



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

August 21, 2015

South Carolina's Employment Situation July 2015

Unemployment Rate Declines Again, Employment is up Over 59,000 Since a Year Ago

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate decreased for the second consecutive month from 6.6 percent in June to 6.4 percent in July, which matches the unemployment rate from July 2014.

Employment levels from June to July declined by a modest 655 to 2,110,719. The number of unemployed individuals decreased in the last month by 5,284 to 143,447 and the labor force declined by 5,939 to 2,254,166.

From July 2014 to July 2015, the state's employment level has increased by 59,672 and the number of unemployed has increased by 3,806. Over the year, the labor force has grown by 63,478 people.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.3 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

With an increase of 3,300, July's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls increased to reach the level of 2,001,800.

- South Carolina's most noticeable upticks occurred in Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+2,200) and Construction (+1,200).
- Additional gains were seen in Financial Activities (+800); Information (+500); Leisure and Hospitality (+500); and Government (+200).
- Declines were reported in Other Services (-900); Manufacturing (-500); Education and Health Services (-500); and Professional and Business Services (-100).

Compared to July 2014, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 55,000.

- The largest growth was reported in Professional and Business Services (+12,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+12,100); Leisure and Hospitality (+11,200); Education and Health Services (+7,400); Construction (+6,800); and Government (+4,500).
- Modest gains were seen in Information (+600) and Manufacturing (+300), while Other Services and Financial Activities reported declines of (-300) and (-200), respectively.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

The not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment in July decreased 15,900 from June 2015 to a level of 2,001,700. Traditionally, employment decreases during the summer months are due to seasonal layoffs and school closings.

Although total employment in July declined, gains occurred in Leisure and Hospitality (+2,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+1,500); Information (+300); and Financial Activities (+200). Over-the-month losses were reported in Government (-14,700), Education and Health Services (-1,800); Professional and Business Services (-1,800); and Manufacturing (-1,500), with a slight decrease for Natural Resources and Mining and Other Services (-100), respectively.

In the last year, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 58,700. Industries marking strong annual gains came from Professional and Business Services (+15,700); Leisure and Hospitality (+13,800); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+11,700); Education and Health Services (+6,500); Construction (+6,100); Government (+5,300); Other Services (+600); Information (+500); and Manufacturing (+200). Financial Activities (-1,500) and Natural Resources and Mining (-200) fell.

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
July 2015

Industry	July 2015	June 2015	July 2014	July 2015 to June 2015		July 2014 to July 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,001,800	1,998,500	1,946,800	3,300	0.16%	55,000	2.83%
Construction	89,000	87,800	82,200	1,200	1.35%	6,800	8.27%
Manufacturing	231,000	231,500	230,700	-500	-0.22%	300	0.13%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	384,600	382,400	372,500	2,200	0.57%	12,100	3.25%
Information	27,000	26,500	26,400	500	1.85%	600	2.27%
Financial Activities	96,000	95,200	96,200	800	0.83%	-200	-0.21%
Professional and Business Services	266,500	266,600	253,700	-100	-0.04%	12,800	5.05%
Education and Health Services	233,400	233,900	226,000	-500	-0.21%	7,400	3.27%
Leisure and Hospitality	238,700	238,200	227,500	500	0.21%	11,200	4.92%
Other Services	71,300	72,200	71,600	-900	-1.26%	-300	-0.42%
Government	360,600	360,400	356,100	200	0.06%	4,500	1.26%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
July 2015

Industry	July 2015	June 2015	July 2014	July 2015 to June 2015		July 2014 to July 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,001,700	2,017,600	1,943,000	-15,900	-0.79%	58,700	3.02%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,700	3,800	3,900	-100	-2.63%	-200	-5.13%
Construction	89,100	89,100	83,000	0	0.00%	6,100	7.35%
Manufacturing	230,500	232,000	230,300	-1,500	-0.65%	200	0.09%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	385,800	384,300	374,100	1,500	0.39%	11,700	3.13%
Information	27,100	26,800	26,600	300	1.12%	500	1.88%
Financial Activities	95,900	95,700	97,400	200	0.21%	-1,500	-1.54%
Professional and Business Services	269,100	270,900	253,400	-1,800	-0.66%	15,700	6.20%
Education and Health Services	229,700	231,500	223,200	-1,800	-0.78%	6,500	2.91%
Leisure and Hospitality	253,200	251,100	239,400	2,100	0.84%	13,800	5.76%
Other Services	72,700	72,800	72,100	-100	-0.14%	600	0.83%
Government	344,900	359,600	339,600	-14,700	-4.09%	5,300	1.56%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
July 2015**

Area*	July 2015	June 2015	July 2014	July 2015 to June 2015		July 2014 to July 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,001,800	1,998,500	1,946,800	3,300	0.16%	55,000	2.83%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	329,500	328,600	321,800	900	0.27%	7,700	2.39%
Columbia MSA	378,900	378,200	373,700	700	0.18%	5,200	1.39%
Florence MSA	86,200	84,400	84,200	1,800	2.09%	2,000	2.38%
Sumter MSA	39,000	38,500	38,500	500	1.28%	500	1.30%

*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
July 2015**

Area**	July 2015	June 2015	July 2014	July 2015 to June 2015		July 2014 to July 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,001,700	2,017,600	1,943,000	-15,900	-0.79%	58,700	3.02%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	331,100	332,400	322,000	-1,300	-0.39%	9,100	2.83%
Columbia MSA	376,600	379,600	369,300	-3,000	-0.79%	7,300	1.98%
Florence MSA	83,800	84,700	83,000	-900	-1.06%	800	0.96%
Greenville MSA	398,000	401,200	384,500	-3,200	-0.80%	13,500	3.51%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	75,000	75,500	74,100	-500	-0.66%	900	1.21%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	164,600	165,200	161,100	-600	-0.36%	3,500	2.17%
Spartanburg MSA	139,400	141,000	135,800	-1,600	-1.13%	3,600	2.65%
Sumter MSA	38,400	38,600	38,200	-200	-0.52%	200	0.52%

**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		July 2015				June 2015				July 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↑	40,284	35,308	4,976	12.4	39,593	35,254	4,339	11.0	38,969	33,653	5,316	13.6
Bamberg County	↑	5,968	5,255	713	11.9	5,910	5,240	670	11.3	5,738	4,960	778	13.6
Allendale County	↓	3,104	2,750	354	11.4	3,091	2,735	356	11.5	2,969	2,586	383	12.9
Marlboro County	↓	10,352	9,273	1,079	10.4	10,442	9,277	1,165	11.2	9,915	8,819	1,096	11.1
Marion County	↓	13,417	12,058	1,359	10.1	13,428	12,029	1,399	10.4	13,034	11,599	1,435	11.0
Barnwell County	↓	9,192	8,339	853	9.3	9,182	8,315	867	9.4	8,864	7,968	896	10.1
Williamsburg County	↓	13,448	12,226	1,222	9.1	13,463	12,203	1,260	9.4	13,012	11,697	1,315	10.1
Dillon County	↓	13,198	12,012	1,186	9.0	13,182	11,965	1,217	9.2	12,710	11,414	1,296	10.2
Fairfield County	↑	10,361	9,431	930	9.0	10,280	9,404	876	8.5	10,150	9,223	927	9.1
Chester County	↓	14,013	12,767	1,246	8.9	14,113	12,818	1,295	9.2	13,693	12,325	1,368	10.0
Lee County	↓	6,705	6,108	597	8.9	6,707	6,086	621	9.3	6,546	5,890	656	10.0
Hampton County	↓	9,027	8,238	789	8.7	9,012	8,189	823	9.1	8,528	7,858	670	7.9
Union County	↓	11,767	10,780	987	8.4	11,850	10,793	1,057	8.9	11,555	10,505	1,050	9.1
Clarendon County	↓	13,616	12,481	1,135	8.3	13,606	12,424	1,182	8.7	13,136	11,931	1,205	9.2
Darlington County	↓	30,184	27,702	2,482	8.2	30,246	27,664	2,582	8.5	29,895	27,258	2,637	8.8
Calhoun County	↑	7,147	6,580	567	7.9	7,088	6,551	537	7.6	7,047	6,418	629	8.9
Georgetown County	↓	26,651	24,626	2,025	7.6	26,655	24,537	2,118	7.9	25,608	23,574	2,034	7.9
Colleton County	↓	17,604	16,278	1,326	7.5	17,544	16,219	1,325	7.6	16,940	15,583	1,357	8.0
Sumter County	↓	44,558	41,200	3,358	7.5	44,518	41,032	3,486	7.8	44,631	41,072	3,559	8.0
Cherokee County	↓	24,260	22,456	1,804	7.4	24,404	22,488	1,916	7.9	23,602	21,575	2,027	8.6
Abbeville County	↓	10,863	10,069	794	7.3	10,898	10,069	829	7.6	10,496	9,642	854	8.1
Florence County	↓	64,551	59,907	4,644	7.2	64,722	59,880	4,842	7.5	64,160	59,136	5,024	7.8
McCormick County	↓	3,642	3,386	256	7.0	3,653	3,375	278	7.6	3,521	3,243	278	7.9
Greenwood County	↓	32,813	30,590	2,223	6.8	32,872	30,592	2,280	6.9	31,592	29,256	2,336	7.4
Lancaster County	↓	35,411	32,992	2,419	6.8	35,669	33,118	2,551	7.2	34,554	31,867	2,687	7.8
Chesterfield County	↓	22,121	20,646	1,475	6.7	22,147	20,606	1,541	7.0	21,323	19,737	1,586	7.4
Laurens County	↓	30,859	28,791	2,068	6.7	31,063	28,727	2,336	7.5	30,004	27,818	2,186	7.3
Pickens County	↓	56,792	53,109	3,683	6.5	56,865	53,040	3,825	6.7	55,301	51,417	3,884	7.0
Horry County	↓	143,660	134,531	9,129	6.4	143,529	133,815	9,714	6.8	141,211	131,917	9,294	6.6
Kershaw County	↓	28,783	26,929	1,854	6.4	28,786	26,856	1,930	6.7	28,327	26,348	1,979	7.0
Richland County	↓	196,824	184,250	12,574	6.4	197,087	184,162	12,925	6.6	194,041	181,078	12,963	6.7
Spartanburg County	↓	138,464	129,593	8,871	6.4	139,184	129,818	9,366	6.7	135,990	126,360	9,630	7.1
Aiken County	↓	75,078	70,341	4,737	6.3	74,707	69,769	4,938	6.6	73,357	68,242	5,115	7.0
Edgefield County	↓	10,921	10,230	691	6.3	10,844	10,116	728	6.7	10,631	9,866	765	7.2
Oconee County	↓	35,813	33,580	2,233	6.2	35,856	33,534	2,322	6.5	34,490	32,114	2,376	6.9
Beaufort County	-	72,537	68,217	4,320	6.0	72,253	67,892	4,361	6.0	71,444	67,129	4,315	6.0
Dorchester County	↓	72,375	68,055	4,320	6.0	72,304	67,806	4,498	6.2	70,889	66,367	4,522	6.4
York County	↓	123,949	116,490	7,459	6.0	124,722	117,007	7,715	6.2	120,985	112,671	8,314	6.9
Anderson County	↓	89,022	83,782	5,240	5.9	89,205	83,684	5,521	6.2	86,707	81,089	5,618	6.5
Berkeley County	↓	93,260	87,776	5,484	5.9	93,216	87,481	5,735	6.2	91,455	85,640	5,815	6.4
Jasper County	↓	11,904	11,225	679	5.7	11,832	11,128	704	5.9	11,724	10,990	734	6.3
Newberry County	↓	19,435	18,319	1,116	5.7	19,421	18,245	1,176	6.1	18,621	17,455	1,166	6.3
Greenville County	↓	240,513	227,564	12,949	5.4	240,974	227,357	13,617	5.7	233,795	220,357	13,438	5.7
Saluda County	↓	9,121	8,627	494	5.4	9,063	8,536	527	5.8	8,825	8,296	529	6.0
Charleston County	↓	197,606	187,183	10,423	5.3	197,114	186,314	10,800	5.5	193,196	182,368	10,828	5.6
Lexington County	↓	142,492	134,947	7,545	5.3	142,609	134,668	7,941	5.6	140,028	132,249	7,779	5.6
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	363,241	343,014	20,227	5.6	362,634	341,601	21,033	5.8	355,540	334,375	21,165	6.0
Columbia MSA	↓	394,728	370,764	23,964	6.1	394,913	370,177	24,736	6.3	388,418	363,612	24,806	6.4
Florence MSA	↓	94,735	87,609	7,126	7.5	94,968	87,544	7,424	7.8	94,055	86,394	7,661	8.1
Greenville - Anderson-Mauldin MSA	↓	417,186	393,246	23,940	5.7	418,107	392,808	25,299	6.1	405,807	380,681	25,126	6.2
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,254,166	2,110,719	143,447	6.4	2,260,105	2,111,374	148,731	6.6	2,190,688	2,051,047	139,641	6.4

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 =