

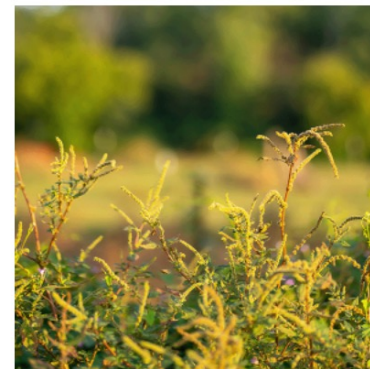
ABBEVILLE COUNTY 2035

STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT

Abbeville County 2035 Strategic Action Plan

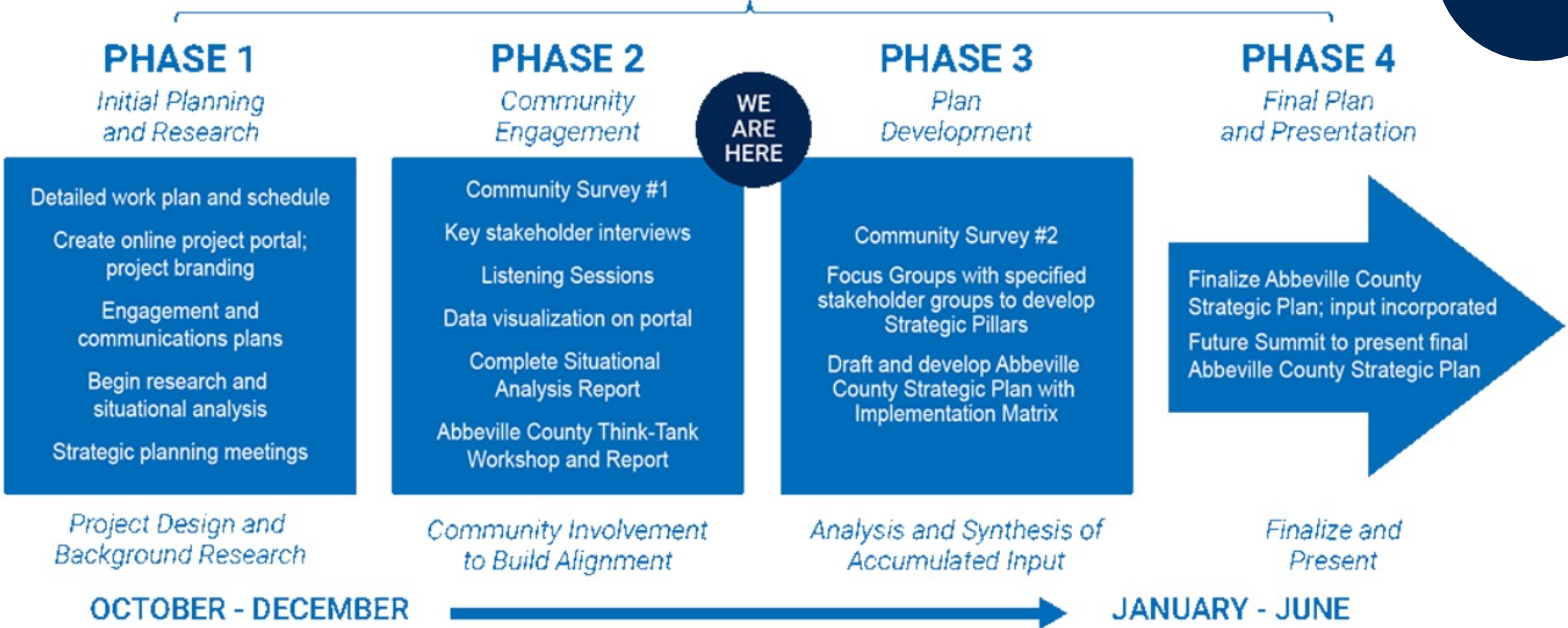
Plan

STRATEGIC PILLAR ROUNDTABLE



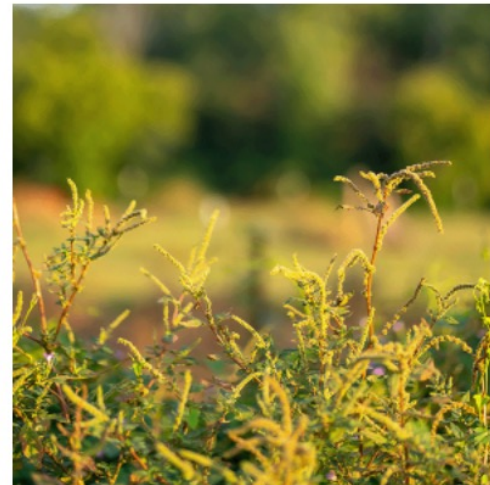
ABBEVILLE COUNTY 2035

STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT



Review of the work to date, including key insights

- Insights from the Community Engagement sessions in early February 2025
- High-level review of results from the Community Survey
- Key data points from the Community Situational Analysis Report.
- Outcomes from the Think-Tank in late February and early March 2025



COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSIONS

February 3-6, 2025

- 7 x 90-minute Community Engagement Sessions across Abbeville County
- 2 Student Sessions – Abbeville High School and Dixie High School
 - Student Survey – 48 responses
- Over 130 attendees





ABBEVILLE COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

DRAFT

Situation Analysis Report

March 2025



ABBEVILLE
COUNTY
2035

future→iQ[®]

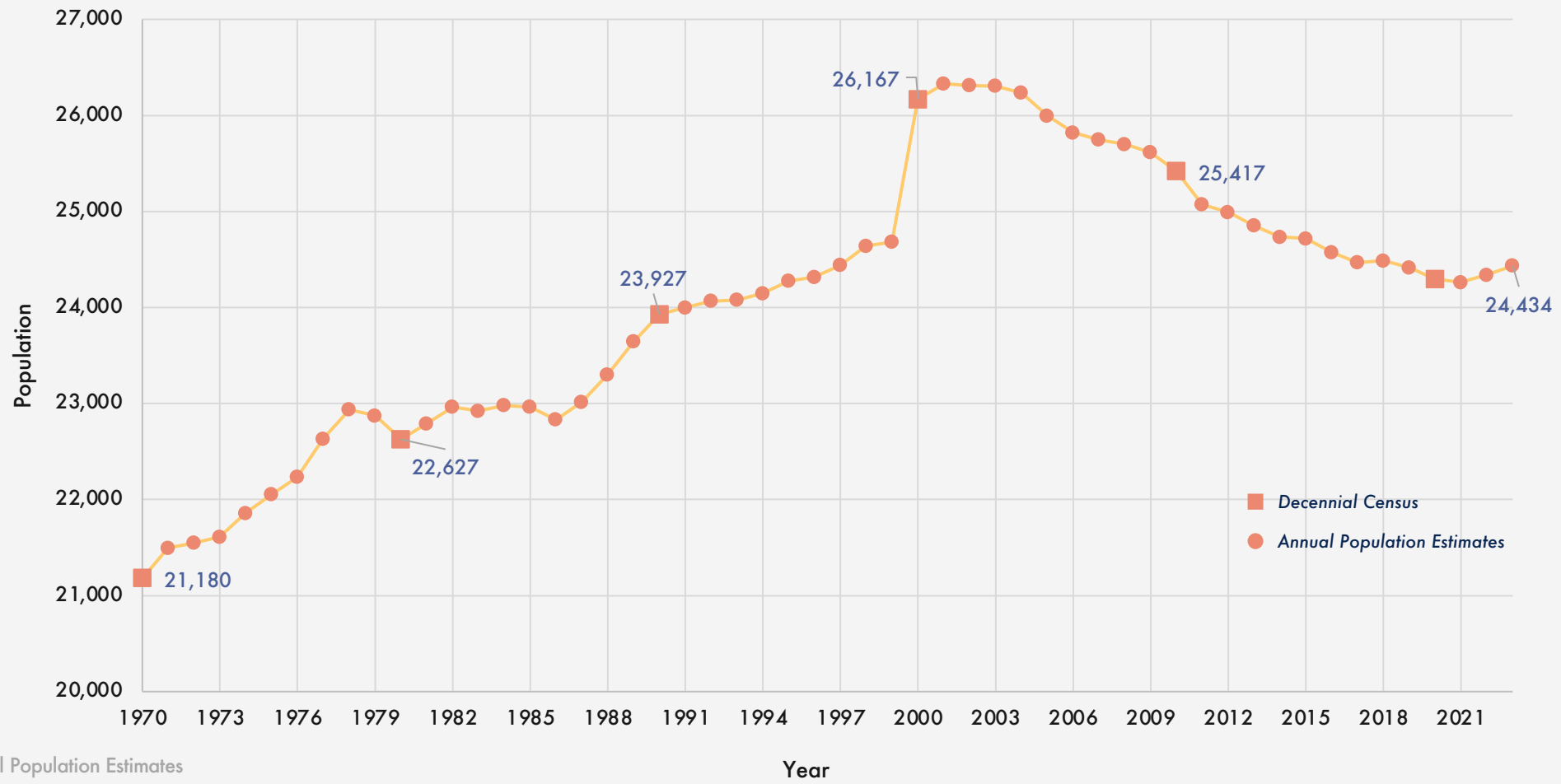
STRATEGIC PLAN

1.1 Population Trend

What key population trends have emerged in Abbeville County since year 2000?

The population of Abbeville County in 2023 was 24,434, down approximately 6.6% from the 26,167 residents recorded in 2000. This overall decline reflects long-term shifts in demographic trends over the past two decades, with the county experiencing a steady downward trend. However, there is a promising increase in the last few years, reflecting a post-pandemic bump in population.

Number of Residents in Abbeville County (2000 - 2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

1.2 Annual Population Change

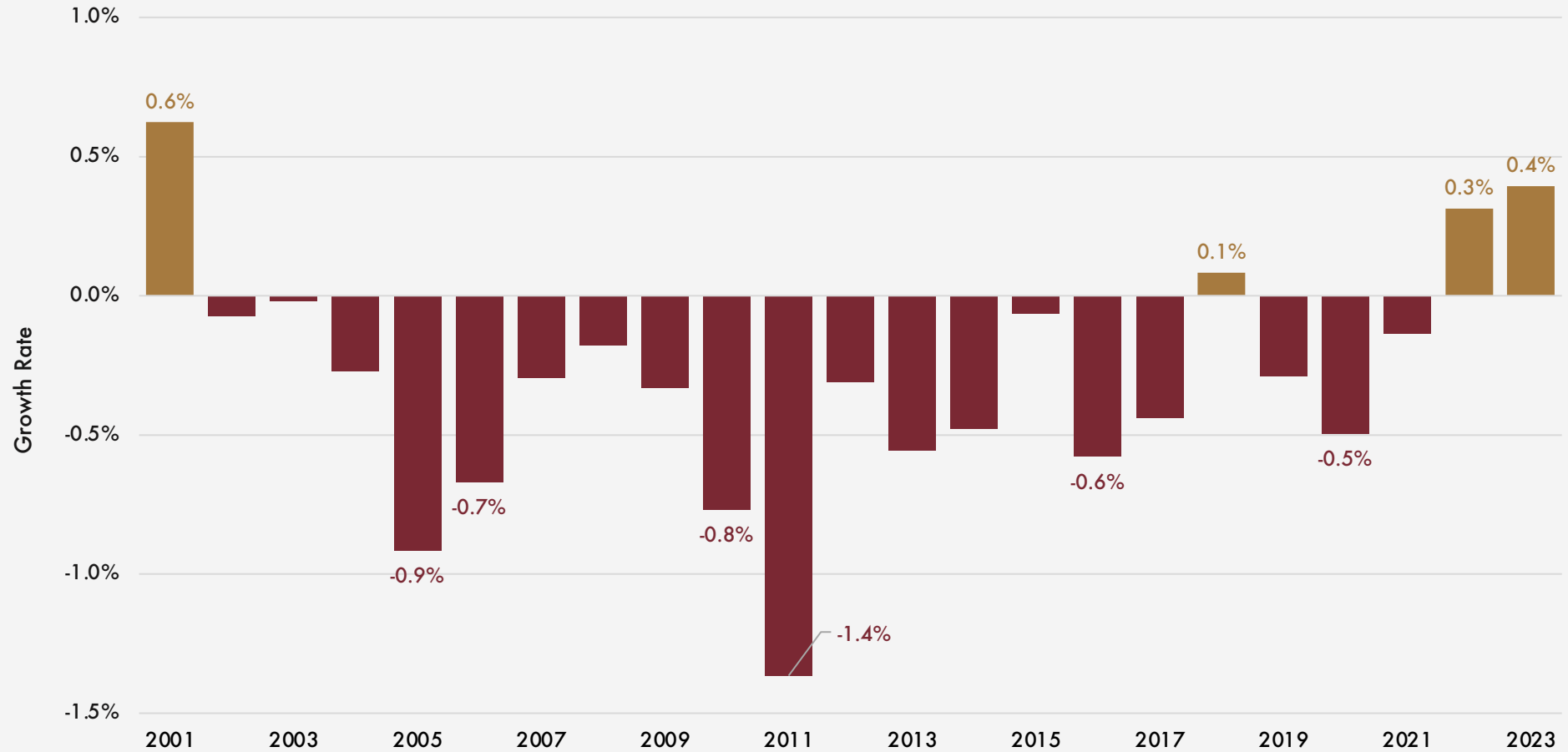
How has the population in Abbeville County changed over the years?

Between 2000 and 2023, Abbeville County's **annual population growth rate was mostly negative**, despite small gains in the early 2000s (like +0.6% in 2001).

The biggest drop happened around **2011** when the **growth rate fell to 1.4%**.

Even though growth stayed negative through much of the late 2010s and into 2021, there has been a **slight positive shift in 2022 and 2023**, with growth at +0.3% and +0.4%, respectively.

Annual Population Growth Rate in Abbeville County (2000 - 2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

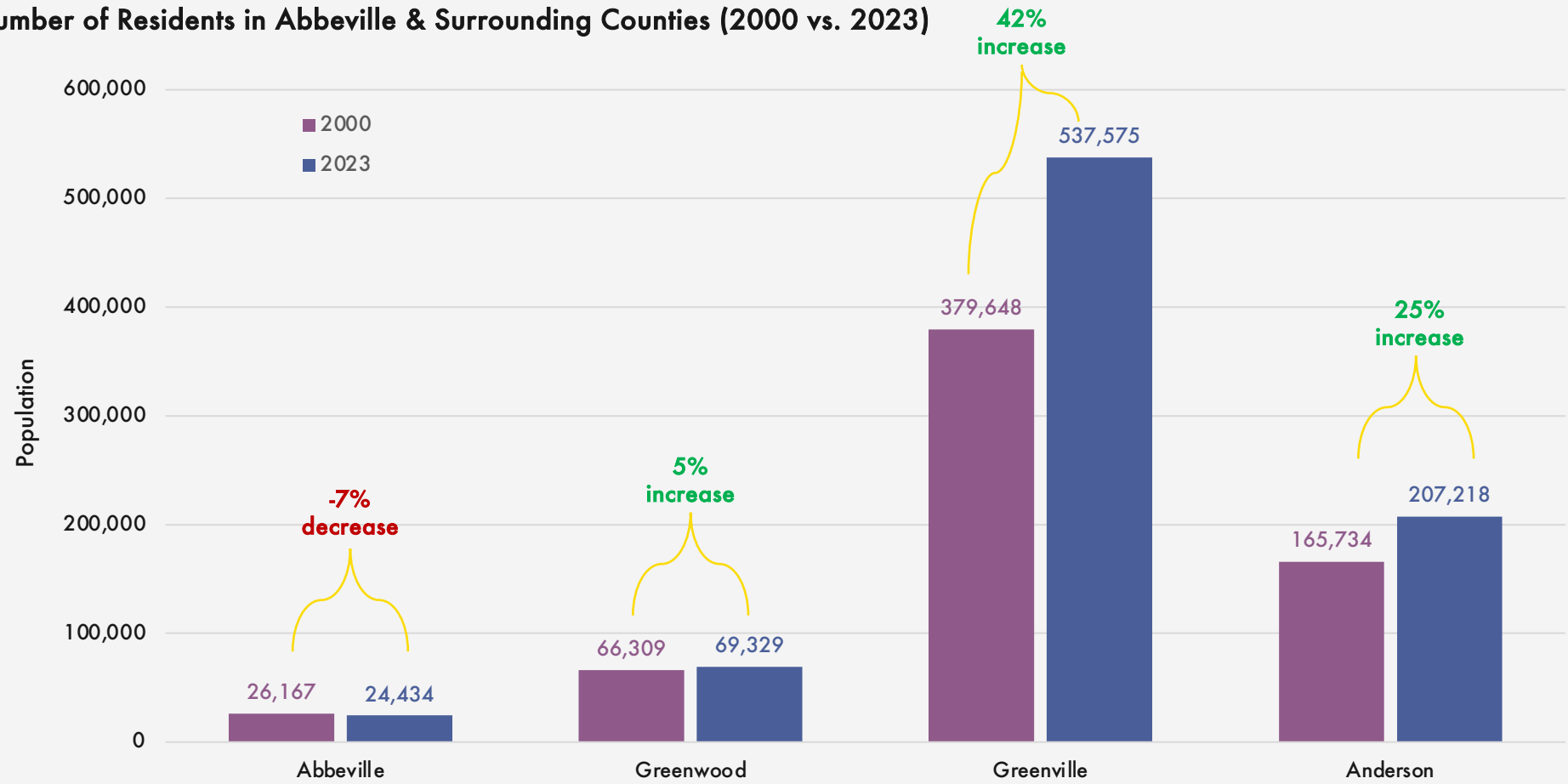
1.3 Population Comparison

How does Abbeville County's population compare to others around it?

Abbeville County stands out as **the only county** among its neighbours to have **experienced a population decrease** between 2000 and 2023, dropping from 26,167 to 24,434 (a 7% decline).

In contrast, surrounding counties—**Greenwood, Greenville, and Anderson**—all show gains. Greenwood grew modestly by about 5%, while Greenville saw a substantial 42% jump and Anderson rose by 25%.

Number of Residents in Abbeville & Surrounding Counties (2000 vs. 2023)



Abbeville and Surrounding Counties

Sources: Decennial Census 2000, 2010, & 2020; Annual Population Estimates

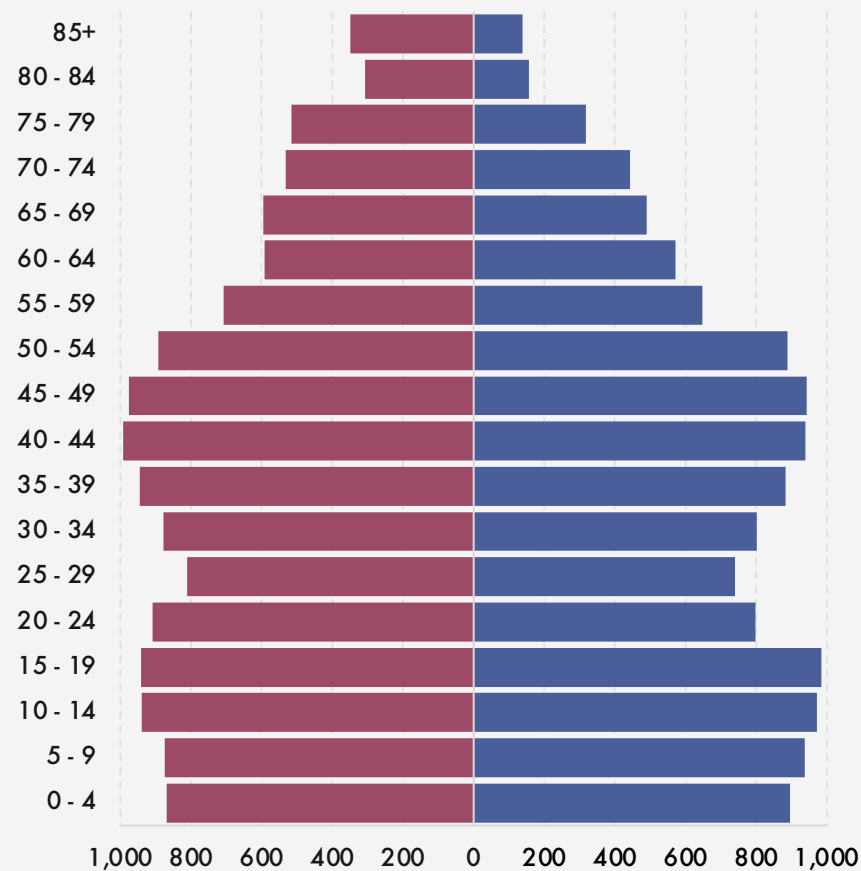
1.6 Age and Sex Pyramid

How have the age and sex of the population living in Abbeville County changed over the years?

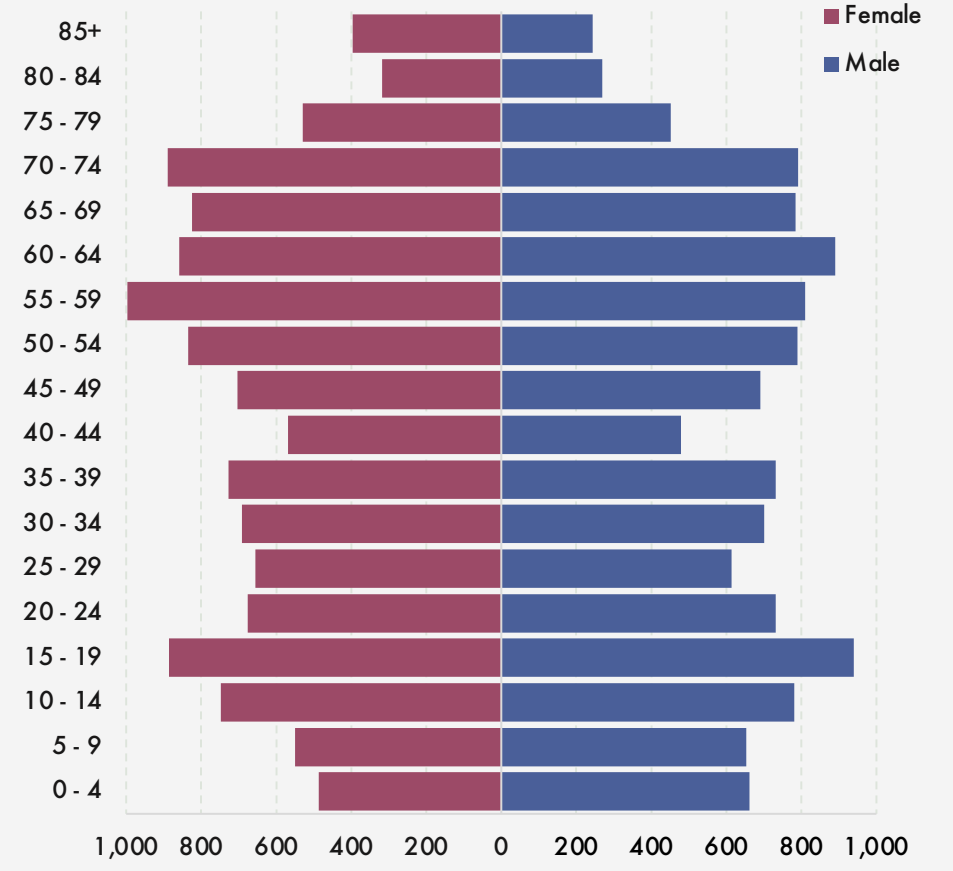
The comparison of the 2000 and 2023 age-sex pyramids for Abbeville County reveals a **shift toward an older population.**

Younger age groups (particularly under 15) appear narrower in the 2023 pyramid, while older cohorts (especially those 50 and above) have expanded. This change indicates both a lower birth rate and possible out-migration of younger adults.

Age & Sex Pyramid (2000)



Age & Sex Pyramid (2023)



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

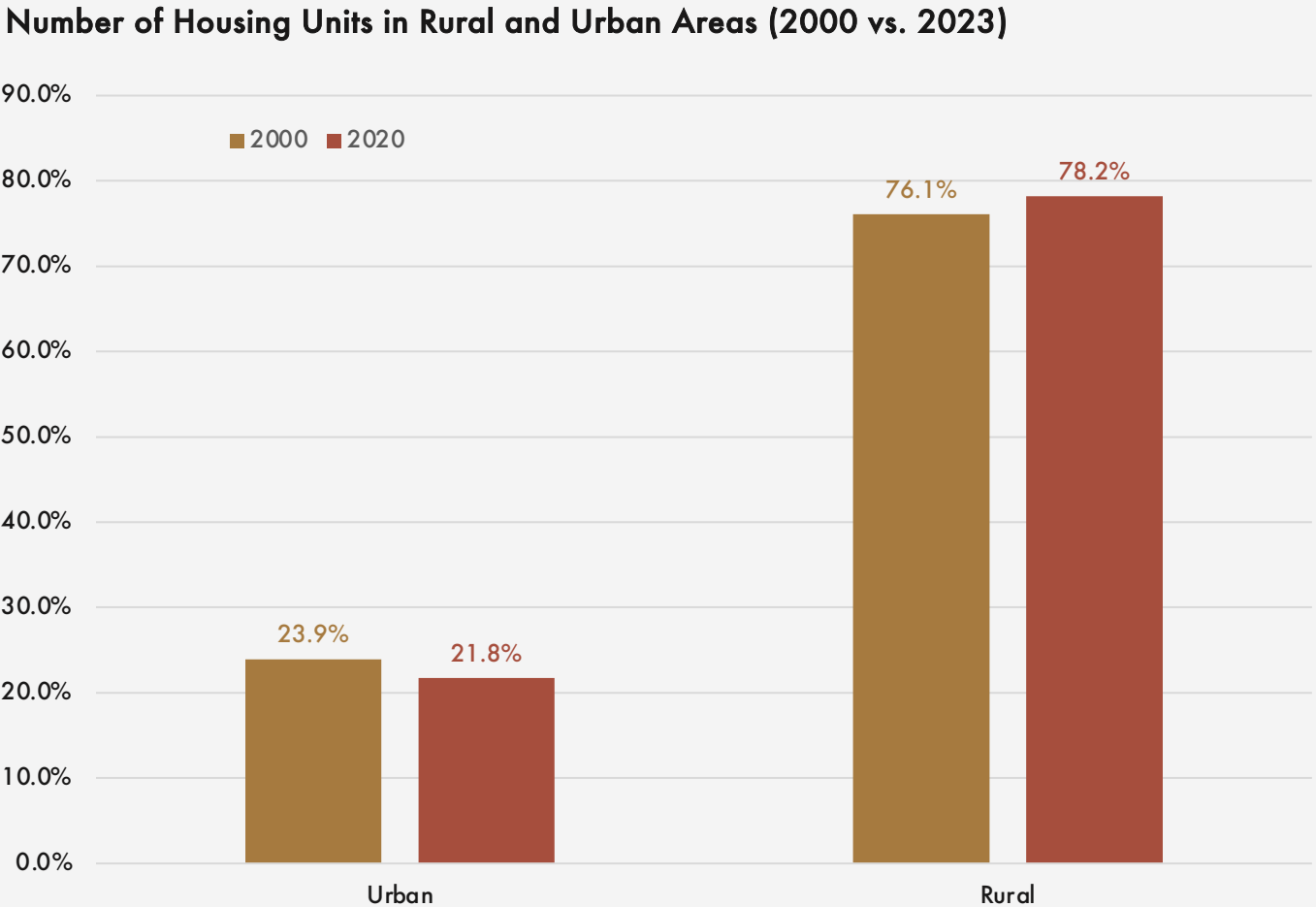
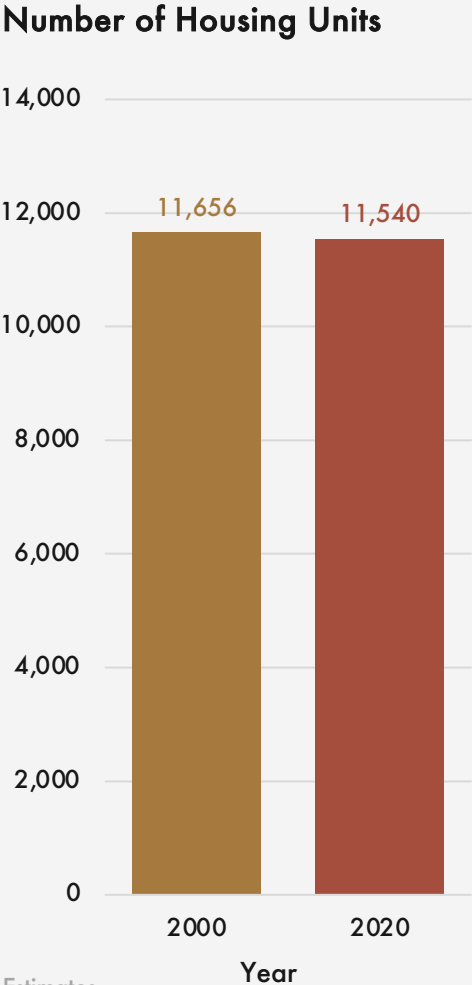
1.7 Urban and Rural Change

How has the rural and urban residence distribution in Abbeville County changed over the years?

Abbeville County's housing distribution has become slightly more rural over time.

While the total number of housing units has decreased only slightly, the share in rural areas has grown from roughly 76% to about 78%.

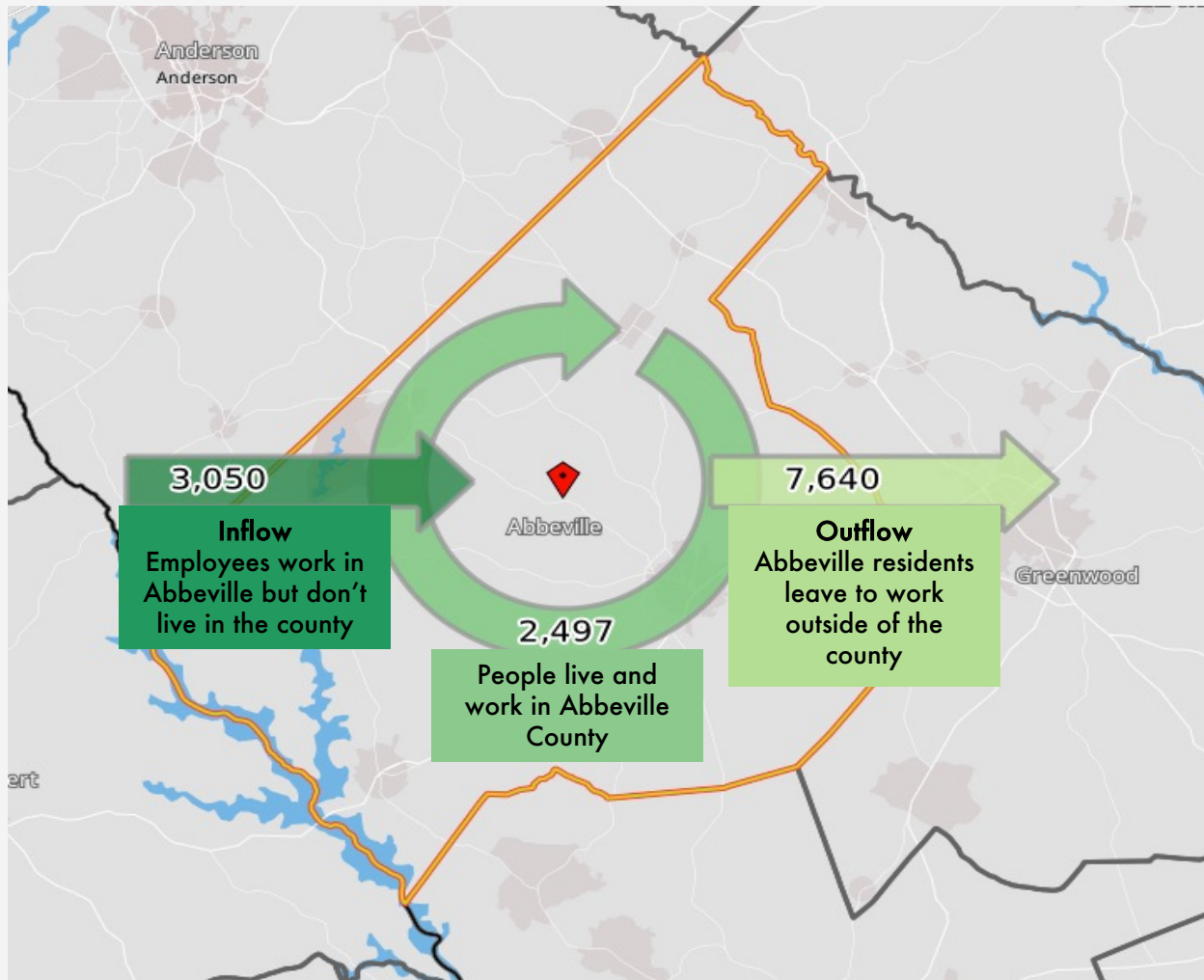
Meanwhile, the urban portion has decreased from around 24% to 22%.



Sources: Decennial Census 2000; 2023 ACS 5-Year Estimates

2.4 Commuting Pattern

Commuting Pattern for Workers (In & Out of Abbeville County)



Abbeville County sends out more workers than it brings in. Each day, **7,640 residents** leave the county for their jobs, while only **3,050 people come in**—creating a net loss of 4,590 workers. Just **2,497 residents** both live and work here, which is under 25% of all local jobs.

This imbalance highlights a reliance on neighbouring areas for job opportunities.








Inflow/Outflow of Jobs (All Jobs, 2022)		
	Count	Share
Employed in Abbeville County	5,547	-
Employed in Abbeville County but Living Outside	3,050	55%
Employed and Living in Abbeville County	2,497	45%
<hr/>		
Living in Abbeville County	10,137	-
Living in Abbeville County but Employed Outside	7,640	75.4%
Living and Employed in Abbeville County	2,497	24.6%

Note: The above data reflects 2022 insights for all job types.
Source: On the Map, US Census Bureau

2.6 Livability

Benchmarking Abbeville's Livability

Abbeville's livability score of 40 lags behind the U.S. county median by 10 points despite strong Housing (65), with major deficits in Environment (35) and Opportunity (28) and gaps in Neighborhood (27), Health (36), and Transportation (42).

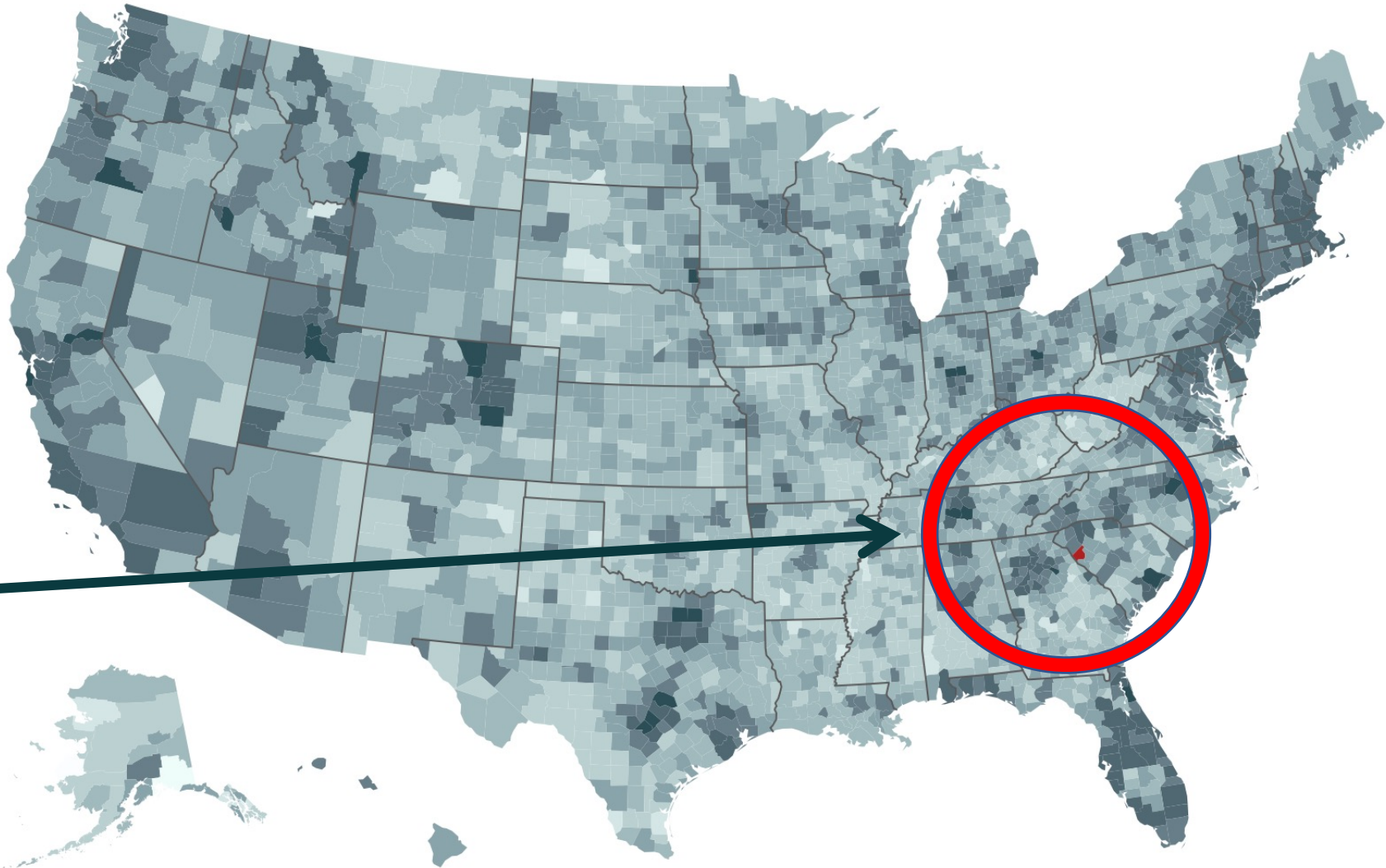
	Abbeville County, SC	Bamberg County, SC	Clarendon County, SC	Colleton County, SC	Fairfield County, SC	South Carolina	Median US County
Overall	40	42	43	39	43	48	50
 Housing Metrics and initiatives that promote affordability, availability, and accessibility.	65	65	61	52	59	53	59
 Neighborhood Metrics and initiatives that focus on destinations, safety, and mixed-use development.	27	25	25	26	27	38	36
 Transportation Metrics and initiatives concerning convenience, safety, and options.	42	45	34	35	32	43	44
 Environment Metrics and initiatives regarding air and water quality, energy efficiency, and hazard mitigation planning.	35	64	59	60	61	62	61
 Health Metrics and initiatives that promote healthy behaviours, like exercise and smoking cessation.	36	28	30	29	21	41	40
 Engagement Metrics and initiatives such as cultural engagement, voting rights, and human rights.	44	40	59	49	66	55	47
 Opportunity Metrics and initiatives regarding job availability, government creditworthiness, and graduation rates.	28	29	31	26	33	44	50

Sources: AARP Livability Index, 2024

Headline Innovation Index

- Headline Innovation Index
- Human Capital and Knowledge Creation
- Business Dynamics
- Business Profile
- Employment and Productivity
- Economic Well-Being

The Innovation Index includes both innovation inputs and outputs in order to measure both innovation capacity and innovation outcomes.



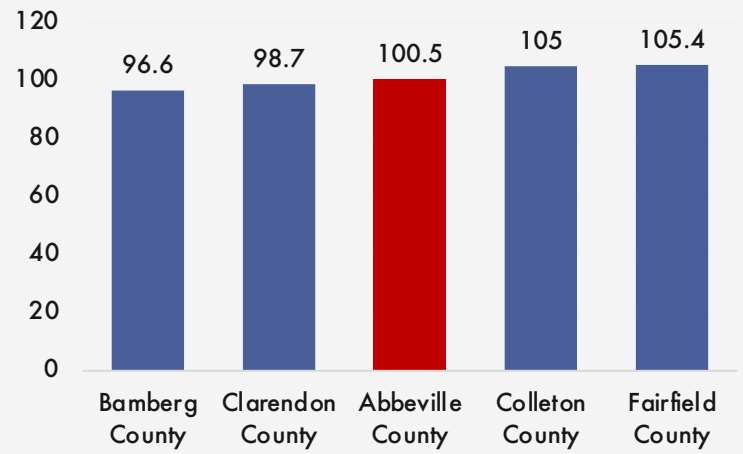
How does Abbeville County leverage the proximity to the SE innovation clusters?

3.10 Innovation Intelligence Ranking

Comparing Abbeville County's innovation intelligence capacity profile with its peer counties (I)

Innovation Intelligence Index

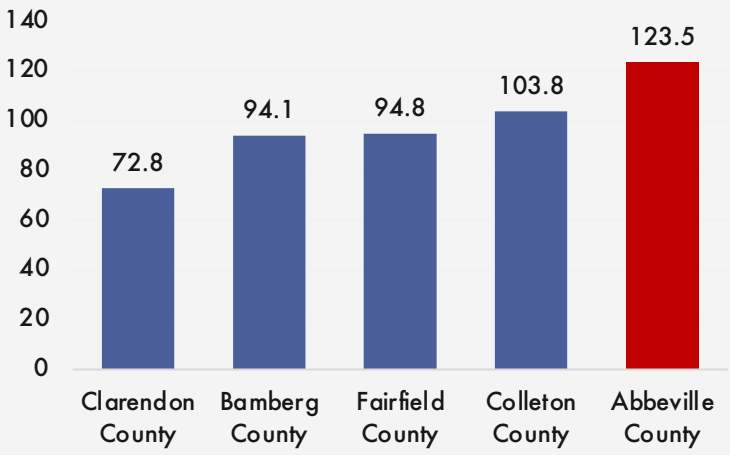
100.5 Rank = 2,338



Abbeville County, SC has a **moderate** relative Innovation Capacity

Human Capital & Knowledge Creation Index

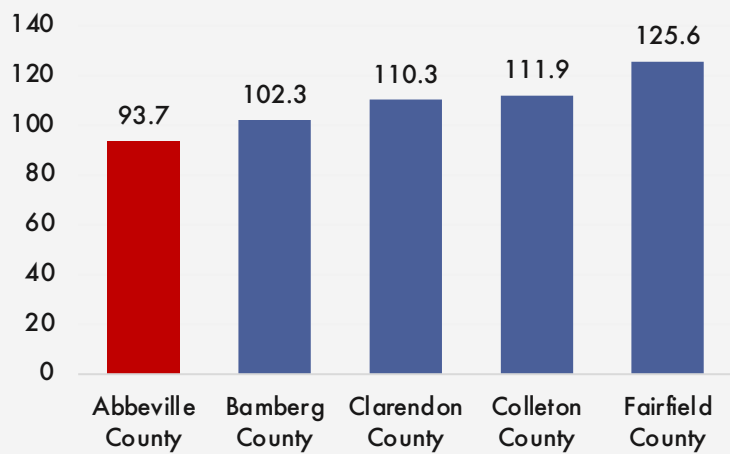
123.5 Rank = 757



The relative availability of human capital resources is **moderate** in Abbeville. The top measures for this index are: Associate's Degree Attainment and High School Attainment.

Business Dynamics Index

93.7 Rank = 2,837



The establishment formation and composition patterns in Abbeville County indicate a **moderate** level of business competitiveness.

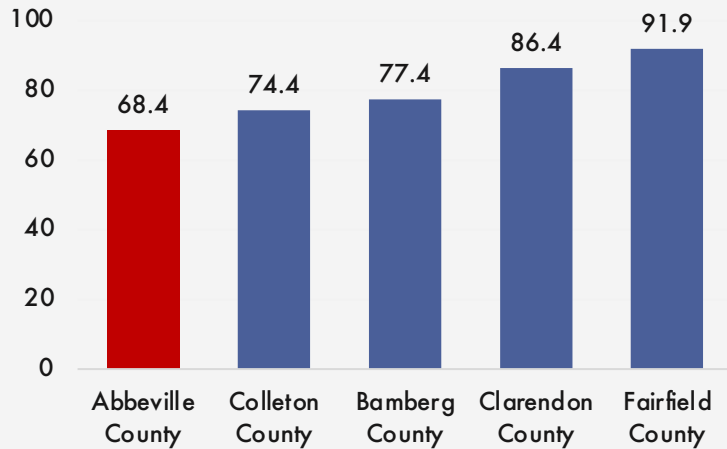
Note: Rank is out of the 3110 counties across the USA
Sources: Stats America - Innovation Intelligence

3.10 Innovation Intelligence Ranking

Comparing Abbeville County's innovation intelligence capacity profile with its peer counties (II)

Business Profile Index

68.4 Rank = 2,245

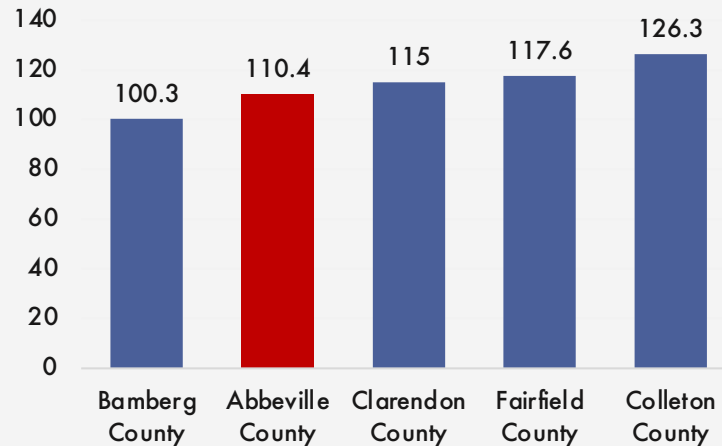


The relative availability of resources for entrepreneurs and businesses is **moderate** in Abbeville. The top measures for this index are: Change in Proprietorship Rate and FDI Employment Ratio.

Note: Rank is out of the 3110 counties across the USA
Sources: Stats America - Innovation Intelligence

Employment & Productivity Index

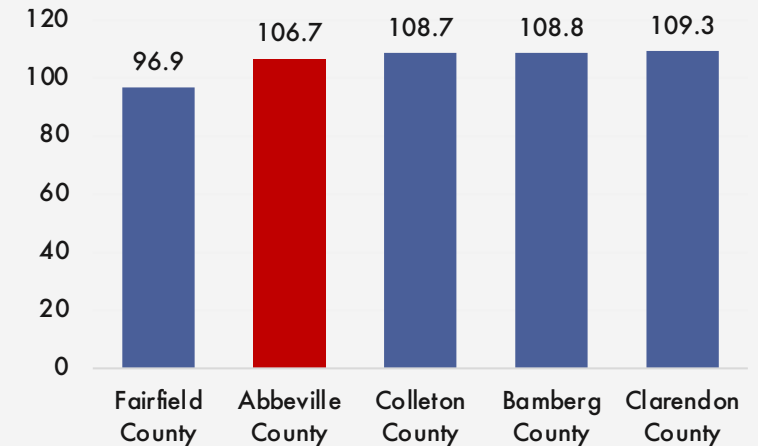
110.4 Rank = 2,206



Industry performance in Abbeville indicates a **moderate** level of positive outcomes from existing economic activity. The top measures for this index are: Patent Diversity and Change in Average Patenting Rate

Economic Well-Being Index

106.7 Rank = 2,641



As measured by residential internet connectivity and income, Abbeville County has a **moderate** standard of living.



STAKEHOLDER SURVEY RESULTS

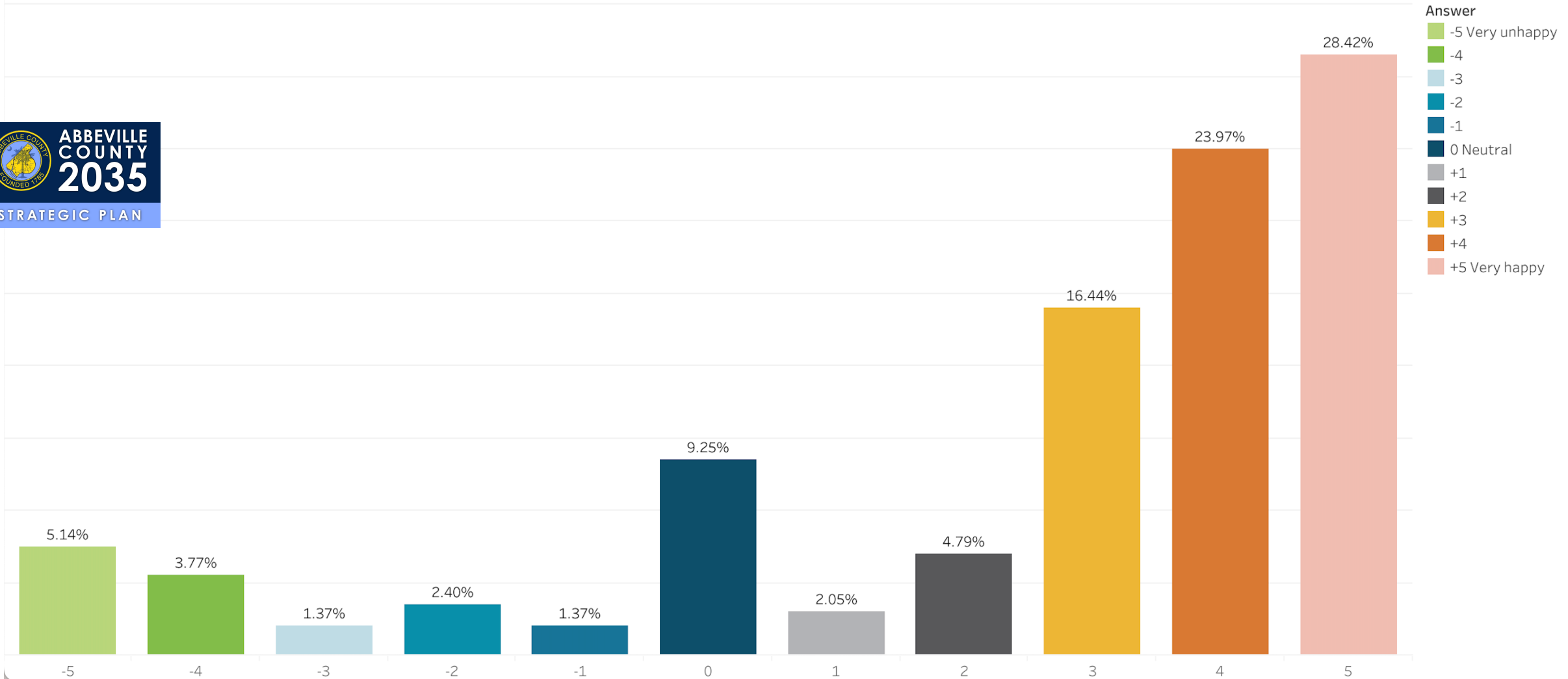
(n = 367)



Living and working in Abbeville County

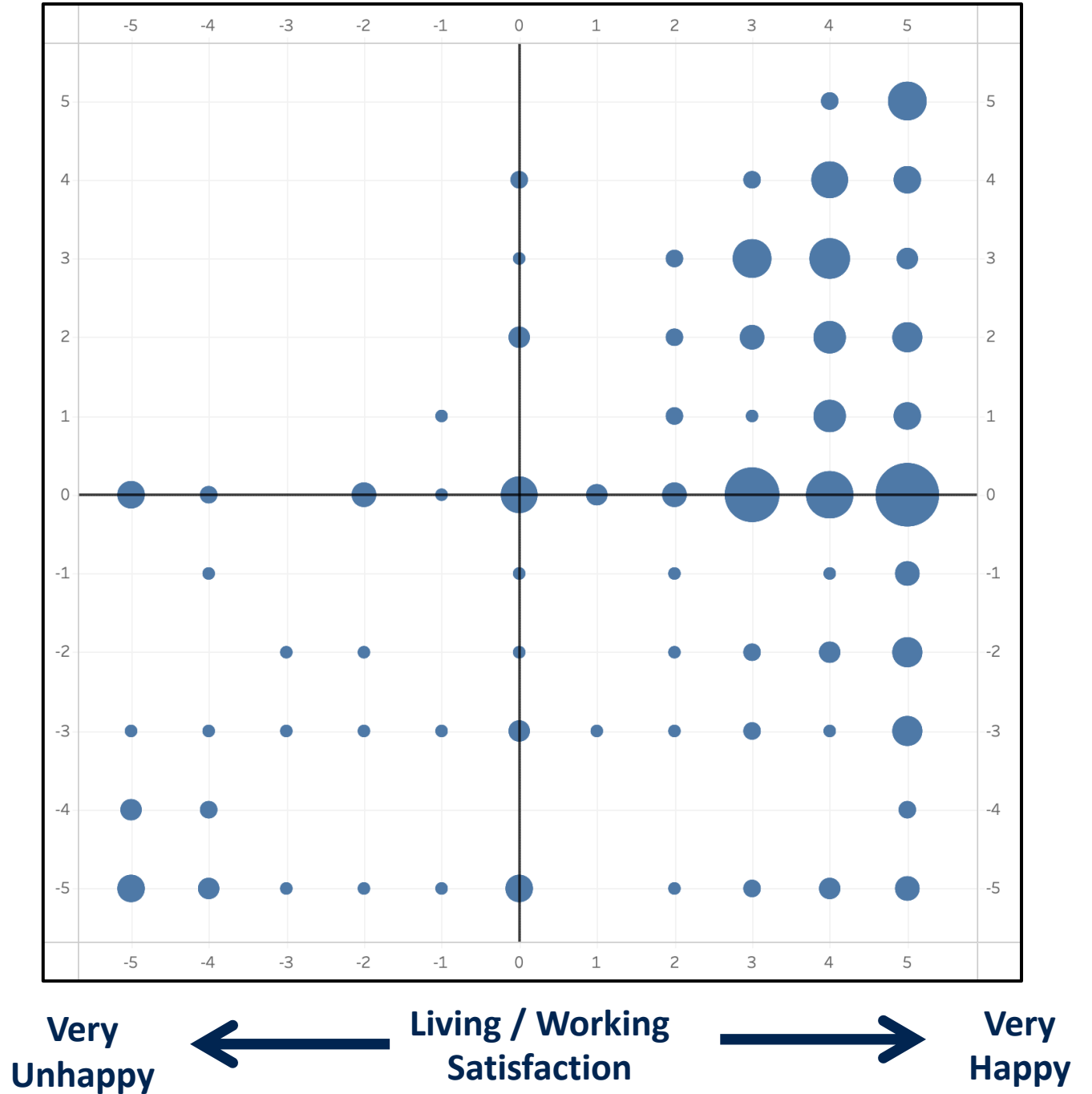
How happy are you about living / working in Abbeville County?

SCALE: -5 = Very unhappy; 0 = Neutral; +5 = Very happy

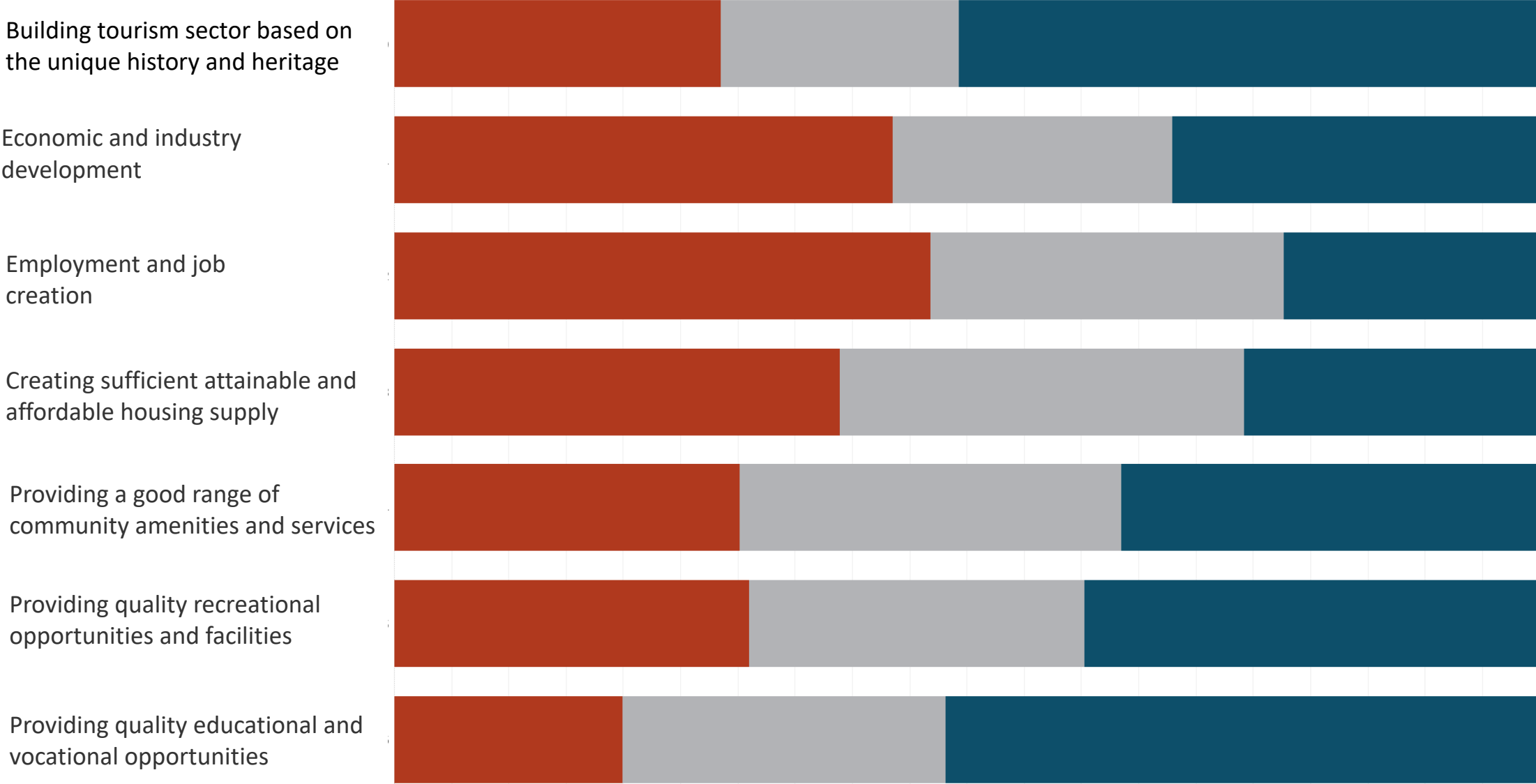
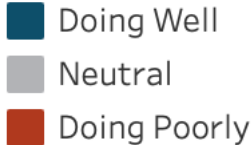


Stakeholder Survey

Satisfaction with living and/or working in Abbeville County and Feeling about overall community direction of Abbeville County



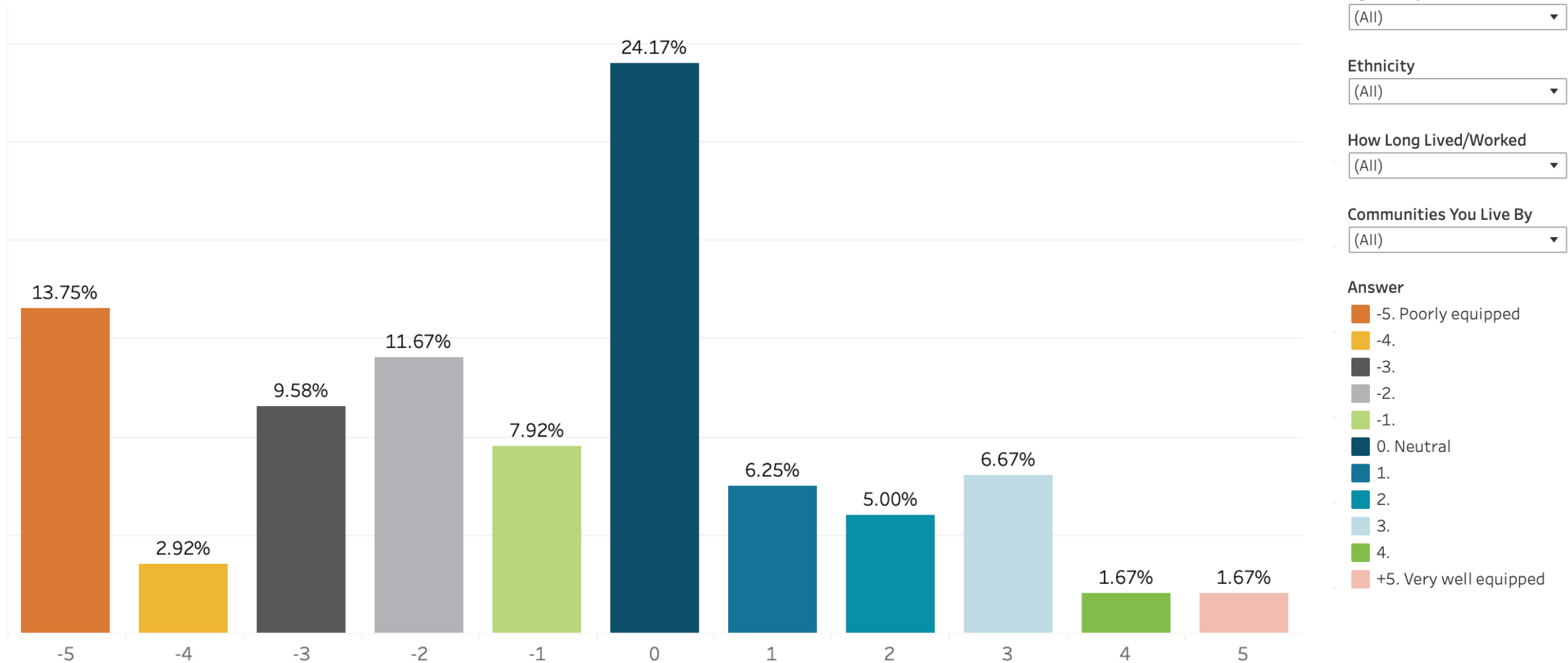
How well is Abbeville County doing in the following:



Ability to adapt and create new opportunities

Currently, how well equipped is Abbeville County to adapt to future change, and to move quickly to create and seize new opportunities?

SCALE: -5 = Poorly equipped; 0 = Neutral; +5 = Very well equipped





WELCOME TO THE

ABBEVILLE COUNTY 2035

STRATEGIC PLAN PROJECT

The Importance of Future Thinking

The key to effective future thinking...

Consider both **trajectory** (direction of change) and **velocity** (speed of change).

The challenge for the Think-Tank

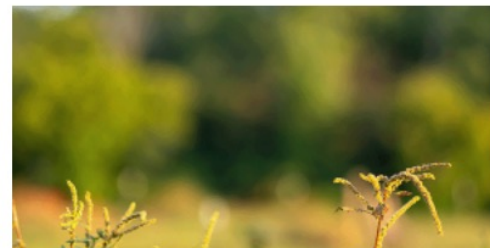
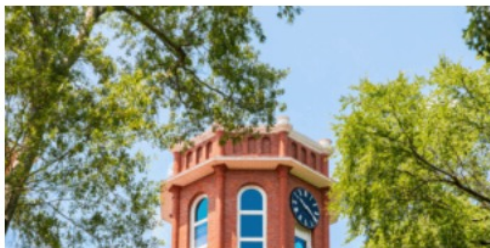
- Explore the future -
- Ask the hard questions -
- Think creatively -

The outcome may be a new view of the future.



Key Drivers identified by participants

1. Cost of Living
2. Community Well-Being
3. Ground Transportation
4. Technical and Vocational Education
5. Access to Healthcare
6. Housing Availability
7. Employment Opportunities
8. Desirable Climate 'Haven'
9. Quality Food and Water
10. Natural Resources
11. Social Support Structure
12. Utility Capacity
13. Tourism Potential
14. Childcare + Early Education
15. Social Amenities
16. Small Business Opportunities
17. Quality Education
18. Trend of Homesteading
19. Regional Connectivity
20. Training and Development
21. Political stability





IMPACT MATRIX

Abbeville County 2035 Think-Tank Day 1 | February 28, 2025

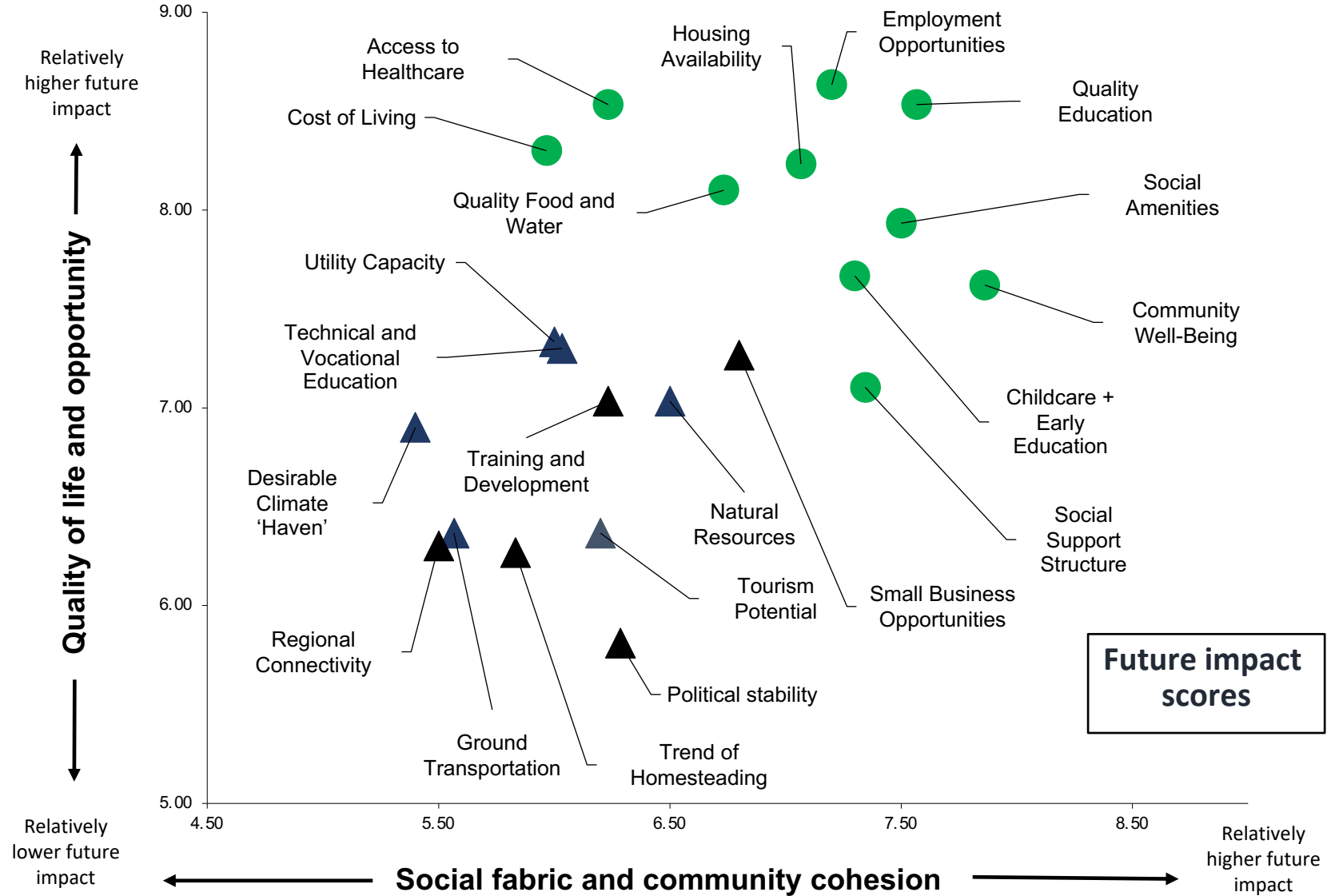
Rate each driver in terms of likely future impacts on the following dimensions for Abbeville County.

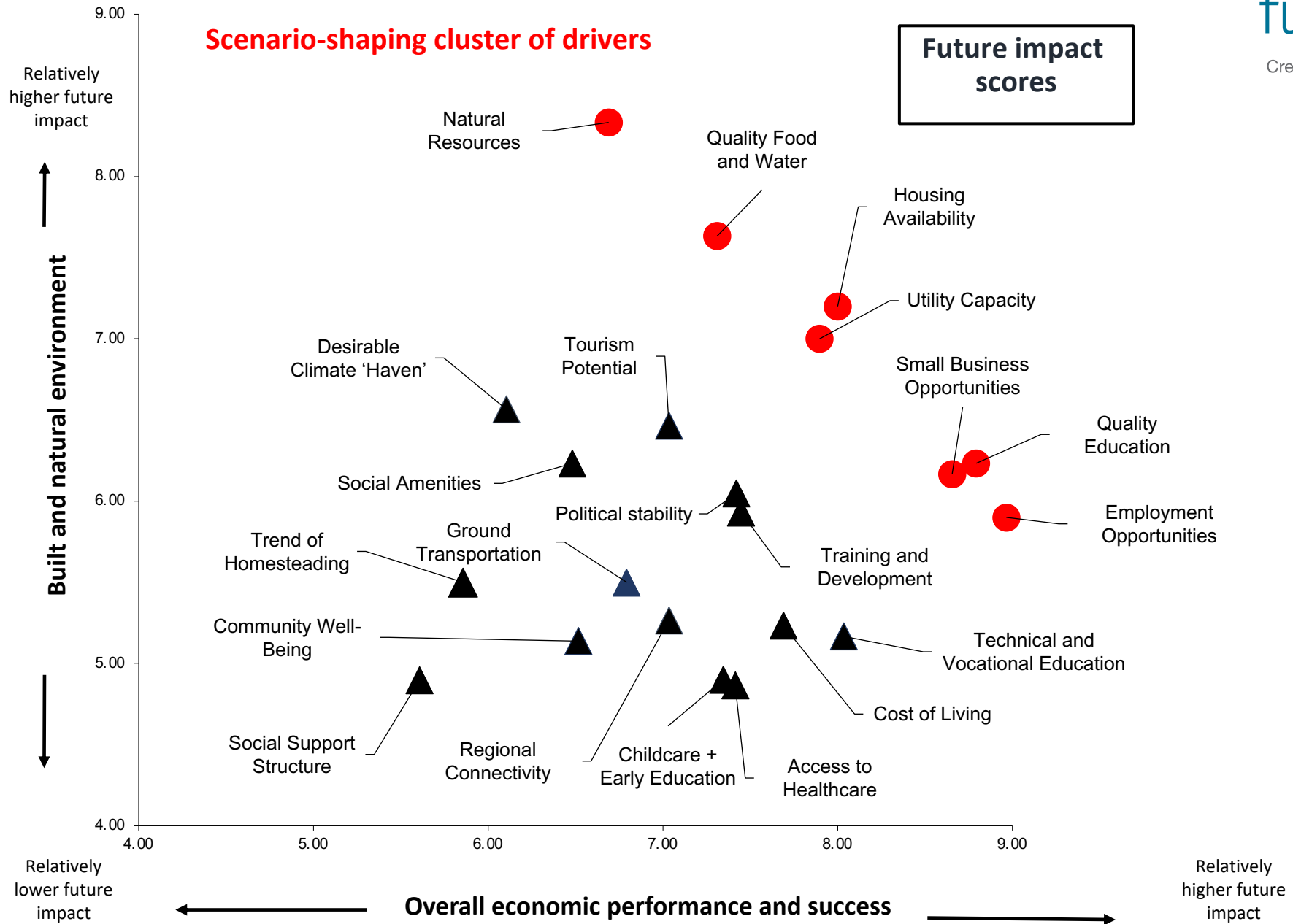
IMPACT SCALE: 1 = Low relative future impact; 10 = Very high relative future impact

Driver	Dimensions			
	Overall economic performance and success	Built and natural environments	Social fabric and community cohesion	Quality of life and opportunity
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				

Rating the importance of each driver – individual scoring

Scenario shaping drivers





Future-splitting themes – based on clusters of drivers

Community Direction

- Cost of Living
- Access to Healthcare
- Quality Food and Water
- Housing Availability
- Employment Opportunities
- Quality Education
- Social Amenities
- Childcare + Early Education
- Community Well-Being
- Social Support Structure

Economic Focus

- Natural Resources
- Quality Food and Water
- Housing Availability
- Utility Capacity
- Small Business Opportunity
- Quality Education
- Employment opportunities

Key drivers were clustered under future splitting themes – based on data in scatter plot. These clusters are used to formulate the scenario matrix.

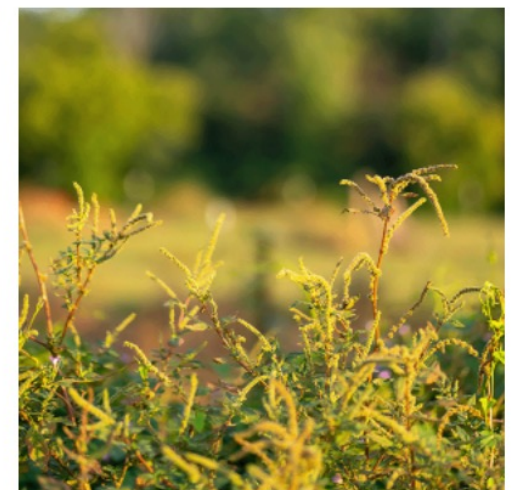


WELCOME TO THE

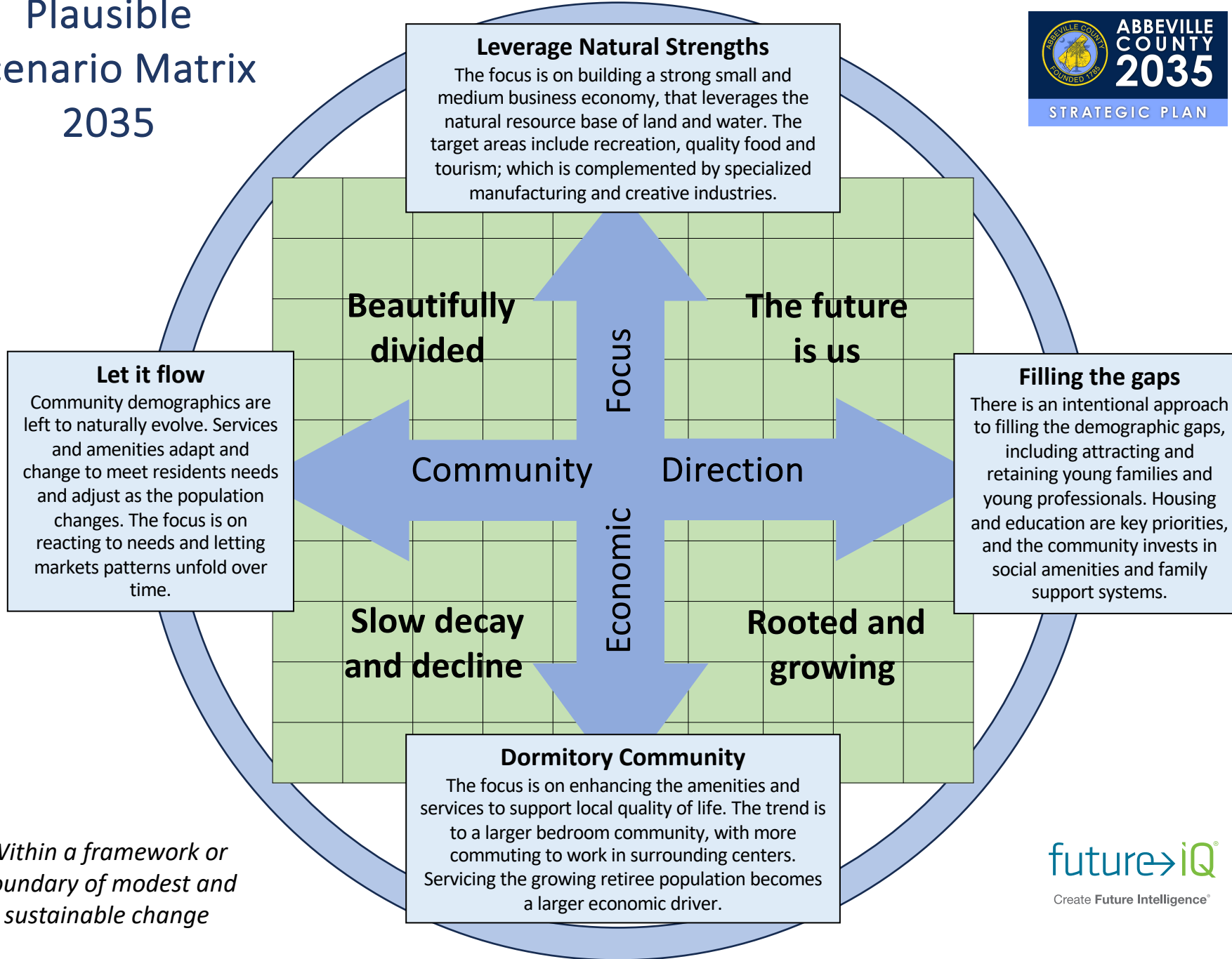
ABBEVILLE COUNTY 2035



Future Scenario Development

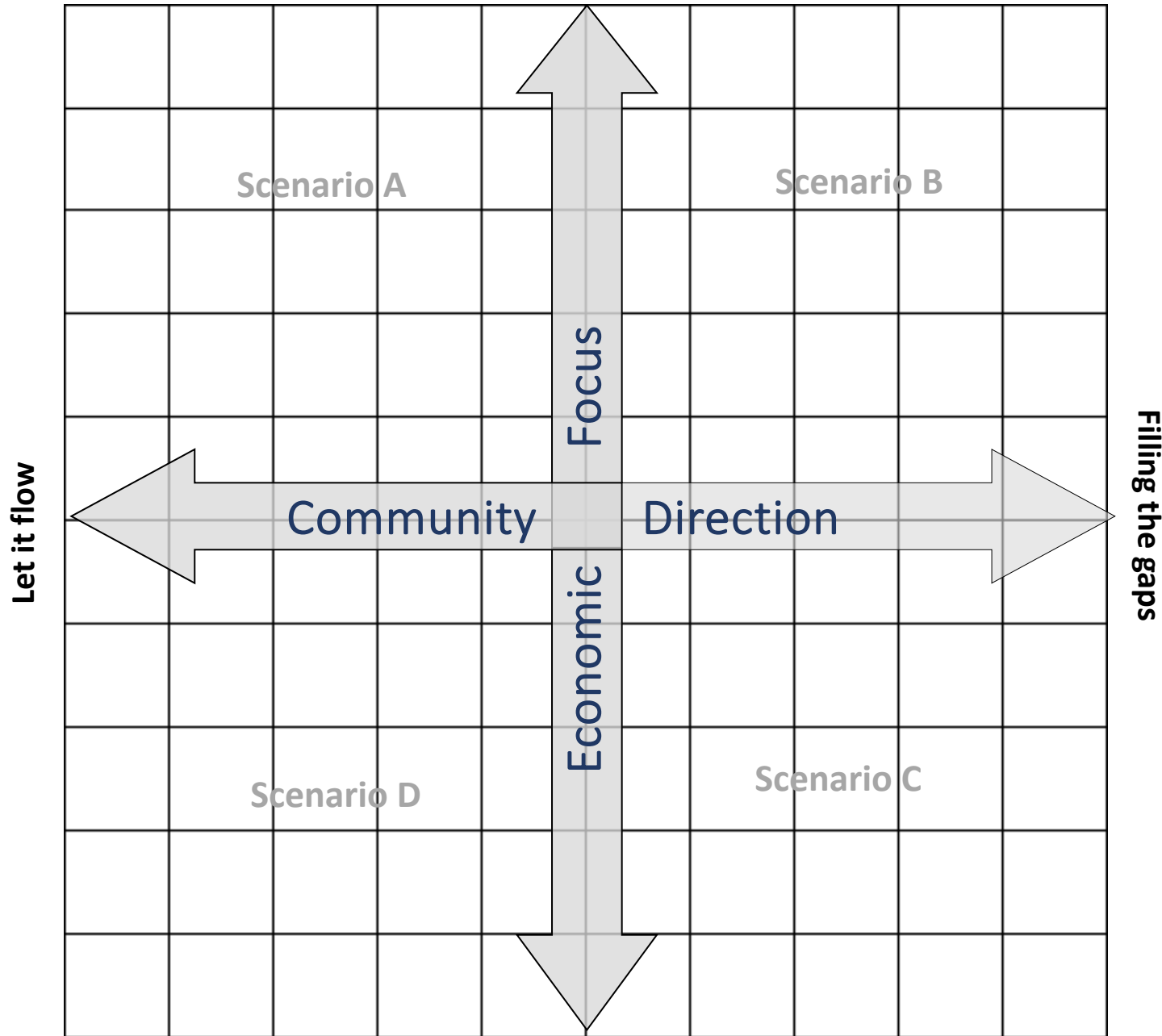


Plausible Scenario Matrix 2035



Within a framework or boundary of modest and sustainable change

Leverage Natural Strengths



Abbeville County Think-Tank Heatmaps

March 1, 2025
Instructions

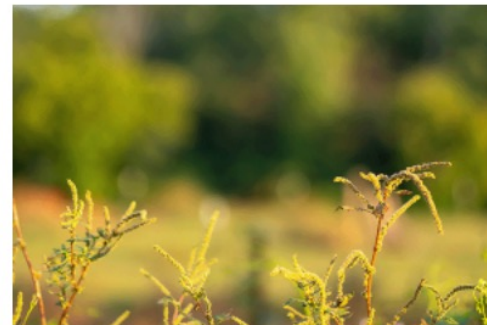
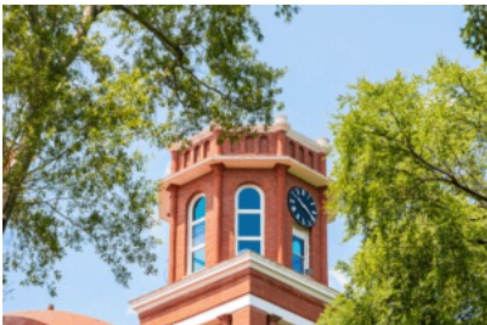
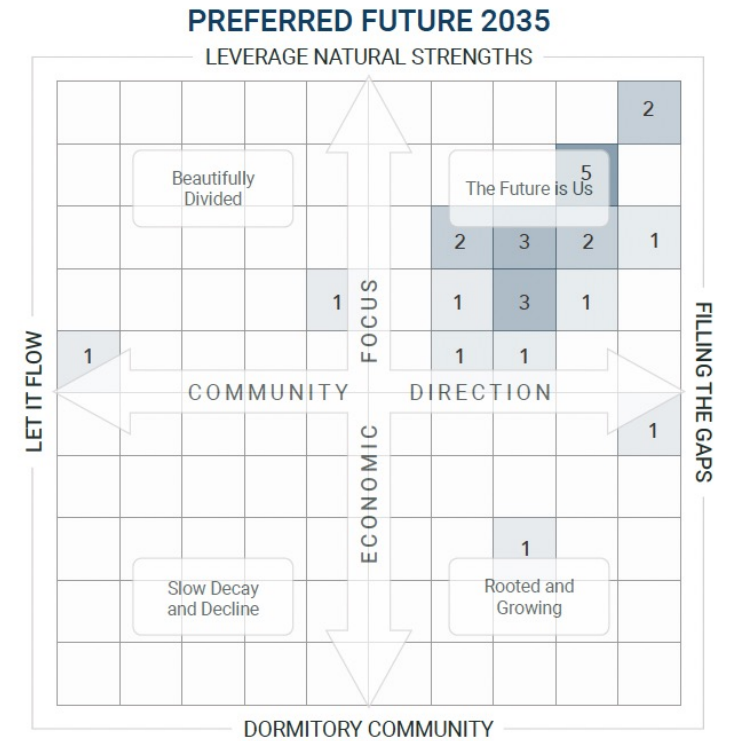
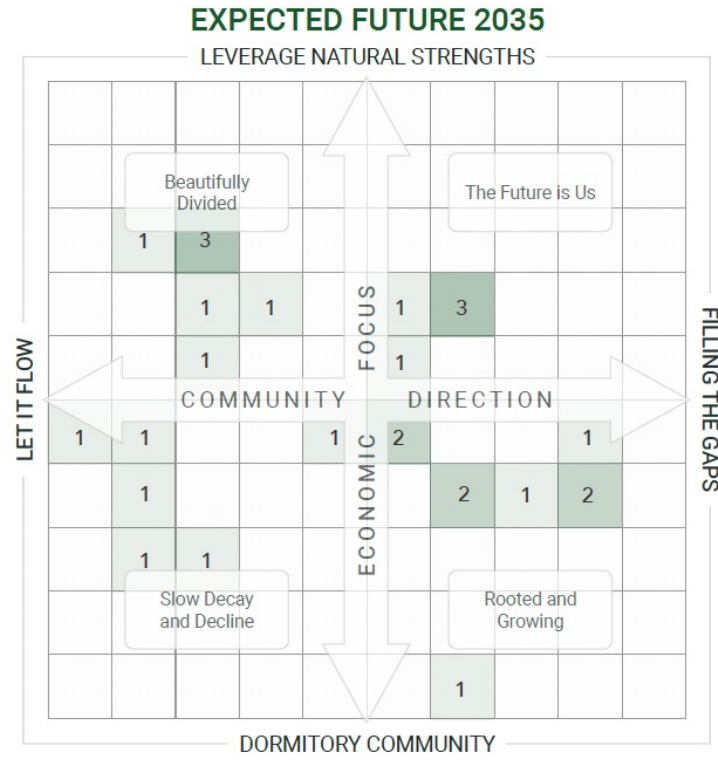
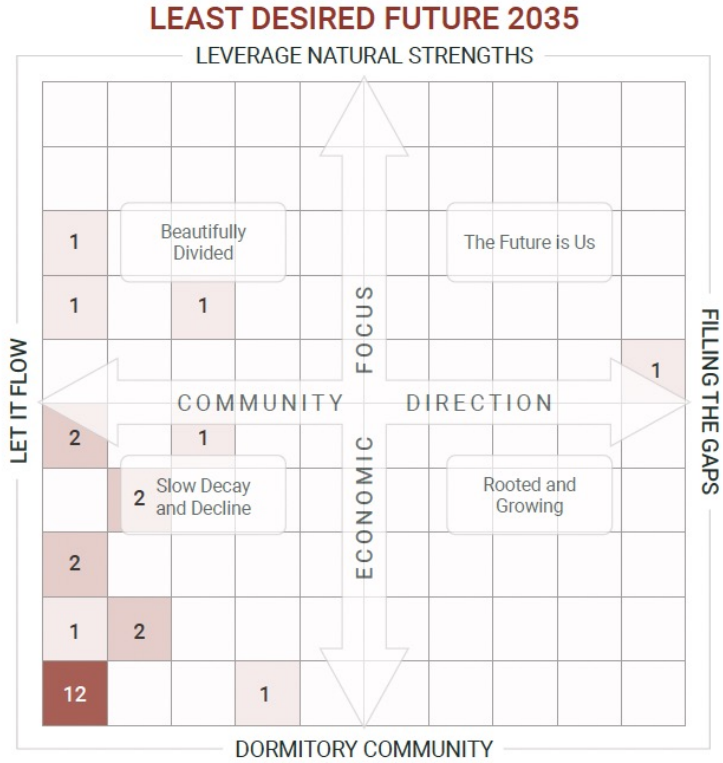
On the grid at the left,
please identify the
following:

- LEAST DESIRABLE FUTURE (L)
- EXPECTED FUTURE (E)
- PREFERRED FUTURE (P)



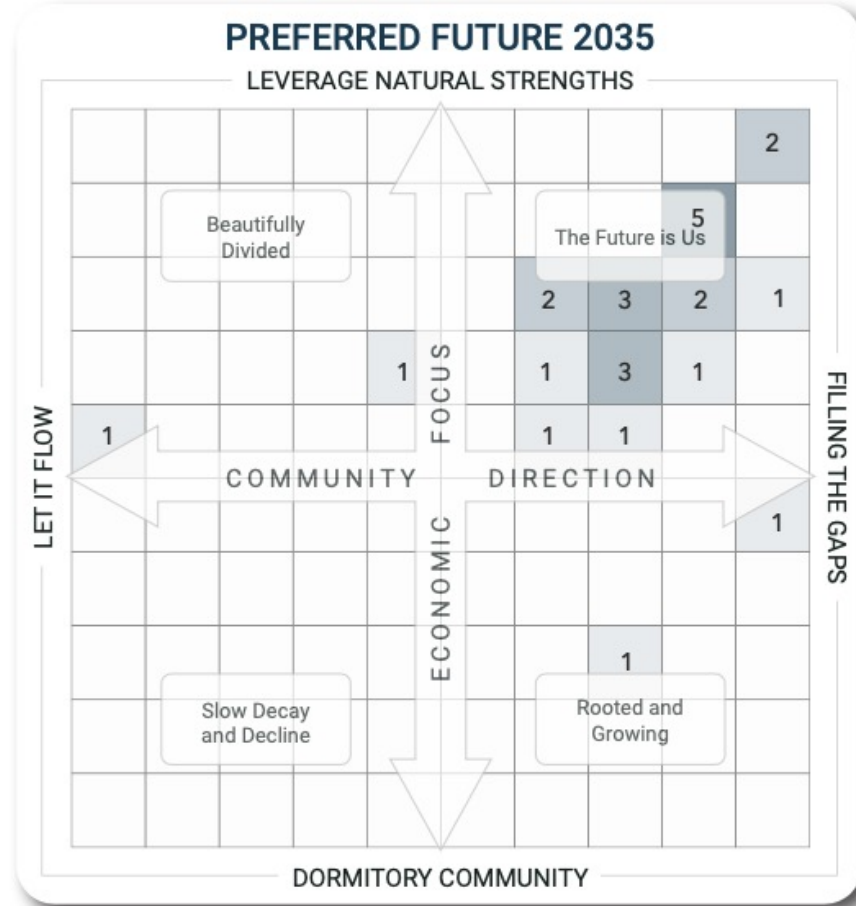
Preferred Future – Preliminary Data

Appetite for movement on both axes



SCENARIO SNAPSHOT

- The community leans into attracting visitors and tourists by leveraging its natural resources and the history of Abbeville. This keeps the history of Abbeville alive.
- There is an increase in recreation, quality food and services which appeal to both visitors and residents. The charm and history of Abbeville County is maintained and enhanced to appeal to visitors, but this also benefits long term residents and new residents who continue to enjoy the historic charm and character of the area.
- Coupled with the focus on tourism, and thus new hospitality focused businesses, there is an intentional effort to attract a younger demographic with extensive housing options, cultural events and amenities. This contributes to Abbeville County being established for the future as new generations grow up and remain in the area.
- For those who move to Abbeville County, the education system and public transportation is exemplary with this intentional focus on long term family support systems and quality of life amenities.

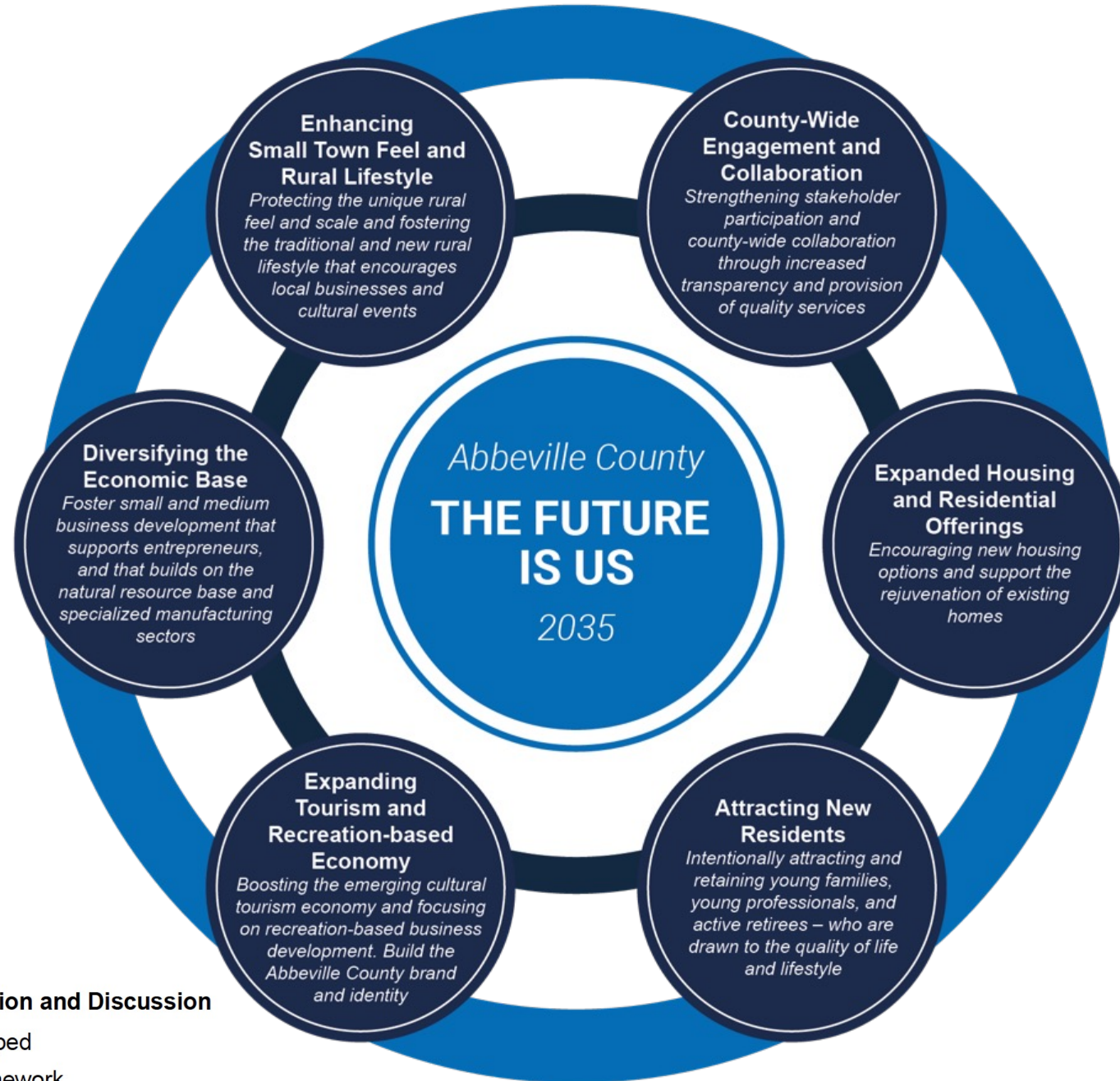


DRAFT

Strategic Pillars

April 2025

Version 3



Strategic Pillars Framework - Presentation and Discussion

- Explanation of how they were developed
- Outline of how we use the pillars framework

Brainstorm Bold Ideas for Action



Abbeville County 2035 Strategic Action Plan | Strategic Pillar Roundtable - April 10, 2025

Enhancing Small Town Feel and Rural Lifestyle

Objective: Protecting the unique rural feel and scale and fostering the traditional and new rural lifestyle that encourages local businesses and cultural events



BOLD IDEAS FOR ACTION



future*→*IQ

Abbeville County 2035- Next Steps

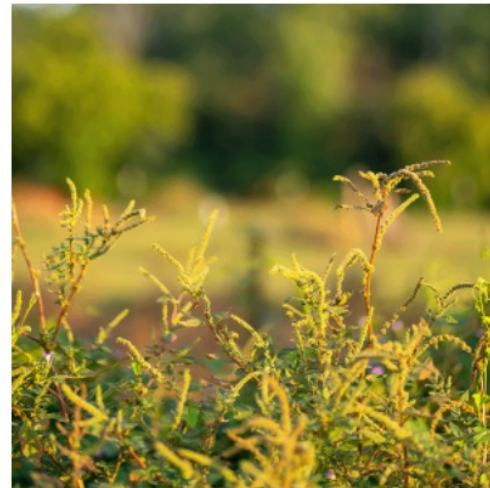


Future Summit

- Present the Abbeville County 2035 Strategic Action Plan

Future Summit
Friday June 6, 2025
9:00am – 11:00pm
Abbeville Opera House,
Abbeville

June
2025





Thank you

For more information on the Abbeville County 2035 project, please visit the project portal at:

<https://lab2.future-iq.com/abbeville-county-2035/>

