

BEAUFORT COUNTY

Date Formed:	1769
Land Area (square miles):	587
Form of Government:	Council-Administrator
Council Members:	11
Method of Election:	Single Member
Term Length:	4 yrs.
Council of Government:	Lowcountry
County Seat:	Beaufort
Other Cities and Towns:	Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, Port Royal, Yemassee



Population Trends

2020 Census	187,117	2021 Pop. Estimate	191,748
2010 Census	162,233	2020 Pop. Estimate	187,691
2000 Census	120,937	Numeric Change 2020-2021	4,057
Numeric Change 2000-2020	24,884	Percent Change 2020-2021	2.16%
Persons Per Square Mile	318.8		

Economic Data

2021 Jobs	66,915	Avg. Wage Per Job, 2021	\$45,291
2020 Jobs	64,763	Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2021	65.8%
2010 Jobs	70,693	Per Capita Personal Income, 2020	\$61,298
Percent Change 2020-2021	3.2%	Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2020	103.0
Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020	-0.9%	Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2020	127.6
Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2021	3.5		

Tax Data

Total Assessed Property, 2020	\$2,274,398,454	Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:	
Per Capita Assessed Property, 2020	\$12,155	Local Option	*
County Millage Rate, 2021	0.0648	Capital Projects	*
Value of a County Mil, 2021	\$2,137,150	School District	*
State Accommodations Tax, FY 2021	\$14,240,085	Transportation	Ended 1-22
State Admissions Tax, FY 2021	\$4,717,344	Edu. Capital Improvement	*

County Finance & Employment Data

Total Revenues FY 2020	\$252,567,983	Per Capita Revenues	\$1,350
Total Expenditures FY 2020	\$197,502,206	Per Capita Expenditures	\$1,056
General Fund Budget FY 2022	\$134,850,000	Per Capita General Fund Budget	\$721
Total Debt Outstanding FY 2021	\$207,320,970	Per Capita Total Debt FY 2021	\$1,021
Payroll FY 2022	\$66,500,000	County Credit Ratings:	
Full-Time Employment FY 2022	1162	Fitch FY 2021	*
Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents	6	Moody's FY 2021	Aa1
Part-Time Employment FY 2022	128	S&P FY 2021	AA+

County History

Both Beaufort County and its county seat were named for Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort (1684-1714), one of the Lords Proprietors of Carolina. The district was formed in 1769 from the parishes of Prince William, St. Luke, St. Helena, and St. Peter. It remained relatively unchanged in size until 1878, when a large portion was removed to form Hampton County. French explorers visited this area long before the English arrived. They established a fort in 1562, as did the Spanish in 1566; neither of these settlements survived, however. Beaufort, the second oldest town in South Carolina, was founded in 1710. In the years before the Civil War, rice and sea island cotton plantations brought great wealth to the region. Federal troops occupied Beaufort in December 1861, and the first school in the South for freed slaves was established during the Civil War at what is now Penn Center on St. Helena Island. Some famous residents of Beaufort County are naturalists Alexander Garden (ca. 1730-1791) and Stephen Elliott (1771-1830); Robert Smalls (1839-1915), a former slave who became a United States Congressman; boxer Joe Frazier; and writer Pat Conroy.