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South Carolina's Employment Situation April 2020

Employment Falls Severely in Effort to Contain Pandemic Unemployment Rate Rises Sharply

I. Household Survey¹

Employment: The seasonally adjusted monthly survey of households estimated the number of South Carolinians working fell to 2,089,889.

- That is a significant decrease of 238,913 people over March 2020.
- That is also a significant decrease of 203,982 people over April 2019.

Unemployment: Unemployment estimates increased to 288,022 people.

- That is a significant increase of 211,653 people since March 2020 and a significant increase of 210,351 over April 2019. This is the largest over-the-month increase as well as the highest level on record for the state.
- The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased to a record 12.1 percent in April from March's revised rate of 3.2 percent. This is the highest rate and the largest over-the-month increase in the history of the data series going back to 1976.

Nationally, the unemployment rate soared higher from 4.4 percent in March to 14.7 percent in April, thus reflecting the continued effects of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on the household survey data. This is the highest rate and the largest over-the-month increase in the history of the series dating back to January 1948.

Labor force: The state's estimated labor force (people working plus unemployed people looking for work) decreased to 2,377,911.

- That is a decrease of 27,260 people since March 2020.
- That is an increase of 6,369 individuals over April 2019.

II. Current Employment Survey²

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted³)

The Current Employment Survey of businesses in South Carolina marked a decrease of 272,700 nonfarm payroll jobs over the month to a level of 1,925,000.

- No industries reported gains.
- Decreases were noticed in the Leisure and Hospitality (-125,300); Professional and Business Services (-40,700); Education and Health Services (-28,900); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-27,900); Government (-16,300); Manufacturing (-12,900); Other Services (-9,200); Construction (-6,100); Financial Activities (-4,900); and Information (-400) industry.

From April 2019 to April 2020, South Carolina's economy has lost 254,600 seasonally adjusted nonfarm jobs.

- No industries reported gains over the year.
- Decreases were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-126,500); Professional and Business Services (-34,000); Education and Health Services (-27,700); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-25,600); Manufacturing (-12,600); Other Services (-9,200); Government (-9,100); Financial Activities (-5,700); Construction (-3,600); and Information (-500).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 256,600 from March 2020 to April 2020 for a total of 1,933,400.

- No industries showed growth during this period.
- Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-116,900); Professional and Business Services (-36,100); Education and Health Services (-29,900); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-26,200); Government (-15,400); Manufacturing (-13,200); Other Services (-8,700); Construction (-4,900); Financial Activities (-4,500); Information (-700); and Mining and Logging (-100).

Since April 2019, not seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were down 253,700 overall in South Carolina.

- No industries has shown annual gains.
- Industries recording an over the year loss are Leisure and Hospitality (-127,200); Professional and Business Services (-32,100); Education and Health Services (-27,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-24,900); Manufacturing (-13,000); Other Services (-9,200); Government (-9,000); Financial Activities (-6,300); Construction (-3,300); Information (-800); and Mining and Logging (-100).

¹Household 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.

²Current 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.

³Seasonally 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.

⁴Not Seasonally Adjusted: Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide

April

Industry	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,925,000	2,197,700	2,179,600	-272,700	-14.17%	-254,600	-11.68%
Construction	102,900	109,000	106,500	-6,100	-5.93%	-3,600	-3.38%
Manufacturing	245,500	258,400	258,100	-12,900	-5.25%	-12,600	-4.88%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	380,800	408,700	406,400	-27,900	-7.33%	-25,600	-6.30%
Information	27,100	27,500	27,600	-400	-1.48%	-500	-1.81%
Financial Activities	98,500	103,400	104,200	-4,900	-4.97%	-5,700	-5.47%
Professional and Business Services	263,100	303,800	297,100	-40,700	-15.47%	-34,000	-11.44%
Education and Health Services	229,400	258,300	257,100	-28,900	-12.60%	-27,700	-10.77%
Leisure and Hospitality	142,400	267,700	268,900	-125,300	-87.99%	-126,500	-47.04%
Other Services	69,700	78,900	78,900	-9,200	-13.20%	-9,200	-11.66%
Government	361,300	377,600	370,400	-16,300	-4.51%	-9,100	-2.46%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide

April

Industry	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm	1,933,400	2,190,000	2,187,100	-256,600	-11.72%	-253,700	-11.60%
Mining and Logging	4,300	4,400	4,400	-100	-2.27%	-100	-2.27%
Construction	103,100	108,000	106,400	-4,900	-4.54%	-3,300	-3.10%
Manufacturing	245,200	258,400	258,200	-13,200	-5.11%	-13,000	-5.03%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	379,100	405,300	404,000	-26,200	-6.46%	-24,900	-6.16%
Information	26,900	27,600	27,700	-700	-2.54%	-800	-2.89%
Financial Activities	97,700	102,200	104,000	-4,500	-4.40%	-6,300	-6.06%
Professional and Business Services	265,300	301,400	297,400	-36,100	-11.98%	-32,100	-10.79%
Education and Health Services	229,900	259,800	257,700	-29,900	-11.51%	-27,800	-10.79%
Leisure and Hospitality	146,400	263,300	273,600	-116,900	-44.40%	-127,200	-46.49%
Other Services	70,100	78,800	79,300	-8,700	-11.04%	-9,200	-11.60%
Government	365,400	380,800	374,400	-15,400	-4.04%	-9,000	-2.40%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

South Carolina & Metropolitan Seasonally Adjusted

April

Area	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,925,000	2,197,700	2,179,600	-272,700	-14.17%	-254,600	-11.68%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	328,800	372,600	373,500	-43,800	-13.32%	-44,700	-11.97%
Columbia MSA	364,000	406,500	402,600	-42,500	-11.68%	-38,600	-9.59%
Florence MSA	82,500	91,800	92,300	-9,300	-11.27%	-9,800	-10.62%
Greenville/Anderson/Mauldin MSA	388,000	431,700	431,900	-43,700	-11.26%	-43,900	-10.16%
Hilton Head-Bluffton-Beaufort MSA	73,300	86,100	83,600	-12,800	-17.46%	-10,300	-12.32%
Myrtle Beach MSA	132,300	176,300	173,500	-44,000	-33.26%	-41,200	-23.75%
Spartanburg MSA	146,400	164,000	163,100	-17,600	-12.02%	-16,700	-10.24%
Sumter MSA	36,900	40,000	39,800	-3,100	-8.40%	-2,900	-7.29%

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

April

Area	April 2020	March 2020	April 2019	March 2020 to April 2020		April 2019 to April 2020	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,933,400	2,190,000	2,187,100	-256,600	-11.72%	-253,700	-11.60%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	328,700	370,800	375,200	-42,100	-11.35%	-46,500	-12.39%
Columbia MSA	363,500	406,100	403,000	-42,600	-10.49%	-39,500	-9.80%
Florence MSA	82,900	92,100	92,300	-9,200	-9.99%	-9,400	-10.18%
Greenville MSA	389,000	431,500	432,500	-42,500	-9.85%	-43,500	-10.06%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	73,400	85,200	84,100	-11,800	-13.85%	-10,700	-12.72%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	135,300	173,100	176,300	-37,800	-21.84%	-41,000	-23.26%
Spartanburg MSA	146,800	164,200	163,400	-17,400	-10.60%	-16,600	-10.16%
Sumter MSA	37,200	40,000	40,100	-2,800	-7.00%	-2,900	-7.23%

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		April 2020				March 2020				April 2019			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Horry County	↑	147,357	113,966	33,391	22.7	149,105	143,233	5,872	3.9	148,542	143,713	4,829	3.3
Union County	↑	12,667	10,323	2,344	18.5	11,921	11,447	474	4.0	11,612	11,245	367	3.2
Marlboro County	↑	9,560	7,887	1,673	17.5	9,246	8,798	448	4.8	9,142	8,787	355	3.9
Cherokee County	↑	26,704	22,318	4,386	16.4	25,818	24,931	887	3.4	25,153	24,487	666	2.6
Georgetown County	↑	26,182	22,187	3,995	15.3	25,996	24,919	1,077	4.1	25,711	24,808	903	3.5
Spartanburg County	↑	161,055	137,034	24,021	14.9	156,207	151,913	4,294	2.7	152,648	149,195	3,453	2.3
Chester County	↑	13,347	11,403	1,944	14.6	13,691	13,055	636	4.6	13,307	12,801	506	3.8
Laurens County	↑	31,363	26,896	4,467	14.2	30,624	29,624	1,000	3.3	30,087	29,286	801	2.7
Abbeville County	↑	10,107	8,709	1,398	13.8	10,150	9,763	387	3.8	10,013	9,733	280	2.8
Orangeburg County	↑	35,089	30,429	4,660	13.3	35,459	33,742	1,717	4.8	34,910	33,554	1,356	3.9
Charleston County	↑	212,814	185,087	27,727	13.0	212,870	207,646	5,224	2.5	211,127	206,705	4,422	2.1
Lancaster County	↑	40,538	35,311	5,227	12.9	42,034	40,501	1,533	3.6	40,945	39,684	1,261	3.1
Allendale County	↑	2,575	2,246	329	12.8	2,639	2,464	175	6.6	2,677	2,546	131	4.9
Anderson County	↑	93,272	81,525	11,747	12.6	92,571	89,906	2,665	2.9	90,929	88,764	2,165	2.4
Greenville County	↑	260,275	228,430	31,845	12.2	258,732	252,042	6,690	2.6	254,309	248,739	5,570	2.2
Oconee County	↑	35,393	31,109	4,284	12.1	35,468	34,454	1,014	2.9	34,785	33,915	870	2.5
Williamsburg County	↑	11,886	10,446	1,440	12.1	12,115	11,515	600	5.0	12,102	11,631	471	3.9
Lee County	↑	6,631	5,835	796	12.0	6,722	6,377	345	5.1	6,519	6,303	216	3.3
York County	↑	136,997	120,623	16,374	12.0	142,802	138,675	4,127	2.9	139,190	135,694	3,496	2.5
Beaufort County	↑	76,501	67,424	9,077	11.9	79,536	77,362	2,174	2.7	77,218	75,365	1,853	2.4
Marion County	↑	12,512	11,020	1,492	11.9	13,012	12,425	587	4.5	13,085	12,562	523	4.0
Bamberg County	↑	4,813	4,248	565	11.7	4,986	4,665	321	6.4	4,990	4,770	220	4.4
McCormick County	↑	3,316	2,929	387	11.7	3,393	3,256	137	4.0	3,411	3,319	92	2.7
Fairfield County	↑	9,558	8,452	1,106	11.6	9,757	9,319	438	4.5	9,525	9,150	375	3.9
Clarendon County	↑	12,687	11,240	1,447	11.4	12,729	12,202	527	4.1	12,723	12,296	427	3.4
Greenwood County	↑	30,780	27,309	3,471	11.3	31,597	30,499	1,098	3.5	31,338	30,458	880	2.8
Dorchester County	↑	76,958	68,330	8,628	11.2	78,655	76,584	2,071	2.6	77,988	76,236	1,752	2.2
Sumter County	↑	45,226	40,225	5,001	11.1	44,621	42,953	1,668	3.7	43,664	42,352	1,312	3.0
Chesterfield County	↑	21,705	19,316	2,389	11.0	22,238	21,549	689	3.1	22,046	21,480	566	2.6
Pickens County	↑	57,613	51,254	6,359	11.0	58,314	56,594	1,720	2.9	57,225	55,849	1,376	2.4
Berkeley County	↑	101,834	90,936	10,898	10.7	104,833	101,948	2,885	2.8	103,849	101,456	2,393	2.3
Barnwell County	↑	7,822	7,007	815	10.4	8,160	7,761	399	4.9	8,322	7,998	324	3.9
Darlington County	↑	30,131	27,028	3,103	10.3	30,646	29,617	1,029	3.4	30,296	29,372	924	3.0
Edgefield County	↑	10,846	9,729	1,117	10.3	10,848	10,520	328	3.0	10,806	10,532	274	2.5
Aiken County	↑	75,469	67,974	7,495	9.9	76,160	73,880	2,280	3.0	75,655	73,627	2,028	2.7
Jasper County	↑	12,091	10,961	1,130	9.3	12,911	12,576	335	2.6	12,577	12,283	294	2.3
Kershaw County	↑	28,827	26,133	2,694	9.3	29,817	28,830	987	3.3	29,034	28,294	740	2.5
Dillon County	↑	12,782	11,612	1,170	9.2	13,306	12,755	551	4.1	12,925	12,456	469	3.6
Colleton County	↑	16,225	14,759	1,466	9.0	16,934	16,360	574	3.4	16,774	16,291	483	2.9
Richland County	↑	195,439	177,807	17,632	9.0	202,793	197,020	5,773	2.8	197,612	192,657	4,955	2.5
Newberry County	↑	18,485	16,863	1,622	8.8	19,038	18,502	536	2.8	19,185	18,753	432	2.3
Calhoun County	↑	6,401	5,850	551	8.6	6,679	6,438	241	3.6	6,542	6,335	207	3.2
Florence County	↑	65,224	59,607	5,617	8.6	67,814	65,697	2,117	3.1	66,724	64,951	1,773	2.7
Lexington County	↑	145,978	134,758	11,220	7.7	152,742	149,016	3,726	2.4	149,204	146,027	3,177	2.1
Hampton County	↑	7,966	7,395	571	7.2	8,431	8,190	241	2.9	8,373	8,172	201	2.4
Saluda County	↑	8,618	8,004	614	7.1	8,903	8,647	256	2.9	8,834	8,619	215	2.4
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↑	391,606	344,353	47,253	12.1	396,358	386,178	10,180	2.6	392,964	384,397	8,567	2.2
Columbia MSA	↑	394,821	361,004	33,817	8.6	410,691	399,270	11,421	2.8	400,751	391,082	9,669	2.4
Florence MSA	↑	95,355	86,635	8,720	9.1	98,460	95,314	3,146	3.2	97,020	94,323	2,697	2.8
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↑	442,523	388,105	54,418	12.3	440,241	428,166	12,075	2.7	432,550	422,638	9,912	2.3
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↑	2,377,911	2,089,889	288,022	12.1	2,405,171	2,328,802	76,369	3.2	2,371,542	2,293,871	77,671	3.3

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

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