

RICHLAND COUNTY

Date Formed:	1785
Land Area (square miles):	756
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator
Council Members:	11
Method of Election:	Single Member
Term Length:	4 yrs.
Council of Government:	Central Midlands
County Seat:	Columbia
Other Cities and Towns:	Arcadia Lakes, Blythewood, Eastover, Forest Acres, Irmo



Population Trends

2020 Census	416,147	2023 Pop. Estimate	425,138
2010 Census	384,504	2020 Pop. Estimate	416,527
2000 Census	320,677	Numeric Change 2020-2023	8,611
Numeric Change 2000-2020	31,643	Percent Change 2020-2023	2.07%
Persons Per Square Mile	550.5		

Economic Data

2023 Jobs	223,996	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023	\$60,510
2020 Jobs	212,162	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023	83.6%
2010 Jobs	224,103	Per Capita Personal Income, 2022	\$53,963
Percent Change 2020-2023	5.3%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022	82.4
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-0.6%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022	100.6
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023	4.1		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2022	\$1,931,627,990	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022	\$4,642	Local Option	1.0%
County Millage Rate, 2023	0.1277	Capital Projects	*
Value of a County Mil, 2023	\$1,840,000	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022	\$4,357,659	Transportation	1.0%
State Admissions Tax, FY 2022	\$4,658,085	Edu. Capital Improvement	*
		County Green Space	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2022	\$497,559,982	Per Capita Revenues	\$1,196
Total Expenditures FY 2022	\$409,871,164	Per Capita Expenditures	\$985
General Fund Budget FY 2024	\$218,996,057	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$526
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023	\$248,280,000	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023	\$577
Payroll FY 2024	\$98,482,968	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2024	2225	Fitch FY 2023	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	5	Moody's FY 2023	Aaa
Part-Time Employment FY 2024	295	S&P FY 2023	AAA

County History

Richland County was probably named for its "rich land." The county was formed in 1785 as part of the large Camden District. A small part of Richland later went to Kershaw County (1791). In 1786 the state legislature decided to move the capital from Charleston to a more central location. A site was chosen in Richland County, which is in the geographic center of the state, and a new town was laid out. Columbia subsequently became not only the center of government but an important trade and manufacturing center. Cotton from the surrounding plantations was shipped through Columbia and later manufactured into textiles there. Columbia is also known for its educational institutions, particularly the University of South Carolina, which was founded in 1802. General William T. Sherman captured Columbia during the Civil War, and his troops burned the town on February 17, 1865. The U.S. Army returned on more friendly terms in 1917, when Fort Jackson was established. Confederate General, South Carolina Governor, and U.S. Senator Wade Hampton (1818-1902) was a resident of Richland County, and President Woodrow Wilson (1856-1924) lived in Columbia as a boy.