

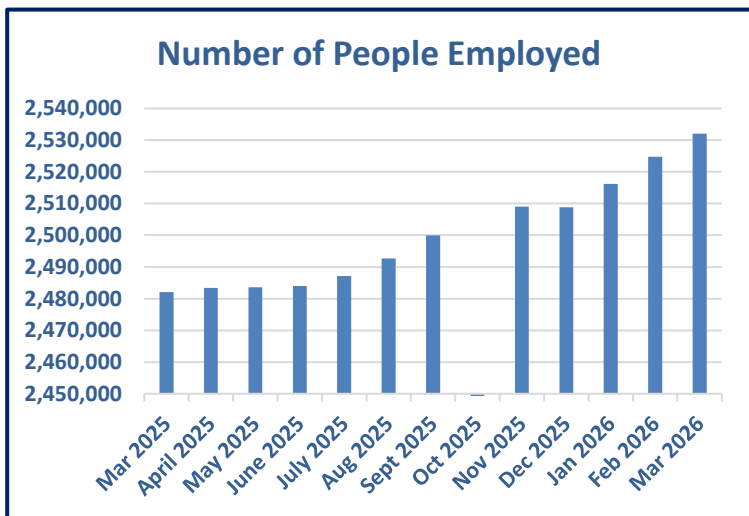


For Release
May 6, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: March 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:

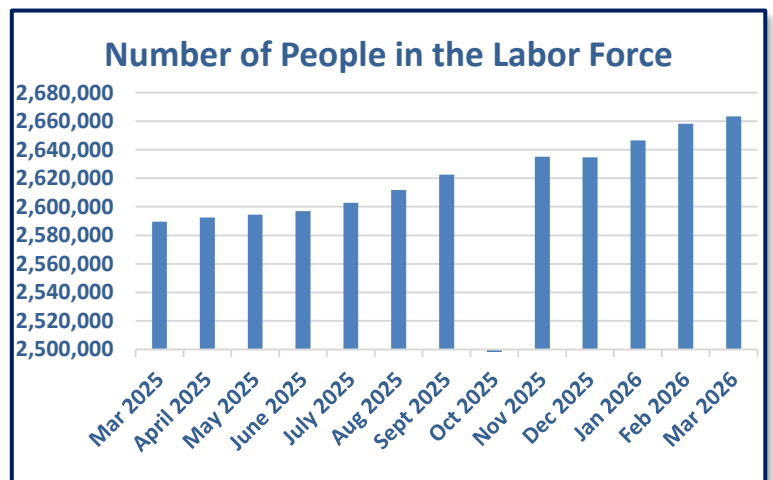
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,532,080.
- That is an increase of 7,337 people over the February 2026 estimate.
- That is an increase of 49,991 people over the March 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,663,399 while the labor force participation rate was unchanged at 58.9 percent.
- That is an increase of 5,323 people over the February 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 73,740 individuals over the March 2025 estimate.

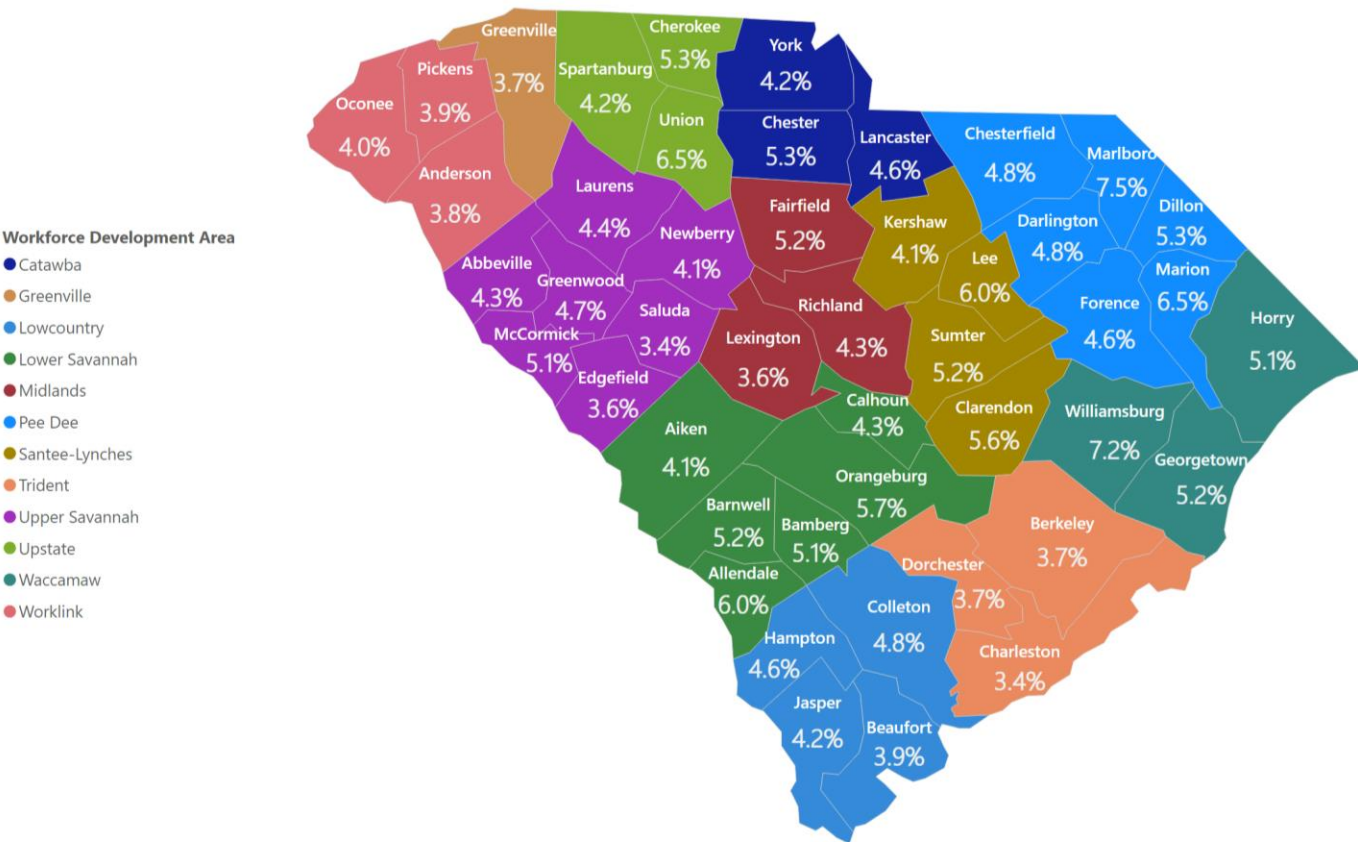
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 131,319.
- That is a decrease of 2,014 people from the February estimate and a significant increase of 23,749 from the March 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.9 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.

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 | 3.5% | ↓ -1.2 pts | No Change |
| Columbia | Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda | 4.0% | ↓ -1.2 pts | ↑ 0.1 pts |
| Florence | Darlington, Florence | 4.6% | ↓ -1.3 pts | ↑ 0.3 pts |
| Greenville-Anderson-Greer | Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens | 3.8% | ↓ -1.2 pts | ↑ 0.1 pts |
| Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal | Beaufort, Jasper | 4.0% | ↓ -1.3 pts | ↑ 0.1 pts |
| Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach | Horry | 5.1% | ↓ -1.8 pts | ↑ 0.2 pts |
| Spartanburg | Spartanburg, Union | 4.3% | ↓ -1.2 pts | ↑ 0.2 pts |
| Sumter | Sumter | 5.2% | ↓ -1.5 pts | ↑ 0.1 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 | March 2026 | | | | February 2026 | | | | March 2025 ** | | | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------|-----|
| | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOY- MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOY- MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | | LABOR FORCE | EMPLOY- MENT | UNEMPLOYMENT | | |
| | | | LEVEL | RATE (%) | | | LEVEL | RATE (%) | | | LEVEL | RATE (%) | |
| Marlboro County | ↓ | 8,633 | 7,985 | 648 | 7.5 | 8,737 | 7,943 | 794 | 9.1 | 8,053 | 7,487 | 566 | 7.0 |
| Williamsburg County | ↓ | 11,005 | 10,215 | 790 | 7.2 | 11,120 | 10,129 | 991 | 8.9 | 10,648 | 9,895 | 753 | 7.1 |
| Marion County | ↓ | 12,538 | 11,723 | 815 | 6.5 | 12,582 | 11,577 | 1,005 | 8.0 | 11,965 | 11,299 | 666 | 5.6 |
| Union County | ↓ | 11,311 | 10,577 | 734 | 6.5 | 11,291 | 10,471 | 820 | 7.3 | 11,063 | 10,502 | 561 | 5.1 |
| Allendale County | ↓ | 2,944 | 2,768 | 176 | 6.0 | 2,972 | 2,745 | 227 | 7.6 | 2,805 | 2,664 | 141 | 5.0 |
| Lee County | ↓ | 6,129 | 5,763 | 366 | 6.0 | 6,178 | 5,726 | 452 | 7.3 | 5,975 | 5,637 | 338 | 5.7 |
| Orangeburg County | ↓ | 36,220 | 34,155 | 2,065 | 5.7 | 36,962 | 34,316 | 2,646 | 7.2 | 35,416 | 33,448 | 1,968 | 5.6 |
| Clarendon County | ↓ | 12,402 | 11,710 | 692 | 5.6 | 12,556 | 11,659 | 897 | 7.1 | 12,066 | 11,412 | 654 | 5.4 |
| Cherokee County | ↓ | 24,300 | 23,015 | 1,285 | 5.3 | 24,527 | 22,883 | 1,644 | 6.7 | 23,144 | 21,983 | 1,161 | 5.0 |
| Chester County | ↓ | 14,910 | 14,115 | 795 | 5.3 | 14,959 | 13,990 | 969 | 6.5 | 14,749 | 13,978 | 771 | 5.2 |
| Dillon County | ↓ | 12,753 | 12,074 | 679 | 5.3 | 12,863 | 12,009 | 854 | 6.6 | 12,516 | 11,798 | 718 | 5.7 |
| Barnwell County | ↓ | 8,603 | 8,153 | 450 | 5.2 | 8,663 | 8,089 | 574 | 6.6 | 8,294 | 7,854 | 440 | 5.3 |
| Fairfield County | ↓ | 10,077 | 9,554 | 523 | 5.2 | 10,126 | 9,475 | 651 | 6.4 | 9,883 | 9,372 | 511 | 5.2 |
| Georgetown County | ↓ | 28,659 | 27,172 | 1,487 | 5.2 | 28,617 | 26,704 | 1,913 | 6.7 | 28,616 | 27,059 | 1,557 | 5.4 |
| Sumter County | ↓ | 43,541 | 41,275 | 2,266 | 5.2 | 44,044 | 41,114 | 2,930 | 6.7 | 42,678 | 40,521 | 2,157 | 5.1 |
| Bamberg County | ↓ | 5,600 | 5,312 | 288 | 5.1 | 5,712 | 5,322 | 390 | 6.8 | 5,457 | 5,176 | 281 | 5.1 |
| Horry County | ↓ | 179,977 | 170,769 | 9,208 | 5.1 | 179,055 | 166,760 | 12,295 | 6.9 | 172,749 | 164,310 | 8,439 | 4.9 |
| McCormick County | ↓ | 3,643 | 3,458 | 185 | 5.1 | 3,680 | 3,433 | 247 | 6.7 | 3,484 | 3,317 | 167 | 4.8 |
| Chesterfield County | ↓ | 19,774 | 18,830 | 944 | 4.8 | 19,893 | 18,683 | 1,210 | 6.1 | 19,094 | 18,243 | 851 | 4.5 |
| Colleton County | ↓ | 16,219 | 15,446 | 773 | 4.8 | 16,320 | 15,292 | 1,028 | 6.3 | 15,879 | 15,151 | 728 | 4.6 |
| Darlington County | ↓ | 29,296 | 27,888 | 1,408 | 4.8 | 29,448 | 27,630 | 1,818 | 6.2 | 28,698 | 27,430 | 1,268 | 4.4 |
| Greenwood County | ↓ | 30,452 | 29,018 | 1,434 | 4.7 | 30,670 | 28,812 | 1,858 | 6.1 | 28,673 | 27,209 | 1,464 | 5.1 |
| Florence County | ↓ | 66,721 | 63,667 | 3,054 | 4.6 | 66,983 | 63,101 | 3,882 | 5.8 | 65,087 | 62,310 | 2,777 | 4.3 |
| Hampton County | ↓ | 8,508 | 8,120 | 388 | 4.6 | 8,562 | 8,067 | 495 | 5.8 | 8,303 | 8,000 | 303 | 3.6 |
| Lancaster County | ↓ | 52,141 | 49,766 | 2,375 | 4.6 | 52,330 | 49,282 | 3,048 | 5.8 | 50,165 | 47,931 | 2,234 | 4.5 |
| Laurens County | ↓ | 33,046 | 31,589 | 1,457 | 4.4 | 33,215 | 31,342 | 1,873 | 5.6 | 31,412 | 30,016 | 1,396 | 4.4 |
| Abbeville County | ↓ | 10,815 | 10,350 | 465 | 4.3 | 10,963 | 10,332 | 631 | 5.8 | 10,391 | 9,935 | 456 | 4.4 |
| Calhoun County | ↓ | 6,923 | 6,623 | 300 | 4.3 | 6,973 | 6,571 | 402 | 5.8 | 6,734 | 6,445 | 289 | 4.3 |
| Richland County | ↓ | 217,410 | 208,127 | 9,283 | 4.3 | 218,374 | 206,528 | 11,846 | 5.4 | 209,923 | 201,158 | 8,765 | 4.2 |
| Jasper County | ↓ | 15,530 | 14,876 | 654 | 4.2 | 15,629 | 14,761 | 868 | 5.6 | 14,335 | 13,760 | 575 | 4.0 |
| Spartanburg County | ↓ | 175,807 | 168,410 | 7,397 | 4.2 | 176,330 | 166,750 | 9,580 | 5.4 | 168,827 | 162,037 | 6,790 | 4.0 |
| York County | ↓ | 159,805 | 153,068 | 6,737 | 4.2 | 160,086 | 151,580 | 8,506 | 5.3 | 156,161 | 149,742 | 6,419 | 4.1 |
| Aiken County | ↓ | 81,876 | 78,517 | 3,359 | 4.1 | 82,493 | 78,051 | 4,442 | 5.4 | 76,727 | 73,644 | 3,083 | 4.0 |
| Kershaw County | ↓ | 34,406 | 33,008 | 1,398 | 4.1 | 34,627 | 32,795 | 1,832 | 5.3 | 32,884 | 31,561 | 1,323 | 4.0 |
| Newberry County | ↓ | 19,744 | 18,936 | 808 | 4.1 | 19,852 | 18,850 | 1,002 | 5.0 | 18,597 | 17,877 | 720 | 3.9 |
| Oconee County | ↓ | 38,648 | 37,116 | 1,532 | 4.0 | 38,926 | 36,881 | 2,045 | 5.3 | 36,281 | 34,890 | 1,391 | 3.8 |
| Beaufort County | ↓ | 87,032 | 83,614 | 3,418 | 3.9 | 87,609 | 82,969 | 4,640 | 5.3 | 84,377 | 81,110 | 3,267 | 3.9 |
| Pickens County | ↓ | 68,470 | 65,808 | 2,662 | 3.9 | 68,872 | 65,284 | 3,588 | 5.2 | 65,157 | 62,783 | 2,374 | 3.6 |
| Anderson County | ↓ | 105,449 | 101,410 | 4,039 | 3.8 | 105,972 | 100,595 | 5,377 | 5.1 | 100,530 | 96,799 | 3,731 | 3.7 |
| Berkeley County | ↓ | 136,079 | 131,044 | 5,035 | 3.7 | 135,904 | 129,264 | 6,640 | 4.9 | 129,417 | 124,706 | 4,711 | 3.6 |
| Dorchester County | ↓ | 90,383 | 87,041 | 3,342 | 3.7 | 90,207 | 85,884 | 4,323 | 4.8 | 86,544 | 83,461 | 3,083 | 3.6 |
| Greenville County | ↓ | 301,342 | 290,289 | 11,053 | 3.7 | 302,525 | 288,046 | 14,479 | 4.8 | 286,767 | 276,346 | 10,421 | 3.6 |
| Edgefield County | ↓ | 13,476 | 12,991 | 485 | 3.6 | 13,580 | 12,929 | 651 | 4.8 | 12,032 | 11,587 | 445 | 3.7 |
| Lexington County | ↓ | 162,037 | 156,144 | 5,893 | 3.6 | 162,765 | 155,029 | 7,736 | 4.8 | 156,525 | 150,963 | 5,562 | 3.6 |
| Charleston County | ↓ | 241,319 | 233,114 | 8,205 | 3.4 | 240,909 | 230,145 | 10,764 | 4.5 | 234,361 | 226,519 | 7,842 | 3.3 |
| Saluda County | ↓ | 9,845 | 9,509 | 336 | 3.4 | 9,936 | 9,481 | 455 | 4.6 | 9,503 | 9,197 | 306 | 3.2 |
| SEASONALLY ADJUSTED | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| South Carolina | ↓ | 2,663,399 | 2,532,080 | 131,319 | 4.9 | 2,658,076 | 2,524,743 | 133,333 | 5.0 | 2,589,659 | 2,482,089 | 107,570 | 4.2 |

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

**2025 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on May 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 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,399,100.

Statewide
Mar-26

| Jobs by Industry | March 2026 | February 2026 | March 2025 | February 2026 to March 2026 | | March 2025 to March 2026 | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | # Change | % Change | # Change | % Change |
| Total Nonfarm Employment | 2,399,100 | 2,397,200 | 2,387,000 | ↑ 1,900 | ↑ 0.1% | ↑ 12,100 | ↑ 0.5% |
| Construction | 125,900 | 125,800 | 123,300 | ↑ 100 | ↑ 0.1% | ↑ 2,600 | ↑ 2.1% |
| Manufacturing | 264,000 | 263,800 | 262,100 | ↑ 200 | ↑ 0.1% | ↑ 1,900 | ↑ 0.7% |
| Trade, Transportation, and Utilities | 444,400 | 443,700 | 445,800 | ↑ 700 | ↑ 0.2% | ↓ -1,400 | ↓ -0.3% |
| Information | 26,500 | 26,600 | 27,800 | ↓ -100 | ↓ -0.4% | ↓ -1,300 | ↓ -4.7% |
| Financial Activities | 122,200 | 123,400 | 122,800 | ↓ -1,200 | ↓ -1.0% | ↓ -600 | ↓ -0.5% |
| Professional and Business Services | 310,300 | 310,600 | 318,800 | ↓ -300 | ↓ -0.1% | ↓ -8,500 | ↓ -2.7% |
| Education and Health Services | 321,500 | 320,600 | 313,600 | ↑ 900 | ↑ 0.3% | ↑ 7,900 | ↑ 2.5% |
| Leisure and Hospitality | 286,200 | 285,800 | 282,900 | ↑ 400 | ↑ 0.1% | ↑ 3,300 | ↑ 1.2% |
| Other Services | 94,500 | 93,200 | 91,100 | ↑ 1,300 | ↑ 1.4% | ↑ 3,400 | ↑ 3.7% |
| Government | 398,800 | 398,900 | 394,100 | ↓ -100 | ↓ 0.0% | ↑ 4,700 | ↑ 1.2% |

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 1,900 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,399,100.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Mar-26

| Area | March 2026 | February 2026 | March 2025 | February 2026 to March 2026 | | March 2025 to March 2026 | |
|--|---------------|------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------|
| | | | | # Change | % Change | # Change | % Change |
| Statewide | 2,399,100 | 2,397,200 | 2,387,000 | ↑ 1,900 | ↑ 0.1% | ↑ 12,100 | ↑ 0.5% |
| Charleston/North Charleston | 432,000 | 429,800 | 433,700 | ↑ 2,200 | ↑ 0.5% | ↓ -1,700 | ↓ -0.4% |
| Columbia | 434,900 | 435,000 | 435,500 | ↓ -100 | ↓ 0.0% | ↓ -600 | ↓ -0.1% |
| Florence | 96,300 | 96,300 | 96,300 | No Change | No Change | No Change | No Change |
| Greenville/Anderson/Greer | 482,200 | 482,200 | 479,700 | No Change | No Change | ↑ 2,500 | ↑ 0.5% |
| Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal | 89,600 | 89,600 | 89,100 | No Change | No Change | ↑ 500 | ↑ 0.6% |
| Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach | 158,400 | 158,600 | 155,900 | ↓ -200 | ↓ -0.1% | ↑ 2,500 | ↑ 1.6% |
| Spartanburg | 178,900 | 178,500 | 178,200 | ↑ 400 | ↑ 0.2% | ↑ 700 | ↑ 0.4% |
| Sumter | 37,600 | 37,700 | 37,900 | ↓ -100 | ↓ -0.3% | ↓ -300 | ↓ -0.8% |

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.