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For Release
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South Carolina's Employment Situation February 2021

I. Household Survey¹

Employment: The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,253,199.

- That is an increase of 17,896 people over the January 2021 estimate.
- That is also a decrease of 46,142 people over the February 2020 estimate.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates decreased to 124,099 people.

- That is a decrease of 1,345 people from the January 2021 estimate and a notable increase of 58,119 over the February 2020 estimate.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased slightly to 5.2 percent in February from 5.3 percent in January 2021.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined modestly to 6.2 percent in February from 6.3 percent in January.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,377,298.

- That is a significant increase of 16,551 people over the January 2021 estimate.
- That is an increase of 11,997 individuals over the February 2020 estimate.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 6,300 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,111,300.

- Industries that reported gains were noticed in the Transportation and Utilities (+6,200); Construction (+2,200); Professional and Business Services (+1,300); Manufacturing (+600); and Financial Activities (+200).

- Decreases were noticed in the Leisure and Hospitality (-2,400); Government (-1,500) Information (-200); Education and Health (-100) industries. The Other Services industry remained flat.

From February 2020 to February 2021, South Carolina's economy has lost 85,100 seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs.

- Industry with strong growth was Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,700).
- Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-37,700); Government (-16,900); Manufacturing (-10,400); Education and Health Services (-9,900); Other Services (-5,700); Professional and Business Services (-5,000); Construction (-1,300); Financial Activities (-1,200); and Information (-700) industries.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 18,200 from January 2021 to February 2021 for a total of 2,090,700.

- Increases were reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,800); Construction (+3,600); Professional and Business Services (+3,200); Government (+2,200); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,900); Manufacturing (+1,300); Education and Health Services (+1,100) Financial Activities (+200); and Other Services (+200) Industry.
- A decrease was reported in the Information (-300) industry.
- Mining and Logging showed no movement over the period.

Since February 2020, not seasonally, adjusted nonfarm jobs were down 85,100 overall in South Carolina.

- Industries making strong annual gain were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+3,900) and Construction (+100) industries.
- Industries recording an over-the-year loss are Leisure and Hospitality (-38,800); Government (-16,400); Education and Health Services (-11,800); Manufacturing (-10,100); Other Services (-5,900); Professional and Business Services (-4,100); Financial Activities (-1,200); and Information (-800).
- Mining and Logging showed no over the year change.

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
February

Area	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021 to February 2021		February 2020 to February 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,111,300	2,105,000	2,196,400	6,300	0.30%	-85,100	-3.87%
Construction	105,300	103,100	106,600	2,200	2.13%	-1,300	-1.22%
Manufacturing	246,600	246,000	257,000	600	0.24%	-10,400	-4.05%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	414,200	408,000	410,500	6,200	1.52%	3,700	0.90%
Information	25,100	25,300	25,800	-200	-0.79%	-700	-2.71%
Financial Activities	105,900	105,700	107,100	200	0.19%	-1,200	-1.12%
Professional and Business Services	287,600	286,300	292,600	1,300	0.45%	-5,000	-1.71%
Education and Health Services	251,200	251,300	261,100	-100	-0.04%	-9,900	-3.79%
Leisure and Hospitality	235,700	238,100	273,400	-2,400	-1.01%	-37,700	-13.79%
Other Services	74,500	74,500	80,200	0	0.00%	-5,700	-7.11%
Government	360,800	362,300	377,700	-1,500	-0.41%	-16,900	-4.47%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
February

Area	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021 to February 2021		February 2020 to February 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm	2,090,700	2,072,500	2,175,800	18,200	0.88%	-85,100	-3.91%
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	105,400	101,800	105,300	3,600	3.54%	100	0.09%
Manufacturing	246,700	245,400	256,800	1,300	0.53%	-10,100	-3.93%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	409,300	404,500	405,400	4,800	1.19%	3,900	0.96%
Information	24,900	25,200	25,700	-300	-1.19%	-800	-3.11%
Financial Activities	105,100	104,900	106,300	200	0.19%	-1,200	-1.13%
Professional and Business Services	285,500	282,300	289,600	3,200	1.13%	-4,100	-1.42%
Education and Health Services	250,400	249,300	262,200	1,100	0.44%	-11,800	-4.50%
Leisure and Hospitality	221,600	219,700	260,400	1,900	0.86%	-38,800	-14.90%
Other Services	73,900	73,700	79,800	200	0.27%	-5,900	-7.39%
Government	363,500	361,300	379,900	2,200	0.61%	-16,400	-4.32%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
February**

Area	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021 to February 2021		February 2020 to February 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,111,300	2,105,000	2,196,400	6,300	0.30%	-85,100	-3.87%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	359,700	359,900	379,100	-200	-0.06%	-19,400	-5.12%
Columbia MSA	389,900	383,500	404,100	6,400	1.67%	-14,200	-3.51%
Florence MSA	88,900	89,400	92,100	-500	-0.56%	-3,200	-3.47%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	414,700	412,600	433,600	2,100	0.51%	-18,900	-4.36%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	81,000	81,800	85,100	-800	-0.98%	-4,100	-4.82%
Myrtle Beach MSA	168,900	168,700	176,300	200	0.12%	-7,400	-4.20%
Spartanburg MSA	162,600	161,300	166,300	1,300	0.81%	-3,700	-2.22%
Sumter MSA	38,100	38,500	39,200	-400	-1.04%	-1,100	-2.81%

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**

Area	February 2021	January 2021	February 2020	January 2021 to February 2021		February 2020 to February 2021	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,090,700	2,072,500	2,175,800	18,200	0.88%	-85,100	-3.91%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	356,400	355,000	376,400	1,400	0.39%	-20,000	-5.31%
Columbia MSA	387,700	380,200	403,600	7,500	1.97%	-15,900	-3.94%
Florence MSA	88,100	88,300	91,600	-200	-0.23%	-3,500	-3.82%
Greenville MSA	413,400	408,700	431,000	4,700	1.15%	-17,600	-4.08%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	78,600	79,400	82,900	-800	-1.01%	-4,300	-5.19%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	160,400	158,300	168,600	2,100	1.33%	-8,200	-4.86%
Spartanburg MSA	162,200	159,800	166,000	2,400	1.50%	-3,800	-2.29%
Sumter MSA	38,000	38,400	39,200	-400	-1.04%	-1,200	-3.06%

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 2021				January 2021				February 2020**				
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		
			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)	
Allendale County	↑	2,631	2,383	248	9.4	2,563	2,337	226	8.8	2,705	2,530	175	6.5
Bamberg County	↓	4,786	4,336	450	9.4	4,713	4,259	454	9.6	5,011	4,723	288	5.7
Marlboro County	↓	9,213	8,373	840	9.1	9,250	8,377	873	9.4	9,223	8,788	435	4.7
Orangeburg County	↓	34,856	32,029	2,827	8.1	34,306	31,344	2,962	8.6	35,556	33,862	1,694	4.8
Barnwell County	↑	7,971	7,345	626	7.9	7,836	7,246	590	7.5	8,274	7,890	384	4.6
Marion County	↓	13,330	12,297	1,033	7.7	13,194	12,139	1,055	8.0	12,950	12,363	587	4.5
Union County	↓	12,067	11,151	916	7.6	11,814	10,888	926	7.8	11,811	11,354	457	3.9
Chester County	↓	13,548	12,537	1,011	7.5	13,402	12,358	1,044	7.8	13,625	13,031	594	4.4
Williamsburg County	↑	11,773	10,907	866	7.4	11,633	10,778	855	7.3	12,128	11,530	598	4.9
Horry County	↓	144,776	134,469	10,307	7.1	141,453	131,218	10,235	7.2	147,606	141,363	6,243	4.2
Dillon County	↑	13,423	12,478	945	7.0	13,272	12,357	915	6.9	13,309	12,732	577	4.3
Fairfield County	↓	9,588	8,919	669	7.0	9,335	8,656	679	7.3	9,750	9,301	449	4.6
Lee County	↓	6,764	6,304	460	6.8	6,691	6,215	476	7.1	6,718	6,363	355	5.3
Georgetown County	↓	25,842	24,131	1,711	6.6	25,301	23,600	1,701	6.7	25,769	24,686	1,083	4.2
Cherokee County	↓	25,071	23,448	1,623	6.5	24,849	23,118	1,731	7.0	25,323	24,463	860	3.4
McCormick County	↓	3,377	3,158	219	6.5	3,331	3,105	226	6.8	3,446	3,303	143	4.1
Clarendon County	↓	12,634	11,823	811	6.4	12,494	11,664	830	6.6	12,797	12,263	534	4.2
Sumter County	↓	43,917	41,328	2,589	5.9	43,813	41,130	2,683	6.1	44,352	42,722	1,630	3.7
Chesterfield County	↓	21,768	20,507	1,261	5.8	21,527	20,165	1,362	6.3	22,305	21,607	698	3.1
Colleton County	↓	16,643	15,674	969	5.8	16,438	15,455	983	6.0	16,920	16,346	574	3.4
Darlington County	↓	30,303	28,539	1,764	5.8	30,094	28,278	1,816	6.0	30,392	29,351	1,041	3.4
Greenwood County	↓	31,634	29,808	1,826	5.8	31,200	29,349	1,851	5.9	31,571	30,468	1,103	3.5
Lancaster County	↓	42,432	40,024	2,408	5.7	42,038	39,455	2,583	6.1	41,982	40,464	1,518	3.6
Calhoun County	-	6,569	6,204	365	5.6	6,371	6,017	354	5.6	6,687	6,453	234	3.5
Laurens County	↓	30,189	28,519	1,670	5.5	29,654	27,920	1,734	5.8	30,618	29,624	994	3.2
Abbeville County	↓	10,084	9,541	543	5.4	9,957	9,397	560	5.6	10,135	9,761	374	3.7
Richland County	↓	199,686	189,149	10,537	5.3	194,730	183,868	10,862	5.6	201,174	195,433	5,741	2.9
Florence County	↓	67,056	63,619	3,437	5.1	66,590	63,082	3,508	5.3	67,084	65,024	2,060	3.1
Anderson County	↓	91,114	86,671	4,443	4.9	89,441	84,911	4,530	5.1	92,313	89,639	2,674	2.9
Spartanburg County	↓	158,953	151,164	7,789	4.9	155,733	147,640	8,093	5.2	154,756	150,474	4,282	2.8
Berkeley County	↓	105,111	100,063	5,048	4.8	103,774	98,734	5,040	4.9	105,429	102,563	2,866	2.7
Charleston County	↓	211,218	201,008	10,210	4.8	208,849	198,153	10,696	5.1	214,939	209,712	5,227	2.4
Dorchester County	↓	77,648	73,940	3,708	4.8	76,784	72,941	3,843	5.0	79,178	77,110	2,068	2.6
Hampton County	-	8,088	7,701	387	4.8	8,009	7,624	385	4.8	8,467	8,217	250	3.0
Kershaw County	↓	29,482	28,062	1,420	4.8	28,653	27,241	1,412	4.9	29,769	28,765	1,004	3.4
York County	↓	143,613	136,695	6,918	4.8	142,294	134,812	7,482	5.3	142,455	138,377	4,078	2.9
Beaufort County	↑	75,985	72,396	3,589	4.7	75,766	72,318	3,448	4.6	78,918	76,709	2,209	2.8
Jasper County	↓	12,741	12,140	601	4.7	12,694	12,081	613	4.8	12,977	12,630	347	2.7
Edgefield County	↑	10,848	10,348	500	4.6	10,636	10,156	480	4.5	10,872	10,545	327	3.0
Oconee County	↑	34,890	33,280	1,610	4.6	34,253	32,701	1,552	4.5	35,400	34,356	1,044	2.9
Aiken County	↑	75,952	72,537	3,415	4.5	74,668	71,374	3,294	4.4	75,719	73,387	2,332	3.1
Greenville County	↓	256,234	244,781	11,453	4.5	251,580	239,859	11,721	4.7	257,896	251,124	6,772	2.6
Pickens County	↑	57,444	54,884	2,560	4.5	56,265	53,770	2,495	4.4	58,179	56,460	1,719	3.0
Newberry County	↓	19,376	18,530	846	4.4	18,872	18,017	855	4.5	19,364	18,814	550	2.8
Saluda County	↑	8,695	8,312	383	4.4	8,372	8,024	348	4.2	9,059	8,805	254	2.8
Lexington County	↓	150,832	144,742	6,090	4.0	146,555	140,575	5,980	4.1	152,218	148,460	3,758	2.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	393,977	375,011	18,966	4.8	389,407	369,828	19,579	5.0	399,546	389,385	10,161	2.5
Columbia MSA	↓	404,852	385,388	19,464	4.8	394,016	374,381	19,635	5.0	408,657	397,217	11,440	2.8
Florence MSA	↓	97,359	92,158	5,201	5.3	96,684	91,360	5,324	5.5	97,476	94,375	3,101	3.2
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	434,981	414,855	20,126	4.6	426,940	406,460	20,480	4.8	439,006	426,847	12,159	2.8
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,377,298	2,253,199	124,099	5.2	2,360,747	2,235,303	125,444	5.3	2,365,321	2,299,341	65,980	2.8

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

**2020 substate estimates will be revised at the conclusion of the Bureau of Labor Statistics annual benchmarking process on April 16th.

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