

OCONEE COUNTY

Date Formed	1868	Form of Government	Council-Administrator
Land Area (Sq. Mi.)	625	Council Members	5
Council of Government	Appalachian	Term Length	4 years
County Seat	Walhalla	Method of Election	Single Member
Other Municipalities	Salem, Seneca, West Union, Westminster		



Population Trends

Population Estimate 2017	77,270	Numeric Change 2016 - 2017	863
Population Estimate 2016	76,407	Percent Change 2016 - 2017	1.1%
Census Population 2010	74,273	Numeric Change 2010 - 2017	2,997
Census Population 2000	66,215	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017	0.6%
Census Population 1990	57,494	Numeric Change 1990 - 2010	16,779
Persons Per Square Mile	118.84	Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010	1.5%

Economic Data

Jobs 2016	25,029	Personal Income 2016, in thousands	\$2,967,386
Jobs 2015	25,191	Per Capital Personal Income 2016	\$38,863
Jobs 2010	23,204	Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S.	78.9%
Jobs 2000	27,827	Average Wage Per Job 2016	\$46,655
Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate	-1.7%	Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S.	87.0%
Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change	-0.6%	Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017	4.2%

Tax Data

Assessed Property 2016	\$559,921,105	Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:
Per Capita Assessed Propert Tax 2016	\$7,539	Local Option
County Base Millage Rate 2017	.07100	Capital Projects
Value of One Mil 2017	\$559,921	School District
Net Taxable Sales FY 2016	\$558,654,271	Transportation
State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016	\$254,100	Education Capital Improvement
State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016	\$251,846	

County Finance and Employment

Total Revenues FY 2016	\$64,134,724	Per Capita Revenues FY 2016	\$863
Total Expenditures FY 2016	\$60,096,709	Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016	\$809
General Fund Budget FY 2018	\$44,397,501	Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201	\$598
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017	\$20,002,103	Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018	\$248
Payroll FY 2018	\$27,708,472	Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable:	
Full-Time Employees FY 2018	464	Moody's	Aa2
Part-Time Employees FY 2018	20	Standard and Poor's	
Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents	6.2	Fitch	

County History

Oconee County, which was formed in 1868 from Pickens County, takes its name from an Indian word. This area in the northwest corner of the state on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains was home to several Indian tribes, including the Creeks and the Cherokees, but the Indians gave up their lands in treaties signed in 1777 and 1785. After the American Revolution, settlers from other parts of the state began moving in, including the Germans from Charleston who founded the town of Walhalla in 1850. In 1856, work began on a tunnel for the Blue Ridge Railroad that would have linked Charleston with Knoxville, Tennessee, but the Civil War ended that project; the unfinished Stumphouse Tunnel can still be seen today. Several Revolutionary War heroes moved to present day Oconee County after the war, including Andrew Pickens (1739-1817), Robert Anderson (1741-1813), and Benjamin Cleveland (1738-1806).

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.