

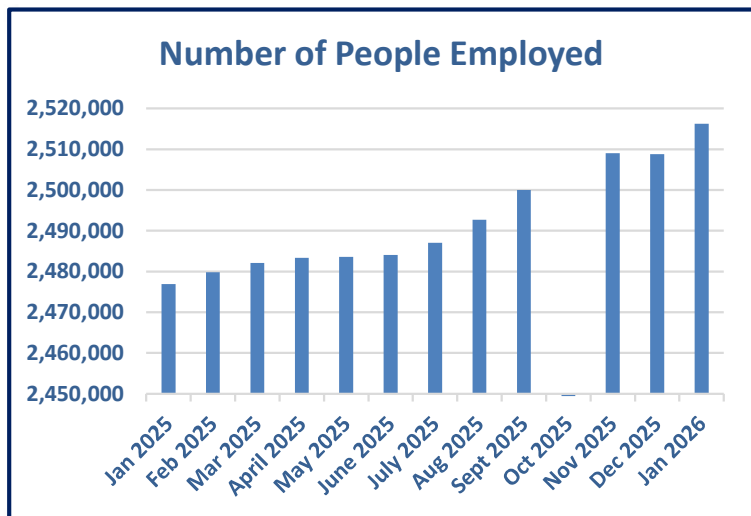


For Release
April 8, 2026

South Carolina’s Employment Situation: January 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:

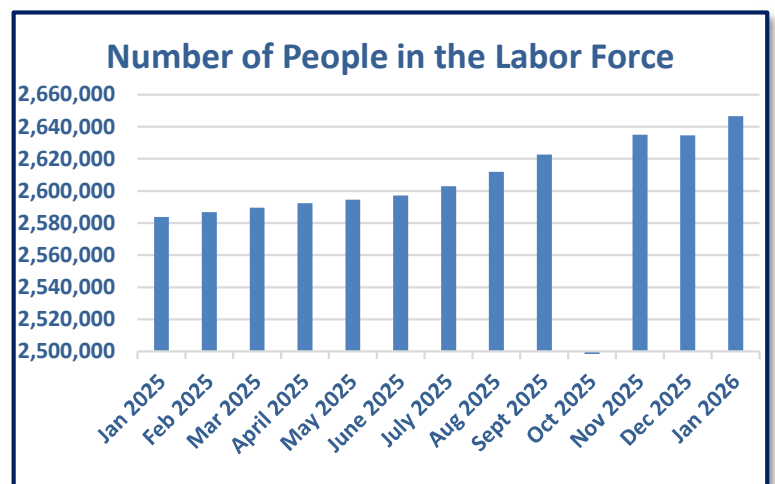
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,516,227.
- That is an increase of 7,402 people over the December 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 39,281 people over the January 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,646,507 while the labor force participation rate increased to 58.7 percent.
- That is an increase of 11,965 people over the December 2025 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 62,659 individuals over the January 2025 estimate.

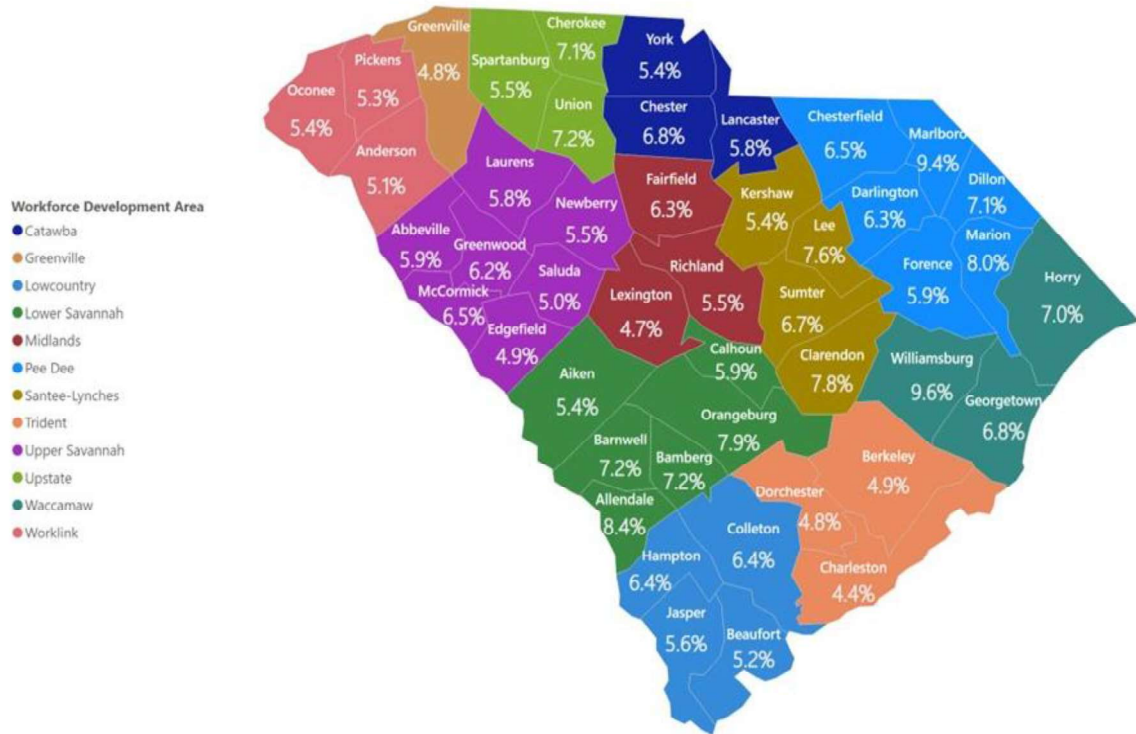
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 130,280.
- That is an increase of 4,563 people from the December estimate and a significant increase of 23,378 from the January 2025 estimate.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.9 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased 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	4.6%	↑ 0.5 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	5.2%	↑ 0.5 pts	↑ 1.1 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	6.0%	↑ 0.7 pts	↑ 1.5 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	5.0%	↑ 0.4 pts	↑ 1.2 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	5.3%	↑ 0.8 pts	↑ 1.3 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	7.0%	↑ 1.1 pts	↑ 1.5 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	5.6%	↑ 0.7 pts	↑ 1.3 pts
Sumter	Sumter	6.7%	↑ 0.7 pts	↑ 1.4 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		January 2026				December 2025 **				January 2025 **			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,835	9,799	1,036	9.6	11,271	10,338	933	8.3	10,156	9,405	751	7.4
Marlboro County	↑	8,617	7,806	811	9.4	8,319	7,607	712	8.6	8,080	7,512	568	7.0
Allendale County	↑	2,722	2,493	229	8.4	2,623	2,427	196	7.5	2,574	2,419	155	6.0
Marion County	↑	12,264	11,281	983	8.0	12,023	11,199	824	6.9	11,662	10,954	708	6.1
Orangeburg County	↓	35,865	33,046	2,819	7.9	35,183	32,371	2,812	8.0	34,899	32,795	2,104	6.0
Clarendon County	↑	11,791	10,869	922	7.8	10,978	10,149	829	7.6	11,185	10,534	651	5.8
Lee County	↑	6,053	5,592	461	7.6	6,082	5,681	401	6.6	5,854	5,507	347	5.9
Bamberg County	↓	5,505	5,111	394	7.2	5,479	5,078	401	7.3	5,361	5,052	309	5.8
Barnwell County	↑	8,285	7,691	594	7.2	7,790	7,248	542	7.0	8,194	7,725	469	5.7
Union County	↑	11,047	10,247	800	7.2	11,325	10,601	724	6.4	10,846	10,259	587	5.4
Cherokee County	↑	24,160	22,448	1,712	7.1	23,725	22,199	1,526	6.4	22,719	21,402	1,317	5.8
Dillon County	↑	12,272	11,404	868	7.1	12,047	11,283	764	6.3	12,184	11,466	718	5.9
Horry County	↑	177,987	165,491	12,496	7.0	176,841	166,469	10,372	5.9	167,723	158,525	9,198	5.5
Chester County	↑	14,519	13,532	987	6.8	14,899	14,039	860	5.8	14,253	13,483	770	5.4
Georgetown County	↑	28,059	26,147	1,912	6.8	27,734	26,085	1,649	5.9	27,727	26,161	1,566	5.6
Sumter County	↑	43,219	40,337	2,882	6.7	43,521	40,917	2,604	6.0	41,810	39,606	2,204	5.3
Chesterfield County	↑	18,726	17,505	1,221	6.5	18,227	17,144	1,083	5.9	18,221	17,361	860	4.7
McCormick County	↑	3,518	3,289	229	6.5	3,446	3,250	196	5.7	3,378	3,207	171	5.1
Colleton County	↑	15,941	14,918	1,023	6.4	15,501	14,593	908	5.9	15,589	14,855	734	4.7
Hampton County	↑	7,918	7,409	509	6.4	7,901	7,449	452	5.7	7,632	7,339	293	3.8
Darlington County	↑	29,113	27,269	1,844	6.3	29,544	27,895	1,649	5.6	28,272	26,921	1,351	4.8
Fairfield County	↑	10,108	9,474	634	6.3	10,195	9,638	557	5.5	9,866	9,352	514	5.2
Greenwood County	↑	30,350	28,466	1,884	6.2	30,004	28,261	1,743	5.8	28,579	27,117	1,462	5.1
Abbeville County	↑	10,661	10,034	627	5.9	10,420	9,863	557	5.3	10,356	9,911	445	4.3
Calhoun County	↑	6,730	6,336	394	5.9	6,754	6,395	359	5.3	6,500	6,205	295	4.5
Florence County	↑	66,524	62,587	3,937	5.9	67,107	63,605	3,502	5.2	64,242	61,425	2,817	4.4
Lancaster County	↑	52,004	48,993	3,011	5.8	52,090	49,508	2,582	5.0	49,709	47,519	2,190	4.4
Laurens County	↑	32,955	31,041	1,914	5.8	31,945	30,249	1,696	5.3	30,971	29,559	1,412	4.6
Jasper County	↑	15,107	14,254	853	5.6	14,472	13,774	698	4.8	13,837	13,254	583	4.2
Newberry County	↑	19,186	18,140	1,046	5.5	18,864	17,910	954	5.1	18,237	17,440	797	4.4
Richland County	↑	217,270	205,242	12,028	5.5	216,190	205,405	10,785	5.0	208,512	199,433	9,079	4.4
Spartanburg County	↑	175,366	165,666	9,700	5.5	174,177	165,781	8,396	4.8	167,735	160,556	7,179	4.3
Aiken County	↑	81,128	76,742	4,386	5.4	78,302	74,417	3,885	5.0	75,626	72,416	3,210	4.2
Kershaw County	↑	33,897	32,070	1,827	5.4	33,251	31,624	1,627	4.9	32,081	30,750	1,331	4.1
Oconee County	↑	38,230	36,169	2,061	5.4	36,898	35,137	1,761	4.8	35,768	34,304	1,464	4.1
York County	↑	159,137	150,526	8,611	5.4	162,274	154,516	7,758	4.8	154,702	148,300	6,402	4.1
Pickens County	↑	68,616	64,973	3,643	5.3	67,016	63,596	3,420	5.1	64,617	62,137	2,480	3.8
Beaufort County	↑	86,921	82,369	4,552	5.2	87,188	83,350	3,838	4.4	83,616	80,259	3,357	4.0
Anderson County	↑	105,509	100,090	5,419	5.1	102,785	98,055	4,730	4.6	99,637	95,793	3,844	3.9
Saluda County	↑	9,005	8,552	453	5.0	8,828	8,438	390	4.4	8,552	8,238	314	3.7
Berkeley County	↑	135,238	128,671	6,567	4.9	132,679	126,984	5,695	4.3	127,807	123,060	4,747	3.7
Edgefield County	↑	12,889	12,259	630	4.9	11,799	11,255	544	4.6	11,425	10,964	461	4.0
Dorchester County	↑	90,188	85,863	4,325	4.8	89,109	85,278	3,831	4.3	85,795	82,683	3,112	3.6
Greenville County	↑	301,821	287,382	14,439	4.8	293,193	280,463	12,730	4.3	284,679	274,119	10,560	3.7
Lexington County	↑	161,834	154,157	7,677	4.7	160,840	154,020	6,820	4.2	155,239	149,662	5,577	3.6
Charleston County	↑	240,265	229,637	10,628	4.4	239,983	230,722	9,261	3.9	231,880	223,861	8,019	3.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,646,507	2,516,227	130,280	4.9	2,634,542	2,508,825	125,717	4.8	2,583,848	2,476,946	106,902	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 increase of 5,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,405,500.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Jan-26

Jobs by Industry	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025 to January 2026		January 2025 to January 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,405,500	2,400,100	2,374,000	↑ 5,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 31,500	↑ 1.3%
Construction	126,100	125,200	121,100	↑ 900	↑ 0.7%	↑ 5,000	↑ 4.1%
Manufacturing	261,800	261,900	262,500	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↓ -700	↓ -0.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	446,300	444,600	443,900	↑ 1,700	↑ 0.4%	↑ 2,400	↑ 0.5%
Information	27,100	27,600	27,700	↓ -500	↓ -1.8%	↓ -600	↓ -2.2%
Financial Activities	123,700	123,600	122,300	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,400	↑ 1.1%
Professional and Business Services	311,800	312,500	316,100	↓ -700	↓ -0.2%	↓ -4,300	↓ -1.4%
Education and Health Services	321,700	320,300	309,900	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.4%	↑ 11,800	↑ 3.8%
Leisure and Hospitality	288,800	288,200	282,000	↑ 600	↑ 0.2%	↑ 6,800	↑ 2.4%
Other Services	92,600	92,600	90,300	No Change	No Change	↑ 2,300	↑ 2.5%
Government	400,800	398,800	393,500	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%	↑ 7,300	↑ 1.9%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 5,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,405,500.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Jan-26

Area	January 2026	December 2025	January 2025	December 2025 to January 2026		January 2025 to January 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,405,500	2,400,100	2,374,000	↑ 5,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 31,500	↑ 1.3%
Charleston/North Charleston	433,000	432,200	430,700	↑ 800	↑ 0.2%	↑ 2,300	↑ 0.5%
Columbia	436,700	436,800	433,600	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 3,100	↑ 0.7%
Florence	96,400	96,500	96,100	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 300	↑ 0.3%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	485,000	482,500	476,400	↑ 2,500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 8,600	↑ 1.8%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	90,000	90,000	88,200	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,800	↑ 2.0%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	159,000	158,900	155,900	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 3,100	↑ 2.0%
Spartanburg	178,600	178,100	176,900	↑ 500	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1,700	↑ 1.0%
Sumter	37,900	38,000	37,800	↓ -100	↓ -0.3%	↑ 100	↑ 0.3%

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.