

## Georgetown Data

As of the census of 2000, there were 8,950 people, 3,411 households, and 2,305 families residing in the city. The population density was 528.4/km<sup>2</sup> (1,368.1/mi<sup>2</sup>). There were 3,856 housing units at an average density of 227.6/km<sup>2</sup> (589.4/mi<sup>2</sup>). The racial makeup of the city was 40.99% White, 57.03% African American, 0.12% Native American, 0.31% Asian, 0.04% Pacific Islander, 0.84% from other races, and 0.66% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 1.88% of the population.

There were 3,411 households out of which 32.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 38.0% were married couples living together, 25.1% had a female householder with no husband present, and 32.4% were non-families. 28.9% of all households were made up of individuals and 12.9% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.55 and the average family size was 3.14.

In the city, the population age range varied: 28.6% under the age of 18, 8.8% from 18 to 24, 25.2% from 25 to 44, 21.0% from 45 to 64, and 16.4% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 35 years. For every 100 females there were 81.9 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 75.1 males.

The median income for a household in the city was \$29,424, and the median income for a family was \$34,747. Males had a median income of \$27,545 versus \$19,000 for females. The per capita income for the city was \$14,568. About 19.9% of families and 24.1% of the population were below the poverty line, including 34.9% of those under age 18 and 16.9% of those age 65 or over.

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## South Carolina Tax Information

South Carolina has one of the lowest per-capita tax rates in the country, according to the U.S. Bureau of the Census. The following state and local taxes generally affect our residents. Should you need additional information, WebsterRogers will be happy to assist. Our professionals are up-to-date with the latest information about changes that may affect you.

South Carolina's income tax structure follows federal income tax laws, allowing many of the same adjustments, exemptions, and deductions with only a few modifications. In fact, the starting point for calculating your state tax liability is your federal taxable income. South Carolina's individual income tax rate starts at 2.5% of taxable income, graduating to a maximum of 7% on taxable income exceeding \$12,650. The individual income tax brackets are adjusted annually for inflation.

To compare South Carolina's tax rates with other states, look at each state's total tax package, not just the tax rates. For example, some states may have a lower individual income tax rate, but tax Social Security benefits. South Carolina does not tax Social Security benefits. South Carolina also allows special exemptions for retirees and senior adults. Beginning the first year, you receive retirement income and until you reach age 65, you can take an annual deduction from your taxable income of up to \$3,000. You can claim this deduction for income received from any qualified retirement plan, including IRAs, government pension plans, Keogh plans, and private sector pensions. At age 65, the deduction increases to a maximum of \$15,000 on any source of income.

If you are separating from active duty with the Armed Forces but wish to continue your military career at the local level, National Guard and Reserve annual training and weekend drill pay (up to a total of 39 days) is not taxed in South Carolina. Retirement income from National Guard and Reserve service also is not taxed.

In addition, the state allows the following benefits:

- Disability retirement income for a permanently and totally disabled person is deductible.
- There is no intangibles tax in South Carolina. An intangibles tax is collected in many states that do not have a general personal income tax and is imposed on bank accounts, interest, dividends, stocks, bonds, and other assets.
- You do not pay a tax in this state on property you sell in another state.
- South Carolina has adopted the federal provision allowing up to \$500,000 (if married and filing jointly, otherwise the provision is \$250,000) of the financial gain from the sale of your home to be excluded from tax.
- A two-wage earner credit allows married couples to take up to a maximum tax credit of \$210 annually, if both work.
- A credit is allowed for income taxes paid to another state on income taxable in both states.
- An additional state income tax credit is allowed for childcare

or elderly care expenses.

- A credit of up to \$300 annually is allowed for nursing care in-home or in a licensed institution.
- Parents may claim an additional deduction equal to the amount of the federal personal exemption (\$3,300 for 2006, but adjusted annually) for each child under the age of six.
- Parents, guardians, or students can receive partial credit on tuition fees paid to a South Carolina college or university. The credit cannot exceed \$850. (Contact WebsterRogers or a local Department of Revenue office for details.)
- South Carolina counties, cities and school districts impose ad valorem (property) taxes on real and personal property. Local governments assess and collect property taxes. The market value of a legal residence and up to five acres of surrounding land is assessed at 4%. The tax liability on the property is determined when a local government applies its millage rate to the assessed value. Millage rates vary, but the state average is 289 mills (.289). South Carolina also allows a \$50,000 homestead exemption on the fair market value of a home for residents who are age 65 or older, totally and permanently disabled, or legally blind.

South Carolina's "property tax relief" law means homeowners may exempt from school property taxes the first \$100,000 of the value of their home. The maximum benefit of this exemption ranges from \$200 to more than \$800, depending on the tax district where the home is located.

Personal property tax is collected annually on cars, trucks, motorcycles, recreational vehicles, boats, and airplanes. Personal cars and light trucks are assessed at 6.75% of market value for tax year 2006. If you own a \$10,000 car today, for example, based on an average millage rate, your annual property tax would be about \$193.63. Here's some more good news: The assessment rate on cars and light trucks is being reduced by .75% annually until the assessment rate reaches 6% in 2007. Other personal property is assessed at 10.5%.

The registration fee for passenger cars is \$24 every two years (\$20 for residents age 65 or older; \$22 for 64-year-olds) and can be paid when you pay your county property tax. Many states, rather than collect personal property taxes on cars, boats, etc., impose a higher registration fee that is comparable to South Carolina's property tax.

South Carolina's state sales and use tax rate is 5%, but county voters may approve local sales taxes as well. Local sales taxes are used for property tax relief, construction or repair of roads, bridges and schools, or other specific projects. Prescription drugs, insulin, dental prosthetics, and hearing aids are exempt from sales tax. The sales tax on the purchase of motor vehicles, including recreational vehicles, boats, motorcycles and airplanes, is capped at \$300. The state sales tax rate on unprepared food dropped from 5% to 3%, effective Oct. 1, 2006.

A 5% use tax is applied to purchases made out of state – including Internet, catalog, and TV shopping network sales – by

South Carolina residents who have shipped, or bring back to South Carolina, tangible goods for "use or storage." A use tax credit is given to the purchaser if a sales tax is paid to the state in which the purchase is made and the buyer can produce a sales receipt showing the tax was paid. The use tax can be conveniently reported on South Carolina's individual income tax return each year. Every state that has a sales tax also imposes the use tax.

*From the S.C. Dept. of Revenue.*

To obtain more information, contact the Department of Revenue Publications Line at 803-898-5405 and ask for a free copy of the "Moving to South Carolina" brochure. Information also is available at the Department of Revenue and WebsterRogers' Websites: [www.sctax.org](http://www.sctax.org) and [www.websterrogers.com](http://www.websterrogers.com). Information also can be obtained by calling WebsterRogers at 843-546-2426 (Georgetown) or 843-237-9004 (Litchfield).

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