

## BEAUFORT COUNTY

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



### Population Trends

<b>2020 Census</b>	187,117	<b>2023 Pop. Estimate</b>	198,979
<b>2010 Census</b>	162,233	<b>2020 Pop. Estimate</b>	187,691
<b>2000 Census</b>	120,937	<b>Numeric Change 2020-2023</b>	11,288
<b>Numeric Change 2000-2020</b>	24,884	<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	6.01%
<b>Persons Per Square Mile</b>	318.8		

### Economic Data

<b>2023 Jobs</b>	70,752	<b>Avg. Wage Per Job, 2023</b>	\$51,308
<b>2020 Jobs</b>	64,763	<b>Avg. Wage, % of U.S., 2023</b>	70.9%
<b>2010 Jobs</b>	70,693	<b>Per Capita Personal Income, 2022</b>	\$72,142
<b>Percent Change 2020-2023</b>	8.5%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of U.S., 2022</b>	110.2
<b>Avg. Ann. Growth Rate, 2010-2020</b>	-0.9%	<b>Per Capita Personal Income % of S.C., 2022</b>	134.5
<b>Avg. Annual % Unemployed, 2023</b>	3.5		

### Tax Data

<b>Total Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$2,128,619,805	<b>Local Sales Tax Rate, if applicable:</b>	
<b>Per Capita Assessed Property, 2022</b>	\$11,376	<b>Local Option</b>	*
<b>County Millage Rate, 2023</b>	0.0595	<b>Capital Projects</b>	*
<b>Value of a County Mil, 2023</b>	\$2,651,702	<b>School District</b>	*
<b>State Accommodations Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$18,109,264	<b>Transportation</b>	*
<b>State Admissions Tax, FY 2022</b>	\$6,260,239	<b>Edu. Capital Improvement</b>	*
		<b>County Green Space</b>	1.0%

### County Finance & Employment Data

<b>Total Revenues FY 2022</b>	\$300,878,491	<b>Per Capita Revenues</b>	\$1,608
<b>Total Expenditures FY 2022</b>	\$226,626,632	<b>Per Capita Expenditures</b>	\$1,211
<b>General Fund Budget FY 2024</b>	\$152,023,000	<b>Per Capita General Fund Budget</b>	\$812
<b>Total Debt Outstanding FY 2023</b>	\$164,524,853	<b>Per Capita Total Debt FY 2023</b>	\$783
<b>Payroll FY 2024</b>	\$84,486,396	<b>County Credit Ratings:</b>	
<b>Full-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	1193	<b>Fitch FY 2023</b>	*
<b>Full-Time Employment Per 1,000 Residents</b>	6	<b>Moody's FY 2023</b>	Aa1
<b>Part-Time Employment FY 2024</b>	168	<b>S&amp;P FY 2023</b>	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.