

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Date Formed	1897	Form of Government	Council-Administrator
Land Area (Sq. Mi.)	575	Council Members	7
Council of Government	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester	Term Length	4 years
County Seat	St. George	Method of Election	Single Member
Other Municipalities	Harleyville, North Charleston, Reevesville, Ridgeville, Summerville		



Population Trends

Population Estimate 2017	156,456	Numeric Change 2016 - 2017	2,985
Population Estimate 2016	153,471	Percent Change 2016 - 2017	1.9%
Census Population 2010	136,555	Numeric Change 2010 - 2017	19,901
Census Population 2000	96,413	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017	2.1%
Census Population 1990	83,060	Numeric Change 1990 - 2010	53,495
Persons Per Square Mile	237.49	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010	3.2%

Economic Data

Jobs 2016	36,627	Personal Income 2016, in thousands	\$5,606,624
Jobs 2015	35,299	Per Capital Personal Income 2016	\$36,460
Jobs 2010	31,213	Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S.	74.0%
Jobs 2000	29,110	Average Wage Per Job 2016	\$35,490
Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate	0.7%	Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S.	66.0%
Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change	3.8%	Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017	3.8%

Tax Data

Assessed Property 2016	\$571,615,820	Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Propert Tax 2016	\$4,186	Local Option	
County Base Millage Rate 2017	.08040	Capital Projects	
Value of One Mil 2017	\$542,653	School District	
Net Taxable Sales FY 2016	\$899,449,925	Transportation	1.0%
State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016	\$312,863	Education Capital Improvement	
State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016	\$146,720		

County Finance and Employment

Total Revenues FY 2016	\$96,059,874	Per Capita Revenues FY 2016	\$703
Total Expenditures FY 2016	\$118,591,438	Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016	\$868
General Fund Budget FY 2018	\$52,225,227	Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201	\$382
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017	\$175,977,358	Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018	\$1,211
Payroll FY 2018	\$39,595,005	Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable:	
Full-Time Employees FY 2018	935	Moody's	Aa2
Part-Time Employees FY 2018	173	Standard and Poor's	AA
Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents	6.8	Fitch	

County History

Dorchester County was named for Dorchester, Massachusetts. In 1696, Congregationalists from that town moved south and established a new settlement called Dorchester. Although the town of Dorchester had been abandoned by 1788, the parish in which it was located continued to be referred to as St. George Dorchester. This name was subsequently adopted for the county when it was formed from parts of Colleton and Berkeley counties in 1897. The town of Summerville was settled in the late eighteenth century as a summer resort for planters who wished to escape the malaria prevalent on their rice plantations; the town later became a winter resort also. Middleton Place Gardens, the remains of an old rice plantation, are the oldest landscaped gardens in the country, having been laid out in 1741. Middleton Place was the home of Henry Middleton (1717-1784), President of the Continental Congress, his son Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his grandson Henry Middleton (1770-1846), South Carolina Governor, United States Congressman, and Ambassador to Russia.

County histories obtained from the S.C. State Library Reference Room at www.statelibrary.sc.gov/sc-counties. All other sources listed in the county comparison tables in the appendix.