



## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Heather Bianca

[hbiance@dew.sc.gov](mailto:hbiance@dew.sc.gov)

(803) 904-5956 cell

(803) 737-2623 office

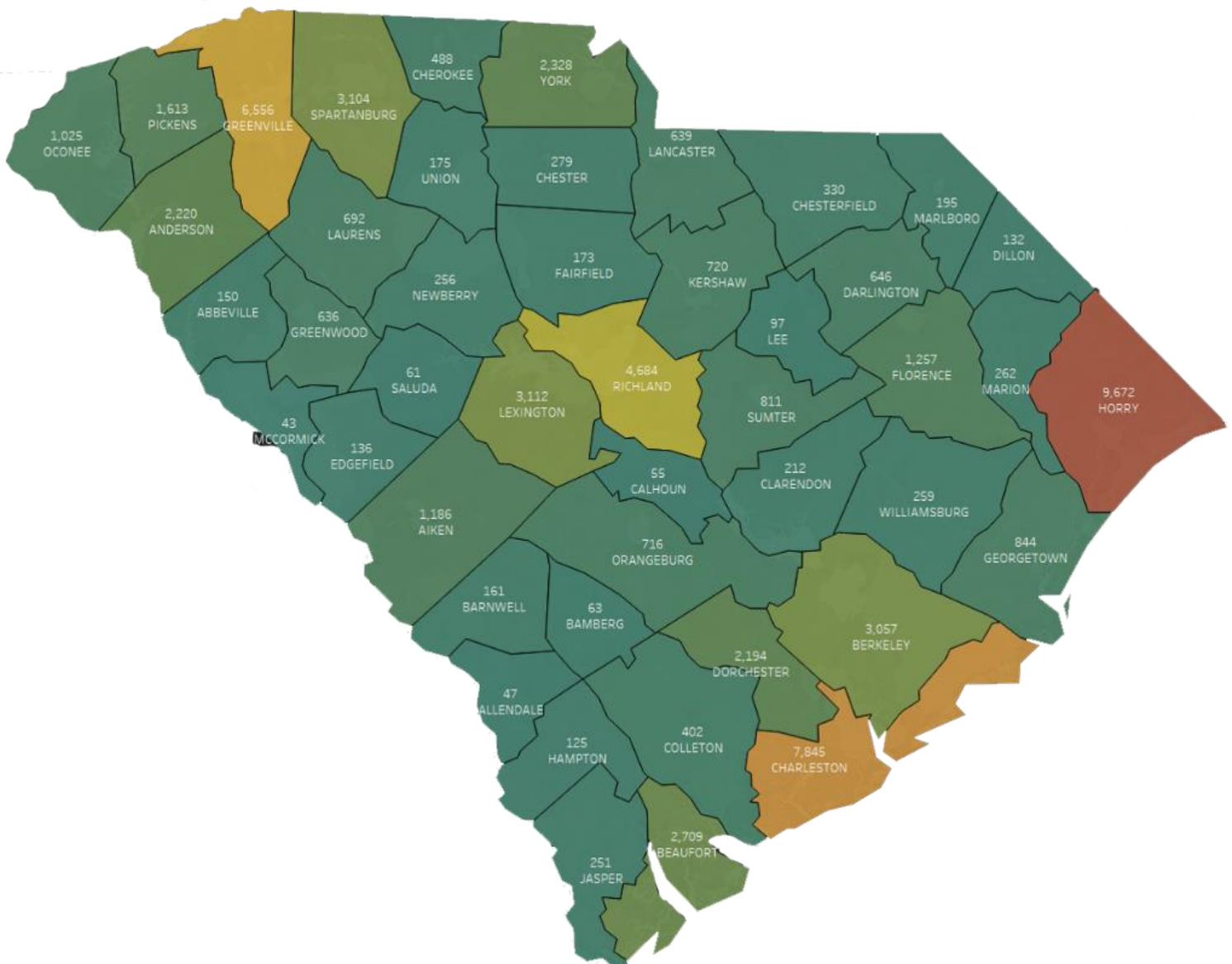
**For Immediate Release**

8:35 a.m. April 2, 2020

### South Carolina Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Data Week Ending March 28, 2020

**Initial Claims:** In the week ending March 28, 2020, the advance figures for South Carolina initial claims\* was 64,856, an increase of approximately 108.85% from the previous week's count of 31,054 and a 3,149.3% increase from the week ending March 14, 2020. This means that there were 64,856 individuals who both live and work in the state of South Carolina who filed an initial claim during that week. This is the data you will see reflected in the county information below.

**County Map (Intrastate)**





SC Department of Employment and Workforce

## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Heather Bianca

[hbiance@dew.sc.gov](mailto:hbiance@dew.sc.gov)

(803) 904-5956 cell

(803) 737-2623 office

### **Important Information to Know About the Unemployment Insurance Process**

1. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act has been signed into law, but these benefits are not yet available and the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is awaiting further guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor for state-specific implementation. For those who have already filed an unemployment insurance claim, please continue to file your weekly claim. For those who are self-employed, independent contractors, nonprofit employees, and gig economy workers, or requesting an extension of benefits and are not currently filing weekly claims, please continue to visit our website at [dew.sc.gov](http://dew.sc.gov), as we will continue to provide additional information and guidance as it becomes available.
2. Please visit our [COVID-19 Resource Hub](#) and social media as we will be communicating how this legislation will affect our process as soon as we know more.
3. 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 Department of Labor is aware and is working to expand its database capacity.
4. 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.
5. Most of the questions our agency is receiving through our call center can be found on our website [dew.sc.gov](http://dew.sc.gov) and our YouTube page SC DEW. Check the site in order to avoid the wait!

###

### ***About the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce***

*The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency has four missions: (1) workforce development; (2) free job match employment services; (3) unemployment insurance; and (4) labor market information. All four missions contribute to workforce development. The agency is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services and programs that meet the needs of our businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.*