SC Department of Employment and Workforce
NEWS RELEASE

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For Release
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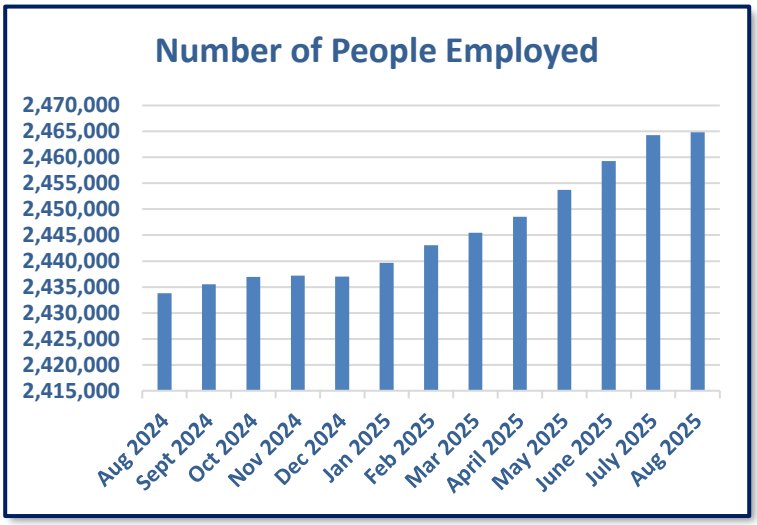
South Carolina's Employment Situation: August 2025

Household Survey: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Nationally, there is a monthly Current Population Survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to determine employment status of the civilian population. This information, along with other inputs, are used by DEW to operate the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, which estimates the number of individuals employed and those not employed, but actively seeking employment for statewide and a variety of substate geographies.



Employment:

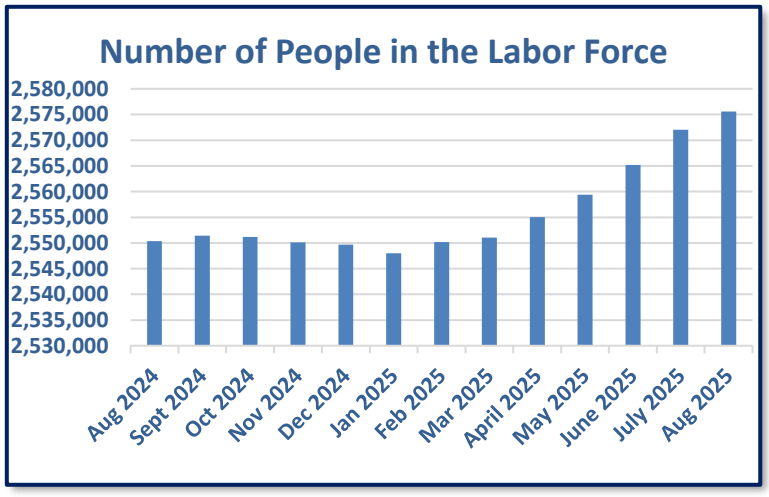
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,464,843
- That is an increase of 545 people over the July 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 31,045 people over the August 2024 estimate.

Labor Force:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,575,593 while the labor force participation rate decreased to 57.6 percent.
- That is an increase of 3,548 people over the July 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 25,219 individuals over the August 2024 estimate.

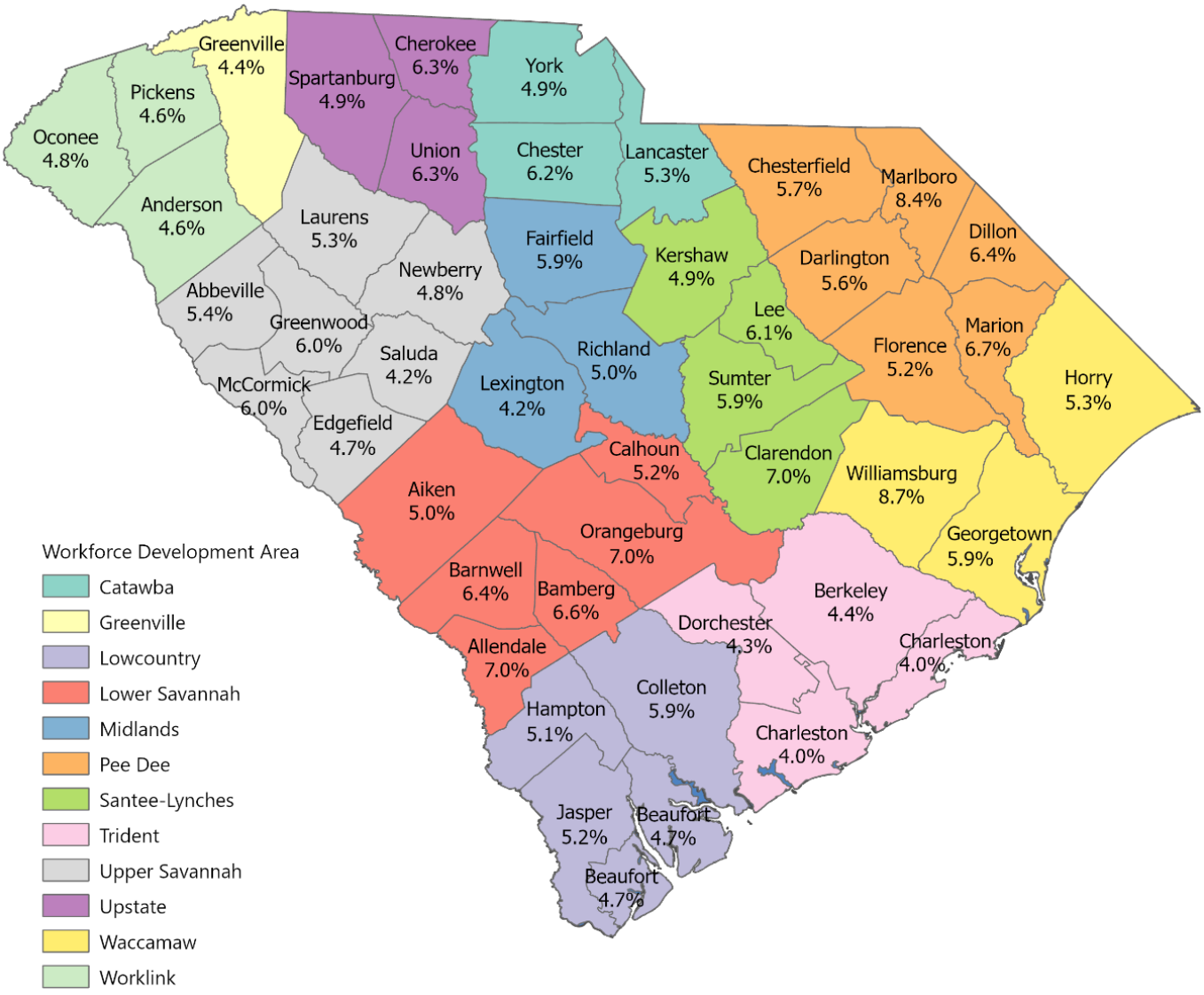
Unemployed:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 110,750.
- That is an increase of 3,003 people from the July estimate and a decrease of 5,826 from the August 2024 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.3 percent. The national unemployment rate increased to 4.3 percent, according to the Current Population survey.



Seasonally Adjusted: Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

Unemployment Rate by County (Not Seasonally Adjusted)



Unemployment Rate by Metropolitan Statistical Area (Not Seasonally Adjusted)

Name	Counties	Rate	Monthly Change	Annual Change
Charleston-North Charleston	Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester	4.2%	↑ 0.2 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.7%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	5.3%	No Change	No Change
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	4.5%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	4.8%	↑ 0.3 pts	↑ 0.2 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	5.3%	↑ 0.4 pts	No Change
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	5.0%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.9%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ -0.3 pts

Not Seasonally Adjusted: Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

		August 2025				July 2025				August 2024			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
AREA		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,705	9,771	934	8.7	10,883	9,942	941	8.6	10,449	9,635	814	7.8
Marlboro County	↑	8,235	7,547	688	8.4	8,234	7,605	629	7.6	8,237	7,546	691	8.4
Allendale County	↑	2,624	2,441	183	7.0	2,693	2,523	170	6.3	2,701	2,504	197	7.3
Clarendon County	↑	11,820	10,993	827	7.0	11,654	10,890	764	6.6	11,826	11,029	797	6.7
Orangeburg County	↓	34,411	31,999	2,412	7.0	34,738	32,268	2,470	7.1	35,786	33,210	2,576	7.2
Marion County	↓	12,032	11,222	810	6.7	12,176	11,343	833	6.8	11,971	11,147	824	6.9
Bamberg County	–	5,335	4,982	353	6.6	5,358	5,004	354	6.6	5,446	5,054	392	7.2
Barnwell County	↑	7,965	7,452	513	6.4	8,077	7,588	489	6.1	8,671	8,146	525	6.1
Dillon County	–	12,369	11,581	788	6.4	12,392	11,594	798	6.4	12,513	11,625	888	7.1
Cherokee County	↓	23,157	21,693	1,464	6.3	22,956	21,349	1,607	7.0	23,157	21,575	1,582	6.8
Union County	↑	11,038	10,347	691	6.3	11,150	10,513	637	5.7	10,985	10,228	757	6.9
Chester County	↑	14,669	13,765	904	6.2	14,883	14,005	878	5.9	14,567	13,662	905	6.2
Lee County	↑	5,913	5,553	360	6.1	6,000	5,643	357	6.0	5,990	5,542	448	7.5
Greenwood County	↓	28,603	26,882	1,721	6.0	28,052	26,322	1,730	6.2	28,925	27,175	1,750	6.1
McCormick County	↑	3,298	3,101	197	6.0	3,302	3,133	169	5.1	3,491	3,275	216	6.2
Colleton County	–	15,831	14,903	928	5.9	16,218	15,267	951	5.9	16,053	15,152	901	5.6
Fairfield County	↑	10,008	9,422	586	5.9	10,050	9,501	549	5.5	9,873	9,281	592	6.0
Georgetown County	↑	28,074	26,416	1,658	5.9	28,719	27,147	1,572	5.5	28,668	27,105	1,563	5.5
Sumter County	↑	42,723	40,202	2,521	5.9	43,314	40,880	2,434	5.6	41,842	39,246	2,596	6.2
Chesterfield County	↑	18,624	17,571	1,053	5.7	19,074	18,047	1,027	5.4	18,979	17,916	1,063	5.6
Darlington County	↑	29,058	27,434	1,624	5.6	29,283	27,663	1,620	5.5	28,387	26,787	1,600	5.6
Abbeville County	↓	10,359	9,802	557	5.4	10,280	9,718	562	5.5	10,540	9,990	550	5.2
Horry County	↑	181,227	171,686	9,541	5.3	185,465	176,358	9,107	4.9	174,559	165,257	9,302	5.3
Lancaster County	↑	50,689	48,008	2,681	5.3	50,917	48,469	2,448	4.8	50,047	47,525	2,522	5.0
Laurens County	↑	31,395	29,744	1,651	5.3	31,776	30,177	1,599	5.0	31,181	29,539	1,642	5.3
Calhoun County	↑	6,698	6,348	350	5.2	6,786	6,460	326	4.8	6,639	6,270	369	5.6
Florence County	–	65,823	62,396	3,427	5.2	66,311	62,884	3,427	5.2	64,304	60,950	3,354	5.2
Jasper County	↑	14,388	13,646	742	5.2	14,627	13,949	678	4.6	14,433	13,723	710	4.9
Hampton County	↑	7,858	7,460	398	5.1	7,932	7,543	389	4.9	8,045	7,663	382	4.7
Aiken County	↑	76,554	72,699	3,855	5.0	77,526	73,780	3,746	4.8	77,012	73,177	3,835	5.0
Richland County	–	211,761	201,255	10,506	5.0	214,094	203,390	10,704	5.0	209,103	198,456	10,647	5.1
Kershaw County	↑	32,784	31,165	1,619	4.9	33,261	31,683	1,578	4.7	32,416	30,822	1,594	4.9
Spartanburg County	–	169,040	160,724	8,316	4.9	171,151	162,817	8,334	4.9	167,107	158,839	8,268	4.9
York County	↑	157,582	149,901	7,681	4.9	158,942	151,379	7,563	4.8	155,810	148,405	7,405	4.8
Newberry County	–	18,291	17,409	882	4.8	18,587	17,689	898	4.8	18,569	17,639	930	5.0
Oconee County	↑	36,258	34,515	1,743	4.8	36,418	34,708	1,710	4.7	36,315	34,601	1,714	4.7
Beaufort County	↑	85,637	81,599	4,038	4.7	86,729	82,888	3,841	4.4	85,916	81,964	3,952	4.6
Edgefield County	–	11,714	11,167	547	4.7	12,022	11,458	564	4.7	11,837	11,277	560	4.7
Anderson County	↑	100,841	96,249	4,592	4.6	102,032	97,503	4,529	4.4	100,156	95,526	4,630	4.6
Pickens County	↓	65,451	62,413	3,038	4.6	66,578	63,232	3,346	5.0	65,023	61,953	3,070	4.7
Berkeley County	↑	131,038	125,216	5,822	4.4	133,519	127,860	5,659	4.2	128,762	123,055	5,707	4.4
Greenville County	↑	287,441	274,884	12,557	4.4	290,537	278,419	12,118	4.2	285,516	272,914	12,602	4.4
Dorchester County	↑	87,702	83,910	3,792	4.3	89,342	85,630	3,712	4.2	86,286	82,482	3,804	4.4
Lexington County	↑	157,452	150,789	6,663	4.2	158,921	152,503	6,418	4.0	155,548	148,824	6,724	4.3
Saluda County	↑	8,963	8,591	372	4.2	9,346	8,961	385	4.1	8,978	8,588	390	4.3
Charleston County	↑	236,646	227,090	9,556	4.0	241,025	232,012	9,013	3.7	232,998	223,441	9,557	4.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,575,593	2,464,843	110,750	4.3	2,572,045	2,464,298	107,747	4.2	2,550,374	2,433,798	116,576	4.6

Current month's estimates are preliminary. All data are subject to revision.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
– Unemployment Rate =

Not Seasonally Adjusted: Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

EMPLOYER SURVEY: CURRENT EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

BLS conducts a monthly Current Employment Statistics survey of approximately 119,000 businesses and government agencies which yields national estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary employment, hours, and earnings by industry. These data are processed by DEW to generate comparable data for the state and its metropolitan statistical areas.

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 300 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,427,200.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Aug-25

				July 2025 to August 2025		August 2024 to August 2025	
	August	July	August	#	%	#	%
Jobs by Industry	2025	2025	2024	Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,427,200	2,427,500	2,355,200	↓ -300	↓ -0.01%	↑ 72,000	↑ 3.1%
Construction	123,800	124,400	118,200	↓ -600	↓ -0.5%	↑ 5,600	↑ 4.7%
Manufacturing	263,700	263,600	263,800	↑ 100	↑ 0.0%	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	450,200	449,300	445,600	↑ 900	↑ 0.2%	↑ 4,600	↑ 1.0%
Information	30,000	30,400	28,500	↓ -400	↓ -1.3%	↑ 1,500	↑ 5.3%
Financial Activities	127,400	127,500	122,300	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 5,100	↑ 4.2%
Professional and Business Services	329,600	332,100	313,100	↓ -2,500	↓ -0.8%	↑ 16,500	↑ 5.3%
Education and Health Services	315,700	316,400	301,900	↓ -700	↓ -0.2%	↑ 13,800	↑ 4.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	294,600	292,500	279,800	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.7%	↑ 14,800	↑ 5.3%
Other Services	94,000	93,400	90,500	↑ 600	↑ 0.6%	↑ 3,500	↑ 3.9%
Government	393,600	393,300	387,100	↑ 300	↑ 0.1%	↑ 6,500	↑ 1.7%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 300 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,427,200.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Aug-25

				July 2025 to August 2025		August 2024 to August 2025	
	August	July	August	#	%	#	%
Area	2025	2025	2024	Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,427,200	2,427,500	2,355,200	↓ -300	↓ 0.0%	↑ 72,000	↑ 3.1%
Charleston/North Charleston	437,000	437,300	423,300	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 13,700	↑ 3.2%
Columbia	440,300	440,400	431,500	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 8,800	↑ 2.0%
Florence	99,500	98,800	95,800	↑ 700	↑ 0.7%	↑ 3,700	↑ 3.9%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	479,100	480,600	471,900	↓ -1,500	↓ -0.3%	↑ 7,200	↑ 1.5%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	89,900	89,400	88,500	↑ 500	↑ 0.6%	↑ 1,400	↑ 1.6%
Myrtle Beach	162,200	161,800	152,600	↑ 400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 9,600	↑ 6.3%
Spartanburg	181,300	181,300	176,700	**No Change**	**No Change**	↑ 4,600	↑ 2.6%
Sumter	39,100	38,900	37,500	↑ 200	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1,600	↑ 4.3%

Seasonally Adjusted: Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.