

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

7/23/2009

Date Formed:	1785
Land Area (square miles):	687
County Seat:	Winnsboro
Other Cities and Towns:	Ridgeway
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator
Council Members:	7
Method of Election	Single Member
Term Length	4 years
Council of Government:	Central Midlands

**County History**

The origin of the name Fairfield is not known, but local legend attributes it to a remark by Lord Cornwallis about the "fair fields" of the area. The county was formed in 1785 as a part of Camden District. The town of Winnsboro, which was settled around 1755, is the county seat. Fairfield County lies between the upcountry and the lowcountry areas of the state, and it was settled both by Scotch-Irish immigrants from colonies to the north and by English and French Huguenot planters from the lowcountry. In the colonial period this area was a center for the Regulator movement, which sought to bring law and order to the backcountry. During the Revolutionary War, Lord Cornwallis made his headquarters in Winnsboro from October 1780 to January 1781; the county was also invaded by General Sherman's troops during the Civil War. Cotton production was the major economic activity of the area, but the county also produced Winnsboro Blue Granite. Some prominent residents of the county were Regulator leader Thomas Woodward (d. 1779), Revolutionary War soldier Richard Winn (1750-1818), and artist Laura Glenn Douglas (1886-1962).

Population Trends

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Population 1980:	20,700	36	Numeric Change 1980-2000:	2,754	37
Population 1990:	22,295	36	Numeric Change 2000-2008:	-19	29
Population 2000:	23,454	38	Avg. Ann. Growth Rate 1980-2000:	0.66%	33
Population Estimate 2007:	23,284	37	Avg. Ann. Growth Rate 2000-2008:	-0.01%	30
Population Estimate 2008:	23,435	37	Percent Change 2006-2008:	0.64%	22
Persons Per Square Mile 2008:	34.1	43			

Economic Data

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Jobs 1980:	7,329	36	Personal Income (PI) 2007:	\$598,972	36
Jobs 1990:	8,222	35	Avg. Ann. Growth Rate (PI) 1969-2007:	7.3%	27
Jobs 2000:	8,277	37	Per Capita Personal Income 2007:	\$25,725	30
Jobs 2006:	6,875	38	% of U.S. PCPI 2007:	67%	30
Jobs 2007:	6,779	38	Average Wage Per Job 2007:	\$36,985	9
Numeric Change Jobs 2006-2007:	-96	30	% of U.S. Avg. Wage Per Job 2007:	84%	9
Avg Ann Growth Rate Jobs 1980-2000:	0.65%	35	Unemployment Rate 2007:	10.8%	10
Avg Ann Growth Rate Jobs 2000-2007:	-2.59%	41	Avg. Unemployment 1998-2007:	8.5%	11

Tax Data

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Assessed Property 2007:	\$119,905,255	28	Per Capita Assessed Property 2007:	\$5,112	9
County Base Millage Rate 2008:	0.1706	4	Additional Sales Tax (if applicable)		
Value of One Mil 2008:	\$117,217	26	Local Option Sales Tax:	1.0%	
Millage Cap FY10:	4.5%	22	Capital Projects Sales Tax:		
Net Taxable Sales FY07:	\$96,042,621	38	School District Sales Tax:		
Admissions Tax Collected FY07:	\$14,684	35	Transportation Sales Tax:		
Accommodations Tax Collected FY07:	\$30,904	33			

Financial & Employment Data

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
Total Revenues FY07:	\$23,980,257	28	Per Capita Revenues FY07:	\$1,022	4
Total Expenditures FY07:	\$20,227,064	30	Per Capita Expenditures FY07:	\$862	7
General Fund Budget FY09:	\$19,292,792	25	Per Capita General Fund Budget FY09:	\$823	3
Total Debt Outstanding FY08:	\$3,355,000	35	Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY08:	\$137	22
Payroll FY 2008:	\$12,590,129	21	Credit Rating(s) FY08		
Full-Time Employees FY09:	265	26	Moody's:	Baa1	
Part-Time Employees FY09:	35	33	Standard & Poor:	A-	
Full Time Emp/1,000 Cnty Residents:	11.30	2	Fitch:		