

AIKEN COUNTY

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|------------------------------|--|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Date Formed | 1871 | Form of Government | Council-Administrator |
| Land Area (Sq. Mi.) | 1073 | Council Members | 9 |
| Council of Government | Lower Savannah | Term Length | 4 years |
| County Seat | Aiken | Method of Election | Single Member/ Chair at-Large |
| Other Municipalities | Burnettown, Jackson, Monetta, New Ellenton, North Augusta, Perry, Salley, Wagener, Windsor | | |



Population Trends

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|---------------------------------|---------|--|--------|
| Population Estimate 2017 | 168,179 | Numeric Change 2016 - 2017 | 1,257 |
| Population Estimate 2016 | 166,922 | Percent Change 2016 - 2017 | 0.8% |
| Census Population 2010 | 160,099 | Numeric Change 2010 - 2017 | 8,080 |
| Census Population 2000 | 142,552 | Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017 | 0.7% |
| Census Population 1990 | 120,940 | Numeric Change 1990 - 2010 | 39,159 |
| Persons Per Square Mile | 149.21 | Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010 | 1.6% |

Economic Data

| | | | |
|--|--------|--|-------------|
| Jobs 2016 | 63,688 | Personal Income 2016, in thousands | \$6,535,813 |
| Jobs 2015 | 62,619 | Per Capita Personal Income 2016 | \$39,030 |
| Jobs 2010 | 62,447 | Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S. | 79.3% |
| Jobs 2000 | 61,462 | Average Wage Per Job 2016 | \$47,930 |
| Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate | 0.2% | Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S. | 89.0% |
| Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change | 1.7% | Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017 | 4.1% |

Tax Data

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|---|-----------------|---|------|
| Assessed Property 2016 | \$716,525,267 | Additional Sales Tax, if applicable: | |
| Per Capita Assessed Propert Tax 2016 | \$4,476 | Local Option | |
| County Base Millage Rate 2017 | .06850 | Capital Projects | 1.0% |
| Value of One Mil 2017 | \$660,000 | School District | |
| Net Taxable Sales FY 2016 | \$1,304,944,533 | Transportation | |
| State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016 | \$929,455 | Education Capital Improvement | 1.0% |
| State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016 | \$516,569 | | |

County Finance and Employment

| | | | |
|--|---------------|---|-------|
| Total Revenues FY 2016 | \$105,961,498 | Per Capita Revenues FY 2016 | \$662 |
| Total Expenditures FY 2016 | \$103,824,582 | Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016 | \$649 |
| General Fund Budget FY 2018 | \$65,945,466 | Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201 | \$412 |
| Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017 | \$43,722,342 | Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018 | \$252 |
| Payroll FY 2018 | \$44,853,581 | Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable: | |
| Full-Time Employees FY 2018 | 900 | Moody's | Aa2 |
| Part-Time Employees FY 2018 | 69 | Standard and Poor's | AA |
| Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents | 5.6 | Fitch | |

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).

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.