



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

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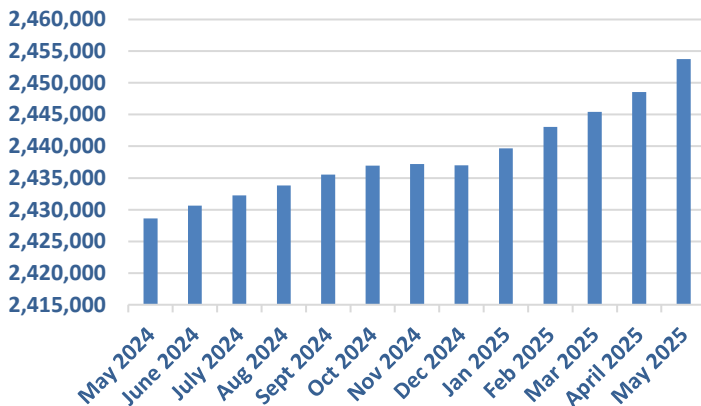
For Release  
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## South Carolina's Employment Situation: May 2025

### 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.

#### Number of People Employed



#### EMPLOYMENT:

- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,453,733.
- That is an increase of 5,160 people over the April 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 25,136 people over the May 2024 estimate.

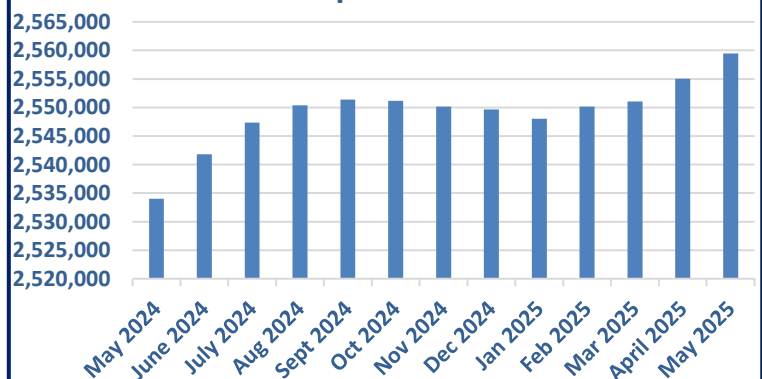
#### LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,559,438 while the labor force participation rate was unchanged at 57.5 percent.
- That is an increase of 4,395 people over the April 2025 estimate.
- That is an increase of 25,417 individuals over the May 2024 estimate.

#### UNEMPLOYED:

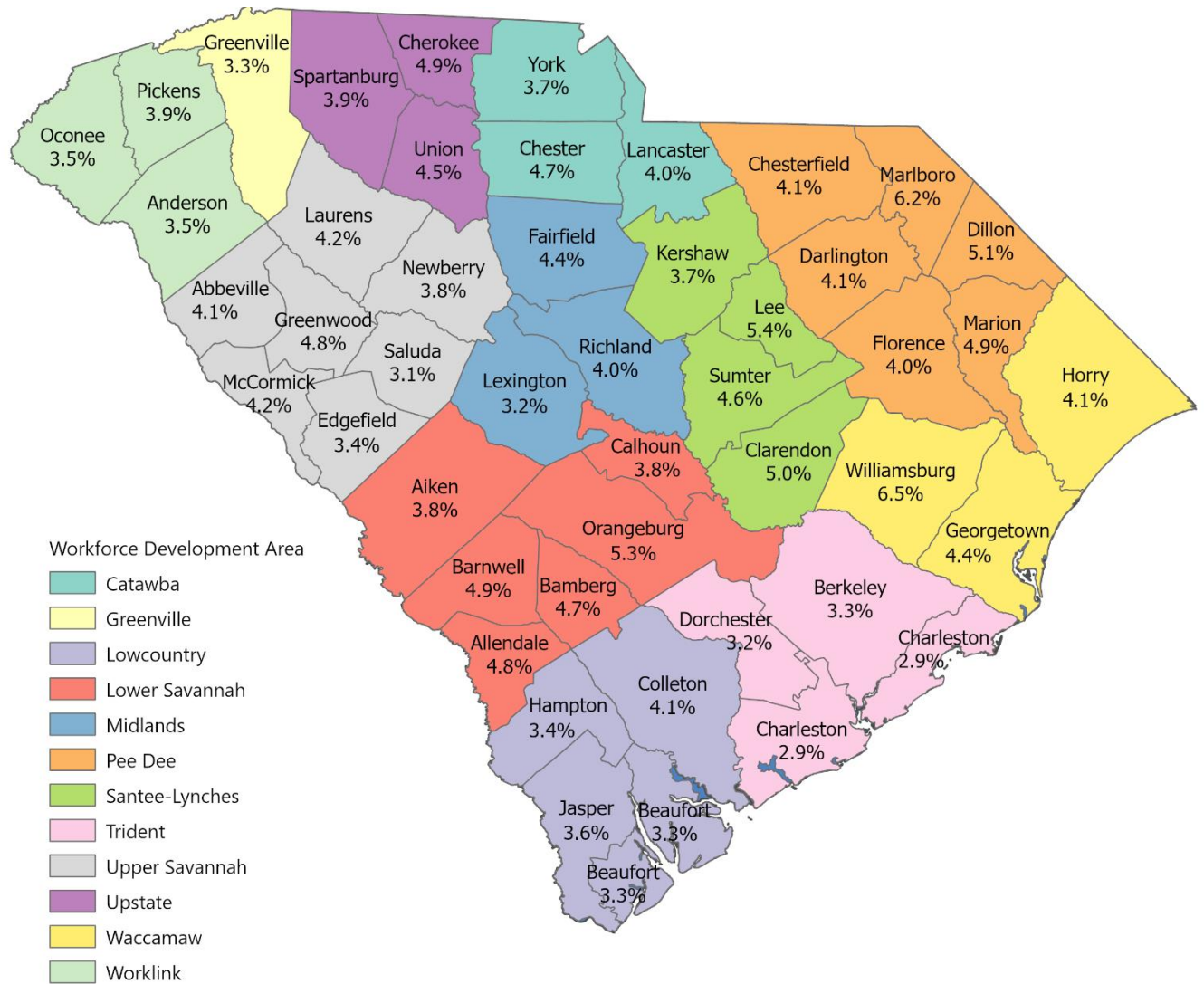
- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 105,705.
- That is a decrease of 765 people from the April estimate and an increase of 281 from the May 2024 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.2 percent to 4.1 percent. The national unemployment rate was unchanged at 4.2 percent, according to the Current Population survey.

#### Number of People in the Labor Force



**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	3.1%	No Change	↓ -0.1 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.7%	No Change	↓ -0.1 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.0%	No Change	↓ -0.2 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.5%	No Change	↓ -0.1 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	3.3%	No Change	↓ -0.1 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	4.1%	↓ -0.1 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	3.9%	↓ -0.2 pts	No Change
Sumter	Sumter	4.6%	↓ -0.1 pts	↓ -0.2 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		May 2025				April 2025				May 2024			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,513	9,830	683	6.5	10,481	9,818	663	6.3	10,217	9,605	612	6.0
Marlboro County	↓	7,967	7,477	490	6.2	7,979	7,474	505	6.3	8,188	7,662	526	6.4
Lee County	—	5,945	5,624	321	5.4	5,945	5,625	320	5.4	5,921	5,572	349	5.9
Orangeburg County	—	34,716	32,877	1,839	5.3	34,935	33,077	1,858	5.3	35,135	33,137	1,998	5.7
Dillon County	↓	12,199	11,578	621	5.1	12,227	11,583	644	5.3	12,204	11,532	672	5.5
Clarendon County	↓	11,761	11,168	593	5.0	11,859	11,258	601	5.1	11,602	11,037	565	4.9
Barnwell County	↓	8,058	7,661	397	4.9	8,153	7,744	409	5.0	8,139	7,714	425	5.2
Cherokee County	↓	22,994	21,858	1,136	4.9	23,380	22,074	1,306	5.6	22,973	21,811	1,162	5.1
Marion County	↓	11,900	11,318	582	4.9	11,910	11,295	615	5.2	11,831	11,161	670	5.7
Allendale County	↑	2,678	2,550	128	4.8	2,712	2,584	128	4.7	2,655	2,497	158	6.0
Greenwood County	↓	28,400	27,027	1,373	4.8	28,411	27,005	1,406	4.9	28,475	27,079	1,396	4.9
Bamberg County	↓	5,354	5,101	253	4.7	5,386	5,123	263	4.9	5,333	5,003	330	6.2
Chester County	↓	14,566	13,876	690	4.7	14,602	13,902	700	4.8	14,335	13,631	704	4.9
Sumter County	↓	42,476	40,540	1,936	4.6	42,535	40,554	1,981	4.7	41,813	39,795	2,018	4.8
Union County	↓	10,942	10,447	495	4.5	11,097	10,446	651	5.9	10,748	10,221	527	4.9
Fairfield County	↓	9,873	9,437	436	4.4	9,847	9,402	445	4.5	9,723	9,290	433	4.5
Georgetown County	↓	28,787	27,534	1,253	4.4	28,559	27,278	1,281	4.5	28,198	27,087	1,111	3.9
Laurens County	↓	31,359	30,050	1,309	4.2	31,388	30,028	1,360	4.3	30,820	29,542	1,278	4.1
McCormick County	↑	3,414	3,271	143	4.2	3,447	3,305	142	4.1	3,414	3,273	141	4.1
Abbeville County	—	10,263	9,844	419	4.1	10,301	9,883	418	4.1	10,339	9,895	444	4.3
Chesterfield County	—	18,579	17,809	770	4.1	18,680	17,914	766	4.1	18,947	18,116	831	4.4
Colleton County	↓	15,866	15,208	658	4.1	15,885	15,216	669	4.2	15,853	15,181	672	4.2
Darlington County	—	28,796	27,606	1,190	4.1	28,658	27,495	1,163	4.1	28,244	26,978	1,266	4.5
Horry County	↓	178,550	171,313	7,237	4.1	177,146	169,746	7,400	4.2	173,512	166,175	7,337	4.2
Florence County	↑	65,476	62,888	2,588	4.0	65,155	62,602	2,553	3.9	64,150	61,534	2,616	4.1
Lancaster County	—	50,210	48,218	1,992	4.0	50,104	48,101	2,003	4.0	49,482	47,624	1,858	3.8
Richland County	—	210,365	202,006	8,359	4.0	209,852	201,472	8,380	4.0	207,201	198,642	8,559	4.1
Pickens County	—	65,533	63,005	2,528	3.9	65,445	62,912	2,533	3.9	64,657	62,001	2,656	4.1
Spartanburg County	↓	168,986	162,447	6,539	3.9	168,822	162,097	6,725	4.0	165,847	159,444	6,403	3.9
Aiken County	↑	76,484	73,610	2,874	3.8	78,064	75,198	2,866	3.7	76,552	73,598	2,954	3.9
Calhoun County	↑	6,622	6,372	250	3.8	6,628	6,383	245	3.7	6,514	6,225	289	4.4
Newberry County	↑	18,387	17,693	694	3.8	18,488	17,804	684	3.7	18,519	17,782	737	4.0
Kershaw County	↓	32,682	31,464	1,218	3.7	32,701	31,472	1,229	3.8	32,060	30,854	1,206	3.8
York County	↓	156,423	150,558	5,865	3.7	156,191	150,214	5,977	3.8	154,378	148,666	5,712	3.7
Jasper County	↑	14,240	13,731	509	3.6	14,245	13,750	495	3.5	14,127	13,603	524	3.7
Anderson County	↑	100,626	97,125	3,501	3.5	100,432	96,977	3,455	3.4	99,189	95,565	3,624	3.7
Oconee County	↑	36,314	35,061	1,253	3.5	36,267	35,026	1,241	3.4	36,341	35,048	1,293	3.6
Edgefield County	↑	11,776	11,375	401	3.4	12,071	11,677	394	3.3	11,704	11,282	422	3.6
Hampton County	—	8,024	7,752	272	3.4	8,097	7,819	278	3.4	7,933	7,643	290	3.7
Beaufort County	—	84,891	82,097	2,794	3.3	84,656	81,887	2,769	3.3	84,686	81,826	2,860	3.4
Berkeley County	—	130,887	126,628	4,259	3.3	130,011	125,721	4,290	3.3	127,413	123,124	4,289	3.4
Greenville County	↓	287,310	277,737	9,573	3.3	286,966	277,243	9,723	3.4	283,284	273,487	9,797	3.5
Dorchester County	↓	87,799	84,951	2,848	3.2	87,145	84,303	2,842	3.3	85,649	82,694	2,955	3.5
Lexington County	—	156,703	151,715	4,988	3.2	156,398	151,338	5,060	3.2	154,443	149,253	5,190	3.4
Saluda County	—	9,116	8,831	285	3.1	9,243	8,952	291	3.1	8,829	8,527	302	3.4
Charleston County	—	237,300	230,391	6,909	2.9	235,683	228,757	6,926	2.9	231,292	224,269	7,023	3.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,559,438	2,453,733	105,705	4.1	2,555,043	2,448,573	106,470	4.2	2,534,021	2,428,597	105,424	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 5,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,413,100.

#### SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide  
May-25

Jobs by Industry	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025 to May 2025		May 2024 to May 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	2,413,100	2,407,700	2,350,600	↑ 5,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 62,500	↑ 2.7%
Construction	124,700	124,600	117,100	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 7,600	↑ 6.5%
Manufacturing	263,200	263,300	264,100	↓ -100	↓ -0.04%	↓ -900	↓ -0.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	451,100	450,400	445,000	↑ 700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 6,100	↑ 1.4%
Information	29,900	29,700	28,400	↑ 200	↑ 0.7%	↑ 1,500	↑ 5.3%
Financial Activities	126,000	125,900	121,600	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,400	↑ 3.6%
Professional and Business Services	326,100	325,200	311,600	↑ 900	↑ 0.3%	↑ 14,500	↑ 4.7%
Education and Health Services	313,200	311,600	299,700	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.5%	↑ 13,500	↑ 4.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	289,000	289,100	282,800	↓ -100	↓ -0.03%	↑ 6,200	↑ 2.2%
Other Services	92,500	92,500	90,400	No Change	No Change	↑ 2,100	↑ 2.3%
Government	392,800	390,800	385,500	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%	↑ 7,300	↑ 1.9%

### NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 5,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,413,000.

#### NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted  
May-25

Area	May 2025	April 2025	May 2024	April 2025 to May 2025		May 2024 to May 2025	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	2,413,100	2,407,700	2,350,600	↑ 5,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 62,500	↑ 2.7%
Charleston/North Charleston	436,800	435,200	421,700	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.4%	↑ 15,100	↑ 3.6%
Columbia	437,900	437,500	428,800	↑ 400	↑ 0.1%	↑ 9,100	↑ 2.1%
Florence	98,800	98,800	96,300	No Change	No Change	↑ 2,500	↑ 2.6%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	479,100	479,200	470,100	↓ -100	↓ -0.02%	↑ 9,000	↑ 1.9%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	89,700	89,700	88,400	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.5%
Myrtle Beach	159,700	159,700	153,600	No Change	No Change	↑ 6,100	↑ 4.0%
Spartanburg	180,900	180,500	176,100	↑ 400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 4,800	↑ 2.7%
Sumter	38,700	38,600	38,100	↑ 100	↑ 0.3%	↑ 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.