SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
April 17, 2020

South Carolina's Employment Situation
March 2020

I. Household Survey[1]

Employment: The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households referencing the week of March 12th estimated the number of South Carolinians working moved higher, establishing a new record of 2,334,652.

- That is an increase of 1,428 people over February 2020.
- That is also a significant increase of 43,290 people over March 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates increased to 61,898 people.

- That is a significant increase of 3,267 people since February 2020 and a significant decrease of 17,983 over March 2019.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to 2.6 percent over the month from February's rate of 2.5 percent.
- Nationally, the unemployment rate moved higher from 3.5 percent in February to 4.4 percent in March, thus reflecting some of the early effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the household survey data. This change is the largest over-the-month since January of 1975, when it was also 0.9 percentage point.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) increased to 2,396,550.

- That is an increase of 4,695 people since February 2020.
- That is an increase of 25,307 individuals over March 2019.

II. Current Employment Survey[2]

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[3])

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked a decrease of 13,400 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 2,203,700.

- Industries reporting increases in employment were Government (+900); Financial Activities (+600); and Manufacturing (+200).

- Decreases were noticed in the Leisure and Hospitality (-10,200); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-2,200); Construction (-900); Other Services (-800); Education and Health Services (-700); Information (-100); and Professional and Business Services (-100) industries.

From March 2019 to March 2020, South Carolina's economy has added 28,900 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- Industries with strong growth were Professional and Business Services (+8,700); Government (+7,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+3,500); Construction (+2,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,900); Education and Health Services (+1,900); Manufacturing (+1,300); Financial Activities (+700); Other Services (+200); and Information (+200).
- No industries reported decreases over the year.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[2])

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 100 from February 2020 to March 2020 for a total of 2,195,900.

- Industries showing growth during this period were: Government (+2,300); Education and Health Services (+1,100); Financial Activities (+300); and Information (+200).
- Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-1,800); Construction (-1,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-400); Other Services (-300); and Professional and Business Services (-200). Mining and Logging and Manufacturing remained flat.

Since March 2019, not seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs were up 27,600 overall in South Carolina.

- Industries marking prominent annual gains were Professional and Business Services (+7,400); Government (+6,800); Leisure and Hospitality (+4,800); Education and Health Services (+2,800); Construction (+2,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,500); Manufacturing (+1,100); Financial Activities (+500); Information (+100); and Other Services (+100).
- No industries recorded an over the year loss. Mining and Logging remained flat.

Footnote: *It is important to keep in mind that the March survey reference periods for both surveys predated many coronavirus-related business and school closures in the second half of the month.*

[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 <u>not</u> been removed from these data.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
March 2020

Area	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020 to March 2020 # Change	February 2020 to March 2020 % Change	March 2019 to March 2020 # Change	March 2019 to March 2020 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	***2,203,700***	***2,217,100***	***2,174,800***	***-13,400***	***-0.61%***	***28,900***	***1.33%***
Construction	109,000	109,900	106,300	-900	-0.83%	2,700	2.54%
Manufacturing	258,400	258,200	257,100	200	0.08%	1,300	0.51%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	408,000	410,200	406,100	-2,200	-0.54%	1,900	0.47%
Information	27,200	27,300	27,000	-100	-0.37%	200	0.74%
Financial Activities	104,600	104,000	103,900	600	0.57%	700	0.67%
Professional and Business Services	305,300	305,400	296,600	-100	-0.03%	8,700	2.93%
Education and Health Services	259,000	259,700	257,100	-700	-0.27%	1,900	0.74%
Leisure and Hospitality	271,500	281,700	268,000	-10,200	-3.76%	3,500	1.31%
Other Services	78,800	79,600	78,600	-800	-1.02%	200	0.25%
Government	377,500	376,600	369,700	900	0.24%	7,800	2.11%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
March 2020

Area	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020 to March 2020 # Change	February 2020 to March 2020 % Change	March 2019 to March 2020 # Change	March 2019 to March 2020 % Change
Total Nonfarm	***2,195,900***	***2,195,800***	***2,168,300***	***100***	***0.00%***	***27,600***	***1.27%***
Mining and Logging	4,400	4,400	4,400	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	108,100	109,200	105,600	-1,100	-1.01%	2,500	2.37%
Manufacturing	258,400	258,400	257,300	0	0.00%	1,100	0.43%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	404,700	405,100	403,200	-400	-0.10%	1,500	0.37%
Information	27,200	27,000	27,100	200	0.74%	100	0.37%
Financial Activities	103,400	103,100	102,900	300	0.29%	500	0.49%
Professional and Business Services	302,800	303,000	295,400	-200	-0.07%	7,400	2.51%
Education and Health Services	260,500	259,400	257,700	1,100	0.42%	2,800	1.09%
Leisure and Hospitality	267,200	269,000	262,400	-1,800	-0.67%	4,800	1.83%
Other Services	78,700	79,000	78,600	-300	-0.38%	100	0.13%
Government	380,500	378,200	373,700	2,300	0.61%	6,800	1.82%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted
March 2020

Area	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020 to March 2020 # Change	February 2020 to March 2020 % Change	March 2019 to March 2020 # Change	March 2019 to March 2020 % Change
Statewide	***2,203,700***	***2,217,100***	***2,174,800***	***-13,400***	***-0.61%***	***28,900***	***1.33%***
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	376,600	380,300	373,700	-3,700	-0.98%	2,900	0.78%
Columbia MSA	407,500	407,700	401,400	-200	-0.05%	6,100	1.52%
Florence MSA	91,600	91,700	91,900	-100	-0.11%	-300	-0.33%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	433,600	434,300	432,200	-700	-0.16%	1,400	0.32%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	85,400	86,800	83,500	-1,400	-1.64%	1,900	2.28%
Myrtle Beach MSA	177,500	178,800	174,100	-1,300	-0.73%	3,400	1.95%
Spartanburg MSA	164,000	163,800	163,100	200	0.12%	900	0.55%
Sumter MSA	39,800	40,000	39,500	-200	-0.50%	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
March 2020

Area	March 2020	February 2020	March 2019	February 2020 to March 2020 # Change	February 2020 to March 2020 % Change	March 2019 to March 2020 # Change	March 2019 to March 2020 % Change
Statewide	***2,195,900***	***2,195,800***	***2,168,300***	***100***	***0.00%***	***27,600***	***1.27%***
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	374,800	376,500	372,600	-1,700	-0.45%	2,200	0.59%
Columbia MSA	407,300	405,500	400,300	1,800	0.44%	7,000	1.75%
Florence MSA	91,900	91,300	92,000	600	0.66%	(100)	-0.11%
Greenville MSA	433,100	432,300	431,000	800	0.19%	2,100	0.49%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	84,500	84,500	82,600	0	0.00%	1,900	2.30%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	174,000	171,000	170,800	3,000	1.75%	3,200	1.87%
Spartanburg MSA	164,200	163,300	163,200	900	0.55%	1,000	0.61%
Sumter MSA	39,800	39,900	39,600	-100	-0.25%	200	0.51%

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)

		March 2020				February 2020				March 2019			
		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR	EMPLOY-	UNEMPLOYMENT	
AREA		FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)	FORCE	MENT	LEVEL	RATE (%)
Allendale County	–	2,685	2,511	174	6.5	2,705	2,530	175	6.5	2,706	2,548	158	5.8
Bamberg County	↑	4,996	4,680	316	6.3	5,011	4,723	288	5.7	4,939	4,654	285	5.8
Lee County	↓	6,715	6,379	336	5.0	6,718	6,363	355	5.3	6,529	6,259	270	4.1
Williamsburg County	–	12,098	11,511	587	4.9	12,128	11,530	598	4.9	12,140	11,510	630	5.2
Marlboro County	↑	9,342	8,898	444	4.8	9,223	8,788	435	4.7	9,194	8,742	452	4.9
Orangeburg County	–	35,587	33,895	1,692	4.8	35,556	33,862	1,694	4.8	35,078	33,301	1,777	5.1
Barnwell County	↑	8,304	7,912	392	4.7	8,274	7,890	384	4.6	8,277	7,865	412	5.0
Chester County	↑	13,668	13,046	622	4.6	13,625	13,031	594	4.4	13,388	12,763	625	4.7
Fairfield County	↓	9,748	9,320	428	4.4	9,750	9,301	449	4.6	9,585	9,097	488	5.1
Marion County	↓	13,053	12,477	576	4.4	12,950	12,363	587	4.5	13,093	12,403	690	5.3
Clarendon County	↓	12,707	12,191	516	4.1	12,797	12,263	534	4.2	12,592	12,036	556	4.4
Dillon County	↓	13,263	12,724	539	4.1	13,309	12,732	577	4.3	12,948	12,346	602	4.6
Georgetown County	↓	25,931	24,896	1,035	4.0	25,769	24,686	1,083	4.2	25,256	24,053	1,203	4.8
McCormick County	↓	3,443	3,307	136	4.0	3,446	3,303	143	4.1	3,402	3,273	129	3.8
Horry County	↓	149,161	143,409	5,752	3.9	147,606	141,363	6,243	4.2	146,217	139,660	6,557	4.5
Union County	–	11,891	11,424	467	3.9	11,811	11,354	457	3.9	11,742	11,270	472	4.0
Abbeville County	↑	10,176	9,794	382	3.8	10,135	9,761	374	3.7	10,140	9,757	383	3.8
Sumter County	–	44,327	42,694	1,633	3.7	44,352	42,722	1,630	3.7	43,724	42,015	1,709	3.9
Calhoun County	↑	6,676	6,438	238	3.6	6,687	6,453	234	3.5	6,557	6,289	268	4.1
Lancaster County	–	41,973	40,471	1,502	3.6	41,982	40,464	1,518	3.6	41,240	39,604	1,636	4.0
Cherokee County	–	25,618	24,748	870	3.4	25,323	24,463	860	3.4	25,403	24,515	888	3.5
Colleton County	–	16,874	16,307	567	3.4	16,920	16,346	574	3.4	16,720	16,089	631	3.8
Greenwood County	↓	31,677	30,597	1,080	3.4	31,571	30,468	1,103	3.5	31,616	30,479	1,137	3.6
Darlington County	↓	30,517	29,503	1,014	3.3	30,392	29,351	1,041	3.4	30,391	29,229	1,162	3.8
Kershaw County	↓	29,798	28,829	969	3.3	29,769	28,765	1,004	3.4	29,117	28,137	980	3.4
Laurens County	–	30,601	29,629	972	3.2	30,618	29,624	994	3.2	30,296	29,246	1,050	3.5
Florence County	–	67,526	65,442	2,084	3.1	67,084	65,024	2,060	3.1	67,178	64,843	2,335	3.5
Aiken County	↓	76,034	73,779	2,255	3.0	75,719	73,387	2,332	3.1	75,334	72,710	2,624	3.5
Chesterfield County	↓	22,259	21,581	678	3.0	22,305	21,607	698	3.1	22,131	21,384	747	3.4
Edgefield County	–	10,830	10,505	325	3.0	10,872	10,545	327	3.0	10,714	10,360	354	3.3
Hampton County	↓	8,393	8,153	240	2.9	8,467	8,217	250	3.0	8,261	8,000	261	3.2
Pickens County	↓	58,294	56,602	1,692	2.9	58,179	56,460	1,719	3.0	57,713	55,862	1,851	3.2
Anderson County	↓	92,541	89,922	2,619	2.8	92,313	89,639	2,674	2.9	91,648	88,737	2,911	3.2
Newberry County	–	19,251	18,721	530	2.8	19,364	18,814	550	2.8	19,081	18,513	568	3.0
Oconee County	↓	35,536	34,536	1,000	2.8	35,400	34,356	1,044	2.9	34,838	33,708	1,130	3.2
Richland County	↓	202,691	197,031	5,660	2.8	201,174	195,433	5,741	2.9	198,721	192,163	6,558	3.3
Saluda County	–	8,896	8,645	251	2.8	9,059	8,805	254	2.8	8,748	8,457	291	3.3
York County	↓	142,623	138,575	4,048	2.8	142,455	138,377	4,078	2.9	140,154	135,598	4,556	3.3
Beaufort County	↓	78,669	76,542	2,127	2.7	78,918	76,709	2,209	2.8	76,733	74,282	2,451	3.2
Berkeley County	–	105,453	102,618	2,835	2.7	105,429	102,563	2,866	2.7	104,249	101,100	3,149	3.0
Spartanburg County	↓	155,816	151,605	4,211	2.7	154,756	150,474	4,282	2.8	154,059	149,536	4,523	2.9
Dorchester County	–	79,126	77,085	2,041	2.6	79,178	77,110	2,068	2.6	78,294	75,951	2,343	3.0
Jasper County	↓	12,782	12,450	332	2.6	12,977	12,630	347	2.7	12,496	12,113	383	3.1
Greenville County	↓	258,668	252,089	6,579	2.5	257,896	251,124	6,772	2.6	256,213	248,753	7,460	2.9
Charleston County	–	214,084	208,967	5,117	2.4	214,939	209,712	5,227	2.4	211,865	205,982	5,883	2.8
Lexington County	↓	152,682	149,016	3,666	2.4	152,218	148,460	3,758	2.5	149,624	145,423	4,201	2.8
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	–	398,663	388,670	9,993	2.5	399,546	389,385	10,161	2.5	394,408	383,033	11,375	2.9
Columbia MSA	↓	410,491	399,279	11,212	2.7	408,657	397,217	11,440	2.8	402,352	389,566	12,786	3.2
Florence MSA	–	98,043	94,945	3,098	3.2	97,476	94,375	3,101	3.2	97,569	94,072	3,497	3.6
Greenville -Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↓	440,104	428,242	11,862	2.7	439,006	426,847	12,159	2.8	435,870	422,598	13,272	3.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,396,550	2,334,652	61,898	2.6	2,391,855	2,333,224	58,631	2.5	2,371,243	2,291,362	79,881	3.4

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

↑ Unemployment Rate Up
↓ Unemployment Rate Down
– Unemployment Rate =