

## OCONEE COUNTY

<b>Date Formed:</b>	1868
<b>Land Area (square miles):</b>	625
<b>Form of Government:</b>	Council-Administrator
<b>Council Members:</b>	5
<b>Method of Election:</b>	Single Member
<b>Term Length:</b>	4 yrs.
<b>Council of Government:</b>	Appalachian
<b>County Seat:</b>	Walhalla
<b>Other Cities and Towns:</b>	Salem, Seneca, West Union, Westminster



### Population Trends

<b>2020 Census</b>	78,607	<b>2023 Pop. Estimate</b>	81,221
<b>2010 Census</b>	74,273	<b>2020 Pop. Estimate</b>	78,638
<b>2000 Census</b>	66,215	<b>Numeric Change 2020-2023</b>	2,583
<b>Numeric Change 2000-2020</b>	4,334	<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	3.28%
<b>Persons Per Square Mile</b>	125.8		

### Economic Data

<b>2023 Jobs</b>	25,507	<b>Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023</b>	\$54,498
<b>2020 Jobs</b>	23,460	<b>Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023</b>	75.3%
<b>2010 Jobs</b>	23,204	<b>Per Capita Personal Income, 2022</b>	\$54,415
<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	8.0%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022</b>	83.1
<b>Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020</b>	0.1%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022</b>	101.5
<b>Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023</b>	3.6		

### Tax Data

<b>Total Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$663,221,645	<b>Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$8,437	<b>Local Option</b>	*
<b>County Millage Rate, 2023</b>	0.0734	<b>Capital Projects</b>	*
<b>Value of a County Mil, 2023</b>	\$640,128	<b>School District</b>	*
<b>State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$798,137	<b>Transportation</b>	*
<b>State Admissions Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$419,224	<b>Edu. Capital Improvement</b>	*
		<b>County Green Space</b>	*

### County Finance & Employment Data

<b>Total Revenues FY 2022</b>	\$90,465,752	<b>Per Capita Revenues</b>	\$1,151
<b>Total Expenditures FY 2022</b>	\$81,908,043	<b>Per Capita Expenditures</b>	\$1,042
<b>General Fund Budget FY 2024</b>	\$60,766,345	<b>Per Capita General Fund Budget</b>	\$773
<b>Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023</b>	\$19,530,190	<b>Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023</b>	\$234
<b>Payroll FY 2024</b>	\$25,609,866	<b>County Credit Ratings:</b>	
<b>Full-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	555	<b>Fitch FY 2023</b>	*
<b>Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents</b>	7	<b>Moody's FY 2023</b>	Aa2
<b>Part-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	25	<b>S&amp;P FY 2023</b>	AA

### County History

Oconee County, which was formed in 1868 from Pickens County, takes its name from an Indian word. This area in the northwest corner of the state on the edge of the Blue Ridge Mountains was home to several Indian tribes, including the Creeks and the Cherokees, but the Indians 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 the Germans from Charleston who founded the town of Walhalla in 1850. In 1856 work began on a tunnel for the Blue Ridge Railroad that would have linked Charleston with Knoxville, Tennessee, but the Civil War ended that project; the unfinished Stumphouse Tunnel can still be seen today. Several Revolutionary War heroes moved to present day Oconee County after the war, including Andrew Pickens (1739-1817), Robert Anderson (1741-1813), and Benjamin Cleveland (1738-1806).