

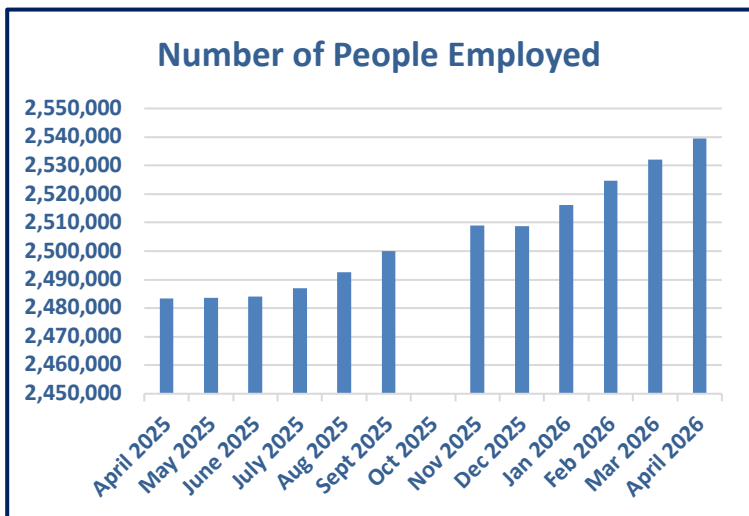


For Release
May 22, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: April 2026

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:

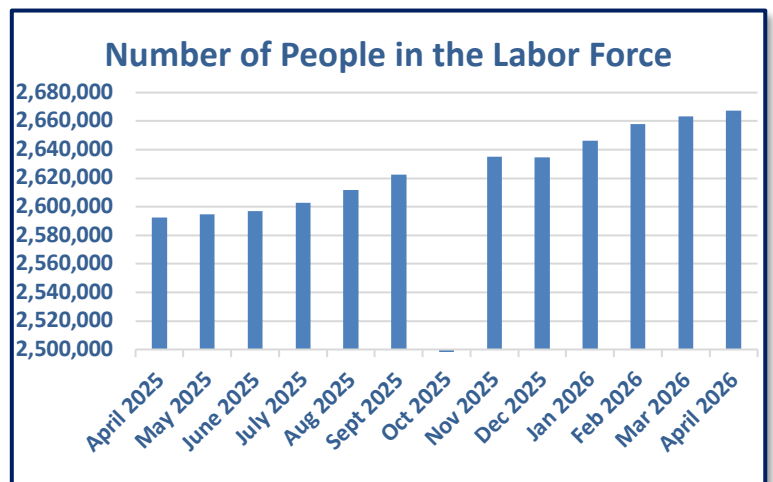
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,539,583.
- That is a significant increase of 7,449 people over the March 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 56,209 people over the April 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,667,596 while the labor force participation rate increased to 59.0 percent.
- That is an increase of 4,153 people over the March 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 75,201 individuals over the April 2025 estimate.

UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 128,013.
- That is a decrease of 3,296 people from the March estimate and an increase of 18,992 from the April 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.8 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.3 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.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		April 2026				March 2026				April 2025			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↓	8,417	7,850	567	6.7	8,496	7,849	647	7.6	8,239	7,749	490	5.9
Williamsburg County	↓	10,683	10,024	659	6.2	10,845	10,055	790	7.3	10,693	10,053	640	6.0
Union County	↓	11,189	10,564	625	5.6	11,306	10,573	733	6.5	10,836	10,201	635	5.9
Marion County	↓	12,409	11,721	688	5.5	12,518	11,704	814	6.5	12,007	11,405	602	5.0
Lee County	↓	6,129	5,795	334	5.4	6,148	5,782	366	6.0	6,053	5,742	311	5.1
Allendale County	↓	2,824	2,672	152	5.4	2,896	2,721	175	6.0	2,713	2,588	125	4.6
Orangeburg County	↓	35,968	34,170	1,798	5.0	36,347	34,283	2,064	5.7	35,365	33,550	1,815	5.1
Cherokee County	↓	24,087	22,888	1,199	5.0	24,063	22,779	1,284	5.3	24,156	22,877	1,279	5.3
Dillon County	↓	12,679	12,074	605	4.8	12,857	12,178	679	5.3	12,580	11,951	629	5.0
Sumter County	↓	43,305	41,283	2,022	4.7	43,674	41,410	2,264	5.2	42,575	40,651	1,924	4.5
Clarendon County	↓	12,513	11,923	590	4.7	12,666	11,974	692	5.5	11,576	11,000	576	5.0
Chester County	↓	14,827	14,144	683	4.6	14,900	14,106	794	5.3	14,311	13,628	683	4.8
Fairfield County	↓	10,055	9,589	466	4.6	10,077	9,554	523	5.2	9,807	9,375	432	4.4
Bamberg County	↓	5,571	5,314	257	4.6	5,598	5,310	288	5.1	5,494	5,239	255	4.6
Barnwell County	↓	8,468	8,093	375	4.4	8,620	8,170	450	5.2	8,209	7,811	398	4.8
Georgetown County	↓	28,483	27,253	1,230	4.3	28,465	26,979	1,486	5.2	27,881	26,636	1,245	4.5
McCormick County	↓	3,640	3,485	155	4.3	3,659	3,474	185	5.1	3,509	3,364	145	4.1
Horry County	↓	182,802	175,102	7,700	4.2	179,907	170,699	9,208	5.1	176,294	168,880	7,414	4.2
Darlington County	↓	29,188	27,952	1,236	4.2	29,317	27,910	1,407	4.8	28,494	27,371	1,123	3.9
Chesterfield County	↓	19,669	18,851	818	4.2	19,939	18,996	943	4.7	19,038	18,284	754	4.0
Greenwood County	↓	30,145	28,898	1,247	4.1	30,340	28,907	1,433	4.7	29,643	28,267	1,376	4.6
Colleton County	↓	16,327	15,661	666	4.1	16,301	15,528	773	4.7	16,069	15,410	659	4.1
Florence County	↓	66,624	63,935	2,689	4.0	66,769	63,715	3,054	4.6	65,178	62,688	2,490	3.8
Lancaster County	↓	52,135	50,100	2,035	3.9	52,105	49,731	2,374	4.6	50,445	48,461	1,984	3.9
Laurens County	↓	33,091	31,795	1,296	3.9	33,057	31,600	1,457	4.4	32,000	30,659	1,341	4.2
Hampton County	↓	8,248	7,923	325	3.9	8,393	8,006	387	4.6	8,010	7,740	270	3.4
Richland County	↓	217,016	208,815	8,201	3.8	217,413	208,136	9,277	4.3	212,168	204,008	8,160	3.8
Spartanburg County	↓	175,459	168,861	6,598	3.8	175,735	168,343	7,392	4.2	170,250	163,577	6,673	3.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,775	10,368	407	3.8	10,867	10,402	465	4.3	10,476	10,070	406	3.9
York County	↓	159,963	154,056	5,907	3.7	159,697	152,962	6,735	4.2	154,856	148,987	5,869	3.8
Newberry County	↓	19,515	18,801	714	3.7	19,563	18,755	808	4.1	19,116	18,448	668	3.5
Calhoun County	↓	6,856	6,599	257	3.7	6,923	6,623	300	4.3	6,647	6,412	235	3.5
Kershaw County	↓	34,326	33,085	1,241	3.6	34,406	33,009	1,397	4.1	33,494	32,272	1,222	3.6
Pickens County	↓	68,684	66,290	2,394	3.5	68,492	65,832	2,660	3.9	66,446	63,963	2,483	3.7
Jasper County	↓	15,500	14,952	548	3.5	15,536	14,882	654	4.2	14,906	14,407	499	3.3
Anderson County	↓	105,670	102,129	3,541	3.4	105,485	101,448	4,037	3.8	101,949	98,526	3,423	3.4
Aiken County	↓	82,857	80,007	2,850	3.4	81,941	78,583	3,358	4.1	81,180	78,402	2,778	3.4
Beaufort County	↓	87,459	84,577	2,882	3.3	87,064	83,648	3,416	3.9	84,644	81,913	2,731	3.2
Oconee County	↓	38,546	37,256	1,290	3.3	38,386	36,855	1,531	4.0	37,360	36,148	1,212	3.2
Greenville County	↓	302,405	292,714	9,691	3.2	301,445	290,398	11,047	3.7	292,231	282,644	9,587	3.3
Berkeley County	↓	136,805	132,385	4,420	3.2	136,273	131,241	5,032	3.7	133,392	129,133	4,259	3.2
Dorchester County	↓	91,017	88,069	2,948	3.2	90,514	87,172	3,342	3.7	88,812	86,000	2,812	3.2
Lexington County	↓	161,929	156,861	5,068	3.1	162,041	156,149	5,892	3.6	158,315	153,359	4,956	3.1
Edgefield County	↓	13,569	13,154	415	3.1	13,486	13,001	485	3.6	13,205	12,820	385	2.9
Saluda County	↓	9,725	9,437	288	3.0	9,845	9,509	336	3.4	9,397	9,107	290	3.1
Charleston County	↓	242,970	235,992	6,978	2.9	241,660	233,459	8,201	3.4	237,254	230,492	6,762	2.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,667,596	2,539,583	128,013	4.8	2,663,443	2,532,134	131,309	4.9	2,592,395	2,483,374	109,021	4.2

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 5,000 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,404,700.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Apr-26

Jobs by industry	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026 to April 2026		April 2025 to April 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,404,700	2,399,700	2,383,500	↑ 5,000	↑ 0.2%	↑ 21,200	↑ 0.9%
Construction	127,000	126,100	123,000	↑ 900	↑ 0.7%	↑ 4,000	↑ 3.3%
Manufacturing	263,700	263,500	262,100	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.6%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	445,400	444,700	444,800	↑ 700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 600	↑ 0.1%
Information	26,000	26,400	27,400	↓ -400	↓ -1.5%	↓ -1,400	↓ -5.1%
Financial Activities	123,000	122,700	122,600	↑ 300	↑ 0.2%	↑ 400	↑ 0.3%
Professional and Business Services	314,200	310,600	317,900	↑ 3,600	↑ 1.2%	↓ -3,700	↓ -1.2%
Education and Health Services	323,400	322,100	314,300	↑ 1,300	↑ 0.4%	↑ 9,100	↑ 2.9%
Leisure and Hospitality	285,400	285,800	282,700	↓ -400	↓ -0.1%	↑ 2,700	↑ 1.0%
Other Services	93,700	94,400	90,800	↓ -700	↓ -0.7%	↑ 2,900	↑ 3.2%
Government	398,100	398,600	393,200	↓ -500	↓ -0.1%	↑ 4,900	↑ 1.2%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 5,000 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,404,700.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Apr-26

Area	April 2026	March 2026	April 2025	March 2026 to April 2026		April 2025 to April 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,404,700	2,399,700	2,383,500	↑ 5,000	↑ 0.2%	↑ 21,200	↑ 0.9%
Charleston/North Charleston	434,000	432,700	433,000	↑ 1,300	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1,000	↑ 0.2%
Columbia	435,400	435,000	434,800	↑ 400	↑ 0.1%	↑ 600	↑ 0.1%
Florence	96,500	96,400	96,500	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	No Change	No Change
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	484,600	482,700	477,700	↑ 1,900	↑ 0.4%	↑ 6,900	↑ 1.4%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	89,600	89,600	88,500	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,100	↑ 1.2%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	158,300	158,400	155,800	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 2,500	↑ 1.6%
Spartanburg	178,900	178,700	177,300	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.9%
Sumter	37,500	37,600	38,000	↓ -100	↓ -0.3%	↓ -500	↓ -1.3%

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.