CHARLESTON COUNTY

Date Formed: 1769 Land Area (square miles): 919

Form of Government: Council-Administrator

Council Members:

Method of Election: Single Member

Term Length: 4 yrs.

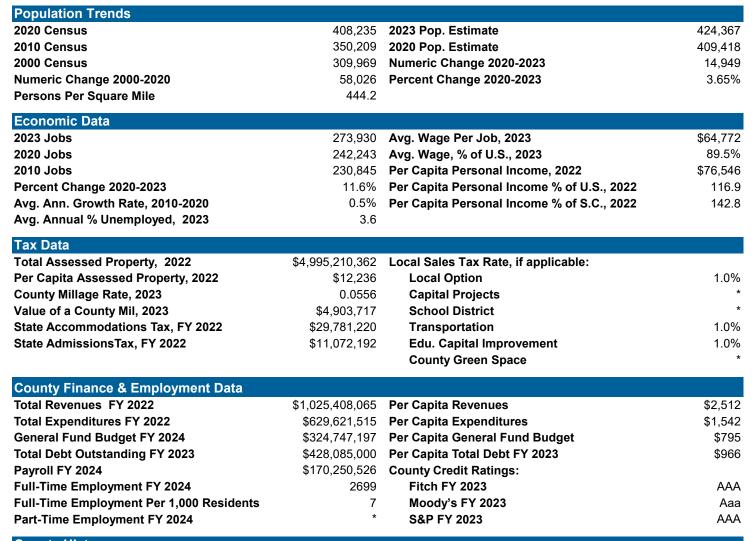
Council of Government:Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester

County Seat: Charleston

Other Cities and Towns: Awendaw, Folly Beach, Hollywood, Isle of Palms, Kiawah Island, Lincolnville,

McClellanville, Meggett, Mount Pleasant, Summerville, North Charleston, Ravenel,

Seabrook Island, Sullivan's Island



County History

Charleston County and the city of Charleston are the most historic locations in the state. English settlers arrived in the colony of Carolina in 1670 and established a town at Albemarle Point on the west bank of the Ashley River. The settlement, named Charles Town in honor of King Charles II of England, was subsequently moved a few miles away to a peninsula between the Ashley and Cooper rivers. Charles Towne (renamed Charleston in 1783) was the political, social, and economic center of the state throughout the colonial and antebellum periods, and it served as the capital until 1790. Charleston District was formed in 1769, but portions were later split off to form Colleton (1800) and Berkeley (1882) counties. During the Revolutionary War the American forces defeated the attacking British fleet at Charleston in June 1776. At another Charleston fort, Fort Sumter, federal troops were fired on by Confederate forces in April 1861, signaling the start of the Civil War. Charleston County has had many famous residents, including three signers of the United States Constitution: Charles Pinckney (1757-1824), Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (1746-1825), and John Rutledge (1739-1800).

