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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation May 2021

I. Household Survey¹

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased significantly to 2,277,749.

- That is a substantial increase of 14,783 people over the April 2021 estimate.
- That is a significant increase of 185,178 people over the May 2020 estimate.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates decreased significantly to 110,339 people.

- That is a decrease of 8,056 people from the April 2021 estimate and a notable decrease of 162,825 over the May 2020 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased appreciably to 4.6 percent in May from 5.0 percent in April.

Nationally, the unemployment rate decreased to 5.8 percent in May from 6.1 percent in April.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,388,088.

- That is an increase of 6,727 people over the April 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 22,353 individuals over the May 2020 estimate.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 4,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,115,700.

- Industries reporting gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+4,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,600); Manufacturing (+900); Information (+700); Education and Health Services (+500); and Other Services (+200).
- Decreases were observed in the Government (-2,500); Financial Activities (-1,100); and Construction (-1,000) industries.

From May 2020 to May 2021, South Carolina's economy has picked up 158,600 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were reported in the Leisure and Hospitality (+55,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+31,400); Professional and Business Services (+20,700); Manufacturing (+17,100); Education and Health Services (+16,500); Other Services (+6,900); Construction (+5,800); Government (+4,300); and Information (+1,100).
- A decline was noticed in the Financial Activities (-200) industry.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment climbed by 10,400 from April 2021 to May 2021 for a total of 2,126,000.

- Increases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (+9,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,500); Manufacturing (+1,400); Other Services (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+800) and Information (+600) industries.
- Decreases were reported in the Government (-4,800); Professional and Business Services (-1,000); and Construction (-600) industries.
- Mining and Logging showed no change.

Since May 2020, not seasonally, adjusted nonfarm jobs were up 154,900 in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+52,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+30,300); Professional and Business Services (+21,400); Education and Health Services (+17,100); Manufacturing (+16,700); Other Services (7,000); Construction (+5,900); Government (+3,600); and Information (+1,000).
- A decline was noticed in the Financial Activities (-900) industry.
- Mining and Logging remained flat over the year.

¹**Household Survey (Current Population Survey):** is a monthly survey of about 60,000 households conducted by the Census Bureau for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This survey provides monthly statistics on employment, unemployment, and related subjects analyzed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

²**Current Employment Statistics Survey:** is a monthly survey of about 40,000 employers which yields estimates of nonagricultural wage and salary employment, hours, and earnings by industry.

³**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less 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.

⁴**Not Seasonally Adjusted:** Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
May 2021

Area	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021 to May 2021		May 2020 to May 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,115,700	2,111,600	1,957,100	4,100	0.19%	158,600	8.10%
Construction	107,700	108,700	101,900	-1,000	-0.92%	5,800	5.69%
Manufacturing	246,300	245,400	229,200	900	0.37%	17,100	7.46%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	414,600	412,000	383,200	2,600	0.63%	31,400	8.19%
Information	25,100	24,400	24,000	700	2.87%	1,100	4.58%
Financial Activities	103,900	105,000	104,100	-1,100	-1.05%	-200	-0.19%
Professional and Business Services	283,400	283,600	262,700	-200	-0.07%	20,700	7.88%
Education and Health Services	255,400	254,900	238,900	500	0.20%	16,500	6.91%
Leisure and Hospitality	237,500	233,500	182,500	4,000	1.71%	55,000	30.14%
Other Services	74,200	74,000	67,300	200	0.27%	6,900	10.25%
Government	363,200	365,700	358,900	-2,500	-0.68%	4,300	1.20%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
May 2021

Area	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021 to May 2021		May 2020 to May 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm	2,126,000	2,115,600	1,971,100	10,400	0.49%	154,900	7.86%
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	108,700	109,300	102,800	-600	-0.55%	5,900	5.74%
Manufacturing	245,900	244,500	229,200	1,400	0.57%	16,700	7.29%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	413,100	408,600	382,800	4,500	1.10%	30,300	7.92%
Information	25,100	24,500	24,100	600	2.45%	1,000	4.15%
Financial Activities	103,300	104,100	104,200	-800	-0.77%	-900	-0.86%
Professional and Business Services	283,500	284,500	262,100	-1,000	-0.35%	21,400	8.16%
Education and Health Services	256,300	255,500	239,200	800	0.31%	17,100	7.15%
Leisure and Hospitality	244,900	235,700	192,100	9,200	3.90%	52,800	27.49%
Other Services	75,000	73,900	68,000	1,100	1.49%	7,000	10.29%
Government	365,800	370,600	362,200	-4,800	-1.30%	3,600	0.99%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
May 2021**

Area	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021 to May 2021		May 2020 to May 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,115,700	2,111,600	1,957,100	4,100	0.19%	158,600	8.10%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	362,400	362,200	331,200	200	0.06%	31,200	9.42%
Columbia MSA	389,900	389,100	371,500	800	0.21%	18,400	4.95%
Florence MSA	88,200	88,500	84,600	-300	-0.34%	3,600	4.26%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	415,900	414,500	382,600	1,400	0.34%	33,300	8.70%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	83,400	83,200	73,400	200	0.24%	10,000	13.62%
Myrtle Beach MSA	166,900	167,400	145,400	-500	-0.30%	21,500	14.79%
Spartanburg MSA	164,600	163,800	151,000	800	0.49%	13,600	9.01%
Sumter MSA	38,500	38,400	35,500	100	0.26%	3,000	8.45%

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.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Not Seasonally Adjusted
May 2021**

Area	May 2021	April 2021	May 2020	April 2021 to May 2021		May 2020 to May 2021	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,126,000	2,115,600	1,971,100	10,400	0.49%	154,900	7.86%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	365,400	363,200	334,400	2,200	0.61%	31,000	9.27%
Columbia MSA	391,100	388,200	372,100	2,900	0.75%	19,000	5.11%
Florence MSA	89,000	88,900	85,000	100	0.11%	4,000	4.71%
Greenville MSA	416,700	415,000	384,400	1,700	0.41%	32,300	8.40%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,200	83,000	74,600	1,200	1.45%	9,600	12.87%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	171,600	169,200	150,200	2,400	1.42%	21,400	14.25%
Spartanburg MSA	164,800	163,800	151,100	1,000	0.61%	13,700	9.07%
Sumter MSA	38,600	38,500	35,700	100	0.26%	2,900	8.12%

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.

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

AREA	May 2021					April 2021					May 2020				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		RATE (%)
			LEVEL					LEVEL					LEVEL		
Bamberg County	↓	4,745	4,421	324	6.8	4,754	4,362	392	8.2	5,045	4,427	618	12.2		
Allendale County	↓	2,548	2,377	171	6.7	2,535	2,313	222	8.8	2,721	2,401	320	11.8		
Marlboro County	↓	9,258	8,643	615	6.6	9,328	8,588	740	7.9	9,660	8,107	1,553	16.1		
Orangeburg County	↓	33,403	31,192	2,211	6.6	33,315	30,685	2,630	7.9	35,715	30,813	4,902	13.7		
Union County	↓	12,005	11,302	703	5.9	12,021	11,195	826	6.9	12,084	10,201	1,883	15.6		
Barnwell County	↓	7,749	7,306	443	5.7	7,794	7,243	551	7.1	8,037	7,222	815	10.1		
Marion County	↓	13,421	12,659	762	5.7	13,418	12,470	948	7.1	13,210	11,769	1,441	10.9		
Williamsburg County	↓	11,247	10,609	638	5.7	11,146	10,374	772	6.9	12,303	10,837	1,466	11.9		
Chester County	↓	13,478	12,763	715	5.3	13,479	12,628	851	6.3	13,723	11,659	2,064	15.0		
Dillon County	↓	13,646	12,939	707	5.2	13,530	12,695	835	6.2	13,595	12,436	1,159	8.5		
Fairfield County	↓	9,538	9,044	494	5.2	9,525	8,921	604	6.3	9,727	8,472	1,255	12.9		
Cherokee County	↓	23,787	22,632	1,155	4.9	23,606	22,188	1,418	6.0	25,334	21,567	3,767	14.9		
Lee County	↓	6,809	6,482	327	4.8	6,822	6,408	414	6.1	6,957	6,166	791	11.4		
Horry County	↓	149,991	143,306	6,685	4.5	148,524	140,402	8,122	5.5	149,336	123,715	25,621	17.2		
Clarendon County	↓	12,924	12,367	557	4.3	12,778	12,113	665	5.2	13,085	11,719	1,366	10.4		
Georgetown County	↓	25,878	24,781	1,097	4.2	25,082	23,738	1,344	5.4	26,501	23,169	3,332	12.6		
Greenwood County	↓	30,427	29,142	1,285	4.2	30,208	28,652	1,556	5.2	31,823	28,494	3,329	10.5		
McCormick County	↓	3,352	3,212	140	4.2	3,347	3,170	177	5.3	3,380	3,022	358	10.6		
Abbeville County	↓	9,707	9,310	397	4.1	9,637	9,144	493	5.1	10,388	9,055	1,333	12.8		
Sumter County	↓	43,642	41,858	1,784	4.1	43,756	41,558	2,198	5.0	42,810	38,076	4,734	11.1		
Calhoun County	↓	6,582	6,316	266	4.0	6,522	6,209	313	4.8	6,550	5,911	639	9.8		
Chesterfield County	↓	21,626	20,758	868	4.0	21,376	20,320	1,056	4.9	22,072	19,941	2,131	9.7		
Darlington County	↓	30,231	29,016	1,215	4.0	30,297	28,815	1,482	4.9	30,490	27,354	3,136	10.3		
Laurens County	↓	29,994	28,805	1,189	4.0	29,926	28,463	1,463	4.9	30,301	26,120	4,181	13.8		
Colleton County	↓	16,842	16,195	647	3.8	16,713	15,908	805	4.8	16,478	14,985	1,493	9.1		
Lancaster County	↓	42,328	40,710	1,618	3.8	42,184	40,238	1,946	4.6	42,312	37,091	5,221	12.3		
Florence County	↓	66,813	64,354	2,459	3.7	66,917	63,935	2,982	4.5	66,176	60,308	5,868	8.9		
Richland County	↓	197,789	190,386	7,403	3.7	197,727	188,694	9,033	4.6	197,214	178,055	19,159	9.7		
Spartanburg County	↓	158,984	153,149	5,835	3.7	158,765	151,863	6,902	4.3	159,602	138,345	21,257	13.3		
Berkeley County	↓	105,999	102,304	3,695	3.5	105,695	101,484	4,211	4.0	102,622	92,117	10,505	10.2		
Dorchester County	↓	78,371	75,646	2,725	3.5	78,102	74,981	3,121	4.0	76,405	68,102	8,303	10.9		
Anderson County	↓	90,394	87,295	3,099	3.4	90,218	86,473	3,745	4.2	89,796	79,158	10,638	11.8		
Oconee County	↓	35,072	33,890	1,182	3.4	34,387	33,115	1,272	3.7	35,688	31,999	3,689	10.3		
York County	↓	143,560	138,718	4,842	3.4	143,055	137,220	5,835	4.1	142,540	126,147	16,393	11.5		
Kershaw County	↓	29,397	28,439	958	3.3	29,209	28,059	1,150	3.9	29,289	26,630	2,659	9.1		
Charleston County	↓	212,687	205,835	6,852	3.2	211,721	203,407	8,314	3.9	210,619	184,770	25,849	12.3		
Greenville County	↓	254,368	246,339	8,029	3.2	253,716	244,150	9,566	3.8	252,829	223,312	29,517	11.7		
Hampton County	↓	8,412	8,146	266	3.2	8,312	7,984	328	3.9	8,274	7,684	590	7.1		
Pickens County	↓	57,107	55,252	1,855	3.2	56,833	54,691	2,142	3.8	55,904	50,011	5,893	10.5		
Aiken County	↓	75,226	72,978	2,248	3.0	75,370	72,661	2,709	3.6	74,947	67,835	7,112	9.5		
Newberry County	↓	19,807	19,205	602	3.0	19,522	18,812	710	3.6	19,270	17,753	1,517	7.9		
Beaufort County	↓	79,785	77,442	2,343	2.9	78,449	75,695	2,754	3.5	75,867	67,643	8,224	10.8		
Edgefield County	↓	10,831	10,516	315	2.9	10,777	10,396	381	3.5	10,838	9,789	1,049	9.7		
Jasper County	↓	13,388	13,007	381	2.8	13,044	12,586	458	3.5	12,422	11,289	1,133	9.1		
Saluda County	↓	8,906	8,660	246	2.8	8,709	8,419	290	3.3	8,808	8,197	611	6.9		
Lexington County	↓	150,380	146,304	4,076	2.7	149,381	144,492	4,889	3.3	148,092	136,753	11,339	7.7		
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	397,057	383,785	13,272	3.3	395,518	379,872	15,646	4.0	389,646	344,989	44,657	11.5		
Columbia MSA	↓	402,592	389,149	13,443	3.3	401,073	384,794	16,279	4.1	399,680	364,018	35,662	8.9		
Florence MSA	↓	97,044	93,370	3,674	3.8	97,214	92,750	4,464	4.6	96,666	87,662	9,004	9.3		
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	431,863	417,691	14,172	3.3	430,693	413,777	16,916	3.9	428,830	378,601	50,229	11.7		
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED															
South Carolina	↓	2,388,088	2,277,749	110,339	4.6	2,381,361	2,262,966	118,395	5.0	2,365,735	2,092,571	273,164	11.5		

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

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
- Unemployment Rate =