SC Department of Employment and Workforce
NEWS RELEASE

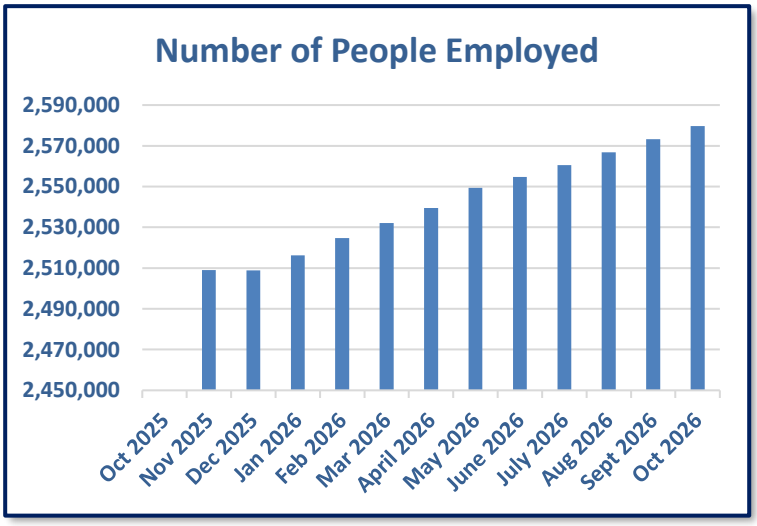
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For Release
November 20, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: October 2026

Household Survey: Local Area Unemployment Statistics

There are no household survey estimates for October 2025. Household survey data, which provide the primary inputs to the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program, were not collected for October 2025 due to the federal government shutdown and were not collected retroactively. Therefore, this release does not include the typical analysis of over-the-year unemployment rate changes from October 2025 to October 2026.



Employment:

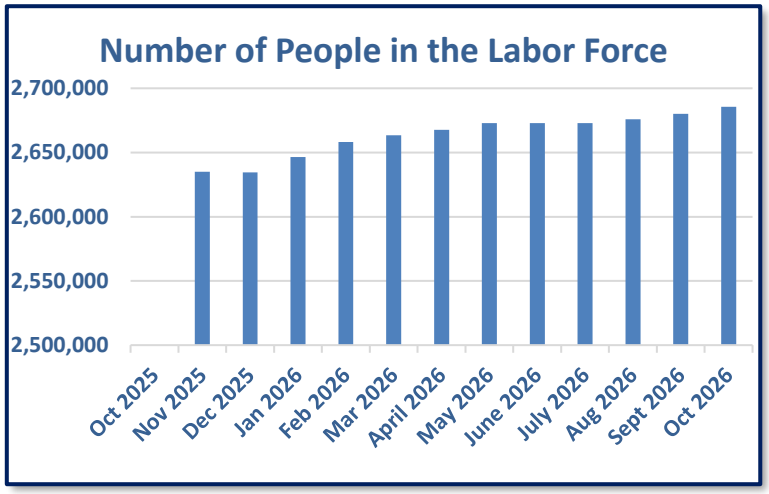
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,579,612.
- That is an increase of 6,283 people over the September 2026 estimate.

Labor Force:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,685,544 while the labor force participation rate increased to 58.9 percent.
- That is an increase of 5,536 people over the September 2026 estimate.

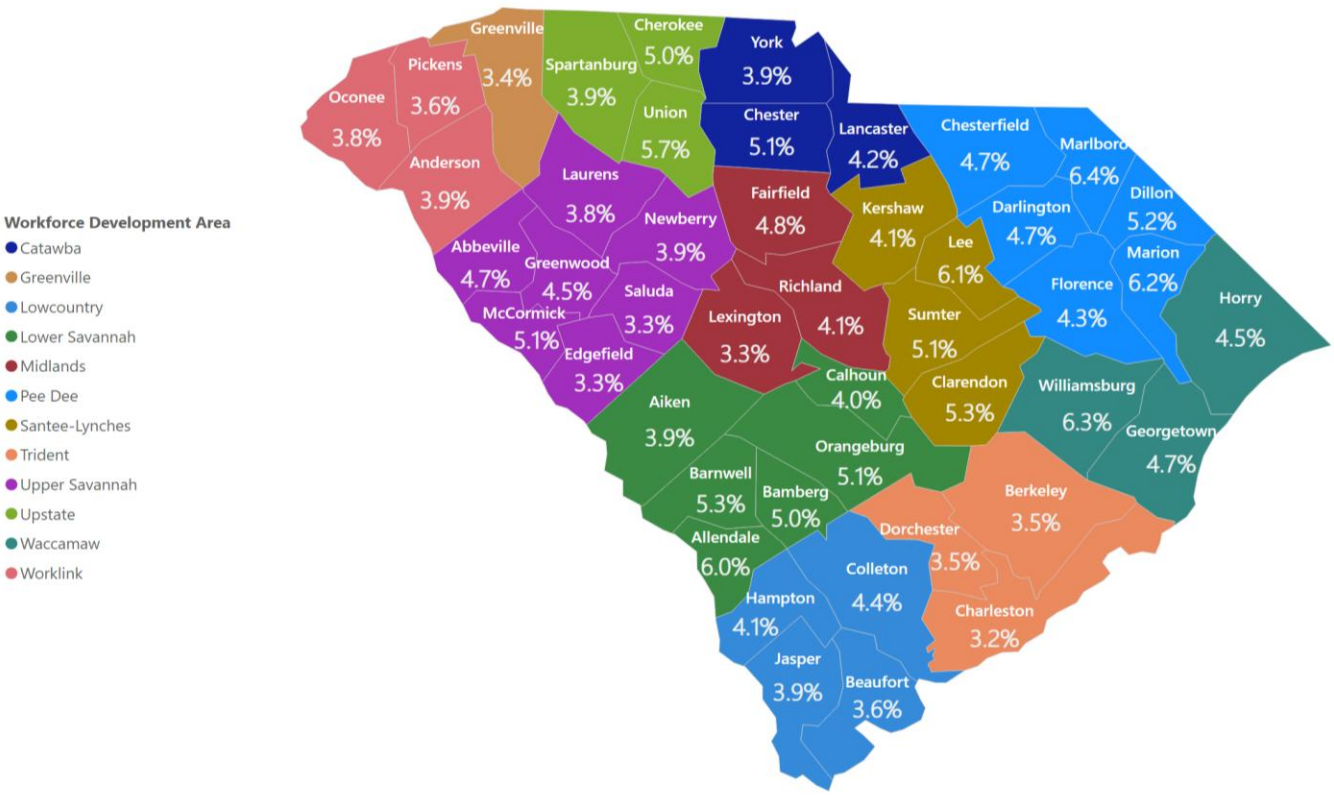
Unemployed:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 105,932.
- That is a decrease of 747 people from the September estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 3.9 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 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	3.3%	↑ 0.1 pts	-
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.8%	↑ 0.2 pts	-
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.4%	↑ 0.2 pts	-
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.6%	↑ 0.3 pts	-
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	3.7%	↑ 0.2 pts	-
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	4.5%	↑ 0.3 pts	-
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.0%	↑ 0.2 pts	-
Sumter	Sumter	5.1%	↑ 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)

		October 2026				September 2026				***October 2025 Not Available			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
AREA		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↑	8,399	7,859	540	6.4	8,317	7,795	522	6.3	-	-	-	-
Williamsburg County	–	10,564	9,894	670	6.3	10,637	9,966	671	6.3	-	-	-	-
Marion County	↑	11,462	10,755	707	6.2	11,515	10,827	688	6.0	-	-	-	-
Lee County	↑	6,132	5,759	373	6.1	6,113	5,759	354	5.8	-	-	-	-
Allendale County	↑	2,732	2,567	165	6.0	2,729	2,568	161	5.9	-	-	-	-
Union County	↓	11,286	10,639	647	5.7	11,268	10,589	679	6.0	-	-	-	-
Barnwell County	↑	8,262	7,825	437	5.3	8,224	7,807	417	5.1	-	-	-	-
Clarendon County	↑	12,128	11,486	642	5.3	12,121	11,500	621	5.1	-	-	-	-
Dillon County	↑	12,290	11,649	641	5.2	12,286	11,661	625	5.1	-	-	-	-
Chester County	↑	14,878	14,117	761	5.1	14,751	14,023	728	4.9	-	-	-	-
McCormick County	–	3,613	3,427	186	5.1	3,602	3,419	183	5.1	-	-	-	-
Orangeburg County	↑	36,101	34,246	1,855	5.1	35,930	34,212	1,718	4.8	-	-	-	-
Sumter County	↑	43,100	40,914	2,186	5.1	42,869	40,821	2,048	4.8	-	-	-	-
Bamberg County	↑	5,504	5,228	276	5.0	5,463	5,209	254	4.6	-	-	-	-
Cherokee County	↓	23,834	22,650	1,184	5.0	23,943	22,591	1,352	5.6	-	-	-	-
Fairfield County	↓	10,264	9,769	495	4.8	10,219	9,714	505	4.9	-	-	-	-
Abbeville County	↑	11,038	10,519	519	4.7	10,916	10,418	498	4.6	-	-	-	-
Chesterfield County	↑	19,035	18,136	899	4.7	19,010	18,153	857	4.5	-	-	-	-
Darlington County	↑	29,378	28,010	1,368	4.7	29,268	27,964	1,304	4.5	-	-	-	-
Georgetown County	↑	27,944	26,626	1,318	4.7	28,028	26,782	1,246	4.4	-	-	-	-
Greenwood County	↑	30,538	29,170	1,368	4.5	30,351	29,088	1,263	4.2	-	-	-	-
Horry County	↑	184,326	175,972	8,354	4.5	185,158	177,466	7,692	4.2	-	-	-	-
Colleton County	↑	15,884	15,187	697	4.4	15,769	15,121	648	4.1	-	-	-	-
Florence County	↑	67,035	64,162	2,873	4.3	66,750	64,015	2,735	4.1	-	-	-	-
Lancaster County	↑	53,033	50,831	2,202	4.2	52,505	50,412	2,093	4.0	-	-	-	-
Hampton County	↑	7,797	7,479	318	4.1	7,784	7,472	312	4.0	-	-	-	-
Kershaw County	↑	34,556	33,141	1,415	4.1	34,291	32,977	1,314	3.8	-	-	-	-
Richland County	↑	220,734	211,753	8,981	4.1	219,051	210,620	8,431	3.8	-	-	-	-
Calhoun County	↑	6,864	6,589	275	4.0	6,836	6,570	266	3.9	-	-	-	-
Aiken County	↑	81,405	78,235	3,170	3.9	80,880	77,968	2,912	3.6	-	-	-	-
Anderson County	↑	107,955	103,709	4,246	3.9	107,440	103,436	4,004	3.7	-	-	-	-
Jasper County	↑	15,404	14,797	607	3.9	15,343	14,771	572	3.7	-	-	-	-
Newberry County	↑	19,951	19,166	785	3.9	19,836	19,125	711	3.6	-	-	-	-
Spartanburg County	↑	178,168	171,266	6,902	3.9	176,739	170,230	6,509	3.7	-	-	-	-
York County	↑	162,526	156,219	6,307	3.9	160,879	154,943	5,936	3.7	-	-	-	-
Laurens County	↑	33,451	32,184	1,267	3.8	33,314	32,103	1,211	3.6	-	-	-	-
Oconee County	↑	38,278	36,823	1,455	3.8	38,054	36,712	1,342	3.5	-	-	-	-
Beaufort County	↑	88,072	84,879	3,193	3.6	87,574	84,550	3,024	3.5	-	-	-	-
Pickens County	↑	69,846	67,305	2,541	3.6	69,352	67,121	2,231	3.2	-	-	-	-
Berkeley County	↑	138,132	133,309	4,823	3.5	137,959	133,394	4,565	3.3	-	-	-	-
Dorchester County	↑	92,002	88,809	3,193	3.5	91,897	88,818	3,079	3.4	-	-	-	-
Greenville County	↑	307,786	297,386	10,400	3.4	306,174	296,478	9,696	3.2	-	-	-	-
Edgefield County	↑	13,020	12,590	430	3.3	12,993	12,571	422	3.2	-	-	-	-
Lexington County	↑	164,348	158,852	5,496	3.3	163,094	157,937	5,157	3.2	-	-	-	-
Saluda County	↑	9,269	8,961	308	3.3	9,240	8,948	292	3.2	-	-	-	-
Charleston County	↑	245,129	237,393	7,736	3.2	244,757	237,357	7,400	3.0	-	-	-	-
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,685,544	2,579,612	105,932	3.9	2,680,008	2,573,329	106,679	4.0				

Current month's estimates are preliminary. All data are subject to revision.
***October 2025 data was not collected due to the Federal Government Shutdown

↑ 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 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,439,600.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Oct-26

				September 2026 to October 2026		October 2025 to October 2026	
	October	September	October	#	%	#	%
Jobs by Industry	2026	2026	2025	Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,439,600	2,441,500	2,395,300	↓ -1,900	↓ -0.1%	↑ 44,300	↑ 1.8%
Construction	129,000	130,000	123,900	↓ -1,000	↓ -0.8%	↑ 5,100	↑ 4.1%
Manufacturing	266,900	266,200	262,900	↑ 700	↑ 0.3%	↑ 4,000	↑ 1.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	448,600	448,200	444,300	↑ 400	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,300	↑ 1.0%
Information	25,700	25,300	27,700	↑ 400	↑ 1.6%	↓ -2,000	↓ -7.2%
Financial Activities	122,700	123,900	123,000	↓ -1,200	↓ -1.0%	↓ -300	↓ -0.2%
Professional and Business Services	321,900	321,000	313,700	↑ 900	↑ 0.3%	↑ 8,200	↑ 2.6%
Education and Health Services	327,200	327,900	318,800	↓ -700	↓ -0.2%	↑ 8,400	↑ 2.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	298,500	298,800	286,200	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 12,300	↑ 4.3%
Other Services	94,800	94,800	92,600	**No Change**	**No Change**	↑ 2,200	↑ 2.4%
Government	399,500	400,600	397,500	↓ -1,100	↓ -0.3%	↑ 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 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,439,600.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Oct-26

				September 2026 to October 2026		October 2025 to October 2026	
	October	September	October	#	%	#	%
Area	2026	2026	2025	Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,439,600	2,441,500	2,395,300	↓ -1,900	↓ -0.1%	↑ 44,300	↑ 1.8%
Charleston/North Charleston	438,100	440,600	431,300	↓ -2,500	↓ -0.6%	↑ 6,800	↑ 1.6%
Columbia	441,000	440,700	436,200	↑ 300	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,800	↑ 1.1%
Florence	96,900	97,200	96,600	↓ -300	↓ -0.3%	↑ 300	↑ 0.3%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	492,300	492,500	483,400	↓ -200	↓ 0.0%	↑ 8,900	↑ 1.8%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	90,600	90,700	90,000	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 600	↑ 0.7%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	162,300	162,800	158,200	↓ -500	↓ -0.3%	↑ 4,100	↑ 2.6%
Spartanburg	181,900	181,200	178,500	↑ 700	↑ 0.4%	↑ 3,400	↑ 1.9%
Sumter	37,600	37,700	38,500	↓ -100	↓ -0.3%	↓ -900	↓ -2.3%

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.