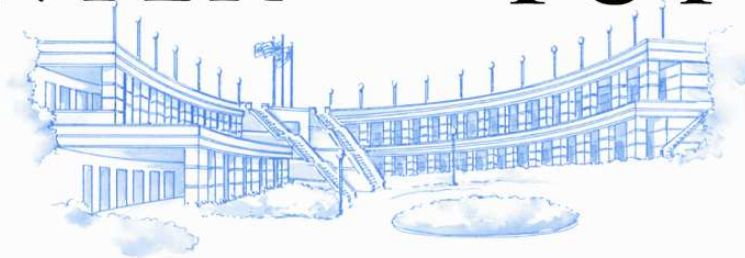


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ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN GREENWOOD COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

PRESENTED TO THE
SELF FAMILY FOUNDATION

APRIL 2005
REVISED JANUARY 2006

**ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
IN GREENWOOD COUNTY
SOUTH CAROLINA**

BY

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PRESENTED TO THE
SELF FAMILY FOUNDATION

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN GREENWOOD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: CHALLENGES & SUCCESSES

Greenwood County, South Carolina, has faced a number of economic challenges since 1969. Perhaps foremost, the county's economic base in manufacturing has declined and with it, formerly high levels of per capita personal income. But the county has also seen a number of successes over this same period, some clearly visible and others more subtle.

This summary highlights notable challenges and successes on key topics discussed in the report. Comparisons within South Carolina are made with peer counties: Darlington, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Orangeburg, and Sumter.

POPULATION TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Greenwood County's population has grown older over the decades.

- The share of the county population 65 years and older increased from 8.6 percent in 1970 to 13.7 percent in 2000.
- Over the same period, the share of school-age and younger children decreased from 34.8 percent in 1970 to 25.5 percent in 2000.
- Greenwood County had the largest share of the population 65 years and older in 2000 compared to the peer counties. It was not, however, among the state's top 10 "oldest" counties. McCormick County, with its small population base and large retirement-age population at Savannah Lakes, topped the list with seniors at 16.5 percent of the total.
- An aging population may require a higher level of government services, depending on income.

SUCCESS:

County population continues to grow.

- County population growth between 1990 and 2000 was 11.3 percent; population growth statewide was 15.1 percent.
- County population is estimated to grow at a moderate pace into the future. U.S. Census estimates placed the county population at 67,519 on July 1, 2004, an increase of 1.9 percent since 2000.
- Over half of the county's 1990 to 2000 population increase occurred in census tracts 9702 (north of Highway 72) and 9707 (Ninety Six CCD).
- People are moving into Greenwood County. Official population estimates assume positive net migration since the 2000 Census.

PERSONAL INCOME TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Per capita personal income (PCPI) in Greenwood County has declined over time relative to PCPI in other counties.

- Since 1970, growth in Greenwood County's PCPI trailed that of the state and region. As a result, PCPI in Greenwood County declined relative to PCPI in South Carolina and the Southeast.
- In 1970, PCPI in Greenwood County was over 110 percent of state income. But by 2002, county PCPI had slipped to 92.4 percent of the state level—its lowest share in over 30 years.
- The recent recession had a large negative impact on PCPI in Greenwood County. Since 1997, PCPI in Greenwood County has declined the most of any county in South Carolina in comparison to the U.S. average. In 2002, PCPI in Greenwood County was 76 percent of the U.S. average.

SUCCESS:

Real (inflation-adjusted) personal income continued steady, if slow, growth in Greenwood County.

- Greenwood County's per capita personal income (PCPI) was at or near the top of the group of peer counties for most of the past 30 years.
- Every census tract in the county except 9702 (north of Highway 72) experienced an increase in median household income from 1989 to 1999. Census tracts 9709 (Bradley/Troy CCD) and 9710 (Kirksey CCD) experienced the greatest increases in median household income between 1989 and 1999. Consequently, they were among the wealthiest tracts in the county in 1999 after being among the least wealthy in 1989.

TRENDS IN THE COMPONENTS OF PERSONAL INCOME

CHALLENGE:

The composition of personal income changed dramatically between 1970 and 2002 in Greenwood County.

- In 1970, net (residence-adjusted) earnings from persons living in Greenwood County were 82.4 percent of county personal income. But between 1970 and 2002, the portion of Greenwood County personal income derived from earnings dropped to 63.2 percent. Earnings include: wages and salaries, supplements to wages and salaries such as employer-paid pension contributions, and proprietors' income.
- Unearned income (government transfers, dividends, interest, and rent) was a much higher share of personal income in 2002 in Greenwood County than it was in 1970. However, the county's share of unearned income in 2002 was still lower than in all but one of the peer counties, the state, and the Southeast.
- Greenwood County was hit hard by the recent recession and was the only county in the peer group to see a decrease (-0.1 percent) in real earnings per worker between 2000 and 2002.

SUCCESS:

Greenwood County remains strong in manufacturing earnings per worker and earnings by place of work.

- Greenwood County had the largest increase in real earnings *per worker* (20.1 percent) among the peer counties between 1990 and 2000.
- Greenwood County had the third highest average manufacturing earnings per worker in the peer county group in every year from 1969 to 1999, exceeded only by levels in Darlington and Kershaw Counties.
- In 2000, Greenwood County's manufacturing earnings per worker exceeded both the state and Southeast averages by \$1,266 and \$609 per worker, respectively.
- The county had strong growth in total earnings from trade and services since 1970, although it has lagged the state and Southeast in average earnings *per worker* from trade and services employment.
- Greenwood County was second only to much larger peer Sumter County in total earnings *by place of work* every year from 1970 through 2002.

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Employment in manufacturing has become a much smaller share of total employment in Greenwood County since 1970.

- Total manufacturing employment in Greenwood County dropped from 53 percent of total employment in 1970 to 28 percent in 2000. Despite this decline, the county still had the highest share of manufacturing employment within the peer county group in 2000.
- Greenwood County's manufacturing workers are employed by a relatively small number of large employers, which makes manufacturing employment more vulnerable to economic downturns and industry restructuring.
- Greenwood County's annual unemployment rate was similar to statewide and southeastern rates until the mid 1990s. The county's unemployment rate rose rapidly after 2000 and stayed higher, rising to 10.9 percent in 2003 before dropping slightly to 10.3 percent in 2004 as the economy began to improve.

SUCCESS:

Greenwood County is a regional center for retail and services.

- Trade and service employment as a share of total employment in Greenwood County has increased steadily, rising from 25 percent in 1970 to 40 percent in 2000.
- Total job growth in Greenwood County was 12.2 percent between 1990 and 2000.
- Greenwood County has an exceptionally high level of net taxable retail sales per capita as a share of the state's level—well over 90 percent between 1996 and 2000. Peer county shares ranged between 40 and 60 percent.

HOUSING TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Growth in owner-occupied homes is much slower in Greenwood County than it is on average statewide.

- Greenwood County had a 14.2 percent increase in the total number of housing units between 1990 and 2000. But 13.3 percent growth in the county's owner-occupied housing was nearly half the rate it was for the state overall.
- Greenwood County ranked last in its rate of home ownership in 2000 (69.2 percent) compared to the other peer counties.
- Greenwood County had a 67 percent increase in the number of manufactured homes in the housing stock between 1990 and 2000.

- Manufactured homes accounted for Greenwood County's second-highest share of total housing units by type at 14 percent of total housing in 2000.

SUCCESS:

The median value of owner-occupied homes in Greenwood County has increased at over three times the rate in the state since 1990.

- The median value of owner-occupied housing in Greenwood County grew 15.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. Within the peer counties, this rate was only exceeded by 16.4 percent growth in Laurens County. In South Carolina, the median value of owner-occupied housing grew only 4.6 percent over the decade.

SOCIAL TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Greenwood County faces serious challenges that affect the long-term welfare of children and families.

- In 2003, 3.7 percent of the births in the county were to teens aged 14 to 17, higher than the state average of 3 percent and higher than the level in any of the peer counties.
- In 2003, 48.1 percent of births in Greenwood County were to single mothers of any age—higher than the state average of 41.1 percent.
- Over 34 percent of Greenwood County's families were headed by single parents in 2000. The state average was 31.3 percent.
- The percentage of children in families in poverty increased in Greenwood County from 16.2 percent in 1969 to 19.9 percent in 2003. This share decreased in four peer counties and statewide over the same period.

SUCCESS:

Academic achievement is improving in Greenwood County.

- Students in Greenwood County had above-median performance on the grade 3 and grade 8 ELA (English and language arts) and math portions of the PACT (Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test) in 2002 and 2005.
- In 2005, Greenwood County ranked ninth out of 46 counties with nearly 80 percent of grade 8 students meeting at least basic standards on the ELA portion of the PACT. In math the county ranked fifth, with 75 percent of students meeting standards.
- Greenwood County's rank in high school dropouts improved dramatically over the last two decades. The county had the lowest percentage of high school dropouts in 2003 compared to its peers (27.9 percent). The state average was higher at 31.2 percent.

- The percentage of young adults (age 18-24) not completing high school in 2001 dropped from 28.9 percent in 1980 to 18.1 percent in 2001. The state average was 27.8 percent and 16.8 percent, respectively.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE TRENDS

CHALLENGE:

Local officials must balance the public's demand for services, the strength of the local tax base, and anticipated intergovernmental revenue to determine levels of revenue collected and funds expended by local governments.

- School districts rely heavily on state aid and local revenue from property taxes. In 2003, state aid was 49.4 percent of combined total revenue to Greenwood County's three school districts (revenue from bonds and leases excluded). Revenue from property taxes was 32.5 percent.
- Instruction takes the largest share of school district spending, followed by administration.
- The share of the property tax in total revenue increased in Greenwood County government from 35.2 percent in 1997 to 47 percent in 2003. State revenue as a share of total county revenue declined from 26.5 percent to 20.6 percent.
- The county's two largest spending areas are administration (37.9 percent of the 2003 total) and public safety (23.4 percent).
- Revenue from property taxes declined slightly as a share of combined total revenue in Greenwood County municipalities. In 2003 it was 36.5 percent compared to 40.4 in 1997.
- Spending on public safety was the largest share of total combined spending in Greenwood County municipalities in 2003, followed by spending on administration, transportation, and environment and housing (mostly solid waste).

SUCCESS:

Revenue and spending growth in Greenwood County's local governments has been low to moderate compared to statewide rates.

- Combined revenue from local sources in the three Greenwood County school districts grew more slowly between fiscal years 1997 and 2003 than in school districts statewide: 11 percent per year on average (\$6.3 million in 2003 revenue from bonds and leases excluded) compared to 13.5 percent.
- Average annual growth in combined school district spending on instruction (6.4 percent) and administration (4.8 percent) were below the state averages of 6.8 percent in both categories.
- Total revenue growth in Greenwood County government was well below statewide county revenue growth between 1997 and 2003: 4.1 percent per year, on average, compared to 6.3 percent. Much of the own-source revenue growth in Greenwood County government came from property taxes.

- Total spending growth in county government was also low—5.3 percent per year (land and construction spending excluded) compared to 7.3 percent per year statewide.
- Combined total revenue in Greenwood County’s municipalities grew slightly faster than the state average, 6.1 percent per year between 1997 and 2003 compared to 5.7 percent statewide. Average annual growth in own-source revenue from property taxes, licenses and permits, and service charges was below the state average.
- Total combined spending in Greenwood County municipalities grew more slowly than average between 1997 and 2003, 5 percent per year compared to 6.5 percent statewide.

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ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN GREENWOOD COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION

Greenwood County, South Carolina, has faced a variety of economic challenges since 1969. As the number of county residents employed in manufacturing declined over this period, county income fell relative to state and national levels. Job growth today is strongest in services, a sector with relatively low prevailing wages. The county faces a number of social challenges as well, including relatively high rates of teen pregnancies and children in poverty. Housing development in the county is strong, but the largest growth sector is in manufactured homes.

This study examines the condition and performance of the Greenwood County economy over the past 30 years relative to trends in peer group counties, the state, and the region. The primary objective of this study is to identify major trends affecting the Greenwood County economy and gain insight into their causes and effects. This knowledge is intended to aid business, government, and community leaders in their efforts to improve both the business climate and overall economic well-being in Greenwood County.

The study compares economic and demographic trends in Greenwood County with those in six peer counties, the Southeast, and the United States. It examines a wide variety of data in the areas of income, employment, population, housing, education, and social factors. The peer counties, selected by the Greenwood Area Chamber of Commerce, are Darlington, Kershaw, Lancaster, Laurens, Orangeburg, and Sumter counties in South Carolina.

Data used in this report was drawn from a variety of sources, including the U.S. Bureau of the Census, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), the South Carolina Employment Security Commission, and the South Carolina Budget and Control Board. An effort was made to present the most recent data available, although this year varies depending on the data series. Long term trends generally begin in 1969 or 1970.

Data presented in this report on income, earnings, and employment differs from that presented in earlier drafts. The BEA made comprehensive revisions to its series in 2004 to make them compatible with improvements to the National Income and Product

Accounts (NIPA) as well as with the new North American Industry Classification System (NAICS), which has replaced the former Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Because the estimation methodologies are different, the BEA revised its existing data series back to 1969. The summer and fall 2004 drafts of this report used the BEA's earlier data series.

The report is organized as follows. Chapter Two examines population trends in Greenwood County and the peer counties. Chapter Three discusses trends in personal income per capita and median household income. Chapter Four looks at the sources of county personal income, which include earned and unearned income. Chapter Five examines employment and unemployment trends by sector of the economy. Chapter Six looks at the size, composition, and condition of the county housing stock. Selected social trends are examined in Chapter Seven. Chapter Eight discusses local government finance trends. Chapter Nine concludes the report. At the beginning of each chapter, a summary of key findings is provided.

The January 2006 revisions include expansion and updating of data provided in Chapters Seven and Eight, plus addition of a summary at the beginning of the report.

CHAPTER TWO POPULATION TRENDS

Key Findings:

- Population growth in Greenwood County has been moderate over the past century. Recent population estimates indicate that this trend is expected to continue.
- Greenwood County's estimated population on July 1, 2004 was 67,519.
- The minority population in the county increased from 29.3 percent of total population in 1970 to 34.4 percent in 2000.
- Greenwood County had a higher share of county population identified as Hispanic in 2000 (2.9 percent) than did the peer counties or the state.
- Compared to the peer counties, Greenwood County had a larger share of the population aged 65 years and older in 2000 (13.7 percent). The state's average was lower at 12.1 percent. Despite its high share of seniors, Greenwood County was not one of the state's 10 "oldest" counties in 2000. These counties all had at least 14 percent of their population aged 65 and older.
- Greenwood County, along with Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens counties, are estimated to have positive net migration. Net migration in Greenwood County is estimated to be about 25 percent of net population change between 2000 and 2004.
- Over the past 50 years, the city of Greenwood has accounted for approximately one-third of the county's population. The majority of the county's population resides outside of the five municipalities.

County population, population growth, and its breakdown by age affect economic and social trends in a variety of ways. For example, an aging population will have higher unearned income and may make more demands on local governments for transportation, health, and social services. A younger population may have a larger share of residents in the workforce, but may also require additional resources for education. A rapidly-growing population may strain local services and infrastructure but is likely to come with strong job growth. Conversely, slow or declining population growth indicates that a county is losing jobs. Finally, a growing Hispanic population will require bilingual materials and workers in private and government employment as well as in schools and social service agencies.

Historical population trends have shaped South Carolina counties. Keeping an eye on estimates of population growth will help economic developers, employers, and government officials plan for the future more effectively.

POPULATION GROWTH

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

Population growth in Greenwood County during the twentieth century fluctuated greatly from decade to decade, ranging from a low of one percent to a high of 21 percent (Table 2.1). Decennial population growth in Greenwood County exceeded that in South Carolina several times, but not during the last 30 years. By 2000, the county's population was 66,271 and the county ranked 19th out of 46 South Carolina counties in terms of population size.

Table 2.1
Greenwood County Population and Population Growth, 1900-2000

	Census Pop. Greenwood Co.	Decennial Pop. Change	
		Greenwood Co.	S.C.
1900	28,343		
1910	34,225	20.8%	13.1%
1920	35,791	4.6%	11.1%
1930	36,078	0.8%	3.3%
1940	40,083	11.1%	9.3%
1950	41,628	3.9%	11.4%
1960	44,346	6.5%	12.5%
1970	49,686	12.0%	8.7%
1980	57,847	16.4%	20.5%
1990	59,567	3.0%	11.7%
2000	66,271	11.3%	15.1%

Rank by Size --19 (of 46 counties)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Between 1900 and 2000, population in Greenwood County increased 134 percent (Table 2.2). Since 1950, it increased 59 percent. This level of population growth was moderate over both periods—neither fast nor slow—when compared to population growth in the peer counties (Figure 2.1).

Population growth in the state's coastal and urban counties pushed population growth in the state to higher levels than in Greenwood County and the relatively rural peer counties. Within the peer county group, Lancaster County had the most rapid growth in population over both periods. Sumter County has been the most populous county in the group since 1960, when it overtook slower-growing Orangeburg County.

Table 2.2
County Population Growth, 1900-2000

	1900-2000 (%)	1950-2000
Darlington	108	35
Greenwood	134	59
Kershaw	113	63
Lancaster	152	65
Laurens	86	48
Orangeburg	53	33
Sumter	104	82
South Carolina	199	84

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

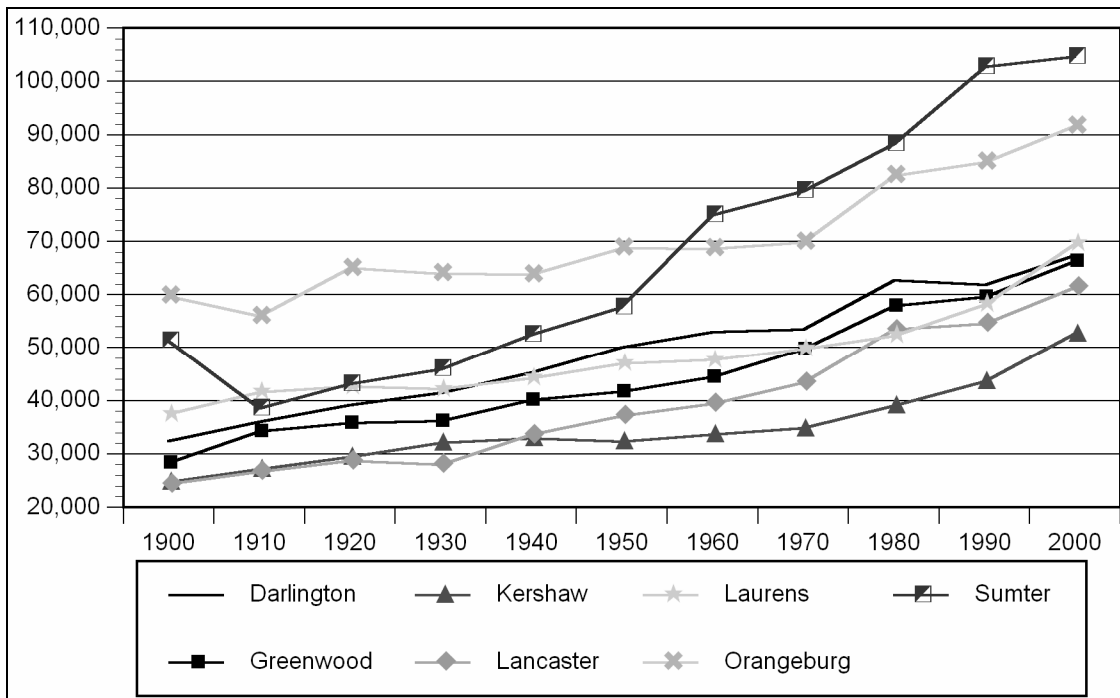


Figure 2.1. Census Population in Peer Counties, 1900-2000

COUNTY POPULATION ESTIMATES

Greenwood County’s population is estimated to continue growing at a moderate pace. U.S. Census estimates place the county population at 67,519 on July 1, 2004 (Table 2.3). This is an increase of 1.9 percent since 2000, a little below median county population growth over the decade of 12.3 percent.

Population growth over the last Census may not be a firm indicator of anticipated population trends, as can be seen in Table 2.3. Population growth in Laurens and Orangeburg counties is estimated to slow considerably from its rate over the past decade. Edgefield County, the third fastest growing county in the state at the last Census, is estimated to have had very slow population growth since that year.

Table 2.3
County Population and Population Growth, 1990-2004

	Census Population 2000	Population Change 1990-2000	Estimated Population July 1, 2004	Population Change 2000-2004
Darlington	67,394	9.0%	67,577	0.3%
Greenwood	66,271	11.3%	67,519	1.9%
Kershaw	52,647	20.8%	55,491	5.4%
Lancaster	61,351	12.5%	63,135	2.9%
Laurens	69,567	19.8%	70,218	0.9%
Orangeburg	91,582	8.0%	90,779	-0.9%
Sumter	104,646	2.0%	105,943	1.2%
South Carolina	4,012,012	15.1%	4,198,068	4.6%
Fastest-Growing				
Beaufort	120,937	39.9%	135,725	12.2%
Horry	196,629	36.5%	217,608	10.7%
Edgefield	24,595	33.9%	24,794	0.8%
Slowest-Growing				
Union	29,881	-1.5%	28,862	-3.4%
Marlboro	28,818	-1.8%	35,086	-2.3%
Allendale	11,211	-4.4%	11,061	-1.3%
Median	--	12.3%	--	2.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

MIGRATION

Estimated population change is a function of two factors. The net natural increase is simply births minus deaths. Net migration is the number of individuals moving into the county minus those moving out of the county. A large figure for net natural increase usually means that there a lot of new babies in the county. A large figure for net migration indicates that more people are moving in than moving out.

Between 2000 and 2004, Darlington, Orangeburg, and Sumter counties are all estimated to have more people leave the county than move in (Table 2.4). Greenwood County, along with Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens counties, are estimated to have positive net migration. Net migration in Greenwood County is estimated to be about 25 percent of net population change.

Table 2.4
Components of County Population Change, 2000-2004

	Net Natural Increase	Net Migration	Net Population Change*
Darlington	800	-591	183
Greenwood	962	316	1,247
Kershaw	916	1958	2,844
Lancaster	965	843	1,784
Laurens	427	298	685
Orangeburg	1,425	-2,111	-730
Sumter	3,255	-1,922	1,307
South Carolina	78,544	109,694	186,252

Source: South Carolina State Budget & Control Board.

*Net population change differs slightly than population change reported in Table 4.3 due to the estimation methodology used.

THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC MIX

Greenwood County's population growth includes changes in racial and ethnic characteristics. Over the past 20 years, the county's racial composition has undergone modest shifts. In 1980, the county's population was over two-thirds white (Caucasian) with a predominantly African-American minority.

By 2000, the minority population had increased to over 34 percent of the county's population. It was still mostly African-American, but had a growing component of other and mixed races. (Table 2.5). Some of these changes were due to in-migration; others were the result of a change in the way the Census Bureau allows people to self-identify by race.

Table 2.5
Population Breakdown by Race, Greenwood County and South Carolina, 1980-2000

	1980		1990		2000	
	Persons	Share	Persons	Share	Persons	Share
Greenwood County						
White	40,904	70.7%	41,239	69.2%	43,455	65.6%
African-American	16,714	28.9%	17,970	30.2%	21,036	31.7%
Other	229	0.4%	358	0.6%	1,780	2.7%
South Carolina						
White	2,147,224	68.8%	2,406,974	69.0%	2,695,560	67.2%
African-American	948,623	30.4%	1,039,884	29.8%	1,185,216	29.5%
Other	25,973	0.9%	39,845	1.2%	131,236	3.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The Census Bureau reclassified racial categories in the 2000 Census. This change yields better information about the population, but makes it more difficult to summarize the racial makeup of a given area. In 2000, other (unidentified) races, Asians, and Native Americans made up two percent of Greenwood County's population. Persons who identified themselves of mixed race made up less than one percent of the county's population. These figures are similar to those in South Carolina and the peer counties.

Because Hispanics can be of any race, they are identified separately from race. Greenwood had a higher share of persons who identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino in 2000 than the state or any of the peer counties (Table 2.6). Saluda County had a much higher Hispanic population in 2000, however, at 7.3 percent of the total population. These county shares are likely higher today, given anecdotal evidence of growth in the Hispanic population throughout the state.

Table 2.6
County Hispanic Population Shares, 2000

	Share of Total
Darlington	1.0%
Greenwood	2.9%
Kershaw	1.7%
Lancaster	1.6%
Laurens	1.9%
Orangeburg	1.0%
Sumter	1.8%
South Carolina	2.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

THE AGING POPULATION

Greenwood County's population has grown somewhat older over the decades. The share of county population 65 years and older increased from 8.6 percent in 1970 to 13.7 percent in 2000 (Table 2.7). Over this same period, the share of school-age and younger children decreased from 34.8 percent in 1970 to 25.5 percent in 2000. The share of population of working age increased slightly over the same period. The county's population shares by major age category hardly changed between 1990 and 2000.

Compared to the peer counties, Greenwood County has a larger share of the population 65 years and older in 2000 (Table 2.8). All of the peer counties have a higher share of seniors and working-age persons than the state overall. Sumter County is notable for its relatively high share of very young children, which may be related to the presence of Shaw Air Force Base.

Table 2.7
Greenwood County Population by Age, 1970-2000

Age	1970		1980		1990		2000	
	Persons	Share	Persons	Share	Persons	Share	Persons	Share
< 5	4,737	8.8%	4,044	7.0%	4,138	6.9%	4,577	6.9%
5-17	12,897	26.0%	12,632	21.8%	11,066	18.6%	12,302	18.6%
18-64	28,146	56.6%	34,586	59.8%	36,139	60.7%	40,317	60.8%
65+	4,270	8.6%	6,585	11.4%	8,224	13.8%	9,075	13.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Even with population shares of seniors above the state average, Greenwood County and its peers are not among the state's "oldest" counties. The top 10 counties in 2000 all had shares of population 65 years and older at 14 percent and above. McCormick County, with its small population base and large retirement-age population at Savannah Lakes, topped the list with seniors at 16.5 percent of the population (Table 2.9).

Table 2.8
County Population by Age, 2000

	Under 5 Years	5-17 Years	18-64 Years	65 Years & Up
Darlington	6.9%	19.4%	61.6%	12.1%
Greenwood	6.9%	18.6%	60.8%	13.7%
Kershaw	6.6%	19.6%	61.0%	12.9%
Lancaster	6.5%	18.9%	62.5%	12.1%
Laurens	6.6%	18.7%	61.5%	13.2%
Orangeburg	6.5%	19.4%	60.8%	13.2%
Sumter	7.5%	20.6%	60.6%	11.2%
South Carolina	6.6%	21.7%	59.6%	12.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Table 2.9
South Carolina's Oldest Counties, 1980, 1990, and 2000 (Population 65 Years and Up)

1980		1990		2000	
County	Share	County	Share	County	Share
Newberry	14.3%	Newberry	15.4%	McCormick	16.5%
Saluda	12.5%	Union	14.8%	Union	15.6%
Abbeville	12.5%	Abbeville	14.8%	Oconee	15.6%
Allendale	12.0%	Saluda	14.4%	Beaufort	15.5%
Union	11.9%	Calhoun	13.9%	Horry	15.0%
Fairfield	11.8%		13.8%	Georgetown	15.0%
Chester	11.8%	Oconee	13.8%	Newberry	14.7%
Calhoun	11.6%	Fairfield	13.6%	Abbeville	14.7%
Laurens	11.5%	Anderson	13.6%	Saluda	14.5%
Greenwood	11.4%	Laurens	13.4%	Clarendon	14.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

The long-term aging of the population in South Carolina and around the country is due to a variety of factors. These include lower birth rates, improved health care and longevity, as well as the impact on the age cohort itself of the post-World War II Baby Boom generation. An additional factor is the influx of retirees to the more temperate climates and affordable costs of living associated with the state. Greenwood County has successfully attracted retiree in-migrants with new housing developments and a wide range of cultural and recreational amenities.

THE MUNICIPAL POPULATION

Over the past 50 years, the city of Greenwood has accounted for approximately one-third of the county's population. Population in the county's other, much smaller municipalities has fluctuated over this period and has generally been in decline since 1990. The majority of the county's population resides outside of the five municipalities (Table 2.10).¹

¹ Annexation of unincorporated property is difficult in South Carolina. Thus, municipalities do not usually annex property unless population growth on the city's (or town's) edge increases demand by these residents for municipal services, and/or if the prospects of higher revenues from a larger property tax base are compelling.

Table 2.10
Population Trends in Greenwood County Municipalities, 1950-2002

	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2002*
Greenwood	13,806	16,644	21,069	21,613	20,807	22,071	22,181
Hodges	275	209	214	154	125	158	157
Ninety Six	1,556	1,435	2,166	2,249	2,099	1,936	1,929
Troy	242	260	207	705	140	105	107
Ware Shoals	-	-	2,164	1,900	1,981	1,829	1,824
Balance of County	25,749	25,798	23,866	31,226	34,415	40,172	41,263
Total	41,628	44,346	49,686	57,847	59,567	66,271	67,461

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.
*Estimates from July 1, 2002.

CHAPTER THREE TRENDS IN TOTAL INCOME

Key Findings:

- Greenwood County's per capita personal income (PCPI) has been at or near the top of the group of peer counties for most of the past 30 years, although the county's rate of growth in PCPI has continued to trail that of the state and region. As a result, since 1970 PCPI in Greenwood County has declined relative to PCPI in South Carolina, the Southeast, and the United States.
- The recent recession had a large negative impact on PCPI in Greenwood County. Since 1997, PCPI in Greenwood County has declined the most of any county in South Carolina in comparison to the U.S. average. In 2002, PCPI in Greenwood County was 76 percent of the U.S. average.
- Thirteen counties, including Greenwood County, lost four or more percentage points against state PCPI between 1992 and 2002.
- Within Greenwood County, population and median household income growth varied widely among census tracts between the 1990 and 2000 census.
- Every census tract except 9702 (north of Highway 72) experienced an increase in median household income from 1989 to 1999.
- Over half of the county's 1990 to 2000 population increase occurred in census tracts 9702 (north of Highway 72) and 9707 (Ninety Six CCD).
- Census tracts 9709 (Bradley/Troy CCD) and 9710 (Kirksey CCD) experienced the greatest increases in median household income between 1989 and 1999. Consequently, they were among the wealthiest tracts in the county in 1999 after being among the least wealthy in 1989.
- Only census tract 9705 (City of Greenwood) lost population between 1990 and 2000. Household income growth in this area was strong at 21 percent over the decade, but household income in 1999 remained well below levels in the county's other census tracts.

Personal income and median household income are used to assess the economic well-being of nations, states, and substate areas. Measured in total dollars, personal income indicates the relative strength of an area's economy. Measured as per capita personal income (PCPI) and median household income, these figures assess the relative living standard in an area. This chapter examines how Greenwood County compares to other counties in the state in its level and growth of PCPI. Changes in median household income provide insight into income shifts within Greenwood County.

PERSONAL INCOME

Personal income is a comprehensive measure of income that is used at the county, state, regional, and national level. Personal income includes money received on a regular basis by individuals and sole proprietors through employment or investments, plus government and business transfer payments (e.g., Medicare and Social Security) and government interest. Wage and salary earnings attributed to a specific place are reduced by the amount of earnings removed from that location by commuters who work there but live elsewhere. Personal income excludes personal contributions for government social insurance.

Personal income is measured by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) using administrative records. Per capita personal income (PCPI) is commonly used to make comparisons between different geographic areas. The BEA's 2004 revisions to state and local area personal income are used in this report.² Personal income estimates are available for states through 2003, and for counties and metro areas through 2002.

COUNTY COMPARISONS

From 1969 through 1984 per capita personal income (PCPI) in Greenwood County was greater than PCPI in South Carolina (Figure 3.1). This remained true even through the severe recession that affected the entire country in the early 1980s. But over this period PCPI in the county grew more slowly than PCPI in the state. Consequently, by the mid-1980s county and state PCPI were nearly equal (Table 3.1).

From 1985 through 1997 PCPI in Greenwood County closely tracked state PCPI. In 1997 real (inflation-adjusted) growth in Greenwood County's personal income nearly halted for several years (Figure 3.2). This was likely a result of the sharp upturn in the county unemployment rate that signaled the beginning of the economic downturn in manufacturing. This occurrence predated the nationwide recession that began two years later in 1999. Since 2000, real PCPI growth in Greenwood County has declined slightly, further widening the gap between the county and the state and the Southeast.³ Both the county and the state have shown consistently lower income levels than the Southeast since the early 1970s.

² These revisions are significantly different from those previously available and used in the summer and fall 2004 drafts of this report.

³ This refers to the Southeast region as defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

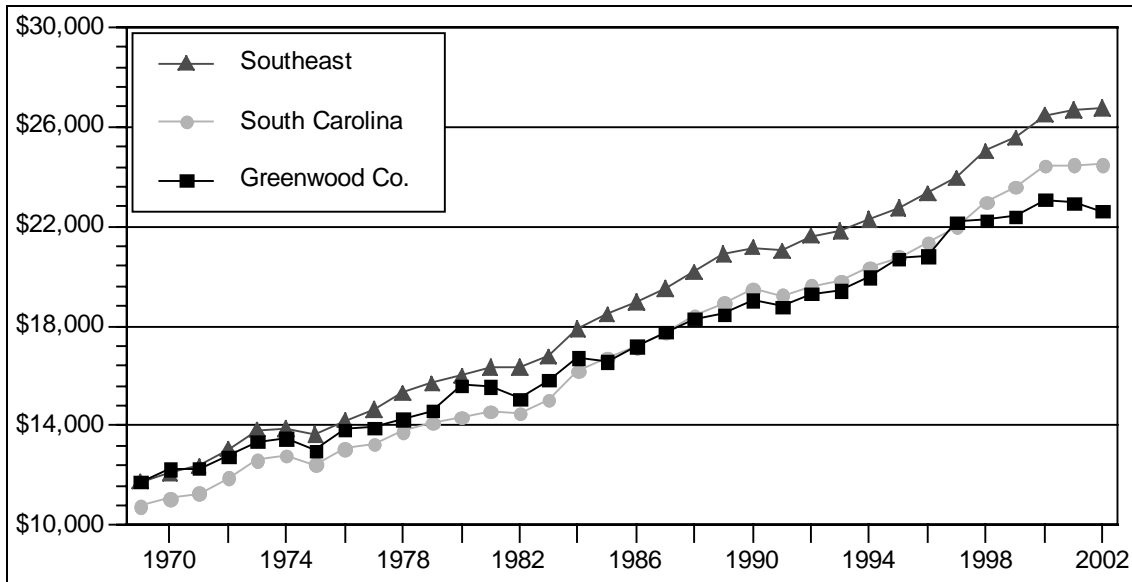


Figure 3.1. Per Capita Personal Income, 1969-2002 (in 2000 dollars)

Table 3.1
County Per Capita Personal Income, 1970-2002

	Per Capita Personal Income				PCPI Growth*			
	1970	1985	2000	2002	1970-1985	1985-2000	1970-2000	2000-2002
Darlington	\$2,732	\$9,854	\$22,118	\$23,455	42.5%	56.5%	122.9%	1.9%
Greenwood	3,371	11,561	23,092	23,552	35.5%	39.3%	88.6%	-2.0%
Kershaw	3,171	11,754	23,358	25,171	46.4%	38.6%	102.8%	3.5%
Lancaster	3,023	10,605	20,594	21,513	38.6%	35.4%	87.6%	0.4%
Laurens	2,940	10,784	20,394	21,490	44.9%	31.9%	91.0%	1.2%
Orangeburg	2,493	9,659	19,713	21,418	53.0%	42.3%	117.8%	4.4%
Sumter	2,626	9,584	20,528	21,577	44.1%	49.3%	115.3%	1.0%
South Carolina	3,051	11,666	24,426	25,502	51.0%	46.0%	120.5%	0.3%
Southeast	3,323	12,880	26,485	27,837	53.1%	43.4%	119.5%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

*Inflation-adjusted.

Figure 3.2 illustrates how personal income in Greenwood County has slipped relative to personal income at the state level. In 1970, PCPI in Greenwood County was over 110 percent of state income. But by 1988, county PCPI had dropped below the state level and never came close to it again except for two years in the growth economy of the mid 1990s. Since 1998 the gap between county and state personal income has continued to widen. In 2002, PCPI in Greenwood County had slipped to 92.4 percent of the state level—its lowest share in over 30 years.

Like Greenwood County, per capita income as a share of state PCPI in peer counties Lancaster and Laurens has generally declined since 1970 (Figure 3.3). Income trends in these two counties are very similar to the trend in Greenwood County. But PCPI levels in these two counties began the period below the state average and have seen the gap widen since that time.

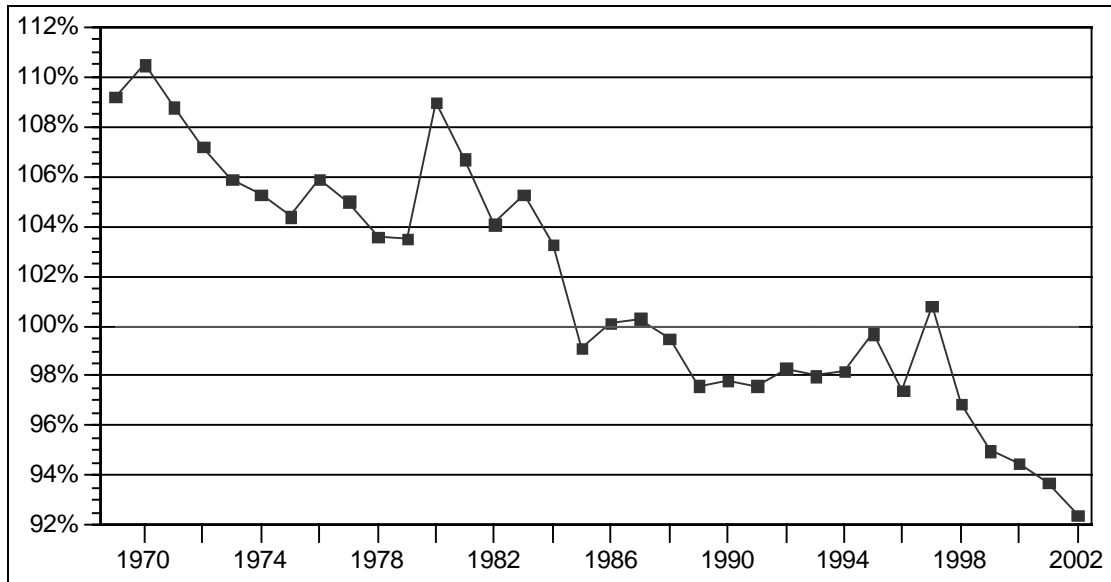


Figure 3.2. Greenwood County PCPI as a Percentage of South Carolina PCPI, 1969-2002

Per capita personal income in Kershaw County has shown the most fluctuations of any of the peer counties. PCPI in Kershaw County was over 102 percent of state PCPI in 1969. After declining for several years, it rose to nearly 109 percent of state PCPI and then began a long decline through much the next 20 years. Kershaw County's PCPI remained close to the level in Greenwood County for much of this time. In 2001 and 2002, PCPI in Kershaw County began to rise again relative to the state's level. Per capita personal income shares in Darlington, Orangeburg, and Sumter (peer) counties all tended to remain around the same share of state PCPI since 1992, with no clear downward or upward trend (Table 3.2).

Table 3.2 lists South Carolina counties that have slipped four percentage points or more relative to state PCPI, Greenwood's peer counties, and the counties that have gained four points or more relative to the state figure. Barnwell County has the distinction of having lost the most ground against state personal income per capita since 1992, followed by Aiken, Laurens, and Dorchester Counties. Thirteen counties, including Greenwood, lost four or more percentage points against state PCPI since 1992. At the other end of the scale, Beaufort, Georgetown, and Charleston counties gained the most in PCPI relative to the state's level over the decade.

There is a positive side to the personal income story in Greenwood County. Inflation-adjusted PCPI rose steadily in the county for nearly 30 years. Thus, despite losing ground relative to South Carolina PCPI, income in Greenwood County grew faster than the rate of inflation and the growth in population. The only exceptions are periods of national economic downturn that are also seen in real declines in per capita income in South Carolina and Southeast.

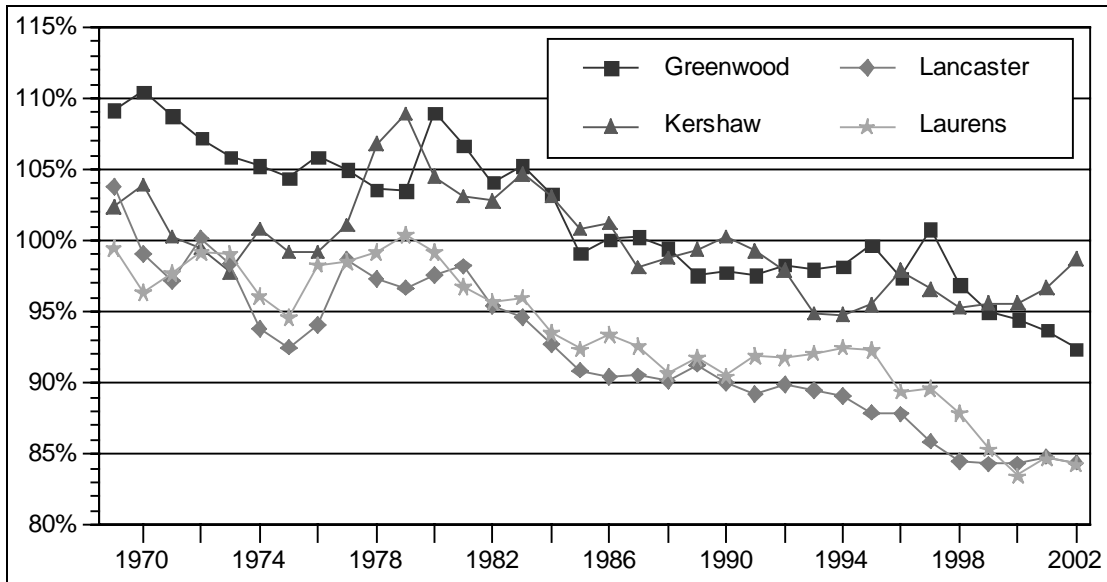


Figure 3.3. County PCPI as a Percentage of South Carolina PCPI, 1969-2002

Per capita personal income in Greenwood County also has been at or near the top of the group of peer counties throughout most of the past three decades. Prior to 1985, real PCPI in Greenwood County grew much more slowly than that of the state, region, or any peer county. Between 1985 and 2000, real PCPI in Greenwood County has grown faster overall, but still not as fast as income in the state and the Southeast. Over this period, Darlington, Orangeburg, and Sumter counties experienced greater income growth per capita, although their prevailing levels of PCPI remained below those in Greenwood County for the entire period.

A NATIONAL COMPARISON

Greenwood County has not fared well in comparison to national income trends (Table 3.3). Although PCPI in Greenwood County has remained higher than in a number of other South Carolina counties, since 1997 it dropped the most of any county in the State in comparison with the U.S. average. (PCPI was at its highest point relative to the U.S. level in 1997 in many South Carolina counties.) U.S. PCPI was \$30,906 in 2002.

Table 3.3 lists South Carolina counties that have slipped four percentage points or more relative to national PCPI, Greenwood's peer counties, the state average, and the counties that have gained four points or more relative to the national figure. Three of the peer counties held their own against growth in national PCPI: Darlington, Orangeburg, and Kershaw. Georgetown, Charleston, and Berkeley counties gained the most against the U.S. average over this period. Charleston County's seven-point gain brought it close to the U.S. average by 2002.

Table 3.2
County PCPI as a Percentage of South Carolina PCPI, 1992-2002

County	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Percentage Point Change 1992-2002
Barnwell	97%	98%	99%	97%	92%	94%	104%	101%	91%	91%	86%	-11
Aiken	114%	111%	107%	105%	103%	103%	104%	102%	102%	105%	106%	-8
Laurens	92%	92%	92%	92%	89%	90%	88%	85%	83%	85%	84%	-8
Dorchester	98%	97%	94%	93%	92%	91%	88%	89%	90%	90%	91%	-7
Greenwood	98%	98%	98%	100%	97%	101%	97%	95%	95%	94%	92%	-6
Lancaster	90%	89%	89%	88%	88%	86%	84%	84%	84%	85%	84%	-6
Chesterfield	85%	85%	86%	85%	84%	83%	82%	82%	80%	80%	80%	-5
Edgefield	87%	86%	86%	84%	76%	79%	77%	77%	77%	81%	82%	-5
York	108%	108%	109%	110%	110%	108%	106%	106%	106%	104%	103%	-5
Saluda	90%	88%	89%	91%	90%	95%	93%	88%	86%	87%	86%	-4
Williamsburg	71%	70%	71%	69%	67%	66%	65%	65%	66%	69%	67%	-4
Marion	77%	76%	76%	74%	74%	75%	74%	74%	73%	73%	73%	-4
Jasper	79%	81%	79%	77%	79%	73%	73%	72%	72%	73%	75%	-4
Sumter	85%	84%	85%	84%	85%	85%	84%	85%	84%	83%	85%	0
Orangeburg	84%	83%	84%	83%	83%	83%	82%	82%	81%	83%	84%	0
Kershaw	98%	95%	95%	96%	98%	97%	95%	96%	96%	97%	99%	1
Darlington	91%	89%	90%	90%	91%	91%	91%	91%	91%	92%	92%	1
Beaufort	130%	129%	130%	128%	130%	133%	134%	136%	133%	139%	137%	7
Georgetown	96%	97%	97%	97%	98%	97%	97%	98%	99%	103%	104%	8
Charleston	110%	110%	110%	108%	111%	110%	114%	116%	118%	117%	119%	9

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 3.3
County PCPI as a Percentage of United States PCPI, 1992-2002

County	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Percentage Point Change 1997-2002
Greenwood	80%	80%	81%	83%	81%	84%	80%	78%	77%	77%	76%	-8
Barnwell	79%	80%	82%	80%	76%	78%	86%	84%	74%	75%	71%	-7
Saluda	73%	73%	74%	75%	75%	78%	77%	72%	70%	71%	71%	-7
Dillon	61%	61%	63%	62%	64%	64%	62%	61%	60%	61%	59%	-5
York	88%	88%	91%	91%	91%	89%	87%	88%	87%	85%	85%	-4
Horry	78%	79%	82%	83%	83%	84%	82%	82%	80%	79%	80%	-4
Newberry	71%	71%	72%	72%	72%	73%	70%	70%	69%	70%	69%	-4
Laurens	75%	76%	77%	77%	74%	74%	72%	71%	68%	70%	70%	-4
Lancaster	73%	74%	74%	73%	73%	71%	70%	70%	69%	70%	70%	-1
Sumter	69%	69%	70%	70%	70%	71%	69%	70%	69%	68%	70%	-1
SC	81%	82%	83%	83%	83%	83%	82%	83%	82%	82%	83%	0
Darlington	74%	73%	75%	74%	76%	76%	75%	75%	74%	75%	76%	0
Orangeburg	68%	69%	69%	69%	69%	69%	68%	67%	66%	68%	69%	0
Kershaw	80%	78%	79%	79%	81%	80%	79%	79%	78%	79%	81%	1
Georgetown	78%	79%	81%	80%	82%	80%	80%	81%	81%	85%	86%	6
Charleston	89%	91%	91%	90%	92%	91%	94%	96%	96%	96%	98%	7
Berkeley	70%	69%	67%	65%	64%	65%	65%	66%	68%	69%	72%	7

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates money income alone through the decennial censuses and annual surveys. Money income differs from personal income in a number of ways. Money income includes personal contributions for social insurance and pension income, for example, while it excludes transfers. Median household and family income is used to compare money income levels among different areas. The median is used rather than the mean (average) to reduce the impact of very high and very low values on the summary measure. Personal income always exceeds money income in dollar terms.

Examining population and household income data at the census tract level within Greenwood County reveals changes in the distributions of population and income that are masked at the larger county level. Table 3.4 presents county population and median household income data from the 1990 and 2000 Censuses.

Table 3.4
Greenwood County Population and
Median Household Income by Census Tract, 1990 and 2000

Tract	1990 Census			2000 Census			Change 1990-2000		
	Income (1989)		Pop. No.	Income (1999)		Pop. No.	Inc. %	Pop. No.	Pop. %
	Rank	\$		Rank	\$				
9701	6	\$23,365	7,886	8	\$32,587	8,169	7.1%	283	3.6%
9702	1	34,344	7,683	2	41,639	10,332	-6.9%	2,649	34.5%
9703	3	28,246	8,209	4	39,190	9,096	6.5%	887	10.8%
9704	2	28,906	6,354	1	42,352	6,852	12.5%	498	7.8%
9705	10	12,360	6,133	10	19,548	5,756	21.4%	-377	-6.1%
9706	4	25,556	6,461	7	34,430	7,411	3.4%	950	14.7%
9707	5	24,069	7,110	6	35,472	9,677	13.2%	2,567	36.1%
9708	9	16,655	6,608	9	25,569	7,502	17.9%	894	13.5%
9709	7	22,222	1,545	3	40,061	2,085	38.4%	540	35.0%
9710	8	22,171	1,578	5	37,054	2,091	28.3%	513	32.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Over half of Greenwood County's 1990-2000 population increase occurred in two census tracts, 9702 and 9707, which were also among the fastest growing tracts on a percentage basis. Two other tracts, 9709 and 9710, experienced growth rates similar to those of 9702 and 9707, but they started from much smaller population bases. Only one tract, 9705, lost population between 1990 and 2000.

Every census tract except 9702 experienced an increase in median household income from 1989 to 1999. In ranking census tracts from most to least wealthy, there were few changes at the top or bottom of the scale from 1989 to 1999. The three wealthiest tracts in 1989—9702, 9703, and 9704—were still among the top four in 1999. The two least wealthy in 1989—9705 and 9708—were still the least wealthy in 1999. Two of the fastest growing census tracts, 9709 and 9710, experienced the greatest increases in median household income. Consequently, they were among the wealthier tracts in 1999 after being among the least wealthy in 1989.

Population and household income growth has implications for local government revenues and expenditures. New residents bring increased costs for schools, public safety, and other services. But new housing and commercial development associated with population growth also brings increased property tax revenue along with revenue from other fees and charges.

To the extent that higher income households purchase more expensive housing, the revenue impact from property taxes on new homes is likely to be more significant in the census tracts where incomes are rising the fastest. Census tracts 9709 and 9710 appear to fit this profile with both relatively high population and household income growth between 1990 and 2000. However, higher income households may demand a higher level of public services as well.

Areas with high population growth but low or falling household income levels, such as census tract 9702, may have a smaller property tax revenue impact from new housing development. If these new households are mostly families with children, they may add considerably to local government spending requirements, particularly for schools. If these new households are mostly retirement age, however, they will have no impact on school spending but may add costs in other areas, such as public transportation and social services.

CHAPTER FOUR

SHIFTING SHARES OF PERSONAL INCOME

Key Findings:

- The composition of personal income changed dramatically between 1970 and 2002 in Greenwood County, the six peer counties, the state, and the Southeast.
- Unearned income (government transfers, dividends, interest, and rents) was a much higher share of state and local personal income in 2002 in Greenwood County than it was in 1970. However, the county's share of unearned income in 2002 was lower than in all but one of the peer counties, the state, and the Southeast.
- Increasing shares of unearned income can indicate positive economic conditions (such as rising dividends, interest, rents) as well as negative ones (Medicaid and unemployment payments).
- Government transfers were 8.6 percent of personal income in Greenwood County in 1970, rising to 20 percent in 2002. The share of dividends, interest, and rents increased from 8.9 percent in 1970 to 16.7 percent in 2002.
- As the share of unearned income rose since 1970, all areas saw corresponding large declines in net earnings as a share of personal income. Greenwood County's share declined from 82.4 percent in 1970 to 63.2 percent in 2002.
- Greenwood County was hit harder by the recent recession than its peer counties. It was the only county in which the current dollar value of net earnings of residents dropped in 2001 and 2002.
- Greenwood County is a regional employment center and was second only to much larger Sumter County in total earnings by place of work every year from 1970 through 2002.
- Greenwood County had the largest increase in real earnings *per worker* between 1990 and 2000 (20.1 percent), but was the only county in the peer group to see a decrease (-0.1 percent) in real earnings per worker between 2000 and 2002.
- Greenwood County had the third highest average manufacturing earnings per worker in the peer county group in every year from 1969 to 1999, exceeded only by levels in Darlington and Kershaw Counties. In 2000, Greenwood County's manufacturing earnings per worker exceeded both the state and Southeast averages by \$1,266 and \$609 per worker, respectively.
- Greenwood County and the other peer counties had strong growth in earnings from trade and services, but all were well below the state and Southeast average in earnings per worker in this sector.

The components of personal income reveal useful information about the structure of local, state, and national economies. Earnings are the largest share of personal income and fluctuate as employment and wage rates rise and fall. Unearned income also responds to larger economic trends. Some unearned income, such as dividends and rents, falls during economic downturns and when low interest rates prevail. Other forms of unearned income, such as transfer payments, may increase under those same conditions. Transfer payments track characteristics of the population (e.g., retired individuals receive Social Security and Medicare payments) as well as economic conditions.

SOURCES OF PERSONAL INCOME

State and local area personal income is comprised of earned income and unearned income received by individuals. Earned income includes:

- Wages and salaries,
- Supplements to wages and salaries (employer contributions for employee pension and insurance funds), and
- Proprietors' income (farm and nonfarm).

Unearned income includes:

- Dividends,
- Interest
- Rental income, and
- Personal transfer receipts.

Personal transfer receipts are government payments received by individuals for which no service is performed. Such payments include Social Security and disability insurance benefits, Medicare and Medicaid benefits, income support, unemployment and veterans' benefit programs, and federal student loans.

The sum of earned and unearned income is total personal income based on *place of work*. In other words, it represents the income of all individuals working in the state (or local area), regardless of whether they live there or not. The preferred measure is personal income *by place of residence*, however. In this case, personal income is residence-adjusted so that it reflects only the income of residents. All state and county personal income figures in this report are by place of residence. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis prepares annual estimates of state and local area personal income.

SOURCES OF PERSONAL INCOME IN GREENWOOD COUNTY

Personal income in Greenwood County increased steadily between 1970 and 2002 as the population and number of jobs in the county grew, and as prevailing wages increased. Total personal income in the county was \$168 million in 1970 compared with close to \$1.6 billion in 2002 (Table 4.1). The composition of personal income changed considerably over this period, however.

Table 4.1
Sources of Personal Income in Greenwood County, 1970-2002 (in \$1,000s)

Source of Income	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002
Total county earnings	\$172,715	\$247,901	\$427,529	\$554,715	\$775,510	\$1,034,121	\$1,276,556	\$1,284,458	\$1,270,032
<u>Less:</u> Contributions for government social insurance	12,053	21,938	41,084	61,139	90,017	125,361	148,151	147,917	148,082
<u>Plus:</u> Residence adjustment	-22,359	-22,994	-30,629	-37,556	-51,886	-87,555	-120,396	-120,970	-121,130
Net earnings by place of residence	138,303	202,969	355,816	456,020	633,607	821,205	1,008,009	1,015,571	1,000,820
<u>Plus:</u> Dividends, interest, and rent	14,996	27,675	57,031	120,957	165,408	196,320	261,723	263,221	264,774
<u>Plus:</u> Personal current transfer receipts	14,459	36,787	60,726	96,725	127,727	197,779	261,951	289,591	316,770
Total county personal income	\$167,758	\$267,431	\$473,573	\$673,702	\$926,742	\$1,215,304	\$1,531,683	\$1,568,383	\$1,582,364
Total county earnings	103.0%	92.7%	90.3%	82.3%	83.7%	85.1%	83.3%	81.9%	80.3%
<u>Less:</u> Contributions for government social insurance	7.2%	8.2%	8.7%	9.1%	9.7%	10.3%	9.7%	9.4%	9.4%
<u>Plus:</u> Residence adjustment	-13.3%	-8.6%	-6.5%	-5.6%	-5.6%	-7.2%	-7.9%	-7.7%	-7.7%
Net earnings by place of residence	82.4%	75.9%	75.1%	67.7%	68.4%	67.6%	65.8%	64.8%	63.2%
<u>Plus:</u> Dividends, interest, and rent	8.9%	10.3%	12.0%	18.0%	17.8%	16.2%	17.1%	16.8%	16.7%
<u>Plus:</u> Personal current transfer receipts	8.6%	13.8%	12.8%	14.4%	13.8%	16.3%	17.1%	18.5%	20.0%
Total county personal income	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

In 1970, net (residence-adjusted) earnings from persons living in Greenwood County were 82.4 percent of county personal income. But between 1970 and 2002, the portion of Greenwood County personal income derived from earnings dropped to 63.2 percent. The corresponding increase in the share of unearned income was due to a rise in the shares of transfer payments and other unearned income, possibly associated with increased unemployment benefits attributable to a downturn in textiles (Table 4.1).

TRENDS IN UNEARNED INCOME

Trends in unearned income in Greenwood County over the past 30 years are consistent with trends in the peer counties, the state, and the Southeast.

TRANSFER PAYMENTS

Since 1970, the share of personal income from transfer payments rose in Greenwood County and throughout the state (Table 4.2). Changes in federal welfare policies boosted payments to individuals from these programs in the early 1970s. In addition, as the average age of the county increased over the decades, the share of county income received from Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid also increased. Finally, the increase in unemployment insurance payments associated with the recent recession boosted transfer payments in 2002.

Table 4.2
County Transfer Payments as a Share of Personal Income, 1970-2002

	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002
Darlington	10.3%	16.9%	16.7%	20.4%	20.0%	21.0%	22.1%
Greenwood	8.6%	12.8%	13.8%	16.3%	17.1%	18.5%	20.0%
Kershaw	8.5%	13.1%	13.9%	16.9%	16.0%	16.9%	17.5%
Lancaster	7.3%	11.0%	14.0%	18.2%	18.5%	20.1%	21.7%
Laurens	9.2%	17.2%	19.4%	22.8%	20.7%	21.9%	23.6%
Orangeburg	11.5%	18.4%	17.9%	22.2%	22.8%	23.8%	24.8%
Sumter	8.8%	15.0%	13.9%	17.9%	18.7%	20.4%	21.2%
South Carolina	8.4%	12.7%	12.7%	15.8%	15.5%	16.6%	17.5%
Southeast	9.4%	13.1%	13.2%	15.5%	14.5%	15.3%	16.1%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Transfer payments as a share of personal income in Greenwood County and the six peer counties have moved together over the past 30 years (Figure 4.1). These closely-matched trends likely reflect both similar economic and population characteristics among the counties and changes in federal and state policies. Despite these similarities, over the past three decades Greenwood County's share of county personal income derived from transfer payments has been relatively low in comparison to levels in the peer counties.

In 1970, Greenwood County's share from transfer payments was 8.6 percent, which was close to the state average of 8.4 percent and the levels in Kershaw and Sumter counties as well. In 1970, the only peer county with a very low share of income from transfers was Lancaster County, at 7.3 percent of total income. By 1980, the share of

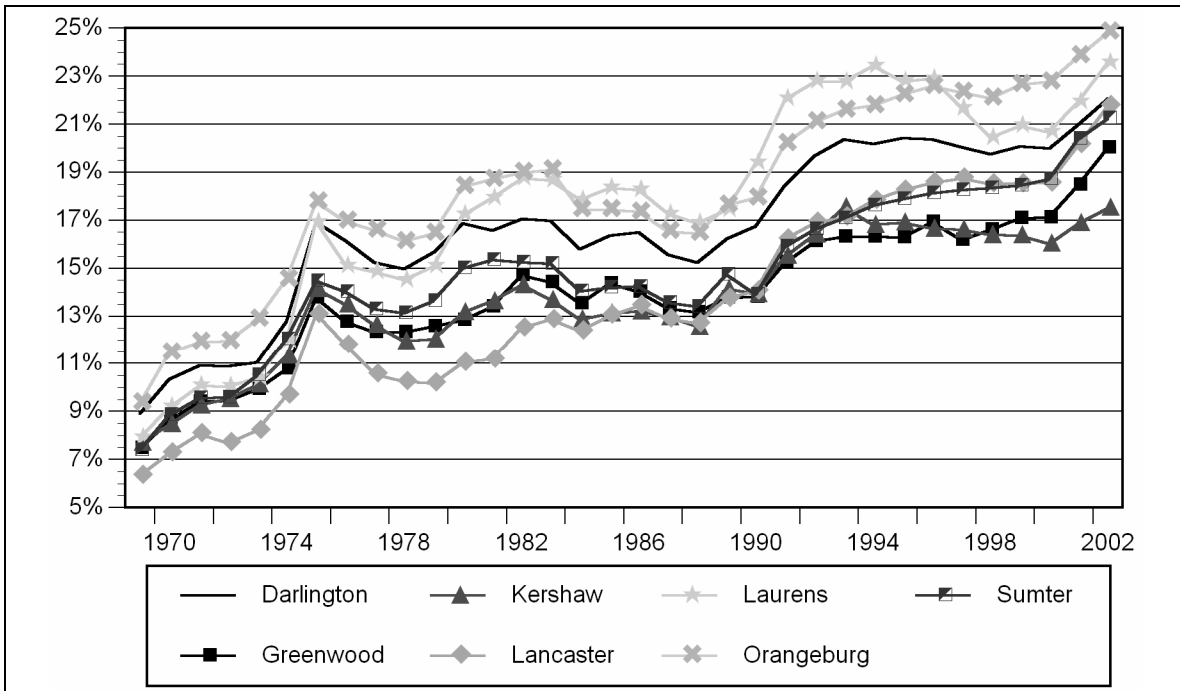


Figure 4.1. County Transfer Payments as a Share of Personal Income, 1969-2002

personal income from transfers had increased in every county, but Greenwood County's share of 12.8 percent was still only slightly higher than the state average of 12.7 percent.

Greenwood County's share of income from transfers increased during the 1980s and was at 13.8 percent in 1990. Although well above the state average in 1990, Greenwood County's share of income from transfers in that year was the lowest of any of the peer counties. From this time forward Greenwood County's share of income from transfers remained above the state average but at or near the bottom of the peer county group.

INTEREST, DIVIDENDS, AND RENTS

Unearned income such as interest, dividends, and rents is a good indicator of how well individuals' assets are working for them. When the economy is strong, dividends may be regular and properties are more likely to be fully rented. In a slow economy, however, companies may fail to pay dividends and a higher percentage of properties may remain vacant. Interest rates affect interest earnings, as does the overall performance of the market. The average age of the population also can affect the share of interest and dividends in personal income, as these types of investments tend to be large components of retirement income.

The overall upward trend in interest, dividends, and rents as a share of personal income in all areas likely reflects the combined effect of many years of significant stock market gains combined with an aging population drawing on its retirement investments rather than earnings from wages, salaries, or proprietorships (Table 4.3). The slight declines

Table 4.3
Interest, Dividends, and Rents as a Share of Personal Income, 1970-2002

	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002
Darlington	9.8%	11.5%	17.2%	14.9%	15.2%	14.6%	14.7%
Greenwood	8.9%	12.0%	17.8%	16.2%	17.1%	16.8%	16.7%
Kershaw	10.9%	12.9%	17.7%	17.1%	16.7%	16.6%	16.1%
Lancaster	7.2%	10.6%	15.8%	14.2%	14.5%	14.7%	14.5%
Laurens	9.7%	12.7%	17.1%	15.4%	14.8%	14.7%	14.8%
Orangeburg	10.9%	13.8%	17.6%	15.8%	15.7%	14.6%	14.3%
Sumter	8.7%	11.1%	15.4%	15.3%	15.8%	15.4%	14.9%
South Carolina	9.4%	12.1%	17.7%	17.1%	17.6%	17.2%	16.9%
Southeast	12.7%	15.9%	21.0%	19.1%	19.3%	18.8%	18.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

seen in 2001 and 2002 are likely related to low prevailing interest rates, which reduce income flows from fixed investments.

Greenwood County's trends in interest, dividends, and rents as a share of personal income closely track the state's figures overall. The only peer county that is similar in this share over time is Kershaw County. The other five peer counties have a lower share of personal income from these sources of unearned income, particularly since the mid-1990s. Four of these five counties—Lancaster, Laurens, Orangeburg, and Sumter—have significantly lower per capita personal income than Greenwood County.

TRENDS IN EARNINGS

Earnings from wage and salary employment (including supplements) and proprietorships are the largest share of personal income. There are two ways to look at earnings data: 1) net earnings as a share of personal income, and 2) total earnings by worker and/or by sector. The first approach relates to the earlier discussions in this chapter. The second approach serves as a bridge between personal income and employment, which is addressed in the next chapter.

Data for total earnings is presented for the period 1969/1970 through 2002, the latest year currently available for county estimates (state and national estimates are available through 2003). Long-term trends in earnings data by sector of the economy (e.g., manufacturing and services) are only presented for the period 1969/1970 through 2000. The Bureau of Economic Analysis substantially revised the way it estimates state and local area personal income beginning in 2001. The new NAICS approach to allocating income and employment by sector is a much better representation of the current U.S. economy than the earlier SIC classification system. Sector-based data in the two series cannot be compared directly, however.

NET EARNINGS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE

The personal income share of net earnings by place of residence shows how the earnings of county (or state) residents contributes to total personal income in that place, regardless of where those residents work. (This figure excludes earnings of individuals who work in one county or state but live elsewhere.) A relatively high share

of net earnings in county personal income may indicate that a large fraction of county residents are employed (rather than retired or school age or younger), for example. Alternatively, a high share of net earnings in personal income may reflect relatively high wage levels in the county.

All areas have seen a large decline in net earnings as a share of personal income since 1970 as unearned income has become a more significant portion of the personal income mix, Greenwood County included (Table 4.4). In recent years, transfer payments have represented a more significant proportion of unearned income in Greenwood County.

Table 4.4
County Net Earnings as a Share of Personal Income,* 1970-2002

	1970	1980	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002
Darlington	79.9%	71.6%	66.1%	64.7%	64.9%	64.4%	63.3%
Greenwood	82.4%	75.1%	68.4%	67.6%	65.8%	64.8%	63.2%
Kershaw	80.7%	74.0%	68.4%	66.0%	67.3%	66.6%	66.4%
Lancaster	85.5%	78.4%	70.2%	67.6%	66.9%	65.2%	63.8%
Laurens	81.1%	70.1%	63.6%	61.8%	64.5%	63.3%	61.7%
Orangeburg	77.7%	67.8%	64.4%	62.0%	61.6%	61.6%	60.9%
Sumter	82.5%	73.9%	70.7%	66.8%	65.5%	64.3%	63.9%
South Carolina	82.1%	75.2%	69.6%	67.1%	66.9%	66.3%	65.6%
Southeast	77.8%	71.0%	65.9%	65.4%	66.2%	65.9%	65.4%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

*Residence-adjusted.

TOTAL EARNINGS BY PLACE OF WORK

The second way to examine earnings data is to look at total earnings by sector of the economy. This approach is commonly used by economic developers and others concerned with employment levels and opportunities in a given area. Total county earnings, for example, includes the earnings by all individuals working in the county but not necessarily living there.

In Greenwood County total earnings by place of work were \$1.27 billion in 2002. Total dollar earnings and average earnings per worker provide information about the county economy. Wages and salaries are by far the largest component of total earnings in all counties and the state and Southeast.

Total dollar earnings. Within the group of peer counties, Greenwood County was second only to Sumter County in total earnings by place of work every year from 1970 through 2002 (Table 4.5). It is not surprising that Sumter County had the highest total earnings throughout the period. Sumter County is the most populous of the peer counties and is also a regional employment center.

But Greenwood County's relatively high dollar level of earnings is notable in comparison. Between 1970 and 2000, the county's population was lower than that in Sumter, Orangeburg, and Darlington counties. Greenwood County's relatively high level of earnings by place of work is due to the fact that the county has been—and continues to be—a regional employment center. In other words, more dollars are earned by

nonresidents working in Greenwood County than are brought into the county by county residents who work elsewhere. This fact is indicated by the negative residence adjustment to total earnings in Greenwood County shown in Table 4.1.

Greenwood County is a net “exporter” of earnings in terms of county personal income, which includes only the income of county residents. Of the peer counties, Sumter County is the only other county that exports earnings; the other peer counties all have net gains in personal income from individuals who work in other counties but bring their income home. Earnings from employment in Greenwood and Sumter Counties give an important boost to personal income in surrounding counties. Thus, when employment falls in these counties, there will be a reduction (or slowing of growth) in personal income in the surrounding counties.

Average total earnings per worker. Looking at average earnings per worker helps to bring the many millions of dollars in county personal income into focus. Average earnings per worker allow comparisons between counties, states, and regions of different size and with different economic structures. Earnings per worker also are linked to employment levels, employment by sector, and prevailing wage rates.

Greenwood County has fared well since 1970 in average earnings per worker when compared to its peer counties and the state average (Table 4.5, Figure 4.2). In 1970, earnings per worker in Greenwood County were above the state average and only slightly below those in Kershaw County, the highest of the peer counties in that year. But by 1990, Greenwood County had slipped within the peer county group, with earnings per worker over \$1,000 less than those in Kershaw and Darlington Counties and \$641 less than the state average. Steady increases in earnings per worker throughout the 1990s kept Greenwood County close to the state average throughout the decade. Over this 30-year period, most counties had double-digit growth in inflation-adjusted earnings per worker in each decade.

Recent trends in average earnings per worker clearly illustrate the impact of the recent recession on the county’s economy. Greenwood County saw the largest increase among the peer group counties in inflation-adjusted earnings per worker over the 1990s—20.1 percent. This growth rate was about twice as fast in the two previous decades, and exceeded growth in earnings per worker in both South Carolina and the Southeast.

Greenwood County did not fare as well in the recent recession, however. The county was the only one in the peer group to have an actual, albeit modest, decrease in inflation-adjusted earnings per worker between 2000 and 2002 (-0.1 percent). Loss of higher-wage manufacturing jobs is the likely culprit. Despite the drop in real earnings per worker since 2000, Greenwood County did not lose too much ground to the state average.

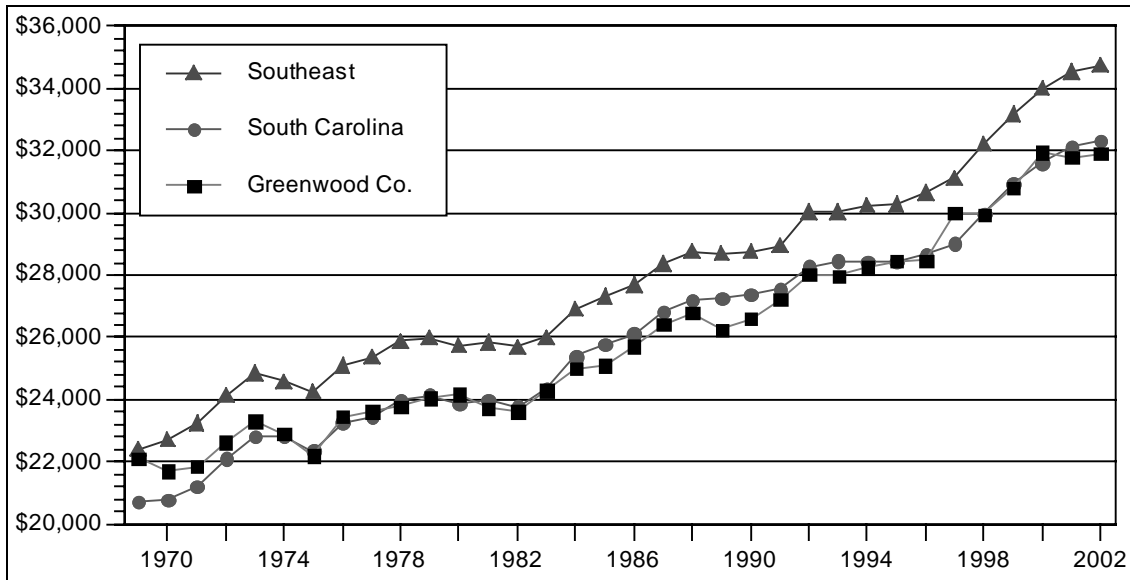


Figure 4.2. Average Total Earnings Per Worker, 1969-2002 (in 2000 dollars)

MANUFACTURING EARNINGS BY PLACE OF WORK

Between 1970 and 2000, Greenwood County maintained the highest dollar value of earnings from manufacturing when compared to its peer counties. The county had earnings of \$498 million from manufacturing in 2000 (Table 4.6).

Inflation-adjusted (real) growth in earnings from manufacturing was highly variable by decade and by county compared to growth in total earnings. Between 1980 and 1990, for example, Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens Counties all had declines in real earnings from manufacturing. Orangeburg and Sumter Counties, however, had significant increases in real manufacturing earnings over the same decade. Along with Sumter County, Greenwood County saw much greater increases in real manufacturing earnings over the 1990s than in the other peer counties.

On average, growth in real manufacturing earnings has slowed over the decades. This trend is clearest in the South Carolina and Southeast earnings growth rates. Although the state mirrored real manufacturing growth trends in the Southeast in the 1970s and 1980s, it lost considerable ground to the Southeast during the 1990s.

The general slowdown in growth in real manufacturing earnings is related to the decline in manufacturing's share of total earnings (Table 4.7). Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens Counties all saw significant declines in their county's share of total earnings from manufacturing between 1970 and 2000. Of the peer counties, only Sumter County had an increase in the manufacturing share of earnings over this period. South Carolina and the Southeast also had declines in manufacturing's share of total earnings since 1970, although the state's decline was larger than the region's.

Table 4.5
County Total Earnings, Earnings per Worker, and Earnings Growth, 1970-2000

	Earnings by Place of Work						Inflation-Adjusted Growth			
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2001	2002	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000	2000-2002
Earnings (in millions)										
Darlington	\$125	\$331	\$616	\$934	\$958	\$963	34.9%	23.1%	23.9%	-0.9%
Greenwood	173	428	776	1,277	1,284	1,270	26.1%	20.2%	34.3%	-4.4%
Kershaw	97	251	478	681	708	751	31.4%	26.0%	16.5%	5.9%
Lancaster	111	284	467	756	778	774	30.7%	9.0%	32.2%	-1.7%
Laurens	114	277	490	732	738	726	23.7%	17.0%	22.1%	-4.8%
Orangeburg	137	366	775	1,179	1,223	1,252	36.1%	40.2%	24.2%	2.0%
Sumter	196	490	1,064	1,649	1,654	1,715	27.5%	43.8%	26.5%	-0.1%
South Carolina	6,844	19,699	43,049	72,441	74,373	75,968	46.6%	44.8%	37.3%	0.7%
Southeast	120,510	353,209	752,800	1,359,751	1,412,857	1,447,878	49.3%	41.2%	47.4%	2.3%
Earnings Per Worker										
Darlington	\$5,419	\$12,810	\$22,962	\$31,837	\$33,328	\$33,561	20.4%	18.7%	13.2%	1.3%
Greenwood	5,978	13,071	21,713	31,941	32,554	33,223	11.4%	10.0%	20.1%	-0.1%
Kershaw	6,022	13,260	22,717	28,192	29,605	30,865	12.2%	13.5%	1.3%	5.2%
Lancaster	5,657	12,550	20,228	28,837	30,357	30,629	13.0%	6.8%	16.3%	2.0%
Laurens	5,387	11,811	19,550	27,282	28,307	28,692	11.7%	9.6%	13.9%	1.0%
Orangeburg	4,510	10,589	19,208	26,273	27,981	28,838	19.6%	20.2%	11.6%	5.4%
Sumter	5,395	12,192	21,774	29,288	30,366	31,667	15.1%	18.3%	9.8%	3.9%
South Carolina	5,722	12,900	22,354	31,616	32,916	33,664	14.8%	14.8%	15.4%	2.3%
Southeast	6,259	13,918	23,475	34,010	35,371	36,170	13.3%	11.7%	18.2%	2.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 4.6
County Manufacturing Earnings, Earnings per Worker, and Earnings Growth, 1970-2000

	Earnings by Place of Work				Inflation-Adjusted Growth		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
Earnings (in millions)							
Darlington	\$63	\$176	\$274	\$377	42.2%	3.5%	12.3%
Greenwood	100	222	315	498	12.9%	-6.2%	28.9%
Kershaw	55	148	205	239	38.0%	-8.2%	-4.9%
Lancaster	70	175	205	298	28.1%	-22.5%	18.4%
Laurens	61	139	195	255	16.1%	-7.0%	7.0%
Orangeburg	40	134	249	318	69.9%	23.0%	4.4%
Sumter	42	122	251	408	46.9%	36.0%	32.8%
South Carolina	2,272	6,343	11,259	15,443	42.2%	17.6%	11.9%
Southeast	28,792	79,120	140,783	207,323	40.0%	17.9%	20.2%
Earnings Per Worker							
Darlington	\$7,818	\$19,399	\$34,539	\$52,761	26.4%	17.9%	24.7%
Greenwood	6,570	15,704	28,251	45,068	21.8%	19.2%	30.2%
Kershaw	8,188	18,616	32,794	46,343	15.8%	16.7%	15.3%
Lancaster	6,125	14,604	26,077	43,746	21.5%	18.3%	36.9%
Laurens	6,269	14,865	24,840	38,097	20.8%	10.7%	25.2%
Orangeburg	6,401	15,352	24,093	35,568	22.2%	4.0%	20.5%
Sumter	5,769	13,294	24,873	31,839	17.4%	23.9%	4.5%
South Carolina	6,580	15,920	28,903	43,802	23.2%	20.3%	23.7%
Southeast	7,242	17,150	29,276	44,459	20.6%	13.1%	23.9%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 4.7
County Manufacturing Share of Total Earnings, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percentage Share Change 1970-2000
Darlington	50.3%	53.0%	44.5%	40.4%	-10
Greenwood	58.1%	52.0%	40.6%	39.0%	-19
Kershaw	56.2%	59.0%	43.0%	35.1%	-21
Lancaster	63.1%	61.9%	44.0%	39.4%	-24
Laurens	53.4%	50.1%	39.8%	34.9%	-19
Orangeburg	29.3%	36.6%	32.1%	27.0%	-2
Sumter	21.7%	25.0%	23.6%	24.8%	+3
South Carolina	33.2%	32.2%	26.2%	21.3%	-12
Southeast	23.9%	22.4%	18.7%	15.2%	-9

Real (inflation-adjusted) growth in average manufacturing earnings *per worker* was much more stable than growth in manufacturing earnings over time in all peer group counties. Hiring and layoff cycles keep earnings per (employed) worker from fluctuating as much as the total dollar value of manufacturing earnings. Nearly all counties, the state, and the Southeast had double-digit real growth in average manufacturing earnings per worker in each decade since 1970.

Over the past three decades, Greenwood County maintained the third highest average manufacturing earnings per worker of the peer counties, surpassed only by Darlington and Kershaw Counties. Manufacturing earnings per worker in Greenwood County were below the state and Southeast averages for all years between 1969 and 1999. In 2000, notably, Greenwood County's manufacturing earnings per worker exceeded both the state and Southeast averages by \$1,266 and \$609 per worker, respectively. As shown in Figure 4.3, manufacturing earnings per worker in Greenwood County remained close to the state average for most of the period.

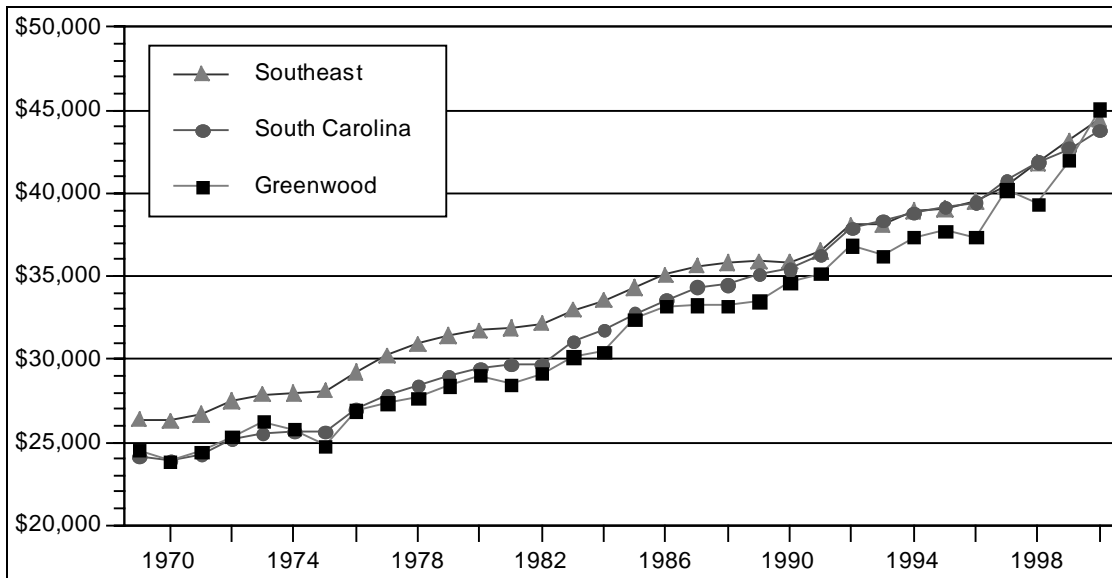


Figure 4.3. Average Manufacturing Earnings per Worker, 1969-2000 (in 2000 dollars)

TRADE AND SERVICE EARNINGS BY PLACE OF WORK

Total dollar earnings from the wholesale and retail trade and services sectors grew much more rapidly than manufacturing earnings since 1970. Most of the peer counties had real (inflation-adjusted) growth in earnings from trade and services well over 30 percent in each decade. Despite these high rates of growth in earnings, most of the peer counties were well below real trade and service earnings growth in South Carolina and the Southeast (Table 4.8). Earnings growth in the 1980s and 1990s was particularly strong.

Strong growth in real earnings from trade and services is related to the increasing share it has become of total earnings as manufacturing's share has declined. All of the peer counties had increases in the share of total earnings from trade and services between 1970 and 2000 (Table 4.9). Greenwood County's shift in this sector from 21 percent to 28 percent of total earnings was moderate when compared to higher rates in three peer counties (Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens). With the exception of Laurens County, the peer counties had smaller increases in their shares of total earnings from trade and services than the state and the Southeast.

Average earnings *per worker* from trade and services employment is the area in which Greenwood County noticeably has lagged South Carolina and the Southeast (Figure 4.4). In 2000, earnings per worker of \$21,942 in Greenwood County were well below those in South Carolina (\$24,826) and the Southeast (\$28,662). When compared to average earnings per worker in its peer counties, however, Greenwood County was at or near the top in most years. While the county had slow growth in real earnings per worker from trade and services in the 1970s and the 1980s, it had the highest growth rate of the peer counties between 1990 and 2000.

Table 4.8
County Trade and Service Earnings, Earnings per Worker, and Earnings Growth, 1970-2000

	Earnings by Place of Work				Inflation-Adjusted Growth		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	1970-1980	1980-1990	1990-2000
Earnings (in millions)							
Darlington	\$28	\$79	\$152	\$260	41.8%	27.1%	39.7%
Greenwood	35	94	198	353	35.4%	39.1%	45.7%
Kershaw	16	41	100	174	33.3%	59.4%	42.2%
Lancaster	21	49	121	210	20.1%	62.2%	41.7%
Laurens	21	52	133	238	24.6%	71.6%	45.7%
Orangeburg	42	112	240	385	36.6%	42.3%	30.9%
Sumter	44	120	273	437	40.6%	49.9%	30.9%
South Carolina	1,758	5,325	13,735	27,134	54.3%	70.9%	61.2%
Southeast	37,154	116,397	291,582	589,112	59.6%	65.9%	64.9%
Earnings Per Worker							
Darlington	\$3,937	\$8,913	\$14,440	\$19,977	15.3%	7.3%	12.9%
Greenwood	4,948	9,838	15,070	21,942	1.3%	1.5%	18.8%
Kershaw	3,489	7,866	13,660	18,335	14.8%	15.0%	9.5%
Lancaster	4,899	9,552	14,700	19,198	-0.7%	1.9%	6.6%
Laurens	4,007	8,747	14,925	20,838	11.2%	13.0%	13.9%
Orangeburg	3,754	9,231	15,124	19,456	25.3%	8.5%	5.0%
Sumter	3,914	9,451	15,141	20,203	23.0%	6.1%	8.9%
South Carolina	4,740	10,365	17,098	24,826	11.4%	9.3%	18.5%
Southeast	5,364	11,671	19,582	28,662	10.8%	11.1%	19.5%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Table 4.9
County Trade and Service Share of Total Earnings, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percentage Share Change 1970-2000
Darlington	22.7%	23.9%	24.6%	27.8%	+5%
Greenwood	20.5%	22.0%	25.5%	27.6%	+7%
Kershaw	16.3%	16.5%	20.9%	25.5%	+9%
Lancaster	19.0%	17.5%	26.0%	27.8%	+9%
Laurens	18.5%	18.6%	27.3%	32.5%	+14%
Orangeburg	30.4%	30.6%	31.0%	32.7%	+2%
Sumter	22.3%	24.6%	25.6%	26.5%	+4%
South Carolina	25.7%	27.0%	31.9%	37.5%	+12%
Southeast	30.8%	33.0%	38.7%	43.3%	+12%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

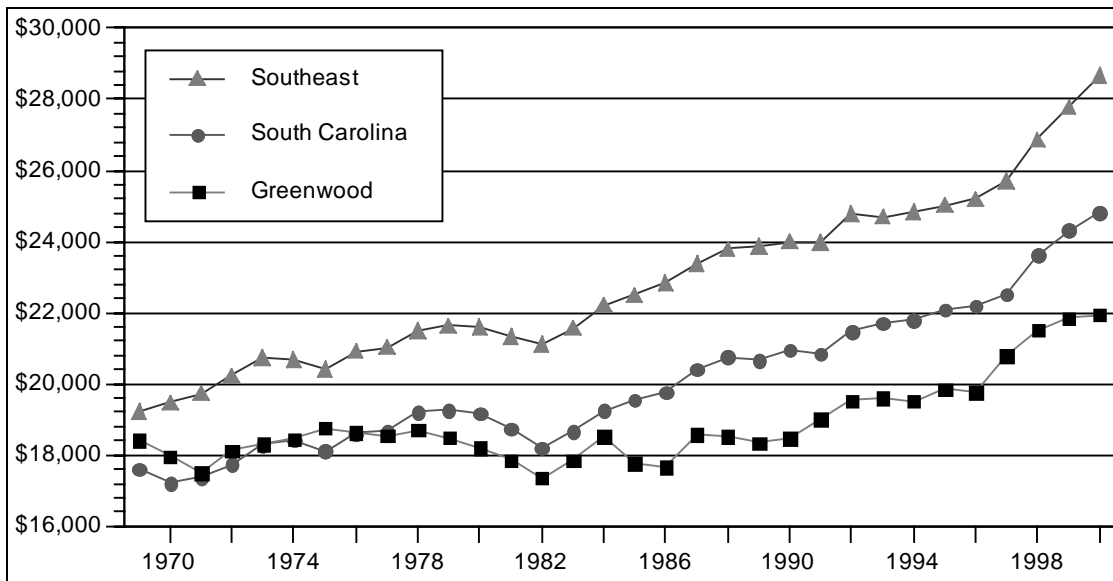


Figure 4.4. Average Trade and Service Earnings per Worker, 1969-2000 (in 2000 dollars)

CHAPTER FIVE EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

Key Findings:

- Greenwood County's annual unemployment rate was similar to statewide and regionwide rates until the mid 1990s. Starting in 1996, the county's unemployment rate rose rapidly and stayed higher, rising to 10.9 percent in 2003 before dropping slightly to 10.3 percent in 2004. In the peer county group, only Lancaster (11.3 percent) and Orangeburg (11.2 percent) counties had higher annual unemployment rates.
- Between 1970 and 2000, total manufacturing employment in Greenwood County dropped from 53 percent of total employment in 1970 to 28 percent in 2000. Despite this decline, the county still had the highest share of manufacturing employment within the peer county group in 2000.
- Trade and service employment as a share of total employment in Greenwood County increased steadily since 1970, rising from 25 percent to 40 percent in 2000. South Carolina (48 percent) and the Southeast (51 percent) had higher trade and service employment shares in 2000 than Greenwood County and the other peer counties.
- Greenwood County had relatively high growth in manufacturing employment between 1990 and 1995, but lost a similar percentage (-14.2 percent) over the next five years.
- Greenwood County's manufacturing workers are employed by a relatively small number of large employers. In 2004, Fuji Photo Film was the largest single manufacturing employer in the county with 1,574 workers.
- Employment in Greenwood County's agricultural sector has been nearly flat since 1970, ranging between 500 and 600 workers.
- Greenwood County has an exceptionally high level of net taxable retail sales per capita as a share of the state's level—well over 90 percent between 1996 and 2000. Peer county shares ranged between 40 and 60 percent.

This chapter examines long term trends in employment, including employment by sector and unemployment. Greenwood County's workforce is more susceptible to the ups and downs of the state and national economy because it has a relatively high share of both jobs and earnings in the manufacturing sector. This problem is clearly illustrated by changing levels in the county's unemployment rate toward the later 1990s. The county's strong retail sector holds promise for the future, however.

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Annual unemployment rates in Greenwood County were similar to statewide and region-wide rates in the early-to-mid 1990s (five to seven percent). But beginning in 1996, the county's unemployment rates rose rapidly and stayed higher than those of the state and the Southeast. Starting in 2000, Greenwood County's unemployment increased far more quickly than those in the state and region.⁴ (Figure 5.1)

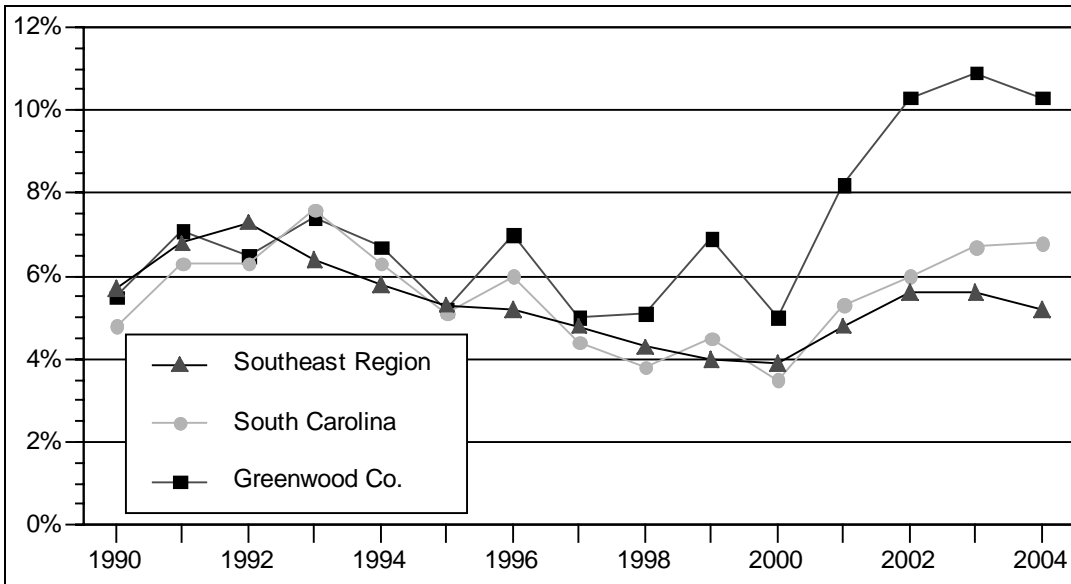


Figure 5.1. Annual Unemployment Rates, 1990-2004

Greenwood County and its peers had similar unemployment patterns throughout the 1990s. They all had declining unemployment rates through the mid- to late-1990s during the state and nation's strong economy. Then with the recession they experienced sharp upturns at the turn of the century. Along with the improving national and state economy, the 2004 county unemployment rates also show improvement (Table 5.1).

In March 2005, South Carolina still had high unemployment overall, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. At 6.8 percent unemployment it was the fourth highest in the nation. States with higher unemployment in March 2005 were Michigan (6.9 percent), Mississippi (7.0 percent), and the District of Columbia (7.8 percent).

⁴ The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics calculates state and local area unemployment rates. The South Carolina Employment Security Commission also prepares unemployment rates, using a different method of estimation. Both sources will give you reliable figures for general purposes, although data from the sources should not be mixed. Bureau of Labor Statistics data was used in this discussion to allow comparison with unemployment trends in the Southeast.

Table 5.1
Annual County Unemployment Rates, 1991-2004

	1991	1994	1997	2000	2003	2004
Darlington	7.7%	10.8%	7.2%	6.4%	9.4%	9.5%
Greenwood	7.1%	6.7%	5.0%	5.0%	10.9%	10.3%
Kershaw	8.4%	9.0%	5.3%	4.8%	7.7%	6.9%
Lancaster	8.4%	8.2%	5.3%	4.0%	11.2%	11.3%
Laurens	6.0%	9.1%	3.9%	3.3%	10.4%	9.5%
Orangeburg	9.4%	9.5%	8.0%	7.8%	11.6%	11.2%
Sumter	9.4%	7.9%	5.5%	4.7%	7.9%	8.7%
South Carolina	6.3%	6.3%	4.4%	3.5%	6.7%	6.8%
Southeast	6.8%	5.8%	4.8%	3.9%	5.6%	5.2%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

THE EMPLOYMENT MIX

This section focuses on trends in long term trends in county employment by sector between 1969 and 2000. As with earnings by sector, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis' revision of the personal income and employment series makes it impossible to compare data by economic sector starting in 2001 with data from earlier series.

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT

Like the state and the Southeast, Greenwood County has become less dependent on manufacturing employment over time. Manufacturing jobs as a share of all jobs declined from 55 percent in 1969 to 28 percent in 2000. However, the county is still much more dependent on manufacturing employment than either the state or region (Figure 5.2).

All of Greenwood County's peers are more dependent on manufacturing than either South Carolina or the Southeast (Table 5.2). However, only Darlington, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens Counties experienced a decline in the manufacturing share of employment similar to that of Greenwood County. Over the last 30 years, Orangeburg and Sumter have both been fairly constant in their level of manufacturing dependence, but both began the period with a much lower proportion of manufacturing employment than the other counties.

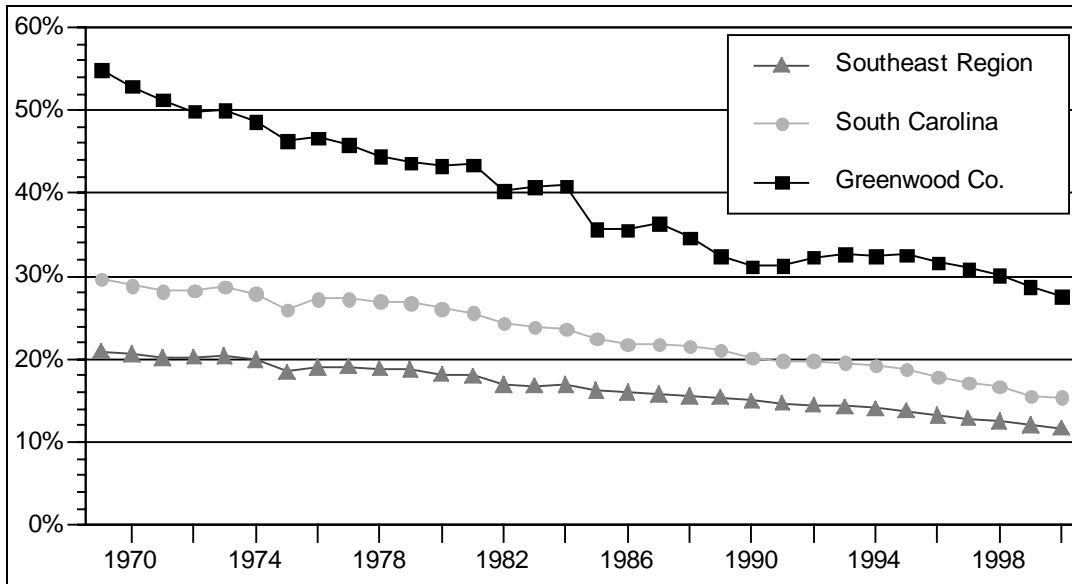


Figure 5.2. Manufacturing Jobs as a Share of All Jobs, 1969-2000

Table 5.2
County Manufacturing Jobs as Percentage of All Jobs, 1970-2000

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Darlington	35%	33%	35%	30%	30%	27%	24%
Greenwood	53%	46%	43%	36%	31%	33%	28%
Kershaw	41%	40%	42%	36%	30%	23%	21%
Lancaster	58%	53%	53%	44%	35%	31%	26%
Laurens	46%	39%	40%	37%	31%	29%	25%
Orangeburg	21%	22%	25%	26%	26%	23%	20%
Sumter	20%	20%	23%	21%	21%	22%	23%
South Carolina	29%	26%	26%	22%	20%	19%	15%
Southeast	21%	19%	18%	16%	15%	14%	12%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

TRADE AND SERVICE EMPLOYMENT

Again, paralleling state and regional trends, Greenwood County has become more dependent on trade and service employment. Trade and service jobs as a share of all jobs increased from 24 percent in 1969 to 40 percent in 2000. However, Greenwood County is still much less dependent on trade and services in the job mix than either the state or region (Figure 5.3).

As in Greenwood County, all of the peer counties are less dependent on trade and service employment than either the state or region. However, all have become more dependent on trade and service jobs over the past 30 years (Table 5.3).

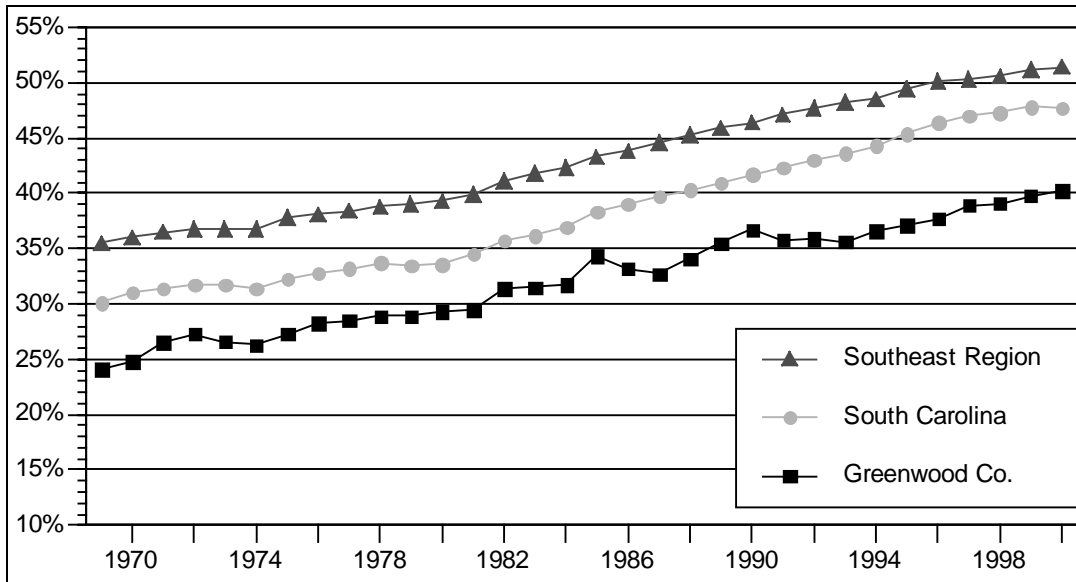


Figure 5.3. Trade and Service Jobs as a Share of All Jobs, 1969-2000

Table 5.3
County Trade and Service Jobs as Percentage of All Jobs, 1970-2000

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Darlington	31%	33%	34%	39%	39%	19%*	45%
Greenwood	25%	27%	29%	34%	37%	37%	40%
Kershaw	28%	30%	28%	31%	34%	38%	39%
Lancaster	22%	23%	23%	28%	36%	40%	43%
Laurens	25%	27%	25%	29%	37%	38%	43%
Orangeburg	37%	36%	35%	37%	39%	43%	45%
Sumter	31%	32%	32%	35%	37%	39%	39%
South Carolina	31%	32%	34%	38%	42%	46%	48%
Southeast	36%	38%	39%	43%	46%	49%	51%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

*Trade employment only; service sector employment suppressed.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH

During the first half of the 1990s, total employment in Greenwood County grew at a rate far greater than that of the state and at approximately the same rate as the Southeast region as a whole (Figure 3.4). The brisk job growth was primarily a result of exceptional growth (over 15 percent) in manufacturing employment during this period.

In the second half of the 1990s, Greenwood County experienced a large decline in manufacturing employment, losing over 14 percent of county jobs in that sector. Consequently, total employment in Greenwood County grew at a much slower rate during the 1990s than either the state or region.

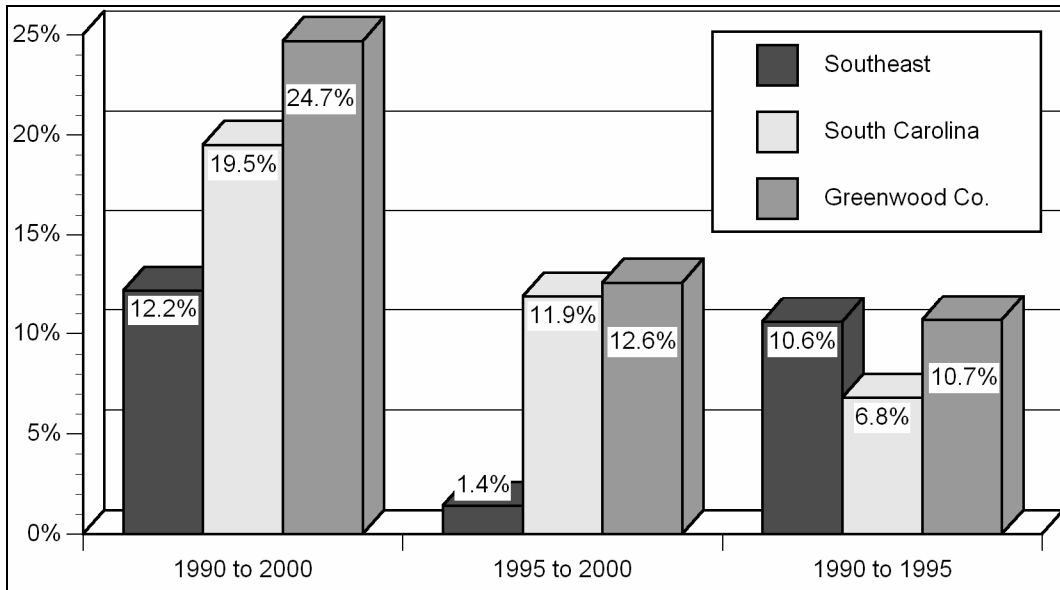


Figure 5.4. Total Job Growth in the 1990s

Of Greenwood County’s peers, Laurens County stands out as experiencing the slowest overall job growth during the 1990s (Table 5.4). The five remaining peer counties experienced job growth in the 10 percent to 16 percent range. However, the distribution of job growth throughout the decade varied among counties.

Greenwood, Laurens, and Sumter Counties experienced greater job growth in the first half of the 1990s; Kershaw, Lancaster, and Orangeburg Counties experienced most of their job growth in the second half. Darlington County had comparable rates of job growth in both halves of the decade.

Table 5.4
County Total Job Growth, 1990-2000

	1990-1995	1995-2000	1990-2000
Darlington	4.4%	5.5%	10.2%
Greenwood	10.6%	1.4%	12.2%
Kershaw	4.4%	11.2%	16.0%
Lancaster	4.0%	8.9%	13.3%
Laurens	9.0%	-3.4%	5.3%
Orangeburg	2.5%	9.1%	11.8%
Sumter	9.8%	5.8%	16.2%
South Carolina	6.8%	11.9%	19.5%
Southeast	10.7%	12.6%	24.7%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

MANUFACTURING JOB GROWTH

Within the peer county group, only Sumter County experienced an increase in manufacturing employment during the 1990s. All other peer counties experienced a larger decline in manufacturing employment than either the state or region. The pattern of manufacturing job losses over the decade varied from county to county (Figure 5.5, Table 5.5).

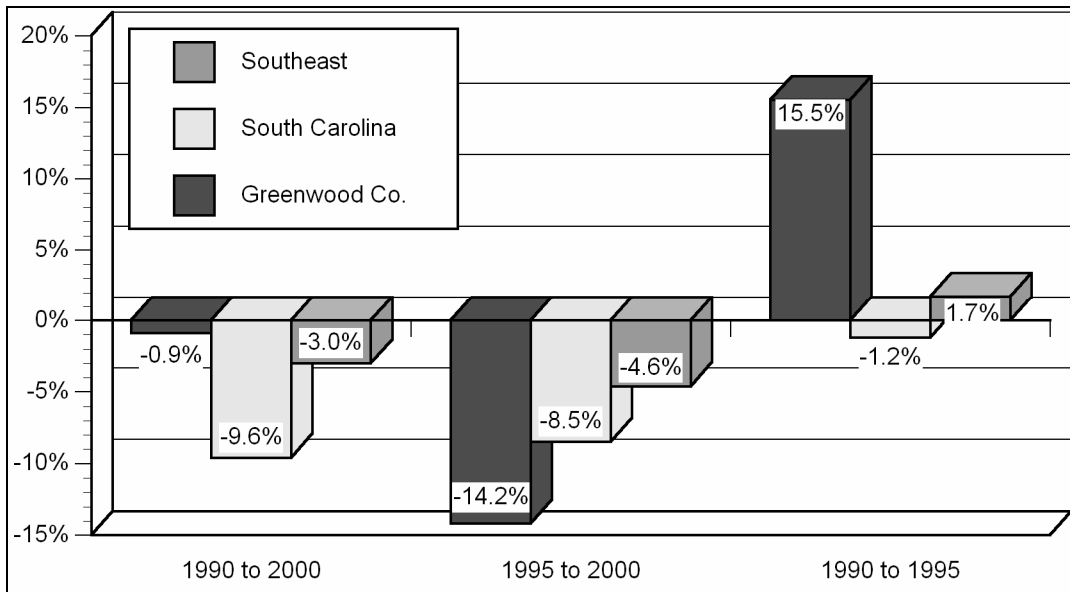


Figure 5.5. Manufacturing Job Growth in the 1990s

Table 5.5
County Manufacturing Job Growth, 1990-2000

	1990-1995	1995-2000	1990-2000
Darlington	-4.4%	-5.7%	-9.9%
Greenwood	15.5%	-14.2%	-0.9%
Kershaw	-17.5%	-0.2%	-17.6%
Lancaster	-7.4%	-7.0%	-13.9%
Laurens	4.2%	-18.0%	-14.6%
Orangeburg	-7.5%	-6.5%	-13.5%
Sumter	18.1%	7.5%	27.0%
South Carolina	-1.2%	-8.5%	-9.6%
Southeast	1.7%	-4.6%	-3.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

TRADE AND SERVICE JOB GROWTH

Like Greenwood County, during the 1990s the peer counties experienced lower growth in the trade and service employment than either South Carolina or the Southeast; although in every case trade and service job growth exceeded 20 percent for the period. Except in the case of Sumter County, growth appears to have been fairly balanced over the decade (Figure 5.6, Table 5.6).

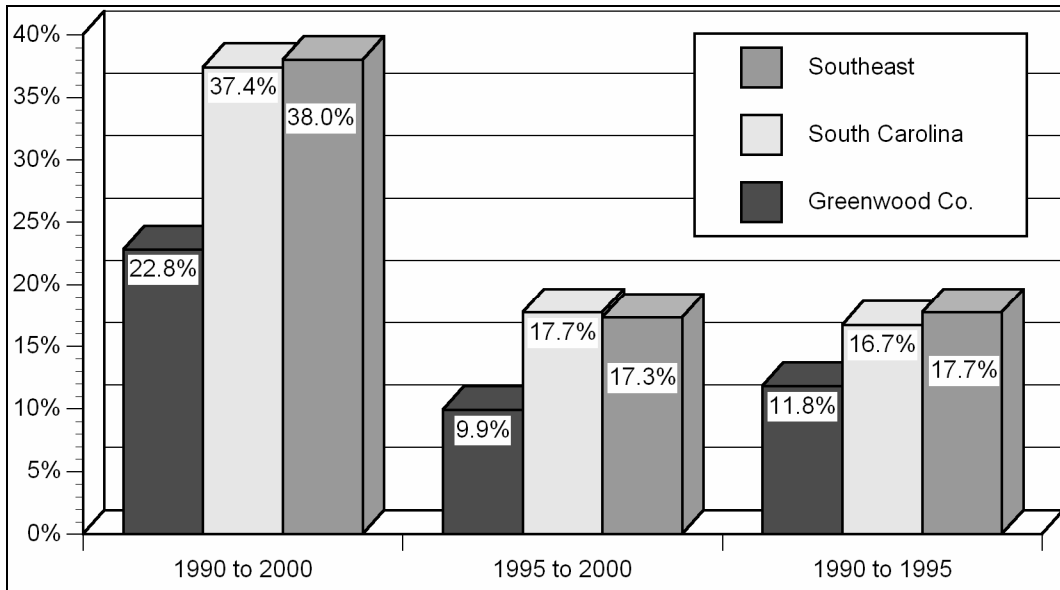


Figure 5.6. Trade and Service Job Growth in the 1990s

Table 5.6
County Trade and Service Job Growth, 1990-2000

	1990-1995	1995-2000	1990-2000
Darlington	2.1%*	2.4%*	25.3%
Greenwood	11.8%	9.9%	22.8%
Kershaw	15.8%	14.0%	32.0%
Lancaster	15.9%	15.3%	33.7%
Laurens	11.4%	9.3%	21.7%
Orangeburg	10.8%	14.2%	26.5%
Sumter	15.2%	5.6%	21.7%
South Carolina	16.7%	17.7%	37.4%
Southeast	17.7%	17.3%	38.0%

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. *Trade employment only; service sector employment suppressed.

EMPLOYMENT GROWTH SINCE 2000

Since 2000 Greenwood County, like most of its peers, has suffered employment decline as a result of the recession. From 2000 to 2003 private (nongovernment) employment in Greenwood County decreased by over 10 percent, the third largest decrease among the peer counties. Fortunately, Greenwood County’s employment decline in the last year of the period was much smaller than in the first two years. Darlington, Lancaster, and Laurens Counties have experienced employment declines that appear to have accelerated over the three-year period. Statewide employment decline appears to be slowing. Some of the largest counties have begun to experience increases in employment. Hopefully, employment trends in smaller counties such as Greenwood and its peers will follow those of the larger counties (Table 5.7).

Table 5.7
Annual Change in County Monthly Private Employment, 2000-2003

	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2000-2003
Darlington	-2.4%	-1.1%	-3.1%	-6.4%
Greenwood	-3.1%	-5.6%	-1.8%	-10.2%
Kershaw	-2.7%	1.5%	2.7%	1.5%
Lancaster	-3.8%	-2.9%	-7.0%	-13.1%
Laurens	-3.5%	-6.5%	-7.8%	-16.7%
Orangeburg	0.0%	-5.9%	-4.5%	-10.1%
Sumter	-6.3%	-2.3%	0.2%	-8.3%
Charleston	-1.2%	0.7%	2.3%	1.8%
Greenville	-3.1%	-3.4%	0.5%	-6.0%
Richland	1.5%	-0.2%	0.2%	1.5%
Spartanburg	-2.8%	-1.6%	-0.5%	-4.8%
South Carolina	-2.1%	-1.6%	-0.3%	-4.0%

Source: S.C. Employment Security Commission.

THE MANUFACTURING SECTOR

Many of Greenwood County's manufacturing workers are employed by a relatively small number of large employers. In 2004, Fuji Photo Film had the largest number of employees in the county (1,574). The county's next largest six employers all had between 500 and 700 employees each in 2001 (Table 5.8).

Greenwood County's seven major manufacturing companies also represented seven different subsectors of manufacturing, which ranged from animal products to chemicals, electrical equipment, and textiles. These seven manufacturing subsectors (including other smaller companies) represented about 56 percent of Greenwood County's total manufacturing employment (Table 5).

Notably, about 25 percent of the county's manufacturing employees were working in sectors in which nationwide employment declined more quickly than the national average for all manufacturing during the period 1998 to 2001. Textiles—including textile mills (-20 percent) and apparel manufacturers (-34 percent), saw the steepest declines in employment over this short period (Table 5.9).

Table 5.8
Major Manufacturing Employers in Greenwood County, 2004

Company	Employees	Major Product	NAICS
Fuji Photo Film	1,574	Photographic Products	325
Solutia	700	Nylon Fiber	325
Greenwood Packing Plant	675	Pork Products	311
Capsugel-Division of Pfizer	635	Gelatin Capsules	325
Greenwood Mills	600	Textiles and Apparel	313/315
Cutler-Hammer	550	Electrical Equipment	335
National Textiles	540	Textiles	313

Source: S.C. Department of Commerce.

Table 5.9
Major Manufacturing Sectors in Greenwood County, 2001

Sector	2001 Employment	Employment Growth (US) 1998-2001
311 Food manufacturing	500-999	0.4%
313 Textile mills	1,303	-20.0%
315 Apparel manufacturing	500-999	-34.2%
325 Chemical manufacturing	1,000-2,499	-3.4%
334 Computer & electronic product mfg	1,000-2,499	-5.2%
335 Electrical equip, appliance & component mfg	500-999	-4.8%
336 Transportation equipment	682	-8.3%
31 All manufacturing	9,846	-5.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

Greenwood County manufacturing is concentrated in many of the same sectors as the state and its peer counties (Table 5.10). Of the five manufacturing sectors with the greatest employment in the peer counties – textiles, chemicals, fabricated metals, electrical equipment, and transportation equipment – Greenwood County has at least 500 employees in four of them. These five sectors are also among those with the greatest employment in South Carolina.

Table 5.10
County Employment in Major Manufacturing Sectors, 2001

	Textiles	Chemicals	Fabricated Metals	Electrical Equipment	Transportation Equipment
State Employment Rank	1	2	4	8	3
Darlington	1,000-2,499	500-999	411	500-999	320
Greenwood	1,303	1,000-2,499	386	500-999	682
Kershaw	955	1,000-2,499	217	100-249	564
Lancaster	1,000-2,499	--	298	1,000-2,499	100-249
Laurens	1,550	250-499	2,071	--	--
Orangeburg	100-249	556	742	100-249	500-999
Sumter	1,000-2,499	432	2,000	1,000-2,499	1,725

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Farm employment in Greenwood County was almost constant over the past three decades (Table 5.11). Total county employment increased by almost 40 percent during the period. As a result, farm employment as a percentage of total employment decreased from 1.8 percent in 1970 to 1.3 percent in 2000.

Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens Counties, the least farm-dependent counties among the peers, have all experienced relatively flat farm employment over the period as well. In 1970, Darlington, Orangeburg, and Sumter counties were all much more farm-dependent than the other peers, but all had steep declines in farm employment over the next 30 years. In 2000, these three counties were little more farm-dependent than Greenwood, Kershaw, Lancaster, or Laurens.

Table 5.11
County Farm Employment, 1970-2000

	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000
Darlington	3,536	3,283	2,066	1,289	1,028	815	696
Greenwood	532	588	580	531	540	555	538
Kershaw	659	633	819	610	442	518	572
Lancaster	432	479	680	657	609	642	649
Laurens	1,032	1,197	1,211	1,058	994	1,006	977
Orangeburg	5,035	4,746	3,581	2,386	1,926	1,687	1,541
Sumter	3,003	2,854	2,086	1,371	1,258	938	705

Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

THE RETAIL SECTOR

Greenwood County's retail sector is quite strong compared to its peers, as evidenced by per capita net taxable sales. (Taxable sales capture most everyday retail sales transactions while excluding wholesale transactions.) Every year from 1996 through 2000, per capita net taxable sales were at least 90 percent of the state average. This share was much higher than per capita net taxable sales in any other peer county (Table 5.12).

Table 5.12
County Per Capita Net Taxable Sales as Percent of State, 1996-2000

County	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Darlington	50%	49%	47%	47%	46%
Greenwood	94%	94%	91%	92%	91%
Kershaw	57%	55%	58%	55%	56%
Lancaster	59%	57%	55%	57%	61%
Laurens	47%	45%	46%	42%	41%
Orangeburg	70%	69%	70%	67%	66%
Sumter	68%	67%	66%	67%	68%

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board.

The strength of Greenwood County's retail sector is also demonstrated by its large number of retail establishments compared to most of the peer counties. Greenwood County has more retail establishments than any of the peer counties except Orangeburg and Sumter, which have much larger populations than Greenwood (Table 5.13).

Table 5.13
County Retail Establishments, 1998-2001

County	1998	1999	2000	2001
Darlington	294	294	297	283
Greenwood	334	336	348	327
Kershaw	220	227	226	219
Lancaster	258	252	258	243
Laurens	196	197	199	186
Orangeburg	455	446	442	449
Sumter	429	427	419	436

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns.

Greenwood County's retail sector is also strong in terms of its average sales per establishment. Real (inflation-adjusted) net taxable sales per establishment in Greenwood County are much higher than in any of the peer counties (Table 5.14).

Table 5.14
 County Real Net Taxable Retail Sales per Establishment, 1998-2001 (In \$1,000s,
 1998 Constant Dollars)

County	1998	1999	2000	2001
Darlington	\$1,141	\$1,145	\$1,103	\$1,076
Greenwood	1,911	1,919	1,826	1,823
Kershaw	1,415	1,344	1,381	1,366
Lancaster	1,377	1,464	1,528	1,653
Laurens	1,683	1,573	1,499	1,479
Orangeburg	1,493	1,471	1,441	1,313
Sumter	1,714	1,741	1,767	1,576

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns and S.C. Budget and Control Board.

CHAPTER SIX HOUSING AND REAL ESTATE TRENDS

Key Findings:

- Greenwood County had a 14.2 percent increase in the total number of housing units between 1990 and 2000. But 13.3 percent growth in the county's owner-occupied housing was nearly half the rate it was for the state overall.
- Greenwood County had a larger share of renters in 2000 than in the state overall—21 percent of total occupancy compared to 16 percent statewide.
- The median value of owner-occupied housing in Greenwood County grew 15.2 percent between 1990 and 2000. This was only exceeded by 16.4 percent growth in Laurens County. In South Carolina, the median value of owner-occupied housing grew only 4.6 percent over the decade.
- The number and dollar value of residential construction permits issued in Greenwood County between 1999 and 2003 declined in most years.
- Despite its rural location, Greenwood County ranked last in its rate of home ownership in 2000 (69.2 percent) compared to the other peer counties.
- Manufactured homes accounted for Greenwood County's second-highest share of total housing units by type at 14 percent of total housing.
- Greenwood County had a 67 percent increase in the number of manufactured homes in the housing stock between 1990 and 2000.

As with employment and earnings, the composition, value, and growth in a county's housing stock yields information about the state of the local economy. This chapter presents selected data on Greenwood County's housing stock. The focus is on recent rather than historical data.

HISTORIC TRENDS

As a result of steady population growth between 1990 and 2000, Greenwood County had a 14.2 percent increase in the total number of housing units. The 2000 Census reported 28,243 housing units in Greenwood County at the end of the decade. Of those 28,243 units, 25,729 were occupied, giving the county a vacancy rate of almost nine percent.

Greenwood County had a noticeably larger share of renters than the state overall in 2000—21 percent of total occupancy compared to 16 percent statewide (Figure 6.1). Despite the county's lakes and forests, fewer homes in Greenwood County were

identified for seasonal use (nine percent) than on average in the state (16 percent). Clearly the state’s long and popular seacoast holds sway in the area of vacation homes. Occupancy rates by owners were similar between the county and the state average.

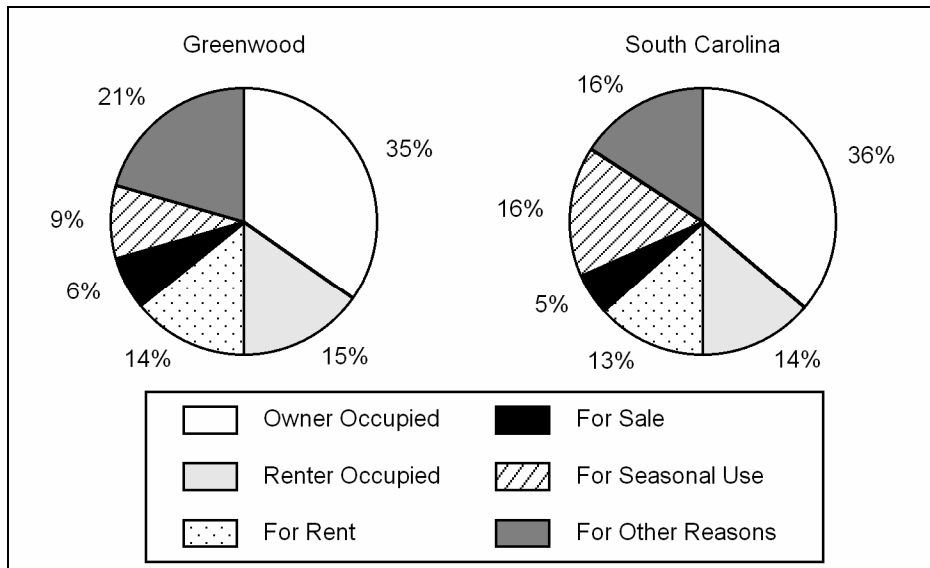


Figure 6.1. Housing Unit Occupancy, 2000

Between 1990 and 2000, owner-occupied housing and total housing units grew at a much faster pace in South Carolina than they did in Greenwood County. Over the decade, both South Carolina and Greenwood County leaned heavily toward growth in the number of rental (and vacant) units in the housing stock. Nationwide, owner-occupied housing increased the most rapidly between 1990 and 2000 (Table 6.1).

Table 6.1
Increase in Housing Units, 1990-2000

	Total Units	Owner Occupied	Renter Occupied	Vacant Units
Greenwood County	14.2%	13.3%	12.9%	25.4%
South Carolina	23.1%	26.1%	12.4%	32.3%
United States	13.3%	18.3%	8.3%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

VALUE OF OWNER OCCUPIED HOUSING

The median value of owner-occupied housing in Greenwood County is lower than in the state overall, but it is higher than in all the peer counties except Kershaw. In addition, between 1990 to 2000, Greenwood County surpassed almost all its other peer counties in growth in the median value of owner-occupied homes. Greenwood County’s 15 percent increase was just shy of Laurens County’s 16 percent increase (Table 6.2).

The high value of vacation property along South Carolina’s coast pushes up the median value of housing in the state. Housing values in Greenwood County likely also benefit

from their proximity to educational, civic, and recreational opportunities as well their proximity to relatively high wage manufacturing employers.

Table 6.2
Median Value of Owner-Occupied Homes, 1990 and 2000

	1990	2000	Percent Change
Darlington	\$65,407	\$61,418	-6.1%
Greenwood	\$66,876	\$77,029	15.2%
Kershaw	\$80,357	\$79,083	-1.6%
Lancaster	\$65,941	\$73,024	10.7%
Laurens	\$59,667	\$69,429	16.4%
Orangeburg	\$67,410	\$61,418	-8.9%
Sumter	\$75,953	\$68,813	-9.4%
South Carolina	\$81,559	\$85,349	4.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION PERMITS

Greenwood County's growth in real estate value might lead one to expect skyrocketing home construction. Although the cuts in interest rates during 2001 produced record residential construction growth in some areas, this did not occur in Greenwood County. Instead, the number of residential building permits dwindled for the county between 1999 and 2003 (Figure 6.2, Table 6.3). Growth and decline in the dollar value of residential construction permits issued over this same period followed the same general trends (Figure 6.3, Table 6.4).

Table 6.3
County Residential Construction Permits Issued, 1999-2003

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Darlington	185	169	167	194	204
Greenwood	415	384	245	262	192
Kershaw	359	314	402	329	391
Lancaster	245	367	360	310	362
Laurens	222	326	173	153	166
Orangeburg	208	234	385	394	263
Sumter	271	294	358	404	653

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

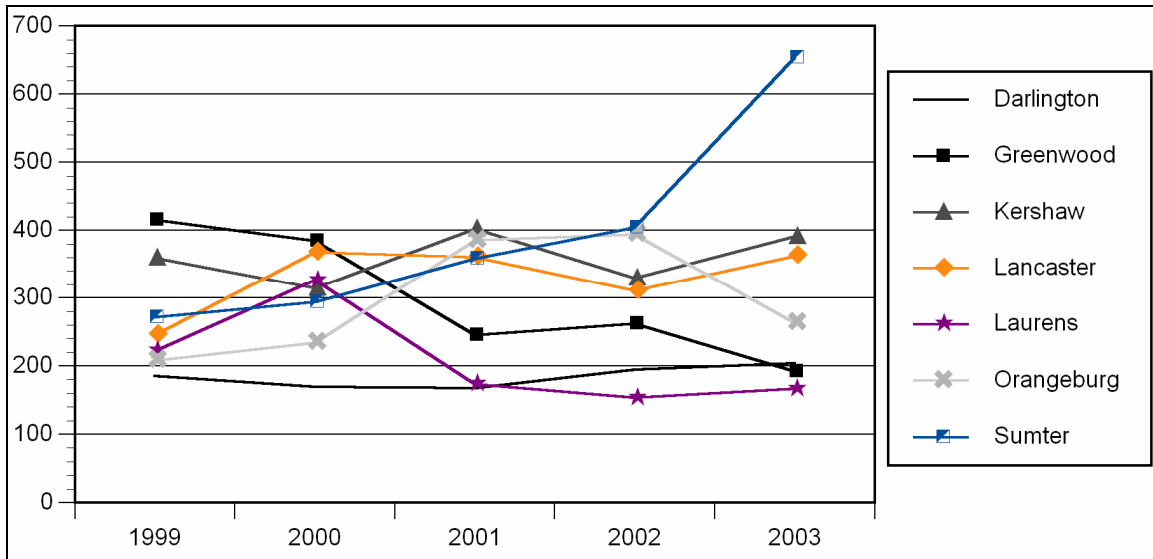


Figure 6.2. County Residential Construction Permits Issued, 1999-2003

Table 6.4
Value of County Residential Construction Permits Issued, 1999-2003 (in millions)

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Darlington	\$17.8	\$15.3	\$14.5	\$16.7	\$18.3
Greenwood	38.2	24.5	20.8	28.1	21.2
Kershaw	29.5	33.2	34.7	34.5	38.6
Lancaster	28.7	46.7	43.9	43.9	47.7
Laurens	19.2	29.8	17.2	17.2	21.9
Orangeburg	16.4	18.8	21.2	25.3	21.3
Sumter	26.0	28.2	32.8	36.4	55.2

Source: Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

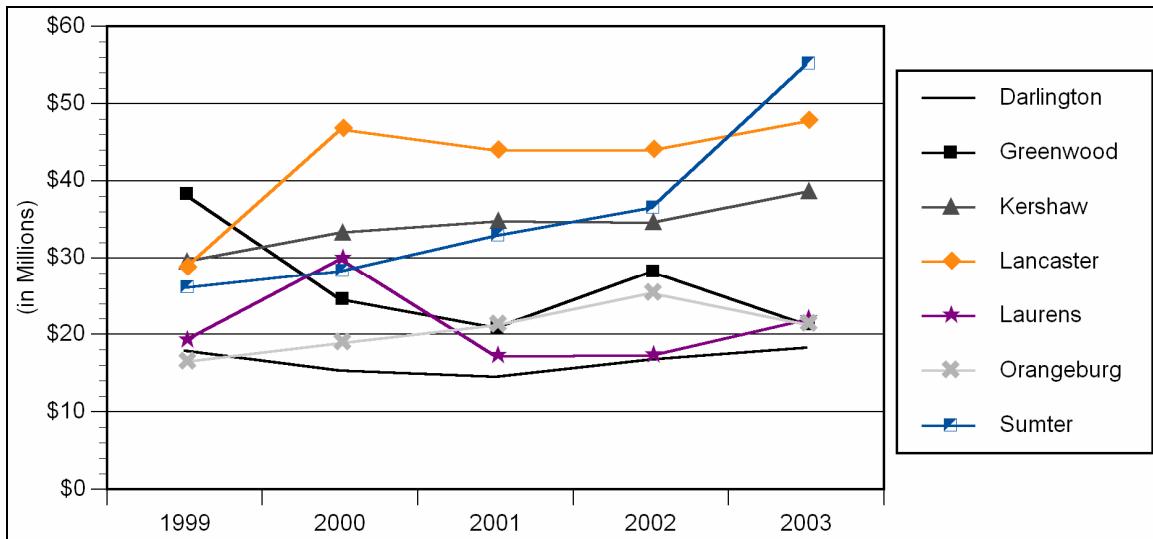


Figure 6.3. Value of County Residential Construction Permits, 1999-2003

HOME OWNERSHIP RATES

Greenwood County ranked last in rates of home ownership compared to its peer counties and the state (Figure 6.4, Table 6.5). Sumter County’s low rate of home ownership is likely influenced by the presence of Shaw Air Force Base and its transient population. In Greenwood County, however, low rates of home ownership may be more closely linked to the presence of former mill villages and other older housing stock that is used as rentals.

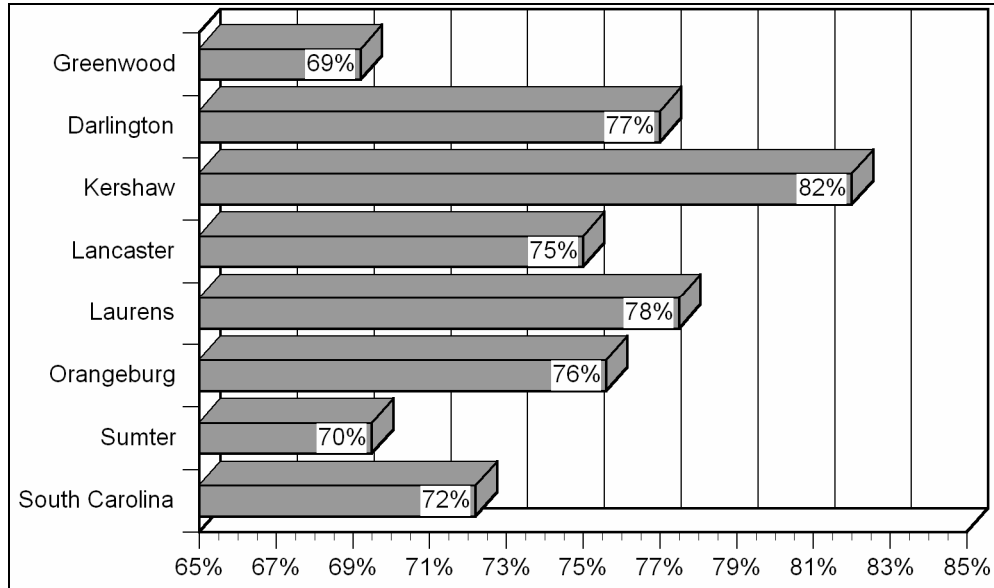


Figure 6.4. County Home Ownership Rates, 2000

Table 6.5
County Home Ownership Rates, 2000

County	Share
Greenwood	69.2%
Sumter	69.5%
South Carolina	72.2%
Lancaster	75.0%
Orangeburg	75.6%
Darlington	77.0%
Laurens	77.5%
Kershaw	82.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

HOUSING TYPES

Greenwood County contains a variety of housing types. The 2000 Census counted one-unit detached and one-unit attached houses, multiple units, mobile homes, and boats/RVs/vans. Single unit detached housing accounted for 67 percent of the residential housing in the county in 2000: Manufactured housing (e.g., mobile homes) accounted for the second highest percentage of housing units in that year. Greenwood County’s

percentage share of manufactured housing at 14.2 percent is slightly less than the state average of 20.3 percent (Figure 6.5).

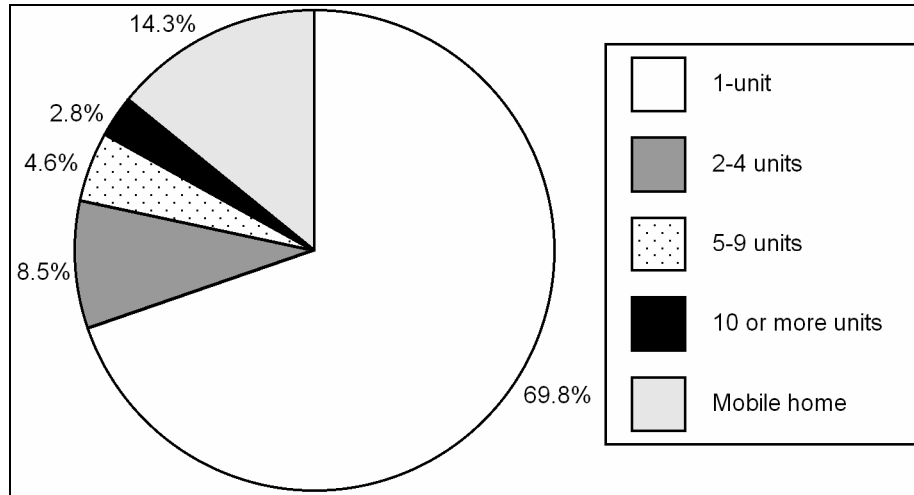


Figure 6.5. Greenwood County Housing Types, 2000

Single unit dwellings have dominated the Greenwood housing market for many years, but the largest growing segment of the county housing market is the manufactured housing sector. These homes are less expensive than stick-built housing and easier to site on rural parcels. Greenwood County saw a 66.8% increase in the number of manufactured homes in the housing stock between 1990 and 2000 (Figure 6.6).

AGE AND CONDITION OF THE HOUSING STOCK

Greenwood County has a relatively older housing stock as compared to the state as a whole. In 2000, most of the houses within the county had been built before 1980. Almost 21 percent of Greenwood County's houses were built between 1940 and 1959 (Figure 6.7).

Greenwood County has improved some of its structural concerns in the areas of plumbing and telephone service, but from 1990 to 2000 there was an increase (albeit on a very small base) in the number of housing units that lacked complete kitchen facilities (Table 6.6).

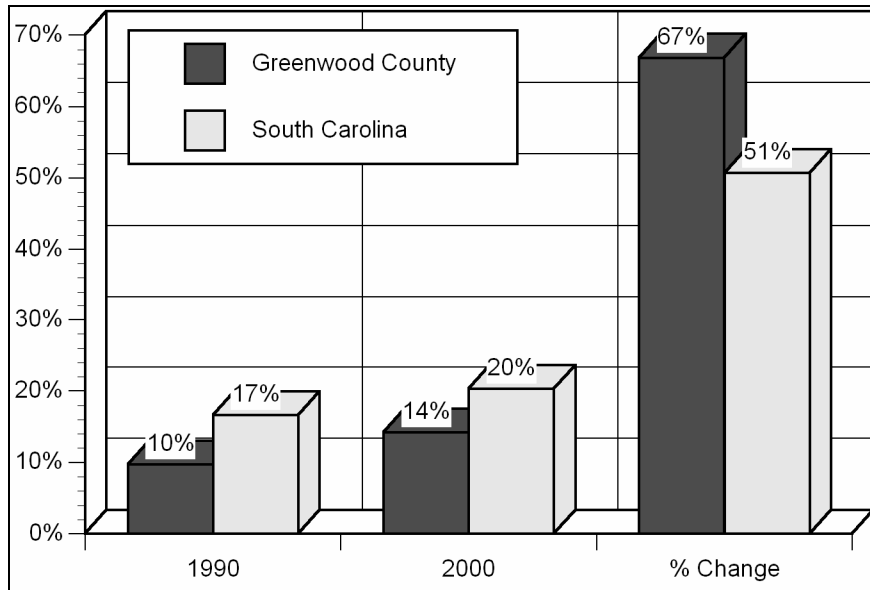


Figure 6.6. Manufactured Home Share of Total Housing, 2000

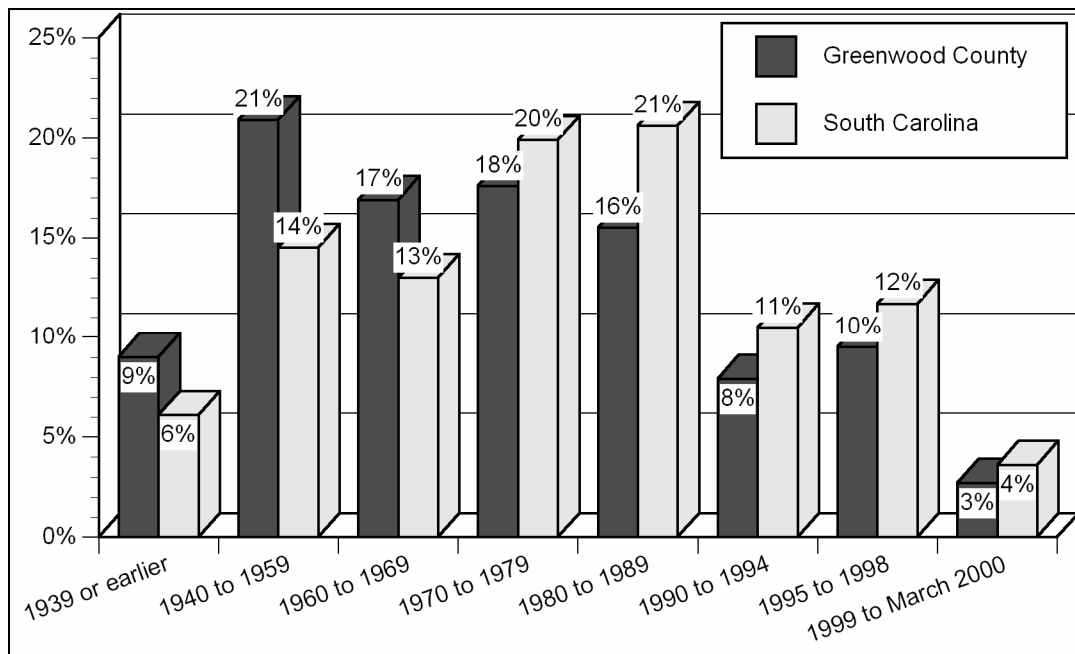


Figure 6.7. Age of Housing in Greenwood County by Construction Date

Table 6.6
Share of Housing Units Lacking Various Quality Measures, 1990 and 2000

	Plumbing			Kitchen			Telephone		
	1990	2000	% Chg.	1990	2000	% Chg.	1990	2000	% Chg.
Greenwood County	0.7%	0.5%	-27.9%	0.9%	0.9%	16.8%	10.9%	5.8%	-39.8%
South Carolina	1.3%	0.6%	-42.7%	1.0%	0.5%	-30.8%	9.1%	4.2%	-44.4%
United States	0.8%	0.6%	-7.0%	0.7%	0.7%	7.0%	5.2%	2.4%	-46.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

CHAPTER SEVEN SOCIAL TRENDS

Key Findings:

- Greenwood County is challenged by social issues as well as economic ones. In 2003, 3.7 percent of the births in the county were to teens aged 14 to 17, higher than the state average of 3 percent and higher than the level in any of the peer counties.
- In 2003, 48.1 percent of births in Greenwood County were to single mothers of any age—higher than the state average of 41.1 percent. Births to single mothers have increased statewide in recent decades.
- Over 34 percent of Greenwood County’s families were headed by single parents in 2000. The state average was 31.3 percent.
- In 1999 there was an income difference of over \$35,000 a year between single-parent and married households in Greenwood County. But the county had somewhat higher average incomes for both types of households than in the other peer counties.
- The percentage of children in families in poverty increased in Greenwood County between 1969 and 2003. This share decreased in four peer counties and statewide over the same period.
- Greenwood County schools, along with those in Kershaw and Laurens counties, had the largest declines in the percentage of pupils who failed grades 1 and 3 among the peer counties between 2002 and 2004.
- Students in Greenwood County had above-median performance on the grade 3 and grade 8 ELA and math portions of the PACT in 2002 and 2005. In 2005, Greenwood County ranked ninth out of 46 counties with nearly 80 percent of grade 8 students meeting at least basic standards on the ELA portion of the PACT. In math the county ranked fifth, with 75 percent of students meeting standards.
- Greenwood County’s rank in high school dropouts improved dramatically over the last two decades. The county had the lowest percentage of high school dropouts in 2003 compared to its peers (27.9 percent). The state average was higher at 31.2 percent.

A large portion of this report has focused on the economic challenges facing Greenwood County, with an emphasis on income, earnings, and employment. But as the county grows into the future it will continue to face a variety of social challenges as well.

While population change and swings in the larger economy will drive some of these issues, others may stem from pre-existing conditions. The county's younger generations will have to meet both types of challenges in the coming years.

This chapter highlights issues and trends that raise concerns about the welfare of children and families in Greenwood County and elsewhere. The discussion is not meant to be comprehensive, nor does it delve into causes. It is intended instead to raise questions and put a more personal face on the economic statistics presented in the earlier chapters of this report. Unless otherwise identified, data in this chapter is from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board's *South Carolina Kid's Count 2003 Trend Data* and *Kid's Count* state and county reports for 2005, which are compiled from a variety of sources. The latest available year of data varies depending on the source. Other data sources are identified on tables.

TEEN PREGNANCY AND BIRTHS

Numbers of teen pregnancies and teen births have decreased statewide and in Greenwood County since 1980. Between 1980 and 2003 the total number of teen pregnancies and births declined dramatically—well over 50 percent in some counties and over 40 percent statewide. Some of this decrease is due to smaller numbers of females under 18 in the state's population, however. Thus, a more informative measure is the share of total pregnancies and births by teens.

In 1980, 6.4 percent of total births in Greenwood County were to teens aged 14 to 17. By 2003 this number had dropped to 3.7 percent. Statewide, the teen pregnancy rate was 5.2 percent in 1980 and 3.0 percent in 2003. In Greenwood County and many others, most of this progress was made since 1990. In both 1980 and 2003, however, Greenwood County had the highest rate of teen pregnancy of all the peer counties (Table 7.1).

Table 7.1
Teen Pregnancy (Ages 14-17) By County, 1980-2003

	Number			% Change		Share of Total		
	1980	1990	2003	1980-03	1990-03	1980	1990	2003
Darlington	104	97	58	-44.2%	-40.2%	4.4%	4.6%	3.3%
Greenwood	133	122	71	-46.6%	-41.8%	6.4%	6.5%	3.7%
Kershaw	66	53	47	-28.8%	-11.3%	4.5%	4.1%	3.2%
Lancaster	88	101	40	-54.5%	-60.4%	4.6%	6.0%	2.5%
Laurens	111	125	67	-39.6%	-46.4%	5.7%	6.9%	3.4%
Orangeburg	232	157	83	-64.2%	-47.1%	6.2%	5.1%	2.8%
Sumter	210	153	104	-50.5%	-32.0%	5.9%	4.9%	3.3%
South Carolina	6,079	5,435	3,405	-44.0%	-37.4%	5.2%	5.1%	3.0%

In 2003, 56 births in Greenwood County were to mothers less than 18 years old. This was 6.6 percent of total births in the county and second only to Laurens County among the peer group. About 86 percent of these births were to single mothers compared to 93 percent statewide. In South Carolina only 4.6 percent of births were to mothers less than 18 (Table 7.2).

Table 7.2
Births to Mothers Less than 18 Years Old by County, 1980-2003

	Number			% Change		Share of Total		
	1980	1990	2003	1980-03	1990-03	1980	1990	2003
Darlington	97	78	49	-49.5%	-37.2%	10.4%	8.0%	5.8%
Greenwood	82	85	56	-31.7%	-34.1%	9.4%	9.1%	6.6%
Kershaw	42	36	32	-23.8%	-11.1%	6.8%	5.5%	4.6%
Lancaster	86	74	35	-59.3%	-52.7%	10.3%	8.5%	4.6%
Laurens	73	90	55	-24.7%	-38.9%	9.3%	10.0%	6.7%
Orangeburg	173	104	61	-64.7%	-41.3%	11.5%	7.1%	4.8%
Sumter	148	107	86	-41.9%	-19.6%	8.3%	5.6%	5.2%
South Carolina	4,291	3,807	2,567	-40.2%	-32.6%	8.3%	6.5%	4.6%

Many more births were to older teens than to those under 18. In Greenwood County in 2003, 84 babies were born to mothers aged 18 and 19. These births were 9.9 percent of total births in the county. In South Carolina 8.7 percent of all births were to teens aged 18 and 19. Just over 85 percent of all babies born to mothers under age 20 in 2003 were born to single mothers.

SINGLE MOTHERS AND SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES

As both divorce and single parenthood have become more widely accepted, the share of babies born to single mothers and the share of single-parent families has increased by a large amount in South Carolina.

Single mothers of any age have a sizable fraction of the total births in South Carolina. In 2003, 41.1 percent were to single women. Greenwood County and all of its peers (except Kershaw County) had a higher share of births to single women than the state average. Greenwood County had 48.1 percent of all births to single women in 2003. Among the peer counties, only Darlington, Laurens, and Orangeburg counties exceeded this level. The share of births to single mothers has increased dramatically since 1980. In that year, Greenwood County had only 22.5 percent of total births to single mothers, slightly below the state average of 22.9 percent (Table 7.3).

Table 7.3
Births to Single Mothers by County, 1980-2003 (paternity-acknowledged births included)

	Number			% Change		Share of Total		
	1980	1990	2003	1980-03	1990-03	1980	1990	2003
Darlington	264	380	423	60.2%	11.3%	28.2%	38.7%	50.2%
Greenwood	196	336	408	108.2%	21.4%	22.5%	35.9%	48.1%
Kershaw	118	200	259	119.5%	29.5%	19.2%	30.4%	37.1%
Lancaster	176	336	318	80.7%	-5.4%	21.2%	38.8%	41.7%
Laurens	194	373	398	105.2%	6.7%	24.7%	41.4%	48.7%
Orangeburg	515	638	739	43.5%	15.8%	34.3%	43.7%	58.7%
Sumter	416	647	740	77.9%	14.4%	23.5%	34.0%	44.8%
South Carolina	11,913	19,097	22,786	91.3%	19.3%	22.9%	32.7%	41.1%

Total births to single mothers include babies whose fathers have formally acknowledged paternity but have not married the mothers. Single mothers with paternity-acknowledged babies may have more access to TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy

Families) and court-ordered child support than mothers without it. These sources of funds improve family welfare.

About 26 percent of total births in South Carolina in 2003 were to single women without paternity acknowledgment (Table 7.4). The corresponding figure for Greenwood County was 34 percent and ranks the county third highest among its peer counties. Another way to look at this information is to note that about 64 percent of births to single women in South Carolina in 2003 did not have paternity acknowledged. The share for Greenwood County is higher at 72 percent.

Table 7.4
Births to Single Mothers by County, 1960-2003 (paternity-acknowledged births excluded)

	2003 Births	2003 Share	1990 Share	1960 Share
Darlington	319	37.9%	34.1%	13.1%
Greenwood	293	34.5%	34.4%	9.8%
Kershaw	151	21.6%	28.6%	11.4%
Lancaster	168	22.0%	28.6%	9.5%
Laurens	265	32.4%	38.4%	11.2%
Orangeburg	405	32.2%	39.3%	18.9%
Sumter	671	40.6%	30.9%	10.3%
South Carolina	14,520	26.2%	28.7%	12.3%

In 2000, single-parent families (female and male) made up between 27 percent and 40 percent of all families in the state and the peer counties. Greenwood County's share was 34.2 percent. These county shares were double or triple their levels in 1970 and 1980 (Table 7.5).

Table 7.5
Single-Parent Families by County, 1970-2000

	1970	1980	1990	2000
Darlington	17.0%	20.8%	31.1%	38.2%
Greenwood	12.9%	18.9%	26.8%	34.2%
Kershaw	13.0%	17.1%	19.5%	27.2%
Lancaster	11.3%	15.6%	25.8%	32.9%
Laurens	13.6%	18.2%	24.4%	33.0%
Orangeburg	17.0%	23.3%	32.1%	40.3%
Sumter	15.9%	20.6%	26.2%	34.0%
South Carolina	14.5%	18.9%	25.1%	31.3%

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board.

INCOME CHALLENGES AND CHILDREN IN POVERTY

Differences in household income are one of the main challenges for single parents when compared to married households. In South Carolina in 1999, average household income for married couples was more than twice the level it was in single-parent households. Despite the huge difference in average household incomes, single-parent households in Greenwood County had a somewhat higher income, on average, than they did in the other peer counties (Table 7.6). Whether this modest gain was maintained during through the recent recession is yet unknown.

Table 7.6
County Household Income Differences, 1999

	Single Parent	Married	Difference
Darlington	\$22,778	\$55,969	\$33,191
Greenwood	24,596	59,694	35,098
Kershaw	23,854	59,239	35,385
Lancaster	22,347	55,894	33,547
Laurens	20,586	55,089	34,503
Orangeburg	21,032	55,109	34,077
Sumter	23,199	57,630	34,431
South Carolina	24,322	64,607	40,285

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board.

Income differences between single-parent and two-parent households raise the issue of child poverty. Greenwood County ranked fifth among the peer counties in 1999 and 2003 in the percentage of children age 0 to 17 living in families in poverty. The county's share of 19.9 percent in 2003 just exceeded the state average of 19.8 percent. Statewide and in all peer counties except Darlington, the share of children in poverty increased between 1999 and 2003. Since 1969, the share of children in poverty increased in Greenwood, Lancaster, and Laurens counties. In the remaining peer counties and statewide, child poverty decreased substantially over the same period (Table 7.7).

The share of children living near the poverty limit is discouraging, both statewide and in Greenwood County and its peers. Greenwood County had nearly 46 percent of its children in families with incomes below 200 percent of the poverty limit in 1999. Intercensal poverty estimates for 2003 show small to moderate increases of the share of children in families in poverty—a likely result of the recent recession.

Table 7.7
County Share of Children under Age 18 in Families in Poverty, 1969-1999

	Below 100% Poverty Level					Below 200%
	1969	1979	1989	1999	2003	1999
Darlington	36.4%	29.4%	26.5%	27.0%	26.4%	52.9%
Greenwood	16.2%	17.4%	21.4%	18.2%	19.9%	45.6%
Kershaw	27.1%	19.3%	16.5%	17.2%	17.6%	40.6%
Lancaster	18.8%	13.4%	21.1%	16.9%	19.8%	47.0%
Laurens	19.8%	13.5%	17.8%	20.1%	21.7%	46.1%
Orangeburg	46.8%	34.3%	32.5%	27.6%	27.9%	53.6%
Sumter	38.5%	29.3%	27.5%	21.7%	23.3%	49.1%
South Carolina	28.7%	21.2%	21.0%	18.8%	19.8%	42.9%

Source: U.S. Censuses (decennial) and U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates, Estimates for South Carolina Counties, 2003.

ACADEMIC CHALLENGES

Increasing educational attainment is a good indicator of economic progress in a county or state. Persons with a higher level of education are more likely to obtain higher-paying jobs. Unlike some manufacturing jobs of a generation or two ago, which paid decent wages to workers with a high school education or less, many of today's manufacturing

jobs require skills in mathematics and computer technology, among others. Some skills may require post high school training as well. Thus, when too many children and adults fail or fail to complete academic programs at any level there is cause for concern.

MATERNAL EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Education starts in the home. Parents with less than a high school education may be less able or willing to encourage educational progress in their child, including early childhood development. The share of total births to mothers with less than a high school education declined between 1980 and 2003, as more and more youth graduated from high school or obtained an equivalency degree. Four of the six peer counties, plus Greenwood, have a higher share of births to mothers with less than a high school education than the state average (Table 7.8).

Table 7.8
Births to Mothers with Less than a High School Education by County, 1980-2003

	Number			% Change		Share of Total		
	1980	1990	2003	1980-03	1990-03	1980	1990	2003
Darlington	307	294	200	-34.9%	-32.0%	32.8%	30.0%	23.9%
Greenwood	312	234	219	-29.8%	-6.4%	35.9%	25.0%	26.0%
Kershaw	181	138	139	-23.2%	0.7%	29.5%	21.0%	20.1%
Lancaster	296	276	199	-32.8%	-27.9%	35.6%	31.9%	26.1%
Laurens	341	313	243	-28.7%	-22.4%	43.3%	34.8%	29.7%
Orangeburg	502	310	292	-41.8%	-5.8%	33.4%	21.2%	23.3%
Sumter	526	368	279	-47.0%	-24.2%	29.7%	19.3%	17.4%
South Carolina	16,169	13,953	11,516	-28.8%	-17.5%	31.1%	23.9%	20.9%

EARLY GRADE ASSESSMENT

Early school performance is an indicator of future school achievement and graduation. The South Carolina Department of Education measures kindergarteners' and first graders' readiness to enter first and second grade using the South Carolina Readiness Assessment. Pupils may also fail and repeat early elementary grades or be placed in special education.

All school districts reported a relatively high share of incoming pupils failing the Readiness Assessment in 2004 (Table 7.9). The test is subjective and scoring is highly dependent on teacher training, which may vary considerably among school districts. In addition, the test has also undergone redesign in recent years, and 2004 is the first year that four-year-olds were included in the test. Because of these concerns, district and county comparisons on test results may not be valid between years or within a single year. For these reasons 2002 readiness data was not included in Table 7.9.

Recent trends in early grade failures show an improving trend. Between 2002 and 2004, the school districts in Greenwood County and most peer counties had substantial decreases in the percentage of pupils who failed grades 1 and 3. Greenwood County schools, along with those in Kershaw and Laurens counties, had the sharpest declines in the group.

Table 7.9
Early Academic Failure by County, 2004

	Failing Readiness	Failing 1 st Grade		Failing 3 rd	
	2004	2002	2004	2002	2004
Darlington	33.4%	7.7%	7.4%	12.4%	3.8%
Greenwood	28.5%	10.3%	5.3%	21.3%	3.3%
Kershaw	53.8%	7.3%	6.6%	15.7%	1.5%
Lancaster	26.9%	7.1%	5.5%	11.2%	2.9%
Laurens	27.3%	13.0%	12.0%	24.7%	7.9%
Orangeburg	38.7%	6.7%	6.7%	13.1%	3.9%
Sumter	34.3%	9.1%	9.6%	18.6%	4.8%
South Carolina	29.4%	6.6%	6.1%	12.9%	2.5%

ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND PACT

The state of South Carolina implemented a new student assessment system in 1999, the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT). PACT evaluates third through eighth graders in English and language arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. The ELA and mathematics portions of the test have been administered in all years; the science and social studies components have been administered since 2003. All four components of the PACT have been refined somewhat over time as well. Language and mathematics skills were assessed using other instruments in 1980 and 1990.

On average, student performance in pre-PACT ELA and mathematics improved considerably between 1980 and 1990. In Greenwood County, for example, the percentage of pupils in grade 3 with ELA skills below standards dropped by around two-thirds: from 33.7 percent in ELA in 1980 to 11.3 percent in 1990 (Table 7.10). The improvement in grade 3 math was similar, with a decline from 41.5 percent in 1980 to 15.9 percent in 1990 (Table 7.11). The improvement trend in eighth grade ELA and math was also similar (Tables 7.12 and 7.13).

Throughout the 1990s, the percentage of students testing below standards increased, however. In Greenwood County, the percentage of students that did not meet eighth grade standards increased to 36.5 percent in ELA and to 39.3 percent in math between 1990 and 1998, the last year of testing using pre-PACT instruments. Statewide, the share of eighth grade students not meeting ELA standards rose from 23 percent in 1990 to 31.6 percent in 1998. In math, the share was 27.5 percent in 1990 compared to 35 percent in 1998. (1998 data not included in tables.)

Table 7.10
Grade 3 Reading Below Standards

	Percent				Rank*			
	1980	1990	2002	2005	1980	1990	2002	2005
Darlington	37.4%	15.7%	34.2%	16.6%	22	35	38	28
Greenwood	33.7%	11.3%	22.4%	13.2%	18	20	17	20
Kershaw	27.6%	10.6%	19.1%	10.6%	10	15	8	12
Lancaster	40.1%	11.3%	25.8%	17.4%	29	20	24	31
Laurens	41.3%	14.7%	24.5%	15.9%	31	33	20	26
Orangeburg	47.9%	13.0%	31.1%	18.5%	40	26	34	33
Sumter	33.3%	16.7%	23.9%	11.2%	16	37	19	15
South Carolina	32.5%	11.5%	22.5%	12.9%				

*1 is best, 46 is worst.

Table 7.11
Grade 3 Math Below Standards

	Percent				Rank*			
	1980	1990	2002	2005	1980	1990	2002	2005
Darlington	40.2%	18.1%	39.5%	18.7%	20	32	37	23
Greenwood	41.5%	15.9%	25.2%	18.2%	22	26	13	21
Kershaw	36.6%	15.8%	22.4%	13.0%	15	24	8	11
Lancaster	44.8%	17.2%	26.6%	21.2%	29	29	16	28
Laurens	44.2%	17.1%	38.5%	17.4%	27	28	34	18
Orangeburg	54.0%	15.8%	37.2%	27.0%	42	24	31	39
Sumter	42.8%	26.2%	31.5%	18.4%	25	44	25	22
South Carolina	38.7%	15.3%	27.9%	16.6%				

*1 is best, 46 is worst.

Table 7.12
Grade 8 Reading Below Standards

	Percent				Rank*			
	1980	1990	2002	2005	1980	1990	2002	2005
Darlington	55.2%	33.1%	49.6%	30.4%	24	39	38	25
Greenwood	48.4%	24.9%	28.6%	19.8%	14	24	7	9
Kershaw	44.1%	21.2%	29.4%	19.5%	10	13	10	8
Lancaster	52.3%	22.6%	41.7%	32.0%	19	17	29	31
Laurens	55.1%	24.2%	40.9%	30.5%	23	22	26	27
Orangeburg	68.0%	23.6%	48.1%	36.5%	38	20	36	36
Sumter	56.8%	29.1%	39.1%	30.2%	26	31	24	24
South Carolina	49.1%	23.0%	33.3%	25.3%				

*1 is best, 46 is worst.

Table 7.13
Grade 8 Math Below Standards

	Percent				Rank*			
	1980	1990	2002	2005	1980	1990	2002	2005
Darlington	64.7%	33.8%	53.1%	41.2%	30	31	33	33
Greenwood	60.7%	36.2%	39.5%	24.9%	24	34	12	5
Kershaw	45.0%	22.4%	40.8%	25.9%	3	7	15	8
Lancaster	67.5%	28.1%	46.9%	38.4%	33	23	24	24
Laurens	58.0%	27.4%	49.9%	34.9%	19	20	28	19
Orangeburg	80.4%	29.2%	57.5%	51.6%	43	24	38	39
Sumter	72.2%	34.5%	44.6%	40.4%	38	32	18	30
South Carolina	57.4%	27.5%	40.0%	33.7%				

*1 is best, 46 is worst.

Since the PACT was implemented in 1999, the share of students not meeting standards has generally decreased. Over time, students and teachers get more comfortable with the new test and the instruction required. But since PACT administration, South Carolina's children are also performing better in school. South Carolina *Kids Count* reports for 2005 note that objective progress on other national tests demonstrates that South Carolina students are improving relative to their grade-level peers elsewhere in the country.

County rank in the state in the percentage of students performing below standard on the PACT is also an important indicator of relative academic achievement among South Carolina counties. Students in Greenwood County had above-median performance in grade 3 and grade 8 on the percentage of students below standard on the ELA and math portions of the PACT in 2002 and 2005. In 2005, Greenwood County eighth grade students were in the top-performing quartile among the state's 46 counties with a comparatively low percentage of students testing below standard on the ELA and math portions of the PACT.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT AND DROPOUTS

In 2004, Greenwood County had the next-to-lowest percentage of its public school students failing to meet standards on the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) on the first try among the peer counties, exceeded only by Kershaw County. Greenwood County ranked 15th in the state on this measure with 23.6 percent of 10th graders not meeting standards on their first attempt, slightly better than the state average. The HSAP replaced the High School Exit Exam in 2004. Students have three tries to pass the exam in order to graduate with a diploma (Table 7.14).

Table 7.14
Exit Exam (10th graders not passing on all parts on 1st attempt)

	Percent				Rank**			
	1986*	1990	2002	2004*	1986	1990	2002	2004*
Darlington	50.9%	33.8%	40.8%	31.9%	24	27	28	34
Greenwood	29.6%	31.0%	32.2%	23.6%	31	33	15	15
Kershaw	35.6%	28.2%	38.7%	20.8%	4	15	24	9
Lancaster	47.0%	27.8%	32.6%	28.2%	19	13	12	25
Laurens	46.0%	31.6%	39.6%	26.8%	18	21	25	22
Orangeburg	65.1%	43.1%	43.8%	33.0%	40	36	32	36
Sumter	52.6%	31.7%	37.3%	24.4%	29	22	23	16
South Carolina	45.1%	29.5%	33.3%	23.9%				

*This was the first year the High School Exit Exam was administered. The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) replaced the exit exam in 2004.

**1 is best, 46 is worst.

Greenwood County's rank in the state in high school dropouts improved dramatically from the mid 1980s and early 1990s to more recent years. The county had the lowest percentage of high school dropouts in 2003 as compared to its peers (27.9 percent), which was also lower than the state average of 31.2 percent (Table 7.15). The county was in the top-performing quartile in the state in 2003 in terms of dropouts. In peer counties Darlington, Kershaw, Laurens, Orangeburg, and Sumter, however, the trend in

dropouts appears to be increasing. The dropout figures track eighth grade students to see how many were still enrolled in their senior year.

Table 7.15
High School Dropouts (8th graders no longer enrolled in 12th grade 4 years later)

	Percent				Rank*			
	1986-87 (avg)	1990-91 (avg)	2002	2003	1986-87 (avg)	1990-91 (avg)	2002	2003
Darlington	30.7%	33.4%	39.4%	35.7%	33	37	37	28
Greenwood	29.6%	31.0%	32.2%	27.9%	31	33	15	11
Kershaw	9.9%	22.6%	35.8%	32.9%	1	5	28	20
Lancaster	31.9%	35.1%	32.9%	31.1%	36	40	18	15
Laurens	35.6%	33.8%	38.6%	40.6%	42	39	35	34
Orangeburg	26.6%	26.2%	38.3%	41.6%	18	11	33	37
Sumter	24.4%	26.8%	33.7%	33.8%	14	14	23	24
South Carolina	27.5%	30.5%	31.9%	31.2%				

*1 is best, 46 is worst.

Some high school dropouts eventually receive a high school diploma or General Education Degree (GED) through adult education. Greenwood County and four other peer counties—Darlington, Kershaw, Lancaster, and Laurens—had higher-than-average shares of young adults age 18 to 34 not completing high school in 2000 and 2001. Since 1980, the share of young adults not completing high school dropped in all peer counties and statewide (Table 7.16).

Table 7.16
Percentage of Young Adults Not Completing High School

	18-24 Year Olds			25-34 Year Olds
	1980	1990	2001	2000
Darlington	31.2%	32.1%	19.9%	19.9%
Greenwood	28.9%	24.2%	18.1%	18.1%
Kershaw	31.7%	28.6%	19.9%	19.9%
Lancaster	34.3%	33.1%	22.9%	22.9%
Laurens	40.3%	29.5%	25.6%	25.6%
Orangeburg	25.3%	20.9%	15.7%	15.7%
Sumter	26.9%	21.1%	15.7%	15.7%
South Carolina	27.8%	24.3%	16.8%	16.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

Failure to complete college can also be used as an indicator of the potential for long term increases in county educational attainment. Table 7.17 shows the percentages of students in 1990 and 2000 who attended college but did not graduate. In both years Greenwood County ranked well below the state average. In 2000 the county only trailed Laurens County among the peer counties in its college “dropout” rate. Between 1990 and 2000 the share of college enrollees who ultimately dropped out increased markedly in each peer county and in the state overall.

Table 7.17
Failure to Complete College by County, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000	
	Persons	Share	Persons	Share
Darlington	4,378	11.4%	7,461	17.2%
Greenwood	5,275	14.0%	6,976	16.5%
Kershaw	3,820	13.6%	6,263	18.0%
Lancaster	4,163	12.1%	7,058	17.4%
Laurens	3,851	10.5%	6,983	15.4%
Orangeburg	6,308	12.6%	9,760	17.1%
Sumter	11,825	19.4%	13,897	21.7%
South Carolina	342,965	15.8%	500,194	19.3%

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board.

Failing to complete high school or college in most cases is neither positive for individuals nor society. But mothers who fail to complete high school have an especially hard time in the workforce. Table 7.18 shows the differences between the mothers failing high school in 1970 with those failing high school in 2001. Greenwood County's share dropped from 42.5 percent in 1970 to 25.2 percent in 2001, but still remained above the state average in 2001.

Table 7.18
Mothers Failing High School by County, 1970 and 2001

	2001	1970
Darlington	24.8%	51.4%
Greenwood	25.2%	42.5%
Kershaw	21.1%	43.9%
Lancaster	25.5%	51.0%
Laurens	32.0%	54.4%
Orangeburg	20.3%	50.7%
Sumter	19.3%	40.4%
South Carolina	21.1%	44.6%

Source: S.C. Budget and Control Board.

Additional detailed school district-level data and district rankings on PACT, HSAP/Exit Exam, SAT scores, and high school dropouts is found in the 2005 Jim Self Center on the Future report, *Greenwood County Education Benchmarking: Fiscal Years 1991-92 to 2003-04*. This report provides information on levels and trends in school district performance assessment, funding, and other factors in Greenwood County's three school districts and is located in the Research & Trends section of the Strom Thurmond Institute's Jim Self Center on the Future website at:
<http://selfcenter.clemson.edu/staticpages/index.php?page=assessment>.

CHAPTER EIGHT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCES IN GREENWOOD COUNTY

Key Findings:

- Combined revenue from local sources in the three Greenwood County school districts grew more slowly between fiscal years 1997 and 2003 than in school districts statewide: 11 percent per year on average (\$6.3 million in 2003 revenue from bonds and leases excluded) compared to 13.5 percent.
- Revenue from state sources grew faster between 1997 and 2003 in the Greenwood County school districts than it did overall: 7.5 percent per year on average compared to 5.2 percent per year statewide. State-funded property tax relief was 8.2 percent of combined state revenue to the Greenwood County school districts in 2003 and 12.8 percent statewide.
- Average annual growth in combined school district spending on instruction (6.4 percent) and administration (4.8 percent) were below the state averages of 6.8 percent in both categories. Relatively high 2003 spending on land and construction pushed total spending growth over the state average.
- Total revenue growth in Greenwood County government was well below that in the average county: 4.1 percent per year between 1997 and 2003, on average, compared to 6.3 percent per year in county government statewide. Much of the own-source revenue growth in Greenwood County government came from property taxes.
- The share of the property tax in total revenue increased in Greenwood County from 35.2 percent in 1997 to 47 percent in 2003. State revenue as a share of total county revenue declined from 26.5 percent to 20.6 percent.
- The county's two largest spending areas are administration (37.9 percent of the 2003 total) and public safety (23.4 percent).
- Total revenue in Greenwood County's municipalities grew slightly faster than the state average, 6.1 percent per year between 1997 and 2003 compared to 5.7 percent statewide. Average annual growth in own-source revenue from property taxes, licenses and permits, and service charges was below the state average.
- Public safety and administration are the largest two spending categories for Greenwood County municipalities at 48.7 percent and 17.2 percent of total combined spending in 2003.
- Greenwood County combined municipal spending on administration grew faster than average between 1997 and 2003: 9.9 percent per year compared to 7.3 percent per year statewide. Municipal spending on public safety, transportation, and especially environment and housing (solid waste) grew more slowly than it did statewide.

An integral part of any area is its local government. Local governments provide their residents with a variety of services, including education, street lighting, public safety, water and sewer, solid waste collection and disposal, among many others. In South Carolina, local governments are school districts, counties, municipalities (cities or towns), and special purpose districts.⁵

Local governments raise revenue to pay for the services they provide through a variety of mechanisms. Property taxes are the workhorse of local governments, especially schools, and are used for general operating revenues for services that benefit all residents, such as public education, public safety, street lights, and roads. Local sales, accommodations, and hospitality taxes, if adopted, benefit residents when they are collected from nonresidents, such as tourists. Business licenses and permits are fees for the privilege of conducting business within the city or county. Service charges link users of a particular service to its cost. It is hard to avoid property and sales taxes, but residents can choose to avoid many service charges by not using them.

School districts, counties, and cities all receive revenue from the state and federal governments. Many have interlocal revenues as well. School districts rely most heavily on revenue from the state, especially through Education Finance Act (EFA) and Education Improvement Act (EIA) appropriations. Counties and cities receive state-shared revenue through Aid to Subdivisions (the Local Government Fund). State and federal grants may also provide revenue in certain years.

On the spending side, school districts, counties, and cities have very different obligations and choices. School districts provide one service—education. Municipalities may provide their residents with a broad variety of public services. Counties must perform certain state functions (courts, jails, public health) as agents of the state.

Local government finance data in this section is from the South Carolina Budget and Control Board's 2003 *Local Government Finance Report* (<http://www.ors.state.sc.us/economics/economics.asp>) and underlying data. Local government finance data from the *Local Government Finance Report* include revenue collected for expenditures on capital projects and debt service as well as revenue from bond issues to school districts.

Tables 8.1 through Table 8.4 show revenues and expenditures of Greenwood County's local governments for fiscal years 1997 through 2003. Average annual growth in revenues and expenditures for the three combined school districts, Greenwood County government, and the county's combined municipal governments are shown in comparison to the state average.

⁵ Special purpose district governments provide one or a few select services such as water, sewer, or fire protection. These single purpose governments levy property taxes or charge fees for service. Financial data on special purpose district revenues and expenditures is not available.

Table 8.1
Greenwood County Combined School District Revenue, Fiscal Years 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average Annual Growth*	
								Greenwood	S.C.
Total Revenue (in \$1,000s)	\$62,991	\$75,549	\$69,766	\$77,662	\$93,111	\$94,740	\$112,838	10.2%	8.1%
Revenue from Local Sources	24,040	34,900	26,933	29,946	40,830	40,988	51,372	13.5%	10.2%
Current Property Taxes	19,033	20,502	21,432	24,692	27,464	30,423	34,674	10.5%	8.7%
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	19,033	20,502	21,427	24,686	25,067	28,798	34,093	10.2%	8.6%
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
All Other	0	0	5	7	2,397	1,625	581	n/a	n/a
Local Options Sales Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Hospitality Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Accommodations Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Capital Projects Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	5,007	14,398	5,501	5,253	13,366	10,565	16,698	22.2%	12.5%
Licenses & Permits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Service Revenue & Charges	4,505	4,213	4,662	4,702	5,481	4,994	4,703	0.7%	2.5%
Bonds & Leases	0	8,645	0	0	3,400	0	6,300	n/a	8.8%
Miscellaneous	502	1,540	839	551	4,485	5,571	5,695	49.9%	40.6%
Revenue from State Sources	34,034	35,079	36,853	41,158	45,644	46,052	52,648	7.5%	5.2%
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	3,608	3,670	3,365	3,973	2,562	2,769	2,742	-4.5%	2.4%
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	0	11	248	287	232	252	259	n/a	2.1%
Homestead Exemption	0	47	449	511	1,194	1,221	1,528	n/a	24.8%
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	0	0	19	31	41	43	36	n/a	n/a
State Grants	6,687	6,991	7,214	9,451	12,554	14,278	19,571	19.6%	10.3%
Education Finance Act (EFA)	17,480	17,872	18,941	19,594	20,719	19,135	19,493	1.8%	1.5%
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	6,259	6,489	6,617	7,311	8,342	8,354	8,520	5.3%	5.5%
Education Lottery	0	0	0	0	0	0	498	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	4,917	5,569	5,981	6,559	6,637	7,701	8,818	10.2%	10.7%
Revenue from Other Local Sources	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	n/a	n/a

*1997-2003.

n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.2
Greenwood County Revenue, Fiscal Years 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average Annual Growth*	
								Greenwood	S.C.
Total Revenue (in \$1,000s)	\$23,369	\$21,927	\$25,684	\$25,418	\$26,563	\$27,003	\$29,739	4.1%	6.3%
Revenue from Local Sources	16,624	16,829	16,810	17,621	17,946	18,731	22,775	5.4%	6.4%
Current Property Taxes	8,218	8,382	8,558	9,002	8,835	10,234	13,976	9.3%	5.2%
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	7,421	6,961	6,549	6,629	6,828	8,415	9,341	3.9%	4.6%
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	456	1,144	1,711	1,934	1,675	1,310	2,914	36.2%	33.0%
All Other	342	277	298	439	332	509	1,721	30.9%	2.7%
Local Options Sales Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	8.0%
Local Hospitality Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.1%
Local Accommodations Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.2%
Capital Projects Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80.0%
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	8,406	8,447	8,199	8,552	9,050	8,454	8,799	0.8%	6.8%
Licenses & Permits	720	674	1,443	1,334	1,243	1,429	860	3.0%	11.7%
Service Revenue & Charges	6,331	6,499	5,391	5,206	5,460	5,441	6,280	-0.1%	7.0%
Bonds & Leases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	-100.0%
Miscellaneous	1,356	1,273	1,365	2,012	2,347	1,584	1,659	3.4%	2.4%
Revenue from State Sources	6,186	4,493	8,415	6,713	7,214	6,437	6,112	-0.2%	5.1%
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	3,257	3,967	2,980	3,262	3,196	3,227	3,359	0.5%	3.2%
Homestead Exemption	210	200	177	188	426	440	560	17.8%	14.3%
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	0	56	116	161	201	220	267	n/a	n/a
State Grants	2,719	269	5,141	3,101	3,391	2,551	1,926	-5.6%	4.8%
Education Finance Act (EFA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Lottery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	274	336	459	229	480	1,139	482	9.9%	4.6%
Revenue from Other Local Sources	285	269	0	855	923	695	370	4.5%	21.0%

*1997-2003.

n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.3
Greenwood County Combined Municipal Revenue, Fiscal Years 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average Annual Growth*	
								Greenwood	S.C.
Total Revenue (in \$1,000s)	\$9,417	\$9,915	\$9,923	\$10,093	\$11,922	\$13,363	\$13,414	6.1%	5.7%
Revenue from Local Sources	7,210	7,479	7,283	8,141	8,614	9,015	9,718	5.1%	6.6%
Current Property Taxes	3,803	3,896	3,447	4,094	4,530	4,632	4,900	4.3%	5.2%
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	3,654	3,652	3,254	3,811	4,322	4,322	4,433	3.3%	5.3%
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	4.0%
All Other	149	244	193	284	208	310	467	21.0%	3.6%
Local Options Sales Tax	0	0	25	23	0	0	0	n/a	9.0%
Local Hospitality Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	29.7%
Local Accommodations Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	27.8%
Capital Projects Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	3,407	3,583	3,811	4,024	4,083	4,383	4,818	5.9%	6.0%
Licenses & Permits	1,860	1,863	1,852	2,135	2,373	2,477	2,599	5.7%	7.4%
Service Revenue & Charges	1,223	1,301	1,422	1,414	1,514	1,526	1,495	3.4%	5.0%
Bonds & Leases	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Miscellaneous	324	419	537	475	197	380	724	14.3%	3.4%
Revenue from State Sources	1,207	1,520	1,061	1,093	1,783	1,378	1,382	2.3%	5.5%
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	869	933	928	955	1,002	1,037	1,046	3.1%	4.2%
Homestead Exemption	143	142	118	110	226	244	263	10.8%	13.1%
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	0	0	11	24	32	29	26	n/a	61.3%
State Grants	195	446	4	4	523	69	47	-21.0%	5.6%
Education Finance Act (EFA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Education Lottery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	285	124	567	175	621	1,750	776	18.2%	0.0%
Revenue from Other Local Sources	715	791	1,012	684	904	1,219	1,538	13.6%	-1.8%

*1997-2003.

Note: City of Greenwood revenue estimated for fiscal year 2001; Troy was excluded in 2000.

n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.4
Greenwood County Combined School District, County and Municipal Expenditures, Fiscal Years 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average Annual Growth*	
								Greenwood	S.C.
Total School District Expenditures (in \$1,000s)	\$63,939	\$70,213	\$69,279	\$77,211	\$85,832	\$92,060	\$105,699	8.7%	8.0%
Administration	24,883	25,541	27,245	28,921	31,545	32,090	32,957	4.8%	6.8%
Instruction	34,180	36,288	38,177	42,928	45,233	48,666	49,678	6.4%	6.8%
Public Safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Transportation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Health & Human Services	0	7	1	1	0	0	52	n/a	5.7%
Environment & Housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Recreation & Culture	94	38	71	54	50	4	25	-19.8%	2.6%
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	2,011	2,746	872	3,195	4,038	3,357	9,694	30.0%	12.8%
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	2,525	4,850	2,660	1,829	4,655	7,744	13,108	31.6%	12.9%
All Other	247	742	254	283	311	199	184	-4.8%	27.6%
Total County Expenditures (in \$1000s)	\$16,440	\$18,547	\$24,805	\$25,481	\$30,235	\$24,334	\$26,896	8.6%	7.3%
Administration	6,563	7,246	8,284	8,679	9,523	9,832	10,181	7.6%	6.4%
Instruction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Public Safety	3,958	4,405	5,405	5,485	6,628	6,733	6,306	8.1%	9.3%
Transportation	741	1,775	2,489	2,349	3,900	599	1,283	9.6%	12.0%
Health & Human Services	1,446	1,473	1,638	1,787	1,866	1,879	2,154	6.9%	6.2%
Environment & Housing	2,587	2,849	3,162	3,816	3,987	3,692	3,898	7.1%	6.3%
Recreation & Culture	805	792	893	1,087	1,122	846	818	0.3%	7.7%
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	0	0	989	916	1,094	0	375	n/a	8.6%
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	15	0	0	0	0	0	1,694	119.1%	5.7%
All Other	325	7	1,946	1,362	2,116	753	187	-8.7%	-3.9%

*1997-2003.

Note: City of Greenwood expenditures estimated in fiscal year 2001; Troy not included.
n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.4, continued
Greenwood County Combined School District, County and Municipal Expenditures, Fiscal Years 1997-2003

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Average Annual Growth*	
								Greenwood	S.C.
Total Municipal Expenditures (in \$1,000s)	\$9,039	\$9,642	\$10,164	\$11,191	\$11,740	\$11,800	\$12,087	5.0%	6.5%
Administration	1,181	1,290	1,697	1,748	1,769	2,234	2,084	9.9%	7.3%
Instruction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	n/a
Public Safety	4,354	4,521	4,691	5,547	5,796	5,660	5,889	5.2%	5.9%
Transportation	1,386	1,719	1,642	1,714	1,708	1,717	1,879	5.2%	7.8%
Health & Human Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	0.7%
Environment & Housing	1,667	1,534	1,643	1,571	2,173	1,746	1,779	1.1%	4.4%
Recreation & Culture	47	57	86	84	0	85	82	9.8%	8.1%
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	4	23	25	20	0	40	27	37.4%	9.3%
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	1	105	0	0	0	0	20	84.4%	13.3%
All Other	400	395	380	506	294	319	328	-3.2%	-0.1%

*1997-2003.

Note: City of Greenwood expenditures estimated in fiscal year 2001; Troy not included.
n/a = not applicable.

SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE TRENDS

Greenwood County has three school districts: District 50 (Greenwood, Hodges, Troy, and environs), District 51 (Ware Shoals) and District 52 (Ninety Six). District 50 is a moderate sized district, with 9,149 students in 2004. The other two school districts are small, with 1,220 students (District 51) and 1,677 students (District 52) in 2004. The Greenwood County school districts have no fiscal authority and must obtain county council approval on their budgets and tax rates.

As a group, average annual growth in revenue and expenditures in the Greenwood school districts exceeded that in the average school district in South Carolina (Tables 8.1 and 8.4). Between fiscal years 1997 and 2003 (the latest year available), total revenue grew at an average annual rate of 10.2 percent in the combined Greenwood districts compared to 8.1 percent in the state. Combined county school district spending grew at the average rate of 8.7 percent per year over the same period compared to 8 percent statewide.

Revenue from local sources in the combined school districts in Greenwood County grew faster between 1997 and 2003 than in the average school district—13.5 percent per year on average compared to 10.2 percent statewide. However, this rate is exaggerated by \$6.3 million in revenue from bonds and leases in 2003. (Revenue from bonds and leases is not available in all years.) When these revenue sources are excluded, local revenue grew at a lower average rate of 11 percent per year. For this reason, 22.2 percent per year average annual revenue growth from licenses, fees, and service charges in the combined Greenwood County school districts also is much higher than the rate (12.5 percent) in the average district. Again, with the revenue from bonds and leases excluded, average annual growth in revenue from these sources would be a much-reduced 13 percent.

Revenue from state sources in the combined school districts in Greenwood County also grew faster between 1997 and 2003 than in the average school district. Over this period state revenue grew 7.5 percent per year in the Greenwood County districts combined compared to 5.2 percent in the average school district. Revenue from the state includes revenue for several different property tax relief programs, grants, and revenue earmarked for programs funded under the Education Finance Act and the Education Improvement Act. The Greenwood County districts also received close to half a million dollars from the South Carolina Education Lottery in 2003.

State funds for property tax relief replace local property tax revenue that otherwise would have been collected. They don't provide districts with additional funds for programs and services. Funding from the state's primary school tax relief program declined from nearly \$4 million in 2000 to \$2.7 million in 2003 because the value and quantity of eligible owner-occupied housing grew faster in other school districts in other counties. The state capped the total amount of homeowner school property tax distributed statewide to just over \$249 million beginning in fiscal year 2001-02. State-funded property tax relief was 8.2 percent of state revenue to the Greenwood County

school districts in 2003; it was 12.8 percent of state revenue to school districts statewide.

Instruction took the largest share of school district spending, followed by administration. In 1997, instruction was 53.5 percent and administration was almost 39 percent of total spending. Both of these shares declined somewhat between 1997 and 2003 as the combined share of spending on debt service and land and facility construction increased from 7 percent in 1997 to 21.6 percent in 2003. Interest paid on debt and purchases of land and facilities tend to go up and down as bond issues are let, facilities constructed, and debt repaid.

Higher-than-average combined total spending growth in the Greenwood County school districts was strongly influenced by high 2003 spending levels on debt service and land and facility construction. Overall, total spending in the three school districts grew 8.7 percent per year, on average, compared to 8 percent per year statewide. Average annual growth in spending on instruction (6.4 percent) and administration (4.8 percent) were below the state average.

Because finance data in the *Local Government Finance Report* includes revenue collected for expenditures on capital projects and debt service, including revenue from bond issues, the school district finances in this report will differ from school district operating-only revenue and expenditures that are commonly reported in other publications. Data on individual school district finances is available in the S.C. Department of Education's annual publication *Rankings of the Counties and School Districts of South Carolina* (<http://www.myscschools.com/offices/research/>). More detailed analyses of Greenwood County individual school district finances and standardized test results are available in the Jim Self Center on the Future report, *Greenwood County Education Benchmarking: Fiscal Years 1991-92 to 2003-04* (<http://selfcenter.clemson.edu/index.php?topic=education>).

COUNTY FINANCE TRENDS

Total revenue growth in Greenwood County government was well below that in the average county: 4.1 percent per year between 1997 and 2003, on average, compared to 6.3 percent per year in county government statewide.

Much of the own-source revenue growth in Greenwood County government came from property taxes. Revenue from fees-in-lieu-of-taxes rose from less than \$500,000 in 1997 to \$2.9 million in 2003. The county also collected over \$1.7 million in delinquent property taxes and penalties in 2003 compared to half a million dollars or less in any of the preceding six years. Growth in revenue from current real and personal property tax collections was less than that county government statewide, however.

Growth in all other local revenue sources was much lower than average, less than one percent per year in Greenwood County compared to 6.8 percent per year in counties statewide. Revenue from licenses and permits, which had been well over \$1 million a

year in 1999 through 2002, dropped to \$860,000 in 2003. Revenue from service charges was at its highest level in Greenwood County in 1998.

The share of the property tax in total revenue increased in Greenwood County from 35.2 percent in 1997 to 47 percent in 2003. Over the same period, other local revenue (licenses, service charges, and miscellaneous) dropped from 36 percent of total county revenue in 1997 to just under 30 percent in 2003.

Total revenue from state sources to Greenwood County declined in current dollars between 1997 and 2003. Revenue from state aid to subdivisions (Local Government Fund) grew very slowly over the period. These funds may be used for any county purpose and amounted to over \$3.3 million in 2003.

Revenue from state grants to Greenwood County fluctuated between a low of \$269,000 in 1998 and a high of \$5.1 million in 1999. State grants were at \$1.9 million in 2003. Grants are earmarked for specific projects and are not available for general expenditures. Reimbursement for the homestead property tax exemption more than doubled after 2000, when the state raised the exempted amount from \$20,000 to \$50,000 in market value. These state funds (and those for the manufacturers' depreciation reimbursement) replace local revenue that would have been collected through the property tax.

State revenue as a share of total county revenue declined from 26.5 percent in 1997 to 20.6 percent in 2003. The share of federal and interlocal revenue in the county's total revenue stream fluctuated with the dollars, but in most years was well below 5 percent of the total.

Total spending by Greenwood County government grew somewhat faster between 1997 and 2003 than county spending statewide, 8.6 percent per year on average in Greenwood County compared to 7.3 percent per year statewide. But the county's 2003 total was elevated by nearly \$1.7 million in land purchase and construction spending, mostly in transportation. Without this spending, county spending growth would have been well below the state average over the same period at 5.3 percent per year.

Spending levels have fluctuated in several areas over time as specific needs were addressed, state and/or federal grants obtained for specific projects, and debt (bonds) issued or repaid. For example, public safety spending jumped by \$1 million from 1998 to 1999 but declined by over \$400,000 from 2002 to 2003. Transportation spending increased by over \$1.5 million in 2001 to \$3.9 million but dropped to \$599,000 in 2002. Spending on county administration increased steadily between 1997 and 2003, as did spending on health and human services (mostly for emergency medical services). Spending on public safety and environment and housing (mostly solid waste collection and disposal) also increased steadily, but was lower in 2003 than in recent years.

The county's two largest spending areas are administration and public safety. In 2003, administration was 37.9 percent and public safety was 23.4 percent of total spending.

Environment and housing was the next largest spending category at 14.5 percent of the total in 2003. Counties are agents of the state and must provide certain services, such as property assessment and tax collection, courts, and corrections facilities.

MUNICIPAL FINANCE TRENDS

Greenwood County has five incorporated municipalities: Greenwood, Hodges, Troy, Ninety Six, and Ware Shoals. Each municipality collects revenue from local property taxes, fees, service charges, and other sources, including state and federal funds. Each municipality also decides on the type and level of public services that it provides for its residents. Larger cities like Greenwood provide a wide range of services to residents; smaller towns such as Ninety Six and Hodges collect little revenue and provide few services.

Tables 8.3 and 8.4 contain information on combined revenues and expenditures in Greenwood County municipalities for the fiscal years 1997 through 2003. Combined municipal finances are dominated by the city of Greenwood, but are useful for illustrating longer trends since 1997.

Total revenue in Greenwood County's municipalities grew only slightly faster than the state average, 6.1 percent per year between 1997 and 2003 compared to 5.7 percent statewide. Average annual growth in revenue from property taxes, licenses and permits, and service charges was below the state average. Miscellaneous revenue from local sources grew much faster than the state average, although it was only a small part of the total.

Intergovernmental revenue from the state grew at about half the average rate, 2.3 percent per year on average in the Greenwood municipalities compared to 5.5 percent statewide. Revenue from state grants dropped from a high of \$446,000 in 1998 to only \$47,000 in 2003 (2001 data is disregarded because Greenwood City data was estimated by the Budget and Control Board in the combined total). Revenue from federal aid and interlocal payments varied over the years, but increased in Greenwood County municipalities compared to flat or declining growth statewide.

Revenue from property taxes declined slightly as a share of total revenue in the Greenwood County municipalities since 1997, unlike its increasing share in the county's revenue stream. Revenue from licenses and permits remained fairly stable as a share of total revenue, although the share from service charges declined slightly over the years. Revenue from state sources declined as a share of the total as well. Federal aid and interlocal revenue increased in share from 1997 to 2003.

On the spending side, administration and public safety are the largest two spending categories for municipalities, but in the opposite order than for counties. Spending on public safety was 48.7 percent of total combined spending in Greenwood County municipalities in 2003 and was close to this level every year since 1997. Spending on

administration was 17.2 percent of the total in 2003 followed by about 15 percent each in transportation and environment and housing (mostly solid waste).

Total combined spending in Greenwood County municipalities grew more slowly than average between 1997 and 2003, 5 percent per year compared to 6.5 percent statewide. Spending on administration grew much faster: 9.9 percent per year compared to 7.3 percent per year statewide. Spending on recreation, debt service, and land and construction also grew faster than the state average, although they each were only a small share of the total. Spending on public safety, transportation, and especially environment and housing (solid waste) grew more slowly than it did statewide.

Tables 8.5 through 8.10 contain total and per capita revenue and expenditures for the county's individual municipalities for 2001, 2002, and 2003. The city of Greenwood and the town of Ware Shoals, the county's largest municipalities, have the highest revenue collections and expenditures in dollars and dollars per capita, because they provide the most public services to their residents.

Comparing municipal revenues and expenditures on a per capita basis facilitates comparisons between municipalities of different size. For instance, although Greenwood, Troy, and Ware Shoals are of very different size, they each collect close to the same amount of revenue per capita from property taxes. All the municipalities, even tiny Hodges, collect about the same amount of revenue per capita from licenses and permits, but Hodges and Ninety Six do not collect any service charges. In 2002, although Ware Shoals collected \$857,000 in federal aid compared to Ninety Six's \$475,000, the per capita impact was much more significant in smaller Ninety Six.

Table 8.5
Greenwood County Municipal Revenue and Revenue Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2001

	Total Revenue					Revenue Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Revenue	DNR	\$31,081	\$691,065	\$14,370	\$1,258,484	DNR	\$188	\$358	\$137	\$528
Revenue from Local Sources	DNR	25,272	623,590	10,344	660,030	DNR	153	323	99	277
Current Property Taxes	DNR	19,104	266,873	1,953	336,427	DNR	116	138	19	141
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	DNR	19,104	266,873	1,953	335,008	DNR	116	138	19	141
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
All Other	DNR	0	0	0	1,419	DNR	0	0	0	1
Local Options Sales Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Hospitality Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Accommodations Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Capital Projects Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	DNR	6,168	356,717	8,391	323,603	DNR	37	185	80	136
Licenses & Permits	DNR	180	174,021	8,385	185,629	DNR	1	90	80	78
Service Revenue & Charges	DNR	0	109,032	0	86,456	DNR	0	56	0	36
Bonds & Leases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Miscellaneous	DNR	5,988	73,664	6	51,518	DNR	36	38	0	22
Revenue from State Sources	DNR	4,983	67,475	3,642	579,191	DNR	30	35	35	243
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	DNR	4,030	63,827	3,223	79,191	DNR	24	33	31	33
Homestead Exemption	DNR	0	0	419	0	DNR	0	0	4	0
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
State Grants	DNR	0	3,648	0	500,000	DNR	0	2	0	210
Education Finance Act (EFA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Lottery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	DNR	0	0	0	19,263	DNR	0	0	0	8
Revenue from Other Local Sources	DNR	826	0	384	0	DNR	5	0	4	0

Note: DNR = did not report.
n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.6
Greenwood County Municipal Revenue and Revenue Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2002

	Total Revenue					Revenue Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Revenue	\$10,317,854	\$84,565	\$574,167	\$489,194	\$1,896,783	\$465	\$513	\$298	\$4,615	\$796
Revenue from Local Sources	7,569,054	38,412	506,755	10,521	890,604	341	233	263	99	374
Current Property Taxes	4,015,781	17,109	217,579	2,043	379,690	181	104	113	19	159
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	3,709,777	17,109	217,579	2,039	375,395	167	104	113	19	158
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	306,004	0	0	4	4,295	14	0	0	0	2
Local Options Sales Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Hospitality Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Accommodations Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Capital Projects Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	3,553,273	21,303	289,176	8,478	510,914	160	129	150	80	214
Licenses & Permits	2,080,414	15,742	177,151	8,464	194,784	94	95	92	80	82
Service Revenue & Charges	1,281,438	0	69,760	0	175,199	58	0	36	0	74
Bonds & Leases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Miscellaneous	191,421	5,561	42,265	14	140,931	9	34	22	0	59
Revenue from State Sources	1,153,373	5,744	67,412	3,267	148,385	52	35	35	31	62
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	863,325	4,667	58,515	2,840	107,223	39	28	30	27	45
Homestead Exemption	242,406	1,077	0	427	0	11	7	0	4	0
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	28,728	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
State Grants	18,914	0	8,897	0	41,162	1	0	5	0	17
Education Finance Act (EFA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Lottery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	417,079	0	0	475,000	857,794	19	0	0	4,481	360
Revenue from Other Local Sources	1,178,348	40,409	0	406	0	53	245	0	4	0

Note: n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.7
Greenwood County Municipal Revenue and Revenue Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2003

	Total Revenue					Revenue Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Revenue	\$11,136,438	\$51,291	\$659,593	\$15,539	\$1,551,017	\$500	\$309	\$342	\$147	\$650
Revenue from Local Sources	8,137,338	32,080	603,261	11,860	933,359	365	193	313	112	391
Current Property Taxes	4,172,932	11,563	315,102	1,700	398,668	187	70	163	16	167
Current Real & Personal Property Taxes	3,720,723	11,563	315,102	1,549	383,897	167	70	163	15	161
Fee In Lieu of Property Tax	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	452,209	0	0	151	14,771	20	0	0	1	6
Local Options Sales Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Hospitality Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Local Accommodations Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Capital Projects Tax	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Licenses, fees, Charges, Bonds, etc.	3,964,406	20,517	288,159	10,160	534,691	178	124	149	96	224
Licenses & Permits	2,158,922	15,863	193,825	9,823	220,298	97	96	100	93	92
Service Revenue & Charges	1,245,622	0	70,993	0	178,158	56	0	37	0	75
Bonds & Leases	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Miscellaneous	559,862	4,654	23,341	337	136,235	25	28	12	3	57
Revenue from State Sources	1,171,983	19,211	56,332	3,296	131,096	53	116	29	31	55
Reimbursements for Property Tax Relief	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State-Shared Taxes (Aid to Subdivisions)	874,612	4,418	56,332	2,843	107,444	39	27	29	27	45
Homestead Exemption	261,952	992	0	453	0	12	6	0	4	0
Manufacturer's Depreciation Reimbursement	25,556	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
State Grants	9,863	13,801	0	0	23,652	0	83	0	0	10
Education Finance Act (EFA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Improvement Act (EIA)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Education Lottery	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Revenue from Federal Sources	289,046	0	0	26	486,562	13	0	0	0	204
Revenue from Other Local Sources	1,538,071	0	0	357	0	69	0	0	3	0

Note: n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.8
Greenwood County Municipal Expenditures and Expenditures Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2001

	Total Expenditures					Spending Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Spending	DNR	\$1,560	\$690,108	\$11,798	\$2,009,908	DNR	\$9	\$357	\$112	\$843
Administration	DNR	0	95,409	11,798	378,937	DNR	0	49	112	159
Instruction	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public Safety	DNR	1,560	245,131	0	848,194	DNR	9	127	0	356
Transportation	DNR	0	176,188	0	143,003	DNR	0	91	0	60
Health & Human Services	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
Environment & Housing	DNR	0	0	0	519,576	DNR	0	0	0	218
Recreation & Culture	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	DNR	0	0	0	0	DNR	0	0	0	0
All Other	DNR	0	173,380	0	120,198	DNR	0	90	0	50

Note: DNR = did not report.
n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.9
Greenwood County Municipal Expenditures and Expenditures Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2002

	Total Expenditures					Spending Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Spending	\$9,812,224	\$1,560	\$530,444	\$13,504	\$1,462,546	\$442	\$9	\$275	\$127	\$614
Administration	1,337,595	0	69,860	13,504	832,985	60	0	36	127	350
Instruction	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public Safety	4,957,697	1,560	201,733	0	498,741	223	9	105	0	209
Transportation	1,545,843	0	171,610	0	0	70	0	89	0	0
Health & Human Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment & Housing	1,642,007	0	0	0	103,638	74	0	0	0	43
Recreation & Culture	84,652	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	12,420	0	0	0	27,182	1	0	0	0	11
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
All Other	232,010	0	87,241	0	0	10	0	45	0	0

Note: n/a = not applicable.

Table 8.10
Greenwood County Municipal Expenditures and Expenditures Per Capita, Fiscal Year 2003

	Total Expenditures					Spending Per Capita				
	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals	Green-wood	Hodges	Troy	Ninety Six	Ware Shoals
Total Spending	\$10,272,268	\$1,560	\$538,385	\$18,489	\$1,295,872	\$461	\$9	\$279	\$174	\$543
Administration	1,380,996	0	74,130	18,489	649,728	62	0	38	174	272
Instruction	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Public Safety	5,228,524	1,560	178,422	0	480,954	235	9	92	0	201
Transportation	1,720,716	0	158,003	0	0	77	0	82	0	0
Health & Human Services	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Environment & Housing	1,630,438	0	0	0	148,183	73	0	0	0	62
Recreation & Culture	81,714	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Debt Service/Interest on Debt /4	9,521	0	0	0	17,007	0	0	0	0	7
Land Purchase & Facility Construction	8,170	0	11,634	0	0	0	0	6	0	0
All Other	212,189	0	116,196	0	0	10	0	60	0	0

Note: n/a = not applicable.

CHAPTER NINE CONCLUSION

Greenwood County has experienced substantial changes and challenges over the past three decades, some gradual and modest in effect and others more rapid and influential. Recent shifts in population show a growing minority population, still predominantly comprised of African Americans but including a growing number of Hispanics. Compared to other like or “peer group” counties, Greenwood County has a larger proportion of Hispanics and residents aged 65 years and older.

Recent trends in total income and shifts in the composition of personal income reveal the effects of economic downturns and diminished prosperity in Greenwood County’s textile and manufacturing sectors. Per capita personal income (PCPI) in Greenwood County declined in recent decades relative to levels in the state, region, and nation. In spite of this setback, Greenwood County’s PCPI has essentially remained greater than or equal to PCPI in the peer group counties selected for this study.

The declining trend in Greenwood County’s PCPI warrants continued attention. The county’s PCPI declined more than any other county in South Carolina relative to the U.S. average since 1970. Likewise, the increasing share of total personal income derived from unearned income should be monitored. Unearned income includes dividends, interest, and rents, which may reflect positive economic conditions. Unearned income also includes personal transfer receipts such as unemployment benefits and Medicaid payments, which may signal negative economic conditions. Transfer receipts as a proportion of total personal income in Greenwood County more than doubled between 1970 and 2000, and the share of dividends, rents, and interest nearly doubled over the same period. Still, the county’s share of unearned income in personal income in 2002 was lower than all but one of the peer group counties, the state, and the region.

Until the mid 1990s, Greenwood County’s annual unemployment rates were comparable to rates in the state and the Southeast. Starting in 1996, the county’s unemployment rate rose rapidly to 10.9 percent in 2003 before dropping slightly to 10.3 percent in 2004. Among the six peer counties, only Lancaster (11.3 percent) and Orangeburg (11.2 percent) counties had higher annual unemployment rates in 2004.

Between 1970 and 2000, total manufacturing employment in Greenwood County dropped from 53 percent of total employment in 1970 to 28 percent in 2000. The county had relatively high growth in manufacturing employment between 1990 and 1995, but lost most of those gains between 1995 and 2000. Trade and service employment as a share of total employment in Greenwood County increased steadily since 1970, rising from 25 percent to 40 percent in 2000.

Greenwood County had a solid (14.2 percent) increase in the total number of housing units between 1990 and 2000. A number of these units were manufactured homes. The county had a 67 percent increase in the number of manufactured homes in the housing stock between 1990 and 2000. The median value of owner-occupied housing in Greenwood County grew 15.2 percent between 1990 and 2000.

Despite its rural location, Greenwood County ranked last in the rate of home ownership in 2000 (69.2 percent) when compared to its peer counties. Indeed, growth in the county's owner-occupied housing stock between 1990 and 2000 was close to half the state rate. The county also had a much larger share of renters in 2000 (21 percent) than in the state overall (16 percent).

Although this study is primarily concerned with economic conditions in Greenwood County, social conditions that both affect and are affected by the local economy warrant mention to provide greater context. Both an antecedent and manifestation of poverty, 48 percent of Greenwood County's births in 2003 were to single mothers (of any age). This share was higher than the state average of 41 percent. In addition, over 34 percent of Greenwood County's families were headed by single parents in 2000, compared to the state average of just over 31 percent.

Greenwood County ranked fifth among its peer counties in 2003 in the percentage of children in families in poverty. The county's 19.9 percent share of children in poverty was just over the state average of 19.8 percent. The county fared better in elementary and middle school assessment. In 2005, Greenwood County ranked ninth out of 46 counties with nearly 80 percent of grade 8 students meeting at least basic standards on the ELA portion of the PACT. In math the county ranked fifth, with 75 percent of students meeting standards.

Local governments get most of the revenues they need to provide residents with the public services they desire from local sources: property taxes, licenses and permits, fees, and service charges. The public's demand for services and the local tax base work together to determine levels of revenues collected and funds expended. In comparison with the state average for each level of government, the three school districts (combined), the county government, and the municipal governments (combined) each show slow to moderate growth in most areas of revenues and expenditures.

In the coming years, Greenwood County will benefit from efforts to slow its decline in PCPI relative to other areas. These efforts may include preservation of higher-wage manufacturing jobs as well as the development of relatively higher-wage jobs in the service and other sectors. Continued development of Greenwood County's strong retail sector will ensure the county's continued importance as a regional retail center, and may help mediate employment and income fluctuations during economic downturns. Attention to issues of child poverty and school achievement are important for long term success.