



NEWS RELEASE

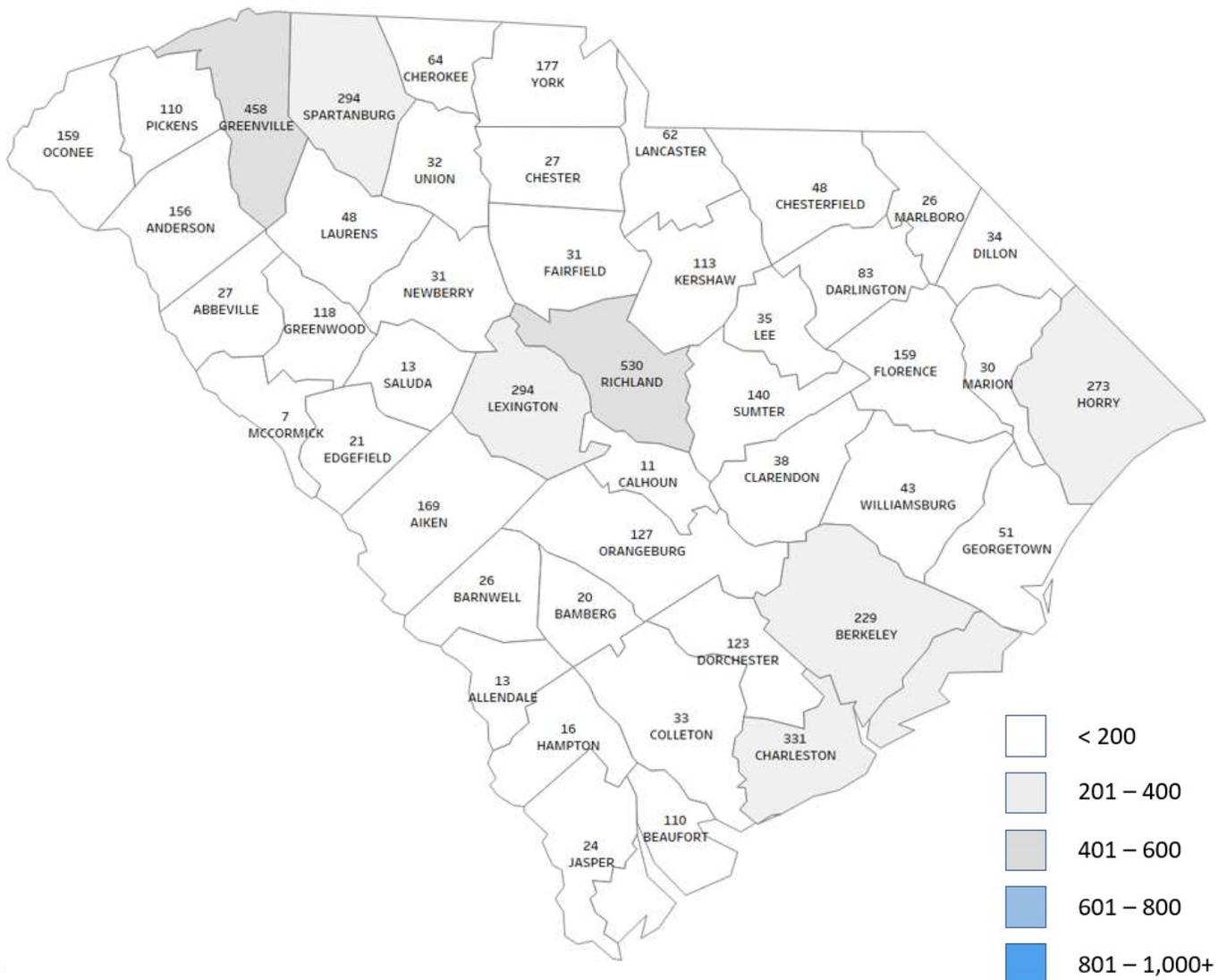
Media Contact:
Heather Biance

For Immediate Release
8:35 a.m. September 10, 2020

South Carolina Initial Unemployment Insurance Claims Data Week Ending September 5, 2020

Initial Claims: For claim week ending September 5, 2020, the number of South Carolinians who filed their initial claim for unemployment insurance benefits is 5,113, an **increase** of 94 initial claims from the week prior. This brings the initial claims total to 735,360 received since mid-March.

County Map (Intrastate)





SC Department of Employment and Workforce

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“Initial claims remain steady in the latest reported claim week. As we have previously mentioned, minor upticks should not be alarming as this is normal in data reporting,” states executive director, Dan Ellzey.

“We are focusing our efforts on finalizing changes to the claimant system to accommodate Lost Wages Assistance (LWA). Once implemented, claimants will be required to complete a separate one-time certification for claim weeks ending August 1, August 8 and August 15. LWA will provide an additional \$300 for claimants eligible to receive at least \$100 in state or federal unemployment benefits. Information about eligibility and requirements will be updated on our [COVID Federal Programs page](#) and [COVID FAQ](#) page on our website. We will also provide updates directly to claimants through the portal, on social media and through media partners statewide,” concludes Ellzey.

Payout Data:

From March 15, 2020 to September 8, 2020, the agency has paid more than \$3.96 billion total, including:

- a. Regular **state UI** benefits,
- b. **Pandemic Unemployment Assistance** (for the self-employed and others),
- c. the **Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation** (\$600 per week) program,
- d. the **Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation** (extension of benefits for 13 weeks) program
- e. **Extended Benefits** (Additional 16 weeks of benefits after PEUC)

Call center hours (1-866-831-1724)

Monday, Sept. 14 & Tuesday, Sept 15: 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday - Friday 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Closed Saturdays (Due to low call volume)

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About the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce

The S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce is putting South Carolinians to work. The agency has four missions: (1) workforce development; (2) free job match employment services; (3) unemployment insurance; and (4) labor market information. All four missions contribute to workforce development. The agency is dedicated to advancing South Carolina through services and programs that meet the needs of our businesses, jobseekers and those looking to advance their careers.

**An initial claim is a claim filed by an unemployed individual after a separation from an employer. The claimant requests a determination of basic eligibility for the UI program. When an initial claim is filed with a state, certain programmatic activities take place and these result in activity counts including the count of initial claims. The count of U.S. initial claims for unemployment insurance is a leading economic indicator because it is an indication of emerging labor market conditions in the country. However, these are weekly administrative data which are difficult to seasonally adjust, making the series subject to some volatility.*
