

COLLETON COUNTY

Date Formed:	1798
Land Area (square miles):	1,056
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator
Council Members:	5
Method of Election:	Single Member
Term Length:	4 yrs.
Council of Government:	Lowcountry
County Seat:	Walterboro
Other Cities and Towns:	Cottageville, Edisto Beach, Lodge, Smoaks, Williams



Population Trends

2020 Census	38,604	2023 Pop. Estimate	38,874
2010 Census	38,892	2020 Pop. Estimate	38,543
2000 Census	38,264	Numeric Change 2020-2023	331
Numeric Change 2000-2020	-288	Percent Change 2020-2023	0.86%
Persons Per Square Mile	36.6		

Economic Data

2023 Jobs	10,105	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023	\$46,122
2020 Jobs	10,119	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023	63.7%
2010 Jobs	10,805	Per Capita Personal Income, 2022	\$42,030
Percent Change 2020-2023	-0.1%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022	64.2
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-0.7%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022	78.4
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023	4.4		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2022	\$212,268,461	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022	\$5,499	Local Option	1.0%
County Millage Rate, 2023	0.1296	Capital Projects	1.0%
Value of a County Mil, 2023	\$218,841	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022	\$1,313,014	Transportation	*
State Admissions Tax, FY 2022	\$194,109	Edu. Capital Improvement	*
		County Green Space	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2022	\$69,253,702	Per Capita Revenues	\$1,794
Total Expenditures FY 2022	\$66,774,845	Per Capita Expenditures	\$1,730
General Fund Budget FY 2024	\$33,692,377	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$873
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023	\$54,759,798	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023	\$1,449
Payroll FY 2024	\$25,744,323	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2024	420	Fitch FY 2023	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	11	Moody's FY 2023	Aa3
Part-Time Employment FY 2024	79	S&P FY 2023	AA-

County History

Colleton County was named for one of the Lords Proprietors, Sir John Colleton (1608-1666). The county was first created in 1682 under the proprietary government, but the designation was seldom used in the colonial period. Instead, the area was known by its parish names: St. Bartholomew, St. Paul, and St. George Dorchester. In 1769 these parishes became part of Charleston District, where they remained until Colleton District was formed in 1800. A portion of the county was removed in 1897 to form Dorchester County. Several Revolutionary War skirmishes took place in Colleton County, and the state legislature met in the town of Jacksonboro in 1782 while Charleston was occupied by the British. This part of the lowcountry was known for its extensive rice and cotton plantations, many of which were bought by Northerners after the Civil War for use as hunting preserves; some of those lands are now being incorporated into the ACE Basin, a nature preserve bounded by the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto rivers. The Revolutionary War hero Isaac Hayne (1745-1781) was a Colleton resident, as were politicians Rawlins Lowndes (1721-1800) and William Lowndes (1782-1822).