

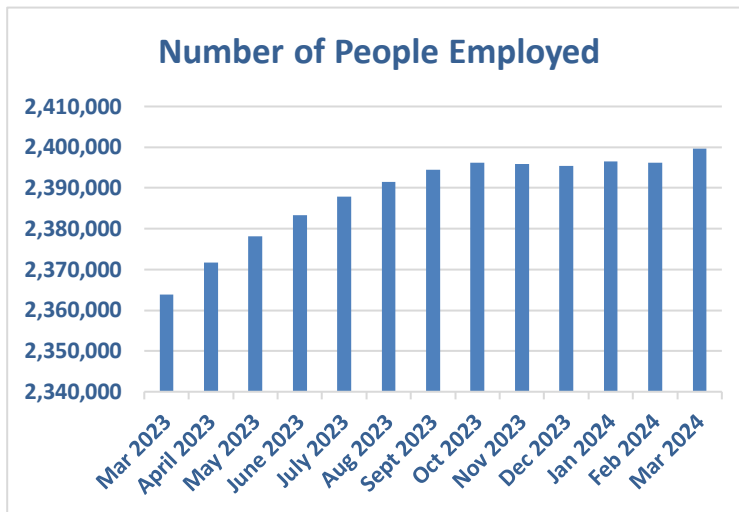


For Release  
April 19, 2024

## South Carolina's Employment Situation: March 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:

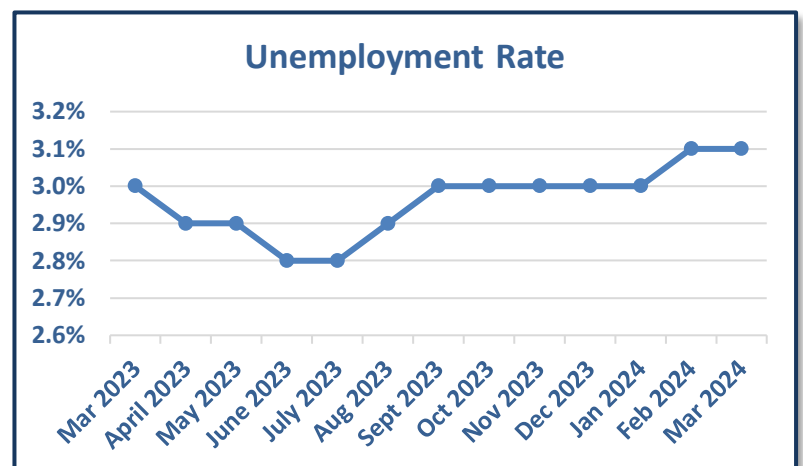
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,399,623.
- That is an increase of 3,428 people over the February 2024 estimate.
- That is an increase of 35,715 people over the March 2023 estimate.

#### LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,477,584, while the labor force participation rate was steady at 57.1 percent.
- That is an increase of 4,965 people over the February 2024 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 41,646 individuals over the March 2023 estimate.

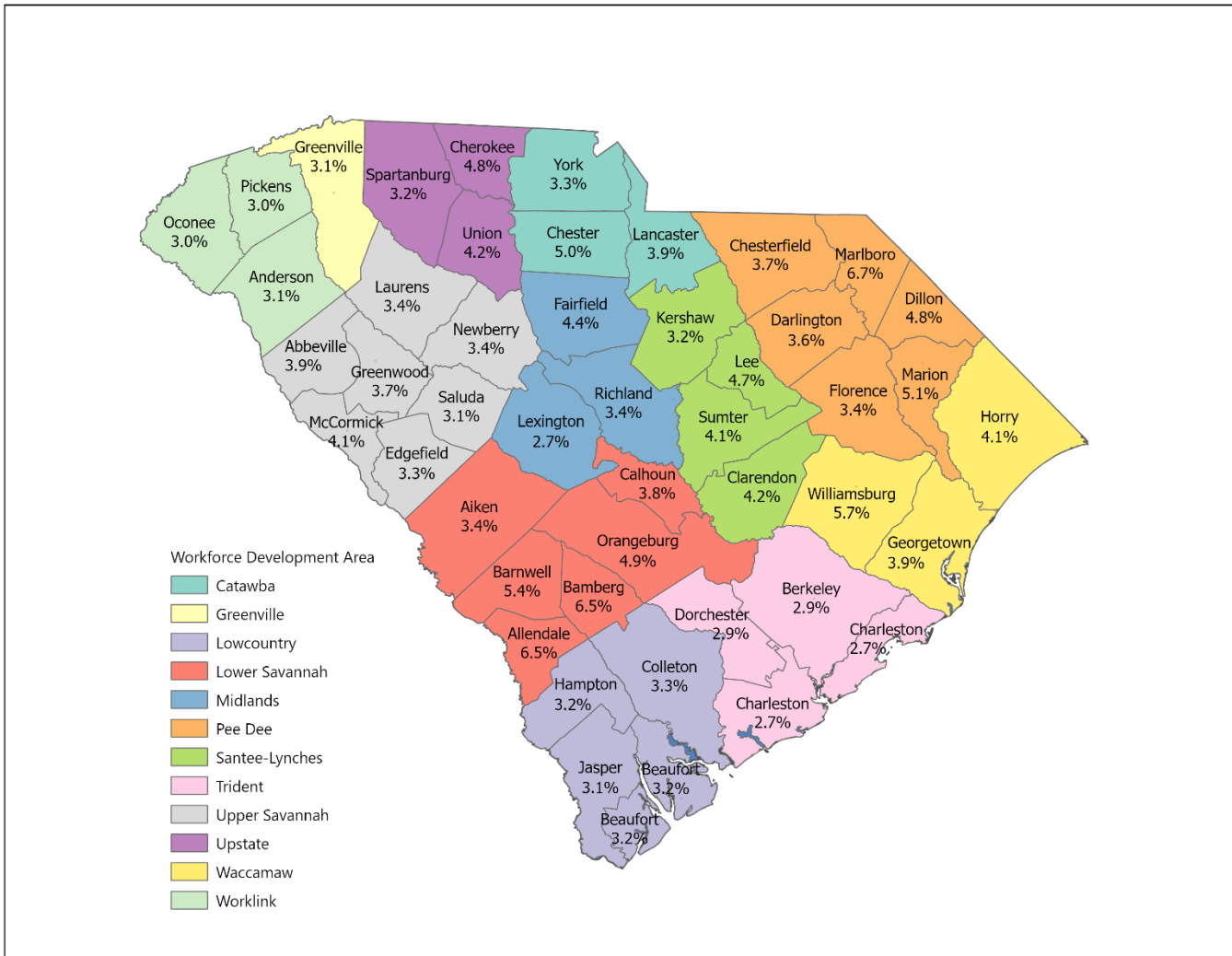
#### UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 77,961.
- That is an increase of 1,537 people from February's estimate and an increase of 5,931 from the March 2023 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.1 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased to 3.8 percent, according to the Current Population Survey.



**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	↑ 0.2 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.2%	↓ -0.2 pts	↑ 0.3 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	3.5%	↓ -0.2 pts	↑ 0.4 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.1%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.3 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	3.2%	↓ -0.4 pts	↑ 0.4 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry, Brunswick (NC)	4.1%	↓ -0.5 pts	↑ 0.2 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	3.3%	↓ -0.3 pts	↑ 0.3 pts
Sumter	Sumter	4.1%	↓ -0.4 pts	No Change

**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	March 2024					February 2024					March 2023			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT			LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT			LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
			LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	—	7,362	6,872	490	6.7	7,267	6,777	490	6.7	7,562	6,930	632	8.4	
Allendale County	↓	2,448	2,288	160	6.5	2,387	2,224	163	6.8	2,352	2,220	132	5.6	
Bamberg County	↑	4,766	4,454	312	6.5	4,697	4,395	302	6.4	4,560	4,325	235	5.2	
Williamsburg County	—	10,427	9,830	597	5.7	10,247	9,659	588	5.7	10,491	9,972	519	4.9	
Barnwell County	↓	7,765	7,346	419	5.4	7,650	7,216	434	5.7	7,807	7,485	322	4.1	
Marion County	↓	13,052	12,380	672	5.1	12,798	12,128	670	5.2	12,777	12,164	613	4.8	
Chester County	↑	13,992	13,298	694	5.0	13,783	13,110	673	4.9	13,700	13,151	549	4.0	
Orangeburg County	—	34,063	32,380	1,683	4.9	33,689	32,028	1,661	4.9	33,380	31,858	1,522	4.6	
Cherokee County	↑	22,979	21,886	1,093	4.8	22,779	21,708	1,071	4.7	23,743	22,820	923	3.9	
Dillon County	↓	13,364	12,718	646	4.8	13,182	12,542	640	4.9	13,242	12,580	662	5.0	
Lee County	↓	6,725	6,411	314	4.7	6,618	6,295	323	4.9	6,506	6,228	278	4.3	
Fairfield County	↓	9,742	9,312	430	4.4	9,616	9,161	455	4.7	9,448	9,038	410	4.3	
Clarendon County	↓	12,537	12,010	527	4.2	12,355	11,781	574	4.6	12,015	11,494	521	4.3	
Union County	↓	11,701	11,206	495	4.2	11,549	11,051	498	4.3	11,513	11,001	512	4.4	
Horry County	↓	162,406	155,816	6,590	4.1	158,791	151,576	7,215	4.5	156,141	150,212	5,929	3.8	
McCormick County	↓	3,540	3,395	145	4.1	3,507	3,347	160	4.6	3,435	3,309	126	3.7	
Sumter County	↓	42,231	40,493	1,738	4.1	41,545	39,685	1,860	4.5	41,203	39,526	1,677	4.1	
Abbeville County	↓	9,664	9,287	377	3.9	9,629	9,181	448	4.7	9,641	9,294	347	3.6	
Georgetown County	↓	27,149	26,088	1,061	3.9	26,542	25,414	1,128	4.2	26,654	25,742	912	3.4	
Lancaster County	↓	45,495	43,738	1,757	3.9	44,931	43,131	1,800	4.0	44,800	43,260	1,540	3.4	
Calhoun County	↓	6,840	6,577	263	3.8	6,731	6,466	265	3.9	6,581	6,347	234	3.6	
Chesterfield County	↓	21,854	21,049	805	3.7	21,530	20,699	831	3.9	21,342	20,691	651	3.1	
Greenwood County	↓	30,386	29,254	1,132	3.7	30,324	28,894	1,430	4.7	30,329	29,230	1,099	3.6	
Darlington County	↓	31,338	30,217	1,121	3.6	30,803	29,613	1,190	3.9	30,626	29,581	1,045	3.4	
Aiken County	↓	75,501	72,935	2,566	3.4	74,244	71,433	2,811	3.8	74,504	72,276	2,228	3.0	
Florence County	↓	69,377	67,006	2,371	3.4	68,230	65,754	2,476	3.6	67,950	65,941	2,009	3.0	
Laurens County	↓	31,566	30,488	1,078	3.4	31,221	30,031	1,190	3.8	30,990	30,008	982	3.2	
Newberry County	↓	19,529	18,872	657	3.4	19,273	18,581	692	3.6	19,343	18,659	684	3.5	
Richland County	↓	207,984	200,849	7,135	3.4	205,290	197,859	7,431	3.6	203,037	196,878	6,159	3.0	
Colleton County	↓	16,705	16,150	555	3.3	16,461	15,875	586	3.6	16,149	15,619	530	3.3	
Edgefield County	↓	10,667	10,316	351	3.3	10,482	10,085	397	3.8	10,398	10,072	326	3.1	
York County	↓	154,138	149,108	5,030	3.3	152,347	147,120	5,227	3.4	152,332	147,891	4,441	2.9	
Beaufort County	↓	81,827	79,241	2,586	3.2	80,750	77,812	2,938	3.6	78,529	76,329	2,200	2.8	
Hampton County	↓	8,419	8,148	271	3.2	8,276	7,988	288	3.5	7,961	7,742	219	2.8	
Kershaw County	↓	31,093	30,084	1,009	3.2	30,723	29,595	1,128	3.7	30,121	29,218	903	3.0	
Spartanburg County	↓	161,941	156,707	5,234	3.2	160,115	154,516	5,599	3.5	158,545	154,028	4,517	2.8	
Anderson County	↓	95,744	92,790	2,954	3.1	94,698	91,443	3,255	3.4	94,301	91,717	2,584	2.7	
Greenville County	↓	272,474	264,092	8,382	3.1	269,256	260,300	8,956	3.3	268,539	261,329	7,210	2.7	
Jasper County	↓	14,213	13,766	447	3.1	14,010	13,516	494	3.5	13,452	13,115	337	2.5	
Saluda County	↓	9,124	8,844	280	3.1	8,962	8,650	312	3.5	8,541	8,282	259	3.0	
Oconee County	↓	36,267	35,161	1,106	3.0	35,854	34,604	1,250	3.5	35,784	34,802	982	2.7	
Pickens County	↓	60,573	58,751	1,822	3.0	60,047	57,910	2,137	3.6	59,821	58,075	1,746	2.9	
Berkeley County	↓	118,051	114,589	3,462	2.9	116,902	113,073	3,829	3.3	114,182	111,061	3,121	2.7	
Dorchester County	↓	85,759	83,265	2,494	2.9	84,851	82,155	2,696	3.2	82,793	80,617	2,176	2.6	
Charleston County	↓	232,296	226,001	6,295	2.7	229,832	222,984	6,848	3.0	223,934	218,270	5,664	2.5	
Lexington County	↓	159,892	155,532	4,360	2.7	157,878	153,105	4,773	3.0	155,458	151,540	3,918	2.5	
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED														
South Carolina	—	2,477,584	2,399,623	77,961	3.1	2,472,619	2,396,195	75,325	3.1	2,435,938	2,363,908	72,030	3.0	

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

↑ 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 7,200 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,358,400.

Jobs by Industry	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024 to March 2024		March 2023 to March 2024	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	2,358,400	2,351,200	2,293,200	↑ 7,200	↑ 0.3%	↑ 65,200	↑ 2.8%
Construction	114,900	115,500	111,300	↓ -600	↓ -0.5%	↑ 3,600	↑ 3.2%
Manufacturing	265,900	265,900	262,800	No Change	No Change	↑ 3,100	↑ 1.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	447,100	446,200	440,100	↑ 900	↑ 0.2%	↑ 7,000	↑ 1.6%
Information	29,000	28,800	29,500	↑ 200	↑ 0.7%	↓ -500	↓ -1.7%
Financial Activities	123,800	123,500	121,000	↑ 300	↑ 0.2%	↑ 2,800	↑ 2.3%
Professional and Business Services	317,400	315,400	311,200	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.6%	↑ 6,200	↑ 2.0%
Education and Health Services	295,400	293,800	276,800	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.5%	↑ 18,600	↑ 6.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	293,000	290,700	278,500	↑ 2,300	↑ 0.8%	↑ 14,500	↑ 5.2%
Other Services	89,800	89,800	85,900	No Change	No Change	↑ 3,900	↑ 4.5%
Government	377,600	377,100	371,700	↑ 500	↑ 0.1%	↑ 5,900	↑ 1.6%

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

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 7,200 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,358,400.

Area	March 2024	February 2024	March 2023	February 2024 to March 2024		March 2023 to March 2024	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	2,358,400	2,351,200	2,293,200	↑ 7,200	↑ 0.3%	↑ 65,200	↑ 2.8%
Charleston/North Charleston	424,600	424,300	409,000	↑ 300	↑ 0.1%	↑ 15,600	↑ 3.8%
Columbia	433,800	431,800	421,500	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%	↑ 12,300	↑ 2.9%
Florence	97,500	97,000	95,300	↑ 500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 2,200	↑ 2.3%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	465,900	464,500	457,900	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.3%	↑ 8,000	↑ 1.7%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	91,200	90,900	88,000	↑ 300	↑ 0.3%	↑ 3,200	↑ 3.6%
Myrtle Beach	198,700	198,500	191,200	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 7,500	↑ 3.9%
Spartanburg	174,300	173,800	169,800	↑ 500	↑ 0.3%	↑ 4,500	↑ 2.7%
Sumter	38,800	38,600	37,700	↑ 200	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1,100	↑ 2.9%

**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.