

Section 1:

Introduction

The Population Element of the Comprehensive Plan generally provides information and analyses regarding various aspects of the demographic make up of an area. The Population Element not only reports existing population levels and ethnic composition, but also may include age group analyses, educational attainment levels of the residents and general income information of the population. The Population Element was last updated in 2007 to reflect demographic information from the 2000 U.S. Census. **This current revision of the Population Element incorporates 2010 demographic data and up to date information available from the U.S. Census and the State of South Carolina.**

Demographic information and analyses are important in providing evidence of the extent to which population factors affect current conditions in the County. Georgetown County has three incorporated municipalities and many other communities which are well established in the eyes of the local residents. The residents of these communities represent a diverse collection of social and economic characteristics that factor into the overall well being of the County. This element endeavors to identify the population factors that are associated with community conditions in Georgetown County and to identify which aspects of the County may be impacted through planning efforts.

The Element is divided into eleven sections, including the Introduction. The other sections are Population Figures and Estimates; Population Density; Rural and Urban Populations; Ethnic and Gender Compositions; Age Group Categories; Socio-Economic Aspects of County Population; Seasonal Population; Population Projections; Georgetown County Households; and Summary of Population Issues.

Section 2:

Population Figures and Estimates

Spaniards were the first Europeans to arrive at Winyah Bay in 1526. Their colony endured less than a year; however, no trace of this expedition remains today. No further settlements were attempted in this area until the English began migrating north from Charleston during the eighteenth century.

The earliest land grants date from 1705 and by 1721 the population was sufficient for the establishment of a parish of the Episcopal Church, Prince George Winyah. This parish provided limited self-government for the region. The City of Georgetown was laid out in 1729, the third oldest city in South Carolina.

The population of Georgetown County has undergone a substantial increase since 1930. Between 1930 and 1940, the population increased by 21.2 percent, with growth continuing through 1960. Between 1960 and 1970, however, the population of the County declined by 3.7 percent. The County experienced a 26.7 percent increase from 1970 to 1980 and a nine percent increase between 1980 and 1990. From 1990 to 2000

Georgetown County's population increased by 20.5 percent (an increase of 9,495 people), for a ranking of 8th among the 46 counties in terms of population growth over the last decade. This is in comparison to an overall state increase of only 15.1 percent.

More recently, between April 1, 2000 and December 31, 2010, Georgetown County experienced a 7.8% increase in population. Adjacent Horry County experienced a 19% increase in population during the same time period. While not as dramatic, there were also increases in other neighboring counties.

Table 2.1 1930 – 2010 Population of Georgetown County

1930	1940	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
21,738	26,352	31,762	34,798	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	60,158

SOURCE: United States Census Bureau: State and County Quick Facts

Although the County has experienced significant population growth over the last 20 years, this growth has been localized in the Waccamaw Neck and to a lesser extent, the areas around Georgetown and Andrews. Not all areas of the County are experiencing growth; in fact, some areas such as the Town of Pawleys Island and the Town of Andrews have experienced population declines. Plantersville and the Pleasant Hill/Folly Grove area have also lost population since 2000.

The City of Georgetown had a 2010 census population of 9,163, which was 15% of the population of Georgetown County. The Waccamaw Neck, which encompasses 11% of the land mass of Georgetown County, had a 2010 census population of 22,120, which was 37% of the total population of the County. Between 1970 and 2010, the Waccamaw Neck area experienced a 601% growth in population. Most of the remainder of the County is rural, west of the Waccamaw River.

Table 2.2 compares population for the various County Census Divisions (CCD's) in Georgetown County for 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000 and 2010. There are fourteen primary census divisions in Georgetown County. The individual divisions are shown in Figure 2.2. Table 2.2(A) shows the **2010** population of cities and towns in Georgetown County.

Table 2.2 1970 – 2010 Resident Population of Georgetown County

CENSUS COUNTY DIVISION/ MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010
Andrews Division (#9202.01,9202.2)	5,174	6,914	7,401	7,929	7,608
Georgetown Division (# 's 9203.01, 9203.02, 9206, 9207)	15,638	19,281	19,578	20,111	19,865
Plantersville Division (#9204)	2,499	2,706	2,650	3,199	2,957
Pleasant Hill/Folly Grove Division (#9201)	3,059	3,518	3,533	3,994	3,592

Sampit/Santee Division (#9208)	3,977	3,519	3,440	3,918	3,913
Waccamaw Division (# 's 9205.01, 9205.02, 9205.03, 9205.04, 9205.05)	3,153	6,523	9,700	16,646	22,223
TOTALS	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	60,158

SOURCE: United States Census Bureau; South Carolina Department of Commerce

Table 2.2(A) 2010 Population of Cities and Towns

2010 Population of Cities & Towns	
Georgetown County	
Andrews	2,838
Georgetown	9,163
Pawleys Island	103

SOURCE: Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments

The population growth in Georgetown County is a reflection of the growth in the South East and the coastal areas of the country in particular. Table 2.3 shows the population trends for Georgetown and adjacent counties and the percent change from 2000 to **2010**.

Table 2.3 Population Trends For Georgetown and Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	% Change 2000 to 2010
GEORGETOWN	34,798	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	60,158	7.8
HORRY	68,247	69,992	101,419	144,053	196,629	269,291	36.9
WILLIAMSBURG	40,932	34,243	38,226	36,815	37,217	34,423	-7.5
BERKELEY	38,196	56,199	94,727	128,776	142,651	177,843	24.6
CHARLESTON	216,382	247,650	276,974	295,041	309,969	350,209	13.0

SOURCE: WACCAMAW REGIONAL PLANNING; US CENSUS BUREAU

The major portion of the County's population increase was due to net migration into Georgetown County. From 1990 to 2000 the net natural increase for the county was 2,731 persons compared to a total of 6,764 persons from migration. Of the 10,397 people who moved into Georgetown County between 1995 and 2000, 38.8 percent moved from

another county within South Carolina and 61.2 percent moved into the county from a different state. During the same time period, 8,048 people moved out of Georgetown County, resulting in a net population gain of 2,349 people.

According to the Us Census Bureau – American Fact Finder 3,262 people moved to Georgetown County between 2009 and 2013. Of the 3,262 new residents, 63.3% moved from within another county of South Carolina, 29.8% moved into the county from another state and 6.9% moved into the county from abroad.

Section 3

Population Density

Population density is given in terms of the number of residents per unit of land area. Georgetown County, with **813.55** square miles of land area, has a density of **73.9** persons per square mile based on the **December 31, 2010** census. The density rate for Georgetown County increased from 68.5 persons per square mile in 2000. A comparison of the Georgetown County rate and that of adjacent counties is shown in Table 2.4. **Horry County has a rate that is more than triple Georgetown County, while Charleston County has nearly five times the density.**

Table 2.4 2010 Population Densities for Georgetown and Adjacent Counties

COUNTY	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	73.9
HORRY COUNTY	237.5
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	36.8
BERKELEY COUNTY	161.8
CHARLESTON COUNTY	382.3

SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU

As with many counties, the highest densities are located near or in close proximity to the incorporated areas within the county: the City of Georgetown and the Town of Andrews. Although not a separately incorporated area, the Waccamaw Neck, including Litchfield, Pawleys Island Mainland and **Murrells Inlet**, has experienced tremendous growth in the past **twenty** years and has become a highly concentrated residential area. In contrast to these locations, there are still large tracts of land throughout the county that are largely unpopulated and others that are used in various phases of the timber industry.

Section 4

Rural and Urban Populations

The distinction between rural and urban areas of Georgetown County is important in that the availability of some public services may be affected by the difference. The needs of residents in rural and urban areas may differ due to different transportation, work and general living patterns made necessary by each area.

The distinction between rural and urbanized areas has been based primarily upon population numbers and density within a defined area. For recent censuses the US Census Bureau defined urban as “including all population and territory in urbanized areas, which are densely settled areas containing at least 50,000 people, and in other places with a population of 2,500 or more.” While the actual geographic location of a designated place remains relatively constant, the rural or urban designation may change over time due to the changes in population levels or density which pushes the numbers either above or below the urban threshold.

It was possible for the rural population to increase significantly without a major conversion of rural areas into urban areas. Again, the general urban definition is based upon those defined localities with populations of at least 2,500 persons. Some places in the County with small populations in one census could have experienced significant population increases by the next census but remain below the thresholds which would reclassify the areas as urban.

The numeric distinction of rural and urban populations may conceal the fact that some areas identified as urban may not have the traditional services and cultural resources normally associated with urban areas. This may present some unique social and public service issues as traditional rural areas are confronted with density and service use issues generally thought to be found in cities.

A new definition of urban and related terminology and the criteria for designating and delineating urban areas was published by the Census Bureau in the Federal Register on March 15, 2002. To provide better data regarding urban and rural populations, the designation of “urban cluster” was established. These are densely settled areas with populations of 2,500 to 49,999 and are based on combinations of block groups and census blocks and do not take into consideration legal and statistical boundaries. This definition significantly changes the actual numbers of urban and rural populations in Georgetown County. Table 2.5 compares rural and urban population for the County as determined by the **current** definitions.

Table 2.5 – Rural and Urban Population in Georgetown County, 2010

Georgetown County		%
Total:	60,158	100
Urban:	35,182	58.5
Inside Urbanized areas	7,539	12.5
Inside Urban clusters	27,643	46.0
Rural:	24,976	41.5

Source: U.S. Census 2010

Section 5

Ethnic and Gender Composition

Establishing a baseline with race and gender components of the County’s population facilitates the identification of patterns and issues which are relevant to the overall well being of communities in the County. The ethnic populations of Georgetown and adjacent Counties are shown in Table 2.6.

Table 2.6 Ethnic Composition of Georgetown and Adjacent Counties, 2010

COUNTY	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN*	ASIAN**	HISPANIC	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES
GEORGETOWN	60,158	37,311	20,128	128	269	1,867	37	418
HORRY	269,291	208,096	35,753	1,075	2,774	16,683	627	4,283
WILLIAMSBURG	34,423	10,725	22,526	102	137	689	32	212
BERKELEY	177,843	113,553	44,023	910	3,981	10,755	682	3,939
CHARLESTON	350,209	217,260	103,479	838	4,660	18,877	717	4,378

* INCLUDES ALASKA NATIVE

**INCLUDES NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

The ethnic composition of Georgetown County has seen some changes in the past two decades. The percentage of non-white persons living in the County decreased from 48.5% in 1970 to 43.5% in 1990. While the actual numbers have increased, the growth among white populations has far out paced that of non-white individuals. The trend is unique in that South Carolina has seen an increase overall in the percentage of the non-white population while the white population percentage has remained relatively stable. At the same time there has been a marked increase in persons of other ethnic

identifications, particularly Hispanic. From 1990 to **2010** the number of persons identifying themselves as Hispanic increased from **187 to 1,867, an increase of over 1000%**. However, in 2010, persons of Hispanic origin only represented **3.1%** of the County's total population. This compares to **6.2%** for Horry County and **5.4 %** for Charleston County. While these other groups still form only small percentages of the total population their actual numbers are already fostering changes within the community. As these particular groups continue to increase in numbers there will be additional needs and services that will need to be addressed by local government. Table 2.7 compares 2000 and **2010** ethnic population figures by actual numbers, percentage of population and percent of increase for that time frame.

Table 2.7 2010 and 2000 Population by Race for Georgetown County (percents) and Comparison of 2000 and 2010 Population and Percent Change by Race

	PERCENT OF POPULATION 2010	2000 POPULATION	2010 POPULATION	% OF CHANGE FROM 2000 TO 2010
WHITE	62.0	33,011	37,311	13.0
BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	33.5	21,393	20,128	-5.9
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	0.2	74	128	73.0
ASIAN	.4	120	269	124.2
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	.009	16	6	-62
HISPANIC OR LATINO	3.1	919	1,867	103.2
TWO OR MORE RACES	0.6	239	418	75
OTHER	.05	25	31	25

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

In comparison of overall gender trends, females outnumber males in all adjacent counties, except Berkeley. Table 2.8 shows the **2010** Census gender composition of Georgetown and surrounding counties. In **2010**, females represented **52.4%** of Georgetown County's population, compared to 52.1 % in 2000. Statewide, females accounted for **51.4%** of the State's population in **2010**.

Table 2.8 Gender Composition of Georgetown and Adjacent Counties, 2010 and Percent Female Persons, 2010

COUNTY	TOTAL 2010	MALE 2010	FEMALE 2010	% FEMALE 2010
GEORGETOWN	60,158	28,648	31,510	52.4
BERKELEY	177,843	88,729	89,114	50.1
CHARLESTON	350,209	169,871	180,338	51.5
HORRY	269,291	131,691	137,600	51.1
WILLIAMSBURG	34,423	16,734	17,689	51.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Section 6

Age Group Categories

The analysis of the age structure of the population provides valuable information relative to the population burden that the regional economy must carry. The population that makes up the productive sector, or primary work force, is the age group between twenty and sixty-four. The size of this group, when compared with the age groups at both ends of the population spectrum, is an indirect measure of the health of the economy.

The size of the age groups in the dependent sectors of the population provides additional important information. The age group up to eighteen years provides data concerning future education needs, future work force potentials and new household potentials. The data derived from the age group of sixty-five and older can provide useful information for the establishment of new or amended policies concerning programs for the elderly.

For Georgetown and neighboring counties age group numbers and percentages are of particular interest. Section 2 of this report noted that migration into Georgetown County accounted for nearly three times the number of new residents, as did natural increase. Many of those moving to the area are retirees from other parts of the country. From 1990 to 2010, Georgetown County experienced an increase of **42.7%** in numbers of persons 65 and over. Horry County has experienced even greater percentage increases with a **56.3%** increase of persons 65 and over. In 2010, persons 65 years and over comprised **19.7%** of the County's total population. Horry County's population aged 65 years and over made

up **17.1%** of the County's total population in **2010**. Statewide, this percentage was **12.6%** of the total population.

At the same time, the numbers at the other end of the spectrum (20 and younger) have declined. In 1970 this group represented 46% of the population of Georgetown County. By 1990, it represented only 32.8% and has decreased to 25.2% in 2000 and **23.9%** in **2010**. The trend has been the same in adjoining counties. Horry County's under 20 population has decreased from 50.6% in 1970 to 26.6% in 1990 and decreased to 21.3% in 2000 with a slight increase to **23%** in **2010**. Statewide, the percentage was **24.1%** in **2010**.

The median age of Georgetown County's population was **45.4** years in **2010**. This compares to **41.1** years for Horry County and **37.9** years statewide. Table 2.9 compares **2010** population figures for age groups and percentage of total population. Table 2.9A provides **2010** population percentages by age group for Georgetown County and surrounding counties.

Table 2.9 Population Figures and Percentages by Age Group, 2010

COUNTY	UNDER 20		20 TO 64		65 AND OLDER	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
GEORGETOWN	14,359	23.9	33,879	56.3	11,920	19.8
HORRY	61,889	23.0	161,332	59.9	46,070	17.1
WILLIAMSBURG	9,036	26.2	20,348	59.1	5,039	14.6
BERKELEY	50,326	28.3	109,723	61.7	17,794	10.0
CHARLESTON	83,910	24.0	221,578	63.3	44,721	12.7

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2.9A Population Percentages by Age Group, 2010

COUNTY	UNDER 5	5 TO 64	OVER 65
GEORGETOWN	5.6	74.7	19.7
HORRY	5.7	77.2	17.1
WILLIAMSBURG	6.0	79.3	14.7
BERKELEY	7.5	82.3	10.2
CHARLESTON	6.5	80.7	12.8

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Section 7

Socio-Economic Aspects of County Population

EDUCATION

The education level of a population may indirectly affect individual family lives, which has an impact upon the entire community when the consequences of educational problems are multiplied over a significant number of people in the community. Educational levels of a community's population are important to industries seeking qualified workers and are considered to be a factor in developing human resources and community potential. Educational attainment is also an important factor in continued socio-economic development. The growing complexity of our society requires that persons be adequately educated to meet the increasing needs of the economy. If not, then both economic and social development can be affected. Table 2.10 compares the level of educational attainment of persons 25 years and over in Georgetown and adjacent counties.

Table 2.10 Educational Attainment for Persons 25 and Over, 2000

COUNTY	TOTAL PERSONS IN AGE GROUP	LESS THAN 9 TH GRADE OR NO HS DIPLOMA		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE		SOME COLLEGE NO DEGREE		ASSOCIATE, BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	
		NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
GEORGETOWN	42,825	7,152	16.7	14,261	33.3	8,051	18.8	13,319	31.1
HORRY	186,405	24,046	12.9	61,886	33.2	14,755	22.4	58,531	31.4
WILLIAMSBURG	23,482	5,283	22.5	9,886	42.1	3,875	16.5	4,462	19.0
BERKELEY	111,902	15,890	14.2	38,942	34.8	26,409	23.6	30,661	27.4
CHARLESTON	231,255	29,138	12.6	51,107	22.1	45,788	19.8	105,452	45.6

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Based on these figures, **83.2%** of the persons over 25 in Georgetown County are high school graduates or higher and **31.1%** have an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. In Horry County the percentages are 87.0% for high school graduates or higher and 31.4% for associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Williamsburg County has lower percentages, with only **77.6%** being high school graduates or higher and **19.0%** having an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Berkeley County has a rate of **85.8%** for high school graduates or higher and **27.4%** for an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Charleston County has the highest rates with **87.5%** of those over 25 being high school graduates or higher and **45.6%** have an associate, bachelor's degrees or higher.

INCOME

Another measure of the well being of a community's population is the median household income level. While Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties all have median household incomes lower than the State level, the figures have been steadily rising **for both Horry and Georgetown Counties**. From 2004 to **2010** median household income for Georgetown increased by **13.2%**, Horry County's median household income increased by **17.0%**, and Williamsburg County's median household income **decreased by 4.3%**, compared to a **13.1%** increase for the State. Table 2.11 compares income levels for Georgetown and adjacent counties with South Carolina. Table 2.11(A) compares per capita personal income for the Region and percent change from 2000 to **2010**.

Table 2.11 Median Household Income, 2010

JURISDICTION	INCOME IN DOLLARS
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$44,623
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	\$42,666
HORRY COUNTY	\$43,142
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	\$25,174
BERKELEY COUNTY	\$51,476
CHARLESTON COUNTY	\$50,289

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2.11A Per Capita Personal Income, 2000 - 2010

Per Capita Personal Income Waccamaw Region, South Carolina				
Area	2000	2010	\$\$ Change 2000-2010	% Change 2000-2010
Georgetown	\$25,090	\$37,015	\$11,925	47.53%
Horry	\$24,930	\$28,531	\$3,601	14.44%
Williamsburg	\$16,212	\$25,948	\$9,736	60.05%
South Carolina	\$25,076	\$32,193	\$7,117	28.38%
United States	\$30,319	\$39,791	\$9,472	31.24%

SOURCE: WACCAMAW REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

POVERTY

The poverty level identifies individuals and families that do not receive what is considered to be an adequate income amount to provide basic living necessities. Census figures from the **2010** model-based estimate show **21.2%** of the Georgetown County population lives below the poverty level. Horry County has a **18.6 %** rate and Williamsburg County has a rate of **30.8%**, nearly 1/3 of its population. Berkeley and Charleston Counties are very close to the State percentages.

The poverty issue becomes more focused, as components of the population are isolated for individual analysis. Table 2.12 details **2010** poverty status by age groups. Table 2.13 details **2010** status by race. Table 2.13(A) provides updated **2010** poverty status for all age groups and persons under age 18 for Georgetown County and adjacent counties.

Table 2.12 Poverty Status by Age Groups, 2010

COUNTY	TOTAL PERSONS	UNDER 18 YEARS	18 TO 64 YEARS	65 AND OVER
GEORGETOWN	12,663	4,684	6,828	1,151
HORRY	50,884	16,345	31,027	3,472
WILLIAMSBURG	9,853	3,198	5,285	1,370

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2.13 Poverty Status by Ethnic Group, 2010

COUNTY	TOTAL PERSONS	PCT. BELOW	WHITE	PCT. BELOW	BLACK	PCT. BELOW	OTHER	PCT. BELOW
GEORGETOWN	12,663	21.2	4,735	12.5	7,057	35.4	825	54.6
HORRY	50,844	18.6	31,948	14.5	13,732	37.3	3,473	30.5
WILLIAMSBURG	9,853	30.8	1,439	14.0	8,348	39.0	20	30.8

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2.13(A) 2010 Poverty Numbers and Percent for All Ages and Under Age 18

COUNTY	ALL AGES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	UNDER AGE 18	PERCENT OF TOTAL
GEORGETOWN	12,663	21.2	4,684	37.2
HORRY	50,844	18.6	16,345	30.1
WILLIAMSBURG	9,853	30.8	3,198	41.6
SOUTH CAROLINA	820,308	18.1	280,163	26.4

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS

Table 2.13 shows that the black component of the population is hardest hit by poverty. In Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties nearly one in three persons who identify themselves as black are living in poverty. If the gender component is factored in, the percentages of persons below the poverty level is even higher. In Georgetown County, in households with children, but no husband present, **55.6%** are below the poverty level. In black households, with children, but no husband present the percentage is **61.4%**. In Horry County the percentages are **44.3%** for total households and **64.3%** for black households. Williamsburg County has rates of **56.3%** and **58.4%** respectively. The magnitude of these numbers indicates conditions have reached a critical point and steps need to be taken quickly to facilitate County residents improving their living conditions.

Section 8

Seasonal Population

An estimated 29.1 million total travelers visit South Carolina each year. Of those, approximately 14 ½ million visit the coastal areas. For Georgetown and Horry Counties there are several months out of each year when the population greatly exceeds the permanent resident population. The summer months and water related activities still attract the largest number of visitors, but the trend would point to more year-round travelers and other activities. Golf is the most notable, and the visitor season is ever expanding. Table 2.14 shows the annual tourism estimates for Georgetown and Horry Counties. **Due to the downturn of the economy in 2009, you can see that the estimated number of visitors decreased by 27.3% for Georgetown County and 30.8% for Horry County. According to the most recent statistical abstract from the Myrtle Beach Chamber of Commerce, it is estimated that 16.1 million people visited the Myrtle Beach area in 2013. This area includes Myrtle Beach, North Myrtle Beach, Surfside Beach, Little River, Atlantic Beach, Garden City Beach, Loris, Conway, Aynor, Murrells Inlet, Litchfield Beach and Pawleys Island. This is a substantial increase from 2005.**

Table 2.14 Annual Tourism

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2014
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	613,395	631,790	650,184	668,547	686,909	705,269	723,629	741,987	539,000
HORRY COUNTY	9,223,930	9,473,546	9,722,774	9,968,696	10,214,252	10,459,467	10,704,364	10,996,297	7,600,000

SOURCE: SC PRT ESTIMATES

Continued trends for more year-round visitors affect all aspects of local services and utilities. Highways and alternative means of transportation will need to continue to be priorities. The effect on services such as police, fire and emergency will need to be closely monitored.

Section 9

Population Projections

Population projections are anticipated figures of future population levels based on current population trends and other available indicators of population change for a particular community. Population projections are planning tools that should be adjusted periodically to reflect new information affecting the community's future population. Population projections for Georgetown County have been prepared by several public agencies, including the S.C. State Budget and Control Board, Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments, and the Georgetown County Water and Sewer District.

Table 2.15 shows the population projections for Georgetown and adjacent counties through the year 2030, as prepared by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board. Table 2.15(A) shows existing and projected population figures for the County by Census Division, as prepared by the Waccamaw Regional Council of Governments. Table 2.15(B) provides population projections for the County, as estimated by the Georgetown County Water and Sewer District (GCWSD).

Along with these projections are other trends that need to be addressed. Data shows that the makeup of the population is ever changing. Nationally and locally there is a trend toward an increasingly older population. The largest increase on a national level is the 35-55 age group. As a large segment of our population matures, there will be a greater demand for various services tailored to meet their needs. These needs include housing, transportation, social and medical services. The community needs to respond to these needs and at the same time not neglect other segments of the population.

Table 2.15 Population Projections, S.C. Budget and Control Board

	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	% Growth 2000-2030
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	55,797	59,464	60,158	61,300	62,500	63,800	65,100	16.7
HORRY COUNTY	196,629	228,254	269,291	294,600	319,900	345,800	371,700	89.0
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	37,217	34,780	34,423	33,800	33,100	33,000	32,900	-11.6
BERKELEY COUNTY	142,651	151,798	162,370	172,940	183,520	194,080	204,200	43.2
CHARLESTON COUNTY	309,969	330,381	339,140	347,910	356,680	365,450	376,420	21.4

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU AND SOUTH CAROLINA BUDGET AND CONTROL BOARD

Table 2.15(A) Population Projections by County Census Divisions

WACCAMAW REGION POPULATION PROJECTIONS														
By County Census Divisions														
	<u>County Census Divisions</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2035</u>	<u>Percent Growth Rate 2000-2030</u>	<u>Percent Growth Rate 1970-2000</u>	
Georgetown County	Andrews	5,174	6,914	7,401	7,929	8,323	7,608	9,133	9,538	9,945	10,811	36.3%	53.2%	
	Georgetown	15,638	19,281	19,578	20,111	20,713	19,865	21,949	22,570	23,195	24,345	21.0%	28.6%	
	Plantersville	2,499	2,706	2,650	3,199	3,229	2,957	3,447	3,557	3,667	3,909	22.2%	28.0%	
	Pleasant Hill	3,059	3,518	3,553	3,994	4,072	3,592	4,353	4,493	4,634	4,952	24.0%	30.6%	
	Sampit	3,977	3,519	3,440	3,918	3,735	3,913	3,735	3,735	3,737	4,019	2.6%	-1.5%	
	Waccamaw	3,153	6,523	9,680	16,646	18,229	22,223	22,623	24,816	27,011	32,465	95.0%	427.9%	
	Georgetown County Total	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	58,300	60,158	65,240	68,710	72,190	80,501	44.3%	66.6%	

SOURCE: WACCAMAW REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Table 2.15(B) Estimated Population Projections, GCWSD

Georgetown County	2010	2020	2030
Population	65,520	70,660	78,000

SOURCE: GEORGETOWN COUNTY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT

Section 10

Georgetown County Households

Georgetown County households include both family and non-family dwelling units. A family is defined as one with a householder living with one or more people related to him by birth, marriage or adoption. A non-family household is defined as a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only. Household composition and the demographics of the members hold information related to community needs and services.

From 2000 to **2010**, both the total number of housing units and the average family size has increased in Georgetown County. Table 2.16 gives the 2000 and **2010** Census numbers for households in the region. Table 2.16(A) provides the total number of housing units and the percent change from 2000 to **2010**. Table 2.17 breaks down the total numbers into family and non-family units.

Table 2.16 Household Growth 2000 to 2010

County	2000 Household No.	2010 Household No.
Georgetown County	21,659	24,524
Horry County	81,800	112,225
Williamsburg County	13,714	13,007
Berkeley County	49,922	65,419
Charleston County	123,326	144,309

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2.16(A) Housing Units, 2000 to 2010

County	2000 No.	2010 No.	% Change, 00-10
Georgetown County	28,096	33,672	19.8
Horry County	122,085	185,992	52.3
Williamsburg County	15,552	15,359	-1.2
Berkeley County	54,717	73,372	34.1
Charleston County	141,031	169,984	20.5

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Table 2-17 Family and Non-family Units, 2010

County	Family Units	Non-family Units
Georgetown County	17,282	7,242
Horry County	72,254	39,971
Williamsburg County	8,854	4,153
Berkeley County	47,141	18,278
Charleston County	85,692	58,617

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Of the 24,524 occupied housing units in Georgetown County in 2010, 19,077 are owner-occupied housing units, while only 5,447 are renter-occupied units. This is a homeownership rate of 77.8%. Plans for additional affordable housing will have to be examined as the number of family units continues to increase. The type and style of homes will also need to be considered if the trend toward an older population continues. Transportation issues are, again, something that will need to be investigated as building spreads across the County. At the present time, building is

still highly concentrated on the Waccamaw Neck. The need to provide services to areas further away from the centers of population will continue to be of major concern.

Section 11

Summary of Issues

The information presented in this portion of the Comprehensive Plan outlines a County that is continually growing and changing. From its beginnings as a small agricultural community in the 1700's; to its prominence as a leading rice and indigo producer; to being part of a large metropolitan area in the 21st century, Georgetown has seen its population change into an older, better educated, more mobile and increasingly urbanized one. In many ways Georgetown County is a microcosm of the entire Southeast, with its almost unprecedented growth and change from a rural to urban society.

The negative side to the growth and change is the possibility that it could overwhelm the County and drastically affect the quality of life that has made the area the attractive place in which to live and do business. Trends show that development **could begin** to extend into rural areas. Unregulated, it can destroy the character of such areas and place demands on public service providers that they are not equipped to handle. The results can range from overcrowded roads and schools to inadequate fire protection and overburdened police services. A strategy needs to be developed that allows growth to occur in a well managed and thoughtful way that also preserves the scenic areas, unique history and character of the County.

Along with managing growth, the County needs to develop plans to address the other prominent needs of the population. Education, job creation, poverty levels, and age related services are just some of the other issues that will have to be dealt with in the future. Georgetown's population will continue to grow. While the quantity can be projected with some degree of reliability, the quality of life for future residents will depend on how we are able to manage these needs to accommodate a growing, changing population.