



# By the Numbers: COVID-19

COMPILED BY GINGER SOTTILE BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AS OF APRIL 28, 2020

**\$12.2 Billion** South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism expected tourism to account for \$24.5 billion of the S.C. economy. That has been readjusted to \$12.2 billion for 2020.

**\$523 Million** S.C. has approximately 1,200 hotels that are at less than 15% occupied — an approximate \$523 million loss in tourism revenues for March and April.

**28,000** By mid-April, 28,000 restaurant workers (approximately 65% of total) in the Charleston area were unemployed and 7,700 hotel workers (75% is best estimate) were laid off. Attractions have had to release 80% of their staffing (about 600 people).

**2,200** The school staffs, including food service, office workers, teacher assistants, custodians, bus drivers, substitute teachers and maintenance workers have contracts that are school session only. Private schools, which are for-profit businesses, have had higher numbers of employees seeking unemployment benefits. The first week of school closures saw more than 2,200 unemployment applications from school employees.

**600** Almost 600 S.C. school buses have been converted to mobile Wi-Fi hotspots, particularly in rural areas, to enable teachers, students and parents to continue the learning process.

**26** Isle of Palms Police recorded 26 verbal warnings for violating beach access restrictions.



**2,000** About 2,000 of the state's school buses are being used for food service distribution locations. Many schools are still providing prepared meals for the students who qualified for free and reduced lunches and have expanded that program to cover unemployed families.

**350** Charleston County School District has an estimated 350 Durham Bus Service employees working on a normal school day. Since mid-March, that number is down to approximately 120.



**5,245** SCDNR has written only nine citations while dispersing 5,245 people. They've issued 3,000 verbal warnings and 38 written warnings.



**26 Million** 26 million people are now unemployed in the United States — a number not seen since The Great Depression.

**43%** Potential home buyers have expressed that their optimism on finding their dream home has decreased from 75% to 43%.

**180** The CARES Act has put all lenders on notice that no homes may be put into foreclosure for 60 days effective March 18, and those struggling due to COVID-19 may ask for a 180-day extension.

**5,253** Confirmed deaths through April 25 in S.C. total 5,253, with 406 of those in Charleston County.

**7** The City of Charleston has written seven citations, all related to businesses opening without approval of the Governor's office and trespassing at closed public parks.

**16%** Agents have pointed out that sellers removing their homes from the market has risen from 3% to 16% over the last 60 days. Real estate professionals have every confidence the market will roar back by this time next year.

**25.7%** Overall alcohol sales have increased 25.7% over the same period last year: liquor at 33.3%, wine at 32% and beer and cider at 19.9%.

**200 Million** Zoom usage has ballooned recently, shifting from 10 million active daily users in December 2019 to more than 200 million daily users in March, the company reported.



Photo by Alan Ferguson

**SOURCES** SCDEW, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Mount Pleasant Chamber of Commerce, HuffPost Politics, Twitter, The Greenville News, ABC News 4, Associated Press, The Post and Courier, College of Charleston's Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, SCDHEC, www.zillow.com, www.realtor.com and Zoom. 🌟