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

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

**Employment:** The seasonally adjusted, monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working decreased to 2,232,786.

- That is a decrease of 3,646 people over November 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 93,232 people over December 2019.

**Unemployment:** Unemployment estimates increased to 107,253 people.

- That is an increase of 4,547 people since November 2020 and a notable increase of 49,974 over December 2019.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 4.6 percent in December from 4.4 percent in November.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 6.7 percent in December.

**Labor force:** The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,340,039.

- That is an increase of 901 people over November 2020.
- That is a considerable decrease of 43,258 individuals over December 2019.

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

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked an increase of 14,600 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,156,400.

- Industries reporting gains were Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,900); Professional and Business Services (+5,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+2,300); Construction (+900); and Government (+500).

- Decreases were noticed in the Education and Health Services (-400); Other Services (-400); Financial Activities (-300); and Manufacturing (-200). Information remained flat over the period.

From December 2019 to December 2020, South Carolina's economy has lost 53,200 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- Construction (+5,800); Other Services (+4,400); Manufacturing (+1,800); Professional and Business Services (1,800); and Financial Activities (+900) industries reported gains over the year.
- Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-43,500); Education and Health Services (-11,500); Government (-11,400); Information (-1,000); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-400).

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

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 12,800 from November 2020 to December 2020 for a total of 2,164,800.

- Industries reporting growth during this period were Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+9,800); Professional and Business Services (+3,800); Construction (+1,100); Manufacturing (+200); Information (+200); and Government (+100).
- Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-1,300); Education and Health Services (-800); and Other Services (-300).
- Mining and Logging and Financial Activities showed no movement over the period.

Since December 2019, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were down 52,600 overall in South Carolina.

- Only the Construction (+5,800); Other Services (+4,400); Professional and Business Services (+1,900); Manufacturing (+1,700); and Financial Activities (+1,300) industries showed annual gains.
- Industries recording an over the year loss are Leisure and Hospitality (-43,400); Education and Health Services (-11,700); Government (-11,400); Information (-1,100); and Mining and Logging (-100). Trade, Transportation, and Utilities showed no over the year changes.

<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  
December

Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020 to December 2020		December 2019 to December 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,156,400</b>	<b>2,141,800</b>	<b>2,209,600</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>-53,200</b>	<b>-2.41%</b>
Construction	115,000	114,100	109,200	900	0.79%	5,800	5.31%
Manufacturing	259,700	259,900	257,900	-200	-0.08%	1,800	0.70%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	410,700	403,800	411,100	6,900	1.71%	-400	-0.10%
Information	25,700	25,700	26,700	0	0.00%	-1,000	-3.75%
Financial Activities	105,100	105,400	104,200	-300	-0.28%	900	0.86%
Professional and Business Services	304,000	298,700	302,200	5,300	1.77%	1,800	0.60%
Education and Health Services	247,300	247,700	258,800	-400	-0.16%	-11,500	-4.44%
Leisure and Hospitality	236,000	233,700	279,500	2,300	0.98%	-43,500	-15.56%
Other Services	84,700	85,100	80,300	-400	-0.47%	4,400	5.48%
Government	363,900	363,400	375,300	500	0.14%	-11,400	-3.04%

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

Statewide  
December

Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020 to December 2020		December 2019 to December 2020	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm</b>	<b>2,164,800</b>	<b>2,152,000</b>	<b>2,217,400</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>-52,600</b>	<b>-2.37%</b>
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,300	4,400	0	0.00%	-100	-2.27%
Construction	115,200	114,100	109,400	1,100	0.96%	5,800	5.30%
Manufacturing	259,900	259,700	258,200	200	0.08%	1,700	0.66%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	420,500	410,700	420,500	9,800	2.39%	0	0.00%
Information	25,900	25,700	27,000	200	0.78%	-1,100	-4.07%
Financial Activities	105,200	105,200	103,900	0	0.00%	1,300	1.25%
Professional and Business Services	306,400	302,600	304,500	3,800	1.26%	1,900	0.62%
Education and Health Services	248,600	249,400	260,300	-800	-0.32%	-11,700	-4.49%
Leisure and Hospitality	226,400	227,700	269,800	-1,300	-0.57%	-43,400	-16.09%
Other Services	84,200	84,500	79,800	-300	-0.36%	4,400	5.51%
Government	368,200	368,100	379,600	100	0.03%	-11,400	-3.00%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted  
December**

Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020 to December 2020		December 2019 to December 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,156,400</b>	<b>2,141,800</b>	<b>2,209,600</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>0.68%</b>	<b>-53,200</b>	<b>-2.41%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	358,200	355,100	378,700	3,100	0.87%	-20,500	-5.41%
Columbia MSA	393,400	390,600	404,900	2,800	0.72%	-11,500	-2.84%
Florence MSA	91,200	90,400	92,900	800	0.88%	-1,700	-1.83%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	427,300	428,200	433,500	-900	-0.21%	-6,200	-1.43%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	85,700	85,100	86,100	600	0.71%	-400	-0.46%
Myrtle Beach MSA	164,600	163,400	178,500	1,200	0.73%	-13,900	-7.79%
Spartanburg MSA	155,200	153,400	163,600	1,800	1.17%	-8,400	-5.13%
Sumter MSA	37,800	37,500	39,900	300	0.80%	-2,100	-5.26%

**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  
December**

Area	December 2020	November 2020	December 2019	November 2020 to December 2020		December 2019 to December 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,164,800</b>	<b>2,152,000</b>	<b>2,217,400</b>	<b>12,800</b>	<b>0.59%</b>	<b>-52,600</b>	<b>-2.37%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	359,400	356,700	379,900	2,700	0.76%	-20,500	-5.40%
Columbia MSA	395,700	394,700	407,500	1,000	0.25%	-11,800	-2.90%
Florence MSA	91,800	90,900	93,500	900	0.99%	-1,700	-1.82%
Greenville MSA	431,200	431,500	437,700	-300	-0.07%	-6,500	-1.49%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,200	84,400	84,600	-200	-0.24%	-400	-0.47%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	158,200	158,800	172,000	-600	-0.38%	-13,800	-8.02%
Spartanburg MSA	156,500	154,500	165,100	2,000	1.29%	-8,600	-5.21%
Sumter MSA	38,100	37,600	40,200	500	1.33%	-2,100	-5.22%

**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		December 2020				November 2020				December 2019			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Allendale County	↑	2,582	2,360	222	8.6	2,552	2,374	178	7.0	2,676	2,543	133	5.0
Bamberg County	↑	4,889	4,507	382	7.8	4,860	4,530	330	6.8	4,945	4,715	230	4.7
Marlboro County	↑	9,155	8,468	687	7.5	9,146	8,505	641	7.0	9,157	8,814	343	3.7
Orangeburg County	↑	35,100	32,535	2,565	7.3	34,990	32,677	2,313	6.6	34,973	33,531	1,442	4.1
Marion County	↑	12,804	11,882	922	7.2	12,761	11,942	819	6.4	12,831	12,390	441	3.4
Chester County	↑	13,133	12,233	900	6.9	13,112	12,294	818	6.2	13,492	12,996	496	3.7
Union County	↑	11,517	10,730	787	6.8	11,401	10,722	679	6.0	11,669	11,327	342	2.9
Barnwell County	↑	7,938	7,410	528	6.7	7,877	7,439	438	5.6	8,187	7,887	300	3.7
Williamsburg County	↑	11,926	11,165	761	6.4	11,871	11,209	662	5.6	11,886	11,379	507	4.3
Horry County	↑	136,755	128,404	8,351	6.1	137,125	129,986	7,139	5.2	145,007	140,213	4,794	3.3
Fairfield County	↑	9,412	8,849	563	6.0	9,447	8,918	529	5.6	9,613	9,234	379	3.9
Lee County	↑	6,491	6,101	390	6.0	6,487	6,127	360	5.5	6,651	6,381	270	4.1
Cherokee County	↑	25,310	23,855	1,455	5.7	25,225	23,911	1,314	5.2	25,239	24,562	677	2.7
Georgetown County	↑	25,465	24,012	1,453	5.7	25,439	24,146	1,293	5.1	25,442	24,595	847	3.3
Clarendon County	↑	12,438	11,749	689	5.5	12,382	11,779	603	4.9	12,702	12,272	430	3.4
McCormick County	↑	3,312	3,129	183	5.5	3,298	3,136	162	4.9	3,380	3,293	87	2.6
Dillon County	↑	13,022	12,318	704	5.4	12,995	12,375	620	4.8	13,056	12,601	455	3.5
Sumter County	↑	42,151	39,869	2,282	5.4	41,788	39,737	2,051	4.9	43,703	42,381	1,322	3.0
Colleton County	↑	16,681	15,816	865	5.2	16,624	15,851	773	4.6	16,765	16,315	450	2.7
Calhoun County	↑	6,441	6,115	326	5.1	6,452	6,162	290	4.5	6,596	6,398	198	3.0
Darlington County	↑	30,249	28,704	1,545	5.1	30,154	28,757	1,397	4.6	30,527	29,673	854	2.8
Greenwood County	↑	30,983	29,413	1,570	5.1	30,957	29,544	1,413	4.6	31,607	30,788	819	2.6
Lancaster County	↑	40,009	37,977	2,032	5.1	39,969	38,150	1,819	4.6	41,494	40,297	1,197	2.9
Chesterfield County	↑	21,754	20,685	1,069	4.9	21,696	20,759	937	4.3	22,029	21,488	541	2.5
Abbeville County	↑	9,894	9,424	470	4.8	9,871	9,457	414	4.2	10,138	9,840	298	2.9
Laurens County	↑	30,265	28,819	1,446	4.8	30,353	29,083	1,270	4.2	30,322	29,566	756	2.5
Richland County	↑	196,493	187,032	9,461	4.8	197,051	188,478	8,573	4.4	198,728	194,263	4,465	2.2
Florence County	↑	66,808	63,732	3,076	4.6	66,501	63,797	2,704	4.1	67,226	65,612	1,614	2.4
Spartanburg County	↑	149,145	142,340	6,805	4.6	148,440	142,267	6,173	4.2	153,496	150,257	3,239	2.1
Charleston County	↑	205,453	196,433	9,020	4.4	204,931	196,644	8,287	4.0	212,623	208,673	3,950	1.9
York County	↑	135,978	130,058	5,920	4.4	136,036	130,619	5,417	4.0	141,013	137,775	3,238	2.3
Berkeley County	↑	100,616	96,334	4,282	4.3	100,326	96,499	3,827	3.8	104,569	102,348	2,221	2.1
Dorchester County	↑	75,597	72,377	3,220	4.3	75,429	72,499	2,930	3.9	78,491	76,917	1,574	2.0
Hampton County	↑	8,246	7,902	344	4.2	8,275	7,965	310	3.7	8,383	8,198	185	2.2
Kershaw County	↑	28,580	27,372	1,208	4.2	28,644	27,585	1,059	3.7	29,296	28,555	741	2.5
Anderson County	↑	91,253	87,470	3,783	4.1	91,646	88,284	3,362	3.7	91,598	89,575	2,023	2.2
Greenville County	↑	255,179	245,227	9,952	3.9	256,417	247,505	8,912	3.5	256,113	250,986	5,127	2.0
Jasper County	↑	12,631	12,138	493	3.9	12,683	12,241	442	3.5	12,631	12,372	259	2.1
Newberry County	↑	18,490	17,761	729	3.9	18,512	17,870	642	3.5	19,122	18,680	442	2.3
Aiken County	↑	72,073	69,323	2,750	3.8	71,971	69,504	2,467	3.4	74,745	72,970	1,775	2.4
Edgefield County	↑	10,271	9,880	391	3.8	10,265	9,906	359	3.5	10,712	10,460	252	2.4
Oconee County	↑	34,730	33,420	1,310	3.8	34,696	33,586	1,110	3.2	35,025	34,247	778	2.2
Beaufort County	↑	77,404	74,516	2,888	3.7	77,845	75,339	2,506	3.2	77,375	75,731	1,644	2.1
Pickens County	↑	57,195	55,075	2,120	3.7	57,445	55,568	1,877	3.3	57,692	56,367	1,325	2.3
Saluda County	↑	8,508	8,203	305	3.6	8,535	8,276	259	3.0	8,918	8,724	194	2.2
Lexington County	↑	146,692	141,518	5,174	3.5	147,133	142,579	4,554	3.1	150,174	147,345	2,829	1.9
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	381,666	365,144	16,522	4.3	380,686	365,642	15,044	4.0	395,683	387,938	7,745	2.0
Columbia MSA	↑	396,126	379,089	17,037	4.3	397,262	381,998	15,264	3.8	403,325	394,519	8,806	2.2
Florence MSA	↑	97,057	92,436	4,621	4.8	96,655	92,554	4,101	4.2	97,753	95,285	2,468	2.5
Greenville - Anderson - Mauldin MSA	↑	433,892	416,591	17,301	4.0	435,861	420,440	15,421	3.5	435,725	426,494	9,231	2.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,340,039	2,232,786	107,253	4.6	2,339,138	2,236,432	102,706	4.4	2,383,297	2,326,018	57,279	2.4

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

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