

# THE PEOPLE AND THE ECONOMY LOWCOUNTRY REGION 2021



BEAUFORT COUNTY

HAMPTON COUNTY

COLLETON COUNTY

JASPER COUNTY





Prepared by  
Planning Department  
Lowcountry Council of Governments  
634 Campground Road  
Yemassee, South Carolina 29945  
[www.lowcountrycog.org](http://www.lowcountrycog.org)

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# INTRODUCTION

## Overview

The People and the Economy 2021 updates the findings of the People and the Economy 2020. The information presented in this report offers a picture of socioeconomic conditions unique to the Lowcountry region. The report tracks the performance of key indicators relevant to population, education, housing, economy, public health, and crime and safety for the Lowcountry region. The most recent data available at the time of publication, as well as historical data were obtained from multiples sources including, but not limited to U.S. Census Bureau, S.C. Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce, and Annie E. Casey Foundation.

## Lowcountry Profile

According to the 2020 Census population counts, the Lowcountry region had a population of 273,073. With a land area of 2,848 square miles, the average population density in the region is approximately 96 people per square mile. The region is bordered on the east by the Atlantic Ocean and on the west by the Savannah River and the state of Georgia. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the Lowcountry Region, bisected by Interstate-95 and with US 278 running diagonally from the northwest to the southeast. The interstate is not only a major cross-country corridor, but also a critical conduit for the local economy and a gateway to the region's top tourist destinations.

The region's economy is also driven by the Port of Charleston, the Port of Savannah in Georgia, and multiple military installations in the Beaufort and Savannah areas. US 17 connects the Lowcountry to downtown Savannah and the future Jasper Ocean Terminal to the south and to Charleston in the north. The region is served by CSX rail and Amtrak, with a passenger depot in the Town of Yemassee. There is a general aviation airport in each county, in addition to the nearby Charleston and Savannah-Hilton Head International Airports.

The Lowcountry region comprises four counties and twenty-one municipalities. These include:

### Beaufort County

Beaufort County includes City of Beaufort and Towns of Bluffton, Hilton Head Island, Port Royal. The county is situated along the southern portion of South Carolina's Atlantic coastal plain. It is bordered by Colleton County on the northeast, Hampton County on the northwest, Jasper County on the southwest, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south.

### Colleton County

Colleton County includes City of Walterboro and Towns of Cottageville, Edisto Beach, Lodge, Smoaks, and Williams. The county is located in the southwestern region of South Carolina, on the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered by Bamberg and Orangeburg Counties to the north, Allendale and Hampton Counties to the west, the Atlantic Ocean and Beaufort County to the south, Charleston County to the east, and Dorchester County to the northeast.

### Hampton County

Hampton County includes the Towns of Brunson, Estill, Furman, Gifford, Hampton, Luray, Scotia, Varnville, and Yemassee. The county is situated in the southeastern part of South Carolina. It is bordered on the northwest by Allendale County, to the west by Screven County, GA, to the southwest by Effingham County, GA, the north by Bamberg County, to the south by Jasper County, to the southeast by Beaufort County, and to the east by Colleton County, SC.

# INTRODUCTION

## Jasper County

Jasper County includes the City of Hardeeville and the Town of Ridgeland. The county is situated in the southeastern portion of South Carolina in the Atlantic coastal plain. It is bordered by Beaufort County on the northeast, Chatham County, GA on the southwest, Effingham County, GA on the west across the Savannah River, Hampton County on the north, and the Atlantic Ocean on the south.

Figure 1: Lowcountry Location



# POPULATION

## Population Growth

As shown in Table 1, the population growth in the Lowcountry slowed between 2010-2020 when compared with the period 2000 through 2010. The population in Beaufort and Jasper Counties has continued to grow. The population growth reversed in Colleton and Hampton Counties between 2010 and 2020, except for the Town of Edisto Beach and the City of Walterboro in Colleton County and the Town of Yemassee in Hampton County. Figure 1 presents the Lowcountry's population in census block groups.

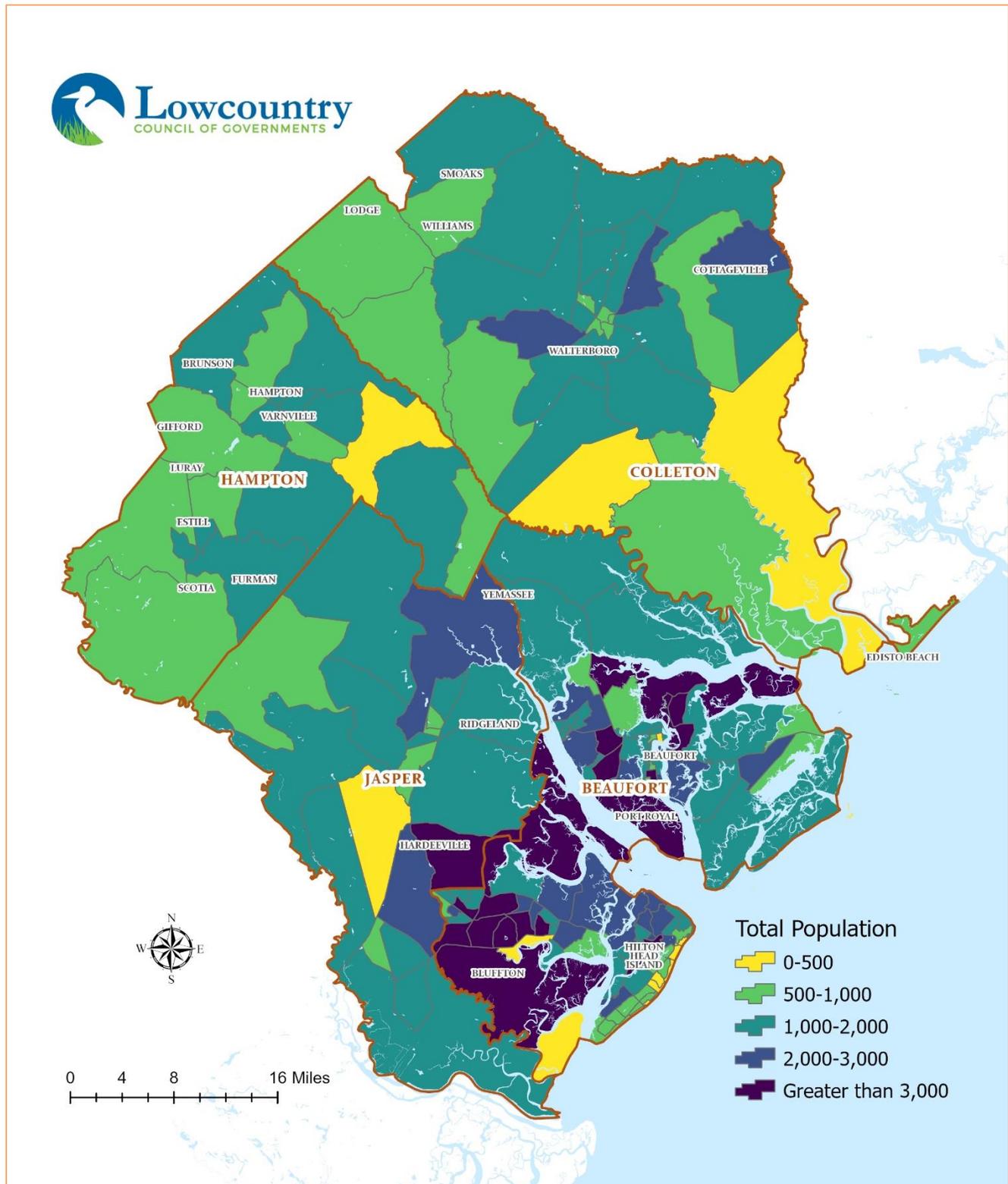
Table 1: Population Change 2000-2020

	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>	120,937	162,233	187,117	34.1%	15.3%
City of Beaufort	12,950	12,361	13,607	-4.5%	10.1%
Town of Bluffton	1,275	12,978	27,716	917.9%	113.6%
Town of Hilton Head Island	33,862	37,099	37,661	9.6%	1.5%
Town of Port Royal	3,950	10,678	14,220	170.3%	33.2%
<b>Colleton County</b>	38,264	38,892	38,604	1.6%	-0.7%
Town of Cottageville	707	766	701	8.3%	-8.5%
Town of Edisto Beach	641	414	1,033	-35.4%	149.5%
Town of Lodge	114	120	82	5.3%	-31.7%
Town of Smoaks	140	126	98	-10.0%	-22.2%
City of Walterboro	5,153	5,398	5,544	4.8%	2.7%
Town of Williams	116	117	98	0.9%	-16.2%
<b>Hampton County</b>	21,386	21,090	18,561	-1.4%	-12.0%
Town of Brunson	589	554	431	-5.9%	-22.2%
Town of Estill	2,425	2,040	1,821	-15.9%	-10.7%
Town of Furman	286	239	224	-16.4%	-6.3%
Town of Gifford	370	288	257	-22.2%	-10.8%
Town of Hampton	2,837	2,808	2,694	-1.0%	-4.1%
Town of Luray	115	127	98	10.4%	-22.8%
Town of Scotia	227	215	158	-5.3%	-26.5%
Town of Varnville	2,074	2,162	1,669	4.2%	-22.8%
Town of Yemassee	807	1,027	1,080	27.3%	5.2%
<b>Jasper County</b>	20,678	24,777	28,791	19.8%	16.2%
City of Hardeeville	1,793	2,952	7,473	64.6%	153.2%
Town of Ridgeland	2,518	4,036	3,758	60.3%	-6.9%
<b>Lowcountry</b>	201,265	246,992	273,073	22.7%	10.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, Total Population

# POPULATION

Figure 2: Total Population by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Total Population

# POPULATION

## Population Density

Table 2 presents the average population density in the Lowcountry area at 95.5 people per square mile. The top three average population density are in the Town of Hilton Head Island, the City of Walterboro, and the Town of Port Royal. A closer look at census block groups indicates that the top three densest areas are in portions of the City of Beaufort and the Town of Bluffton (Figure 3).

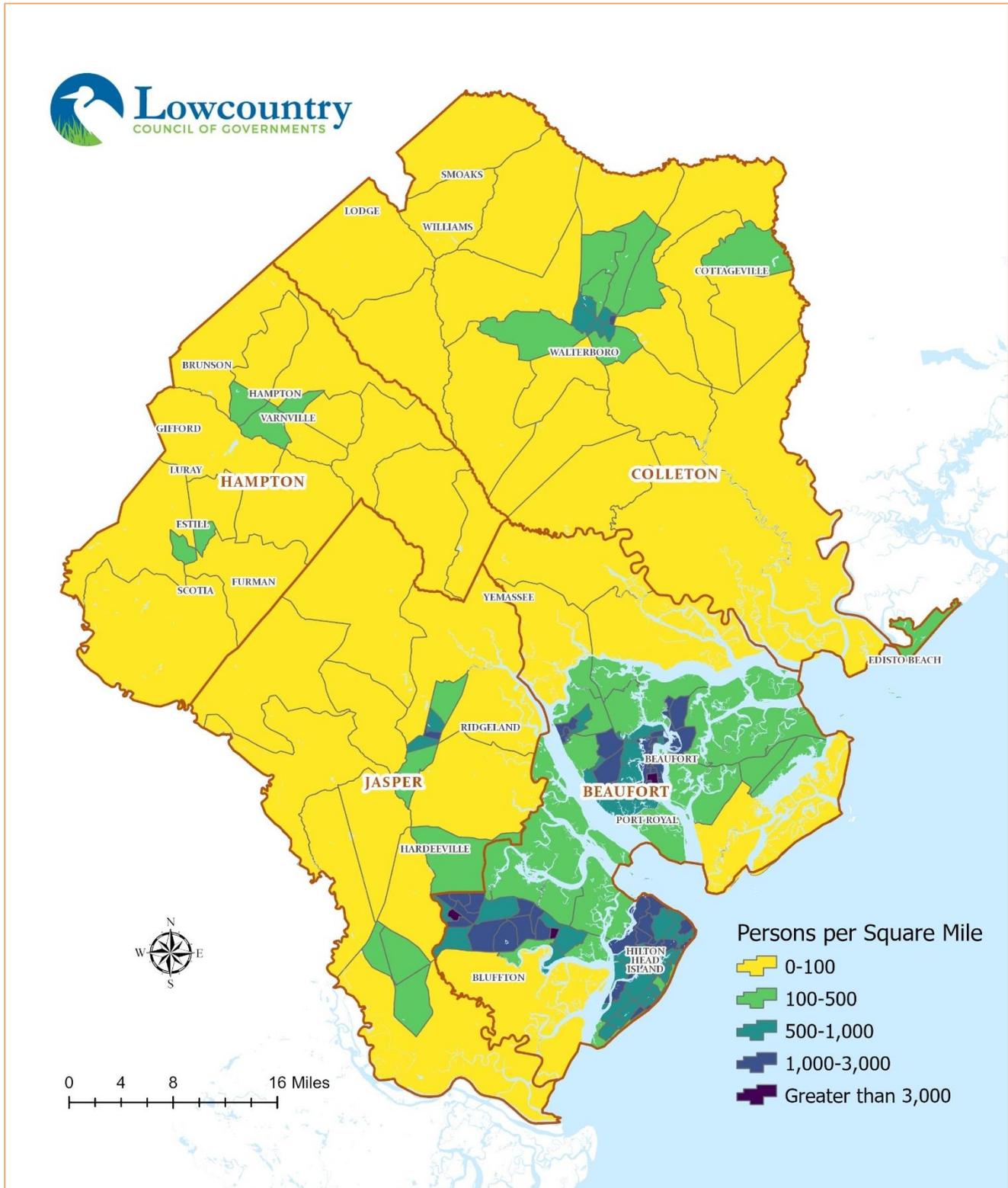
Table 2: Population Density by Jurisdiction 2020

	Total Area in Square Miles	Land Area in Square Miles	2010 Census Population	2020 Census Population	2010 Population per Square Mile	2020 Population per Square Mile
<b>Beaufort County</b>	923.5	576.2	162,233	187,117	281.6	324.7
City of Beaufort	25.0	27.6	12,361	13,607	447.9	493.0
Town of Bluffton	54.2	51.3	12,978	27,716	253.0	540.3
Town of Hilton Head Island	69.1	41.4	37,099	37,661	897.0	910.6
Town of Port Royal	19.5	19.0	10,678	14,220	563.5	750.4
<b>Colleton County</b>	1,133.3	1,056.5	38,892	38,604	36.8	36.5
Town of Cottageville	3.4	3.4	766	701	224.2	205.2
Town of Edisto Beach	2.3	2.1	414	1,033	194.7	485.7
Town of Lodge	3.1	3.1	120	82	38.2	26.1
Town of Smoaks	1.6	1.6	126	98	77.3	60.1
City of Walterboro	6.8	6.5	5,398	5,544	831.7	854.2
Town of Williams	0.8	0.8	117	98	146.3	122.5
<b>Hampton County</b>	562.7	560.0	21,090	18,561	37.7	33.1
Town of Brunson	1.0	1.0	554	431	544.8	423.8
Town of Estill	3.2	3.2	2,040	1,821	631.6	563.8
Town of Furman	3.1	3.1	239	224	76.7	71.8
Town of Gifford	1.0	1.0	288	257	297.8	265.8
Town of Hampton	4.5	4.5	2,808	2,694	622.2	597.0
Town of Luray	1.0	1.0	127	98	122.9	94.9
Town of Scotia	3.2	3.2	215	158	67.9	49.9
Town of Varnville	3.8	3.8	2,162	1,669	564.2	435.5
Town of Yemassee	6.4	6.4	1,027	1,080	161.1	169.4
<b>Jasper County</b>	701.6	655.2	24,777	28,791	37.8	43.9
City of Hardeeville	56.2	45.2	2,952	7,473	65.4	165.5
Town of Ridgeland	48.8	48.3	4,036	3,758	83.6	77.8
<b>Lowcountry</b>	3,321.1	2,847.9	246,992	273,073	86.7	95.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, Total Population

# POPULATION

Figure 3: Population Density by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Total Population

# POPULATION

## Population Diversity

As shown in Table 3, each county has had significant changes in the population's race and ethnicity. Between 2000 and 2010, there was an influx of Hispanics to the region, with the largest increases in Beaufort and Jasper Counties. The Hispanic population continued to grow in the region from 2010 to 2020, with a significantly lower rate. In the same period, all counties had seen a decline in the Black population.

Table 3: Race and Ethnicity 2000-2020

	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Total Population	120,937	162,233	187,117	34.1%	15.3%
Total Whites	85,451	124,690	144,520	45.9%	15.9%
Total Blacks	29,005	31,942	28,659	10.1%	-10.3%
Total Hispanics	8,208	19,567	23,411	138.4%	19.6%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Total Population	38,264	38,892	38,604	1.6%	-0.7%
Total Whites	21,245	22,626	23,729	6.5%	4.9%
Total Blacks	16,140	15,242	13,651	-5.6%	-10.4%
Total Hispanics	551	1,094	1,380	98.5%	26.1%
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Total Population	21,386	21,090	18,561	-1.4%	-12.0%
Total Whites	9,173	9,241	8,544	0.7%	-7.5%
Total Blacks	11,906	11,435	9,641	-4.0%	-15.7%
Total Hispanics	547	744	666	36.0%	-10.5%
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Total Population	20,678	24,777	28,791	19.8%	16.2%
Total Whites	8,766	12,643	15,619	44.2%	23.5%
Total Blacks	10,895	11,540	9,796	5.9%	-15.1%
Total Hispanics	1,190	3,752	5,079	215.3%	35.4%
<b>Lowcountry County</b>					
Total Population	201,265	246,992	273,073	22.7%	10.6%
Total Whites	124,635	169,200	192,412	35.8%	13.7%
Total Blacks	67,946	70,159	61,747	3.3%	-12.0%
Total Hispanics	10,496	25,157	30,536	139.7%	21.4%

Note: Race refers to race alone or in combination with one or more other races. The Whites, Blacks, and Hispanics add up to more than the total county populations because Hispanics have been counted as members of one or more of the other races as well.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, Race

# POPULATION

## Age-Group Population

Between 2010-2020, the number of people 65 years and older has markedly increased in all four counties, especially 125.3% increase in Jasper County (Table 4). With an increasingly aging population, it is likely that there will be increasing demands for age-appropriate services in the region. These older age groups are often retirees on fixed incomes. Declining numbers of younger people in the region suggests a shrinking current and future labor force. With an aging population, community development and planning may need to be reoriented to create appropriate services and infrastructure to suit different age groups. Figure 4 depicts the median age of the population in the Lowcountry in 2020.

Table 4: Age Cohorts 2000-2020

	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Total Population	120,937	162,233	189,732	34.15%	16.95%
Under 5	8,110	10,960	9,809	35.1%	-10.5%
5 to 9	8,033	9,566	8,884	19.1%	-7.1%
10 to 14	7,747	8,553	10,877	10.4%	27.2%
15 to 19	8,722	9,956	10,831	14.1%	8.8%
20 to 24	10,002	11,756	11,935	17.5%	1.5%
25 to 34	16,434	20,137	21,232	22.5%	5.4%
35 to 44	16,433	17,534	18,914	6.7%	7.9%
45 to 54	14,019	18,580	19,827	32.5%	6.7%
55 to 59	6,397	9,886	12,759	54.5%	29.1%
60 to 64	6,286	12,273	13,043	95.2%	6.3%
65 to 74	11,329	20,137	30,943	77.7%	53.7%
75 to 84	5,913	9,698	16,054	64.0%	65.5%
85 and over	1,512	3,197	4,624	111.4%	44.6%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Total Population	38,264	38,892	37,624	1.6%	-3.3%
Under 5	2,649	2,579	2,117	-2.6%	-17.9%
5 to 9	2,957	2,515	2,503	-14.9%	-0.5%
10 to 14	3,053	2,706	2,205	-11.4%	-18.5%
15 to 19	2,889	2,682	2,310	-7.2%	-13.9%
20 to 24	2,045	2,229	2,245	9.0%	0.7%
25 to 34	4,682	4,157	4,424	-11.2%	6.4%
35 to 44	5,617	4,709	4,268	-16.2%	-9.4%
45 to 54	5,478	5,763	4,593	5.2%	-20.3%
55 to 59	2,183	2,869	2,532	31.4%	-11.7%
60 to 64	1,783	2,605	2,931	46.1%	12.5%
65 to 74	2,794	3,635	4,571	30.1%	25.7%
75 to 84	1,641	1,741	2,275	6.1%	30.7%
85 and over	493	702	650	42.4%	-7.4%

# POPULATION

Table 4: Age Cohorts 2000-2020 (continued)

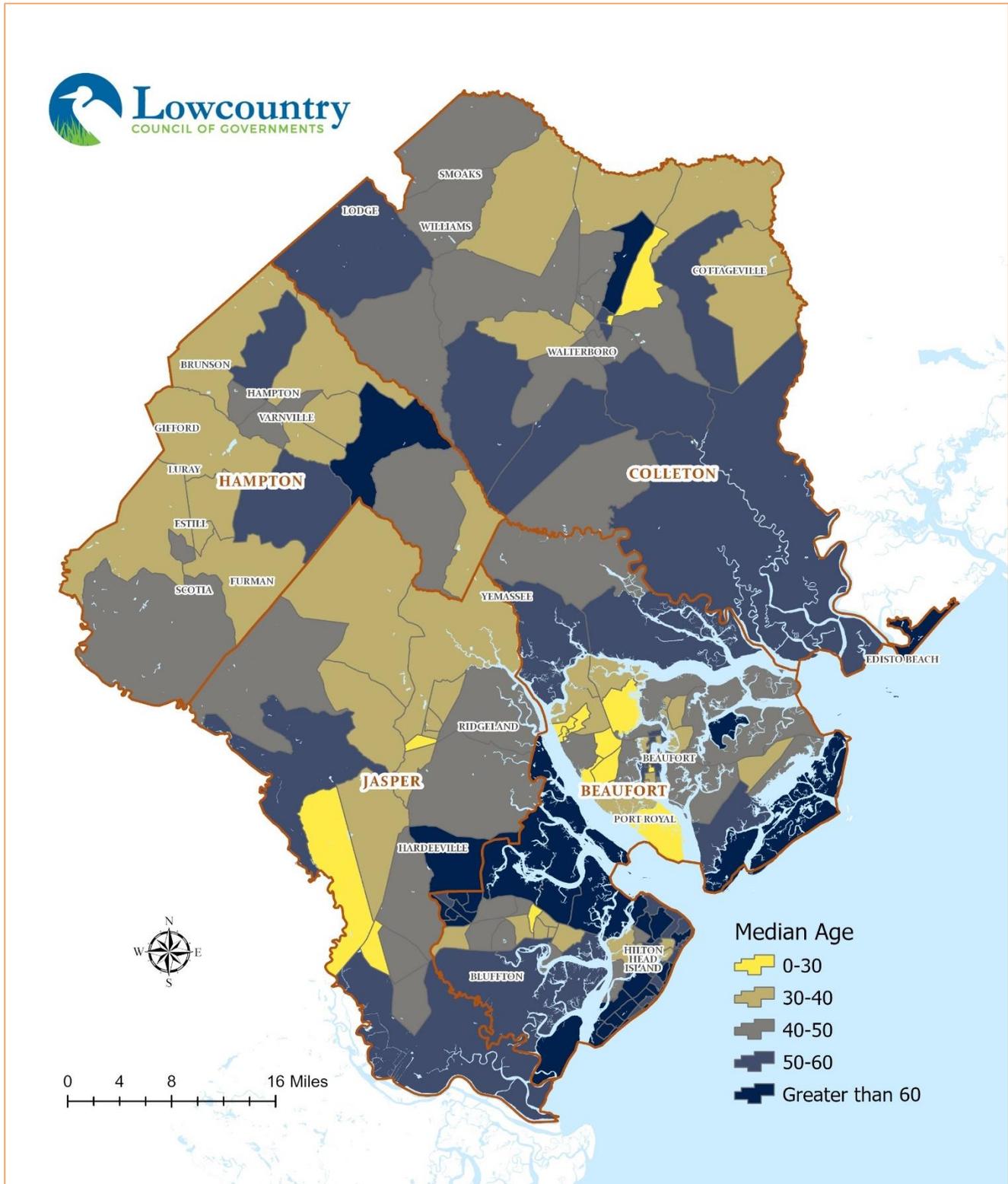
	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Total population	21,386	21,090	19,223	-1.4%	-8.9%
Under 5	1,431	1,347	1,062	-5.9%	-21.2%
5 to 9	1,659	1,326	1,192	-20.1%	-10.1%
10 to 14	1,774	1,473	1,143	-17.0%	-22.4%
15 to 19	1,599	1,524	1,298	-4.7%	-14.8%
20 to 24	1,256	1,229	971	-2.1%	-21.0%
25 to 34	3,052	2,648	2,481	-13.2%	-6.3%
35 to 44	3,290	2,915	2,360	-11.4%	-19.0%
45 to 54	2,923	3,103	2,453	6.2%	-20.9%
55 to 59	1,010	1,420	1,433	40.6%	0.9%
60 to 64	797	1,276	1,218	60.1%	-4.5%
65 to 74	1,447	1,655	2,153	14.4%	30.1%
75 to 84	874	869	942	-0.6%	8.4%
85 and over	274	305	517	11.3%	69.5%
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Total population	20,678	24,777	29,558	19.8%	19.3%
Under 5	1,499	1,859	1,718	24.0%	-7.6%
5 to 9	1,602	1,711	1,888	6.8%	10.3%
10 to 14	1,559	1,546	1,495	-0.8%	-3.3%
15 to 19	1,483	1,751	1,760	18.1%	0.5%
20 to 24	1,527	1,969	1,733	28.9%	-12.0%
25 to 34	3,063	3,685	3,856	20.3%	4.6%
35 to 44	3,282	3,217	3,537	-2.0%	9.9%
45 to 54	2,538	3,524	3,383	38.8%	-4.0%
55 to 59	1,041	1,428	1,909	37.2%	33.7%
60 to 64	815	1,300	2,477	59.5%	90.5%
65 to 74	1,273	1,671	3,765	31.3%	125.3%
75 to 84	738	785	1,574	6.4%	100.5%
85 and over	258	313	463	21.3%	47.9%

Note: 2020 Census population by age is not available, therefore, the population estimates were used in this table.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Demographic and Housing Estimates

# POPULATION

Figure 4: Median Age by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Demographic and Housing Estimates

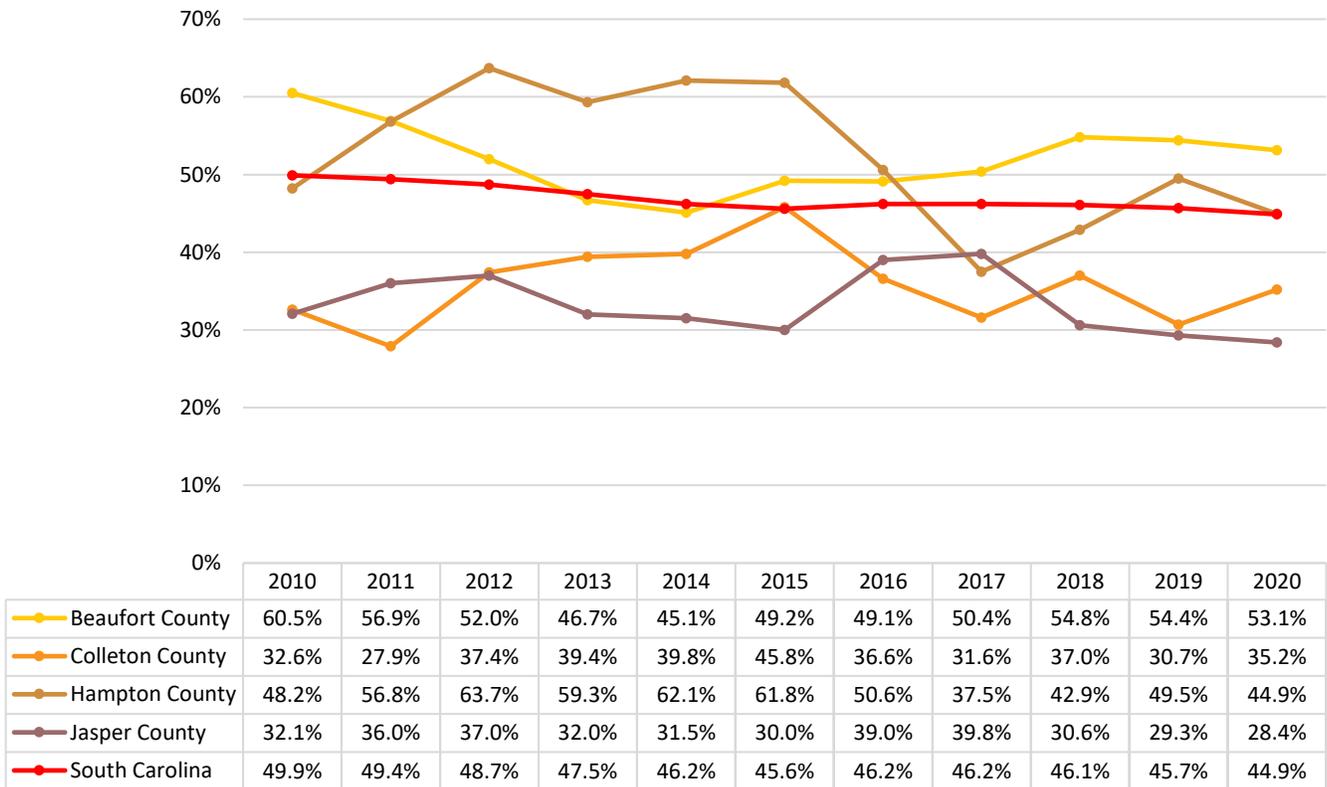
# EDUCATION

## Three-Year Old and Four-Year Old School Enrollment

According to the Current State of Scientific Knowledge on Pre-Kindergarten Effects report (2017), the preschool induced improvements in learning are detectable during elementary school. Children attending a diverse array of state and school district preschool programs are more ready for kindergarten at the end of their preschool year than children who do not attend preschool. Learning disparities start with educational disparities, and children who are unprepared often do not catch up.

As illustrated in Figure 5, between 2010-2020, the trend in 3- and 4-year-old enrollment in both public and private school in the Lowcountry region has decreased except for Colleton County. When comparing to the state, Colleton and Jasper Counties have had a relatively lower percentage of 3- and 4-year-old school enrollment.

Figure 5: 3- and 4-Year-Old School Enrollment 2010-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, School Enrollment

# EDUCATION

## Educational Attainment

The educational attainment of the population in the Lowcountry can influence economic development, earning potential, and quality of life. Between 2000 and 2020, the percentage of population 25 years and older that holds a high school diploma or equivalent increased in all counties, except for Beaufort County (Table 5). All counties also had an increase in the percentage of the population that holds a bachelor's degree.

Table 5: Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over 2000-2020

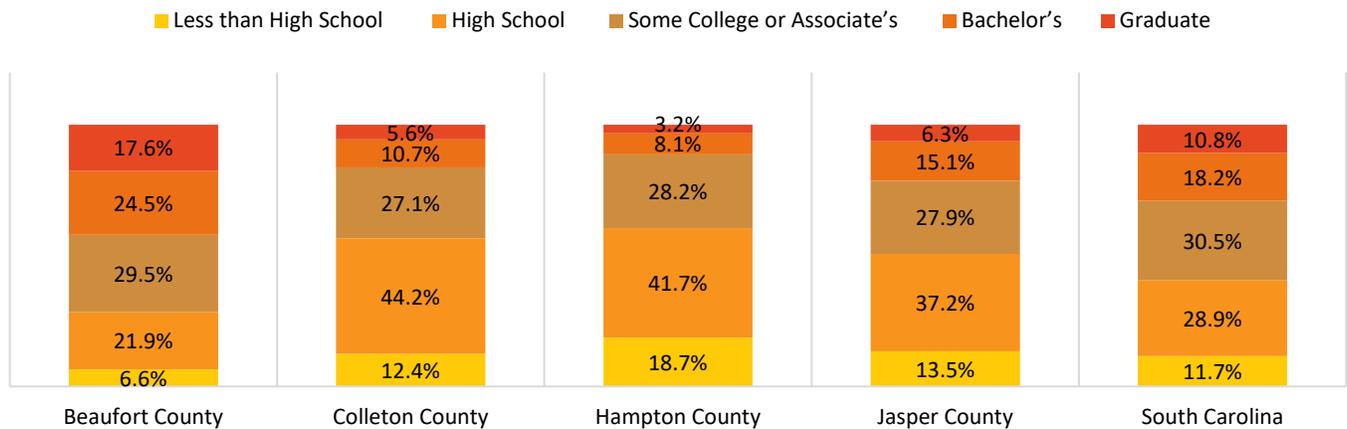
	2000	2010	2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>			
Less than High School	12.2%	9.4%	6.6%
High School or Equivalent	24.2%	24.2%	21.9%
Some College or Associate's	30.5%	29.0%	29.5%
Bachelor's	21.6%	23.2%	24.5%
Graduate	11.6%	14.1%	17.6%
<b>Colleton County</b>			
Less than High School	30.4%	24.7%	12.4%
High School or Equivalent	37.0%	39.1%	44.2%
Some College or Associate's	21.1%	22.6%	27.1%
Bachelor's	7.4%	9.5%	10.7%
Graduate	4.2%	4.2%	5.6%
<b>Hampton County</b>			
Less than High School	33.1%	24.1%	18.7%
High School or Equivalent	37.8%	41.0%	41.7%
Some College or Associate's	19.1%	23.9%	28.2%
Bachelor's	7.2%	7.6%	8.1%
Graduate	2.9%	3.3%	3.2%
<b>Jasper County</b>			
Less than High School	34.9%	25.1%	13.5%
High School or Equivalent	35.9%	39.6%	37.2%
Some College or Associate's	20.5%	25.8%	27.9%
Bachelor's	6.2%	6.7%	15.1%
Graduate	2.6%	2.7%	6.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Educational Attainment

In 2020, much of the Lowcountry lagged the state in the percentage of the population that has bachelor's, or graduate degrees (Figure 6). This trend is not homogeneous across all the Lowcountry counties. Beaufort County exceeded state averages in postsecondary levels of educational attainment. Assumably this trend in Beaufort County compensates for the low percentage of the population with less than a high school diploma.

# EDUCATION

Figure 6: Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Educational Attainment

## High School Graduation

A high school diploma is a ticket to better employment options and further education. The Department of Education's goal is an 83.3% graduation rate in the state high schools in 2021 (SCED, n.d.). As shown in Table 6, many high schools in the Lowcountry region outperformed the state's goal years ago. In 2021, the graduation rate of all high schools except for the Colleton County High School met or exceeded the state's goal. The top three highest graduation rates were Whale Branch Early College High School and Bluffton High School in Beaufort County and Estill High School in Hampton County at 92.5%, 91.1%, and 90.2% respectively.

Table 6: School Four Year Cohort Graduation Rate 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Beaufort County</b>						
Beaufort High School	85.3%	87.5%	81.7%	84.4%	81.1%	83.9%
Hilton Head Island High School	89.0%	90.2%	91.7%	87.8%	87.3%	89.4%
Battery Creek High School	80.4%	77.4%	76.6%	83.9%	84.2%	85.9%
Bluffton High School	84.0%	82.7%	87.2%	85.2%	82.5%	91.1%
Whale Branch Early College High School	81.7%	83.9%	88.8%	90.0%	90.6%	92.5%
May River High School	N/A	93.0%	97.3%	94.1%	91.9%	89.5%
<b>Colleton County</b>						
Colleton County High School	85.2%	86.5%	85.0%	78.4%	78.1%	75.0%
<b>Hampton County</b>						
Wade Hampton High School	81.1%	86.9%	84.6%	87.6%	83.3%	84.7%
Estill High School	77.3%	84.4%	87.9%	88.3%	88.7%	90.2%
<b>Jasper County</b>						
Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School	80.4%	73.6%	71.8%	81.6%	82.8%	84.3%
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>84.6%</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>81.1%</b>	<b>82.2%</b>	<b>83.3%</b>

Note: State' goal refers to percent of students graduating within four years of the initial enrollment in High School (all student).

Source: South Carolina Department of Education, School Report Cards

# HOUSING

## Household Formation

As seen in Table 7, the number of households in the region had continued to increase since 2000, except for Hampton County. The number of family households also increased in the same period, especially in Jasper County. The postponement of family households can reduce a region's requirement for single family construction, placing greater emphasis on smaller unit housing. 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.

Table 7: Household Formation 2000-2020

	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Households	45,532	64,945	74,231	42.6%	14.3%
Avg. Household Size	2.51	2.42	2.49	-3.6%	2.9%
Family Households	33,060	45,322	50,858	37.1%	12.2%
Avg. Family Size	2.90	2.84	2.98	-2.1%	4.9%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Households	14,470	15,131	15,281	4.6%	1.0%
Avg. Household Size	2.62	2.54	2.42	-3.1%	-4.7%
Family Households	10,494	10,449	9,370	-0.4%	-10.3%
Avg. Family Size	3.11	3.07	3.14	-1.3%	2.3%
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Households	7,444	7,598	6,893	2.1%	-9.3%
Avg. Household Size	2.64	2.57	2.60	-2.7%	1.2%
Family Households	5,312	5,211	4,358	-1.9%	-16.4%
Avg. Family Size	3.19	3.15	3.36	-1.3%	6.7%
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Households	7,042	8,517	10,724	20.9%	25.9%
Avg. Household Size	2.75	2.73	2.71	-0.7%	-0.7%
Family Households	5,092	5,944	7,094	16.7%	19.3%
Avg. Family Size	3.22	3.23	3.25	0.3%	0.6%
<b>Lowcountry</b>					
Households	74,488	96,191	107,129	29.1%	11.4%
Avg. Household Size	2.60	2.50	2.60	-3.8%	4.0%
Family Households	53,958	66,926	71,680	24.0%	7.1%
Avg. Family Size	3.00	2.90	3.20	-3.3%	10.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Households and Families

# HOUSING

## Housing Stock

Table 8 provides a historic perspective of housing growth in the Lowcountry. The data shows several trends, including the significant reduction in the growth of total housing units from 2010 to 2020 compared to the percent growth of previous decades. In the same period, the median house value had increased except for Hampton County. Figure 7 illustrates the median house value across the region in 2020.

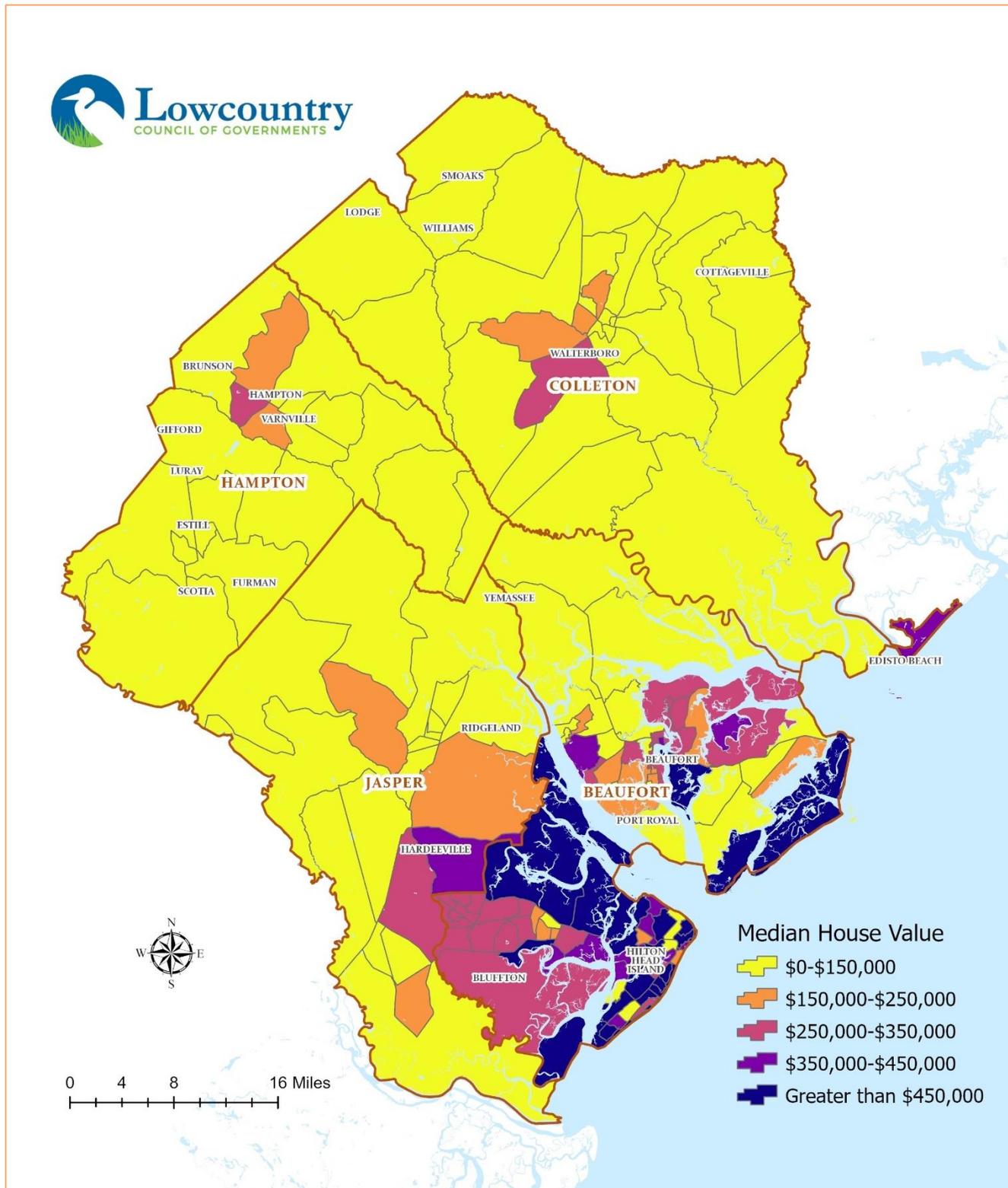
Table 8: Housing Stock 2000-2020

Beaufort County	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Total Housing Units	60,509	93,023	101,059	53.7%	8.6%
Total Occupied Units	45,532	64,945	74,231	42.6%	14.3%
Percent Occupied	73.2%	70.6%	73.5%	-3.6%	4.0%
Total Vacant Units	14,977	28,078	26,828	87.5%	-4.5%
Percent Vacant	24.8%	30.2%	26.50%	21.8%	-12.3%
Vacant Recreational Units	9,613	14,902	19,980	55.0%	34.1%
Median House Value	\$213,900	\$290,900	\$309,600	36.0%	6.4%
Median Gross Rent	\$690	\$988	\$1,229	43.2%	24.4%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Total Housing Units	18,129	19,901	20,200	9.8%	1.5%
Total Occupied Units	14,470	15,131	15,281	4.6%	1.0%
Percent Occupied	80.3%	75.0%	75.6%	-6.6%	0.9%
Total Vacant Units	3,659	4,770	4,919	30.4%	3.1%
Percent Vacant	20.2%	24.0%	24.4%	18.8%	1.7%
Vacant Recreational Units	1,907	1,433	1,964	-24.9%	37.1%
Median House Value	\$73,200	\$90,000	\$93,500	23.0%	3.9%
Median Gross Rent	\$405	\$632	\$675	56.0%	6.8%
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Total Housing Units	8,582	9,140	9,198	6.5%	0.6%
Total Occupied Units	7,444	7,598	6,893	2.1%	-9.3%
Percent Occupied	78.1%	73.7%	74.90%	-5.6%	1.6%
Total Vacant Units	1,138	1,542	2,305	35.5%	49.5%
Percent Vacant	13.3%	16.9%	25.10%	27.1%	48.5%
Vacant Recreational Units	300	392	587	30.7%	49.7%
Median House Value	\$62,300	\$79,600	\$76,000	27.8%	-4.5%
Median Gross Rent	\$370	\$580	\$605	56.8%	4.3%
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Total Housing Units	7,928	10,299	12,234	29.9%	18.8%
Total Occupied Units	7,042	8,517	10,724	20.9%	25.9%
Percent Owner Occupied	77.7%	68.9%	87.70%	-11.3%	27.3%
Total Vacant Units	886	1,782	1,510	101.1%	-15.3%
Percent Vacant	11.2%	17.3%	12.30%	54.5%	-28.9%
Vacant Recreational Units	233	374	661	60.5%	76.7%
Median House Value	\$77,600	\$118,700	\$159,000	53.0%	34.0%
Median Gross Rent	\$493	\$759	\$1,043	54.0%	37.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

# HOUSING

Figure 7: Median House Value by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

# HOUSING

## Housing Types

A closer look at the housing type between 2010-2020, Jasper County has the greatest growth in multi-family housing, especially, a dramatic increase in the 10-19-unit housing at 2,611.1%. Beaufort County has the greatest growth in recreational units (boat, RV, etc.) accounting for 326.6% (Table 9).

Table 9: Housing Types 2010-2020

Beaufort County	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
1-Unit, detached	34,893	53,717	62,665	53.9%	16.7%
1-Unit, attached	3,279	4,782	6,469	45.8%	35.3%
2 Units	1,052	1,486	617	41.3%	-58.5%
3-4 Units	2,759	3,34	2,749	20.1%	-17.0%
5-9 Units	2,956	5,508	5,201	86.3%	-5.6%
10-19 Units	1,443	3,186	3,903	120.8%	22.5%
20 or more Units	5,035	7,796	9,522	54.8%	22.1%
Mobile Homes	9,001	9,289	9,660	3.2%	4.0%
Boat, RV, etc.	91	64	273	-29.7%	326.6%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
1-Unit, detached	10,203	10,798	10,341	5.8%	-4.2%
1-Unit, attached	211	314	132	48.8%	-58.0%
2 Units	254	158	258	-37.8%	63.3%
3-4 Units	165	288	438	74.5%	52.1%
5-9 Units	432	420	369	-2.8%	-12.1%
10-19 Units	81	166	227	104.9%	36.7%
20 or more Units	160	246	221	53.8%	-10.2%
Mobile Homes	6,549	7,301	8,189	11.5%	12.2%
Boat, RV, etc.	74	13	25	-82.4%	92.3%
<b>Hampton County</b>					
1-Unit, detached	5,123	5,587	5,187	9.1%	-7.2%
1-Unit, attached	79	10	18	-87.3%	80.0%
2 Units	78	60	46	-23.1%	-23.3%
3-4 Units	100	143	302	43.0%	111.2%
5-9 Units	133	218	237	63.9%	8.7%
10-19 Units	19	28	0	47.4%	-100.0%
20 or more Units	71	69	69	-2.8%	0.0%
Mobile Homes	2,950	2,957	3,339	0.2%	12.9%
Boat, RV, etc.	29	0	0	-100.0%	N/A
<b>Jasper County</b>					
1-Unit, detached	4,625	5,942	7,113	28.5%	19.7%
1-Unit, attached	57	30	262	-47.4%	773.3%
2 Units	49	128	5	161.2%	-96.1%
3-4 Units	105	58	323	-44.8%	456.9%
5-9 Units	163	212	367	30.1%	73.1%
10-19 Units	60	9	244	-85.0%	2,611.1%
20 or more Units	34	65	281	91.2%	332.3%
Mobile Homes	2,818	3,149	3,610	11.7%	14.6%
Boat, RV, etc.	17	0	29	-100.0%	100.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

# ECONOMY

## Household Income

Incomes are distributed unevenly in the Lowcountry with Beaufort County reporting higher median household and per capita incomes than the state since 2000. Table 10 shows substantial increases in all income measures in all four counties from 2000 to 2020. In the same period, with the inflation adjustment, only Beaufort County shows an increase in all income measures. Between 2010 and 2020, inflation-adjusted median household incomes had declined in Colleton and Hampton Counties, while inflation-adjusted per capita incomes had increased in all counties, except in Colleton County. Figure 8 highlights the median household income across the region in 2020.

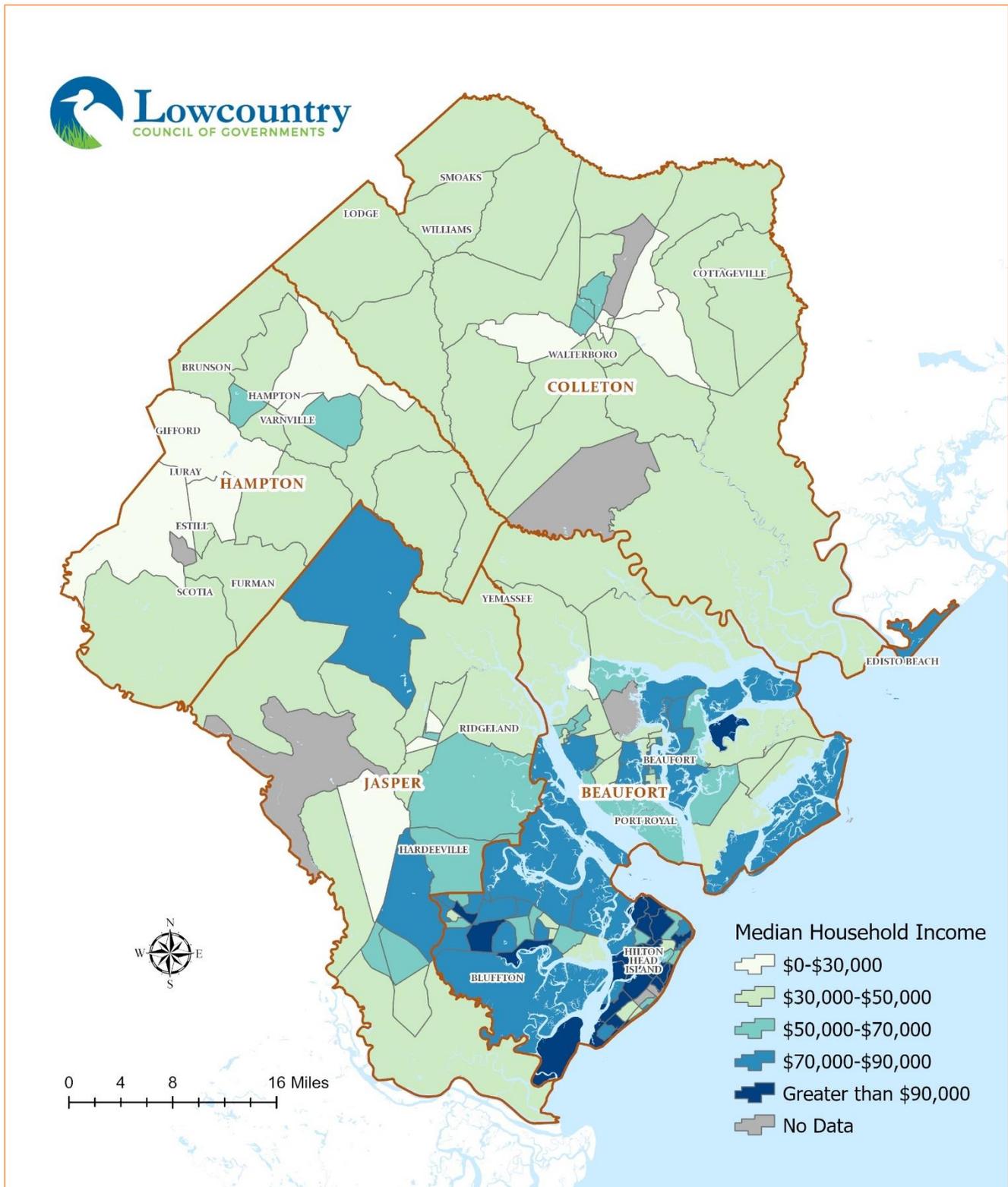
Table 10: Household Income 2000-2020

Income Type	2000	2010	2020	Percent Change 2000-2010	Percent Change 2010-2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Median Household Income	\$46,992	\$55,286	\$71,430	17.6%	29.2%
Inflation Adjusted	\$70,461	\$65,706	\$71,430	-6.7%	8.7%
Per Capita Income	\$25,377	\$32,731	\$41,070	29.0%	25.5%
Inflation Adjusted	\$38,051	\$38,900	\$41,070	2.2%	5.6%
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Median Household Income	\$29,733	\$33,263	\$36,748	11.9%	10.5%
Inflation Adjusted	\$44,582	\$39,532	\$36,748	-11.3%	-7.0%
Per Capita Income	\$14,831	\$17,842	\$22,218	20.3%	24.5%
Inflation Adjusted	\$22,238	\$21,205	\$22,218	-4.6%	4.8%
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Median Household Income	\$28,771	\$34,846	\$38,178	21.1%	9.6%
Inflation Adjusted	\$43,140	\$41,414	\$38,178	-4.0%	-7.8%
Per Capita Income	\$13,129	\$16,262	\$19,460	23.9%	19.7%
Inflation Adjusted	\$19,686	\$19,327	\$19,460	-1.8%	0.7%
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Median Household Income	\$30,727	\$37,393	\$45,924	21.7%	22.8%
Inflation Adjusted	\$46,073	\$44,441	\$45,924	-3.5%	3.3%
Per Capita Income	\$14,161	\$17,997	\$24,886	27.1%	38.3%
Inflation Adjusted	\$21,233	\$21,389	\$24,886	0.7%	16.3%
<b>South Carolina</b>					
Median Household Income	\$37,082	\$43,939	\$54,864	18.5%	24.9%
Inflation Adjusted	\$55,602	\$52,220	\$54,864	-6.1%	5.1%
Per Capita Income	\$18,795	\$23,443	\$30,727	24.7%	31.1%
Inflation Adjusted	\$28,182	\$27,861	\$30,727	-1.1%	10.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Median Income in the Past 12 Months and Per Capita in the Past 12 Months; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) Inflation Calculator

# ECONOMY

Figure 8: Median Household Income by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Median Income in the Past 12 Months

# ECONOMY

## Family Income

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimates median family incomes annually to help determine eligibility for assisted housing programs. This data is inflation-adjusted to 2021 dollars. As shown in Table 11, all Counties had shown an increase in median family income between 2000-2020, however, Colleton and Jasper Counties had shown an increase in median family income between 2020-2021.

Table 11: Median Family Income 2000-2021

	2000	2010	2020	2021	Percent Change 2000 - 2010	Percent Change 2010-2020	Percent Change 2020-2021
Beaufort County	\$52,710	\$66,400	\$81,500	\$76,000	26.0%	22.7%	-6.7%
Colleton County	\$34,172	\$43,100	\$43,900	\$45,500	26.1%	1.9%	3.6%
Hampton County	\$34,561	\$43,900	\$46,900	\$45,900	27.0%	6.8%	-2.1%
Jasper County	\$36,793	\$46,400	\$46,000	\$48,000	26.1%	-0.9%	4.3%
South Carolina	\$45,000	\$55,700	\$66,300	\$68,700	23.8%	19.0%	3.6%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Income Limits

## Low and Moderate Income

According to Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS), HUD defines low and moderate income (LMI) households as those households with incomes no greater than 80% of HUD area median family income (HAMFI) (HUD, 2021).

Table 12 shows that, between 2013-2018, the LMI households in the region had increased until 2016 then they had declined. In 2018, the LMI households comprised 38.8% of all households in the region, with Colleton County having the highest LMI households at 46.4%.

# ECONOMY

Table 12: Income Distribution 2013-2018

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>Beaufort County</b>						
All Households	64,415	65,055	65,975	67,345	68,790	70,605
Income <= 30% HAMFI	9.9%	9.9%	10.8%	10.4%	10.0%	9.6%
Income > 30% to <= 50% HAMFI	9.8%	10.1%	10.7%	11.6%	10.8%	10.0%
Income > 50% to <= 80% HAMFI	17.5%	20.9%	18.9%	18.2%	17.8%	18.2%
<b>LMI</b>	<b>37.2%</b>	<b>40.9%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>38.6%</b>	<b>37.7%</b>
Income > 80% to <= 100% HAMFI	9.8%	9.2%	9.3%	10.2%	10.6%	9.4%
Income > 100% HAMFI	53.0%	50.7%	50.2%	49.6%	50.8%	52.9%
<b>Colleton County</b>						
All Households	14,905	14,680	14,775	14,865	15,135	15,145
Income <= 30% HAMFI	11.1%	11.0%	12.0%	11.7%	10.4%	9.5%
Income > 30% to <= 50% HAMFI	12.7%	13.9%	13.5%	13.4%	13.1%	11.7%
Income > 50% to <= 80% HAMFI	19.8%	20.5%	20.5%	21.8%	21.3%	21.1%
<b>LMI</b>	<b>43.6%</b>	<b>45.4%</b>	<b>46.1%</b>	<b>46.9%</b>	<b>44.8%</b>	<b>42.4%</b>
Income > 80% to <= 100% HAMFI	8.6%	10.2%	10.6%	11.6%	12.3%	11.8%
Income > 100% HAMFI	47.8%	44.3%	43.5%	41.5%	42.8%	45.9%
<b>Hampton County</b>						
All Households	7,470	7,465	7,530	7,290	7,130	6,925
Income <= 30% HAMFI	15.7%	14.9%	12.5%	10.6%	9.5%	7.7%
Income > 30% to <= 50% HAMFI	12.9%	11.6%	13.9%	15.4%	14.2%	14.4%
Income > 50% to <= 80% HAMFI	15.9%	17.4%	20.7%	23.3%	24.3%	24.3%
<b>LMI</b>	<b>44.4%</b>	<b>43.9%</b>	<b>47.1%</b>	<b>49.2%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>	<b>46.4%</b>
Income > 80% to <= 100% HAMFI	9.6%	10.6%	11.4%	10.2%	11.9%	12.4%
Income > 100% HAMFI	46.0%	45.4%	41.4%	40.5%	40.1%	41.2%
<b>Jasper County</b>						
All Households	8,565	8,750	9,095	9,300	9,715	9,980
Income <= 30% HAMFI	11.3%	10.3%	10.1%	12.4%	10.5%	9.0%
Income > 30% to <= 50% HAMFI	11.9%	13.0%	13.7%	9.7%	10.9%	11.2%
Income > 50% to <= 80% HAMFI	19.1%	17.1%	16.4%	17.5%	16.6%	15.2%
<b>LMI</b>	<b>42.3%</b>	<b>40.4%</b>	<b>40.2%</b>	<b>39.6%</b>	<b>38.0%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>
Income > 80% to <= 100% HAMFI	7.6%	10.9%	13.2%	13.4%	13.9%	13.7%
Income > 100% HAMFI	50.1%	48.7%	46.8%	47.0%	48.1%	51.0%

Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHASE) Data

# ECONOMY

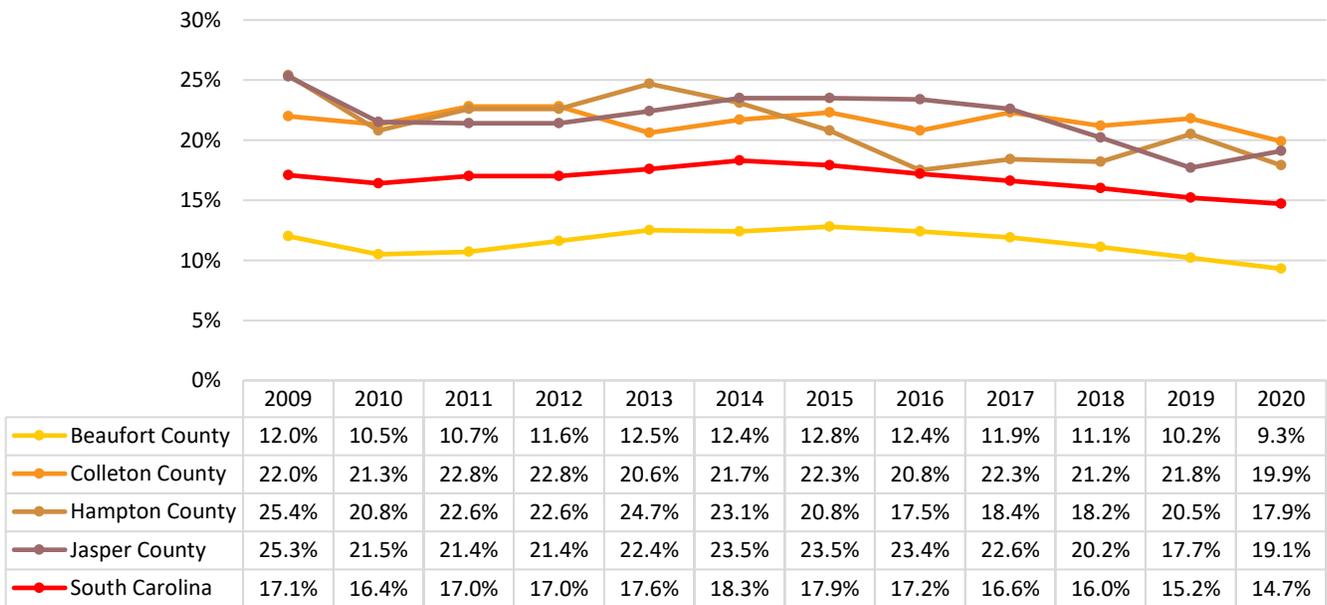
## Poverty

The U.S. Census Bureau (2022) uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty (Table 13). As shown in Figure 9, between 2010 and 2020, the percentage of people living below the poverty level had declined in the Lowcountry. In 2020, Colleton County had the most population in poverty at 19.9%, while Beaufort County had the lowest rate at 9.3%.

Table 13: Poverty Thresholds 2020

Size of Family Unit	Weighted Average Thresholds	Related Children under 18 Years								
		None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or more
One person (unrelated)	13,171									
Under 65	13,465	13,465								
65 and older	12,413	12,413								
Two people	16,733									
Householder 65	17,413	17,331	17,839							
Householder 65 and older	15,659	15,644	17,771							
Three people	20,591	20,244	20,832	20,852						
Four people	26,496	26,695	27,131	26,246	26,338					
Five people	31,417	32,193	32,661	31,661	30,887	30,414				
Six people	35,499	37,027	37,174	36,408	35,674	34,582	33,935			
Seven people	40,406	42,605	42,871	41,954	41,314	40,124	38,734	37,210		
Eight people	44,755	47,650	48,071	47,205	46,447	45,371	44,006	42,585	42,224	
Nine people or more	53,905	57,319	57,597	56,831	56,188	55,132	53,679	52,366	52,040	50,035

Figure 9: Poverty Rates 2010-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

## ECONOMY

Poverty is not evenly distributed across the Lowcountry. Table 14 explains further that people younger than 18 years old are disproportionately affected, particularly in Colleton County where one in three children live below the poverty level. Race is also a major factor in regional poverty rates. Across all four counties, Blacks and Hispanics face higher poverty rates than Whites except for Hampton County's Hispanics. Beaufort County's blacks and Hispanics have not benefited equally from the relatively low overall poverty rate in the county. The data also suggests the higher the education of the population, the less the poverty rates. Figure 10 shows the areas of people in poverty in the Lowcountry region in 2020.

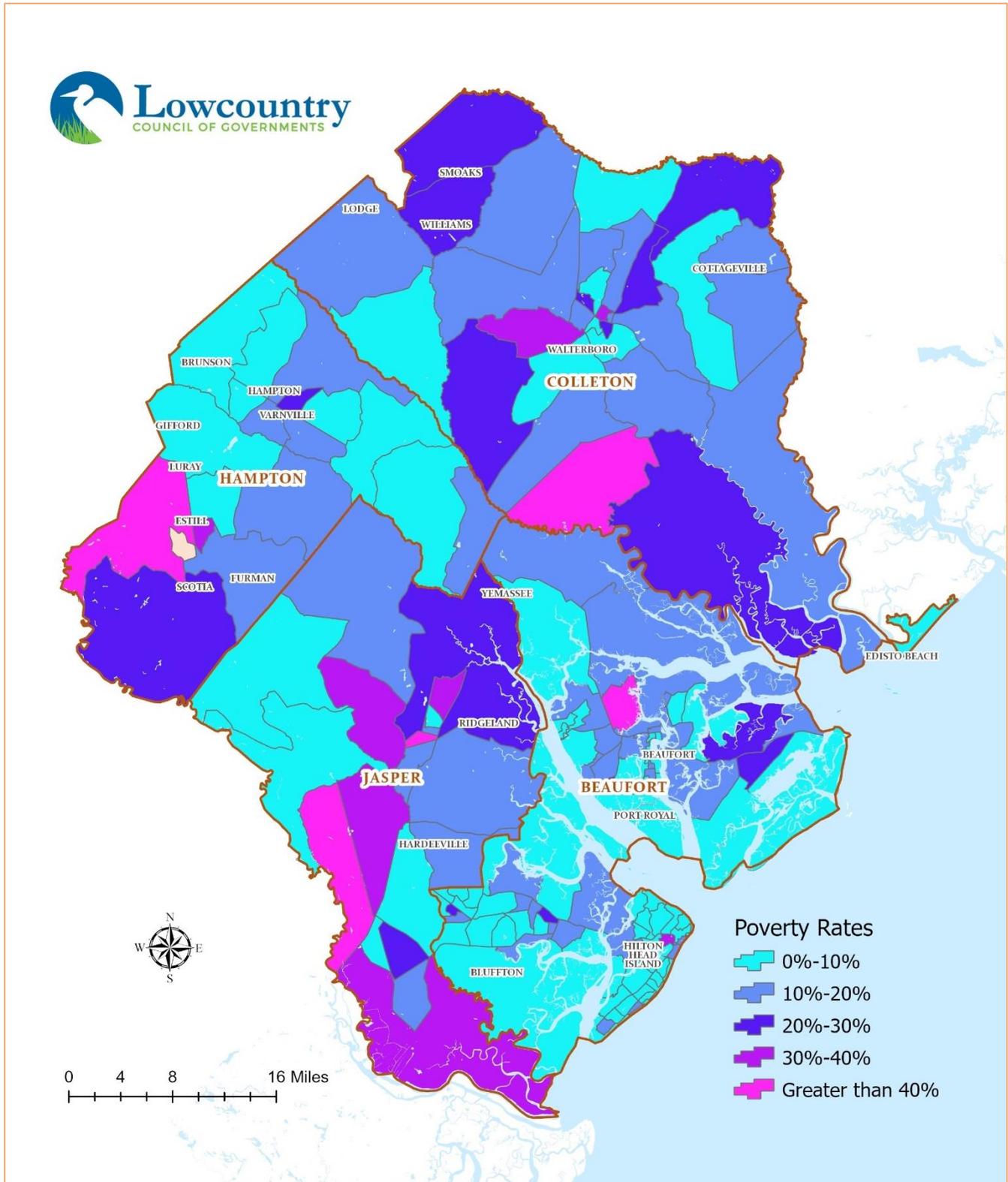
Table 14: Population in Poverty by Demographics 2020

	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County	South Carolina
<b>Age Group</b>					
Under 18 Years	15.6%	34.0%	27.1%	32.2%	21.2%
18 to 64 Years	9.0%	16.9%	15.8%	16.5%	13.8%
65+ Years	5.7%	12.8%	13.4%	13.9%	9.6%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>					
White	5.8%	15.0%	13.2%	11.2%	9.9%
Black	19.8%	24.1%	21.7%	22.2%	24.0%
Hispanic (any race)	13.6%	47.9%	11.2%	35.3%	24.4%
<b>Educational Attainment (25+)</b>					
Less than High School	16.3%	33.6%	33.6%	25.6%	28.0%
High School or Equivalent	11.9%	16.6%	14.0%	16.6%	14.7%
Some college or Associate's	7.5%	11.6%	7.9%	17.2%	10.0%
Bachelor's or Higher	3.4%	4.2%	1.4%	6.1%	4.3%
<b>Work Experience</b>					
Full Time	2.2%	3.8%	4.3%	5.6%	3.2%
Part Time	9.7%	21.2%	14.0%	18.6%	18.2%
Not Work	12.1%	27.6%	26.1%	24.5%	21.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

# ECONOMY

Figure 10: Poverty Rates by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months

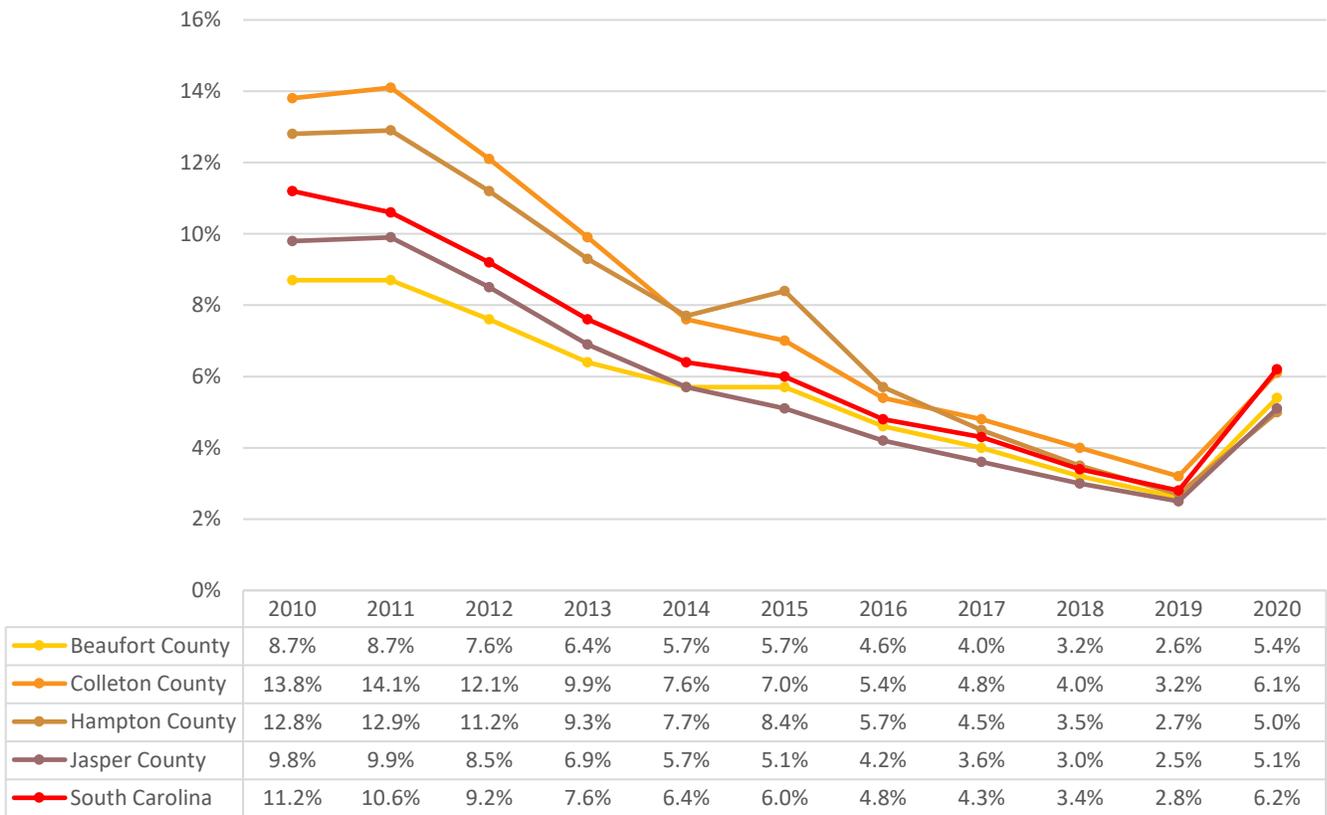
# ECONOMY

## Unemployment

The overall unemployment rates in the region had declined between 2010 and 2020, with Beaufort and Jasper Counties remaining lower than the state’s unemployment rate (Figure 11). During the same period, Colleton and Hampton Counties had unemployment rates higher than the rest of the region and the state, with the averages more converging.

In 2020, however, the steeper increase in the unemployment rates in the region was caused by an unprecedented loss of jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Figure 12 depicts the unemployment rates in the Lowcountry in 2020.

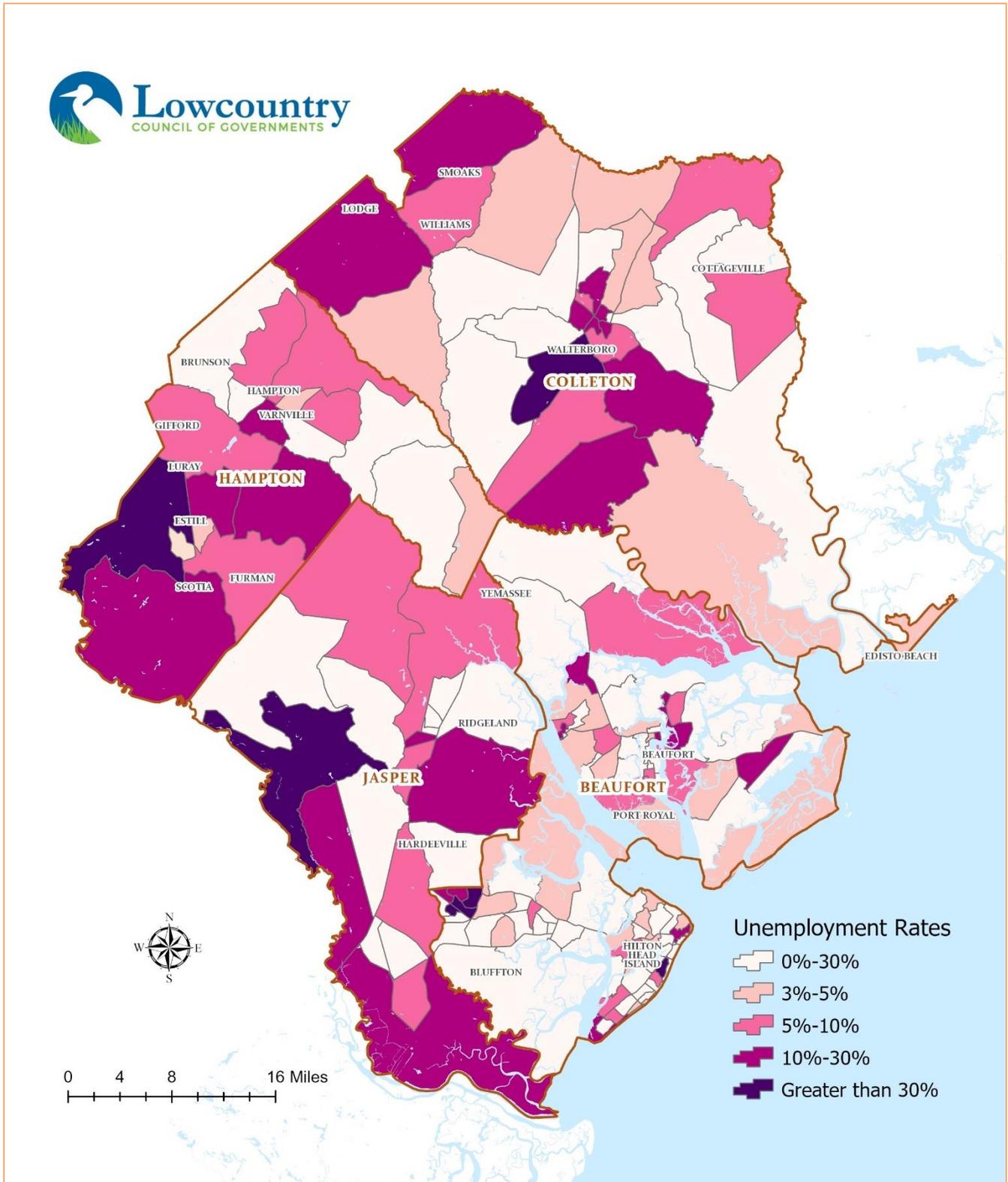
Figure 11: Annual Unemployment Rate 2011-2020



Source: SC WORKS, Labor Force Employment and Unemployment (LAUS)

# ECONOMY

Figure 12: Unemployment Rates by Census Block Group 2020



Note: Map generated using the American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates, Employment Status for The Population 16 Years and Over

# ECONOMY

## Employment and Earnings

The tables below use the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) which allows for analysis of a particular local labor market or industry. These include net employment growth, worker flows (hires and turnover), and earnings. Between 2016 and 2020, total employment and monthly earnings across the region had continued to rise until 2019, then declined in 2020 (Table 15). This decline was evidently due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, the region's most employment in 2020 occurred in the industries of healthcare and social assistance, retail trade, accommodations and food services, educational services, and construction (Table 16).

Table 15: Employment and Earnings 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Total Employment (#)	49,466	50,563	52,130	53,958	52,275
New Hires (#)	11,099	11,483	11,588	12,151	9,954
Turnover Rate (%)	10.8%	11.2%	10.8%	11.1%	10.3%
Average Monthly Earnings (\$)	\$3,230	\$3,353	\$3,449	\$3,507	\$3,933
Average New Hire Earnings (\$)	\$2,172	\$2,272	\$2,296	\$2,349	\$2,617
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Total Employment (#)	8,572	8,753	9,010	9,129	8,354
New Hires (#)	1,498	1,759	1,868	1,841	1,527
Turnover Rate (%)	9.1%	9.8%	9.6%	9.8%	9.3%
Average Monthly Earnings (\$)	\$2,635	\$2,767	\$2,877	\$3,047	\$3,415
Average New Hire Earnings (\$)	\$1,780	\$1,892	\$1,938	\$2,010	\$2,183
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Total Employment (#)	3,745	3,832	3,823	3,826	3,595
New Hires (#)	580	565	558	566	481
Turnover Rate (%)	7.8%	8.3%	8.4%	8.2%	7.7%
Average Monthly Earnings (\$)	\$3,374	\$3,430	\$3,487	\$4,168	\$3,935
Average New Hire Earnings (\$)	\$2,075	\$2,044	\$2,070	\$2,309	\$2,149
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Total Employment (#)	6,725	7,100	7,695	7,869	8,264
New Hires (#)	1,352	1,537	1,649	1,707	1,608
Turnover Rate (%)	10.6%	10.8%	11.0%	11.3%	9.7%
Average Monthly Earnings (\$)	\$3,164	\$3,223	\$3,248	\$3,308	\$3,717
Average New Hire Earnings (\$)	\$2,341	\$2,409	\$2,346	\$2,346	52,275

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators

# ECONOMY

Table 16: Percent of Employment and Average Monthly Earnings by Industry 2020

Industry	Beaufort County		Colleton County		Hampton County		Jasper County	
	% Emp.	Earnings	% Emp.	Earnings	% Emp.	Earnings	% Emp.	Earnings
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0.3%	\$4,999	4.3%	\$3,950	8.5%	\$4,140	1.3%	\$3,998
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	N/A	N/A	0.2%	\$6,733	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Utilities	0.7%	\$7,066	0.8%	\$8,590	0.6%	\$7,686	1.9%	\$6,854
Construction	6.1%	\$4,739	5.8%	\$4,418	5.2%	\$4,225	15.9%	\$5,088
Manufacturing	1.0%	\$5,020	6.9%	\$4,506	9.1%	\$4,419	3.4%	\$4,008
Wholesale Trade	1.2%	\$6,121	4.0%	\$6,229	6.3%	\$5,541	3.7%	\$3,729
Retail Trade	14.4%	\$2,753	13.9%	\$3,364	11.7%	\$2,262	15.4%	\$3,704
Transportation and Warehousing	1.2%	\$3,708	1.4%	\$3,952	1.9%	\$3,741	1.0%	\$3,494
Information	0.5%	\$6,202	1.2%	\$6,937	0.5%	\$5,068	0.3%	\$2,015
Finance and Insurance	2.9%	\$8,762	2.5%	\$4,798	1.5%	\$4,311	1.0%	\$5,199
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	3.5%	\$4,619	0.9%	\$3,444	0.3%	\$3,825	2.3%	\$4,898
Professional and Technical Services	6.7%	\$6,120	1.6%	\$3,651	4.3%	\$15,395	2.6%	\$4,299
Management of Companies and Enterprises	1.8%	\$4,985	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0.1%	\$4,758
Administrative and Waste Services	6.8%	\$3,169	5.9%	\$2,854	0.7%	\$2,921	6.3%	\$3,556
Educational Services	8.0%	\$4,690	9.8%	\$2,779	12.6%	\$3,291	5.9%	\$3,445
Health Care and Social Assistance	13.8%	\$4,548	15.4%	\$3,307	15.1%	\$2,896	23.3%	\$2,536
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	4.1%	\$2,508	1.3%	\$2,897	N/A	N/A	1.0%	\$3,311
Accommodation and Food Services	16.6%	\$2,048	10.6%	\$1,522	5.0%	\$1,329	6.1%	\$1,691
Other Services, Except Public Administration	6.4%	\$3,262	2.0%	\$2,865	3.2%	\$2,612	1.9%	\$2,900
Public Administration	4.1%	\$4,976	11.2%	\$2,866	11.3%	\$2,922	6.7%	\$3,626

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Quarterly Workforce Indicators

# ECONOMY

## Tourism Industry

Tourism is vital for the success of the region's economy but is one of the sectors most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. As reflected in Table 17, the expenditures by visitors had increased until 2019, then declined in 2020. Beaufort County, as one of the top tourism destinations in the state, had received the greatest amount of visitor spending and had the largest number of tourism-generated jobs. Colleton County, nationally recognized for the ACE Basin eco-tourism destination and several I-95 interchanges, ranks second for tourism expenditures and payrolls.

Table 17: Economic Impact of Visitors 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Tourism Employment	13,850	14,170	14,590	15,280	14,620
Payroll from Tourism	\$249,570,000	\$261,570,000	\$270,780,000	\$294,880,000	\$307,230,000
Expenditures by Visitors	\$1,304,260,000	\$1,374,800,000	\$1,433,990,000	\$1,539,740,000	\$1,379,800,000
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Tourism Employment	1,080	1,090	1,100	1,120	1,030
Payroll from Tourism	\$20,780,000	\$21,580,000	\$22,050,000	\$22,850,000	\$21,940,000
Expenditures by Visitors	\$113,970,000	\$118,770,000	\$122,440,000	\$126,390,000	\$112,310,000
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Tourism Employment	120	120	120	120	100
Payroll from Tourism	\$2,190,000	\$2,340,000	\$2,330,000	\$2,420,000	\$2,120,000
Expenditures by Visitors	\$12,580,000	\$13,610,000	\$13,920,000	\$14,240,000	\$10,810,000
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Tourism Employment	700	710	730	720	570
Payroll from Tourism	\$12,540,000	\$13,010,000	\$13,480,000	\$13,330,000	\$11,490,000
Expenditures by Visitors	\$65,420,000	\$68,320,000	\$70,890,000	\$70,950,000	\$52,910,000

Source: SC Department of Parks Recreation and Tourism, the Economic Impact of Travel on South Carolina Counties

# ECONOMY

## Construction Industry

The Lowcountry region depends not only on hospitality and service employment, but also on the construction industry. The recent trend of the payroll for construction jobs from 2016-2020 had shown the incremental growth in a construction industry. Given the COVID-19 pandemic, the average annual payroll in Beaufort and Jasper Counties continued to increase in 2020 (Table 18).

Table 18: Construction Employment and Payroll 2016-2020

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Number of Firms	N/A	690	733	777	785
Construction Employment	3,524	3,646	3,942	3,909	3,785
Average Weekly Wages	\$903	\$961	\$957	\$991	\$1,039
Average Annual Payroll	\$165,564,515	\$182,225,980	\$196,189,049	\$201,464,111	\$204,445,161
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Number of Firms	N/A	73	75	79	75
Construction Employment	441	468	530	539	507
Average Weekly Wages	\$684	\$773	\$802	\$847	\$916
Average Annual Payroll	\$15,688,013	\$18,797,767	\$22,113,481	\$23,744,340	\$24,153,313
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Number of Firms	N/A	24	31	33	36
Construction Employment	172	198	234	217	204
Average Weekly Wages	\$741	\$790	\$769	\$896	\$951
Average Annual Payroll	\$6,622,182	\$8,155,180	\$9,352,896	\$10,100,318	\$10,083,488
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Number of Firms	N/A	121	134	149	150
Construction Employment	902	991	1,135	1,397	1,394
Average Weekly Wages	\$848	\$873	\$908	\$974	\$1,094
Average Annual Payroll	\$39,775,963	\$44,983,180	\$53,571,430	\$70,766,338	\$79,325,797

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Building permits are a vital economic indicator tied to construction employment, future tax revenues, building permit fees and local purchases of building supplies, furniture, appliances, and other home furnishings. Table 19 indicates the number of building permits issued each year for the construction of new dwelling units and commercial buildings between 2016 and 2021. Jasper County shows the increase in both numbers and values of new single-family homes, given the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. The average home values for new construction in the region exceeded \$200,000, which falls outside the range of a starter home. These new homes will likely be unaffordable to those of modest income. This issue of housing affordability needs to be addressed by each jurisdiction using, for example, land use regulation, incentives for developers, taxes, and subsidies to low-income households.

# ECONOMY

Table 19: Building Permits Activity 2016-2021

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
<b>Beaufort County</b>						
SF Number	1,375	3,453	1,523	1,350	1,161	1,320
SF Value	\$526,088,095	\$698,022,637	\$580,118,656	\$494,621,296	\$507,097,903	\$695,792,351
Average SF Value	\$382,610	\$202,150	\$380,905	\$366,386	\$436,777	\$527,115
MH Number	N/A	218	16	157	36	51
MH Value	N/A	N/A	815289	\$1,596,925.43	\$1,428,402	\$1,643,698
MF Number	20	60	45	639	51	*330
MF Value	\$69,889,390	\$39,178,636	\$69,659,142	\$140,021,970	\$6,644,571	\$179,501,784
Commercial Number	70	261	113	82	33	66
Commercial Value	\$136,682,140	\$121,981,704	\$207,113,347	\$155,224,681	\$43,737,721	\$76,530,229
<b>Colleton County</b>						
SF Number	56	51	57	50	36	71
SF Value	\$16,752,782	\$15,588,905	\$13,147,929	\$13,218,345	\$13,520,042	\$31,468,447
Average SF Value	\$299,157	\$305,665	\$230,665	\$264,367	\$375,557	\$443,218
MH Number	103	207	137	102	243	255
MH Value	N/A	N/A	34200	455,488	\$20,387,604	\$163,698,766
MF Number	0	0	0	0	2	0
MF Value	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$300,000	\$0
Commercial Number	13	13	20	7	28	19
Commercial Value	\$10,831,101	\$10,559,313	\$5,748,953	\$2,711,842	\$6,922,820	\$5,208,962
<b>Hampton County**</b>						
SF Number	8	9	6	10	1	0
SF Value	\$1,610,646	\$2,033,119	\$1,627,238	\$2,159,829	\$0	\$0
Average SF Value	\$201,331	\$225,902	\$271,206	\$215,983	\$0	\$0
MH Number	21	32	44	39	6	10
MH Value	\$1,498,846	\$2,277,056	\$3,785,120	\$3,344,630	\$0	\$781,924
MF Number	1	0	0	0	0	0
MF Value	\$2,948,677	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commercial Number	12	12	7	10	0	5
Commercial Value	\$18,431,757	\$50,478,794	\$8,042,493	\$7,222,664	\$0	\$1,665,230
<b>Jasper County</b>						
SF Number	235	256	442	609	737	869
SF Value	\$57,146,563	\$61,512,090	N/A	\$138,622,469	\$169,119,268	\$207,156,709
Average SF Value	\$243,177	\$240,282	N/A	\$227,623	\$229,470	\$238,385
MH Number	85	94	110	180	93	111
MH Value	N/A	\$9,400	N/A	\$4,200,146	***\$22,499	\$243,500
MF Number	27	0	0	0	0	0
MF Value	\$34,681,057	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Commercial Number	24	18	29	30	19	33
Commercial Value	\$13,869,604	\$25,819,472	\$44,394,702	\$43,820,232	\$57,151,572	\$44,468,324

Note: SF = Single-Family Homes, MH = Manufactured Homes, MF = Multi-Family Home Projects; \*only refer to buildings for Port Royal; \*\*data for the Town of Yemassee only; \*\*\*data for the Town of Ridgeland only.

Source: County, City and/or Town Building Departments

# ECONOMY

## Military

The military is a major driver of the national and state economies, as well as the economy of the Lowcountry region. In 2020, South Carolina ranked 26 in the nation in total defense spending and 10 in number of personnel. Being home to the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD), and Naval Support Facility (NSF), Beaufort County ranked seventh in the state in total defense spending and third in total personnel.

Table 20 shows the amount of military spending in Beaufort County totaling \$469.5 million. Although data is only available for Beaufort County, military personnel and spending affects the economy and culture of the entire region.

Defense personnel includes military active duty, civilian, national guard, and reserve personnel. In 2020, the total number of military personnel was 11,517. Of this number, 10,108 (87.8%), 1,249 (10.8%), 116 (1%), and 44 (0.4%) were Military Active Duty, Civilian, National Guard, and Reserve Personnel respectively (Figure 13).

Figure 13: Military Personnel 2020

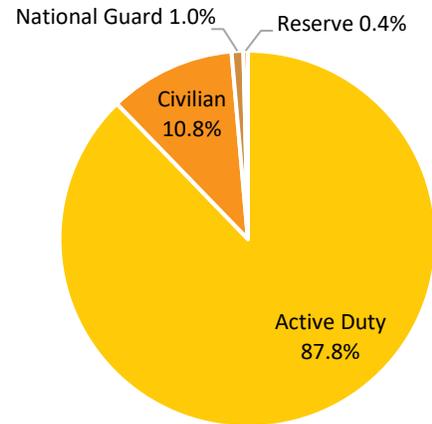


Table 20: Military Activity in Beaufort County 2014-2020

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Defense Personnel	11,402	28,646	11,924	12,044	12,008	11,517
Personnel Spending	\$487,900,000	\$372,600,000	\$401,300,000	\$301,200,000	\$318,200,000	\$326,300,000
Contract Spending	N/A	\$133,600,000	\$138,900,000	\$181,000,000	\$165,400,000	\$143,200,000

Source: U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Spending by State

## ECONOMY

### Net Taxable Sales

Table 21 reflects a result of the population and economic growth in the Lowcountry. The net taxable sales climbed significantly in all four counties from fiscal year (FY) 2005-2007, then began to decline in FY 2008, most notably in Jasper County. In Beaufort County, sales apparently bottomed out in FY 2010. They began to rebound in FY 2011 and have continuously increased since. In Jasper County sales bottomed out in FY 2010. Beginning in FY 2011, they began to increase, and continued to do so until 2018, when they again began to decline. In both Colleton and Hampton Counties, sales bottomed out in FY 2011. Beginning in FY 2012, sales began to increase in both counties, and since then have fluctuated up and down.

Table 21: Net Taxable Sales Fiscal Year 2005-2020

	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County
FY 2005	\$2,462,825,056	\$274,449,046	\$99,117,876	\$324,092,111
FY 2006	\$2,662,718,004	\$298,804,080	\$106,201,480	\$385,611,912
FY 2007	\$2,751,447,656	\$323,575,354	\$110,013,323	\$410,103,916
FY 2008	\$2,560,090,300	\$300,324,500	\$91,526,640	\$341,968,265
FY 2009	\$2,138,324,218	\$262,713,105	\$75,556,391	\$300,395,565
FY 2010	\$2,040,740,316	\$260,811,629	\$72,778,471	\$266,846,512
FY 2011	\$2,074,933,084	\$257,229,871	\$69,266,591	\$282,222,728
FY 2012	\$2,187,748,555	\$262,268,241	\$70,278,055	\$310,545,060
FY 2013	\$2,290,253,216	\$263,760,741	\$67,799,829	\$331,953,208
FY 2014	\$2,425,558,470	\$276,470,793	\$71,739,118	\$361,737,538
FY 2015	\$2,482,490,812	\$265,292,232	\$69,763,054	\$370,359,636
FY 2016	\$2,781,798,101	\$302,779,227	\$77,882,749	\$415,332,271
FY 2017	\$2,928,224,587	\$316,901,616	\$77,412,194	\$443,003,137
FY 2018	\$3,013,900,066	\$315,566,652	\$77,658,313	\$407,536,783
FY 2019	\$3,119,119,139	\$317,065,526	\$80,206,238	\$423,876,559
FY 2020	\$2,909,411,248	\$315,155,201	\$82,246,125	\$428,239,840
% Change 2010-2020	42.6%	20.8%	13.0%	60.5%

Source: SC Department of Revenue, Annual Report

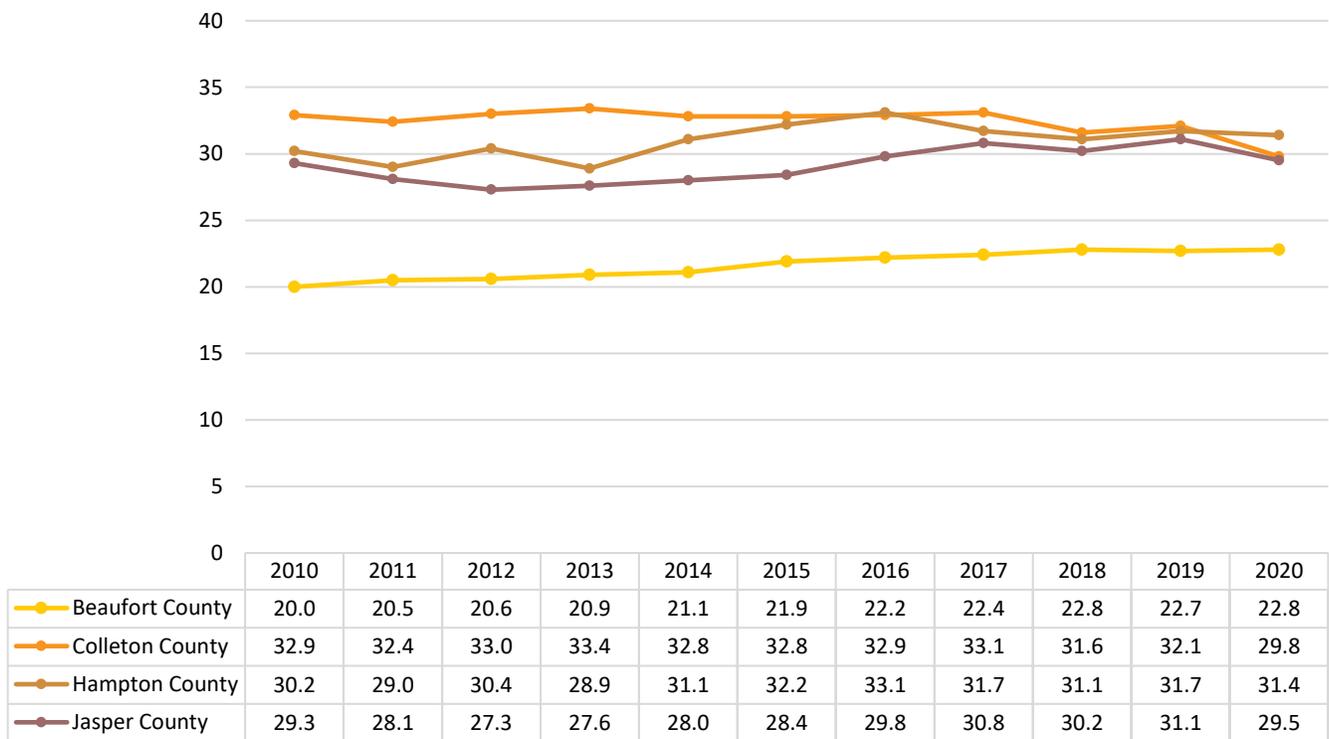
# ECONOMY

## Commuting Time and Destination

Commuting time refers to the travel time to work in minutes for workers 16 years and over who do not work at home. As illustrated in Figure 14, the average travel time to work in all counties had slightly increased from 2010. From 2010 to 2020, commuters in Hampton and Jasper Counties had relatively steady travel times. In 2020, commuters in Beaufort County had the shortest travel time to work at 22.8 minutes. While commuters in Hampton County had the longest travel time at 31.4 minutes.

This travel time to work of Lowcountry residents is explained by Table 22 showing the Lowcountry residents travelling to work outside of their home counties as far as greater than 50 miles.

Figure 14: Average Travel Time (minutes) 2010-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Means of Transportation to Work by Selected Characteristics

# ECONOMY

Table 22: Workers Commuting Destinations 2005-2019

Destination County	2005		2010		2015		2019	
	Total	Share	Total	Share	Total	Share	Total	Share
<b>From Beaufort County to</b>								
Beaufort County	42,150	79.9%	35,808	69.6%	40,960	69.4%	43,045	67.3%
Charleston County	1,907	3.6%	2,542	4.9%	2,976	5.0%	3,122	4.9%
Chatham County	1,032	2.0%	1,651	3.2%	2,432	4.1%	2,942	4.6%
Jasper County	2,248	4.3%	1,892	3.7%	2,326	3.9%	2,605	4.1%
Richland County	901	1.7%	1,519	3.0%	1,398	2.4%	1,740	2.7%
Greenville County	490	0.9%	997	1.9%	983	1.7%	1,169	1.8%
Lexington County	280	0.5%	640	1.2%	776	1.3%	847	1.3%
Horry County	479	0.9%	649	1.3%	659	1.1%	699	1.1%
Berkeley County	418	0.8%	401	0.8%	505	0.9%	549	0.9%
Spartanburg County	257	0.5%	471	0.9%	436	0.7%	502	0.8%
All Other Locations	2,581	4.9%	4,846	9.4%	5,609	9.5%	6,699	10.5%
<b>From Colleton County to</b>								
Colleton County	6,752	46.3%	5,917	40.5%	5,554	38.9%	5,783	36.4%
Charleston County	1,932	13.2%	2,398	16.4%	2,708	18.9%	3,039	19.1%
Dorchester County	734	5.0%	772	5.3%	868	6.1%	1,067	6.7%
Beaufort County	752	5.2%	637	4.4%	669	4.7%	801	5.0%
Berkeley County	437	3.0%	535	3.7%	580	4.1%	734	4.6%
Richland County	817	5.6%	771	5.3%	672	4.7%	725	4.6%
Orangeburg County	380	2.6%	432	3.0%	446	3.1%	433	2.7%
Lexington County	277	1.9%	270	1.9%	290	2.0%	370	2.3%
Hampton County	491	3.4%	315	2.2%	315	2.2%	320	2.0%
Greenville County	148	1.0%	306	2.1%	226	1.6%	294	1.9%
All Other Locations	1,867	12.8%	2,259	15.5%	1,969	13.8%	2,322	14.6%
<b>From Hampton County to</b>								
Hampton County	2,783	52.5%	2,621	35.8%	2,366	34.7%	2,215	31.0%
Beaufort County	407	7.7%	756	10.3%	850	12.5%	953	13.3%
Jasper County	301	5.7%	330	4.5%	375	5.5%	436	6.1%
Charleston County	181	3.4%	405	5.5%	367	5.4%	406	5.7%
Richland County	138	2.6%	460	6.3%	392	5.7%	395	5.5%
Allendale County	206	3.9%	320	4.4%	287	4.2%	323	4.5%
Colleton County	82	1.6%	306	4.2%	216	3.2%	237	3.3%
Lexington County	43	0.8%	207	2.8%	193	2.8%	228	3.2%
Aiken County	60	1.1%	144	2.0%	195	2.9%	175	2.4%
Greenville County	77	1.45%	157	2.14%	146	2.14%	157	2.2%
All Other Locations	1,023	19.3%	1,614	22.1%	1,440	21.1%	1,628	22.8%
<b>From Jasper County to</b>								
Beaufort County	1,730	32.9%	2,578	33.7%	3,448	39.4%	4,036	41.2%
Jasper County	1,671	31.8%	2,131	27.9%	2,140	24.5%	2,271	23.2%
Chatham County	268	5.1%	615	8.1%	824	9.4%	916	9.4%
Charleston County	334	6.4%	424	5.6%	491	5.6%	488	5.0%
Richland County	139	2.7%	294	3.9%	202	2.3%	278	2.8%
Greenville County	69	1.3%	157	2.1%	168	1.9%	176	1.8%
Hampton County	119	2.3%	155	2.0%	168	1.9%	164	1.7%
Lexington County	51	1.0%	116	1.5%	107	1.2%	129	1.3%
Colleton County	36	0.7%	182	2.4%	108	1.2%	101	1.0%
Horry County	101	1.9%	108	1.4%	86	1.0%	99	1.0%
All Other Locations	735	14.0%	884	11.6%	1,005	11.5%	1,134	11.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, LEHD Origin Destination Employment Statistics (LODES)

# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Health Measures

Table 23 offers 29 health measures including 9 related to the use of preventive services, 13 on health outcomes, 4 health risk behaviors, and 3 on health status. These estimates can be used to identify emerging health problems and to inform development and implementation of effective, targeted public health prevention activities (CDC, 2021).

Table 23: Health Measures 2019

	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County
<b>Preventive Services</b>				
Cervical Cancer Screening among adult women aged 21-65 years	87.2%	83.8%	84.6%	84.1%
Cholesterol screening among adults aged >=18 years	84.6%	82.6%	82.7%	82.7%
Current lack of health insurance among adults aged 18-64 years	17.8%	21.8%	25.2%	26.7%
Colorectal Cancer Screening among adults aged 50-75 years	67.0%	59.9%	63.8%	62.8%
Mammography among women aged 50-74 years	75.3%	71.4%	76.0%	73.7%
Core preventive services for older men aged >=65 years	28.1%	23.0%	23.9%	28.0%
Core preventive services for older women aged >=65 years	28.7%	22.8%	24.0%	24.1%
Taking medicine for high blood pressure control among adults aged >=18 years	57.6%	61.9%	63.2%	61.7%
Dental Visit among adults aged >=18 years	71.7%	54.6%	51.5%	63.5%
Annual Checkup among adults aged >=18 years	77.9%	79.5%	79.5%	78.0%
<b>Health Outcome</b>				
All teeth lost among adults aged >=65 years	10.3%	20.9%	23.3%	31.8%
Arthritis among adults aged >=18 years	22.7%	28.0%	27.5%	14.3%
Cancer (excluding skin cancer) among adults aged >=18 years	6.5%	6.3%	6.1%	38.7%
Chronic kidney disease among adults aged >=18 years	2.6%	3.5%	3.9%	4.3%
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease among adults aged >=18 years	5.5%	8.6%	9.0%	25.8%
Coronary heart disease among adults aged >=18 years	5.4%	7.2%	7.6%	3.5%
Current asthma among adults aged >=18 years	8.4%	10.5%	11.0%	10.0%
Depression among adults aged >=18 years	18.6%	21.8%	20.3%	39.3%
Diagnosed diabetes among adults aged >=18 years	9.6%	14.0%	15.9%	7.0%
High blood pressure among adults aged >=18 years	31.8%	40.3%	43.3%	21.9%
High cholesterol among adults aged >=18 years in the past 5 years	30.9%	31.3%	32.0%	8.0%
Obesity among adults aged >=18 years	27.8%	35.7%	45.1%	19.4%
Stroke among adults aged >=18 years	2.8%	4.4%	5.0%	6.2%
<b>Health Risk Behaviors</b>				
Binge drinking among adults aged >=18 years	20.3%	16.7%	15.6%	16.1%
Current smoking among adults aged >=18 years	15.6%	24.8%	24.3%	21.5%
No leisure-time physical activity among adults aged >=18 years	22.5%	36.0%	38.9%	34.4%
Sleeping less than 7 hours among adults aged >=18 years	35.1%	39.2%	41.8%	42.4%
<b>Health Status</b>				
Fair or poor self-rated health status among adults aged >=18 years	15.3%	24.2%	27.8%	25.4%
Mental health not good for >=14 days among adults aged >=18 years	12.6%	16.0%	17.4%	15.8%
Physical health not good for >=14 days among adults aged >=18 years	11.0%	17.3%	17.3%	15.6%

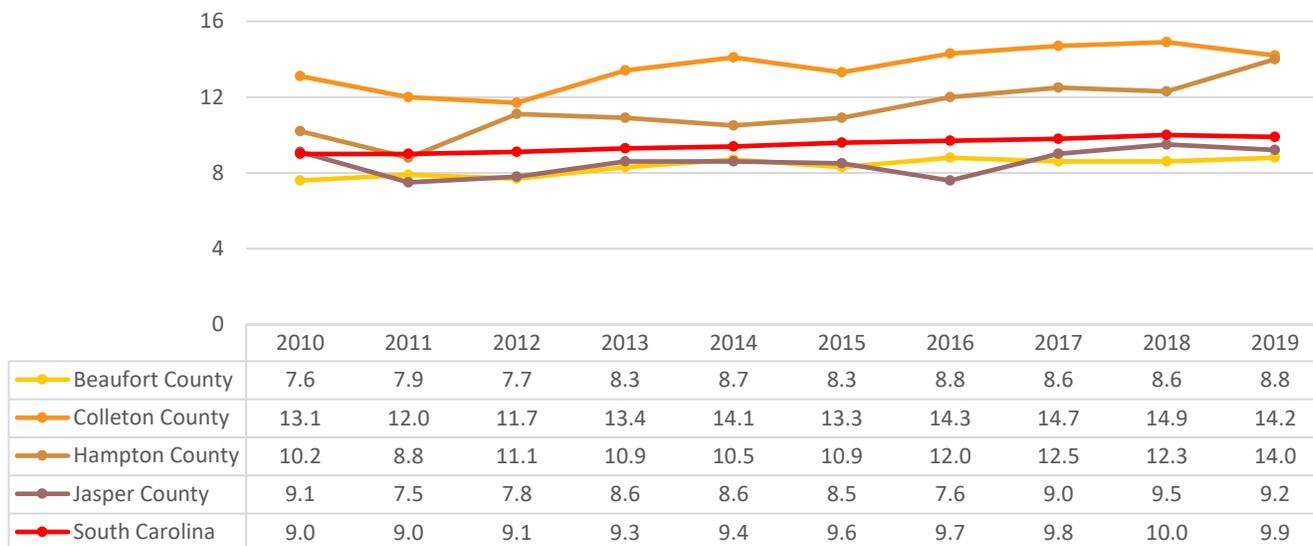
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)

# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Mortality

Mortality data are a primary source of information for identifying and monitoring chronic diseases and other public health problems. Mortality may affect, for example, health disparities, age distribution, and social policy (CDC, 2020). Between 2010-2019, Colleton County had the highest mortality rate among the four counties, which was also higher than that of the state (Figure 15). The top five leading causes of deaths in 2019 in the Lowcountry can be seen in Table 24.

Figure 15: Mortality Rate 2010-2019



Note: Rates per 100,000 population for all ages and all causes.

Source: South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control, South Carolina Community Assessment Network (SCAN)

Table 24: Top Five Leading Causes of Deaths 2019

Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County
1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	1. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities	1. Septicemia	1. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)
2. Diseases of heart	2. Septicemia	2. Congenital malformations, deformations, and chromosomal abnormalities	2. Diseases of heart
3. Alzheimer's disease	3. Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	3. Aortic aneurysm and dissection	3. Accidents
4. Accidents	4. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	4. Cancer (malignant neoplasms)	4. Chronic lower respiratory disease
5. Chronic lower respiratory disease	5. Influenza and pneumonia	5. Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	5. Alzheimer's disease

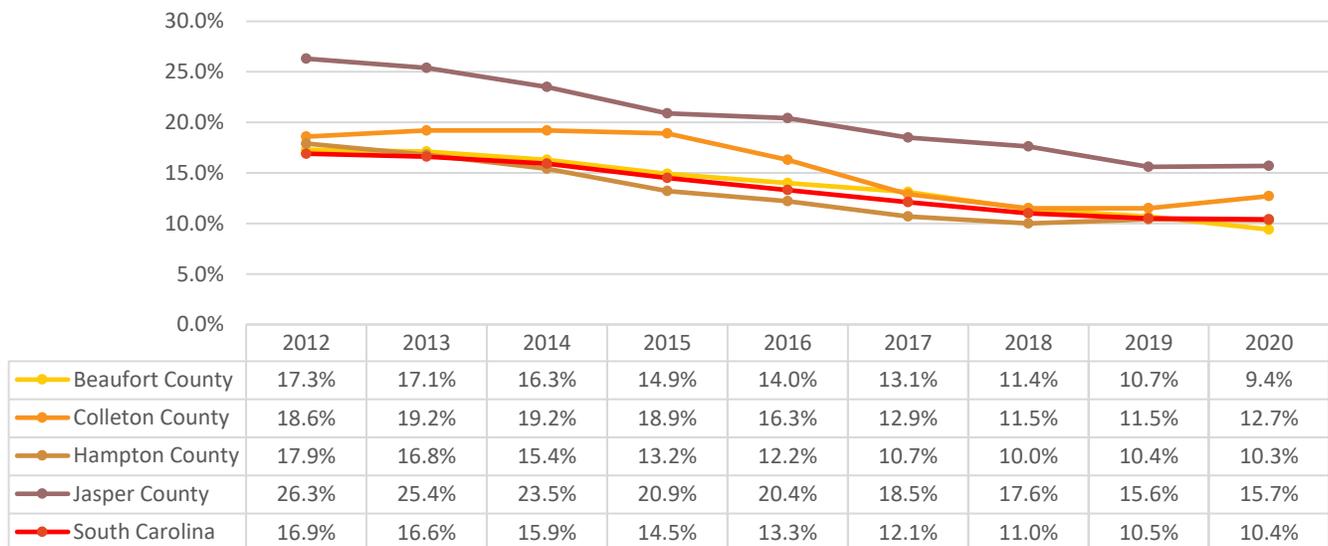
Source: South Carolina Department of Health and Environment Control, South Carolina Community Assessment Network (SCAN)

# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Health Insurance

Having health insurance coverage is important because it helps people get timely medical care and improves their lives and health. As displayed in Figure 16, between 2012-2020, the percentage of uninsured persons in the region had declined. Colleton and Jasper Counties at times had a higher percentage of uninsured population than the rest of the region and the state. Table 25 provides additional demographics on the uninsured population in the Lowcountry region.

Figure 16: Uninsured Population 2012-2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage

Table 25: Uninsured Population by Demographics 2020

	Beaufort County	Colleton County	Hampton County	Jasper County	
<b>Age</b>					
Under 19 years		7.0%	4.7%	5.2%	4.3%
19 to 64 years		15.3%	20.0%	15.5%	24.7%
65 years and older		0.3%	0.3%	1.6%	1.9%
<b>Race and Ethnicity</b>					
White		7.4%	12.6%	9.4%	11.6%
Black		11.4%	12.4%	7.7%	16.7%
Hispanic or Latino (any race)		29.2%	31.8%	64.7%	44.4%
<b>Employment Status</b>					
Employed		15.3%	20.0%	15.5%	24.7%
Unemployed		14.8%	18.3%	14.3%	24.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage

# CRIME AND SAFETY

## Violent Crime

The violent crime consists of murder, sexual battery, robbery, and aggravated assault (SLED, 2020). Between 2015 and 2020, the violent crimes in the region fell overall. During this period, the violent crime in Colleton and Hampton Counties has been greater than that of the state, except for Hampton County in 2020 (Figure 17). In 2020, most arrests for violent crime were related to aggravated assault and Jasper County has the highest rate of murder (Figure 18).

Figure 17: Violent Crime Rates 2015-2020

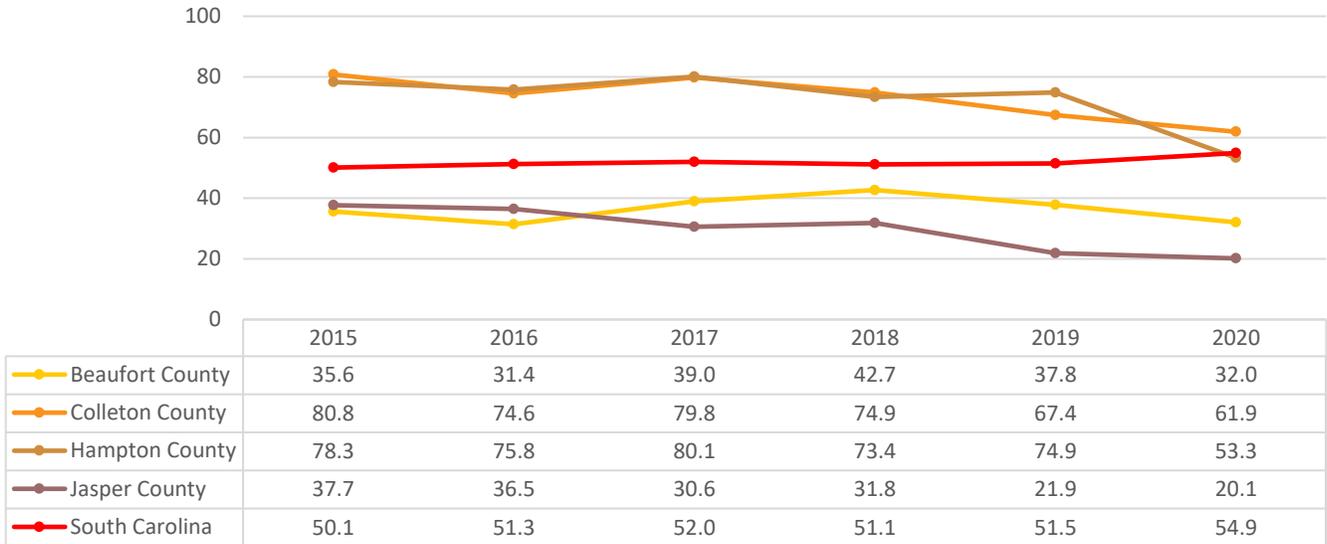
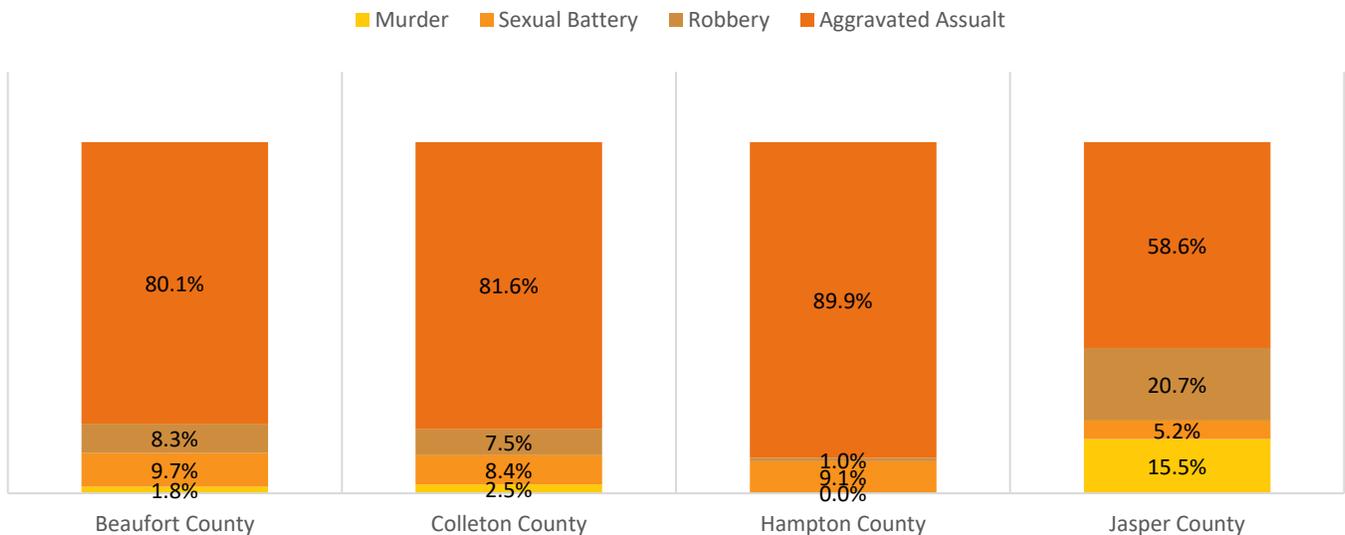


Figure 18: Violent Crime by Type 2020



Note: Rate per 10,000 population.

Source: South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Crime in South Carolina Book

# CRIME AND SAFETY

## Property Crime

Property crimes include the offenses of breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson (SLED, 2020). Between 2015 and 2020, the property crimes in the region fell overall, particularly in Jasper County from 381.7 to 90 incidents per 10,000 population. Since 2017 the region’s property crime rate has been lower than that of the state, except for Colleton County as higher than the state’s rate in 2020 (Figure 19). In 2020, most property crimes were related to larceny (Figure 20).

Figure 19: Property Crime Rates 2015-2020

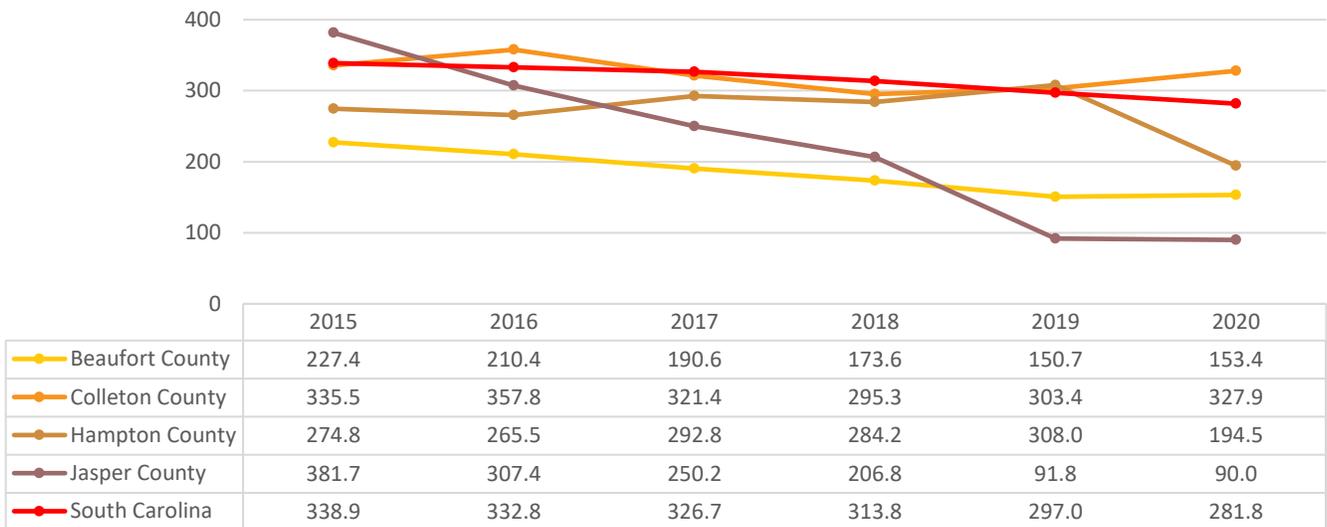
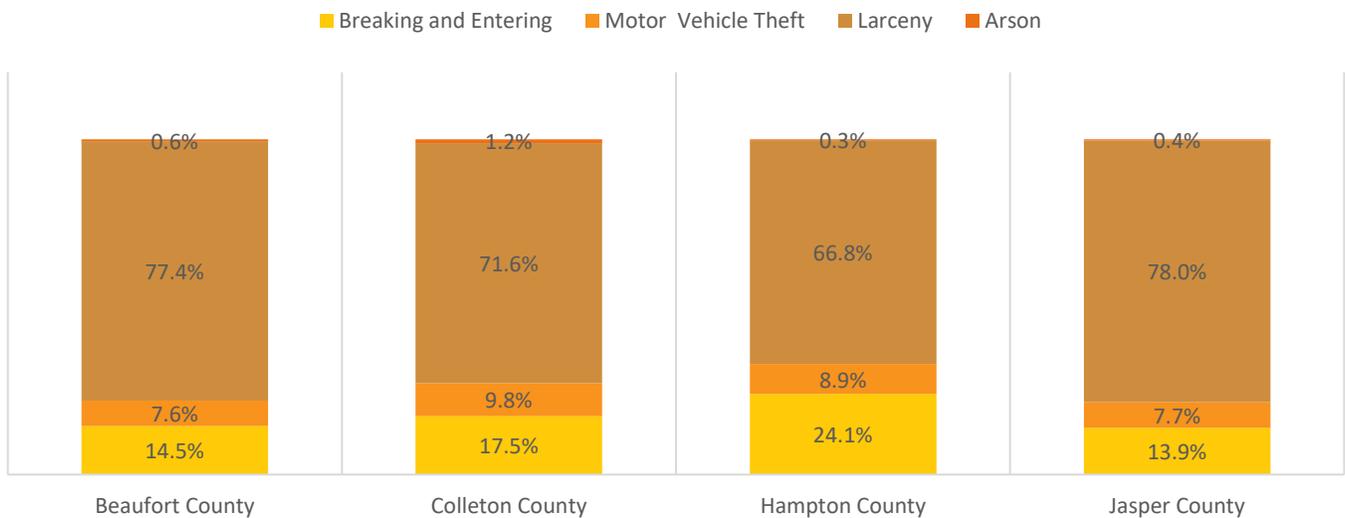


Figure 20: Property Crime by Type 2020



Note: Rates per 10,000 population.

Source: South Carolina Law Enforcement Division (SLED), Crime in South Carolina Book

# CRIME AND SAFETY

## Traffic Safety

Table 26 provides information relating to traffic collisions in the Lowcountry region. Traffic collisions and fatalities are responsible for millions of dollars in economic loss in the region. The economic loss includes property damage, medical costs, and lost productivity, but does not include intangible costs such as grief and suffering (SCDPS, 2019).

Table 26: Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions 2015-2019

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
<b>Beaufort County</b>					
Total Collisions (rank)	(12) 3,306	(12) 3,397	(12) 3,262	(13) 3,120	(13) 3,281
Fatal Collisions (rank)	(18) 17	(12) 29	(12) 25	(16) 21	(25) 13
Injury collisions (rank)	(12) 1,018	(13) 994	(12) 1,020	(13) 57	(12) 69
Motor Vehicle Deaths per 100,000	10.0	16.4	13.9	11.1	4.1
Number of SC Drivers' Licenses	138,244	141,096	143,680	146,402	148,447
Number of SC Vehicle Registrations	152,628	156,712	161,827	165,460	169,500
Economic Loss (rounded to millions)	\$103.9	\$119.6	\$119.2	\$106.4	\$102,260,400
<b>Colleton County</b>					
Total Collisions (rank)	(26) 1,117	(25) 1,238	(23) 1,381	(25) 1,260	(25) 1,228
Fatal Collisions (rank)	(14) 21	(18) 19	(17) 18	(16) 21	(19) 16
Injury collisions (rank)	(23) 391	(25) 414	(23) 429	(24) 26	(28) 29
Motor Vehicle Deaths per 100,000	55.6	63.3	50.5	58.4	42.5
Number of SC Drivers' Licenses	30,757	30,692	30,740	30,717	30,358
Number of SC Vehicle Registrations	37,011	37,633	38,158	38,649	39,049
Economic Loss (rounded to millions)	\$58.8	\$67.5	\$62.1	\$66.4	\$55,265,400
<b>Hampton County</b>					
Total Collisions (rank)	(41) 320	(39) 343	(40) 336	(43) 306	(39) 344
Fatal Collisions (rank)	(35) 7	(45) 1	(42) 4	(43) 2	(32) 8
Injury collisions (rank)	(42) 119	(39) 161	(42) 121	(38) 10	(37) 15
Motor Vehicle Deaths per 100,000	34.9	5.0	20.5	10.3	41.6
Number of SC Drivers' Licenses	14,047	13,814	13,590	13,489	13,332
Number of SC Vehicle Registrations	16,501	16,507	16,734	16,742	16,708
Economic Loss (rounded to millions)	\$19.4	\$12.8	\$16.1	\$11.0	\$24,022,600
<b>Jasper County</b>					
Total Collisions (rank)	(25) 1,128	(26) 1,091	(26) 1,210	(26) 1,149	(26) 1,124
Fatal Collisions (rank)	(28) 12	(15) 22	(30) 9	(29) 11	(16) 19
Injury collisions (rank)	(26) 344	(26) 323	(28) 286	(25) 25	(22) 36
Motor Vehicle Deaths per 100,000	50.2	87.8	38.7	38.0	66.5
Number of SC Drivers' Licenses	18,707	19,187	19,687	20,393	21,163
Number of SC Vehicle Registrations	26,386	26,993	27,900	28,663	30,493
Economic Loss (rounded to millions)	\$46.8	\$63.9	\$40.8	\$43.0	\$60,640,400

Note: Ranking is out of 46 counties: 1 is the highest, 46 is the lowest.

Source: South Carolina Department of Public Safety and Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book

## CRIME AND SAFETY

A closer look at traffic collisions in 2019 found the highest road accidents in the following areas: Beaufort County on US 278 and at the intersection of US 21 and SC 170, Colleton County on the section of I 95 and at the intersection of US 15 and SC 64, Hampton County on the section of I 95 and at the intersection of S 13 and I 95, and Jasper County on the section of I 95 and at the intersection of US 17 and I 95 (Table 27).

Table 27: Motor Vehicle Traffic Collisions by Roadways and Intersections 2019

	Total Collision	Fatal Collisions	Serious Injury Collision		Total Collision	Fatal Collisions	Serious Injury Collision
<b>Beaufort County</b>				<b>Hampton County</b>			
<i>Top 5 Roadways</i>				<i>Top 5 Roadways</i>			
US-278	819	2	11	I-95	67	1	3
US-21	663	2	16	US-278	47	1	0
SC-170	373	5	11	US-601	27	0	2
SC-46	163	0	2	US-321	25	0	2
SC-281	74	0	1	SC-68	25	0	1
<i>Top 5 Intersections</i>				<i>Top 5 Intersections</i>			
US-21 at SC-170	75	0	2	S-13 at I-95	17	0	1
SC-170 at US-278	41	0	0	S-17 at I-95	14	0	0
US-278 at S-524	40	0	2	I-95 at I-95	11	0	0
SC-46 at US-278	36	0	0	SC-68 at I-95	7	1	0
US-21 at SC-802	33	0	0	S-68 at US-601	7	0	0
<b>Colleton County</b>				<b>Jasper County</b>			
<i>Top 5 Roadways</i>				<i>Top 5 Roadways</i>			
I-95	256	6	5	I-95	343	1	7
SC-64	240	2	2	US-17	169	1	4
US-17	152	3	2	US-278	121	1	2
US-15	101	0	4	SC-462	70	3	4
SC-63	56	0	1	SC-315	51	1	2
<i>Top 5 Intersections</i>				<i>Top 5 Intersections</i>			
US-15 at SC-64	41	1	0	US-17 at I-95	108	0	0
I-95 at S-522	27	0	0	I-95 at US-278	70	0	2
US-21 at I-95	26	3	0	I-95 S-210	60	0	0
S-34 at I-95	26	1	1	S-34 at I-95	36	0	1
US-17 at SC-64	26	0	0	US-17 at SC-315	30	0	1

Source: South Carolina Department of Public Safety and Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book

# CRIME AND SAFETY

## Child Abuse and Neglect

Child abuse and neglect are a major component of many child and adult mental and behavioral disorders, including, for example, delayed development, poor academic performance, substance abuse, and domestic and criminal violence (National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine, 1993). Figure 21 shows that the numbers of child abuse and neglect in the Lowcountry region fluctuated between FY 2015 and FY 2020. During this period, the numbers of child abuse and neglect in Beaufort and Colleton Counties were higher than that of Hampton and Jasper (except for FY2020) Counties. In 2020, 539 children under 18 years old (10 per 1,000) in the Lowcountry region were abused and neglected. Of this number, 51% were children aged 6 and under (Figure 22).

Figure 21: Child Abuse and Neglect FY 2015-FY 2020

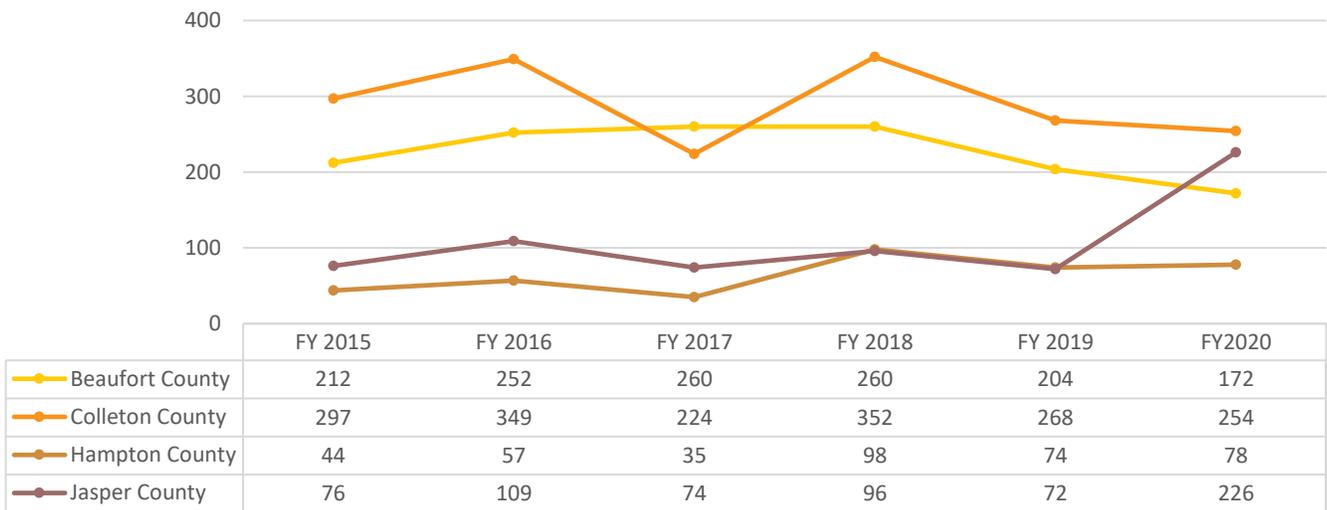
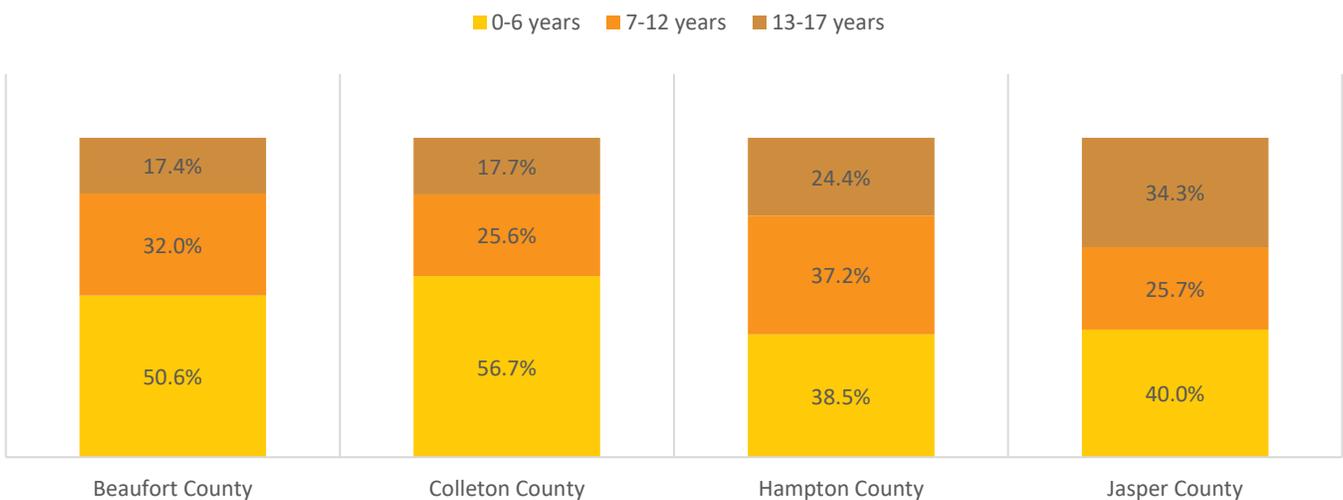


Figure 22: Child Abuse and Neglect by Age Group FY2020



Note: Numbers refer to children in founded investigations based on the date the intake was accepted for investigation  
 Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kid Count Data Center, 2017 Child Abuse and Neglect

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Educational Attainment	The highest level of education completed in terms of the highest degree, or the highest level of schooling completed.
Family	A group of two or more people who reside together and who are related by birth, marriage, or adoption.
Family Household	A householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All people in a household who are related to the householder are regarded as members of his or her family. A family household may contain people not related to the householder, but those people are not included as part of the householder's family. Thus, the number of family households is equal to the number of families, but family households may include more members than do families. Not all households contain families since a household may comprise a group of unrelated people or one person living alone.
Family Income	The income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over related to the householder.
Fatal Collision	Any traffic collision that results in the death of at least one occupant or pedestrian as a direct result of injuries sustained in the collision within 30 days of the collision date.
Household	All the people who occupy a housing unit as their usual place of residence.
Household Income	The income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not
Income	The sum of the amounts reported separately for wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from own nonfarm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.
Injury Collision	Any injury, other than a fatal injury, which prevents the injured person from walking, driving or normally continuing the activities he was capable of performing before the injury occurred.
Larceny	The unlawful taking of property from the possession of another. It includes shoplifting, pocket-picking, purse snatching, thefts from motor vehicles, thefts of motor vehicle parts, and accessories without force, violence or fraud. It does not include embezzlement, con games, forgery, bad checks or motor vehicle theft.
Median Income	The income distribution is divided into two equal groups, one having incomes above the median, and the other having incomes below the median.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Motor Vehicle Theft	The stealing or attempted stealing of a motor vehicle (e.g., cars, trucks, buses, motorcycles, motor-scooters, etc.) This excludes the unauthorized temporary taking of motor vehicles by those having lawful access.
Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision	A transport collision that involves at least one motor vehicle in transport, in which the unstable situation originates on a trafficway or at least one harmful event occurs on a trafficway. This definition excludes any collision on a private way.
Murder	The willful killing of one person by another. The classification of this offense is based on police investigation as opposed to the determination of a court, medical examiner, coroner, jury or other judicial body. Deaths caused by negligence, suicide, accident or justifiable homicides are not included.
Per Capita Income	Average obtained by dividing aggregate income by total population of an area.
Population	All people, male and female, child, and adult, living in a given geographic area.
Postsecondary Education	Characterized by diversity in both institutional and student characteristics. Postsecondary institutions vary by the types of degrees awarded, control (public or private), and whether they are operated on a nonprofit or for-profit basis. In addition, postsecondary institutions have distinctly different missions and provide students with a wide range of learning environments.
Poverty	A set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to determine who is in poverty. If the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family (and every individual in it) or unrelated individual is considered in poverty. This determination uses money income before taxes and does not include capital gains or noncash benefits (such as public housing, Medicaid, and food stamps).
Poverty Rate	The percentage of people (or families) who are in poverty. Annual poverty rates are calculated using the sum of family income over the year divided by the sum of poverty thresholds that can change from month to month if one's family composition changes.
Property Crime	The offenses of breaking and entering, motor vehicle theft, larceny, and arson.
Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI)	The Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) linked employer-employee microdata providing local labor market statistics by industry, worker demographics, employer age and size.
Robbery	The taking or attempted taking of anything of value from the care, custody, or control of another person by force or threat of force, by violence, or by putting the victim in fear of immediate harm.
School Enrollment	Data are used to assess the socioeconomic condition of school-age children classified as enrolled in regular school, either public or private, which includes nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which leads to a high school diploma or college degree.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Sexual Battery	The penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or the oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without consent of the victim. It includes both male and female victims of rape, sodomy, and sexual assault with an object. Statutory rape and other sex offenses are not included.
Total Employment	Estimate of stable jobs (i.e. the number of jobs that are held on both the first and last day of the quarter with the same employer). This is often, but not necessarily, the same as being employed for a full quarter i.e. an on-call substitute teacher may have earnings in each of three consecutive quarters, but intermittently).
Turnover Rate	The rate at which stable jobs begin and end. It is calculated by summing the number of stable hires in the reference quarter and stable separations in the next quarter, and dividing by the average full-quarter employment.
Violent Crime	Consisting of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, and involves the element of personal confrontation between the victim and offender.
Unemployment	The number of people who have lost jobs including people who have quit their jobs to look for other employment, workers whose temporary jobs have ended, individuals looking for their first job, and experienced workers looking for jobs after an absence from the labor force in the prior 4 weeks, and are currently available for work.
Unemployment Rate	The number of unemployed as percentage of the labor force, restricted to people 16 years of age and older.

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