



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation: January 2024

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.

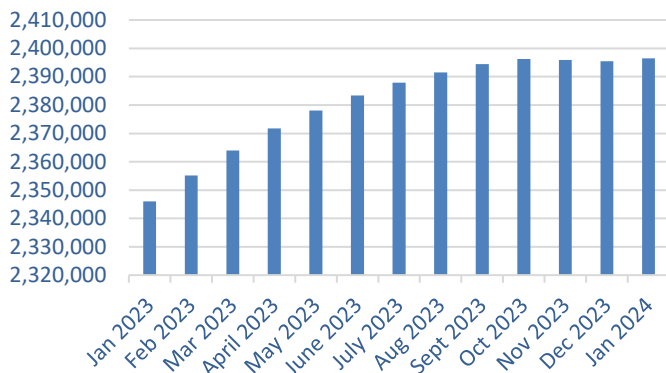
EMPLOYMENT:

- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,396,457.
- That is an increase of 1,030 people over the December 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 50,477 people over the January 2023 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,471,792, while the labor force participation rate held steady at 57.2 percent.
- That is an increase of 1,492 people over the December 2023 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 51,682 individuals over the January 2023 estimate.

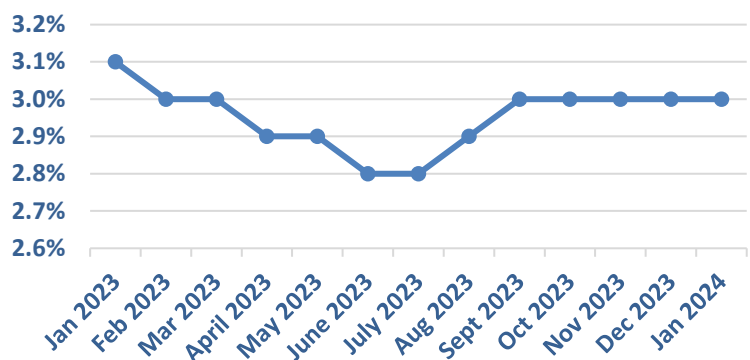
Number of People Employed



UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 75,335.
- That is an increase of 462 people from December's estimate and an increase of 1,205 from the January 2023 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged at 3.0 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.7 percent, according to the Current Population Survey.

Unemployment Rate



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	2.8%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.2%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	3.5%	↑ 0.4 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.1%	↑ 0.3 pts	No Change
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	3.2%	↑ 0.3 pts	No Change
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry, Brunswick (NC)	4.6%	↑ 0.7 pts	↓ 0.4 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	3.3%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Sumter	Sumter	4.2%	↑ 0.4 pts	↓ 0.4 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		January 2024				December 2023 **				January 2023 **			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↑	7,273	6,763	510	7.0	7,242	6,751	491	6.8	8,217	7,442	775	9.4
Allendale County	↑	2,286	2,128	158	6.9	2,303	2,164	139	6.0	2,207	2,059	148	6.7
Bamberg County	↑	4,573	4,296	277	6.1	4,546	4,297	249	5.5	4,523	4,258	265	5.9
Barnwell County	↑	7,553	7,136	417	5.5	7,655	7,252	403	5.3	7,390	7,024	366	5.0
Williamsburg County	↑	10,150	9,589	561	5.5	10,152	9,630	522	5.1	10,606	9,996	610	5.8
Marion County	↑	12,647	12,011	636	5.0	12,645	12,076	569	4.5	12,484	11,788	696	5.6
Orangeburg County	↑	33,291	31,653	1,638	4.9	33,611	32,127	1,484	4.4	32,536	30,831	1,705	5.2
Dillon County	↑	12,890	12,272	618	4.8	13,145	12,589	556	4.2	12,823	12,135	688	5.4
Chester County	↑	13,704	13,055	649	4.7	13,806	13,241	565	4.1	13,360	12,733	627	4.7
Cherokee County	↑	22,621	21,589	1,032	4.6	23,784	22,840	944	4.0	24,119	23,043	1,076	4.5
Fairfield County	↑	9,521	9,079	442	4.6	9,449	9,046	403	4.3	9,163	8,707	456	5.0
Horry County	↑	157,169	150,141	7,028	4.5	154,429	148,480	5,949	3.9	149,570	142,164	7,406	5.0
Clarendon County	↑	12,038	11,510	528	4.4	12,032	11,538	494	4.1	11,707	11,130	577	4.9
Lee County	↑	6,489	6,202	287	4.4	6,543	6,273	270	4.1	6,323	5,984	339	5.4
Sumter County	↑	41,269	39,518	1,751	4.2	42,929	41,307	1,622	3.8	42,112	40,171	1,941	4.6
Union County	↑	11,510	11,037	473	4.1	11,591	11,136	455	3.9	11,283	10,698	585	5.2
Abbeville County	↑	9,539	9,162	377	4.0	9,686	9,351	335	3.5	9,477	9,074	403	4.3
Georgetown County	↑	26,003	24,985	1,018	3.9	25,867	24,946	921	3.6	25,502	24,457	1,045	4.1
McCormick County	↑	3,464	3,329	135	3.9	3,456	3,335	121	3.5	3,531	3,401	130	3.7
Lancaster County	↑	44,681	43,000	1,681	3.8	45,176	43,610	1,566	3.5	43,581	41,926	1,655	3.8
Chesterfield County	↑	21,164	20,387	777	3.7	21,312	20,577	735	3.4	20,855	20,094	761	3.6
Darlington County	↑	30,555	29,430	1,125	3.7	30,796	29,762	1,034	3.4	29,716	28,588	1,128	3.8
Greenwood County	↑	29,840	28,737	1,103	3.7	30,356	29,345	1,011	3.3	29,706	28,484	1,222	4.1
Laurens County	↑	30,883	29,797	1,086	3.5	30,986	29,929	1,057	3.4	30,062	29,017	1,045	3.5
Newberry County	↑	18,687	18,033	654	3.5	18,779	18,187	592	3.2	18,905	18,309	596	3.2
Aiken County	↑	73,331	70,821	2,510	3.4	73,435	71,156	2,279	3.1	72,152	69,657	2,495	3.5
Calhoun County	↑	6,594	6,373	221	3.4	6,569	6,358	211	3.2	6,357	6,110	247	3.9
Edgefield County	↑	10,205	9,855	350	3.4	10,260	9,928	332	3.2	10,035	9,678	357	3.6
Florence County	↑	68,123	65,812	2,311	3.4	68,587	66,496	2,091	3.0	66,220	63,915	2,305	3.5
Richland County	↑	205,111	198,143	6,968	3.4	203,347	197,038	6,309	3.1	197,051	190,124	6,927	3.5
Colleton County	↑	16,246	15,718	528	3.3	16,115	15,621	494	3.1	15,661	15,049	612	3.9
Kershaw County	↑	30,365	29,355	1,010	3.3	30,176	29,247	929	3.1	29,203	28,156	1,047	3.6
Pickens County	↑	59,668	57,726	1,942	3.3	59,682	57,936	1,746	2.9	58,143	56,227	1,916	3.3
Beaufort County	↑	79,629	77,082	2,547	3.2	78,663	76,354	2,309	2.9	76,146	73,668	2,478	3.3
Hampton County	↑	8,027	7,773	254	3.2	8,048	7,816	232	2.9	7,755	7,488	267	3.4
Spartanburg County	↑	159,595	154,489	5,106	3.2	160,525	155,821	4,704	2.9	154,866	149,782	5,084	3.3
York County	↑	152,000	147,148	4,852	3.2	153,570	149,173	4,397	2.9	148,431	143,487	4,944	3.3
Anderson County	↑	94,034	91,087	2,947	3.1	94,072	91,416	2,656	2.8	91,628	88,742	2,886	3.1
Jasper County	↑	13,708	13,281	427	3.1	13,590	13,205	385	2.8	13,073	12,680	393	3.0
Oconee County	↑	35,337	34,231	1,106	3.1	35,464	34,443	1,021	2.9	33,856	32,725	1,131	3.3
Saluda County	↑	8,506	8,240	266	3.1	8,524	8,270	254	3.0	8,155	7,896	259	3.2
Berkeley County	↑	116,389	112,952	3,437	3.0	118,507	115,328	3,179	2.7	110,833	107,337	3,496	3.2
Greenville County	↑	267,705	259,582	8,123	3.0	267,941	260,467	7,474	2.8	260,683	252,916	7,767	3.0
Dorchester County	↑	84,434	81,986	2,448	2.9	85,965	83,723	2,242	2.6	80,232	77,908	2,324	2.9
Charleston County	↑	228,212	222,161	6,051	2.7	232,547	226,936	5,611	2.4	217,231	211,077	6,154	2.8
Lexington County	↑	156,663	152,425	4,238	2.7	155,685	151,776	3,909	2.5	150,566	146,207	4,359	2.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	-	2,471,792	2,396,457	75,335	3.0	2,470,300	2,395,427	74,873	3.0	2,420,110	2,345,980	74,130	3.1

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

**2023 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on April 19th.

↑ 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 increase of 9,200 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,345,800.

JOBS BY INDUSTRY	JANUARY 2024	DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2023	DECEMBER 2023 TO JANUARY 2024		JANUARY 2023 TO JANUARY 2024	
				# CHANGE	% CHANGE	# CHANGE	% CHANGE
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	2,345,800	2,336,600	2,276,600	↑ 9,200	↑ 0.4%	↑ 69,200	↑ 3.0%
Construction	116,000	115,300	110,600	↑ 700	↑ 0.6%	↑ 5,400	↑ 4.9%
Manufacturing	265,500	264,600	263,400	↑ 900	↑ 0.3%	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.8%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	442,000	445,100	439,300	↓ 3,100	↓ 0.7%	↑ 2,700	↑ 0.6%
Information	28,700	28,600	30,100	↑ 100	↑ 0.4%	↓ 1,400	↓ 4.7%
Financial Activities Professional and Business Services	123,800	124,100	120,200	↓ 300	↓ 0.2%	↑ 3,600	↑ 3.0%
Education and Health Services	318,300	315,700	308,800	↑ 2,600	↑ 0.8%	↑ 9,500	↑ 3.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	291,500	290,300	274,900	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.4%	↑ 16,600	↑ 6.0%
Other Services	290,100	286,900	274,400	↑ 3,200	↑ 1.1%	↑ 15,700	↑ 5.7%
Government	89,700	89,300	84,900	↑ 400	↑ 0.5%	↑ 4,800	↑ 5.7%
	375,700	372,200	365,500	↑ 3,500	↑ 0.9%	↑ 10,200	↑ 2.8%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 9,200 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,345,800.

AREA	JANUARY 2024	DECEMBER 2023	JANUARY 2023	DECEMBER 2023 TO JANUARY 2024		JANUARY 2023 TO JANUARY 2024	
				# CHANGE	% CHANGE	# CHANGE	% CHANGE
STATEWIDE	2,345,800	2,336,600	2,276,600	↑ 9,200	↑ 0.4%	↑ 69,200	↑ 3.0%
Charleston-North Charleston	423,600	421,500	405,300	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.5%	↑ 18,300	↑ 4.5%
Columbia	431,600	429,500	418,800	↑ 2,100	↑ 0.5%	↑ 12,800	↑ 3.1%
Florence	96,600	96,900	94,700	↓ 300	↓ 0.3%	↑ 1,900	↑ 2.0%
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	464,900	464,700	457,100	↑ 200	↑ 0.0%	↑ 7,800	↑ 1.7%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	90,700	90,500	87,400	↑ 200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 3,300	↑ 3.8%
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	198,400	197,200	189,100	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.6%	↑ 9,300	↑ 4.9%
Spartanburg	173,800	173,600	168,600	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 5,200	↑ 3.1%
Sumter	38,400	38,400	37,900	No Change	No Change	↑ 500	↑ 1.3%

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.

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.