

# Oconee County, SC

## Fact Sheet

The county was formed in 1868, and the county seat is Walhalla. This area was home to the Cherokees, but the Indians gave up their lands in treaties signed in 1777 and 1816. After the American Revolution, settlers from other parts of the state began moving in, including Germans from Charleston who founded Walhalla in 1850. Oconee County is in the foothills of the beautiful Appalachian Mountains and encompasses rivers, lakes, and forests. As one of South Carolina's most scenic and economically stimulating counties, Oconee County is situated in the northwestern corner of the state and is part of one of the nation's fastest growing areas, the I-85 corridor. With a diversified economic base, Oconee offers a wide variety of occupational and recreational opportunities. The towns of Oconee County are also located on the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor that extends from the Upstate to Charleston.

### POPULATION

#### Total Population, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Oconee	66,215	74,273	77,607
Upstate Region*	1,220,542	1,362,073	1,464,635
South Carolina	4,012,012	4,625,364	5,016,816

\*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

#### Population by Race, 2000, 2010 and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
White	89.1%	87.8%	87.7%
Black	8.4%	7.6%	8.0%
Am. Indian / Alaska Native	0.2%	0.2%	0.3%
Asian	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Some Other Race	1.1%	2.3%	00.0%
Two or More Races	0.8%	1.6%	1.4%
Hispanic Origin (Any Race)	2.4%	4.5%	5.1%

#### Population by Age, 2000, 2010 and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Under Age 5	6.0%	5.8%	5.6%
Age 5 to 9	6.4%	6.0%	5.8%
Age 10 to 14	6.6%	6.3%	6.3%
Age 15 to 19	6.2%	5.9%	5.9%
Age 20 to 34	18.5%	15.8%	14.8%
Age 35 to 44	14.5%	13.3%	13.0%
Age 45 to 54	14.1%	14.7%	13.7%
Age 55 to 64	12.2%	14.2%	15.1%
Age 65+	15.6%	17.9%	19.7%

#### Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2010

Less than 9th Grade	7.7%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	10.6%
High School Graduate Only	36.8%
Some College, No Degree	15.6%
Associate Degree Only	8.5%
Bachelor's Degree Only	11.8%
Graduate/Professional Degree	8.9%

### HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

#### Households Families, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
# of Households	27,283	30,676	32,903
# of Families	19,589	21,118	22,904

#### Households Families, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Estimate

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>
Ave HH Size:	2.40	2.35	2.34
Owner-Occupied:	21,391	24,401	25,877
Renter-Occupied:	5,892	6,647	7,026
Median Age:	39.5	43.4	43.9

Sources: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2015 (unless otherwise stated)

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### INCOME

Median Household Income, 2000, 2010, 2015 Est.				Per Capita Income, 2000, 2010, 2015 Estimates			
	2000	2010	2015		2000	2010	2015
Oconee	\$36,533	\$45,791	\$51,788	Oconee	18,965	23,533	25,412
South Carolina	\$37,137	\$47,704	\$53,665	South Carolina	18,795	23,283	25,493

### TOP 5 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employees	Major Product
Duke Energy	1500	Nuclear Energy
Itron	665	Electronic measuring devices
Schneider Electric	655	Motor Control Centers
Timken U.S. Corporation	640	Thrust Bearings
Covidien	423	Anti-embolism stockings

Source: SC Appalachian Council of Governments and County Economic Development Office

### LABOR FORCE

#### County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, 2010 (Annual Average)

Natural Resources and Mining	60
Construction	1274
Manufacturing	4854
Wholesale Trade	463
Retail Trade	2705
Transportation and Warehousing	122
Information	264
Financial Activities	568
Professional and Business Services	902
Education and Health Services	1578
Leisure and Hospitality	1949
Other Services	659
Total Government	4465

### RETAIL SALES

#### Gross Retail Sales (Millions) by Fiscal Year

FY 2002-03	\$966,846
FY 2003-04	\$856,037
FY 2004-05	\$1,120,100
FY 2005-06	\$1,159,467
FY 2006-07	\$1,202,482
FY 2007-08	\$1,166,541
FY 2008-09	\$1,048,396
FY 2009-10	\$987,445
FY 2010-11	\$1,061,171

Source: SC Department of Revenue and Taxation

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 and 2010 Census of Population and Housing. ESRI forecasts for 2015 (unless otherwise stated)

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### **TRANSPORTATION**

<b>Interstate Access</b>	I-85	<b>Nearest Civil Airport</b>	Clemson-Oconee Airport
<b>Nearest Commercial Airline</b>	Greenville-Spartanburg International	<b>Port Access</b>	Port of Charleston, 246 miles from City of Seneca
<b>Airlines</b>	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle	<b>Rail Providers</b>	NSR

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### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

<b>Oconee County Economic Development Commission</b> James Alexander, Director	(864) 638-4210 <a href="http://www.oconeesc.com/econdev/">www.oconeesc.com/econdev/</a>
<b>Oconee County Chamber of Commerce</b> Christopher Lee, Chairman	(864) 882-2097 <a href="http://www.oconeechambersc.com">www.oconeechambersc.com</a>
<b>Upstate Alliance</b> Hal Johnson, President/CEO	(864) 283-2300 <a href="http://www.upstatealliance.com">www.upstatealliance.com</a>

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### **ADDITIONAL SOURCES**

[www.oconeesc.com](http://www.oconeesc.com)  
[www.southcarolinaparks.com](http://www.southcarolinaparks.com)  
[www.sciway.net](http://www.sciway.net)  
[www.upstateforever.org](http://www.upstateforever.org)  
[www.SCMountainLakes.com](http://www.SCMountainLakes.com)

### **PRODUCED BY**

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