



**Lowcountry**  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# **The People and the Economy of the Lowcountry: A Demographic Overview**



**Lowcountry Council of Governments  
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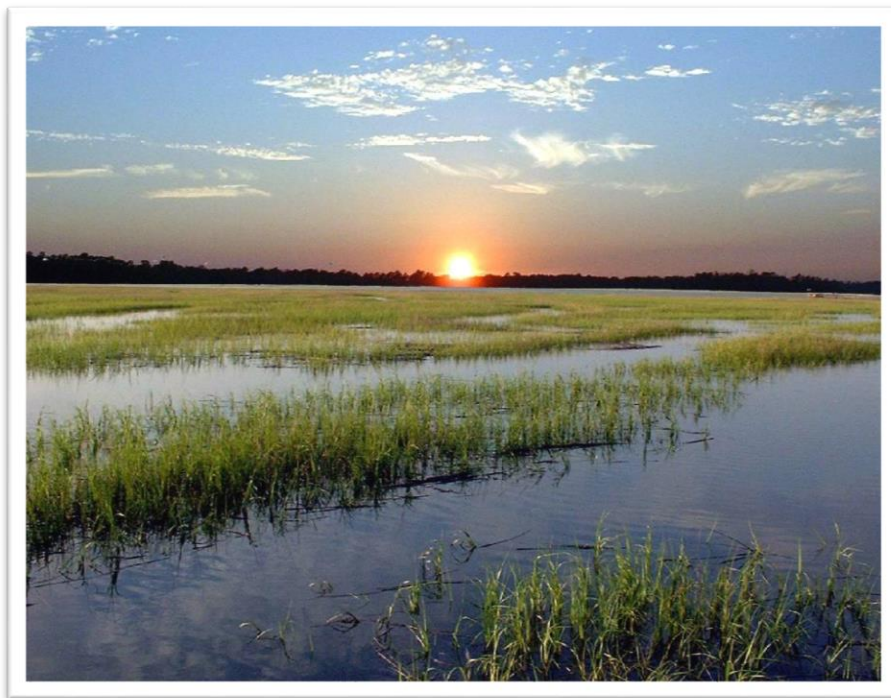
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## Introduction

The Lowcountry Region, which comprises of Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper counties, experienced unprecedented growth, development, and change between 1990 and 2005. Between 2007 and 2010, mirroring the national trend, there was an economic downturn that negatively impacted the Lowcountry Region, yet not to the extent that it has for other parts of the country. Data from 2011-2016, however, shows signs of a healthier economy in the Region.

There is a great deal of data and quantitative information available that both confirms and explains what has taken place. The United States Census Bureau (both the Census and the American Community Survey), United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, South Carolina Labor Market Information (SCLMI), and constituent counties and municipalities of the Lowcountry all maintain a variety of data and statistics. This report is an attempt to summarize, analyze and synthesize all of this data into one easily accessible, condensed, and useable document.

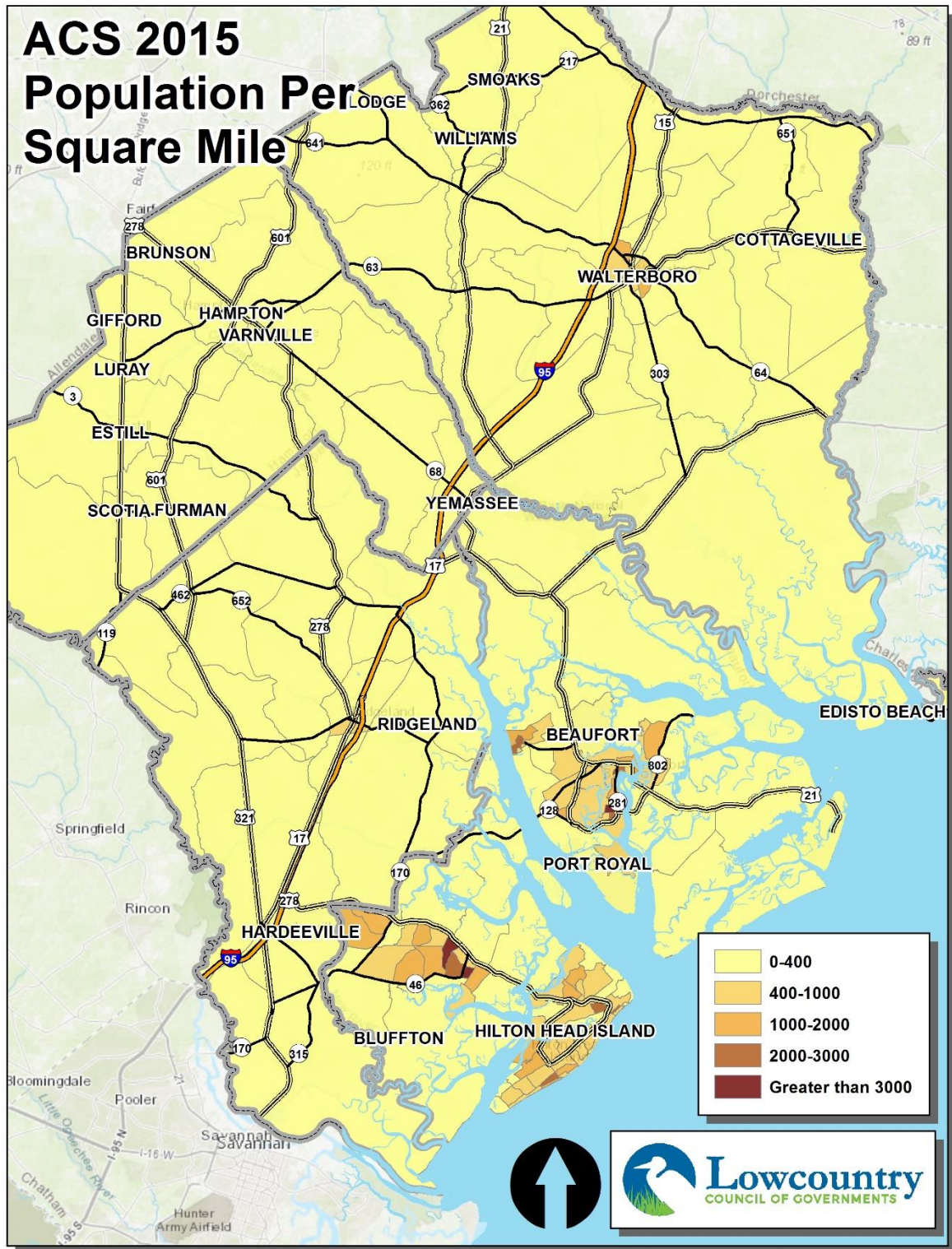
The most recent figures available have been utilized in addition to historic data for comparative purposes. The Planning Department continually updates and analyzes this data when it becomes available.



Source: [www.gullahheritage.com](http://www.gullahheritage.com)



Figure 1: Population Density by Census Block ACS 2015



## The Lowcountry Region

### *Population Growth*

Between 1990 and 2000, the four counties of South Carolina's Lowcountry—Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper—together were one of the fastest growing regions in the state, with Beaufort County being the fastest growing among the larger counties and Jasper County in the top ranks of the smaller counties.

**Table 1: Population in the Lowcountry: 2000-2016**

	2000	2010	2016	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2016
<b>Beaufort County</b>	120,937	162,233	171,569	34.1%	5.75%
<b>Colleton County</b>	38,264	38,892	38,549	1.6%	-0.9%
<b>Hampton County</b>	21,386	21,090	20,167	-1.4%	-4.4%
<b>Jasper County</b>	20,678	24,777	29,137	19.8%	17.6%
<b>Region total</b>	201,265	246,992	259,422	22.7%	5.0%
<b>South Carolina</b>	4,012,012	4,625,364	4,961,119	15.3%	7.3%

**Source:** US Census

From 2001 through 2016, growth in the Lowcountry slowed and even reversed in Hampton and Colleton Counties. While Beaufort County grew the most, in terms of the number of people, Jasper County had the highest growth rate in the Region (see Table 2 on the following page).



**Table 2: Population Change in the Lowcountry: 2000-2015**

	Census 2000	Census 2010	2015 Estimate	Percent Change 2000-2010	Average Annual Percent Change	Percent Change 2010-2015	Average Annual Percent Change
<b>Beaufort County</b>	120,937	162,233	171,420	34.1%	3.4%	5.7%	1.13%
Beaufort city	12,950	12,361	12,839	-4.5%	-0.5%	3.9%	0.77%
Bluffton town	1,275	12,530	14,607	882.7%	88.3%	16.6%	3.32%
Burton CDP	7,180	6,976	6,266	-2.8%	-0.3%	-10.2%	-2.04%
Hilton Head Island town	33,862	37,099	39,071	9.6%	1.0%	5.3%	1.06%
Laurel Bay CDP	6,625	5,891	6,318	-11.1%	-1.1%	7.2%	1.45%
Port Royal town	3,950	10,678	11,513	170.3%	17.0%	7.8%	1.56%
Shell Point CDP	2,856	2,336	2,331	-18.2%	-1.8%	-0.2%	-0.04%
<b>Colleton County</b>	38,264	38,892	38,004	1.6%	0.2%	-2.3%	-0.46%
Cottageville town	707	762	853	7.8%	0.8%	11.9%	2.39%
Edisto Beach town	641	414	600	-35.4%	-3.5%	44.9%	8.99%
Jacksonboro CDP	n/a	478	558	n/a	n/a	16.7%	3.35%
Lodge town	114	120	96	5.3%	0.5%	-20.0%	-4.00%
Smoaks town	140	126	143	-10.0%	-1.0%	13.5%	2.70%
Walterboro city	5,153	5,398	5,312	4.8%	0.5%	-1.6%	-0.32%
Williams town	116	117	131	0.9%	0.1%	12.0%	2.39%
<b>Hampton County</b>	21,386	21,090	20,473	-1.4%	-0.1%	-2.9%	-0.59%
Brunson town	589	554	547	-5.9%	-0.6%	-1.3%	-0.25%
Estill town	2,425	2,040	2,244	-15.9%	-1.6%	10.0%	2.00%
Furman town	286	239	264	-16.4%	-1.6%	10.5%	2.09%
Gifford town	370	288	363	-22.2%	-2.2%	26.0%	5.21%
Hampton town	2,837	2,808	2,726	-1.0%	-0.1%	-2.9%	-0.58%
Luray town	115	127	176	10.4%	1.0%	38.6%	7.72%
Scotia town	227	215	163	-5.3%	-0.5%	-24.2%	-4.84%
Varnville town	2,074	2,162	2,277	4.2%	0.4%	5.3%	1.06%
Yemassee town	807	1,027	893	27.3%	2.7%	-13.0%	-2.61%
<b>Jasper County</b>	20,678	24,777	26,549	19.8%	2.0%	7.2%	1.43%
Hardeeville city	1,793	2,952	4,353	64.6%	6.5%	47.5%	9.49%
Ridgeland town	2,518	4,036	4,030	60.3%	6.0%	-0.1%	-0.03%
<b>Lowcountry Total</b>	201,265	246,992	256,446	22.7%	2.3%	3.8%	0.77%

**Source:** US Census and US Census Estimates

**Table 3: Lowcountry Household Data**

	2000	2010	Percent Change 2000-2010	Average Annual Percent Change	2015	Percent Change 2010-2015	Average Annual Percent Change
<b>Beaufort</b>							
<b>Households</b>	45,532	64,945	42.64%	4.26%	65,975	1.59%	0.32%
<b>Avg Household Size</b>	2.51	2.42	-3.59%	-0.36%	2.51	3.72%	0.74%
<b>Family Households</b>	33,060	45,322	37.09%	3.71%	44,911	-0.91%	-0.18%
<b>Avg Family Size</b>	2.9	2.84	-2.07%	-0.21%	3.01	5.99%	1.20%
<b>Colleton</b>							
<b>Households</b>	14,470	15,131	4.57%	0.46%	14,774	-2.36%	-0.47%
<b>Avg household Size</b>	2.62	2.54	-3.05%	-0.31%	2.53	-0.39%	-0.08%
<b>Family Households</b>	10,494	10,449	-0.43%	-0.04%	9,859	-5.65%	-1.13%
<b>Avg Family Size</b>	3.11	3.07	-1.29%	-0.13%	3.07	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Hampton</b>							
<b>Households</b>	7,444	7,598	2.07%	0.21%	7,530	-0.89%	-0.18%
<b>Avg Household Size</b>	2.64	2.57	-2.65%	-0.27%	2.53	-1.56%	-0.31%
<b>Family Households</b>	5,312	5,211	-1.90%	-0.19%	4,958	-4.86%	-0.97%
<b>Avg Family Size</b>	3.19	3.15	-1.25%	-0.13%	3.19	1.27%	0.25%
<b>Jasper</b>							
<b>Households</b>	7,042	8,517	20.95%	2.09%	9,095	6.79%	1.36%
<b>Avg Household Size</b>	2.75	2.73	-0.73%	-0.07%	2.85	4.40%	0.88%
<b>Family Households</b>	5,092	5,944	16.73%	1.67%	6,235	4.90%	0.98%
<b>Avg Family Size</b>	3.22	3.23	0.31%	0.03%	3.36	4.02%	0.80%
<b>Lowcountry</b>							
<b>Households</b>	74,488	96,191	29.14%	2.91%	97,374	1.23%	0.25%
<b>Avg household Size</b>	2.63	2.565	-2.47%	-0.25%	2.57	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Family Households</b>	53,958	66,926	24.03%	2.40%	65,963	-1.44%	-0.29%
<b>Avg Family Size</b>	3.11	3.07	-1.05%	-0.10%	3.16	2.77%	0.55%

**Source:** US Census and ACS Data

While population growth has slowed between 2000 and 2015, table 3 above shows that household formation outpaces overall population growth. One explanation for this statistic is the decline in household size and the increasing prevalence of individual householders, a trend occurring nationwide. The postponement of family household formation can reduce a region's requirement for single family construction, placing greater emphasis on housing in smaller units. Changes in the demographic makeup of the Lowcountry population should continue to be closely monitored for their impact on housing demand, as well as other economic factors.



## Increasing Diversity

In addition to growth, especially in Beaufort and Jasper counties, there has been a significant change in the composition of the Region's population. Formerly the area's population was almost entirely comprised of African-American and white residents, with small Asian, Hispanic and Native American population segments. Between 2000 and 2010 there was an influx of Hispanic/Latin persons, with the largest increases in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. Between years 2010 and 2016 there was minimal growth in the Region's Hispanic population, likely part of the voluntary repatriation, based on fewer employment opportunities, observed throughout the US.

**Table 4: Race and Ethnicity: 2000, 2010, and 2016**

	Year	Total Population	Race		
			Total White	Total Black	Total Hispanic
Beaufort County	2000	120,937	85,451	29,005	8,208
	2010	162,233	116,606	31,290	19,567
	2016	171,569	126,481	34,729	21,012
Percent Change	2000-2010	34.15%	36.46%	7.88%	138.39%
	2010-2016	5.75%	8.47%	10.99%	7.38%
Colleton County	2000	38,264	21,245	16,140	551
	2010	38,892	22,173	15,178	1094
	2016	38,549	21,951	14,546	1,296
Percent Change	2000-2010	1.64%	4.37%	-5.96%	98.55%
	2010-2016	-0.88%	-1.00%	-4.16%	18.46%
Hampton County	2000	21,386	9,173	11,906	547
	2010	21,090	8,999	11,359	744
	2016	20,167	8,351	10,710	810
Percent Change	2000-2010	-1.38%	-1.90%	-4.59%	36.01%
	2010-2016	-4.38%	-7.20%	-5.71%	8.87%
Jasper County	2000	20,678	8,766	10,895	1,190
	2010	24,777	10,658	11,406	3,752
	2016	29,137	12,389	12,241	3,800
Percent Change	2000-2010	19.82%	21.58%	4.69%	215.29%
	2010-2016	17.60%	16.24%	7.32%	1.28%

Source: US Census and ACS Data

Note: The numbers of white, black, other and Hispanic add up to more than the total county populations because Hispanic residents have been counted as members of one or more of the other races as well.

## An Older Population

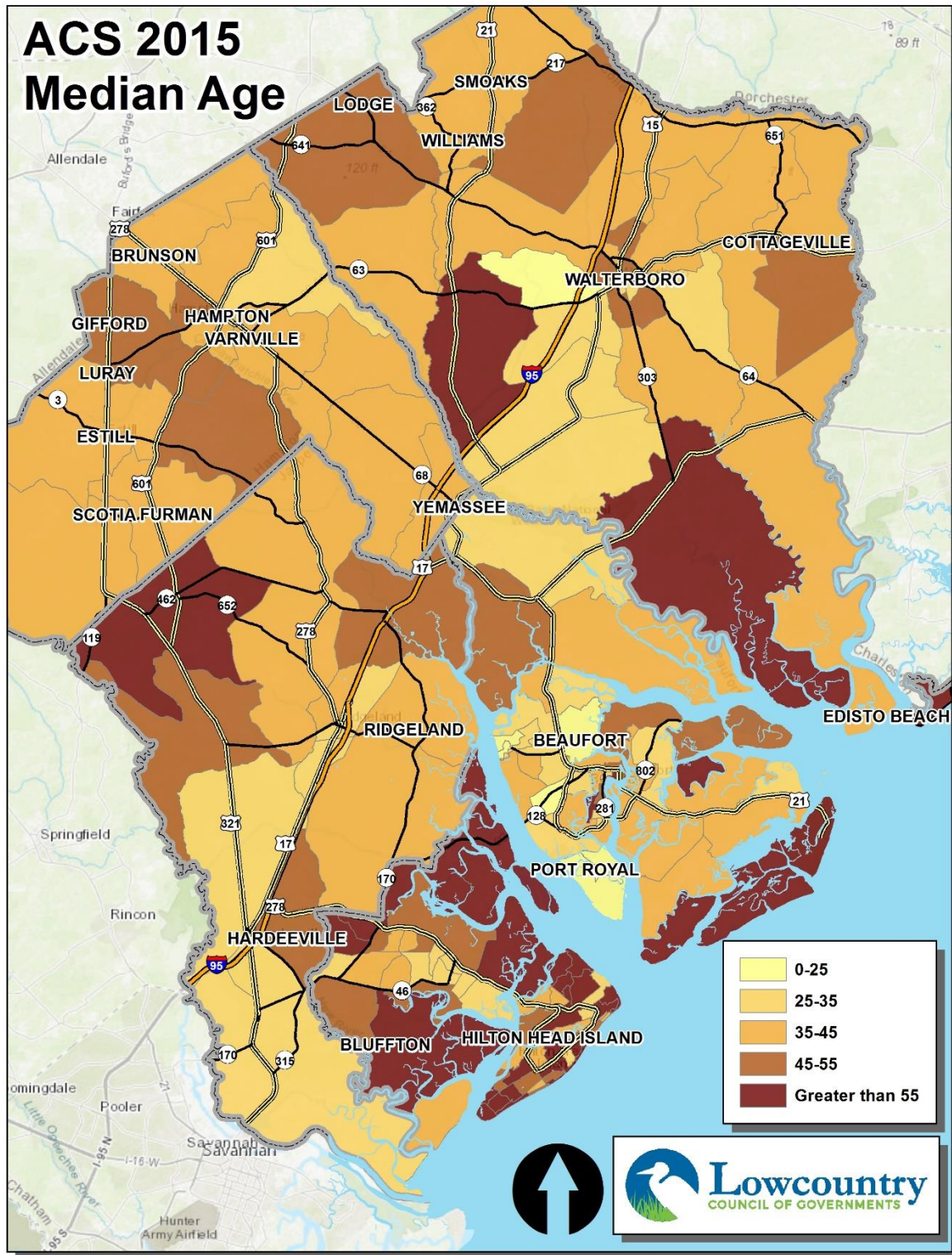
Different age groups in the four counties have gained or lost population, but all four counties have shown marked increases in their older and elderly populations, in line with much of the rest of the United States since the last Census.

**Table 5: Age Groups Changes: 2000, 2010, & 2016**

Beaufort County						Colleton County					
	2000	2010	2016	2000-2010 Percent Change	2010-2016 Percent Change		2000	2010	2016	2000-2010 Percent Change	2010-2016 Percent Change
<b>Total Population</b>	120,937	162,233	183,149	34.1%	12.9%	<b>Total Population</b>	38,264	38,892	37,923	1.6%	-2.5%
<b>Under 5 years</b>	8,110	10,960	10,133	35.1%	-7.5%	<b>Under 5 years</b>	2,649	2,579	2,232	-2.6%	-13.5%
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	8,033	9,566	10,192	19.1%	6.5%	<b>5 to 9 years</b>	2,957	2,515	2,380	-14.9%	-5.4%
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	7,747	8,553	9,739	10.4%	13.9%	<b>10 to 14 years</b>	3,053	2,706	2,384	-11.4%	-11.9%
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	8,722	9,956	10,208	14.1%	2.5%	<b>15 to 19 years</b>	2,889	2,682	2,309	-7.2%	-13.9%
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	10,002	11,756	12,190	17.5%	3.7%	<b>20 to 24 years</b>	2,045	2,229	2,156	9.0%	-3.3%
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	16,434	20,137	21,034	22.5%	4.5%	<b>25 to 34 years</b>	4,682	4,157	4,247	-11.2%	2.2%
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	16,433	17,534	18,606	6.7%	6.1%	<b>35 to 44 years</b>	5,617	4,709	4,111	-16.2%	-12.7%
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	14,019	18,580	19,567	32.5%	5.3%	<b>45 to 54 years</b>	5,478	5,763	5,066	5.2%	-12.1%
<b>55 to 59 years</b>	6,397	9,886	11,500	54.5%	16.3%	<b>55 to 59 years</b>	2,183	2,869	2,725	31.4%	-5.0%
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	6,286	12,273	13,092	95.2%	6.7%	<b>60 to 64 years</b>	1,783	2,605	2,759	46.1%	5.9%
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	11,329	20,137	28,999	77.7%	44.0%	<b>65 to 74 years</b>	2,794	3,635	4,617	30.1%	27.0%
<b>75 to 84 years</b>	5,913	9,698	13,386	64.0%	38.0%	<b>75 to 84 years</b>	1,641	1,741	2,179	6.1%	25.2%
<b>85 years +</b>	1,512	3,197	4,503	111.4%	40.9%	<b>85 years +</b>	493	702	758	42.4%	8.0%
Hampton County						Jasper County					
	2000	2010	2016	2000-2010 Percent Change	2010-2016 Percent Change		2000	2010	2016	2000-2010 Percent Change	2010-2016 Percent Change
<b>Total Population</b>	21,386	21,090	19,922	-1.4%	-5.5%	<b>Total Population</b>	20,678	24,777	28,465	19.8%	14.9%
<b>Under 5 years</b>	1,431	1,347	1,061	-5.9%	-21.2%	<b>Under 5 years</b>	1,499	1,859	1,693	24.0%	-8.9%
<b>5 to 9 years</b>	1,659	1,326	1,218	-20.1%	-8.1%	<b>5 to 9 years</b>	1,602	1,711	1,698	6.8%	-0.8%
<b>10 to 14 years</b>	1,774	1,473	1,236	-17.0%	-16.1%	<b>10 to 14 years</b>	1,559	1,546	1,625	-0.8%	5.1%
<b>15 to 19 years</b>	1,599	1,524	1,262	-4.7%	-17.2%	<b>15 to 19 years</b>	1,483	1,751	1,501	18.1%	-14.3%
<b>20 to 24 years</b>	1,256	1,229	1,209	-2.1%	-1.6%	<b>20 to 24 years</b>	1,527	1,969	1,965	28.9%	-0.2%
<b>25 to 34 years</b>	3,052	2,648	2,582	-13.2%	-2.5%	<b>25 to 34 years</b>	3,063	3,685	3,871	20.3%	5.0%
<b>35 to 44 years</b>	3,290	2,915	2,556	-11.4%	-12.3%	<b>35 to 44 years</b>	3,282	3,217	3,327	-2.0%	3.4%
<b>45 to 54 years</b>	2,923	3,103	2,647	6.2%	-14.7%	<b>45 to 54 years</b>	2,538	3,524	3,682	38.8%	4.5%
<b>55 to 59 years</b>	1,010	1,420	1,389	40.6%	-2.2%	<b>55 to 59 years</b>	1,041	1,428	1,994	37.2%	39.6%
<b>60 to 64 years</b>	797	1,276	1,311	60.1%	2.7%	<b>60 to 64 years</b>	815	1,300	1,891	59.5%	45.5%
<b>65 to 74 years</b>	1,447	1,655	2,099	14.4%	26.8%	<b>65 to 74 years</b>	1,273	1,671	3,461	31.3%	107.1%
<b>75 to 84 years</b>	874	869	1016	-0.6%	16.9%	<b>75 to 84 years</b>	738	785	1276	6.4%	62.5%
<b>85 years +</b>	274	305	336	11.3%	10.2%	<b>85 years +</b>	258	313	481	21.3%	53.7%

Source: US Census and ACS Data

Figure 2: Median Age by Census Block Group ACS 2015



## Educational Attainment

Educational attainment has several implications for the Lowcountry, including economic development, income potential and quality of life. Between 2000 and 2015 all of the counties in the Lowcountry have made strides to increase the number of residents who graduate from high school or equivalent level of education, as highlighted in Table 6. All of the counties also had an increase in either the percent of population that hold a bachelor or graduate degree or both.

**Table 6: Educational Attainment - Highest Level Completed 2000-2015**

<b>Educational Attainment 2000</b>	<b>Beaufort County</b>	<b>Colleton County</b>	<b>Hampton County</b>	<b>Jasper County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Less Than High School Diploma or Equivalent</b>	12.2%	30.4%	33.1%	34.9%	23.7%	19.6%
<b>High School</b>	24.2%	37.0%	37.8%	35.9%	30.0%	28.6%
<b>Some College, Associates</b>	30.5%	21.1%	19.1%	20.5%	26.0%	27.4%
<b>Bachelors</b>	21.6%	7.4%	7.2%	6.2%	13.5%	15.5%
<b>Graduate</b>	11.6%	4.2%	2.9%	2.6%	6.9%	8.9%
<b>Educational Attainment 2010</b>	<b>Beaufort County</b>	<b>Colleton County</b>	<b>Hampton County</b>	<b>Jasper County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Less Than High School Diploma or Equivalent</b>	9.4%	24.7%	24.1%	25.1%	17.0%	14.9%
<b>High School</b>	24.2%	39.1%	41.0%	39.6%	31.2%	29.0%
<b>Some College, Associates</b>	29.0%	22.6%	23.9%	25.8%	27.8%	28.1%
<b>Bachelors</b>	23.2%	9.5%	7.6%	6.7%	15.5%	17.6%
<b>Graduate</b>	14.1%	4.2%	3.3%	2.7%	8.4%	10.3%
<b>Educational Attainment 2015</b>	<b>Beaufort County</b>	<b>Colleton County</b>	<b>Hampton County</b>	<b>Jasper County</b>	<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>United States</b>
<b>Less Than High School Diploma or Equivalent</b>	7.9%	17.8%	22.15%	21.16%	14.43%	13.35%
<b>High School</b>	23.36%	37.94%	41.82%	36.88%	29.77%	27.77%
<b>Some College, Associates</b>	29.90%	30.27%	25.45%	26.97%	29.95%	29.11%
<b>Bachelors</b>	23.12%	8.80%	6.71%	10.28%	16.52%	18.52%
<b>Graduate</b>	15.67%	5.23%	3.87%	4.71%	9.32%	11.25%

**Source:** US Census and ACS Data

When compared to the State of South Carolina and the United States as a whole, the Lowcountry is still behind in educational attainment. The Lowcountry is below the average of both the state and nation in the percent of the population that has had some college or attained an associates, bachelors, or graduate degree. This trend is not homogeneous across all of the Lowcountry counties, with Beaufort having above state and national averages in post-secondary levels of educational attainment, while the remaining counties had educational attainment levels lower than the state and national averages in 2015. As of 2015, Jasper, Hampton and Colleton Counties exceeded both the state and national averages for people who did not complete high school.



## Income and Poverty

Incomes are distributed as unevenly as is growth in the Lowcountry, with only Beaufort County had incomes higher than the state average. However, without adjusting for the inflation that occurred over the course of the decade from 2000 to 2010, the increase in incomes in all four counties were substantial, as shown in the following chart. Both household and per capita incomes grew at a greater rate in all four counties than the state average rate; Jasper County's increases were the largest in the Region. Since 2010 income growth has slowed for Beaufort County, and reversed in the case of Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper counties. This decrease in income is not only affecting the Lowcountry, however, as South Carolina also experienced slower income growth during this period.

**Table 7: Median Household Income in the Lowcountry: 2000-2015**

County	Income Type	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Beaufort County	Median Household Income	\$46,992	\$55,286	\$57,048	17.65%	3.19%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	\$65,061	\$59,629	\$57,048	-8.35%	-4.33%
	Per Capita Income	\$25,377	\$32,731	\$32,401	28.98%	-1.01%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	\$35,135	\$35,302	\$32,401	0.48%	-8.22%
Colleton County	Median Household Income	\$29,733	\$33,263	\$32,804	11.87%	-1.38%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	\$41,166	\$35,876	\$32,804	-12.85%	-8.56%
	Per Capita Income	\$14,831	\$17,842	\$19,015	20.30%	6.57%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	\$20,534	\$19,243	\$19,015	-6.28%	-1.19%
Hampton County	Median Household Income	\$28,771	\$34,846	\$31,410	21.12%	-9.86%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	\$39,834	\$37,583	\$31,410	-5.65%	-16.42%
	Per Capita Income	\$13,129	\$16,262	\$20,046	23.86%	23.27%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	\$18,177	\$17,539	\$20,046	-3.51%	14.29%
Jasper County	Median Household Income	\$30,727	\$37,393	\$37,141	21.69%	-0.67%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	\$42,542	\$40,330	\$37,141	-5.20%	-7.91%
	Per Capita Income	\$14,161	\$17,997	\$17,565	27.09%	-2.40%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	\$19,606	\$19,411	\$17,565	-1.00%	-9.51%
State Average	Median Household Income	\$37,082	\$43,939	\$45,483	18.49%	3.51%
	Adjusted Median Household Income	\$51,341	\$47,390	\$45,483	-7.70%	-4.02%
	Per Capita Income	\$18,795	\$23,443	\$24,604	24.73%	4.95%
	Adjusted Per Capita Income	\$26,022	\$25,284	\$24,604	-2.83%	-2.69%

The US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates median family incomes annually; their data also demonstrates declining buying power from 2000 to 2017 when wages are adjusted for inflation. Adjusting income numbers for inflation shows that while family incomes have increased in current dollars for Beaufort and Jasper Counties between 2000 and 2017, real take home pay has decreased for all four counties while the price of goods and services has increased. Wage growth nationwide has been stagnant despite a rebounding economy by other measures.

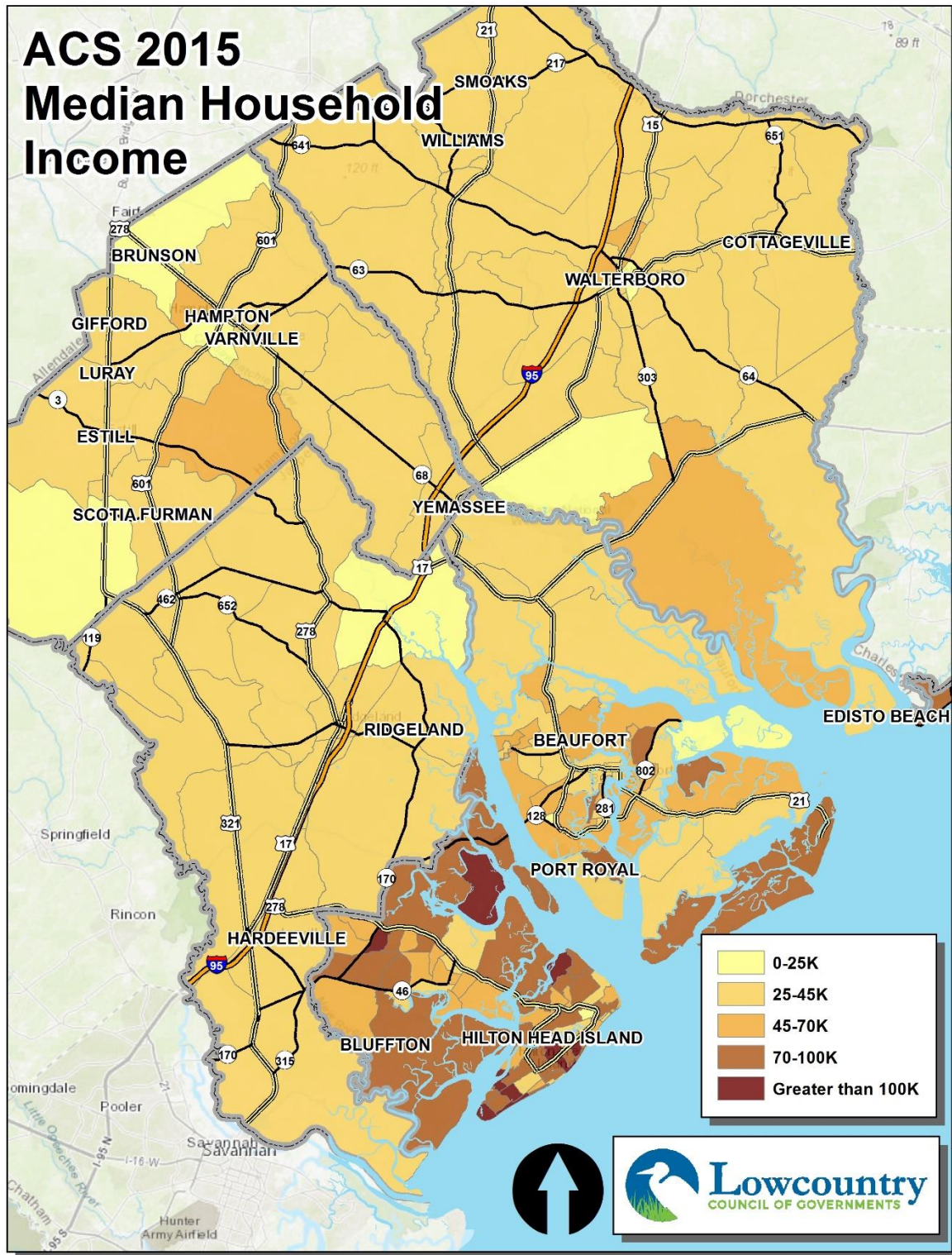


**Table 8: Inflation Adjusted Lowcountry Median Family Income: 2000-2017**

County	2000 Census	2011 HUD Estimates	2012 HUD Estimates	2013 HUD Estimates	2014 HUD Estimates	2015 HUD Estimates	2016 HUD Estimates	2017 HUD Estimates
Beaufort	\$52,710	\$68,891	\$69,800	\$67,000	\$63,400	\$68,900	\$67,100	\$70,300
Adjusted	\$75,830	\$75,966	\$74,781	\$70,654	\$65,818	\$71,592	\$68,778	\$70,300
	2000 Census	2011 HUD Estimates	2012 HUD Estimates	2013 HUD Estimates	2014 HUD Estimates	2015 HUD Estimates	2016 HUD Estimates	2017 HUD Estimates
Colleton	\$34,172	\$42,942	\$43,500	\$43,500	\$42,900	\$43,300	\$42,800	\$41,300
Adjusted	\$49,161	\$47,352	\$46,604	\$45,872	\$44,536	\$44,992	\$43,870	\$41,300
	2000 Census	2011 HUD Estimates	2012 HUD Estimates	2013 HUD Estimates	2014 HUD Estimates	2015 HUD Estimates	2016 HUD Estimates	2017 HUD Estimates
Hampton	\$34,561	\$43,405	\$44,000	\$45,900	\$43,800	\$45,900	\$43,700	\$44,300
Adjusted	\$49,720	\$47,863	\$47,140	\$48,403	\$45,471	\$47,694	\$44,793	\$44,300
	2000 Census	2011 HUD Estimates	2012 HUD Estimates	2013 HUD Estimates	2014 HUD Estimates	2015 HUD Estimates	2016 HUD Estimates	2017 HUD Estimates
Jasper	\$36,793	\$45,184	\$45,800	\$48,700	\$45,000	\$43,600	\$43,200	\$41,800
Adjusted	\$52,931	\$49,824	\$49,068	\$51,356	\$46,717	\$45,304	\$44,280	\$41,800

Source: HUD

Figure 3: Median Household Income by Block Group ACS 2015



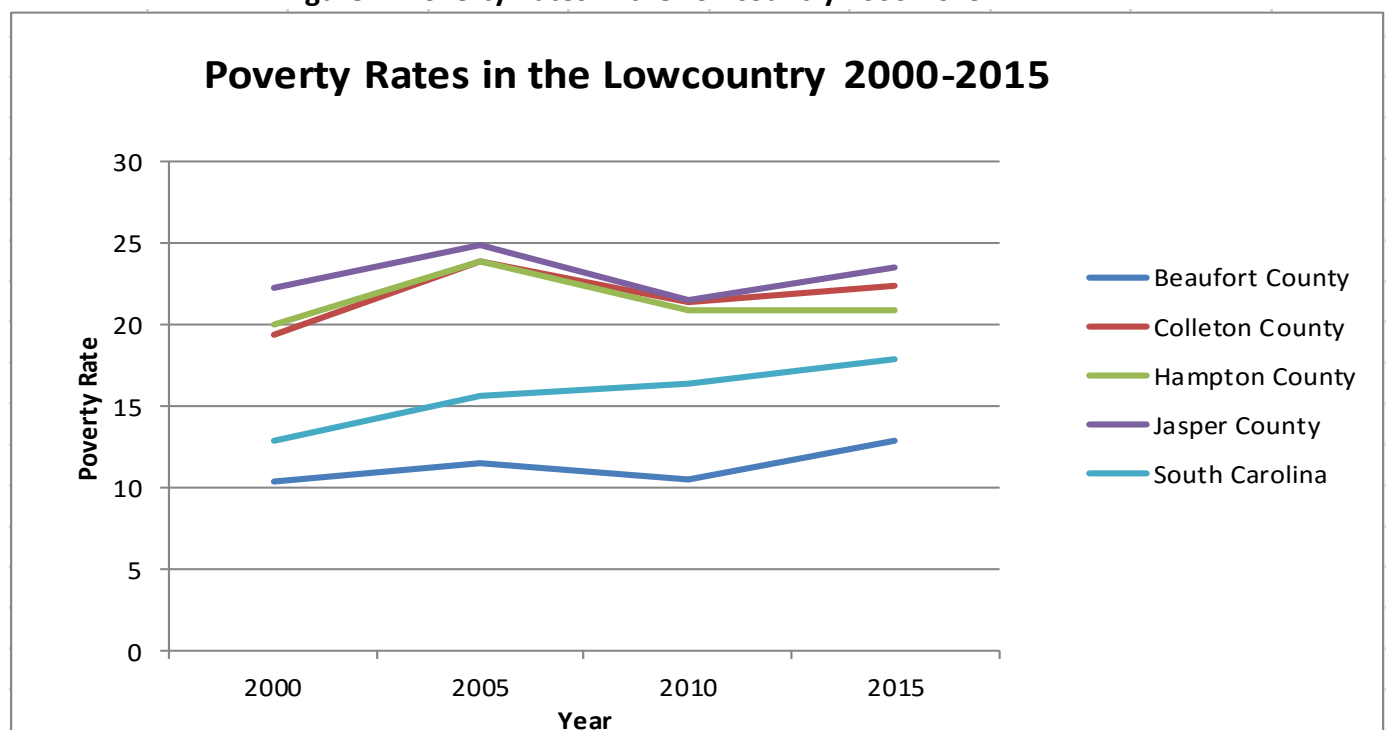
Between 2010 and 2015 the percentage of people living below the poverty level began to rise in three of the counties, while Hampton County's rates remained consistent. Additionally, as of 2015, only Beaufort County's poverty rate was lower than the state's average.

**Table 9: Poverty Rates in the Lowcountry: 2000-2015**

	2000	2005	2010	2015
Beaufort County	10.3	11.5	10.5	12.8
Colleton County	19.3	23.9	21.3	22.3
Hampton County	20	23.9	20.8	20.8
Jasper County	22.2	24.8	21.5	23.5
South Carolina	12.8	15.6	16.4	17.9

Source: US Census - Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates

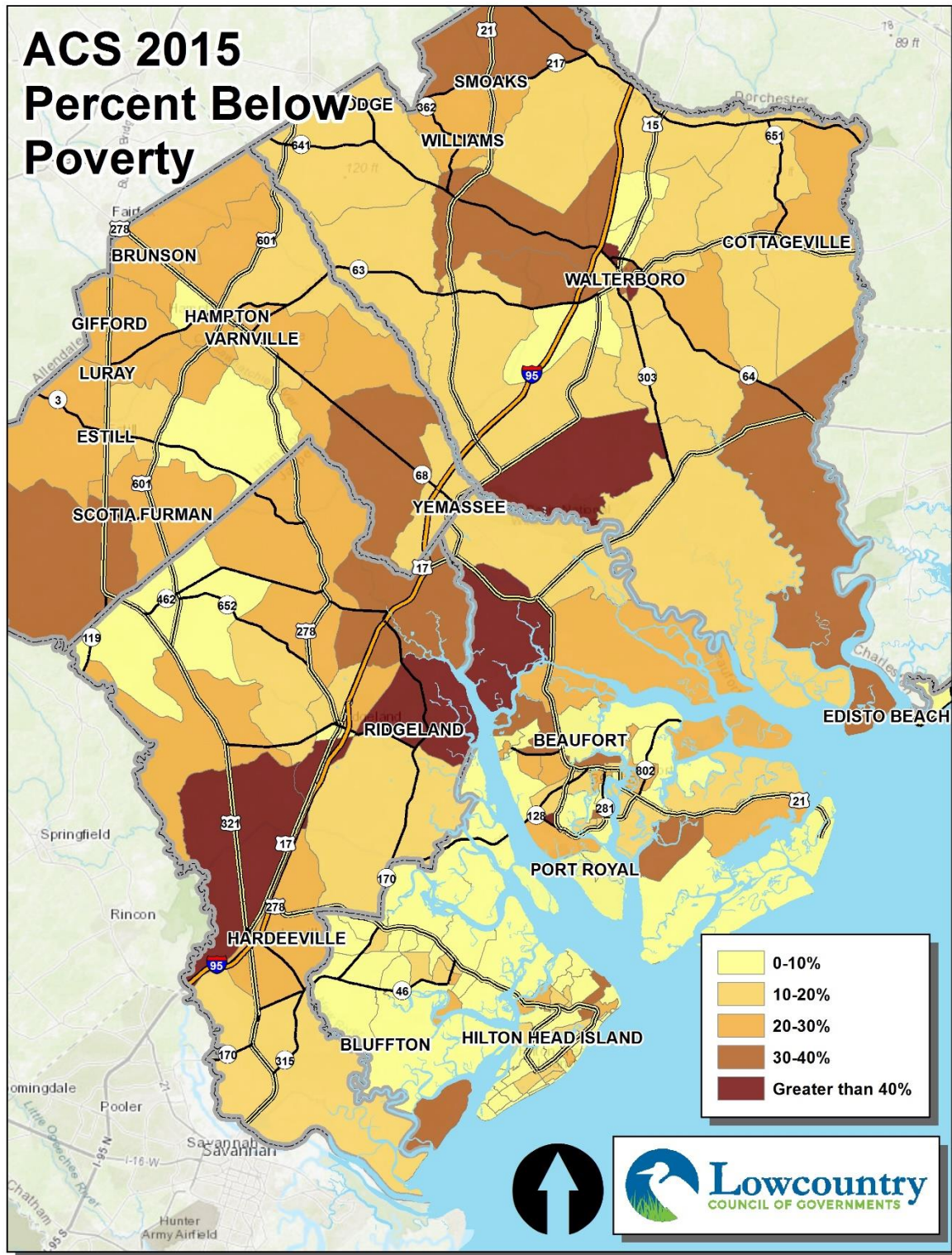
**Figure 4: Poverty Rates in the Lowcountry 2000-2015**



Source: US Census - Small Area Income and Poverty Estimate



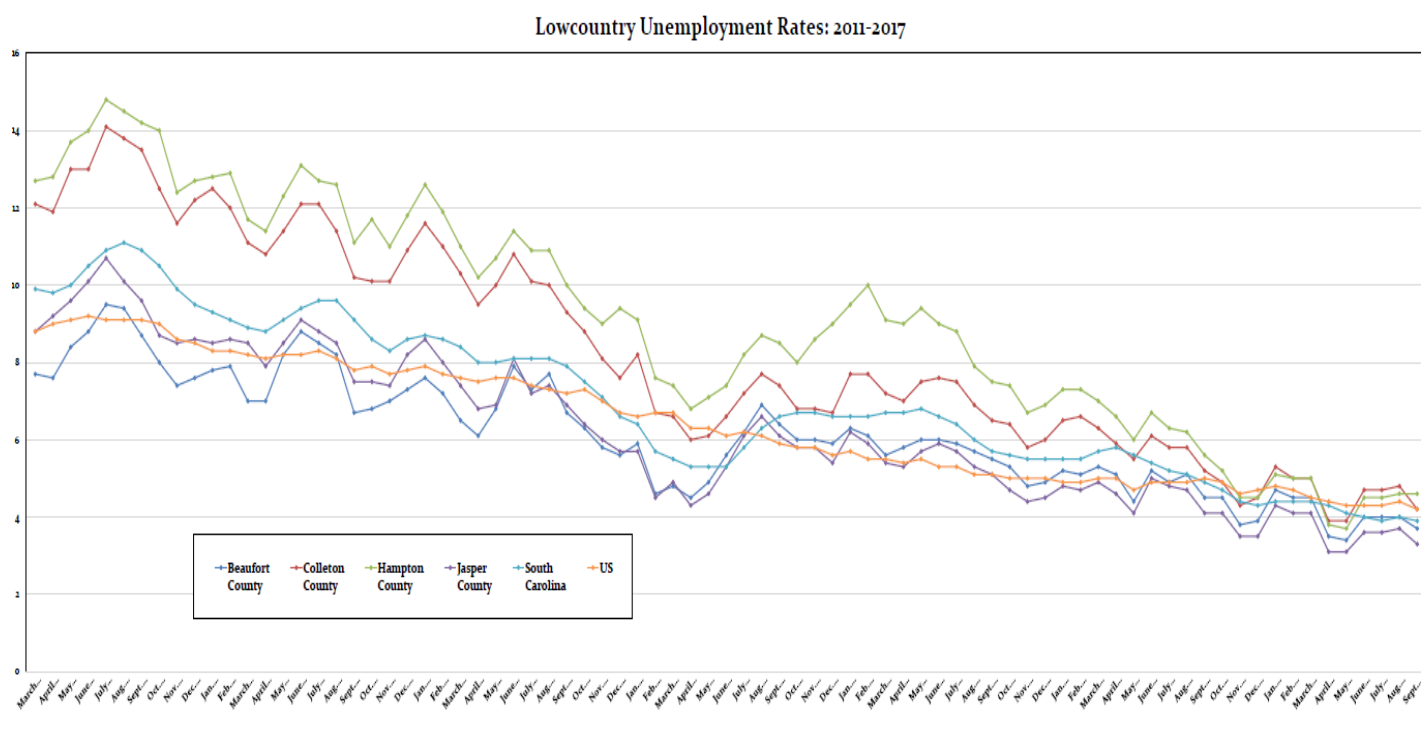
Figure 5: Percent of Population Below Poverty Line by Block Group ACS 2015



## Employment and Wages

Following the increase in unemployment rates that resulted from the 2007 Recession, the Lowcountry counties' rates of unemployment have generally trended downwards since 2011. The most profound effects of this downward trend can be seen with Colleton and Hampton County which, until recently, showed unemployment rates significantly higher than the rest of the Region, South Carolina, and US averages. Since late 2016, however, that difference has become significantly less pronounced, at points even falling below the US average. The table below shows those patterns between March 2011 and September 2017. This information, in addition to the following employment numbers, is updated and available on a monthly basis.

**Figure 6: Monthly Unemployment Rates: 2011-2017**





**Source:** SC WORKS

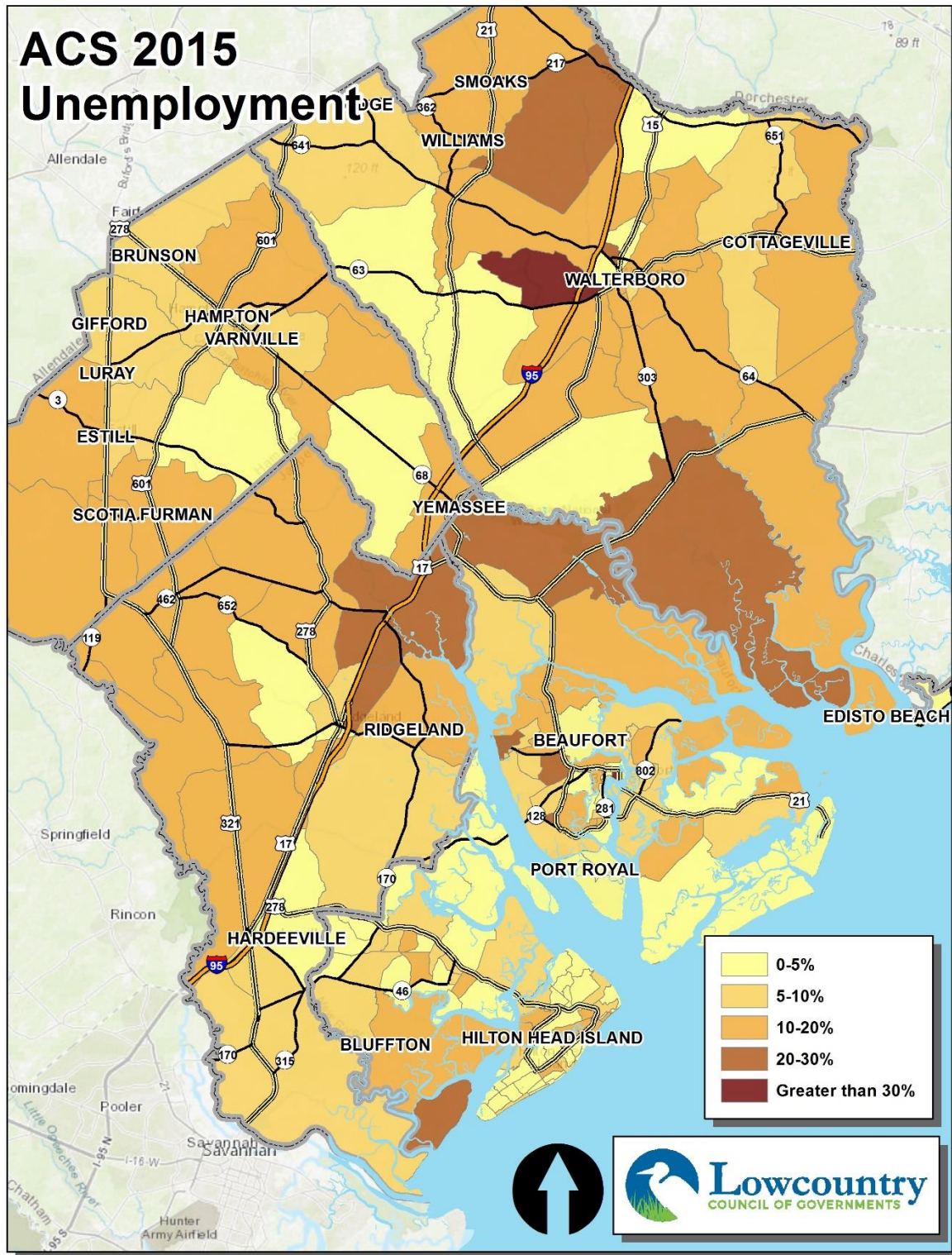
A more accurate picture of jobs and employment can be obtained by comparing the most recent labor force and employment data numbers with those of the previous 12 months. When done so for the Lowcountry and its four counties, a depiction which clearly mirrors the employment/unemployment trend seen throughout much of the US (unemployment rates are the lowest in many years), as well as a general net increase in the counties labor force and those employed between the months of 2016 and 2017, can be seen. When comparing the month of September for both years, Hampton county experienced the largest increase in the percentage of the labor force employed, whereas Colleton county experienced the largest numeric gains in labor force and employment among the four counties. It is important to note that although this data challenges the idea of a shrinking labor force resulting from the generation of baby boomers leaving the workforce, the increases are minimal and likely the result of a combination of factors, some of which might be margin of error, general population growth, and individuals having/wanting to work past the age of 65.

**Table 10: Labor Force and Employment; September 2016, 2017 and August 2017**

	<b>Sept. 2016</b>	<b>Sept. 2017</b>	<b>Aug. 2017</b>
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	Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment		Labor Force	Employment
<b>Beaufort</b>	72,965	70,077		73,050	70,342		75,494	72,371
<b>Colleton</b>	17,140	16,292		17,391	16,639		17,468	16,634
<b>Hampton</b>	8,280	7,852		8,326	7,979		8,500	8,113
<b>Jasper</b>	12,072	11,596		12,049	11,651		12,434	11,970
<b>Lowcountry Total</b>	110,457	105,817		110,816	106,611		113,896	109,088

Figure 7: Unemployment Rate by Block Group ACS 2015



Lowcountry residents are willing to commute to jobs, as the following data demonstrates.

**Table 11: Lowcountry Commuting Destinations in 2005, 2010, and 2015**

	Destination County	Number of Employees					
		2005		2010		2015	
		Total	Share	Total	Share	Total	Share
Beaufort County to:	Beaufort County	42,150	79.92%	35,808	69.64%	40,960	69.35%
	Charleston County	1,907	3.62%	2,542	4.94%	2,976	5.04%
	Chatham County	1,032	1.96%	1,651	3.21%	2,432	4.12%
	Jasper County	2,248	4.26%	1,892	3.68%	2,326	3.94%
	Richland County	901	1.71%	1,519	2.95%	1,398	2.37%
	Greenville County	490	0.93%	997	1.94%	983	1.66%
	Lexington County	280	0.53%	640	1.24%	776	1.31%
	Horry County	479	0.91%	649	1.26%	659	1.12%
	Berkeley County	418	0.79%	401	0.78%	505	0.86%
	Spartanburg County	257	0.49%	471	0.92%	436	0.74%
	All Other Locations	2,581	4.89%	4,846	9.43%	5,609	9.50%
Colleton County to:	Colleton County	6,752	46.29%	5,917	40.49%	5,554	38.85%
	Charleston County	1,932	13.24%	2,398	16.41%	2,708	18.94%
	Dorchester County	734	5.03%	772	5.28%	868	6.07%
	Richland County	817	5.60%	771	5.28%	672	4.70%
	Beaufort County	752	5.16%	637	4.36%	669	4.68%
	Berkeley County	437	3.00%	535	3.66%	580	4.06%
	Orangeburg County	380	2.61%	432	2.96%	446	3.12%
	Hampton County	491	3.37%	315	2.16%	315	2.20%
	Lexington County	277	1.90%	270	1.85%	290	2.03%
	Greenville County	148	1.01%	306	2.09%	226	1.58%
	All Other Locations	1,867	12.80%	2,259	15.46%	1,969	13.77%
Hampton County to:	Hampton County	2,783	52.50%	2,621	35.81%	2,366	34.66%
	Beaufort County	407	7.68%	756	10.33%	850	12.45%
	Richland County	138	2.60%	460	6.28%	392	5.74%
	Jasper County	301	5.68%	330	4.51%	375	5.49%
	Charleston County	181	3.41%	405	5.53%	367	5.38%
	Allendale County	206	3.89%	320	4.37%	287	4.20%
	Colleton County	82	1.55%	306	4.18%	216	3.16%
	Aiken County	60	1.13%	144	1.97%	195	2.86%
	Lexington County	43	0.81%	207	2.83%	193	2.83%
	Greenville County	77	1.45%	157	2.14%	146	2.14%
	All Other Locations	1,023	19.30%	1,614	22.05%	1,440	21.09%
Jasper County to:	Beaufort County	1,730	32.93%	2,578	33.73%	3,448	39.42%
	Jasper County	1,671	31.81%	2,131	27.88%	2,140	24.47%
	Chatham County	268	5.10%	615	8.05%	824	9.42%
	Charleston County	334	6.36%	424	5.55%	491	5.61%
	Richland County	139	2.65%	294	3.85%	202	2.31%
	Greenville County	69	1.31%	157	2.05%	168	1.92%
	Hampton County	119	2.27%	155	2.03%	168	1.92%
	Colleton County	36	0.69%	182	2.38%	108	1.23%
	Lexington County	51	0.97%	116	1.52%	107	1.22%
	Horry County	101	1.92%	108	1.41%	86	0.98%
	All Other Locations	735	13.99%	884	11.56%	1,005	11.49%

**Table 12: Average Time in Commute (Minutes)**

	2000 Census	2010 ACS Estimates	2015 ACS Estimates
<b>Beaufort County</b>	15.6	20	21.9
<b>Colleton County</b>	20.6	32.9	32.8
<b>Hampton County</b>	20.3	30.2	32.2
<b>Jasper County</b>	30.3	29.3	28.4

**Source:** US Census and ACS Data

Unemployment rates do not tell the full story of how well employees are doing economically. Table 13 shows average weekly wages for private sector jobs in the Lowcountry in comparison to the South Carolina average and the US median wage during 2007 - 2016. While there was no single trend during that period, likely due to the Recession generating downward pressure on wages and salaries, all four counties significantly and consistently lagged behind the state and US averages.

**Table 13: Average Private Sector Weekly Wages: 2007-2016**

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
<b>Beaufort County</b>	\$595	\$583	\$572	\$579	\$588	\$603	\$638	\$638	\$660	\$687
<b>Colleton County</b>	\$532	\$535	\$542	\$542	\$550	\$552	\$554	\$580	\$578	\$593
<b>Hampton County</b>	\$647	\$644	\$648	\$648	\$691	\$716	\$696	\$729	\$744	\$730
<b>Jasper County</b>	\$644	\$653	\$615	\$584	\$578	\$640	\$652	\$680	\$708	\$709
<b>South Carolina</b>	\$668	\$681	\$688	\$707	\$726	\$744	\$752	\$772	\$795	\$812
<b>US (median)</b>	\$853	\$873	\$868	\$893	\$920	\$946	\$956	\$986	\$1,017	\$1,029

**Source:** SCLMI and BLS Data

During the housing boom, Beaufort County, more so than the other three counties, depended not only on hospitality and service employment, but also on the generally higher-paying construction industry. Table 14 shows the change in number of jobs and total payroll for construction jobs, comparing the final boom year of 2007, with the 2013 and 2016 data. While construction has yet to return to pre-Recession levels, incremental growth seen in employment and wages between 2013 and 2016 may indicate a recovering industry.



**Table 14: Construction Employment and Payroll: 2007, 2013, & 2016**

County	2007			2013			2016		
	Construction Employment	Avg wage per week	Avg Annual Payroll	Construction Employment	Avg wage per week	Avg Annual Payroll	Construction Employment	Avg wage per week	Avg Annual Payroll
Beaufort County	5,535	\$3,342	\$221,975,640	3,111	\$772	\$120,084,600	3524	\$903	\$165,564,515
Colleton County	629	\$2,600	\$19,624,800	354	\$631	\$11,168,700	441	\$684	\$15,688,013
Hampton County	500	\$3,768	\$22,608,000	155	\$632	\$4,898,000	172	\$741	\$6,622,182
Jasper County	2,152	\$3,661	\$94,541,664	614	\$767	\$23,546,900	902	\$848	\$39,775,963
Lowcountry	8,816		\$358,750,104	4,234		\$159,698,200	5,039		\$227,650,673

Source: SCLMI and BLS Data

As with construction, military employment is a key component of the Lowcountry economy. Data which shows employment and wages for this sector provides significant insight into the economic health of the region. As seen below, Table 15 displays the military employment and wages from 2007 to 2016. When comparing the data from these years, one can see that although military employment has generally declined in the region, the per capita earnings have increased dramatically.

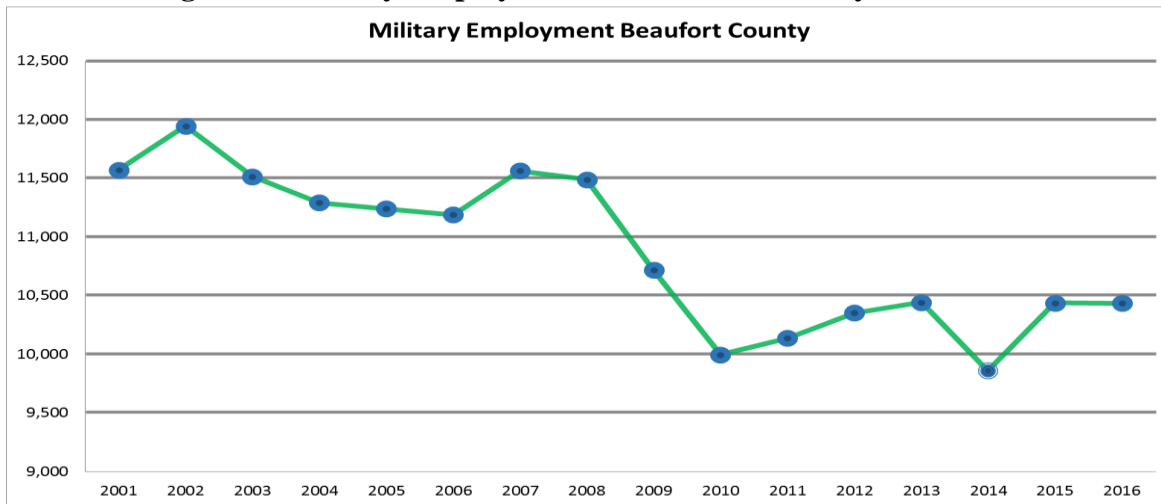
**Table 15: Military Employment and Wages 2007-2016**

Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Military Employment	11,563	11,489	10,717	9,998	10,137
Aggregate Military Earnings	\$704,977,000	\$758,055,000	\$753,229,000	\$749,710,000	\$771,567,000
Adjusted (2016 Dollars)	\$816,040,237	\$845,034,702	\$842,652,934	\$825,180,908	\$823,251,997
Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Military Employment	10,354	10,442	9,858	10,439	10,435
Aggregate Military Earnings	\$796,871,000	\$784,669,000	\$752,260,000	\$792,573,000	\$819,486,000
Adjusted (2016 Dollars)	\$833,012,266	\$808,415,513	\$762,654,036	\$802,571,411	\$819,486,000

Source: BEA Data



**Figure 8: Military Employment for Beaufort County 2001-2016**



Source: BEA Data

## ***Housing***

The 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2015 Census data in Table 16 (on the following page) provides a historic perspective of housing growth in the Lowcountry Region. A comparison of these periods shows a variety of trends, the most pronounced being the significant reduction in the growth of total number of housing units, specifically, 2010-2015's percent change compared to the previous decades. While the substantial reduction in growth of total housing units was the most pronounced, it is indicative of a general slowing trend that resulted from the end of the nation-wide housing boom that ended in 2007. Beaufort County, like many other parts of the nation, continued to add to its housing supply during that housing boom. This resulted with Beaufort having a disproportionately large number and percentage of vacant units compared to the other three counties, as well as, to the state as a whole. However, it is important to note that if the seasonal vacant units are removed from the calculations, the vacant unit percentages are significantly lower.



**Table 16: Housing Stock 1990, 2000, 2010, & 2015**

Beaufort County	1990	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Total Housing Units	45,981	60,509	93,023	93,858	31.6%	53.7%	0.9%
Occupied Units	30,712	45,532	64,945	65,975	48.3%	42.6%	1.6%
Percent Owner Occupied	-	73.2%	70.6%	70.3%	N/A	-3.6%	-0.4%
Total Vacant Units	15,269	14,977	28,078	27,883	-1.9%	87.5%	-0.7%
Percent Vacant	33%	25%	30%	30%	-25.5%	21.9%	-1.6%
Vacant Recreational/ Seasonal Units	6,602	9,613	14,902	N/A	45.6%	55.0%	N/A
Median House Price	\$112,100	\$213,900	\$290,900	\$274,700	90.8%	36.0%	-5.6%
Median Gross Rent	\$423	\$690	\$988	\$1,362	63.1%	43.2%	37.9%
Colleton County	1990	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Total Housing Units	14,926	18,129	19,901	19,749	21.5%	9.8%	-0.8%
Occupied Units	12,040	14,470	15,131	14,774	20.2%	4.6%	-2.4%
Percent Owner Occupied	-	80.3%	75%	73%	N/A	-6.6%	-2.1%
Total Vacant Units	2,886	3,659	4,770	4,975	26.8%	30.4%	4.3%
Percent Vacant	19%	20%	24%	25%	4.4%	18.8%	5.1%
Vacant Recreational/ Seasonal Units	861	1,907	1,433	N/A	121.5%	-24.9%	N/A
Median House Price	\$47,400	\$73,200	\$90,000	\$86,000	54.4%	23.0%	-4.4%
Median Gross Rent	\$177	\$405	\$632	\$705	128.8%	56.0%	11.6%
Hampton County	1990	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Total Housing Units	7,058	8,582	9,140	9,058	21.6%	6.5%	-0.9%
Occupied Units	6,322	7,444	7,598	7,530	17.7%	2.1%	-0.9%
Percent Owner Occupied	-	78.1%	73.7%	73.4%	N/A	-5.6%	-0.4%
Total Vacant Units	736	1,138	1,542	1,528	54.6%	35.5%	-0.9%
Percent Vacant	10%	13%	17%	25%	27.2%	27.2%	49.4%
Vacant Recreational/ Seasonal Units	90	300	392	N/A	233.3%	30.7%	N/A
Median House Price	\$43,700	\$62,300	\$79,600	\$76,400	42.6%	27.8%	-4.0%
Median Gross Rent	\$138	\$370	\$580	\$628	168.1%	56.8%	8.3%
Jasper County	1990	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Total Housing Units	6,070	7,928	10,299	10,729	30.6%	29.9%	4.2%
Occupied Units	5,298	7,042	8,517	9,095	32.9%	20.9%	6.8%
Percent Owner Occupied	-	77.7%	68.9%	70.7%	N/A	-11.3%	2.6%
Total Vacant Units	772	886	1,782	1,634	14.8%	101.1%	-8.3%
Percent Vacant	13%	11%	17%	15%	-12.1%	54.8%	-12.2%
Vacant Recreational/ Seasonal Units	147	233	374	N/A	58.5%	60.5%	N/A
Median House Price	\$44,400	\$77,600	\$118,700	\$99,300	74.8%	53.0%	-16.3%
Median Gross Rent	\$180	\$493	\$759	\$784	173.9%	54.0%	3.3%
South Carolina	1990	2000	2010	2015	Percent Change 1990-2000	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2015
Total Housing Units	1,424,155	1,753,670	2,137,683	2,174,319	23.1%	21.9%	1.7%
Occupied Units	1,258,044	1,533,854	1,801,181	1,815,094	21.9%	17.4%	0.8%
Percent Owner Occupied	-	72.2%	69.3%	68.6%	N/A	-4.0%	-1.0%
Total Vacant Units	166,111	219,816	336,502	359,225	32.3%	53.1%	6.8%
Percent Vacant	12%	13%	16%	17%	7.5%	25.6%	4.8%
Vacant Recreational/ Seasonal Units	49,843	70,198	112,531	N/A	40.8%	60.3%	N/A
Median House Price	\$61,100	\$94,900	\$134,100	\$139,000	55.3%	41.3%	3.7%
Median Gross Rent	\$276	\$510	\$701	\$790	84.8%	37.5%	12.7%

Source: US Census.

Formerly, as part of their estimates program, and now as part of their American Community Survey (ACS) program, the US Census Bureau has added a yearly assessment of the number of housing units for each county. Table 17 outlines the growth in both number and percentage of housing units between the April 2000 and 2010 census along with the estimates for 2015. Between 2000 and 2010, the rate of housing unit growth was greater than the increase in population, leading to a surplus of housing units, especially in Beaufort County. A corresponding decrease in property values occurred, and residential building slowed significantly.

**Table 17: Number of Housing Units: 2000-2015**

Housing Units	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County
<b>2000</b>	60,509	18,129	8,582	7,928
<b>2005</b>	73,809	18,813	8,700	8,330
<b>2010</b>	93,023	19,901	9,140	10,299
<b>2015</b>	93,858	19,749	9,058	10,729
<b>Percent Change 2000-2010</b>	52.02%	9.47%	6.35%	29.51%
<b>Annual Percent Change</b>	5.20%	0.95%	0.64%	2.95%
<b>Percent Change 2010-2015</b>	0.90%	-0.76%	-0.90%	4.18%
<b>Annual Percent Change</b>	0.18%	-0.15%	-0.18%	0.84%

**Source:** US Census and ACS Data

Residential building permit data (only new constructions) for the four counties is obtainable upon request for every year from 1998 to present. These permits, a vital economic indicator, comprise of numbers for a variety of items such as construction employment, future tax revenues, building permit fees and local purchases of building supplies, furniture, appliances and other home furnishings.

Table 18 (on the following page) shows the number of building permits issued each year for the construction of new dwelling units between 2010 and 2016. These years follow both the end of the construction boom, which caused an overall sharp decline in construction, and the gradual recovery from the Recession, notable in Beaufort and Jasper counties. 2015 was the busiest year for home construction in Beaufort County since the Recession. It is important to note that while there were fewer permits issued in 2016 then 2015, the numbers were still significantly higher than in the other previous years.

**Table 18: Building Permits for New Housing 2010-2016**

Beaufort	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Single Family Number	474	567	681	988	1131	1471	1375
SF Value	\$175,449,646	\$218,448,631	\$251,515,578	\$391,475,659	\$535,618,780	\$559,188,548	\$526,088,095
Average SF (w/o Land)	\$370,147	\$385,270	\$369,333	\$396,230	\$473,580	\$380,142	\$382,610
Multifamily Number	6	62	0	70	32	N/A	20
MF Value	\$116,877	\$7,797,379	\$0	\$12,503,692	\$2,364,116	\$39,030,060	\$69,889,390
Commercial Number	33	30	26	35	48	109	70
Commercial Value	\$25,762,375	\$25,993,222	\$23,948,471	\$55,730,846	\$79,678,171	\$124,591,911	\$136,682,140
Colleton	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SF Number	73	33	29	24	31	39	56
SF Value	\$8,501,518	\$7,426,779	\$6,443,549	\$9,629,254	\$6,005,745	\$7,520,147	\$16,752,782
Average SF (w/o Land)	\$116,459	\$225,054	\$222,191	\$401,219	\$193,734	\$192,824	\$299,157
MH Number	177	118	86	163	147	72	103
MH Value	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MF Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MF Value	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commercial Number	30	20	8	16	6	12	13
Commercial Value	\$4,319,882	\$5,286,500	\$2,620,659	\$9,636,470	\$4,748,813	\$10,596,542	\$10,831,101
Hampton	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SF Number	15	9	7	12	5	7	8
SF Value	\$2,478,754	\$1,496,662	\$1,252,909	\$1,757,201	\$912,396	\$1,204,236	\$1,610,646
Average SF (w/o Land)	\$165,250	\$166,296	\$178,987	\$251,029	\$182,479	\$172,034	\$201,331
MH Number	18	14	22	0	18	13	21
MH Value	\$1,148,717	\$1,064,093	\$1,014,400	\$0	\$1,430,668	\$886,004	\$1,498,846
MF Number	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MF Value	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,948,677
Commercial Number	4	5	4	5	1	8	12
Commercial Value	\$786,301	\$3,334,808	\$15,957,550	\$1,082,896	\$1,250,000	\$5,311,884	\$18,431,757
Jasper	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
SF Number	127	164	167	202	229	242	235
SF Value	\$28,716,768	\$40,557,756	\$41,443,106	\$49,951,993*	\$55,305,213	\$58,212,931*	\$57,146,563
Average SF (w/o Land)	\$226,116	\$247,303	\$248,162	\$247,287*	\$157,277	\$240,549*	\$243,177
MH Number	83	92	103	82	85	68	85
MH Value	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
MF Number	10	0	0	0	0	4	27
MF Value	\$4,983,598	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,570,871	\$34,681,057
Commercial Number	18	15	10	12	13	9	24
Commercial Value	\$4,817,926	\$8,326,570	\$7,095,010	\$12,342,897*	\$4,614,012	\$12,232,181*	\$13,869,604

**Source:** County, City and Town Building Departments

**Note:** In Beaufort County stick-built and manufactured home building permit data is combined and averaged together; in the other three, the data is recorded separately and the average value here is for stick-built homes only. \*Jasper values in 2013 and 2015 marked by an asterisk were unavailable and computed using Jaspers 2016 average SF house and commercial pricing (Commercial values for Jasper County only missing for the City of Hardeeville).



## Commercial Development and Retail Sales

New commercial development, which includes a large retail component, has remained flat following the drastic decline of the Recession period. The following table shows building permits issued for all new commercial and institutional projects from 2005 to 2016.

**Table 19: Building Permits for New Commercial and Industrial Construction: 2005-2016**

County	Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Beaufort	Commercial Number	248	195	158	42	54	33	30	26	35	48	109	70
	Commercial Value	\$109,877,248	\$1,376,330,900	\$89,737,010	\$27,264,969	\$13,732,542	\$25,762,375	\$25,993,222	\$23,948,471	\$55,730,846	\$79,678,171	\$124,591,911	\$136,682,140
Colleton	Commercial Number	24	8	11	80	15	30	20	8	16	6	12	13
	Commercial Value	\$15,117,550	\$5,325,400	\$9,603,749	\$89,145,439	\$5,832,618	\$2,620,659	\$5,286,500	\$2,620,659	\$9,636,470	\$4,748,813	\$10,596,542	\$10,831,101
Hampton	Commercial Number	4	12	4	14	1	4	5	4	5	1	8	12
	Commercial Value	\$1,239,000	\$1,954,390	\$10,268,260	\$8,601,919	\$1,375,000	\$786,301	\$334,808	\$15,957,550	\$1,082,896	\$1,250,000	\$5,311,884	\$18,431,757
Jasper	Commercial Number	31	N/A	4	37	17	18	15	10	12	13	9	24
	Commercial Value	\$17,233,724	\$8,609,238	\$29,386,213	\$20,315,813	\$16,880,358	\$4,817,926	\$8,326,570	\$7,095,010	\$12,297,897*	\$4,614,012	\$12,232,181*	\$13,869,604

**Source:** County, City and Town Building Departments

As a result of the population and economic growth in the Lowcountry, net taxable sales climbed significantly in all four counties from 2004-5 to 2006-7, but then began dropping the next fiscal year, with the decline in Beaufort and Jasper Counties being the most notable. Sales seemingly bottomed out in 2009-10 for Beaufort and Jasper counties and in 2010-11 for Colleton and Hampton counties; however, they began to increase again in 2010-11 and 2011-12 respectively. By 2014-2015, sales in the Southern Lowcountry have made a significant recovery.

**Table 20: Net Taxable Sales**

	Beaufort	Colleton	Hampton	Jasper
<b>2004-05</b>	\$2,462,825,056	\$274,449,046	\$99,117,876	\$324,092,111
<b>2005-06</b>	\$2,662,718,004	\$298,804,080	\$106,201,480	\$385,611,912
<b>2006-07</b>	\$2,751,447,656	\$323,575,354	\$110,013,323	\$410,103,916
<b>2007-08</b>	\$2,560,090,300	\$300,324,500	\$91,526,640	\$341,968,265
<b>2008-09</b>	\$2,138,324,218	\$262,713,105	\$75,556,391	\$300,395,565
<b>2009-10</b>	\$2,040,740,316	\$260,811,629	\$72,778,471	\$266,846,512
<b>2010-11</b>	\$2,074,933,084	\$257,229,871	\$69,266,591	\$282,222,728
<b>2011-12</b>	\$2,187,748,555	\$262,268,241	\$70,278,055	\$310,545,060
<b>2012-13</b>	\$2,290,253,216	\$263,760,741	\$67,799,829	\$331,953,208
<b>2013-14</b>	\$2,425,558,470	\$276,470,793	\$71,739,118	\$361,737,538
<b>2014-15</b>	\$2,482,490,812	\$265,292,232	\$69,763,054	\$370,359,636

Source: SC Department of Revenue

### ***Economic Impact of Tourism***

The economic impact of tourism—measured by visitor expenditures and tourism-related jobs and payroll—varies from county to county. Expenditures by visitors increased between 2006 and 2016, despite declines during the economic downturn. Beaufort County, as one of the top tourism destinations in the state, receives the largest amount of visitor spending and, as such, has the largest number of tourism-generated jobs. Colleton County, with the ACE Basin nationally renowned as an eco-tourism destination, as well as several I-95 interchanges, ranks second for tourism expenditures and payrolls.

**Table 21: Economic Impact of Visitors in the Lowcountry: 2006-2016**

County	Year	Expenditures by Visitors	Payroll from Tourism	Tourism Employment
Beaufort County	2006	\$958,110,000	\$198,100,000	12,800
	2007	\$1,026,320,000	\$211,090,000	13,230
	2008	\$1,019,970,000	\$206,820,000	12,840
	2009	\$926,500,000	\$197,200,000	12,200
	2011	\$1,029,000,000	\$197,470,000	11,930
	2012	\$1,081,350,000	\$204,170,000	12,210
	2013	\$1,132,010,000	\$21,184,000	12,610
	2014	\$1,220,588,000	\$220,670,000	13,040
	2015	\$1,251,530,000	\$237,590,000	13,530
	2016	\$1,304,260,000	\$249,570,000	13,850
Colleton County	2006	\$80,490,000	\$15,550,000	1,020
	2007	\$86,330,000	\$16,590,000	1,060
	2008	\$86,830,000	\$16,720,000	1,000
	2009	\$82,510,000	\$16,740,000	999
	2011	\$94,900,000	\$17,150,000	980
	2012	\$95,630,000	\$17,070,000	960
	2013	\$100,250,000	\$17,800,000	990
	2014	\$104,900,000	\$18,210,000	1010
	2015	\$108,530,000	\$19,470,000	1040
	2016	\$113,970,000	\$20,780,000	1,080
Hampton County	2006	\$10,800,000	\$1,950,000	130
	2007	\$11,260,000	\$2,020,000	130
	2008	\$11,540,000	\$2,050,000	120
	2009	\$10,590,000	\$1,980,000	120
	2011	\$12,540,000	\$2,090,000	120
	2012	\$12,290,000	\$2,030,000	120
	2013	\$12,420,000	\$2,050,000	120
	2014	\$12,150,000	\$1,990,000	110
	2015	\$12,620,000	\$2,150,000	120
	2016	\$12,580,000	\$2,190,000	120
Jasper County	2006	\$44,050,000	\$9,090,000	610
	2007	\$46,870,000	\$9,620,000	630
	2008	\$47,480,000	\$9,670,000	610
	2009	\$47,020,000	\$9,890,000	630
	2011	\$52,840,000	\$9,900,000	610
	2012	\$52,780,000	\$9,760,000	600
	2013	\$54,340,000	\$9,990,000	610
	2014	\$57,890,000	\$10,520,000	630
	2015	\$61,690,000	\$11,650,000	670
	2016	\$65,420,000	\$12,540,000	700

Source: SCPRT

## Physical Fitness and Health

Studies have shown a relationship among education, health and economics; these numbers therefore serve as additional economic indicators.

**Table 22: Health Indicators**

	Beaufort County		Colleton County		Hampton County		Jasper County	
	2017	Rank of 46	2017	Rank of 46	2017	Rank of 46	2017	Rank of 46
<b>Health Outcomes</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>34</b>		<b>32</b>		<b>26</b>
<b>Length of Life</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>30</b>		<b>25</b>
Premature death	5,700		11,300		10,000		9,200	
<b>Quality of Life</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>29</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>38</b>
Poor or fair health	13%		22%		22%		23%	
Poor physical health days	3.3		4.7		4.5		5	
Poor mental health days	3.8		4.5		4.3		4.5	
Low birthweight	9%		10%		12%		11%	
<b>Health Factors</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>41</b>		<b>35</b>		<b>37</b>
<b>Health Behaviors</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>41</b>		<b>40</b>		<b>29</b>
Adult smoking	14%		21%		21%		22%	
Adult obesity	22%		39%		42%		37%	
Physical inactivity	15%		30%		31%		30%	
Access to exercise opportunities	80%		41%		35%		68%	
Food Insecurity	12%		18%		20%		17%	
Limited Access to Healthy Food	9%		12%		7%		5%	
Excessive drinking	20%		14%		14%		13%	
Sexually transmitted infections	451.6		791.3		632.1		401.8	
Teen births	38		56		52		58	
<b>Clinical Care</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>43</b>		<b>35</b>		<b>46</b>
Uninsured	17%		19%		17%		28%	
Primary care physicians	1,420 : 1		1,800:1		2,920:1		3,690:1	
Dentists	900 : 1		3,140:1		4,010:1		2,663:1	
Mental health providers	820 : 1		1,110:1		1,540:1		2,959:1	
Preventable hospital stays	41		72		65		67	
<b>Social &amp; Economic Factors</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>37</b>		<b>36</b>		<b>33</b>
High school graduation	79%		80%		88%		78%	
Some college	64%		48%		38%		38%	
Unemployment	5.4%		7%		8.5%		5.1%	
Children in poverty	21%		37%		35%		40%	
Children in single-parent households	34%		51%		53%		47%	
Violent crime	514		752		644		289	

Source: [www.countyhealthrankings.org](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)