





Area Labor Profile

Pickens

County



Updated: Dec 2025

Labor Force Activity

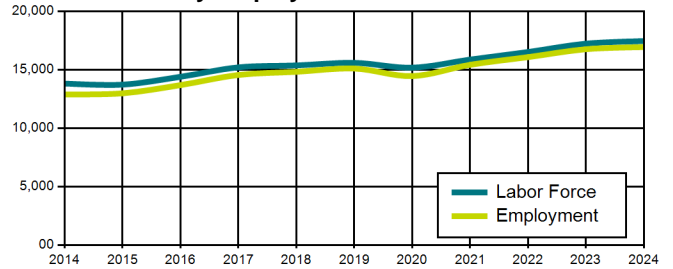
September 2025

	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Rate
Pickens	17,450	16,954	496	2.8%
Bartow	56,823	55,035	1,788	3.1%
Cherokee	153,627	149,399	4,228	2.8%
Dawson	15,971	15,548	423	2.6%
Gilmer	15,552	15,115	437	2.8%
Gordon	29,474	28,539	935	3.2%
Pickens Area	288,897	280,590	8,307	2.9%
Georgia	5,408,978	5,225,359	183,619	3.4%
United States	171,217,000	163,894,000	7,324,000	4.3%

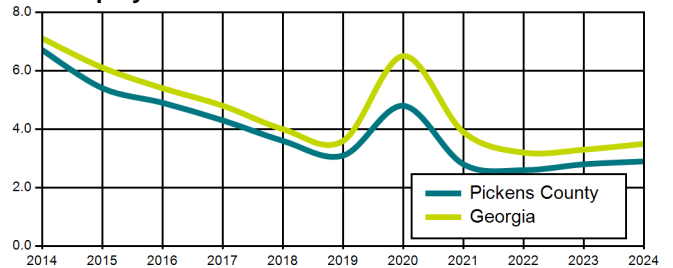
Note: This series reflects the latest information available. Labor Force includes residents of the county who are employed or actively seeking employment.

Source: Georgia Department of Labor; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Pickens County Employment Trends



Unemployment Rate Trends

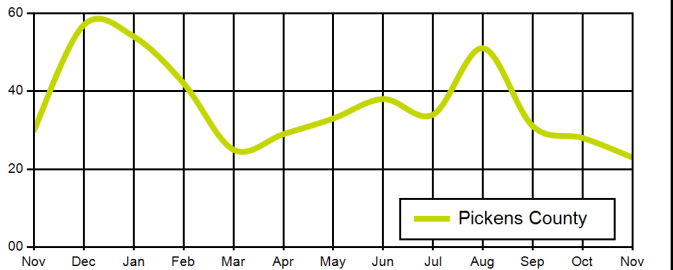


Initial Claims Activity

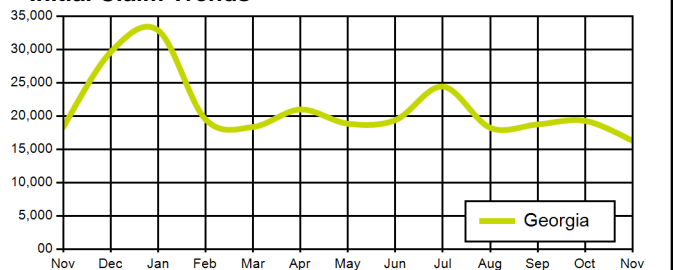
	November 2025	October 2025	September 2025	Total
Pickens	23	28	31	82
Bartow	211	186	180	577
Cherokee	258	271	276	805
Dawson	31	36	23	90
Gilmer	17	25	36	78
Gordon	213	143	229	585
Pickens Area	753	689	775	2,217

Source: Georgia Department of Labor; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Initial Claim Trends



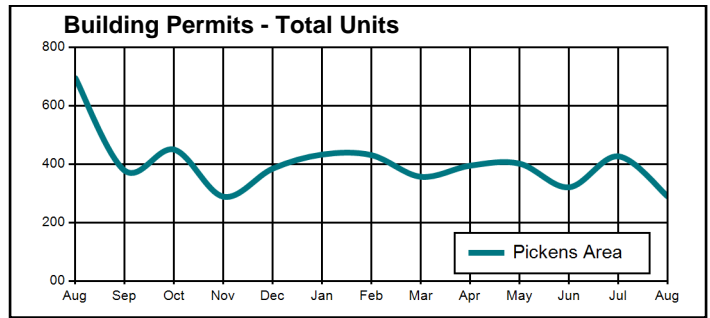
Initial Claim Trends



Building Permit Construction Activity

	Pickens Area			
	August 2025	July 2025	June 2025	Total
Totals	290	427	321	1,038
Family residential	264	375	295	934
Multi family resident	26	52	26	104

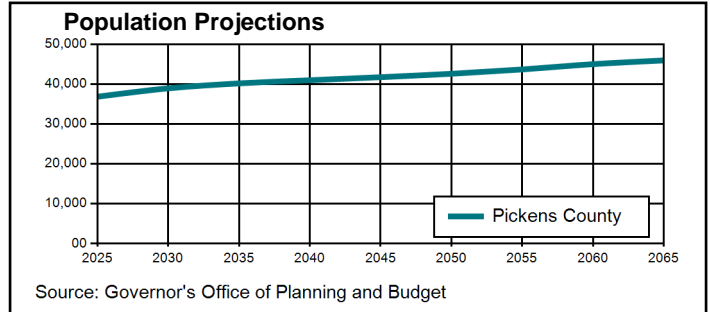
Source: U.S. Census Bureau.



Population Activity

	Annual 2024	Annual 2023	Difference
Pickens	36,580	35,969	611
Bartow	117,508	115,041	2,467
Cherokee	293,513	286,602	6,911
Dawson	33,748	31,732	2,016
Gilmer	33,327	32,860	467
Gordon	60,765	59,757	1,008
Pickens Area	575,441	561,961	13,480
Georgia	11,180,878	11,029,227	151,651
United States	340,110,988	334,914,895	5,196,093

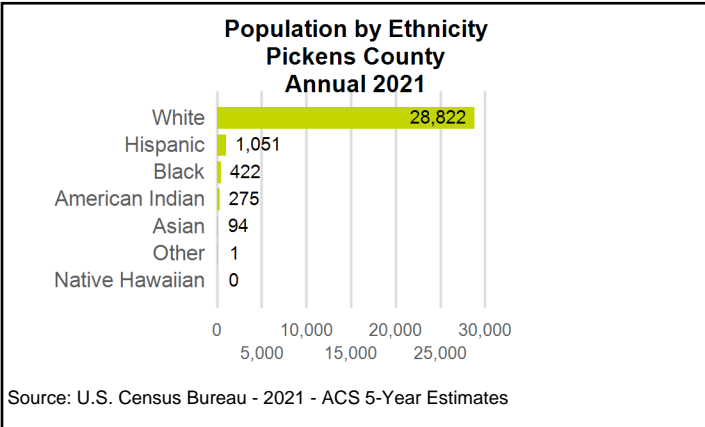
Source: Georgia Department of Labor; U.S. Census Bureau.



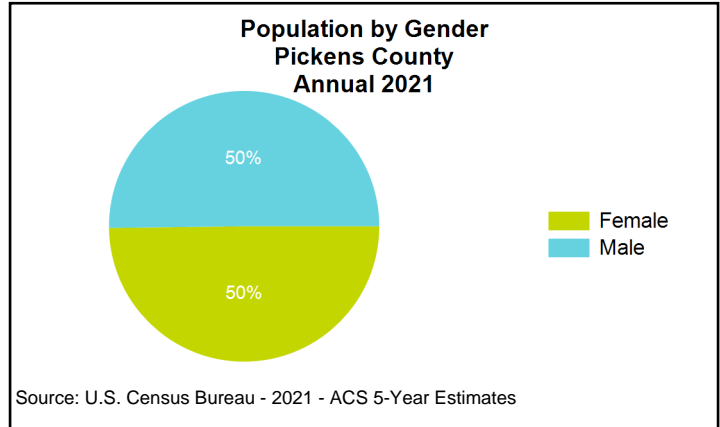
Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget



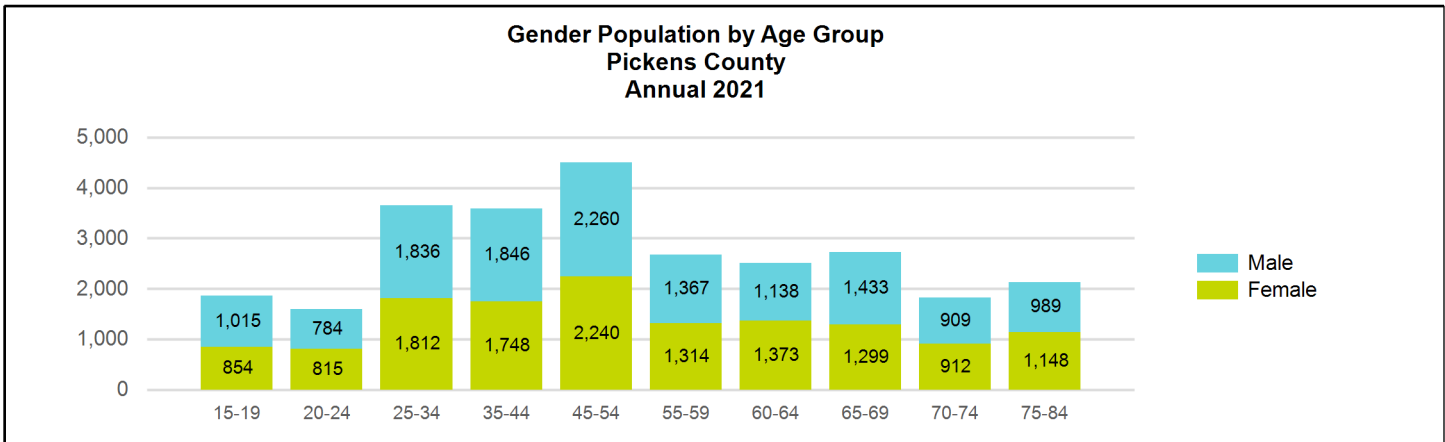
Source: Governor's Office of Planning and Budget



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2021 - ACS 5-Year Estimates



Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2021 - ACS 5-Year Estimates



Industry Mix - 2nd Quarter of 2025

INDUSTRY	Pickens				Pickens Area			
	NUMBER OF FIRMS	EMPLOYMENT		WEEKLY WAGE	NUMBER OF FIRMS	EMPLOYMENT		WEEKLY WAGE
		NUMBER	PERCENT			NUMBER	PERCENT	
Goods-Producing	202	1,824	19.0	1,258	2,748	43,586	24.7	1,344
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9	26	0.3	872	108	469	0.3	1,075
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	2	*	*	*	13	413	0.2	1,575
Construction	130	799	8.3	1,291	1,912	12,290	7.0	1,464
Manufacturing	61	830	8.6	1,175	715	30,414	17.3	1,297
Food	4	14	0.1	552	44	2,946	1.7	905
Beverage and Tobacco Product	6	77	0.8	1,115	29	795	0.5	1,577
Textile Product Mills	2	*	*	*	70	6,767	3.8	1,292
Apparel	2	*	*	*	5	147	0.1	1,280
Wood Product	3	34	0.4	906	39	713	0.4	1,056
Paper	1	*	*	*	8	327	0.2	1,359
Printing and Related Support Activities	4	4	0.0	624	41	503	0.3	1,048
Chemical	5	24	0.3	1,565	61	1,446	0.8	1,449
Plastics and Rubber Products	5	170	1.8	1,142	39	4,888	2.8	1,322
Nonmetallic Mineral Product	5	37	0.4	1,215	46	687	0.4	1,452
Fabricated Metal Product	8	38	0.4	1,177	89	2,012	1.1	1,495
Machinery	1	*	*	*	45	991	0.6	1,476
Electrical Equipment, Appliance, and Component	1	*	*	*	17	1,100	0.6	1,647
Transportation Equipment	2	*	*	*	20	1,699	1.0	1,259
Furniture and Related Product	7	*	*	*	42	737	0.4	1,162
Miscellaneous	5	9	0.1	1,055	50	464	0.3	1,471
Leather and Allied Product	0	0	0.0	0	2	*	*	*
Petroleum and Coal Products	0	0	0.0	0	7	*	*	*
Primary Metal	0	0	0.0	0	9	1,391	0.8	1,632
Textile Mills	0	0	0.0	0	24	2,241	1.3	1,056
Computer and Electronic Product	0	0	0.0	0	28	517	0.3	1,267
Service-Providing	649	6,405	66.7	1,012	11,290	109,588	62.2	944
Utilities	4	130	1.4	1,683	24	803	0.5	2,208
Wholesale Trade	44	169	1.8	1,314	764	6,908	3.9	1,434
Retail Trade	115	1,506	15.7	707	1,800	25,346	14.4	690
Transportation and Warehousing	12	62	0.6	915	337	5,355	3.0	1,246
Information	11	25	0.3	1,040	270	1,051	0.6	1,629
Finance and Insurance	43	245	2.6	1,271	723	3,548	2.0	1,496
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	29	122	1.3	1,021	651	1,741	1.0	1,051
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	80	186	1.9	1,205	1,758	6,102	3.5	1,428
Management of Companies and Enterprises	6	*	*	*	56	994	0.6	1,689
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	53	208	2.2	865	981	7,667	4.4	987
Educational Services	8	17	0.2	746	167	1,301	0.7	733
Health Care and Social Assistance	94	1,661	17.3	1,689	1,363	19,247	10.9	1,250
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	8	*	*	*	233	3,447	2.0	499
Accommodation and Food Services	74	1,077	11.2	463	1,161	21,661	12.3	474
Other Services (except Public Administration)	68	465	4.8	812	1,002	4,417	2.5	861
Unclassified - industry not assigned	65	35	0.4	1,200	1,075	583	0.3	1,123
Total - Private Sector	916	8,264	86.1	1,066	15,113	153,757	87.3	1,058
Total - Government	30	1,332	13.9	1,060	312	22,465	12.7	1,088
Federal Government	5	66	0.7	1,033	47	837	0.5	1,266
State Government	11	129	1.3	961	102	2,242	1.3	948
Local Government	14	1,137	11.8	1,073	163	19,386	11.0	1,097
ALL INDUSTRIES	946	9,596	100.0	1,066	15,425	176,226	100.0	1,062
ALL INDUSTRIES - Georgia					394,870	4,899,057		1,339

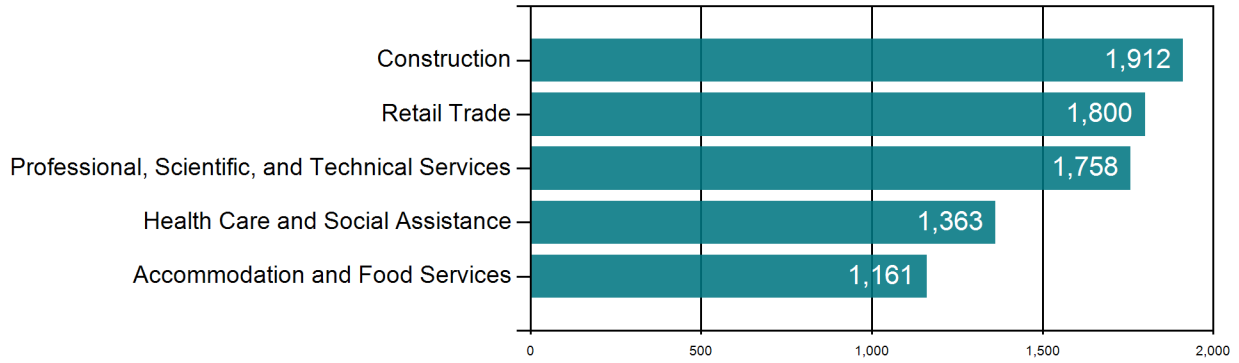
Note: *Denotes confidential data relating to individual employers and cannot be released. These data use the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) categories. Average weekly wage is derived by dividing gross payroll dollars paid to all employees - both hourly and salaried - by the average number of employees who had earnings; average earnings are then divided by the number of weeks in a reporting period to obtain weekly figures. Figures in other columns may not sum accurately due to rounding. All figures are 2nd Quarter of 2025.

Source: Georgia Department of Labor. These data represent jobs that are covered by unemployment insurance laws.

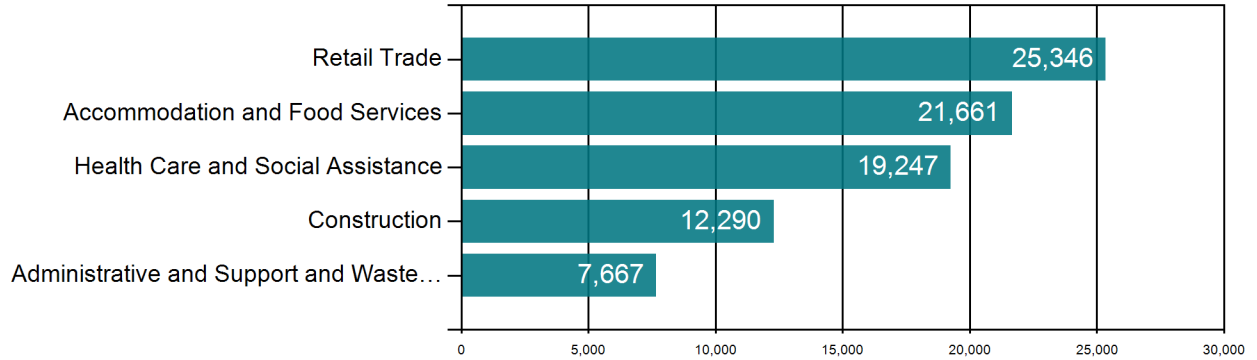
Top Industries - 2nd Quarter of 2025

Pickens Area

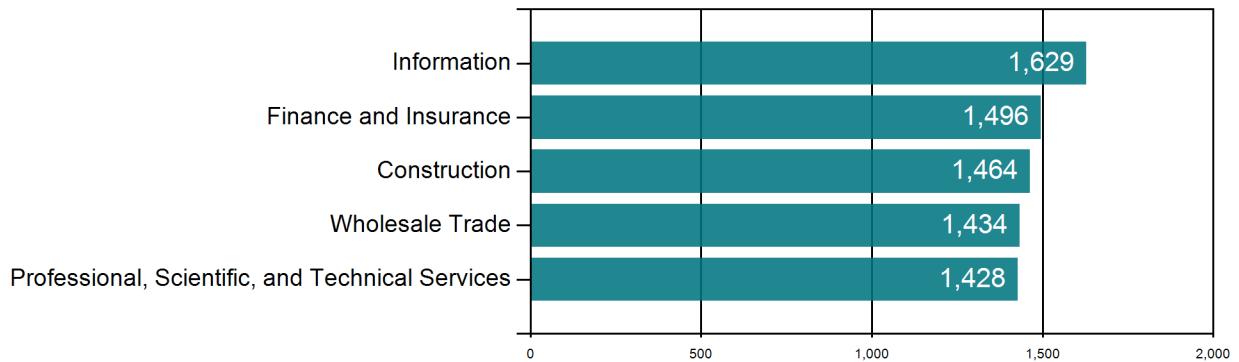
Top Industries by Firms



Top Industries by Employment



Top Industries by Weekly Wages



Source: Georgia Department of Labor. These data represent jobs that are covered by unemployment insurance laws.

Technical College Certificate Graduates - 2024

PROGRAMS	TOTAL GRADUATES			PERCENT CHANGE	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-2023	2023-2024
Welding Technology/Welder	798	968	1,278	21.3	32.0
Professional, Technical, Business, and Scientific Writing	966	786	877	-18.6	11.6
Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician	481	689	828	43.2	20.2
Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology	752	738	776	-1.9	5.1
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	504	610	663	21.0	8.7
Business Administration and Management, General	429	464	518	8.2	11.6
Child Care Provider/Assistant	422	413	502	-2.1	21.5
Health Services/Allied Health/Health Sciences, General	379	340	407	-10.3	19.7
Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/	318	275	314	-13.5	14.2
Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance	170	209	300	22.9	43.5

Source: Technical College System of Georgia

Note: Please visit TCSG website for any college configuration changes.

Technical College Diploma Graduates - 2024

PROGRAMS	TOTAL GRADUATES			PERCENT CHANGE	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-2023	2023-2024
Business Administration and Management, General	190	164	185	-13.7	12.8
Cosmetology/Cosmetologist, General	109	129	119	18.3	-7.8
Welding Technology/Welder	103	91	105	-11.7	15.4
Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse Training	77	65	102	-15.6	56.9
Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology	94	76	92	-19.1	21.1
Medical/Clinical Assistant	77	93	84	20.8	-9.7
Early Childhood Education and Teaching	95	70	70	-26.3	0.0
Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/	56	54	54	-3.6	0.0
Accounting Technology/Technician and Bookkeeping	88	95	53	8.0	-44.2
Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance	39	26	47	-33.3	80.8

Source: Technical College System of Georgia

Note: Please visit TCSG website for any college configuration changes.

Technical College Degree Graduates - 2024

PROGRAMS	TOTAL GRADUATES			PERCENT CHANGE	
	2022	2023	2024	2022-2023	2023-2024
Business Administration and Management, General	213	201	200	-5.6	-0.5
Industrial Mechanics and Maintenance Technology	92	77	85	-16.3	10.4
Accounting Technology/Technician and Bookkeeping	114	110	72	-3.5	-34.5
Computer and Information Systems Security/Information Assurance	39	53	64	35.9	20.8
Early Childhood Education and Teaching	91	65	59	-28.6	-9.2
Radiologic Technology/Science - Radiographer	45	42	57	-6.7	35.7
Health Information/Medical Records Technology/Technician	31	36	48	16.1	33.3
Criminal Justice/Safety Studies	67	51	47	-23.9	-7.8
Network and System Administration/Administrator	48	37	43	-22.9	16.2
Automobile/Automotive Mechanics Technology/Technician	45	42	41	-6.7	-2.4

Source: Technical College System of Georgia

Note: Please visit TCSG website for any college configuration changes.

Top Ten Largest Employers - 2025*

Pickens County

Big Canoe Property Owners Association
 Bojangles
 Ingles Markets, Inc.
 Magnum Contracting, LLC
 Peachtree Restaurant Group, LLC
 Piedmont Mountainside Hospital, Inc.
 Publix Super Market, Inc.
 Royston, LLC
 The Home Depot
 Walmart

*Note: Represents employment covered by unemployment insurance excluding all government agencies except correctional institutions, state and local hospitals, state colleges and universities. Data shown for the Second Quarter of 2025. Employers are listed alphabetically by area, not by the number of employees.

Source: Georgia Department of Labor

Pickens Area

Cartersville Medical Center, LLC
 Gordon Hospital
 Mohawk Carpet Distribution, L.P.
 Northside Hospital, Inc.
 Pilgrim's Pride Corporation
 Publix Super Markets, Inc.
 Shaw Industries Group, Inc.
 Shaw Industries Group, Inc.
 Toyo Tire
 Walmart

COUNTY

Bartow
 Gordon
 Gordon
 Cherokee
 Gilmer
 Cherokee
 Bartow
 Gordon
 Bartow
 Cherokee

Education of the Labor Force

Pickens Area

PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE

	PERCENT OF TOTAL	PERCENT DISTRIBUTION BY AGE				
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+
Elementary	4.1%	2.1%	2.6%	4.7%	4.3%	5.5%
Some High School	8.2%	15.6%	7.0%	7.0%	7.2%	8.2%
High School Grad/GED	29.4%	38.4%	26.8%	24.3%	28.8%	31.9%
Some College	23.3%	31.9%	25.0%	23.2%	21.3%	21.0%
College Grad 2 Yr	7.5%	4.2%	8.4%	9.2%	8.0%	6.2%
College Grad 4 Yr	19.0%	7.4%	22.8%	20.2%	21.2%	17.2%
Post Graduate Studies	8.5%	0.3%	7.3%	11.4%	9.3%	10.0%
Totals	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Note: Totals are based on the portion of the labor force between ages 18 - 65+. Some College category represents workers with some

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 2021: ACS 5-Year Estimates.

Georgia Department of Labor Location(s)

Career Center(s)

946 Appalachian Highway
 PO BOX 488
 Blue Ridge GA 30513

Phone: (706) 632 - 2033

Fax: (706) 632 - 7316

For copies of Area Labor Profiles, please visit our website at: <http://dol.georgia.gov> or contact Workforce Statistics Division, Georgia Department of Labor, 148 Andrew Young International Blvd N.E. Atlanta, GA. 30303-1751. Phone: 404-232-3875; Fax: 404-232-3888 or Email us at workforce_info@gdol.ga.gov

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