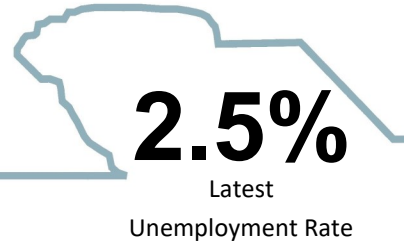


LABOR MARKET TRENDS



Volume 1: Issue 1 January-February 2020

S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

LMI Division

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Employment growth continues; unemployment rate climbs to 2.5 percent

Employment: The February survey of households across the state estimated the number of South Carolinians working moved higher, establishing a new record of 2,333,217, which yields an employment-population ratio of 56.9 percent.

- That is an increase of 2,720 people over January 2020.
- That is also a significant increase of 43,727 people over February 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates increased to 58,614 people.

- That is an increase of 2,015 people since January 2020 and a significant decrease of 21,956 over February 2019.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 2.5 percent over the month from January’s rate of 2.4 percent. This marks the first increase since August of 2019.

Labor force: The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus people not working but looking for work) increased to 2,391,831.

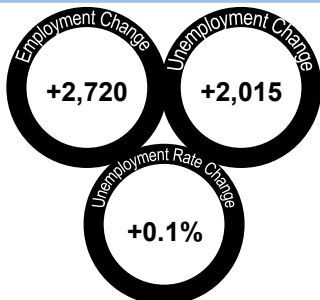
- That is an increase of 4,735 people since January 2019.
- That is an increase of 21,771 individuals over February 2019.
- The labor force participation rate in February 2020 was 58.3 percent, remaining the same as January.

View the [S.C. Employment Situation Report](#)

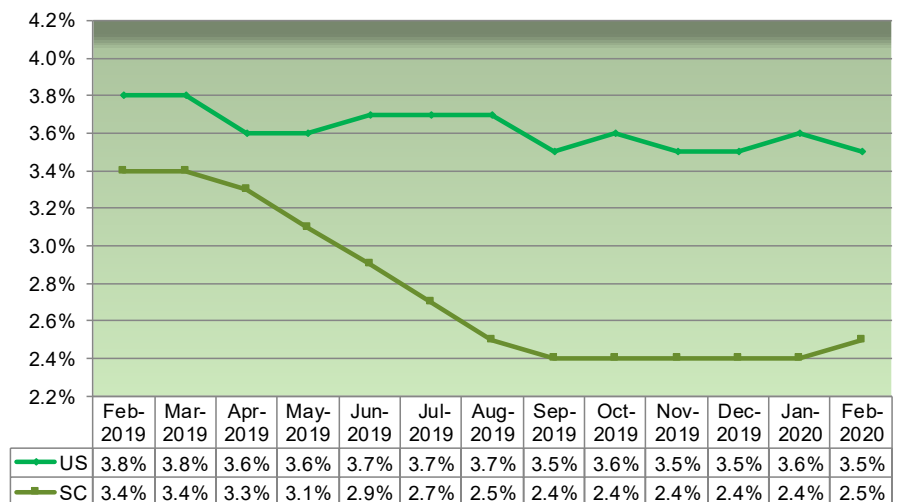
Economic Indicators

February 2020 - Seasonally Adjusted

	U.S.	S.C.
Labor Force	164,546,000	2,391,831
Employed	158,759,000	2,333,217
Unemployed	5,787,000	58,614
Unemployed Rate	3.5%	2.5%



South Carolina vs U.S. Unemployment Rate
February 2019 - February 2020



LABOR MARKET TRENDS is prepared in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics by the LMI Division of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. The current month’s estimates are preliminary, while all previous data are subject to revision. Statewide estimates are projected from a first quarter 2019 benchmark. To subscribe to **LABOR MARKET TRENDS** or for additional information, please email LMICustomerService@dew.sc.gov or to provide feedback please click on the [LMI Customer Feedback Form](#).

**U.S. unemployment rate rises in January;
S.C. rate remains at 2.4 percent, ranked 2nd lowest in nation**

Unemployment rates were lower in January in five states and stable in 45 states and the District of Columbia. Eleven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, one state had an increase and 38 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate rose to 3.6 percent, while South Carolina’s unemployment rate remained at December 2019’s revised rate of 2.4 percent, ranking 2nd lowest, of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in 12 states in January 2020 and was essentially unchanged in 38 states and the District of Columbia. Eighteen states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in January. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+279,900), California (+251,800) and Florida (+177,400). The largest percentage gains occurred in Utah (+2.9 percent) and Arizona and Idaho (+2.5 percent each).

January unemployment rates by county

County unemployment rate changes rose across the state as the not seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate rose over the month. Rates ranged from a low of 2.3 percent in Charleston and Lexington counties to a high of 6.8 percent in Allendale County.



January 2020

State Unemployment Rates

North Dakota	2.3
<u>South Carolina</u>	<u>2.4</u>
Vermont	2.4
Colorado	2.5
Utah	2.5
New Hampshire	2.6
Alabama	2.7
Hawaii	2.7
Virginia	2.7
Florida	2.8
Idaho	2.8
Iowa	2.8
Massachusetts	2.8
Nebraska	2.9
Georgia	3.1
Indiana	3.1
Kansas	3.1
Maine	3.1
Minnesota	3.2
Maryland	3.3
Oklahoma	3.3
Oregon	3.3
Tennessee	3.3
Rhode Island	3.4
South Dakota	3.4
Arkansas	3.5
Illinois	3.5
Missouri	3.5
Montana	3.5
Texas	3.5
Wisconsin	3.5
Nevada	3.6
North Carolina	3.6
<u>United States</u>	<u>3.6</u>
Connecticut	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Michigan	3.8
New Jersey	3.8
New York	3.8
California	3.9
Washington	3.9
Delaware	4.0
Ohio	4.1
Kentucky	4.3
Arizona	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.7
New Mexico	4.8
West Virginia	5.0
District of Columbia	5.2
Louisiana	5.3
Mississippi	5.5
Alaska	6.0

Economic Indicators				
Average Hours & Earnings				
Manufacturing	United States (SA)	Monthly Change	S.C. (Unadj.)	Monthly Change
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,140.89	\$4.03	\$887.01	-\$3.83
Avg Weekly Hours	40.5	0.1	42.4	0.2
Avg Hourly Wages	\$28.17	\$0.03	\$20.92	-\$0.19

U.S. unemployment rate falls in February; S.C. rate rises to 2.5 percent, ranked 3rd lowest in nation

Unemployment rates were lower in February in eight states, higher in one state and stable in 41 states and the District of Columbia. Eleven states had jobless rate decreases from a year earlier, one state had an increase and 38 states and the District had little or no change. The national unemployment rate fell to 3.5 percent, while South Carolina's unemployment rate rose to 2.5 percent, ranking 3rd lowest, along with Colorado and Utah, of the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Nonfarm payroll employment increased in four states in February 2020 and was essentially unchanged in 46 states and the District of Columbia. Twenty-one states had over-the-year increases in nonfarm payroll employment in February. The largest job gains occurred in Texas (+314,500), California (+269,000) and Florida (+169,800). The largest percentage gains occurred in Utah (+2.9 percent), Washington (+2.8 percent) and Arizona (+2.7 percent).

February unemployment rates by county

County unemployment rate changes were mixed across the state as the not seasonally adjusted statewide unemployment rate remained steady over the month. Rates ranged from a low of 2.4 percent in Charleston to a high of 6.5 percent in Allendale County.



February 2020

State Unemployment Rates

North Dakota	2.2
Vermont	2.4
Colorado	2.5
South Carolina	2.5
Utah	2.5
New Hampshire	2.6
Virginia	2.6
Alabama	2.7
Hawaii	2.7
Idaho	2.7
Florida	2.8
Iowa	2.8
Massachusetts	2.8
Nebraska	2.9
Georgia	3.1
Indiana	3.1
Kansas	3.1
Minnesota	3.1
Maine	3.2
Oklahoma	3.2
Maryland	3.3
Oregon	3.3
South Dakota	3.3
Illinois	3.4
Rhode Island	3.4
Tennessee	3.4
Arkansas	3.5
Missouri	3.5
Montana	3.5
Texas	3.5
United States	3.5
Wisconsin	3.5
Michigan	3.6
Nevada	3.6
North Carolina	3.6
New York	3.7
Wyoming	3.7
Connecticut	3.8
New Jersey	3.8
Washington	3.8
California	3.9
Delaware	3.9
Ohio	4.1
Kentucky	4.2
Arizona	4.5
Pennsylvania	4.7
New Mexico	4.8
West Virginia	4.9
District of Columbia	5.2
Louisiana	5.2
Mississippi	5.4
Alaska	5.8

Economic Indicators				
Average Hours & Earnings				
Manufacturing	United States (SA)	Monthly Change	S.C. (Unadj.)	Monthly Change
Avg Weekly Earnings	\$1,147.74	\$6.85	\$861.12	-\$22.95
Avg Weekly Hours	40.7	0.2	41.4	-0.9
Avg Hourly Wages	\$28.20	\$0.03	\$20.80	-\$0.10

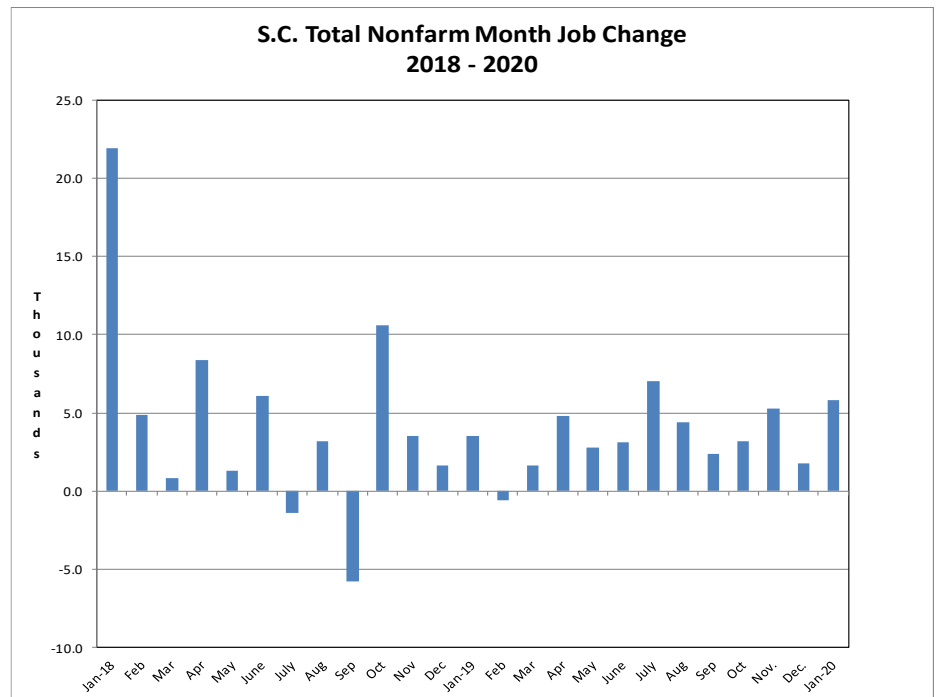
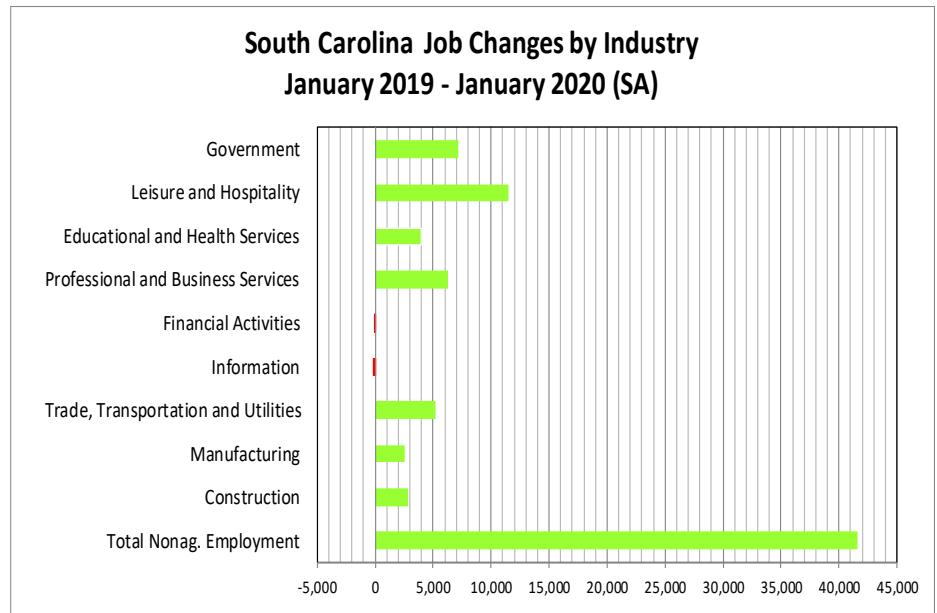
South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for January—seasonally adjusted

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 5,800 nonfarm payroll jobs in January to a record high level of 2,215,400.

Industries reporting increases in employment were Education and Health Services (+1,500); Professional and Business Services (+1,300); Manufacturing (+900); Government (+900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+600); Other Services (+400); Leisure and Hospitality (+300) and Information (+100). Retail Trade saw an increase of (+2,100). Decreases were noticed in the Financial Activities (-200) industry. The Construction industry remained flat.

From January 2019 to January 2020, South Carolina’s economy has added 41,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

Industries with strong growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+11,500); Government (+7,200); Professional and Business Services (+6,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+5,200); Education and Health Services (+4,000); Construction (+2,800) Manufacturing (+2,600) and Other Services (+2,300). Retail Trade saw an increase of (+3,100). Decreases were seen in Information (-200) and Financial Activities (-100).



Economic Indicators (January 2020)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month %	Over Year %
	Change	Change
Sumter MSA	-0.75%	0.50%
Columbia MSA	-0.76%	2.04%
Charleston MSA	-1.05%	2.31%
Greenville MSA	-1.85%	0.37%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina nonfarm employment trends for February—seasonally adjusted

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 3,100 nonfarm payroll jobs in February to a record high level of 2,218,300.

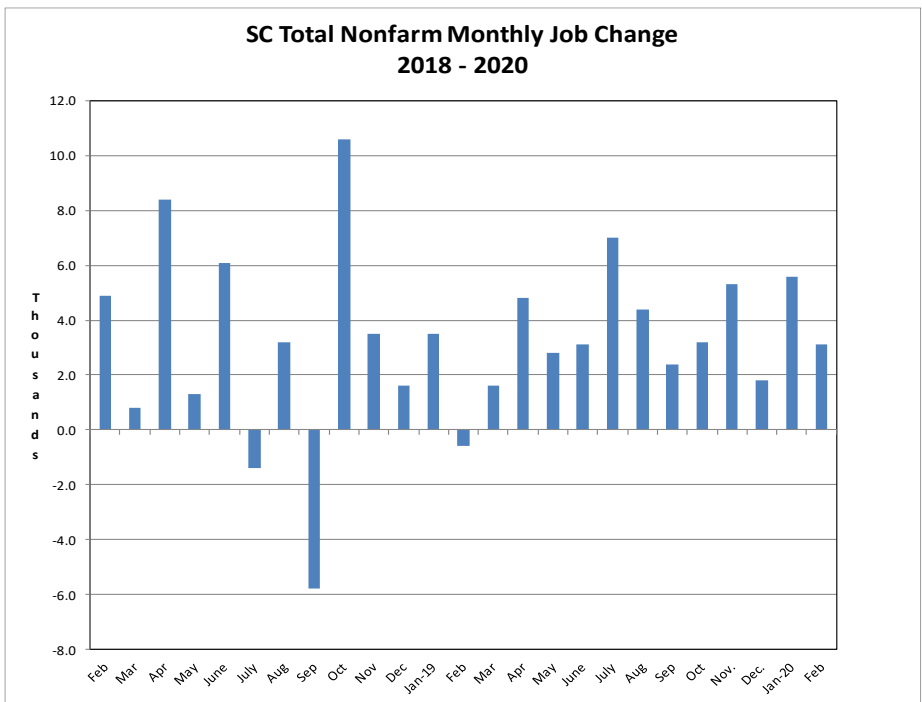
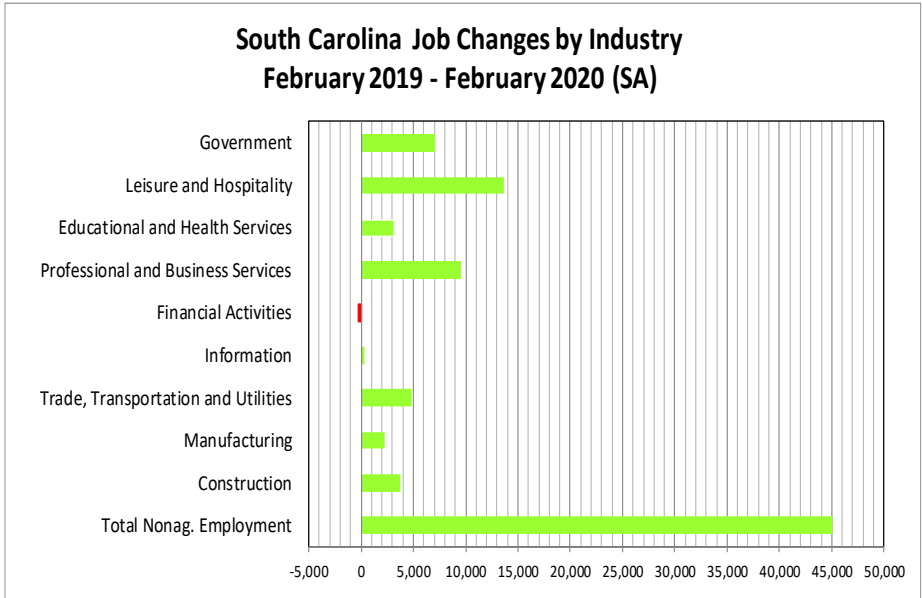
Industries reporting increases in employment were Professional and Business Services (+2,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300); Construction (+1,000); Education and Health Services (+500); Government (+300); Information (+300) and Financial Activities (+100).

Decreases were noticed in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-1,500); Other Services (-1,100) and Manufacturing (-100) industry. Retail Trade saw a decrease of (-1,200).

From February 2019 to February 2020, South Carolina’s economy has added 45,100 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

Industries with strong growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+13,600); Professional and Business Services (+9,500); Government (+7,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800); Construction (+3,800); Education and Health Services (+3,200); Manufacturing (+2,200); Other Services (+900) and Information (+300). Decreases were seen in Financial Activities (-300).

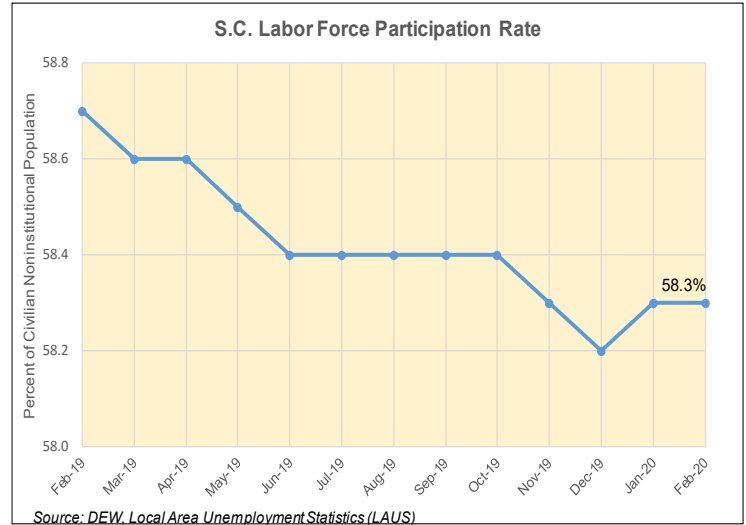
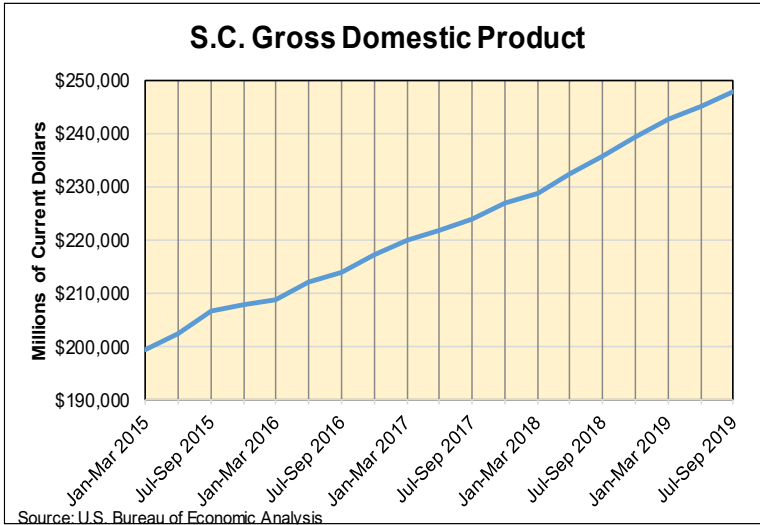
For the Metropolitan Statistical Areas, seasonally adjusted, total nonfarm payroll job increases were seen in Greenville (+1,400) and Columbia (+400).



Economic Indicators (February 2020)		
Top Job Growth by MSA (SA)		
	Over Month %	Over Year %
	Change	Change
Greenville MSA	0.32%	0.76%
Columbia MSA	0.10%	1.60%
Sumter MSA	0.00%	0.76%
Charleston MSA	-0.29%	1.91%

To see the monthly not seasonally adjusted data series, go to www.SCWorkforceInfo.com (Employment and Wage Data section)

South Carolina economic indicators



S.C. Job Postings by Industry, February 2020

NAICS Code	Industry	Job Postings
62	Health Care and Social Assistance	10,114
44-45	Retail Trade	7,266
72	Accommodation and Food Services	4,332
31-33	Manufacturing	3,442
61	Educational Services	2,917
54	Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	2,863
52	Finance and Insurance	2,603
92	Public Administration	2,553
56	Administrative and Support and Waste Management	1,504
48-49	Transportation and Warehousing	1,100
53	Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	1,023
23	Construction	908
81	Other Services (except Public Administration)	887
51	Information	792
42	Wholesale Trade	491
71	Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	386
22	Utilities	158
11	Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	83
55	Management of Companies and Enterprises	64
21	Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction	51

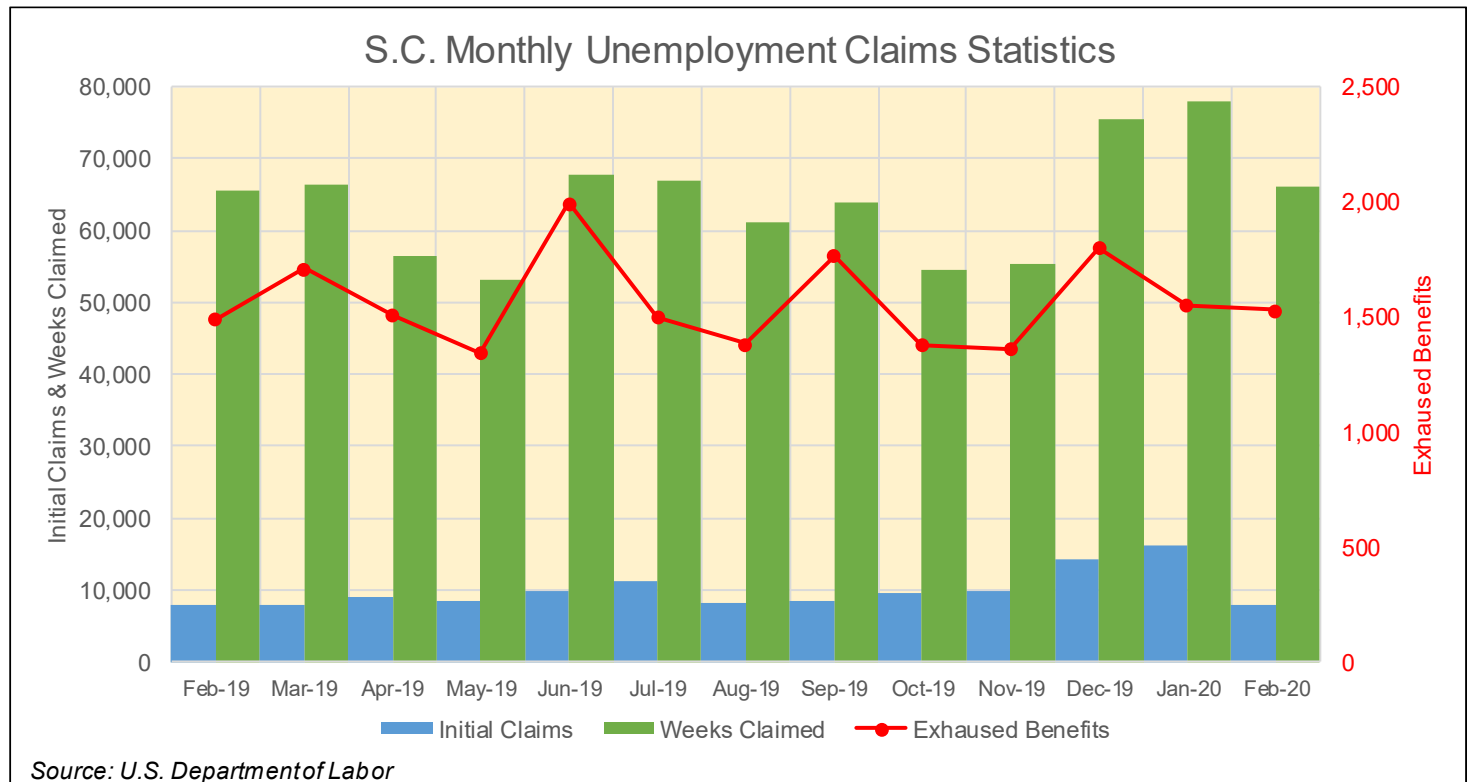
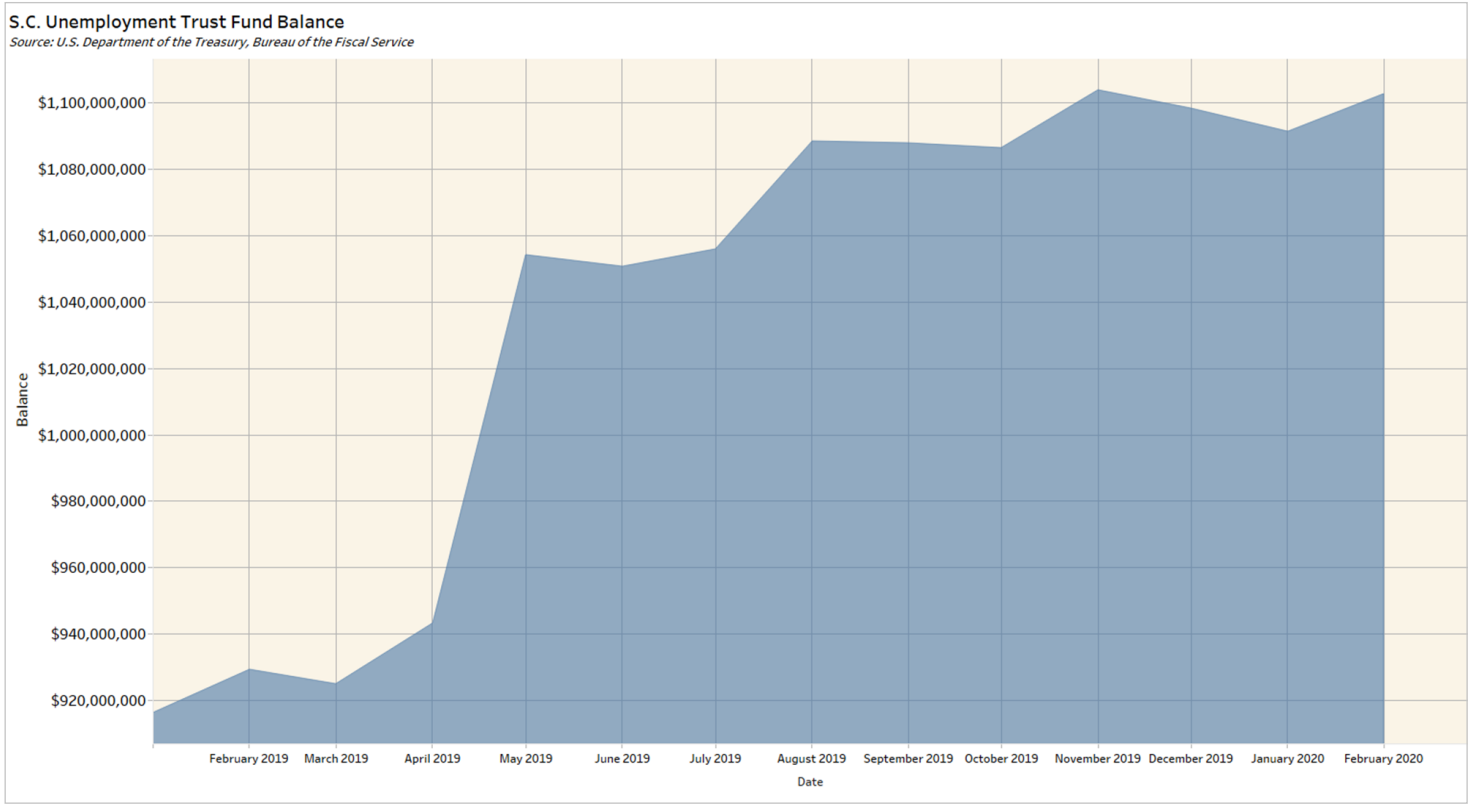
Source: Labor Insight Jobs (Burning Glass Technologies)

S.C. Average Weekly Wage by Industry Group, 2019Q3

Industry Group	Avg Wkly Wage	Perc Chg from Yr Ago
Total, All Industries	\$866	3.6%
Natural Resources and Mining	\$828	9.7%
Construction	\$1,033	5.5%
Manufacturing	\$1,116	2.3%
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	\$780	4.1%
Information	\$1,167	5.8%
Financial Activities	\$1,150	3.5%
Professional and Business Services	\$969	4.2%
Education and Health Services	\$940	3.2%
Leisure and Hospitality	\$367	4.6%
Other Services	\$650	3.5%
Public Administration	\$912	3.1%

Source: DEW, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

South Carolina economic indicators



DEW COVID-19 resource page

EMPLOYMENT & WORKFORCE COVID-19 RESOURCE HUB

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
WE'RE HERE TO HELP!**

Wondering about unemployment benefits? How to help your employees during the crisis? We want to help you find the right answer.



Due to the influx of unemployment claims being filed, the national system known as ICON hub, which all states use to validate social security numbers on claims in real time, is being overwhelmed with validation requests. We are required to validate social security numbers to avoid fraud and prevent identity theft. The ICON hub team is aware of this unusual issue and is working to expand their database capacity.

In South Carolina, we are getting two different Social Security related questions:

First: The social security number field keeps you from filing a claim and states that the number is invalid and will not let you proceed to the next screen.

If you are getting this message, that is the validation delay mentioned above. We are asking folks to try to apply during an off-peak time. The validation of the social security number is done in REAL time, so that means as you are attempting to file, there are A LOT of people nationwide doing the same exact thing. We understand this has been an issue for a lot of people and as we get more information on progress, we will communicate that out.

Second: Once you have filed a claim, received a confirmation number and returned to the portal, your dashboard may show a pending Social Security Number Validation issue or a pending Separation issue.

These issues will be handled by our agency staff. No action is needed on your end. And if additional information is needed, a representative will contact you directly. There is no need to speak to an agent regarding these issues.

**GENERAL INFORMATION
ABOUT COVID-19**

**LATEST EMPLOYMENT AND WORKFORCE UPDATES
RELATED TO COVID-19**

**RECENT COMMUNICATION
ABOUT COVID-19**

Questions about statewide status of COVID-19 or looking for materials related to the outbreak?

Click here to see resources from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC).

Are you a business looking for health guidance in South Carolina?

Click here to view SCDHEC's Interim Guidance for Businesses and Employers!

Looking for guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19?

Click here for information provided by DOL and OSHA.

Looking for statewide updates and recordings of Gov. McMaster's press conferences?

Click here to visit the website of the SC Emergency Management Division.

EMPLOYEE/JOBSEEKER

EMPLOYER/BUSINESS



**CLICK HERE FOR THE STATUS OF
SC WORKS CENTERS' OPENINGS.**

The Unemployment Insurance claims process is 100 percent online.
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO VISIT AN SC WORKS CENTER TO FILE FOR BENEFITS.

There is no "in-person" process.

While the SC Works centers have computer labs available for people to use, out of respect for social distancing, many centers are only offering phone services at this time – and those phone services are for job-seeking assistance only.

Representatives with SC Works cannot view a claimant's account.
Unemployment Insurance questions should be directed to 1-866-831-1724.

Follow our social media platforms for the latest information in real time.

DEW Twitter

DEW Facebook

DEW LinkedIn

DEW YouTube

DEW Executive Director's Statement February 2020

South Carolina Employment Situation February 2020

Initial UI Claims Data for Week Ending March 21, 2020

Employment and Workforce Press Release March 19, 2020
Unemployment Insurance waiting week waived

Employment and Workforce Press Release March 19, 2020
Work search suspension and tax deadline extension

Employment and Workforce Press Release March 18, 2020.
COVID-Hub available for resources

Governor McMaster March 19, 2020 Executive Order.

US Department of Labor News Release: March 12, 2020, New Guidance on Unemployment Insurance Flexibilities During Covid-19 Outbreak

[Click here to go to DEW COVID-19 Resource Hub.](#)