

Spotlight on Laurens . . .

Laurens County and its county seat were named for Revolutionary War leader Henry Laurens (1724-1792). The county was established in 1785 as a part of the Ninety Six District. This part of the state was settled primarily by Scotch-Irish and English immigrants in the mid 1700s, and during the American Revolution, quite a few of its residents remained loyal to Great Britain. Several Revolutionary War battles were fought in this county, including the battle of Musgrove's Mill (August 18, 1780). President Andrew Johnson (1808-1875), a native of North Carolina, worked as a tailor in the town of Laurens for a brief time in the 1820s. Laurens County was also home to Ann Pamela Cunningham (1816-1875), the leader of the movement to preserve Mount Vernon, and educator Wil Lou Gray (1883-1984).

Clinton Workforce Center
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Laurens, SC 29325
(864) 833-0142 / FAX: (864) 833-4097

Location & Climate

- Located in the northwestern area of the state
- Surrounded by Greenville, Spartanburg, Union, Newberry, Greenwood, Abbeville, and Anderson counties
- This region has an average temperature of 60.1 degrees with an annual average rainfall of 46.7 inches.

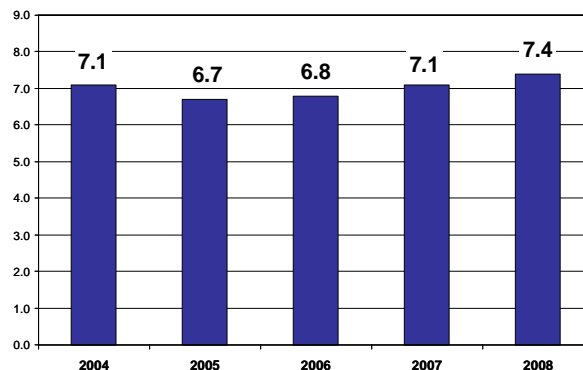
Population

- Was 69,530 in 2007
- Estimated growth to 76,120 by 2015
- 2007 data was comprised of 72.7% White, 25.7% African-American, and 1.6% Other
- The Hispanic-Latino population has increased from 1,352 in 2000 to 2,236 in 2007, a 65.4% change.

Labor Force

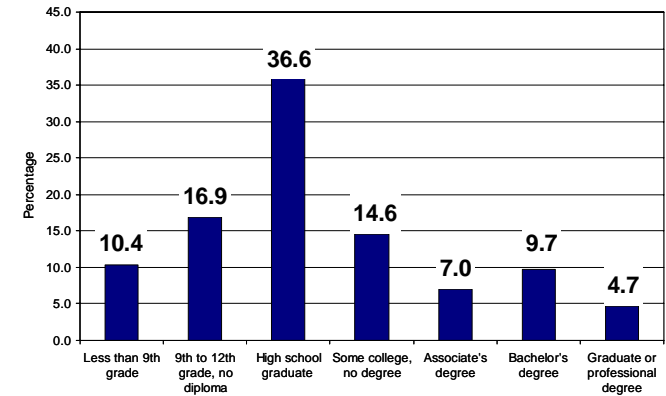
- Increased from 33,310 in 2007 to 33,760 in 2008
- Employment rose from 30,950 in 2007 to 31,270 in 2008.
- Unemployment rate grew from 7.1% in 2007 to 7.4% in 2008.

Unemployment Rates for Laurens County
2004 - 2008



Educational Attainment

Laurens County 2007



Per Capita Income

- County per capita income was \$26,240 for 2007.
- This was 84% of the state's per capita income of \$31,100.
- This was 68% of the national per capita income of \$38,620.

Unemployment Insurance Benefits

The Clinton Workforce Center, serving Laurens County, paid \$7,765,519 in regular unemployment insurance benefits during 2008.



**SC Employment Security Commission
Labor Market Information**

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(803) 737-2660 / FAX: (803) 737-2838
(800) 205-9290 (outside the Columbia area)

<http://www.sces.org/lmi>