



SC Department of Employment and Workforce NEWS RELEASE

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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation: February 2024

HOUSEHOLD SURVEY: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

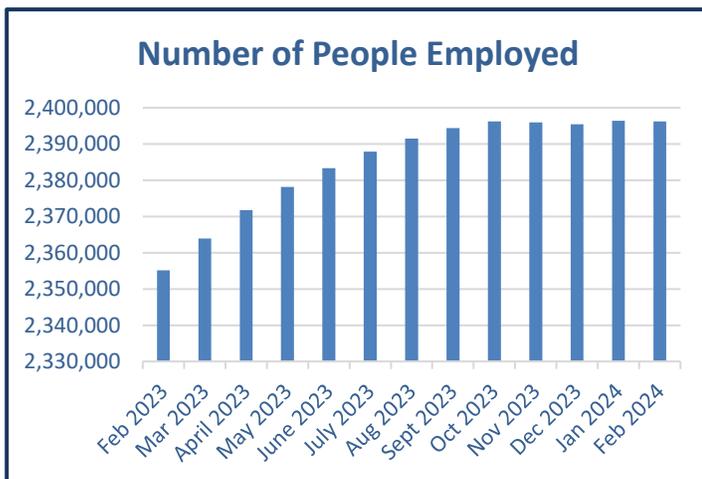
Nationally, there is a monthly Current Population Survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) to determine employment status of the civilian population. This information, along with other inputs, are used by DEW to operate the Local Area Unemployment 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 decreased to 2,396,234.
- That is a decrease of 280 people over the January 2024 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 41,106 people over the February 2023 estimate.

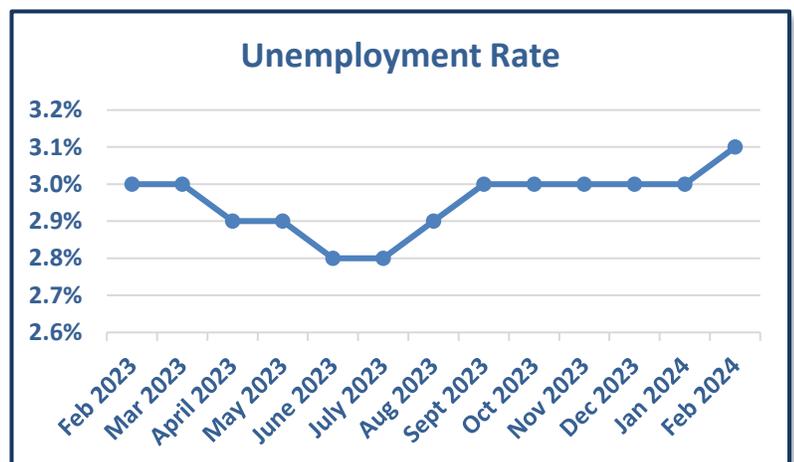
LABOR FORCE:

- The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,472,668, while the labor force participation rate ticked down to 57.1 percent.
- That is an increase of 829 people over the January 2024 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 44,543 individuals over the February 2023 estimate.



UNEMPLOYED:

- The estimate of unemployed people increased to 76,434.
- That is an increase of 1,109 people from January's estimate and an increase of 3,437 from the February 2023 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 3.1 percent. The national unemployment rate increased to 3.9 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	3.1%	↑ 0.3 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Columbia	Calhoun, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lexington, Richland, Saluda	3.4%	↑ 0.2 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Florence	Darlington, Florence	3.7%	↑ 0.2 pts	No Change
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	Anderson, Greenville, Laurens, Pickens	3.4%	↑ 0.3 pts	No Change
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Beaufort	Beaufort, Jasper	3.6%	↑ 0.4 pts	↓ 0.1 pts
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	Horry, Brunswick (NC)	4.6%	No Change	↓ 0.2 pts
Spartanburg	Spartanburg, Union	3.6%	↑ 0.3 pts	No Change
Sumter	Sumter	4.5%	↑ 0.3 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		February 2024				January 2024				February 2023 **			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)	
Allendale County	↓	2,386	2,223	163	6.8	2,288	2,130	158	6.9	2,235	2,094	141	6.3
Marlboro County	↓	7,263	6,774	489	6.7	7,278	6,769	509	7.0	8,061	7,413	648	8.0
Bamberg County	↑	4,689	4,393	296	6.3	4,577	4,300	277	6.1	4,559	4,296	263	5.8
Barnwell County	↑	7,649	7,215	434	5.7	7,564	7,148	416	5.5	7,456	7,086	370	5.0
Williamsburg County	↑	10,245	9,657	588	5.7	10,158	9,597	561	5.5	10,668	10,074	594	5.6
Marion County	↑	12,802	12,133	669	5.2	12,658	12,022	636	5.0	12,581	11,890	691	5.5
Chester County	↑	13,793	13,120	673	4.9	13,693	13,044	649	4.7	13,488	12,860	628	4.7
Dillon County	↑	13,180	12,539	641	4.9	12,901	12,284	617	4.8	12,921	12,250	671	5.2
Lee County	↑	6,617	6,294	323	4.9	6,491	6,204	287	4.4	6,347	6,027	320	5.0
Orangeburg County	-	33,678	32,015	1,663	4.9	33,305	31,669	1,636	4.9	32,983	31,284	1,699	5.2
Abbeville County	↑	9,626	9,177	449	4.7	9,548	9,171	377	3.9	9,585	9,164	421	4.4
Cherokee County	↑	22,763	21,694	1,069	4.7	22,632	21,602	1,030	4.6	24,455	23,379	1,076	4.4
Fairfield County	-	9,616	9,160	456	4.7	9,507	9,064	443	4.7	9,229	8,785	444	4.8
Greenwood County	↑	30,315	28,883	1,432	4.7	29,867	28,765	1,102	3.7	30,036	28,772	1,264	4.2
Clarendon County	↑	12,348	11,774	574	4.6	12,050	11,522	528	4.4	11,843	11,247	596	5.0
McCormick County	↑	3,507	3,347	160	4.6	3,468	3,334	134	3.9	3,579	3,435	144	4.0
Horry County	-	159,097	151,876	7,221	4.5	157,335	150,315	7,020	4.5	151,805	144,559	7,246	4.8
Sumter County	↑	41,519	39,656	1,863	4.5	41,345	39,594	1,751	4.2	42,290	40,340	1,950	4.6
Georgetown County	↑	26,546	25,417	1,129	4.3	26,025	25,008	1,017	3.9	25,932	24,799	1,133	4.4
Union County	↑	11,539	11,040	499	4.3	11,514	11,041	473	4.1	11,391	10,813	578	5.1
Lancaster County	↑	44,966	43,165	1,801	4.0	44,647	42,966	1,681	3.8	44,120	42,338	1,782	4.0
Calhoun County	↑	6,730	6,465	265	3.9	6,583	6,362	221	3.4	6,435	6,175	260	4.0
Chesterfield County	↑	21,532	20,700	832	3.9	21,175	20,398	777	3.7	21,148	20,342	806	3.8
Darlington County	↑	30,836	29,644	1,192	3.9	30,581	29,458	1,123	3.7	29,969	28,779	1,190	4.0
Aiken County	↑	74,281	71,470	2,811	3.8	73,621	71,111	2,510	3.4	73,078	70,307	2,771	3.8
Edgefield County	↑	10,486	10,090	396	3.8	10,244	9,894	350	3.4	10,212	9,807	405	4.0
Laurens County	↑	31,220	30,029	1,191	3.8	30,932	29,845	1,087	3.5	30,668	29,465	1,203	3.9
Kershaw County	↑	30,721	29,592	1,129	3.7	30,318	29,307	1,011	3.3	29,543	28,403	1,140	3.9
Beaufort County	↑	80,744	77,808	2,936	3.6	79,635	77,088	2,547	3.2	76,965	74,046	2,919	3.8
Colleton County	↑	16,457	15,870	587	3.6	16,248	15,720	528	3.2	15,884	15,232	652	4.1
Florence County	↑	68,299	65,823	2,476	3.6	68,182	65,874	2,308	3.4	66,676	64,263	2,413	3.6
Newberry County	↑	19,267	18,574	693	3.6	18,689	18,035	654	3.5	19,272	18,630	642	3.3
Pickens County	↑	60,048	57,908	2,140	3.6	59,759	57,819	1,940	3.2	59,138	57,034	2,104	3.6
Richland County	↑	205,273	197,836	7,437	3.6	204,766	197,805	6,961	3.4	198,452	191,305	7,147	3.6
Hampton County	↑	8,274	7,985	289	3.5	8,032	7,778	254	3.2	7,840	7,560	280	3.6
Jasper County	↑	14,010	13,515	495	3.5	13,709	13,283	426	3.1	13,248	12,796	452	3.4
Oconee County	↑	35,842	34,591	1,251	3.5	35,373	34,266	1,107	3.1	34,333	33,115	1,218	3.5
Saluda County	↑	8,961	8,649	312	3.5	8,493	8,228	265	3.1	8,350	8,045	305	3.7
Spartanburg County	↑	159,970	154,367	5,603	3.5	159,649	154,543	5,106	3.2	156,789	151,319	5,470	3.5
Anderson County	↑	94,698	91,441	3,257	3.4	94,179	91,235	2,944	3.1	93,265	90,016	3,249	3.5
York County	↑	152,473	147,239	5,234	3.4	151,878	147,031	4,847	3.2	149,938	144,797	5,141	3.4
Berkeley County	↑	116,885	113,058	3,827	3.3	116,239	112,806	3,433	3.0	113,027	109,219	3,808	3.4
Greenville County	↑	269,255	260,291	8,964	3.3	268,123	260,006	8,117	3.0	265,166	256,477	8,689	3.3
Dorchester County	↑	84,839	82,143	2,696	3.2	84,328	81,881	2,447	2.9	81,922	79,295	2,627	3.2
Charleston County	↑	229,805	222,952	6,853	3.0	227,938	221,887	6,051	2.7	221,941	214,980	6,961	3.1
Lexington County	↑	157,864	153,087	4,777	3.0	156,409	152,173	4,236	2.7	152,182	147,367	4,815	3.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,472,668	2,396,234	76,434	3.1	2,471,839	2,396,514	75,325	3.0	2,428,125	2,355,128	72,997	3.0

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

**2023 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on April 19th.

↑ 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 4,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,351,300.

JOBS BY INDUSTRY	FEBRUARY 2024	JANUARY 2024	FEBRUARY 2023	JANUARY 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2024		FEBRUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024	
				# CHANGE	% CHANGE	# CHANGE	% CHANGE
TOTAL NONFARM EMPLOYMENT	2,351,300	2,346,900	2,283,700	↑ 4,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 67,600	↑ 3.0%
Construction	116,000	116,000	110,700	↑ 0	↑ 0.0%	↑ 5,300	↑ 4.8%
Manufacturing	266,300	265,800	262,900	↑ 500	↑ 0.2%	↑ 3,400	↑ 1.3%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	445,000	443,000	439,500	↑ 2,000	↑ 0.5%	↑ 5,500	↑ 1.3%
Information	28,700	28,600	29,800	↑ 100	↑ 0.4%	↓ 1,100	↓ 3.7%
Financial Activities Professional and Business Services	123,600	123,800	120,400	↓ 200	↓ 0.2%	↑ 3,200	↑ 2.7%
Education and Health Services	315,500	318,200	308,900	↓ 2,700	↓ 0.9%	↑ 6,600	↑ 2.1%
Leisure and Hospitality	292,900	291,800	275,500	↑ 1,100	↑ 0.4%	↑ 17,400	↑ 6.3%
Other Services	291,200	289,700	275,800	↑ 1,500	↑ 0.5%	↑ 15,400	↑ 5.6%
Government	90,700	89,900	85,100	↑ 800	↑ 0.9%	↑ 5,600	↑ 6.6%
	376,900	375,600	370,600	↑ 1,300	↑ 0.4%	↑ 6,300	↑ 1.7%

NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT BY METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

The monthly survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an estimated increase of 4,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,351,300.

AREA	FEBRUARY 2024	JANUARY 2024	FEBRUARY 2023	JANUARY 2024 TO FEBRUARY 2024		FEBRUARY 2023 TO FEBRUARY 2024	
				# CHANGE	% CHANGE	# CHANGE	% CHANGE
STATEWIDE	2,351,300	2,346,900	2,283,700	↑ 4,400	↑ 0.2%	↑ 67,600	↑ 3.0%
Charleston-North Charleston	424,700	422,800	406,800	↑ 1,900	↑ 0.5%	↑ 17,900	↑ 4.4%
Columbia	431,600	431,200	420,400	↑ 400	↑ 0.1%	↑ 11,200	↑ 2.7%
Florence	97,000	96,800	94,800	↑ 200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 2,200	↑ 2.3%
Greenville-Anderson-Mauldin	464,400	465,000	457,100	↓ 600	↓ 0.1%	↑ 7,300	↑ 1.6%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort	91,000	90,800	87,600	↑ 200	↑ 0.2%	↑ 3,400	↑ 3.9%
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach	199,200	198,500	189,800	↑ 700	↑ 0.4%	↑ 9,400	↑ 5.0%
Spartanburg	173,800	173,600	169,100	↑ 200	↑ 0.1%	↑ 4,700	↑ 2.8%
Sumter	38,500	38,400	37,800	↑ 100	↑ 0.3%	↑ 700	↑ 1.9%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

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.