

Laurens County, SC Fact Sheet

The county and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War leader Henry Laurens (1724-1792). From humble beginnings as a textile manufacturer to the diverse industry mix of today, Laurens County has always enjoyed a climate conducive to business and economic growth. Laurens County is located in the northwest quadrant of South Carolina between the Columbia MSA and the Greenville/Spartanburg MSA - two of the Southeast's most rapidly growing metropolitan areas. Laurens lies about 170 miles inland from the port city of Charleston and about 50 miles southeast of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Laurens County offers historic charm, the pastoral landscape of the Upstate, quality education and health care, abundant outdoor recreation, and cultural diversity. Additionally, Laurens County offers plenty of activities close to home to relieve stress and cultivate relaxation.

POPULATION

Total Population, 1990, 2000 & 2006 Estimates

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>
Laurens County	58,294	69,567	70,374
Upstate Region*	1,063,372	1,220,542	1,297,943
South Carolina	3,499,064	4,012,012	4,321,249

*10 County Upstate South Carolina Region

Population Estimates by Age, 2006

Under Age 5	4,043	(5.7%)
Age 5 to 19	14,640	(20.8%)
Age 20 to 34	13,407	(19.0%)
Age 35 to 59	25,007	(35.5%)
Age 60 to 74	8,861	(12.5%)
Age 75+	4,416	(6.2%)

Population Estimates by Race, 2006

White	51,296	(72.8%)
Black	17,976	(25.5%)
Amer. Indian / Alaska Native	337	(0.4%)
Asian	204	(0.2%)
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	51	(0.1%)
Two or More Races	510	(0.7%)
Hispanic (all races included)	2,164	(3.0%)

Source of Population Data: US Census Bureau

Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2006

Less than 9th Grade	4,547	(9.7%)
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	7,316	(15.5%)
High School Graduate Only	17,968	(38.1%)
Some College, No Degree	7,013	(14.9%)
Associate Degree Only	2,970	(6.3%)
Bachelor's Degree Only	4,779	(10.1%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	2,523	(5.4%)

Source: 2006 Am. Comm. Survey, US Census Bureau

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Households by Type, 2006

Total No. of Households	26,136
HH's with Individuals Under 18	7,550
HH's with individuals 65+	6,422
Average Household Size	2.54
Average Family Size	3.22

Source: US Census Bureau, American Comm. Survey 2006

Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 2000

Total No. of Housing Units	30,239
Occupied Housing Units	26,290
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	20,372
Renter Occupied Housing Units	5,918
Rental Vacancy Rate (percent)	10.3%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

2006 Estimated Number of Housing Units 31,324

Source: US Census Bureau

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INCOME

Median Household Income, 2005 Estimate		Per Capita Personal Income, 2005	
Laurens County	\$35,080	Laurens County	\$24,043
South Carolina	\$39,477	South Carolina	\$28,285

Source: US Bureau of the Census Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

MAJOR MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employees	Major Product
Walmart Distribution	1,020	Distribution
Dispoz-O-Products, Inc.	700	Disposable Plastic Items
Anderson Hardwood Floors	500	Engineered Hardwood Flooring
Sterilite Corporation	400	Plastic Products
Josten's	300	Graduation Gowns and Caps
Avery Dennison	280	Printed Labels
Teknor Apex Carolina Co.	220	Plastic Materials and Resin

Source: Laurens County Economic Development Corporation and individual employers

LABOR FORCE

Laurens County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, Annual Average, 2006

Industry Description	Ave. Monthly Employment	Industry Description	Ave. Monthly Employment
Natural Resources and Mining	86	Information	282
Construction	569	Financial Activities	344
Manufacturing	4,415	Professional and Business Services	1,469
Wholesale Trade	511	Education and Health Services	2,019
Retail Trade	1,456	Leisure and Hospitality	1,400
Transportation and Warehousing	1,465	Other Services	396
Utilities	---	Total Government	4,272

Source: 2006 Covered Employment and Wages, Annual Average, SC Employment Security Commission

RETAIL SALES

Gross Retail Sales (Millions)

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Laurens County	\$628.4	\$616.0	\$673.1	\$716.5	\$720.5	\$769.9

Source: SC Department of Revenue and Taxation

TRANSPORTATION

Interstate Access	I-385, I-26
Nearest Commercial Airport	Greenville-Spartanburg International
Airlines	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle
Nearest Civil Airport	Laurens County Airport
Port Access	Port of Charleston, 172 miles from City of Laurens
Rail Providers	CSX, NSR

Source: SC Department of Commerce

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Laurens County Chamber of Commerce

Marvin Moss, Executive Director

Phone: (864) 833-2716

Web: www.laurenscounty.org

Upstate Alliance

Hal Johnson, President/CEO

Phone: (864) 283-2300

Web: www.upstatealliance.com

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Web sites

www.laurenscounty.org

www.southcarolinaparks.com

www.sciway.net

www.upstateforever.org

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