



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

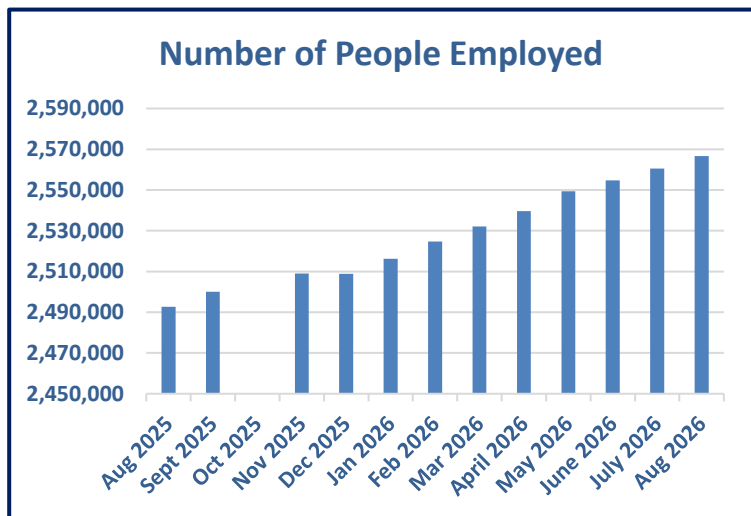
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For Release
September 18, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: August 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:

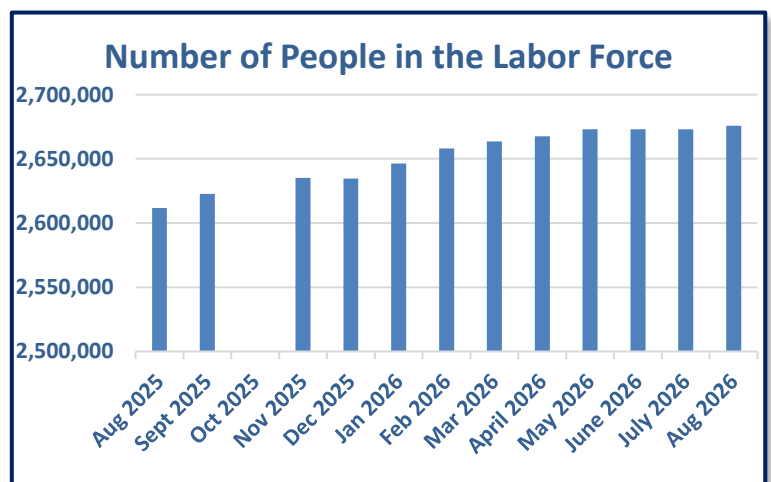
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,566,682.
- That is an increase of 6,208 people over the July 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 73,996 people over the August 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,675,730 while the labor force participation rate was unchanged at 58.8 percent.
- That is an increase of 2,804 people over the July 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 63,889 individuals over the August 2025 estimate.

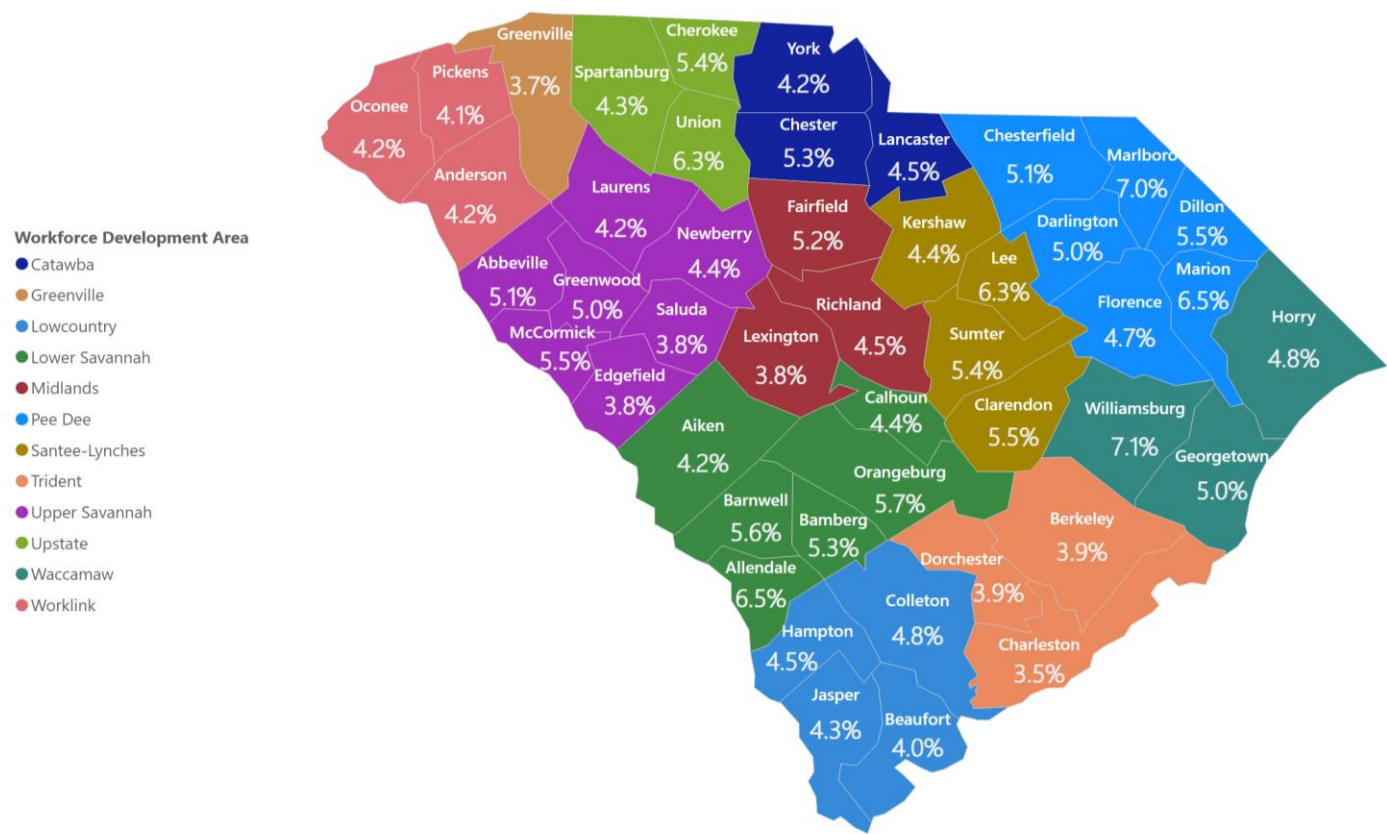
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 109,048.
- That is a decrease of 3,404 people from the July estimate and a decrease of 10,107 from the August 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.1 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.1 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	3.7%	No Change	↓ -0.5 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.2%	↑ 0.2 pts	↓ -0.4 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.8%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.5 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.9%	↑ 0.2 pts	↓ -0.5 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	4.1%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ -0.6 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	4.8%	↑ 0.4 pts	↓ -0.6 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.4%	No Change	↓ -0.6 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.4%	↑ 0.3 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		August 2026				July 2026				August 2025			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,678	9,921	757	7.1	10,732	9,983	749	7.0	10,796	9,875	921	8.5
Marlboro County	↑	8,405	7,819	586	7.0	8,379	7,815	564	6.7	8,397	7,721	676	8.1
Allendale County	↑	2,716	2,540	176	6.5	2,740	2,573	167	6.1	2,737	2,552	185	6.8
Marion County	↓	11,637	10,886	751	6.5	11,644	10,879	765	6.6	12,180	11,381	799	6.6
Lee County	↑	6,167	5,780	387	6.3	6,175	5,810	365	5.9	5,958	5,601	357	6.0
Union County	↑	11,288	10,576	712	6.3	11,246	10,584	662	5.9	10,791	10,107	684	6.3
Orangeburg County	↓	35,632	33,616	2,016	5.7	35,838	33,654	2,184	6.1	35,154	32,766	2,388	6.8
Barnwell County	↑	8,257	7,796	461	5.6	8,278	7,855	423	5.1	8,257	7,749	508	6.2
Clarendon County	↓	12,205	11,539	666	5.5	11,943	11,262	681	5.7	11,922	11,112	810	6.8
Dillon County	↑	12,397	11,712	685	5.5	12,381	11,715	666	5.4	12,241	11,464	777	6.3
McCormick County	↑	3,554	3,357	197	5.5	3,520	3,351	169	4.8	3,496	3,294	202	5.8
Cherokee County	↓	23,456	22,188	1,268	5.4	22,825	21,575	1,250	5.5	23,449	21,987	1,462	6.2
Sumter County	↑	43,087	40,772	2,315	5.4	43,396	41,188	2,208	5.1	42,724	40,234	2,490	5.8
Bamberg County	↓	5,396	5,108	288	5.3	5,370	5,073	297	5.5	5,359	5,012	347	6.5
Chester County	↑	14,864	14,070	794	5.3	14,897	14,127	770	5.2	14,440	13,544	896	6.2
Fairfield County	↑	10,183	9,657	526	5.2	10,149	9,656	493	4.9	9,916	9,340	576	5.8
Abbeville County	↑	10,827	10,279	548	5.1	10,534	10,069	465	4.4	10,556	10,006	550	5.2
Chesterfield County	↑	19,141	18,158	983	5.1	19,300	18,346	954	4.9	18,770	17,722	1,048	5.6
Darlington County	—	29,414	27,937	1,477	5.0	29,395	27,935	1,460	5.0	28,583	26,988	1,595	5.6
Georgetown County	↑	28,561	27,124	1,437	5.0	29,012	27,664	1,348	4.6	28,229	26,590	1,639	5.8
Greenwood County	↑	29,774	28,292	1,482	5.0	28,785	27,378	1,407	4.9	29,737	28,032	1,705	5.7
Colleton County	—	16,162	15,385	777	4.8	16,365	15,575	790	4.8	15,899	14,974	925	5.8
Horry County	↑	187,730	178,774	8,956	4.8	190,569	182,165	8,404	4.4	179,287	169,596	9,691	5.4
Florence County	↑	67,049	63,906	3,143	4.7	66,957	63,902	3,055	4.6	65,151	61,754	3,397	5.2
Hampton County	↑	7,909	7,552	357	4.5	7,841	7,493	348	4.4	8,024	7,633	391	4.9
Lancaster County	↑	52,846	50,476	2,370	4.5	52,634	50,450	2,184	4.1	51,255	48,555	2,700	5.3
Richland County	↑	219,228	209,456	9,772	4.5	219,253	209,728	9,525	4.3	213,050	202,616	10,434	4.9
Calhoun County	↑	6,857	6,553	304	4.4	6,885	6,586	299	4.3	6,684	6,339	345	5.2
Kershaw County	↑	34,328	32,821	1,507	4.4	34,432	32,994	1,438	4.2	33,407	31,781	1,626	4.9
Newberry County	↑	18,994	18,158	836	4.4	19,044	18,230	814	4.3	18,907	18,031	876	4.6
Jasper County	↑	15,565	14,892	673	4.3	15,743	15,118	625	4.0	15,282	14,517	765	5.0
Spartanburg County	—	177,384	169,749	7,635	4.3	177,193	169,611	7,582	4.3	170,632	162,234	8,398	4.9
Aiken County	↑	81,325	77,878	3,447	4.2	81,611	78,432	3,179	3.9	79,981	76,159	3,822	4.8
Anderson County	↑	107,090	102,574	4,516	4.2	106,568	102,513	4,055	3.8	102,957	98,364	4,593	4.5
Laurens County	↑	33,258	31,847	1,411	4.2	33,210	31,859	1,351	4.1	32,204	30,548	1,656	5.1
Oconee County	↑	38,208	36,589	1,619	4.2	37,954	36,422	1,532	4.0	37,305	35,571	1,734	4.6
York County	↑	161,918	155,159	6,759	4.2	161,551	155,097	6,454	4.0	156,913	149,253	7,660	4.9
Pickens County	—	69,372	66,559	2,813	4.1	69,370	66,525	2,845	4.1	66,859	63,831	3,028	4.5
Beaufort County	↑	88,591	85,020	3,571	4.0	89,387	86,034	3,353	3.8	86,909	82,880	4,029	4.6
Berkeley County	↓	138,189	132,858	5,331	3.9	139,848	134,230	5,618	4.0	133,933	128,048	5,885	4.4
Dorchester County	↓	91,966	88,410	3,556	3.9	93,028	89,310	3,718	4.0	89,048	85,226	3,822	4.3
Edgefield County	↑	13,090	12,590	500	3.8	13,223	12,762	461	3.5	12,869	12,320	549	4.3
Lexington County	↑	163,137	157,008	6,129	3.8	163,129	157,328	5,801	3.6	158,565	151,941	6,624	4.2
Saluda County	↑	9,311	8,959	352	3.8	9,478	9,153	325	3.4	9,071	8,702	369	4.1
Greenville County	↑	305,164	293,890	11,274	3.7	304,409	293,744	10,665	3.5	294,480	281,892	12,588	4.3
Charleston County	↑	244,932	236,244	8,688	3.5	247,151	238,861	8,290	3.4	237,330	227,826	9,504	4.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,675,730	2,566,682	109,048	4.1	2,672,926	2,560,474	112,452	4.2	2,611,841	2,492,686	119,155	4.6

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 10,800 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,426,300.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Aug-26

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026 to August 2026		August 2025 to August 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Jobs by Industry							
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,426,300	2,415,500	2,387,700	↑ 10,800	↑ 0.4%	↑ 38,600	↑ 1.6%
Construction	128,900	129,000	124,100	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 4,800	↑ 3.9%
Manufacturing	266,000	264,800	262,200	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.5%	↑ 3,800	↑ 1.4%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	447,000	446,500	445,400	↑ 500	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.4%
Information	25,100	25,300	27,400	↓ -200	↓ -0.8%	↓ -2,300	↓ -8.4%
Financial Activities	123,700	123,800	122,400	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.1%
Professional and Business Services	317,600	313,700	315,100	↑ 3,900	↑ 1.2%	↑ 2,500	↑ 0.8%
Education and Health Services	324,100	324,800	316,200	↓ -700	↓ -0.2%	↑ 7,900	↑ 2.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	291,300	287,300	281,000	↑ 4,000	↑ 1.4%	↑ 10,300	↑ 3.7%
Other Services	94,000	94,400	91,300	↓ -400	↓ -0.4%	↑ 2,700	↑ 3.0%
Government	403,800	401,100	397,900	↑ 2,700	↑ 0.7%	↑ 5,900	↑ 1.5%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 10,800 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,426,300.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Aug-26

	August 2026	July 2026	August 2025	July 2026 to August 2026		August 2025 to August 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Area							
Statewide	2,426,300	2,415,500	2,387,700	↑ 10,800	↑ 0.4%	↑ 38,600	↑ 1.6%
Charleston/North Charleston	435,700	435,600	431,700	↑ 100	↑ 0.0%	↑ 4,000	↑ 0.9%
Columbia	437,600	436,900	436,100	↑ 700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.3%
Florence	96,500	96,300	96,000	↑ 200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 500	↑ 0.5%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	488,100	486,800	480,600	↑ 1,300	↑ 0.3%	↑ 7,500	↑ 1.6%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	90,500	90,400	89,200	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.5%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	160,300	160,200	156,200	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,100	↑ 2.6%
Spartanburg	181,200	180,600	177,600	↑ 600	↑ 0.3%	↑ 3,600	↑ 2.0%
Sumter	37,500	37,500	38,100	No Change	No Change	↓ -600	↓ -1.6%

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.