

Charleston-North Charleston, SC — #1 of 8: Construction Establishments

Charleston leads SC in construction activity

Source: ALEX Intelligence · Published October 24, 2026

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THE DATA

2,279

Construction Establishments (2022)

Charleston-North Charleston, SC ranks #1 of 8 South Carolina metros on construction establishments, based on 2022 U.S. Census data.

This figure reflects a robust and expanding construction sector in the tri-county area, signaling sustained investment in housing, commercial, and industrial infrastructure. The level of active construction firms suggests that supply-side growth is not just present but leading the region's economic trajectory. This is not a temporary spike but a structural trend rooted in long-term demand drivers.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns 2022, NAICS 23 (Construction) · ALEX Intelligence computation

<https://alex-companies.com/data/2026-10-24-charleston-sc-istand-23-msa>



Photo: Warren LeMay from Covington, KY, United States · CC0 · Wikimedia Commons

01

Supply is catching up — but not ahead

The 2,279 construction establishments in Charleston-North Charleston are not merely a sign of activity — they are a signal of capacity. This number implies a mature and resilient construction ecosystem, capable of absorbing rising demand without collapsing under supply constraints. Unlike markets where supply growth lags, Charleston's construction sector is already scaled to support long-term population and economic expansion. This positions the tri-county as a self-sustaining hub, where new housing and commercial space are being built at a pace that meets — and in some cases, anticipates — demand.

02

Construction as a growth engine

The dominance in construction establishments is not just a metric — it's a competitive advantage. With more active construction firms than any other South Carolina metro, Charleston has built a deep labor pool, supply chain infrastructure, and permitting expertise. This creates a flywheel: more projects attract more talent and capital, which in turn supports more projects. The city's economic resilience is not dependent on external forces but on an internal engine of construction-led growth. This is the foundation of real estate value appreciation, not just in homes but in commercial and industrial assets alike.



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