

**POPULATION ELEMENT**

**GEORGETOWN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

*ADOPTED BY COUNTY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 11, 2007*

# POPULATION ELEMENT TABLE OF CONTENTS

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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 2003 to reflect demographic information from the 2000 U.S. Census. This current revision of the Population Element incorporates more recent demographic data and information available from the U.S. Census and the State of South Carolina. It is recommended that the Population Element be updated again following release of the 2010 U.S. Census.

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, and 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 July 1, 2005, Georgetown County experienced a 9.3% increase in population. Adjacent Horry County experienced a 15.4% increase in population during the same time period. While not as dramatic, there were also increases in other neighboring counties. The overall percentage increase for South Carolina was 6.1%.

**Table 2.1 1930 – 2000 Population of Georgetown County**

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

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 City of Georgetown and the Town of Andrews have experienced population declines. The Sampit/Santee area has also lost population since 1970.

The City of Georgetown had a 2000 census population of 8,950, which was 16% of the population of Georgetown County. The Waccamaw Neck, which encompasses 2.5% of the land mass of Georgetown County, had a 2000 census population of 16,645, which was 30% of the total population of the County. Between 1970 and 2000, the Waccamaw Neck area experienced a 241% 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 and 2000. The six primary census divisions are shown on Figure 2.1. The individual divisions are shown in Figures 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6 and 2.7. Figure 2.8 shows the small components of the major divisions. Table 2.2(A) shows the 2005 population of cities and towns in Georgetown County.

**Table 2.2 1970 – 2000 Resident Population of Georgetown County**

CENSUS COUNTY DIVISION/ MUNICIPALITIES	1970	1980	1990	2000	70- 00 % CHANGE
Andrews Division (#9802)	5,174	6,914	7,401	7,929	50.35
Town of Andrews	2,831	3,129	3,050	3,068	8.37
Georgetown Division	15,638	19,281	19,578	20,111	28.6

(# 's 9803.01, 9803.02, 9806, 9807)					
City of Georgetown	10,449	10,144	9,517	8,950	-14.3
Plantersville Division (#9804)	2,499	2,706	2,650	3,199	2.8
Pleasant Hill/Folly Grove Division (#9801)	3,059	3,518	3,533	3,994	30.5
Sampit/Santee Division (#9808)	3,977	3,519	3,440	3,918	-1.48
Waccamaw Division (# 's 9805.01, 9805.02)	3,153	6,523	9,700	16,646	241.9
Town of Pawleys Island			176	138	-21.5
TOTALS	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	66.5

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

**Table 2.2(A) 2005 Population of Cities and Towns**

2005 Population of Cities & Towns	
Georgetown County	
Andrews	3,110
Georgetown	8,914
Pawleys Island	144

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 2005.

**Table 2.3 Population Trends For Georgetown and Adjacent Counties**

COUNTY	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	July 1, 2005 Estimate	% Change 2000 to 2005
GEORGETOWN	34,798	33,500	42,461	46,302	55,797	60,983	9.3
HORRY	68,247	69,992	101,419	144,053	196,629	226,992	15.4
WILLIAMSBURG	40,932	34,243	38,226	36,815	37,217	35,395	-4.9
BERKELEY	38,196	56,199	94,727	128,776	142,651	151,673	6.3

CHARLESTON	216,382	247,650	276,974	295,041	309,969	330,368	6.6
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SOURCE: WACCAMAW REGIONAL PLANNING; US CENSUS BUREAU – Release Date: 03/16/06

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.

Section 3

**Population Density**

Population density is given in terms of the number of residents per unit of land area. Georgetown County, with 815 square miles of area, has a density of 74.8 persons per square mile based on the July 1, 2005 population estimates. The density rate for Georgetown County increased from 68.5 persons per square mile in 2000. The overall rate for South Carolina in 2005 was 141.3 persons per square mile. 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 double Georgetown County, while Charleston County has nearly four times the density.

**Table 2.4 2005 Population Densities for Georgetown and Adjacent Counties**

COUNTY	PERSONS PER SQUARE MILE
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	74.8
HORRY COUNTY	200.3
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	37.9
BERKELEY COUNTY	138.2
CHARLESTON COUNTY	359.8

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 and Pawleys Island Mainland, has experienced tremendous growth in the past ten 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 new definitions.

**Table 2.5 – Rural and Urban Population in Georgetown County, 2000**

Georgetown County		%
Total:	55,797	100
Urban:	30,514	54.7
Inside Urbanized areas	5,246	9.4
Inside Urban clusters	25,268	45.3
Rural:	25,283	45.3
Farm	707	1.3
Non-farm	24,576	44

Source: U.S. Census 2000

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, 2000**

COUNTY	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN*	ASIAN**	HISPANIC	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES
GEORGETOWN	55,797	33,011	21,393	74	136	919	25	239
HORRY	196,629	157,040	30,206	742	1,561	5,057	189	1,834
WILLIAMSBURG	37,217	12,101	24,546	59	73	273	12	153
BERKELEY	142,651	93,314	37,739	700	2,734	3,935	177	2,052
CHARLESTON	309,969	188,542	106,337	712	3,552	7,434	339	3,053

\* 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 2000 the number of persons

identifying themselves as Hispanic increased from 187 to 919, an increase of over 300%. However, in 2005, persons of Hispanic origin only represented 2.2% of the County's total population. This compares to 3.6% for Horry County and 3.1 % 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 2.6A compares the 2000 ethnic composition of the county by Census Tract. Table 2.7 compares 1990 and 2000 ethnic population figures by actual numbers, percentage of population and percent of increase for that time frame and also provides the percent of population by race for 2005.

**Table 2.6A Ethnic Composition of Georgetown County Census Tracts, 2000**

	TOTAL	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN *	ASIAN**	HISPANIC	TWO OR MORE RACES
<b>GEORGETOWN COUNTY</b>	<b>55,797</b>	<b>33,011</b>	<b>21,393</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>919</b>	<b>239</b>
9801	3,994	2,058	1,897	0	13	17	9
9802	7,929	4,481	3,251	11	8	131	47
9803.01	4,524	2,143	2,293	3	0	25	44
9803.02	3,283	2,355	814	0	77	37	0
9804	3,199	610	2,549	0	0	0	40
9805.01	5,863	5,326	465	0	6	25	41
9805.02	19,783	9,105	1,497	66	14	35	66
9806	6,877	2,158	4,533	0	9	159	18
9807	5,427	3,442	1,608	0	7	365	5
9808	3,918	1,286	2,558	0	0	61	13

\*INCLUDES ALASKA NATIVE

\*\*INCLUDES NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2.7 2005 and 2000 Population by Race for Georgetown County (percents) and Comparison of 1990 and 2000 Population and Percent Change by Race**

	PERCENT OF POPULATION 2000	1990 POPULATION	2000 POPULATION	PERCENT OF CHANGE FROM 1990 TO 2000	PERCENT OF POPULATION 2005
<b>WHITE</b>	<b>59.7</b>	<b>26,151</b>	<b>33,011</b>	<b>27.3</b>	<b>64.2</b>
<b>BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN</b>	<b>38.6</b>	<b>19,980</b>	<b>21,393</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>34.9</b>

AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	0.1	49	74	57.14	0.2
ASIAN	0.2	61	120	113.1	0.4
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	-	-	16	-	0.1
HISPANIC OR LATINO	1.6	187	919	391.4	2.2
TWO OR MORE RACES	0.5	-	239	-	0.3
OTHER	-		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 2000 Census gender composition of Georgetown and surrounding counties. In 2005, females represented 51.8% of Georgetown County's population, compared to 52.1 % in 2000. Statewide, females accounted for 51.3% of the State's population in 2005.

**Table 2.8 Gender Composition of Georgetown and Adjacent Counties, 2000 and Percent Female Persons, 2005**

COUNTY	TOTAL 2000	MALE 2000	FEMALE 2000	% FEMALE 2005
GEORGETOWN	55,797	26,514	29,283	51.8
BERKELEY	142,651	72,530	70,121	49.7
CHARLESTON	309,969	150,066	159,903	51.5
HORRY	196,629	96,211	100,418	50.8
WILLIAMSBURG	37,217	17,434	19,783	52.5

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 2000, Georgetown County experienced an increase of 38.8% in numbers of persons 62 and over and an increase of 40.3% in those 65 and older. Horry County has experienced even greater percentage increases with a 55.4% increase of persons 62 and older and a 59.4% increase in those 65 and older. In 2005, persons 65 years and over comprised 17.4% of the County's total population. Horry County's population aged 65 years and over made up 15.9% of the County's total population in 2005. Statewide, this percentage was 12.6% of the total population.

At the same time, the numbers at the other end of the spectrum (18 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% in 2005. The trend has been the same in adjoining counties. Horry County's under 18 population has decreased from 50.6% in 1970 to 26.6% in 1990 and decreased to 21.3% in 2000 and 21.1% in 2005. Statewide, the percentage was 24.1% in 2005.

The median age of Georgetown County's population was 39.1 years in 2000. This compares to 38.3 years for Horry County and 35.4 years statewide. Table 2.9 compares 2000 population figures for age groups and percentage of total population. Table 2.9A compares 2000 population figures by age groups for the Census Tracts in Georgetown County. Table 2.9B provides 2005 population percentages by age group for Georgetown County and surrounding counties.

**Table 2.9 Population Figures and Percentages by Age Group, 2000**

COUNTY	UNDER 18		18 TO 64		65 AND OLDER	
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
GEORGETOWN	15,352	25.2%	32,091	59.8%	8,354	15.1%
HORRY	47,005	21.3%	120,154	63.7%	29,470	15.0%
WILLIAMSBURG	11,740	28.6%	20,621	58.4%	4,856	13.0%
BERKELEY	45,851	28.0%	85,539	64.1%	11,261	7.9%
CHARLESTON	84,585	23.7%	188,526	64.4%	36,858	11.9%

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2.9A Population Figures by Age Group and Gender for Census Tracts, 2000**

CENSUS TRACT	UNDER 18		18 TO 64		65 AND OLDER	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
9801	592	592	1186	1243	154	227
9802	1132	1213	2223	3472	331	558
9803.1	598	670	1393	1364	224	275
9803.2	357	388	947	963	216	412
9804	488	492	833	1060	156	170
9805.1	475	414	1816	1881	606	671
9805.2	984	983	2411	3440	1794	1171
9806	1077	1093	1696	2172	344	495
9807	665	678	1590	1607	322	565
9808	607	545	1161	1249	136	220

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2.9B Population Percentages by Age Group, 2005**

COUNTY	UNDER 5	UNDER 18	OVER 65
GEORGETOWN	6.2	23.0	17.4
HORRY	6.0	21.1	15.9
WILLIAMSBURG	6.7	26.0	13.3
BERKELEY	7.1	26.4	9.3
CHARLESTON	7.1	23.5	12.0

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. Tables 2.10A and 2.10B further compare the levels of educational attainment of the same age group for the County Census Tracts by race and gender.

**Table 2.10 Educational Attainment for Persons 25 and Over, 2000**

COUNTY	TOTAL PERSONS IN AGE GROUP	LESS THAN 9 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE OR NO HS DIPLOMA		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE		SOME COLLEGE NO DEGREE		ASSOCIATE, BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER	
		NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%	NO.	%
GEORGETOWN	37,340	9,244	24.7	11,293	30.2	7,169	19.2	9,634	25.8
HORRY	136,551	25,743	18.9	43,963	32.2	31,748	23.2	35,097	25.7
WILLIAMSBURG	23,189	7,989	34.4	8,148	35.1	3,303	14.2	3,749	16.1

BERKELEY	86,015	17,037	19.8	29,521	34.3	20,796	24.2	18,661	21.6
CHARLESTON	199,361	36,852	18.5	45,752	22.9	42,365	21.3	74,392	37.3

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU 1990 FIGURES

**Table 2.10A – Educational Attainment for Persons 25 and Over by Race for Census Tracts, 2000**

CENSUS TRACT NUMBER	LESS THAN 9 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE OR NO HS DIPLOMA		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENCY		SOME COLLEGE – NO DEGREE		ASSOCIATE OR BACHELORS DEGREE		GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	
	WHITE	OTHER	WHITE	OTHER	WHITE	OTHER	WHITE	OTHER	WHITE	OTHER
9801	530	410	453	404	112	120	142	55	56	27
9802	941	756	1,223	597	193	212	286	149	117	44
9803.1	223	573	494	465	344	155	341	61	139	30
9803.2	204	104	475	183	426	61	492	88	165	59
9804	73	499	130	592	78	237	118	137	24	41
9805.1	592	134	1,219	91	1,007	33	1,191	18	351	18
9805.2	312	369	1,394	250	1,961	150	2,679	89	1,076	42
9806	776	962	456	908	157	325	107	239	24	40
9807	467	295	779	234	636	185	498	133	165	57
9808	287	605	318	516	152	240	84	92	19	11

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2.10B – Educational Attainment for Persons 25 and Older by Gender for Census Tracts, 2000**

CENSUS TRACT NUMBER	LESS THAN 9 <sup>TH</sup> GRADE OR NO HS DIPLOMA		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENCY		SOME COLLEGE – NO DEGREE		ASSOCIATE OR BACHELORS DEGREE		GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
9801	505	435	373	484	123	190	103	94	20	63
9802	868	829	808	1,012	264	384	157	278	66	95
9803.1	347	449	481	478	268	231	219	183	59	110
9803.2	145	163	278	380	213	274	262	314	130	94
9804	304	268	305	417	183	46	84	171	18	47

9805.1	348	378	564	714	576	461	566	643	200	169
9805.2	325	356	676	968	888	1,223	1,422	1,346	653	465
9806	836	902	450	807	180	302	133	213	30	34
9807	352	410	440	573	394	427	295	336	84	138
9808	457	435	429	405	138	254	62	114	6	24

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Based on these figures, 75.2% of the persons over 25 in Georgetown County are high school graduates or higher and 25.8% have an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. In Horry County the percentages are 81.1% for high school graduates or higher and 25.7% for associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Williamsburg County has lower percentages, with only 65.5% being high school graduates or higher and 16.1% having an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Berkeley County has a rate of 80.2% for high school graduates or higher and 21.6% for an associate, bachelor's degree or higher. Charleston County has the highest rates with 81.5% of those over 25 being high school graduates or higher and 37.3% 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. From 1999 to 2004 median household income for Georgetown increased by 6.7%, Horry County's median household income only increased by 1.0%, and Williamsburg County's median household income increased by 4.3%, compared to 6.3% 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 2004.

**Table 2.11 Median Household Income, 2004**

JURISDICTION	INCOME IN DOLLARS
SOUTH CAROLINA	\$39,454
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	\$37,679
HORRY COUNTY	\$36,857
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	\$25,276
BERKELEY COUNTY	\$43,545
CHARLESTON COUNTY	\$39,962

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
December 2006 Release

**Table 2.11A Per Capita Personal Income, 2000 - 2004**

<b>Per Capita Personal Income Waccamaw Region, South Carolina</b>				
<b>Area</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>\$S Change 2000-2004</b>	<b>% Change 2000-2004</b>
<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>\$24,254</b>	<b>\$28,103</b>	<b>\$3,849</b>	<b>15.87%</b>
<b>Horry</b>	<b>\$23,933</b>	<b>\$28,170</b>	<b>\$2,237</b>	<b>9.35%</b>
<b>Williamsburg</b>	<b>\$16,073</b>	<b>\$19,003</b>	<b>\$2,930</b>	<b>18.23%</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>	<b>\$24,424</b>	<b>\$27,185</b>	<b>\$2,761</b>	<b>11.30%</b>
<b>United States</b>	<b>\$29,845</b>	<b>\$33,050</b>	<b>\$3,205</b>	<b>10.74%</b>

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 1999 model-based estimate show 17.1% of the Georgetown County population lives below the poverty level. Horry County has a 12.0 % rate and Williamsburg County has a rate of 27.9 % or nearly 1/3 of its population. Berkeley and Charleston Counties are very close to the State percentages. More recent estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau in December of 2006 show that 16.2 % of Georgetown County's population is living below the poverty level. This compares to a State poverty rate of 15.0 %.

The poverty issue becomes more focused, as components of the population are isolated for individual analysis. Table 2.12 details 1999 poverty status by age groups. Table 2.13 details 1999 status by race. Table 2.13(A) provides updated 2004 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**

<b>COUNTY</b>	<b>TOTAL PERSONS</b>	<b>UNDER 5 YEARS</b>	<b>5 TO 17 YEARS</b>	<b>18 TO 64 YEARS</b>	<b>65 AND OVER</b>
GEORGETOWN	9,439	830	2,772	4,678	1,159
HORRY	23,356	2,042	5,521	13,296	2,497
WILLIAMSBURG	10,294	926	2,918	5,220	1,230

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1999 DATA

**Table 2.13 Poverty Status by Ethnic Group**

COUNTY	TOTAL PERSONS	PCT. BELOW	WHITE	PCT. BELOW	BLACK	PCT. BELOW	OTHER	PCT. BELOW
GEORGETOWN	9,439	17.1	2,527	7.6	6,654	31.2	258	19.7
HORRY	23,356	12.0	13,623	8.7	8,235	27.5	1,498	12.2
WILLIAMSBURG	10,294	27.9	1,777	14.6	8,402	34.3	115	8.7

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS 1999 DATA

**Table 2.13(A) 2004 Poverty Numbers and Percent for All Ages and Under Age 18**

COUNTY	ALL AGES	PERCENT OF TOTAL	UNDER AGE 18	PERCENT OF TOTAL
GEORGETOWN	9,911	16.2	3,662	26.1
HORRY	31,359	13.9	10,932	23.09
WILLIAMSBURG	8,990	25.8	3,318	35.9
SOUTH CAROLINA	622,083	15.0	217,509	21.2

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS, DECEMBER 2006 RELEASE

Table 2.13 shows that the Black component of the population is hardest hit by poverty. In both Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties nearly one in three persons who identify themselves as Black are living in poverty. In Horry County the number is one in four. 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.

**Table 2.14 Annual Tourism**

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
GEORGETOWN COUNTY	613,395	631,790	650,184	668,547	686,909	705,269	723,629	741,987
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

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 affect 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	1-Jul-05	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
<b>GEORGETOWN COUNTY</b>	<b>55,797</b>	<b>60,989</b>	<b>64,620</b>	<b>68,250</b>	<b>71,880</b>	<b>75,530</b>	<b>79,350</b>
HORRY COUNTY	196,629	227,016	251,390	275,760	300,130	324,500	348,330
WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY	37,217	35,260	35,260	35,130	34,990	34,870	34,340
BERKELEY COUNTY	142,651	151,798	162,370	172,940	183,520	194,080	204,200
CHARLESTON COUNTY	309,969	330,381	339,140	347,910	356,680	365,450	376,420

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													
	County Census Divisions	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	Percent Growth Rate 2000-2030	Percent Growth Rate 1970-2000
Georgetown County	Andrews	5,174	6,914	7,401	7,929	8,323	8,728	9,133	9,538	9,945	10,356	30.6%	53.2%
	Georgetown	15,638	19,281	19,578	20,111	20,713	21,330	21,949	22,570	23,195	23,830	18.5%	28.6%
	Plantersville	2,499	2,706	2,650	3,199	3,229	3,338	3,447	3,557	3,667	3,779	18.1%	28.0%
	Pleasant Hill	3,059	3,518	3,553	3,994	4,072	4,212	4,353	4,493	4,634	4,778	19.6%	30.6%
	Sampit	3,977	3,519	3,440	3,918	3,735	3,734	3,735	3,735	3,737	3,741	-4.5%	-1.5%
	Waccamaw	3,153	6,523	9,680	16,646	18,229	20,428	22,623	24,816	27,011	29,215	75.5%	427.9%
	<b>Georgetown County Total</b>	<b>33,500</b>	<b>42,461</b>	<b>46,302</b>	<b>55,797</b>	<b>58,300</b>	<b>61,770</b>	<b>65,240</b>	<b>68,710</b>	<b>72,190</b>	<b>75,699</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>66.6%</b>

SOURCE: WACCAMAW REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

**Table 2.15(B) Estimated Population Projections, GCWSD**

Georgetown County	2010	2020	2030
Population	71,392	90,334	107,864

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 1990 to 2000, both the total number of housing units and the average family size has increased in Georgetown County. Table 2.16 gives the 1990 and 2000 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 2005. Table 2.17 breaks down the total numbers into family and non-family units.

**Table 2.16 Household Growth 1990 to 2000**

<b>County</b>	<b>1990 Household No.</b>	<b>2000 Household No.</b>
Georgetown County	16,275	21,659
Horry County	55,764	81,800
Williamsburg County	12,108	13,714
Berkeley County	42,386	49,922
Charleston County	107,069	123,326

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2.16(A) Housing Units, 2000 to 2005**

<b>County</b>	<b>2005 No.</b>	<b>2000 No.</b>	<b>% Change, 00-05</b>
Georgetown County	31,617	28,096	12.5
Horry County	147,207	122,085	20.5
Williamsburg County	15,800	15,552	1.5
Berkeley County	61,273	54,717	11.9
Charleston County	159,680	141,031	13.2

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Table 2-17 Family and Non-family Units, 2000**

<u>County</u>	<u>Family Units</u>	<u>Non-family Units</u>
Georgetown County	15,844	5,815
Horry County	54,515	27,285
Williamsburg County	10,050	3,664
Berkeley County	37,696	12,226
Charleston County	77,416	45,910

SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Of the 21,659 occupied housing units in Georgetown County in 2000, 17,620 are owner-occupied housing units, while renter-occupied units only number 4,039. This is a homeownership rate of 81.4%. 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. 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 is beginning to extend into rural and unzoned 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.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA )  
 )  
COUNTY OF GEORGETOWN )

ORDINANCE NO: 2007-58

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT THE 2007 REVISED POPULATION ELEMENT FOR GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA**


**BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL MEMBERS OF GEORGETOWN COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA, IN COUNTY COUNCIL ASSEMBLED**, that the 2007 Population Element for Georgetown County be adopted in its attached form. This element is part of the Comprehensive Plan for Georgetown County, South Carolina.

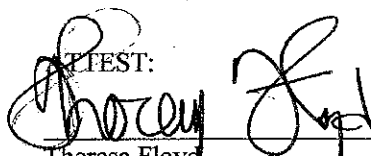
**ADOPTION OF THE FOREGOING ORDINANCE**, moved by Johnny Morant, seconded by Glen O'Connell, and after discussion upon call to vote thereon, the vote was as follows:

Those in favor:	Ron L. Charlton	Jerry Oakley
	Thomas Earl Drayton	Glen O'Connell
	Sel Hemingway	Helen P. Rudolph
	Johnny Morant	


Those opposed: None opposed

**DONE, RATIFIED AND ADOPTED THIS 11 DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2007**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sel Hemingway (SEAL)  
Chairman, Georgetown County Council

**TEST:**  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Theresa Floyd  
Clerk to Council

This Ordinance, No. 2006-58 has been reviewed by me and is hereby approved as to form and legality.



Wesley Bryant  
Georgetown County Attorney

First Reading: July 17, 2007  
Second Reading: August 21, 2007  
Third Reading: September 11, 2007

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the South Carolina Local Government Comprehensive Planning Enabling Act of 1994 requires that the comprehensive plan, including all the elements of the plan, must be updated at least every ten years, and

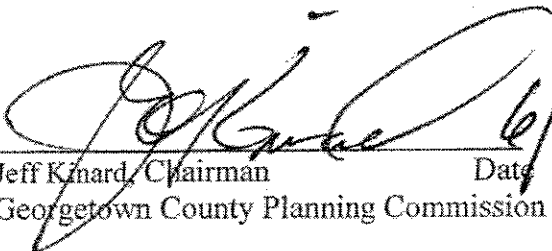
WHEREAS, the Population Element of the Georgetown County Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2003, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Georgetown County Planning Commission hereby recommends to the Georgetown County Council that the 2007 Revised Population Element be adopted as part of the Georgetown County Comprehensive Plan.

ADOPTION OF THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION moved by Mr. Henry, seconded by Mr. Neal, and after discussion, upon call vote thereon, the vote was as follows:

Those in favor –

Those opposed –

  
Jeff Kinard, Chairman Date 6/21/07  
Georgetown County Planning Commission

ATTEST:

  
Cynthia Sargent, Secretary  
Georgetown County Planning Commission