



Spotlight on Aiken...

Aiken County and its county seat were named for William Aiken (1806-1831), president of the South Carolina Railroad. The area was sparsely settled until the 1830s, when the South Carolina Railroad was built, connecting Charleston to the town of Hamburg on the Savannah River, with the town of Aiken, being established as a depot. In the 1870s, Aiken became a winter resort for wealthy Northerners, and it remains popular with horse trainers and riders. The federal government chose Aiken County in the 1950s to be the site of a hydrogen bomb plant, the Savannah River Site. James F. Byrnes (1879-1972) began his legal and political careers in Aiken, before going on to become United States Congressman and senator, secretary of state, Supreme Court justice, and governor of South Carolina.

Aiken Workforce Center

1571 Richland Avenue, East, P O Box 2418
Aiken, SC 29802
(803) 641-7640 / FAX: (803) 641-7644

Location & Climate

- Located in the western area of the state
- Surrounded by Barnwell, Orangeburg, Lexington, Saluda, and Edgefield counties, with Georgia to the west
- This region has an average temperature of 64.4 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 47.0 inches.

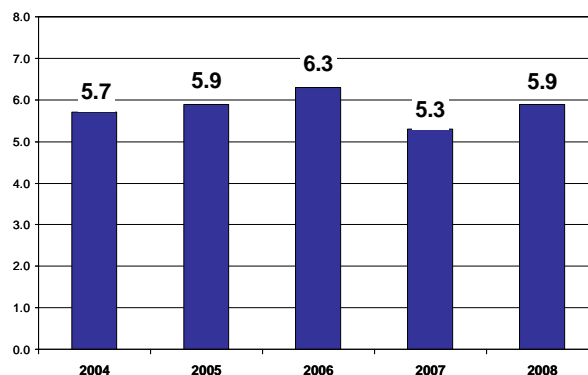
Population

- Was 152,330 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 167,800 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 71.8% White, 25.9% African-American, and 2.3% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population increased from 3,025 in 2000 to 5,239 in 2007, a 73.2% change.

Labor Force

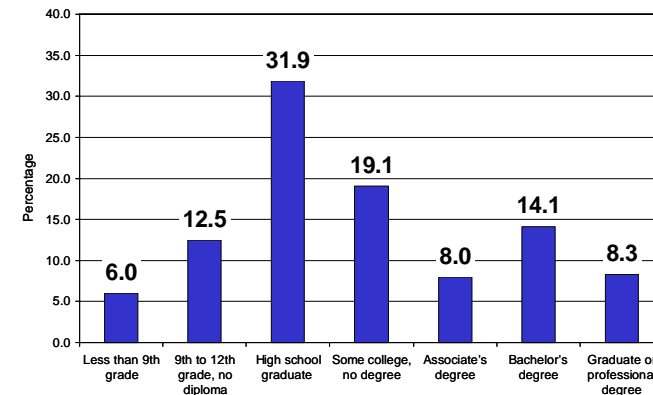
- Increased from 74,520 in 2007 to 75,100 in 2008
- Employment rose from 70,580 in 2007 to 70,640 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate rose from 5.3% in 2007 to 5.9% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Aiken County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Aiken County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$31,250 for 2007.
- This was 100% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 81% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Aiken Workforce Center paid \$10,514,604 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



SC Employment Security Commission
Labor Market Information

P O Box 995
Columbia, SC 29202
(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)
<http://www.sces.org/lmi>