

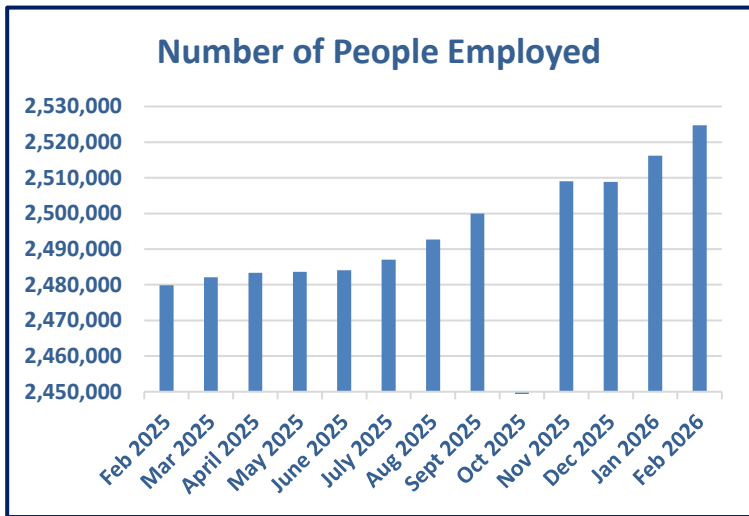


For Release
April 22, 2026

South Carolina’s Employment Situation: February 2026

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:

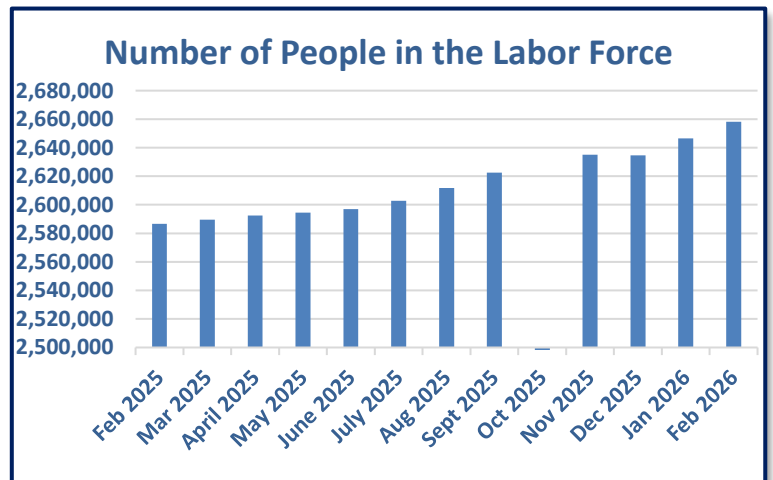
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,524,723.
- That is an increase of 8,515 people over the January 2026 estimate.
- That is an increase of 44,884 people over the February 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,658,806 while the labor force participation rate increased to 58.9 percent.
- That is an increase of 11,618 people over the January 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 71,382 individuals over the February 2025 estimate.

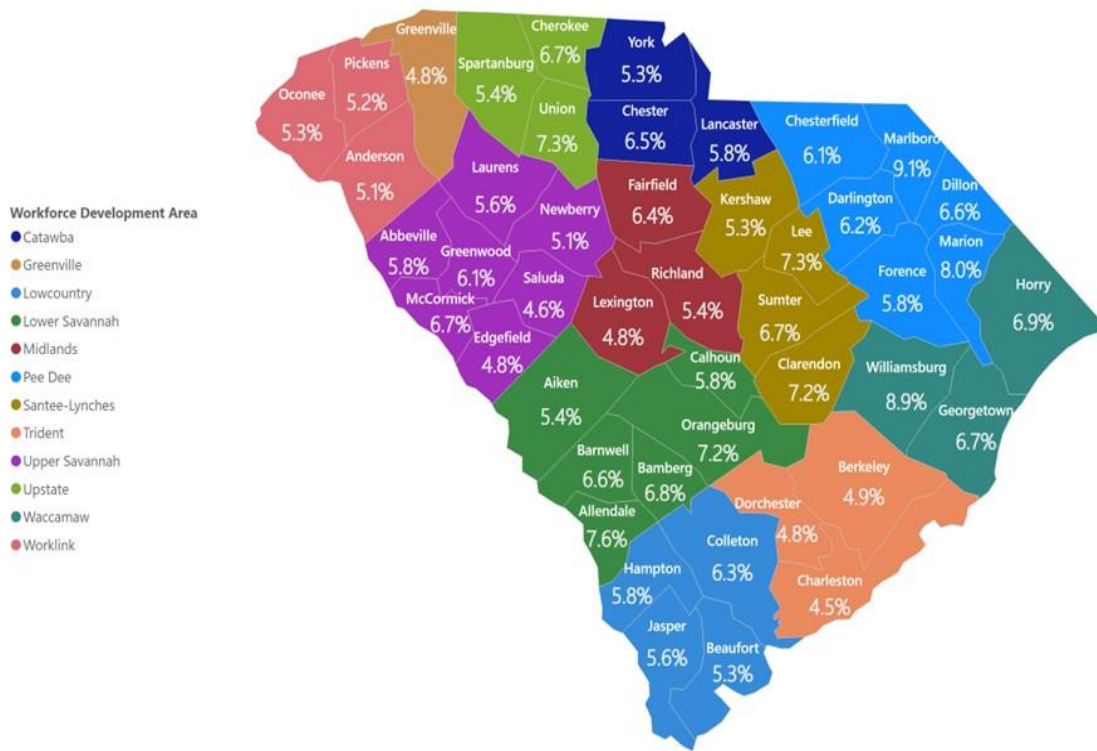
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 133,363.
- That is an increase of 3,103 people from the January estimate and a significant increase of 26,498 from the February 2025 estimate.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.0 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 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	4.7%	↑ 0.1 pts	↑ 0.8 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	5.2%	No Change	↑ 0.9 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	5.9%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 1.1 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	5.0%	No Change	↑ 0.9 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	5.3%	No Change	↑ 1.0 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	6.9%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 1.2 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	5.5%	↓ -0.1 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Sumter	Sumter	6.7%	No Change	↑ 1.2 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		February 2026				January 2026				February 2025 **			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↓	8,737	7,942	795	9.1	8,621	7,810	811	9.4	8,158	7,556	602	7.4
Williamsburg County	↓	11,122	10,129	993	8.9	10,838	9,803	1,035	9.5	10,458	9,668	790	7.6
Marion County	-	12,583	11,577	1,006	8.0	12,267	11,285	982	8.0	11,923	11,177	746	6.3
Allendale County	↓	2,972	2,745	227	7.6	2,722	2,494	228	8.4	2,810	2,647	163	5.8
Lee County	↓	6,177	5,725	452	7.3	6,052	5,591	461	7.6	5,991	5,619	372	6.2
Union County	↑	11,292	10,471	821	7.3	11,052	10,253	799	7.2	11,078	10,446	632	5.7
Clarendon County	↓	12,557	11,659	898	7.2	11,795	10,874	921	7.8	11,969	11,257	712	5.9
Orangeburg County	↓	36,964	34,314	2,650	7.2	35,875	33,059	2,816	7.8	35,853	33,673	2,180	6.1
Horry County	↓	179,060	166,753	12,307	6.9	177,997	165,508	12,489	7.0	169,203	159,610	9,593	5.7
Bamberg County	↓	5,713	5,322	391	6.8	5,508	5,114	394	7.2	5,513	5,199	314	5.7
Cherokee County	↓	24,529	22,882	1,647	6.7	24,173	22,462	1,711	7.1	22,890	21,593	1,297	5.7
Georgetown County	↓	28,618	26,703	1,915	6.7	28,070	26,159	1,911	6.8	28,470	26,740	1,730	6.1
McCormick County	↑	3,680	3,432	248	6.7	3,519	3,291	228	6.5	3,516	3,329	187	5.3
Sumter County	-	44,045	41,112	2,933	6.7	43,215	40,336	2,879	6.7	42,707	40,360	2,347	5.5
Barnwell County	↓	8,664	8,089	575	6.6	8,287	7,693	594	7.2	8,548	8,057	491	5.7
Dillon County	↓	12,863	12,008	855	6.6	12,277	11,409	868	7.1	12,772	11,994	778	6.1
Chester County	↓	14,960	13,990	970	6.5	14,513	13,527	986	6.8	14,735	13,894	841	5.7
Fairfield County	↑	10,127	9,475	652	6.4	10,104	9,470	634	6.3	9,864	9,325	539	5.5
Colleton County	↓	16,320	15,291	1,029	6.3	15,945	14,923	1,022	6.4	15,944	15,133	811	5.1
Darlington County	↓	29,449	27,629	1,820	6.2	29,106	27,264	1,842	6.3	28,677	27,278	1,399	4.9
Chesterfield County	↓	19,893	18,682	1,211	6.1	18,731	17,511	1,220	6.5	19,349	18,418	931	4.8
Greenwood County	↓	30,671	28,811	1,860	6.1	30,364	28,480	1,884	6.2	28,772	27,192	1,580	5.5
Abbeville County	↓	10,963	10,332	631	5.8	10,663	10,037	626	5.9	10,605	10,110	495	4.7
Calhoun County	↓	6,974	6,571	403	5.8	6,727	6,333	394	5.9	6,726	6,418	308	4.6
Florence County	↓	66,983	63,098	3,885	5.8	66,509	62,576	3,933	5.9	65,007	61,952	3,055	4.7
Hampton County	↓	8,562	8,066	496	5.8	7,918	7,410	508	6.4	8,275	7,933	342	4.1
Lancaster County	-	52,332	49,280	3,052	5.8	51,985	48,975	3,010	5.8	49,980	47,615	2,365	4.7
Jasper County	↓	15,630	14,761	869	5.6	15,095	14,242	853	5.7	14,324	13,690	634	4.4
Laurens County	↓	33,216	31,341	1,875	5.6	32,958	31,046	1,912	5.8	31,279	29,806	1,473	4.7
Aiken County	-	82,495	78,048	4,447	5.4	81,121	76,739	4,382	5.4	76,864	73,374	3,490	4.5
Richland County	↓	218,381	206,520	11,861	5.4	217,165	205,144	12,021	5.5	209,785	200,153	9,632	4.6
Spartanburg County	↓	176,333	166,743	9,590	5.4	175,462	165,767	9,695	5.5	168,711	161,090	7,621	4.5
Beaufort County	↑	87,610	82,965	4,645	5.3	86,845	82,295	4,550	5.2	84,273	80,633	3,640	4.3
Kershaw County	↓	34,628	32,794	1,834	5.3	33,880	32,055	1,825	5.4	32,862	31,406	1,456	4.4
Oconee County	↓	38,926	36,879	2,047	5.3	38,245	36,186	2,059	5.4	36,428	34,836	1,592	4.4
York County	↓	160,090	151,574	8,516	5.3	159,071	150,470	8,601	5.4	155,627	148,762	6,865	4.1
Pickens County	↓	68,874	65,282	3,592	5.2	68,622	64,982	3,640	5.3	65,089	62,338	2,751	4.2
Anderson County	-	105,973	100,590	5,383	5.1	105,519	100,105	5,414	5.1	100,262	96,117	4,145	4.1
Newberry County	↓	19,853	18,850	1,003	5.1	19,191	18,146	1,045	5.4	18,821	17,997	824	4.4
Berkeley County	-	135,906	129,258	6,648	4.9	135,221	128,660	6,561	4.9	128,722	123,559	5,163	4.0
Dorchester County	-	90,200	85,880	4,320	4.8	90,178	85,856	4,322	4.8	86,085	82,678	3,407	4.0
Edgefield County	↓	13,580	12,928	652	4.8	12,890	12,260	630	4.9	12,060	11,552	508	4.2
Greenville County	-	302,531	288,034	14,497	4.8	301,851	287,425	14,426	4.8	285,817	274,359	11,458	4.0
Lexington County	↑	162,765	155,023	7,742	4.8	161,762	154,086	7,676	4.7	156,319	150,183	6,136	3.9
Saluda County	↓	9,935	9,481	454	4.6	9,002	8,549	453	5.0	9,525	9,160	365	3.8
Charleston County	↑	240,912	230,135	10,777	4.5	240,237	229,619	10,618	4.4	233,097	224,386	8,711	3.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,658,086	2,524,723	133,363	5.0	2,646,468	2,516,208	130,260	4.9	2,586,704	2,479,839	106,865	4.1

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

**2025 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on May 19th.

↑ 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 5,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,398,100.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Feb-26

Jobs by Industry	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026 to February 2026		February 2025 to February 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,398,100	2,403,200	2,377,900	↓ -5,100	↓ -0.2%	↑ 20,200	↑ 0.8%
Construction	125,800	126,000	121,900	↓ -200	↓ -0.2%	↑ 3,900	↑ 3.2%
Manufacturing	264,200	261,600	262,100	↑ 2,600	↑ 1.0%	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	443,500	445,900	445,200	↓ -2,400	↓ -0.5%	↓ -1,700	↓ -0.4%
Information	26,600	27,100	27,500	↓ -500	↓ -1.8%	↓ -900	↓ -3.3%
Financial Activities	123,700	123,800	122,400	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.1%
Professional and Business Services	311,200	311,200	316,300	No Change	No Change	↓ -5,100	↓ -1.6%
Education and Health Services	320,500	320,800	311,800	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 8,700	↑ 2.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	285,700	288,700	281,900	↓ -3,000	↓ -1.0%	↑ 3,800	↑ 1.3%
Other Services	93,000	92,700	90,300	↑ 300	↑ 0.3%	↑ 2,700	↑ 3.0%
Government	399,100	400,600	393,800	↓ -1,500	↓ -0.4%	↑ 5,300	↑ 1.3%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 5,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,398,100.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Feb-26

Area	February 2026	January 2026	February 2025	January 2026 to February 2026		February 2025 to February 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,398,100	2,403,200	2,377,900	↓ -5,100	↓ -0.2%	↑ 20,200	↑ 0.8%
Charleston/North Charleston	429,800	432,000	431,500	↓ -2,200	↓ -0.5%	↓ -1,700	↓ -0.4%
Columbia	434,700	436,100	434,200	↓ -1,400	↓ -0.3%	↑ 500	↑ 0.1%
Florence	96,300	96,300	96,400	No change	No Change	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	482,300	484,600	476,800	↓ -2,300	↓ -0.5%	↑ 5,500	↑ 1.2%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	89,600	89,800	88,500	↓ -200	↓ -0.2%	↑ 1,100	↑ 1.2%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	158,700	158,900	155,900	↓ -200	↓ -0.1%	↑ 2,800	↑ 1.8%
Spartanburg	178,400	178,700	177,900	↓ -300	↓ -0.2%	↑ 500	↑ 0.3%
Sumter	37,700	37,900	37,900	↓ -200	↓ -0.5%	↓ -200	↓ -0.5%

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.