



## SC Department of Employment and Workforce

### NEWS RELEASE

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### **South Carolina's Employment Situation August 2015**

#### **Largest Unemployment Rate Decline Since August 1983 Employment Total Sets Another Record**

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate recorded the largest one-month decline since 1983, falling from 6.4 percent in July to 6.0 percent in August. This marked the rate's third consecutive monthly drop.

Employment set a new record in August, increasing 2,771 to 2,113,743 people. Labor force shrank marginally, down 5,139 to 2,249,028 people. The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 7,910 to 135,285 from July to August. This is the largest ever one-month drop in the data series since its inception in 1976.

From August 2014 to August 2015, the state's employment level increased by 58,987 people; the labor force grew by 51,997; and the number of unemployed people decreased by 6,990.

Nationally, the unemployment rate fell from 5.3 percent in July to 5.1 percent in August.

#### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted<sup>1</sup>)**

Seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased from July to August by 4,300, to reach a record level of 2,007,900.

- South Carolina's most notable increases occurred in Government (+1,400) and Manufacturing (+1,000) with additional gains in Other Services (+700); Construction (+600); Financial Activities (+400); Education and Health Services (+300); Leisure and Hospitality (+300); and Professional and Business Services (+200).
- Industries reporting losses were Information (-400) and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-200).

Compared to a year ago, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 58,400.

- The industries with the largest increases were Professional and Business Services (+12,600); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,300); Construction (+7,500); Education and Health Services (+7,500); Government (+4,600); and Manufacturing (+1,900).
- Modest gains were seen in Information (+300); Other Services (+300); and Financial Activities (+200).

### **Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted<sup>2</sup>)**

The not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in August reported an over-the-month increase of 1,600 to a level of 2,005,100. Historically, employment has experienced growth during the month of August as schools gear up for the semester. The rise in employment was due to increases in Government (+2,800); Education and Health Services (+1,900); and Manufacturing (+1,200), along with modest gains in Construction (+700) and Financial Activities (+100). The most significant losses were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-3,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-900); Information (-600); Professional and Business Services (-600); and Other Services (-500).

Overall, from August 2014 to August 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 55,100. Industries marking strong annual gains were Professional and Business Services (+13,300); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,500); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,100); Construction (+6,700); Education and Health Services (+6,700); Government (+4,600); and Manufacturing (+1,900). Information (+200); Financial Activities (+200); and Other Services (+100) recorded smaller gains. Natural Resources and Mining declined (-200).

<sup>1</sup>**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.

<sup>2</sup>**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  
August 2015

Industry	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014	August 2015 to July 2015		August 2014 to August 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,007,900</b>	<b>2,003,600</b>	<b>1,949,500</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>58,400</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
Construction	89,600	89,000	82,100	600	0.67%	7,500	9.14%
Manufacturing	231,900	230,900	230,000	1,000	0.43%	1,900	0.83%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	385,800	386,000	373,400	-200	-0.05%	12,400	3.32%
Information	26,700	27,100	26,400	-400	-1.50%	300	1.14%
Financial Activities	96,400	96,000	96,200	400	0.41%	200	0.21%
Professional and Business Services	267,000	266,800	254,400	200	0.07%	12,600	4.95%
Education and Health Services	233,900	233,600	226,400	300	0.13%	7,500	3.31%
Leisure and Hospitality	238,900	238,600	227,600	300	0.13%	11,300	4.96%
Other Services	72,000	71,300	71,700	700	0.97%	300	0.42%
Government	362,000	360,600	357,400	1,400	0.39%	4,600	1.29%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

Statewide  
August 2015

Industry	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014	August 2015 to July 2015		August 2014 to August 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Total Nonfarm Employment</b>	<b>2,005,100</b>	<b>2,003,500</b>	<b>1,950,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>55,100</b>	<b>2.83%</b>
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,900	0	0.00%	-200	-5.13%
Construction	89,800	89,100	83,100	700	0.79%	6,700	8.06%
Manufacturing	231,600	230,400	229,700	1,200	0.52%	1,900	0.83%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	386,300	387,200	374,800	-900	-0.23%	11,500	3.07%
Information	26,600	27,200	26,400	-600	-2.21%	200	0.76%
Financial Activities	69,100	69,000	68,900	100	0.14%	200	0.29%
Professional and Business Services	268,800	269,400	255,500	-600	-0.22%	13,300	5.21%
Education and Health Services	231,800	229,900	225,100	1,900	0.83%	6,700	2.98%
Leisure and Hospitality	249,900	253,100	238,800	-3,200	-1.26%	11,100	4.65%
Other Services	72,200	72,700	72,100	-500	-0.69%	100	0.14%
Government	347,700	344,900	343,100	2,800	0.81%	4,600	1.34%

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
August 2015**

Area*	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014	August 2015 to July 2015		August 2014 to August 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,007,900</b>	<b>2,003,600</b>	<b>1,949,500</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>0.21%</b>	<b>58,400</b>	<b>3.00%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	329,800	329,600	323,000	200	0.06%	6,800	2.11%
Columbia MSA	381,000	380,100	374,900	900	0.24%	6,100	1.63%
Florence MSA	85,200	86,100	84,100	(900)	-1.06%	1,100	1.31%
Sumter MSA	39,000	38,900	38,600	100	0.26%	400	1.04%

*\*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.*

**NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED**

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas  
August 2015**

Area**	August 2015	July 2015	August 2014	August 2015 to July 2015		August 2014 to August 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
<b>Statewide</b>	<b>2,005,100</b>	<b>2,003,500</b>	<b>1,950,000</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>0.08%</b>	<b>55,100</b>	<b>2.83%</b>
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	330,700	331,200	323,600	-500	-0.15%	7,100	2.19%
Columbia MSA	379,600	377,800	372,600	1,800	0.48%	7,000	1.88%
Florence MSA	84,300	83,700	83,500	600	0.72%	800	0.96%
Greenville MSA	397,200	397,500	387,600	-300	-0.08%	9,600	2.48%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	74,300	75,200	73,700	-900	-1.20%	600	0.81%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	164,300	164,800	159,900	-500	-0.30%	4,400	2.75%
Spartanburg MSA	141,400	139,500	137,500	1,900	1.36%	3,900	2.84%
Sumter MSA	38,300	38,300	38,300	0	0.00%	0	0.00%

*\*\*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		August 2015				July 2015				August 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↓	39,793	35,105	4,688	11.8	40,279	35,319	4,960	12.3	38,924	33,278	5,646	14.5
Bamberg County	↓	5,850	5,197	653	11.2	5,965	5,256	709	11.9	5,720	4,910	810	14.2
Allendale County	↓	3,025	2,714	311	10.3	3,104	2,750	354	11.4	2,962	2,572	390	13.2
Marlboro County	↓	10,187	9,198	989	9.7	10,348	9,274	1,074	10.4	9,799	8,684	1,115	11.4
Marion County	↓	13,225	11,973	1,252	9.5	13,408	12,054	1,354	10.1	12,840	11,463	1,377	10.7
Barnwell County	↓	9,077	8,279	798	8.8	9,190	8,340	850	9.2	8,796	7,882	914	10.4
Williamsburg County	↓	13,304	12,132	1,172	8.8	13,444	12,223	1,221	9.1	12,882	11,572	1,310	10.2
Lee County	↓	6,626	6,057	569	8.6	6,701	6,107	594	8.9	6,484	5,848	636	9.8
Fairfield County	↓	10,306	9,431	875	8.5	10,380	9,453	927	8.9	10,138	9,196	942	9.3
Chester County	↓	14,089	12,909	1,180	8.4	14,009	12,769	1,240	8.9	13,809	12,365	1,444	10.5
Dillon County	↓	12,986	11,894	1,092	8.4	13,192	12,008	1,184	9.0	12,641	11,335	1,306	10.3
Georgetown County	↑	26,598	24,476	2,122	8.0	26,648	24,633	2,015	7.6	25,407	23,284	2,123	8.4
Hampton County	↓	8,824	8,125	699	7.9	9,036	8,242	794	8.8	8,467	7,797	670	7.9
Clarendon County	↓	13,450	12,395	1,055	7.8	13,608	12,480	1,128	8.3	13,059	11,833	1,226	9.4
Darlington County	↓	29,912	27,565	2,347	7.8	30,104	27,636	2,468	8.2	29,820	27,158	2,662	8.9
Union County	↓	11,772	10,848	924	7.8	11,769	10,786	983	8.4	11,566	10,485	1,081	9.3
Calhoun County	↓	7,108	6,584	524	7.4	7,158	6,595	563	7.9	7,106	6,414	692	9.7
Sumter County	↓	44,258	40,975	3,283	7.4	44,502	41,160	3,342	7.5	44,198	40,464	3,734	8.4
Cherokee County	↓	24,081	22,387	1,694	7.0	24,259	22,460	1,799	7.4	23,369	21,270	2,099	9.0
Abbeville County	↓	10,769	10,031	738	6.9	10,856	10,067	789	7.3	10,370	9,506	864	8.3
Colleton County	↓	17,431	16,230	1,201	6.9	17,604	16,280	1,324	7.5	16,818	15,449	1,369	8.1
Florence County	↓	64,167	59,820	4,347	6.8	64,386	59,762	4,624	7.2	64,036	58,856	5,180	8.1
McCormick County	↓	3,623	3,381	242	6.7	3,640	3,386	254	7.0	3,520	3,211	309	8.8
Lancaster County	↓	35,737	33,417	2,320	6.5	35,404	32,999	2,405	6.8	34,770	31,986	2,784	8.0
Laurens County	↓	30,570	28,595	1,975	6.5	30,807	28,749	2,058	6.7	30,057	27,725	2,332	7.8
Chesterfield County	↓	22,013	20,607	1,406	6.4	22,115	20,643	1,472	6.7	21,261	19,620	1,641	7.7
Greenwood County	↓	32,441	30,390	2,051	6.3	32,795	30,585	2,210	6.7	31,240	28,833	2,407	7.7
Kershaw County	↓	28,737	26,933	1,804	6.3	28,841	26,994	1,847	6.4	28,298	26,262	2,036	7.2
Aiken County	↓	74,819	70,272	4,547	6.1	75,127	70,406	4,721	6.3	73,537	68,218	5,319	7.2
Edgefield County	↓	10,883	10,221	662	6.1	10,926	10,239	687	6.3	10,713	9,915	798	7.4
Horry County	↓	142,332	133,624	8,708	6.1	143,771	134,684	9,087	6.3	139,125	129,208	9,917	7.1
Pickens County	↓	56,190	52,775	3,415	6.1	56,696	53,031	3,665	6.5	55,137	51,165	3,972	7.2
Richland County	↓	196,167	184,321	11,846	6.0	197,222	184,713	12,509	6.3	193,141	179,829	13,312	6.9
Spartanburg County	↓	138,587	130,318	8,269	6.0	138,510	129,669	8,841	6.4	135,864	126,002	9,862	7.3
Oconee County	↓	35,438	33,366	2,072	5.8	35,790	33,570	2,220	6.2	34,170	31,753	2,417	7.1
Beaufort County	↓	71,437	67,358	4,079	5.7	72,628	68,323	4,305	5.9	70,768	66,169	4,599	6.5
Anderson County	↓	88,121	83,155	4,966	5.6	88,870	83,657	5,213	5.9	86,608	80,665	5,943	6.9
Berkeley County	↓	92,273	87,090	5,183	5.6	93,255	87,797	5,458	5.9	90,812	84,710	6,102	6.7
Dorchester County	↓	71,585	67,545	4,040	5.6	72,368	68,071	4,297	5.9	70,372	65,683	4,689	6.7
York County	↓	125,157	118,104	7,053	5.6	123,937	116,516	7,421	6.0	121,624	113,000	8,624	7.1
Newberry County	↓	19,225	18,161	1,064	5.5	19,441	18,332	1,109	5.7	18,563	17,348	1,215	6.5
Jasper County	↓	11,808	11,179	629	5.3	11,918	11,241	677	5.7	11,671	10,921	750	6.4
Saluda County	↓	9,075	8,590	485	5.3	9,137	8,646	491	5.4	8,942	8,373	569	6.4
Greenville County	↓	238,162	225,861	12,301	5.2	240,108	227,223	12,885	5.4	233,503	219,108	14,395	6.2
Charleston County	↓	196,168	186,244	9,924	5.1	197,603	187,226	10,377	5.3	192,288	180,861	11,427	5.9
Lexington County	↓	142,410	135,088	7,322	5.1	142,785	135,276	7,509	5.3	139,983	131,688	8,295	5.9
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	360,026	340,879	19,147	5.3	363,226	343,094	20,132	5.5	353,472	331,254	22,218	6.3
Columbia MSA	↓	393,803	370,947	22,856	5.8	395,523	371,677	23,846	6.0	387,608	361,762	25,846	6.7
Florence MSA	↓	94,079	87,385	6,694	7.1	94,490	87,398	7,092	7.5	93,856	86,014	7,842	8.4
Greenville -Anderson- Mauldin MSA	↓	413,043	390,386	22,657	5.5	416,481	392,660	23,821	5.7	405,305	378,663	26,642	6.6
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,249,028	2,113,743	135,285	6.0	2,254,167	2,110,972	143,195	6.4	2,197,031	2,054,756	142,275	6.5

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 =