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SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

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South Carolina's Employment Situation January 2016

Employment Growth Continues, Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in January remained unchanged at 5.5 percent from December 2015. However, the number of people working increased by 10,853, setting a new record of 2,149,850.

The state's labor force increased by 11,070 to 2,274,500 people. Unemployment rose slightly by 217 people from December to January, bringing the number of unemployed to 124,650.

Since January 2015, employment gains totaled 50,114, and the level of the unemployed decreased by 22,128 people. Also over the past year, the labor force has grown by 27,986.

Nationally, January's unemployment rate was 4.9 percent.

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Seasonally Adjusted¹)

January's seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payrolls decreased by 10,100 over the month to 2,025,100.

Government led the industry increases (+1,500), followed by Construction (+1,100); Education and Health Services (+900); Manufacturing (+400); and Financial Activities (+200).

Decreases occurred in Professional and Business Services (-4,500); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-3,900); Leisure and Hospitality (-3,500); and Other Services (-2,000). Information (-300) reported a small decrease.

Since January 2015, seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs were up 43,200. Supporting this overall increase were Professional and Business Services (+10,300); Education and Health Services (+9,400); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+6,000); Government (+5,700); Construction (+5,000); Manufacturing (+4,300); Leisure and Hospitality (+1,800) and Financial Activities (+600). Other Services remained the same. Information decreased since last year (-100).

Nonagricultural Employment by Industry (Not Seasonally Adjusted²)

Not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm payroll employment decreased (-44,300) from December 2015 to January 2016 for a total of 1,944,200. A lone industry saw growth: Mining, Logging and Construction (+100). Over-the-month decreases included Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (-15,500); Professional and Business Services (-11,200); Leisure and Hospitality (-6,400); Government (-5,300); Education and Health Services (-2,000); and Other Services (-2,000). Smaller losses were reported in Manufacturing (-900); Financial Activities (-600); and Information (-500).

Since January 2015, not seasonally adjusted, nonfarm jobs in South Carolina were up 49,400. Most industries marked strong annual gains including Professional and Business Services (+9,800); Education and Health Services (+9,200); Trade, Transportation, and Utilities (+8,000); Mining, Logging and Construction (+5,600); Construction (+5,400); Leisure and Hospitality (+5,000); Government (+4,700); and Manufacturing (+4,500). Additional growth was seen in Financial Activities (+1,700); Other Services (+1,000); and Mining and Logging (+200). The only industry reporting a loss was Information (-100).

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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