


AIKEN COUNTY

Date Formed:	1871	
Land Area (square miles):	1,073	
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator	
Council Members:	9	
Method of Election:	Single Member/ Chair at-Large	
Term Length:	4 yrs.	
Council of Government:	Lower Savannah	
County Seat:	Aiken	
Other Cities and Towns:	Burnettown, Jackson, Monetta, New Ellenton, North Augusta, Perry, Salley, Wagener, Windsor	

Population Trends

2020 Census	168,808	2021 Pop. Estimate	170,776
2010 Census	160,099	2020 Pop. Estimate	169,032
2000 Census	142,552	Numeric Change 2020-2021	1,744
Numeric Change 2000-2020	8,709	Percent Change 2020-2021	1.03%
Persons Per Square Mile	157.3		

Economic Data

2021 Jobs	59,476	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2021	\$44,637
2020 Jobs	58,311	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2021	64.9%
2010 Jobs	62,447	Per Capita Personal Income, 2020	\$47,118
Percent Change 2020-2021	2.0%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2020	79.2
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-0.7%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2020	98.1
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2021	3.4		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2020	\$814,332,397	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2020	\$4,824	Local Option	*
County Millage Rate, 2021	0.0673	Capital Projects	1.0%
Value of a County Mil, 2021	\$758,000	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2021	\$691,384	Transportation	*
State Admissions Tax, FY 2021	\$899,774	Edu. Capital Improvement	1.0%

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2020	\$147,994,298	Per Capita Revenues	\$877
Total Expenditures FY 2020	\$167,189,375	Per Capita Expenditures	\$990
General Fund Budget FY 2022	\$75,617,816	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$448
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2021	\$39,705,000	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2021	\$227
Payroll FY 2022	\$52,907,221	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2022	956	Fitch FY 2021	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	6	Moody's FY 2021	Aa2
Part-Time Employment FY 2022	71	S&P FY 2021	AA

County History

Aiken County and its county seat were named for William Aiken (1806-1831), president of the South Carolina Railroad. The county was formed in 1871 from parts of Orangeburg, Lexington, Edgefield, and Barnwell counties. The area was sparsely settled until the 1830s, when the South Carolina Railroad was built connecting Charleston to the town of Hamburg on the Savannah River with the town of Aiken being established as a depot. In the 1870s, Aiken became a winter resort for wealthy Northerners, and it remains popular with horse trainers and riders. The federal government chose Aiken County in the 1950s to be the site of a hydrogen bomb plant, the Savannah River Site. James F. Byrnes (1879-1972) began his legal and political careers in Aiken before going on to become a U.S. Congressman, Senator, Secretary of State, Supreme Court Justice, and Governor of South Carolina. Other prominent residents of the county were William Gregg (1800-1867), who built the state's first textile mill at Graniteville in 1846, and South Carolina Governor and U.S. Senator James Henry Hammond (1807-1864).