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## **South Carolina's Employment Situation May 2020**

### **Employment Ticks Up Slightly as Businesses Start to Reopen**

#### **I. Household Survey<sup>1</sup>**

**Employment:** The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working increased to 2,118,575.

- That is a significant increase of 45,105 people over April 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 179,177 people over May 2019.

**Unemployment:** Unemployment estimates showed little movement, decreasing to 303,218 people.

- That is a decrease of 142 people since April 2020 and a significant increase of 229,360 over May 2019.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased to 12.5 percent in May from April's revised estimate of 12.8 percent.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined from 14.7 percent in April to 13.3 percent in May, thus reflecting the continued effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the household survey data.

**Labor force:** The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,421,793.

- That is a significant increase of 44,963 people over April 2020.
- That is a significant increase of 50,183 individuals over May 2019.

#### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted<sup>3</sup>)**

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 67,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 1,989,400.

- Industries reporting gains were Leisure and Hospitality (+36,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,600); Education and Health Services (+8,700); Professional and Business Services (+5,600); Construction (+3,900); Other Services (+3,800); Manufacturing (+2,600); and Financial Activities (+2,400).
- Decreases were noticed in the Government (-6,200) and Information (-100) industries.

From May 2019 to May 2020, South Carolina's economy has lost 193,000 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- Construction was the only industry to report a gain (+300) over the year.
- Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-92,800); Professional and Business Services (-27,300); Education and Health Services (-20,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-20,000); Government (-14,000); Manufacturing (-10,700); Other Services (-5,400); Financial Activities (-2,000); and Information (-600).

### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>2</sup>)**

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 75,500 from April 2020 to May 2020 for a total of 2,005,600.

- Industries reporting growth during this period were Leisure and Hospitality (+41,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,200); Education and Health Services (+8,100); Professional and Business Services (+6,400); Construction (+4,300); Other Services (+4,000); Manufacturing (+3,200); and Financial Activities (+3,100).
- Industries reporting declines were Government (-6,900) and Information (-200).
- Mining and Logging remained flat.

Since May 2019, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were down 194,000, overall, in South Carolina.

- Construction was the only industry to show an annual gain (+300).
- Industries recording an over-the-year loss are Leisure and Hospitality (-93,800); Professional and Business Services (-25,700); Education and Health Services (-21,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-19,800); Government (-14,200); Manufacturing (-10,500); Other Services (-5,400); Financial Activities (-2,400); Information (-1,200); and Mining and Logging (-200).

<sup>1</sup>**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.

<sup>2</sup>**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.

<sup>3</sup>**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.

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

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Statewide

May

Area	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	April 2020 to May 2020		May 2019 to May 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>1,989,400</b>	<b>1,921,800</b>	<b>2,182,400</b>	<b>67,600</b>	<b>3.52%</b>	<b>-193,000</b>	<b>-8.84%</b>
Construction	106,600	102,700	106,300	3,900	3.80%	300	0.28%
Manufacturing	247,500	244,900	258,200	2,600	1.06%	-10,700	-4.14%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	387,200	376,600	407,200	10,600	2.81%	-20,000	-4.91%
Information	26,700	26,800	27,300	-100	-0.37%	-600	-2.20%
Financial Activities	102,400	100,000	104,400	2,400	2.40%	-2,000	-1.92%
Professional and Business Services	270,500	264,900	297,800	5,600	2.11%	-27,300	-9.17%
Education and Health Services	237,200	228,500	257,500	8,700	3.81%	-20,300	-7.88%
Leisure and Hospitality	176,200	139,900	269,000	36,300	25.95%	-92,800	-34.50%
Other Services	73,800	70,000	79,200	3,800	5.43%	-5,400	-6.82%
Government	357,000	363,200	371,000	-6,200	-1.71%	-14,000	-3.77%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Statewide

May

Area	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	April 2020 to May 2020		May 2019 to May 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,005,600</b>	<b>1,930,100</b>	<b>2,199,600</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	<b>-194,000</b>	<b>-8.82%</b>
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,300	4,500	0	0.00%	-200	-4.44%
Construction	107,200	102,900	106,900	4,300	4.18%	300	0.28%
Manufacturing	247,700	244,500	258,200	3,200	1.31%	-10,500	-4.07%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	387,100	374,900	406,900	12,200	3.25%	-19,800	-4.87%
Information	26,500	26,700	27,700	-200	-0.75%	-1,200	-4.33%
Financial Activities	102,300	99,200	104,700	3,100	3.13%	-2,400	-2.29%
Professional and Business Services	273,500	267,100	299,200	6,400	2.40%	-25,700	-8.59%
Education and Health Services	237,100	229,000	258,200	8,100	3.54%	-21,100	-8.17%
Leisure and Hospitality	185,200	143,900	279,000	41,300	28.70%	-93,800	-33.62%
Other Services	74,400	70,400	79,800	4,000	5.68%	-5,400	-6.77%
Government	360,300	367,200	374,500	-6,900	-1.88%	-14,200	-3.79%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted**

May

Area	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	April 2020 to May 2020		May 2019 to May 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>1,989,400</b>	<b>1,921,800</b>	<b>2,182,400</b>	<b>67,600</b>	<b>3.52%</b>	<b>-193,000</b>	<b>-8.84%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	332,200	325,300	374,700	6,900	2.12%	-42,500	-11.34%
Columbia MSA	376,700	367,200	402,900	9,500	2.59%	-26,200	-6.50%
Florence MSA	85,100	83,400	92,400	1,700	2.04%	-7,300	-7.90%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	395,000	385,800	432,800	9,200	2.38%	-37,800	-8.73%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	75,800	72,400	83,500	3,400	4.70%	-7,700	-9.22%
Myrtle Beach MSA	141,800	131,300	173,800	10,500	8.00%	-32,000	-18.41%
Spartanburg MSA	148,900	146,800	163,500	2,100	1.43%	-14,600	-8.93%
Sumter MSA	37,600	36,800	39,800	800	2.17%	-2,200	-5.53%

**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

Area	May 2020	April 2020	May 2019	April 2020 to May 2020		May 2019 to May 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,005,600</b>	<b>1,930,100</b>	<b>2,199,600</b>	<b>75,500</b>	<b>3.91%</b>	<b>-194,000</b>	<b>-8.82%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	334,100	325,200	378,300	8,900	2.74%	-44,200	-11.68%
Columbia MSA	378,700	366,600	404,000	12,100	3.30%	-25,300	-6.26%
Florence MSA	85,800	83,800	92,900	2,000	2.39%	-7,100	-7.64%
Greenville MSA	397,100	386,800	434,100	10,300	2.66%	-37,000	-8.52%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	77,200	72,500	84,900	4,700	6.48%	-7,700	-9.07%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	147,700	134,300	179,800	13,400	9.98%	-32,100	-17.85%
Spartanburg MSA	149,400	147,200	164,000	2,200	1.49%	-14,600	-8.90%
Sumter MSA	37,800	37,100	40,100	700	1.89%	-2,300	-5.74%

**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 2020				April 2020				May 2019			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Horry County	↓	151,121	122,977	28,144	18.6	146,260	113,297	32,963	22.5	151,028	146,195	4,833	3.2
Marlboro County	↓	9,836	8,143	1,693	17.2	9,553	7,885	1,668	17.5	9,143	8,763	380	4.2
Union County	↓	12,489	10,425	2,064	16.5	12,675	10,355	2,320	18.3	11,649	11,259	390	3.3
Chester County	↑	13,981	11,723	2,258	16.2	13,484	11,531	1,953	14.5	13,379	12,862	517	3.9
Cherokee County	↓	26,940	22,820	4,120	15.3	26,741	22,334	4,407	16.5	25,139	24,400	739	2.9
Orangeburg County	↑	36,850	31,505	5,345	14.5	35,128	30,461	4,667	13.3	34,808	33,376	1,432	4.1
Spartanburg County	↓	161,797	138,297	23,500	14.5	161,761	137,456	24,305	15.0	153,077	149,286	3,791	2.5
Laurens County	↑	31,916	27,313	4,603	14.4	31,214	26,813	4,401	14.1	30,265	29,392	873	2.9
Abbeville County	↑	10,397	8,937	1,460	14.0	10,097	8,703	1,394	13.8	10,063	9,750	313	3.1
Georgetown County	↓	26,879	23,213	3,666	13.6	26,097	22,157	3,940	15.1	26,337	25,460	877	3.3
Lancaster County	↑	41,881	36,282	5,599	13.4	40,953	35,708	5,245	12.8	41,173	39,866	1,307	3.2
Fairfield County	↑	10,107	8,762	1,345	13.3	9,640	8,530	1,110	11.5	9,587	9,195	392	4.1
Bamberg County	↑	5,101	4,430	671	13.2	4,804	4,247	557	11.6	5,059	4,800	259	5.1
Charleston County	-	215,113	186,865	28,248	13.1	211,096	183,515	27,581	13.1	212,703	207,919	4,784	2.2
Allendale County	↑	2,714	2,361	353	13.0	2,577	2,245	332	12.9	2,736	2,604	132	4.8
Williamsburg County	↑	12,412	10,819	1,593	12.8	11,908	10,467	1,441	12.1	12,184	11,699	485	4.0
Lee County	↑	6,910	6,040	870	12.6	6,657	5,856	801	12.0	6,579	6,347	232	3.5
York County	↑	141,445	123,700	17,745	12.5	138,502	121,985	16,517	11.9	139,825	136,106	3,719	2.7
Anderson County	↓	94,317	82,584	11,733	12.4	92,951	81,268	11,683	12.6	91,292	88,883	2,409	2.6
Greenville County	↑	263,692	231,234	32,458	12.3	259,495	227,709	31,786	12.2	255,031	248,920	6,111	2.4
Marion County	↑	13,062	11,490	1,572	12.0	12,522	11,035	1,487	11.9	13,165	12,665	500	3.8
Dorchester County	↑	77,984	68,888	9,096	11.7	76,292	67,737	8,555	11.2	78,487	76,563	1,924	2.5
McCormick County	↑	3,408	3,010	398	11.7	3,314	2,929	385	11.6	3,403	3,311	92	2.7
Greenwood County	↑	31,685	28,072	3,613	11.4	30,720	27,289	3,431	11.2	31,492	30,540	952	3.0
Beaufort County	↓	79,317	70,359	8,958	11.3	75,837	66,770	9,067	12.0	78,297	76,246	2,051	2.6
Clarendon County	-	13,127	11,640	1,487	11.3	12,671	11,235	1,436	11.3	12,952	12,481	471	3.6
Oconee County	↓	36,091	32,014	4,077	11.3	35,317	31,079	4,238	12.0	35,142	34,195	947	2.7
Sumter County	↑	45,687	40,591	5,096	11.2	45,137	40,167	4,970	11.0	43,736	42,343	1,393	3.2
Berkeley County	↑	103,065	91,614	11,451	11.1	101,035	90,144	10,891	10.8	104,410	101,831	2,579	2.5
Pickens County	↑	58,385	51,903	6,482	11.1	57,407	51,094	6,313	11.0	57,511	55,921	1,590	2.8
Barnwell County	↑	8,113	7,224	889	11.0	7,814	7,010	804	10.3	8,310	7,975	335	4.0
Darlington County	↑	31,333	27,916	3,417	10.9	30,403	27,329	3,074	10.1	30,620	29,624	996	3.3
Calhoun County	↑	6,780	6,083	697	10.3	6,454	5,903	551	8.5	6,600	6,386	214	3.2
Chesterfield County	↓	22,308	20,001	2,307	10.3	21,754	19,379	2,375	10.9	22,389	21,789	600	2.7
Edgefield County	↓	11,121	9,990	1,131	10.2	10,892	9,754	1,138	10.4	10,825	10,529	296	2.7
Richland County	↑	204,042	183,266	20,776	10.2	197,151	179,502	17,649	9.0	197,929	192,519	5,410	2.7
Aiken County	↑	76,926	69,214	7,712	10.0	75,678	68,149	7,529	9.9	75,187	73,008	2,179	2.9
Kershaw County	↑	30,011	27,079	2,932	9.8	29,055	26,376	2,679	9.2	29,229	28,423	806	2.8
Colleton County	↑	16,802	15,176	1,626	9.7	16,181	14,717	1,464	9.0	16,933	16,426	507	3.0
Jasper County	↑	12,713	11,485	1,228	9.7	12,008	10,862	1,146	9.5	12,822	12,503	319	2.5
Dillon County	↑	13,348	12,092	1,256	9.4	12,789	11,630	1,159	9.1	13,058	12,574	484	3.7
Florence County	↑	67,633	61,326	6,307	9.3	65,889	60,272	5,617	8.5	67,211	65,322	1,889	2.8
Newberry County	↓	19,259	17,602	1,657	8.6	18,542	16,908	1,634	8.8	19,445	18,957	488	2.5
Lexington County	↑	151,735	139,349	12,386	8.2	147,193	136,019	11,174	7.6	149,887	146,427	3,460	2.3
Hampton County	↑	8,386	7,756	630	7.5	7,942	7,368	574	7.2	8,569	8,350	219	2.6
Saluda County	↑	9,139	8,471	668	7.3	8,687	8,073	614	7.1	9,063	8,832	231	2.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	396,162	347,367	48,795	12.3	388,423	341,396	47,027	12.1	395,600	386,313	9,287	2.3
Columbia MSA	↑	411,814	373,010	38,804	9.4	398,180	364,403	33,777	8.5	402,295	391,782	10,513	2.6
Florence MSA	↑	98,966	89,242	9,724	9.8	96,292	87,601	8,691	9.0	97,831	94,946	2,885	2.9
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	-	448,310	393,034	55,276	12.3	441,067	386,884	54,183	12.3	434,099	423,116	10,983	2.5
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,421,793	2,118,575	303,218	12.5	2,376,830	2,073,470	303,360	12.8	2,371,610	2,297,752	73,858	3.1

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

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