



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

### Media Contact:

communications@dew.sc.gov

For Release

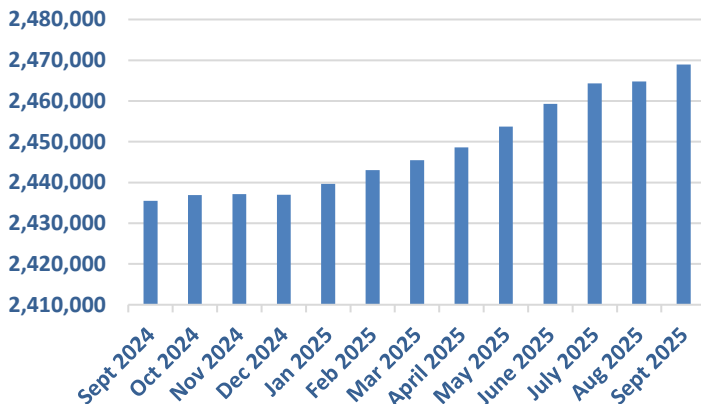
December 11, 2025

## South Carolina's Employment Situation: September 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.

#### Number of People Employed



### EMPLOYMENT:

- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,468,922.
- That is an increase of 4,102 people over the August 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 33,391 people over the September 2024 estimate.

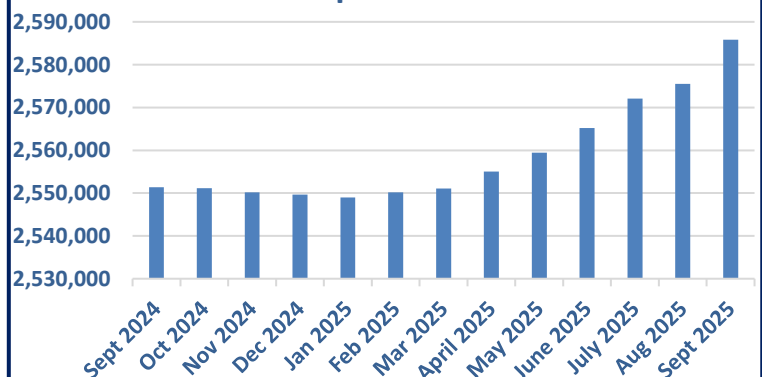
### LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,582,851 while the labor force participation rate increased to 57.7 percent.
- That is an increase of 7,320 people over the August 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 31,447 individuals over the September 2024 estimate.

### UNEMPLOYED:

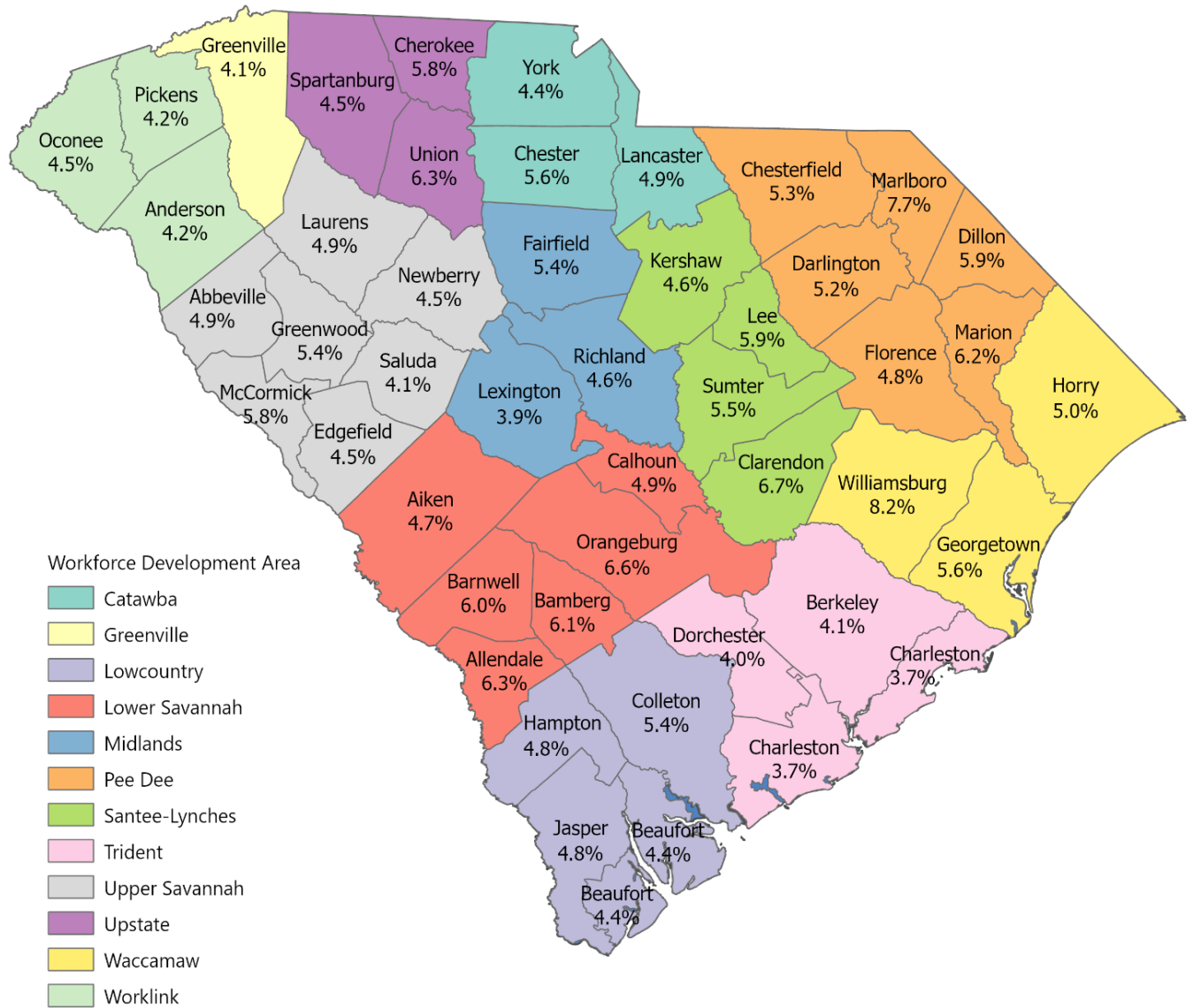
- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 113,929.
- That is an increase of 3,218 people from the August estimate and a decrease of 1,944 from the September 2024 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent. The national unemployment rate increased to 4.4 percent, according to the Current Population survey.

#### Number of People in the Labor Force



**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	3.9%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.3 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.3%	↓ -0.4 pts	↑ 0.2 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.9%	↓ -0.4 pts	↑ 0.4 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	4.2%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.4 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	4.5%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.5 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	5.0%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.4 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.6%	↓ -0.4 pts	↑ 0.3 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.5%	↓ -0.4 pts	↑ 0.1 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		September 2025				August 2025				September 2024			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↓	10,725	9,845	880	8.2	10,708	9,776	932	8.7	10,280	9,603	677	6.6
Marlboro County	↓	8,316	7,675	641	7.7	8,237	7,550	687	8.3	8,138	7,550	588	7.2
Clarendon County	↓	11,889	11,089	800	6.7	11,825	10,999	826	7.0	11,499	10,839	660	5.7
Orangeburg County	↓	34,655	32,372	2,283	6.6	34,414	32,007	2,407	7.0	35,370	33,192	2,178	6.2
Allendale County	↓	2,658	2,491	167	6.3	2,624	2,441	183	7.0	2,668	2,513	155	5.8
Union County	↑	11,216	10,511	705	6.3	11,051	10,361	690	6.2	10,911	10,281	630	5.8
Marion County	↓	12,068	11,315	753	6.2	12,039	11,230	809	6.7	11,836	11,134	702	5.9
Bamberg County	↓	5,403	5,074	329	6.1	5,337	4,984	353	6.6	5,443	5,125	318	5.8
Barnwell County	↓	7,980	7,501	479	6.0	7,964	7,452	512	6.4	8,311	7,864	447	5.4
Dillon County	↓	12,414	11,683	731	5.9	12,375	11,588	787	6.4	12,275	11,521	754	6.1
Lee County	↓	5,970	5,616	354	5.9	5,915	5,556	359	6.1	5,926	5,549	377	6.4
Cherokee County	↓	23,548	22,177	1,371	5.8	23,175	21,714	1,461	6.3	23,097	21,769	1,328	5.7
McCormick County	↓	3,346	3,152	194	5.8	3,297	3,100	197	6.0	3,452	3,272	180	5.2
Chester County	↓	14,801	13,971	830	5.6	14,685	13,781	904	6.2	14,370	13,576	794	5.5
Georgetown County	↓	27,976	26,406	1,570	5.6	28,085	26,430	1,655	5.9	28,061	26,758	1,303	4.6
Sumter County	↓	43,116	40,758	2,358	5.5	42,752	40,236	2,516	5.9	41,476	39,220	2,256	5.4
Colleton County	↓	15,914	15,062	852	5.4	15,838	14,912	926	5.8	15,941	15,185	756	4.7
Fairfield County	↓	10,052	9,508	544	5.4	10,002	9,417	585	5.8	9,881	9,367	514	5.2
Greenwood County	↓	28,938	27,375	1,563	5.4	28,599	26,882	1,717	6.0	28,614	27,151	1,463	5.1
Chesterfield County	↓	18,731	17,739	992	5.3	18,633	17,582	1,051	5.6	18,568	17,680	888	4.8
Darlington County	↓	29,146	27,630	1,516	5.2	29,084	27,463	1,621	5.6	28,283	26,906	1,377	4.9
Horry County	↓	179,122	170,181	8,941	5.0	181,406	171,879	9,527	5.3	171,743	163,876	7,867	4.6
Abbeville County	↓	10,439	9,930	509	4.9	10,352	9,796	556	5.4	10,370	9,941	429	4.1
Calhoun County	↓	6,710	6,383	327	4.9	6,694	6,345	349	5.2	6,596	6,291	305	4.6
Lancaster County	↓	51,361	48,838	2,523	4.9	50,738	48,061	2,677	5.3	49,555	47,375	2,180	4.4
Laurens County	↓	31,527	29,989	1,538	4.9	31,319	29,670	1,649	5.3	31,086	29,684	1,402	4.5
Florence County	↓	66,094	62,904	3,190	4.8	65,883	62,462	3,421	5.2	64,144	61,320	2,824	4.4
Hampton County	↓	7,916	7,539	377	4.8	7,857	7,460	397	5.1	7,895	7,597	298	3.8
Jasper County	↓	14,461	13,770	691	4.8	14,374	13,633	741	5.2	14,130	13,536	594	4.2
Aiken County	↓	77,365	73,731	3,634	4.7	76,477	72,622	3,855	5.0	76,152	72,911	3,241	4.3
Kershaw County	↓	32,952	31,434	1,518	4.6	32,763	31,147	1,616	4.9	32,451	31,081	1,370	4.2
Richland County	↓	212,750	203,064	9,686	4.6	211,617	201,129	10,488	5.0	209,414	200,244	9,170	4.4
Edgefield County	↓	11,820	11,291	529	4.5	11,701	11,155	546	4.7	11,659	11,192	467	4.0
Newberry County	↓	18,510	17,682	828	4.5	18,292	17,412	880	4.8	18,461	17,689	772	4.2
Oconee County	↓	36,661	35,019	1,642	4.5	36,241	34,502	1,739	4.8	36,148	34,715	1,433	4.0
Spartanburg County	↓	171,303	163,606	7,697	4.5	169,260	160,959	8,301	4.9	167,210	160,148	7,062	4.2
Beaufort County	↓	86,415	82,586	3,829	4.4	85,551	81,520	4,031	4.7	84,579	81,241	3,338	3.9
York County	↓	159,558	152,479	7,079	4.4	157,732	150,066	7,666	4.9	154,162	147,903	6,259	4.1
Anderson County	↓	101,351	97,064	4,287	4.2	100,591	96,007	4,584	4.6	99,910	96,027	3,883	3.9
Pickens County	↓	65,683	62,949	2,734	4.2	65,289	62,256	3,033	4.6	64,813	62,290	2,523	3.9
Berkeley County	↓	131,271	125,911	5,360	4.1	131,198	125,383	5,815	4.4	127,894	123,020	4,874	3.8
Greenville County	↓	289,141	277,393	11,748	4.1	286,740	274,199	12,541	4.4	285,346	274,630	10,716	3.8
Saluda County	—	8,995	8,624	371	4.1	8,958	8,587	371	4.1	8,909	8,593	316	3.5
Dorchester County	↓	87,983	84,444	3,539	4.0	87,806	84,021	3,785	4.3	85,814	82,566	3,248	3.8
Lexington County	↓	158,487	152,251	6,236	3.9	157,348	150,696	6,652	4.2	156,014	150,327	5,687	3.6
Charleston County	↓	237,489	228,622	8,867	3.7	236,937	227,391	9,546	4.0	231,815	223,811	8,004	3.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,582,851	2,468,922	113,929	4.4	2,575,531	2,464,820	110,711	4.3	2,551,404	2,435,531	115,873	4.5

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

The September Local Area Unemployment estimates will not be revised until completion of the annual benchmarking process in April, 2026.

↑ 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 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,420,800.

#### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide  
Sep-25

Jobs by Industry	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025 to September 2025		September 2024 to September 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	2,420,800	2,425,500	2,366,500	↓ -4,700	↓ -0.2%	↑ 54,300	↑ 2.3%
Construction	122,800	123,400	118,700	↓ -600	↓ -0.5%	↑ 4,100	↑ 3.5%
Manufacturing	261,100	263,600	264,000	↓ -2,500	↓ -0.9%	↓ -2,900	↓ -1.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	453,100	450,700	447,200	↑ 2,400	↑ 0.5%	↑ 5,900	↑ 1.3%
Information	30,000	30,200	28,500	↓ -200	↓ -0.7%	↑ 1,500	↑ 5.3%
Financial Activities	126,700	127,200	123,200	↓ -500	↓ -0.4%	↑ 3,500	↑ 2.8%
Professional and Business Services	327,200	328,800	314,700	↓ -1,600	↓ -0.5%	↑ 12,500	↑ 4.0%
Education and Health Services	314,900	315,200	304,300	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 10,600	↑ 3.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	294,300	294,100	282,100	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 12,200	↑ 4.3%
Other Services	93,200	93,400	91,300	↓ -200	↓ -0.2%	↑ 1,900	↑ 2.1%
Government	392,900	394,300	388,100	↓ -1,400	↓ -0.4%	↑ 4,800	↑ 1.2%

### NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated decrease of 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,420,800.

#### NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted  
Sep-25

Area	September 2025	August 2025	September 2024	August 2025 to September 2025		September 2024 to September 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	2,420,800	2,425,500	2,366,500	↓ -4,700	↓ -0.2%	↑ 54,300	↑ 2.3%
Charleston/North Charleston	435,300	436,700	424,700	↓ -1,400	↓ -0.3%	↑ 10,600	↑ 2.5%
Columbia	439,600	439,900	434,500	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 5,100	↑ 1.2%
Florence	99,100	99,400	96,300	↓ -300	↓ -0.3%	↑ 2,800	↑ 2.9%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	477,200	477,400	473,300	↓ -200	↓ 0.0%	↑ 3,900	↑ 0.8%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	91,200	90,300	89,000	↑ 900	↑ 1.0%	↑ 2,200	↑ 2.5%
Myrtle Beach	162,100	162,100	153,400	No Change	No Change	↑ 8,700	↑ 5.7%
Spartanburg	181,700	181,500	177,300	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,400	↑ 2.5%
Sumter	39,200	39,200	37,300	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,900	↑ 5.1%

**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.