

A Summary of Lee 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.

Lee County is estimated to have experienced a small gain in population during this five-year period. The urbanized areas (Bishopville and Lynchburg) had small gains in population during this period, but the bulk of the population growth occurred in the unincorporated areas of the County.

Estimated Population Growth for Lee County and its Municipalities

| Location | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | Increase 2000-05 | Pct. Change |
|------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------------------|----------------|
| Lee County | 20,119 | 20,152 | 20,295 | 20,389 | 20,640 | 20,638 | 519 | 2.6% |
| Bishopville | 3,670 | 3,708 | 3,715 | 3,715 | 3,738 | 3,831 | 161 | 4.4% |
| Lynchburg | 588 | 586 | 590 | 591 | 595 | 590 | 2 | 0.3% |
| Remainder of County | 15,861 | 15,847 | 15,990 | 16,083 | 16,307 | 16,217 | 356 | 2.2% |

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

The total population change over this five-year period is estimated to be 519.

The two components of population change are natural increase and net migration. Lee County's natural increase (births over deaths) was estimated at 297 over the five years, while net migration (people moving into or out of the County) was estimated at 251 (See Note below).

After the relatively small increase in population over the five years, Lee County remained 41st among the 46 South Carolina counties in population size.

Note: The Lee County total of natural increase and net migration growth of 548 (297 plus 251) exceeds the County's overall growth for the five years addressed in this document of 519. 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 Lee 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.