


DORCHESTER COUNTY

Date Formed:	1897	
Land Area (square miles):	575	
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator	
Council Members:	7	
Method of Election:	Single Member	
Term Length:	4 yrs.	
Council of Government:	Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester	
County Seat:	St. George	
Other Cities and Towns:	Harleyville, North Charleston, Reevesville, Ridgeville, Summerville	

Population Trends

2020 Census	161,540	2023 Pop. Estimate	169,833
2010 Census	136,555	2020 Pop. Estimate	161,975
2000 Census	96,413	Numeric Change 2020-2023	7,858
Numeric Change 2000-2020	24,985	Percent Change 2020-2023	4.85%
Persons Per Square Mile	280.9		

Economic Data

2023 Jobs	39,432	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023	\$51,053
2020 Jobs	34,497	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023	70.6%
2010 Jobs	31,213	Per Capita Personal Income, 2022	\$47,775
Percent Change 2020-2023	12.5%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022	73.0
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	1.0%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022	89.1
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023	3.6		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2022	\$817,392,704	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022	\$5,060	Local Option	*
County Millage Rate, 2023	0.0841	Capital Projects	*
Value of a County Mil, 2023	\$822,633	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022	\$269,378	Transportation	1.0%
State Admissions Tax, FY 2022	\$673,454	Edu. Capital Improvement	*
		County Green Space	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2022	\$249,602,323	Per Capita Revenues	\$1,545
Total Expenditures FY 2022	\$165,105,854	Per Capita Expenditures	\$1,022
General Fund Budget FY 2024	\$82,573,199	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$511
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023	\$228,451,490	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023	\$1,281
Payroll FY 2024	\$45,275,100	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2024	1040	Fitch FY 2023	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	6	Moody's FY 2023	Aa1
Part-Time Employment FY 2024	189	S&P FY 2023	AA+

County History

Dorchester County was named for Dorchester, Massachusetts. In 1696, Congregationalists from that town moved south and established a new settlement called Dorchester. Although the town of Dorchester had been abandoned by 1788, the parish in which it was located continued to be referred to as St. George Dorchester. This name was subsequently adopted for the county when it was formed from parts of Colleton and Berkeley counties in 1897. The town of Summerville was settled in the late eighteenth century as a summer resort for planters who wished to escape the malaria prevalent on their rice plantations; the town later became a winter resort also. Middleton Place Gardens, the remains of an old rice plantation, are the oldest landscaped gardens in the country, having been laid out in 1741. Middleton Place was the home of Henry Middleton (1717-1784), President of the Continental Congress, his son Arthur Middleton (1742-1787), a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his grandson Henry Middleton (1770-1846), South Carolina Governor, United States Congressman, and Ambassador to Russia.