

A Summary of Kershaw County's Population (2000 – 2005)

The following information is based on U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates for 2001 through 2005. The figures for 2000 are the estimate base used for the 2000 Census calculations.

Kershaw County is estimated to have experienced a 7.3 percent gain in population during this five-year period. The urbanized areas (Camden, Bethune and Elgin) had varying degrees of growth, but the bulk of the population upswing occurred in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Estimated Population Growth for Kershaw County and its Municipalities

Location	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	Increase 2000-05	Pct. Change
Kershaw County	52,647	53,432	53,736	54,593	55,374	56,486	3,839	7.3%
Camden	6,682	6,679	6,864	6,905	6,953	7,000	318	4.8%
Bethune	352	353	351	355	358	362	10	2.8%
Elgin	806	822	813	833	884	954	148	18.4%
Remainder of County	44,807	45,578	45,708	46,500	47,179	48,170	3,363	7.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census & Population Estimates

The total population change over this five-year period is estimated to be 3,839.

The two components of population change are natural increase and net migration. Kershaw County's natural increase (births over deaths) was estimated at 1,020 over the five years, while net migration (people moving into or out of the County) was estimated at 2,902 (See Note below).

With the estimated population increase, Kershaw remained ranked 23rd among the 46 South Carolina counties in population size.

Note: The Kershaw County total of natural increase and net migration growth of 3,922 (1,020 plus 2,902) exceeds the County's overall growth for the five years addressed in this document of 3,839. This is the result of the use of a residual, or control factor, in the Census Bureau methodology. The control factor is not a demographic component of population change, but results from the application of a national population control to county population estimates. The Census Bureau first estimates the nation population change, and then estimates the individual states. The Census Bureau then uses the control factor to ensure the total of the states' population change matches the national total. The same process is employed to ensure the sum of the individual county totals match each adjusted state total. This control factor is

not applied to the components of population change (natural increase and net migration). Therefore, the total estimated growth for Kershaw County by natural increase and net migration might be somewhat higher than the published estimated population change.

It's interesting to also note that county challenges also can affect the residual of another county. A county challenge that is successful and adds to its population estimate reduces the population of other counties since the national population estimate is not changed. Thus, a successful challenge for one county creates a positive residual for it and increases the negative residual for another county.