

## BEAUFORT COUNTY

<b>Date Formed</b>	1769	<b>Form of Government</b>	Council-Administrator
<b>Land Area (Sq. Mi.)</b>	587	<b>Council Members</b>	11
<b>Council of Government</b>	Lowcountry	<b>Term Length</b>	4 years
<b>County Seat</b>	Beaufort	<b>Method of Election</b>	Single Member
<b>Other Municipalities</b>	Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, Port Royal, Yemassee		



### Population Trends

<b>Population Estimate 2017</b>	186,844	<b>Numeric Change 2016 - 2017</b>	3,347
<b>Population Estimate 2016</b>	183,497	<b>Percent Change 2016 - 2017</b>	1.8%
<b>Census Population 2010</b>	162,233	<b>Numeric Change 2010 - 2017</b>	24,611
<b>Census Population 2000</b>	120,937	<b>Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2017</b>	2.2%
<b>Census Population 1990</b>	86,425	<b>Numeric Change 1990 - 2010</b>	75,808
<b>Persons Per Square Mile</b>	276.38	<b>Avg. Annual Growth Rate 1990 - 2010</b>	4.4%

### Economic Data

<b>Jobs 2016</b>	78,338	<b>Personal Income 2016, in thousands</b>	\$9,171,747
<b>Jobs 2015</b>	77,381	<b>Per Capital Personal Income 2016</b>	\$50,078
<b>Jobs 2010</b>	70,693	<b>Per Cap Personal Income 2016, % of U.S.</b>	101.7%
<b>Jobs 2000</b>	71,160	<b>Average Wage Per Job 2016</b>	\$37,897
<b>Jobs 2000 - 2010, Ann. Avg. Growth Rate</b>	-0.1%	<b>Average Wage Per Job 2016, % of U.S.</b>	71.0%
<b>Jobs 2015 - 2016, Percent Change</b>	1.2%	<b>Unemployment Rate, Ann. Avg. 2017</b>	4.0%

### Tax Data

<b>Assessed Property 2016</b>	\$1,966,240,642	<b>Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:</b>
<b>Per Capita Assessed Propert Tax 2016</b>	\$12,120	Local Option
<b>County Base Millage Rate 2017</b>	.06339	Capital Projects
<b>Value of One Mil 2017</b>	\$1,966,241	School District
<b>Net Taxable Sales FY 2016</b>	\$2,781,798,101	Transportation
<b>State Admissions Tax Collected FY 2016</b>	\$3,502,737	Education Capital Improvement
<b>State Accommod. Tax Collected FY 2016</b>	\$7,871,778	

### County Finance and Employment

<b>Total Revenues FY 2016</b>	\$152,875,885	<b>Per Capita Revenues FY 2016</b>	\$942
<b>Total Expenditures FY 2016</b>	\$187,857,650	<b>Per Capita Expenditures FY 2016</b>	\$1,158
<b>General Fund Budget FY 2018</b>	\$123,300,000	<b>Per Capita General Fund Budget FY 201</b>	\$760
<b>Total Debt Outstanding FY 2017</b>	\$269,415,514	<b>Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY 2018</b>	\$1,502
<b>Payroll FY 2018</b>	\$54,000,000	<b>Credit Ratings FY 2018, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Full-Time Employees FY 2018</b>	1,138	Moody's	Aa1
<b>Part-Time Employees FY 2018</b>	150	Standard and Poor's	AA
<b>Full-Time Employees/1,000 Residents</b>	7.0	Fitch	

### 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.

*County histories obtained from the S.C. State Library Reference Room at [www.statelibrary.sc.gov/sc-counties](http://www.statelibrary.sc.gov/sc-counties). All other sources listed in the county comparison tables in the appendix.*