

# Pickens County, SC

## Fact Sheet

The county and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War hero Andrew Pickens (1739-1817). This area in the northwestern corner of the state was Indian territory until 1777, and the earliest European settlers in this region were Indian traders. John C. Calhoun (1782-1850), United States vice president, senator, and cabinet member, made his home at Fort Hill plantation in Pickens County. His son-in-law, Thomas Green Clemson (1807-1888), bequeathed the plantation to the state for use as an agricultural college, which led to the founding of Clemson University. Pickens County is also part of one of the nation's fastest growing regions, the I-85 corridor. Nestled in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains, Pickens County has the best of both worlds. It has a small town atmosphere while only 30 minutes from Greenville and two hours from Atlanta, GA and Charlotte, NC. Pickens encompasses beautiful Lakes Jocassee and Keowee, and is home to prestigious Clemson University. It is an area rich in history, beauty, and vision for the future.

### POPULATION

#### Total Population, 1990, 2000, and 2008 Estimates

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2008</u>
Pickens	93,896	110,757	116,915
Upstate Region*	1,059,891	1,220,542	1,335,571
South Carolina	3,486,310	4,012,012	4,479,800

\*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

#### Population Estimates by Age, 2007

Under Age 5	6,465	20.4%
Age 5 to 19	23,617	20.4%
Age 20 to 34	28,214	24.3%
Age 35 to 59	36,997	31.9%
Age 60 to 74	13,812	11.9%
Age 75+	6,898	5.9%

#### Population Estimates by Race, 2007

White	104,721	90.3%
Black	8,034	6.9%
Am. Indian / Alaska Native	224	0.2%
Asian	1,963	0.0%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	14	0.0%
Two or More Races	1,047	0.9%
Hispanic (all races included)	3,154	2.7%

Source of Population Data: US Census Bureau

#### Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2007

Less than 9th Grade	4,932	6.9%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	10,090	14.2%
High School Graduate Only	22,529	31.7%
Some College, No Degree	12,000	16.9%
Associate Degree Only	5,937	8.4%
Bachelor's Degree Only	9,780	13.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	5,753	8.1%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

### HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

#### Households by Type, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimate

Total No. of Households:	43,954
HH's with Individuals Under 18	14,690
HH's with Individuals 65+	10,322
Average Household Size	2.4
Average Family Size	2.87

Source: 2007 American Community Survey, US Census Bureau

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

Total No. of Housing Units	50,424
Occupied Housing Units	43,954
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	31,093
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	12,861
Rental Vacancy Rate (percent)	11.7%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

**2007 Estimated Number of Housing Units** 51,073

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Comm. Survey

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### INCOME

#### Median Household Income, 2005 - 2007, 3-yr. Estimate

*In 2007 inflation-adjusted dollars*

Pickens County	\$42,027.00
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*

Pickens County	\$20,090.00
South Carolina	\$22,560.00

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

### TOP 5 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employee	Major Product
Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company	650	Fire sprinklers and system components
Confluence Watersports	650	Sporting and Athletic Goods Mfg
Alice Manufacturing Co.**	554	Cotton-polyester broad cloth
Easley Custom Plastics	415	Injection Molded Plastic Products
Milliken & Co. - Pendleton Finishing	400	Broadwoven Fabrics

*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 & Mining	154
Construction	2,558
Manufacturing	6,683
Service-Providing	19,190
Wholesale Trade	344
Retail Trade	4,619
Transportation and Warehousing	100
Utilities	207
Information	320
Financial Activities	1049
Professional and Business Services	2,427
Education and Health Services	3,705
Leisure and Hospitality	5,602
Other Services	803
Total Government	8699

### RETAIL SALES

#### Gross Retail Sales (Millions)

2000	\$1,433,126
2001	\$1,532,608
2002	\$1,401,986
2003	\$1,452,582
2004	\$1,551,812
2005	\$1,656,315
2006	\$1,844,101
2007	\$1,928,505
2008	\$1,939,153

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## **TRANSPORTATION**

<b>Interstate Access</b>	I-85	<b>Nearest Civil Airport</b>	Pickens County Airport
<b>Nearest Commercial Airline</b>	Greenville-Spartanburg International	<b>Port Access</b>	Port of Charleston, 231 miles from City of Pickens
<b>Airlines</b>	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle	<b>Rail Providers</b>	CSX, NSR

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## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<b>Economic Development Alliance of Pickens County</b> A. Ray Farley, II, CEcD	(864) 898-1500 <a href="http://www.alliancepickens.com">www.alliancepickens.com</a>
<b>Pickens Chamber of Commerce</b> Renee' R. Watson, Executive Director	(864) 878-3258 <a href="http://www.pickenschamber.com">www.pickenschamber.com</a>
<b>Upstate Alliance</b> Hal Johnson, President/CEO	(864) 283-2300 <a href="http://www.upstatealliance.com">www.upstatealliance.com</a>

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## **ADDITIONAL SOURCES**

[www.co.pickens.sc.us](http://www.co.pickens.sc.us)  
[www.clemson.edu](http://www.clemson.edu)  
[www.pendleton-district.org](http://www.pendleton-district.org)  
[www.alliancepickens.com](http://www.alliancepickens.com)  
[www.southcarolinaparks.com](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com)  
[www.sciway.net](http://www.sciway.net)  
[www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org)

## **PRODUCED BY**

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