



# SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

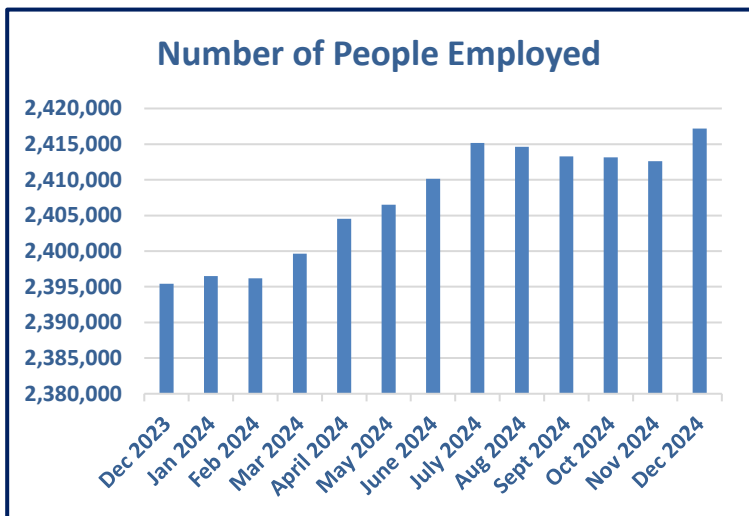
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For Release  
January 28, 2025

## South Carolina's Employment Situation: December 2024

### 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:

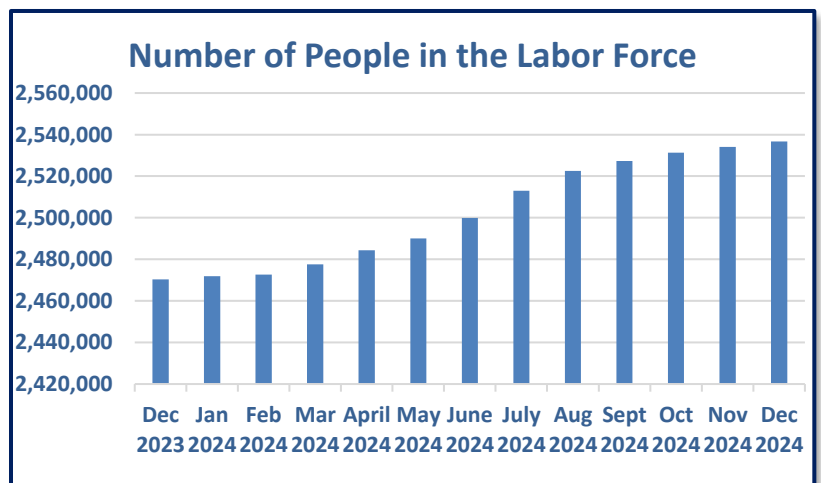
- The seasonally adjusted number of South Carolina workers increased to 2,417,169.
- That is an increase of 4,580 people over the November 2024 estimate.
- That is an increase of 21,742 people over the December 2023 estimate.

### LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,536,654 while the labor force participation rate decreased to 57.5 percent.
- That is an increase of 2,583 people over the November 2024 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 66,354 individuals over the December 2023 estimate.

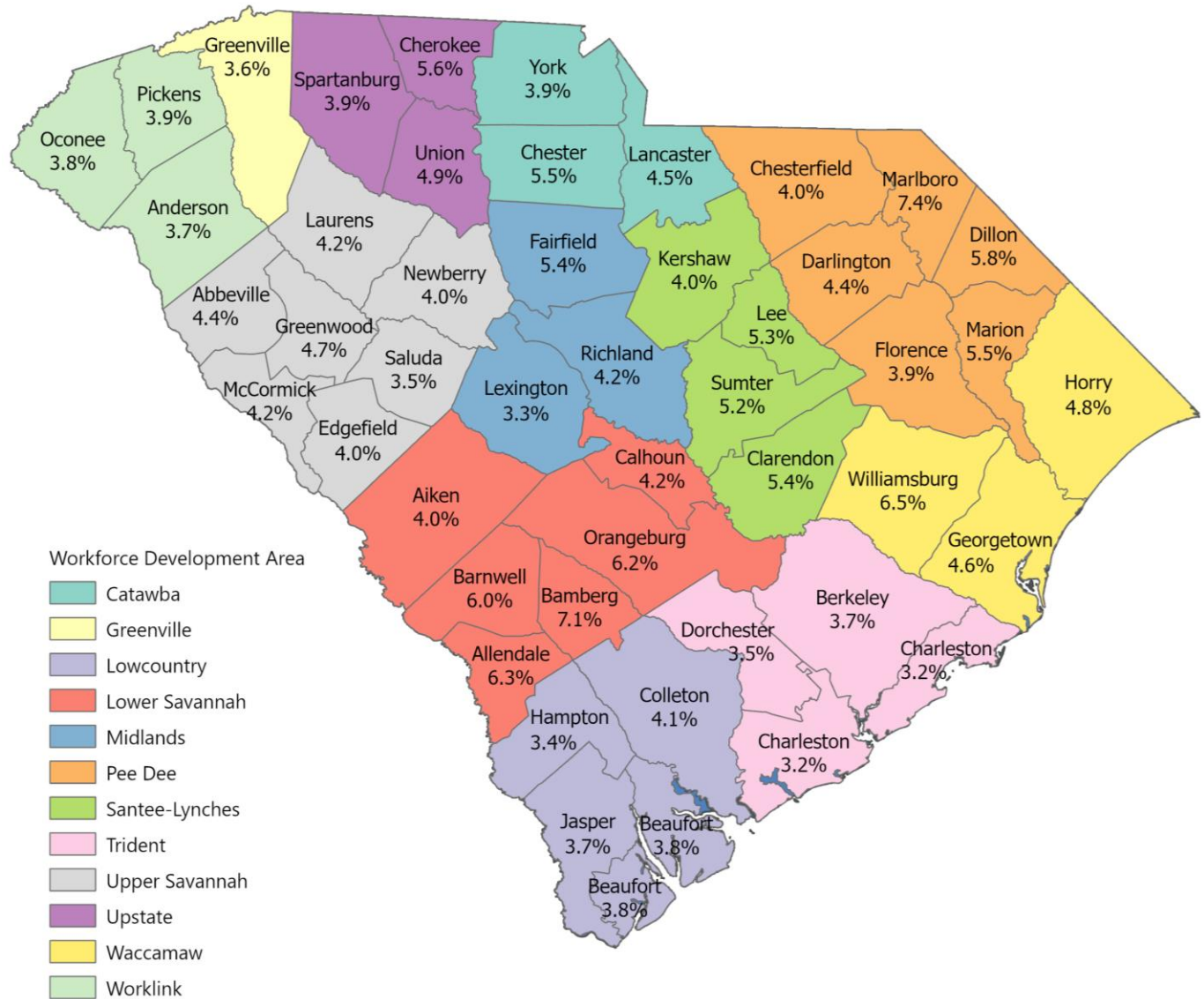
### UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people decreased to 119,485.
- That is a decrease of 1,997 people from the November estimate and a significant increase of 44,612 from the December 2023 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased from 4.8 percent to 4.7 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	3.4%	↓ -0.6 pts	↑ 0.8 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.9%	↓ -0.7 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	4.0%	↓ -0.8 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.7%	↓ -0.7 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	3.8%	↓ -0.6 pts	↑ 0.9 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry, Brunswick (NC)	4.6%	↓ -0.5 pts	↑ 0.7 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	4.0%	↓ -0.8 pts	↑ 1.0 pts
Sumter	Sumter	5.2%	↓ -0.9 pts	↑ 1.3 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	December 2024					November 2024				December 2023			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		
			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)	
Marlboro County	↓	7,670	7,101	569	7.4	7,718	7,054	664	8.6	7,368	6,879	489	6.6
Bamberg County	↓	4,595	4,270	325	7.1	4,634	4,249	385	8.3	4,567	4,320	247	5.4
Williamsburg County	↓	9,956	9,304	652	6.5	10,002	9,227	775	7.7	10,195	9,677	518	5.1
Allendale County	↓	2,405	2,253	152	6.3	2,421	2,247	174	7.2	2,295	2,157	138	6.0
Orangeburg County	↓	33,570	31,475	2,095	6.2	33,825	31,355	2,470	7.3	33,290	31,818	1,472	4.4
Barnwell County	↓	7,581	7,128	453	6.0	7,602	7,074	528	6.9	7,578	7,178	400	5.3
Dillon County	↓	13,203	12,431	772	5.8	13,240	12,322	918	6.9	12,813	12,259	554	4.3
Cherokee County	↓	22,634	21,365	1,269	5.6	22,783	21,260	1,523	6.7	22,827	21,888	939	4.1
Chester County	↓	14,256	13,468	788	5.5	14,272	13,348	924	6.5	13,666	13,105	561	4.1
Marion County	↓	13,231	12,503	728	5.5	13,232	12,414	818	6.2	12,591	12,026	565	4.5
Clarendon County	↓	12,125	11,465	660	5.4	12,171	11,401	770	6.3	12,088	11,597	491	4.1
Fairfield County	↓	9,745	9,216	529	5.4	9,742	9,148	594	6.1	9,476	9,078	398	4.2
Lee County	↓	6,612	6,259	353	5.3	6,654	6,201	453	6.8	6,490	6,224	266	4.1
Sumter County	↓	43,006	40,777	2,229	5.2	42,948	40,327	2,621	6.1	41,187	39,564	1,623	3.9
Union County	↓	11,877	11,292	585	4.9	11,885	11,169	716	6.0	11,519	11,069	450	3.9
Horry County	↓	158,754	151,131	7,623	4.8	158,852	150,398	8,454	5.3	156,070	150,165	5,905	3.8
Greenwood County	↓	30,907	29,453	1,454	4.7	30,879	29,143	1,736	5.6	30,157	29,154	1,003	3.3
Georgetown County	↓	26,927	25,678	1,249	4.6	26,956	25,526	1,430	5.3	25,938	25,026	912	3.5
Lancaster County	↓	46,436	44,345	2,091	4.5	46,341	43,923	2,418	5.2	44,716	43,159	1,557	3.5
Abbeville County	↓	9,818	9,383	435	4.4	9,788	9,271	517	5.3	9,622	9,289	333	3.5
Darlington County	↓	31,868	30,479	1,389	4.4	31,837	30,194	1,643	5.2	30,545	29,518	1,027	3.4
Calhoun County	↓	6,763	6,478	285	4.2	6,769	6,434	335	4.9	6,589	6,379	210	3.2
Laurens County	↓	31,731	30,388	1,343	4.2	31,726	30,151	1,575	5.0	31,037	29,986	1,051	3.4
McCormick County	↓	3,652	3,498	154	4.2	3,636	3,450	186	5.1	3,488	3,366	122	3.5
Richland County	↓	209,335	200,566	8,769	4.2	209,411	198,877	10,534	5.0	204,063	197,814	6,249	3.1
Colleton County	↓	16,765	16,085	680	4.1	16,815	15,986	829	4.9	16,349	15,860	489	3.0
Aiken County	↓	74,951	71,920	3,031	4.0	74,736	71,181	3,555	4.8	73,306	71,046	2,260	3.1
Chesterfield County	↓	21,466	20,618	848	4.0	21,446	20,458	988	4.6	21,236	20,506	730	3.4
Edgefield County	↓	10,470	10,047	423	4.0	10,455	9,961	494	4.7	10,237	9,909	328	3.2
Kershaw County	↓	31,044	29,791	1,253	4.0	31,047	29,574	1,473	4.7	30,273	29,353	920	3.0
Newberry County	↓	18,557	17,817	740	4.0	18,628	17,767	861	4.6	18,689	18,101	588	3.1
Florence County	↓	70,811	68,042	2,769	3.9	70,572	67,284	3,288	4.7	68,022	65,950	2,072	3.0
Pickens County	↓	61,166	58,804	2,362	3.9	61,228	58,303	2,925	4.8	59,781	58,052	1,729	2.9
Spartanburg County	↓	164,457	158,005	6,452	3.9	163,995	156,316	7,679	4.7	159,567	154,902	4,665	2.9
York County	↓	157,824	151,639	6,185	3.9	157,328	150,107	7,221	4.6	151,997	147,629	4,368	2.9
Beaufort County	↓	81,738	78,642	3,096	3.8	81,660	78,035	3,625	4.4	79,826	77,537	2,289	2.9
Oconee County	↓	35,839	34,488	1,351	3.8	36,022	34,479	1,543	4.3	35,309	34,298	1,011	2.9
Anderson County	↓	96,387	92,798	3,589	3.7	96,245	92,047	4,198	4.4	94,240	91,608	2,632	2.8
Berkeley County	↓	120,607	116,162	4,445	3.7	120,765	115,447	5,318	4.4	116,192	113,038	3,154	2.7
Jasper County	↓	14,113	13,586	527	3.7	14,070	13,463	607	4.3	13,763	13,383	380	2.8
Greenville County	↓	274,385	264,381	10,004	3.6	274,082	262,203	11,879	4.3	268,424	261,018	7,406	2.8
Dorchester County	↓	87,372	84,337	3,035	3.5	87,436	83,818	3,618	4.1	84,287	82,064	2,223	2.6
Saluda County	↓	8,755	8,452	303	3.5	8,808	8,441	367	4.2	8,542	8,293	249	2.9
Hampton County	↓	8,353	8,066	287	3.4	8,361	8,023	338	4.0	8,081	7,850	231	2.9
Lexington County	↓	159,891	154,546	5,345	3.3	159,673	153,313	6,360	4.0	156,205	152,331	3,874	2.5
Charleston County	↓	236,269	228,616	7,653	3.2	236,020	227,088	8,932	3.8	228,031	222,474	5,557	2.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,536,654	2,417,169	119,485	4.7	2,534,071	2,412,589	121,482	4.8	2,470,300	2,395,427	74,873	3.0

**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 2,401,000.

Jobs by Industry	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024 to December 2024		December 2023 to December 2024	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	2,401,000	2,396,500	2,336,600	↑ 4,500	↑ 0.2%	↑ 64,400	↑ 2.8%
Construction	123,400	122,600	115,300	↑ 800	↑ 0.7%	↑ 8,100	↑ 7.0%
Manufacturing	265,900	266,200	264,600	↓ -300	↓ -0.1%	↑ 1,300	↑ 0.5%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	450,800	450,300	445,100	↑ 500	↑ 0.1%	↑ 5,700	↑ 1.3%
Information	30,600	30,200	28,600	↑ 400	↑ 1.3%	↑ 2,000	↑ 7.0%
Financial Activities	125,300	124,500	124,100	↑ 800	↑ 0.6%	↑ 1,200	↑ 1.0%
Professional and Business Services	329,300	327,700	315,700	↑ 1,600	↑ 0.5%	↑ 13,600	↑ 4.3%
Education and Health Services	306,400	305,400	290,300	↑ 1,000	↑ 0.3%	↑ 16,100	↑ 5.5%
Leisure and Hospitality	292,000	292,100	286,900	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 5,100	↑ 1.8%
Other Services	88,700	88,800	89,300	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↓ -600	↓ -0.7%
Government	383,800	383,900	372,200	↓ -100	↓ 0.0%	↑ 11,600	↑ 3.1%

### 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 2,401,000.

Area	December 2024	November 2024	December 2023	November 2024 to December 2024		December 2023 to December 2024	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	2,401,000	2,396,500	2,336,600	↑ 4,500	↑ 0.2%	↑ 64,400	↑ 2.8%
Charleston/North Charleston	433,900	433,200	421,500	↑ 700	↑ 0.2%	↑ 12,400	↑ 2.9%
Columbia	435,900	435,700	429,500	↑ 200	↑ 0.0%	↑ 6,400	↑ 1.5%
Florence	100,000	99,700	96,900	↑ 300	↑ 0.3%	↑ 3,100	↑ 3.2%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin	470,700	469,200	464,700	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.3%	↑ 6,000	↑ 1.3%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	91,800	91,800	90,500	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,300	↑ 1.4%
Myrtle Beach	198,000	196,800	197,200	↑ 1,200	↑ 0.6%	↑ 800	↑ 0.4%
Spartanburg	177,100	177,200	173,600	↓ -100	↓ -0.1%	↑ 3,500	↑ 2.0%
Sumter	39,600	39,600	38,400	No Change	No Change	↑ 1,200	↑ 3.1%

**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.