Columbia, South Carolina.

Current market data.

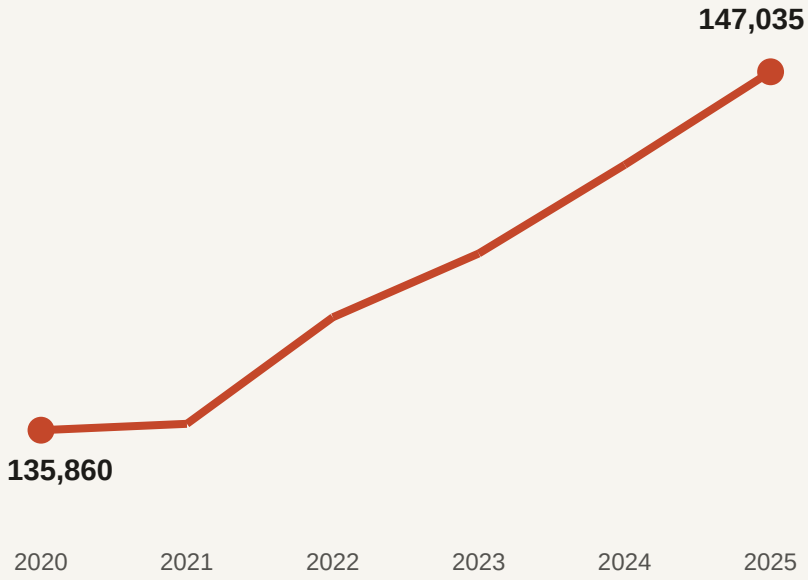
11 cards. Every number sourced and dated. Data as of Oct 30, 2026.

POPULATION

Growing. Up 8.2% since 2020.

147,035

people, the 2nd-largest of South Carolina's cities and towns.



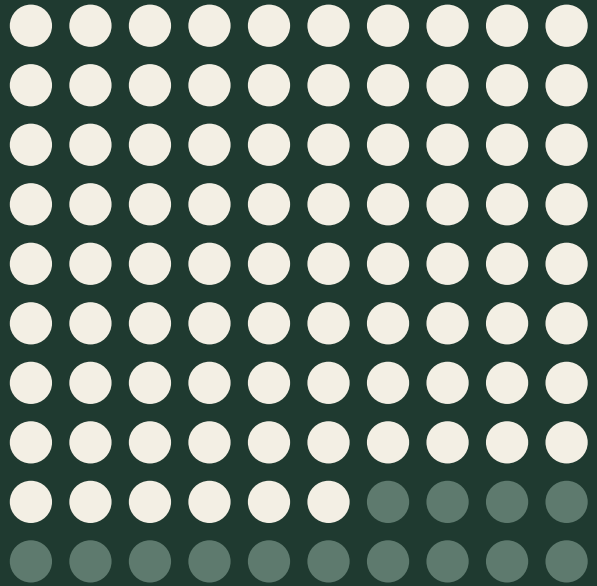
Source: Census Population Estimates, 2025

THE WORKDAY

9 in 10 jobs here go to people who live somewhere else.

85.5%

of 142,455 jobs located in Columbia are filled by in-commuters.



Each dot is 1% of jobs. Filled: held by in-commuters.

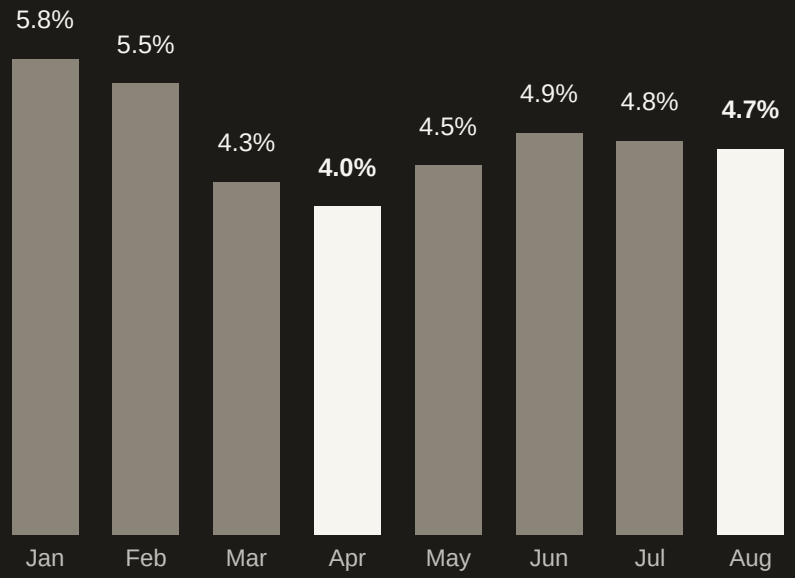
Source: Census LEHD LODES, 2023

UNEMPLOYMENT, 2026

The low came in April: 4.0%.

4.7%

in August 2026, the latest month released. A year earlier it was 5.0%.



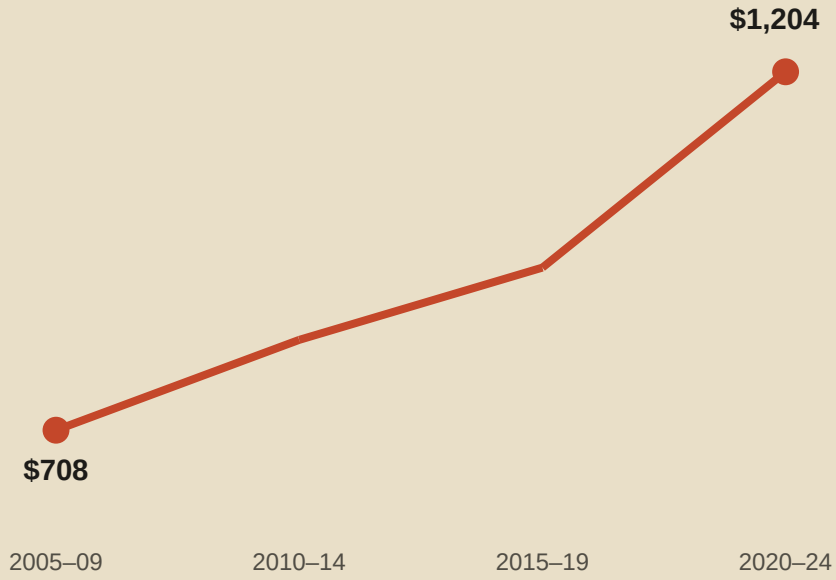
Source: BLS Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2026-08

RENT

Median rent is up 70% since the 2005–2009 survey, before inflation.

$1,204

a month. South Carolina's median is $1,180.

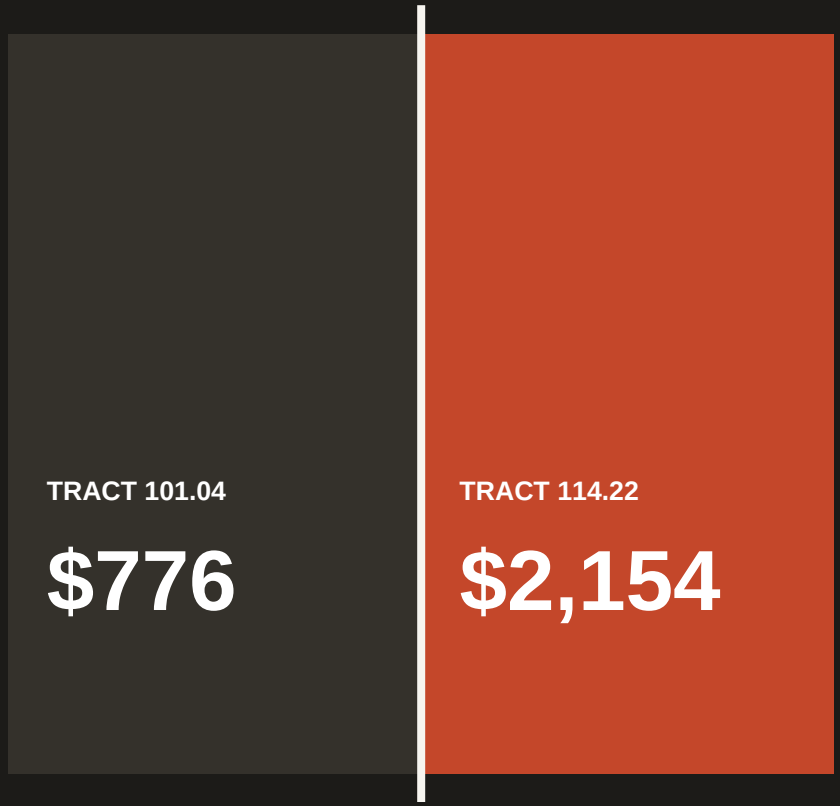


Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THE SEAM

Cross one tract line and median rent doubles.

A $1,378 gap between neighbors, the sharpest rent edge between adjacent tracts in Richland County.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

ROOM TO BUILD

The median rent sits inside what local wages can carry.

is the monthly rent range local workforce wages support.

Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

BUILDING

69% of the housing here was built before 2000.

11,628

homes permitted in ten years, 2016–2025

46%

of those were in multifamily buildings

69%

of all homes were built before 2000

Source: Census Building Permits Survey, 2016-2025; Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

UNITS NEEDED

Closing the gap would add 1–2% to the 62,021 homes here.

332–1,425

is the estimated number of missing housing units, from the lowest to the highest of three estimates.

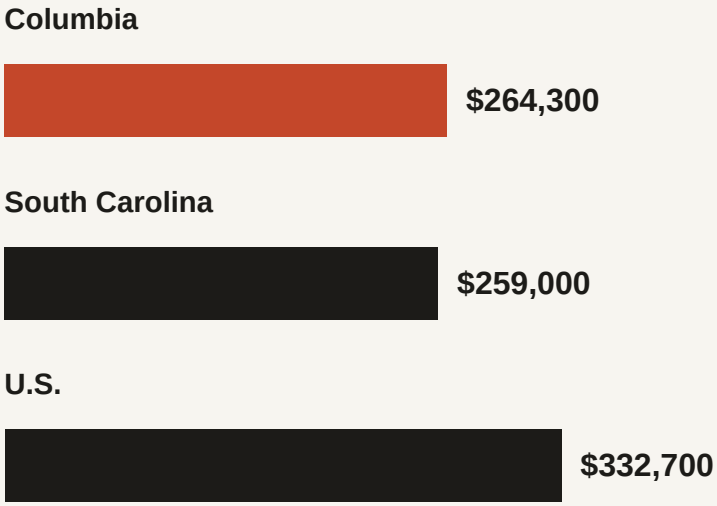
Source: Computed by the Almanac, 2023

HOME VALUE

A median home costs 2% more than South Carolina's.

$264,300

median home value in Columbia.



Source: Census ACS 5-year, 2020-2024

THAT WAS COLUMBIA'S 2026

Every number came from a public source, with its date.

New Census data usually lands in December. The next Edition follows it.

See this Edition at **almanacdata.ai/e/sc/columbia/**