



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release
January 27, 2015

South Carolina's Employment Situation **December 2014**

Unemployment Rate Drops; New Records Set in Employment and Labor Force

The state's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate declined to 6.5 percent in December from November's rate of 6.7 percent. The estimated number of South Carolinians working rose by 7,243 people to set a new record of 2,058,657.

The state's labor force continued to expand with an increase of 4,459 people in December, setting another all-time high of 2,202,017. The estimated number of unemployed people decreased by 2,784 to 143,360.

Since December 2013, the labor force has increased by an estimated 33,793 people with 32,770 of them having found work. Also, the state's unemployment rate has declined by 0.1 percentage points over the year.

Nationally, the December unemployment rate declined to 5.6 percent from November's rate of 5.8 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

December's seasonally adjusted, non-farm payrolls increased by 2,900 over November's total, to reach the level of 1,968,000.

- Industries with gains included Professional and Business Services (+3,300); Construction (+1,100); Manufacturing (+800); Education and Health Services (+600); and Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+500).
- Declines were reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-2,300); Other Services (-500); Financial Activities (-300); Information (-200); and Government (-100).

Compared to December 2013, seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were up 46,500.

- Noticeable gains were found in Professional and Business Services (+18,200); Manufacturing (+8,900); Leisure and Hospitality (+7,100); Education and Health Services (+5,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,200); Government (+3,600); and Construction (+2,100).
- The Other Services industry saw a decline (-2,500) as did Financial Activities (-200).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not-seasonally adjusted, non-farm payroll employment decreased by 4,500 from November to December, reaching a total of 1,969,600. Growth was reported in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,800); Construction (+1,200); Manufacturing (+900); and Education and Health Services (+600). Industries reporting declines were Leisure and Hospitality (-6,600); Government (-1,300); Professional and Business Services (-1,100); Other Services (-700); Financial Activities (-200); and Information (-100).

From December 2013 to December 2014, not-seasonally adjusted non-farm jobs were up 46,400 overall in South Carolina's workforce. Strong annual gains came from Professional and Business Services (+18,000); Manufacturing (+9,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+6,900); Education and Health Services (+5,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+4,400); Government (+3,500); and Construction (+2,100). The industries showing losses over the year were in Other Services (-2,400) and Financial Activities (-200).

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
December 2014

Industry	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	November 2014 to December 2014		December 2013 to December 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,968,000	1,965,100	1,921,500	2,900	0.15%	46,500	2.36%
Construction	84,300	83,200	82,200	1,100	1.30%	2,100	2.49%
Manufacturing	236,800	236,000	227,900	800	0.34%	8,900	3.76%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	371,500	371,000	367,300	500	0.13%	4,200	1.13%
Information	26,200	26,400	26,200	-200	-0.76%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	95,500	95,800	95,700	-300	-0.31%	-200	-0.21%
Professional and Business Services	260,100	256,800	241,900	3,300	1.27%	18,200	7.00%
Education and Health Services	226,300	225,700	221,200	600	0.27%	5,100	2.25%
Leisure and Hospitality	236,900	239,200	229,800	-2,300	-0.97%	7,100	3.00%
Other Services	70,300	70,800	72,800	-500	-0.71%	-2,500	-3.56%
Government	356,400	356,500	352,800	-100	-0.03%	3,600	1.01%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
December 2014

Industry	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	November 2014 to December 2014		December 2013 to December 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,969,600	1,974,100	1,923,200	-4,500	-0.23%	46,400	2.36%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,700	3,700	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Construction	84,300	83,100	82,200	1,200	1.42%	2,100	2.49%
Manufacturing	237,700	236,800	228,700	900	0.38%	9,000	3.79%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	378,400	375,600	374,000	2,800	0.74%	4,400	1.16%
Information	26,200	26,300	26,200	-100	-0.38%	0	0.00%
Financial Activities	95,600	95,800	95,800	-200	-0.21%	-200	-0.21%
Professional and Business Services	257,700	258,800	239,700	-1,100	-0.43%	18,000	6.98%
Education and Health Services	227,900	227,300	222,800	600	0.26%	5,100	2.24%
Leisure and Hospitality	225,400	232,000	218,500	-6,600	-2.93%	6,900	3.06%
Other Services	70,200	70,900	72,600	-700	-1.00%	-2,400	-3.42%
Government	362,500	363,800	359,000	-1,300	-0.36%	3,500	0.97%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
December 2014**

Area	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	November 2014 to December 2014		December 2013 to December 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,968,000	1,965,100	1,921,500	2,900	0.15%	46,500	2.36%
Anderson MSA	67,800	67,900	66,300	-100	-0.15%	1,500	2.21%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	322,000	318,200	311,900	3,800	1.18%	10,100	3.14%
Columbia MSA	365,200	368,300	364,900	-3,100	-0.85%	300	0.08%
Florence MSA	87,200	87,000	85,500	200	0.23%	1,700	1.95%
Greenville MSA	324,200	324,800	316,100	-600	-0.19%	8,100	2.50%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	124,500	124,300	120,500	200	0.16%	4,000	3.21%
Spartanburg MSA	132,900	132,900	130,300	0	0.00%	2,600	1.96%
Sumter MSA	38,900	38,900	38,100	0	0.00%	800	2.06%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
December 2014**

Area	December 2014	November 2014	December 2013	November 2014 to December 2014		December 2013 to December 2014	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	1,969,600	1,974,100	1,923,200	-4,500	-0.23%	46,400	2.36%
Anderson MSA	68,500	68,300	67,000	200	0.29%	1,500	2.19%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	320,900	319,300	310,900	1,600	0.50%	10,000	3.12%
Columbia MSA	367,100	371,700	366,800	-4,600	-1.25%	300	0.08%
Florence MSA	87,700	88,000	86,000	-300	-0.34%	1,700	1.94%
Greenville MSA	326,700	327,000	318,400	-300	-0.09%	8,300	2.54%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	118,700	121,300	114,800	-2,600	-2.19%	3,900	3.29%
Spartanburg MSA	134,700	134,300	132,000	400	0.30%	2,700	2.00%
Sumter MSA	39,100	39,000	38,300	100	0.26%	800	2.05%

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.

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

AREA		December 2014				November 2014				December 2013			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Marion County	↑	11,529	10,161	1,368	11.9	11,469	10,143	1,326	11.6	11,174	9,757	1,417	12.7
Allendale County	↓	3,273	2,913	360	11.0	3,261	2,897	364	11.2	3,206	2,753	453	14.1
Bamberg County	↓	5,784	5,163	621	10.7	5,800	5,137	663	11.4	5,558	4,972	586	10.5
Orangeburg County	↓	40,432	36,228	4,204	10.4	40,603	36,056	4,547	11.2	38,894	35,121	3,773	9.7
Barnwell County	↓	8,308	7,541	767	9.2	8,290	7,503	787	9.5	8,160	7,280	880	10.8
Hampton County	↑	7,888	7,175	713	9.0	7,808	7,138	670	8.6	7,574	6,860	714	9.4
Marlboro County	↓	11,333	10,322	1,011	8.9	11,304	10,272	1,032	9.1	11,166	10,009	1,157	10.4
Dillon County	↓	12,699	11,578	1,121	8.8	12,669	11,513	1,156	9.1	12,360	11,150	1,210	9.8
Clarendon County	↓	12,314	11,249	1,065	8.6	12,287	11,198	1,089	8.9	11,879	10,798	1,081	9.1
McCormick County	-	3,341	3,056	285	8.5	3,321	3,038	283	8.5	3,239	2,958	281	8.7
Horry County	↑	126,270	116,085	10,185	8.1	127,459	117,991	9,468	7.4	123,030	113,349	9,681	7.9
Chester County	↓	14,892	13,718	1,174	7.9	14,846	13,654	1,192	8.0	14,727	13,375	1,352	9.2
Williamsburg County	-	15,720	14,490	1,230	7.8	15,673	14,443	1,230	7.8	15,226	13,892	1,334	8.8
Union County	↓	11,738	10,855	883	7.5	11,699	10,785	914	7.8	11,573	10,565	1,008	8.7
Calhoun County	↓	6,400	5,930	470	7.3	6,526	5,982	544	8.3	6,377	5,957	420	6.6
Florence County	↓	63,215	58,684	4,531	7.2	63,171	58,575	4,596	7.3	62,298	57,864	4,434	7.1
Fairfield County	↑	9,974	9,262	712	7.1	10,030	9,344	686	6.8	10,050	9,304	746	7.4
Lee County	↓	8,065	7,498	567	7.0	8,067	7,480	587	7.3	7,851	7,238	613	7.8
Georgetown County	↑	29,783	27,718	2,065	6.9	29,702	27,698	2,004	6.7	28,800	26,731	2,069	7.2
York County	↑	113,161	105,324	7,837	6.9	112,396	105,092	7,304	6.5	112,278	104,183	8,095	7.2
Chesterfield County	↓	18,944	17,650	1,294	6.8	18,930	17,569	1,361	7.2	18,510	17,038	1,472	8.0
Darlington County	↓	30,037	27,988	2,049	6.8	30,080	27,936	2,144	7.1	29,817	27,597	2,220	7.4
Sumter County	↓	44,127	41,136	2,991	6.8	44,037	40,962	3,075	7.0	43,620	40,556	3,064	7.0
Cherokee County	↓	25,473	23,769	1,704	6.7	25,659	23,614	2,045	8.0	25,120	23,212	1,908	7.6
Colleton County	↓	17,167	16,015	1,152	6.7	17,096	15,932	1,164	6.8	16,669	15,402	1,267	7.6
Edgefield County	↓	11,003	10,266	737	6.7	10,991	10,239	752	6.8	10,743	9,999	744	6.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,992	10,262	730	6.6	10,982	10,211	771	7.0	10,751	9,959	792	7.4
Lancaster County	↓	33,788	31,589	2,199	6.5	33,722	31,449	2,273	6.7	33,305	30,847	2,458	7.4
Greenwood County	↓	30,998	28,999	1,999	6.4	30,981	28,844	2,137	6.9	30,304	28,205	2,099	6.9
Laurens County	↓	30,269	28,328	1,941	6.4	30,367	28,264	2,103	6.9	29,534	27,831	1,703	5.8
Oconee County	↓	32,042	30,053	1,989	6.2	31,960	29,918	2,042	6.4	31,267	29,196	2,071	6.6
Richland County	↓	181,473	170,257	11,216	6.2	183,396	171,754	11,642	6.3	181,673	171,022	10,651	5.9
Aiken County	↓	77,361	72,717	4,644	6.0	77,206	72,525	4,681	6.1	75,909	70,828	5,081	6.7
Beaufort County	↓	66,782	62,853	3,929	5.9	66,613	62,602	4,011	6.0	64,729	61,120	3,609	5.6
Berkeley County	↓	87,627	82,558	5,069	5.8	87,184	81,924	5,260	6.0	85,381	80,619	4,762	5.6
Kershaw County	↓	28,975	27,330	1,645	5.7	29,256	27,571	1,685	5.8	28,970	27,453	1,517	5.2
Spartanburg County	↓	140,061	132,292	7,769	5.5	139,586	131,460	8,126	5.8	138,659	130,696	7,963	5.7
Anderson County	↓	88,409	83,677	4,732	5.4	88,296	83,395	4,901	5.6	87,079	82,471	4,608	5.3
Dorchester County	↓	69,768	66,009	3,759	5.4	69,473	65,503	3,970	5.7	68,115	64,460	3,655	5.4
Jasper County	↓	10,773	10,187	586	5.4	10,774	10,146	628	5.8	10,508	9,906	602	5.7
Pickens County	↓	57,807	54,718	3,089	5.3	57,810	54,594	3,216	5.6	56,720	53,758	2,962	5.2
Charleston County	↓	179,386	170,145	9,241	5.2	178,347	168,839	9,508	5.3	174,932	166,150	8,782	5.0
Newberry County	↓	18,380	17,420	960	5.2	18,394	17,389	1,005	5.5	17,884	16,902	982	5.5
Greenville County	↓	232,475	220,896	11,579	5.0	232,496	220,394	12,102	5.2	228,191	217,020	11,171	4.9
Lexington County	↓	134,159	127,478	6,681	5.0	135,600	128,599	7,001	5.2	134,667	128,051	6,616	4.9
Saluda County	↓	8,769	8,327	442	5.0	8,858	8,401	457	5.2	8,820	8,365	455	5.2
Charleston MSA	↓	336,781	318,712	18,069	5.4	335,004	316,266	18,738	5.6	328,427	311,229	17,198	5.2
Columbia MSA	↓	369,751	348,585	21,166	5.7	373,666	351,651	22,015	5.9	370,556	350,151	20,405	5.5
Florence MSA	↓	93,252	86,672	6,580	7.1	93,251	86,511	6,740	7.2	92,115	85,461	6,654	7.2
Greenville MSA	↓	320,552	303,942	16,610	5.2	320,673	303,252	17,421	5.4	314,445	298,609	15,836	5.0
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,202,017	2,058,657	143,360	6.5	2,197,558	2,051,414	146,144	6.7	2,168,224	2,025,887	142,337	6.6

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 =