

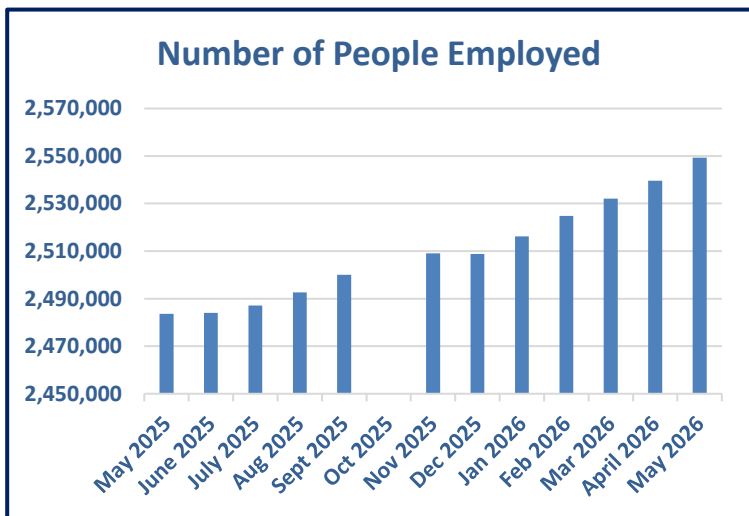


For Release
June 23, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: May 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:

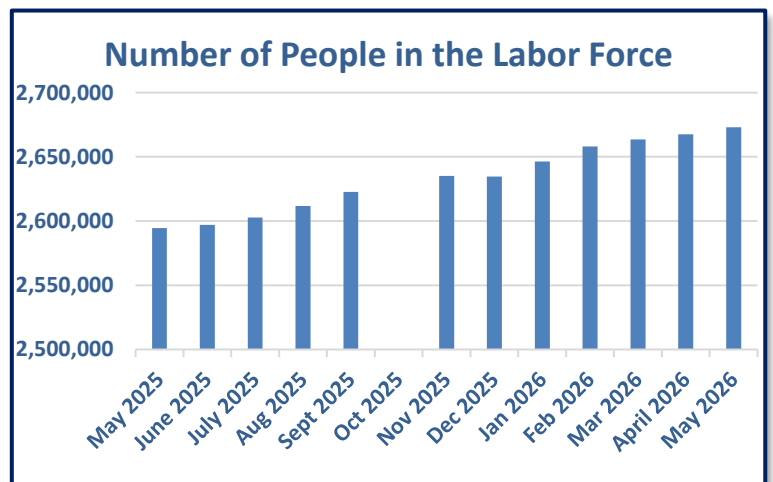
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,549,347.
- That is a significant increase of 9,796 people over the April 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 65,740 people over the May 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,673,031 while the labor force participation rate increased to 59.0 percent.
- That is an increase of 5,483 people over the April 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 78,491 individuals over the May 2025 estimate.

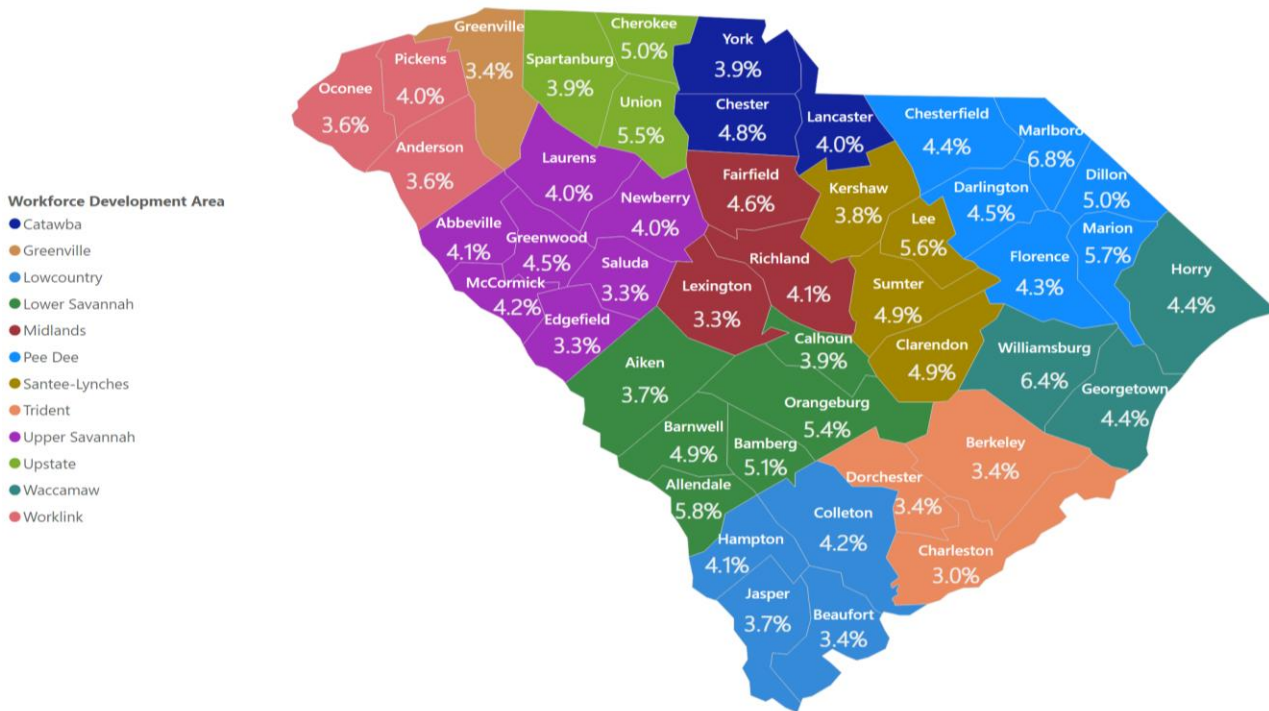
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 123,684.
- That is a decrease of 4,313 people from the April estimate and an increase of 12,751 from the May 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased significantly to 4.6 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	3.2%	↑ 0.2 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.8%	↑ 0.3 pts	No Change
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.3%	↑ 0.2 pts	No Change
Greenville-Anderson-Greer	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.6%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ -0.1 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort-Port Royal	Beaufort, Jasper	3.5%	↑ 0.2 pts	No Change
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	4.4%	↑ 0.2 pts	No Change
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.0%	↑ 0.1 pts	↓ -0.2 pts
Sumter	Sumter	4.9%	↑ 0.2 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	May 2026					April 2026					May 2025			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
			LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)				LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marlboro County	↑	8,422	7,850	572	6.8	8,416	7,850	566	6.7	8,249	7,733	516	6.3	
Williamsburg County	↑	10,765	10,078	687	6.4	10,683	10,025	658	6.2	10,739	10,021	718	6.7	
Allendale County	↑	2,771	2,611	160	5.8	2,824	2,673	151	5.3	2,674	2,538	136	5.1	
Marion County	↑	12,444	11,735	709	5.7	12,409	11,722	687	5.5	12,016	11,397	619	5.2	
Lee County	↑	6,136	5,793	343	5.6	6,127	5,794	333	5.4	5,992	5,654	338	5.6	
Union County	↓	11,188	10,572	616	5.5	11,180	10,556	624	5.6	10,716	10,191	525	4.9	
Orangeburg County	↑	35,602	33,663	1,939	5.4	35,962	34,166	1,796	5.0	35,170	33,219	1,951	5.5	
Bamberg County	↑	5,481	5,204	277	5.1	5,571	5,314	257	4.6	5,462	5,196	266	4.9	
Cherokee County	-	23,771	22,572	1,199	5.0	24,080	22,882	1,198	5.0	23,868	22,660	1,208	5.1	
Dillon County	↑	12,645	12,012	633	5.0	12,679	12,075	604	4.8	12,421	11,763	658	5.3	
Barnwell County	↑	8,413	8,000	413	4.9	8,465	8,090	375	4.4	8,110	7,691	419	5.2	
Clarendon County	↑	12,313	11,704	609	4.9	12,512	11,923	589	4.7	11,531	10,914	617	5.4	
Sumter County	↑	43,310	41,178	2,132	4.9	43,305	41,286	2,019	4.7	42,204	40,162	2,042	4.8	
Chester County	↑	14,872	14,155	717	4.8	14,828	14,146	682	4.6	14,314	13,583	731	5.1	
Fairfield County	-	10,126	9,656	470	4.6	10,047	9,582	465	4.6	9,809	9,350	459	4.7	
Darlington County	↑	29,420	28,099	1,321	4.5	29,198	27,964	1,234	4.2	28,474	27,227	1,247	4.4	
Greenwood County	↑	30,146	28,783	1,363	4.5	30,141	28,896	1,245	4.1	29,468	28,010	1,458	4.9	
Chesterfield County	↑	19,394	18,543	851	4.4	19,671	18,853	818	4.2	18,907	18,082	825	4.4	
Georgetown County	↑	29,206	27,934	1,272	4.4	28,483	27,255	1,228	4.3	28,218	26,895	1,323	4.7	
Horry County	↑	185,659	177,551	8,108	4.4	182,848	175,156	7,692	4.2	177,514	169,630	7,884	4.4	
Florence County	↑	67,206	64,332	2,874	4.3	66,650	63,963	2,687	4.0	65,138	62,395	2,743	4.2	
Colleton County	↑	16,287	15,596	691	4.2	16,331	15,664	667	4.1	15,941	15,235	706	4.4	
McCormick County	-	3,609	3,459	150	4.2	3,638	3,484	154	4.2	3,473	3,315	158	4.5	
Abbeville County	↑	10,707	10,264	443	4.1	10,774	10,367	407	3.8	10,370	9,925	445	4.3	
Hampton County	↑	8,138	7,804	334	4.1	8,252	7,928	324	3.9	7,947	7,661	286	3.6	
Richland County	↑	218,706	209,800	8,906	4.1	216,853	208,656	8,197	3.8	212,112	203,270	8,842	4.2	
Lancaster County	↑	52,694	50,568	2,126	4.0	52,138	50,105	2,033	3.9	50,663	48,516	2,147	4.2	
Laurens County	↑	33,211	31,893	1,318	4.0	33,074	31,780	1,294	3.9	31,803	30,401	1,402	4.4	
Newberry County	↑	19,373	18,593	780	4.0	19,510	18,797	713	3.7	19,008	18,271	737	3.9	
Pickens County	↑	69,360	66,599	2,761	4.0	68,649	66,258	2,391	3.5	66,165	63,470	2,695	4.1	
Calhoun County	↑	6,844	6,575	269	3.9	6,851	6,594	257	3.8	6,622	6,360	262	4.0	
Spartanburg County	↑	176,621	169,657	6,964	3.9	175,328	168,734	6,594	3.8	170,789	163,730	7,059	4.1	
York County	↑	161,705	155,446	6,259	3.9	159,970	154,069	5,901	3.7	155,396	149,134	6,262	4.0	
Kershaw County	↑	34,366	33,043	1,323	3.8	34,301	33,061	1,240	3.6	33,379	32,063	1,316	3.9	
Aiken County	↑	81,812	78,752	3,060	3.7	82,763	79,915	2,848	3.4	79,435	76,408	3,027	3.8	
Jasper County	↑	15,579	14,997	582	3.7	15,528	14,980	548	3.5	14,998	14,434	564	3.8	
Anderson County	↑	106,445	102,607	3,838	3.6	105,615	102,079	3,536	3.3	101,534	97,768	3,766	3.7	
Oconee County	↑	38,637	37,235	1,402	3.6	38,540	37,252	1,288	3.3	37,284	35,957	1,327	3.6	
Beaufort County	↑	88,540	85,486	3,054	3.4	87,625	84,742	2,883	3.3	85,396	82,397	2,999	3.5	
Berkeley County	↑	138,106	133,369	4,737	3.4	136,899	132,482	4,417	3.2	133,853	129,243	4,610	3.4	
Dorchester County	↑	91,969	88,801	3,168	3.4	91,077	88,133	2,944	3.2	89,179	86,117	3,062	3.4	
Greenville County	↑	304,575	294,206	10,369	3.4	302,255	292,569	9,686	3.2	290,811	280,551	10,260	3.5	
Edgefield County	↑	13,248	12,811	437	3.3	13,554	13,140	414	3.1	12,862	12,434	428	3.3	
Lexington County	↑	162,957	157,530	5,427	3.3	161,808	156,744	5,064	3.1	158,089	152,785	5,304	3.4	
Saluda County	↑	9,491	9,178	313	3.3	9,720	9,432	288	3.0	9,238	8,932	306	3.3	
Charleston County	↑	245,156	237,683	7,473	3.0	243,134	236,161	6,973	2.9	238,012	230,681	7,331	3.1	
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED														
South Carolina	↓	2,673,031	2,549,347	123,684	4.6	2,667,548	2,539,551	127,997	4.8	2,594,540	2,483,607	110,933	4.3	

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 2,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,406,100.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
May-26

Jobs by Industry	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026 to May 2026		May 2025 to May 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,406,100	2,403,500	2,385,900	↑ 2,600	↑ 0.1%	↑ 20,200	↑ 0.8%
Construction	127,700	126,900	123,500	↑ 800	↑ 0.6%	↑ 4,200	↑ 3.4%
Manufacturing	262,800	263,400	263,000	↓ -600	↓ -0.2%	↓ -200	↓ -0.1%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	446,100	445,300	444,700	↑ 800	↑ 0.2%	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.3%
Information	25,800	26,000	27,400	↓ -200	↓ -0.8%	↓ -1,600	↓ -5.8%
Financial Activities	123,100	122,900	122,700	↑ 200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 400	↑ 0.3%
Professional and Business Services	314,100	313,900	317,100	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↓ -3,000	↓ -0.9%
Education and Health Services	323,900	323,000	315,300	↑ 900	↑ 0.3%	↑ 8,600	↑ 2.7%
Leisure and Hospitality	287,500	285,700	282,800	↑ 1,800	↑ 0.6%	↑ 4,700	↑ 1.7%
Other Services	94,600	93,900	91,000	↑ 700	↑ 0.7%	↑ 3,600	↑ 4.0%
Government	395,700	397,700	393,700	↓ -2,000	↓ -0.5%	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 2,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,406,100.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
May-26

Area	May 2026	April 2026	May 2025	April 2026 to May 2026		May 2025 to May 2026	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,406,100	2,403,500	2,385,900	↑ 2,600	↑ 0.1%	↑ 20,200	↑ 0.8%
Charleston/North Charleston	435,000	434,400	433,100	↑ 600	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,900	↑ 0.4%
Columbia	436,300	435,200	435,600	↑ 1,100	↑ 0.3%	↑ 700	↑ 0.2%
Florence	96,500	96,400	96,400	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	486,200	484,500	478,100	↑ 1,700	↑ 0.4%	↑ 8,100	↑ 1.7%
Hilton Head/Bluffton/Beaufort/Port Royal	90,500	90,000	88,800	↑ 500	↑ 0.6%	↑ 1,700	↑ 1.9%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/North Myrtle Beach	159,200	158,700	155,800	↑ 500	↑ 0.3%	↑ 3,400	↑ 2.2%
Spartanburg	179,500	179,000	178,300	↑ 500	↑ 0.3%	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.7%
Sumter	37,500	37,600	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.