



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

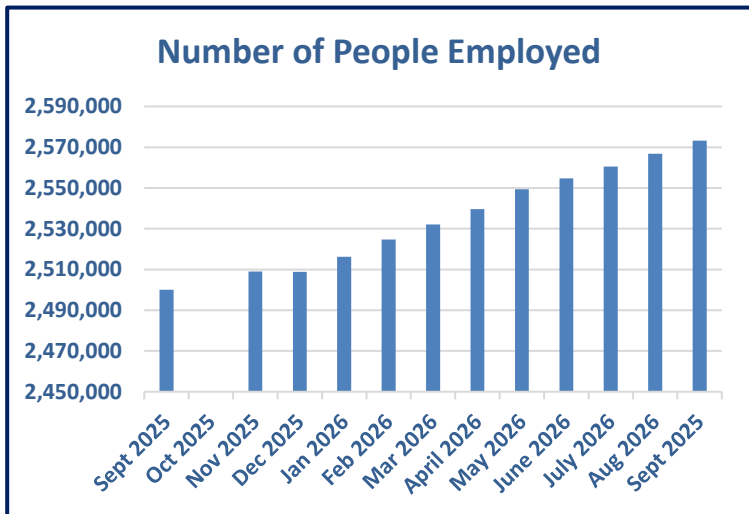
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For Release
October 20, 2026

South Carolina's Employment Situation: September 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:

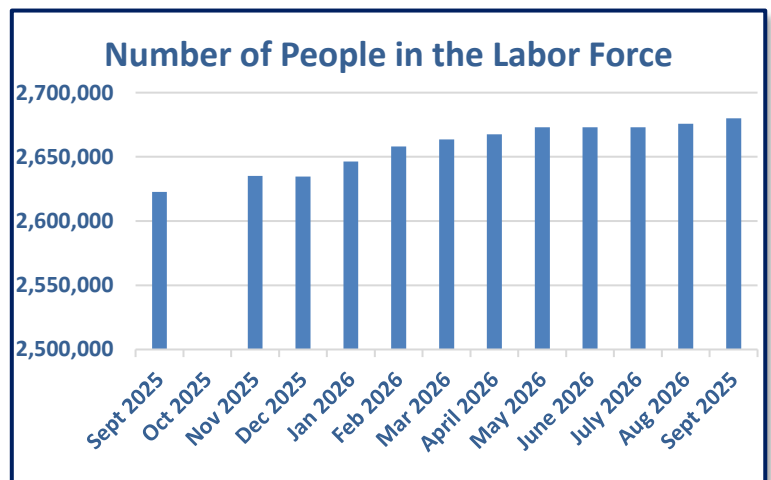
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,573,275.
- That is an increase of 6,493 people over the August 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 73,280 people over the September 2025 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,679,964 while the labor force participation rate was unchanged at 58.8 percent.
- That is an increase of 4,146 people over the August 2026 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 57,361 individuals over the September 2025 estimate.

UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 106,689.
- That is a decrease of 2,347 people from the August estimate and a decrease of 15,919 from the September 2025 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 4.0 percent. The national unemployment rate increased to 4.2 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.



Monthly Change	Annual Change
0.5 pts	↓ -0.7 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.7 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.8 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.8 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -1.0 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.9 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.8 pt
0.6 pts	↓ -0.6 pt

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA		September 2026				August 2026				September 2025			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↓	10,558	9,886	672	6.4	10,656	9,899	757	7.1	10,726	9,860	866	8.1
Marlboro County	↓	8,351	7,829	522	6.3	8,388	7,803	585	7.0	8,339	7,709	630	7.6
Allendale County	↓	2,703	2,542	161	6.0	2,710	2,534	176	6.5	2,702	2,536	166	6.1
Marion County	↓	11,561	10,873	688	6.0	11,618	10,866	752	6.5	12,068	11,326	742	6.1
Union County	↓	11,284	10,604	680	6.0	11,256	10,544	712	6.3	10,880	10,183	697	6.4
Lee County	↓	6,146	5,792	354	5.8	6,156	5,769	387	6.3	5,980	5,627	353	5.9
Cherokee County	↑	23,726	22,372	1,354	5.7	23,394	22,127	1,267	5.4	23,602	22,235	1,367	5.8
McCormick County	↓	3,551	3,368	183	5.2	3,548	3,351	197	5.6	3,505	3,305	200	5.7
Barnwell County	↓	8,171	7,754	417	5.1	8,242	7,782	460	5.6	8,201	7,729	472	5.8
Clarendon County	↓	12,106	11,484	622	5.1	12,180	11,515	665	5.5	11,840	11,058	782	6.6
Dillon County	↓	12,279	11,654	625	5.1	12,370	11,685	685	5.5	12,142	11,422	720	5.9
Fairfield County	↓	10,221	9,715	506	5.0	10,178	9,653	525	5.2	9,938	9,403	535	5.4
Chester County	↓	14,759	14,031	728	4.9	14,841	14,048	793	5.3	14,328	13,508	820	5.7
Orangeburg County	↓	35,532	33,814	1,718	4.8	35,570	33,555	2,015	5.7	35,413	33,161	2,252	6.4
Sumter County	↓	42,867	40,817	2,050	4.8	43,003	40,692	2,311	5.4	42,877	40,549	2,328	5.4
Bamberg County	↓	5,423	5,169	254	4.7	5,384	5,097	287	5.3	5,420	5,099	321	5.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,805	10,306	499	4.6	10,819	10,271	548	5.1	10,474	9,970	504	4.8
Chesterfield County	↓	18,947	18,089	858	4.5	19,104	18,121	983	5.1	18,591	17,607	984	5.3
Darlington County	↓	29,281	27,976	1,305	4.5	29,338	27,863	1,475	5.0	28,577	27,089	1,488	5.2
Georgetown County	↓	28,071	26,824	1,247	4.4	28,514	27,078	1,436	5.0	27,878	26,328	1,550	5.6
Greenwood County	↓	29,732	28,470	1,262	4.2	29,729	28,248	1,481	5.0	29,765	28,215	1,550	5.2
Horry County	↓	185,328	177,632	7,696	4.2	187,666	178,714	8,952	4.8	177,603	168,547	9,056	5.1
Florence County	↓	66,779	64,042	2,737	4.1	66,876	63,736	3,140	4.7	65,198	62,039	3,159	4.8
Colleton County	↓	16,071	15,422	649	4.0	16,151	15,375	776	4.8	15,911	15,063	848	5.3
Hampton County	↓	7,807	7,494	313	4.0	7,894	7,537	357	4.5	7,926	7,554	372	4.7
Lancaster County	↓	52,538	50,439	2,099	4.0	52,764	50,398	2,366	4.5	51,061	48,527	2,534	5.0
Calhoun County	↓	6,837	6,571	266	3.9	6,854	6,550	304	4.4	6,682	6,359	323	4.8
Richland County	↓	219,084	210,648	8,436	3.9	219,129	209,360	9,769	4.5	213,575	203,960	9,615	4.5
Kershaw County	↓	34,297	32,982	1,315	3.8	34,311	32,805	1,506	4.4	33,492	31,972	1,520	4.5
Anderson County	↓	107,538	103,529	4,009	3.7	107,296	102,783	4,513	4.2	103,269	98,997	4,272	4.1
Jasper County	↓	15,327	14,755	572	3.7	15,541	14,867	674	4.3	14,982	14,269	713	4.8
Newberry County	↓	18,964	18,254	710	3.7	18,964	18,129	835	4.4	18,963	18,142	821	4.3
Spartanburg County	↓	176,980	170,467	6,513	3.7	176,868	169,237	7,631	4.3	171,568	163,806	7,762	4.5
York County	↓	160,966	155,028	5,938	3.7	161,675	154,920	6,755	4.2	156,199	149,148	7,051	4.5
Aiken County	↓	80,978	78,066	2,912	3.6	81,230	77,783	3,447	4.2	79,671	76,071	3,600	4.5
Laurens County	↓	33,345	32,133	1,212	3.6	33,321	31,911	1,410	4.2	32,273	30,735	1,538	4.8
Beaufort County	↓	87,479	84,454	3,025	3.5	88,450	84,881	3,569	4.0	85,525	81,715	3,810	4.5
Oconee County	↓	38,124	36,780	1,344	3.5	38,173	36,555	1,618	4.2	37,561	35,928	1,633	4.3
Berkeley County	↓	138,142	133,577	4,565	3.3	138,710	133,379	5,331	3.8	133,448	128,037	5,411	4.1
Dorchester County	↓	92,018	88,940	3,078	3.3	92,311	88,755	3,556	3.9	88,851	85,287	3,564	4.0
Edgefield County	↓	13,009	12,587	422	3.2	13,075	12,575	500	3.8	12,808	12,273	535	4.2
Greenville County	↓	306,446	296,747	9,699	3.2	305,753	294,484	11,269	3.7	295,634	283,882	11,752	4.0
Lexington County	↓	163,120	157,960	5,160	3.2	163,058	156,934	6,124	3.8	159,233	153,042	6,191	3.9
Pickens County	↓	69,415	67,182	2,233	3.2	69,505	66,693	2,812	4.0	66,972	64,250	2,722	4.1
Saluda County	↓	9,244	8,951	293	3.2	9,305	8,953	352	3.8	9,074	8,705	369	4.1
Charleston County	↓	245,088	237,683	7,405	3.0	245,836	237,152	8,684	3.5	236,868	228,065	8,803	3.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,679,964	2,573,275	106,689	4.0	2,675,818	2,566,782	109,036	4.1	2,622,603	2,499,995	122,608	4.7

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 12,500 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,441,300.

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide
Sep-26

Jobs by Industry	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	August 2026 to September 2026		September 2025 to September 2026	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,441,300	2,428,800	2,386,100	↑ 12,500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 55,200	↑ 2.3%
Construction	130,200	128,900	124,700	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.0%	↑ 5,500	↑ 4.4%
Manufacturing	266,200	265,800	262,200	↑ 400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 4,000	↑ 1.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	446,400	447,200	445,000	↓ -800	↓ -0.2%	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.3%
Information	24,800	25,200	27,000	↓ -400	↓ -1.6%	↓ -2,200	↓ -8.1%
Financial Activities	124,400	124,100	122,100	↑ 300	↑ 0.2%	↑ 2,300	↑ 1.9%
Professional and Business Services	321,900	319,000	313,900	↑ 2,900	↑ 0.9%	↑ 8,000	↑ 2.5%
Education and Health Services	328,300	324,000	317,000	↑ 4,300	↑ 1.3%	↑ 11,300	↑ 3.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	298,000	292,300	280,900	↑ 5,700	↑ 2.0%	↑ 17,100	↑ 6.1%
Other Services	95,100	94,400	91,400	↑ 700	↑ 0.7%	↑ 3,700	↑ 4.0%
Government	401,200	403,100	397,200	↓ -1,900	↓ -0.5%	↑ 4,000	↑ 1.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 12,500 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,441,300.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
Sep-26

Area	September 2026	August 2026	September 2025	August 2026 to September 2026		September 2025 to September 2026	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,441,300	2,428,800	2,386,100	↑ 12,500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 55,200	↑ 2.3%
Charleston/North Charleston	440,300	438,500	431,700	↑ 1,800	↑ 0.4%	↑ 8,600	↑ 2.0%
Columbia	440,000	438,600	435,600	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.3%	↑ 4,400	↑ 1.0%
Florence	97,100	96,500	95,900	↑ 600	↑ 0.6%	↑ 1,200	↑ 1.3%
Greenville/Anderson/Greer	492,200	490,200	480,100	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.4%	↑ 12,100	↑ 2.5%
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	162,400	161,300	156,300	↑ 1,100	↑ 0.7%	↑ 6,100	↑ 3.9%
Spartanburg	181,200	180,900	177,700	↑ 300	↑ 0.2%	↑ 3,500	↑ 2.0%
Sumter	37,600	37,500	38,300	↑ 100	↑ 0.3%	↓ -700	↓ -1.8%

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.