From December to January, the unemployment rate went from 2 percent to 2.5 percent. A year ago—in January 2019—the unemployment rate stood at 3.2 percent.

That is a sizable increase of 0.6 percentage points over December 2019 and also a decrease of 23,666 over the same period. The labor force grew from 103,401 in December 2019 to 103,652 in January 2020, an increase of 2,251. In January 2019 the labor force stood at 103,374, a decrease of 689 people since December 2019, and also a decrease of 2,387,273. That is an increase of 3,976 people looking for work since December 2019, which is the highest reported number in S.C. Air Force history.

Jobs grow to a new record

The monthly survey of households across the state estimated the number of South Carolinians working has increased to 2.5 million people since December 2019, and also an estimated 43,517 people over January 2019, according to a prepared statement from S.C. Employment and Workforce.

“More jobs are available than people to fill them—that’s the reality we look back at the growth from 2019 to 2020,” said Dan Eller, executive director of the S.C. Department of Employment and Workforce. “South Carolina continues charting record levels of low unemployment while more people are entering the workforce or re-entering it, or looking for help as a result of the challenge of dealing with the Coronavirus. It’s considerably easier for the workplace owners and job seekers to meet the challenge of finding good help, and will even embed mental health services into some level of protocol assistance. We are committed to helping our residents and the community of our state.”

“We have just done this in the past several years when South Carolina has been challenged with an unexpected event, our agency remains prepared and ready to assist individuals, find or retain employment as well as help our workers with their tools.”

The job report lags behind actual events. The report takes people looking to increase dramatically in the next few months to a year. Only 1 in 4 people are employed in South Carolina. February numbers are expected to be released in March 2020. April, the report from Dorcey County shows that the labor force grew from 76,699 in December to 78,940 in January, an increase of 2,241. In January 2019 the labor force stood at 75,059, meaning the county saw an increase in available workers of 1,889.

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Next door in Berkeley County, the labor force grew from 103,401 in December to 103,652 in January, an increase of 2,251. In January 2019 the labor force stood at 103,374, a decrease of 689 people since December 2019, and also a decrease of 2,387,273. That is an increase of 3,976 people looking for work since December 2019, which is the highest reported number in S.C. Air Force history.

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“This is a group that is primarily from that silent generation and they have lived a lifetime of sacrifices so our residents are typically not phased by a lot because they have been through multiple wars, recessions, and a depression,” Burton said. “We follow their lead on how they handle tough times.”

Nancy Shows and her husband, Red Shows, stay active by riding their bicycles through the grounds of The Village at Summerville.

Seniors Faceetime with family while facilities are in lockdown

The Village has implemented other proactive preventative measures to ensure that there are no cases of the novel coronavirus at any of its communities, employees and residents and will even embed mental health services into some level of protocol assistance.

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