



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

South Carolina's Employment Situation September 2015

Employment Sets New Record Unemployment Rate Continues Rapid Descent

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 5.7 percent from 6.0 percent, recording its lowest level since February 2008. This is the fourth consecutive month in which the rate has declined.

The unemployment rate has dropped 1.1 percent since May. This is the largest four-month drop since the unemployment rate dropped 1.7 percent from June to September 1983. Employment hit a new high with 2,121,326 people working, rising 7,092 from August to September. The number of unemployed individuals decreased by 6,607 to 128,508, the lowest level since April 2008. The labor force showed little change, increasing slightly by 485 to 2,249,834.

From September 2014 to September 2015, the number of people working rose by 62,548, while the level of unemployed decreased by 15,848 people. The labor force grew by nearly 46,700 individuals in the last year.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was unchanged at 5.1 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

Another record level for seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment was reached in September. Employment increased 6,300 to reach 2,016,700.

- Industries with the largest increases over the month included Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+2,200); Professional and Business Services (+1,800); Education and Health Services (+1,500); Other Services (+1,400); and Leisure and Hospitality (+1,300).
- Information (+200) and Government (+200) recorded gains, while Construction remained steady.
- Industries reporting decreases were Manufacturing (-1,300) and Financial Activities (-900).

Compared to September 2014, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 63,400.

- The largest annual growth occurred in Trade, Transportation and Utilities (+15,000); Leisure and Hospitality (+14,200); Professional and Business Services (+12,200); Education and Health

Services (+9,500); Construction (+7,400); Government (+4,100); and Other Services (+1,900). A smaller gain was noted in Information (+400).

- Industries reporting declines were Financial Activities (-700) and Manufacturing (-300).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

September's not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment increased by 10,100 to reach a level of 2,017,800. Government rose by about 14,700 jobs with local public schools accounting for most of the expansion. Also contributing to the rise in employment were Education and Health Services (+3,900); Professional and Business Services (+1,700); and Other Services (+1,000). The most significant loss was reported in Leisure and Hospitality (-7,900) with other declines reported in Financial Activities (-1,200); Manufacturing (-1,100); Construction (-400); Trade, Transportation and Utilities (-300); Information (-200); and Natural Resources and Mining (-100).

From September 2014 to September 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 61,400 overall. Industries marking strong annual gains were Professional and Business Services (+14,100); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+13,600); Leisure and Hospitality (+12,300); Education and Health Services (+9,700); Construction (+6,600); Government (+4,800); Other Services (+1,500); and Information (+200). Declines were seen in Financial Activities (-900); Natural Resources and Mining (-300); and Manufacturing (-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
September 2015

Industry	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	August 2015 to September 2015		September 2014 to September 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,016,700	2,010,400	1,953,300	6,300	0.31%	63,400	3.25%
Construction	89,500	89,500	82,100	0	0.00%	7,400	9.01%
Manufacturing	230,700	232,000	231,000	-1,300	-0.56%	-300	-0.13%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	388,500	386,300	373,500	2,200	0.57%	15,000	4.02%
Information	27,000	26,800	26,600	200	0.74%	400	1.50%
Financial Activities	95,500	96,400	96,200	-900	-0.94%	-700	-0.73%
Professional and Business Services	268,400	266,600	256,200	1,800	0.67%	12,200	4.76%
Education and Health Services	235,800	234,300	226,300	1,500	0.64%	9,500	4.20%
Leisure and Hospitality	242,000	240,700	227,800	1,300	0.54%	14,200	6.23%
Other Services	73,500	72,100	71,600	1,400	1.90%	1,900	2.65%
Government	362,200	362,000	358,100	200	0.06%	4,100	1.14%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY, NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

Statewide
September 2015

Industry	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	August 2015 to September 2015		September 2014 to September 2015	
				# Change	% Change	# Change	% Change
Total Nonfarm Employment	2,017,800	2,007,700	1,956,400	10,100	0.50%	61,400	3.14%
Natural Resources and Mining	3,600	3,700	3,900	-100	-2.70%	-300	-7.69%
Construction	89,300	89,700	82,700	-400	-0.45%	6,600	7.98%
Manufacturing	230,600	231,700	230,800	-1,100	-0.47%	-200	-0.09%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	386,500	386,800	372,900	-300	-0.08%	13,600	3.65%
Information	26,500	26,700	26,300	-200	-0.75%	200	0.76%
Financial Activities	95,500	96,700	96,400	-1,200	-1.24%	-900	-0.93%
Professional and Business Services	270,100	268,400	256,000	1,700	0.63%	14,100	5.51%
Education and Health Services	236,100	232,200	226,400	3,900	1.68%	9,700	4.28%
Leisure and Hospitality	243,900	251,800	231,600	-7,900	-3.14%	12,300	5.31%
Other Services	73,300	72,300	71,800	1,000	1.38%	1,500	2.09%
Government	362,400	347,700	357,600	14,700	4.23%	4,800	1.34%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY AREA, SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

**South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas
September 2015**

Area	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	August 2015 to September 2015		September 2014 to September 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,016,700	2,010,400	1,953,300	6,300	0.31%	63,400	3.25%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	331,300	329,900	323,300	1,400	0.42%	8,000	2.47%
Columbia MSA	384,900	381,800	375,200	3,100	0.81%	9,700	2.59%
Florence MSA	85,600	85,200	84,300	400	0.47%	1,300	1.54%
Sumter MSA	38,600	39,000	38,400	-400	-1.04%	200	0.52%

**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
September 2015**

Area	September 2015	August 2015	September 2014	August 2015 to September 2015		September 2014 to September 2015	
				#	%	#	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Statewide	2,017,800	2,007,700	1,956,400	10,100	0.50%	61,400	3.14%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	331,900	330,800	323,200	1,100	0.33%	8,700	2.69%
Columbia MSA	384,500	380,400	374,500	4,100	1.08%	10,000	2.67%
Florence MSA	85,400	84,300	84,300	1,100	1.30%	1,100	1.30%
Greenville MSA	402,600	397,900	389,800	4,700	1.18%	12,800	3.28%
Hilton Head Island/Bluffton MSA	72,600	74,400	72,500	-1,800	-2.42%	100	0.14%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	159,900	164,400	155,200	-4,500	-2.74%	4,700	3.03%
Spartanburg MSA	143,300	141,300	138,900	2,000	1.42%	4,400	3.17%
Sumter MSA	38,600	38,300	38,300	300	0.78%	300	0.78%

***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		September 2015				August 2015				September 2014			
		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYMENT	UNEMPLOYMENT LEVEL	UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)
Orangeburg County	↓	39,001	35,042	3,959	10.2	39,848	35,149	4,699	11.8	38,878	33,556	5,322	13.7
Marion County	↑	13,184	11,885	1,299	9.9	13,233	11,983	1,250	9.4	12,786	11,464	1,322	10.3
Allendale County	↓	2,984	2,697	287	9.6	3,028	2,717	311	10.3	2,962	2,592	370	12.5
Bamberg County	↓	5,710	5,171	539	9.4	5,854	5,203	651	11.1	5,690	4,947	743	13.1
Marlboro County	↓	10,042	9,167	875	8.7	10,197	9,210	987	9.7	9,784	8,742	1,042	10.7
Dillon County	↓	12,894	11,847	1,047	8.1	12,993	11,904	1,089	8.4	12,674	11,419	1,255	9.9
Williamsburg County	↓	13,160	12,100	1,060	8.1	13,312	12,141	1,171	8.8	12,859	11,646	1,213	9.4
Barnwell County	↓	8,951	8,243	708	7.9	9,085	8,286	799	8.8	8,768	7,918	850	9.7
Fairfield County	↓	10,267	9,454	813	7.9	10,319	9,447	872	8.5	10,083	9,198	885	8.8
Lee County	↓	6,556	6,042	514	7.8	6,626	6,061	565	8.5	6,479	5,868	611	9.4
Chester County	↓	13,776	12,742	1,034	7.5	14,076	12,903	1,173	8.3	13,698	12,329	1,369	10.0
Georgetown County	↓	26,216	24,254	1,962	7.5	26,614	24,501	2,113	7.9	25,347	23,311	2,036	8.0
Hampton County	↓	8,659	8,010	649	7.5	8,829	8,130	699	7.9	8,439	7,790	649	7.7
Union County	↓	11,782	10,894	888	7.5	11,756	10,838	918	7.8	11,514	10,521	993	8.6
Clarendon County	↓	13,324	12,361	963	7.2	13,458	12,404	1,054	7.8	13,068	11,937	1,131	8.7
Darlington County	↓	29,742	27,643	2,099	7.1	29,886	27,545	2,341	7.8	29,741	27,251	2,490	8.4
Edgefield County	↑	10,931	10,167	764	7.0	10,876	10,219	657	6.0	10,688	9,934	754	7.1
Calhoun County	↓	7,095	6,602	493	6.9	7,120	6,595	525	7.4	7,062	6,430	632	8.9
Sumter County	↓	43,868	40,886	2,982	6.8	44,217	40,947	3,270	7.4	43,797	40,383	3,414	7.8
Cherokee County	↓	23,952	22,359	1,593	6.7	24,093	22,400	1,693	7.0	23,343	21,385	1,958	8.4
Colleton County	↓	17,335	16,211	1,124	6.5	17,440	16,243	1,197	6.9	16,895	15,591	1,304	7.7
McCormick County	↓	3,615	3,379	236	6.5	3,629	3,383	246	6.8	3,523	3,243	280	7.9
Abbeville County	↓	10,720	10,031	689	6.4	10,777	10,042	735	6.8	10,405	9,590	815	7.8
Florence County	↓	64,207	60,119	4,088	6.4	64,106	59,777	4,329	6.8	64,112	59,191	4,921	7.7
Horry County	–	137,597	129,256	8,341	6.1	142,436	133,764	8,672	6.1	134,549	125,203	9,346	6.9
Lancaster County	↓	35,190	33,027	2,163	6.1	35,709	33,402	2,307	6.5	34,537	31,951	2,586	7.5
Laurens County	↓	30,596	28,732	1,864	6.1	30,598	28,629	1,969	6.4	29,960	27,791	2,169	7.2
Aiken County	↓	74,229	69,856	4,373	5.9	74,777	70,251	4,526	6.1	72,993	68,069	4,924	6.7
Greenwood County	↓	32,252	30,334	1,918	5.9	32,463	30,424	2,039	6.3	31,296	29,013	2,283	7.3
Kershaw County	↓	28,708	27,004	1,704	5.9	28,777	26,980	1,797	6.2	28,164	26,268	1,896	6.7
Chesterfield County	↓	21,813	20,546	1,267	5.8	22,021	20,620	1,401	6.4	21,293	19,791	1,502	7.1
Pickens County	↓	56,179	53,046	3,133	5.6	56,244	52,836	3,408	6.1	54,959	51,258	3,701	6.7
Richland County	↓	195,717	184,827	10,890	5.6	196,457	184,650	11,807	6.0	191,998	179,439	12,559	6.5
Beaufort County	↓	69,240	65,449	3,791	5.5	71,454	67,386	4,068	5.7	69,252	65,082	4,170	6.0
Oconee County	↓	35,288	33,336	1,952	5.5	35,474	33,403	2,071	5.8	34,204	31,974	2,230	6.5
Spartanburg County	↓	138,366	130,794	7,572	5.5	138,418	130,186	8,232	5.9	135,307	126,287	9,020	6.7
Berkeley County	↓	91,490	86,555	4,935	5.4	92,256	87,086	5,170	5.6	89,803	84,024	5,779	6.4
Dorchester County	↓	70,931	67,143	3,788	5.3	71,567	67,540	4,027	5.6	69,610	65,194	4,416	6.3
Saluda County	–	9,074	8,589	485	5.3	9,089	8,603	486	5.3	8,941	8,418	523	5.8
York County	↓	123,243	116,772	6,471	5.3	125,077	118,053	7,024	5.6	121,063	112,895	8,168	6.7
Anderson County	↓	88,105	83,527	4,578	5.2	88,202	83,253	4,949	5.6	86,125	80,716	5,409	6.3
Jasper County	↓	11,523	10,940	583	5.1	11,807	11,183	624	5.3	11,571	10,882	689	6.0
Newberry County	↓	19,077	18,101	976	5.1	19,245	18,184	1,061	5.5	18,542	17,441	1,101	5.9
Greenville County	↓	238,518	226,878	11,640	4.9	238,375	226,131	12,244	5.1	232,687	219,188	13,499	5.8
Charleston County	↓	194,799	185,437	9,362	4.8	196,138	186,232	9,906	5.1	190,702	180,140	10,562	5.5
Lexington County	↓	142,412	135,514	6,898	4.8	142,630	135,323	7,307	5.1	139,402	131,727	7,675	5.5
Charleston - North Charleston MSA	↓	357,220	339,135	18,085	5.1	359,961	340,858	19,103	5.3	350,115	329,358	20,757	5.9
Columbia MSA	↓	393,273	371,990	21,283	5.4	394,392	371,598	22,794	5.8	385,650	361,480	24,170	6.3
Florence MSA	↓	93,949	87,762	6,187	6.6	93,992	87,322	6,670	7.1	93,853	86,442	7,411	7.9
Greenville - Anderson - Mauldin MSA	↓	413,398	392,183	21,215	5.1	413,419	390,849	22,570	5.5	403,731	378,953	24,778	6.1
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED													
South Carolina	↓	2,249,834	2,121,326	128,508	5.7	2,249,349	2,114,234	135,115	6.0	2,203,134	2,058,778	144,356	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 =