



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Employment and Workforce Executive Director Dan Ellzey's Statement May 2021 Employment Situation**

Columbia, SC – “After four months of nudging in the right direction, this fifth month sees a significant drop as South Carolina moves from April’s unemployment rate of 5.0% to a 4.6% unemployment rate in May,” said S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director, Dan Ellzey.

“While this is very good news, and it is exciting to see South Carolina’s workforce engine revving up again, there are more than 80,000 jobs available to people who will no longer be drawing the federal pandemic unemployment funds. Individuals and families will need these jobs and employers are recruiting and anxious to hire.

“There are some important items that we are continuing to remind claimants as we complete this last week of PUA, PEUC, MEUC and FPUC eligibility.

- The governor’s deadline for the end of the federal programs in South Carolina is June 30, 2020, which is a Wednesday. As a result, based upon federal requirements, the last week of unemployment that will be paid under the federal program is the claim week ending Saturday, June 26, 2021.
- Claimant will need to certify the week of June 27-July 3 for the benefits of the week of June 20-June 26. When individuals certify, they are confirming that they were still unemployed the week before. They should also continue to conduct their weekly work searches as part of their eligibility responsibility.
- If a claimant did not finish their 20 weeks of regular state UI before moving to PUA or PEUC, they will be moved back to regular state UI to finish out their weeks when the federal programs end. If there are any additional instructions, these will be sent directly through the MyBenefits portal.”

“Most importantly,” continued Ellzey, “The SC Works system is brimming with opportunity. There are workshops, job fairs, hiring events, skills assessments, and direct connections to local employers. They can help you find work like your previous job or they can look at your past experience and help you find new employment that uses your skills and strengths. The numbers say a lot. People are going back to work. Let SC Works help you be the next success story.”

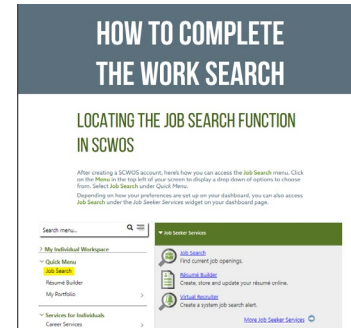
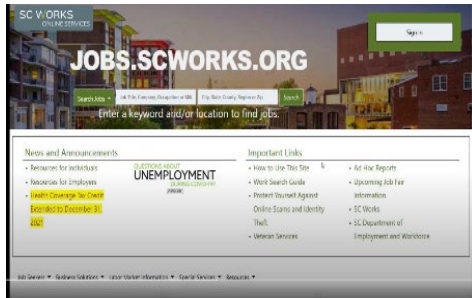
**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:**

1. For a better understanding of how the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics utilizes trained Census Bureau employees to capture critical labor force data each month, you can read the full PDF explanation here: [https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps\\_htgm.pdf](https://www.bls.gov/cps/cps_htgm.pdf)



2. Work search resources can be found on dew.sc.gov as well as the SC DEW YouTube page. Please find links to some of these resources.

### Click Images to Connect with Resources



**SC DEW YouTube Video:**  
How to register for SC Works Online Service (SCWOS)

**PDF Tutorial: How To Complete The Work Search**  
dew.sc.gov → Individuals Menu → Find a Job →  
→ Click “SCWOS Weekly Job Searches PDF Tutorial”

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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.*

**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE  
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)**

AREA		May 2021				April 2021				May 2020			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
				LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Bamberg County	↓	4,745	4,421	324	6.8	4,754	4,362	392	8.2	5,045	4,427	618	12.2
Allendale County	↓	2,548	2,377	171	6.7	2,535	2,313	222	8.8	2,721	2,401	320	11.8
Marlboro County	↓	9,258	8,643	615	6.6	9,328	8,588	740	7.9	9,660	8,107	1,553	16.1
Orangeburg County	↓	33,403	31,192	2,211	6.6	33,315	30,685	2,630	7.9	35,715	30,813	4,902	13.7
Union County	↓	12,005	11,302	703	5.9	12,021	11,195	826	6.9	12,084	10,201	1,883	15.6
Barnwell County	↓	7,749	7,306	443	5.7	7,794	7,243	551	7.1	8,037	7,222	815	10.1
Marion County	↓	13,421	12,659	762	5.7	13,418	12,470	948	7.1	13,210	11,769	1,441	10.9
Williamsburg County	↓	11,247	10,609	638	5.7	11,146	10,374	772	6.9	12,303	10,837	1,466	11.9
Chester County	↓	13,478	12,763	715	5.3	13,479	12,628	851	6.3	13,723	11,659	2,064	15.0
Dillon County	↓	13,646	12,939	707	5.2	13,530	12,695	835	6.2	13,595	12,436	1,159	8.5
Fairfield County	↓	9,538	9,044	494	5.2	9,525	8,921	604	6.3	9,727	8,472	1,255	12.9
Cherokee County	↓	23,787	22,632	1,155	4.9	23,606	22,188	1,418	6.0	25,334	21,567	3,767	14.9
Lee County	↓	6,809	6,482	327	4.8	6,822	6,408	414	6.1	6,957	6,166	791	11.4
Horry County	↓	149,991	143,306	6,685	4.5	148,524	140,402	8,122	5.5	149,336	123,715	25,621	17.2
Clarendon County	↓	12,924	12,367	557	4.3	12,778	12,113	665	5.2	13,085	11,719	1,366	10.4
Georgetown County	↓	25,878	24,781	1,097	4.2	25,082	23,738	1,344	5.4	26,501	23,169	3,332	12.6
Greenwood County	↓	30,427	29,142	1,285	4.2	30,208	28,652	1,556	5.2	31,823	28,494	3,329	10.5
McCormick County	↓	3,352	3,212	140	4.2	3,347	3,170	177	5.3	3,380	3,022	358	10.6
Abbeville County	↓	9,707	9,310	397	4.1	9,637	9,144	493	5.1	10,388	9,055	1,333	12.8
Sumter County	↓	43,642	41,858	1,784	4.1	43,756	41,558	2,198	5.0	42,810	38,076	4,734	11.1
Calhoun County	↓	6,582	6,316	266	4.0	6,522	6,209	313	4.8	6,550	5,911	639	9.8
Chesterfield County	↓	21,626	20,758	868	4.0	21,376	20,320	1,056	4.9	22,072	19,941	2,131	9.7
Darlington County	↓	30,231	29,016	1,215	4.0	30,297	28,815	1,482	4.9	30,490	27,354	3,136	10.3
Laurens County	↓	29,994	28,805	1,189	4.0	29,926	28,463	1,463	4.9	30,301	26,120	4,181	13.8
Colleton County	↓	16,842	16,195	647	3.8	16,713	15,908	805	4.8	16,478	14,985	1,493	9.1
Lancaster County	↓	42,328	40,710	1,618	3.8	42,184	40,238	1,946	4.6	42,312	37,091	5,221	12.3
Florence County	↓	66,813	64,354	2,459	3.7	66,917	63,935	2,982	4.5	66,176	60,308	5,868	8.9
Richland County	↓	197,789	190,386	7,403	3.7	197,727	188,694	9,033	4.6	197,214	178,055	19,159	9.7
Spartanburg County	↓	158,984	153,149	5,835	3.7	158,765	151,863	6,902	4.3	159,602	138,345	21,257	13.3
Berkeley County	↓	105,999	102,304	3,695	3.5	105,695	101,484	4,211	4.0	102,622	92,117	10,505	10.2
Dorchester County	↓	78,371	75,646	2,725	3.5	78,102	74,981	3,121	4.0	76,405	68,102	8,303	10.9
Anderson County	↓	90,394	87,295	3,099	3.4	90,218	86,473	3,745	4.2	89,796	79,158	10,638	11.8
Oconee County	↓	35,072	33,890	1,182	3.4	34,387	33,115	1,272	3.7	35,688	31,999	3,689	10.3
York County	↓	143,560	138,718	4,842	3.4	143,055	137,220	5,835	4.1	142,540	126,147	16,393	11.5
Kershaw County	↓	29,397	28,439	958	3.3	29,209	28,059	1,150	3.9	29,289	26,630	2,659	9.1
Charleston County	↓	212,687	205,835	6,852	3.2	211,721	203,407	8,314	3.9	210,619	184,770	25,849	12.3
Greenville County	↓	254,368	246,339	8,029	3.2	253,716	244,150	9,566	3.8	252,829	223,312	29,517	11.7
Hampton County	↓	8,412	8,146	266	3.2	8,312	7,984	328	3.9	8,274	7,684	590	7.1
Pickens County	↓	57,107	55,252	1,855	3.2	56,833	54,691	2,142	3.8	55,904	50,011	5,893	10.5
Aiken County	↓	75,226	72,978	2,248	3.0	75,370	72,661	2,709	3.6	74,947	67,835	7,112	9.5
Newberry County	↓	19,807	19,205	602	3.0	19,522	18,812	710	3.6	19,270	17,753	1,517	7.9
Beaufort County	↓	79,785	77,442	2,343	2.9	78,449	75,695	2,754	3.5	75,867	67,643	8,224	10.8
Edgefield County	↓	10,831	10,516	315	2.9	10,777	10,396	381	3.5	10,838	9,789	1,049	9.7
Jasper County	↓	13,388	13,007	381	2.8	13,044	12,586	458	3.5	12,422	11,289	1,133	9.1
Saluda County	↓	8,906	8,660	246	2.8	8,709	8,419	290	3.3	8,808	8,197	611	6.9
Lexington County	↓	150,380	146,304	4,076	2.7	149,381	144,492	4,889	3.3	148,092	136,753	11,339	7.7
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	397,057	383,785	13,272	3.3	395,518	379,872	15,646	4.0	389,646	344,989	44,657	11.5
Columbia MSA	↓	402,592	389,149	13,443	3.3	401,073	384,794	16,279	4.1	399,680	364,018	35,662	8.9
Florence MSA	↓	97,044	93,370	3,674	3.8	97,214	92,750	4,464	4.6	96,666	87,662	9,004	9.3
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	431,863	417,691	14,172	3.3	430,693	413,777	16,916	3.9	428,830	378,601	50,229	11.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,388,088	2,277,749	110,339	4.6	2,381,361	2,262,966	118,395	5.0	2,365,735	2,092,571	273,164	11.5

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

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