



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

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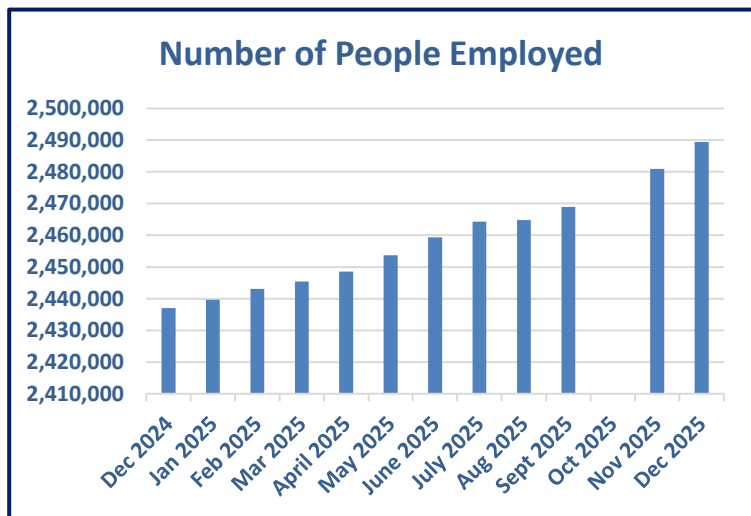
For Release

January 27, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: December 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:

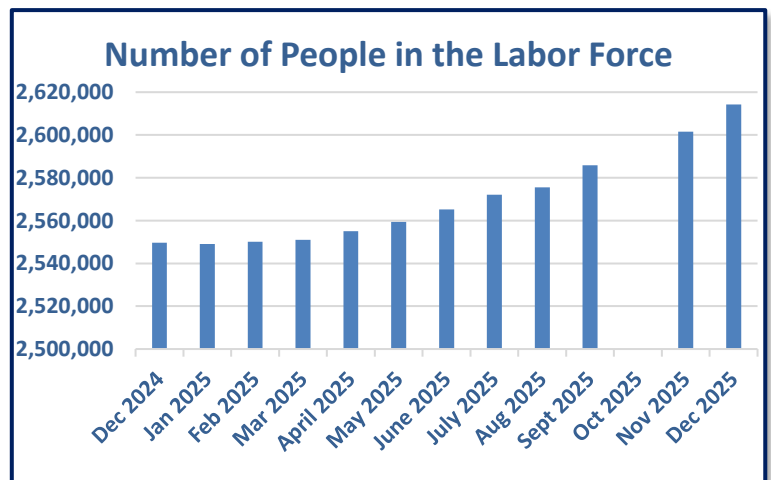
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,489,407.
- That is a significant increase of 8,458 people over the November 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 52,391 people over the December 2024 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,614,214 while the labor force participation rate increased to 58.1 percent.
- That is a significant increase of 12,680 people over the November 2025 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 64,561 individuals over the December 2024 estimate.

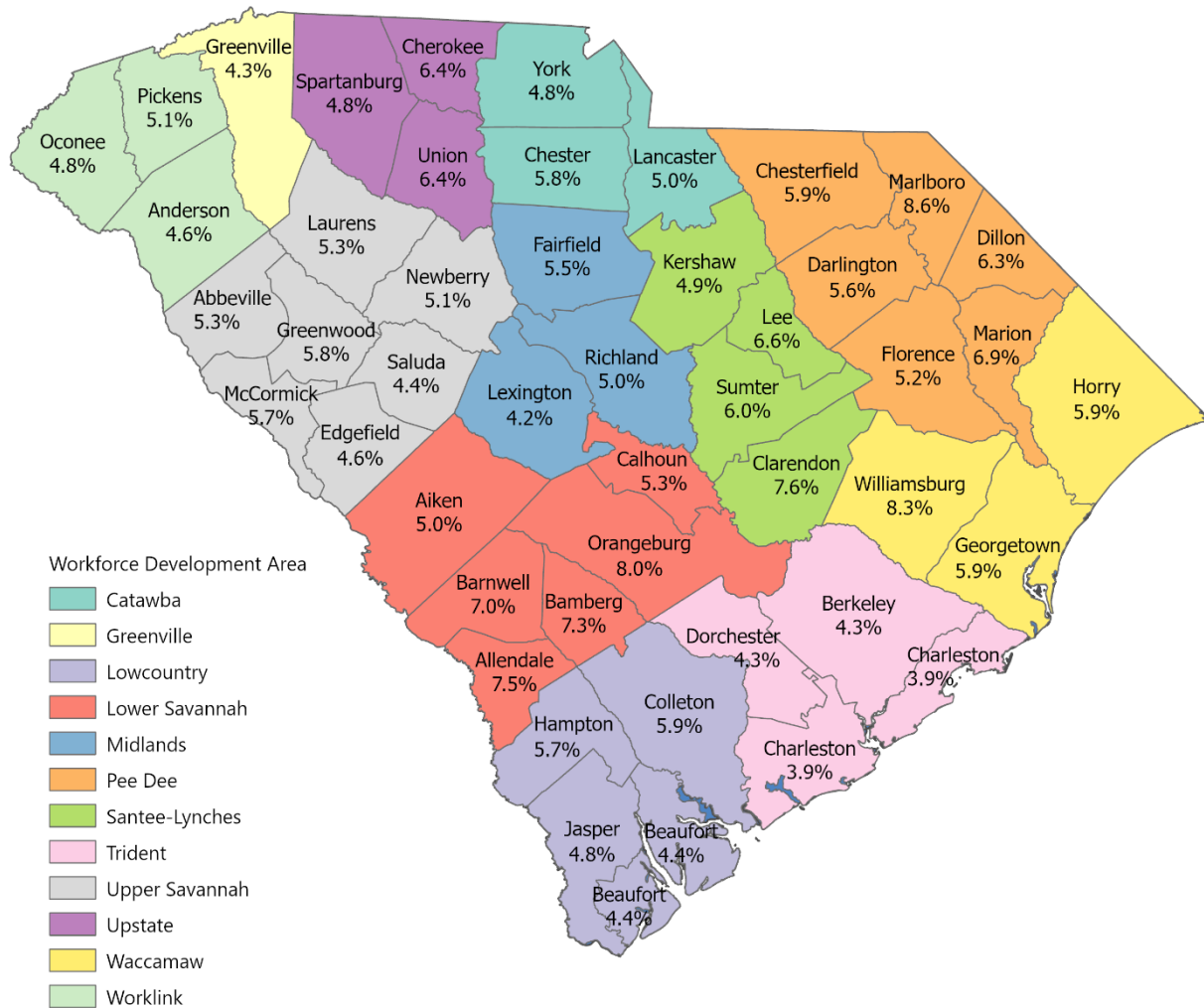
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 124,807.
- That is an increase of 4,222 people from the November estimate and an increase of 12,170 from the December 2024 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.8 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased to 4.4 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	4.1%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 0.7 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.7%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 0.8 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	5.3%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	4.6%	No Change	↑ 1.0 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	4.5%	↓ -0.2 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	5.9%	↑ 0.1 pts	↑ 1.1 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.9%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Sumter	Sumter	6.0%	↓ -0.2 pts	↑ 0.8 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)

AREA		December 2025				November 2025				December 2024			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↓	8,319	7,607	712	8.6	8,338	7,595	743	8.9	8,124	7,559	565	7.0
Williamsburg County	↓	11,271	10,338	933	8.3	11,251	10,288	963	8.6	10,014	9,376	638	6.4
Orangeburg County	↑	35,183	32,371	2,812	8.0	34,989	32,355	2,634	7.5	34,896	32,851	2,045	5.9
Clarendon County	↓	10,978	10,149	829	7.6	11,030	10,148	882	8.0	11,137	10,515	622	5.6
Allendale County	↑	2,623	2,427	196	7.5	2,620	2,427	193	7.4	2,564	2,422	142	5.5
Bamberg County	↑	5,479	5,078	401	7.3	5,464	5,069	395	7.2	5,358	5,056	302	5.6
Barnwell County	—	7,790	7,248	542	7.0	7,772	7,231	541	7.0	8,141	7,712	429	5.3
Marion County	↓	12,023	11,199	824	6.9	12,071	11,185	886	7.3	11,582	10,889	693	6.0
Lee County	↓	6,082	5,681	401	6.6	6,065	5,654	411	6.8	5,843	5,501	342	5.9
Cherokee County	—	23,725	22,199	1,526	6.4	23,602	22,093	1,509	6.4	22,753	21,532	1,221	5.4
Union County	↓	11,325	10,601	724	6.4	11,367	10,592	775	6.8	10,866	10,295	571	5.3
Dillon County	↓	12,047	11,283	764	6.3	12,025	11,221	804	6.7	12,127	11,406	721	5.9
Sumter County	↓	43,521	40,917	2,604	6.0	43,493	40,798	2,695	6.2	41,510	39,357	2,153	5.2
Chesterfield County	↓	18,227	17,144	1,083	5.9	18,242	17,136	1,106	6.1	18,074	17,274	800	4.4
Colleton County	—	15,501	14,593	908	5.9	15,524	14,607	917	5.9	15,637	14,955	682	4.4
Georgetown County	↓	27,734	26,085	1,649	5.9	27,770	26,059	1,711	6.2	27,342	26,087	1,255	4.6
Horry County	↑	176,841	166,469	10,372	5.9	177,900	167,606	10,294	5.8	167,624	159,656	7,968	4.8
Chester County	↓	14,899	14,039	860	5.8	14,931	14,001	930	6.2	14,221	13,449	772	5.4
Greenwood County	↓	30,004	28,261	1,743	5.8	29,810	28,062	1,748	5.9	28,770	27,348	1,422	4.9
Hampton County	—	7,901	7,449	452	5.7	7,881	7,430	451	5.7	7,631	7,348	283	3.7
McCormick County	↓	3,446	3,250	196	5.7	3,445	3,233	212	6.2	3,381	3,219	162	4.8
Darlington County	↓	29,544	27,895	1,649	5.6	29,485	27,804	1,681	5.7	28,148	26,844	1,304	4.6
Fairfield County	↓	10,195	9,638	557	5.5	10,199	9,616	583	5.7	9,889	9,391	498	5.0
Abbeville County	↓	10,420	9,863	557	5.3	10,475	9,908	567	5.4	10,378	9,951	427	4.1
Calhoun County	↑	6,754	6,395	359	5.3	6,738	6,388	350	5.2	6,500	6,225	275	4.2
Laurens County	↓	31,945	30,249	1,696	5.3	32,091	30,366	1,725	5.4	30,993	29,669	1,324	4.3
Florence County	↓	67,107	63,605	3,502	5.2	66,932	63,401	3,531	5.3	63,961	61,270	2,691	4.2
Newberry County	↑	18,864	17,910	954	5.1	18,834	17,917	917	4.9	18,168	17,441	727	4.0
Pickens County	↑	67,016	63,596	3,420	5.1	67,085	63,830	3,255	4.9	64,757	62,374	2,383	3.7
Aiken County	↓	78,302	74,417	3,885	5.0	77,937	73,949	3,988	5.1	75,308	72,329	2,979	4.0
Lancaster County	↓	52,090	49,508	2,582	5.0	52,008	49,313	2,695	5.2	49,539	47,415	2,124	4.3
Richland County	↓	216,190	205,405	10,785	5.0	216,013	205,048	10,965	5.1	208,951	200,262	8,689	4.2
Kershaw County	↓	33,251	31,624	1,627	4.9	33,278	31,607	1,671	5.0	32,131	30,880	1,251	3.9
Jasper County	↓	14,472	13,774	698	4.8	14,515	13,784	731	5.0	13,827	13,286	541	3.9
Oconee County	↓	36,898	35,137	1,761	4.8	37,206	35,382	1,824	4.9	35,638	34,299	1,339	3.8
Spartanburg County	↓	174,177	165,781	8,396	4.8	174,180	165,597	8,583	4.9	167,815	161,183	6,632	4.0
York County	↓	162,274	154,516	7,758	4.8	161,958	153,915	8,043	5.0	154,125	147,977	6,148	4.0
Anderson County	↓	102,785	98,055	4,730	4.6	103,217	98,412	4,805	4.7	99,750	96,154	3,596	3.6
Edgefield County	—	11,799	11,255	544	4.6	11,750	11,206	544	4.6	11,372	10,949	423	3.7
Beaufort County	↓	87,188	83,350	3,838	4.4	87,386	83,348	4,038	4.6	83,512	80,503	3,009	3.6
Saluda County	↓	8,828	8,438	390	4.4	8,884	8,473	411	4.6	8,550	8,267	283	3.3
Berkeley County	↓	132,679	126,984	5,695	4.3	132,866	126,964	5,902	4.4	127,757	123,219	4,538	3.6
Dorchester County	↓	89,109	85,278	3,831	4.3	89,158	85,267	3,891	4.4	85,803	82,810	2,993	3.5
Greenville County	↓	293,193	280,463	12,730	4.3	294,496	281,505	12,991	4.4	285,226	275,200	10,026	3.5
Lexington County	↓	160,840	154,020	6,820	4.2	160,757	153,801	6,956	4.3	155,568	150,317	5,251	3.4
Charleston County	↓	239,983	230,722	9,261	3.9	240,443	230,773	9,670	4.0	231,704	224,238	7,466	3.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,614,214	2,489,407	124,807	4.8	2,601,534	2,480,949	120,585	4.6	2,549,653	2,437,016	112,637	4.4

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 5,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,417,300.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Dec-25

Jobs by Industry	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025 to December 2025		December 2024 to December 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,417,300	2,423,200	2,383,700	↓ -5,900	↓ -0.2%	↑ 33,600	↑ 1.4%
Construction	122,100	121,600	121,400	↑ 500	↑ 0.4%	↑ 700	↑ 0.6%
Manufacturing	260,800	260,800	263,000	No Change	No Change	↓ -2,200	↓ -0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	449,000	454,400	448,800	↓ -5,400	↓ -1.2%	↑ 200	↑ 0.0%
Information	30,700	30,800	29,200	↓ -100	↓ -0.3%	↑ 1,500	↑ 5.1%
Financial Activities	128,100	127,300	126,200	↑ 800	↑ 0.6%	↑ 1,900	↑ 1.5%
Professional and Business Services	319,800	323,900	317,700	↓ -4,100	↓ -1.3%	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.7%
Education and Health Services	315,900	316,000	308,600	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 7,300	↑ 2.4%
Leisure and Hospitality	300,600	298,700	282,700	↑ 1,900	↑ 0.6%	↑ 17,900	↑ 6.3%
Other Services	93,800	93,800	91,700	No Change	No Change	↑ 2,100	↑ 2.3%
Government	391,900	391,400	389,900	↑ 500	↑ 0.1%	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 5,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,417,300.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Dec-25

Area	December 2025	November 2025	December 2024	November 2025 to December 2025		December 2024 to December 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,417,300	2,423,200	2,383,700	↓ -5,900	↓ -0.2%	↑ 33,600	↑ 1.4%
Charleston/North Charleston	435,400	435,100	428,800	↑ 300	↑ 0.1%	↑ 6,600	↑ 1.5%
Columbia	439,500	439,500	435,700	No Change	No Change	↑ 3,800	↑ 0.9%
Florence	99,300	99,400	97,100	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 2,200	↑ 2.3%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	477,600	478,500	476,100	↓ -900	↓ -0.2%	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.3%
Hilton Head-Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	91,500	91,500	89,600	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,900	↑ 2.1%
Myrtle Beach	161,800	161,800	156,300	No Change	No Change	↑ 5,500	↑ 3.5%
Spartanburg	181,900	182,600	179,500	↓ -700	↓ -0.4%	↑ 2,400	↑ 1.3%
Sumter	38,900	39,100	38,100	↓ -200	↓ -0.5%	↑ 800	↑ 2.1%

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.