

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Date Formed:	1785
Land Area (square miles):	687
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator
Council Members:	7
Method of Election:	Single Member
Term Length:	4 yrs.
Council of Government:	Central Midlands
County Seat:	Winnsboro
Other Cities and Towns:	Ridgeway



Population Trends

2020 Census	20,948	2021 Pop. Estimate	20,690
2010 Census	23,956	2020 Pop. Estimate	20,858
2000 Census	23,454	Numeric Change 2020-2021	-168
Numeric Change 2000-2020	-3,008	Percent Change 2020-2021	-0.81%
Persons Per Square Mile	30.5		

Economic Data

2021 Jobs	5,362	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2021	\$38,934
2020 Jobs	5,291	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2021	56.6%
2010 Jobs	7,269	Per Capita Personal Income, 2020	\$41,827
Percent Change 2020-2021	1.3%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2020	70.3
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-3.7%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2020	87.1
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2021	5.8		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2020	\$147,146,525	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2020	\$7,024	Local Option	1.0%
County Millage Rate, 2021	0.1834	Capital Projects	*
Value of a County Mil, 2021	\$141,559	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2021	\$52,568	Transportation	*
State Admissions Tax, FY 2021	\$83,901	Edu. Capital Improvement	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2020	\$34,836,301	Per Capita Revenues	\$1,663
Total Expenditures FY 2020	\$40,025,291	Per Capita Expenditures	\$1,911
General Fund Budget FY 2022	\$33,757,551	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$1,611
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2021	\$3,582,647	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2021	\$164
Payroll FY 2022	\$15,214,673	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2022	308	Fitch FY 2021	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	15	Moody's FY 2021	*
Part-Time Employment FY 2022	25	S&P FY 2021	A

County History

The origin of the name Fairfield is not known, but local legend attributes it to a remark by Lord Cornwallis about the "fair fields" of the area. The county was formed in 1785 as a part of Camden District. The town of Winnsboro, which was settled around 1755, is the county seat. Fairfield County lies between the upcountry and the lowcountry areas of the state, and it was settled both by Scotch-Irish immigrants from colonies to the north and by English and French Huguenot planters from the lowcountry. In the colonial period this area was a center for the Regulator movement, which sought to bring law and order to the backcountry. During the Revolutionary War, Lord Cornwallis made his headquarters in Winnsboro from October 1780 to January 1781; the county was also invaded by General Sherman's troops during the Civil War. Cotton production was the major economic activity of the area, but the county also produced Winnsboro Blue Granite. Some prominent residents of the county were Regulator leader Thomas Woodward (d. 1779), Revolutionary War soldier Richard Winn (1750-1818), and artist Laura Glenn Douglas (1886-1962).