



Economic Overview

Laurens County, Georgia



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Demographic Profile

The population in Laurens County, Georgia was 47,404 per American Community Survey data for 2016-2020.

The region has a civilian labor force of 18,891 with a participation rate of 51.1%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in Laurens County, Georgia, 18.4% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 34.3% in the nation.

The median household income in Laurens County, Georgia is \$39,476 and the median house value is \$99,600.

Summary¹

Demographics	Percent			Value		
	Laurens County, Georgia	Georgia	USA	Laurens County, Georgia	Georgia	USA
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	47,404	10,516,579	326,569,308
Male	47.2%	48.6%	49.2%	22,387	5,113,936	160,818,530
Female	52.8%	51.4%	50.8%	25,017	5,402,643	165,750,778
Median Age ²	—	—	—	39.4	36.9	38.2
Under 18 Years	24.6%	23.8%	22.4%	11,683	2,505,314	73,296,738
18 to 24 Years	8.2%	9.6%	9.3%	3,893	1,014,840	30,435,736
25 to 34 Years	12.1%	13.9%	13.9%	5,727	1,463,710	45,485,165
35 to 44 Years	12.3%	13.2%	12.7%	5,833	1,384,214	41,346,677
45 to 54 Years	12.4%	13.4%	12.7%	5,874	1,404,137	41,540,736
55 to 64 Years	12.9%	12.2%	12.9%	6,110	1,285,003	42,101,439
65 to 74 Years	9.9%	8.5%	9.4%	4,691	898,600	30,547,950
75 Years and Over	7.6%	5.3%	6.7%	3,593	560,761	21,814,867
Race: White	57.8%	57.2%	70.4%	27,385	6,020,265	229,960,813
Race: Black or African American	37.6%	31.6%	12.6%	17,834	3,319,844	41,227,384
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%	108	34,962	2,688,614
Race: Asian	1.1%	4.1%	5.6%	520	434,603	18,421,637
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%	9	7,127	611,404
Race: Some Other Race	2.4%	2.9%	5.1%	1,140	306,609	16,783,914
Race: Two or More Races	0.9%	3.7%	5.2%	408	393,169	16,875,542
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2.7%	9.6%	18.2%	1,297	1,013,057	59,361,020
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	47,512	10,710,017	329,484,123
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	-0.2%	1.0%	0.6%	-88	99,781	2,015,698
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	58.9	184.6	92.9
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	51.1%	63.1%	63.2%	18,891	5,201,775	164,759,496
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	71.7%	81.1%	82.4%	12,499	3,421,408	105,137,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.0%	0.6%	0.4%	0	53,208	1,143,342
Veterans, Age 18-64	6.0%	5.6%	4.5%	1,655	365,727	8,920,267
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	54.3%	75.7%	76.8%	899	276,966	6,853,673
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$39,476	\$61,224	\$64,994
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$23,694	\$32,427	\$35,384
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	24.8	28.7	26.9
Commute via Public Transportation	0.1%	1.9%	4.6%	11	93,987	7,044,886
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	11.9%	11.1%	10.5%	2,790	615,102	17,929,220
High School Graduate	40.0%	26.3%	25.4%	9,422	1,458,600	43,289,555
Some College, No Degree	20.4%	20.5%	20.5%	4,798	1,132,825	34,959,338

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Laurens County, Georgia	Georgia	USA	Laurens County, Georgia	Georgia	USA
Associate's Degree	9.4%	8.5%	9.3%	2,212	468,652	15,776,790
Bachelor's Degree	9.8%	21.0%	21.6%	2,313	1,161,543	36,888,244
Postgraduate Degree	8.5%	12.6%	12.7%	2,009	700,342	21,630,870
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	21,602	4,329,675	138,432,751
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ²	—	—	—	\$99,600	\$190,200	\$229,800
Homeowner Vacancy	1.1%	1.7%	1.4%	117	42,058	1,129,755
Rental Vacancy	3.4%	6.5%	5.8%	229	96,603	2,704,553
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	37.0%	36.0%	35.6%	6,350	1,377,105	43,552,843
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	5.9%	6.3%	8.5%	1,017	242,123	10,344,521
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	26.3%	14.3%	12.8%	12,175	1,461,572	40,910,326
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	20.5%	12.2%	11.4%	3,517	468,521	13,892,407
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.2%	1.5%	1.3%	571	154,726	4,358,865
Disconnected Youth ³	3.5%	3.1%	2.5%	83	18,191	433,164
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	52.8%	38.1%	34.0%	5,674	896,618	23,628,508
Uninsured	13.0%	13.0%	8.7%	6,069	1,345,294	28,058,903
With a Disability, Age 18-64	13.8%	10.6%	10.3%	3,705	677,890	20,231,217
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	34.8%	41.0%	43.2%	1,291	277,978	8,740,236
Foreign Born	2.1%	10.2%	13.5%	981	1,068,027	44,125,628
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	1.6%	5.4%	8.2%	723	536,491	25,312,024

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2016-2020, unless noted otherwise

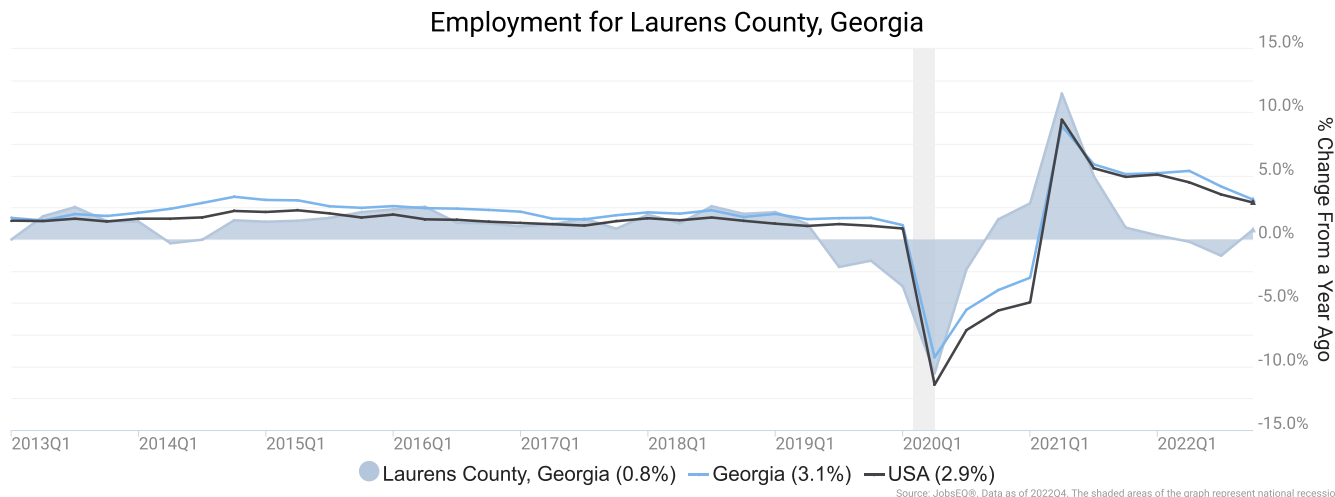
2. Median values for certain aggregate regions (such as MSAs) may be estimated as the weighted averages of the median values from the composing counties.

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 2020, annual average growth rate since 2010.

Employment Trends

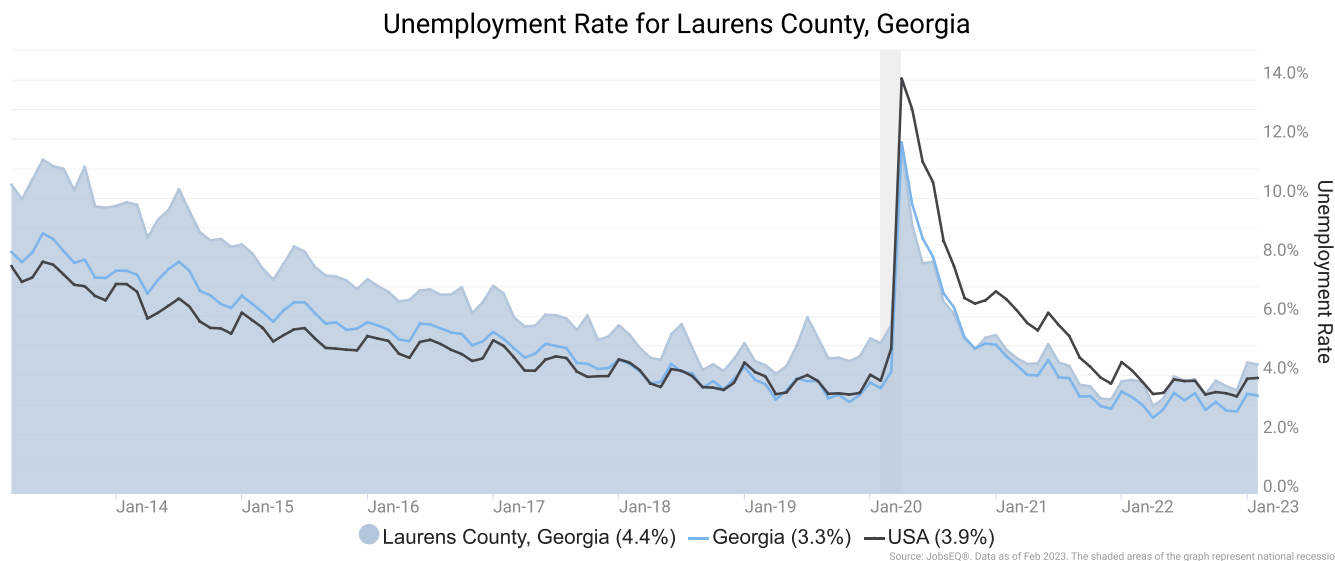
As of 2022Q4, total employment for Laurens County, Georgia was 20,728 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2022Q4, employment increased 0.8% in the region.



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 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for Laurens County, Georgia was 4.4% as of February 2023. The regional unemployment rate was higher than the national rate of 3.9%. One year earlier, in February 2022, the unemployment rate in Laurens County, Georgia was 3.8%.

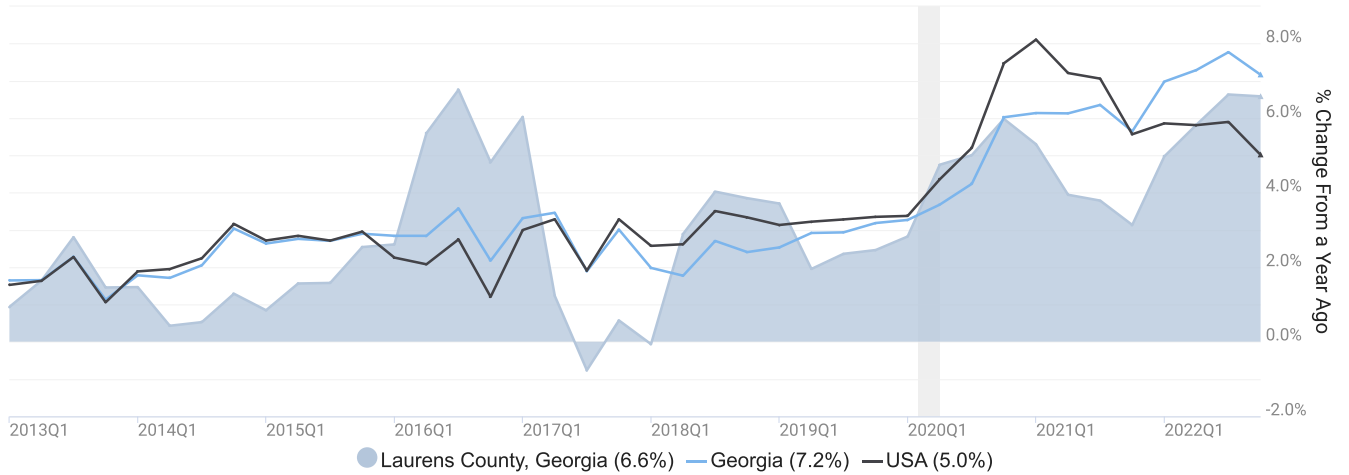


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through February 2023.

Wage Trends

The average worker in Laurens County, Georgia earned annual wages of \$45,985 as of 2022Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 6.6% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$68,838 in the nation as of 2022Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Laurens County, Georgia



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 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

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 13.5% lower in Laurens County, Georgia than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Laurens County, Georgia	\$45,985	86.5	\$53,181
Georgia	\$64,200	95.3	\$67,385
USA	\$68,838	100.0	\$68,838

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

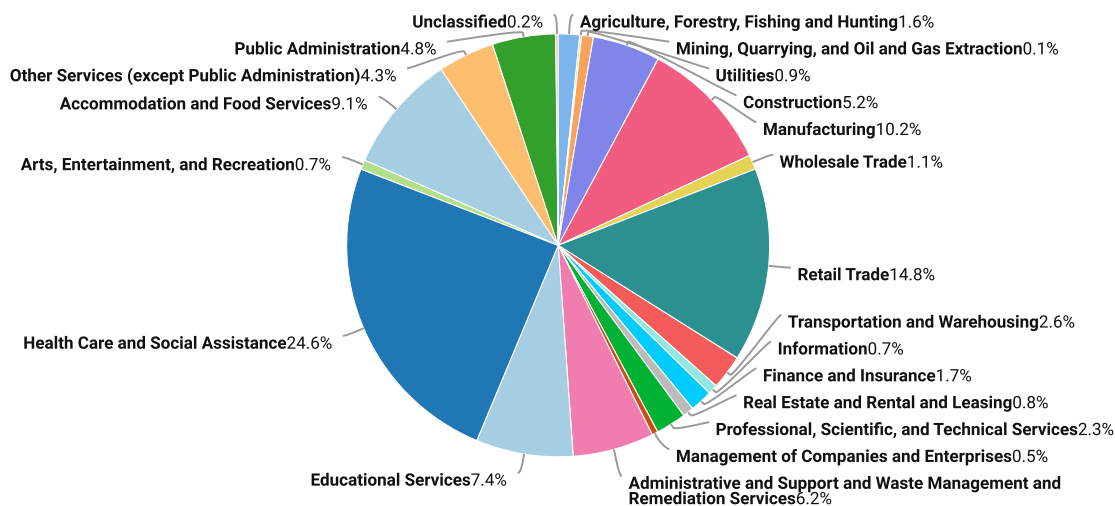
Data as of 2022Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2022Q4, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in Laurens County, Georgia is Health Care and Social Assistance, employing 5,100 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (3,072 workers) and Manufacturing (2,107). 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 = 1.75), Health Care and Social Assistance (1.72), and Retail Trade (1.48).

Total Workers for Laurens County, Georgia by Industry



Source: JobsEQ®. Data as of 2022Q4

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 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4.

Sectors in Laurens County, Georgia with the highest average wages per worker are Utilities (\$74,233), Finance and Insurance (\$72,313), and Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$71,255). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Retail Trade (+470 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+299), and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+185).

Over the next 5 years, employment in Laurens County, Georgia is projected to expand by 48 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Health Care and Social Assistance (+144 jobs), Accommodation and Food Services (+95), and Other Services (except Public Administration) (+10).

Laurens County, Georgia, 2022Q4¹

NAICS	Industry	Empl	Current	5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
			Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	5,100	\$59,521	1.72	299	1.2%	2,799	1,222	1,433	144	0.6%
44	Retail Trade	3,072	\$33,751	1.48	470	3.4%	2,023	919	1,215	-111	-0.7%
31	Manufacturing	2,107	\$59,881	1.26	-102	-0.9%	1,091	420	714	-43	-0.4%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	1,879	\$18,522	1.06	66	0.7%	1,772	758	918	95	1.0%
61	Educational Services	1,535	\$46,789	0.93	61	0.8%	750	358	396	-5	-0.1%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	1,288	\$38,006	0.96	-36	-0.6%	770	316	462	-7	-0.1%
23	Construction	1,074	\$50,161	0.87	39	0.7%	515	188	335	-7	-0.1%
92	Public Administration	1,004	\$41,560	1.05	89	1.9%	472	204	290	-21	-0.4%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	892	\$26,569	1.00	91	2.2%	551	227	314	10	0.2%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	543	\$55,695	0.53	-436	-11.1%	316	131	192	-8	-0.3%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	482	\$61,988	0.32	185	10.2%	226	80	138	9	0.4%
52	Finance and Insurance	358	\$72,313	0.43	-114	-5.4%	163	63	104	-4	-0.2%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	340	\$27,567	1.24	-4	-0.2%	203	94	119	-10	-0.6%
42	Wholesale Trade	233	\$56,400	0.30	-47	-3.6%	125	47	81	-3	-0.3%
22	Utilities	182	\$74,233	1.75	-25	-2.5%	73	31	54	-12	-1.3%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	175	\$42,259	0.47	7	0.9%	86	40	49	-3	-0.4%
51	Information	154	\$43,775	0.36	-41	-4.6%	83	27	49	6	0.8%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	149	\$29,284	0.37	14	2.0%	122	48	66	8	1.1%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	94	\$71,255	0.29	-15	-2.9%	44	16	28	-1	-0.1%
99	Unclassified	39	\$45,736	0.92	19	14.7%	23	9	13	0	0.0%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	30	\$49,940	0.41	22	29.7%	19	5	11	3	1.7%
Total - All Industries		20,728	\$45,985	1.00	543	0.5%	11,999	4,993	6,958	48	0.0%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4

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 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in Laurens County, Georgia is Sales and Related Occupations, employing 2,187 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (2,106 workers) and Office and Administrative Support Occupations (2,103). 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 Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (LQ = 1.76), Community and Social Service Occupations (1.47), and Healthcare Support Occupations (1.25).

Occupation groups in Laurens County, Georgia with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$91,000), Legal Occupations (\$88,600), and Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations (\$88,300). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 1.1% among Legal Occupations to 6.0% among Food Preparation and Serving Related Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in Laurens County, Georgia is expected to be Community and Social Service Occupations with a +1.2% 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 (+78 jobs) and Healthcare Support Occupations (+59). 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 (1,813 jobs) and Sales and Related Occupations (1,540).

Laurens County, Georgia, 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			5-Year Forecast				
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
41-0000	Sales and Related	2,187	\$35,100	1.13	100	4.8%	143	223	2.2%	1,459	696	844	-81	-0.8%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	2,106	\$88,300	1.76	28	1.5%	290	256	2.6%	645	320	301	25	0.2%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	2,103	\$39,300	0.82	62	3.3%	42	-151	-1.4%	1,129	547	672	-89	-0.9%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	1,867	\$26,200	1.14	109	6.0%	98	47	0.5%	1,890	841	972	78	0.8%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	1,727	\$36,500	0.95	97	5.2%	106	-257	-2.7%	1,183	451	728	3	0.0%
51-0000	Production	1,334	\$42,600	1.14	55	4.3%	29	-249	-3.4%	696	271	465	-39	-0.6%
11-0000	Management	1,310	\$91,000	0.92	17	1.5%	74	115	1.8%	588	215	354	19	0.3%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	1,168	\$53,800	1.06	31	2.4%	15	51	0.9%	535	258	266	10	0.2%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	1,141	\$31,000	1.25	36	3.7%	72	-24	-0.4%	891	369	463	59	1.0%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	981	\$69,800	0.74	17	2.0%	30	197	4.6%	449	150	291	9	0.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	836	\$45,000	0.89	39	4.9%	15	30	0.7%	411	144	267	0	0.0%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	794	\$50,900	0.99	17	2.1%	67	19	0.5%	370	142	235	-7	-0.2%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	748	\$32,600	1.09	36	5.0%	21	22	0.6%	497	217	282	-2	0.0%
21-0000	Community and Social Service	536	\$48,600	1.47	9	1.9%	42	55	2.2%	312	114	164	34	1.2%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	465	\$31,200	0.92	17	4.2%	6	36	1.6%	421	166	236	19	0.8%
33-0000	Protective Service	403	\$45,100	0.91	11	3.1%	15	38	2.0%	193	87	111	-6	-0.3%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	330	\$84,200	0.46	4	1.9%	6	66	4.6%	121	37	80	5	0.3%

Laurens County, Georgia, 2022Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Empl	Mean Ann Wages ²	Current			5-Year History			Total Demand	5-Year Forecast			Ann % Growth
				LQ	Unempl	Unempl Rate	Online Job Ads ³	Empl Change	Ann %		Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	200	\$83,000	0.59	1	1.3%	11	11	1.2%	70	27	45	-2	-0.2%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	189	\$50,700	0.52	4	5.3%	9	2	0.2%	105	43	59	4	0.4%
23-0000	Legal	109	\$88,600	0.62	1	1.1%	3	17	3.4%	38	17	19	2	0.4%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	106	\$71,000	0.58	1	1.5%	2	20	4.3%	49	12	37	0	0.0%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	88	\$40,400	0.67	4	4.8%	n/a	19	4.9%	65	21	47	-2	-0.6%
Total - All Occupations		20,728	\$50,000	1.00	699	3.6%	1,098	543	0.5%	12,128	5,145	6,936	48	0.0%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2022Q4 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

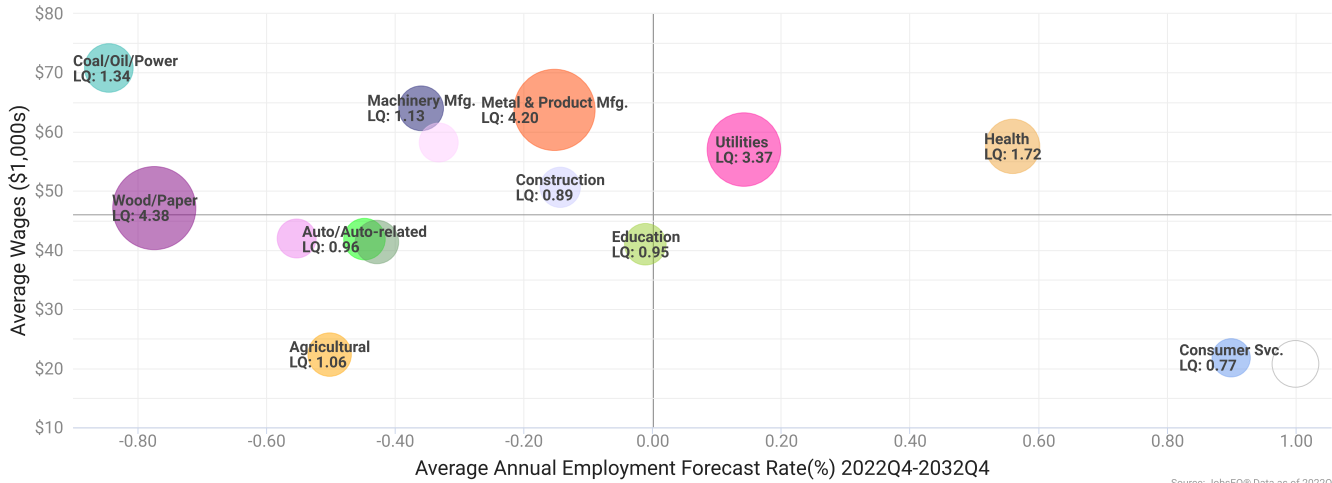
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

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 2022Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2022 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 Laurens County, Georgia with the highest relative concentration is Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 4.38. This cluster employs 719 workers in the region with an average wage of \$47,160. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to contract in the region about 0.8% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Laurens County, Georgia as of 2022Q4



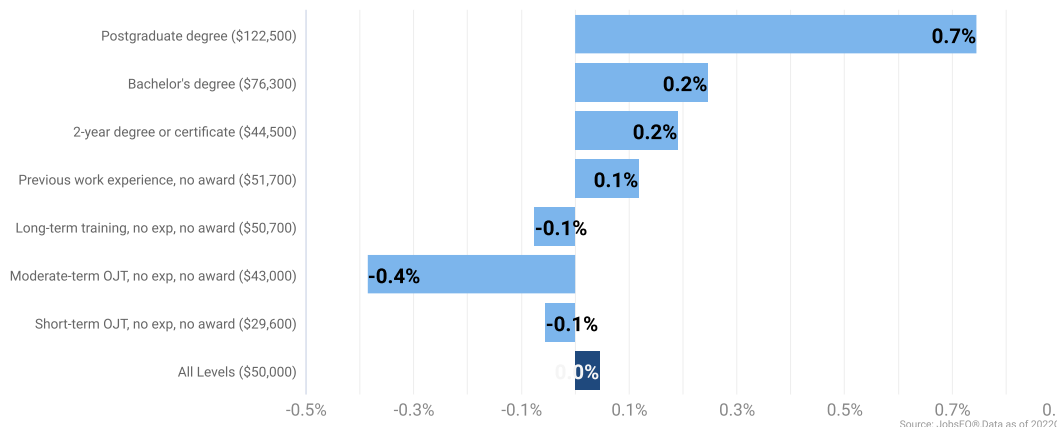
Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2022Q4

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 2022Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2022Q4. 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 Laurens County, Georgia is projected to grow 0.0% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 0.7% per year, those requiring a bachelor’s degree are forecast to grow 0.2% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 0.2% per year.

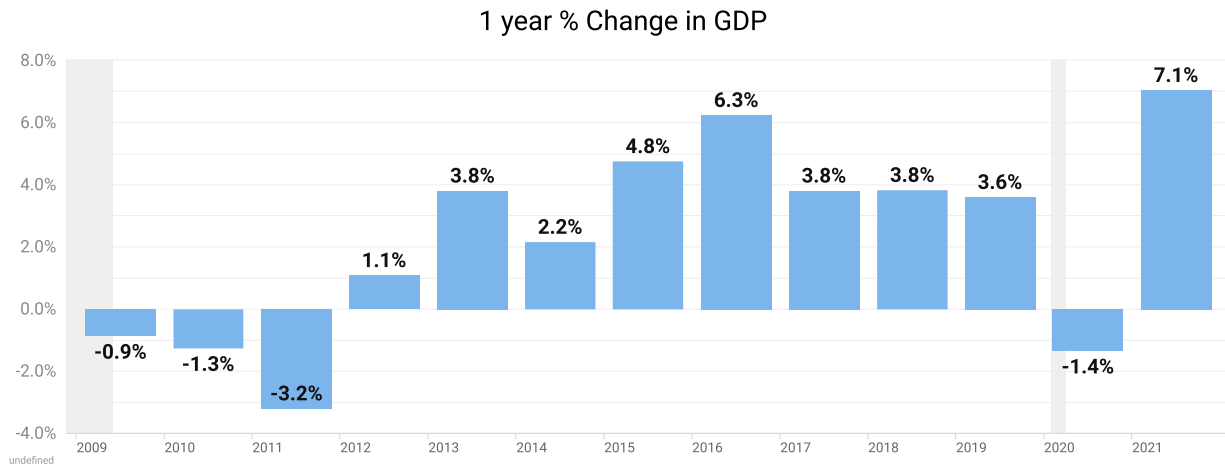
Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Training Required



Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2022Q4. 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.

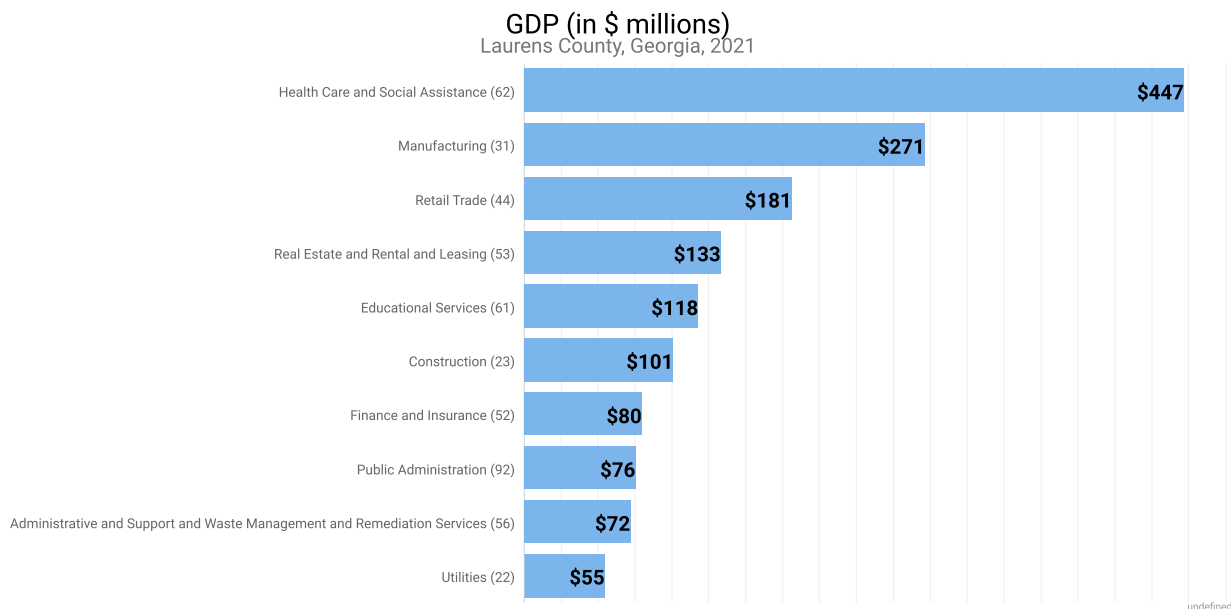
Gross Domestic Product

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the total value of goods and services produced by a region. In 2021, nominal GDP in Laurens County, Georgia expanded 7.1%. This follows a contraction of 1.4% in 2020. As of 2021, total GDP in Laurens County, Georgia was \$1,811,832,000.



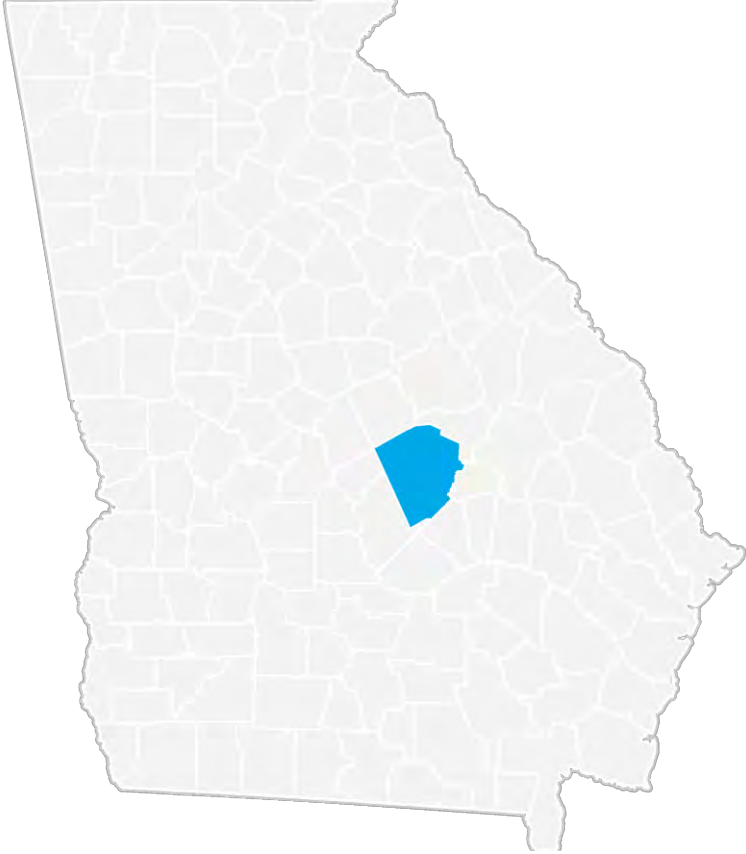
Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Of the sectors in Laurens County, Georgia, Health Care and Social Assistance contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2021, \$446,685,000. The next-largest contributions came from Manufacturing (\$271,347,000); Retail Trade (\$181,014,000); and Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$133,235,000).



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2021.

Laurens County, Georgia Regional Map



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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