



New Year, New Career: Workforce Data for Policy Change

Dr. Bryan Grady, Assistant Executive Director for Labor Market Information
HR Advisory Group Meeting - January 14, 2025

What Does the Labor Market Information Division Do?

- LMI co-produces several data programs funded by the U.S. Department of Labor:
 - Local Area Unemployment Statistics
 - Current Employment Statistics
 - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages
 - Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics
 - State and local industry and occupation projections
- Other responsibilities include writing annual reports and assisting the public in accessing and providing context for our data. Our public inbox is lmicustomerservice@dew.sc.gov.
- Thanks to Act 67 of 2023, we now have an analytics unit to support the activities of the Coordinating Council for Workforce Development.
- All material produced by the LMI Division is publicly available on our websites at <https://scworkforceinfo.com> (updates coming soon!) or <https://dew.sc.gov>.

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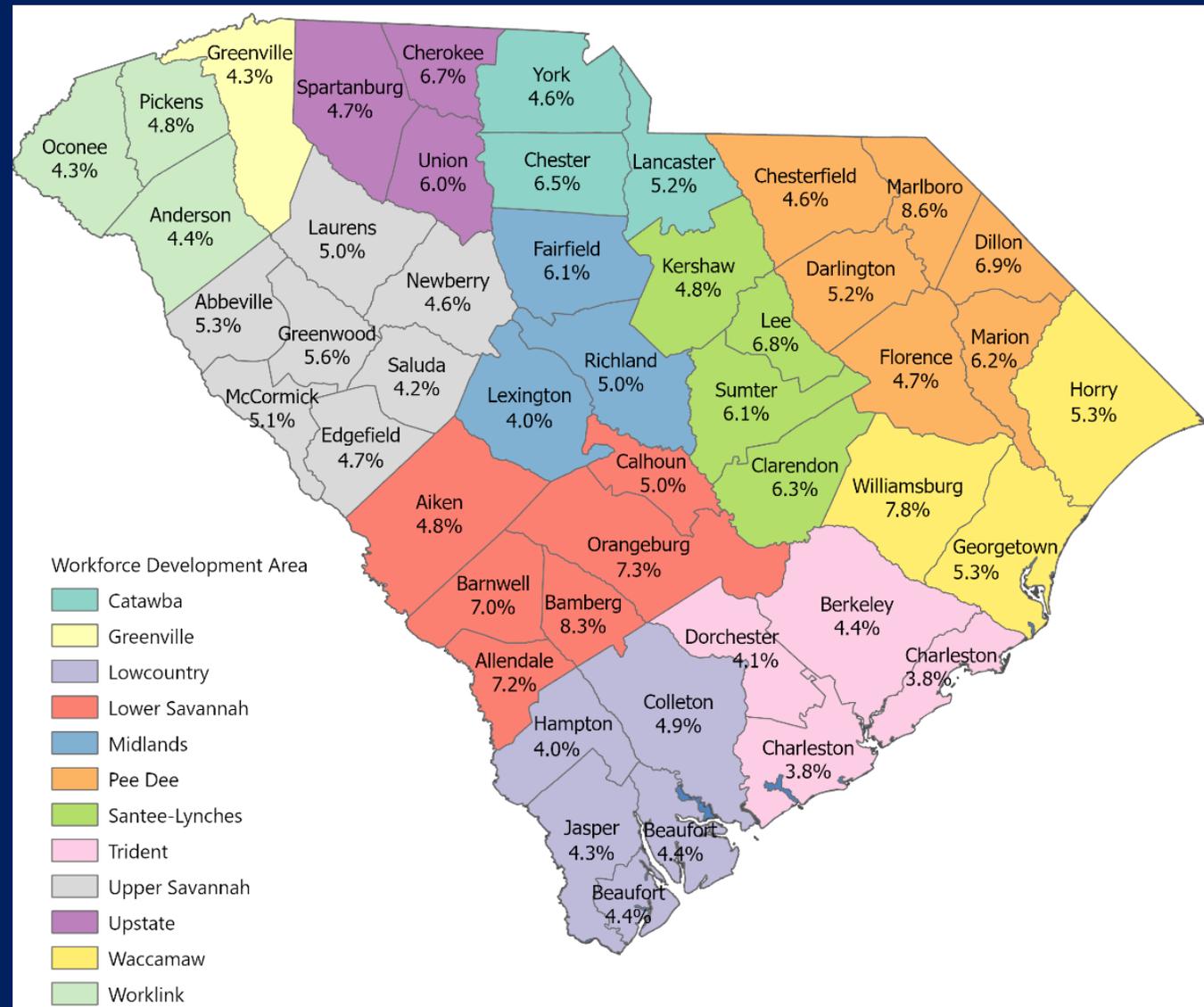
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Employment and Unemployment

- In November, South Carolina had a seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 4.8 percent, compared with the national rate of 4.2 percent.
- While this represents a substantial increase from last year, this figure is still extremely low by historical standards. Also, SC employers report annual payroll growth of 2.6 percent, fourth highest in the country.
- The labor force is still growing at a healthy rate, but it took people a bit little longer to find work in 2024. Local SC Works staff are here to help.

Unemployment Rate by County, November 2024

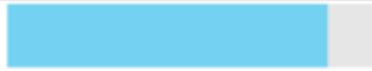
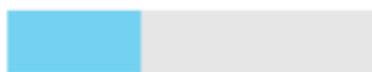
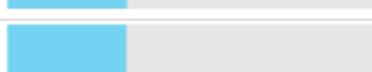


Source: DEW/US Bureau of Labor Statistics (not seasonally adjusted)

Economic Facts and Figures

- In Q2 2024, personal income grew 6.9 percent year-over-year, the largest increase of any state in the country.
- South Carolina was the fourth fastest growing state during the year ending July 1, 2024, adding 91,001 people (1.7 percent) in that time.
- There were 153,000 job openings statewide in October, ranking eighth among states as a percentage of total employment.

Job Postings by Occupation

SOC	Occupation	Ads	
29-1141.00	Registered Nurses	5,875	
41-1011.00	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	5,136	
41-2031.00	Retail Salespersons	4,763	
35-1012.00	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation and Serving Workers	3,281	
11-9111.00	Medical and Health Services Managers	3,035	
49-9071.00	Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	2,618	
35-3023.00	Fast Food and Counter Workers	2,420	
41-3091.00	Sales Representatives of Services, Except Advertising, Insurance, Financial Services, and Travel	2,139	
53-7065.00	Stockers and Order Fillers	1,919	
53-3032.00	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,912	

There are 129,200 active postings in the JobsEQ database as of Monday 1/6.

Job Postings by Location

Location	Ads	
Charleston-North Charleston, SC MSA*	27,699	
Greenville-Anderson-Greer, SC MSA*	25,907	
Columbia, SC MSA*	23,371	
Spartanburg, SC MSA*	10,053	
Charlotte-Concord-Gastonia, NC-SC MSA*	9,607	
Myrtle Beach-Conway-North Myrtle Beach, SC MSA*	7,320	
Florence, SC MSA*	5,677	
Hilton Head Island-Bluffton-Port Royal, SC MSA*	5,326	
Augusta-Richmond County, GA-SC MSA*	4,597	
Sumter, SC MSA*	2,315	

Top three employers: State government, AutoZone, Prisma Health