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## **South Carolina's Employment Situation March 2021**

### **I. Household Survey<sup>1</sup>**

**Employment:** The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,267,328.

- That is a significant increase of 14,076 people over the February 2021 estimate.
- That is also a decrease of 29,995 people over the March 2020 estimate.

**Unemployment:** Unemployment estimates decreased to 120,783 people.

- That is a decrease of 3,145 people from the February 2021 estimate and a notable increase of 50,939 over the March 2020 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 5.1 percent in March from 5.2 percent in February.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined to 6.0 percent in March from 6.2 percent in February.

**Labor force:** The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,388,111.

- That is an increase of 10,931 people over the February 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 38,578 individuals over the March 2020 estimate.

### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted<sup>3</sup>)**

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,117,700.

- Industries that reported gains were noticed in the Construction (+1,800); Transportation and Utilities (+1,600); Manufacturing (+1,000); Financial Activities (+600); Professional and Business Services (+400); and Other Services (+300).
- Decreases were noticed in the Education and Health (-600); Information (-300); and Government (-100) industries. The Leisure and Hospitality industry remained flat.

From March 2020 to March 2021, South Carolina's economy has lost 66,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with growth were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,000) and Construction (+1,000).
- Decreases were reported in the Leisure and Hospitality (-29,100); Government (-13,300); Manufacturing (-9,900); Education and Health Services (-9,200); Other Services (-4,800); Professional and Business Services (-3,300); Information (-1,100); and Financial Activities (-1,000) industries.

### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>2</sup>)**

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 16,400 from February 2021 to March 2021 for a total of 2,108,300.

- Increases were reported in the Leisure and Hospitality (+8,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,100); Construction (+1,700); Government (+1,000); Manufacturing (+600); Other Services (+600); Financial Activities (+500); Education and Health Services (+500); and Professional and Business Services (+200) industries.
- A decrease was reported in Information (-100).
- Mining and Logging showed no movement over the period.

Since March 2020, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were down 65,700 overall in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were the Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800); Construction (+1,700); and Mining and Logging (+100) industry.
- Industries recording an over-the-year loss are Leisure and Hospitality (-29,700); Government (-12,500); Manufacturing (-10,000); Education and Health Services (-9,200); Other Services (-4,900); Professional and Business Services (-3,500); Financial Activities (-1,400); and Information (-1,100).

<sup>1</sup>**Household Survey (Current Population Survey):** is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This survey provides monthly statistics on employment, unemployment, and related subjects analyzed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

<sup>2</sup>**Current Employment Statistics Survey:** is a monthly survey of about 40,000 employers which yields estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

<sup>3</sup>**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less 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.

<sup>4</sup>**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Statewide  
March

Area	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021 to March 2021		March 2020 to March 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,117,700</b>	<b>2,113,000</b>	<b>2,184,300</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>-66,600</b>	<b>-3.05%</b>
Construction	107,600	105,800	106,600	1,800	1.70%	1,000	0.94%
Manufacturing	246,600	245,600	256,500	1,000	0.41%	-9,900	-3.86%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	414,200	412,600	410,200	1,600	0.39%	4,000	0.98%
Information	24,800	25,100	25,900	-300	-1.20%	-1,100	-4.25%
Financial Activities	106,200	105,600	107,200	600	0.57%	-1,000	-0.93%
Professional and Business Services	287,500	287,100	290,800	400	0.14%	-3,300	-1.13%
Education and Health Services	251,400	252,000	260,600	-600	-0.24%	-9,200	-3.53%
Leisure and Hospitality	235,700	235,700	264,800	0	0.00%	-29,100	-10.99%
Other Services	74,800	74,500	79,600	300	0.40%	-4,800	-6.03%
Government	364,400	364,500	377,700	-100	-0.03%	-13,300	-3.52%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Statewide  
March

Area	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021 to March 2021		March 2020 to March 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,108,300</b>	<b>2,091,900</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>0.78%</b>	<b>-65,700</b>	<b>-3.02%</b>
Mining and Logging	4,500	4,500	4,400	0	0.00%	100	2.27%
Construction	107,200	105,500	105,500	1,700	1.61%	1,700	1.61%
Manufacturing	246,100	245,500	256,100	600	0.24%	-10,000	-3.90%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	410,800	407,700	406,000	3,100	0.76%	4,800	1.18%
Information	24,900	25,000	26,000	-100	-0.40%	-1,100	-4.23%
Financial Activities	104,800	104,300	106,200	500	0.48%	-1,400	-1.32%
Professional and Business Services	285,000	284,800	288,500	200	0.07%	-3,500	-1.21%
Education and Health Services	252,300	251,800	261,500	500	0.20%	-9,200	-3.52%
Leisure and Hospitality	229,600	221,300	259,300	8,300	3.75%	-29,700	-11.45%
Other Services	74,600	74,000	79,500	600	0.81%	-4,900	-6.16%
Government	368,500	367,500	381,000	1,000	0.27%	-12,500	-3.28%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted  
March**

Area	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021 to March 2021		March 2020 to March 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,117,700</b>	<b>2,113,000</b>	<b>2,184,300</b>	<b>4,700</b>	<b>0.22%</b>	<b>-66,600</b>	<b>-3.05%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	359,900	360,400	377,000	-500	-0.14%	-17,100	-4.54%
Columbia MSA	387,900	388,500	402,400	-600	-0.15%	-14,500	-3.60%
Florence MSA	88,600	89,000	91,500	-400	-0.45%	-2,900	-3.17%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	416,200	414,900	432,300	1,300	0.31%	-16,100	-3.72%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	83,000	82,500	84,300	500	0.61%	-1,300	-1.54%
Myrtle Beach MSA	169,000	168,600	175,400	400	0.24%	-6,400	-3.65%
Spartanburg MSA	162,500	162,200	166,300	300	0.18%	-3,800	-2.29%
Sumter MSA	38,100	38,000	39,000	100	0.26%	-900	-2.31%

**Note:** Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted  
March**

Area	March 2021	February 2021	March 2020	February 2021 to March 2021		March 2020 to March 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,108,300</b>	<b>2,091,900</b>	<b>2,174,000</b>	<b>16,400</b>	<b>0.78%</b>	<b>-65,700</b>	<b>-3.02%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	359,100	357,500	374,700	1,600	0.45%	-15,600	-4.16%
Columbia MSA	387,600	386,300	401,600	1,300	0.34%	-14,000	-3.49%
Florence MSA	88,500	88,300	91,600	200	0.23%	-3,100	-3.38%
Greenville MSA	415,700	413,200	430,400	2,500	0.61%	-14,700	-3.42%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	81,800	80,000	83,200	1,800	2.25%	-1,400	-1.68%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	165,100	160,000	171,200	5,100	3.19%	-6,100	-3.56%
Spartanburg MSA	162,500	161,700	166,300	800	0.49%	-3,800	-2.29%
Sumter MSA	38,000	37,900	39,000	100	0.26%	-1,000	-2.56%

**Note:** Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE  
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA	March 2021					February 2021					March 2020				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)
			LEVEL					LEVEL					LEVEL		
Allendale County	—	2,660	2,404	256	9.6	2,636	2,384	252	9.6	2,586	2,408	178	6.9		
Bamberg County	↓	4,752	4,327	425	8.9	4,783	4,337	446	9.3	4,821	4,502	319	6.6		
Marlboro County	↓	9,316	8,515	801	8.6	9,208	8,374	834	9.1	8,752	8,308	444	5.1		
Orangeburg County	↓	34,787	32,083	2,704	7.8	34,837	32,018	2,819	8.1	34,101	32,353	1,748	5.1		
Barnwell County	↓	7,988	7,390	598	7.5	7,965	7,340	625	7.8	7,823	7,432	391	5.0		
Union County	↓	12,118	11,208	910	7.5	12,033	11,113	920	7.6	11,602	11,123	479	4.1		
Marion County	↓	13,466	12,472	994	7.4	13,326	12,293	1,033	7.8	12,694	12,103	591	4.7		
Chester County	↓	13,635	12,677	958	7.0	13,537	12,546	991	7.3	13,347	12,679	668	5.0		
Williamsburg County	↓	11,840	11,021	819	6.9	11,769	10,909	860	7.3	11,731	11,125	606	5.2		
Fairfield County	↓	9,595	8,945	650	6.8	9,564	8,890	674	7.0	9,415	8,963	452	4.8		
Dillon County	↓	13,469	12,574	895	6.6	13,413	12,480	933	7.0	12,744	12,198	546	4.3		
Lee County	↓	6,799	6,361	438	6.4	6,753	6,298	455	6.7	6,573	6,220	353	5.4		
Horry County	↓	147,662	138,353	9,309	6.3	144,265	134,085	10,180	7.1	144,583	138,654	5,929	4.1		
McCormick County	↓	3,377	3,166	211	6.2	3,373	3,155	218	6.5	3,325	3,188	137	4.1		
Cherokee County	↓	25,067	23,542	1,525	6.1	25,039	23,427	1,612	6.4	24,862	23,970	892	3.6		
Clarendon County	↓	12,633	11,893	740	5.9	12,619	11,815	804	6.4	12,481	11,955	526	4.2		
Georgetown County	↓	26,071	24,533	1,538	5.9	25,820	24,118	1,702	6.6	25,516	24,435	1,081	4.2		
Greenwood County	↓	31,678	29,927	1,751	5.5	31,626	29,807	1,819	5.8	31,356	30,262	1,094	3.5		
Sumter County	↓	43,844	41,445	2,399	5.5	43,788	41,197	2,591	5.9	42,855	41,144	1,711	4.0		
Abbeville County	—	10,116	9,567	549	5.4	10,089	9,542	547	5.4	10,056	9,670	386	3.8		
Darlington County	↓	30,401	28,771	1,630	5.4	30,318	28,558	1,760	5.8	29,834	28,805	1,029	3.4		
Calhoun County	↓	6,563	6,218	345	5.3	6,550	6,184	366	5.6	6,463	6,223	240	3.7		
Chesterfield County	↓	21,817	20,657	1,160	5.3	21,759	20,512	1,247	5.7	21,458	20,773	685	3.2		
Colleton County	↓	16,678	15,796	882	5.3	16,657	15,691	966	5.8	16,518	15,956	562	3.4		
Lancaster County	↓	42,653	40,437	2,216	5.2	42,428	40,054	2,374	5.6	42,041	40,431	1,610	3.8		
Laurens County	↓	30,286	28,730	1,556	5.1	30,163	28,502	1,661	5.5	29,756	28,768	988	3.3		
Richland County	↓	199,665	189,796	9,869	4.9	198,983	188,506	10,477	5.3	196,291	190,467	5,824	3.0		
Florence County	↓	67,273	64,047	3,226	4.8	67,080	63,662	3,418	5.1	66,272	64,135	2,137	3.2		
Spartanburg County	↓	159,457	152,005	7,452	4.7	158,424	150,649	7,775	4.9	155,249	150,923	4,326	2.8		
Hampton County	↓	8,234	7,857	377	4.6	8,135	7,749	386	4.7	8,079	7,842	237	2.9		
Anderson County	↓	91,512	87,367	4,145	4.5	91,050	86,620	4,430	4.9	90,207	87,552	2,655	2.9		
Kershaw County	↓	29,458	28,146	1,312	4.5	29,373	27,969	1,404	4.8	29,179	28,202	977	3.3		
York County	↓	144,509	138,072	6,437	4.5	143,622	136,798	6,824	4.8	142,264	138,088	4,176	2.9		
Berkeley County	↓	105,826	101,155	4,671	4.4	105,390	100,393	4,997	4.7	105,151	102,234	2,917	2.8		
Charleston County	↓	212,192	202,846	9,346	4.4	211,808	201,655	10,153	4.8	209,943	204,722	5,221	2.5		
Dorchester County	↓	78,146	74,729	3,417	4.4	77,865	74,183	3,682	4.7	77,574	75,504	2,070	2.7		
Greenville County	↓	257,456	246,763	10,693	4.2	256,005	244,638	11,367	4.4	254,021	247,328	6,693	2.6		
Jasper County	↓	13,074	12,528	546	4.2	12,923	12,327	596	4.6	12,645	12,302	343	2.7		
Oconee County	↓	35,059	33,569	1,490	4.2	34,873	33,278	1,595	4.6	34,425	33,420	1,005	2.9		
Pickens County	↓	57,728	55,293	2,435	4.2	57,386	54,852	2,534	4.4	57,121	55,397	1,724	3.0		
Aiken County	↓	76,124	73,012	3,112	4.1	75,676	72,306	3,370	4.5	75,310	73,043	2,267	3.0		
Beaufort County	↓	78,451	75,253	3,198	4.1	77,144	73,599	3,545	4.6	76,240	74,076	2,164	2.8		
Edgefield County	↓	10,843	10,407	436	4.0	10,809	10,317	492	4.6	10,714	10,388	326	3.0		
Newberry County	↓	19,373	18,607	766	4.0	19,357	18,514	843	4.4	18,684	18,147	537	2.9		
Saluda County	↓	8,677	8,338	339	3.9	8,665	8,286	379	4.4	8,569	8,313	256	3.0		
Lexington County	↓	150,666	145,136	5,530	3.7	150,288	144,261	6,027	4.0	149,184	145,480	3,704	2.5		
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	396,164	378,730	17,434	4.4	395,063	376,231	18,832	4.8	392,668	382,460	10,208	2.6		
Columbia MSA	↓	404,624	386,579	18,045	4.5	403,423	384,096	19,327	4.8	399,101	387,648	11,453	2.9		
Florence MSA	↓	97,674	92,818	4,856	5.0	97,398	92,220	5,178	5.3	96,106	92,940	3,166	3.3		
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	436,982	418,153	18,829	4.3	434,604	414,612	19,992	4.6	431,105	419,045	12,060	2.8		
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
South Carolina	↓	2,388,111	2,267,328	120,783	5.1	2,377,180	2,253,252	123,928	5.2	2,367,167	2,297,323	69,844	3.0		

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

↑ Unemployment Rate Up  
↓ Unemployment Rate Down  
— Unemployment Rate =