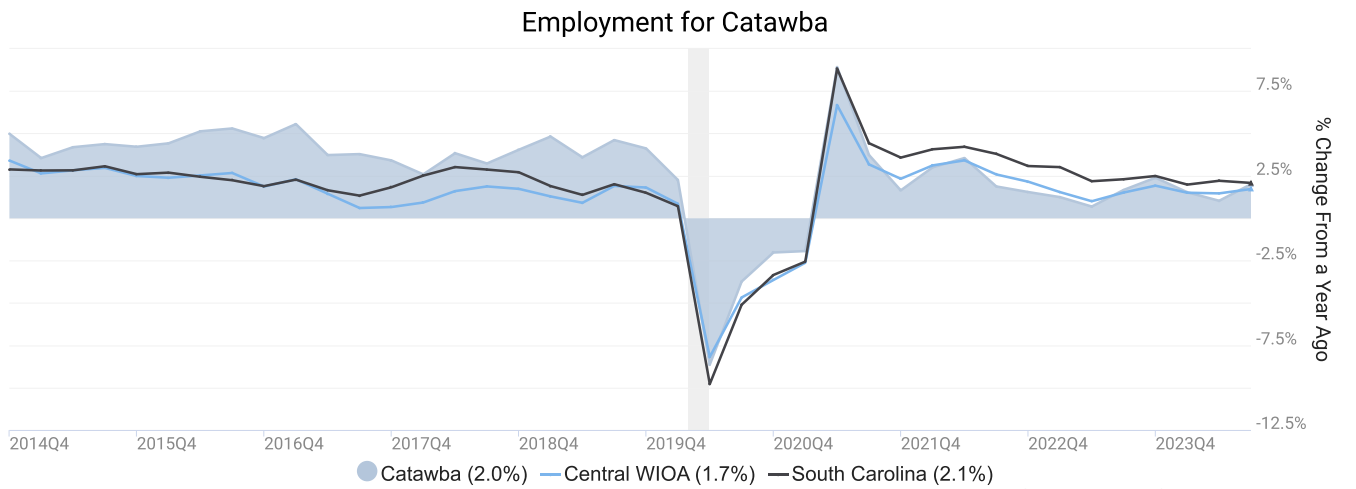
3. Disconnected Youth are 16-19 year olds who are (1) not in school, (2) not high school graduates, and (3) either unemployed or not in the labor force.

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

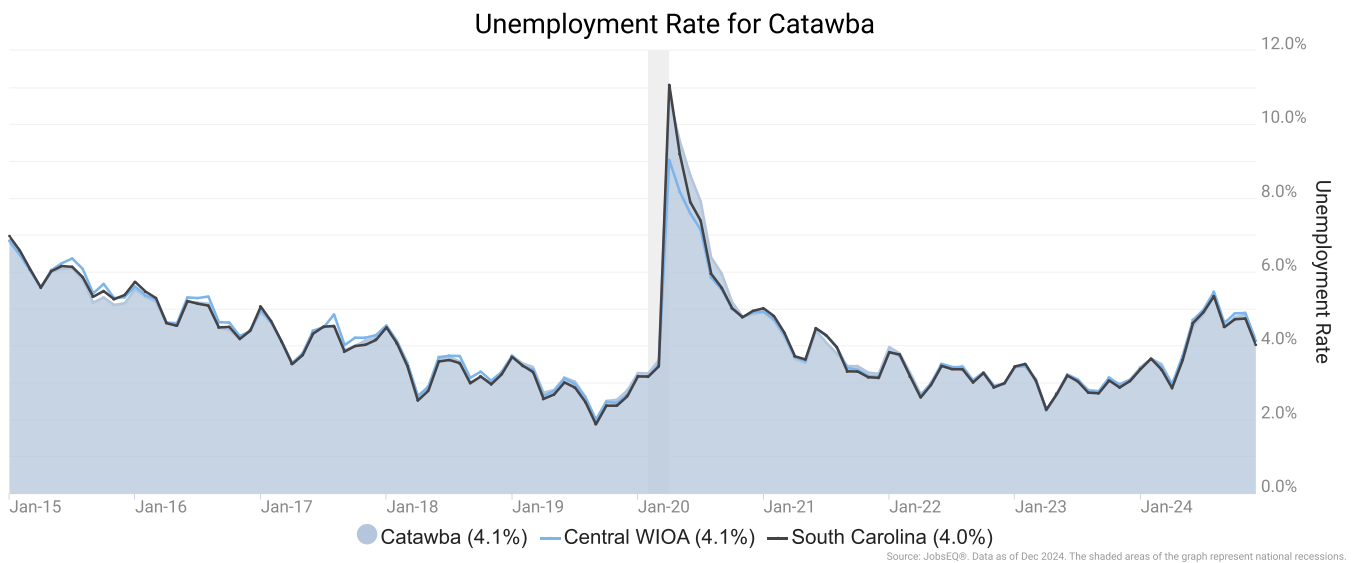
As of 2024Q3, total employment for the Catawba was 156,393 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2024Q3, employment increased 2.0% in the region.



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 2024Q2 with preliminary estimates updated to 2024Q3.

Unemployment Rate

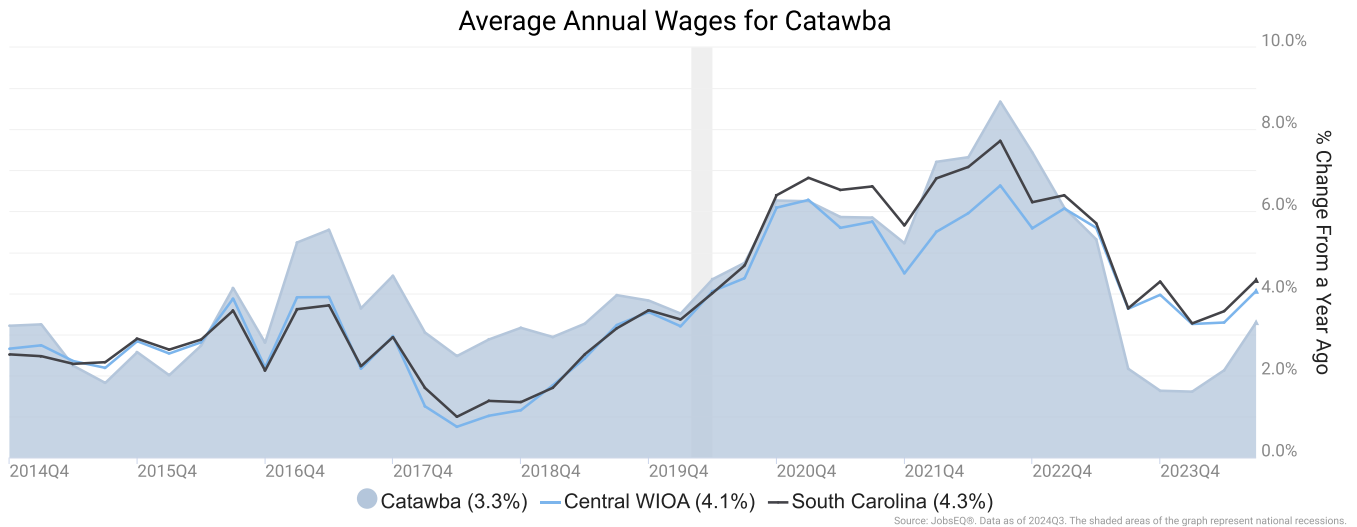
The unemployment rate for the Catawba was 4.1% as of December 2024. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in December 2023, the unemployment rate in the Catawba was 3.1%.



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 Catawba earned annual wages of \$58,327 as of 2024Q3. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.3% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$72,609 in the nation as of 2024Q3.



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 3.7% lower in Catawba than the U.S. average.

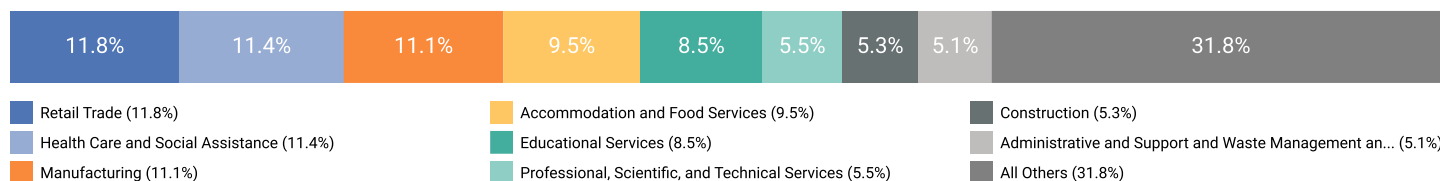
Cost of Living Information			
	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Catawba	\$58,327	96.3	\$60,579
Central WIOA	\$57,794	90.1	\$64,161
South Carolina	\$58,378	92.8	\$62,941
USA	\$72,609	100.0	\$72,609

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 Catawba is Retail Trade, employing 18,384 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Health Care and Social Assistance (17,837 workers) and Manufacturing (17,375). 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 Management of Companies and Enterprises (LQ = 1.78), Utilities (1.75), and Manufacturing (1.41).

Total Workers for Catawba 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 Catawba with the highest average wages per worker are Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$122,304), Utilities (\$114,272), and Finance and Insurance (\$102,458). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Health Care and Social Assistance (+3,540 jobs), Transportation and Warehousing (+1,454), and Wholesale Trade (+1,308).

Over the next 1 year, employment in the Catawba is projected to expand by 2,530 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction with a +2.5% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+404 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+252), and Retail Trade (+204).

Catawba, 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
44	Retail Trade	18,384	\$36,430	1.20	1,157	1.3%	2,724	1,058	1,462	204	1.1%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	17,837	\$54,904	0.76	3,540	4.5%	2,154	797	952	404	2.3%
31	Manufacturing	17,375	\$71,876	1.41	-1,332	-1.5%	1,958	647	1,111	200	1.2%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	14,807	\$22,271	1.09	1,275	1.8%	2,895	1,126	1,517	252	1.7%
61	Educational Services	13,292	\$47,877	1.05	1,208	1.9%	1,387	565	683	138	1.0%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	8,640	\$92,451	0.76	-146	-0.3%	889	259	440	190	2.2%
23	Construction	8,324	\$66,674	0.89	767	2.0%	859	264	451	145	1.7%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	7,951	\$45,199	0.83	-492	-1.2%	1,041	362	545	134	1.7%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	7,513	\$34,570	1.13	321	0.9%	992	351	507	135	1.8%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	7,046	\$52,891	0.90	1,454	4.7%	893	311	457	125	1.8%
42	Wholesale Trade	6,914	\$94,169	1.18	1,308	4.3%	795	258	435	102	1.5%
92	Public Administration	6,426	\$52,543	0.88	354	1.1%	688	237	354	97	1.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	4,712	\$102,458	0.77	-355	-1.4%	472	150	241	81	1.7%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	4,339	\$122,304	1.78	-1,300	-5.1%	460	137	230	93	2.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	3,763	\$20,316	1.17	440	2.5%	631	222	334	74	2.0%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	2,964	\$84,539	1.06	686	5.4%	332	126	158	47	1.6%
51	Information	2,688	\$100,488	0.89	-152	-1.1%	288	85	149	54	2.0%
22	Utilities	1,415	\$114,272	1.75	22	0.3%	133	46	78	9	0.6%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1,258	\$34,942	0.67	-175	-2.6%	168	73	82	14	1.1%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	741	\$90,427	1.30	359	14.2%	88	24	45	19	2.5%
99	Unclassified	4	\$62,430	0.02	4	39.1%	1	0	0	0	1.5%
Total - All Industries		156,393	\$58,327	1.00	8,943	1.2%	19,582	7,019	10,033	2,530	1.6%

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 Catawba is Office and Administrative Support Occupations, employing 18,579 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Sales and Related Occupations (15,838 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (15,428). 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 = 1.38), Personal Care and Service Occupations (1.21), and Sales and Related Occupations (1.16).

Occupation groups in the Catawba with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$133,000), Legal Occupations (\$127,700), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$102,300). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.2% among Legal Occupations to 7.4% among Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations.

Over the next 1 year, the fastest growing occupation group in the Catawba is expected to be Healthcare Support Occupations with a +2.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+263 jobs) and Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations (+244). 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 (2,940 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (2,150).

Catawba, 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
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	18,579	\$44,600	1.02	824	3.1%	955	-454	-0.5%	2,323	932	1,216	176	0.9%
41-0000	Sales and Related	15,838	\$50,900	1.16	952	4.5%	1,428	235	0.3%	2,331	918	1,232	181	1.1%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	15,428	\$40,700	1.14	1,167	5.6%	848	2,164	3.1%	2,352	797	1,292	263	1.7%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	14,481	\$32,000	1.13	1,081	5.9%	1,071	1,129	1.6%	3,184	1,267	1,673	244	1.7%
51-0000	Production	11,774	\$47,600	1.38	812	5.5%	433	-908	-1.5%	1,455	488	845	122	1.0%
11-0000	Management	10,954	\$133,000	0.91	237	1.6%	1,452	1,179	2.3%	1,129	316	597	216	2.0%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	8,867	\$51,100	1.05	222	2.2%	534	734	1.7%	903	370	429	103	1.2%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	7,927	\$87,100	0.79	295	2.4%	974	143	0.4%	842	234	444	164	2.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	7,446	\$96,200	0.80	127	1.3%	2,192	1,394	4.2%	611	230	217	164	2.2%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	6,727	\$56,000	1.11	271	2.9%	632	404	1.2%	743	255	364	124	1.8%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	6,268	\$49,600	0.90	488	5.5%	212	407	1.4%	680	208	355	117	1.9%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	5,413	\$36,600	0.75	241	3.3%	515	1,200	5.1%	944	356	444	144	2.7%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	5,308	\$34,900	1.03	335	4.9%	301	250	1.0%	846	325	429	92	1.7%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	4,875	\$35,600	1.21	297	4.9%	250	516	2.3%	1,014	348	570	96	2.0%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	3,627	\$102,300	0.73	154	2.4%	614	143	0.8%	311	85	141	86	2.4%
33-0000	Protective Service	2,635	\$52,200	0.78	121	3.2%	142	166	1.3%	328	119	172	37	1.4%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	2,632	\$60,600	0.93	106	3.2%	222	156	1.2%	315	110	159	47	1.8%

Catawba, 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
21-0000	Community and Social Service	2,591	\$54,900	0.90	70	2.2%	350	156	1.3%	297	105	138	53	2.1%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	2,580	\$89,600	1.04	66	2.0%	374	-131	-1.0%	230	68	114	48	1.9%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	1,078	\$82,800	0.76	63	4.3%	212	58	1.1%	120	18	83	19	1.8%
23-0000	Legal	935	\$127,700	0.72	15	1.2%	78	56	1.3%	75	24	36	16	1.7%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	430	\$41,800	0.48	35	7.4%	10	-56	-2.4%	72	27	40	5	1.1%
Total - All Occupations		156,393	\$58,300	1.00	7,978	3.8%	13,800	8,943	1.2%	21,121	7,601	10,990	2,530	1.6%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

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

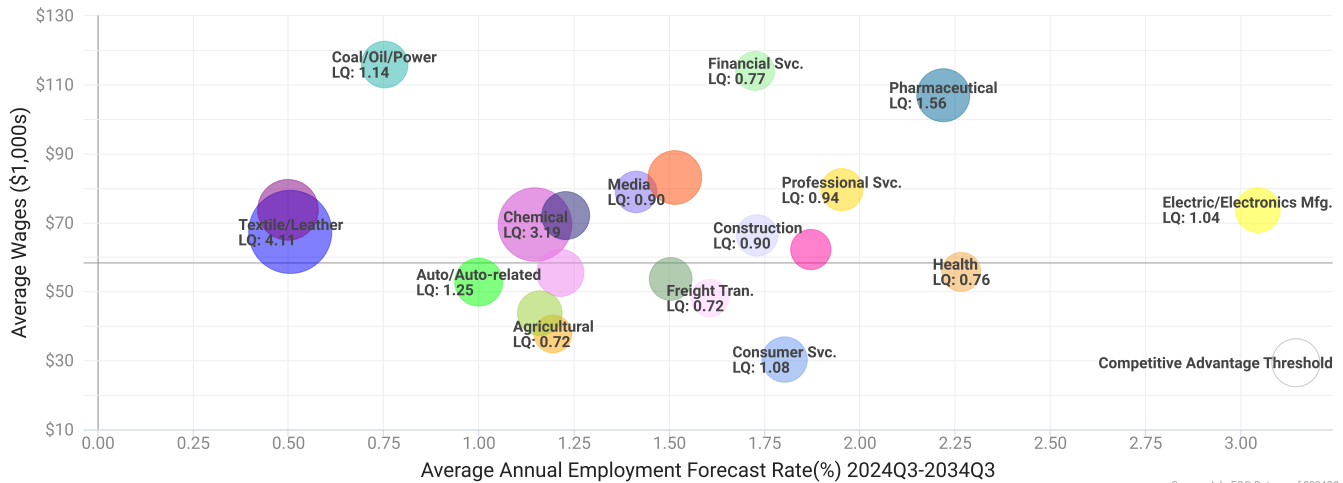
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

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 Catawba with the highest relative concentration is Textile/Leather with a location quotient of 4.11. This cluster employs 1,255 workers in the region with an average wage of \$67,249. Employment in the Textile/Leather cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.5% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Catawba as of 2024Q3



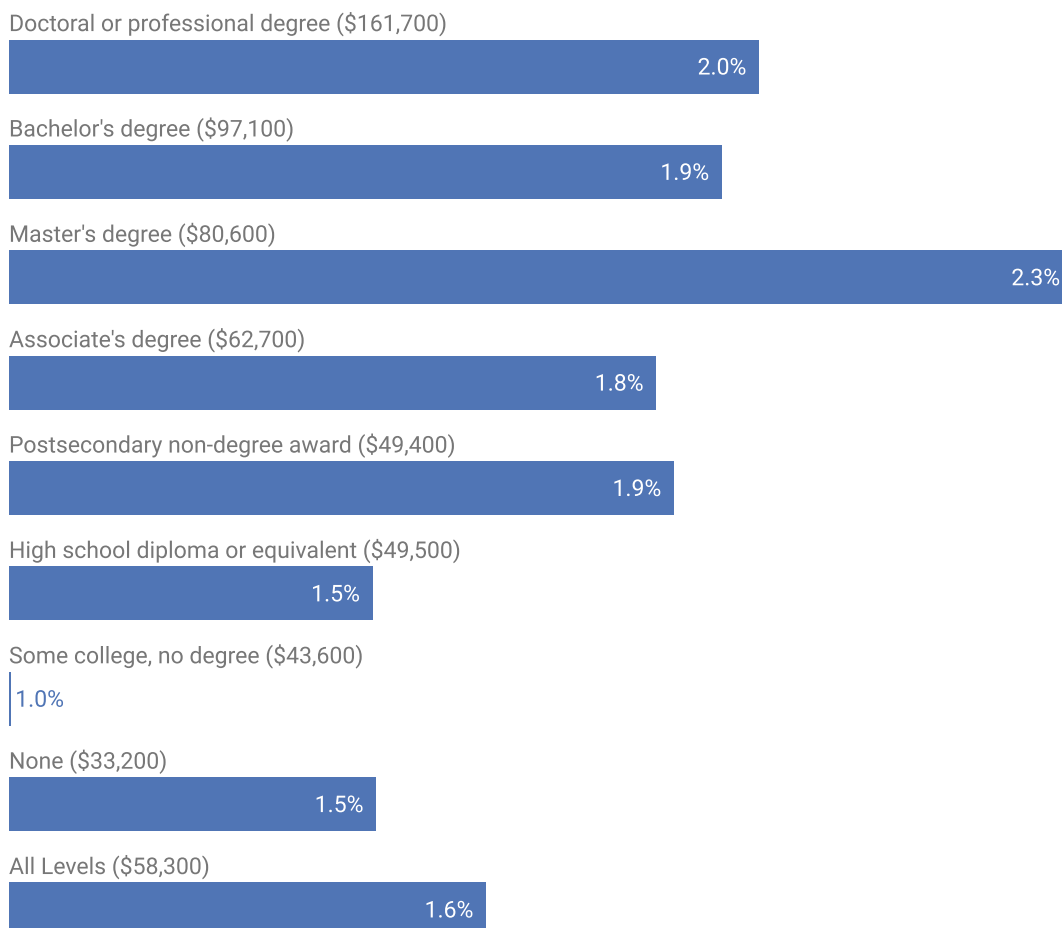
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2024Q3

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 Catawba is projected to grow 1.6% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 2.0% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.9% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.8% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

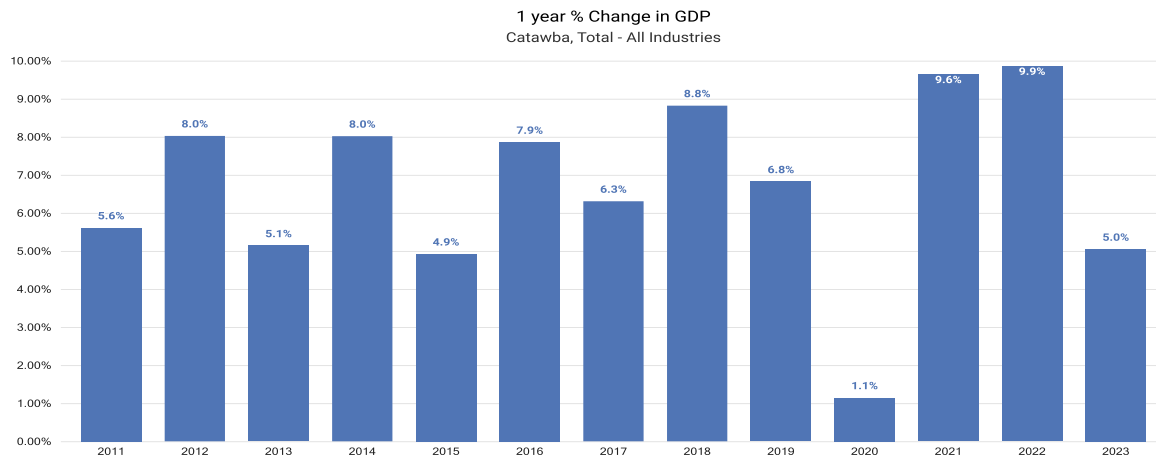


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2024Q3

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 Catawba expanded 5.0%. This follows growth of 9.9% in 2022. As of 2023, total GDP in the Catawba was \$20,691,505,000.



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 Catawba, Real Estate and Rental and Leasing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2023, \$2,982,650,000. The next-largest contributions came from Manufacturing (\$2,646,244,000); Wholesale Trade (\$1,863,050,000); and Retail Trade (\$1,639,565,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Catawba, 2023

Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)

\$2,983

Manufacturing (31)

\$2,646

Wholesale Trade (42)

\$1,863

Retail Trade (44)

\$1,640

Health Care and Social Assistance (62)

\$1,377

Educational Services (61)

\$1,120

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)

\$1,102

Finance and Insurance (52)

\$993

Construction (23)

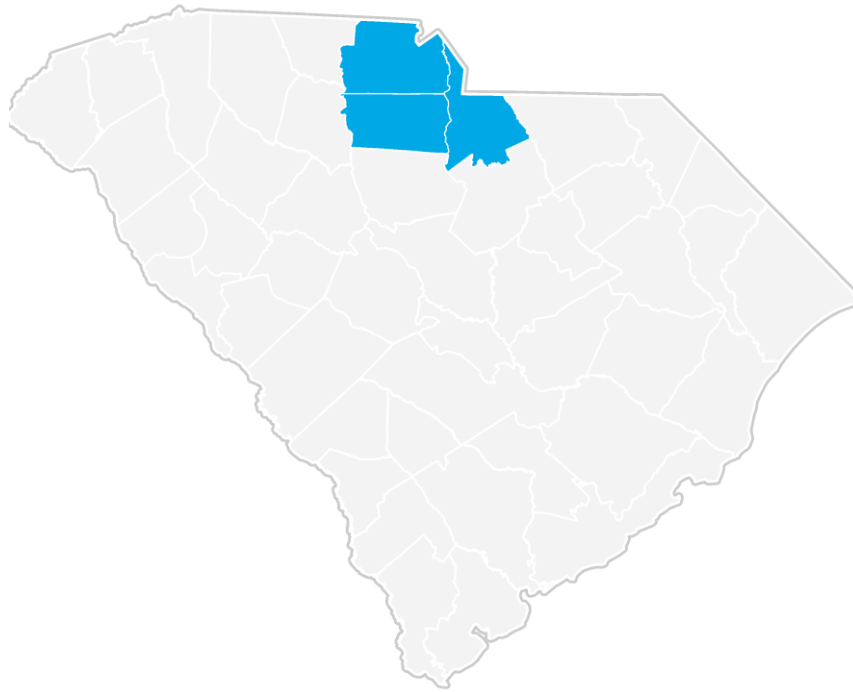
\$971

Utilities (22)

\$946

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

Catawba Regional Map



Region Definition

Catawba is defined as the following counties:

Chester County, South Carolina
Lancaster County, South Carolina

Central WIOA is defined as the following counties:

Aiken County, South Carolina
Allendale County, South Carolina
Bamberg County, South Carolina
Barnwell County, South Carolina
Calhoun County, South Carolina
Chester County, South Carolina

York County, South Carolina

Fairfield County, South Carolina
Lancaster County, South Carolina
Lexington County, South Carolina
Orangeburg County, South Carolina
Richland 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.

About This Report

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