

Oconee County, SC

Fact Sheet

The county was formed in 1868, and the county seat is Walhalla. This area was home to several Indian tribes, including the Creeks and the Cherokees, who 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 Germans from Charleston who founded Walhalla in 1850. Oconee County is in the foothills of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains and encompasses rivers, lakes, and forests. As one of South Carolina's most scenic and economically stimulating counties, Oconee County is situated in the northwestern corner of the state and is part of one of the nation's fastest growing areas, the I-85 corridor. With a diversified economic base, Oconee offers a wide variety of occupational and recreational opportunities. The towns of Oconee County are also located on the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor that extends from the Upstate to Charleston.

POPULATION

Total Population, 1990, 2000, and 2008

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>
Oconee	57,494	66,215	71,274
Upstate Region*	1,059,89	1,220,54	1,335,57
South Carolina	3,486,31	4,012,01	4,479,80

*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

Population Estimates by Age, 2007

Under Age 5	4,144	17.9%
Age 5 to 19	12,641	17.9%
Age 20 to 34	12,817	18.1%
Age 35 to 59	23,880	33.8%
Age 60 to 74	11,679	16.5%
Age 75+	5,592	7.9%

Population Estimates by Race, 2007

White	63,890	90.3%
Black	5,739	8.1%
Am. Indian / Alaska Native	194	0.3%
Asian	322	0.0%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	16	0.0%
Two or More Races	592	0.8%
Hispanic (all races included)	2,500	3.5%

Source of Population Data: US Census Bureau

Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2007

Less than 9th Grade	3,290	6.8%
9th to 12th Grade, No	6,236	12.9%
High School Graduate Only	16,603	34.3%
Some College, No Degree	8,531	17.6%
Associate Degree Only	4,951	10.2%
Bachelor's Degree Only	5,432	11.2%
Graduate or Professional Degree	3,335	6.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Households by Type, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimates

Total No. of Households:	28,990
HH's with Individuals Under 18	7,955
HH's with Individuals 65+	8,610
Average Household Size	2.41
Average Family Size	2.95

Source: 2007 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

Housing Occupance and Tenure, 2005-2007 3-Yr.

Total No. of Housing Units	36,323
Occupied Housing Units	28,990
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	22,906
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	6,084
Rental Vacancy Rate (percent)	14.9%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

2007 Estimated Number of Housing Units 37,016

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

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INCOME

Median Household Income, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimates

In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars

Oconee County	\$40,933.00
South Carolina	\$42,405.00

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Amer. Comm. Survey

Per Capita Income, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimates

In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars

Oconee County	\$23,147.00
South Carolina	\$22,560.00

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Amer. Comm. Survey

TOP 5 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of	Major Product
Duke Energy	1500	Nuclear Energy
Itron	715	Electronic measuring devices
Schneider Electric - Square D	655	Motor Control Centers
Timken U.S. Corporation	460	Thrust Bearings
Covidien	423	Healthcare Products

Source: SC Appalachian Council of Governments and County Economic Development Office

LABOR FORCE

County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, 2007(Annual Average)

Natural Resources and Mining	78
Construction	1,771
Manufacturing	5,283
Wholesale Trade	426
Retail Trade	2,893
Transportation and Warehousing	236
Information	311
Financial Activities	617
Professional and Business Services	961
Education and Health Services	1,390
Leisure and Hospitality	1,805
Other Services	648
Total Government	4402

RETAIL SALES

Gross Retail Sales (Millions)

2000	\$976,289
2001	\$876,419
2002	\$923,156
2003	\$998,401
2004	\$1,066,301
2005	\$1,142,110
2006	\$1,138,976
2007	\$1,194,228
2008	\$1,112,617

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TRANSPORTATION

Interstate Access I-85
Nearest Commercial Airline Greenville-Spartanburg International
Airlines Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle

Nearest Civil Airport Clemson-Oconee Airport
Port Access Port of Charleston, 246 miles from City of Seneca
Rail Providers NSR

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Oconee County Economic Development Commission
James Alexander, Director

(864) 638-4210

www.oconeesc.com/econdev/

Oconee County Chamber of Commerce
Patrick Lee, Director

(864) 882-2097

www.oconeecountychamber.com

Upstate Alliance
Hal Johnson, President/CEO

(864) 283-2300

www.upstatealliance.com

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

www.oconeesc.com
www.southcarolinaparks.com
www.sciway.net
www.upstateforever.org
www.SCMountainLakes.com

PRODUCED BY

S.C. Appalachian Council of Governments
P.O. Box 6668
Greenville, SC 29606

Web: www.scacog.org

Phone: (864) 242-9733

Fax: (864) 242-6857

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