

# BEAUFORT COUNTY

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

## 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.

## Population Trends

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<b>Census Population 1990</b>	86,425	14	<b>Numeric Change Census 1990-2010</b>	75,808	6
<b>Census Population 2000</b>	120,937	12	<b>Percent Change Census 1990-2010</b>	87.7%	1
<b>Census Population 2010</b>	162,233	10	<b>Numeric Change Pop. Est. 2010-2013</b>	9,605	8
<b>Population Estimate 2012</b>	168,016	10	<b>Percent Change Pop. Est. 2012-2013</b>	5.7%	6
<b>Population Estimate 2013</b>	171,838	10	<b>Avg. Annual Growth Rate 2010 - 2013</b>	2.0%	6
<b>Persons Per Square Mile</b>	276.4	7			

## Economic Data

	<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>		<u>Value</u>	<u>Rank</u>
<b>Jobs 2012</b>	72,516	8	<b>Personal Income 2012, in thousands</b>	\$7,217,962	8
<b>Jobs 2011</b>	70,716	8	<b>Avg. Annual Growth Rate, 1969 - 2012</b>	9.1%	4
<b>Jobs 2010</b>	70,693	8	<b>Per Capita Personal Income 2012</b>	\$42,952	2
<b>Jobs 2000</b>	71,160	7	<b>% of U.S. Per Capita PI 2012</b>	98.2%	2
<b>Jobs 1990</b>	49,653	11	<b>Average Wage Per Job 2012</b>	\$38,246	18
<b>Avg. Ann. Growth Rate Jobs 1990-2010</b>	2.1%	6	<b>% of U.S. Avg. Wage Per Job 2012</b>	77.1%	18
<b>Percent Change Jobs 2010-2012</b>	2.5%	7	<b>Unemployment Rate 2013</b>	6.8%	37
<b>Numeric Change Jobs 2011-2012</b>	1,800	8			

## Tax Data

	<u>Value</u>		<u>Value</u>
<b>Assessed Property 2012</b>	\$1,765,786,284	<b>Per Capita Assessed Property 2012</b>	\$10,884
<b>County Base Millage Rate 2013</b>	0.0563	<b>Additional Sales Tax, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Value of One Mil 2013</b>	\$1,677,376	<b>Local Option</b>	
<b>Net Taxable Sales FY12</b>	\$2,187,748,555	<b>Capital Projects</b>	
<b>State Admissions Tax FY12</b>	\$3,505,222	<b>School District</b>	
<b>State Accommodations Tax Collected FY12</b>	\$5,878,067	<b>Transportation</b>	
		<b>Edu. Capital Improvement</b>	

## County Finance & Employment Data

	<u>Value</u>		<u>Value</u>
<b>Total Revenues FY12</b>	\$173,464,674	<b>Per Capita Revenues FY12</b>	\$1,069
<b>Total Expenditures FY12</b>	\$196,307,103	<b>Per Capita Expenditures FY12</b>	\$1,210
<b>General Fund Budget FY14</b>	\$99,351,096	<b>Per Capita Gen. Fund Budget FY14</b>	\$612
<b>Total Debt Outstanding FY13</b>	\$226,466,192	<b>Per Capita Debt Outstanding FY13</b>	\$1,396
<b>Payroll FY14</b>	\$49,000,000	<b>Credit Rating(s) FY13, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Full-Time Employees FY14</b>	1,142	<b>Moody's</b>	Aa1
<b>Part-Time Employees FY14</b>	150	<b>Standard &amp; Poor's</b>	AA+
<b>Full-Time Emp/1,000 Cnty Residents</b>	7.04	<b>Fitch</b>	AA

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 appendix tables.