For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation
April 2015

Employment Continues to Soar - Exceeds 2.1 Million People for the First Time

The number of employed South Carolinians broke a major barrier for the first time in April exceeding the 2.1 million threshold. The number of South Carolinians working in April reached 2,104,590 people, an increase of 8,106 from March. During the first four months of 2015, people across the state entered the labor force at historic levels and found employment opportunities as the state's economy continued expanding at a robust pace.

The labor force (people working and searching for work) was estimated at 2,256,118, an increase of 9,875 over the month, marking a record as well.

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained at 6.7 percent, as the labor force expanded for the fifteenth consecutive month. The estimated number of unemployed persons was 151,528, showing modest increase since March of 1,769 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate declined from 5.5 to 5.4 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted[1])
With an over-the-month increase of 11,500, April's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased to a record level of 1,998,500.

- Strong increases were reported in Professional and Business Services (+4,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,800); and Educational and Health Services (+2,100) with additional gains in Construction (+1,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+800); Government (+500); and Other Services (+300).
- Industries reporting modest declines were Manufacturing (-300) and Information (-100).

Compared to April 2014, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 56,100.
- The largest increases were noted in Professional and Business Services (+13,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+10,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,800); and Education and Health Services (+7,600).
- Other gains were seen in Construction (+5,800); Government (+5,000); Manufacturing (+4,000); and Other Services (+1,500).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted[2])

The not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in April registered an over the month increase of 23,900 to set a record level of 2,006,000. Growth was concentrated in Leisure and Hospitality (+8,400); Professional and Business Services (+6,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,100); Education and Health Services (+2,500); and Construction (+1,900). Smaller gains were seen in Government (+800) and Other Services (+200). Losses occurred in Financial Activities (-300) and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

From April 2014 to April 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 54,800 with strong annual gains in Professional and Business Services (+12,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,700); Education and Health Services (+8,600); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,400); Construction (+6,000); Government (+5,400); and Manufacturing (+3,700). Smaller growth was reported in Other Services (+1,000) and Information (+100). Financial Activities (-500) saw a loss, while Natural Resources and Mining remained stable.

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[1]**Seasonally Adjusted:** Seasonal adjustment removes the effects of events that follow a more or less regular pattern each year (i.e. tourist-related hiring and school closings in the summer). These adjustments make it easier to observe the cyclical and other nonseasonal movements in data over time.

[2]**Not Seasonally Adjusted**: Effects of regular or seasonal patterns have not been removed from these data.

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NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
April 2015

Industry	April 2015	March 2015	April 2014	March 2015 to April 2015 # Change	March 2015 to April 2015 % Change	April 2014 to April 2015 # Change	April 2014 to April 2015 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*1,998,500*	*1,987,000*	*1,942,400*	*11,500*	*0.58%*	*56,100*	*2.89%*
Construction	88,000	87,000	82,200	1,000	1.14%	5,800	7.06%
Manufacturing	232,600	232,900	228,600	-300	-0.13%	4,000	1.75%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	382,400	379,600	371,700	2,800	0.73%	10,700	2.88%
Information	26,300	26,400	26,300	-100	-0.38%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	96,500	96,500	96,300	0	0.00%	200	0.21%
Professional and Business Services	266,300	261,800	252,800	4,500	1.69%	13,500	5.34%
Education and Health Services	233,200	231,100	225,600	2,100	0.90%	7,600	3.37%
Leisure and Hospitality	235,800	235,000	228,000	800	0.34%	7,800	3.42%
Other Services	73,100	72,800	71,600	300	0.41%	1,500	2.09%
Government	360,500	360,000	355,500	500	0.14%	5,000	1.41%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
April 2015

Industry	April 2015	March 2015	April 2014	March 2015 to April 2015 # Change	March 2015 to April 2015 % Change	April 2014 to April 2015 # Change	April 2014 to April 2015 % Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	*2,006,000*	*1,982,100*	*1,951,200*	*23,900*	*1.21%*	*54,800*	*2.81%*
Natural Resources and Mining	3,800	3,900	3,800	-100	-2.56%	0	0.00%
Construction	87,800	85,900	81,800	1,900	2.21%	6,000	7.33%
Manufacturing	232,600	232,600	228,900	0	0.00%	3,700	1.62%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	381,100	377,000	369,400	4,100	1.09%	11,700	3.17%
Information	26,500	26,500	26,400	0	0.00%	100	0.38%
Financial Activities	95,800	96,100	96,300	-300	-0.31%	-500	-0.52%
Professional and Business Services	266,100	259,700	253,700	6,400	2.46%	12,400	4.89%
Education and Health Services	234,700	232,200	226,100	2,500	1.08%	8,600	3.80%
Leisure and Hospitality	239,200	230,800	232,800	8,400	3.64%	6,400	2.75%
Other Services	72,800	72,600	71,800	200	0.28%	1,000	1.39%
Government	365,600	364,800	360,200	800	0.22%	5,400	1.50%

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
April 2015

Area*	April 2015	March 2015	April 2014	March 2015 to April 2015		April 2014 to April 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*1,998,500*	*1,987,000*	*1,942,400*	*11,500*	*0.58%*	*56,100*	*2.89%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	330,900	328,000	319,800	2,900	0.88%	11,100	3.47%
Columbia MSA	380,000	379,500	372,800	500	0.13%	7,200	1.93%
Florence MSA	85,400	85,300	84,500	100	0.12%	900	1.07%
Sumter MSA	38,400	38,500	38,400	-100	-0.26%	-	0.00%

*As a result of the new Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) redefinition, there are only four South Carolina MSAs publishable under nonfarm, seasonally adjusted employment. MSAs are defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget and are the result of the latest published standards from Census Bureau data. (The standards for defining the areas are reviewed and revised once every 10 years prior to each decennial census). Therefore, with the release of the 2014 benchmark, Current Employment Statistics will incorporate the updates to area definitions based on the new standards from the 2010 Census. As a result of the new standards, breaks have been created in the time series for these areas. Due to the breaks in the time series, the Bureau of Labor Statistics will be unable to publish all of the redefined areas on a seasonally adjusted basis. The South Carolina areas based on the 2010 standards and Census Bureau data were defined in February 2013.

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
April 2015

Area**	April 2015	March 2015	April 2014	March 2015 to April 2015		April 2014 to April 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Statewide	*2,006,000*	*1,982,100*	*1,951,200*	*23,900*	*1.21%*	*54,800*	*2.81%*
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	330,800	326,200	321,600	4,600	1.41%	9,200	2.86%
Columbia MSA	379,500	378,800	373,500	700	0.18%	6,000	1.61%
Florence MSA	85,400	85,500	84,800	-100	-0.12%	600	0.71%
Greenville MSA	400,100	395,000	388,100	5,100	1.29%	12,000	3.09%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	73,500	73,300	71,900	200	0.27%	1,600	2.23%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	156,900	150,800	154,100	6,100	4.05%	2,800	1.82%
Spartanburg MSA	141,100	140,800	137,300	300	0.21%	3,800	2.77%
Sumter MSA	38,700	38,700	38,800	0	0.00%	-100	-0.26%

***Note**: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.*

**As a result of the MSAs redefinition, a new area has been defined, and changes have occurred in three South Carolina not-seasonally adjusted MSAs. The new MSA is Hilton Head Island-Bluffton. The changed MSAs are as follows: Greenville MSA now incorporates Anderson County, thereby eliminating the Anderson MSA; Spartanburg now includes Union County; and Myrtle Beach Conway-North Myrtle Beach now includes Brunswick County, N.C.

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

AREA		April 2015 LABOR FORCE	April 2015 EMPLOY-MENT	April 2015 UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	April 2015 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	March 2015 LABOR FORCE	March 2015 EMPLOY-MENT	March 2015 UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	March 2015 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	April 2014 LABOR FORCE	April 2014 EMPLOY-MENT	April 2014 UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	April 2014 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Allendale County	↓	2,966	2,621	345	11.6	2,973	2,604	369	12.4	2,767	2,475	292	10.6
Orangeburg County	↓	38,704	34,834	3,870	10.0	38,356	34,398	3,958	10.3	37,046	33,923	3,123	8.4
Marion County	↓	13,078	11,784	1,294	9.9	12,940	11,617	1,323	10.2	12,704	11,562	1,142	9.0
Marlboro County	↓	10,175	9,164	1,011	9.9	10,044	9,037	1,007	10.0	9,803	8,862	941	9.6
Bamberg County	↓	5,646	5,092	554	9.8	5,631	5,040	591	10.5	5,419	4,922	497	9.2
Dillon County	↑	12,802	11,642	1,160	9.1	12,678	11,559	1,119	8.8	12,204	11,157	1,047	8.6
Hampton County	↓	8,641	7,866	775	9.0	8,610	7,828	782	9.1	8,073	7,531	542	6.7
Barnwell County	↓	9,043	8,236	807	8.9	8,944	8,127	817	9.1	8,521	7,812	709	8.3
Williamsburg County	↓	13,178	12,019	1,159	8.8	13,103	11,905	1,198	9.1	12,315	11,213	1,102	8.9
Lee County	–	6,520	5,955	565	8.7	6,503	5,936	567	8.7	6,259	5,777	482	7.7
Chester County	↓	13,852	12,668	1,184	8.5	13,795	12,592	1,203	8.7	13,379	12,272	1,107	8.3
Union County	↑	11,762	10,789	973	8.3	11,699	10,736	963	8.2	11,350	10,491	859	7.6
Clarendon County	↓	13,257	12,197	1,060	8.0	13,163	12,087	1,076	8.2	12,690	11,781	909	7.2
Fairfield County	↓	10,099	9,311	788	7.8	10,087	9,295	792	7.9	9,886	9,143	743	7.5
Georgetown County	↓	26,003	24,007	1,996	7.7	25,695	23,569	2,126	8.3	24,267	22,536	1,731	7.1
Darlington County	–	29,686	27,451	2,235	7.5	29,796	27,558	2,238	7.5	29,166	27,210	1,956	6.7
Laurens County	↑	30,837	28,588	2,249	7.3	30,297	28,211	2,086	6.9	29,397	27,693	1,704	5.8
Calhoun County	–	6,974	6,473	501	7.2	6,966	6,463	503	7.2	6,779	6,340	439	6.5
Cherokee County	↓	24,182	22,429	1,753	7.2	23,890	22,149	1,741	7.3	23,357	21,664	1,693	7.2
Colleton County	↓	17,347	16,137	1,210	7.0	17,122	15,881	1,241	7.2	16,416	15,319	1,097	6.7
Sumter County	–	44,152	41,057	3,095	7.0	44,109	41,003	3,106	7.0	43,849	41,115	2,734	6.2
Florence County	↓	64,552	60,093	4,459	6.9	64,657	60,145	4,512	7.0	63,487	59,567	3,920	6.2
Horry County	↓	136,729	127,336	9,393	6.9	132,627	122,443	10,184	7.7	132,919	124,993	7,926	6.0
McCormick County	↓	3,647	3,394	253	6.9	3,605	3,334	271	7.5	3,484	3,237	247	7.1
Abbeville County	↓	10,816	10,079	737	6.8	10,662	9,914	748	7.0	10,388	9,700	688	6.6
Lancaster County	↓	35,181	32,868	2,313	6.6	34,955	32,630	2,325	6.7	33,969	31,815	2,154	6.3
Greenwood County	↓	32,498	30,406	2,092	6.4	32,107	29,966	2,141	6.7	31,147	29,287	1,860	6.0
Chesterfield County	↓	21,709	20,362	1,347	6.2	21,496	20,150	1,346	6.3	20,828	19,588	1,240	6.0
Edgefield County	–	10,824	10,157	667	6.2	10,673	10,007	666	6.2	10,382	9,797	585	5.6
Kershaw County	↑	28,368	26,615	1,753	6.2	28,296	26,565	1,731	6.1	27,578	26,137	1,441	5.2
Aiken County	–	75,180	70,696	4,484	6.0	73,998	69,535	4,463	6.0	72,404	68,514	3,890	5.4
Spartanburg County	–	137,908	129,637	8,271	6.0	137,330	129,059	8,271	6.0	133,378	126,190	7,188	5.4
Beaufort County	↑	70,087	66,050	4,037	5.8	69,684	65,785	3,899	5.6	67,532	64,474	3,058	4.5
Pickens County	↓	56,284	52,995	3,289	5.8	55,546	52,249	3,297	5.9	54,177	51,393	2,784	5.1
Richland County	–	194,980	183,672	11,308	5.8	194,458	183,144	11,314	5.8	190,578	180,973	9,605	5.0
Berkeley County	–	92,154	86,941	5,213	5.7	90,827	85,616	5,211	5.7	89,071	84,675	4,396	4.9
Oconee County	↓	35,262	33,255	2,007	5.7	34,813	32,798	2,015	5.8	33,369	31,625	1,744	5.2
York County	↓	123,632	116,547	7,085	5.7	122,810	115,597	7,213	5.9	119,461	112,870	6,591	5.5
Newberry County	↑	18,787	17,743	1,044	5.6	18,650	17,632	1,018	5.5	17,943	17,085	858	4.8
Anderson County	↓	88,290	83,401	4,889	5.5	87,192	82,290	4,902	5.6	85,054	80,926	4,128	4.9
Dorchester County	↓	71,327	67,379	3,948	5.5	70,303	66,351	3,952	5.6	68,833	65,589	3,244	4.7
Saluda County	–	8,658	8,185	473	5.5	8,707	8,225	482	5.5	8,348	7,950	398	4.8
Jasper County	↓	11,554	10,940	614	5.3	11,471	10,851	620	5.4	11,113	10,588	525	4.7
Greenville County	↓	239,007	226,764	12,243	5.1	235,960	223,708	12,252	5.2	230,196	220,112	10,084	4.4
Charleston County	↓	195,437	185,759	9,678	5.0	192,458	182,711	9,747	5.1	188,263	180,419	7,844	4.2
Lexington County	↓	141,095	133,987	7,108	5.0	140,737	133,614	7,123	5.1	137,429	131,668	5,761	4.2
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	358,918	340,079	18,839	5.2	353,588	334,678	18,910	5.3	346,167	330,683	15,484	4.5
Columbia MSA	–	390,174	368,243	21,931	5.6	389,251	367,306	21,945	5.6	380,598	362,211	18,387	4.8
Florence MSA	–	94,238	87,544	6,694	7.1	94,453	87,703	6,750	7.1	92,653	86,777	5,876	6.3
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	–	414,418	391,748	22,670	5.5	408,995	386,458	22,537	5.5	398,824	380,124	18,700	4.7
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	–	2,256,118	2,104,590	151,528	6.7	2,246,243	2,096,484	149,759	6.7	2,175,152	2,042,545	132,607	6.1

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

Counties are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.

↑   Unemployment Rate Up

↓   Unemployment Rate Down

–   Unemployment Rate =