



**ABBEVILLE
COUNTY**
SOUTH CAROLINA

Situation Analysis Report

March 2025

future→iQ[®]



**ABBEVILLE
COUNTY
2035**

STRATEGIC PLAN

About the Report

This report was produced as part of the Strategic Plan Project, looking out to 2035. The outcome of this process, running October 2024 through June 2025, will be to produce a robust, future-oriented and community-led Strategic Plan.

This situation analysis report includes demographic, livability, economic, and innovation data and a comparison with a group of peer communities. Its purpose is to help inform the current strategic plan development and build on Abbeville County's current success and incorporate new actions.

These reports and the associated data analysis are available on the project portal:
<https://lab2.future-iq.com/abbeville-county-2035/>



Table of Contents

About This Report 2

Summary 4

Population Dynamics and Demographics 5

Living in Abbeville County 14

Economy and Industry - Employment 26

Economy and Industry - Tourism 31

Economy and Industry - Innovation 34

Summary



Abbeville's population fell 6.6% from 2000–2023 but reversed course with modest growth in 2022 (+0.3%) and 2023 (+0.4%). Meanwhile, surrounding counties all grew over the same period (Greenwood +5%, Anderson +25%, Greenville +42%), underscoring Abbeville's unique demographic challenge.



In this time period (2000 – 2023), the 65+ cohort jumped from 14.7% to 22.6%, under-20s declined, and Hispanic/Latino and multi-racial shares more than doubled, reshaping community needs.



Residents without a high school diploma halved (30%→14%), bachelor's-degree holders grew from 13% to 20%, and college enrollment climbed from 17% to 22%.



Home ownership slipped slightly (80%→77%), yet vacancy rates fell from a 2017 peak of 22.5% to 18.6% in 2023, indicating renewed housing demand. Median property taxes rose 65% (to \$717), with mortgage-holder rates up 85%, highlighting the need for targeted affordability measures.



Strong schools (89% graduation, 57% reading, 53% math), low crime (257 incidents), and solid healthcare access contrast with a below-average livability score (40/100) pointing to gaps.



As at 2022, a net daily outflow of 4,590 commuters (27.3-minute average) highlights limited local jobs.



At just 3.4%, Abbeville's 2023 unemployment rate is the lowest among peers, though only 51.3% of adults participate in the labor force. Over half of jobs are white-collar



New business formations average ~318 annually (1990–2022). Employment has pivoted from manufacturing (–51%) to services—administrative, information, construction, and hospitality—reflecting economic diversification



Average pay more than doubled to \$45,000 (1990–2022), with Administrative & Waste (+362%), Information (+327%), and Wholesale Trade (+288%) leading gains. Professional & Technical Services is the lone sector with declining wages (–31%).



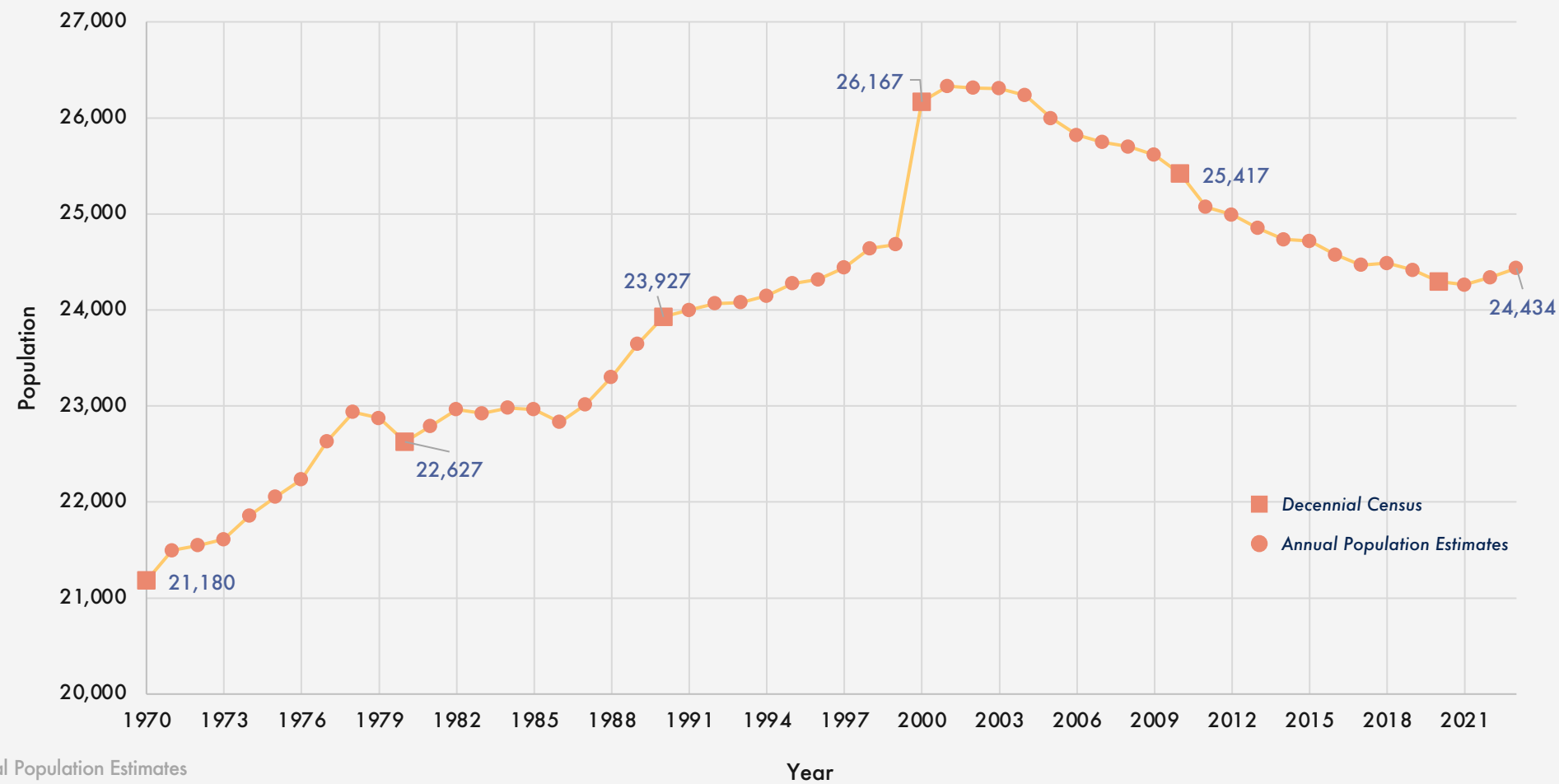
The regional airport (Greenfield – Spartanburg) traffic rebounded to 2.9 million passengers in 2024 after the pandemic. Tourism spending nearly doubled (2014–2022) to \$11 M, supporting 120 local jobs—strong growth rates but modest scale compared to neighboring counties.

1.1 Population Trend

What key population trends have emerged in Abbeville County since year 2000?

The population of Abbeville County in 2023 was 24,434, **down approximately 6.6%** from the 26,167 residents recorded in 2000. This overall decline reflects long-term shifts in demographic trends over the past two decades, with the county experiencing **a steady downward trend**. However, there is a promising increase in the last few years, reflecting a post-pandemic bump in population.

Number of Residents in Abbeville County (2000 - 2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

1.2 Annual Population Change

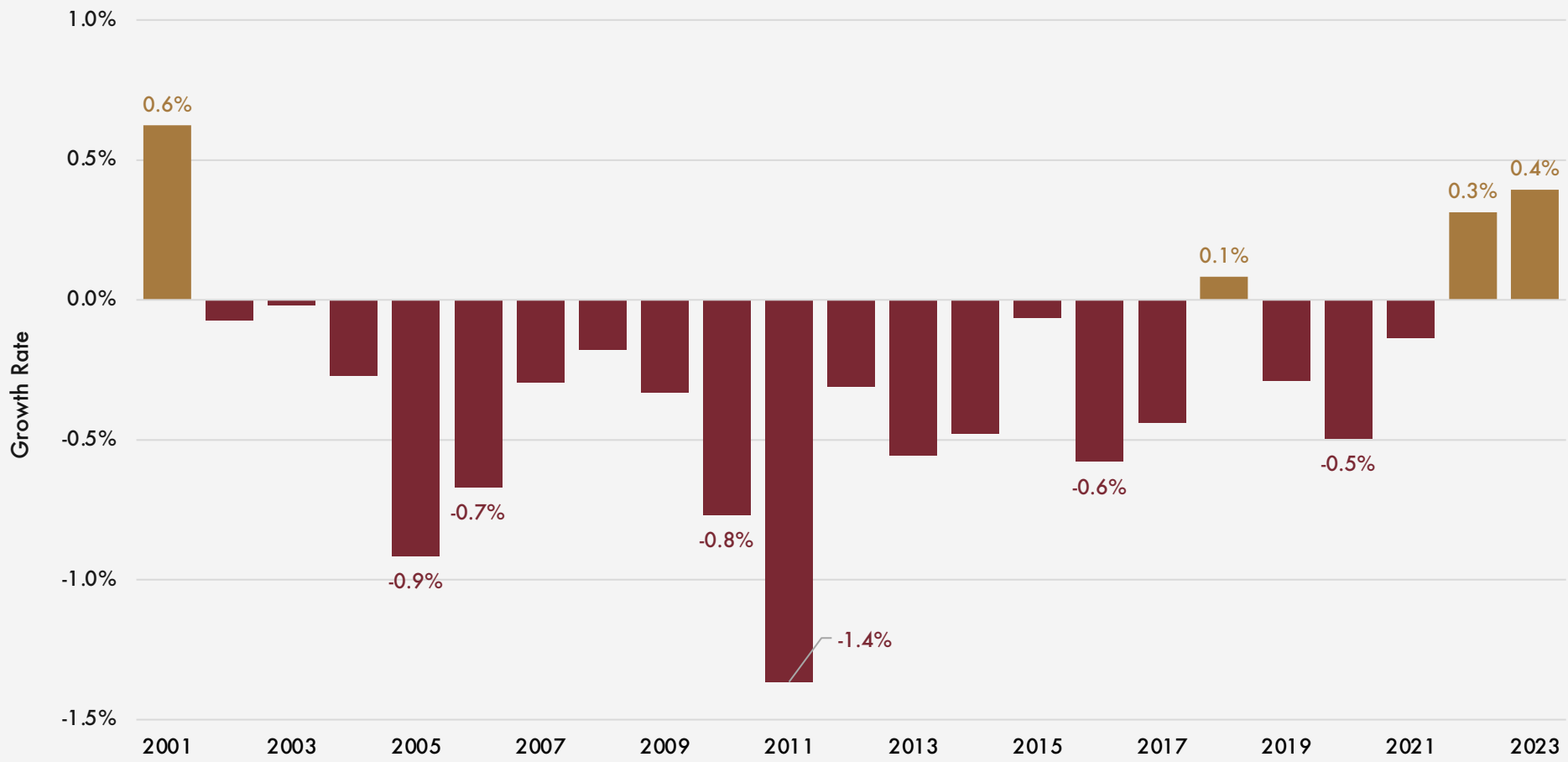
How has the population in Abbeville County changed over the years?

Between 2000 and 2023, Abbeville County’s **annual population growth rate was mostly negative**, despite small gains in the early 2000s (like +0.6% in 2001).

The biggest drop happened around **2011** when the **growth rate fell to 1.4%**.

Even though growth stayed negative through much of the late 2010s and into 2021, there has been a **slight positive shift in 2022 and 2023**, with growth at +0.3% and +0.4%, respectively.

Annual Population Growth Rate in Abbeville County (2000 - 2023)



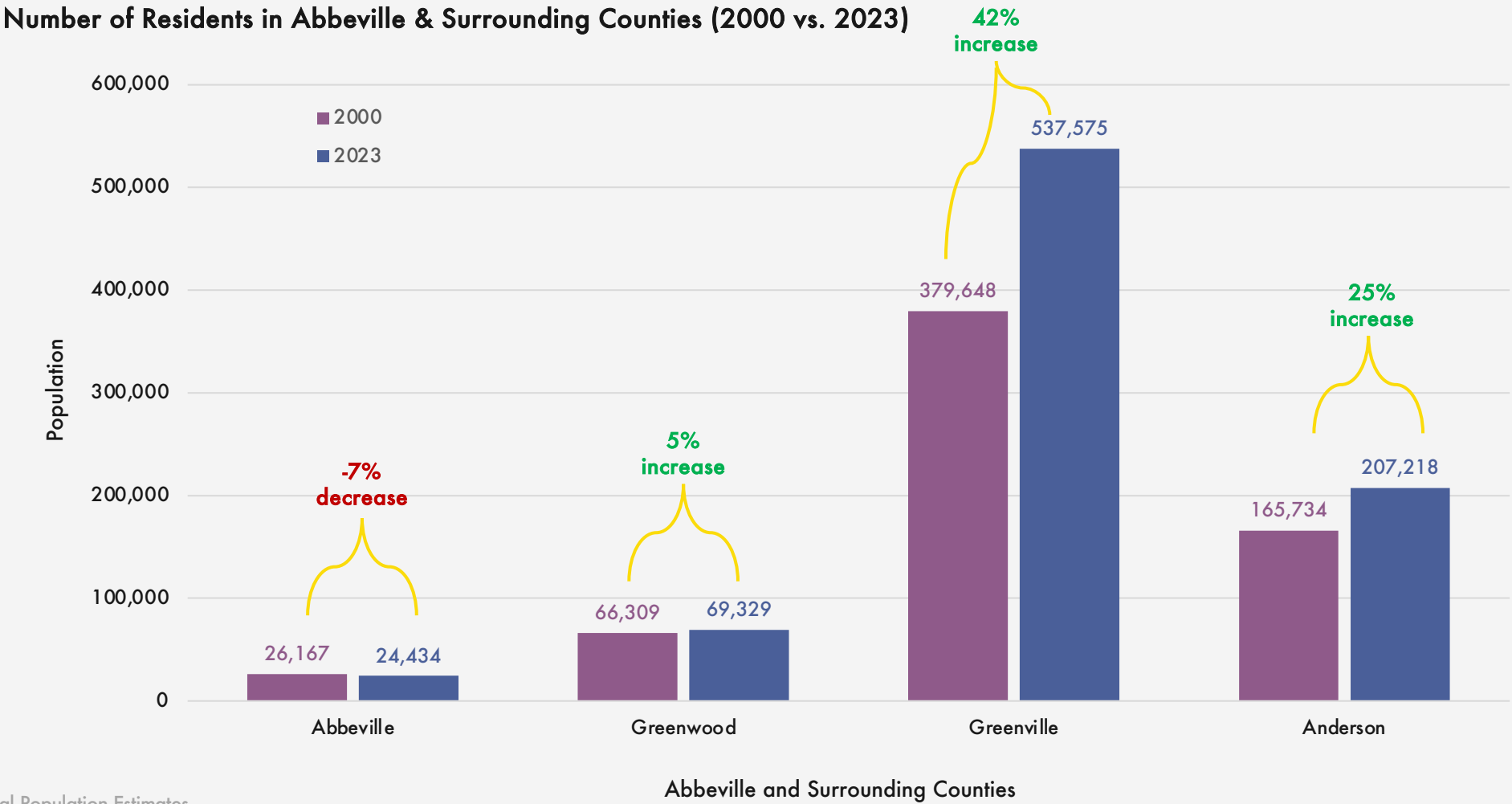
Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

1.3 Population Comparison

How does Abbeville County’s population compare to others around it?

Abbeville County stands out as **the only county** among its neighbours to have **experienced a population decrease** between 2000 and 2023, dropping from 26,167 to 24,434 (a 7% decline).

In contrast, surrounding counties—**Greenwood, Greenville, and Anderson**—all show gains. Greenwood grew modestly by about 5%, while Greenville saw a substantial 42% jump and Anderson rose by 25%.



Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

1.4 Racial and Ethnic Makeup

How has the racial and ethnic makeup in Abbeville County changed over the years?

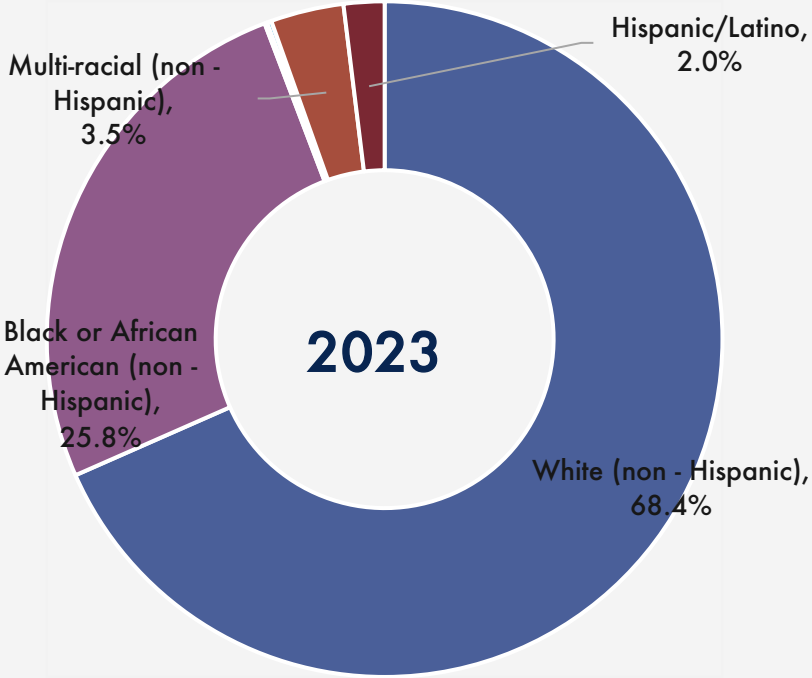
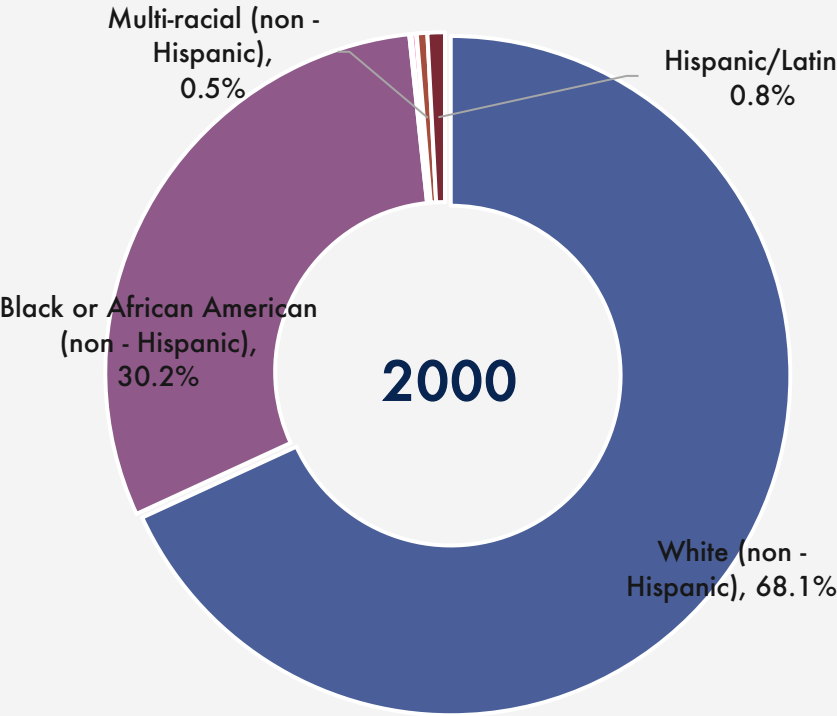
Abbeville County’s racial and ethnic composition became slightly **more diverse** between 2000 and 2023.

The share of residents identifying as **White (non-Hispanic)** rose from **68.1%** to **68.4%**, while the **Black or African American (non-Hispanic)** segment declined from **30.2%** to **25.8%**.

Meanwhile, the **Hispanic/Latino** population more than doubled, growing from **0.8%** to **2.0%**.

Notably, the **Multi-racial (non-Hispanic)** category expanded from **0.5%** to **3.5%**.

Racial and Ethnic Makeup of Residents in Abbeville County (2000 vs. 2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

1.5 Resident's Age

How has the age of the population living in Abbeville County changed over the years?

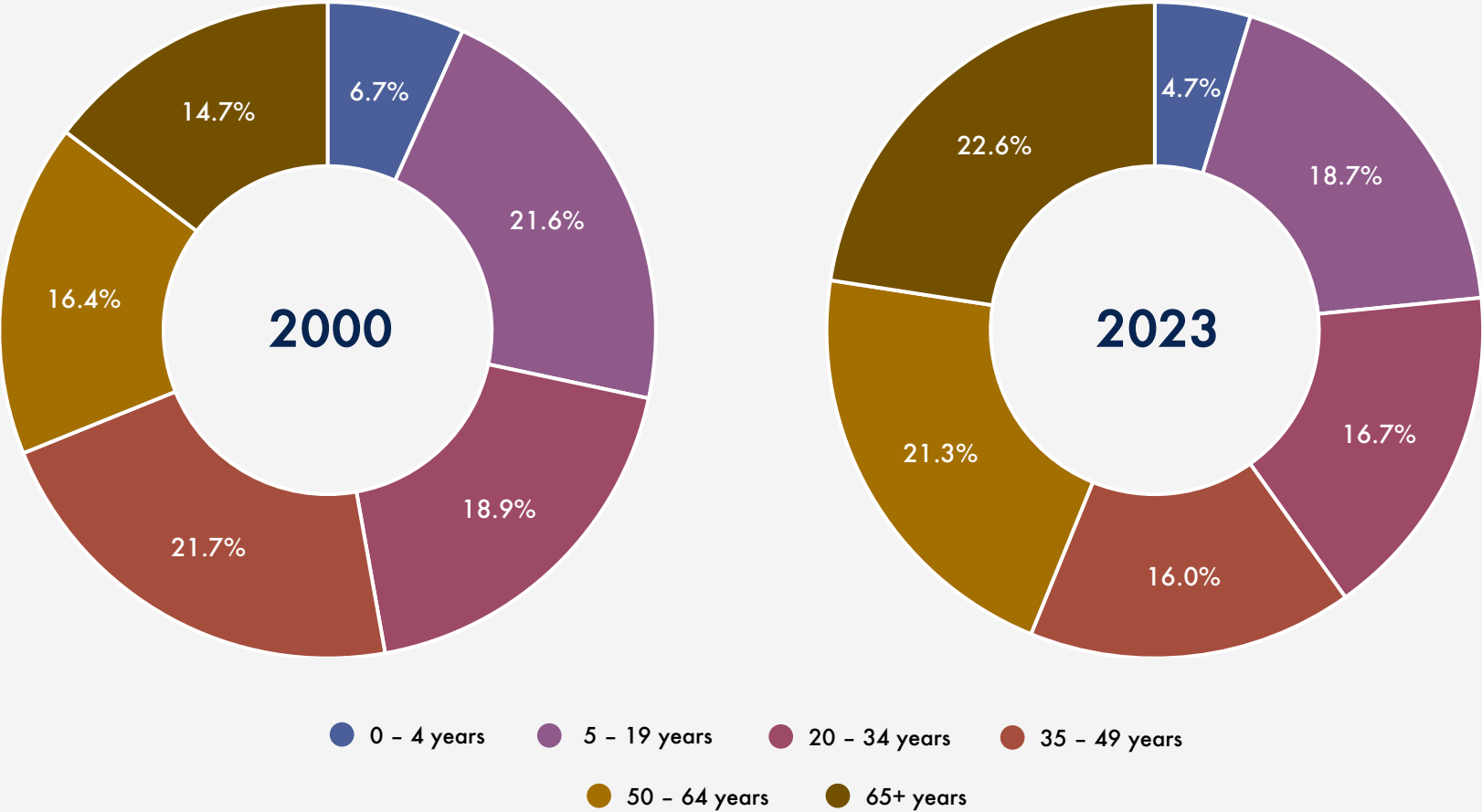
Abbeville County's population has become noticeably older between 2000 and 2023.

The **65+ age group** has expanded the most, jumping from around **14.7% to 22.6%** of the total population.

Meanwhile, the share of younger cohorts (**particularly those under 20**) has declined, indicating fewer children and teenagers in the community.

Although the **20-34 age** group only reduced by about **2%**, the **35-49 segment** has shrunk by **5.7%**, and the **50-64** bracket has grown.

Age Range of Residents in Abbeville County (2000 vs. 2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

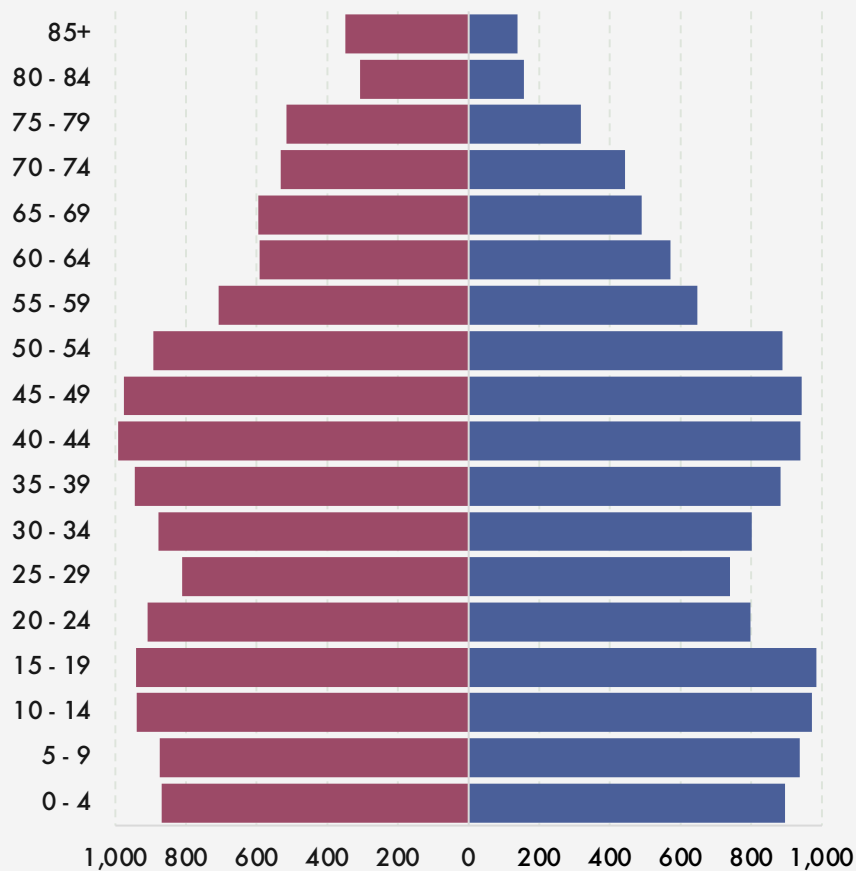
1.6 Age and Sex Pyramid

How have the age and sex of the population living in Abbeville County changed over the years?

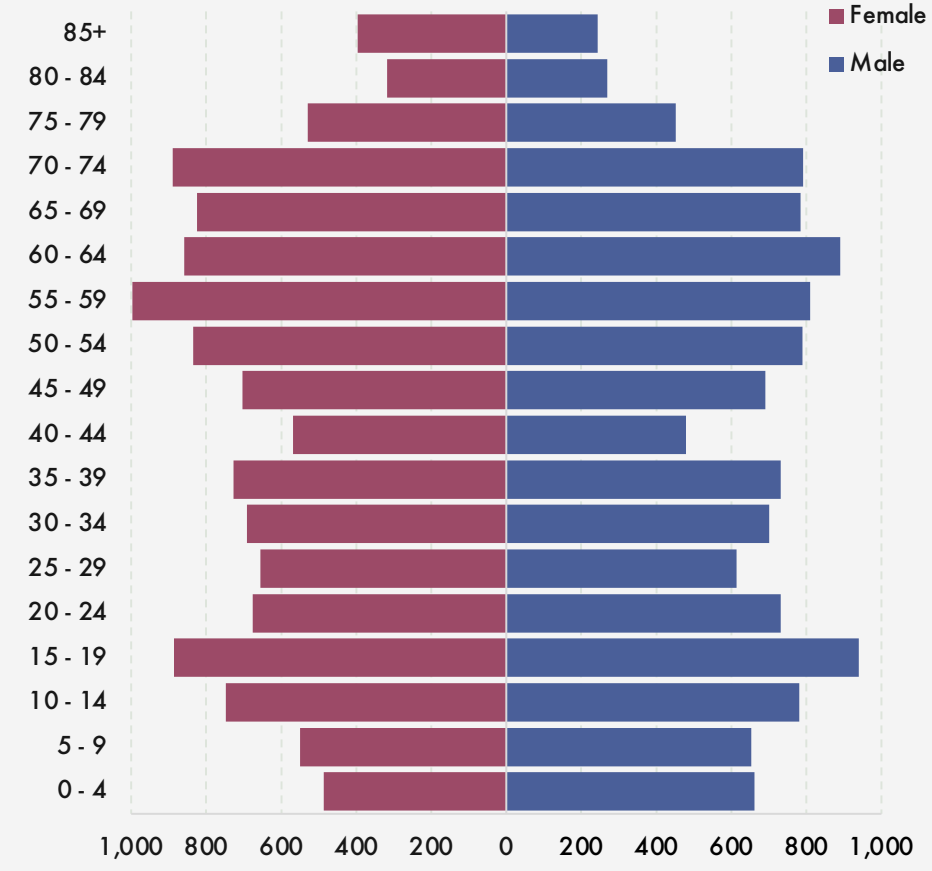
The comparison of the 2000 and 2023 age-sex pyramids for Abbeville County reveals a **shift toward an older population**.

Younger age groups (**particularly under 15**) appear narrower in the 2023 pyramid, while older cohorts (especially **those 50 and above**) have expanded. This change indicates both a lower birth rate and possible out-migration of younger adults.

Age & Sex Pyramid (2000)



Age & Sex Pyramid (2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

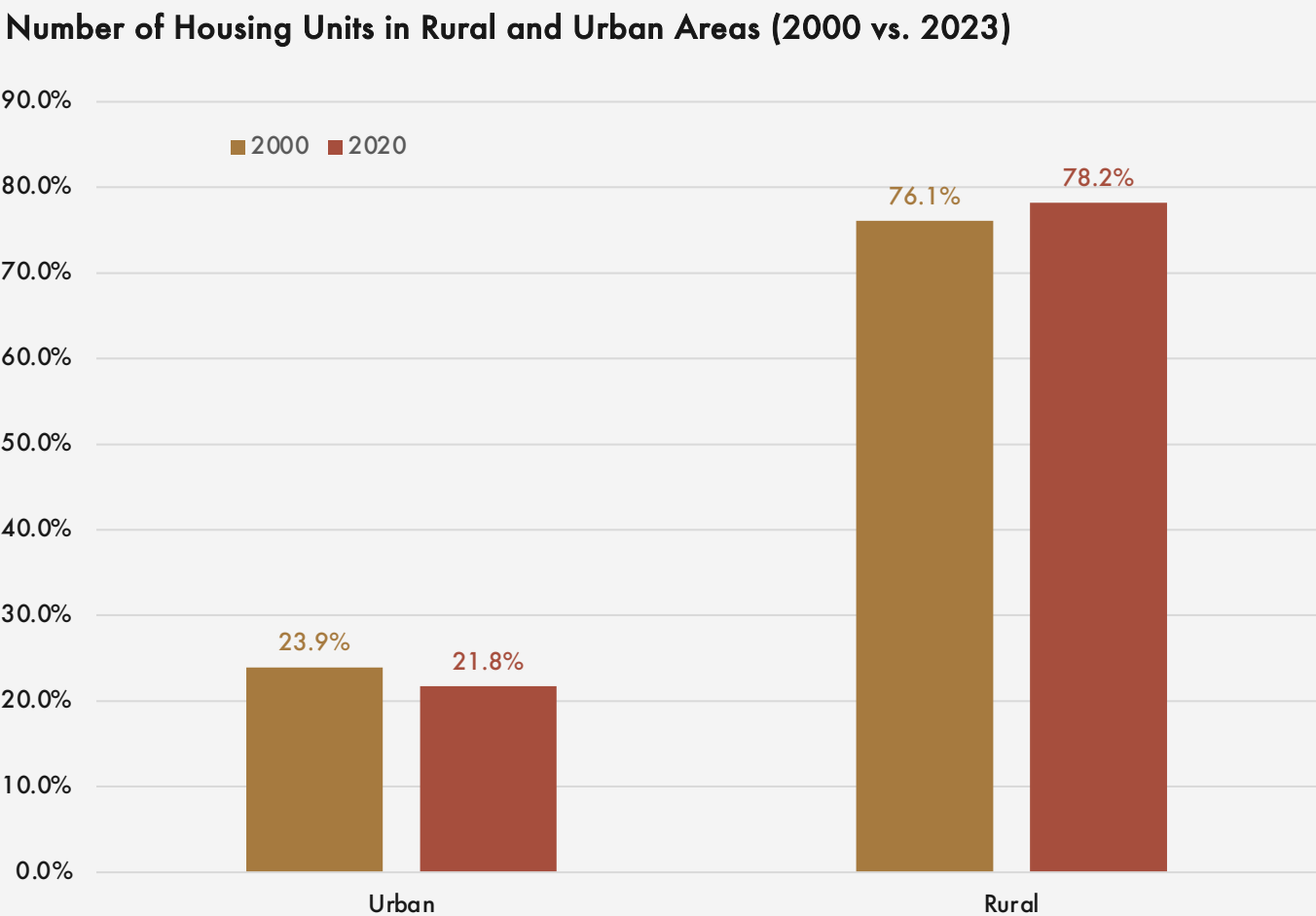
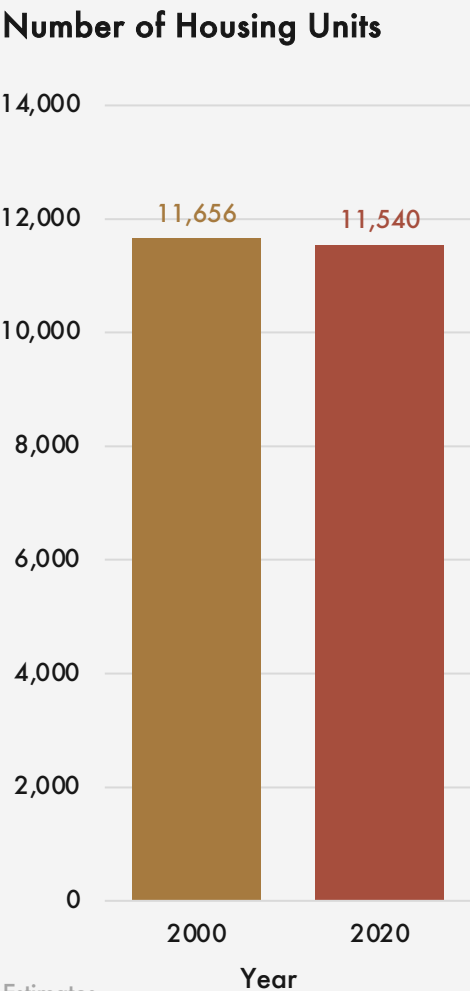
1.7 Urban and Rural Change

Abbeville County’s housing distribution has become slightly more rural over time.

While the total number of housing units has decreased only slightly, the **share in rural areas** has grown from roughly **76% to about 78%**.

Meanwhile, the **urban portion** has decreased from around **24% to 22%**.

How has the rural and urban residence distribution in Abbeville County changed over the years?



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

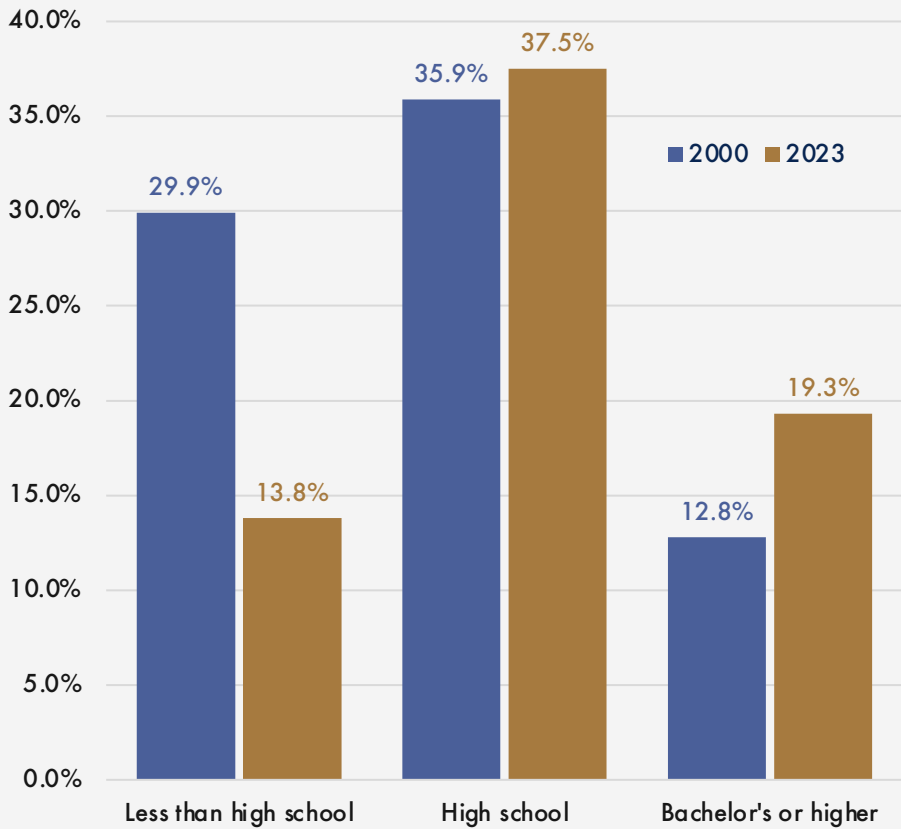
1.8 Educational Attainment

How has educational attainment in Abbeville County changed over the years?

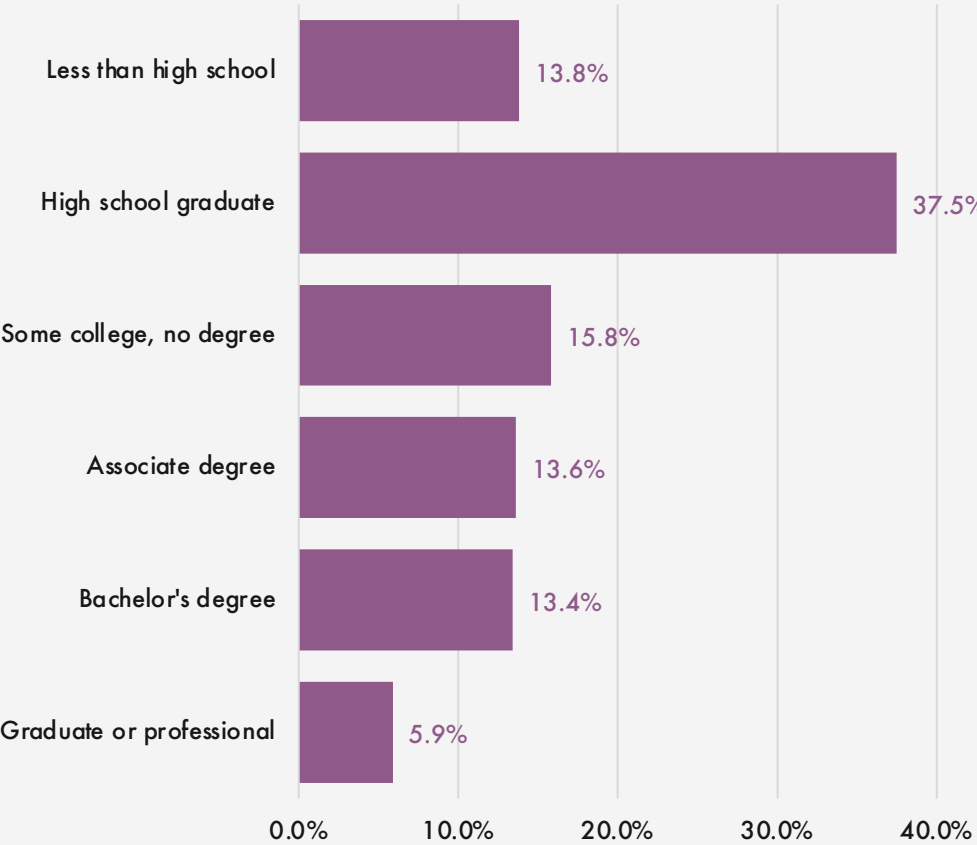
The percentage of residents with less than a **high school diploma** dropped significantly (**from nearly 30% down to around 14%**), indicating a positive shift toward completing high school education.

Meanwhile, the share of those holding a **bachelor's degree or higher** increased from about **13% to nearly 20%**.

Change in Educational Attainment (2000 vs. 2023)



Educational Attainment of Abbeville Residents 25 years and older (2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

1.9 School Enrollment

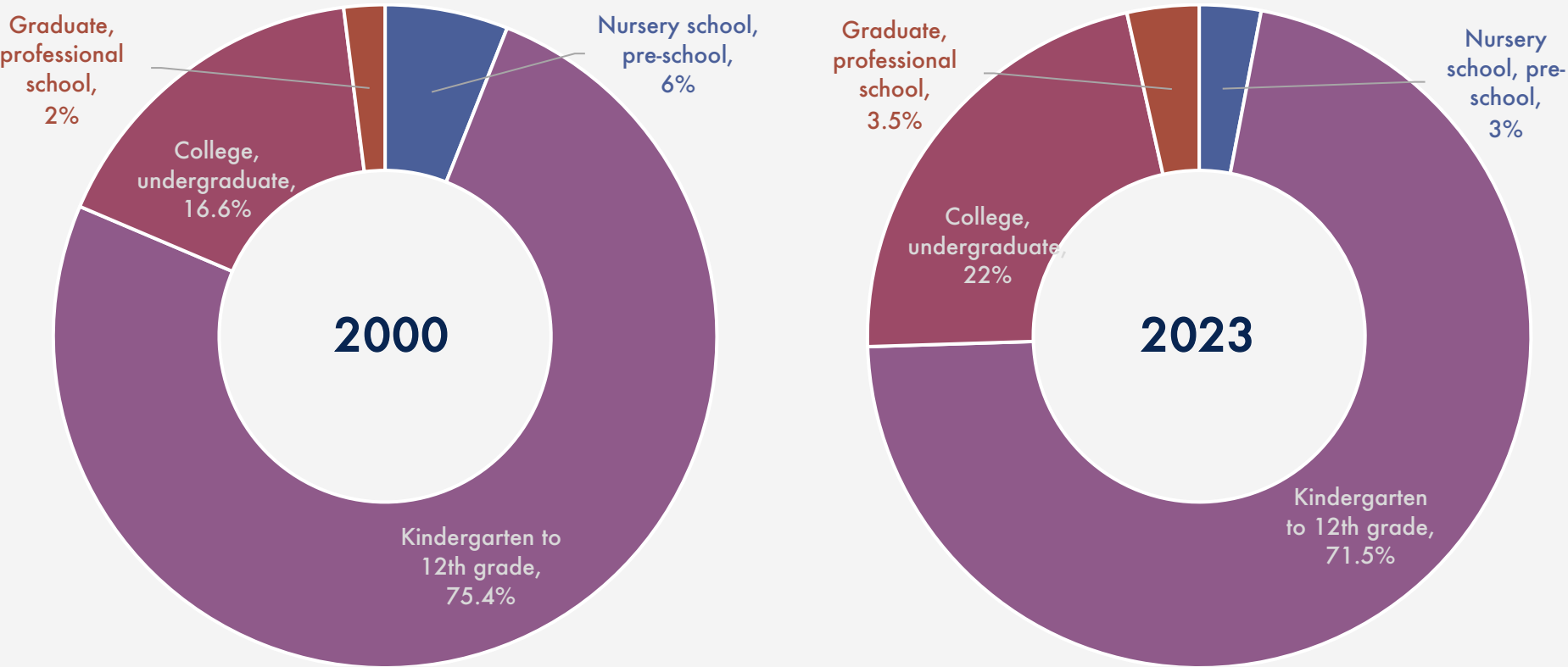
How have school enrollments in Abbeville County changed over the years?

Between 2000 and 2023, Abbeville County experienced a decrease in the proportion of residents enrolled in **Kindergarten through 12th grade**, dropping from about **75% to just under 72%**.

At the same time, **college enrollment** rose notably—from around **17% to 22%**—while **graduate or professional school attendance** also increased slightly by **1.5%**.

The share of **nursery or preschool** enrollments declined from about **6% to 3%**. These shifts suggest fewer school-age children in the county overall.

School Enrollment Rates of Residents in Abbeville County (2000 vs. 2023)

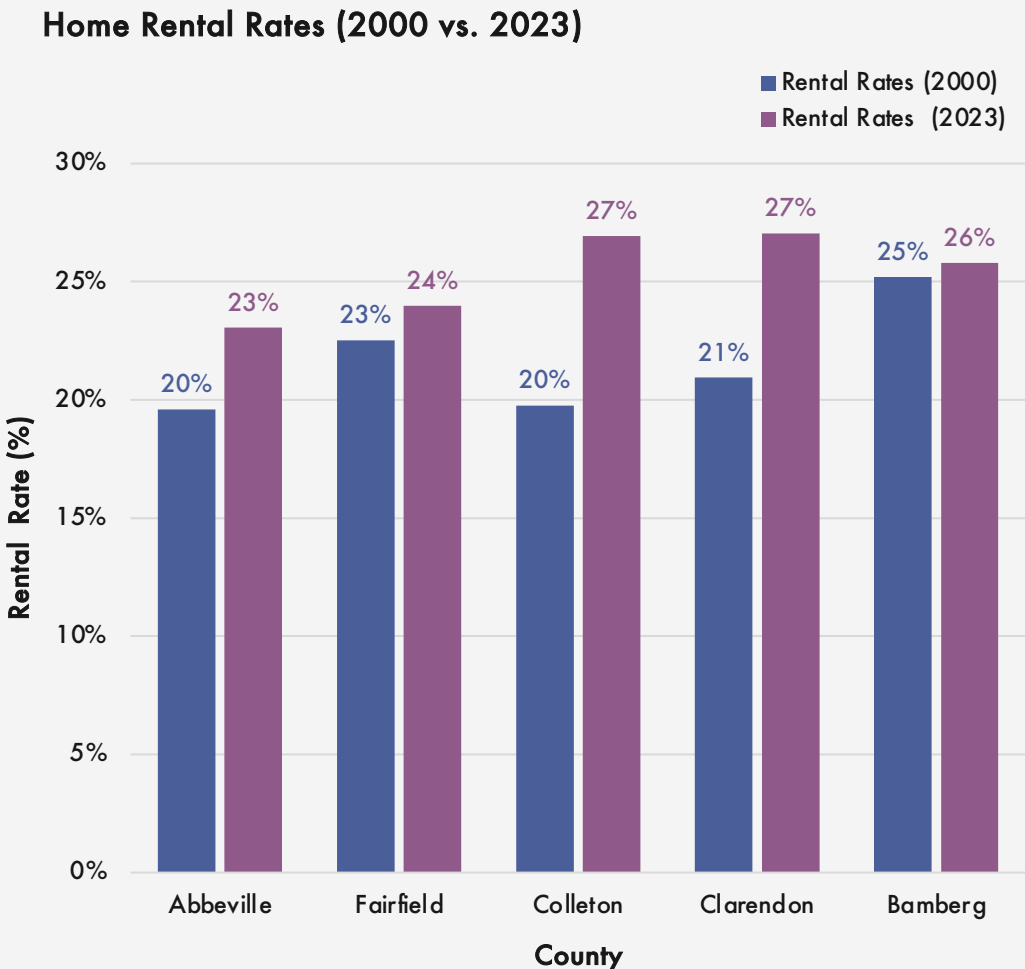
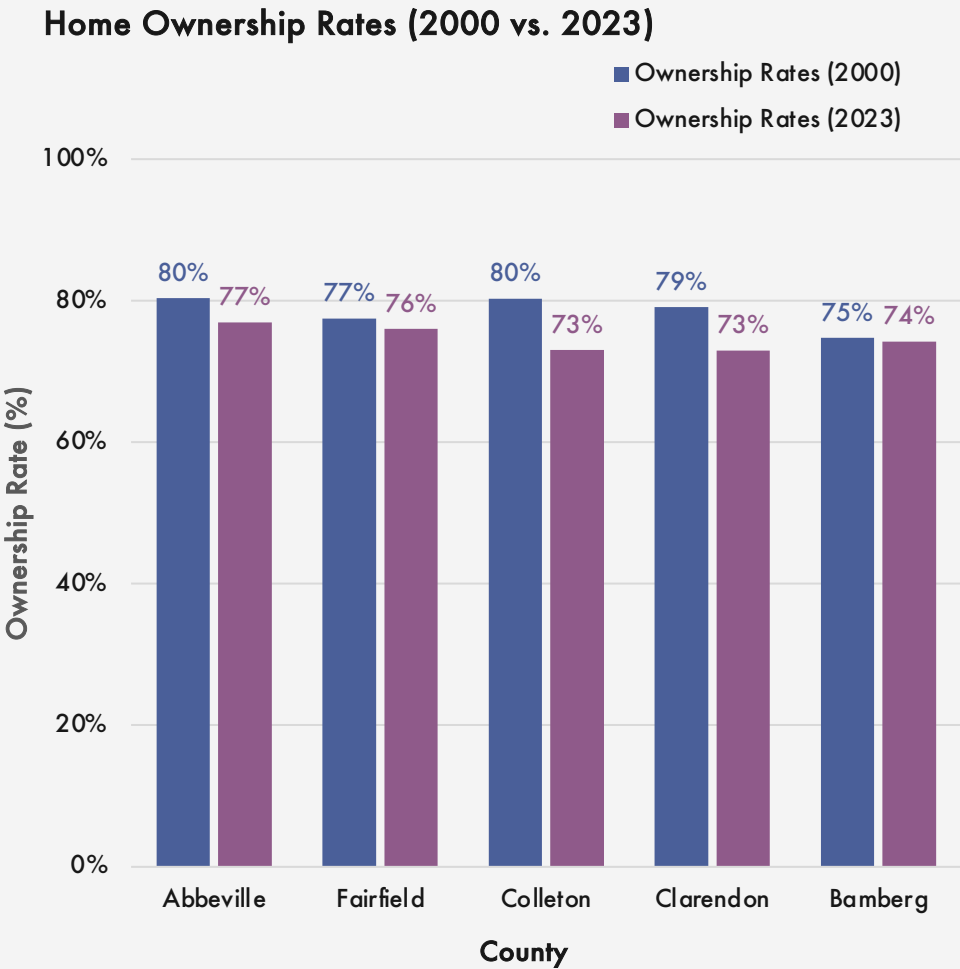


Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.1 Home Ownership

How has home ownership shifted in Abbeville County from 2000 to 2023?

Between 2000 and 2023, Abbeville County saw its **home-ownership rate** dip from **80% to 77%**, while its **rental rate** rose from **20% to 23%**. This mirrors a broader pattern across peer counties—Colleton and Clarendon both lost roughly 6 percentage points of ownership, and Fairfield and Bamberg saw smaller drops.



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.2 Median Property Tax

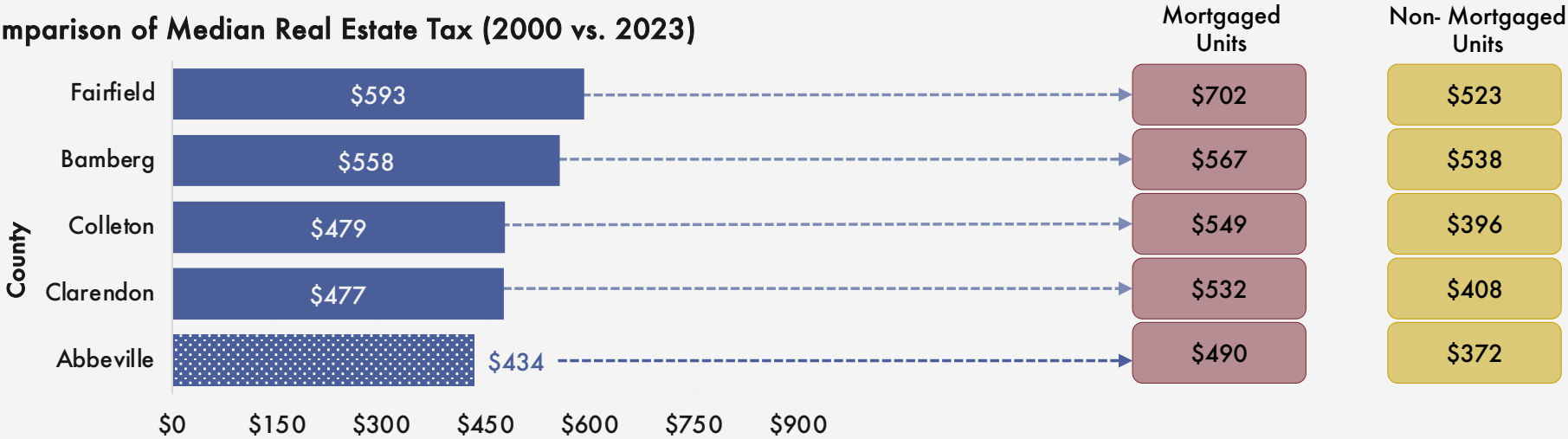
Change in the Real Estate Taxes paid in Abbeville and peer counties

In 2010, Abbeville’s median real estate tax was **\$434**, the lowest among its peers; by 2023 **it climbed to \$717 (a 65% increase)** yet still sits below Colleton (\$883), Clarendon (\$848), and Bamberg (\$796).

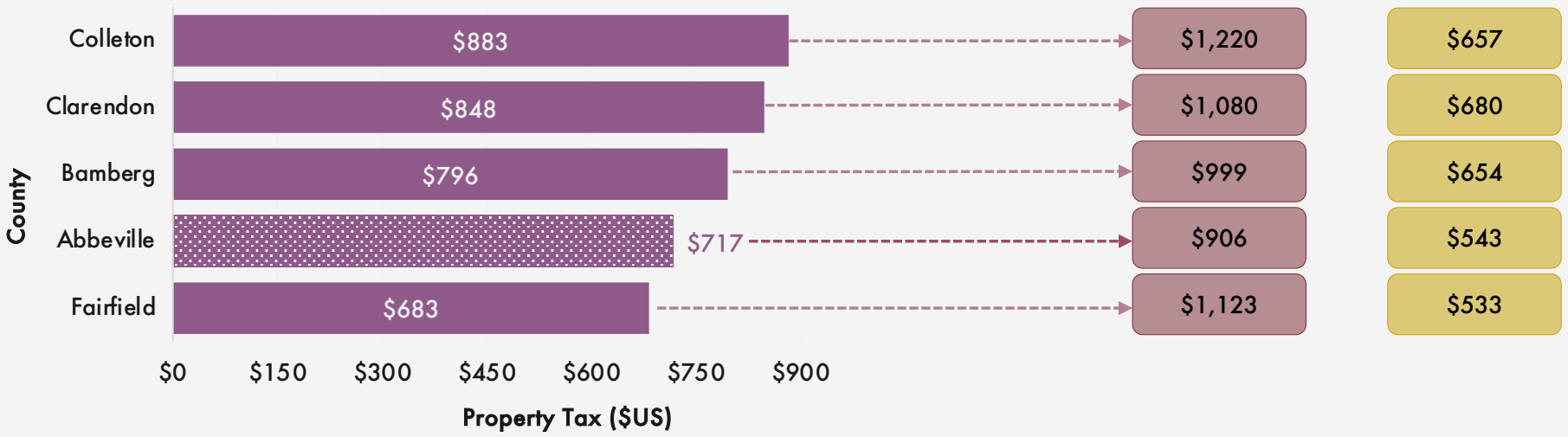
Abbeville’s mortgaged-unit tax **jumped from \$490 in 2010 to \$906 in 2023 (+85%)**, outpacing the rise on **non-mortgaged units (\$372 → \$543, +46%)**. This pattern holds across all counties, indicating that homeowners with mortgages are bearing a growing share of tax increases.

2010

Comparison of Median Real Estate Tax (2000 vs. 2023)



2023



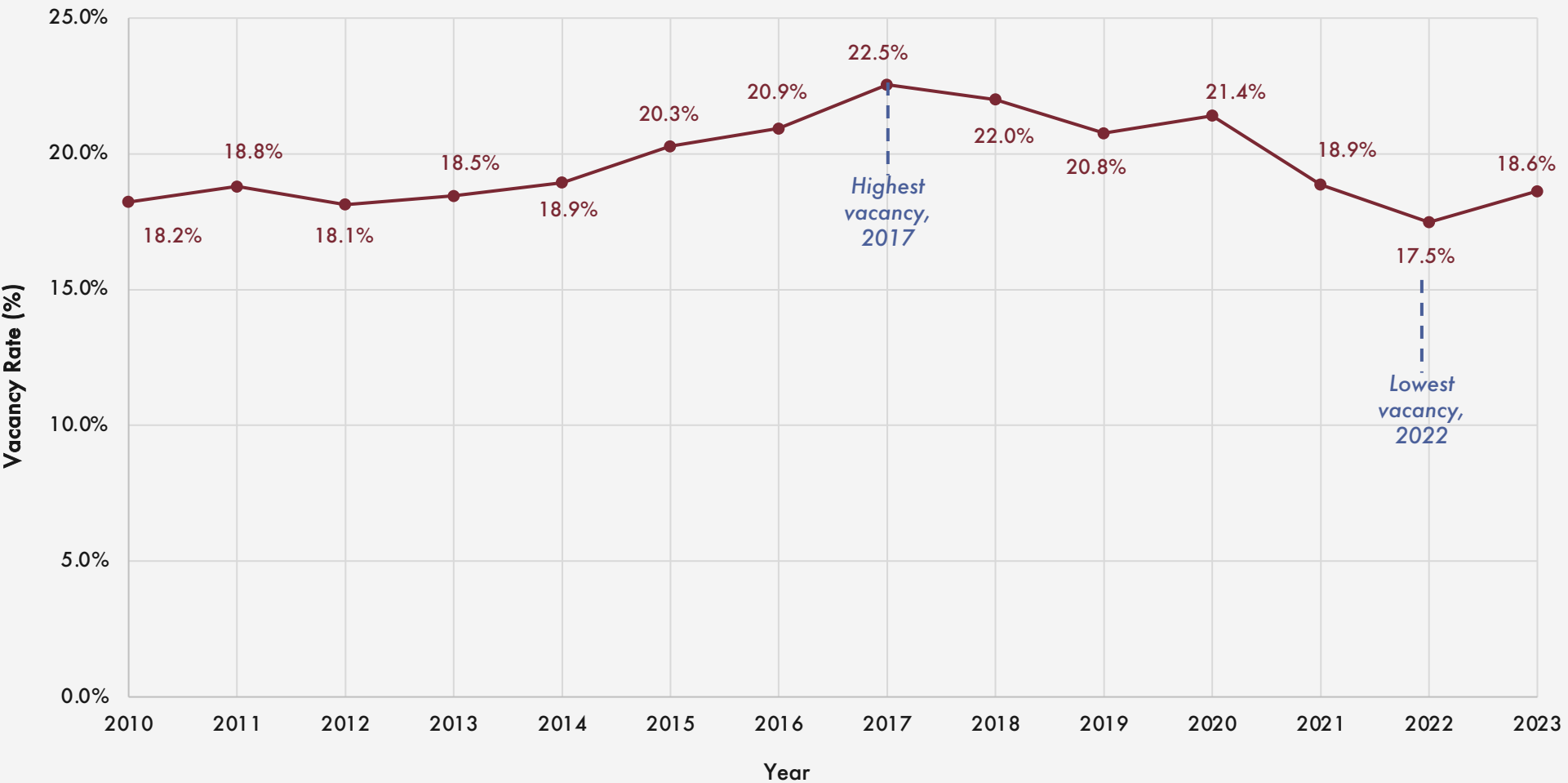
Sources: 2010 & 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.3 Housing Vacancy Rate

How has the proportion of vacant housing units in Abbeville County changed since 2010?

Since 2010, Abbeville County’s housing vacancy rate has trended upward through the mid-2010s before improving in the early 2020s. The rate began at **18.2% in 2010**, climbed to a **peak of 22.5% in 2017**, then gradually declined to a **low of 17.5% in 2022** before a modest increase to **18.6% in 2023**.

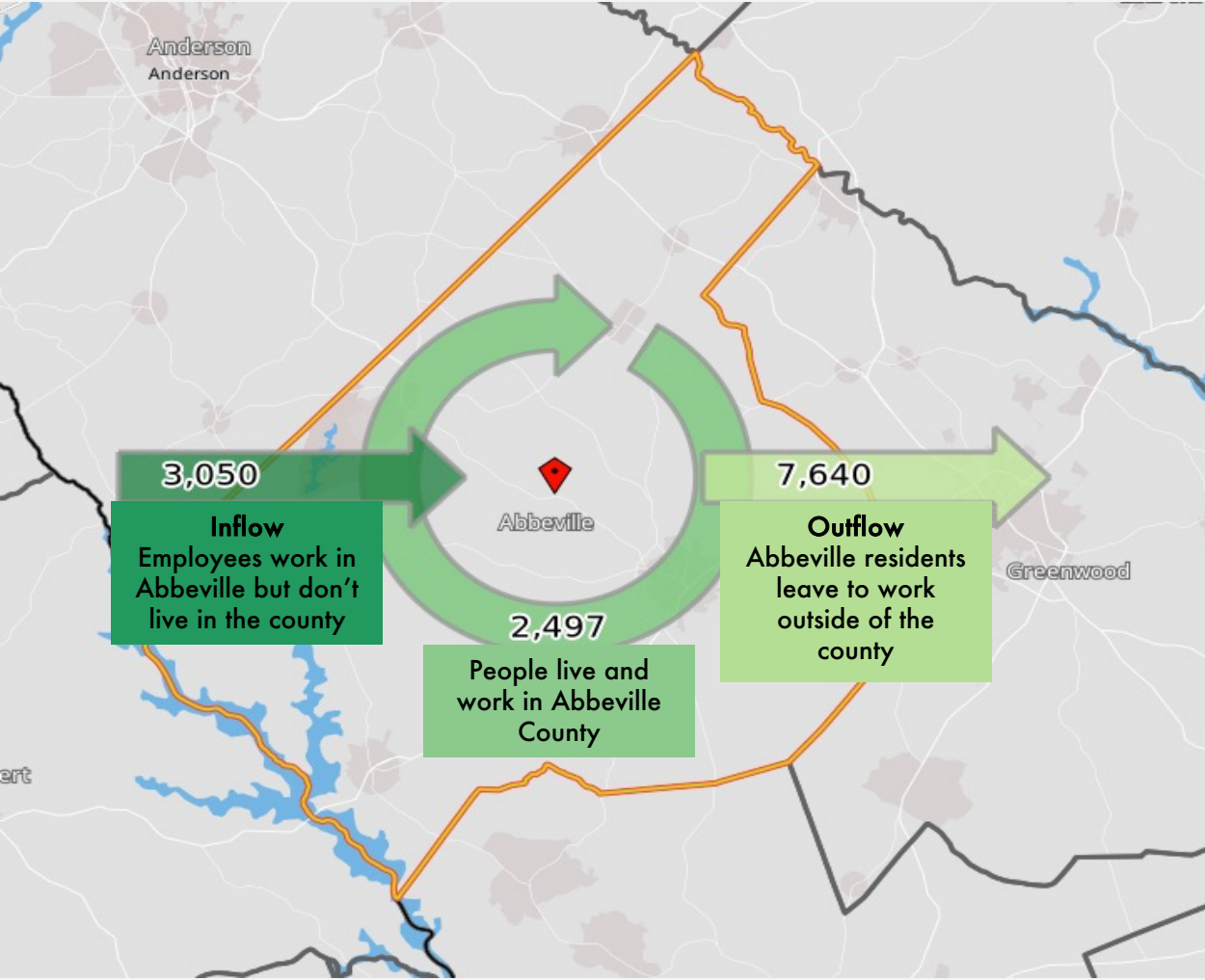
Proportion of Vacant Housing Units in Abbeville County (2010 - 2023)



Sources: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.4 Commuting Pattern

Commuting Pattern for Workers (In & Out of Abbeville County)



75.4% of Abbeville County residents work outside the county. Each day, **7,640 residents** leave the county for their jobs, while only **3,050 people come in**—creating a net loss of 4,590 workers. Just **2,497 residents** both live and work here, which is under 25% of all local jobs.

This imbalance shows that many of the residents get jobs in neighbouring counties or communities.

Inflow/Outflow of Jobs (All Jobs, 2022)		
	Count	Share
Employed in Abbeville County	5,547	-
Employed in Abbeville County but Living Outside	3,050	55%
Employed and Living in Abbeville County	2,497	45%
Living in Abbeville County	10,137	-
Living in Abbeville County but Employed Outside	7,640	75.4%
Living and Employed in Abbeville County	2,497	24.6%

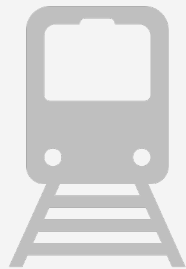
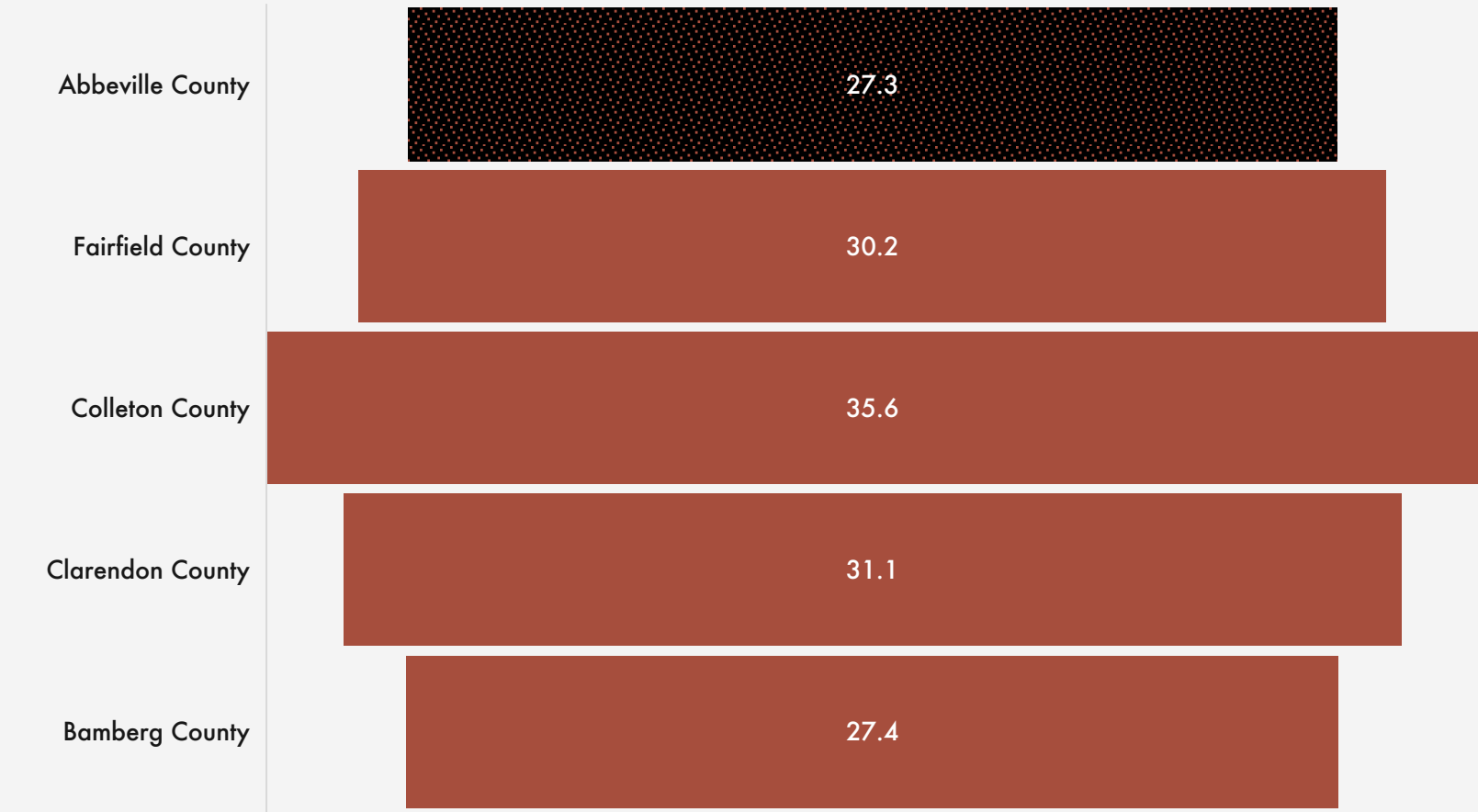
Note: The above data reflects 2022 insights for all job types.
Source: On the Map, US Census Bureau

2.5 Average Commute Time

How long (in minutes) does it take in Abbeville and its peer communities to commute to work?

In 2023, Abbeville County’s average one-way commute was **27.3 minutes**, slightly below the regional peer average. Colleton County has the longest commutes at **35.6 minutes**, followed by Clarendon (31.1) and Fairfield (30.2). Bamberg County’s commute (27.4) nearly mirrors Abbeville’s, making these two the quickest among the group

Comparison of Average Commute Time in Minutes (2023)










Sources: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.6 Livability

Benchmarking Abbeville’s Livability

Abbeville’s livability score of 40 lags behind the U.S. county median by 10 points despite strong Housing (65), with major deficits in Environment (35) and Opportunity (28) and gaps in Neighborhood (27), Health (36), and Transportation (42).

	Abbeville County, SC	Bamberg County, SC	Clarendon County, SC	Colleton County, SC	Fairfield County, SC	South Carolina	Median US County
Overall	40	42	43	39	43	48	50
 Housing Metrics and initiatives that promote affordability, availability, and accessibility.	65	65	61	52	59	53	59
 Neighborhood Metrics and initiatives that focus on destinations, safety, and mixed-use development.	27	25	25	26	27	38	36
 Transportation Metrics and initiatives concerning convenience, safety, and options.	42	45	34	35	32	43	44
 Environment Metrics and initiatives regarding air and water quality, energy efficiency, and hazard mitigation planning.	35	64	59	60	61	62	61
 Health Metrics and initiatives that promote healthy behaviors, like exercise and smoking cessation.	36	28	30	29	21	41	40
 Engagement Metrics and initiatives such as cultural engagement, voting rights, and human rights.	44	40	59	49	66	55	47
 Opportunity Metrics and initiatives regarding job availability, government creditworthiness, and graduation rates.	28	29	31	26	33	44	50

Sources: AARP Livability Index, 2024

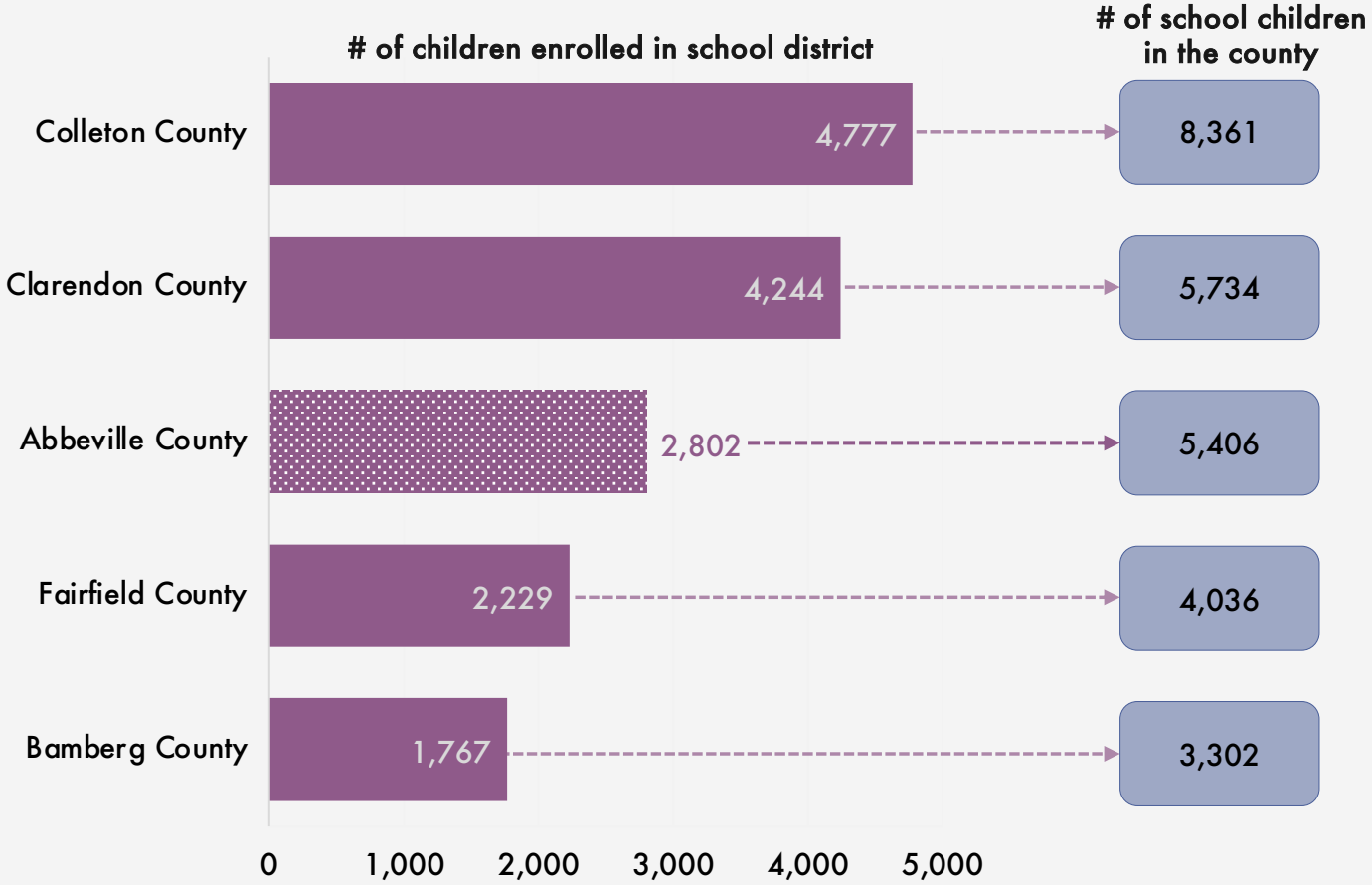
2.7 Schools Per Capita

How does the school infrastructure in Abbeville County compare to its peer communities?

School Districts for Counties (County, school district, # of schools)			
1	Abbeville County, SC	Abbeville County School District	9
2	Fairfield County, SC	Fairfield County School District	8
3	Colleton County, SC	Colleton County School District	9
4	Clarendon County, SC	Clarendon County School District	11
5	Bamberg County, SC	Bamberg County School District	6

Abbeville County operates **9 schools** for **5,406** school-aged children (≈1.66 schools per 1,000 children), placing it in the middle of its peers.

Fairfield (8 schools/4,036 kids; ≈1.98) and Clarendon (11/5,734; ≈1.92) have the highest school-per-child ratios, while Colleton (9/8,361; ≈1.08) and Bamberg (6/3,302; ≈1.82) sit at the lower and upper ends, respectively.



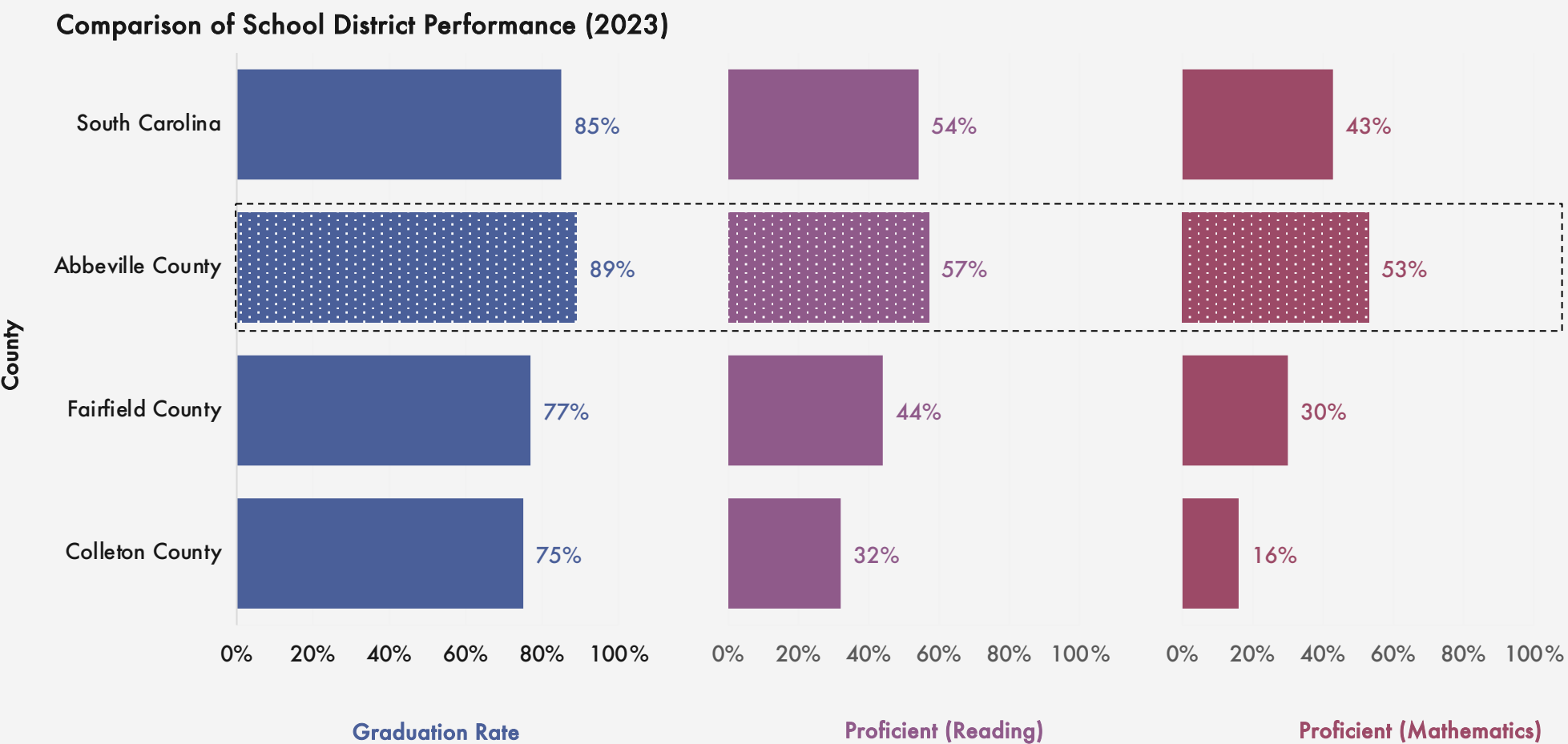
The number of schools reflects the **entire school district**, which serves multiple cities, not just the schools physically located within city limits. School children are signified as persons below 18 years.

Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles; NCES (2023 – 2024) Academic Session; Niche K12 School Ratings & Statistics

2.8 School District Performance

Comparison of school district performance in Abbeville County to its peer counties?

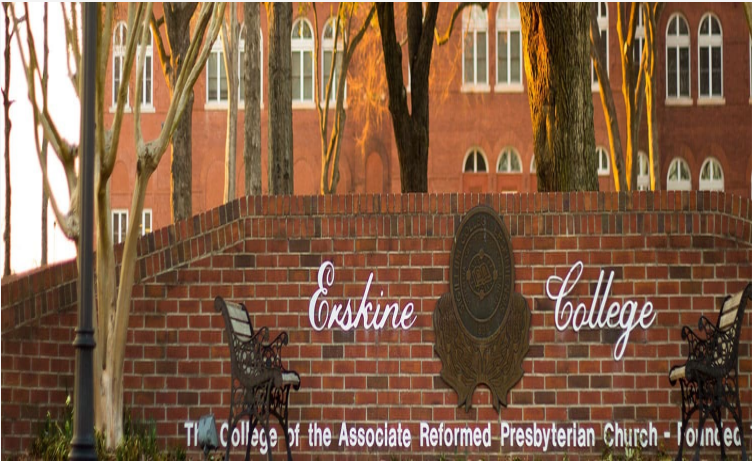
Abbeville County outperforms both the state and its peer counties across all three metrics. Its **89% graduation rate** surpasses South Carolina’s 85% and far exceeds Fairfield (77%) and Colleton (75%). In **reading proficiency**, Abbeville’s **57%** also leads (state: 54%; Fairfield: 44%; Colleton: 32%). Likewise, in **math proficiency**, Abbeville’s **53%** outpaces the state average of 43% as well as Fairfield (30%) and Colleton (16%), highlighting strong performance across the board.




Sources: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles; NCES (2023 – 2024) Academic Session; Niche K12 School Ratings & Statistics, SC School Report Cards

2.9 Colleges in Abbeville

Trend of graduating students (degree completion) in the largest college in Abbeville County

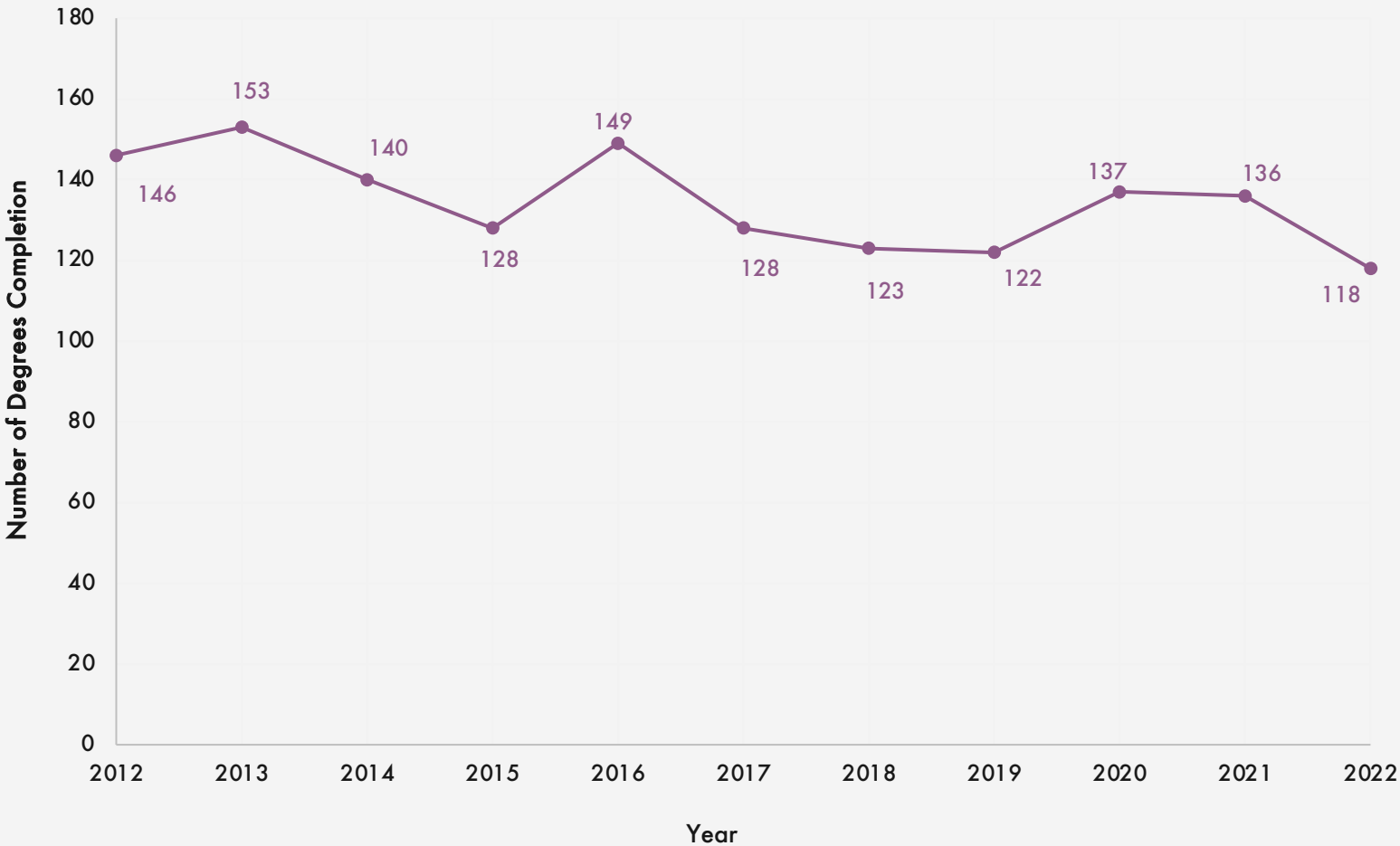


Erskine College’s graduates have varied over the past decade: after reaching a high of 153 degrees in 2013, completions fell to 128 by 2015. They then bounced back to 149 in 2016, declined to 122 in 2019, rose again to around 136–137 in 2020–21, and dipped to 118 in 2022—the lowest level since 2015.

 IPEDS gathers information from every college, university, and technical and vocational institution that participates in the federal student financial aid programs.





Sources: Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)

Number of Degrees Awarded in Erskine College (2012 - 2022)

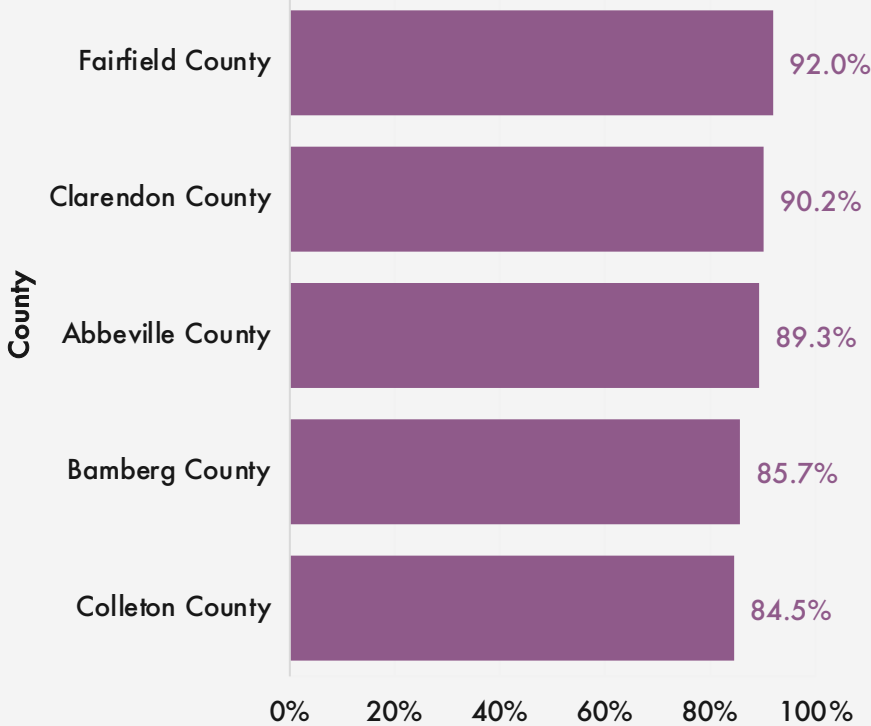


2.10 Healthcare Access

How does access to healthcare in Abbeville County compare to its peer communities?

	Abbeville County, SC	Bamberg County, SC	Clarendon County, SC	Colleton County, SC	Fairfield County, SC
 Poor or Fair Health (Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health)	20%	22%	23%	21%	23%
 Adult Obesity (Percentage of the adult population (age 18 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m2)	40%	44%	40%	37%	43%
 Doctor-to-Patient Ratio (Ratio of population to primary care physicians)	1870:1	2640:1	3100:1	2400:1	2300:1
 Food Insecure (Percentage of population who lack adequate access to food)	10%	11%	11%	10%	9%

Percentage of residents with health insurance (2023)



Abbeville County generally has solid healthcare access compared to its peers, but gaps remain. **89.3% are insured (3rd of 5 counties)** and the county boasts the **best doctor-to-patient ratio at 1,870:1**, indicating better primary care availability than its peers.

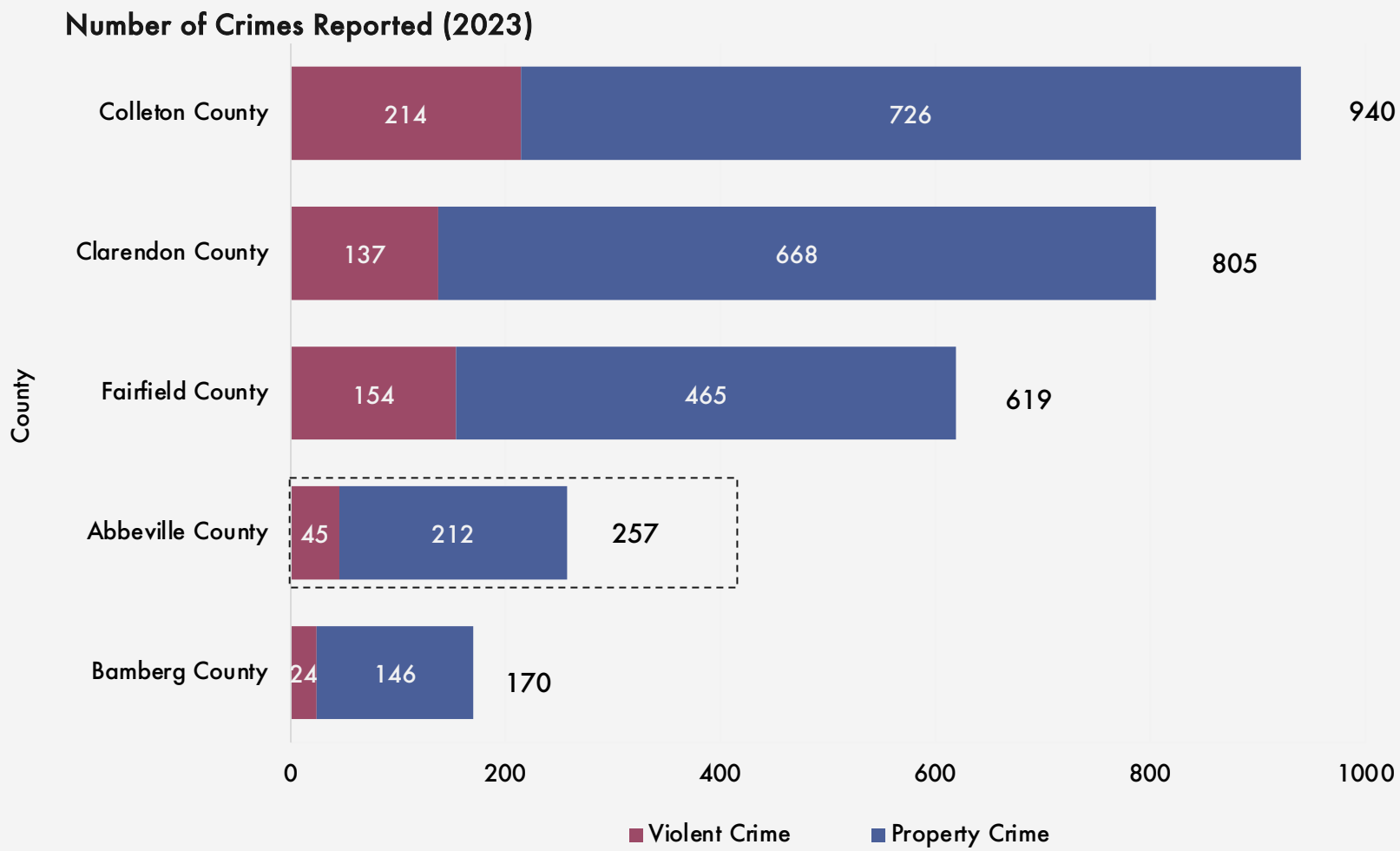
Sources: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps (2023)

2.11 Safety & Crime

Abbeville County reports far fewer crimes than its peers—just **257** total incidents (45 violent, 212 property) versus **619** in Fairfield, **805** in Clarendon, and **940** in Colleton.

Violent crime makes up **18%** of Abbeville’s total, a lower share than Fairfield (25%) and Clarendon (17%), indicating both lower overall crime and a relatively smaller violent crime component. Bamberg is the safest in raw counts (170), but its violent crime share is **14%**, similar to Abbeville.

Comparison of the number of crimes made known to law enforcement in Abbeville County and peer counties



Sources: 2020 FBI Crime Report, Table 8

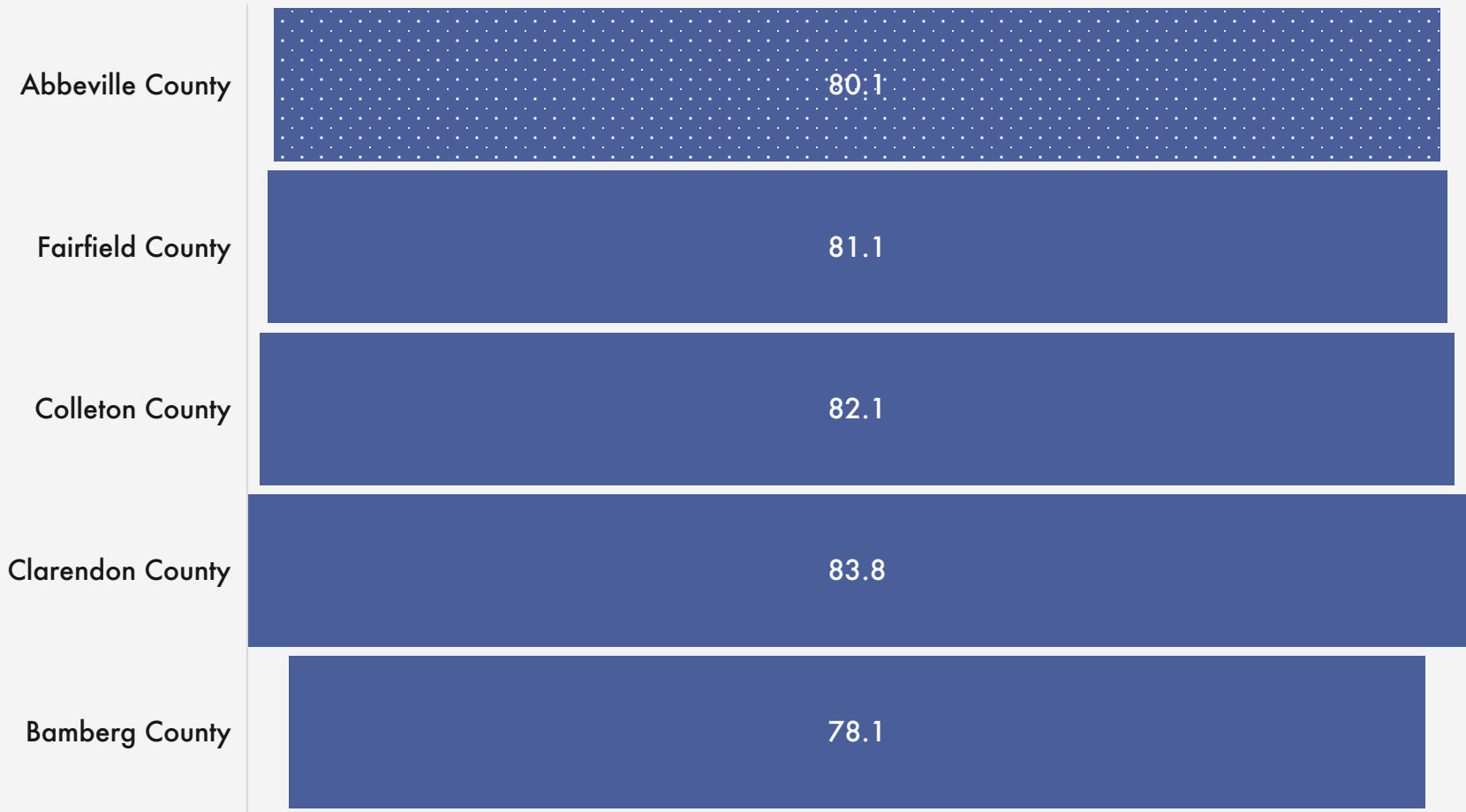
2.12 Broadband Access

Proportion of residents in Abbeville and its peer communities with internet broadband access

In 2023, **80.1%** of Abbeville County households have broadband internet—slightly below most peers. Clarendon leads at **83.8%**, followed by Colleton (82.1%) and Fairfield (81.1%). Bamberg trails all at **78.1%**.

Although not higher than the 80s, this shows that Abbeville County residents have a relatively high broadband internet adoption.

Comparison of Access to Internet Broadband (2023)




Sources: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

3.1 Labor Force

What is the makeup of the labor force of Abbeville and its peer communities?

Abbeville County boasts the **lowest unemployment rate** (3.4%) among its peers—well under Fairfield (5.5%), Clarendon (8.6%), Colleton (9.3%), and Bamberg (11.9%)—but its **labor participation rate** is only **51.3%**, placing it fourth of five (peer average \approx 58%).

Within Abbeville’s workforce, **53.6%** hold **white-collar** roles, **33.6%** are in **blue-collar** jobs, and **12.7%** work in **service occupations**, reflecting a tilt toward professional and administrative positions.

 The labor force is the total number of people of working age who are either employed or actively looking for a job. It does **not** include people who aren’t seeking work, such as full-time students or retirees

Unemployment Rate	
Abbeville County, SC	3.4%
Fairfield County, SC	5.5%
Colleton County, SC	9.3%
Clarendon County, SC	8.6%
Bamberg County, SC	11.9%

Labor Participation Rate	
Fairfield County, SC	57.9%
Colleton County, SC	55.1%
Bamberg County, SC	53.2%
Abbeville County, SC	51.3%
Clarendon County, SC	47.8%

Occupation Type (Abbeville Only)	Employed	Share
White Collar	5,361	53.6%
Blue Collar	3,382	33.6%
Services	1,280	12.7%


Sources: 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

3.2 Business Establishment

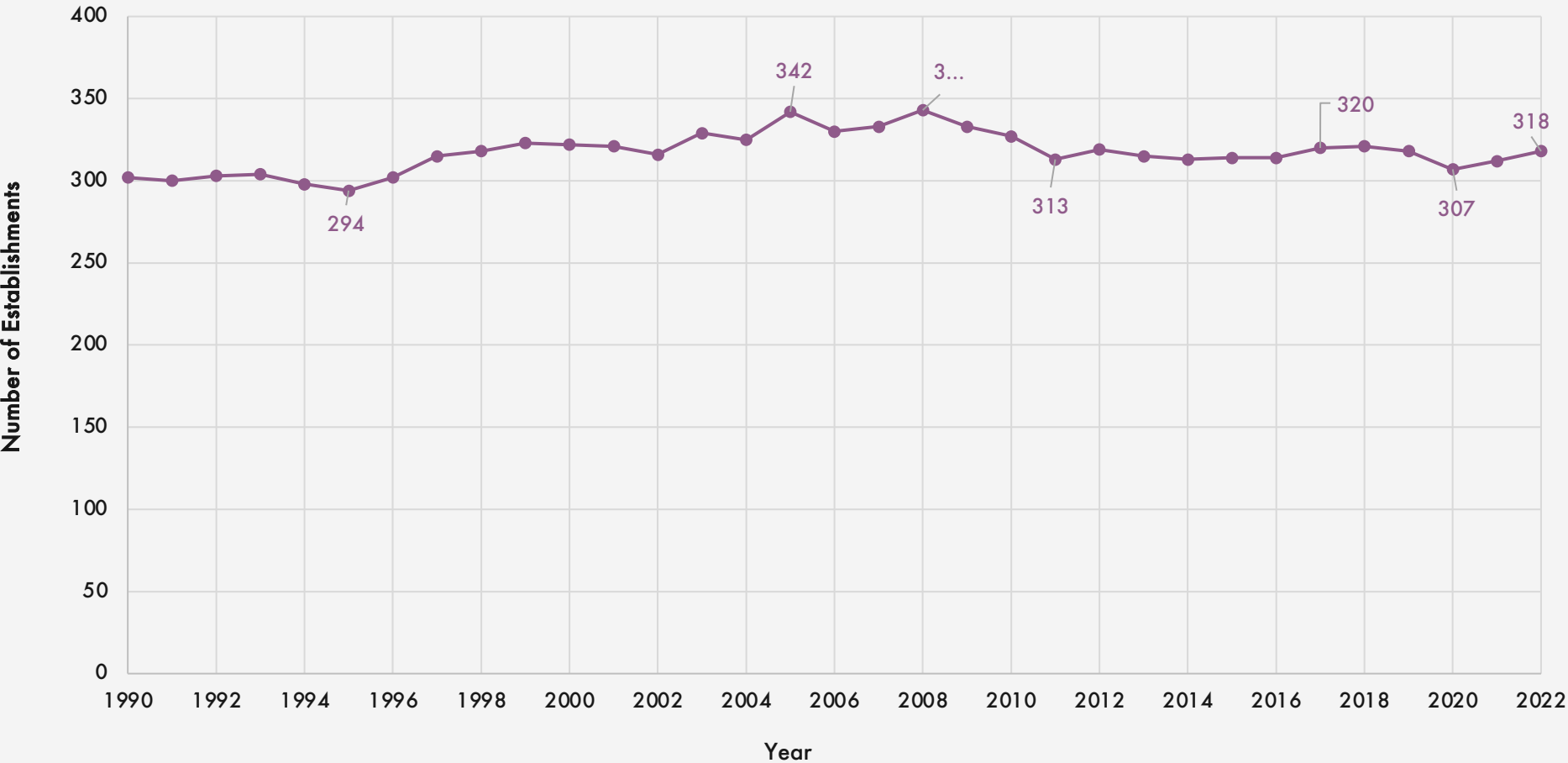
How has the creation of business establishments in Abbeville County changed since 1990?

Since 1990, Abbeville County has consistently added about 300 new businesses each year. After a low of 294 startups in 1995, formations rose to a high of 342 in 2005 and 343 in 2008 before settling back into the 310–320 range.

By 2022, there were 318 new establishments, showing steady growth without dramatic swings. However, the rate of establishments that exited every year during the 32 years ranged between 5.7% to 13.7%

 A business establishment is a single physical location where business is conducted or where services or industrial operations are performed

Number of Business Establishments Created in Abbeville County (1990 - 2022)



Sources: ECNSVY Business Dynamics Statistics

3.3 Employment by Industry

Change in the number of employees by industry in Abbeville County

Over the last three decades, Abbeville County’s employment has shifted dramatically away from traditional manufacturing toward service and support roles.

In 1990, **3,811** people worked in manufacturing—by 2022 that number had fallen to **1,856** (a 51% drop). Meanwhile, **administrative & support services** grew from **41** employees in 1990 to **95** in 2022, and **information** jobs nearly doubled (63 → 106). **Construction** also expanded (137 → 166), and **accommodation & food services** rose from 252 to 330, reflecting growth in tourism and hospitality. **Educational services** peaked at 472 in 2000 but then halved to around 233 by 2022, suggesting school districts or demographic changes.

	1990	2000	2010	2020	2022
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting		19	15		16
Construction	137	190	153	159	166
Manufacturing	3811	3922	1797	1801	1856
Wholesale trade	29	87	64	75	64
Retail trade	464	528	426	434	512
Transportation and warehousing	36	9	8	34	43
Information	63	62	75	94	106
Finance and insurance	102	115	106	77	82
Real estate and rental and leasing	42	19	9	4	13
Professional, scientific, and technical services	23	48	65	31	46
Administrative and support and waste management and remediation services	41	14	44	97	95
Educational services			472	221	233
Health care and social assistance	270	645	461	458	410
Arts, entertainment, and recreation		9	5		
Accommodation and food services	252	308	360	406	330
Other services (except public administration)	186	223	223	252	247

Sources: ECNSVY Business Dynamics Statistics

3.4 Average Annual Wage

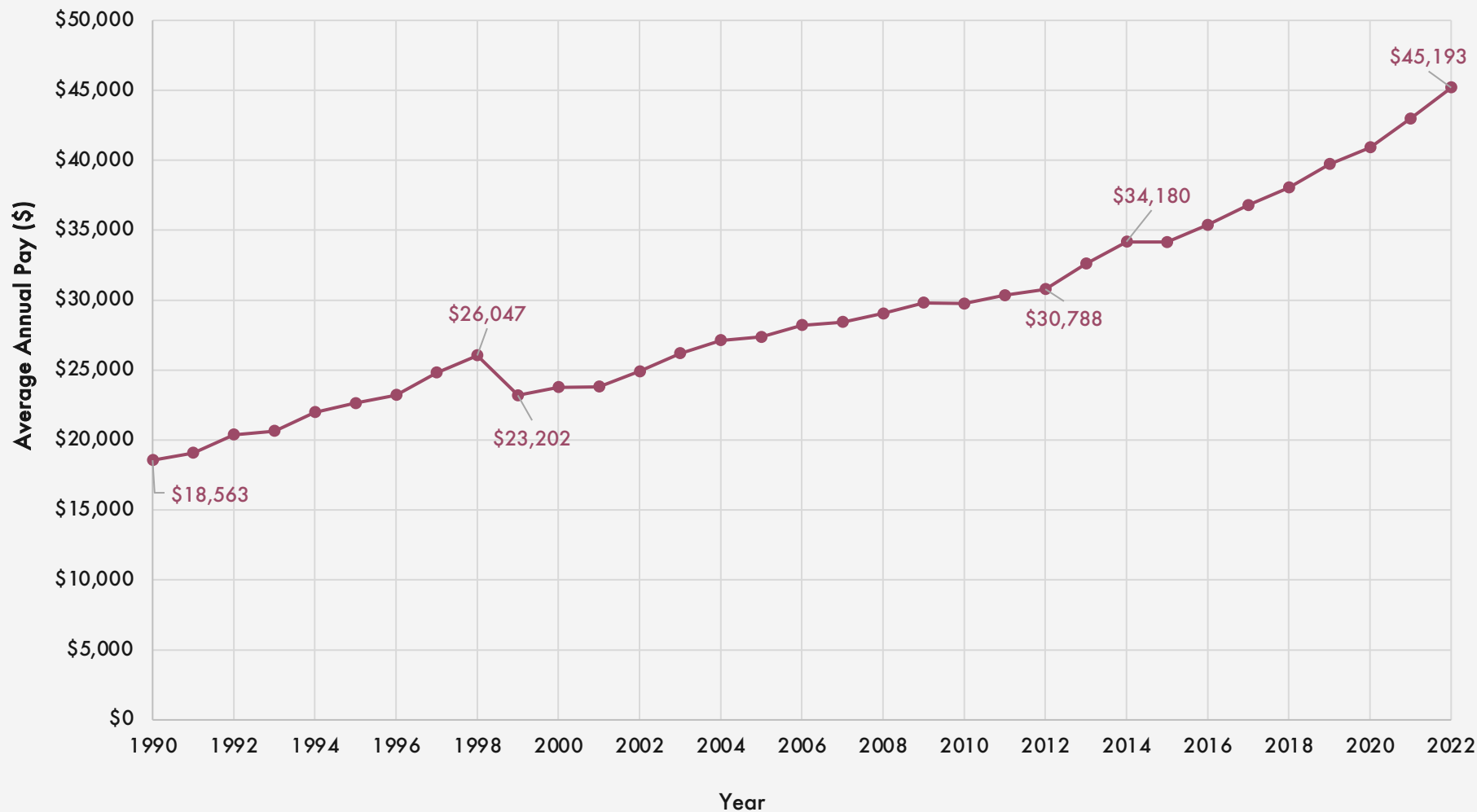
From 1990 to 2022, average annual pay in Abbeville County more than doubled—from about \$18,500 to \$45,000—demonstrating long-term wage growth.

Key inflection points include a dip from \$26,000 in 1998 to \$23,000 in 1999, likely reflecting the late-'90s manufacturing downturn, and steady climbs through the 2000s into the 2010s.

Since 2012, wages accelerated—from \$30,788 to \$45,000—outpacing earlier decades and suggesting a stronger, more diversified local economy.

How has the average annual pay for workers in Abbeville County changed over the years?

Average Annual Wage Paid to Employees in Abbeville County (1990 - 2022)



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

3.5 Average Wage by Industry

Over the past three decades, wages in Abbeville County have risen dramatically in some sectors and fallen in others.

The **biggest winners** are **Administrative & Waste Services** (+362%), **Information** (+327%), and **Wholesale Trade** (+288%) reflecting strong growth in support, tech, and distribution roles. **Other Services** (+241%) and **Manufacturing** (+164%) also saw substantial gains.

In contrast, **Professional & Technical Services** is the only industry to register a pay decline (-31%), suggesting local demand or investment in these high-skill roles has weakened.

Change in the annual pay of employees by industry in Abbeville County

	1990	2000	2010	2023	Δ from initial to final pay
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting			\$29,019	\$32,201	11%
Utilities			\$57,892	\$79,983	38%
Construction			\$27,185	\$46,858	72%
Manufacturing	\$21,301	\$27,298	\$37,672	\$56,269	164%
Wholesale trade	\$18,797	\$26,586	\$41,021	\$72,940	288%
Retail trade	\$10,115	\$15,199	\$16,487	\$22,351	121%
Transportation and warehousing	\$26,622	\$35,952	\$46,493	\$57,470	116%
Information	\$21,416	\$32,381	\$57,604	\$91,409	327%
Finance and insurance			\$33,160	\$52,239	58%
Real estate and rental and leasing			\$25,543	\$32,867	29%
Professional and technical services	\$24,478	\$24,189	\$16,928		-31%
Administrative and waste services	\$7,732	\$14,588	\$21,604	\$35,711	362%
Educational services			\$23,781		-
Health care and social assistance			\$28,234		-
Other services, except public administration	\$10,774	\$17,825	\$19,734	\$36,741	241%
Public administration	\$14,156	\$19,775	\$23,397		65%

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

3.6 Airport Travel Statistics

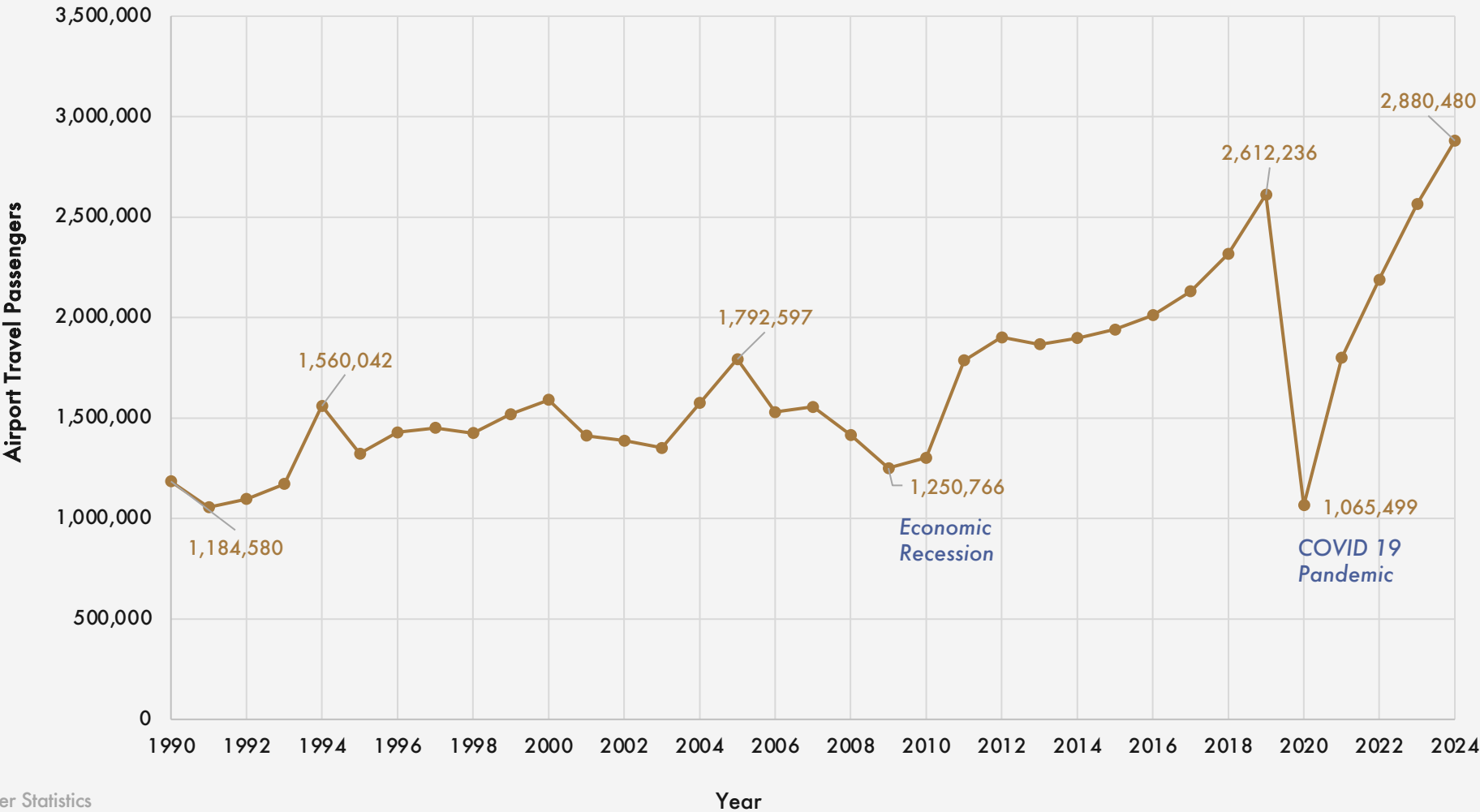
Trend of traffic (passengers) passing through the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport

Passenger traffic at Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport has grown steadily since 1990, highlighted by economic cycles and the COVID-19 shock.

From around 1.18 million annual travelers in the early 1990s, numbers climbed to 1.56 million by 1994, dipped in the mid-'90s, then rose again—peaking at 1.79 million in 2005.

After a recession-related dip to 1.25 million in 2009, traffic rebounded strongly, reaching 2.6 million by 2019. The pandemic drove a sharp plunge to 1.05 million in 2020, but recovery has been rapid: 1.8 million in 2021, 2.2 million in 2022, and nearly 2.9 million for 2024.

Airport Passenger Statistics (1990 - 2024)



Sources: Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport Passenger Statistics

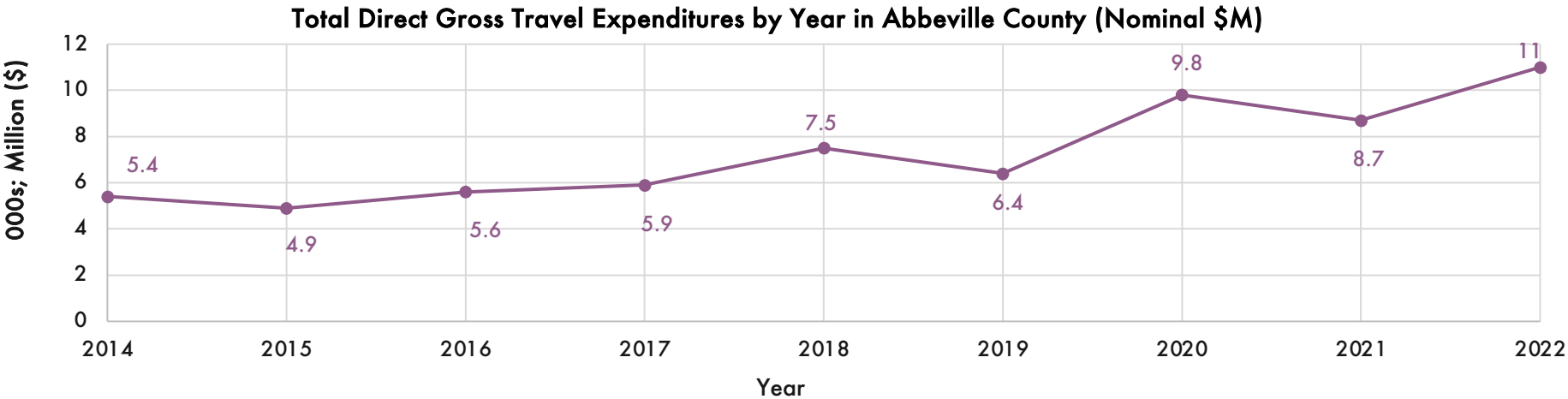
3.7 Expenditure and Impact

Abbeville County’s tourism spending has nearly doubled since 2014, rising from \$5.4 M to \$11 M in 2022, with dips in 2015 and 2019 and a sharp COVID-era rebound post-2020.

In 2022, its \$11 M in travel spending generated just 0.12 K jobs and \$1.9 M in labor income—far below peers like Colleton (\$176 M spending, 1.37 K jobs, \$39 M income) and Clarendon (\$60 M, 0.54 K, \$14 M).

Abbeville’s tourism-driven GSP (\$3.5 M), output (\$8 M), and state/local tax revenue (\$1.1 M) likewise trail its peers, showing the industry’s modest scale locally.

Economic and Fiscal Impact of Abbeville’s County Tourism Industry and its peer communities



2022 Direct Impacts of Gross Travel Expenditures (000s; Nominal \$M)						
County	Gross Spending	Economic Impact				Fiscal Impact
		Employment	Labor Income	GSP	Output	State & Local Tax
Abbeville County	11	0.12	1.9	3.5	8	1.1
Fairfield County	15.3	0.13	3.1	5.7	11.4	1.3
Colleton County	176.1	1.37	39.1	78	138.9	19.8
Clarendon County	60.4	0.54	14.3	23.4	45.4	5.3
Bamberg County	4.8	0.05	0.9	1.5	3.1	0.4

Sources: South Carolina Tourism – 2022 Economic & Fiscal Impact Analysis

3.8 Direct Jobs Supported

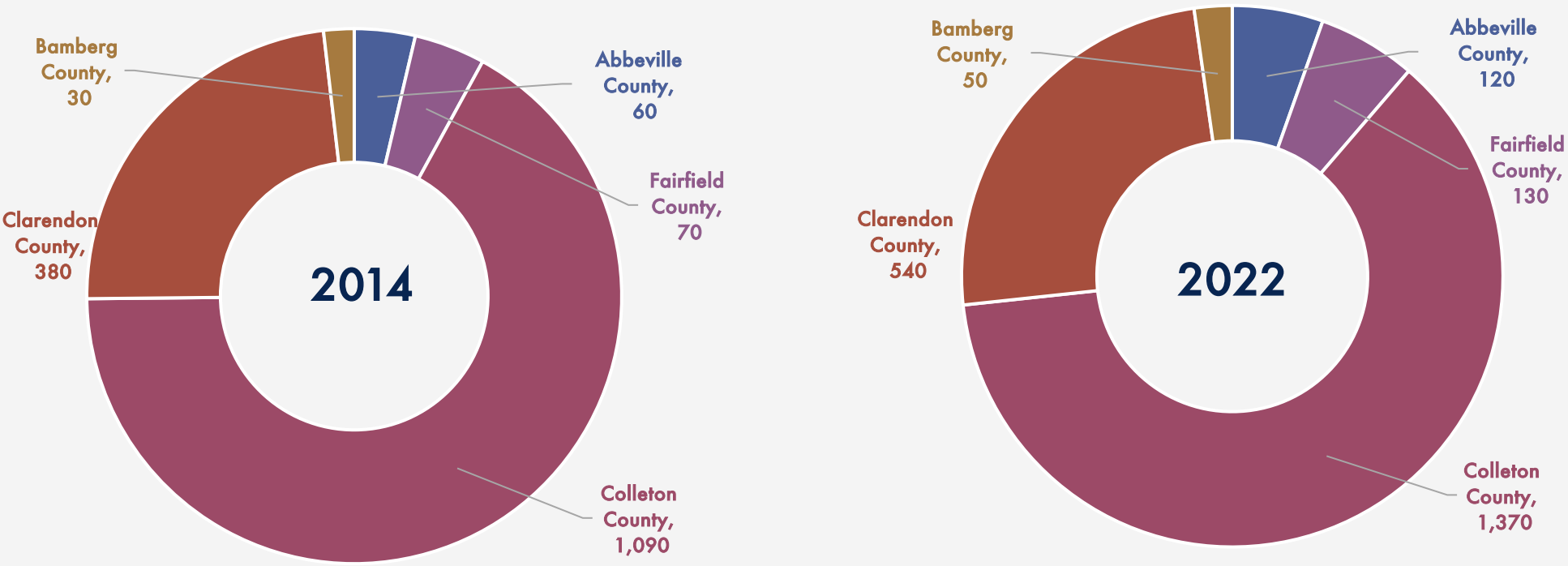
Comparison of the number of jobs supported by tourism expenditure in Abbeville County and peer counties

Between 2014 and 2022, tourism-supported employment roughly **doubled** across all peer counties—but the scale varies dramatically.

Abbeville’s tourism spending supported **60 jobs in 2014** and **120 in 2022** (+100%), matching Fairfield’s growth (70 → 130). However, Colleton remains dominant, growing from **1,090 to 1,370 jobs** (+26%), and Clarendon from **380 to 540** (+42%).

Bamberg, the smallest, rose from **30 to 50 jobs** (+67%). Despite strong percentage gains, Abbeville’s absolute tourism job base remains modest compared to its peers.

Jobs supported by Gross Travel Expenditure (2014 vs. 2022)



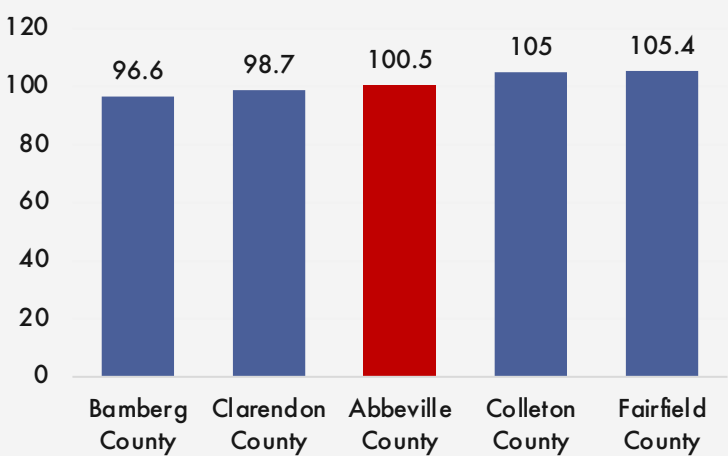
Sources: South Carolina Tourism – 2022 Economic & Fiscal Impact Analysis

3.10 Innovation Intelligence Ranking

Comparing Abbeville County’s innovation intelligence capacity profile with its peer counties (I)

Innovation Intelligence Index

100.5 Rank = 2,338

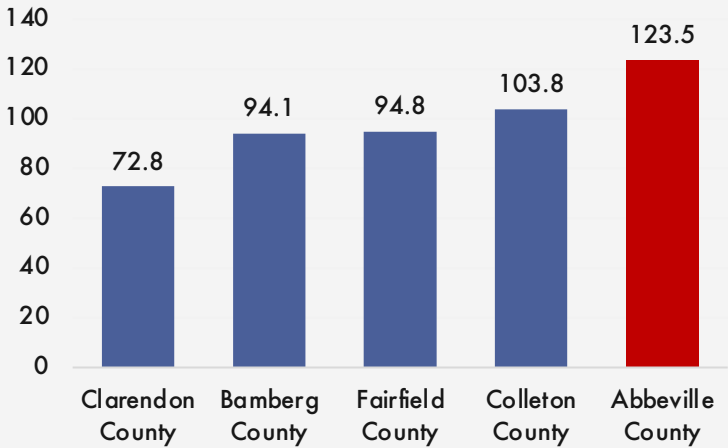


Abbeville County, SC has a moderate relative Innovation Capacity

Note: Rank is out of the 3110 counties across the USA
Sources: Stats America – Innovation Intelligence

Human Capital & Knowledge Creation Index

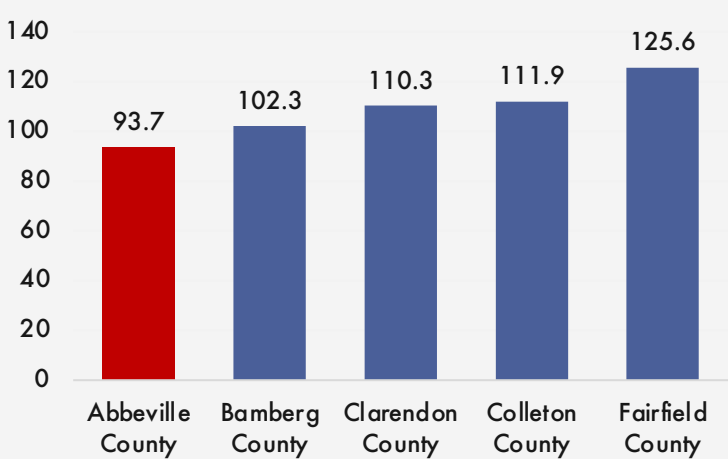
123.5 Rank = 757



The relative availability of human capital resources is moderate in Abbeville. The top measures for this index are: Associate's Degree Attainment and High School Attainment.

Business Dynamics Index

93.7 Rank = 2,837



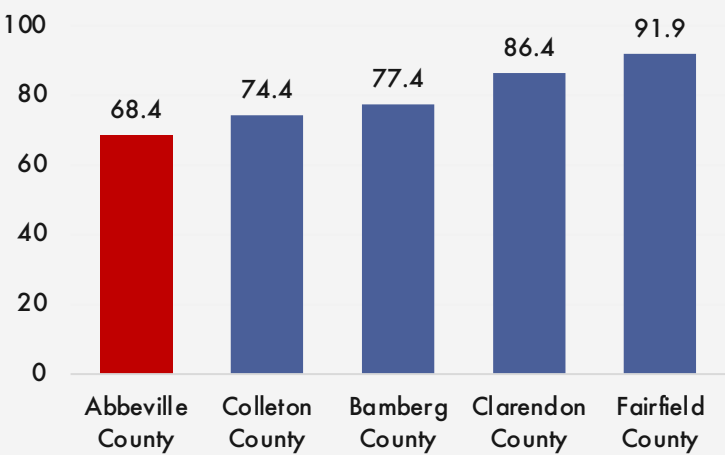
The establishment formation and composition patterns in Abbeville County indicate a moderate level of business competitiveness.

3.10 Innovation Intelligence Ranking

Comparing Abbeville County's innovation intelligence capacity profile with its peer counties (II)

Business Profile Index

68.4 Rank = 2,245

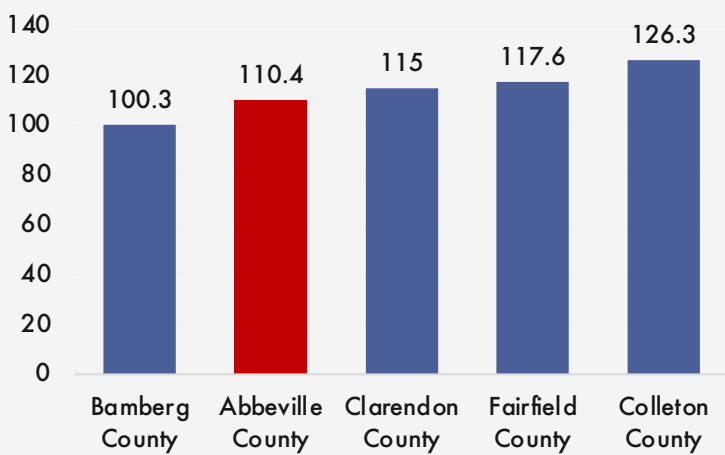


The relative availability of resources for entrepreneurs and businesses is **moderate** in Abbeville. The top measures for this index are: Change in Proprietorship Rate and FDI Employment Ratio.

Note: Rank is out of the 3110 counties across the USA
Sources: Stats America – Innovation Intelligence

Employment & Productivity Index

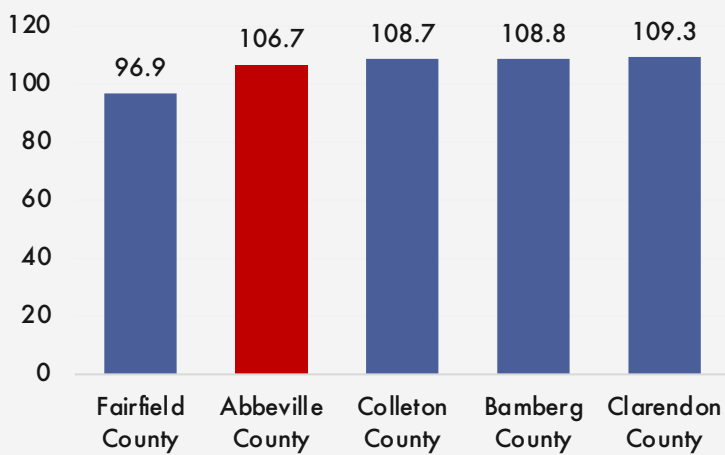
110.4 Rank = 2,206



Industry performance in Abbeville indicates a **moderate** level of positive outcomes from existing economic activity. The top measures for this index are: Patent Diversity and Change in Average Patenting Rate

Economic Well-Being Index

106.7 Rank = 2,641



As measured by residential internet connectivity and income, Abbeville County has a **moderate** standard of living.