

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Date Formed	1785	Form of Government	Council-Administrator
Land Area (Sq. Mi.)	687	Council Members	7
Council of Government	Central Midlands	Term Length	4 years
County Seat	Winnsboro	Method of Election	Single Member
Other Municipalities	Ridgeway		



Population Trends

Population Estimate 2017	22,607	Numeric Change 2016 - 2017	-23
Population Estimate 2016	22,630	Percent Change 2016 - 2017	-0.1%
Census Population 2010	23,956	Numeric Change 2010 - 2017	-1,349
Census Population 2000	23,454	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017	-0.8%
Census Population 1990	22,295	Numeric Change 1990 - 2010	1,661
Persons Per Square Mile	34.87	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010	0.4%

Economic Data

Jobs 2016	11,052	Personal Income 2016, in thousands	\$788,342
Jobs 2015	10,958	Per Capital Personal Income 2016	\$34,801
Jobs 2010	7,269	Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S.	70.7%
Jobs 2000	8,277	Average Wage Per Job 2016	\$66,245
Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate	-1.2%	Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S.	124.0%
Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change	0.9%	Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017	7.4%

Tax Data

Assessed Property 2016	\$134,880,971	Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Propert Tax 2016	\$5,630	Local Option	1.0%
County Base Millage Rate 2017	.18340	Capital Projects	
Value of One Mil 2017	\$136,074	School District	
Net Taxable Sales FY 2016	\$102,601,908	Transportation	
State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016	\$47,114	Education Capital Improvement	
State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016	\$37,967		

County Finance and Employment

Total Revenues FY 2016	\$33,815,041	Per Capita Revenues FY 2016	\$1,412
Total Expenditures FY 2016	\$37,947,652	Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016	\$1,584
General Fund Budget FY 2018	\$31,493,328	Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201	\$1,315
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017	\$4,981,420	Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018	\$200
Payroll FY 2018	\$12,417,224	Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable:	
Full-Time Employees FY 2018	305	Moody's	
Part-Time Employees FY 2018	11	Standard and Poor's	
Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents	12.7	Fitch	

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).

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.