



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

March 27, 2020

South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2020

Employment Grows to New Record Labor Force Expansion Continues

I. Household Survey¹

Employment: The monthly survey of households across the state estimated the number of South Carolinians working moved higher, establishing a new record of 2,333,217.

- That is an increase of 2,720 people over January 2020.
- That is also a significant increase of 43,727 people over February 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates increased to 58,614 people.

- That is an increase of 2,015 people since January 2020 and a significant decrease of 21,956 over February 2019.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 2.5 percent over the month from January's rate of 2.4 percent. This marks the first increase since August of 2019.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate moved lower to 3.5 percent from January's estimate of 3.6 percent.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,391,831.

- That is an increase of 4,735 people since January 2020.
- That is an increase of 21,771 individuals over February 2019.

II. Current Employment Survey²

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 3,100 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a record high level of 2,218,300.

- Industries reporting increases in employment were Professional and Business Services (+2,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300); Construction (+1,000); Education and Health Services (+500); Government (+300); Information (+300); and Financial Activities (+100).
- Decreases were noticed in the Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-1,500); Other Services (-1,100); and Manufacturing (-100) industry.

From February 2019 to February 2020, South Carolina's economy has added 45,100 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were Leisure and Hospitality (+13,600); Professional and Business Services (+9,500); Government (+7,000); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800); Construction (+3,800); Education and Health Services (+3,200); Manufacturing (+2,200); Other Services (+900); and Information (+300).
- Decreases were seen in Financial Activities (-300).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, non farm payroll employment increased by 13,300 from January 2020 to February 2020 for a total of 2,195,500. This increase is a typical trend for the January-to-February time period due to returns from layoffs and school closings between terms.

- Industries showing growth during this period were: Leisure and Hospitality (+6,400); Professional and Business Services (+3,700); Government (+3,300); Education and Health Services (+1,900); Construction (+1,500); Manufacturing (+600); and Information (+100).
- Industries reporting declines were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,600) and Other Services (-600). Mining and Logging and Financial Activities remained flat.

Since February 2019, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were up 40,400 overall in South Carolina.

- Industries marking prominent annual gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+13,700); Professional and Business Services (+8,400); Government (+5,900); Construction (+3,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,500); Education and Health Services (+2,500); Manufacturing (+2,000); and Other Services (+600).
- No industries recorded an over the year loss. Information, Financial Activities and Mining and Logging all remained flat.

¹Household 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.

²Current 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.

³Seasonally 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.

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

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2020

Area	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	January 2020 to February 2020		February 2019 to February 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,218,300	2,215,200	2,173,200	3,100	0.14%	45,100	2.08%
Construction	110,000	109,000	106,200	1,000	0.91%	3,800	3.58%
Manufacturing	258,400	258,500	256,200	-100	-0.04%	2,200	0.86%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	410,600	412,100	405,800	-1,500	-0.37%	4,800	1.18%
Information	27,200	26,900	26,900	300	1.10%	300	1.12%
Financial Activities	104,000	103,900	104,300	100	0.10%	-300	-0.29%
Professional and Business Services	306,000	303,700	296,500	2,300	0.75%	9,500	3.20%
Education and Health Services	259,800	259,300	256,600	500	0.19%	3,200	1.25%
Leisure and Hospitality	281,700	280,400	268,100	1,300	0.46%	13,600	5.07%
Other Services	79,500	80,600	78,600	-1,100	-1.38%	900	1.15%
Government	376,600	376,300	369,600	300	0.08%	7,000	1.89%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February 2020

Area	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	January 2020 to February 2020		February 2019 to February 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm	2,195,500	2,182,200	2,155,100	13,300	0.61%	40,400	1.87%
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	109,000	107,500	105,200	1,500	1.40%	3,800	3.61%
Manufacturing	258,500	257,900	256,500	600	0.23%	2,000	0.78%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	404,900	408,500	401,400	-3,600	-0.88%	3,500	0.87%
Information	26,900	26,800	26,900	100	0.37%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	103,200	103,200	103,200	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Professional and Business Services	303,000	299,300	294,600	3,700	1.24%	8,400	2.85%
Education and Health Services	259,400	257,500	256,900	1,900	0.74%	2,500	0.97%
Leisure and Hospitality	269,200	262,800	255,500	6,400	2.44%	13,700	5.36%
Other Services	78,700	79,300	78,100	-600	-0.76%	600	0.77%
Government	378,300	375,000	372,400	3,300	0.88%	5,900	1.58%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
February 2020**

Area	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	January 2020 to February 2020		February 2019 to February 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,218,300	2,215,200	2,173,200	3,100	0.14%	45,100	2.08%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	379,800	380,900	372,700	-1,100	-0.29%	7,100	1.91%
Columbia MSA	407,200	406,800	400,800	400	0.10%	6,400	1.60%
Florence MSA	91,700	92,000	92,200	-300	-0.33%	-500	-0.54%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	435,000	433,600	431,700	1,400	0.32%	3,300	0.76%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	86,700	86,500	83,500	200	0.23%	3,200	3.83%
Myrtle Beach MSA	179,000	178,900	173,700	100	0.06%	5,300	3.05%
Spartanburg MSA	163,900	164,200	162,300	-300	-0.18%	1,600	0.99%
Sumter MSA	40,000	40,000	39,700	0	0.00%	300	0.76%

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
February 2020**

Area	February 2020	January 2020	February 2019	January 2020 to February 2020		February 2019 to February 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	2,195,500	2,182,200	2,155,100	13,300	0.61%	40,400	1.87%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	375,200	375,300	370,100	-100	-0.03%	5,100	1.38%
Columbia MSA	405,000	403,200	399,000	1,800	0.45%	6,000	1.50%
Florence MSA	91,300	91,000	91,700	300	0.33%	(400)	-0.44%
Greenville MSA	432,800	429,000	429,800	3,800	0.89%	3,000	0.70%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,400	83,900	81,400	500	0.60%	3,000	3.69%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MS	170,600	168,300	165,600	2,300	1.37%	5,000	3.02%
Spartanburg MSA	163,400	163,200	162,100	200	0.12%	1,300	0.80%
Sumter MSA	39,900	39,900	39,700	0	0.00%	200	0.50%

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		February 2020				January 2020				February 2019**			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL RATE (%)	
Allendale County	↓	2,707	2,532	175	6.5	2,698	2,516	182	6.7	2,791	2,639	152	5.4
Bamberg County	↑	5,015	4,727	288	5.7	4,990	4,711	279	5.6	4,982	4,707	275	5.5
Lee County	↑	6,722	6,367	355	5.3	6,701	6,365	336	5.0	6,680	6,420	260	3.9
Williamsburg County	↓	12,134	11,538	596	4.9	12,081	11,479	602	5.0	12,489	11,875	614	4.9
Orangeburg County	↓	35,576	33,885	1,691	4.8	35,411	33,662	1,749	4.9	34,708	32,990	1,718	4.9
Marlboro County	↑	9,230	8,795	435	4.7	9,282	8,869	413	4.4	9,662	8,822	840	8.7
Barnwell County	-	8,280	7,896	384	4.6	8,264	7,887	377	4.6	8,484	8,094	390	4.6
Fairfield County	↓	9,744	9,297	447	4.6	9,710	9,257	453	4.7	9,776	9,278	498	5.1
Marion County	↑	12,953	12,366	587	4.5	12,890	12,333	557	4.3	13,098	12,403	695	5.3
Chester County	↑	13,629	13,035	594	4.4	13,575	12,990	585	4.3	13,416	12,824	592	4.4
Dillon County	↑	13,317	12,741	576	4.3	13,310	12,757	553	4.2	13,067	12,349	718	5.5
Clarendon County	↑	12,808	12,274	534	4.2	12,759	12,240	519	4.1	12,806	12,259	547	4.3
Georgetown County	-	25,777	24,695	1,082	4.2	25,539	24,456	1,083	4.2	26,129	24,925	1,204	4.6
Horry County	↓	147,419	141,180	6,239	4.2	145,671	139,268	6,403	4.4	144,468	137,696	6,772	4.7
McCormick County	↑	3,449	3,306	143	4.1	3,422	3,287	135	3.9	3,482	3,359	123	3.5
Union County	↑	11,823	11,367	456	3.9	11,742	11,327	415	3.5	11,777	11,319	458	3.9
Abbeville County	↑	10,143	9,770	373	3.7	10,086	9,721	365	3.6	10,175	9,806	369	3.6
Sumter County	↑	44,385	42,756	1,629	3.7	44,265	42,694	1,571	3.5	44,793	43,174	1,619	3.6
Lancaster County	↑	41,995	40,478	1,517	3.6	41,771	40,323	1,448	3.5	40,074	38,541	1,533	3.8
Calhoun County	-	6,684	6,451	233	3.5	6,649	6,419	230	3.5	6,721	6,462	259	3.9
Greenwood County	↑	31,599	30,496	1,103	3.5	31,397	30,366	1,031	3.3	31,360	30,285	1,075	3.4
Cherokee County	↑	25,344	24,485	859	3.4	25,115	24,275	840	3.3	25,568	24,742	826	3.2
Colleton County	↑	16,916	16,342	574	3.4	16,847	16,303	544	3.2	17,004	16,397	607	3.6
Darlington County	-	30,396	29,356	1,040	3.4	30,322	29,287	1,035	3.4	30,582	29,387	1,195	3.9
Kershaw County	↑	29,755	28,753	1,002	3.4	29,582	28,625	957	3.2	29,121	28,180	941	3.2
Laurens County	↑	30,665	29,671	994	3.2	30,354	29,419	935	3.1	30,407	29,393	1,014	3.3
Aiken County	↑	75,735	73,409	2,326	3.1	75,364	73,133	2,231	3.0	75,539	73,130	2,409	3.2
Chesterfield County	-	22,321	21,623	698	3.1	22,192	21,507	685	3.1	22,354	21,595	759	3.4
Florence County	↑	67,088	65,034	2,054	3.1	66,852	64,848	2,004	3.0	66,946	64,659	2,287	3.4
Edgefield County	-	10,875	10,548	327	3.0	10,821	10,501	320	3.0	10,789	10,457	332	3.1
Anderson County	↑	92,454	89,784	2,670	2.9	91,579	89,048	2,531	2.8	91,104	88,353	2,751	3.0
Hampton County	↑	8,472	8,223	249	2.9	8,426	8,195	231	2.7	8,314	8,058	256	3.1
Oconee County	↑	35,434	34,391	1,043	2.9	35,186	34,203	983	2.8	35,673	34,583	1,090	3.1
Pickens County	↑	58,269	56,552	1,717	2.9	57,714	56,074	1,640	2.8	57,157	55,436	1,721	3.0
Richland County	↑	201,083	195,349	5,734	2.9	200,109	194,552	5,557	2.8	197,602	191,403	6,199	3.1
York County	↑	142,501	138,426	4,075	2.9	141,827	137,886	3,941	2.8	136,116	131,890	4,226	3.1
Beaufort County	↑	78,974	76,769	2,205	2.8	78,253	76,187	2,066	2.6	75,770	73,442	2,328	3.1
Newberry County	-	19,374	18,824	550	2.8	19,187	18,654	533	2.8	18,937	18,387	550	2.9
Saluda County	↑	9,055	8,802	253	2.8	8,998	8,757	241	2.7	9,002	8,734	268	3.0
Spartanburg County	↑	154,912	150,637	4,275	2.8	154,278	150,163	4,115	2.7	150,262	146,014	4,248	2.8
Berkeley County	↑	105,158	102,298	2,860	2.7	105,018	102,326	2,692	2.6	101,956	98,993	2,963	2.9
Jasper County	↑	12,985	12,640	345	2.7	12,831	12,518	313	2.4	12,347	11,982	365	3.0
Dorchester County	↑	78,975	76,913	2,062	2.6	78,892	76,922	1,970	2.5	75,720	73,538	2,182	2.9
Greenville County	↑	258,298	251,534	6,764	2.6	255,817	249,477	6,340	2.5	253,111	246,046	7,065	2.8
Lexington County	↑	152,154	148,400	3,754	2.5	151,226	147,730	3,496	2.3	148,289	144,354	3,935	2.7
Charleston County	↑	214,408	209,190	5,218	2.4	213,947	209,054	4,893	2.3	208,460	202,925	5,535	2.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	398,541	388,401	10,140	2.5	397,857	388,302	9,555	2.4	386,136	375,456	10,680	2.8
Columbia MSA	↑	408,475	397,052	11,423	2.8	406,274	395,340	10,934	2.7	400,511	388,411	12,100	3.0
Florence MSA	↑	97,484	94,390	3,094	3.2	97,174	94,135	3,039	3.1	97,528	94,046	3,482	3.6
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↑	439,686	427,541	12,145	2.8	435,464	424,018	11,446	2.6	431,779	419,228	12,551	2.9
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,391,831	2,333,217	58,614	2.5	2,387,096	2,330,497	56,599	2.4	2,370,060	2,289,490	80,570	3.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

**2019 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on April 17th.

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