



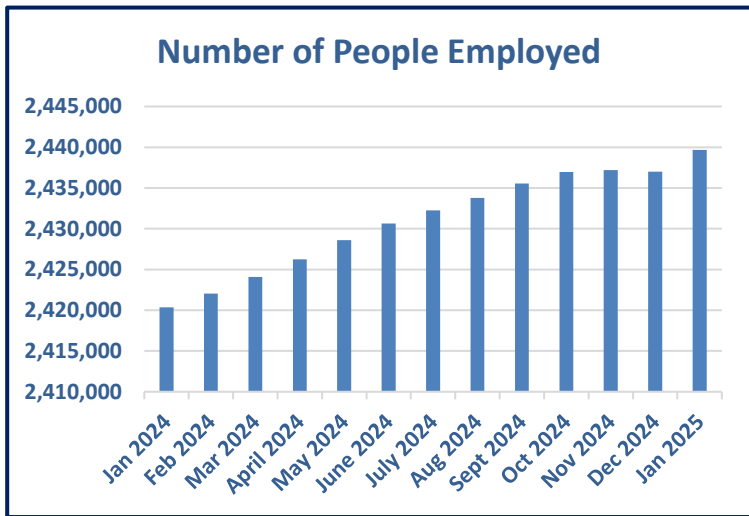
Media Contact:
communications@dew.sc.gov

For Release
March 17, 2025

South Carolina’s Employment Situation: January 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.



EMPLOYMENT:

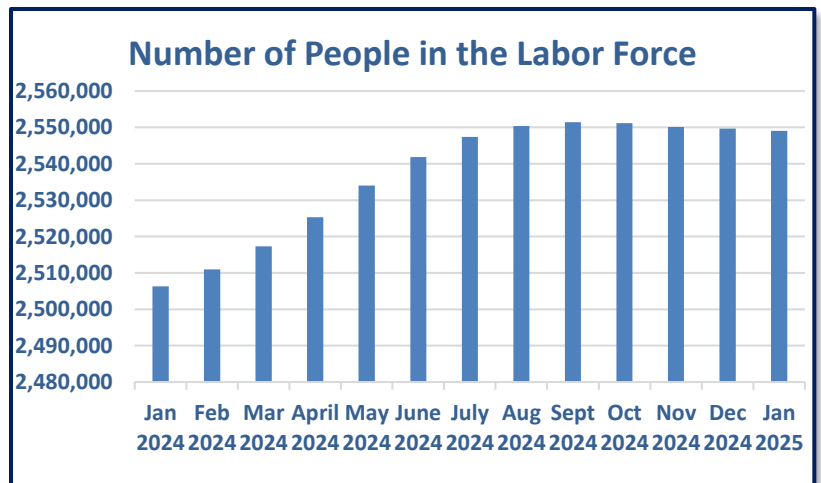
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,439,684.
- That is an increase of 2,668 people over the December 2024 estimate.
- That is an increase of 19,332 people over the January 2024 estimate.

LABOR FORCE:

- The state’s estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) decreased to 2,549,034 while the labor force participation rate decreased to 57.6 percent.
- That is a decrease of 619 people over the December 2024 estimate.
- That is an increase of 42,708 individuals over the January 2024 estimate.

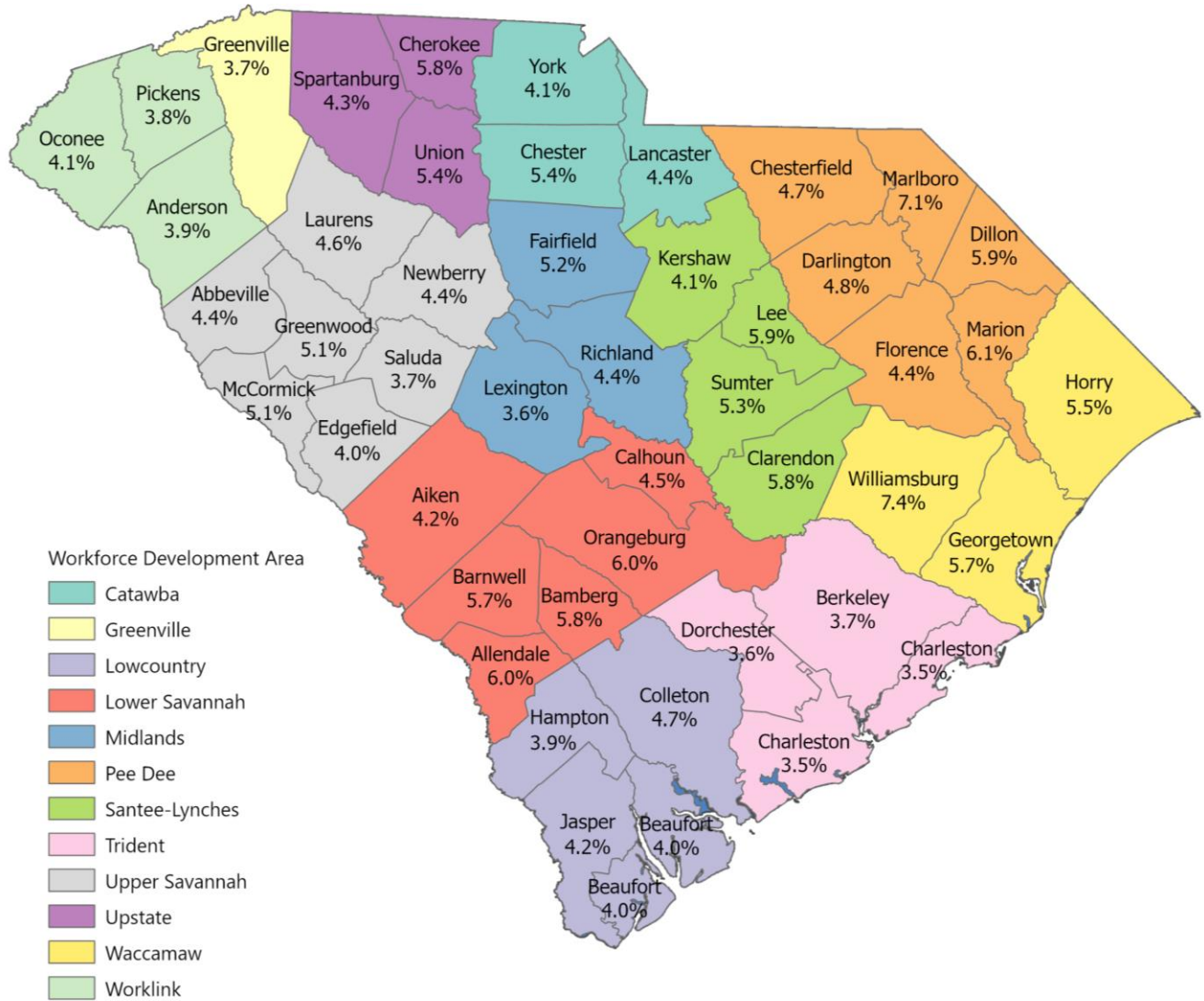
UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 109,350.
- That is a decrease of 3,287 people from the December estimate and a significant increase of 23,376 from the January 2024 estimate.
- The state’s seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.4 percent to 4.3 percent. The national unemployment rate decreased to 4.0 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	3.6%	↑ 0.2 pts	↑ 0.8 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	4.1%	↑ 0.2 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.5%	↑ 0.5 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.8%	↑ 0.1 pts	↑ 0.7 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	4.0%	↑ 0.2 pts	↑ 0.8 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry	5.5%	↑ 0.7 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.3%	↑ 0.3 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.3%	↑ 0.1 pts	↑ 1.1 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		January 2025				December 2024**				January 2024**			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Williamsburg County	↑	10,141	9,391	750	7.4	9,956	9,304	652	6.5	10,158	9,597	561	5.5
Marlboro County	↓	8,069	7,500	569	7.1	7,670	7,101	569	7.4	7,278	6,769	509	7.0
Marion County	↑	11,644	10,939	705	6.1	13,231	12,503	728	5.5	12,658	12,022	636	5.0
Allendale County	↓	2,570	2,416	154	6.0	2,405	2,253	152	6.3	2,288	2,130	158	6.9
Orangeburg County	↓	34,864	32,757	2,107	6.0	33,570	31,475	2,095	6.2	33,305	31,669	1,636	4.9
Dillon County	↑	12,168	11,449	719	5.9	13,203	12,431	772	5.8	12,901	12,284	617	4.8
Lee County	↑	5,852	5,505	347	5.9	6,612	6,259	353	5.3	6,491	6,204	287	4.4
Bamberg County	↓	5,353	5,044	309	5.8	4,595	4,270	325	7.1	4,577	4,300	277	6.1
Cherokee County	↑	22,718	21,399	1,319	5.8	22,634	21,365	1,269	5.6	22,632	21,602	1,030	4.6
Clarendon County	↑	11,173	10,521	652	5.8	12,125	11,465	660	5.4	12,050	11,522	528	4.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,182	7,714	468	5.7	7,581	7,128	453	6.0	7,564	7,148	416	5.5
Georgetown County	↑	27,690	26,122	1,568	5.7	26,927	25,678	1,249	4.6	26,025	25,008	1,017	3.9
Horry County	↑	167,599	158,399	9,200	5.5	158,754	151,131	7,623	4.8	157,335	150,315	7,020	4.5
Chester County	↓	14,252	13,481	771	5.4	14,256	13,468	788	5.5	13,693	13,044	649	4.7
Union County	↑	10,873	10,285	588	5.4	11,877	11,292	585	4.9	11,514	11,041	473	4.1
Sumter County	↑	41,802	39,597	2,205	5.3	43,006	40,777	2,229	5.2	41,345	39,594	1,751	4.2
Fairfield County	↓	9,877	9,364	513	5.2	9,745	9,216	529	5.4	9,507	9,064	443	4.7
Greenwood County	↑	28,541	27,077	1,464	5.1	30,907	29,453	1,454	4.7	29,867	28,765	1,102	3.7
McCormick County	↑	3,374	3,203	171	5.1	3,652	3,498	154	4.2	3,468	3,334	134	3.9
Darlington County	↑	28,250	26,897	1,353	4.8	31,868	30,479	1,389	4.4	30,581	29,458	1,123	3.7
Chesterfield County	↑	18,202	17,340	862	4.7	21,466	20,618	848	4.0	21,175	20,398	777	3.7
Colleton County	↑	15,573	14,838	735	4.7	16,765	16,085	680	4.1	16,248	15,720	528	3.2
Laurens County	↑	30,956	29,542	1,414	4.6	31,731	30,388	1,343	4.2	30,932	29,845	1,087	3.5
Calhoun County	↑	6,508	6,212	296	4.5	6,763	6,478	285	4.2	6,583	6,362	221	3.4
Abbeville County	-	10,168	9,722	446	4.4	9,818	9,383	435	4.4	9,548	9,171	377	3.9
Florence County	↑	64,184	61,367	2,817	4.4	70,811	68,042	2,769	3.9	68,182	65,874	2,308	3.4
Lancaster County	↓	49,702	47,512	2,190	4.4	46,436	44,345	2,091	4.5	44,647	42,966	1,681	3.8
Newberry County	↑	18,225	17,426	799	4.4	18,557	17,817	740	4.0	18,689	18,035	654	3.5
Richland County	↑	208,768	199,684	9,084	4.4	209,335	200,566	8,769	4.2	204,766	197,805	6,961	3.4
Spartanburg County	↑	168,120	160,942	7,178	4.3	164,457	158,005	6,452	3.9	159,649	154,543	5,106	3.2
Aiken County	↑	75,581	72,371	3,210	4.2	74,951	71,920	3,031	4.0	73,621	71,111	2,510	3.4
Jasper County	↑	13,830	13,248	582	4.2	14,113	13,586	527	3.7	13,709	13,283	426	3.1
Kershaw County	↑	32,118	30,787	1,331	4.1	31,044	29,791	1,253	4.0	30,318	29,307	1,011	3.3
Oconee County	↑	35,722	34,258	1,464	4.1	35,839	34,488	1,351	3.8	35,373	34,266	1,107	3.1
York County	↑	154,686	148,281	6,405	4.1	157,824	151,639	6,185	3.9	151,878	147,031	4,847	3.2
Beaufort County	↑	83,569	80,223	3,346	4.0	81,738	78,642	3,096	3.8	79,635	77,088	2,547	3.2
Edgefield County	-	11,418	10,957	461	4.0	10,470	10,047	423	4.0	10,244	9,894	350	3.4
Anderson County	↑	99,589	95,740	3,849	3.9	96,387	92,798	3,589	3.7	94,179	91,235	2,944	3.1
Hampton County	↑	7,624	7,330	294	3.9	8,353	8,066	287	3.4	8,032	7,778	254	3.2
Pickens County	↓	64,584	62,102	2,482	3.8	61,166	58,804	2,362	3.9	59,759	57,819	1,940	3.2
Berkeley County	-	127,903	123,150	4,753	3.7	120,607	116,162	4,445	3.7	116,239	112,806	3,433	3.0
Greenville County	↑	284,532	273,965	10,567	3.7	274,385	264,381	10,004	3.6	268,123	260,006	8,117	3.0
Saluda County	↑	8,560	8,245	315	3.7	8,755	8,452	303	3.5	8,493	8,228	265	3.1
Dorchester County	↑	85,855	82,742	3,113	3.6	87,372	84,337	3,035	3.5	84,328	81,881	2,447	2.9
Lexington County	↑	155,428	149,845	5,583	3.6	159,891	154,546	5,345	3.3	156,409	152,173	4,236	2.7
Charleston County	↑	232,033	224,015	8,018	3.5	236,269	228,616	7,653	3.2	227,938	221,887	6,051	2.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,549,034	2,439,684	109,350	4.3	2,549,653	2,437,016	112,637	4.4	2,506,326	2,420,352	85,974	3.4

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

**2024 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on April 18th.

↑ 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 4,500 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,388,200.

Jobs by Industry	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024 to January 2025		January 2024 to January 2025	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,388,200	2,383,700	2,331,500	↑ 4,500	↑ 0.2%	↑ 56,700	↑ 2.4%
Construction	123,200	121,400	115,100	↑ 1,800	↑ 1.5%	↑ 8,100	↑ 7.0%
Manufacturing	263,700	263,000	263,300	↑ 700	↑ 0.3%	↑ 400	↑ 0.2%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	450,000	448,800	441,700	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.3%	↑ 8,300	↑ 1.9%
Information	29,600	29,200	28,400	↑ 400	↑ 1.4%	↑ 1,200	↑ 4.2%
Financial Activities	124,100	126,200	120,400	↓ -2,100	↓ -1.7%	↑ 3,700	↑ 3.1%
Professional and Business Services	316,800	317,700	310,500	↓ -900	↓ -0.3%	↑ 6,300	↑ 2.0%
Education and Health Services	308,700	308,600	295,000	↑ 100	↑ 0.0%	↑ 13,700	↑ 4.6%
Leisure and Hospitality	283,000	282,700	281,600	↑ 300	↑ 0.1%	↑ 1,400	↑ 0.5%
Other Services	91,700	91,700	89,600	No Change	No Change	↑ 2,100	↑ 2.3%
Government	392,800	389,900	381,500	↑ 2,900	↑ 0.7%	↑ 11,300	↑ 3.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 4,500 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,388,200.

Area	January 2025	December 2024	January 2024	December 2024 to January 2025		January 2024 to January 2025	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,388,200	2,383,700	2,331,500	↑ 4,500	↑ 0.2%	↑ 56,700	↑ 2.4%
Charleston/North Charleston	429,600	428,800	417,600	↑ 800	↑ 0.2%	↑ 12,000	↑ 2.9%
Columbia	434,800	435,700	426,400	↓ -900	↓ -0.2%	↑ 8,400	↑ 2.0%
Florence	97,600	97,100	95,700	↑ 500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 1,900	↑ 2.0%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	476,000	476,100	467,400	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 8,600	↑ 1.8%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	89,700	89,600	86,900	↑ 100	↑ 0.1%	↑ 2,800	↑ 3.2%
Myrtle Beach	156,100	156,300	152,900	↓ -200	↓ -0.1%	↑ 3,200	↑ 2.1%
Spartanburg	180,100	179,500	174,700	↑ 600	↑ 0.3%	↑ 5,400	↑ 3.1%
Sumter	38,300	38,100	38,000	↑ 200	↑ 0.5%	↑ 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.