

1. Increasing Population



By 2027 Beaufort City is expected to be home to about 14,160 residents in 5,710 households. This is an increase of roughly 19% since 2017 or about 2,150 people and 930 households. Looking across Beaufort County, the most growth (in number) is expected to occur in Southern Unincorporated (by 8,940) and Hilton Head (by 7,040). By 2027, the total county population is expected to have grown by 20% to an estimated 225,360 residents.

Source: Beaufort County Housing Needs Assessment, Revised May 24, 2018

2. Population is Shifting to Urban Areas



Between 2010 and 2015, the population of rural South Carolina (including much of Beaufort County) decreased as people moved into urbanized areas. Projections through 2030 suggest that this trend is expected to continue with as much as a 5% loss of population in some rural counties.

Source: South Carolina's Rural Health Action Plan, 2017

3. Population Age 65+ is Growing Most



Between 2017-2022, Beaufort County is projected to grow the most (in number) in terms of residents ages 65 and older (52% of county-wide growth). In contrast, Beaufort City is projected to grow the most in residents ages 64 and younger (58% of city growth). Along the way, median age is expected to increase in both city (from 36.6 to 37.6) and county (from 42.7 to 43).

Source: Beaufort County, South Carolina Housing Needs Assessment Revised May 24, 2018

4. Small Households are Growing Most



Between 2017 and 2022, the greatest growth in Beaufort County is projected occur among 1- and 2-person households, adding about 6,450 households or 84% of the county-wide growth. In contrast, Beaufort City is projected to see growth only in larger households and especially in 5-person households (adding 430).

Source: Bowen National Research, Beaufort County Housing Needs Assessment, May 2018

5. Higher-Income Households are Growing



Between 2018 and 2023, Beaufort County households earning \$50,000 or more per year are expected to grow and households earning less are expected to decline. More specifically, the greatest increase is projected to occur among households earning \$100,000 – \$149,999 (about 3,650 households) and the greatest decline is projected to occur among households earning less than \$15,000 annually (about 740 households). As a result, median household income is expected to grow by about 15%, from \$62,600 to \$72,000.

Source: ESRI Demographic Reports, South Carolina Power Team, accessed Dec 20, 2018

7. Rising Burden of Alzheimer's Disease



Between 2017-2030, the projected cumulative total cost of Alzheimer's disease is \$132.5 billion. This comprises \$56.1 billion in cumulative health care costs and \$76.4 in cumulative value of unpaid caregiving needs.

Source: Fact sheets from the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, accessed Dec 15, 2018

6. Rising Burden of Chronic Conditions



Between 2015 and 2030, the number of people living in South Carolina with three or more chronic diseases is projected to grow by 154% to a total of 1.4 million. Along the way, chronic disease could cost South Carolina an average of \$32.9 billion in medical costs and an extra \$12.8 billion annually in lost employee productivity. If improvements are made in prevention and treatment, the state could save a total of \$90 billion over the same time period.

Source: Fact sheets from the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease, accessed Dec 15, 2018

8. White Residents are Increasing Most



In 2018-2023, both Beaufort County and City are projected to see the most growth by far among residents who identify as White, adding 14,400 and 830 respectively. In comparison, residents identifying as Hispanic or Black are expected to grow predominantly in the county rather than city, adding 2,060 and 1,100 respectively. Along the way, the relative share of racial and ethnic groups is projected to remain essentially the same, with Whites comprising 71% of the city followed by Blacks (21%) and Hispanics (6%).

Source: ESRI Demographic Reports, South Carolina Power Team, accessed Dec 20, 2018

9. Child Poverty is Growing



Child poverty in Beaufort County was 16% (5,750) in 2007, peaked at 23% in 2011, and declined to 19% (6,730) by 2016. This pattern parallels the state-level trend, with the county measuring an average of about 4% lower. Relatedly, between 2013-2017 the share of k-12 students eligible for free or reduced-price meals grew from 56% to 60% and the number of homeless students nearly doubled from 176 to 365 students.

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, accessed Dec 20, 2018; Beaufort County School District Community Report Card, 2018

10. Improving K-12 Academic Performance and Career Prep



Between 2012 and 2017, the Beaufort school district saw a growing share of high school seniors graduate “on time” in four years (from 75% to 84%). Also, more high school students taking Advanced Placement courses scored high enough to qualify for college credit (from 48% to 54%). Plus, new high-tech facilities at Battery Break and May River high schools and expanded career and technology education courses are expected to prepare students for high-paying jobs and industry certifications in emerging fields.

Source: Beaufort County School District Community Report Card, 2018

11. Growing Reliance on Natural Gas and Solar Energy



Natural gas deliveries to South Carolina's electric power sector have almost tripled in the past decade. Demand is expected to continue to rise, mostly to generate electricity. Additionally, a small but increasing share of its renewable generation comes from solar resources. Utility-scale solar generation increased by 20-fold during 2017 when about a dozen solar projects came online.

Source: "South Carolina State Energy Profile Analysis," U.S. Energy Information Administration, accessed Dec 19, 2018; Carolinas Energy Planning for the Future Summary Report, 2016

13. Schools are Becoming Digital Ready



Educational and learning possibilities by 2030 are expected to include integrated life-long learning systems, chemistry for brain enhancement, just-in-time knowledge and learning, and the use of simulations for learning, teaching, and assessments. But efforts to make such advances available to all students are expected to be hampered by costs, political pressures, and reactions from existing institutions. Variable adoption of advances is expected to exacerbate existing or create new gaps in knowledge and capacities.

Source: "Education and Learning Possibilities by the Year 2030," Millennium Project, 2007

12. Increasing Energy Efficiency in Public Sector



By 2020, South Carolina state agencies, public school districts, and all public entities are expected to have reduced their energy use by 20%, using 2000 as a baseline. As of 2017, public entities have achieved, as a whole, the goal, reducing energy use per square foot by approximately 21% while decreasing energy spending per square foot by 4%.

Source: Carolinas Energy Planning for the Future Summary Report, 2016; Annual Report on the Implementation of State Government Energy Conservation, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff Energy Office, Dec 2017

14. Increasing Tech that Lowers Cost of Living



In the 2020s, technological advancements are expected to help families and communities meet some of their basic needs. These include advances in:

- Low-cost energy and storage, including improved effectiveness of solar cells.
- Food production, with the spread of conventional gardening and more high-tech options (e.g., hydroponics, aeroponics). 3D printing and cultured meat might change food patterns, too.
- 3D printing of home goods, electronics, prosthetics, transportation aids and vehicles, and even homes. As 3D printers become more affordable they can be shared.

Source: Human Progress and Human Services 2035, Institute for Alternative Futures, 2018

15. Increasing Data Use in Civic Engagement



For many people, using your hacker skills to parse and mash up public data has become the epitome of citizenship. “Statactivists” are activists using statistics to critique and influence institutions. Citizens’ ability to use public datasets themselves is expected to increase. DIY analytics will help more people analyze and forecast than ever before. But it is also expected that big data will be used to produce misinformation, widen societal divisions, and deepen economic inequalities.

Source: “Infogement: Citizenship and Democracy in the Age of Connection,” Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement, accessed Dec 19, 2018

17. Growing Cyberattack Impacts on K-12 and Local Gov



Cybersecurity attacks are increasing and growing more sophisticated, costing time, money, and trust. There have been at least 396 K-12 cybersecurity-related incidents since January 2016, including eight in South Carolina. Horry County Schools, for example, paid nearly \$10,000 to hackers. Growing cyberattacks against local and state governments include incidents in Mecklenburg County, NC, Atlanta, Baltimore, and Colorado.

Source: “Schools Struggle to Keep Pace With Hackings, Other Cyber Threats,” Education Week, Nov 29, 2017; “K-12 Cybersecurity Resource Center,” <https://k12cybersecure.com>, accessed Dec 26, 2018; “Cyberattacks wakeup call for local governments to prepare,” Chicago Tribune, Mar 30 2018

16. Growing Risk of Cyberattacks on Energy Infrastructure



The growing risk of cyberattacks threatens the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, natural gas, and refined petroleum products. Electric system operators increasingly rely on networks of internet-connected sensors and controllers to monitor and manage their systems – but the same technology also introduces new points of vulnerability. Cyberattacks may directly disrupt utilities and pipeline operation or require reversion to labor-intensive manual control, which is expected to reduce supply to end-users.

Source: Carolinas Energy Planning for the Future Summary Report, 2016

18. Growing Job Automation



As with past disruptions, automation and cognitive computing advances are expected to eliminate, redefine, and create new jobs through the 2020s. An MIT study estimates that 60-71% of jobs in various South Carolina metro areas may be impacted by automation. The authors argue that generally speaking smaller cities have a disproportionate amount of routine clerical work, such as cashier and food service jobs, which are more susceptible to automation than cognitive and analytical tasks, such as software developers and financial analysts.

Source: “In These Small Cities, AI Advances Could Be Costly,” MIT Technology Review, Oct 23, 2017

19. Rising Sea Level



Sea level in Beaufort County is rising faster than the global average because the land surface is gradually sinking. Global mean sea level is projected to rise approximately 0.5 to 1.0 feet by 2030.

Adaptations have commenced, and more work remains to be done. In Beaufort City, planning for rising sea levels is just beginning and is expected to take an additional 5-10 years to fully develop.

Source: 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Assessment/Amendments – Natural Resources Element, Ordinance 2017/1, adopted Jan 9, 2017; Sea Level Rise Adaptation Report for Beaufort County, 2015; communication with Beaufort City Manager, Jan 7, 2019

20. Storm Impacts Expected to Grow



In a warmer climate, storms are expected to intensify faster and more often. This is expected to disrupt energy and worsen storm surge flooding, erosion, and saltwater infiltration into groundwater. During a category 3 storm, over 70% of Beaufort County's uplands could be under water. A category 5 storm could render all but 7% of the county's land area under water.

Source: 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Assessment/Amendments – Natural Resources Element (Chapter 5), Ordinance 2017/1, adopted January 9, 2017; "Category 6? Climate Change May Cause More Hurricanes to Rapidly Intensify," Washington Post, 2018

21. Decreasing City Flooding



By 2026, repeated flooding in Beaufort City due to heavy rains, king tides, and storm surges is expected to be eliminated during all but the worst storms. Fixes underway and planned include improvements in stormwater management for nine city areas starting with Mossy Oaks. The remaining stormwater budget is expected to suffice for routine maintenance work in other areas.

Source: "Mossy Oaks Project Permitting Coordination," Mossy Oaks Task Force, Nov 5 2018; "Beaufort flooding fixes will cost millions. Here's how the city plans to start," The Island Packet, Oct 17 2018; communication with Beaufort City Manager, Jan 7 2019

22. Improving Infrastructure



The US 278 corridor between Bluffton and Hilton Head Island is expected to improve, with right-of-way acquisitions beginning in 2021 and construction estimated to take place in 2024. The changes are expected to improve overall mobility, congestion, and safety. More generally, funding for infrastructure improvements across the state is expected to increase between 2017 and 2023 as the state's gas tax increases by 12 cents.

Source: "US 278 Corridor Improvements," www.scdot278corridor.com, accessed Dec 24 2018; "Gas prices are lowest in SC in years. Here's why drivers pay more in Beaufort County," The Island Packet, Jan 3 2019

23.

Rising Need for Higher Mobility or Car-Free Lifestyle

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The growing number of residents aged 65 or older is expected to have implications for land use, real estate, and transportation. For example, on average, women outlive their ability to drive by ten years and men by seven years – that is a large number of years for possible medical and social isolation. Meanwhile, Beaufort County’s built environment is currently predominantly auto-oriented.

Source: South Carolina’s Rural Health Action Plan, 2017; 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Assessment/Amendments – Energy Element (Chapter 9), Ordinance 2016/11, adopted May 9, 2016

24.

Increasing Pedestrian-Oriented Built Environment

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Many of Beaufort County’s future land use policies outlined in its current Comprehensive Plan are expected to reduce sprawl, promote community character, and promote transportation. Strategies include encouraging mixed-use developments that promote pedestrian access to services and facilities, and encouraging bike and pedestrian trails to link schools, shopping areas, employment and other destinations. Such policies are expected to help to reduce vehicle miles traveled overall, and thus help reduce energy usage.

Source: 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Assessment/Amendments – Energy Element (Chapter 9), Ordinance 2016/11, adopted May 9, 2016

25.

Rising Chance of High-Speed Rail

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Virgin Trains USA, a private high-speed passenger rail service backed by Richard Branson’s Virgin Group, named the Atlanta to Charlotte route as one of eight potential expansion opportunities in its November 2018 IPO filing. Three alternative paths through Upstate South Carolina are considered with studies estimating their ridership at 1-5.37 million passengers a year in 2025. Construction would start sometime after 2024.

Source: “High-Speed Rail Line Could One Day Run through Upstate,” GoUpstate.com, 2017; “Richard Branson-Backed Virgin Trains USA IPO Names Atlanta-Charlotte Route as Possible Expansion,” Atlanta Business Chronicle, Dec 5, 2018

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26.

Affordable Housing is Falling Short



By 2027, the supply of affordable housing in Beaufort County is expected to fall short for many income groups but especially for lower-income *renters* and higher-income *homebuyers*, even taking into account new units in the development pipeline.

- Rental: The greatest shortage is expected for households earning less than \$20k (1,420 units short), \$35k-\$59k (1,340 units), and \$85k+ (1,010 units).
- For Sale: The greatest shortage is expected for households earning more than \$85+ (3,940 units short), \$30k-\$59k (2,290 units), and \$60K-\$84K (880 units).

Source: Beaufort County Housing Needs Assessment, Bowen National Research, May 2018

28.

Rising Cost of Long-Term Care



Between 2018 and 2030, if current trends persist, the median annual cost for long-term care options in the cities of Hilton Head Island, Bluffton, and Beaufort is projected to increase by 43% to:

- \$70,100 for homemaker services (102% of national median)
- \$66,900 for a home health aide (93% of national median)
- \$65,900 for assisted living (96% of national median)
- \$132,700 for a semi-private room in a nursing home (104% of national median)
- \$153,500 for a private room in a nursing home (107% of national median)

Source: Genworth Financial, Inc., Cost of Care Survey, 2018

27.

Senior Care Housing is Falling Short



By 2022, the supply of senior care housing in Beaufort County is expected to fall short, even taking into account new units in the development pipeline. The shortage is estimated at:

- 1,100 additional beds needed in congregate care,
- 670 additional beds needed in assisted living, and
- 450 additional beds needed in nursing homes.

Source: Bowen National Research, Beaufort County Housing Needs Assessment, May 2018

29.

Growing Employment



Between 2014 and 2024, total employment in the Lowcountry is projected to grow to a total of 107,300, representing a growth of 13%.

Along the way, industries adding the most jobs are expected to be:

- Health Care and Social Assistance (2,475)
- Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services (1,370)
- Accommodation and Food Services (1,365)
- Educational Services (950)
- Construction (925)
- Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (650)

Source: Projections from SC Works Online Services, accessed Dec 20, 2018

30.



Increasing Chance of Higher Ed Closures and Mergers

South Carolina's public institutions of higher education are increasingly unable to bring in enough revenue to cover their costs, and they are expected to compete for a declining pool of college applicants. By 2026 the state's public universities are projected to face a potential budget gap of up to \$305 million. Denmark Tech might be the state's first technical college to close.

Source: "Issues in Higher Education in South Carolina," S.C. Commission on Higher Education, Dec 2017; "Will Denmark Tech be South Carolina's first technical college to close?," postandcourier.com, Mar 24 2018

32.



Rising K-12 Teacher Shortage

By the 2027-28 school year, South Carolina is projected to be short by about 6,000 teachers, especially in math, science, special education and social studies classes.

In Beaufort County, the school district's teacher turnover rate—one of the highest in the state with 12% since 2012—is not expected to improve unless teachers' cost of living improves sufficiently.

Source: "Why SC Teachers Are Leaving in Record Numbers," The Greenville News, May 4 2018; "Beaufort Co. schools started a cost-of-living supplement for teachers. Is it working?" The Island Packet, May 3, 2018

31.



Growing Nursing Shortage

South Carolina is projected to have one of the most severe nursing shortages in the nation by 2030. The state will experience the most growth, adding 26,600 new jobs to an existing workforce of 36,900 registered nurses. Still the state is estimated to fall short by roughly 10,000 nurses. Demand is projected to increase nationwide due to longer life expectancy, growing emphasis on preventative care, and increasing rates of obesity and diabetes.

Source: "Report: South Carolina Will Have One of the Highest Nursing Shortages in Nation by 2030," wmbfnews.com, Oct 24 2018

33.



Self-Employed Workers are Increasing

Between 2006 and 2016, the number of residents in Beaufort County who are self-employed grew by 30% or 3,710 to a total of 15,910. This growth occurred especially in professional, scientific, and technical services as well as in administrative and support and waste management and remediation services. More broadly, freelancers in the U.S. could outnumber full timers within a decade.

Source: "Freelanced: The Rise Of The Contract Workforce," NPR.Org, accessed Aug 15 2018; U.S. Census Bureau, Nonemployer Statistics, 2016

34. Shrinking Farmland



Between 2007 and 2012, the number of active farms in Beaufort County grew from 125 to 137 but the acreage of farmland decreased by 15% to 42,200 acres. While farmland in the county supports local food production, much of the land suitable for agriculture has been committed to development. The county is currently one of the largest producers of tomatoes, melons, and vegetables in the state.

Source: 5-Year Comprehensive Plan Assessment/Amendments – Natural Resources Element, Ordinance 2017/1, adopted Jan 9 2017; “Economic benefits of parks, trails, and conserved open spaces in Beaufort County” Trust for Public Land, 2018



35.

Rising Political Influence of U.S. South and West

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14-17 states are projected to gain or lose U.S. House seats after the 2020 census, in time for the 2024 presidential and congressional elections. These changes are expected to be a broad continuation of the same patterns seen over the last few decades, where successive reapportionments shifted more and more seats to southern and western states at the expense of northeastern and midwestern states. Specifically South Carolina, however, is not expected to gain or lose U.S. House seats after the 2020 census.

Source: "Updated 2020 Reapportionment Projections," University of Virginia Center for Politics, 2015

37.

Participatory Budgeting is Spreading

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Participatory budgeting (PB)—a democratic process where ordinary residents decide directly how to spend part of a public budget—has been spreading among US municipalities, growing to 50 processes across 14 cities by 2017. In 2015–16, over 93,600 residents voted in a PB process deciding over a total of about \$49.5 million and funding 264 projects. PB is expected to improve fairness and inclusion in outcomes by strengthening civic sector alliances and (re)distributing resources to areas of greatest need.

Source: Hagelskamp, et al., "Participatory Budgeting: Could It Diminish Health Disparities in the US?" *Journal of Urban Health*, 2018

36.

Growing "Thin" Civic Engagement

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It is expected that there will be a growing number technologies that scale civic engagement up and thin it out, designed by advocacy groups, nonprofits, and companies. "Thick" engagement refers to working in groups, either face-to-face, online, or both, and features dialogue, deliberation, and action planning. "Thin" engagement happens especially online on an individual basis, and it tends to be easier, faster, and potentially more viral. Both types of engagement have merits and shortcomings.

Source: "Infogagement: Citizenship and Democracy in the Age of Connection," Philanthropy for Active Civic Engagement, accessed Dec 19, 2018

38.

Rising Costs of Living Burden School District Budget

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Beaufort County's cost of living is the highest in South Carolina, and costs continue to rise for things that the school district does not control. Those increased expenditures include insurance contracts, employee health care, and state-mandated salary increases for teachers.

Source: Beaufort County School District Community Report Card, 2018

39.

Decreasing Correctional System Costs

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Between 2009 and 2016, as a result of sentencing and corrections reforms passed in 2010, the South Carolina prison population declined 14%, six prisons closed, \$491 million were saved, and the crime rate continued to fall. On the downside, a deadly prison riot in 2018 suggests that the Department of Corrections has become underfunded and undermanned.

Source: "Data Trends: South Carolina Criminal Justice Reform," The Pew Charitable Trusts, Sept 6 2017; "Deadly South Carolina Prison Riot Exposes Staffing Shortage," Reuters, April 19 2018

40.

City Revenues are Growing But...

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For FY2019, Beaufort City projects \$22,975,923 in total expenditures and \$22,791,923 in revenues – a deficit of \$184,000. Revenues assume an increase of 6.57% over FY 2018 revenues, paired with intensive efforts by all departments to hold or reduce expenditures. This shortage was overcome with a slight mill rate increase in order to balance the budget. It is expected to take another two years to see further improvement in City revenues as new commercial development and new annexations start to come online.

Source: City of Beaufort Adopted Budget FY 2019; communication with Beaufort City Manager, Jan 7 2019