Center for Business Analytics and Community Research
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE

2026 Greater Greer Workforce & Talent Report

Sam Cooper, Ph.D.
Center for Business Analytics & Community Research
George D. Johnson, Jr. College of Business and Economics, USC Upstate

Greater Greer - 2026

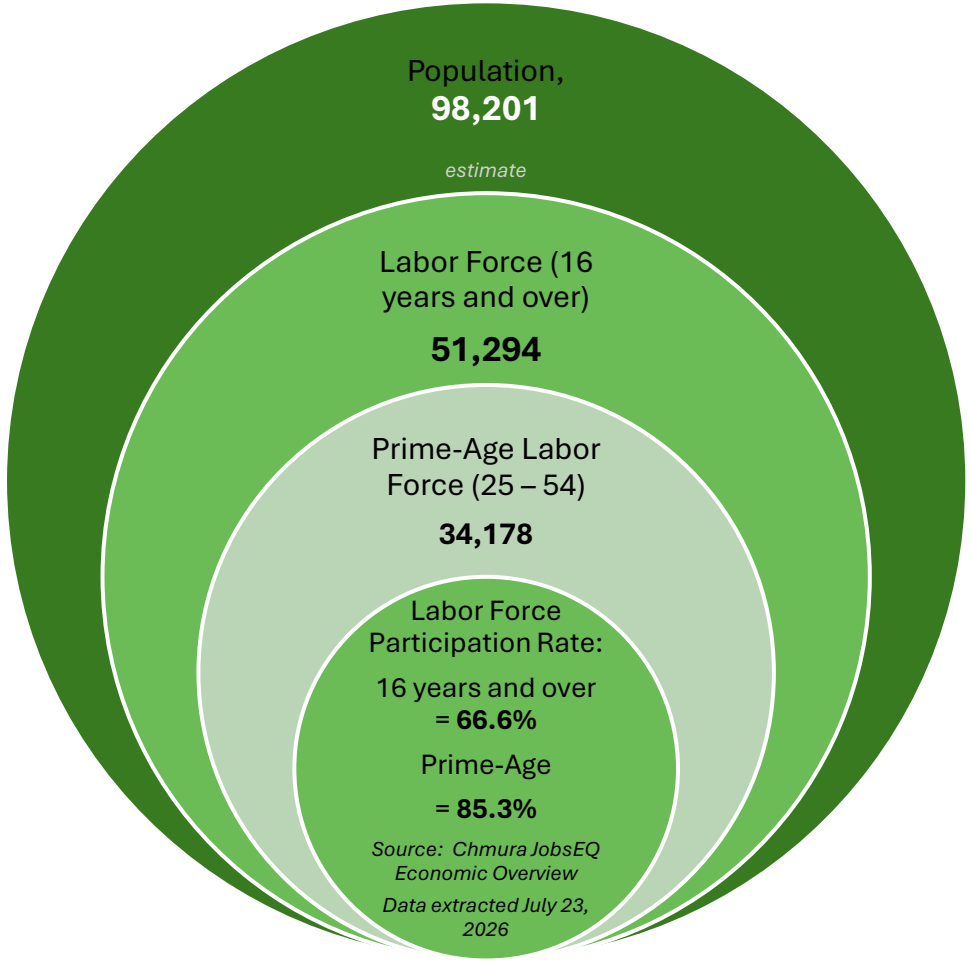
Situated at the intersection of Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, Greater Greer continues to rank among the Upstate's strongest economic centers. Its strategic location along the I-85 corridor, combined with major logistics and advanced manufacturing assets, has supported sustained population and workforce growth while reinforcing the community's role as a regional employment hub. Recent investments at Inland Port Greer and continued expansion among major employers further strengthen the area's long-term economic outlook.

This report examines key indicators of Greater Greer's economic and demographic performance, including population growth, workforce participation, educational attainment, household income, and poverty. Unless otherwise noted, the analysis reflects the three ZIP codes that define Greater Greer: 29650, 29651, and 29652.

Greater Greer's estimated population reached 98,201 in 2026, an increase of nearly 2,900 residents from the previous year. Over the same period, the labor force grew 3.7% to 51,294, outpacing the area's 3.0% population growth. The prime-age (25–54) labor force also expanded, while the prime-age labor force participation rate increased from 84.6% to 85.3%. Overall labor force participation remained essentially unchanged at 66.6%, demonstrating that workforce engagement has remained strong despite continued population growth.

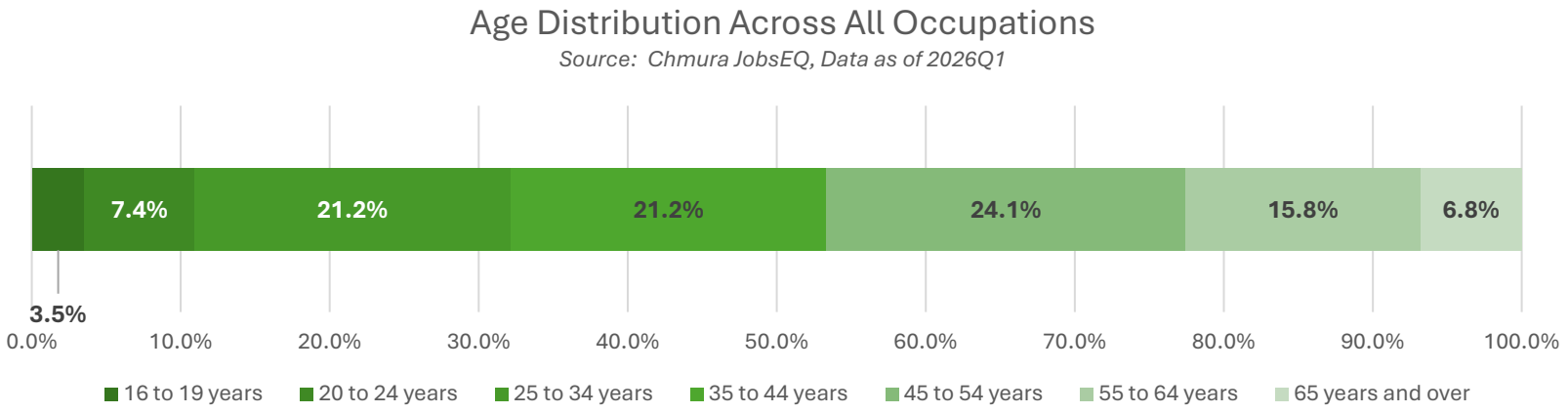
Greater Greer continues to outperform the broader Upstate in workforce participation. Its labor force participation rate of 66.6% exceeds the 10-county Upstate average of 60.9%, reinforcing the area's position as one of the region's most competitive labor markets.

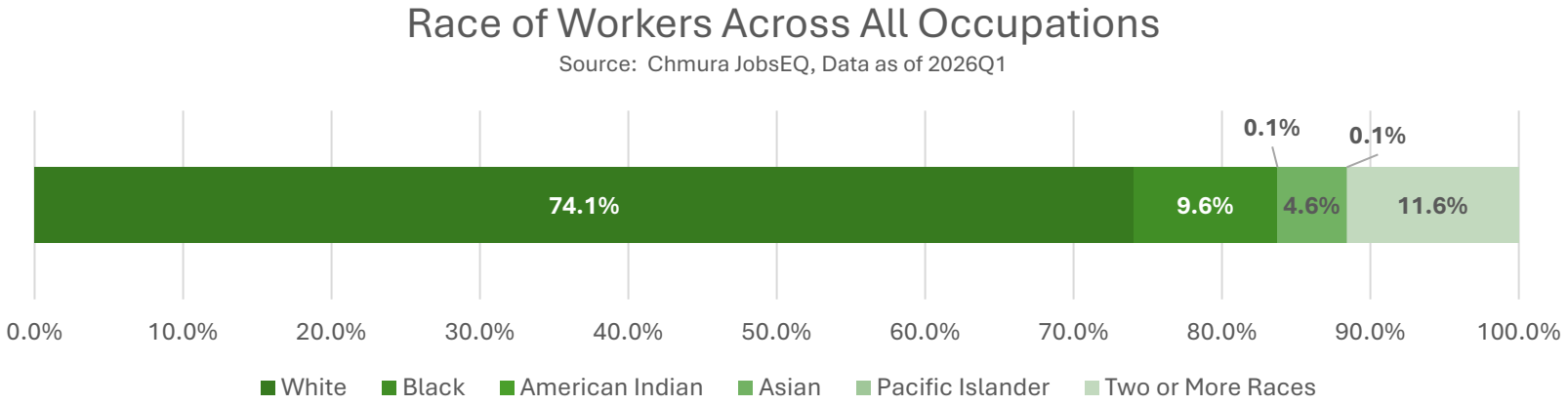
Taken together, these indicators suggest that Greater Greer's continued population growth is being accompanied by sustained workforce expansion, reinforcing the area's long-term economic competitiveness and capacity to support future employer demand.



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Key Workforce Demographics



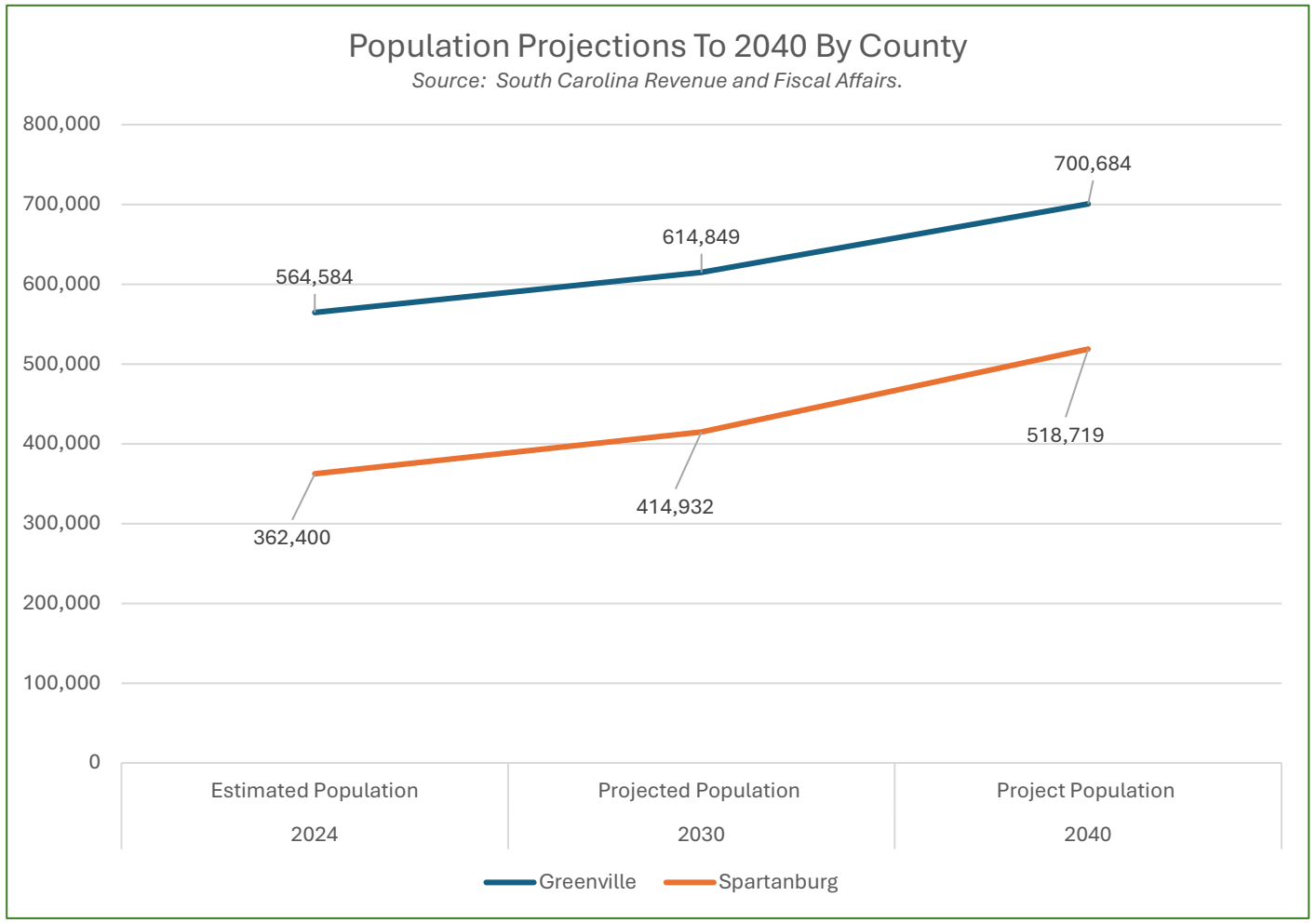


The charts to the left illustrate the age and racial composition of Greater Greer's workforce. Overall, the age profile changed very little from the previous year, reflecting a stable and well-established labor force. Workers ages 45–54 remain the largest age cohort, increasing slightly to 24.1% of all workers, while the shares of workers ages 35–44 and 65 and older remained essentially unchanged. The most notable shift among younger workers occurred in the 20–24 age group, which increased from 6.7% to 7.4%, while workers ages 55–64 declined modestly.

The racial composition of the workforce experienced somewhat greater change during the year. The share of workers identifying as Two or More Races increased from 8.6% to 11.6%, representing the largest year-over-year demographic shift. At the same time, the shares of workers identifying as White, Black, and Asian each declined modestly, while the American Indian and Pacific Islander populations remained unchanged.

Taken together, these trends suggest that Greater Greer's workforce remains demographically stable by age while continuing to become more diverse, reflecting a labor market that is evolving alongside the community's sustained population and economic growth.

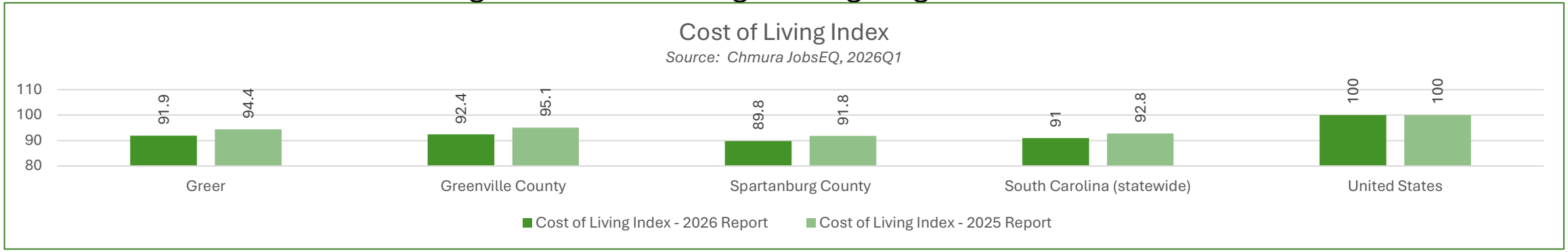
Rapid Population Growth Across the Upstate



Population projections published by the South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office remain unchanged from the 2025 report, as updated county-level projections have not yet been released. Even so, they continue to provide an important framework for long-term planning. Across the 10-county Upstate, the population is projected to grow from approximately 1.54 million in 2024 to more than 1.9 million by 2040. Current estimates by Chmura indicate the region has already grown to approximately 1.66 million residents in 2026, reflecting continued progress toward those long-term projections. Seven of the region's ten counties are expected to add residents, while Abbeville, Cherokee, and Union Counties are forecast to experience modest population declines.

Greater Greer is well positioned within this growth corridor. Greenville and Spartanburg counties—the two counties that comprise Greater Greer—are projected to grow by 8.9% and 14.5%, respectively, by 2030. Continued population growth is expected to create opportunities for economic development while increasing demand for housing, transportation, utilities, education, and other public infrastructure needed to support a growing workforce and community.

Regional Cost of Living & Living Wage Calculations



The updated cost-of-living indices show that Greater Greer and the surrounding region remain relatively affordable compared with the national average. Index values declined across Greer, Greenville County, Spartanburg County, and South Carolina compared with the 2025 report, with all four remaining below the U.S. benchmark of 100. The area's relative affordability therefore remains a consistent feature of the regional cost-of-living profile.

Living Wage Calculations by County

	1 Adult				2 Adults (1 Working)				2 Adults (Both Working)			
County	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children	0 Children	1 Child	2 Children	3 Children
Greenville	$23.11	$37.77	$49.01	$59.76	$30.93	$36.06	$38.70	$43.79	$15.40	$21.58	$26.43	$31.08
Spartanburg	$21.69	$35.96	$46.61	$56.79	$29.24	$34.18	$36.66	$41.34	$14.56	$20.58	$25.30	$29.71
Average	$22.40	$36.87	$47.81	$58.28	$30.09	$35.12	$37.68	$42.57	$14.98	$21.08	$25.87	$30.40

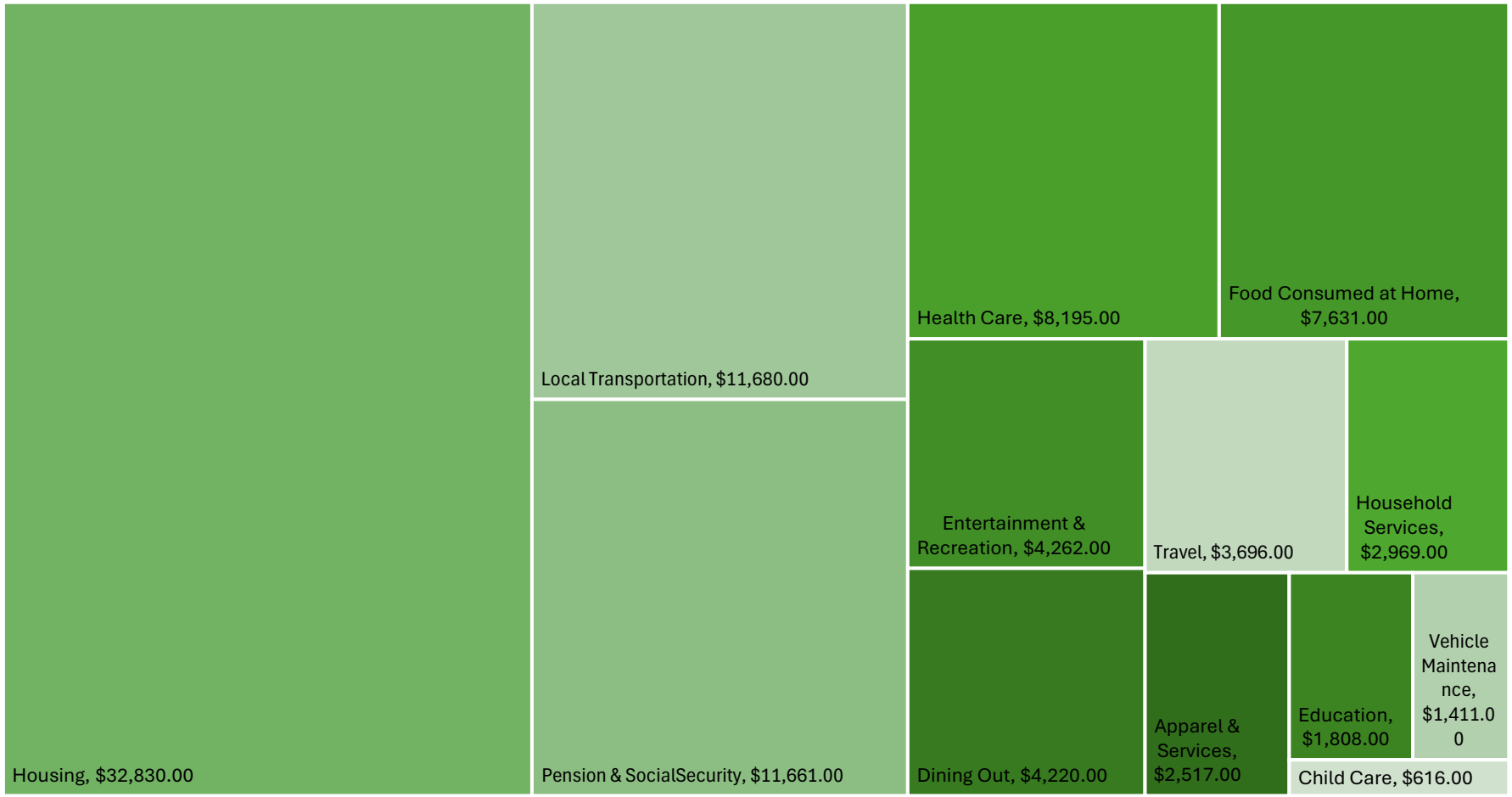
Source: MIT Living Wage Calculator Data Extracted July 2, 2026

Living wage estimates demonstrate that household composition has a greater influence on income needs than geography. Across Greenville and Spartanburg Counties, a single adult requires $22.40 per hour, while a single parent with three children requires $58.28 to meet basic needs. A two-adult household with three children requires $42.57 when one adult works and $30.40 per worker when both adults work. Although Greenville's living wage estimates are slightly higher than Spartanburg's, the differences are modest, reflecting the counties' similar cost-of-living profile.

For households with two working adults, living wage estimates are reported on a per-worker basis. As a result, while each worker's required hourly wage is lower, total household earnings are often higher than in comparable one-earner households because the MIT Living Wage methodology accounts for additional work-related expenses, particularly childcare.

Major Categories of Consumer Spending - Greer

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Business Builder, Data Extracted August 12, 2026



The most current data available from the U.S. Census Bureau's Business Builder tool place average annual household spending in Greater Greer at $103,069, an increase of 5.8% from the spending data cited in the 2025 report.

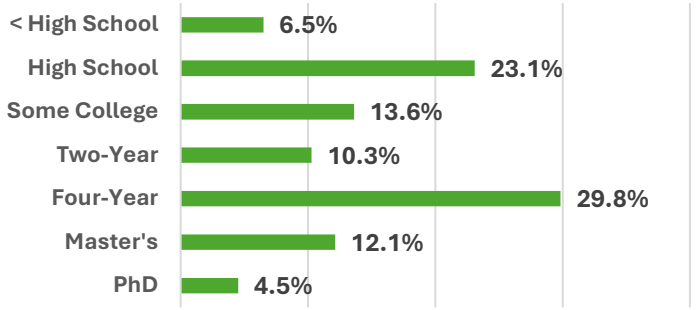
Housing remains the largest household expense, at $32,830, accounting for nearly one-third of total spending. Local Transportation and Pension & Social Security follow at $11,680 and $11,661, respectively, with Pension & Social Security increasing 10.2% from the prior report and nearly matching transportation as the second-largest category. Travel recorded the largest percentage increase among the major categories shown, rising nearly 24% to $3,696, while Vehicle Maintenance declined modestly to $1,411.

Greater Greer households spend an average of $1,808 annually on education, approximately 30% more than the $1,386 average across the 10-county Upstate. While education represents a relatively small share of overall household expenditures, the difference provides another indication of how spending patterns in Greater Greer differ from those of the broader region. Spending on Entertainment and Recreation ($4,262) and Dining Out ($4,220) remains considerably higher than spending on education.

Education and Training Requirements

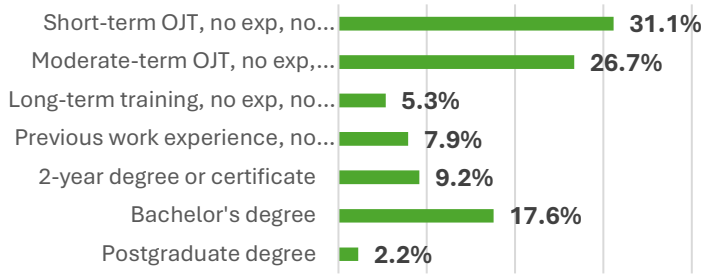
Educational Attainment Across All Occupations

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Education and Training Requirements Across All Occupations

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Educational Attainment	Median Usual Weekly Earning (national level data)
Less than high school	$784
High school graduate, no college	$977
Some college or associate degree	$1,138
Bachelor's degree or higher	$1,763

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Full-time workers 25 and over

Greater Greer's workforce remains highly educated relative to the broader region. Approximately 93.5% of workers have at least a high school diploma, compared with 89.5% across the 10-county Upstate. Likewise, 46.4% hold a bachelor's degree or higher—well above both the Upstate (31.7%) and South Carolina (33.1%) averages. These educational advantages are reflected in the community's occupational profile, where four-year degrees remain the largest attainment category (29.8%) and short- and moderate-term on-the-job training account for the largest share of education and training requirements.

Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the first quarter of 2026 continue to demonstrate the strong relationship between educational attainment and median usual weekly earnings. National median weekly earnings range from $784 for workers with less than a high school diploma to $1,763 for those holding a bachelor's degree or higher, reinforcing the economic value of education and workforce skills.

Taken together, these indicators suggest that Greater Greer possesses a highly educated workforce capable of supporting both advanced manufacturing and knowledge-based industries, while maintaining strong opportunities for workers entering careers through technical training and industry-recognized credentials.

Greater Greer Workforce & Talent Outlook - Overview

Industry demand, wage profile, and workforce characteristics — 2026Q1
Primary Sources: Chmura JobsEQ and MIT Living Wage Calculator

Industry	Total 5-Year Talent Demand	Leading Major Subsector (by projected 5-year openings)	Wage Profile (selected major subsectors)	Key Workforce Takeaways (among top 15 occupations shown in detail slides that follow)
Manufacturing	**8,424** projected openings	**Transportation Equipment Manufacturing 6,165 openings**	**$68,000 – $91,000** *across selected major subsectors*	• Demand is led by production occupations, with substantial need across maintenance, engineering, machine operations, welding, electrical, and supervisory roles.
Retail Trade	**3,557** projected openings	**Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers 752 openings**	**$32,000 – $75,000** *across selected major subsectors*	• Salespersons, cashiers, and stockers lead demand. Many high-volume frontline roles remain below the ~$46,600 living-wage benchmark.
Accommodation & Food Services	**2,879** projected openings	**Food Services & Drinking Places 2,821 openings**	**$25,000 – $36,000** *across selected major subsectors*	• Fast food and counter workers, waiters/waitresses, and cooks lead demand. Most high-demand roles remain below the living-wage benchmark.
Transportation & Warehousing	**2,557** projected openings	**Truck Transportation 901 openings**	**$36,000 – $65,000** *across selected major subsectors*	• Heavy truck drivers and material movers lead demand. The mix also includes logistics, mechanics, supervision, and specialized transportation roles.
Health Care & Social Assistance	**2,548** projected openings	**Ambulatory Health Care Services 1,045 openings**	**$31,000 – $91,000** *across selected major subsectors*	• Personal care aides and nursing assistants lead demand. Nursing, management, and advanced clinical roles carry substantially higher wages.

Note: Industry totals represent all subsectors within each broad industry. Detailed slides show selected major subsectors and the top 15 occupations; those detail categories do not necessarily sum to total industry demand.

Top Current Employment Sectors and Wages and Top Projected Sectors for Total Talent Demand

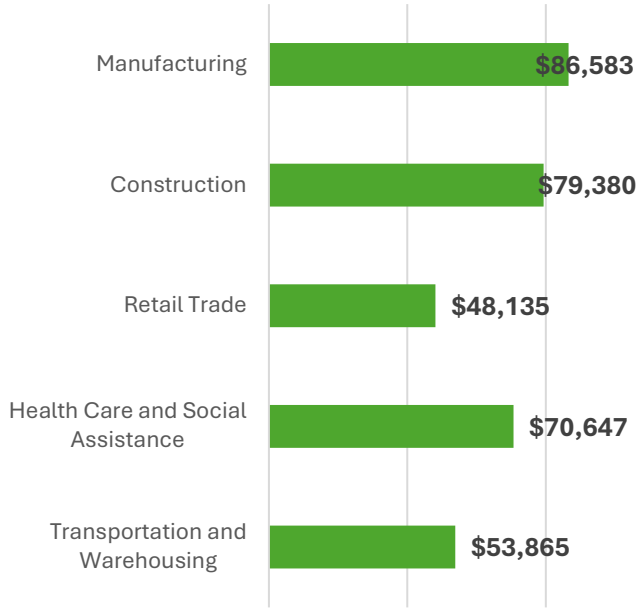
Current Top Employment Sectors - Greer, 2026Q1

Source: Chmura JobsEQ



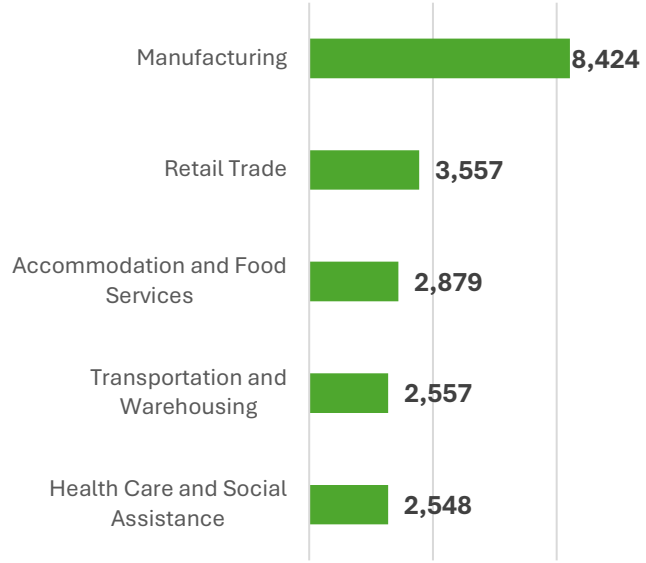
Current Average Annual Wages for Top 5 Employment Sectors

Source: Chmura JobsEQ



Top 5 Sectors Ranked by Projected 5-Year Forecasted Demand, 2026Q1

Source: Chmura JobsEQ



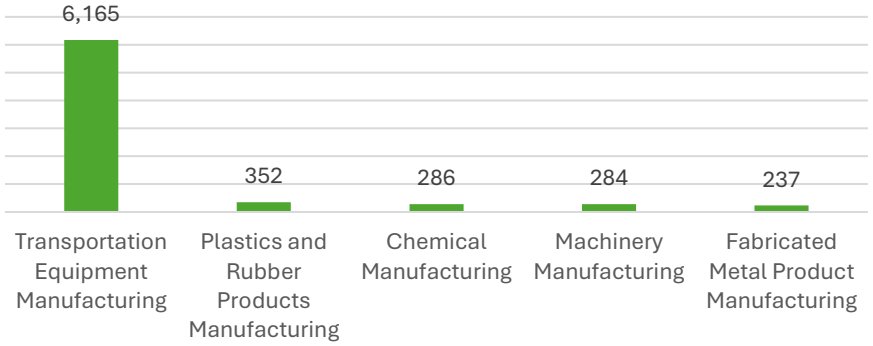
Total projected demand consists of exits, transfers, and sector employment growth.

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Manufacturing

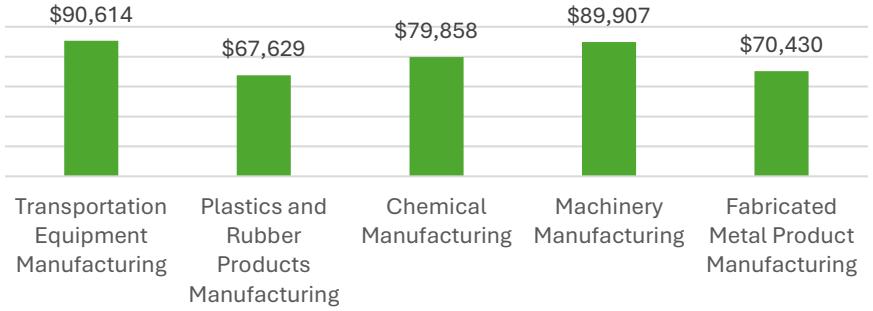
5-Year Forecasted Total Talent Demand for Major Manufacturing Sectors

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Current Average Wages for Top Manufacturing Sectors, Ranked on Forecasted Total Talent Demand, 2026Q1

Source: Chmura JobsEQ



Manufacturing remains a cornerstone of Greater Greer's economy, with Transportation Equipment Manufacturing accounting for the largest projected five-year talent demand at 6,165 openings. Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing follows with 352 projected openings, followed by Chemical Manufacturing (286), Machinery Manufacturing (284), and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing (237). Average annual wages are comparatively strong across the major manufacturing subsectors, ranging from $67,629 to $90,614, with the highest wages in Transportation Equipment Manufacturing and Machinery Manufacturing.

The occupational outlook points to continued demand across both production and technical roles. Team Assemblers account for the largest projected demand at 3,464, followed by Assemblers and Fabricators and First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers. Demand also extends across industrial engineering, machinery maintenance, welding, electrical, and machine-operating occupations. Overall, Greater Greer's manufacturing base continues to require a mix of high-volume production workers and increasingly specialized technical, maintenance, engineering, and supervisory talent.

Manufacturing Sector - Top 15 Occupations by Forecasted 5-Year Total Talent Demand

Source: Chmura JobsEQ RTI, 2026Q1

Occupation	Average Annual Wages	Total Demand
Team Assemblers	$67,700	3,464
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	$69,200	432
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	$92,100	321
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	$62,400	294
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	$47,400	265
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$46,300	221
Industrial Engineers	$108,100	186
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	$73,400	173
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	$54,300	133
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	$60,200	129
Industrial Production Managers	$144,900	123
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	$70,800	107
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	$59,000	107
Electricians	$72,400	100
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	$56,900	90

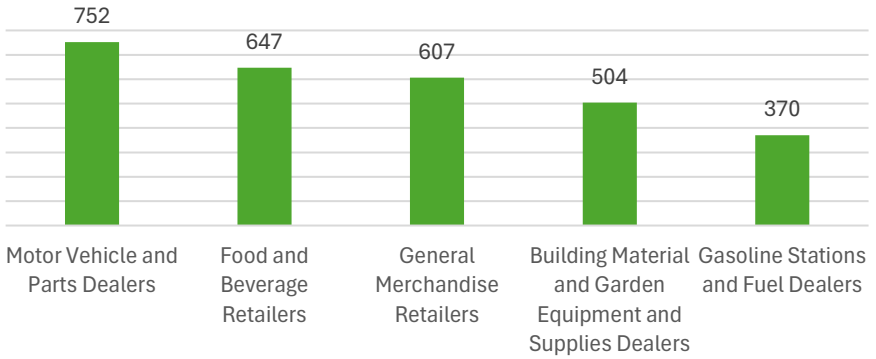
Note: Charts display selected major subsectors and may not sum to total industry demand.

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Retail Trade

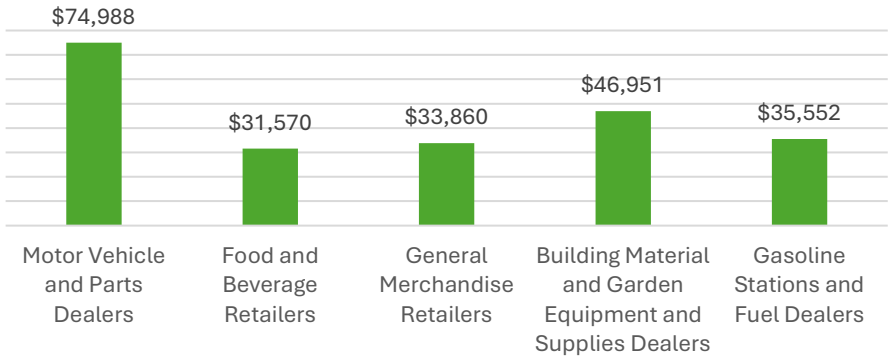
5-Year Forecasted Total Talent Demand for Major Retail Sectors

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Current Average Wages for Top Greer Retail Sectors

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Retail Trade remains a broad source of employment and projected talent demand in Greater Greer. Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers lead the five major subsectors with 752 projected openings, followed by Food and Beverage Retailers at 647 and General Merchandise Retailers at 607. Building Material and Garden Equipment and Supplies Dealers and Gasoline Stations and Fuel Dealers contribute additional demand, reflecting continued hiring needs across a diverse retail base.

Average wages vary substantially by subsector. Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers lead at approximately $75,000, while the remaining major subsectors range from roughly $32,000 to $47,000. At the occupational level, Retail Salespersons, Cashiers, and Stockers and Order Fillers account for the greatest projected demand. Many of these high demand occupations remain below the approximately $46,600 annualized living-wage benchmark for a single adult, highlighting the continuing gap between strong hiring needs and wages in much of the frontline retail workforce.

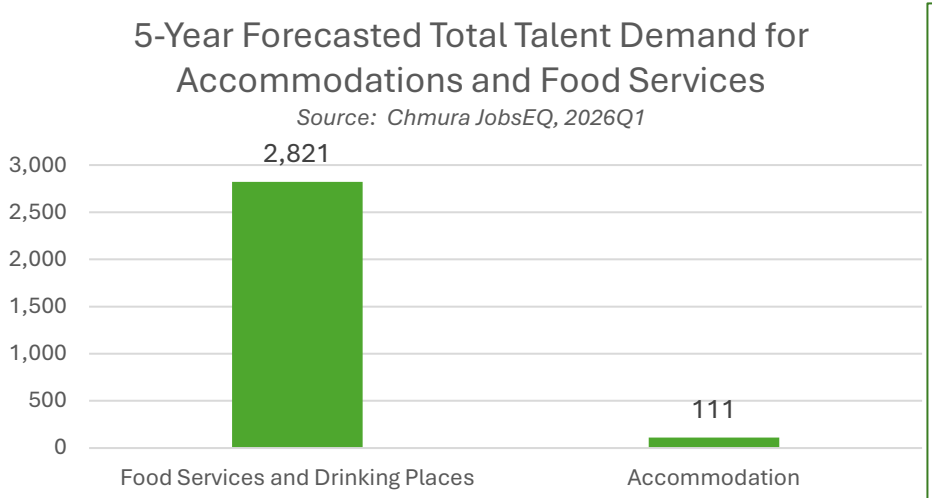
Retail Trade - Top 15 Occupations by Forecasted 5-Year Total Talent Demand

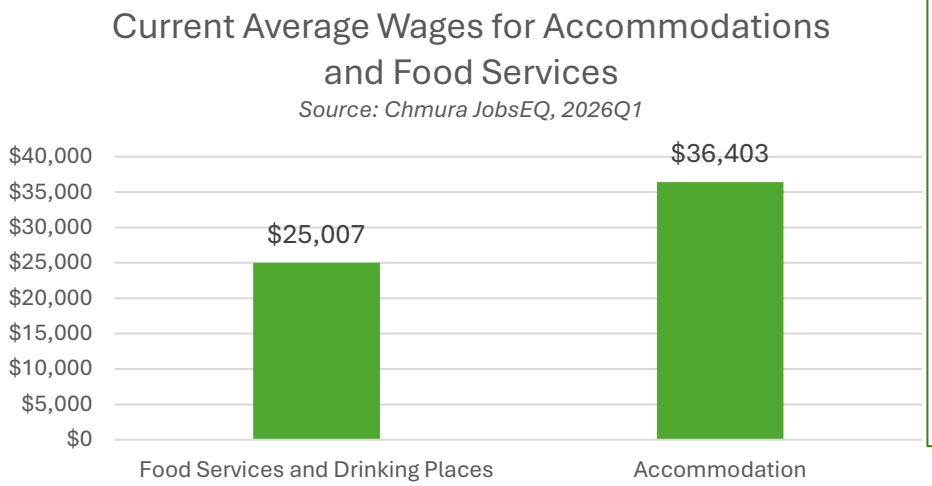
Source: Chmura JobsEQ RTI, 2026Q1

Occupation	Avg Ann Wages	Total Demand
Retail Salespersons	$36,700	791
Cashiers	$30,800	764
Stockers and Order Fillers	$38,200	411
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	$56,100	183
Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	$57,400	144
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$40,400	104
Customer Service Representatives	$43,400	99
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$29,200	78
Parts Salespersons	$36,700	67
Food Preparation Workers	$32,700	58
Pharmacy Technicians	$45,700	51
Light Truck Drivers	$31,600	43
Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment	$34,900	39
General and Operations Managers	$114,100	39
Office Clerks, General	$36,300	38

Note: Charts display selected major subsectors and may not sum to total industry demand.

Accommodations and Food Services





Greater Greer's Accommodation and Food Services sector is characterized by substantial projected hiring needs, particularly within Food Services and Drinking Places, which accounts for 2,821 of the sector's 2,932 projected openings over the next five years. Accommodation represents a much smaller share of projected demand at 111 openings. The concentration of demand in Food Services reflects the sector's large workforce and continued need for employees across customer-facing and food-preparation roles.

Average annual wages remain relatively low compared with other major industries in the report, at approximately $25,000 in Food Services and Drinking Places and $36,400 in Accommodation. Fast Food and Counter Workers account for the largest projected occupational demand at 1,147, followed by Waiters and Waitresses and Restaurant Cooks. Most of the occupations with the greatest projected demand remain below the approximately $46,600 annualized living-wage benchmark for a single adult, while higher-paying positions such as Food Service Managers are much more limited in number. The sector therefore combines substantial workforce demand with a concentration of employment in lower-wage occupations.

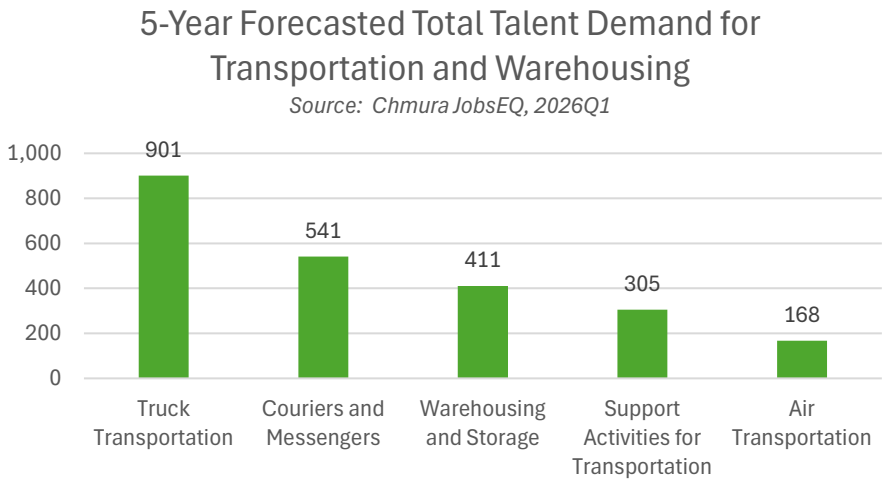
Accommodations and Food Services- Top 15 Occupations by Forecasted 5-Year Total Talent Demand

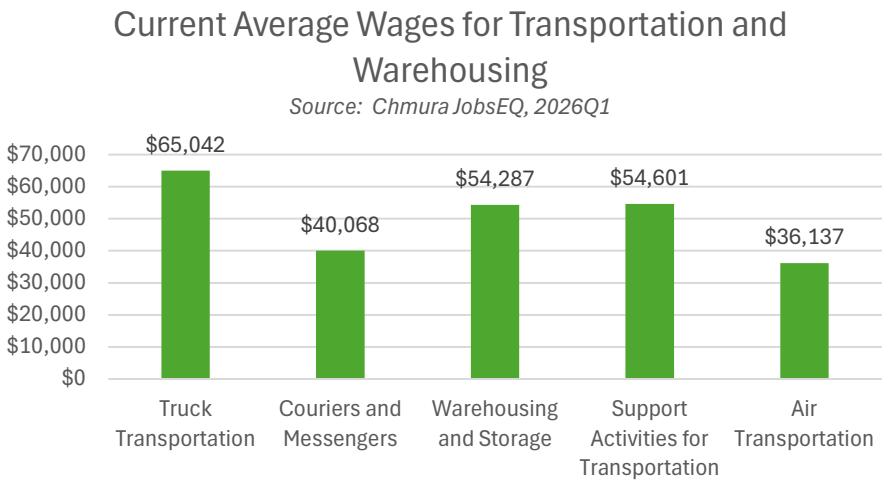
Source: Chmura JobsEQ RTI, 2026Q1

Occupation	Avg Ann Wages	Total Demand
Fast Food and Counter Workers	$29,600	1,147
Waiters and Waitresses	$27,800	492
Cooks, Restaurant	$37,000	258
First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	$45,900	209
Hosts and Hostesses, Restaurant, Lounge, and Coffee Shop	$27,300	115
Cooks, Fast Food	$30,400	105
Food Preparation Workers	$33,500	102
Bartenders	$31,100	99
Cashiers	$30,100	76
Dishwashers	$30,800	69
Dining Room and Cafeteria Attendants and Bartender Helpers	$28,900	68
Food Service Managers	$73,900	48
Driver/Sales Workers	$25,000	33
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$35,100	29
Hotel, Motel, and Resort Desk Clerks	$31,600	20

Note: Charts display selected major subsectors and may not sum to total industry demand.

Transportation and Warehousing





Transportation and Warehousing represents an important component of Greater Greer's logistics and distribution economy, with projected five-year talent demand concentrated in Truck Transportation (901), Couriers and Messengers (541), and Warehousing and Storage (411). These three subsectors account for the large majority of projected demand among the five categories shown. Truck Transportation also has the highest average annual wage at $65,042, while the other subsectors range from approximately $36,000 to $55,000.

The occupational outlook is heavily concentrated in transportation and material-moving roles. Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers account for 683 projected openings, followed by Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers at 452 and Light Truck Drivers at 201. At the same time, the sector supports a range of higher-skilled and higher-paying occupations, including transportation supervisors, mechanics, aircraft technicians, and flight attendants. Overall, the outlook reflects sustained demand for transportation and logistics workers across a broad range of skill levels and wage levels.

Transportation and Warehousing - Top 15 Occupations by Forecasted 5-Year Total Talent Demand

Source: Chmura JobsEQ RTI, 2026Q1

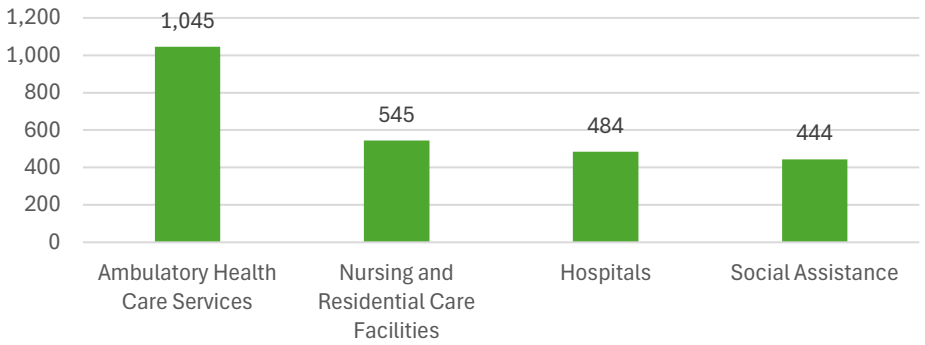
Occupation	Average Annual Wages	Total Demand
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	$59,200	683
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	$43,000	452
Light Truck Drivers	$45,600	201
Stockers and Order Fillers	$43,200	116
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	$48,000	78
First-Line Supervisors of Transportation and Material Moving Workers, Except Aircraft Cargo Handling Supervisors	$69,600	63
Flight Attendants	$72,600	53
Couriers and Messengers	$38,900	53
Bus Drivers, School	$46,200	50
Taxi Drivers	$53,400	45
Customer Service Representatives	$46,100	42
Office Clerks, General	$39,500	38
Reservation and Transportation Ticket Agents and Travel Clerks	$49,400	38
Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	$65,100	34
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	$62,300	32

Note: Charts display selected major subsectors and may not sum to total industry demand.

Health Care & Social Assistance

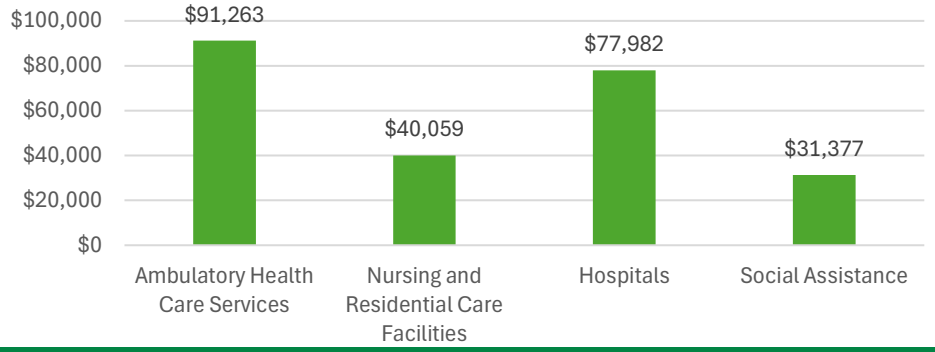
5-Year Forecasted Total Demand for Health Care and Social Assistance

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Current Average Wages - Health Care and Social Assistance

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, 2026Q1



Health Care and Social Assistance is another significant source of projected talent demand in Greater Greer. Ambulatory Health Care Services leads the four subsectors with 1,045 projected openings over the next five years, followed by Nursing and Residential Care Facilities at 545, Hospitals at 484, and Social Assistance at 444. The wage profile varies considerably across these subsectors, ranging from approximately $31,000 in Social Assistance to $91,000 in Ambulatory Health Care Services.

At the occupational level, demand is concentrated in direct-care positions. Personal Care Aides account for the largest projected demand at 329, followed by Nursing Assistants at 208 and Registered Nurses at 153. The sector also includes highly compensated specialized roles, including Registered Nurses, Medical and Health Services Managers, and Nurse Practitioners. Taken together, the data highlight a broad health care workforce ranging from entry-level direct-care positions to advanced clinical and management roles, with substantial differences in both credential requirements and earning potential.

Health Care and Social Assistance- Top 15 Occupations by Forecasted 5-Year Total Talent Demand

Source: Chmura JobsEQ RTI, 2026Q1

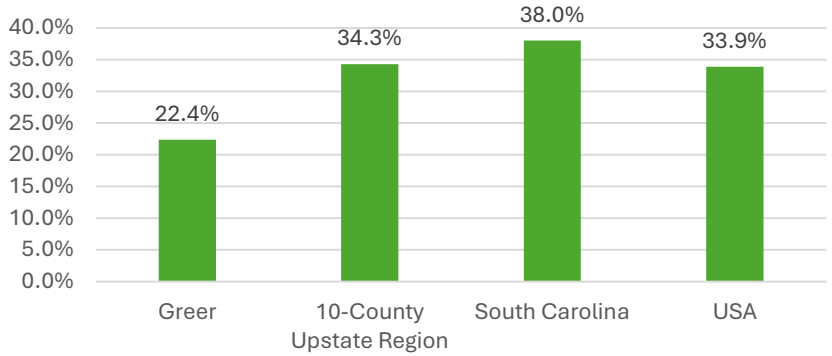
Occupation	Average Annual Wages	Total Demand
Personal Care Aides	$32,600	329
Nursing Assistants	$39,100	208
Registered Nurses	$88,500	153
Medical Assistants	$44,400	143
Home Health Aides	$32,600	117
Medical Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	$44,300	115
Childcare Workers	$30,800	103
Dental Assistants	$49,300	79
Receptionists and Information Clerks	$38,300	62
Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	$65,900	54
Medical and Health Services Managers	$121,300	53
Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	$37,600	45
Maids and Housekeeping Cleaners	$29,200	40
Office Clerks, General	$38,000	38
Nurse Practitioners	$124,500	36

Note: Charts display selected major subsectors and may not sum to total industry demand.

Additional Demographic and Employment Data

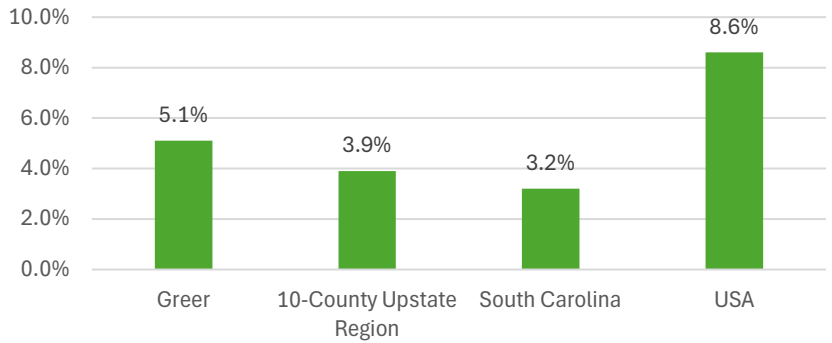
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)

Source: Chmura JobsEQ,, Data Extracted July 2026



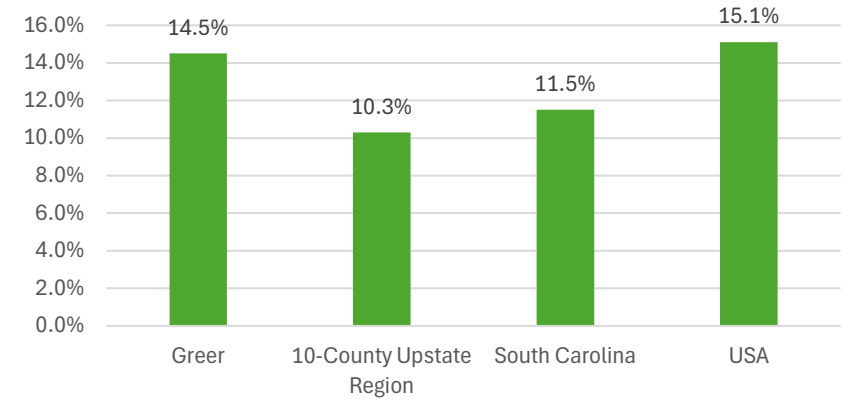
Speak English Less Than Very Well (Population 5 years and over)

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, Data Extracted July 2026



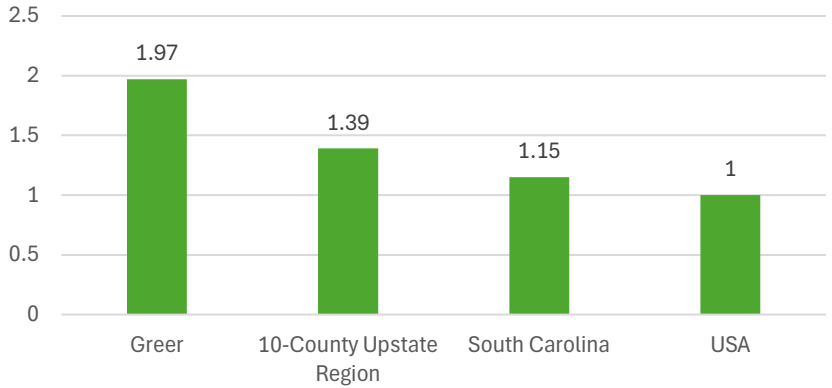
Work from Home

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, Data Extracted July 2026



Engineering LQ

Source: Chmura JobsEQ, Data Extracted August 2026



Greater Greer continues to compare favorably on several demographic and employment indicators. From 2025 to 2026, the share of children living in single-parent families declined from 23.2% to 22.4%. The 2026 rate remains well below the 10-county Upstate (34.3%), South Carolina (38.0%), and national (33.9%) rates. Over the same period, the share of Greer residents age five and older who speak English less than very well increased modestly from 4.8% to 5.1%; the 2026 rate compares with 3.9% regionally, 3.2% statewide, and 8.6% nationally.

Employment indicators also shifted between 2025 and 2026. Greer's work-from-home rate increased from 12.5% to 14.5%, bringing it close to the 2026 national rate of 15.1% and above both the Upstate (10.3%) and South Carolina (11.5%). Most notably, Greer's engineering location quotient rose from 1.74 in 2025 to 1.97 in 2026, indicating an engineering employment concentration nearly twice the national average and well above the 2026 Upstate (1.39) and state (1.15) levels. This concentration reinforces the importance of engineering talent to Greater Greer's advanced manufacturing and technology-oriented economy.

Partnering Through Data, Research, and Analytics

The Center for Business Analytics and Community Research

Johnson College of Business and Economics, USC Upstate

We partner with businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and community organizations to transform data into informed decisions and meaningful action. What makes the Center unique is the integration of faculty expertise, student learning, and applied research to address real-world challenges. Every partnership creates value for our clients, our students and the communities we serve, advancing our shared commitment to a stronger Upstate.

Business Analytics Solutions:

- Strategic Planning & Decision Support
- Business Intelligence & Dashboard Development
- Data Collection, Preparation & Management
- Descriptive, Predictive & Prescriptive Analytics
- Data Visualization & Storytelling
- Workforce Analytics & Talent Intelligence
- AI Readiness & Digital Transformation
- Executive Education & Customized Training

Applied Projects & Community Research:

- Workforce and Labor Market
- Analysis Economic Impact Studies
- Community Indicators & Benchmarking
- Nonprofit & Public Sector Analytics
- Survey Design, Focus Groups & Program Evaluation
- Policy Research & White Papers

The Center is built on the principle of reciprocity—working alongside community partners to create solutions that benefit organizations, students, and the Upstate region. We believe the best outcomes emerge when knowledge, experience, and data are shared through meaningful collaboration.

Contact: Sam Cooper, Ph.D.
Email: scooper7@uscupstate.edu
Telephone: 864-503-5854
Website: CBACR

The Center sits at the intersection of academic expertise, applied analytics, and community impact.

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