

Tax Facts & Comparisons

South Carolina

Taxes are complicated. Each state's tax code is a multifaceted system with many moving parts, and South Carolina is no exception. The Tax Foundation produces a number of rankings that evaluate states on tax structures and overall tax burdens. Here's how South Carolina scores.



Tax Foundation Rankings of South Carolina

State Business Tax Climate Index

37th
best

South Carolina ranks 37th out of the 50 states on the Tax Foundation's 2014 *State Business Tax Climate Index*, which annually compares the states' tax systems on over 100 variables that impact business. Last year, South Carolina ranked 37th.

South Carolina's individual income tax ranks 41st best, its corporate income tax ranks 13th best, its sales tax ranks 18th best, its property tax ranks 21st best, and its unemployment insurance tax ranks 40th best.

Neighboring states' ranks: North Carolina (16th), Georgia (36th), Florida (5th),

State-Local Tax Burdens Rank

42nd
highest

Estimated at 8.3% of income, South Carolina's 2011 state-local tax burden ranks 42nd highest nationally, below the national average of 9.8%. South Carolina taxpayers pay \$2,784 per capita in state and local taxes.

Neighboring states' ranks: North Carolina (17th), Georgia (35th), Florida (31st),

Tax Freedom Day®

2015
April
12

In 2014, South Carolina taxpayers worked 102 days into the year until April 12 to pay their total tax bill, ranking 8th highest nationally.

That's 12 days before national Tax Freedom Day (April 21), the day when Americans finally have earned enough money to pay their total tax bill for the year.

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South Carolina Taxes at a Glance

Each state uses a variety of tax tools to raise revenue, including individual income taxes, property taxes, and sales taxes, among others. Here are some facts on how South Carolina structures their different tax types:

Note: All collections listed on this page are combined state and local tax collections as reported by the Census Bureau's Government Finance Division. For all ranks, 1 indicates highest among the 50 states.

General Info	Rank	Nat. Avg.
Income per capita	\$33,603 46th	\$43,735
Federal aid as % of gen. revenue	30% 30th	32.8%
State debt per capita	\$8,597 20th	\$3,678

Individual Income Tax	
Number of brackets	5
Bottom income bracket rate	3.00%
Bottom bracket kick in	\$2,880
Top income tax rate	7.00%
Top bracket kick in	\$14,400
Collections per capita (2012)	\$659
Collections rank (2012)	35th

Property Tax	
Collections per capita (2012)	\$1,039
Collections rank (2012)	33rd
Property taxes paid as share of owner-occupied housing value (2013)	0.57%
Property taxes paid percent rank (2013)	46th

Sources of State & Local Tax Collections

	South Carolina	All States.
Property Tax	34%	32%
Sales Tax	23%	23%
Corporate Income Tax	2%	4%
Individual Income Tax	22%	22%
Other	19%	20%

Corporate Income Tax	
Number of brackets	1
Top corporate tax rate	5.00%
Collections per capita (2012)	\$54
Collections rank (2012)	45th

Sales Tax	
State rate	6.00%
State + average local rate	7.13%
State + average local rank	18th
Collections per capita (2011)	\$702
Collections rank (2011)	40th

Excise Taxes	Rate	Rank
Gasoline taxes and fees	16.8¢ per gallon	48th
Cigarette taxes	\$0.57 per pack	41st
Spirits taxes	\$5.42 per gallon	27th
Beer taxes	\$0.77 per gallon	7th
Cell phone taxes	10.54%	22nd

Other Taxes	Rate	Exemption
Gross receipts tax	None	N/A
Capital stock tax	0.10%	Unlimited
Inheritance tax	None	N/A
Estate tax	None	N/A

About the Tax Foundation



The Tax Foundation is the nation's leading independent tax policy research organization. Since 1937, our principled research, insightful analysis, and engaged experts have informed smarter tax policy at the federal, state, and local levels. Our Center for

State Tax Policy is routinely relied upon for presentations, testimony, and media appearances on state tax and fiscal policy, and our website is a comprehensive resource for information on tax and spending policy in each U.S. state.

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