


## AIKEN COUNTY

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

### Population Trends

<b>2020 Census</b>	168,808	<b>2023 Pop. Estimate</b>	177,130
<b>2010 Census</b>	160,099	<b>2020 Pop. Estimate</b>	169,032
<b>2000 Census</b>	142,552	<b>Numeric Change 2020-2023</b>	8,098
<b>Numeric Change 2000-2020</b>	8,709	<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	4.79%
<b>Persons Per Square Mile</b>	157.3		

### Economic Data

<b>2023 Jobs</b>	63,969	<b>Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023</b>	\$60,693
<b>2020 Jobs</b>	58,311	<b>Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023</b>	83.9%
<b>2010 Jobs</b>	62,447	<b>Per Capita Personal Income, 2022</b>	\$51,601
<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	8.8%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022</b>	78.8
<b>Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020</b>	-0.7%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022</b>	96.2
<b>Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023</b>	3.4		

### Tax Data

<b>Total Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$936,443,900	<b>Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$5,547	<b>Local Option</b>	*
<b>County Millage Rate, 2023</b>	0.0703	<b>Capital Projects</b>	1.0%
<b>Value of a County Mil, 2023</b>	\$840,000	<b>School District</b>	*
<b>State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$1,071,387	<b>Transportation</b>	*
<b>State Admissions Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$1,379,888	<b>Edu. Capital Improvement</b>	1.0%
		<b>County Green Space</b>	*

### County Finance & Employment Data

<b>Total Revenues FY 2022</b>	\$149,469,747	<b>Per Capita Revenues</b>	\$885
<b>Total Expenditures FY 2022</b>	\$154,983,442	<b>Per Capita Expenditures</b>	\$918
<b>General Fund Budget FY 2024</b>	\$75,617,816	<b>Per Capita General Fund Budget</b>	\$448
<b>Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023</b>	\$36,900,000	<b>Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023</b>	\$208
<b>Payroll FY 2024</b>	\$52,907,221	<b>County Credit Ratings:</b>	
<b>Full-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	956	<b>Fitch FY 2023</b>	*
<b>Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents</b>	6	<b>Moody's FY 2023</b>	Aa2
<b>Part-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	71	<b>S&amp;P FY 2023</b>	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).