

Union County, SC Fact Sheet

The seat of the county was organized in 1785 and both were named after the Union Church. Union County has a long history as a pioneer in the textile industry, and textiles still flourish there. Union County has drawn attention for its surge in economic growth in manufacturing, which began in 1994. Located just minutes away from I-77, I-85, and I-26, Union is at the center of a river of commerce running through the Upstate region. Businesses enjoy ready access to the nearby markets of large metropolitan areas and the Greenville-Spartanburg International Airport. Union County residents enjoy small town friendliness close to the attractions of Charlotte, NC, Greenville, the state capital in Columbia, and Spartanburg. The University of South Carolina has a satellite campus located in Union, and Spartanburg Technical College and Greenville Technical College are convenient to residents. Other schools within easy daily commuting distance include Wofford College, Converse College, and Spartanburg Methodist College.

POPULATION

Total Population, 1990, 2000 & 2006 Estimates

	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2006</u>
Union County	30,319	29,881	28,306
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	1,645	(5.8%)
Age 5 to 19	5,632	(19.8%)
Age 20 to 34	4,686	(16.5%)
Age 35 to 59	10,257	(36.2%)
Age 60 to 74	3,883	(13.7%)
Age 75+	2,203	(7.7%)

Population Estimates by Race, 2006

White	19,075	(67.3%)
Black	8,944	(31.5%)
Amer. Indian / Alaska Native	47	(0.1%)
Asian	63	(0.2%)
Hawaiian / Pacific Islander	11	(<0.1%)
Two or More Races	166	(0.5%)
Hispanic (all races included)	222	(0.7%)

Source of Population Data: US Census Bureau

Highest Educational Attainment, Age 25+, 2000

Less than 9th Grade	2,724	(13.5%)
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	3,962	(19.6%)
High School Graduate Only	7,361	(36.4%)
Some College, No Degree	3,057	(15.1%)
Associate Degree Only	1,136	(5.6%)
Bachelor's Degree Only	1,347	(6.7%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	635	(3.1%)

HOUSEHOLDS AND HOUSING

Households by Type, 2000

Total No. of Households	12,087
HH's with Individuals Under 18	4,185
HH's with individuals 65+	3,362
Average Household Size	2.44
Average Family Size	2.93

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

Housing Occupancy and Tenure, 2000

Total No. of Housing Units	13,351
Occupied Housing Units	12,087
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	9,267
Renter Occupied Housing Units	2,820
Rental Vacancy Rate (percent)	9.5%

Source: US Census Bureau, Census 2000

2006 Estimated No. of Housing Units 13,526

Source: US Census Bureau

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INCOME

Median Household Income, 2005 Estimate

Union County	\$33,243
South Carolina	\$39,477

Source: US Bureau of the Census

Per Capita Personal Income, 2005

Union County	\$24,396
South Carolina	\$28,285

Source: US Bureau of Economic Analysis

MAJOR MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS

Company	No. of Employees	Major Product
Milliken (5 Plants)	790	Fabrics
Timken USA	600	Anti-Friction Roller Bearings
Dollar General Distribution Center	575	Distribution
Carlisle Finishing	400	Finishing cotton fabric
Disney Distribution Center	175	Distribution for Catalog Marketing
CPE – Consumer Products Enterprises	170	Felt

Source: Union County Development Board and individual employers

LABOR FORCE

Union County Average Monthly Employment by Industry Group, 2006 (Annual Average)

Industry Description	Ave. Monthly Employment	Industry Description	Ave. Monthly Employment
Natural Resources and Mining	122	Information	48
Construction	206	Financial Activities	312
Manufacturing	2,069	Professional and Business Services	590
Wholesale Trade	123	Education and Health Services	393
Retail Trade	826	Leisure and Hospitality	603
Transportation and Warehousing	44	Other Services	158
Utilities	55	Total Government	1,986

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

RETAIL SALES

Gross Retail Sales (x \$1 million)

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Union County	\$259.7	\$245.6	\$252.6	\$253.2	\$277.4	\$292.8

Source: SC Department of Revenue and Taxation

TRANSPORTATION

Nearest Interstate	I-26
Nearest Commercial Airport	Greenville-Spartanburg International
Airlines	Northwest, Continental, United Express, Delta, US Airways, American Eagle
Nearest Civil Airport	Union County/Shelton Field
Port Access	Port of Charleston, 179 miles from City of Union
Rail Providers	CSX, NSR, L&C

Source: SC Department of Commerce

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Development Board of Union County
Stanley Vanderford, Director

Phone: (864) 319-1097
Web: www.unioncountydevelopment.com

Union County Chamber of Commerce
Torrance Inman, Executive Director

Phone: (864) 427-9039
Web: www.unionsc.com

Upstate Alliance
Hal Johnson, President/CEO

Phone: (864) 283-2300
Web: www.upstatealliance.com

ADDITIONAL SOURCES

Web sites

www.unionsc.com
www.southcarolinaparks.com
www.sciway.net
www.upstateforever.org

PRODUCED BY

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