



Economic Overview

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region

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Demographic Profile

The population in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) was 1,305,833 per American Community Survey data for 2018-2022.

The region has a civilian labor force of 620,273 with a participation rate of 59.0%. Of individuals 25 to 64 in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties), 29.0% have a bachelor's degree or higher which compares with 35.8% in the nation.

The median household income in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is \$64,542 and the median house value is \$188,248.

Summary¹

Demographics	Percent			Value		
	Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)	Alabama	USA	Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)	Alabama	USA
Population (ACS)	—	—	—	1,305,833	5,028,092	331,097,593
Male	49.4%	48.6%	49.6%	644,963	2,445,995	164,200,298
Female	50.6%	51.4%	50.4%	660,870	2,582,097	166,897,295
Median Age ²	—	—	—	40.4	39.3	38.5
Under 18 Years	21.9%	22.1%	22.1%	286,092	1,110,642	73,213,705
18 to 24 Years	9.0%	9.7%	9.4%	118,049	488,930	31,282,896
25 to 34 Years	12.6%	12.9%	13.7%	164,195	648,666	45,388,153
35 to 44 Years	12.1%	12.3%	12.9%	158,524	616,406	42,810,359
45 to 54 Years	12.8%	12.4%	12.4%	167,471	624,704	41,087,357
55 to 64 Years	13.9%	13.3%	12.9%	181,789	667,710	42,577,475
65 to 74 Years	10.3%	10.3%	9.7%	134,740	519,600	32,260,679
75 Years and Over	7.3%	7.0%	6.8%	94,973	351,434	22,476,969
Race: White	78.0%	66.2%	65.9%	1,018,120	3,329,012	218,123,424
Race: Black or African American	12.6%	26.4%	12.5%	163,907	1,326,341	41,288,572
Race: American Indian and Alaska Native	0.7%	0.4%	0.8%	8,806	21,122	2,786,431
Race: Asian	1.1%	1.4%	5.8%	14,985	69,808	19,112,979
Race: Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.0%	0.2%	1,116	2,253	624,863
Race: Some Other Race	2.8%	1.9%	6.0%	36,873	93,924	20,018,544
Race: Two or More Races	4.7%	3.7%	8.8%	62,026	185,632	29,142,780
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	6.6%	4.6%	18.7%	86,454	232,407	61,755,866
Population Growth						
Population (Pop Estimates) ⁴	—	—	—	1,336,121	5,074,296	333,287,557
Population Annual Average Growth ⁴	0.9%	0.5%	0.6%	11,673	25,766	1,940,990
People per Square Mile	—	—	—	124.0	100.2	94.3
Economic						
Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 16 years and over)	59.0%	57.8%	63.3%	620,273	2,329,696	167,857,207
Prime-Age Labor Force Participation Rate and Size (civilian population 25-54)	79.3%	78.3%	82.8%	387,643	1,470,012	106,380,520
Armed Forces Labor Force	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%	1,418	15,390	1,236,378
Veterans, Age 18-64	6.2%	5.6%	4.3%	48,796	168,717	8,636,019
Veterans Labor Force Participation Rate and Size, Age 18-64	76.2%	72.0%	77.1%	37,176	121,456	6,656,238
Median Household Income ²	—	—	—	\$64,542	\$59,609	\$75,149
Per Capita Income	—	—	—	\$34,940	\$33,344	\$41,261
Mean Commute Time (minutes)	—	—	—	24.6	25.3	26.7

Summary¹

	Percent			Value		
	Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16- counties)	Alabama	USA	Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16- counties)	Alabama	USA
Commute via Public Transportation	0.1%	0.3%	3.8%	754	6,982	5,945,723
Educational Attainment, Age 25-64						
No High School Diploma	12.0%	11.3%	10.1%	80,955	289,401	17,373,867
High School Graduate	28.5%	29.1%	25.1%	191,221	744,509	43,176,248
Some College, No Degree	20.9%	21.6%	19.7%	140,127	552,717	33,916,989
Associate's Degree	9.6%	9.8%	9.2%	64,663	249,585	15,886,884
Bachelor's Degree	18.3%	17.7%	22.4%	122,641	452,584	38,451,123
Postgraduate Degree	10.8%	10.5%	13.4%	72,372	268,690	23,058,233
Housing						
Total Housing Units	—	—	—	581,600	2,296,920	140,943,613
Median House Value (of owner-occupied units) ^{2,5}	—	—	—	\$188,248	\$179,400	\$281,900
Homeowner Vacancy	0.8%	1.3%	1.1%	2,939	17,803	931,393
Rental Vacancy	4.8%	8.4%	5.5%	7,223	54,803	2,623,236
Renter-Occupied Housing Units (% of Occupied Units)	27.7%	30.3%	35.2%	141,468	585,358	44,238,593
Occupied Housing Units with No Vehicle Available (% of Occupied Units)	4.5%	5.6%	8.3%	23,085	107,641	10,474,870
Social						
Poverty Level (of all people)	13.7%	15.7%	12.5%	174,113	768,897	40,521,584
Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP	11.1%	13.3%	11.5%	56,874	257,704	14,486,880
Enrolled in Grade 12 (% of total population)	1.3%	1.3%	1.4%	17,196	67,657	4,476,703
Disconnected Youth ³	2.7%	2.6%	2.5%	1,830	7,338	430,795
Children in Single Parent Families (% of all children)	32.5%	38.1%	34.0%	86,644	390,340	23,568,955
Uninsured	9.6%	9.5%	8.7%	123,420	472,079	28,315,092
With a Disability, Age 18-64	13.9%	14.1%	10.5%	108,592	420,822	20,879,820
With a Disability, Age 18-64, Labor Force Participation Rate and Size	39.1%	37.5%	45.5%	42,479	157,876	9,492,098
Foreign Born	4.3%	3.5%	13.7%	56,780	177,207	45,281,071
Speak English Less Than Very Well (population 5 yrs and over)	2.8%	2.1%	8.2%	34,530	101,319	25,704,846

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

1. American Community Survey 2018-2022, 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.

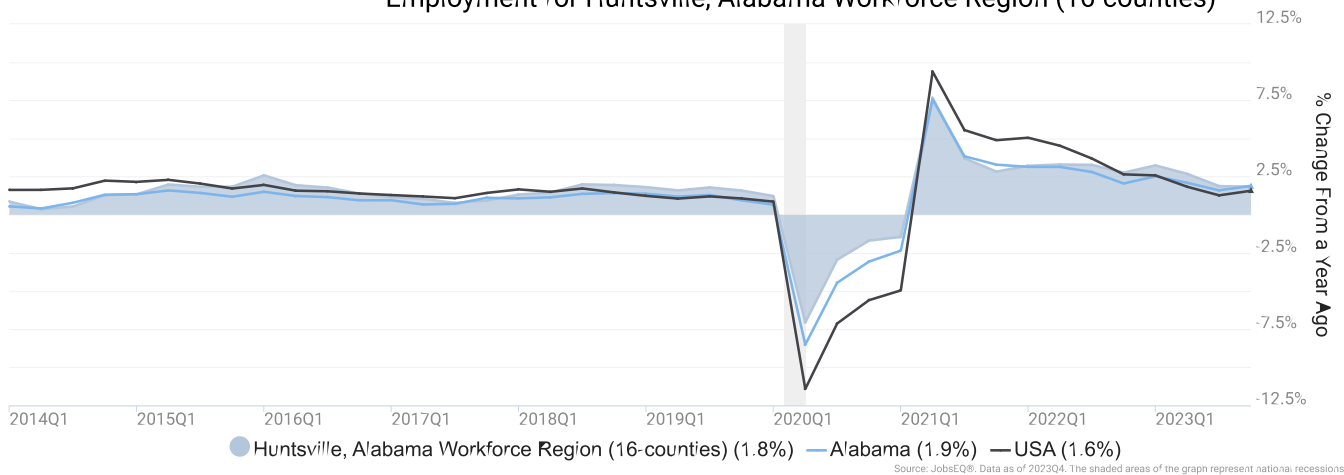
4. Census Population Estimate for 2022, annual average growth rate since 2012. Post-2019 data for Connecticut counties are imputed by Chmura.

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 2023Q4, total employment for the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) was 585,857 (based on a four-quarter moving average). Over the year ending 2023Q4, employment increased 1.8% in the region.

Employment for Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)

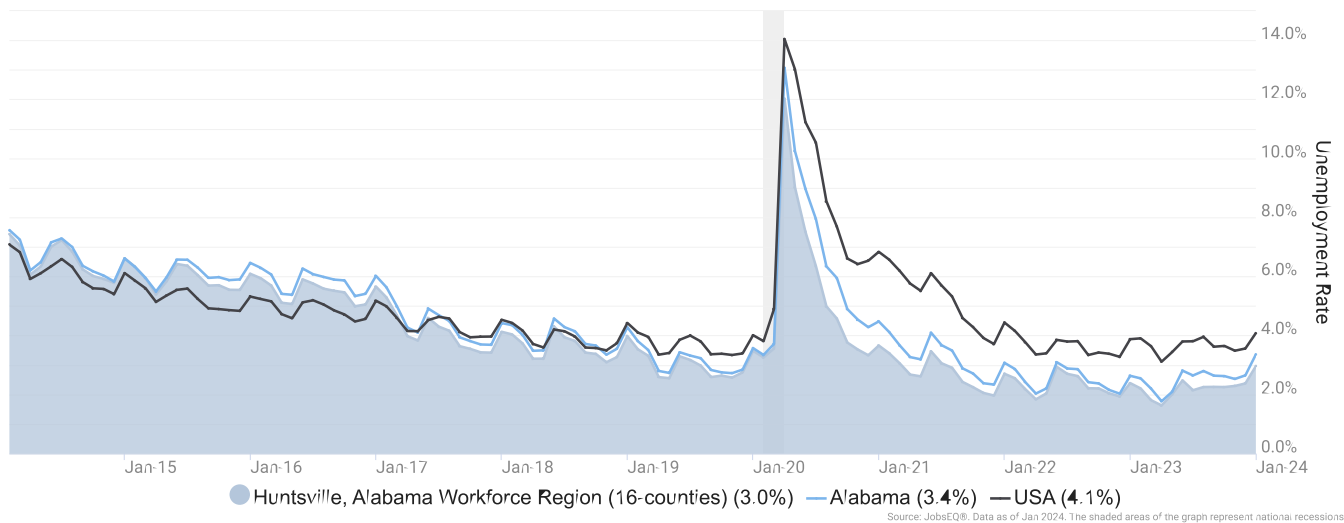


Employment data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and imputed where necessary. Data are updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4.

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate for the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) was 3.0% as of January 2024. The regional unemployment rate was lower than the national rate of 4.1%. One year earlier, in January 2023, the unemployment rate in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) was 2.4%.

Unemployment Rate for Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)

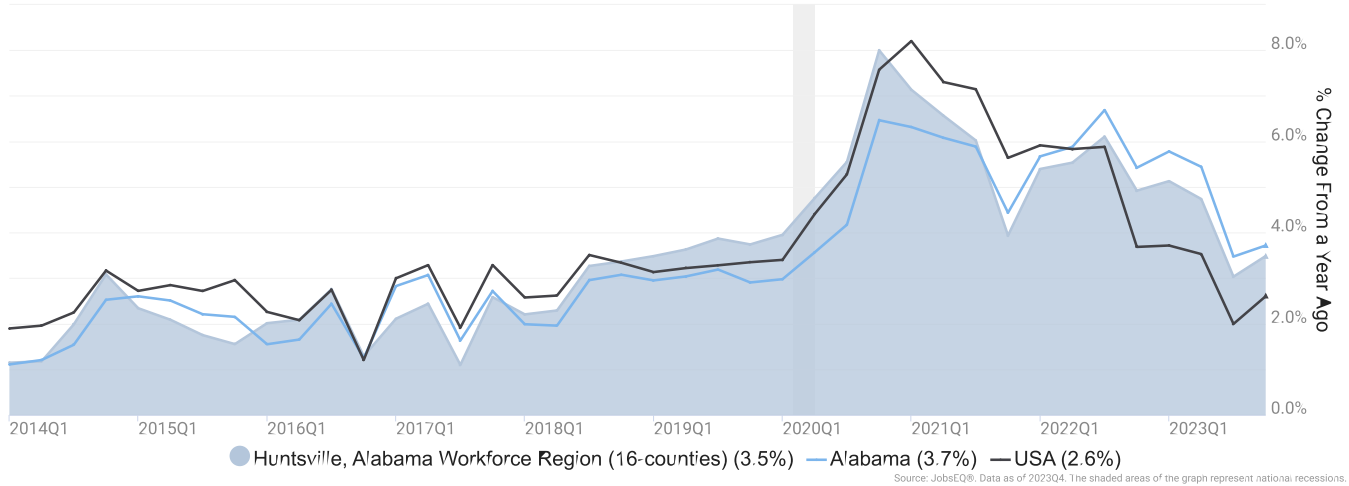


Unemployment rate data are from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and updated through January 2024.

Wage Trends

The average worker in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) earned annual wages of \$58,441 as of 2023Q4. Average annual wages per worker increased 3.5% in the region over the preceding four quarters. For comparison purposes, annual average wages were \$69,861 in the nation as of 2023Q4.

Average Annual Wages for Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)



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 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4.

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 12.1% lower in Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) than the U.S. average.

Cost of Living Information

	Annual Average Salary	Cost of Living Index (Base US)	US Purchasing Power
Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties)	\$58,441	87.9	\$66,488
Alabama	\$57,624	88.7	\$64,959
USA	\$69,861	100.0	\$69,861

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

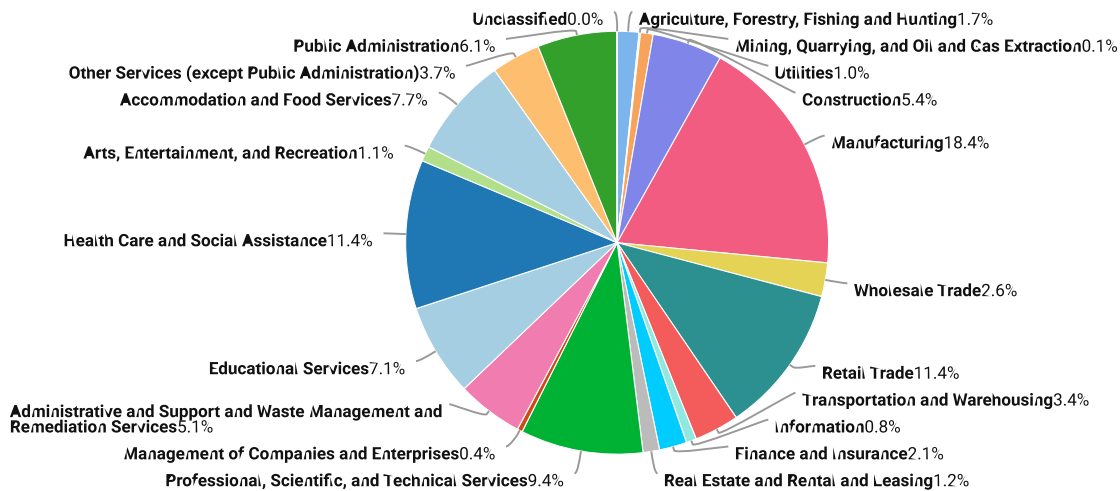
Data as of 2023Q4

Cost of Living per [COLI](#), data as of 2023Q3, imputed by Chmura where necessary.

Industry Snapshot

The largest sector in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is Manufacturing, employing 107,956 workers. The next-largest sectors in the region are Retail Trade (66,715 workers) and Health Care and Social Assistance (66,666). 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 Manufacturing (LQ = 2.30), Utilities (1.88), and Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting (1.34).

Total Workers for Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) by Industry



Source: JobsEQ® Data as of 2023Q4

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 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4.

Sectors in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) with the highest average wages per worker are Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$105,995), Management of Companies and Enterprises (\$99,481), and Utilities (\$98,243). Regional sectors with the best job growth (or most moderate job losses) over the last 5 years are Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+10,833 jobs), Manufacturing (+9,198), and Health Care and Social Assistance (+5,143).

Over the next 5 years, employment in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is projected to expand by 28,133 jobs. The fastest growing sector in the region is expected to be Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services with a +1.7% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (+4,854 jobs), Health Care and Social Assistance (+4,817), and Manufacturing (+2,709).

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties), 2023Q4¹

NAICS	Industry	Current			5-Year History		5-Year Forecast				
		Empl	Avg Ann Wages	LQ	Empl Change	Ann %	Total Demand	Exits	Transfers	Empl Growth	Ann % Growth
31	Manufacturing	107,956	\$66,927	2.30	9,198	1.8%	57,684	22,004	32,970	2,709	0.5%
44	Retail Trade	66,715	\$36,207	1.15	4,730	1.5%	47,839	20,530	25,753	1,557	0.5%
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	66,666	\$57,946	0.78	5,143	1.6%	38,445	16,193	17,435	4,817	1.4%
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	54,966	\$105,995	1.28	10,833	4.5%	28,094	9,411	13,828	4,854	1.7%
72	Accommodation and Food Services	45,012	\$21,790	0.89	648	0.3%	42,580	18,263	22,274	2,043	0.9%
61	Educational Services	41,449	\$50,499	0.88	2,867	1.4%	22,140	9,797	10,160	2,183	1.0%
92	Public Administration	35,662	\$84,220	1.32	1,876	1.1%	18,286	7,379	9,345	1,562	0.9%
23	Construction	31,433	\$59,072	0.89	3,891	2.7%	15,324	5,620	8,241	1,464	0.9%
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	29,651	\$38,882	0.81	-2,876	-1.8%	18,788	7,471	9,894	1,423	0.9%
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	21,937	\$32,841	0.89	-280	-0.3%	13,954	5,594	7,223	1,137	1.0%
48	Transportation and Warehousing	19,989	\$55,072	0.69	4,110	4.7%	12,753	4,925	6,361	1,467	1.4%
42	Wholesale Trade	15,052	\$68,918	0.68	978	1.4%	8,120	3,093	4,610	418	0.5%
52	Finance and Insurance	12,358	\$73,557	0.53	298	0.5%	5,874	2,216	3,060	598	0.9%
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	9,755	\$38,636	1.34	-655	-1.3%	5,942	2,850	2,997	95	0.2%
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	7,315	\$57,249	0.70	1,321	4.1%	4,049	1,732	1,888	429	1.1%
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	6,722	\$24,492	0.57	416	1.3%	5,715	2,196	2,985	534	1.5%
22	Utilities	5,657	\$98,243	1.88	234	0.8%	2,776	1,033	1,490	253	0.9%
51	Information	4,597	\$76,669	0.40	-253	-1.1%	2,355	828	1,275	252	1.1%
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	2,322	\$99,481	0.26	-19	-0.2%	1,213	419	608	187	1.6%
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	636	\$73,724	0.30	105	3.7%	325	115	186	23	0.7%
99	Unclassified	6	\$37,026	0.01	5	n/a	4	1	2	0	1.0%
Total - All Industries		585,857	\$58,441	1.00	42,570	1.5%	354,417	143,843	182,441	28,133	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q4

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 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections adapted for regional growth patterns.

Occupation Snapshot

The largest major occupation group in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is Production Occupations, employing 70,438 workers. The next-largest occupation groups in the region are Office and Administrative Support Occupations (60,023 workers) and Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (53,348). 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 Architecture and Engineering Occupations (LQ = 2.42), Production Occupations (2.16), and Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations (1.27).

Occupation groups in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) with the highest average wages per worker are Management Occupations (\$112,900), Legal Occupations (\$107,700), and Computer and Mathematical Occupations (\$106,900). The unemployment rate in the region varied among the major groups from 0.5% among Legal Occupations to 3.6% among Transportation and Material Moving Occupations.

Over the next 5 years, the fastest growing occupation group in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is expected to be Computer and Mathematical Occupations with a +2.3% year-over-year rate of growth. The strongest forecast by number of jobs over this period is expected for Transportation and Material Moving Occupations (+3,194 jobs) and Management Occupations (+2,363). 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 (41,377 jobs) and Production Occupations (38,668).

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties), 2023Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current					5-Year History			5-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
51-0000	Production	70,438	\$44,300	2.16	1,835	2.5%	1,195	3,579	1.0%	39,539	15,209	23,459	871	0.2%
43-0000	Office and Administrative Support	60,023	\$41,500	0.85	1,217	1.8%	1,785	849	0.3%	34,374	16,286	17,912	177	0.1%
53-0000	Transportation and Material Moving	53,348	\$40,400	1.04	2,141	3.6%	2,718	6,031	2.4%	38,779	14,631	20,954	3,194	1.2%
41-0000	Sales and Related	52,145	\$43,000	1.01	1,534	2.7%	2,501	2,646	1.0%	37,090	16,284	19,628	1,178	0.4%
35-0000	Food Preparation and Serving Related	42,796	\$27,300	0.90	1,693	3.6%	2,631	507	0.2%	43,294	18,740	22,637	1,916	0.9%
11-0000	Management	40,458	\$112,900	0.92	407	0.9%	2,277	5,455	2.9%	18,998	7,020	9,615	2,363	1.1%
29-0000	Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	31,915	\$85,600	0.93	285	0.8%	3,270	3,046	2.0%	11,786	5,332	4,200	2,253	1.4%
49-0000	Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	28,945	\$56,900	1.27	463	1.5%	1,373	3,116	2.3%	14,688	5,729	7,216	1,743	1.2%
13-0000	Business and Financial Operations	26,876	\$84,400	0.72	398	1.3%	1,365	4,095	3.4%	13,125	4,365	7,065	1,696	1.2%
25-0000	Educational Instruction and Library	26,809	\$53,300	0.86	369	1.3%	649	1,900	1.5%	13,518	6,059	5,851	1,607	1.2%
47-0000	Construction and Extraction	26,712	\$48,000	1.00	1,008	3.3%	474	2,736	2.2%	13,259	4,810	7,061	1,388	1.0%
17-0000	Architecture and Engineering	22,919	\$104,800	2.42	226	1.0%	1,314	2,952	2.8%	9,256	3,274	4,418	1,565	1.3%
31-0000	Healthcare Support	18,860	\$31,300	0.71	414	2.0%	1,076	1,518	1.7%	15,644	6,257	7,630	1,757	1.8%
15-0000	Computer and Mathematical	17,830	\$106,900	0.95	236	1.2%	2,567	2,447	3.0%	7,888	2,098	3,611	2,179	2.3%
37-0000	Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	17,707	\$32,800	0.92	637	3.2%	699	443	0.5%	13,268	5,691	6,672	905	1.0%
39-0000	Personal Care and Service	11,024	\$32,900	0.76	284	2.4%	350	467	0.9%	10,900	3,978	6,107	815	1.4%
33-0000	Protective Service	10,658	\$45,400	0.85	208	1.8%	422	971	1.9%	6,432	2,724	3,272	437	0.8%

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties), 2023Q4¹

SOC	Occupation	Current						5-Year History		5-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	8,248	\$50,900	0.78	109	1.2%	422	-112	-0.3%	4,385	1,711	2,075	599	1.4%
27-0000	Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	7,448	\$53,200	0.69	165	2.0%	412	396	1.1%	4,334	1,704	2,212	418	1.1%
19-0000	Life, Physical, and Social Science	5,298	\$78,800	1.03	81	1.4%	274	812	3.4%	2,807	568	1,861	378	1.4%
45-0000	Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	2,752	\$40,800	0.80	108	3.6%	46	59	0.4%	2,131	779	1,279	73	0.5%
23-0000	Legal	2,647	\$107,700	0.55	15	0.5%	33	39	0.3%	1,014	401	433	180	1.3%
Total - All Occupations		585,857	\$56,400	1.00	13,834	2.2%	27,854	43,949	1.6%	356,718	143,651	185,170	27,898	0.9%

Source: [JobsEQ®](#)

Data as of 2023Q4 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

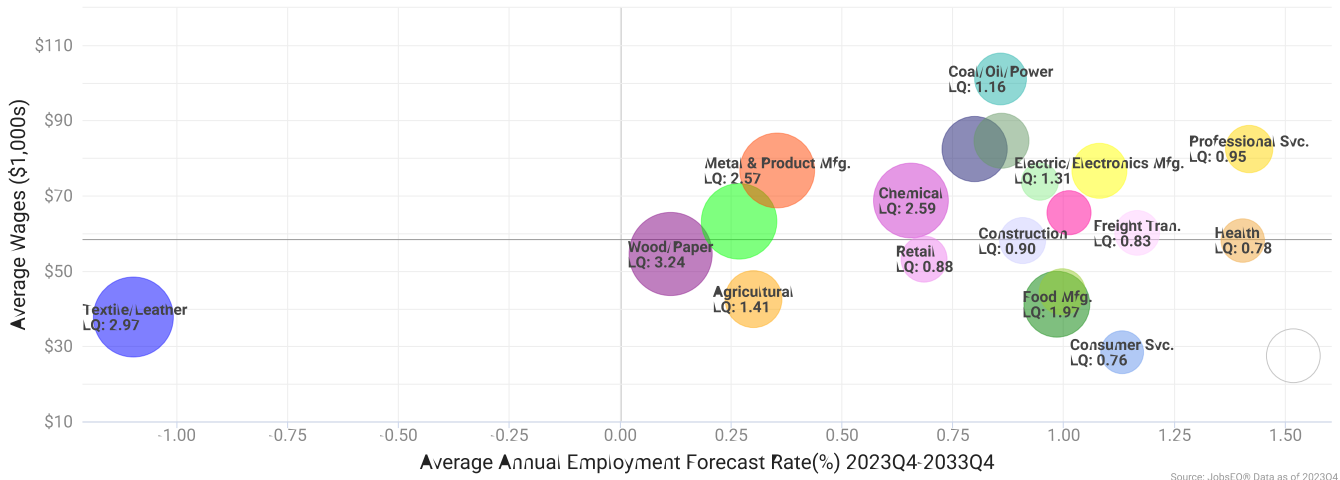
3. Data represent found online ads active within the last thirty days in the selected region. Due to alternative county-assignment algorithms, ad counts in this analytic may not match that shown in RTI (nor in the popup window ad list). Ad counts for ZCTA-based regions are estimates.

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 2023Q3, imputed where necessary with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4. Wages by occupation are as of 2023 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 Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) with the highest relative concentration is Wood/Paper with a location quotient of 3.24. This cluster employs 14,302 workers in the region with an average wage of \$54,485. Employment in the Wood/Paper cluster is projected to expand in the region about 0.1% per year over the next ten years.

Industry Clusters for Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) as of 20

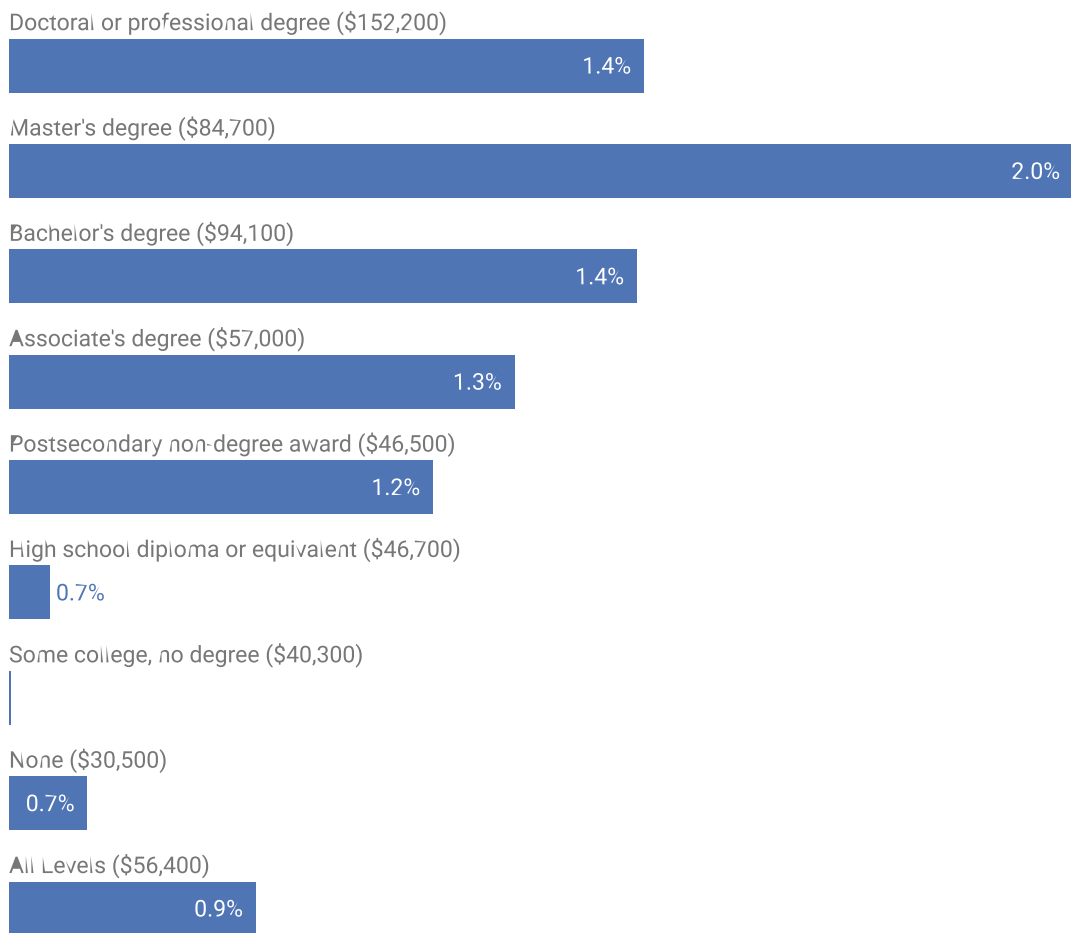


Location quotient and average wage data are derived from the Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, imputed where necessary, and updated through 2023Q3 with preliminary estimates updated to 2023Q4. Forecast employment growth uses national projections from 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 Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is projected to grow 0.9% over the next ten years, occupations typically requiring a postgraduate degree are expected to grow 1.4% per year, those requiring a bachelor's degree are forecast to grow 1.4% per year, and occupations typically needing a 2-year degree or certificate are expected to grow 1.3% per year.

Annual Average Projected Job Growth by Education Levels

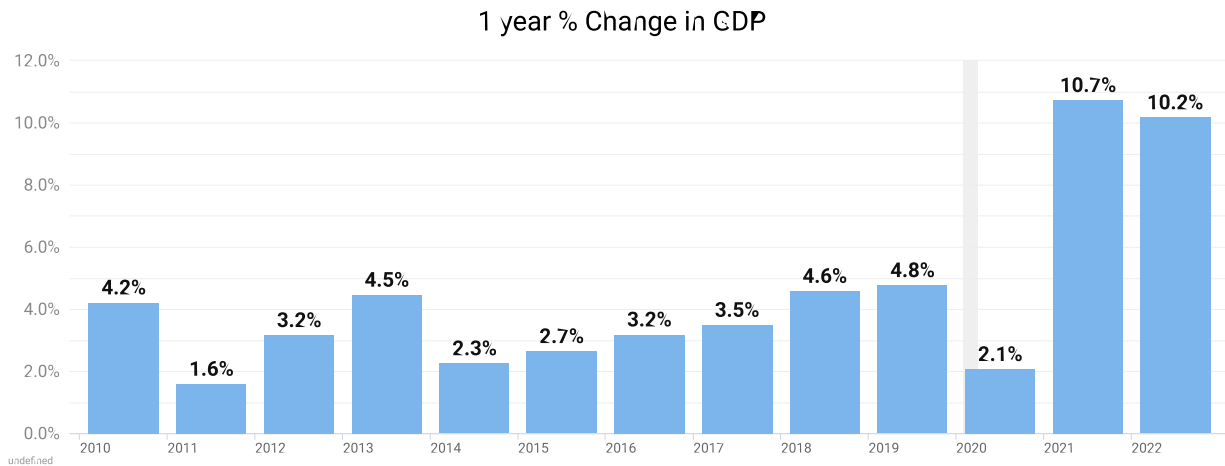


Source: JobsEQ®
Data as of 2023Q4

Employment by occupation data are estimates as of 2023Q4. 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 2022, nominal GDP in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) expanded 10.2%. This follows growth of 10.7% in 2021. As of 2022, total GDP in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) was \$68,784,067,000.



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Of the sectors in the Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties), Manufacturing contributed the largest portion of GDP in 2022, \$16,087,247,000. The next-largest contributions came from Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (\$7,617,543,000); Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (\$6,187,559,000); and Health Care and Social Assistance (\$5,766,772,000).

GDP (in \$ millions)

Manufacturing (31)



Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (54)



Real Estate and Rental and Leasing (53)



Health Care and Social Assistance (62)



Retail Trade (44)



Public Administration (92)



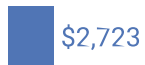
Educational Services (61)



Construction (23)



Wholesale Trade (42)

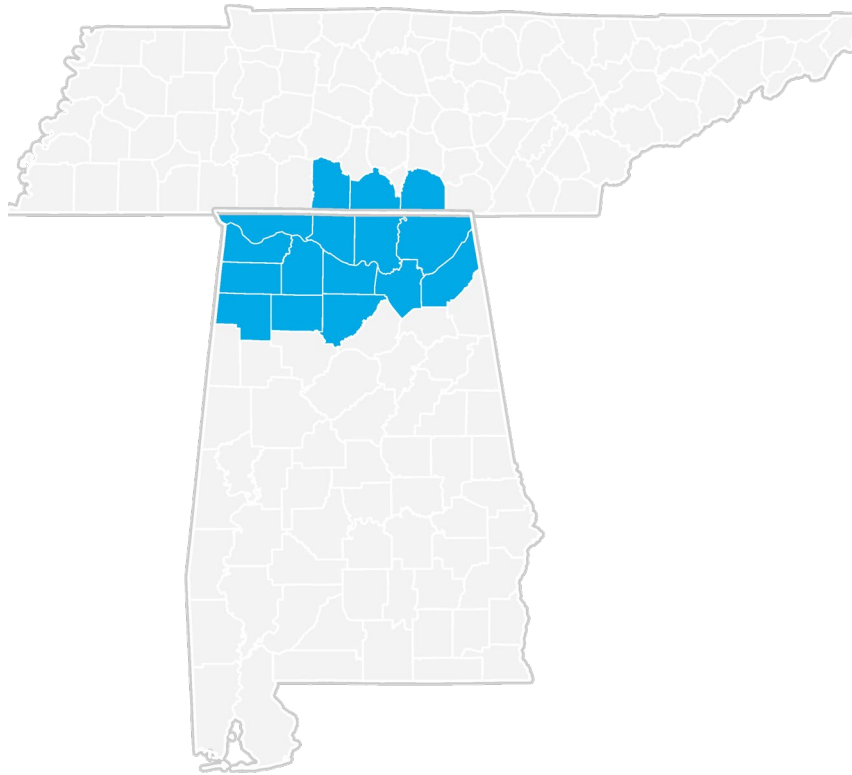


Finance and Insurance (52)



Gross Domestic Product data are provided by the Bureau of Economic Analysis, imputed by Chmura where necessary, updated through 2022.

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) Regional Map



Region Definition

Huntsville, Alabama Workforce Region (16-counties) is defined as the following counties:

Colbert County, Alabama

Cullman County, Alabama

DeKalb County, Alabama

Franklin County, Alabama

Jackson County, Alabama

Lauderdale County, Alabama

Lawrence County, Alabama

Limestone County, Alabama

Madison County, Alabama

Marion County, Alabama

Marshall County, Alabama

Morgan County, Alabama

Winston County, Alabama

Franklin County, Tennessee

Giles County, Tennessee

Lincoln County, Tennessee

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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