



Coastal Management in South Carolina Fact Sheet

The Changing Faces and Places of Coastal South Carolina



There is no question that the world has discovered the South Carolina Low Country as a wonderful place to live, work, and play. This is illustrated by the explosive growth our region has seen take place during the past quarter century.

Population Trends of South Carolina Coastal Counties: 1980, 1990, and 2000

County	1980 Population ¹	1990 Population ²	2000 Population ³	Percent Change, '90-'00	Percent Change, '80-'00
Beaufort	65,364	86,425	120,937	39.9%	85.0%
Berkeley	94,727	128,776	142,651	10.8%	50.6%
Charleston	276,974	295,039	309,969	5.1%	11.9%
Colleton	31,776	34,377	38,264	11.3%	20.4%
Dorchester	58,761	83,060	96,413	16.1%	64.1%
Georgetown	42,461	46,302	55,797	20.5%	31.4%
Horry	101,419	144,053	196,629	36.5%	93.9%
Jasper	14,504	15,487	20,678	33.5%	42.6%
SC Coastal Counties	685,986	833,519	981,338	17.7%	43.1%
Other SC Counties	2,435,834	2,653,184	3,030,674	14.2%	24.4%

¹ 1980 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census.

² 1990 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census.

³ 2000 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census.

- Beaufort and Horry Counties were the two fastest growing counties in South Carolina between the 1990 and 2000 Census. Jasper, Georgetown and Dorchester also grew at rates that exceed the state average (14.2%).
- Between the 1990 and 2000 Census, over one-fourth of the state's growth in population (28.1%) occurred in the state's eight coastal counties.
- Over 10% of the state's population growth from 1990 to 2000 occurred in the narrow band of census tracts adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean (Clemson REDRL, 2002).
- The City of Myrtle Beach was the thirteenth fastest growing metropolitan area in the U.S. The only southeastern metropolitan areas to grow faster between 1990 and 2000 were Atlanta and the Raleigh-Durham, NC area (2000 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census).
- In 1976, Mount Pleasant had a population of 9,112. In 2000, the Town had grown to 47,609, an 80.9% increase (1978 South Carolina Statistical Abstract, 2000 U.S. Census, Bureau of the Census).
- In 1976, the Town of Bluffton had a population of 498. Estimates indicate the Town will grow to over 40,000 residents in the next twenty years (1978 South Carolina Statistical Abstract, South Carolina Chapter of the American Planning Association).