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South Carolina's Employment Situation August 2021

I. Household Survey¹

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,302,743.

- That is an increase of 3,394 people over the July 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 30,729 people over the August 2020 estimate.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates decreased to 101,527 people.

- That is a decrease of 1,927 people from the July 2021 estimate and a substantial decrease of 29,022 over the August 2020 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.2 percent in August from 4.3 percent in July.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.2 percent in August from 5.4 percent in July.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,404,270.

- That is an increase of 1,467 people over the July 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 1,707 individuals over the August 2020 estimate.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The Current Employment Survey² of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 3,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,137,800.

- Industries that reported gains were Government (+5,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,500); Construction (+500); Professional and Business Services (+500); Information (+400); and Manufacturing (+200).

- Decreases were observed in the Education and Health Services (-5,300); Other Services (-1,300); and Financial Activities (-200).
- Trade, Transportation, and Utilities remained flat.

From August 2020 to August 2021, South Carolina's economy has picked up 68,500 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were reported in the Leisure and Hospitality (+26,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+14,400); Construction (+7,900); Manufacturing (+7,200); Education and Health Services (+4,600); Government (+4,500); Professional and Business Service (+3,400); Other Services (+1,800) and Information (+1,000).
- Declines were observed in Financial Activities (-2,800).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted⁴)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 600 from July 2021 to August 2021 for a total of 2,138,300.

- Increases were reported in Government (+8,900); Construction (+700); and Information (+100) industries.
- Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-3,200); Other Services (-1,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-1,600); Education and Health Services (-900); Manufacturing (-600); Professional and Business Services (-600); Financial Activities (-500); and Mining and Logging (-100) industries.

Since August 2020, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 67,300, overall, in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+28,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,500); Manufacturing (+7,400); Construction (+6,800); Education and Health Services (+5,800); Government (+3,000); Other Services (+2,200); Professional and Business Services (+2,200); and Information (+1,100).
- Declines were noticed in Financial Activities (-3,200).

¹**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.

²**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.

³**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.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
August 2021

Area	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,137,800	2,134,700	2,069,300	3,100	0.15%	68,500	3.31%
Construction	110,300	109,800	102,400	500	0.46%	7,900	7.71%
Manufacturing	249,400	249,200	242,200	200	0.08%	7,200	2.97%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	415,500	415,500	401,100	0	0.00%	14,400	3.59%
Information	25,300	24,900	24,300	400	1.61%	1,000	4.12%
Financial Activities	102,800	103,000	105,600	-200	-0.19%	-2,800	-2.65%
Professional and Business Services	284,600	284,100	281,200	500	0.18%	3,400	1.21%
Education and Health Services	252,000	257,300	247,400	-5,300	-2.06%	4,600	1.86%
Leisure and Hospitality	245,800	243,300	219,300	2,500	1.03%	26,500	12.08%
Other Services	75,000	76,300	73,200	-1,300	-1.70%	1,800	2.46%
Government	372,700	366,800	368,200	5,900	1.61%	4,500	1.22%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
August 2021

Area	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm	2,138,300	2,137,700	2,071,000	600	0.03%	67,300	3.25%
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,500	4,400	-100	-2.22%	0	0.00%
Construction	109,900	109,200	103,100	700	0.64%	6,800	6.60%
Manufacturing	249,900	250,500	242,500	-600	-0.24%	7,400	3.05%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	414,600	416,200	401,100	-1,600	-0.38%	13,500	3.37%
Information	25,300	25,200	24,200	100	0.40%	1,100	4.55%
Financial Activities	103,400	103,900	106,600	-500	-0.48%	-3,200	-3.00%
Professional and Business Services	283,100	283,700	280,900	-600	-0.21%	2,200	0.78%
Education and Health Services	252,300	253,200	246,500	-900	-0.36%	5,800	2.35%
Leisure and Hospitality	258,500	261,700	230,000	-3,200	-1.22%	28,500	12.39%
Other Services	75,700	77,300	73,500	-1,600	-2.07%	2,200	2.99%
Government	361,200	352,300	358,200	8,900	2.53%	3,000	0.84%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
August 2021**

Area	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,137,800	2,134,700	2,069,300	3,100	0.15%	68,500	3.31%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	366,600	365,500	350,800	1,100	0.30%	15,800	4.50%
Columbia MSA	391,000	390,500	385,400	500	0.13%	5,600	1.45%
Florence MSA	89,600	88,900	88,000	700	0.79%	1,600	1.82%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	422,600	420,500	409,800	2,100	0.50%	12,800	3.12%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	82,900	84,100	78,800	-1,200	-1.43%	4,100	5.20%
Myrtle Beach MSA	166,900	166,000	161,000	900	0.54%	5,900	3.66%
Spartanburg MSA	164,800	164,900	159,000	-100	-0.06%	5,800	3.65%
Sumter MSA	38,400	38,600	36,900	-200	-0.52%	1,500	4.07%

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
August 2021**

Area	August 2021	July 2021	August 2020	July 2021 to August 2021		August 2020 to August 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,138,300	2,137,700	2,071,000	600	0.03%	67,300	3.25%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	366,400	366,900	351,300	-500	-0.14%	15,100	4.30%
Columbia MSA	389,600	388,700	383,400	900	0.23%	6,200	1.62%
Florence MSA	89,500	88,800	87,700	700	0.79%	1,800	2.05%
Greenville MSA	421,200	418,100	408,800	3,100	0.74%	12,400	3.03%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,900	86,400	80,400	-1,500	-1.74%	4,500	5.60%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	173,000	175,000	166,800	-2,000	-1.14%	6,200	3.72%
Spartanburg MSA	164,100	163,100	158,000	1,000	0.61%	6,100	3.86%
Sumter MSA	38,000	38,400	36,700	-400	-1.04%	1,300	3.54%

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	August 2021					July 2021				August 2020			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		
			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)	
Bamberg County	↓	4,615	4,232	383	8.3	4,655	4,244	411	8.8	4,785	4,374	411	8.6
Allendale County	↑	2,485	2,282	203	8.2	2,520	2,317	203	8.1	2,625	2,384	241	9.2
Marlboro County	↓	9,174	8,458	716	7.8	8,954	8,236	718	8.0	9,516	8,669	847	8.9
Orangeburg County	↓	33,465	30,847	2,618	7.8	34,337	31,614	2,723	7.9	35,400	32,331	3,069	8.7
Marion County	↓	13,534	12,574	960	7.1	13,582	12,598	984	7.2	13,747	12,743	1,004	7.3
Barnwell County	↓	7,746	7,217	529	6.8	7,760	7,217	543	7.0	8,034	7,514	520	6.5
Williamsburg County	—	11,414	10,666	748	6.6	11,488	10,725	763	6.6	12,259	11,286	973	7.9
Union County	↓	12,163	11,368	795	6.5	12,274	11,420	854	7.0	12,079	11,117	962	8.0
Chester County	—	13,689	12,841	848	6.2	13,821	12,959	862	6.2	13,772	12,615	1,157	8.4
Dillon County	↓	13,726	12,895	831	6.1	13,422	12,587	835	6.2	13,551	12,821	730	5.4
Fairfield County	↑	9,640	9,055	585	6.1	9,728	9,142	586	6.0	9,737	9,023	714	7.3
Lee County	↑	6,808	6,402	406	6.0	6,862	6,455	407	5.9	6,873	6,393	480	7.0
McCormick County	↓	3,286	3,113	173	5.3	3,307	3,127	180	5.4	3,370	3,188	182	5.4
Cherokee County	↓	25,014	23,707	1,307	5.2	24,135	22,778	1,357	5.6	25,489	23,693	1,796	7.0
Clarendon County	↓	12,947	12,285	662	5.1	12,653	11,969	684	5.4	12,908	12,150	758	5.9
Georgetown County	—	26,389	25,045	1,344	5.1	26,856	25,481	1,375	5.1	26,973	25,219	1,754	6.5
Horry County	—	153,172	145,291	7,881	5.1	156,388	148,479	7,909	5.1	151,884	141,785	10,099	6.6
Greenwood County	↓	30,590	29,104	1,486	4.9	29,906	28,397	1,509	5.0	31,940	30,108	1,832	5.7
Sumter County	—	43,731	41,596	2,135	4.9	44,520	42,342	2,178	4.9	43,603	40,795	2,808	6.4
Abbeville County	↓	9,770	9,300	470	4.8	9,573	9,095	478	5.0	10,119	9,606	513	5.1
Calhoun County	—	6,625	6,304	321	4.8	6,702	6,378	324	4.8	6,654	6,279	375	5.6
Darlington County	↓	30,806	29,312	1,494	4.8	30,991	29,437	1,554	5.0	31,042	29,092	1,950	6.3
Chesterfield County	↓	21,757	20,735	1,022	4.7	21,884	20,827	1,057	4.8	22,061	20,862	1,199	5.4
Colleton County	↓	16,593	15,824	769	4.6	16,894	16,087	807	4.8	17,034	16,029	1,005	5.9
Lancaster County	—	42,920	40,950	1,970	4.6	43,360	41,377	1,983	4.6	42,897	40,207	2,690	6.3
Laurens County	↓	30,635	29,259	1,376	4.5	30,833	29,415	1,418	4.6	30,516	28,751	1,765	5.8
Florence County	—	68,131	65,141	2,990	4.4	68,481	65,478	3,003	4.4	68,197	64,569	3,628	5.3
Richland County	↓	200,372	191,553	8,819	4.4	201,953	192,886	9,067	4.5	202,175	190,846	11,329	5.6
Spartanburg County	↓	160,882	154,153	6,729	4.2	161,642	154,700	6,942	4.3	159,746	150,764	8,982	5.6
Kershaw County	—	29,700	28,481	1,219	4.1	29,985	28,754	1,231	4.1	29,737	28,379	1,358	4.6
Anderson County	↓	92,534	88,885	3,649	3.9	92,962	89,207	3,755	4.0	91,879	87,343	4,536	4.9
Berkeley County	—	107,695	103,541	4,154	3.9	108,959	104,687	4,272	3.9	105,980	100,631	5,349	5.0
Oconee County	↓	34,757	33,394	1,363	3.9	34,594	33,061	1,533	4.4	35,410	33,941	1,469	4.1
Charleston County	↓	216,079	207,761	8,318	3.8	219,143	210,686	8,457	3.9	214,677	201,834	12,843	6.0
Dorchester County	—	79,518	76,509	3,009	3.8	80,489	77,396	3,093	3.8	78,521	74,361	4,160	5.3
Hampton County	↓	8,437	8,113	324	3.8	8,510	8,161	349	4.1	8,411	8,003	408	4.9
York County	—	145,275	139,704	5,571	3.8	146,754	141,141	5,613	3.8	145,166	137,112	8,054	5.5
Pickens County	↓	58,381	56,246	2,135	3.7	58,738	56,496	2,242	3.8	57,605	55,249	2,356	4.1
Beaufort County	—	81,315	78,370	2,945	3.6	83,728	80,746	2,982	3.6	78,671	75,271	3,400	4.3
Greenville County	↓	260,382	250,982	9,400	3.6	261,426	251,808	9,618	3.7	258,956	246,612	12,344	4.8
Aiken County	↓	76,189	73,488	2,701	3.5	77,115	74,362	2,753	3.6	75,752	72,777	2,975	3.9
Edgefield County	↓	10,899	10,516	383	3.5	11,079	10,683	396	3.6	10,846	10,416	430	4.0
Newberry County	↓	19,760	19,072	688	3.5	19,943	19,231	712	3.6	19,738	18,920	818	4.1
Jasper County	—	13,520	13,057	463	3.4	14,031	13,549	482	3.4	13,133	12,536	597	4.5
Lexington County	—	151,758	146,726	5,032	3.3	153,174	148,086	5,088	3.3	151,902	146,146	5,756	3.8
Saluda County	↑	8,816	8,526	290	3.3	8,960	8,670	290	3.2	8,807	8,512	295	3.3
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	403,292	387,811	15,481	3.8	408,591	392,769	15,822	3.9	399,178	376,826	22,352	5.6
Columbia MSA	—	406,911	390,645	16,266	4.0	410,502	393,916	16,586	4.0	409,012	389,185	19,827	4.8
Florence MSA	↓	98,937	94,453	4,484	4.5	99,472	94,915	4,557	4.6	99,239	93,661	5,578	5.6
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	441,932	425,372	16,560	3.7	443,959	426,926	17,033	3.8	438,956	417,955	21,001	4.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,404,270	2,302,743	101,527	4.2	2,402,803	2,299,349	103,454	4.3	2,402,563	2,272,014	130,549	5.4

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

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