



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

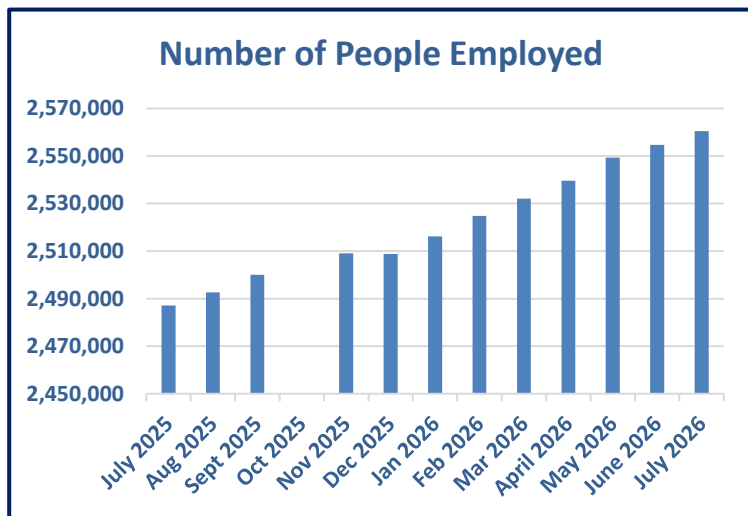
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For Release
August 21, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: July 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:

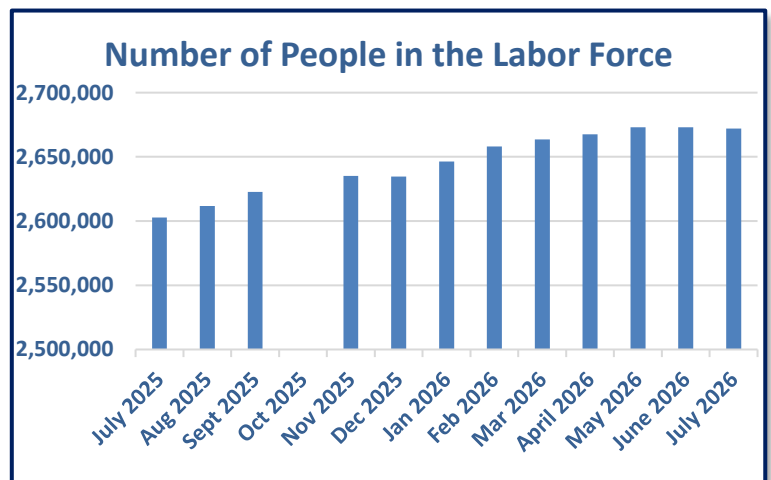
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,560,443.
- That is an increase of 5,748 people over the June 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 73,364 people over the July 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) decreased to 2,672,910 while the labor force participation rate decreased to 58.8 percent.
- That is a decrease of 52 people over the June 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 70,043 individuals over the July 2025 estimate.

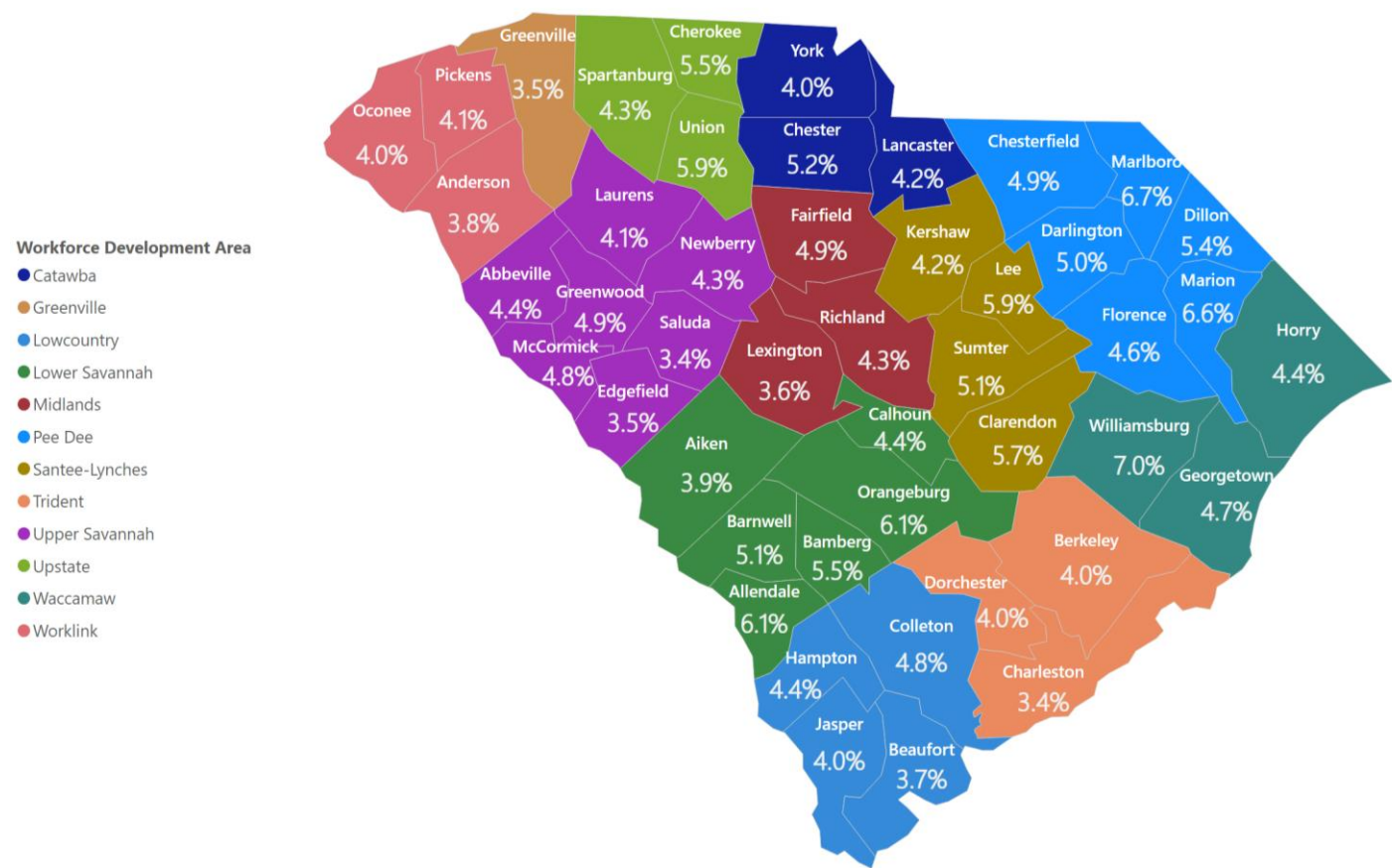
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 112,467.
- That is a significant decrease of 5,800 people from the June estimate and a decrease of 3,321 from the July 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased significantly to 4.2 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased to 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%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.3 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.0%	↓ -0.2 pts	↓ -0.6 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.7%	↓ -0.1 pts	↓ -0.7 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.7%	↓ -0.2 pts	↓ -0.7 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	3.8%	↓ -0.3 pts	↓ -0.7 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	4.4%	↓ -0.3 pts	↓ -0.8 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.4%	↓ -0.2 pts	↓ -0.6 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.1%	↓ -0.3 pts	↓ -0.6 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		July 2026				June 2026				July 2025			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,740	9,990	750	7.0	10,718	9,976	742	6.9	10,970	10,029	941	8.6
Marlboro County	↓	8,380	7,815	565	6.7	8,514	7,897	617	7.2	8,419	7,788	631	7.5
Marion County	↓	11,640	10,874	766	6.6	11,667	10,874	793	6.8	12,175	11,339	836	6.9
Allendale County	↓	2,740	2,573	167	6.1	2,695	2,517	178	6.6	2,788	2,615	173	6.2
Orangeburg County	↑	35,838	33,652	2,186	6.1	35,503	33,399	2,104	5.9	35,668	33,174	2,494	7.0
Lee County	↓	6,176	5,811	365	5.9	6,155	5,775	380	6.2	6,013	5,656	357	5.9
Union County	—	11,259	10,598	661	5.9	11,190	10,531	659	5.9	10,827	10,187	640	5.9
Clarendon County	↑	11,946	11,264	682	5.7	12,101	11,439	662	5.5	11,836	11,078	758	6.4
Bamberg County	↓	5,371	5,074	297	5.5	5,394	5,081	313	5.8	5,394	5,042	352	6.5
Cherokee County	↓	22,834	21,583	1,251	5.5	23,753	22,425	1,328	5.6	23,008	21,385	1,623	7.1
Dillon County	↓	12,389	11,722	667	5.4	12,414	11,720	694	5.6	12,563	11,760	803	6.4
Chester County	↓	14,872	14,102	770	5.2	14,805	14,022	783	5.3	14,605	13,719	886	6.1
Barnwell County	↓	8,279	7,855	424	5.1	8,233	7,781	452	5.5	8,318	7,826	492	5.9
Sumter County	↓	43,412	41,205	2,207	5.1	43,178	40,865	2,313	5.4	42,897	40,459	2,438	5.7
Darlington County	—	29,463	28,002	1,461	5.0	29,294	27,815	1,479	5.0	28,673	27,060	1,613	5.6
Chesterfield County	↓	19,299	18,344	955	4.9	19,027	18,059	968	5.1	19,095	18,051	1,044	5.5
Fairfield County	↓	10,142	9,648	494	4.9	10,158	9,651	507	5.0	9,916	9,367	549	5.5
Greenwood County	↓	28,796	27,388	1,408	4.9	29,710	28,230	1,480	5.0	28,949	27,205	1,744	6.0
Colleton County	↓	16,364	15,573	791	4.8	16,194	15,407	787	4.9	16,268	15,298	970	6.0
McCormick County	↓	3,520	3,351	169	4.8	3,549	3,368	181	5.1	3,509	3,333	176	5.0
Georgetown County	↓	28,986	27,636	1,350	4.7	28,984	27,581	1,403	4.8	28,887	27,311	1,576	5.5
Florence County	↓	67,108	64,052	3,056	4.6	66,954	63,768	3,186	4.8	65,335	61,884	3,451	5.3
Abbeville County	↓	10,543	10,077	466	4.4	10,677	10,187	490	4.6	10,402	9,837	565	5.4
Calhoun County	↓	6,880	6,580	300	4.4	6,806	6,493	313	4.6	6,742	6,418	324	4.8
Hampton County	↓	7,844	7,495	349	4.4	7,830	7,465	365	4.7	8,020	7,633	387	4.8
Horry County	↓	189,717	181,309	8,408	4.4	189,984	181,080	8,904	4.7	181,076	171,644	9,432	5.2
Newberry County	↓	19,039	18,226	813	4.3	19,014	18,139	875	4.6	19,114	18,207	907	4.7
Richland County	↓	219,081	209,553	9,528	4.3	219,137	209,222	9,915	4.5	214,416	203,666	10,750	5.0
Spartanburg County	↓	177,421	169,833	7,588	4.3	177,739	169,785	7,954	4.5	171,530	162,982	8,548	5.0
Kershaw County	↓	34,404	32,968	1,436	4.2	34,262	32,751	1,511	4.4	33,761	32,140	1,621	4.8
Lancaster County	↓	52,543	50,358	2,185	4.2	52,880	50,569	2,311	4.4	51,299	48,790	2,509	4.9
Laurens County	↓	33,286	31,933	1,353	4.1	33,291	31,860	1,431	4.3	32,201	30,573	1,628	5.1
Pickens County	↓	69,528	66,681	2,847	4.1	69,681	66,642	3,039	4.4	67,175	63,787	3,388	5.0
Berkeley County	↑	139,772	134,150	5,622	4.0	138,645	133,372	5,273	3.8	135,225	129,420	5,805	4.3
Dorchester County	↑	92,976	89,257	3,719	4.0	92,469	88,909	3,560	3.8	89,879	86,088	3,791	4.2
Jasper County	↓	15,749	15,124	625	4.0	15,570	14,880	690	4.4	15,532	14,827	705	4.5
Oconee County	↓	37,978	36,447	1,531	4.0	38,477	36,820	1,657	4.3	37,826	36,101	1,725	4.6
York County	↓	161,272	154,817	6,455	4.0	162,193	155,399	6,794	4.2	157,683	150,013	7,670	4.9
Aiken County	↓	81,656	78,443	3,213	3.9	81,638	78,165	3,473	4.3	80,280	76,532	3,748	4.7
Anderson County	↓	106,813	102,754	4,059	3.8	106,940	102,674	4,266	4.0	102,919	98,284	4,635	4.5
Beaufort County	↓	89,424	86,072	3,352	3.7	89,204	85,576	3,628	4.1	88,035	84,124	3,911	4.4
Lexington County	↓	163,004	157,199	5,805	3.6	163,153	157,069	6,084	3.7	159,326	152,845	6,481	4.1
Edgefield County	↓	13,226	12,764	462	3.5	13,062	12,555	507	3.9	13,091	12,520	571	4.4
Greenville County	↓	305,098	294,430	10,668	3.5	305,971	294,594	11,377	3.7	293,968	281,626	12,342	4.2
Charleston County	↓	247,012	238,721	8,291	3.4	246,315	237,737	8,578	3.5	239,503	230,415	9,088	3.8
Saluda County	↓	9,472	9,147	325	3.4	9,181	8,834	347	3.8	9,427	9,032	395	4.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,672,910	2,560,443	112,467	4.2	2,672,962	2,554,695	118,267	4.4	2,602,867	2,487,079	115,788	4.4

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 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,414,500.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Jul-26

Jobs by Industry	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026 to July 2026		July 2025 to July 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,414,500	2,409,800	2,382,400	↑ 4,700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 32,100	↑ 1.3%
Construction	129,300	127,900	123,400	↑ 1,400	↑ 1.1%	↑ 5,900	↑ 4.8%
Manufacturing	264,500	263,300	261,800	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.5%	↑ 2,700	↑ 1.0%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	447,600	446,600	444,500	↑ 1,000	↑ 0.2%	↑ 3,100	↑ 0.7%
Information	25,400	25,100	27,500	↑ 300	↑ 1.2%	↓ -2,100	↓ -7.6%
Financial Activities	123,900	123,900	122,200	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,700	↑ 1.4%
Professional and Business Services	313,000	313,600	315,300	↓ -600	↓ -0.2%	↓ -2,300	↓ -0.7%
Education and Health Services	324,900	323,000	314,000	↑ 1,900	↑ 0.6%	↑ 10,900	↑ 3.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	284,700	286,700	281,700	↓ -2,000	↓ -0.7%	↑ 3,000	↑ 1.1%
Other Services	94,700	94,700	91,200	No Change	No Change	↑ 3,500	↑ 3.8%
Government	401,700	400,200	396,100	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.4%	↑ 5,600	↑ 1.4%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 4,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,414,500.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Jul-26

Area	July 2026	June 2026	July 2025	June 2026 to July 2026		July 2025 to July 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,414,500	2,409,800	2,382,400	↑ 4,700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 32,100	↑ 1.3%
Charleston/North Charleston	435,500	434,500	431,400	↑ 1,000	↑ 0.2%	↑ 4,100	↑ 1.0%
Columbia	436,400	436,300	434,900	↑ 100	↑ 0.0%	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.3%
Florence	96,500	96,000	96,000	↑ 500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 500	↑ 0.5%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	487,500	486,300	478,400	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 9,100	↑ 1.9%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	90,400	90,300	89,000	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,400	↑ 1.6%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	159,500	159,600	155,000	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 4,500	↑ 2.9%
Spartanburg	180,700	180,000	178,000	↑ 700	↑ 0.4%	↑ 2,700	↑ 1.5%
Sumter	37,500	37,400	37,700	↑ 100	↑ 0.3%	↓ -200	↓ -0.5%

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.