

A Brief History of Pickens County

Pickens County, named for Revolutionary War hero Andrew Pickens, was Indian Territory until after the American Revolution. The first European settlers to the region were Indian traders. The present day counties of Pickens, Greenville, Anderson and Oconee were originally part of the Washington District created by the state legislature in 1791. Seven years later, the Washington District was divided into the Greenville and Pendleton Districts. In 1826, in response to the increasing population and poor transportation facilities, the legislature divided the Pendleton District into Anderson and Pickens Districts. After the Civil War, the South Carolina Constitutional Convention changed the term District to County and split the Pickens District in 1868. The western portion of the District became Oconee County.

The first Pickens District Courthouse was built on the Keowee River in what is now Oconee County. When the County was divided, a second Courthouse was built about 14 miles east of Keowee on forty acres of land donated by Elihu Griffin which became the town of Pickens, the County Seat. In 1892 a third courthouse was built and with several renovations and additions, is still in use today.

During the 1870s, the County voted to issue bonds to construct 27 miles of the Atlanta and Charlotte Air Line Railroad (later called the Southern Railway) through the southern portion of the County. The towns of Easley, Liberty and Central grew up around the railroad and this southern portion is still the most densely populated part of the County. The nine miles of track from Pickens to Easley was completed in 1898.

In 1895, the County's first modern cotton mill was established in Catechee. By 1900, Pickens County had two railroads, three cotton mills, four brickyards, two banks and thirty-seven sawmills. Until 1940, Pickens County remained primarily an agricultural and rural county, with most citizens involved in the growing of cotton or the making of cloth. By the end of World War II, manufacturing had replaced agriculture as the leading source of employment. By 1972, there were 99 manufacturing plants and the number of persons employed in manufacturing continued to increase throughout the 1970s. Although textiles continue to account for a large part of manufacturing employment, Pickens County has attracted other types of industry in an attempt to diversify the local economy. Since 1994, capital investments of over \$313 million have created over 3,400 new jobs in Pickens County. The County has recently purchased capacity in a wastewater treatment plant in order to provide for additional economic growth. The Commerce Park completed in 2003 has attracted four new businesses to the county.

In addition to manufacturing, education and tourism have contributed to the economic growth of Pickens County. Clemson University, founded in 1889 by a bequest of Thomas Green Clemson as an agricultural college, has an enrollment of over 17,000 students and employs over 4,400 staff and faculty. Lakes Jocassee, Keowee and Hartwell, as well as the mountains in the northern section of the County, provide numerous opportunities for recreation and attract a growing number of tourists. Several upscale communities have been developed around the lakes. For those interested in outdoor activities, Pickens County offers golfing, hunting, fishing, boating, horseback riding, camping and hiking. Due to the variations in climate and terrain, the County hosts an incredible variety of plants and animals. The Department of Natural Resources lists over 140 rare, threatened or endangered species within Pickens County.

Pickens County remains committed to balancing economic growth with environmental responsibility to ensure the County remains a great place to work, live and visit.

PICKENS COUNTY

Community Profile

Established – 1868
 County Seat – City of Pickens
 Form of Government – Council, Administrator
 Area – 497 Square Miles

Climate

Average Minimum Temperature	50° F
Average Maximum Temperature	72° F
Average Annual Temperature	61° F
Average Annual Precipitation	56"

Gender Composition (2000)

Males	55,276	49.9%
Females	55,481	50.1%

Elevation

Range:	600-3,548 feet above sea level
Average:	1,200 feet above sea level

Elections

Registered Voters	63,848
Number of Voters-Last General Election	40,941
Percentage Voting	73%
Voter Precincts	56
Number of Representatives-State	4
Number of Senators-State	2

Population Trends and Projections

1980	79,292
1990	93,896
2000	110,757
2005	119,040
2010	127,110
2015	135,190

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Square Miles</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Population</u>
Rural	467	94%	40%
Urban	30	6%	60%

Rank: 35 out of 46 counties in South Carolina

Population by Municipality (2000)

Central	3,522
Clemson	11,897
Easley	17,754
Liberty	3,009
Norris	847
Pickens	3,012
Six Mile	553
Unincorporated	70,163

Households (2000)

Family	28,453	68.9%
Non-Family	12,853	31.1%
With Children under 18 years	14,092	34.1%
With Persons over 65 years	8,769	21.2%

Average Household Size Owner Occupied:	2.57
Average Household Size Renter Occupied:	2.32
Average Family Size:	2.95

Rank: 13 out of 46 counties in South Carolina
 Population Density: 222.85 per square mile

Age Composition (2000)

Under 5 years	6,722	6.1%
5-19 years	24,306	21.9%
20-24 years	13,034	11.8%
25-44 years	30,554	27.6%
45-64 years	23,525	21.2%
65 and over	12,616	11.4%

Housing Units (2000)

Owner Occupied	30,350	66.0%
Renter Occupied	10,956	23.8%
Vacant-Seasonal Use	726	1.6%
Vacant-For Rent	1,654	3.6%
Vacant-For Sale	555	1.2%
Vacant-Other	1,759	3.8%

Homeowner Vacancy Rate:	1.8%
Rental Vacancy Rate:	13.1%

Age Composition (2000)

0-17 years	24,692	22%
18 and over	86,065	78%

Index Crime Rate

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pickens County</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>United States</u>
2000	1,785.8	5,346.8	4,124.8
2001	1,761.0	4,752.7	4,160.5
2002	2,526.7	5,297.3	4,118.8

(Per 100,000 of Population)

Median Age (2000)

United States	35.3 years
South Carolina	35.4 years
Pickens County	32.7 years

Economic Characteristics

Economic growth in Pickens County is generated by three major sources: manufacturing, education and tourism. Manufacturing is the primary growth source, particularly in Easley, Liberty and Pickens, with approximately 126 manufacturing plants. Since 1994, the County has attracted more than \$313 million in capital investments with the announced creation of over 3,400 new jobs. Clemson University plays a major role in the local economy employing over 4,400 faculty and staff.

Annual Average Non-Agricultural Labor (2000)

Manufacturing	8,900	23%
Mining & Construction	2,700	7%
Transportation & Public Utilities	800	2%
Wholesale & Retail Trade	10,100	27%
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate Services	1,200	3%
Government	6,900	18%
	7,400	20%

Building Permits Issued

<u>Year</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Value</u>
2002	1,141	92,912,000
2003	909	90,174,000
2004	1,064	116,200,000

Taxes

State Personal Income Tax Range	2.5%-7%
State Corporate Income Tax	5%
Retail Sales & Use Tax	5%
Local Option Sales Tax	1%
Accommodations Tax	2%
Local Tourism Development Fee	1%
Admissions Tax	5%
No Tax on Inventories or Intangibles	
No State Property Tax	

Median Family Income

2002	\$53,200
2003	\$54,900
2004	\$45,900

Per Capita Income

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pickens County</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>United States</u>
1998	19,246	21,161	26,883
1999	19,941	23,075	27,939
2000	21,056	24,426	29,847
2001	22,016	25,067	30,527
2002	22,486	25,502	30,906

Base County Property Tax Millage Rate (2004)

Pickens County	.0659
Anderson County	.0750
Greenville County	.0651
Oconee County	.0680

Unemployment Rates

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pickens County</u>	<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>United States</u>
2000	2.5	3.9	4.0
2001	4.3	4.8	4.8
2002	5.8	5.7	5.8
2003	6.1	6.4	6.0
2004	5.5	6.9	5.5

Assessed Property Values

<u>Year</u>	<u>Real Property</u>	<u>Personal Property</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
2000	164,630,292	128,236,734	292,867,026
2001	172,210,774	136,022,956	308,223,730
2002	186,995,306	124,960,109	311,955,415
2003	191,866,823	124,008,175	315,874,998

Gross Retail Sales

1999	1,349,891,393
2000	1,433,126,114
2001	1,532,607,846
2002	1,401,985,540
2003	1,428,949,589

Ten Largest Taxpayers 2004-2005 Fiscal Year

1. Duke Energy
2. Bell South Communications
3. Blue Ridge Electric
4. Alice Manufacturing
5. Keowee River Club
6. Honeywell Nylon INC
7. Champion Aerospace
8. Keowee Investment Group
9. Sauer Danfoss NA Company
10. McKechnie Plastic Components

New and Expanded Industry

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Jobs</u>	<u>Total Investment</u>
2000	280	38,181,433
2001	217	12,129,149
2002	572	26,371,319
2003	35	1,007,126
2004	560	61,000,000

PICKENS COUNTY

Education

Public Schools

The Pickens County School District is South Carolina's eleventh largest with an enrollment of 16,004 students in 15 elementary, 5 middle, 4 high schools, 1 career center and 1 alternative school. Test scores are consistently above the state and national average on most measures and the District received a rating of Excellent on the 2004 Annual District Report Card. Seven schools are Palmetto Gold award winners and two are Palmetto Silver award winners. All public schools are fully accredited and all teachers fully certified by the South Carolina Department of Education.

Post-Secondary Enrollment (Fall 2004)

Clemson University	17,110
Southern Wesleyan University	2,468
Tri-County Technical	4,709

Private and Parochial Schools (2004)

Number of Schools	12
Kindergarten Enrollment	86
Grades 1-8 Enrollment	383
Grades 9-12 Enrollment	155

Highest Educational Attainment (Adults over 25)

Less than 9 th Grade	9.5%
Attended High School	16.9%
High School Diploma	30.8%
Attended College	17.4%
College Degree	25.5%

Pickens County Library System (2004)

Headquarters	1
Branches	3
Number of Registered Users	50,150
Library Holdings	140,574
Annual Public Service Hours	11,908

Public Safety

Pickens County operates EMS stations in Easley, Liberty, Pickens, Central, Dacusville and Holly Springs. The County's Emergency Management Department prepares and maintains Emergency Operations Plans to cope with potential problems such as natural disasters, hazardous material releases and terrorist events. Pickens County was selected as one of 14 South Carolina counties to organize a rapid response team for emergencies involving weapons of mass destruction or hazardous materials.

Emergency Medical Services (2004)

EMS Stations	6
Employees (full-time)	50
Employees (part-time)	24
Medical Emergency Calls	13,058
Wheelchair Calls	964

Sheriff's Office (2004)

Sworn Employees	89
Non-Sworn Employees	47
Total Calls for Service	44,635
Criminal Calls Dispatched	3,786
Inmates Processed	3,894
Warrants Issued	6,210

Emergency Management (2004)

Rescue Stations	4
Rescue Personnel (Volunteers)	85
Rescue Calls	1,628
HazMat Team Members	25
Rescue Dive Team Members	20
COBRA Team Members	57
CERT Team Members	14

Fire Service (2004)

Fire Districts	12
Volunteers (approx.)	87
Paid Firefighters	2

Clerk of Court (2004)

Criminal Court Cases	3,322
Civil Court Cases	1,820

Public Works

The County operates eight recycling centers. Items recycled include plastic, glass, paper, cardboard, metal, clothes, petroleum products, batteries and tires.

Solid Waste (2004)

	<u>Tons</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Transferred Out of State	42,846	61%
C&D Landfill	14,675	21%
Incinerator	2,793	4%
Recycled	10,209	14%

Transportation (2004)

County Roads	660 miles
State Primary Highway System	228 miles
State Secondary Highway System	493 miles
County Bridges	64
Pickens County Airport Runway	5,001 feet